



IUCN CSS Global Tree Specialist Group



Conservation Success Stories

**BINHI, a mission
to restore Philippine Critically
Endangered trees**



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IMPLEMENTED BY

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THREAT ADDRESSED

The BINHI programme primarily addresses the threat of the potential extinction of Critically Endangered trees. With its protection and monitoring component, it likewise prevents habitat loss and other biodiversity loss. The BINHI's established database addresses the problem of the lack of information about the trees and promotes awareness towards conservation.

TARGET

New role established for GTSG in expanded Global Trees Campaign partnership, facilitating tree conservation action by Group members. (T-007)



46
arboreta,
177
tree parks
and over
15,000
threatened trees
planted
in the Philippines

Success category: Habitat expansion and habitat quality improvement

Success story:



REASONS FOR SUCCESS

The BINHI program's success stems from strong collaboration among forest stakeholders and the steadfast commitment of EDC, a private corporation devoted to conserving Philippine trees for future generations. BINHI exemplifies an effective trans-sectoral partnership, uniting private entities, academia, government, and non-government organisations. Unified cross-sector efforts prove that no challenge is insurmountable.

The BINHI is a corporate social responsibility program by the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) dedicated to preventing the extinction of critically threatened Philippine tree species. Guided by science-based criteria prioritising ecological and economic significance, BINHI initially identified 96 threatened trees for conservation. It employs a five-step strategy forming a complete conservation value chain: (1) documentation and population study, (2) mass propagation, (3) establishment of future mother trees, (4) habitat protection, and (5) integration of advocacy and awareness campaigns throughout.

Launched in 2008, BINHI 1.0 focused on the search and rescue of these priority species. After eight years of exploration, the team rediscovered and propagated all 96 species. EDC established advanced Vegetative Material Recovery (VMR) facilities using Israeli technology to propagate trees with limited seed sources. Propagation protocols were developed for 42 species, achieving survival rates of 85–100%. Partnerships with 223 organisations, mostly academic institutions, led to 46 arboreta and 177 tree parks, planting over 15,000 threatened trees nationwide. Many seedlings have since become vital sources of seeds and planting materials for further propagation.

In 2016, BINHI 2.0 expanded to protect and restore natural habitats through collaborations with local stakeholders. These efforts spurred conservation ordinances, such as declaring the Critically Endangered Calades Narig (*Vatica elliptica*) a heritage tree in Zamboanga Sibugay, where only 11 mature individuals remain. Recognising BINHI's expertise, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) partnered with EDC to assess Philippine native trees under the IUCN Red List. Of 1,575 trees assessed, 70% were found threatened, including 346 Critically Endangered species.

In 2021, BINHI 3.0 adopted 49 Critically Endangered, island- or province-endemic species as new conservation priorities. Rediscovery and propagation succeeded for 32 species. Partnerships have been established to protect remaining populations and restore habitats. In Ilocos Norte, together with the Paddagan Upland Farmers Association (PUFA), a 30-ha *in situ* restoration area for *Kibatalia elmeri* and *Allophylus stenophyllus* populations were established. In Palawan, our partnership with Katala Foundation, Inc. resulted in the adoption of a 5-ha forest for the protection, seedlings production, and assisted natural regeneration of Palawan priority species. The Bagobo Tagabawa tribe in Mindanao has initiated plantations for Mt. Apo's endemic species.

Through these collaborations, BINHI has significantly advanced the protection of endangered trees, ensuring planting material for future restoration and safeguarding Philippine biodiversity for generations to come.

■ MALIN RIVERS



SUCCESS LEVEL

Highly successful



Vulnerable Northern River Shark,
(*Glyphis garricki*)
Photo: Grant Johnson

Interviews about human wildlife
interactions with local inhabitants
Photo: Kiran Thapa Magar

Vicuña management by Cooperativa
Agroganadera de Santa Catalina and Comunidad
Aborígen Atu Shapi de Morritos.
Santa Catalina, Jujuy Province, Argentina
Photo: Yanina Arzamendia

Story photo credits

CR tree from Philippines
Photo: Pastor L. Malabrigo Jr

Cacti from genera *Copiapoa* and *Eriosyce*
confiscated in Italy and repatriated to Chile in 2021
Photo: Andrea Cattabriga

Community songbird monitoring and
protection, Indonesia
Photo: Asian Songbird Trade SG archives