

# The Biodiversity Management Handbook

BY **MARIAMME D. JADLOC**



**The University's verdant spaces  
are home to many indigenous  
flora and fauna.**

*Members of the TWGBM: (from right to left) Buño, Camacho, Española, Araneta, Navarra, and Gan. Photo by Leonardo A. Reyes, UPDIO*



For years, UP Diliman (UPD) has been coming up with measures to protect its natural resources, even taking purposeful and concrete steps into sustainability management.

An unpleasant incident in 2014—that of the hunting and killing of a Black Bittern on campus—eventually led to finding more concrete ways to effectively manage and protect UPD’s biodiversity.

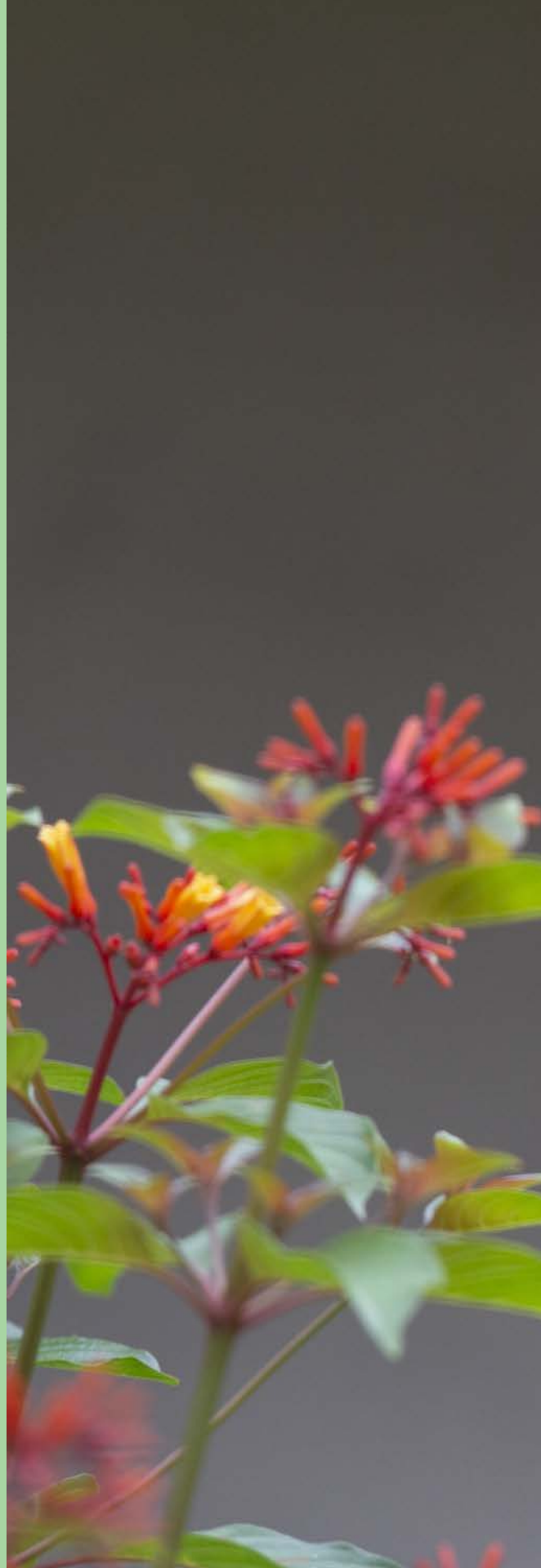
Almost seven years after that event and in spite of the ongoing pandemic, the UPD Technical Working Group on Biodiversity Management (TWGBM) was able to produce the “Biodiversity Management Handbook” and virtually launched it on Oct. 26, 2021.

The handbook is a compendium of UPD policies on biodiversity management and protection on campus. It contains information on UPD’s environmental condition and discusses the three principles that UPD must uphold as it manages its biodiversity: (1) the University is a culturally significant ecological patch (Principle I); (2) the University harmonizes its built and natural environments to maintain ecological integrity (Principle II); and (3) the University nurtures a biodiverse and interdependent community (Principle III).

Issues discussed under the three principles range from university planning and habitat management to wildlife protection and waste management.

“The principles bring to life the finer aspects of biodiversity, such as the protection and propagation of indigenous flora and fauna, and leaving no stone unturned with regard to environmental impact with architectural and landscaping designs. That, incidentally, might involve leaving stones unturned, leaving spaces empty,” said former UPD Chancellor Michael L. Tan in his message included in the handbook.

*Olive-backed sunbird taken near Balay Tsanselor.  
Photo by Prof. Norberto R. Madrigal, UPD College  
of Human Kinetics*





Cover of the "Biodiversity Management Handbook."  
Photo from the TWGBM



# BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK

University of the Philippines Diliman

***Each of us has a role to play in ensuring that future generations also get to appreciate the rich landscape and ecosystem on campus.***

UP President Danilo L. Concepcion, in his foreword to the handbook, said this “will serve as a reference and guide for building administrators and various units in UP Diliman, offering concrete, practical, and specific guidelines for planning and management, for harmonizing the construction and infrastructure development on campus with the natural environment, for the use of space and mobility within the campus, and for waste management—all based on the ethics of biodiversity management and the principles of harmony, respect for all forms of life, and shared responsibility.”

For his part, UPD Chancellor Fidel R. Nemenzo in his message, said, “While the handbook provides us with the necessary principles, this could only leave a long-term impact if they are consistently implemented and fully understood by our community. Each of us has a role to play in ensuring that future generations also get to appreciate the rich landscape and ecosystem on campus. What we are able to accomplish now not only benefits those on campus but also the larger community that trusts UP Diliman to provide that bit of solace under the trees as they come to commune with nature or go on that weekly bike ride, jog, walk to escape the bustle of the city.”

**TWGBM.** It was Tan who created the working group in July 2018. As a multidisciplinary group, one of its tasks was to create a set of policies and guidelines that will assist UPD administrative units in managing and protecting the UPD’s biodiversity.

The TWGBM is co-headed by Jelaine Gan of the Institute of Biology (IB) and Kristian July Yap, director of the Task Force on Solid Waste Management, with Maureen Anne Araneta and Nappy Navarra (College of Architecture), Carmela Española (IB), Allan Gil Fernando (National Institute of Geological Sciences), Javier Angelo Camacho (Office of the Campus Architect), and James Christopher Buño (Diliman Environmental Management Office) as members.

Read the UP Diliman Biodiversity Management Handbook here: <https://upd.edu.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/UP-Diliman-Biodiversity-Management-Handbook.pdf>.