

Establishment of the Magnolia Network in the Philippines: its implication for conservation

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The Philippines ranks fifth in the number of plant species because of its large concentration of unique and diverse species of flora. However, threats to Philippine native flora remain a reality and therefore a national network to focus on the study and conservation of magnolias has been formed. During the 8th Southeast Asia Botanic Gardens (SEABG) Network Conference and Meeting held in the Philippines on 27–29 June 2023, the first Philippine Magnolia Network Meeting was held as a side event. The said meeting was represented by eight institutions, namely Visayas State University, University of the Philippines Tacloban, Philippine Native Plant Conservation Society Inc. and Pinto Arboretum, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Northwestern University Ecological Park and Botanic Gardens, De La Salle University, Central Mindanao University and Siit Arboretum Botanical Garden Inc. In summary, the newly established Magnolia Network in the Philippines will conduct a series of activities that will include several phases: Phase 1 is to conduct expeditions in our respective areas, conduct basic taxonomy and herbarium collection; Phase 2 is to conduct IUCN assessments of the species reported in the country, publish results and findings of the assessments and implement conservation initiatives for the species in the country; and Phase 3 is to implement appropriate reintroduction programs when needed. Overall, these initial activities for the implementation of the Philippine Magnolia Conservation project will require support, collaboration and partnership amongst members for the institutionalization of the network. The Philippine Magnolia Network will be supported by and collaborate with the Global Consortium for *Magnolia* to ensure no wild magnolias go extinct. The establishment of the network and its members' strategic locations will further initiate community engagement towards a more sustained conservation strategy for the species in the country.