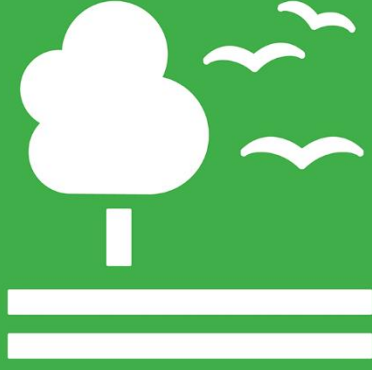


# GOAL

15 LIFE ON LAND





# GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND

## SUPPORTING LAND ECOSYSTEM THROUGH EDUCATION

Since 2021 when the college formally launched a project with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) that focused on the preservation of Sitio Haduan in Brgy. Marcos Village as eco-tourism site. Part of the partnership is to dedicate an area for the propagation and preservation of Balacat Trees, the tree where the name of the city was adopted from. Last 2023, with the support of the City Government of Mabalacat, a number of Balacat Tree seedlings were finally planted in the area that was specified in the partnership with DOST. With such project, a sanctuary for the Balacat Trees has been finally provided for. Hence, the future generation will not be deprived of seeing the heritage trees of Balacat.

Aside from the dedicated area for Balacat Trees, the said trees have also been planted around the different communities in the city. Last March 9, 2023, 100 Balacat Trees were planted around the area of the new Hausland Subdivision in Brgy. Mabiga. It is interesting to note that while many lands are converted for residential purposes, dedicated areas for Balacat Trees are considered. Having Balacat Trees inside a subdivision will be very helpful in forming the next generations about the said heritage trees of the city. James Darwin Lagman, Director of Center for Community Research and Innovation, MCC, also shared a brief history of Balacat Tree in Mabalacat City.

Lastly, while progress and development in the city is becoming more extensive, most lands are converted into residential and commercial spaces. Essential spaces in the city should be also preserved for tourism purpose. Thus, last September 21, 2023, in celebration of the International Day of Peace, MCC initiated the call for the City Government to dedicate and preserve the Kamikaze Shrine into a Peace Park. As Mabalacat City is known for as the birthplace of the Japanese suicidal attack during World War II, a monument was erected in the city to commemorate the historical event. MCC however believes that rather than just commemorating the heroic deeds of the Japanese People, the park should be a reminder that war and violence should never happen again just as the Japanese are also advocating today. The land are now has peace poles planted by MCC students every year to promote peace. Every year the foreign students of MCC, like students from Konan University Japan and Lone Star College from Texas USA, never failed to visit the Kamikaze Peace Park. MCC also brings different local and national guests in the said monument as a way of promoting the area. For a time, few people almost close to no one visit the kamikaze shrine. However, with MCC's EduTourism Program, the number of tourists visiting the site increased. MCC is currently working for an ordinance for the conversion of the land area into a peace zone and eventually a tourism destination.



## SUPPORTING LAND ECOSYSTEM THROUGH ACTION

Part of maintaining ecosystem through meaning biodiversity and co-existence among different beings, the College worked with the City Veterinary Office for an education program on responsible pet ownership. Last April 25, 2023, the City Veterinary conducted a talk on Rabies and Responsible Pet Ownership Awareness to MCC students. After the talk, an essay contest about the said topic was also conducted. The seminar provided for an awareness for students to ensure that their pets are vaccinated with anti-rabies to ensure safety.

