SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Baguio City, Philippines

Metric 15.3 Supporting land ecosystems through action



15 LIFE ON LAND

Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings

AY 2025-2026

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Baguio City, Philippines

Indicator 15.3.5 Collaboration for shared land ecosystems



15 LIFE ON LAND

Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings

AY 2025-2026

Brewing Sustainability: Benguet Coffee Project's Harvest Season Tours Continues

The Benguet Coffee Project (BCP) of Saint Louis University continues to strengthen its advocacy for sustainability, local empowerment, and community partnership, embodying SLU's mission to form competent, creative, and socially involved persons guided by CICM values of charity, justice, integrity, and peace.

What began as a three-year extension project of the School of Accountancy, Management, Computing and Information Studies under the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management has now evolved into a cross-disciplinary research endeavor, engaging students and faculty from Information Technology, Biology, and other academic units and schools and reaching as far as Japan. The BCP has become a living laboratory and experiential learning platform, where theory meets practice and where education directly contributes to community well-being.

In collaboration with the Domolpos Ansipsip Ancestral Domain Indigenous Peoples Organization, the project's efforts have paved the way for the community to recognize and accept coffee tourism as an emerging form of sustainable livelihood in Benguet.

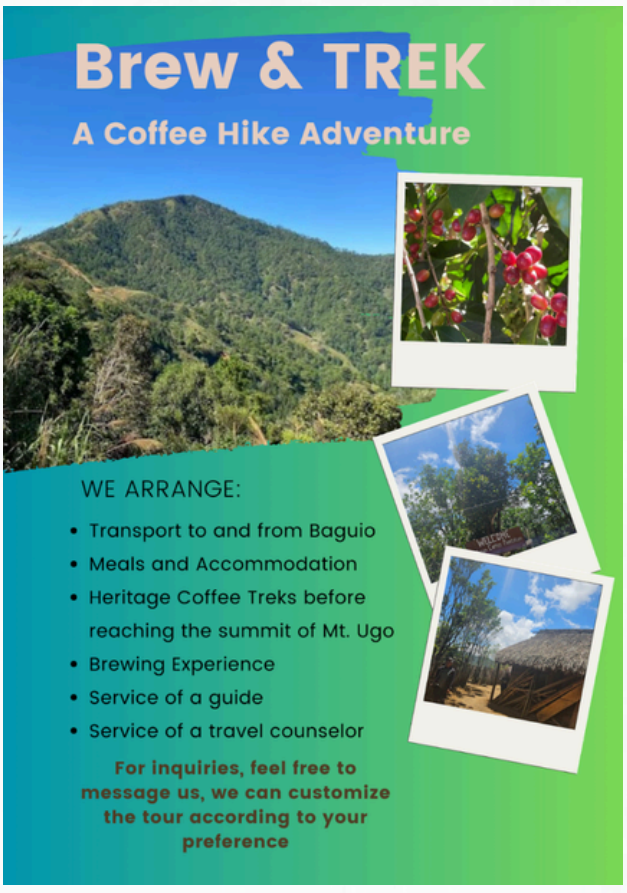
Through its immersive Harvest Season Tours, the project invites travelers, students, and coffee lovers to experience the heart of local farming while directly contributing to the sustainability of the community's coffee heritage. Each tour is a hands-on exploration of the coffee lifecycle—from cherry picking and pulping to drying and cupping. Visitors walk alongside farmers, learn traditional methods, and witness the care that goes into every bean. For mountain hikers, the trail can continue all the way to the summit of Mt. Ugo.



The tour will start at the pick-up point in Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya. After a scenic ride through the mountains of Benguet, you will be greeted by community guides to explore backyard farms and indulge in snacks prepared by the locals themselves. Since its harvest season, you will likewise experience picking coffee berries. Roasting and coffee tasting will be part of the journey as well. A coffee experience that is slow and mindful while immersing yourself in this cultural landscape. Travelers can choose between an overnight trip or a day trip. Tours are available anytime and shall be coordinated through the Benguet Coffee Project's facebook page. Harvest season starts this November through February.

More than just a drink, coffee becomes a symbol of shared responsibility and transformative education. Each cup tells a story — of local farmers, of academic collaboration, and of the CICM spirit in action.

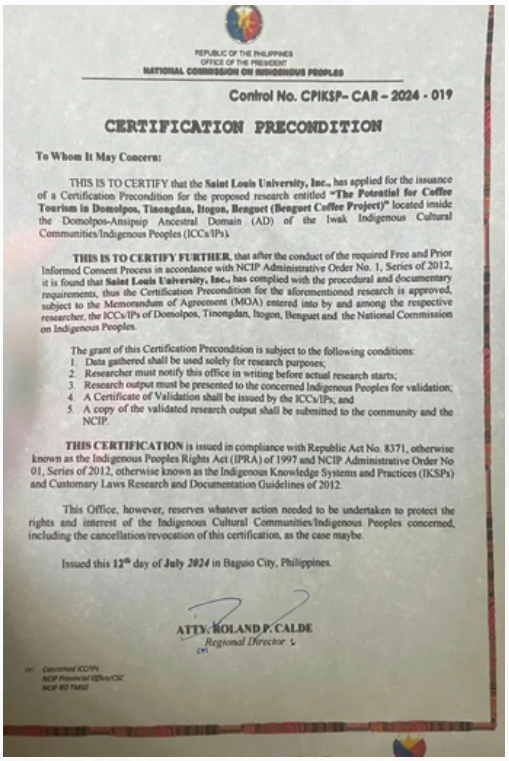
Let the Benguet Coffee Project stand as a testament to how education can brew hope, sustainability, and empowerment — one cup at a time.



Posted on the SLU Website:

https://www.slu.edu.ph/2025/11/07/brewing-sustainability-benguet-coffee-projects-harvest-season-tours-continues/

Collaboration with the local community to maintain shared land ecosystems



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Control No. CPIKSP- CAR – 2024 - 019

CERTIFICATION PRECONDITION

To Whom It May Concern:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the **Saint Louis University, Inc.,** has applied for the issuance of a Certification Precondition for the proposed research entitled **"The Potential for Coffee Tourism in Domolpos, Tinongdan, Itogon, Benguet (Benguet Coffee Project)"** located inside the Domolpos-Ansipsip Ancestral Domain (AD) of the Iwak Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs).

THIS IS TO CERTIFY FURTHER, that after the conduct of the required Free and Prior Informed Consent Process in accordance with NCIP Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2012, it is found that **Saint Louis University, Inc.,** has complied with the procedural and documentary requirements, thus the Certification Precondition for the aforementioned research is approved, subject to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into by and among the respective researcher, the ICCs/IPs of Domolpos, Tinongdan, Itogon, Benguet and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

The grant of this Certification Precondition is subject to the following conditions:

1. Data gathered shall be used solely for research purposes;
2. Researcher must notify this office in writing before actual research starts;
3. Research output must be presented to the concerned Indigenous Peoples for validation;
4. A Certificate of Validation shall be issued by the ICCs/IPs; and
5. A copy of the validated research output shall be submitted to the community and the NCIP.

THIS CERTIFICATION is issued in compliance with Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 and NCIP Administrative Order No 01, Series of 2012, otherwise known as the Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSPs) and Customary Laws Research and Documentation Guidelines of 2012.

This Office, however, reserves whatever action needed to be undertaken to protect the rights and interest of the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples concerned, including the cancellation/revocation of this certification, as the case maybe.

Issued this 12th day of **July 2024** in Baguio City, Philippines.

ATTY. ROLAND P. CALDE
Regional Director

cm

cc: Concerned ICC/IPs
NCIP Provincial Office/CSC
NCIP RO TMSD

Saint Louis University partners with the Iwak Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) of Domolpos, Tinongdan, Itogon, Benguet, in the Benguet Coffee Project, which studies the potential for coffee tourism within the Domolpos-Ansipsip Ancestral Domain. The domain is a living landscape of forest, farmland, and watershed that the community has stewarded for generations and continues to manage under its customary laws. Its coffee-growing land is both the community's livelihood and an ecosystem, so the University's work is designed so that tourism development does not come at the land's expense.

Partnership built on community authority over the land. Under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (RA 8371), ICCs/IPs hold the right to manage their ancestral domains and the responsibility to preserve and maintain their ecological balance. The University therefore secured Free and Prior Informed Consent (NCIP Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2012) and obtained NCIP Certification Precondition No. CPIKSP-CAR-2024-019 on 12 July 2024. The research proceeds under a Memorandum of Agreement with the community and the NCIP, so the people who care for the land decide what happens on it.

Safeguards that protect the ecosystem and the knowledge that sustains it.

- Findings must be validated by the community before they are finalized, so no tourism recommendation can move forward without the approval of the land's stewards.
- The agreement follows the NCIP's guidelines for documenting Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices, which include traditional farming and land-care practices, and data may be used solely for research purposes.
- The NCIP retains the authority to revoke the certification if the community's rights or interests are threatened, giving the community a standing safeguard against harmful use of the land.

By treating the community as a decision-making partner, the University supports tourism that keeps the land productive and ecologically intact for the community that depends on it.



The SLU SDG Report 2026