



Training on Coastal Zone Management

The Philippines

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The Philippines



The Philippines is an archipelago and is therefore very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially in coastal area communities. The country is visited by an average of 21 typhoons annually, of which at least five are considered strong to very strong, bringing significant flooding to many communities. Furthermore, strong waves, which are a continuous threat to the villages in the coastal areas, are common in many islands and shorelines. Limited livelihood options for residents in many coastal areas in the Philippines has led to destructive means of fishing and the clearing of coastal vegetation for the construction of fish ponds and fuel usage. The short terms gains of the aforementioned destructive activities have progressively led to negative long-term impacts, such as an increase in poverty due to less catch being available for fishing.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is charged with the sustainable management, conservation, protection and development of the country's environment and natural resources. The DENR has been conducting various training activities related

Quick facts

Zone	Eastern Central Philippines
Time scale	1994 to date
Topic	Sustainable management and development of environment and natural resources
Lead agency	The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)



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to coastal zone management in order to enable the coastal communities to think, plan and act vis-à-vis their environment. Region VIII (Eastern Central Philippines) has developed training modules that focus specifically on topics such as planting mangroves and sea grass, dealing with economic losses caused by destructive short term practices, the establishment and management of marine protected areas and how proper coastal management can mitigate the impacts of climate change. For example, certain training modules explain the functions of the coastal ecosystems, focusing specifically on the functions of corals, sea grass and mangrove forests. For example, one crucial message is how mangrove forests serve as spawning grounds for fish and that a hectare of mangrove forest lost is equivalent to one ton per year of foregone fishery products.

The core teaching team from the DENR is comprised of 3 to 5 staff from the regional, provincial and district offices. In addition to the teaching activities, the team provides assistance with the formulation and implementation of sub-projects (for example, mangrove planting). The team also monitors the progress of the projects in tandem with the coastal leaders and the municipal and barangay officials. The local government units (LGU), primarily the municipal ag-

riculturists and the barangay captains (village chiefs), participate in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the mangrove planting and other projects. This is necessary for the sustainability of the initiative, given that it is the LGU that is fundamentally responsible for the welfare and development of its constituencies.

The training of coastal communities by the DENR is one of the initiatives associated with the development of more widespread green human resources development (HRD) in the Philippines, and has served as a starting point for the creation of a 5 year greening the HRD program developed by the Career Executive Service Board.

References

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