



“Partnership for biodiversity censurevation: Mainstreaming in Local Agricultural Landscapes” or Biodiversity Partnerships Project (BPP)

The Philippines

June 2012

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The Biodiversity Partnerships Project (BPP) aims to increase the capacity of concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) to mainstream biodiversity conservation in production landscapes and seascapes geared towards the protection and enhancement of the quality of the environment and the sustainable management of the natural resources. It also aims to strengthen enabling policies at the national level and demonstrate locally-appropriate suite of approaches to mainstream biodiversity conservation into local governance systems in selected pilot sites.

The project is located in five critical bio-geographic regions (Luzon, Palawan, Negros-Panay, Mindoro and Mindanao).

Although the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the lead implementing agency, the project’s outcomes will be achieved through partnerships with key national government agencies, LGUs and national and local conservation non-government organizations (NGOs), indigenous groups, and communities, to muster their resources (both monetary and in kind) and expertise.

Quick facts	
Zone	Luzon, Mindoro, Palawan. Negros-Panay, Mindanao
Time Frame	2010 - 2016
Topic	Capacity development, biodiversity conservation
Implementing Agency	Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Protected Areas Wildlife Bureau



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Experience from within the Philippines and elsewhere in the region has shown that strengthening the capacities of LGUs to promote conservation and environmental sustainability has been an extremely effective means of reducing the loss and degradation of natural resources.

The Philippines is considered to be one of the world's most biologically rich countries. Its marine waters support the richest coral reef communities on the planet and its terrestrial ecosystems are similarly diverse, supporting a wealth of natural resources and a rich array of species diversity. It is one of the world's 17 mega diversity countries, which together host more than 70% of the world's species. The entire country comprises a Conservation International Hot-spot, and all remaining forest and coastal areas fall within one of four World Wildlife Fund Global 200 Eco-regions. This makes the Philippines one of the planet's highest conservation priorities. The Philippines has among the highest rates of species discovery in the world - sixteen new species of mammals have been discovered in the last ten years alone.

The primary government response to protect this important biodiversity has been the establishment of a system of protected areas through the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS). However, the system currently excludes other areas of critical connective habitat and other sites which are globally significant for biodiversity conservation. These are the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and the surrounding production landscapes of PAs and KBAs which are important for connectivity of key biodiversity corridors. The result is a highly fragmented landscape, consisting of unsustainable agricultural and natural resources production systems and incompatible land uses which further expose the remaining natural habitats to threats. These are more evident at the level of local government units who are responsible

for integrated management of lands under their jurisdiction, including PA/KBA territories, and the production landscape. To arrest fragmentation and ensure that activities in the surrounding landscape conserve species assemblages and maintain ecosystem functions, three major capacity constraints have been identified: (i) inadequate policies, systems, tools and capacities by government agencies at the national level to encourage local government unit (LGU) landscape level biodiversity conservation efforts; (ii) weak capacities and lack of tools by LGUs for mainstreaming biodiversity in landscape level and local development planning; and (iii) failure to integrate biodiversity concerns into local development planning, leading to unsustainable management of the surrounding landscape.

If successful, the project outcomes are:

Outcome 1: National-level systems, policies, tools and capacities are in place to support LGU level biodiversity conservation efforts;

Outcome 2: LGUs encompassing 1.6 Million hectares in five key biogeographic regions have the tools and capacities to integrate sustainable management into decentralized government structures;

Outcome 3: Systems, policies, tools and capacities for landscape level biodiversity conservation and sustainable development are applied at eight pilot sites covering 700,000 hectares across five critical bio-geographic regions.

The major challenges being faced by the stakeholders is not only how to preserve biodiversity but also how to harmonize conflicting policies, plans, programs, and projects on resource use and how to achieve synergy of efforts among project partners.

References:

http://faspo.denr.gov.ph/Prog_Proj/Program.htm
<http://www.gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3859>