



PRDP-GEF awards best-performing LGUs during MPA Summit

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development (DA-PRDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) Unit held its Marine Protected Area (MPA) Summit 2022 on October 24-28, 2022, at Solea Mactan Resort in Cordova, Cebu. The Summit brought together local chief executives, municipal legislators,

government officials, ocean conservation professionals, law enforcers, and community leaders to share and exchange knowledge, experiences, and best practices to strengthen biodiversity protection and conservation efforts under the DA-PRDP GEF.

The event served as a venue for local government units (LGUs)

to present and showcase their accomplishments in marine and coastal area governance. Awards were also given to the LGUs who have satisfactorily met the Global Environment Objectives of the project.

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PRDP-GEF awards..(from Page 1)

Cordova Mayor Cesar E. Suan warmly welcomed the participants, especially the mayors who were also present, namely, Sibunag, Guimaras Mayor Annabelle V. Samaniego; San Lorenzo, Guimaras Mayor Ninfa G. Gajo-San Lorenzo; Talibon, Bohol Mayor Janette A. Garcia; Unido, Bohol Mayor Rene B. Borenaga-Bien, and Carlos P. Garcia, Bohol Mayor Fernando B. Estavilla. He also thanked the PRDP for choosing to hold the Summit in Cordova, noting that it is the perfect venue for the event given the municipality's vast coastal areas.

During his message, PRDP National Project Director Asec.

Arnel V. de Mesa provided a brief background of the PRDP-GEF project and its accomplishments since it started in 2016. He highlighted that the Project has successfully increased the fish stocks' productivity in terms of biomass, diversity, and density, and the LGUs' management effectiveness in all 33 GEF-covered MPAs. For this, he commended the LGUs who were instrumental in achieving this feat.

"All these were made possible through the cooperation and perseverance of our partner LGUs and communities who deserve a resounding applause for the work and effort they've put

into this project. Congratulations to each and every one of you for all your achievements over the past six years," Asec. de Mesa said.

In recognition of the LGUs' efforts and commitment to the project, awards were given to the best-performing GEF-covered sites in the following categories: Coral Cover Condition, Good Governance and Policy Implementation, Reef Fish Productivity, and MEAT (Marine Protected Area Effectiveness Assessment Tool) and METT (Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool) scores.

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PRDP-GEF awards..(from Page 2)

All 33 MPA sites were evaluated based on their 2022 MEAT & METT and Resource Ecological Assessment - Fish Visual Census (REA-FVC) results, biophysical data for fish stocks, underwater videos and photos, and actual underwater monitoring, as well as a series of Focus Group Discussions with LGU representatives and members of the MPA Management Boards.

The winners are as follows:

Coral Cover Condition:

1st Place: Matnog Marine Protected Area
(Matnog, Sorsogon)

2nd Place: Manapag Reef (Guiuan, Eastern Samar)

3rd Place: Lupakon and Bilang-bilangan Reefs
(Guiuan, Eastern Samar) and Malcampo MPA
(Roxas, Palawan)

Good Governance and Policy Implementation

1st Place: Bahurang Silag MPA (Agdangan, Quezon)

2nd Place: Aguinging MPA (Carlos P. Garcia, Bohol)

3rd Place: Cataban MPA (Talibon, Bohol) and

Panaloytoton MPA (Quinapondan, Eastern Samar)

Reef Fish Productivity:

1st Place: Manapag Reef MPA (Guiuan, Eastern Samar)

2nd Place: Asinan MPA (Buenavista, Bohol)

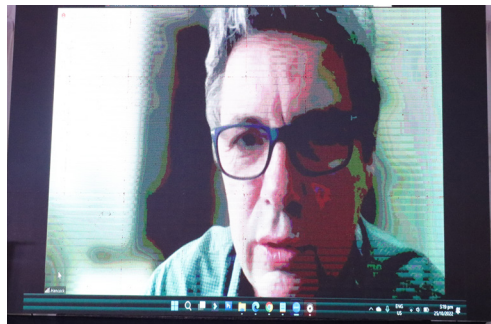
3rd Place: Binabalasan MPA (Salcedo, Eastern Samar)

METT and MEAT:

1st Place: Tumulintinan Point MPA
(San Lorenzo, Guimaras)

2nd Place: San Fernando Fish Sanctuary and
Marine Reserve (San Fernando, Masbate)

3rd Place: Sinandigan MPA (Ubay, Bohol)



World Bank Natural Resources management officer Jim Hancock emphasized the important role of the Bantay Dagat in the preservation of marine protected areas.

The first-place winners for the Coral Cover Condition, Good Governance and Policy Implementation, and Reef Fish Productivity categories each received Php100,000 while the winner of the METT and MEAT category received the grand prize worth Php200,000. The prizes come the form of funding for proposed projects by the MPA Management Boards and stakeholders.

Speakers from non-government organizations and academic and research institutions were also invited to provide inputs on emerging trends and challenges in managing coastal resources and

marine sanctuaries.

The Summit concluded with a workshop on the enhancement of the LGUs' Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Resources Management Cum Sustainability Plan (ICFRMP-SP) facilitated by DA-PRDP GEF Natural Resources Management Unit Head Ulysses R. Triambulo.

The workshop primarily focused on improvements in the climate adaptation, fisheries management, and disaster risk mitigation aspects of the ICFRMP-SP.

World Bank Natural Resources Management Officer Jim Hancock highlighted the role of the Bantay Dagat and the communities

in the implementation of these plans and in the continued protection and conservation of the MPAs.

"The Bantay Dagat, communities, and fishers' organizations are very much involved and are dedicating their energies and efforts to protect the resources. And at the same time, dedicating a huge amount of energy to implementing livelihood projects, looking at what they can do in parallel with protection so they can also find new ways of earning a living while at the same time protecting the resources. With that, I would like to say a big thank you," Hancock expressed. (Jan Kyle R. Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE) ■

PRDP holds first-ever nationwide KM Training-Workshop



The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) National Project Coordination Office (NPCO), led by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit, conducted the first Knowledge Management (KM) 101 Training-Workshop for select PRDP staff and DA regular offices from October 17 to 20, 2022, in Tagaytay City.

PRDP Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla underlined the importance of knowledge management as well as the mainstreaming of PRDP innovations into the DA's regular programs.

"We need to come up with a framework to form themes for our knowledge management. One that shows synergy on how

the different components work together to produce both intended or unintended outcomes. These outcomes often produce more that go beyond the results intended. Second, to emphasize inclusivity for our partner LGUs, and proponent groups and ultimately, one that enables sustainability through mainstreaming PRDP innovations in the DA operations," Hubilla emphasized.

The activity aimed to capacitate the KM focal persons from the NPCO, Project Support Offices, and Regional Project Coordination Offices in fostering Knowledge Management within the PRDP.

The activity also served as an avenue for clarifications of critical questions to help the

focal persons understand and appreciate the importance of knowledge management in capturing and sustaining the wealth of experiences available in the Project.

"While KM appears new to most of you, we have actually been doing it but not deliberately. This time we will put a framework. It is like story-telling but with a compelling story worthy of replicating," Hubilla added.

The four-day training and workshop was attended by representatives from the M&E and InfoACE units, I-PLAN, I-BUILD, and I-REAP components, BAFE, RAED, AMAD, AMAS, PMS, and PMED. *(Kristine Victoria Bistoyong and Jan Kyle Carillo, NPCO InfoACE)*



PRDP staff, LGUs trained on Conflict Sensitivity and Peace Promotion

The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), together with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU) and the World Bank (WB), conducted a Conflict Sensitivity and Peace Promotion Training for PRDP personnel and partner Local Government Units (LGUs) from October 4 to 6, 2022, in General Santos City.

The three-day training aimed to educate the participants, who are implementing PRDP subprojects, on the basic principles of conflict sensitivity and peace promotion

(CSPP). Furthermore, it sought to deepen their appreciation of CSPP and its application in their plans, projects and program implementation processes.

DA-PRDP National Deputy Project Director Shandy M. Hubilla encouraged the participants to actively participate in the lectures and workshops for a productive and meaningful training. He also thanked the OPAPRU and the Bank for collaborating with the Project on this activity.

Social Healing and Peacebuilding Office Director Vanessa Pallarco of the OPAPRU highlighted the role of the participants

in the training and in the larger context of peace in the country.

“Likewise, we also recognize that we are coming here and we don’t have the monopoly of knowledge. At the end of the day, you are the ones who know the nitty gritty context of the different projects you are handling. Basically, what we are here to do is to introduce to you the different tools and mechanisms on how we can further enhance our existing interventions to be able to contribute to the bigger peace agenda,” Pallarco said.

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PRDP staff, LGUs, trained on Conflict Sensitivity..(from Page 5)

Meanwhile, World Bank Social Development Specialist Paul Adolfo explained why the Bank chose to conduct the CSPP training in Mindanao, stressing that it is in line with the Bank's mission of supporting all government efforts to develop the region, recognizing its potential as a driver of growth in the country.

"The Bank recognizes the complexities and peculiarities of Mindanao's peace and security. As such, it has developed the Mindanao Peace Lens (MPL), an approach to increase the conflict sensitivity of the WB-supported projects," Adolfo added.

The first day of the training

defined conflict and peace, as well as the different concepts under them, through a series of lectures conducted by resource speakers from the OPAPRU. Director Pallarco first talked about the 5-Point Peace, Reconciliation and Unity Agenda. This was followed by presentations on Understanding Conflict and Peace; The Culture of Peace; Differentiating Peacebuilding and Conflict Sensitivity; and Dividers, Connectors, Resource Transfers and RAFT Behavior Patterns.

The remaining days of the training were dedicated to workshops geared towards capacitating the participants on how to analyze conflict—its

context, interventions, and risks and opportunities. At the end of the activity, a brainstorming session on the integration of the basic principles of CSSP into the DA-PRDP was held. Participants also pledged their support to the country's peace agenda as freshly minted peacemakers, peacekeepers, and peacebuilders.

The training was attended by PRDP staff from the National Project Coordination Office, Project Support Office Mindanao, Regional Project Coordination Offices IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, and BARMM, and the LGU of Siayan, Zamboanga Del Norte and PLGU Maguindanao. *(Jan Kyle Carrillo, NPCO InfoACE)* ■



North Luzon

Multimillion DA-PRDP road projects inaugurated in Ifugao

Three road projects in Ifugao implemented under the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) were officially inaugurated and turned over to the provincial government of Ifugao on October 13, 2022.

The subprojects include the 4.96-kilometer Junction-Alimit-Nattum Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) worth PhP140.52 million located in the municipality of Mayoyao, the 4.6-kilometer Viewpoint-San Fernando FMR worth PhP124.81 million and the 8-kilometer Anaba-Ducigan-Banao FMR with a 20-meter bridge worth PhP245.63 million, both located in the municipality of Banaue.

During the turnover ceremonies, DA-CAR Regional Executive Director Cameron P. Odsey emphasized the role of the LGU in the maintenance of the road projects.

"Now that these FMR projects are turned over to the LGU, the maintenance work and ensuring that these roads are always open and accessible 12 months a year—on dry weather, rainy weather and even on stormy weather—are also the LGUs' responsibility," Dir. Odsey said.

Ifugao Governor Jerry U. Dalipog expressed his immense gratitude to the DA-PRDP for the realization of the subprojects that were inaugurated.

"We in Ifugao are thankful to the DA-PRDP and for everyone's sacrifices toward the realization of these projects. This is among the best programs of the government for it ensures that projects are completed as planned," Gov. Dalipog said.

The Junction-Alimit-Nattum FMR covers two barangays (Palaad and Alimit) and benefits three more barangays within its influence area, namely, Banao, Nalbu, and Nattum, benefiting more than 290 households. The Viewpoint-San Fernando FMR connects the two barangays and benefits more than 360 households. Lastly, the Anaba-Ducigan-Banao FMR passes through barangays Anaba and Ducigan, and likewise serves the residents of barangay Banao benefiting more than 270 households. (*Elvy T. Estacio, RPCO-CAR InfoACE Unit*)

South Luzon

PRDP 4A subprojects in Laguna, recognized by RPMC

The CALABARZON Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) awarded certificates of recognition to the local government units of Sta. Maria and Cavinti, Laguna for their effective implementation of infrastructure subprojects of the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development (DA-PRDP) Project Regional Project Coordination Office CALABARZON (RPCO 4A) in their localities. These projects are the Construction of Level II Cavinti Potable Water System and the Concreting of Kayhakat-Bubucal-Inayapan-Calangay-Coralan-Bagumbayan-Farm-to-Market Road in Sta. Maria.

The LGUs were recognized based on the RPMC's findings during their site visit last August 4. The recognition specifically commends the quality construction of the infrastructures and the good practices demonstrated by the LGUs. Among the good practices identified were the following: hands-on and proactive involvement of the Municipal Project Management and Implementing Units (MPMIU) in coordinating and collaborating with the PRDP 4A and contractors; use of accurate and evidence-based tools such as the PRDP Geotagging camera, quality assessment of construction; and proper and accurate documentation of the billing documents.

CALABARZON Regional Development Council Infrastructure Committee Chairman Ding Andal commended the LGUs and the DA-PRDP for their dedicated efforts for the subprojects. He hopes that more DA-PRDP subproject implementations will be recognized in the future and that other agencies and LGUs will follow suit in their own programs and projects. (*Myrelle Joy Bejasa, RPCO 4A InfoACE*)

Visayas

RPAB approves P119M-worth enterprise subprojects for Bohol

The Province of Bohol has managed to add four more enterprise subprojects after earning the Regional Project Advisory Board's (RPAB) approval and endorsement on October 12, 2022.

The breakdown of the PhP119.88 million enterprise subprojects is as follows:

(i) PhP49.99 million for the Bohol Cassava Consolidation, Processing, and Marketing Enterprise of the PNB KGB Multipurpose Cooperative (PNBKGB MPC)

(ii) PhP40.17 million for the Bohol Silage Production and Marketing Enterprise of the First Consolidated Cooperative Along Tañon Seaboard (FCCT)

(iii) PhP14.99 million for the Bohol Highland Vegetables Consolidation and Marketing Enterprise of the Guio-ang Agrarian Reform Community Beneficiary Cooperative (GARCBC), and

(iv) PhP14.96 million for the Bohol Feeds Production and Marketing Enterprise of the Bohol Native Chicken Growers Association (BONACGA)

These subprojects are expected to support and complement one another, including existing PRDP-supported enterprises in the province.

"Today marks the beginning of our victory and the development of the native chicken industry in Bohol province, and hopefully in Central Visayas in the years to come," Jonathan Gabriel, BONACGA secretary said.

"Our farmers are happy with this development. I am thankful to the Department of Agriculture for strengthening the cassava industry in Bohol and for giving our farmers' cooperative the opportunity to manage, produce, process and market so that we can gauge our capabilities to develop this industry," Edgardo Bag-ao, Chairman Board of Directors of the PNB KGB shared. (*September Noon Macahilo, PSO Visayas InfoACE*)

Mindanao

DA-PRDP brews coffee partnership with DTI in Davao Oriental

A total of PhP1.2 million was turned over by the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) at the Mati Investment Conference 2022 (MatiCon2022) on October 26, 2022, to fund the "Coffee Advancement for Productivity and Industry Development in the Province of Davao Oriental" convergence project under the I-PLAN Subcomponent 1.2.

Based on PSA reports, Davao Oriental ranked second in the Davao Region as the highest coffee-producing province in terms of volume, equivalent to 12.11% of the total share. The convergence initiative aims to support and create market linkages for the province as well as create the branding of Davao Oriental coffee that would associate it with Mt. Hamiguitan Mountain ranges, similar to how Mt. Apo has been associated with Davao del Sur's coffee.

The technical support that will be funded by DA-PRDP in partnership with DTI aims to harness the potential and collaboration among the coffee farmers, processors, and enablers in Davao Oriental through capacity-building activities. This will also generate more convergence support with other enablers for coffee including the provincial local government, state, other government line agencies, Coffee Council and the private sector. (*Joy Montecalvo, PSO Mindanao InfoACE Unit*)

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