

Brief Description of the Province



Bohol is the 10th largest island in the Philippines covering a total of 411,726 hectares. It is administratively divided into 47 municipalities, 1 city and 1,109 barangays. It is composed of a mainland and 81 islands and islets with an estimated coastline of 654 kilometers.

In 2000, it has a total population of 1.137 million, ranked 17th highest among the 78 provinces in the Philippines. With an annual growth rate of 2.92%, its population in 2007 is estimated at 1.318 million. Meanwhile, average household size in 2000 is pegged at 5.3 persons. Majority (58%) of the population belongs to the productive ages (15 to 64 years) while 6% of the population aged 65 years and over. Average annual per capita income in Bohol is estimated at P16,478.00 which roughly translates to P77,291.00 annual family income.

Employment in the Province was recorded at 91.6% in 2005. Agriculture remains to be the main source of economic activity in Bohol. Fortunately, other industries have developed, particularly tourism and the service sectors that generate considerable employment. On the average, the agriculture sector provides employment to 54% of the total employed persons in the province while the services and industry sector account 30% and 16%, respectively.

Meanwhile, the province is continuously producing agri-based commodities that provide significant economic benefits to its people. Among the leading traded items in the province are handicrafts, prawns, seaweeds, woven raffia, rice, banana, cattle, hog, fish and copra. Moreover, Bohol's hard industries are producing and processing limestone and galvanized iron sheets.

In Bohol, alleviating poverty remains to be the main thrust of government. The sustained poverty reduction initiatives in the province has paid off as the province's poverty ratings improved from 50.2% in 2000 to 29.2% in 2003, reported by the National Statistical Coordinating Board (NSCB). Bohol's socio-economic goals are driven by its two main strategic directions – eco-tourism development and agro-industrialization.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Bohol's overall development framework is anchored on the following vision, mission and goals:

Vision

Bohol as a prime eco-cultural tourism destination and a strong agro-industrial province in the Visayas with an empowered and self reliant people who are God-loving, law-abiding, proud of their cultural heritage and committed to the growth and protection of the environment

Mission

To continuously transform its social, economic, political and cultural life through effective collaboration of people from sectors of the province to achieve and sustain its vision.

Goals

- To establish the importance and contribution of Bohol to the Nation's socio-cultural and political growth and economic competitive edge
- To establish sustainable eco-cultural tourism and agro-industrial sites in the province to encourage investments and employment opportunities
- To ensure sustainable growth in revenues from major industries that adhere to a sustainable framework for developing, utilizing and managing the environment and natural resources of the province
- To enrich and continuously develop the dynamic and creative Boholano culture in all municipalities and in the capital city
- To develop a well-informed citizenry in healthy communities, aware and proud of its competencies that enable them to be much more productive, enterprising and participative in attaining the vision and goals of Bohol

MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIC FOCUS TOWARDS POVERTY REDUCTION, DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: "10 in 2010"

To boost Bohol's economic drivers and further reduce poverty, the Provincial Government has set its 10-point medium-term development agenda dubbed as "**10 in 2010**" which serve as the guiding beacon for all development initiatives in the province until 2010. Through alliances and partnerships among all development stakeholders, the following development directions are pursued:

Our 10-Point Development Agenda for 2010

1. Agriculture

- Food sufficiency at the household level thru higher productivity
- High value-adding for agriculture products with emphasis on export markets, job generation and environment friendly production
- Development of high-value organically grown agricultural products
- Enhancement of technology support for agricultural livelihood

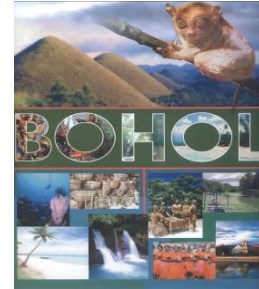


2. Tourism

- Increasing tourist arrivals by accessing new markets like China, South Korea and special interest groups



- Promotion of Bohol as a family-oriented eco-tourism destination
- Collaborating with LGUs and communities in developing and promoting eco-tourism sites
- Job generation to about 9,300 in the eco-tourism industry and income to P4.4 Billion by 2010
- Provision of basic amenities in tourism sites with international standards
- Promotion of Boholano cuisine, arts and crafts
- Planning and development of Anda Peninsula



3. Infrastructure – Basic and Strategic

- Completion of the Bohol International Airport
- Implementation of the Bohol Circumferential Road Project Phase 3
- Fund sourcing for the Feasibility Study and detailed engineering for water supply projects
- Development of critical environment infrastructure, e.g., sanitary landfills, waste treatment plant
- Fund sourcing for the Feasibility Study of the Bohol-Cebu Multi-Access Bridge
- Fund sourcing for the Feasibility Study of the Bohol Power Generation and Bohol Irrigation Project, Phase 3
- Completion of the Bohol Irrigation Project, Phase 2
- Completion of the concrete paving of the Loay Interior Road to Alicia, and Sierra Bullones-Jagna road
- Completion of concreting of provincial roads that link poblacions to the national highway, inter-town roads and those roads leading to major tourism destinations



4. Managing Population Growth

- Reduction of population growth rate
- Allowing a multiplicity of family planning options consistent with widely-held religious convictions



5. Improving Health and Social Well-Being

- Facilitating the provision of quality basic education, including the reduction of school drop-out rates
- Upgrading of hospital services
- Expansion of coverage of PhilHealth with particular focus on indigents as identified in the poverty database
- Development of poverty-focused programs that shall address child mortality, malnutrition, reduction of chronic diseases
- Provision of adequate housing, in coordination with Habitat for Humanity Foundation, Gawad Kalinga, etc.
- Supporting medical missions to enable the poor to access state-of-the-art medical interventions



- Development of programs that will improve environmental sanitation
- Supporting animal control programs to eliminate the incidence of rabies

6. **Attaining Environmental Sustainability**

- Review of the Bohol Environment Code
- Development of the physical framework and spatial plans to serve as guides for long-term development
- Review of Comprehensive Land Use Plans of municipalities to ensure that development guidelines and land use controls are enforced to protect the environment
- Supporting current initiatives in coastal and natural resource management
- Rehabilitation of open and denuded areas within watersheds and forest reserves
- Supporting initiatives in climate change, resiliency and environmental management



7. **Expanding Economic Opportunities**

- Conversion of the Tagbilaran Airport (once the Panglao Airport is operational) into a Special Economic Zone/ Business Park
- Strengthening ties with Jiangxi Province in China to attract tourists and investments
- Development of economic zones in Northeastern Bohol
- Development of broadband highway to ensure connectivity to the rest of the world
- Supporting results-oriented trade missions



8. **Fostering Creativity**

- Strengthening efforts in developing the Boholano culture and heritage
- Supporting initiatives that project the creativity and talent of the Boholano



9. **Peace and Stability in Communities**

- Strengthening of initiatives in peace and development by building capacity of barangays to address problems
- Addressing root causes of insurgency, especially poverty and to improve delivery of basic services
- Reduction of incidence of criminality

10. **Better Governance**

- Emphasizing on performance and results rather than activities and outputs
- Installation and maintenance of computerized systems to improve LGU operations (e-NGAS, FMIS, RPTIS, HRIS, GIS)

- Expansion of revenue base to fund development programs and projects
- Adoption of Value-for-Money principles, transparency and accountability in the use of public funds
- Enhancement of services to clients and ensure positive satisfaction rating
- Re-engineering the LGU organizational structure

THE PROGRAM FRAMEWORK FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

The Province of Bohol has formulated a common program framework to ensure a cohesive response to the poverty situation in the province – the Bohol Program Framework for Poverty Reduction (BPFPR). This framework continues to provide a common structure in formulating policies, plans and programs in support to poverty reduction efforts in the province. The framework also allows determination of current status as well as priority actions to respond to the socio-economic hardships of Boholanos, building capacities and mobilization of resources for effective poverty alleviation initiatives.

Notably, Bohol province has successfully institutionalized agencies which have worked with poverty reduction, peace and development. This allows a more focused and strategic approach in fighting poverty. Furthermore, the development and maintenance of a functional poverty database with the use of the Poverty Database Monitoring System (PDMS) has allowed local governments to track the poor, prioritize development interventions, monitor and evaluate improvements in the levels of deprivation.

Poverty in Bohol is steadily being addressed through the Poverty Framework which follows a two-prong approach: the provision of assistance to the less fortunate people through programs and projects; and the stimulation of economic growth to sustain poverty reduction initiatives. These approaches can be illustrated in the figure below.

