

COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT PROFILE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Title: **An Integrated Community-Based Ecotourism Development “The Water Falls, Cave and River Hopping Adventure in Antequera”**

2. Project Type : **Capital Forming and Technical Assistance**

3. Project Components:

- Establishment of EcoPark at Mag-aso Falls And Inambacan Spring
- Capacity Building on Product Development, Market Linkage and Community Enterprises
- Monitoring and Evaluation



4. Project Location:

The proposed eco-tourism project is located at Barangay Mag-aso and Inambacan, Antequera, Bohol. Mag-aso Falls is recorded as one of the popular tourist spots in the province of Bohol

II. **PROJECT STATUS** : PROPOSED with Project Idea

It is a new project to be introduced in the area. A theme park and ecological resort, with conservation and preservation measures to be managed by the community living within the barangays.

III. **PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:**

1. Project Background

To compliment to the effort of the Provincial Government to develop eco-tourism, the Municipality of Antequera is zoned as priority area for ecotourism cluster under the Bohol Tourism Sketch Master Plan and Bohol Ecotourism and Biodiversity Framework Plan because of its nature trekking potentials, panoramic view and scenic vista in Mag-aso water falls, Inambacan springs and caves in Tagubaas, Villa Aurora and Danicop. Its historic church and convent were built during Spanish regime. At present these tourist attraction sites in the town are still underdeveloped due to the absence of Local Tourism Plan and inadequate technical and financial assistance to implement tourism development

Tourism industry in the municipality is one of the economic driver that has to be developed although it could build on existing activities that have attracted visitors to the town. Much of the sites identified as tourist potential shall be assessed and evaluated to determine its viability relative to the investment that it requires. The LGU had seek assistance to the Department of Tourism and the Bohol Tourism Office in undertaking these kind activities and in the preparation of Local tourism Plan, which shall be the basis for investment decisions. A feasibility study shall be conducted in order to identify the impacts of tourism on the local social economic base, culture and environment, assess the needs of the people on their own locally

available resources, study the government regulations in the tourism sector in order to set up a suitable local model for tourism and map out the accessibility of local areas and the potential of local products for tourism development.

Inventory of Tourist Sites

Municipality of Antequera

Tourist Attractions	Location	Area(Has)	Description
Mag-aso Falls	Mag-aso	0.60	Falls/panoramic view
Inambacan Spring	Inambacan	0.10	Spring nature trekking
Esteban Cave	Tagubaas	0.10	Cave/nature trekking
Camantong Cave	Tagubaas	0.10	Cave/nature trekking
Atubang Cave	Danicop	0.10	Cave/nature trekking

Source: Municipal Planning & Development Office 2002

After basic resource inventory that has been conducted by the Bohol Tourism Office, the municipality has identified potential sites for ecotourism development, which is consistent with the plans and programs of the municipal and provincial governments, and it is already identified in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) of the town. The LGU believes that if the place will be developed, it can open wide possibilities and opportunities for a more progressive in the arena of tourism industry in the locality.

The proposed project is intended to address the problem of the households living below the income threshold (56 % of the total households based on LPRAP survey 2005), thereby bridging the gap between development on one hand and the environment and social concerns on the other hand. The development of ecotourism following the national and international standards will further boost the economy and provide revenue and employment opportunity of the people within the municipality.

Partial development has been done in the area through the initiative of the Local Government Unit. However, initial developments could not suffice the standards for eco-tourism to make the place more competitive with other tourism destination in the province and in the country.

There is a growing consciousness as to how important a well-protected environment can contribute to the over-all development of a community by enhancing further its tourism potentials and how crucial the conservation efforts of these natural resources be done in order to achieve an appropriate balance among economic, environment and social benefits of the area.

2. Project Linkages

Existing intervention was made by the LGU in the panoramic site to preserve its natural bounty and culture of the community. Among them are the road opening and improvement of ecological park in Mag-aso Falls. The town will engage in an inter-agency project towards a balanced ecology, in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bohol Tourism Office, NGO's and private sector.

3. Project Objectives

General Objective

- To preserve the natural and cultural assets in the municipality and maintain ecological balance
- To learn and appreciate the environment and culture while having fun and to care them with no net negative impacts to tourism

Specific & Immediate Objective

- To experience the fascinating beauty of nature, and culture with visitors satisfaction in the fascinating place
- To establish a resource-based ecotourism program in the municipality that provide venue for employment opportunity
- To restore and protect wildlife and endangered species
- To increase the revenue of the municipality and the per capita income of the people

4. Sectoral Objectives

- To educate the people on the preservation of natural and cultural assets at the same time accessing employment opportunities
- To strengthen the collaboration of People's Organizations and LGU
- To build the local skills in the ecotourism product development, promotion and marketing strategies and community enterprise
- To construct ecotourism facilities and other recreational facilities
- To promote environmental awareness for a safe, secure, clean and friendly environment.

5 Regional and National Objectives

The proposed project is in line with the Provincial Vision as Eco-Cultural Tourism destination and the National Government's initiative of pursuing the National Ecotourism Strategies (NES) in the Philippine with the implementation of the Executive Order No. 111.

IV. PROJECT FINANCING

1. Funds Needed (estimated cost of the project) is Php 3,000,000.00

<i>Name of project</i>	<i>Training</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
1. Establishment of Nursery and Wildlife Sanctuary	50,000	150,000	200,000
2. Human Resource Development (Training and seminars on Product Development, Market Linkaging and Promotion and Community Enterprises)	100,000	200,000	300,000
3. Development of Mag-aso Falls and Inambacan Spring EcoPark		2,400,000	2,400,000
4. Monitoring and Evaluation		100,000	100,000
Total			Php 3,000,000

2. Funding Scheme/Counterpart

The project will be funded and sourced out from foreign funding agencies. The LGU will share its counterpart from 10%-20% in cash or in kind including the supervision during project implementation, operation and sustainability of the project.

V. PROJECT BENEFITS AND COSTS

1. Beneficiaries

The total population in the target barangays of more 1,000 families would directly benefit from the project. However, the indirect beneficiaries are the general population in the Municipality of Antequera, the Province of Bohol and the country to whom the natural wonder is ultimately located.

2. Social Benefits

The proposed project will bring desirable outcome to employment opportunities to residents within the area and would bring them to a better way of living. It further provides the general welfare as well as the environment, provide income to the people and thereby reducing poverty problem in the municipality.

3. Economic Benefits

The project will improve and stir a positive impact in the rural economy of the municipality and increase in per capita income of the households as well as the income of the municipal LGU.

4. Social Cost

Cultural and natural resources based assets in the municipality will be restored and preserved. As in other tourism-related activities, prostitution is seen to be on undesirable effect of this project

5. Economic and Environmental Costs

Loss of biodiversity in both plants and animals, deforestation, climate change, soil erosion and sedimentation will be minimized.

VI. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. Responsible Agencies

The municipality of Antequera and the barangay (people in the community) to whom the project is located are the proponent and responsible in implementing the project in coordination with the Municipal Ecotourism Council. The Sangguniang Bayan will provide the legislative support in declaring the area as a tourist zone. A multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation team will be created to keep track the progress and implementation of the project as to the physical, financial and outcome/impact. The Provincial Government of Bohol endorses the proposed project to NEDA, look for other fund sources and provide technical

assistance and monitor the implementation of the project. National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) endorses the proposed project to foreign and national funding institutions.

2. Implementation Schedule

ACTIVITIES	YEAR 0	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
1. Establishment of Nursery and Wildlife Sanctuary		—		
2. Human Resource Development (Training and seminars on Product Development, Market Linkaging and Promotion and Community Enterprises)		—		
3. Development of Mag-aso Falls and Inambacan Spring EcoPark including land acquisition and road improvement)		—		
4. Monitoring and Evaluation (continuing and beyond project life) sustainability mechanism		—	—	—

4. Legal and Political Feasibility

With the strong support from the barangay, municipal officials and provincial government the proposed project is envisioned to come in reality. Preparation of necessary required documents is ready for evaluation in the realization of the project. It is already incorporated in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of the municipality and Municipal Investment Plan and Bohol Ecotourism and Biodiversity Framework Plan in the province.

5. Environmental Clearance

The LGU is ready to get an Environment Compliance Certificate for the before the implementation of the proposed project including Environment Management Plan (EMP. Furthermore, the LGU will commit to comply mitigating measures in some critical issues and enhance its positive impacts.

6. Social Acceptability

The Local Government Unit is concerned about the proposal and will give full support and assurance to cooperate in their respective areas of responsibility. Participatory planning will be adopted to ensure the wide participation of the local stakeholders including cooperating agencies, NGOs and private sectors as a whole. It will be again presented back to the community through public consultation in order to solicit possible suggestions and recommendations, if one and foremost the project proposal is drafted before it will be finalized for approval and implementation.

7. Project Sustainability

The project will facilitate in the development of a clear and realistic sustainability plan including the project monitoring and evaluation mechanism to be set by the local government in maintaining the viability of the multi-sectoral body participation for the proposed project. A series of planning will be done to define the financial and physical requirements in the operation of the monitoring mechanism and identify strategies on how to sustain the community interest and support. Impact evaluation is very imperative to determine the outcome and positive result of the project.

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