

Eco-Tourism Promotion through Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Basdio Marine Sanctuary

Guindulman, Bohol

Comprehensive Project Profile

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Title : **Eco-Tourism Promotion through Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Basdio Marine Sanctuary**
2. Project Type : **Technical Assistance and Capital-forming Project**
3. Project Components:
 - a) **Strengthening of Community-based Coastal Resource Management Program**
 - b) **Further Resource Inventory**
 - c) **Financial Mechanism for Sustainability**
 - d) **Construction of Functional Buildings and Acquisition of Necessary Equipment**
4. Project Location : **Basdio Marine Sanctuary, Barangay Basdio, Guindulman**

II. PROJECT STATUS : Proposed Project

This is a proposed strengthening of the community-based coastal resource management program which was started in Year 2000 (based on the evaluation conducted by BFAR-7), as well as a proposal for a Management Plan of Basdio Marine Sanctuary. It is intended that a scheme will be created for the sustainability of the project and construction of functional buildings for tourists and acquisition of necessary equipment and paraphernalia for the conduct of further monitoring and resource inventory assessment.

Status of Project Operation: Project Idea

Investment Programming: For external funding

III. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Project Background and Relevance to the Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan (LPRAP)/Poverty Database and Monitoring System (PDMS)

In the Philippines, coral reefs are home to 430 different species of corals (Gomez et al, 1994), 1,197 types of fish and more than 100,000 kinds of other animals and plants (ICLARM, 2000). The country's reefs are a source of food, livelihood, medicine and money, and also provide coastal

protection from strong currents (Romero et al 1998). A typical healthy coral reef can generate annual revenue of US\$31,900 -113,000 per square kilometer (White and Trinidad, 1998) with an estimated yield at 31.8 t/km/year (White and Savina, 1987). Looking at a tropical reef from the shore, one can see a beach with sand made almost entirely of the skeletal remains of reef animals and plants - these provide venues for *eco-tourism*.

However, data from 1990's shows a decline in reef condition, with reefs in the Visayas at most risk. An analysis of more than 600 data sets showed that excellent reefs (live hard and soft coral cover about 75%) have been reduced to 5.3% and 4.3% since the late 70's. Decline is attributed primarily to human impact; particularly blast fishing, as well as coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish and drupellids (Wilkinson 2000).

The reefs of Guindulman, Bohol suffer the same fate, mostly as a result of human pressures. Due to this bleak scenario, the Municipal LGU established marine sanctuaries to rehabilitate the degraded reef; among them is the Basdio Marine Sanctuary. After a series of consultations with the community involved and the barangay and municipal officials, the Basdio Marine Sanctuary was formally launched on February 18, 2002 and it was strengthened by Municipal Resolution No. 2001-10-2002.

Basdio Marine Sanctuary is part of an overall strategy to rehabilitate, preserve and manage the marine ecosystem, for the betterment of the lives of fishing families, and to attain food security. While it has been accomplished several of the goals for which it was created, Basdio Marine Sanctuary had not been spared some of the degradation resulting from unregulated human activities. There is a great need for the formulation and adoption of management measures as well as a holistic program to cope with environmental pressures as well as strengthen and sustain the Community-based Resource Management Program in the area.

On the other hand, as the influx of visitors has been observed to soar due to these conservation efforts, the provision of the necessary amenities needs to be attended to. While there are no direct environmental indicators as of now in the LPRAP/PDMS, certain other related indicators may be used to indicate the human pressures on the marine ecosystem in Guindulman, such as the lack of proper garbage disposal (56.5%) and the lack of proper sanitation (15.75%).

For better patrolling and guarding and relay of necessary information in the monitoring and assessment of the marine ecosystem, acquisition of necessary equipment such as fast vessels, communication equipment and diving gear will be incorporated as adjunct activities to this project.

Indicator Summary - Municipality of (Guindulman)

Indicator	Value	Mean (of all locations)	Status
Child Mortality	0.25 %	0.2 %	▲
Child Malnutrition	1.12 %	5.64 %	▼
Crime	0 %	0.32 %	▼
Disability	1.51 %	2.3 %	▼
Electricity	53.25 %	31.87 %	▲
Food Shortage	8.25 %	25.93 %	▼
Food Threshold	60.5 %	52.27 %	▲
Garbage Disposal	56.5 %	66.25 %	▼
Housing	1.25 %	3.25 %	▼
Literacy	0 %	0.71 %	▼
Income Threshold	78.5 %	67.24 %	▲
Meals	0 %	2.84 %	▼
Health Insurance	75.91 %	63.8 %	▲
Sanitation	15.75 %	27.15 %	▼
School Dropouts	12.72 %	13.76 %	▼
Tenure Status	23.5 %	20.09 %	▲
Unemployment	14.57 %	15.05 %	▼
Water	7.75 %	19.16 %	▼
Waste Water Disposal	33 %	62.01 %	▼
▲ Above ▼ Below or Equal			

Relevance to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

This proposed project directly addresses Goal 7 of the MDGs, which aims to ensure environmental sustainability. In particular, it addresses Target 9, which is about integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reversing the loss of environmental resources - in this case, the loss of marine biodiversity. This project will also serve to increase the ratio of areas protected to maintain biological diversity to total surface area in the province.

The project's overall impact will be measured by the LPRAP/PDMS, the same software and database used to obtain the deprivation indicators shown in the above table.

Project Linkages

This project will be implemented by the Municipal Local Government Unit of Guindulman, Bohol through the Municipal Planning and Development Office and the Office for Agricultural Services. The project will be coordinated with the Barangay of Basdio, the Basdio Fishers and Farmers Association, Bohol Environmental Management Office (BEMO) and Coastal Law Enforcement Council 3 (CLEC3). This will be an assuring start to address existing issues, although this is still far from total rehabilitation and restoration. The project will also be assisted by the coordination of local non-government units which have been active in the protection of the coastal resources.

Project Objectives

- To strengthen the six-year old community-based resource management program based on the evaluation of BFAR 7 and the Proposed Management Plan of Basdio Marine Sanctuary;
- To come up with further comprehensive baseline data, plans and approaches in the protection, rehabilitation and management of marine biodiversity of Basdio Marine Sanctuary and ensure that the area is conserved, protected, properly managed and restored;
- To further develop scientific data of existing natural resources for purpose of analysis and evaluation of the present status and condition of the biodiversity;
- To identify and recommend further legal measures for the intensification of community protection, management and conservation initiatives of Basdio Marine Sanctuary;
- To come up with a concrete regulatory and management scheme that will ensure rehabilitation, sustainable use and preservation of the domain's environment and its natural resources through collaborative efforts of NGO's, the Municipal and Barangay LGUs, and NGA's; and
- To attract more tourists through better biodiversity conservation and management.

Sectoral Objectives

This project falls under the operational programs on biodiversity conservation, coastal and marine ecosystem and food security. Experience gained from this project would also help enhance trans-boundary conservation projects.

Regional/National Objectives

This projects uses the bottom-up approach in planning biodiversity conservation and in the wise utilization of coastal and marine resources for sustainable integrated area development. It will also complement and build upon existing Philippine Coastal Resource Management Projects.

IV. PROJECT FINANCING

Funds Needed

THREE MILLION PESOS, Philippine Currency (Php 3 MILLION)

Funding Source

Any interested Donor

Counterpart Funding

Technical assistance and training associated with the coastal resource management within Basdio Marine Sanctuary will be provided by the Provincial Government of Bohol through the Bohol Environment Management Office, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), which are all willing to assist by providing technical assistance and reference materials.

The Local Government Unit of Guindulman will provide the 10% of the Projects Cost as its counterparts.

V. PROJECT BENEFITS AND COSTS

Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries of the proposed project are local fishers and their families who will benefit from the projected increase in marine harvest once the area is protected and properly managed. Once adaptable community-based measures are in place, the LGU will have lesser burden in the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of these measures.

Benefits

Better employment opportunities are linked with greater access to education and health services. A boost in tourism is also expected, and its major effect is an increase in economic opportunities in terms of livelihood, production, exports and lower prices.

VI. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Responsible Agencies

The Municipal Government of Guindulman, Bohol through the Office for Agricultural Services and Municipal Planning and Development Office, the brgy. LGU of Basdio, and the Basdio Farmers and Fishers Association in collaboration with the Provincial Government of Bohol through the BFAR, and CLEC 3.

Implementation Schedule

ACTIVITIES	1	2	3	FINANCING (Philippines Peso)
1. Further Resource Inventory	X			200,000.00
2. Strengthening the Community-based Coastal Resource Management Program <i>(includes construction of functional Buildings, acquisition of Fast Vessel for Patrolling and other Communication Facilities and Diving Paraphernalia)</i>	X	X	X	2,000,000.00
3. Monitoring and Information System		X	X	200,000.00 (LGU Counterpart)
4. Information, Education and Communication	X	X	X	100,000.00 (LGU Counterpart)
5. Financial Mechanisms for Sustainability			X	500,000.00

Administrative Feasibility

The Municipal Government of Guindulman, Bohol through the Office for Agricultural Service and Municipal Planning and Development Office in Cooperation with the following agencies will be responsible in project implementation, in cooperation with the following:

- a) Barangay of Basdio, Guindulman, Bohol
- b) Basdio Fishers and Farmers Association
- c) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources 7 (BFAR 7)
- d) Provincial Government of Bohol through Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO)
- e) Department of Environment & Natural Resources
- f) NGO's

Social Acceptability

The project presents nothing but positive benefits to the people; hence, no potential opposition is expected.

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NOTED:

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