



State of the Mangroves in ILOCOS NORTE



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I. INTRODUCTION

Ilocos Norte has a shoreline length of 155.37 km. It has a total population of 568,017. No information has been provided on the coastal population of the province, apart from the fact that 80% of its residents rely on fishing as their primary source of income, 10% from farming and the other 10% from hired labor.

The coastal population encounter various socially-rooted environmental issues such as sporadic incidences of cyanide fishing. A decrease in live coral cover has also been noted, possibly due to the typhoons that hit Ilocos Norte. The common problems of overfishing and blast fishing have already been overcome. The establishment of alternative livelihood projects like aquaculture, livestock raising and farming have addressed the tendency to overfish while the implementation of the CEP program has eliminated the incidences of blast fishing.

Importance of Mangroves

Mangroves provide various ecological services. Since mangroves serve as spawning grounds for fish and other young crustaceans, they provide sources of food and income from fisheries. As an ecotourism area, Ilocos Norte also sees mangroves as potential areas for ecotourism.

II. STATUS OF MANGROVES

Ilocos Norte has a total mangrove area of 66 ha, 23 ha of which are old stands and are located at Sitio Nagabungan, Davila and Pasuquin. Data on secondary growth are not available. The mangrove planting program of the province started in the year 2010 with nipa and *Rhizophora* propagules as the main species planted. New plantations are present in Laoag City and the municipalities of Badoc, Pasuquin, Bacarra and Paoay. A total of 214,700 propagules has been planted with a 90% survival rate. **Table 19** provides a summary of these data.

Degradation of Mangrove Forests

- No data available.

Threats to Mangrove Forests

- No data available.

Table 19: State of mangroves in Ilocos Norte (in hectares)

Old Stand	Secondary Growth	Plantation
23.0	no data	43.0



Table 20: Monitoring and evaluation plan of Ilocos Norte

Process	Pressure	Response	Sustainability	Impact
BEGINNING: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site profiling undertaken• Problems identified and prioritized• Planning undertaken• Stakeholders consulted• Public Awareness raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Types and levels of pollutants• Nature and levels of conversion of coastal habitats/ overexploitation of natural resources• Environmental risks quotients for water quality and ecosystem	(OUTPUTS) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local level interagency, multi-sector mechanism for policy and management coordination established and operational• Coastal strategy/Strategic Environmental Management Plan developed and adopted• Communication plans developed and adopted	(IMMEDIATE OUTCOMES) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local government resolution to establish an interagency committee• Stakeholder participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perception and behavior changes among stakeholders detected.

III. MANGROVE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Mangrove protection and management is carried out through the following methods: (1) replanting, (2) hiring of barangay ranger officers with a PHP 3,000 monthly salary, (3) ICRM orientation, (4) mangrove planting, (5) strict implementation of relevant national and provincial laws and ordinances, and (5) provision of patrol boats for Bantay Dagat

Monitoring and Evaluation

Table 20 summarizes the various processes of mangrove rehabilitation and its corresponding responses, immediate outcomes and impact to the community.

IV. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In support to the wealth of life, it is imperative that these resources be given emphases in every Provincial Development Plan for their proper management, conservation and protection.

