State of the Mangrove in

SOUTHERN LEYTE

The Editors, based on inputs from Southern Leyte participants

I. Introduction

The province of Southern Leyte has a total shoreline of 371.49 km and land area of 173,480 ha. It is composed of 18 municipalities and one city. Maasin City is the provincial capital. The province has 500 barangays, with a total population of 421,750. Almost 60 % of the population live along the coasts.

The province envisions to be a safe, peaceful, self-reliant, climate-resilient, and progressive province. It aims to attain sustainable development through the partnership with the national government and private sectors. The top three development sectors prioritized are tourism, environment, and agriculture. These programs are envisioned to help alleviate poverty in the province.

Southern Leyte is known for its Limasawa Island where the first Christian mass in the Philippines was celebrated. The island is declared as National Shrine of the First Christian Mass in the Philippines. The province was also an Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Gawad Kalasag Regional Awardee in 2017.

Importance of mangroves

Mangroves are source of food and products for selling (e.g., fish, clams, nipa shingles). Aside from natural products, mangroves also provide other means of income to the community (e.g., through tourism). Mangroves also provide several ecological services to the province such as shoreline protection and erosion control.

II. Status of Mangroves

The total area of mangroves in the province is around 926.90 ha composed of 864.21 ha old stands and 62.69 ha planted stands. Mangrove stands in the province are found in 14 municipalities and in the provincial capital (**Figure 1; Table 1**).

The common threats to mangroves in Southern Leyte are the informal settlers and improper solid waste disposal. Some mangrove stands were cleared and converted as settlement areas. Other threats are illegal cutting for firewood and land conversion/reclamation.

With increasing recognition on the importance of mangroves, several rehabilitation efforts were implemented in the province. Some of the impacts of rehabilitation are improved food and income sources, tourism, and education. Mangroves are acknowledged in providing protection against natural disasters.

III. Mangrove Protection and Management

Aside from enrichment planting, the province also implemented mangrove planting in some areas. In 2006, several mangrove protection and management programs were implemented (**Table 2**). The program has constructed a mangrove nursery and learning center.

Table 1. Mangrove area per city/municipality in Southern Leyte.

Municipality	Original stand (ha)	New stand (ha)	Area with projects
Maasin City	450.35	10	Manhilo, Pasay, Bilibol, Guadalupe, Sto. Rosario, Cabulihan
Macrohon	37.17	3	Molopolo, Sta. Cruz, Ichon, Amparo, Aguinaldo, San Roque
Padre Burgos	44.38	3	Sta. Sofia, Buenavista
Tomas Oppus	16.00	11	Higusoan, Iniguihan, Looc
Bontoc	83.73	1	Sto. Nino, Divisoria, Union, Talisay
Sogod	2.24	7	Mac, Mahayahay
Libagon	17.12	2	Pangi, Nahulid, Kawayan, Otikon,
Liloan	37.10	1	Bogasong, Himay-angan, Tabugon
San Francisco	3.25	-	-
Saint Bernard	72.12	16	Panian, San Isidro, Himbangan, Malibago, Magbagacay
San Juan	6.62	2	Minoyho, Pong-oy
Hinundayan	87.96	-	-
Hinunangan	58.76	1	Calag-itan
Silago	10.10	6	Hingatunggan, Balagawan, Sudmon, Sap-ang, Mercedes, Lagoma, Salvacion
TOTAL: 926.90	**864.21**	**63**	**45 Coastal Barangays**

Figure 1. Location of mangroves in Southern Leyte.

Table 2. Mangrove seedlings production and rehabilitation (2006 – 2017).

Year	Quantity	No. of recipients	Sectors	Species	Funding
2006-2007	22,768	13	MLGUs, BLGUs, DENR, schools, POs, PCG, PNP, students, individuals, PDRRMO, church, PNRC, SOLECO, PAGSO, SK Federation, PDRMO, Grade 6 Pupils, cooperatives	*Aegiceras floridum*, *A. corniculatum*, *Avicennia marina*, *A. alba*, *A. officinalis*, *Ceriops decandra*, *Rhizophora stylosa*, *R. mucronata*, *R. apiculata*, *Sonneratia alba*, *S. ovata*, *S. caseolaris*, *Xylocarpus granatum*, *X. moluccensis*	• Provincial Government (AIP - 20 % EDF) • GIZ-ENRD Integrated Coastal Mgt. • Energy Development Corporation (EDC) • DENR-NGP • BFAR
2008-2009	22,559	34			
2010-2011	11,433	34			
2012-2013	17,912	33			
2014-2015	45,068	66			
2016-2017	40,453	66			
Total	**160,193**	**231**			

IV. Summary and Recommendations

Some of the recommendations to strengthen the mangrove rehabilitation and restoration programs are as follows:

1. Secure strong support of DENR to municipal and barangay local governments;
2. Legislate policy on easement for coastal greenbelt;
3. Strictly enforce the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and Zoning Ordinance;
4. Strictly enforce policy on “no build zone”;
5. Provide (and diversify) other sources of income to the fisherfolks (for example, cash-for-work programs);
6. Conduct community-based information drive;
7. Select appropriate site and species to plant/ restore mangroves; and
8. Establish/manage mangrove nurseries.

V. References

PDPFP (2017-2022).

PPDO, Southern Leyte.