



Forest and Climate Protection (ForClim) Panay - Phase II



Implemented by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Partners

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), national government agencies, local government units (LGUs) at the provincial and municipal/city levels, and non-governmental and civil society organizations

Target Groups

Staff of partner agencies and LGUs, of the private sector, and of investors, who work with projects on renewable energies; rural households including indigenous people in the vicinity of the forest area of the Panay Mountain Range

Duration

June 2014 – February 2018

Location

Central Panay Mountain Range (Panay Island) and DENR Central Office (Manila)

Commissioned by

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)

The island of Panay, the westernmost major Visayan island, ranks sixth in size among the Philippines' more than 7,000 islands. The relatively intact forest area of about 50,000 hectares of the central mountain range is a forest carbon pool that has the largest capacity to accumulate or release carbon within the region. It is also the catchment area for several rivers and a refuge for animal species found nowhere else in the world, such as the Dulugan Hornbill. The lack of protection of the forest area and the unsustainable use of natural resources threaten the area's biodiversity, the productivity of forest services, water supply to the lowland areas, and the stability of the local communities, for whom the forest is both a source of livelihood and their lifeline.

Context

The main drivers of the loss of forests (deforestation) and deterioration of quality (degradation) are unsustainable agricultural practices such as slash-and-burn agriculture, conversion of forests to other land uses, and illegal logging. Deforestation and degradation lead to the emission of greenhouse gases and to erosion, and threaten the quality and quantity of water for agriculture and living beings. Unclear land use rights, open access to forests, and lack of involvement of local communities in sustainable forest management practices exacerbate deforestation and hinder forest restoration efforts.

On behalf of



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety



of the Federal Republic of Germany



Overall, the Project will support protection of the forest area, introduction of sustainable natural resources management, and employment creation in the communities of the buffer zone. It will also contribute to the conservation of globally important biodiversity and the stabilization of the local climate to ensure water supply for local households and for rice production in the lowlands, and to reduce siltation in coastal areas caused by erosion in the uplands.

In rural areas of the Philippines, including Panay Island, fuelwood, charcoal, and other forms of biomass energy enable marginalized households to meet their energy requirements, particularly as household cooking fuel. Fuelwood collected from forests also provides income and employment to the rural population through its trade.

The German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) launched the International Climate Initiative in 2008 to support efforts to address climate change. Its objective is to effectively contribute to emission reduction and adaptation to climate change in developing and in-transition countries. This new form of environmental cooperation complements Germany's existing official development assistance.

Approach

The Project aims at conservation of the last remaining larger block of natural forest with globally important biodiversity on Panay Island and sustainable use of natural resources by local communities in the buffer zone for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and poverty alleviation. The Project will implement activities toward conservation of forests in the Panay Mountain Range with an integrated conservation and development approach. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) will be conducted with a sound basis from, and will build on, the "Climate-relevant Modernization of the National Forest Policy and Piloting of REDD" Project, with a focus on biodiversity conservation and improving livelihoods.

Activities comprise improved land use planning and introduction of locally adapted agroforestry technologies; building of an alliance of concerned provinces and municipalities; establishment and development of protected areas for endangered species ("Critical Habitats") in the framework of decentralized spatial planning; participatory planning approaches and integration of measures in the annual budget planning of communities; and dissemination of ecologically sound agroforestry, large-scale forest protection and rehabilitation, and supply of local households with renewable energies (predominantly in reforestation areas).

Results

The Project builds on the first phase of the ForClim Panay Project (08/2010-05/2014), which introduced innovative and successful approaches to forest land use planning and identified possibilities for renewable energy utilization. This included the identification of "Critical Habitat" areas for endangered plant and animal species, participatory planning and implementation of forest conservation and management, forest rehabilitation, agroforestry, and income generation.

The following major results are planned:

- Establishment of forest and comprehensive land use plans in relevant municipalities of the four provinces (Antique, Aklan, Iloilo, and Capiz) adjacent to the Panay Mountain Range, embedding sustainable and decentralized management and protection of forest resources, and establishment of Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices with regular staff and budgets to implement these plans.
- Provision of security of land tenure to local government units, people's organizations, and individual households, and implementation of resource management and protection plans.
- Expansion of adapted agroforestry and large-scale forest rehabilitation/reforestation within the buffer zones to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, sequester carbon, and improve sustainable income of the population within the Panay Mountain Range.
- Use of the biomass potentials of rice residues and plantation wood as renewable energy sources and fossil fuel replacement, taking into account ecological, economic, and social sustainability.
- Sharing of knowledge and information relevant for forest and biodiversity conservation with national and subnational actors, i.e., for the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management, REDD+, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and for related awareness building.

The Project works closely with other projects in the green sector to use synergies, including the GIZ-KfW cooperation project "Community-Based Forest and Mangrove Management Project Panay and Negros," "Protected Area Management Enhancement," and "National REDD+ System Philippines." All these projects have agreed on a common approach, with identical methods, standards, and criteria. The coordination is carried out among partners and within the GIZ professional internal framework "Green Sector Forum." Collaboration with other projects and development partners is done through the DENR's regional coordination mechanism.

Overall, the Project will contribute to biodiversity conservation, securing natural resources as a basis for local livelihoods as well as to awareness raising, skills and capacity development for climate protection and adaptation, and enhancement of employment opportunities and investments in renewable energies.

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