



Sustainable Human Development Program (SHDP)

(Center)

[2015] PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

I. Project Information

Project Code	HDRHD
Project Title	Master Plan for the Busuanga Island Chain
Project Start	September 1, 2014
Project End	December, 2015
Project Price	PhP 10,000,000.00
Client/Organization	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

II. Project Team

Project Manager	Dorothea C. Boy-Navarro
Project Team Members	Ms. Ma. Teresa A. Serrano Mr. Armand Tristan Suratos Ms. Marites Solomon Ms. Mary Sagapan Mr. Gremil Alessandro Alcazar Naz – resigned as of June 2015 Ms. Mary Joann Awayan – resigned as of October 2015 Ms. RL Jerlyn Oliva Kristian April Narciso Sharon Feliza Ann P. Macagba – Service ended March 2015
Supervising Fellow/ Project Director	Alan S. Cajés
Consultants/ Resource Persons	Dr. Edwin Combalicer – for Forestry, Mapping and Master Plan Prepn Dr. Federico Perez – Agriculture Aldwin Almo – Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Prof. Roberto Cereno – Ecotourism Atty. Marina Rabe-Manuel – Legal/ Land Management Angelica Francisco and Nicasio Espina – Land Use Planners Dr. Nicomedes Briones – Resource Valuation Erwin Serafica – Renewable Energy Dr. Lisa Marie Paguntalan - Biodiversity Merced Pangilinan – Water and Sanitation Engr. Myra Nazarrea – Water and Sanitation; Technical Writer and Editor Paul Clifford Marquez – Writer/Editor

III. Project Details

Project Description

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) commissioned the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) to prepare the Master Plan of the Busuanga Island Chain (BIC) in the northern part of Palawan. The Busuanga Island Chain is composed of two municipalities – Busuanga and Coron Municipalities – and is part of the Calamianes Group of Islands.

Within the uplands of the Busuanga Island is the 40,000-hectare land covering portions of the two municipalities called Busuanga Pasture Reserve or BPR. The BPR was proclaimed as a reserve by virtue of Proclamation No. 1387 issued by the President on 13 February 1975. Since its proclamation as a pasture reserve, the area was occupied by the Yulo King Ranch (YKR) until 1986. During the whole time, it was dedicated for the breeding and raising, as well as import, export and other activities related to cattle and livestock of all kinds including fish and other



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aquatic animals, aligned to the government's agenda of beef/carabeef development.

In April 1986, the Yulo King Ranch Corporation was placed under sequestration by the Presidential Commission on Good Governance (PCGG.) until 2010, during which the area was placed under the management of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) of the Department of Agriculture (DA). The area was gradually encroached by illegal occupants. By virtue of Proclamation No. 2057 issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in May 2010, the management and administration of the area was transferred to the Philippine Forest Corporation (PHILFOREST). Under PHILFOREST, 25-year Economic Productivity out of Idle Lands (EPIL) Tenurial Instruments was issued to various entities for the entire area. A total of 53 EPIL Agreements were awarded for a total of area of 20,726 hectares to 11 corporations and 41 individuals. In spite of the issuance, however, the area remained undeveloped. Finally, Proclamation No. 663 by President Aquino in October 2013 repealed the GMA proclamation and transferred the administration from PHILFOREST to the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the DENR.

Like the rest of Northern Palawan, Busuanga Island is considered as one of the priority tourism development areas in the 20-year Philippine Tourism Master Plan because of its rich terrestrial, marine and cultural environments. Under the Plan, both Busuanga and Coron municipalities are considered for unique themes for tourism and this becomes the focal point for development in both Busuanga and Coron municipalities. In fact, other government agencies, such as the Department of Tourism and local government units, have been proposing for the improvement of services for the island to accommodate the tourism development in the area. However, issues of rapid and/or unplanned development and in-flux of population poses a threat to the environmental integrity of the island.

Other than the infrastructure development in the island, such as the proposed expansion of the airport and the road opening/widening projects, both LGUs have been proposing to use parcels of land in the BPR area to accommodate their increasing population and expanding development initiatives. However, the BPR is still covered by the presidential proclamation as a pasture reserve, although encroachment in the area is present since its sequestration.

Considering that Busuanga Island is among the Government's top priority areas for ecotourism development, and with the number of issues attached to it, there is a need to develop a plan for the island, including the BPR, to guide the various stakeholders on how to ensure the sustainability of the island.

**Project
Objective**

The project aimed to develop a master plan that incorporates the appropriate land use of the Busuanga Island Chain, particularly in the BPR area. The master plan is expected to promote inclusive growth and complement developmental initiatives in the island, but with the least possible environmental footprint and impact. It shall also endeavor to define the proper tenurial arrangements for each land use and the mode of award for the areas within the BPR. Specifically, the project team was tasked to:

1. Assess the bio-physical condition of the island, including the existing land uses therein;
2. Assess the environmental condition within the area and any environmental effect downstream;
3. Assess the current socio-economic condition in the area, including valuation of land resources based on economic uses;
4. Based on the results of the above situational assessments, conduct an analysis



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	of the area based on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; 5. Taking into consideration the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the area, prepare an indicative plan that determines and defines on GIS-generated map the appropriate and best land uses in the area; and 6. Recommend the appropriate tenurial arrangements, user fees to be imposed, and the modality for the award of use for each recommended land use.
Focus Area	Sustainable Human Development in the context of Climate Change
Project Type	Combination of Technical Assistance and Research
Project Beneficiary	FMB (for the assessment and development plan for the Busuanga Pasture Reserve), the BAI-DA (for the affirmation and elaboration of an agriculture development plan for the Busuanga BBES) and the LGUs of Busuanga and Coron
Regional Coverage	Region 4B - MIMAROPA

IV. Project Accomplishments

Key Activities Implemented	<p>Key activities for the project were grouped into four phases where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 1 is generally for coordination, secondary data gathering and acquisition of acquisition/generation of maps & data in GIS format• Phase 2 is for Field Work and Primary Data Gathering: Supplementary, limited data gathering, verification and stakeholders' consultations• Phase 3 is for assessment, validation and analysis: this involved (1) characterization and analyses in the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Land cover analyses and land use assessment: conflicts, pressure and changes◦ Land capability evaluation -land capability classification and suitability assessment◦ Assessment of vulnerability to climate change - GIS simulation◦ Resource valuation◦ Rapid habitat cover assessment◦ Stakeholders' analysis◦ Agro-ecosystem analysis◦ Renewable energy projection and simulation; <p>and (2)Integration Meeting consisting of a workshop of the project team and consultants for consolidation and integrated assessment of the project site, environmental scanning and determination of initial proposed interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 4 is about Master Plan Preparation, involving the drafting of the integrated assessment report, formulation of the over-all vision, mission and goals and strategic options for development, the finalization of maps, presentation of the draft Master Plan to key stakeholders and it submission and finalization
Major Outputs	<p>Major outputs for the year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised inception report to cover the expansion of the project coverage from the original Busuanga Pasture Reserve to the whole Busuanga Island Chain• An integrated assessment report that details the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Physical and biological characterization◦ Biodiversity assessment,



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Marine coastal condition to include rapid habitat cover, delineation of boundaries and estimation of habitat economic value o Land capability and land use suitability o Land use and land cover change o Climate change vulnerability o Socio-economic, cultural and political characterization o Agricultural assessment o Sustainable tourism assessment o Energy assessment and planning o Natural resource valuation o Environmental scanning: current issues and problems, and SWOT • A Master Plan that aims to enhance the environmental integrity of the Busuanga Island Chain and in particular, to improve the management approaches, strategies and practices so that the generation and delivery of goods and services from the island to the beneficiaries can be sustained over the long term without compromising the sustainability of biodiversity, soil, water, energy, agriculture, marine and other forest resources. It offers top priority programs and projects with supporting relevant activities that are based on the current development realities and projected future outcomes in the island, as well as designed to address the vulnerabilities to climate change presented by the current biophysical and socio-economic state of the island. At the same time, these programs aim to balance the use of available resources with the needs of the growing economy, the need for provincial and regional integration, the need for enhanced competitiveness and innovativeness and most importantly, to improve the lives of the people of the island.
Project Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A concrete output is the comprehensive assessment of the island chain that employed a ridge to reef approach which can be used as guide for the two covered municipalities in the formulation of their respective forest land use plan as well as comprehensive land use plans • No impact yet from utilization of the assessment and the implementation of the proposed plans as it is still under review by the FMB
Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of the right staff and consultants who will undertake the right process/methodology, work on time and produce quality reports

V. Attachments

- Certificate of Project Closure (for all completed projects) → while project has ended in December, team has just received the results of the review of the client (output submitted in October).

Prepared by:

Dorothea C. Boy-Nayaro
Project Manager

Noted / Approved by:

Alan S. Cajal
Center Head

Notes:

1. Project details on Section I-III can be generated thru PMIS based on PMs inputs.
2. Project Managers are required to accomplish Section IV & provide Section V to reflect results of project implementation
3. Project Managers can update/adjust the pre-filled sections(I-III) based on actual data