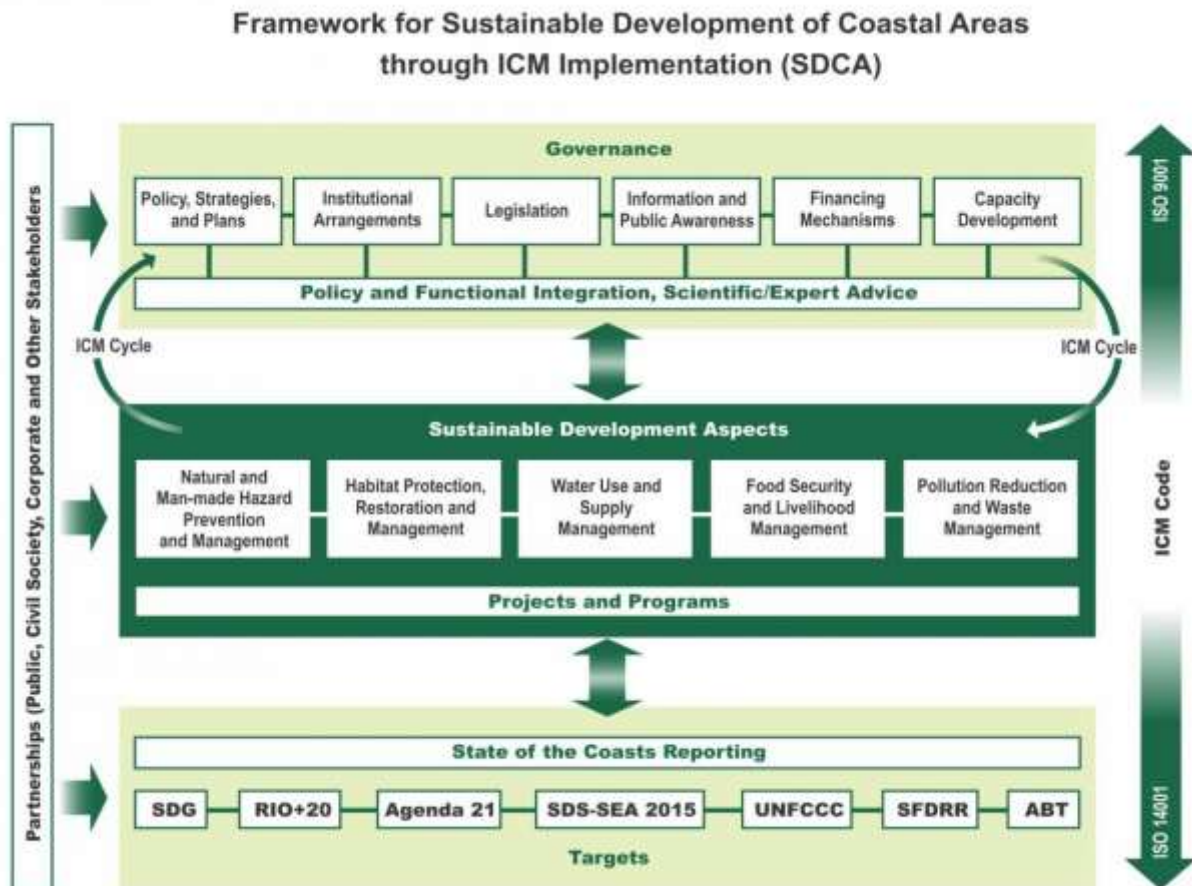


After the oil spill tragedy in 2006, the Provincial Government of Guimaras endeavoured to employ a holistic and integrative approach in addressing environmental issues and concerns in the entire island ecosystem of the province. This led the province to adopt Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and became the third ICM parallel site in the Philippines under Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and later became a member of the PEMSEA Network of Local Government (PNLG).



To address inter-linkages issues of coastal and marine areas with that of the up-lands, ICM implements a ridge-to-reef approach which follows the policy framework for sustainable development of coastal areas that is aligned with international standards (ISO 9001- Quality Management System, and ISO 14001- Environmental Management System). This ICM policy framework aims to strengthen governance and to address aspects of sustainable development related to natural and human-induced hazards management, habitat protection restoration and management, water use and supply management, food security and livelihood management, and pollution reduction and waste management while maintaining the functional integrity of ecosystems in the entire province of Guimaras. ICM Framework likewise aligned to the Priority Development Agenda of the province that is to ensure ecological integrity and environmental protection; disaster preparedness; and tourism attraction in terms of restoring, protecting and promoting heritage, archaeological and ecological sites by strictly adhering to the established carrying capacity and approved management plans of identified tourism sites/destinations, and

providing support infrastructure and facilities which are nature respecting and compliant to existing environmental, cultural heritage and other related policies.

The PLGU established Program Coordinating Committee (PCC) which provides policy direction and guidance for the development and implementation of the ICM program while the Scientific Advisory Group provides scientific advice and technical support in program implementation. The PMO serves as the Secretariat of the PCC and oversees the day-to-day operation of the ICM program. The creation of the Guimaras ICM Project Management Office (PMO) enabled close coordination and collaboration with line government agencies at the national and local levels, and other relevant stakeholders regarding projects/activities for the province's marine and coastal resources management and development.

In the ten years of operation of PCC, the province has implemented various interventions addressing issues and concerns on coastal and marine resources including the allocation of staff and budget for its ICM implementation, and aligning the action programs and initiatives of different sectors towards the attainment of the environment goals and objectives of the province.

All of which are highlighted in the Guimaras State of Coasts Report. The State of the Coasts reporting allows monitoring and reporting of the performance of the ICM system to ensure that goals and targets are achieved.



Public Hearing of Guimaras ICM Ordinance during the ICM-Program Coordinating Committee Special Meeting last April 2018

NATURAL AND HUMAN-INDUCED HAZARD PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

The institutional mechanisms for disaster preparedness and management and coordination at the provincial and municipal levels are in place. Multi-hazard maps indicating the locations of hazard-prone barangays have been prepared and the formulation of the provincial and municipal disaster risk reduction and management plans and emergency response plans took into consideration these information, including the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework of Guimaras Province, which was developed with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) support.



RIVERBANK STABILIZATION PROJECT



The project aims to plant nipa palm seedlings along river embankments to protect the river from further soil erosion, protect the lives of the people living in the nearby river and provide alternative source of livelihood to the local residents.

Sibunag River had been identified as the site for establishment of Riverbank Stabilization Project last 2015 considering it is one of the major river basins in the province. A number of 12,200 nipa palm seedlings were planted by 20 co-operators along the riverbanks and as per monitoring had 100 % survival rate.

GUIMARAS COAL FREE DECLARATION



Governor Gumarin and SB Gajo signing the Guimaras Coal Free Declaration

February 2018, the MSY Rainbow Warrior, the most environmentally-friendly Greenpeace ship, is having a tour in the country for the “Balangaw: Climate Justice Ship Tour” to celebrate solutions that demonstrate climate resilience and resistance – through reclaiming our rights, renewable energy, ecological agriculture, oceans, and forest protection.



Governor Samuel T. Gumarin and Sangguniang Bayan Member Jimmy O. Gajo receiving the Seal of Climate Leadership

To recognize the efforts of the Province of Guimaras and the Municipality of San Lorenzo, the Climate Reality Project and Greenpeace awarded the LGUs the Seal of Climate Leadership which recognizes local government units that catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action by embracing renewable energy and commit to promote climate justice, ecological integrity and sustainable development.

SUPPORT TO MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Footbridge with guardhouse at Tumulintinan MPA, Suclaran, San Lorenzo



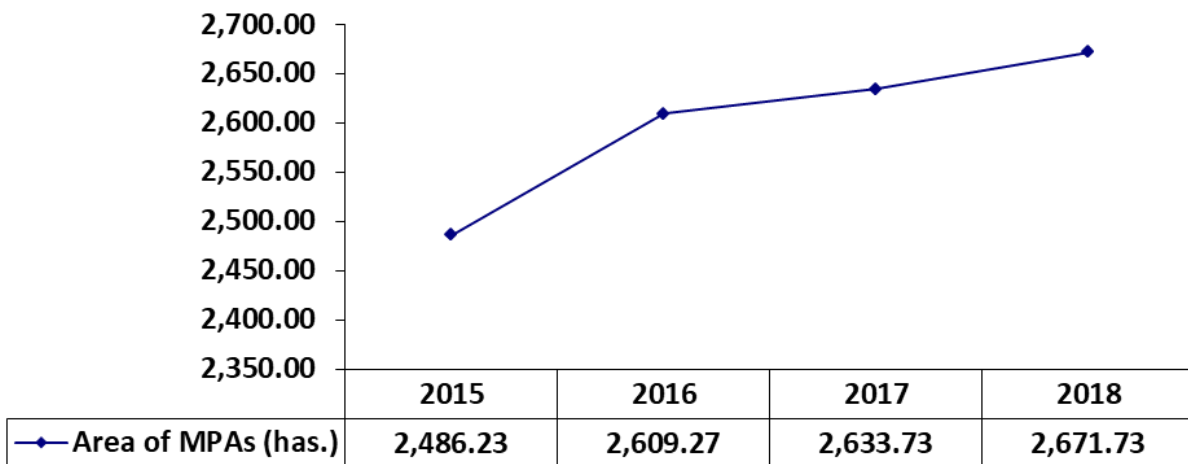
Patrol boat of Igang Bay Marine Sanctuary



Deployment of jackstones and floaters at Toyo Reef Fish Sanctuary

In line with SDG 14, the Support to MPAs Project is the initiative of the PLGU to scale up the protection and conservation of coastal ecosystems where through this Project the area of municipal waters being protected increased from 2,486.23 hectares in 2015 to 2, 671.73 hectares in 2018. The project aims to provide financial (fund transfer for the procurement of patrol boats and improvement of management facilities like footbridge, guardhouse and information center) and technical support (delineation of MPA boundaries, marine bio-physical assessment, formulation of Management Plans, etc.) for the operation of the MPAs. The increase in the area of municipal waters protected also increases the coastal ecosystems rehabilitated.

Total Area of MPAs in the Province (2015-2018)



MANGROVE PLANTING AND REHABILITATION



Mangrove enrichment planting at San Isidro, Sibunag

CORAL GARDENING AT TANLUC MPA, TINMR AND IBMS



Coral transplanting at Tan-Luc MPA

Protection and conservation of natural ecosystems were also identified as an effective scheme to enhance resiliency in mitigating effects of global warming. Since these natural ecosystems acts as natural carbon sinks, initiatives under the Support to MPAs Project, Support to Municipal Nurseries and Provincial Tree Park Development and Nursery Management is the rehabilitation of these ecosystems through coral gardening, mangrove and upland reforestation with the hope to help stabilize greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere in response to SDG 13.

PROVINCIAL TREE PARK DEVELOPMENT AND NURSERY MANAGEMENT



Nursery

Working Cottage

The Provincial Government thru Guimaras Environment and Natural Resources Office is maintaining a 21 hectare Provincial Tree Park with Plant Nursery located at So. Balading, Bgry. Sta. Teresa, Jordan. Five (5) job hired personnel were assigned to do various activities in the area. These job-hired personnel are propagating assorted forest and fruit seedlings in support to reforestation activities. In order to protect the tree park from grass fire during summer, a 4x200 meter-fireline was established and maintained. Likewise, a working cottage was also established as a place for bagging of soil and as shelter for workers throughout the day. Regular foot patrol works were also undertaken to monitor and protect the area for illegal cutting activities and encroachment of illegal settlers.

This 2019, the GENRO in collaboration with DENR-PENRO will conduct a zoning and an inventory of flora and fauna in the area in preparation for the drafting of the Management Plan for the Provincial Tree Park.

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL HABITATS



Coral assessment at Dolores Fish Haven, Nueva Valencia



Inventory and Geo-tagging of Falls, Caves and Sinkholes

Inventory and assessment of natural habitats like marine bio-physical assessment (mangrove, seagrass, coral, fish visual census), have been regularly done by the Guimaras Environment and Natural Resources with the assistance by other project partners in order to monitor and fully understand factors that are influencing the health and biological integrity of the coastal and marine ecosystem. An inventory and geo-tagging of falls, caves and sinkholes has also been started last 2017 to determine potential eco-tourism sites and natural heritage sites.

1st GUIMARAS WATER SUMMIT



Ms. Salas giving a lecture on watershed and watershed management.



Group picture with one of the resource speakers, Mr. Joel M. De Jesus, from Manila Water Company Incorporated.

Water scarcity is experienced in some areas in the province especially during dry season. After the El Niño Phenomenon that happened last quarter of 2015. 1st Guimaras Water Summit was held on March 3, 2016 to discuss issues on water supply and management in the province and learn best practices on water conservation and management from invited resource speakers. Topics discussed were forest & watersheds status, watershed management, water sanitation, water for agricultural use, water crisis act/water code, best practices water conservation, water conservation tips in tourism by the resource speakers from Manila Water, PENRO-DENR-Guimaras, MIWD-Iloilo City, DOH-R6, Bureau of Soils, Buenavista & Jordan Water Districts and DOT-R6.

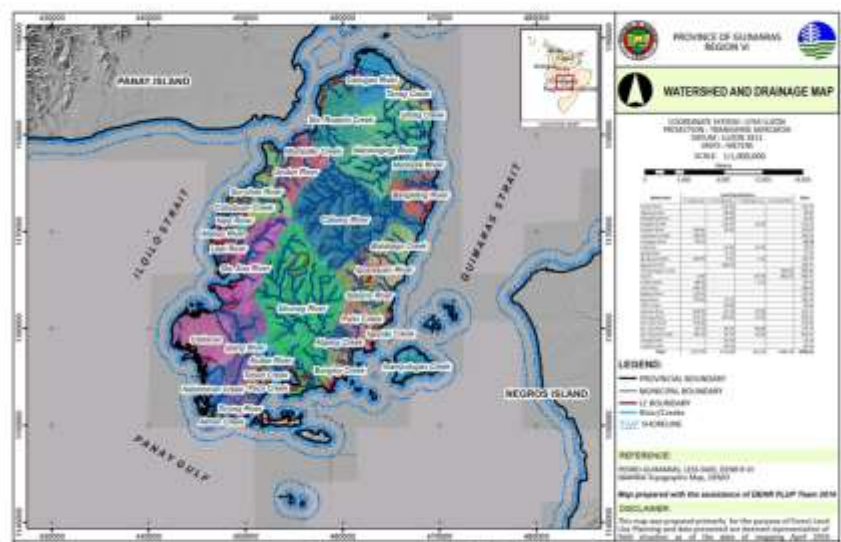
TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY DURING ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION



Riverbank Replanting at Lanipe, Nueva Valencia during 2017 Arbo Day Celebration

In accordance to Provincial Ordinance No. 8, Series of 2014, a tree planting activity will be held every June 19 in the observance of Arbor Day Celebration. This activity aims to increase forest cover in the province which in return helps reduce soil erosion and increase natural water recycling efficiency.

ON-GOING PROFILING OF WATERSHEDS AND RIVERS



Source: Guimaras FLUP

On-going profiling of watersheds and rivers is conducted in collaboration with DENR-PENRO in order to collect information needed in identification design, development, evaluation and selection of watershed and river system management activities. The approved Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) of Guimaras is also a vital tool in harmonizing and meeting the usually competing demands for land and water resources.

AGROFORESTRY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



Heads of chicken provided to co-operator at Igawayan, San Lorenzo for poultry production

Vegetable plantation at one of the agroforestry sites

The Agroforestry Development Project is one of the projects under the Integrated Coastal Management Program aimed to: increase farm productivity; uplift the socio-economic conditions of the marginal farmers and promote proper land use technology. The project was established in the 5 municipalities of the province namely: Brgy. Millan, Sibunag, Lanipe, Nueva Valencia, Brgy. Alaguisoc, Jordan, Brgy. Igawayan, San Lorenzo, and Brgy. Dagsaan, Buenavista with a total area of 11.4 hectares.

Site Selection and Beneficiary Assessment was conducted to determine feasible co-operator. The evaluation team was composed of the personnel from GENRO, POAS & Municipal Agriculture Office guided with sets of criteria having followed.

A Memorandum of Agreement was made and entered into by and among the Provincial Government represented by the Honorable Governor, Municipal Government represented by the Honorable Mayor and the Cooperator specifying their roles and obligations as to the project implementation.

The co-operator were provided with farm inputs such as seeds, assorted seedlings/planting materials, fertilizers, farm animals (livestock & poultry) and materials for barn and poultry construction. Likewise, technical assistance was provided to the co-operator through information dissemination, farm visits or hands on activities, advises and/or nature of assistance needed. Likewise, regular monitoring was conducted to determine the growth performance of seedlings planted (fruit/forest trees) and livestock and poultry raised at the Agroforestry farm.

PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD



Turn-over of catering materials for Avila Fisherfolk Association, Inc. (AFAI)



Training on Basic Food Preparation for Katilingban sang Magamay nga Mangingisda sa Dolores (KAMAMADO)



Seaweed Farming in Panobolon, Nueva Valencia and Sebaste, Sibunag

Fisheries management plans at the local level are usually mainstreamed into the Coastal Resource Management/Coastal and Fisheries Resource Management plans of local governments, where majority of the programs and activities is focused on reducing fishing pressures, habitat rehabilitation and protection, through the establishment of marine protected areas, fish sanctuaries and reserves. The Coastal Resource Management/Coastal and Fisheries Resource Management plans also included livelihood development for the fisher families and POs as well as training and capacity development. These programs were simultaneously conducted each year with technical and funding assistance from various partners, such as BFAR, DENR, JBLFMU and PRDP.

SITE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED COMMON SANITARY LANDFILL



GENRO staff assisting MGB personnel in the conduct of geo-environmental assessment of proposed lot for the establishment of common sanitary landfill

To achieve solid waste management objectives, and in particular, afford a practical mechanism to access and exploit opportunities not otherwise available to them individually, the 5 MLGUs with the PGLU agreed to form themselves into a cluster for the establishment of a common disposal facility.

STRENGTHENING ENFORCEMENT OF PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 2014-05 (ANTI-PLASTIC ORDINANCE)



Consultation dialogue with market supervisors regarding the enforcement of Anti-Plastic Ordinance

Meeting with Vice Governor Gando, GENRO and Environmental Task Force regarding the roles and responsibilities during apprehensions of violators for Anti-Plastic Ordinance.

The Province of Guimaras has strengthened the enforcement of Provincial Ordinance No. 05, Series of 2014, otherwise known as the “Anti-Plastic Ordinance” as one of the strategies to reduce residual waste and littering. For the period of January – October 2018, there were 58 persons penalized with 23,000.00 amount of fines collected. Out of 15 cases filed, 7 were sentenced guilty, 5 were withdrawn/dismiss, 2 to be scheduled for hearing and 1 has a warrant of arrest.

CLEAN-UP ACTIVITIES



2016 Provincewide Coastal Clean-Up

2017 Bayan Ko, Linis Ko Program



Clean-up of Macopo Falls and its tributaries

Clean-up is a regular conducted by the province in close coordination with MLGUs to raise awareness on proper waste management.

To support this activity, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution No. 173, Series of 1996 was enacted declaring October 25 as Coastal Clean-up day.

QUARTERLY COASTAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING



The DENR-EMB through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Provincial Government of Guimaras conducts provincewide coastal water quality monitoring at fourteen (14) sampling stations located along the Iloilo and Guimaras Strait. Six (6) sampling stations are located in Iloilo Strait while 8 sampling stations are located in the Guimaras Strait (Figure 3). The monitoring activities are conducted on a quarterly basis. The parameters measured in the monitoring include physico-chemical (dissolved oxygen, pH and temperature), bacteriological and oil and grease. The coastal water quality monitoring program has generated time series data that would be useful in determining spatial and temporal changes in priority parameters.



Figure 1. Guimaras Province Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Stations

The implementation of ICM Program had provided opportunities for the province to be recognized by international communities especially in the East Asia region. Through active participation of the MLGUs, Academes, NGAs, POs, and other stakeholders, last 2015, the Province of Guimaras has been given an ICM Code Level I recognition. ICM Code Level I recognition proves that key aspects of governance are in place and operational. Now the Province of Guimaras aims for the Level 2 recognition, which will cover measurable progress with regard to the development and implementation of management interventions/programs, which result in environmental stress reduction in the coastal and marine areas.

