



Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

CY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

DENR CATANDUANES

San Andres, Catanduanes

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES
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A. *Executive Summary*

For the FY 2013, DENR Catanduanes once again hurdled and extended all possible means towards successful implementation of programs/activities and projects that are in line with the Department's priority agenda. Among these, is the National Greening Program (NGP) which has been pursued and sustained with the spirit of volunteerism and innate drive of the stakeholders to protect the environment. The Department, with the usual active leadership and guidance of the officials concerned, both at local and regional levels, has led to productive results with the delivery of outputs and objectives met on time. This is to include the indispensable contributions of the organizations outside the Department such as the LGUs, other government agencies, NGOs, POs, civic groups and other sectors.

The NGP is also seen as a promise towards poverty reduction and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable, hence it was undertaken along with the Barangay Forest Program (BFP) which gave priority concern to 3rd class and below barangays. Catanduanes was able to award 34 contracts under this program and successfully established a total aggregate area of 680 hectares of forest and fruit tree plantations that would be expected to provide economic and ecological benefits to the community in the near future.

Also in line with poverty reduction is free patent issuance which focuses on the agricultural land holdings under CARP. Catanduanes with the extended assistance of the Regional Office by providing a Patent Support Group (PSG) had somehow boosted the target accomplishment, though issues on the lack of potential lots in the field had caused a bottleneck in the delivery of outputs. Some agricultural lots that were considered potential are already subdivided and tax declared by the heirs themselves. While the large potential lots for residential under RA 10023 in the province made the flow of outputs unhindered.

Aside from the above thrusts of the Department is the maintenance of the integrity of the environment and climate change mitigation/adaptation where DENR Catanduanes had also achieved a good performance. These include accomplishments in the implementation of NGP and BFP as discussed above. Also, a major function that the Office shall not be lax is forest protection and law enforcement. With the formulation and implementation of the forest protection plan, a multi-sectoral forest protection committee was strengthened in the municipality of San Miguel with the active support of the local sectors. It is also this municipality which occupies the largest portion of the Catanduanes Watershed Forest Reserve, where the participation and community involvement in forest and biodiversity protection is of utmost importance. The commitment of other law enforcement agencies like the PNP, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Army as well as Local Government Units

through the Provincial Government/ENRO, networks built and alliances formed, led to a considerable success in the operations.

The total confiscation/apprehended forest products of 20,135.16 board feet this year is around 41% lower than last year's. Though this figure is still high, it shows that the current set-up and strategy of the Office had effectively been pursued, and in some aspect been attributed to the hiring of Bantay Gubats who were deployed provincewide. A total of fourteen (14) Bantay Gubats were hired to assist the DENR. Mobility likewise been facilitated with the purchase/availment of three (3) motorcycles.

On the other hand, targets on the protected area management and biodiversity conservation program of the Office, likewise, been satisfactorily accomplished. The strengthening of the Interim Protected Area Management Board for the Catanduanes Watershed Forest Reserve (CWFR), IEC and close coordination with partner LGUs, other government agencies and sectors who are benefitting from the PA resources. Wildlife protection and management, likewise been acted upon through close coordination with partner agencies, and volunteers (WEOs) for the effective enforcement of RA 9147 or the Wildlife Act. The Regional Office through the PAWCZMS had extended support and assistance in the training and deputation of 25 WEOs in this AOR. The Office has also been actively protecting marine turtles through regular monitoring (which include monitoring of nests), IEC, tagging and release in their natural habitat.

The national review of the proposed Catanduanes Natural Park (CNP) for the NIPAS had also been finally pushed through upon validation by the NAMRIA of the ground delineation of boundaries by the Land Evaluation Party (LEP) which yielded to around 48,000 hectares. The outcome is still subject to further verification of claims/contracts that may have been issued by other agencies regarding the use of land and energy resources from the proposed protected area.

DENR Catanduanes has also put in place e-database systems and the management of land records been efficiently observed. This is consistent with the anti-corruption/transparent, accountable and participatory governance thrust of the Department. The computerization of forest and land records had been undertaken efficiently. The Office hired extra manpower in the inventory, sorting and grooming of records (ISG), and data capture. The rehabilitation of land records facilities/records office has also been established.

Generally, performance efficiency and effectiveness of programs, projects and activities by DENR Catanduanes for FY 2013 is satisfactory considering the attained rates of accomplishments in all sectors. Some issues however posed challenges that made efforts quite difficult and had required extra concern towards finding solutions. One major challenge encountered include the lack of technical personnel which led to the multi-tasking of key employees. A multi-tasked employee could hardly focus on a single assignment when time pressures set in for the required immediate delivery of outputs. The physical fitness and health programs for employees that shall be initiated in the Office somehow become a personal endeavour as the staff have to prioritize the accomplishment of targets and cater to the services needed by the clientele. Administrative staff also share the same fate, i.e. lack of administrative officer, records officer and accountant. The start-up preparation for the

rationalization plan in the later part of the year had also added weight on this challenge as other personnel has signified availment of package incentives for retirement.

Another is on the logistics. The lack of a hauling truck and other equipments have been a perennial challenge in forest protection, though this had been given prompt solution by the Office as situations/needs arise by hiring available vehicles in the vicinity.

The greening efforts of the Department through the NGP is also generally effective because of the community based approach of participation, though some POs prefer an in-situ production of seedlings, that is, they wish to produce the seedlings themselves on site. The usual practice for seedling production has been through contracting to capable NGOs. The implementation of the Barangay Forest Program (BFP) on the other hand, had also encountered some challenges which include political and financial issues. This program was awarded to the barangay LGUs prior to the Barangay elections in the 4th quarter of the year. The performance of the incumbent barangay councils in implementing the activities in some way determined their chance of winning the elections. Barangay Chairmen were heard to have availed loans from outside sources to pay the laborers on a daily basis. The loan interests have accumulated as the needed fund from the Department has not yet been released. This delayed release of funds has brought up complaints from the beneficiaries.

Despite the above cited challenges, DENR Catanduanes somehow accomplished the targets efficiently with the innate commitment of all concerned.

The financial performance also went hand in hand with the physical performance. The total allotment received (Fund 101) for FY 2013 was Php 73,107,962.60; Total obligations at Php 73,054,403.80; Total disbursements at Php 61,599,518.11; and Utilization rate at 84%.

These achievements of DENR Catanduanes for the year 2013 will serve as strong foothold and a continuing endeavor to face another set of challenges on the year 2014.

National Greening Program (NGP)



The National Greening Program (NGP) in its 3rd year of implementation for 2013 has been undertaken in the province with considerable success. It has three phases, i.e., Plantation Maintenance and Protection of Established Plantation (PMEP), Seedling Production and Plantation Establishment (SOCMOB). DENR Catanduanes has accomplished 100% for the aggregate PMEP area of 2173 hectares; includes 663 hectares plantation established in 2011 with additional 298 hectares Congressional commitment, and 1212 hectares plantation established in 2012. A total of 155 MOAs/LOAs were awarded to People's Organizations in the province.

The seedling production target of 1,897,000 seedlings for timber and fuelwood was 100% accomplished; 1,732,000 of which were for timber production with nursery locations in Pandan, San Andres, Baras, Viga, Caramoran, Panganiban and Virac; 25,000 seedlings for fuelwood spp (Ipil-ipil and etc) in Bagamanoc and 140,000 mangrove propagules (*Rhizophora* spp) in Gigmoto and Virac under BUB.



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The site preparation and planting (SOCMOB) of 3,807 hectares, likewise been a hundred percent (100%) accomplished. A total of around 3,464 hectares were for timber which had been established in the same municipalities where the seedlings were produced; 50 hectares fuelwood in Bagamanoc and 70 hectares mangrove. Mangrove plantations were divided into four planting sites having additional sites in San Andres and Baras due to lack of suitable area in the originally identified municipalities. The ERDS augmented a total of 223 hectares plantation in Pandan, Caramoran and San Miguel, utilizing forest tree seedlings, i.e., narra, pili and other indigenous tree species.



Hauling of seedlings & plantation establishment



Plantation Maintenance and protection (PMEP)



Nine (9) Extension Officers were hired in the province to focus on the implementation of NGP targets in the field.

1.1 Barangay Forest Program (BFP)

DENR Catanduanes had been given a total target of 34 barangays (3rd class & below), 34 nurseries established for the propagation of 340,000 seedlings (10,000 seedlings/barangay), with 20 hectares each or an aggregate area of 680 hectares, 100% accomplished. Planted species consist of forest and fruit trees. Twenty (20) of which are under the regular fund. These barangays were located in Pandan (6), Bagamanoc (1), Viga (5), Gigmoto (4), and Baras (4). While, Fourteen (14) barangays were under Central based fund for watershed management. These barangays were in San Miguel (13) and Bato (1). The project impact to the beneficiaries was generally good as this has generated labor which in a way augmented the beneficiaries' day to day financial needs though some challenges (as stated above) in the implementation of which by the Barangay Councils (through the Barangay Captains) had been encountered.

