

# PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Summary of Accomplishments  
CY 2009

## I. Introduction

Under the mandate of Republic Act No. 7611, PCSDS activities for CY 2009 were focused on two major issues that challenge the sustainable development objective of the province. The Provincial Board of Palawan declared a 25-year moratorium on small-scale mining to assess its impact and to provide lead-time to set appropriate systems in place for responsible mining in Palawan.

Akin to the effects of mining are the effects of climate change that could threaten whatever gains achieved in sustainable development. It has estimated that the effects of climate change can be more profound in island states and regions such as Palawan. Major activities are therefore focused on the mitigation of the causes and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

The accomplishment of the Palawan Council for sustainable Development is pegged at 96.7 percent of the target for year 2009. The performance slippage is 3.3 percent representing activities that should be reduced to detract from environmental risk for the attainment of decorous policy performance for SEP.

Below is the summary of the PCSD accomplishment for year 2009.

## II. Highlights of Accomplishments based on Major Final Output (MFO)

### MFO 1: Plans, Policies and Guidelines Approved and Issued

The staff continued to conduct policy researches and studies in support of PCSD thrust for 2009. Policy studies conducted and issued to support the Council's decision-making process and to understand the cause and effect relationships between the policies issued and the practices of the people to the environment, as well as industries in Palawan:

- ✓ Protocol in amending ECAN map;
- ✓ Guidelines in the establishment of Wildlife rescue center; and
- ✓ Guidelines in the establishment of critical habitat.

The following policies formulated supported the enhance sustainability in the delivery of ecological goods and services as well as indicators for evaluating policy programs:

- ✓ Establishment of a Palawan Research



& Development Consortium, and

- ✓ Guidelines in the implementation of LF quota Policy & Amendment to existing Live fish policy.

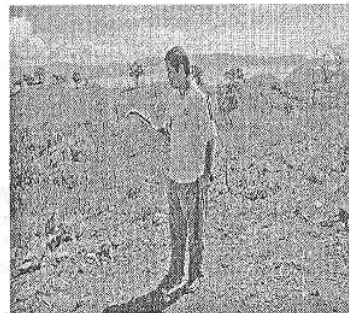
Likewise, the following were conducted as part of research studies:

- ✓ Inventory of Protected Areas
- ✓ Activities have commenced for the pilot testing of the Communal Forestry Guidelines in Puerto Princesa, Quezon and San Vicente.
- ✓ Formulation of policy for the establishment of 'adopt-a-wildlife' program is on-going including the guidelines governing its implementation.

In subsequence, the Council issued fifteen resolutions of various concerns that are of relevance to the current thrust and mandate of PCSD:

- ✓ 1 resolution was formulated in support of the Chainsaw Act;
- ✓ 4 resolutions complemented implementation of the Environmental Critical Areas Network (ECAN);
- ✓ 1 resolution to imposed cessation of application for small mining activities to reinforced reservation and protection of natural resource;
- ✓ 1 resolution strengthened the implementation of the policies for the indigenous Peoples in collaboration with the NCIP;
- ✓ 1 resolution supported the implementation of the Wildlife Act;
- ✓ 2 resolutions supported the general welfare of populace and the climate change adaptation programs;
- ✓ 5 resolutions merited the staff and other local partners.
- ✓ 1 resolution supporting Climate Change adaptation

There is a continuing effort in the monitoring and assessment of Palawan's environment and ecosystems. Coastal resources monitoring were done in the municipalities of Agutaya and Magsaysay. Moreover, 26 river systems were monitored at least once every quarter based on standard parameters of river water quality. Consequently, in the operation of PCSDS environmental laboratory, 234 water analyses were conducted serving the demands of the local government units and communities. Thru the GIS facility, the PCSDS conducted analysis of existing land use on land cover.

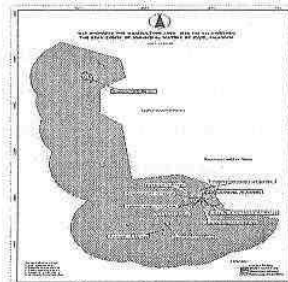


The compilation of accounts for the major natural resources is another need identified by the staff to substantiate the plans, programs and policies as well as validate the state of the environment in the province. Since Palawan was one of the pilot area in the institutionalization of the Philippine Economic-Environmental and Natural Resources Accounting (PEENRA) at the provincial level. The former Technical working group (TWG) of the previous PEENRA project was reconstituted. Their commitment in providing information in updating of the Palawan Asset Accounts was reinforced.

The conduct of refresher training on the accounting system was requested from the National Statistical Coordination Board. Meanwhile, as availability of the NSCB was awaited, the staff started compilation of data on fishery, forestry and land resources.

Another noteworthy feat of the PCSDS and the staff is the Forum on Climate Change for the Province of Palawan attended by about 143 local government officials, representative from different sectors and Non-Government Organizations as well as the media practitioners and the academe. The topic discussed during the forum includes: What, why causes, effects and impacts and adaptation measures to address climate change

impacts; International, regional and national initiatives as current responses to climate change; and the Challenges of Palawan Biosphere Reserve in dealing with Climate change as well as the significance of our forest cover and protected areas to climate change.



## **MFO 2: Advocacy, Technical Assistance and Other Support Services Provided**

Community education and environmental extension is vital to the attainment of the goals of SEP. There were nine communities reached by environmental education and information (EEI) in Rizal, Dumarang, El Nido, Taytay, Araceli, Busuang, Culion, Cuyo and Bataraza. The EEI attainment was supported thru the radio programs in the southern most part of the province, the staff attendance to meetings, training seminars and forum as participants resource person/speaker. The staff conducted twelve briefings on Environmental presentations to both local and international visitors/groups. These were supported by radio programs aired for at least 56 hours for the year. Moreover, the District Management Offices of PCSDS assisted and extended services to seven Local Government Units (LGUs) relative to the reactivation of the ECAN Boards and the implementation of other SEP activities at the municipal level reinforced with training seminars as part of capacity and institutional building. In congruence, there were ten briefings and presentations conducted, 5,374 information materials produced, and ninety six press releases posted on tri-media. As part of our advocacy, capacity and institutional support were provided through conduct of training/seminars in five

municipalities to equip the Local Government units with environmental laws. A planning workshop and paralegal trainings were conducted. Several consultation meetings regarding the implementation of caves, wildlife, Live fish policies, ecological solid waste management and the SEP Clearance system were conducted in 22 municipalities. Partnership programs with the NGOs were handled by the staff like the conduct of "Workshop on Biological & economic Parameters for the Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade". The methodologies to assess the biological and economic aspects of the live reef fish for food industry were introduced to the participants. A research agenda to strengthen policies and management of the industry and the assessment of the capacity of the participating institutions to carry out the research agenda was crafted in the workshop.

To align and harmonized local government plans and programs, the staff responded to the technical assistance requested by the LGU Aborlan, Roxas, and Bataraza. The PCSD staff together with the LGU technical personnel conducted ECAN Zones evaluation and validation. The activity served as input to the revision of Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan. Specific areas were evaluated and validated based on ECAN parameters and corresponding amendments made after consultations with the concerned community. The same process were also conducted in the protected areas, thus management board was organized and trained to exercise power to attain self-reliance among the stakeholders.

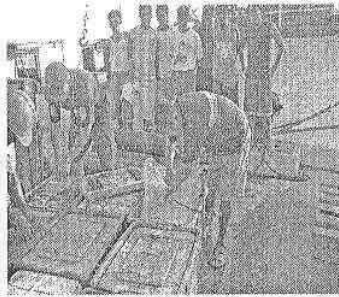
Moreover, the staff organized a forum on Climate Change. The topics discussed includes what, why, causes, effects and impacts, and adaptation measures addressing the climate change impact; current responses/initiatives from international, and national initiatives; and Challenges of Palawan Biosphere reserve in dealing with Climate Change as well as contributions of the different sector in the Province to Climate Change mitigation and adaptation measures. Discussions were related to significance of the Palawan's forest cover and protected areas. In addition, the forum was capped with the participants' commitment, declaring in writing on how they can individually help fight global warming. To fulfil the mandate on policy direction and governance of SEP for Palawan, one-step was taken by the Council. A "Resolution enjoining all the Local Government Units of Palawan to Undertake Adoption Measures which will help address the Adverse Impact s of Climate Change in Palawan" was passed for implementation.



### **MFO 3: Guidelines, Rules, Regulations and Other Special Laws Enforced and Monitored.**

The implementation of the SEP Clearance System ensures that projects are appropriately located and allowed in the ECAN zones. The system involves the assessment, evaluation of project proposals, issuance of SEP Clearance and monitoring during implementation. Using the GIS, project proposals were assessed for the

appropriateness of project location in the ECAN Zone. During the first semester of the year, there were 142 project proposals issued with SEP Clearance and 187 live fish operators/traders given accreditation to operate in Palawan. Likewise, there were 436 projects monitored based on their compliance to the terms and conditions subsumed in the SEP Clearance issued.



Monitoring of the implementation of community-based ECAN zones management plans were conducted in Barangay Nicanor Zabala, Taradungan, San Miguel & San Nicholas in the municipality of Roxas.

In addition to the mandate of PCSD, it is also tasked to implement special laws in Palawan of which are the Wildlife Act, the Caves Act and the Chainsaw Act. Wildlife monitoring was conducted in Calait and technical assistance was given to the provincial government in the management of Calait Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary. To curb illegal activities such as wildlife trafficking, illegal logging and mangrove debarking in the southern most part of the province, a Memorandum of Agreement between PCSD, Provincial Government, LGU of Rizal town, DENR, PNP, Western Command, BFAR and the PCG was forged for the establishment and management of the Environmental Enforcement Center (EEC). The environmental enforcement team, lead by the Kilusang Sagip Kalikasan (KSK), was detailed in the EEC. The objectives, among others, are to provide quick operational response and display visibility in the area. They acted as an immediate response team in addressing issues and concerns on the rampant and illegal activities and environmental violations. Moreover, as part of wildlife enforcement strengthening, the Coastguard as Wildlife Enforcement Officers were trained on a paralegal enforcement to enhance and review their skills in terms of preparation of documentary requirements for filling cases in court. On the other hand, there were four caves identified, inspected and profiled in Cuyo, Roxas, Araceli and Puerto Princesa. To promote the importance of caves and stimulate interest on cave management anent to PCSD mandate on conservation and management, fifty college students and their advisers from colleges and Universities participated on the training organized by the PCSDS called "Tara na sa Kueba". The said activity included cave assessment of "Kuyba Almonica" located in Bgy San Jose, PPC. There were also 275 Chainsaws inventoried, registered and monitored.



Relative to the enforcement of laws, policies, rules and guidelines, there were 40 cases filed and 25 cases heard at the PCSD adjudication board. Moreover, there were 68 cases mediated and resolved.



### III. General Administrative Support Services

The operation of the Management Information System (MIS) continued to render support in decision-making. It produced four quarter, mid-year and year-end performance report. The performance bottlenecks for the management were also identified for management reference. The PCSD staff as secretariat to the Council continued providing technical support, coordinated and documented 10 council meetings, 2 Tribal Affairs Committee meetings, and 2 environment and natural resource committee meetings, drafted resolutions, and circulated policies and guidelines issued by the Council. Moreover, administrative support services were provided to PCSD and staff in all undertakings in the exigency of government service.