



2014 PCSD

Annual Report



**PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STAFF
FY 2014
Annual Report**

I. Executive Summary

The mandate of PCSD is to formulate policies, guidelines, and plans; implement programs and projects; and organize services for the governance and implementation of the Republic Act No. (RA) 7611, or the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan, and other related laws. In support of fulfilling the mandate of the Council, the PCSD Staff provides the professional and technical support in the implementation of the SEP. In addition to its mandates under RA 7611, the Council is tasked to implement the following specific laws: the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act (RA 9147), the National Caves and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act (RA 9072), the Chainsaw Act (RA 9175), and other related laws specifically mandated for implementation of PCSD in the province of Palawan.

The Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) is the main strategy of the SEP. The ECAN is the framework in the formulation and implementation of plans, programs, and projects in Palawan. Currently, the ECAN zones of the entire province are already mapped using geographic information systems (GIS). These are now the reference for securing the locational clearance of developmental undertakings, especially environmentally critical projects, as a prerequisite for the issuance of the SEP Clearance.

Two major final outputs (MFOs) were identified to address the concerns of the SEP, namely: Palawan Sustainable Development Policy Services (MFO 1) and Palawan Sustainable Development Regulation Services (MFO 2). The agency accomplished its annual target for the formulation and development of policies, plans, researches, and proposals under MFO 1. The operation of the SEP Clearance System under MFO 2 similarly delivered above the targets which include the issuance of permits and clearances, and monitoring on the compliance to the terms and conditions of the issued SEP Clearance and permits. For the implementation of environmental laws, a total of 104 cases were filed for violation of environmental laws.

The Center for Strategic Policy and Governance of the Palawan State University conducted the stakeholder's perception survey on the policy of ECAN Area Clearance or ECAN Zoning Certification under the PCSD Administrative Order No. (AO) 6 and PCSD Resolution No. 07-343. Perception survey was also undertaken for the PCSD Live Reef Fish for Food Policy under PCSD AO 5. The average rating for the two policies is 82%, well above the target of 65%.

The activities conducted which are not part of the annual plan but are deemed necessary for the achievement of the mandates of the agency are the training on Forest Land Use Planning (FLUP) and the Forum on "Society and Biodiversity in the Mining Industry: The Sustainable Solution".

II. Detailed Physical Accomplishment

1. Major Policies Formulated and Approved

1.1 Policy on Reef Fish Food (RFF) and Plan of Action for a Sustainable RFF Industry in Palawan

The Reef Fish Food (RFF) policy for Palawan has been crafted with inputs generated from the industry stakeholders. The main features of the policy are as follows:

- The Palawan Provincial RFF Ordinance will regulate both the live and fresh reef fish for food commodities from Palawan and will include *C. altivelis* (mouse grouper), *E. coioides* (green grouper), *E. fuscoguttatus* (tiger grouper), and *P. leopardus* (coral trout), these being among the most sought-after and high-valued RFF species in Hong Kong market.



Top photos: (left) *Plectropomus* locally known as suno; (right) Palawan Gov. Hon. Jose Ch. Alvarez with PCSDS Exec. Director Nelson P. Devanadera, Dr. Michael D. Pido of Palawan State University and guests during the Conference on Reef Fish for Food
Bottom: Stakeholders and participants of the Conference on Reef Fish for Food (RFF)

- Wildlife collector's permit for catchers; special wildlife use permit for traders
- Minimum size limit for coral trout: 32 cm
- Maximum size limit for coral trout: 47.5 cm
- Closed season: June 16 to August 31 and October 16 to December 15.
Open season for the rest of the year.
- 30% of municipal waters as Marine Protected Area

In addition to the policy crafted to address the concerns on the industry, the Plan of Action for RFF was also developed. The major strategies in the

Program of Action that take into account the implementation of urgent transition actions and long term industry prospects are:

- Transition to biodiversity-friendly full-cycle LRFF mariculture and hatchery management
- Size limitation and closed season as basic regulations that need to be urgently introduced
- Strengthening of MPA networks and coastal/marine ECAN zones to facilitate reef fish recruitment and spillover effects
- Sustainable financing strategy to fund the costs of transitioning toward sustainability
- Appropriate and reasonable regulatory fees to plough back income from industry regulation to fund management and enforcement
- Empowerment of coastal fishing communities through introduction of appropriate and sustainable livelihoods as a safety net for marginal fisher folks who will be adversely affected by strict government regulation
- Intensification of researches and public information drives on sustainable RFF industry and promoting social responsibility (i.e., converting fishers and businessmen into “change agents” or stewards and advocates)

1.2 Formulation of the Palawan Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (PSDSAP)

The Palawan Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan (PSDSAP) is a blueprint for sustainable development of Palawan Province. The action planning and stakeholder consultation workshops, participated by the LGUs and representatives from various sectors of society, have been conducted for clusters covering the northern municipalities, southern municipalities, island municipalities, and the provincial cluster. Inputs and comments from government and non-government agencies, indigenous and local community organizations, and sectoral groups were generated during the four cluster workshops.



The Plan has 10 core themes/thematic areas and 7 criteria for a Palawan green economy. The vision of the Plan is the provision of a good and dignified

life for the Palaweño, through the pursuit of an ecologically-balanced and biodiversity-centered economic development that is supported by green jobs and sustainable energy and within the carrying capacity of Palawan’s natural ecosystems.

The main strategy of the PSDSAP is the maintenance of ECAN Core Zones, the wise use of ECAN Buffer Zones, and the sustainable management of ECAN Multiple Use Zone. This strategy is expected to maximize the benefits derived from the environment and natural resources and to prevent or minimize the negative impacts from introduced activities. The action plan will contain sustainable and green actions in the next six years (2015-2020) to be updated and revised every three years.

The Plan shall be legitimized upon approval of the Council, after which it shall be endorsed to the municipal and provincial LGUs for adoption.

1.3 Integration of ECAN to San Vicente CLUP



Pursuant to Section 6 of RA 7611, it is necessary to coordinate and align projects and corresponding budgets of all local governments in Palawan with the projects, programs, and policies of the SEP. The integration of ECAN into the local Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) ensures that local development conforms to the sustainable development features of the SEP framework and the ECAN strategy.

The Municipality of San Vicente has formulated its ECAN Zoning Plan and CLUP according to the requirements of RA 7611 and its guidelines. The “ecanized” CLUP will be the guide to the long-term sustainable management of the locally adopted ECAN Zones. This document contains opportunities for both conservation and development of the locality. Ultimately, the ecanized CLUP is expected to pro-

actively respond to the evolving challenges and opportunities of San Vicente as a major tourism destination and address local issues and problems while pursuing sustainable development.

1.4 Amendment of PCSD Admin Order No. 6

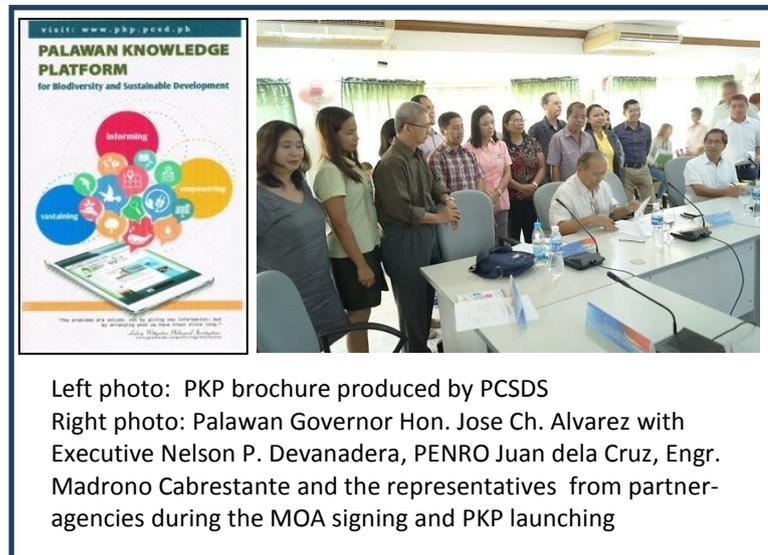
The amendment of PCSD Admin Order No. 6 provided for the revision of the guidelines in the implementation of the SEP Clearance System. The major provisions in the amendment are (i) the categorization of projects according to impacts and allowable ECAN zone and (ii) the sharing of responsibility to local authorities, particularly strengthening the involvement and participation of the local government units through ECAN Boards in all municipalities.

2. Major Programs and Projects Implemented

2.1 Launching of Palawan Knowledge Platform (PKP)

The Palawan Knowledge Platform (PKP) is a repository of all Palawan information established in partnership with various data-producing agencies and institutions operating in the province. It is a user friendly web-based information sharing mechanism initiated by PCSDS to provide data support for policy-making on priority concerns including poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation. All available information will be made accessible to users through the official website of the PKP. These include studies and researches on terrestrial and coastal marine resources, protected areas, and indigenous peoples.

The site has been officially launched and the Memorandum of Agreement among the partner-institutions has been signed on December 2014.



Left photo: PKP brochure produced by PCSDS

Right photo: Palawan Governor Hon. Jose Ch. Alvarez with Executive Nelson P. Devanadera, PENRO Juan dela Cruz, Engr. Madrono Cabrestante and the representatives from partner-agencies during the MOA signing and PKP launching

2.2 ECAN Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation System (EMES)

The Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation System (EMES) is an identified strategy in the implementation of the SEP for Palawan Act. This mechanism involves monitoring of environmental parameters such as land and forest cover through GIS, coastal resources assessment and water quality monitoring through the PCSD Environmental Laboratory.

River monitoring of the 26 critical rivers and coastal water quality assessment are likewise undertaken. Priority sites for the coastal water quality assessment activity are the two World Heritage Sites, the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) with 21 sampling sites to establish the physical baseline information and Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR) with 19 monitoring sites established. CRM activities are also conducted in the municipalities of El Nido (4 sites), Taytay (3 sites), and San Vicente (4 sites). Data and pertinent information generated from the monitoring activities are transmitted to the concerned LGUs and PAMBs as basis and reference for policy formulation and implementation.



2.3 Inventory, Assessment and Classification of Palawan Caves

Pursuant to the PCSD Admin Order No. 03-08, inventory, assessment and classification of significant caves in the province were conducted. The information and data gathered from the assessment are basis for the preparation of the management plans for the identified caves.

Inventory was conducted in two cave sites in the Municipality of Taytay and one site in the Municipality of Quezon. Cave Management Plans for the Tinagusan Bat Cave and Sabang-Samalague both located within the Batas Cave System in Taytay were completed. Cave identification, assessment, survey and mapping of Hundred Caves in Barangay Tagabinet and Lion Cave in Barangay Cabayugan, Puerto Princesa City were undertaken. The activity

covered flora and fauna survey, speleothem and speleogen identification, archaeological, anthropological and paleontological survey.



Left and right photos: Cave assessment activities

3. Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Implemented

3.1 Zero Carbon Resorts Project in Partnership with GrAT

The second phase of the Zero Carbon Resorts (ZCR) Project has been approved by the European Union with project sites expanded in Palawan and Thailand. For the Redesign strategy of the project, a ZCR model cottage was built at the Palawan Sustainable Development Training Institute (PSDTI) Compound in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa. It showcases energy-efficient and green technologies being promoted by the project. The cottage will be open for students educational visits and exposure to applicable energy-saving measures.



Left photo: Façade of the ZCR cottage

Right photos: Living room and dining area of the ZCR cottage

The ZCR Project Phase 2 will pursue the initiatives that were established during the first phase of the project. Through energy audit and monitoring

which resulted to reduction of both energy cost and carbon emission, the participating small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) become more active in and aware of energy saving.

Green energy saving measures was included in the Terms and Conditions of the SEP Clearance since 2012. The Provincial Government of Palawan and the City Government of Puerto Princesa also passed a resolution urging all tourism establishments to participate in the ZCR project. The project at present is collaborating with the City Government towards formulating a green building code.

3.2 JFPR Grant 9160: Developing Sustainable Alternative Livelihoods in Coastal Fishing Communities in the Coral Triangle: Indonesia and Philippines

The Municipality of Balabac was identified as the project site for the Philippine Component of the JFPR Grant 9160: Developing Sustainable Alternative Livelihoods in Coastal Fishing Communities in the Coral Triangle: Indonesia and Philippines under the auspices of the Asian Development Bank. PCSD is the implementing agency of the project in partnership with the LGU of Balabac. The necessary project documents, endorsement of PCSD and the establishment of the imprest fund have been complied to facilitate commencement and mobilization of the project.

3.3 The Philippine Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (Phil-WAVES) Project

Phil-WAVES is a World Bank funded project, of which Southern Palawan was selected as a pilot site. The project is focussed on the application of the Experimental Ecosystem Accounting methods developed under the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting. The PCSDS served as the Co-chairman of its Technical Working Group and as its local coordinator. The PCSDS lead the development of the physical accounts for coastal marine and lowland ecosystems (focus on oil palm, coconut and irrigated rice). Key outputs for 2014 included the



Top photo: Participants of the training organized by the Project
Bottom photo: Meeting of the TWG

following:

- i. Collation, inventory and evaluation of relevant data and information for the project
- ii. Development of detailed framework for the Ecosystem Accounts and determined methodology and data requirements
- iii. Identification of policies/laws which are relevant for Ecosystem Account, all of which are relevant for land use and zoning
- iv. Co-researcher in the study on the mapping of key ecosystem provisioning services (paddy rice, palm oil and coconut), and hydrological services provided by upland forests to downstream water supply and irrigated crop production
- v. Development of accounting matrices
- vi. Draft technical report on updates in the development of the accounts
- vii. Draft policy brief on key issues related to coastal marine and lowland ecosystem
- viii. Capacity building through attendance to trainings and video-telephone conference

3.4 Collaboration with the University of Queensland (Australia)

A MOA was signed with the University of Queensland Australia for the research, capacity building, and outreach activities for the project called Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services (CCRES) in El Nido Municipality.

4. Gender and Development (GAD) Mainstreaming

The agency implemented briefing sessions for women in three local communities to address gender concerns and participation on issues pertaining to environmental degradation and other illegal activities. The objectives of these activities include providing equal access on the knowledge and awareness on environmental protection to women through integrating environmental concerns and empowering them for economic activities.

5. Other Related Activities and Accomplishments

5.1 Forum on “Society and Biodiversity in the Mining Industry: The Sustainable Solution”

The forum on mining was organized to generate the support of the industry towards programs and projects that will benefit the communities within the radius of mining operations including the adjacent barangays and municipalities.

The outputs of the forum were an Action Plan and the agreement and commitment



Top and bottom photos:
Participants during the Mining
Forum

among stakeholders to address the concerns on the environmental aspect of the industry and to help alleviate the quality of life in the host communities. The mining companies have signified their commitment to realign their funds and social development programs with the thrusts of the Provincial Government, maximize the opportunities and benefits of mining, and address the environmental concerns incurred in mining operations.

A Technical Working Group (TWG) is organized to develop the strategies and implementation scheme for the Action Plans to be implemented on the following themes:

- a) Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation;
- b) Conservation Financing and Funds Management; and
- c) Poverty Alleviation and Social Development

5.2 Meeting with Funding Institutions and Project Implementers in the Province of Palawan



The meeting with funding institutions and project implementers in the province was held to discuss mutual concerns and explore areas for possible collaboration and achieve greater impacts for the benefit of the people of Palawan. Thrusts and priorities of funding agencies and the PCSDS were presented to serve as direction for future partnership engagements. Initially, existing and proposed projects, project sites, and beneficiaries of funding institutions were identified and will be integrated in a base map to serve as reference for future initiatives in Palawan. As an offshoot of the meeting, a proposal on wildlife enforcement is



now being developed and discussed with the identified eligible partner NGOs for possible funding of the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF).

5.3 The 4th Meeting of UNESCO World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves

The PCSDS organized the 4th Meeting of UNESCO World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (WNICBR) held in Puerto Princesa City on 16-22 June 2014 at The Legend Hotel.

The participants are representatives from different member-countries of the UNESCO WNICBR who shared the best practices in the management of their respective reserves.

The delegates also participated in the tree planting activity held at the watershed area in Sitio Impapay, Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa City.

5.4 Marine Protected Area (MPA) Social Marketing in the Municipality of Roxas

In partnership with the Rare Pride Campaign, the social marketing campaign was implemented in the municipality of Roxas located in the northeastern portion of mainland Palawan. There are 14 MPAs in Roxas with the Caramay MPA as focal site that has 3 core zones including mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs which are habitats of green groupers, the endangered dugong, and highpriced lobsters. With threats such as illegal fishing practices in and around the MPA, the Roxas Pride Campaign aimed to change the behavior of fishers to use the right gears/fishing methods at the right place which is also geared towards the achievement of conservation results that is more healthy corals and increase the number of fish within the MPA and the adjacent areas.



Left photo: The fisherfolks of Barangay Caramay, Roxas

Right photo: Digong Dugong, one of the 3 mascots developed for the Roxas Pride Campaign

III. Prospects for CY 2015

To achieve its vision, organizational outcomes, and objectives, the PCSD Staff will continue to develop programs on four key areas:

- 1. Palawan Knowledge Platform (PKP)** – The goal of this program is to establish a clearing house and knowledge base which will be at the forefront of research and monitoring, training, education, and the promotion of public awareness to enable local communities to become fully involved in the conservation and sustainable use of resources. The solid knowledge and information will be used to formulate more technically sound plans and policies, develop more robust methodologies for mainstreaming ECAN into the Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), and conduct monitoring and evaluation effectively.
- 2. Environmental Education** – This program component will deal with environmental advocacy, community organizing, and social marketing. The Palawan Sustainable Development Training Institute in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa City, will also be physically developed as the regular venue for environmental trainings, conferences, and seminars.
- 3. Environmental Law Enforcement** – The main objectives of this program are to curb the environmentally destructive activities that threaten the natural resource base of Palawan and to reduce pressures to the environment through the integration of environmental law enforcement, advocacy campaigns, and sustainable livelihood projects. The specific objectives are to (a) increase efficiency in environmental law enforcement, (b) increase the environmental awareness of communities in KBAs, (c) strengthen partnerships among multiple stakeholder groups, (d) reduce incidence of wildlife poaching, (e) reduce habitat destruction, and (e) transform people into environmental stewards.
- 4. ECAN Conservation Program** – This program is concerned about the perpetuation of goods and services provided by Palawan ecosystems which are under threat from both natural and anthropogenic threats. The continuous flow of these materials derives from the built-in design, structure, and functions of natural ecosystems that constitute the life-support system and natural resource base of Palawan. The strategy to achieve these outcomes is to strengthen the ECAN system in each of its three components: terrestrial, coastal/marine zone, and tribal ancestral lands through formulation and coordination of plans, policies, and programs, the management of the ECAN zones and implementation of compatible activities within these zones.