



# Assessment of Roles and Participation of Local Communities in the Implementation of National Greening Program in Biliran Province, Philippines

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# Background and Rationale

- National Greening Program (NGP)
  - Executive order 26 of Feb. 24, 2011
- national strategy for climate change mitigation & poverty reduction



# Background and Rationale

- *Section 3. Strategies*
  - People's Organizations –primary responsibility to maintain & protect established plantations
  - Harmonizes all tree planting and related activities of government, private sector, Local Government Units & civil society



# Background and Rationale

- LGUs – major actors in massive forest rehab program
- Recognition of LGUs substantial & key roles/participation in sustainable forest management - long before NGP
- Initiative based on belief:
  - “it is only thru LGUs’ genuine participation that effective forest management can be realized and sustained on ground”



# Background and Rationale

- **Local government units (LGUs)**
  - institutional **units** - fiscal, legislative and executive authority extends over smallest geographical areas distinguished for administrative and political purposes
- **LGUs** are divided into three levels
  - provinces & independent cities
  - component cities and municipalities
  - Barangays/villages

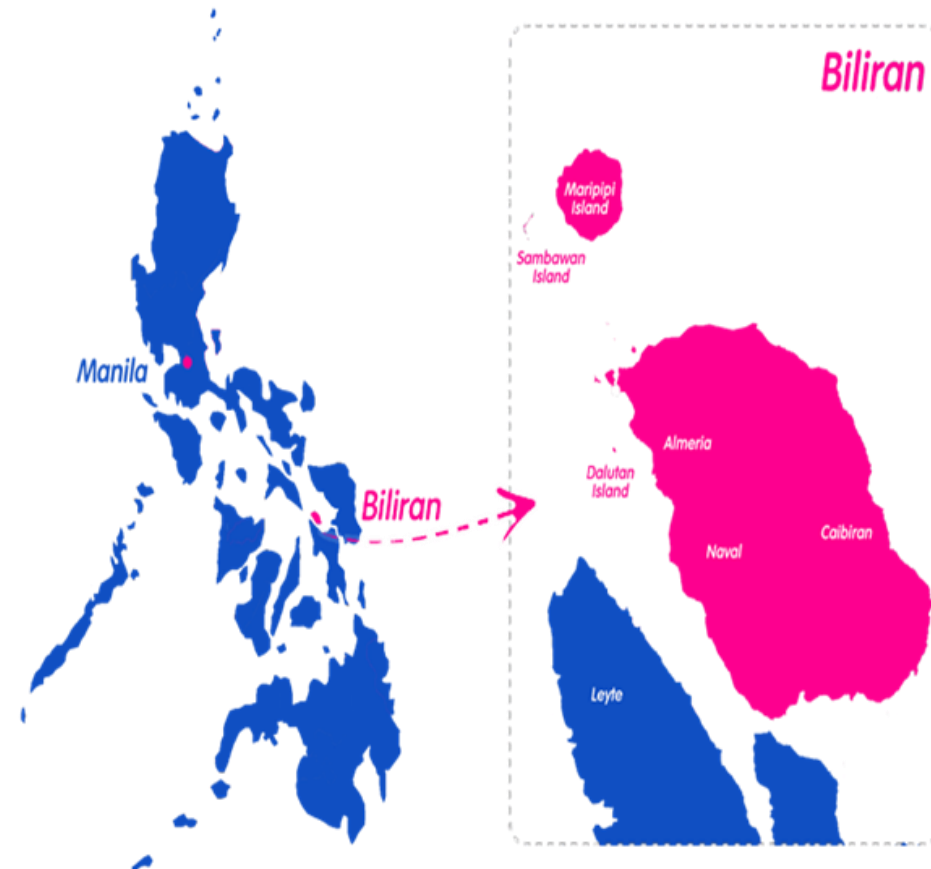
# Objectives

- Examine roles & participation of Biliran LGUs at provincial, municipal and barangay levels, & local communities in NGP implementation
- Basis in identifying interventions & recommendations to improve LGUs & local communities' participation & effectiveness



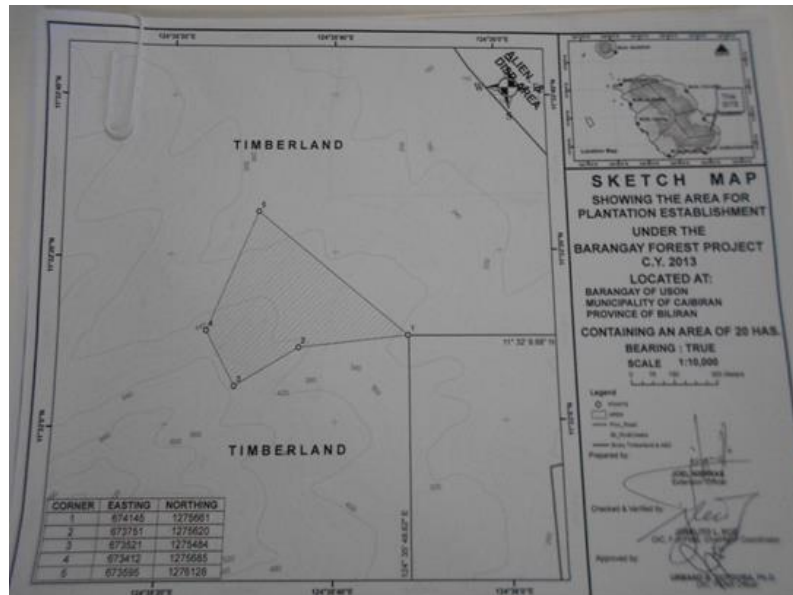
# Research Methods

- Study Sites:
- Biliran
  - Naval
    - Imelda, Villa Consuelo, Talustusan
  - Caibiran
    - Cabibihan, Kawayanon
  - Kawayan
    - Kansanoc, Ungale



# Research Methods

- Desk review



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
08-02-04-1334

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Memorandum of Agreement made and entered into by and between:

The **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**, a national government agency duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines with its field office address at Brgy. Larrazabal, Naval, Biliran, herein represented by its OIC, PENR Officer, **URBANO B. DOYDORA, Ph. D.**, herein referred to as "DENR";

and

**Brgy. Talestusan**, a local government unit duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines located at Naval, Biliran, herein represented by its Barangay Chairman, **Hon. Arturo S. Saclo**, hereafter referred to as the "Barangay";

**WITNESSETH THAT**

**WHEREAS**, His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III issued Executive Order No. 26 on 24 February 2011 ordering and declaring the implementation of the National Greening Program (NGP) as government priority for poverty reduction, food security, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

**WHEREAS**, E.O. No. 26 prescribes the harmonization of all greening efforts and similar initiatives of the government, private sector, LGUs and the civil society;

**WHEREAS**, the NGP includes among others the development of forestlands (production and protection), mangrove areas and protected areas, ancestral domain, civil and military reservations, urban areas under the greening plan of the LGUs, inactive and abandoned mining sites, and riverbanks, stream banks, and other suitable public lands;

**WHEREAS**, DILG Memorandum Circular Nos. 2011-75 and 2011-76 both dated 25 May 2011 provides the guidelines on NGP implementation to all provincial governors, city mayors, municipal mayors, and Punong Barangays to implement the NGP;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 10176 also known as the "Arbor Day Act of 2012" mandates all able-bodied citizens who are at least twelve years old to plant one (1) tree every year;

**WHEREAS**, both parties recognize the importance of collaboration and partnership in order to achieve the objectives of the NGP, and have agreed to work together for the production of quality planting materials consistent with the objectives and requirements of their respective mandates and programs;

**NOW THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the above premises, the Parties mutually agree on the following terms and condition.



# Research Methods

- Key Informant Interview (F2F-KII)
- Focus Group Discussion (FGD)
- Key Respondents:
  - Biliran DENR-PENRO Staff
  - LGU Officials & Staff
  - Officers of People' s Organization
- Descriptive data analysis: SPSS



# Findings

## ➤ DENR-LGU PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

- Barangay Forest Program (BFP) - DENR-DILG Joint Memo; seedling production
- Bottoms-Up Budgeting (BUB) - MLGU mangrove & fuelwood contract
- Upland Development Program (UDP)
- Forest Land Use Planning
- National Greening Program (NGP)

# Findings

## EO 26: LGU Roles/Responsibilities

Roles/Responsibilities	Adherence	Remarks
Establishment of nurseries and production of planting materials	/	Only at barangay/village level
Development of greening plan for urban and suburban areas	X	Lacks expertise; need technical support
Lead the establishment of communal tree farms for firewood and other domestic uses	/	Only tree planting in uplands & mangroves w/o clear purpose
Construction of access roads and trails to the planting sites	X	Lacks budget; need funding support
Provision of medical support	/	Only first-aid during planting
Technical assistance and extension of services	X	Lacks expertise



# Findings

## AWARENESS OF LGUs ON NGP

LGU Level	Frequency	Percentage
Municipal		
Yes	7	78
No	2	22
Barangay/Village		
Yes	8	89
No	1	11

- Provincial Head

- Have heard but not fully aware of NGP

# Findings

- PO/NGO Participation
  - ✓ 6 Pos & 2 NGOs
  - ✓ Nursery establishment (temporary) & production of planting materials
  - ✓ Maintenance & protection of planted trees (short-term basis)



# Findings

## DENR PROBLEMS/ISSUES WORKING WITH LGUs

1. Change of leadership at LGUs
2. None continuity/sustainability of program/activities
3. Patronage (political)
4. Lack of LGU commitment and interest
5. LGU's one-way perception not thinking of counter-parting



# Findings

## DENR PROBLEMS/ISSUES WORKING WITH LGUs

6. LGUs lack technical capabilities/expertise

7. LGUs meddling of officials on cases of apprehended articles like logs, wood, etc.

8. DENR less acquainted with LGU officials & staff

9. Lack of support and cooperation from LGUs

10. LGUs program prioritization does not include environment

# Findings

## LGUs PROBLEMS/ISSUES WORKING WITH DENR

1. LGUs lack contact/communication/proper coordination with DENR
2. Lack of information and training
3. No DENR person to help LGUs; only visit if they have need
4. None continuity/sustainability of program/activities
5. Absence of mechanism to improve partnership with DENR

# Conclusion

- LGUs at the Provincial and Municipal levels have less participation to NGP implementation
  - Limited knowledge/understanding & skills
  - Less attention given by DENR
  - Less effort of DENR for their interest and active participation
- LGU Barangays, POs have better participation to NGP
  - More partnership projects with DENR, eg. Barangay Forest Program, Bottoms-up Budgeting
  - DENR having direct engagements with local POs



# Conclusion

- Improving participation & effectiveness of LGUs requires:
  - Considering political dynamics in partnership development
  - Building-up interest & commitment
  - Improving capabilities
  - Developing mechanisms/arrangements that will create closeness and unfading working relationships

# Recommendations

- DENR to coordinate with DILG for mandatory creation of MENRO/PENRO
- Intensify capacity-building program for LGUs
- Create & sustain continuously flowing joint NGP activities with LGUs
- Improving IEC Program for LGUs
  - DENR Office Heads frequent visits with NGP communities
- Establish & sustain “big-brother, small brother” working relationship with LGUs
- Building LGU champions and composite NGP teams from LGUs and DENR staff