

Identified Solution with Upscaling Potential

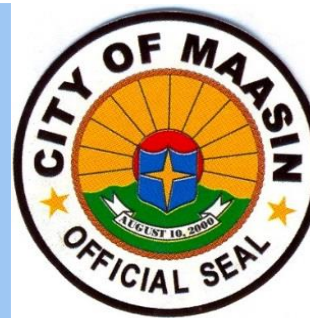
Solution: Package of Watch tower, fish-finder radar, radio communication system and capdev activities increased adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities of MAASIN CITY, SO. LEYTE, PHILIPPINES

Storyline/Narrative:

Maasin became a city on August 10, 2000. **Maasin City**, is the capital city of **Southern Leyte, Philippines**. A fourth class city with 70 **barangays**, it is located on the western part of the province with land area of 21,171 hectares (52,310 acres).^[2] According to the 2015 census, it has a population of 85,560.

The City has many tourist spots considered important for their aesthetic value which thru the tourism sector add income to the local government. These include the Guinsohoton Cave, a large subterranean cave with in-cave waterfalls, rock formations, the Cagnitoan Lagoon, the Camp Danao Forest Park, and the Busay Falls with its lush vegetation, cascading waterfalls and rich biodiversity. Maasin City has one major river, the Canturing River that has caused flooding in the city in the past years thus the communities along its

Photos/Documentations:



riverbanks are the most vulnerable to flooding.

The City officials have been warned by experts from government that with the projected sea level rise, the coastal barangays of Maria Clara, Ibarra, Pacu, Mambajao, Mantahan, Tungatunga, Tagnipa, Combado, Bulibol, Caniwan will be totally submerged.

To face the climate change challenge, the City government embarked to undertake activities they believed would increase the adaptive capacities of the constituents. In partnership with the GIZ since 2002, first to be given attention were the communities living along the coastal barangays as well as those along the Canturing riverbanks. Through the GIZ, the BMUB-funded Adaptation to Climate Change and Biodiversity Project Maasin City was a beneficiary of a package of support that consisted of installation of their watch tower, a fish-finder radar system, a radio and communications system that connected the City to its neighboring municipalities



Source:

<http://www.southernleyte.gov.ph/>

http://www.southernleytetimes.com/SL_coasts_will_sink_in_2100.html

along the Sogod Bay of Southern Leyte. With the ACCBio support package were a series of complementary capability building activities provided by other GIZ programs/projects such as the Environment and Rural Development Program, the REDD+ and ACCCoast which over the years engaged the City and its constituents in participatory coastal resource assessment, forest land use planning & nursery management for reforestation purposes, disaster preparedness trainings and drills and the long-term comprehensive land use planning. All complementary activities targeted not only the city manpower as the service delivery mechanism but the very vulnerable communities as well who, until now continue to sustain their forest protection, disaster preparedness and integrated coastal and marine resources management. Specifically, the forest and upland dwellers have learned a lot from the partner-Youth Innovators for Social and Environmental Development Association (YISEDA), a local people's organization engaged in community-based forest management that aims to protect the remaining

The radio & communications system connecting Maasin with its neighboring municipalities



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| <p>natural forests and lead the reforestations in Maasin City. YISEDA started its forest conservation as early as 1993. They protected the forests then with no government funding, patrolling the mountains looking for signs of slash-and burn farming and/or illegal logging. It is this rich experience that has made YISEDA a role model to other upland dwellers of the City and even in the neighboring towns. The coastal communities have bonded together to ensure their livelihoods and food security. The fisherfolks have formed themselves into an association that is engaged by the City Agriculturist-Fishery Sector not only in Bantay-Dagat (Baywatch) activities but in maximizing the use of the watchtower, fish-finder radar and the radio and communications system for disaster preparedness.</p> | |
| <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the people’s organization, the YISEDA are able to harvest trees they themselves have planted and according to the rules for timber harvesting set by the government; with prospects of value adding thru processing their | <p>Co-benefits:</p> |

timber into wood furnitures;

- Additional incomes for the upland farmers come from their seedling production, agro-forestry activities and vegetable productions;
- The fisherfolks association heavily involved themselves in addressing the infestation of crown of thorns that posed as a serious threat to the coral reefs and their livelihoods; the provincial and city government provided the financial support to the fisherfolks as they focused on addressing said crown of thorns infestation in 2011-2012;
- The fisherfolks association happily declare they have more than enough fish supply for local consumption.



Aside from the increase in their incomes, constituents in the forestal and buffer zones appreciate the impact of forest conservation as their way to cope with the impacts strong typhoons such as the most recent supertyphoon Haiyan. They feel safer than before from the dangers of landslides and assured of good water supply both for drinking and for irrigation purposes. The watch tower, fish-finder rada, the radio and communications system provided the fisherfolks association has served them not only in accosting illegal fishers but also in alarming the coastal communities specially in times of bad weather. The 8 municipalities including Maasin City has become a network for feedback and sharing of coastal and marine observations, common concerns and collective actions specially now that illegal fishers have started to catch fish from their established marine protected areas and sanctuaries.

Sources: <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/232677/news/specialreports/after-20-years-forest-crusaders-reap-rewards-for-conserving-resources>

Actual interviews and focused group discussions with Maasin farmers and fisherfolks associations

Identified issues and concerns:

- Tenure issues for the upland dwellers;;
- Restrictive policies on timber harvesting
- Lack of a clear closed-open season for the coastal and marine ecosystems of the City.



Suggested way forward:

Local initiatives to address the identified issues and concerns may be facilitated with a more frequent dialogue with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

