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# THE COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

2,000 km by the year 2,000. This is both a goal and a battlecry for the Coastal Resource Management Project, or CRMP,.

### Who We Are

CRMP is a 7-year (1996-2002) project which provides technical assistance and training to local government units and communities in coastal resource management. It is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), local government units (LGUs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academe, private sectors, and people's organizations (POs). Project management and technical support is provided by Tetra Tech EM Inc. and its team firms – Global Vision Inc. (GLOVIS); Coastal, Ocean, Reef and Island Advisors Ltd. (CORIAL); Helber, Hasters and Fee Planners; Mote Environmental Services Inc. (MESI); Oceanic Institute; Pacific Management Resources Inc. (PACMAR); Plan Pacific; University of Hawaii; Economic Development Foundation (EDF); Pacific Rim Innovation and Management Exponents Inc. (PRIMEX); and Woodward-Clyde Philippines (WWC). The Project is also working with NGO partners, including the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication Inc. (AIJC); Haribon Foundation; Institute for Small Farms and Industries Inc. (ISFI); Rtn. Martin "Ting" Matiao Foundation Inc. (TMF); and the University of San Carlos.

### CRMP's mission:

*To catalyze coastal resource management to a threshold that expands nationwide and is sustained beyond the project.*

### What We Do

In a nutshell, coastal resource management – CRM – is all about the sustainable use and management of coastal resources. In the Philippines, the most widely accepted definition is one put forward by CRM experts Alan White and Nelson Lopez in a 1991 publication:

CRM comprises those activities that achieve sustainable use and management of economically and ecologically valuable resources in the coastal areas which consider interaction among and within resource systems as well as those of humans and their environment.





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CRM is also referred to in various quarters as ‘coastal management’, ‘coastal zone management’, ‘coastal area management’, and ‘integrated coastal management.’ In more specific terms, it means planning, implementing and monitoring the sustainable use of coastal resources.

Accepted wisdom says the process must be participatory, that is, it must be consultative, multisectoral and interdisciplinary. It must consider the interconnectedness of the various ecosystems. It must encourage cooperation among individuals, among communities, among countries. It must, in other words, be rooted in the truth that we all share but one coastline and one ocean.

CRMP’s approach to CRM is both holistic and integrated, covering a diverse set of project activities designed to bring about effective management of coastal resources at both the national level and the local level. The Project is initially being implemented in six learning areas – Olango Island, Cebu; San Vicente, Palawan; Malalag Bay, Davao del Sur; Negros Oriental; Bohol; and Sarangani Province – which serve as strategic expansion nodes from which good CRM practices can be spread to other coastal areas in the country.

To support the replication and sustainability of the project, activities are directed at enhancing the capability of national and local governments and the communities themselves to develop and implement resource management processes and systems.

Community participation is therefore an inherent and integral part of CRMP. Throughout the CRM process and the life of the Project, we work with and through a wide cross-section of coastal resource users, including fisherfolk, local governments, academe, national government agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and POs.

CRMP includes the following project activity components:

- identification and development of coastal leaders development and institutionalization of community-based CRM processes and systems
- local government capacity building
- building of constituency groups and empowerment of coastal communities
- training in skills relevant to CRM implementation
- policy analysis and formulation
- public education and social mobilization
- alternative enterprise development
- continuing research on and development of community-based CRM approaches

### **Onward to 2000**

All these have one ultimate goal: the widespread and sustainable application of CRM in our coastal communities. For CRMP, the overall strategic objective is expected to be achieved by the year 2000, when 2,000 km or 11 percent of the 18,000-km coastline (mainly in Palawan, the Visayas and Mindanao) will have been brought to sustainable resource use and enhanced management, and a critical



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mass of communities and leaders involved in CRM activities and living by the CRM philosophy of sustainable resource use will have been developed. From this threshold, we expect CRM practices and systems to spread to other communities.

We are using a two-pronged approach to achieving sustainable resource use. We aim to influence policy at the national level and at the same time implement specific CRM activities and systems at the local level. By collaborating with other donor agencies involved in CRM, we are able to expand our reach in a strategic way.

The Project assists national government agencies in finding practical solutions to four key problem areas in coastal resource management: jurisdictional issues management, mangrove management, commercial fisheries management, and biodiversity conservation. At the local level, it helps communities institutionalize CRM planning and implementation.

To achieve our objective of sustainable resource management in Philippine coastal areas, CRMP is mobilizing all sectors of society, the private sector, the Church, media, NGOs, schools and the government. It is also undertaking public education and social mobilization activities to ensure that CRM is prioritized in the national social agenda.

### **CRMP Learning Areas: Strategic Nodes for Expansion of CRM**

#### *Cebu*

CRMP's primary learning area in Cebu Province is located east of Mactan on the islands of Olango, Sulpa, Nalusuan, Hilutungan, Caohagan, Camungi and Pangan-an, an area covering 1,015 hectares and a coastline of 55 km with 11 barangays and an estimated population of 22,779 people (1995). The area is a developed tourism area largely known for its sandy beaches and as a bird sanctuary. Twice a year from September to November and from February to April, 48 species of migratory birds flock to this small island, enriching the area's already rich fauna (49 resident avian species, including 7 of unconfirmed origin) and drawing tourists from around the world. But live reef fishing remains the major source of income and, like many small islands whose inhabitants are highly dependent on the sea for livelihood, Olango, as well as the smaller islands nearby, is suffering from declining fish catch resulting from overfishing and habitat destruction. People are aware of the problem and what causes it: Up to 65% of respondents in a recent survey believed the decline in fish catch would continue in the face of unabated cyanide and blast fishing. CRMP is doing the spadework designed to turn such high level of awareness into concrete actions for sound and sustainable coastal resource management.

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### *Davao del Sur*

The focus of CRMP's efforts in Davao del Sur are six municipalities – Padada, Hagonoy, Sulop, Malalag, and Sta. Maria – covering an area of 85,948 hectares with a population of 56,514 persons and a coastline stretching to 66 km. Five expansion sites have been identified – Digos, Sta. Cruz, Malita, Don Marcelino, Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani Island – covering an area of 190,499 hectares and a coastline of 191 km. Majority of the residents in these coastal areas are engaged in fishing and derive their income mainly from fishing the nearby 65-sq km Malalag Bay. Intense exploitation of marine resources has caused the degradation of the coastal environment. Malalag Bay's live corals once covered 1,020 hectares – this area has been reduced to a mere 113.4 hectares, primarily because of the prevalence of destructive fishing practices but also partly because of the runoff of chemical wastes from agriculture and fishponds. To reverse the decline of the coral ecosystem, the government has imposed, since 1992, a gradual banning of compressors as an aid to fishing. A 50-hectare fish sanctuary has been established in the area, and public awareness of coastal issues is growing.

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### *Negros Oriental*

CRMP's coverage in Negros Oriental is extensive: seven coastal municipalities and two cities, including the provincial capital, Dumaguete City, and Bais City, the industrial center about 45 km north of Dumaguete. The province is recognized as a pioneer in coastal resource management, largely as a result of work done by researchers of Silliman University, which is noted for its Marine Laboratory at Silliman Farm Beach. There are more than 20 marine sanctuaries along the coasts of Negros Oriental, including the Apo Island Marine Sanctuary, widely regarded as a model of community-based coastal resource management. Strong local government support and multi-sectoral cooperation play a crucial role in Negros Oriental's success in sustaining the coastal management programs initiated by the World Bank-assisted Central Visayas Regional Project (1984-1992), Silliman University and other groups.



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### ***Northwest Bohol***

The CRMP learning area covers five municipalities in northwestern Bohol: Buenavista, Inabanga, Clarin, Tubigon and Calape, a total area of 35,446 hectares stretching to 75.2 km of coastline with a population of 140,820 persons (1995). CRMP also assists five municipalities, Loon, Panglao, Dimiao, Candijay and Getafe, as expansion areas. Signs of over-exploitation and environmental degradation are all over the place, brought about by illegal fishing activities (particularly the use of modified Danish seine, locally known as *hulbot-hulbot*, baby trawl, sodium cyanide and dynamite), illegal fishpond construction, and the extraction of coral and white sand quarrying. Local government units have initiated efforts – mangrove reforestation (Banacan Island in Getafe has the largest man-made mangrove in Asia) and the declaration of closed seasons for blue crabs and rabbitfish (siganids), for example – to arrest the decline of fisheries. CRMP hopes to harness these local initiatives to jump-start a wider and more integrated implementation of coastal resource management. CRMP's NGO partner, Haribon Foundation, is working with local communities to set in place a process and procedures for sustainable harvesting of the sea horse, which is used primarily for medicinal purposes.

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### ***Palawan***

CRMP's work in Palawan focuses on San Vicente, 180 km from Puerto Princesa. Known to the outside world primarily for its 14-km White Beach, San Vicente is, to CRMP, a rich ground for instituting programs in coastal resource management. This municipality northwest of Puerto Princesa has four out of the 165 fishing grounds found in Palawan: Imuruan Bay, Caruray, Pagdanan and Jibbon Bay. With forest reserve areas covering 86.8% or 68,834 hectares of the total land area of nearly 80,000 hectares and a coastline extending to 120 km, majority of San Vicente's 20,000 residents depend on fishign for livelihood.





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### ***Sarangani***

The learning area covers three municipalities (Alabel, Malapatan and Glan) along the 125-km coastline of Sarangani Bay, the municipalities of Maasim, Maitum and Kiamba, and one chartered city (General Santos City), or a total of 267 km of coastline, 67 barangays and a population of nearly 200,000 persons (1995). Coastal management problems identified here are typical of fast developing coastal areas. Most coastal land areas have been converted to agriculture or fishponds, and very little of the coastal land retains natural vegetation. High fishing pressure has also been noted, and there are reports of the use of toxic substances and fine mesh nets, as well as the catching of juvenile fishes in some areas. CRMP enjoys strong local government support, which could very well spell the difference between sustainable development and further degradation of coastal resources in the area.

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