

# Chapter 4

## ***SOCIOPOLITICAL SETTING***

### POLITICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES



Sarangani Province is bounded on the north by the Province of South Cotabato, on the east by Davao del Sur, on the south by the Celebes Sea, and on the west by Sultan Kudarat. The 6 municipalities of Sarangani Province are politically and physically divided into 2 clusters with 3 municipalities in each cluster. The cluster on the eastern side is composed of Alabel, Malapatan, and Glan while the cluster on the western side is composed of Maasim, Kiamba, and Maitum. Dividing the 2 clusters are the GSC on land and Sarangani Bay on water (see Figure 1.1).

The number of coastal *barangays* in the municipalities of Sarangani is shown in Figure 4.1. Glan and Kiamba have the highest number of coastal *barangays*, while Alabel has the least. There are 67 coastal *barangays* in total.

The municipality, city, and its coastal *barangays* are shown in Figures 4.2 to 4.8. A strip of area at the border of Malapatan and Davao del Sur is a disputed land. However, the PPDO does not mention the total area involved in the dispute.

### DEMOGRAPHY

The demographic data presented in this section are taken from the results of the 1990 and 1995 census conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the municipal Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP) data of 1993.

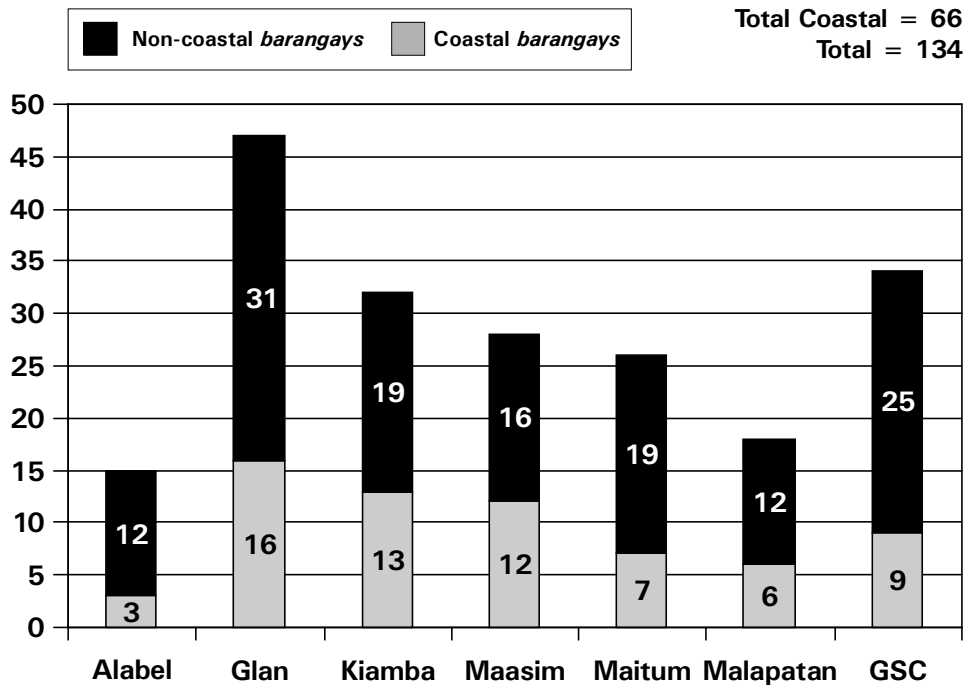


Figure 4.1. Number of coastal and total *barangays* in the profile area.

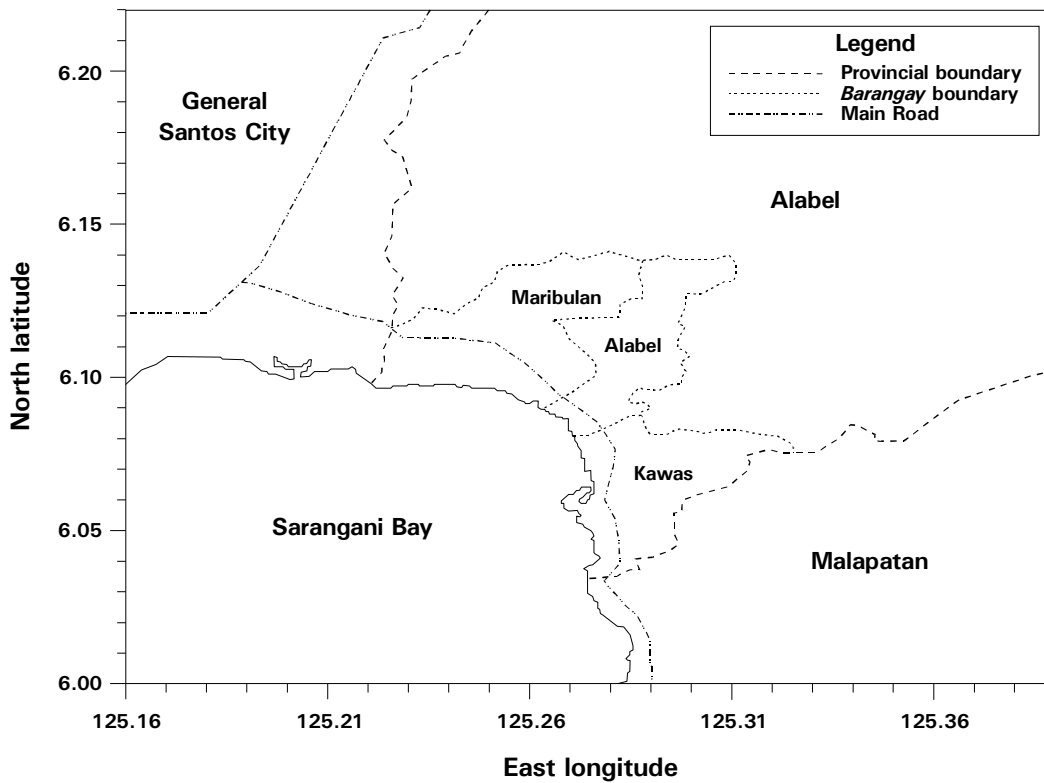


Figure 4.2. Alabel coastal *barangays*.

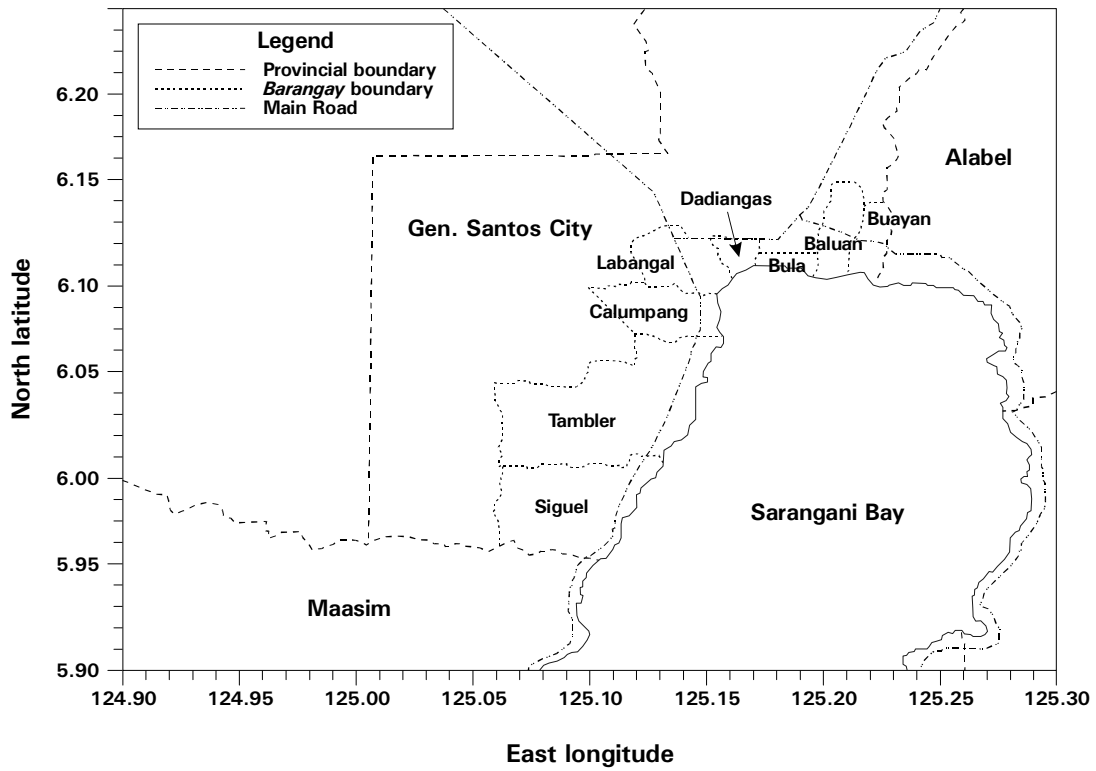


Figure 4.3. GSC coastal *barangays*.

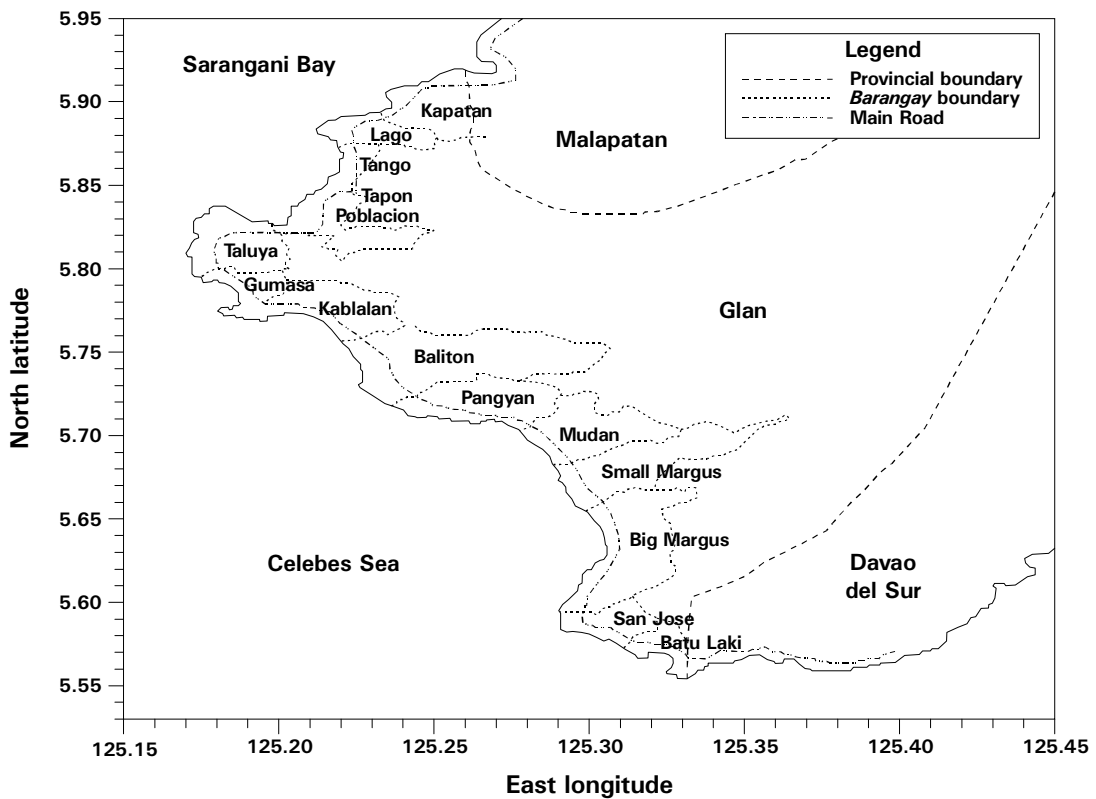


Figure 4.4. Glan coastal *barangays*.

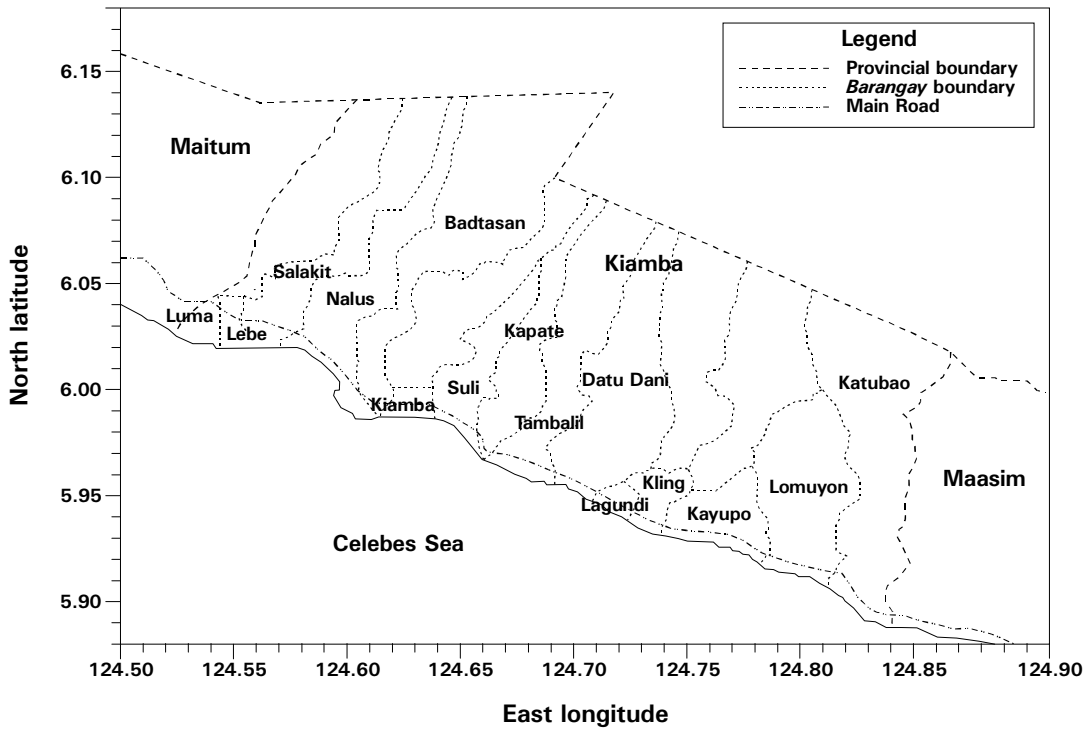


Figure 4.5. Kiamba coastal *barangays*.

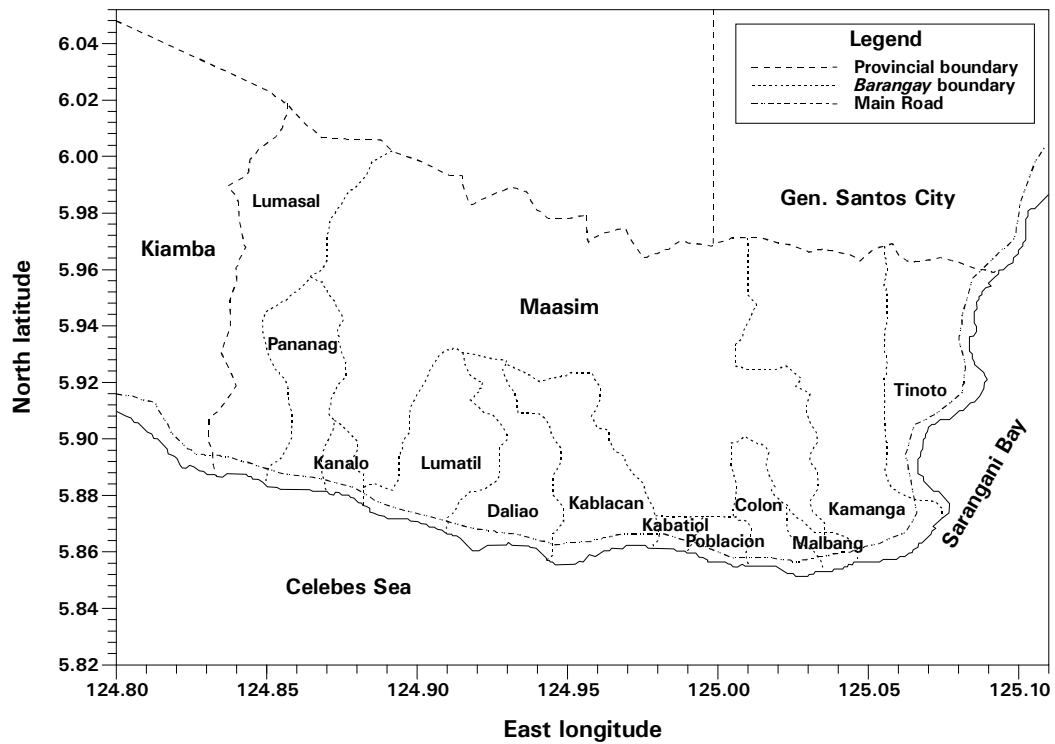


Figure 4.6. Maasim coastal *barangays*.

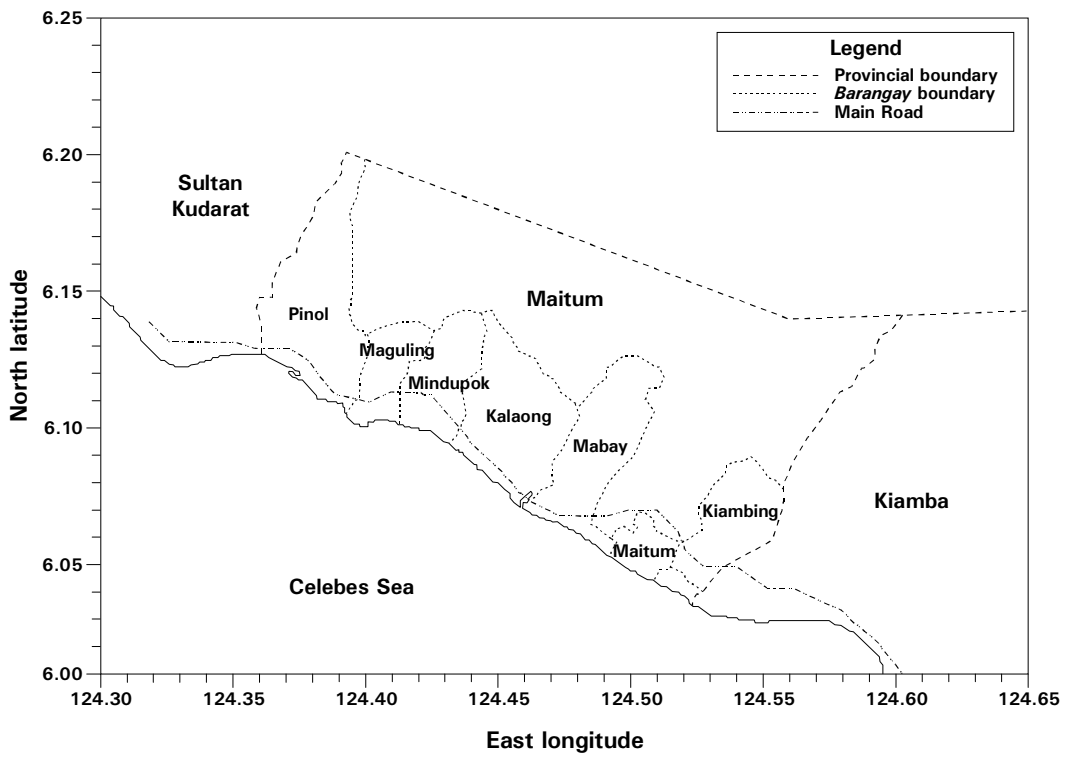


Figure 4.7. Maitum coastal *barangays*.

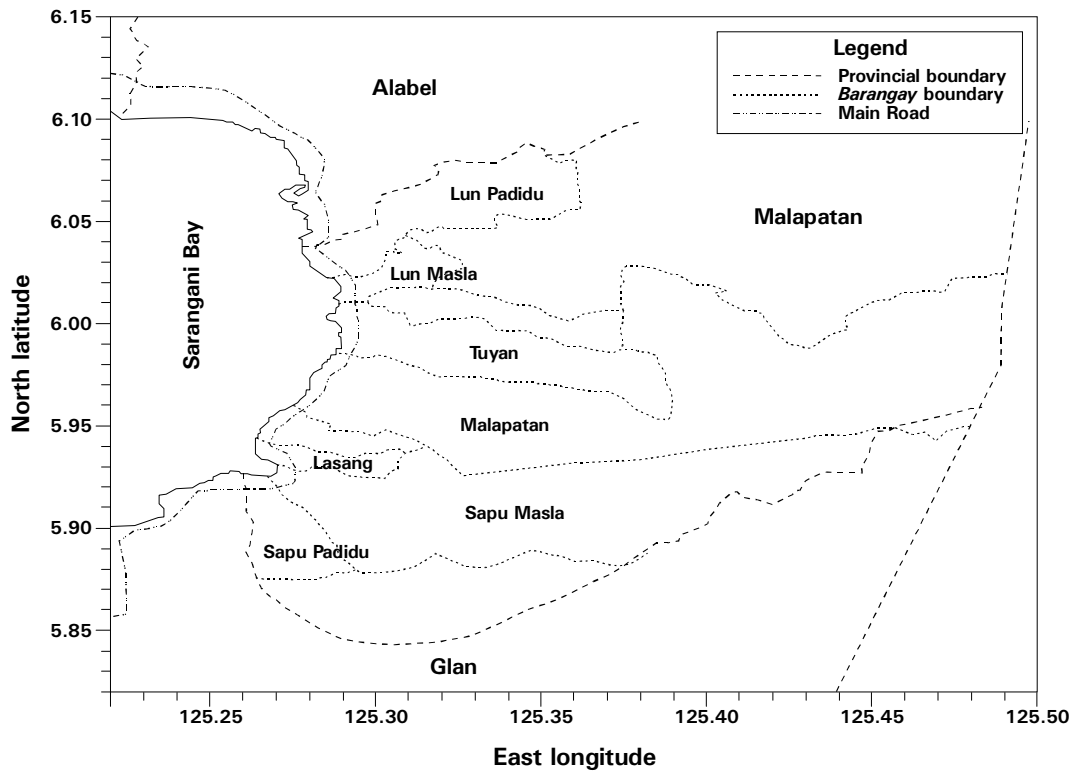


Figure 4.8. Malapatan coastal *barangays*.

### Population Size, Density, and Growth Rate

The 1995 total population of the 6 municipalities and 1 city in the profile area is 603,741. Of this, 69 percent live in coastal *barangays*. This is up by more than 10 percent from the 1990 data (Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1. Population size, density, and growth rate of the coastal municipalities of Sarangani Province and GSC, 1990 and 1995.**

Municipality/ City	Population		Annual growth rate (percent)		Population density (persons/km <sup>2</sup> )	
	1990	1995	1980-90	1990-95	1990	1995
Alabel	40,730	46,527	4.74	2.53	75	86
Glan	60,375	73,768	2.14	3.83	87	106
Kiamba	35,386	39,717	2.21	2.17	85	95
Maasim	26,725	31,641	1.55	3.21	37	43
Maitum	25,619	35,009	0.30	6.96	79	108
Malapatan	36,230	47,911	1.92	5.37	48	63
GSC	249,678	327,173	5.26	5.55	466	674
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>474,743</b>	<b>601,746</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>4.23</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>168</b>

Source: NSO (1992)

The growth rates exhibited by Malapatan, Maitum, and GSC are way over the national growth rate for the same period, which is 2.32 percent. This is primarily due to the rapid growth and urbanization occurring in GSC, which is attracting a lot of in-migration. Sarangani is also the fastest growing province in Region XI with an annual growth rate of 4.98 percent, while GSC has the highest annual population growth rate in the region.

The growth rate in Alabel seems to have decreased by 2.21 percent compared to the previous decade.

Population density is below the national figure of 228 persons/km<sup>2</sup>, except for GSC. However, if one takes into account the coastal *barangays* only, one will note a general increase in population density, with Alabel, Glan, and GSC going over the national figure. This suggests that more people tend to live in the coastal areas.

Based on Tables 4.1 and 4.2, one can see that the population is highly concentrated in the coastal *barangays*.

### Households

Table 4.3 compares household size and number from the 1990 and 1995 census. The table shows that household size is decreasing. However, in line with the population increase, the number of households has also increased. While population has increased by 20 percent, households have increased by 25 percent. This is consistent with national figures, which show a trend of decreasing household size. In 1980, the average

**Table 4.2. Population size and density of coastal *barangays* per municipality of Sarangani Province and GSC.**

Municipality/ City	Total population of coastal <i>barangays</i>		Population density of coastal <i>barangay</i> (persons/km <sup>2</sup> )	
	1990	1995	1980-90	1990-95
Alabel	18,226	20,087	433	477
Glan	39,398	45,810	179	275
Kiamba	30,222	32,217	115	123
Maasim	22,516	26,752	60	71
Maitum	11,997	12,899	179	193
Malapatan	23,180	30,747	50	66
GSC	101,183	150,090	985	994
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>246,722</b>	<b>318,602</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>314</b>

*Data from NSO (1996) and the Provincial Planning and Development Office 1994*

**Table 4.3. Household size and number of households per municipality/city.**

Municipality/ City	Household size		No. of households	
	1990	1995	1990	1995
Alabel	5.4	5.0	7,564	9,384
Glan	5.4	4.9	11,197	13,919
Kiamba	5.4	5.3	6,616	8,019
Maasim	5.3	4.9	4,812	6,076
Maitum	5.6	5.2	5,134	6,691
Malapatan	5.0	5.2	6,554	9,177
GSC	5.4	5.0	46,144	65,509
<b>Average/Total</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>88,021</b>	<b>118,775</b>

household size in the Philippines was 5.6. In 1990, it became 5.3 and in 1995, the figure was 5.1.

#### **Age and Gender Composition**

The population across age groups is gradually decreasing (Figure 4.9). This is an indication that there has been no epidemic or catastrophic event in the area for the past decades. The population shows a normal age distribution where the

younger population dominates. In the entire area, 72 percent of the population is below 30 years old, indicative of a very young community.

In Sarangani Province, the population of the productive age group (15 to 64 years old) accounts for 39.5 percent of the population, while in GSC, it accounts for 54.1 percent. The dependency ratio for Sarangani is 84.9 percent, while that of GSC is lower at 70.6 percent. The productive population for the whole area accounts for 56.79 percent, which is higher than the national average of 42 percent. This validates the fact that the area is indeed a center for economic growth. The 65+ group for the profile area city/municipalities accounts for only 2.14 percent of the total population, which is lower than the national average of 3.4 percent (Table 4.4).

The male to female sex ratio for the entire area is almost even with the number of males slightly higher than the number of females. The Sarangani figures are also slightly higher than the national figures (101 males to 100 females). There are 107 males for every 100 females in Sarangani. Even in GSC, the figures are still slightly above the average at 102 males for every 100 females.

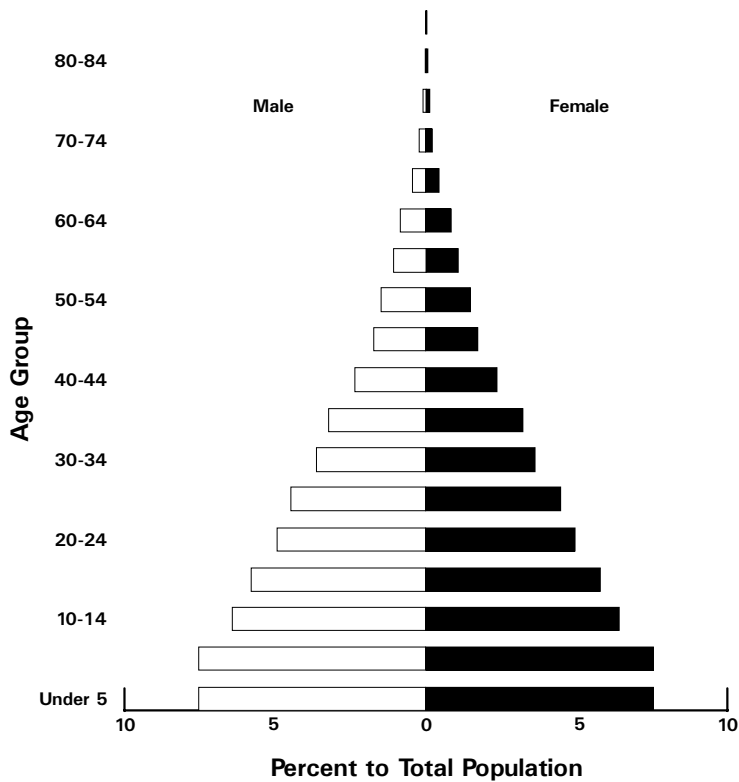


Figure 4.9. Age-sex population pyramid, Sarangani, 1995.

### Urban and Rural Population Distribution

There are no urban and rural population distribution data in the 1995 census. The 1980 and 1990 censuses were used instead (Table 4.5). From the data, most of the population in Sarangani Province live in rural areas and only Malapatan has greater than half of its population living in urban areas. As expected, most of GSC's population (98 percent) live in urban areas.

### Education

Forty percent of the population 5 years old and over attended or completed elementary education in GSC. Sarangani has a much higher figure of 56 percent. However, in Sarangani, a much higher percentage

Table 4.4. Age group breakdown per municipality/city, 1995.

Municipality/ City	Age group						Total	
	0 to 14 years		15 to 64 years		65 years and above		Total Population	% Total
	Population	% Total	Population	% Total	Population	% Total		
Alabel	20,046	43.1	25,385	54.6	1,096	2.4	46,527	100
Glan	32,246	43.7	39,819	54.0	1,703	2.3	73,768	100
Kiamba	16,780	42.2	21,659	54.5	1,278	3.2	39,717	100
Maasim	13,903	43.9	17,022	53.8	716	2.3	31,641	100
Maitum	14,374	41.0	19,704	56.38	931	2.6	35,009	100
Malapatan	20,748	43.1	26,292	54.9	871	1.8	47,911	100
GSC	129,086	39.4	191,833	58.6	6,254	2.0	327,173	100
<b>Total per age group</b>	<b>247,183</b>		<b>341,714</b>		<b>12,849</b>		<b>601,746</b>	
<b>% of Total per age group</b>		<b>41.1</b>		<b>56.8</b>		<b>2.1</b>		<b>100</b>

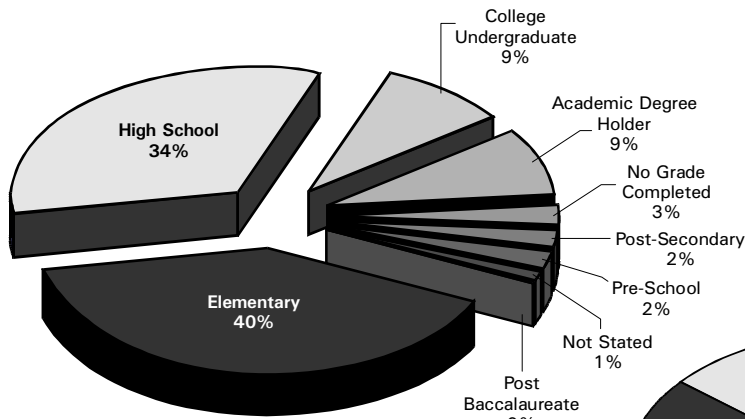
of population has no grade completed (12.6 percent), while GSC only has 2.5 percent. Those who reached or completed high school in GSC comprise 33.7 percent of the population (5 years and over), while in Sarangani it is 20.8 percent. Academic degree holders are 6.5 percent of the population in GSC and 2.1 percent in Sarangani Province. Only a very small percentage of the population has any post-baccalaureate degree (0.1 percent for Sarangani and 0.2 percent for GSC). The complete breakdown is shown in Figure 4.10.



Table 4.5. Urban and rural population breakdown, 1980 and 1990.

Municipality/ City	Urban population		Rural population		Average growth rate	
	1980	1990	1980	1990	Urban	Rural
Alabel	8,181	11,457	17,439	29,273	3.43	5.32
Glan	7,215	14,696	41,667	45,679	7.37	0.92
Kiamba	5,432	12,464	23,035	22,922	8.66	-0.05
Maasim	3,529	8,714	19,386	18,011	9.46	-0.73
Maitum	2,461	7,900	22,835	17,719	12.37	-2.51
Malapatan	8,240	18,483	21,725	17,747	8.41	-2.00
GSC	94,176	243,702	55,222	5,976	9.97	-19.94
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>129,234</b>	<b>317,416</b>	<b>201,309</b>	<b>157,327</b>	<b>8.52</b>	<b>-2.71</b>

**General Santos: 1995**



**Sarangani: 1995**

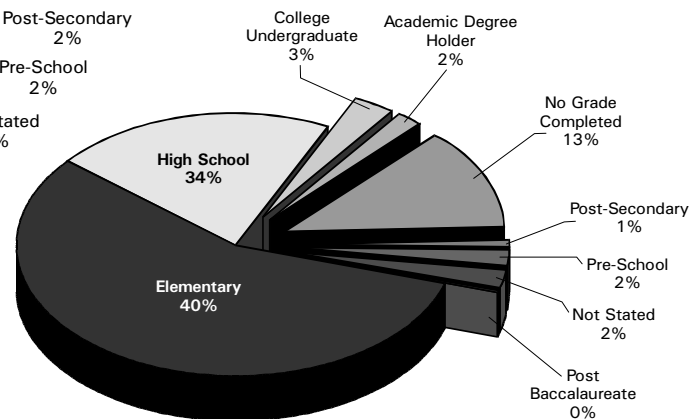


Figure 4.10. Highest education completed for GSC and Sarangani.

Source: NSO (1996, 1997a, 1997b)

The literacy rate for Sarangani is 85.7 percent. GSC has an urban literacy rate of 96.3 percent and a rural literacy rate of 78.1 percent. The national literacy rate is 89 percent.

Sarangani Province has 180 elementary/primary schools, 17 secondary schools, and 2 vocational schools. There is also 1 university that offers various courses. In addition to these, Sarangani has 95 non-formal adult education classes.

GSC has 24 private pre-schools, 54 public schools, and 23 private elementary schools. There are also 16 public/state secondary schools, 6 private secondary schools, 5 colleges, and 14 technical and vocational schools.

### Labor and Employment

The NSO data on labor and employment take into consideration the portion of the population 15 years old and over. In Sarangani, it comprises more than 55 percent of the total population, while in GSC it is 58 percent. In GSC and Sarangani, the most common trade skill involves driving and mobile machinery operations. The least common trade involves plant and related operations (Figures 4.11 and 4.12).

However, based on a limited survey by LBII, the coastal households are dependent on fisheries for employment. More than a third of the livelihood in coastal *barangays* are dependent on fisheries-related activities. Table 4.6 shows the result of the LBII survey in 1994.

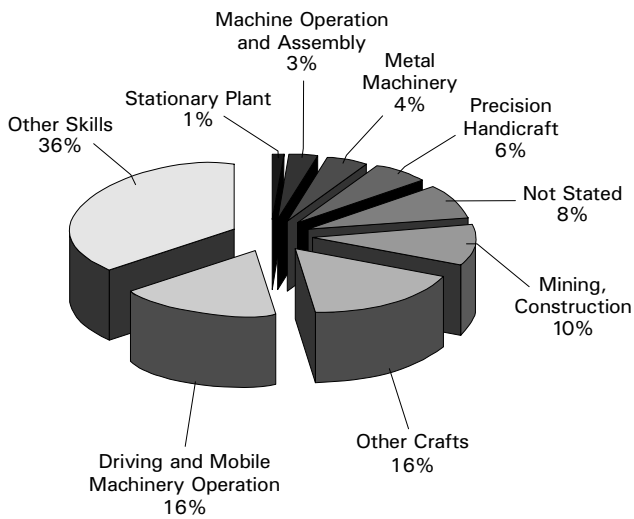


Figure 4.11. Household population 15 years old and over by trade skill, Sarangani, 1995.

Source: NSO (1996, 1997a, 1997b)

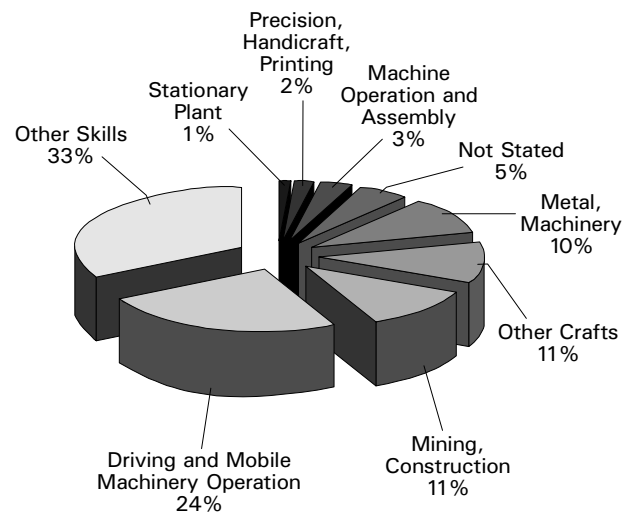


Figure 4.12. Household population 15 years old and over by trade skill, GSC, 1995.

Source: NSO (1996, 1997a, 1997b)

Table 4.6. Distribution of occupation in coastal *barangays*.

Occupation	Distribution (percent)
Municipal fishing	26
Commercial fishing	26
Fish vending	23
Other fishery-related occupations (boatmaking, boat rental, <i>bangus</i> fry gathering, and others)	17
Farming/store owner	8

Source: LBII (1993)

Usually, the male members of the household fish while the women sell the catch and tend to be active in fishery associations. Farming or running convenience stores supplement the income derived from fisheries.

In GSC, the majority of the labor force is engaged in services (35.3 percent). Fishing comprises 19.9

percent. In Sarangani Province, agriculture accounts for 70.2 percent. Agriculture also covers the hunting and forestry sector. The fishing sector accounts for 8.2 percent.

In Sarangani Province, the employment rate is 94.7 percent and it has a labor for participation rate of 83.4 percent. Unemployment in the province is 5.3 percent, and visible underemployment is at 16.5 percent. In GSC, the employment rate is 89.4 percent. The national employment rate is 91.3 percent; unemployment rate is 8.7 percent; and underemployment rate is 23.1 percent.

### Religious and Ethnic Groups

There are 29 different religious groups in Sarangani and GSC based on the 1990 census. For the province, the most common is the Roman Catholic (63 percent of the population). Other religious groups are Islam (9 percent), Protestant (6 percent), United Church of Christ in the Philippines (6 percent), Alliance of Bible Church Community (3 percent), and Iglesia ni Kristo (2 percent) (Figure 4.13).

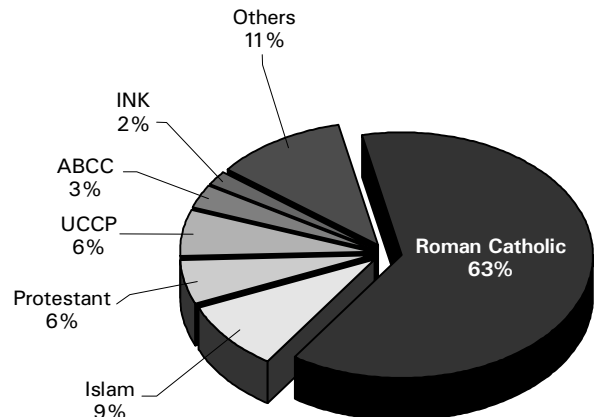


Figure 4.13. Composition of religious groups in Sarangani Province.

In terms of ethnic delineation, there are 5 major groups for the province. These are the Cebuano and Waray (from Cebu, Leyte, Bohol, Negros Oriental, and others), Hiligaynon (from Negros Occidental, Romblon, Antique, Iloilo, Aklan, and Capiz), cultural minorities (such as B'laan, Manobo, T'boli, Tagacaolo, and Dabaweno), Muslim group and tribe (Maguindanao, Maranao, Kalagan, Tausug, Badjao, Sangil, and others), and the Luzon group (Tagalog, Ilocano, Pampangueño, and others). The most numerous group is the Cebuano and Waray (52 percent) followed by the cultural minorities (21 percent), Hiligaynon (9 percent), Muslim group (8 percent), and Luzon group (7 percent).

### Dialects

Ninety-four local dialects and 4 foreign languages are being spoken in the entire Sarangani Province. The foreign languages are Chinese, English, German, and Indonesian. English is widely spoken and taught in school. The Indonesian language also has considerable influence. The speakers of this language are concentrated in the municipalities of Glan and Maasim. The Indonesian-speaking people are actually foreigners, many of whom are fishers. However, the legality of their stay in the Philippines has not been ascertained.

For the local dialects, the most spoken is Cebuano (55 percent of the provincial population). Other dialects with large users are Hiligaynon (11 percent), Badjao (10 percent), Maguindanao (5 percent), Ilocano (4 percent), T'boli (3 percent), and Tagalog (3 percent). However, at the municipal level, the distribution is different. Although Cebuano is the major dialect, some dialects also dominate such as Ilocano and T'boli in Kiamba and Maitum. T'boli is also spoken by many people in Maasim. Figure 4.14 shows the distribution of spoken dialects.

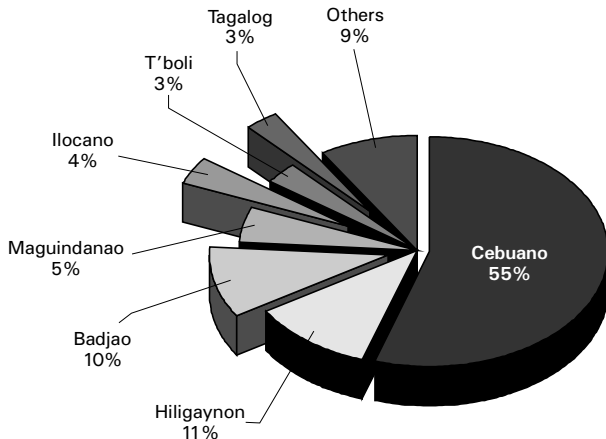


Figure 4.14. Dialects spoken in Sarangani Province.

## HEALTH, SANITATION, AND MEDICAL CARE

There are 4 primary (10-bed capacity) and 1 secondary (25-bed capacity) hospitals in Sarangani Province. The district hospital is located in Kiamba. Only the municipalities of Alabel and Malapatan do not have primary hospitals. However, all municipalities have rural health centers. There is also a medicare hospital located in Glan with a 15-bed capacity.

The entire province has 14 medical doctors, about 32 nurses, 93 midwives, 5

pharmacists, 7 medical technologists, 10 sanitary inspectors, 2 nutritionists, 8 dentists, 2 X-ray technicians, and 629 *barangay* health workers. Most of them are in secondary hospitals and in private clinics. Medical doctors visit rural health centers on a sporadic basis. However, a nurse or a midwife stays at these centers during regular working days.

In GSC, there are 4 tertiary, 1 secondary, and 2 primary hospitals equipped with modern health facilities and medical personnel. Each tertiary hospital has at least a 100-bed capacity while the primary hospitals complementing them have at least a 10-bed capacity. There are also 62 clinics in the area.

## SETTLEMENTS

Houses in the coastal areas of the province can be classified as made from light materials, semi-permanent, or permanent (concrete) residences. Majority of the houses are made of light materials (83 percent) and only 4 percent are permanent. In terms of ownership, 90 percent own their house. In terms of lot ownership, only 32 percent own lots (Table 4.7). The problem of land tenure and squatting in coastal areas will become more of an issue as increasing land development takes place.

In the survey conducted by LBII, majority (45 percent) of coastal dwellers live in wooden/mixed houses. Thirty-three percent live in huts made of light materials like *nipa* and bamboo, while the remainder live in makeshift houses.

## ROADS, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION, AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE OR SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Sarangani Province's 2,691.4-km road network consists of 270.97-km national road, 454.5-km provincial road, 162.44-km municipal road, and the rest are *barangay* roads. GSC, on the other hand, has a 434.118-km road network. Thirteen percent of this are national roads, while 43 percent are city roads.

**Table 4.7. Percentage composition of house types and ownership in some areas in the coastal municipalities of Sarangani Province.**

House type and ownership	Linao Point	Tinoto, Maasim	Kawas Point, Alabel	Lun Padidu	Suli	Lago Point	Gumasa	Total
No. of respondents	16	54	23	40	44	40	35	252
<b>House type</b>								
Light materials	94	78	78	63	91	90	97	84
Semi-permanent	6	15	22	23	9	10	0	12
Permanent	0	7	0	15	0	0	3	4
<b>House ownership</b>								
House owned	56	98	100	97	84	77	100	87
House owned by relative	38	2	0	3	13	23	0	11
<b>Land ownership</b>								
Lot owned	36	40	33	28	17	30	39	32
Lot owned by relative	64	60	67	72	83	70	61	68

Source: *SUML (1997)*

The road network includes an all-weather 178-km road network connecting 10 major municipalities to GSC (Figure 4.15). This network was completed in 1994 at a cost of US\$63.3 million. This project has significantly reduced travel time, fares, and hauling costs in the area.

In Sarangani, Land Transportation Office records show a total of 3,180 registered motor vehicles. Of these, 1,184 are cars/jeeps, 1,499 are motorcycles, and 497 are trucks, buses, and trailers. GSC, on the other hand, has 19,610 registered motor vehicles. Of these, 6,566 are cars and jeeps, 11,593 are motorcycles, and 1,451 are buses and trailers. GSC has a larger vehicle count since most vehicle owners in Sarangani register in GSC. At least 5 major taxi and rent-a-car companies operate in the city.

The Department of Public Works and Highways reported in 1993 that Sarangani Province has a total of 43 bridges with a total length of 2,117.81 m. This includes permanent and temporary bridges, concrete, bailey, timber, and RCIB bridges.

Sea transport including cargo loading and passenger traffic in the area is through Makar Wharf. Four major shipping lines (William Lines, Inc., W&GA Company, Sulpicio Lines, and Negros Navigation) ply the Manila-GSC Route with varying stopovers. Travel time ranges from 35 to 56 hours.



**Figure 4.15. Part of the 178-km road network connecting GSC to the 10 major municipalities.**

To support Makar Wharf, secondary ports will be developed in Alabel and Glan. This is supposed to handle short-haul domestic inter-island shipping. A port in Glan already exists, but it needs to be completed including yard expansion and pier widening. There is also a small port in Kiamba, but this only caters to fish landing and farm produce.

The GSC International Standard Airport serves as a jump-off point to both the city and Sarangani. The airport costs US\$50 million and includes a 3,200-m runway, 2 taxiways, 1 apron, a terminal building, flight and emergency service stations, hangar and fueling station, cargo handling equipment, and cold storage.

The airport can be reached via a 1.5-hour flight from Manila. There are also direct flights to the city from Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga, and Cotabato. In 1997, the Air Transportation Office reported that passenger traffic through the airport stood at 142,537 while cargo was at 3,587,105 mt.

GSC has modern telecommunication facilities that include international direct dialing (IDD) and national direct dialing (NDD) telephone service, public call offices, and telegram systems. These include such companies as Pilipino Telephone Corporation (PiITel), Philippine Telegraphic and Telecommunications Company (PT&T), and RCPI. Facsimile services, cellular telephones (Smart, Mobiline, Globe-Telecom), pager systems (Easycall, Pocketbell, Mobiline), VHF radio systems, and Internet service providers (ISPs) are available. In 1996, PiITel installed 8,606 residential lines and 3,534 business lines. Sixty pay phone stations were also installed along with 32 business trunk lines.

In Sarangani, only Alabel, Malapatan, and Glan have PT&T public calling offices. PiITel has begun installing telephone lines in Sarangani under the Executive Order 109 program. The program involves the installation of 1,280 lines in Alabel, 3,200 in Glan, 640 in Maasim, 640 in Maitum, and 640 in Kiamba at a cost of US\$16.2 million.

Aside from the ports previously mentioned, there is a fish port complex located in Tambler, GSC. The fish port complex costs US\$33.3 million and includes 748 m of landing/preparation area; 383 m of wharf; preparation facilities which include cold storage, brine freezer, air blast; and contact freezer with 1,500-t capacity and a 60-t per day ice plant. It also includes more than 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> of market halls, fishing gear maintenance sheds, fish container storage yard, maintenance sheds, power and water utilities system, roads and parking areas, drainage and wastewater treatment plants, and fuel supply facilities.

National and regional dailies and weeklies are available in the profile area. There are 9 regional weeklies based in GSC. Broadcast media services in the area are extensive

and quite modern. There are 2 television stations and a 24-channel cable TV network. There are also 10 AM and 7 FM radio stations serving the area.

### SUMMARY

The Sarangani Bay Coastal Area is rapidly developing with a sound foundation of sociopolitical information and monitoring. Key trends include:

- There are 66 coastal *barangays* out of a total of 134
- Population density in coastal *barangays* is high (above the national average for all *barangays*) and increasing
- Average family size is less than 5.1, down from 5.3 in 1990
- Literacy rate is about 90 percent but few graduate from college
- Employment rates are above the national average
- Infrastructure of roads, ports, electricity, and phones is well developed and modern
- Politically, Sarangani is only marginally affected by the problems in western Mindanao

