

COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE
OF
NEGROS ORIENTAL, PHILIPPINES

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Coastal Environmental Profile of Negros Oriental, Philippines

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ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS

AFMA	Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
CAB	Central Azucarera de Bais
CBFMA	Community-Based Forest Management Agreement
CEMRINO	Centre for the Establishment of Marine Reserves in Negros Oriental
CENRO	Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
COE-CRM	Center of Excellence in Coastal Resource Management
CPDO	City Planning and Development Office
CPUE	catch per unit effort
CRM	coastal resource management
CRMP	Coastal Resource Management Project
DA	Department of Agriculture
DECS	Department of Education, Culture and Sports
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DND	Department of National Defense
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DOTC	Department of Transport and Communications
ENRMD	Environment and Natural Resources Management Division
ERMP	Environmental Resource Management Project
FARMC	Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
ha	hectare
ICM	integrated coastal management
IEMP	Industrial and Environmental Management Project
IPUE	income per unit effort
km	kilometer
LEAP	Legal Environmental Advocacy Programme
LGC	Local Government Code
LGU	local government unit
MARINA	Maritime Industry Development Authority
MPDO	Municipal Planning Development Office
MPN	most probable number
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGA	National government agency
NGO	nongovernment organization
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NPC	National Power Corporation
NSO	National Statistics Office
PAO	Provincial Agriculturist's Office
PCAMRD	Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development
PCG	Philippine Coast Guard

PCRA	participatory coastal resource assessment
PCRMC	Provincial Coastal Resource Management Council
PDC	Provincial Development Council
PDIP	Provincial Development and Investment Plan
PENRO	Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
PNP	Philippine National Police
PNP-MARICOM	Philippine Maritime Command
PPA	Philippine Ports Authority
PPDO	Provincial Planning Development Office
PSSD	Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development
RA	Republic Act
RDC	Regional Development Council
SEP	Strategic Environmental Plan
SP	<i>Sangguniang Panlalawigan</i>
SUML	Silliman University Marine Laboratory
TMF	Ting Matiao Foundation
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
URSUMCO	Universal Robina Sugar Milling Company
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

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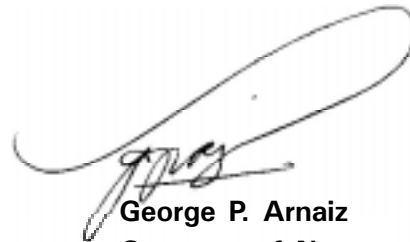
FOREWORD from the GOVERNOR

The promotion of ecologically sustainable development is an essential component of the Provincial Government's overall development thrust. In fact, in 1995, Negros Oriental received the "*Galing Pook*" award for excellence in innovation on local governance with regard to community-based resource management. Basically, a coastal province (only 3 out of 25 LGUs do not have coastlines), majority of the province's 1 million inhabitants feed on fish and other marine products daily. This is one of the reasons why coastal resource management (CRM) is high on its development agenda.

The Province is fortunate to be 1 of the 6 learning areas in the Philippines for the Coastal Resource Management Project (CRMP) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Through CRMP's technical and training assistance, the province now has a growing number of people who are well-trained in CRM. Most of our coastal municipalities and cities have also adopted the best CRM practices. Some of them have allocated in their annual budgets sizeable amounts to advance CRM activities. A leading example is the Municipality of Sibulan which is 1 of 6 winners of this year's National Search for the Best Coastal Management Programs of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines.

I congratulate CRMP-Philippines for coming up with this *Coastal Environmental Profile of Negros Oriental*, the first of its kind in the province. As a source of information, this publication will certainly be of great help to researchers, planners, policy and decision-makers at all levels in formulating policies and programs to improve CRM. This profile also serves to strengthen our capacity to enhance coastal management efforts in the province and elsewhere. Our gratitude to CRMP for this initiative.

It is my hope that the users of this profile will collectively work for the sustainable management of our coastal resources for the economic and environmental well-being of our province.



George P. Arnaiz
Governor of Negros Oriental

PREFACE

Negros Oriental is distinguished by its long history of implementation of coastal management activities and projects. Management of the Negros coastal resources starting in the late 1970s has focused on the prevention and eradication of illegal and destructive fishing activities; the protection of coral reefs and seagrass beds through marine sanctuaries; the minimization of waste disposal into marine waters; and some restoration of mangrove and reef habitats. These forward looking projects have helped minimize losses from coastal habitat degradation and even attracted more support for such efforts.

The Coastal Resource Management Project for precisely this reason selected Negros as 1 of its 6 "learning areas". The keen intent of the local governments to improve their capability in managing coastal resources was an important factor. Now the Negros experience in coastal management is advancing again and becoming one of the first such profiles upon which to base more carefully designed management plans. Indeed, in some ways the real implementation phase for Negros is only beginning.

This environmental profile provides an accessible body of information to guide coastal planning and management in the years to come. New data will come from monitoring the status of the Negros coasts but these new data will only have meaning in relation to a baseline which is summarized herein. The profile also provides many recommended policies for plans to be made at the municipal and provincial levels. It is hoped that Negros Oriental will continue to lead the way in protecting its coasts and that this profile will assist to refine the process.

The benefits derived from coastal resources in the Philippines and Negros Oriental cannot easily be measured, but if they are lost, many people will suffer and the loss will not be easily replaced. This profile is one important step closer to achieving integrated coastal management in Negros Oriental -- let us use it wisely.

