



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
Alibagu, City of Ilagan

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

**ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF
MANGROVE FOREST REHABILITATION PROJECT
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION/ADAPTATION
AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT MEASURES
AT BARANGAY REINA MERCEDES, MACONACON, ISABELA**

Mangrove forests or the “rainforest of the sea” is an assemblage of tropical trees and shrubs that grow in the intertidal zone. This type of forests are very important in the coastal ecosystem as it provide economic and ecological benefits such as nursery ground, food and shelter for marine fisheries, other crustaceans and other fauna that support fisheries production and aquaculture. Mangroves act as carbon sink by reducing organic pollution along shore areas; stabilize the coastlines by reducing erosion and protect coastal communities from storm surges, tidal waves and currents brought by typhoons and other climate-related phenomena.

The Province of Isabela is home to vast mangrove forests located in its coastal areas particularly in the Municipalities of Divilacan, Palanan and Maconacon. Facing the mighty Pacific Ocean, these municipalities are considered high risk to hazards brought by natural phenomena such as typhoons, tidal waves and storm surges. Thus, the presence of these mangrove forests serve as the natural first line of defense from the rage of said natural hazards. The Provincial Government of Isabela is actively implementing various projects and programs for coastal resource development supporting Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (DRRM/CCMA) measures.

For the past year, the Provincial Government has implemented under the Coastal Resources Management Program activities the rehabilitation of 4-hectare mangrove forests at Barangays Dimasalansan and Dipudo, Divilacan. And in order to sustain this initiative, this Office identified Municipality of Maconacon as recipient of Mangrove Forest Rehabilitation project for this year of 2019.

In coordination with the LGU thru their Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, an aggregate area of two (2) hectares mangrove forests at Barangay Reina Mercedes was identified for rehabilitation and has an approved total cost of Php177,100.00. With the aim to involve and provide additional livelihood in the project area, the seedling requirements was bought from the only seedling producer in the locality and the conduct of activities on site preparation, maintenance and protection was also awarded to them thru job order contract (pakyaw).



Photos of the seedlings of Bakauan sps. planted at the 2-hectare Mangrove Forest Rehabilitation Project.

The site preparation and tree planting was held on June 4 - 7, 2019. As contracted, the activities were done by the group of Mr. Gerry B. Balmes with the supervision of the MPDC Office of Maconacon. A total of 5,000 seedlings of *Bakauan* species were planted with a spacing of 2 meters by 2 meters.



Some photos during the site preparation: preparation of stakes, staking, hole-digging, hauling of seedlings and actual tree planting activities.





Last July 25, 2019, personnel of this Office conducted inspection to monitor the implemented project and ensure maintenance and protection activities are regularly executed. Upon courtesy call, we were joined by Mr. Eric Colobong, staff of the MPDC Maconacon, as we proceeded to the Mangrove Rehabilitation Project plantation at Barangay Reina Mercedes. The contracted job laborers led by Mr. Gerry Balmes assisted the group showing the planted areas. However during the time of inspection, the plantation was not fully observed due to high tide and the areas planted were in patches since the rehabilitated parts were those damaged by previous typhoons. Nevertheless, the areas were shown to us as we went inside the mangrove by boat. We were also able to inspect the seedlings being prepared and nursed for replanting.



Since the areas planted were in patches and due to high tide, the plantation was no fully observed.



Seedlings of various *bakauan* sps. to be used for replanting as part of maintenance activities.

As agreed, the LGU has committed to continue their monitoring and ensure that the laborers sustain their maintenance and protection activities particularly removal of unwanted debris brought by water current and replanting. Photos of project area development shall be submitted to this office for documentation.

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