

Project Update: July 2007

I did a scoping study of community groups doing mangrove conservation and rehabilitation work through a survey among government agencies, NGOs and fisher folk organizations, in the first 8 months. It was difficult getting the questionnaires to the community groups and back from them.

The data from this initial study helped in designing the local workshops and identifying participants. I prioritized locally-initiated community groups and those to whom NGO-partners had already turned over the management of community mangrove projects.

I facilitated three local area workshops and a national workshop. The workshops focused on community experiences and learning on 9 themes:

- Mangrove reforestation and management approaches and techniques,
- Participatory assessment and monitoring systems,
- Community management structure and organisation,
- Public education, awareness-building, capacity-building,
- Multi-stakeholder cooperation,
- Participation of women and youth,
- Tenurial instruments
- Mangrove laws/ policy and law enforcement, and
- Mangrove-friendly livelihoods

The first local area workshop was for Western Luzon, conducted on Sep 19-20, 2006 in Iba, Zambales. There were 18 participants (10 males, 8 females) from 8 community groups and 1 local government agency.

The second local area workshop was for Mindanao, conducted on October 9-10, 2006 in Davao City. There were 9 participants (5 males, 4 females) from 8 community groups and 1 local government agency.

The third local area workshop was for Central Philippines, conducted on October 12-13, 2006 in Cebu City. There were 11 participants (8 males and 3 females) from 9 community groups.

After consolidating and synthesizing the results of the local area workshops, I conducted the national workshop on March 8-9, 2007 in Quezon City, in Metro Manila. There were 23 participants (14 males and 9 females) from 19 community groups and local government agencies and 3 local government agencies.

The project also resulted in the formation of a national network of community-based mangrove conservation and management groups called the Philippine Alliance of Mangrove Protectors (PAMP). The group is currently advocating for the government to declare the month of November as Mangrove Conservation Month, as well as for support for community-based mangrove conservation and management in terms of issuance of tenurial instruments to the community groups and provision of technical and logistical support.

PAMP has been invited to present the workshop outputs in a national consultation on mangrove policies.

I had also presented part of the project output in the International Symposium on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Arendal, Norway last June 11-14, 2007.

I am now preparing the project documentation for publication, both in English and Pilipino.

