



Environment and Natural Resources Office

Accomplishment **U**pdates

From January 2, 2014 to February 21, 2014



FOREST MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

A. Forest Protection and Law Enforcement

With the continuing efforts of the Provincial Government through the leadership of Hon. Faustino G. Dy III as Chairman of the Isabela Environment Protection - Task Force (ISEP-TF), the alarming dilemma on economic salvation and environmental imbalance is address to ensure protection, conservation, wise utilization and development of the remaining resources through the issuance and enforcement of Executive Order No 03 series of 2014 that strengthened the ISEP-TF.

In this initiative of the Provincial Government prior to the issuance of Executive Order No. 23 of the President of the Philippines, it complements the national government thru the DENR in the strict implementation and enforcement of forestry, mining and environmental laws, rules and regulations within the province which brought about the apprehension and confiscation of common hardwood and narra species, respectively all done during the conduct of surveillance and foot patrolling activities in the different areas covered by the established Monitoring Checkpoints strategically based within the province, namely: **Marana 1st and Abuan River, Cab. 10 both in the City of Ilagan, District 2 in Benito Soliven, San Pablo in Cauayan City and San Isidro in Jones,** to wit:

Table 1: Shows the Confiscated Forest Products

DATE	SPECIES	NO. OF PIECES	DIMENSION	VOLUME (CU.M.)	REMARKS
Feb. 9, 2014	CHW Lumber and Fitches	Eight (8)	Assorted Sizes	723 bd. ft. 1.70 cu. m.	Abandoned at Abuan River, Cab. 10, City of Ilagan

B. Forest Resources Development

1. Provincial Nursery Operations

With regards to our activities in support to natural resources regeneration and rehabilitation of our environment, as of to date, we had a total of **40,376** assorted forest, fruit tree seedlings and ornamental plants to include coconut and bamboo propagules less **1,831** seedlings disposed to our constituents and **178** mortality with ending balance of **38,407** ready for dispersal to all interested individuals and entities within the province.



2. Field Assessment and Performance Evaluation of CSC Holders

The DENR under its Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) Program that was devolved to the Provincial Government has awarded Certificate of Stewardship Contracts (CSC) – a tenurial instrument issued to the upland dwellers occupying and tilling portions of the forest zones for 25 years and renewable for another 25 years subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in the Contract. Most of the ISFP beneficiaries have reached or about to reach their first 25 years of implementation, hence, the conduct of such activities.

For this period under report, the Evaluation Team composed of representatives from DENR CENRO Naguilian, MENRO San Mariano and from the ENR Office targeted at least 233 ISFP beneficiaries (Disulap = 46; San Pedro = 125; and Marannao = 62) but due to time constraints and considering the distance going into the uplands, the team were able to assessed and evaluated at least 127 beneficiaries (Disulap = 30; San Pedro = 82; and Marannao = 17) as partial result of said activities.

3. Other Undertakings

Donation of Confiscated/Apprehended Forest Products

The Provincial Government in its earnest desire to support the Local Government Units, Schools (DepEd), DSWD Core Shelters and other government entities implement their public infrastructure projects, it has granted the request of **13 recipients** for wood/lumber with a total of **2,354 pieces of common hardwood lumber** and equivalent volume of **68,451.34 board feet** and **9 pieces of common hardwood fitches** with a **total volume of 374.34 board feet** all taken from 2013 stock pile.

Attendance and Participation to Various Meetings and Workshops

To further enhance networking and linkaging with other partners in forest and environmental endeavour, particularly with the DENR B+WISER Program, the ENR Office was given the opportunity to attend several workshops relative to the implementation of the program in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP) covering **one (1) city** and **eight (8) municipalities** both in the mainland and coastal areas, namely: **City of Ilagan, San Pablo, Cabagan, Tumauni, San Mariano, Maconacon, Divilacan, Palanan and Dinapigue, Isabela**. Among the related workshops attended were as follows:



1. Workshop with B+WISER to formulate the Proposed Budget and Action Plan for Environmental Law Enforcement of the Province held on January 8, 2014 at EIC Building, ISU Cabagan, Isabela attended by Forester Geronimo P. Cabaccan, Jr., ENR Officer.
2. LGU Guided Self-Assessment (GSA) on the State of Local Environmental Governance Facilitators' Training held on January 9-10, 2014 at B+WISER Office, EIC Building, ISU Cabagan, Isabela and LGU Tumauni, Isabela attended by Forester Rosemarie T. Zabala, CDO II.

The training was a 2-day activity. The first day combines lectures, discussions and role playing to impart knowledge on the concepts, principles and practices of good environmental governance and the GSA tool, process and procedure. The second day was hands-on training on GSA facilitation and actual conduct in LGU Tumauni, Isabela.

After undergoing the training, the Facilitators Team consists of B+WISER and trained DENR & PLGU ENRO Isabela staff will conduct the GSA for the remaining eight (8) LGUs with territorial jurisdiction in NSMNP including the PLGU. Specifically, this activity will support Performance Indicator 3 (PI3): number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented and Performance Indicator 8 (PI8): METT (for protected areas) and GSA (for LGUs) scores. The GSA will be conducted over three periods: baseline (2014), midterm (2015) and final (2017).

GSA is a tool developed by the USAID-funded Philippine Environmental Governance Project (EcoGov) to assess the performance of Local Government Units (LGUs) in environmental governance. It comprises of four questionnaires for each of these sectors:

- Ø Forest and Forestland Management (FFM);
- Ø Coastal & Marine & other Aquatic Resources Management (CMARM);
- Ø Urban Environmental Management (UEM); and
- Ø LGU Internal Management Practices (LIM).



The assessment tracks how the LGU applies four governance principles: functionality, transparency, accountability and public participation in the conduct of mandated functions in: planning and plan implementation, law enforcement, permitting, licensing and tenure issuance; and contracting, bidding and procurement; and budgeting. The GSA process ends with an action planning session to address gaps in performance.

As scheduled, the GSA itineraries of travel were as follows:

February 4-5, 2014	-	MLGU San Mariano
February 6-7, 2014	-	CLGU Ilagan
February 10-14, 2014	-	MLGU Maconacon
February 17-21, 2014	-	MLGU Divilacan
February 24-28, 2013	-	MLGU Palanan

3. Enhancement Workshop of Existing Protected Area/Watershed Management Plan in B+WISER Program Areas held on January 14-16, 2014 followed by the PAMB Executive Meeting at Holiday Plaza, Tuguegarao City attended by ENR Officer Geronimo P. Cabacchan, Jr. and CDO II Rosemarie T. Zabala.
4. Communication Planning Workshop in spreading the implementation of the B+WISER Program within the NSMNP held on February 12-13, 2014 at Ivory Hotel, Tuguegarao City participated by ENR Officer Geronimo P. Cabacchan, Jr.

Other ENR Office related activities:

1. Attendance to the Consultative Meeting on Rubber Industry: Its Potentials in Region 02 held on January 23, 2014 at CVARRD Complex, ISU Echague, Isabela.

Confiscated/apprehended common hardwood lumber and flitches deposited at the Provincial Capitol Gym for safekeeping.



The nursery labour force in action at the Provincial Nursery.





**LIST OF DONATED FOREST PRODUCTS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS
(LGUs) SCHOOLS (DepEd), CORE SHELTERS AND OTHER PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS WITHIN THE PROVINCE**

Date	Particulars	No. of Pieces			Volume		
		CHW			CHW		
		Lumber	Flitches	R-logs	Lumber	Flitches	R-logs
01/14/14	TESDA	348	5		11,998.67	208.34	
01/16/14	Gamu Rural School	34			1,180.00		
01/23/14	Bambanti Festival						
	Flaglets	5			100.67		
	ARC	21			615.32		
	Dressing Room	34			801.34		
01/24/14	Municipality of Tumauni	585			19,970.00		
01/28/14	Municipality of D. Albano	698			19,957.33		
02/05/14	STEP/LRC Capitol Isabela	417			10,021.33		
02/08/14	ISEP-TF Checkpoint						
	Yeban Sur, Benito Soliven, Isa.	110	4		1,392.34	166.00	
02/12/14	502 nd Brigade, 5ID PA	37			1,056.00		
02/14/14	Regional Highway Patrol						
	Unit 2	14			506.67		
02/18/14	Binguang Elem. School San Pablo, Isabela	27			597.00		
02/20/14	Prov'l Engineers Office	24			254.67		
TOTAL		2354	9		68,451.34	374.34	
GRAND TOTAL		2,363			68,825.68		



**LIST OF DONATED SEEDLINGS
FROM JANUARY 2, 2014 TO FEBRUARY 21, 2014**

MUNICIPALITIES	NAME	FOREST TREES	FRUIT TREES	ORNAME NTAL	TOTAL
ILAGAN					
	Mitos Cabrera		5		5
	Vicitacion Colobong		91		91
	Edison Guapper	120			120
	Epifania Molina		200		200
	Orlando Pua	50	34		84
	Edgardo Pua	76	14		90
	Edgardo Rodriguez	20	15		35
	Denmar Gumitang	300			300
	Christopher Rasay			100	100
	Raul Medina			80	80
	Alfredo Gisa		75		75
NAGUILIAN					
	Atty. Francisco Ramirez	80	66		146
SAN MANUEL					
	Evaristo P. Palogan	29	85		114
SAN PABLO					
	Margie A. Luarca	220	39		259
CAUAYAN					
	Conrado Lumelay	132			
TOTAL		1,027	624	180	1,831



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

A. Practical application of 2014 planned targets inscribed in the Provincial 10-Year Ecological Solid Waste Management Plan and Operationalization of Isabela Ecology Center of which the following activities have been undertaken, to wit:

- Approval of job order contract for two (2) labor forces for the maintenance operations of the Material Recovery Facility/Ecology Center. The Center which was erected on a two hundred (200) square meter lot beside the ENR Office serves as recovery facility of waste materials within the province. It is equipped with waste management facilities.
- For the period under report, with the continuing operations of the Vermi-composting facilities, the Center was able to produce approximately two thousand **(2,000) kilograms** of organic fertilizer with the aid of the African Night Crawler earthworms. The green substrates were derived from biodegradable organic matters being collected within the vicinities of the Provincial Capitol.
- Approximately **fifty (50) kilograms** of **vermi-worm** (African Night Crawler earthworms) is now ready for dispersal to qualified beneficiaries who are interested in vermi-composting.
- Showcase of organic gardening thru natural farming methods/permaculture development through zero tillage as a form of production in control of soil erosion.
- Availability of 165 sacks at 40 kilogram/sack packaging of Organic Fertilizer. Part of it were utilized by the following entities:

RECIPIENT	VOLUME(kilograms)	REMARKS
1. Isabela Ecopark	400	Used for urban greening c/o Cabiokid
2. GSO	120	Tree planting activities
3. IPHO	40	IPHO Backyard garden
4. Christopher Casey	400	Organic farming/rice paddies
5. ENRO-Ecology Center	500	Fruits/forest/vegetable out-planting

B. As embodied in Executive Order No. 3, series of 2013, the ENR Office as member of Task Force Ethanol together with the presence of the Provincial Administrator, Atty. Noel Manuel R. Lopez, assisted in facilitating the



smooth conduct of dialogue between the stakeholders/complainants against nuisance pollution emanating from the industrial operations of Green Future Innovations Inc./Ecofuel Land Development - a co-generation plant responsible in the production of 19-megawatt waste to energy project and ethanol bio-fuels.

- C. Representation of the office to the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP) with training component on Social and Environmental Safeguards held in Baguio City on the proposed commodity of Dairy Project, Cabagan, Isabela together with its sub-project/s prioritized in the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan.

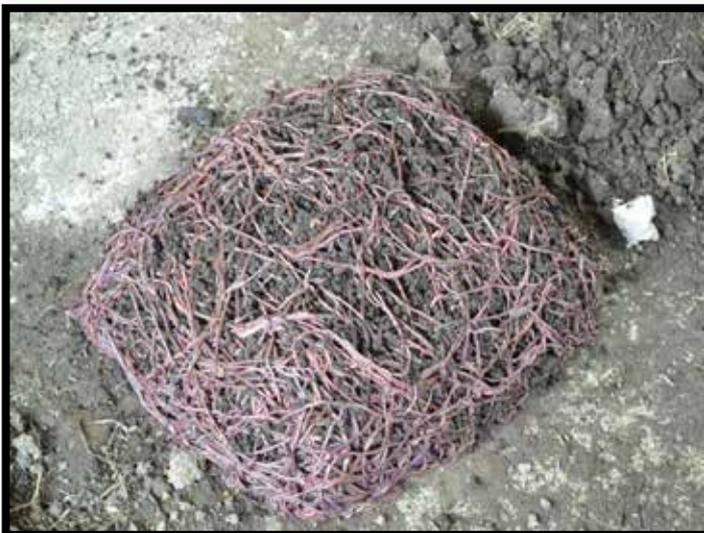
The availability of One Hundred Sixty Five (165) sacks at Forty (40) kilogram/sack packaging of Organic Fertilizer ready to be disposed to any beneficiaries.



Actual application of Organic Farming (ENR Office Backyard Vegetable Production) integrated with Perma-culture concepts and Principles with Senior Environmental Management Specialist Cecilia M. Asuncion



Together with the Provincial Administrator Atty. Noel Manuel R. Lopez and ENR Officer Geronimo P. Cabaccan, Jr. visited and inspected the Vermi-Composting Facility with its vermin-compost production (with the aid of African Earthworm Crawler) funded from the Economic Development Fund





MINERAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

A. PROCESSING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS

As of to date, the Office did not receive and process any sand and gravel commercial permit applications pending passage and approval of the Proposed Regulatory Ordinance **REGULATING THE EXTRACTION, DISPOSITION, UTILIZATION AND PROCESSING OF QUARRY AND OTHER MINERAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA AND IMPOSING VARIOUS TAXES AND FEES THEREFORE**. The proposed ordinance primarily aims to increase the revenues and tax collections derived from the utilization of the province's mineral resources.

This Office accredited a total of Ninety Two (92) haulers/dealers/traders/retailers and processors in trading mineral products and by-products with the corresponding fees collected by the Provincial Treasurer's Office (PTO) amounting to Two Hundred Thirty One Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Pesos (Php 231,840.00).

Under the small-scale mining activities, the office acted on the request of the Sangguniang Barangay of Anonang, Cordon, Isabela submitted to the Regional Director of MGB-RO2 to cause for the disposal of mine tailings within the said barangay due to its high level of cyanide content polluting Diadi River causing water pollution and health hazards to the affected residents. Correspondingly, the PMRB convened and endorsed to the Provincial Governor the request of Barangay Anonang. The Sangguniang Brgy. of Anonang, Cordon executed a follow-up resolution (Resolution No. 16) appointing Golden Summit Mining Corporation as the exclusive participant in the hauling of Mines Tailings and in the clean-up drive (Resolution No. 15), henceforth, the issuance of two (2) Ore Transport Permit by the Provincial Governor to **Golden Summit Mining Corporation** and **Mr. Joung Hae Soo**, both from Barangay Anonang, Cordon Isabela for hauling and transport of Mill Tailings/Waste Materials to Barangay Dasol, Pangasinan and Cainta, Rizal, respectively. The total volume allowed under the OTP for Golden Summit Mining Corp. is **9,625 metric tons** and for Mr. Joung Hae Soo is **42 metric tons**.

B. ENFORCEMENT OF POLICIES CONCERNING MINERAL RESOURCES

To date, a total of Five Hundred Ten (510) Accreditation Stickers were issued to different haulers conspicuously pasted in their dump trucks with corresponding payments collected in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (25,500.00).



C. FIELD MONITORING OF QUARRY AND MINING OPERATIONS

The Provincial Administrator, Atty. Noel Manuel R. Lopez, ENR Officer Geronimo P. Cabaccan, Jr. and two personnel from this office attended Sangguniang Bayan Session on January 23, 2014 to address and settle the problem regarding the imposition of quarry taxes, fees and other administrative charges and with the desire of LGU Delfin Albano to become the sole operator of quarrying in the municipality and stop the activities of other operators who complied the legal requirements required by existing laws, rules and regulations prior to their operations.

Another issue that has been resolved by the Office stemmed from the letter complaint filed by Mr. Jun Bulos of BB Construction regarding the alleged illegal quarrying within the jurisdiction of Barangay Furaon, Gamu, Isabela. As stated in his complaint, Mr. Bulos raised that the site in question is part of his private property and duly supported with his proof of ownership. In response thereof, this office together with the members of the Isabela Environment Protection – Task Force (ISEP-TF) conducted on-site investigation and subsequently issued Cease and Desist Order to the Local Government Unit of Gamu to stop/refrain/cease and desist from the on-going quarry operation within the area and recommended the latter to identify other vacant quarry sites within the same jurisdiction, with no existing prior rights of ownership consistent to existing laws, rules and regulations.

In response to the phone call report of MENRO Marcos A. Dacanay of LGU Ramon to CDO II Celia N. Badua, Chief of Mineral Resources Mgmt. Division regarding the presence of illegal quarrying undertaken along the Magat River near the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS) Dam within the jurisdiction of Barangay Ambatali, Ramon, Isabela, this office dispatched members of the ISEP-TF to the area under complaint and conducted on-site investigation. Accordingly, the operators of heavy equipment were present there and the Task Force directed them to stop from operations and instructed them further to comply first with the legal requirements and payment of corresponding quarry taxes, fees and administrative charges to the Provincial Treasurer's Office (PTO) thru this Office.

Another activity that has been accomplished during the period under report was the conduct of field verification and inspection of the proposed area applied for quarry operations within the municipalities of Tumauni, San Pablo and Sta. Maria and at the same time assisted in the conduct of survey.

Attended Sangguniang Bayan Session of LGU Delfin Albano regarding quarry operation and collection of fees, taxes and other charges together with Provincial Administrator Atty. Noel Manuel R. Lopez, ENR Officer Geronimo P. Cabaccan, Jr. and ENR Personnel on January 23, 2014.



Photographs showing the presence of heavy equipment use on the alleged illegal quarrying along the Magat River near the Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS) Dam within the jurisdiction of Barangay Ambatali, Ramon, Isabela.



SAMPLE STICKER OF ACCREDITED HAULER OF MINERAL RESOURCES



Photographs showing the presence of heavy equipment on the alleged illegal quarrying within the jurisdiction of Barangay Furaon, Gamu, Isabela and members of the Isabela Environment Protection – Task Force (ISEP-TF) interviewing the operators and drivers of the said equipment.



Conducted Public Consultation on the Proposed Regulatory Ordinance regarding the new computation on quarry fees and taxes participated by eighty seven (87) Permittees/Haulers with ENR Personnel at Capitol Food Court, Isabela on February 7, 2014.

