

Indigenous Peoples Development Programme Caraga Region, Southern Philippines



International
Labour
Organization

The Challenge



The population of indigenous peoples (IPs) in the Caraga Region, Southern Philippines, is estimated at 500,000. This is about 21 per cent of the Region's total population. They generally belong to the Manobo, Mamanwa, Higaonon, Banwaon, and Mandaya tribal groups. The Caraga Region comprises the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur.

The IPs live in ancestral territories richly endowed with natural resources such as minerals, timber, and marine products. But in spite of all the natural wealth in their area, they are mostly faced with tremendous development challenges including the degradation of their resource base, marginalization, conflict, lack of opportunity to develop their capacities, and the increasing inadequacy of their livelihoods.

The Response

Recognizing the disadvantaged position and vulnerability of the IPs in the Region, the International Labour Organization (ILO) responded by launching the Caraga Indigenous Peoples Development Programme (IPDP Caraga).

The IPDP Caraga Programme seeks to help strengthen the capacity of the IPs for individual and collective self-reliance in the sustainable development and protection of their ancestral domains. This response is based on the letter, spirit, and intent of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and the ILO Convention (No. 169) on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989.

To effectively perform this role, the IPDP encourages community initiatives in which the IPs are given the opportunity to take the lead in the pursuit of their development aspirations. It provides facilitative support services to the IPs in partnership with other service providers including the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs), National Government Agencies (NGAs), and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

With trained IPs in the forefront, IPDP facilitates the effective participation of the various service providers through site-specific convergence arrangements underpinned by the principles of pro-active interface and complementation.

Key Statistics

- The total land area of ancestral domains covered by the IPDP-Caraga is 217,650 hectares.
- The total IP population of the eight project sites is 70,500.
- There are three tribal groups in the project sites: Manobo, Mamanwa, and Mandaya tribes.
- There are 14 host municipalities and two host cities for the project.

Objectives

Development objective:

- To strengthen the capacity of IPs for self-reliance in the sustainable development and protection of their ancestral domains and of concerned service providers to help the IPs effectively respond to the development challenges they face.

Immediate objectives:

- To establish IP institutions such as indigenous peoples organizations and self-help groups within the ancestral domains.
- To develop an IP mechanism for the protection and assertion of their human rights and rights under the IPRA.
- To develop a sustainable IP strategy for income and employment generation within the ancestral domains.
- To set up an IP mechanism for the protection of the environment and natural resources in the ancestral domains.

Relevant ILO Conventions and Recommendations

- Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)

Achievements

- Traditional political structures (TPSs) and indigenous peoples' organizations (IPOs) have been established in the eight project sites/ancestral domains. Also, the capacity of the TPSs and IPOs for self-governance is getting stronger as shown by the current initiatives they are undertaking for the development and protection of their ancestral domains.
- A multi-sectoral convergence framework and mechanism for the development and protection of the ancestral domains has been formulated and activated in the project sites.
- Site-specific mechanisms through which the IPs could protect their human rights and rights under the IPRA have started to emerge due to their increasing awareness of these rights. Networks for environmental protection and rehabilitation in the ancestral domains are emerging through the multi-sectoral convergence mechanisms.
- Information on economic potentials, including skills, raw materials, and enterprises in the project sites has been generated from a corresponding survey in the project sites, which served as basis for the identification of "Flagship" community enterprises are now gradually being implemented.
- Culture-sensitive strategies for income and self-employment generation are emerging from the effort of the indigenous women self-help groups, which have been formed based on priority occupations. Through various training activities, an increasing number of IP farmers are starting to consider their farming as not simply a means of livelihood but as a business. One example of indigenous peoples business organization is the the Kayumbyahan Sago Manobo Corporation (KASAMACOR) which is taking charge of the entire sago flour production enterprise.
- An IP strategy for promoting gender equality is based on experience and lessons derived from the increasing participation of women in the ancestral domain development and protection process.
- There is now a national IP development framework (IP Master Plan) which was formulated in partnership with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).
- The United Nations Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (UNITWG) on IP issues continues develop collaborative activities in the delivery of support services to the IPs based on the spirit and intent of ILO Convention No. 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples.



Components

Donor: Government of Spain in coordination with Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo or Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) at the Country Level

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End date: March 2012

Budget: US\$1,940,491

Partner IPOs: Anticala-Pianing Tribal Organization, San Miguel Manobo Indigenous Cultural Communities Organization, Mamanwa-Manobo Ancestral Domain Management Council (ADMC) under CADT No.134, Mamanwa-Manobo ADMC under CADT No. 092, WAWA Sectoral Tribal Council, Veruela-Sta.Josefa Ancestral Domain Management Organization (ADMO), Pamaypayan-San Jose-Sikahoy Manobo/Mandaya ADMO



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