

Climate-resilient communities: Restoration of mangroves damaged by Typhoons Ruby and Seniang in Biri, Northern Samar



Mangroves act as a buffer that reduces the destructive impact on coastal communities of powerful waves caused by typhoons. While this was the case in the Barangays of Kauswagan and Sto. Niño in Biri, Northern Samar during Typhoon Hagupit (Ruby) and Tropical Storm Jangmi (Seniang), the onslaught nonetheless decimated the growth of the mangroves. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), in cooperation with implementing partner Kauswagan San Panginabuhangan Kapitalibutan, Inc. (Kauswagan), then stepped in to support the communities' replanting initiative and improve their climate resiliency.

Two ten-hectare areas, one in each Barangay, were the sites of the mangrove restoration. A total of 20,000 propagules were harvested from nearby mangrove areas and planted. Also, at least 4,000 propagules of alternative species — unsuitable for direct planting at a young age — were collected in community-managed nurseries, to be



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Women members of Kauswagan harvest propagules from fully grown mangroves.

eventually used to replenish unsuccessful growths and to improve mangrove diversity. Technical support was provided by the Provincial Government of Northern Samar-Environment and Natural Resources Office (PGNS-ENRO).

A total of 165 workers (149 women, 16 men) belonging to the Federation of

Northern Samar Community-based Forest Management Peoples' Organization, Inc. (FNSCBFMPO) — of which Kauswagan is a member — were employed for the sub-project. They were all given at least minimum wages, one-year accident insurance, three months' contribution to Philhealth, three months' contribution to SSS, personal protective equipment (PPE), and tools.

Their employment improved their performance as a community contractor for reforestation projects, and enhanced their negotiating ability with institutions/government in granting them future contracts to maintain or improve mangroves in Biri.

The ILO is grateful for the support it has received from the government of Norway for its Haiyan Response and vision to truly Build Back Better.

Emergency Employment
and Sustainable Livelihoods
after Super Typhoon Haiyan

Implementing Partner

- Kauswagan San Panginabuhangan Kapitalibutan, Inc. (Kauswagan)

Stakeholder Organization

- Provincial Government of Northern Samar-Environment and Natural Resources Office (PGNS-ENRO)

Funding Partner

- Government of Norway



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