

Republic of the Philippines

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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MEMORANDUM

0 2 OCT 2023

FOR

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OIC, Regional Executive Director - MIMAROPA

ERNESTO E. TAÑADA PENRO, Occidental Mindoro

EFREN I. DELOS REYES

CENRO, San Jose

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FROM

THE DIRECTOR

Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS)

SUBJECT

TRAVEL REPORT ON SUSTAINABILITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF COMPLETED FOREIGN ASSISTED AND SPECIAL PROJECTS IN OCCIDENTAL

MINIBORO PERION IV P

MINDORO, REGION IV-B

We would like to provide you a copy of the travel report regarding the Sustainability Monitoring and Assessment (SMA) of Completed Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects (FASPs) in Occidental Mindoro. The reports are developed through site visit, conduct of focus group discussion (FGD) and key informant interview (KII) with the project partner implementer and beneficiaries.

In this regard, may we direct you to the following information/ highlights/ summary:

- Bamboo Furniture and Handicraft Industry for Sustainable Community
 Development and Environmental Protection (Bamboo Furniture SP) –
 The project aimed to improve socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries and contribute to sustainable forest resources conservation.
 - a. Though the co-implementers of the project were able to deliver their assigned tasks, some issues arose since no Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was forged. Issues include the following: the skills development training provided by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) was not hands-on and engaging according to the PO, and the community baselining from the Divine Word College of San Jose (DWCSJ) was conducted in the middle stage of the project implementation, which should have been conducted at the beginning

of the project.

- b. The PO beneficiary was able to produce thirty-one (31) types of bamboo products including bamboo baskets priced at PhP 200.00 600.00, sala set: PhP 2,100.00 and wine holder: PhP 150.00. A total of PhP 59,450.00 income was generated from 2019 and 2021. The PO decided to save their income for the meantime and to share it among their members in the future.
- c. The major challenge observed is the weak marketing and promotion of the finished bamboo products of the PO ATPDAI which can be attributable to reasons such as lack of physical store and outdated bamboo product designs. One of the suggestions given by FASPS validation team is to consider tapping appropriate agencies for the provision of upgraded training. This was noted by the Conservation Development Section (CDS) of CENRO San Jose, the unit in charge on monitoring of the project. CDS also shared information regarding the Forestry Investment Portal (FIP) of the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), which serves as the Forestry Investment One-Stop-Shop and official client management system for forestry investments at the national, regional, and provincial levels. The PO was then encouraged to be active and to focus on producing marketable and quality bamboo products in order to be recommended in the FIP.
- Mainstreaming in Local Agricultural Landscape or known as Biodiversity Partnership Project (BPP) – The project attempted to address barriers on biodiversity protection and conservation through an integrated approach aimed at strengthening enabling policies at the national level and enhancing capacities of Local Government Units (LGUs) and demonstration in selected pilot areas.
 - a. As for BPP implementation in Occidental Mindoro, the Haribon Foundation, a Non-Government Organization (NGO), was tapped by the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), the project main implementer, to become co-implementer of the project particularly in implementing activities in the project site, Mt. Siburan Key Biodiversity Area (MKSBA) in Sablayan.
 - b. The NGO's involvement in the project was primarily on community organization. Haribon also conducted rapid habitat assessment in which the results were consolidated into a report that was submitted to DENR Region 4B. Moreover, it was mentioned that the reporting from Haribon field staff goes through the Haribon Head Office, then the Head Office directly coordinates with DENR-BMB.
 - c. The concrete outputs of the project were the following: Frameworks and Methods for Biodiversity Mainstreaming
 - The BPP prepared the Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) of LGU Sablayan by providing technical assistance and training on research/biodiversity survey. The developed FLUP was approved

by the LGU of Sablayan and Sangguniang Bayan in 2014 and was used as reference in the annual plans of the LGU. However, the said FLUP has not yet been approved to date by the DENR due to issue on municipal boundary and moratorium on mining activities.

Policies

- The BPP reviewed the existing Local Environment Code (LEC) of LGU Sablayan and provided refinements on the areas of solid waste management and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). According to MENRO of LGU Sablayan, in 2018, the LEC was amended to consider MPAs/PAs; then as of 2023, LEC is being amended to update areas of solid waste management.
- The project conducted workshop on updating the Local Investment and Incentive Code (LIIC) or the Revenue Code of the LGU Sablayan. The LGU then incorporated the concept of biodiversity conservation into their LIIC, which was approved in 2013 (Municipal Ordinance No. 2013-004). Moreover, a General Ordinance (GO) No. 2015-GO008 was issued as an addendum to the approved LIIC, which aims to enhance the competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through the adoption of climate smart and environment friendly strategies. Currently, the LIIC is being amended to expand or update incentive mechanisms and in consideration of other laws (e.g. CREATE Law, Green Public Procurement, among others).

Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprise (BDFE)

Three (3) POs such as: (1) Palbong-CBFM, (2) Famatudi Mangyan Tribe and (3) Samahang Mangingisda Matiyaga (SAMAMA) engaged in basket/handicraft-making, eco-tourism, and sustainable fishing were considered for the livelihood component of BPP. However, according to the former Haribon staff, he was not able to confirm if the POs were selected by BPP for BDFE since he left the office in 2015. The Haribon staff who continued the project was not available during the conduct of assessment, and was also reportedly no longer in Haribon Foundation. The information regarding BDFEs from Sablayan was neither culled out from the submitted project completion report (PCR) of BPP as the project results were presented aggregately. Regardless, it was reported that LGU Sablayan has been tapping their gender and development (GAD) funds since 2016 to support the various POs with BDFEs.

The result of the assessment suggests the following recommendations/ ways forward:

Bamboo Furniture SP:

 It must be noted that among the recommendations indicated in the project completion report (PCR) is to strengthen ATPDAI to become the Center of Excellence for Bamboo Industry and strengthen PO capacity to document/record data on harvesting, production, and marketing, among others. Accordingly, CENRO San Jose should:

- a. take advantage of the PO's eagerness and provide them assistance in their bamboo enterprise. For one, a new market study should be conducted to determine consumer demand for bamboo-made furniture and handicraft products, and in turn, identify applicable marketing strategies;
- b. assist the PO in linking with other agencies, such as DOST-Forest Products Research and Development Institute and other relevant training providers to provide the PO members with appropriate training and capacity building that will further strengthen their skills in producing globally competitive bamboo furniture and handicraft;
- c. monitor the PO to ensure that they continuously practice the sustainable bamboo plantation methods.

With these efforts, the POs can potentially participate in the Forestry Investment Portal (FIP), which is an online one-stop shop for forestry investments that provides direct buyer-linkage as well as financial/credit facilities and other insurance opportunities.

BPP:

FASPS-PMED will inform the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
regarding the results of the assessment; conduct sustainability monitoring
and assessment of BPP in other project sites to come up with more relevant
conclusions and recommendations.

For your information and reference.

ALO. OROLFO, Ph.D.

TRAVEL REPORT

Subject : SUSTAINABILITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF

(1) BAMBOO FURNITURE AND HANDICRAFT INDUSTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND (2) PARTNERSHIP FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION: MAINSTREAMING IN LOCAL AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES / BIODIVERSITY

PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (BPP)

Date : 11 - 15 September 2023

Venue : Municipalities of San Jose and Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro,

Region 4B (MIMAROPA)

Organizers : DENR Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS)

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED)

DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office

(PENRO) Occidental Mindoro

DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices

(CENRO) San Jose and Sablayan

Participants from FASPS-PMED:

Melissa Ann R. Garcia, PMEO Danica Lyn A. Bitel, PEO II Ma. Andrea D. Palma, PEO II

Background of the Activity:

Two (2) completed projects were identified to have been implemented in Occidental Mindoro, Region 4B, and were subjected to Sustainability Monitoring and Assessment.

The Bamboo Furniture and Handicraft Industry for Sustainable Community Development and Environmental Protection (Bamboo Furniture SP) is a special project that aimed to improve the socio-economic condition of the Ansiray Tree Planters and Development Association, Inc. (ATPDAI) and contribute to sustainable forest resources conservation. It was implemented in 2018 to 2019 by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Divine Word College of San Jose (DWCSJ) and Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB).

The Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation: Mainstreaming in Local Agricultural Landscapes/Biodiversity Partnership Project (BPP) was funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in 2011 to 2017. The project attempted to address barriers on biodiversity protection and conservation through an integrated approach aimed at strengthening enabling policies at the national level and enhancing capacities of Local Government Units (LGUs) and demonstration in selected pilot areas. One of the beneficiaries of the project was the LGU of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.

The Sustainability Monitoring and Assessment of the above-mentioned completed foreign-assisted and special projects (FASPs) were conducted to determine the current status of their major outputs and accomplishments. Site visits, as well as Key Informant Interview (KII) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the project beneficiaries and implementers, were conducted to gather data regarding the projects' outputs. The KII and FGD questions revolved around the monitoring and assessment of the project's outputs, lessons learned, good practices, innovations and success stories, as well as challenges encountered by the project, including actions taken to address the challenges.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITY

1.0 AGENDA

SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY		
Day 1 (September 11, 2023)	Travel from DENR Central Office to San Jose, Occidental Mindoro		
,	Courtesy Meeting with CENRO San Jose		
	Site visit to Brgy. Ansiray (Bamboo Furniture SP) - Courtesy Meeting with BLGU of Brgy. Ansiray		
	- FGD with PO members		
	 Ansiray Tree Planters and Development Association, Inc. 		
Day 2-3 (September 12-13, 2023)	Travel from San Jose to Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro (BPP) - Courtesy Meeting with CENRO Sablayan - FGD with MENRO Sablayan - Site visit and FGD in Sitio Palbong, Brgy. Batong-Buhay, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro - KII with Ms. Fe Raguindin, former CBFM coordinator of CENRO Sablayan - KII with Mr. Charlou Ormega, former BPP coordinator of Haribon Foundation - KII with Ms. Erminda Vicedo, from LGU-LEDIPO		
Day 4 (September 14, 2023)	Exit Conference with PENRO Occidental Mindoro, CENRO San Jose, and CENRO Sablayan - Discussion on the arrangement and monitoring of foreign-assisted and special projects (FASPs) in Region 4B - Presentation of SMA initial results		
Day 5 (September 15, 2023)	Travel back to DENR Central Office		

2.0 RESULTS OF THE DATA GATHERING

2.1 BAMBOO FURNITURE SP

PROJECT CONCERNS	OBSERVATIONS / FINDINGS / REMARKS	
Involvement of PO in the Project	The Ansiray Tree Planters Development Association, Inc. (ATPDAI), the main project beneficiary, was established in 2014 with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) registration. The organization currently has around 45 members, with 50% male and 50% female, as estimated by the PO members.	
	The PO used to plant gmelina, mahogany, narra, cashew and bamboo. In 2017, ATPDAI was awarded 100-hectare land under the National Greening Program (NGP) of the Department, and an additional 52 hectares in 2018. It was in 2018 when the PO reported that their members have gained skills on bamboo handicraft making. The PO was interested to further improve their skills on bamboo furniture and handicraft making and to maximize economic potential benefits from it. Thus, the project proposal was developed by CENRO San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.	

PROJECT CONCERNS OBSERVATIONS / FINDINGS / REMARKS Capacity building / ATPDAI received the following training through the project: Organizational training Organizational development 2. Financial management 3. Entrepreneurship 4. Bamboo plantation management 5. Skills development The capacity building interventions were mostly attended by the PO officers. All members were invited but some were not available to participate in the training due to outside job and other work commitments, according to the respondents. It was mentioned that the DTI outsourced two (2) resource persons who facilitated the training on bamboo furniture and handicraft making. According to the respondents, the trainers opted to sketch as to illustrate the product designs to be hand-made by the PO. This resulted in confusion among the PO members on how to properly produce the final product based on the sketched design, as the trainer also did not even check the final product. In addition, the product prototypes were not marketable, according to the respondents. The PO then suggested an upgraded and hands-on training from the DTI to generate updated types of bamboo handicrafts (e.g. bamboo insulated tumbler, other small handicraft products). The DTI considered the suggestion but it did not materialize. Product Development **Bamboo Products** and Marketing A total of 31 types of bamboo products were produced by ATPDAI during the project implementation, which composed of sala set, bamboo basket, and wine holders, among others. These products were sold at the following prices: sala set: PhP 2,100.00, wine holder: PhP 150.00, and bamboo basket: PhP 200.00-600.00. The bamboo products were sold at the local trade fair or more locally known as "Agbiliwa," wherein various local customers visited their booth and purchased their products. Based on the PO's records, they were able to generate a total of PhP 59,450.00 from 2019 and 2021. It must be noted, however, that there were no sales in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As for the benefit sharing scheme, the PO managed to collect all their sales pertaining to bamboo handicraft and other business ventures (i.e. selling of wood) before they decide on how to share the income among the active members. Currently, the PO only accepts made-to-order bamboo furniture sets and handicrafts due to low demand/ sales. Tools, Equipment, and Facility The DTI likewise provided equipment to be used by the PO for their bamboo furniture- and handicraft-making. However, these were not used due to the following reasons: Bamboo splitter - The proposed model was not the actual tool received by the PO. The model presented by

PROJECT CONCERNS	OBSERVATIONS / FINDINGS / REMARKS	
	the DTI is one that can automatically cut bamboo into a specific size. However, what was provided to the PO requires manual operation and usually results in breaking and damaging the bamboo poles, instead of producing the required size.	
	 Electric weaving machine - No demonstration was conducted on how to operate the machine, thus was not used by the PO. Circular saw - Leased by DTI to the PO, but was eventually taken back by DTI because of low sales. 	
	FASPS also provided some hand tools (e.g. pliers, cutters, etc.), which, according to the PO, was more useful for them in bamboo furniture- and handicraft-making.	
	Moreover, the PO was able to acquire a property and establish the Shared Service Facility in 2019 using their savings from NGP. This is in line with the requirement by the DTI that the PO must have an area (for storage of equipment and tools and for production) to be chosen as a beneficiary of the project. The Shared Service Facility serves as the office and assembly area of the PO members, as well as their production and display area.	
	Product Trademark/Label	
	The DTI provided assistance in the creation of the product trademark/label of ATPDAI and its registration in the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHIL). The bamboo products by ATPDAI are tagged with the product label. However, because sales are currently slow, the PO decided not to print labels yet. In any case, the PO has a digital copy of the product label, which will be printed out should there be a need for it.	
	Business Plan	
	A business plan for the operation and marketing of bamboo furniture and handicraft products was prepared in collaboration with the DTI. According to the PO respondents, the business plan was presented to them, but they were not provided a copy.	
Operations Management	Protection of Bamboo Plantation	
	Cleaning/ pruning and patrolling are some of the maintenance and protection activities made by the PO members during sunny days in order to prevent forest fires. The PO members shared that they visit and monitor their plantation almost everyday.	
	Some of the challenges on protecting and maintaining the existing bamboo plantation include the presence of stray animals such as cows and goats. Whenever there is an incident, this is being settled in the barangay through demand of payment for damage from the owners of the said animals.	

PROJECT CONCERNS	OBSERVATIONS / FINDINGS / REMARKS	
	Community Baselining The Divine Word College of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro (DWCSJ) implemented the community baselining of the project in order to assess and analyze the feasibility of the bamboo furniture and handicraft making project of ATPDAI. The community baselining was only conducted, however, in the middle of project implementation. Therefore, the results of the community baselining no longer reflect the real baseline scenario, as the community baselining should have been conducted at the beginning of the project. Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF) The project included the updating of the PO's CRMF and five-year work plan. It was in 2020 when the CRMF was submitted and then later affirmed in 2022. This helped the PO in acquiring cutting and transportation permits, and in generating income as well.	
Support in Sustaining the Project	The BLGU and MLGU offered the gymnasium of San Jose to be used by ATPDAI as their physical store. However, ATPDAI rejected the offer as this would entail longer transportation (including costs) as compared if the store location would be near Caminawit Port, which is just one boat ride away from the project site in Brgy. Ansiray, Ilin Island, and therefore would be convenient in transporting the bamboo products. Seeing that the training by DTI was not helpful to the PO, CENRO San Jose tapped the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for bamboo furniture and handicraft training in 2019. According to the respondents, the training provided by DOST was hands-on and more engaging compared to DTI's training. When asked what additional support is needed by ATPDAI, the PO hopes to receive more hands-on training on improving and upgrading their craft (i.e. create nipa huts made of bamboo and	
	engraved bamboo items); include and engage the youth community as they previously showed interest in generating souvenir items from bamboo. Suggestions from CENRO San Jose were also specified to improve the marketability of the bamboo products. These include incorporating Gmelina wood in the furniture design to make the furniture sturdier, as nailing bamboo tends to break or split the material in the long run. Another suggestion is to link the PO to the Forestry Investment Portal of the DENR-Forest Management Bureau (FMB). The Forest Investment Portal, which was launched in 2021, serves as the Forestry Investment One-Stop-Shop and official client management system for forestry investments at the national, regional, and provincial	

PROJECT CONCERNS	OBSERVATIONS / FINDINGS / REMARKS	
	levels. ¹ Through the Forestry Investment Portal, the PO will be linked directly to buyers. To be qualified, the PO must be active and have globally competitive products. The PO must therefore focus on producing marketable bamboo products, which the CENRO will recommend to the Regional Office for approval.	
Challenges in Sustaining the Project	The major challenge cited by the respondents is the weak marketing and promotion of their bamboo furniture and handicrafts. This may be attributable to the following reasons: 1. location - as the PO has to transport their finished products from Ilin island to the mainland via Caminawit Port, 2. lack of physical store outside their area to display their products, 3. weak signal/internet connection in their area for online promotion and marketing, 4. intermittent power disruptions in their area, and 5. outdated bamboo product designs. It was also reported that the PO has a Facebook page but no one among the members know how to operate it for the promotion of their products. Hence, the PO decided to serve made-to-order requests for the meantime. Another is the lack of appropriate tools to be used in product designs. Currently, the PO resolved to use common tools for manual cutting of bamboo. Lastly, there were instances that some PO members were reported to be inactive. In response, ATPDAI chose to continue the production with the willing and available members.	
Lessons Learned, Good Practices, Innovations, and Success Stories	● The proponent, CENRO San Jose, realized that the project proposal lacks assessment. It was disclosed that the original personnel involved in the project conceptualization and design were no longer in the service, and project documents were just turned-over to Mr. Niño Aloysious Colegado, Community Development Officer under contract of service, who was just a new staff member then. Mr. Colegado cited that there were many loopholes as the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the other partner agencies did not materialize. This had resulted in limited time preparation on the side of other partner agencies as they were not informed beforehand that they would be partakers as project implementers (i.e. Outsourced trainers from DTI with inappropriate training approach, conduct of community baselining by DWCSJ in the middle stage of project implementation).	

¹ DENR FMB. (2021). FYI: Forest Your Investment. <u>https://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/fyi-forest-your-investment</u>.

PROJECT CONCERNS	OBSERVATIONS / FINDINGS / REMARKS	
	■ The PO kept record of their sales. It can be noted however, that recording was done only on a daily basis and no record was found from 2022 to present. ■ ATPDAI occasionally practices volunteerism/bayanihan of locally known as "dagyaw" when there is production.	
	Innovations ■ The PO showed resourcefulness and utilized some common tools in the absence of appropriate bamboo furniture and handicraft-making equipment (e.g. use of bolo instead of bamboo splitter, and regular saw in place of bamboo circular saw).	
	■ The PO considered the registration of permits in DOLE, DTI and BIR, and the establishment of their Shared Service Facility as part of their success story since it prepared and allowed them to engage in bamboo handicraft making and enterprise.	
	 The participation in the local trade fair or "Agbiliwa" helped them to promote their organization and showcase their bamboo-made products in the municipality and in the province. This actually opened an opportunity for the organization to participate in another business trade fair. However, the event was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the PO is known as the lone bamboo furniture and handicraft makers in the community. 	
Impact	Social • Increased community interaction and awareness on sustainable bamboo harvesting. The PO has encouraged other local community members to plant and propagate bamboo using proper techniques introduced by the DENR-ERDB. They were also able to introduce bamboo and the generated products from it to the youth.	
	Sustainable bamboo plantation. The respondents expressed that they are now observing the proper methods in propagation and harvesting of bamboo, which they admittedly failed to practice before the project was implemented.	
	Generated income. The PO was able to generate an income of PhP 59,450.00 from producing and selling bamboo furniture and handicrafts from 2019 and 2021. This is currently treated as savings since the PO members agreed to share the income among the active members in the future.	

2.2 BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

PROJECT CONCERNS	OBSERVATIONS / FINDINGS / REMARKS	
Project Coordination and	DENR	
Implementation	The DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) is the lead implementing agency and responsible for managing the Biodiversity Partnership Project. Based on the project document, the BMB shall be the one who will enter into Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with selected national government agencies and other implementing partners.	
	Meanwhile, DENR PENRO Occidental Mindoro and CENRO Sablayan provided technical assistance (through provision of data) to the project. However, during the data gathering for the SMA, the involved personnel from PENRO and CENRO were not available for interview.	
	LGU Sablayan	
	The municipal LGU Sablayan has the political jurisdiction of Mt. Siburan Key Biodiversity Area (MSKBA), which is one of the project sites of BPP. The LGU was primarily the target beneficiary of the project through its capacity building activities. The project sought to strengthen and enable the capacity of LGUs in mainstreaming and integrating biodiversity concerns in their development planning process.	
	Haribon Foundation	
	The Haribon Foundation, a Non-Government Organization (NGO), was one of the responsible parties of the project that was assigned to implement activities particularly in MSKBA in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro. According to Mr. Charlou Ormega, former field staff of Haribon who currently works in LGU Sablayan under the Forest Management Section of the MENRO, the DENR-BMB (as the main project implementer) was looking for national conservation NGOs to be part of the project to serve as implementing partners for the biodiversity conservation component of the project in the Protected Area (PA) / Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) they are working on, and Haribon was one of the NGOs that was tapped.	
	The NGO's involvement in the project was primarily on community organization. In 2013, Haribon also conducted rapid habitat assessment as part of the project's activities. The results of the assessment have been consolidated in a report which was then submitted to DENR Region 4B.	
	According to Mr. Ormega, the reporting from Haribon field staff goes through the Haribon Head Office, then the Head Office directly coordinates with DENR-BMB.	

Concrete Outputs of the Project

Framework and Methods for Biodiversity Mainstreaming

According to the respondents from the MENRO of LGU Sablayan, the framework and methods for biodiversity mainstreaming accomplished by the project served as inputs to the LGU's planning process and were integrated to the following plans:

- 1. Comprehensive Water and Land Use Plan (CLUP)
 - a. Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP)
 - b. Marine Protected Area (MPA) Plans
 - c. Integrated Coastal Resource Management Plan (ICRMP)
- 2. Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP)
- 3. Annual Investment Plan (AIP)

As part of developing the FLUP, technical assistance and training on research/biodiversity survey were provided by the project, in partnership with the Haribon Foundation. Based on the FGD, the capacity development activity was participated by the local government, Palbong-CBFM Association, other People's Organization, and the DENR.

The developed FLUP was approved by the LGU of Sablayan and Sangguniang Bayan in 2014. This FLUP was used as reference in the annual plans of the LGU, input to local ordinances and CDP, and integrated in its mother plan - CLUP. However, the said FLUP has not yet been approved by the DENR due to the following reasons:

- 1. **Municipal Boundary**. As per interview with the MENRO, there is conflict in terms of the municipality's total land area. Based on the LGU's shape files, the total land area of Sablayan is 218,000 hectares (largest municipality in Occidental Mindoro), which is the status quo and considered in the development of the FLUP. However, when the cadastral survey was released, the reflected total land area of Sablayan was only 210,000 hectares. The remaining 8,000 hectares were reflected as part of the boundary of its adjacent municipalities, namely Sta. Cruz and Calintaan.
- 2. Moratorium on Mining Activities. The Province of Occidental Mindoro released Resolution No. 140, series of 2009, adopting Provincial Ordinance No. 34-09, declaring a (25) twenty-five year moratorium on large scale mining operations, including its kinds and forms, in Occidental Mindoro. Despite the moratorium, the LGU Sablayan should still reflect in their FLUP the sites/areas of mining sources and mining tenements.

Aside from the FLUP, the accompanying Manual of Procedures developed by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), which provided guidelines on integrating biodiversity concerns into the CLUP, was also referenced by the LGU Sablayan.

In the LGU's AIP, the MENRO was only allocated a budget of PhP 6 Million (from the LGU's total budget of Php 100-150 Million). Around Php 3.6 Million or 60% was allotted for solid waste management-related activities; while the remaining PhP 2.4 Million or 40% was allotted for other activities including conservation-related measures and programs. Due to limited funds, the MENRO is limited to conducting simplified biodiversity monitoring activities only (i.e. sightings) and unable to conduct assessment activities (up to species level).

Policies

One objective of the project is to strengthen enabling policies to support local governments in biodiversity conservation efforts through the Local Environment Code (LEC) and Local Investment and Incentive Code (LIIC).

Local Environmental Code

Prior to the implementation of BPP, LGU Sablayan already had its LEC which was approved in 2008. The BPP only reviewed the existing LEC of LGU Sablayan and provided refinements on the areas of solid waste management and MPAs. According to MENR Officer Robert Duquil, in 2018, the LEC was amended to consider MPAs/PAs; then as of 2023, LEC is being amended to update areas of solid waste management.

In terms of monitoring the implementation of the LEC, MENRO conducts regular monitoring particularly for tamaraws in coordination with the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP). The MENRO also conducts biodiversity assessment twice a year in Mt. Aruyan-Malati and Mt. Siburan. The MENR Officer shared that there is currently a draft resolution to merge and declare Mt. Aruyan-Malati and Mt. Siburan as one (1) PA, considering the two areas are adjacent to each other.

Local Investment and Incentive Code

During the implementation of BPP, a workshop was conducted on updating the LIIC or the Revenue Code of LGU Sablayan, which was attended by representatives from the Local Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office (LEDIPO).

The LGU incorporated the concept of biodiversity conservation into their LIIC, which was approved in 2013 (Municipal Ordinance No. 2013-004). Moreover, a General Ordinance (GO) No. 2015-GO008 was issued as an addendum to the approved LIIC, which aims to enhance the competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through the adoption of climate smart and environment friendly strategies.

The LGU, through the LEDIPO, is currently amending the LIIC to expand or update incentive mechanisms and in consideration of other laws (e.g., CREATE Law, Green Public Procurement, among others).

Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprise (BDFE) and Biodiversity-Friendly Agricultural Practices (BDFAP)

• Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprise

According to Mr. Ormega, three (3) POs were considered for the BPP Livelihood Component - (1) Palbong-CBFM Association, (2) Famatudi Mangyan Tribe, and (3) Samahang Mangingisda Matiyaga (SAMAMA). With the assistance of Haribon, these POs proposed the following BDFEs for Sablayan - basket/handicraft making, eco-tourism, and sustainable fishing. The validation team was not able to confirm if these POs were selected for the livelihood component under BPP since Mr. Ormega left Haribon in 2015, while Mr. Jonathan Garcia, his replacement, also left Haribon in 2016. Ms. Shalimar Ilejay, the last field staff of Haribon to handle the BPP until its completion in 2017, was not able to be contacted.

Regardless, the LGU Sablayan was able to support and sustain biodiversity-friendly livelihoods of various POs by tapping its gender and development (GAD) funds.

Biodiversity-Friendly Agricultural Practices

No information was obtained regarding BDFAP. As per MENR Officer Duquil, this can be referred to the LGU's Office of the Municipal Agriculture (OMA). The OMA provides bio-shredder to process agri-waste, as part of LGU's livelihood intervention in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA). In addition, the MENR Officer intends to maintain the adoption and implementation of these practices through continuous coordination and partnership with the DA.

Challenges

Overall, the challenges observed were mostly on community organization and coordination among concerned stakeholders and parties. Mr. Ormega cited, as a former field staff of Haribon, that there was difficulty in organizing an activity within the community, especially the project involved participation of different NGAs which have conflicting schedules and are therefore difficult to convene.

Additionally, despite the integration of biodiversity conservation concerns to the LGU's plans and policies, the implementation of biodiversity conservation-related activities is limited due to the small budget allocation to the MENRO. The MENR Officer sees the need for a refresher course on biodiversity monitoring, additional manpower, and monitoring gadgets and equipment, all of which entail additional budget.

LGIS and Impact

Generally, for LGU Sablayan, the significant contribution of the project was the integration of biodiversity conservation lens to the different plans and policies of the LGU. This also includes the promotion of biodiversity-friendly livelihoods in the municipality. However, due to the limited information gathered and the

unavailability of other concerned resource persons to partake in the data-gathering activities, the portion of the LGIS and Impact was not documented (and quantified), especially that MSKBA is only one (1) of the eight (8) sites of the project.

3.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXIT CONFERENCE

Prior to presenting the findings of the Sustainability Monitoring and Assessment of the two (2) projects in Occidental Mindoro, a focus group discussion was likewise conducted among the officials and personnel of the DENR field offices, i.e., PENRO Occidental Mindoro, and CENRO San Jose and Sablayan.

Conceptualization of the Project

Bamboo Furniture SP

CENR Officer of San Jose, For. Efren Delos Reyes, shared that the project is already ongoing when he took oath in the office in 2018. Nevertheless, he believed that it went through the proper process of designing and reviewing with FASPS, informing the PENRO regarding the project, and endorsing to the Region.

BPP

CENR Officer of Sablayan, For. Anastacio Santos admitted that he was not certain if CENRO Sablayan was consulted to take part in the conceptualization of BPP. He was not yet assigned as CENRO during the implementation period and he barely heard about the project. Although it was observed by the FASPS Validation Team that some personnel who are still in the service at the Department knew about the project including Ms. Fe Raguindin of CENRO Sablayan and Mr. Abe Francisco of PENRO Occidental Mindoro. Ms. Raguindin shared some knowledge and experience about BPP whereas the Team was not able to talk to Mr. Francisco due to conflict of schedule.

Arrangement of foreign-assisted and special projects (FASPs) in PENRO/CENRO

PENR Officer of Occidental Mindoro, For. Ernesto Tañada, mentioned that the Technical Service Division of the PENRO, particularly the Conservation and Development Section (CDS), is the unit in charge of monitoring FASPs. In terms of evaluating completed FASPs, PENRO requires the submission of PCR before conducting site validation. According to PENRO Tañada, this is what they implement in the currently ongoing foreign-assisted project: Integrated Approach in Management of Major Biodiversity Corridor in the Philippines (BD Corridor) Project.

Similarly, CENRO San Jose and CENRO Sablayan specified that they require the submission of PCR, presentations, and After-Training Reports from project proponents so they can cross-validate the actual project outputs versus those written in the report.

Involvement of PENRO/ CENRO in the Project

Bamboo Furniture SP

CENR Officer of San Jose highlighted that the Bamboo Furniture and Handicraft Making of ATPDAI in Barangay Ansiray, Ilin Island is actually under the Community Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) and yet the project was not handled by the CBFM team of CENRO San Jose. Mr. Niño Aloysious Colegado, Community Development Officer of CENRO San Jose, who served as the project coordinator was a new staff member under contract of service then. CENRO San Jose emphasized that the proper unit should handle the project to ensure sustainability (i.e. proper turnover of documents, transfer of knowledge about the project). It was just fortunate that the project coordinator secured a permanent position in the Department, which helped in the continuous monitoring of the area. Currently, the Bamboo Furniture SP is under the monitoring of the Conservation and Development Section (CDS) of CENRO San Jose.

BPP

CENR Officer of Sablayan admitted that he personally had no direct participation and engagement in the implementation of the project because he recently just assumed office (after project completion) and there was no document turnover or reporting in the case of BPP, which was supported by the statement of Ms. Raguindin during the KII. In effect, they had no chance to monitor and evaluate the project since they were not informed beforehand about BPP and the specific role of CENRO in the implementation. Only the technical assistance in terms of providing data was the involvement of CENRO Sablayan in the project.

Impression on the Conduct of Sustainability Monitoring and Assessment (SMA) The conduct of the Sustainability Monitoring and Assessment was given positive feedback from the field offices. CENRO San Jose welcomed the methods and perspective of FASPS in monitoring completed projects which may help the project stakeholders in being updated with policies, innovations and new technologies.

The PENRO and CENROs added that it would be better if there is an immediate assessment right after the completion of the project to see its concrete results and impacts. The immediate impact assessment would aid in better decision-making such as tapping the municipal and provincial LGUs for additional support and assistance especially if the project delivers potential benefits. This also increases awareness and stirs up willingness in the local community to partake and continue the project themselves.

It was also realized that the conduct of monitoring and assessment by the field offices should be done at least every year as the site visit to the PO beneficiaries was observed to help them improve their project since their concerns are being attended to which will make them motivated to continue the project.

Further, the conduct of SMA helped the field offices' project focal persons realize the gaps, challenges, and scenarios that might happen in preparation for the implementation of new projects.

4.0 SYNTHESIS

- The two (2) projects showed different results in terms of sustainability of their respective project outputs.
 - o For Bamboo Furniture SP, although their bamboo products are found to be existing, marketing their products remains a challenge, thereby causing sales to lie dormant. This can be attributed to various factors, including: i) lack of MOA that should have identified the specific roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders involved and set the direction for managing the bamboo enterprise; ii) lack of a thorough market study, which should have considered strategies to deal with the location of the PO's production area and the costs it would entail to transport their products to the buyers, and iii) ineffective training strategy and approach and provision of inappropriate tools and equipment. Sustaining the livelihood of the PO would require follow through actions to push continuous production, although there may be a need to modify the type of products they need to sell as bamboo-made furniture are not as sellable. This would therefore need a new assessment study to determine what products would be marketable for the PO, considering their location.
 - On the other hand, data and information gathering for BPP became difficult because the staff/personnel who have been involved with the project were either not available for interview or have moved to another organization/office and cannot be contacted. As for available respondents, their involvement with the project was also short-term. Regardless, it can be concluded that biodiversity conservation concerns have been well-incorporated in LGU Sablayan's plans, policies and livelihood programs, although attribution to the project is unclear. Moreover, ensuring the adoption and implementation of biodiversity-related activities imply additional budget.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAYS FORWARD

- For the Bamboo Furniture SP, it must be noted that among the recommendations in the PCR is to strengthen the PO to become the Center of Excellence for Bamboo Industry and strengthen PO capacity to document/record data on harvesting, production, and marketing, among others. CENRO San Jose should take advantage of the PO's eagerness and provide them assistance in their bamboo enterprise. For one, a new market study should be conducted to determine consumer demand for bamboo-made furniture and handicraft products, and in turn, identify applicable marketing strategies. Additionally, partnering with other agencies, such as DOST-Forest Products Research and Development Institute and other relevant training providers should be done to provide the PO members with appropriate training and capacity building to further strengthen their skills in producing globally competitive bamboo furniture and handicraft. Moreover, the PO should continuously practice its method of sustainable bamboo plantation. With these efforts, the POs can potentially participate in the Forestry Investment Portal (FIP), which is an online one-stop shop for forestry investments. The FIP provides direct buyer-linkage as well as financial/credit facilities and other insurance opportunities.
- For the BPP, there is a need for further data and information gathering. A follow-through discussion particularly with the DENR-BMB as the main implementing agency will be helpful to clearly identify what have been the implementation arrangements since the project included multiple stakeholders and actors. For instance, Haribon Foundation is only designated to implement activities for Mt. Siburan Key Biodiversity Area. The validation team observed that there was no

what had transpired during the project implementation. Furthermore, there is also a need to consolidate findings from BPP's other project sites to come up with more relevant conclusions and recommendations.

• The experience in data and information gathering for the BPP in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro highlighted the importance of having and storing project records and documents (including shapefile to show geographical data) in retrieving information about the project, should it be revisited for future evaluation. As a way forward, FASPS must ensure the project's submission of documents and files to the field offices concerned (down to CENRO/PASu level, even if minor participation). In line with this, the Regional FASPS Focal Person/s should closely coordinate with the field offices to keep updated about the projects and strengthen record management in their offices. Relatedly, a record of personnels including their designation and respective offices/ organizations who were involved in the project should be included in the PCR. In this way, validation of completed projects would be made easier in terms of connecting with the proper focal persons.

Noted by:

Chief

FASPS-PMED

Prepared by:

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Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer FASPS-PMED

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Project Evaluation Officer II
FASPS-PMED

Date Submitted: 20 September 2023

Attachments:

- Annex A: Photo Documentation

Annex B: List of Participants/Respondents

- Annex C: Municipal Ordinance No. 2013-004 (Modified Investments and

Incentives Codes of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro)

- Annex D: General Ordinance No. 2015-GO008 (An Ordinance Enacting the Modified Investments and Incentives Codes of Sablayan, Occidental

Mindoro)

ANNEX APhoto Documentation

Day 1 (September 11, 2023)



Courtesy Meeting with For. Efren Delos Reyes of CENRO San Jose



Courtesy Meeting with BLGU Member of Brgy. Ansiray





Focus Group Discussion with the Ansiray Tree Planters and Development Association, Inc. (ATPDAI) members



ATPDAI's Shared Service Facility for bamboo furniture and handicraft production





ATPDAI's sample bamboo products with product trademark and label







ATPDAI's bamboo plantation

Day 2 (September 12, 2023)



Focus Group Discussion with the Palbong Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM)
Association members



Tarpaulin of the activities participated by Palbong-CBFM Association (left and center); and "Ka-Patrol" Application (right), developed by Haribon Foundation, used by the Bantay Gubat members of the association.



Courtesy Meeting with For. Anastacio Santos of CENRO Sablayan (left) and Key Informant Interview with Ms. Fe Raguindin

Day 3 (September 13, 2023)



Focus Group Discussion with LGU Sablayan - Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) and Local Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office (LEDIPO)

Day 4 (September 14, 2023)



Exit Conference with PENRO Occidental Mindoro, For. Ernesto Tañada together with CENRO San Jose, CENRO Sablayan and personnel from PENRO Occidental Mindoro and CENRO San Jose

ANNEX B

List of Participants/Respondents

PENRO Occidental Mindoro

- 1. PENRO Ernesto Tañada
- 2. Ellie Nuñez
- 3. Nichael Del Mundo

CENRO San Jose

- 4. CENRO Efren Delos Reyes
- 5. Orlino Gacuan
- 6. Niño Aloysius Colegado

CENRO Sablayan

- 7. CENRO Anastacio Santos
- 8. Isaias Guimod
- 9. Fe Raguindin
- 10. Joseph Mateo

LGU Sablayan

- 11. MENRO Robert Duquil
- 12. Charlou Ormega
- 13. Erminda Vicedo

BLGU San Jose

14. Flery Santos

Ansiray Tree Planters and Development Association, Inc.

- 15. Remedios Holgado
- 16. Odette Erandio
- 17. Radel Erandio
- 18. Leonelyn Jacinto
- 19. Jecelyn Malanao
- 20. Elmer Elesorio
- 21. Lito Mortigamo
- 22. Pilare Erandio
- 23. Jerome Malanao

Palbong - Community-Based Forest Management Association

- 24. Joselito Balbin
- 25. Benjie Tabuga
- 26. Amecita Dela Cruz
- 27. Erwin Gayron
- 28. Edna Conzan

Haribon Foundation

29. Jonathan Garcia





Investments

incentives CODE





Republic of the Philippines Province of Occidental Mindoro MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2013-004

AN ORDINANCE ENACTING THE MODIFIED INVESTMENTS AND INCENTIVES CODE OF SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Introduced by the COMMITTEE ON TRADE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

- Sec. 192 of the Republic Act 7160 of the Local Government WHEREAS. Code states that the Local Government Units may, through ordinances duly approved, grant incentives or reliefs under such terms and conditions, as they may deem necessary;
- WHEREAS. Many developing municipalities, cities and provinces are adopting compensating investments and incentives code with the intent of encouraging and promoting increased private investments, for both local and foreign investors:
- An investments and incentives legislation is vital and necessary to WHEREAS, enhance Sablayan's socio-economic development as a First Class Municipality located at the center of the Province of Occidental Mindoro:
- WHEREAS. To improve the competitiveness of the investments climate of Sablayan, Municipal Ordinance 2011-001 otherwise known as the Sablayan Investments and Incentives Code (SIIC) is hereby modified in accordance with the Guide on the Formulation of the Local Investments and Incentives Code under DILG-DTI Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2011-01.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO IN A REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, THAT

CHAPTER I TITLE AND POLICY DECLARATION

SECTION 1. Title - This ordinance shall be known as "AN ORDINANCE ENACTING THE MODIFIED INVESTMENTS AND INCENTIVES CODE OF SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO", which shall hereinafter be referred to as the SIIC.

SECTION 2. Policy Declaration – It is hereby the policy of the Municipality of Sablayan to attract, retain, expand or diversify investments that shall develop economic activities in agriculture, tourism and environmental facilities, infrastructure and services, transshipment facilities, property development and such other preferred areas of investments as provided in this Code and as may be determined from time to time, which will generate employment opportunities for an equitable distribution of wealth of the people and embolden Biodiversity (BD)-Friendly Businesses and Market-Led Opportunities for sustainable economic development. Declared further as the policy of the Municipality of Sablayan to encourage the substantial utilization of its local labor, raw materials and natural resources without jeopardizina investment opportunities. vis-à-vis the protection and conservation of Biodiversity in the area.

CHAPTER II DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 3. – When used for purposes of this Code, the following terms and phrase shall mean as follows:

- Board shall mean the Investments and Incentives Board of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.
- 2. **Biodiversity-Friendly Businesses** shall refer to enterprises and investments that either directly or indirectly support the protection of the flora (plant) and fauna (animal) species and other natural resources' conservation initiatives and activities.
- 3. **Bonafide Resident** shall refer to a person with at least six (6) months of residency in any of the barangays within the Municipality of Sablayan.
- 4. Capitalization shall mean the total project cost of the business.
- 5. Existing establishments/ enterprises shall refer to those establishments/ enterprises which places of operation or production are located within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Sablayan.
- 6. Green economy refers to the production of environmentally-friendly goods and services that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

- 7. **Investments Code** shall refer to the Investments and Incentives Code of the Municipality of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.
- 8. Investments Priority Areas (IPAs) shall mean the economic activities that the Board shall have declared as such in accordance with the provision of this Ordinance.
- 9. Local Personnel/ Manpower shall refer to those workers or personnel who are bonafide residents of the Municipality of Sablayan.
- 10. Market-Led Opportunities involves the so-called "soft" businesses and / or opportunities that provide friendly alternatives to wasteful / exploitative and extractive ventures on the environment.
- 1). Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) refers to the total asset of the enterprise as follows:

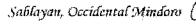
Small - Php 3 –15 Million

Medulm - Php 15 Million and not more than

Php 100 Million

Large - more than Php 100 Million

- 12. **Municipality** shall mean the Municipality of Sablayan covering all areas within its ferritorial jurisdiction as provided for by law
- 13. New Investors/ Enterprises shall refer to those investors who:
 - a. are not engaged in any type of business activity in the Municipality of Sablayan at the time of the registration of the project of the enterprise under the Sablayan Investments and Incentives Code (SIIC).
 - b. to engage in business undertakings on preferred/ priority areas in this code as provided thereafter.
- 14. **Project Profile** shall refer to the executive summary of the project to include marketing, technical, financial and economic aspect of the project.
- 15. **Registered Enterprise** shall refer to those enterprises registered in accordance with the provisions of this Code.
- 16. Types of Projects
 - > **New projects** refers to those projects that have not yet started commercial operation.



- Expansion projects refers to the installation of additional facilities/equipment that will result in increase in production capacity of the same existing plant / facilities of the enterprise.
- Modernization shall mean that at least 25% substantial reduction of production cost/cost of provision of the service or the upgrading of product/service quality or classification of the facility to a higher class.

CHAPTER III THE LOCAL INVESTMENTS AND INCENTIVES BOARD (LIIB)

SECTION 4. The Sablayan Investments and Incentives Board, hereinafter referred to as the SIIB is hereby created to implement this Sablayan Investments and Incentives Code (SIIC) for a healthy and promising business climate in the Municipality of Sablayan.

SECTION 5. Composition of the Sablayan Investments and Incentives Board (SIIB) – The Board shall be composed of the following:

1. Municipal Mayor - Chairperson

2. Municipal Administrator - Vice-Chairperson

Members:

- 3. Local Economic and Investments Promotion Officer
- 4. Chair Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Trade and Industry
- Chair Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Finance.
 Budget and Appropriation
- 6. Five (5) private sector representatives and /or their alternates shall be recommended by the sectors and organizations they represent and shall be appointed by the Mayor for a term of two 12) years.
- 7. President of the Local Chamber of Commerce

Non-Voling Ex-Officio Members:

- 8. Municipal Treasurer
- 9. Municipal Assessor
- 10. Municipal Planning and Development Officer
- 11. Municipal Agricultural Officer
- 12. Provincial Director-Department of Trade and Industry
- 13. Municipal Environmental and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO)

SECTION 6. Meetings of the Board – The Board shall meet at least once a month or as often as maybe necessary on such day and time as it may fix. A majority of the members present shall constitute a quorum and a vote of the majority of the quorum in a meeting validly held shall be binding to exercise its powers and perform its functions.

SECTION 7. Powers, Duties and Functions of the Board – In pursuance of this Ordinance, and subject to existing laws, rules and regulations, the Board shall be vested with the following powers:

- a. Promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the intent and provisions of this Code.
- b. Review the provisions of this Code from time to time to determine if the same still cope up with the needs of the time and make recommendation to the Sangguniang Bayan for any possible and appropriate changes, updates, modifications or amendments to this Ordinance.
- c. Approve the identified Investments Priority Areas (IPAs).
- d. Provide support measures and appropriate incentives to investors to attract, retain, expand and diversify investments.
- e. Approve the investments promotion programs of the Sablayan Local Economic and Investments Promotion Center (SLEIPC).
- f. Seek the assistance and support of the provincial and national government offices and private sectors as may be deemed necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of this Code
- g. Acts on applications for registration and application for the availment of local fiscal incentives.
- h. Performs such other tasks necessary to implement the objective of the SIIC.

SECTION 8. Powers, Duties and Functions of the Chairman – The Chairman of the Board shall have the following powers, duties and functions:

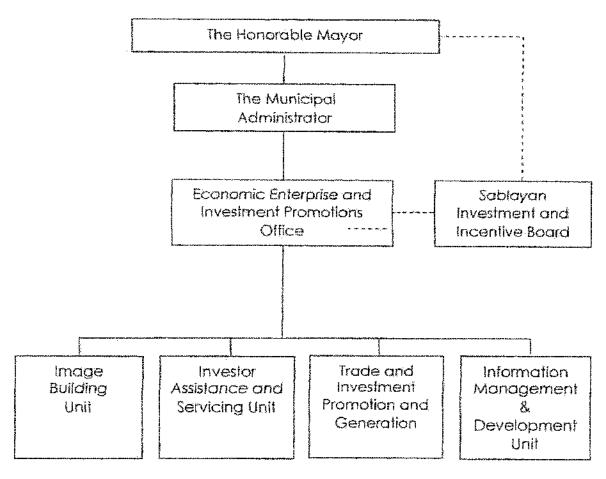
- a. To preside over all regular and special meetings of the Board
- b. To submit annual reports to the Sangguniang Bayan.
- c. Exercise such other powers and functions necessary to carry out the objectives of the Sablayan Investments and Incentives Code (SIIC).

SECTION 9. Powers, Duties and Functions of the Vice - Chairman - The Vice - Chairman of the Board shall have the following powers, duties and functions:

- a. To preside over all regular and special meetings of the Board in the absence of the Chairman
- To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties in the absence of the Chairman as may be authorized by the Board.

CHAPTER IV LOCAL ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENTS PROMOTION CENTER (LEIPC)

SECTION 10. Organizational Structure of LEIPC – The LEIPC shall be composed of the following;



SECTION 11. Functions of the LEIPC - As technical secretariat of the SIIB the LEIPC shall have the following duties and functions:

- a. Prepare and implement the annual investments promotion plan as approved by the Board;
- Receive, process and evaluate applications for registration and applications for the availment of the local incentives and submit its recommendation to the Board within a specified period from the receipt of application;
- c. Assist in: (1) Securing Licenses and Permits; (2) Identifying business or joint venture partners, raw materials suppliers and possible business sites; (3) Sourcing out skilled manpower and service providers; (4) Facilitate in resolving issues and concerns encountered by investors, among others;
- d. Render after care services to registered enterprises/locators;
- e. Monitor and evaluate project implementation of registered enterprises;
- f. Establish and update data bank on general business information;
- g. Strengthen networking relationships with public and private institutions/entities;
- h. Prepare and disseminate investments promotion collaterals, e.i., brochures, industry and project profile as well as the cost of doing business in the LGU:
- Conduct briefings to investors;
- i. Represent the LGU in trade and investments meetings, conferences, fora, conventions, and other similar gatherings in both domestic and foreign venues whenever so directed by the Board;
- k. Collate, analyze and compile pertinent data and studies concerning areas that have been or may be declared as "Investment Priority Areas":
- Recommend to the Board any modification/amendments to existing legislation and procedures on local investments;
- m. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to implement the intent of the Code.

SECTION 12. Functions of the Investments Promotion Officer (IPO)/ Local Economic and Investments Promotion Officer (LEIPO) – The Investment Promotion Officer (IPO) / Local Economic and Investments Promotion Officer (LEIPO) shall be permanent employee and such shall perform the following functions:

- a. Record the proceedings of every meeting of the Board
- b. Receive for filing, recording and docketing of applications, communications and documents covered by the Investment Incentive Code and recommend appropriate action therefore to the Board.

- c. Research and gather data for appropriate action of the Board and
- d. Perform such other function provided in the investments and incentives Code and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board.

CHAPTER V INVESTMENTS PRIORITY AREAS (IPAs)

SECTION 13. Priority Areas – The following Investments Priority Areas (IPAs) listed herein are the preferred activities for promotion of the Municipality of Sablayan in accordance with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance of the Municipality and the Investments Priorities Plan (IPP) of the national government.

1. Agriculture/ Agri- business and its by-products

- a. Fruits, food and vegetables production and processing
- b. Livestock, poultry, fishing and aqua-culture production and processing
- c. Cold storage facilities
- d. Rice and Corn Mills
- e. Feed Mills
- f. Post-harvest facilities
- g. Agro-forestry (such as forestry development)
- h. Organic fertilizers production
- i. Herbal medicines
- i. Organic Food Production
- k. Organic pesticides and other organic agricultural treatments
- L. Irrigation system

2. Light manufacturing/processing industries

- a. Furniture, woodcrafts, turnishing and cottage industries
- b. Machineries and Tools for Farming/Fishing

3. Tourism /Ecotourism facilities

- a. Hotels, Home Stay and other accommodation related facilities.
- Theme parks, amusement parks, restaurants, food courts/food services and food chains
- c. Beach and inland resorts
- d. Tour Operations
- e. Adventure and Eco-Tourism Facilifies

- f. Sports Facilities and Recreational Centers
- g. Health and wellness facilities such as but not limited to spa
- h. Souvenir shops and pasalubong centers
- i. Agri-tourism farms and facilities
- j. Tourism training centers and institutes
- k. Restoration/preservation and operation of historical shrines, landmarks and structures
- 1. Development of retirement villages

4. Infrastructure

- a. Airport
- b. Land Transportation
- c. Water Transport Vessels and Facilities
- d. Potable water system development
- e. Communication and transportation system
- f. PPP projects such as Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) schemes and Joint Ventures

5. Engineering, Postal and Freight Forwarders and Broker Services

- a. Engineering and Surveying Offices
- b. Postal Service, Freight Forwarders and Broker Service

6. Properly Development

a. Mass Housing

7. Hospital/Medical Services

- a. Pharmaceuticals and laboratories
- b. Infirmaries

8. Energy

a. Electric Power/energy generating plants

9. Research and Development

- a. Elementary Schools
- b. Secondary Schools
- c. Colleges and Universities
- d. Vocational Schools

10. Ecological Solid Waste Management

a. Material Recovery Facility

SECTION 14. Determination of Investments Priority Areas – Other investments areas may be recommended by the Board for inclusion and / or exclusion in

the list of Investments Priority Areas (IPAs) which shall become effective upon approval by the Sangguniang Bayan. The following may be used as bases for inclusion in the Investments Priority Areas:

- a. Employment generation
- b. Extent to which technological advances are applied and adopted to local conditions
- c. Value added potential
- d. Linkage with local industries
- e. Extent to which local labor, raw materials and other indigenous resource are utilized
- f. Biodiversity (BD)-friendly as defined in this Code which is subject to the criteria: ecological, economic and equity that is geared towards the preservation, protection and rehabilitation of endangered indigenous species & their habitats, respect the rights of indigenous Peoples and supports efforts to prevent environmental damage for the general welfare of the people.

SECTION 15. The Board has the authority to exclude an area or activity from the list of preferred/ priority areas for investments. The following may be used as bases for the exclusion of an area or activity in the investments Priority Areas.

- a. Over investment in area/ activity
- b. The incentives or support measure for the specific investment does not serve the interest of the constituents of the Municipality, unless public welfare and interest require otherwise.

SECTION 16. The list of Investments Priority Areas is subject to amendment every three (3) years.

CHAPTER VI REGISTRATION

SECTION 17. Qualifications of a New Enterprise – A new enterprise which intends to avail of the incentives and other support measures provided in this Code must meet the following:

a. That the enterprise place of operation is within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Sablayan.

- b. That the enterprise must have complied with all the requirements mandated under existing laws and ordinance.
- c. That the enterprise must engage in activities identified as preferred/ priority investment area by section 12 and 13 of this ordinance and such areas as may hereafter be declared by the Board.
- d. That the new enterprise must have actually invested at least **Three Million Pesos (P3, 000,000.00)** initial capital investment and will at least generate ten (10) employment opportunities at the time of registration.
- e. That the new enterprise shall provide to bonafide residents of this Municipality seventy percent (70%) of the job opportunities it generates, whether regular, contractual or casual.

SECTION 18. Qualifications of Projects for Registration – The herein listed projects may avail itself of the incentives and other support measure under this Ordinance provided it meets the following qualifications:

A. New Projects

- a. Have not started commercial operation; or
- Engage in an entirely distinct and different activity from its existing business operations; or
- c. Infuse new investments in a facility in the locality not contagious to the premises of its existing project.

B. Expansion Projects

- a. The enterprises shall install additional facilities/equipment that will result in increase in production capacity of the same product line within its existing plant/facilities.
- b. For service-type activities, the same principle applies

C. Modernization Projects that will result in any of the following

- a. At least 25% substantial reduction of production cost/cost of provision of the service; or
- b. Upgrade product/service quality or classification of the facility (e.g. hospitals, hotels, resorts) to a higher class.

SECTION 19. Existing businesses of whatever kind or nature that are closure for the purpose of availing the incentives afforded through this ordinance shall not be allowed to apply under this ordinance.

SECTION 20. Exception. This investments and incentives program shall not apply to financing or banking institutions, which are governed by the Central Banking Act and under the supervision of the Central Bank of the Philippines.

SECTION 21. Application – Applications should be filed with the Board, through the IPC who shall record the same in the registration book including the date of filing. An annual registration fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2, 500.00), non-refundable, shall be paid to the Municipal Treasurer and the Official Receipt thereof shall be presented to the Technical Secretariat with the submission of the following documents:

- a. 3 copies of completed application form to be provided by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Sablayan Investments and Incentives Code (SIIC).
- b. A copy of the complete project feasibility study of the proposed investment showing that the project is economically, technically and financially feasible and viable.
- c. In the case of juridical person:
 - 1. A copy of the articles of incorporation, cooperative or articles of partnership and by- laws as approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission and other registering agency as the case maybe in case the applicant is a juridical person.
 - 2. Resolution of the applicant's board of directors, in case of corporation or cooperative or partners in case of partnership, or each partner in joint venture authorizing the filling of application.
 - 3. List of Officers and directors certified by the secretary in case of juridical person.
 - 4. The written authority of the officer of the enterprise in case of a juridical person, representing the same in the application.
 - 5. For existing enterprises, a copy of preceding years audited financial statement of the applicants firm.
- d. Requirements under environmental laws, rules and regulations and other laws.
- e. Such other requirements as maybe provided by law, rules and regulations and as the Board may require.

SECTION 22. Act and Registration Procedure – The Board is vested with the authority to act on the application mentioned in the proceeding section when all the requirements therefore have been complied with. For this purpose, the Board is authorized to adopt rules and regulations filed with it based on the prescribed criteria for the evaluation of the IPC for several applications filed in one preferred area.

SECTION 23. Certificate of Registration – A registered enterprise under this ordinance shall be issued a Certificate of Registration in such form and style as the Board may determine with the signature of the Chairman and/ or such other officer of the Board as it may empower and designate for the purpose, with the official seal of the Municipality of Sablayan upon the payment of the annual registration fee (Section 21 of this Code) renewable every year thereafter.

CHAPTER VII INCENTIVES AND SUPPORT MEASURES TO REGISTERED ENTERPRISES

SECTION 24. Fiscal Incentives – In addition to the incentives provided by law under the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987 (E.O. 226) and other laws granting fiscal incentives, registered projects under the SIIC shall be entitled to:

EXEMPTION from the payment of Business Tax which shall be based on the following schedule:

SCHEDULE

Year	Business Tax	
	(SIIC Registered	(Other SIIC
	Biodiversily-Friendly	registered
	Businesses)	businesses)
1	90% exemption	80% exemption
2	70% exemption	60% exemption
3	50% exemption	40% exemption
4	30% exemption	20% exemption
5	Full Payment	

SECTION 25. Non-Fiscal Incentives – Aside from the fiscal incentives mentioned in the foregoing section, the following non-fiscal measures are herein provided purposely to assist investors in successfully accomplishing their activities prior to, during and after the registration of their business.

- 1. Upon the issuance of the Certificate of Registration as provided in Section 23 of this Ordinance, the registered investors or enterprise are entitled to the rights, guarantees, incentives and support measures provided by law, the constitution and this Investment Code. In addition to such rights, guarantees, incentives and support measures and to enhance investor's confidence in the incentive program, the Municipal Government through the LEIPC shall:
 - a. Provide assistance on the processing of documentary requirements of their application for registration by the One Stop Documentation and Action Unit.
 - b. Provide concise and comprehensive information to investors of the economic priorities of the Municipality including target investment areas and the general conditions applicable to incoming direct private investments such as availability of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan for investors.
 - c. Support the development of Biodiversity-friendly businesses/activities and Market-Led Opportunities in the area through investments promotion and networking activities.
 - d. Communicate investment policies, evaluation criteria and procedures to enhance transparency in the process of granting government incentives.
 - e. In accordance with law and where no local personnel or worker is capable and available, allow the employment of qualified foreign personnel where this is necessary for the efficient operation of the enterprise or for technology transfer.
 - f. Take the fullest possible account of the need of the investors for stability, growth and profit on their operations in the formulation or modification of policies and ordinances that affect investments.
 - g. Not to interfere or modify arrangements with the investors after the details of the implementation of an investment project has been approved and accepted, the ownership and management structure of the enterprise has been established, unless the law provided otherwise.
 - h. Avoid undue distortion of competition between and among enterprises operating within its territorial, whether domestic or foreign, when granting any special incentives aimed at encouraging investments in the identified target areas.

- Subject to existing laws, national rules and regulations, resolve all doubts concerning the benefits and incentives granted under the Investment Code in favor of the attainment of the objectives thereof.
- j. Such other non-fiscal measures that may from time to time be promulgated by the Board subject to the approval of the Sangguniang Boyan.

SECTION 26. Review of Appropriate Incentive and Support Measures – The Board may review the package of appropriate incentive and support measures every three (3) years provided that, subject to the constitution, national rules and regulations and propriety rights, the Board may recommend to the Sangguniang Bayan the adoption of appropriate means consonant with the objectives of this Code.

SECTION 27. Appropriations – The funds to defray the expenses for the implementation of the provisions of this Code shall be sourced from the <u>collections from business permits</u> or such other sources including but not limited to legitimate grants and aids,

SECTION 28. Visitorial Power – The Board, or any of its authorized representatives, is hereby empowered and authorized to conduct an ocular inspection of the enterprise to ensure compliance with pertinent national law, rules and regulations, the provisions of the Investment Code and the rules promulgated by the Board and other ordinances.

SECTION 29. Reportorial Requirements – Every registered enterprise shall for each preferred/ priority area of investment submit to the Board through the LEIPC the following reports and/ or documents within the time herein prescribed.

- a. Amendment of Articles of Incorporation and By- laws or Articles of Partnership or Articles of Cooperation as well as the corresponding certificates of registration with the registering office within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of submission of said amendments with the Securities and Exchange Commission or Cooperative Development Authority or other registering agencies.
- b. Election of Directors within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of election.
- c. Report on alien officers or employees within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of appointment or replacement of their employees, provided, that such aliens are registered as such with

- the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) and with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).
- d. Report on employment of bona fide residents of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of their appointment.
- e. Annual report on the enterprise's business operations, including its production or gross sales or receipts within sixty (60) calendar days from the end of each calendar year; and
- f. Audited Annual Financial Statements within sixty (60) calendar days after its submission to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

SECTION 30. Sanctions for Late Submission of Reportorial Requirements – For late submissions of the required reports and statements, every registered enterprise shall, for each preferred / priority area of investment be fined in accordance with the following:

a. First Violation - - - P25.00 per day
b. Second Violation - - P50.00 per day
c. Third and Subsequent Violations - P100.00 per day

CHAPTER VIII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SECTION 31. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). It is hereby the duty of the Investments Promotion Officer (IPO) / Local Economic and Investments Promotion Officer (LEIPO) to draft the Implementing Rules and Regulations vital for the implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 32. Repealing Clause. All Ordinances, Resolutions, Circulars, Memorandums or Rules and Regulations inconsistent with the provision of this Code are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

SECTION 33. Separability Clause. If, for any reason or reasons, any part of the provisions of this Code shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 34. Effectivity Clause. The Code shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its posting in the Municipal Bulletin Board and two (2) conspicuous public places as well as provision of copies to the 22 barangays of this municipality.

ENACTED THIS 24th day of June 2013 on motion of Hon. Conchita H. Dimaculangan, seconded by Hon. Manuel P. Tadeo.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CRISTETA E. VIGUILLA LSO III/ OIC-SB Secretary

CERTIFIED TO BE DULY ENACTED:

ANDRES D. DANGEROS

Presiding Officer/Municipal Vice-Mayor

APPROYED:

EDUARDO B. GADIANO

Municipal Mayor

HON. NANCY L. LANDICHO

SB Member

HON. AMABLE B. URIETA, SR.

SB Member

HON. EDWIN N. MINTU

SB Member

HON. ROBERTO G. DIMAYACYAC

SB Member

HON. MANUEL P. TADEO

SB Mens

HON. EDNA N. MINTU

Pres. Liga na maa Baranaay

HON. CONCHITA H. DIMACULANGAN

SB Member

HON. GLENDAM, AGUILAR

HON. ROBERTO C. LIM

HON. RUBEN P. DANGUPON

Sectoral Representative, ICC/IP

HON. CELSO S. SALGADO

Member

CEV/mub/rdg



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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

HOW ANDREYD CANCELLOS

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 87TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2015 AT THE BARANGAY HALL OF POBLACION, SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO.

GENERAL ORDINANCE NO. 2015-GO008

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 17, CHAPTER VI OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2013-004 ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE ENACTING THE MODIFIED INVESTMENTS AND INCENTIVES CODE OF SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO".

Introduced by the Committee on Environmental Protection.

Committee on Trade & Industry and Committee on Appropriations

WHEREAS, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in partnership with the German International Cooperation (G12) jointly implemented the Promotion of Green Economic Development (ProGED) project which aims to enhance the competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through the adoption of climate smart and environment friendly strategies;

WHEREAS, with the implementation of the greening strategies, an enterprise can enhance their competitiveness, with corresponding benefits such as: a) savings through improve operational efficiency, b)gaining a marketing edge over the competition, c)cushlaning the impacts of extreme price fluctuations, and d)improves employee morale, health and productivity;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, in session assembled, that:

Section 1. That the Qualification of a New Enterprise as provided in Section 17, Chapter VI of General Ordinance No. 2013-G0005 is hereby amended to include the hereunder additional provisions which shall now be read as follows:

- a. That the enterprise place of operation is within the territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Sablayan.
- b. That the enterprise must have complied with all the requirements mandated under existing laws and ordinance.
- c. That the enterprise must engage in activities identified as preferred/priority investment area by Section 12 and 13 of this ordinance and such areas as may hereafter be declared by the Board.

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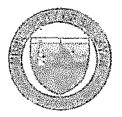


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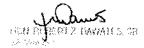
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Republic of the Philippines Province of Occidental Mindoro MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN -000-

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

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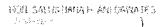














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- d. That the new enterprise must have actually invested at least Three **Million Pesos (PhP3,000,000.00)** initial capital investment and will at least generate ten (10) employment opportunities at the time of registration.
- e. That the new enterprise shall provide to bonafide residents of this Municipality seventy percent (70%) of the job apportunities it generates, whether regular, contractual or casual.
- t. That the new enterprise or existing business shall have to adopt and implement any one of the herein listed six (6) business greening strategies, to wit:

1. Electricity

- Shift to energy efficient lighting fixtures, such as compact fluorescent (CFL) or light emitting diade (LFD) bulbs.
- Use of energy efficient electrical appliances, particularly for airconditioners, refrigerators, and television sets.
- Installation of rooftop solar water heaters.

2. Waler

- Rainwater harvesting.
- Use of low flow plumbing fixtures. Foucets/showerheads are equipped with "aerators" that compensate for low water pressure, thereby using less water.

Solid Waste Management

- Recycling and composting of waste materials.
- · Reuse of architectural components from old buildings.

4. Wastewater

- Construction of three-chambered septic tanks and regular maintenance.
- Installation of reed bed system to treat wastewater.

5. Building Design

 Adoption of passive lighting and cooling principles to maximize natural lighting and ventilation and minimize the need for electrical appliances.

6. Local Procurement

- Buying from local suppliers to reduce carbon foolprint.
- Preference for naturally grown agri-products.



Republic of the Philippines Province of Oppidental Mindoro MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAM -ci-

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAH

Buying products that are manufactured using green

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processes.

Section 2. Repealing Clause. All ordinances, resolutions, circulars, memorandums or rules and regulations inconsisten; with the provision of this ordinance are hereby repeated and modified accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval.

ENACTED this 1st day of December 2015 on motion of Hon. Roberto C. tim, seconded by Han. Conchita H. Dimaculangan.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

TA E. VIGUILLA

ecretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

CERTIFIED TO BE DULY ENACTED

MANUEL PAADEO

Lemperary Presiding Officer/ Sangguniang Bayan Member

HERE CALLES THANA 14 AND RICHARD TE

EDUARDO B./GADIANO

Municipal Mayor

APPROVED

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