



# Managing coastal resources: Communities in the Philippines show the way

Many success stories in coastal resources management (CRM) have been reported from the Philippines, with communities taking the lead. In a country of 7 000 islands and a coastline of 17 460 km, sustainable management of coastal resources is vital. The principle of CRM has been institutionalised in laws at the national, provincial and municipal levels (see Boxes 1 & 2 on page 38).

Palawan, the largest province in the Philippines, presents an impressive success story in CRM. It is the Community-based Marine Sanctuary Management and Livelihood Support Project, implemented by the community in Caramay, Roxas municipality.

Palawan is a narrow archipelago of 1 700 islands and islets. It is sandwiched between the South China Sea on the western side and the Sulu Sea on the eastern side. Known the world over as the last ecological frontier in the Philippines, Palawan province is



*Grouper farming in cages*





Members of the Caramay Producers Cooperative

**Box 1: CRM benchmarks in the Philippines**

- Multi-Year CRM Plan
- Coastal Resource Assessment
- CRM-Related Organizations
- Annual CRM Programming and Budgeting
- Shoreline/Foreshore Management
- Best CRM Practices being implemented:
  - Local Legislation
  - Municipal Water Delineation
  - Coastal Zoning
  - Upland/Watershed Management
  - Mangrove Management
  - Fisheries Management
  - Solid Waste Management
  - Marine Protected Areas/ Marine Sanctuaries
  - Coastal Law Enforcement
  - Coastal Environment-Friendly Enterprise Development
  - Revenue Generation
  - Multi-Institutional Collaboration for CRM

rich in both terrestrial and marine natural resources. Its coastline stretches almost 2 000 km, indented by numerous coves and bays. Its pristine waters provide some of the best fish varieties and the fish landings (Box 3). In recent years, seaweed and pearl farming have been encouraged – as well as mariculture to prevent depletion of fishery resources.

**The Community-based Marine Sanctuary Management and Livelihood Support Project**

The Project is supported by UNDP/GEF/RNE/SGP and implemented by

**Box 2: Key players in coastal resources management in the Philippines**

**National Government**

(Central, regional, and provincial offices)  
 Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR)  
 Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)  
 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)  
 Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)  
 Philippine National Police (PNG- Maritime)  
 Philippine Navy (PN)  
 Regional Development Council

**Municipality**

Mayor  
 Vice-Mayor/SB  
 Municipal Planning and Development Officer (MDPO)  
 Municipal Agriculture Officer (MAO)  
 Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO)  
 Municipal Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Office  
 Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC)  
 Integrated FARMC  
 Municipal Development Council  
 Private Sector  
 NGOs  
 Academe

**Province**

Governor  
 Vice-Governor  
 Provincial Planning and Development Officer (PPDO)  
 Provincial Agriculture Officer (PAO)  
 Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer – Local Government Unit (PENRO-LGU)  
 Provincial CRM office  
 Provincial Development Council

**Barangay (Village/ Township)**

Barangay Captain  
 Barangay Council  
 Barangay FARMC  
 Bantay Dagat/Deputized Fish Warden  
 Fisherfolk Associations  
 People’s Organization

the *Maliliit Na Maningisda Ng Caramay Producers Cooperative* (MMCPC). It aims to tackle the pressing problem of declining fish yield/ fish catch of marginalized fishermen in Caramay, Roxas, brought about by the destruction of marine resources resulting from illegal fishing, overfishing and the intrusion of commercial fishers into prohibited zones. The project

adopts an inter-sectoral approach with a strong focus on sustainable livelihoods. The six project components: (1) marine sanctuary establishment and improvement (2) mangrove conservation and management, (3) patrolling and law enforcement (4) community strengthening/IEC/advocacy (5) capability-building and (6) livelihood support.

### Box 3: Profile of fisheries sector in Palawan

#### Fishermen and Fishing Boats

##### Commercial Fisheries

Fishermen	-	3 541
Boats	-	186

##### Municipal Fisheries

Fishermen	-	66 773
Boats (Total)	-	15 259
Motorized	-	7 780
Non-motorized	-	6 752
Others	-	727

#### Fish production during 2005 (in metric tonnes)

Commercial fisheries	-	23 142 (1 135 222)
Municipal fisheries	-	1 04 257 (1 132 120)
Aquaculture	-	104 (1 895 793 including seaweeds)
Total fish production	-	1 27 503 (4 163 135)
Seaweed production (Fresh weight)	-	3 53 115

\* Figures in parentheses denote total production in the Philippines during 2005

#### Marine sanctuaries, patrolling and law enforcement:

A 50-hectare area has been delineated for the marine sanctuary with perimeter mooring buoys. The setting up of the sanctuary and regulation of fishing will help regenerate resources and increase fish yields within and outside the sanctuary. Two monitoring stations have been established in strategic areas for monitoring, patrolling and surveillance activities. Patrol boats and communication equipment have been installed and made operational. Four-sanctuary guards/ fish wardens have been appointed for daily monitoring and patrolling.

#### Mangrove conservation and management

Community-based mangrove rehabilitation and management is being undertaken. Ecological camping by youth is being encouraged. So far 90 000 mangrove seedlings have been planted in a 9-hectare area in Tabuyo, Caramay. The community has taken active part in planting and monitoring. Boy and girl scouts in the Roxas Southern District were active participants. The Local Government Unit and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources assisted in the programme.



#### Marine sanctuary livelihood support activities

Activities include grouper farming in cages, lobster culture, sea cucumber (Balatan) culture, siganid culture, livestock feed production and fish processing.

#### Community strengthening, capacity-building and advocacy

Activities carried out include training in fishery law and enforcement, biodiversity conservation, coastal resources management, organisational development and management, cooperative development, financial management, mariculture and livestock feed formulation.

#### Coastal eco-tourism

The aim is to develop sustainable livelihoods and to conserve biodiversity by enhancing public awareness about coastal resource protection and management. An attractive wide-ranging eco-tourism package of one or two days offered by the cooperative includes:

- Orientation on project activities.
- Island-hopping in Reynard Island, North and South Isle Verde and Puntod Sand Bar.
- A special attraction is the delectable seafood (grilled fishes, steamed lobster and crabs) at the Puntod Sand Bar.
- Balsa rides for snorkeling and swimming.
- Beach walks – particularly the beach between Caramay River and Inindian River, and the beach at Puntod Sand Bar.
- Identification of shells, sea grasses, other marine species in special gleaning areas.
- Guided paddle boating, kayaking, hook and line fishing in multiple use zones.
- Homestay services and socio-cultural interaction with the community.

(This write-up is based on the visit to Palawan by Dr Y S Yadava in July 2006. The visit was part of the International Cooperative Fisheries Organization's Training Project for Promotion of Community-based Fishery Resource Management by Coastal Small-scale Fishers in the Philippines).