



# National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD)



# DIGEST

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## RCI TWG BICOL HOLDS WORKSHOP ON CADP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By: Jayson Gonzales, RCI TWG Bicol



DA Bicol Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations and RCI TWG Bicol Focal Person Dr. Edgar R. Madrid explains to the representatives of DAR and DENR the workshop guidelines.

The Regional Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (RCI TWG) Bicol conducted a workshop to discuss the accomplishments of the Pili Watershed Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) on February 8, 2023, at the Department of Agrarian Reform, Legazpi City.

The workshop reviewed the commitments from the different regional convergence agencies including the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and determined the impact of the CADP to communities along the Pili Watershed in Castilla, Sorsogon.



Castilla Municipal Agriculture Officer, Manuel Marantal, shares the impact of government interventions in the 13 barangays included in the CADP for Pili Watershed in Castilla, Sorsogon

DA Bicol Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations and RCI TWG Bicol Focal Person Dr. Edgar R. Madrid said that from 2018-2022, the 13 barangays in the CADP provided a positive and enthusiastic response to the convergence area implementation because of its impact on the residents, including farmers and fisherfolk.

Although a CADP is supported through attributions from different agencies, the barangays of Canjela, Maypangi, La Union, Milagrosa, San Isidro, San Rafael, Maracabac, Monte Carmelo, Oras, Dancalan, Poblacion, Bagalayad and Libtong saw improvements in their livelihood.



DENR Bicol representative, Ms. Judy Oliquino, presents the accomplishments and interventions of DENR-5 to CADP for Pili Watershed in Castilla, Sorsogon.

DAR Bicol Program Officer, Santos Mirandilla, related that the interventions from the four agencies provided opportunities to address the economic, educational, and health aspects of the residents since 2018 despite the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Madrid added that the interventions from the different agencies also encouraged the support of the local government through training on livelihood, peace and order, and protection of the environment.

***“need to implement more convergence areas within the Bicol region”***

The satisfaction of beneficiaries and improvement of livelihood is a testament to the need to implement more convergence areas within the Bicol region. True enough, convergence works as more issues and concerns are addressed through the complementation of resources. ###

## CAROOD WATERSHED CONVERGENCE AREA GETS RCI-SRD CENTRAL VISAYAS' NOD TO EXTEND THE CADP

By: Anna Delza S. Barimbao, DevEd, RCI Central Visayas Head Secretariat

The conclusion of the five-year Carood Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) in 2022 does not signify the termination of the Regional Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development Central Visayas and its pursuit of holistic development for Carood. As the Carood Watershed Development Council proposed an extension of the CADP for another five years, there is more in store for the future of this convergence area.

The devastation brought about by typhoon Odette in Central Visayas in 2021 created a need for investments from the four agencies: the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Interior and Local Government.



The much-needed training programs help the farmers stand up from the rubble left by typhoon Odette.

The main reason for the extension of the Carood CADP is the damage wrought by typhoon Odette affecting more than 72,000 hectares of agricultural areas worth more than P3B in Central Visayas. The worst-hit area is the municipality of Ubay which is part of the Carood Watershed, with a total valuation loss of more than P1.2B as reported by local officials which consisted of severely damaged high-value crops such as coconuts, mangoes, and other commodities.

The calamity made the municipalities crawl with thousands of farmers clamoring for more support from the government. With the scant resources of the local government units, the result could skew towards unresponsiveness if the RCI-SRD would refuse to extend the Carood CADP.

To keep the torch of commitment aflame of the Carood Watershed, Director Angel Enriquez, RCI-SRD Central Visayas chairperson, signed the resolution extending the Carood CADP early this month. Director Enriquez revealed that the DA continues to implement the project deliverables for the Carood watershed this year which is expected to benefit more than 16,000 farmers in the area.

For 2023, the DA commits a total investment worth more than P100M for the Carood Watershed consisting of various assistance such as seeds, fertilizers, farm clusters, techno-demo farm establishment, and two rice mills to be established in Ubay, Bohol.

Topping the list of the local government’s project menu is the Department of Agriculture’s farm-to-market roads (FMRs) in several agricultural production points and the rehabilitation and establishment of irrigation projects among others.

As stakeholders and beneficiaries of Carood Convergence Area remain steadfast in their vision of having a sustainably managed Carood Watershed Model Forest, convergence is at work.

***“P8.54M for the establishment of forest plantations”***

DENR Central Visayas commits to investing P8.54M for the establishment of forest plantations in critical watershed areas in Carood. This move is a necessity to prevent the devastation of crops.

As a complement, the Department of Agrarian Reform Central Visayas continues to provide sustainable livelihood support training programs in disaster-affected areas. The total investment package for Carood is worth more than P2M and is expected to bring in cash to the farmers’ pockets this year.

***“the deliverables and impact brought by RCI-SRD Central Visayas are a saving grace to the people of the Carood Watershed Convergence Area”***

Moreover, the Department of Interior and Local Government’s total deliverables for Carood in 2023 has reached more than P30M ranging from the construction of farm-to-market roads to the distribution of light cargo trucks for barangays which support farmers’ productivity. More is expected in the coming years and this proves that convergence works.

Despite the devastation that hit the Central Visayas in 2021 and the appeal of Carood municipalities for more interventions to rise up from the rubble, the deliverables and impact brought by RCI-SRD Central Visayas are a saving grace to the people of the Carood Watershed Convergence Area. ###

**AMIA PROJECT CHANGES LIVES OF SUAWAN-KULAFU SUB-WATERSHED DWELLERS**

By: Evelyn G. Deligero, RCI TWG Davao

***“The AMIA program has changed our daily habits, our farm practices, our income, and our lives as a whole”***

This was bared by Maricel Legaspina, the Chairperson of AGILA Farmers Association, one of the beneficiaries of the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) program implemented by the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office Davao.

AMIA project has been implemented in Brgy. Suawan, Brgy. Tamugan, and Brgy. Magsaysay in Marilog District, Davao City as pilot areas in Davao Region. These three barangays are along Suawan-Kulafu Sub-watershed Project, which is part of the Davao River Basin.



**Helping one another.** Members of Agila Farmers Association planting and cleaning vegetable area together

AMIA project caters to the development and transformation of farmers through Farmers' Associations and Cooperatives (FCAs) to be productive and resilient amidst the challenges of climate change. It is part of DA's support in the implementation of interventions under the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) in Suawan-Kulafu sub-watershed.

Legaspina said that during the height of the global pandemic wherein human movement became limited, their livelihood was also frozen dead, and their hope of earning a living slowly been declining.

"But AMIA Project came to the rescue. We were given different kinds of vegetable seeds and fertilizers which we utilized. We spent most of our time on the farm and since the vegetable is one of the essential needs, we earned more from our harvest", she said.

She added that during harvest, DA helped them market their products through 'Kadiwa on wheels program'.

"During that time, our vegetables were sold at a very good price. Since then, we never stop planting vegetables which gives us weekly income", she said.

Legaspina added that through AMIA project, they were also given trainings on vegetable



**Squash Picking.** Fresh harvest of squash

After the training, they received animal dispersal which include cows, swine, and goats in collaboration with the National Dairy Authority (NDA).

"As a result, part of this watershed is now converted into livestock habitat, the open field was converted to a cacao plantation, and those idle land once occupied with cogon grass now becomes productive organic agriculture land area planted with vegetables, fruits, banana among other crops," She said.

She also added that they are able to send their children to school and renovated their houses because of the continuous income they got from their vegetable farms, livestock, and cacao production.

Agriculture Regional Executive Director Abel James Monteagudo said that before

these three barangays were given assistance, there was an assessment done to determine the biophysical, climatic and socio-economic concerns in the area.

"The goal of this project is to increase the income and quality of life of Filipino farmers by looking at the potential and situation of the area and the support and services that are appropriate and timely for them," Monteagudo said.

Other farmers' organizations benefited from AMIA projects include the Lower Tamugan Integrated Rice Farmers Association (LOTIRFA), Upper Tamugan Integrated Farmers Association (UTIFA), Pagan Drier Pequeño Lumad Farmers Association (PDP-LUFA), Magsaysay Marketing Cooperative (MMC), and Indangan-Bagobo Womens Association (IBWA). ###

## AYALA DISTRICT, ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA LAUNCHED ITS CONVERGENCE AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN

by: Marineh Ambrosio, National Secretariat



BFAR turnovers insulated fish coolers to fisherfolk

***“Zamboanga Peninsula as a model region with six convergence areas”***

In a major stride, the Regional Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (RCI TWG) Zamboanga Peninsula launched its highly anticipated Ayala District Convergence Area on June 8, 2023, at the Philippine Coconut Authority in San Ramon, Zamboanga Peninsula.

The launching further solidifies the position of the Zamboanga Peninsula as a model region with six convergence areas to boast.

The Department of Agriculture led the conduct of the launching through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the local government unit (LGU) of Zamboanga City.

The MOA formalizes the implementation of the Ayala District CADD covering beneficiaries from fourteen barangays.

The Ayala District Convergence Area, located in the heart of the first district of Zamboanga City, will be a source of future groundbreaking rural development as the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADD) seeks to implement a five-year plan towards inclusive growth and poverty reduction.



Officials of the City, District, Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resources, Interior and Local Government, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders

DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban lauded the region and LGU for their commitment to agricultural and rural development. Through the convergence, Undersecretary Panganiban envisions a progressive Ayala District. Mayor John Dalipe of Zamboanga City expressed his hopes for more progressive and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk in the convergence area through the complementation of efforts among the four national government agencies. Congressman Khymer Adan Olaso of the 1<sup>st</sup> District of Zamboanga stated that the convergence area will increase agricultural productivity and deliver the needs of the constituents in the Ayala District.

The MOA signing was followed by a turnover of initial interventions to support farmers and fisherfolk of the Ayala District.



MOA signing of the Ayala District Convergence Area Development Plan

Found near the Ayala Watershed and CADT-Ecozone, the Ayala District Convergence Area relies mainly on agriculture for its livelihood. The identified plans, activities, and programs in its CADP aims to reduce poverty incidence and address relevant issues affecting each ecosystem.

Other honorable guests during the launching are DA Assistant Secretary Arnel V. De Mesa, DAR Assistant Secretary for Support Services Ubaldo Sadiarin, Jr., DA-ZamPen Regional Executive Director Dennis Arpia, DILG-9 Regional Director Paisal Abutazil, Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) Director Gina Nilo, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) Director Karen Kristine Roscom, Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Director Remelyn Recoter, OIC-Director for Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS) Junibert de Sagun, Vice Mayor Josephine Pareja, Councilors Al Jihan Edding and Litlit Macrohon, City Agriculturist Carmencita Sanchez, PENRO Edgardo Montojo, officials from DA-ZamPen BFAR, DA-ZamPen PCA and the NCI-SRD National Secretariat. ###

## RCI TWG BICOL CONVENES TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED CADP IN CAMARINES NORTE

By: Jayson Gonzales, RCI TWG Bicol

The Regional Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (RCI TWG) Bicol convened to discuss the proposed Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) of Talisay River in Talisay, Camarines Norte on April 20, 2023.

Once approved, this convergence area would serve as the second convergence area of the region, following the successful implementation of the Pili Watershed CADP.

Members of RCI TWG Bicol has undergone series of consultation meetings with concerned local government units, representatives of the Department of Agriculture (DA-5), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR-5), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-5), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG-5), and scholars from the Master in Rural Development (MPM-RD) Scholarship Program.

According to DA- Bicol Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations and RCI TWG Bicol Focal Person Dr. Edgar R. Madrid, the MPM-RD scholars play a significant role in enhancing the CADP and proposing activities through community immersion and implementation of sustainable and modern technologies to improve the livelihood of the communities along Talisay River.

During the meeting, the Talisay River was emphasized for cutting across the various ecosystems or should be a combination of at least two ecosystems and that the LGU has good governance performance in internal housekeeping.



If the proposed convergence area meets the requirements set by the NCI-SRD, it was agreed that RCI TWG Bicol will assist in the organization of the Provincial and Municipal Convergence Initiative TWG and endorsement of the convergence area to the National Steering Committee (NSC).

As RCI TWG Bicol continues its commitment to the One Convergence Area per Region, more is to be expected for Talisay, Camarines Norte in the long term.

The CADP is expected to delineate the functions and contributions of each partner agency towards rural development using the ridge-to-reef approach. It also seeks to support and promote physical infrastructure, capacity building, and public-private partnerships. ###

## DENR NORTHERN MINDANAO CONDUCTS IEC CAMPAIGN, RELEASES VARIOUS REHABILITATED WILDLIFE IN OBSERVANCE OF WORLD WILDLIFE DAY 2023

By: Shannon Lyn Aboc, RCI TWG Northern Mindanao



a rescued eagle was released in the wilderness

To celebrate all the world's wild animals and plants and their contribution to the lives and health of the planet, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region Northern Mindanao joined the observance of World Wildlife Day through the conduct of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign and release of various rehabilitated wildlife in the Center for Ecological Development and Recreation (CEDAR), Impalutao, Impasug-ong, Bukidnon on March 3, 2023.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Vergilino P. Alima of PENRO Bukidnon encouraged the participants to help in the protection and conservation of wildlife, especially in their vital contribution to a balanced ecosystem and biodiversity.

Moreover, OIC-Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Daniel F. Somera of CENRO Manolo Fortich thanked the LGUs and other stakeholders for their continuing support for the endeavor in the preservation of wildlife.

It was emphasized during the campaign that wild animals are vital to ecosystems because their extinction can lead to a decline in biodiversity.

After the IEC campaign, a total of 13 various rehabilitated wildlife species were released, some of which are considered threatened species.

The annual celebration of World Wildlife Day every March 3 was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly during its 68<sup>th</sup> session on December 20, 2013, to commemorate the signing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on March 3, 1973.

***“13 various rehabilitated wildlife species were released”***

The observance raises global awareness of the importance of the world’s wild animals and plants.

The theme for this year’s observance is “Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation” honoring the people who are making a difference in wildlife protection and conservation. This year also marks the 50th Anniversary of CITES coming into existence. ###

## **DENR’S QUINTUPLE ACTIVITIES FOR WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2023 REIGNITE STAKEHOLDERS LOVE FOR NATURE**

**By: Denise Marie C. Lorenzo, RCI TWG Ilocos**

Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (DENR-SCIS), through the Ilocos Region, gathered over 200 participants for the celebration of this year’s World Wetlands Day with the theme “It’s time for wetland restoration” which highlights the urgent need to prioritize wetland restoration for a multi-stakeholders environmental engagement at San Juan, La Union last February 03, 2023.



A rescued mature Green Sea Turtle was released as part of the activities during the World Wetlands Day

The said event was participated by DENR Ilocos, under the leadership of Regional Executive Director - Atty. Crizaldy M. Barcelo, represented by Chief Administrative Office Mary Ann Escoto, Provincial Government of La Union represented by Executive Assistant to the Governor Hon. Justito Orros, and Municipality of San Juan represented by Municipal Councilor Hon. Reginald Ng, Barangay Taboc led by Barangay Chairman Teofilo Cabiladas.

Before deploying the various participants to the environmental activities, a Partners’

Commitment Signing was first conducted to symbolize their willingness to be involved in the initiatives of the DENR in the protection, conservation, and proper management of the country’s environment and natural resources. Ten (10) sea turtle hatchlings and one (1) rescued mature green sea turtle were also released adjacent to the Marine Turtle Hatchery.

Likewise, a coastal clean-up drive was conducted along the shores of Taboc, San Juan , La Union followed



Volunteers from Philippine Coast Guard-I and Food Panda Philippines participate in the tree planting activity as part of the World Wetlands Day celebration by a tree planting activity at Sto Rosario, San Juan. Summing up the celebration was an ecological tour at Lotus Valley Farm located at Dasay, San Juan, La Union.

The brief tour, which served as an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign for the importance of wetlands and the environment, gave the opportunity for the participants to connect with nature, away from the busy trap of urban life. ###

## CONVERGENCE AREA BENEFICIARIES IN NORTHERN MINDANAO CONFERRED WITH LAND CERTIFICATES

By: Elinor Judyfind Dumanon-Abraon, RCI TWG Northern Mindanao

In support of local farmers, 385 Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) and E-Titles under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project were conferred to a total of 377 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs). This covers 661.0076 hectares including 14 municipalities in Lanao del Norte.

Five of the covered municipalities (Balo-i and and Matungao of Royale Cluster Convergence Area, and Kapatagan, Nunungan and Sultan Naga Dimaporo of Mt.Inayawan-Illana Convergence

800 ARBs in LDN, Mis Occ receive land titles from DAR

“ Sa akong kalipay karon kay i-award ang amoang title nga dugay na namong gipangandoy. Pasalamat gyod mi sa gobyerno karon, sa DAR o sa lokal paingun sa taas nga madawat na namo ang titulo.

**Nestor Labis Natinga**  
La Libertad Farmers Cooperative Lanao del Norte

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Area) are included in their respective NCI-SRD Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP).

The distribution, which was successfully conducted last May 4, 2023 at the Mindanao Civic Center Gymnasium in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, highlights the continuous progress of beneficiaries in the convergence areas of Northern Mindanao.

The CLOA and E-Titles were personally distributed by DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III and assisted by DAR 10 Regional Director Zoraida O. Macadindang, Al Hadj, JD. It was also participated by DARPO-LDN PARPO II Marie Vil M. Codilla, JD and DARPO-MOCC PARPO II Mohammad Abdul Jabbar Pandapatan as a joint event of DAR Lanao del Norte and DAR Misamis Occidental.

## ***“385 Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) and E-titles”***

“Dako kaayo ang akong kalipay karon nga i-award na ang amoang title nga dugay na namong gipangandoy. Pasalamat gyud mi sa gobyerno karon, sa DAR, sa Lokal nga panggamhanan paingon sa taas, nga makadawat nami ug titulo (I am overwhelmed and grateful to the government and to the DAR upon knowing we can finally get hold of our long awaited land titles),” expressed Nestor Labis Natinga, a member of La Libertad Farmers’ Cooperative in the Municipality of Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte.

Mr. Natinga is one of the E-Title recipients under the SPLIT Project. He is one among the several beneficiaries who was empowered by the grant of secure land rights.

The SPLIT Project involves the subdivision of collective land title (Collective Certificate of Land Ownership Awards or CCLOA) into individual land titles. Its national target is 1.38 million hectares of which 21,000 hectares are in 21 municipalities in Lanao del Norte.



Mr. Nestor Labis Natinga from the Municipality of Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte is among the 377 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries awarded during the conduct of CLOA and E-Titles Distribution held on May 4, 2023 at the MCC Gymnasium, Tubod, Lanao del Norte. Photo by: Jojo Sescon (Independent Photojournalist)

As host province showing full support to the undertaking, Governor Imelda ‘Angging’ Quibranza-Dimaporo, First District Representative, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Second District Representative, Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo and Former Representative Abdullah D. Dimaporo, graced the event.

By granting certificates and titles, rural communities can unleash their economic potential, reduce poverty, and mitigate social inequalities. However, ensuring effective land title distribution requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders involved. With the implementation of a CADP through the NCI-SRD, more interventions related to land security can be enacted. ###

# CONVERGENCE AREAS INFOGRAPHICS



## 32 CONVERGENCE AREAS

with 20 Convergence Area Development Plans

### RIDGE-TO-REEF APPROACH

a holistic, collaborative, multiple use and sustainable management of all resources within the watershed



**~10% DECREASE**  
in poverty incidence

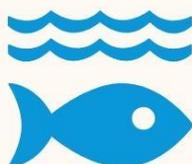
**~75% INCREASE**  
in crop production



### CONVERGENCE STRATEGY

complementation of efforts between and among the DA, DAR, DENR, DILG, other NGAs, academe, and organizations

## PASS THE NATIONAL CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NCS-SRD) BILL



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The NCI-SRD Digest is a semi-annual newsletter of the NCI-SRD. It is an avenue to present the success stories and accomplishments of the different Regional Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (RCI TWG) to the general public.



**CONVERGENCE WORKS!**