

PHILIPPINES

Strengthening non-state actor involvement in forest governance



CAPACITY BUILDING



An Adult Literacy Programme for the IP of Kahugpungan Tribung Manobo – Mamanwa in Mt. Hilong-hilong was launched. Twenty IP Bantay Gubat leaders have been enrolled to improve their levels of literacy and numeracy.

INCREASED TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFO



Online training on the CAME system with local stakeholders was initiated in the 3 priority KBAs in preparation for its formal launching and installation by the 1st Quarter of 2021.

SUSTAINABLE AND INFORMED NETWORKS



Despite the restrictions, Haribon continued to lobby for the Forest Resources Bill (FRB) and Sustainable Forest Management Bill (SFM). It also activated its network to lobby against the Kaliwa Dam in Infanta.

INFORMED AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION



Key state and non-state actors from the 3 KBA sites participated in an online Round Table Discussion (RTD) on REDD+ and National Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the country. Follow-up discussion at the project level will be initiated to update local key actors and conservations plans in the priority KBAs.

The **Haribon Foundation** has established partnerships with local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), People's Organisations (PO), churches, and academia to advocate forest governance. It continues to recognise Individual Peoples' (IP) rights and to collaborate with the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for effective forest governance in its three project sites/Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): Mt Siburan KBA, Mt. Hilong-hilong KBA, and Mt. Irid-Angelo KBA.

Outcome 1: Capacity Building

- Business plans prepared by two Volunteer Forest Guardian Groups (called Bantay Gubat) were endorsed by the Project Management Team for funding. The Community-based Forest Management Association of Palbong in Mt. Siburan will venture on Native Chicken Production and Marketing, while the Pakwan Manobo Mamanwa Indigenous Community in Mt. Hilong-hilong will focus on Abaca-Based Rainforestation Farming.
- Guided by the pandemic protocols, community activities have resumed, however there are still restrictions in holding mass gatherings; online consultation with partners have taken place instead.

Outcome 2: Increased transparency and access to information

- Online beta testing of the KaPatrol android and web application have been initiated in two KBA sites (Mt. Siburan and Mt. Hilong-hilong) of the project. Android mobile phones procured for the project were installed with the KaPatrol android application for the beta testing. The basic functionality of the KaPatrol android and web dashboard is up and running.

The United Way Worldwide (UWW) granted 10,000 USD to Haribon through a project titled “*Strengthening and Consolidation of Bantay Gubat in the Philippines*” to strengthen and consolidate Bantay Gubats’ efforts on forest protection, law enforcement, and sustainable livelihood in three priority KBAs under this project.

Outcome 3: Sustainable and informed networks

- STEP Sierra Madre, a youth group organization working in the Mount Irid-Angelo KBA, committed to support forest monitoring and reporting in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges using the Citizen Action for Monitoring Ecosystem (CAME)/Ka Patrol App through an Memorandum of Understanding with Haribon.
- As an active member of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), Haribon recommended that PAMB re-visit and re-assess their Governance Assessment of Protected Area (GAPA) Action Plan as a springboard in crafting the Presidential Proclamation (PP) 1636 Protected Area Management Plan.
- Haribon has been pivotal in the establishment of a Marine Protected Area in Barangay Dinahican, Infanta, Quezon. The area covers around 600 hectares of mangrove forests bordering the coastal communities of the Infanta town connected to the Mount Irid-Angelo KBA.

Outcome 4: Informed and effective participation

- Continuous assistance and support was extended to Bantay Gubat groups in the three KBA sites with regards to their deputation and regular forest monitoring efforts in their localities. Annual renewal of BG deputation was affected due to the pandemic.
- A CAME Team was created in the 3 priority KBAs to support forest monitoring and reporting of the Bantay Gubat volunteers, and to establish the current forest condition of their KBA. The CAME Team is a multi-disciplinary body composed of state and non-state actors.
- A roundtable discussion on REDD+ and NDC was initiated on-line. Key officials from the DENR, partner LGUs and communities attended the event. Participants gained insights and understanding of the country’s perspective on REDD+ and on the NDC roadmap.
- Haribon launched **#GoingViral**, an information campaign that intends to explain the link between the environment and human health. The campaign format is executed in the form of press releases, statements, social media campaigns, and webinars.



In Mount Irid-Angelo, the Forest Protection and Law Enforcement Plan (FLEP) of Bantay Gubat in Bangaray Lumutan, General Nakar has been adopted by the Barangay Local Government Unit, while in Mount Hilong-hilong, the FLEPs of two People’s Organisations (Pakwan Manobo Indigenous Cultural Community (PMMIC) and Kahugpungang Tribong Mamanwa Ug Manobo (KATRIMMA)) were incorporated into the Annual Work and Financial Plan of the Indigenous Political Structure (IPS) in the municipality of Lanuza.

Visibility

- The project surpassed the target write-ups of the year. Five stories were published and focused on people and communities working for the better management of forests amidst the pandemic and the importance of strong forest laws. .
- Three sets of radio plugs were produced. Partnerships with local radio outfits were forged. First set of plugs were implemented.
- See more on: <https://haribon.org.ph/our-four-pillars/empowering-people/forest-governance-project-or-fogop/fogop-field-updates-2020/>

UPCOMING EVENTS JAN-JUNE 2021

- Jan-June: Biodiversity-friendly Enterprise Implementation in Mt. Hilonghilong and Mt. Siburan
- Jan-Apr: Feasibility Study/BDFE finalization in Mt. Irid-Angelo KBA.
- Mar-Apr: Launching of CAME System in all KBA sites
- Jan-June: Orientation on REDD+ and NDC of forest management boards/councils of partner LGUs in all sites.
- Jan-Apr: Adult Literacy Program for Key Leaders of KATRIMMA in Mt. Hilonghilong KBA

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