

Negros Island



Area:
1,330,960
hectares

Administrative units:
Negros Oriental and
Negros Occidental

Background

Negros Island is recognized as a globally significant conservation priority within the Negros–Panay Biogeographic Region because of its exceptionally high concentration of endemic and threatened species found nowhere else in the world.

Conservation challenges within Negros Island include:

- Severe deforestation and habitat loss: Natural forests are in critical condition due to agricultural expansion, particularly because of sugarcane cultivation, together with illegal logging, charcoal production, and land conversion.
- Pollution and water quality issues: Domestic wastewater, agricultural runoff, industrial effluents, and solid waste contribute to the degradation of rivers, estuaries, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems.
- Commercial fishing in municipal waters: Large commercial vessels and trawlers routinely fish inside the 15-kilometer municipal waters reserved for small-scale local fishers, threatening marine resources.

Ecosystem Functions & Services

Negros Island has rich ecosystems, including forests, mountains, coastal wetlands, coral reefs, rivers, and agricultural lands. These provide a wide range of ecosystem functions and services.



Provisioning services

Negros Island yields fresh water, food from agriculture and fisheries, raw materials like timber and non-timber forest products, and provides sites for renewable energy sources such as geothermal power plants. It supports the production of important economic products, including sugarcane (as it is known as the “Sugar Bowl of the Philippines”), fisheries, handicrafts, and sustainable forest products that support local livelihoods and industries.



Regulating services

Forests, mangroves, and coral reefs in the island help regulate climate and water flow, reduce flooding and soil erosion, protect coastlines from storm surges, improve water quality, and store carbon.



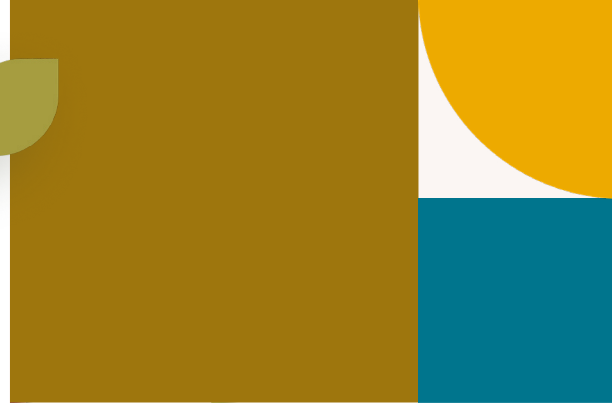
Supporting services

Ecosystems in the island support biodiversity by providing habitats for wildlife, maintaining nutrient cycling, forming fertile soils, and sustaining hydrological processes.



Cultural services

The Ati are an Indigenous group who settled early in Negros Island, widely respected across the Visayas as master practitioners of herbal medicine and traditional healing rituals. These practices draw heavily from the products found in the local forests and seascapes, making them an important cultural resource. In addition, Negros Island’s ecotourism sites, such as Gawahon Eco Park and Mount Kanlaon Natural Park, provide recreational and educational experiences that connect people with nature while sustaining local communities.



Key Projects Supported by Forest Foundation Philippines

Project 1:

PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF MANGROVE AREAS IN BARANGAY NAUHANG, SIPALAY CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL



Grantee:
Nauhang
Upland Farmers
Association (NUFA)



Project Duration:
2025–2026 (1 year)



Project Amount:
Forest Foundation Fund:
PHP 1,393,400
Counterpart Fund:
PHP 997,500

Project Summary:

The project aims to restore, protect, and sustainably manage 191 hectares of mangrove areas in Sitio Saka-saka and Lumbia, Barangay Nauhang in Sipalay City, Negros Oriental. Mangrove ecosystems in Sipalay have been severely degraded by anthropogenic activities, including illegal cutting, conversion to fishponds, overfishing, and unsustainable coastal resource use, as well as by natural processes such as erosion, sedimentation, and tropical cyclones. These have reduced the natural regenerative capacity of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, threatening community livelihoods and food security.

The project addresses these challenges through community-led forest protection and restoration, and capacity building for local organizations. The project also supports its members, the Bantay Katunggan volunteers and local residents, to ensure the participatory management of mangrove forests. Moreover, it aims to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to reduce the residents' dependence on destructive practices while fostering awareness of the ecological and economic value of mangroves. This project is also supported by the Jollibee Group Foundation (JGF) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Sipalay City.

Project 2:

STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF BULANON, LAPUS LAPUS–MACAPAGAO LOCAL CONSERVATION AREA IN SAGAY CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL



Grantee:
Lapus Lapus
Bulanon Floating
Cottages
Association
(LABUFLOACA)



Project Duration:
2025–2026 (1 year)



Project Amount:
Forest Foundation Fund:
PHP 1,921,550
Counterpart Fund:
PHP 689,000

Project Summary:

The project supports the sustainable management and conservation of the Bulanon-Lapus Lapus-Macapagao Local Conservation Area (BLM-LCA) in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, a 363.57-hectare coastal conservation area established through City Ordinance No. 2023-003. The site contains ecologically important mangrove forests, seagrass beds, and coral reefs that support biodiversity and local livelihoods, but face pressures from mangrove cutting, declining fish and crab catches, and limited resources for conservation management.

Implemented with support from JGF and the Sagay City LGU, the project strengthens community-led stewardship while sustaining the area's role as an emerging ecotourism destination.

The project aims to reforest five hectares of mangrove areas, enhance protection of the broader mangrove and seagrass ecosystems, and build the capacity of its members in organizational management, conservation practices, and ecotourism operations.

By supporting sustainable livelihood opportunities linked to ecotourism and strengthening community participation in conservation, the project reinforces local stewardship of the BLM-LCA while helping ensure that its ecological and socio-economic benefits are sustained for the surrounding communities.





Project 3:

DEVELOPING NATURE-BASED REGENERATIVE AGROFORESTRY AND ORGANIC FARMING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION OF SICABA AND MALOGO RIVER WATERSHEDS, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL



Grantee:

Negros Island Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Foundation (NISARD)



Project Duration:

2025–2027 (2 years)



Project Amount:

Philippines-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Adaptation (PCP4NbS) Fund: PHP 6,000,000

Counterpart Fund:

PHP 234,620



Project Summary:

The project seeks to develop Nature-based Solutions (NbS) through community-based regenerative agroforestry and organic farming as biodiversity-friendly enterprises with small farmers' People's Organizations (POs), focusing on women farmers within the Sicaba and Malogo River Watersheds, Negros Occidental. It also supports the engagement of its partner farmer POs to reforest and enhance watershed areas and farms with coffee, cacao, bamboo, fruit trees, and other native trees, and strengthen their capacities in regenerative agroforestry and organic farming, as part of their biodiversity-friendly enterprises, and the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for organic certification and enterprise development.

The NbS approaches of regenerative agroforestry and sustainable agriculture respond to the hazards of flood, landslide, and drought by strengthening soil stability through enhancement of river embankments and increasing the resilience of farmers, especially rural women, by cultivating biodiverse organic farms.

Aligned with the local plans and agroforestry programs of the Northern Negros Natural Park (NPNP) and outlined in the Negros Island Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan, the project provides strategic livelihood support for local communities. The project also aims to develop gender-responsive policies for the POs.



Project 4:

SUSTAINING SICABA WATERSHED THROUGH AGROFORESTRY AND LOCAL ENTERPRISE



Grantee:

Negros Economic Development Foundation (NEDF)



Project Duration:

2025–2027 (2 years)



Project Amount:

Philippines-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Adaptation (PCP4NbS) Fund: PHP 4,355,000

Counterpart Fund:

PHP 1,595,100



Project Summary:

The project aims to strengthen the climate resilience of upland communities, particularly women, in protecting and conserving the Sicaba River Watershed through NbS in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental. It engages women and upland communities in river biodiversity enhancement, and develops the local river system plans of the Aluyan Caduhaan Farmers Association (ACFA), adopting and implementing NbS.

By enhancing riverbanks and establishing swales, the project addresses the interconnected risks of flooding, landslides, and drought while improving water security and agricultural productivity. Riverbank enhancement enhances slope stability, while swales support water infiltration, reduce soil erosion, and improve soil moisture and nutrient retention, strengthening the resilience of farming systems.

The project also supports participatory baseline flora and fauna assessments along the Aluyan River, facilitates community-led river system planning, and engages the Barangay Council to institutionalize the plan through local adoption. On the ground, it will establish and maintain 360 swales, and plant and nurture 10,000 native trees, non-timber forest products, and agroforestry crops within the swale areas, contributing to long-term watershed restoration, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable community livelihoods.

Project 5:

NURTURING GAWAHON: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN MODEL FOR UTILIZING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, FOSTERING GENDER EQUALITY, AND HARNESSING ECOTOURISM

**Grantee:**

Gawahon Livelihood on Apiculture Development Association (BeeGLAD)

**Project Duration:**

2025–2027 (2 years)

**Project Amount:**

Philippines-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Adaptation (PCP4NbS) Fund: PHP 5,009,547

Counterpart Fund: PHP 564,650

Project Summary:

The project aims to improve biodiversity, enhance climate resilience, and empower local communities through NbS such as reforestation, sustainable honey production, organizational strengthening, and capacity building to contribute to long-term ecological resilience and community empowerment in Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

By enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods through integrated ecosystem restoration, agroforestry development, and strengthening local capacities, the project bolsters the resilience of local communities and ecosystems in Gawahon Eco Park. The NbS approaches of reforestation and sustainable honey production address the hazards of landslides, soil erosion, and climate-induced ecosystem disruption. The project also restores soil integrity through native tree reforestation, supports biodiversity through planting of high-value fruit trees, and integrates stingless beekeeping as a livelihood alternative for rural women farmers.

A consortium of three local organizations in Gawahon Eco Park, the Gawahon Livelihood on Apiculture Development Association (BeeGLAD), Victorias Integrated Social Forestry Farmers Association (VISFFA), and Gawahon Women's Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (GWSLPA), works in close collaboration with the Victorias City LGU and the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation (PhilBio), enabling multistakeholder collaboration and convergence to strengthen communities and ecosystems in Negros Occidental.

Project 6:

SAN CARLOS CITY COLLABORATIVE RESTORATION OF RIVER EASEMENTS UTILIZING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (SCC CO-RESTORE)

**Grantee:**

San Carlos Development Board (SCDB)

**Project Duration:**

2025–2027 (2 years)

**Project Amount:**

Philippines-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Adaptation (PCP4NbS) Fund: PHP 2,823,000

Counterpart Fund: PHP 844,000

**Project Summary:**

The project aims to establish a sustainable, inclusive, and gender-responsive framework that enhances climate resilience through active restoration approaches utilizing NbS while ensuring biodiversity conservation and socio-economic benefits for vulnerable sectors.

The NbS approaches of community-led active restoration of riverbank easements respond to flood, soil erosion, and landslide hazards by reinforcing soil structure through the use of native and endemic trees, and the participation of rural women. Through training and sustainable livelihoods, the project addresses gender gaps and promotes inclusivity. Moreover, by restoring river easements, the project enhances biodiversity, mitigates climate risks, and strengthens community adaptation.

Project 7:

WETLANDS OF TOMONGTONG ECO-TRAIL FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTION



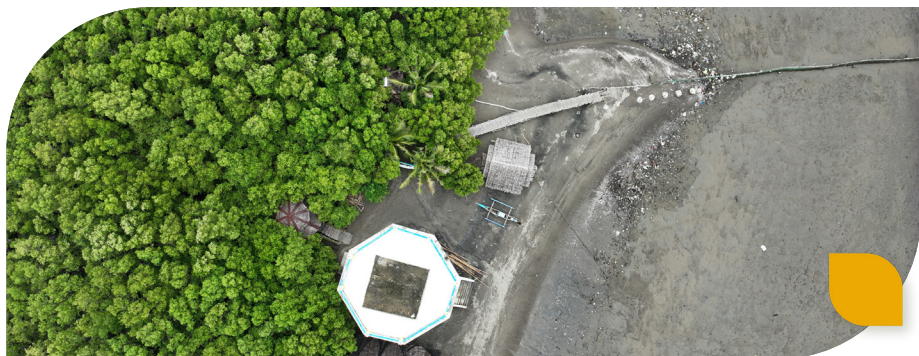
Grantee:
Tomongtong
Mangrove Eco-Trail
Women Workers
Association
(TMETWWA)



Project Duration:
2025–2027 (2 years)



Project Amount:
Philippines-Canada
Partnership on
Nature-based
Solutions (NbS) for
Climate Adaptation
(PCP4NbS) Fund:
PHP 4,000,000
Counterpart Fund:
PHP 2,000,000



Project Summary:

The project seeks to protect, conserve, and restore wetlands vulnerable to tidal surge for future generations through NbS, such as coastal protection and community-based mangrove management, and provide economic opportunities for the community.

By establishing oyster reefs in key wetland sites facing strong tidal surges, the project uses NbS to respond to the hazards of coastal erosion and sea level rise. Community-based mangrove forest management also enhances mangrove and wetland protection. By protecting biodiversity, reducing coastal erosion, securing food sources, and promoting biodiversity-friendly enterprises, community-led wetland and mangrove management and coastal protection efforts strengthen the communities' adaptive capacity to withstand extreme climate events.

The project also provides sustainable food sources and economic opportunities for the community, and strengthens the capacities of women and youth on wetlands and nature guiding, in support of ecotourism in the area.

Project 8:

BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE-BASED INITIATIVE FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION



Grantee:
Dumaguete
Kalauman Center
for Development
(DKCD)



Project Duration:
2025–2027 (2 years)



Project Amount:
Philippines-Canada
Partnership on
Nature-based
Solutions (NbS) for
Climate Adaptation
(PCP4NbS) Fund:
PHP 5,597,000
Counterpart Fund:
PHP 135,000

Project Summary:

The project seeks to restore and protect the Banica River's riparian ecosystems through NbS, such as riverbank and stream enhancement, and the transformation of urban spaces into thriving green habitats, while improving food security and addressing societal challenges.

The NbS of enhancing riverbanks and establishing urban community gardens responds to the hazards of flood, soil erosion, extreme heat, and food insecurity, and strengthens community and ecosystem resilience. Riverbank enhancement using native trees, and strategic placement of dead logs in rivers and streams promotes soil and riverbank stability, protecting women, children, and families from flooding, and providing a refuge for wildlife. This contributes to stream ecosystem stability and biodiversity, increases aquatic habitat complexity, and supports native species recovery.

Urban community gardens are also established to ensure community food security, promote local biodiversity, and foster environmental stewardship, improving the economic welfare and status of women, children, and families in peri-urban areas in Dumaguete City. Increasing the availability of fresh, nutritious, locally-grown food contributes to the food security of communities, and ensures that women have access to and can manage community gardens.

Project 9:

COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN LUNGA, VALENCIA NEGROS ORIENTAL, PHILIPPINES

**Grantee:**

Lunga Small Farmers Association (LUSFA)

**Project Duration:**

2025–2027 (2 years)

**Project Amount:**

Philippines-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Adaptation (PCP4NbS)

Program Fund:

PHP 3,772,070

Counterpart Fund:

PHP 160,000



Project Summary:

The project seeks to address both climate and human-induced hazards, and gender challenges through NbS by enhancing agroforestry, restoring the riparian forest ecosystem, and strengthening the resilience of community members, including women in Valencia, Negros Oriental, through biodiversity conservation, participatory forest resource management, and sustainable livelihoods.

It enhances and develops resilient agroforestry systems that promote sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation, and climate-resilient livelihoods through NbS, supporting small farmers in Valencia. The project also enables the enhancement of the riparian ecosystem, including the establishment of a bamboo buffer zone to promote soil stabilization, erosion control, and biodiversity conservation, improving climate resilience and providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for the community.

Comprehensive training on financial management, bookkeeping, and gender equality aimed at improving governance, biodiversity conservation, and climate-resilient livelihoods for its members is also supported to strengthen the organization's adaptive capacity and community resilience.

For more information:

**Forest Foundation Philippines**

2F Valderrama Building, 107 Esteban St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila,
Philippines 1229



(+632) 8891 0595 • (+632) 8864 0287



info@forestfoundation.ph
partnerships@forestfoundation.ph



www.forestfoundation.ph
www.pcp4nbs.forestfoundation.ph



@forestfoundationph



@forestfoundationph



Forest Foundation Philippines



@ForestFoundationPhilippines