

Siruma, Camarines Sur



Area:
14,000
hectares

Administrative unit:
Camarines Sur

Background

Siruma in Camarines Sur is a coastal municipality in San Miguel Bay (Bicol Region), with mangrove forests and marine habitats that support fisheries and protect communities against storm surges. The municipality is subdivided into 22 barangays. Of these, 15 barangays are coastal and cover 647.93 hectares of mangrove, of which 197 hectares have been declared a Local Conservation Area (LCA).

Conservation challenges within Siruma include:

- **Mangrove loss and conversion:** Cutting mangroves and converting them into aquaculture ponds, fishponds, and other land uses reduce coastal protection, degrade critical habitats, and negatively affect fisheries.
- **Illegal and destructive fishing:** Illegal and unsustainable fishing practices degrade marine habitats, reduce fish stocks, and threaten the long-term sustainability of coastal fisheries.
- **Climate change impacts:** Stronger typhoons, frequent storm surges, heavy rainfall resulting in flooding, and rain-induced landslides threaten coastal and upland communities, disrupt fishing and agricultural livelihoods, and damage infrastructure.

Ecosystem Functions & Services

Siruma's forests provide food, coastal protection, climate regulation, and livelihood opportunities from sustainable fishing and agriculture.



Provisioning services

Camarines Sur provides vital natural resources like marine fish stocks, extensive agricultural yields of rice, and regional specialty crops such as pili and abaca.



Regulating services

Mangrove forests help buffer storm surges, waves, and strong winds, reducing coastal erosion and protecting communities from climate-related hazards.



Economic products

Siruma's mangroves directly contribute to its major economic products, such as crabs, fish, and bait-and-fry stock, like crablets and shrimp, that also help the local commercial brackish water ponds.



Supporting services

The mangrove forests and seagrass beds in San Miguel Bay serve as crucial nursery and breeding habitats for diverse marine life, supporting the rich fishery resources of the region.



Cultural value

Siruma's coastal environment shapes community fishing traditions, tourism culture, and local customs, thereby contributing to place attachment and social cohesion.



Key Projects Supported by Forest Foundation Philippines

Project 1:

COMMUNITY-LED MANGROVE INITIATIVES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCY IN SIRUMA COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN BUANG AND DELEHI WATERSHEDS



Grantee:

Institute of Social Order (ISO)



Project Duration:

2025–2027 (2 years)

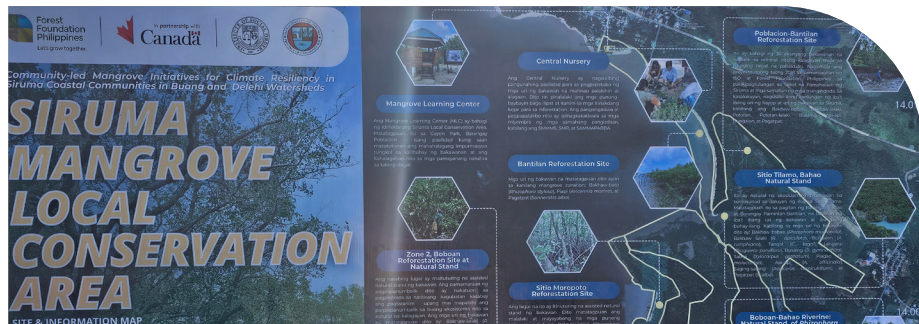


Project Amount:

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

Counterpart Fund:

PHP 606,000



Project Summary:

The project aims to enhance the climate resilience of coastal communities surrounding the Buang and Delehi watersheds in Siruma through Nature-based Solutions (NbS), specifically community-led coastal resource management. In collaboration with three People's Organizations (POs) and the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (MFARMC) of Siruma, the project protects the coastal ecosystems by expanding the LCA and developing the Mangrove Learning Center as a learning hub to engage the broader public in mangrove ecosystem protection and conservation.

In addition, it strengthens the locals' capacity to implement NbS, harnesses women's skills, and popularizes community-led initiatives for mangrove conservation, climate change adaptation, and the municipality's ecosystem services.

Project 2:

FOSTERING GENDER-INCLUSIVE AND COMMUNITY-LED COASTAL NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS WITH LIVELIHOOD DIVERSIFICATION



Grantee:

Ateneo de Naga University (AdNU)



Project Duration:

2025–2027 (2 years)



Project Amount:

Philippines-Canada Partnership on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Adaptation (PCP4NbS) Fund: PHP 5,990,810

Counterpart Fund:

PHP 276,000



Project Summary:

The project aims to address growing environmental pressures on coastal ecosystems and the resulting socioeconomic vulnerabilities of the community, particularly among women, who depend on the resources these ecosystems provide for their livelihoods, through NbS. It restores coral and seagrass ecosystems, enhances the capacities of community members to conserve coastal ecosystems, strengthens the local policy environment for conservation, and diversifies livelihood opportunities in the community, specifically in Barangays Butawanan and Penitan, Siruma, Camarines Sur.

By enabling collaboration among marine scientists, Local Government Units (LGUs), relevant government agencies, and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), the project strengthens existing Community-based Organizations (CBOs) and creates a favorable legal environment for implementing and sustaining project initiatives. With this approach, the project will contribute to building long-term coastal resilience in the area.

Project 3:

FACILITATING AND STRENGTHENING MANGROVE MANAGEMENT IN SIRUMA, CAMARINES SUR (PHASES 1-3)

**Grantee:**

Institute of Social Order (ISO)

**Project Duration:**

2014–2017 (3 years)
and 2021–2023
(2 years)

**Project Amount:**

Forest Foundation Fund:

PHP 8,902,700

Counterpart Fund:

PHP 1,661,500



Project Summary:

The project strengthened the municipality's governance and community-based management of coastal resources. Legal and institutional frameworks were also established, including Executive Order No. 73, which created the Siruma LCA Technical Working Group (TWG), and Sangguniang Bayan Resolution No. 2023-117, which declared 197 hectares of mangrove areas in five barangays as an LCA.

In addition, the Siruma Mangrove Management Plan 2024–2028 was updated and partially integrated into the Municipal Annual Investment Plan, supporting the installation of mangrove signage and improvements to the Mangrove Learning Center. Four mangrove nurseries also raised over 175,000 seedlings of various species, achieving a 90% survival rate, maintaining and enhancing 103.41 hectares of reforested mangrove areas.

Moreover, the project strengthened the local stakeholders' capacities to manage and conserve mangroves. Fishers' organizations and the MFARMC were trained in organizational development, patrolling and enforcement, and community-based restoration.

Around 1,236 residents from 14 barangays participated in mangrove awareness campaigns, while 55 Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, including field guides and participatory assessment handbooks, were produced and distributed to local offices, schools, and communities. These results collectively contributed to improved mangrove forest cover, stronger community engagement, and the institutionalization of sustainable mangrove management in Siruma.

For more information:

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