Negros Occidental

Address: Negros Occidental

Description: The North Negros Forest Reserve (NNFR) is one of the critical resources of Negros Occidental, as its remaining old-growth rainforest is said to be the last intact watershed in the province. Unabated resource exploitation, especially logging and extraction for charcoal production as well as rattan, ferns, and orchids trade, have posed as primary threats to the local biodiversity.

Status: On-going

Site Profile Summary

Ecosystem Types	Forest, Freshwater
Protection Status	Forest Reserve by Administrative Act No. 789 on April 1935, and declared a Natural Park by Presidential Proclamation No. 895 on August 15, 2005
Area	80,454.50 hectares (ha)
Bio-geographic Features	- Montane primary forests, lowland dipterocarp forests, and steep-slope portions covered with grasses, tree-ferns, shrubs - It is the largest forested area in Negros Occidental, only 75% is old growth forest, the rest is secondary growth - Tinagong-dagat Lake is located inside North Negros Natural Park (NNNP). The NNNP supports the Malogo, Imbang, Himuga-an, and Bago Rivers, and is a source of water for 17 municipalities and cities. - It's a part of a wider array of watersheds which include the Bacolod watershed, Sipalay-Hinobaan, and Mt. Canlaon. - The NNNP's remaining old-growth rainforest is said to be the last intact watershed in the province. Decades ago, an entire forest reserve, encompassing an area of 80,454 hectares was a lush tropical forest. Today, only 20% of it remains.
Flora	- 436 (311 previously recorded, 151 surveyed, 123 newly listed); 70 (16%) endemic, 16 introduced, 65 redlisted (19 critically endangered, 1 endangered)

Fauna	- A total of 81 species are recorded comprised of 20 species of amphibians and 61 species of reptiles. This list includes 59 endemic herpetofauna, of which 11 species are amphibians and 48 species are reptiles. The high number of species (81) is indicative of high biodiversity in the area as this represents 72.3 % of the total herp fauna of Negros Island, which is 112 species. The amphibians of 20 species constitute 100% of the total Negros species while the reptile species of 61, represents 66.3 % of the total Negros fauna of 92 reptilian species - Classified as an Important Bird Area of the Negros-Panay Faunal Region, particularly Mt. Silay and Mt. Magdalangan. 53% of the total bird species recorded in Negros have been reported in the reserve, including the Philippine cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*). Other notable species include the White-winged Cuckoo-shrike (*Coricina ostenta*), Visayan Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum haematosticum*), and the Visayan Warty Pig (*Sus cebifrons*)

Geopolitical Situation

- The NNNP stakeholders are resource users (e.g. farmers, forest product gatherers) and resource managers of forest resources who are members of POs that are affiliated with MUAD and the various government offices and agencies involved in forest rehabilitation and protection. These include PEMO, CENRO, PENRO, Task Force Ilahas, Negros Forests and Ecological Foundation, Inc. (NFEFI), Genesis Foundation, and the Mutual-sectoral Alliance for Development-Negros (MUAD).
- The whole forest reserve has the following land classification: Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) and Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Project, contract reforestation project, regular reforestation project, resettlement, watershed, remaining Forest Reserve, and waterways. Out of the 80, 454.5 ha of NNNP, a total of 40,643.38 ha are occupied by farmers and 11,265.8 ha of these are ISF areas. There are 30 ISF associations within NNNP which is composed of 3,705 holders of Certificate of Stewardship Contract.
- The PEMO, CENRO, and PENRO hold the legal authority to draw, finalize, and enforce environmental policies and programs. However, the role of MUAD and other NGOs in forest governance also equally significant because they assist in IEC, capacity-building, and resource mobilization. At the community level, local POs, like the Bantay Bukid Brigade (BBB) and the Task Force Ilahas, are crucial partners in implementing forest protection.

Threats

- Increased logging since 1960, when infrastructure developments improved access to the forest resources; Food industry is also a key driver of heavy logging practices.
- Forest conversion to sugarcane plantation
- Rampant extraction of other forest resources such as rattan, ferns, and orchids
- Small-scale swidden farming (*kaingin*)
- Hunting of bird species for game. An estimated 840 birds per week were killed within a 600-hectare hunting ground in the late 1990s/early 2000s.

FPE-funded Projects and Initiatives

Date	Project	Grant Type / Support	Proponent
2012	Integrated Area Conservation and Resource Enhancement: I-CARE (Year 4)	Sites / Large Grant / PhP 1,562,400	Third District Development Alliance Of Resource Managers, Inc. (TDDARMI)
2009	Integrated Area Conservation and Resource Enhancement (ICARE) for North Negros Natural Park	Sites / Large Grant / PhP 1,221,600	Third District Alliance Of Resource Managers, Inc. (TDDARMI)
2007	North Negros Natural Park 3-Dimensional Topographic Map	Sites / Small Grant / PhP 150,000	Negros Forest Ecological Foundation
2007	Integrated Area Conservation and Resource Enhancement (ICARE) for North Negros Natural Park	Sites / Large Grant / PhP 1,376,900	Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development, Inc. and Third District Alliance Of Resource Managers, Inc.
2007	A Shift Towards Area Specific Intervention Through Strategic Planning for The FPE Priority Site In North Negros Forest Reserve	Sites / Medium Grant / PhP 250,000	FPE
2006	North Negros Community-Based Biodiversity Conservation Project	Sites / Medium Grant / PhP 255,500	Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development-Negros

2006	North Negros Natural Park Community-Based Biodiversity Conservation	Sites / Large Grant / PhP 1,244,735	Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development-Negros					
2005	North Negros Forest Reserve Community-Based Conservation Project (Year III)	Sites / Large Grant / PhP 1,112,335	Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development-Negros					
2004	North Negros Forest Reserve Community-Based Conservation Project (Year II)	Sites / Large Grant / PhP 1,112,635	Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development-Negros					
2003	North Negros Forest Reserve Community-Based Conservation Project	Sites / Large Grant / PhP 1,104,405	Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development-Negros					
2001	North Negros Forest Reserve Community-Based Conservation Project	Sites / Large Grant / PhP 1,445,802	Multi-Sectoral Alliance for Development - Negros					
2000	North Negros Mountain Range Rapid Site Assessment	Research / Medium Grant / PhP 249,500						<td left;="" vertical-align:="" top;"="">University of St. La Salle, Bacolod

Key Outcomes

Biogeographic assessment and socio-economic profiling in the site conducted to provide baseline data for subsequent conservation initiatives.

- , with the support of provincial and municipal LGUs and the DENR.
- Training and deputization of local community members to serve the important *Bantay Gubat* Information, education, and advocacy for natural resource conservation.
- Development of livestock-based enterprises to provide alternative livelihood resources that will lessen the pressure on forest products.

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