

**BIAD 2 Municipalities
Comprehensive Project Proposal # 5**

I. Project Description

Project Title : Community-Based Eco-Cultural Tourism Development

Project Type : Income Generating and Technical Assistance

Project Components:

- a) Assessment of Potential sites for ecotourism
- b) Pre-planning and stakeholders analysis
- c) Capability-building on Resources Use management and Protection, Product Development, Community-based Enterprise and Market Linkage
- d) Eco-cultural Tourism Sites Development
- e) Infrastructure and Utilities
- f) Monitoring and Evaluation

Project Location : 9 municipalities in BIAD 2: Loon, Calape, Tubigon Clarin, Inabanga, Buenavista, Getafe, Catigbian San Isidro

II. Project Status : Proposed Project with Project Idea

III. Project Justification :

1. Project Background

The municipalities in BIAD 2 are blessed with rich biological diversity and eco-cultural assets. It has the world famous of a number of diving havens which are considered among the best in the world, white sand beaches, waterfalls, springs, rivers, underground caves, mangrove garden/bird sanctuaries, marine parks, island lakes, historical and religious landmarks, OTOP centers for loom weaving industries and certainly not the least among its resources, a rich and fascinating culture and mountain sceneries.

Based on the Local Poverty Database Monitoring System (LPDMS) shows that there are 49,185 households which is equivalent to 97% of the total number of households in BIAD 2 cluster municipalities belongs to the poverty line. There 63% or 31,219 households fall below income threshold, 46% or 22,649 families are living below food threshold, 33% or 16,064 households have no sanitary toilets, 26% or 12,911 households do not owned lot, 20% or 10,040 households have no access to potable/safe drinking water, 6.96% or 17,806 of the total population are not employed and 1.63% or 4,178 children are malnourished. Majority of these families

are living in the rural/upland and coastal areas who derive their income from farming and fishing.

With the Poverty Reduction Program as basis for conceptualization, the project is focused on providing the marginal communities in 9-municipalities for livelihood, employment, and sanitation while at the same time securing sustainable management for the environment and its natural tourism assets. Hereunder are the list of the sites that are worthy of conservation and appreciation.

However, local and foreign tourists have not yet reached the other remote areas in Bohol that are like what the experience in the Islands of Panglao, Pamilacan, Balicasag and Cabilao. But in reality there are more to see and to experience in BIAD 2 municipalities and a lot for the locals to offer ecotourism opportunities. The proposed project if implemented will provide appropriate community-based interventions that will encourage the LGUs and the local community to work together to eventually resolve all underlying issues on poverty.

Proposed Loon, Calape and Tubigon Tourism Package 1

Church of the Nuestra Señora de la Luz (Berhin sa Kasilak)- Established by the Jesuits in 1753, the Our Lady of Light Parish was ceded in 1768 to the Recollects who built the first stone church in the 1780s. The churches built in 1815, 1850 and 1853-54 were devoured by fire. The present façade is believed to have survived the last one. This “Crowning Glory of Recollect Architecture” and “Queen of All Heritage Churches in Bohol” was constructed when Fr. Jose Garcia was parish priest from 1854 to 1890.

Inang-angan- Beside the Stone Church is a stairway made of coral stone blocks, this grand stairway of four flights and 174 steps was constructed under the direction of Fr. Antonio Yus, parish priest from 1847 to 1849 to improve contact between Napo(downtown) and Moto(uptown). A fifth flight of 38 steps leads to the convent (now Sacred Heart Academy) at the back of the Our Lady of Light church.

Spanish-Era Mortuary Chapel- This hexagonal structure is made of coral stone blocks or “tinableya” put together with a mixture of sand, lime and water. In olden times, mass was not celebrated for the remains of a dead person.

Mangrove Monkeys in Cantomocad and Pondol- About eight (8) kilometers north of Loon proper lies the two adjacent barangays where mangrove monkeys find abode in the vast mangrove gardens. By simply calling “moy”, one can have a closed encounter with this group of mammals and feed them closely with ripe bananas and other foods.

Church of Berhin delos Remedios in Calape- This American –Era built edifice was originally built with coral stone

Loom Weaving in Pinayagan Norte, Ilijan Hill and Ilijan Dam in Tubigon- North of Calape is the town of Tubigon where you can see and experience Loom Weaving in barangay Pinayagan Norte.

Table below shows the potential sites in BIAD 2 for ecotourism circuit development:

BIAD 2 Municipalities	Barangay Location	Potential Tourism Sites
1. Loon	Cabilao Island	Beaches
	Cantaongon	Waterfalls
	Cantumocad Pondol	Mangrove monkeys
	Napo	Inangangan back of church
	Poblacion	Church of the Nuestra Señora de la Luz (Berhin sa Kasilak)
2. Calape	Candungao	Mt. Candungao Panoramic View Park
	Sohoton	Sohoton Cave
	Panggangan	Mangrove-based eco-tourism
	San Isidro	Kinubkuban Bathing Resort
	Poblacion	St. Vincent Ferrer Church
	Lawis	Fish Sanctuaries
	Tinibgan / Calunasan	San Antonio de Padua & Birhen sa Kalooy Shrine
3. Tubigon	Pinayagan Norte	Loom weaving
	Batasan Island	Aqua-marine
	Ilihan	Ilihan hill and dam
	Buenos Aires and Bunacan	Caves
	Bilangbilangan Is.	Diving site
	Dumog and Ubay Is.	Sand bars
4. Clarin	Poblacion	CVSCAFT Board Walk
	Cantoyoc	Binaliw Falls
5. Inabanga	Poblacion	Loom weaving OTOP, caves Dagohoy Park-Macaban
	Hambongan	Marine sanctuary
	Cuaming Diot	Sand bar
6. Buenavista	Cambuhat	Cambuhat River/Village Tour
7. Getafe	Banacon	Mangrove/Bird Sanctuary
8. Catigbain	Poblacion West	Waterfalls
9. San Isidro	Caimbang	Kilabkilab falls

For being blessed with beautiful scenery, imposing heritage structures, and warm-hearted people, BIAD 2 LGUs have been aptly called the emerging giant of Bohol's tourism industry, with the proposed tourism circuits as its major feature. This tourism package involves a journey on foot down memory lane, with its structure having a story to tell and cultural activities for the tourists to experience.

The most basic issue regarding Eco-Cultural Tourism (ECT) development in Bohol is that the stakeholders do not have a common understanding of the term "Eco-Cultural

Tourism” - each one operates according to his own concept thereof. Definitely, this has to be addressed at the very start of the project. But there are more issues identified by the BIAD 2 and the Provincial Government, all standing in the way of ECT development. There is an apparent lack of appreciation for the environment, and a consequent lack of enthusiasm to preserve it. This may be partly due to widespread occurrence of poverty.

The development of the proposed project aims to promote cooperation between local communities, national agencies, NGOs, private sectors, and tour agencies in order to fully involve the local people in the employment opportunities and income-generating activities that tourism can bring while protecting the environment and cultural heritage of the area. It is already reflected in the Bohol Ecotourism and Biodiversity Framework Plan (2006-2015) under Circuit 1A, which is clustered for ecotourism nature, cultural heritage, marine, birds, caves, and beaches tour experience.

Project Linkages. The proposed project will definitely be linked with the existing community-based ecotourism developments implemented by LGUs, DOT, DENR, TESDA, NGOs, and private sectors. This will support the Provincial and National Governments’ thrust in developing ecotourism in the province.

Project Objectives

- To develop eco-cultural tourism with emphasis on natural resources and environmental protection and conservation;
- To promote community-based tourism activities:
- To preserve and revitalize the cultural heritage and sites ;
- To increase the level of awareness thru trainings/seminars on art, culture, and history of the heritage sites for the members of a community-based organization as well as on how to interpret them for the tourists to appreciate;
- To capacitate the stakeholders on community-based ecotourism on resources protection, tourist services, and engaging in tourism-related enterprises;
- To launch and promote the BIAD 2 tourism packages to the mainstream players and stakeholders of the tourism industry; and
- To increase the family income and employment of the people and the revenue of the LGUs.

Sectoral Objectives

- To strengthen the capacity of the people in managing the ecotourism projects
- To generate income and build political support for nature conservation and protection
- To address poverty issues through sustainable livelihood
- To improve the amenities and infrastructure facilities and services needed for the implementation of community-based ecotourism

- To develop ecotourism destinations that are in accordance with the province's prime ecotourism resources based on the image that is internationally competitive and attracts key market segments

Regional/National Objectives. The project is in support to poverty reduction efforts both national and international levels. The Philippines, being one of the signatories of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, contributes in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through localizing the efforts. A big share of the economic boom could in fact be attributed to the influx of tourists in the country and the coming in of foreign investors. The national government is continuously promoting selling the ecotourism strategy in the country and its attractions for tourists to keep coming back. If the project will be realized, it will provide alternative and novel activity destination to both foreign and domestic travelers.

IV. PROJECT FINANCING

Funds needed : **PhP 9,000,000.00**

Funding Source : From any funding donors (local/national/foreign)

Counterpart Funding

To implement the project, the BIAD 2 LGUs through their concerned agencies, shall provide planning, management, and technical services. It shall also monitor and evaluate the project on a regular basis in order to ensure quality of service and profitability. Funds for these activities shall be taken from local sources. Each LGU shall contribute funds or any other form as a counterpart for the project.

V. PROJECT BENEFITS AND COSTS

Beneficiaries. The project would benefit to the members of the community organization who manage the tour package and the BIAD 2 LGUs. It will indirectly benefit to the local people living in the community and outside BIAD 2 clusters in Bohol.

Social Benefits. More income will support to the family beneficiaries a better access to basic and social needs and services requirement.

Cultural Impacts. The disruption of the people's way of life is a threat that should not be overlooked in the formulation of ecotourism development in BIAD 2. Commercialization of local cultural items and heritage and disturbance of traditional norms and behavior and conduct always shall be controlled and preserved.

Economic Benefits. Under a well managed condition, the project provides significant contributions both to income, employment, and resource conservation. It does not require large capital/investment because ecotourism as a resource-based tourism needs only minimal improvement.

Ecological Considerations

The project brings opportunities to generate funds and other kind of support to conserve and protect the natural resources. It also enables the community to be educated about the importance of ecosystem. Do not subject the natural resources to pressure such as soil compaction, animal species disturbance, damage to geological features, depletion of existing vegetation and extraction of forest products due to uncontrolled number of individuals visiting the area, and accumulation of non-biodegradable litter. With the governments' and communities' cooperation and initial action to properly manage the resources for ecotourism and the negative impact can be minimized or else be eliminated.

VI. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Responsible Agencies : The community-based organization in BIAD-2
9 Municipalities in BIAD 2
Covered Barangays in BIAD 2

Cooperating Agency/Office : Bohol Tourism Office
Provincial Planning and Development Office
Bohol Environment Management Office
DOT, DENR (PENRO, EMB, CENROs), BFAR,

Private Sector : Business, ACADEME, NGOs

Implementation Schedule

The project will be implemented in 2 years as shown on the following table.

Major Activities	2- Year			
	Sem 1	Sem 2	Sem 3	Sem 4
Site Survey and Assessment	█			
Research/Planning and Physical designs	█	█		
Capacity Building for Resources Use Management/Protection, Product Development, Community-based Enterprise, Marketing and Promotion,	█	█	█	
Infrastructure and Utilities (waste disposal, water, power, communication, drainage system, road access, etc.)	█	█		
Launching of Ecotourism Circuit			█	
Monitoring and Evaluation	█	█	█	█

Administrative Feasibility. In line with the national and provincial governments' initiative in pursuing the National Ecotourism Strategy (E.O 111), the nine (9) LGUs in BIAD 2 shall lay down an institutional mechanism for ecotourism development and biodiversity conservation. A Technical Working Group shall be established to provide technical and administrative support. It shall be composed of the 9-MPDCs which are fully supported with an Executive Order and funds in performing its additional functions while waiting for the project funds to be released from the donors. The composition of the TWG could further be expanded (multi-sectoral) with the participation of the POs, NGOs, Private, and Church sectors who are directly engaging on ecotourism development within BIAD 2 in order to build for an effective relationship among them. In addition, the TWG shall conduct monitoring and evaluation activities on a regular basis in order to ensure quality of service and profitability.

Social Acceptability. The project is socially acceptable by the majority of the local residents. The people are even very much enthusiastic to undertake the project.

Legal and Political Support. The activities identified include the total development of municipalities in BIAD 2 and the sites identified are already incorporated in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Investment Plans of the 9-LGUs. Because of the potentials of the place, its existing resources and its vicinity, for certain, whosoever the next political leaders will be, they will hold on the ideals for the development of the identified eco-tourism projects in BIAD 2.

Project Sustainability

In order to sustain the project an effective and efficient institutional mechanism shall be established and instituted which includes budget allocation every year. The issue of sustainability will be the main responsibility of the local players and stakeholders, as they will examine the possibilities of equipping the multi-sectoral body with a legal basis as provided under RA 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991. Other sustainability schemes that the multi-sectoral body can assess are the regular support from various stakeholders in development. A multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation body shall be instituted who will gauge, check, and recommend the possible changes and impacts of the projects.

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WHY Bohol Integrated Area Development (BIAD)?

The clustering of municipalities in BIAD started way back in the 1980's when a team of experts from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) undertook a Master Plan Study of the Bohol Integrated Area Development Project. The bases for the clustering were practical considerations such as geographic proximity to each other, shared natural and agricultural resource base, and local economy and industry, among others.

It was recognized that through an inter-LGU mechanism, such as the BIAD, every municipality can stand to benefit from such clustering. Specifically, the BIAD grouping will generate the following advantages:

- economies of scale from pooling of resources;
- more effective environmental management;
- stronger lobbying power especially for Official Development Assistance (ODA) and National Government Agency (NGA) support;
- inter-LGU exchange and cooperation (i.e., personnel and institutional development, etc);
- enhanced planning systems (i.e., urban development, transportation, etc.);
- enhanced revenue and investment generation;
- sound policy reform as a result of LGU collaboration; and,
- collaborative tourism development efforts.

Objectives of the BIAD System

The BIAD System serves as the structural and operational umbrella from which priority, high impact projects for the Bohol Province are identified.

Municipalities in the BIAD System

The BIAD cluster that was initially identified in the 1980's remains to this day. The following table shown below lists the BIAD composite municipalities.

- BIAD 1** Alburquerque, Antequera, Baclayon, Balilihan, Corella, Cortes, Daus, Lila, Loay, Loboc, Maribojoc, Panglao, Sevilla, Sikatuna and Tagbilaran City
- BIAD 2** Loon, Calape, Tubigon, Clarin, Inabanga, Buenavista, Getafe, San Isidro and Catigbian
- BIAD 3** Alicia, Bien Unido, Mabini, Pres. Garcia, San Miguel, Talibon, Trinidad and Ubay
- BIAD 4** Anda, Candijay, Dimiao, Duero, Garcia-Hernandez, Guindulman, Jagna and Valencia
- BIAD 5** Batuan, Bilar, Carmen, Dagohoy, Danao, Pilar, Sagbayan and Sierra Bullones

