

# Aklan State University Community Development Manduyog Hill Biodiversity Conservation Program

## About the project

### Summary

The Manduyog Hill Biodiversity Conservation program serves as a venue for instruction, research, extension and production for academics, community, government agencies, entrepreneurs, peoples, nongovernment organizations and other stakeholders. The project is anchored to the University's vision of serving as an Academic Pillar of Excellence (APEX) for sustainable development, promoting the adaptation of environmental programs which bring social, environmental, and financial benefits.

### Project partners

Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Tourism (DOT), Technical Education for Skills and Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Organic Farmers Association in Aklan (PO's)

## The results

### The problem

The loss of forest biodiversity and productivity due to typhoons Haiyan, Frank and Undang and occasional encroachment of hunters and gatherers from neighboring community. Unsustainable soil and water conservation practices and lack of involvement, participation and awareness of immediate stakeholders.

### The approach

Adapt sustainable biodiversity conservation strategies such as massive rehabilitation of the affected forest tree species, enhance species richness through planting of indigenous trees and plant species, implementation of soil and water conservation in the project site. Likewise, establishment of clonal nursery with forest and other indigenous plant species production. Promotion of sustainable farming approaches, such as organic agriculture through farm diversification and integrated pest management. Massive promotion through IEC's and involvement of the community in the different activities. Strengthening relevant research, development and extension advocacies and integration of program goals to curricular objectives.

### Our goals

Protection and conservation of biodiversity towards sustainable development that will serve as a model of a successful project due to the active partnership of the University with private and other public agencies.



### Profile

- 10,389 Students
- 255 Faculty members
- Rurban

## Obstacles and solutions

Budget constraints	Allocation of fund by the University , outsourcing among government agencies (CHED, DA, DENR, DTI, TESDA ), Local Government Units (LGU's) and private organizations both from local and foreign donors
Ineffective coordination among program components	Strengthening the participation, role and scope of each program component for effective coordination towards the attainment of program goals
Lack of research based facilities	Prepared proposal for funding to government agencies such as CHED, DA, DOT, DOST Out sourcing among the alumni and other private benefactors

## Performance and results

One of the most notable performance and results is enriched biodiversity. Current studies reveal that Manduyog Hill has 32 trees species of ecological and economic importance, eight indigenous commercial value species of fiber plants (Paspasain, 2014 and Barrientos and Remegio, 2015), 10 species of epiphytes (Capurcos, 2015), nine species of vines (Razon , 2015), nine species of grasses (Agupitan, 2015) and three species of shrubs. Meanwhile, Tumbokon (2015) identified 14 species of fungi, 32 amphibians (Asuncion, 2015), eight birds species (Abendaño, 2014) and various species of ground ants. Likewise, Manduyog Hill houses the majestic Paho (*Mangifera altissima*) stand comprising of 52 individual trees.

At the footslope of Manduyog Hill, a hillside farming demonstration project was established with ecologically diverse and economically important plant species. At the lowland, an Organic Demonstration Farm which is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) of the University and Organic Farmers Producers Association of Aklan (OFPAA) that support conservation, protection and management of agro-ecosystem landscape thereby sustaining faunal and floral richness and productivity. In addition, a Science and Technology Leisure Farm for indigenous species of organic livestock was established. Further, improved regeneration of affected forest stand of indigenous tree species through cloning was intensified.

Outcome-based instruction, research, extension and production initiatives were strengthened among the key players. The level of awareness among stakeholders regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainability increased. Also, the influx of about 45,000 local and foreign tourists resulting to additional income to the University from its various income generating projects and small scale businesses in the community. Recognition from local and national agencies like Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Nestle as "Ecofriendly University" was attained and proactive relationship between the University and the community prevailed. Furthermore, the project opened venue for linkages, funding from other agencies and the provision of basic facilities such as the Natural Fiber Resource and the Agri-tourism Education and Research Centers.

## The future

### Lessons learned

Program sustainability lies in social acceptance and cooperation among stakeholders; environment conservation should be a concerted effort and lastly biodiversity promotes economic sustainability.

### Sharing your project

The project has been a learning opportunity for students, faculty, farmers, tourists, devotees and other stakeholders. Private-public partnership has been established and sustained by the University through the

different religious and cultural activities. Best practices were shared with other Universities at the local and even at the National level through training, exhibits, fora and information, education communication materials.

### What has it meant to your institution to be a GUPES Green Gown Award finalist?

The award will be valued as it is recognition of our continuous commitment to translate educational potentials into a tangible and sustainable program. This will inspire us to conserve nature and the environment for the continuity of human life on this planet.

### Further information

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