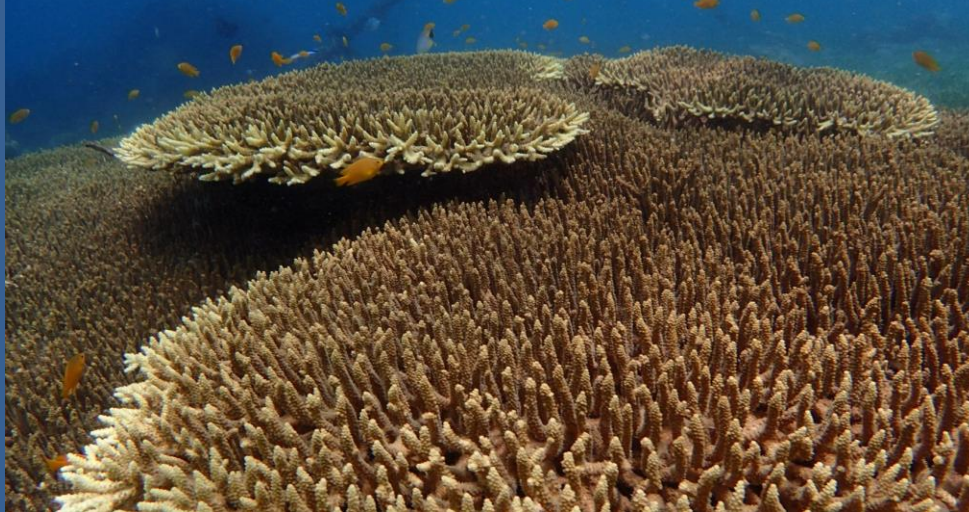


Executive Summary



The Camiguin Coastal Resource Management Project (CCRMP) is a five-year initiative funded by the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) and implemented by the National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office X (NEDA-X) in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-X) and the Provincial Government of Camiguin. The project aimed to enhance the productivity and integrity of coastal and marine resources while promoting sustainable economic activities among the fisherfolk communities in Camiguin.

Objectives

- Assess the impact of the CCRMP on coastal resource management and alternative livelihoods.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) in improving biodiversity and fishery productivity.
- Determine the sustainability of project outcomes and institutional mechanisms for long-term coastal management.
- Identify lessons learned and best practices for future coastal resource management initiatives.

Methodology

The impact evaluation employed a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative analyses. Data collection involved:

- **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** with government officials, fisherfolk, and local stakeholders.
- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** with fisherfolk organizations and community members.
- **Field Surveys** assessing biodiversity indicators, fishery productivity, and water quality.
- **Desk Review** of project reports, policy documents, and evaluation frameworks.
- **Marine Protected Area (MPA) Effectiveness Assessment** using the MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT).
- **Socioeconomic Analysis** comparing income levels before and after project implementation.

Executive Summary



Key Findings

Project Implementation and Impact

- Marine Biodiversity Conservation:** The CCRMP significantly contributed to improved marine biodiversity, with notable increases in live coral cover, fish density, and mangrove basal area.
- Water Quality Improvement:** MPAs showed enhanced water clarity, reduced pollutants, and improved overall ecosystem health.
- Community Engagement and Governance:** Strengthened institutional mechanisms led to better coastal law enforcement and local governance of MPAs.
- Socioeconomic Outcomes:** While ecotourism-based enterprises showed promise, the sustainability of alternative livelihoods remained a challenge due to limited market access and resource constraints.

Challenges Identified

- Institutional and Policy Gaps:** Bureaucratic challenges and inconsistencies in policy implementation affected long-term sustainability.
- Limited Alternative Livelihood Success:** Some livelihood initiatives, particularly those related to fishery-based value-added products, faced operational difficulties and limited profitability.
- Fishing Pressure Outside MPAs:** High fishing activity in non-protected areas constrained the full spillover benefits of MPAs.
- Data and Monitoring Limitations:** The absence of comprehensive baseline data made it difficult to measure long-term impact effectively.



Executive Summary

Recommendations

Governance and Policy Strengthening

- Institutionalize coastal resource management as a core service of local government units (LGUs).
- Strengthen policy alignment between national and local agencies to ensure consistent implementation.
- Enhance coordination among DENR, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and LGUs for improved enforcement and monitoring.

Sustainable Livelihood and Economic Development

- Support ecotourism initiatives with improved infrastructure, capacity-building, and marketing support.
- Diversify livelihood programs to include climate-resilient and market-driven economic activities.
- Enhance access to financing and technical assistance for fisherfolk engaging in alternative livelihoods.

Environmental and Resource Management

- Expand MPAs and establish ecosystem-based management strategies.
- Strengthen community-based enforcement mechanisms to reduce illegal fishing and habitat degradation.
- Implement regular biodiversity and water quality monitoring programs using technology-driven solutions.

Capacity Building and Community Engagement

- Provide continuous training for local communities on sustainable fisheries management and conservation.
- Promote participatory decision-making to increase stakeholder ownership and long-term project sustainability.
- Develop educational campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of marine conservation and responsible tourism.

Conclusion

The Camiguin Coastal Resource Management Project demonstrated significant positive impacts on marine biodiversity, water quality, and community governance. However, the sustainability of alternative livelihoods and policy coherence remain key challenges. Strengthening institutional mechanisms, expanding conservation efforts, and fostering economic resilience will be essential to ensuring long-term benefits for Camiguin's coastal communities. The project is a valuable model for integrating ecological preservation with socioeconomic development in island provinces.