



Sulog



Shared Resource
Shared Responsibility

A newsletter of the MindaNOW: Nurturing Our Waters Program
May 2013 Davao City, Philippines Volume 1 Issue 1



Public and Private Partnership on Tree-Growing. Members of the Mindanao Alliance of Self-help Society – Southern Mindanao Educational Cooperative Center (MASS-SPECC) conducted a tree-growing activity for the program “Co-ops Love Green Earth.” The cooperative, in partnership with MinDA, has embarked on the program thru the Mindanao Nurturing Our Waters to help restore ecological integrity of Mindanao.

MindaNOW: Adapting to Climate Change

In the face of the rapidly changing environmental conditions, the MindaNOW: Nurturing Our Waters Program, an integrated set of development interventions that is anchored on sustainable development framework, stepped up to accomplish its planned projects and activities for the year 2013.

The program, which adopts the river basin approach as the key strategy for planning, encourages

the best use of the full potentials of the river basins and watersheds without necessarily compromising their carrying capacity.

With an annual budget of Php7M that will run until 2016, MindaNOW focuses on five components, namely Institutional Development and Capacity Building, Plan Harmonization and Knowledge Management, Program Support and Advocacy, Policy Review and Advocacy, and Constituency Building.

As the lead coordinator, it partners with local

government units, government agencies (DENR, NEDA, DND, CCC, DA, DOT, DAR, NCIP, DOST, DILG, DPWH, DOST, ARMM-Regional Gov't, OCD, DSWD, DepEd, Ched, NWRB), civil society and private sectors (IRF, JCI, ESSC, PWMC, PCCI, MASS-SPECC, WWF, HFI), and media.

To strengthen river basin management mechanisms, MindaNOW is working with the DENR in the creation of River Basin Organizations (RBOs) and is providing assistance in crafting River Basin Management and

Development Master Plans.

Early this year, MindaNOW formed the Mindanao Rehabilitation Task Force to undertake rapid river assessment of critical rivers particularly those that were devastated by typhoons Pablo and Sendong.

MindaNOW also acts as oversight agency for Integrated Natural Resource and Environmental Management Project and the updating of Mindanao Topographic Map. 

MinDA creates river rehab task force

The Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) created a task force that will conduct rapid assessment of the damage brought by environmental malpractices and typhoons that recently visited the island-region.

In the last four years, major calamities have confronted the island-region that rendered damages to critical rivers and its watersheds.

The latest, typhoon Bhopa (Pablo), displaced about 850,000 families, caused the loss of 2,334 lives and damaged private properties,

agricultural livelihood, and public infrastructure.

The Region 11 Rivers Task Force agreed to conduct rapid assessment of the critical rivers affected by typhoon Pablo particularly in Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental and the possible interventions to these critical rivers. It was participated in by partner agencies and Provincial Local Government Units within Davao Region that were affected by the super typhoon.

In January this year, the Mindanao Rivers Reconstruction Task Force

recommended to broaden the coverage of river rapid assessment and include other critical rivers damaged by unsustainable practices.

Subsequently, the MinDA Board recognized the need to create a body that will undertake the following tasks: identify critical rivers for restoration; conduct rapid assessment on the critical rivers; and recommend integrated action plan that will address immediate rehabilitation of identified critical rivers. On 24 January 2013, the creation of Mindanao Riverways Reconstruction Task Force

through the Resolution No.004 Series of 2013 was approved.

MinDA has invited the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to provide a group of experts who will assist the task force and act as technical advisors, provide in-depth analysis in the integrated rehabilitation recommendations and prepare the proposals of identified priority projects.

By the end of the year, the task force is expected to come up assessment results and proposals for the top three immediate interventions for the identified rivers. 

MinDA, DENR establish Davao river basin management alliance

MindaNOW is targeting to establish 10 River Basin Organizations (RBOs) by 2016; eight for the major river basins, one for Bukidnon as the headwater province and one for Zamboanga Peninsula.

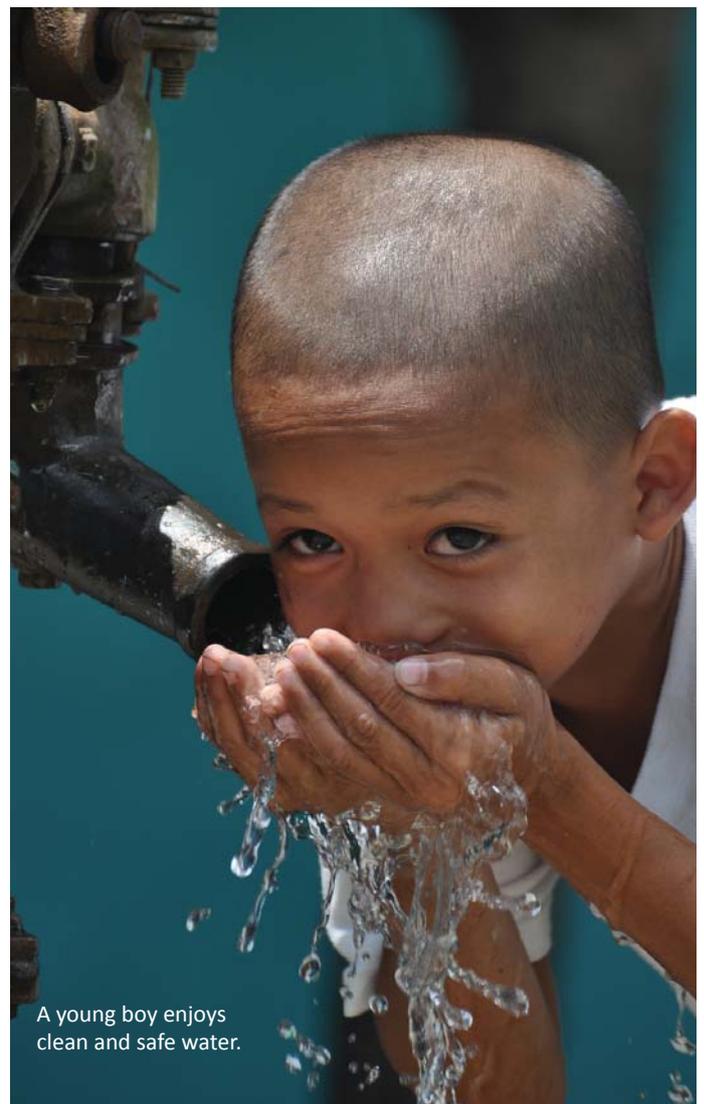
At present, the Davao River Basin (DRB) Management Alliance has been established. The DRB is an alliance composed of Davao Watershed Management Council, Davao Gulf Management Council

and Bukidnon Watershed and River Basin Forum. Meanwhile, assistance to the setting up of the Mindanao River Basin, Agusan River Basin, Silway River Basin and Tagum-Libuganon River Basin Organizations are being provided by the MindaNOW program.

The program is also working to strengthen the RBOs in preparation for their institutionalization as managers of these river basins. 

You can help us enrich the MindaNOW Portal!

An enhanced MindaNOW Portal, now.minda.gov.ph, will be accessible by the 3rd Quarter of this year. Once completed, it will provide extensive, substantial and valuable data and information on Mindanao environment. Your contributions will enrich the MindaNOW Portal.



A young boy enjoys clean and safe water.

River basin master plans integrate CCAM and DRRM

In coordination with DENR and NEDA, MindaNOW is assisting in the development of River Basin Master Plans that integrate the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

To date, the Mindanao River Basin and Buayan-Malungon River Basin master plans have been completed, the Davao River Basin and Cagayan de Oro River Basin are ongoing and the Tagum-Libuganon, Lake Lanao-Agus and Tagoloan master plans are up for bidding.

The master plans are being formulated to serve as a long term guide for the development of river basins while the strengthening of the RBOs is being pursued.

Project completes updating of Mindanao topographic map

A two-year project designed to update and transform the topographic maps to Philippine Reference System of 1992 and reformat the maps to the scale of 1:50,000 has been completed and will be soon available for both private and public sectors.

The project entitled Mindanao Topographic Map for Peace and Development was proposed by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) to update the 50 to 60 year-old topographic maps of Mindanao that include the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

On 15 January 2010, an agreement was signed with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the funding agency and MinDA, the major coordinating body for the said project.

JICA, as the funding agency dispatched a project team that pursued on the technology transfer to its counterparts in the course of the project implementation. Meanwhile, as counterpart agencies, MinDA and NAMRIA acted as coordinating bodies that facilitated the involvement of other government and non-government organizations



from all sectors during the implementation of the project.

The updated topographic map will be used as a base map for the spatial and regional planning and is a reliable reference for the Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) plans of the local government units and agencies. 

Resource management project to commence in July 2013

A project designed to promote sustainable watershed management in two priority river basins in Mindanao will kick off in July this year.

Called the Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project (INREMP), the program encourages the participation of indigenous peoples and resource-poor communities to help curb the degradation of Mindanao's watersheds.

The project also aims to alter practices that are seen to cause forest denudation and promote among Mindanao farmers sustainable agricultural practices and technologies. 



President Benigno Simeon Aquino III and MinDA Chair Luwalhati Antonino discuss the Mindanao Resource map during the Mindanao Power Summit held in April last year.

Move to include Liguasan Marsh in NIPAS pushed

MinDA is facilitating the application filed by regional government of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to include Liguasan Marsh in the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS). The move is seen to provide the legal framework for the establishment and management of this important ecosystem.

Liguasan Marsh lies at the confluence of the Pulangui, Maganoy, Buluan, and Ala-a rivers while the Libungan and Ebpanan marshes lie at the confluence of Libungan and Mindanao rivers.

Liguasan Marsh is home to about 112,000 Maguindanaoan families whose livelihood are dependent to fishing and agriculture within and around the marshland. 

What's up MindaNOW?

Mindanao Experts Forum:

In November this year, a pool of experts and practitioners will convene in Davao City to showcase MinDA-academe partnership in undertaking science-based researches and studies.

This is a whole day affair that will provide opportunities for the experts to enhance the sector's active involvement in advancing Mindanao's development thru research, technology and policy.

Sulog is a quarterly publication of the Mindanao Development Authority through its flagship program called the Nurturing Our Waters Program or MindaNOW. The term *Sulog* is a Bisayan word for current, but specifically defines the current that is present in bodies of water like streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. It connotes strength, power, and consistency. *Sulog* plays major role in the formation of the Earth's landscape and acts as key element that connects the ridge to the reef.

You want your stories published in the succeeding Sulog issues? Please send your contributions to now@minda.gov.ph.

EARTH DATES TO WATCH

June 5

World Environment Day

June 8

World Oceans Day

June 17

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

MINDANOW CALENDAR

June 6

MindaNOW Research Priorization Workshop

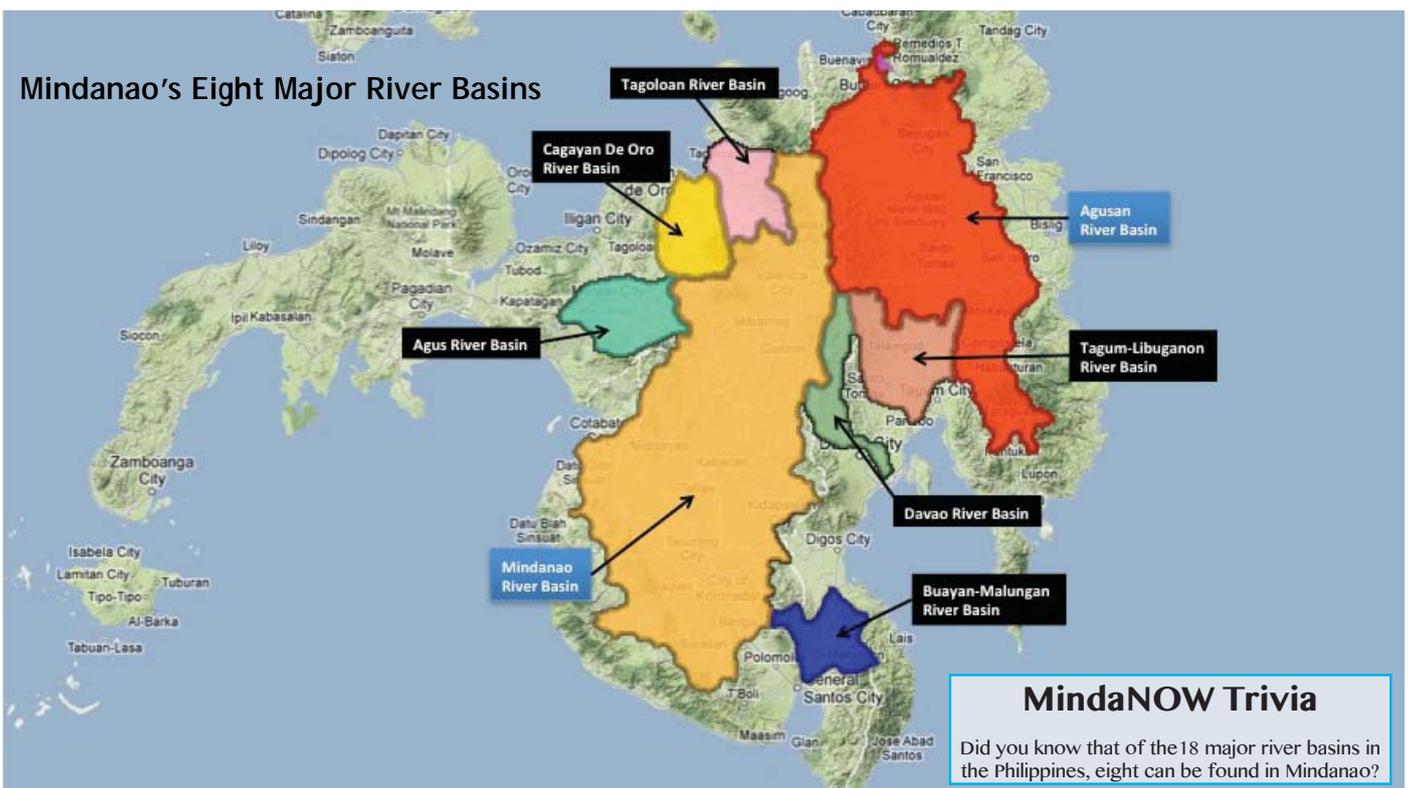
June 7

Mindanao Devevelopment Forum
1st Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Cluster Meeting

November

Mindanao Experts Forum

Mindanao's Eight Major River Basins



MindaNOW Trivia

Did you know that of the 18 major river basins in the Philippines, eight can be found in Mindanao?