

Bringing IPOPCORM to Scale in Coastal Philippines

PATH Foundation Philippines Inc. 2006

Scale-up in Siquijor Province: 2005-2006

Siquijor Island is located in the central Philippine – the recently affirmed “global epicenter of marine biodiversity and evolution¹.” About 90,000 people reside on this island province, which is comprised of six coastal municipalities containing 69 *barangays* (villages). In 2003, the IPOPCORM approach was introduced to the most populated municipality (Siquijor) and gradually expanded to cover all six municipalities by 2006 - making Siquijor the first province in the Philippines implementing PHE activities throughout its coastal zone. In each municipality, the *Sanggunian Bayan* (legislative body) enacted a resolution incorporating Population/Reproductive Health strategies into their respective medium-term coastal resource management (CRM) plans. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was also executed between the local chief executive (Mayor) and IPOPCORM local NGO partner appropriating resources to support project activities. A total of 147 community based distribution (CBD) outlets for contraceptives were established under the program, which currently serve over 23,000 people living in 30 coastal barangays. Six marine protected areas (one per municipality) were also established and/or strengthened under the project, including support for alternative livelihood and environmentally-friendly enterprise development (EED) activities for fisherfolk. On 20 March 2006, a policymakers’ forum was convened in Siquijor to build consensus for mainstreaming the IPOPCORM approach into Siquijor’s 2007 Provincial Development Plan, which would assure continuity of the program for years to come.

Scale-up in the Danajon Bank Ecosystem: 2006-2008

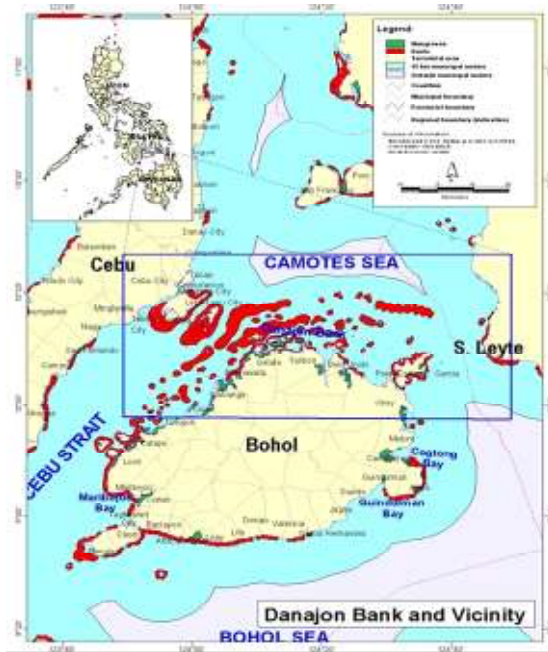
The Alternative Advocacy Project (AAP) is a new initiative of PATH Foundation Philippines supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. It aims to educate policymakers about the synergies generated by cross-sectoral approaches² and mobilize resources from local sources to support an ecosystem-wide scale up of the IPOPCORM approach in the Danajon Bank in the Eastern Visayasa Biozone (see map on following page). The Danajon ranks among the Philippines’ most ecologically and economically important ecosystems. It comprises the *sole* double barrier reef in the Philippines and one of only three such sites in the Indo-Pacific region.

For centuries the Bank fed hundreds of thousands of people but in recent years its productivity has declined due to population pressures and illegal and unsustainable fishing practices. As a result, poverty and malnutrition are escalating in communities bordering the Danajon where over a million people are concentrated in 667 villages and population density exceeds 445 persons/km² compared to the average figure of 288 for coastal Philippines. IPOPCORM currently operates in 5 of the 17 municipalities and 2 of the 4 provinces that have jurisdiction over the Bank. Working with and through local government and NGO “champions” from these existing sites, the AAP is encouraging and supporting the efforts of an inter-provincial decision-making council to formulate an Integrated Management Plan for the Danajon that incorporates Pop/RH strategies to enhance the food security and the sustainability of the Danajon’s fisheries and aquatic resources.

¹ Kent E. Carpenter & Victor G. Springer. 2005. The center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity: the Philippines Islands. *Environmental Biology of Fishes* (2005) 72: 467-480.

² Based on the experience of three ongoing PHE projects in the Philippines e.g., IPOPCORM, PESCODEV and World Neighbors.

Danajon Bank



Issues

- Destructive fishing
- Conflicts among resource users
- High-density coastal settlements; large population of small fishers
- Widespread poverty