Short Research Article

STATUS OF NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM (NGP) IMPLEMENTATION IN BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO, BIRI, NORTHERN SAMAR

Abstract

This descriptive study determined the status of the National Greening Program (NGP) implementation of mangrove reforestation in Barangay San Antonio, Biri, Northern Samar.

Self made questionnaire was the main tool in gathering information. The respondents were the randomly sampled residents, completely enumerated members of the Peoples Organization (PO), the barangay' officials, and the DENR personnel in charge in the implementation of the project. Focus group discussion was conducted to validate the responses to the questionnaire.

The implementation of the NGP mangrove reforestation was perceived as moderately implemented. Poor site selection, poor understanding and appreciation of mangroves, and conflicting interest/uses were the identified problems. Other problems include: illegal cutting of mangroves, illegal fishing, removing of newly planted propagules, and conflicts between members and officers.

It is recommended: to conduct a seminar to make the residents understand the uses and importance of mangroves and encourage the community to participate in the seminar or any awareness raising activity; for the DENR to have an accurate survey in finding suitable location for mangrove reforestation, intervene in the breakdown of the project payment to avoid conflict between officers and members with a clearer guidelines and policies; for the DENR and the local government unit to enforce the laws/ordinances on illegal fishing; to present the findings of this study to the DENR; and conduct similar studies in other areas in the province that implemented the NGP for comparison.

Keywords: *National Greening Program (NGP); Mangrove reforestation; San Antonio Biri*

Introduction

Over a decade, there have been concerted efforts between the government and non-government organizations, both local and international, regarding mangrove rehabilitation since it has been recognized and considered by environmentalists as the most denuded and overexploited species in most of the tropical countries in the world. This is because it serves many beneficial uses to people particularly those living in the coastal areas.

It is generally agreed that the mangrove areas of the Philippines have been reduced to about two-thirds (Ordonez, 2005). This is a cause of great concern, considering the numerous benefits that mangrove provide.

In the municipality of Biri, Northern Samar, mangrove reforestation is implemented through the National Greening Program (NGP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in partnership with Local Government Units (LGU) particularly Barangay San Antonio, one of the coastal barangays in the municipality.

This study was conceptualized particularly to determine the status of implementation of the NGP mangrove reforestation and identify the outcomes and issues/problems encountered in the process of implementation.

Objectives of the Study

This study:

1. Determined the status of implementation of the National Greening Program (NGP) in

Barangay San Antonio, Biri, Northern Samar as perceived by the:

a. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ,

b. Local Government Units (LGU),

c. People's Organization (PO),

d. community;

2. identified problems and issues encountered in the implementation of the NGP mangrove reforestation.

Methodology

Locale of the Study

This study was conducted in Barangay San Antonio, biri, Northern Samar. The municipality can be seen in the Northern coast of Samar Island and is composed of 8 barangays. Biri has a total land area of 2,462 hectares and with a total population of 10,987 (as of 2010 statistics). From the municipality of San Jose, commuters use small motor boat and travel 30 to 40 minutes by sea to go to Barangay San Antonio. It has a total population of 1,721 individuals. The site of the study was the 50 hectares mangrove NGP reforested in 2014.

Research Design

The researcher utilized the descriptive method. Descriptive in a sense that the study aimed to determine the status of the National Greening Program (NGP) implemented by the DENR and the consequent problems/ issues encountered in the NGP implementation, at the community and implementing agency levels.

Population and Sampling Techniques

Purposive sampling was done in identifying the respondents from the Department of environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-the implementer and the Local Government Unit (LGU)- Barangay Officials of San Antonio Multi-purpose Community Association were completely enumerated, while random sampling was done to identify the respondents from the community.

Research Instrument

The study used a questionnaire to obtain the needed data and information on the National Greening Program implementation of the mangrove reforestation. The questionnaire has three parts. Part 1 contains questions about the personal information of the respondents'- Peoples Organization Officers and members. Part 2, is about the mangrove reforestation activities that are to be measured according to its status of implementation by all of the respondents including the Local Government Unit (LGU) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The last part, Part III, is concerned with the problems and issues encountered in the implementation by both the community and the DENR-NGP.

Data Gathering Procedure

The questionnaire was personally administered by the researcher to ensure retrieval of the same. The researcher guided the respondents in giving answers to the questions presented.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was conducted in order to identify issues and problems in the NGP implementation.

Frequency counts, percentages and means were used to analyze the data that were obtained from the respondents.

Summary

This study determined the status of the NGP implementation in Brgy. San Antonio, Biri, Northern Samar. specifically, it (1) determined the status of implementation as perceived by the: People's Organization (PO), community, Local Government Unit (LGU) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); and (2) identified problems and issues encountered by the respondents on the NGP implementation.

Following the descriptive research design, a questionnaire was used as the main tool for data gathering and interviews with the respondents to validate the responses. The respondents were the DENR personnel in charge in implementing' the project, barangay' officials, and. the Peoples Organization members which were completely enumerated; and the randomly selected respondents from the community. The questionnaires were personally administered and, retrieved. The data were treated statistically using frequency counts, percentages and weighted means.

The following are the summary of findings of the study:

The status of NGP implementation as perceived by the members of the PO showed that eight (8) out of eleven (11) or 72.7% mangrove reforestation activities were moderately implemented. The community perceived that all of the activities (100%) were moderately implemented. The LGU (barangay) officials perceived that some activities were moderately (54.5%) and fairly implemented (45.5%), while some of the activities not strictly implemented include daily visit to the plantation to remove deposited and entangled debris, billboards to guide and inform the general public and policy support from the local government. The DENR personnel perceived that out of 11 activities, 6 activities (54.5%) were strictly implemented, while some of the activities not strictly implemented were detection of present pests and probable disturbances and policy support from the local government.

The problems encountered by the respondents on NGP implementation were:

Conflicting interests/uses, poor site selection, poor understanding and appreciation of mangroves and only few benefited. Illegal cutting of mangroves, illegal fishing, removing of new planted propagules, conflicts between PO members and officers were also identified as problems.

Conclusions

From the findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. The NGP on mangrove reforestation activities are perceived as moderately implemented in general. It can be concluded that their significant activities that needs to be strictly implemented to ensure the success of the project.

2. Foremost among the problems encountered by the respondents on NGP implementation was poor site selection, poor understanding and appreciation of mangroves and conflicting interests/uses. It can Ibe concluded that the implementing agency of the project needs to improve in surveying areas for planting propagules that are suited for its survival. Further, education of the community is necessary to increase understanding and appreciation of the significance of the projects and its future benefits.

Other problems identified were: illegal cutting of mangroves, illegal fishing, removing of newly planted propagules, and conflicts between PO members and officers. Therefore, policy support from the local government is urgently needed to avoid the above activities in conflict with the objectives of the project.

Recommendations

From the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are presented.

1. Conduct seminars to make the residents understand the uses and importance of mangroves and encourage the community to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the mangrove reforestation project.

2. The DENR should have an accurate survey in finding suitable location for mangrove reforestation.

3. The DENR should intervene in the breakdown of the project payment to avoid conflicts between officers and members of the Peoples Organization.

4. Enforce the laws/ordinances on illegal fishing.

5. Present the findings of this study to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

6. Conduct similar studies in other places that also implement NGP in the province for comparison.

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