



# Kalibansan

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## “Caring Enough to Act and Doing it Together”

*I* thank my fellow workers in DENR, likewise our civic and private sector and government partners who have stood by us and made 2016 a truly fruitful year.

2016 was quite a year - a tremendous start for all of us. In keeping with President Rodrigo Duterte's promise of change, our pursuit for truth, service, and the common good has led us to a fundamental shift towards a more proactive, strategic, and uncompromising regulatory function.

Our bold enforcement of environmental laws wanted to ensure that our environment and natural resources would be protected, well-utilized, and beneficial to the people. In the course of development, every decision made sure that nothing would happen to put at risk the lives of our people.

In just two months, we have audited 41 mining companies, which resulted in the suspension of 10 that were found harming the environment and causing the sufferings of fishermen, farmers, and local communities. We had given show cause orders and not allowed to continue the grossly unfair operations of companies violating their ECC conditions.

Our support to the administration has also led us to undergo a paradigm shift from our usual regulatory role to a developmental one. We have spent the past five months, organizing and conducting a series of area development and convergence action planning with various civic and private sector counterparts for the sustainable and integrated area development (SIAD) of 29 priority areas across the country. Our goal is to transform these areas into area/island model sites and replicate them someday in other parts of the archipelago.

We look forward to a far more productive 2017. Our foregoing vision appears ambitious and seemingly needs a great deal of resolve and resources. However, I am confident that with our efforts and contributions converged together, there is nothing that we aim that cannot be achieved.

Happy New Year to all of you!

*Regina Paz*  
REGINA PAZ "Gina" L. LOPEZ

# DENR NAMES 29 PRIORITY AREAS AS MODELS OF CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE AREA



DENR officials and some members of civil society participate in the four-day Convergence Approach Planning Workshop at Eugenio Lopez Center in Antipolo, Rizal.

**A**s initiative to Secretary Gina Lopez's regulatory and proactive environment and natural resources (ENR) governance, 29 priority areas were named as convergence initiative areas for sustainable and integrated area development and management (SIADM).

*"I believe that the way to save the environment and benefit people's lives is to embark in an area development approach, which means you look at the area, you see the beauty that's there, you adopt a ridge to reef approach (meaning forest all the way to the coral), and then you see there what wonder and glory of what you can do to benefit the communities." ► go to page 2*

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Following the convergence model, the civil society, academe, business sector, concerned government agencies and communities will be brought together in transforming the areas into area/island model sites for replication in other development areas.

**In Luzon:** Laur; Nueva Ecija; Batangas Coastline and Verde Passage; Laguna Lake; Kaliwa River Watershed; Cagayan and Nueva Ecija in Sierra Madre Mountain Range; Zambales; Palawan; Sibuyan Island in Romblon; Occidental and Oriental Mindoro; Sorsogon; Chico River; and Mt. Pulag

**In Visayas:** Guimaras Island; Antique; Samar; Iloilo City; Bohol; and Cebu

**In Mindanao:** Saranggani; Catilan; South Upi; Marilog; Mt. Hamiguitan in Mati Davao; Talaingog in Davao del Norte; Rajah Buayan; Dinagat Island; Tawi-tawi; and Lanao del Sur.

These 29 development areas are known for their rich natural resources and biodiversity. They were chosen because of their environmental conditions and significance, strategic location for development, vulnerability to climate/disaster risks, high poverty incidence, class or economic capacity of their cities or municipalities, and great potential for ecotourism.

**THE SIADM DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

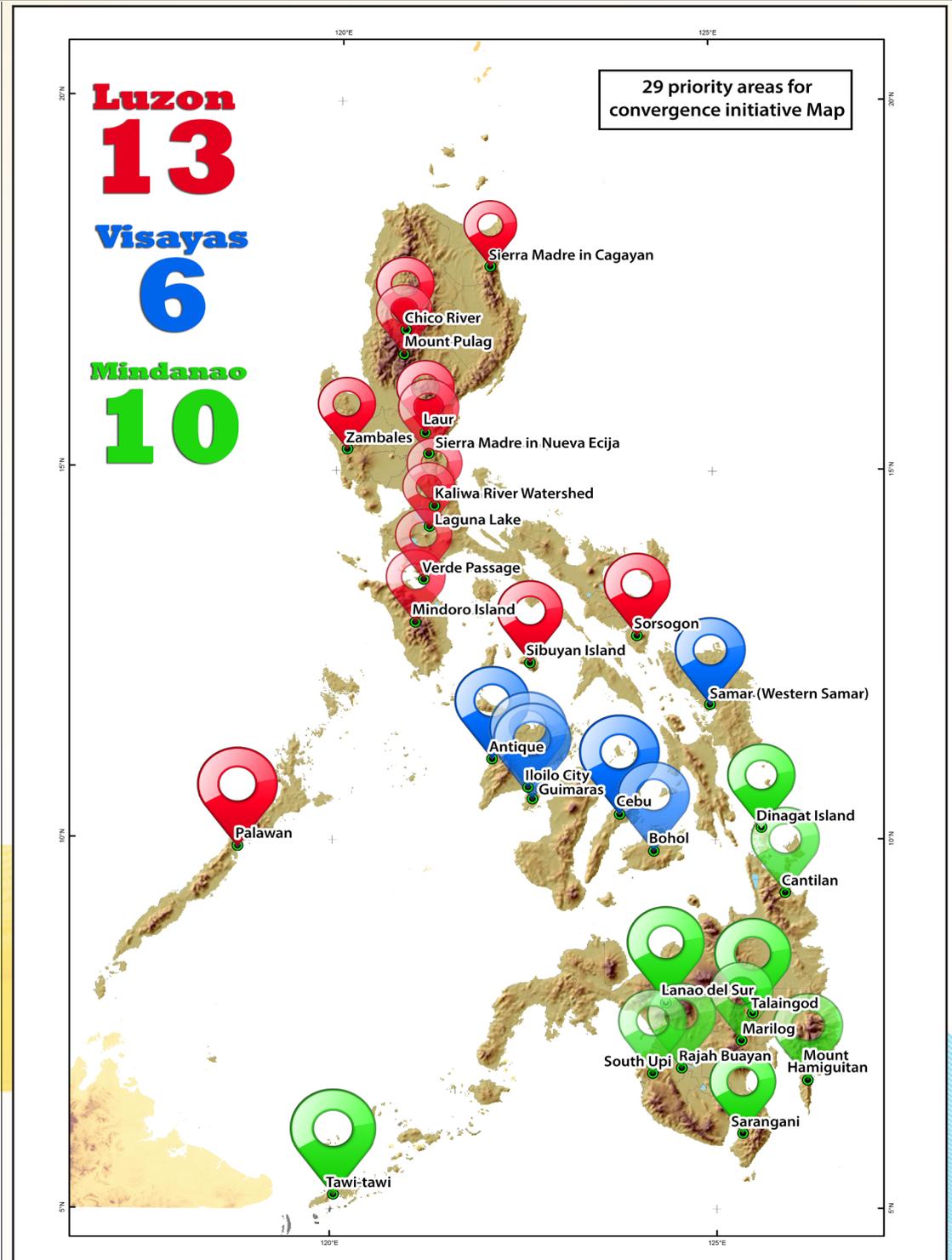
Secretary Lopez has been very vocal in bringing social justice to the poor, particularly victims of environmental exploitation. That is why in the area development of 29 priority areas, she adopted the SIADM, whose development framework put much emphasis on local economy, culture and polity. The SIADM focuses particularly to address poverty, environmental abuse, and corruption.

**The DENR adopts the SIADM, whose development framework put much emphasis on local economy, culture, and polity**

The SIADM is holistic. The framework anchors on the “ridge to reef” integrated ecosystem development, encompassing watershed as the area for planning and the people on site as the primary beneficiary of development. It is sustainable - aiming to ensure that developments would not undermine the development and environment needs of future generations. It

is participatory - bringing people not only into decision-making but also in resource mobilization, management, monitoring and evaluation.

Secretary Lopez believes in the crucial role civil society plays in environmental development. Civil society represents different sectors; it brings people together in pursuit of the common good; and it negotiates in behalf of the people.



(Source: NAMRIA Mapping and Geodesy Branch, Cartography Division | 2016)

The areas will be evaluated based on available resources, needs and requirements, and would become the bases in determining possible livelihood opportunities similar to those in established ecotourism zones like the La Mesa Ecopark in Quezon City, and Ugong Rock and Iwahig Firefly Watching in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

**“Ridge to reef” watershed development**

The rehabilitation and restoration of watershed areas is the core intervention of SIADM’s “ridge to reef” integrated ecosystem development. Its scope encompasses all types of ecosystems, such as terrestrial, aquatic, and urban.

Watersheds sustain life in more ways than one. They are vital resources for water supply for domestic, agricultural, and industrial purposes, including hydroelectric and geothermal power generation. They are potential sources of timber, forage, and fiber products. They are vital management areas for the conservation and preservation of forests and biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. They are also home and source of livelihood to many upland and lowland people and indigenous cultural communities.

**Local people - primary beneficiary of development**

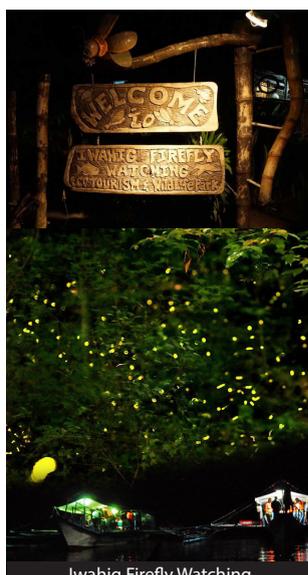
Indigenous cultural communities and upland, lowland and urban residents are the primary beneficiaries in the SIADM of 29 priority areas. Aside from area development and management of strict protection areas, the main preoccupation of SIADM is to create entrepreneurial opportunities and enhance the economic capabilities for local communities. ► **go to next page**



Ugong Rock



La Mesa Ecopark



Iwahig Firefly Watching

Successful Models of Area Development Approach

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The DENR cannot do business for farmers, fishermen, and local residents; however, it has the Natural Resources and Development Corporation (NRDC), its corporate arm, to initiate and stimulate entrepreneurial mechanisms to create jobs and livelihood opportunities for people in the development sites.

The NRDC would provide appropriate technologies, add value to people's products through processing and social engineering, help people trade their products in local and international markets, and help people in the monitoring and evaluation of their business.

**CONVERGENCE APPROACH OF IMPLEMENTING SIADM**

The SIADM, being sustainable and integrated in nature, requires foremost the convergent efforts of government agencies, civil society, business sector, and the academe in attaining developmental goals. There is a need for the cooperation of these key players to efficiently address complex ecological and social concerns of area development and create greater synergy and harmony in their goals, plans, and programs.

**The need for convergence in implementing SIADM**

Stakeholders or sectors of society that have common concerns or objectives build up internal interdependence among themselves and develop collective capacities to fulfill their purpose.

Watersheds are everybody's concern. The mountains, forests, rivers, landscapes, and seascapes sustain life support systems. No matter how they are viewed by different stakeholders through glasses tinted by different agendas, there will always be common important concerns that would stand in need of convergence efforts.

In the SIADM, the combined forces of key stakeholders would enforce a citizen and rights-based environmental governance, imbuing the principles of truth, service and the common good.

**Coming up with SIADM and convergence action plans**

The DENR gathered the civil society, academe, business sector, and concerned government agencies, and through generative dialogues and inquiry of collective thoughts and experiences, the process was laid for coming up with convergence action plans to implement the SIADM.

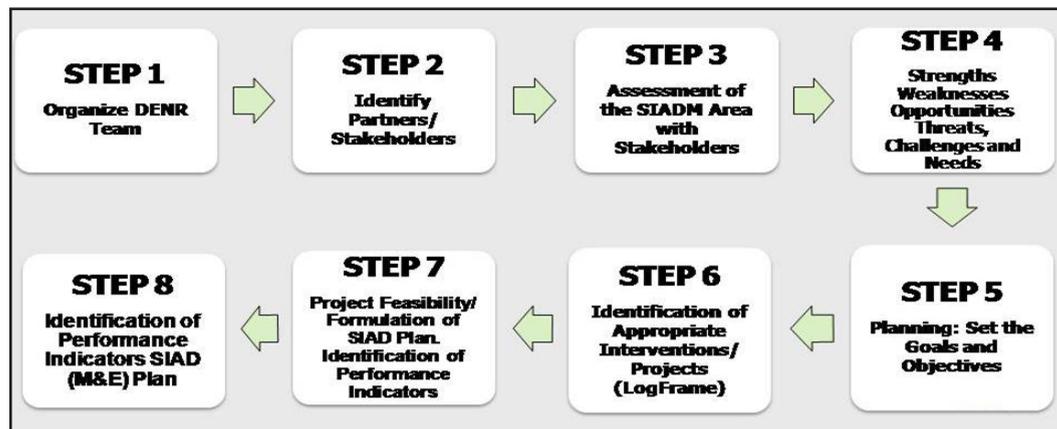
A series of convergence meetings for the 29 priority development areas were then held simultaneously in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao from October 25, 2016 to November 30, 2016. Government agencies, civil society, private sector, and members of the academe gathered together in their respective areas to formulate the convergence action plan that will be implemented in their areas.

Secretary Gina Lopez designated members of the convergence initiative groups for the implementation of the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD). It would be composed of the Ecosystem Technical Working Groups (ETWG), Component Working Groups (CWG), and a Secretariat team, whose members are from the central office, bureaus and operational units.

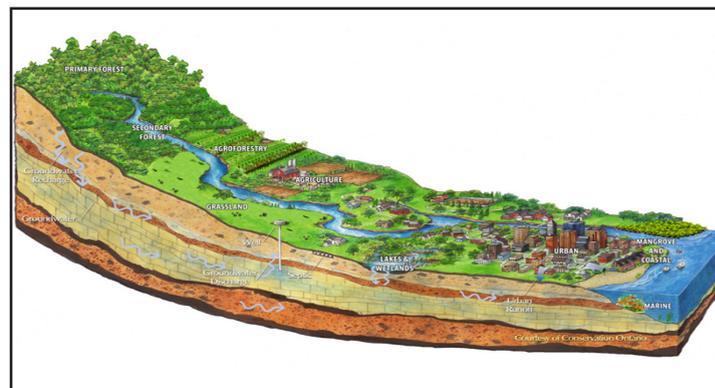
Secretary Lopez would act as the National Steering Committee (NSC) Co-Convenor, while Undersecretary Marlo D. Mendoza would be her Permanent Alternate. Forest Management Bureau Director Ricardo L. Calderon would work as one of the members of the National Technical Working Group.



Undersecretaries Demetrio Ignacio and Marlo Mendoza and Assistant Secretary Marcial Amaro attentively listen to the insights of civic society members on the area development approach.



Steps to follow in formulating SIADM and Convergence Action Plans



Ridge to Reef

The NCI-SRD, as a strategy to improve, conserve, protect and rehabilitate ENR through the development and implementation of environmental-friendly enterprises livelihood opportunities is identified in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016.

**FIVE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

According to Secretary Lopez, the DENR will monitor the impact of its budget and programs based on five performance indicators: health, economy, peace and order, environment, and happiness.

“Happiness, as an indicator, encompasses everything,” said the Secretary. She cited Bhutan as an example of a country where the key indicator of economic growth is not Gross Domestic Product (GDP), but Gross National Happiness (GNH). According to her, Bhutan, which sits on the eastern edge of the Himalayas, is earning billions of dollars every year with zero poverty rate, zero crime rate, 70% forest cover, and free health and education.

# PRO-POOR AND PRO-ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHT 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

by: Adona S.D. Bermillo

Anchored on social justice and pursuit for the common good, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) vigorously carried out its regulatory function with the implementation of pro-poor and pro-environment policies and programs.

For the last six (6) months, the DENR, with Secretary Gina Lopez at the helm, relentlessly battled illegal logging and illegal mining operations nationwide, which have become too detrimental to the environment and the communities living in the heart of the country's natural wealth. She, likewise strengthened the collaboration and coordination of DENR with other national agencies to attain the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The following are the highlights of Secretary's six (6) months accomplishments:

## Mining

Secretary Lopez's no-nonsense policy on safeguarding the integrity of the environment and natural resources (ENR) led to the review of all permits granted to mining and logging companies to ensure their compliance with government's environmental standards and laws.



*The DENR Secretary explains the objectives in conducting an audit of mining permits*

Adhering to President Duterte's pronouncement on responsible mining, the Secretary issued, in July 2016, Memorandum Order No. 2016-01 for the moratorium on issuing new mining permits and audit of all mining operations in the country. The Order was issued to determine the adequacy and efficiency of mining companies' environmental protection measures, to address possible gaps in these measures, and to impose appropriate penalties in case there are violations committed against mining and environmental laws.

The DENR completed the mining audit of 41 metallic mines in just one month, which resulted in the suspension of 10 mining corporations and the recommendation for suspension of 20 more mining companies. It has also conferred "passing" rate to 11 mining corporations.

## Laguna Lake

In an effort to transform Laguna Lake into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism, the DENR intensified its efforts to clean the lake of fish pens and fish cages, owned and operated by rich, powerful and influential individuals. The structures have been depriving poor fishermen of the opportunity to benefit from the resources of the lake. It has so far demolished 10 fish pens and fish cages.

The DENR also issued Ex-Parte Cease and Desist Orders (CDO) to Taytay Pumping Station located in San Juan Taytay, Rizal and Azzions Recycling Solutions, Inc., located at Golden Mile Business Park to prevent the discharge of obnoxious and pollutive waste water to Carmona River. Cease and desist order was also issued to a material recovery facility (MRF) in Angono, Rizal for illegal reclamation/backfilling of shoreland area.



*The Laguna Lake, after the demolition of 10 fish pens and*

Further, the DENR conducted consultative forum to put in place urgent policy measures and develop rapid rehabilitation plan to prevent the degradation of the lake. Moreover, the Department created a group of technical experts that will determine the carrying capacity of Laguna Lake for aquaculture operations, equitable utilization and sustainable use of resources.

## Carmona Landfill

The office pursued the closure and rehabilitation of the Carmona Sanitary Landfill and explored ways of adopting appropriate waste to energy facilities. The proposed funding for this is currently under review by the Department of Budget and Management and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, while the National Solid Waste Management Commission issued a resolution to draft the guidelines on Waste-to-Energy.

## Environmental Law Enforcement

The Department intensified its campaign against illegal logging, illegal mining and other destructive practices that aggravate the degradations of our natural resources. Through the signing of Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Department of National Defense, Department of the Interior and Local Governments, Department of Transportation and Philippine Coast Guard, the task force ATeam Kalikasan was created to oversee the enforcement of environmental laws rules and regulations.



*The Task Force A-Team Kalikasan*



fish cages, in line with the efforts of DENR to transform the lake into a vibrant economic zone.

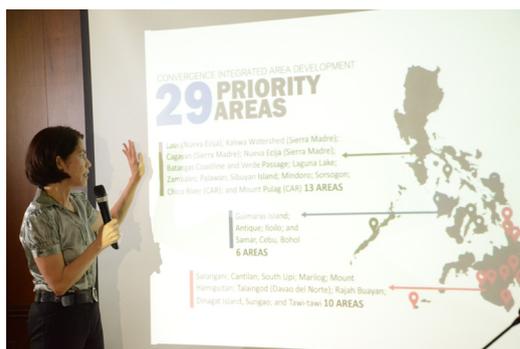
## Inclusive Development

In consonance with President Rodrigo Duterte's commitment of bequeathing the next generation, a country with strong economy and development that is truly inclusive, the DENR conducted trainings on enterprise development in all NGP areas in an effort to capacitate farmers with entrepreneurial skills for business ventures. In effect, this is fulfilling the Secretary's promise of changing the image of the Department from being "merely regulator" to being a "development arm". This would make "people more economically prosperous through sustainable programs and projects."

## Climate Change

In addressing climate change, the DENR is working with other concerned agencies to fully comply with the Philippines' COP21 commitments through an integrated area development approach with the involvement of civil society, using happiness as indicator of success. It has also intensified its convergence efforts among government agencies and private sector to showcase selected islands as models of sustainable low-carbon economies.

The DENR successfully established convergence among various sectors in Mindanao with the conduct of OYA Mindanao and area framework planning with about 200 DENR officials, civil society stakeholders and social entrepreneurs. Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) Plan was initially crafted in 29 priority areas. The convergence approach intends to create "mini-economic zones" that can generate employment, livelihood, and income-generating activities in communities where they operate.



Secretary Lopez discusses the 29 priority areas for convergence initiative

## SEC. LOPEZ RALLIES DENR WORKERS TO FULFILL MANDATE

Secretary Gina Lopez rallies DENR employees to continuously fulfill the Department's mandate imbued with the following core values:

- the heart of a warrior
- the mind of an innovator
- the dynamism of an entrepreneur
- the passion of a patriot
- with deep love for God and country
- with non-negotiable commitment to integrity

The DENR Chief invited scientists, volunteers and job seekers to become part of the DENR workforce.

"We need scientists because of the capability of science to see the potential in our national resources, like in certain unique plants or herbs... on the other hand, we need social entrepreneurs to see how such potential can be maximized and bring profit to local communities," she emphasized.

**"I want to work with people who have the mind of an innovator and the dynamism of an entrepreneur"**

The Secretary took note of the tremendous technical and scientific work required to successfully implement the Sustainable Integrated Area Development and Management (SIADM) strategy of developing 29 priority development areas. She realized the great need and importance of having good people in accomplishing vital but delicate tasks such as evaluation, monitoring, and economic valuation of mining operations.

"Money and power are only as good as the plan that are there to implement it, and is only as good as the people that are there," the Secretary said. "We need to choose really good people because if we don't have good people the money would just go to waste," she stressed. *(Alvin D. Gatbonton)*

## Good Governance

To fulfil her promise of transforming DENR into a listening department for the people and not for big companies who use money to destroy the environment and make people suffer, Sec. Gina Lopez designated every Wednesday of the week as People's Day. The public can meet her, face-to-face, to air their complaints against DENR officials and/or other concerns. The DENR conducted the first Salugnayan with civil society and Indigenous Peoples to discuss pressing environmental issues in their respective areas and craft actions to address them.



People's Day with civil society and IPs

The Secretary also established the Civil Society Organization (CSO) arm and Indigenous People's (IPs) Desk and operationalized the DENR Action Center at the Central Office, Bureaus, Attached Agencies and all Regional Offices, which cover queries and complaints nationwide through letters, telephone calls, electronic mails, and social media platforms for immediate action by appropriate DENR units.

Moreover, the DENR launched the Land Administration and Management System (LAMS), where approval of land surveys were reduced to five (5) working days compared to previous six (6) months.

These were carried out through responsive, transparent and participatory governance with more involvement from the civil society, business, and communities.

Though continuously faced with issues on illegal logging, mining and climate change, the DENR will continue to work with renewed passion and commitment to achieve a safer and healthier environment for all.



**FORESTER ARZEL MANALILI**  
Deputy Secretary General, Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.



## FILIPINO FORESTERS AS CHAMPIONS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

As the Philippines continues to strive to attain sustainable development, we look to our foresters to be at the forefront in the advocacy for sustainable forest management.

Sustainably managing Philippine forests is key to addressing the country's problems like deforestation and forest denudation. It shall also provide direct benefits to the environment and to Filipinos especially in upland communities. It is a major component of the United Nation's sustainable development goals (SDGs), which the country has adopted.

Therefore, it is crucial that we have Filipino foresters who are both knowledgeable and willing to pursue sustainable forest management. Lucky for the Philippines, we have organizations such as the Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI) that partners with the government in advocating the need for sustainability.

The SFFI is the only national and professional organization of foresters in the country. Conscious of national concerns confronting the profession, the industry and the sector, and likewise aware of the ambitious national commitment to the United Nation's adopted sustainable development goals or SDGs, the SFFI organizes activities geared towards the country's pursuit of sustainable development and continuously mobilizes its members to do the same.

One such initiative by the SFFI is the workshop it held last September 19-21, 2016, at the Iloilo Convention Centre in Mandurriao, Iloilo City, with the theme, "Advancing Sustainable Forest Management to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals."

Some 1,057 foresters from government, private and non-government organizations participated in the said event, which held various sessions tackling issues on forest degradation, climate change, poverty, biodiversity, role of forestry in mining rehabilitation,

and the challenges to sustainable development goals, among others.

The Conference featured 12 topics, three panel discussions and open forum, and workshop on the formulation of the Iloilo Conference Resolution led by former University of the Philippines-Los Baños Chancellor Rex Victor Cruz. He mentioned that the output of said workshop would map the collective direction of Foresters in the coming years.

"Neglect in the science of forestry has remained because we (Foresters) have remained quiet and failed to assert our position in defending our front", says Tommy Valdez, National Council President of the SFFI.

**"The Iloilo Resolution outlines what we will do to help the government provide the right environment in applying Sustainable Forest Management in the management of our forest resources"**

The National Council President also acknowledged the support of Secretary Gina Lopez and Undersecretary Marlo Mendoza in allowing the participation of DENR Foresters to the Conference. "Continuing Professional Education is a must for Foresters to ensure that they remain productive and abreast with developments in the forestry sector and profession", said Valdez.

Regional Director Jim Sampulna, on the other hand narrates, "...with the implementation of the Rationalization Plan, the Region alone has appointed 233 registered foresters. With foresters now in place, I look forward to SFFI in coming up with fresher ideas and concepts

for a new and healthy working association with the Department and also with other stakeholders for the betterment, not just only of our forests but also of our environment and natural resources as a whole".

During the press conference, Assistant Regional Director Livino Duran stressed, "every inch of forestland has claimants... but development principle should not be *tao muna bago puno* (people first before trees)... it is important that man and trees co-exist to solve problems both up- and down-stream."

The National Council President likewise announced that the 2017 conference will be held in Davao City and hosted by the SFFI Southern Mindanao Regional Council as voted by the General Assembly and accepted by Regional Council President Marcia Isip.

Efforts such as this by the SFFI are important to bring together the country's foresters and gain consensus on issues that need addressing and the actions that have to be taken. With this, we raise the ante on our common vision of bringing about sustainable forest management for the benefit of the present and future generations.

Filipino foresters who choose to take the high road towards sustainable development deserve the Filipino people's gratitude. Despite the odds and the competing interests laid out before them, they opt to do the right thing - with their personal ethics, professionalism, and love for country as guide.

As the vanguards of Philippine forests, we look to our foresters to be unceasing in their commitment to contribute their unique professional skills to our dream of bringing a cleaner, healthier and better environment for our people. The SFFI helps ensure this by enjoining its members to be part of our pool of champions working towards sustainable forest management. 🌱



## THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND GREEN CONVERGENCE

**DR. ANGELINA P. GALANG**  
President, Green Convergence

When President Rodrigo Roa Duterte appointed Gina Lopez as Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), one columnist called it a masterstroke. She is a known environmentalist working on the ground with communities while coming from a wealthy family with vast business interests in power and communication, among others. So she is someone who knows both sides of the economic divide. I heartily agreed and I continue to agree. She has been involved in environment issues that span the whole gamut from air pollution (Bantay Usok), healthy food, mining, sustainable livelihood and the plight of Lumads. This reflects the sustainable development paradigm espoused by environmentalists.

Many environmental NGOs (non-government organizations) sprouted in the early 80s. Since then the movement has grown and there is general unity in our vision of what sustainable development means. While there are various aggregations and networks of like-focused groups, the formation of Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Economy (GC) was the offshoot of a number of NGOs getting together to oppose JPEPA (Japan Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement). While initial worry was the entry of Japanese waste into our country and dumpsites, questions on constitutionality, sovereignty and economic lopsidedness of the treaty intensified the opposition.

Though unsuccessful in the sense that the treaty was ratified by the Senate, and has been made moot by the inaction of the Supreme Court to the challenge lodged by several organizations, it catalyzed the resolve among civil society to continue working together for our country.

An annual event organized by the group was the State of Nature Address, which was later changed to the State of Nature Assessment (SONA). It was a critique of the government's performance for the past year. Recommendations stemming from each SONA were sent

to the respective government agencies.

The traditional annual SONA continues. It is followed by the General Assembly of members but to which the public is invited. Another yearly activity is the Christmas fellowship while monthly is held the Kamayan para sa Kalikasan forum with co-convenor SALIKA and supported by Kamayan Restaurant which supplies the lunch.

**Environmentalism generally covers what is wrong and must be corrected. That is, after all, why environmental advocacy started: because of the wretched state of our life-support systems.**

GC is an umbrella organization and it is the members working in the field on their specific issues - waste, biodiversity, food, ecosystem protection, agriculture, climate change, native trees, etc. GC as a network goes into cross-cutting projects. An example is its research into the implementation by local government units of 15 environmental laws covering the above areas.

Two years ago, however, the GC Board decided that it was high time that the fruits of environmental advocacy of many long years of so many Filipinos be highlighted and celebrated. Thus began the long preparation for the 1st Philippine Environment Summit: Breakthroughs and Innovations towards Sustainable Development. It was a huge challenge, but the work paid off. We held the Summit last February 9-11, 2016, at SMX, Mall of Asia, Pasay City, with more than 1,000 attendees at each of the three days. Feedback has been most gratifying. Needless to say, it would not have been possible without the generous support of our co-convenor, the DENR, which provided not **▶go to next page**

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only funds but also advice and manpower in the various aspects of the endeavor.

One query has been posed: When is the next Summit? We look to holding one every two years. Hopefully, DENR will again be a main supporter.

What does GC stand for? Following are our Vision, Mission and Unity Principles. We are confident that Sec. Gina Lopez will continue to be our partner in pursuance of our work.

**VISION**

A Philippine society enjoying safe food, healthy environment and equitable economy as the cornerstones of sustainable development.

**MISSION**

GC commits to build a synergy of the green movement in the Philippines.

**PRINCIPLES OF UNITY**

1. That, to ensure food safety, security and sovereignty, the country's food production be based on organic farming, shift away from conventional chemical agriculture and reject genetically engineered crops; that agriculture prioritize food security for Filipinos above the global market;
2. That use of land and waterways be assigned along ecological principles, that soil be protected from degradation and exportation, that our marine environment be safeguarded to ensure

sustainability of our aquatic resources, that our cities be made more livable by the elimination of air pollution;

3. That we strive for 50% forest cover that maintains our watersheds, while yielding products which contribute to the national economy; that we return to the use of Philippine native trees in order to revive the biodiversity that they nurture;
4. That the energy needs of the country be obtained from renewable sources, phasing out extreme dependence on fossil fuels and totally rejecting nuclear power;
5. That waste be managed ecologically to maximally turn waste into resources, that dumpsites and giant landfills be closed and the ban on

incinerators be upheld;

6. That use, importation and manufacture of toxic substances be banned in household, industrial and agricultural products;
7. That mining be accorded least priority among the options for land use and revenue generation, with a minerals management regime that prioritizes local community development and ensures appropriate income for the government, equitable distribution of benefits and shared responsibility among all stakeholders;
8. That indigenous peoples be given due recognition of their stewardship of nature, appreciation of their knowledge in caring for the earth, and accorded their right

to preserve their ancestral domains, languages and cultures which actually are the roots of the Filipino race;

9. That economic progress not sacrifice environmental quality, that the national industrialization program be directed at stimulating local enterprises and generating of jobs for Filipinos;
10. That we recognize the reality of climate change endangering biodiversity and the gains of cultural evolution, that its root causes be addressed with resolve on the global, national and local levels, that our country's developmental goals include not only adaptation for survival but also mitigation as we are a member of the family of nations and among the most vulnerable to this crisis.

**2016 PBB GUIDELINES OUT**

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Paz L. Lopez issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2016-10, which sets the guideline on ranking delivery units as basis for granting the Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) for FY 2016.

The granting of PBB is based on the attainment of all targets using the following criteria:

- Achieve agency performance targets under their respective Major Final Outputs under the Performance Informed Budget of the FY 2016 General Appropriations Act, and the targets for Support to Operations and General Administration and Support Services;
- Satisfy 100% of the Good Governance Conditions set by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Harmonization of National Government Performance Monitoring, Information and Reporting System created under Administrative Order (AO) 25; and
- Use of Civil Service Commission (CSC)-approved Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) in rating the performance of First and Second Level officials and employees.

All offices of DENR at the central, regional, provincial and community levels, staff bureaus, line bureaus including their respective regional offices, and attached agencies are covered by PBB 2016.

It will be granted to all officials and employees holding

regular plantilla positions; and contractual and casual employees having an employer-employee relationship with the office, and whose compensation are charged to the lump sum appropriation under Personnel Services, or those occupying positions in the Department of Budget Management-approved contractual staffing pattern of the Department

The PBB rate of individual employee will depend on the performance ranking of his/her delivery unit, based on his/her monthly basic salary as of December 31, 2016. The rating will be as follows:

**Performance Category PBB as % of Monthly Basic Salary**

- Best Bureau/Office/Delivery Unit (10%)=65%
- Better Bureau/Office/Delivery Unit (25%)=57.5%
- Good Bureau/Office/Delivery Unit (65%)=50%

The PBB rate of an employee will be based on his/her monthly basic salary as of December 31, 2016.

Under MC No. 2016-10, all employees belonging to the First and Second Levels shall receive a rating of at least "Satisfactory" based on CSC-approved SPMS.

On the other hand, Third Level officials shall receive a rating of at least "Satisfactory" under the Career Executive Service Performance Evaluation System (CESPES). The payment of the PBB on Third Level officials shall be contingent on the release of results of the CESPES.

Officials who are performing managerial and executive

functions but are not Presidential appointees shall be rated using the CSC-approved SPMS and shall receive a rating of at least "Satisfactory".

The MC also stipulates that DENR personnel who are on detail to another government agency for six (6) months or more shall be included in the ranking of employees in the recipient agency that rated his/her performance. Their PBB will be drawn from their parent agency.

Further, personnel who transferred from one government agency to another shall be rated and ranked by the agency where he/she served the longest. If equal months were served for each agency, he/she will be included in the recipient agency.

An official or employee who has rendered a minimum of nine (9) months of service during the Fiscal Year 2016 and with at least "Satisfactory" rating may be eligible to the full grant of the PBB while an official or employee who rendered less than nine (9) months but a minimum of three (3) months of service and with at least "Satisfactory" rating shall be eligible for the grant of PBB on a pro-rata basis corresponding to the actual length of service rendered, as follows:

**Length of Service % of PBB Rate**

8 months but less than 9 months	= 90%
7 months but less than 8 months	= 80%
6 months but less than 7 months	= 70%

5 months but less than 6 months	= 60%
4 months but less than 5 months	= 50%
3 months but less than 4 months	= 40%

The pro-rate basis of computation, for example, for individual employee who received a Good rating and has served only eight (8) months but less than nine (9) months and receiving a salary of PhP 20,000 will be computed as follows:

Basic Salary	20,000
x 50%	= PhP10,000
Pro-rated basis	10,000
x 90%	= PhP9,000

Hence, he/she will receive a PBB of PhP9,000.

The granting of PBB is in accordance with the government's goal of strengthening accountability and ensuring the effective and efficient delivery of public service. (Adona S.D. Bermillo)

**DENR PASSED THE FIRST SURVEILLANCE AUDIT FOR ISO 14001:2015**

The DENR stays true to its commitment in improving environmental performance in the agency by consistently conforming to the standards of International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

Although the findings during the recent audit affixed minor correction action requests (CARs), the EMS Team is optimistic that they will be closed out before the next surveillance audit in 2017.

Spearheaded by Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo Jr. and Director Rolando Castro, the EMS Team is undertaking measures to address the CARs and continuously conducts information, education and communication activities such as seminars and orientations particularly with the new employees.

The DENR EMS focuses on the following:

- Reduction on energy consumption;

- Reduction on the generation of solid and hazardous wastes and disposal to land;
- Regulation on water usage;
- Reduction on fuel consumption;
- Reduction on water pollution;
- Reduction on paper usage;
- Control of vehicular emissions of DENR and its employees' vehicles;
- Promotion and provision of facilities for health and wellness and provision of a secure and safe work place; and
- Compliance with appropriate ENR laws, policies, rules and regulations.

The DENR was certified ISO 14001:2015 on January 28, 2016, making it the first public agency in the Philippines to obtain such.

The DENR pledges to continue taking the lead in improving its environmental performance. (Martina A. Reyes)

# AREA DEVELOPMENT, SUBSIDIARITY AND FEDERALISM

by: Philip Camara



**T**IMES of crisis are windows for great opportunity. That is an old Chinese saying. But in these troubling times (for many), what opportunities indeed lie ahead? There are quite a few and the promising thing is they seem to be opportunities that would open up given current trajectories or the way things are unfolding. Indeed, 2017 may be the year that developmental change finally proceeds.

The world is shifting away from the international policies of recent decades that, while they have created well-being for unprecedented billions of people, have likewise resulted in great tensions. Not just tensions between peoples but tensions between people and their environment and even tensions inside people due to an identity overly linked to consumerism rather than their inherent truths; consumerism that threatens the very sustainability of Mother Earth.

One such opportunity is the re-emergence within government of the area development paradigm or development framework under Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Gina Lopez. While Sixto K. Roxas was its initial advocate in the late 1960s it had unfortunately been bastardized in several big government projects that went puff! (just as the autonomous regional experience is going puff!) due to wrongful implementation, which in turn was due to a misunderstanding of what area, development is basically about.

With Secretary Gina at the helm of a major government department that has a direct and meaningful role in national development, the area development paradigm is set to take off and this time under the leadership of a capable and knowledgeable environment and natural resources secretary. For one, Secretary Gina has been a practitioner of area development approaching the various undertakings of the ABS-CBN Foundation in Palawan and other provinces wherein the local people were the implementers and the beneficiaries of the eco-tourism projects that simply highlighted the potential of their area (thus the term area development).

Secretary Gina knows that with the Philippines' archipelagic territory, the mountain ridge ecosystem connects by streams, creeks, rivers to the various other ecosystems until the final one (within our territory), the coral reef ecosystem, the totality of which was once teeming with life. "Life in all its fullness" was certainly what the Philippines was (before the times of colonization and industrialization. But alas, development was under the unitary and sectoral paradigm).

Area development deepens this understanding of the fragile but critical relationships between and among interconnected ecosystems and working with the local people applies the principle of subsidiarity which states that functions and decision-making should be undertaken at the lowest possible hierarchical level and the role of the higher organizational level is to support those lower units undertaking the functions.

As Secretary Gina says, "area development is about nurturing and helping the local people nurture their local areas to unleash [their] productive potential". This means making development based on the potentialities of the area. This is the better opposite to what has been going on since the Philippines became a country under colonial masters where the desires of the corporations were simply imposed on local areas that suited their businesses. And since business was all that mattered, they generally left the place worse off and, in many instances killing off the ecosystem that the locals could have relied on for sustenance. The zenith of this "devil may care" attitude seems to be the guiding principle of many large mines that decimate the geological and hydrological functions of the ecosystem leaving the locals in perpetual risk and scamming the Filipino people by leaving behind a permanent pit hole of humongous dimensions. It wouldn't be surprising if the economic tab left behind by derelict mines long abandoned by mining companies that have been in turn abandoned by their shareholders are simply dumped on you and me, the taxpayers. Secretary Gina calls this "madness".

Under the principle of subsidiarity, it is government's role to assist local people co-create local sustainable economies based on the perpetual beneficial use of the local ecosystem bounties for even distant future generations. Thus, the shift towards federalism is timely in that area development and subsidiarity are wholly compatible with federalism. In fact, they are necessary complements to genuine federalism. Where unitarism (our present centralized system) brought us corporate-led sectoral and highly inequitable development, federalism should usher in community-based, ecosystem-sensitive area development that gives everyone who wants a chance to participate in the local economy that opportunity.

Thus, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is leading the way by selecting 29 priority areas to demonstrate area development and is enlisting the help of the Sixto K. Roxas Foundation that targets poverty eradication by creating the template of an expanded local social accounting matrix of the value-adding power of the local sectors and how incomes are distributed (or not distributed locally but remitted out of the local area). Secretary Gina wants all programs of the DENR like the National Greening Program, Bamboo Program, Biochar Program, Mangrove Rehabilitation Programs, and Mining Programs to be re-crafted along the principles of area development with its concrete manifestation of viable community enterprises that are networked to build up to scale and demonstrate the opposite of "trickle-down" (pinatulo) towards the alternative of "nurturing upwards," or pinatubo.

President Duterte seems to be instinctively aware that the ideological lines are not anymore between the "left vs. the right," the old Cold War mentality of these old ideologies (that ironically are united in their pinatulo paradigm as both ideologies rely on trickle-down sectors to benefit the locals) but between the primacy of nurturing people and ecosystems versus sectoral corporations (that have grown so large, moneyed and powerful), or in other words "pinatulo" vs. "pinatubo". Thus, the push for federalism as a government organizational set-up where now, finally, area development can be its favored bride guided by the vow of subsidiarity. 🌱

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A co-convenor of the Subsidiarity Movement International and the Federalist Forum of the Philippines, advocates for the bottom-up development model as well as proper decentralization, and the strengthening of regional governance. He served for 12 years in the Regional Development Council of Central Luzon as chair of the economic committee. He was a consultant for the Philippine Alternative Fuels Corp. (PAFC) and was on the board of trustees of the HARIBON Foundation. He is currently a member of the board of advisors of CDPI.

He is now the OIC-Undersecretary for Field Operations of DENR.

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