



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY

7th floor, Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo De Roxas St., Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. No.: (02) 459-5000 • Facsimile No.: (02) 815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph • Email: info@pea.gov.ph

Formulating Coastal Protection Master Plans for Other Vulnerable Areas: Cities of Bislig and Surigao

The aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) left many devastated cities and municipalities in critical need of assistance towards rehabilitation. The PRA spearheaded coastal protection initiatives as a sustainable measure to aid in the needs of vulnerable areas in the country. The PRA's coastal protection initiatives were aimed to be replicated in other vulnerable areas, especially the eastern seaboard of the country which was identified by various studies as the most vulnerable to storm surges and coastal flooding. Upon thorough research, the PRA management further identified the other areas most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and consequently, the PRA Board approved the order of prioritization of ten (10) vulnerable areas that the PRA will assist in the formulation of their respective Coastal Protection Strategies through Resolution No. 4761 on 18 May 2017.

In 2019, the PRA successfully tied up with the LGUs of Bislig City and Surigao City, the first out of the ten priority areas, through an Expression of Collaboration to create Coastal Protection Master Plans (CPMPs) for the said cities with the supervision and guidance of a Dutch expert commissioned by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (NEA-RVO). The project was widely supported by both LGUs and local stakeholders through their active participation in the CPMP drafting activities, starting from vulnerability assessment, strategic planning, stakeholders' workshops, presentation of outputs, until the finalization of the CPMPs. The CPMPs were presented to the City Councils of Bislig City and Surigao City on November 19, 2019 and January 16, 2020, respectively. The same were consequently approved through City Council Resolution No. 2019-752 for Bislig City and City Council Resolution No.10-2020 for Surigao City.

The PRA furnished the House of Representatives Special Committee on Climate Change, the Climate Change Commission, and the regional offices of the DENR and NEDA in Caraga region, with copies of the CPMP for Bislig City and Surigao City.

The PRA continues to coordinate with the two cities to undertake further actions with respect to the successfully crafted master plans.

Formulating Coastal Protection Master Plans for Other Vulnerable Areas: Municipalities of Virac and Baras in the Province of Catanduanes

The Municipality of Virac in Catanduanes was ranked second in the list of priority LGUs to be assisted in the formulation of a coastal protection strategy. Meanwhile, the Municipality of Baras, Catanduanes, which is a 42-kilometer away from the Municipality of Virac, has requested the PRA's technical assistance in the formulation of their coastal protection strategy. The barangays in the said municipality have been experiencing storm surges and coastal floodings during typhoon seasons because the existing seawall can no longer protect the coastal area from the

impacts of weather disturbances. The Typhoon Tisoy and Typhoon Ambo, which occurred in 2019 and 2020, cause damages in the area, hence, the persistent request of the Municipality of Baras to be included in the PRA's initiative. Through Board Resolution No. 5136, the PRA approved the inclusion of the Municipality of Baras in the list of priority areas on 03 July 2020.

In 2020, the PRA commenced its preliminary activities to seal partnership with the two municipalities through an expression of Collaboration. This is a timely endeavor considering that the Province of Catanduanes is along the path frequently visited by typhoons and just the last quarter of the year 2020, the province was then again devastated by Typhoons Quinta and Ulysses and the most destructive Super Typhoon Rolly. The formulation of the CPMPs are in partnership with the team from the LGUs and local stakeholders who are more knowledgeable of the hazards in their community. Upon the completion of the conduct of drafting activities and finalization of the CPMPs, the same shall be submitted to the local councils of Virac and Baras for adoption and integration in the development plans of their municipalities.