

PART I

**INCREASED JOB CREATION AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH**

CHAPTER 1

MACRO-ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

A. DEVELOPMENT VISION



MIMAROPA is a region of peace, cultural pride and self-managed communities of empowered families. Within five years from its creation, it hopes to become the new gateway to the Southern Philippines and the food basket of Metro Manila and CALABARZON.

- **Region of peace** – One of the major preconditions to economic growth is the presence of lasting peace and order and security. Hence, within five years and subsequently thereafter, MIMAROPA as a region of peace shall have completely addressed its problems on insurgency and organized crimes. It shall adopt a multi-pronged strategy consisting of attacking the root of the problem of abject poverty and strengthening the five pillars of the criminal justice system.
- **Region of cultural pride** – The warmth of its people, its vibrant culture and tradition and its colorful festivities shall make MIMAROPA known nationally and internationally.
- **Self-managed communities of empowered families** - Families in the region shall have decent and productive employment participating fully in both social and economic activities and working harmoniously toward building a self-reliant community.
- **New gateway to the Southern Philippines** – With the implementation and completion of the Nautical Highway System coupled with the provision of modern and efficient transportation infrastructures, the region will be strategically linked to other provinces and regions in the country thus becoming one of the gateways to Southern Philippines. As a new gateway, it shall move toward global and regional integration.
- **Food basket of Metro Manila and CALABARZON Region** – The region shall be the major supplier of raw and processed agricultural products to nearby regions as a result of its surplus

production due primarily to agricultural modernization and innovations. This involves a shift to an appropriate technology-based and-driven value-added agricultural, fisheries and livestock production particularly on strategic commodities for which the region enjoys a comparative advantage.

Intrinsic in the vision statement is MIMAROPA’s aspiration to attain and realize sustained economic growth, more equitable distribution of wealth and income, improvement in the people’s quality of life, protection of the environment and the enhancement of the region’s ecological integrity.

B. THE MIMAROPA ECONOMY

Performance for the Past Two Years (2002-2003)

Based on the report of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), MIMAROPA has the highest Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) growth of 11 percent among the Philippine regions for 2003. While NCR and CALABARZON contributed 1.6 and 0.5 percentage point each, MIMAROPA contributed 0.3 percentage point to the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. The region’s growth of 14.4 percent and 10.9 percent for agriculture and industry, respectively was also the highest growth rate recorded in the country.

In terms of per capita GRDP, MIMAROPA also posted the highest per capita growth rate of 7.6 percent.

Table 1-1
Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP)
Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)
CY 2002-2003

INDUSTRY/YEAR	In Thousand Pesos		Percent Distribution		Growth Rate 2002-2003
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
I. AGRI.,FISHERY,FORESTRY	11,346,955	12,978,061	40.29	41.50	14.40
a. Agriculture and Fishery	11,346,253	12,977,826	40.29	41.50	14.40
b. Forestry	702	235	0.00	0.00	(66.50)
II INDUSTRY SECTOR	10,905,228	12,095,730	38.72	38.68	10.90
a. Mining and Quarrying	4,189,337	5,243,699	14.88	16.77	25.20
b. Manufacturing	3,990,939	4,080,793	14.17	13.05	2.30
c. Construction	245,237	251,123	0.87	0.80	2.40
d. Electricity and Water	2,479,715	2,520,115	8.80	8.06	1.60
III SERVICE SECTOR	5,910,830	6,198,033	20.99	19.82	4.90
a. Transport, Comm., Storage	988,827	1,124,247	3.51	3.60	13.70
b. Trade	1,619,687	1,658,559	5.75	5.30	2.40
c. Finance	758,464	813,270	2.69	2.60	7.20
d. O. Dwellings & Real Estate	638,660	672,956	2.27	2.15	5.40
e. Private Services	845,372	866,567	3.00	2.77	2.50
f. Government Services	1,059,820	1,062,434	3.76	3.40	0.20
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	28,163,013	31,271,824	100.00	100.00	11.00

Source : Economic Statistics Office, National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB)

Except for the forestry sector, all sectors of the MIMAROPA's economy grew. This positive growth in the economy of MIMAROPA is attributed to more focused programs and projects that the region benefited from its creation on May 17, 2002 by virtue of Executive Order 103, "Dividing Region IV into Region IV-A (CALABARZON) and Region IV-B (MIMAROPA), Transferring the Province of Aurora to Region III and for Other Purposes."

MIMAROPA has an agriculture-based economy. Thus, the combined agriculture, fishery and forestry sector has the highest contribution of about 42 percent to the region's GRDP. This is followed by the industry sector that is mainly fueled by the performance of the mining/quarrying and manufacturing sectors.

The mining and quarrying sector has also the highest growth rate of about 25 percent for the period. This can be attributed to the abounding non-metallic and metallic mineral resources of the region. MIMAROPA however, after the closure of Marcopper in Marinduque operates small-scale mining projects. Moreover, Oriental Mindoro, having a priority thrust to fully develop its agriculture and tourism potential is on a 25-year moratorium on mining operations.

Despite the fact that manufacturing industries in the region are mostly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro-cottage industries, their growth are closely interlinked with the growth of agriculture considering that these industries are mostly agribusinesses.

Likewise, the transport, communication and storage sector also displayed a high growth of about 14 percent. This could be credited to the full operation of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH) that connects the island to Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao through the Roll-on Roll-off transport services and to the operation of the Puerto Princesa Airport having now an international route to Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia and South Korea.

On the other hand, the low contribution of the forestry sector to the GRDP could be attributed to the enforcement of the selective logging law, non-renewal of expired contracts of tree farms and the strict implementation of the ecotourism-cum-environmental management strategy in the region.

Prospects for the Next Six Years (2004-2010)

Taking advantage of the potentials of the region in agriculture and tourism, the region will pursue its vision of becoming the "food basket" of CALABARZON and Metro Manila, tourism-hub of the country and gateway to the Southern Philippines through the implementation of the Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2004-2010.

Table 1-2 shows the harmonized GRDP growth targets based on the past GRDP actual growth rates, past Gross Value Added (GVA) regional shares to overall GRDP, 2003 actual GRDP figures released by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) last July 2004, Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC)-approved GDP targets as of 9 August 2004 and development priorities in the 2004-2010 MTPDP and RDP.

For the entire planning period, the GRDP of the region is expected to grow at an annual rate of 11 percent. Specifically, the GRDP growth projections for MIMAROPA were made on the assumptions that a more focused development intervention will be sustained in the region, that it will not be hit by disastrous tropical storms and other weather disturbances like El Niño and La Niña phenomena, and that peace and order situation will be favorable to its agriculture, tourism and mining development.

Table 1-2
Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) Projected Growth Rates
Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)
CY 2004-2010

Year	GRDP	Agriculture	Industry	Services
2003*	11.0	14.4	10.9	4.9
2004	9.5	11.1	10.0	5.0
2005	9.9	11.5	10.2	6.0
2006	10.7	11.6	11.4	7.2
2007	11.0	11.7	11.5	8.0
2008	11.2	11.8	11.6	9.0
2009	12.1	11.9	13.2	10.0
2010	12.6	12.0	13.5	12.0

* *Actual*

The Regional Development Council (RDC) IV-B given its power as the highest policy-making and coordinating body in the region ensures that programs, activities and projects (PAPs) of the different Regional Line Agencies (RLAs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Government Units (LGUs) are aligned to the region's vision.

Moreover, the attainment of the growth targets will be done through a vision-focused and goal-focused public investment and a strong partnership with the private sector.

CHAPTER 2

AGRICULTURE

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends

A. Agricultural Ecosystem

A.1. Land Resources

The Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan (MIMAROPA) Region encompasses a total land area of around 2,745,601 hectares. Considered an agricultural region, it has a total certified Alienable and Disposable (A&D) land of 1,020,640 hectares, or 37 percent of the total land area. Based on the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) data generated in 2002-2003, the average production area utilized for major and minor agricultural crops was around 506,457 hectares or half of the total A&D (Table 2-1).

Table 2-1
Crop Production Area (in Hectares), MIMAROPA Region, 2003

AGRICULTURAL CROPS	Crop Production Area (in Has)		Annual Increment
	2002	2003	
MAJOR CROPS			
Palay	254,878	254,675	(0.08)
Coconut	141,392	149,994	6.08
Banana	22,182	28,214	27.19
Calamansi	7,912	7,916	0.05
Cashew	24,346	24,346	-
Corn	31,318	28,266	(9.75)
Camote	2,433	2,472	1.60
Cassava	2,166	2,218	2.40
Mango	3,672	3,673	0.03
OTHER CROPS			
Other Fruits	3,753	3,859	2.82
Mongo	755	770	1.99
Peanut	1,158	1,161	0.26
Eggplant	930	944	1.51
Tomato	209	219	4.78
Cabbage	11	15	36.36
Garlic	529	536	1.32
Onion	52	53	1.92
Tobacco	1,190	1,466	23.16
Pineapple	42	43	2.38
Coffee	959	957	(0.21)
Cacao	69	66	(4.35)
Abaca	406	608	49.87
Rubber	40	40	-
Total	500,402	512,511	2.42

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

Table 2-2
Production Lands based on the Provincial Physical
Framework Plan (1992-2003)

Province	Production Lands (in Has)			Total
	Area of Sustainable Land Use	Area of Under-used Lands	Area of Over-used Lands	
Romblon	32,870.0	22,340.0	19,320.0	74,530.0
Oriental Mindoro	116,842.0	119,491.0	22,068.0	258,401.0
Palawan	109,153.0	684,497.0	26,297.0	819,947.0
Marinduque	27,557.9	21,954.6	8,106.3	57,618.8
Occidental Mindoro	109,520.0	108,170.0	22,640.0	240,330.0
Total	395,942.9	956,452.6	98,431.3	1,450,826.8
% of the Total	27	66	7	100

Source: Provincial Physical Framework Plans of the MIMAROPA provinces (1992-2003)

Moreover, data from the Provincial Physical Framework Plans (1992-2003) of the MIMAROPA provinces showed an aggregate of 1,450,826.8 hectares devoted to production lands (Table 2-2).

These lands are used either for agricultural, forestry or mining purposes covering the A&D (<18% slopes) and upland areas, which are classified as forestland (>18% slopes). Surprisingly, 66 percent of the total production lands or a total of 956,452 hectares are underutilized lands meaning these lands are being used at a level below the intensity they are capable of. These areas can be tapped for agricultural development undertakings such as using pasturelands for the cultivation of perennial trees and low-lying areas for producing rice and other cultivated crops. The same data disclosed that seven percent of the total production lands have been exploited at a level beyond their usability. The rest of the production lands are being used in a sustainable manner, maintaining its productivity level without causing deterioration of the land resources.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) marked 930,470 hectares as Network of Protected Areas for Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Development (NPAAAD) for the region. These areas are considered the prime natural and economic resource endowments for the modernization of agriculture and fishery sector of the region. These are designated for both public and private investments on agricultural activities. Out of the total NPAAD areas, the region has a total Strategic Agriculture and Fishery Development Zones (SAFDZs) area of 758,951 hectares. These areas are the most productive among the agricultural lands within the region having comparative advantage over others due to location, soil characteristics, irrigation facilities and other infrastructure support. The remaining prime agricultural lands classified as Non-SAFDZs covering 171,519 hectares are the expansion areas with inadequate support systems at present.

With respect to Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) areas, MIMAROPA had acquired and distributed about 142,856 hectares of agricultural land to some 101,080 farmer-beneficiaries as of December 2003. This represents 77 percent of the total CARP Scope for Region IV-B of 184,518 hectares.

Table 2-3
Strategic Agriculture and Fishery Development Zones

Category	Marin duque	Occidental Mindoro	Oriental Mindoro	Palawan	Romblon	Total
1. (Crop Dev't Zone)	22,180	70,345	122,692	396,106	18,578	629,901
2. (Livestock Dev't Zone)	2,741	13,704	8,716	35,622	2,844	63,627
3. (Fishery Dev't Zone)	1,114	3,143	3,818	9,238	235	17,548
4. (Crop/Livestock Zone)	10,048	3,582	404	20,183	4,169	38,386
5. (Crop/Fishery Zone)		69		1,741	667	2,477
6. (Crop/Fishery/Livestock Zone)	22	1,908		2,338	965	5,233
7. (Livestock/Fishery)	1,183			68	528	1,779
Total SAFDZ	37,288	92,751	135,630	465,296	27,986	758,951
8. Remaining NPAAD	1,822	15,380	13,072	136,465	4,780	171,519
Total NPAAD	39,110	108,131	148,702	601,761	32,766	930,470
9. Agroforestry Zone	17,280	37,722	32,296	108,740	22,490	218,528
10. Watershed/Forestry Zone	37,267	439,937	249,978	761,768	77,605	1,566,555
11. Built-up Areas	2,268	2,904	5,496	17,357	1,732	29,757
Total Non-SAFDZ	56,815	480,563	287,770	887,865	101,827	1,814,840

Source: Bureau of Soil and Water Management

A.2. Water resources

The region has an average annual rainfall of about 2,000 mm. This is enough to irrigate all agricultural lands in the region. However, due to fluctuations in distribution of rainfall from one province to another, it is the rivers and streams which swell up during the rainy season that serve as the primary sources of irrigation water to farmlands. MIMAROPA has a total of 106-bodies of water in its river system, which provides the irrigation water for agriculture. Based on the data taken from the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), 99.8 percent of the total water supply (1975 to 2003) devoted for agriculture was sourced out from surface water while the remaining 0.2 percent was from ground water due to the relatively lower extraction cost incurred by the former.

For the whole region, a total of 140,390 hectares have been identified as potential areas for irrigation. Most of these areas are in the Mindoro provinces and Palawan, equivalent to 94 percent of the potential irrigable area.

A.3. Fishery resources

The MIMAROPA Region is endowed with rich marine and coastal resources. Consisting of island provinces, it is endowed with the longest coastline and fishing is one of its major sources of livelihood.

Among the region's five provinces, Palawan is the largest and most intact assemblage of marine habitats in the country. Its in-shore coastal marine waters are considered the richest fishing grounds in the Philippines while its offshore marine resources, including the hotly-contested Spratlys

island group, are frequented by commercial fishers from all over the Philippines and other countries. Sixty percent of the national fish production can be raised from fishing grounds around Palawan. Palawan is also rich in other marine life forms like seaweeds, seashells, crustaceans and tropical fish. Seaweed farming is now a major source of income for some families in the province.

In Mindoro Island, almost all the municipalities of the two provinces lie along coastal areas. Mindoro Occidental's marine waters are rich fishing grounds teeming with tuna, groupers, anchovies, mackerel, sardines, Bangus fries, dog sharks and others.

Aside from marine fishing, inland fishing is another major industry in the province. Fishpond operators in the province claim that their "Mindoro Bangus" is the best and commands a high price in the Philippine market. On the other hand, Oriental Mindoro is blessed with a long coastline rich in marine resources, and with lakes and rivers abundant in freshwater fish. Among its major fishing grounds are Mindoro Strait, Coron Bay, Tablas Strait and Paluan Bay. The Naujan Lake located in the northeastern part of the province is the most extensive body of freshwater in the region. It covers four towns making up 8,000 hectares. The lake is also the habitat of diverse fish species.

The fishing grounds of Romblon is a migratory path of fish from the Sulu and Visayan Seas passing through Tablas Strait, Sibuyan Sea and Romblon Pass. The waters abound with demersal fishes due to the coral reef of different species (Provincial Physical Framework Plan, Romblon).

An island province, Marinduque possesses excellent fishing grounds that include Calanacan Bay, Masaguisi Bay, Sta. Cruz Bay, Marlangga Bay, Torrijos Bay, Ulan Bay, Sayao Bay, Bolanacay Bay and others. In addition, the province also maintains 700 hectares of fishpond areas and 1,712.5 hectares as potential grounds for development (*Socio-Economic Profile, Marinduque*).

B. Agricultural Production

The major agricultural crops, which constitute 99 percent of the total crop production in the region, include rice, coconut, banana, calamansi, cashew and corn. Among them, rice production dominates the crop subsector registering an estimated 818,182 MT in 2003 (Table 1-4). This output put MIMAROPA in sixth place among the top rice-producing regions in the country. The Mindoro provinces and Palawan constituted 91 percent of the total rice production for 2003. Corn is the region's second cereal crop. For 2003, the region's corn production was 59,359 MT representing 3.1 percent of the total production of the major crop subsector. The provinces of Mindoro Occidental and Palawan remained the top corn producers with a combined production of 56,423 MT equivalent to 95 percent of corn yield produced in MIMAROPA.

Coconut is next to rice in terms of production volume with an accrued yield of 629,127 MT, comprising 32.9 percent of the total production in agricultural crops subsector of the region. Romblon consistently the top coconut producer with 38 percent of the total coconut production of the region.

Banana, another major crop of the region posted 169,418 MT for 2003 with 5.6 percent increment compared to 2002. Among the five provinces, Mindoro Oriental came up with the bulk of production with 142,668 MT, 84 percent of the region's production. Calamansi is among the front-runner agricultural crops that the region can be proud of. For 2003, MIMAROPA was estimated to generate 169,418 MT of calamansi, constituting more than half of the national production. Mindoro Oriental, known as the "Calamansi King," accounted for 99 percent of the region's produce. The region also produced the bulk of the national cashew yield, like that of calamansi. For 2003,

MIMAROPA produced 100,592 MT of cashew or 91 percent of the national production. Ninety-nine percent of the region's produce came from Palawan.

The remaining one percent of the region's total crop production includes vegetables, condiments, root crops, fruits, legumes and other non-food and commercial crops. For 2003, the total production of these minor crops was 8.6 percent growth.

The livestock and poultry subsectors each grew by 4 percent for 2003. Livestock production except for cattle exhibited positive growth. Chicken and chicken eggs also posted positive performance in the same year.

The fisheries subsector gained a soaring 30-percent production growth in 2003 with 472,626 MT. All the three fishery sectors exhibited positive increment with aquaculture production going up by 37.3 percent followed by municipal fisheries with a 22.9-percent increase and commercial fisheries with a 16.4-percent growth. In terms of total production, aquaculture has the biggest share with 269,806 MT, trailed by municipal with 160,746 MT and commercial with 42,075 MT.

Table 2-4
Volume of Agricultural Production (in MT), MIMAROPA Region, 1999-2003

Sub-sector	Volume of Production in Metric Tons					Annual Increment (%)			
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03
Major Crops									
Palay	709,481.0	758,719.0	745,969.0	799,627.0	818,182.0	6.9	-1.7	7.2	2.3
Coconut	493,133.2	515,077.2	525,999.9	651,561.6	629,127.2	4.4	2.1	23.9	-3.4
Banana	157,744.9	159,970.6	159,144.8	160,160.0	169,418.2	1.4	-0.5	0.6	5.8
Calamansi	116,826.0	114,501.3	111,543.6	109,024.2	108,184.3	-2.0	-2.6	-2.3	-0.8
Cashew	100,345.7	100,216.9	100,346.5	100,358.1	100,592.3	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2
Corn	32,995.0	33,369.0	58,755.0	62,005.0	59,359.0	1.1	76.1	5.5	-4.3
Camote	11,538.2	11,600.8	11,673.1	11,841.9	11,928.9	0.5	0.6	1.4	0.7
Cassava	7,949	8,084	8,199.2	8,292.9	8,538.0	1.7	1.4	1.1	3.0
Mango	8,074.4	8,015.3	8,386.0	8,394.9	8,141.3	-0.7	4.6	0.1	-3.0
Other Crops									
Minor Fruits	10,376.6	10,091.6	10,556.1	11,088.5	11,501.4	-2.7	4.6	5.0	3.7
Mongo	416.5	429.0	432.7	445.0	512.6	3.0	0.8	2.8	15.2
Peanut	768.0	777.0	798.4	817.9	810.1	1.2	2.8	2.4	-1.0
Eggplant	2,453.1	2,583.5	2,345.1	2,389.8	2,439.9	5.3	-9.2	1.9	2.1
Tomato	832.0	808.5	786.2	826.4	872.2	-2.8	-2.8	5.1	5.5
Cabbage	25.7	25.4	24	29	30	-1.1	-6.7	22.2	3.9
Garlic	1,723.5	1,769.2	1,853.8	1,893.3	2,047.9	2.7	4.8	2.1	8.2
Onion	88.5	101.0	97.2	100.6	107.9	14.1	-3.8	3.6	7.2
Tobacco	1,097.1	1,195.9	1,852.0	2,490.3	3,533.9	9.0	54.9	34.5	41.9
Pineapple	163.8	179.9	199.0	195.8	191.3	9.8	10.6	-1.6	-2.3
Coffee	318.2	298.7	262.3	223.1	213.9	-6.1	-12.2	-15.0	-4.1
Cacao	44.9	42.8	41.4	41.0	36.9	-4.5	-3.4	-0.9	-10.1
Abaca	51.0	43.4	40.8	37.3	35.2	-14.9	-6.0	-8.6	-5.8
Rubber	3.2	3.32	3.3	6.9	13.5	3.7	-0.6	109.1	95.7
Total	1,656,449.6	1,727,903.6	1,749,309.0	1,931,850.5	1,935,817.9	4.3	1.2	10.4	0.2

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

Of the total fish catch unloaded in 2003, Palawan remained the top fish producer for MIMAROPA comprising 91.4 percent of the total fish production of the region. The balance was spread out to the other provinces as follows: Mindoro Oriental (2.7%), Mindoro Occidental (3.5%), Marinduque (1%) and Romblon (1.4%).

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

- The devolution of agriculture-related responsibilities from the national agencies was not completely assumed by the local government units (LGUs). Many devolved agricultural personnel were assigned to non-agricultural functions after the devolution. Moreover, duplication and overlapping of functions among the Regional Line Agencies hindered agricultural development in the region.
- There is a weak technological support of LGUs for industrial crops development. It was observed that no advocacy efforts were initiated.
- Several issues and concerns have hampered the production chain affecting the farmers and fisherfolk. Among these issues include:
 - ✓ High cost of agricultural inputs but low farm gate prices of agricultural products
 - ✓ Limited value adding or processing to major agricultural produce
 - ✓ Insufficient infrastructure support
 - ✓ Limited access to credit due to high interest and stringent credit policies
 - ✓ Natural and man-made calamities that affect the productivity of the agricultural asset bases– soil erosion, siltation, flooding, etc.
 - ✓ Lack of capability among the farmers/fisherfolk organization in project proposal development
 - ✓ Occurrence of pests and diseases to crops
- The production capacities both in land and marine remained low.
- The marketing system is still inefficient resulting to high distribution cost. It is also notable that some provinces with high sufficiency level to major commodities are still suffering from shortages during lean months since majority of the products are immediately shipped out after harvest.
- Municipal waters are yet to be delineated, hence encroachment of commercial fishers is prevalent in the region. Protection efforts are still insufficient.
- The function of the National Food Authority (NFA) is still confusing to many sectors in the region. Farmers are complaining about the high-quality requirements enforced by NFA and wondering why the agency is selling poor quality rice in the market.
- There is a wide gap in agricultural data generation and insufficient information technology (IT) personnel in the region. Institutions involved in data generation are not systematic and disorganized.
- No one among the Regional Line Agencies is responsible for the salt industry in the region.
- Some policy issuances also affect the growth of agriculture in the region.
 - ✓ The strict quarantine has limited the marketing and accessibility of local products (i.e., mango). In the same manner, with the numerous entry ports, there is limited manpower to monitor the entries of agricultural commodities.
 - ✓ Trade liberalization has increased the entry of agricultural products from abroad both through legal and illegal means.
 - ✓ There are conflicting policies on fish trading among municipalities in the region.

3. Strategic Framework

A. Policy Measures

- Enactment of law that would synchronize planning and budgeting periods of local and national levels
- Finalization and approval of land use plans
- Enactment of local policies that would regulate the shipment of local products in specified period of the year
- Delineation and technical description of SAFDZ on ground
- Promotion of safety nets to address the negative effects of high costs of farm inputs
- Strict implementation of agriculture, fishery, environment and quarantine laws
- Institutionalization of Community-Based Information System
- Strategic allocation of agriculture-support facilities (farm-to-market roads, irrigation, postharvest facilities, market facilities)
- Development and design of an integrated agricultural production, processing and marketing system

B. Priority Strategies

- Reinforce partnership and convergence of projects/programs among Regional Line Agencies, LGUs and other partner institutions. Strengthen counterparting of resources and sustain the re-orientation of local chief executives on the significance and direction of agricultural programs
- Encourage private investment through contract farming, linkages/partnership, and tapping of marginal/idle lands in the production of industrial crops
- Promote organic farming and utilization of local and indigenous knowledge and technologies like Integrated Pest Management to reduce production costs
- Conduct and implement action research/demonstration trials on local and indigenous technologies
- Prioritize farm mechanization (farm-to-market roads and other vital infrastructure facilities supportive of agriculture development) and social infrastructure programs (credit funds for cooperatives and farmers/fisherfolk organization)
- Strengthen environmental advocacy and enforcement of agriculture, fishery and environmental laws
- Optimize land utilization through integrated farming, promotion of high-value crops and hybridization
- Initiate value adding and processing, product and enterprise development of agri-products
- Carry out buffer stocking on prime agricultural commodities to secure food for the region during the lean months
- Institutionalize data information and management systems in the LGUs
- Delivery of technical, social and physical support services to Agrarian Reform Communities

C. Targets

- Sustained growth rates of agricultural production (11.5 in 2005; 11.6 in 2006; 11.7 in 2007; 11.8 in 2008; 11.9 in 2009; 12 in 2010)
- Reduction of production costs through organic farming (10 - 20% annually)

- Strengthen counterparting of resources among national and local government (70-30) in the implementation of agricultural programs
- Transforming Marinduque into a major mango-producing province
- Development of 199,062 hectares of lands for agribusiness

D. Priority Programs and Projects

- Sustainable Agribusiness and Rural Enterprises
- Agriculture and Fishery Support Services for increased production and income
- Investment Promotion in Contract Growing
- Mindoro Food Basket Development Program
- Farmers' Productivity Investment and Welfare Program
- Livestock Development Program
- Coconut Zone Development Program
- Oil Palm Development Program
- Land Tenure Improvement

CHAPTER 3

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

1. Performance and Sectoral Trends

The industrial landscape of MIMAROPA is characterized by the predominance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro cottage industries involved in services and retail like trading, sari-sari stores, hotel and restaurant business, food processing, handicrafts making, marble quarrying, and novelty items. Each province has its own strengths and potentials where priorities are set. Industries for the tourism market also thrive in the region because it has many sites that make tourism a major contributor in the services sector. In Palawan, there exists food processing, lamayo fish production, cashew and processed mango as well as indigenous handicrafts industries. Marinduque produces butterfly and handwoven products and arrowroot cookies; Romblon is famous for its marble, used for construction and novelty products. Oriental Mindoro has banana chips and handicrafts while Occidental Mindoro has their salt and seaweeds production. In general, industries which thrive in the region are those that derive their raw materials from the provinces' natural resources.

Some industries in the region are flourishing and growing while others are experiencing a downward trend like the marble industry in Romblon, which is now being replaced by the ceramics industry. Flourishing industries include seaweed production, which is highest in Occidental Mindoro but is also popular in other provinces in the region. The butterfly industry in Marinduque is likewise growing, the products of which are being exported and/or distributed in Metro Manila malls. Marinduque also has abaca/buntal handloom weaving products, which are also being sold in nearby areas and Metro Manila. In Palawan, flourishing businesses include the lamayo fish processing, cashew production, and woodcrafts and handicrafts.

GRDP growth rates for 2004-2010 projects an increase of 10.2 percent in 2005 to 13.5 percent in 2010. For the services sector, the projected growth rate is six percent for 2005, increasing to 12 percent in 2010. This growth rate projection is significant and is supportive of the 10-Point Legacy of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, specifically the creation of six million jobs in six years via more opportunities given to entrepreneurs and tripling the amount of loans for lending to small and medium enterprises.

The presence of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH) also increases the potential of the region as a transshipment point for trading of agricultural crops, processed food and other products. SRNH will also boost tourism in the region. SRNH will be maximized to attain the vision of the region to be the food basket of Metro Manila and the CALABARZON region, and will serve as a gateway to southern Philippines and help attain the country's goal to achieve economic growth and welfare improvement.

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

Industrial development is very slow in the region; its potential as resource areas are not fully utilized due to lack of support mechanisms like access to financing, new technologies and new marketing assistance.

As a predominantly agriculture- and nature-based economy, the MIMAROPA region's strength lies in its vast natural resources. Food products derived here are agricultural crops ranging

from major crops such as palay, corn, coconut and fruits to minor crops like vegetables, cashew, coffee and fish. Non-food products are minerals, and forest and non-forest products. Most of the food crops are marketed and sold fresh from the farm and fishing areas; only a few are processed. Lack of facilities for food processing which can bring about added value to the products is a gap needing interventions. Such facilities can benefit the region's economy immensely creating jobs, stabilizing the food industries, and giving added value to its products.

Although some products from the region are already being exported, they are still not very competitive in terms of quality and price. Another serious concern is the mismatch of skills among its people.

There is also a need of a service facility in the region particularly for the tourist market that will serve as a one-stop-shop where their needs can be serviced including transport, rest and recreation, and buying of souvenirs. One such service facility is the Puerto Princesa Airport in Palawan, which meets international standards. Existing air and seaports in the region can also be improved to benefit both the local residents as well as the travelers.

3. Strategic Framework

A. Policy Measures

Proposed policy measures for the region's trade and industry subsector are:

- Conduct of integrated research and development for the region's industrial growth such as new product and technology enhancement and development
- Pronouncement of adequate policy and support facilities for forward and backward linkages to support small and medium industries/enterprises
- Provision of attractive financial packages and incentives to encourage investors
- Provision of regulatory and advocacy services like Business Regulations
- Advocate for Fair Trade Laws

B. Strategies

To achieve equitable economic growth across the region, potential strategic provincial investment centers and processing centers of agriculture-based industries will be identified. They will serve as economic growth points will be adopted. These growth points or hubs for investments expected to generate employment. Identifying and promoting the specified crop producing area for each province will harness the strength of small and medium scale crop-processing centers.

- Industry Development
 - i Training and capability building through the provision of product development and packaging assistance
 - i Provision of assistance for technology improvement to improve product quality
 - i Increase of value added through Productivity Program
 - i Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Skills Training program for existing and potential entrepreneurs
 - i Coordination of LGUs and Regional Line Agencies

- Trade Promotion and Facilitation
 - i Improvement of product distribution through market matching and strengthening of trade houses/centers
 - i External trade and marketing activities including SME development I Palawan (tied up with that of Mindanao) aimed at taking advantage of trade and other opportunities in BIMP-EAGA.
- Investment Facilitation and Promotion
 - i Promotion of investments through the development of priority sectors per province
 - i Promotion of SMEs as an area for investments
 - i Intensification of Labor Standards Enforcement Framework
 - i Monitoring and Intensification of Fair Trade Laws

C. Targets

Palawan identified Barangay Rio Tuba in Bataraza as a growth point/center. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued the Presidential Proclamation No. 304 series of 2002 “Creating and Designating Certain Parcels of Land Structure in Barangay Rio Tuba, Municipality of Bataraza, Province of Palawan as special economic zone pursuant to RA No. 7916” to pump prime industrial growth in the province as well as boost the mining industry in the region.

The province of Oriental Mindoro is pursuing an Agro-Industrial Center as a vehicle to achieve its vision of becoming the food basket of Metro Manila, CALABARZON and the Visayas. It was emphasized that only light and environment-friendly industries are permitted to proliferate. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) identified the Municipality of Mansalay where the Mangyan Craft Village is to be established to enhance the marketability of this indigenous people’s traditional products like beadwork, loom weaving, mat weaving and basketry.

For Marinduque, Boac as the provincial capital will serve as trading/marketing center while Santa Cruz will be tapped as a processing center of light industries since support services are available there.

There will be trainings on enterprise development for the youth, informal sector, disabled or differently-abled and displaced workers focusing on priority industries in the region. Trainings on productivity enhancement conducted by the DTI and the Department of Labor and Employment will likewise be done.

Priority industries for development are aquamarine and aquaculture , fruit processing, handloom weaving, butterfly crafts, woodcrafts, mask-making, marble-making, and coconut coir-making.

The conduct of Regional and Local Trade Fair/s like the BARAKALAN will also be prioritized as well as the establishment of trade house display centers and conduct of training and advocacy on labor laws and related issuances and standard enforcements.

4. Priority Programs and Projects

- Development of priority industries per province
 - m Aquaculture industry (seaweed and bangus) in Occidental Mindoro
 - m Fruit processing (calamansi, banana), natural and organic products, home furnishing in Oriental Mindoro

Trade and Industry

- m Handloom weaving, butterfly crafts, woodcrafts, mask-making food processing in Marinduque
- m Marble and coconut coir industries in Romblon
- m Aquamarine industry, fish processing in Palawan
- Institutionalization of Palawan EcoZone in Barangay Rio Tuba, Municipality of Bataraza
- Creation of Provincial Agro-Industrial Center (PAIC) in Oriental Mindoro
- Assessment of the viability of call centers in Puerto Princesa and Calapan City
- Establishment of a Mangyan Craft Village in Barangay Bait, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro

CHAPTER 4

TOURISM

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends

The MIMAROPA Region having diverse natural and man-made attractions and rich scenic and cultural heritage has a potential to be a world-class tourist destination. Along with these are the unique geographical conditions and locations that make tourism a viable industry in this region. Its great tourism potentials are evident in its fine sandy beaches, scenic vistas, outstanding coral formations, blue seas, intact corals, mangroves teeming with fish, and its nature-loving people. Tourist attractions are nature-based such as El Nido, Apo Reef, Tubbataha Reef, Puerto Princesa Underground River and Lake Naujan. Festivals of indigenous peoples like the Tagbanuas, Bataks in Palawan and Mangyans in Oriental Mindoro are cultural activities that visitors find enriching. Moreover, the Moriones Festival is a religious festival that is annually observed during the Holy Week in the towns of Boac, Gasan and Mogpog in Marinduque.

For the region, there are five ecotourism sites identified in the Southern Tagalog Regional Tourism Master Plan (RTMP); namely, St. Paul Subterranean National Park, El Nido Marine Park, Honda Bay, Calauit Wildlife and Tubbataha Reef. After a series of consultations from both the public and private sectors and based on established criteria, additional areas/sites in MIMAROPA were identified and included in the key ecotourism sites in the Philippines: Apo Reef (Occidental Mindoro), and Mt. Guiting-Guiting (Romblon).

The number of tourist attractions in the region increased by four percent from 97 attractions in 2001 to 162 attractions in 2002 (Table 4-1). Among the provinces, Romblon was able to increase its tourist attractions at a relatively higher rate of 187 percent. On the other hand, the provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro maintained the same number of tourist attractions during the same period.

Table 4-1
No. of Tourist Attractions by Category
2001-2002

PROVINCES	Historical		Cultural		Natural		Religious		Man-Made		Total Tourists Attractions	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
MIMAROPA	11	14	4	6	69	124	5	7	9	12	97	162
Occidental Mindoro	1	1	0	0	11	11	0	0	4	4	15	15
Oriental Mindoro	3	3	2	2	15	15	1	1	0	0	21	21
Marinduque	2	2	1	3	14	26	2	3	0	1	19	35
Romblon	1	1	0	0	21	65	1	2	1	1	24	69
Palawan	4	7	1	1	8	7	1	1	4	6	18	22

Source: Department of Tourism IV

In terms of type of tourist attractions, natural tourism sites dominate the landscape of the region. The rest are historical, cultural, and religious and man made.

Despite the presence of diversified tourist attractions, there are still areas undiscovered/untapped and emerging attractions that have not reached their full potential. Anchored on the Regional Tourism Master Plan, there have been priority areas for tourism development per province identified as shown in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-2
Priority Areas for Tourism Development**

PROVINCE	PRIORITY AREAS FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
Oriental Mindoro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Naujan • Mount Halcon, Baco • Bulalacao • Convention Center, Pinamalayan
Occidental Mindoro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apo Reef, Sablayan • Pandan Island, and Bagong Sabang River, Sablayan • Ambulong Island, San Jose
Marinduque	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tres Reyes Islands, Gasan • Balanacan Bay, Mogpog • Pulang Lupa, Torrijos
Romblon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BonBon Beach, Romblon Island • Mount Guiting-Guiting, Sibuyan Is. • Carabao Island
Palawan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabon Caves, Quezon • Tubattaha Reef, Brooke’s Point • Balabac Island

Source: Southern Tagalog Regional Tourism Master Plan

In 2000, the province of Palawan recorded the highest number of domestic and foreign tourist arrivals followed by Oriental Mindoro totaling 126,846 and 60,454 visitors, respectively. Among the five provinces of the region, only Oriental Mindoro has a consistent increase in tourist arrivals. Income and employment opportunities in the locality were generated due to the influx of tourists both foreign and domestic.

In 2001, however, with the exception of Oriental Mindoro, all the provinces in the region experienced a considerable decrease in the number of tourists. The general decline in the volume of tourists could be attributed to the worsening peace and order situation in some parts of the country during the period under review, particularly the Abu Sayyaf attacks on Philippine resorts notably the Pearl Farm in Davao and the Dos Palmas Resort in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Likewise, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the growing threat of attacks on airlines in the U.S. and Europe dealt a negative impact on the global airline industry, including tourism in Asia. These events affected our domestic and international tourism productivity.

As to accommodation facilities in Palawan, there are about 125 of them, 25 of which are DOT-accredited: three hotels, nine tourist inns, one apartel and 12 resorts and the rest are licensed by the City Government of Puerto Princesa. Hotels are concentrated in mainland Palawan while some resorts are found on islands such as Pamalican Island in Cuyo, Lagen Island in El Nido, and Dimakya Island in Coron.

Table 4-3
Number of Domestic and Foreign Tourist Arrivals
2000-2001

PROVINCE	2000	2001
MIMAROPA	198,449	259,105
Occ. Mindoro	1,739	435
Or. Mindoro	60,454	163,953
Marinduque	5,130	895
Romblon	4,280	805
Palawan	126,846	93,018
Total	126,846	93,108

Source: Department of Tourism IV

The MIMAROPA Region, being archipelagic in character, can be linked by air and water routes. Some notable ports that link the island provinces to the mainland provinces are the Port of Batangas and Dalahican Port. The Port of Batangas is a gateway to Calapan City, Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro and Odiongan and Romblon, Romblon and to Abra de Ilog in Occidental Mindoro. Lucena City in Quezon where Dalahican Port is located, is the port linking it to Marinduque. The Lubang Island Port can be utilized to expand the sea travel to Coron, Palawan, an emerging tourist destination.

The development of the tourism industry in the region does not depend solely on the presence of tourist destinations. The intensified promotional efforts and marketing activities, coupled with improved infrastructure and communication services account for the growing interest of tourists in the region. The current upgrading of infrastructure support such as roads, airports and seaports which will improve the accessibility to and within the region is expected to further boost tourism activities. Palawan, considered as the “country’s last frontier” and host to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)-assisted tourism project, can take the lead in developing sustainable tourism efforts in the region.

On airports, SEAIR is now servicing the Manila-Tablas Island, Romblon route aside from its regular flights to Puerto Princesa City and Coron, Palawan. Other airlines plying the routes of MIMAROPA are Philippine Air Lines, Air Philippines, Asian Spirit and Cebu Pacific.

Access through air and feeder ports need to be further developed such as Tugdan Airport in Tablas Island, Romblon. Tablas Island is a gateway to Sibuyan Island where Mt. Guiting-Guiting, an ecotourism site, is located. Moreover, the road leading to and the feeder port in Sablayan (where Apo Reef can be found) require improvement to stimulate the movement of people and goods from Mamburao and other municipalities of the Province of Occidental Mindoro. Tabon Caves, a pre-historic archaeological site, is now being developed for visitation in Palawan to enhance the tourism product of the province for domestic and international visitors. For its infrastructure requirement, there is a need to improve the 10-kilometer road - from Barangay Abo-Abo to the poblacion. Likewise, the pier, as a jump-off point to Tabon Caves in Quezon, Palawan, should be further improved for the safety of the visitors. Directional signages must also be put in place.

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

- Various executive and legislative issuances declaring tourist spots/zones/tourism development areas failed to delineate the boundaries of said areas thereby creating conflicts between tourism zones with land uses.
- At present, tourism falls under the open space or commercial use in Zoning Ordinances. There are no development guidelines and regulations specific to tourism resulting in uncontrolled development and non-conformity to land characteristics leading to social, cultural and environmental degradation.
- Tourism development is mostly in urban areas of the region thereby limiting dispersal of tourism benefits.
- Environmental quality and integrity of tourism destination located in coastal/marine areas are being threatened by current tourism development.
- There is limited understanding of ecotourism among the local people and tourism entrepreneurs.
- There are some potential tourist destinations that remain untapped.
- Tourism data/information are inadequate and the region has no local tourism master plan.
- Attractive and affordable tour packages to sustain/increase domestic tourists need to be developed.
- There is limited tourism products, activities and facilities.
- Cultural tourism is not emphasized.

3. Strategic Framework

A. Policy Measures

- Institutionalize the identified priority tourism development area of the RTMP in the local development plan and land use plan
- Promote and adopt the sustainable tourism development approach in managing tourism resources
- Adhere to the principles of ecotourism and the standards and guidelines prescribed in the Tourism Plan of the Philippines
- Stimulate awareness about the need for sustainable development of the country's culture and environment
- Achieve social cohesion, appreciation of our heritage, pride in our culture through tourism-based activities in the region
- Strengthen of competitiveness and profitability of destinations and attractions through intensified promotion and advertising programs in the domestic and international markets
- Collaborate strongly with LGUs and tourism establishments in data generation
- Provide of special discounts/privilege for local tourists
- Develop diverse tourism activities through the implementation of Entrepreneurial Development in Rural Tourism (EDRT)

B. Strategies

- Settle boundary disputes
- For the Department of Tourism, in cooperation with the Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, and Environment and Natural Resources , LGUs and the HLRB to specifically

- delineate and enforce regulation of set boundaries at declared tourism development areas.
- Resolve land use problems
- Consider in the adoption of land use plans identified ecotourism sites in the TMP and RTMP
- Adopt the criteria for the selection and expansion of tourism development areas
- Encourage participation of LGUs and stakeholders in the devolved functions of tourism development and promotion
- Enact new and enforce existing protective legislation with the participation of the local community to ensure proper respect for this legislation
- Carry out ecotourism programs that respect and maintain the integrity of the natural environment
- Enhance tourism development outside urban areas
- Encourage tourism development in identified areas outside urban centers to bring about regional development and income distribution
- Link tourist attractions/destinations in an integrated system to encourage tourists to avail of connected tours
- Strictly enforce environmental laws and tourism guidelines on development standards
- Promote priority tourism development areas, ecotourism areas/sites for integrated cluster development, tourism circuits and create diverse travel route packages
- Design instrument to effectively generate tourism data/information at the local and regional level; mobilize multi-sectoral tourism councils at the local/regional level to respond to the needs of the tourism sector specially on data generation
- Tie-up with LGUs and the local private sector to develop a scheme with special privileges for the domestic tourists
- Coordinate with LGUs/concerned agencies in the implementation of EDRT

C. Targets

- Tourism Marketing Services
 - m Two International Tour Packages (developed and marketed)
 - m One International Tri-media promotional campaign
 - m 27 Domestic Tri-media promotional campaigns
 - m Domestic tour packages (developed and marketed)
- Tourism Development Services
 - m Three new tourism products (developed)
 - m 10 percent increase in the number of accredited tourism facilities and services adhering to standards
 - m 10 percent increase in the number of stakeholders participating in capability building programs

4. Priority Programs and Projects

- Completion and adoption of Tourism Master Plans and Studies
 - m Marinduque Area Specific Tourism Master Plan
 - m Southern Palawan Tourism Master Plan
- Implementation of projects in the priority areas under the Tourism Master Plan and the Regional Tourism Master Plan
 - m Sustainable Environmental Management Project-Northern Palawan
 - m Tabon Caves Tourism Development Plan
 - m Cultural Tourism Program for Indigenous Communities-Puerto Princesa City

- Manpower Skills Development Program for Industry Workers
- Capability-Building Programs for LGUs and Local Planners
- Capability-Building Programs for LGUs and Special Interest Groups
- Implementation of Entrepreneurial Development in Rural Tourism

PART II

**ENHANCED SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
PROVERTY REDUCTION**

CHAPTER 5

HEALTH, NUTRITION, POPULATION, AND BASIC AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends, Key Challenges and Opportunities

In 2000, 25-30 percent of the MIMAROPA Region's population was predominantly young ranging from 0-9 years old. About half of the total population comprised of dependents ranging from 0-14 and over 65 years old. Likewise, the work force is about half of the total population. This trend is evident in all the provinces and cities of the region. Given this prevailing trend, provision of basic services, notably health, nutrition and education will have to play a key role since about half of the general population of the region are dependents. Their access to basic services will have to be improved to enable them to engage in productive activities over time, thereby sustaining the productive capacity of the region in stimulating the formation and growth of income.

The period-in-review, however, highlights some major concerns that pose a genuine threat in ensuring the access of the dependent population to basic services. This threat translates to a possible gap in the sustainability of long-term efforts to spur economic growth since the desired welfare levels may not be attained.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND POPULATION

At the face of a steadily increasing population growth rate, in-migration and increasing multi-risk behavior of adolescents in the region, is a declining contraceptive prevalence rate. This means that while additional population through in-migration comes from varied age ranges, it is still possible that the bulk of the population increase will come from live births and will form part of the dependent population for some period of years before they can become part of the productive segment of the population.

Considering the projected level of demand for basic services, the region is still faced with the perennial problem of the lack of resources, facilities and capable manpower to provide the basic health, and nutrition services. As of 2003, there are 58 hospitals, comprising of 20 private and 38 government hospitals. Total bed capacity is 712 with 314 for private hospitals and 398 for government hospitals. Oriental Mindoro has the highest number of hospitals but Palawan has the biggest number of bed capacity including the specialized Culion Sanitarium. In terms of services offered, these hospitals are categorized mostly as infirmary and first level referral hospitals. Using the standard ratio of one (1) bed per 500 population and the year 2000 population, these hospitals are still short of the present required number of hospital beds. Based on the projected population by 2025, the region would require an additional 9,234 hospital beds.

Another major concern is the proposed withdrawal of the national government assistance in providing contraceptive supplies due to a decline in foreign assistance. This will pose a serious threat in curtailing the growth of population considering that generally, these are not among the priority concerns of the local government units (LGUs). Hence, if this assistance will be devolved to the LGUs, or even to the consumers, it is possible to expect a drastic decrease in the contraceptive prevalence rate. On another level, it may also be expected that bulk of the projected increase in population will be on the rural and depressed areas as it has been observed that low literacy rates and low-income levels are generally correlated with a higher number of children at the household unit

level. This possible trend will solidify the poverty levels at the rural and depressed areas where poverty in the region is mostly prevalent.

Basic and Tertiary Education

One of the major strategies being implemented to combat poverty is to educate to build the capabilities of the population toward productive activities and eventual economic growth. However, the same problems beset the education sector in the region. The lack of qualified teaching personnel, classrooms, books and other supplies, and a general lack of funds to support the provision of education continues to be one of the major setbacks in ensuring the access of the population to education.

As of School Year 2003-2004, there are 14,955 classrooms in public schools in the MIMAROPA Region, consisting of 11,980 and 2,975 elementary and secondary classrooms, respectively. Compared to the standard 1:40 classroom-student ratio, the ratio for the region is 1:36 for elementary and 1:57 for secondary public schools. The region's ratio is better than the national average ratio of 1:38 for elementary public schools and 1:73 for secondary public schools. Among the seven divisions in the region, Palawan and Puerto Princesa City exceeded the standard ratio for elementary public schools, while all districts for secondary public schools are above the standard ratio with Calapan City as the highest at 1:82 ratio.

Projected school age population by year 2015 for elementary school is 463,630. With this figure using the present number of classrooms for elementary, the classroom to pupil ratio by 2015 is 1:38.7, which is still within the standard ratio. However, both Palawan and Puerto Princesa City Divisions are above the standard 1:40 ratio compared with other divisions that are still within the 1:40 ratio despite the present number of classrooms. By 2015, the ratio will increase to 1:48.6 and 1:50.2 for Palawan and Puerto Princesa City, respectively. This means that there should be at least 570 and 150 additional classrooms for the province and the City, respectively. It should also be noted that there was an increase in elementary enrollment in all MIMAROPA provinces except Oriental Mindoro by an average of 0.91 percent during the school year 2001-2002 to school year 2002-2003 and decrease in elementary enrolment in private schools. This may indicate a shift from private elementary enrollment to public elementary enrollment which may be due to financial reasons or that it is more expensive to enroll a child in a private school than in a public school.

Total projected secondary school age population for the region by 2015 is 303,899 which is 78 percent higher with the 2003-2004 secondary school age population. For the same school year, all secondary schools in all divisions are all above the 1:40 standard classroom-pupil ratio. If there will be no additional classrooms, the present ratio will deteriorate. To accommodate that projected increase in school age population in secondary schools, there should be around 7,600 classrooms by 2015 or an additional 4,625 classrooms from the present status.

At the regional level, the economy will need human resources that will support the competitive edge of the region for faster economic growth. However, enrollment levels at the agriculture sector has been declining due to growing demand for 21st century occupational skills like caregivers, Information and Communications Technology, etc. There is also a continuous out-migration of skilled labor due to lack of industry in the region wherein they can utilize their skills.

2. Strategic Framework

The current proportion of dependent age and economically productive age in the region

may be seen as a liability at the moment, but it can be translated as a formidable asset of the region in the future if the desired welfare levels are attained. It is recognized that the only assets of the poor in the rural and depressed areas are their mind and bodies. This translates that their basic needs consist primarily of health, nutrition and education. Their need for clothing and shelter only supports their need to maintain their physical bodies free from external hazards, but it is essentially health, nutrition and education that can nurture their basic assets and allow them to participate in productive economic activities.

Health, Nutrition and Population

Policy Measures

The immediate concern of policy makers and program implementers in the region is to identify a real solution to the growth of population from within (vis-à-vis in-migration) to soften the competition for basic services that are already insufficient at present levels and concentrate the few resources for basic services to nurture the potentials of the growing age population already in place for future productive activities. While national government support for basic health services, particularly on Family Planning is declining, the LGUs will have to play a more pro-active role in advocating for family planning as part of their essential function to promote the general welfare of their constituents.

Strategies

The proposed policy measures can be done through a more effective implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN), intensive advocacy on the use of family planning methods, support in the provision of supplies, medicines and proper data generation and profiling of poor families and individuals in the community to be able to identify qualified beneficiaries/indigents for health insurances. To ensure the availability of competent and qualified manpower, the LGUs, through the assistance of the Department of Health should be able to formulate schemes to provide more incentives and capability-building activities for needed health and nutrition personnel in their provinces.

Targets

A more strategic approach in responding to the growth of population from within is to intensify advocacy on family planning. A more appropriate measure of this outcome is the total fertility rate. As of 2000, the total fertility rate of the region (per province) is about 10 percent, or 100 live births per 1,000 child-bearing population (15-44 years old). For the same year, the region (per province) has an average of about 80-90 dependents per 100 working age population. Hence, for the planning period, there is a need to decrease the total fertility rate by five percent to shift the proportion of growing number of dependents with the working population.

To effectively provide broad-based health insurances, the LGUs will have to identify and target the 100 poorest families per municipality who will qualify as indigents. Likewise, to be able to increase access of the majority for low-priced medicines, the LGUs will have to establish one Botikang Barangay per barangay.

Basic and Tertiary Education

Policy Measures

On basic education, there is a need to rationalize the programming of resources being allocated for education. Increased access by intended beneficiaries to educational opportunities will have to be of paramount concern. Hence, allocation of resources, facilities and manpower will have to be broad-based and strategic so as to ensure efficient and effective delivery of education services that will enhance the quality of education.

To help realize the vision of the region for sustained economic growth with particular emphasis on agro-industry-based activities, the higher education system of the region will have to align its priorities toward developing expertise and human resource base that can respond to this development need. This will likewise be supported by research and development activities at the provincial and regional levels that will help in harnessing agriculture-based processing activities. Since agriculture-based courses will entail higher costs, these are more appropriately within the jurisdiction of State Universities and Colleges. As state-financed institutions, the SUCs should be able to gear their efforts toward the regional vision to help propel the economy for more productive activities.

Strategies

To further realize the above policies, the following priority strategies should be pursued for the planning period:

- | There is a need to develop sufficient learning packages in English, Science and Mathematics to further enhance the capability of students in foundational courses.
- | Likewise, to improve the quality of education, there is a need to upgrade the qualifications of teachers through trainings and other capability-building activities. This will include accreditation of “para-teachers”.
- | There is a need to further strengthen linkages with the private sector and other funding institutions through “Adopt-a-School” programs to augment financial as well as technical assistance.
- | Research and Development initiatives of the SUCs at the provincial level should be pursued to develop technologies that will harness agriculture-based processing activities.
- | Since poverty is essentially rural and agriculture-based, financial as well as technical support should be extended to provide off-season productive livelihood activities.

Targets

To augment the need to provide basic facilities and services, the region will need to attain the following:

- | 150 classrooms a year
- | 100 teachers shall have undergone trainings in English, Science and Mathematics
- | 31,000 chairs for Elementary in 2005
- | 47,000 chairs for Secondary in 2005

3. Priority Programs and Projects

To realize the above policies and strategies, components of the following major programs and projects will have to be funded and implemented by Regional Line Agencies, LGUs or private sectors/NGOs within the planning period:

Health, Nutrition, Population

- Provision of Clean Water
- Provision of Low-Priced Medicines
- Full Implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition
- Family Planning Program

Education

- Construction of 3,000 classrooms annually
- Provision of desks/chairs, books and computers for students
- Provision of various scholarships to qualified poor families

CHAPTER 6

SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends

The Social Welfare and Community Development Sector in Region IV-B (MIMAROPA) aims to provide an improved quality of life to its disadvantaged population. In the two years following its creation on May 2000, by virtue of Executive Order No. 103, dividing the Southern Tagalog Region into Regions IV A and B, the social welfare and community development sector consisting of government welfare agencies and the civil society. The seemingly ever-present problem of poverty continued to threaten and influence the survival and development of the most vulnerable groups that include women and children, the youth, indigenous people, persons with disability, and older persons.

The situation of the region which greatly affect the plight of these groups may be attributed to two factors:

1. personal (family) – this is characterized by situations of extreme poverty, poor moral value, weak family relationships or lack of parental capability; and
2. environmental – this includes the intensive exposure to ill-effects of mass media’s projection of sophistication and adventure; continuing industrialization or economic development; proximity to Metro Manila and other urban areas; insurgency situation in upland and other mountainous communities; inadequate resources like transportation and communication and other basic facilities; and the vulnerability to disaster due to environmental degradation.

At the onset, the government was burdened by high poverty incidence among the five provinces of the region. The official poverty statistics released by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) showed that among the 81 provinces in the country (including four districts of the National Capital Region), Romblon ranked fifth among the poorest provinces following Sulu, Masbate, Tawi-Tawi and Ifugao in 2000. Poverty incidence in Romblon had worsened from 52.8 percent in 1997 to 55.2 percent in 2000.

For the entire region, poverty incidence was 39.2 percent in 1997, or 156,424 poor families living below the annual poverty threshold of PhP10, 218.00. In 2000, poverty incidence was 42.6 percent, a 3.4 percent increase from the 1997 data. In terms of magnitude, there was a marked increase of 13 percent or 176,701 families are living below the annual poverty threshold of PhP12,304.00.

Among the provinces in the MIMAROPA region, Marinduque is the second poorest with a poverty incidence of 45.2 percent, next to Romblon. Oriental Mindoro ranked third with 43.1 percent. Poverty incidence has increased markedly in all provinces.

Table 6-1
Annual Per Capita Poverty Threshold, Incidence and Magnitude
of Poor Families by Province, 1997 and 2000

Region/Province	Annual per Capita Poverty Thresholds (in pesos) ¹		Incidence of Poor Families (in percent) ²		Magnitude of Poor Families ³	
	1997	2000	1997	2000	1997	2000
MIMAROPA	10,218	12,304	39.2	42.6	156,424	176,701
Occidental Mindoro	9,992	12,167	34.0	41.4	22,934	30,718
Oriental Mindoro	11,300	14,531	34.4	43.1	47,275	56,962
Marinduque	10,861	12,115	43.2	45.2	21,238	19,379
Romblon	9,424	11,005	52.8	55.2	26,627	29,291
Palawan	9,511	11,700	31.7	27.9	38,350	40,351

Source: National Statistical Coordination Board

In terms of the magnitude of poor families among the provinces of the region, only Marinduque has a decreasing number of families living below the poverty threshold from 21, 238 in 1997 to 19, 379 in 2000. The other provinces have an increasing trend from 1997 to 2000. In 2000, the province with the highest number of poor families was Oriental Mindoro with 56,962, followed by Palawan with 40, 351. Oriental Mindoro came in third with 30, 718.

In terms of the social welfare and community development, data gathered from the social welfare survey revealed that cases of abused, neglected and abandoned children have been increasing during the past two years. Likewise, statistics showed an increasing number of recorded cases of child labor among the youth. Persons with disabilities in the region totaled 8,056. The incidence of disabilities is most distinct in the age group 25-59 years old. Most suffer from orthopedic handicap, visual impairment and blindness.

In terms of the implementation of Senior Citizen's Act, a total of 40, 419 older persons has been provided with OSCA ID. Abandonment is the usual violation committed against older persons.

Accredited Day Care Centers in the region totaled 1,033 which is only 56 percent of the 1,086 DCCs.

In responding to the increasing problems of the vulnerable groups in the MIMAROPA Region, the Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS) has promoted convergence of efforts at all levels, through the institutionalization of inter-agency committees. A system of identification and prioritization of needs at the LGU level was designed through a Minimum Basic Needs (MBN) survey. Priority unmet basic needs of CIDSS areas are being met through projects like Tulong Ayo Bahay, and construction of sanitary toilets and water supply systems.

¹ Minimum income required or the amount to be spent to satisfy the nutritional requirements (2,000 calories) and other basic needs.

² Proportion of poor families to the total number of families

³ Number of families whose annual per capita income fall below the annual per capita poverty threshold.

The KALAHI Program

Initiated by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the KALAHI (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan) program is a multi-agency undertaking that aims to lessen and hopefully to eradicate the incidence of poverty, improve governance and promote people empowerment. It is implemented under the auspices of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) pursuant to Republic Act No. 8495, otherwise known as the Poverty Alleviation Act. NAPC established KALAHI poverty reduction strategies and convergence mechanisms in the country. KALAHI has provided the policy framework for poverty reduction in poor urban and rural barangays. Furthermore, KALAHI convergence and special projects have been mobilized to provide direct services and support programs for the poor in targeted communities. These programs and services are being integrated in existing and potential projects of national and local governments, communities, the private sector and donor agencies.

For its first year of implementation (2002), the program conducted the KALAHI-Karaban nationwide. In Region IV-B, only the provinces of Romblon and Marinduque were not included in the initial target beneficiary of the Karaban. On the second part of the year, the different agencies provided services in response to the commitment they made during the Karaban.

In coordination with concerned local government units and national agencies, a number of areas (barangays) were identified as KALAHI project sites. A total of 96 project sites were identified. These were divided into 44 sites under the KALAHI Karaban and 52 project sites under the KALAHI- National Internal Security Plan (NISP).

These identified barangays showcased KALAHI projects implemented by member agencies with the support of the private sector to improve the quality of life of the people of the affected areas. These KALAHI undertakings were undertaken by the concerned local government units in coordination with the various national government agencies, with the support of the private sector and non-government organizations.

One of the major gains of the KALAHI program is the adoption and institutionalization of the Regional KALAHI Convergence Group down to the provincial level. The KALAHI Convergence Group mobilizes its members for the consolidation of poverty programs and direct response to poverty problems in barangays or communities.

Likewise, it has contributed to the advancement of peace and development initiatives at the sub-national levels. The concept of Right Hand-Left Hand Strategy of the NISP was introduced focusing on processes observed such as: a) regional and provincial targeting in coordination with COC-IS; b) formation of KALAHI Roving team or KART; c) barangay targeting; d) issue identification, project development and plan preparation; e) submission and approval; and f) project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The implementation of projects using NISP funds commenced on the first semester of 2004.

The NISP is meant to address the root causes of insurgency. A National Task Force on KALAHI Convergence was also created under the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security. It aims to bring all efforts on national security of national and/or local government agencies, and other basic and private sectors.

For the implementation of the NISP in target provinces, municipalities and barangays, intervention has been prioritized for areas cleared by the Philippine Army. The Philippine army has

the SOT-KALAHY areas of Cooperation that has phases of implementation based on components and timelines. It recommended that the KALAHY Convergence Group consider its list of priority barangays.

Several NISP programs, projects and services were implemented such as shelter assistance, food for work, and supplemental feeding in the military's cleared areas. Some 1,075 beneficiary families were served. On the other hand, the COC-IS NISP fund was released for the construction of water systems and toilets, livelihood assistance for rebel returnees, grassroots training, shelter assistance, and construction of farm-to-market roads and Day Care Centers.

The KALAHY-CIDSS Program was first implemented in the province of Romblon. It had great impact on the communities.

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

- | Alleviate poverty through convergence of existing programs and services of the different agencies and the local government units;
- | Institutionalization of the special projects of the national government to fight poverty;
- | Accelerated barangay-focused rehabilitation and development in the New People's Army (NPA)-affected areas in Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro through the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHY) program,
- | Equal access to social services for the Indigenous People (IPs) and Non-IPs;
- | Integration or mainstreaming of Rebel Returnees (RRs) to the society;
- | Strict implementation and monitoring of provisions on special laws for children, persons with disabilities (PWDs), elderly, women, solo parent, etc.;
- | Develop and strengthen entrepreneurial skills and other capability needs;
- | Absence of a focused center for children in need of special protection and women in especially difficult circumstances;
- | Lack of employment opportunities for women, Out-of-School Youths (OSYs), Indigenous People (IPs), elderly, Rebel Returnees (RRs), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and solo parent;
- | Continuous unmet minimum basic needs; and
- | Limited funds for program implementation.

3. Strategic Framework

A. Strategies

- Conduct advocacy forum, consultation dialogues with Local Government Units (LGUs) particularly with the Local Chief Executives (LCEs) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing;
- Provide technical assistance and resource augmentation;
- Development of programs and projects which reduce poverty;
- Spearhead through the Sectoral Committee on Social Development (SCSD) the formulation/ adoption of the regional poverty reduction framework;
- Carry out Plan preparation and seek approval;
- Review/revisit existing poverty reduction plan;
- Implement advocacy plan;
- Prioritize target communities;

- Adopt/utilize MBN approach;
- Provide appropriate services;
- Carry out advocacy on the equal access of Indigenous People (IPs) on social welfare services;
- Identify capability programs or activities for the IPs;
- Conduct counseling to rebel returnees (RRs);
- Assess the needs of RRs and provide services;
- Monitor community integration plan;
- Involve LGU and Peace and Order Council in the re-integration program of rebel returnees;
- Ensure continuous advocacy and orientation on special laws for children, youth, women, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), elderly, IPs and solo parents;
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of said special laws;
- Organize monitoring task force on the implementation of SWD-related laws at the regional level;
- Pass local ordinances in support of the SWD related laws;
- Develop entrepreneurship program/capability-building activities for the poor;
- Access/guide/link organized beneficiaries to financing institutions and other lending NGOs;
- Establish marketing linkages (refer to eco-sector);
- Assess the needs for crisis centers for each province;
- Advocate and identify logistical support from LGUs, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), People's Organizations (POs) and National Government Agencies (NGAs); and
- Train staff/personnel to man the center or mobilize existing local SWD staff.

B. Policy Measures

- Institutionalization of CIDSS strategy at the LGU level;
- Formulation and adoption of a comprehensive regional poverty reduction framework;
- Formulation of comprehensive and integrated delivery of social services;
- Integration and mainstreaming of rebel returnees in the society;
- Strict implementation of special laws for children, PWDs, elderly, women, solo parents, IPs and the youth;
- Development and strengthening of entrepreneurial skills and other capability needs; and
- Establishment of crisis intervention center per province.

C. Targets

- 100 percent of the CIDSS areas are localized by the first quarter of 2005
- Two percent poverty reduction every year starting 2005 or 12 percent poverty reduction by year 2010
- 10 leaders/volunteers trained per IP community annually or 60 leaders/volunteers trained by year 2010
- 3,000 IP families per year for skills training or 18,000 IP families provided with skills training by year 2010
- 1,155 families/individuals have access to financing institutions annually or 9,330 families by year 2010
- Creation of crisis center per province

4. Priority Programs and Projects

1. *Creation of 6-10 million jobs via:*

- Integrated SEA-K Kaunlaran Program through the provision of capital seed fund to organized associations/groups for relending to members to establish a micro-enterprise project
- Level II SEA-K to gain access to self-managed community-based services, to include expansion of micro-enterprise, affordable basic shelter provision or home improvement and other basic needs
- Sustainable Agriculture/Aquaculture Development

2. *Education*

- Construction of Day Care Centers
- PGMA Scholarship
- Early Childhood Care and Development
- Iskolar ng Mahirap na Pamilya
- Tuloy Aral Walang Sagabal (TAWAG) for Children with Disabilities
- Establishment of IP community schools
- Educational assistance program (EAP) for IP students
- Educational Assistance Program for rebel returnees and parolees
- Technical and Vocational Study Grant for parolees

3. *Decentralization of progress around the nation through:*

- Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI)
- KALAHI-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS)
- CIDSS
- Development of Sustainable Source of Energy for IP Community
- Spring Development/Rehabilitation of Community Potable Water System in IP Community

4. *A just end to the peace process through:*

- Strengthening of IP Institutions and Leadership for Self-Governance
- Job Placement Programs for rebel returnees in food production, agro-forestry and micro-enterprises, and skills training

CHAPTER 7

SHELTER AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends

For the past two years (2003-2004), modest accomplishments in the delivery of housing services in the region were attained. The gains were due to the integrated implementation of the various housing program schemes by the national and local governments ably supported by the private sector.

Around 2,050 actual lots/housing units were produced and distributed to the formal and informal settlers as part of the Socialized Housing Project of the National Housing Authority (NHA) in Palawan and Oriental Mindoro from the period July 2003 to June 2004. The national Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) through its Community Mortgage Program (CMP) extended financial assistance to organized community associations in depressed areas in Brooke's Point, Palawan and Calapan Cities, and Mindoro Oriental by way of site development and house construction and improvement. The CMP, as of September 2004, benefited 474 beneficiaries with loans totaling P11.43 million.

On the characteristics of Occupied Housing Units, about 70 percent of the total occupied housing units in the region, both of the houses and lots, were owned by the households. As to the type of building, about 82 percent are single houses and the rest are either duplex, multi-unit residentials and commercial/industrial, agricultural and institutional buildings/structure utilized for human habitation. On the construction materials used, most of the dwelling units especially in the rural areas are made of light materials – nipa for roofing, sawali or salvaged/improvised wooden materials for walling and wood or bamboo for flooring. On the average, about 44 percent, 22 percent, 16 percent and 13 percent are made of bamboo/sawali/cogon/nipa, concrete/brick/stone, half concrete/stone, and half wood and wood, respectively. Looking at the provincial situation, there is disparity in terms of housing quality among the provinces in the region. Palawan, Occidental Mindoro and Romblon have higher percentages (43-73%) of housing with materials of bamboo/sawali/cogon/ nipa. On the other hand, Marinduque and Oriental Mindoro have higher percentages (27-30%) of houses made of strong materials (concrete/brick/stone).

From 2000 to 2003, the regional urban population increased at a fast pace while the rural population grew at a much slower pace. Urban population is mostly concentrated in Calapan City, Puerto Princesa City and in emerging/urbanizing towns. The rapid rate of urbanization in major towns and cities coupled with the lack of land area for residential development has led to the conversion of agriculture and idle lands to settlement areas, which are unplanned, informal and overcrowded. With the mushrooming of slum/squatter settlements in the inner core as well as in the periphery of cities and towns, the backlog of social infrastructure-related services has become a significantly big problem. Associated problems have emerged such as water pollution, communicable diseases, increased crime rates, and shortage in basic services like water and power supply and solid waste collection and disposal. The state of urban development in the region is manifested or characterized by land speculation and unbalanced pattern of land ownership, low income level, high immigration rate, lack of updated comprehensive land use plans, and weak enforcement of zoning ordinances.

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

Based on the sectoral assessment/situationer, the following challenges and opportunities must be addressed:

- Low affordability level of a sizeable number of marginal/low income groups who can avail of socialized housing
- Unsystematic and cumbersome land titling and registration procedures that have discouraged private developers to actively participate and invest in mass housing projects.
- Lack of interest on the part of local government units (LGUs) to identify and develop socialized housing units
- Provision of essential community services (water, electricity and sanitation) are glaringly inadequate in some urban areas and in most of the rural areas
- Quality of housing in terms of type of materials are generally poor, about 60 percent of the total houses built were made of light and makeshift materials
- Increasing presence of blighted/squatter areas in major urban centers
- Majority of the LGUs have no approved land use plans and zoning ordinances that will regulate land prices, land speculation, location of economic establishments and sites development

3. Strategic Framework

A. Policy Measures

The policy measures that would guide the implementation of shelter and urban development are the following:

- Housing development priority considerations shall be two-pronged, for the provision of basic social needs, and for economic catalysis and employment generation
- Strict implementation of the Anti-Squatting Law and implementation of a comprehensive program for squatters/slum areas located in dangerous areas
- Adoption and implementation of comprehensive land use policies and strict enforcement of zoning ordinances
- Strict compliance of LGUs to create a Local Housing Board and the sustained execution of its mandate/functions
- Strict compliance of LGUs with the provision of Republic Act 7279 (Urban Development and Housing Act)
- Planning, development and establishment of major settlement areas that will serve as agri-industrial centers, market centers, institutional centers, tourism destination areas, and community/village centers

B. Strategies

To address and resolve the development challenges, and tap and maximize the potentials and opportunities, the following strategies shall be pursued:

- Fast tracking the formulation, updating and adoption of comprehensive land use plans and zoning ordinances for all the towns that do not have or have unresponsive plans

- Joint undertaking of LGUs and private sectors in the implementation of integrated housing communities in the strategic and critical urban centers, and settlement areas
- Development and strengthening of tie-up with private groups in the production of housing units in the local areas
- Tapping of private-sector developers in the production of housing structures for the low and middle-income segments of the local population
- Strengthening of the coordination and integration of housing projects and services of government agencies, LGUs and private sectors particularly in the areas of financing/lending, production and regulation
- Construction of access roads and provision of water, sanitation, electricity and drainage to improve living conditions in the slum areas
- Intensification in the provision of housing services and amenities in the existing and emerging regional and provincial growth centers
- Simplification and enhancement of the processing and approval of development permits, building permits, and land conversion applications to hasten the provision of housing services to the people
- Development of in-city/town settlement sites to prevent the dislocation of bonafide settlers/residents of squatter/slum areas
- Utilization of idle public lands to provide the land for low-cost housing development
- Applying labor-oriented technologies/approaches and use of indigenous methods of housing constructions
- Initiation of community and people-based actions in the implementation of low-income government and private housing projects

C. Targets

For the period 2004-2010, the housing sector seeks to achieve the following targets:

- Reduce regional housing backlog by 20 percent annually
- Provide government assistance based on the projected dwelling units through various programs (NSP, CMP, SIR resettlement, community-based housing and low-cost housing) of up to 40 percent of the total housing construction required
- Push for the undertaking of the private sector of housing construction to account for 60 percent of the total regional housing requirements
- Development/establishment of at least two socialized housing sites in every poblacion of towns and cities
- Increase by 30 percent annually the availment of low-income families to all the government's home financing programs
- Construction of a total of 112,320 dwelling units or 91 percent of the total housing needs bearing in mind the population growth rate of 2.43 percent within the planning period, as well as based on new households, houses due for replacement and the housing backlog.

4. Priority Programs and Projects

An integrated and comprehensive programs and projects shall be implemented to address critical housing problems during the plan period.

Shelter and Urban Development

- Community Mortgage Program
- NHA Socialized Housing Program
 - Ø Resettlement Project
 - Ø Slum Improvement and Upgrading Project
 - Ø Sites and Services Improvement Project
 - Ø Core Housing Project
 - Ø Community-Based Housing Project
- GSIS and SSS Individual and Mass/Social Housing Program
- PAG-IBIG Housing Program
- Habitat for Humanity Project
- Private Developer's Low-Income Housing Project

PART III

IMPROVED PHYSICAL PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER 8

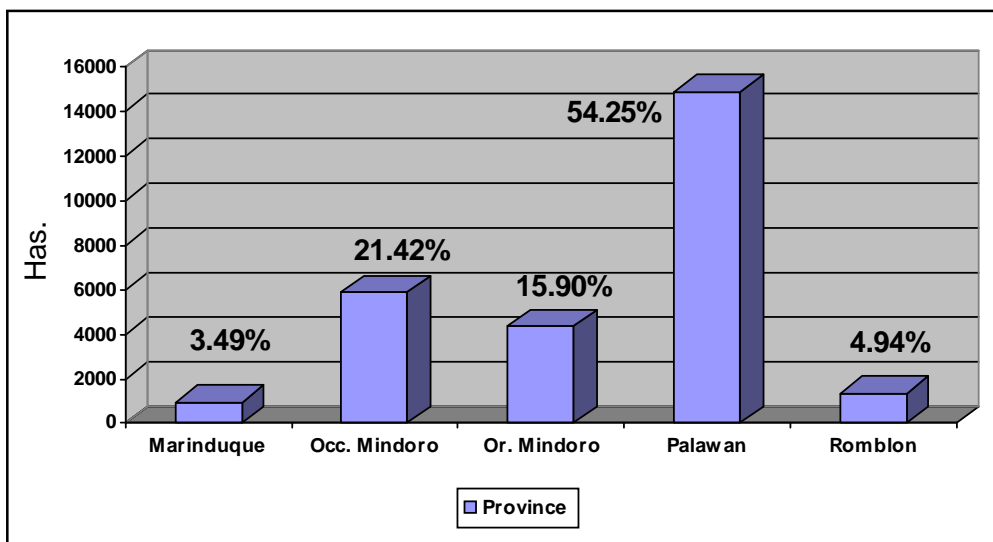
PHYSICAL PLANNING

1. Performance and Trends

A. Land Area

The four islands of the **MIMAROPA** Region make up **nine percent of the country's total land area** or a total of **2.74 million hectares**. Palawan, the largest province in the country, has the largest land area (1.48 million hectares) making up 54.25 percent (Figure 8-1) of the region's total. Palawan also has most of the Forest Land and Alienable and Disposable lands in the region.

Figure 8-1
Land Area and Percent Distribution by Province
MIMAROPA Region, 2002



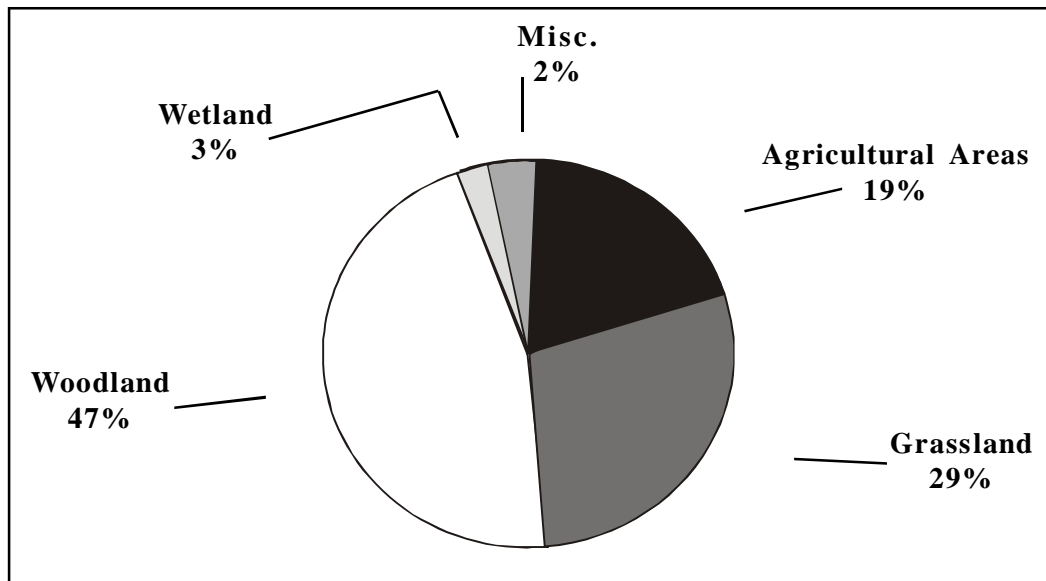
Source: Department of Environment and Natural Resources IV-B

Land forms and geography range from level to extremely rugged with mountain ranges, valleys and extensively rich coastline for fishing. Forestland occupies a large portion of the region and virgin forests still exist in Palawan.

B. Land Use

The region's land use is devoted mostly to woodland, grassland and agriculture comprising 45.30 percent, 28.15 percent and 18.98 percent of the total land use of the region, respectively (Figure 8-2). The region is the largest contributor of output to the agriculture and fisheries sector and second largest to the forestry sector. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of all the provinces in the region.

Figure 8-2
Percent Distribution of Land Use
MIMAROPA Region, 2002



Source: DENR IV-B

C. Population

From 12.5 percent of the total population in 1970, urban population in the MIMAROPA Region went up to 29.5 percent in 1990 or an increase of 13.4 percent (Table 8-1). Oriental Mindoro has the highest urban percent distribution with 33.5 percent and Romblon with the lowest at 22.1 percent in 1990 (Table 8-2). Although the island provinces of the MIMAROPA Region have a lower rate of urbanization compared to the mainland provinces of CALABARZON, urbanization is still expected to rise in the coming years especially when the latter surrounding the Metropolitan Manila area gets congested. This will pose greater threat to the natural resources thus requiring more judicious use to ensure sustainable development.

Table 8-1
Urbanization Rate
MIMAROPA Region, 1970-1990

Province	Rate of Urbanization				
	1970-75	1975-80	1980-85	1985-90	1970-90
MIMAROPA	2.3	1.3	0.8	13.6	13.4
Marinduque	0.2	1.5	0.8	14.9	17.0
Occ. Mindoro	7.5	0.2	0.1	16.5	8.9
Or. Mindoro	3.5	0.0	0.0	19.2	15.7
Palawan	0.7	3.6	1.6	7.2	11.7
Romblon	.08	0.8	0.8	8.6	9.6

Source: National Statistics Office

Table 8-2
Urban-Rural Percentage Distribution of Population
MIMAROPA Region, 1970-1990

Province	1970		1975		1980		1985		1990	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
MIMAROPA	17.5	82.5	15.2	84.8	16.5	83.5	17.3	82.7	30.9	69.1
Marinduque	12.5	87.5	12.3	87.7	13.8	86.2	14.6	85.4	29.5	70.5
Occidental Mindoro	24.1	75.9	16.6	83.4	16.4	83.6	16.5	83.5	33.0	67.0
Oriental Mindoro	17.8	82.2	14.3	85.7	14.3	85.7	14.3	85.7	33.5	66.5
Palawan	19.7	30.3	19.0	81.0	22.6	77.4	24.2	75.8	31.4	68.6
Romblon	12.5	87.5	11.7	88.3	12.5	87.5	13.3	86.7	22.1	77.9

Source: National Statistics Office

2. Spatial Strategies

The region's directions suggest a spatial framework of development that gives due consideration in enhancing MIMAROPA's economic competitiveness, internal and external economic and physical integration, environmental protection and management, and total human development and poverty alleviation. To operationalize this spatial development approach, two component spatial strategies that are mutually reinforcing shall be adopted from the Regional Physical Framework Plan.

Integrated Resource-Based Development Cum Environmental Management Strategy

A natural resource-based development is the basic foundation for the region's overall growth and development owing to its geo-physical characteristics and configurations. Its comparative and competitive advantages lie in its rich natural ecosystems particularly its forest/upland, coastal and marine, freshwater and agricultural/lowland ecosystems.

The strategy shall support the promotion of agri-industrial development and sustainable development. The strategy features the identification and development of potential investment centers in strategic areas of the region that will serve as economic growth nodes. With their distinctive economic and physical attributes and unique resource endowments, these centers shall be the site of small- and medium-scale agri-processing industries to facilitate agricultural-industrial modernization and productivity, and rural industrialization. Each center shall have particular areas of product and industry specialization based on where they enjoy comparative advantage. For this purpose, key production areas shall be delineated/pinpointed based on soil suitability and climate conditions. These are to be the key grain areas, livestock development areas, fisheries development areas, commercial crop areas and agro-forestry areas.

Among the potential agri-based industries that will be established in specific areas of the provinces are:

- **Mindoro Oriental** - fruit processing particularly calamansi, rambutan and mangoes into juice concentrates, preserved or dried candies/pastilles, marmalade and jelly, and banana (saba) into sauce/catsup, chips/strings and powder/flour.

- ***Mindoro Occidental*** – grains by product such as rice hull for cooking fuel, insulating materials, fiberboard and building blocks
- ***Palawan*** – fruit processing (fruit purees and juices, candies for mango, candies and pastilles for cashew), seaweed processing into carrageenan, and aquamarine processing of tuna, groupers and tiger prawns
- ***Marinduque*** – rootcrop processing particularly arrow roots into candies/pastilles/confectionaries, and mango processing
- ***Romblon*** – modern and high-tech processing of marbles into building and decorative materials, and coconut processing into coconut oil and coco-engine oil

Aside from the development of agri-based industries, the strategy also espouses the designation of tourism circuits or zones for sustainable tourism development. Local governments and local investors shall promote and develop priority tourism zones/circuits and secondary tourist destinations that have been identified in all provinces, cities and municipalities. Indigenous resources and designs and locally-made products/handicrafts shall be used to promote and market these tourism sites. The region's tourism zones/circuits and the local tourism attractions shall be linked with national and international networks of distribution and marketing (tour promoters, travel groups, hotel/restaurant associations, etc.). Also part of the strategy is the concerted efforts to develop and manage sustainably the five key ecotourism sites identified in the region in relation to the National Ecotourism Program of government.

Corollary to the sustainable use of the natural resources, appropriate resource management schemes shall be adopted to minimize or prevent their total destruction. One such integrated approach is the designation or classification of the region's various ecosystems into environmental management areas. This includes the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) Zoning being implemented in Palawan as well as demarcation of watershed basins which will serve as basis for land use planning and conservation management.

Network of Service Center Strategy

The island configuration of the region poses a great challenge in integrating the economies of the provinces and forging an operational and functional cohesiveness between and among them. The success of implementing agri-industrial, tourism, environmental and infrastructure projects are significantly influenced by their locations. Therefore, the physical and socio-economic integration and development of the region shall be realized with the adoption of a spatial strategy called Network of Service Center Strategy. The strategy identifies and establishes network of settlements and urban centers with demonstrated economic potentials to purposely achieve the following: 1) ensure the efficient delivery of services, facilities and infrastructures; 2) attain a more balanced growth between urban and rural areas; 3) harmonize concentration of population growth in suitable areas; 4) utilize fully the existing and proposed infrastructure investments in the area; and 5) spur the development as well as protection and conservation of the natural resources in the countryside.

The identification and selection of service centers shall be based on the analysis of the size of population, presence and intensity of economic establishments and services in the area, existing and programmed infrastructure projects and investments and their potentials and roles in the development of the province and region. The town and cities selected shall be categorized as small and medium

city, large, medium or small town, and village, performing specific functions or assignments as primary, secondary and tertiary urban centers. The primary urban center shall serve as provincial administrative capital, agricultural trading and marketing center, provincial agri-industrial center, regional distribution center, health service/tertiary education center, and tourism destination center. On the other hand, the secondary and tertiary urban centers shall serve primarily as market and distribution center for raw agricultural products, secondary trade center, agro-processing center, secondary health/education center and secondary tourism center. For Puerto Princesa City, it shall be the region's gateway to the East ASEAN Region while Calapan City shall be the possible site of the Regional Government Center.

To operationalize the strategy, an integrated trimodal transport network (roads/bridges, airports and seaports) shall be constructed, improved and/or developed. All the communication networks shall be modernized and expanded, and social facilities shall be improved and upgraded to prescribed urban standards. Specifically, the strategy necessitates the following interventions: 1) construction and upgrading of the island circumferential road to all-weather roads; 2) upgrading and expansion of the terminal buildings, runways and navigation equipment of key and strategic airports and seaports; 3) expansion and modernization of different systems of telecommunication links within and between island provinces; 4) improvement of roads linking major agricultural producing areas to main urban-industrial centers and markets; 5) development of feeder roads and small ports/wharves to improve rural towns-main centers accessibility; 6) installation of Level III water system in densely populated urban areas; 7) expansion of coverage of rural electrification; and 8) upgrading and increasing the provision of social infrastructures such as health facilities and tertiary education services, and urban community infrastructures such as water distribution system, drainage, sewerage system and traffic management.

3. Proposed Plans

Production Land Use Plan

The Production Land Use Plan recognizes the major production areas in the region as being agriculture/SAFDZ areas, fishery, tourism development areas and mining areas. It articulates the policies and strategies for the sustainable management of these areas.

Protection Land Use Plan

The Protection Land Use Plan highlights the need to protect sensitive and critical ecosystems from improper use and abuse. It also hopes to protect people and man-made structures from natural hazards. This Plan covers areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) and those outside NIPAS but have high ecological value. The Plan aims to ensure protection, conservation and sustainable management of the region's critical ecosystems and natural resources.

Settlement Plan

The Settlement Plan classifies the region's settlement areas in pyramidal structures according to functional roles. At the top of the pyramid are regional and sub-regional centers that serve the needs of their respective regions. The major and minor urban centers, on the other hand, serve the needs and requirements of the province. At the bottom of the pyramid are satellite municipalities which are the influence areas of the identified major growth centers. Major regional growth centers shall host various

urban activities in the region. Each center will have a specific development direction.

Regional centers are designated as the administrative headquarters and the seats of regional offices' government agencies. These centers provide services that are highly ranked like state colleges and universities, airports, primary hospitals, convenient commercial shops, government offices, and improved power, water and communications and other infrastructure facilities. These centers also serve as focal points for external and internal connections and as area of commercial and industrial activities.

The secondary growth centers shall provide basic support facilities to regional development centers and also serve as population centers in the region. Economic diversity is evident at minimum scale and inter-island connection is possible. The identified secondary growth areas for each province are as follows:

Province	Secondary Growth Centers
Occidental Mindoro	Sablayan, Mamburao
Oriental Mindoro	Roxas, Pinamalayan, Puerto Galera
Marinduque	Boac, Mogpog
Romblon	Odiongan, Romblon, Cajidiocan
Palawan	Narra, Brooke's Point, Taytay

Major urban centers are the trade centers of resource frontiers and nuclei of other leading development areas. Considered under this category are the region's provincial capitals that offer administrative services to the influence areas within the province. The following are the major urban centers in MIMAROPA:

EXISTING MAJOR URBAN CENTERS

Province	Major Urban Centers
Occidental Mindoro	San Jose
Oriental Mindoro	Calapan City
Marinduque	Boac
Romblon	Odiongan
Palawan	Puerto Princesa City

Minor urban centers are settlements that serve as agricultural service centers. They are provided with a range of urban services and facilities that compliment the major urban centers of the province and have the potential to become intermediate-sized centers.

CHAPTER 9

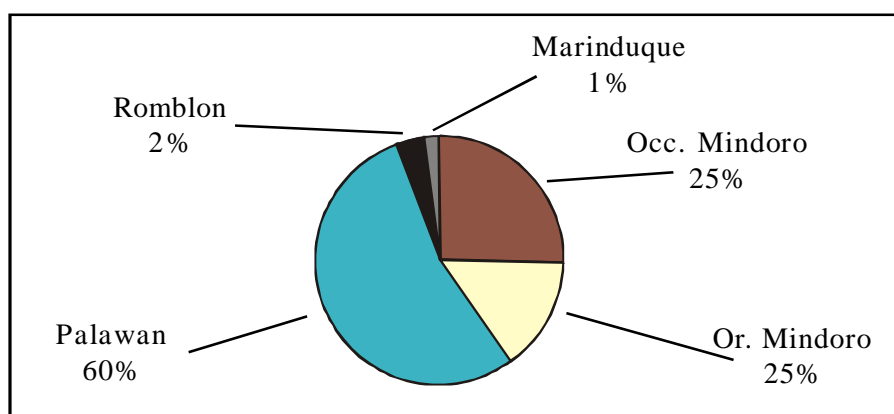
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends

A. Upland/Forest Ecosystem

The forest ecosystem of MIMAROPA Region sits on 1.75 million hectares of land. Five proclaimed Watershed Forest Reserve of about 12 thousand hectares are found in Palawan, Marinduque and Romblon. Palawan has the largest forestland representing 59.42 percent of the total forestland followed by Occidental Mindoro with 24.64 percent (Figure 9-1).

Figure 9-1
Percent Distribution of Forestland in MIMAROPA



To protect the forests, environment and natural resources, permanent forestland boundaries were established in the province of Marinduque measuring 237 kilometers. A Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) was also reached paving the way for a more devolved management of the forest by the community. Information and Education Campaigns were continued through a massive distribution of leaflets/posters and the conduct of a people's assembly that promoted Nature Conservation, and education initiatives on Biodiversity Conservation.

1996 estimates by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) show that only around 5.5 million hectares of land in the country have actual forest cover. The MIMAROPA Region has about 983,000 hectares of established plantations and forest cover as of 2002.

B. Coastal and Marine Ecosystem

As a country sitting in the "Coral Triangle," one of the world's most diverse regions in the world, the Philippines is a region rich in marine and coastal resources. Fishing is an important activity and is one of the major sources of livelihood in the region. Palawan, considered as the country's "Last Ecological Frontier," is composed of 1,780 islands and islets. It is known for its rich fishing grounds and tremendous marine and inland fish resources. DENR IV-B launched an environment friendly artificial reef made of local bamboo called Kawayan Reef at Tambong Punta, Gloria, Oriental Mindoro. Sixty percent of the national fish production can be raised from fishing grounds around

Palawan. However, damage due to siltation is extensive in the area and is the major cause of degradation of the coral reefs. Destructive and illegal fishing methods and mine tailings have also contributed to the deterioration of mangrove areas in the region.

The region’s total mangrove area is estimated at 71,575 hectares (1990). From 1989 to 2002, existing mangrove forest plantation established and maintained within MIMAROPA Region has reached 3,405.4 hectares (Table 9-1). Degradation of these mangrove areas due to unplanned fishing expansion, wood extraction, expansion of coastal community and uncontrolled tourism development cause a long term impact on fishing resource regeneration. The coastal areas of the region are mostly populated putting more pressure to the various coastal and marine resources.

Coastal and Marine Management Project sites are each located in Palawan, Oriental Mindoro and Marinduque with an aggregate management area of 8,870 hectares. The project aims to prevent continuous degradation of marine and coastal resources in the region. A Multi-Sectoral Coastal and Marine Resources Protection Group was organized in Marinduque in 2001 for the protection of the coastal resources within the vicinities of the Polo Island in Marinduque.

Table 9-1
List of Existing Mangrove Forest Plantation Established
and Maintained Within MIMAROPA Region
1989-2002

Province	Year Established	Area (HA.)
Marinduque	1990-2002	302
Oriental Mindoro	1989-1999	639.9
Occidental Mindoro	1992	12
Palawan	1995-1997	2,422
Romblon	1994-2002	29.5
Total		3,405.4

Source: Coastal and Marine Management Division DENR-MIMAROPA

C. Urban Ecosystem

Findings from an air quality monitoring station established at Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro revealed that the average value of Total Suspended Particles (TSP) during the year 2002 exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Guideline of Republic Act 8749 (Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999). Acceptable range of TSP for Stationary sources is 300 microgram per Ncm while for Ambient sources is 230 micrograms per Ncm. This shows that even the cities of the island provinces of MIMAROPA are not spared from air pollution due to higher population and existence of commercial and industrial establishments. The highest TSP value recorded during the first quarter of 2002 is 425.52 ug/Ncm and the lowest is 212.4 ug/Ncm.

In terms of urban forestry, roadside planting from 1995 to 2002 has reached 246.6 kilometers.

In terms of water quality management, a total of 49 water quality-monitoring stations are

located in six water bodies in Region IV-B. Puerto Galera Bay in Oriental Mindoro and Cajimos Bay in Romblon, Romblon has the most number of water quality monitoring stations with 10 stations each.

Meanwhile, solid waste management facilities in the region are being surveyed regularly. There are a total of 22 waste management facilities in the MIMAROPA Region.

Firms/manufacturers/distributors of toxic chemicals are surveyed under the toxic chemical management program. There are 45 hazardous waste generators within the region that are also surveyed and inspected/monitored.

D. Other Critical Ecosystem (Mining Areas, Mineral Lands)

The MIMAROPA Region is richly endowed with mineral resources, both metallic and non-metallic. Among the metallic minerals present in the region are nickeliferous laterite, copper, gold, silver, chromite (metallurgical and refractory grades), iron, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, lead and zinc. Non-metallic minerals are marble, limestone, cement raw materials, silica sand, construction materials, feldspar, talc, barite and sulphur. Among the minerals already explored, nickel, limestone and marble have the largest deposits.

The mineral industry in the region consists of one large-scale nickel mine and at least 122 small mines (marble, sand and gravel, pebbles, silica, etc.). There is also one remaining operational metallic mine corporation (in Bataraza, Palawan) out of the approximately eight operating in the region during the early 1980s. Production of nickel (beneficiated ore) increased from 272,822 dry metric tons in 1999 to 451,836 dry metric ton in 2000. Copper production was reduced to zero from 1997 due to the suspension of the operations of its mining in Marinduque following the tailings spill incident in Boac River on March 24, 1996. In 1995, prior to the suspension of operations, mining produced 97,674 metric tons of copper concentrate, 300.58 kilos of gold and 3,192.96 kilos of silver. The production of gold and silver, which are by-products of the operation, likewise suffered. Gold production in the region now mainly comes from undocumented subsistence miners/panners. Chromite production halted in the late 1980s. Nickel and cobalt mining from existing ore stockpiles of about 30 million wet metric tons of low-grade nickel ores started in 2004 in Palawan.

Rehabilitation of mined-out areas is regarded as an integral part of mining operation and is being undertaken progressively as areas are mined. The objective is to restore or reclaim areas disturbed by mining activities to a safer, stable and non-erodable condition thereby establishing a land use capability that is functional and proximate to the land's use prior to the disturbance made to the area.

Protection of the environment shall be of paramount consideration in every stage of mining operations. Mitigation and progressive rehabilitation measures shall be integral components of these operations.

E. Environmental Management

Air Quality

Reports prepared in 2001 contains emission estimates of the following criteria for air pollutants, namely: (a) Total Suspended Particles or TSPs, (b) Sulfur Oxides (SO_x), (c) Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), (d) Carbon Monoxide (CO), (e) Carbon dioxide, and (f) Lead, Hydrocarbons, Mercury, and Dioxins. Data regarding Air Quality Management activities in the Region in the last five

years is shown in Table 9-2 and the actual number of samples (stack sampling and ambient sampling) analyzed in the last five is shown in Table -3.

Table 9-2
Numerical data regarding Air Quality Management
MIMAROPA (1999-2003)

AQM Activity(ies)	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1. Stack Sampling	-	1	2	2	4
2. Ambient Air Sampling conducted	13	10	8	1	1

Source: Environmental Management Bureau IV-B

Table 9-3
Actual Number of Samples Analyzed
MIMAROPA (1999-2003)

Year	Number of Samples (Stack)	Number of Samples (Ambient)
2003	18	24
2002	36	48
2001	30	112
2000		30
1999	-	156

Source: Environmental Management Bureau IV-B

Water Quality

Six water bodies identified as pollution-threatened areas in MIMAROPA Region are: Calapan River, Sabang Bay, Cajimos Bay, Calancan Bay, Mogpog River and Boac River. There are 51 water sampling stations continuously monitoring check the quality of water bodies. EMB classified four water bodies yearly since CY 2002 in terms of its beneficial usages.

Toxic Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes

MIMAROPA Region has two metal ore mines: Marcopper Mining Corporation in Marinduque and Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation in Palawan. Traces of heavy metals are found in water samples collected from Boac River, Mogpog River and Calancan Bay as well as in Rio Tuba River. Heavy metals pollutants monitored in these water bodies are: 1) Copper; 2) Lead; 3) Cadmium; 4) Mercury; and 5) Hexavalent Chromium. Mine tailings were generated from the operation of Marcopper, Tapian and San Antonio Mines. Although the mining firm stopped its operation in 1996 due to the **Tapian** Pit Disaster, the mine tailings remained in deposition in the Calancan Bay, San Antonio and Boac Rivers. Cyanide used are used in illegal fishing. There are about 500 kilograms of cyanide confiscated by PNP Maritime in Palawan.

Solid Waste Management

MIMAROPA has an estimated 100 metric tons of garbage generation per day. It's composition includes among others, Styrofoam, plastics, glass, cups, spoon, forks, plastic bags, papers, newspapers, broken glasses, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, market wastes, twigs, branches, leaves, grass, and bottles.

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

- Land Use conflict and encroachment on protected areas
- Insufficient management and supervision of protected areas
- Pressure on natural resources as a source of livelihood
- Unsustainable use of resources
- The rate of deforestation is faster than the rate of reforestation
- Rate of destruction of natural resources is faster than the rate of rehabilitation
- Occidental Mindoro has no Proclaimed Watershed Reserve although it has one of the largest forestlands in the region
- Air pollution in urban areas
- Increase in migration rate due to congestion in Metro Manila
- Slow upgrading of open dumps
- Pervasive anti-mining sentiments/Lack of support of some stakeholders due to misinformation or lack of access to information
- Unresolved conflicting laws, legal issues/disputes.
- Restrictive access to land use due to competing land uses and conflicting government policies.
- Locally-extracted minerals are not processed into higher value-added mineral-based products
- Physical impacts of mining (significant land disturbance; compatibility of development with surrounding land use; erosion subsidence and instability; alteration of waterways; effects on quality, quantity and availability of surface water or groundwater)
- Social impacts of mining (issues relating to health, safety, welfare or quality of life of individuals; change in cultural character, job distribution income and community identify; significant change in community resources; creation of substantial employment; apparent lack of transparency of mining companies and limited stakeholder participation on mining activities; anti-mining sentiments of the community)

3. Strategic Framework

A. Proposed Policy Measures

A.1. Coastal / Marine and Freshwater Ecosystem

- Regulate the use and occupancy of foreshore areas
- Promote non-discharge of pollutive materials into water bodies
- Adopt the carrying capacity principle of fishing in water bodies
- Organize coastal communities into people's organizations (POs) and cooperatives as partners in mangrove rehabilitation; the participation of these Pos/NGOs is strengthened by DAO 62 series of 1993, which promotes community organizing as a strategy for forest conservation, development and management

- As a regulatory measure, strictly implement and monitor the total ban of granting licenses and cutting in mangrove areas

A.2. Forest Ecosystem

- Adopt a watershed approach in reforestation projects
- Prohibit economic activities not compatible with forest protection and conservation
- Legalize existing uses through the Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) program of the DENR, which integrates and unifies all people-oriented forestry activities of the region. In the case of Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC), both provisions of NIPAS and Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) Law should be reviewed and synchronized. NIPA law does not allow the issuance of title within NIPAS areas while IPRA law provides titling of the whole CADC areas
- Protect NIPAS areas should be protected to maintain the natural biological and physical features possessed by these areas. The people residing in and around protected areas should guard the area against exploitation of its commercial and economic value
- Prohibit expansion in areas occupied by tenured settlers who have continuously occupied the place for at least five years prior to its designation as part of a protected area. However, those who do not qualify as tenured settlers shall be resettled outside the protected areas

A.3. Urban Ecosystem

- Promote the use of Materials Recovery Facility
- Intensify urban reforestation

A.4. Mining Areas, Mineral Lands

- Ban quarrying activities in environmentally-critical areas
- Promote of sustainable mining
- Rehabilitate mined-out areas
- Ensure sustainable utilization of mineral resources

A.5. Environmental Management

- Promote strategies used to address water pollution problems that include water quality classification, monitoring and assessment and the enactment of Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, (RA 9275).
- Intensify monitoring of compliance to environmental regulations
- Adopt ecological solid waste management practices
- Ensure safe and proper management of hazardous wastes in the Region through effective programs to control waste starting from survey of potential hazardous waste generators, evaluation of hazardous waste generator registration, survey of firms using Chemical under Chemical Control Order (CCO) and inspection and monitoring of hazardous wastes generators, transporters and Treatment Storage and Disposal (TSD) facilities should be implemented

- Implement the provisions of RA 8749 and its implementing rules and regulations
- Strengthen capabilities of local authorities in environmental management
- Implement the Philippine Clean Water Act and formulate the implementing rules and regulations of the Act
- Implementation of the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act (RA 6969)
- Implementation of Chemical Control Orders for asbestos, cyanide, mercury, ozone depleting substances and polychlorinated biphenyls
- Finalization on the procedures on the confiscation of toxic chemical
- Promote ecological waste management policy

A.6. General Policies

- Institutionalize “Polluters Pay Principle” in all industries
- Implement the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act
- Institute modern approaches in land information system
- Promote and adopt environmental accounting
- Encourage the adoption and utilization by the private sector of efficient and environmentally-sound technologies
- Fast track the completion of cadastral survey and land disposition
- Regulate the extraction of ground water for domestic, commercial and industrial purposes as well as restore water quality to acceptable levels
- Promote collaboration among the government, business sector and civil society in attaining sustainable economic development

B. Strategies

- Watershed areas of the region, which has not been spared by human activities causing soil erosion, landslide and flashfloods as well as decrease of soil fertility, should be subjected to sound management practices to arrest erosion
- Present forest conditions should be improved through massive reforestation activities in the watershed areas and granting of security of tenure to upland dwellers that are tapped to manage forest resources by issuance of tenured instruments through CBFMAs
- Characterization, establishment of soil and water conservation measures within the 5 identified priority project and establishment of soil erosion control through vegetative measures would be done for a sound watershed management program.
- Continued reforestation activities, vigilant forest activities and a sound watershed management program should be undertaken to stop soil erosion and widespread siltation in the lake. Mangroves released for fishpond development but are no longer eligible for clearing under FAO No. 15 as well as abandoned fishpond for 5 years will have to be reverted to form part of the mangrove areas.
- The preservation of the old growth dipterocarp should be pursued through the strengthening of the DENR’s forest protection activities such as strengthening of Multi-Sectoral Forestry Protection Committee (MFPCs), conduct of ground surveillance activities as a means to counteract illegal cutting/timber poaching activities as well as to strengthen CBFM strategy as a major tool in forest protection, increase livelihood opportunities to deter the participation of upland dwellers in illegal forest activities.
- Strict monitoring of the number of forest occupants in the periphery of the lakes should be conducted yearly.

- Intensified collaboration among SUCs, NGAs, LGUs, and NGOs/POs in the preservation and rehabilitation of marine and coastal ecosystem
- Strict implementation of territorial rights of fisheries and enforcement of fisheries laws
- Establishment/strengthening of institutional cross-sectoral mechanism for integrated management
- Expansion of implementation of ecological waste management approach
- Strict adherence to forestry laws
- Strict implementation of Clean Air Act
- Advocacy for the enactment of the Sustainable Management of Forest Resources Bill
- Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP)
- Progressive Rehabilitation of Mining Projects
- Rehabilitation of areas affected by the Marcopper Mine Tailing Spill through clean up of affected rivers
- Implementation of the Minerals Action Plan (MAP) in support of the national government efforts to revitalize the mining industry as one of the priority areas for the country's job creation thrusts
- Involve and strengthen community participation in pre and post implementation stages of mining projects
- Community and Social Economic Programs

C. Targets

- Plantation Development to support the President's 10-Point Legacy of **developing two million hectares of land for agribusiness** as well as the **provision of water supply to barangays**, through soil and water conservation measures and watershed management to ensure supply of water to lowland agricultural areas. Activities include:
 - ┆ Forests protection and maintenance of existing plantations throughout the region
 - ┆ Forest plantation establishment, about 1,500 hectares per year for six years.
 - ┆ About 6,000 hectares of land planted, maintained and protected
 - ┆ Development of financial markets for existing livelihood projects in Community Based Forest Management Agreement
 - ┆ Soil and Water Conservation
 - ┆ Land Management Service
- Rehabilitation of mangrove and coastal areas to support the fishery sector to increase fisheries production which will also support agri-business in the region. Activities include:
 - ┆ Maintenance of existing mangrove plantations throughout the region
 - ┆ Rehabilitation of 1,350 hectares of mangrove plantations region wide.

4. Priority Programs and Projects

- Coastal, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Program
 - ┆ IEC on Coastal Resources Management
 - ┆ Mangrove Plantation

- i Alternative Livelihood Programs for fisherfolk
- i Zoning of Water Bodies

- Pollution Control and Waste Management Program
 - i Air, Water and Land Pollution Control, Management and Monitoring System
 - i Pilot Test of Biodigesters in Upland Resources Area
 - i Waste Minimization Project Solid Waste Transfer Stations
 - i Common Inter-local Sanitary Land Fill
 - i Rivers and Lakes Rehabilitation, Development and Protection Project

- Land Management Program
 - i Cadastral Land Survey
 - i Oplan Fake Land Title
 - i Ancestral Land Delineation

- Forest Management Program
 - i Plantation Establishment, Maintenance and Protection
 - i Soil Conservation and Watershed Management
 - i Bantay-Gubat
 - i Community Based Forest Management
 - i **Geographic Information System** GIS) for Forest Resource Inventory
 - i Zoning of Forest Areas Based on Highest and Best Use Principle
 - i Forest Protection Program
 - i Provincial Task Force for Protection of Ancestral Domain
 - i Multi-Sectoral Protection Committee
 - i National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Program
 - i Operationalization of the Protected Area Management Bureaus
 - i Training program for Eco-Tourism

- Environmental Management Program
 - i Water Management
 - i Air Quality Management
 - i Solid Waste Management
 - i Toxic Chemical Management

- Environmental Research Center
 - i Information System Development and Maintenance
 - i Pest and Diseases Research and Development Project
 - i Protection of Endangered Species
 - i Environment-Friendly Technologies
 - i Enhance Monitoring System for air, water and land pollutants

PART IV

IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT

CHAPTER 10

TRANSPORTATION

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends

The five island provinces of MIMAROPA are linked to the main centers through water and air transport. The road system among provinces is still inefficient to effectively support the flow of goods and people in the production and tourism areas. There is a need to develop an integrated transport system of roads, ports and airports to effectively support the regional development. The increasing use and potential of the roll-on roll-off system is leading towards efficiency in the transport system.

A. Land Transport

The region has a total road network of 9,711.66 kilometers of national, provincial and city/municipal and barangay roads in 2003 (Table 10-1). The road density is 0.34 kilometer per square kilometer (km/sq.km) of the total land area which is below the national road density of 0.63 km/sq.km. Marinduque's road density of 0.74 km/sq.km is higher than the national average while Palawan's road density of 0.20 km/sq. km is the lowest among the provinces.

Table 10-1
Existing Roads by Surface Type, 2003

Province	National Roads					Local Roads					Total National & Local Roads
	Concrete (Km)	Asphalt (Km)	Gravel (Km)	Earth (Km)	Total (Km)	Concrete (Km)	Asphalt (Km)	Gravel (Km)	Earth (Km)	Total (Km)	
Marinduque	95.92	49.14	55.79	14	214.85	37.875	39.985	394.292	18.905	491.057	705.907
Occidental Mindoro	104.61	24.89	292.65	36.34	458.49	90.914	4.65	931.865	1045.547	2072.976	2531.466
Oriental Mindoro	79.59	135.88	94.19	0	309.66	177.219	12.387	1078.44	256.997	1525.043	1834.703
Palawan	175.67	162.55	570.25	0	908.47	76.042	37.388	1608.962	1096.414	2818.806	3727.276
Romblon	85.41	23.03	200.22	0	308.66	62.93	1.569	491.13	48.02	603.649	912.309
Total	541.20	395.49	1,213.10	50.34	2,200.13	444.98	95.98	4,504.69	2,465.88	7,511.53	9,711.66

Source: Department of Public Works and Highways IV-B

The region's paved road ratio is 13 percent of the overall road network. Marinduque has the highest paved road ratio at 26 percent while Palawan has the lowest at 12 percent. The bridges along national roads measure 20,444.03 lineal meters, of which 16,140.71 lineal meters or 68.61 percent are of permanent structure. Palawan has the most number of temporary bridges with a total length of 2,595.06 lineal meters. Majority of roads and bridges will have to be rehabilitated and upgraded for efficiency. Maintenance of existing local roads will have to be given priority by the local government units (LGUs).

Accessibility among municipalities and the physical integration of the island of Mindoro can be realized through construction/completion of the circumferential roads.

There are 58,695 vehicles registered in MIMAROPA for 2003 which is a 3.57 percent decrease from the previous year. Palawan has the highest number of registered vehicles at 36.11 percent of the total in the region while Romblon has the lowest.

B. Water Transport.

There are about 114 operational ports in the MIMAROPA Region (Table 10-2). These ports are categorized as fishing, feeder, commercial public and commercial private ports. Included under the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) Port System are 14 ports which include the two baseports located in Puerto Princesa City and Calapan City, and 12 satellite or terminal ports of two each province with the exception of the province of Palawan.

**Table 10-2
Existing Ports by Classification and Status, 2003**

PROVINCE	TOTAL	Classification				Status	
		Fishing	Feeder	Commercial		Operational	Non - Operational
				Private	Public		
Marinduque	23	7	5	3	8	20	3
Occidental Mindoro	8	5			3	8	
Oriental Mindoro	21	2	10	3	6	17	4
Palawan	60	10		17	33	54	6
Romblon	17	5	10		2	15	2
Total	129	29	25	23	52	114	15

Source of Basic Data: National Statistical Coordination Board

The ports under the PPA port system cater to bigger vessels and transshipment of major cargoes in the five island provinces. The ports in Palawan (i.e., Puerto Princesa, Coron) also cater to foreign vessels due to their proximity to other countries like Malaysia and Brunei. In 1998-2002, the region registered a combined shipping traffic of 120,296 vessels with an annual average of 24,059 shipcalls for the last five years. The port of Calapan posted the highest volume of shipcalls with an annual average of 1,506 and also accounted for 61 percent or 8,593,670 passenger volume among the ports in the region. During the same period, the total cargo throughput handled by all ports in MIMAROPA totaled to 7,029,085 million metric tons (MMT).

The launching of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH) in 2003 opens the door for Oriental Mindoro serving as the bridge to the main route that is the Manila-Dapitan/Dipolog-Panay-Negros destination via the roll-on roll-off vessels. The port connecting to the islands of Luzon and Visayas is the Calapan Port in the northern part and the Roxas Port in the southern part of Oriental Mindoro, respectively.

C. Air Transport.

The region has a total of 20 airports with 11 public airports and nine private airports. Most of the private airports are located in the province of Palawan. The region has two Trunklines, five Secondary, and four Feeder Airports. All airports are operational (Table 10-3).

Table 10-3
Existing Airports, 2003

Airports/Aerodomes	Location	Classification	Status
1. Bugsuk	Palawan(Balabac)	Private	Operational
2. Busuanga	Palawan(Coron Island)	Feeder	Operational
3. Calapan	Or. Mindoro(Calapan)	Secondary	Operational
4. Cuyo	Palawan(Cuyo Island)	Feeder	Operational
5. Culion	Palawan(Culion)	Private	Operational
6. El Nido	Palawan(El Nido)	Private	Operational
7. Lubang	Occ. Mindoro(Lubang)	Secondary	Operational
8. Mamburao	Occ. Mindoro(Mamburao)	Secondary	Operational
9. Marinduque	Marinduque(Gasan)	Secondary	Operational
10. Pamalican	Palawan(Agutaya)	Private	Operational
11. Pinamalayan	Or. Mindoro (Pinamalayan)	Feeder	Operational
12. Puerto Princesa	Palawan(Puerto Princesa)	Trunkline	Operational
13. Rio Tuba	Palawan(Bataraza)	Private	Operational
14. Romblon	Romblon(Alcantara)	Secondary	Operational
15. San Jose	Occ. Mindoro(San Jose)	Trunkline	Operational
16. Sandoval	Palawan(Taytay)	Private	Operational
17. Sumapi	Palawan(Sitio Motiong)	Private	Operational
18. Tapan	Marinduque(Sta. Cruz)	Private	Operational
19. Ten Knots	Palawan(El Nido)	Private	Operational
20. Wasig	Or. Mindoro(Mansalay)	Feeder	Operational

Source: Air Transportation Office

For the last five years, the trunkline airports of Puerto Princesa, Palawan and San Jose, Occidental Mindoro continuously dominate the passenger, aircraft and cargo movement in the region. The Airports in Marinduque, Busuanga and Cuyo in Palawan also exhibit significant passenger, aircraft and cargo movement within the same period. However, the rest of the airports in the region continue to decline in statistics.

Philippine Airlines (PAL), Seair, Asian Spirit, Air Philippines and Cebu Pacific are the airline operators currently servicing the region.

The Air Transport Office (ATO) under the Department of Transportation and Communications is maintaining all the public airports in the region giving special preference to the trunkline airports.

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

- Majority of roads and bridges will have to be rehabilitated and upgraded for efficiency
- Maintenance of existing local roads will have to be given priority by the LGUs
- Environmental issues confronting the design and construction of roads and bridges especially in Palawan and Occidental Mindoro
- Right-of-way acquisition in environmentally-critical areas is difficult
- Weak inter-provincial physical linkage between Occidental and Oriental Mindoro and intra-provincial access in Northern and Southern Palawan, Tablas Island, Romblon Island, Odiongan Island and Lubang Island due to absence of all-weather roads

- Physical integration of the five provinces of MIMAROPA through water transport
- Capability of LGUs to manage and operate ports completed under the Social Reform Feeder Ports Development Project
- Existing facilities on major ports are not secured and adequate to meet the demand of cargo and passengers
- Technical viability of existing ports to meet future traffic demand
- Continued use of old and aging ships which results in maritime accidents
- Lack of support facilities and amenities
- Infrastructure design and facilities need to adhere to standards
- Lack of airport equipment and facilities
- Redundant airports when the road and water transport improves or become efficient

3. Strategic Framework

A. Policy Measures

- Provision of economical, comfortable, safe and efficient transportation system.
- Improvement of intra and inter provincial access
- Phasing out or privatization of small airports as the road and port system improve
- Prioritization of the improvement/construction of high-impact transportation network, i.e., those that serves key agricultural production areas, tourism hubs and growth centers
- Promotion of safety systems and security concerns in all infrastructure facilities
- Inclusion of the existing RORO ports of MIMAROPA in the second phase of the Strong Republic Nautical Highway
- Financing of LGUs financially/economically-viable inter-municipal infrastructure
- Encouragement of LGU-Private Sector partnership in the implementation of high-impact infrastructure projects

B. Strategies

- Develop integrated multi-modal transportation network
- Construct infrastructure supportive of physical integration among municipalities and provinces
- Provide air service links within BIMP-EAGA
- Design and construct transportation infrastructure according to standards for commuter reliability and safety
- Carry out capability-building efforts for LGUs in infrastructure development
- Provide a good business environment for the private sector
- Strengthen project monitoring at all levels

C. Targets

- 100 percent of the unpaved portion of Marinduque circumferential road paved by 2010
- 100 percent of unpaved national roads in Oriental Mindoro paved by 2010
- 40 percent of unpaved national roads in Occidental Mindoro paved by 2010
- 30 percent of unpaved national roads in Romblon paved by 2010
- 50 percent of roads in Palawan improved by 2010
- Inter-provincial linkage of Mindoro provinces by 2010
- 70 percent of temporary bridges along national roads replaced by permanent structure by 2010
- Construction of RORO facilities in Puerto Galera Port, Roxas Port, Mansalay Port, Pola Port, Abra de Ilog Port, Tilik Port, El Nido Port by 2005-2008

- Construction of Passenger Terminal Buildings to all major ports by 2006
- Extension of runway of Busuanga Airport from 2005 to 2010
- Continuing maintenance of all MIMAROPA airports

4. Priority Programs and Projects

For funding by the national government

Table 10-4
Priority Projects for Land Transport

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development-Assisted National Road Improvement and Management Program, Phase I	Sta. Cruz-Torrijos Road, Marinduque	Asphalt Overlay
Arterial Road Link Development Project, Japan Bank for International Cooperation's 23 rd Yen Credit Package	Occidental Mindoro	Concreting of Sablayan-Sta. Cruz Section, Mamburao-Abra de Ilog Section, Rizal-Calintaan Section, Calintaan-Sablayan Section, Sta. Cruz-Mamburao
Calapan South Road Concreting of National Secondary Roads in all provinces	Oriental Mindoro All Provinces	Asphalt Overlay Concreting
Construction/Improvement of bridges in all provinces	All Provinces	
Construction/Improvement of bridges in all provinces		
Construction/Improvement of National Arterial Roads	Palawan	Construction/Improvement of National Arterial Roads
Completion of Circumferential Roads in all major islands	All major islands	
Replacement of temporary bridges to permanent bridges in all provinces	All provinces	

Source: Department of Public Works and Highways

**Table 10-5
Priority Projects for Water Transport**

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description
Provision/Completion of Passenger Terminal Building (PTB)	All major ports	Construction/rehab. of PTBs
Maintenance/expansion of Existing Ports	Roxas Port and other major ports in	
Provision of safety facilities	All ports	Construction of perimeter fence and other safety measures
Construction of new ports to replace already congested and technically unviable existing ports	Selected ports in Palawan	Construction of new ports to support the projected increase in traffic

Source: *Philippine Ports Authority*

**Table 10-6
Priority Projects for Air Transport**

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description
Upgrading of Communication and airport equipment and facilities	Lubang, Mamburao, Marinduque, Pinamalayan, Puerto Princesa, Romblon, San Jose Occidental Mindoro	Rehabilitation of tower, purchase of new equipment and instruments
Upgrading of communication facilities under foreign assistance	Quezon and Puerto Princesa Palawan	Communication Navigation Surveillance and Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) - Installation of Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) and installation of Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR)
Upgrading of Palawan/Busuanga Airport	Coron, Palawan	Upgrading of Busuanga Airport to International Standards

Source: *Air Transportation Office*

CHAPTER 11

COMMUNICATION

1. Performance and Sectoral Trends

Major changes in laws, policies and regulations were introduced to further improve the communications sector. These include liberalization and deregulation to allow more players and promote the level of competition. Programs and projects were also implemented to improve public services in telecommunication and postal services. Modernization was also key to the communication sector to enhance access to local and global information. Although these were done at the national level, the regions also benefited from these changes.

Telecommunication Facilities. In 1996, the Service Area Scheme (SAS) under the Basic Telephone Program was implemented through the issuance of Executive Order No. 109. Under this scheme, two service areas covered the telephone system for the MIMAROPA Region. Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro and Palawan are under the SA5 Globe Telecom while Marinduque and Romblon are covered by SA4 Capwire. This scheme has helped increase the number of telephone lines in the region.

As of 2003, telephone density or teledensity in the MIMAROPA Region reached only 3.21 percent. Oriental Mindoro enjoys the highest at 6.24 percent (Table 11-1). The Region's teledensity is still very low compared with the national average at 8.70 and NCR's 26.47 in 2002. Under the 2001-2004 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan, the target for 2004 telephone density is 12.73 to meet the growing demand for telephone and other value-added services.

Table 11-1
Telephone Distribution by Province, 2000-2002
MIMAROPA Region

Provinces	Installed Lines				Subscribed Lines				Telephone Density (%)			
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
MIMAROPA	50,504	59,919	50,804	73,870	14,745	22,918	14,745	20,752	2.20	2.61	2.21	3.21
Marinduque	2,601	4,901	2,801	4,408	617	2,361	617	2,081	1.20	2.25	1.29	2.03
Occidental Mindoro	2,587	2,652	2,687	17,446	1,962	2,056	1,962	2,043	0.68	0.70	0.71	4.59
Oriental Mindoro	37,628	42,678	37,628	42,528	11,742	12,409	11,742	12,092	5.52	6.26	5.52	6.24
Romblon	200	200	200	-	400	400	400	-	0.08	0.08	0.08	-
Palawan	7,488	9,488	7,488	9,488	24	5,692	24	4536	0.99	1.26	0.99	1.26

- no data available

Teledensity = 1 telephone line per 100 persons

Source: National Telecommunication Commission

At the local level, there are only 22 out of 74 municipalities/cities with telephone services (Table 11-2). These services are mostly present only in urban areas or capital towns of the province. In MIMAROPA, there are a number of private local operators with connection to national providers.

Table 11-2
Telephone Services as of December 1999
MIMAROPA Region

Province	No. of Cities/ Municipalities	Telecom Operator	No. of Municipalities/ Cities with Tel	Population	Installed Lines	Subscribed Lines	Telephone Density
Marinduque	6	Digitel Piltel	2	199,910	872	569	0.44
Occidental Mindoro	11	GMCR Inc Digetel TelOf	5	339,605	1,813	1,540	0.53
Oriental Mindoro	15	CATSI GMCR Inc RMC Tel. Con Inc.	8	608,616	33,786	6,190	5.55
Palawan	25	GMCR Inc Piltel	6	640,486	488	9	0.08
Romblon	17	Romblon Tel Co.	1	244,654	1,710	1,194	0.70
MIMAROPA	74		22	2,033,271	38,669	9,502	1.90

Source: National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) IV

The usage of cellular mobile telephone system has been also steadily growing in the region. Among the factors to be considered are decreasing price of cellular phones, short message system (text message), its practicality and the limited landline telephone services. From 2001 to 2003 alone there has been a significant increase in the number of cellsites in the region, from 10 to 43 cellsites, most notably in the province of Oriental Mindoro (see Table 11-3).

Table 11-3
Number of Cellsites 2001-2003
MIMAROPA Region

Provinces	Number of Cellsites			
	Globe (as of 2001)	Smart (as of 2001)	Globe (March 2003)	Smart (March 2003)
Marinduque	1	1	1	3
Occidental Mindoro		1	1	4
Oriental Mindoro	2	4	4	12
Palawan		1	8	8
Romblon				2
Total	3	7	14	29

Source: NTC IV

Despite this, there are still some areas in the region where there are poor or no signals. Physical land configuration or limited coverage of the cellsites could be some of the factors that affect cellphone signals. To address this, provincial governments should assess the areas where there are weak coverage or signals of cellular phones and coordinate with the cellular phone providers.

Public telecommunications provided by the government are served primarily by the Telecommunications Office (TelOf) of the Department of Transportation and Communication. TelOf IVB maintains the facilities of telegraph stations, telephone, digital telephone exchanges and public calling offices (PCOs). There are 68 telegraphic stations provided in almost all municipalities in the region. These stations offer the services of social telegrams, telegraphic transfers, special and nominal telegrams and free telegrams to a number of government offices. There are two digital telephone exchanges which are located in Calapan and Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro. Calapan has a total of 1,200 lines while Pinamalayan has 1,050 lines. These telephone exchanges provide telephone services to rural areas where private telecommunication facilities could not provide. PCO, on the other hand, provides access to telephone services to the general public capable of voice and data transmission, facsimile machines and interconnection to automated teller machines or computer. Presently, there are eight PCOs which are located in Romblon Province.

Despite the Region's geographical distance from Mainland Luzon, the five provinces are not isolated in their access or link to the internet. There are a number of internet service providers (ISP) in the provinces of MIMAROPA Region, except Romblon. Five of six state universities and colleges (SUCs) in the region also have an emerging web presence mostly through the assistance of National Computer Center (NCC).

Table 11-4
Number of Post Office by Province 2001-2002

Province/Year	No. of Post Office	
	2001	2002
MIMAROPA	70	68
Marinduque	7	7
Occidental Mindoro	12	12
Oriental Mindoro	16	16
Romblon	17	16
Palawan	18	17

Source: Philippine Postal Corporation

Postal Communications. As of 2002, there are 68 post offices in the MIMAROPA Region (Table 10-4) including the Regional Post Office located in San Pablo City, the five provincial post offices and the respective municipal or extension offices.

Despite the region's geographical disadvantages, postal services have been moderately improving. Inter-provincial mail delivery and within the provinces reached its destination within 72 hours at the rate from 80 to 100 percent (Table 11-5). Improvements in major infrastructure within the region will further improve mail delivery services.

**Table 11-5
Postal Indicators, CY 1998-2003, MIMAROPA Region**

Performance Indicators	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
No. of Mails Handled	53.06	56.37	53.67	52.51	54.73	53.53
Revenue Collected (Million Pesos)	19.30	18.99	17.03	15.84	15.56	15.13
Delivery Capability for Express Mails						
(a) within locality in 24 hours	95%	95%	95%	98%	100%	100%
(b) intra-regional in 48 hours	85%	85%	85%	95%	93%	91%
(c) inter-regional in 72 hours	80%	80%	80%	94%	90%	90%
Delivery Capability for Priority Mails						
(a) within locality in 24 hours	95%	95%	95%	97%	100%	100%
(b) intra-regional in 48 hours	80%	85%	85%	95%	93%	92%
(c) inter-regional in 72 hours	80%	80%	80%	93%	90%	91%

Source: *Philippine Postal Corporation*

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

- Communication is more efficient if it is served by the private sector. Despite the existence of national policies that allow the private sector to enter in the communication industry, the region could not exploit this opportunity. There are two major factors that limit the growth of communication industry in the region – first is the geophysical configuration of the island provinces and municipalities and second, the predominantly rural-agricultural economy of the region indicating income capacity of the constituents.
- Interconnection between and/or among the island provinces requires additional resources or investments which would subsequently increase service rates and affects affordability among the target beneficiaries in the region. This also limits private-sector participation. The second factor affects viability of operating communication services since these services could be viable only in selected urbanized areas. Rural areas have lesser capacity to pay. Other telecommunication services like the internet are also affected.
- The 2.21 percent average density of landline telephones in the region should be improved, especially for the provinces of Palawan and Marinduque. Telephone services are confined to major urban centers or capital towns/cities of the provinces.
- There are many areas in the region where mobile phone signals are weak. This situation is opportune for cellular mobile phone services.
- The slight decrease in revenue of postal communication would continue due to increase in mobile phone use and the use of internet/e-mail services.
- A regional post office is not physically located in the Region.

3. Strategic Framework

A. Policy Measures

- Promote investor-friendly regulations to reduce cost of doing business while protecting the interest of consumers

- Prioritize government intervention in areas where communication services are limited or the situation is not attractive to the private sector
- Promote the use and access of ICT to take advantage of the region's competitive edge
- Promote the expansion and modernization of postal services

B. Strategies

- Promote vigorous coordination of local government units and provision of necessary information, incentives and facilitation to attract private-sector participation that will improve the communication industry in the region especially the areas without or limited communication services/access
- Extend Municipal Telephone Project and Telepono sa Barangay Project
- Encourage private sectors to establish telecenters
- Coordinate with the NTC and private telecommunication firms to disperse cellsites or similar facilities in areas where there are no or weak mobile phone signals
- Study the possible location of Regional Post Office in the MIMAROPA area
- Expand cost-effective physical ICT infrastructure facilities
- Integrate ICT in basic educational curricula particularly in science and mathematics subjects
- Advocate and form strategic alliances between and among government and private-sector agencies to promote team the approach in ICT efforts
- Establish and operationalize ICT learning hubs

B. Targets

- Establish e-centers in all provinces
- Increase number of cellsites in the region
- Increase telephone density from 3.21 percent to five percent

4. Priority Programs and Projects

- Establishment of e-centers
- Establishment of Wide Area Network Link
- Expansion and Upgrading of Telegraphic Transfer Services
- Upgrading of Telegraph Stations

CHAPTER 12

ENERGY

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends

The energy resources in the region include hydropower, geothermal, fossil oil and gas, and coal. These resources need to be tapped for the region to fully realize its sufficiency in energy to propel its economy.

Mini-hydro power potentials abound in the region with every province having at least one potential site for development. About 35 MW can be installed in Romblon, Palawan and Oriental Mindoro from 2005 to 2009. Coal resources are found solely in Occidental Mindoro which has a reserve estimate of 1.4 MMT.

MIMAROPA is also home to the Malampaya gas and condensate field which is located in over 800 meters of water depth to the northwest of Palawan. The gas field which was discovered in 1992 is estimated to have gas reserves of 3 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of gas and 85 million barrels of condensate. The field's life span is estimated at 25 years.

Plan for the development of gas transmission and distribution pipeline network in the nearby regions of MIMAROPA has been firmed up. Another possible development in the future is the implementation of the Trans-ASEAN Gas Pipeline (TAGP) tapping the gas fields of ASEAN. The long-term Philippine interconnection to the ASEAN energy network may come from East Natuna-Sabah via the Malampaya project.

The National Power Corporation-Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG) is responsible for generating electricity to meet the requirements of the region. On the other hand, the Electric Cooperatives (ECs) and Municipal Electric System (MES) are responsible for distributing electricity to the end consumers or households.

Currently, there are 31 power plants consisting of 26 land-based and five barge-mounted diesel plants operated by the NPC-SPUG in the region. These plants are complemented by the generating facilities of independent power producers (IPPs) and by the Dulangan Mini-Hydro Plant in Baco, Oriental Mindoro operated by the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (ORMECO). The total rated capacity of the existing power plants is about 152.15 MW of which the dependable capacity of installed units stands only at 101.15 MW. The power plants' operation per day varies among the different provinces in the region such as 20-24 hours for Mindoro, 12-24 hours for Marinduque, and 6-24 hours for Romblon and Palawan.

With regard to the status of energization in the five provinces of the region, there has been an improvement in the number of barangays energized during the period 2001-2003 as shown in Table 12-1. It appears that there was a very slow pace of barangay energization in the province of Palawan as it registered a cumulative percentage of energization of only 62.9 percent as of 2003.

Table 12-1
Number and Percent of Barangays Energized in the MIMAROPA Region
by Province, 2001 and 2003

Province	Number of Barangays	2001	Percent Energized	2003	Percent Energized
Occidental Mindoro	162	144	88.9	152	90.0
Oriental Mindoro	426	365	85.7	418	93.0
Marinduque	218	212	97.2	216	99.0
Romblon	219	171	78.1	217	99.0
Palawan	431	247	57.3	271	62.9
Total	1,456	1,139	78.2	1,263	87.5

Source: National Electrification Administration

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

- There is inefficiency and inadequacy in the existing power system in the MIMAROPA Region in view of unreliable power barges, substandard substations, and lack of distribution backbone/feeder lines.
- There are insufficient funds available for the subsector. This stems from the eventual privatization of the National Power Corporation (NPC) that would reduce government subsidy. On the other hand, the LGUs have financial constraints that prevent them from supporting any power project.
- There are socio-political factors affecting the subsector like peace and order/insurgency, vested interests like political intervention and instability.
- There is a low energization rate at the household level due to a dispersed settlement pattern and limited economic activities in the rural areas resulting to low power demand.

3. Strategic Framework

A. Policy Measures

- Effective implementation of the power sector restructuring thru the passage of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001
- Electrification of unviable areas through the development of new and renewable energy
- Complete privatization of NPC-SPUG areas in the region

B. Strategies

- Improvement of existing power infrastructures thru provision of additional power barges in the short term and exploitation/development of alternative sources of power in the long term like mini-hydropower, solar and wind
- Intensive promotion of oil and gas exploration in Mindoro and Palawan
- Collation of researches and studies to facilitate prioritization of power development projects vis-à-vis impact and adoption of precautionary principle in planning and designing probable solutions
- Development and strengthening of local technical capabilities
- Policy advocacy and genuine public participation

C. Targets

- Achieve 100 percent barangay energization of the 1,456 total Barangays in the MIMAROPA region within the next five years
- Achieve constant upgrading, rehabilitation and maintenance of existing power facilities for improved power reliability
- Undertake construction of new power infrastructures in Oriental and Occidental Mindoro to increase the total installed capacity from 62.34 MW in 2002 to 86 MW in 2010 in the area or making the total regional installed capacity to reach about 187 MW

4. Priority Programs and Projects

Table 12-2
Priority Programs and Projects

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description
1. 138 KV Transmission Line Projects	Palawan and Tablas Island, Romblon	Construction of 69 KV/ Construction of transmission lines to upgrade electrification
2. Power Generation Capacity additions to Projects and Substation Projects including ROW acquisition	All MIMAROPA provinces	Improve systems reliability
3. Hydropower Capacity MW target capacity additions-Cantingas Mini-hydropower project (MHP) -Batang Batang MHP -Catuiran HEP -Langogan HEP	Romblon Palawan Oriental Mindoro Palawan	1.0 MW 3.50 MW 24.00 MW 6.80 MW
4. Interconnection of Mindoro Project	Occidental and Oriental Mindoro	Interconnection of Mindoro provinces through a transmission line.
5. Marinduque-Luzon Interconnection Project	Marinduque to Quezon Provinces	Interconnection of Marinduque to the Luzon grid through submarine cables and inland transmission line
6. Luzon-Mindoro Interconnection Project	Batangas - Mindoro	Interconnection of Mindoro to the Luzon grid through submarine cables and inland transmission line

Source: National Power Corporation
Department of Energy

CHAPTER 13

WATER RESOURCES FACILITIES

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends

A. Domestic Water Supply

The present condition of water resources and services for the water resources subsector in the region speak of its relatively underdeveloped status. The existing water supply system in the region mainly consists of the municipal water supply that comprises public water supply for urban and rural areas and privately-owned water sources for domestic and commercial use.

A Level III water supply system is concentrated in the core of urban areas (Level III system refers to individual house water connections. This system provides for a storage tank, electric pump and extensive pipe network. There are 14 water districts in the region under the technical and financial assistance of the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA). These water districts provide Level III water supply or individual household connections in 15 towns. The service connections of said water districts grew at an annual average rate of 10.05 percent (Table 13-1). As of 2003, exactly 169,577 households or 48.48 per cent of total households in the region enjoy Level III water supply services. Majority of these or 82,839 households are the residents of the province of Palawan. Although the Province of Marinduque has no LWUA-supervised water district, it has water districts of its own that also provide Level III water supply.

Table 13-1
Service Connections and Household Population Served
by Water District by Province, MIMAROPA Region, 1996 and 2003

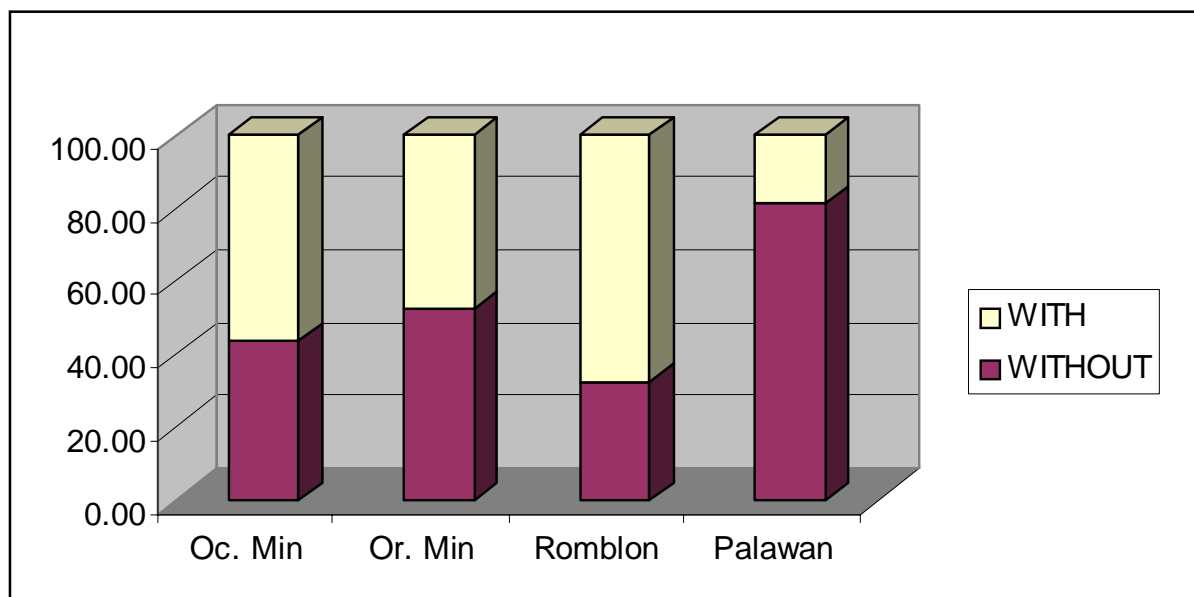
PROVINCE	SERVICE CONNECTIONS				HOUSEHOLDS SERVED (%) as of 2003
	1996	2003	Cummulative 1996 to 2003	Average AGR*	
Occ. Mindoro	3,557	6,544	36,224	10.93	43.46
Or. Mindoro	3,574	4,521	30,500	4.45	52.25
Marinduque**					
Romblon	2,866	2,878	20,014	0.38	32.49
Palawan	6,813	15,446	82,839	16.50	81.23
MIMAROPA	16,810	29,389	169,577	10.05	48.48

* - annual growth rate

** - no existing LWUA covered water district

Source: Local Water Utilities Administration

Figure 13-1
Households with Level III Water Supply, by Province 2003
(in Percent)



Source: Local Water Utilities Administration
 Department of Interior and Local Government

B. Irrigation Facilities

The existing irrigation system in the region consists of national irrigation, communal irrigation and pump irrigation. Communal irrigation systems account for 57.74 per cent or 39,667 hectares of total irrigation development in the region. It is followed by national irrigation with 34.66 per cent. The existing irrigation projects do not have storage reservoirs and they have to depend solely on the flow of rivers and other surface water sources for their water supply. This results to inadequate supply of water during the dry season. Thus, most of the irrigated areas are not fully serviced.

The arable area of the region covers a total land area of 440,302 hectares. Out of this total, around 140,390 hectares have potential for irrigation (Table 13-2). Large tracts of these areas are found in the islands of Mindoro and Palawan. Over the past five years, a total of only 68,698 hectares representing 48.93 per cent of the irrigable areas are irrigated. In other words, majority or 51.07 per cent of the irrigable areas are not yet irrigated. Most of the irrigated areas are located in the islands with vast tracts of potential irrigable areas - Mindoro and Palawan. With the exception of Occidental Mindoro and Romblon, the irrigated areas in the rest of the provinces are below 50 per cent of their potential irrigable areas.

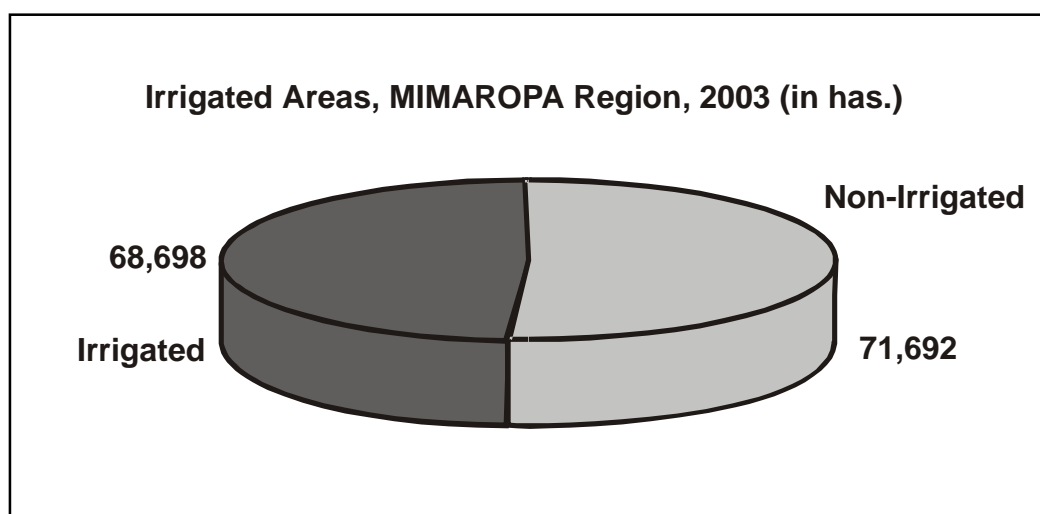
Only an additional of 2,433 hectares are irrigated since 1999. Should the same very slow average annual irrigation development rate of .91 per cent for the past five years continue, it would take more than a century before the region's potential irrigable areas are fully irrigated.

Table 13-2
Irrigated Areas by Type of Irrigation by Province, MIMAROPA
Region(area in hectares)

PROVINCE	POTENTIAL IRRIGABLE AREA	AREA IRRIGATED AS OF 2003 (Cumulative)				AVE ANNUAL DEV'T RATE 1996-2003 (%)	% DEVELOPED	REMAINING AREA FOR DEVELOPMENT
		NIS	CIS	PIP	Total			
Occ. Mindoro	43,300	8,030	15,805	2,306	26,141	0.79	60.37	17,159
Or. Mindoro	49,608	11,857	8,868	1,169	21,894	0.43	44.13	27,714
Marinduque	3,928	-	1,412	79	1,491	2.32	37.96	2,437
Romblon	4,566	283	2,025	331	2,639	1.42	57.80	1,927
Palawan	38,988	3,678	11,557	1,298	16,533	0.91	42.41	22,455
MIMAROPA	140,390	23,848	39,667	5,183	68,698	0.91	48.93	71,692

Source: National Irrigation Administration IV

Figure 13-2
Flood Control and Drainage Facilities



C. Flood Control and Drainage Facilities

Some parts of the region are susceptible to flooding particularly those at the floodplains of major rivers. Clogging of waterways by urban wastes and heavy siltation of streams caused by denuded hills and mountains are the major contributing factors to flooding. The construction and maintenance of flood control and drainage structures have increased by 89.40 percent for the past four years since 2001 or from 706,447.65 linear meters to 1,337,997.40 linear meters (Table 13-3).

The largest increase is notable for the provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Romblon.

Table 13-3
Flood Control and Drainage Structure
MIMAROPA Region, 2001 and 2004

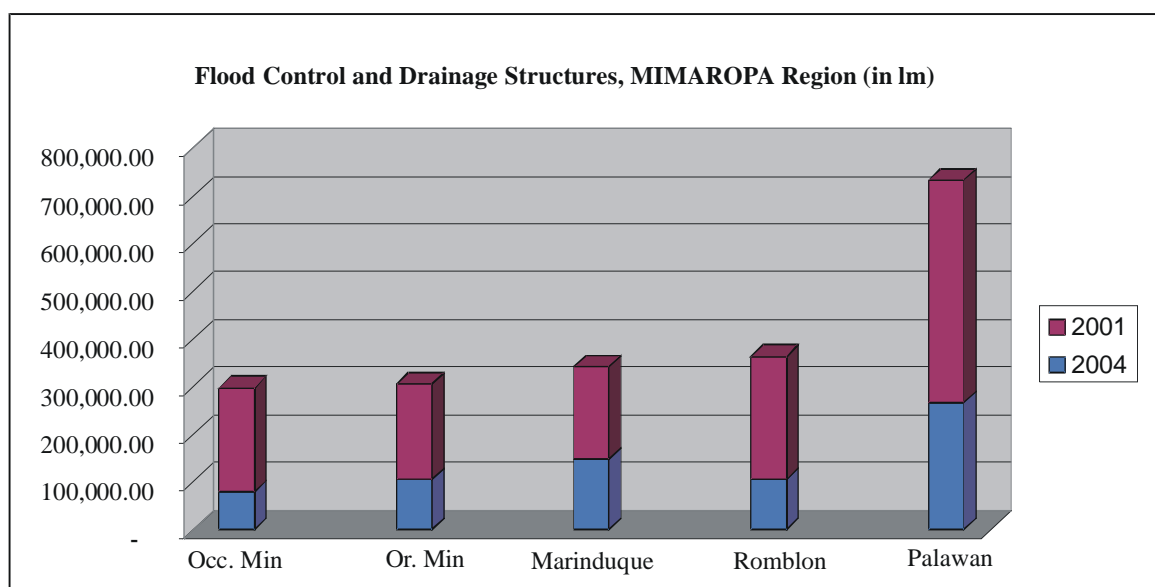
Province	Length (in linear meter)		% Change
	2001	2004	
Mindoro Occidental	80,022.75	217,592.75	171.91
Mindoro Oriental	106,542.25	200,819.00	
Marinduque	148,232.65	193,599.95	30.61
Romblon	105,729.00	258,618.80	144.61
Palawan	265,921.00	467,366.90	75.75
MIMAROPA	706,447.65	1,337,997.40	89.40

Source: Department of Public Works and Highways IV-B

Although estimate on the size of areas that need to be protected from flooding is not available, based on observation it could be said that parts of the region still suffers from floods, especially the province of Oriental Mindoro owing to its climate and physiography of the province which make floods inevitable under natural conditions.

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

Figure 13-3
Flood Control and Drainage Structures, MIMAROPA
Region (in lm)



A. Domestic Water Supply

- Transmission and distribution pipelines are old.
- There are still households in the region especially in rural areas that are not served with potable water and by water system. Expansion of water supply system coverage is slow due to limited access to funding by water agencies.
- There is poor vegetation of watershed areas resulting to scarcity of water supply during dry season.
- Quality of water supply is affected by color, salinity and iron content due to the island characteristic of the provinces.
- There is a problem in affordability of water fees for Level III system due to high cost of water supply system development incurred by water agencies. This in turn is affected by high loan interest rate and documentary requirements for loan application.
- Monitoring of provision of water quality and potability by proper authority is weak.

B. Irrigation Facilities

- Shortage of water supply occurs during dry season caused by poor vegetation of watershed areas and by lack of water impounding structures.
- There is slow construction of irrigation facilities in potential irrigable areas.
- Existing irrigation facilities are not properly maintained.
- Majority or 51.07 per cent of irrigable areas remain to be irrigated.

C. Flood Control and Drainage Facilities

- There is an emerging decrease in provision of funds for flood control projects.
- There is a lack of baseline data on the size of areas that need structural measures for flood mitigation.
- Flood-related damage to crops and properties is evident.
- Flood control and drainage facilities are insufficient to mitigate flooding.
- There is poor vegetation of upstream areas.

3. Strategic Framework

A. Policy Measures

A.1 Domestic Water Supply

- Make domestic use for water a high priority for water resources development
- Increase coverage of water supply systems.
- Increase private sector investment in water supply development.
- Safeguard and rehabilitate major and critical watershed areas.

A.2 Irrigation Facilities

- Prioritize protection and rehabilitation of watershed areas within the water districts' area of jurisdiction.
- Focus rehabilitation and maintenance on existing irrigation facilities.

- Encourage rain water harvesting and impounding to minimize pressure on surface water extraction.
- Adopt an integrated water resource management approach.
- Promote the use of small communal and pump irrigation systems.

A.3 Flood Control and Drainage Facilities

- Prioritize construction of adequate flood control and drainage structures in flood-prone areas and in major river systems in the region.
- Institute a holistic approach to the management of flooding by upstream reforestation and downstream clearing of drainage areas.

B. Strategies

B.1 Domestic Water Supply

- Rationalize the functions of water authorities regarding water usage by delineating and defining their mandates.
- Tap all possible sources of funds for the development of water supply systems in rural areas by encouraging greater participation of congress and GFIs like DBP and LBP.
- Encourage LGUs, NGOs and water districts to vegetate watershed areas.
- Strict enforcement of relevant laws for the protection and rehabilitation of watershed areas.
- Continue use of the three levels of service, namely, Level I (a deep well or shallow well as a point source, to be shared by about 50 households, none of which shall be more than 500 meters away), Level II (a communal faucet generally intended for rural areas where houses are clustered in such density as to justify distribution by pipe; a storage tank and electric pump may be necessary in this system), and Level III (a system with individual house connections; a storage tank, electric pump and extensive pipe network are necessary features of this system).

B.2 Irrigation Facilities

- Invite private-sector investment on irrigation projects through existing schemes like BOT.
- Reforest and delineate critical watershed areas.
- Intensify the implementation of small water impounding dams in areas affected by prolonged droughts.
- Fast track the construction of ongoing and proposed irrigation projects.
- Locate major irrigation projects in key agricultural production areas.
- Anchor irrigation development on surplus production.

B.3 Flood Control and Drainage Facilities

- Establish baseline data with the assistance of LGUs concerned.
- Fast track reforestation of logged over areas.
- Coordinate the development of flood control projects with the implementation of irrigation projects.
- Maintain and upgrade existing and newly constructed flood control and drainage

structure.

C. Targets

C.1 Domestic Water Supply

- LWUA will construct P77.62 million worth of waterworks projects between 2004 to 2005 to serve a target of 3,561 households.

C.2 Irrigation Facilities

- Construction of P5.1 billion worth of irrigation facilities consisting of national irrigation systems, communal irrigation systems and pump irrigation systems will be done for the period 2005 to 2009. These projects target to irrigate a total area of 59,370 hectares or 82.81 per cent of the total remaining area that need to be irrigated.

C.3 Flood Control and Drainage Facilities

- Construction of 28,885 linear meters of various flood control and drainage projects in the five provinces amounting to P1.1 billion will be undertaken for the period 2005-2010.

4. Priority Programs and Projects

Below is the summary of proposed programs and projects for the entire water resources facilities subsector.

Table 13-4
Proposed Programs and Projects for the Water Resources Facilities Subsector

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description
DPWH River Control Projects for 2005 to 2010	Regionwide	Concrete revetment/rubble concrete/slope and bank protection
DPWH Drainage System Project, for 2005 to 2010	Palawan	Construction of drainage system
NIA Irrigation Development Program for 2005 to 2009	Regionwide	Maintenance/Construction of national irrigation systems, communal irrigation systems and pump irrigation projects
LWUA Water Utilities Projects for 2004 to 2005	Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan	Construction of water supply system

PART V

**GOOD GOVERNANCE
AND REGIONAL HARMONY**

CHAPTER 14

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND REGIONAL HARMONY

1. Sectoral Performance and Trends

The MIMAROPA Region was created by virtue of Executive Order 103, which took effect on May 17, 2002. From then on arrangements were made and mechanisms installed to lay down the necessary institutional structures in the region.

The division is not yet perfect, but efforts are being coordinated. To date, a number of regional line agencies have been divided and provided for MIMAROPA office in consonance with the Executive Order.

Good governance defines the processes and structures that guide political and socioeconomic relationships. It involves the coordination of representatives of all sectors to work effectively together. The state plays the central role in the coordination process, providing links between the sectors and civil society organizations. Good governance is participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and follows the rule of law.

Therefore, good governance prevails when the government manages public institutions in an efficient, transparent and responsive manner, and when the government engages citizens in the pursuit of mutually beneficial social, political, economic and cultural objectives.

Since the region is still in a transition period, it is really difficult to assess its performance in terms of efficiency since there is difficulty in accessing data from primary statistics agencies such as the National Statistics Office, the National Statistical Coordination Board and the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics due to the delayed data segregation from the old Southern Tagalog Region structure.

However, it could be said that the local leaders, both elective and appointive, particularly those who are members of the Regional Development Council have really showed their unified stand to push the MIMAROPA Region into greater heights. The five governors, the private-sector representatives and the regional agency heads worked hard in laying down the institutional structures in the region and in identifying priority programs and projects in order to realize the vision of the region.

Nonetheless, despite the current efforts of the government to fight graft and corruption, this problem still persists. The age-old problem on budget deficit, negative slippage in the implementation of projects of some agencies and local government units (LGUs) are pointing out to graft and corrupt practices.

2. Key Challenges and Opportunities

A. Development Challenges

Governance

- Personal interests of political and appointive officials prevail over public interest
- Graft and corrupt practices

- LGUs as employment agency (too much co-terminus contractual employees)
- Influence peddling
- Divisiveness of people because of politics
- Inadequate knowledge of some LGUs on local governance, planning and budgeting
- Automatic appropriation of SOPs on government projects
- Demoralization of government employees because of nepotism

Development Planning

- Whimsical planning at the LGU level
- Attainability of regional vision considering the recent developments (possible abolition of MIMAROPA as a region)
- Need to strengthen the planning structure in every province
- Need to strengthen the strategic planning-budgeting process
- Non-completion of CLUPs which is the basis of physical development of LGUs

Development Administration

- Violations on minimum wage law by the SMEs in the region (*economic concern*)
- Lack of employment opportunities (*economic concern*)
- Unskilled manpower resources/labor force (*economic concern*)

Peace and Order

- Rampant bio-piracy (*economic concern*)
- Trafficking of minors for entertainment/tourism purposes (*social concern*)
- Rampant intrusion of big time/commercial illegal fishers in the municipal waters (*economic concern*)
- Terrorism

Justice Administration

- Weak judicial system
- Indifference of the community towards convicted offenders who are already released from prison or confinement
- Minimal community participation in the rehabilitation of offenders

Fiscal Management

- Misuse of funds;
- LGUs exceeding the Personnel Services (PS) cap;
- Absence of Local Investment Incentive Code of the LGUs;
- Additional capability programs for the field personnel;
- Non implementation of the general revision of real property assessment; and
- Lack of political will of LCEs on revenue generation program

B. Opportunities

- Willingness of local officials to administer LGPMS in their areas of jurisdiction
- Strong linkage with LGUs
- Strong and supportive LGUs in the implementation of programs and projects
- Low crime rate
- Improved implementation of Disaster Management Program

- Strong Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC)
- Adequate supply of labor force (*economic concern*)

3. Strategic Framework

A. Strategies and Policy Measures

Governance

- Strict implementation of the laws against graft and corruption
- Adoption of simple and doable rules within the office to support existing laws against graft and corruption
- Strict monitoring of the implementation of rules and imposition of penalties
- Massive information campaign against sociocultural problems
- Establishment of a rigid monitoring system with the active involvement of NGOs
- Enhanced/strengthened monitoring and supervision of LCEs performance
- DILG to prepare targets for LGUs and monitor/supervise activities related to said targets

Development Planning

- Conduct of capability building activities in the LGUs
- Established data base system
- Established strong linkage with local planning units
- Maximum role of the Regional Development Council in planning and budgeting processes
- Completion of CLUPs by all LGUs
- Exploration of innovative approaches in planning
- Promotion of office automation and use of ICT facilities

Peace and Order

- Strict implementation of existing laws
- Adoption of ouster measure
- Enhanced advocacy activities of concerned government agencies
- Collaborative efforts among LCEs, DENR and DFA in the implementation of environmental laws particularly on the protection of endemic species
- Massive public information against terrorism
- Massive intelligence gathering
- Strict implementation of RA 9208 (trafficking of persons especially women and children, etc), RA 7610 (Anti-Child Abuse Act), RA 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Children) and RA 8353 (Anti-Rape Law)
- Intensified police campaign against child pornography, prostitution and trafficking
- Strict monitoring of entertainment businesses and establishments
- Strict enforcement of internationally accepted law on territorial limits
- Strict implementation of PD 704 (Law on Illegal Fishing)
- Continuous patrol of naval forces within the territorial waters

Justice Administration

- Enforcement of clean and honest Criminal Justice System (CJS)
- Encouragement of full participation and support of the community
- Committed CJS pillars to public service
- Enforcement of “No Bribe Policy” in every agency

- Public awareness on the Criminal Justice System
- Enactment of laws giving tax incentives to companies or business establishments employing offenders who are on probation, parole and conditional pardon
- Encouragement of maximum community participation in the rehabilitation of offenders

Fiscal Management

- Revision, adoption and strict implementation of the revenue code to increase RPT and other taxes
- Intensification of tax advocacy campaign with the implementation of tax amnesty and other tax incentive/penalty system (i.e. penalize the tax evaders and give incentives to prompt and honest payor)
- Imposition of new tax measures and expansion of the LGU revenue base i.e. collection of rental fee, local taxes, terminal fees, users fee, other viable sources of revenue etc.
- Strengthening of the Local Finance Committees
- Modernization/computerization of RPT and other tax collection system
- Conduct of business and RPT tax mapping
- Streamlining the operations of the government both at the national and local level
- Tapping of traditional and non-traditional sources of income for LGUs
- Private sector participation in project implementation of LGUs - enter into joint venture with NGAs/LGUs/financing institutions
- Implementation of e-procurement system
- Reduction of the slippages in project implementation
- Allocation of proceeds from project (users' fee) to loan repayment
- Transparency in all government transactions/processes

B. Targets

Governance

- Increase litigated cases on graft and corruption by 30 percent within the next five years
- Ensure that public/civil servants involved in graft and corrupt practices are decreased by 30 percent within the next five years
- Increase number of vigilant NGOs by 30 percent

Peace and Order

- Minimize piracy by 50 percent
- Secure well endemic and endangered species
- Contain terrorism by 100 percent
- Decrease incidence of child and women abuse/violence by at least 50 percent
- Decrease foreign intrusion/poaching by 30 percent
- Decrease illegal gambling activities by at least 30 percent

Fiscal Management

- Improve revenue collection system and attain 12 percent increase in revenue collection for the next six years
- Encourage LGUs to appropriate portion of the 20 percent development fund to income generating projects (IGPs) which would also create more economic activities and employment

4. Priority Programs and Projects

Governance

- Periodic conduct of lifestyle check
- Government officials to set example by practicing simple living
- Efficient and speedy prosecution of cases against graft and corruption
- Continuous conduct of religious and moral recovery activities in the offices
- Information drives during Barangay assemblies
- Student formation for good governance
- Conduct of multi-sectoral ugnayan/dialogue/problem solving sessions
- Recognition of vigilant NGOs
- Promotion of responsible media reporting
- Publication of best LGU practices on tax/revenue generation

Development Planning

- Conduct of series of capability-building activities
- Conduct of synchronized planning and budgeting for LGUs
- Delineation/segregation of data

Peace and Order

- Intensified IEC campaign
- Gathering of data of concerned organizations as vanguards of piracy against wildlife
- Stricter standard operating procedure on baggage inspection in ports and airports
- Intensive training of reaction forces against terrorists
- Maximum deployment of concerned police forces in strategic areas
- Mandatory conduct of dry-run activities on anti-terrorist operation
- Collaborative efforts among law enforcement agencies
- Instilling of sense of wariness to violators
- Tapping of NGOs for financial support
- Intensified sea patrols by the Navy, PNP Maritime and Bantay Dagat

Justice Administration

- Conduct of massive information drives to win the trust and confidence of people; inculcate the moral obligation of every individual; and instill deeper sense of values
- Ensuring of LGUs participation
- Lobby to lawmakers to sponsor appropriate bills

Fiscal Management

- Creation of a Task Force to oversee the revision of the local revenue code
- Formulation of Manual of Operations on Tax Collections for LGUs
- Issuance of LGU and BIR revenue regulation for the need to issue receipt for every P5 (and above) purchase from stores and establishments
- Regular/Surprise inspection of business establishments on the issuance of receipts
- Passage of ordinances and other local laws favorable to the increase in revenue generation
- Putting up of the one-stop-shop revenue/tax processing and collection center
- Conduct of regular ocular and field assessment of real properties
- Tax Amnesty Program
- Provision of incentives and awards to high-performing officers/LGUs on tax collection
- Training program for LCEs on planning, budgeting, fund sourcing/mobilization, livelihood programs,

- e-procurement, etc.
- Partnership with the private sector on project implementation through different BOT variants schemes
- Reorganization and strengthening of project monitoring committees at the regional and local level to address the concerns of negative slippages of project implementation, with strong involvement of the private sector.

