



Caraga
Regional Development Plan
2017-2022



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Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022

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MESSAGE



Earlier this year, we launched the **Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022** through the initiative of the **National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)**. The PDP serves as our medium-term blueprint towards attaining a better and more secure life for our people in the next 25 years.

To complement the PDP, we are now launching the **Regional Development Plans (RDPs) 2017-2022**. This will provide direction in policy formulation for the next six years as we steer public and private investments to the regions.

We intend to place regional development at the center of our socioeconomic development strategy. By creating more jobs, improving social services, encouraging innovation and connecting the countryside to growth centers, we will reduce poverty and accelerate development in rural areas.

The RDPs will also prioritize accelerating infrastructure development, protecting our natural resources, addressing criminality and illegal drugs, and ensuring peace and security in the regions.

I commend the Regional Development Councils for aligning their respective regional plans to our PDP through fruitful collaboration with local government units and the private sector. I am confident that through the RDPs, we can realize our goal of laying a solid foundation for a stronger and more resilient nation for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodrigo'.

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

President

Republic of the Philippines

MANILA

May 2017



FOREWORD

With regional and local development being one of the main thrusts of President Rodrigo R. Duterte's socioeconomic development agenda, the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, the first medium-term plan anchored on a long-term vision (*AmBisyon Natin 2040*), was specifically designed to cultivate growth and reduce inequality between the regions. This can be achieved by directing development to key areas throughout the country and connecting these growth centers to rural areas.

As such, the Regional Development Plans (RDPs), as accompanying documents to the PDP, will be an important tool in guiding both public and private investments that will catalyze growth in the regions. It will also serve as our blueprint in laying down the three main pillars of *Malasakit, Pagbabago, at Patuloy na Pag-unlad* that will help us build a secure, comfortable, and strongly rooted life for all Filipinos by 2040.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Regional Development Councils (RDCs) for their leadership in the crafting of the RDPs, and in coordinating various development efforts in the regions. Finally, we seek the support of our local government units, regional institutions, and private institutions to support the realization of our plans as we venture towards the creation of prosperous, peaceful and resilient communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto'.

ERNESTO M. PERNIA

Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning



PREFACE

Caraga Region's economy is one of the fastest growing in the country in the past six years. The growth rates are higher than the national average; it even registered the highest growths in 2011 and 2014. The region also succeeded in substantially reducing its poverty incidence among families from 46 percent in 2009 to 31.9 percent in 2012. However, in 2015, the region only managed to bring it down to 30.8 percent.

Despite these gains, the region is still confronted with many daunting challenges. Foremost among them is poverty as one in every three Caraganons is poor. Second, the region has to diversify its economy and to pursue value-adding activities given the declining performance of the AFF sector and the slowdown in mining operations. Third, it has to increase the resilience of individuals and communities as Caraga is most prone to geological and climatological hazards. Fourth, the region has to disentangle the proverbial Gordian knot that is the conflicting/overlapping tenure instruments issued by land regulation agencies. Fifth, Caraga needs to strike a balance between production and environmental conservation/protection

With the region's strategic location and vast natural resources, it has immense potential for further development. The region is endowed with fertile lands, abundant marine and aqua products, and copious amounts of forest and mineral resources; it is also home to many of the finest ecotourism sites. Hence, Caraga's blueprint for socio-economic development for the next six years is anchored on sustainably harnessing these resources. It will also build the foundation for a knowledge-based economy.

In the crafting of the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022, the RDC embarked on a dynamic and highly collaborative/participatory process involving various stakeholders. For the first time, two rounds of provincial and city consultations were conducted to ensure a more responsive, holistic, widely supported, and vertically aligned Plan.

The Caraga RDP 2017-2022 is strongly moored to the Ambisyon Natin 2040, the President's 0 to 10 socioeconomic agenda, six-point peace agenda, Caraga roadmap for peace, and the sustainable development goals. The Caraga RDP adopts the PDP's broad

strategies of “*malasakit at pagbabago para sa patuloy na kaunlaran*” to help establish the foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy by the end of 2022.

With greater innovation, stronger commitment, and a united people guided by the Almighty, the Caraga region will soar to greater heights and become the region where everyone enjoys a “*matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay.*”



MYLAH FAYE AURORA B. CARIÑO, CESO IV

Acting Chairperson, RDC XIII and
NEDA Regional Director

Acknowledgement

The crafting of the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 went through a dynamic and highly collaborative process involving workshops, writeshops, technical sessions, and consultations. Various development partners and other stakeholders from different levels of authority in the region actively participated in these activities.

With profound appreciation, we would like to acknowledge the unqualified support and active involvement of the officials and technical staffs of the various local governments in the region during the workshops and consultations.

Likewise, the enthusiasm and generosity of the members of the Regional Planning Committees in sharing relevant information and ideas in the assessment of the previous plan and during the formulation of the successor plan made our partnerships the most gratifying and productive.

Sincere recognition is also extended to the non-government organizations, civil society groups, and private sector partners for their vigilance in ensuring that the concerns of the grassroots and marginal groups are addressed in the Plan.

We acknowledge the diligence of the four RDC Sectoral Committees, in reviewing and enhancing the CRDP 2017-2022.

Great appreciation is also expressed to the National Plan Secretariat, NEDA Regional Office (NRO) XI and other NROs for their invaluable comments and recommendations in improving the draft CRDP 2017-2022.

Our deep gratitude goes to the members of the Caraga Regional Development Council (RDC), for reviewing, approving and adopting the Plan, which affirmed all the hard work of the region's stakeholders in shaping the CRDP 2017-2022.

Finally, heartfelt thanks and congratulations to all the NEDA Caraga staff for the willpower and commitment to orchestrate and coordinate the preparation of the CRDP 2017-2022.

For everyone who contributed in making the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 a responsive and holistic blueprint of the region's development for the next six years, we are truly grateful.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
CARAGA REGION

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
90th CARAGA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING
held on 02 March 2017 at the NEDA Caraga Building
J.A. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City

RESOLUTION NO. 8 (S. 2017)

**"APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE
CARAGA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2022"**

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Revised Caraga Regional Development Plan (CRDP) 2013-2016, which was approved and adopted by the Regional Development Council (RDC) through Resolution No. 34, Series of 2013 concluded last year;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Executive Order No. 5, Series of 2016 adopting the twenty-five-year-long-term vision dubbed as *AmBisyon Natin 2040* as guide for development planning;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of EO 5, S. 2016 provides that four (4) medium term development plans, also known as the Philippine Development Plan will be crafted and implemented until 2040, which shall be anchored on the *AmBisyon Natin 2040*;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo R. Duterte subsequently issued Memorandum Circular No. 12, S. 2016 "Directing the Formulation of the Philippine Development Plan and Public Investment Program for the Period 2017-2022," which also prompted the preparation of the Regional Development Plans (RDPs);

WHEREAS, the 2017-2022 PDP and RDPs shall take into account the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (SDA), the President's 0 to 10 Socio Economic Agenda and the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) to ensure coherent, sustainable and focused strategies;

WHEREAS, the PDP and RDPs shall likewise set the foundation for the attainment of a "Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag na Buhay para sa Lahat;"

WHEREAS, based on Executive Order No. 325, Series of 1996, the Regional Development Council (RDC) shall coordinate the preparation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of short and long term development plans and investment programs;

WHEREAS, during the 88th RDC Meeting, the Council passed Resolution No. 44, S. 2016, "Approving the Process for the Preparation of the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022;"

WHEREAS, the said Guidelines contain the series of activities that will be conducted in the formulation of the RDP along with its accompanying documents namely, the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) and Results Matrix (RM);



WHEREAS, to ensure a participatory planning process, the RDC conducted several activities, namely, Assessment Workshops, Results Matrices and Regional Core Indicator System Workshop, and Writeshop cum Strategic Planning Workshop;

WHEREAS, the Plan also underwent two (2) rounds of provincial/city consultations with various stakeholders of the five (5) provinces and six (6) cities of the region before it was presented to the four (4) Sectoral Committees of the RDC;

WHEREAS, the RDP contains the region's development priorities that will contribute to the realization of the PDP's overarching goal of establishing a "foundation for inclusive growth and the achievement of a high-trust society and a globally competitive knowledge economy;"

WHEREAS, the Caraga Region aspires to achieve this vision by 2040: *"With the blessings of the Almighty, Caraga Region is sustainably developed, culturally responsive, globally competitive and equitably enjoying peace and fruits of prosperity;"*

WHEREAS, to pursue this vision, the Caraga Region intends to become the Fishery, Agro-forestry, Mineral and Ecotourism (FAME) Center of the Philippines by 2022;

WHEREAS, to achieve this goal, the region is adopting a *polycentric network* of development anchored on strong interaction between neighboring cities or urban areas to develop specialized and complementary assets while avoiding large scale urban sprawls and territorial competition;

WHEREAS, to ensure consistency with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), the region's development plan framework basically adopts the national development framework;

WHEREAS, the Caraga RDP 2017-2022 adopts the broad strategies of the PDP 2017-2022:

- a) Enhancing the Social Fabric ("**Malasakit**")
 - a.1) Ensure people-centered, clean and efficient governance;
 - a.2) Pursue swift and fair administration of justice; and
 - a.3) Promote Philippine culture and awareness;
- b) Reducing Inequality ("**Pagbabago**")
 - b.1) Expand economic opportunities;
 - b.2) Improve access to economic opportunities;
 - b.3) Accelerate human capital development; and
 - b.4) Reduce vulnerability of individuals;
- c) Increasing Growth Potential ("**Patuloy na Pag-unlad**")
 - c.1) Promote technology adoption;
 - c.2) Stimulate innovation; and
 - c.3) Maximize demographic dividend;

WHEREAS, the framework is likewise underpinned by five (5) pillars, namely: a) strategic development of infrastructure, b) security, public order and peace, c) improved resilience of individuals and communities, d) gender responsive development, and e) ecological integrity, clean and healthy environment;

WHEREAS, the Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 has 22 chapters as follows:

Chapter No.	Title
1	The Long View
2	Regional Trends and Prospects
3	Regional Spatial Strategy
4	Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 Overall Framework
5	Ensuring People-Centered, Clean and Efficient Governance
6	Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice
7	Promoting Philippine Culture and Values
8	Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
9	Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services through <i>Trabaho at Negosyo</i>
10	Accelerating Human Capital Development
11	Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families
12	Building Safe and Secure Communities
13	Reaching for the Demographic Dividend
14	Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology and Innovation
15	Ensuring Sound Macroeconomic Management
16	Leveling the Playing Field through a National Competition Policy
17	Attaining Just and Lasting Peace
18	Ensuring Security, Public Order and Safety
19	Accelerating Infrastructure Development
20	Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean and Healthy Environment
21	Plan Implementation and Monitoring
22	Sustaining the Momentum Towards AmBisyon Natin 2040

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, on motion severally seconded to approve and adopt the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that copies of this resolution and the Caraga RDP 2017-2022 be furnished to the Office of the President through the NEDA Central Office, members of the Regional Development Council and other regional stakeholders for their information and appropriate action.

DONE during the 90th Regional Development Council Meeting on March 2, 2016 at the NEDA Caraga Building, J. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City.

Certified Correct:


ROY B. KANTUNA
RDC Secretary

Approved:


MYLAH FAYE AURORA B. CARINO, CESO IV
Acting RDC Chairperson



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Executive Summary

Guided by its vision “With the blessings of the Almighty, Caraga Region is sustainably developed, culturally responsive, and globally competitive; where everyone equitably enjoys the fruits of peace and prosperity,” the Caraga Regional Development Plan (CRDP) 2017-2022 aims to contribute to the attainment of the Filipino Long-Term Vision or Ambisyon Natin 2040 of a “matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat.” Towards this end, the region’s development will rely on the optimal utilization of its vast natural resources (i.e. fertile lands, abundant marine and aqua products, rich forest and mineral resources; and many of the finest ecotourism sites) and the establishment of a knowledge-based economy.

The CRDP 2017-2022 is anchored on the Ambisyon Natin 2040, the President’s 0 to 10 socioeconomic agenda, six-point peace agenda, Caraga roadmap for peace, and the sustainable development goals. The Caraga RDP adopts the PDP’s broad strategies of 1) enhancing the social fabric, “malasakit”; 2) reducing inequality, “pagbabago;” and 3) increasing potential growth, “Kaunlaran.”

The CRDP 2017-2022 ensures that the region’s development priorities will contribute to the current administration’s overarching goal/commitment of establishing the foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy.

The region adopts a polycentric network as a spatial framework of development that is anchored on strong interaction between neighboring cities or urban areas to develop specialized and complementary assets while avoiding large scale urban sprawls and territorial competition.

On accelerating human capital development, it considers human capital as the center of all planning initiatives. Thus, it contemplates a future that makes individuals more globally-competitive, safe, and healthy. Strategies and interventions have been identified to make basic social services, especially education and health, more accessible to a greater number of people to enable them to build knowledge, seize opportunities, as well as sustain life for the realization of their personal aspirations and the region’s vision and goals.

On economic development, the Plan proposes that diversity, livability, connectedness and collaboration must be the fundamental keys in attaining and sustaining inclusive growth, a high-trust society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy. As a largely agriculture-based economy, efforts will be strengthened to realize AFF growth potentials, increase access to growth opportunities, and reduce vulnerability of farming and fishing communities.

Initiatives to expand the production of existing commodities, diversify products, improve productivity of the sectors and increase access of MSMEs to opportunities for growth, will be pursued. The plan also takes into account future land-use vis-à-vis the region's development track to sustain if not, stimulate further economic growth, maintain the competitive advantages of the sectors, and reduce inequality. More importantly, the plan commits to the reduction of vulnerability of the sectors against natural and man-made hazards, increase resiliency of individuals and communities, and conserve and protect the environment.

Peace and security is considered critical or essential to development. The plan endeavors to modernize and increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies and empower communities to participate in the process of thwarting and solving criminality and conflicts to encourage more investments in the region.

The plan envisages that the region will have a well-maintained and efficient transportation network; sturdy and functional social infrastructures; sustainable irrigation system; affordable and reliable power and water supply; advance digital infrastructures; as well as vibrant communities and regional centers that are resilient, aesthetically pleasing, and respectful of cultural differences.

Generally, the region's aspirations will also be attained through the following: a) strengthening of government institutions through strict implementation of programs that will improve government efficiency and effectiveness; b) establishing reforms in budget allocation and utilization; c) intensifying revenue generation; d) pursuing mechanisms, which will enable LGUs and RLAs to provide and participate in online services and transactions; d) improving local legislation and development planning; e) ensuring honest and credible elections; and f) reducing and preventing graft and corruption.

Finally, the plan provides milestones for the next three RDPs towards the attainment of Ambisyon Natin 2040.

PART I

INTRODUCTION



01

The Long View

The Long View

Bases of the Plan

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Memorandum Circular No. 12, Series of 2016, “Directing the Formulation of the Philippine Development Plan and the Public Investment Program for the Period 2017-2022,” which also prompted the preparation of Regional Development Plans. Based on Executive Order No. 325, Series of 1996, Regional Development Councils (RDC) shall coordinate the preparation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of short and long term development plans and investment programs. Towards this end, the Caraga RDC commenced with the preparation of the Caraga Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022 by issuing Resolution No. 44, Series of 2016, “Approving the Process for the Preparation of the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022.”

During its preparation, the Caraga RDP was deliberately aligned with international commitments and national priorities, even as it advances regional aspirations that are based on the region’s realities, natural endowments and comparative advantages.

The Long Term Vision

On 11 October 2016, President Duterte signed Executive Order No. 5 (s. 2016) adopting the Long Term Vision (LTV) for the country dubbed as AmBisyon Natin

2040. The LTV is the result of a process that began in 2015 where more than 300 citizens participated in focus group discussions and close to 10,000 answered a national survey. Technical studies were prepared to identify strategic options for realizing the vision articulated by citizens.

AmBisyon describes the kind of life that Filipinos want to live, and how the country will be by 2040. It presents a picture of the future, a set of personal life goals as well as ideals for the country. The Filipinos’ vision for self by 2040 is “*We will all enjoy a stable and comfortable lifestyle, secure in the knowledge that we have enough for our daily needs and unexpected expenses, that we can plan and prepare for our own and our children’s future. Our family lives together in a place of our own, and we have the freedom to go where we desire, protected and enabled by a clean, efficient, and fair government.*” In a nutshell, by the year 2040, the Filipinos have a “*Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Buhay*”.

Matatag means that the family is together, there is time spent with friends, there is work-life balance and Filipinos are volunteering to secure the welfare of others. *Maginhawa* indicates freedom from hunger and poverty, secure home ownership, good transport facilities and travel and vacation. While *Panatag* describes a situation where there is enough resources for day-to-day needs, unexpected

expenses and savings; peace and security, Filipinos have long and healthy lives and retire comfortably.

The long term vision for Country is: *“By 2040, the Philippines shall be a prosperous, predominantly middle class society where no one is poor; our peoples shall live long and healthy lives, be smart and innovative, and shall live in a high-trust society.”*

These visions for self and country shall be the foundation or bedrock of the next four (4) Philippine Development Plans (PDPs) until 2040. This is a progressive approach in planning that transcends political administrations: sustaining the gains of one while pursuing the priorities of another.

Under the Duterte Administration, the country commits to attain by end of 2022 a *“Foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust society and a globally competitive knowledge economy”* through *“malasakit at pagbabago para sa patuloy na pag-unlad.”* All of these aspirations or AmBisyon is hoped to be realized through a clean, efficient and people-oriented government.

The development strategies of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 are categorized into three pillars: (1) enhancing the social fabric, (2) reducing inequality, and (3) increasing potential growth of the economy. These pillars shall be supported by peace and order and strong national security, massive infrastructure development and ecological integrity.

Other Bases of the Plan

The formulation of the Caraga RDP 2017-2022 is also guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), President Duterte’s priorities known as 0 to 10 Socio-economic Agenda, the Six-Point Peace Agenda of the Philippines, Caraga Roadmap for Peace, National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2015-2045, Mindanao Spatial Strategy/ Development Framework (MSS/DF) 2015-2045 and Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) 2015-2045.

The **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), officially known as *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* is an international covenant that calls for affirmative and sustainable actions for people, planet, peace, partnership, and prosperity. This is a set of 17 “Global Goals” with 169 targets between them that will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas that are considered of critical importance for humanity and the planet.

The President’s 0 to 10 Socioeconomic Agenda includes achieving zero (0) criminality, improving macroeconomic policies, reforming the tax system, accelerating infrastructure development, strengthening basic education, promoting S&T and stepping up the implementation of the responsible parenthood and reproductive health law.

The Six-Point Peace Agenda of the Philippines outlines a conflict-sensitive action agenda that intends to address long

standing conflicts in a meaningful and sustainable manner.

Meanwhile, the Caraga Road Map for Peace provides a peace building orientation to the plan of actions for FY 2016 – 2020 of the Caraga Regional Peace and Order Council, Provincial/City/Municipal Peace and Order Councils, civil society organizations (CSOs), peace partners and other stakeholders in addressing decades-long conflicts in Caraga Region. It identifies four overall results or outcomes based on the major conflict lines in the region, which are criminality, insurgency, issues affecting the indigenous peoples, and resource-based conflicts.

NSS is the core strategy of the National Physical Framework Plan (NPFP) 2015-2045, which intends to guide sub-national

physical and land use planning. It provides strategies for regional agglomeration, connectivity, and vulnerability reduction.

The Mindanao Spatial Strategy Development Framework (MSSDF) 2015-2045 is a 30-year development framework that provides spatial and development directions to fully optimize Mindanao’s resources and harness its potentials through physical and economic integration of its regions.

The Caraga Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) 2015-2045 provides the spatial direction of Caraga’s development for the next 30 years. It provides the parameters for the planned allocation, use and management of the region’s land and other physical resources.

The Planning Process

Even prior to the issuance of MC No. 12, Series of 2016, “Directing the Formulation of the Philippine Development Plan and the Public Investment Program for the Period 2017-2022,” the Caraga RDC during its 88th Council Meeting on 27 September 2016, passed Resolution No. 44, Series of 2016, “Approving the Process for the Preparation of the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022.” Said Guidelines describes the series of activities that will be conducted to formulate the RDP and its accompanying documents

namely, the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP), and Results Matrix (RM).

The RDC created five (5) Regional Planning Committees composed of regional line agencies, local government units, RDC-Private Sector Representatives, academe and civil society organizations that will serve as the technical arm in the preparation of the Plan. The committees are as follows:

Table 1.1 Regional Planning Committees

RDC SECTORAL COMMITTEES	REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEES	REGIONAL PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEES
RDC-Economic Development Committee	RPC 1: Economic Development	Macroeconomic Stability Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry Industry and Services

RDC SECTORAL COMMITTEES	REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEES	REGIONAL PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEES
	RPC 5: Ecological Integrity	
RDC-Social Development Committee	RPC 2: Human Capital Development	Human Capital Development Resiliency of Families and Individuals
RDC-Infrastructure Development Committee	RPC 3: Infrastructure for Development	
RDC-Development Administration Committee RDC-Social Development Committee	RPC 4: Enhancing the Social Fabric	Building Trust in Public Institutions Peace, Public Order and Security Valuing Cultural Diversity

Prior to the actual planning exercise, the committees conducted a series of Assessment Workshops to measure the performance of the region in implementing the Revised Caraga RDP 2013-2016 in terms of attaining its goals, objectives and targets.

To support the preparation of the plan, the committees then conducted several activities, namely, Results Matrices and Regional Core Indicator System Workshop and Writeshop cum Strategic Planning Workshop.

To ensure vertical and horizontal alignment and integration of the RDP with local plans, the RDC conducted two (2) rounds of Provincial/City Consultations with various stakeholders of the five (5) provinces and six (6) cities of the region. The first round was conducted prior to the drafting of the Plan and the second round of Consultations was done after the Plan has been drafted. The RDC likewise conducted a Strategic Action Planning and Workshop for Economic Chapters and RDP Integration Workshop prior to RDP finalization.

Plan Legitimization

After the 2nd Round of Provincial/City Consultations, the draft Plan was presented to the four (4) RDC Sectoral Committees. These committees then endorsed the plan to the RDC for adoption and approval. During the 90th Caraga RDC Meeting on 02

March 2016, the Council passed Resolution No. 8. Series of 2017, “Approving and Adopting the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022.”

The Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022

The Caraga RDP 2017-2022 seeks to contribute to the attainment of a “*Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na*

Buhay” by laying down a more solid foundation for inclusive growth, a high trust society, and a globally competitive

knowledge economy at the regional level.

In the Plan, poverty incidence is targeted to go down to 20.3 percent by 2022. The economy is expected to grow on average by 4.3 percent to 7.8 percent annually until the end of the plan period. The growth is expected to translate to an employment rate of 94.5 percent to 95.3 percent while underemployment will be brought down to 20 percent from its current level of 26.8 percent.

Consistent with the PDP, the strategies of the Caraga RDP are grouped under the three major pillars of enhancing the social fabric, reducing inequality, and increasing potential growth.

The Caraga RDP is organized into seven (7) parts. Part I provides the overall context for the Plan. Part II is about enhancing the social fabric to build the foundations for a high-trust society. Part III stresses the importance of reducing inequalities in economic development opportunities. Part IV focuses on increasing potential growth. Part V calls for a supportive economic environment that will enable the economy to sustain growth, while Part VI is about foundations for inclusive and sustainable development. Finally, Part VII describes the institutional arrangements for implementing and monitoring the plan and in sustaining the momentum towards AmBisyon Natin 2040

Regional Vision

Consistent with the LTV, the Caraga Region aims to achieve this vision by 2040: *“With the blessings of the Almighty, Caraga Region is sustainably developed, culturally*

responsive, and globally competitive; where everyone equitably enjoys the fruits of peace and prosperity.”

The region recognizes that it is only under the providence of the Almighty that Caraganons can move towards their desired state of development. Guided by the 2030 sustainable development agenda adopted by the United Nations last September 2015, the President’s 0 to 10 Socioeconomic Agenda and Six Point Peace Agenda, Caraga Roadmap for Peace, National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2015-2045, Mindanao Spatial Strategy/ Development Framework (MSS/DF) 2015-2045, and Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) 2015-2045, the region’s development shall focus on addressing socioeconomic concerns and preserving the integrity of the environment to ensure that resources will be available to meet the development requirements of present and future generations while maintaining the resilience of ecosystems against different forms of natural and man-made hazards.

Being culturally responsive means recognizing and respecting the region’s diverse cultures. All development efforts shall be sensitive to the social and cultural beliefs and traditions of the peoples in Caraga particularly that of the indigenous peoples’, as they are the most vulnerable.

To become globally competitive requires the effective and efficient integration of appropriate policies, plans, strategies and programs that will encourage development of the region’s natural and human resources. This requires huge financial investment.

Enhancing security and public order as well as peace and development in the urban and rural areas of the region is a prerequisite in attracting and keeping investments and in ensuring sustained socioeconomic gains.

Goal

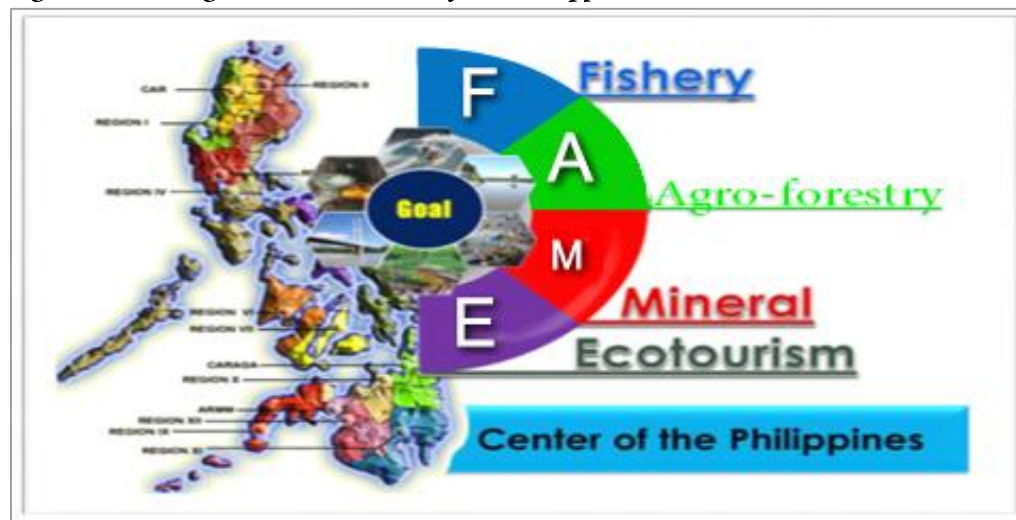
By 2022, the Caraga Region will become the ***“Fishery, Agro-Forestry, Mineral and Ecotourism (FAME) Center of the Country.”***

To become the FAME Center of the country, the region will develop and utilize its abundant natural endowments, i.e. agriculture, fishery and aquaculture, forestry, mineral and ecotourism.

Becoming the FAME Center of the country, requires increasing the productivity of the region’s fishery and agro-forestry sectors through processing and value adding

activities and harnessing its tourism industry by particularly developing its vast eco-tourism potentials through massive promotion and provision of strategic infrastructure support. While mining will remain as a key sector, in the interest of sustainable development and protecting ecological integrity, mining activities will be limited to existing mining areas excluding watersheds within the mining concessions. A moratorium on the issuance of new Mineral Processing Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) or Exploration permits (EPs) will be advocated to National government. Strict enforcement of environmental laws and regulations will be observed to protect the integrity of the environment. Rehabilitation of mined-out areas will be strictly undertaken. Value adding and processing of minerals will likewise be pursued rather than just mere extraction of mineral ores.

Figure 1.1. Caraga as FAME Center of the Philippines



The development of the fishery sector will be geared towards processing of marine and inland water resources including

canning of fish and exporting high value aquamarine products such as sea lobsters,

crabs, tuna, live grouper etc. which are abundant in the region.

Increasing the area for timber production and improving forest and the productivity of agricultural lands and processing of agri-forestry products will boost the growth of the agro-forestry sectors. Self-sufficiency particularly for rice and other food staples will be aggressively pursued while increasing production for high value crops and vegetables to supply interregional needs and for export. Increasing the region's livestock production is also a priority. Processing of major crops such as abaca, coconut, rubber and palm oil will continue. Development of industrial plantations and processing will be sustained while the wood processing industry of the region will be revived.

Connectivity within Caraga and its linkage to other island groups and neighboring regions will be improved to support the growth of its priority industries. Roads going to tourism destinations are of top priority; while additional world class tourism areas will be developed. Redundant access shall be prioritized for funding and implementation to avoid the isolation of the region during disaster events.

Economic Zones will be established in the provinces and cities in support of FAME. Massive investments will be poured into the priority sectors and the government will establish an environment conducive for business to attract both domestic and foreign investors in the region. The private sector is recognized as an indispensable partner in all development efforts as the region pursues its goals.

02

Regional Trends
and Prospects

Regional Trends and Prospects

The next six years is foreseen as a period of major changes for the nation and the region. To appropriately plan for the future, this chapter highlights the significant trends in inter-related areas such as economic, demographic, technological, social, and environmental.

Economic Trends

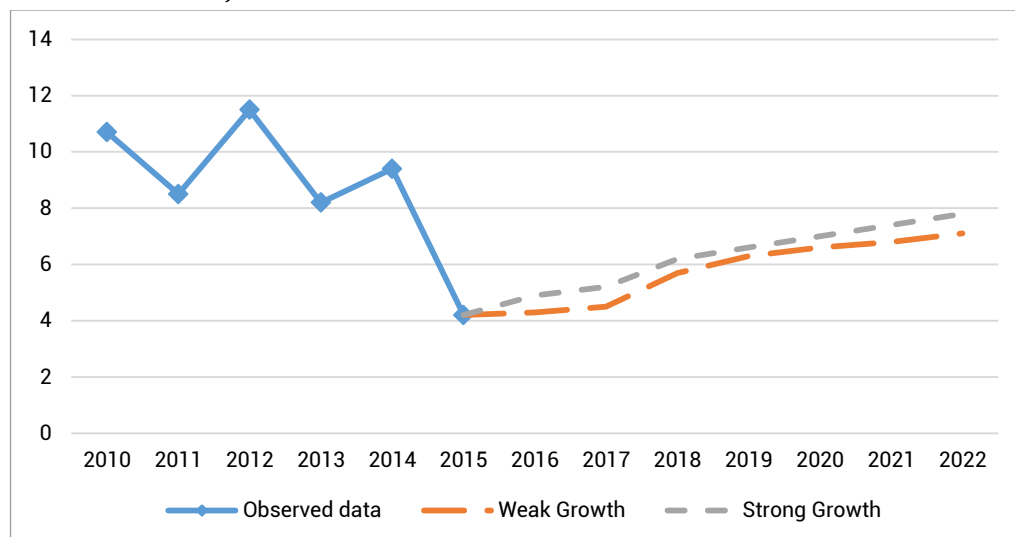
Gross Regional Domestic Product

The growth of Caraga's economy has been erratic for the past five years. In 2012, the GRDP growth was at its highest at 11.5 percent making the region the fastest growing in the Philippines. However, the region's economy slowed down in 2015 on account of a declining performance of the

agriculture, fishery, and forestry (AFF) sector.

With the right economic policies, improvements in productivity and efficiency, especially in the AFF sector, the region can bounce back to achieve a 7.8 percent growth by 2022.

Figure 2.1 Observed and Simulated Growth Scenarios of Caraga Gross Regional Domestic Product, 2010-2022



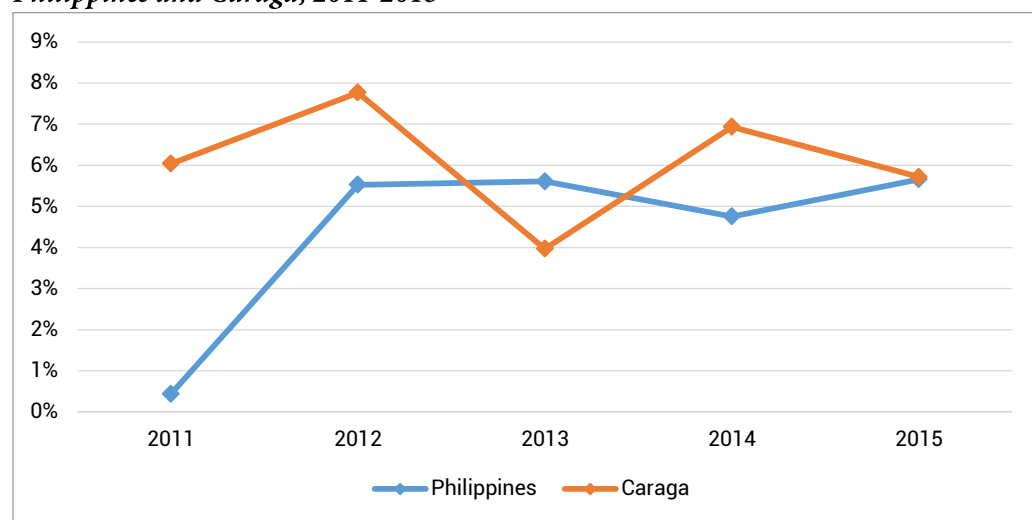
Source: Observed data from PSA, Forecasted Scenarios from NEDA

In terms of Labor Productivity, which is measured by the output of the country/region achieved per unit of labor input, Caraga's labor productivity averaged at 6.09 percent from 2011 to 2015. This is 1.69 percentage points higher than the country's labor productivity which averaged at 4.40 percent. It was also observed that the country's labor

productivity is increasing over time while the region's productivity has been intermittent due to the slowdown of Caraga's economy.

Strategies to improve the region's economy are discussed in the succeeding chapters of the Plan.

Figure 2.2 Labor Productivity Growth Rate (GDP/GRDP per employed persons), Philippines and Caraga, 2011-2015



Source: Data from PSA, Computation from NEDA

Social and Demographic Trends

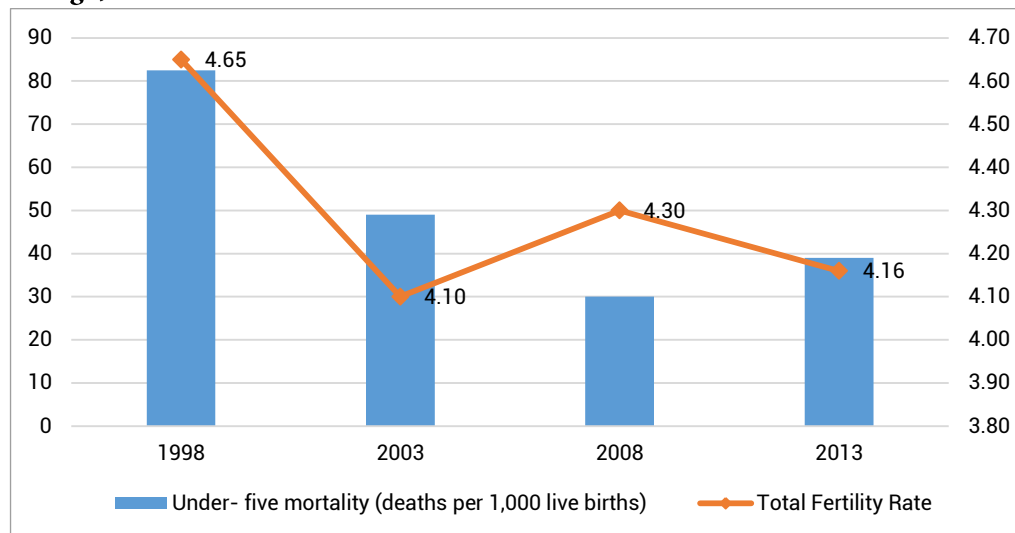
Population and Movement

Caraga's population is recorded at 2,596,709 in 2015. The region's population is 2.57 percent of the country's total population of 100,979,303.

The average annual growth rate of the region declined from 1.49 percent for the period 2000-2010 to 1.28 percent in 2010-2015. One factor that contributed to the

decline of the region's population growth is the declining fertility rates of the region. The decrease of population growth, as well as the decline in fertility and mortality rates indicates that Caraga is experiencing a demographic transition that will result in a gradual change in age distribution. This is evident in the drop in the proportion of population aged 0-14 years old in 2010 (see *Figure 13.3 Distribution of Population by Age Group, 2000 and 2010*).

Figure 2.3 Under Five Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) and Total Fertility Rates, Caraga, 1998-2013



Source: NDHS, 1998-2013

Another factor is the movement of Caraganons. It is observed that among the provinces of Caraga, the Province of Dinagat Islands posted an average annual population growth of 0.05 percent in 2015 despite high fertility, which indicates an outmigration of its populace. (see Figure

13.1 Annual Population Growth Rate of Caraga Region by Province and City, 2015 and Table 13.2 Population 5 Years Old and Over by Place of Residence in 2005 by Region of Residence in 2010).

Housing and Resettlement Trends

Housing and resettlement. The region's poor and underprivileged are unable to acquire decent housing due to the huge gap between their household incomes and the cost of land and housing construction, exacerbating the problem on informal settler families (ISFs). Half of the ISFs in the region live in danger areas, namely, esteros, waterways, shorelines, riverbanks, and landslide and flood-prone areas.

The current administration is determined to establish the Mindanao Railway System (MRS) to connect Mindanao Regions. This

would result in the possible displacement of residents, increasing the number of ISFs. Thus, relocation and resettlement of affected families should be anticipated and planned for while government is negotiating for right-of-way for large-scale infrastructure projects. Another problem that may arise with the construction of the MRS would be the proliferation of ISFs within right of way of the railway system. Hence, appropriate measures should be undertaken to address this concern.

Congestion in highly urbanized cities.

With the increase in population and the immigration brought about by urbanization, major cities within and outside the region have become congested and will become more so in the years to come. Hence, adopting the Smart City concept is one of the best alternatives to address the concerns on congestion and is the best way to build safe and secure communities. The smart city concept has been expanded to include other aspects such as economy, mobility, environment, people, and the government. Creating a smart city requires stakeholders to adjust. It involves a change in perspective and a change in lifestyle. To achieve a smart city, buildings and other infrastructure

properties must be sustainable and integrated with the transportation system.

Despite the initial high cost, the smart city concept can maximize the use of resources particularly land. In the long run the benefits outweigh the costs. Further, promoting smart cities to local government units in building a resilient economy can provide a huge opportunity for growth in the Region. Smart cities can be the platform for developing a knowledge economy, one that is resilient to natural disasters and climate change. However, given the huge investment requirement for building smart cities, the LGUs will have to engage or partner with the private sector in this endeavor.

Governance and Political trends

Waning dependency of LGUs on IRA.

Local government units (LGUs) remain highly dependent on the IRA in funding programs/projects and in delivering services. Butuan City has the lowest IRA dependency rate in the last three years. Surigao Del Norte on the other hand showed the most improvement; its dependency rate dropped from 96 percent in 2013 to 73 percent in 2015. Revenues from fees and charges have increased Surigao Del Norte's coffers accounting for most of its income in 2015.

Among the provinces, Surigao Del Sur is the most IRA dependent generating only three to six percent of its revenue from local sources. This however, may not be an accurate picture as some of the Province's local income goes to its trust fund and not to the general fund. Thus, is not accounted as part of its local income.

It is anticipated that the IRA dependency of LGUs will wane in the years to come as they are able to strengthen their respective economies.

Creation/revitalization of Local AIDS Council in the midst of increasing HIV/AIDS incidence.

Societal concerns like increasing HIV and AIDS incidence require concerted multi-stakeholder interventions. The Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998 mandated the establishment of LAC to ensure active involvement of the LGUs in combatting HIV/AIDS. However, most of the LACs in the region are no longer functional and need revitalization. With the renewed efforts of the DOH and other partners to stem the further increase in HIV/AIDS incidence, it is expected that the LGUs will finally join the fight against the dreaded disease.

Preparation/updating of DRR-CCA enhanced CLUPs. All provinces were able to prepare their DRR-CCA Enhanced Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP), which were launched in 2015. However, only 20 percent of the cities and municipalities were able to prepare DRR-CCA Enhanced Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs). The low compliance is due to lack of technical capacity in physical planning particularly in GIS-based mapping. The DILG and HLURB continue to provide trainings and technical assistance to LGUs for the updating of their CLUPs. DRR-CCA enhanced CLUPs are critical in making communities resilient against climatological and geological hazards. Thus, LGUs are encouraged to update their CLUPs as these should inform the CDPs.

Change in the form of government. The change in the form of government from unitary presidential to parliamentary federal system of government is one of the priority programs of the present administration. This shall institute sharing of powers between the federal government and the state governments. With the proposed timeline as presented by DILG, the current administration targets to establish the actual transition from unitary to a federal government before 2022. Given the anticipated massive adjustment in the country's political structure, an in-depth study should be undertaken on the readiness of local government units and national government agencies in terms of resource mobilization, institutional arrangements, and in determining mechanisms that are most viable in the creation of federal states.

Environmental Trends

Climate Change

Caraga Region has a Type II climate, which means the region has no definite dry and wet seasons. Based on the PAGASA's observed seasonal temperature data from 1971 to 2000, the region recorded an average annual temperature of 27.24°C. Highest average temperature was noted for the months of June, July and August with 27.28°C. Lowest average temperature was recorded in December, January and February.

PAGASA's climate projection indicated a significant change in the region's climatic condition over the next 50 years. There will be a substantial increase in the region's

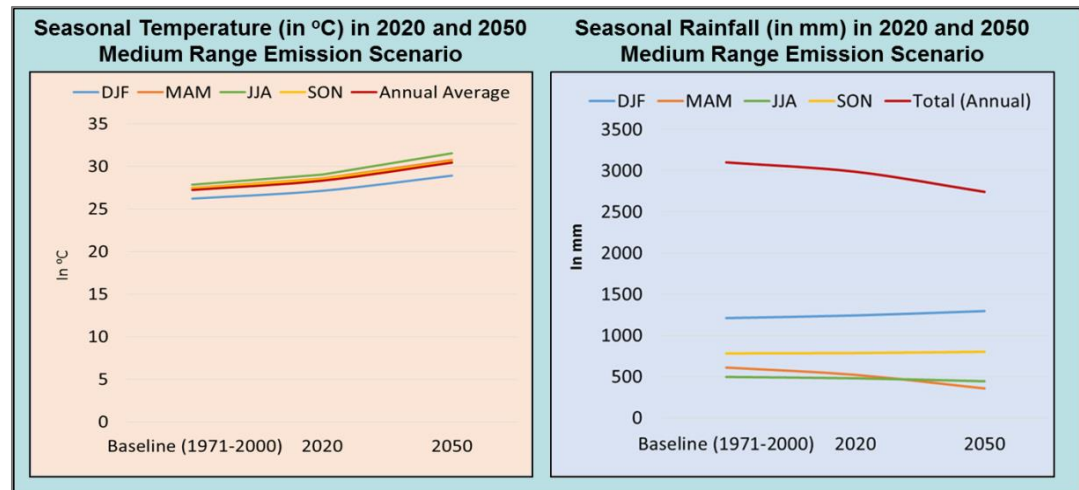
average temperature of 1.1°C in 2020 and 2.1°C in 2050. Increase in the average temperature will be greater in the provinces of Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Norte with both having an increase of 1.3°C in 2020, while the latter will have the highest increase of 2.6°C in 2050. The months of December, January and February, which used to be the colder months in the region, will become warmer as the average temperature for these months will increase by 0.9°C in 2020 and 1.8°C in 2050.

Substantial changes are foreseen in the region's seasonal rainfall patterns. PAGASA's rainfall projection for the region shows a substantial reduction in

rainfall for the months of March to November. A large decrease in rainfall is noted during the months of March, April and May at an average rate of 15.23 percent in 2020 and 31.23 percent in 2050. Less rain will be particularly felt in Agusan del

Norte, which has the highest reduction in rainfall of 24.4 percent in 2020 and 36.5 percent in 2050. Except for Agusan del Norte, the rest of the provinces in the region will be experiencing increase in rainfall.

Figure 2.4 Observed and Projected Seasonal Temperature and Rainfall, Caraga Region



Source: PAGASA

The region is one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to climate-related hazards, such as tropical cyclones, flooding, drought, rain-induced landslide, sea level rise, and storm surges. Four (4) of the region's five (5) provinces are included in the top 20 most vulnerable provinces in the country to climate change, namely Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and the Province of Dinagat Islands. While Agusan del Norte is not in the top 20, the province is still vulnerable to hazards.

In view of the foregoing, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change

adaptation in development processes is indispensable in increasing the region's resiliency against natural disasters. Fundamental to improving the region's resiliency against natural hazards is a deep understanding of the region's vulnerability and identifying adaptation deficit, integration of climate change adaptation in decision making and policy making processes, including the determination and provision of funding for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation-related programs and projects. Specific DRR/CCA-related strategies and programs and projects are thoroughly discussed in Chapters 9, 11, 12, 19 and 20.

Technological Trends

Growth in private spending for research activities. Data shows that research spending in the region significantly improved by 184.41 percent with private industry investing heavily in research activities. From PhP9.7 Million in 2011, private sector spending significantly increased to PhP35.8 million in 2013 indicating a growing interest in improving competitiveness and productivity.

In comparison, research activities in the government, have shown a declining trend. From a total expenditure of PhP24.7 Million in 2011, it went down to PhP20.8 Million in 2013. Expenditure for research

and development in higher education institutions (HEIs) generally increased with the state universities and colleges (SUCs) displaying a remarkable growth in spending of 950 percent in 2013 compared to the 2011 figure (see Chapter 14.)

Commercialized Technologies. From 2012 to 2014 there was an increase in demand for technology interventions for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. However, it slowed down in 2015 and 2016. RDI-patented technologies on the other hand gradually increased for the period 2012 to 2014.

Figure 2.5 Technology Interventions to MSMEs, Caraga, 2012-2016

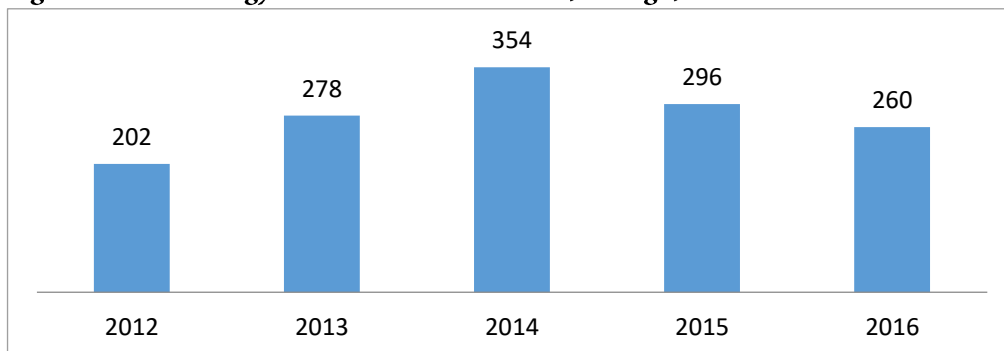
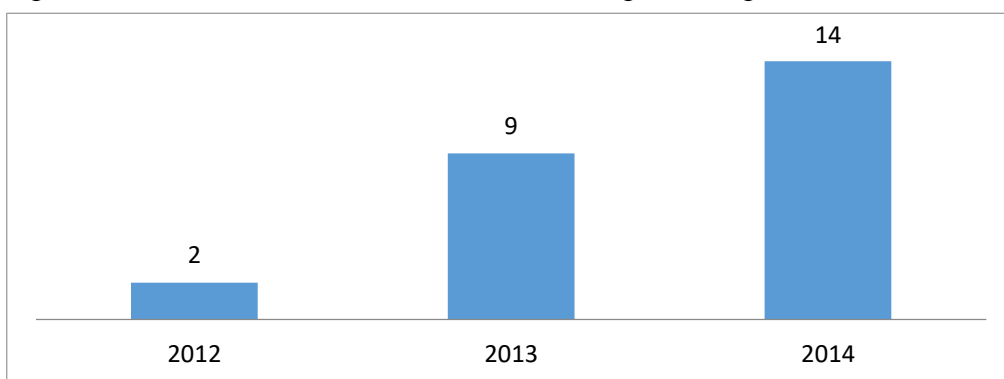


Figure 2.6 Commercialized RDI-Patented Technologies, Caraga, 2012-2014



Catching up on farm mechanization. The Philippines in general is lagging behind other ASEAN members in terms of agricultural mechanization. To address the challenges faced by the agriculture sector, the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) designed and developed farm machineries and postharvest technologies and systems.

In the region, intensive promotion of farm mechanization has been put in place. The government sustained its interventions to improve farm productivity by providing improved machineries to rice and corn farmers such as combined harvesters, rice reapers, multi-crop combined harvester,

tractors, pump and engine sets, corn village type dryer, and corn picker.

Emerging technology-dependent jobs.

With the continuous effort to improve digital infrastructure in the region, a dynamic shift towards Information Technology-Business Process Outsourcing (IT-BPO) Industry is observed. The number of home-based workers in Caraga is increasing as more and more millennial job seekers rely on the internet and technology-based advancements for employment. In fact, by 2019, Butuan City is envisioned to become one of the “next wave” cities in the country providing hubs for the IT-BPO Industry. This trend indicates that the region is slowly moving towards a knowledge-based economy.

03

Regional
Spatial Strategy

Regional Spatial Strategy

Overall Spatial Strategy

The Caraga Regional Spatial Development Framework (CRSDF) 2015-2045 provides spatial and development directions to transform Caraga Region into a dynamic and sustainable economy, where everyone equitably benefits from the fruits of progress. It adopts the National Spatial Strategy or the NSS that espouses development through regional agglomeration, connectivity, and vulnerability reduction.

The CRSDF is likewise aligned with the Mindanao Spatial Strategy/Development Framework (MSS/DF) 2015-2045, a 30-year development framework for Mindanao. Under the MSS/DF, Butuan and Surigao Cities are included in the eleven (11) regional centers of Mindanao. The city of Bislig, Surigao del Sur and the municipality of San Francisco, Agusan del Sur belong to the 27 sub-regional cities and municipalities. The other cities of Tandag, Bayugan, and Cabadbaran form part of the development nucleus of the surrounding municipalities of the region. In the MSS/DF, Caraga will develop the following key development zones (KDZ): food production, fishery development, forest plantation, mineral development, and ecotourism development.

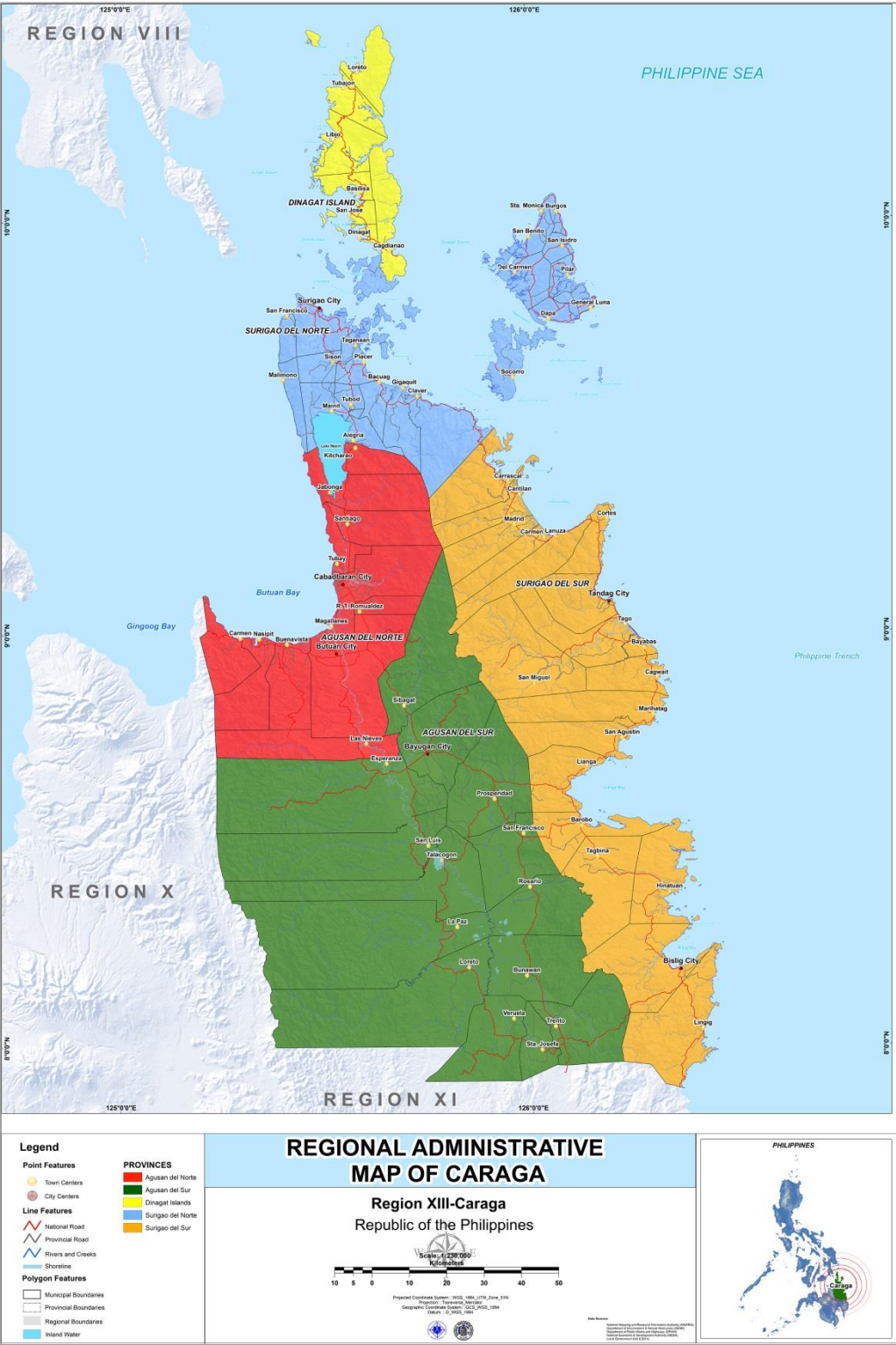
The functional roles of Caraga in the MSS/DF are consistent with its long-term goal of becoming the Fishery, Agro-forestry, mineral and Ecotourism (FAME)

Center of the Philippines by 2022. In pursuing this goal, the region is adopting a *polycentric network* of development anchored on strong interaction between neighboring cities or urban areas to develop specialized and complementary assets while avoiding large scale urban sprawls and territorial competition.

This spatial framework involves not only the process of deconcentrating functions of urban and sub-urban areas but also developing areas of cooperation and coordination within an institutionalized development network to ensure the competitiveness of assets and investment potentials. Hence, the region shall strengthen intra-LGU alliances, operationalize key development zones/special economic zones, and put in place the necessary infrastructure support facilities and utilities, such as appropriate transport channels, energy and telecommunication.

Embracing this framework provides also a great advantage to the region in reducing various risks brought about by man-made and natural hazards by increasing its system capacity through geographic, physical and operational separation of facilities and functions or decentralizing services or functions and locating them in strategic and risk-free or safer areas.

Map 3.1 Regional Administrative Map of Caraga



[illegible]

Functional roles of provinces and cities

To attain FAME, the provinces and cities are assuming functional roles that are based on their natural endowments and consistent with their own development aspirations:

- **Butuan City:** The regional center and the major trading, processing, commercial and service center. It is also the show window of history and culture in Mindanao.
- **Surigao City:** The commercial and trading center in the northeastern seaboard and the major processing center for minerals and fishery.
- **Bislig City:** The center of organic high value crops and aquamarine products.
- **Tandag City:** The institutional, tourism, and trading hub.
- **Cabadbaran City:** The agri-production and processing zone for high value crops and aquaculture products.
- **Bayugan City:** The agro-industrial and processing zone.
- **Agusan del Norte:** The agri-processing and industrial estates zone.
- **Agusan del Sur:** The agri-forestry center and food basket of the region.
- **Surigao del Norte:** The major ecotourism destination, fishery producer, and mineral-based processing industrial center of the region.
- **Surigao del Sur:** The agro-industrial, fishery, forestry, and tourism zone.
- **Dinagat Islands:** The ecotourism and fishery center of the region.

Land Classification

The region has a total land area of 1,913,842 hectares classified as follows: 30 percent alienable and disposable lands (A&D) and 70 percent forestland.

On the production side, the areas utilized for agricultural purposes cover 30.42 percent, timber production comprised of 52 percent, and mineral production, 9.33 percent of the region's land. About 71 percent of the region's forestlands, which comprise of 57.57 percent production forest and 13.01 percent protection forests are used for timber production.

Population

As of 2015, the region's population reached 2,596,709 with a population growth rate of 1.28% and a population density of 136 persons/ km². The region's population is expected to double in 2069.

In 2040, the region's population will reach 3,519,917. Among the identified growth centers, Butuan City will have the largest population with 513,326. This represents a 34 percent increment of its 2015 population. However, Surigao City will have the highest population growth with 37 percent to reach a population size of 243,839 in 2040. Bislig City's population, which declined in 2015, is expected to grow minimally during the period. Among the provinces, Agusan del Sur will have the largest population of 943,009. In terms of population growth, Surigao del Norte will have the highest increase of 34 percent in its population size, which is estimated to reach 737,005 in 2040.

Map 3.3 Functional Roles of the Provinces and Cities

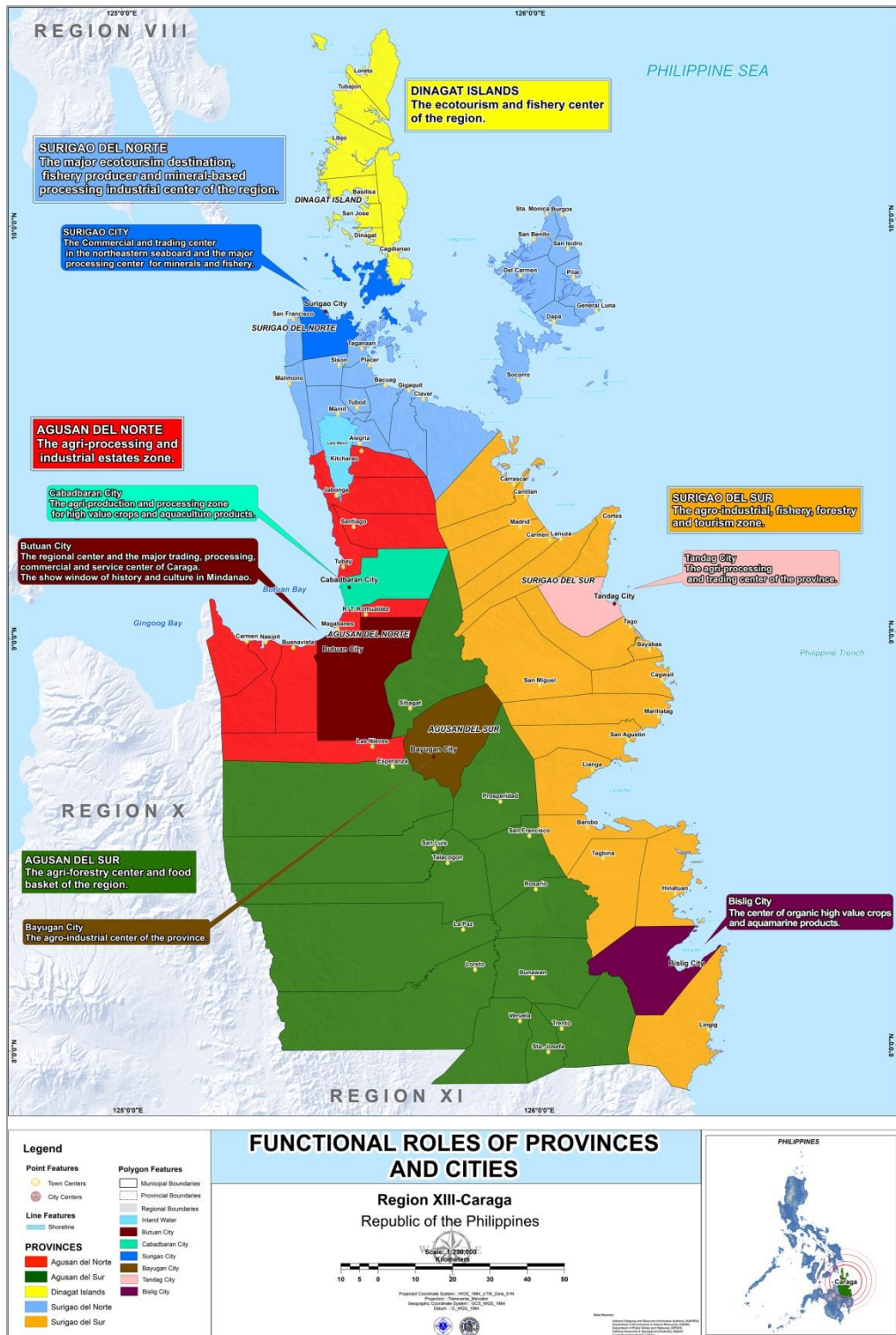


Table 3.1 Projected Population, Caraga 2015, 2022, 2028, 2034 and 2040

PROVINCE/ CITY	POPULATION 2015	AAGR	2022	2028	2034	2040
Caraga Region	2,596,709	1.28	2,801,887	3,023,276	3,262,159	3,519,917
Butuan City	337,063	1.77	374,439	415,961	462,086	513,326
Agusan del Norte	354,503	1.23	382,514	410,293	441,399	474,863
Cabadbaran City	73,639	1.27	79,535	85,634	92,345	99,583
Agusan del Sur	700,653	1.25	756,015	812,848	875,513	943,009
Bayugan City	103,202	0.77	111,356	113,090	118,384	123,925
Dinagat Islands	127,152	0.05	137,199	127,910	128,290	128,672
Surigao del Norte	485,088	1.76	523,417	597,923	663,832	737,005
Surigao City	154,137	1.93	166,316	193,867	217,422	243,839
Surigao del Sur	592,250	1.03	639,046	669,358	711,598	756,505
Bislig City	94,535	-0.42	96,924	99,373	101,884	104,458
Tandag City	56,364	1.63	60,818	68,410	75,366	83,030

Notes:

- Computation of projected population is only until 2040 to coincide with the Ambisyon Natin 2040
- Computation of population doubling time (cities and provinces) used Exponential Method: Projected Population = initial value $\times 2^{(t/T)}$
- Since Bislig City indicated a negative growth, computation of projected population used a decaying factor/half-life formula: Projected Population = initial value $\times 0.5^{(t/T)}$.

Proposed Network of Settlements

The identification of the network of settlements was based not only on

population movements but also on the strategic roles of these settlements relative to regional development. The following are the proposed network of settlements in the region:

Table 3.2 Proposed Network of Settlements, 2040

PROVINCES	REGIONAL CENTER	SUB-REGIONAL CENTER	PROVINCIAL GROWTH CENTER	SMALL-MEDIUM TOWNS
Agusan del Norte	Butuan City		Cabadbaran City Buenavista Nasipit	8 municipalities
Agusan del Sur		San Francisco Bayugan City	Trento Prosperidad	10 municipalities + 4 emerging municipalities
Dinagat Islands			San Jose	6 municipalities
Surigao del Norte	Surigao City		Dapa Claver	18 municipalities
Surigao del Sur		Bislig City Tandag City	Barobo Carrascal	15 municipalities

Regional Center

A regional center has a population size of >200,000, and functions as the market and service center with direct links to other areas in the country through land, air and sea transport channels. Butuan City, being

the regional capital, is identified as the main regional center that serves as the major trading, processing, commercial and service center of the region and show window of history and culture in Mindanao.

On the other hand, Surigao City, which serves as entry and exit of Caraga Region to Visayas and Luzon through the Lipata roll on-roll off (RORO) port, functions as the commercial trading center in the north-eastern seaboard and the major processing center for minerals and fishery.

Sub-Regional Center

A sub-regional center has a population size of at least 120,000. The cities of Bislig, Tandag, and Bayugan and the municipality of San Francisco are identified as sub-regional centers. Despite the contraction of the population of Bislig City, its proximity to the Davao Region in the eastern seaboard and the presence of natural resources provide a great development opportunity for the city to elevate itself into a sub-regional center.

Improving/upgrading the Lawigan Port in Bislig City to international standard would change the economic and socio-cultural landscape of the Surigao-Davao coastal municipalities.

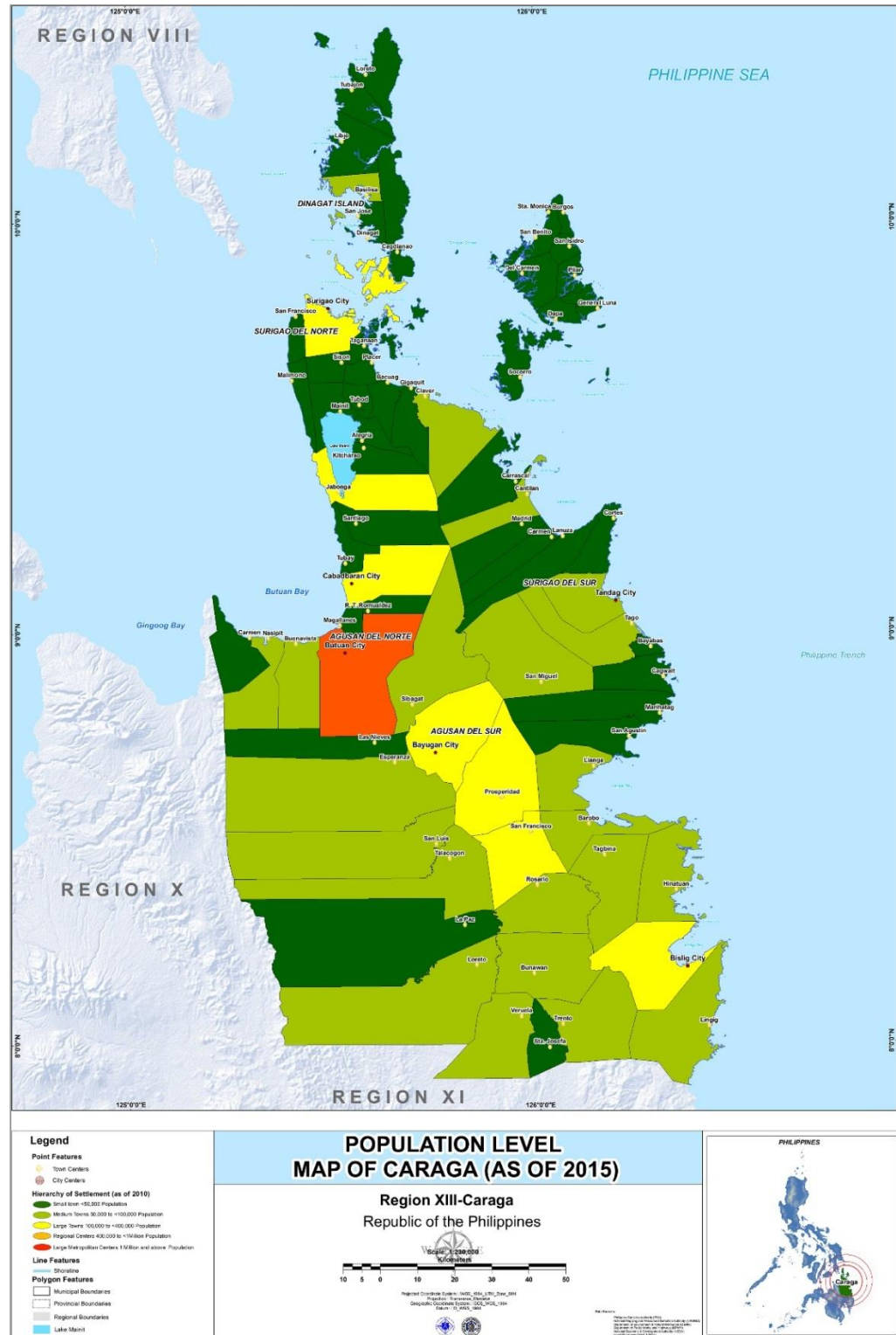
By 2040, the city of Tandag as the provincial capital of Surigao del Sur will flourish as the agri-processing and trading hub of the province and the service center of the mineral processing zone of Carrascal and Cantilan in the same province. Bayugan City, with its unique geographical location as a crossroad to the municipality of San Miguel, Surigao del Sur in the northern front, Malaybalay city of Bukidnon in the western front and other major trading cities of Caraga in the east, plays a pivotal role as the agro-industrial center of the province of Agusan del Sur.

The municipality of San Francisco on the other hand, is a bustling town and is an important trading and commercial center in Agusan del Sur. Traders, businessmen and locals from the adjacent towns of Surigao del Sur prefer San Francisco's highly competitive service and commercial establishments. Its importance will further grow in the coming years as Agusan del Sur will be connected to Region X via the east-west lateral roads in Malaybalay City and municipality of Impasugong of Bukidnon and the Loreto – Tagum Road of Davao Region.

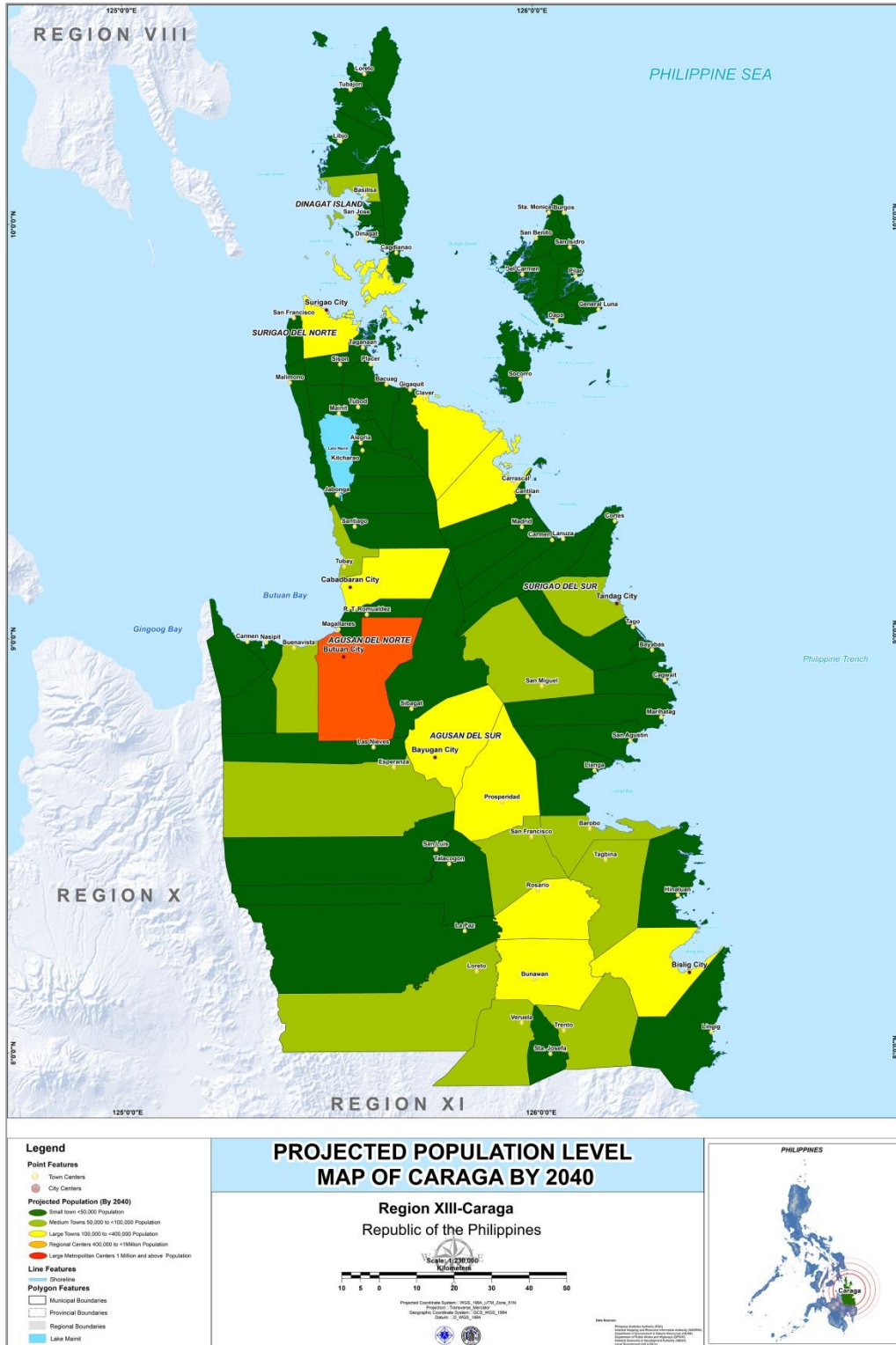
Provincial Center

Provincial centers, which have a minimum population size of 50,000, are cities or municipalities in a province that have roles similar to that of regional centers but in a smaller and more limited scale. Accordingly, the newly created city of Cabadbaran is identified as a provincial center. Cabadbaran City shall serve as the agri-production and processing zone for high value crops and aquaculture products. The municipalities of Buenavista and Nasipit of Agusan del Norte are anticipated to morph into provincial growth centers because of their proximity to the regional center, which is Butuan City. The proposed coastal road with bridges that will traverse Nasipit – Buenavista - Butuan City - Magallanes will disperse development dividends to Buenavista, Nasipit and even Magallanes. The municipality of Trento will serve as the alternate provincial center for Agusan del Sur as it is a crossroad in going to Bislig City of Surigao del Sur, five river towns of Agusan del Sur and Tagum City of Davao Region.

Map 3.4 Population Levels, 2015, Caraga



Map 3.5 Population Levels, 2040, Caraga



Small-Medium Towns

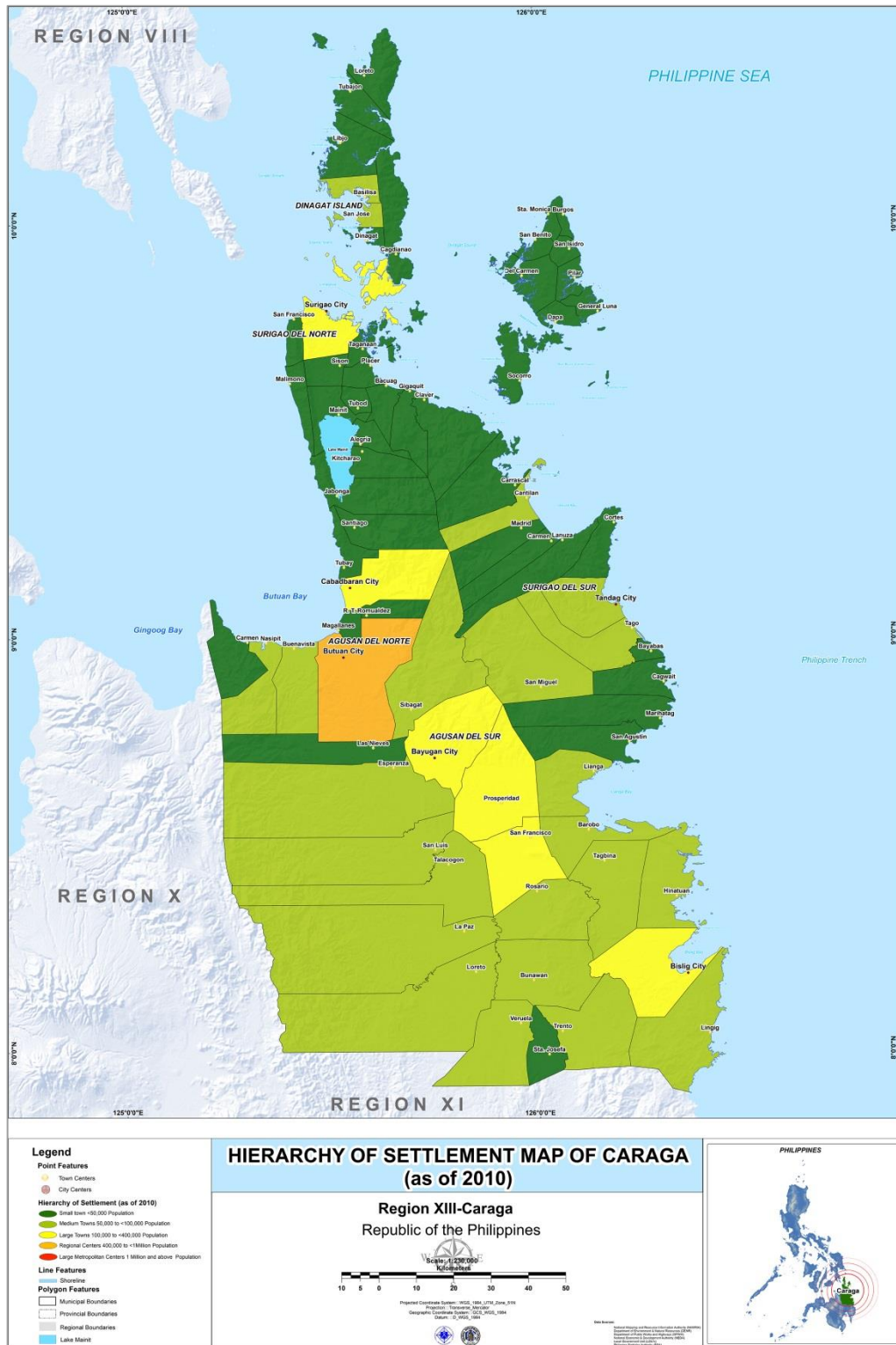
municipalities of the region belong to this category. These are the following:

The small-medium towns have populations of <50,000. The rest of the 61

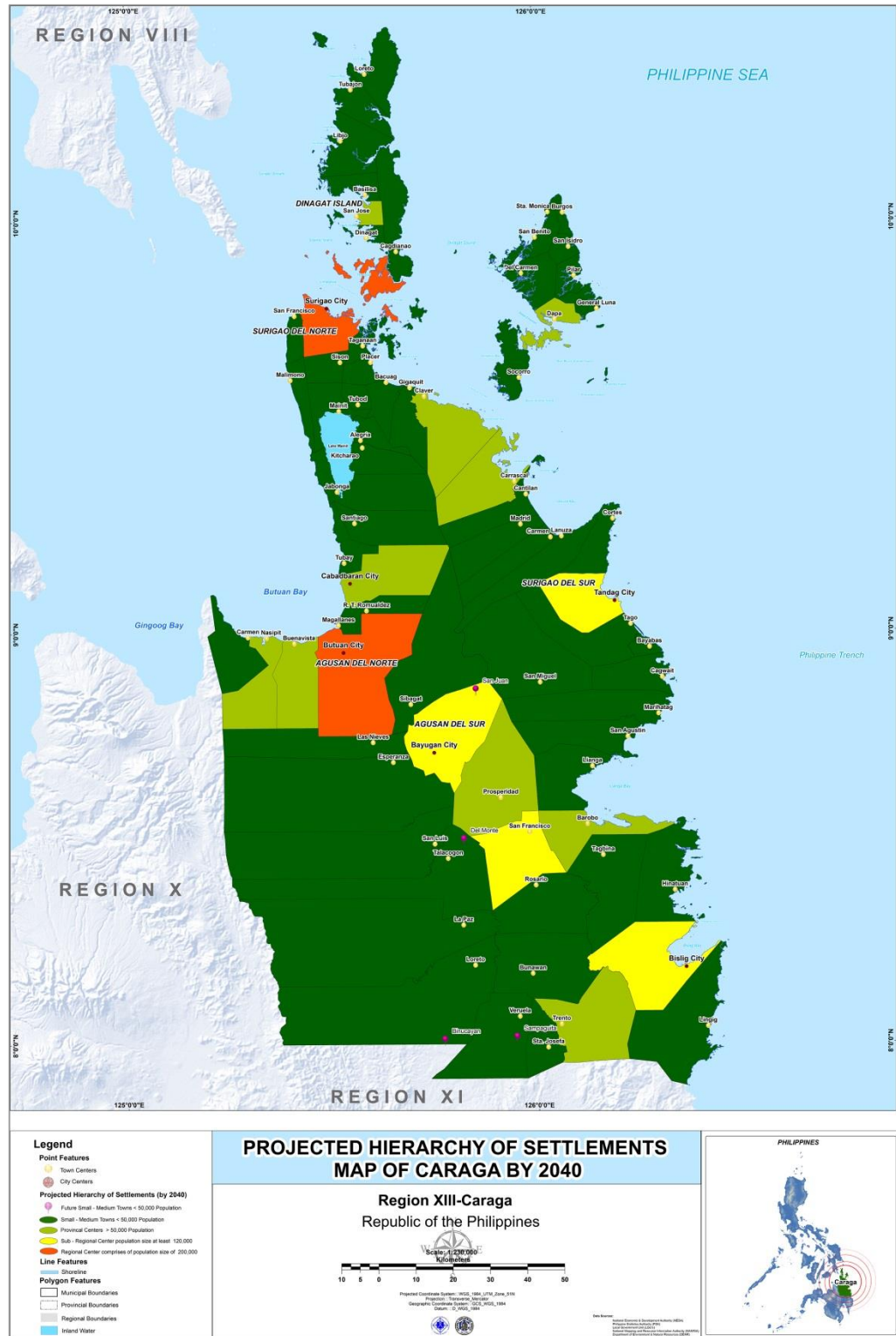
Table 3.3 Projected Small-Medium Towns

AGUSAN DEL NORTE	AGUSAN DEL SUR	PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS	SURIGAO DEL NORTE	SURIGAO DEL SUR
1. Carmen	1. Sibagat	1. Cagdianao	1. Alegria	1. Cantilan
2. Las Nieves	2. Esperanza	2. Dinagat	2. Mainit	2. Madrid
3. Magallanes	3. Talacogon	3. Basilisa	3. Tubod	3. Carmen
4. Remedios T. Romualdez	4. La Paz	4. Libjo	4. Placer	4. Lanuza
5. Tubay	5. Loreto	5. Tubajon	5. Tagana-an	5. Cortes
6. Santiago	6. Veruela	6. Loreto	6. Sison	6. Tago
7. Jabonga	7. Sta. Josefa		7. San Francisco	7. San Miguel
8. Kitcharao	8. Bunawan		8. Malimono	8. Bayabas
	9. Rosario		9. Bacuag	9. Cagwait
	10. San Luis		10. Gigaquit	10. Marihatag
	11. Del Monte of Talacogon		11. Socorro	11. San Agustin
	12. San Juan of Bayugan City		12. General Luna	12. Lianga
	13. Sampaguita of Veruela		13. Pilar	13. Tagbina
	14. Binucayan of Loreto		14. San Isidro	14. Hinatuan
			15. Burgos	15. Lingig
			16. Santa Monica	
			17. San Benito	
			18. Del Carmen	

Map 3.6 Hierarchy of Settlements Map, Caraga, 2010



Map 3.7 Hierarchy of Settlements Map, Caraga, 2040



Intra-LGU Alliances in the Region

Intra-LGU alliances are common in the region. These existing political alliances of LGUs are based on geographical contiguity, homogeneity of resources,

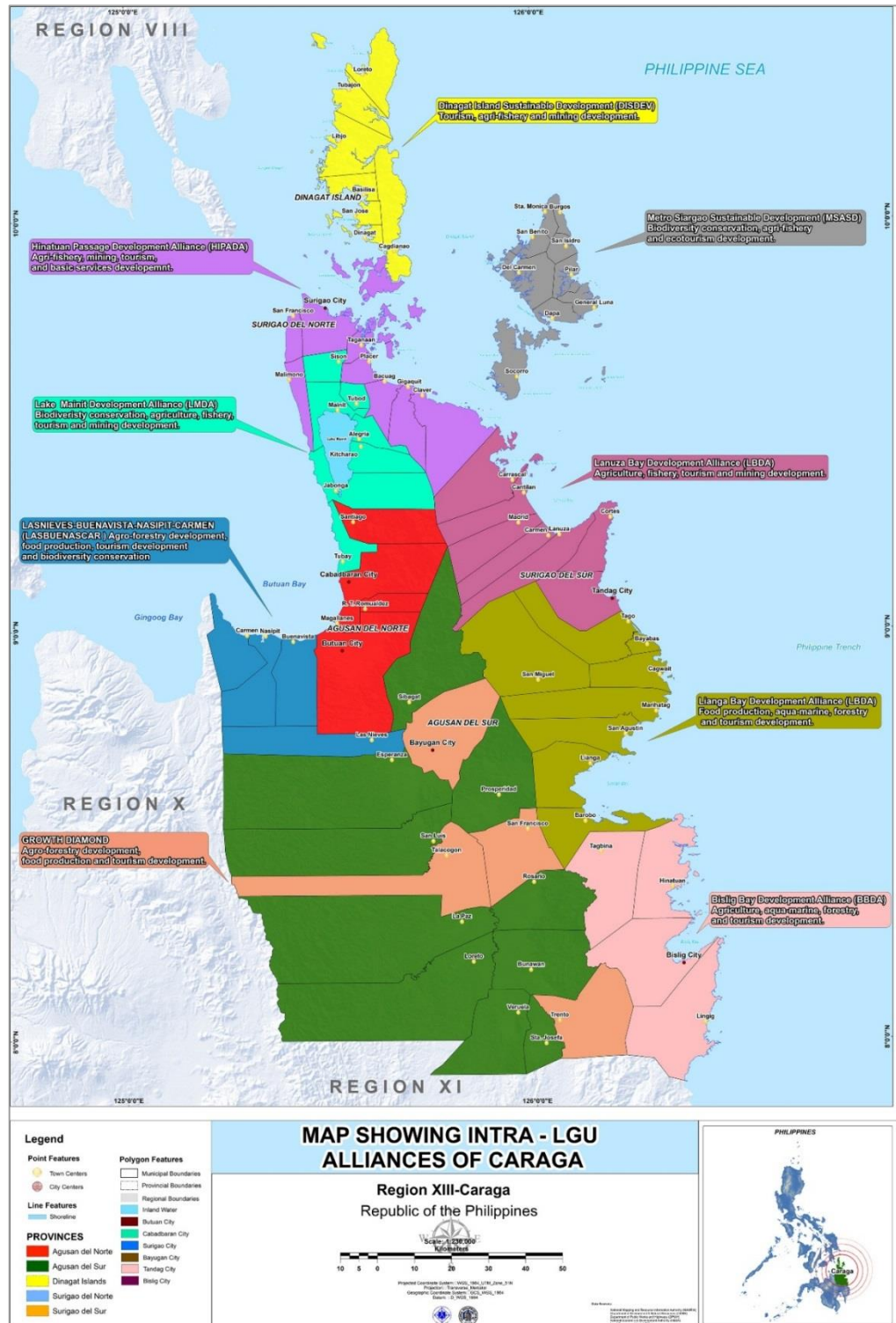
comparable levels of growth and development, and similarity of development issues and concerns. Some of these towns are directly connected to the growth centers as indicated in the table below:

Table 3.4 Intra-LGU Alliances in the Region

PROVINCE	LGU-ALLIANCE	COMPOSITION	FOCUS
Agusan del Norte	LASBUENASCAR Alliance	Las Nieves, Buenavista, Nasipit, and Carmen	Agro-forestry development, food production, tourism development, and biodiversity conservation
	Lake Mainit Development Alliance (LMDA)	Agusan del Norte: Tubay, Jabonga, Santiago, and Kitcharao Surigao del Norte: Alegria, Mainit, Sison, and Tubod	Biodiversity conservation, agriculture, fishery, tourism, and mining development
	Growth Diamond	Bayugan City, San Francisco, Trento, and Talacogon	Agro-forestry development, food production, and tourism development
Dinagat Islands	Dinagat Island Sustainable Development (DISDEV)	San Jose, Cagdianao, Dinagat, Basilisa, Libjo, Tubajon, and Loreto	Tourism, agri- fishery, and mining development
Surigao del Norte	LMDA	See Agusan del Norte	
	Hinatuan Passage Development Alliance (HiPADA)	Claver, Gigaquit, Bacuag, Placer, Tagana-an, Surigao City, San Francisco, and Malimono	Agri-fishery, mining, tourism, and basic services development
	Metro Siargao Alliance for Sustainable Development (MSASD)	Dapa, Socorro, General Luna, Del Carmen, San Benito, Pilar, Sta. Monica, and San Isidro	Biodiversity conservation, agri-fishery, and ecotourism development
Surigao del Sur	Liang Bay Development Alliance (LBDA)	Barobo, Marihatag, Cagwait, San Agustin, Lianga, Tago, Bayabas, and San Miguel	Food production, aqua-marine, and ecotourism development
	Bislig Bay Development Alliance (BBDA)	Hinatuan, Tabina, Bislig City, and Lingig	Agriculture, aqua- marine, forestry, and tourism development
	Lanuza Bay Development Alliance (LBDA)	Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Carmen, Lanuza, Cortes, and Tandag City	Agriculture, fishery, tourism, and mining development

Source: RPPF 2004-2030

Map 3.8 Inter-LGU Alliances, Caraga



Connectivity

The region serves as another gateway to Mindanao through Butuan City and a transit point to and from Visayas and Luzon through the Lipata RORO Port in Surigao City. Thus, infrastructure development shall be one of the region's development priorities to expedite the physical, economic and socio-cultural integration of the region's urban and rural areas as well as its growth centers with other growth centers in Mindanao, Visayas, and Luzon. In line with this, the region shall continuously engage in the development and expansion of different transport channels, such as land, sea and air transports to facilitate the smooth

internal and external flow of goods and services. The principle of redundancy shall be applied to establish alternate transportation routes within and outside the region to avoid isolation particularly during disasters.

Land Transport

As of end of 2015, the region's paved national roads reached 1,262.1 kms. or 82.98 percent of its total road network. Of this figure, paved national primary roads comprise of 23.46 percent (356.8 km), national secondary road 39.04 percent (593.9 km) and national tertiary road 20.47 percent (311.4 km).

Table 3.5 National Road Network Statistics, 2015

TYPE	TOTAL (IN KM)	PAVED (IN KM)	UNPAVED (IN KM)
Primary	358.03	356.80	1.24
Secondary	724.16	593.87	130.29
Tertiary	438.82	311.41	127.41
Total	1,521.03	1,262.07	258.96

Source: DPWH Caraga

The region shall continue to improve its road network, particularly in connecting urban and rural areas and other growth centers in Mindanao. The priority road network projects include roads connecting Caraga Region to Davao provinces, Bukidnon, and Misamis Oriental through the East West Lateral Road segments; Tourism Road Infrastructure Projects (TRIPC); and several road networks linking service facilities and utilities, key production areas and conflict-affected areas. Some of these roads may serve as alternate routes, particularly during disasters. The proposed Mindanao Railway System, which will traverse certain areas in the region, will further improve the

region's access to other growth centers in Mindanao.

Sea/Water Transport

As a gateway in the northeastern part of Mindanao, the region shall pursue modernization and expansion of seaports to provide efficient and competitive shipping services, such as world-class cargo handling services, and roll-on-roll-off (RORO) and passenger ferry terminals. In anticipation of the establishment of the Mindanao Railway System and the completion of the East-West Lateral Road segments connecting Davao and Bukidnon

and Misamis Oriental, the region shall embark on the development of the Butuan International Port to complement the existing Nasipit Port of Agusan del Norte and Lipata Port and Surigao Port in Surigao City, as entry and exit points to and from Visayas and Luzon. Both Butuan and Surigao Ports are considered in the possible sea transport routes for Cagayan de Oro City– Gingoog City – Butuan City – Surigao City route; while Surigao City is also identified for General Santos City – Zamboanga City – Surigao City sea transport route.

As the region is composed of islands and a river basin, the region shall also carry-out the improvement of the inter-island transport system in the Pacific Rim as well as its riverine transport system in Agusan River. The Agusan River has traditionally been used as a transport highway in the region, particularly in bringing forest and agricultural products from Agusan del Sur to Butuan City.

Air Transport

There are four (4) airports in the region, which are located in Butuan City, Surigao City, Siargao Islands and Tandag City. The Butuan City Airport and Surigao City Airport have daily direct flights to and from Cebu and Manila. The airports in Siargao Islands, and Tandag City have weekly flights to and from Cebu City. A Manila-Siargao-Manila route thrice a week

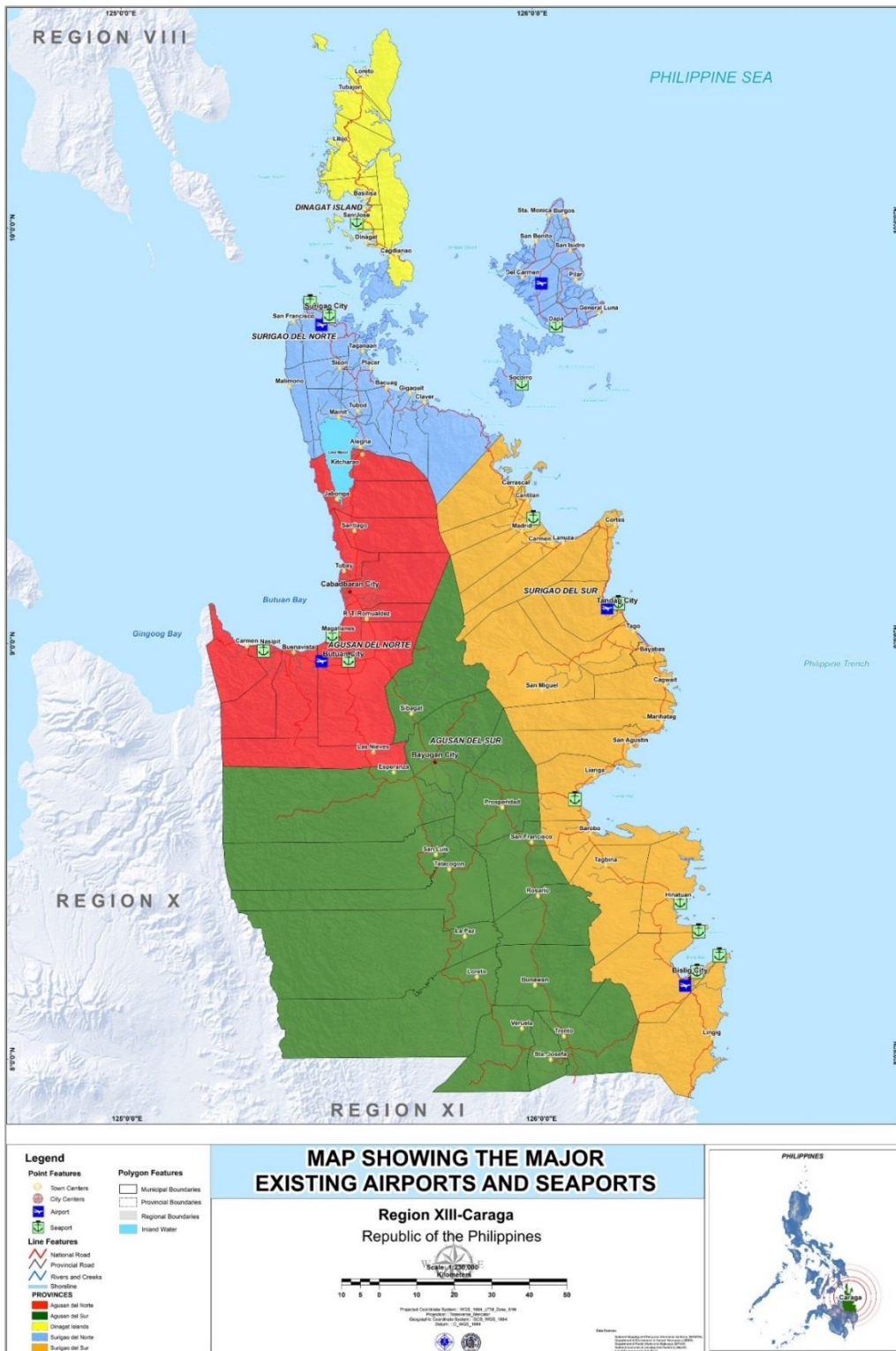
will be launched before end of March 2017. The Butuan City Airport also serves Camiguin Province, Gingoog City, and several municipalities in Misamis Oriental because of proximity and the regularity of flights. On the other hand, the increasing mining and tourism activities in the Surigao provinces bolster the need for improving the Surigao City, Siargao Islands, and Tandag City airports.

In view of the foregoing, the upgrading and expansion of the abovementioned airports shall be pursued by the region to include compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards; modernization of the air transportation navigation, surveillance communication and air traffic management (CNS/ATM) technology; and expansion and upgrading of existing airport facilities.

Digital Infrastructure

Information and communication is considered vital to the region's development particularly in expanding access to knowledge and markets. Thus, the region shall embark on the development of digital infrastructure to support interconnectivity of the region's growth centers to other parts of the country and the world. There is an urgent need for the implementation of the government broadband program to have a seamless and reliable digital highway.

Map 3.9 Major Existing Airports and Seaports, Caraga



Hazards

The region is prone to both geological and climatological hazards. The provinces of Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur are included in the top 20 most vulnerable provinces to climate change in the country. On the

other hand, the main earthquake generators in the region are the Philippine Fault Zone that traverses Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and the Philippine Trench situated approximately 100 kilometers from the mainland of the eastern seaboard towards the Pacific Ocean.

Table 3.6 List of Natural Hazards in Caraga Region

CATEGORY	SPECIFIC HAZARDS
Geological	Earthquake, liquefaction, earthquake-induced landslide and tsunami
Climatological	Earthquake, liquefaction, earthquake-induced landslide and tsunami

To effectively reduce potential risks and vulnerabilities, the region shall pursue the aggrupation of affected LGUs into three (3) areas of concerns, such as coastal management, floodplain/catchment management, and earthquake and

liquefaction management. Hence, the strengthening of intra-LGU alliances is critical to ensure alignment and consistency of interventions. Fig. 3-10 shows the Multi-Hazard Map of Caraga Region.

Challenges

Despite sustained economic growth for the past five years, the challenge remains for Caraga to optimally harness its many resources. Using the spatial strategies adopted by the NSS and the MSS/DF, Caraga faces the following challenges:

Agglomeration

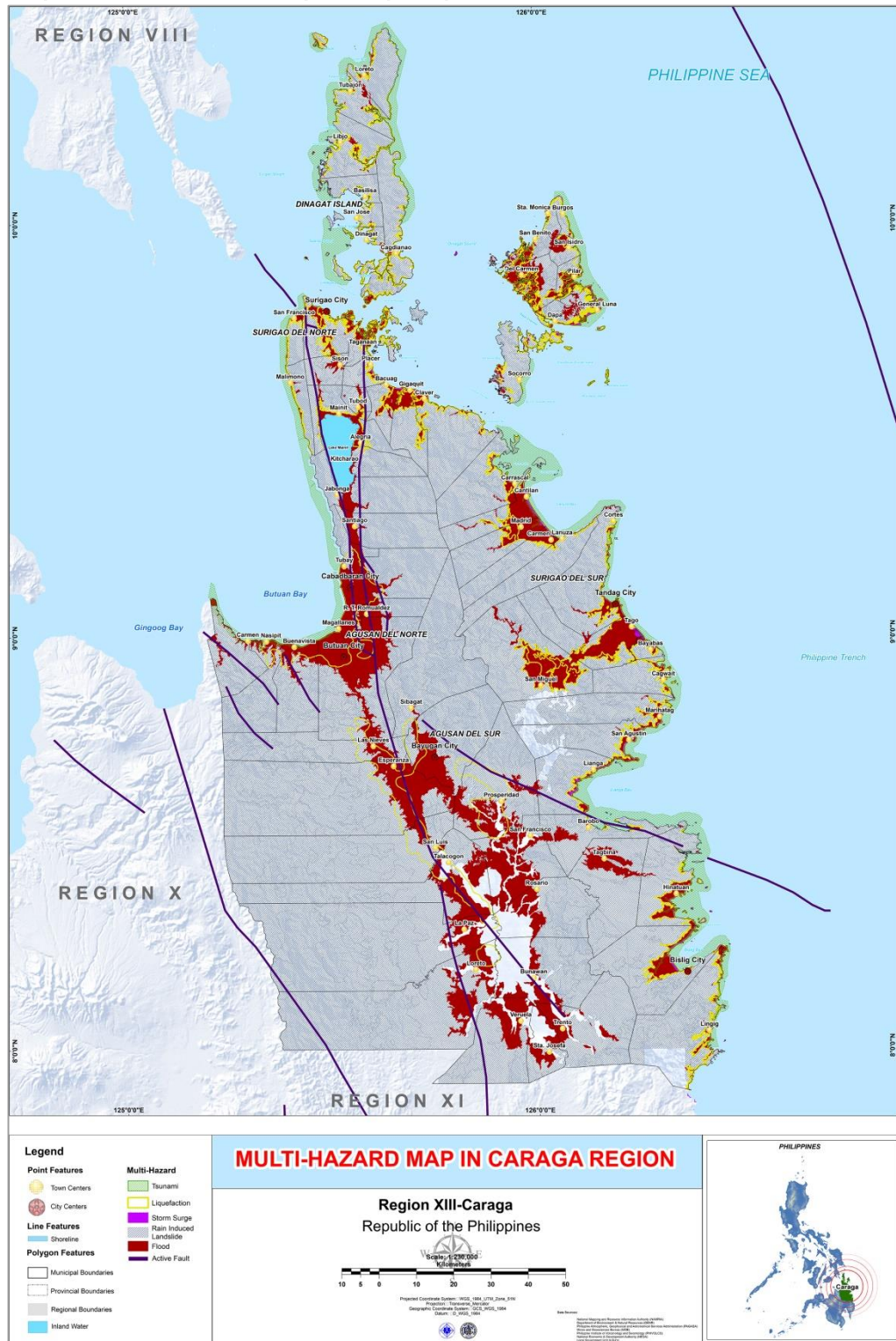
- Unregulated conversion of agricultural land for urban expansion and other uses. Approximately 17,000 hectares of rice lands in Caraga were converted to other uses.
- Low output of production areas compromising Caraga's capacity to achieve food security. For banana production, Caraga has the lowest average yield. For fishery, Caraga's production declined for the past three years.

- Poor waste management (liquid and solid) resulting in increased health and environmental risks.
- Increasing demand for quality basic social services including housing due to population growth in urban areas.
- Conflicting land uses
- Inadequate supply of potable water
- Inadequate power supply
- Unpreserved ecotourism potentials
- Encroachment of large commercial fishing boats in the region's waters

Connectivity

- Lack of alternative routes or redundant access is an issue as these results in the isolation of some settlements in the event of disasters. This may also delay rescue and response operations, which may have devastating consequences.

Map 3.10 Multi-Hazard Map, Caraga Region



- Poor infrastructure in terms of quality, extent, and type thereby compromising connectivity within and beyond Caraga's borders.
 - Lack of coastal circumferential road.
 - Poor state of farm-to-market roads (FMR).
 - Lack of support in providing basic utilities to private sector business initiatives.
 - Poor ICT infrastructure.
 - Lack of air, sea and land connectivity from drop-off points to tourism areas.
- and production areas to natural hazards, such as earthquake, tsunami, storm surge, rain-induced landslide, earthquake-induced landslide, and flooding hazards.
 - Proliferation of settlements and encroachment of production activities in protected and hazard prone areas.
 - Portions of national arterial road traverse fault lines.

Vulnerability Reduction

- High susceptibility of some settlements

Cross-cutting Issues

- Persistent and pervasive poverty
- Chronic threats to peace

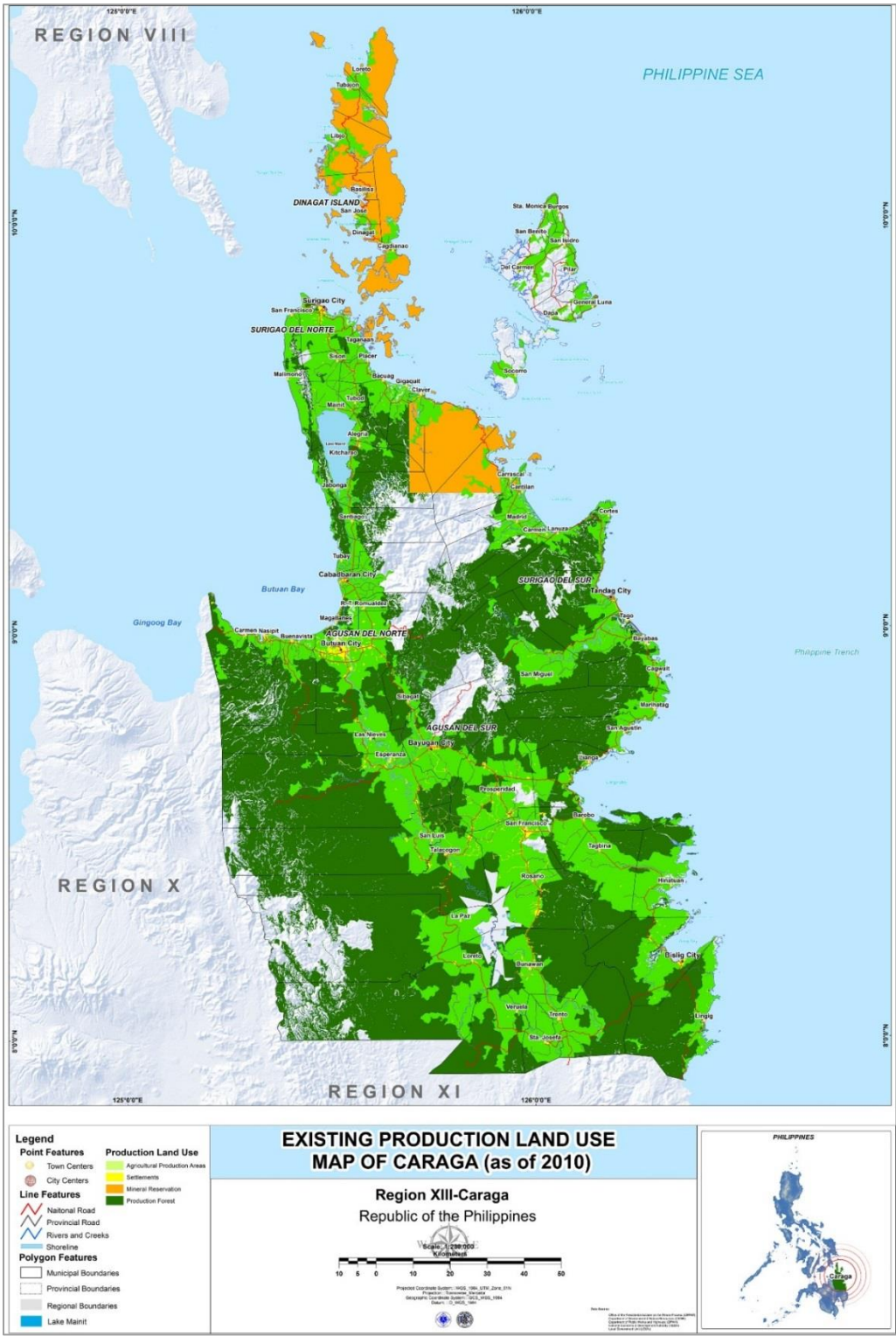
Strategic Policy Options

Agglomeration

1. Promote the redevelopment of built-up areas into multi-functional use to improve efficiency of basic services.
2. Discourage urban expansion in environmentally-constrained areas.
3. Conserve productive agricultural lands and promote utilization of unproductive marginal lands for settlements.
4. Improve waste management by rewarding complying LGUs and penalizing those that are not complying with the Solid Waste Management Act.
5. Position Caraga as nature tourism haven to entice more tourists to visit and enjoy the region's 500+ breathtaking and world class ecotourism destinations.
6. Update CLUPs and enforce zoning ordinances.
7. Operationalize cluster-based development to spur regional economic development, which include the following industries: wood, oil palm, banana, seaweed, high value crops, tourism, abaca, coffee, cacao, rubber, and mining.
8. Operationalize special economic zones:
 - Nasipit Agusan del Norte Industrial Estate (NANIE)
 - Tubay Agricultural Processing Center (TAPCEN)
 - Buenavista Economic Zone
 - Noncom Island Special Economic Zone (NISEZ)
 - Buca's Grande Tourism Enterprise Zone (in Socorro)
 - Surigao City Agri-Industrial Estate
 - Fish Port Processing Complex (in Brgy. Canlanipa and Balibagon)
 - PDI IT Park

- PDI Mariculture Park
 - PDI Ecotourism Park
 - Agusan del Sur Economic Zone/Pagkain ng Bayan
 - Magdiwata Information Technology Park
 - Gold Processing Economic Zone
 - Butuan City Business Information Technology Park
 - Butuan Economic Zone (North Section)
 - Taguibo Industrial Park
 - Banza Special Economic Zone for Wood Industry
 - Surigao del Sur Mineral Processing Zone
 - Bislig Agri-Industrial Processing Zone
9. Strengthen intra-LGU alliances
- Las Nieves, Buenavista, Nasipit and Carmen (LASBUENASCAR) Alliance
 - Lake Mainit Development Alliance (LMDA)
 - Growth Diamond
 - Dinagat Islands Sustainable Development (DISDEV)
 - Gaas-inlet Alliance for Development
 - Melgar Bay Alliance for Development
 - Hinatuan Passage Development Alliance (HIPADA)
 - Metro Siargao Alliance for Sustainable Development (MSASD)
 - Lianga Bay Development Alliance (LBDA)
 - Bislig Bay Development Alliance (BBDA)
 - Lanuza Bay Development Alliance (LBDA)
10. Develop key development zones (KDZ)
- Food Production Zones - Agusan del Sur as the food basket of the region is the main source of staple food crops and high value crops for industrial processing and value-adding.
 - Fishery Development Zones - Surigao del Norte, Province of Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Sur provide the fishery and aquamarine products for the Caraganons.
 - Caraga Forest Plantation Corridor - Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, and Surigao del Sur grow the majority of the commercially planted lumber requirements of the country
 - Mineral Development Areas - Most of the large mineral production areas are located in the Province of Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Norte. In Agusan del Sur, small-scale mining and precious and semi-precious metal processing proliferate in the towns of Bunawan, Rosario and San Francisco.
 - Ecotourism Development Areas
Agusan del Sur
 - Eco-adventure Expedition: Sibagat-Bayugan-Prosperidad-San Francisco-Rosario-Bunawan-Trento Loop
 - IP Culture Heritage Integration Exploration: Sta. Josefa-Veruela-Loreto-La Paz-Talacogon-San Luis-Esperanza Loop
 - Wetland Safari: Agusan Marsh (Bunawan- Veruela- La Paz- Loreto-Talacogon)

Map 3.11 Production Land-use, Caraga



Agusan del Norte

- Lake Mainit Eco Tourism Loop
- Butuan City-Magallanes-Cabadbaran City Cultural Tourism Loop

Surigao del Sur

- Tinuy-an Falls (Bislig) – Enchanted River (Hinatuan) – Britania Beach and Islets (San Agustin) Nature Trip
- *Cantilan*: Sua Spring – Malinawa Falls – Sipangpang Falls – Libtong Island
- *Lanuza*: Poctoy Islet – Campamento Cave – Magkawas Falls - Fish Sanctuary
- *Cortes*: Lobcon Falls – Marine and Bird Sanctuaries – Laswitan
- *Tandag City*: Linungao Rock Formation Islets – Mangkagangi Island – Hitaub Bird Watching – San Isidro Falls – Maticdum Falls – Bugsukan Falls – Boulevard
- *Tago*: Tago Baywalk – River Cruise –Dayoan EcoPark – Green Falls – Villa Azarcon Falls
- *San Miguel*: Libas Sud Hot Spring – Sudhat Spring – Toyon Cave
- *Cagwait*: Cagwait White Beach
- *Bislig City*: Kawa-kawa sa Awog – Lawigan Barkong Bato Beach – Ocean View Park- Thermal Hotspring – Lake 77 – Tinuy-an Falls – Mud Beach –Bay Walk – Burboanan Bird Watching
- *Barobo*: Hinayagan Cave – Wakat Breeze – Hagonoy Island

Surigao del Norte

- Surfing Siargao Tour: Surigao – Dapa – General Luna – Burgos – Sta. Monica – San Isidro Loop
- Sohoton Nature Tour: General Luna

– Socorro – General Luna – Pilar – Burgos – Sta. Monica

- Lake Mainit Eco Tour: Alegria – Mainit – Tubod – Sison
- Surigao City Island Adventure: 17 islands and islets in Surigao City
- Lake Mainit Nature Trek: Surigao City – Mainit – Tubod – Sison
- Siargao Discovery Tour: Surigao City – Del Carmen – San Benito – Sta. Monica – Burgos – San Isidro
- Lake Mainit Adventure: Surigao City – Mainit – Tubod – Alegria
- HIPADA Eco-Cultural Tour: Surigao City – Placer – Bacuag – Gigaquit – Claver – Socorro
- Gaas Inlet Mangrove Adventure Tour: Surigao City – Placer – Bacuag – Gigaquit – Claver
- Surigao City – San Francisco – Malimono Ecotourism
- Crocodile Farm Tour: Surigao City – Del Carmen – San Benito
- Surigao City's Phenomenal Islands Observation Tour: Surigao City Islands

Province of Dinagat Islands

- Sun and Beach Tourism Tour:
 - Dahican Beach
 - Black Beach
 - Polo Beach
 - Sinapyahan Beach
 - Talisay Beach
 - Pit-og Beach
 - Pangabangan Beach
 - Punta Villa Beach
 - Sondayo Beach
 - Cabacongan Beach
 - Bitag Beach
 - Biray-biray Beach
 - Cabilan Beach
 - Gaingan Beach
 - Biagong Beach

- Sta. Cruz Beach
- Lawis Beach
- Sta. Cruz Beach
- Tagbuyawan Island Beach
- The Strand Beach
- Leandros Beach
- Hinabayan Beach
- Tagbiyaran Beach
- Sayaw Island Beach
- Cultural Tourism:
 - U.S. Landing Forces
 - Bugkosan sa Isla Festival
 - PBMA Shrine
 - PBMA Founder Monument
- Cultural Experience Tour:
 - Iclinar Islet Resort
 - Tidal Pool
 - Oasis Islet
 - PBS Resort
 - Pangabanga Beach
 - Islander Castle
- Local Festival Experience
 - Lawigan Festival
 - Bugkosan Festival
 - Banwag Festival
 - Salo-salo Festival
 - Sirong-sirong Festival
 - Sibanag Festival

Connectivity

1. Improve the unpaved national and local road networks.
2. Strengthen RoRo networks and develop the Agusan riverine port system.
3. Upgrade and expand existing seaports and airports.
4. Establish alternate land transport routes within and outside the region.
5. Encourage the adoption of disaster resilient and green technologies in

infrastructure development.

6. Establish adequate and quality digital infrastructure to ensure universal access to information.

Vulnerability Reduction

1. Promote the adoption of uniform/complementing guidelines in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR/CCA) in the regional, provincial and municipal plans.
2. Forcibly relocate hazard-exposed settlements to safer areas and ensure that mitigating measures are instituted appropriately.
3. Institutionalize structural and non-structural mitigating measures in hazard prone areas.
4. Adopt the principle of redundancy of access to prevent isolation of areas during calamities. Some of the projects include:
 - Completion of the East-West Lateral Road connecting Surigao del Sur (San Miguel) - Agusan del Sur (Esperanza) to Sampaguita-Makilos (Agusan del Sur/Bukidnon Boundary)
 - Buenavista Bunaguit Road (Agusan del Norte – Bukidnon Boundary (Barangay Siloo) – Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental Boundary)
 - Construction of Impasugong (Bukidnon) to Las Nieves (Agusan del Norte) and Improvement of the National Road to Buenavista (Agusan del Norte)
5. Institutionalize watershed/river basin, ecosystem and ridge-to-reef

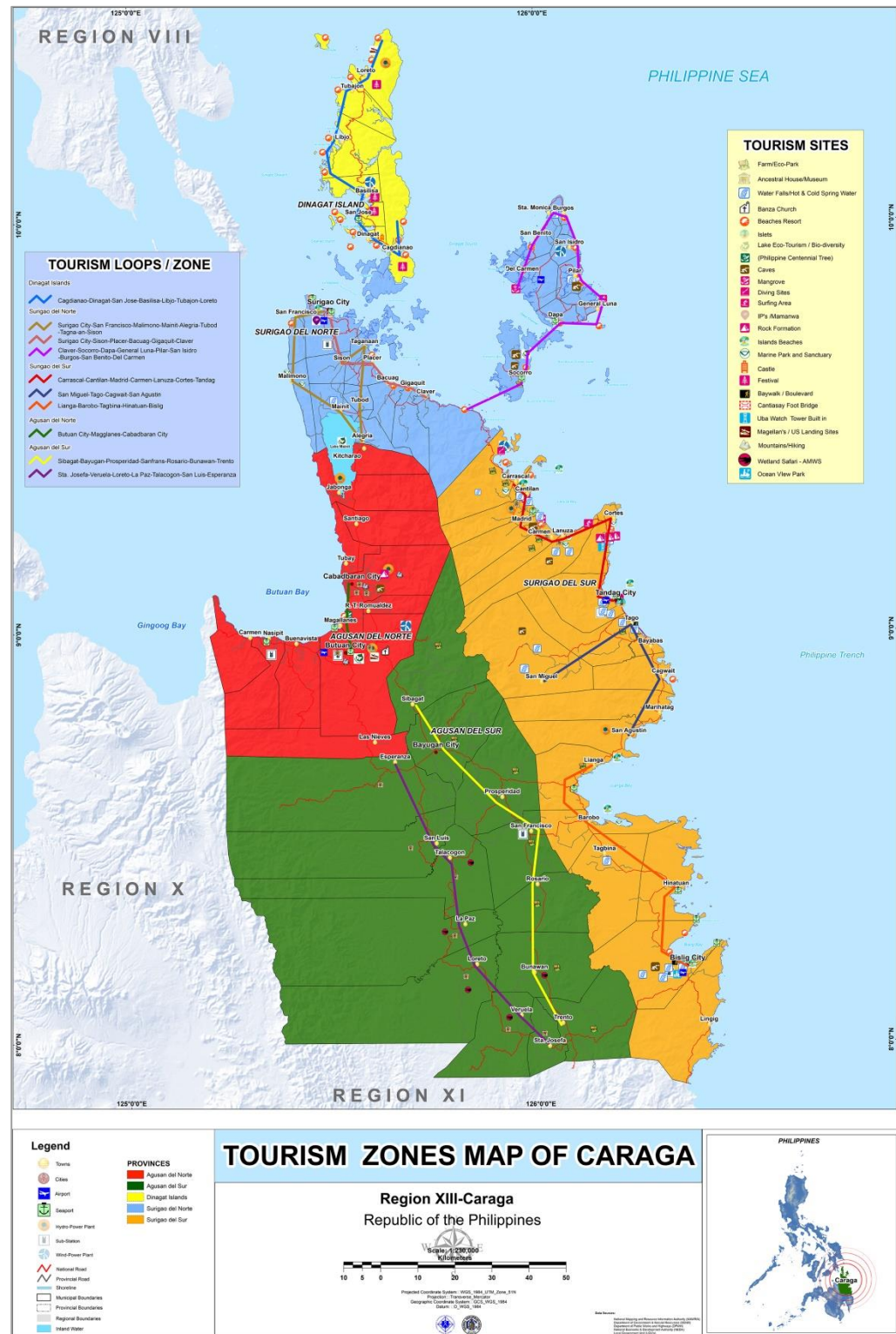
approaches in natural resources management.

6. Establish and operationalize evacuation centers in strategic and safe areas.
7. Strengthen the enforcement of environmental laws, policies and guidelines to promote sustainable development practices

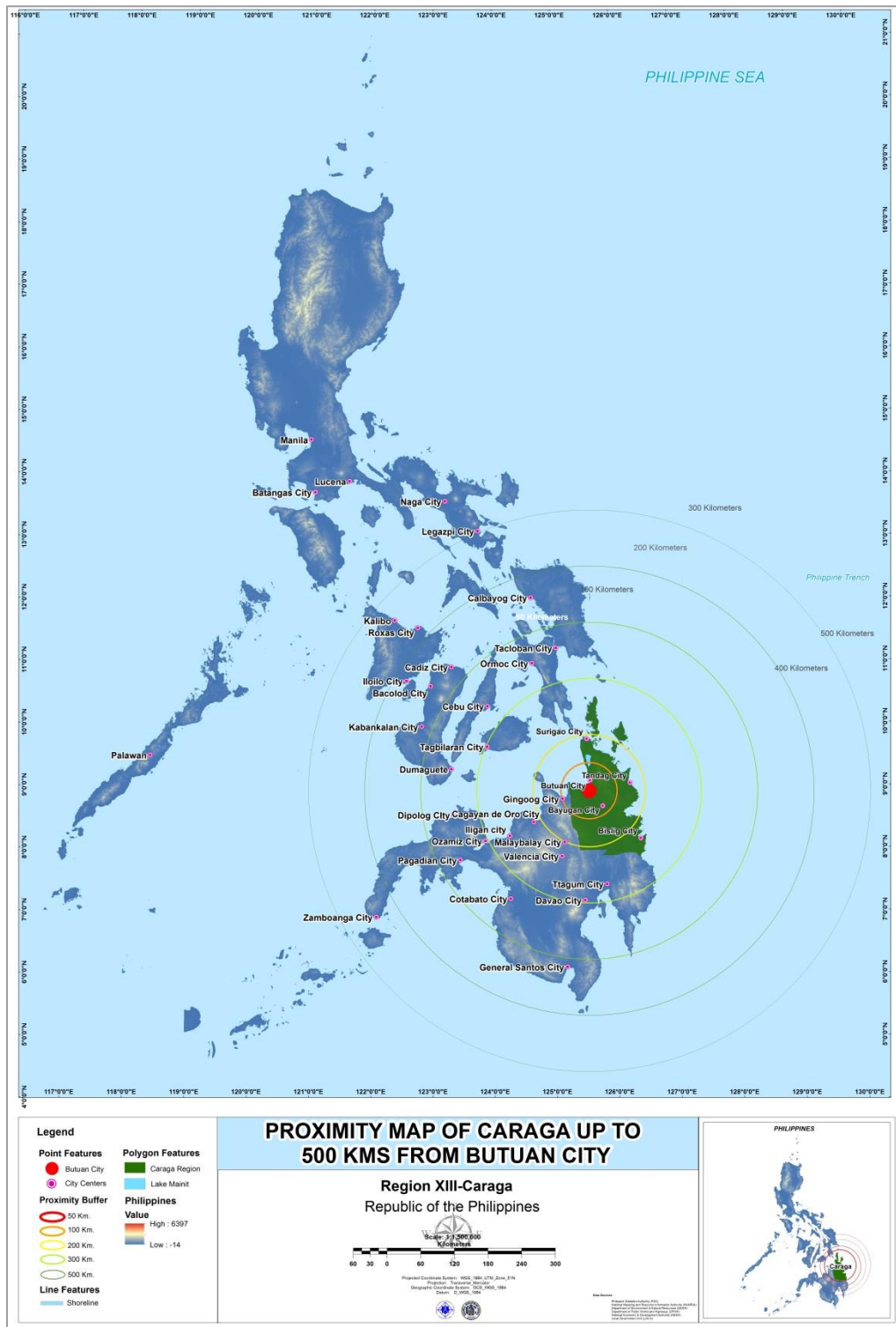
Cross-cutting Issues

1. Support the Six-Point Peace Agenda and Caraga Road Map For Peace.
2. Expand the coverage of PAMANA implementation.

Map 3.12 Tourism Circuits, Caraga



Map 3.13 Proximity Map of up to 500 Kms from Butuan City



04

Regional
Development Plan
2017-2022 Overall
Framework

Chapter 4

Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 Overall Framework

National Vision

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Executive Order No. 5 (s. 2016) on 11 October 2016, adopting the Long Term Vision (LTV) for the country dubbed as AmBisyon Natin 2040. The LTV is the result of a process that began in 2015 where more than 300 citizens participated in focus group discussions and close to 10,000 answered a national survey.

AmBisyon describes the kind of life that people want to live, and how the country will be by 2040. It presents a picture of the future, a set of personal life goals as well as ideals for the country. The Filipinos' vision for self by 2040 is *"We will all enjoy a stable and comfortable lifestyle, secure in the knowledge that we have enough for our daily needs and unexpected expenses, that we can plan and prepare for our own and our children's future. Our family lives together in a place of our own, and we have the freedom to go where we desire, protected and enabled by a clean, efficient, and fair government."* In a nutshell, by the year 2040, the Filipinos will have a *"Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Buhay"*.

The long term vision for Country is: *"By 2040, the Philippines shall be a prosperous, predominantly middle class society where no one is poor; our peoples shall live long*

and healthy lives, be smart and innovative, and shall live in a high-trust society."

These visions for self and country shall be the foundation or bedrock of the next four (4) Philippine Development Plans (PDPs) until 2040. This is a progressive approach in planning that transcends political administrations: sustaining the gains of one while pursuing the priorities of another.

Under the Duterte Administration, the country commits to attain by end of 2022 a *"Foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust society and a globally competitive knowledge economy"* through *"malasakit at pagbabago para sa patuloy na pag-unlad."* All of these ends or AmBisyon will be realized through a clean, efficient and people-oriented government.

The development strategies of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 are categorized into three pillars: (1) enhancing the social fabric, (2) reducing inequality, and (3) increasing potential growth of the economy. These pillars shall be supported by peace and order and strong national security, massive infrastructure development, and ecological integrity.

Regional Vision

Consistent with the LTV, the Caraga Region aims to achieve this vision by 2040: *“With the blessings of the Almighty, Caraga Region is sustainably developed, culturally responsive, and globally competitive; where everyone equitably enjoys the fruits of peace and prosperity.”*

The region recognizes that it is only under the providence of the Almighty that Caraganons can move towards their desired state of development. Guided by the 2030 sustainable development agenda adopted by the United Nations last September 2015, the President’s 0 to 10 Socioeconomic Agenda and Six Point Peace Agenda, Caraga Roadmap for Peace, National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2015-2045, Mindanao Spatial Strategy/ Development Framework (MSS/DF) 2015-2045, and Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) 2015-2045, the region’s development shall focus on addressing socioeconomic concerns and preserving the integrity of the environment to ensure that resources will be available to meet the

development requirements of present and future generations while maintaining the resilience of ecosystems against different forms of natural and man-made hazards.

Being culturally responsive means recognizing and respecting the region’s diverse cultures. All development efforts shall be sensitive to the social and cultural beliefs and traditions of the peoples in Caraga particularly that of the indigenous peoples’, as they are the most vulnerable.

To become globally competitive requires the effective and efficient integration of appropriate policies, plans, strategies and programs that will encourage development of the region’s natural and human resources.

Enhancing security and public order as well as peace and development in the urban and rural areas of the region is a prerequisite in attracting and keeping investments and in ensuring sustained socioeconomic gains.

Goal

By 2022, the Caraga Region will become the *“Fishery, Agro-Forestry, Mineral and Ecotourism (FAME) Center of the Country.”*

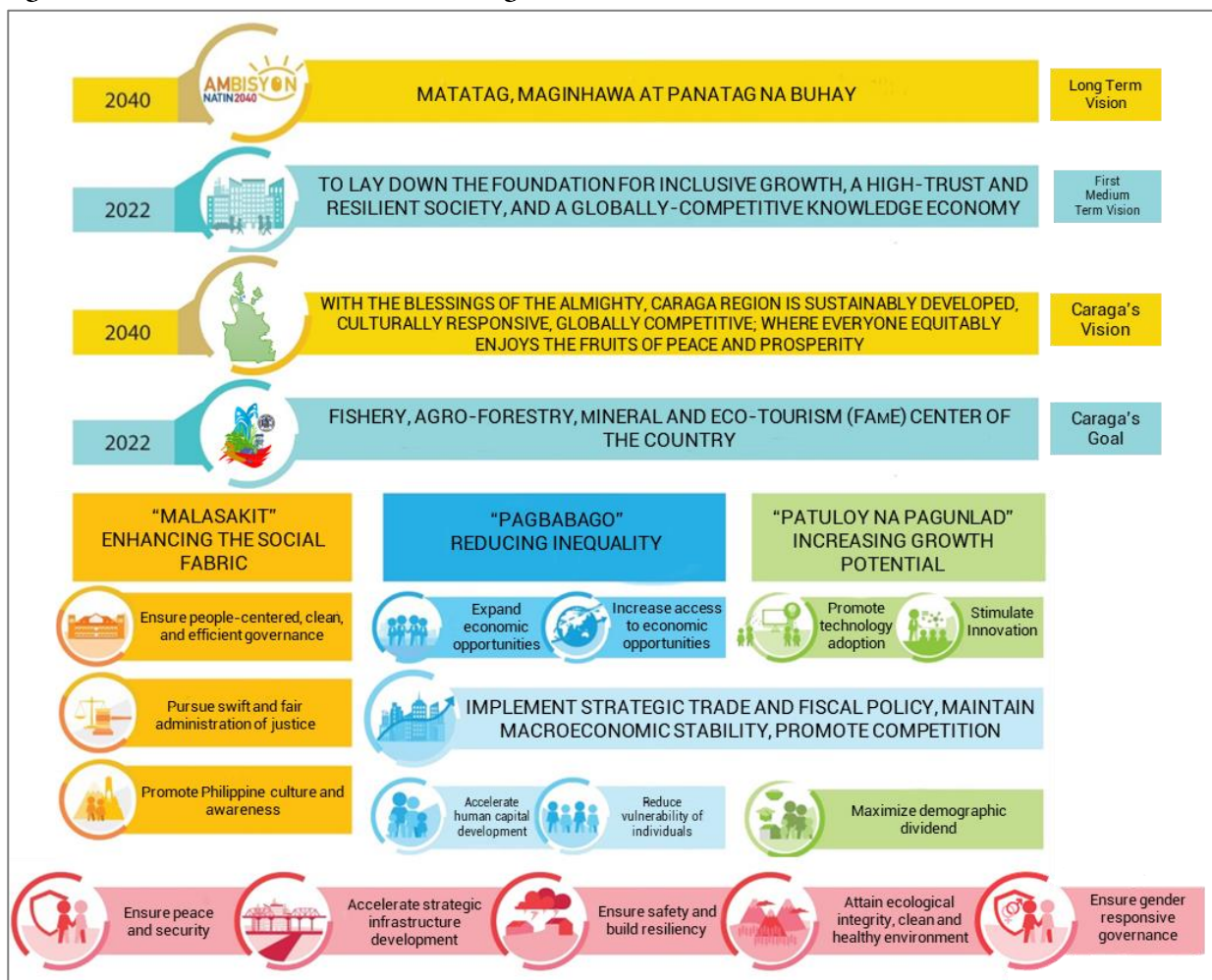
To become the FAME Center of the country, the region will develop and utilize its abundant natural resources, i.e. agriculture, fishery and aquaculture, forestry, mineral and ecotourism. These sectors have been the growth drivers of

Caraga’s economy, generating massive and decent employment for the region. The strategies for development are focused towards attaining economic progress, and improving productivity of all sectors. Pursuing these goals entail the harmonization of policies, programs and projects to optimize the benefits of joint government, non-government and private stakeholders’ efforts.

While mining will remain as a key sector, in the interest of sustainable development and protecting ecological integrity, mining activities will be limited to existing mining areas excluding watersheds within the mining concessions. A moratorium on the issuance of new Mineral Processing Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) or Exploration Permits (EPs) will be

advocated to National government. Strict enforcement of environmental laws and regulations will be observed to protect the integrity of the environment. Rehabilitation of mined-out areas will be strictly undertaken. Value adding and processing of minerals will likewise be pursued rather than just mere extraction of mineral ores.

Figure 4.1 CRDP 2017-2022 Overall Strategic Framework



The region's development framework is anchored on the LTV and aligned with the first Medium-Term Goal enshrined in the PDP 2017-2022 of establishing a "solid foundation for inclusive growth, a high trust and resilient society and globally competitive knowledge economy."

The framework identifies five pillars in achieving the region's overarching goal by 2022, namely: a) peace, security, public order, and safety, b) strategic development of infrastructure, c) improved resilience of individuals and communities, d) gender responsive development, and e) ecological integrity, clean and healthy environment.

The Caraga RDP 2017-2022 shall adopt the broad strategies of the PDP 2017-2022, namely:

- a) Enhancing the Social Fabric ("**Malasakit**")
 - 1) Ensure people-centered, clean and efficient governance;
 - 2) Swift and fair administration of justice; and
 - 3) Promote Philippine culture and awareness.
- b) Reducing Inequality ("**Pagbabago**")
 - 1) Expand economic opportunities;
 - 2) Improve access to economic opportunities through enhancement of economic connectivity and networks, access to finance, skills training and labor market policies and promotion of competition;
 - 3) Address vulnerabilities with main focus on climate change, adaptation and mitigation, and

social protection; and

- 4) Reduce inequality in human development outcomes underscoring health and nutrition, and education.

c) Increasing Potential Growth ("**Kaunlaran**")

- 1) Promote technology adoption;
- 2) Stimulate innovation; and
- 3) Maximize demographic dividend.

At the heart of Caraga region's development efforts is the collective aspiration to uplift the living conditions of Caraganons. To realize this desired state of development entails the:

- 1) Harmonization of policies particularly in the grant of tenure instruments;
- 2) Implementation of responsive fiscal policies;
- 3) Investment in skills enhancement/upgrading and research and development (R&D);
- 4) Improvement of the business environment; and
- 5) Provision of adequate and quality infrastructure support to enhance competitiveness of the priority sectors such as agriculture, fishery, forestry, mineral and ecotourism.

Parallel to these interventions is the provision of quality basic social services to improve the security and resilience of the people. Preferential attention shall be given to human security by investing in social safety nets to arrest and cushion the impacts of disasters and climate change.

PART II

ENHANCING THE SOCIAL FABRIC ("MALASAKIT")



05

Ensuring
People-Centered,
Clean, and Efficient
Governance

Ensuring People- Centered, Clean, and Efficient Governance

This Chapter assesses the current situation of the regional bureaucracy and outlines the major development strategies to address the ills that plague it in order to rebuild the public's trust and confidence in government institutions.

A corruption-free, accessible and reliable bureaucracy, which can efficiently meet the needs of society while ensuring the optimal use of scarce resources must be established and sustained to achieve the region's aspiration of inclusive and equitable delivery of public goods and services for the improvement of the welfare of the citizenry.

Assessment

Regional Government Machinery

Several government offices have constructed their own buildings between 2013 and 2015. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) established its Butuan City branch in 2014. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) completed and occupied its office building in October of 2015.

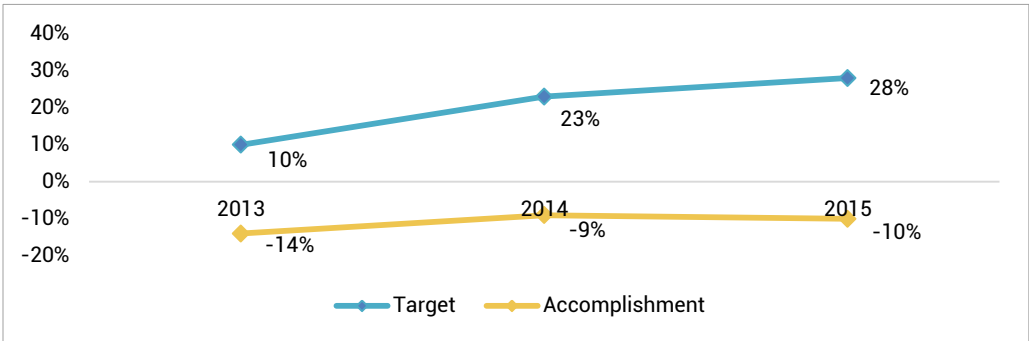
Meanwhile, the construction of the office buildings of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) are ongoing. As of December 2015, only 40 out of 81 regional line agencies have their own office buildings.

Regional Development Financing

Tax Collection

The taxes collected from FY 2013 to FY 2015 fell below the annual targets. One of the reasons for non-attainment of targets was the transfer of several big taxpayers from the coverage of the region to the jurisdiction of the Large Taxpayer Service. Hence, the taxes collected from big taxpayers payments have been credited to the said service. This arrangement particularly affected excise tax collection. Further, the Bureau of Internal Revenue pronounced that the targets set are high for all types of taxes

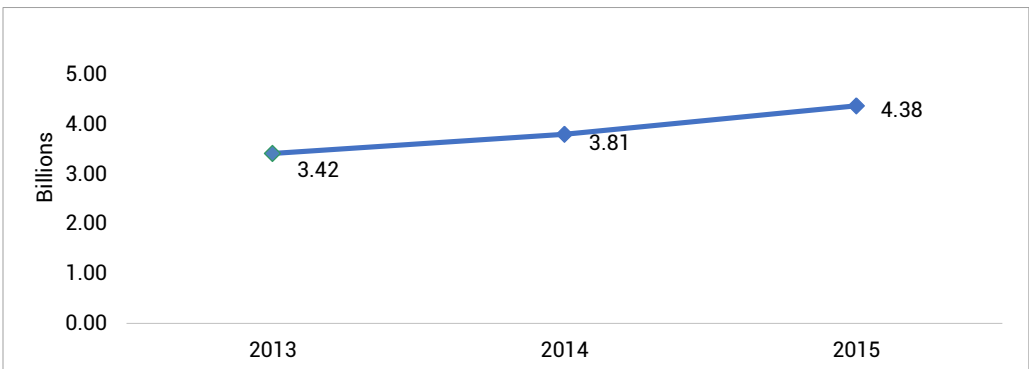
Figure 5.1 Tax Collection, 2013-2015, Target vs. Accomplishment



Source: BIR Caraga

While the region failed to achieve its annual targets, it still managed to expand tax collection for the period 2013 to 2015 as illustrated in the line graph below. Income tax consistently reflects the highest collection.

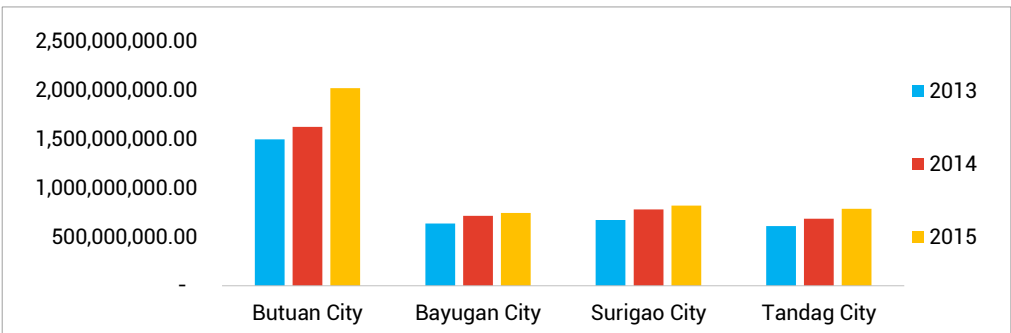
Figure 5.2 Tax Collection, 2013-2015



Source: BIR Caraga

All districts showed an improving tax collection. Butuan City retained its record as the highest tax collection district in the region.

Figure 5.3 Tax Collection by District, 2013-2015



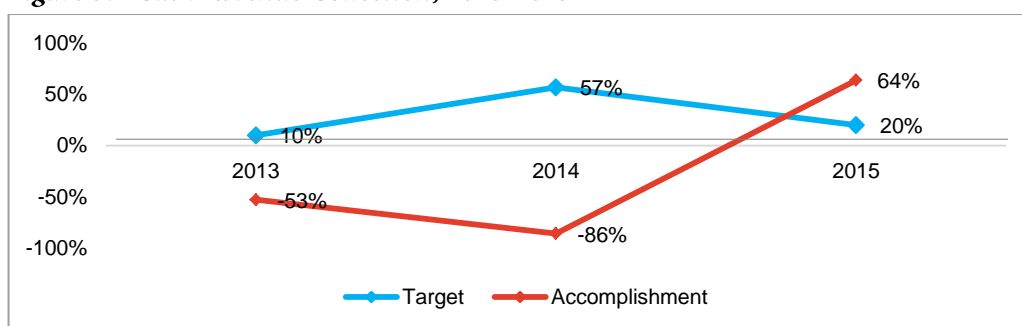
Source: BIR Caraga

Cash Revenue Collection

On cash revenue collection, the region only achieved its target in 2015. The increase in importation of landing craft tanks and all-terrain vehicles and processing of export permits or the customs documentary stamps contributed to the improved performance in 2015. The fluctuating revenue collection from duty fees is due to

the seasonal importation activities of mining companies. Most of the fees collected in 2013 particularly in the Port of Surigao were generated from the heavy equipment and barges acquired by mining companies. The mining companies had fewer importation activities in 2014 resulting in the decline in cash revenue collection for that year.

Figure 5.4 Cash Revenue Collection, 2013-2015



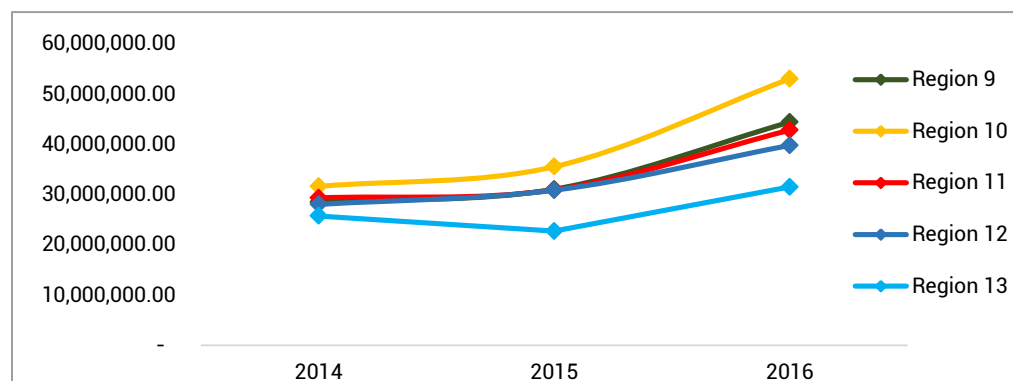
Source: BOC Caraga

Regional Budgeting

As to budget allocation among Mindanao regions, the Caraga Region consistently gets the lowest for the period 2014 to 2016.

In 2016, it only garnered 15 percent of the total budget of Mindanao. On the other hand, Region 10 consistently obtains the highest budget allocation, accounting for 25 percent of the total.

Figure 5.5 Comparison of Approved Budgets of Major Agencies in Mindanao Region, FY 2014- 2016



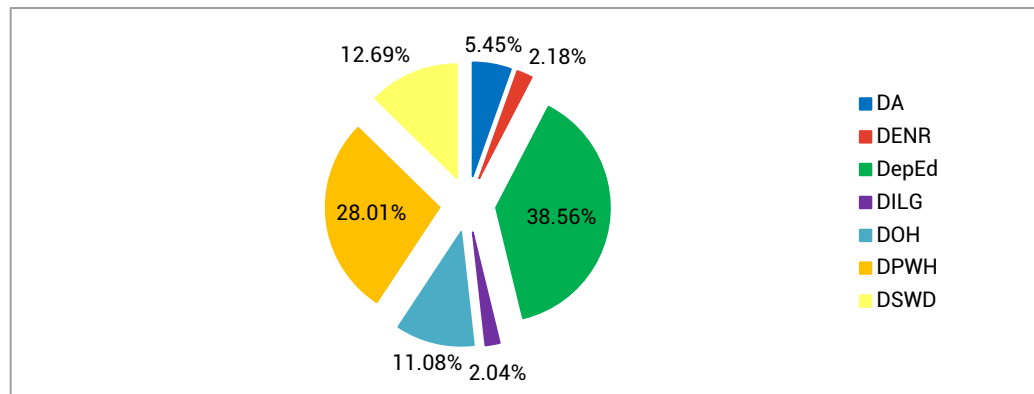
Note: The figures are based on the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and do not include lump-sum budget.

Source: DBM, NEDA Caraga

Among seven regional line agencies that have large budgets owing to organic mandates, the bulk of the approved budget

for Mindanao from 2014 to 2016 went to DepEd with 38.56 percent, while DILG had the least allocation with 2.18 percent.

Figure 5.6 Approved Budgets of Major Agencies in Mindanao Region, Percent Share by Agency, 2014- 2016



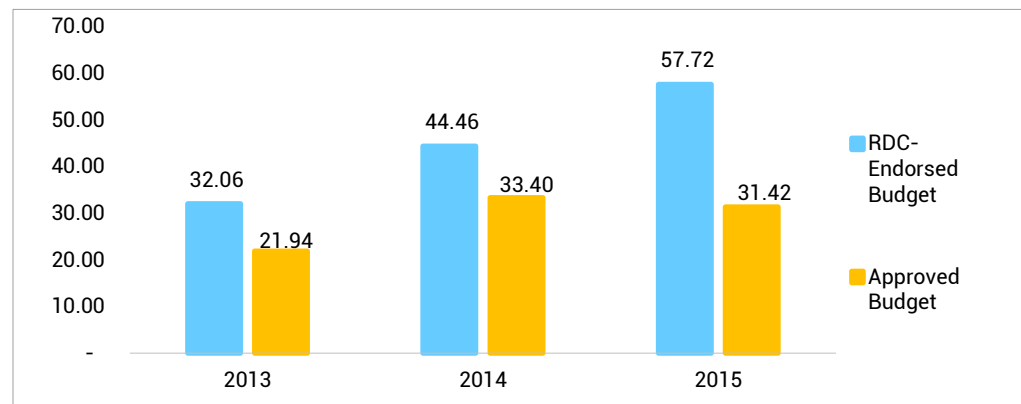
Note: The figures are based on the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and do not include lump-sum budget.

Source: DBM, NEDA Caraga

From 2013 to 2015, the approved budgets of agencies were lower compared to the RDC-endorsed proposed budgets. On the average, the difference was 33 percent. As explained by the Department of Budget and Management, one consideration in the approval of the agency budget is the

utilization rate in the previous year. Further, during the budget preparation, the RLAs were already provided with budget ceilings by their respective central offices. However, the RDC endorsed agency proposed budgets are usually higher than the agency's budget ceiling.

Figure 5.7 RDC-Endorsed Budgets vs. Approved Budgets, FY 2013-2015, in Billion Pesos



Note: The figures are based on the General Appropriations Act (GAA) and do not include lump-sum budget.

Source: DBM, NEDA Caraga

Civil Service, Public Accountability and Moral Recovery

In 2013, more than 100 percent of the targeted most complained service-offices

passed the Anti-Red Tape Act – Report Card Survey (ARTA-RCS). Failure of some offices to pass the ARTA-RCS in certain cases was due to lack of knowledge and lack of interest in complying with the provisions of the ARTA.

Table 5.1 ARTA-RCS Implementation, 2013-2015

INDICATOR	2013	2014	2015
100% of targeted most complained service offices passed the Anti-Red Tape Act – Report Card Survey (ARTA-RCS)	109%	95%	98%

Source: CSC Caraga

On the implementation of the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS), several agencies have yet to implement their agency SPMS because they are awaiting the green light from the

Civil Service Commission. According to CSC, there is slow adoption of SPMS by some local government units and regional line agencies mainly because of lack of interest.

Table 5.2 Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) Implementation, FY 2013-2015

INDICATOR	2013	2014	2015
100% of agencies with approved Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) are with functional SPMS	0	85%	83% (19 out of 23 approved SPMS in 2014)

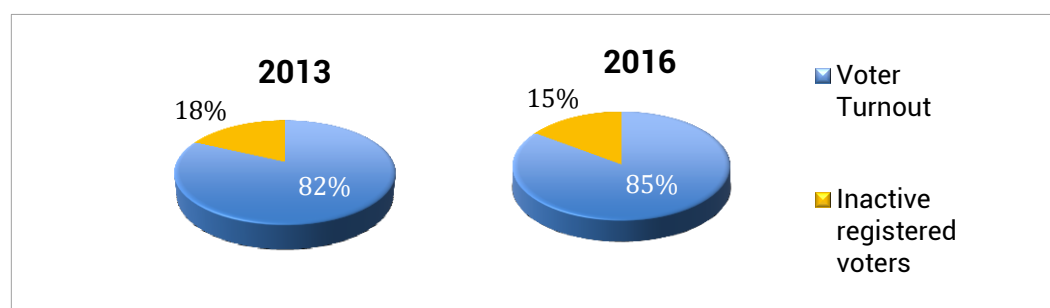
Source: CSC Caraga

Electoral Reform

People's participation during elections increased. As shown in Figure 8, voter

turnout slightly increased from 82 percent in the 2013 elections to 85 percent in the recent 2016 elections.

Figure 5.8 Voter Turnout, Caraga, 2013 vs. 2016

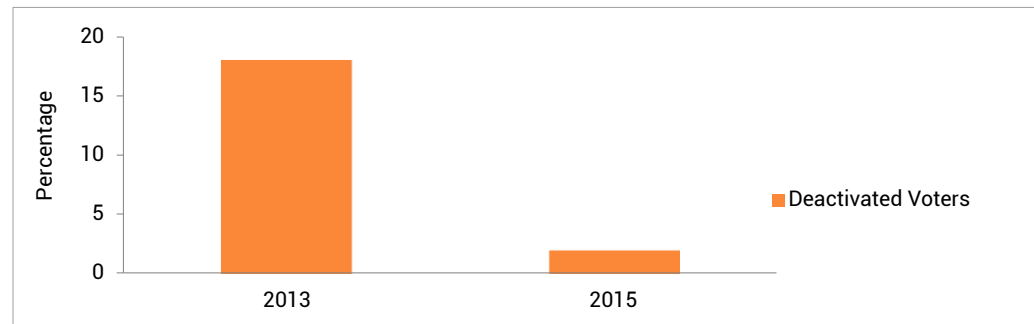


Source: COMELEC Caraga

Failure to vote in two (2) succeeding elections and inability to submit for validation of biometrics are two (2) main reasons for voter deactivation. Through the advocacy campaign of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) called “No Bio No Boto” and other Information, Education

and Communication (IEC) activities, the proportion of deactivated voters sharply dropped from 18 percent in 2013 to two percent in 2015 as presented in Figure 9. Nevertheless, the elections were still marred by alleged massive vote buying.

Figure 5.9 Deactivated Voters, Caraga, 2013 vs. 2015



Source: COMELEC Caraga

Local Governance

To effect accountable, transparent and effective governance, the DILG issued the Full Disclosure Policy (FDP). The FDP requires the LGUs to post in at least three (3) publicly accessible places, in websites, if applicable, and in the full disclosure policy portal, the summary of revenues collected and funds received, disbursed and appropriated; procurement related

documents; and status of projects implemented.

In 2015, all the provinces, cities, and 96 percent of the municipalities complied with the FDP. Trainings on transparency and good governance for new sets of elected officials and making FDP compliance a requirement in accessing the Performance Challenge Fund (PCF) motivated the LGUs to adhere to the Policy.

Table 5.3 LGU Compliance with the Full Disclosure Policy, 2015

LGU	NUMBER OF LGUS	NUMBER OF LGUS COMPLYING WITH THE FDP	% OF FULLY COMPLIANT LGUS	% OF PARTIALLY COMPLIANT LGUS
Province	5	5	100%	
City	6	6	100%	
Municipality	67	64	96%	
Barangay	1311	1268	0	97%

Source: DILG Caraga Accomplishment Report 2015

In 2014, the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), a scaled up version of

the Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH) was used to assess the performance of LGUs.

All LGUs in Caraga were assessed and regional validation and calibration were subsequently conducted. Seventy-three LGUs or 93.58 percent passed the Good Financial Housekeeping (GFH) assessment. However, not a single LGU has been conferred with the SGLG.

By 2015, four (4) out of the five (5) provinces in the region were conferred with the 2014 Seal of Good Local

Governance (SGLG), namely, Agusan Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur, Surigao Del Norte and the Province of Dinagat Islands. The Municipality of Socorro was the lone SGLG passer among the 67 municipalities in the region. Most of the LGUs did not pass the 2014 SGLG assessment for failure to meet the requirements in the area of social protection and disaster preparedness.

Table 5.4 SGLG Conferment Actual vs. Target, 2014-2015

INDICATOR	TARGET	2014 ACTUAL	TARGET	2015 ACTUAL
Number of LGUs conferred with Seal of Good Governance	39	73 (Good Financial House-keeping)	59	5
% of LGUs conferred with SGLG	50%	93.58% passed Good Financial House-keeping	75%	6.40%

Source: DILG Caraga Accomplishment Report

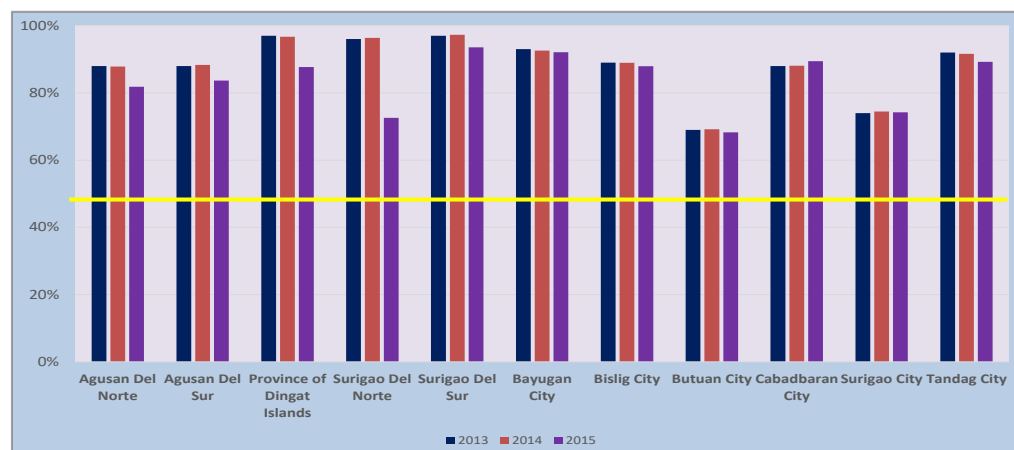
Improving business climate and competitiveness of the LGUs are also part of the priorities in 2015. The DILG Caraga monitored the efforts of LGUs to streamline the Business Permit and Licensing System (BPLS). Around 83 percent of cities and 87 percent of municipalities have complied with the BPLS reforms and standards.

As shown in Figure 6, LGUs remained highly dependent on the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) in funding programs/projects and in delivering services. For the last three years, Butuan City has the lowest IRA dependency rate.

The province of Surigao Del Norte on the other hand showed the most improvement; its dependency rate dropped from 96 percent in 2013 to 73 percent in 2015. Revenues from fees and charges have increased Surigao Del Norte's coffers accounting for most of its income in 2015.

Among the provinces, Surigao Del Sur is the most IRA dependent generating only three to six percent of its revenue from local sources. This however, may not be an accurate picture as some of the Province's local income goes to its trust fund and not to the general fund. Thus, it is not accounted as part of its local income.

Figure 5.10 IRA Dependency Rate by Province and City, Caraga, 2013 – 2015



Source: BLGF Caraga

At an aggregate level, the 10 percent annual increase in real property tax collection was attained in 2013 and 2014. The RPT collection was lowest in 2015 with only the Provinces of Dinagat Islands and Surigao Del Norte surpassing the targets, while the rest have missed their targets by more than 21 percent. Non-

payment of taxes by telecommunications companies due to on-going legal battle, closure of some manufacturing and mining companies, as well as non-payment of RPT by CARP recipients and the implementation of tax amnesty in Surigao Del Sur and Agusan Del Norte contributed to the low RPT collection.

Table 5.5 Real Property Tax Collection Target vs. Actual Performance by LGU, Caraga, 2013 – 2015

LGU	2013		2014		2015	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
Agusan Del Norte	38,902,306.43	37,970,665.72	45,137,567.02	56,967,826.04	50,267,114.86	34,330,658.35
Agusan Del Sur	106,868,009.65	106,994,469.97	120,333,930.41	94,687,987.35	132,470,570.74	103,942,916.64
Dinagat Islands	5,576,776.42	6,914,106.09	5,707,777.13	21,763,554.84	5,496,694.89	7,730,008.19
Surigao Del Norte	29,311,011.65	36,866,682.39	31,472,703.61	41,466,811.94	66,677,488.14	187,162,629.92
Surigao Del Sur	82,364,396.90	45,862,217.37	104,293,137.97	101,821,247.54	120,338,036.36	50,307,273.25
Bayugan City	18,289,652.71	11,750,444.33	16,951,979.89	12,752,025.24	19,764,960.21	11,445,708.35
Bislig City	19,128,242.48	11,530,494.78	18,699,741.37	14,689,532.58	23,745,145.63	12,534,543.01
Butuan City	91,264,104.50	143,146,704.69	98,703,281.49	110,718,319.98	98,964,768.87	83,297,742.70
Cabadbaran City	6,521,508.80	12,580,788.25	8,660,314.69	11,277,786.61	8,640,107.14	7,109,902.75
Surigao City	45,546,823.08	51,437,534.44	51,978,765.17	49,607,566.60	53,882,264.86	35,243,570.32
Tandag City	9,217,710.93	6,450,507.52	10,291,154.55	11,332,888.52	11,157,055.16	8,562,992.16
Caraga	452,990,543.55	471,504,615.55	512,230,353.30	527,085,547.24	591,404,206.86	355,893,287.50

Source: BLGF Caraga

The LGUs in the region exhibited increasing capacity to generate local revenues as shown by the attainment of the regional targets for local revenue collection in 2014 and 2015. The continuing capacity building for local treasurers/local finance committees to maximize revenue potentials of LGUs as well as the emphasis on administrative and judicial remedies in collecting tax delinquencies facilitated the increase in local revenues among LGUs.

Agusan Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur and Surigao Del Norte. While Dinagat Islands and Surigao Del Sur have very limited income coming from Local Economic Enterprises (LEEs). Butuan City consistently contributed between 30 to 37 percent of the regional collection. Its income comes from its profitable LEEs complemented by the sizeable business taxes collected from manufacturing and service companies located in the City.

Collection of fees and charges accounted for much of the income of the provinces of

Table 5.6 Local Revenue Collection Target vs. Actual Performance by LGU, Caraga, 2013 – 2015

LGU	2013		2014		2015	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
Agusan Del Norte	72,856,570	71,728,075	80,870,792.	85,886,538	94,646,965	120,502,576
Agusan Del Sur	138,353,695	133,234,672	153,572,601	148,304,358	159,673,237	165,981,695
Dinagat Islands	15,685,569	12,212,632	17,410,982	57,583,310	63,889,938	51,367,821
Surigao Del Norte	28,777,643	24,597,642	31,943,183	37,984,261	41,858,656	85,571,637
Surigao Del Sur	17,788,714	15,904,254	19,745,472	17,349,212	19,118,832	17,717,286
Bayugan City	34,978,711	37,464,197	38,826,370	41,373,531	45,593,631	45,718,940
Bislig City	45,511,628	42,503,574	50,517,907	46,571,412	51,321,696	50,514,715
Butuan City	307,323,526	306,733,290	341,129,114	344,699,320	376,253,163	379,311,282
Cabadbaran City	38,980,504	39,956,782	43,268,359	39,838,613	42,901,882	41,696,711
Surigao City	100,625,393	100,885,854	111,694,186	112,500,593	123,975,654	125,169,160
Tandag City	23,158,414	25,464,283	25,705,840	30,046,079	33,831,968	37,603,015
Caraga	824,040,370	810,685,258	914,684,811	962,137,232	1,053,065,626	1,121,154,844

Source: BLGF Caraga

New and bigger challenges confront LGUs that require innovative approaches in governance. Societal concerns like increasing Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) incidence require concerted multi-stakeholder

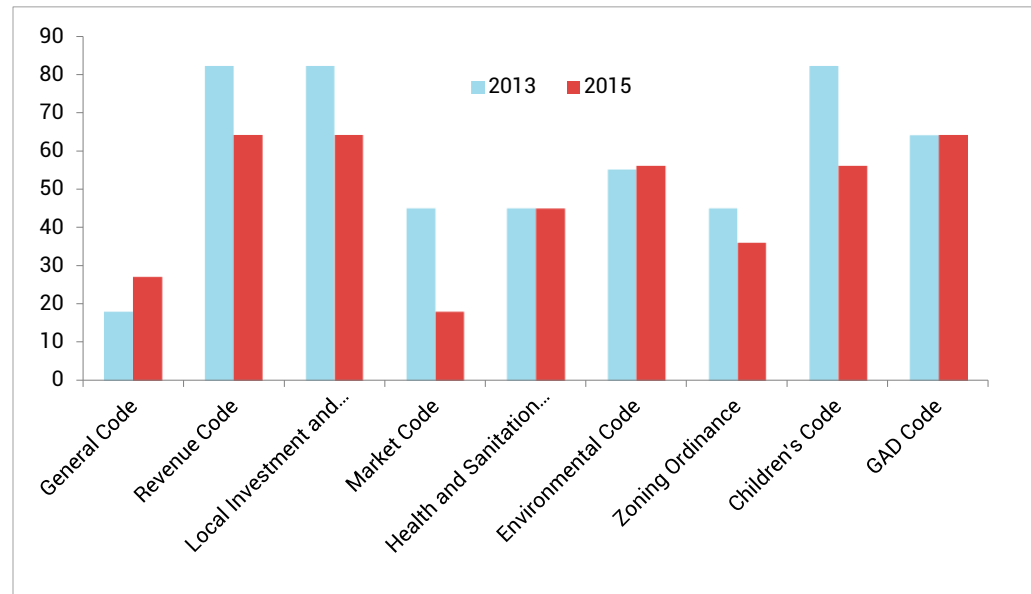
interventions. The Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998 mandated the establishment of Local AIDS Council (LAC) to ensure active involvement of the LGUs in combatting HIV/AIDS. However, most of the LACs

are no longer functional and need revitalization.

In terms of legislation, LGUs need to update local codes to make these relevant to the times. Figure 5.11 shows that 82

percent of the provinces and cities of the Region were able to update their respective Revenue Codes and Local Investment and Incentives Codes. However, the same data also indicates that most of the LGUs failed to update other codes.

Figure 5.11 Proportion of LGUs (Provinces and Cities) with Updated Local Codes, 2013-2015



Source: DILG Caraga

All the five (5) provinces were able to prepare their DRR-CCA Enhanced Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP), which were launched in 2015. However, Table 11 reveals that only 20 percent of the cities and municipalities were able to prepare DRR-CCA Enhanced Comprehensive

Land Use Plans (CLUPs). The low compliance is due to lack of technical capacity in physical planning particularly in GIS-based mapping. The DILG and HLURB continue to provide trainings and technical assistance to LGUs for the updating of their CLUPs.

Table 5.7 LGUs with Approved DRR-CCA Enhanced Local Development Plans, 2013-2015

INDICATOR	2013		2014		2015	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
% of PLGUs with approved DRR-CCA Enhanced PDPFP	100%	0%	100%	20%	100%	100%
% of CLGUs with approved DRR-CCA Enhanced CDP	100%	0%	100%	0%	100%	30%

INDICATOR	2013		2014		2015	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
% of LGUs with approved DRR-CCA Enhanced CLUP	100%	0%	100%	8%	100%	20%

Sources: NEDA Caraga, DILG Caraga, and HLURB

Challenges

Regional Government Machinery

Inadequate personnel complementation.

Some government agencies in the region are still operating with lean human resources and have staffs with multiple assignments/functions. There are also agencies with approved rationalization plans (RatPlan) that operate with less than the ideal number of personnel as reflected in their RatPlan.

Absence of other critical agencies in the region.

The region still lacks regional offices of some critical government bodies such as the Department of Energy (DOE), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and Professional Regulation Commission (PRC). On the other hand, given the geographical coverage of the Field Office of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), technical assistance and processing of applications for registration and licensing of housing and real estate related concerns are at times hampered by the absence of said office in the region.

Regional Development Financing

Absence of appropriation/Limited funds for the construction of regional offices.

Forty-one (41) of 81 regional line agencies that are operating in the region are either renting spaces in commercial buildings or occupying buildings owned by local government units.

Gap between the RDC-endorsed proposed budgets and actual approved budgets of agencies.

The approved budgets of most agencies are much lower than their RDC-endorsed proposed budgets. Agencies have to revise their programmed activities for the year to adjust to the limited approved budgets, which results in non-implementation of equally important activities.

Non-optimal utilization of funds vis-à-vis approved budget (within the agency level).

Some agencies have low budget utilization rates, which affect the approval of their proposed budget for the succeeding year. There is a need for affected agencies to have proper programming to achieve maximum utilization of budgets.

Possible reduction of revenues due to the suspension of some mining firms that are not compliant with environmental standards.

Twenty (20) mining firms in the region are under audit review. The suspension of operations of companies that are non-compliant to environmental standards will negatively affect collection of excise taxes and duty fees for

importation activities of mining companies.

government take on responsibilities that are not aligned with their qualifications.

E-Governance

Static government websites. Some LGUs and government agencies need to update and upgrade their websites to establish transparency and to be able to participate in online transactions to reduce time and costs.

Slow internet connection. Agencies and LGUs experience errors and delays due to slow internet connection while using internet-based systems for procurement, remittance of tax and payments, and submission of financial reports such as the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), e-Filing and Payment System (eFPS), GSIS Wireless Automated Processing System (GWAPS), GSIS e-Billing and Collection System (EBCS) and system for financial accountability reports.

Civil Service, Public Accountability and Moral Recovery

Graft and corruption in government. Even with the implementation of government policies and programs to eliminate graft and corruption in the government, alleged anomalous transactions allegedly persist in some government institutions.

Disjoint between the employees qualifications and their assigned functions. Some employees of the

Weak human resource management and development in government offices.

Some agencies do not have HRMD plans to build capacities of staffs and ensure well-organized allocation of physical and financial resources within the agency

Electoral Reform

Poor implementation of Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code. Vote buying and vote selling are prohibited and punishable under this law. However, elections are still marred by massive vote buying. The lack of effective mechanism in proving violations of said Law have contributed to the persistence of said practice.

Defective facilities of the Automated Election System (AES). People will have weakened confidence in the veracity of future election results given the complaints on defective Vote Counting Machines (VCMs) of the AES. VCM malfunctions also delay voting duration, which is inconvenient to the voters.

Local Governance

Non-functional Local AIDS Councils.

With the rising incidence of HIV-AIDS in the region, the LGUs need to ensure the functionality of its Local AIDS Council to spearhead the identification of policies and strategies and implementation of programs/projects to halt the further spread of HIV-AIDS.

Low conferment rate on the Seal of Good Local Governance. The inability of LGUs to obtain the SGLG indicates non-compliance with the minimum standards for good governance. For LGUs in Caraga, unmet requirements in the areas of social protection and disaster preparedness were the major obstacles to the conferment of SGLG.

High IRA dependency among LGUs. The ideal 50:50 IRA and local revenue mix is still difficult to attain with the LGUs' dependency rate on IRA reaching as high as 96 percent. The low capacity of LGUs to generate local revenues results in heavy IRA reliance.

Outdated Local Revenue Code of some LGUs and obsolete schedule of market values. A number of LGUs need to update their Local Revenue Codes to ensure that fees, charges, and local taxes that are being levied are updated and the tax scheme attractive to investors. Further, most LGUs have to update their schedule of market values for tax assessment of real properties as the market values are obsolete or far below the prevailing market price of real properties.

Limited capacity of the LGUs to undergo Public-Private Partnership (PPP) as an alternative mode of financing development projects. Engaging private sector in funding strategic programs/projects has vast potentials. However, the LGUs have limited capacity to undertake PPP. There is therefore a need to increase the LGUs' capacity to steer private sector participation and equip them with technical expertise on PPP undertakings.

Limited capacity of LGUs to generate local income. LGUs need to strengthen their capacity to use non-traditional sources of local income such as bond floatation. Further, LGUs have to tap the potentials of running Local Economic Enterprises (LLEs) as a means of generating local income.

Weak planning and budgeting Linkage. Some LGUs do not have Comprehensive Development Plans (CDP); they instead just prepare the Executive Legislative Agenda (ELA) as basis for the Annual Investment Program. This in turn, reinforces partisan identification of programs and projects instead of effecting a strategic development.

Low importance given to capacity building of the legislative branch- Given the intricate work of legislation, legislative staffs need to have technical skills to be able to assist legislators in performing their tasks. There is also a need to capacitate legislators particularly newly elected ones to allow them to pass relevant and responsive local legislations.

Non-compliance to RA No. 10587 known as the "Environmental Planning Act of 2013." The Local Planning and Development Coordinators of most LGUs have yet to obtain the license for Environmental Planning. To be eligible for the position of Department Head and Assistant Department Head, employees under the Local Planning and Development Offices should obtain licenses for environmental planning. Thus, LGUs should support their employees and assist them in obtaining the needed licenses.

Low compliance among LGUs in the preparation of CLUP. In 2015, only 20 percent of the LGUs were able to prepare their CLUPs, a document critical in ensuring rational use of lands. The LGUs need to provide adequate support to strengthen its Local Planning and Development Office, which are usually understaffed. Some of the planning staff are contractual employees/jobbers.

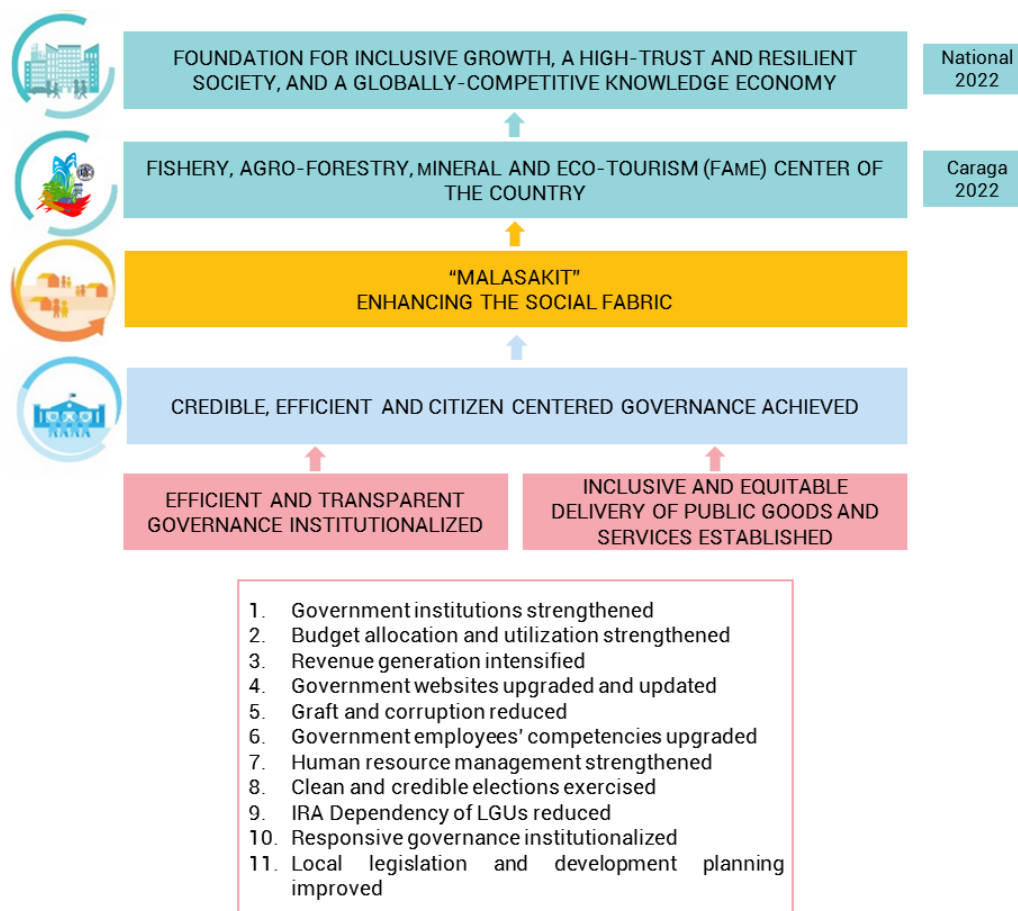
Poor DRR-CCA capacity among LGUs and weak enforcement of related policies. LGUs in Caraga have low compliance rate on disaster preparedness based on the 2014 SGLG assessment. However, more than just disaster preparedness, LGUs have to strengthen its capacity on Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation. Absence of DRR-CCA Enhanced Comprehensive Land Use Plan constrains

a LGU's capacity on DRR-CCA. LGUs also need to identify environmentally constrained areas and strictly enforce the no build zone policy in these areas to prevent loss of lives and reduce property damage during disasters.

Possible decline in local revenues due to suspension/closure of a number of mining companies in the region. With the present administration's commitment to responsible mining, a number of companies in the region have been issued suspension orders. Unless these companies comply with the environmental requirements, their operations will be suspended or closed. The suspension and more so the closure of these mining companies will negatively affect the generation of local revenue revenues (i.e. RPT, business tax, fees and charges).

Strategic Framework

Figure 5.12 Strategic Framework to Ensure People-Centered, Clean, Efficient, and Effective Governance



Objective 1. Government institutions strengthened

Full implementation of the approved rationalization plan for RLAs. Agencies with approved Rationalization Plans shall be enjoined to implement their Rationalization Plans to facilitate hiring/filling up of authorized positions and to establish adequate staff complementation across agencies.

Lobby through the Regional Development Council (RDC) for the establishment of DOE, SEC, and PRC regional offices and HLURB's satellite office. The region through the RDC shall lobby for the establishment of the above-mentioned offices to facilitate prompt processing of applications, registration, licensing, and provision of technical assistance to local government units and other stakeholders in the region.

Push for the allocation of funds for the procurement of lot and construction of regional offices. Agencies must include in their annual budget proposals funds for the acquisition of lot and construction of respective regional offices.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Full implementation of Rationalization Plans
- Establishment of DOE, SEC, PRC and HLURB offices
- Construction of government office buildings

Objective 2. Budget allocation and utilization strengthened

Lobby proposed budgets to Central Offices. The line agencies shall be enjoined to communicate to their central offices the budget required by the regions for the delivery of goods and services.

Institutionalize Full-Time Delivery Unit (FDU) in each RLA. This approach shall keep track of agency spending and program implementation in accordance with the set timelines and targets, while at the same time, enable RLAs to improve their budget utilization.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Submit/lobby to agency central offices proposed budgets endorsed by the RDC
- Regular Full-Time Delivery Unit (FDU) meetings
- Issue and implement guidelines on monitoring and evaluation system

that will prescribe agency's M&E Policy Framework

Objective 3. Revenue generation intensified

Enhance Voluntary Compliance through tax campaign activity. Tax campaigns shall be pursued to ensure greater participation by taxpayers and higher voluntary compliance with tax obligation.

Intensify Enforcement Activities through Audit/Investigation. Intensive audit/investigation shall be done to monitor tax compliance and to establish bases for the imposition of appropriate penalties.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Information dissemination for public awareness
- Weekly briefing of newly registered taxpayer
- Electronic Tax Information System
- Invigorate Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) Program
- Run After Tax Smugglers (RATS)
- Oplan Kandado
- Tax Campaign Verification Drive (TCVD)
- Quality audit on Withholding tax compliance by private and government entities

Objective 4. Government websites upgraded and updated

Lobby for the speedy formulation and implementation of the National Broadband Plan (NBP). Support from

relevant institutions for the realization of the NBP shall be lobbied to ensure that government services are delivered with speed, efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

Enjoin all LGUs and RLAs to update and/or upgrade respective websites. This will enable government entities to catch up with new systems particularly for online procurement and payment transactions and to provide updated information and services to online clients.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- NBP implementation
- Updating and upgrading of government websites

Objective 5. Graft and corruption reduced

Require all RLAs and LGUs to conduct orientation/re-orientation on RA 6713. Orientation/re-orientation shall be conducted for government institutions on the code of conduct and ethical standards of public officials and employees. A seminar on Public Service Values Program (PSVP) to engender among public officials and employees a sense of accountability, responsibility, integrity, competence, loyalty, patriotism and justice, and modest living shall likewise be conducted.

Intensify compliance to the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) provisions. The RLAs and LGUs shall be directed to comply with the ARTA through the installation of various means that would reduce red tape and demonstrate customer-driven response for efficient public service.

Further, ARTA compliance shall be strictly monitored and appropriate sanctions shall be given to institutions that fail to observe the ARTA.

Strictly implement RA 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act. Lobby to the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Technical Support Office (TSO) for the conduct of regular orientation on new issuances relating to RA 9184 particularly on applicable penalties and sanctions for prohibited acts, to procuring entities and groups/associations of bidders in the region to reiterate the revisions and provisions of the Procurement Act.

Promote transparency and accountability through the Full Disclosure Policy. Government institutions shall be steered to disclose to the public financial transactions such as budget management, disbursement, and utilization.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Orientation/re-orientation on RA 6713 or the code of conduct and ethical standards of public officials and employees and seminar on Public Service Values Program (PSVP)
- Anti-Red Tape Act – Report Card Survey (ARTA-RCS)
- Implementation of RA 9184 or the government procurement reform act
- Full Disclosure Policy

Objective 6. Government employees' competencies upgraded

Define and/or set-up the needed competencies for all positions in the RLAs and LGUs. Government institutions shall endeavor to outline needed competencies for all positions to provide direction in the execution of the recruitment process and to ensure that qualifications are properly matched with the jobs of the employees.

RLAs and LGUs to invest on competency based trainings/interventions.

Institutional capacities of government agencies and LGUs shall be enhanced through the provision of appropriate capacity building interventions to improve public service delivery.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Strategic recruitment management

Objective 7. Human resource management strengthened

Intensify compliance to Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME HRM). The RLAs and LGUs shall be mandated to implement the PRIME-HRM to enable agencies to achieve HR excellence at par with international standards.

Programs/Projects/Activities

Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME HRM)

Objective 8. Clean and credible elections exercised

Strengthen Voter's Education. A proactive campaign against vote buying must be included in the Voter's Education program. Aside from guiding the people on how to vote correctly, voters should also be educated on the sanctions of vote buying and its adverse effect to governance.

Establishment of a Technical Support Center (TSC) in the region. A Technical Support Center should be established in the region to repair defective VCMs during elections. The TSC serves as a call center and troubleshooter for the elections. Apparently, in Mindanao, TSCs are only located in strategic areas. In the case of Mindanao, it is located in Cagayan de Oro and Davao cities.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Voter's Education program
- Campaign Finance Monitoring
- Lobby for the establishment of a Technical Support Center in Caraga

Objective 9. Responsive governance institutionalized

Provide intense coaching to LGUs to comply with the SGLG requirements. LGUs need assistance and coaching to pass the following core assessment areas: a) Good Financial Housekeeping; b) Social Protection and Disaster Preparedness; and c) Business-Friendliness and

Competitiveness, Peace and Order or Environmental Management.

Promotion of Volunteerism.

Volunteerism shall be a core modality in harnessing citizen engagement to increase public participation in the affairs of the government, promote a consultative process in policy and decision-making, and enhance public accountability in managing development programs and activities. The national and local governments and the civil society, in general shall work closely and open platforms for inclusive volunteering to enable ordinary citizens and the marginalized sectors to take active role in information sharing, public resource management, conflict resolution, among others, aimed at strengthening these democratic institutions for nation-building.

Strengthen existing/organize Local AIDS Councils and other Local Special Bodies.

The participation of LGUs is crucial in curbing the rising incidence of HIV/AIDS. Local AIDS Council ensures collective effort of the different stakeholders and various sectors in sustaining public awareness, implementing programs and other necessary interventions to arrest the further spread of HIV/AIDS. Other Local Special Bodies' functionality should also be monitored to push for a more responsive governance.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG)
- Create/revitalize Local AIDS Councils

- Volunteers for Information and Development Assistance (VIDA) Program

Objective 10. IRA dependency of LGUs reduced

Intensify internal revenue generation.

LGUs shall be enjoined to formulate and/or update Local Revenue Codes (LRC) and Local Investment and Incentive Codes (LIIC) based on the LGUs' current and projected financial position, development priorities, and administrative capability. Enforcement of ordinances in imposing and collecting local taxes shall be strengthened to augment the income of the LGUs.

Intensify audit programs. Audit programs shall be strengthened to ensure proper utilization of LGU funds.

Diversify sources of local revenues. Other sources of income shall be explored by the LGUs such as ecotourism related livelihood activities. Establishment of Special Economic Zones shall also be pursued.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Updating of local codes
- Business Friendly and Competitive LGUs
- Public-Private Partnership Trainings
- Investment promotion
- Strengthening of economic enterprise initiatives
- Establishment of Special Economic Zones

Objective 11. Local legislation and development planning improved

Capacitate legislative branch to guarantee responsive legislation. Enjoin participation of legislative members and staffs to various seminars and trainings by oversight agencies like DBM, DILG, and CSC on responsive legislation.

Compel LGUs to update their CDP, CLUP, LDIP, ELA and AIP and ensure alignment of the identified PPAs. Updating and alignment of the LGUs' CDP, CLUP, LDIP, ELA and AIP ensure coherence and consistency of development efforts.

Encourage compliance to RA No. 10587. LGUs are urged to assist their local planners in acquiring licenses on Environmental Planning. Fostering well-rounded environmental planners would significantly aid development of quality and globally competitive local plans.

Strengthen LGU's capacity on DRR-CCA.

Strengthening the LGUs' capacity on DRR-CCA shall include establishment of DRR-CCA offices manned by permanent personnel who are knowledgeable on Geographic Information System (GIS). Developing permanent GIS experts is also a priority since most of the LGUs struggle with map preparation.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Newly Elected Officials (NEO) Program
- Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities Program (ADMP)
- Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation (DRR-CCA) program
- Business Friendly and Competitive LGUs
- Seminar/training on Excellence in Governance
- Seminar/training on Local Budgeting
- Policy reiterating the compliance of RA No. 10587 of LGUs
- Trainings on GIS

Policy and Legislative Agenda

- Passage of "An Act Rightsizing the National Government to Improve Public Service Delivery"
- Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolutions for the formulation and approval of strategic HR Plan
- Regional Development Council (RDC) resolution requesting the establishment of the Department of Energy (DOE), Security and Exchange

- Commission (SEC), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) regional offices in Caraga
- Department of Budget and Management (DBM) issuance of a Circular containing the guidelines on monitoring and evaluation system

that will prescribe agency's Monitoring & Evaluation Policy Framework

- Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) issuance of a policy compelling the updating of websites of government institutions
- Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issuance of a Memorandum Circular for the

implementation of the MASA MASID Program

- DILG Regional memorandum to re/organize their Local AIDS Council
- Local ordinance for the operationalization of Local AIDS Council
- DILG issuance reiterating the compliance of Environmental Planning Act of 2013 (RA No. 10587) of LGUs

06

Pursuing Swift and
Fair Administration
of Justice

Chapter 6

Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice

In the past regional development plans, the administration of justice was merely a component of the chapter on Good Governance and the Rule of Law. With the current administration's thrust on attaining a high-trust and resilient society, and as a necessary requisite in enhancing the social fabric, a whole chapter is devoted to the pursuit of swift and fair administration of justice. As the oft-repeated dictum says, "justice delayed is justice denied."

This chapter focuses on further strengthening institutions in the executive branch that are involved in the administration of justice, ensuring that they work in a coordinated and holistic manner for a more efficient and reliable justice system.

Assessment

Agencies in the executive branch involved in the administration of justice performed relatively well in the past three years based on their accomplishments vis-à-vis the targets indicated in the Revised RDP 2013-2016. However, the disposition of cases filed in courts remained slow.

Prosecution Services

The prosecutors in the region acted on more number of criminal cases as shown in the increasing or improving disposition rate. As a manner of disposition, the criminal cases were either dismissed or

filed in courts for trial. The hiring of additional prosecutors and the opening of City Prosecutor's Office in Bayugan, Bislig, Cabadbaran and Tandag facilitated the disposition of more cases.

Among the Offices, Butuan City consistently has the highest disposition rate. The disparity in the performance of the Offices was due to the presence of more prosecutors in some. While additional prosecutors were hired during the planning period, a number of plantilla positions remain unfilled due to delays in the signing of appointments by the President.

Table 6.1 Disposition Rate by Office, Caraga, 2013 – 2015

OFFICE	2013	2014	2015
Regional Prosecutors Office	66.67%	89.74%	70.83%
PPO Agusan Del Norte	82.91%	85.08%	90.76%
PPO Agusan Del Sur	71.94%	68.90%	75.29%
PPO Dinagat Islands	80.30%	44.20%	88.62%
PPO Surigao Del Norte	67.32%	63.78%	69.76%
PPO Surigao Del Sur	86.05%	82.13%	90.50%
CPO Bayugan City		97.94%	91.09%
CPO Bislig City		67.59%	71.67%
CPO Butuan City	91.03%	94.43%	91.39%
CPO Cabadbaran City		63.48%	57.48%
CPO Surigao City	76.84%	86.48%	86.08%
CPO Tandag City		61.53%	74.73%
Caraga	80.00%	80.28%	82.19%

Source: RPO Caraga

Public Attorney's Office Services

The legal assistance and representation in courts provided by the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) to indigent clients have been on the upswing. More inmates/detainees benefitted from legal representation due to the hiring of additional PAO lawyers, which allows a more regular jail visitation.

The region surpassed its targets in terms of the number of terminated cases in 2014 and 2015. However, in terms of cases decided by the courts, it registered a very low termination rate. Of the 11,711 total cases (pending and new cases) that the

PAO handled in 2015, only 31.51 percent was terminated. The low termination rate was due to the inadequate number of judges and trial court personnel, and lack of facilities in municipal courts.

Of the terminated cases, favorable disposition increased from 74.94 percent in 2013 to 78.60 percent in 2015, which is high considering the volume of cases handled by PAO lawyers.

To lessen the number of cases filed in court, PAO also provides mediation and conciliation services. In the last three years, at an average, PAO has terminated around 875 cases referred for conciliation and mediation.

Table 6.2 Public Attorney's Office Services Target vs. Actual, Caraga, 2013-2015

INDICATOR	2013		2014		2015	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
# of new cases handled	No target	3,850	No target	4,413	No target	5,324
# of Terminated Cases	3,135	3,045	3,197	3,462	3,357	3,690
Termination Rate						31.51%
# of Cases with Favorable Disposition	2,282	2,179	2,396	2,562	2,516	2,901
Proportion of Cases with Favorable Disposition	74.94%	74.94%	74.95%	73%	75%	78.60%
Proportion of qualified walk-in clients counseled	100%	100%	100%	100% (3,806 clients)	100%	100%
# of mediation and conciliation terminated	1,462	923	969	803	1,018	900
# of detainees/ inmates provided with legal representation.	4,987	4,987	5,236	3,552	5,497	7,861

Source: PAO Caraga

Jail Management and Penology

The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Caraga has operational control and supervision over 10 district jails, five (5) city jails, and 19 municipal jails – for a total of 34 jail facilities. Due to workforce gap, only 14 jails have inmates in detention.

Based on the UN standard of 4.7 sq.m. per inmate, the jails in Caraga are congested. The average congestion rate in 2015 was

431 percent with the Butuan City Jail Female Dorm registering the highest congestion rate at 747 percent. A more determined anti-drug campaign waged by the PNP caused the burgeoning of jail population. Jail congestion brings health and even security risks among inmates. Tuberculosis and skin diseases are the common afflictions of detainees. Proliferation of illegal drugs in the jail is another concern. Thus, Greyhound Operations are conducted by the BJMP in coordination with the PDEA to confiscate these drugs.

Table 6.3 Congestion Rate by Jail Facility, Caraga, 2013 – 2015

FACILITY	2013	2014	2015
Butuan City Jail Male Dorm	460%	593%	616%
Butuan City Jail Female Dorm	1800%	680%	747%
Cabadbaran City District Jail	344%	454%	674%
Bayugan City Jail	160%	823%	570%
Surigao City Jail	315%	288%	326%
Surigao Del Norte District Jail	328%	395%	498%
Placer District Jail	17%	39%	0%
Surigao Del Norte District Jail Annex-Dapa	295%	310%	388%
San Jose District Jail	0%	13%	0%
Bislig City Jail	227%	665%	555%
Surigao Del Sur District Jail	71%	86%	114%
▪ Annex - Bislig	644%	154%	169%
▪ Annex - Cantilan	275%	201%	395%
▪ Annex - Lianga	223%	94%	119%
Tandag City Jail	300.00%	138%	Unoperational

Source: BJMP Caraga

With only 284 BJMP personnel, the region has a shortage of 210 personnel to meet the ideal personnel to inmates' population ratio of 1:7. With the increasing number of inmates, the gap widened from 1:7.6 in 2013 to 1:10.4 in 2015. The ideal ratio for escort to inmate, which is 1:1+1, was also not realized.

Paralegal services are provided to inmates in coordination with the courts, Public Attorney's Office and the Commission on Human Rights. Release of inmates through different modes has slowed down. In 2015, only 1,265 inmates were released through different modes.

Table 6.4 Jail Management Performance, Caraga, 2014 & 2015

INDICATORS	2014	2015
Daily Average Inmates' Population	1,648	1,990
Actual Personnel Strength	285	278
Personnel Shortage	203	210
Custodial Personnel to Inmate Ratio	1:9.3	1:10.27
Number of Processed Cases	8840	8803
Released Inmates thru Different Modes	925	1,265

Source: BJMP Caraga

Parole and Probation Services

The number of investigation referrals received by the Parole and Probation Administration increased from 599 in 2013 to 735 in 2015. In terms of proportion of cases investigated in 2015, the PPA nearly met its target. This regional performance is better than the national achievement, which stood at 92 percent.

Compliance of parolees and pardonees to the terms of their probation and/or parole

conditions remained high even surpassing the national performance in 2015. Close monitoring and good relation between the Probation Officers/ Volunteer Probation Assistants (VPAs) and the supervised clients plus regular follow through activities resulted in low defaulters.

However, mobilization rate among VPAs who will assist in the rehabilitation of clients was 20 percent below the regional target due to the mismatch in the number of clients vis-à-vis the number of VPAs in the locality.

Table 6.5 Parole and Probation Related Services Actual vs. Targets, Caraga, 2013 – 2015

INDICATOR	2013		2014		2015	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
Number of investigation referrals received	629	599	629	548	660	735
Number of cases investigated	598	566	598	521	627	690
Percent of cases investigated	95%	94.49%	95%	95.07%	95%	93.88%
Number of clients supervised	1527	1,513	1,527	1,603	1603	1516

INDICATOR	2013		2014		2015	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
Percent of clients' compliance to the terms of their probation and/or parole conditions	99.15%	98.48%	99.93%	98.50%	98.50%	98.50%
Percent of clients participating in the rehabilitation program	99.25	99.14%	99.28%	99.93%	99.31%	99.3%
Number of appointed Volunteer Probation Aide	680	473	680	390	714	479
Proportion of VPAs mobilized to assist in the rehabilitation of clients	80%	57.92%	80%	58.20%	80%	63%

Source: PPA Caraga

Rehabilitation Services

In 2011, the DOH Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Caraga, which can cater up to 100 clients, became operational. The Center offers primary treatment programs that run from six (6) months to one (1) year. After the program, the center may release the clients but continue to

provide them with after care services. The social workers monitor the clients on a monthly basis thru home visits. Since its establishment, the center's clients continue to increase. In 2014, the center began providing outpatient services. The table below shows the clients served by the facility.

Table 6.6 Number of Clients Served at the DOH Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Caraga, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Admitted	24	52	78
Discharged	10	44	35
Outpatient	0	16	38

Source: DOH Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Caraga

Even with the massive and aggressive campaign of the government against illegal drugs, there is only one (1) accredited rehab facility operating in the region. To complement the region's facility, the Province of Agusan Del Sur opened in September 2016 a two-hectare Residential Treatment and Rehabilitation Center inside the 334-hectare camp of the 401st Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army. This center can accommodate up to 60

patients. However, it is still in the process of securing accreditation. With the deluge of drug users/pushers who voluntarily surrendered under the Double Barrel Program of the government, the absence of adequate rehabilitation and aftercare programs remain a concern. Institutionalization of after care programs for community-based, walk-in and admitted clients in facility-based institutions is critical to the full

rehabilitation and integration of clients in the community.

The Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth (RRCY) located in Agusan Del Sur caters to children in conflict with the law (CICL) and can accommodate up to 50 clients. The RRCY is the lone facility in the region catering to CICL. Given the huge number of CICL, the Department of Social Welfare and Development continues to advocate to Local Government Units for the establishment of a Bahay Pag-asa in every Province and City. A Bahay Pag-asa is a 24-hour child-care institution that offers short-term residential care for

children aged 13 to 17 who are awaiting court disposition, repeat offenders, and those considered neglected, abandoned or abused. As of 2016, only the Province of Agusan Del Norte has established its own Bahay Pag-asa.

Other Areas

The table below shows the incidence of deaths related to the campaign against illegal drugs. In the second semester of 2016, 58 cases resulted in 62 deaths. Of these, 22 cases have been filed against the perpetrators while the rest are still under investigation.

Table 6.7 Deaths under Investigation re Drug Related Incident, July 1, 2016 – December 12, 2016

PROVINCE	NO. OF DEATH UNDER INVESTIGATION (DUI) Cases	NO. OF VICTIM/S WHO DIED	UNDER INVESTIGATION	CASES FILED	PROPORTION
ADN PPO	16	16	10	6	38%
ADS PPO	18	18	5	13	72%
SDN PPO	7	9	8	0	0%
SDS PPO	4	4	3	1	25%
BCPO	13	15	11	2	15%
DI PPO	-	-	-	-	-
Total	58	62	36	22	38%

Source: PNP Caraga

Challenges

Protracted process in the justice system.

The disposition of cases remain slow due to the sheer numerous number of cases handled by the trials courts, lack of court personnel, and inadequate number of judges.

Limited/Inadequate resources.

Inadequate personnel plus absence/limited facilities of key agencies involved in the administration of justice remains a challenge. Additional prosecutors are needed and there have been delays in the appointment of prosecutors by the President. Additional plantilla positions are also required by the BJMP to operationalize other jail facilities and to meet the standards for inmate and escort services to personnel ratio. Lack of funds for rehabilitation programs for parolees and pardonees limits the delivery of rehabilitation services to DOJ-PPA clients. Absence of own regional and field offices is also a constraint.

Susceptibility to abuse of authority and non-adherence to law enforcement protocols in the government's anti-illegal drug campaign.

Given the strong stance of the government against drugs and criminalities, there is a need to institutionalize safeguards against abuse of authority and to ensure that law enforcers follow protocols.

Very high jail congestion rate exacerbated by increasing number of detainees due to drug related cases. The 14 operational jail facilities have congestion rates that reach as high as 747

percent. Congestion increases the health and security risks of inmates. Illnesses such as skin diseases and even tuberculosis are prevalent among inmates. With the current administration's unrelenting campaign against illegal drugs, the number of inmates will further surge, straining even more the current jail facilities. Thus, there is a need to ensure humane condition, preserve human dignity, and respect the human rights of prisoners or persons undergoing trial.

Presence of illegal drugs in detention/jail facilities. Despite the strict protocols, illegal drugs are still able to pass through security without detection.

Inadequate rehabilitation facilities/programs for drug users/dependents and children in conflict with the law. Currently, there is only one accredited drug rehab facility and one center for children in conflict with the law (CICL) in the region. With the increasing number of CICL and the government's strong stance against drugs, there is a need to establish additional facilities to ensure that adequate services are provided.

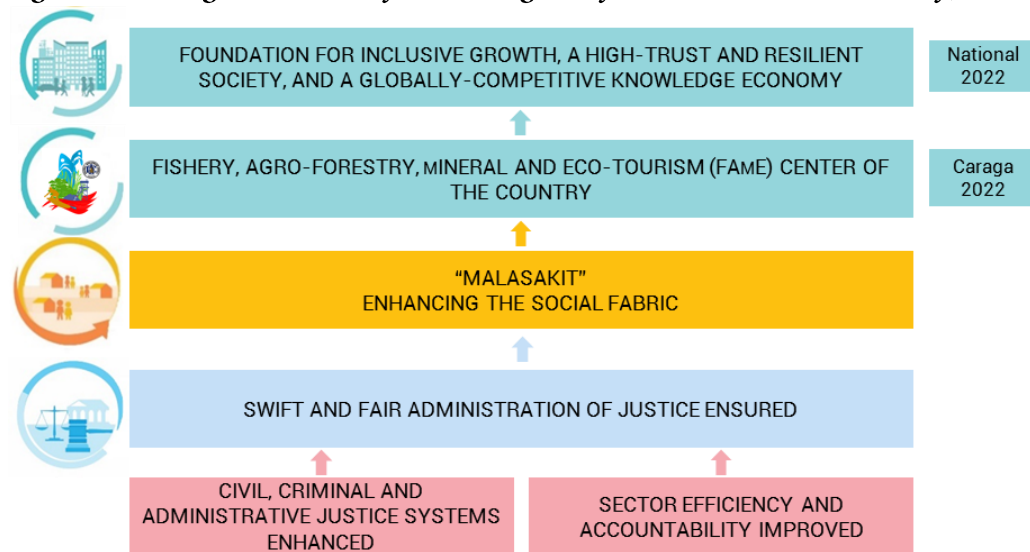
Drug-related deaths. There have been incidence of drug-related deaths. While cases were filed for some, others remain to be under investigation.

Very limited after care programs for drug-free individuals, parolees, pardonees and CICL. There is a need to institutionalize after care programs once these clients are released from facility

based institutions to support them in their reintegration in the community and to prevent relapse, recidivism, or becoming a habitual criminal.

Strategic Framework

Figure 6.1 Strategic Framework for Pursuing a Swift and Fair Administration of Justice



Objective 1: Institutional capacity of agencies involved in the administration of justice further strengthened

Provide adequate human and financial resources and functional facilities. This involves the filling up of plantilla positions and creation of new positions to ensure adequate human resources to manage facilities and provide judicial and quasi-judicial services. Provision of budget for rehabilitation programs of DOJ-PPA clients should also be a priority.

Mobilize Volunteer Probation Assistants (VPAs). Given the limited number of

probation officers, mobilizing more volunteers to supervise clients (pardonees and parolees) will help address the limited number of probation officers supervising parolees and pardonees.

Upgrade jail facilities and improve services. This involves construction of additional detention cells in existing jails, construction of new jails and improving current facilities to ensure better living conditions of inmates/detainees, and enhance security. Provision of medicines and regular tests against tuberculosis among personnel and detainees/inmates is also a necessity.

Converge with other agencies in the implementation of rehabilitation programs (i.e. for capitalization, training,

livelihood program, etc.). The DOJ-PPA should engage partner LGUs/NGAs/NGOs/POs/private sector in the delivery of rehabilitation programs.

Ensure availability of accredited drug rehabilitation facility and Bahay Pag-asa in every City/Province. Facility-based institutions are essential in providing rehabilitation programs for drug users and CICL. These facilities should also be managed or run by personnel with appropriate qualifications such as licensed social workers, doctors, and others.

Continuous capacity building. Involves improving the capacity of frontline personnel (i.e. investigators, program handlers, and volunteer probation assistants) to ensure adherence to processes and other legal requirements. Capacities on handling cases involving children needs to be strengthened as well.

Programs/Projects

- Construction/Upgrading/Repair/Improvement of Jail facilities and Office Facilities
- Jail Decongestion Program
- Establishment/Construction of Bahay Pag-asa
- Establishment of Drug Rehab Center inside the Butuan City Jail
- Construction of regional and field offices of key agencies (i.e. DOJ-PPA, ORP, NBI, etc.)
- Hiring of additional personnel (e.g. prosecutors, public attorneys, etc.)

Objective 2. Law enforcement services improved

Strengthen coordination among law enforcement agencies. This involves proper communication and coordination among law enforcement agencies in order to facilitate case build-up and strengthen the prosecution of cases.

Continuous capacity building. This involves improving the capacity of law enforcers in conducting correct or proper investigation, and expanding knowledge on protocols, law enforcement rules, and litigation processes to ensure that cases are not dismissed on mere technicalities. Trainings will also be conducted to develop PNP personnel's capacity to conduct mediation.

Strengthen administrative control and supervision among PNP personnel. This involves putting in place strict regulation for adherence/compliance with established protocols to ensure that human rights of suspected drug users/pushers are protected or respected.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Capacity Building Program
- Conduct of investigations
- Conduct of lifestyle check among PNP and NAPOLCOM personnel

Objective 3: Efficient judicial, quasi-judicial, prosecution, and corrections services provided

Utilize alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. This entails encouraging mediation and conciliation at the prosecution phase or prior to the filing of cases.

Strengthen further the Katarungang Pambarangay. The “Katarungang Pambarangay” system shall be strengthened by providing budgets to minimize indiscriminate filing of cases in courts. Further, building the capacities of the barangays on alternative dispute resolution will help avoid filing of cases in courts.

Provide efficient judicial and quasi-judicial services to the poor and marginalized. This involves making accessible in an efficient and convenient manner the legal services of government lawyers to defend the rights of the poor and marginalized. This also entails the hiring of additional public attorneys and operationalization of a PAO 24-hour hotline.

Ensure full implementation of existing laws. Full implementation of RA 10389 or “An Act Institutionalizing Recognizance as a Mode of Granting the Release of an Indigent Person in Custody as an Accused in a Criminal Case and for other Purposes,” and RA 10592 or the “Good Conduct Time Allowance” will facilitate

release of qualified detainees/inmates, which will help decongest the jails. The implementation of RA 9344 or “Juvenile Justice Welfare Act” needs to be strengthened to avert recidivism and facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of CICL in the community. The LGUs have to take on a greater role in the implementation of programs under these laws. Thus, there should be continuing advocacy and information dissemination on laws and other government issuances on RA 9344, RA 10389, and RA 10592.

Ensure that drug-related deaths are investigated and appropriate cases filed to prosecute criminals. With the prevalence of drug related killings/deaths, concerned agencies including the PNP, PDEA, NBI, and CHR should conduct investigation and file the appropriate cases to ensure that justice is served to those who are killed and to deter commission of other killings.

Strengthen procedures to prevent entry of drugs in detention facilities. Security protocols of the BJMP have to be reviewed and firmed up to prevent entry of illegal drugs inside the jail. Operations to recover drugs within the jail facilities must be conducted at random times to confiscate contrabands.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Legal Assistance Program
- Conduct of mediation and conciliation

Objective 4: Responsive rehabilitation and aftercare programs institutionalized

Institutionalize community-based, center-based, and reintegration and transformation-focused programs for drug users/dependents. With the government's unrelenting drive against illegal drugs and the huge number of surrenderers, profiling of drug users should be done to identify the appropriate intervention/rehabilitation program for each individual whether it is community-based or center-based and reintegration and transformation-focused interventions.

Operationalize Mamamayang Ayaw sa Anomalya Mamamayang Ayaw sa Ilegal na Droga (MASA MASID) Program. The operationalization of MASA MASID will strengthen the LGUs' fight against corruption, illegal drugs, and criminality. The program will help LGUs address the

needs of a huge number of drug dependents since one of its main thrusts is to establish community-based rehabilitation programs.

Institutionalize after care programs and services. Aftercare programs intended for pardonees, parolees, "drug free individuals" and CICL should be installed to facilitate their reintegration in the community and transformation after their release or after undergoing rehabilitation program. This will help in keeping these clients from committing offenses/crimes again. There must also be efforts to increase the awareness/sensitivity/acceptance of the community to these reintegrated clients.

Programs/Projects/Activities

- Mamamayang Ayaw sa Ilegal na Droga (MASA MASID) Program
- Drug Rehabilitation Program
- Therapeutic Community Program

Policy and Legislative Agenda

- Creation of additional/new trial courts
- Creation of additional prosecutor and public attorney positions
- Enjoining LGUs to establish Bahay Pag-asa and Drug Rehab Center
- Inclusion of indicators in the SGLG on Social Welfare Development-related laws

Research Agenda

- Review of the implementation of Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) Law
- Review of the implementation of RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act

07

Promoting
Philippine Culture
and Values

Promoting Philippine Culture and Values

The 1982 Mexico City Declaration on Cultural Policies defines culture as the “whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group including the arts and letters, modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs.” The said Declaration further asserts that it is through culture that man “discerns values and makes choices, expresses himself, becomes aware of himself, recognizes his incompleteness, questions his own achievements, seeks untiringly for new meanings and creates works through which he transcends his limitations.”¹

This chapter tackles Philippine culture and values as catalysts for positive change and socioeconomic development. It also discusses the cultural communities in the region, their needs and challenges, and the affirmative actions that government should undertake in the medium term to uplift their living conditions. As this is the first time that such chapter is included in the RDP, the chapter does not have a section assessing the performance of the previous plan in promoting Philippine culture and values.

Assessment

Inherent Filipino Values

Cultural awareness is the recognition of the different beliefs and ways of life and the uniqueness of various cultures. It allows a society to build on its strengths as well as adjust to other cultures and adapt to change. It allows man to be focused and to stay connected to his roots; it is also considered as a way to achieve national unity and lasting peace.

The Filipino culture and values result from a combination of various influences from its colonial and migrant history. The most prominent among its influences are from the Chinese, Indian, Spanish, American, and Japanese cultures. The Filipinos during pre-colonial period were known to be brave, resourceful, creative, hospitable, and friendly. This warm and welcoming behaviour of Filipinos allowed them to forge friendly ties with its trading partners.²

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). (1982). *Mexico Declaration on Cultural Policies*. UNESCO.

² Lim, B. (1999). *The Political Economy of Philippines-China Relations*. Philippines.

During the colonial era, the Filipinos adapted the Spanish values of “utang na loob” or debt of gratitude, which kept Filipinos deeply-connected to family and people who helped them in times of dire need. With the introduction of the Catholic Religion, Filipinos developed a strong faith or devotion to God that has kept them hopeful even in times of great difficulty. These traits are still manifested by modern Filipinos, especially in overseas Filipino workers who remain determined and optimistic in providing a safe, secure and comfortable life for their families. Other traits influenced by the Spaniards are amor propio or self-respect and hiya or discretion and modesty.³

From the Americans, the Filipinos developed the values of equality, self-reliance, candour, practicality, and efficiency. These are the values that helped America become the great nation that it is today. From the Japanese, the Filipinos imbibed the values of filial piety or respect and care for elders, empathy and harmony, self-control, and sense of duty or obligation. Further, Japan is known to value individuality but not individualism for the latter is equated with selfishness.

Over the years, Filipino values evolved and flourished, taking the best character traits of the Chinese, Indian, Spanish, American, and Japanese cultures. Pagmamahal sa bayan (patriotism), malasakit (compassion), katapatan (honesty), and bayanihan (cooperation) are among the Filipino values that can help an individual achieve his/her full potential while at the

same time foster national unity and promote lasting peace.

Pagmamahal sa bayan (patriotism) is best exemplified by the many soldiers who sacrificed their lives to defend the country and the volunteers who selflessly gave their time and resources to serve the underprivileged and marginalized. Malasakit (compassion) is manifested by the concerned neighbor who extends help to those in need without counting the cost. Katapatan (honesty) is exuded by government workers and businessmen who stay committed and truthful in their work. Bayanihan (cooperation) is the Filipino expression of working for the common good and contributing towards the achievement of a common goal.

On the flip-side, Filipinos have character traits that can undermine progress and cause conflict. These are tardiness, otherwise known as mañana habit, envy and insecurity best known among Filipinos as talangka (crab) mentality, and lately, materialism. Nevertheless, these negative characteristics can be overcome through education, openness, and willingness to change for the better.

Caraga culture and values

Butuan, the capital of Caraga, was an important trading center then, which sent the first ever-recorded Philippine trade mission to China on March 17, 1001 (Scott, 1989).⁴ It was considered a major tributary to the Sung Chinese Dynasty by way of its vassalship with the kings of the

³Hennig, R. P. (1983). *Philippine Values in Perspective: An Analytical Framework*. *Philippine Sociological Review*, Volume 31, Number 3-4.

⁴Scott, W. H. (1989). *Filipinos in China Before 1500*. *Philippines*.

Srivijaya Empire. The official trade conducted by the Imperial Household comprised the bulk of the profitable Nanhai or the South Seas trade in the form of state gifts presented to neighboring countries in exchange for exotic products. Both diplomatic and trade relations were based on tributary trade. Butuanons were then known as brave seafarers and trade envoys, honest trading partners, and creative and resourceful artisans who produced jewelry, gold and silver ornaments, fine clothing, and earthenware.⁴

On the other hand, Caraga region derives its name from the word “kalagan” which means land of brave and spirited people. It is said that Caraganons exemplify courage and resilience. These are the values/characteristics that the Caraganons have adapted due to the region’s exposure to various climatological and geological hazards, not to mention the conflicts due to lack of access to resources.

Courage and resilience are the values that remain critical or important if one aspires

to have matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay.

Cultural Heritage and the Arts

The National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) implements the Conservation of Cultural Heritage Program by virtue of the National Cultural Heritage Law of 2009. Under the Preservation and Protection of Intangible Heritage component, the program establishes Schools of Living Traditions (SLT) to preserve culture in a living form and thus ensure the transmission between generations. A SLT is a venue, established through a grant from the NCCA, where culture masters provide holistic training to a group from the young generation on indigenous knowledge, skills and techniques in doing traditional arts and crafts through informal experiential methods. There are three SLTs in Caraga, two are found in Surigao del Norte and one in Agusan del Sur.

Table 7.1 Schools of Living Traditions, Caraga, 2015

RESOLUTION NO.	TITLE	CATEGORY	GRANTEE
CCTA-Southern-2008-002	Magtangale, San Francisco, Surigao del Norte School of Living Traditions on Mamanua Bamboo and Rattan Weaving	Crafts	Barangay Council of Magtangale, San Francisco, Surigao del Norte
CCTA-Southern-2008-003	Approving Support for Mabuhay, Sison, Surigao del Norte School of Living Traditions on Mamanua Literature, Music and Dances	Performing Arts	Department of Education, Division of Surigao del Norte (Mabuhay, Sison, Surigao del Norte)
SCCTA-Southern-2009-102	Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur School of Living Traditions on Kamayo Songs and Dances (Preparatory Phase)	Performing Arts	East Prosperidad Central Elementary School

Source: www.ncca.gov.ph/school-of-living-traditions/list-of-schools-of-living-tradition/

Caraga’s rich heritage is showcased in cultural festivities and expressed in arts and crafts. Ethnological displays in

different museums attest to the region’s ancient and contemporary splendour. The

most prominent among them are found in the major cities of the region.

Butuan City is known as the historical and archaeological destination in the region. It is the home to the world's oldest watercraft known as the Balanghai or Butuan Boat. Fourteen Balanghai boats and many other artifacts that provide evidence to Butuan's ancient kingdom and flourishing trade were excavated in various archaeological sites around the city. The National Shrine of the First Formal Hoisting of the Philippine Flag in Mindanao, Bood Promontory – claimed to be the site of the first Easter Mass in the Philippines, National Museum-Butuan Branch, Balangay Shrine Museum, and the Diocesan Ecclesiastical Museum are located in Butuan City. The Kahimunan Festival, which is celebrated every third Sunday of January pays homage to the Holy Child or Senior Santo Niño while, the Balanghai Festival is observed on the Feast Day of Saint Joseph every 19th of May, to commemorate the magnificence of the Butuan Boat.

Known as the City of Island Adventures, Surigao City is the perfect spot for wind surfing, spelunking, and game fishing. Prime cultural destinations include Punta Baluarte, which is an observation deck used by Spanish friars and later by Japanese soldiers during the Second World War. The “Little Venice of Surigao” or Day-asan Floating Village and Mangrove Forest, is famous for its houses on stilts; Cantiasay-San Pedro Footbridge, which is the country's longest footbridge and the Surigaonon Heritage Center, a mineral and archaeological museum, are found in Surigao City. Every 25th of October, the

City commemorates the Battle of Surigao Strait during the Second World War. Derived from words that mean rain showers, the Bonok-bonok Festival is celebrated every 9th of September in honor of the city's patron saint, Senior San Nicolas de Tolentino, and in thanksgiving for bountiful harvest.

Population in Cultural Communities

Caraga Region is home to six (6) major ethnic tribes, namely: the Manobo, Higaonon, Mamanwa, Banwaon, Talaandig and Mandaya (Kamayo). There is no census on the actual number of indigenous peoples (IP). However, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) reported in 2013 that there are 101,515 IPs in 20 ancestral domains with Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) that cover 489,108.26 hectares of land in the region. The NCIP regularly conducts community profiling to record the number of IPs and gather other demographic data. In 2015, NCIP profiled 19 CADTs. The CADT profile is a good source of information on the needs and concerns of the indigenous cultural communities (ICCs).

Meanwhile, there are 165,234 individuals belonging to 64 Islamic communities in the region. The data on Islamic population obtained from the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) is not official. Nevertheless, the result was gathered from the community profiling conducted by the NCMF.

There is a considerable number of Badjaos observed in various areas in the region.

Seventy-eight Badjao families can be located in a settlement in Barangay Canlipa, Surigao City but many Badjaos are also found roaming around the streets of urban areas. An initiative of Barangay Canlipa, which is considered to be worth replicating is the conduct of a skills profile of the Badjaos and the provision of livelihood training on bracelet-making, mat weaving and soy sauce production. This initiative aims to enable Badjaos to become productive and resilient citizens. In partnership with the Surigao Education Center, Barangay Canlipa aspires to provide Badjaos with access to alternative learning in the near future.

While the presence of Badjaos is felt in some areas in Caraga, there is no available estimate on their population size, which is attributed to their nomadic nature. Likewise, there is no available record on their needs and concerns.

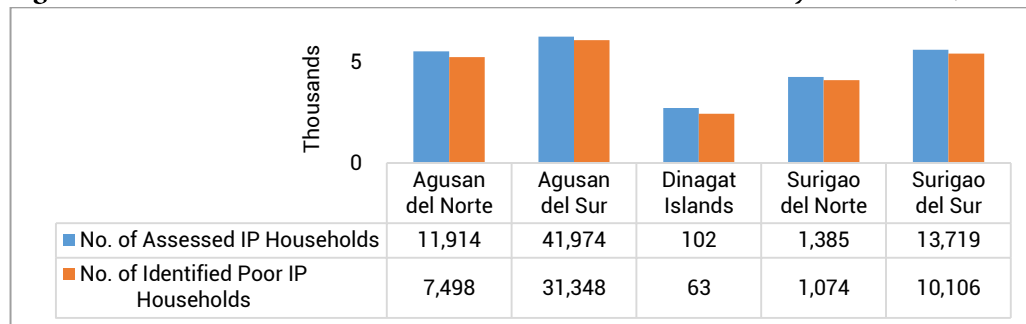
Poverty in Cultural Communities

The Technical Country Report on Indigenous Peoples' Issues published by

the International Fund for Agricultural Development revealed that IPs are among the poorest and most marginalized sectors in society. It cited the 2008 National Budget, which allocated the smallest budgets to regions with the largest concentration of IPs, like the Caraga region. It only received 1.38 percent of the total National Budget despite high incidence of poverty especially among the IP populations.⁵

The 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor released by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) through the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) revealed that 72.49 percent (50,089 HH) of the total number of assessed IP households (69,094HH) are poor. This is equivalent to 276,849 poor IPs. This figure constitutes 19.49 percent of the total poor individuals in the region. The highest concentration of poor IPs is in Agusan del Sur with 31,348 poor IP HHs.

Figure 7.1 Poor IP Households vs. Total IP Households Assessed by Listahanan, 2015



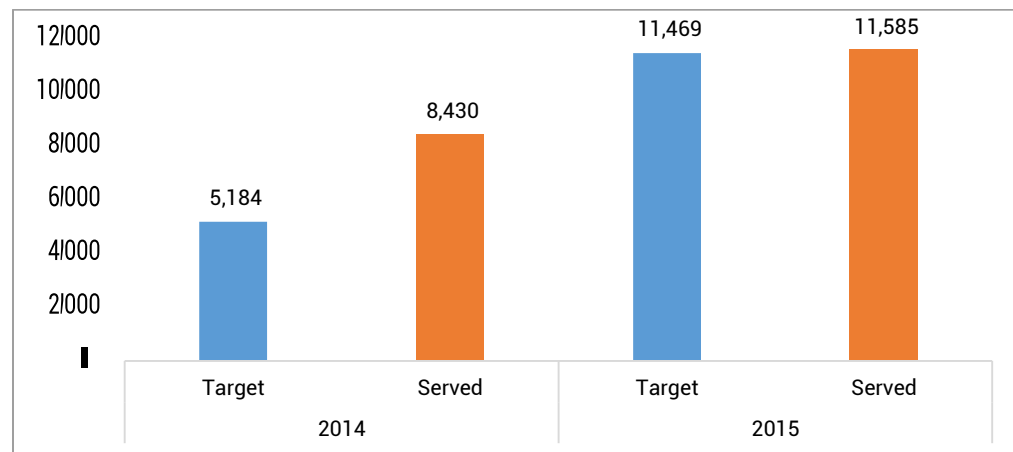
Source: 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor

⁵ Carino, J. K. (2012). *Country Technical Notes on Indigenous Peoples' Issues*. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

From the same profile, the top three basic social services availed by IPs were PhilHealth insurance (availed by 141,202 IP individuals), Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (availed by 136,980 IP individuals), and subsidized rice allowance (availed by 63,857 IP individuals). There is no available information on the social services availed by other cultural groups such as the Islamic and Badjao communities.

The expanded Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program dubbed as Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT), provides conditional cash grants to the poor including IPs. In 2014, there was a 37.43 percent increase in the number of IP households covered by the MCCT. From 8,430 IP households in 2014, the number of covered households increased to 11,585 in 2015.

Figure 7.2 IP Households Covered by Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT), 2014-2015



Source: DSWD-Caraga, April 2016

In addition to the MCCT Program, the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services National Community-Driven Development Program (KC-NCDDP) is present in 34 municipalities with ICCs. Further, ICCs where mining companies operate, receive royalty shares and also benefit from Social Development and Management Programs (SDMP).

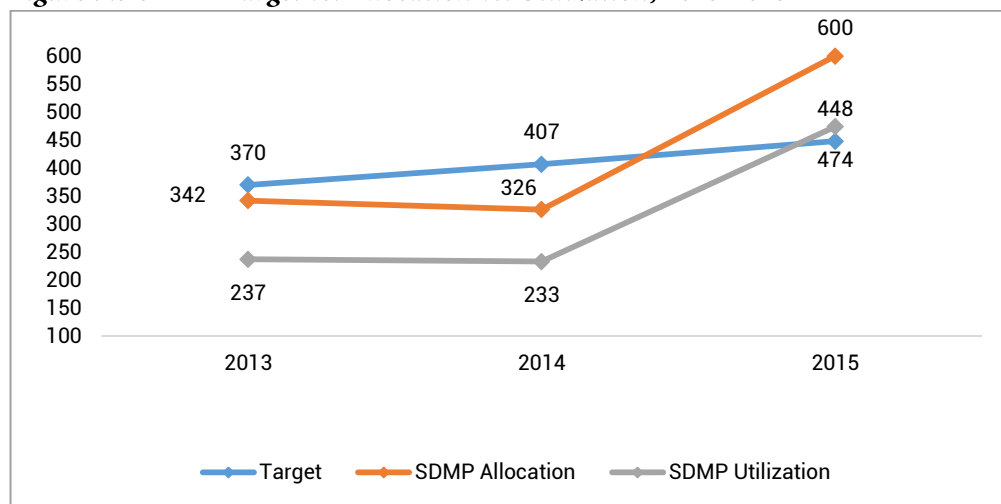
Indigenous peoples are entitled to a royalty share of 1% of the gross mineral production as mandated by the Philippine Mining Act and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act. According to the Mines and

Geosciences Bureau, the total royalty shares of ICCs in Caraga was estimated at P365.9 million in 2014. In recognition of the need to properly manage the royalty shares to equitably benefit all members of the community, the CADTs/ICCs are required to formulate their Community Royalty Development Plan (CRDP) in the absence of an Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP). CADT 092 (Manobo and Mamanwa Tribes in Cabadbaran, Tubay and portion of Santiago) and CADT 048 (Mandaya Tribe in Surigao del Norte) completed their CRDP in 2015.

The SDMP on the other hand is a 5-year comprehensive program crafted and implemented by every mining-related company. The program covers Health, Education, Livelihood, Public Utilities, and Socio-Cultural Preservation (HELPS) projects for host and neighboring communities. The SDMP is allocated 75 percent of the one percent of the annual

operating cost of a mining company. Meanwhile 10 per cent of the one percent of the annual operating cost goes to technology research and manpower development and the rest to advocacy and IEC. The figure below, however, shows poor utilization of the SDMP budget in the past 3 years.

Figure 7.3 SDMP Target vs. Allocation vs. Utilization, 2013-2015



Source: MGB, 2015

IP Civil Registration and Mandatory Representation

Data from the NCIP shows that IP representation in local legislative bodies (LLBs) in the region improved. In 2013, there were 19 IP representatives in the region, which increased to 77 the following year. As of 2015, there were 87 IP representatives who were issued with Certificate of Affirmation (COA) and they sit in the LLBs with salaries.

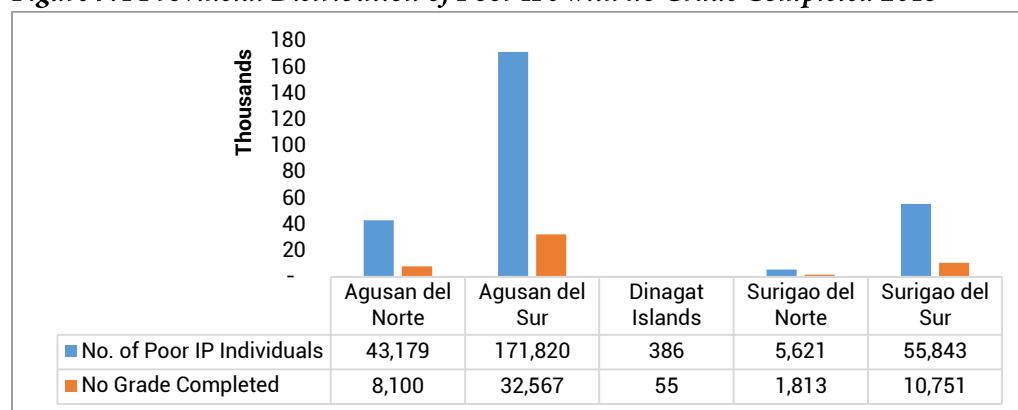
The civil registration assistance that the NCIP provided to IP individuals needs strengthening as the number of registered

IPs decreased from 689 in 2014 to 446 in 2015. Civil registration of IP individuals does not only provide them their right to a name and nationality but also socio-economic opportunities.

IP Participation in Mainstream Education

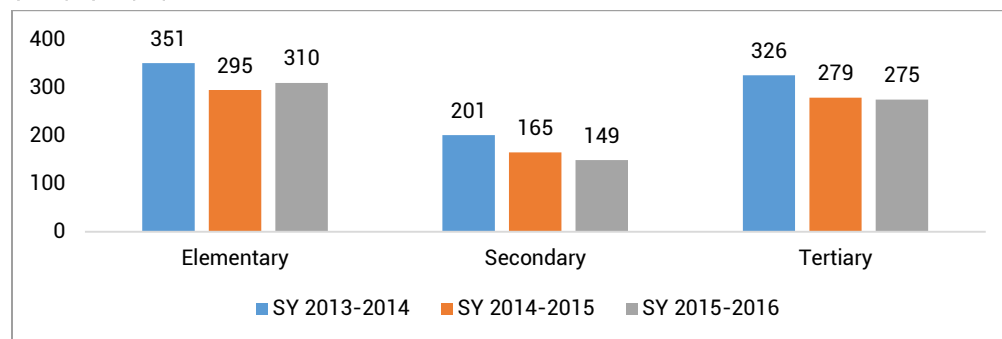
There is no available information on the actual number of IP children enrolled in school against their total school-age population. However, based on the 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor released by the DSWD, 19.24 percent of the 276,849 poor IPs have not completed any grade.

Figure 7.4 Provincial Distribution of Poor IPs with no Grade Completed 2015



There was a declining trend in the total number of beneficiaries of NCIP's Educational Assistance Program (EAP). From 796 beneficiaries in SY 2013-2014, it dropped to 734 beneficiaries in SY 2015-2016.

Figure 7.5 NCIP Educational Assistance Program Beneficiaries, SY2013-2014 – SY2015-2016



Source: NCIP-Caraga, 2016.

In addition to EAP grantees, 5 IPs were able to maintain their Merit-Based (MB) scholarships and graduated in March 2016. Most EAP and MB Scholarship beneficiaries took up education, mining technology, midwifery, and accountancy. The NCIP also provided assistance to 22 IPs for professional board exam reviews in 2015. Only four or 18 percent of the beneficiaries passed their respective licensure exams. One of two grantees passed the Criminology Licensure Exam in 2016.

In line with the Department of Education Order (DO) No. 62, Series of 2011 entitled National Indigenous Peoples Education (IPEd) Policy Framework, new public schools for IPs in Mindanao, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) opened in SY 2016-2017. In Caraga, 70 IP schools were opened out of the 82 IP schools targeted for the said school year. The 12 remaining schools either await fund release or have concerns with the school site. The IP schools, with a total of 171 classrooms, will hold multi-grade classes. There are 3,900

IP learners enrolled for SY 2016-2017; they are handled by 189 IPed-trained teachers

Delivery of Health Services to Cultural Communities

Medical and laboratory services were provided to 191 IPs in 2015. This was 72.36 percent less than the 691 IPs who availed of medical assistance in 2014. According to the NCIP, medical assistance extended to IP patients were in the form of check-up or medicines and were availed by those with complete supporting documents.

The Department of Health (DOH) with the NCIP and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2013-01 providing the guidelines on the “Delivery of Basic Health Services for Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples.” The implementation of the said JMC resulted in the training and deployment of 30 IP Tribal Health Workers (THW) and five midwives employed through the Rural Health

Midwife Placement Program (RHMPP). A Maternity Waiting Home and Barangay Health Station (BHS) was constructed in Binicalan, San Luis, Agusan del Sur. To help facilitate the enrolment of IPs in the National Health Insurance Program, 100 IP individuals from the municipality of San Luis availed of late birth registrations.

The JMC 2013-01 also helped in the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the Ancestral Domain Investment Plan for Health (ADIPH) under the Indigenous Peoples Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition Project or IP MNCHN Project-Mindanao. Funded by the European Union, IP MNCHN Project-Mindanao aims to establish private-public partnerships in the delivery of culturally-sensitive health care to IPs and ICCs in GIDAs. It is implemented by the NCIP, and jointly managed with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). All provinces in the region, except for Dinagat which does not have an ancestral domain, have their own ADIPH. The DOH is helping the said provinces gather fund commitments for the projects identified in the plans.

Challenges

Lack of understanding and awareness on indigenous and Islamic cultures and practices to foster amity and eliminate discrimination. IPs and Muslims tend to experience discrimination in the practice of their culture and religion. Non-IPs, particularly program-holders, need to develop a level of understanding of the customs and traditions of the cultural

communities in order to provide culture-sensitive social services.

Poor access to culturally-appropriate education and lifelong learning. The IP Education started implementation in 2016 in selected IP areas. There are Madrasa schools in some of the Islamic communities in the region. Poor access to

culturally-appropriate education and livelihood skills enhancement is a factor that leads to low economic productivity of cultural communities.

Limited number of licensed IP teachers.

While there are IPs that are graduates of education courses, only a few are LET passers, which is a requirement in the hiring of public school teachers.

Unrecognized and underutilized culture masters who could facilitate the learning, relearning, and unlearning of indigenous culture. Culture masters and elders are crucial in the handing down of indigenous knowledge, skills and practices (IKSP) through the IPed curriculum. They should be engaged in the provision of education in ICCs.

Exclusion of cultural villages and centers in the land use plans. While there are 64 Islamic communities in the region, there is only one Islamic cemetery located in Cabadbaran, which is already full. This has an implication in the continuity of the tradition of Muslims to bury the dead within 24 hours. The inclusion of cultural centers in the land use plans promotes the preservation of heritage sites including the integrity of cultures.

No government institution or agency is directly taking care of the concerns of the Badjaos. Agencies like DSWD may extend assistance to Badjaos but there is no particular agency which handles and prioritizes their concerns.

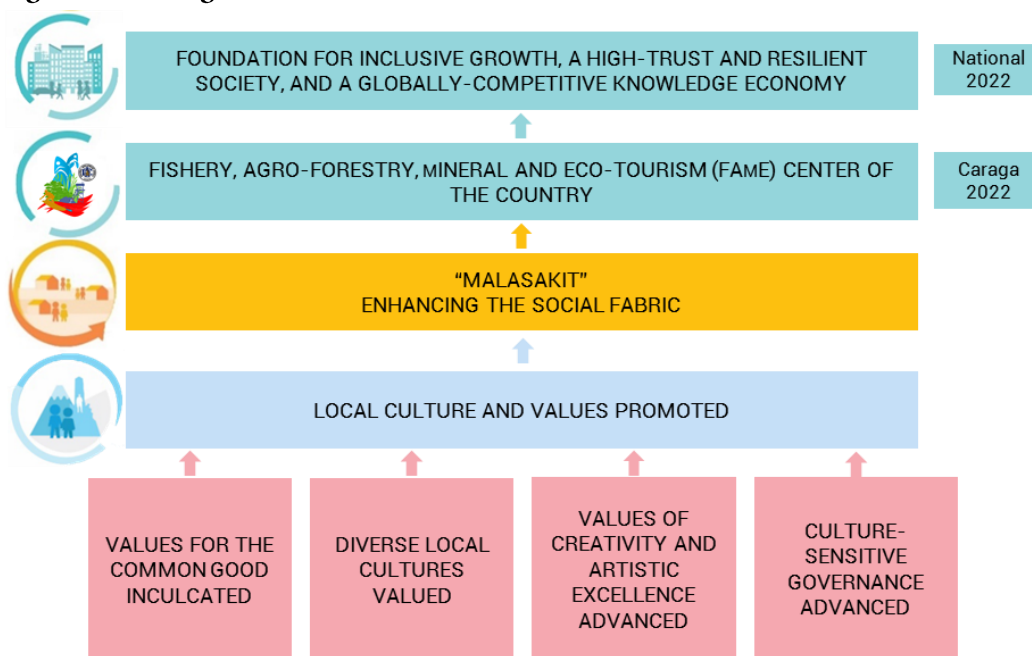
Absence of villages where nomadic Badjaos can obtain livelihood skills development and alternative learning services. The presence of Badjaos can be felt throughout the region despite their nomadic nature. Sanitation and livelihood concerns among others arise during their stay in the municipalities and cities.

Poor management and disbursement of Royalty shares from mining operations. The NCIP recognizes the need to strengthen the management and distribution of mining royalties to ensure that members of the tribal communities receive their appropriate royalty share.

Absence of Halal-certified restaurants and hotels. With the dawn of ASEAN integration, the increased mobility of Asians and Filipinos expands the demand for Halal foods and services.

Strategic Framework

Figure 7.6 Strategic Framework to Promote Local Culture and Values



Objective 1: Values for the common good inculcated

- *Impress upon the children and youth, Filipino values that inspire national pride, unity and peace, such as pagmamahal sa bayan (patriotism), malasakit (compassion), bayanihan (cooperation), resiliency, and determination* through activities that:
 - raise cultural-awareness in schools, government and community; and
 - integrate values in the various levels of education.

Objective 2: Diverse local cultures valued

- *Empower resilient cultural communities through initiatives that:*
 - establish public-private partnerships that will sponsor scholarships for deserving cultural community members to IP schools such as the Pamulaan Institute in the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP);
 - introduce a program that promotes Philippine Cultural Communities in schools such as introduction to Multi-cultural Education, and Foundations in Cultural Education;

- iii. intensify LET Review and other assistance to IP Teachers;
- iv. intensify and diversify livelihood and skills trainings for cultural communities through the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) and other related programs;
- v. document and preserve indigenous knowledge, skills and practices (IKSP);
- vi. allocate funds and provide technical assistance for the civil registration of IPs; and
- vii. promote the participation of tribal women in policy-making, planning, implementation and monitoring of programs for the advancement and resiliency of cultural communities.

- ***Recognize, promote and protect cultural heritage and cultural integrity through programs that:***
 - i. sustain the preservation of culture through culture-based education.
 - ii. allocate funding for the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage at the regional and local government levels.
 - iii. establish or enhance museums, ethnological galleries, cultural villages and tribal centers that serve as repositories of cultural and historical knowledge, and a locus for cultural tourism.

Objective 3: Values of creativity and artistic excellence advanced

- ***Encourage the showcasing of local talents*** through the conduct of festivals, exhibits and local shows.
- ***Encourage local artists to organize and enhance their craft*** through the support of multi-sectoral stakeholders.
- ***Allocate fund support for scholarships and competitions for the performing arts.***
- ***Generate culture-related data*** including inventory of talents and cultural heritage sites.

Objective 4: Culture-sensitive governance advanced

- ***Include Badjao concerns*** in the agenda of the RDC-CIPC.
- ***Promote convergence of initiatives*** among RLAs and LGUs particularly in the establishment and provision of basic services to cultural communities.
- ***Ensure equitable distribution of the royalty shares*** in CADTs where mining companies operate through the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the CRDP.
- ***Expedite land tenure and CADT issuance.***
- ***Strengthen the Tribal Council of Elders*** by enhancing their capacity as IP elders and culture-bearers.

Legislative Agenda

- RDC to adopt a culture appreciation and awareness week celebration.
- RDC-CIPC to spearhead the conduct of cultural awareness advocacy activities.
- RDC to enjoin LGUs to allocate funds and provide technical assistance for the civil registration of IPs.
- RDC to enjoin LGUs to allocate funding for the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage with the assistance of the NCCA.
- RDC to encourage LGUs to include in their land use plans the establishment of cultural villages and tribal centers including Islamic cemeteries.

Research Agenda

- Study on the impact of CDD projects on the IP Culture and Processes
- Documentation of Livelihood and Survival Traditions of Badjao/Manobo Communities in Northern Mindanao
- and Caraga Regions for Inclusive Development
- Economic Evidence of Ethnic Inequality: The Case of the Higaonon and Manobo Tribes

Programs and Projects

1. Indigenous Peoples Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition Project (IP MNCHN) Project, DOH
2. Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) for Indigenous Peoples, DSWD
3. Indigenous Peoples Education (IPed), DepEd
4. Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE) program, DepEd
5. Education Assistance Program (EAP), NCIP

PART III

INEQUALITY- REDUCING TRANSFORMATION ("PAGBABAGO")



08

Expanding Economic
Opportunities in
Agriculture, Forestry,
and Fisheries

Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

The agriculture, forestry and fisheries (AFF) is an important sector for an agro-based economy like Caraga's. It accounts for 35 percent of the total employment in the region. Despite the vast development opportunities of the AFF sector, poverty is pronounced among farmers and fisher folks. Hence, there is an urgent need to strengthen, if not, innovate and improve efforts to achieve the sector's maximum growth potential and thus, uplift the living condition of Caraganons.

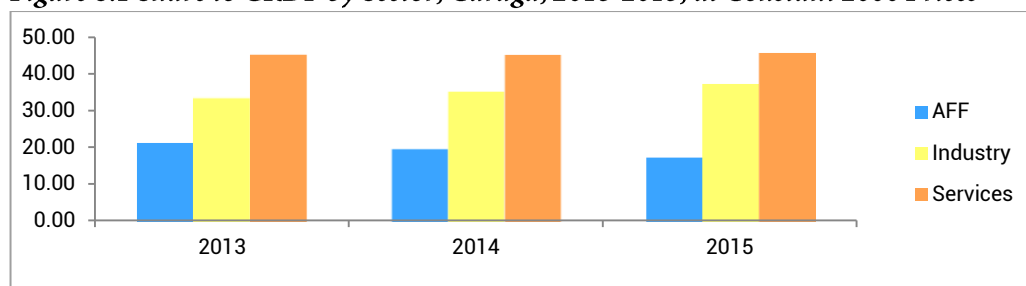
This chapter provides strategies and interventions that are geared towards expanding growth opportunities as well as increasing access to these opportunities, and reducing vulnerability of the farming and fishing communities.

Assessment

The AFF Sector's performance has been spiralling downward. For 2015 in particular, the sector's aggregate output, which constitutes an average of 19.26 percent of the region's total production, declined by 7.4 percent. Likewise, its

contribution to the region's total output contracted from 21.10 percent in 2013 to 17.14 percent in 2015. Both the Agriculture-Forestry (AF) and Fishing Subsectors' output declined by 8.40 percent and 1.57 percent, respectively

Figure 8.1 Share to GRDP by Sector, Caraga, 2013-2015, at Constant 2000 Prices



Source: PSA, 2016

The dismal performance of the AFF Sector during the period was attributed to the

declining volume of production of all its subsectors. Crop production decreased for

the last three years due to natural calamities that damaged a large portion of the region's agricultural production areas and some support facilities. The natural calamities include Typhoon Pablo in December 2012, Tropical Depression Agaton in the first quarter of 2014, Tropical Storm Seniang by the end of December 2014 towards January 2015, and the El Niño Phenomenon, which started in the second quarter of 2015 and lasted until the middle of 2016. The absence of a large livestock grower and controlled disposal of animals in the region affected the production level of livestock industry.

The moratorium in the harvesting of natural grown and residual forests as mandated by Executive Order No. 23, s. of 2011, affected the productivity of the wood industry in Caraga Region. Since 2011, log production is primarily fueled by private tree plantation, which comprised 91.47 percent of the region's total log

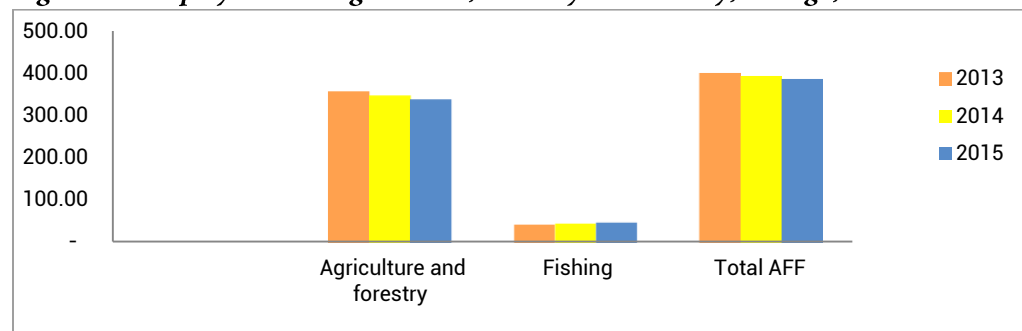
production. An aggregate area of 642,174 hectares of forestlands covered by 19,648 forest agreements, representing 48.23 percent of the region's forestlands, were practically non-productive.

Production performance of the fishery subsector showed a declining trend for the last three years due to the decrease in fish catch in both municipal and commercial fishery and the decline in seaweed production.

Employment in AFF

Looking at the employment data from 2013 to 2015, an average of 35 percent of the workforce belong to the AFF Sector. Subsector wise, agriculture and forestry employed the most persons at 337 thousand in 2015.

Figure 8.2 Employment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, Caraga, in Thousands



Source: PSA 2016

Crops Production

Palay Production

In 2013, the region achieved 107 percent of

its target in palay production despite Typhoon Pablo, which damaged agricultural areas in the southern part of the region. The expansion in area planted and the improved yield are the main reasons for the upturn in palay production.

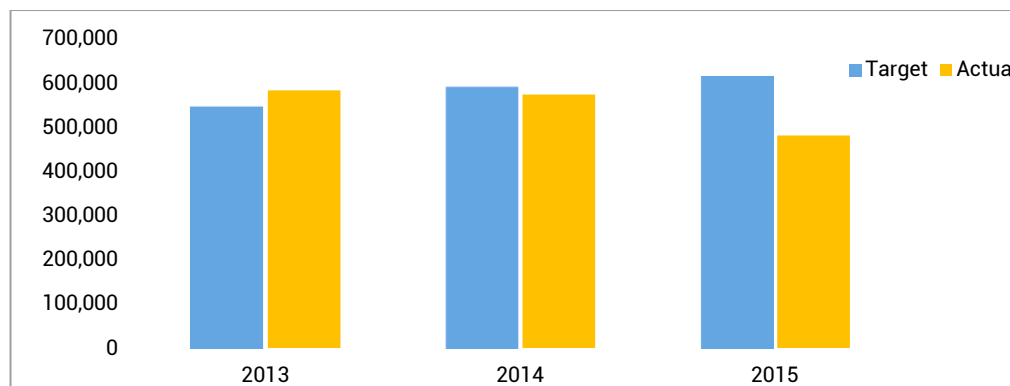
The increase in area planted was attributed to the completion of rehabilitation works in some irrigation systems resulting in the expansion of serviced areas. The improvement in the irrigation systems combined with the utilization of high quality seeds encouraged better yield in palay production.

However, the region fell short of its targets in palay production for the years 2014 and 2015, attaining 97 percent and 78 percent of its yearly targets, respectively. The setbacks were attributed to a significant reduction in area planted by roughly 12 percent. In 2014, two major tropical cyclones affected the region, namely, Tropical Depression Agaton, in January

2014, and Tropical Storm Seniang in the later part of December 2014. These two major weather disturbances destroyed not only the areas planted with palay but also some irrigation facilities.

In the early part of 2015, some farmers opted to plant corn instead of rice in anticipation of El Niño. During the year, some palay production areas were affected by dry spell and pest/diseases infestation caused by El Niño. It should be noted that roughly 40 percent of the productive palay production areas were rain fed, while some irrigated areas were not supplied with irrigation waters as some facilities needed rehabilitation.

Figure 8.3 Palay Production Target vs. Actual Production, Caraga, 2013-2015, in metric tons



Sources: PSA, RM 2013-2015

Palay Area

Effective area for palay production in 2013 to 2014 recorded a positive performance achieving 109 percent and 112 percent of its targets in 2013 and 2014, respectively. The increase in area planted was due to completion of rehabilitation works of some

irrigation systems and expansion in the areas serviced with adequate water supply.

On the other hand, the area planted with palay in 2015 missed its target by 3 percent. All provinces recorded lesser area harvested due to dry spell, insufficient water supply attributed to the damage of the Andanan NIS main canal in Bayugan

City, Agusan del Sur, and insufficient rainwater in Surigao provinces.

Based on the Barangay Agricultural Profiling Survey (BAPS) 2013, the physical area devoted for palay production reached 107,721.50 hectares. From 2013 to 2015, productive areas comprised only 78 percent of the total area allocated for palay production. About 48 percent of the total palay areas are still rain fed.

The physical area devoted to irrigated palay production was estimated at 52,167

hectares. The actual harvested area for irrigated from 2013 to 2015 averaged at 96,750 hectares per year taking into consideration two cropping seasons. This shows a 93 percent utilization of the total physical area devoted to irrigated palay production.

As shown on Table 9.1 below, Agusan del Sur has the biggest area for palay production taking 39 percent of the region's total palay area while the Province of Dinagat Islands has the least at two percent.

Table 8.1 Palay Area Harvested, 2013-2015, in hectares

REGION/PROVINCE	2013	2014	2015	PHYSICAL AREA DEVOTED TO PALAY (BAPS 2013)
Caraga	99,786.00	100,072.00	90,392.00	52,166.66
Agusan del Norte	21,068.00	20,976.00	17,783.00	11,223.99
Agusan del Sur	38,917.00	38,994.00	34,776.00	19,411.74
Dinagat Islands	2,034.00	2,049.00	1,988.00	1,007.51
Surigao del Norte	16,409.00	15,649.00	13,911.00	8,423.25
Surigao del Sur	21,358.00	22,404.00	21,934.00	12,100.17

Sources: PSA, BAPS 2013

Rice Self-Sufficiency Level

The region surpassed its rice sufficiency level targets in 2013 and 2014 with 114.86 percent and 111.45 percent rice self-sufficiency ratio, respectively. There was an increase in palay production due to the increase in both area planted and yield.

However, the region failed to achieve its target level of rice production sufficiency in 2015 due to the reduction in area harvested and yield as the region was hit by long dry-spell and pest/disease infestations attributed to El Niño phenomenon.

Table 8.2 Rice Self-sufficiency Ratio, Caraga, 2013-2015

YEAR	TARGET	ACCOMPLISHMENT	DIFFERENCE
2013	100.23	114.86	14.86
2014	106.96	111.45	4.49
2015	109.96	93.08	-16.88
Average	105.72	106.46	0.74

Source: Raw data-PSA

Agusan del Sur, which is considered as the rice hub of the region, contributed an average of 51 percent of total rice

production from 2013 to 2015. The Province of Dinagat Islands had been producing the least among provinces with

only one percent contribution to the region's output.

Some of the factors that hindered the region from achieving rice sufficiency include indiscriminate conversion of agricultural lands to other uses and underdeveloped/ undeveloped potential areas for palay production. With the increasing population, the amount of arable land suited for agriculture declined. Also, some areas for palay production remain underdeveloped or undeveloped due to lack of irrigation and other support facilities.

Average Yield of Palay

The average palay yield has been below the yearly target for the period 2013 to 2015. Insufficient rainwater, infestation of Malayan black bug, prevalence of stem

borer and rats during vegetative to reproductive stages affected the palay yield in the region. In 2015, yields were affected by insufficient water due to dry spell and damaged irrigation facilities of the Andanan NIS, which is the main source of irrigation water for rice areas in Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur.

Palay yields vary enormously throughout the regions in Mindanao. Northern Mindanao has the highest average yield in three years at 4.43 metric tons per hectare. Caraga has the second least palay yield next to ARMM Region. Caraga's is even far below the national palay yield, which stands at 3.93 MT. The wide difference is generally attributed to varying levels of land under irrigation, varieties planted, and technology applied (fertilizer, pesticides, extension services).

Table 8.3 Palay Yield, Philippines and Mindanao Regions, 2013-2015, in MT/ha

COUNTRY/REGION	2013	2014	2015	3- YEAR AVERAGE
Philippines	3.89	4.00	3.90	3.93
Zamboanga Peninsula	3.95	4.03	4.04	4.01
Northern Mindanao	4.26	4.42	4.43	4.43
Davao Region	4.08	4.36	4.45	4.30
SOCCSKSARGEN	3.85	3.93	3.80	3.86
Caraga	3.31	3.30	3.10	3.24
ARMM	2.70	2.56	2.51	2.59

Source: PSA, 2016

Caraga is vulnerable to the impacts of adverse weather. This contributed to the low level of agricultural productivity particularly of palay. Another factor is the non-adoption of high yielding varieties of palay. In 2011, only four percent of the region's total palay area was devoted to hybrid palay production. Most of the areas were devoted to inbred palay particularly varieties with lower yields (i.e., farmers' seeds and good seeds).

Adoption of new technologies such as high yielding varieties particularly for palay is still slow in the region as most farmers prefer using traditional methods over modern ones because of the attendant costs. Most of the farmers have no capital to finance the investment needed and they also cannot access credit/financing facilities due to stringent requirements. This is a persistent challenge in the region

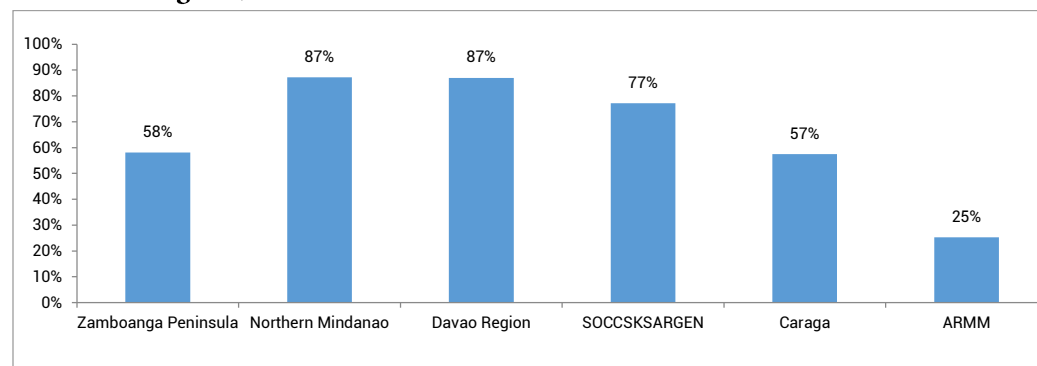
as the poverty incidence among farmers is high.

Another factor is the ageing population of farmers. Based on a study conducted by the Central Mindanao University (CMU), the average age of the Filipino farmer at present is 55 years old. Older farmers mostly rely on traditional methods. This issue has negative implication to food security in the region and the country.

Based on areas irrigated, Northern Mindanao and Davao Regions have the highest proportion of irrigated palay areas

at 87 percent of the total harvested palay area, while Caraga has only 57 percent (Figure 8.4). About 43 percent of harvested palay areas in Caraga are highly dependent on rainfall. Drought is the most important limiting factor influencing annual production potential of these rain-fed areas. Yet, rice varieties grown in Caraga Region are highly sensitive to drought stress, with the greatest losses occurring when the crops are in the flowering or reproductive growth stages. In 2015, the region experienced deficient rainfall/prolonged dryness.

Figure 8.4 Average Percentage of Irrigated Areas to Total Harvested Palay Area, Mindanao Regions, 2013-2015



Source: PSA, 2016

The forecasted palay area and yield in selected ASEAN member countries in 2015 is shown on Table 8.4. The estimated largest palay area in 2015 is in Indonesia with 12.20 million hectares. Thailand follows with 10.70 million hectares and then Vietnam with 7.70 million hectares. In terms of palay yield, Vietnam has the highest estimated palay yield at 5.89 metric tons per hectare. The Philippines ranks the third highest at 4.08 metric tons per hectare. Increase in fertilizer application especially urea has played an important

role in the yield increase in Vietnam since the early 90s (FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific).

In terms of area, Caraga Region's actual palay area is definitely less competitive compared to other ASEAN member countries. However, the region has a comparative advantage in yield as it reached 3.10 metric tons per hectare in 2015, which is higher than Indonesia's or Thailand's.

Table 8.4 Palay Area and Yield Forecast in Selected ASEAN Member Counties

COUNTRY	AREA (MILLION HECTARES)	YIELD (Mt/Ha)
Indonesia	12.20	3.01
Vietnam	7.70	5.89
Thailand	10.70	2.81
Philippines	4.80	4.08
Cambodia	3.10	2.51
Laos	0.90	2.91
Malaysia	0.70	4.04

Source: USDA, Foreign Agricultural Services, 2016

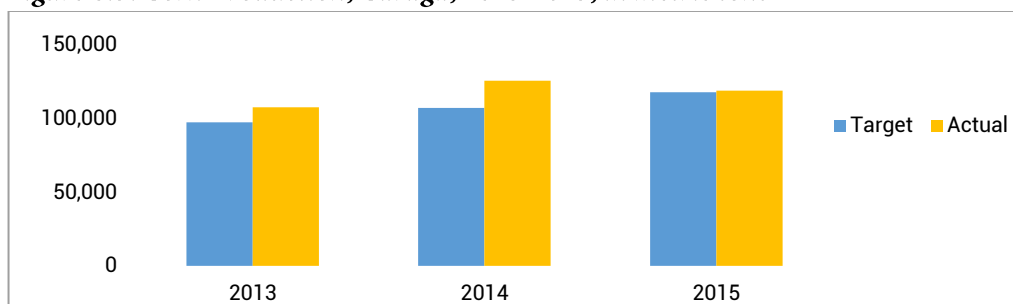
The Agri-Pinoy Rice Program of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) XIII provided various support services to help the farming sector in the region improve their production, increase productivity and become resilient against climate change.

Corn Production

The region surpassed its yearly production target from 2013 to 2015. The highest achievement was recorded in 2014 with 117 percent, making Caraga as one of the five best performing regions in the country. The region is a consistent awardee of the National Quality Corn Achievers Award for three consecutive years.

This remarkable performance was attributed to the increase in area planted and yield, availability of seeds, and sufficient soil moisture. In 2014, more farmers opted to plant corn instead of rice in anticipation of the El Niño phenomenon, which favors corn production under Caraga's Type II climate. The appropriate farming technologies and facilities that were established for corn also contributed to the said increase. Utilization of high quality seeds/varieties such as Ready Round up (RR) and Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) varieties particularly for yellow corn resulted in higher yields.

Figure 8.5. Corn Production, Caraga, 2013-2015, in metric tons



Sources: PSA, RM 2013-2015

For the past three years, corn area harvested consistently surpassed its target. The increase in corn area harvested was attributed to the availability of seeds.

Total physical area devoted to corn production in 2011 was estimated at 27,744 hectares. Taking into consideration two cropping seasons, the average corn area

harvested from 2013 to 2015 was 40,790 hectares. This indicates that only 76 percent of the total corn areas were utilized. About 78 percent of the corn areas

were devoted to white corn production while only 22 percent were dedicated to yellow corn production.

Table 8.5 Corn Area Harvested, 2013-2015, in hectares

REGION/PROVINCE	2013	2014	2015	PHYSICAL AREA DEVOTED TO CORN (BAPS 2013)
Agusan del Norte	5,608.00	6,078.00	5,768.00	4,634.25
Agusan del Sur	26,053.00	29,674.00	31,055.00	15,818.07
Dinagat Islands	16.00	35.00	80.00	131.20
Surigao del Norte	630.00	798.00	768.00	956.77
Surigao del Sur	5,710.00	5,372.00	4,725.00	6,204.01
Caraga	38,017.00	41,957.00	42,396.00	27,744.30

Sources: PSA, BAPS 2013

Agusan del Sur has been the top corn producer, contributing an average of 78 percent to the region's total corn production. On the other hand, the Province of Dinagat Islands has been contributing a meager 0.06 percent of the region's total corn output.

The Agri-Pinoy Corn Program of the DA-RFO XIII played a significant role in the impressive performance of corn for three consecutive years. The program provided production support services including registered open-pollinated variety (OPV) corn seeds under the Seed Exchange Program.

Other Major Crops Production

Coconut contributed the bulk of the output of other crops at an average of 61 percent of total. However, its actual production for the past three years has been weakening due to the long-term adverse effects of Typhoon Pablo in Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur and typhoon Yolanda in Surigao del Norte. Surigao del Sur has been the region's major producer of coconut contributing an average of 49 percent to

the total coconut production. Surigao del Sur ranks 11th among the provinces in the country based on production and 18th based on area.

Banana has the second largest output among other crops contributing an average of 18 percent for the past three years. In 2013, banana production only attained 94 percent of its target due to the decrease in the volume of production of the Cavendish variety, which was affected by the cutting of unproductive hills and temporary closure of the Soriano farm in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte. The decrease in the production of banana was also caused partly by Typhoon Pablo, which hit some banana-producing municipalities of Agusan del Sur. In 2014 and 2015, banana production recorded an accomplishment of 109 percent and 115 percent of its targets, respectively. The improved performance was attributed to increased banana Cavendish production in Soriano Farms and DOLE plantation in Surigao del Sur. The Province of Surigao del Sur is a major producer of banana contributing an average of 44 percent to the region's banana production. Surigao del Sur ranks

16th in the Philippines based on production while Agusan del Sur ranks 11th based on area.

Oil Palm failed to achieve its target production for the past three years due to the long term adverse effect of Typhoon Pablo. In 2013, the labor dispute in Filipinas Palm Oil Processing, Inc. (in Agusan del Sur) from January to February 2013 also affected production. Agusan del Sur has been the major producer of oil palm contributing an average of 98 percent to the region's total oil palm production.

The region ranks 2nd based on area and production in 2015.

The total other crops production on the average showed positive performance for the past three years with an average annual growth of 1.84 percent. Among other crops, banana production posted the sharpest increment with an average growth of 11.79 percent in three years. Calamansi, rubber, mango, pineapple, eggplant, and mungbean have great potential, as their individual outputs figure in the top 20 in the country based on production and area.

Table 8.6 Total Production of Other Crops, Caraga, 2013-2015, in metric tons

REGION/PROVINCE	2013	2014	2015	AVERAGE CHANGE
Abaca	5,827.89	6,031.23	7,179.75	11.27
Cacao	57.84	59.40	60.31	2.11
Coconut (with husk)	834,917.16	821,512.71	804,722.84	-1.82
Coffee (dried berries)	1,497.16	1,405.43	1,645.95	5.49
Oil Palm (fresh fruit bunch)	136,370.72	140,459.05	153,184.13	6.03
Rubber (cuplump)	10,030.83	10,509.08	12,006.01	9.51
Banana	208,303.19	243,791.92	259,737.68	11.79
Calamansi	4,194.08	4,420.97	4,978.47	9.01
Mango	15,562.10	15,699.81	17,227.73	5.31
Pineapple	3,542.23	2,810.22	2,681.76	-12.62
Sweet Potato	29,434.16	32,055.93	30,148.46	1.48
Cassava	17,699.89	17,180.75	18,201.31	1.50
Eggplant	3,473.96	3,945.63	3,970.18	7.10
Other Crops	43,951.50	44,892.27	47,840.57	4.35
Total	1,314,862.71	1,344,774.50	1,363,585.15	1.84

Source: PSA, 2016

The Agri-Pinoy High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) of the DA RFO XIII contributes to the efforts to address poverty and sustain growth in the agricultural economy by increasing production, creating opportunities, and providing support in production, processing, and marketing to the producers of high value crops.

In support of the ASEAN's efforts to promote Good Agricultural Practices

(GAP), the DA Caraga conducted several trainings on Good Agricultural Practice for different high value crop commodities. Trainings were focused on proper management of different commodities while ensuring quality and safe production that considers worker's health, safety, and welfare. The promotion of standards has reached the entire region through massive information campaigns such as information caravans conducted in the five provinces of the region. Through these

GAP Caravans, farmers were encouraged to avail of the free application for certification.

The Antongalon Farmers Association Caraga Incorporated (AFACI) was the first GAP certified vegetable farm in the region. Thus, its products are safe for human consumption, free from synthetic fertilizers, and the working environment considers workers' welfare.

On Organic Agriculture (OA), the DA provides production services to farmers. However, the region failed to achieve its target areas for organic farming in 2015. In 2015, 5,239.43 hectares were devoted to organic agriculture with about 3,200 farmers engaged in organic farming producing commodities like rice, corn, vegetables, fruits, forage, and root crops.

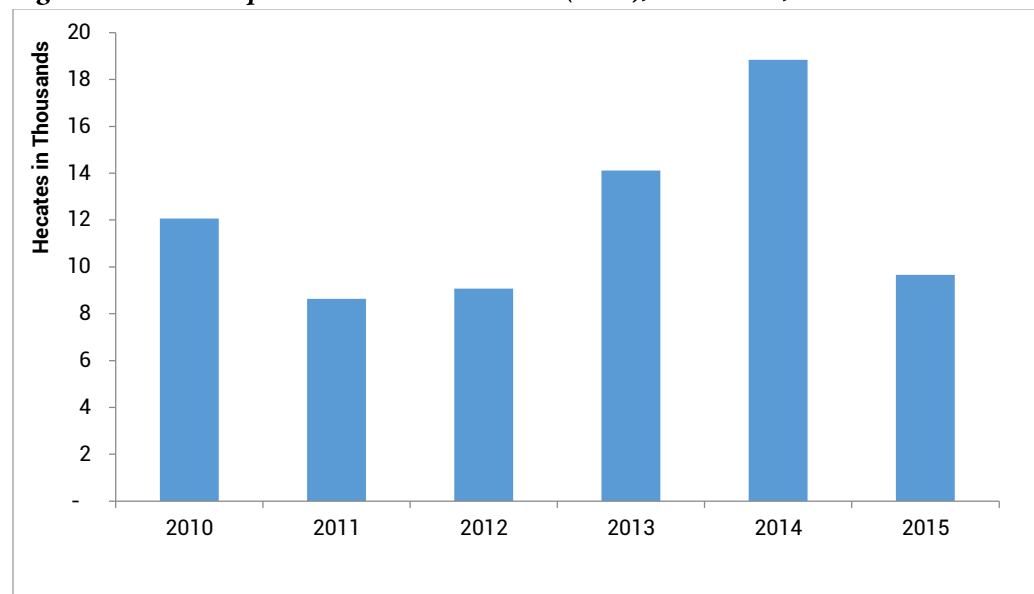
As partners for rural development, the Rural Based Organizations (RBOs), i.e. farmers' association, rural improvement

clubs, agrarian reform communities, etc., were given trainings and provided with technical support by various regional line agencies. However, there are existing rural-based organizations (RBOs) that are no longer active in rural development activities.

Land Tenure Improvement

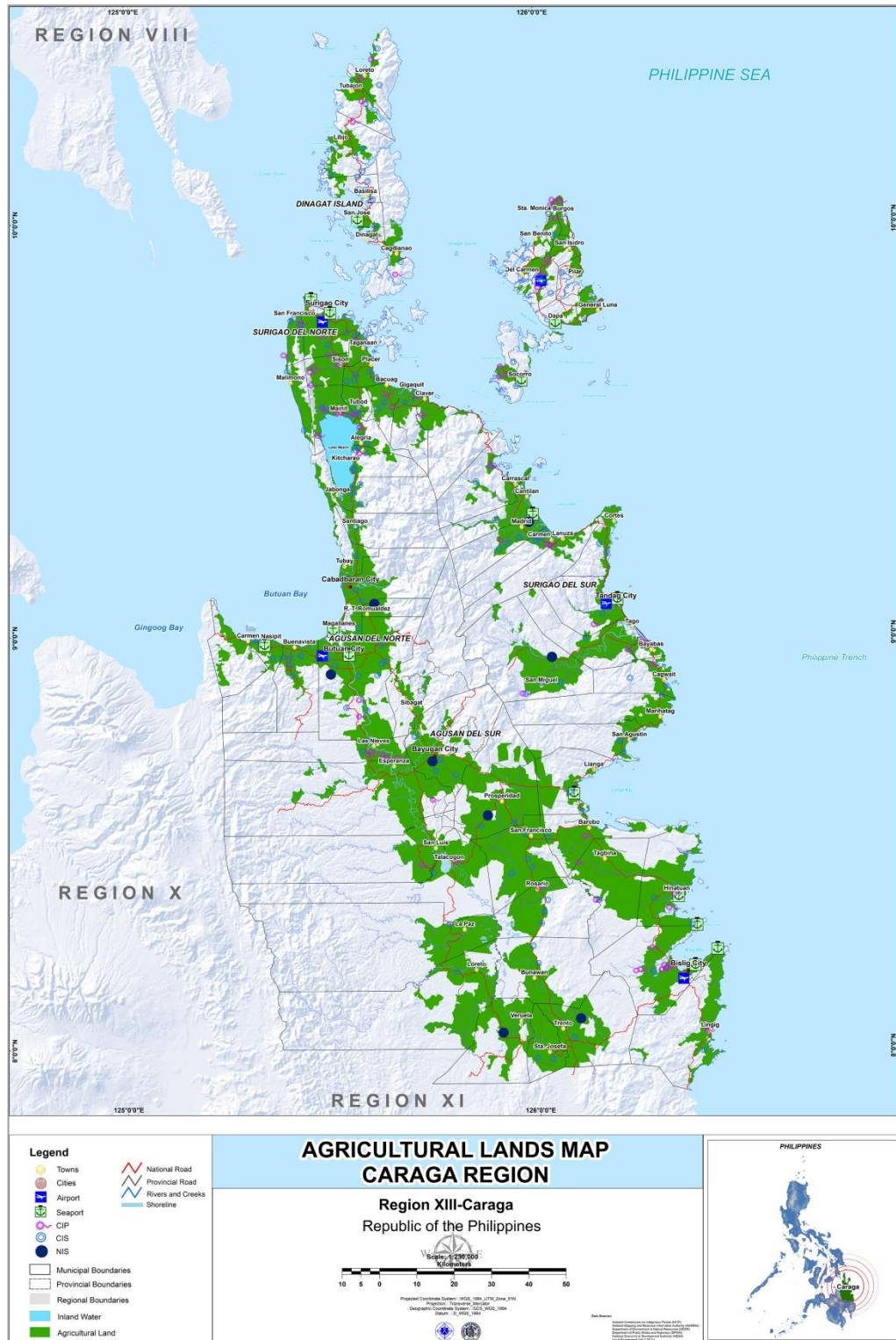
Of the total 8,686 hectares of funded target in 2015, DAR Caraga distributed 1,435 hectares with registered Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) to qualified farmer-beneficiaries. Aside from the physical transfer of the lands, 297 hectares of non-CARP areas, and 7,825 hectares deducted from the Land Acquisition and Distribution (LAD) Balance after passing through the Regional LAD Balance Evaluation Team (RLBET) form part of the accomplishments in 2015. This reached a total of 9,657 hectares in 2015 or an accomplishment of 111 percent.

Figure 8.6 Land Acquisition and Distribution (LAD), 2010-2014, in hectares



Source: DAR Caraga, 2016

Map 8.1 Agricultural Lands, Caraga



For Land Tenure Services (LTS), Leasehold Operation accomplished 297 hectares which is 19 percent over the target. Final Survey Documentation (FSD) completed 230 hectares out of the 240 hectares targeted in 2015 for an accomplishment of 96%. For the re-documentation of collective CLOA, only 36% of the targeted 17,199 hectares was documented. The poor performance was caused by the following:

1) farmer- beneficiaries who were previously identified as co-owners of the collective CLOA no longer cultivate the awarded land; thus, necessitating exclusion and inclusion proceedings; and 2) there were portions in the Approved Survey Plans that were determined to contain non-CARPable areas requiring a re-survey to correct it.

Table 8.7 Other Land Tenure Services Target and Accomplishments for 2015, in hectares

OTHER LAND TENURE SERVICES	2015 TARGET	2015 ACTUAL	PERCENT ACCOMPLISHMENT
Leasehold	250	297	119%
Final Survey Documentation	230	250	109%
Re-Documentation of CLOA	17,199	6,109	36%
Subdivision of Collective CLOA	17,199	1,677	10%
Distributed But Not Yet Paid	3,149	128	4%
No. of ARBs with Land Acquisition Distribution Information System	3,505	905	26%

Source: DAR Caraga, 2016

On the subdivision of collective CLOA, only 10 percent of the RDP target was accomplished. This low accomplishment was attributed to the problems on peace and order, tedious bidding process for the survey activities, and overlapping of operational jurisdiction between DAR and other agencies that issue tenure instruments.

For the Distributed but Not Yet Paid (DNYP) and Land Acquisition Distribution Information System (LDIS), the agency accomplished only four percent and 26 percent of its respective targets. Landholdings involved were mostly foreclosed properties of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) with the following issues: 1) actual tillers are children of previous landowners; 2) subject landholdings were already sold to individuals other than the actual tillers; 3)

records/ documents of the landholdings were no longer available at the DBP; and 4) farmer- beneficiaries are no longer in the area. DNYP areas were collectively distributed, hence the need for the conduct of segregation survey to delineate the non-CARPable areas.

Livestock and Poultry Production

Livestock

The region remains as a net importer of livestock products as it failed to meet the annual production requirements for the past three years. The absence of large livestock growers in the region combined with controlled disposal of stocks by livestock raisers to ensure building up of stocks, affected the sustainability of supply of quality stocks.

Table 8.8 Total Livestock Production, Caraga, 2013-2015, in metric tons

YEAR	TARGET	ACTUAL	% ACCOMPLISHMENT
2013	47,190.50	46,065.00	97.61
2014	47,677.10	45,196.00	94.80
2015	48,168.87	44,616.79	92.63

Sources: PSA, RM 2013-2015

The absence of large livestock growers in the region could be due to lack of capital/investment for commercial and large-scale development. Another factor is the unstable peace and order condition in production areas. Some investors withdraw or delay the implementation of their development project/s in the region when the peace and order situation is untenable.

Agusan del Sur produced the bulk of the outputs in carabao, hogs and goat while Agusan del Norte topped cattle production.

The Livestock Program of the DA-RFO XIII sustained its services for the development of the livestock and poultry industry in the region. The program is geared towards increasing farmers' profitability, ensuring food security and sustainability, and promoting the use of eco-friendly technologies. The program supported production services through its Genetic Improvement Program (GIP) and Animal Health Program. This program includes extension support, education, and training for farmers and agricultural technicians for effective service delivery and program implementation in their respective areas of assignment.

The same program convened the Caraga Goat and Sheep Raisers Association (CAGOSHERA) and Caraga Swine Raisers Incorporated (CARSI), which was participated by 34 swine and small ruminant raisers in the region. The groups discussed strategic actions and came up with concrete plans for the advancement of the livestock industry in the coming years.

Moreover, the Livestock and Poultry Information and Early Warning System (LPI-EWS) for chicken and swine was developed to provide ready information to stakeholders, policy makers, and key players of the industry in forecasting and in determining strategic actions that will affect the industry. The EWS, which is produced every semester is geared towards achieving food sufficiency, security, and sustainability by ensuring adequate supply of chicken and swine.

Poultry

Poultry production consistently surpassed its yearly targets from 2013 to 2015. This was attributed to better performance of Chicken and chicken egg production. Agusan del Norte is the top producer of chicken and chicken eggs.

Table 8.9 Total Poultry Production, Caraga, 2013-2015, in metric tons

YEAR	TARGET	ACTUAL	ACCOMPLISHMENT
2013	12,825.99	15,287.00	120
2014	12,954.25	17,390.00	134
2015	13,083.79	18,239.96	139

Sources: PSA, RM 2013-2015

Forestry Production

Caraga Region is tagged as the Timber Corridor of the Philippines, supplying approximately 69 percent of the country's log output. The region has a total

forestland of 1,331,491 hectares of which 75 percent or about 999,705 hectares are for production. Agusan del Sur has the largest area for production comprising 33 percent of the region's total.

Table No. 8.10 Forestland and Area of Production, Caraga, 2015

PROVINCE	FORESTLAND AREA (Has.)	PRODUCTION (Has.)
Agusan del Norte	204,304.00	123,477.00
Agusan del Sur	613,676.00	435,970.00
Surigao del Norte	105,741.00	63,375.00
Province of Dinagat Islands	62,544.00	62,544.00
Surigao del Sur	345,226.00	314,339.00
Caraga	1,331,491.00	999,705.00

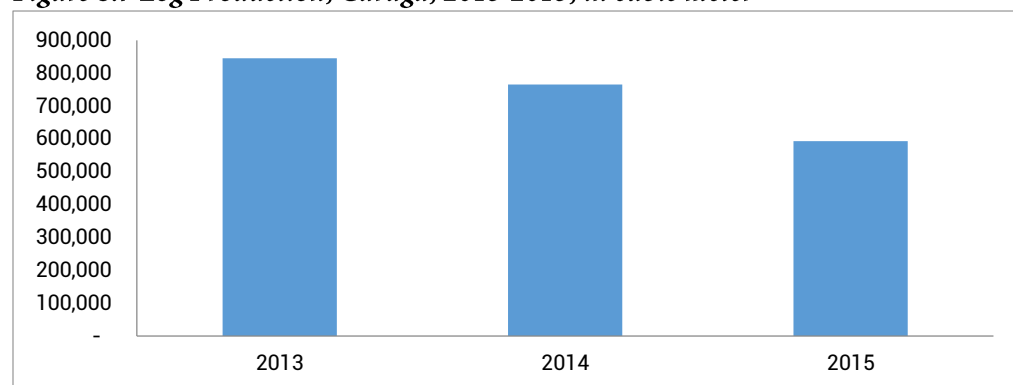
Source: DENR, 2016

There are 19,468 forest agreement holders covering an aggregate area of 642,174 hectares or 48.23 percent of the region's forestlands. However, the region's wood industry suffered a major setback in 2011 with the implementation of Executive Order No. 23 declaring a moratorium in the harvesting of natural grown and residual forests.

While the region remains a major source of logs, its production declined significantly from 845,353 cu.m. in 2013 to 593,217 cu.m. in 2015. About 91 percent of the

region's log production has been fueled by private tree plantations since forestlands covered by forests agreements have not been productive. Apart from the limitations set forth in EO 23, log production was also affected by the low buying price of logs influenced by a glut in the supply of falcata logs coming from Caraga Region and its neighboring regions of Northern Mindanao and Davao. Most of the tree farmers in the region refrained from harvesting their tree plantations as they wait for a better buying price of logs.

Figure 8.7 Log Production, Caraga, 2013-2015, in cubic meter



Source: DENR, 2016

In 2015, Caraga Region has a total of 467,735.31 cu.m. of planted species from the 996 private tree plantation holders. Agusan del Sur being the main source of timber products has the most number of plantation holders at 671 covering a total area of 3,674.17 hectares. It also has the

largest inventory of planted species of about 339,537.94 cu.m. For the first time in history, Dinagat Islands registered six Private Tree Plantation Ownership Certificate (PTPOC) holders with an inventory of 7.55 cu.m.

Table 8.11 Private Tree Plantation Holders, Caraga, 2015

REGION/PROVINCE	NO. OF HOLDERS	AREA	VOLUME INVENTORIES (cu.m.)
Caraga	996	5,216.63	467,735.31
Agusan del Norte	71	251.69	22,318.71
Agusan del Sur	671	3,674.17	339,537.94
Surigao del Norte	24	94.25	14,354.39
Surigao del Sur	224	1,179.52	91,516.72
Province of Dinagat Islands	6	17.00	7.55

Source: DENR, 2016

Fishery and Other Aqua Products

Total fisheries production reached 83,349 metric tons in 2015. Fishery production has been declining since 2013. It failed to

achieve its yearly target of production for the past three years as the performance of all of its subsectors (commercial, municipal, and aquaculture) were below their target levels.

Table 8.12 Total fishery Production, Caraga, 2013-2015, in metric tons

YEAR	TARGET	ACTUAL	ACCOMPLISHMENT
2013	95,646	88,041	92%
2014	97,312	85,113	87%
2015	98,923	83,349	84%

Sources: PSA, RM 2013-2015

According to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Caraga Office, the decrease in fish catch from the commercial and municipal fisheries could be attributed to environmental factors such as typhoons and global warming; the latter caused the spike in the temperature of water bodies, negatively affecting the fishery industry. Over exploitation was also assumed given the presence of too many fishers. The decrease in aquaculture was

attributed to the decline in seaweeds production.

Figure 9.10 presents the region's top five fishery products, which include seaweeds with 19.9 percent share of the total fishery outputs and then followed by frigate tuna (6.7 percent), Indian sardines (5.4 percent), yellow fin tuna (4.9 percent), and skipjack (4.4 percent).

Map 8.2 Tenured Forest Lands, Caraga

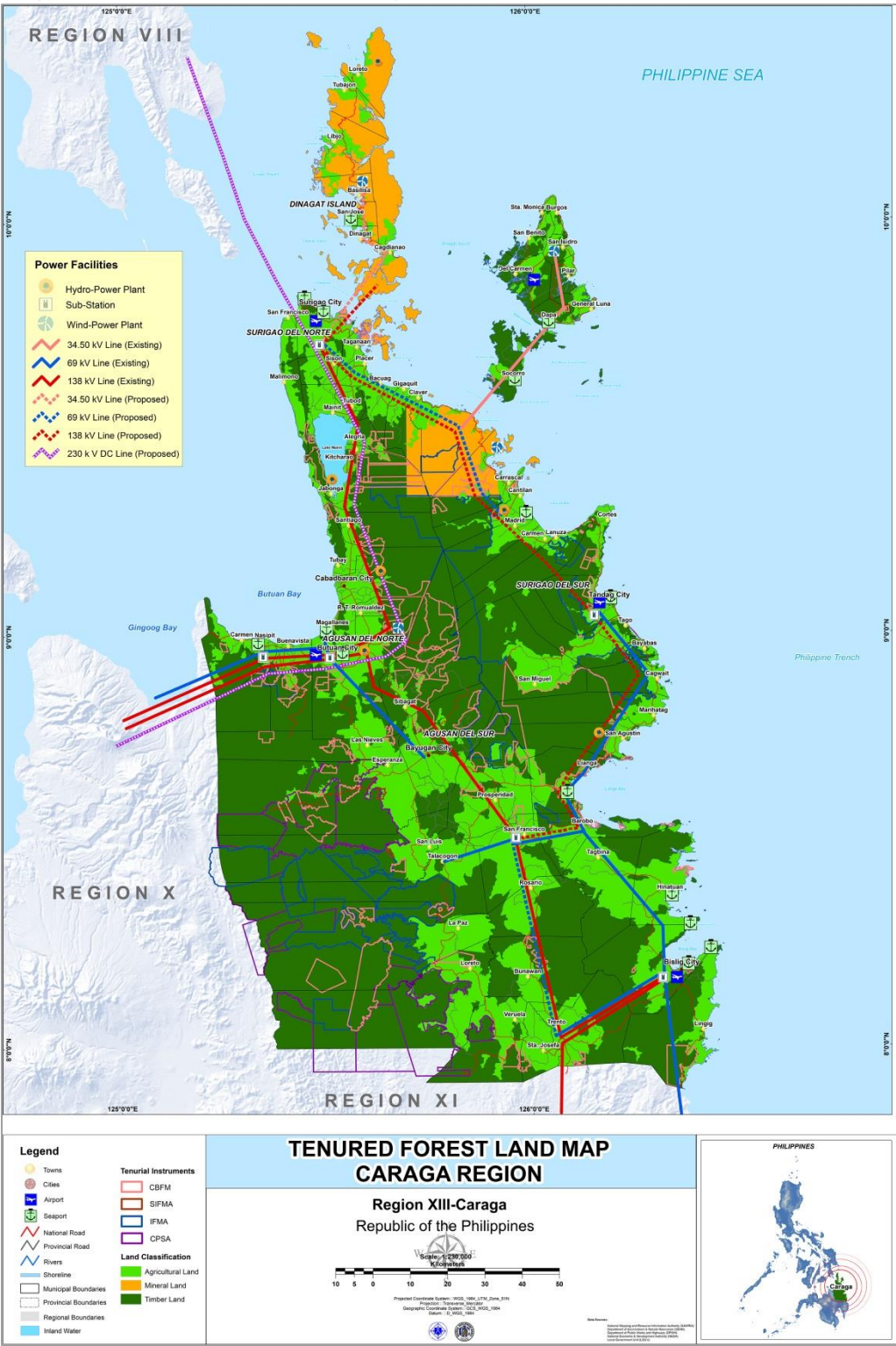
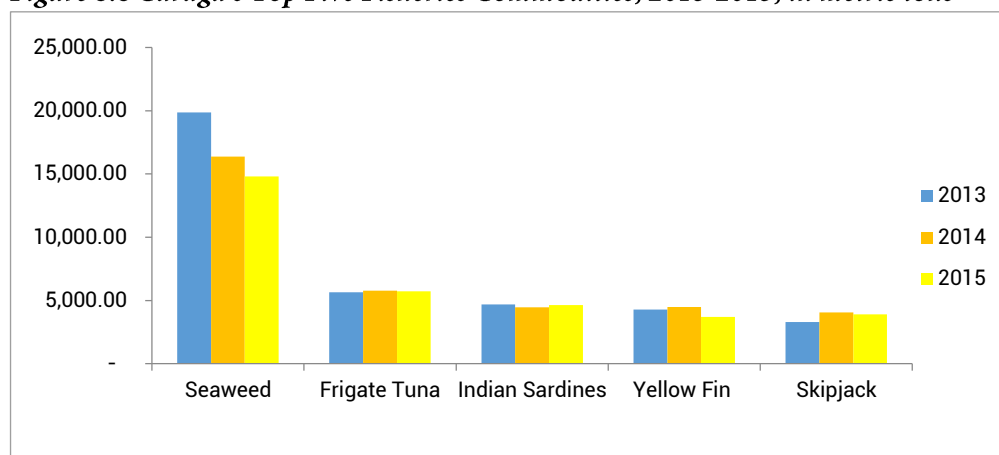


Figure 8.8 Caraga's Top Five Fisheries Commodities, 2013-2015, in metric tons



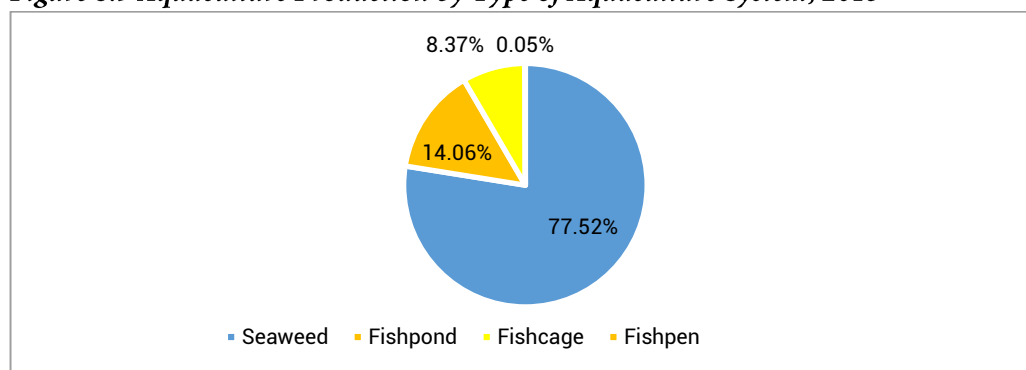
Source: PSA, BFAR, 2016

Seaweed has been the main driver of the region's fishery production from 2013 to 2015. It accounts for the biggest share in aquaculture production averaging 78 percent to total aquaculture output and 20 percent to total fishery production. However, seaweed production has been slowing down over the years. The persistent presence of ice-ice diseases, which could be attributed to improper waste management from upstream activities, as well as global warming, negatively affected the production of seaweeds.

In 2015, a total of 812 seaweed farmers engaged in seaweed production covering a total area of 548 hectares. There are only nine local buyers of dried seaweeds. Species cultured include *Euchema Spinosum* and *Euchema Cottoni*.

Fishpond production ranks second to seaweeds in terms of the volume produced by type of culture system. It contributed 14.06 percent to the region's total aquaculture production while fish cage and fish pen gave 8.37 percent and 0.05 percent, respectively.

Figure 8.9 Aquaculture Production by Type of Aquaculture System, 2015



Source: PSA, BFAR, 2016

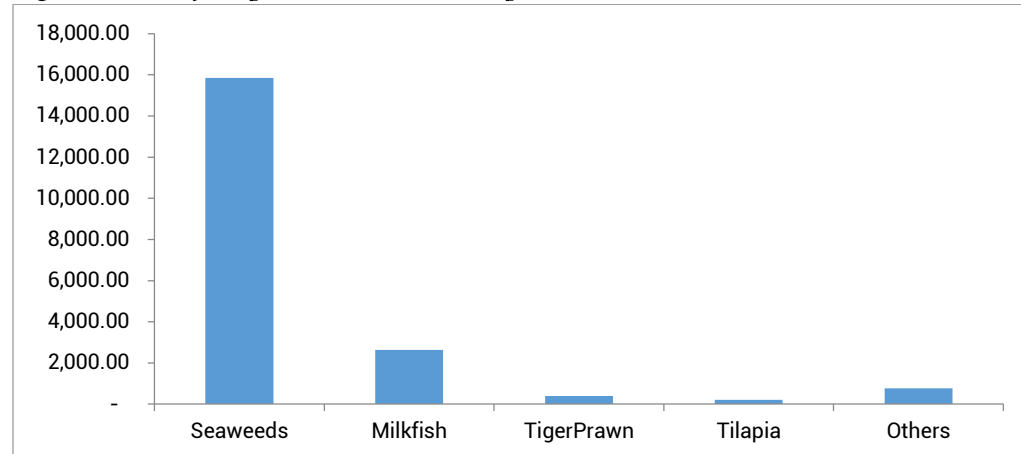
In 2015, the region has a total of 2,891 fishponds covering an area of 4,688.43

hectares. There are 764 fish cages with a total area of 31.73 hectares and 302 fish

pens with a total area of 49.18 hectares. Major species produced in aquaculture include seaweeds, milkfish, tiger prawn

and tilapia. Milkfish ranks second to seaweeds, contributing an average of 13 percent to total production.

Figure 8.10 Major Species Produced in Aquaculture 2013-2015, in metric tons



Source: PSA, BFAR, 2016

Surigao del Norte continues to be the top producer of both commercial and municipal fisheries. It contributed 67 percent and 59 percent to total commercial and municipal fisheries production, respectively. For aquaculture, Surigao del Sur accounted for the bulk of production by contributing 77 percent to total aquaculture production as vast seaweed areas are located in Lianga, Hinatuan and Bislig Bay. Agusan del Sur contributed the least at only two percent and one percent

to municipal and aquaculture production, respectively.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Caraga has sustained its commitment in providing support services to the marginalized fisher folks in the region. BFAR assistance includes production, marketing, extension, information, and regulatory support services.

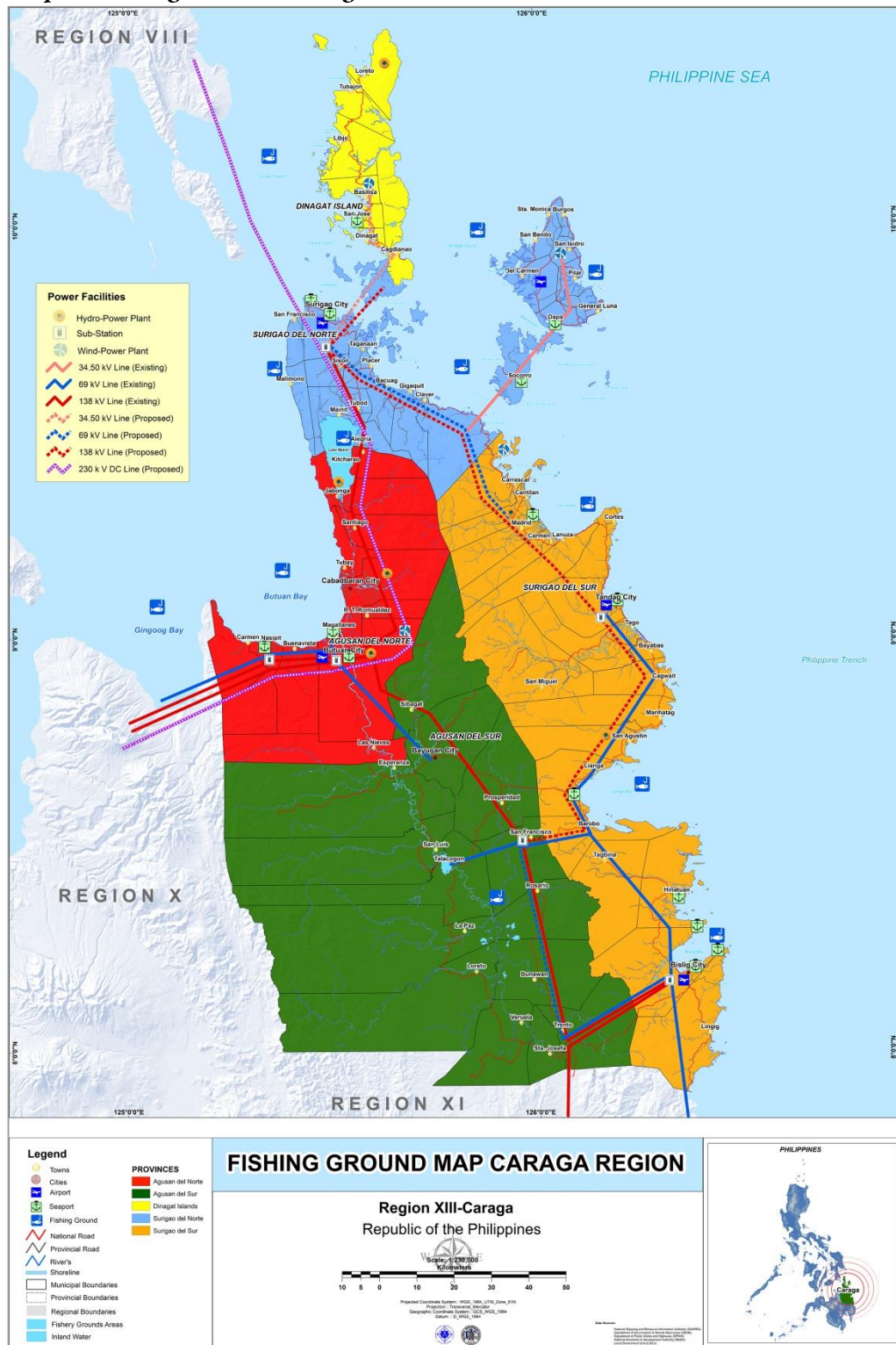
Challenges

Low productivity of the crops subsector.

Major crops (especially palay) have not yet achieved their desired level of productivity. Their yields continue to fall below their targets despite the various interventions implemented by both government and private partners. Compared to other Mindanao Regions, Caraga's productivity for rice and corn is way below the average

yield per hectare of Regions X, XI and XII. Further, the region's average yield of rice for three years has been below its yearly target. Adoption of new technologies to improve farm productivity is very slow as most farmers prefer using traditional methods over modern ones because of attendant costs.

Map 8.3 Fishing Grounds, Caraga



Low Productivity of livestock and poultry subsector. The declining productivity of the subsector can be attributed to the absence of large livestock growers in the region, thus affecting supply of quality stock. This could be ascribed to the absence of livestock zones, unstable peace and order situation, inadequate government budget for livestock development, and not-so attractive investment policy at the LGU level. The region has to continue encouraging investors to venture into livestock-raising. Suitable areas for commercial livestock need to be identified and promoted. Specifically, LGUs should include in their CLUPs, definite areas for livestock and poultry production to encourage private investments for the industry. There should be a comprehensive livestock plan (roadmap) to identify strategic programs and projects for the revitalization.

Declining productivity of the fishery subsector. The annual volume of fish production has been declining consistently for years. Research and Development activities should be conducted to improve the fishery subsector. Investment and support should be prioritized.

Indiscriminate conversion of agricultural lands to other uses. Agricultural lands are the most likely affected when rapid urbanization takes place. With the increasing population, the amount of arable land suited to agriculture has declined. Urbanizing areas face pressure of converting prime agricultural lands to residential and other industrial uses. LGUs and tenure issuing agencies should rationalize the issuance of permits by

considering food sufficiency, climate, and environmental concerns.

Underdeveloped/ undeveloped potential areas for palay production. Some areas for palay production remain underdeveloped or undeveloped due to lack of irrigation and other support facilities.

Declining interest of RBOs in rural development. There are existing RBOs that are no longer active in rural development activities. This creates a gap in realizing the goals of various programs and projects implemented by government and non-government entities. Farm workers are difficult to locate nowadays as a significant number of these workers migrate to urban areas in search of better prospects.

Ageing farmers. The average age of the Filipino farmer at present is 55 years old. This shows that most of the youth have shunned tilling the soil as a profession or business undertaking due to perceived hardships as many farming families belong to the country's poor sector. This perspective of the youth would definitely affect food security of the country/region.

Low productivity in designated forest production area. The implementation of Executive Order No. 23 declaring a moratorium in the harvesting of natural grown and residual forests resulted in lower forestry production. This eventually led to closure of most wood processing plants in the region as it is very costly to import raw materials. Apart from the limitations set forth in EO 23, log production was also affected by the low buying price of logs influenced by a glut in

the supply of falcata logs coming from Caraga Region and its neighboring regions of Northern Mindanao and Davao.

Lack of capital/investment for commercial and large-scale development.

Vast areas of agricultural lands have been distributed in the five (5) provinces of the region and are waiting for large-scale or plantation type of development. A portion of the area has been developed into banana plantation. However, sustainable financial services in the agricultural sector have been very difficult to access. The region needs innovative financing mechanisms that would suit the agricultural landscape of the region. It has been observed that financial services made available to rural-based organizations have declined. The slowing down of financial support for RBOs affected the implementation of priority projects and activities in the rural areas. Since most of the projects implemented by RBOs have low return of investments, the financing institutions are wary of further providing financial assistance to these groups of farmers. The stringent set of requirements for availing financial assistance is also one of the hindering factors.

Low mobilization of local entrepreneurs for farm diversification.

Farm diversification has not significantly progressed in the last three years even with the availability of matured technology like integrated farming system, high value crops cropping system, and others.

Adverse impact of calamities. The negative impact of El Nino in the region in 2015 confirms the vulnerability of the region's agriculture sector to Climate Change and other extreme weather events. Low productivity of the agriculture sector is one probable impact from these hazards.

Unstable peace and order condition in production areas.

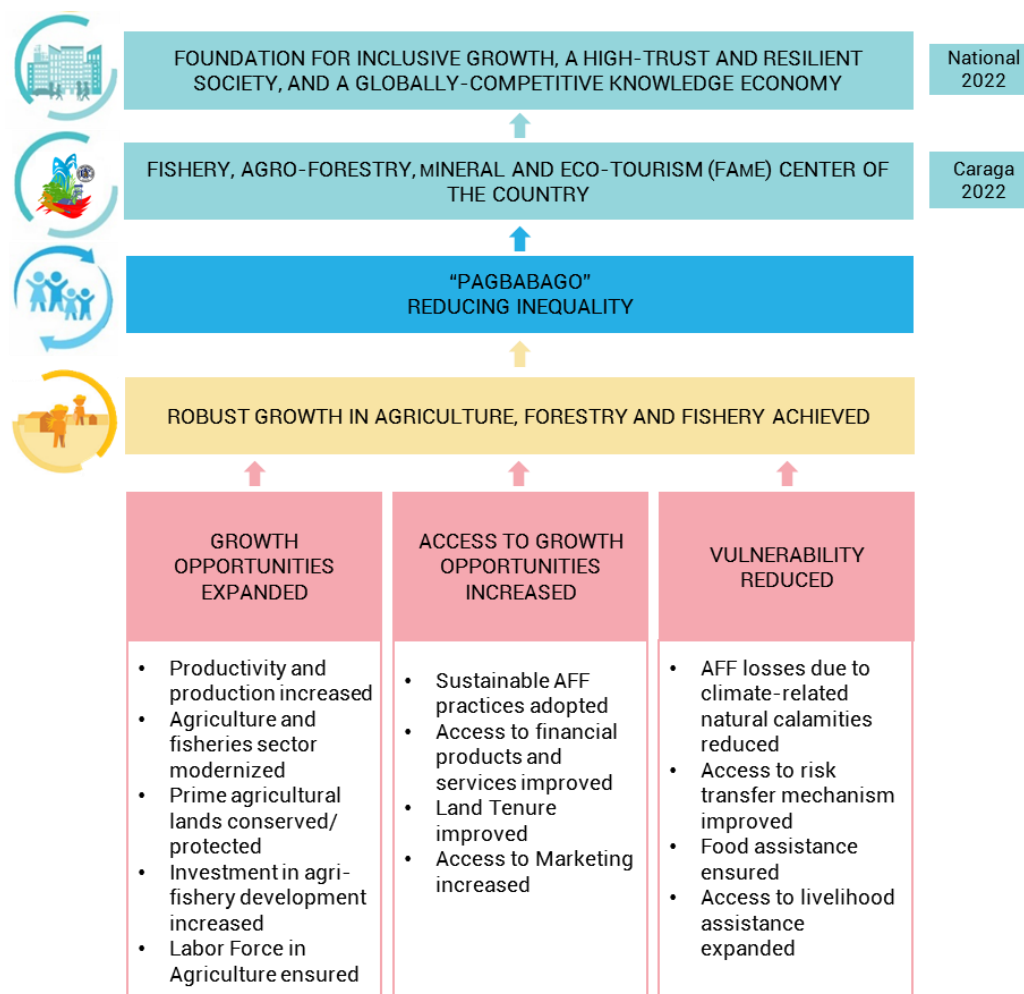
Investors withdraw or delay the implementation of their development project/s in the region when peace and order situation is untenable. Communist insurgency remains as the biggest threat to peace and order in the Caraga Region particularly in the provinces of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur. The issue of communist insurgency has been one of the stumbling blocks to the attainment of peace and development in the region as discussed in the Caraga Roadmap for Peace.

Strategic Framework

The sector aims to reduce inequality in the region through a robust growth in agriculture, forestry, and fishery; taking into consideration that poverty incidence is highest among farmers and fishermen at 45.5 percent and 49.6 percent poverty

incidences, respectively (2012 Poverty Incidence). Strategies and interventions shall focus on expanding economic growth opportunities, increasing access to economic opportunities and reducing vulnerability of farmers and fisher folks.

Figure 8.11 Strategic Framework to Expand Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, 2017-2022



Sub-Sector Outcome 1: Economic Growth Opportunities Expanded

Objective 1.1: Crop production increased. To boost productivity, the sector shall

- Enhance farmers' capacity to adopt diversified, efficient, and sustainable farming practices through the support services of the banner programs for
- Develop potential areas for palay production by expanding irrigation systems coverage, upgrading/rehabilitating non-functional

rice, corn and high value crops. Efforts will also be strengthened for the adoption of high yield enhancing technologies and increase cropping intensity. Farmers shall be provided with hybrid seeds, inorganic fertilizer, and soil ameliorants under the rice hybridization program.

irrigation systems, and constructing new irrigation systems. There are about 105,982 hectares of potential irrigable areas that can be developed region wide (NIA report). Development will be pursued through the Irrigation Development Program, and Small Scale Irrigation Projects.

Objective 1.2: Livestock and poultry productivity increased.

- ***Encourage the development of attractive incentive schemes at the local level to expand investments in livestock and poultry production.*** Suitable areas for commercial livestock production shall be identified and promoted. Specifically, LGUs shall include in their CLUPs definite areas for livestock and poultry production to encourage private investments for the industry.
- ***Finalize the comprehensive Livestock plan (roadmap) to identify strategic programs and projects for the revitalization of the industry.*** The sector shall strengthen animal health through the Livestock and Poultry Program to improve quality stocks and improve delivery of livestock and poultry services at the municipal level.

Objective 1.3: Fishery production increased.

- ***Strengthen the ecosystem-based approach in fisheries management*** to include coastal resource management, mangrove reforestation, and establishment of additional marine protected areas/sanctuaries.

- ***Optimize the operation of mariculture parks and multi-hatchery facilities.*** The region needs to increase investment in these initiatives for fishery development.
- ***Strengthen support for seaweed industry particularly in the Province of Surigao del Sur as it is the main driver of fishery production.*** This will be facilitated by the implementation of the following programs: Coastal Resource Management Program, Fish Coastal Resources and Livelihood Program and Seaweed Development Program.
- ***Strictly enforce the Fisheries Code of the Philippines*** to address illegal fishing activities in all provinces and to protect the ecological integrity of the water bodies.

Objective 1.4: Log/timber production increased.

- ***Intensify private land tree plantation*** as it is the major source of log production. The region has vast lands that are suitable for industrial tree plantation particularly in Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur.
- ***Promote the adoption of sustainable forest management practices*** in tenured forestlands through the Co-Management Program.
- ***Lobby for the lifting of EO 23 in order to revive the wood industry.*** As a parallel effort, the region would ensure the identification and conservation of protection forests.

Objective 1.5: Agriculture and fisheries subsectors modernized.

- **Intensify the adoption of modern and mature technology to further increase farm productivity.** The sector shall strengthen the implementation of farm mechanization by upgrading pre- and post-harvest facilities and strengthening accreditation for locally-designed machineries and equipment through the Regional Agriculture and Fishery Mechanization Program (RAFMechP).
- **Sustain capability building for rural-based organizations** through the provision of appropriate trainings and demo-fair showcasing the recent technologies to encourage adoption by small farmers.

Objective 1.6: Prime agricultural land conserved/protected.

- **Further strengthen the collaboration between and among agencies and LGUs to address illegal land conversion.** There is an urgent need to pass the national land use act and revitalize implementation of Strategic Agriculture and Fishery Development Zone (SAFDZ). The completion and availability of the soil suitability map is also an opportunity for the LGUs to appropriately designate areas for specific commodities. This will also strengthen the allocation of agricultural lands in the CLUP which will eventually serve as basis for the issuance of land use ordinance for sustainable agricultural development.

Objective 1.7: Investment in agro-fishery development increased.

- **Increase investments in the development of agro-fishery products that have huge potential for success.**
- **Implement programs and projects that shall promote investments in agriculture and fishery such as:**
 1. *The Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP), which shall focus on the following commodities:*
 - Agusan del Norte: abaca, banana, coconut, coffee, mango, cacao, cassava, rubber and oil palm.
 - Agusan del Sur: rice, rubber, banana, cacao, abaca, coffee, oil palm, cassava, and coconut
 - Surigao del Norte: cassava, cacao, coffee, banana, mud crab, seaweeds and coco fiber
 - Surigao del Sur: coconut, abaca, and seaweeds
 - Province of Dinagat Islands: coconut fiber, cassava, cacao, coffee, organic rice, seaweeds, and boneless bangus
 2. *Project Convergence on Value Chain Enhancement for Rural Growth and Development (ConVERGE)* shall support abaca in Agusan del Norte, rice in Agusan del Sur, coconut in

Surigao del Norte, and coffee in Surigao del Sur.

3. *Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (Fish CORAL) Project* with the aim of sustainable management of coastal and fisheries resources in the priority bays in the region, shall contribute to poverty reduction by improving the capacity and productivity of farmers and fisher folks, thus increasing their income and improving their resiliency.

Objective 1.8: Labor force in agriculture ensured.

- **Provide incentive mechanisms** to encourage the young generation to engage in farming activities/business and implement scholarship for agriculture-related courses.

Sub-Sector Outcome 2: Access to Economic Opportunities Increased

Objective 2.1: Sustainable AFF practices adopted.

- **Strengthen effort to expand organic farming and good agricultural practices.** The region shall strengthen the provision of support to existing RBOs in the region as well as improve

delivery of support services for the promotion of sustainable farming and fishing practices. The City of Bislig, Surigao del Sur shall be the center for Organic Agriculture in the Region.

Objective 2.2: Access to financial products and services increased.

- **Promote clustering of farmers to facilitate consolidation of products and by products for easy access to financial services.** The region shall continue to strengthen the industry clustering strategy to spur rural development. Extensive Support shall be provided to the following AFF based priority clusters: abaca, wood, seaweeds, oil palm, high value crops, banana, processed foods, coconut, moringa, and cacao.
- **Push for the lowering of loan interest rates and streamlining of processes and reduction of requirements for loan and business applications** of micro-financing programs offered by government banks.

Objective 2.3: Land Tenure Improved.

- **Pursue land tenure improvement** by accelerating land acquisition and distribution to recipient agrarian reform beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Objective 2.4: Access to marketing increased.

- **Enhance capacity of RBOs to engage into commercial/business agriculture.**

In relation to this, the region will strengthen promotion and assistance for GAP certification in order for RBOs to compete in the ASEAN market. The region will also improve road networks from the production areas to the market as this will facilitate the delivery of farm inputs and allow easy transport of farm produce.

Sub-Sector Outcome 3: Vulnerability Reduced

Objective 3.1: AFF losses due to calamities reduced.

- **Strengthen extension and support services** particularly in the provision and adoption of climate-resilient technologies, climate-smart/resilient pre and post-harvest machineries, and equipment.
- **Pursue the completion of DRR/CCA-Enhanced CLUPs and other local development plans.** With the completion of DRR/CCA enhanced local plans, the implementation of projects can be guided appropriately in terms of identifying areas that are safe from natural hazards and adverse weather conditions.
- **Ensure the availability of seeds for rehabilitation** in times of natural

calamities under the buffer stocking intervention.

Objective 3.2: Access to risk transfer mechanisms improved.

- **Strengthen the promotion of risk transfer mechanism** to expand the coverage of existing innovative risk transfer mechanisms to include highly vulnerable areas.

Objective 3.3: Access to livelihood assistance expanded and food assistance ensured.

- **Provide sustainable alternative (non-agricultural) livelihood assistance** through the Livelihood Enhancement Program, Capacity Development Program, Skills Development Program for Manufacturers, DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP), and FishCORAL. Project ConVERGE shall also address the vulnerability of farmers through crop diversification and processing of raw materials.

Objective 3.5: Incidence of criminalities and conflict-related events reduced.

- **Vigorously implement the Caraga Roadmap for Peace.**

09

Expanding Economic
Opportunities in
Industry and Services
through *Trabaho at
Negosyo*

Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services through *Trabaho at Negosyo*

Aligned with the thrusts of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, the Caraga Regional Development Plan also pushes for the expansion of economic opportunities in industry and services (I&S) as they are critical in establishing the foundation for inclusive growth, high-trust society, and a globally competitive, and climate-resilient knowledge economy.

This chapter highlights the performance of I&S sectors and discusses major strategies to overcome the challenges that impede the sectors from reaching their full potential as major drivers of the regional economy.

Assessment

Notwithstanding the erratic growths exhibited for the period 2013-2015, the Industry and Service (I&S) Sectors steered the region's economy.

Industry Sector

The industry sector continually grew at an annual average of 10.63 percent for the period 2013 to 2015; the year 2014 recorded the highest recorded year-on-year growth at 14.83 percent. The sector is the second highest contributor to the region's GRDP at 35 percent for a total output of PhP96.78 billion from 2013 to 2015.

Despite the slowdown in the region's mining production due to low prices of metal in the global market, the mining and quarrying (M&Q) subsector boosted the performance of the Industry Sector with an average contribution to GRDP of 22.12 percent from 2013 to 2015. In 2015 alone, its total output reached PhP21.75 billion. Meanwhile the construction subsector posted the highest average growth rate at 17.34 percent with the highest year-on-year growth in 2015 at 22.71 percent. The growth can be attributed to huge investments in housing development in the region and an accelerated public infrastructure spending.

In 2015, 17.44 percent of the region's working sector was engaged in industry-related jobs; around 36 percent were in the manufacturing subsector, 31.67 percent in construction, and 30.44 percent in mining and quarrying. While the industry sector has the fewest number of persons employed from 2013 to 2015, averaging at 16.98 percent of total employment, its level is consistently exhibiting growth as shown in Figure 9.1.

In terms of labor productivity for the period 2013-2015, electricity, gas and water supply (EGWS) has the highest (PhP491,184) even if employing only an average of 1.69 percent of the total workers

in the industry sector during the period. Employment in manufacturing on the other hand, which had the most employed for the period (37.10 percent) only had an average productivity of PhP38,568. This would imply that there is significant disparity between the incomes earned by those working in manufacturing and those in EGWS.

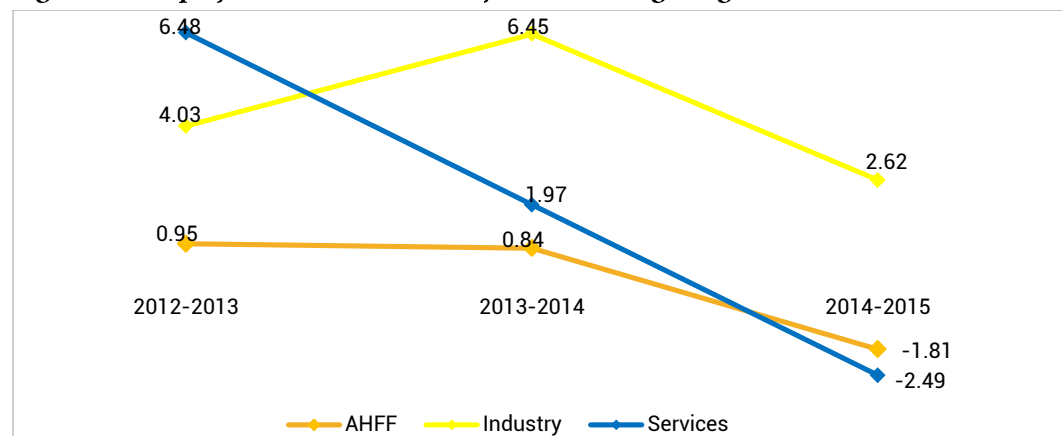
On another note, the overall labor productivity level of the whole industry sector increased in the period 2013 to 2015 due to more work produced in an hour signifying an expanding economy within the sector

Table 9.1 Growth Rates of Industry and Services Sectors, Caraga Region, 2013-2015, at Constant 2000 Prices

INDUSTRY/YEAR	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	AVERAGE
INDUSTRY SECTOR	7.18	14.83	9.88	10.63
Mining and Quarrying	6.72	14.70	5.05	8.82
Manufacturing	-2.22	12.74	2.59	4.37
Construction	8.66	20.64	22.71	17.34
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	26.01	-5.82	24.13	14.77

Source: PSA

Figure 9.1 Employment Growth Rates by Sector, Caraga Region, 2013-2015



Source: PSA

Table 9.2 Labor Productivity in Industry, Caraga, 2013-2015, in Philippine Peso

INDUSTRY/YEAR	LABOR PRODUCTIVITY				INDIVIDUAL WORKER PRODUCTIVITY			
	2013	2014	2015	AVE.	2013	2014	2015	AVE.
INDUSTRY SECTOR	4.07	4.39	4.70	4.40	62,771	175,586	88,004	175,824
Mining and Quarrying	8.01	10.03	9.38	9.12	20,543	401,322	75,119	364,741
Manufacturing	0.94	0.95	1.01	0.96	37,537	37,814	40,308	38,568
Construction	3.17	3.26	3.97	3.48	126,991	130,427	158,622	139,350
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	11.29	12.75	12.86	12.28	451,561	510,198	514,347	491,184

Note: Measured at constant 2000 prices using 2015 annual employed persons and 40 average number of hours worked per day

Mining and Quarrying

Aspiring to become the Fishery, Agro-Forestry, Mineral and Ecotourism (FAME) Center of the country, the mining industry has become the top contributor to GRDP for the past years. It has consistently increased its contribution to the region's total outputs from 15.02 percent in 2010 to 22.59 percent in 2015. However, while it has been steadily growing over the years, its growth rate is slowing down.

For the last three (3) years, the actual performance of the mining industry is weaker than its RDP target. As shown in Figure 9.2, it was only in 2014 when the performance exceeded the target by more than 98 percent. The tripling of the price of nickel ore in the world market in the months of May to August, accounted for this performance. In 2013 and 2015, the industry's accomplishments fell short by 18.25 percent and 41.50 percent respectively, due to unfavorable metal prices.

Total mineral production dropped by 17.35 percent in 2015 resulting in a decrease in estimated mineral exports value by 66.13 percent - from PhP79.44 billion in 2014, it dropped to PhP26.91 billion in 2015. As a consequence, royalty and excise taxes that

are generated from mining operations dropped by 55.18 percent and 41.11 percent, respectively.

On another hand, despite the fickle performance of mineral production, direct employment in mining industry steadily increased from 2013 to 2015 with an average annual growth rate of 15.17 percent exceeding RDP annual targets.

As of 2016, there are 53 approved Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSA) covering a total area of 129,148.16 hectares. Further, there are 25 approved Exploration Permits (EP) with an aggregate area of 50,921.98 hectares.

A total of 25 mining companies are operating in the region: 11 within the Province of Dinagat Islands, a declared mineral reservation area, six (6) in Surigao del Norte, four (4) in Surigao del Sur, two (2) in Agusan del Sur, and two (2) in Agusan del Norte.

National and local government support for the mining industry contributed to its substantial growth in the last decade. Even so, the industry is still faced with challenges in overcoming competitive obstacles due to unstable prices of minerals in the global market. There had been

notable successes, but the need to increase not only productivity but the value of products remains to be unaddressed. Increased activities in the black market also hamper comprehensive growth.

Furthermore, the continuing distrust on issues relating to environmental integrity and biodiversity has put the industry in a critical position. In fact, based on the recent pronouncement of Secretary Regina Lopez of DENR, 61 percent or 14 of the 23 mining companies in the country that are subject to closure due to environmental and social issues, are located in the region.

The result of the geographic information system (GIS) overlay of the MGB Tenement Map and DENR Caraga's Critical Watersheds and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs¹) Maps show that the concession areas of 14 mining companies are either within or have overlapped with portions of KBAs (*see also Chapter 20*).

The issues raised by Secretary Lopez are critical to the development direction of Caraga Region. While the region recognizes the importance of ensuring protection and conservation of the natural resources, it cannot undermine the laws declaring certain areas of the Provinces of Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands estimated at a total of 127,461.88 hectares as Mineral Land Reservation by virtue of Executive Order No. 63 issued on June 25, 1914 and Presidential Proclamation No. 391 signed on March 13, 1939. Compliance to environmental laws and regulations are

not optional but must be adhered by all operating mining companies and concerned agencies.

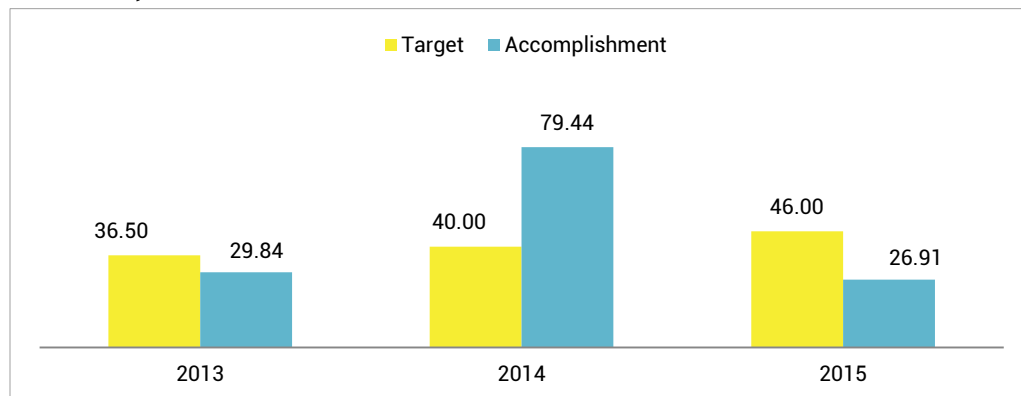
Looking at the funds allocated for Social Development and Management Programs (SDMP), the actual amounts apportioned for 2013 and 2014 failed to achieve the RDP targets, accomplishing only 92.46 percent and 80.08 percent, respectively. However, the deficiency was amply augmented by the 2015 allocation which outdid its annual RDP target by 33.90 percent. A total of PhP599.84 million was recorded as of December 2015 with a utilization rate of 78.97 percent. Education and public utilities accounted for 24.39 percent and 22.83 percent of the utilized funds, respectively. Only 12.14 percent was used for livelihood activities.

Despite the substantial amount allocated each year to finance the SDMP, it has not significantly impacted the local economies given the persistence of poverty in mining host communities. In fact, data from the National Housing Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) surveys (*Listahan 1 and 2*) in 2015 reveal that an average of 51 percent of the assessed households in mining host and neighboring barangays are poor.

In fact, in the Province of Dinagat Islands, where 11 mining companies are operating, 50.90 percent of the respondents in the HTS survey live below the poverty threshold.

¹Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are nationally identified sites of global significance. The identification of KBAs establishes priority biodiversity protection site .

Figure 9.2 Gross Value of Mineral Production, Target vs. Accomplishment Caraga, 2013-2015, in Billion Pesos



Source: MGB Caraga

Table 9.3 Mining Key Indicators, Caraga, 2013-2015

INDICATOR	2013	2014	2015
No. of shipments	618	740	690
Value	29.84 B	79.44 B	26.91 B
Royalty	1.20 B	2.65 B	1.19 B
Excise Tax	596.88 M	1.59 B	935.73 M

Source: MGB Caraga

Table 9.4 Direct Employment, Mining Industry, Caraga, 2013-2015

YEAR	TARGET	ACCOMPLISHMENT	
		ACTUAL	PERCENT
2013	19,769	20,363	103.00
2014	20,757	22,296	107.41
2015	21,795	28,512	130.82

Manufacturing

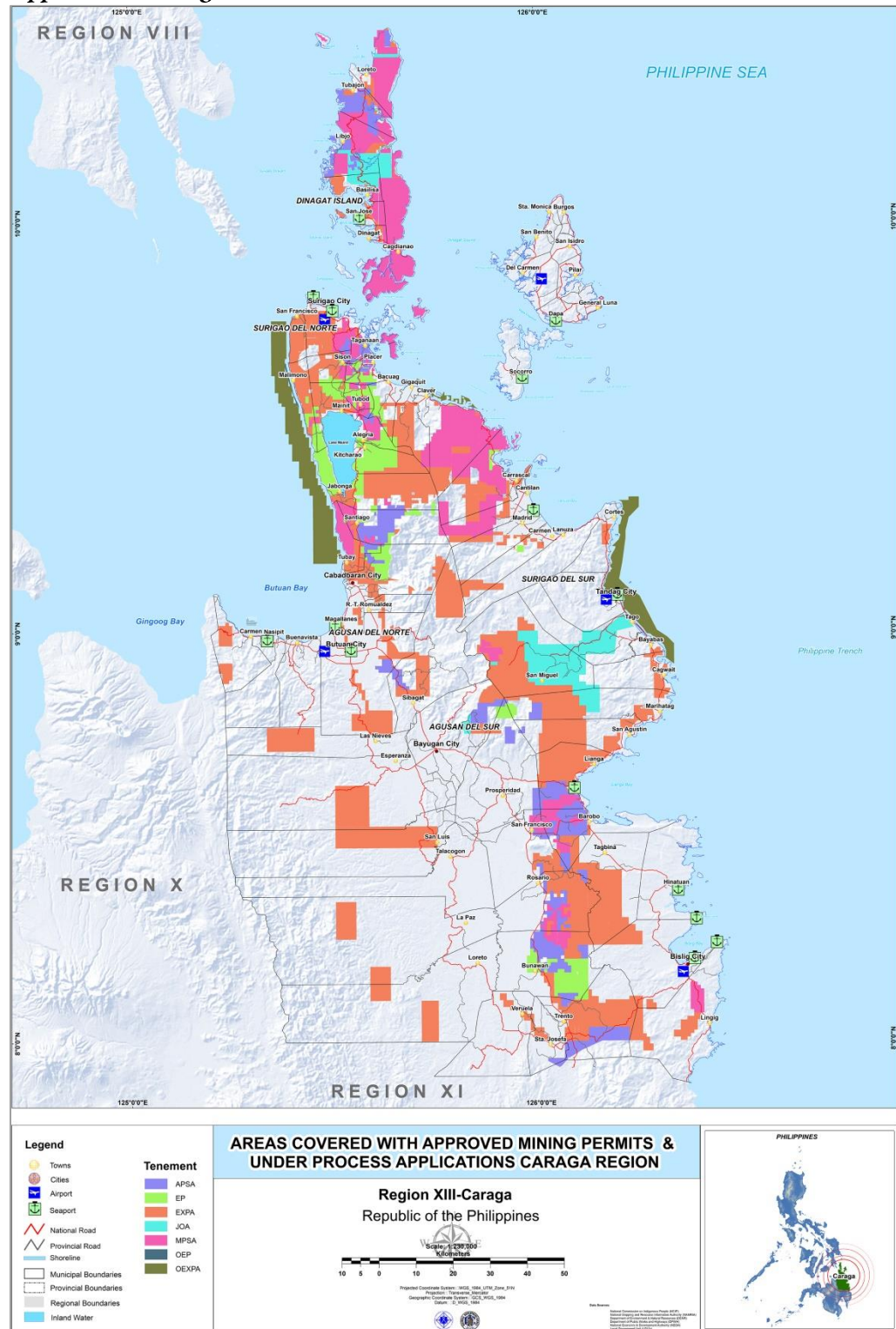
The subsector demonstrated erratic growth for the past three (3) years. In 2014, manufacturing rebounded with a growth of 12.74 percent, up from a performance of negative 2.22 percent in 2013. However, its performance slowed down once again in 2015 with a growth of only 2.59 percent.

Although manufacturing subsector increased in terms of gross value added from 2013 to 2015 per data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), its overall performance had a weak impact on Caraga's GRDP registering only an average share of 2.88 percent for the period 2013-2015, placing it as the second lowest contributor. The subsector contributed

only an average of 0.037 percent to the country's GDP from 2013 to 2015.

Tagged as the timber corridor of the country, the region accounted for almost 69 percent of the Philippine's total log production (*see Chapter 9*). Relatedly, its manufacturing subsector is dominated by manufactured forest products such as lumber, veneer, plywood, block board, fiberboard, matches, and bare core. However, its performance for the last five (5) years is characterized by volatility. This can be attributed to the reduced operations of major wood processing plants (WPPs) in the region.

Map 9.1 Areas covered with Approved Mining Permits and Under Process Application, Caraga



Executive Order No. 23² specifically section 2, sub-section 2.5 and the succeeding memoranda requiring mini sawmills sourcing from tree plantations to comply with very stringent rules caused the closure of several WPPs. Prior to EO 23, a total of 119 WPPs operated in Caraga. By December 2015, the figure dropped to 30 WPPs. The number of mini saw mill dramatically decreased from 68 to five (5); while the number of sawmills declined from seven (7) to none.

The high cost of production because of the importation of raw materials by WPPs, impede the development of the wood manufacturing industry. Round logs produced in the region, specifically Falcata, which constitutes around 85 percent of the total log produced, is priced 20-30 percent lower within Caraga compared to neighboring regions. This unfavorable pricing compels tree farmers to delay harvesting and wait for better buying prices. Other farmers opted to sell logs in Regions 10 and 11 because of the higher buying prices. This consequently drives

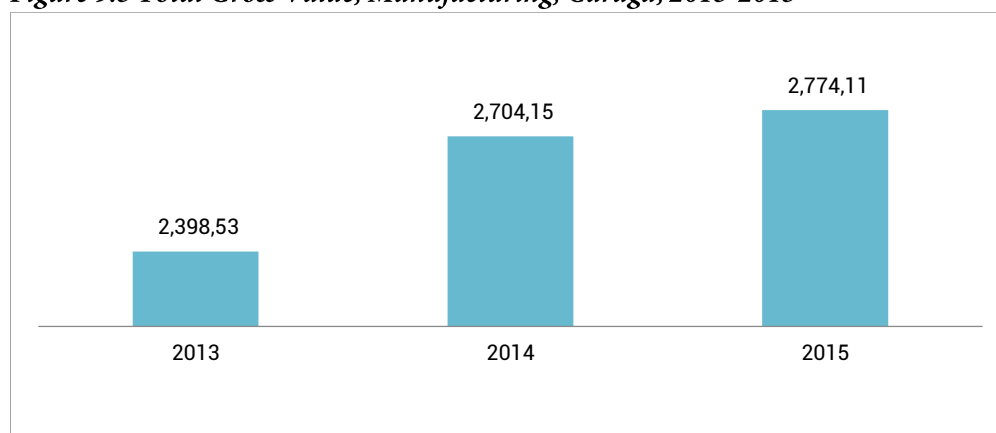
local manufacturers to import raw materials from other regions as well.

Trade and Investments

On foreign trade, Caraga's performance in 2013-2015 was largely dominated by mineral products (nickel ore and concentrates) accounting for 99 percent of the region's total export valued at USD2.96 billion. The region contributed a measly 1.69 percent to the country's total export.

With the remarkable performance of nickel in 2014 due to the favorable metal prices, export performed better during the year with a total of USD1.61billion compared to the USD505.66 million in 2013. This represents an expansion of 218.63 percent. However, as mineral production slowed down in 2015, the total value of export shrank by 47.92 percent with a total export value of USD839.09 million. Minerals were mainly shipped to Japan and China; others to Australia, Germany, United States of America (USA), Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and India. Other products

Figure 9.3 Total Gross Value, Manufacturing, Caraga, 2013-2015



Source: DENR-Caraga

²An Executive Order declaring a moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in the natural and residual forests

were exported to Taiwan, Israel, Netherlands, South Africa, and some parts of the USA.

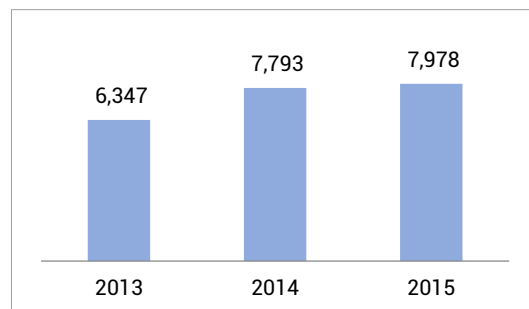
Exported products however are observed to be in their raw state such as nickel ore, fruits (*mango, coconut and banana*), and fishery products, which calls for value-adding mechanisms to increase the region's economic output.

The technical assistance provided and technology interventions put in place by the government to improve the productivity and competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), resulted in the growth of these enterprises in the last three (3) years. This in turn propelled the expansion of regional domestic sales, which recorded an average of PhP592.85 million for the period 2013-2015.

Number of approved permits for new businesses also improved. From a total of 6,347 in 2013, the number of issued permits went up to 7,978 in 2015. Thus, total capitalization by these new businesses increased from an estimated total of PhP1.52 billion in 2013 to PhP12.30 billion in 2015. Seventy-seven percent of investments in 2015 were infused to Agusan del Norte, which includes Butuan City, the regional center and the major trading, processing, commercial and service center of the region.

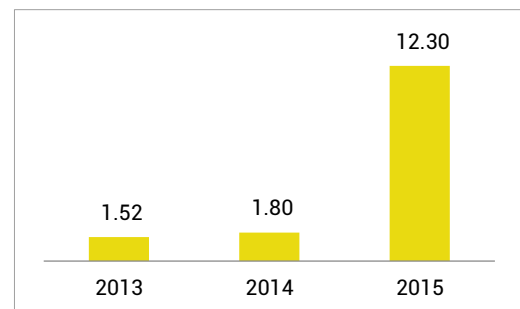
Total renewed business permits steadily increased, reaching a total of 32,701 in 2015. Agusan del Norte (including Butuan City) accounted for 38.14 percent (12,471) of the permits; Surigao del Norte came second with 22.49 percent (7,354).

Figure 9.4 Total Approved Permits for New Businesses, Caraga, 2013-2015



Source: DTI Caraga – Regional Competitiveness Committee

Figure 9.5 Total Capitalization of New Businesses, Caraga, 2013-2015, in Billions



Various programs for enhancing productivity of the industry sector were carried out in 2013-2015. Among these were the Shared Service Facility (SSF), which provides machinery, equipment, tools, systems, skills, and knowledge under

a shared system; the SME Roving Academy (SMERA), which provides entrepreneurial lessons and product transfer and development; Food Innovation Center established in Caraga State University (CSU), which assists the food processing

industry in improving the quality of existing products and developing new ones; and the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), which is a nationwide strategy of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to assist MSMEs in enhancing productivity and competitiveness through technological innovations and upgrading of products and processes (see Chapter 13).

To improve the competitiveness of MSMEs, technical and financial support, product development, capability building, and market access were provided by various government agencies. The number of MSMEs assisted from 2013 to 2015 exceeded the RDP targets. In 2013, the total number of MSMEs assisted exceeded the annual target by 1.50 percent. In 2014, the target was exceeded by 70.69 percent. Although the total number of MSMEs assisted in 2015 dropped by 7.83 percent, its actual figure of 6,537 is still 47.13 percent more than the regional target of 4,443.

Also, for the last three (3) years, 100% of the six cities, 67 municipalities and five provinces of the region participated in the Local Competitiveness Survey commissioned by the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) of the Philippines. This was achieved through the support of the RDC and the Regional Competitiveness Committee (RCC) and the assistance of DTI, DILG, and other regional line agencies.

In 2015, Agusan del Norte ranked 7th with an overall score of 35.70 points. Meanwhile, Butuan City was ranked 19th among the 142 cities with a

competitiveness score of 38.89. In terms of major pillars, Butuan was ranked 14th in Economic Dynamism, 14th in Government Efficiency, and 37th in Infrastructure. The Municipality of San Francisco, Agusan del Sur moved up from its 41st rank in 2014 to 27th in 2015. It was also ranked 6th in Government Efficiency (*see Chapter 15*).

Another major accomplishment in 2015 was the establishment of eight Negosyo Centers in the different provinces of the region, as provided for under the Go Negosyo Act. Two centers were created in Agusan del Norte; two in Agusan del Sur; two in Surigao del Norte; one in Surigao del Sur; and one in the province of Dinagat Islands.

The region has five (5) existing proclaimed special economic zones (SEZs) namely: (1) Nasipit Agusan del Norte Industrial Estate (NANIE); (2) Tubay Agro-Processing Center (TAPCEN); (3) Shannalyne Technological and Environmental Park (STEP); (4) Philnico Industrial Estate or the Nonoc Island Special Economic Zone (NISEZ); and (5) Taganito Special Economic Zone (TSEZ). However, only the TSEZ in Claver, Surigao del Norte, which was developed by the Taganito Mining Corporation (TMC) is operational.

The creation of abovementioned SEZs are aimed at attracting domestic and foreign direct investments by introducing investment-friendly fiscal packages and attractive trading, customs, and labor regulations. Non-operationalization of these zones hampered what could have been a significant engine for economic growth.

Figure 9.5 Regional Indicators, Industry Sector, Caraga, 2013-2015

INDICATOR	YEAR	TARGET	ACCOMPLISHMENT	
			OUTPUT	PERCENT
SDMP Allocation <i>In Million Pesos</i>	2013	370	342.09	92.46
	2014	407	325.92	80.08
	2015	448	599.85	133.90
Manufactured Forest Products <i>In Cubic Meters</i>	2013	681,339.25	773,742.74	113.56
	2014	689,247.66	417,615.92	60.59
	2015	697,156.06	461,987.87	66.27
Employment in Manufacturing	2013	58,800	64,000	108.84
	2014	61,740	72,000	116.62
	2015	64,827	69,000	106.44
Business Name Registered	2013	5,047	6,095	120.76
	2014	5,362	6,472	120.70
	2015	5,678	7,140	125.75
Domestic Sales <i>In Million Pesos</i>	2013	550.10	458.86	83.41
	2014	605.10	611.86	101.12
	2015	665.60	707.83	106.34
No. of DTI-Assisted MSMEs	2013	5,800	5,887	101.50
	2014	4,155	7,092	170.69
	2015	4,443	6,537	147.13
Investments <i>In Billion Pesos</i>	2013	6.821	1.52	22.55
	2014	9.550	1.80	18.86
	2015	13.370	12.30	92.00
LGUs Generating Data for CMCI	2013 (for CMCI 2012)	15	23	153.33
	2014 (for CMCI 2013)	20	73	365.00
	2015 (for CMCI 2014)	25	73	292.00

Source: Caraga RM 2013-2015

Services Sector

Some subsectors exhibited growths for the period 2013 to 2015 while others decelerated. Nevertheless the regional economy is steadily being propelled by the vibrant performance of the services sector. In terms of contribution to the GRDP, services averaged at 45.39 percent per year from 2013 to 2015. Transport, storage, and communication outdid the other services subsectors in 2013 (14.03 percent) and 2014 (16.43 percent), but it notably slowed down in 2015 with a growth of only 4.17 percent. Trade and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles, Personal and Household Goods recorded the highest growth in 2015 with 7.50 percent. This however is 0.47 percentage points less than its 7.97 percent growth in 2014. The growth of financial Intermediation on one hand failed to recover as it remained at

only more than 5 percent in 2014 and 2015 from an 11.48 percent growth in 2013.

After slowing down in 2014 with a growth of 5.35 percent (from 6.52 percent in 2013), Real Estate, Renting, and Business slightly bounced back in 2015 with a growth of 7.39 percent. Public Administration and Defense, and Compulsory Social Security sub-sector likewise slowed down in 2015 at 1.33 percent from a 4.09 percent growth in 2013 and 4.35 percent in 2014.

Finally, Other Services accelerated to 6.99 percent in 2015 from its 4.55 percent growth in 2014.

The sector employs 47.23 percent of the region's working force in 2015. Most of them are engaged in trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles with 203,000 persons employed. Public

administration and defense, and compulsory social security follows with 80,000 employed persons. Labor productivity is highest in real estate services (PhP5.7 million) followed by financial intermediation (PhP381,740) but they only employ roughly 0.19 percent and 1.94 percent, respectively of the region's working force in 2015.

Robust service activities are observed in the cities of Butuan and Surigao. Butuan City is the regional center and the major trading, processing, commercial, and service center while Surigao City is the region's commercial and trading center in the Pacific Rim.

Figure 9.6 Growth Rates of Services Sectors, Caraga Region, 2013-2015, at Constant 2000 Prices

INDUSTRY/YEAR	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	AVER AGE
SERVICE SECTOR	9.13	9.16	5.25	7.85
Transport, Storage & Communication	14.03	16.43	4.17	11.54
Trade & Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles, Personal and Household Goods	6.44	7.97	7.50	7.30
Financial Intermediation	11.48	5.67	5.66	7.60
Real Estate, Renting & Business	6.52	5.35	7.39	6.42
Public Administration & Defense; Compulsory Social Security	4.09	4.35	1.33	3.26
Other Services	6.50	4.55	6.99	6.01

Source: PSA

Tourism

Caraga Region is fast becoming one of the favorite ecotourism hubs in the country because of its beautiful and scenic spots and areas with exceptionally rich biodiversity. This is evidenced by the influx of tourists, whose numbers exceeded regional targets. During the past three (3) years, 2014 recorded the highest growth with 17.97 percent, followed by 2013 with 15.74 percent. Meanwhile, 2015 posted a growth rate of 12.55 percent. The number of visitors recorded in 2015 exceeded the region's target by 40.54 percent, reaching a total of 1.14 million.

More than 93 percent of the tourists from 2013 to 2015 are domestic visitors; 5.65 are foreigners while only about 0.4 percent of the total tourists are Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) or "*balikbayans*." Foreign

tourists are the biggest potential source of tourism revenue as they tend to spend more on transportation, accommodation, food, and wearable. However, a decrease in this sector was observed in 2015 which can be greatly attributed to the unstable peace and order situation in some parts of the region.

For 2015, the top ten foreign tourists came from the USA, Australia, China, Canada, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, Korea, France, and Sweden.

Meanwhile, the number of local tourists continues to increase for the period 2013 to 2015. From 806,455 arrivals in 2013, the numbers reached more than one (1) million in 2015. These figures show that Filipinos indeed love to travel around the country. In fact for Filipinos, being able to

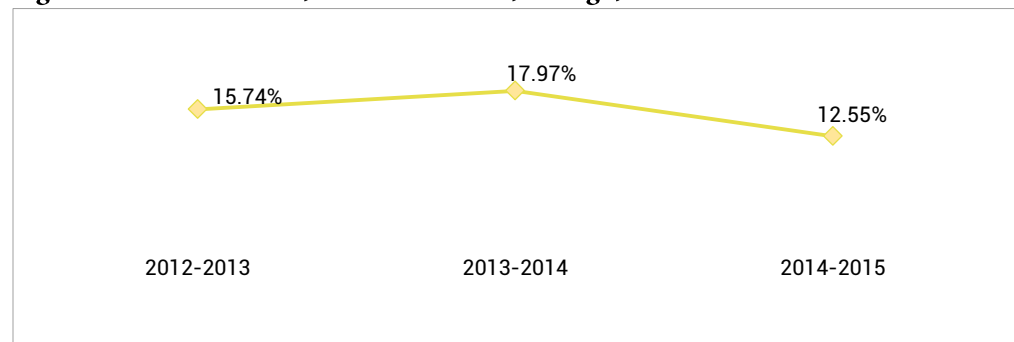
travel is an indicator of a *"matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay."*

The cities of Surigao and Butuan recorded the highest arrivals, contributing 24 percent and 23 percent of the total visitors in 2015, respectively. The cities host the two (2) major airports in the region (Bancasi Airport in Butuan and Surigao City Airport) making them the main entry points. The most visited destinations include Siargao Islands, tagged as the surfing capital of the country and host of the annual International Surfing Cup and International Game Fishing Tournament; Enchanted River in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur; Britannia Beach and Islets in San Agustin, Surigao del Sur; Cagwait White Beach in Surigao del Sur; Tinuy-an Falls in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur; and the

renowned Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in the province of Agusan del Sur.

Improved access due to better infrastructure by air, sea and land contributed greatly to the influx of tourists. Road convergence initiatives by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and private sector efforts such as the increase in flights in the four (4) airports in the region (Bancasi Airport in Butuan City, Surigao City Airport, Sayak Airport in Siargao and Tandag Airport in Surigao del Sur) are among the tourism support that greatly contributed to the favorable overall performance

Figure 9.6 Growth Rates, Tourist Arrivals, Caraga, 2013-2015



Source: DOTCaraga

A total of 75 tourism-related establishments (TREs) were accredited by the DOT as of December 2015, which represents only a small proportion of the total number of tourism enterprises in the region. Non-compliance of TREs to the

requirements of DOT for accreditation hampers further development of tourism in the region. Nevertheless, efforts continue to be exerted to increase the number of accredited TREs in the region

Figure 9.7 Accredited Tourism-Related Establishment, Caraga, 2015

TYPE OF TRE	NO. OF ACCREDITED TRE	TYPE OF TRE	NO. OF ACCREDITED TRE
Homestay	16	Tourist Inn	14
Hotel	5	Tourist Guide	17

TYPE OF TRE	NO. OF ACCREDITED TRE	TYPE OF TRE	NO. OF ACCREDITED TRE
Pension House	5	Travel and Tour Agency	5
Resort	10	Tourism Recreation	1
Spa	2	Tourist Inn	14
Total		45	

Source: DOT Caraga

Occupancy rates slightly improved from 2013 to 2015 averaging at 35.17 percent. A significant growth of occupancy rate in the last seven (7) years was observed: from 10.89 percent in 2009 it ballooned to 37.99

percent in 2015. However, the region is hard-pressed to provide a more precise picture of the occupancy rate as getting accurate data from establishments remains a challenge.

Figure 9.8 Occupancy Rate, by City and Province, Caraga, 2013-2015

LGU/Year	2013	2014	2015	Average
CITIES				
Butuan City	35.72	36.83	25.32	32.62
Surigao City	40.58	41.70	32.84	38.37
Bislig City	62.14	48.58	70.64	60.45
Cabadbaran City	39.65	40.98	40.19	40.27
Tandag City	24.43	32.59	36.27	31.10
PROVINCES				
Agusan del Sur	27.31	31.55	45.30	34.72
Agusan del Norte	11.46	21.48	25.66	19.53
Surigao del Sur	19.86	30.43	24.03	24.77
Surigao del Norte	65.83	46.53	73.02	61.79
Dinagat Islands	7.83	9.78	6.58	8.06
CARAGA	33.48	34.05	37.99	35.17

Source: DOT-Caraga

Developing and then promoting ecotourism can be an effective strategy in alleviating poverty. This labor-intensive industry has the potential to provide employment to local communities in arts and craft production, tour-guide services, transportation, accommodation, and food services.

Financial Services

Bank deposits exhibited positive growths over the last three years significantly surpassing the annual RDP targets. In 2013, a total deposit of PhP39.68 billion was recorded by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) posting a 133.11 percent accomplishment. In 2014, an accumulated PhP47.54 billion was posted, which is 54.85

percent higher than the expected PhP30.70 billion. In 2015, total deposits reached PhP55.81 Billion, representing an increment of 76.50 percent over the target.

Deposit mobilization is a key first step in the financial intermediation process. The system where savers deposit their money and borrowers accessing the resources transforms deposits into real productive capital. Relatedly, domestic deposits provide cheap and reliable source of funds for development.

Loan releases and loan portfolio exhibited growth rates of 8.63 percent in 2013, 26.97 percent in 2014, and 14.01 percent in 2015 (*see Table 9.9*).

In 2015 a total of PhP3.314 billion was availed from Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP). Around 14 percent (PhP450.42 million) was released to finance SMEs; 26 percent to assist cooperatives; 23 percent (PhP767.23 million) was loaned to LGUs; 22 percent (PhP747.10 million) to Countryside Financial Institutions (CFI); while 15 percent (PhP498.58 million) was loaned to agro-processor corporations within the region.

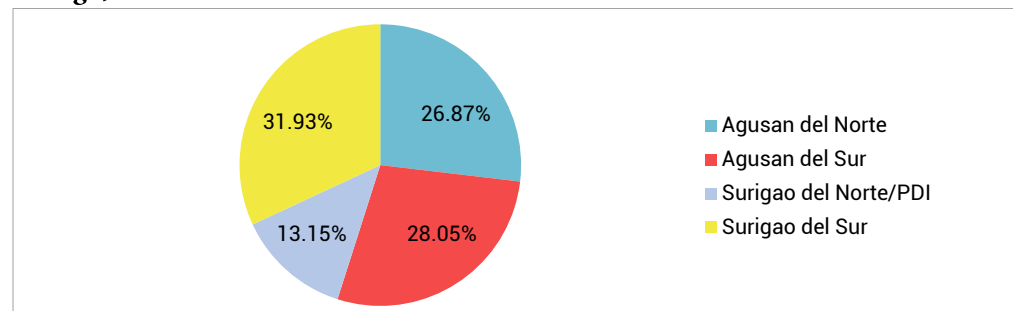
In terms of provincial distribution, Surigao del Sur accounted for 32 percent of the total LBP loans or PhP1.058 billion. Agusan del Sur followed with 28 percent or PhP 929.71 million; Agusan del Norte with 27 percent or PhP890.41 million; while Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands accounted for 13 or PhP435.99.

Table 9.9 Loan Portfolio, by Type of Bank, Caraga, 2013-2015, in Billion Pesos

TYPE OF BANK	2013	2014	2015
Universal and Commercial Banks	5.329	7.482	9.033
Thrift Banks	2.058	2.860	3.789
Rural and Cooperative Banks	3.812	3.877	3.389
Total	11.198	14.219	16.211

Source: BSP

Table 9.7 Loan Portfolio Distribution by Province, Landbank of the Philippines, Caraga, 2015



Source: LBP

Cooperatives

Created to uplift the livelihood, welfare, and socio-economic status of members, cooperatives play an important role in economic development especially in rural areas where large financial institutions are not present.

Records of the CDA show a promising development of cooperatives in the region. Total assets and capital build-up over the last three (3) years remarkably surpassed

the targets. By the end of 2015, the total assets of the 989 cooperatives reached PhP5.30 Billion. Meanwhile total capital build-up expanded to PhP4.98 Billion.

In 2014, the total number of coops dropped to 933. According to CDA, the decrease in the number of registered cooperatives was caused by non-submission of reports and “no operation” for two consecutive years, hence their dissolution. In 2015, the number of coops grew by 6 percent for a total of 989 cooperatives.

The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) is at the helm of educating local communities particularly those belonging to the micro and small cooperatives. Thus,

they teach farmers to produce more at a lesser cost, offering products at the best price without compromising quality.

Table 9.10 Regional Indicators, Services Sector, Caraga, 2013-2015

INDICATOR	YEAR	TARGET	ACCOMPLISHMENT	
			OUTPUT	PERCENT
Tourist Arrival	2013	738,504	861,888	116.71
	2014	775,429	1,016,753	131.12
	2015	814,200	1,144,310	140.54
Bank Deposits In Billion Pesos	2013	29.81	39.68	133.11
	2014	30.70	47.54	154.85
	2015	31.62	55.81	176.50
No. of Automated Teller Machines	2013	121	165	136.36
	2014	127	213	167.72
	2015	133	233	175.19
No. of Cooperatives	2013	1,125	935	83.11
	2014	1,150	933	81.13
	2015	1,200	989	82.42
Total Assets of Cooperatives In Billion Pesos	2013	2.83	3.97	140.28
	2014	2.92	4.13	141.44
	2015	3.00	5.30	176.67
Total Capital Build-up of Cooperatives In Million Pesos	2013	808	997.65	123.47
	2014	833	1,239.57	148.81
	2015	858	4,978.96	580.30

Source: Caraga RM 2013-2015

Challenges

Possible closure of 14 operating mining companies. The closure of 14 mining companies will affect the region's GRDP due to the expected reduction in the volume of mineral production and export. On the average, these operating mining companies that are ordered for closure contribute roughly 41 percent of the total mineral production value of the region. Further, the identified mining companies contribute 70 percent to the total taxes collected from mining development in the region. The closure will sharply reduce taxes (Royalty and Excise Taxes) generated by the government and subsequently shrink the LGUs' shares from national wealth.

In addition, the mining and quarrying subsector absorb more than five (5) percent of the region's employed labor force. Data from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) shows that about 20,589 will be directly affected by the closure of the 14 operating mining companies. These workers comprise of 10,974 regular staffs and 9,615 workers under contracting agreements. The jobs created by business activities related to mining operations have yet to be accounted for.

Economic gains from mining enjoyed by a few local communities. Issues on social injustice in the light of the utilization of SDMP Funds also challenge the mining

industry. While mining is considered as one of the major growth drivers in the region, gains from its activities did not significantly impact on the lives of Caraganons in general. Result of DSWD's NHTS in 2015 showed that more than 50 percent of the families in host mining barangays are poor. Though mining activities promote job creation in the locality, there are also other vulnerable groups in the community that may be adversely affected by mining activities like farmers and fisher folks.

Insipid growth of the manufacturing sector. The overall sluggish performance of the manufacturing industry, which resulted in its weak contribution to the regional economy, implies that there is absence or lack of structured value-adding mechanisms in the region that will transform raw agricultural and forestry outputs into manufactured products.

The performance of wood manufacturing is greatly dependent on the availability of logs in the local market. Most log producers opt to sell to other regions because of the low buying price in Caraga. Further, the region also needs to diversify manufactured wood products. On the other hand, mining processing is still concentrated in low value-adding activities, thus, obstructing higher gains for the region.

Bottlenecks in logistics and issues in natural disaster also inhibit the growth of the manufacturing sector. Climate-resilient infrastructures such as road and bridges, airports, seaports and internet connectivity remain insufficient.

Poor inflow of investments. The meager inflow of investments especially in manufacturing is greatly attributed to a poor investment environment in the region demonstrated by high cost of doing business such as power and domestic shipping (including port charges); insufficient raw materials as in the case of WPPs; and inadequate infrastructure support.

Pushing for an expanded manufacturing industry means that infrastructure investment gaps will have to be addressed and not just in amount and physical units, but in quality and resiliency. At present, the region is still challenged with infrastructure-related concerns such as the quality and reliability of transport infrastructure including local road networks as an important consideration for investments decisions; and poor digital infrastructure.

Non-delineation of tourist destination. There is a need to delineate tourism areas from mining areas and from protection areas to have a truly sustainable ecotourism industry. While tourism is a profitable industry, the protection of natural resources should be of utmost importance. It is therefore important to strengthen protocols to prevent environmental deterioration.

Lack of LGU support for tourism initiatives. As stipulated in RA 9593 otherwise known as Tourism Act of 2009, the DOT and LGUs shall ensure strict compliance of tourism enterprises to the prescribed standards for the accreditation of TREs. While the section does not diminish the powers of the LGUs under the

Local Government Code when it comes to the issuance of business permits, licenses and the like, the local governments' weak stance on non-compliance resulted in low accreditation rates of TREs.

Moreover, the absence of permanent tourism officers in the LGUs especially in areas with potential tourism destinations delays formulation and implementation of development plans. It is also observed that tourism-related projects are given low priority in the LGU budget.

Weak promotion of other tourism sites.

Promotional activities mainly focused on major tourist destinations (i.e. Siargao Islands, Hinatuan Enchanted River, and Socorro's Bucas Grande) resulting in their national and global recognition. However,

there are other tourism sites that need marketing and promotion to take advantage of the influx of tourists.

Difficulty of micro and small enterprises to access loans.

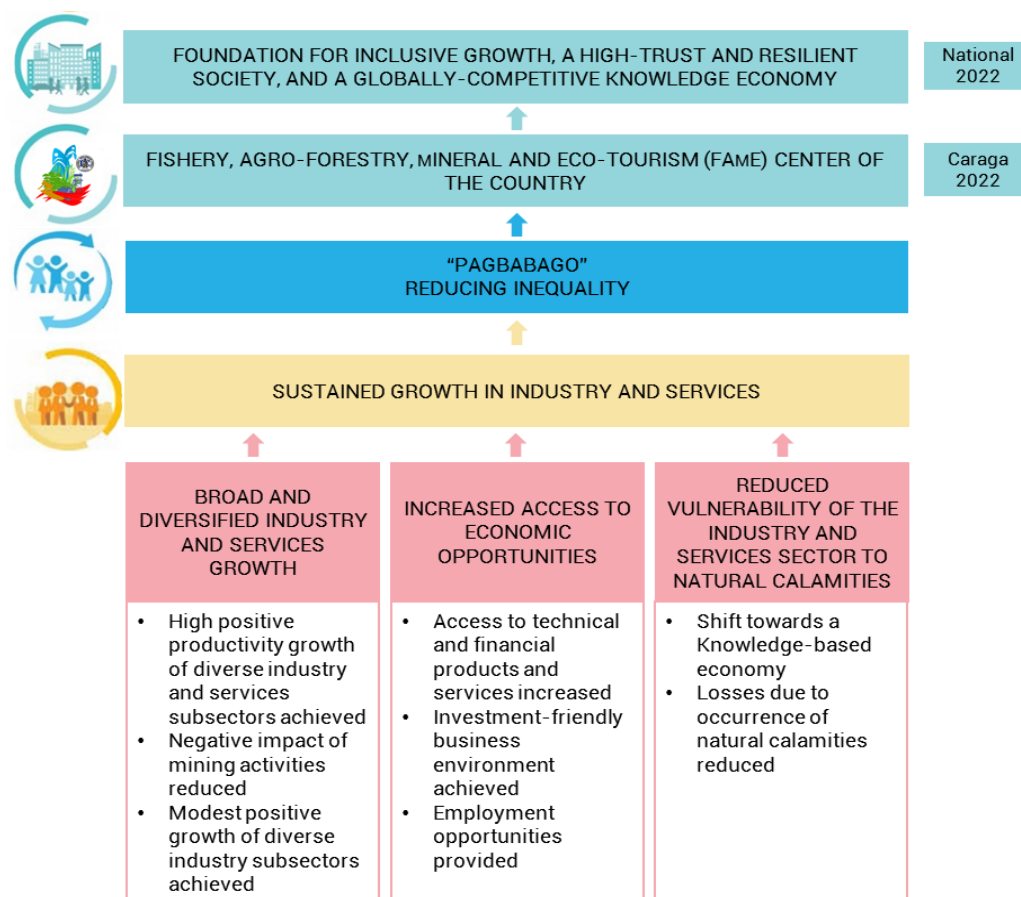
Difficulty in accessing credit is one of the major impediments to the growth of MSMEs. Low goodwill and little fixed investments restrict them from borrowing large sums of money with reasonable interest rates, thus, preventing them from financing projects that have potential for high-returns. Further, lack of knowledge on available financing assistance provided by micro-financing institutions and other credit windows also prevent MSMEs from taking advantage of available resources.

Strategic Framework

Creating an environment that will stimulate development in industry and services and sustaining its growth is important in reducing inequality in the region. This can be achieved by expanding existing commodities, diversifying products, and providing avenues that will

influence high productivity of the sectors. Thus, initiatives will be put in place to ensure that access to these avenues especially by the MSMEs is increased. Moreover, reducing vulnerability of the sectors to natural calamities will also be prioritized.

Figure 9.8 Strategic Framework to Expand Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services



Sub-sector Outcome 1: Broad and diversified industry and services growth

Objective 1.1: High positive growth of diverse industry and services subsectors achieved

Operationalize existing and proposed special economic zones and co-management areas. Provinces/cities will mobilize resources to operationalize existing and proposed special economic zones and co-management areas with the

support of regional line agencies. (see Table 9.11 and Map 9.2 Existing and Proposed SEZs).

Full development of the SEZs is expected to employ a significant number of workers addressing possible displacement of workers in mining areas.

Strengthen the priority and emerging industries. Regional roadmaps of priority industries will be finalized to identify specific interventions needed by the industry clusters. The region will also strive to revitalize the wood industry by lobbying for the review of Executive Order No. 23, especially on the requirements for WPPs.

Moreover, programs, projects and activities mainstreaming the emerging industries (*e.g. creative industry, renewable energy, construction and organic agriculture*) will be undertaken.

Increase product development support services and capability building. Delivery of product development services through Negosyo Centers and S&T Centers such as Food Innovation Center and Fabrication Laboratory will be pursued especially in highly urbanized and component cities.

Intensify value-adding activities in agriculture, fishery, forestry and mining. The region will promote industrial development by adding value to priority commodities. Processing plants will be established in strategic locations to process locally produced crops (*e.g., coconut, abaca, rubber, palm oil, coffee*), fruits (*e.g., banana, mango, pineapple*); fishery products (*e.g., seaweeds, tuna*), and minerals (*e.g. gold, silver*).

The region will focus on the innovation of existing processes, products, and even services. Technologies that will transform traditional crops into non-food products such as abaca and coco coir will be undertaken.

Mechanisms that will allow *pooling and consolidation* among farmers or firms of the same level in the food chain will be pursued. This will be a significant strategy for the farmers in creating a critical mass and building economies of scale in production, processing, and marketing of outputs. The region will also strengthen the implementation of Industry Cluster Approach, grouping key support

industries, facilities, and institutions that are interlinked and interdependent.

Mainstream Ecotourism. Caraga will increase its investments in promoting the region as a major ecotourism destination in the country. It will pursue mapping and delineation of identified Tourism Destination Areas and strongly enjoin LGUs to support DOT mandatory accreditations. Promotion of “tourism culture” will be intensified down to the local level as well.

Human resource capability trainings will be improved and continually provided especially in areas where the formulation/updating of Local Tourism Development Plans are critical.

To improve marketability of identified tourism sites, investments in tourism-related facilities that meet global standards, and soft infrastructures such as quality internet connectivity will be ensured. The region will also guarantee that cleanliness and hygiene will meet world-class standards.

The region will invest in the promotion of tourism circuits/clusters highlighting each locality’s unique offerings (*see Map 3.12 of Chapter 3- Regional Spatial Strategy*). Tourism circuits will define entry and exit points that will motivate tourists to visit all the destinations within the circuit.

Promotion of tourism culture can be mainstreamed in the school curricula at various levels of learning. Integrating tourism starting at the primary level may engender an appreciation for and valuing of the region’s tourism assets.

Map 9.2 Existing and Proposed Special Economic Zones

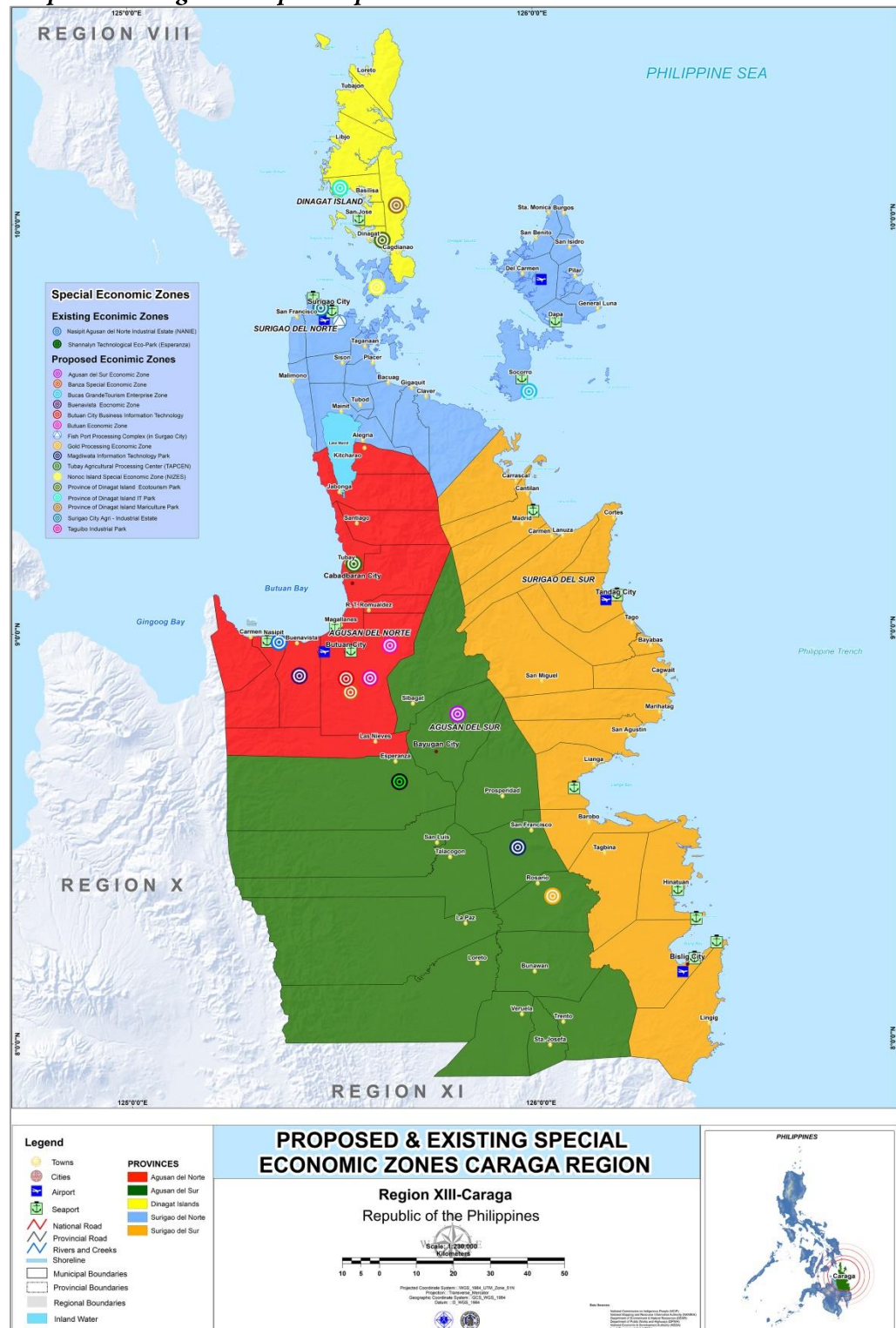


Table 9.11 Existing and Proposed Special Economic Zones, Caraga

PROVINCE/CITY	SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE	STATUS
Agusan del Norte	- Nasipit Agusan del Norte Industrial Estate (NANIE)	Proclaimed
	- Tubay Agricultural Processing Center (TAPCEN)	Proclaimed
	- Buenavista Economic Zone	Proposed
Butuan City	- Butuan City Business Information Technology Park	Proposed
	- Butuan Economic Zone	Proposed
	- Taguibo Industrial Park	Proposed
	- Banza Special Economic Zone for Wood Industry	Proposed
Agusan del Sur	- Shannalyne Technological and Environmental Park (STEP)	Proclaimed
	- Agusan Del Sur Economic Zone/Pagkain ng Bayan	Proposed
	- Magdiwata Information Technology Park	Proposed
	- Gold Processing Economic Zone	Proposed
Surigao del Norte	- Nonoc Island Special Economic Zone (NISEZ)	Proclaimed
	- Bucas Grande Tourism Enterprise Zone	Proposed
	- Surigao City Agri-Industrial Estate	Proposed
	- Fish Port Processing Complex	Proposed
	- Taganito Special Economic Zones (TSEZ)	Proclaimed and Operating
Province of Dinagat Islands	- PDI IT Park	Proposed
	- PDI Ecotourism Park	Proposed
	- PDI Mariculture Park	Proposed
Surigao del Sur	- Surigao del Sur Mineral Processing Zone	Proposed
	- Bislig Agri-Industrial Processing Zone	Proposed

Source: Provincial Local Government Units

Integrate local products in tourism promotion/agenda. The region will strengthen collaboration between tourism offices and retail and support industries in integrating local products in tourism promotion.

Developing/upgrading small scale enterprises that are owned by families or village communities will be pursued to promote product creativity and innovation in tourism services

Objective 1.2: Negative impact of mining activities reduced

Rationalize the identification of programs for SDMP funding. In the light of the slowing down of mining activities in the region, strategic utilization of the SDMP funds will be pursued. The region will ensure that livelihood projects for host and neighboring communities are sustainable and environment friendly.

Rehabilitation of mined-out areas will be implemented as programmed, transforming unproductive areas into eco parks for recreation and tourism.

Strict monitoring of small-scale mining activities and ensure compliance of mining companies to environmental laws and policies. The region will continue monitoring the activities of small scale miners and will pursue termination of illegal small scale mining activities by establishing a Minahang Bayan.

It will likewise firmly enforce environmental laws and related regulations to ensure protection of natural resources.

Sub-sector Outcome 2: Increased access to economic opportunities

Objective 2.1: Access of MSMEs to technical and financial services improved

Expand technical assistance to MSMEs.

The shared service facility (SSF) and small enterprise technology upgrading (SETUP) programs will be expanded to cater to MSMEs not only in highly urbanized and component cities but in first and second class municipalities as well. The establishment of Caraga Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab) will push through to ramp up competitiveness of MSMEs (*also see Chapter 14*).

The Project KAPATID of the DTI and the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE) will be implemented with vigor in the region. The project aims to help MSMEs through three (3) key components:

- The Mentor ME (micro entrepreneurs) program is a coaching approach where large corporations mentor MSMEs;
- The Adopt-an-SSF program will help micro entrepreneurs gain access to SSFs in the community; and
- The Inclusive Business (IB) model is a program where MSMEs are linked into the value chains of large companies.

The region will intensify provision of customized training interventions for MSMEs such as productivity improvement trainings that mainstream a culture of quality and productivity towards enterprise development and competitiveness.

Access to finance of MSMEs improved.

The credit surety fund program of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will be promoted. The program is a credit enhancement scheme developed to

increase the credit worthiness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) that are experiencing difficulty in obtaining loans from banks due to lack of acceptable collaterals, credit knowledge and credit track records.

The region will also promote and support programs for sustainable access to asset financing. The Financial assistance under the Conflict-Sensitive Resource and Asset Management (COSERAM) Program Financial Component will provide loan windows for MSMEs needing fixed assets and/or working capital.

Financial skills development trainings and retooling will be heightened.

Develop and strengthen strategic alliances for tourism development.

The region shall strengthen partnerships between and among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, private companies, and local residents as tools for the integration and facilitation of tourism development and sustainability.

The region will also pursue inter-regional alliances for sharing of learning experiences and the forging of possible tourism linkages in major destinations of Mindanao.

Objective 2.2: Investment-friendly business environment achieved

The region will ensure that DTI, DILG, and DICT Joint memorandum circular no. 1 s. 2016 “*revised standards in processing business permits and licenses in all cities and municipalities*” is implemented and that strong mechanisms to address

bottlenecks in the implementation and monitoring are provided.

Project Repeal: the Philippine Red Tape Challenge, a project of the National Competitiveness Council, will be implemented at the regional and local levels. The project intends to (a) lower cost of compliance for business and cost of enforcement for government by repealing/amending unnecessary, costly, burdensome, out-of-date, and confusing policies; (b) institutionalize an evidence-based system towards coherent and ultimately, better regulations; and (c) democratize regulatory reforms.

Operationalization of the special economic zones will also provide investment-friendly policies such as tax rebates, fiscal incentives, and lands at subsidized rates.

Objective 2.3: Employment Opportunities Provided

Intensify the implementation of employment programs of the government.

The DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP) will be implemented under its two (2) components, namely: a) Kabuhayan or Livelihood Program; and b) Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) Program.

Continue mainstreaming returning OFWs in society through reintegration programs such as the Balik-Pinas, Balik Hanapbuhay (BPBH) Program; Financial Awareness Seminar (FAS); Small Business Management Training (SBMT); and

Livelihood Development Assistance Program (LDAP).

Endeavor to attract the youth particularly the poor and indigent to participate in the Government Internship Program (GIP). Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) will be implemented especially in disadvantaged areas.

Career guidance as a mechanism to assist jobseekers in making informed choices will be improved. Innovations will include provision of timely, relevant and accurate signals on current labor market such as in-demand jobs and skills shortages; implementation of public employment facilitation services (*i.e., job search assistance*) in key municipalities, cities and provinces through the network of Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs); and provision of school-to-work transition assistance to vulnerable youth through JobStart Philippine Program.

Sub-sector Outcome 3: Reduced vulnerability of the industry and services sector to natural calamities

Objective 3.1: Shift towards a Knowledge-based economy achieved

Invest more in less hazard-vulnerable economic activities. Caraga will pursue economic activities that are less vulnerable to geological and climatological hazards to avoid huge losses. It will harness its potential in building a knowledge-based

economy by directing investments to high-technology goods and services particularly in information and communications technologies.

Butuan City will become one of the “next wave” cities in the country by creating and developing ICT hubs for Information Technology-Business Process Outsourcing (IT-BPO) investments and ensuring its sustainability.

Transform human resources into skilled workforce. The region will invest in industry-specific skills (e.g., marine, IT) and support vocational and higher education courses that will transform the region’s human resources into innovative, creative, and skilled workforce.

Sustainability of the Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development (Tech4ED) Center under the Philippine Community eCenter Program will be ensured. The center will serve as a delivery channel for relevant ICT enabled services and content for socio-economic development of unserved and underserved communities.

Enhance knowledge diffusion. Framework conditions for strong and relevant university-industry-government

collaborations (e.g., *R&D initiatives*) will be pursued. Intensive promotion of the diffusion of new technologies to a wide variety of sectors and firms will also be carried out (*also see Chapter 14*).

Objective 3.2: Losses due to occurrence of natural calamities reduced

Improve risk transfer mechanism. The region will intensify promotion of risk transfer mechanisms, expanding the enterprises covered by calamity insurance. A feasibility study on risk pooling mechanism that will allow LGUs to spread their risk geographically and collectively will be pursued. This will allow LGUs to have calamity insurance that have better terms and access reserves for restoration of economic activities after a disaster.

Improve infrastructure support. Constructing redundant access will be prioritized. This will reduce losses and incidence of poor services due to road accessibility disturbances.

The region will also strengthen the implementation of the National Building Code and ensure DRR-CCA compliance of infrastructures.

10

Accelerating
Human Capital
Development

Accelerating Human Capital Development

As early as 1990, the Human Development Report introduced the concept of development as expanding people's choices, focusing on the richness of human lives rather than on the richness of economies. To enhance human life, opportunities should be made available, equitable access ensured, and services provided efficiently.

This chapter tackles education and health as means for accelerating human capital development, enabling individuals to achieve personal goals and aspirations. More importantly, this chapter discusses the strategies to ensure that high quality education and health services are more accessible to a greater number of people.

Assessment

Basic, Higher, and Technical Education

Significant reforms in the education sector have increased access to and improved the quality of basic education; the reforms have also enhanced the competencies of the labor force by producing more quality graduates. Nonetheless, more efforts still need to be exerted to achieve missed education targets.

Basic Education

The Caraga RDP 2013-2016 targeted to cover only 56,227 pupils under the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program by 2015. However, the 2015 data shows that 64,481 children actually enrolled in ECE all over the region. According to the Department of Education (DepEd), the

implementation of the K to 12 and the Mandatory Kindergarten Education Act contributed to the increase in the ECE enrolment.

Although the region failed to achieve its targets in elementary and secondary participation rates of 95 percent and 80 percent, respectively, the region managed to increase its elementary participation rate from 93.4 in SY 2013-2014 to 94.5 in SY 2015-2016. This was attributed to the massive advocacy of DepEd through Balik Aral Program. The program encourages pupils who dropped-out to go back to school. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program also influenced learners to be in school. Parents became more interested in enrolling their children including the over-aged ones to be able to claim benefits from the program.

Based on the DSWD data, the enrolment rate of 4Ps children reached 96.66 percent with an attendance rate of 98.53 percent.

Table 10.1 4Ps Children and their Education Performance

4Ps CHILDREN	2013	2014	2015
With access to education	283,861	318,479	329,390
Enrolment	292,135	326,438	334,314
Attendance	283,861	318,479	329,390

Source: DSWD Caraga

Efficiency in education improved at the elementary and secondary levels. An increasing trend was observed for the Cohort Survival Rates (CSR) in both levels. School leaver rates in the elementary level decreased but the rates for the secondary level remain high.

Table 10.2 Basic Education Indicators in the Results Matrix of the Caraga Revised Regional Development Plan 2013-2016

LEVEL	BASLINE YEAR	VALUE	ANNUAL RDP TARGETS			ACCOMPLISHMENT		
			2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Net enrolment rate increased (in %)								
Elementary	2010	83.84	92.30	95	95	94.5	94.3	95.23
Secondary	2010	55.12	72	76	80	65.3	59.6	61.37
Completion Rate Increased (in %)								
Elementary	2010	43.68	75	76.61	77	80.3	84.2	85.08
Secondary	2010	66.27	70	75	75	74.3	70.6	71.26
Cohort Survival rate (in %)								
Elementary	2010	67.87	72.5	77	79	82.1	86.9	87.72
Secondary	2010	44.35	70	74.51	76.50	79.5	77	77.77
School Leaver Rate decreased (in %)								
Elementary	2013	3.65				2.28	2.84	2.55
Secondary	2010	8.85				7.52	8.33	6.67

Source: DepEd Caraga

K to 12 Program. The Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 (RA 10533) expands the basic education system from a 10-year to a 12-year program with the addition of two (2) years of Senior High School (SHS) - Grades 11 and 12. The program offers a decongested 12-year program to give students sufficient time to master skills and absorb basic competencies. With this improved high school program, the graduates will become more ready for employment, entrepreneurship, middle level skills development, and higher education.

In a study done by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization – Innotech (SEAMEO-Innotech), the 10-year educational cycle was found to be congested. As a result, Filipino students trailed behind students around the world in the areas of math, languages, and science. Thus, the government introduced the K to 12 Program to enhance the basic education curriculum and produce more productive and responsible citizens equipped with the essential competencies and skills for both life-long learning and employment.

The DepEd piloted the SHS program in SY 2012-2013 but the full implementation started in SY 2015-2016. A total of 464 schools are implementing senior high school in the region - 367 public, 84 private, and 13 state universities and colleges. On SHS enrolment, a total of 41,158 students were expected to enroll in the pilot year; data shows an enrolment of 40,649 or 98.76 percent of the expected enrollees. One of the reasons for the high enrolment turn-out is that many out-of-school youths (OSYs) returned to school.

The Voucher Program of DepEd also contributed to the high enrolment in the SHS. The Voucher Program is intended for Grade 10 (Junior High School) completers who wish to pursue SHS education in non-DepEd Schools such as private high schools, colleges, and universities; local universities and colleges (LUC); state universities and colleges (SUCs); and

technical-vocational schools, starting SY 2016-2017. The vouchers enable student/s to claim a “discount” or a deduction from the cost of tuition and other fees charged by a non-DepEd SHS. The voucher subsidy is not given to students directly in the form of cash but will be disbursed by DepEd to the non-DepEd SHS where the student chooses to enroll.

On the other hand, OSYs or students who graduated from high school before SY 2015-2016 cannot avail of the voucher program but they can still pursue education for free in a public SHS. If they choose to enroll in a private SHS, they will have to pay for tuition fees.

Of the 1,126 newly-created teaching positions for the SHS, some 1,046 were already filled-up and deployed. The difference of 80 has yet to be filled.

Table 10.3 Number of SHS Teachers Allocated and Deployed

DIVISIONS	NO. OF ITEMS ALLOCATED	NO. OF ITEM (WITH CONVERTED ITEMS)	NO. OF DEPLOYED ITEMS	% OF DEPLOYMENT	NO. OF UN-FILLED ITEMS
Agusan del Norte	113+1	114	114	100%	0
Agusan del Sur	203+71	274	203	100%	71
Bayugan City	66	66	66	100%	0
Bislig City	35	35	29	82.86%	6
Butuan City	148+2	150	150	100%	0
Cabadbaran City	21	21	20	95%	1
Dinagat Islands	55	55	55	100%	0
Siargao	54	54	54	100%	0
Surigao City	53	53	53	100.00%	0
Surigao del Norte	110+2	112	112	100%	0
Surigao del Sur	164+2	166	166	100%	0
Tandag City	26	26	24	92%	2
TOTAL	1,048 +7+71	1,126	1,046	93%	80

Source: DepEd Caraga

Of the 490 non-teaching positions created for the SHS, 341 were already deployed. A

total of 149 positions are still unfilled as of November 2016.

Table 10.4 Number of SHS Non-Teaching Positions Allocated and Deployed, as of November 28, 2016

DIVISIONS	NO. OF ITEMS ALLOCATED	NO. OF DEPLOYED ITEMS	% OF DEPLOYMENT	NO. OF UN-FILLED ITEMS
Agusan del Norte	51	39	76.47	12
Agusan del Sur	100	0	0	100
Bayugan City	17	17	100	0
Bislig City	14	11	84.62	3
Butuan City	46	46	100	0
Cabadbaran City	12	8	69	4
Dinagat Islands	32	32	100	0
Siargao	30	30	100	0
Surigao City	28	0	0	28
Surigao del Norte	49	47	100	2
Surigao del Sur	108	108	100	0
Tandag City	3	3	100	0
TOTAL	490	341	68.76	149

Source: DepEd Caraga

Relative to the 2015 SHS building project implemented by DPWH, Butuan City posted the highest completion rate with 99 percent, Agusan del Norte and Cabadbaran City followed with 97 percent each as of August 2016. Siargao Division had 51 percent, the lowest performance across divisions. For the same period, around 636 classrooms were already utilized by SHS students while 765 are about to be finished. The construction of the remaining classrooms are still on-going.

Of the 11 SHS TechVoc Laboratories allocated for the region, nine were already completed while the construction of two laboratories are still on-going. The DepEd had a total allocation of P2.5 billion for the construction of 1,564 classrooms and 90 SHS unique workshops.

Other Support Programs. Other programs are likewise implemented by DepEd to bring drop-out pupils and students back to school. The **Alternative Learning System (ALS)** provides opportunities to those who do not have a chance to attend and finish formal basic

education (Grades 1-6 and Years 1-4). As a right of every Filipino child, the government established the ALS to provide Filipinos the chance to complete basic education in a mode that fits their distinct situations and needs.

Another program, the **Alternative Delivery Mode** provides greater mobility for children-at-risk, out-of-school children and youth (OSCYs), and school drop-outs in accessing basic education. This project aims to have a 100% reintegration rate into mainstream or regular schools.

DepEd also implements programs to address the special needs of learners. The **Madrasah Education Program** is a comprehensive program for Muslim learners in public and private schools. The **Indigenous Peoples Education (IPed)** Program considers the specific educational aspirations of IP students, not only for themselves but for their ancestral domains. Another program is the **Special Education**, which aims to develop the maximum potential of children with special needs to enable them to become self-reliant.

The opening of the 13th campus of the **Philippine Science High School (PSHS)** in Caraga Region specifically in Butuan City unlocked more opportunities for the region in developing future scientists and mathematicians. The PSHS is a service institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) mandated to offer scholarships for secondary level with special emphasis on the Sciences and thus, prepare students for a Science career. This is based on Section 2 of Republic Act 3661 that established the first Philippine Science High School campus in 1964.

The PSHS Caraga holds its classes temporarily within the compound of Caraga State University starting in SY 2014-2015. The permanent PSHS Caraga campus will be located at Brgy. Tiniwisan, Butuan City near the Butuan City Sports Complex. The construction of Academic Building I, Dormitory Building I, and the Perimeter Fence/ Gate have been completed. The construction of Academic Building II is on-going and is expected to be completed in April 2017. Inauguration of the PSHS Caraga campus buildings will be done in May 2017. The PSHS Caraga will transfer to their new home in time for the start of School Year 2017-2018.

Higher Education

Caraga's higher education institutions (HEIs) produced 26,103 college graduates in the past three school years, falling short of the expected 28,881. Around 77 percent of these graduates earned degrees in priority disciplines, most notably Business Administration and Related Courses; Education Science and Teacher Training; and IT-Related Disciplines.

Enrolment in baccalaureate courses increased significantly for the past three school years. The 2015 data shows that 65,487 students enrolled in college, which was higher than the RDP target of 62,190. Consistent with the graduation data, the top three (3) disciplines with the most number of enrollees were: Business Administration and Related Courses; Education Science and Teacher Training; and IT-Related Disciplines.

The increase in enrolment was attributed to the presence of CHED Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs) and other scholarship grants like the Students' Grant-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (SGP-PA). The enrolment share of the agriculture, forestry, and fishery (AFF) - related disciplines stand at only 6.73 percent but this surpassed the RDP target of 3.47 percent. The career guidance activities supported by regional line agencies and higher education institutions helped increase the number of takers in priority fields.

The region has a total of 55 public and private HEIs. These HEIs regularly undergo a process of accreditation for their program offerings. Although the region failed to achieve its target of 135 programs accredited in 2015, the region managed to increase the number of accredited programs from 104 in 2014 to 119 in 2015. The increase can be attributed to the strong commitment of HEIs to adhere to the highest standards in instruction, research, and extension services.

There is only one Center of Excellence (COE) in the region, the Philippine Normal University in the field of Teacher

Education, which was recognized in 2015. The Caraga State University (CarSU) is a Center of Development (COD) in the fields of Mathematics, Biology, and Information

Technology. Meanwhile, Father Saturnino Urios University is a COD for Teacher Education.

Table 10.5 Higher Education Performance Indicators, Caraga, 2014-2015

INDICATORS	BASELINE		ANNUAL RDP TARGETS			ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
	YEAR	VALUE	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015
Enrolment in baccalaureate courses increased	2013	58,620	60,378	62,190	64,056	58,921	65,487
Number of graduates in baccalaureate courses increased	2013	9,344	9,624	9,913	10,210	8,006	8,753
Percentage of enrollees in agriculture, forestry and fishery, mining and tourism related disciplines increased	2013	3.27	3.38	3.48	3.58	4.41	11.53
Graduates in agriculture, forestry and fishery, mining and tourism related disciplines increased	2013	408	420	433	446	457	525
Number and percentage of HEIs with accredited programs increased	2013	8	11 or 18.33%	14 or 23.33%	19 or 31.66%	12	14
Number of accredited programs increased (plus (30%))			100	135		104	119
Number of Programs identified as Center of Excellence/Center of Development increased	2013	1	1	1	1	2	5
HEIs presence in the World Wide Web / Number of HEIs with internet connections	2013	35	45	50	60	37	40

Source: CHED Caraga

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

technical education and skill training programs.

The Certification Rate of TVET graduates is one of the indicators that measure the overall performance of the TVET Sector. Successful candidates for assessment are issued National Certificates (NCs) or Certificates of Competency (COCs) to match their level of skills after undergoing

For 2015, the region's certification rate stands at 83 percent; this is one percentage point lower than the 2014 performance and also one percentage point short of the 2015 target.

Table 10.6 Technical Education Performance Indicators, Caraga, 2014-2015

INDICATOR	2014 PERFORMAN CE	2015 PERFORMANC E	2015 TARGET
Certification Rate of TVET graduates	84%	83%	84%
Enrolment in Vocational Education (Institution-based) program as a percentage of total enrolment in all delivery mode increased	18%	45%	54%

INDICATOR	2014 PERFORMAN CE	2015 PERFORMANC E	2015 TARGET
Enrolment by Qualification / Program in all sectors increased	15,618	30,986	29,158
Number of Graduates of TVET Courses increased	10,517	23,849	26,242
Completion Rate in TVET Programs	67%	77%	92%
Number of TVET Programs Registered	414	407	164
Rate of employment of TVET graduates	62.3%	-	65.4%

Source: TESDA Caraga

The result of the latest Impact Evaluation Study (IES) conducted in 2014 showed that 62.3 percent of graduates of TESDA certified Technical Institutions in Caraga Region were employed. This is lower than the national average of 72.4 percent. Among the Mindanao regions, Region XII has the highest employment rate at 75.7 percent followed by Region XI at 67.3 percent; Caraga Region and ARMM have the lowest rates. The study aims to regularly monitor and assess the efficiency and effectiveness of TVET services based on the employment outcomes of graduates.

TESDA certified Technical Institutions and TESDA provincial offices in the region provide post training job facilitation

services to graduates of TVET programs to ensure their employment.

The table below shows the performance of TESDA Caraga in the training and development of the Caraganons who want to pursue a career in TVET. These training programs encompass all technical vocational skills training conducted by TESDA Training Institutions (TTIs) to include TESDA Administered Schools and Training Centers, private Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIs), community-based training programs in partnership with Local Government Units (LGUs), and sector-monitored outputs from various agencies and training institutions.

Table 10.7 Enrollees and Graduates of TVET Programs (All Delivery Modes) 2014 and 2015

PROVINCE	ENROLMENT		GRADUATE	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Agusan del Norte	20,879	17,713	17,933	14,137
Agusan del Sur	12,448	12,811	12,169	11,746
Dinagat Islands	7,864	4,110	7,706	3,577
Surigao del Norte	17,672	16,248	15,487	14,934
Surigao del Sur	13,863	17,243	13,143	14,964
Caraga	72,726	68,125	66,438	59,538

Source: TESDA Caraga

Agusan del Norte consistently posted the highest number of enrolment in 2014 and 2015, contributing 34 percent and 27 percent to the total enrollees in institution-based programs, respectively. More students enrolled in TVET course relating to tourism, health, social and community development services, construction, information and communication technology, and metals and engineering sectors.

A significant increase of 60 percent was noted in the enrollment of TVET trainees in 2015. This can be attributed to the

growing popularity of technical vocational programs due to its relevance and high employment demand and an increase in scholarship opportunities offered by local government units on top of the scholarships by TESDA.

A total of 22,169 graduates were assessed in FY 2015. Of this number, 83 percent were issued National Certificates (NC) or Certification of Competency (COC). Agusan del Norte posted the most number of persons assessed and persons certified, contributing 27.5 percent and 24.8 percent to the region's total, respectively.

Table 10.8 Graduates Assessed and Certified by Province, 2015

PROVINCE	ASSESSED	CERTIFIED
Agusan del Norte	6,099	4,588
Agusan del Sur	4,927	4,239
Dinagat Islands	868	744
Surigao del Norte	4,841	4,364
Surigao del Sur	5,434	4,537
Caraga	22,169	18,472

Source: TESDA Caraga

The table above also shows that Surigao del Norte posted the highest rate of certification at 90 percent.

Majority of the certified TVET graduates of the region are fresh graduates waiting for the approval of their work applications; some are graduates of degree courses that wanted to acquire more skills either in their areas of specialization or in other fields. There are also assessment takers

who are new or returning OFWs waiting for their acceptance for work abroad.

Table 10.9 shows that the number of TESDA accredited competency assessors in various qualifications decreased by 57.7 percent in 2015. The decline is primarily due to the migration of several qualifications to new training regulations that require assessors to undergo the assessment using the new tools.

Table 10.9 Number of Accredited Competency Assessors by Province, 2014 and 2015

PROVINCES	2014	2015
Agusan del Norte	100	57
Agusan del Sur	105	33
Dinagat Islands	20	7

PROVINCES	2014	2015
Surigao del Norte	59	45
Surigao del Sur	85	14
Caraga	369	156

Source: TESDA Caraga

A slight decrease of two (2) percent can be noted in the number of registered programs in various training institutions in 2015. This is due to the migration of some programs to newly promulgated Training Regulations (TRs). The amendments in the TRs resulted from the review of industry experts initiated by TESDA Central Office to conform to new requirements of various industry sectors. Another factor is the closure of programs due to non-compliance to program registration requirements as noted in compliance audit activities.

TESDA continues to implement the Unified TVET Program Registration and Accreditation System (UTPRAS) to ensure that the TVET programs offered in the region meet the qualification standards. Moreover, the Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP), which provides free training and assessment is also being continued.

The table below shows the disaggregation of registered programs by province.

Table 10.10 TVET Registered Programs by Province

PROVINCE	2014			2015		
	NTR	WTR	TOTAL	NTR	WTR	TOTAL
Agusan del Norte	8	114	122	8	100	108
Agusan del Sur	2	103	105	2	107	109
Surigao del Norte		83	83		88	88
Surigao del Sur		84	84		82	82
Dinagat Islands		20	20		20	20
TOTAL	10	404	414	10	397	407

Notes: NTR – No Training Regulations, if the skills needs cannot be supplied by the WTR programs

WTR – With Training Regulations

Source : TESDA Caraga

With the increasing demand for highly skilled workers in the light of the ASEAN Integration, the number of TVET graduates doubled in 2015. This resulted from intensive advocacy of TVET programs and improved investments in the

scholarship programs of TESDA. The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) under the ASEAN calls for workers to acquire more skills for them to have better work opportunities. Thus, some Caraganons graduated in more than one

course to improve their employability in both local and ASEAN markets.

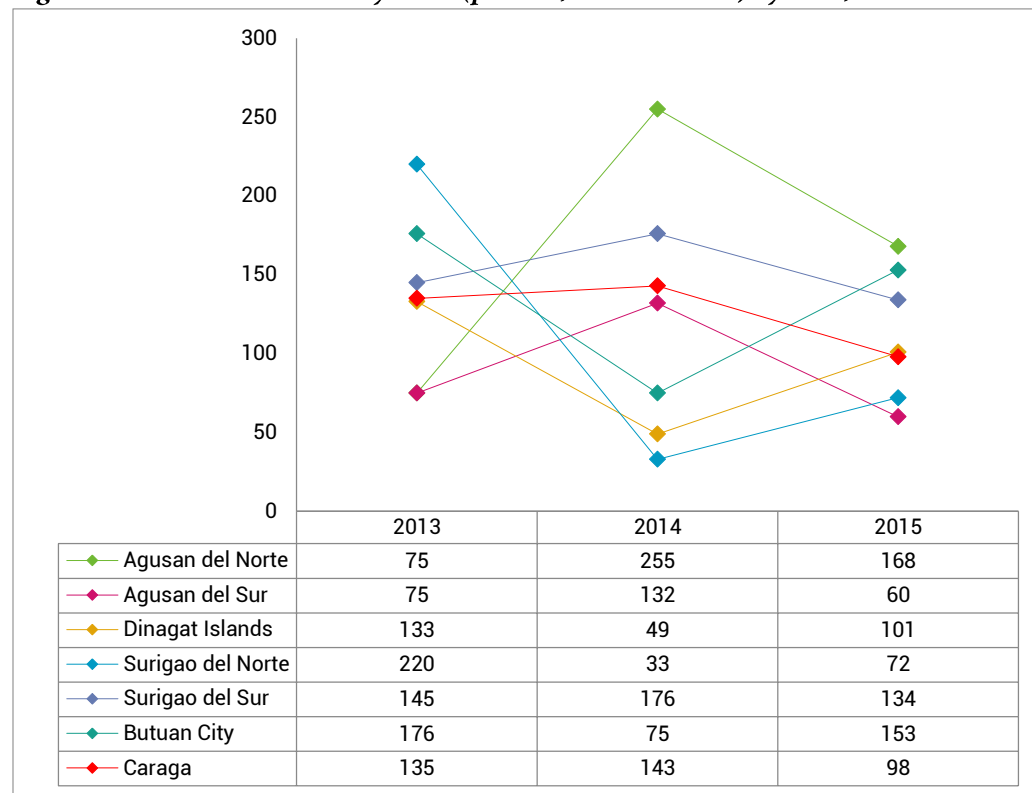
Health

Mortality

The Youth Profiling for Starring Career (YP4SC) is a program of TESDA on Career Guidance. The program helps determine one's aptitude and interest and provides guidance in choosing the technical-vocational program to pursue. The program is open to students, out-of-school-youth, and unemployed adults.

Maternal deaths. The number of maternal deaths are still high in the region although it decreased by an average of 125 deaths in the last three years. Maternal deaths are higher in Agusan provinces while decreasing in the other provinces. Agusan del Norte had an average of 166 maternal deaths while Agusan del Sur had an average of 89 maternal deaths. Mothers die mostly because of bleeding.¹

Figure 10.1 Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) by area, 2013-2015



Source: DOH Caraga, 2013-2015

Among regions, Caraga had the most maternal deaths in 2013.

¹DOH-Caraga. 2015. DOH Annual Report 2015. Butuan City: Department of Health-Caraga

Table 10.11 Maternal mortality ratio, Philippines, 2013

REGION	MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE
Philippines	0.9
NCR	0.9
CAR	0.6
Region 1	0.6
Region 2	0.8
Region 3	0.5
Region 4a	0.9
Region 4b	0.7
Region 5	1.0
Region 6	1.0
Region 7	1.0
Region 8	1.1
Region 9	1.0
Region 10	0.9
Region 11	1.0
Region 12	0.7
Region 13	1.5
ARMM	0.4

Source: Philippine Health Statistics, 2013

Among the six major ASEAN economies, the Philippines has the second highest maternal mortality ratio after Indonesia.² The underlying causes of most deaths are characterized by the three-delays model – (1) delay in deciding to seek care; (2) delay in accessing or reaching a healthcare facility; and (3) delay in receiving adequate quality care.³

Infant and under-five deaths. On the other hand, infant and under-five mortality rates have decreased in the last three years by an average of five and seven deaths, respectively. The target for infant mortality rate is 17 deaths (per 1,000 live births) and 25 deaths (per 1,000 live births) for under-five mortality.

Table 10.12 Infant under-five mortality rate, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Infant mortality rate	4.76	6.03	4.67
Under-five mortality rate	7.00	8.37	6.78

Source: DOH Caraga, 2013-2015

Crude death rate. The crude death rate decreased by an average of four deaths per year in the last three years. Reducing crude death rate is critical to achieving demographic dividend, along with managing fertility, and changing the age structure of the population.⁴

Table 10.13 Crude death rate, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Crude death rate	3.77	3.51	3.43

Source: DOH Caraga, 2013-2015

Health Services Coverage

Teenage pregnancy. According to the 2013 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), Caraga Region has the highest proportion of women aged 15-24 who have begun childbearing at 37.6 percent. The rate of teenage pregnancy in the region has increased by 4.1 percentage points in 10 years.

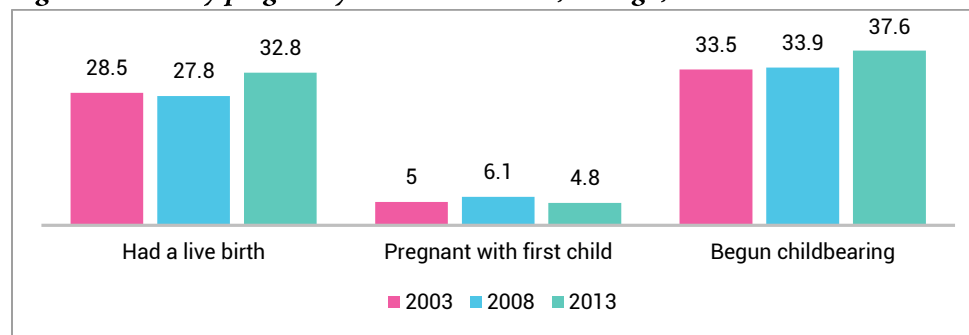
Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines has the second highest teenage pregnancies after Laos.

²World Bank. 2016. Maternal mortality ratio. Accessed December 20, 2016. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT>.

³Commission on Population. 2015. Precious and precarious: The life of Filipino mothers. State of the Philippine Population Report 6, Mandaluyong City: Commission on Population.

⁴Gribble, James, and Jason Bremner. 2012. The Challenge of Attaining the Demographic Dividend. November. Accessed December 16, 2016. <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Reports/2012/demographic-dividend.aspx>.

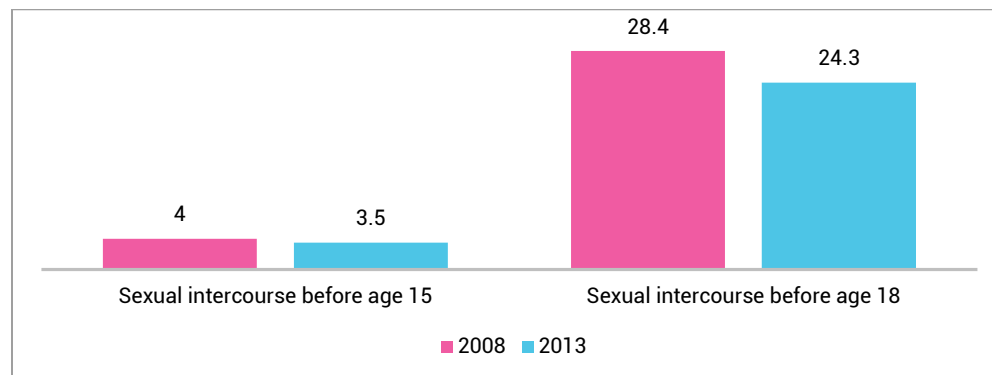
Figure 10.2 Early pregnancy and motherhood, Caraga, 2003-2013



Source: NDHS, 2003, 2008, 2013

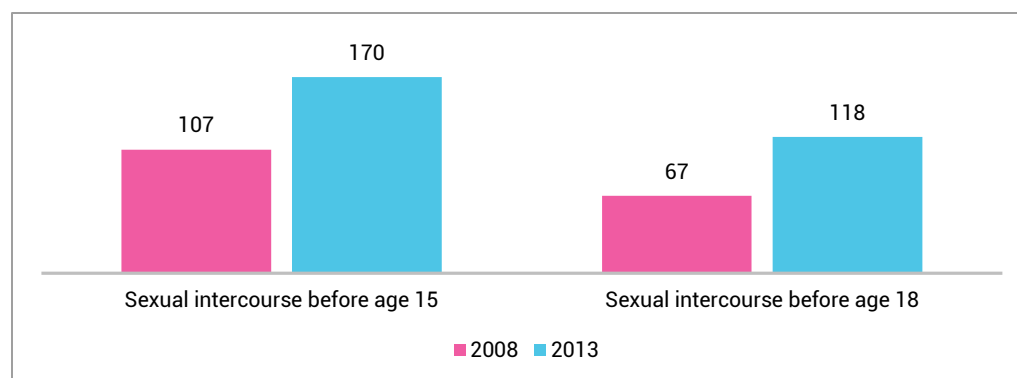
Although the proportion of young women aged 15-24 who had sexual intercourse before age 15, and the proportion of young women aged 18-24 who had sexual intercourse before age 18 decreased in a five-year period, the actual number increased.

Figure 10.3 Age at first sexual intercourse among young women (percent), Caraga, 2003-2013



Source: NDHS, 2008, 2013

Figure 10.4 Age at first sexual intercourse among young women (number), Caraga, 2003-2013



Source: NDHS, 2008, 2013

Fertility rate. Total fertility rate declined in 10 years' time but it is still high with an average of four children per woman. Among regions, Caraga has the third highest fertility rate in 2013.

Table 10.14 Total fertility rate, 2003-2013

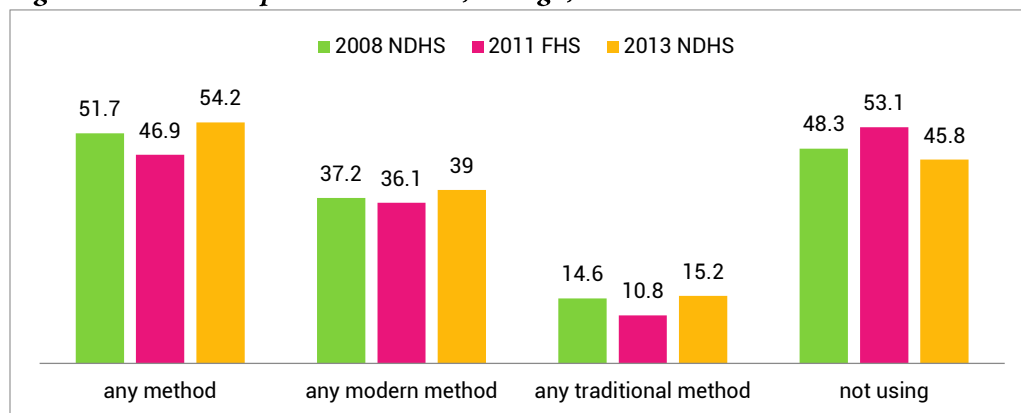
	2003	2008	2013
Philippines	3.5	3.3	3.0
NCR	2.8	2.3	2.3
CAR	3.8	3.3	2.9
Region 1	3.8	3.4	2.8
Region 2	3.4	4.1	3.2
Region 3	3.1	3.0	2.8
Region 4a	3.2	3.0	2.7
Region 4b	5.0	4.3	3.7
Region 5	4.3	4.1	4.1
Region 6	4.0	3.3	3.8
Region 7	3.6	3.2	3.2
Region 8	4.6	4.3	3.5
Region 9	4.2	3.8	3.5
Region 10	3.8	3.3	3.5
Region 11	3.1	3.3	2.9
Region 12	4.2	3.6	3.2
Region 13	4.1	4.3	3.6
ARMM	4.2	4.3	4.2

Source: NDHS, 2003, 2008, and 2013

Among ASEAN countries, the Philippines and Laos have the highest fertility rates.

Contraceptive use. Although the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) slightly increased in the last three years, it is still far from the regional target of 65 percent. CPR is highest in Agusan del Sur (67 percent), Bislig City (70 percent), and Butuan City (71 percent), and lowest in Dinagat Islands (45 percent). National Surveys (Family Health Survey and National Demographic and Health Survey) have confirmed the increases. Of those using any method, the most popular is any modern method.

Figure 10.5 Contraceptive method use, Caraga, 2008-2013



Source: FHS, 2011; NDHS, 2008 and 2013

In the Philippines, the following are the reasons for non-use of contraception⁵:

- fear of side-effects (44 percent reported in 2008, 41 percent in 2003);

- belief that women are unlikely to become pregnant (41 percent in 2008, 26 percent in 2003);

⁵Guttmacher Institute. 2010. *Barriers to Contraceptive Use in the Philippines*. Quezon City, May. Accessed August 26, 2016. <https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/fb-contraceptives-philippines.pdf>.

- cost of contraception (15 percent in 2008, 8 percent in 2003);
- personal or religious opposition (10 percent in 2008, 18 percent in 2003); and
- opposition by partners.

More poor women than better-off women reported such opposition: nine percent among the poorest quintile, compared with three percent among the wealthiest quintile.

Health Systems

Health Facilities. The proportion of households with access to safe drinking water remains low; the proportion of households with sanitary toilets is below par as well. As of 2015, three areas have low access to safe drinking water – Agusan del Sur (85 percent), Surigao del Sur (90 percent), and Surigao City (85 percent).

Bislig City has the lowest access to sanitary toilets at 80 percent. Agusan del Norte and Butuan City have the highest at 88 percent.

Table 10.15 Proportion of households with access to safe drinking water and sanitary toilets, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Proportion of households with access to safe drinking water	93	91	92
Proportion of households with access to sanitary toilets	70	83	85

Source: DOH Caraga 2013-2015

The region still lacks hospital facilities. Currently, the hospital beds to population ratio stands at 1:2,766 with Dinagat Islands having a ratio of 1:1,334. Only Butuan City achieved the ideal ratio with 1:834.

Nevertheless, in terms of health professionals, the region has enough PhilHealth-accredited doctors with a ratio of 1:5,095. The region lacks other health professionals because most local government units do not prioritize the hiring of health professionals

Table 10.16 Health human resources, 2013-2015

PROFESSIONAL	TARGET	2013	2014	2015
Barangay Health Workers	1:20 HH	1:238 HH	1:241 HH	1:226 HH
Dentist	1:50,000 pop'n	1:46,355	1:71,706	1:56,937
Medical Technologist	1:20,000 pop'n	1:32,256	1:39,112	1:36,889
Nurse	1:20,000 pop'n	1:15,743	1:20,167	1:20,786
Nutritionists	1:20,000 pop'n	1:357,599	1:143,411	1:124,719
Sanitary inspectors	1:20,000 pop'n	1:21,579	1:24,125	1:24478

Source: DOH Caraga, 2015

Challenges

Basic, Higher, and Technical Education

Basic Education

Difficulty in improving the quality of basic education in the region. The National Achievement Test (NAT) results for elementary level showed an erratic trend with a mean percentage score (MPS) of 79.49 in 2013, 80.42 in 2014, and 79.58 percent in 2015. In the secondary level, the Average MPS has been decreasing: 64.62 percent in 2013, 64.52 percent in 2014, and 61.40 percent in 2015. Only the Elementary NAT Result for English and the Secondary NAT Result for Filipino reached or exceeded the targets in SY 2014-2015. This challenge is expected to persist given the many concerns that confront the implementation of the K-12 program.

Number of school leavers remain high. According to a DepEd-Caraga Report, some children leave school because of parents' lack of interest to send their children to school and inaccessibility of schools especially in geographically isolated and depressed areas (GIDA). For the secondary level, the school leaver rates are high. Some of the contributory factors are early marriages or teenage pregnancies, and the need to look for work to augment family income.

Challenges to the implementation of the K-12 program remain in the areas of (a) curriculum design, (b) human resource, and (c) infrastructure. Revising the

curriculum especially in the context of the implementation of the K-12 program entails a holistic approach where various factors have to be taken into consideration. There is also a great need for qualified teachers to fill the vacant SHS teaching positions. Classroom shortage continues to hound the region, not to mention the shortage of school fixtures, books, and other materials.

Higher Education

Low quality of higher education in the region. While several HEIs have produced topnotchers in several licensure exams, the fact remains that the passing rates of HEIs in many licensure exams are below the national average. With ASEAN integration, the region's HEIs aspire to improve the quality of tertiary education to ensure that the graduates are globally competitive and at par with the graduates from other ASEAN member countries.

Students are enrolled in courses which are not responsive to local industry needs. The region's industries need skilled professionals in fishery, agriculture, forestry, mineral processing, and eco-tourism. However, students prefer other fields.

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Low Certification rate of TVET graduates. There is a need to improve the certification rate of TVET graduates in the region. Certification ensures the productivity, quality, and global

competitiveness of the graduates giving them better chances of getting employed.

Closure of Registered Programs in some TVIs due to non-compliance to program registration requirements. The closure of registered programs indicates the failure of TVET providers to comply with training regulation requirements. Non-compliance is primarily caused by high cost of maintaining a program.

Exodus of TVET trainers to the Department of Education to work under the K to 12 Program. There's a mass transfer of TVET trainers to the K to 12 Program due to better compensation package offered by the DepEd.

Low utilization of TESDA Promulgated Trainings. Overall the utilization rate in the region is low because the trainings offered by TESDA are also offered in the provinces.

Most of the Registered TVET Programs have low-level qualifications. Training institutions offer low-level qualifications primarily because the computer-run tools and equipment are expensive and often have a relatively short shelf life due to advances in technology.

Insufficient infrastructure of Accredited Competency Assessment Centers to cater to K to 12 graduates. The accredited competency assessment centers are not

enough to cater to K to 12 graduates. Further, the region has only 248 accredited assessment centers and majority are privately owned.

Health

High maternal deaths. A mother's death poses a lot of consequences including financial instability, loss of education for older surviving children, increased mortality for infants, and difficulty in managing the household for both father and children. Hence, maternal death is not only a health issue but a human right, and a social justice issue. Thus, women should have wider access to family planning and reproductive health products and services as guaranteed by Republic Act 10354 (Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012).

High fertility rate, low contraceptive prevalence rate, and high unmet need for family planning. Family planning allows couples to attain their desired number of children and determine pregnancy spacing. It delays pregnancies in young women who have increased risks of health problems and death from early childbearing. Evidence suggests that women who have more than 4 children have increased risk of maternal mortality.⁶ Hence, couples should have wider access to family planning options as provided in Republic Act 10354.

⁶WHO. 2016. *Family planning/Contraception*. December. Accessed March 19, 2017. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs351/en/>.

High teenage pregnancies. Adolescent pregnancy remains a major contributor to maternal and child mortality, and to the cycle of ill-health and poverty.⁷ Babies born to adolescent mothers face a substantially higher risk of dying than those born to women aged 20 to 24.

The World Health Organization (2014) added that adolescent pregnancy can also have negative social and economic effects on girls, their families, and communities. Many girls who become pregnant have to drop out of school. A girl with little or no education has fewer skills and opportunities to find a job. This can also have an economic cost with a country losing out on the annual income a young woman would have earned over her lifetime, if she had not had an early pregnancy.

Low proportion of households with access to safe drinking water and sanitary toilets. Access to safe water supply and sanitary toilet facility are essential to good health, clean environment, growth, and development. Safe water supply and good sanitation can prevent common waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, etc.

Water scarcity, poor water quality, and inadequate sanitation negatively impact on

food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world. Drought afflicts some of the world's poorest countries, worsening hunger and malnutrition. By 2050, at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of fresh water.⁸

Insufficient number of hospital beds.

Hospitals beds are lacking because non-admissible cases are admitted, referral system is inefficient, and district hospitals are not catering to non-admissible cases.

Lack of health professionals. The problem with the lack of doctors serving in rural areas is caused by many factors. First, doctors feel that the salary they are getting is not commensurate to the amount of work and geographic scope. Second, doctors can earn much in private practice. A private physician's income is dependent on the number of patients he/she can attend to. But a government physician has a fix salary even if he/she attends to more patients compared to a private physician. Third, doctors have families to attend to and being assigned in far flung areas is not practical and comfortable for them. Finally, doctors complain of lack of medicines and facilities in local hospitals.

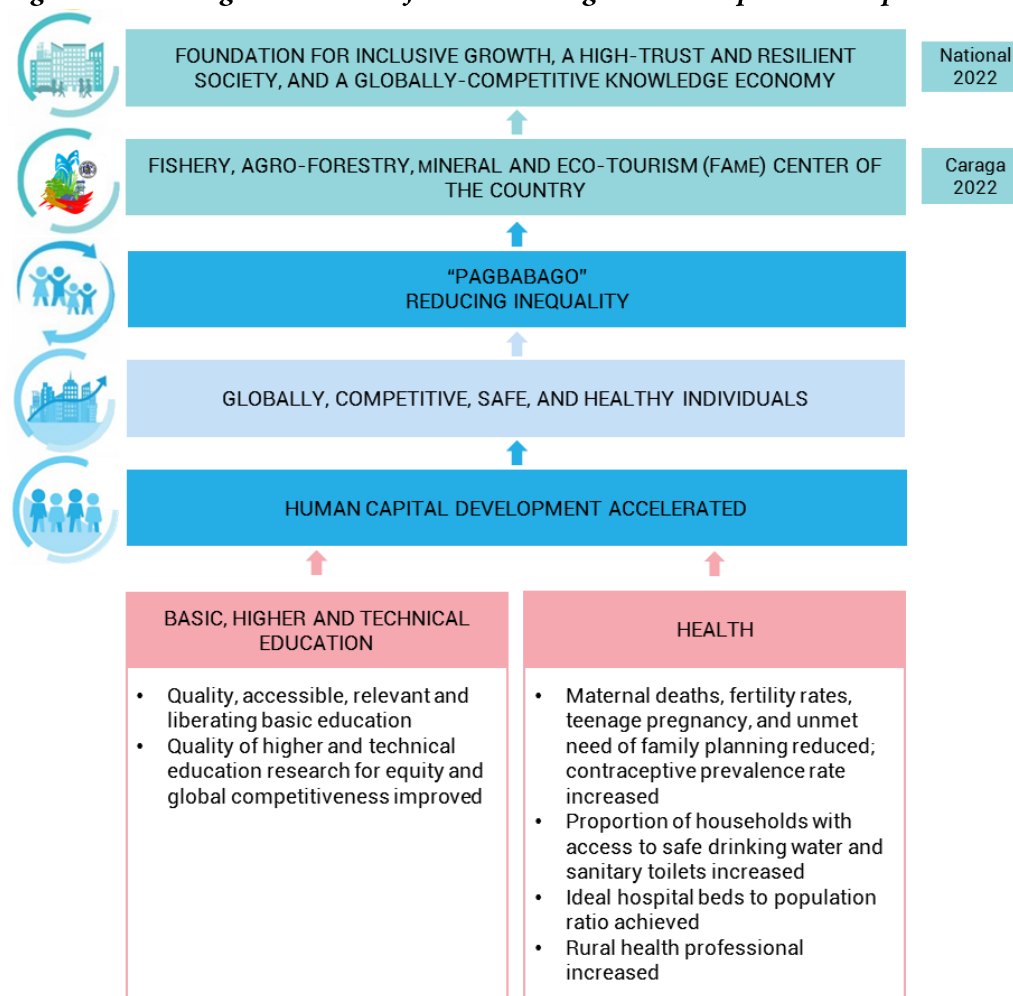
⁷WHO. 2014. Adolescent pregnancy. September. Accessed March 19, 2017.
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs364/en/>.

⁸ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>

Strategic Framework

Human capital is the center of all planning initiatives. Thus, this Chapter aims to contribute to human capital development by making individuals more globally-competitive, safe, and healthy.

Figure 10.6 Strategic Framework for Accelerating Human Capital Development



Basic, Higher, and Technical Education

To attain both personal and regional goals, lifelong learning will be the ultimate goal in education. Caraganons will be equipped with the appropriate skills and competencies to have a meaningful and satisfying life in this competitive world. Thus, education will be made accessible to vulnerable groups and those not reached by formal education to foster active citizenship and yield greater equity in human development outcomes.

Outcome 1: Quality, accessible, relevant, and liberating basic education

Raise the quality of education. Quality basic education intervention programs to build the learner's aptitude will be made available to learners. Strategic instructional supervision in all schools will be strengthened to raise the achievement rates of learners.

Pursue full implementation of the K-12 program. The sub-strategies to ensure the success of K to 12 are: a) timely delivery of adequate education inputs such as school infrastructure, quality learning materials, laboratories, and computer packages; b) hiring and development of teachers; c) effective and transparent monitoring and evaluation system; d) public financial management reforms from the national to the regional levels; e) timely delivery of infrastructure and learning resources for both formal and non-formal education; and f) support from the local government

units through the identification of appropriate school sites, and the mobilization of the local special education fund to augment funding for the provision of needed education inputs.

Strengthen inclusion programs. Improving mechanism for mapping, profiling, and tracking of learners and school-aged children will ensure that learners with special needs, indigenous peoples (IPs), and out-of-school children and youth are provided with appropriate educational interventions. Apt and adequate facilities and resources will be provided to people with special needs, and IPs and Muslim learners, ensuring that cultures and traditions are respected. Provision of education inputs will also be focused on areas with poor education performance taking into consideration the needs of hard-to-reach and vulnerable learners (street children, IPs, PWDs, CICL, and children in conflict areas).

Develop and improve interventions to keep children in school. School-based interventions such as feeding and counseling programs, remedial classes, and an environment conducive to learning will be provided to help keep children in school and complete basic education. Strengthening the implementation of child protection policies to eliminate violence in schools (i.e. bullying, teacher-student conflicts, etc.) will also be ensured.

Outcome 2: Quality of higher and technical education research for equity and global competitiveness improved

Integrate 21st century competencies. The higher education sector will prioritize the upgrading of existing curricular programs and alignment with global requirements and standards. Curricular program will produce graduates who can demonstrate 21st century competencies such as Civic Literacy, Global Awareness and Cross-Cultural Skills; Critical and Inventive Thinking; and Communication, Collaboration and Information Skills. CHED, HEIs, SUCs and accrediting agencies will pursue the harmonization of key academic programs with international standards.

Strengthen quality assurance mechanism.

The higher education sector will sustain the implementation of outcomes and typology-based quality assurance system per CHED Memorandum Order No. 46 series of 2012. It will continue to implement the Philippine Qualifications Framework and ASEAN Qualifications Framework. CHED will strictly enforce standards to HEIs through a rigorous and transparent system of assessment for autonomous and deregulated status, Center for Excellence (COEs), and Center of Development (CODs) programs. It will also strive to increase the number of accredited programs.

CHED will pursue rationalization and complementation of public higher education institutions to improve the quality of public higher education. HEIs will also be encouraged to aspire for ISO certification.

Improve research and innovation, and extension services. Continuing advocacy on research initiatives will be done to

ensure that researches are responsive to local realities or are relevant to national concerns. Existing mechanisms on research will be strengthened and supported. Policies will be formulated to improve and sustain research initiatives among HEIs.

Expand government-academe-industry-collaboration.

The higher education sector will be encouraged to offer courses aligned with the region's priority sectors (fishery, agriculture, forestry, mineral processing, and eco-tourism). Thus, the region will propose policies to incentivize the offering of these kinds of programs.

The Province of Dinagat Islands and the City of Butuan expressed their intentions to establish Business Information and Technology Parks. Thus, the HEIs will consider more IT-related courses in their offerings to meet the emerging demands of the industries in the region. On the other hand, industry participation will be pursued as it is considered a crucial element in the education and training of students in real-life workplace situation.

Career guidance counseling mechanisms will be institutionalized to maximize awareness among students on regional priorities and emerging industries. Students will be encouraged to take courses which are aligned with their skills, abilities, and readiness to minimize indiscriminate wastage of manpower and resources by working for a match between skill outputs and job market demands.

Promote excellence among HEIs. The quality of higher education programs will continue to be improved to meet

international standards by strengthening quality assurance systems. More scholarships for masters and doctoral degrees will be offered to teaching staff; an incentive system will also be institutionalized to encourage the conduct of relevant and groundbreaking researches. Regular monitoring of performance, not only of the teaching staff but on programs and institutions as a whole will be undertaken and sanctions imposed.

Boost the certification rate of TVET graduates. Strict implementation and monitoring of competency-based training delivery among training institutions will be pursued. Compliance to standards and requirements will be ensured through functional equipment. Tools and facilities will be made available in institutions offering TVET programs.

Standardize and Harmonize the TVET programs offered. Assistance to training institutions will be provided to ensure the migration of TVET programs to new training regulations to comply with program registration requirements. Training institutions will also be encouraged to offer relevant qualifications based on existing facilities, tools and equipment, and qualified trainers.

Develop interventions to maintain the human resource of TVET institutions. Create and capacitate a pool of TVET trainers in various qualifications to address the shortage of trainers. Senior - Junior Trainer scheme will be implemented to support unexpected separation of trainer from a training institution and to ensure continuity of the training program.

Further, TVIs will be encouraged to provide competitive salaries and wages of qualified trainers to be at par with government institutions.

Strengthen collaboration with labor and industry sectors. Training institutions will be encouraged to partner with industry in the offering of non-traditional TVET programs with high employment opportunities.

Encourage Training Institutions to offer higher level qualifications. Assistance will be provided to interested training institutions in complying with the requirements for program registration of higher level qualifications. Scholarship slots will be prioritized for TVET trainers who would teach in higher level qualifications.

Establish partnership with DepEd in the accreditation of SHS as competency assessment centers. Accredited DepEd teachers will be mobilized as Competency Assessors in their areas of expertise. Additional scholarship slots will be provided for the training of Trainer/Assessor from DepEd.

Develop a curriculum specific for mineral processing. Recommend to TESDA Central Office the development of training regulations on mineral processing.

Health

Outcome 3: Maternal deaths, fertility rates, teenage pregnancy, and unmet need of family planning reduced; contraceptive prevalence rate increased

Fully implement Republic Act 10354. The full implementation of the RPRH Law will be pursued to ensure universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health products and services. Key strategies will focus on eradicating unmet need for family planning and reducing the incidence of teenage pregnancy through collaborative interventions.

Outcome 4: Proportion of households with access to safe drinking water and sanitary toilets increased

Elicit inter-sectoral, multi-stakeholder support for nutrition and health. The government will ensure that other social determinants of nutrition and health will be addressed through the adoption of a “Nutrition and Health for All” agenda. The LGUs’ role in nutrition and health services delivery, such as advancing local health policies, providing family planning services and commodities, reducing disaster risks, and providing potable water and sanitation facilities will also be supported. The private sector will be tapped to participate in public-private partnerships for water and sanitation.

Outcome 5: Ideal hospital beds to population ratio achieved

Establish a regional telehealth center. The concept of telehealth pioneered by the University of the Philippines will be explored (may be in a form of public-private partnership) to engage people to use available technologies to improve health care by breaking distance barriers.

Ensure functional and efficient networks of health care providers. Service delivery networks (SDNs) will be expanded and strengthened to allow more people to reach health facilities and avail of needed services such as nutrition, reproductive health, drug abuse management and rehabilitation, and services related to health emergency response. The SDNs will facilitate access to all levels of care, from primary care level up to the specialty centers. These services will be client-centered, gender responsive, culture sensitive, and compliant with clinical standards. Private providers will be mobilized when planning SDNs, implementing interventions, and securing supply-side investments. Delivery of services will also be made more accessible with the use of information and communications technology. In addition, a redress mechanism will be set up to improve the responsiveness of the system.

Improve health-seeking behavior and target the most vulnerable. The population’s health seeking behavior will be improved. Health promotion for all interventions will be pursued to increase awareness on health entitlements, thus, resulting in wider participation of people. To ensure equity in access, vulnerable

populations, particularly the poor, PWDs, indigenous peoples, and older persons will be prioritized in the provision of services. Specific and targeted interventions will also be provided, such as annual health visits for the vulnerable populations.

Outcome 6: Rural health professionals increased

Rationalize doctors' salary and offer scholarships to locals. The health profession will be more responsive to local and global needs and will focus on primary and preventive health care. Availability of human resource for health (HRH) in unserved and underserved areas, including GIDAs, will be ensured. HRH compensation package will be reviewed so that those serving in IP areas, and GIDAs will have the most competitive level. Pre- and in-service trainings will be strengthened toward client responsiveness by integrating gender and culture

perspectives. Incentives will also be given to health workers, including Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) and Barangay Population Volunteers to ensure continuous service delivery and advocacy for nutrition and reproductive health. Scholarships will continue to be provided to those who will enter the health profession.

Upgrade health facilities and provide enough medicines. Additional resources will be provided for health facility enhancement, human resource for health improvement (quality, quantity, and distribution), and health supplies (vaccines, family planning commodities, and medicines). Hospitals will be equipped with multi-specialty training capabilities and reference laboratories. Health facilities with maternity and newborn services will be upgraded to fully promote and support rooming-in, breastfeeding, and other mother-baby friendly practices

Programs and Projects

Basic, Higher, and Technical-Vocational Education

Basic Education

- Alternative Learning System
- Alternative Delivery Mode
- Madrasah Education Program
- Indigenous Peoples Education (IPEd) Program
- Special education

- Health and Nutrition Program
- Breakfast Feeding Program
- School Building Program/Basic Education Facilities Fund (BEFF)
- Special Science Elementary Schools (SSES)/Regional Science High School
- DepEd Computerization Program
- Early Language Literacy and Numeracy
- Training and Development Programs and Activities

- Special Programs for Foreign Language/Arts and Sports
- Every Child A Reader Program (ECARP)
- Human Resource and development for teaching, teaching related, and non-teaching personnel
- Grant of Equivalent Record Forms, Conversion of Master Teacher, and Reclassification of Positions Program
- Redesigned Tech-Voc High School Program
- Support to Multi-grade Schools
- Voucher Program for Non-DepEd Public Senior High School
- Voucher Program for Private Senior High School
- Private Education Student Financial Assistance (PESFA)
- Special Training for Employment Program (STEP)
- Bottom-up Budgeting (BUB) Training Program
- Quality Management System

Health

- Safe motherhood program
- Family planning program
- Responsible Parenthood-Reproductive Health Law
- Sagana at Ligas na Tubig sa Lahat (SALINTUBIG) Program
- Health Facility Enhancement Program (HFEP)
- Human Resource for Health Network: DTTB, NDP, HRMPP, DDP, MTDP, PHA, TB Aiders

Higher Education

- Student Financial Assistance Program
- Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) Horizontal Typology
- Institutional Sustainability Assessment (ISA)
- State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) Complementation Project
- K to 12 Transition Program

TVET

- Youth Profiling For Starring Career
- Massive Training in all Delivery Modes (Institution-based, Community-based, Enterprise-based training programs)
- Competency Assessment and Certification System (CACS)
- Unified TVET Program Registration and (UTPRAS)
- Scholarship Programs
- Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP)

Policy and Research Agenda

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES	POLICY AGENDA	RESEARCH AGENDA
High maternal deaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentivize maternal care provision by health care providers 	
High fertility rate, teenage pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce or eliminate incentives or programs that encourage childbearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutionalizing sex education for high school and college students
Low contraceptive prevalence rate and unmet need of family planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide incentives to families with fewer children Lower income tax for those married couples who have one or two children Reduce or eliminate incentives or programs that encourage childbearing 	
Low proportion of households with access to safe drinking water and sanitary toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public-private partnership options for the provision of water and sanitation facilities 	
Not enough hospital beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a regional telehealth center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community acceptance of electronic healthcare
Lack of health professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a regional telehealth center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community acceptance of electronic healthcare
Raising the quality of education in the region remained a challenge		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of learning materials to address the least learned competency
School leaver rates in the secondary level are high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Career Guidance Program in schools, including the creation of plantilla positions for Guidance Counselors in every school to strengthen child protection policies especially in eliminating violence in schools (i.e. bullying, teacher-student conflicts, etc.) as part of the provision of school-based interventions to incentivize and reduce the burden of school participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Modules or Learning Materials for home-based education Determining the Effects of Dropping out: Basis of Parents Awareness Program Drop-out root cause analysis (Development/determination of strategies for remedial teaching of SARDOS)
Challenges to the K to 12 implementation remain in the areas of (a) curriculum design, (b) human resource, and (c) infrastructure requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy on the sharing/complementation of expertise of teachers to address the need for experts in discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-depth analysis on disparity in the distribution/deployment of teachers Feasibility studies on sharing/complementation of expertise of teachers in secondary levels (remote areas)
Students are enrolled in courses which are not responsive to local industry needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy on the use of industry Corporate Social Responsibility Funds for academe-industry linkage enhancement 	

11

Reducing
Vulnerability of
Individuals and
Families

Reducing Vulnerabilities of Individuals and Families

Vulnerability is the degree to which a population, individual or organization is unable to anticipate, cope with, resist, and recover from the impacts of disasters.¹ It emerges when human beings have to face harmful threat or shock with inadequate capacity to respond effectively.²

Vulnerability is also the set of characteristics and circumstances of an individual, household, population group, system, or asset that make it susceptible to the damaging effects of hazards and/or effects of climate change. These characteristics can be physical, institutional, political, cultural, social, environmental, economic, or human.³

Resilience, on the other hand, is the capacity of an individual, household, population group or system to anticipate, absorb, and recover from hazards and/or effects of climate change and other shocks and stresses without compromising (and potentially enhancing) long-term prospects.

This chapter focuses on reducing vulnerabilities of people and communities against natural and man-made hazards, thereby improving their resilience.

Assessment

Disasters happen when hazards, such as typhoons, flooding, and earthquake events, occur where people, assets, and systems are exposed and made vulnerable to its effects.

Hazards are potentially harmful natural phenomena or human activities that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and

economic disruption, and environmental damage.³

Existing structures such as macroeconomic situation of a country or region, political leadership, and the absence or presence of physical structures, which affect everyday life, either lessen or exacerbate vulnerabilities of individuals and communities.

¹ Blaikie P et al. (1994). *At risk: natural hazards, people's vulnerability and disasters*.

² GLOPP. 2008. *DFID's Sustainable Livelihoods Approach and its Framework*. Accessed March 15, 2017. http://www.glopp.ch/B7/en/multimedia/B7_1_pdf2.pdf.

³ Turnbull, Marilise et al. (2013). *Toward Resilience: a guide to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation*.

As individuals, there are likewise inherent vulnerabilities especially in disadvantaged groups of people.

Macroeconomy

Gross Regional Domestic Product. For the past three years, Caraga's Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) growth has been erratic, slowing down in 2015 on account of a sluggish agriculture, fishery, and forestry sector. It further slowed down in 2016 due to low prices of metal in the world market.

Population. Caraga's population reached 2,596,709 in 2015, accounting for 2.57 percent of the country's total population. This represents a 6.89 percent increase over the 2010 population of 2,429,224. Most of the population belong to the working group aged 15-65, followed by the young dependents aged 0-14 years old, and lastly, the elderly dependents aged 66-80+. Based on the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) for 2003-2013, Caraga region's total fertility rate declined from 4.1 children per woman in 2003 to 3.6 children per woman in 2013.

Poverty incidence. Caraga's poverty incidence among families slightly decreased from 31.9 percent in 2012 to 30.8 percent in 2015 making it the second poorest region in the country. The poorest sectors are farmers, fisher folks, women, and children. While poverty incidence among families in the region has declined, a number of setbacks have adversely affected the region's fight against poverty, which includes the displacement of some workers due to suspension and/or slowing down of mining operations, closure of

wood manufacturing companies and other establishments, and more intense and frequent occurrence of natural hazards.

Political leadership, participation and institutional resources and planning

Dependence on Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA). Local government units (LGUs) remain highly dependent on the IRA in funding programs/projects and in delivering services. Among the LGUs, Butuan City has the lowest IRA dependency rate in the last three years. Surigao Del Norte on the other hand showed the most improvement; its dependency rate dropped from 96 percent in 2013 to 73 percent in 2015. Revenues from fees and charges have increased Surigao Del Norte's coffers accounting for most of its income in 2015.

On the other hand, Surigao del Sur is the most IRA dependent generating only 3 to 6 percent of its revenue from local sources. This however, may not be an accurate picture as some of the Province's local income goes to its trust fund and not to the general fund. Thus, is not accounted as part of its local income.

Need to create or revitalize Local AIDS Council to address increasing HIV/AIDS incidence. Societal concerns like increasing incidence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) require concerted multi-stakeholder interventions. The Philippine AIDS Prevention and

Control Act of 1998 mandated the establishment of Local AIDS Council (LAC) to ensure active involvement of the LGUs in combatting HIV/AIDS. However, most of the LACs in the region are no longer functional and need to be revived. Their revitalization is deemed critical given the alarming spike in HIV/AIDS incidence.

Low compliance in the preparation/updating of DRR-CCA enhanced land use plans. All provinces were able to prepare their DRR-CCA Enhanced Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP), which were launched in 2015. However, only 20 percent of the cities and municipalities were able to prepare or update their DRR-CCA Enhanced Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs). The low compliance is due to lack of technical capacity in physical planning particularly in GIS-based mapping. DRR-CCA enhanced plans are important in improving the resilience of individuals and communities.

Possible change to a federal form of government. The current leadership is pushing for a federal form of government to address inequity and resolve generations' long conflict in Mindanao. To ensure a seamless transition, the people will have to be prepared for the possible adverse effects of the change. Government has to put in place safety nets to cushion the impact of a change in the form of government. Preparing people for a federal republic would make them more resilient against changes in governance. However,

majority of the people have very little idea about the mechanisms of the said change.

Physical

Physical capital⁴ comprises of basic infrastructure and goods needed to support livelihoods. Infrastructure consists of changes to the physical environment that help people meet their basic needs and be more productive.

Infrastructure. As of end of 2015, the region's paved national roads covered 1,262.1 km or 82.98% of its total road network. The region needs to improve its road network, particularly in connecting urban to rural areas and other growth centers in Mindanao. The priority road network projects include roads connecting Caraga Region to the provinces of Davao, Bukidnon, and Misamis Oriental through the East West Lateral Road segments; Tourism Road Infrastructure Projects (TRIPC); and several other road networks linking service facilities and utilities, key production areas and conflict-affected areas. Some of these roads may serve as alternate routes, particularly during disasters. The proposed Mindanao Railway System, which will traverse certain areas in the region, will further improve the region's access to other growth centers in Mindanao.

See Chapter 19 for details on road infrastructure

⁴ Department for International Development. 1999. *Op. cit.*

Telecommunication technologies.

Connectivity has improved in the region as major urban areas and towns have access to telecommunication services. The number of cell sites and radio stations has been on the upswing for the period 2013 to 2015. In 2015, the number of cell sites reached 519 and most have been upgraded to 4G and LTE connections. The number of radio station licenses also increased due to high demand for portable/handheld communication devices. The increase is attributed to the demand from mining companies for their operations and LGUs for their disaster risk reduction management efforts.

Water Supply. Major cities in the region often experience water supply interruption especially during rainy seasons due to poor infiltration facilities and lack of back-up technology. Moreover, because of the attendant high cost, local water utilities in the region have difficulty upgrading their facilities. This persistent problem brings health and sanitation concerns to households. Further, this waterless situation has adversely affected business establishments.

Sanitation. For sanitation facilities, 88% of households in the province of Agusan del Norte have access to sanitation facilities, the highest in the region. Meanwhile Surigao del Sur has the lowest with 82%. In general, the region failed to achieve its FY 2015 target of ensuring that 100% of households have access to sanitary

facilities. This is due to lack of awareness, traditional preference of households, and lack of coordination between regional line agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs) in the implementation of sanitation-related projects.

Shelter. Provision of housing to poor and underprivileged families is a gargantuan challenge confronting the Region and even the whole country. For one, the region is highly-vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Second, low-income families find it difficult to acquire decent housing due to the high cost of houses, exacerbating the problem on ISFs. Data from the NHA shows that the number of ISFs in the region reached 105,005. Forty-nine percent (53,540) live in danger zones, namely, esteros, waterways, shorelines, riverbanks, and landslide and flood-prone areas.

Inherent vulnerability of individuals

Poor and disadvantaged groups

Among the basic sectors, fisher folks are identified as the poorest in the region averaging 60.0 percent. The children followed. Poverty incidence among children refers to the proportion of children below 18 years old with per capita income less than the per capita poverty threshold to the total number of children.

Table 11.1 Poverty statistics for the basic sectors, Caraga, 2006, 2009, 2012

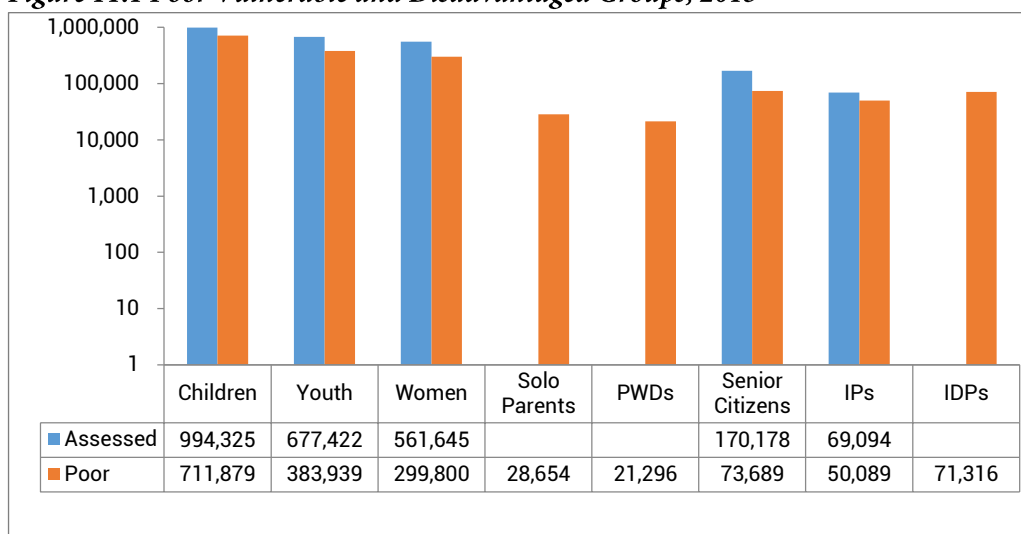
BASIC SECTORS	POVERTY INCIDENCE			AVERAGE
	2006	2009	2012	
Women	48.5	48.5	48.5	48.5
Youth	44.1	47.3	35.5	42.3
Children	58.3	63.4	49.7	57.1
Senior Citizens	33.2	39.0	24.1	32.1
Individuals Residing in Urban Areas	36.5	39.3	29.9	35.3
Migrant and Formal Sector Workers	36.8	39.8	28.1	34.9
Farmers	54.0	57.5	45.5	52.3
Fishermen	61.8	68.6	49.6	60.0
Self-employed and Unpaid Family Workers	49.2	54.6	37.4	47.1
Employed Population	42.6	46.9	32.9	40.8
Unemployed Population	34.8	50.9	41.6	42.4

Source: PSA

The 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor identified eight disadvantaged groups: women, children, youth, solo parents, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, indigenous peoples and internally-

displaced persons. These groups are highly exposed to social, economic, natural, and man-made shocks and need substantial interventions to help them cope on a daily basis.

Figure 11.1 Poor Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups, 2015



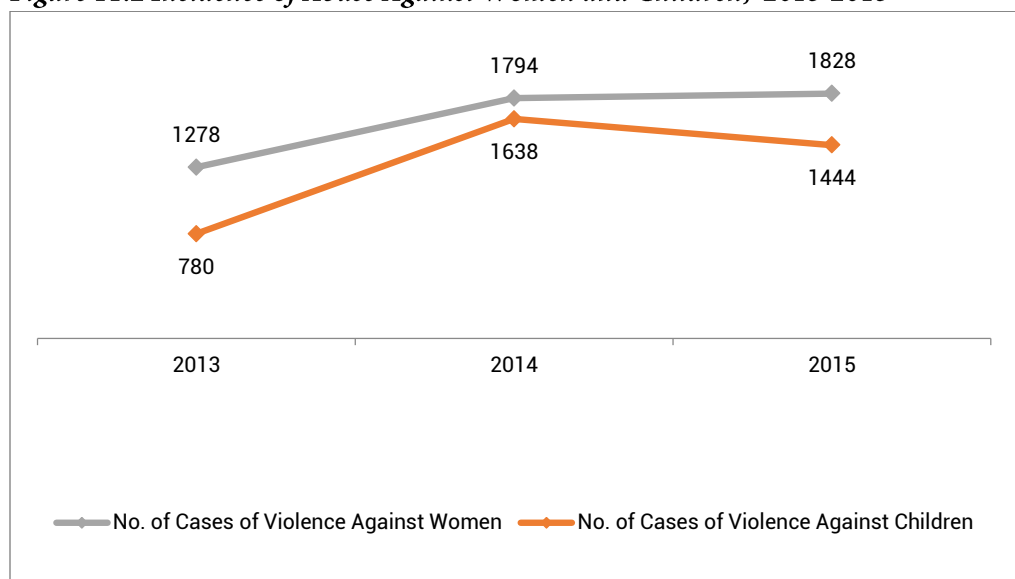
Source: 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor, DSWD Caraga, 2016.

Women, Children and the Youth

Incidence of violence against women (VAW) increased by two percent in 2015. On the other hand, the incidence of violence against children (VAC) declined by 12 percent in 2015.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) Regional Women's and Children's Protection Desk (RWCPD) reported that cases have been filed against 27.56 percent of the total reported VAC and are awaiting resolution from the courts. The top two recorded abuses against children are rape and physical injuries or maltreatment.

Figure 11.2 Incidence of Abuse Against Women and Children, 2013-2015

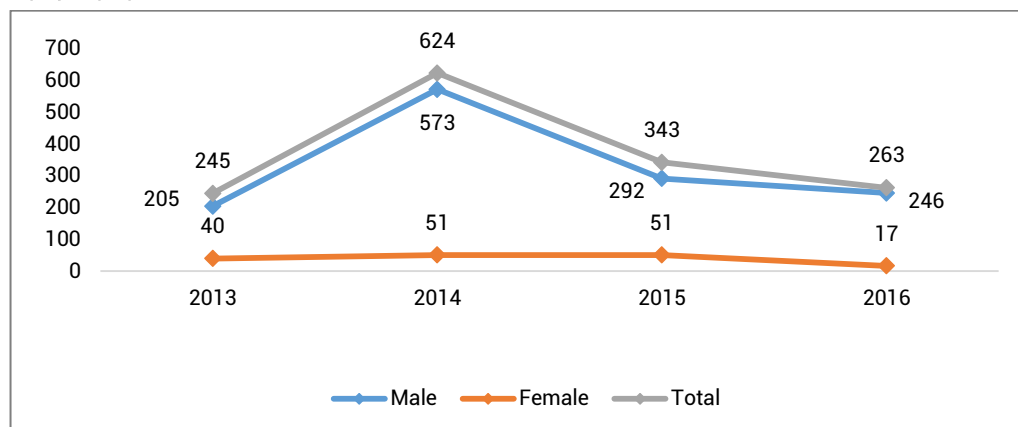


Source: PNP- RWCPD Caraga, 2016

From 2013 to 2015, the annual average of CICL cases reached 368. The top offenses include theft, physical injuries, and rape. However, there is only one DSWD-accredited Bahay Pag-asa (BPA) in the region, which is located in Surigao City. This facility can only accommodate 40 CICL clients at a time. Similar facilities in Tubay, Agusan Del Norte and San Francisco, Agusan del Sur are reportedly operational but serve fewer wards than the BPA in Surigao City.

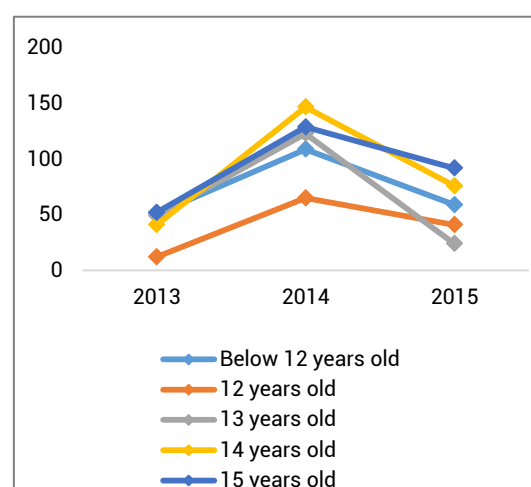
In 2015, DSWD provided psycho-social interventions and counseling to 118 children and assistance to 50 CICL. To help improve the plight of women especially those who are victims of abuse, the DSWD likewise provided financial assistance, counseling, and psycho-social intervention to 56 VAW victims and 4,546 women in especially difficult circumstances (WEDC).

Figure 11.3. Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), Sex Disaggregated, Caraga, 2013-2016



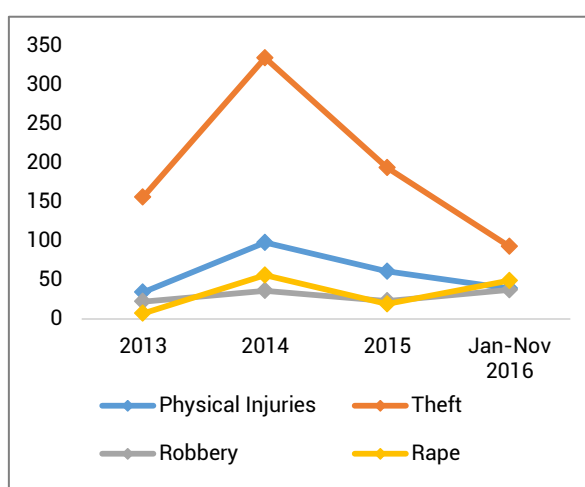
Source: PNP- RWCPD Caraga, 2016

Figure 11.4 CICL, Age Disaggregated, 2013-2015



Source: PNP- RWCPD Caraga, 2016

Figure 11.5 Top Offenses of CICL, 2013-2016



The government prioritizes the implementation of programs for children through various line agencies. The Supplemental Feeding Program benefitted 75,238 children in Caraga. In 2015, 18 children were placed for adoption or foster care. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program provided improved services to children. A total of 29,269 and 329,390 children were provided with health services and educational assistance, respectively. Also, DSWD issued travel clearances to

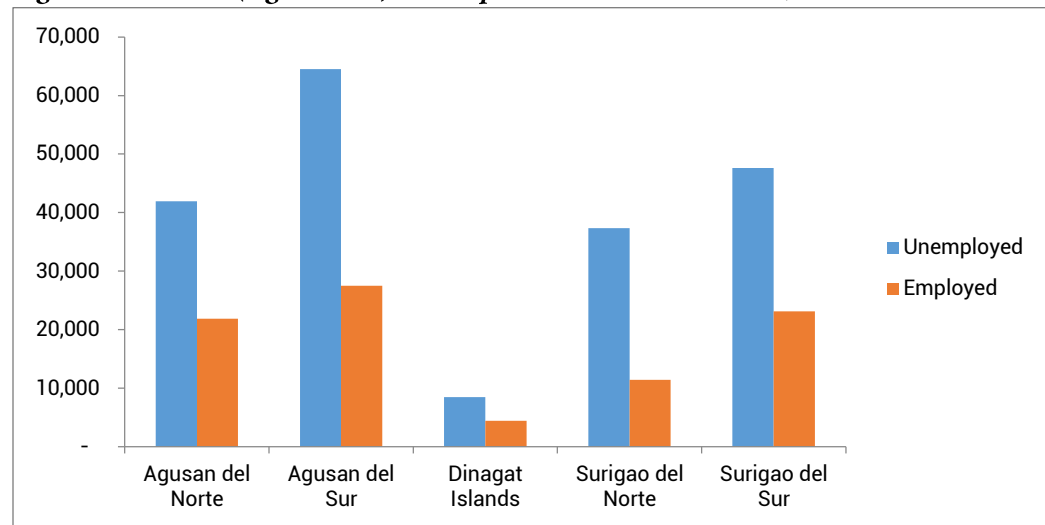
288 children to ensure their safe travel abroad and protect them against trafficking.

The Listahanan, formerly known as the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), identifies who and where the poor are in the country. In an assessment conducted in 2009, Listahanan estimated that the region has a youth population of 398,815.

The Listahanan defined the youth as aged 15 to 30. In the second round of assessment conducted in 2015, the youth population almost doubled to 677,422. The same assessment revealed that one in every two Caraganon youth is poor. Of the current number of young individuals, 56.68 percent are poor. Unemployment causes them to stay poor as 7 in every 10

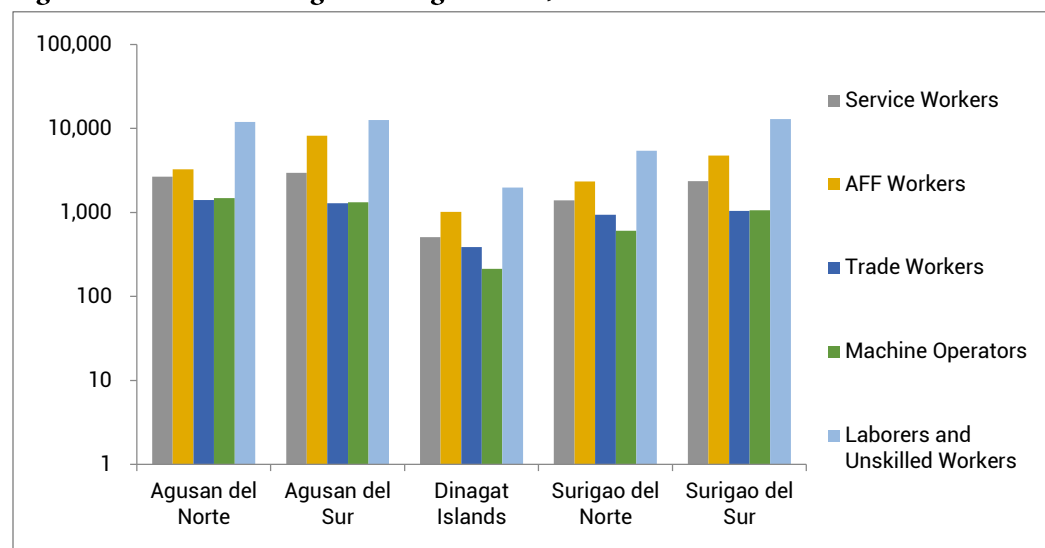
poor young individuals are unemployed, according to the 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor. The remaining 30 percent of poor youth, work as laborers and unskilled workers. Majority of the poor youth laborers and unskilled workers are in Surigao del Sur, followed by Agusan del Sur.

Figure 11.6 Youth (Aged 18-30) Participation in the Labor Force, 2015



Source: 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor, DSWD Caraga, 2016.

Figure 11.7 Poor Working Youth Aged 18-30, 2015

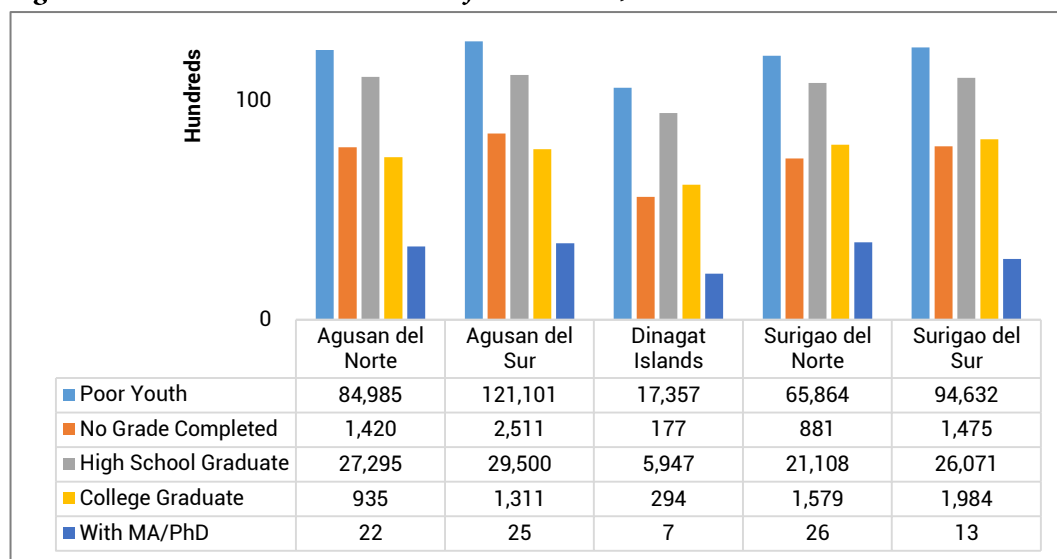


Source: 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor, DSWD Caraga, 2016.

More than 28 percent of the poor youth have completed high school, 1.68 percent did not complete any grade while only 1.56 percent or 6,103 have graduated from college. The rest of the 68.76 percent have attained kindergarten to grade 9 and/or first to third year of college. The most number of poor youth with no grade completed is in Agusan del Sur, followed by Surigao del Sur. Promising career opportunities await the 93 young

individuals who, despite belonging to a poor household, have completed their post baccalaureate degrees in 2015. To stem the increase in the number of out-of-school youth (OSY), the DSWD facilitated the establishment of 202 new youth organizations in the region. The DSWD also provided financial assistance to 1,346 youths and educational assistance to 537 young individuals.

Figure 11.8 Educational Attainment of Poor Youth, 2015



Source: 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor, DSWD Caraga, 2016.

The PNP-RWCPD reported that there were 29 victim-survivors from eight cases of trafficking in 2014. The number of victim-survivors increased by 131 percent in the following year as a result of 22 intercepted cases. Trafficked persons were provided temporary shelter, medical, livelihood, educational and skills-training assistance, and auxiliary assistance to attend court hearings. The package of assistance was given through the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP) of the DSWD.

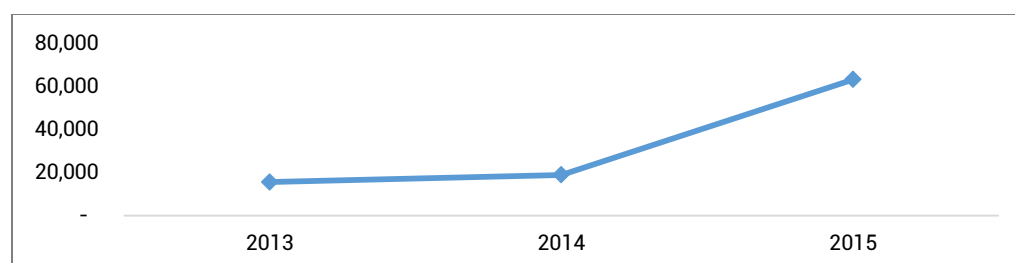
On the campaign against illegal drugs, the PNP-RWCPD reported that 520 women and 101,000 minors in the region surrendered through the Oplan Double Barrel. Of the total number of women who surrendered from June to August 2016, around 91 percent were drug users, 2.5 percent were drug runners and more than 6 percent were drug dealers. Meanwhile, the minors who surrendered were mainly drug users; very few admitted that they were drug dealers.

Senior Citizens

Another sector needing attention is the senior citizens. Government has been giving its best to improve the quality of life of senior citizens. There was a 234 percent increase in the number of DSWD social pension beneficiaries, which reached 63,235 in 2015. The increase was due to the

lowering of age coverage from 67 to 65 years. The number of senior citizens who were provided auxiliary services and financial assistance increased by 61 percent in 2015. As of 2015, there are 58 Senior Citizen Day Centers, which serve as venue for socialization and training. There was no available data on elderly abuse and related services.

Figure 11.9 Social Pension, 2013-2015



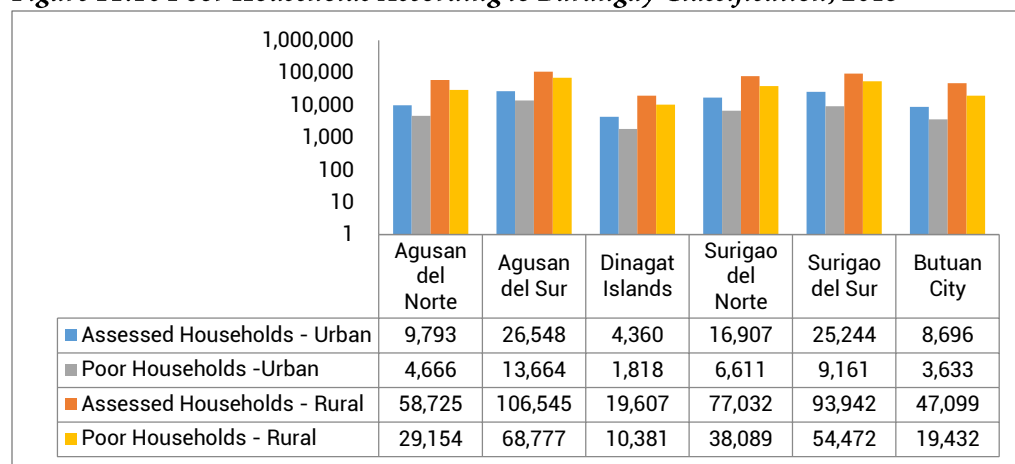
Sources: DSWD, April 2016

Poor Families

The Listahanan's second round of assessment conducted in 2015 reveal that the households (HHs) identified as poor increased to almost 12 percent, or an equivalent of 259,858 poor HHs. Most of the poor HHs live in Agusan del Norte

with 82,441 HHs, followed by Surigao del Sur with 63,633 HHs. More than 54 percent of the poor HHs is concentrated in rural areas. In terms of cities, the three cities with the most number of poor HHs are Butuan City with 23,065 HHs, Bayugan City with 10,025 HHs, and Surigao City with 9,840 HHs.

Figure 11.10 Poor Households According to Barangay Classification, 2015



Source: 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor, DSWD Caraga, 2016.

The 2015 Regional Profile of the Poor estimated Caraga's average household income at P12,180.69. The Province of Surigao del Norte posted a higher average household income at P12,608.82. The provinces of Agusan del Norte (P12,164.41), Surigao del Sur (P11,996.97), and Agusan del Sur (P11,656.53) have average household incomes that are lower than the regional average. The region's average household income falls below the poverty threshold for the same year. Surigao del Norte has the highest poverty threshold at P23,057, which is almost double the province's average household income. There is no data on the Poverty Threshold for the Province of Dinagat Islands.

Filipinos working overseas and their families. The impact of migration for work reasons include economic benefits for the family and the country through remittances but migration has social costs especially to the children left behind. When fathers migrate, mothers assume more responsibilities, exercising the dual role of father and mother. When mothers migrate, families go through more adjustments, depending on how the father accepts his new role. Parental absence causes disruptions and changes in care giving arrangements and may cause feelings of displacement or even emptiness on the part of children. When both parents leave, children are left in the care of other family members who may care differently from the parents. Whatever the situation, the truth remains that children long for the love and care of their biological parents.

Natural Hazards

Caraga is highly-vulnerable to both geological and meteorological hazards, such as earthquake, flooding, rain- and earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, storm surge, tropical cyclone and tsunami. All provinces except for Agusan del Norte are included in the 20 most disaster-prone provinces in the country.

The region's vulnerability to hazards is exacerbated by climate change, rapid changes in land uses, and increasing population in environmentally-constrained areas.

Typhoons and Flooding. Caraga is frequently visited by typhoons. From 2013 to 2016, heavy rains brought by typhoons Sendong, Agaton, and Seniang caused rivers to overflow. Many houses have been submerged, properties destroyed, and human lives taken by rampaging waters from the overflowing rivers.

Because of the flooding caused typhoons and LPAs, classes in public schools are often suspended as the classrooms are used as evacuation centers for the victims. These incidents likewise have adverse impacts on peoples' livelihood and puts pressure on government resources.

Earthquake. The main earthquake generators in the region are the Philippine Fault Zone that traverses Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao; and the Philippine Trench situated approximately 100 kilometers from the mainland of the eastern seaboard towards the Pacific Ocean.

El Niño Phenomenon. The El Niño phenomenon, which hit Caraga and other parts of the country in the later part of 2015 and persisted until the middle of 2016 caused the decline in fishery production due to extreme temperatures. The region also suffered from power shortages as some of the hydroelectric generating sources experienced low water levels.

Human-induced hazards

Disasters are not necessarily caused by natural phenomenon only. A lot of disasters happen due to man-made hazards, which include, inter alia, criminality and conflict. Health problems, which are human and natural-caused, may also create financial catastrophe to the affected persons and their families.

Criminality. Prevalence of crimes is a major concern in the region. In fact, crime volume increased by 24.31 percent in 2014. Nevertheless, crime situation improved when crime volume declined by 14.71 percent in 2015.

Insurgency. The persistence of insurgency in the region is caused by a lot of strains, namely: injustice, human rights violations, lack of respect for indigenous cultures, poverty, and lack of education. Conflicts affecting the Indigenous People's communities are perceived to be caused by poverty, alleged greed on the part of some IP leaders, and lack of coordination among agencies in the implementation of policies, programs, and projects. Other reasons identified are questions on the legitimacy of some IP tribal leaders, IP's lack of access to land and other resources, perceived lack of priority for IPs in government and

private sector interventions, conflicting policies of government in terms of land distribution, non-recognition of IP rights over ancestral domain, lack of IEC drumbeating government support for IP communities, and conflict in cultural practices vis-à-vis tenure requirements. Among IPs within a CADT, conflicts arise from inequitable distribution of wealth and mismanagement of royalty share. A huge portion of the royalty is entrusted to leaders and it is alleged that these royalties have been used for personal gain.

Violent activities of the New People's Army (NPA) decreased from 123 in 2013 to 72 in 2015, while the non-violent activities showed an erratic trend. Among the violent activities, harassments recorded the most number while harboring is the most frequent form of non-violent activity of the NPA. Both Surigao del Norte and Agusan del Sur have the most number of violent incidents for the period 2013-2015, while Agusan del Norte posted the highest number in terms of non-violent incidents.

Resourced-Based Conflicts. Dispute over natural resources is a stumbling block to the attainment of peace in the region. Situations that resulted in violent conflicts and instability include proliferation of unregulated small-scale mining activities, illegal cutting of trees and transport of these forest products, illegal fishing practices, and overlapping tenure instruments. The lack of political will and perceived weakness in the enforcement of environmental laws are due to the alleged involvement of some DENR, PNP/AFP personnel as well as some government officials in these illegal and corrupt practices. There is also alleged lack of

compliance to environmental safeguards by some mining companies. Many offenders were apprehended but only a few were actually convicted.

In 2015, Caraga has 25 operating mining companies, covering 180,070.14 hectares. Some tenements include watersheds and biodiversity areas. Many of the protected areas in the region face issues on human settlement, land use conversion, timber and wildlife poaching, and agricultural and mining development.

Health

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that annually 100 million people are pushed into poverty and 150 million people suffer financial catastrophe because of out-of-pocket expenditure on health services.⁵ On average, about 32 percent of each country's health expenditure comes from out-of-pocket payments.

Individuals and communities suffer from triple burden of disease – the backlog of common infections, under nutrition, and maternal mortality; the emerging challenges of non-communicable diseases; and the problems directly related to globalization, like pandemics and the health consequences of climate change.⁶ Strains of influenza are always circulating somewhere in the world; the virus has a seasonal occurrence in temperate climates, while it occurs year-round in the tropics.⁷

HIV incidence. HIV incidence has doubled in the last three years. From the first reported case in 1995 up to December 2015, there are now 240 HIV/AIDS cases in Caraga with 18 reported deaths. Among age groups, the 25-34 year old age group has the most number of cases with 109 (45 percent). Victims are as young as 2 years old and as old as 67 years. About 225 cases (94 percent) are males while only 15 cases (6 percent) are female.

Table 11.2 Reported HIV/AIDS cases, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Number of cases	31	53	86

Source: DOH Caraga, 2013-2015

The most common mode of transmission was through sexual contact (238 cases or 99 percent) with homosexual contact being the predominant mode with 113 cases (47 percent).

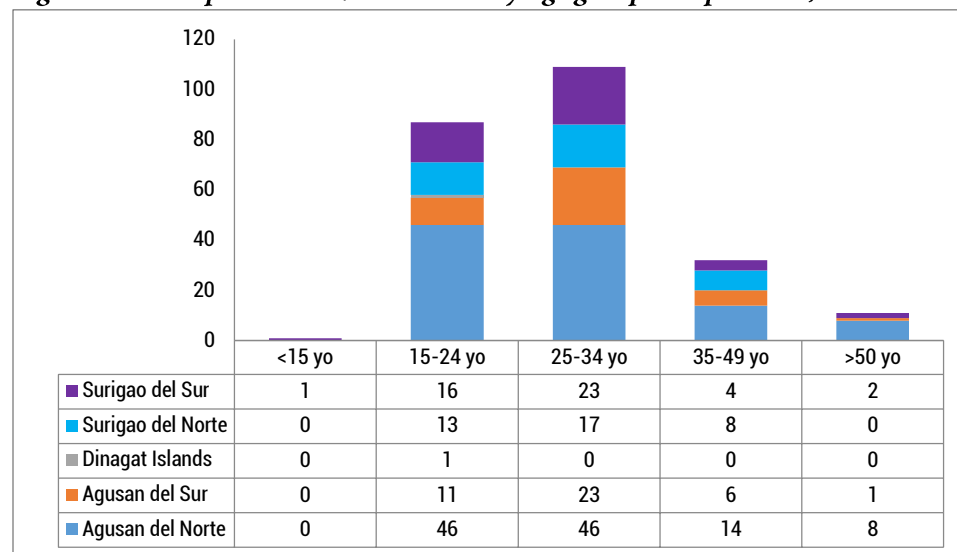
Agusan del Norte has the most reported cases at 114 (92 of which are Butuan City residents) followed by Surigao del Sur with 46 cases.

⁵ World Health Organization. 2016. *Universal health coverage factsheet*. December. Accessed March 14, 2017.

⁶ Frenk, Julio, and Octavio Gomez-Dantes. 2011. "The Triple Burden: Disease in Developing Nations." *Harvard International Review* 33 (3). Accessed March 14, 2017. <https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1G1-273715809/the-triple-burden-disease-in-developing-nations>.

⁷ OECD. 2011. *Future global shocks: Improving risk governance*. Paris, June. Accessed March 15, 2017. <http://www.oecd.org/governance/48256382.pdf>

Figure 11. 11 Reported HIV/AIDS cases by age group and province, 1995-2015



Source: DOH Caraga, 2015

On the other hand, tuberculosis (TB) affects about 292 (per 100,000 population) or around 7,600 persons as of 2015. However, this figure represents only those that have subjected themselves to sputum

tests. According to DOH, some have not undergone tests due to stigma and lack of access to health centers. Further, those with positive cases are not cooperating in the treatment process.

Table 11.3 Tuberculosis prevalence rate, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Tuberculosis prevalence rate	330	366	352

Source: DOH Caraga, 2013-2015

TB bacteria attacks a person especially those with weak immune system. Hence, the underlying causes of TB include poverty, malnutrition, lack of education, gender inequality, HIV infection, and diabetes.

Social Protection Mechanisms

Social health insurance coverage. PhilHealth coverage in the region has

expanded from 93 percent in 2013 to 97 percent in 2015 covering 2,642,099 Caraganons. About 65 percent (1,708,106) are National Household Targeting System identified, 18 percent (483,887) are formal economy members, six percent (154,599) are informal economy members, five percent (125,917) are sponsored members, five percent (119,767) are senior citizen members, and two percent (49,822) are lifetime members.

Table 11.4 PhilHealth coverage, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
PhilHealth coverage	93%	96%	97%

Source: PhilHealth Caraga, 2013-2015

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

The Listahanan identified 232,301 poor families in the region during the first round of assessment in 2009. Out of the total identified poor families, 41,047 were served through social protection programs while 192,180 households were covered by Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT). A total of 1.9 billion pesos worth of cash grants was disbursed in 2015 to compliant beneficiaries.

In terms of safety nets for poor families, the Pantawid Pamilya has been perceived to have a positive impact on the lives of beneficiaries as revealed by a study commissioned by the Caraga RDC in 2013 entitled, “The Perceptions of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Beneficiaries on the Attainment of its Objectives in the Caraga Region,” as well as the Social Welfare and Development Indicators (SWDI) in 2015. The SWDI is a standard DSWD assessment, planning, monitoring, and evaluation tool for the management of poor households, primarily the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries. It determines the effectiveness of the interventions and other social services by assessing a beneficiary household's level of economic and social well-being as survival, subsistence, or self-sufficient.

The SWDI showed that 98 percent of 329,390 assessed children beneficiaries complied with the education conditionality of the program. It means that 98 percent of

the children attended school 85 percent of the time. Also, 99.1 percent of children and pregnant women beneficiaries complied with the health condition of the program. Pregnant women availed of pre- and post-natal care and childbirth services by health professionals. Children aged 0 to 5 years old availed of complete immunization, weight monitoring, nutrition counseling, and preventive health services. Children aged 6 to 14 received deworming pills on a bi-annual basis. Ninety-seven percent of the beneficiaries attended the monthly Family Development Sessions (FDS) where they gain insights on parenting, community development initiatives, and other related discussions.

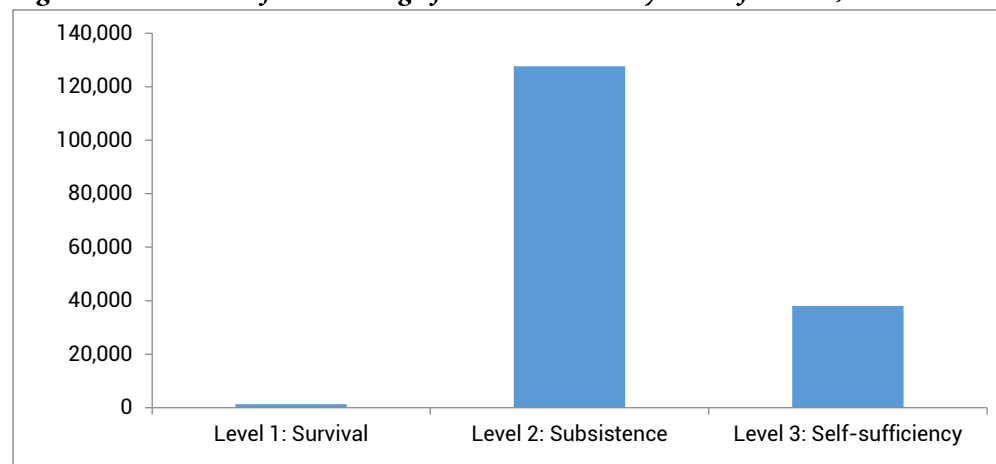
The SWDI also revealed that 72,908 beneficiaries have improved employable skills because of their participation in livelihood and skills trainings, while 25,301 beneficiaries have availed of employment facilitation services or provision of microenterprise through the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). There were 20,072 beneficiaries with improved social security through the provision of access to financial institutions such as PhilAm Life and BPI Globe Banko. Around 59 percent of household beneficiaries are provided with access to safe drinking water source through the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program.

The SWDI assessed 167,049 households in 2015 and revealed that less than one percent remains at level 1 or survival stage

in terms of well-being. There were 127,657 households or 76.42 percent which stepped up to subsistence or level 2, while 38,093 households or 22.8 percent graduated to self-sufficiency or level 3. Beneficiaries under the survival level are considered to

lack internal and external resources for them to survive on a daily basis. Level 2 beneficiaries are able to surpass basic daily needs, while self-sufficient households live by other income sources and do not depend on government interventions.

Figure 11.12 Levels of Well-Being of Pantawid Pamilya Beneficiaries, 2015



Source: 2015 Social Welfare and Development Indicators (SWDI), DSWD Caraga, 2016.

Under the Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services National Comprehensive Community Driven Development Program

(KC-NCDDP), 705 CDD sub-projects were completed across 54 local government units, covering 129,733 beneficiaries in 2015.

Challenges

High HIV incidence. HIV is caused by unsafe sex practices, having multiple partners, alcohol and drug use, and low perception of disease susceptibility and threat. The underlying causes include peer pressure, stigma, lack of education, gender inequality, and cultural beliefs. The increasing trend is a pressing concern.

Non-functional Local AIDS Councils. With the rising incidence of HIV-AIDS in the region, the LGUs need to ensure the functionality of its Local AIDS Council to

spearhead the identification of policies and strategies and implementation of programs/projects to halt the further spread of HIV-AIDS.

Unstable peace and order condition in production areas. Investors withdraw or delay the implementation of their development project/s in the region when the peace and order situation becomes untenable. Communist rebels remain the biggest threat to peace and order in the Caraga Region particularly in the provinces

of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur. The issue of communist insurgency has been one of the stumbling blocks to the attainment of peace and development in the region (Caraga Roadmap for Peace).

High TB burden. According to the 2015 Global Tuberculosis Report, the Philippines is one of the 22 high TB burden countries in 2014 and has a prevalence rate of 410 (per 100,000 population) and an incidence rate of 290 (per 100,000 population).

High underemployment levels. Underemployment in the region averages at 25.74 percent. Workers in the region are mostly in low-productivity jobs that do not pay enough to get the workers and their families out of poverty.

Lack of consciousness on DRR/CCA. Being highly-susceptible to disasters, there is a pressing need for individuals as well as institutions to take conscious effort in becoming more prepared for any disaster. As can be observed, households in flood and disaster prone areas have to wait for the highest alert level warnings before they evacuate. At school, although students regularly undergo fire and earthquake drills, there is still no available module that can help teachers in ensuring that students are prepared in all types of emergencies. At work, fire and earthquake drills are also conducted, but majority of the existing buildings and houses are still vulnerable to man-made and natural hazards. Persons with disability and senior citizens, who happen to be the most vulnerable to disasters, have little or no access to trainings on disaster preparedness.

Poor people become poorer due to calamities, conflicts, declining productivity (low productivity jobs), and negative mindset. The negative impact of El Nino in the region in 2015 confirms the vulnerability of the region's agriculture sector to Climate Change and other extreme weather events. Further, typhoons and continuous rains cause flooding in Butuan City, the region's major growth center. With frequent flooding, people are evacuated from their homes and are often brought to schools for refuge. With their day-to-day activities interrupted, these people are absent from work, hence, lowering their productivity. Further, as schools are used as evacuation centers, classes are also affected.

Mindset also makes people poorer. As can be observed, many still lack the discipline to manage their wastes, resulting in increased health and environmental risks. Moreover, the behavior of the youth towards agriculture and farming may affect the region's food security in the long run. Based on a study conducted by the Central Mindanao University (CMU), the average age of the Filipino farmer at present is 55 years old. This shows that most of the youth have shunned farming as a profession or business undertaking due to perceived hardships.

Limited adoption of climate change and disaster-resilient infrastructure designs further heightens the vulnerability of individuals and families. Designs of infrastructures incorporating resiliency principles in engineering are needed to ensure resilient, safe, and livable communities. However, the capacity of the

Region in designing DRR-CCA resilient infrastructures is limited.

Lack of redundant access for inter-regional connections. The Region's road access to Regions X and XI is only through the Pan-Philippine Highway. Any damage to portions of these roads during calamities/disasters can render Caraga Region inaccessible and isolated.

Lack of residential and rehabilitation facilities for the vulnerable sectors. There is lack of residential and rehabilitation facilities for CICL, women in especially difficult circumstances (WEDC), trafficking survivors, individuals and families at-risk in the streets, drug-dependents, abandoned and neglected elderly, and persons with disability.

Lack of advocacy, capacity-building, and strengthening activities for duty-bearers. Advocacy, capacity-building, and strengthening activities enable duty-

bearers, especially at the grassroots level to provide comprehensive social programs and services for the vulnerable sector as well as improve the functionality of local welfare and protection committees. Proper fund allocation and utilization for social welfare programs must also be made a priority.

Weak reporting and monitoring mechanisms for social protection concerns. There is limited information or data on various social protection concerns. The regional line agencies rely on information from the local government units. The absence of databases at the regional and local levels has adverse implications in the targeting of interventions for the vulnerable sector.

Diminished value of the social transfer grant. The amount of the conditional cash transfer granted to beneficiaries has not been increased despite the rising prices of basic commodities and other basic services.

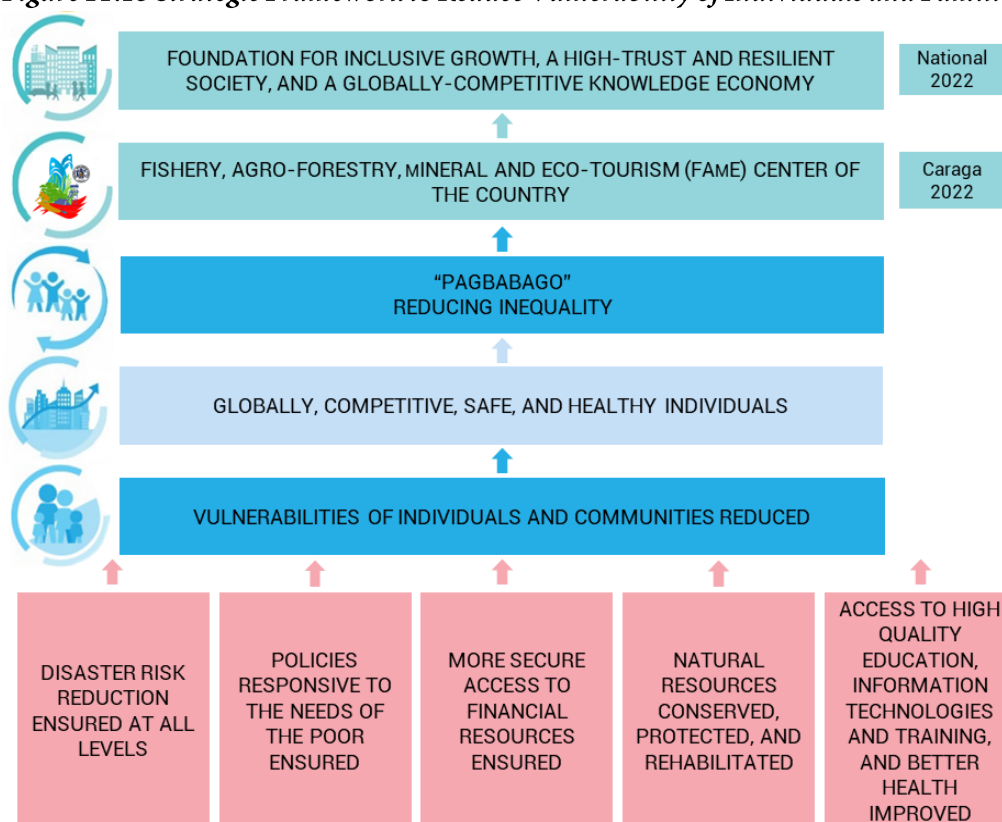
Strategic Framework

The Caraga RDP 2017-2022 aims to make individuals and communities resilient by reducing their vulnerabilities.

In the short to medium term and on an individual or small group basis there is little that can be done to alter the vulnerability context directly.⁸ Thus, policy changes should be made to *increase people's access to financial services and insurance to protect assets and ensure that critical institutions and organizations are responsive to the needs of the poor.*

⁸ *Ibid*

Figure 11.13 Strategic Framework to Reduce Vulnerability of Individuals and Families



Outcome 1: Disaster risk reduction ensured at all levels

Invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience. Public and private investments in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential in enhancing the economic, social, health, and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries, and their assets, as well as the environment. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental in saving lives, preventing and reducing losses, and ensuring effective recovery and rehabilitation.

To achieve this, the government will allocate the necessary resources, including finance and logistics, as appropriate, at all levels of administration for the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, policies, plans, laws and regulations in all relevant sectors.

Specifically, the government will:

- promote mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk-sharing and retention and financial protection to reduce the financial impact of disasters on Governments and societies;
- strengthen, as appropriate, disaster-resilient public and private investments, particularly through structural, non-structural

- c. and functional disaster risk prevention and reduction measures in critical facilities;
- d. promote the disaster risk resilience of workplaces through structural and non-structural measures;
- e. promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation assessments, and informal and non-permanent housing, and the use of guidelines and follow-up tools informed by anticipated demographic and environmental changes;
- f. enhance the resilience of national health systems, including by integrating disaster risk management into primary, secondary, and tertiary health care, especially at the local level; and
- g. for people with life-threatening and chronic disease, integrate in the design of policies and plans the management of risks before, during, and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services.

Strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risks. Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is of great importance for an effective and efficient management of disaster risks. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance, and coordination within and across sectors, as well as participation of relevant stakeholders, are needed.

Focus will be given in the formulation of public policies that are aimed at addressing the issues of prevention or relocation of human settlements in disaster risk-prone zones, subject to national law and legal systems.

Ensure social stability, security, and justice. The region will ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to law enforcement and justice that fosters a stable, secure, and just society. This includes fair and transparent policing and deterrents to crime – specifically in times of crisis, as well as enforcement of laws such as codes and regulations.

Strengthen individual and institutional capacities for DRR/CCA. Majority of the people hard-hit by disasters are those who lack the individual capacities and consciousness on disaster preparedness and mitigation. There must be conscious efforts of people to lessen the risks and even death because of disasters. At the household level, family members must have a ready emergency kit, which shall be used during calamities and disasters. Building the individual's consciousness also means making them more receptive to disaster alerts. Pre-emptive evacuation should be considered rather than risking lives as they allow themselves to be evacuated only when the highest alert level is raised. Another way to strengthen the individual's capacities, particularly for the young, is to integrate DRR/CCA in the school's curriculum. Further, efforts to train persons with disability and senior citizens in disaster preparedness should be included, as they are the most vulnerable sectors in society.

Outcome 2: Policies responsive to the needs of the poor and disadvantaged groups ensured

Build mechanisms that represent the poor.

Membership organizations can help people in formulating services, increasing local information flows and innovation, exerting influence on higher-level structures and processes, and performing numerous other functions. These can all be considered as dimensions of empowerment.

Promote reform within structures that make policy and provide services to the poor.

Increasing the responsiveness of various organizations to the plight of the poor is an important objective. This can be achieved through helping organizations extend the scope of their activity and employ structural change within organizations (e.g. decentralization, rationalization of departments, etc.).

Provide support to the establishment or expansion of scope of private sector organizations.

Competitive markets are valued for their economic efficiency and 'built in' responsiveness to clients. But they will not function in the absence of traders (individuals and organizations). Thus, the region will provide short-term support (information, start-up finance, training, etc.) to certain types of private sector organization to stimulate their development.

Implement diverse livelihood strategies.

The government will expand access to a

variety of capital assets; support the improvement of the structures and processes that shape livelihoods; and expand social safety nets to those who are unable to achieve livelihood objectives through the market system.

Reduce the inherent vulnerabilities of the poor and disadvantaged groups through expanding access to social protection programs and services such as:

- a. Strict adherence to and enforcement of various social welfare and development (SWD) laws particularly laws on responsible parenthood and reproductive health and against gender-based violence;
- b. Institutionalization of Online Child Exploitation Protection Center;
- c. Provision of efficient judicial and quasi-judicial services to the poor and marginalized;
- d. Enhancement of reporting and data banking mechanisms related to gender equality and women empowerment;
- e. Mainstreaming of Social Protection (SP) at the local government level;
- f. Intensification of advocacy efforts to address sectoral issues;
- g. Construction of Bahay Pag-Asa in all LGUs, and other residential and rehabilitation facilities for the poor and vulnerable;
- h. Utilization of Listahanan of Poor Families in the implementation of local programs and services;
- i. Strengthening the functionality of Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO), Office of the

Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), Local Committees for the Protection of Children (LCPCs), Local and Barangay Committees Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children (LCAT-VAWCs), and other special bodies to ensure the proper implementation of comprehensive social protection services;

- j. Provision of Pink Rooms or women and children protection units (WCPU) in hospitals that will cater to victims of abuse;
- k. Compliance to RA 10028 which mandates the establishment of lactation rooms to promote good infant nutrition;
- l. Compliance to the Accessibility Law and the 20 Percent Provision of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act and the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability;
- m. Compliance to and utilization of mandatory budget allocations for senior citizens, gender and development, children and persons with disability; and
- n. Prioritization of capacity-building initiatives for municipal health officers in providing medico-legal services.

Outcome 3: More secure access to financial resources ensured

Increase access to financial services, including overcoming barriers associated with poor people's lack of collateral (either by providing some sort of umbrella guarantee or by identifying mechanisms that enable people's existing assets to act as collateral).

Initiate reforms in the environment in which financial services operate with the government providing better safety nets for the poor (including pensions). The government must expand social safety nets to those who are unable to achieve livelihood objectives through the market system

Outcome 4: Better management of natural resources ensured

Ensure support to conserve resources and biodiversity (through technology and direct action) and policy support to influence changes in institutions that manage, and govern access to natural resources.

Strengthen environmental enforcement mechanisms and support for market development to increase the value of forest/agricultural/fisheries produce.

Outcome 5: Access to high-quality education, information technologies and training, and better nutrition and health improved

Make available to the poor support for health, education, training infrastructure

and personnel, livelihood and employment, and development of knowledge and skills.

Institutionalize policy support to reform or enhance health, education, and training policies. A continuing effort at making policies more responsive to the needs of the greater population must be ensured.

Programs, Projects and Activities

- Disaster risk management in primary, secondary, and tertiary health care, especially at the local level
- Capacity development at the barangay and purok levels for disaster preparedness for senior citizens and persons with disability
- Housing and resettlement of informal settler families to safer areas
- Social protection programs like Health financing, Social security, employee compensation, and other Social safety nets
- Crop and livestock insurance programs
- Protection of cultural heritage program
- Disaster-resilient workplaces program
- DRR/CCA mainstreaming program
- Resilient livelihood program
- Health and nutrition programs
- Education and technical-vocational programs
- Social cohesion and empowering programs
- Biodiversity conservation programs
- Financial access and literacy programs
- Community-Driven Development Programs
- Recovery and reintegration program for trafficked persons and victims of abuse

Research Agenda

- Socio-economic impact of Disasters to poor families in Caraga Region
- Impact of disasters to women and children
- Incentivizing maternal care provision by health providers
- Framework for measuring individual and household resiliency
- Establishment of baseline resiliency of individuals and households
- Smart city readiness index

Legislative Agenda

- Providing alternatives to overcome barriers associated with poor people's lack of collateral guarantee for livelihood and housing purposes
- Policy enhancing the resilience of national health systems by integrating disaster risk management into primary, secondary, and tertiary health care, especially at the local level
- Creation of functional Local AIDS Councils
- Creation of more HIV/AIDS Treatment hubs
- Creation of specialty hospital on non-communicable diseases
- Adoption and replication of SWD social technologies
- Inclusion of the organized and functional LCAT-VAWC for all LGUs as one of the indicators of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) and the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance (SCFLG)
- Adoption of Social Protection in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and services at the local level

12

Building Safe
and Secure
Communities

Building Safe and Secure Communities

This chapter focuses on providing informal settlers with safe and secure housing and establishing smart cities. Along with other factors, these two shall serve as foundations for reducing vulnerabilities of individuals and communities.

Assessment

Housing and Resettlement

The region's poor and underprivileged are unable to acquire decent housing due to the huge gap between their household incomes and the cost of land and housing construction, exacerbating the problem on informal settler families (ISFs).

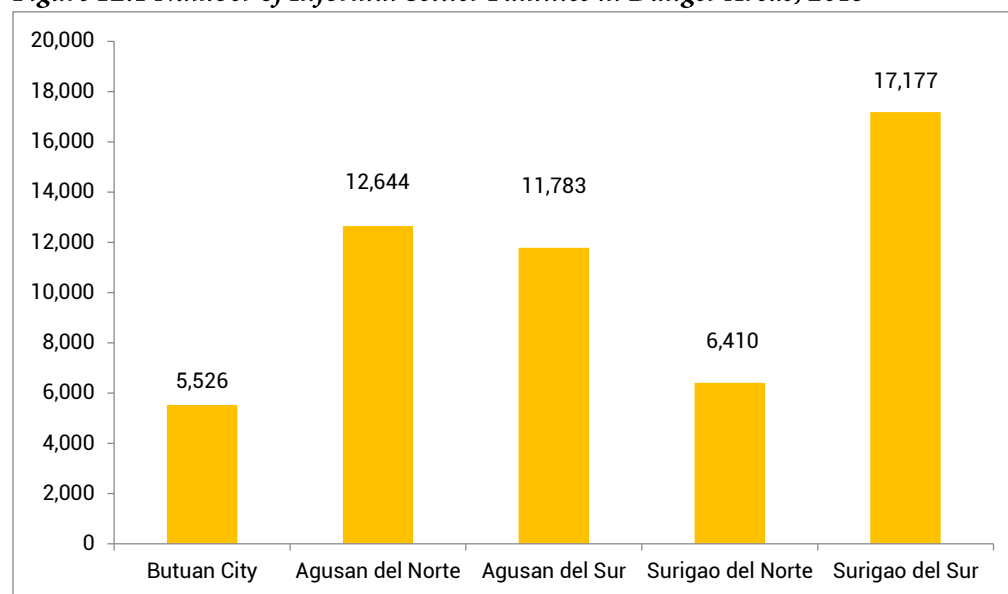
In Caraga, the number of informal settler families (ISFs) reached 105,005. Forty-nine percent or 53,540 of these ISFs live in danger areas, namely: esteros, waterways, shorelines, riverbanks, and landslide and flood-prone areas. Meanwhile, 51 percent or 55,415 of ISFs live in protected areas, government-owned lands not intended for human habitation, and in privately-owned lands.

Informal Settler Families

The National Housing Authority (NHA) defines ISFs as families that live in 1) lots without the consent of the owners; 2) danger areas along river banks, railways, under the bridge, and others; 3) areas designated for government infrastructure projects; 4) protected/forest areas (except for indigenous peoples); 5) areas for priority development; and 5) other government/public lands or facilities not intended for human habitation.

Among provinces, Agusan del Sur has the most number of ISFs comprising 37 percent of the region's total. Majority of Agusan del Sur's ISFs live in government-owned lands not intended for human habitation (10,184) and in riverbanks (9,412). These government-owned lands include compounds of government hospitals, schools, military camps, and other public institutions and facilities. Meanwhile, Surigao del Sur has the most number of ISFs living in danger areas (17,177), comprising 32 percent of the region's total.

Figure 12.1 Number of Informal Settler Families in Danger Areas, 2015



Source: NHA Caraga

Table 12.1 Number and Percentage of ISFs and ISFs in Danger Areas, 2015

PROVINCE/CITY	NUMBER OF ISFS	% OF ISFS	NUMBER OF ISFS IN DANGER AREAS	% OF ISFS IN DANGER AREAS
Butuan City	5,526	5%	5,526	10%
Agusan del Norte	19,569	19%	12,644	24%
Agusan del Sur	38,881	37%	11,783	22%
Surigao del Norte	12,581	12%	6,410	12%
Surigao del Sur	28,448	27%	17,177	32%
TOTAL	105,005	100%	53,540	100%

Source: NHA Caraga

Housing Needs

To address the housing needs in the region, key shelter agencies such as the NHA and the Housing Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) implemented housing-related programs and projects. The local government units complemented the efforts of NHA and HDMF by updating their respective Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans and Comprehensive Land Use Plans to ensure that settlement programs are harmonized with their zoning ordinances.

However, despite the interventions, there is still a need for more housing units. The crafting of the Local Shelter Plans by local government units is still underway.

Based on the 2015 Census of Population and Housing, there are 504,257 households and 494,967 occupied housing units in Caraga, which translates to a ratio of 102 households for every 100 occupied housing units. Each housing unit has an average of 4.8 persons.

Considering the demand for houses, NHA constructed a total of 1,331 houses in 2013 at an aggregate cost of PhP 69.73 million for the carry-over resettlement housing projects. The occurrence of Typhoon Pablo in 2013 damaged some houses in Caraga, increasing the demand. For the typhoon Pablo-affected areas, the NHA rehabilitated 2,393 units amounting to PhP 5.40 million.

In 2014, the NHA and HDMF delivered a total of 5,089 housing units through direct housing assistance. In particular, the NHA implemented Settlements Upgrading (1,442 units), Housing Assistance for Indigenous Peoples (61 units), Housing Materials Assistance (HOMA) for disaster-affected areas (2,712 units), and Armed Forces of the Philippines/Philippine National Police Housing (53 units) for a total amount of PhP 319 Million. The HDMF financed 821 units at an aggregate cost of PhP652 Million. The number of housing units constructed is 7.39 percent higher in 2014 than in 2013.

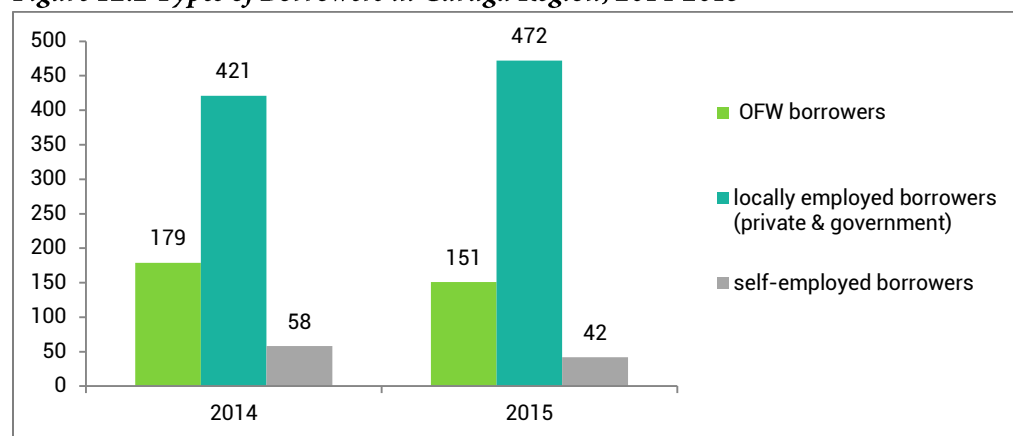
The current administration is determined to establish the Mindanao Railway System to connect Mindanao Regions. This would result in the possible displacement of residents including informal settler families. Thus, relocation and resettlement of affected families should be anticipated and planned for while government is negotiating for right-of-way for large-scale infrastructure projects.

Meanwhile, the HDMF reported that the number of availed housing loan packages decreased by 7.88 percent. In terms of number of units, the housing take-out from 2014 to 2015 decreased slightly by 1.3 percent. The decrease was due to the delayed take-out of accounts, longer construction period, and delay in the release of land titles. Looking at the number of units availed and the number of borrowers, it can be observed that the number of units is greater than the number of borrowers. According to HDMF, this is possible because one borrower is allowed to apply for more than one (1) housing unit.

In terms of number of borrowers, the housing take-out increased by one percent representing seven borrowers in 2015. Among provinces, Agusan del Norte has the most number of borrowers (514) while the Province of Dinagat Islands has no HDMF-assisted loan. According to HDMF, residents in the Province of Dinagat Islands prefer to establish their homes in city centers. In terms of increase in the proportion of housing take-out, Agusan del Sur registered the highest growth with 18 percent.

Locally-employed (government and private) topped the list of borrowers, with an increase of 12.1 percent or 51 borrowers in 2015. The increase may be attributed to the availability of new housing units or subdivision developments in Butuan City as the regional center.

Figure 12.2 Types of Borrowers in Caraga Region, 2014-2015



Source: HDMF

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) offers three (3) major types of housing loans to members, categorized by amount. These loans are as follows: (1) up to PhP450,000; (2) over PhP450,000 but up to PhP1.7 million; and (3) over PhP1.7 million but up to PhP6 million. HDMF members who applied for loans up to PhP450,000 are those that availed of acquired assets, or house construction or lot purchase. The number of borrowers for this loan amount increased to 29 percent of borrowers in 2015. Members who availed of loans over PhP450,000 but up to PhP1.7 million comprise 63 percent of the total number of borrowers in 2015. It can be observed that this category has the most number of borrowers because in Caraga Region, the minimum housing packages offered by all developers is PhP450,000 and

is payable up to a maximum of 30 years. This also means that 6 out of 10 HDMF members who availed of loans can afford to avail of housing loans up to PhP1.7 million.

Members with regular contributions and proofs of stable income can avail of housing loans from HDMF. Further, government also offers other housing loan opportunities through the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) administered by the Social Housing Finance Corporation. The CMP was designed with the poor in mind. It is payable in twenty-five (25) years and with a minimal interest of six percent per annum. However, there is only one Social Housing Finance Corporation office in Mindanao and it is located in Davao City.

Table 12.2 Number of borrowers per loan amount, Caraga, 2014 and 2015

LOAN AMOUNT (PHP)	CY 2014		CY 2015	
	NO. OF BORROWERS	% SHARE	NO. OF BORROWERS	% SHARE
Up to 450,000	129	20	193	29
Over 450,000 to 1.7 Million	488	74	420	63
Over 1.7 Million to 6 Million	41	6	52	8

Source: HDMF

Smart Connections require the provision of adequate access and means of transportation through well-planned bus routes, and installation and maintenance of bicycle lanes/ trails. It also means provision of online access, adoption of technology, and constant innovation.

Smart Economy creates high quality paying jobs while supporting local businesses to compete globally by promoting innovation; providing an environment in which businesses are productive, efficient, and competitive; and collaborating and working together to reach success.

Smart People are the foundation of a Smart City. Thus, people have to have access to knowledge and trainings that meet the needs and demand of employers. This will require 1) strong support of community leaders and mentors, and 2) implementation of programs that encourage development and forward thinking.

Smart Living provides opportunities for a healthy lifestyle for all citizens through quality healthcare, education, and safety. This includes, inter alia, the need for affordable housing and plans to support the aging population.

Smart Governance ensures the effective and efficient utilization of the smart city. It is about planning for and delivering services while maximizing available resources.

Smart Environment is one that is built by striking a balance between planning for growth and protecting resources. A Smart environment protects nature and natural resources while effectively planning for the future; harmonizes living and workspaces; and balances energy supply and use.

These pillars, when adopted, will influence the strategies for growth and progress of the Region by taking into consideration the core vulnerabilities of the people, environment, and the economy.

In major cities, urbanization has been problematic due to its lack of empathy for the people. These cities give space to private cars and public vehicles but not to the people. This lack of sensitivity to the people's needs is one of the reasons why traffic in Metro Manila is in its worst state (Persquare Philippines n.d.).² Learning from the lessons of Metro Manila, the region should provide spaces for people to walk and bike, which can be considered the initial steps towards a better future.

The concept of Smart City is also better supported by a federal form of government. A federal form of government empowers the states to determine their own growth path. Thus, if the Philippines would switch to a federal form of government, the states can adopt the smart city concept even without national imprimatur.

² Persquare Philippines. n.d. Accessed March 17, 2017. <http://www.persquare.com.ph/news/smart-city-in-the-philippines/Challenges>

Challenges

Housing and Resettlement

Local government units give low priority to housing and resettlement. Most LGUs look to national government to lead the provision of housing and resettlement interventions. Many LGUs seem reluctant to allocate resources for housing because of the attendant high cost. Other LGUs engage private sector or non-government partners in providing resettlement or housing. Most cities allocate the mandatory 15% of their IRA for projects such as drainage improvements, road rehabilitation, and administrative buildings of the city. Major capital development expenditures in the cities are usually made by national government agencies or the private sector (ICF n.d.).³

Limited risk transfer mechanism for housing and resettlement. GSIS offers insurance system for houses of GSIS members and their relatives only. However, the unemployed and poor have limited access to such, making them more vulnerable to disasters.

Resettlement areas are far from the livelihood activities of ISFs. Both the NHA and CMP programs mainly address tenure regularization and the provision of basic services of informal settlers. These programs usually lack affordable connectivity to places of employment and livelihood opportunities. Thus, majority of

ISFs that have been provided with houses in safe areas go back to their original locations, making housing programs ineffective.

Further, off-site resettlement causes higher transportation cost from community to work place, school, and other basic services. Longer transportation time is also observed, shortening time spent with the family.

Unemployed persons have no access to housing loans. Only employed and self-employed workers and OFWs can avail of housing loans from HDMF. Informal settler families find the collateral and other documentary requirements of HDMF financing difficult to obtain and costly to comply, which is also true with the SSS and the GSIS housing loan windows. Only those with regular contributions and stable income can avail of housing loans. Private developers, too, have failed to reach the informal settlers since many consider housing for the poor to be a non-profitable segment of the market.

However, ISFs can avail of housing loans through the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) administered by the Social Housing Finance Corporation. The CMP is a government financing program that enables organized informal settler families (ISFs) to purchase land. The goal is for the poor and near-poor ISFs, which have no access to housing loans from private banks, to be able to borrow through the program.

³ ICF, n.d. Accessed March 15, 2017.

http://www.hudcc.gov.ph/sites/default/files/styles/large/public/document/NISUS%20Final%20Report_July2014.pdf.

However, the average cost of housing unit is beyond the affordable limits of many informal settlers. While some poor families can afford the minimum monthly fees, equity requirements tend to discourage the poor or those with unstable income from availing of the housing program (Marife M. Ballesteros, Tatum P. Ramos, and Jasmine E. Magtibay 2016).⁴ Their access to government financing programs is also limited because of the lack of collateral to back-up their loans (Cacnio 2001).⁵

Smart City

The concept of a Smart City sounds very attractive but poses a lot of challenges. In Caraga where the pillars of a smart city are still in the conceptualization stage, collaboration among different agencies and stakeholders may be difficult.

Local government units and the private sector need to be open to a change in perspective for smart city initiatives. Government agencies and the people are

used to conventional ways of doing things. A big shift from traditional to contemporary modes can be overwhelming and requires the support of everyone. There is a big need to change the perspective of all stakeholders, to make them more open to the idea of building smart cities. This change will entail a lot of effort among planners, as the importance of building smart cities has yet to be internalized by many LGUs.

Absence of a successful local (Philippine) model for a Smart City. Currently, San Juan City in Metro Manila is being developed to become a Smart City. However, the Filipinos have yet to see a successful and effective model for building a smart city in the country.

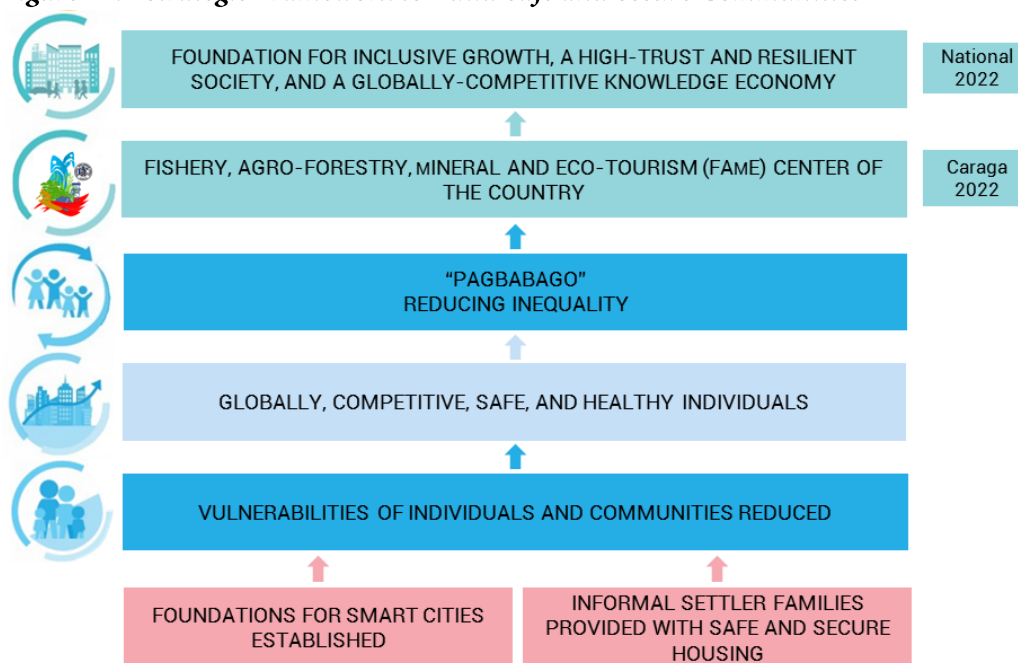
High cost of creating a smart city. Finding ways to fund smart city projects can be very difficult. Converting an existing city is a lot more expensive than building a new one that complies with all the requirements for being fully-smart.

⁴ Marife M. Ballesteros, Tatum P. Ramos, and Jasmine E. Magtibay. 2016. *Is the Community Mortgage Program propoor?* Policy Notes, Quezon: Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

⁵ Cacnio, Faith Christian Q. 2001. Accessed March 14, 2016. <http://dirp3.pids.gov.ph/ris/dps/pidsdps0128.pdf>.

Strategic Framework

Figure 12.4 Strategic Framework to Build Safe and Secure Communities



Housing and Resettlement

Transform ISFs into formal urban residents in resilient, vibrant and connected communities. The region will target the reduction of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, danger areas or unsafe houses while at the same time increase population that have convenient access to public transport.

This will be done by adopting an incremental approach to providing housing. ISFs have low incomes and most of them can only build houses by phase. Another way to increase the poor's access to housing is by customizing housing finance to ISF's income and expenditure

patterns. The government and the private sector may adopt principles of microfinance and community finance, which are more appropriate for the ISFs.

Lastly, DRR/CCA will be considered in identifying resettlement areas and designing houses. Given the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters and its consequent negative impacts to the housing sector, DRR/CCA will play an important role in addressing the plight of the region's informal settlers (ICF n.d.).

Improve capacity of local governments as lead agencies for ISF housing. As mandated under Republic Act 7160, LGUs will take the lead in providing housing for ISFs. As an initial step, the LGUs will include land banking as one of the major

projects in their Annual Investment Programs. The LGUs will also adopt DRR/CCA strategies with a long-term perspective to set the spatial pattern for future growth and enable them to plan primary infrastructure prior to housing and land development.

Strengthen risk transfer mechanism.

Given the vulnerability of the housing sector to disasters and climate change, all house owners, regardless of economic status, will be given opportunities to avail of housing insurance.

Strengthen urban development sector leadership, coordination and focus, with HUDCC at the forefront.

The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), as the nation's highest policy making and coordinating body for the housing and urban development sectors, is not present in the region. More often, questions on mechanisms involving the provision of housing to vulnerable sectors are not adequately answered due to the fragmented interventions of existing key shelter agencies in the region, which are the NHA and HDMF. The Regional Development Council (RDC) has been having concerns on housing needs and resettlement but it has been difficult to address concerns outside of these two agencies' mandates.

Thus, the HUDCC should establish a satellite office in Caraga. Under the UDHA, the HUDCC formulates plans and

policies for both housing and urban development; provides overall administration and supervision to shelter agencies; and provides technical assistance to the local government units in the delivery of housing and urban development services.

Smart City

Adopt the Smart City concept as one of the best alternatives for decongesting existing cities.

In line with the current administration's thrust of decongesting highly urbanized cities, building smart cities is one of the best alternatives. Despite the initial high cost, the smart city concept can maximize the use of resources particularly land. In the long run the benefits outweigh the cost.

Promote smart cities to local government units in building a resilient economy.

Smart Cities can provide a huge opportunity for growth in the Region. Smart cities can be the platform for developing a knowledge economy, one that is resilient to natural disasters and climate change.

Forge strong and well-thought-out Public-Private Partnership for building smart cities.

Given the huge investment requirement for building smart cities, the LGUs will engage or partner with the private sector in this endeavor.

Programs and Projects

- Housing and land development for Indigenous Peoples
- Group Housing Loan Program

- Overseas Filipino Worker Center
- Home Rehabilitation Housing Loan Program
- GCare Plan Homeshield

Research Agenda

- Developing a model for smart city in Caraga Region
- Developing a framework for risk transfer mechanism for informal settlers
- Forecasting future demands for housing and resettlement in Caraga Region
- Feasibility study on the creation of smart cities in growth centers of Caraga
- Creating Butuan City as model or smart city in Caraga Region.

PART IV

INCREASING GROWTH POTENTIAL ("PATULOY NA PAG-UNLAD")



13

Reaching for the
Demographic
Dividend

Reaching for the Demographic Dividend

Demographic dividend is defined by the Population Reference Bureau as the “accelerated growth that may result from a decline in a country’s mortality and fertility and the subsequent change in the age structure of the population.” When a country has fewer births each year because of a well-managed fertility, a country’s young dependent population will grow smaller relative to the working-age population. Thus, with fewer people to support, a country has an opportunity for rapid economic growth if the right balance of social and economic policies, strategies, and programs are implemented.

This chapter assesses the current population and age-sex structure of the region as they relate to the region’s efforts of boosting economic growth and reducing poverty. The chapter also identifies challenges and proposes strategies to reach the demographic dividend, which is one of the key strategies under the development pillar of *Patuloy na Pag-unlad* or increasing growth potential.

Assessment

Population

Caraga Region’s population reached 2,596,709 in 2015, accounting for 2.57 percent of the country’s total population. This represents a 6.89 percent increase over the 2010 population of 2,429,224.

The province of Agusan del Sur has the largest population in Caraga with 700,653 persons accounting for 26.98 percent of the region’s total population. On the other hand, the Province of Dinagat Islands is the least populated with 127,152 or 4.90 percent of the population.

In terms of population density, Butuan City is the densest in 2015 with 412.42 persons per sq. km. The lowest population density is recorded in Agusan del Sur with 84.44 persons per sq. km.

The highest increase in population density was observed in the province of Surigao del Norte; it went up to 240.49 persons per sq. km. in 2015 from 214.42 persons per sq. km. in 2014. In contrast, Dinagat Islands had the slightest increase in population density at 0.28 percent.

Table 13.1 Land Area, Population, and Population Density, 2010 and 2015

REGION/PROVINCE	LAND AREA (SQ. KM.)	POPULATION		POPULATION DENSITY		
		2010	2015	2010	2015	% change
Philippines	300,000.00	92,337,852	100,979,303	268.855	336.60	9.36
Region XIII (Caraga)	21,120.56	2,429,224	2,596,709	126.93	135.68	6.89
Agusan Del Norte	2,884.38	332,487	354,503	115.27	122.90	6.62
Agusan del Sur	8,297.19	656,418	700,653	79.11	84.44	6.74
Butuan City	817.28	309,709	337,063	378.95	412.42	8.83
Dinagat Islands	802.05	126,803	127,152	158.10	158.53	0.28
Surigao del Norte	2,017.10	442,588	485,088	219.42	240.49	9.60
Surigao del Sur	5,137.70	561,219	592,250	109.24	115.28	5.53

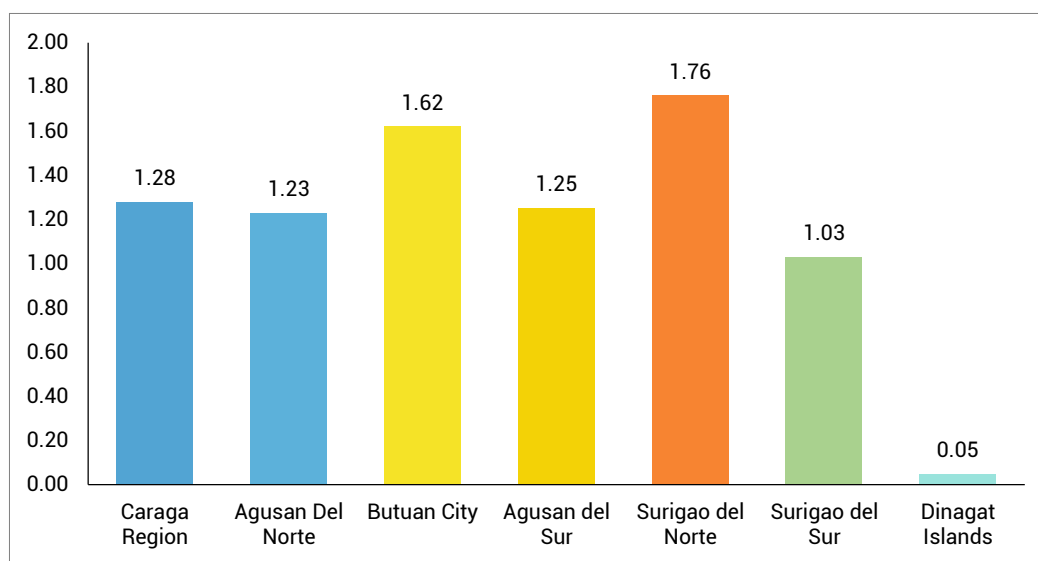
Source: PSA

Population Growth

The population of the region grew at an average annual rate of 1.28 percent between 2010 and 2015, which is lower compared to the national growth rate of 1.72 percent.

Among the provinces in Caraga, Surigao del Norte posted the highest annual population growth rate at 1.76 percent followed by Butuan City with 1.62 percent.

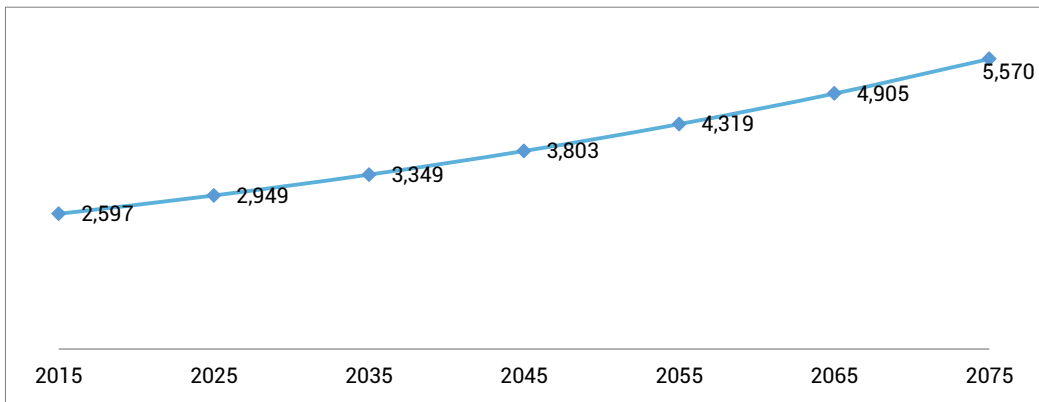
Figure 13.1 Annual Population Growth Rate of Caraga Region by Province and City, 2015



Source: PSA

With an annual growth rate of 1.28 percent in 2015, Caraga's 2.6 million population is expected to double by the year 2069.

Figure 13.2 Population Projections at 1.28 Percent Annual Growth Rate



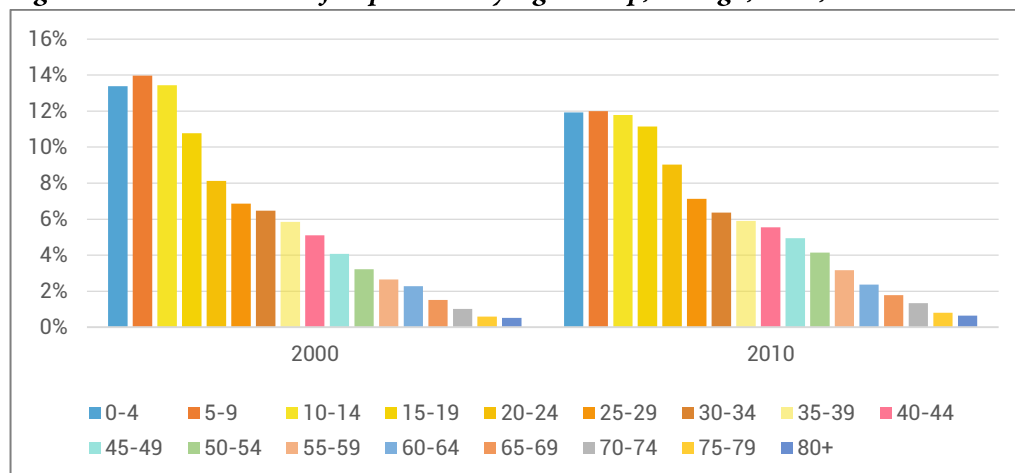
Source: NEDA Computation

Population Age-Sex Structure

Most of Caraga's population belong to the working group aged 15-65, followed by the young dependents aged 0-14 years old, and

lastly, the elderly dependents aged 66-80+. However, higher population distribution in young dependents is observed in the years 2000 and 2010 especially from the 5-9 year age bracket.

Figure 13.3 Distribution of Population by Age Group, Caraga, 2000, 2010



Source: PSA

Caraga's total dependency ratio declined from 80.15 percent in 2000 to 63.37 percent in 2010. Youth dependency ratio decreased by almost 14 percentage points in 2010 while old-age dependency ratio slightly increased by one percentage point in the same year.

The decrease in youth dependency ratio was due to the transition of young dependents to the workforce while the slight increase in the old-age dependence ratio resulted from retirement.

It is projected that by the end of the planning period, Caraga's total dependency

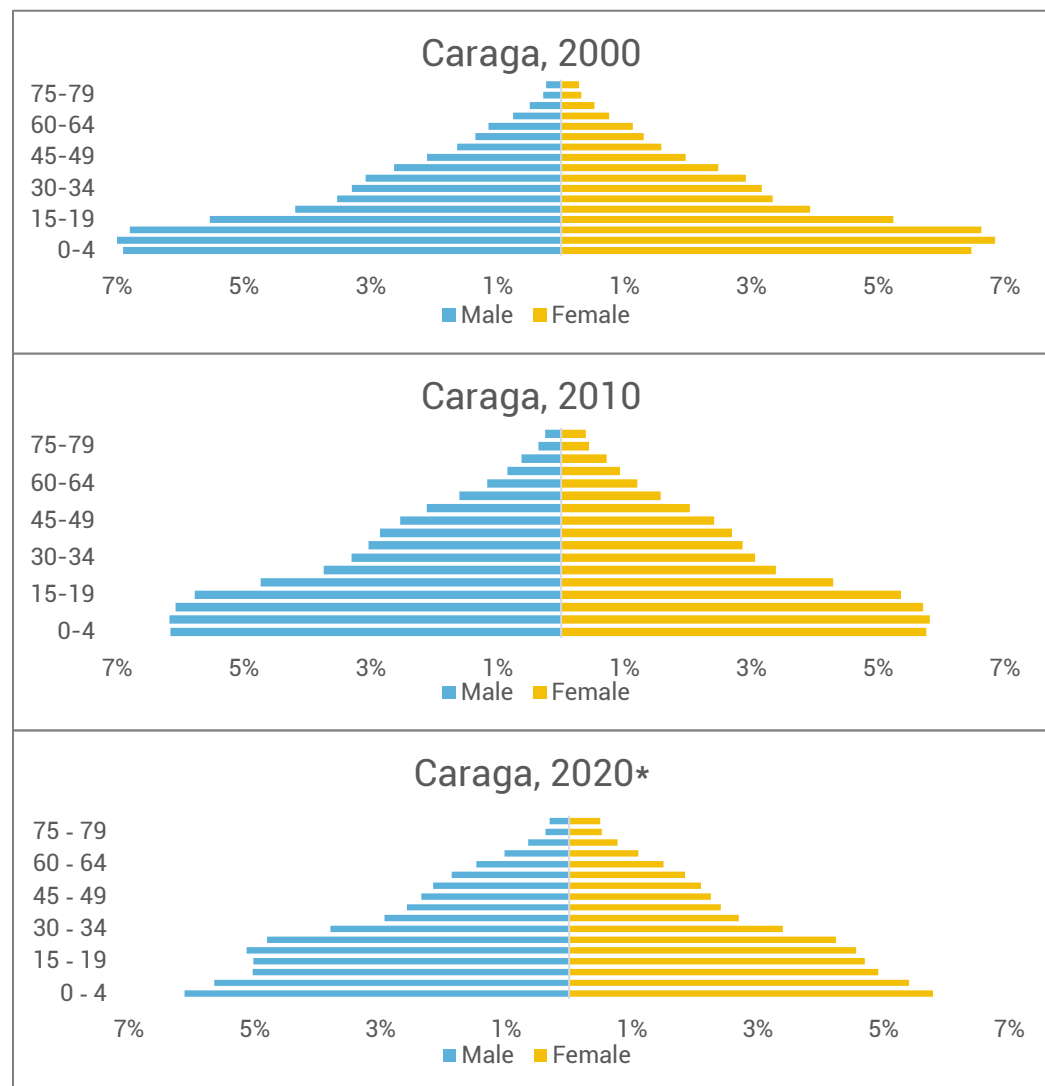
ratio will further decline to 61.69 percent caused by a reduction in both the youth dependency ratio and old-age dependency ratio,

Overall, Caraga's young population suggests that personal consumption and demand for food, clothing, shelter,

education services and other basic needs will continue to increase.

A high proportion of working population in the region suggests the availability of a sizeable labor pool for expansion of productive capacity. It would also mean increasing demand for housing, transportation, and communication.

Figure 13.4 Population Age and Sex Distribution, Caraga, 2000, 2010 and 2020



Note: *Caraga 2020 population is based from the population projection of the Philippine Statistics Authority
Source: PSA

Determinants of population growth

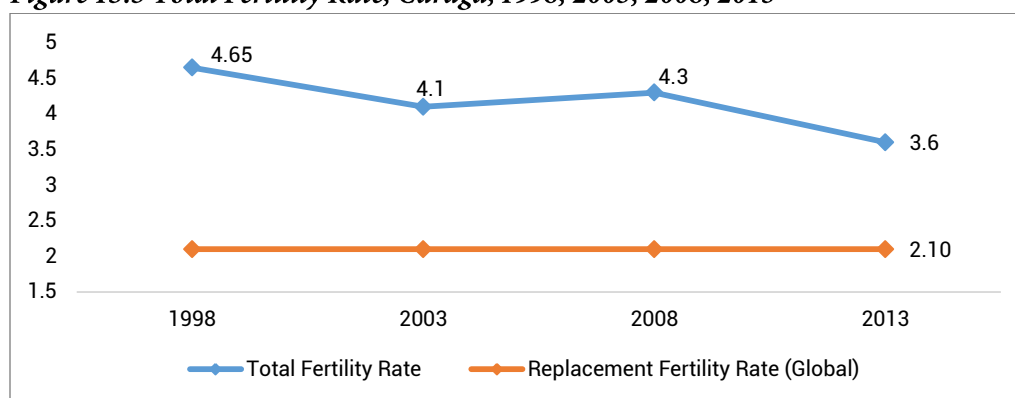
Fertility

According to the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), Caraga region's total fertility rate declined to 3.6 children per woman in 2013. Analyzing by reproductive age group, the same declining

trend was observed. The drop in fertility rate resulted in a reduction in the proportion of population under 5 years old; from 13.37 percent in 2000 it went down to 11.92 percent in 2010.

Fertility is expected to continue to slide in the coming years because of the full implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law.

Figure 13.5 Total Fertility Rate, Caraga, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013



Source: NDHS Survey 1998, 2003, 2008 2013

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) and Unmet Need for Family Planning

Based on the data from DOH XIII, CPR slightly increased in the last three years, but is still far from the regional target of 65 percent. CPR is highest in Agusan del Sur and lowest in Dinagat Islands.

National Surveys (Family Health Survey and National Demographic and Health Survey) have confirmed the increases. Of those using any method, the most popular is any modern method.

The overall improvement in the access and use of contraceptives among women in the region, resulted in the decline in unmet need for family planning to almost 20 percent.

Table 13.2 Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) and Unmet Need for Family Planning, Caraga, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013

CARAGA REGION	1998	2003	2008	2013	AVERAGE
Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (Modern Method)	28.7	34	37.2	39.0	34.73
Unmet Need for Family Planning (%)	21.2	17.5	26.1	13.7	19.63

Source: NDHS Survey 1998, 2003, 2008 2013

Mortality

Maternal deaths. The number of maternal deaths are still high in the region although it decreased by an average of 125 deaths in the last three years. Maternal deaths are increasing in Agusan provinces while decreasing in the other provinces. Agusan del Norte had an average of 166 maternal deaths while Agusan del Sur had an average of 89 maternal deaths. Mothers die mostly because of bleeding.

Among regions, Caraga had the most maternal deaths in 2013.

Infant and under-five deaths. On the other hand, infant and under-five mortality rates have decreased in the last three years by an average of five and seven deaths, respectively. The target for infant mortality rate is 17 deaths (per 1,000 live births) and 25 deaths (per 1,000 live births) for under-five mortality.

Crude death rate. The crude death rate (the mortality rate from all causes of death for a population during a specified period) decreased by an average of four deaths per year in the last three years. Reducing crude death rate is critical to achieving demographic dividend, along with managing fertility and changing the age structure of the population.

Population Movement

Among the population aged five years old and above, the largest segment (around 96 percent) belong to the non-movers. Non-movers are those who stayed in the same city or municipality from 2005 up to 2010. Domestic short distance movers or those who lived in a different city/municipality in 2010 but in the same province comprised 35,000 of the population.

Domestic long distance movers who lived in a different province from that in 2010 consist of only 39,000 of the population and immigrants were recorded at around 1,000 of the population.

Table 13.3 Population 5 Years Old and Over by Place of Residence in 2005 by Region of Residence in 2010

REGION OF RESIDENCE 2010	HOUSEHOLD POPULATION	PLACE OF RESIDENCE IN 2005 (FIGURES ARE IN THOUSANDS)			
		SAME CITY/ MUNICIPALITY AS IN 2010 (NON-MOVERS)	DIFFERENT CITY/ MUNICIPALITY BUT SAME PROVINCE AS IN 2010 (DOMESTIC SHORT DISTANCE MOVERS)	DIFFERENT PROVINCE FROM THAT IN 2010 (DOMESTIC LONG DISTANCE MOVERS)	FOREIGN COUNTRY (IMMIGRANTS)
Philippines	81,866	78,987	1,300	1,442	120
Region XIII - Caraga	2,136	2,061	35	39	1

Source: PSA

Challenges

Young population will continue to form the base of the region's population age structure.

Based on the 2010 population census, almost 36 percent or approximately 865,524 of Caraganons are below 15 years of age. With a large proportion of young people, Caraga's population will continue to grow due to the large cohort of young women who will soon enter the childbearing stage and contribute to the increase in the population of the region, even if fertility is limited to replacement level. This situation also explains the high dependency ratios of the region since not everyone in the working population are engaged in productive labor; the real dependency ratio is much higher than the age dependency ratio.

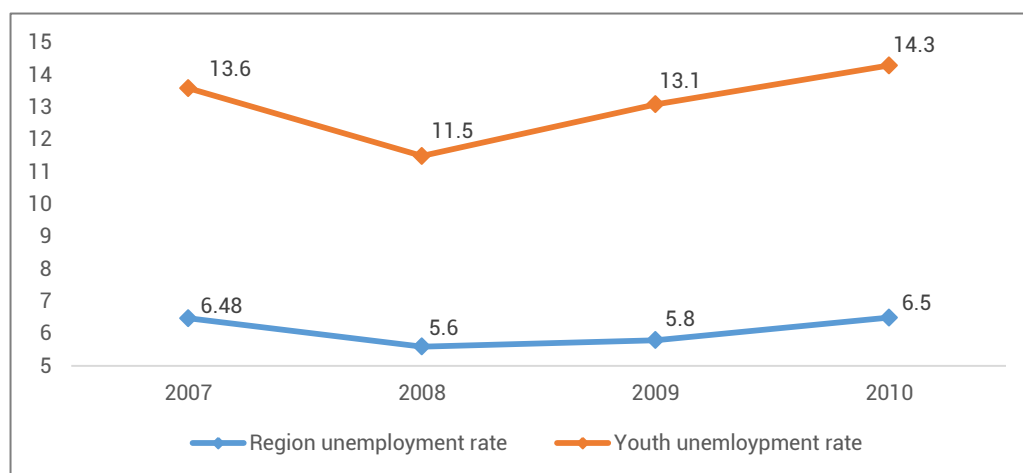
Slow demographic transition due to relatively high fertility rate.

Demographic transition is described as a decline in fertility and mortality rates. In

Caraga, the demographic transition is at a stage where mortality and fertility is declining but remains high. Caraga's total fertility rate averaged at four children per woman, which is much higher than the replacement fertility of 2.1 children.

High youth unemployment rate. At the national level, the proportion of youth who are neither employed nor studying to the total young working population is recorded at 22.1 percent. In Caraga, unemployment rate among the 15-24 years old is more than twice the region's unemployment rate. Youth unemployment rate displayed an overall increasing trend reaching 14.3 percent in 2010. This has serious implications on the region's efforts to attain demographic dividend because it relies on a large cohort of productive working-age population.

Figure 13.6 Unemployment Rate vis-à-vis Youth Unemployment Rate, Caraga, 2007-2010

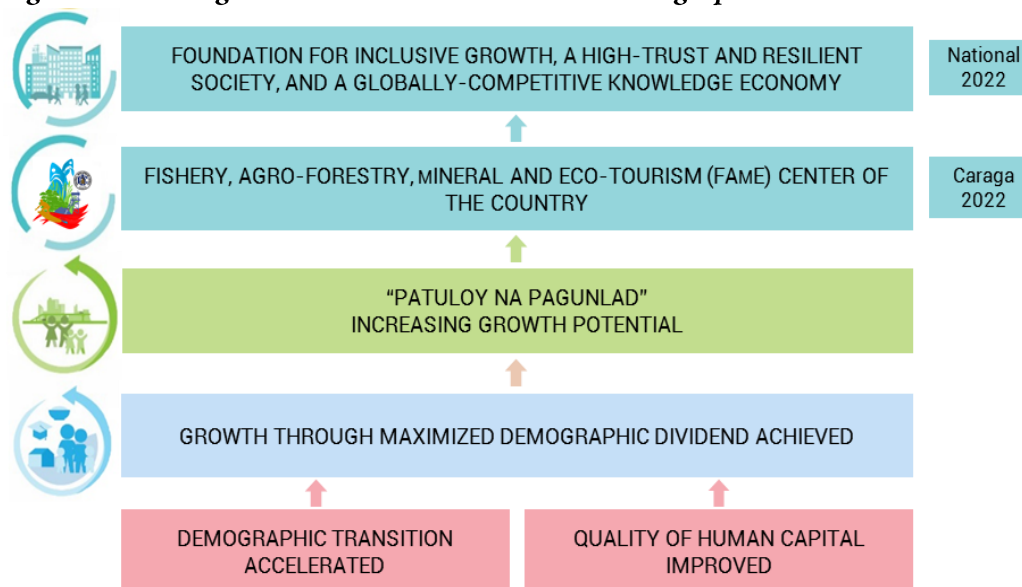


Note: The youth unemployment rate is the proportion of the youth labor force that is unemployed.

Source: PSA

Strategic Framework

Figure 13.7 Strategic Framework to Maximize the Demographic Dividend



Sub-sector Outcome 1: Demographic transition accelerated

Improve health outcomes of mother and infant. To achieve demographic transition, the region will strive to improve efficiency and effectiveness in delivering health services for mothers and infants. The focus will be on lowering maternal and infant mortality rates. See *chapter 10- Accelerating Human Capital Development* for other strategies.

Fully implement the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Law. The RPRH law guarantees informed choice to Filipinos on matters

relating to reproductive health. It also provides access to a full range of contraceptive methods both artificial and natural, sex education, and maternal care. However, its full implementation was prevented when the Supreme Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against certain provisions. The full implementation of the law will lower maternal mortality and teenage pregnancy and assist the poor in attaining their desired number of children and spacing

Sub-sector Outcome 2: Quality of human capital improved

Enhance access to quality education. An educated and skilled labor force is an equally important requirement to reach demographic dividend in the region. Thus, the region will invest in education and

training of the workforce to meet the demands of industry.

Generate productive employment. The region will promote value-adding activities to generate meaningful and decent-paying jobs. It will ensure that employment opportunities will reach the

rural and poorer segments of the region. Entrepreneurial pursuits will also be supported as it will also generate employment and capital. See *chapters 8 and 9 on Expanding economic opportunities in AFF, industry and services* for other strategies

14

Vigorously
Advancing Science,
Technology,
and Innovation

Vigorously Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation

Science and technology competence stimulates innovation. Its role in addressing critical areas such as economic efficiency, investment incentives, food security, human resource development, environmental protection, and disaster and hazard risk management are highlighted over the years. In fact, the experiences of many countries reveal that high-impact economic development is not only achieved by mere infusion of labor and capital but chiefly by improving economic efficiency and productivity through relevant innovations.

This chapter focuses on promoting and utilizing science, technology and innovation (STI) as means of realizing the region's vast potentials; in the process, transforming Caraganons to become catalysts for positive change and development.

Assessment

In the last few years, dynamics in the science, technology, and innovation (STI) sector has created multitude of effects in regional development. However, the impact is observed to be minimal to greatly steer the regional economy.

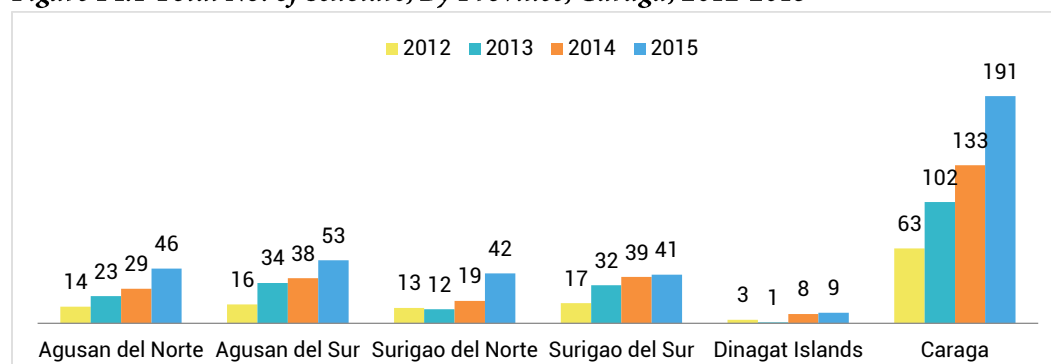
Improved Human Capitalization in STI

Undergraduate Scholars. The number of Department of Science and Technology-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) scholars from the region increase each year.

A total of 489 scholars from 2012 to 2015 were produced in the region under three types of scholarships: (1) RA 7687 Science and Technology Scholarship Program also known as the Science and Technology Scholarship Act of 1994; (2) DOST-SEI Merit Scholarship Program; and (3) Junior Level Science Scholarship (JLSS) Program.

Among the provinces, Agusan del Sur has the most number of scholars, reaching a total of 141 for the same period. Surigao del Sur followed with 129. Agusan del Norte has 112 scholars; Surigao del Norte has 86; while the Province of Dinagat Islands has 21 scholars

Figure 14.1 Total No. of Scholars, By Province, Caraga, 2012-2015



Source: DOST Caraga

Philippine Science High School (PSHS).

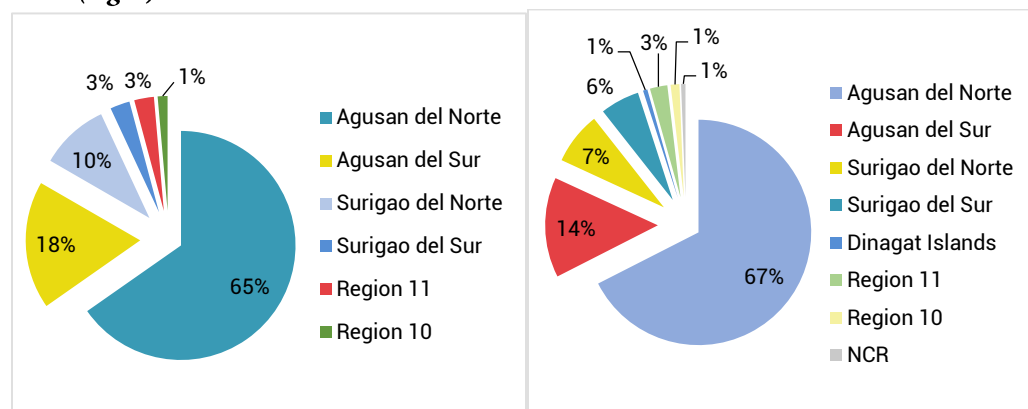
The Philippine Science High School-Caraga Regional Campus (PSHS-CRC) is the 13th campus in the PSHS System. It offers specialized and advanced curriculum in science and mathematics on a scholarship basis to prepare its students for careers in science and technology. The Caraga campus, located in Ampayon, Butuan City formally opened in June 2014.

For S.Y. 2014-2015 a total of 72 scholars for Grade 7 enrolled in PSHS-CRC: 47 from Agusan del Norte, 13 from Agusan del Sur, seven from Surigao del Norte, two

from Davao Region, and one scholar from Northern Mindanao.

A total of 160 scholars enrolled for S.Y. 2015-2016 posting an increase of 122.22 percent. Seventy of these are Grade 8 students, while 90 are Grade 7 students. One hundred eight of the enrollees in SY 2015-2016 hail from Agusan del Norte; 23 from Agusan del Sur; 12 from Surigao del Norte; nine from Surigao del Sur; one from Dinagat Islands; four from Davao Region; two from Northern Mindanao; and one from NCR.

Figure 14.2. Percent Distribution, Enrollees PSHS-CRC SY 2014-2015 (left), SY 2015-2016 (right)



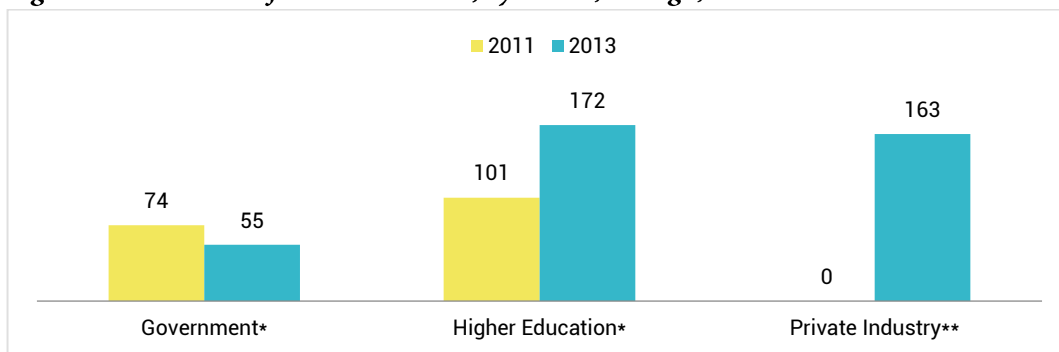
Source: PSHS Caraga Regional Campus

Research and Development. In 2013, Caraga Region has a total of 390 Research and Development (R&D) Personnel. This is more than double the number in 2011. Based on the census done by PSA through its Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI), the increase is attributed to the influx of R & D Personnel in the Private Industry. In terms of distribution by sector, 44 percent of the total number of R&D personnel comes from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs); while 42 percent originates from the private industry sector. The government sector on one hand contributes 14 percent of the total

personnel. Within the higher education sector, more than three-fourths or 76 percent are connected with public HEIs or State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).

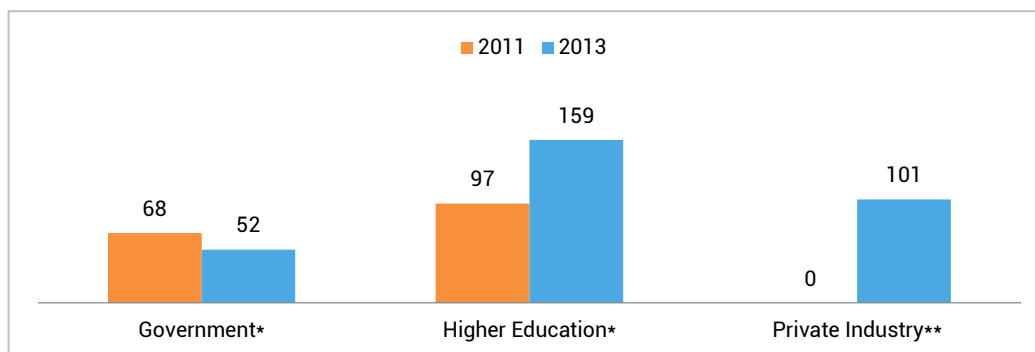
Around 80 percent of the 390 R&D personnel in the region are actual researchers. This is 89 more than the 165 researchers in 2011. Half of these researchers (159) are based in HEIs, primarily employed in SUCs (82 percent). Meanwhile, 32 percent (101) of the total researchers in the region come from the private industry sector, and the remaining 17 percent (52) hail from the government sector.

Figure 14.3 Number of R&D Personnel, by Sector, Caraga, 2011 and 2013



Source: *DOST 2011 and 2013 R&D Survey; **Estimated from NSO's 2012 CPBI

Figure 14.4 Number of Researchers, by Sector, Caraga, 2011 and 2013



Source: *DOST 2011 and 2013 R&D Survey; **Estimated from NSO's 2012 CPBI

Table 14.1 Number of R&D Personnel, by Region Philippines, 2013

RANKING	REGION	NO. OF RESEARCHERS	RANKING	REGION	NO. OF RESEARCHERS
1	NCR	9,067	10	Region 12	658
2	Region 4A	6,654	11	Region 2	654
3	Region 3	1,817	12	Region 8	504
4	Region 7	1,686	13	Region 4B	377
5	Region 11	911	14	CAR	349
6	Region 6	867	15	Region 9	328
7	Region 10	785	16	Caraga	312
8	Region 1	711	17	ARMM	114
9	Region 5	701			

Source: DOST 2013 R&D Survey

In 2013, the total R&D regional expenditure reached PhP122 million. This is 184 percent more than its 2011 level of PhP 43 million. These figures show that research spending is picking up as a result of a more vigorous promotion of research culture.

In 2013, the private industry sector increased its research spending by 268 percent, reaching PhP 34 million. An expanding private industry share in R&D spending is a good indicator of improving competitiveness and productivity. Table 13.2 shows that Caraga has RDE to GRDP ratio of 0.09 percent. This is more than double its RDE to GRDP ratio in 2011.

Regional Research Consortia. Since its creation in 2012, the Caraga Health Research and Development Consortium with support from the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) continues to train local researchers on conducting health-related studies. It also provided research funds.

The Eastern Mindanao Industry Energy and Emerging Technology Research Alliance for Development (EMIEERALD) on the other hand, is tapping available resources and expertise in Caraga to address key challenges besetting the region through research and scientific activities. Priority areas include mining, oil palm, and wood industries

Table 14.2 R&D Intensity, Ratio of RDE to RGDP, Caraga, 2011 and 2013

2011			2013			PERCENT DIFFERENCE
EXPENDITURE ('000)	RGDP ('000)	RDE/RGDP (%)	EXPENDITURE ('000)	RGDP ('000)	RDE/RGDP (%)	
42,792	108,485,520	0.04	121,704	130,475,588	0.09	0.05

Source: PSA

Making STI Work for Environmental and Economic Harmonization

S&T Initiatives for Responsible Mining.

S&T Program for Responsible Mining is one of the innovative initiatives of the

Philippine Government in attaining environmental and economic harmony in mining communities. This intervention, funded by DOST-PCIEERD, promotes responsible mining in Mindanao. The Caraga State University (CSU) in Butuan City is the lead implementing agency. A group called the Caraga Consortium for

Responsible Mining (CCRM) composed of CSU, Surigao State College of Technology (SSCT), Agusan del Sur State College of Agricultural Technology (ASSCAT), Surigao del Sur State University (SDSSU), and the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) was created for this purpose. Since 2012, CCRM has been undertaking science-based researches to support engagements towards a socially-acceptable, economically viable, environment friendly, and ecologically sound mining in Mindanao.

The major components of the project are (1) Alternative Technology for Processing of Chromite and Laterite Ores: Crude Fe-Ni-Cr Alloy Production; (2) Artisanal & Small-Scale Gold Mining; (3) Assessment of Aquatic Biodiversity in Selected Mining Environs in Mindanao; (4) Contamination Pathway and Pollution Management of Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining; (5) Development of Alternative Technologies for Small-Scale Gold Mining in CARAGA and South Cotabato Region; (6) ICT Support for Responsible Mining; and (7) Rehabilitation of Areas Affected by Nickel Mining in Surigao Provinces towards Eco-Restoration.

In another area, the DOST-Caraga, in partnership with the University of the Philippines (UP) and the Provincial Government of Agusan del Norte, initiated the establishment and operation of a pilot Gold-Copper Mineral Processing Plant in Brgy. del Pilar, Cabadbaran City that uses eco-friendly technologies such as enhanced gravity concentration-flotation-extraction process and integrated tailings disposal and treatment system. The results of this pilot operation will be used to promote eco-

friendly technologies to small-scale gold mining industry players.

Strengthening the Role of S&T in DRR-CCA. To reduce the damage brought by natural hazards like earthquakes, floods, droughts, and tropical cyclones, DOST implemented the Emergency Distribution of Hydrometeorological Devices in Hard-hit Areas in the Philippines (HYDROMET).

As of December 2015, DOST Caraga in partnership with the Advanced Science and Technology Institute (DOST-ASTI) and DOST-PAGASA, installed a total of 145 HYDROMET devices in strategic locations around the region. These devices provide the public with updated weather conditions and forecasts enhancing local disaster management through advance planning.

Moreover, hazard mapping projects under the University of the Philippines Disaster Risk Assessment for Mitigation (UP DREAM) program using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) were undertaken in the region through CSU. The CSU-LiDAR 1 in particular generated flood hazard maps of the river basins and watersheds in Caraga (except for Agusan River Basin, which was covered by the UP Dream program in the national level). The maps were able to determine at the household level, the houses and structures that are at risk during a flooding episode.

Further, the establishment of Science and Technology Operationalized for Risk Reduction and Management (STORRM) Centers will ensure disaster resilience, safeguard the livelihood of the community, and provide ease in the updating of

Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) of Local Government Units.

Increased Productivity and Competitiveness of Regional Products and Services

Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP). The DOST developed and implemented the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) to enhance productivity and competitiveness of MSMEs through technological innovations and upgrading of products and processes. It provides MSMEs with appropriate technology for adoption; technical assistance; training and consultancy services; functional packaging and labels; assistance in attaining product standards; testing; and assistance for technology acquisition.

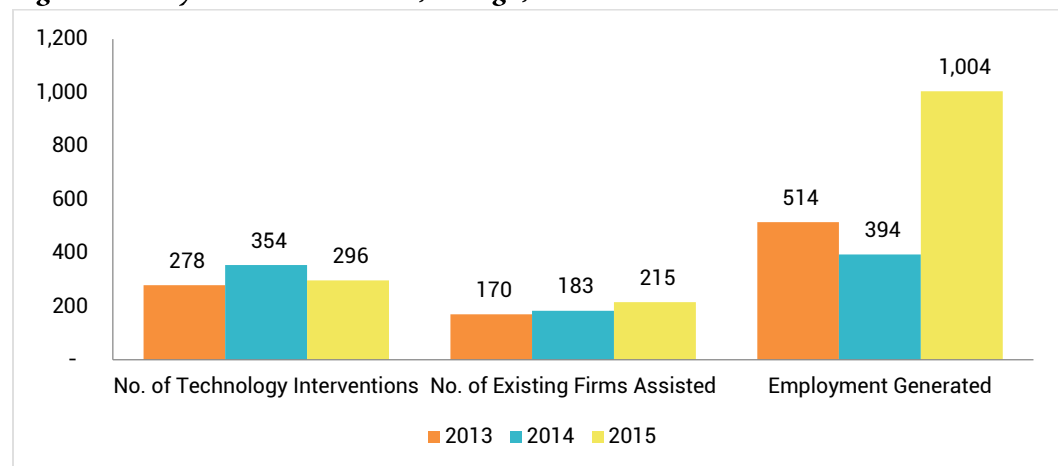
From 2013 to 2015, the number of DOST-assisted MSMEs increased. During the period, 568 existing firms received a total

of 928 technology interventions. These firms generated an accumulated gross sale of PhP388.97 million from 2013 to 2015 and created a total of 1,912 jobs.

Consultancy services were also provided to manufacturing and fishery sectors. For the period 2013-2015, a total of 123 clients were served under the Manufacturing Productivity Extension Program (MPEX), while 37 farmers received consultancy services under the Consultancy for Agricultural Productivity Enhancement (CAPE) program.

Another major accomplishment of the region under SETUP is the establishment of the Caraga Food Innovation Center, a collaboration of DOST and CSU. The project is geared towards enhancing competitiveness of MSMEs by providing them access to locally developed technologies and expertise. The center serves as a Common Service Facility for product development and packaging of processed products.

Figure 14.5 Key SETUP Indicators, Caraga, 2013-2015



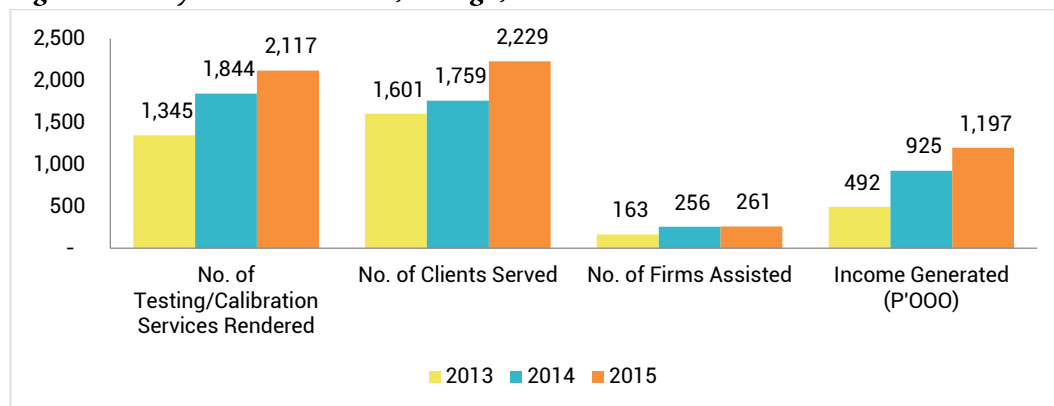
Source: DOST Caraga

Testing and Calibration. The Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory (RSTL) provides assistance and testing/calibration services to MSMEs and other industries in the region. In 2015 alone, RSTL-Caraga rendered 2,173 testing and calibration services to 2,296 clients and 257 firms. These services generated an annual income of PhP1.25 million for that year.

RSTL-Caraga operations conform to PNS ISO/IEC 17025. The Chemical and

Microbiology Laboratory has been re-accredited by the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) in 2014. PAB likewise granted accreditation to RSTL-Calibration Laboratory in 2015. Lastly, it has recently acquired accreditation from Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and assessed by DOH and DENR-EMB as a testing laboratory for drinking water and environmental waters.

Figure 14.6 Key RSTL Indicators, Caraga, 2013-2015



Source: DOST Caraga

Empowered Communities through S&T

Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST). The CEST Program is designed to empower the marginalized sector and improve the quality of living through S&T. Interventions are focused on five (5) entry points: Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Enterprise Development/Livelihood, Disaster Risk reduction and Management/Climate Change Mitigation, and Education Enhancement. CEST is implemented in six Local Government Units, namely,

Municipality of Jabonga, Agusan del Norte; Municipality of Basilisa, Province of Dinagat Islands; Municipality of Loreto, Province of Dinagat Islands; Municipality of Esperanza, Agusan del Sur; Municipality of Lingig, Surigao del Sur; and Municipality of Burgos, Surigao del Norte.

In 2015, the program provided trainings on livelihood and enterprise development for the newly created Jabonga Water Hyacinth Handicraft Association (JWHHA) and Dakutan Bag Maker's Association in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur. JWHHA sold a total of 1,975 slippers generating an income of PhP237,000.00.

The municipality of Jabonga is now locally known as the source of Hyacinth slippers. Food processing equipment was provided to members of the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) of the Municipality of Burgos, Siargao Islands, Surigao del Norte. Trainings on meat processing were conducted as well.

In terms of support for learning and education, the Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII) introduced Science and Technology Academics and Research-based Open Kiosks or STARBOOKS to 30 schools across the region making S&T materials available to marginalized populations even in remote areas.

S&T Support for Improved Health Conditions¹

RxBox. Caraganons situated in isolated and disadvantaged communities can now have better access to life-saving health care services through RxBox, a telemedicine device capable of capturing medical signals through built-in medical sensors for (1) Blood Pressure monitor, (2) Pulse Oximeter, (3) Electrocardiogram (ECG), (4) Maternal Tocometer and Fetal Doppler, and (5) temperature Sensor. Vital information can be sent via wired and wireless network to a remote medical specialist who will interpret the data to assist the medical professional actually

attending to the patient. The presence of these technologies in remote areas will hopefully reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and control non-communicable diseases. As of November 2016, 52 municipalities were already identified as RxBox sites.

Complementary Food Project. The concept of complementary food was primarily developed by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) to help solve prevalent health issues specifically malnutrition among children. Complementary foods include rice, mongo curls, rice-mongo baby food blend, and rice-mongo-sesame food blend. In Caraga Region, the project provided a complete set of equipment and trainings to the municipality of Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte.

In 2016, the Gigaquit Women's Association (GIWA) produced 161,413 packs of baby food blend and 27,027 packs of nutri-curls generating a gross sale of PhP706,625.00.

Deployment of Ovicidal/Larvicidal Traps. The program is a response to the urgent need to support the government's program in reducing the incidence of dengue cases. Through the Roll Out of the Ovicidal/Larvicidal (O/L) Trap System, DOST-Caraga was able to deploy 1,290 O/L trap kits to 41 schools in the region as of December 2015.

¹ Component of the CEST Program

Challenges

Low research and innovation productivity and utilization. Despite the intensified support for research and development, low research and innovation productivity remains a challenge in the region. Further, there is also low utilization of completed relevant studies impeding scientific and evidence-based decision and policy making.

It is also noted that even with its availability, there is low adoption and application of technologies among MSMEs and agri-fishery sector. This can be attributed to weak link between technology generators and users, capacity constraints of users, and inadequate local government unit support.

Inadequate S&T Human Resources Engaged in STI R&D. Despite its positive performance in R&D, Caraga has the second fewest number of researchers, contributing only 1.18 percent to the

country's total. The National Capital Region (NCR) still has the highest number with 9,067 researchers or 34 percent of total followed by Region 4A with 6,654 researchers (25 percent).

Inadequate STI Infrastructure. The region still lacks laboratories/testing facilities, technology-based incubators, packaging and labeling innovation centers, and R&D centers to support industries such as rubber, oil palm, and halal. Many existing infrastructures also need upgrading to support the research institutions.

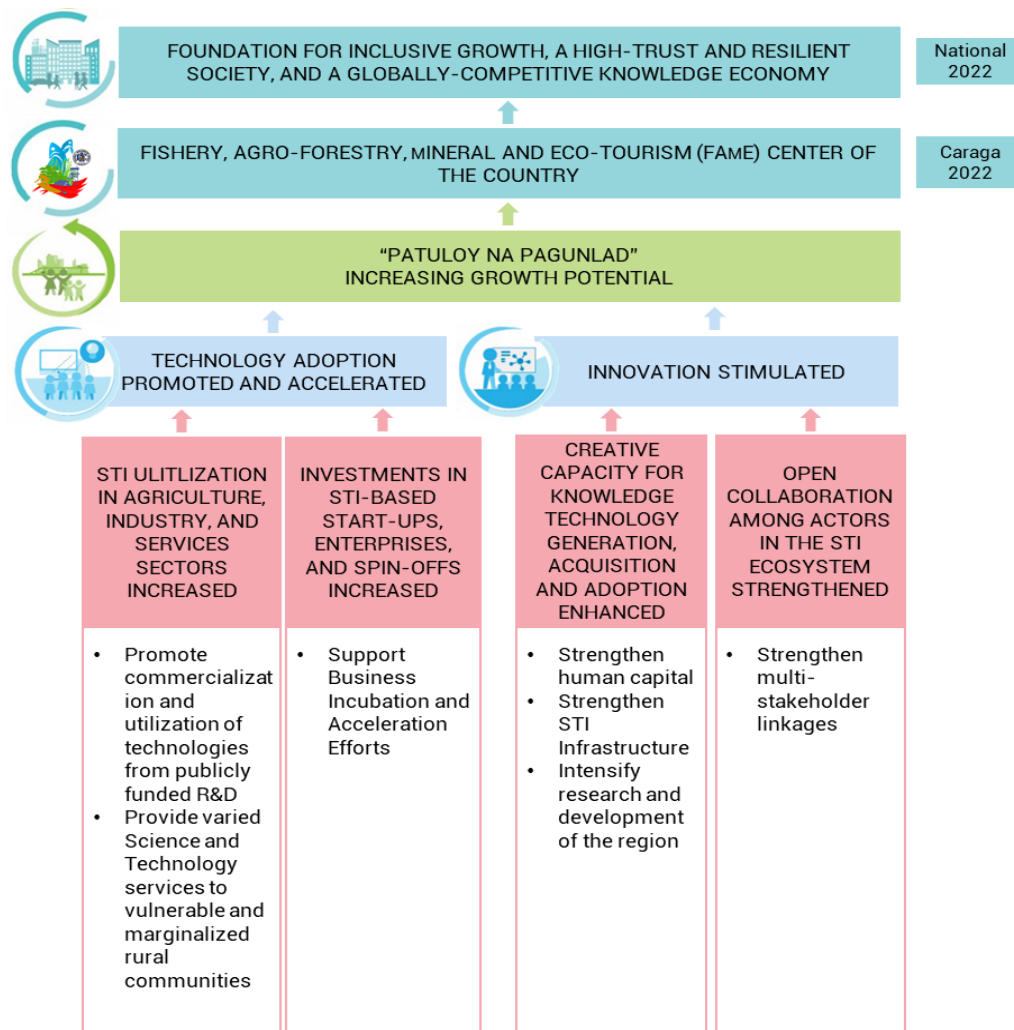
As the region moves towards a knowledge-based economy, issues on inadequate digital infrastructure remain unaddressed. In fact, while the quality of human resources in IT has dramatically improved, the region's internet connectivity is still wanting.

Strategic Framework

The STI sector will play a significant role in the region's socioeconomic development for 2017-2022. By promoting and accelerating technology adoption and stimulating innovation, regional efforts will support the national goal of establishing a foundation for inclusive

growth, a high-trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy. Improving STI utilization in agriculture, industry, and services sectors; and increasing investments in STI-based start-ups, enterprises, and spin-offs will accelerate technology adoption.

Figure 14.7 Strategic Framework to Advance Science, Technology and Innovation



Sub-sector Outcome 1: Increased STI utilization in agriculture, industry, and services sectors

Promote commercialization and utilization of technologies from publicly funded R&D. The region will accelerate the promotion and commercialization of scientific knowledge, technologies, information, and processes to increase their utilization.

Support provided to MSMEs and LGUs will be regularly monitored and evaluated to determine the milestones in the various projects implemented in the region and identify gaps that need to be addressed to ensure success.

Food Innovation Center (FIC) will be implemented starting in 2017 to provide innovation and technical support to the processed food industry. Further, other S&T interventions on packaging & labeling services, product development, and other food innovation activities and support to the complementary food production will

be strengthened. The Food Safety Team in collaboration with Winrock International will intensify promotion of food safety all over the region.

The region will also increase interventions in the agriculture, industry, and services sectors through R&D, CAPE, MPEX, Cleaner Production Technology, and Energy Audit activities. Testing and calibration services will continue to be provided by the Regional Standards and Testing Laboratories (RSTL). Acquisition of state of the art equipment for the Regional Metrology Laboratory (RML); and Chemical and Microbiological Laboratory will be prioritized to enhance the services offered to include shelf-life testing. A Halal Laboratory will also be added to the integrated laboratories alongside laboratories for rubber and mining.

Technology trainings for entrepreneurs, LGUs, NGOs, and the academe will be heightened.

Provide varied Science and Technology services to vulnerable and marginalized rural communities. Caraga will improve and sustain initiatives under the CEST to empower the disadvantaged areas in the region through S&T interventions in health and nutrition, water and sanitation, basic education and literacy, livelihood/economic enterprise development, and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Subsector outcome 2: Increased Investments in STI-based start-ups, enterprises, and spin- offs

Support Business Incubation and Acceleration Efforts. Caraga will continue to implement the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) prioritizing the agriculture, industry, and services sectors by adopting technological innovations to improve their products, services, operations and increase their productivity and competitiveness.

Subsector outcome 3: Enhanced Creative capacity for knowledge and technology generation, acquisition, and adoption

Strengthen human capital. Human and knowledge capital are considered potent resources in achieving and sustaining inclusive growth. Therefore, more than the provision of technical components to local firms and other sectors, leveraging technological capacity of the people through intensified technological trainings will be highlighted.

The region will continue cultivating the STI culture among the young generation by providing scholarship programs especially on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses. The Philippine Science High

School will continue to operate in the region giving emphasis on science and engineering.

The region will embark on the creation of Teaching Factories that will facilitate effective learning in the implementation of a broad-based curriculum in the first two years and specialized studies in the final year. It will adopt an application-oriented training approach that will combine the learning and working environment from which realistic and relevant learning experiences arise.

The region will also work on strengthening its support to the *Balik Scientist Program* by nurturing mindset and structural preparedness of HEIs to host knowledge-sharing.

Strengthen STI Infrastructure. Modernization of existing R&D facilities and other STI infrastructures will be pursued to enable them to carry out higher-level R&D activities. The government will also invest in the establishment of product development centers, materials and product testing centers, and disaster risk reduction facilities.

The establishment of an Integrated Laboratories for Rubber, Mining and Halal will be pursued to ensure that the quality of the products being provided to consumers is within or better than government standards. Halal Testing in particular will advance the region's competitiveness in catering to halal consumers.

The region will focus on the creation and development of ICT hubs to attract

investments for IT-BPO in the region. Further, improvement of internet connectivity by putting in place a robust ICT infrastructure will be given priority.

Intensify research and development of the region. R&D activities will adhere to the Caraga Regional R&D Agenda prepared through the collaboration of different line agencies and the academe, which provides direction for R&D initiatives and funding priority needs of the region.

The region will continue supporting health and health-related R&D through the Caraga Health Research and Development Consortium (CHRD); and industry, energy and emerging technologies R&D through the Eastern Mindanao Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research Alliance for Development (EMIEERALD). The region will revitalize the Caraga Consortium for Agriculture, Forestry and Resources Research and Development (CCARRD); and support other research and development initiatives

Subsector outcome 4: Strengthened open collaboration among actors in the STI ecosystem

Strengthen multi-stakeholder linkages. The region will continue to harness expertise of the different academic institutions and government agencies for joint research and development activities through established consortia.

Introduction of innovative S&T programs will be pursued.

Public and private institutions will be encouraged to collaborate in research platforms seeking solutions to common regional concerns.

Implementation of S&T projects that are co-funded by LGUs will push through such as the Field testing of the Eco-Friendly Septic System (EcoSep) Project in Siargao Islands. The project focuses on the

treatment of household wastewater by decreasing the levels of Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), and microbial load before effluent is released to the environment. This will prevent environmental pollution.

Moreover, identifying and managing avenues for collaboration to link researchers and users will be strengthened. Resource and knowledge sharing activities will also be cascaded down to community levels.

PART V

ENABLING AND SUPPORTIVE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT



15

Ensuring Sound Macroeconomic Management

Ensuring Sound Macroeconomic Management

A sound and stable macroeconomic environment is necessary for expanding economic opportunities and sustaining economic growth. Thus, the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 dedicates a chapter on ensuring sound macroeconomic management of the region. This chapter assesses the region's economy particularly its gross regional domestic product, key labor statistics, prices, and poverty. It likewise identifies appropriate strategies to address persistent challenges and attain the overarching goal of the region.

Assessment

Gross Regional Domestic Product

Caraga's Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) in 2015 is around Php96.3 Billion at constant 2000 prices. This is 4.2 percent

higher than the previous year's GRDP, which stood at Php92.4 Billion. For the past three (3) years, the region's GRDP growth has been erratic, slowing down in 2015 on account of a sluggish agriculture, fishery, and forestry sector.

Table 15.1 GRDP Growth Rates by Region: 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-2015, at Constant 2000 Prices, in percent

REGION / YEAR		12-13	13-14	14-15
PHILIPPINES		7.1	6.2	5.9
NCR	NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION	9.2	5.9	6.6
CAR	CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION	5.4	3.3	3.7
I	ILOCOS	6.8	6.4	5
II	CAGAYAN VALLEY	6.2	7.2	3.7
III	CENTRAL LUZON	4.4	9.3	5.3
IVA	CALABARZON	6.7	5.1	5.9
IVB	MIMAROPA	1.3	8.3	1.7
V	BICOL	8.1	4.3	8.4
VI	WESTERN VISAYAS	3.4	5.2	8.3
VII	CENTRAL VISAYAS	7.4	7.8	4.8
VIII	EASTERN VISAYAS	4.5	-2.4	3.9
IX	ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA	4.1	6.6	7.2
X	NORTHERN MINDANAO	5.3	7.1	5.5
XI	DAVAO REGION	6.7	9.3	7.9
XII	SOCCKSARGEN	8.4	6.2	3.3
XIII	CARAGA	8.2	9.4	4.2
ARMM	AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO	3.8	3	-0.8

Source: PSA

In terms of Caraga's actual GRDP versus targets, the region achieved its targets in 2013 and 2014 but failed in 2015 due to the decline in some key sectors.

declining in 2014 and 2015. The Industry Sector also failed to achieve its aimed growth rate attaining only 9.90 per cent in 2015.

In terms of sectoral performance, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (AFF) did not achieve the planned growth targets,

In contrast, the Service Sector surpassed its 2013 and 2014 targets but failed to achieve its 2015 target.

Table 15.2 GRDP and Sector Plan Targets vis-à-vis Actual Growth Rates, 2013-2015

INDICATOR (IN PERCENT)	TARGET			ACCOMPLISHMENT		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
GRDP growth rate	8.00	8.50	9.00	8.20	9.40	4.20
GVA growth in AFF	8.00	10.00	12.00	7.70	1.30	(8.50)
GVA growth in Industry	25.00	30.00	35.00	7.20	14.80	9.90
GVA growth in Services	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.10	9.20	5.30

Note: Figures in red imply that the accomplishment is below target.

Source: PSA

Caraga Region saw its AFF Sector declining in 2013 up to 2015 reaching a record low of negative 8.5 percent in 2015. The drop in the AFF sector was due to the effects of the El Niño phenomenon in the region that caused dryness and pest and disease infestations in most agricultural areas during the third and fourth quarters in 2015.

Industry Sector dipped to 9.9 percent in 2015 from 14.8 percent in 2014 due to the slowdown of Mining and Quarrying (MAQ) and Manufacturing subsectors. The MAQ weakened from 14.7 percent in 2014 to 5.0 percent in 2015 while manufacturing subsector slackened from 12.7 percent to 2.6 percent in 2015.

The deceleration of Industry's growth was mainly due to the decline in the global prices of metals which prompted mining companies to slow down production. However, Electricity, Gas and Water Supply (EGWS) and Construction

subsectors compensated for the weak performance of other sub-sectors of the Industry sector. EGWS posted a growth rate of 24.1 percent in 2015 up from negative 5.8 percent in 2014. Further, the Construction subsector expanded from 8.7 percent in 2013 to 22.7 percent in 2015.

The Service Sector's growth rate slowed down from 9.2 percent in 2014 to 5.3 percent in 2015 due to the declining performance of some of its subsectors.

Transport, Storage, and Communication (TSC) subsector recorded the biggest decline from 16.4 percent to 4.2 percent in 2015, contributing largely to the decline of the Service Sector. However, Other Services experienced an increase of 2.4 percentage points, which is largely due to the expansion of the tourism industry of the region.

Services sector continues to account for the largest share in the region's total economic

output followed by Industry; AFF has the least share in the economy.

Table 15.3 Growth by Industry: Caraga, 2012-2015, at Constant 2000 Prices

INDUSTRY	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
I. AGRI., FORESTRY & FISHING	16,550,414	17,821,136	18,049,777	16,507,123	7.7	1.3	(8.5)
a. Agriculture and Forestry	13,704,534	15,147,863	15,356,049	13,875,856	10.5	1.4	(9.6)
b. Fishing	2,845,880	2,673,273	2,693,683	2,631,267	(6.1)	0.8	(2.3)
II INDUSTRY	26,480,210	28,381,300	32,589,435	35,808,321	7.2	14.8	9.9
a. Mining and Quarrying	16,914,312	18,051,703	20,705,160	21,749,967	6.7	14.7	5.0
b. Manufacturing	2,453,057	2,398,531	2,704,152	2,774,111	(2.2)	12.7	2.6
c. Construction	5,948,514	6,463,944	7,798,338	9,569,024	8.7	20.6	22.7
d. Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1,164,327	1,467,122	1,381,785	1,715,219	26.0	(5.8)	24.1
III SERVICE	35,069,677	38,272,970	41,779,510	43,974,610	9.1	9.2	5.3
a. Transport, Storage & Communication	11,710,061	13,352,497	15,545,952	16,193,549	14.0	16.4	4.2
b. Trade and Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles, Personal and Household Goods	3,015,601	3,209,720	3,465,602	3,725,596	6.4	8.0	7.5
c. Financial Intermediation	3,067,164	3,419,304	3,613,063	3,817,017	11.5	5.7	5.6
d. Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	4,729,272	5,037,487	5,307,222	5,699,398	6.5	5.4	7.4
e. Public Administration & Defense; Compulsory Social Security	4,514,797	4,699,442	4,903,872	4,969,723	4.1	4.4	1.3
f. Other Services	8,032,782	8,554,520	8,943,795	9,569,326	6.5	4.6	7.0
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	78,100,301	84,475,406	92,418,723	96,290,055	8.2	9.4	4.2

Source: PSA

In terms of regional share to national GDP, Caraga Region still ranked 16th, contributing a measly 1.3 percent in 2015. The same share was accounted for in 2013 and 2014.

output displayed an overall increasing trend and averages at 8.83 percent. Regions XI and X have the biggest contributions to the Mindanao economy with shares of 27.77 percent and 25.89 percent, respectively.

From 2013 to 2015, Caraga region's contribution to the total Mindanao

Table 15.4 Percentage share to Philippine GDP and Mindanao GDP, GRDP Caraga and other Mindanao regions, 2013-2015

REGION	2013		2014		2015	
	PHL	MIN.	PHL	MIN.	PHL	MIN.
Philippines	100		100		100	
Mindanao	14.28	100	14.45	100	14.40	100
IX ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA	2.03	14.23	2.04	14.12	2.07	14.35
X NORTHERN MINDANAO	3.71	25.98	3.74	25.91	3.73	25.89
XI DAVAO REGION	3.81	26.69	3.93	27.16	4.00	27.77
XII SOCCSKSARGEN	2.75	19.22	2.74	18.99	2.68	18.59
XIII CARAGA	1.25	8.76	1.29	8.92	1.27	8.80
ARMM ARMM	0.73	5.12	0.71	4.90	0.66	4.60

Source: PSA

On the expenditure side, the main growth driver was household consumption, which stood at Php80,907,192 or 88.49 percent of the GRDP. Capital formation comprised 16.16 percent of the total output of the region, averaging at Php14,716,684. Of

these, investments in fixed capital such as construction, durable equipment, breeding stock, and orchard development as well as intellectual property made up 15.91 percent.

Table 15.5 Expenditures on Gross Regional Domestic Product, by Type of Expenditure, 2013-2015 Growth Rates, at Constant 2000 Prices

TYPE OF EXPENDITURE	2013	2014	2015	AVERAGE
1. Household Final Consumption Expenditure	77,998,985	80,282,636	84,439,954	80,907,192
2. Government Final Consumption Expenditure	13,590,169	14,160,988	15,152,476	14,301,211
3. Gross Capital Formation	11,297,342	14,622,548	18,230,161	14,716,684
A. Fixed Capital	11,719,604	14,107,421	17,638,827	14,488,617
1. Construction	9,942,738	12,069,319	14,803,912	12,271,990
2. Durable Equipment	644,886	706,941	1,205,729	852,519
3. Breeding Stock and Orchard Development	989,214	1,109,743	1,285,706	1,128,221
4. Intellectual Property Products	142,765	221,418	343,480	235,888
B. Changes in Inventories	(422,262)	515,127	591,334	228,066
4. Net Exports	(18,411,089)	(16,647,450)	(21,532,536)	(18,863,692)
GROSS REGIONAL DOMESTIC PRODUCT	84,475,406	92,418,723	96,290,055	91,061,395

Source: PSA

Labor and Employment

Labor force participation rate for the period 2013 to 2015 experienced an overall decline. From 2013 to 2015, participation rate declined by 1.80 percentage points. Retirement and failure of job seekers to find stable work impacted on the overall participation rate. Thus, the region failed to achieve its target of increasing labor force participation rate by five (5) percent per year.

On the other hand, employment rate in the region experienced a slight increase for the period 2013 to 2015. Employment went up

from 93.93 percent in 2013 to 94.28 percent in 2015. Consequently, unemployment dipped by a total of 0.35 points from 2013 to 2015.

Underemployment rate managed to decline by 1.9 percentage points for the period 2013-2014. But in 2015, underemployment rate slightly increased by 0.96 percentage points. This rise indicates an increasing underutilization of skills and productive capacities of Caraga workers. Thus, the region failed to decrease underemployment levels as committed in the CRDP 2013-2016.

Table 15.6 Key Labor Statistics Caraga, 2013-2015

REGION	2013	2014	2015	13-14	14-15
Labor Force Participation Rate	66.5	65.83	64.7	(0.67)	(1.13)
Employment Rate	93.93	94.18	94.28	0.25	0.10

REGION	2013	2014	2015	13-14	14-15
Unemployment Rate	6.08	5.83	5.73	(0.25)	(0.10)
Underemployment Rate	27.13	25.23	26.18	(1.9)	0.95

Source: PSA

Most of Caraga's employed workers belong to the Service Sector, averaging 47 percent of the total employment of the region. This is followed by the AFF Sector with 35 percent and then Industry Sector with 17 percent.

The Service Sector, which was identified as the primary source of employment, registered a negative growth rate of 2.49 percent in 2015; AFF sector also

experienced a negative growth rate of 1.81 percent in 2015.

Meanwhile, growth in employment in the Industry Sector slowed down in 2015 by 2.62 percent. The slight increase was attributed to the employment growth in mining and quarrying and electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply subsectors with growth rates of 12.38 and 50.87 percent, respectively in 2015.

Table 15.7 Distribution of Employment per Major Industry, 2013-2015, in Thousands

SECTOR	2013	2014	2015	2013-14	2014-15
Total	1,083.00	1,108.00	1,092.00	2.31	(1.44)
Agriculture	389.88	393.14	386.02	0.84	(1.81)
Agriculture, and forestry	346.56	347.86	337.68	0.37	(2.93)
Fishing	43.32	45.29	48.34	4.54	6.75
Industry	174.36	185.60	190.47	6.45	2.62
Mining and quarrying	56.32	51.59	57.98	(8.39)	12.38
Manufacturing	63.90	71.51	68.82	11.92	(3.76)
Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply	2.17	1.54	2.33	(28.70)	50.87
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1.08	1.16	1.00	7.48	(13.68)
Construction	50.90	59.79	60.33	17.47	0.89
Services	518.76	529.00	515.80	1.97	(2.49)
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	199.27	209.28	202.88	5.02	(3.06)
Transportation and storage	68.23	66.50	60.22	(2.53)	(9.44)
Accommodation and food service activities	28.16	26.33	25.79	(6.48)	(2.06)
Information and communication	5.42	4.78	5.34	(11.79)	11.78
Financial and insurance activities	7.58	9.87	10.41	30.24	5.43
Real estate activities	1.08	1.32	0.75	21.48	(42.75)
Professional, scientific and technical activities	1.08	0.96	1.14	(11.73)	19.30
Administrative and support service activities	8.66	7.87	9.44	(9.13)	19.90
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	74.73	79.91	80.30	6.93	0.49
Education	40.07	43.21	42.64	7.84	(1.31)
Human health and social work activities	9.75	8.89	9.32	(8.78)	4.82
Arts, entertainment and recreation	4.33	4.43	3.85	2.21	(12.97)
Other service activities	56.32	53.18	59.02	(5.56)	10.97
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
and services-producing activities of households for own use	13.00	12.46	4.69	(4.09)	(62.39)
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

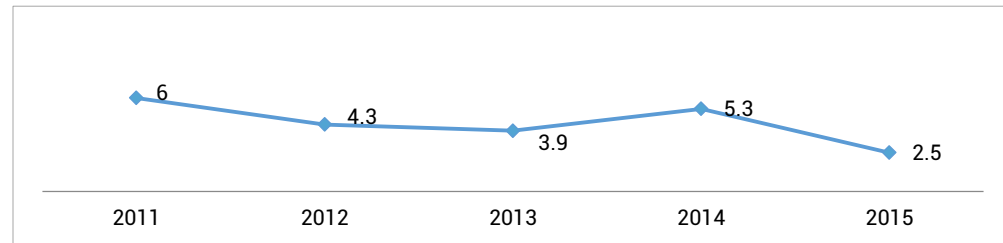
Source: PSA

Prices

The region's inflation rate exhibited an overall declining trend from 2011 to 2015.

Inflation rate averaged at 2.50 percent in 2015, which represents a 2.8 percentage point reduction from the inflation of 5.3 percent in 2014.

Figure 15.1 Inflation Rate, Caraga, 2011-2015

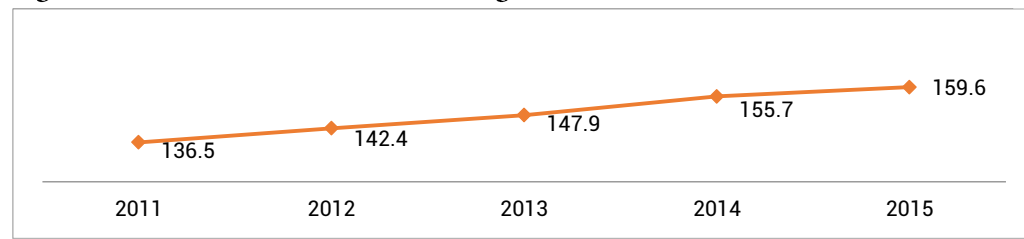


Source: PSA

Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the region demonstrated an increasing trend in the past years. In 2015, prices of basic commodities and services generally increased with a record high of Php159.60 in 2015.

Among the commodity groups, the food and non-alcoholic beverages index exhibited the highest increment of 3.72 percent 2015.

Figure 15.2 Consumer Price Index, Caraga, 2011-2015

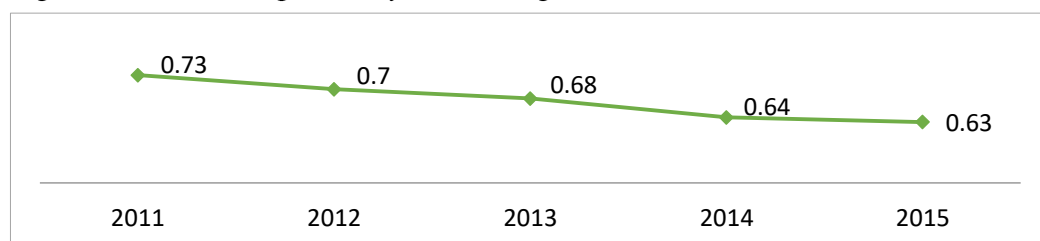


Source: PSA

The Purchasing Power of Peso (PPP) in Caraga region gradually declined. Caraga's PPP was recorded at 0.63 in 2015,

dropping 0.10 percentage points from the 2011 figure. With the declining PPP, goods and services have become more expensive.

Figure 15.3 Purchasing Power of Peso, Caraga, 2011-2015



Source: PSA

Family Income, Expenditure and Savings

At the national level, average annual income of families is recorded at Php189,000 in 2015. This reflects a five percent increase from the 2012 figure of Php180,000. However, average expenditure of families also increased but by a lower rate of 2.7 percent - from Php148,000 in 2012 to Php152,000 in 2015. The net effect of increases in income and expenditure resulted in an increase in the average savings of families by 15.53 percent.

In contrast, at the regional level, average savings of families declined by 12.5 percent in 2015. The decline was due to the reported decrease of average incomes of families in the region from Php126,000 in 2012 to Php124,000 in 2015.

Families in the National Capital Region (NCR) have the highest average annual family income in 2012 at Php305,000 and in 2015 at Php322,000. Meanwhile, families in Davao Region had the highest increase of Php23,000 in average family income in 2015.

Table 15.8 Average Income, Expenditure, and Savings of Families at Constant Prices, by Region. in Thousands

REGION / YEAR	2015			2012		
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	SAVINGS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	SAVINGS
PHILIPPINES	189	152	37	180	148	32
NCR	322	265	58	305	261	44
CAR	203	150	53	200	147	53
I	177	135	42	165	128	36
II	165	112	52	148	107	42
III	211	168	42	197	160	37
IVA	223	193	31	219	187	32
IVB	153	111	42	134	104	30
V	129	110	19	123	108	14
VI	154	120	34	153	123	30
VII	166	134	32	163	128	35
VIII	129	103	27	124	99	25
IX	124	94	30	119	89	30
X	145	105	39	137	103	34
XI	166	128	38	143	115	29
XII	125	108	17	119	103	17
XIII	124	100	24	126	99	27
ARMM	89	71	18	91	80	11

Source: PSA

The Gini coefficient, which measures income inequality within a population at the national level was estimated at 0.4439 in 2015. The ratio in 2015 is slightly lower than the 2012 figure of 0.4605 which indicates improvement of income

distribution among families in the country.

Caraga region's Gini ratio also slightly improved from 0.4397 in 2012 to 0.4338 in 2015.

Table 15.9 Gini Coefficient, Philippines, Caraga, 2012-2015

REGION	2012	2015	12-15
Philippines	0.4605	0.4439	(0.166)

REGION	2012	2015	12-15
Caraga	0.4397	0.4338	(0.059)

Source: PSA

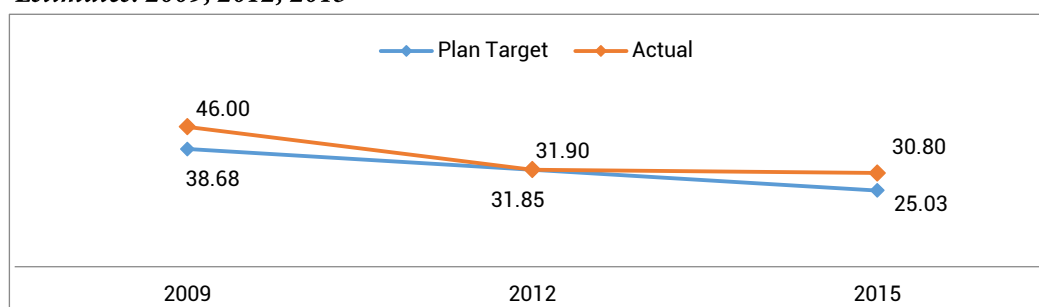
Poverty Incidence

The region failed to achieve its poverty targets as contained in the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2013-2016. However,

the actual poverty estimates showed declining poverty levels. The 2012 level was notable as it posted a poverty incidence of 31.90 percent, nearly hitting its 2012 target of 31.85 percent.

Figure 15.4 CRDP 2011-2016 Poverty Plan targets vis-à-vis Actual Poverty

Estimates: 2009, 2012, 2015



Source: PSA

At the national level, poverty incidence among families declined from 19.7 percent in 2012 to 16.5 percent in 2015.

At the regional level, poverty incidence among families slightly decreased. From 31.9 percent in 2012, it declined to 30.8 percent in 2015.

Despite the overall decrease of poverty incidence from 46 percent in 2009 to 30.8

in 2015, Caraga region ranks as the second poorest region in the country. ARMM remains the poorest region with a poverty level of 48.2 percent.

Two other regions in Mindanao, Region XII and X, joined the top five poorest regions in the country. Region XII ranked fourth and Region X ranked fifth with a poverty incidence level of 30.5 percent and 30.3 percent, respectively.

Table 15.10 Annual Poverty Incidence among Families by Region, 2009, 2012, 2015

REGIONS	POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG FAMILIES (%)		
	2009	2012	2015
Philippines	20.5	19.7	16.5
NCR- National Capital Region	2.4	2.6	2.7
CAR- Cordillera Administrative Region	19.2	17.5	14.9
Region I- Ilocos Region	16.8	14.0	9.6
Region II-Cagayan Valley	20.2	17.0	11.7
Region III- Central Luzon	10.7	10.1	8.9
Region IV-A CALABARZON	8.8	8.3	6.7

REGIONS	POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG FAMILIES (%)		
	2009	2012	2015
Region IV-B MIMAROPA	27.2	23.6	17.4
Region V- Bicol Region	35.3	32.3	27.5
Region VI- Western Visayas	23.6	22.8	16.6
Region VII- Central Visayas	26.0	25.7	23.6
Region VIII- Eastern Visayas	34.5	37.4	30.7
Region IX- Zamboanga Peninsula	39.5	33.7	26.0
Region X- Northern Mindanao	33.3	32.8	30.3
Region XI- Davao Region	25.5	25.0	16.6
Region XII- SOCCSKSARGEN	30.8	37.1	30.5
Caraga	46.0	31.9	30.8
ARMM	39.9	48.7	48.2

Source: PSA

While poverty incidence among families in the region may have declined, a number of setbacks have adversely affected the region's fight against poverty, which includes the displacement of some workers due to closure of mining and wood manufacturing companies and other establishments.

Among the provinces of the region, Agusan del Sur recorded the highest poverty incidence of 37.0 percent followed by Surigao del Sur with 32.0 percent in 2015. From the latest annual poverty report of the Philippine Statistics Authority, the province of Agusan del Sur is no longer included in the list of top 10 poorest provinces in the country.

Table 15.11 Per Capita Poverty Threshold and Poverty Incidence among Families: 2012, 2015

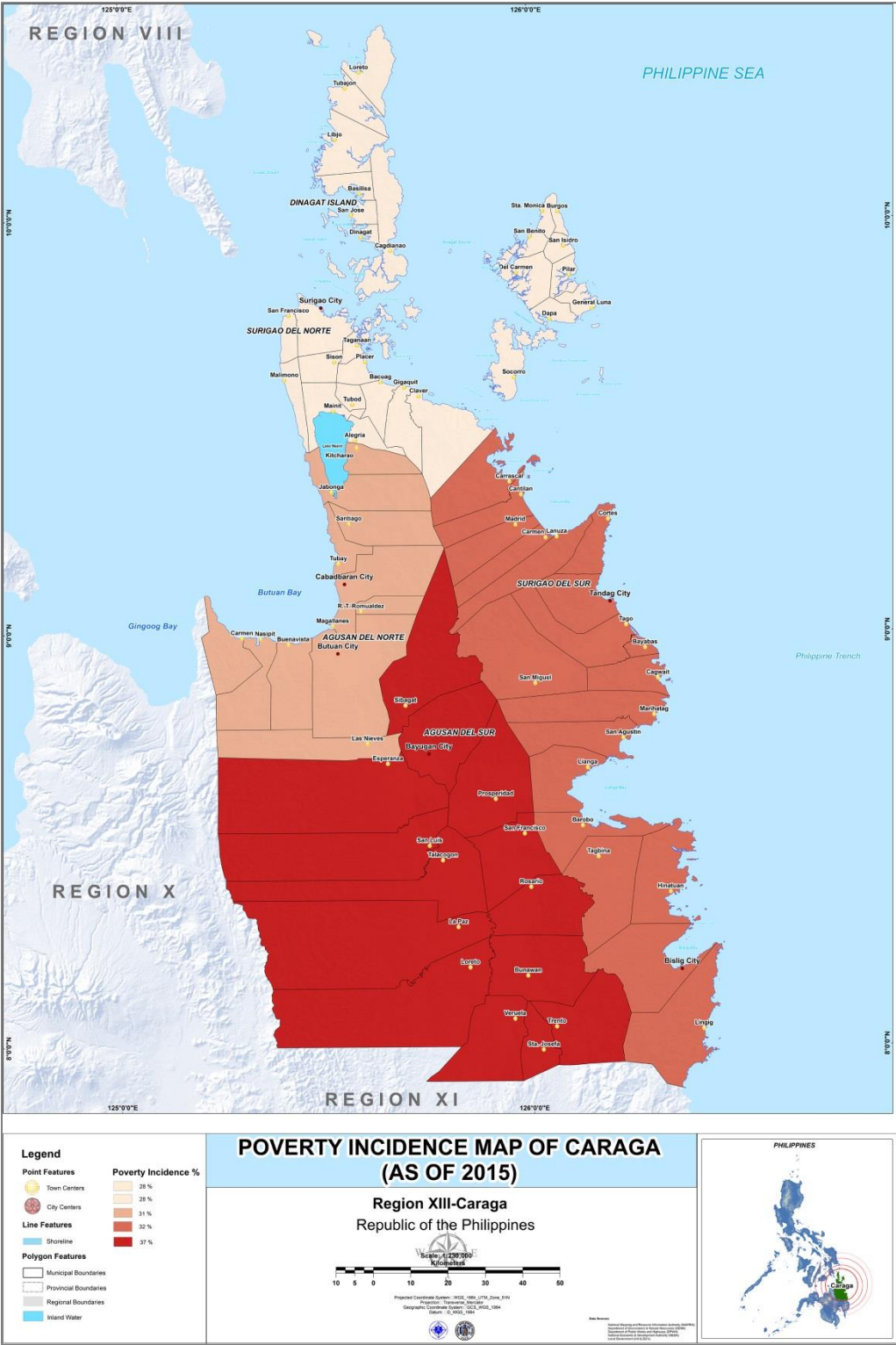
REGION/PROVINCE	PER CAPITA POVERTY THRESHOLD (IN PESOS)			POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG FAMILIES ESTIMATES (%)		
	2012	2015	VARIANCE (%)	2012	2015	% POINT CHANGE
Philippines	18,935	21,753	14.88%	19.7	16.5	(3.2)
Caraga	19,629	22,570	14.98%	31.9	30.8	(1.1)
Agusan del Norte	18,905	21,535	13.91%	27.7	28.1	0.4
Agusan del Sur	19,634	22,957	16.92%	37.3	37.0	(0.3)
Surigao del Norte	20,566	23,057	12.11%	33.8	26.7	(7.1)
Surigao del Sur	19,287	22,759	18.00%	28.3	32.0	3.7

Source: PSA

The occurrence of calamities in 2013 and 2014 adversely affected the agriculture, forestry, and manufacturing subsectors consequently distressing employment. Further, the implementation of Executive

Order No. 23 also affected employment in the forestry subsector. Agusan del Sur was the most affected as its main sources of employment are agriculture and forestry.

Map 15.1 Poverty Incidence, Caraga Region, 2015



Among the basic sectors, farmers, children, and fishermen were identified as the poorest sectors in the region averaging 60.0 percent, 57.1 percent, and 52.3 percent, respectively. Poverty incidence among

children refers to the proportion of children below 18 year old with per capita income less than the per capita poverty threshold to the total number of children.

Table 15.12 Poverty Statistics for the Basic Sectors, Caraga , 2006, 2009, 2012

BASIC SECTOR	POVERTY INCIDENCE			AVE
	2006	2009	2012	
Women	48.5	52.5	39.7	46.9
Youth	44.1	47.3	35.5	42.3
Children	58.3	63.4	49.7	57.1
Senior Citizens	33.2	39.0	24.1	32.1
Individuals Residing in Urban Areas	36.5	39.3	29.9	35.3
Migrant and Formal Sector Workers	36.8	39.8	28.1	34.9
Farmers	54.0	57.5	45.5	52.3
Fishermen	61.8	68.6	49.6	60.0
Self-employed and Unpaid Family Workers	49.2	54.6	37.4	47.1
Employed Population	42.6	46.9	32.9	40.8
Unemployed Population	34.8	50.9	41.6	42.4

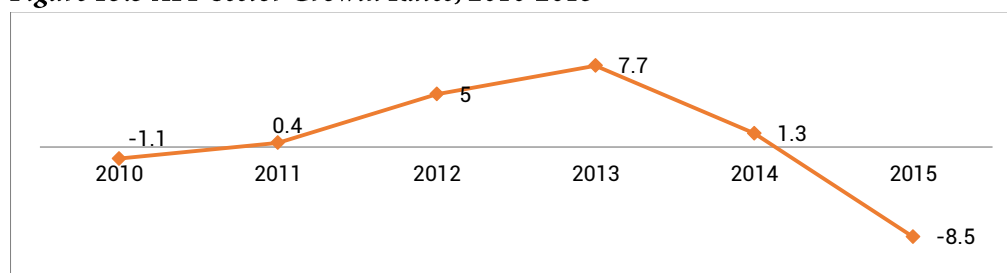
Source: PSA

Challenges

Declining performance of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (AFF) sector. Contraction of the AFF sector was evident in 2014; the sector's performance further declined in 2015. Damaged irrigation

facilities due to Typhoon Pablo and the recent El Niño phenomenon in the third and fourth quarters of 2015 contributed to the weakened performance of the sector.

Figure 15.5 AFF Sector Growth Rates, 2010-2015



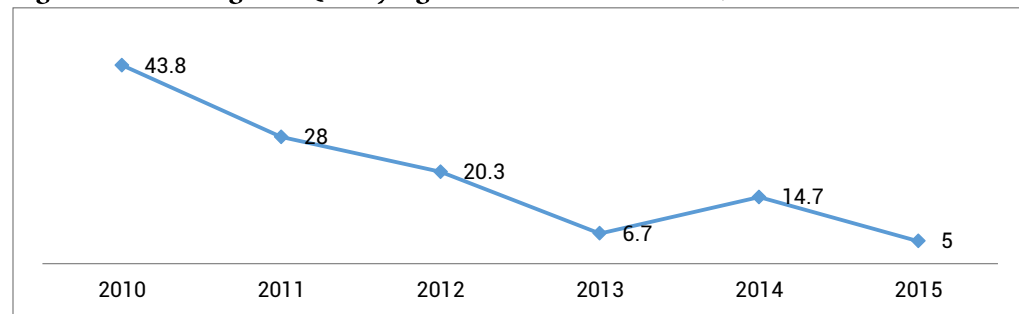
Source: PSA

Slowdown in mining and quarrying. The overall performance of MAQ subsector gradually slowed down over time. Its growth rates reached its lowest in 2015 at

five percent with the drop in the prices of metal in the global market. Operating mining companies in the region slowed down their production activities to cut

losses. The Mining and Quarrying (MAQ) with stricter regulation of operating subsector might continue to decelerate mining companies in the region.

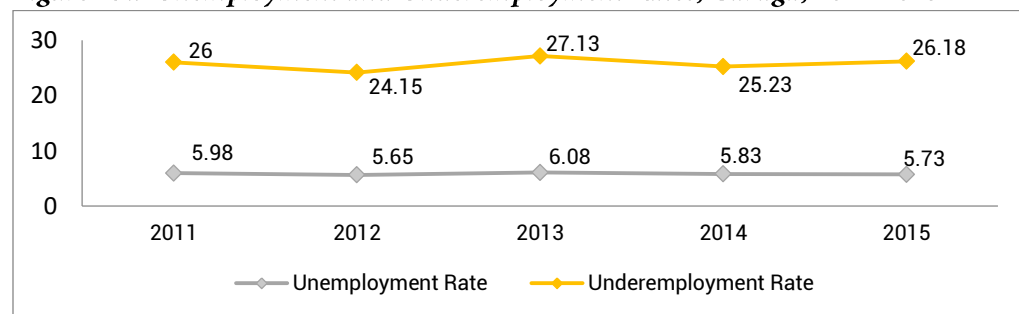
Figure 15.6 Mining and Quarrying Subsector Growth Rates, 2010-2015



Source: PSA

High underemployment levels. region are mostly in low-productivity jobs that do not pay enough to get the workers and their families out of poverty. Underemployment in Caraga region averages at 25.74 percent. Workers in the

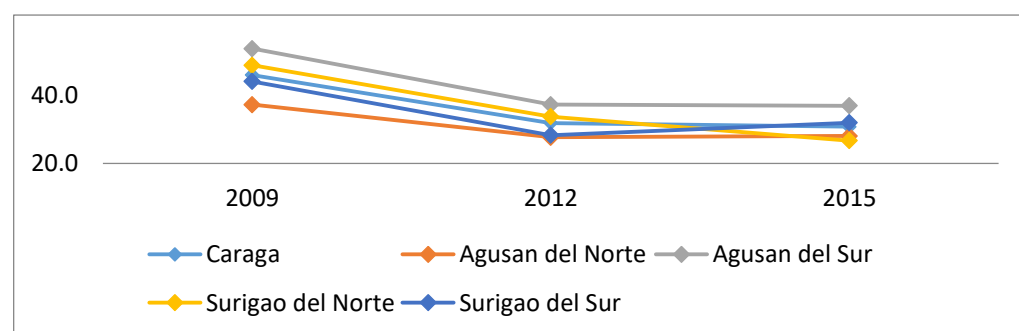
Figure 15.7 Unemployment and Underemployment Rates, Caraga, 2011-2015



Source: PSA

High poverty incidence. Despite the failed to achieve its MDG Target of 18.80 percent poverty incidence among families. reduced poverty incidence in the region, poverty remains high and the region has

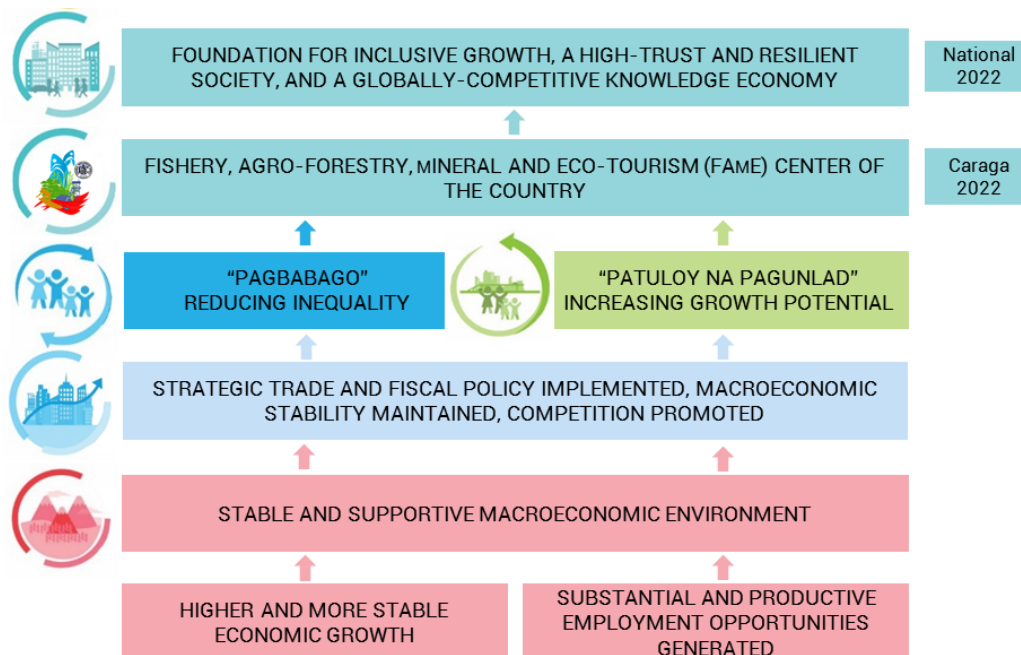
Figure 15.8 Poverty Incidence, Caraga, Provinces, 2009, 2012, 2015



Source: PSA

Strategic Framework

Figure 15.9 Strategic Framework to Sustain a Stable and Supportive Macroeconomic Environment



Sub-sector Outcome: Higher and more stable economic growth that generates substantial and productive employment

Diversify the region's economy. With the AFF sector being prone to climate-related hazards or weather disturbances and with stricter regulation of mining companies in the region due to non-compliance with environmental standards, it is imperative to diversify the region's economy particularly by promoting more value-adding and processing activities in agriculture and forestry, and the operationalization of the proposed special

economic zones. Further, there is a need to explore the development of a knowledge-based economy in the region. Developing a knowledge-based economy requires investments in the education system, research and development, and information technology.

Upgrade the skills of the region's human resources. Considering the high underemployment levels of the region, this strategy entails conducting initiatives to train and retrain the pool of workers. Continuous building of capacities will allow workers to shift to higher skill jobs that will eventually strengthen job matching in the region, thus, improving Caraga's employment structure.

Provide adequate infrastructure facilities.

The region requires a more stable power supply, more concrete roads and bridges that will provide redundant access to key production areas and tourism sites, functional irrigation facilities, improved airports and seaports, digital infrastructure, social infrastructure including health facilities and solid waste management facilities.

Ensure public support for and enhance social assistance and livelihood programs.

The social protection programs are essential interventions to improve the quality of lives of marginalized Caraganons. The region must ensure proper implementation of these programs in order to allow those living in extreme as well as moderate poverty to participate in and benefit from the developments of the region.

16

Leveling the
Playing Field
through a National
Competition Policy

Leveling the Playing Field through a National Competition Policy

Competition matters as it promotes the efficient production of goods and services and induces better resource allocation. In some instances, however, intense competition may not always result in allocative efficiency due to market failures that may require some limitations in competition. Based on this premise, competition policy is essential in safeguarding, protecting, and promoting competition and the competitive process as well as ensuring that market is able to function effectively and efficiently.¹ Competition policy guarantees that no firm would exploit its market power and carries out competition rules that would follow the competitive process and avert the effects of market failures in price allocation function.²

The National Competition Policy (NCP) Framework, as enshrined in the PDP 2017-2022, spells-out the strategic courses of actions to expand the country's economic opportunities and improve access to said opportunities by providing an enabling mechanism that rebukes anti-competitive practices and agreements, expedites the entry of market players, and espouses regulatory reforms to attract investments and promote innovations. Apparently, significant successes have already resulted from promoting market competition, such as in the case of the privatization of water utilities, the participation of new players in the telecommunication sector, and the lifting of PAL's franchise, which facilitated the entry of new players and subsequently reduce airline fares. At the subnational level, regional mechanisms are in place to assess the competitiveness of provinces, cities, and municipalities based on the three pillars of competitiveness, which are economic dynamism, government efficiency, and infrastructure development.

¹Medalla, Erlinda M. 2003. *Understanding competition policy*. *The Philippine Review of Economic*, 40(1). <http://pre.econ.upd.edu.ph/index.php/pre/article/viewFile/13/577>

²Medalla, Erlinda M. 2003. *Philippine competition policy in perspective*. <http://dirp3.pids.gov.ph/ris/books/pidsbk03-ppscompetition.pdf>

Assessment

National Competition Policy (NCP) Framework

For the last five years, the government instituted significant legislative measures to improve the country's competitiveness in trade and investments. In 2013, Republic Act No. 10641 was enacted allowing the full entry of foreign banks in the Philippines. Among others, said law provides foreign banks the authority to own up to 100 percent of the voting stock of a domestic bank, or establish a foreign branch with full banking authority.

The passage of RA No. 10667 (Philippine Competition Act) and RA No. 10668 (Foreign Ship Co-Loading Act) followed in 2014 and 2015, respectively. These landmark measures are essential in improving the country's global competitiveness and readiness for ASEAN economic integration. RA No. 10667 provides for the formulation of the National Competition Policy (NCP) that will guide government's regulation and administrative procedures to stimulate competition; bolsters the enforcement of anti-trust laws and effectively safeguard competitive neutrality; and provides the creation of the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC).

On the other hand, RA No. 10668 amended RA No. 1937 (Tariff and Customs code of the Philippines) and RA No. 9295 (Domestic Shipping Development Act of 2004) that limit the domestic coastwise trade to Philippine vessels. With the new law, the activities of the foreign vessels have been expanded to enable the conveyance of cargoes to final port of destination after being cleared at the Philippine port of entry³. Accordingly, the former strengthens the implementation of the latter by leveling the playing fields for all sectors operating in the country. As noted, the protection long enjoyed by the domestic shipping industry through the Cabotage law restriction resulted in the lack of meaningful competition in the shipping industry and provided weak incentives for operators to modernize and become competitive⁴.

Industry Competitiveness

The region's economy is heavily dependent on the development and utilization of its natural resources. Despite a surfeit of these natural endowments, the performance of the region's priority industries have weakened particularly the agriculture, forestry, and fishery (AFF) sector despite good climatic condition, fertile soil, and long coastlines.

³DTI Policy Paper (2016). *Policy considerations to improve coastwise trade*. <http://industry.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Beyond-Republic-Act-No-10668-Policy-Considerations-to-Improve-Coastwise-Trade.pdf>

⁴Llanto, Gilberto M., et al. 2014. *Toward relaxing the cabotage restrictions in maritime transport*. <http://dirp3.pids.gov.ph/webportal/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidspn1403.pdf>

Specifically, the agricultural subsector's performance for several years have been sluggish due to inadequate pre- and post-harvest facilities, limited access to financing, and high vulnerability to natural hazards.

The region has an extensive coastline. However, the fishery subsector's performance is declining due to lack of value-adding activities and post-harvest facilities. While there have been anecdotal reports about marine products being exported from the region, these have not been properly accounted for due to the absence of a product consolidation mechanism and inadequate port facilities.

The region has been tagged as the Timber Corridor supplying almost 70 percent of the country's log production. However, the stringent provisions of Executive Order No. 23 prohibiting the harvesting in natural grown and residual forests and the difficulty in securing the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) in forests within CADTs have caused the closure of several wood processing plants (WPPs) that affected the performance of the wood industry of the region in the last five (5) years. Apart from that, the region's forest products particularly round logs have been brought to other regions for processing due to low buying prices of local wood processing plants, which has been attributed to the presence of middlemen and the fees and taxes levied by LGUs.

Rich in mineral deposits, the region is considered as the new mining capital of the

country. However, most of the mineral ores have been exported as raw materials to other foreign countries due to absence of processing plants in the region.

On the other hand, the region is rich in culture and history, which is a great potential for cultural tourism development. Nonetheless, the region's share in the country's tourist arrivals has been minimal primarily due to the lack of facilities and amenities, geographic constraint, inadequate transportation facilities, and insurgency.

Local Competitiveness

For the last three (3) years, 100% of the six cities, and 67 municipalities of the region participated in the Local Competitiveness Survey commissioned by the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) of the Philippines. This feat was achieved through the support of the RDC, the Regional Competitiveness Committee (RCC) and the assistance of DTI, DILG and other regional line agencies. In 2014, the RDC passed Resolution No. 46, "Enjoining the Local Government Units in Caraga Region to Participate in the 2015 Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index."

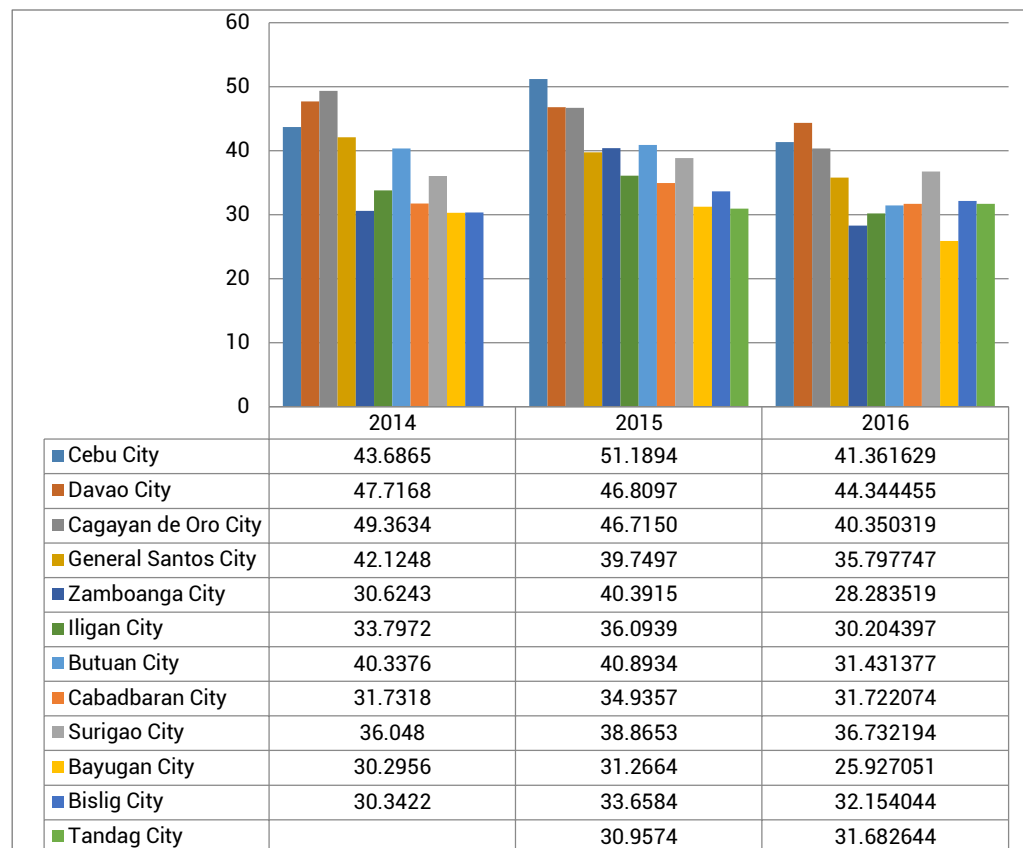
In 2015, the NCC added the provinces in the annual survey. For that year, Agusan del Norte ranked 7th with an overall score of 35.70 points. Meanwhile, Butuan City was ranked 19th among the 142 cities with a competitiveness score of 38.89.

In terms of major pillars, Butuan was ranked 14th in Economic Dynamism, 14th in Government Efficiency, and 37th in Infrastructure. The Municipality of San Francisco, Agusan del Sur moved up from its 41st rank in 2014 to 27th in 2015. It also ranked 6th in Government Efficiency.

The assessment of cities and municipalities cover three pillars, namely, economic dynamism, government efficiency and infrastructures; while the provincial ranking was based on two parameters, total population, and total number of participating LGUs.

The total number of participating LGUs varies annually, which affects the ranking of the participating LGUs. In 2014, the number of participating LGUs is twice the number that joined in 2013. In 2014, Butuan City ranked 16th with an overall competitiveness score of 40.34. In 2015, 1,120 LGUs participated, showing an increment of almost 110 percent. The three cycles of assessment show that Butuan City and Surigao City, considered regional centers of Caraga, are fairly competitive compared to the other cities in Visayas and Mindanao.

Figure 16.1 Overall Competitiveness Index of the Region's Cities and Selected Cities Outside the Region, 2014-2016



Source: NCC

At the regional level, the survey indicates that the Competitiveness Index (CI) of the provinces declined for the last two (2) years, which could be due to the inconsistent performance of the cities. Only Tandag City exhibited an improving CI for the period 2014-2016. Nonetheless,

Butuan City was ranked 13th in terms of Economic Dynamism, 20th in Infrastructure, and 24th in Government Efficiency in 2014. The Caraga LGUs' ranking were affected by the entry of more LGUs especially those that are generally perceived as more competitive.

Table 16.1 Competitiveness Ranking, Caraga, 2013

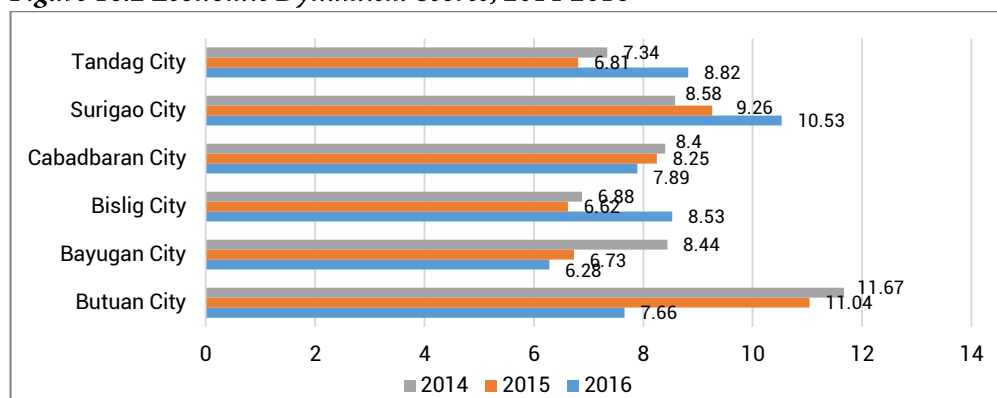
LGU CATEGORY			2014		2015		2016	
			INDEX	RANKING	INDEX	RANKING	INDEX	RANKING
Province	Agusan del Norte		-	-	35.70	7	25.45	26
	Agusan del Sur		-	-	29.67	27	23.06	47
	Dinagat Islands		-	-	26.99	45	21.04	61
	Surigao del Norte		-	-	30.11	26	25.27	27
	Surigao del Sur		-	-	26.69	48	23.96	33
Cities	Butuan City		40.34	16	38.19	19	31.43	23
	Cabadbaran City		31.73	62	33.07	68	31.72	63
	Surigao City		36.05	29	34.50	50	36.73	34
	Tandag City		30.19	80	29.28	109	31.68	63
	Bislig City		30.34	77	31.16	88	32.15	62
	Bayugan City		30.29	78	28.95	112	25.92	92

Source: NCC

On Economic Dynamism, which is associated with activities that facilitate the expansion of businesses and industries, only Surigao City displayed steady improvements. From a score of 8.58 in 2014, its economic dynamism increased to 10.53 in 2016. Butuan City, which is the

Regional Center, suffered a significant downturn. Its score in economic dynamism declined from 11.67 in 2014 to 7.66 in 2016. Bayugan City shared the fate of Butuan City. Its economic dynamism score dropped to 6.28 in 2016, the lowest among the cities in Caraga.

Figure 16.2 Economic Dynamism Scores, 2014-2016

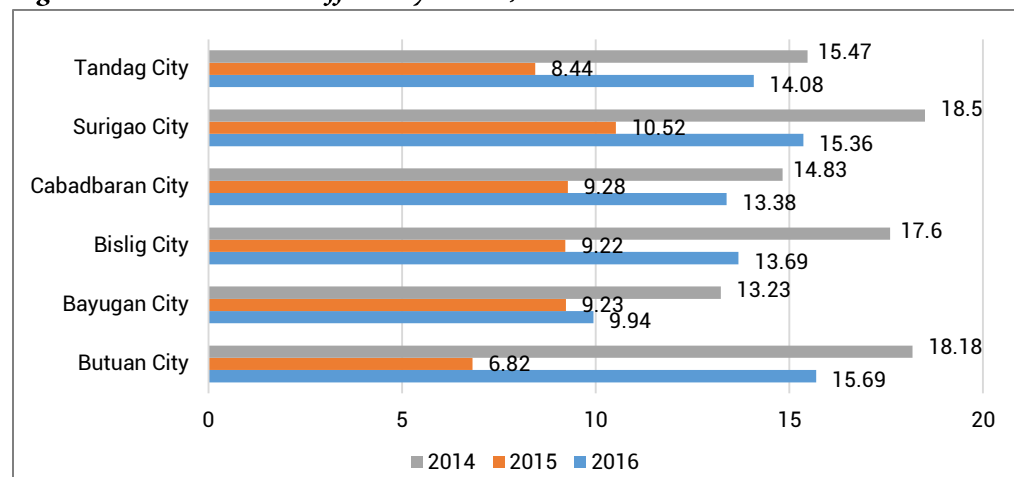


Source: NCC

In terms of government efficiency, which refers to the quality and reliability of government services and support for effective and sustainable productive expansion, Butuan City has the lowest mark in 2015; Surigao City has the highest.

Nonetheless, Butuan City bounced back in 2016 besting the other cities in the region with a score of 15.69; Bayugan City occupied the bottom spot with a score of 9.94. The collective performance of the cities weakened in 2016 compared to 2014.

Figure 16.3 Government Efficiency Scores, 2014-2016

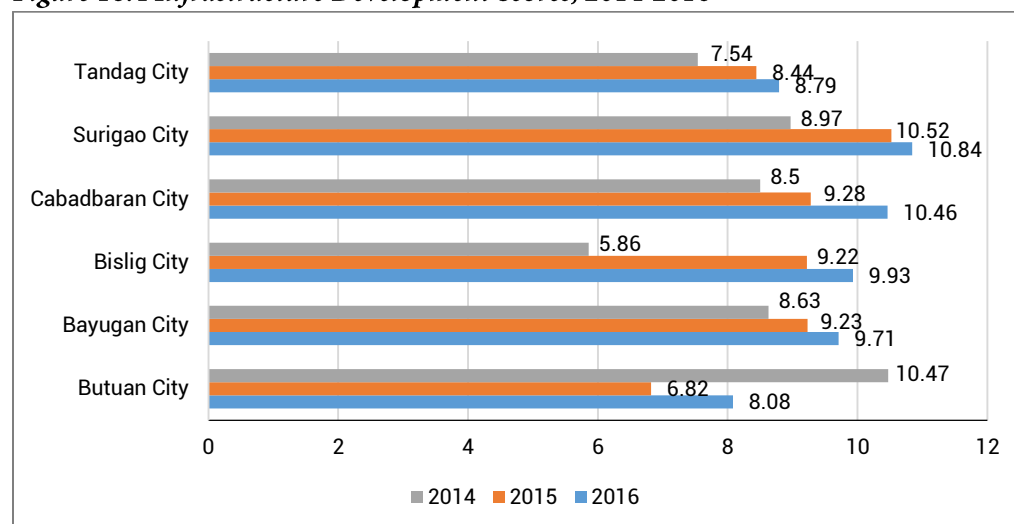


Source: NCC

On the state of infrastructure development, all the component cities fared well in the last three rounds of assessments. Only Butuan City displayed an erratic performance. From a score of 10.47 in

2014, Butuan City's performance significantly dropped to 6.82 in 2015. But its performance on infrastructure development slightly improved in 2016.

Figure 16.4 Infrastructure Development Scores, 2014-2016



Source: NCC

Challenges

Market actions by some private entities and government corporations render market competition inefficient. Some actions/undertakings of private sector cause market competition to become inefficient: anti-competitive business agreements (cartels); abuse of a dominant market position; and anti-mergers and acquisition. On the other hand, the preferential treatment provided to state-owned enterprises (SOEs) contradicts the primary purpose of PCA.

Conflicting government policies that limit the entry and expansion of investments. Despite the passage of PCA, there are other laws, policies, and guidelines that hinder competition as in the case of conflicting provisions between forestry and environmental laws and indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA)

affecting the operations of several wood processing plants.

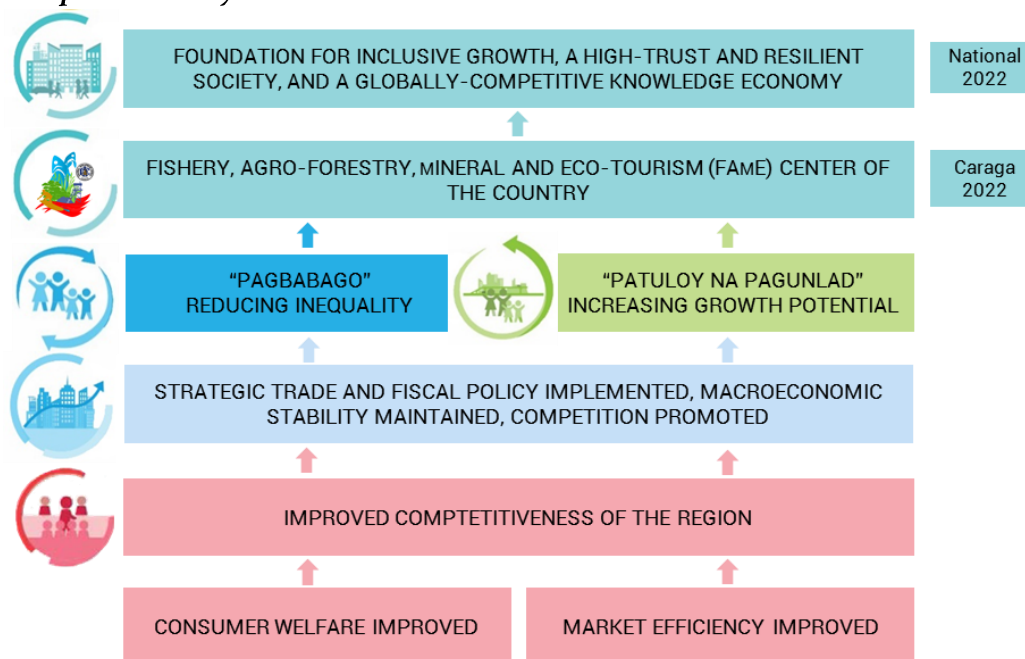
Difficulty of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to access credit. The long list of documentary and compulsory collateral requirements and high interest rates discourage the MSMEs from availing of credit financing.

Inadequate infrastructure. The region's infrastructure requirements is considerable, particularly those that provide connectivity to agricultural production areas, potential growth areas and major tourism areas. Geographically-constrained areas, as in the case of Dinagat Islands and Siargao Islands, require not only an efficient and effective inter-island RORO, but also secured and reliable energy and water and ICT facilities.

Strategic Framework

This strategic framework focuses on improving consumer welfare and market efficiency. To do so, the region needs to enhance its business environment to pump-prime the region's economy.

Figure 16.5 Strategic Framework to Level the Playing Field through National Competition Policy



Subsector 1. Consumer welfare improved

Increase awareness on consumer-related laws and rights. DTI and LGUs should intensify the conduct of IEC activities to heighten consumer rights awareness, thus, protecting consumers against abusive business establishments.

Subsector 2. Market efficiency improved

Reduce, if not eliminate anti-competitive practices. The following will be pursued:

- Review of potentially anti-competitive legislations and policies that may substantially prevent, restrict, or lessen competitions.
- Promote the use of ICT among business enterprises for transparency.

Reduce barriers to entry and limits to entrepreneurship. This will involve the following:

- Establish a level playing field for big and small enterprises;
- Pursue the institutionalization of Joint Administrative Order of DA-DAR-DENR-LRA-NCIP to harmonize conflicting policies, processes, and administrative guidelines;
- Strengthen the institutionalization of the LGUs' Business Permits and Licensing System (BPLS);
- Promote the rationalization of the LGUs' local taxation systems and incentive mechanisms to attract investments;
- Accelerate the upgrading and/or development of infrastructures, such as, road networks, transportation facilities (land, ports and airports), and ICT;
- Strengthen the industry clustering initiatives as a value chain-based mechanism approach to establish economies of scale and foster competitiveness of the region's priority products and services; and
- Enable MSMEs to scale up and multiply by providing direct access to information, easing of the documentary and technical requirements for credit financing, and supporting market access and innovations.

Legislative Agenda

National Government to amend Executive Order No. 170, Series of 2003 to promote the expansion of RORO services to include

cargo containers in inter-island shipping services.

PART VI

FOUNDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



17

Attaining Just
and Lasting
Peace

Attaining Just and Lasting Peace

Enduring peace is a critical and essential element of inclusive development. In Caraga, communities that experience armed conflict are among the poorest. Families that belong to these communities have to be always ready to leave their homes whenever fighting erupts. Consequently, these families are unable to build assets, and only a few put up businesses because they fear for their safety and also because they cannot secure their properties. Further, schoolchildren in these areas are sometimes forced to quit schooling, leaving them unprepared to take on the future.

Cognizant of the importance of a just and lasting peace, the Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) crafted the Caraga Roadmap for Peace to address the decades-long causes of conflicts in the region. This chapter takes off from the essential elements of the said roadmap and identifies peace building and development strategies that the region will implement in the next six years.

Assessment

Caraga has identified the following major conflict lines that disturb the peace and thus, delay development in the region, these are: (a) insurgency, (b) resource-based conflicts; and (c) conflicts affecting indigenous people.

Insurgency

The persistence of insurgency in the region is attributed to several factors or reasons, namely, injustice, human rights violations, lack of respect for indigenous cultures, poverty, and lack of education.

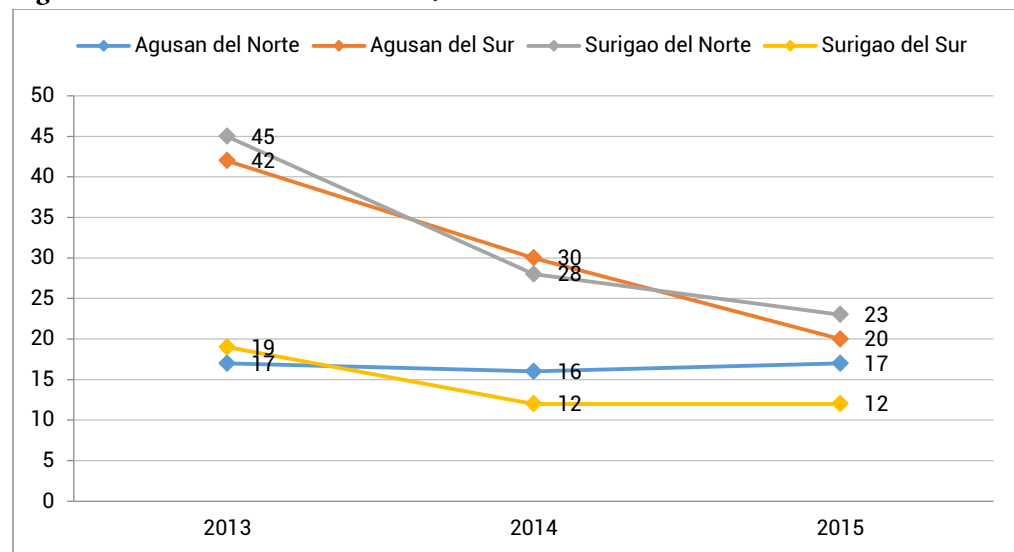
For the period 2013-2015, the violent

activities of the Communist Part of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF) decreased from 123 in 2013 to 72 in 2015, while the non-violent activities showed an erratic trend. Among the violent activities, harassments recorded the most number while *harbouring* is the most frequent form of non-violent activity of the CPP/NPA/NDF. The provinces of Surigao del Norte and Agusan del Sur have the most number of violent incidents for the period 2013-2015 while Agusan del Norte posted the highest number of non-violent incidents.

The downtrend in violent activities is attributed to the successful law enforcement operations and the collaboration of local government units (LGUs), regional government agencies, and other key stakeholders through the whole of nation approach.

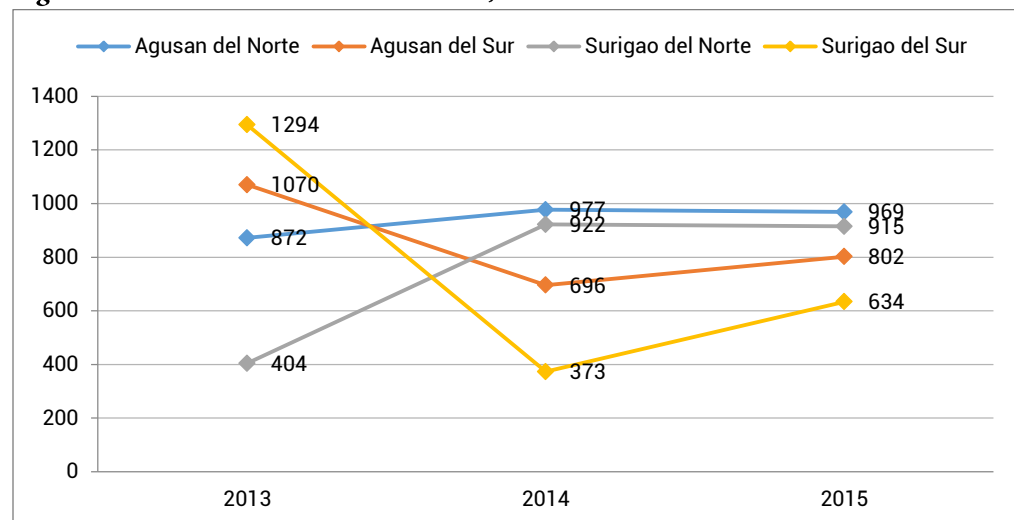
All provinces in the region are now declared by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as conflict manageable and ready for further development with the LGUs taking the lead role in addressing issues on security, public order, and safety in their own respective areas while the military plays a supporting role.

Figure 17.1 NPA Violent Activities, 2013-2015



Source: NICA

Figure 17.2 NPA Non-Violent Activities, 2013-2015



Source: NICA

Resource-Based Conflicts

Disputes over natural resources are considered stumbling blocks to the attainment of peace and the sustainability of development in the region. Situations that resulted in violent conflicts and instability includes the proliferation of unregulated small scale mining activities, illegal cutting of trees and the transport of these illegally obtained forest products, illegal fishing practices, and overlapping tenure instruments.

The seeming lack of political will in addressing these issues and the perceived

weakness in the enforcement of environmental laws are due to the alleged involvement of some DENR, PNP, and AFP personnel as well as some government officials in these illegal and corrupt practices. There is also alleged lack of compliance to environmental safeguards by some mining companies.

Many offenders have been apprehended but only a few have been actually convicted. The table below shows a 128 percent increase in the number of arrested personalities due to illegal logging from 2013 to 2015. Out of the 185 arrested, no one was convicted in 2015.

Table 17.1 Illegal Logging Activities, Caraga, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Number of Persons Arrested	81	141	185
Number of Cases Filed	24	45	32
Cases Pending at the Prosecutor's Office	1	32	16
Dismissed	3	1	2
Under Court Litigation	13	9	14
Convicted	7	3	0

Source: PNP Caraga/DENR Caraga

Conflicts Affecting the Indigenous People

Conflicts affecting the Indigenous People's communities are perceived to be caused by poverty, alleged greed on the part of some IP leaders, and lack of coordination among agencies in the implementation of policies, programs, and projects for IPs. Other reasons identified are questions on the legitimacy of some IP leaders, IP's lack of access to land and other resources, perceived lack of priority for IPs in government and private sector interventions, conflicting policies of government in terms of land distribution,

non-recognition of IP rights over ancestral domains, and conflict between cultural practices and tenure requirements. Among IPs within a CADT, conflicts arise from inequitable distribution of wealth and mismanagement of royalties. A huge portion of the royalty is entrusted to leaders and it is alleged that these have been used for personal gains rather than for community development.

Currently, peace building and socio-economic development programs are implemented that build both physical and social infrastructures in conflict-vulnerable areas at the regional, provincial, and barangay levels.

The following programs serve as the “complementary track” to peace negotiations:

PAyapa at MASaganang PAmayaNan (PAMANA)

Out of the 28 projects targeted for implementation in 2015, 19 or 68 percent

of the projects are on-going, six or 21 percent are completed, two or 7 percent are still in the procurement stage while one project is still for approval. The projects cost PhP 841,850,000.00; this amount has already been obligated but only PhP 687,396,148.28 or 81.65 percent has been disbursed.

Table 17.2 PAMANA Projects, 2015

PARTICULARS	TARGET	ACCOMPLISHMENT	ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT
No. of LGUs provided with financial subsidy	28	24	86%
- Cities	1		
- Provinces	4		
No. of projects implemented/monitored	28	28	100%
- Completed		6	21%
- On-going		19	68%
- On-procurement process		2	7%
For approval		1	4%
Total Project Cost (PhP) and % Obligated (Subsidy to LGUs)	841,850,000	841,850,000	100%
Amount and % Disbursed (Subsidy to LGUs)	678,730,000	687,396,148	101%

Source: DILG Caraga

Conflict Sensitive Resource and Asset Management (COSERAM)

The German International Cooperation (GIZ) implements the Conflict Sensitive Resource and Asset Management (COSERAM) program in the region. This project is geared towards managing resource-based conflict and providing

assistance to the local population in the areas of forestry, coastal management, agriculture, and municipal management of resources such as waters and others.

Below is the advisory services and technical assistance provided by COSERAM to the region:

Table 17.3 COSERAM Programs/Projects, 2015

PROJECTS	ACCOMPLISHMENT
Peace Building and Development Needs	1 Roadmap for Peace
Land Use Planning and Resource Management	17 agreements formulated
Titling and Natural Resource management in Ancestral Domains	12 local authorities within the ancestral domains benefitted
Access to Legal Aid and Paralegal Services, Rights	7 lawyers and 20 law students supported the

PROJECTS	ACCOMPLISHMENT
Awareness and Conflict Transformation Mechanisms	village; 12 barangays have undertaken proper monitoring of the legal and paralegal aid services of the local mediation boards
Indigenous Practices for Conservation of Biodiversity	25 IP researchers have documented the IP practices

Source: COSERAM, 2015

Challenges

Despite the effort of various stakeholders, the following challenges still persist in the region:

Alleged regrouping and intensified recruitment of the NPA while the ceasefire is on-going. Amid the ceasefire being observed by the government and communist rebels, there have been reports that the latter have actually taken advantage of the situation and intensified recruitment activities.

Continued existence of the New People's Army in the region. Insurgency has gained a foothold in Caraga despite the expansion of the economy of the region, the palpable signs of development in the cities and even rural areas, and the collaboration of law enforcers, local government units, and other stakeholders. The persistence of poverty and the inequitable access to resources fan the flames of the insurgency fire.

Lack of funding for the operationalization of the Community Integrated Territorial Defense System (CITDS) in the Barangays. The operationalization of a Community Integrated Territorial Defense System (CITDS) in the barangays would facilitate the early detection and prevention of lawless elements but it remains as a challenge because only a few are active. And fewer have sustained financial support.

Resource-based conflict in Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) areas. This issue greatly affects the IP communities. This also includes conflicts in tenure instruments issued by various government agencies such as the DENR (CBFM), DAR (CLOA), and the NCIP (CADT).

Strategic Framework

Figure 17.3 Strategic Framework in Attaining Just and Lasting Peace



Objective 1: Security Sector Reformed, Strengthened, and Modernized

Objective 2: Peace process observed and peace agreements strictly implemented

Mainstream Integrated Territorial Defense System (ITDS) in the Local Peace and Order Public Safety Plan. The ITDS is designed to fast track military and police action and response in barangays. Thus, it should be considered in the Local Peace and Order Safety Plans.

Integrate development and economic programs in the 4ID Campaign Plan. This will deal with community improvement activities that could help remove the root causes of insurgency and encourage/catalyze socio-economic development in the community.

Empower the Barangay Peace and Order Council to prevent the resurgence of insurgency. BPOCs are the main Barangay Peacekeepers. Their empowerment will strengthen internal security operations and thwart the organizing and mobilization works of insurgent groups.

Continue Efforts on Bayanihan Team Activity (BTA) or Community Organizing for Peace and Development Outreach Program (COPDOP). This will address insurgency and other related issues that affect the peace and order situation of a locality that wishes to pursue change and development. The effort will include operationalization of BTA oversight and advisory committees.

Sustain Information and Education in IP Communities. Sustained IEC will ensure that IPs are informed about right to self-determination and cultural integrity, thus averting abuse and exploitation.

Empower IPs. This could be done through provision of scholarships and grants to IPs and ensuring their graduation from college.

Create a monitoring committee that will assess the effectiveness of Royalty Tax

given to IPs through the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC). This committee will ensure that the use of royalties and other taxes will appropriately benefit the IPs.

Prioritize AFP Target Areas as Recipients of Priority Projects of LGUs/RLAs. Coordination and consultation with AFP is needed in identifying projects intended for the rebel infested areas, in order to properly address their needs.

Programs and Projects

- Establishment of Integrated Territorial Defense System (ITDS) in all barangays funded by the respective LGUs
- Ceasefire Implementation
- Livelihood Enhancement Programs
- IP educational/scholarship grants
- PAMANA Programs
- Conflict-Sensitive Resource and Asset Management
- Royalty Tax Monitoring Committee
- Peace Caravans
 - IP-Kahimunan
- Peoples Advocacy for Collaboration and Empowerment
- Mindanao Week of Peace Annual Celebration
- Caraga Conference of Peace and Development

18

Ensuring
Security,
Public Order,
and Safety

Ensuring Security, Public Order, and Safety

Like peace, security and public order are essential and critical elements of inclusive development. People need to feel safe wherever they are in the country to be able to go about their economic and social endeavours. When security is assured and there is public order, investments will flow, businesses will thrive, and the people will be free from fear to pursue their own personal development.

Caraga region's security situation remains relatively stable. This was made possible by sustained government interventions like the joint public safety operations conducted by the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The implementation of crime prevention measures under the Community-Based Programs/Community Oriented Policing System (COPS) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) such as Operation Lambat-Sibat, Oplan Tambuli, Patrol 101, and others have promoted safety and public order in the region. This chapter discusses about building on the gains and innovating for security and public order.

Assessment

Criminality

General overview

Prevalence of crimes is a major concern in the region. From 2013 to 2014, crime volume increased by 24.31 percent. Thus, the region failed to achieve its target of reducing crime volume by 20 percent. According to Police Regional Office 13 (PRO 13) the increase is due to better recording and reporting with the implementation of the enhanced system of

recording of crimes instituted by the National Headquarters of the Philippine National Police. From 2014 to 2015, Caraga's crime situation improved when crime volume declined by 14.71 percent.

While the huge increase in the average monthly crime rate in 2014 was alarming, it significantly declined by 13.02 percent in 2015. However, the region targeted a 43.46% average monthly crime rate in 2015, thus, its performance is 3.04 percent short of the target.

Table 18.1 Crime Volume, Caraga, 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
Crime Volume	13,517	16,803	14,331
Index Crime	6,387	6,638	5,194
Non-Index Crime	7,130	10,165	9,137
Average Monthly Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)	43.82	53.46	46.50

Source: PNP Caraga

The table below shows the crime situation per province. In 2013, the province of Surigao del Norte posted the highest crime volume and average monthly crime rate.

However, in 2014 and 2015, Butuan City (the lone chartered city) overtook Surigao del Norte.

Table 18.2 Crime Volume, by Province. Caraga Region, 2013-2015

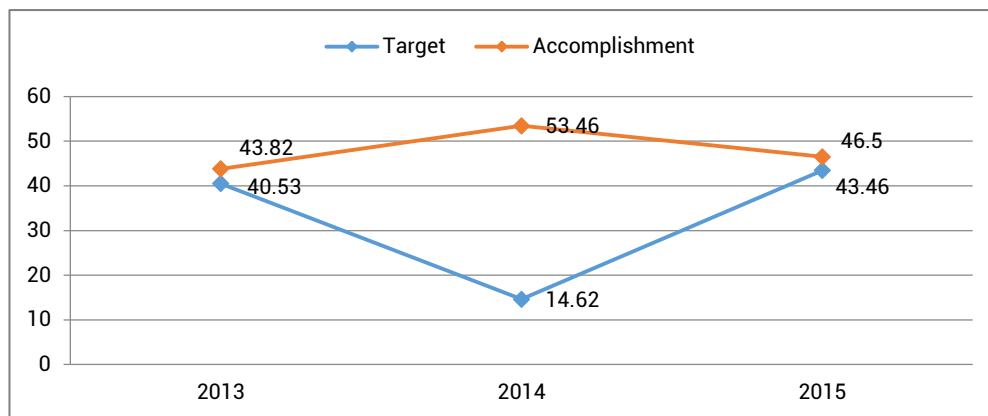
	2013	2014	2015
Crime Volume			
Butuan City	1,930	4,831	4,373
Agusan del Norte	1,389	1,116	1,056
Agusan del Sur	1,559	2,619	2,406
Surigao del Norte	4,786	4,258	3,131
Surigao del Sur	3,619	3,555	2,808
Province of Dinagat Islands	234	424	557
Index Crime			
Butuan City	800	1,848	1,592
Agusan del Norte	715	443	300
Agusan del Sur	667	905	703
Surigao del Norte	2,321	1,796	1,319
Surigao del Sur	1,762	1,436	1,039
Province of Dinagat Islands	122	210	241
Non-Index Crime			
Butuan City	1,130	2,983	2,781
Agusan del Norte	674	673	756
Agusan del Sur	892	1,714	1,703
Surigao del Norte	2,465	2,462	1,812
Surigao del Sur	1,857	2,119	1,769
Province of Dinagat Islands	112	214	316
Average Monthly Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)			
Butuan City	49.08	120.56	107.10
Agusan del Norte	32.90	25.94	24.09
Agusan del Sur	18.71	30.84	27.80
Surigao del Norte	85.17	74.36	53.66
Surigao del Sur	50.79	48.96	37.95
Province of Dinagat Islands	14.53	25.84	33.32

Source: PNP Caraga

The decreasing average monthly crime rate in 2015 can be attributed to the implementation of conflict-sensitive initiatives and interventions by the PNP and AFP, such as deployment of more patrollers on the streets especially in crime prone areas and the implementation of the Oplan Lambat-Sibat, Oplan Tambuli,

Patrol 101, Command Memorandum Circular Tigbantay, Awareness Campaign on the PNP PATROL Plan 2030, region-wide AFP-PNP combat operations, 24/7 checkpoints, and deployment/utilization of K9 units along regional boundaries and in public convergence points.

Figure 18.1 Average Monthly Crime Rate, Target vs Accomplishment, 2013-2015

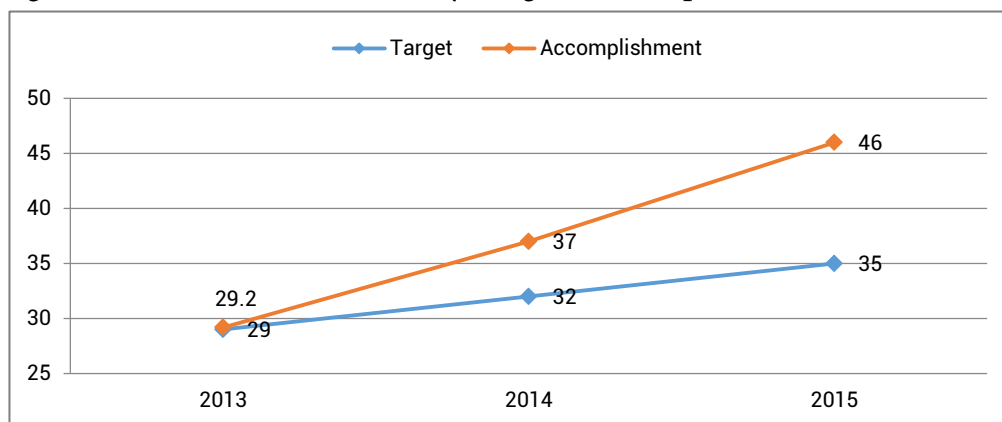


Source: PNP Caraga

For the period 2013-2015, Caraga's crime solution efficiency improved from 29.2 percent in 2013 to 46.0 percent in 2015 or an average of 37.40 percent per year (2013 to 2015). This figure means that the target

has been surpassed by 35.40 percent. The region performed well in 2015 because of the sustained monitoring and management of police officers at the station level and the increase of police force in the region.

Figure 18.2 Crime Solution Efficiency, Target vs Accomplishment, 2013-2015



Source: PNP Caraga

Campaign against illegal drugs

In terms of drug affectation, the table below shows that 88 percent or 1,154 barangays in the region are considered affected with the drug menace. Of these drug-affected barangays, two are seriously

affected. All the barangays in Butuan City are considered drug-affected. Among the provinces, Agusan del Sur posted the highest proportion of barangay drug affectation at 92 percent while Dinagat Islands posted the lowest at 78 percent.

Table 18.3 Barangay Drug Affectation, Caraga, 2016

	TOTAL # OF BRGYS.	SERIOUSLY	MODERATELY	SLIGHTLY	UNAFFECTED	AFFE CTED
Butuan City	86	0	20	66	0	86
Agusan del Norte	166	0	40	97	30	137
Agusan del Sur	315	2	87	200	25	289
Surigao del Norte	335	0	147	137	51	284
Surigao del Sur	309	0	67	213	29	280
Dinagat Islands	100	0	23	55	22	78
Total	1,311	2	384	768	157	1,154
Percentage		.15%	29.29%	58.58%	11.98%	88.02%

Source: PDEACaraga

For the campaign against illegal drugs known as "Oplan Double Barrel" or "Project Tokhang," a total of 731 operations have been conducted that resulted in the surrender of 39,596 drug personalities as of December 2016. Agusan

del Sur has the most number of surrenderers and individuals killed during operations. In terms of arrested persons during operations, Butuan City posted the highest proportion compared to other places in the region.

Table 18.4 Anti-Illegal Drug Operations, Caraga, as of December 12, 2016

	NO. OF OPERATIONS CONDUCTED	NO. OF PERSONS ARRESTED	SURRENDERER	KILLED DURING THE OPERATION
Butuan City	196	277	5,827	6
Agusan del Norte	111	117	6,657	8
Agusan del Sur	120	135	10,434	27
Surigao del Norte	161	202	7,848	5
Surigao del Sur	119	148	7,099	4
Dinagat Islands	24	22	1,731	1
Total	731	901	39,596	51

Source: PNP Caraga

From 2013 to 2015, there was an increase of 1,486 percent in the volume of confiscated shabu while the number of

arrested persons who sell or use shabu increased by 204 percent.

Table 18.5 Shabu Seized and Persons Arrested, Caraga, 2015

	2013	2014	2015
Shabu Seized/Confiscated (g)	621	3,904	9,848
Number of Persons Arrested	345	754	1,048

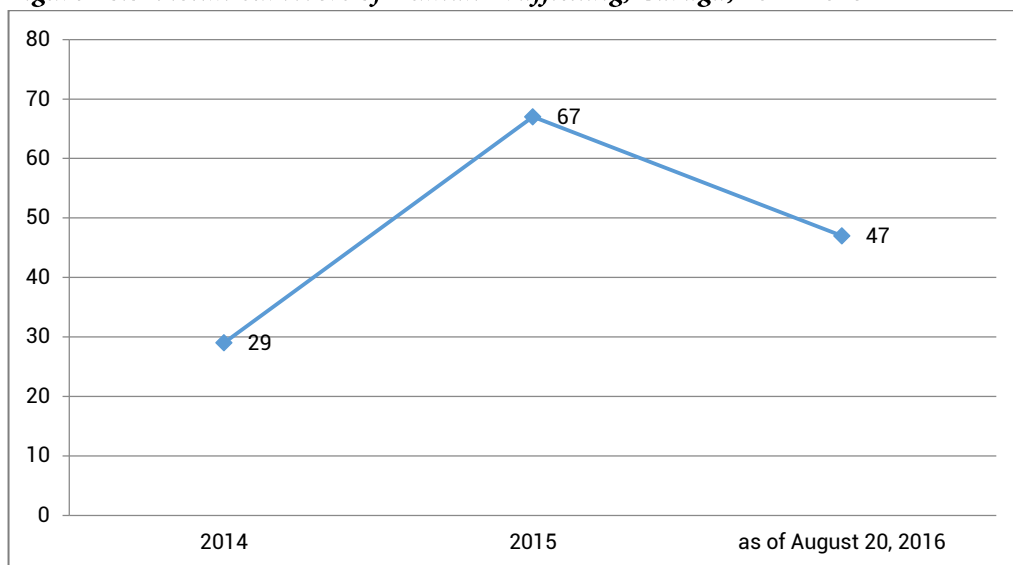
Source: PDEA Caraga

Human Trafficking

Trafficking in persons is also prevalent in the region as reported by the Regional Women's and Children's Protection Desk (RWCPD) of the Philippine National Police. In 2014 there were 29 victim-survivors from eight cases of trafficking. The number of victim-survivors increased by 131 percent the following year based on

22 intercepted cases. By August of 2016, the number of victim-survivors declined to 47. Trafficked persons were provided temporary shelter; medical, livelihood, educational and skills-training assistance; and auxiliary assistance to attend court hearings, which are provided through the Recovery and Reintegration Program (RRPTP) for the Trafficked Persons.

Figure 18.3 Victim-survivors of Human Trafficking, Caraga, 2014-2015



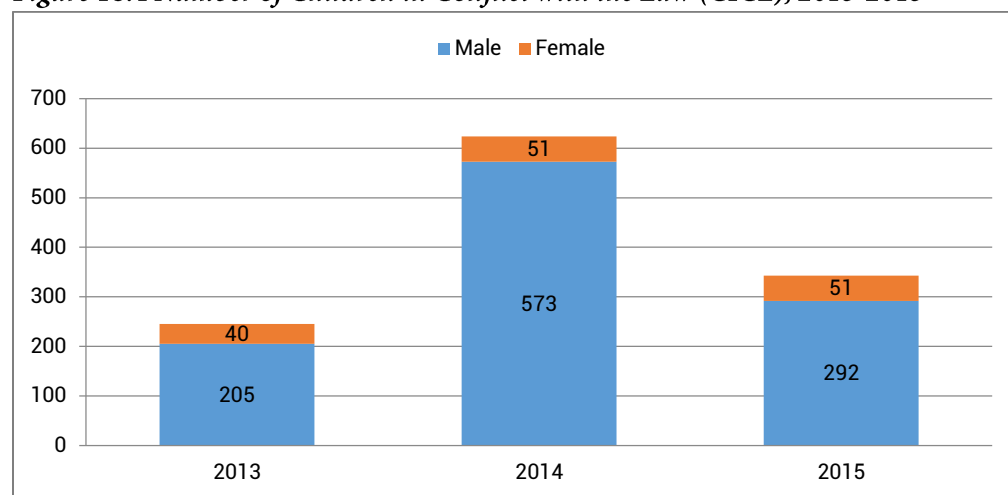
Source: PNP-RWCPD, 2016

Children in conflict with the law

From 2013 to 2015, the region has an average of 404 children in conflict with the law (CICL) per year. In 2014, the number of CICL increased by 155 percent

compared to the 2013 figure. By 2015, the number of CICL decreased by 45 percent. Theft accounted for 58 percent of the crime committed, physical injuries- 16 percent, robbery - seven percent and rape - six percent.

Figure 18.4 Number of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL), 2013-2015



Source: PNP Caraga

In support of RA No. 85557, the region established seven additional Children's and Women's Desk (CWD). Thus, as of 2015, Caraga has a total of 84 CWDs making the region compliant to the ideal ratio of 1:1

CWD per police station. It has also established one CWD for Butuan City Police Office, five CWDs for Provincial Police Offices and one CWD for PNP Regional Office 13.

Table 18.6 Number of Women's Desk, Caraga, 2014-2015

	2013	DIFF	2014	DIFF	2015	DIFF
	TARGET		TARGET		TARGET	
	ACCOM.		ACCOM.		ACCOM.	
No. of children & women's desk in police stations	No Data	-	77	77	77	84
PRO 13						1
BCPO/PPOs						6
Police Stations						77

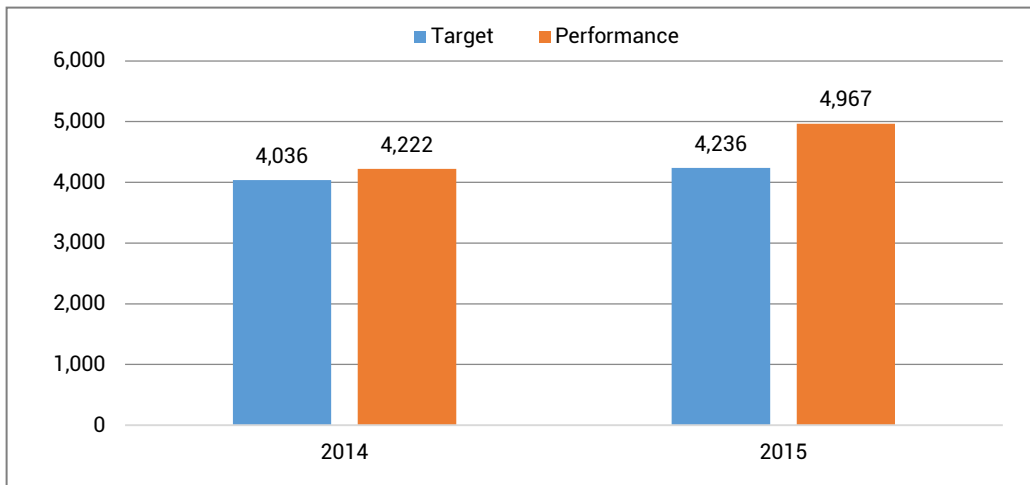
Source: PNP Caraga

PNP personnel deployment.

An additional 855 uniformed personnel were recruited in 2015. Of the new recruits, only 745 or 87 percent were deployed since the rest are still undergoing schooling. A total of 4,967 police personnel were

deployed in 2015. This is 11 percent more than the target deployment of police personnel. The region's police to population ratio was recorded at 1:537, thus, it has yet to attain the ideal 1:500 ratio. The deficit is due to unfilled recruitment quota.

Figure 18.5 Number of Deployed Police, 2014- 2015



Source: PNP Caraga

Fire protection services

Improving fire protection services also contributes to public safety. The region's fire truck to fire fighter ratio is currently at 1:6. Ideally, fire truck to fire fighter ratio

should be 1:14, which means that given the number of fire trucks in the region, there should have been 1,092 personnel. Thus, the fire fighting operational unit has a shortage of 603 personnel to meet the ideal ratio.

Table 18.7 Fire truck to Fireman Ratio, Caraga, 2015

	ACTUAL NUMBER OF FIRE TRUCKS	ACTUAL STRENGTH	IDEAL FIREMAN STRENGTH	ACTUAL RATIO	DIFFERENCE
Agusan del Norte	17	114	238	1:7	(124)
Agusan del Sur	18	87	252	1:5	(165)
Surigao del Norte	18	132	252	1:7	(120)
Surigao del Sur	22	137	308	1:6	(171)
Province of Dinagat Islands	3	19	42	1:6	(23)
Total	78	489	1,092	1:6	(603)

Source: BFP Caraga

Challenges

Despite the concerted efforts of law enforcers, government agencies, and other stakeholders, the following challenges persist in the region:

Rise in crime incidence caused by illegal drugs use. The use of illegal drugs has significantly contributed to the rise in

multiple crime incidents. Its lingering presence threatens the peace, public order and security of the communities region wide.

Unregulated use of technology that contributed to the increase in cybercrimes. Cybercrime is a global threat.

Based on the crime figures of the region, its incidence is increasing. Thus, technology usage should be regulated to avoid internet danger and protect the victims from sexual offenders and other criminals prowling the web.

Prevalence of trafficking against person.

Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, is considered a largely hidden crime. Causes include poverty, lack of education, lack of equal employment opportunities, discrimination, violence, and armed conflict.

Possible increase in crime incidence due to closure of mining companies.

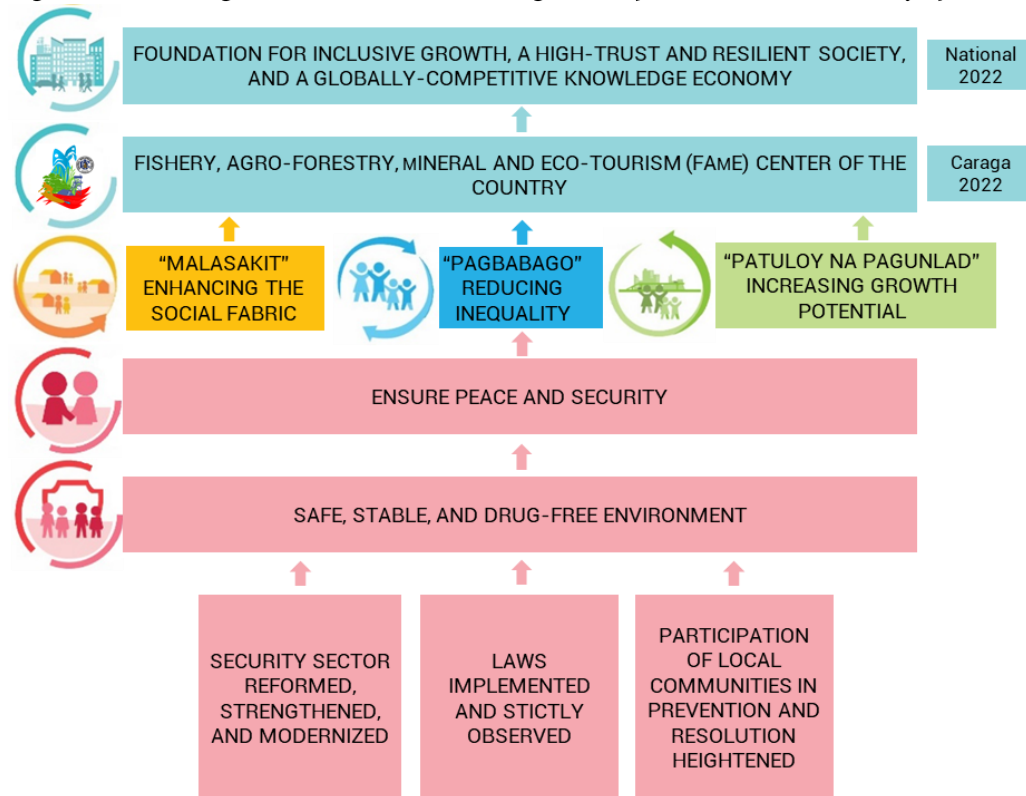
Poverty and unemployment are recognized as underlying determinants that provoke people to engage in illegal business (i.e. theft, robbery and others) because it is profitable and provides easy money.

Inadequate firefighting equipment and firefighters.

The lack of firefighters and the inadequacy of fire fighting equipment may severely hinder fire fighting operations. It could endanger the lives of fire fighters; worse, the fire fighters could not effectively respond in the event of fire.

Strategic Framework

Figure 18.6 Strategic Framework in Ensuring Security, Public Order and Safety



Sectoral Outcome: Safe, Stable, and Drug-free Environment

Objective 1: Security Sector Reformed, Strengthened, and Modernized

Modernize the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). The fire fighters should be provided with the proper uniform and equipment to enable them to respond immediately during fire incidents.

Priority Programs and Projects

- Full personnel complementation of the Bureau of Fire Protection based on the approved Rationalization Plan
- Procurement of new fire trucks and other fire-fighting equipment

Objective 2: Laws strictly observed and implemented

Operationalize the Barangay Peace and Order Council/Barangay Peace Action Teams (BPOC/BPATs). The BPOC and BPAT play a significant role in the implementation of peace and order initiatives in the barangay. They ensure the involvement, mutual assistance and coordination among all sectors of the community in the attainment of peace, law and order, public safety and security in the barangay level.

Strictly implement the President's Anti-Illegal Drug Campaign. This operation is aimed at achieving an integrated approach in halting the proliferation and use of

illegal drugs through strict implementation of the roles and responsibilities of LGUs, NGAs, NGOs as provided for in RA 9165 or "Dangerous Drugs Act" and strengthening the local anti-drug abuse councils.

Integrate displaced workers in the development and economic programs of the government. Government should provide safety nets to displaced workers of mining companies to cushion the adverse impact of the closure of mining operations.

Enhance the implementation of the PNP Crime Prevention Strategy with the active support and collaboration of the community and other stakeholders. This strategy is a deliberate, programmatic, and sustained approach taken by the Philippine National Police to combat criminality. It will use both wide dragnet and Intel-targeted operations to catch small-time criminals and repeat offenders, under the "whole of PNP" approach.

Institutionalize Mechanisms to Ensure Functionality of Local Bodies Dealing with Trafficking of Persons. This will be done through strict assessment and monitoring of permits issued to recruitment agencies and strengthening of inter-agency collaboration to ensure protection against illegal recruiters.

Institutionalize Online Child Exploitation Protection Center. This will among others instruct young children and teenagers on how to avoid internet danger and protect themselves against sexual offenders and other online criminals.

Strongly implement Republic Act 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.

This will include establishment of an online Child Exploitation Protection Center, which is aimed at teaching young children and teenagers about the basics of avoiding internet danger, detecting cybercrimes, and protecting themselves against sexual offenders and other online criminals

Operationalize Cyber Crime Complaint Center.

This will entail the establishment of a Cyber Crime Complaint Center that will provide victims of cybercrime an accessible and responsive reporting mechanism, which will become the focal point for reporting cybercrimes and other cyber enabled criminalities.

Intensify Information and Education on Cybercrimes. This will increase awareness of the general public, children and teenagers in particular, on the issues related to cybercrime and illegal use of the Internet.

Enhance Information Communication Technology of PNP Operation. This will promote a more efficient and transparent police operations and administration.

Review and strengthen EO 739, “Reorganization of the Regional Peace and Order Council” or RPOC. The RPOC plays a vital role in maintaining public order and safety and if strengthened, will contribute further to the effective prevention and suppression of criminality in the region.

Priority Programs and Projects

- Philippine National Police Reorganization and Modernization Program
- Activation of Barangay Peace and Order Council/Barangay Peace Action Teams/Local Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BPOC/BPAT/LADAC) and Civilian Volunteer Organization (CVO) in all barangays
- Police Integrated Patrol System
- Construction of drug treatment and rehabilitation centers in every province
- Installation of CCTV cameras in strategic areas by the LGUs
- Crime Prevention Program
- Double Barrel Program
- Mamamayang Ayaw sa Anomalya Mamamayang Ayaw sa Ilegal na Druga (MASA MASID)
- Ecozone Development
- Establishment of Online Child Exploitation Protection Center
- Establishment of Cyber Crime Complaint Center
- Mapping of computer owners/internet shops in the municipal level
- Implementation of Cyber Patrol
- Regulation of operation of Internet Cafes in the municipal level

Objective 3: Participation of Local communities in crime prevention and resolution heightened

Intensify Information Dissemination Campaign/Anti-Illegal Drug Campaign with strong support and commitment from the Local Officials, Local Anti-Drug Abuse Council (LAC) members, and other stakeholders. This will make the communities more aware about the ill-

effects of illegal drugs to health. This includes conduct of drug awareness symposium to all schools in the region and distribution of fliers to raise awareness among the students and school authorities.

Priority Programs and Projects

- Revitalize Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program in all elementary schools

- Cybercrimes Information, Education and Communication Campaign
- Anti-Cybercrime Summit
- Drug Awareness Information Education Communication Campaign
- Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP)
- Youth Leadership Summit

19

Accelerating
Infrastructure
Development

Accelerating Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development is critical and essential to the progress of the region. It serves as catalyst for the growth of its priority sectors, which are Fishery, Agro-Forestry, mineral and Eco-tourism (FAME). It is also a means to an end, which in the case of Caraga is a robust economy for inclusive growth. At the same time, it is an indispensable component for human capital development and reduction of vulnerability among communities and individuals.

At the end of the planning period in 2022, the Sector should be able to enhance connectivity; ensure efficient, effective and sustainable irrigation systems; assure affordable and sustainable power supply; put in place reliable and advance digital infrastructure; and develop efficient, good quality and functional social infrastructures to deliver the desired outcomes.

Assessment

Transportation

Land Transportation

National Arterial Roads

The paving of national arterial roads exhibited an increasing trend for the period 2013 to 2015. The achievement in 2014 exceeded its target by almost one percentage point. Close to 99 percent of national arterial roads were paved against the target of nearly 98 percent for the period. In 2015, the region also achieved its target, as the last stretch of unpaved roads of about 2 kms between Surigao del Sur and Surigao del Norte, specifically the Carrascal section, was finally paved.

Road right-of-way (RROW) issues and inclement weather delayed some national arterial road projects. Nevertheless the targets were met.

National Secondary Roads

The paving of national secondary roads also increased for the same period, but only the target in 2014 was achieved with a difference of seven percentage points. The region's performance as far as the paving of national secondary roads is concerned was affected by issues relating to RROW, inclement weather, delayed release of funding, and unavailability of materials e.g. aggregates. Thus, in 2013 only 55 percent was paved. The performance in 2013 was adversely affected by the election ban.

Roads Leading to Tourism Areas

The three-year target in terms of length of roads leading to tourism sites paved/improved was not achieved. Only about 36 kms of roads were paved/improved in 2015. The slow achievement was due to unfavorable site conditions, i.e. remote geographical location and rolling terrain. Also RROW issues, delayed release of funding and unavailability of construction materials, e.g. aggregates hampered the implementation of projects.

Farm-to-Market Roads (FMR)

A total length of 176.147 kms of farm-to-market road was constructed in 2014 while about 42.442 km was added to the inventory in 2015 by way of FMR projects implemented under the DILG. This rather low accomplishment was due to several issues such as liquidation delays on the part of LGUs, and lack of capacity of LGUs to implement BuB FMR projects under their charge. Other challenges include lack of equipment and delayed procurement.

National Bridges

The three-year target to upgrade national bridges to permanent status was not achieved although the number of upgraded bridges increased for the period. Some bridge projects were downgraded to Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert (RCBC) type of structures.

Roads Leading to Ports

The target in 2015 was not achieved; only 18.84 kms were paved against the target of

25.30 km. Project implementation started late in FY 2015, thus only a short stretch of road was constructed. There were also RROW issues, which include coordination problems with concerned LGUs, bad weather conditions and unavailability of materials.

Roads Leading to Conflict-Affected Areas

Accomplishment in terms of improving and paving of roads leading to conflict-affected areas reflected a declining trend for the period 2013 to 2015. From an accomplishment of 55.778 km in 2013, it slowed down to 50.597km in 2014, and then 39.616 km in 2015. Most of these roads were implemented by the DILG under the PAMANA project. These roads did not commit targets in the Results Matrix (RM) for the Caraga RDP 2013-2016.

Motor Vehicles Registration

There was a spike of almost 7.0 percent in motor vehicle registration from 2013 to 2015. In 2015, both renewal of registration and new registration increased by 11.52 percent and 9.35 percent, respectively. This uptrend was due in part to the strong marketing and sales strategies of motor vehicle dealers, taking advantage of the stronger purchasing power of the buyers. In addition, the improving road network of the region encouraged the middle-class earners to own a car.

Table 19.1 Land Transportation, Target vs. Accomplishment, Caraga, 2013-2015

INDICATOR	2013		2014		2015	
	Target	Accomp.	Target	Accomp.	Target	Accomp.
National arterial roads paved (%)	96.66%	94.34%	97.71%	98.60%	100.00%	99.65%
100% of national secondary roads paved (%)	62.52%	55.09%	70.84%	77.97%	85.57%	82.01%
All roads leading to tourism areas (kms) paved/improved	32.593	26.234	35.49	29.93	41.52	35.581
Length of farm-to-market roads (FMRs) improved/rehabilitated (kms) increased DPWH implemented	4.95		3.2	122.947		39.742
DILG implemented				53.2		2.7
All national bridges in the region upgraded to permanent status (%)	95.82%	90.00%	96.34%	93%	97.63%	96%
Roads leading to ports paved/improved (kms) ^c	-	-			25.30	18.84
Roads leading to conflict-affected areas (km) ^d DPWH implemented		10.939				7.908
DILG implemented (gravel/PCCP)		21.841/ 22.998		5.674/ 44.923		5.416/ 26.292
No. of registered motor vehicles	NT	116,735	NT	119,864	NT	124,823
No. of registered motor vehicles (Renewal)				89,738		100,078
No. of Registered motor vehicles (New)				30,126		32,942
^a Targets were updated by the DPWH						
^b Data excludes DA- and DILG-implemented FMRs						
^{c,d,e,f} These are not RM indicators						
NT means no set targets						

Source: DPWH, DILG and DOTr

Air Transportation

Passenger Flights, Plane Passengers and Cargoes

Air transportation is a booming industry in the region based on the data from 2013 to 2015, although some of the plan targets were not attained. The target to increase passenger flights was not achieved amidst increasing figures; only the 2013 target was

met. The same increasing trend was observed for the number of plane passengers for the same period. Again, only the 2013 target was achieved. While the 2015 figure shows higher number of passengers compared to 2013 and 2014, no RM target was indicated for that year.

Also, plane cargoes increased for the period, but failed to accomplish the target

of 6,167,508 kg in 2014. Strong marketing strategies that enticed the public to travel by plane, e.g. promo fares and others expanded the demand. Moreover, the booming economic activities in the region, especially the mining and tourism industries resulted in an influx of workers and tourists into the mining areas and local tourist destinations.

Public bias for air travel is based on convenience and affordability. For cargoes, planes offer more competitive prices, relative safety and shorter time of delivery. Also, increased investments in Surigao del Norte especially in marine products resulted in more outbound cargoes.

Airport Development

The target of upgrading Butuan Airport into a Regional Airport Center by the end of plan period was not achieved. However, it is underway. Several projects have been implemented to improve said airport. Aside from Butuan, the airports of Surigao, Sayak, Tandag and Bislig were also upgraded by way of runway extension. However, the implementing agency encountered difficulties in the procurement of lot. Surigao airport is proposing to expand by 150 meters on both sides of the runway. Butuan has no need to extend since it can already cater to bigger aircrafts. It has also opened its runway for night flights to and from Manila.

Table 19.2 Air Transportation, Target vs. Accomplishment, Caraga, 2013-2015

INDICATOR	2013		2014		2015	
	TARGET	ACCOMP.	TARGET	ACCOMP.	TARGET	ACCOMP.
No. of passenger plane flights per day increased (incoming & outgoing)	4,656	6,484	1,782	(498) 6,982	NT	8,988
<i>Incoming</i>		3,242		3,491		4,494
<i>Outgoing</i>		3,242		3,491		4,494
No. of plane passengers increased (incoming & outgoing)	546,232	656,152	237,219	(45,052) 701,204	NT	779,891
<i>Incoming</i>		322,371		343,978		383,003
<i>Outgoing</i>		333,781		357,226		396,888
Total annual volume of plane cargoes increased (incoming and outgoing; in kg only)	6,167,508	6,339,490	1,972,050	(-52,463) 6287027	NT	19,631,850
<i>Incoming</i>		3,643,492		3,739,104		10,935,540
<i>Outgoing</i>		2,605,809		2,547,923		8,696,310
Annual average air traffic density (%) increased	5,007		2,330			
Butuan Airport upgraded to Regional Airport Center	upgraded					

Notes: Data lifted from ARES 2013-2015; Data in 2013 includes Butuan and Surigao Cities

NT means no set targets

Sources: CAAP-Agusan and CAAP-Surigao

Sea Transportation

Passenger Ship Calls, Foreign and Domestic Ship Calls and Cargoes

For passenger ship calls, the trend is increasing from 2013 to 2015 although the 2013 target was not achieved due to bad weather conditions, such as typhoons, and unavailability of vessels.

In terms of foreign ship calls, the three-year target was achieved. The region experienced strong exportation-importation activities. Metal ores and mineral products, the region's main export, were exported to China, Japan and other

foreign markets. Private ports also supported mining activities.

The region failed to reach its three-year domestic ship calls target amidst increasing trend for the same period. There was a high preference for air travel because of promo fares. Also, passengers opted for air travel because of convenience. There were also incidents of suspension of permits of boat/ship operators. On the other hand, volume of ship cargoes picked up, hitting its target from 2013 to 2015. Expansion in mining activities largely contributed to this development.

Table 19.3 Sea Transportation, Target vs. Accomplishment, Caraga, 2013-2015

INDICATORS	2013		2014		2015	
	TARGET	ACCCOMP.	TARGET	ACCCOMP.	TARGET	ACCCOMP.
No. of passenger ship calls (no. in thousands) increased	1,660	-976.00	1,701	11,026		9,128
No. of foreign ship calls (no.) increased	655	696	650	809	660	1,016
No. of domestic ship calls (no.) increased	21,337	9,059	39,378	19,276	42,735	28,197
No. of RORO ports leading to tourism areas increased	2	2	2			
Total annual volume of ship cargoes (in million tons) increased	32.19	33.82	32.91	37.55	33.49	43.06
Annual average ship traffic density (%) improved	678		691.56			712.31
All Caraga Port Zone Delineations (PZDs) presidentially proclaimed	-	5	-			

Notes: Volume of ship cargoes include foreign export and import only (Data lifted from ARES 2013-2015)

Sources: PPA-Surigao and PPA-Agusan

Irrigation

The region's total land area is 1,984,151 hectares; about eight percent or 159,249 hectares are potential irrigable areas. Originally, NIA Central Office estimated that the region has a potential irrigable area of 173,391 hectares. However, they

reduced it to 159,249 hectares because the marshland areas in Agusan del Sur are not feasible for irrigation projects.

Under the Regional Spatial Strategy, Agusan del Sur is the agro-forestry center and food basket of the region. It has the largest potential irrigable area of 80,781 hectares. However, the province was only

able to develop 27,369 hectares or about 34 percent, the lowest irrigation development among the provinces. The slow pace of development was due to delays in the release of funds and procurement difficulties.

In 2015, NIA's approved budget was PhP850.061 million, including special projects, but only PhP352.050 million or

41.41 percent was released. Of the total released amount, NIA was only able to utilize PhP105.550 million or one-third of the released budget. The low budget utilization impeded the implementation of critical projects that would have benefited the farmers. As of December 2015, NIA developed 85 percent of the region's current irrigation service area.

Table 19.4 Status of Irrigation Development, Caraga, 2015

PROVINCE	TOTAL LAND AREA (HA.)	POTENTIAL IRRIGABLE AREA (HA.)	SERVICE AREA (HA.)				IRRIG DEV'T (%)	REMAINING AREA FOR DEV'T (HAS.)	REMAINING AREA FOR DEV'T (%)
			NIA-ASSISTED	OGA	PRIVATE	TOTAL AREA DEVELOPED			
Agusan del Norte	359,200	37,155	14,647	1,250	410	16,307	43.89	20,848	56.11
Agusan del Sur	896,550	80,780.75	22,566	3,362	1,441	27,369	33.88	53,412	66.12
Dinagat Islands	81,475	1,827	705	100	98	903	49.43	924	50.57
Surigao del Norte	201,710	12,708	6,301	864	147	7,312	57.54	5,396	42.46
Surigao del Sur	445,216	26,778	13,794	1,115	1,091	16,000	59.75	10,778	40.25
Total	1,984,151	159,248.75	58,013	6,691	3,187	67,891	42.63	91,358	60.85

Source: NIA

For the period 2013-2015, the areas covered by National Irrigation System (NIS) and Communal Irrigation System (CIS) in the region increased due to the following major irrigation projects: Umayam River Irrigation Project in Agusan del Sur, Bislig City Integrated Development Project - Irrigation Component, Tago River Irrigation System Improvement Project in the Municipalities of Tago and San Miguel, Lower Agusan River Pump Irrigation System in Butuan City, Andanan River Irrigation System in

Bayugan City, and Cabadbaran River Irrigation System Improvement in Cabadbaran City.

Despite the uptrend, the area covered by the NIS of the province of Agusan del Norte decreased by 623 hectares in 2015 because of land conversion. It was used for housing development. The CIS of Agusan del Sur also contracted by 90 hectares in 2015. The provinces of Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands do not have NIS projects.

Table 19.5 Irrigated Agricultural Lands Per Province, 2013-2015, in hectares

PROVINCE	2013		2014		2015	
	NIS	CIS	NIS	CIS	NIS	CIS
Agusan del Norte	9,836	4,796	9,936	4,796	9,313	5,334

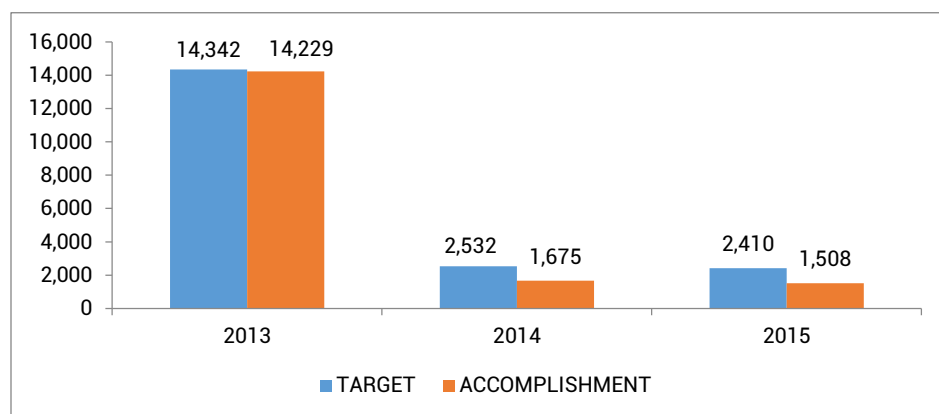
PROVINCE	2013		2014		2015	
	NIS	CIS	NIS	CIS	NIS	CIS
Surigao del Norte	0	5497	0	5497	0	6301
Dinagat Islands	0	585	0	585	0	705
Agusan del Sur	14357	6636	15326	6636	16020	6546
Surigao del Sur	6790	6820	6790	6820	6828	6966
Total	30,983	24,334	32,052	24,334	32,161	25,852

Source: NIA

Figure 19.1 below shows that the region failed to achieve its targets in establishing, rehabilitating and restoring irrigation systems. The shortfall was caused by unstable peace and order situation, ROW problems, modifications in project design, and inclement weather. Moreover, NIA experienced delays in the release of their funds, which further impeded

implementation and completion of projects. The increase in area for rehabilitation and restoration in 2013 is attributed to high allotment under Quick Response Fund (QRF) of NIA for calamity support. The QRF was mobilized to repair damaged irrigation systems in Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur.

Figure 19.1 Irrigation Areas Established/Rehabilitated/Restored, 2013-2015, in hectares



Source: NIA

Energy

Caraga Region is connected to the Mindanao Grid, which is mainly dependent on the Agus-Pulangi Hydropower Complex (APHC), the largest source of electricity in the grid. During dry

months, when there is less rainfall, the APHC cannot operate to the optimum. Low water levels in APHC resulted in power shortages in Mindanao.

The table below shows the power distributors in the region.

Table 19.6 Coverage of Electric Cooperatives (ECs), Caraga

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES/ DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES	COVERAGE
Agusan del Norte Electric Cooperative (ANECO)	Agusan del Norte
Agusan del Sur Electric Cooperative (ASELCO)	Agusan del Sur
Surigao del Norte Electric Cooperative (SURNECO)	Surigao del Norte (Mainland)
Siargao Island Electric Cooperative (SIARLECO)	Siargao Island
Dinagat Islands Electric Cooperative (DIELCO) (Off grid)	Province of Dinagat Islands
Surigao del Sur Electric Cooperative I (SURSECO I)	Surigao del Sur (South)
Surigao del Sur Electric Cooperative II (SURSECO II)	Surigao del Sur (North)

Source: National Electrification Administration (NEA)

Six of the seven Electric Cooperatives in the region have access to all generating plants within the Mindanao Grid. DIELCO of the province of Dinagat Island is the only electric cooperative that is not connected to the Mindanao Grid. It is mainly powered by diesel-operated plants under the coverage of NPC-Small Power Utilities Groups (SPUGs) missionary electrification program.

Generation

The power generated in the region increased from 100 MW in 2013 to 113.4 MW in 2015. The increase of 13.4 MW in three years is attributed to the entry of two oil-based power plants. In 2014, King Energy Generation Inc. started operating in Tandag City with a capacity of 7.5 MW. The following year, Peak Power San Francisco, Inc. in San Francisco, Agusan

del Sur commenced power generation with a capacity of 5.9 MW. Prior to their operations, only Therma Marine, Inc., located in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte, produces power with a capacity of 100 MW.

The current contracted power demand is pegged at 128 MW only. Looking at the 2016-2018 timeline, coal will become the dominant energy source with approximately 189 MW based on the current contracted demand. From 2016 to 2018, the contracted demand for electricity will expand to 397 MW.

At present, the region has not produced power from New and Renewable Energy (NRE) plants but there are already committed investments as shown on table 19.7.

Table 19.7 Private Sector Initiated Generation Projects, Caraga

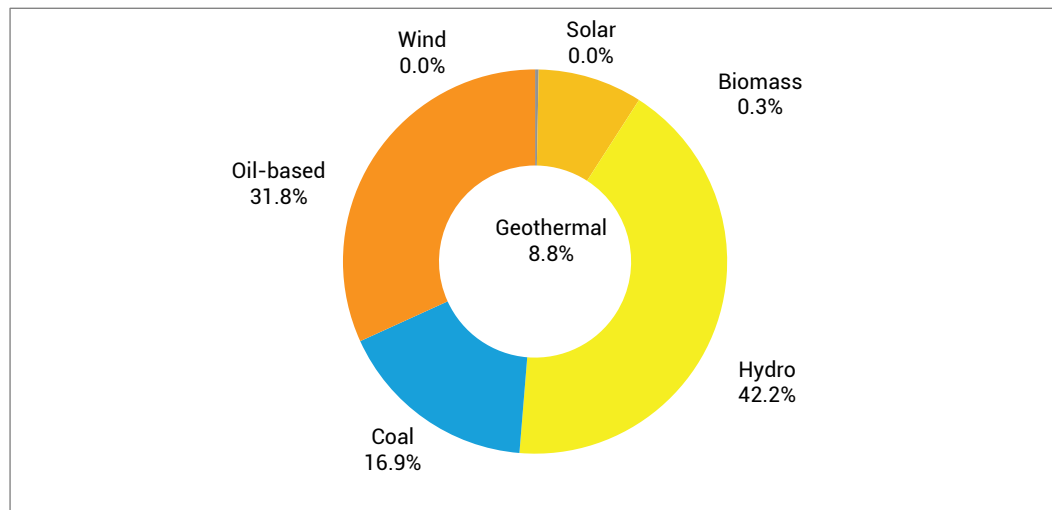
PROJECT	LOCATION	STATUS	TARGET COMMERCIAL OPERATION
<i>On-going Power Projects</i>			
5.2 MW Peakpower San Francisco, Inc. Bunker Fired Power Plant (PSI Expansion Project)	San Francisco, Agusan del Sur	On-going construction	December 2016
30 MW Puyo Hydroelectric Power Project (HPP)	Jabonga, Agusan del Norte	Construction on hold as of April 2015 due to security threat in the area	July 2018 (target testing and commissioning)
25 MW Lake Mainit HPP	Jabonga, Agusan del Norte	On-going construction	April 2016
8 MW Asiga HPP	Santiago, Agusan del Norte	On-going construction; 25% complete as of November 2015	August 2019
9.75 MW Cabadbaran HPP	Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte	On-going pre-construction activities	July 2018
<i>New Power Projects</i>			
10 MW San Francisco Solar Power Project	San Francisco, Agusan del Sur	On-going finalization for financing arrangements	December 2016
23.5 MW EPC Woody Biomass Power Plant Project	Buenavista, Agusan del Norte	For construction	December 2017
1 MW Bislig 1 Oxyfuel-Gas Fired Power Plant Project	Brgy. Kahayag, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur	For construction	December 2016
4 MW Bislig 2 Oxyfuel-Gas Fired Power Plant Project	Brgy. Kahayag, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur	For construction	December 2016

Source: DOE

Based on Section 47 of RA 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001, the generation assets of NPC, its real estate, and other disposable assets as well as its independent power producer contracts will be privatized. Thus, power generation will be delegated to the private sector.

The NRE share of Mindanao currently stands at 51percent while the fossil fuel-based power plants contribute almost 49 percent as shown in figure 19.2. Mindanao has committed to achieve the ideal 60-40 energy mix in favor of renewable energy. In Caraga, four hydropower plants are currently being constructed; one solar project is finalizing its financial agreements.

Figure 19.2 Mindanao Power Generation Mix, January-June 2015



Source: DOE

On June 15, 2015, the DOE awarded coal exploration contracts to Altura Mining Phils. Inc. and Empire Asia Mining Corp.; these companies will operate in Surigao del Sur. If the explorations are successful, these coal projects would further expand the capacity of Mindanao.

Transmission

The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) aims to boost power supply in the region through the Visayas-Mindanao Interconnection Project. The proposed project will improve supply security and system reliability as it will share excess electricity from Visayas and Luzon grids or vice-versa via undersea cables.

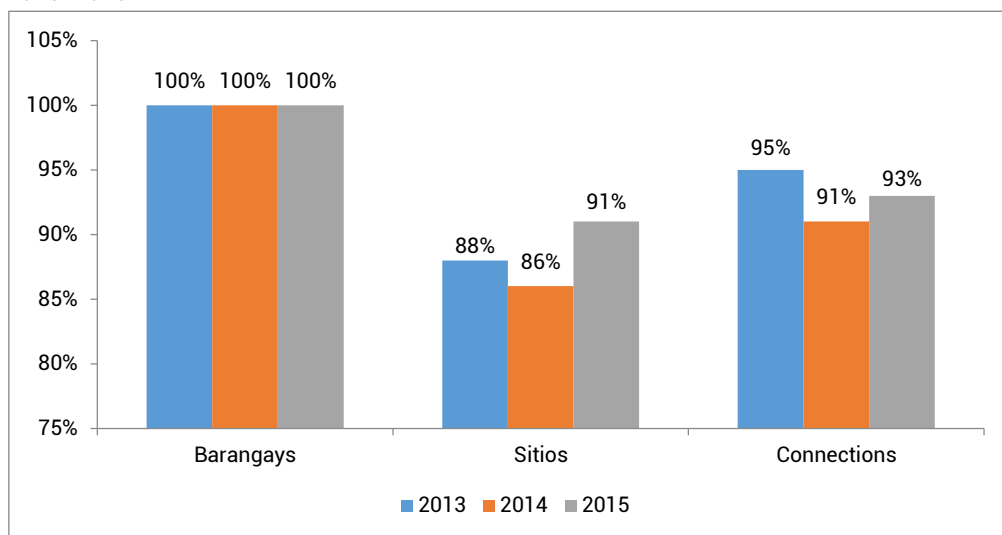
However, the recently published consultation draft of the Transmission

Development Plan 2014-2025 disclosed that the Eastern Option (Leyte-Surigao) for the Visayas- Mindanao Interconnection Project is neither feasible for submarine nor overhead transmission lines. Thus, NGCP is considering the Western Option, the area between Negros and Cebu Islands facing Mindanao specifically in the provinces of Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga del Norte.

Distribution

The region has energized all 1,310 barangays of Caraga. However, not all sitios have been covered. As of December 31, 2015, there is still a need to energize 652 sitios as electrification reached only 91percent or 6,547 sitios. On the other hand, 93 percent or 549,297 households and establishments were served from a potential of 593,600 across the region.

Figure 19.3 Status of Energization for Barangays, and Sitios, Caraga, 2013-2015



Source: NEA-Data Management and Program Control Division

The government's electrification program encountered some difficulties such as right of way (ROW) issues, navigation problems due to dense forest/vegetation, shortage of electrical equipment and supplies, and frequent bad weather condition. Nevertheless, DOE and NEA in partnership with the LGUs and other sectors, continue to expand their Household Electrification and Sitio Electrification Programs to reach far-flung areas.

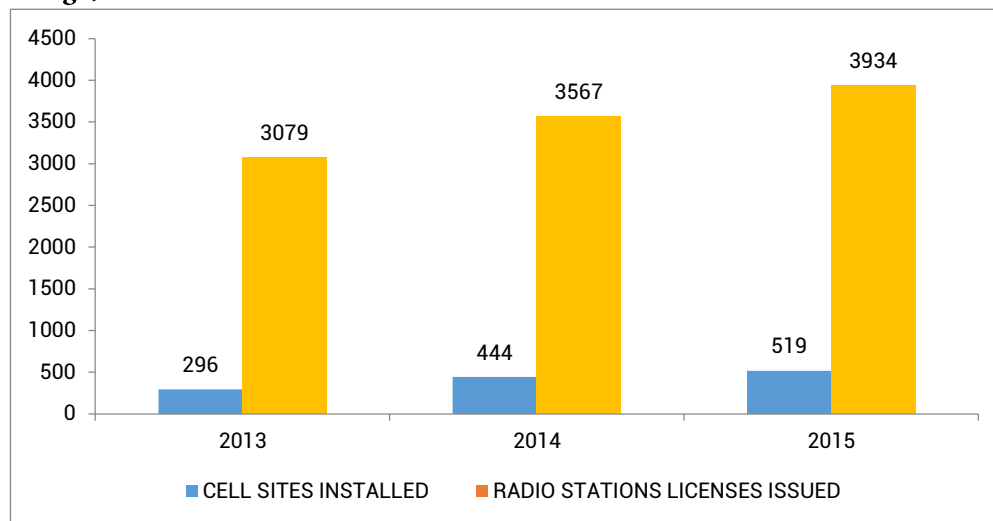
Digital Infrastructure

Digital infrastructure is a key pillar in the development of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector and in transforming the region to become digitally empowered.

Wireless communication continues to expand in the region as demand for telecommunication services is on the uptrend. Three telecom firms operate in strategic areas, namely, Smart, Globe and Sun Cellular. These companies have been investing in ICT infrastructure to increase their coverage and thus, reach more subscribers.

Major urban areas and towns have access to telecommunication services. In 2015, about 519 cell sites have been installed or upgraded to 4G and LTE connections. The number of radio licenses has also increased due to high demand for portable/handheld communication devices. These devices are largely used by mining companies for their operations and LGUs for DRR/CCA related activities.

Figure 19.4 Number of Cell Sites Installed and Radio Stations Licenses Issued, Caraga, 2013-2015



Source: NTC

The region has access to the internet through Internet Service Providers (ISPs) such as Bayan Telecommunications, Inc., PLDT-PhilCom, Smart Broadband, Globe Broadband, TETCO, TELOF and Trento Telephone System. Located in Butuan City, Bayan Telecommunications, Inc. can provide bandwidth requirements of more than 100 MBPS to support Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) ventures.

health units, barangay health stations and birthing clinics across the region.

As of 2015, there are 382 programmed HFEP projects. Two hundred sixty four have been completed while 118 are still on-going and are carry-overs from 2011 to 2014. Among the completed projects only 59 percent or 115 are functional and actually being utilized.

Social Infrastructure

Health Facilities

Under social infrastructure, the health sub-sector aims to upgrade health facilities through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) of the Department of Health (DOH). This program aims to boost primary health care facilities, including government hospitals, rural

Among the provinces, Agusan del Sur has the most number of programmed HFEP projects, consisting of construction and upgrading of barangay health stations and birthing clinics. However, unavailability of and difficulty in transporting materials and equipment is affecting the completion of these projects in Agusan del Sur and the projects in other areas of the region.

Table 19.8 HFEP Projects, Caraga, 2015

PROVINCE/ REGION	POPULATION, ('000)	HOSPITAL	RHUS/ MHC/ CHO	BHS/ BC	OTHER FACILITIES	TOTAL	ONGOING 2011- 2015	COMPLETED	FUNCTIONAL
Agusan del Norte	692	24	11	24	3	62	15	47	27
Agusan del Sur	701	22	39	36	0	97	32	65	38
Dinagat Islands	127	20	12	23	1	56	13	30	14
Surigao del Norte	485	7	27	38	0	72	18	69	55
Surigao del Sur	592	22	17	55	1	95	40	53	21
Caraga	2,597	95	106	176	5	382	118	264	155

Source: DOH Caraga

As of 2015, the hospital beds to population ratio for the region stands at 1:1310, which is way below the standard of 1 bed per 1,000 population. Major cities in the region have reached the standard.

Table 19.9 Hospital Beds to Population Ratio, 2015

CITY/PROVINCE /REGION	INFIRMARY		LEVEL 1		LEVEL 2		TOTAL		TOTAL BEDS	BEDS TO POPULATION RATIO
	PRIVATE	GOV'T	PRIVATE	GOV'T	PRIVATE	GOV'T	PRIVATE	GOV'T		
Agusan del Norte	70	60	-	125	-	-	70	185	255	1,388
Agusan del Sur	60	80	154	50	-	100	214	230	444	1,579
Dinagat Islands	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	50	50	2,720
Surigao del Norte	-	220	-	-	-	-	-	220	170	1,903
Surigao del Sur	18	89	-	150	-	-	18	239	257	1,913
Butuan City	50	10	-	-	250	100	300	110	410	802
Surigao City	15	-	85	-	-	150	100	150	250	602
Bislig City	10	-	-	50	75	-	85	50	135	709
Total	223	509	239	375	325	350	787	1,234	1,971	1,310

Source: DOH Caraga

As of 2015, the region has 37 PhilHealth accredited primary care facilities and 17 levels 1 and 2 hospitals. Most of the major hospitals are located in Butuan and are privately owned. Due to inadequate hospital facilities and lack of tertiary level hospitals, key or critical services such as surgeries are not available in most hospitals in the region. Thus, there is a need to improve health facilities and services.

Table 19.10 PhilHealth-Accredited Primary Care Facilities and Hospitals, 2015

CITY/PROVINCE/REGION	GOVERNMENT			PRIVATE			TOTAL		
	PCF	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	PCF	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	PCF	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2
Agusan del Norte	4			2			6		
Agusan del Sur	5	1	1	2		1	7	1	2
Dinagat Islands	3						3		
Surigao del Norte	7						7		
Surigao del Sur	6	2		1			7	2	
Bayugan City	1			1	1		2	1	
Bislig City		1		1		1	1	1	1
Butuan City		1	1	2		3	2	1	4
Cabadbaran City		1		2			2	1	
Surigao City			1		1			1	1
Tandag City		1						1	
Sub-Total	26	7	3	11	2	5	37	9	8
Total			36			18			54

Source: PhilHealth Caraga

For the cultural communities and vulnerable groups, the National Community-Driven Development Program (NCDDP), allocated 83.90 million for the construction and upgrading of 25 Rural Health Stations and 34 classrooms for IP communities.

Education Facilities

The region has 2,036 schools for basic education. For the number of classrooms, Agusan del Norte has the highest increase with 9.11percent or 344 classrooms.

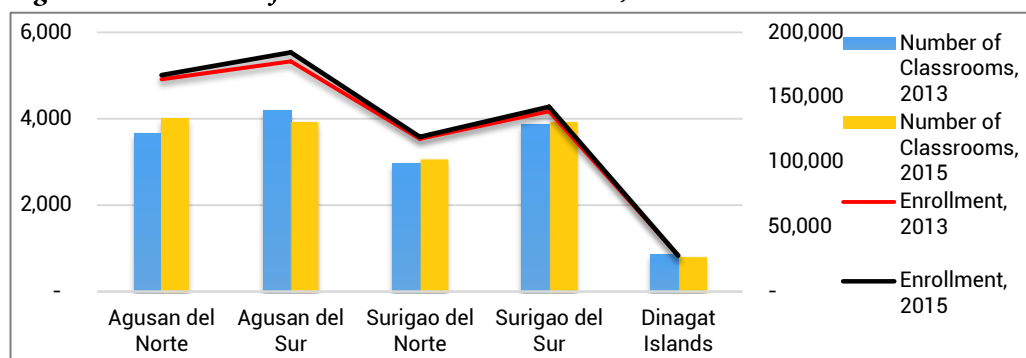
Meanwhile, the number of classrooms in the provinces of Agusan del Sur and Dinagat Islands decreased by 277 and 37 classrooms, respectively. The decrease was due to the standardization of national school buildings, which excluded all obsolete and substandard classrooms from the inventory. Another factor that limited the construction of classrooms is the increase in the budgetary requirements due to the integration of DRR-CCA elements in the design. With the increasing number of enrollment, the region requires more classrooms for the improvement of education facilities.

Table 19.11 Number of Classrooms and Enrollment, 2013-2015

PROVINCE	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS FOR BASIC EDUCATION	EXISTING CLASSROOMS	
		2013	2015
Agusan del Norte	380	3,668	4,002
Agusan del Sur	547	4,193	3,916
Surigao del Norte	423	2,954	3,060
Surigao del Sur	548	3,867	3,921
Dinagat Islands	138	853	816
Caraga	2,036	15,535	15,715

Source: DepEd Caraga

Figure 19.5 Number of Classrooms and Enrollment, 2013-2015



Source: DepEd Caraga

In terms of classroom-pupil/student ratio, the region on the average, has achieved the standard of 40 pupils per classroom in the elementary. For the secondary level, only the Province of Dinagat Islands reached the standard while the rest of the divisions

still need additional classrooms to achieve the standard. Going by division, Agusan del Sur, which has the highest increase in enrollment, averages 48 pupils in elementary and 45 students in the secondary level.

Figure 19.6 Elementary Classroom-Pupil Ratio, 2013 and 2015

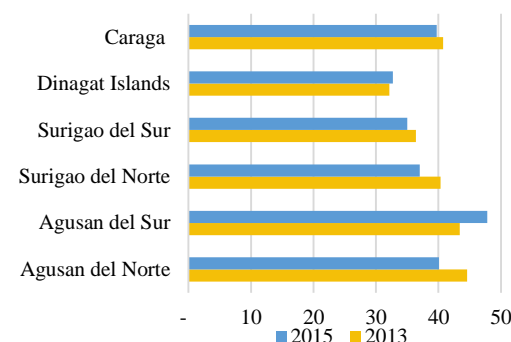
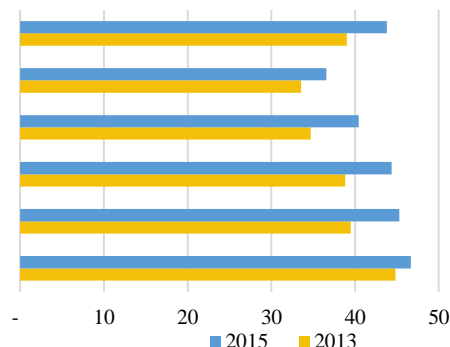


Figure 19.7 Secondary Classroom-Student Ratio, 2013 and 2015



For pre-school education, 98 percent of barangays in the region have Day Care

Centers (DCC). As of 2015, the region has a total of 2,103 DCCs.

Table 19.12 Number of Day Care Center, Caraga, 2013-2015

PROVINCE/ REGION	NUMBER OF BARANGAYS (2015)	BARANGAYS WITH DAY CARE CENTER			INC./ DEC	% BARANGAYS. WITH DCC
		2013	2014	2015		
Agusan del Norte	254	No data	247	250	3	98.43
Agusan del Sur	316		292	314	22	99.37
Surigao del Norte	335		309	322	13	96.12
Surigao del Sur	309		302	304	2	98.38
Dinagat Islands	100		99	100	1	100.00
Caraga	1,314		1,249	1,290	41	98.17

Source: DSWD Caraga

For the cultural communities and vulnerable groups, the region has allocated 155 million pesos for the construction of 198 classrooms under KALAHI-CIDSS – Classroom Construction for Lumads (KC-CCL).

Table 19.13 DSWD Projects for IP Communities

PROVINCE/ REGION	KC-CCL GRANT		HEALTH STATIONS	NCDDP PPA, 2016	
	NO. OF CLASSROOM	AMOUNT (MILLION)		CLASSROOMS AND DAY CARE CENTERS	AMOUNT (MILLION)
Agusan del Norte	6	4.7	1	5	10.28
Agusan del Sur	119	93.21	4	8	16.66
Dinagat Islands			5	4	13.23
Surigao del Norte	5	3.91	9	9	26.45
Surigao del Sur	68	53.43	6	8	17.28
Caraga	198	155.25	25	34	83.90

Source: DSWD Caraga

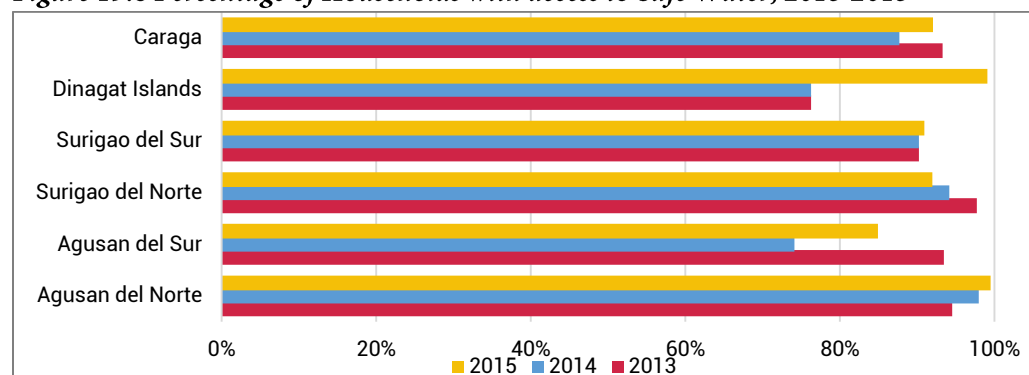
Water and Sanitation Facilities

Access to water and sanitation facilities is fundamental for the health and survival of individuals and families. Based on DOH 2015 data, only 85 percent of the households in the region have access to basic sanitation facilities while 92 percent of the households have access to levels I and II water facilities. On the other hand, NMNRMCI 2015 record states that only 25 percent have access to level III facilities. Due to lack of access and poor management of small scale water systems, the region was not able to achieve its target of 100 percent access to safe water. However, of the 25 percent with access to level III facilities, some households may

have access to both levels I and II water facilities. Further, major cities in the region experience shortage in water supply especially during rainy season due to lack of back-up technology on the part of Local Water Utilities. Unreliable/intermittent supply of potable water is one of the major issues in the region that needs to be urgently addressed.

Agusan del Sur has the lowest proportion of households with access to safe water at 85 percent; this is lower than its performance in 2013. On a more positive note, the province of Dinagat Islands improved its coverage from 76 percent, the lowest in 2013, to 99 percent in 2015.

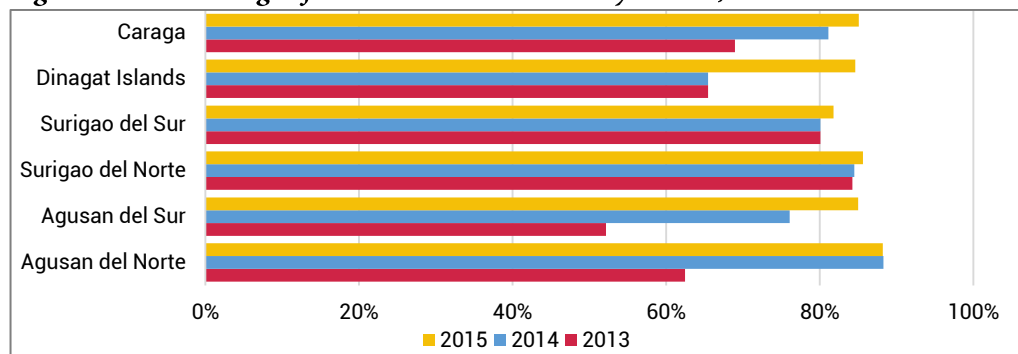
Figure 19.8 Percentage of Households with access to Safe Water, 2013-2015



For sanitation, 88 percent of households in the province of Agusan del Norte have access to sanitation facilities, the highest in the region. Meanwhile Surigao del Sur has the lowest at 82 percent. Since access to water is the primary requirement to

improve sanitation, the region failed to achieve its target of ensuring that 100 percent of households have access to sanitary facilities. Poor coordination between LGUs and RLAs contributed to non-attainment of the target.

Figure 19.9 Percentage of Households with Sanitary Toilets, 2013-2015



The DILG facilitated the implementation of 362 levels 1 and 2 water system projects in the different areas of the region. Surigao

del Norte has the most number of projects at 107, while the Province of Dinagat Islands has the least at 19.

Table 19.14 DILG – BUB Water Facilities Project, 2013-2015

PROVINCE/ REGION	SALINTUBIG		BUB		PAMANA		TOTAL	
	# OF PROJECTS	BUDGET (MILLION)	# OF PROJECTS	BUDGET (MILLION)	# OF PROJECTS	BUDGET (MILLION)	# OF PROJECTS	BUDGET (MILLION)
Agusan del Norte	11	14.50	64	55.61	2	2.00	77	72.11
Agusan del Sur	10	17	41	81.76	4	31.60	55	130.36
Surigao del Norte	15	28.96	89	106.62	3	3.00	107	138.58
Surigao del Sur	15	26.5	80	71.76	9	47.60	104	145.86
Dinagat Islands	8	12	11	15.66	0		19	27.66
Caraga	59	98.96	285	31.41	18	84.20	362	514.57

Source: DILG Caraga

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Caraga is most prone to geological and climatological hazards. These hazards do not only put individuals and communities at risk, they also hasten the deterioration of infrastructure facilities in affected areas. The repair and rehabilitation of

infrastructure entails high cost, which if minimized, can be utilized for other strategic programs and projects of the region.

Based on geographical assessment, four of the five provinces of the Region belong to the 20 most hazard prone provinces in the country. These are Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur. While the province of Agusan del

Norte is not identified as a vulnerable area, it has experienced severe flooding in the past three years.

In 2014, the government provided funding assistance to disaster-affected LGUs amounting to PhP 992,765,897.00. In 2015, it released PhP 570,222,000.00.

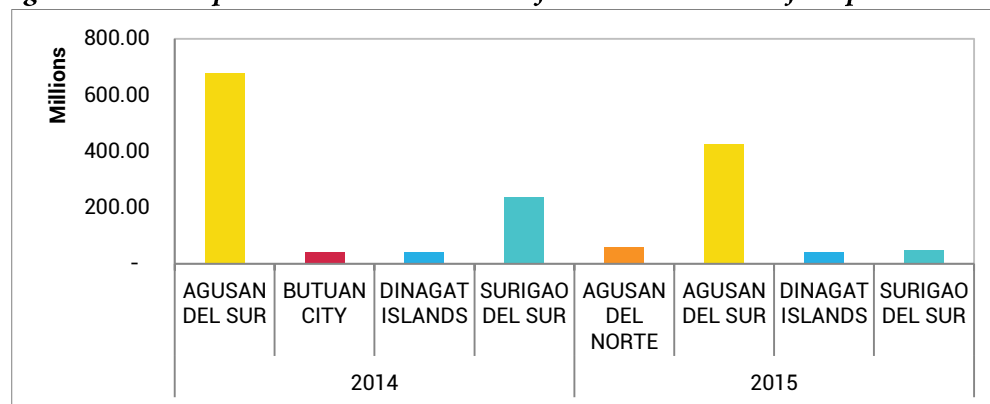
Government financial assistance was used to repair and rehabilitate affected infrastructure with the bulk of the releases in 2014 going to Agusan del Sur amounting to PhP 677,515,071. Surigao del Sur received PhP 233,155,680.00. In 2015, allocation for Agusan del Sur reached PhP 424,743,000.00.

Table 19.15 Amount Released for DRR-Related Infrastructure Projects per LGU, 2014-2015

YEAR/PROVINCE/CITY	AMOUNT RELEASE, PHP
2014	992,765,897
Agusan del Sur	677,515,071
Butuan City	39,202,000
Dinagat Islands	39,757,000
Surigao del Sur	236,291,826
2015	570,222,000
Agusan del Norte	58,530,000
Agusan del Sur	424,743,000
Dinagat Islands	39,757,000
Surigao del Sur	47,192,000
GRAND TOTAL	1,562,987,897

Source: OCD Caraga

Figure 19.10 Comparative Amount Released for DRR-Related Projects per LGU



Source: OCD Caraga

In FY 2014, Typhoons Agaton, Basyang and Senieng hit the region causing landslides and flash floods, rendering a number of people homeless. Several lives were lost, while infrastructures such as roads and bridges, communications lines, irrigation facilities and power supply facilities were damaged.

For damages caused by Typhoon Agaton, the Office of Civil Defense released PhP 596,361,110.00 and PhP 233,155,680.00 for repair and rehabilitation of infrastructures in the provinces of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur, respectively. In 2015, OCD released another PhP 394,675,000.00 for

Surigao del Sur for the damages caused by Typhoon Agaton.

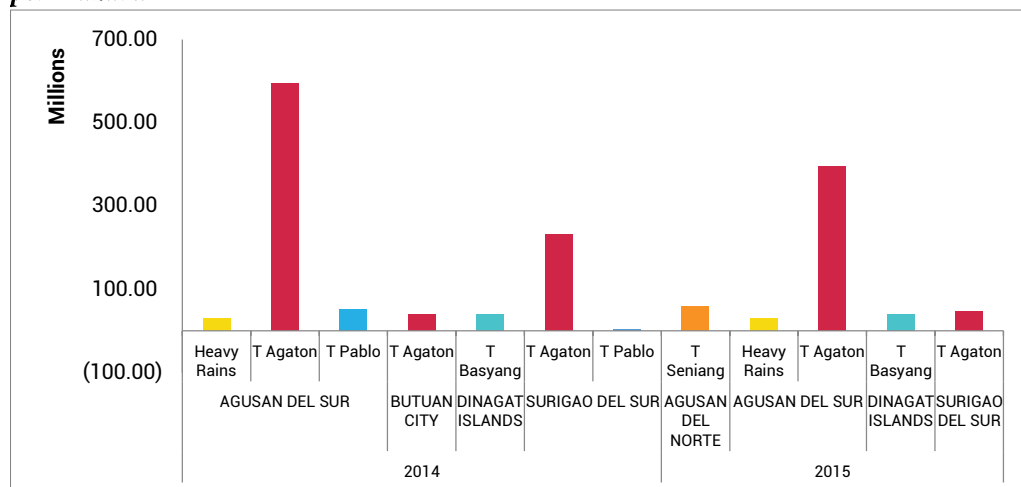
Table 19.16 shows the amount released by OCD for DRR-related infra projects

Table 19.16 Amount Released for DRR-Related Infrastructure Projects per Hazard, 2014-2015

TYPHOON	AMOUNT RELEASE, PHP
2014	
Agusan Del Sur	
Heavy Rains	30,068,000
T Agaton	596,361,110
T Pablo	51,085,961
Butuan City	
T Agaton	39,202,000
Dinagat Islands	
T Basyang	39,757,000
Surigao Del Sur	
T Agaton	233,155,680
T Pablo	3,136,146
2015	
Agusan Del Norte	
T Seniang	58,530,000
Agusan Del Sur	
Heavy Rains	30,068,000
T Agaton	394,675,000
Dinagat Islands	
T Basyang	39,757,000
Surigao Del Sur	
T Agaton	47,192,000
Grand Total	1,562,987,897

Source: OCD Caraga

Figure 19.11 Comparative Amount Released for DRR-Related Infrastructure Projects per Hazard



Source: OCD Caraga

For Typhoon Pablo, the provinces of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur received funds in 2014 for the repair and rehabilitation of infrastructures amounting to PhP 51,085,961 and PhP 3,136,146, respectively.

Tropical Depression (TD) Auring on January 8, 2017 followed by the tail end of a cold front on January 18, 2017 damaged 720 houses, and provincial roads and bridges in 12 municipalities in the provinces of Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, and Butuan City.

A magnitude 6.7 earthquake hit Surigao City and the municipalities of San Francisco, Malimono, Sison and Mainit in

Surigao del Norte on February 10, 2017 damaging roads, bridges, houses, schools and commercial buildings. There were 518 totally damaged and 5,880 partially damaged houses. About 47 school facilities were affected rendering its structural integrity unsound. A total of five national roads and six bridges suffered damages in the province of Surigao del Norte.

The overall damage incurred by the region from the Surigao earthquake, TD Auring and the Tail End of a Cold Front amounted to PhP 1,219,858,232. About 58 road segments were damaged comprising of 37 national roads, 20 provincial roads and one barangay road.

Challenges

Lack of long-term planning/investment programming. A long-term (10 to 20 year perspective) infrastructure plan and investment program that is harmonized with the spatial framework plan will help chart a more cohesive development direction of the Region.

Inadequate project preparation, which leads to fragmented project identification. Problems that require an integrated infrastructure intervention will need an adequate and more deliberate project preparation to pinpoint the underlying causes of the problem. A fragmented approach would negate any benefit from an intervention and waste the scarce resources of the government.

Actual budget released is lower than the proposed budget, which affects the scope, design or quality of structure. Some projects are delayed because the implementers have to seek additional funding to complete the projects. Sometimes the projects have to be modified to fit the budget, thereby compromising its quality.

Lack of redundant access for inter-regional connections. The Region's access road to Regions X and XI is only through the Pan-Philippine Highway. Damage to any portions of these roads during calamities/disasters can render Caraga Region inaccessible and isolated.

Damaged roads that endanger motorists and commuters. Damaged road sections in disaster-prone areas or roads with water seepage cause loosening or scouring of the soil, hampering the flow of traffic and endanger motorist and commuters.

Missing road links leading to tourism sites, seaports and airports and conflict-affected areas. Despite the on-going programs and projects of DPWH and other road implementing agencies to address gaps in road links, the targets in these areas were not achieved. Some of these gaps include road opening to Tandag-San Miguel-Calaitan (Calaitan Section) in Bayugan, Agusan del Sur; Puting Bato-Lanuza road section and other alternate routes in municipalities and provinces.

Emerging traffic congestion in the Regional Center and other sub-regional centers. Traffic congestion in the regional center and sub-regional centers especially during rush hours is already palpable. This is caused mainly by the increasing volume of vehicles, narrow road networks and lack of alternate routes.

Delay in the implementation of infrastructure projects due to limited supply of construction materials such as aggregates. There are instances when LGUs regulate the release of permits for quarrying operations of the concessionaire, which delays project implementation.

Weak adherence to and enforcement of environmental laws. Some road projects pose adverse environmental impacts to protected areas. Environmental policies such as processing of environmental

compliance certificate (ECC) that provides conditions in mitigating the impact to the environment are often not secured prior to project implementation.

Poor management of irrigation facilities on the part of end users. The maintenance of irrigation facilities have been disregarded by some end-users. Improper handling damaged the facilities resulting in uneven distribution of water supply.

Economic activities such as mining, quarrying and logging cause siltation in irrigation facilities. Irresponsible mining and logging activities cause siltation that damaged several irrigation facilities in the region.

Illegal land conversion that reduced the irrigation service areas. Businesses, industries and residences in the region are expanding aggressively and have in fact encroached on agricultural lands. Some of these structures are built near or within an agricultural land with irrigation facilities.

Limited irrigation projects to serve the potential irrigable lands. To attain food sufficiency in the region, more irrigation projects have to be constructed to support the farmers in increasing their production. To date, there is still a large gap between potential irrigable areas and irrigated areas especially in Agusan del Sur.

Insufficient water supply due to denuded watershed or water source areas. Some irrigation facilities in the region experienced shortage of water due to forest denudation that resulted in low productivity of the irrigated area.

Unreliability of Agus Pulangi Hydropower Complex to supply power.

Ageing facilities, drought and siltation contribute to low power generation or shutting down of some facilities within the complex.

High cost of power. The region faces high cost of electricity because of the predominance of diesel plants operating in the Mindanao Grid. High market price of fossil fuel increases the operating cost of power plants resulting in the spike of electricity cost for consumers.

Huge investment requirement in the generation sector. RE plants require huge investments as the cost of technology remains high because of its limited supply.

Huge economic cost for electrification expansion in remote areas. The sitios that remain un-energized are situated in hard to reach areas that require extensive resources, effort and time.

Difficulty in achieving the ideal energy mix. The ageing facilities of APHC and frequent low water levels triggered power shortages across Mindanao, which in turn encouraged the construction of coal-fired plants. Meanwhile, NRE projects are scarce.

Unreliable telecom or internet services. Subscribers often complain of unwarranted charges/billing and poor internet service. Inefficient telecommunications services such as intermittent/slow internet connection hamper day-to-day transactions in the public sector and cause revenue/opportunity loss for businesses and online entrepreneurs.

Lack of cell sites in remote areas. There are still areas in the region that are not covered by cellular network. The telecom industry has difficulty establishing new cell sites in remote areas due to high investment cost. The installation of cell sites in isolated areas is more expensive because of transportation cost.

Inefficient facilities and lack of back-up technology to ensure reliable supply of safe and potable water. Major Cities in the region often experience water supply interruption especially during rainy seasons due to poor infiltration facilities and lack of back-up technology. Moreover, due to attendant high cost, local water utilities have difficulty upgrading their facilities. This persistent problem brings health and sanitation woes to households. Further, this waterless situation has adversely affected service and business establishments.

Existing gap in social infrastructure. There is still a gap in the number of classrooms and hospital facilities thus, the pupil/student to classroom ratio and bed to population ratio fall below the standard. Also, the region has limited health facilities and it does not have a tertiary level hospital.

Lack of health human resources. While the number of health facilities in the region increased, the number of health professionals such as midwives, nurses and doctors has not kept up. This issue results in the non-utilization of some health facilities.

Poor solid waste management and lack of sewerage facilities. Several LGUs do not

have concrete plans to sustainably manage solid and liquid wastes. This can result in contamination and water pollution especially during flood and calamities.

Limited number of public infrastructure with sound structural integrity. Existing public infrastructures are not resilient to geological and climatological hazards. Some structures are already old but are still being utilized beyond their designed lifespan i.e. five years for roads and 15 years for buildings and bridges. Also, most of these structures have not been designed to withstand strong hazards such as magnitude 7 earthquakes.

Lack of slope protection in the design of infrastructure projects. Existing and proposed road projects do not include slope protection in its design. The absence of necessary slope protection in these road projects hastens scouring leading to landslide and road slips that can endanger motorists and commuters.

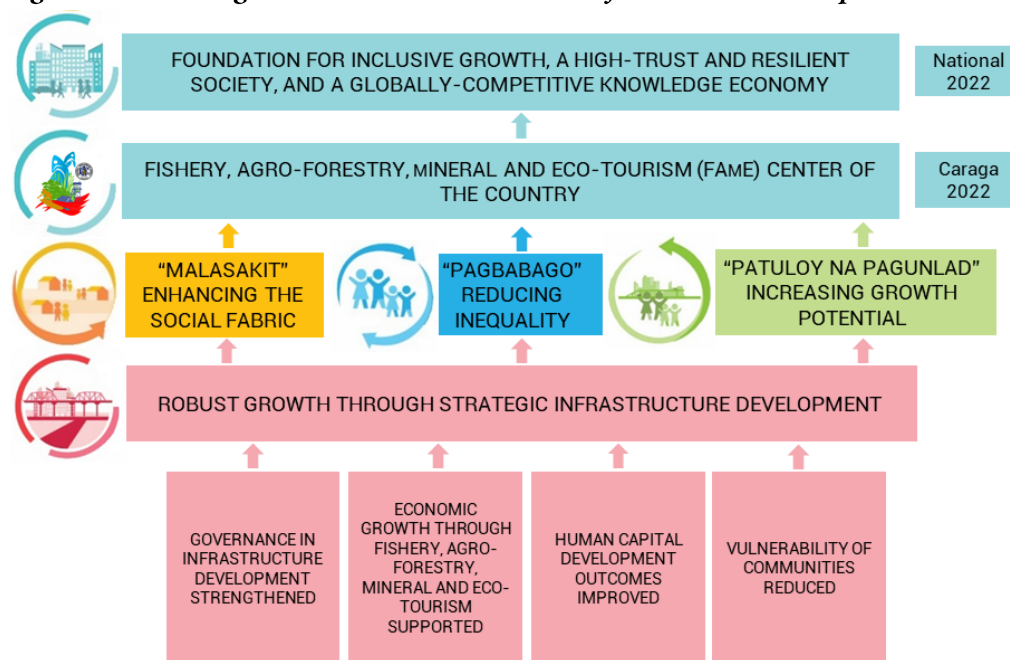
Limited equipment and facilities to forecast with accuracy the potential risks of hazards. The availability of advanced and dependable equipment and facilities for early detection and information dissemination of potential risks is critical in reducing vulnerabilities. Reliable communication channels play a significant role in providing enough preparation time prior to the occurrence of a hazard.

Reclassification of critical rivers as part of the major river basins of the region. The allocation of funds for flood control projects is limited or concentrated to those classified as major or principal river basins. However, some of the critical rivers, which are not yet classified as major or principal river basins, are routes of flood water to the built-up areas during storm events.

Limited adoption of climate change and disaster-resilient infrastructure designs. There is a limited pool of experts, insufficient technological capacities, and inadequate funds to ensure that hazard parameters are considered in the design of infrastructures.

Strategic Framework

Figure 19.12 Strategic Framework to Accelerate Infrastructure Development



Sectoral Outcome: Robust Growth through Strategic Infrastructure Development

Sub-sectoral Outcome 1: Governance in infrastructure development strengthened

Increase government approval and spending on strategic infrastructure projects. There is a need to increase government approval and release of funds for infrastructure projects in the region considering the existing gaps in road connectivity, social infrastructure, irrigation, energy, among others. In a comparative study of budgets for selected government agencies in Mindanao, Caraga

received the smallest budgets among the Mindanao Regions from 2014 to 2016.

Enhance identification, development and evaluation of strategic infrastructure projects. The identification of infrastructure projects should be strategic and evidence-based considering the scarce resources of the government. Projects proposed for funding should be based on a long-term development plan i.e. roads or irrigation development plan so that infrastructure development will not only address specific issues but also provide forward looking perspective for development. Before implementation, sound feasibility and economic studies should be pursued to determine the viability of infrastructure projects. After, ex-post or impact evaluation studies should be conducted to determine whether

big ticket projects have achieved their intended benefits to the beneficiaries.

Encourage development of ICC-able infrastructure project proposals to generate investments. Since the approval of the Umayam River Irrigation Project under the NIA in 2012, the Region has yet to propose an infrastructure project amounting to more than PhP1 billion. A big ticket project is expected to create more employment and yield greater economic benefits. Also, if projects go through the ICC, it is expected that there is a sound feasibility study that supports the project proposal.

Update existing infrastructure plans or roadmaps that support connectivity and other infrastructure services. In order to identify strategic infrastructure projects, there is a need to update existing plans and roadmaps. This will also help assess the infrastructure needs of the different sectors such as agriculture, tourism, industries, and others. Moreover, a plan or roadmap can guide decision makers and funding institutions in identifying which infrastructure projects to support.

Major Programs and Projects

- Capability building for feasibility/pre-feasibility study preparation
- Capability building on infrastructure planning, investment programming and project prioritization
- RDC – ACO Dialogues

Sub-Sectoral Outcome 2: Economic growth through Fishery, Agro-Forestry, Mineral and Eco- tourism supported

Land, Air and Sea Transportation

Identify more linkages (roads and sea) between regions/provinces to provide redundant routes and shorten travel time, thereby improving access. There are on-going construction of alternate routes connecting the Region to Regions X and XI, which needs to have assured funding support so that it can be completed in the next 3 to 5 years. These routes include roads under MLIN, which connects Agusan del Sur to Bukidnon, Impasugong to Las Nieves, and Improvement of National Road to Buenavista, and Upgrading of the La Paz-Loreto-Veruela-Laac-Asuncion-Tagum Road. However, there is still a need to identify more inter-provincial and inter-regional routes for ease of access and to spur economic activities.

Strengthen sea networks and promote strategic inter-island bridges. Critical to the Region's development is the strengthening of sea routes particularly those going to the Visayas because of the Province of Dinagat Islands, Siargao Islands and Bucas Grande. The proposed Hayanggabon - Bucas Grande Bridge will connect mainland Surigao del Norte to Bucas Grande through Hanyanggabon in Claver, thus, supporting the Bucas Grande – Sohoton Cove-Siargao ecotourism.

Another future consideration is a bridge from Surigao City to Nonoc Island to Cagdianao in Dinagat Islands. This will

support the Special Mining Economic Zone in Nonoc and improve the access of Dinagatnons to the mainland. Moreover, strengthening sea routes to Visayas such as Liloan and San Ricardo in Leyte from Surigao City will be beneficial in terms of opening markets for the region's fishery and agricultural produce and exploring sources of aggregates for infrastructure projects in the region.

Pursue continuous implementation of roads leading to tourism sites, ports, production areas and conflict areas. Roads leading to tourism areas, ports and farms bring economic opportunities. Some of the proposed roads include the Tinuy-an Falls-Enchanted River – Britannia Islets Britannia ecotourism loop in Surigao del Sur; roads leading to Agusan Marsh in Agusan del Sur; Silop Cave – Day-asan Mangroves – Manjagaw Mangroves ecotourism loop in Surigao City; and the Lake Mainit Circumferential Road along Malimono – Sitio Datu, Jabonga in Agusan del Norte.

Other priority roads that will be considered include those leading to production areas and economic zones such as roads leading to match factory in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur; roads leading to agro-forestry development areas in Barangay Lawan-Lawan in La Nieves; roads leading to the NANIE Special Economic Zone in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte; circumferential road in Nonoc, Surigao del Norte, and others.

Promote mass transport system connecting urban to urban and urban to rural areas. A feasibility study on the most efficient and innovative mass/urban transport system will be pursued taking into account

the Region's regional and sub-regional centers and emerging growth areas and areas with high potential for growth.

Strategic areas will be identified and support will be mobilized for the implementation of the Mindanao Railway System (MRS). The MRS is expected to address traffic congestion and reduce greenhouse gas emission. A second FS is in the works for the Butuan-Nabunturan-Davao Corridor Section. Another proposal is the additional Surigao section connecting Butuan City to Surigao.

Explore the possibility of relocating the Butuan City Airport to allow its development into an international airport. Explore and identify feasible sites for a regional airport in anticipation of the time that the existing Butuan Airport will reach its maximum capacity. When the ecotourism loops and key development zones will become operational, passengers will likely increase, requiring a bigger airport to accommodate more flights. At present, the Butuan Airport can be expanded towards Brgy. Pinamanculan and Brgy. Abilan in Buenavista.

Major Programs and Projects

Roads and Bridges

- Rehabilitation/ Reconstruction/ Upgrading of Damaged Paved National Roads including drainage i.e. Daang Maharlika Agusan-Davao Section
- Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of National Roads with Slips, Slope Collapse, and Landslide i.e. NRJ Bayugan-Calaitan-Agusan-Malaybalay section

- Improvement/Widening of National Roads i.e. Daang Maharlika Surigao Agusan Section and Agusan-Davao Section and Butuan-Cagayan de Oro-Iligan City Road Agusan-Misamis Oriental Section
- Construction of By-Passes/ Diversion Roads, including ROW i.e. NRJ Daang Maharlika (Taguibo-Masao Port), and NRJ Daang Maharlika (alternate route) (NRJ Mayor Democrito Plaza II Ave.- Las Nieves-Sibagat)
- Construction of Mindanao Logistics Infrastructure Network, viz:
 - Road04:Completion/Construction of East-West Lateral connecting Agusan Del Sur to Bukidnon - San Miguel Proper (Surigao del Sur) - Calaitan (Bayugan); Agusan-Malaybalay Road, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur; and, Sampaguita - Makilos (Agusan del Sur/Bukidnon Boundary); and
 - Road 06:Construction of Impasugong to Las Nieves & Improvement of National Road to Buenavista - Completion of the East - West Lateral Road connecting Agusan del Sur/Agusan del Norte to Bukidnon, Simbalan-Dulag-Bilay Section; and, Boundary

Bukidnon/Agusan del Norte

Sea Ports

- Improvement of Passenger Terminal Complex at Nasipit Port
- Improvement of Ferry Terminal Complex at Butuan Port
- Construction of Water Supply System at Masao Port
- Widening of Port Entrance at Masao Port
- Reclamation of Backup Area and Acquisition of ROW (South) Nasipit Port
- Construction of Breakwater at Masao Port
- Construction of Inland Berths at Masao Port
- Cantilan Port Expansion Project
- Doña Helene Port Development Project (Phase II)

Airports

- Upgrading of Butuan City Airport
- Rehabilitation, Upgrading of Facilities and Expansion of Surigao City Airport
- Upgrading of Facilities and Expansion of Sayak Airport
- Upgrading of Facilities and Expansion of Tandag Airport

Irrigation

Develop a Regional Irrigation Master Plan to ensure that the target areas for irrigation development are provided with adequate projects. The Master Plan should contain irrigation areas for development that are considered crucial for the region's agricultural productivity. For Agusan del Sur, the following projects have been initially identified: Umayam

RIP, Maasam RIP, Lugom CIP and Andanan RIS. Umayam has the largest irrigable area at 6,729 hectares; it is followed by Maasam with 3,000 hectares. More than 2,100 farmers will benefit from the Umayam project. Maasam will cover 2,000 farmers. Other irrigation facilities will be developed in the next six years.

Fast track processing for declaration/proclamation of identified watershed areas to ensure sustainable water sources. Declaration/proclamation of watersheds will be pursued to sustain delivery of irrigation waters to service areas. Agusan River, Andanan River, Gibong River and Tago River are the major sources of water for irrigation in the region with an aggregate service area of around 20,000 hectares. These rivers provide irrigation waters to the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur.

Strengthen the implementation of agricultural laws and amend policies, particularly those on land conversion to protect the irrigated agricultural lands. The region is beset with land conversion issues such as land conversion for real estate development. Thus, policies on land conversion will be harmonized.

Rationalize prioritization of PPAs to maximize the use of limited government resources and ensure that prime agricultural lands are provided with adequate irrigation facilities. Prioritization criteria of programs and projects will be rationalized to maximize the benefits from the use of limited resources. Likewise, fund allocation and implementation schedule will be acted

upon with due regard for committed deadlines

Improve irrigation facility design to ensure suitability and sustainability. Most parts of the region are hazard prone. The Andanan RIS in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur for one is prone to flooding and scouring. Thus, irrigation facilities will be constructed following a disaster-resilient and biodiversity-friendly design to sustain its economic life and prevent economic setbacks to the beneficiaries.

Major Programs and Projects

- Bislig City Integrated Development Project – Irrigation Component in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur
- MAP Irrigation Project in Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte
- Kitcharao Small Reservoir Irrigation Project in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte
- Umayam River Irrigation Project in Loreto and La Paz, Agusan del Sur
- Libang National Irrigation Project in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur
- Extension/Expansion of Existing National and Communal Irrigation Systems
- Restoration/Rehabilitation of Existing National and Communal Irrigation Systems
- Locally-funded small irrigation projects

Energy

Ensure affordable energy supply. To lower electricity costs, investments in renewable

and emerging energy technologies in power generation will be encouraged and supported with institutional reforms. Thus, there is a need to improve transparency in policies and regulations and develop market-driven strategies. Policies declaring power projects as projects of national significance and policies expediting the rehabilitation and utilization of NPC/PSALM power generating facilities will be pursued.

Ensure reliable and sustainable power supply. Caraga Region supports the development thrust of the Department of Energy to update and implement the government's Power Development Plan and its component plans, which include Transmission Development Plan, Distribution Development Plan, Missionary Electrification Development Plan and Household Electrification Development Plan. Further, the region also supports the planning and building of an appropriate portfolio of installed and dependable power capacities for base load, mid-merit and peaking requirements to secure appropriate investments from prospective investors.

Expand electrification to all. Electrification will be expanded to far-flung un-energized sitios to support their socio-economic activities, and contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of household members. As of December 2015, the provinces of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur have 298 and 201 unenergized sitios, respectively. Overall, the region still needs to energize 652 sitios to achieve 100% sitio electrification.

Promote indigenous and renewable energy sources. To expand and optimize the use of abundant local sources of energy, the region will promote fossil fuel explorations as the region is rich in coal (Surigao area), and oil and gas reserves (Agusan-Davao basin). In support of RA No. 9513, also known as the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, Caraga Region will strongly promote technology innovation through research and development (R&D) on clean, efficient and smart technologies for NRE projects.

Major Programs and Projects

- Formulation of energy policies, plans and programs
- Supervision and implementation of electric power industry reforms
- Supervision and implementation of the rural electrification program
- Supervision of energy resource exploration, development and utilization
- Proposed energy investment/project in the region:
- Butuan City 1 Solar Power Project in Butuan City
- Adnama Power Resources, Inc. (tidal power project) in Surigao City
- Taguibo Hydroelectric Power Project in Butuan City
- Cabadbaran Hydroelectric Power Project in Cabadbaran City
- Carac-an Hydroelectric Power Project in Madrid, Surigao del Sur
- Carromata Hydroelectric Power Project in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur
- Sagbayan Hydroelectric Power Project in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur

- Wawa Hydroelectric Power Project in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur
- Managong Hydroelectric Power Project in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur
- Biogas Power Generation in Rosario, Agusan del Sur

offices will be interconnected to provide citizens access to online public services.

Sub-sectoral Outcome 3: Human capital development outcomes improved

Digital Infrastructure

Improve investment climate in the ICT sector. To increase economic opportunities, the region needs to attract more investments and encourage the BPO industry to establish in the region. To attain this, efficiency in the processing of applications will be improved to entice investors and to expedite installation/establishment of digital facilities. Also, competition will be encouraged to help reduce prices, improve quality of service and provide the public more options in terms of services or products.

Enhance digital strength and connectivity. ICT infrastructure will be upgraded and expanded to cater to the needs of the public. Expansion will be prioritized in far-flung communities to uplift their economic conditions and ensure that will stay connected even during calamities.

Government-initiated ICT programs, like Juan Konek! and iGovPhil will be implemented in marginalized towns specifically in public areas such as markets and transport terminals to expand the region's wireless connectivity, thus improving wireless transactions and services. To fully optimize the iGovPhil Program, national and local government

Ensure effective delivery of basic social services. There is a need to pursue public consultation and area assessment before any social infra project is implemented to consider the priorities, peculiarities and existing hazards in the area. Further, operations requirement such as personnel, equipment, water and electricity and LGU counterpart will be pre-defined to ensure full utilization and sustainability of completed facilities.

In addition, Rural Health Units (RHU) and Barangay Health Stations (BHS) will be trained to improve health products and services.

Improve access to quality basic social facilities and services. Access roads leading to RHUs and BHSs, especially in far-flung areas will be improved to ensure the access of users to the facilities. Further, the access requirements of persons with disabilities will be considered in the design of these facilities.

Reduce the gap in social infrastructure development through equitable distribution of projects. The region will develop long-term plan for social infrastructure projects to avoid project duplication and to prioritize areas that require more social infrastructure.

Areas with large classroom-student gap will be prioritized in terms of classroom

construction. Construction of instructional facilities and workshops for senior high school will be likewise prioritized in support of the K to 12 program.

Ensure suitable and sustainable sanitation program and waste management. The region will establish and implement solid waste management systems and programs and implement 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) at the household and barangay levels through the establishment of materials recovery facility (MRF). Barangay officials will be empowered to operate, manage and monitor sanitation and sewerage programs to promote solid waste management.

Attention will be given to proper waste disposal of toxic wastes to avoid water contamination and other adverse effects to the environment. Private institutions will be encouraged to engage in local waste treatment services to complement government efforts.

Ensure efficiency and sustainability of water system and facilities of local water utilities. To make sure that water system facilities are efficient and sustainable, local water utilities will be enjoined to update their respective water management master plans, which spell-out their programs and projects for watershed development, enhancement of facilities, expansion of services, ensuring uninterrupted water supply, and water quality, among others.

Major Programs and Projects

- Construction/Upgrading/ Rehabilitation of hospitals and health facilities
- Health Facilities Enhancement Program in all provinces

- Construction of school buildings in all provinces and cities
- Construction of water and sanitation facilities in all barangays in the region
- Construction of Senior High School Workshop Facilities
- Installation of material recovery facilities in all barangays in the region
- Caraga Specialty Hospital
- Provincial Hospital in Dinagat Islands
- Regional Mental Hospital

Sub-sectoral Outcome 4: Vulnerability of communities reduced

Adopt Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation-enhanced designs and technologies for infrastructure projects.

Designs of future infrastructure projects in hazard-prone areas in the region will be DRR-CCA enhanced to ensure safety of users. Technologies to strengthen high rise structures or bridges will be adopted to reduce vulnerabilities.

Incorporate geologic studies in the construction of roads, bridges, ports, runways and other critical infrastructures to identify locations with hazards for the design.

Proper identification of locations for infrastructure projects is critical considering that the region is vulnerable to both geological and climatological hazards. Studies and recent events have shown that some public infrastructures i.e. bridges, airports, are located near or within earthquake fault lines or areas susceptible to flooding, resulting in substantial damage to infrastructures during disaster events.

Repair and rehabilitation of these damaged infrastructures will require huge budgets. Thus, results of geologic studies including soil analysis will be used to inform the design of infrastructures.

Improve resiliency of communities to flooding and other natural hazards.

Flooding incidence especially in Butuan City and Agusan del Sur is expected during typhoon season or strong precipitation. Although the end goal is to reduce vulnerability, improving resiliency is helpful to avoid damages, injuries or casualties during calamities. Thus, communities will be encouraged to improve resiliency by putting in place flood mitigation measures, drainage structures, and slope protection; strengthening or retrofitting structures; and even strengthening warning, evacuation and disaster response measures.

Mitigate, rehabilitate and build back better facilities damaged by natural hazards.

Damaged infrastructures as a result of hazards imply that it is not resilient to the impact of those hazards. Thus, damaged structures will be upgraded to higher standards to become more resilient.

Identify and pursue redundant access within and outside the region.

Caraga's lack of alternate routes to Regions X and XI makes it vulnerable to isolation, which can result in delayed delivery of lifeline services during disaster events. The identification of strategic redundant routes is beneficial to reduce fatalities and fast track the delivery of services to affected areas. The MLIN and MRP, which traverse

the region, will ensure a more robust road network.

Major Programs and Projects

- Construction of River Bank/Flood Control/Shoreline/Slope Protection (*Talacogon, Barobo, Bayugan, Bunawan, Hinatuan, Tagbina, Jabonga, Santiago, Kitcharao, Nasipit, Tubay, La Paz, Trento, San Isidro, San Francisco, Bislig City, Magallanes, Tago, Tandag City, Lanuza, Sibagat, Surigao City, Sison, Butuan City, Lingig, San Agustin, Claver, Alegria, Mainit, Buenavista, Socorro, San Benito, Burgos, Sta. Monica, Cortes, Veruela and Loreto*)
- Construction of Bank Revetment/Concrete Dike/Lakewall/ Ring Dike/Seawall/Road Dike/Retaining wall (*Lingig, Bislig, Magallanes, Lanuza, San Luis, Claver, Madrid, Tago, San Miguel, Cantilan, Jabonga, Surigao City, Tandag, Butuan City, Kitcharao, Dinagat, Cabadbaran, Mainit, Santiago, and Carmen*)
- Construction of Drainage structures (*Surigao City, Butuan City, Lingig, Jabonga and Kitcharao*)
- Rechanneling/Rehabilitation/Desiltation/Dredging (*Butuan City, Veruela, Sibagat, Bayugan, Prosperidad, Esperanza, Hinatuan, Loreto, Jabonga, Tubajon, Trento, Bunawan, Dinagat, Cabadbaran, San Jose, and Cagdianao*)
- Repair of Roads and Bridges along National and Secondary roads affected by the 6.7 magnitude

earthquake in Surigao City (*i.e.* Malico Bridge, Kinabutan I and II Bridges, Friendship Bridge, Banahaw Bridge. and road sections

of Daang Maharlika in Surigao City and Anao-aon Bridge in San Francisco, Surigao del Norte)

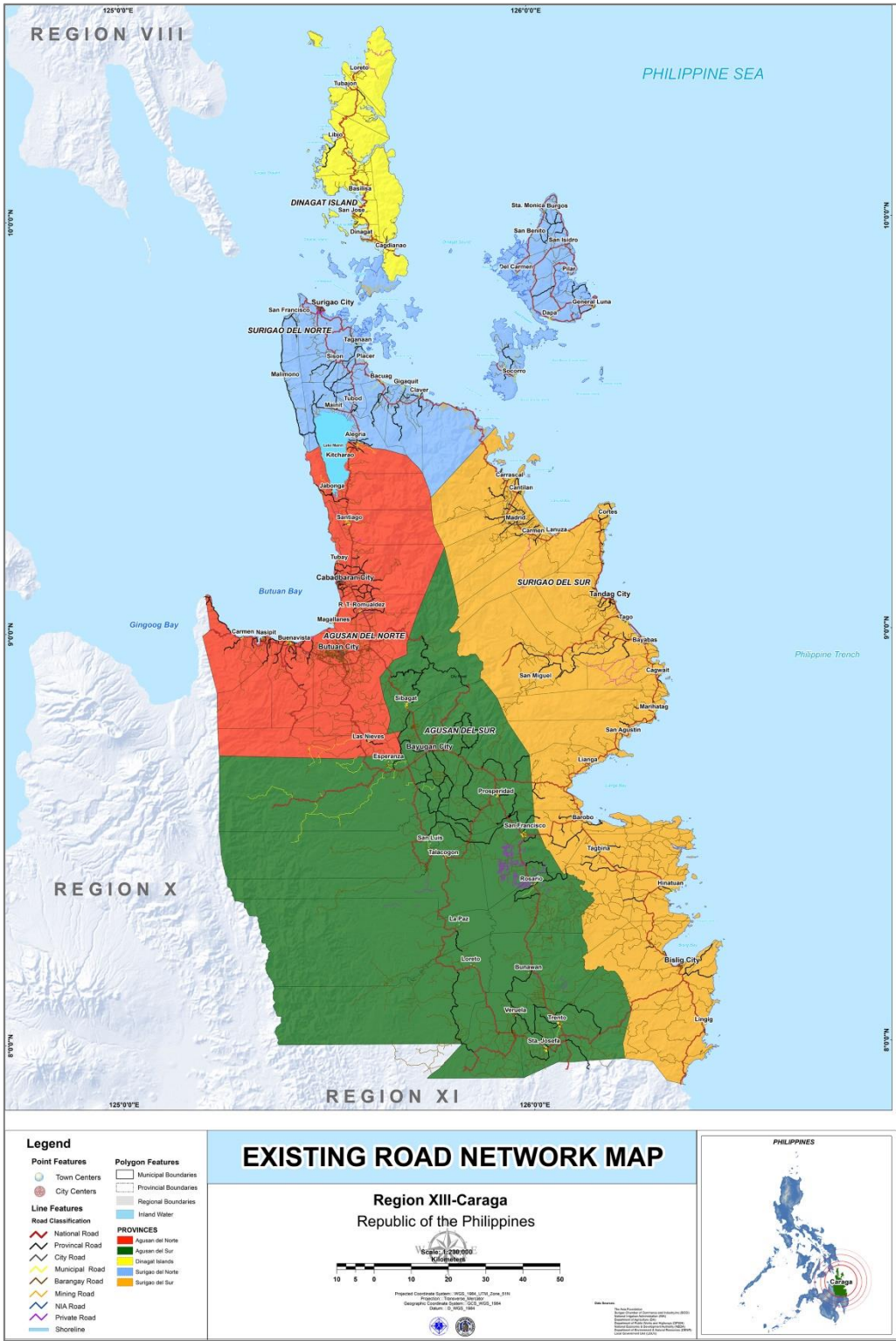
Policy and Legislative Agenda

- Promote better incentives for individuals affected by Road Right of Way
- Pursue customized and integrated design and costing for social infrastructure projects (consider topographic area and include utilities, personnel etc.)

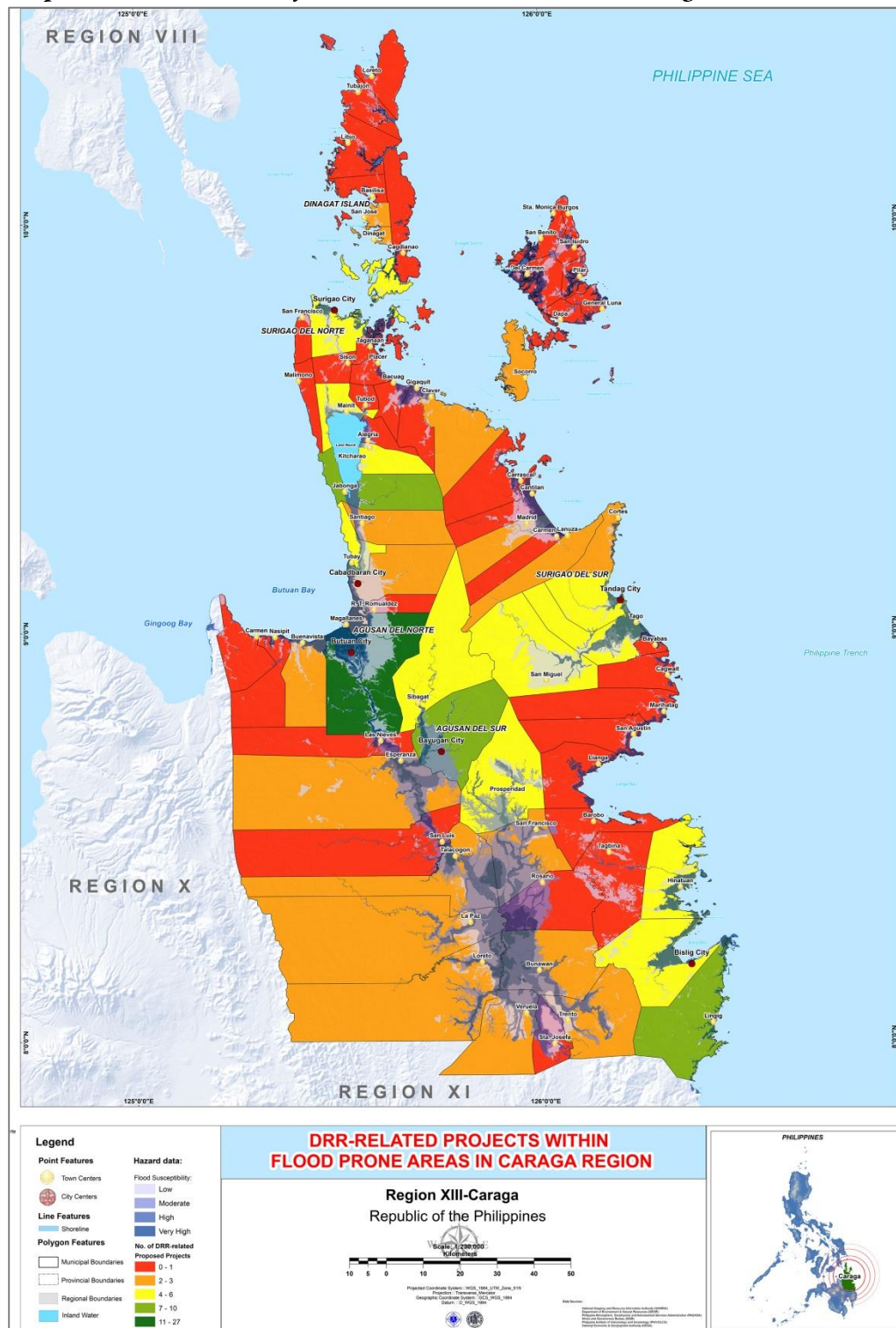
Research Agenda

- Study on Recycling of Waste Construction Materials for Reuse in Construction Projects (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle)
- Study on a Fuel Efficient Transportation System in the Region
- Study on Suitable Mass Transport System in the Agusan River
- Study on the Design of a Bicyclable Walkway or Design to Promote Walkability of Cities

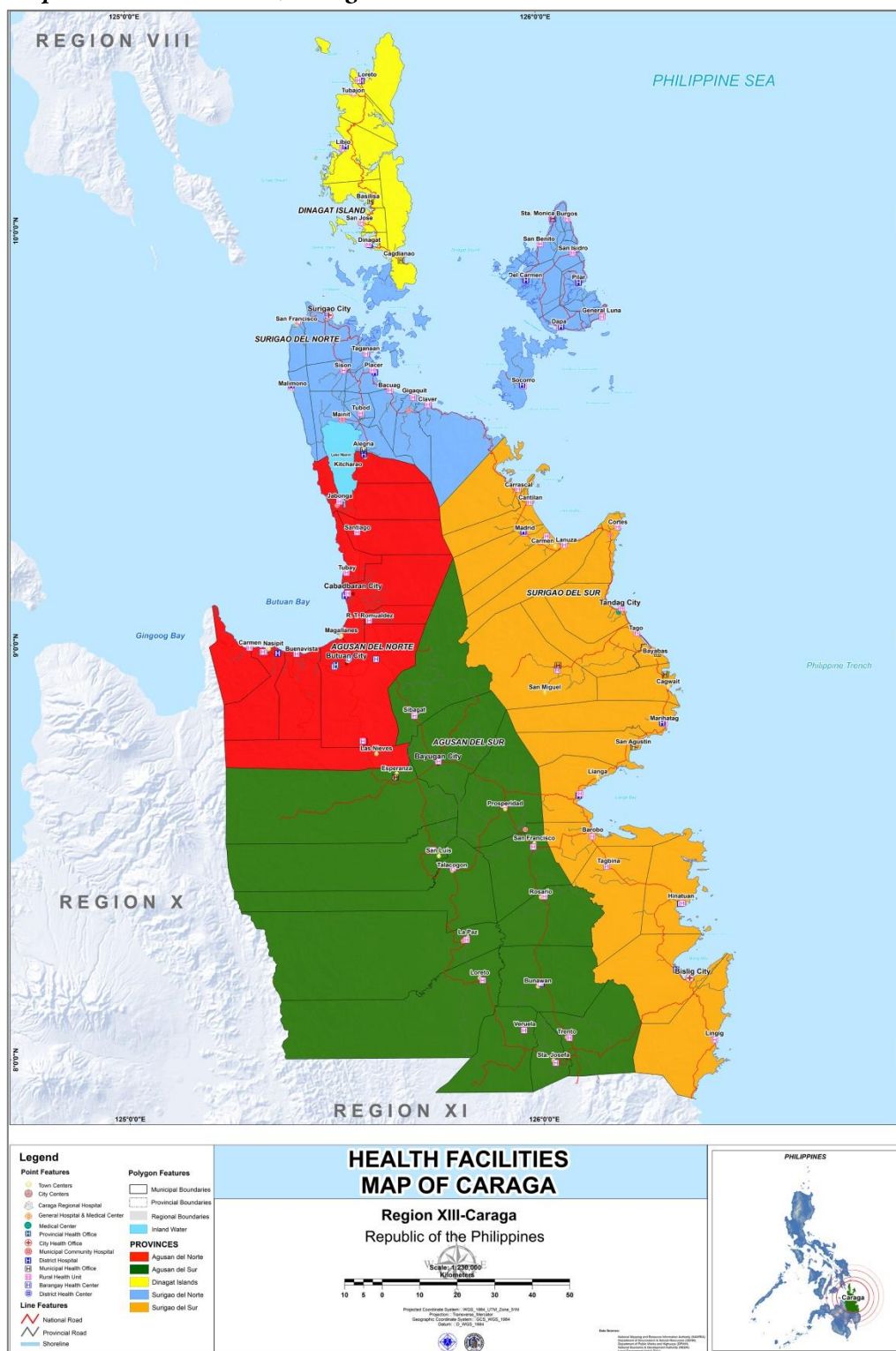
Map 19.1 Existing Road Network, Caraga



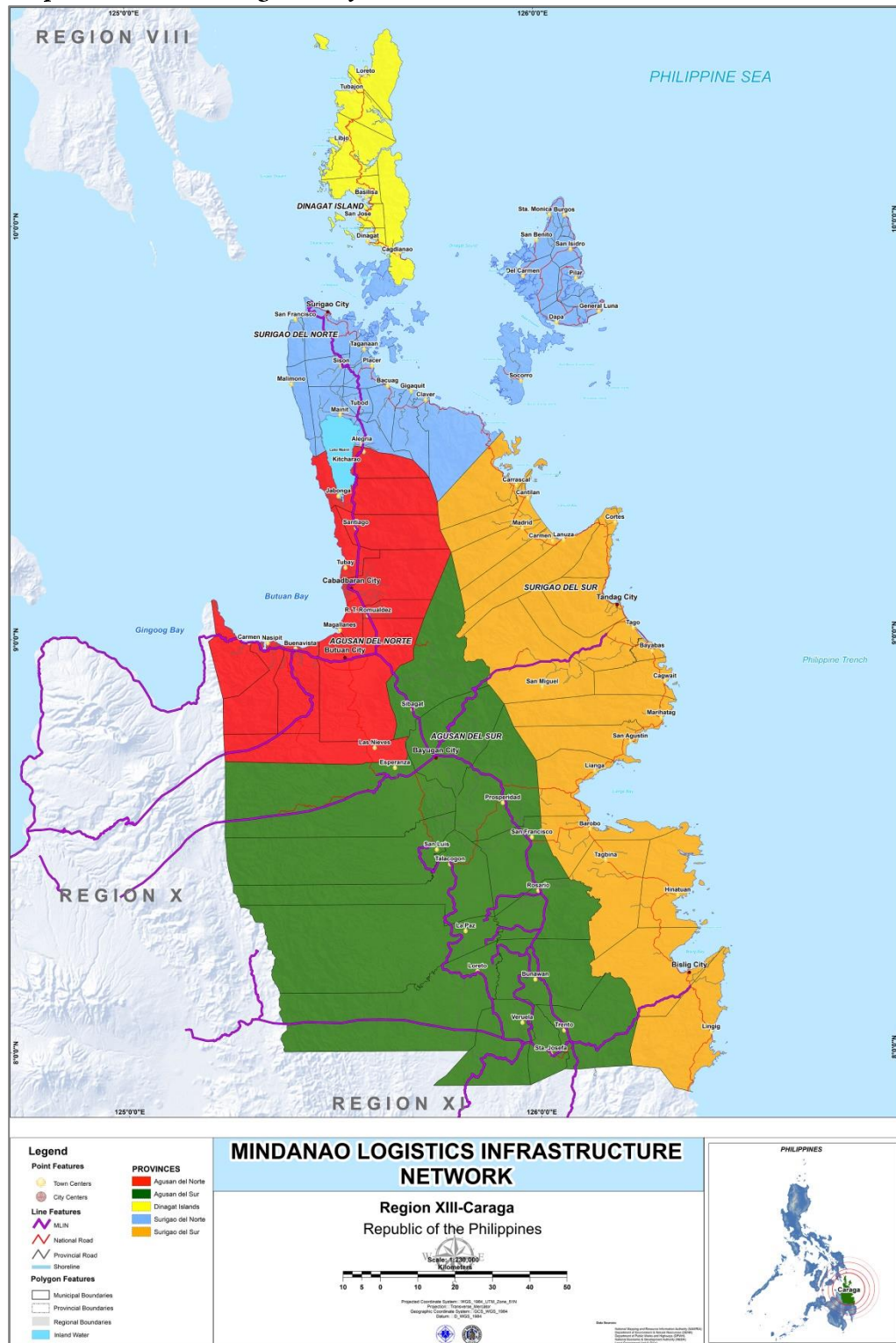
Map 19.2 DRR Related Projects within Flood Prone Areas, Caraga



Map 19.3 Health Facilities, Caraga



Map 19.4 Mindanao Logistics Infrastructure Network



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Ensuring
Ecological Integrity,
Clean and Healthy
Environment

Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean and Healthy Environment

The Caraga Region's economy relies heavily on the utilization and development of its natural resources, which is characterized by high dependency on extractive activities. Competing uses of land and water resources is an issue that affects the region. Said concern is amplified by conflicting policies and weak vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms. Hence, striking a balance between production and conservation is an aspiration of the region.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

1. *Provisioning Services - products obtained from ecosystems*
 - food, freshwater, fuel wood, fiber, biochemicals and genetic resources
2. *Regulating Services – benefits obtained from regulation of ecosystem processes*
 - climate regulation, disease regulation, water regulation, water purification, pollination
3. *Cultural Services – non-material benefits obtained from ecosystems*
 - spiritual and religious, recreation and tourism, aesthetic, inspirational
 - educational, sense of place and cultural heritage
4. *Supporting Services- services for the production of all ecosystem services*
 - soil formation, nutrient cycling and primary production

As the region is situated in the country's typhoon-belt and Pacific Ring of Fire, natural calamities are common. The region's ability to establish equilibrium is essential in sustaining the availability of natural resources for present and future generations. It is also important for the region to ensure resiliency of natural ecosystems, and strengthen adaptive capacities of the people against natural hazards. The rational allocation of land and natural resources is therefore critical to ensure the functioning of ecosystem services¹

Assessment

Ecosystem Services

Land Resource Administration

Improving tenure security of local communities is a key element in pursuing

rural development and poverty reduction. From 2011 to 2015, DENR granted land tenures to holders of 38,312 lots through various land disposition modalities. Total area covered reached 25,245 hectares.

¹<http://millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.300.aspx.pdf>

Table 20.1 Land Distribution by Type, 2013-2015

TYPE	2013		2014		2015		TOTAL	
	NO.	AREA (HA.)	NO.	AREA (HA.)	NO.	AREA (HA.)	NO.	AREA (HA.)
Handog Titulo	157	55.08	313	120.43	64	1.83	534	177.34
Residential Free Patents	5,319	110.10	5,444	148.00	4,838	117.70	15,601	375.80
Agricultural Free Patent	7,912	7,223.54	7,190	7,207.09	5,336	5,410.84	20,438	19,841.48
Sales	57	1,277.00	46	1,443.00	22	0.78	125	2,720.77
Foreshore	589	152.73	596	190.75	36	39.00	1,221	382.49
School Sites	35	1,149.76	112	162.91	66	434.91	213	1,747.57
Total	14,069	9,968.22	13,701	10,362.00	10,362	6,005.05	38,132	25,245.45

Source: DENR 13

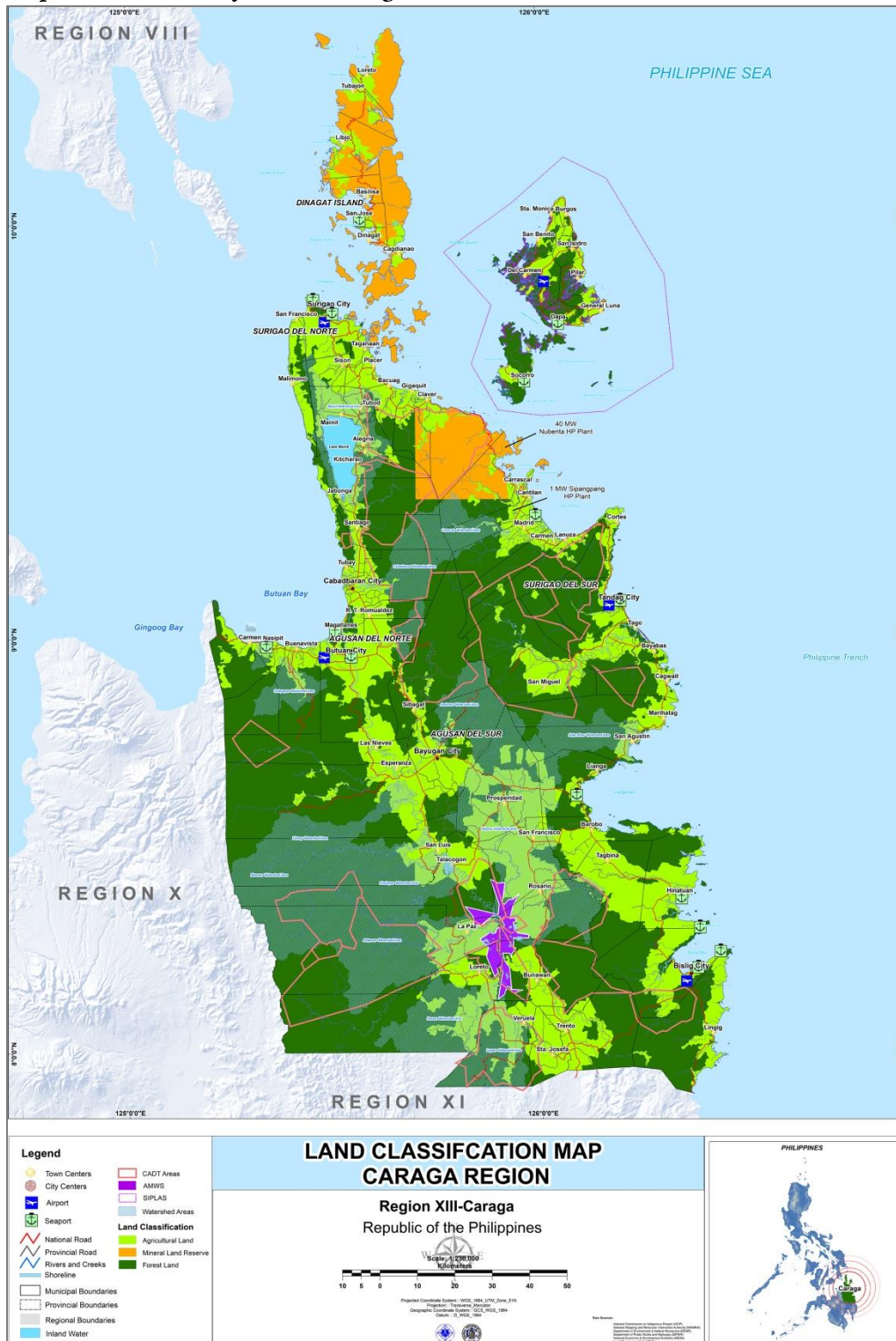
Moreover, for the period 2013-2015, DAR acquired 42,593 hectares of new lands under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) exceeding its targets by 7.82 percent. However, the subdivision of collective CLOA has been delayed due to peace and order-related problems, tedious bidding process for survey activities, and overlapping of operational jurisdiction between DAR 13 and other government agencies. There was also low turn-out in the re-documentation and subdivision of previously distributed areas covered with collective CLOAs. Only 36 percent were re-documented and 10 percent subdivided out of DAR's targets in 2015. This low achievement was caused by the inclusion of non-CARPable areas that require amendment of approved survey plans and the conduct of exclusion/inclusion proceedings involving farmer beneficiaries who were previously identified as co-

owners due to non-cultivation of awarded lands.

On the other hand, the enactment of Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997, promotes and protects the rights of the indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) to self-governance. Out of the 1,204,029.12 hectares of forestlands in the region, approximately 71.12 percent or 856,277.85 hectares are within the identified ancestral domain areas² of ICCs/IPs. As of 2015, almost 58 percent of these ancestral domain areas are already covered with approved Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs). This implies that any development activities within the forestlands are required to obtain a Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from the ICCs/IPs.

² RA 8371, Section 3(a) defines ancestral domains as all areas generally belonging to ICCs/IPs comprising lands, inland waters, coastal areas and natural resources therein, held under the claim of ownership, occupied or possessed by ICCs/IPs, by themselves or through their ancestors, communally or individually since time immemorial, continuously to the present except when interrupted by war, force majeure or displacement by force, deceit, stealth or as a consequence of government projects or any other voluntary dealings entered into by government and private individuals/corporations, and which are necessary to ensure their economic, social and cultural welfare.

Map 20.1 Land Classification, Caraga

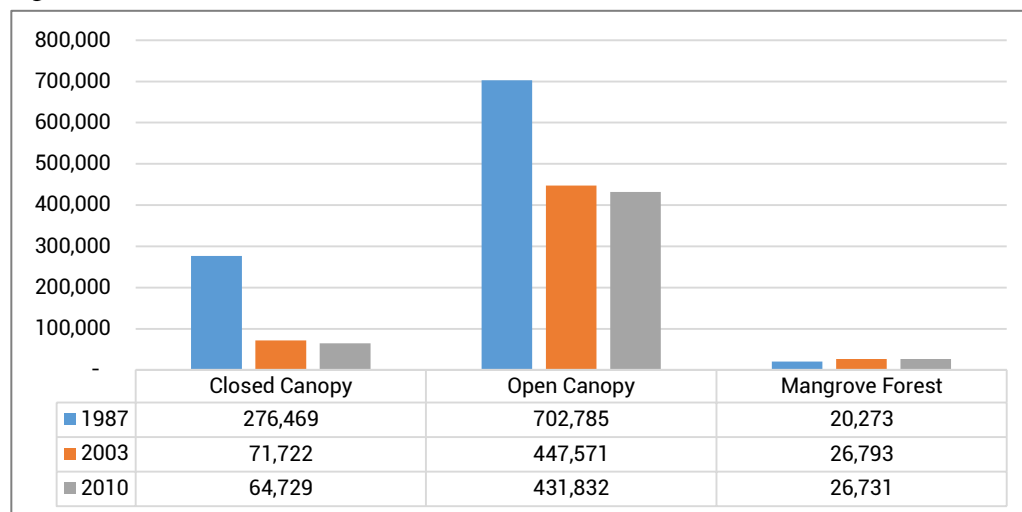


Forest Management

Data from DENR shows that forest cover declined at an alarming rate of close to four percent annually from 1987 to 2010. The remaining forest cover in the region accounts for roughly 43 percent of the

region's forestlands. This comprised of about five percent closed canopy forest, 36 percent open canopy forest and two percent mangrove forest. The region has been tagged as the Timber Corridor of the country supplying almost 70 percent of the country's log production.

Figure 20.1 Forest Cover, 1987, 2003 & 2009



Source: DENR 13

Of the 1,204,029 hectares of forestlands in the region, around 53 percent are already covered with 19,648 forest agreements issued by DENR. However, the wood industry in the region is slowing down affecting the overall performance of the forestry subsector. The stringent policy guidelines and requirements imposed by national government pursuant to Executive Order No. 23, which prohibits the harvesting of trees in natural grown and residual forests since 2010, caused the decline in production in public forests. Further, issues on conflicting tenure

instruments also affect the operations of a number of IFMA holders due to difficulty in securing Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as the concession areas are within ancestral domains. Log production in public forests accounts for only 7.15 percent of total log production in the region in 2015. The wood industry subsists through private land tree plantations contributing more than 91 percent of log production in Caraga. Private tree plantation areas cover a total area of 5,216 hectares.

Table 20.2 Issued Tenure Instruments, December 2015

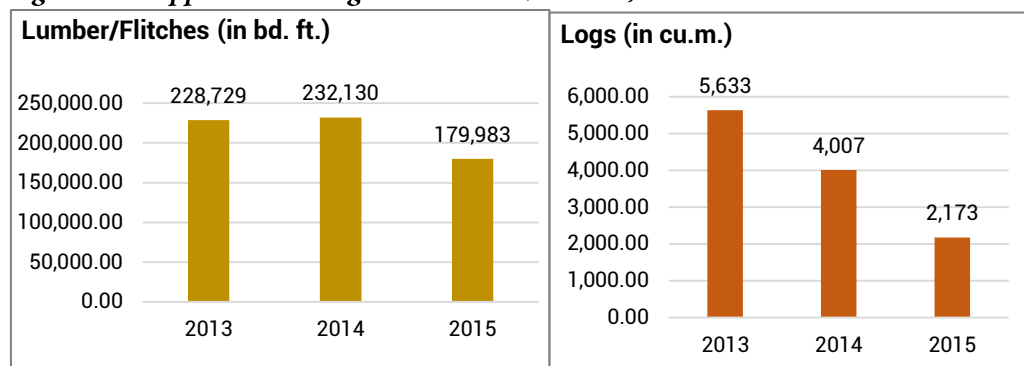
TYPE OF FOREST AGREEMENTS	NUMBER	AREA (IN HECTARE)	% SHARE TO FORESTLANDS
Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA)	12	214,532	33.41
Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA)	125	2017,567	32.32
Protected Area Community-Based Resource Management Agreement (PACBRMA)	5	1,335	0.21
Social Integrated Forest Management Agreement (SIFMA)	1	220	0.03
Co-Production Sharing Agreement (CPSA)	1	172,124	26.80
Certificates of Stewardship Contract (CSC)	19,328	46,396	7.22
Total	19,472	642,174	

Source: DENR

Pursuant to EO 23, the region successfully reduced the number of illegal logging hotspots from 17 in 2013 to two in 2015. Moreover, the volume of seized forest products substantially declined from 5,633 cu.m. in 2013 to 2,173 cu.m. in 2015. Captured lumber/flitches went down from 228,729.17 bd.ft. in 2013 to 179,982.67 bd.ft. in 2015. The bulk of apprehended wood products came from Agusan del Sur, accounting for 56 percent of logs and 69 percent of lumber/flitches. About 87 percent of the apprehended lumber/flitches were donated to different institutions including TESDA 13 for the production of armed chairs for schools.

To complement EO No. 23, the government issued EO No. 26 promoting resource conservation and protection through the National Greening Program (NGP). The region's commitment to the national government under this program involved the development of 100,000 hectares of timberlands within the span of six (6) years. As of 2016, data from DENR 13 shows that the region surpassed its national commitment by 127 percent or 127,210 hectares with a survival rate of 89 percent. As a result, a total of 105,327 jobs were generated from 2011 to 2015. Work activities include seedling production; and site assessment, preparation, development, maintenance and protection.

Figure 20.2 Apprehended Logs and Lumber/Flitches, 2014-2015



Source: DENR 13

Biodiversity Protection and Conservation

The region hosts six out of nine key biodiversity areas³ (KBAs) within the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor⁴ (EMBC). Those areas are considered megadiverse yet hotspots in the country. The region's KBAs cover an aggregate of 621,902 hectares, representing 51 percent of the critical watershed areas and 47 percent of the region's forestlands. As of 2016, roughly 21 percent of the total KBAs or 128,508 hectares have been proclaimed as protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) while the other seven percent or 41,169 hectares are considered as initial component of NIPAS. Thus, a great portion of the KBAs has an open access status and part of it is located within a declared Mineral Reservation Area as in the case of Mt. Kambinliw-Redondo KBA in Dinagat Islands and a portion of Mt. Hilong-Hilong KBA located in Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur. Based on GIS analysis, about 48 percent of the KBAs are already covered by approved mining permits and applications. On one hand, approximately 29 percent of the KBAs are covered with forest agreements for wood production.

The biodiversity of these areas is currently threatened and places several species of flora and fauna on the brink of extinction.

Based on the published EMBC Conservation Framework in 2008, at least 122 globally threatened species of animals and 65 species of plants are found within the six KBAs of the region. The survival of these flora and fauna are threatened by both legitimate and illegal activities undertaken within the KBAs as indicated in Table 18.3. Unfortunately, monitoring the biodiversity occurrence in the KBAs is difficult due to technical and financial constraints.

Mining Development

The region is considered as the new mining capital of the country given its huge mineral deposits that captured the interests of local and foreign investors. As of 2016, MGB reports that there are 54 approved mining permits in the region comprising of 49 MPSAs, three JOAs and 24 EPs covering a total area of 183,818 hectares. This represents 10 percent of the region's total land area.

The expansion of mining development is anticipated because of the sheer volume of mining applications being processed by MGB 13, which covers an aggregate area of 377,760 hectares or 20 percent of the region's land area. Unfortunately, a large portion of areas covered by approved mining permits and applications are identified KBAs and critical watersheds.

³ As described in the EMBC Conservation Framework (2008), KBAs are critical habitats vital for the survival of globally important and range-restricted species.

⁴Corridors are made up of integrated systems of KBAs linked by compatible land and resource areas and resource uses, designed and managed in ways that ensure the persistence of threatened species, KBAs and ecological processes

Table 20.3 Key Biodiversity Areas in EMBC, Caraga

KBA	LOCATION	BIODIVERSITY	THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY	AREA (In HA.)
Mt. Kambinliw and Mt. Redondo	Loreto, Tubajon, Libjo and Cagdiano in Dinagat Islands Provinces	>100 bird and 400 plant species and 2 mammals IUCN globally threatened species: 20 vertebrates and 13 plants	Mining, quarrying, illegal logging, illegal fishing and overfishing, industrial development, land conversion and population pressure	28,524.31
Siargao Island	Sta. Monica, Burgos, San Isidro, Pilar, General Luna, Dapa, Del Carmen, San Benito and Socorro in Surigao del Norte	85 species of birds, at least 9 species of frogs and 21 species of mammals and 11 species of plants Globally threatened species: At least 12 animals and 11 plants	Destruction of mangroves and lowland forests as result of land clearing for agriculture, illegal logging and other forms of land conversion; mining of corals and blast fishing	62,502.86
Mt. Hilong-Hilong Range	Cabadbaran, Santiago, Jabonga and Kitcharao in Agusan del Norte; Alegria, Gigaquit and Claver in Surigao del Norte; Carrascal, Cantilan, Madrid, Camen, Lanuza, Cortez, Tandag, Tago and San Miguel in Surigao del Sur; and Sibagat in Agusan del Sur	at least 120 species of birds, 41 species of frogs and reptiles, at least 45 species of mammals Globally threatened species: At least 31 vertebrates, 17 plants	Slash-and-burn farming, timber poaching, logging, increasing population, mining	240,239.86
North Diwata	San Miguel, Tago, Cagwait, Marihatag, San Agustin, Lianga and Barobo in Surigao del Sur; San Francisco and Prosperidad in Agusan del Sur	Flora and fauna are not different from Mt. Hilong-Hilong (nearby range) Globally and locally threatened species: 21 vertebrates	Forest conversion to agricultural uses in the form of slash-and-burn and commercial plantation; illegal logging; mining; illegal fishing/over fishing	93,798.09
Agusan Marsh	Veruela, Loreto, Bunawan, La Paz, Talacogon, San Francisco and Rosario in Agusan del Sur	at least 14 species of fresh water fishes, 21 frogs, 39 reptiles, 14 mammals, and 132 birds Globally threatened species: 17 vertebrates and 15 plants	Sedimentation due to forest clearing in uplands, pollution from tailings of small scale mining, continuous clearing of marsh forests for agriculture and settlements, electric and chemical fishing, overfishing, increasing population, hunting	42,008.62

KBA	LOCATION	BIODIVERSITY	THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY	AREA (In HA.)
			of wildlife and exotic and invasive species of janitor fish.	
South Diwata/Bislig	Trento, Bunawan, Rosario and San Francisco in Agusan del Sur; Barobo, Bislig and Lingig in Surigao del Sur; Monkayo in Compostela Valley; Boston in Davao Oriental	Globally threatened species: 21 vertebrates and 9 plants	Forest conversion into agricultural lands by way of slash-and-burn farming and plantation development, timber poaching, unsound logging practices and mining	154,828.81
Total				621,902.55

Source: EMBC Conservation Framework 2008

Results of GIS analysis show that approximately 48 percent of the KBAs and critical watersheds are already covered with approved mining permits and applications. Relatedly, some of these mining claims overlap with areas covered by forest agreements and ancestral domain areas.

Apart from large scale mining, there are also undocumented small scale mining

activities operating in some areas of the region. Both types of mining activities threaten the integrity of of the region's diverse ecosystems due to extensive clearing of vegetation, earth moving and effluent generation that lead to deforestation, loss of biodiversity and scarcity of potable water supply. Thus, government should examine the region's capacity for mining development and its impact to other development priorities.

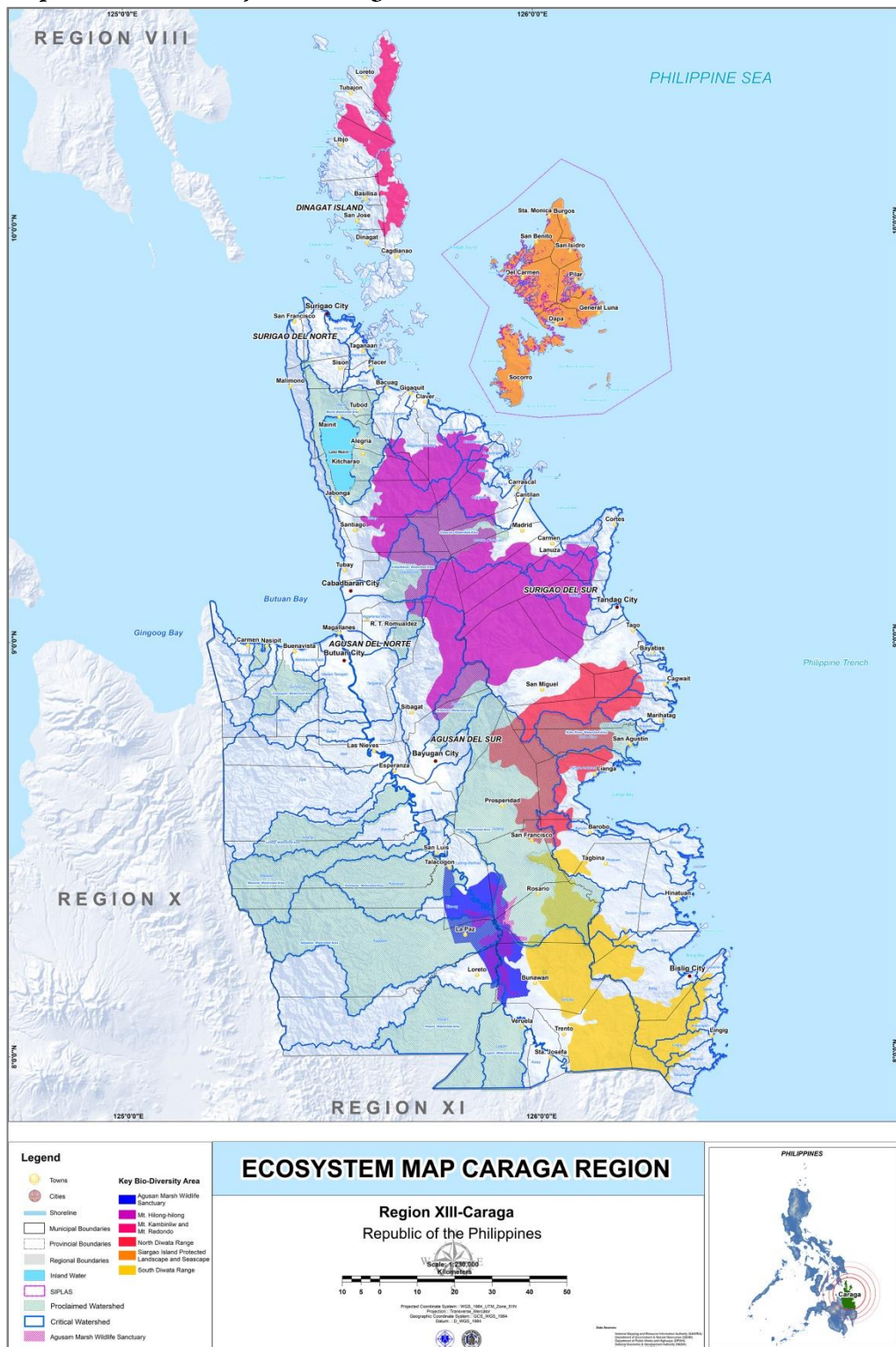
Table 20.4 Areas Covered by Approved Mining Permits and Applications, 2016

TYPES OF PERMITS	APPROVED		UNDER PROCESS APPLICATION		TOTAL	
	NO.	AREA (HA.)	NO.	AREA (HA.)	NO.	AREA (HA.)
Mineral Production Sharing Agreements	49*	132,970.85	29	70,585.34	78	203,556.19
Exploration Permits	24	50,847.49	76	307,174.71	100	358,022.20
Joint Operating Agreement	3	-	-	-	3	-
Total	76	183,818.34	105	377,760.05	181	561,578.39

Note: *excluding 1 cancelled and 2 expired MPSAs and 23 withdrawn EP

Source: MGB-Caraga

Map 20.2 Critical Ecosystem, Caraga



Coastal and Marine Resources Management

Caraga has an extensive shoreline of about 2,324 km and several large bodies of freshwater that have huge potential for fishery and ecotourism development. Through the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP), BFAR 13 was able to identify in 2015 the major fishing grounds in the region comprising of ten marine ecosystems and two freshwater ecosystems. The marine fishing grounds are Butuan Bay, Lianga Bay, Bislig Bay, Lanuza Bay, Surigao Sea, Philippine Sea, Hinatuan Passage, Surigao Strait, Dinagat Sound and

East Siargao Waters. The two freshwater fishing grounds are Lake Mainit and Agusan Marsh. About 66 percent of the 10,743 tons of fish catch from all fishing grounds came from Surigao del Norte's fishing grounds.

Despite the region's huge potential in fishery, production has been declining at an average of 2.7 percent from 2013 to 2015. There are also anecdotal reports on several issues that require further investigation/study, such as illegal and destructive fishing activities in the identified fishing grounds, heavy siltation of coastal areas, and pollution.

Table 20.5 Result of Fish Stock Assessment, 2015, in metric tons

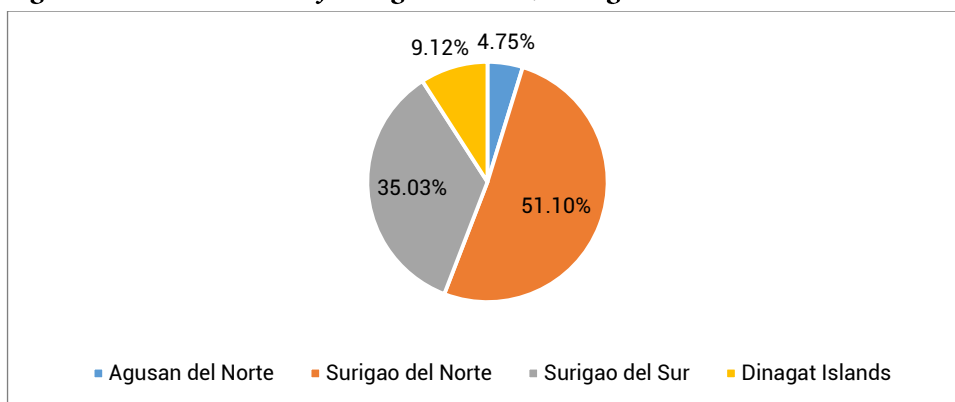
FISHING GROUND	OCEANA TUNA	PELAGICS	SMALL PELAGICS	OTHER LARGE PELAGICS	SPECIES			TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	% SHARE
					DEMERSAL	INVERTEBRATES	SHARK AND RAYS		
Bislig Bay	108.20	5.33	0.67	6.57	38.60	5.14		164.51	1.53
Lanuza Bay	65.41	18.54	1,308.31	12.11	29.32	9.27	0.26	1,443.22	13.43
Lianga Bay	13.91	2.31	1.56	2.33	13.53	0.71	0.11	34.46	0.32
Hinatuan Bay	6.21	2.78	0.38	1.20	5.63	13.78	0.07	30.05	0.28
Butuan Bay	40.46	14.87	1,413.22	0.10	2.52	0.90	0.30	1,472.37	13.71
Dinagat Sound	197.21	60.54	31.44	13.87	112.86	51.77	0.20	467.89	4.36
Surigao Strait	14.23	29.44	1,032.62	16.10	90.02	8.06	1.00	1,191.47	11.09
Hinatuan Passage	25.06	49.04	244.95	4.14	183.08	11.36	1.70	519.33	4.83
Philippine Sea	1,561.47	94.12	57.82	110.72				1,824.13	16.98
Surigao Sea	3,089.22	101.61	36.07	225.57	0.25			3,452.72	32.14
East of Siargao Waters	100.30	5.76	6.06	21.57	6.42	2.78		142.89	1.33
Total	5,221.68	384.34	4,133.10	414.28	482.23	103.77	3.64	10,743.04	100.00
% Share	48.61	3.58	38.47	3.86	4.49	0.97	0.03	100.00	

Source: BFAR Caraga

In 2015, data from DENR shows that there are 18 existing marine protected areas (MPAs) in the region mostly located in Surigao del Norte. About 15 of these MPAs underwent rehabilitation during the period. Moreover, new areas were planted with mangroves covering 1,718 hectares.

About 1,825 hectares of mangrove areas were rehabilitated through the NGP and the EPEP of mining companies. As of reporting period, the region's mangrove areas covered an aggregate of 25,898 hectares.

Figure 20.3 Distribution of Mangrove Areas, Caraga



Source: DENR 13

Environmental Quality

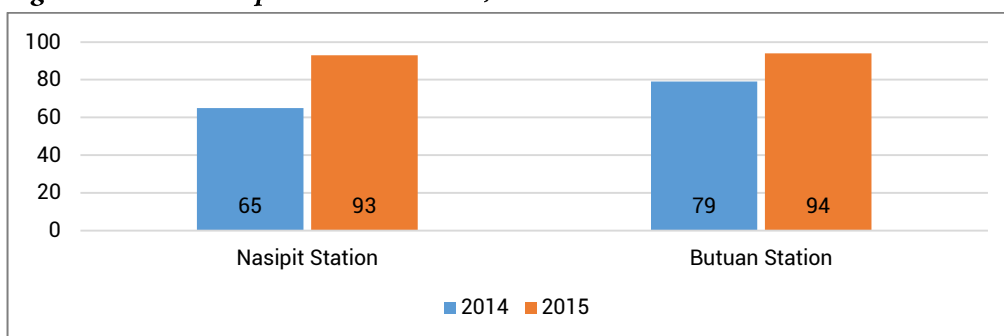
Air Quality Management

As of 2015, there are only four Ambient Monitoring Stations (AMS) in the region, which are located in Butuan City (3 AMS) and Nasipit, Agusan del Norte (1 AMS).

Results of the 2015 air quality monitoring reveal that TSP concentration in the air for Butuan City and Agusan del Norte substantially increased and both slightly exceeded the national standard of

90ug/NCM. Butuan City's annual mean TSP grew from 79 ug/NCM in 2014 to 94 ug/NCM in 2015, while the TSP generated from the Nasipit Station increased from 65 ug/NCM in 2014 to 93 ug/NCM in 2015. The rise in TSP in Butuan City is attributed to the increase in dust emissions generated by mobile sources, i.e. vehicles; and partly from stationary sources, i.e. wood processing plants. Meanwhile, the increase in Nasipit station's TSP was mainly attributed to stationary sources i.e. power barge and some vessels in the port..

Figure 20.4 Total Suspended Particulate, 2014-2015



Source: EMB 13

Water Resources Management

As reported by DENR 13, Caraga has 35 critical watershed⁵ areas covering a total of 1,209,977 hectares or 63 percent of the region's land area. These critical watersheds are the sources of waters for domestic use, irrigation and hydropower projects. Apparently, only nine of the critical watershed areas have been proclaimed through Presidential Proclamation and DENR Administrative Order (DAO) covering 82,626 hectares or seven percent of the aggregate watershed areas. This implies that a large portion of the critical watershed areas are under a common access regime. Based on GIS analysis, roughly 41 percent of the critical watershed areas are already covered by mining claims and applications and about 42 percent are covered by forest agreements.

Despite the vaunted number of water resources, local water districts have difficulty supplying water to service areas.

As of 2015, NIA reported that 44 percent of the total potential irrigable area of 37,155 hectares has been served by national irrigation system (NIS) and communal irrigation system (CIS). However, irrigation systems are deteriorating rapidly due to heavy siltation. Moreover, flooding in major river systems has also intensified over the years. In fact, the Agusan River has been identified by the national government as one of the 18 priority river basins for intervention in the country due to extensive flooding. Relatedly, results of

the rapid assessment commissioned by MinDA in 2014 indicates that poor canopy cover and vegetation, extreme river scouring, heavy sediment disposition, poor channel alteration, poor bank stability and riverbank encroachment by communities are some of the problems faced by major river systems in the region, namely Cabadbaran and Puyo Rivers in Agusan del Norte; Surigao, Daywan, Bacuag and Alegria Rivers in Surigao del Norte; and Tago, Tandag and Carac-an Rivers in Surigao del Sur.

In 2015, EMB 13 conducted regular water quality monitoring in priority bodies of water that includes 20 bathing/recreational beaches in Surigao del Sur, one lake and four rivers. The results show low dissolved oxygen (DO), high biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), high levels of total and fecal coliforms, and high total suspended solids (TSS) and total dissolved solids (TDS). Low DO was also noted in water samples collected from sampling stations along the boating and bathing areas of Enchanted River, Cabadbaran River and Agusan River. Water samples collected from stations along Enchanted River, Cagwait, Hinatuan and Lianga indicate high counts of total and fecal coliforms that exceed the standards. The same findings were also observed in water samples collected from the sampling stations along Cabadbaran River, Lake Mainit, Taguibo River and Agusan River. High levels of total coliform in these bodies of water indicate poor sanitation.

⁵ PD 705, Section 3(n) defines critical watershed as a drainage area of a river system supporting existing and proposed hydro-electric power, irrigation works or domestic water facilities needing immediate protection or rehabilitation.

Solid Waste Management

The EMB 13's Annual Accomplishment Report in 2015 indicates that the projected annual wastes generated from Caraga Region reached a total of 381,103 tons, which is seven percent more than the wastes produced in 2014. About 65 percent of the wastes are readily biodegradable, while residual wastes and readily recyclable constitute 22 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

Compliance of LGUs to Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Act of 2000, remains to be low in the region. As of 2015, only three out of 73 LGUs were able to establish Sanitary Land Fills (SLF) for wastes disposal. These are Butuan City, Surigao City and San Jose of the Province of Dinagat Islands. While RA No. 9003 prohibits the establishment and operation of open dumpsites in favor of sanitary landfills (SLF), a total of 27 LGUs are still operating open dumpsites. Meanwhile 13 LGUs rely on controlled disposal facilities. Lack of financial capacity is often cited by LGUs as the primary reason for their failure to establish a better form of disposal facility. The number of functional Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in the region increased from 300 in 2014 to 320 in 2015. Butuan City is the pilot City for MRF and development of organic composting facility.

Seventy out of 73 LGUs in the region submitted their 10-Year Ecological Solid Waste Management Plan (ESWMP) to the

National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC). However, only 13 of the submitted ESWMPs were approved, while 25 were conditionally approved in 2015. All provinces, cities and municipalities have already established their respective Ecological Solid Waste Management Board (ESWMB). However, only 86 percent of the municipal ESWMBs are functional.

Adaptive Capacities and Resilience of Ecosystems

Vulnerability to Natural Hazards

Caraga is one of the country's most hazard prone areas. It is affected by geological and meteorological or hydrological hazards (*see Figure 2.10*). Four of its five provinces are included in the 20 most vulnerable to natural hazards; these are Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and the Province of Dinagat Islands. While Agusan del Norte is not included in the top 20, the province is still vulnerable to hazards. From 2013 to 2015, PAGASA-Butuan Station noted that a total of seven tropical cyclones and one dry spell affected the region. The aggregate cost of damage in agriculture and infrastructure amounted to PhP2.004 Billion. While no tropical cyclone was recorded in 2015, many parts of the region experienced dryness of farm lands, pest/disease infestations and water supply shortages, which are attributed to the occurrence of El Niño that lasted until the middle of 2016. Around 14,187 farmers were affected all throughout the region

with an estimated loss in agriculture amounting to PhP558.503 Million. Moreover, the cities of Butuan and Surigao

resorted to water rationing as these areas experienced water supply shortage.

Table 20.6 Total Number of Casualties and Cost of Damages, 2013-2015

INDICATOR	2013	2014	2015
Affected Families	4,090	191,678	14,187*
Affected Persons	11,849	866,447	
Casualties	7	78	
Dead	2	42	
Injured	5	31	
Missing		5	
Damaged Houses	4,419	3,825	
Totally	521	909	
Partially	3,898	2,916	
Damaged Properties	P192,680,664	P1,253,015,827	558,459,728.33
Agriculture	P6,908,664	301,489,118.77	558,459,728.33
Infrastructure	P185,772,000	951,526,708.47	

Note: *number of farmers not families

Source: OCD Caraga

Enhancing Resiliency of Natural Ecosystems

Given the region's exposure to different types of hazards, several development projects have been implemented to improve the resilience of the region's population to disasters. The issuance of EO No. 26 paved the way for enhancing the region's natural ecosystem through the NGP, which achieved roughly 127 percent of its national commitment covering a total of 127,210 hectares. Tree plantation activities were also undertaken in typhoon-stricken areas, perennially-flooded watershed areas, river basins and coastlines through the Barangay StraTREEgic Forest Project of DENR, DILG, and MinDA. Moreover, coastal area enhancement was also undertaken through development and rehabilitation of mangrove forests that covered an aggregate of 3,543 hectares. Improving Adaptation Capacities of the Communities

As of 2015, the MGB 13 has already completed the preparation of the region's geohazard maps with a scale of 1:10,000. As a next step, four cities and eight municipalities will undergo vulnerability and risk assessment (VRA). The assessment aims to generate exposure maps of population, built-up areas and lifeline infrastructures on flooding and landslide.

All provinces have approved DRR/CCA-Enhanced Provincial Development and Physical framework Plans (PDPFP), Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans (PDRRMP) and Provincial Contingency Plans (PCP). At the municipal and city levels, 15 out of 73 LGUs have mainstreamed DRR/CCA in their respective Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs). However, several LGUs still have to update their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs).

All the LGUs in the region have been trained on basic incident command system (ICS) while some LGUs have already

undertaken the advanced modules as in the case of the five provinces and Butuan City. All the provinces and cities have undergone trainings on Rapid Damage

Assessment and Needs Analysis (RDANA) and Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).

Challenges

Conflicting government policies concerning the management and utilization of environment and natural resources. This is evident in tenure instruments that have overlapping/conflicting coverage, which becomes a major bottleneck of development in the region, as in the case of CLOA and CADT in a declared NIPAS area or approved mining permits and applications, and forest agreements and CADT within critical ecosystems/key biodiversity areas. While coordination mechanisms have been established to resolve conflicting land uses/tenure claims/right, i.e. the Joint Administrative Order No. 2012-01 of DA-DAR-DENR-LRA-NCIP on National Convergence Initiative and Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2012-08 between NCIP and DENR over the management of a protected area, operationalizing these policies at the national and subnational levels is difficult.

Deteriorating watershed areas and loss of biodiversity. As of 2008, at least 122 globally threatened species of animals and 65 species of plants are found within the six KBAs of the region. Forest cover also declined substantially from 1987 to 2010. The lack of tenure instruments protecting identified critical watersheds and KBAs

threatens the ecological integrity of these ecosystems. Unfortunately, a large portion of these areas are already covered with either permits for mineral exploration and production or forest agreements for wood and agricultural production. The situation is worsened by timber poaching and illegal small scale mining activities in critical watershed areas. Accordingly, conflicting policies and government priorities, weak horizontal and vertical coordination between and among government institutions, absence of updated data/information, and lack of technical and financial capacities contribute to the weak enforcement of environmental laws governing these areas.

Lack of air quality monitoring stations. Air quality is a determinant of a healthy environment. As of December 2015, only one province and one city in Caraga have air quality monitoring stations. Hence, data on air quality for the past years do not accurately represent and describe the condition of air quality in the entire region.

Deteriorating water quality and quantity. The water quality monitoring activities done by EMB 13 in 2015 in selected bodies of water show that there are sampling areas that have low levels of dissolved oxygen (DO), high biochemical

oxygen demand (BOD), high levels of total and fecal coliforms, and high total suspended solids (TSS) and total dissolved solids (TDS). On the other hand, siltation is also noticeable in major bodies of water and coastal areas in the region. Poor canopy cover and vegetation, extreme river scouring, heavy sediment disposition, poor channel alteration, poor bank stability and riverbank encroachment by communities affect the major river systems in the region.

Very low priority given to sanitation and sewerage. LGU compliance to RA 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Act of 2000 is low in the region. Many LGUs are still operating open dumpsites and controlled disposal facilities. LGUs cite the lack of financial capacity as the main reason for their failure to establish safer forms of disposal facility.

High exposure and vulnerability to natural calamities. Being situated in the country's typhoon-belt and Pacific Ring of Fire, the region is exposed to both earthquake- and climate related hazards. Four of its five provinces are included in the 20 most vulnerable to natural hazards. The region's vulnerability is exacerbated by the rapid changes in land use and increasing population even in hazard prone areas.

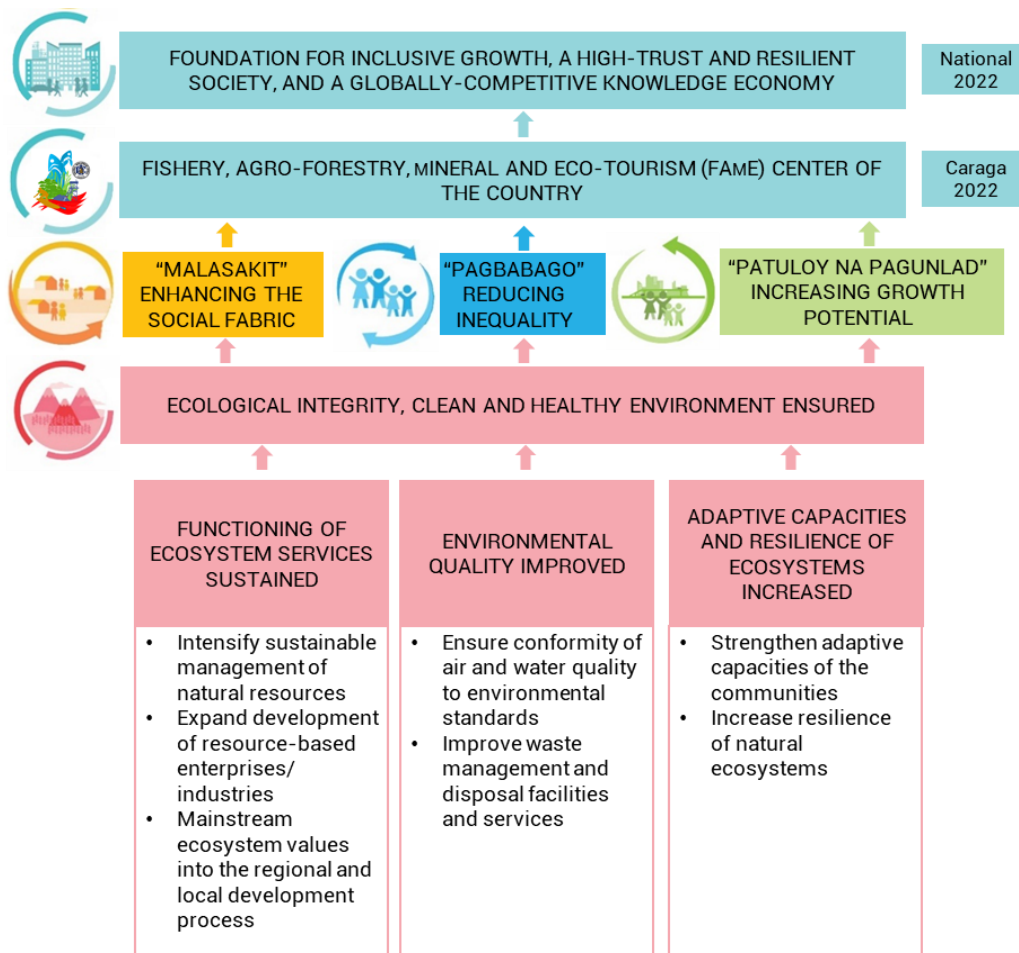
Lack of incentive mechanisms and sustainable financing. There is a need to put in place an incentive mechanism to encourage stakeholders to protect the environment. For instance, upland communities have low incentive to manage their watershed – something that negatively affects lowland communities.

Strategic Framework

The region's strategic framework for ensuring ecological integrity, clean and healthy environment is anchored mainly on the precepts of sustainable development, which underscores a sound and viable economy, responsible governance, social cohesion and harmony, and ecological integrity. This framework emphasizes the interactions between and among the essential elements affecting resource conservation, such as trends in the local and global arena and the

interrelationships of the three key dimensions of environmental resource, namely: environmental or biophysical aspects of resource use; economic dimensions notably the dynamics of demand and supply of resources; and the institutional, political, social and cultural aspects. This framework also underlines the need to harmonize and complement the development initiatives of key actors in the region.

Figure 20.5 Strategic Framework to Ensure Ecological Integrity, Clean and Health Environment



Sub-sector Outcome 1. Functioning of the ecosystem services sustained

*pursued to ensure sustainability
in the functioning of ecosystem
services.*

Land Administration

To sustain the functioning of ecosystem services, the region will pursue the following strategies:

1.1 Intensify sustainable management of natural resources. *Conservation, protection and management of the region's natural capital will be*

Work for the rationalization of existing laws and policies and the issuance of tenure instruments. National and local government institutions should strengthen coordinative mechanisms and processes to minimize or reduce possible conflict and overlapping of land uses and tenure rights/claims as in the case of tenure

instruments issued by various government agencies such as DENR, DAR, and NCIP.

Update and strengthen the enforcement and monitoring of the regional and local physical/land use plans. The capacities of local planning bodies on sustainable land use planning and environmental management will be pursued for the timely updating and monitoring of regional and local physical/land use plans.

Strengthen statistical system of government for better planning and decision-making. Enhancing the statistical capability of government institutions will be pursued by upgrading and strengthening their database/information system and sharing mechanism for effective planning and decision-making.

Forest Management

Intensify forest conservation, protection and sustainable management initiatives. Efforts to maintain and increase forest cover and forest productivity will be undertaken through forest rehabilitation/reforestation, afforestation, management of existing forest resources and other measures.

Support the establishment and complete delineation of forest boundary line. The region will lobby for the passage of the Sustainable Forest Management Act to determine appropriate measures and mechanisms for the management of forestlands.

Harmonize existing policies governing the management and administration of

forestlands and the issuance of tenure instruments. Existing government policies concerning forestry development and management will be harmonized to eliminate possible conflict and overlapping of government initiatives.

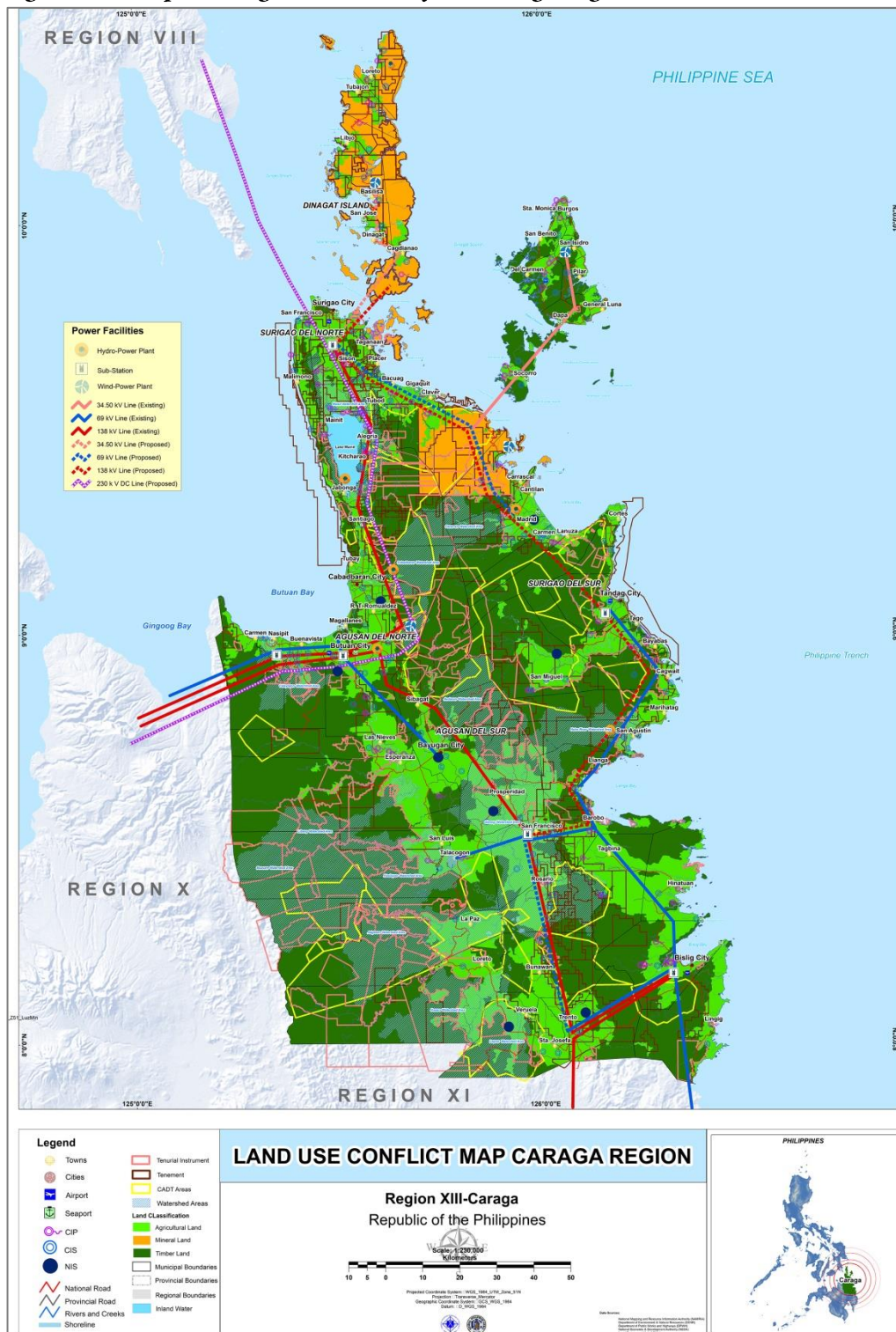
Institutionalize and strengthen LGU/community-based monitoring and feedback mechanism. This strategy underscores the importance of community participation in forestland management and conservation. Involving communities in monitoring would increase accountability and quality of services, which would ultimately contribute to sustainability of forest resources.

Watershed and Biodiversity Conservation

Pursue community-based biodiversity conservation and enhancement. Incentives and sustainable financing, and trainings will be provided to generate interest and engender active participation of local communities on biodiversity conservation.

Reinforce the adoption of ridge-to-reef (R2R) approach, integrated watershed management approach and other conservation mechanisms in the local development processes. This strategy entails strengthening the capacities of concerned agencies and LGUs, harmonization and complementation of development initiatives from upland down to the coastal areas, and the integration of biodiversity concerns in the local development and land use plans of provinces, cities, and municipalities.

Figure 20.8 Map showing Land Use Conflict, Caraga Region



Ensure stakeholders' participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of the forests and its resources. This involves advancing the level of awareness and capacity of communities and institutions on biodiversity conservation and management at all levels of governance to attain a higher probability of success.

Institutionalize a coordinated and functional information, education, and communication system for biodiversity conservation. This involves implementation of effective and highly customized information and education campaign program at the community level. Adequate information will encourage communities to be more caring, involved and participative in undertakings concerning conservation.

Strengthen research and development as basis for planning and decision making. This requires strong collaboration of government agencies, research institutions, and the academe to undertake relevant research studies on biodiversity.

Coastal and marine resources management

Promote the adoption and institutionalization of Integrated Coastal Resources Management (ICRM) Approach. Mainstreaming the ICRM into the local development plans and strengthening existing institutional mechanisms will be pursued to ensure better management of municipal waters and the coastal and marine resources.

Pursue the delineation and zoning of municipal waters. Pushing for the delineation and zoning of the municipal waters is important to ensure that coastal municipalities are provided with preferential rights particularly on access to and utilization of coastal and marine resources. It will also establish accountability particularly in the management of overlapping municipal waters.

Rationalize the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) and networks. Existing MPAs and networks will be reviewed and assessed to ensure the continuous effectiveness of these areas. This strategy will require a mechanism to enjoin the LGUs to allocate portions of their municipal waters as MPAs and network of MPAs, which is critical for maintaining resource productivity, enhancing resiliency, and ensuring protection of marine and coastal habitats.

Rehabilitate and protect mangrove forests, sea grasses and coral reefs to ensure marine productivity. This involves the regular conduct of stock assessment/inventory and provision of incentives and sustainable financing mechanisms for the rehabilitation and protection of coastal and marine resources.

Rehabilitate idle and unproductive fishponds. Abandoned, idle, but potentially productive fishponds will be rehabilitated and leased for the propagation of mangroves, nipa, and other wetland species.

Prohibit dumping of wastes in the region's seas. This requires genuine and religious

enforcement of pertinent laws and policies on waste management and disposal.

Mining Development

Rationalize the approval of mining projects vis-à-vis the region's carrying capacity on mining development and other development priorities. Enhancement of processes and guidelines for the approval of mining permit applications will be pursued by strengthening the review process and criteria on area and status clearance, integrating risk assessment, and valuing ecosystems services in mining projects.

Enhance capacity to manage environmental disturbance attributed by mining activities in the region. Strengthening the enforcement of laws and monitoring mechanisms; and strict implementation of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP) will be pursued to mitigate the adverse impacts of mining to the environment.

Mainstream risk assessment in the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of mining projects. The region will lobby for the integration of risk assessment in the EIA guidelines and tools especially that the region is highly vulnerable to climatological and geological hazards.

Pursue the rehabilitation and development of mined-out areas. Review and assessment of the utilization and management of Mine Rehabilitation Fund and the suitability and sustainability of

Decommissioning Plans of mining companies for mined-out areas will be undertaken to ensure the restoration of said areas.

1.2 Expand development of resource-based enterprises/ industries. The region will pursue diversification of its economy by promoting value adding activities for its fishery, agriculture, forestry, mining and ecotourism products.

Promote and develop sustainable agri-fishery and wood-based industries. Development of value adding activities will be pursued for priority agricultural products, such as rice, corn, coconut, abaca, banana, rubber, coconut and coffee; fishery and marine products; and wood-based products.

Pursue the development and conservation of ecotourism and cultural heritage sites. Appropriate incentives and sustainable financing mechanisms will be established at the local level to encourage stakeholders to engage in the development and conservation of identified ecotourism zones and cultural heritage sites.

Support the development of jewelry making industry. Rationalization and legitimization of small-scale mining operations as well as building the capacity of locales in jewelry making will be pursued to regulate gold mining activities and maximize the benefits that can be generated from these activities.

Maximize the utilization of Social Development and Management Program (SDMP) of existing mining companies in the region. Utilization and management of SDMPs will be reviewed and assessed to ensure the suitability and sustainability of livelihood projects for host mining communities beyond the existence of mining operations.

1.3 Mainstream ecosystem values into the regional and local development processes. *Determining the true values of the region's natural ecosystems is necessary in determining the right way to manage these limited resources. It will also facilitate informed decision and policy making and provide better alternatives and trade-offs*

Integrate the valuation of natural capital or ecosystem services in the environmental impact assessment to reflect the environmental costs of development initiatives. The region will lobby for the enhancement of EIA tools by mainstreaming valuation of natural capital or ecosystem services.

Build capacity of the concerned government agencies and LGUs on environmental valuation tools and techniques. Skills development and research will be undertaken to facilitate informed decision and policy making.

Promote the adoption of Payment for Ecological Services (PES) in critical watershed and KBAs. Best PES practices in existing PES area/s will be replicated in the

region as an alternative source of income for local communities

Sub-sector Outcome 2. Environmental Quality Improved

The enforcement of existing legal frameworks governing air and water quality management will be strengthened to guarantee a clean and healthy environment.

2.1 Ensure conformity of air and water quality to environmental standards. *This includes compliance to environmental laws and other policies to mitigate the negative impact of economic activities to the environment.*

Air Quality Management

Strengthen the enforcement and monitoring of compliance to Clean Air Act. This will involve building the capacity of the existing Air Shed Governing Board, establishing the same in other provinces and installing Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations in strategic locations.

Promote the greening program of urban and sub-urban areas. More green spaces within cities can improve the urban environment as it will regulate air quality and reduce energy consumption by countering the warming effects.

Water Quality Management

Advocate for the institutionalization of Integrated Water Resources Management Approach. The IWRM approach in water resources management will be institutionalized to ensure efficient, equitable and sustainable solutions to the various issues and concerns confronting water resources; and manage and develop water resources in a way that balances social and economic needs, and promote the protection of ecosystems for future generations.

Harmonize land uses to prevent degradation, erosion, and siltation of major bodies of water. This approach highlights the need to assess and harmonize national and local development plans and priorities.

Pursue PPP in financing treatment and sewerage facilities. The LGUs may consider PPP financing options/schemes for the establishment of treatment and sewerage facilities in their respective areas.

Strengthen water quality monitoring in the region. This involves reinforcing the operationalization of identified Water Quality Management Area (WQMA), pursuing the declaration of additional areas as WQMA and enhancing the capacity of water quality monitoring bodies in the region.

2.2 Improve waste management and disposal facilities and services. This involves execution of workable strategies to effectively enforce laws on solid waste and wastewater management i.e. Republic Act no. 9003, otherwise known as the Ecological Wastes Management Act of 2000.

Waste Management and Disposal

Provide capital and technical assistance to LGUs to ensure compliance to RA No. 9003.

Promote the establishment of shared sanitary land fill facilities within a cluster of municipalities.

Adopt and popularize technologies that convert wastes to energy i.e. biomass production.

Develop an incentives and awards system for LGUs that have best practices on ecological solid waste management

Subsector Outcome 3. Adaptive capacities and resilience of ecosystems increased

This will require the development and strengthening of institutional and adaptive capacities at various levels of government and increasing the resiliency of natural ecosystems.

3.1 Strengthen adaptive capacities of the communities. *This strategy involves creating resilient communities and societies while reducing the risks to vulnerable populations and sectors.*

Mainstream DRR/CCA in regional and local development processes. DRR/CCA principles and strategies will be mainstreamed in the regional and local development and land use/physical plans.

Strengthen the capacity of the local DRRM offices of the provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays. Building capacities of planners and providing skilled human resources and logistical support will be pursued to reinforce DRRM and CCA initiatives at the local level.

Build and strengthen the coping mechanisms of affected communities particularly the vulnerable groups and the poor. The coping mechanisms of vulnerable groups and the poor will be improved by increasing public awareness on disaster preparedness, and institutionalizing safety nets that will reduce vulnerability against various hazards.

Strengthen monitoring and enforcement of compliance to land use plans, environmental laws and local ordinances at all levels of governance. Land use plans are developed to provide policy guidelines

for rational distribution, development and utilization of physical resources. Vital to the institutionalization of disaster risk reduction efforts is the strengthening of regulatory functions of mandated government institutions; setting up of climate and geospatial information and services for effective planning, investment programming, and monitoring; and enhancing the monitoring and evaluation system of LGUs on land utilization and management.

3.2 Increase resilience of natural ecosystems

Promote and enhance green spaces in urban areas. More green spaces within the cities can improve the urban environment as it regulates air quality and climate, reduce energy consumption by countering the warming effects and recharge the aquifer, and protect streams and creeks from excessive runoff.

Determine and implement erosion control measures in critical slopes, roads and stream banks, fill slopes, rills, and gullies of critical watersheds. This involves provision of structural and non-structural measures to mitigate soil erosion (*refer to item 1.1 of this chapter and the chapter on infrastructure development*).

Widely adopt conservation and sustainable use practices including strengthening of protected area networks (*refer to subsector outcome 1.1*).

Legislative Agenda

- Passage of National Land Use Act and Sustainable Forest Management Act
- Passage of law declaring protection forests as classified under PD 705, critical watersheds and KBAs as protected areas
- Issuance of guidelines for the integration of environmental valuation and risk assessment in the Environmental Impact Assessment
- Passage of law creating a sovereign wealth fund for mining host communities

PART VII

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING



21

Plan
Implementation
and Monitoring

Plan Implementation, Monitoring

This chapter presents the arrangements and mechanisms for the implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the Caraga Regional Development Plan (CRDP) 2017-2022. The implementation of the CRDP proceeds from the strategies that are translated into programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) as contained in the accompanying document of the CRDP, which is the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP). The regional and local authorities in cooperation with the various sectors of the region will implement the PPAs. Periodic monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken utilizing the Results Matrices, which consist of the indicators, baseline data, targets, and agencies responsible for delivering the expected results. The output of the monitoring and assessment will become the basis for the updating of the targets and the modification and/or improvement of the strategies that will contribute to the attainment of the region's goal of becoming the "Fishery, Agro-Forestry, mineral and Ecotourism (FAME) Center of the Country" by 2022.

Planning Process

As outlined in Figure 19.2, the CRDP process started with the analysis of the existing situation, identification of the development challenges, goals and objectives; setting of targets; and then formulation of strategies and policies. These form part of the CRDP 2017-2022.

The goals, objectives and strategies identified in the Plan were translated into concrete and viable programs, projects, and activities (PPAs), which are considered as main inputs to the investment programming process. These PPAs are presented in the form of the Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP), which comprises primarily of priority interventions from the regional line

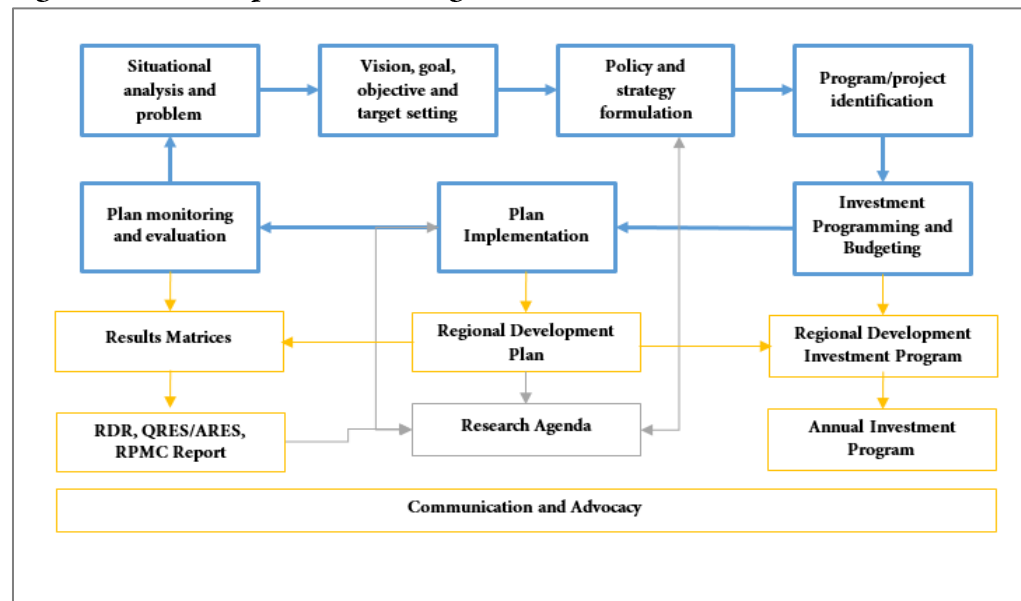
agencies (RLAs) and local government units (LGUs). The RDIP 2017-2022 has an annual slice known as the Annual Investment Program (AIP), which is the main reference/basis for the budgeting process.

To support the implementation of the CRDP, the RDC coordinated the crafting of a unified regional research agenda as one of the instruments for improving plan formulation, investment programming, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation and in attaining the goal of the region to become the FAME Center of the country. It also spearheaded the preparation of a Communication Plan to engender support for the CRDP.

Monitoring and evaluation utilizing the Results Matrices (RMs) as tool, will be undertaken to assess the progress of implementing the Plan. Assessment

results will serve as inputs in updating strategies and identifying new approaches to achieve the goals and objectives of the CRDP 2017-2022.

Figure 21.1 Development Planning Process



As to the integration of the CRDP within the network of various plans at different levels, the policy issues/concerns of the CRDP that have national or interregional implications will seek guidance from the PDP. The CRDP in turn will guide the formulation of the Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), and the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFPs) of the LGUs in the region.

Plan approval and adoption

In the crafting of a holistic, responsive, and widely supported CRDP, the RDC

conducted several activities, namely, Assessment Workshops, Results Matrices and Regional Core Indicator System Workshop, and Writeshop cum Strategic Planning Workshop. The Plan also underwent two rounds of provincial/city consultations with the various stakeholders of the five provinces and six cities of the region before it was presented to the four RDC Sectoral Committees. An integration and alignment workshop was also held prior to its finalization. Then during the 90th Full Council Meeting on 02 March 2017, the RDC passed Resolution No. 8, Series of 2017, “Approving and Adopting the Caraga Regional Development Plan.”.

Institutional, political and administrative arrangements

The CRDP will be primarily implemented by regional and local authorities with the active participation of all sectors of the region, including the private sector.

Caraga Regional Development Council (RDC)

The Regional Development Council is the highest policy-making body in the region and serves as the counterpart of the NEDA Board at the subnational level. It is the primary institution that coordinates and sets the direction of all economic and social development efforts in the region. Given its mandate, the RDC will coordinate the implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the CRDP. The Council's current structure (Figure 19.1) and processes will be utilized in the full implementation of the CRDP.

RDC Sectoral Committees

The sectoral committees, which also serve as the regional planning committees (RPC) as shown in Table 19.1, are composed of regional line agencies, Private Sector Representatives, and the local government units of the region's five provinces and six cities. These Committees and their technical working groups will serve as forum in discussing sectoral issues and concerns that may arise from the implementation of the Plan. They will also

be mobilized to deliberate sector-specific implementation bottlenecks and propose courses of actions to resolve these concerns for the consideration of the RDC.

Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee (AdCom) composed of the members of the RDC Executive Committee (ExeCom) and members of the House of Representatives who signified their intention to join the AdCom will be the venue for coordination and collaboration between the RDC and the Congress in mobilizing funding and policy support for plan implementation. It will also be the forum for discussing other regional development concerns.

Figure 21.2 Regional Development Council Structure

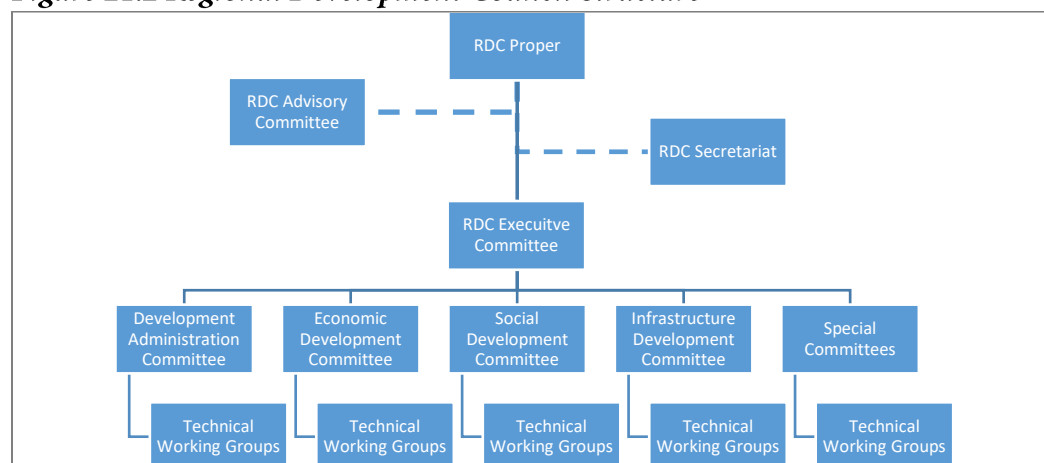


Table 21.1 RDC Sectoral Committees

SECTORAL COMMITTEES	REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEES	AREA OF CONCERN	NEDA CARAGA SECRETARIAT
Economic Development Committee	RPC 1: Economic Development Committee; and RPC 5: Ecological Integrity Committee	Agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and industry and services Utilization of natural resources	Project Investment and Budgeting Division (PDIPBD) Development, Programming and Division
Social Development Committee	RPC 2: Human Capital Development Committee	Human capital development as a means and as an end, and resiliency of individuals and families.	Development Division (DRD) Research
Infrastructure Development Committee	RPC 3: Infrastructure Development Committee	Infrastructure related concerns.	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division (PMED)
Development Administration Committee	RDC 4: Enhancing the Social Fabric Committee	Building trust in public institutions; peace, public order and security; and valuing cultural diversity.	Policy Formulation and Planning Division (PFPD)

Special Committees

Special Committees such as the Regional Land Use Committee (RLUC), Regional Statistics Committee (RSC), Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC),

and the Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC) will serve as venue to discuss concerns that relate to their mandate relative to CRDP implementation.

NEDA Regional Office

The NEDA Regional Office-Caraga, as the Secretariat of the Caraga RDC, shall primarily coordinate the activities relating to plan implementation, and monitoring and evaluation through the Sectoral Committees and Special Committees of the RDC.

Other Entities

The local government units (municipal, inter-municipal/alliances, provincial and inter-provincial), government agencies (national and regional office-based) and private sector groups (individual investment entrepreneurs, business groups, cooperatives, and non-government organizations) will be responsible for implementing specific programs/projects identified in the CRDP.

Financing the RDP

In financing the implementation of the identified PPAs in the CRDP, funds will be mainly sourced-out from the national government through the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). Other sources of funds include official development assistance (ODA), government owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs), and local government revenues. For LGU specific PPAs, public-private partnerships (PPP) will be encouraged to improve financial capabilities among LGUs.

Plan Advocacy

The RDC Secretariat will spearhead the preparation of a Communication Plan for the CRDP 2017-2022 to ensure that the goals, objectives of the CRDP are understood and received well. More importantly the communication plan will be the instrument to engender strong support from various stakeholders for the successful implementation of the RDP and other advocacies of the RDC.

Plan Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

M&E Tool

The progress of implementation of the CRDP will be monitored and evaluated based on the RMs, which are anchored on the results-based management (RbM) strategy that supports public expenditure management reforms, shifting the focus

from mere input-output monitoring to an emphasis on the achievement of outcomes and impacts prioritized in the Plan. The RMs cover the indicators, baseline data, targets, and the agencies that are tasked to deliver the planned results. The targets that are reflected in the RMs will be updated annually based on implementation assessment results.

M&E System

The RDC, through the RPMC will conduct regular monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of selected PPAs in the CRDP and RDIP. Aside from utilizing the RMs as the primary tool for M&E, the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) will be employed in executing project monitoring and evaluation activities. A regional project monitoring and evaluation report will be prepared quarterly by the RPMC Secretariat to apprise the stakeholders about the status of implementation of the programs and projects that contribute to the realization of the Plan objectives and targets.

M&E Reporting Mechanisms

An annual assessment of the region's performance in implementing the CRDP shall be reported through the Regional Development Report (RDR). The RDR describes the performance of the region in executing the strategies and in fulfilling the goals and objectives indicated in the CRDP. It also provides analyses and recommendations on improving the performance of the sectors that are lagging behind. Annual accomplishments in relation to the planned objectives and

targets of the different implementing agencies and LGUs will be generated through the different RPCs every second quarter of the year as inputs to the preparation of the annual RDR.

The quarterly and annual Regional Economic Situationer (RES) also reflects current socio-economic conditions of the region, which are essential inputs in assessing the performance of the region relative to CRDP implementation.

These RDR and RES are presented to the RDC sectoral committees for validation and vetting of assessment results and for determining remedial measures to improve the region's performance.

Plan Review, Evaluation and Updating

The CRDP 2017-2022 reflects the region's development direction in the next six years, which supports the 1st of the four PDPs anchored on the LTV. It will be reviewed and updated in the third year of plan implementation to ensure that the CRDP will continue to be responsive and relevant. If needed, some strategies will be re-focused, sharpened, or replaced to ensure that the goals of the plan will be realized.

22

Sustaining the
Momentum
Towards AmBisyon
Natin 2040

Sustaining the Momentum Towards AmBisyon Natin 2040

The Caraga Region will sustain its support for and contribute to the attainment of the Philippines' long term vision of a *"matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay para sa lahat."* The Caraga RDP 2017-2022 contains the strategies that will address the current challenges that confront the region in building the foundation for a more inclusive growth, high-trust society, and globally competitive knowledge economy. Thus, it is anticipated that by the end of 2022, all major social, economic and infrastructure projects that have been planned for implementation are already completed. The agriculture sector has recovered and is sustaining its positive growth, tourist arrivals doubled and the wood processing industry is revitalized. Mining continues to contribute to the regional economy. Connectivity within the region is improved; and redundant access, particularly in areas that connect Caraga to its neighboring regions, (Region X and Region XI) are in place. The region has improved education and health outcomes while trust in government and the satisfaction levels for its services have improved.

In sustaining the momentum towards AmBisyon Natin 2040, the region will aggressively pursue the following:

- Reducing poverty;
- Sustaining high economic growth;
- Maintaining people-centered, efficient, and clean government;
- Constructing strategic infrastructure facilities;
- Enhancing manufacturing and tourism industry;
- Improving rural productivity;
- Developing human capital;
- Developing a knowledge-based economy;
- Addressing underemployment;
- Developing growth centers and smart cities;
- Harnessing renewable energy;
- Advancing innovation thru S&T;
- Building resilient communities; and
- Ensuring ecological integrity.

The following are the milestones of the region in the next three (3) planning periods:

Caraga RDP 2023-2028

For the next medium term, the region will continue to promote value adding activities particularly in fishery, agro-forestry, and mineral sectors. The overall productivity of the agriculture sector will increase with the GAP certification of more farms, mechanization/modernization of agriculture, improved irrigation coverage, and investments in research and development. The fishery sub-sector will have recovered and exhibiting positive growth. Mining will still be pursued but limited only to pre-existing MPSAs. Mining companies will consistently comply with environmental standards consistent with sustainable mining practices. There will be processing of extracted mineral ores before they are shipped out of the region.

During this planning period, the region's economy will transition from a resource-based to a knowledge-based economy. There will be a number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the region, namely the Butuan City Business Information Technology Park, Butuan City Economic Zone (North Section), IT Park and Mariculture Park in the Province of Dinagat Islands, Agusan Del Sur Economic Zone, and Bucas Grande Tourism Enterprise Zone in Socorro. These SEZs will support the BPO, manufacturing, processing, and tourism industries in the region. The eco-tourism potentials of the Province of Dinagat will be harnessed, which will complement the tourism destinations in Siargao and Bucas Grande Islands, Surigao Del Sur, and Surigao Del Norte.

The education sector will prepare Caraganons to take on high productivity jobs that are responsive to the region's industry needs. Thus, job-skills mismatch is no longer a concern. Through the amalgamation of State Universities and Colleges, additional Centers of Excellence will be conferred to Caraga in the fields of agriculture, agriculture engineering, geodetic engineering, business administration, fisheries, information technology, education, tourism, and others. The region will also become a learning showcase for DRR-CCA with the DRR-CCA Regional Training Institute in full operation.

Infrastructure projects intended to improve the connectivity of island municipalities to the mainland will be prioritized. Thus, a feasibility study for the construction of Hayanggabon-Socorro Bridge will be conducted. The Lawigan Port in Bislig City will be fully operational catering to inter-island vessels that would transport passengers and produce from Agusan Del Sur, Surigao Del Sur, and from the eastern portion of Davao Oriental. The Port System in Siargao Islands will be improved and Jubang Port in Dapa, Siargao Islands will be expanded to accommodate increased tourist traffic in Siargao and possibly an international cruise ship. The International Container and Passenger Port in Masao, Butuan City will be operational to complement the existing Port in Nasipit. The Lipata and Surigao Ports will be upgraded.

Tandag Airport will be expanded to accommodate more commercial flights from Cebu City and Manila. Feasibility studies for the relocation of Bancasi Airport, Butuan City to the Municipality of Magallanes, Agusan Del Norte and Surigao City Airport to the Municipality of San Francisco, Surigao Del Norte will also be conducted.

Intraregional connectivity will be further enhanced by paving all roads leading to tourism areas and farm to market roads (FMRs) to boost the tourism industry and support the production areas. The construction of the 2nd By-Pass Road in

Agusan Del Norte and the 3rd Bridge connecting Magallanes and Butuan City and the Lake Mainit Circumferential Road will have been completed by that time.

The region's renewable sources of energy will be harnessed with the establishment of a Solar Farm in the Province of Dinagat Islands and Agusan Del Norte (Nasipit, Carmen and Magsaysay Ridges).

The growth in the regional economy will result in the reduction of poverty to 15 percent and underemployment to 20 percent. Education and health outcomes will have further improved.

Caraga RDP 2029-2034

By 2034, Caraga Region will already be a knowledge-based economy. It will be the Center for Research and Development particularly on agriculture and fisheries development. Strong partnerships between industries/companies and education institutions will be established with the latter providing innovations to support the former. The region will continue to attract locators for Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs). Additional SEZs will be operational such as the Nonoc Islands Special Economic Zone in Surigao City; Banza Special Economic Zone for Wood Industry and Taguibo Industrial Park in Butuan City; Surigao Del Sur Mineral Processing Zone; and Bislig Agri-Industrial Processing Zone in Surigao Del Sur.

The Gold Processing Economic Zone in Agusan del Sur will contribute to the export commodities in the region and its

jewelry making industry will flourish. Processing of fishery products is gaining headway by then. The region's export base will already be diversified consisting of processed fishery, agro-forestry and mineral products. Innovation through research and development and the use of technology will be the driving force in further improving the productivity of the different sectors.

Among the priority infrastructure projects that will be completed during this planning period are the feasibility study for the establishment of an airport in the Province of Dinagat Islands to be located in Basilisa/San Jose, establishment of a Mega Port, and a Tidal Power Plant in the Province of Dinagat Islands. Major flood control projects are also finished including the Mainit Lakewall Flood Control.

Butuan City will now become a Smart City. Settlements in environmentally constrained areas will have been relocated and the no go zones strictly enforced. Communities will be resilient against any form of hazard. Access of the population to health services is ensured including advanced medical interventions. Further, a

Center for Mental Health will be established in Butuan City and one of its tertiary hospital will be a Trauma Center. Fisheries schools in Siargao and Dinagat Islands will be recognized as Centers for Excellence in Fisheries. The region will also be the Biodiversity Research Center of the country.

Caraga RDP 2035-2040

By 2040, the region's contribution to the national economy or the GDP is already considerable with poverty levels reduced to a single digit (5-8 percent). Middle income families will comprise majority of the Caraganons. Its human resources will be skilled and with a large pool of highly technical/skilled professionals whose market is beyond the Philippine borders due to the economic integration in the ASEAN Region.

A Heart Center will be established in the region providing advanced medical intervention for patients afflicted with cardio-vascular diseases. The ship building industry of the region will begin to take off while the Special Economic Zones for light industries will continue to create jobs not only for Caraganons but also for the neighboring regions. The Surigao City Fishing Port Complex will be operational which will further boost the fishery sector of the region. Construction of Dinagat-Surigao Bridge will make the Province of Dinagat Islands accessible by land.

Apart from the construction of Lipata (Surigao) –San Ricardo (Leyte) Bridge, the region's connectivity to Visayas and Luzon will be improved with the transfer of the airport in Butuan City to Magallanes, Agusan Del Norte while the Surigao City Airport will now be in San Francisco, Surigao Del Norte. Both airports will have advanced airport facilities capable of 24-hour operations and can accommodate bigger aircrafts. Dinagat Islands will have its own airport in Basilisa/San Jose. The Lawigan Port in Bislig will become an International Port. Mass transport system will have improved with the implementation of the Butuan-Tagum and Butuan-Cagayan Sections of the Mindanao Railway System.

List of Acronyms

3Rs	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	BPLS	Business Permit and Licensing System
4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program	BPO	Business Process Outsourcing
A&D	Alienable and Disposable lands	BPOC	Barangay Peace and Order Council
AdCom	Advisory Committee	BSEZ	Buenavista Special Economic Zones
ADIPH	Ancestral Domain Investment Plan for Health	BSP	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
ADMP	Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities Program	BTA	Bayanihan Team Activity
ADSDPP	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan	BUB	Bottom-Up Budgeting
AES	Automated Election System	CAAP	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
AFACI	Antongalon Farmers Association Caraga Incorporated	CACS	Competency Assessment and Certification System
AFF	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	CADT	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines	CAGOSHERA	Caraga Goat and Sheep Raisers Association
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	CALABARZON	Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon
AIP	Annual Investment Program	CAPE	Consultancy for Agricultural Productivity Enhancement
ALIVE	Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education		
ALS	Alternative Learning System	CAR	Cordillera Administrative Region
AMS	Ambient Monitoring Stations	CARP	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
ANECO	Agusan del Norte Electric Cooperative	CARSI	Caraga Swine Raisers Incorporated
APHC	Agus-Pulangi Hydropower Complex	CarSU	Caraga State University
APHC	Agus-Pulangui Hydroelectric Complex	CBFMA	Community-Based Forest Management Agreement
ARES	Annual Regional Economic Situationer	CCARD	Caraga Consortium for Agriculture, Forestry and Resources Research and Development
ARMM	Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao	CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
ARTA-RCS	Anti-Red Tape Act – Report Card Survey	CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
ASELCO	Agusan del Sur Electric Cooperative	CDP	Comprehensive Development Plan
ASSCAT	Agusan del Sur State College of Agricultural Technology	CEST	Community Empowerment through Science and Technology
BAPS	Barangay Agricultural Profile Survey	CHR	Commission on Human Rights
BCPO	Butuan City Police Office	CHRDC	Caraga Health Research and Development Consortium
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources	CICL	Children in Conflict with the Law
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection	CIS	Communal Irrigation System
BHS	Barangay Health Station	CITDS	Community Integrated Territorial Defense System
BIMPC	Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-China	CLIP	Comprehensive Local Integration Program
BIR	Bureau of Internal Revenue	CLOA	Certificate of Land Ownership Award
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology	CLUP	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
BNS	Barangay Nutrition Scholars	CMP	Community Mortgage Program
BOC	Bureau of Customs	CMU	Central Mindanao University
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	COC	Certificates of Competency
BOT	Build-Operate-Transfer	COD	Center of Development
BPATS	Barangay Peace Action Teams	COE	Center of Excellence
BPBH	Balik-Pinas, Balik Hanapbuhay	CSR	Cohort Survival Rates
		COMELEC	Commission on Elections
		ConVERGE	Convergence on Value Chain

	Enhancement for Rural Growth and Development	ECARP ECC	Every Child A Reader Program Environmental Compliance Certificate
COPDOP	Community Organizing for Peace and Development Outreach Program	ECE EcoSep	Early Childhood Education Eco-Friendly Septic System
COPS	Community Oriented Policing System	EFPS EGWS	E-Filing and Payment System Electricity, Gas and Water Supply
COSERAM	Conflict Sensitive Resource and Management	EIA EMB	Environment Impact Assessment Environmental Management Bureau
CPI	Consumer Price Index	EMBC	Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate	EMIEERALD	Eastern Mindanao Industry Energy and Emerging Technology Research Alliance for Development
CRDP	Caraga Regional Development Plan	EP EPEP	Exploration permit Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program
CRDP	Community Royalty Development Plan	EPIRA	Electric Power Industry Reform Act
CRECA	Caraga Rural Electric Cooperatives	ESWM	Ecological Solid Waste Management
CRSDF	Caraga Regional Spatial Development Framework	ExeCom	Executive Committee
CSC	Civil Service Commission	FabLab	Fabrication Laboratory
CVO	Civilian Volunteer Organization	FAME	Fishery, Agro-forestry, Mineral and Ecotourism
CWD	Children's and Women's Desk	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
DA	Department of Agriculture	FAS	Financial Awareness Seminar
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform	FCI	Food Innovation Center
DARE	Drug Abuse Resistance Education	FDA	Food and Drug Administration
DBP	Development Bank of the Philippines	FDP	Full Disclosure Policy
DCC	Day Care Center	FDU	Full-Time Delivery Unit
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	FHS	Family Health Survey
DepEd	Department of Education	Fish CORAL	Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood
DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology	FMR FNRI	Farm-to-Market Roads Food and Nutrition Research Institute
DIELCO	Dinagat Islands Electric Cooperative	FPIC	Free and Prior Informed Consent
DILEEP	DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program	GAA	General Appropriations Act
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government	GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
DNYP	Distributed but Not Yet Paid	GCTA	Good Conduct Time Allowance
DO	Dissolved Oxygen	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
DOE	Department of Energy	GFH	Good Financial Housekeeping
DOH	Department of Health	GFI	Government Financial Institution
DOJ	Department of Justice	GIDA	Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment	GIP	Genetic Improvement Program
DOST	Department of Science and Technology	GIS	Geographic Information System
DOTr	Department of Transportation	GIWA	Gigaquit Women's Association
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways	GIZ	German International Cooperation
DRR-CCA	Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation	GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
DRRMP	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan	GOCC	Government Owned and Controlled Corporation
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development	GRDP	Gross Regional Domestic Product
EAP	Educational Assistance Program	GSIS	Government Service Insurance System
EBCS	E-Billing and Collection System		
EC	Electric Cooperatives		

GVA	Gross Value Added		Management
GWAPS	GSIS Wireless Automated Processing System	JLSS	Junior Level Science Scholarship
HDMF	Home Development Mutual Fund	KALAH-CIDSS	Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Service
HEI	Higher Education Institutions	KBAs	Key Biodiversity Areas
HELPS	Health, Education, Livelihood, Public Utilities, and Socio-Cultural Preservation	KC-CCL	KALAH-CIDSS - Classroom Construction for Lumads
HFEP	Health Facilities Enhancement Program	KDZ	Key Development Zones
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	KSA	Key Shelter Agencies
HLURB	Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board	LAC	Local AIDS Council
HOMA	Housing Materials Assistance	LAD	Land Acquisition and Distribution
HPP	Hydroelectric Power Project	LADAC	Local Anti-Drug Abuse Council
HRH	Human Resource for Health	LDAP	Livelihood Development Assistance Program
HRMD	Human Resource Management and Development	LDIP	Local Development Investment Program
HUDCC	Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council	LEEs	Local Economic Enterprises
HVCDP	High Value Crops Development Program	LET	Licensure Examination for Teachers
HYDROMET	Hydrometeorological Device	LGU	Local Government U nit
I&S	Industry and Services	LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
ICC	Indigenous Cultural Community	LIIC	Local Investment and Incentive Code
ICC	Investment Coordinating Committee	LPI-EWS	Livestock and Poultry Information and Early Warning System
ICRM	Integrated Coastal Resources Management	LRA	Land Registration Authority
ICS	Incident Command System	LRC	Local Revenue Code
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	LTE	Long-Term Evolution
IDIG	Institutional Development and Innovation Grants	LTS	Land Tenure Services
IEC	Information, Education and Communication	LTV	Long Term Vision
IES	Impact Evaluation Study	LUCs	Local Universities and Colleges
IFMA	Integrated Forest Management Agreement	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
IKSP	Indigenous Knowledge, Skills and Processes	MAQ	Mining and Quarrying
IPED	Indigenous Peoples Education	MASA MASID	Mamayang Ayaw sa Anomalya Mamayang Ayaw sa Ilegal na Droga
IP	Indigenous People		Merit-Based
IP MNCHN	Indigenous Peoples Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition Project	MB	Megabits per Second
IRA	Internal Revenue Allotment	MBPS	Modified Conditional Cash Transfer
IRSE	Instruction, Research, and Sectoral Engagement	MCCT	Millennium Development Goals
ISA	Institutional Sustainability Assessment	MDG	Mines and Geosciences Bureau
ISF	Informal Settler Family	MGB	Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	MIMAROPA	Mindanao Logistic Infrastructure Network
ISPs	Internet Service Providers	MLIN	Memorandum of Agreement
IT-BPO	Information Technology-Business Process Outsourcing	MOA	Massive Open Online Courses
ITDS	Integrated Territorial Defense System	MOOCs	Manufacturing Productivity Extension
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources	MPEX	Mean Percentage Score
		MPS	Mineral Processing Sharing Agreement
		MPSA	Mutual Recognition Agreement
		MRA	Materials Recovery Facility
		MRF	Mindanao Railway System
		MRS	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
		MSMEs	Mindanao Spatial Strategy/Development Framework
		MSS/DF	

MSU-IIT	Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology	ODA	Official Development Assistance
NANIE	Nasipit Agusan del Norte Industrial Estate	OFW	Overseas Filipino Worker
NAPOLCOM	National Police Commission	OPV	Open-Pollinated Variety
NAT	National Achievement Test	OSY	Out-of-School Youth
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation	PAB	Philippine Accreditation Bureau
NBP	National Broadband Plan	PAGASA	Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
NCC	National Competitiveness Council	PAMANA	Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan
NCCA	National Commission on Culture and the Arts	PAO	Public Attorney's Office
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases	PCE	Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship
NCDDP	National Community-Driven Development Program	PCF	Performance Challenge Fund
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples	PCHRD	Philippine Council for Health Research and Development
NCMF	National Commission on Muslim Filipinos	PCIEERD	Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development
NCP	National Competition Policy		Provincial Contingency Plans
NCR	National Capital Region	PCP	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey	PDEA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
NEA	National Electrification Administration	PDNA	Philippine Development Plan
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority	PDP	Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan
NEO	Newly Elected Officials	PDPFP	Payment for Ecological Services
NFA	National Food Authority	PES	Private Education Student Financial Assistance
NGA	Non-Government Agency	PESFA	Public Employment Service Office
NGCP	National Grid Corporation of the Philippines	PESO	Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System
NGO	Non-Government Organization	PhilGEPS	Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority
NGP	National Greening Program		Philippine Long Distance Telephone- Philippine Global Communications
NHA	National Housing Authority		Philippine National Police
NHTS-PR	Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction	PhilFIDA	People's Organization Parole and Probation Administration
NIA	National Irrigation Administration	PLDT-PhilCom	Philippine Ports Authority
NICA	National Intelligence Coordinating Agency		Programs, Projects And Activities
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Area System	PNP	Provincial Police Office
NIS	National Irrigation System	PO	Provincial Peace and Order Council
NISEZ	Nonoc Island Special Economic Zone	PPA	Public Private Partnership
NMIS	National Meat Inspection Service	PPAs	Purchasing Power of Peso
NMNRMCI	Northern Mindanao National Resources Management Council, Incorporated	PPO	Professional Regulation Commission
NPA	New People's Army	PPOC	Philippine Rural Development Program
NPC	National Power Corporation	PPP	Police Regional Office
NPEP	National Physical Framework Plan	PRD	Philippine Rice Research Institute
NRE	New and Renewable Energy	PRRI	Philippine Statistics Authority
NSAP	National Stock Assessment Program	PSA	Philippine Science High School
NSS	National Spatial Strategy	PSHS	Public Service Values Program
NSWMC	National Solid Waste Management Commission	PSVP	Private Tree Plantation
NTC	National Telecommunications Commission	PTPOC	Ownership Certificates
OA	Organic Agriculture		
OCD	Office of Civil Defense		

PWD	Person with Disability	SEC	Securities and Exchange
PZD	Port Zone Delineation		Commission
QRF	Quick Response Fund	SETUP	Small Enterprise Technology
R&D	Research and Development		Upgrading Program
R2R	Ridge-to-Reef	SGH	Seal of Good Housekeeping
RAFMechP	Regional Agriculture and Fishery	SGLG	Seal of Good Local Governance
	Mechanization Program	SGP-PA	Students' Grant-in-Aid Program
RATE	Run After Tax Evaders Program		for Poverty Alleviation
RATS	Run After Tax Smugglers	SHS	Senior High School
RBO	Rural Based Organization	SIARELCO	Siargao Island Electric
RCBC	Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert		Cooperative
RCC	Regional Competitiveness	SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
	Committee	SLF	Sanitary Land Fills
RDANA	Rapid Damage Assessment and	SLP	Sustainable Livelihood Program
	Needs Analysis	SLT	Schools of Living Tradition
RDC	Regional Development Council	SMERA	SME Roving Academy
RDIP	Regional Development	SOCCSKSARGEN	South Cotabato, Cotabato,
	Investment Program		Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and
RDP	Regional Development Plan		General Santos City
RDR	Regional Development Report	SPES	Special Program for Employment
RES	Regional Economic Situationer		of Students
RGADC	Regional Gender and	SPMS	Strategic Performance
	Development Committee		Management System
RHMPP	Rural Health Midwife Placement	SPUG	Small Power Utilities Group
	Program	SSES	Special Science Elementary
RHU	Rural Health Units		Schools
RLA	Regional Line Agency	SSF	Shared Service Facility
RLBET	Regional LAD Balance	SSS	Social Security System
	Evaluation Team	STARBOOKS	Science and Technology
RLUC	Regional Land Use Committee		Academics and Research-based
RM	Results Matrix		Openly Kiosks
RML	Regional Metrology Laboratory	STEM	Science, Technology,
RORO	Roll-on/Roll-off		Engineering, and Mathematics
RPC	Regional Planning Committee	STEP	Shannalyne Technological and
RPMC	Regional Project Monitoring		Environmental Park
	Committee	STI	Science, Technology And
RPMES	Regional Project Monitoring and		Innovation
	Evaluation System	STORRM	Science and Technology
RPO	Regional Prosecutor's Office		Operationalized for Risk
RPOC	Regional Peace and Order		Reduction and Management
	Council	StuFAP	Student Financial Assistance
RPRH	Responsible Parenthood and		Program
	Reproductive Health	SUCs	State Universities and Colleges
RPT	Real Property Tax	SURNECO	Surigao del Norte Electric
RRCY	Regional Rehabilitation Center		Cooperative
	for Youth	SURSECO	Surigao del Sur Electric
RROW	Road Right-of-Way		Cooperative
RRP	Recovery and Reintegration	TAPCEN	Tubay Agro-Processing Center
	Program	TB	Tuberculosis
RSC	Regional Statistics Committee	TCVD	Tax Campaign Verification Drive
RSTL	Regional Standards and Testing	TDS	Total Dissolved Solid
	Laboratory	Tech4ED	Technology for Education,
RWCPD	Regional Women's and		Employment, Entrepreneurs, and
	Children's Protection Desk		Economic Development
SAFDZ	Strategic Agriculture and Fishery	TELOF	Telecommunications Office
	Development Zone	THW	Tribal Health Workers
SBMT	Small Business Management	TMC	Taganito Mining Corporation
	Training		
SDMP	Social Development and	TREs	Tourism-Related Establishments
	Management Program		
SDN	Service Delivery Networks	TRO	Temporary Restraining Order
SEAMEO	Southeast Asian Ministers of	TSC	Technical Support Center
	Education Organization	TSEZ	Taganito Special Economic Zone

TSP	Total Suspended Particulate	UP DREAM	University of the Philippines
TSS	Total Suspended Solids		Disaster Risk and Exposure
TTI	TESDA Training Institution		Assessment for Mitigation
TUPAD	Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training	USEP	University of Southeastern Philippines
TVI	Technical-Vocational Institutions	VCM	Vote Counting Machine
TWSP	Training for Work Scholarship Program	VPA	Volunteer Probation Assistant
UN	United Nations	VRA	Vulnerability And Risk Assessment
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations	WPP	Wood Processing Plants
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	WQMA	Water Quality Management Area
		YP4SC	Youth Profiling for Starring Career

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- Ms. Mellit Lucile P. Mahinay
- Mr. Joel C. Ruyana
- Ms. Rhea T. Santillan

NCIP

- Mr. Owen M. Ducena

NEA

- Engr. Floyd Eric O. Bautista
- Mr. Renato L. Subijano

NIA

- Ms. Jane B. Huqueriza
- Engr. Susan D. Lariba
- Engr. Jolly B. Ranara
- Engr. Ruby C. Tuan, Jr.

NGCP

- Engr. Jeff G. Sanchez

NMNRMC

- Engr. Menillo C. Siega

NTC

- Engr. Reynaldo C. Quitilig

PPA Agusan

- Engr. Ma. Theresa E. Diola
- Mr. Ritche Maquilung

PPA Surigao

- Ms. Mildred J. Padilla
- Engr. Carlson Jay E. Martinez

OCD

- Mr. Mark July Yap

Private Sector

Representatives (PSRs)

- Mr. Roger N. Ramirez

Local Governemnt

Units (LGUs)

Agusan del Norte

- Ms. Penny P. Besada

- Engr. Jasser Greg L. Duroy
- Ms. Frances Isabel Pitogo
- Ms. Charyll D. Rosario

Agusan del Sur

- Ms. Maria Leofe P. Olaer

Surigao del Norte

- Ms. Wilje Mae T. Angob

Surigao del Sur

- Ms. Vilma A. Ronquillo

Bayugan City

- Mr. Roger M. Gomez

Butuan City

- Engr. Grace U. Adormeo
- Engr. Rogelio J. Cahoy
- Engr. Annie G. Lao
- Arch. John Paul T. Velasco

Bislig City

- Engr. Edilberto G. Carmen
- Engr. Sherwin T. Masancay

Surigao City

- Mr. Juanito P. Ortiz

Surigao del Norte

- Ms. Alma E. Abrocena
- Mr. Sherwin L. Gonzaga

Planning Committee on Enhancing the Social Fabric

Members:

Regional Line Agencies (RLAs)

BLGF

- Elizabeth W. Caturan
- Arian T. Chan
- OIC-RD Elvira S. Daradar

DBM

- Judy D. Acdal
- Paul A. Abarca

- Elvin D. Chatto
- Katrina Emmanuelle L. Yap

CSC

- Marvin A. Guiritan
- Julius Eleazar N. Mañego

BIR

- Anette C. Dumanon
- Rodrigo D. Simporios

BTr

- Rudy Rose P. Inchoco

BJMP

- JOI Kenneth Brian C. Moran

DOJ-P&PA

- Alex G. Castaños

DOJ-ORP

- Katherine D. Cueva
- Atty. Clementino Rabor

PNP

- PO3 Elpedio S. Ebaya
- PSI Analee V Enriquez
- PSupt Romy I Palgue
- SPO4 Exuperio L. Quevedo, Jr.
- PSupt Romeo A. Villalobos

4th Infantry Division

- Cpt Gerardo A Magayaga

401st Infantry Brigade

- Col Cresente Q. Maligmit
- LTC Rommel Pagayon
- Col Cristobal N Zaragosa

402nd Infantry Brigade

- ILT Mark F Fabellon

NICA

- Virginia C. Durens

DILG

- Ellen S. Mandap
- Jeffrey A. Ramo

BFP

- CINSP Pedro G. Balatero,
- FSI Rey Antonio C. Restauero

PDEA

- Dir. Gilbert Buenafe
- Agent Rodelio Daguman, Jr.
- Leslie M. Lala
- IA5 Christy E. Silvan
- Majorie M. Leso

DSWD

- Ruel S. Halanes

PAO

- Gardel Rey G. Ambos

Private Sector**Representative (PSR)**

- Helen C. Arellano

Local Government**Units (LGUs)***Agusan Del Norte*

- Maria Eleanor Ato-Tupaz
- Daisybiel O. Dimavivas

Agusan Del Sur

- Mary Leaneth Barrios
- Mark Larry Chua
- Elizabeth D. Gilot
- Cynthia P. Lumanta

Surigao Del Norte

- Patricia E. Mante
- Emmylou A. Virtudazo

Surigao Del Sur

- Marilyn T. Garil

Province of Dinagat Islands

- Manuel B. Foronda
- Gaudencio Macabales, Jr.,

Bayugan City

- Roger M. Gomez

Bislig City

- Anabella O. Bacatan
- Iris Y. Gimeno
- Clemente H. Penados

Butuan City

- Levita B. Grana

Cabadbaran City

- Engr. Bernard Paul Teanio

Planning Committee on Ecological Integrity

Members:

Regional Line Agencies (RLAs)

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- Josefa M. Gidacan
- Jofre F. Hablo
- Medilyn B. Mahinay
- Catherine P. Nanale

DENR

- Albe G. Doyapat
- Celeste N. Paler

DILG

- Melinda Lagua

DPWH

- Irish Joy M. Cañete
- Alex D. Puyo, Jr.

DOT

- Junether Jean S. Iway

EMB

- Jessa Lou D. Ampatin
- Michael B. Tuares

MGB

- Jose Salve E. Cabiling
- Irish Joy A. Yparraguirre

NCIP

- Archie B. Delgado

- Dr. Eleanor C. Galimpin
- Sharon B. Jasma

NIA

- Jane B. Huqueriza
- Jolly B. Ranara

NMIS

- Dr. Bernadeth L. Montenegro

OCD

- Amado M. Posas

Water Districts

Butuan City Water

District (BCWD)

- Elsie A. Alejandro
- Al Patrick M. Dela Calzada

San Francisco Water

District (SFWD)

- Joanne Eva J. Rimando

Local Government

Units (LGUs)

Agusan del Norte

- Alvin Aclan
- Romina Altorino
- Rofel Cabaltera
- Sonny Montilla
- Erma R. Suyo
- Tomas O. Tener, Jr.

Agusan del Sur

- Mary Rose Cequiña
- Ricardo Caldeo
- Jerson P. Jabay
- Maria Leoffe P. Olaer

Surigao del Norte

- Catherine A. Balomaga
- Aime L. Dela Peña
- Josephine A. Egay
- Gilberto L. Gonzalez
- Gliberto L. Gonzales
- Bonifacio C. Modanza
- Zenaida D. Piramide
- Marilyn E. Som

Surigao del Sur

- Teresita D. Cabatchete
- Esmeraldo A. Odtohan
- Michelle S. Pareja
- Juliet F. Perez
- Vilam A. Ronquillo
- Mae Q. Sauro

Province of Dinagat

Islands

- Gilbert V. Anguay
- Tomas S. EscanerManuel B. Foronda

- Mariel P. Larios
- Benlen D. Navas

Bayugan City

- Roger M. Gomez
- Pamela Joy G. Gildo
- Fortunato Paway II
- Wingelyn D. Tano

Bislig City

- Edilberto G. Carmen

- Romeo T. Imperial
- Hezel B. Tiodianco

Butuan City

- Lilita M. Concon
- Sigrid S. Constañares
- Jeoveta Amy S. Cortes
- Kendy Suet B. Coscos
- Reggie T. Manliguez

- Jess Nan A. Saburao
- Carmelita E. Sulla

Cabadbaran City

- Mariza S. Collado

Surigao City

- William M. Angob
- Halan B. Besario
- Roselyn B. Merlin
- Elmer C. Tecson
- Annette P. Villace

Schedule of CRDP Activities and Consultations

Approval of the Process and Guidelines for the preparation of the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022	27 September 2016
Creation of Planning Committees and Assessment Workshops	14, 18-21 October 2016
Results Matrix and Core Indicators Workshop	8-9 November 2016
1 st Round of Provincial and City Consultations for the CRDP 2017-2022	7-22 November 2016
Writeshop Cum Strategic Planning Workshop	17-18 November 2016
Drafting of the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022	December 2016
2 nd Round of Provincial and City Consultations for the CRDP 2017-2022	23-26 January 2017
Presentation of CRDP 2017-2022 in the Caraga Regional Development Council Sectoral Committees	February 2017
Approval and adoption of the Caraga Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 through Caraga Regional Development Council	2 March 2017

CRDP 2017-2022 Secretariat

Overall Secretariat

RD Mylah Faye Aurora B. Cariño

ARD Roy B. Kantuna

Planning Committee on Economic Development and Ecological Integrity

Lead: Project Development, Investment Programming, and Budgeting Division (PDIPBD)

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Glenn B. Batincila

Mirasol P. Montenegro

Gladys C. Giberson

Shirley C. Torotoro

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Lead: Development Research Division (DRD)

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Elvie C. Ato

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JC M. Penados

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CARAGA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2022

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