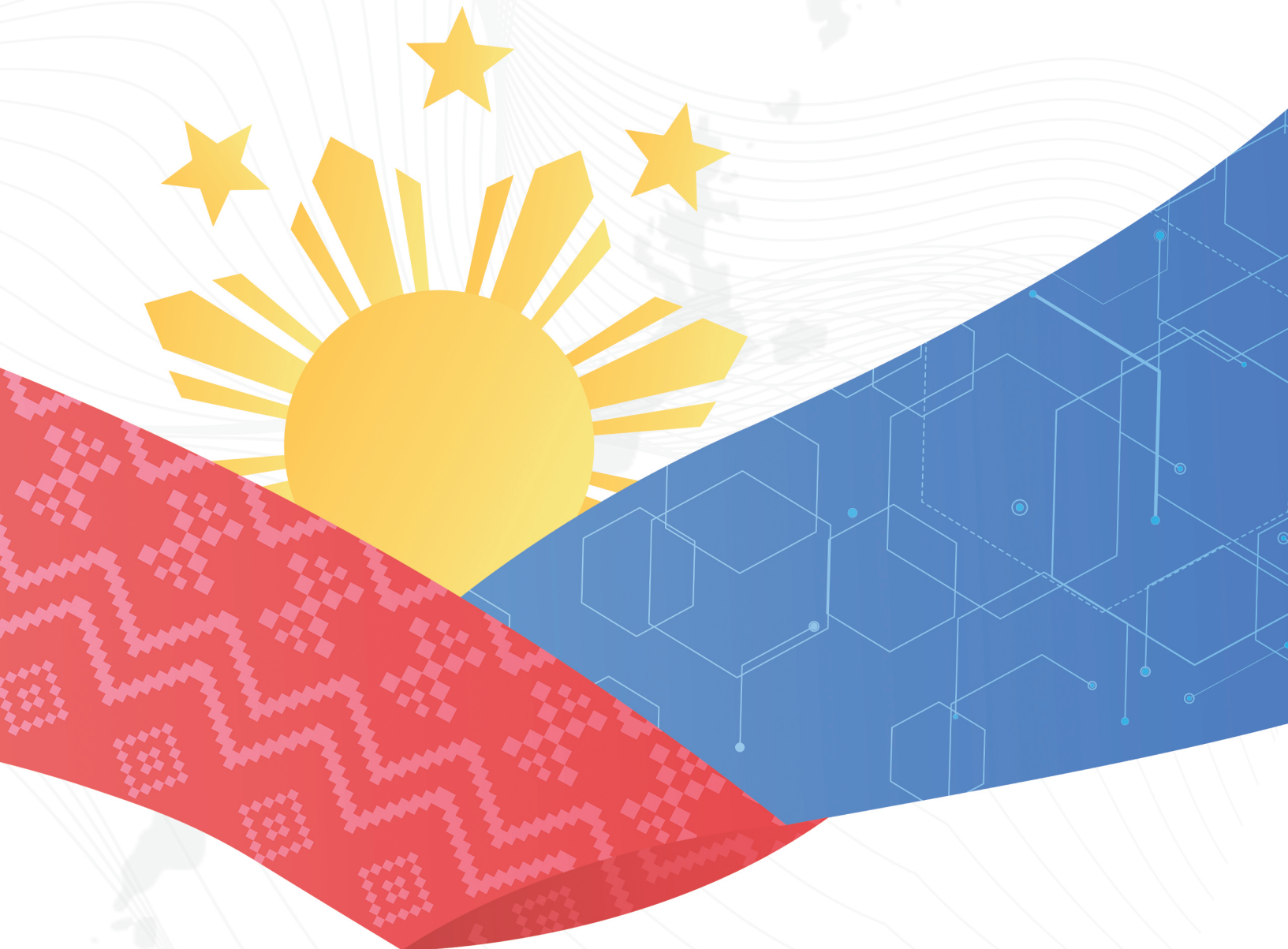




MIMAROPA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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MIMAROPA

Regional Development Plan

2023 - 2028

Table of Contents

Message	xvii
Message	xix
Preface	xx
PART I: INTRODUCTION	1
Chapter 1 Overview of the Regional Economy, Development Context, and Trends	3
Assessment	5
Regional Trends	10
Social and Demographic Trends	10
Economic Trends	11
Technological Trends	12
Environmental Trends	12
Chapter 2 Regional Spatial Development Framework	13
Regional Profile	15
Geographic Location	15
Population Size and Distribution	17
Physical Characteristics	19
Regional Spatial Framework	30
Concentration/Urban Agglomeration	30
Five-tiered Hierarchy of Settlements	30
Settlements Development Framework	33
Proposed Spatial Strategy	38
Connectivity	44
Vulnerability Reduction	46
Exposure Minimization	51
Hazard Mitigation	51
Enhancing Adaptive Capacity	51

Chapter 3 Overview of the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan 2023-2028 Strategy Framework	57
Headline targets	64
PART II: DEVELOP AND PROTECT CAPABILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES	69
Chapter 4 Promote Human and Social Development	71
Sub-Chapter 4.1 Boost Health	73
Assessment and Challenges	73
Targets	75
Strategies	77
Legislative Agenda	82
Sub-chapter 4.2 Improve Education and Lifelong Learning	83
Assessment and Challenges	83
Targets	87
Strategies	89
Legislative Agenda	94
Sub-chapter 4.3 Establish Livable Communities	95
Assessment and Challenges	95
Targets	99
Strategies	100
Legislative Agenda	104
Chapter 5 Reduce Vulnerabilities and Protect Purchasing Power	105
Subchapter 5.1 Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition	107
Assessment and Challenges	107
Targets	109
Strategies	110
Legislative Agenda	117
Sub-chapter 5.2 Strengthen Social Protection	118
Assessment and Challenges	118
Targets	120

Strategies	120
Legislative Agenda	126
Chapter 6 Increase Income-Earning Ability	127
Assessment and Challenges	129
Targets	131
Strategies	131
Legislative Agenda	135
PART III: TRANSFORM PRODUCTION SECTORS TO GENERATE MORE QUALITY JOBS AND COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS	137
Chapter 7 Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness	139
Assessment and Challenges	141
Targets	143
Strategies	145
Legislative Agenda	154
Chapter 8 Revitalize Industry: Science, Technology, and Innovation-driven Industrialization	157
Assessment and Challenges	159
Targets	161
Strategies	162
Legislative Agenda	165
Chapter 9 Reinvigorate Services	167
Assessment and Challenges	169
Targets	170
Strategies	171
Legislative Agenda	176
Chapter 10 Advance Research and Development, Technology, and Innovation	177
Assessment and Challenges	179
Targets	181
Strategies	182
Legislative Agenda	185

Chapter 11 Promote Trade and Investments	187
Assessment and Challenges	189
Targets	191
Strategies	191
Legislative Agenda	193
PART IV: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT	195
Chapter 12 Ensure Macroeconomic Stability	197
Subchapter 12.1 Promote an Innovative, Inclusive, and Healthy Financial Sector	199
Assessment and Challenges	199
Targets	200
Strategies	202
Legislative Agenda	204
Subchapter 12.2 Ensure Sound Fiscal Management and Improve the Tax Regime	205
Assessment and Challenges	205
Targets	206
Strategies	207
Legislative Agenda	209
Chapter 13 Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure	211
Assessment and Challenges	213
Strategies	227
Legislative Agenda	242
Targets	243
Chapter 14 Ensure Peace and Security and Enhance Administration of Justice	245
Sub-chapter 14.1 Ensure Peace and Security	247
Assessment and Challenges	247
Targets	253
Strategies	253
Legislative Agenda	255
Subchapter 14.2 Enhance Administration of Justice	256
Assessment and Challenges	256

Targets	257
Strategies	259
Legislative Agenda	261
Chapter 15 Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic and Regulatory Efficiency	263
Assessment and Challenges	265
Competitiveness and Effectiveness	267
Targets	267
Strategies	268
Legislative Agenda	274
Chapter 16 Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience	275
Assessment and Challenges	277
Targets	279
Strategies	280
Legislative Agenda	284
 PART V: PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION	 285
Chapter 17 Plan Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation	287
Plan Implementation	289
Monitoring and Evaluation	291
Acronyms	293
Glossary	308
References	311
Planning Committees	312
RDP Chapter Writers	321
MIMAROPA RDP Teams	324
Graphics, Design, and Layout	325
AVP and IEC Materials	325
Production	325
Overall Plan Secretariat	326

List of Tables and Figures

CHAPTER 1

Table 1.1 GRDP by Region, Philippines, 2019-2021 (At constant 2018 prices)	5
Figure 1.1 Share of Major Sectors to Regional Economy, MIMAROPA, 2021	6
Figure 1.2 Annual Labor Force Rates, MIMAROPA, 2017-2021	7
Figure 1.3 Population Level, MIMAROPA, 2000-2025	8
Figure 1.4 Poverty Incidence, MIMAROPA, 2003-2018	9

CHAPTER 2

Figure 2.1 Administrative Map of the MIMAROPA Region	16
Figure 2.2 Population Distribution by Municipality, MIMAROPA, 2020	18
Figure 2.3 Topographic Slice of Mindoro Island	19
Table 2.1 Land Area Estimates per Slope Category by Province, MIMAROPA	20
Table 2.2 Land Classification by Province, MIMAROPA	21
Figure 2.4 Land Classification Map of the MIMAROPA Region	22
Figure 2.5 Critical Watersheds in MIMAROPA	23
Table 2.3 Protected Areas by Province, MIMAROPA	24
Figure 2.6 Protected Areas in MIMAROPA, 2023-2028	26
Table 2.4 Land Cover, MIMAROPA, 2015	27
Figure 2.7 Land Cover Map, MIMAROPA, 2015	28
Figure 2.8 Strategic Agricultural and Fishery Development Zones, MIMAROPA, 2020	29
Table 2.5 Five-Tiered Hierarchy of Settlements, MIMAROPA, 2023-2028	31
Figure 2.9 Hierarchy of Settlements in the MIMAROPA Region, 2023-2028	32
Figure 2.10 Overlay Map of Areas Restricted to Urban Development in the MIMAROPA Region	34
Table 2.6 Settlements Framework Parameters by Weight in MIMAROPA	35
Figure 2.11 Sieve Mapping Parameters for the Formulation of Regional Settlements Framework, 2023-2028	36
Figure 2.12 Settlements Development Framework for MIMAROPA Region. 2023-2028	37
Figure 2.13 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Occidental Mindoro, 2023-2028	39
Figure 2.14 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Oriental Mindoro, 2023-2028	40
Figure 2.15 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Marinduque, 2023-2028	41
Figure 2.16 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Romblon, 2023-2028	42
Figure 2.17 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Palawan, 2023-2028	43
Figure 2.18 Integrated development concept of the MIMAROPA Regional Spatial Strategy Framework	45
Figure 2.19 Flood Prone Areas in MIMAROPA	46
Figure 2.20 Liquefaction Prone Areas in MIMAROPA	47
Figure 2.21 Active Faults in MIMAROPA	48

Figure 2.22 Vulnerability Reduction Framework of the MIMAROPA Region, 2023-2028	49
Table 2.7 Affected Built-up Areas by Extreme Hazards/Combination of Hazards by Province, MIMAROPA	50
Figure 2.23 Production Land Use Map of the MIMAROPA Region, 2023-2028	53
Figure 2.24 Protection Land Use Map of the MIMAROPA Region	54
Figure 2.25 Infrastructure Map of the MIMAROPA Region	56

CHAPTER 3

Figure 3.1 MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028 Strategy Framework	60
Figure 3.2 GRDP, Poverty Incidence, Population, Employment, MIMAROPA, 2007-2040	64
Table 3.1 Headline Targets, MIMAROPA, 2023-2028 (in percentage)	65
Table 3.2 Headline Targets, MIMAROPA, 2023-2028 (in actual units)	67

CHAPTER 4

Table 4.1.1 Indicator Matrix	75
Figure 4.1.1 Strategy Framework to Boost Health	77
Table 4.1.2 List of Major Programs and Projects to Boost Health	81
Table 4.1.3 Legislative Agenda to Boost Health	82
Table 4.2.1 Indicator Matrix	87
Figure 4.2.1 Strategy Framework to Improve Education and Lifelong Learning	89
Table 4.2.2 List of Major Programs and Projects to Improve Education and Lifelong Learning	93
Table 4.2.3 Legislative Agenda to Improve Education and Lifelong Learning	94
Table 4.3.1 Indicator Matrix	99
Figure 4.3.1 Strategy Framework to Establish Livable Communities	100
Table 4.3.2 List of Major Programs and Projects	104
Table 4.3.3 Legislative Agenda to Establish Livable Communities	104

CHAPTER 5

Table 5.1.1 Indicator Matrix	109
Figure 5.1.1 Strategy Framework to Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition	110
Table 5.1.2 Legislative Agenda to Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition	117
Table 5.2.1 Indicator Matrix	120
Figure 5.2.1 Strategy Framework to Strengthen Social Protection	120
Table 5.2.2 List of Major Programs and Projects to Strengthen Social Protection	125
Table 5.2.3 Legislative Agenda to Strengthen Social Protection	126

CHAPTER 6

Table 6.1 Indicator Matrix	131
Figure 6.1 Strategy Framework to Increase Income-earning Ability	131
Table 6.2 List of Major Programs and Projects	135
Table 6.3 Legislative Agenda to Increase Income-earning Ability	135

CHAPTER 7

Table 7.1 Indicator Matrix	143
Figure 7.1 Strategy Framework to Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness	145
Table 7.2 MIMAROPA Agribusiness Opportunities by Province	149
Table 7.3 Municipalities with No CLUPs and For Updating (as of June 2022)	152
Table 7.4 Legislative Agenda to Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness	154

CHAPTER 8

Table 8.1 Indicator Matrix	161
Figure 8.1 Strategy Framework to Revitalize Industry	162
Table 8.2 Legislative Agenda to Revitalize Industry	165

CHAPTER 9

Table 9.1 Indicator Matrix	170
Figure 9.1 Strategy Framework to Reinvigorate Services	171
Table 9.2 Legislative Agenda to Reinvigorate Services	176

CHAPTER 10

Table 10.1 Indicator Matrix	181
Figure 10.1 Strategy Framework to Advance Research and Development, Technology, and Innovation	182
Table 10.2 Legislative Agenda to Advance Research and Development, Technology, and Innovation	185

CHAPTER 11

Table 11.1 Indicator Matrix	191
Figure 11.1 Strategy Framework to Promote Trade and Investments	191
Table 11.2 Legislative Agenda to Promote Trade and Investments	193

CHAPTER 12

Table 12.1.1 Indicator Matrix	200
Figure 12.1.1 Strategy Framework to Promote an Inclusive, Innovative, and Healthy Financial Sector	202
Table 12.1.2 Legislative Agenda to Promote an Inclusive, Innovative, and Healthy Financial Sector	204
Table 12.2.1 Indicator Matrix	206
Figure 12.2.1 Strategy Framework to Ensure Sound Fiscal Management and Improve the Tax Regime	207
Table 12.2.2 Legislative Agenda to Ensure Sound Fiscal Management and Improve the Tax Regime	209

CHAPTER 13

Figure 13.1 Length of National Roads and Number of Registered Vehicles, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021	214
Figure 13.2 Length of National Roads by number of lanes	214
Figure 13.3 Distribution of Registered Vehicles by Vehicle Type and Registration Classification, MIMAROPA, 2021	215
Figure 13.4 Maritime Transport Statistics, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021	216
Table 13.1 Airport Statistics, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021	216
Figure 13.5 Aircraft Movement, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021	217
Figure 13.6 Passenger Traffic, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021	217
Figure 13.7 Air Cargoes, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021	218
Figure 13.8 Airport Location and Classification, MIMAROPA Region	219
Table 13.2 List of DICT Towers, MIMAROPA, as of October 2021	220
Figure 13.9 Existing Submarine Cables and Landing Points, MIMAROPA	221
Figure 13.10 Cellular Data Networks (2G, 3G, 4G, 5G), MIMAROPA	221
Figure 13.11 Households with Access to Safe Water, Level III Water Supply, and Sanitation Facility, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021	223
Figure 13.12 Dependable Capacity, Peak Demand, and Excess Capacity, MIMAROPA 2016-2021	224
Figure 13.13 Frequency and Duration of Power Interruptions by Province, MIMAROPA, 2021	225
Figure 13.14 Strategy Framework to Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure	227
Figure 13.15 Proposed Intermodal Connectivity and Inter-island Linkages in MIMAROPA	229
Figure 13.16 MIMAROPA Power Development Framework	235
Figure 13.17 Proposed LNG Complex	236
Table 13.3 List of Major Programs and Projects to Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure	241
Table 13.4 Legislative to Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure	242
Table 13.5 Indicator Matrix	243

CHAPTER 14

Figure 14.1.1 Location Map of Municipal and City Police Stations, MIMAROPA, 2022	249
Figure 14.1.2 Location of Evacuation Centers, MIMAROPA, 2022	250
Figure 14.1.3 Location of Fire Stations, MIMAROPA, 2022	251
Table 14.1.1 Indicator Matrix	252
Figure 14.1.4 Strategy Framework to Ensure Peace and Security	253
Table 14.1.2 List of Major Programs and Projects	254
Table 14.1.3 Legislative Agenda to Ensure Peace and Security	255
Figure 14.2.1 Number of Indigent Clients Provided with Legal Assistance, MIMAROPA, 2016-2020	256
Figure 14.2.2 Location Map of Jail and Prison Facilities, MIMAROPA, 2022	258
Table 14.2.1 Indicator Matrix	259
Figure 14.2.3 Strategy Framework to Enhance Administration of Justice	259
Table 14.2.2 Legislative Agenda to Enhance Administration of Justice	261

CHAPTER 15

Table 15.1 Indicator Matrix	267
Figure 15.1 Strategy Framework to Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic and Regulatory Efficiency	268
Table 15.2 List of Major Programs and Projects	274
Table 15.3. Legislative Agenda to Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic and Regulatory Efficiency	274

CHAPTER 16

Table 16.1 Indicator Matrix	279
Figure 16.1 Strategy Framework to Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience	280
Table 16.2 Legislative Agenda to Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience	284

CHAPTER 17

Figure 17.1 Horizontal and Vertical Linkages of Local and National Plans and Investment Programs	290
Figure 17.2 PIP, CIPs, Non-CIPs, TRIP, and RDIP Relationship	291
Figure 17.3 Chain of Inputs, Outputs, Outcomes, and Impacts	292

Message



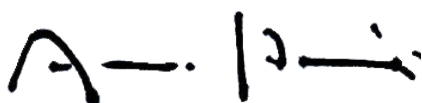
Living in a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous) world and in a pandemic is a test of resilience and tenacity for all of us who strive to survive and thrive amid this unprecedented health and socioeconomic crisis. The challenges, strategies, and our plans may have changed, but our long-term vision, our AmBisyon Natin 2040 remains: t“matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay” for all Filipinos by 2040.

Building upon the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has formulated and completed the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028. Our goal is to reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction by steering the economy back to its high-growth path. We will work to achieve deep economic transformation for a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society. Anchored on the 8-point Socioeconomic Agenda of President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos, Jr.’s administration, the PDP contains strategies that address both short-term and medium-term constraints to economic growth. These encompass concerns such as the rising prices of commodities due to global inflationary pressures, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and education, and the impact of global supply chain disruptions on employment and food security.

Addressing challenges of this magnitude requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. The Regional Development Plans (RDPs) are important complementary plans that must align with the national goals and vision, while addressing region-specific challenges and harnessing the regions' potentials for inclusive growth.

With this, I would like to convey my appreciation to the Regional Development Council of MIMAROPA for its commitment in formulating the MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028 and directing numerous regional development initiatives.

Finally, we call for the cooperation of our local government units, regional agencies, private institutions, non-government organizations, and the civil society to join this collective endeavor. Through our united effort, I firmly believe that we are a step closer toward achieving a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society in MIMAROPA region and the whole country.



ARSENIO M. BALISACAN

Secretary

National Economic and Development Authority

Message

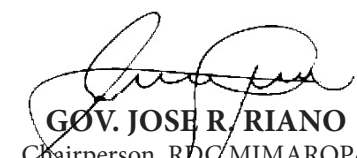


The MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan 2023-2028 – geared towards AmBisyon Natin 2040, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and President’s 8-point socioeconomic agenda – provides the strategies in harnessing the development potentials of MIMAROPA and gives the directions for the region to navigate the increasingly challenging path to economic recovery and high growth trajectory.

The Plan lays out priority strategies and projects that are designed to address socio-economic systems disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the imminent threat of calamities and disasters.

As Chairperson of the Regional Development Council MIMAROPA, I would like to express my profound gratitude to all members of the RDC and its sectoral committees for their dedication, determination, and perseverance in championing the goal of empowered citizens and communities, food security, environmental integrity, and unified independent island provinces in the MIMAROPA Region, thereby making it the “Destination of Choice!”

I encourage everyone to act in unison and do our share in implementing the MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028 with active strength, renewed vigor, and unwavering courage. These, along with our shared advocacy and effective implementation of this Plan, will lead us and the region to a “matatag, maginhawa, at mapanatag na buhay para sa lahat.”


GOV. JOSE R. RIANO
Chairperson, RDC MIMAROPA
Governor, Province of Romblon

Preface



Three years ago, we were all uncertain about the future, our welfare, and the development of our region. We experienced drastic changes due to multiple and simultaneous health, climate, biodiversity, geopolitical, peace, order, and security crises. Yet, we remained steadfast in embracing our collective vision of a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life by 2040.

The pandemic has taught us many things about MIMAROPA's economic resilience and social vulnerabilities. As we tread a steady route to recovery, the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023-2028 will guide us in bringing the region back to its original high growth trajectory through social and economic transformation.

It is a necessary response, and a development blueprint that seeks to reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction, enhance connectivity through infrastructures to link markets and urban centers, and keep food prices low and stable.

Along with the MIMAROPA Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) 2023-2028, the RDP will provide the mechanisms to ensure transformative and inclusive growth that will significantly contribute to the recovery, welfare, and well-being of every MIMAROPAn.

As development yardsticks, the RDP and RDIP are also tools that measure economic performance to determine if the desired outputs and development goals as planned are realized. Through results monitoring and evaluation, plan implementation can be facilitated accordingly.

Together with our development partners and stakeholders, we bring you the MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028 – isang Planong sentro ang mamamayan tungo sa masagang lipunan!



AGUSTIN C. MENDOZA, ENP
Vice Chairperson, RDC MIMAROPA
Regional Director, NEDA MIMAROPA

PART I

Introduction

01

Overview of the Regional Economy, Development Context and Trends

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT, AND TRENDS

Assessment

Macroeconomy

In 2018, MIMAROPA was the second fastest growing region together with Davao Region and next to Bicol Region. The recorded 8.6 percent growth rate outpaced National Capital Region's (NCR) and the country's growth rate of 5.6 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively.

MIMAROPA recorded its highest gross regional domestic product (GRDP) in 2019, which was attributed mainly to the high growth of services sector at 6.0 percent. Services remained the largest contributor to the growth of MIMAROPA's economy, as it contributed 2.7 percentage points to the region's economic growth in 2019. Agriculture, forestry and fishing, followed with 0.9 percentage point contribution while Industry accounted to 0.3 percentage point.

When the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic hit the country in March 2020, MIMAROPA's economy contracted by 7.5 percent by year-end from a positive growth rate of 4.3 percent in 2019. This was the lowest growth rate recorded by the region, vis-à-vis its growth performance of only 0.8 percent in 2010. This growth, nonetheless, was still a few percentage points better than the national average growth of -9.6 percent in 2020 (Table 1.1).

The region's economy bounced back on the second year (2021) of the pandemic by 3.3 percent growth rate, a rebound from the 7.6 percent contraction recorded in 2020. This may be attributed to the measures implemented by the government in managing the pandemic such as the imposition of granular lockdowns and aggressive vaccination campaigns. The gradual reopening of the economy, the implementation of Build, Build, Build (BBB) Program and social protection initiatives of the government helped trigger the economic rebound.

Table 1.1 GRDP by Region, Philippines, 2018-2021 (At constant 2018 prices)

REGION	ANNUAL			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Philippines	6.3	6.1	-9.5	5.7
National Capital Region	5.6	7	-10	4.4
Cordillera Administrative Region	5.7	4.4	-10.2	7.5
Ilocos Region	5.9	7.3	-7.7	4.6
Cagayan Valley	4.6	6.9	-9.8	5.1
Central Luzon	6.9	5.9	-13.9	7.4
CALABARZON	7.1	4.6	-10.5	7.6
MIMAROPA Region	8.6	4.3	-7.5	3.3
Bicol Region	6.9	8.2	-8.3	4.3
Western Visayas	4.8	6.3	-9.7	5.9

REGION	ANNUAL			
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Central Visayas	7.1	6.2	-9.5	5.4
Eastern Visayas	7	5.6	-7.4	6
Zamboanga Peninsula	6.3	4.6	-5.2	5.7
Northern Mindanao	7.1	5.6	-5.3	6.3
Davao Region	7.2	7.1	-7.5	5.9
SOCCSKSARGEN	6.9	3.5	-4.4	5.2
Caraga	5.2	5.4	-6.9	7.2
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	7.7	5.8	-1.9	7.5

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP). The region saw a resurgence as the economy posted a positive growth from the disruptions brought by the pandemic. Strategies on scaling up of the vaccination rollout, relaxation of mobility and border restrictions, and reopening of multiple sectors underpinned expectations of stronger economic activities paralleled by improved business confidence and consumer spending.

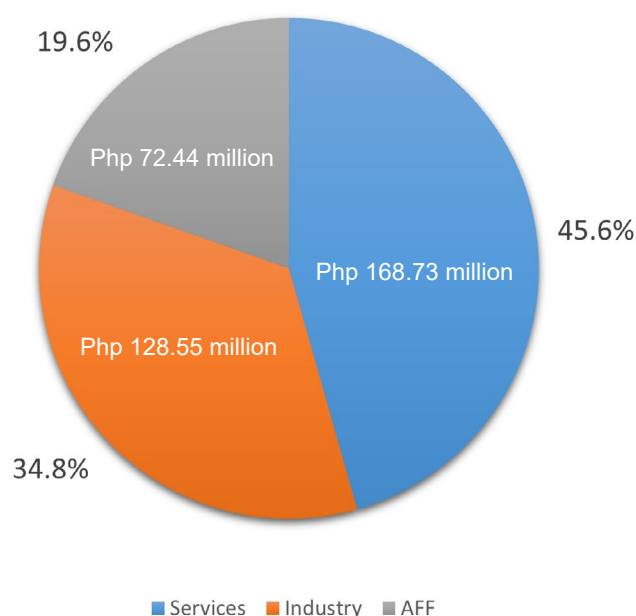
On the supply side, growth was driven by the contributions from services with 45.6 percent; industry with 34.8 percent; and agriculture, forestry,

and fishing with 19.6 percent (Figure 1.1).

The services sector experienced a robust growth with the expansion of all sub-sectors except for financial and insurance activities.

Notably, the growth in the services sector was brought about by the sizeable expansion in human health and social work activities at 17.1 percent and information and communication at 11 percent, which was driven largely by online business opportunities, increased internet connection demand and usage, and continuous shift to virtual meetings and activities.

Figure 1.1 Share of Major Sectors to Regional Economy, MIMAROPA, 2021



Source: PSA

The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (AFF) sector rebounded from a negative 2.0 percent growth in 2020 to a respectable 5.2 percent growth in 2021. The significant increase may be attributed to the increased volume of production of crops, livestock and poultry, and fisheries. In 2021, AFF accounted for 19.6 percent of the region's economy compared to the 19.2 percent contribution in 2020.

On the demand side, growth in 2021 was buoyed by the steep rise in gross capital formation at 22.9 percent. The reversal was mainly attributed to rise in intellectual property products (IPP) and construction. The remarkable reversal in IPP from -28.6 percent in 2020 to 21.8 percent in 2021 was due to increased intangible fixed assets (e.g., royalties, patents), mineral exploration and evaluation, and entertainment, literary, and artistic originals.

Moreover, construction's significant upturn from -27.5 percent in 2020 to 16.6 percent in 2021 can be attributed to the completion of critical infrastructure projects, such as the rehabilitation of national roads, construction and improvement of bridges, and build, repair, or maintenance of flood control structures.

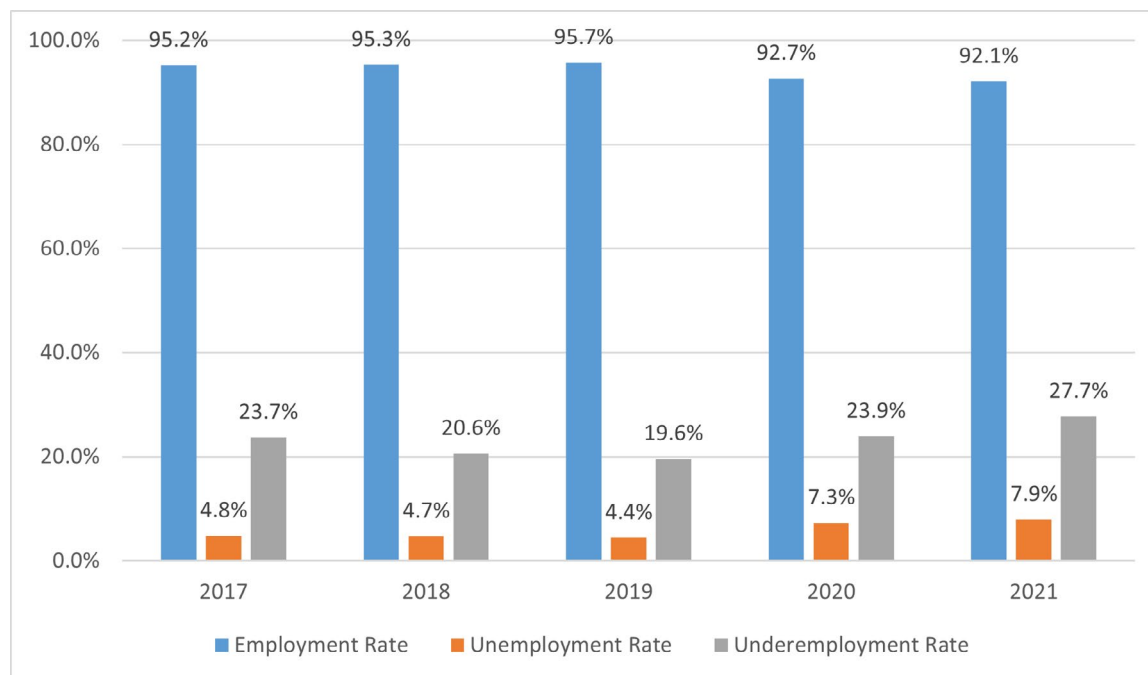
Household consumption grew by 5.8 percent, which indicated the restoration of consumer confidence and abated infections as a result of easing quarantine restrictions and the accelerated vaccination.

Government expenditure also expanded by 7.1 percent. Exports climbed from -46.0 percent to -1.3 percent this year. The same trend can be seen in imports with -20.9 percent in 2021 compared to -28.8 percent in 2020.

Labor Force and Employment. Employment rate in the region has been declining since the onset of COVID-19, from 95.67 percent employment rate in 2019 to 92.7 percent in 2020 to 92.1 percent in 2021. Unemployment rate consequently started to increase from 4.4 percent in 2019 to 7.3 percent in 2020 and 7.9 percent in 2021. This can be attributed to the continued imposition of border restrictions and alert level systems in some provinces as well as the onslaught of tropical cyclones that hit the region (Figure 1.2).

Underemployment rate also escalated from 19.6 percent in 2019, to 23.9 percent in 2020 and 27.7 percent in 2021, respectively.

Figure 1.2 Annual Labor Force Rates, MIMAROPA, 2017-2021



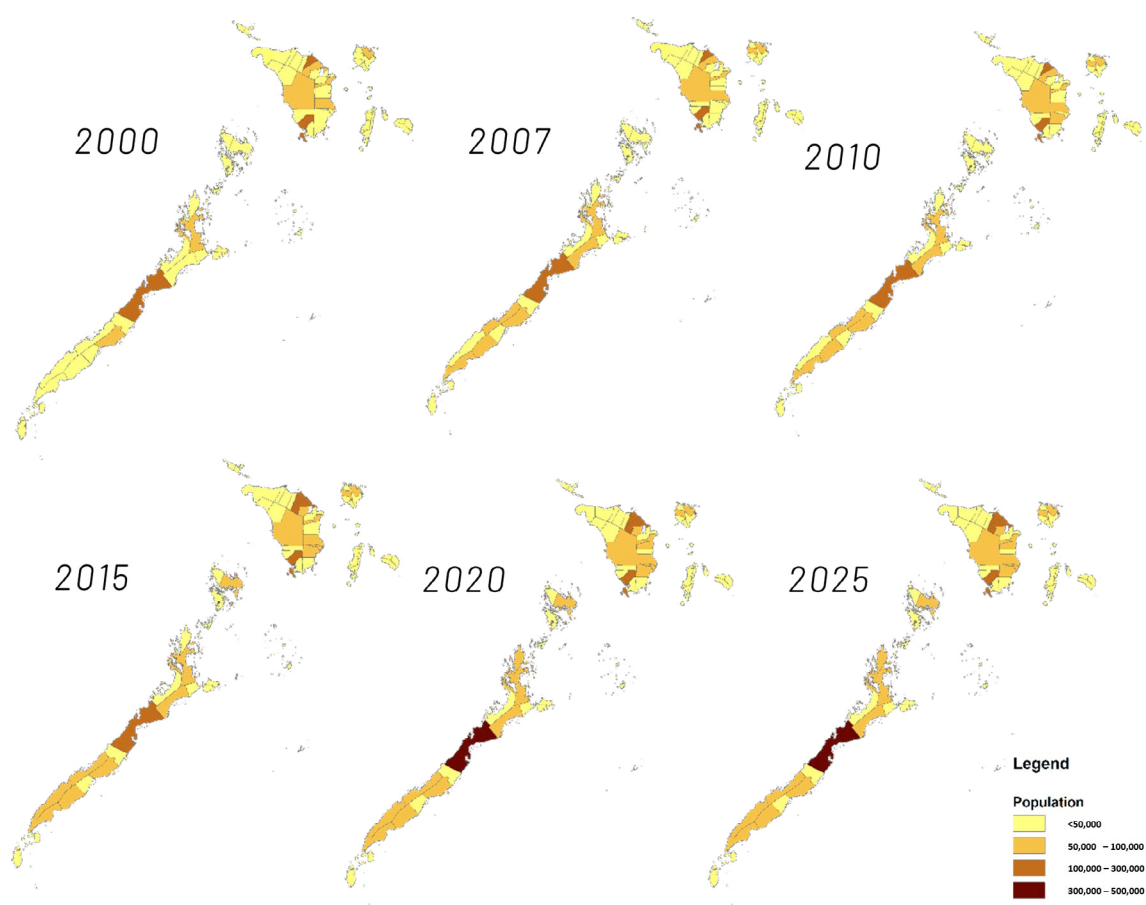
Source: PSA

Population Level and Density. From 2000-2020, most of the municipalities in MIMAROPA were considered small towns in terms of population level with reference to the National Spatial Strategy (NSS). Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro and San Jose in Occidental Mindoro remained in the large town category with 105,910 individuals and 111,009 individuals in 2000 to 145,786 individuals and 153,267 individuals in 2020, respectively. On the other hand, Puerto Princesa City was considered as large city/major urban center in 2020 with 307,079 individuals (Figure 1.3).

In 2020, a total of 51 municipalities remained in small town category with population ranging from 0 to 50,000. This was followed by 18 municipalities at medium town category.

In 2020, the region's total population was recorded at 3,228,558 of which, 1,138,021 are located in urban areas while, 2,090,537 are located in rural areas. The region's population density reached 109 persons per square kilometer in 2020.

Figure 1.3 Population Level, MIMAROPA, 2000-2025



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA (PFPD)
Source: PSA

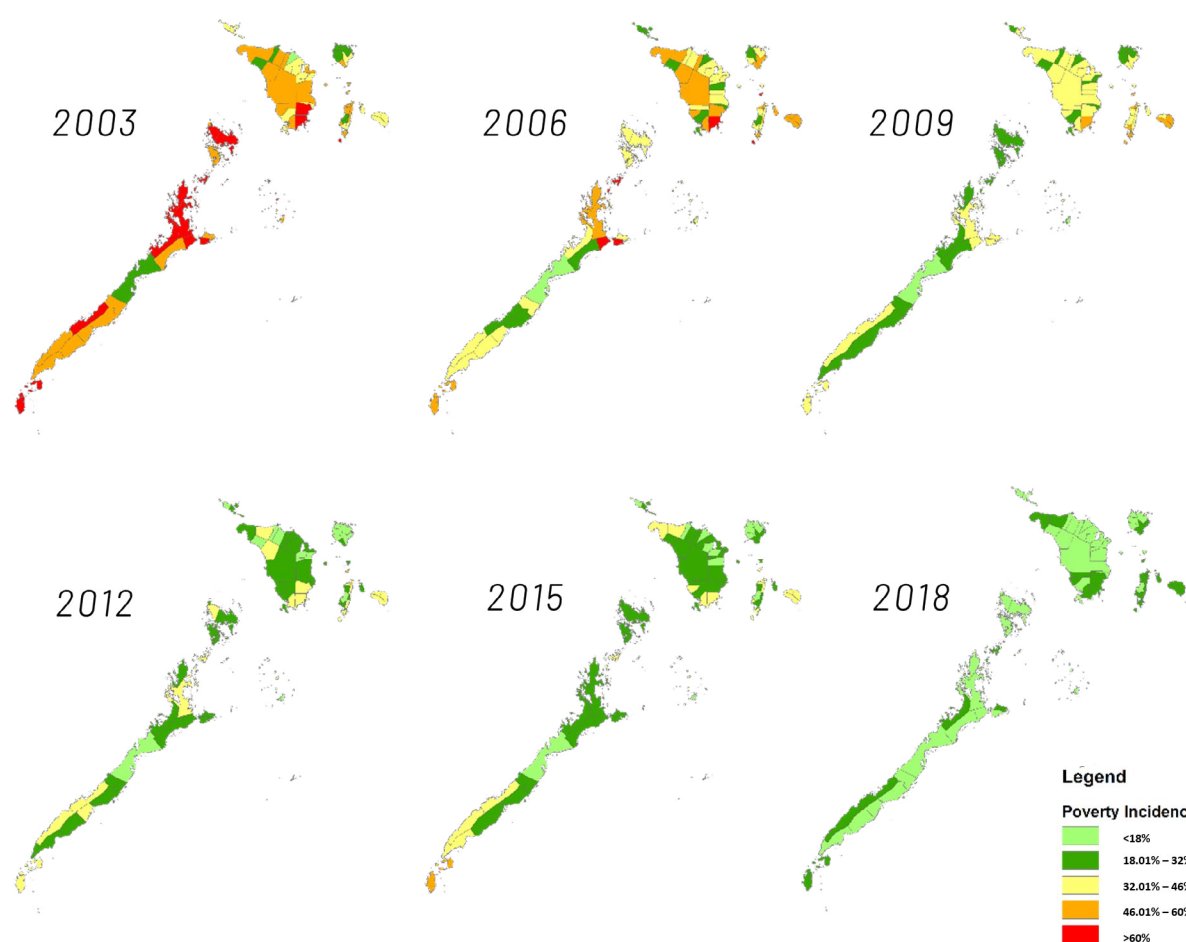
Poverty Situation. Based on the Small Area Estimates (SAE) released by PSA, poverty incidence in the region significantly improved from 2003 to 2018 (Figure 1.4).

In 2003, poverty incidence ranging from high (46 percent to 60 percent of population) to very high (>60 percent) was prevalent in all municipalities in the region. The province of Palawan recorded the

highest number of municipalities with high poverty incidence, namely, Araceli, Agutaya, Balabac, Busuanga, Coron, Dumarán, El Nido, Linapacan, Magsaysay, Quezon, San Vicente, and Taytay.

In 2018, all cities and municipalities in the region significantly improved to very low (18.01 percent to 32 percent of the population) and low (0 percent to 18 percent of the population) poverty incidence levels.

Figure 1.4 Poverty Incidence, MIMAROPA, 2003-2018



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA (PFPD)
Source: PSA

Regional Trends

Social and Demographic Trends

Extended impact of COVID-19 pandemic. The spread of COVID-19 magnified the limitations of the Philippine health care system. This left Filipinos in disarray with quarantine restrictions, especially when it transitioned from a minor health issue to a multi-dimensional global pandemic. While vaccination measures have caused a significant drop in mortality and hospitalization rates, new strains have emerged and crossed national borders. In MIMAROPA, the regional health authorities persevered to achieve target of at least 80 percent fully vaccinated individuals in 2022. This was slowly realized despite various concerns of the people against the vaccine, especially in Palawan.

Equitable access to Universal Health Care. Access to health care services remains to be a persisting concern in the region. The pandemic did not help in raising critical concern for one's health and may have even planted some fear in the capability of the health system, especially among those that live far from health facilities. Epidemiological surveillance functions are lacking in local health facilities. Lack of testing capacity and poor data availability were highlighted. Capacities of primary health care facilities are limited and this resulted in the congestion of hospitals. To address these weaknesses, the region is treading the path of increased investments in health infrastructure and human resources for health. Proposals for state-of-the-art health facilities are in the pipeline. For example, the elevation of the status of the Oriental Mindoro Provincial to a regional hospital and the Oriental Mindoro Central District Hospital into the new provincial hospital are being pursued. The Culion General Hospital and Sanitarium, likewise, has investments and improvements laid out in the next several years, such as the construction of Communicable Disease Building Phase 2, expansion of laboratory, construction of waste management facility, and procurement of medical equipment, among others. Along with these facilities come plans to increase the numbers of doctors, nurses, and midwives, with the population-to-nurse ration seeing excellent figures in the past few years, that is, 1:3,999 in 2021.

Well-managed population growth. MIMAROPA's population through the years has shifted to a steady decrease of young dependents under age group 0-14. Yet, young people still makeup the large proportion of the population. In 2022, fertility rate in the country was recorded at 1.9 births per female in reproductive age (15 – 49 years). This rate will further the attainment of the ideal household size of 4.0 from the average household size of 4.1 in 2020. Consequently, a positive demographic transition is expected to begin, which is characterized by a large number of working age group to accelerate economic growth, provided that employment opportunities are also steadily generated.

Population management is also seen as a significant factor to sustain economic growth. The slower growth of the population will result in higher GRDP per capita as overall GRDP increases over time. Hence, the government can look further at the population replacement rate to stabilize population level while pursuing a high sustained growth. This will increase GRDP per capita at a faster rate.

Poverty incidence during pandemic. The impact of the pandemic during the past two years can be observed in the poverty situation and trends of the region. As reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the poverty incidence among population in MIMAROPA in 2021 increased to 20.8 percent from 15.1 percent in 2018, during the time that the region hit Php 370 billion of GRDP, on par with GRDP growth rate of Bicol and second only to Davao regions. The poverty incidence in 2021 translates to around 667,900 MIMAROPANS living in poverty. PSA notes that the region is among those with significant increases in this iteration of the poverty statistics.

Poor families would need Php 10,967.16 to meet food and non-food requirements. With their current income, based on our 2021 Family Income and Expenditure Survey, an additional income of Php 2,544.38 is needed by a poor family of five to move out of poverty.

The economic disruption pushed some establishments to close permanently and temporarily stop their operations because of community lockdowns, which then led to the increase in revenue losses and unemployment in the region. This was exacerbated by the typhoons that occurred in the region from 2018 to 2021. Natural disasters further aggravated the problem as unemployment impact arose from livelihood losses and damages.

Inflation diminishes the purchasing power of individuals and families. In 2022, headline inflation rate in the region showed an upward trend. According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), inflation will further rise if external risks continue. Monetary policy interventions are expected to tame inflationary pressures.

Accumulated housing needs. To address the country's housing deficit, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) targets to construct a million housing units per year. In MIMAROPA, housing needs reached to an estimated 280,094 units as of 2022. The accumulated backlogs were reported by DHSUD to result from informal settler families (ISFs), displaced households in hazard areas, affected by infrastructure projects, households for eviction and houses for demolition, and areas occupied with landowners willing to sell the property. There are also 108,137 ISFs recorded in the region. It is envisioned by the current administration that there are zero ISFs by 2028. It was also proposed that the public housing sector would be provided and receive higher budgets to address housing needs and keep pace with the growth of the population. However, housing projects, such as those for Yolanda Permanent Housing Program are plagued by procedural conflicts such as titles and inclusion in forest covers.

Gearing up for lifelong learning. The education sector has been resilient despite the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. Through the implementation of blended or flexible learning, children were able to continue with their formal education. On the average, net enrollment rate for basic education sector has increased. However, graduation rate declined. In response, the Department of Education (DepEd) implemented the learning continuity plan to ensure health, safety, and well-being of the students, teachers, and staff during the COVID-19 crisis through the reintroduction of blended learning and face-to-face classes.

In October 2022, the DepEd issued Order No. 44, s. 2022, as amendment to DepEd Order No. 34, s. 2022, which allowed private schools to continue implementing blended learning modality or full distance learning. All public schools, however, should have transitioned to 5 days in-person classes starting November 2022. Following the new normal, 2,604 schools implement 5 days in-person classes, 72 schools implement blended learning modality, and only three school implement full distance

learning. With the republic's vice-president at the helm of the Department of Education, programs and policies are expected to be responsive to the challenge of the times.

In higher education, there was an observed growth in the number of enrollees in higher education institutions (HEIs) in the region compared to the declining number of graduates since 2017. The decline in graduation rates may be attributed to students not being able to comply with academic requirements because of the required shift to online learning as a response to the effect of the pandemic. However, the higher education sector continues to strengthen the capacity of HEIs in delivering quality education and offering courses that were prioritized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and approved by the Regional Development Council (RDC) based on the needs of the region and industries. The continuous implementation of the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act would support in providing equal opportunity and increasing the participation rate of all students in the tertiary education.

As the country adapts to the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRE), the region has adopted the principles of lifelong learning in its educational thrusts. Basic education, higher education, and technical vocational education and training (TVET) programs are now under the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF), which will enable learners and educators ride the wave of rapid technology change and rising need for updating knowledge and skills on-demand. The increase in enrollment and graduates in the TVET sector in MIMAROPA coupled with enhanced training and skills development programs, learning modalities, and facilities would increase the chances of the region to produce workers that are more competitive and employable.

Economic Trends

The region's economy will return to its pre-pandemic trajectory. A growing regional economy is imperative to achieving our long-term vision of enjoying a strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life in 2040. From 2006 to 2019, the MIMAROPA region was gearing towards sustained economic growth as it achieved its highest GRDP level in 2019 at Php 387 billion. However, the unprecedented health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 disrupted growth as it caused the region's economic downturn.

A growth scenario analysis was conducted to determine the timeframe of the region's recovery to be at par with the GRDP 2019 level. Based on the scenario analysis, the regional economy must grow to at least 7 percent by 2022. If the region steadily grows at 7 percent annually up to 2028, the economy will go back to its original growth trajectory and the GRDP will double by 2032. On the other hand, in a five percent growth scenario, the economic growth is estimated to be slower as the doubling of the GRDP would be attained in 2034 and the region is expected to return to the pre-pandemic growth trajectory in 2038. Nonetheless, full recovery will still be achieved before the end of the Ambisyon Natin 2040.

The population level was also considered in analyzing the economic scenario of the region. Analysis showed that the slower growth of the population will result to higher GRDP per capita. It was also observed that the GRDP per capita is inversely proportional to the poverty incidence as there was an observed decrease in poverty level as GRDP per capita increases. A 3.3 percentage point decrease in poverty incidence was estimated when GRDP doubles in 2032.

Technological Trends

Digital/Smart Technology and Demand in information and communications technology (ICT) services will continue to increase. E-commerce has been increasingly utilized by businesses and consumers as customers continue to prefer online transactions, including the expanded use of cashless payment systems and other financial technology platforms. This bodes well for the retail and other business activities sectors, including information technology and business process management. In production activities such as agriculture, there will be a gradual shift to smart agricultural machinery and equipment such as drip irrigation systems and drones to improve domestic agricultural production. However, continuous capacity building for the users should be done to fully maximize the use of such technologies.

Critical to the adoption of smart technologies and digitalization is a reliable internet connection. Access to fast, reliable, accessible, and affordable internet remains a major concern of the MIMAROPA region. The National Broadband Program (NBP) will accelerate the deployment of fiber optic cables and wireless technology to improve internet speed in the region.

The implementation of the Philippine Innovation Act will shape the future of innovation in the region. The Philippine Innovation Act was enacted in order to foster innovation in the country as a vital component of national development and sustainable economic growth. The Act mandates the creation of the National Innovation Council (NIC), which is tasked to develop innovation strategies as well as coordinate with various sectors and agencies pursuant to a whole-of-government approach. It is expected that the Research, Development, and Extension Activities will be intensified in the region, and the Regional Research, Development, and Innovation Committee (RRDIC) will provide crucial support for these activities. It is also expected that the region will benefit from the implementation of the law through improved productivity through research, development, and adaptation of new technologies.

Environmental Trends

Efforts in reducing vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters will continue to increase. The region is often hit by typhoons that cause flooding, landslides, and sometimes storm surges. This leads to the displacement of people and to damages and losses to infrastructure and agricultural assets. Disasters also lead to the loss of lives. For the past decade, more than 10 tropical cyclones have significantly affected the region. These natural disasters often disrupt economic activities and, more often than not, affect the same LGUs. The region will consider the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in its climate programs and actions. With these, it is expected that some sectors such as agriculture and transportation will incorporate the NDC in its development programs and activities.

The MIMAROPA region is among those with least emissions yet most frequently hit by disasters such as typhoons. While the region is considered one of the regions with less carbon emission, it will push for policies that provide incentives to areas that protect their natural assets. These areas should be given priority in accessing the People's Survival Fund and other similar funding mechanisms.

02

Regional Spatial Development Framework



REGIONAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The realization of MIMAROPA as the Destination of Choice is largely reliant on effective and efficient land use planning in the region. This will allow the regional economy to flourish as settlements are delivered from harm's way and natural resources are sustainably managed.

The MIMAROPA Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) adopted the three core strategies of the NSS, namely: Concentration, Connectivity, and Vulnerability Reduction. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR/CCA) principles were also integrated into the RSDF as part of the Vulnerability Reduction strategy.

The proposed five-tiered hierarchy/network of settlements in NSS and Luzon Spatial Development Framework (LSDF) was extended to the MIMAROPA RSDF, paving way for the identification of six Regional Centers in MIMAROPA that would help decongest the Metro Region. This also allowed the recommendation of appropriate Spatial Strategy for every province in MIMAROPA. The resulting urban forms for the provinces of the region were formed by linking key network of settlements through an intermodal transportation system.

Regional Profile

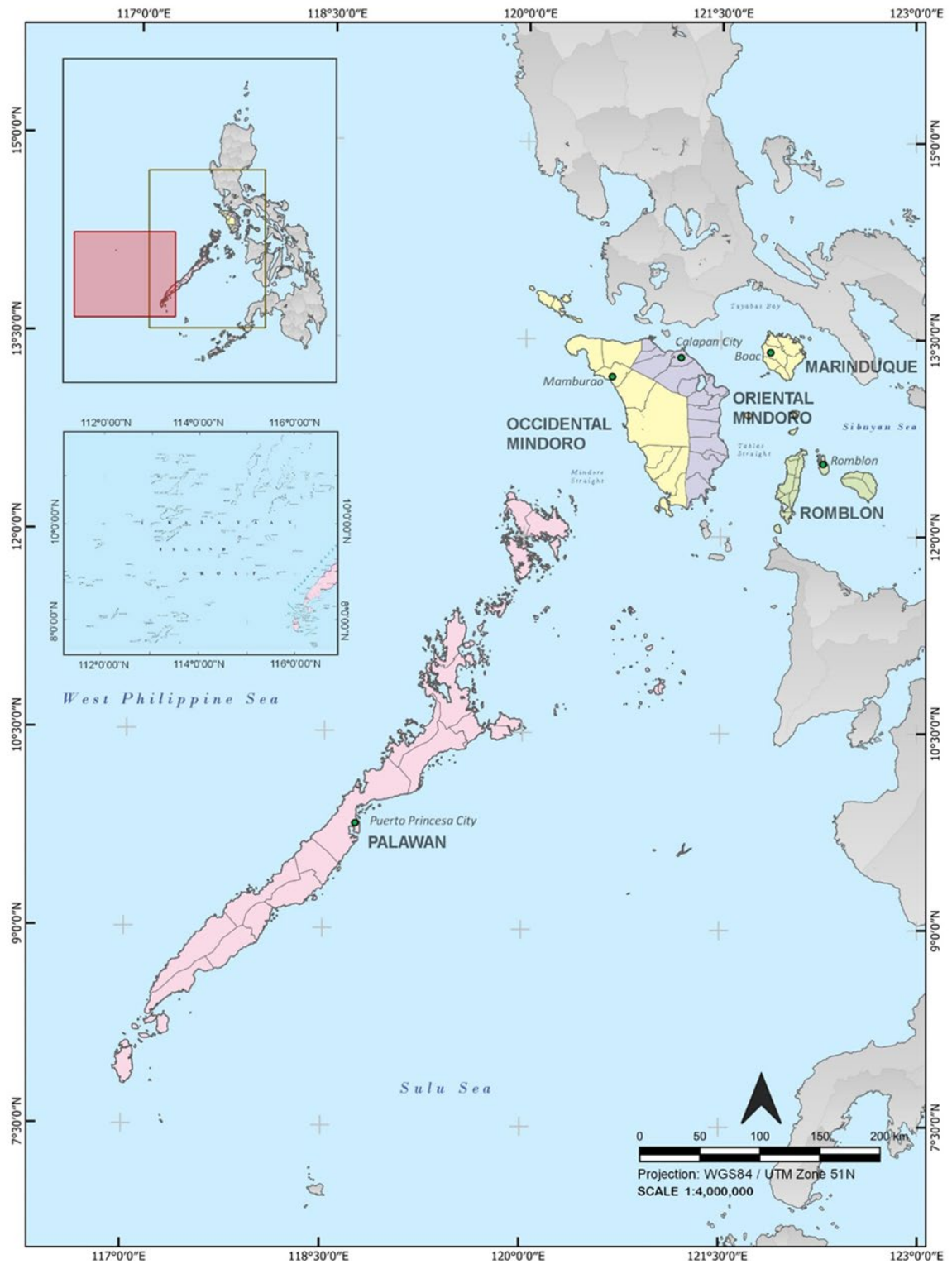
Geographic Location

The MIMAROPA region is a group of islands that lies south of CALABARZON. It is bounded by the West Philippine Sea in the West, Tayabas Bay in the North, the Sibuyan Sea in the East, and the Sulu Sea in the South.

Previously known as the Southwestern Tagalog Region, Republic Act No. 10879 also known

as the “MIMAROPA Act” established the region to be known as MIMAROPA. The same Act provided that MIMAROPA shall be composed of five provinces, namely: Mindoro Oriental, Mindoro Occidental; Marinduque; Romblon; and Palawan, and two cities: Calapan City and Puerto Princesa City. The latter is a highly urbanized city, while Calapan City was designated as MIMAROPA's regional center by virtue of Executive Order No. 682, s. 2007.

Figure 2.1 Administrative Map of the MIMAROPA Region



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Source: National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA)

Reference: The South China Sea Arbitration Award of 12 July 2016. PCA. Case No. 2013-19

Population Size and Distribution

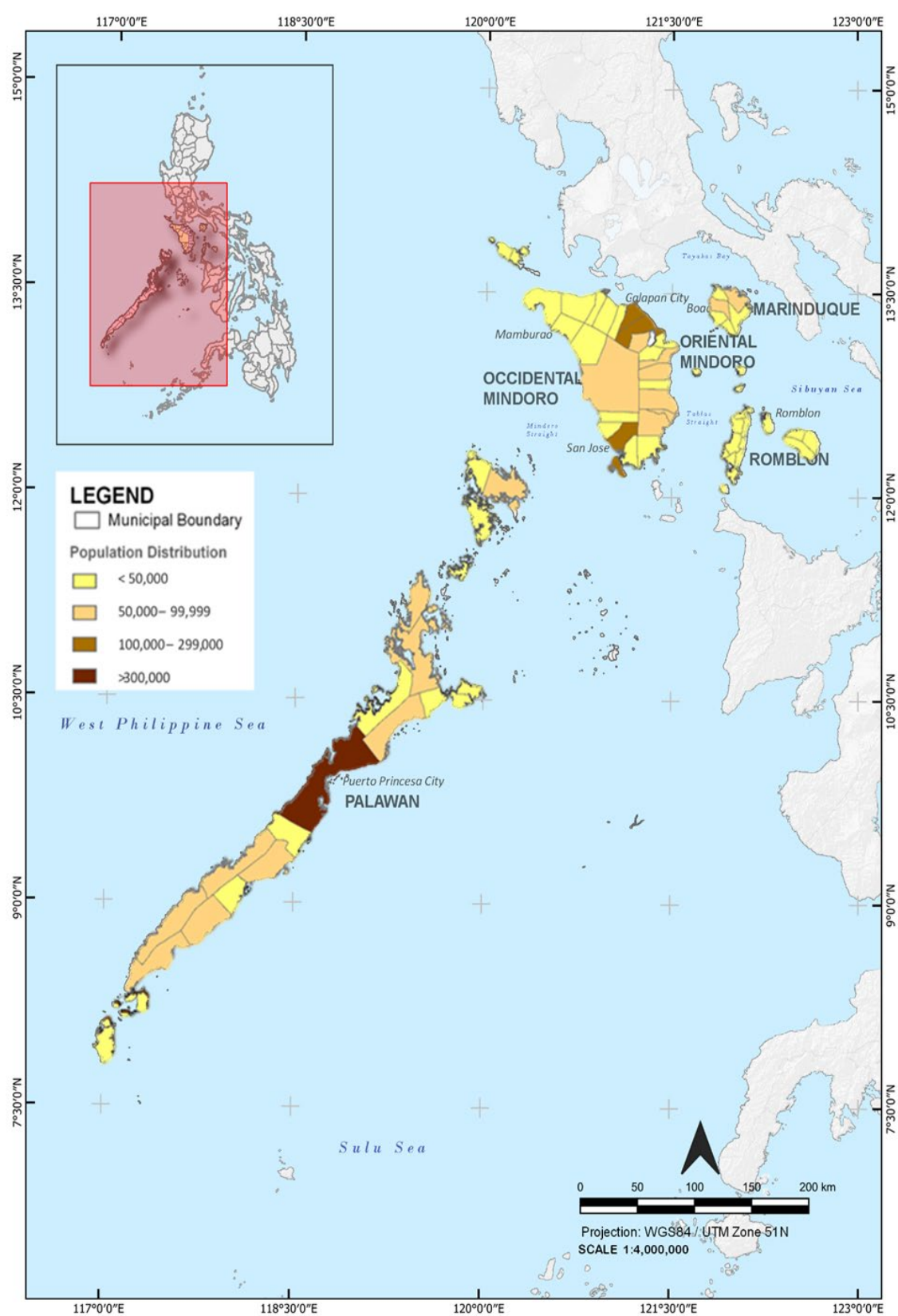
The population distribution in MIMAROPA is considerably lower than its neighboring regions. Consequently, congestion is not as apparent in the region as in other major urban areas in the country, such as Manila City and Metro Manila.

Among the five provinces of MIMAROPA, Palawan had the biggest population in 2020 with 939,594 persons. It was followed by Oriental Mindoro with 908,339 persons, Occidental Mindoro with 525,354, and Romblon with 308,985. Marinduque had the smallest population with 239,207 persons.

Among the cities and municipalities in the region, the largest in terms of population size in 2020 is Puerto Princesa City with 307,079 individuals. This was followed by the municipality of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro and Calapan City, with 153,267 and 145,786, respectively. These figures are significantly lower than the most populous areas in Manila City: Tondo - 654,220 and Sampaloc - 388,305 recorded population in 2020.

Brgy. San Pedro in Puerto Princesa City is the largest barangay in MIMAROPA in terms of population size in 2020 with 25,909 persons. It was followed by Rio Tuba in Bataraza, Palawan with 24,085 persons, and San Jose, Puerto Princesa City with 23,804.

Figure 2.2 Population Distribution by Municipality, MIMAROPA, 2020



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)
Source: NAMRIA

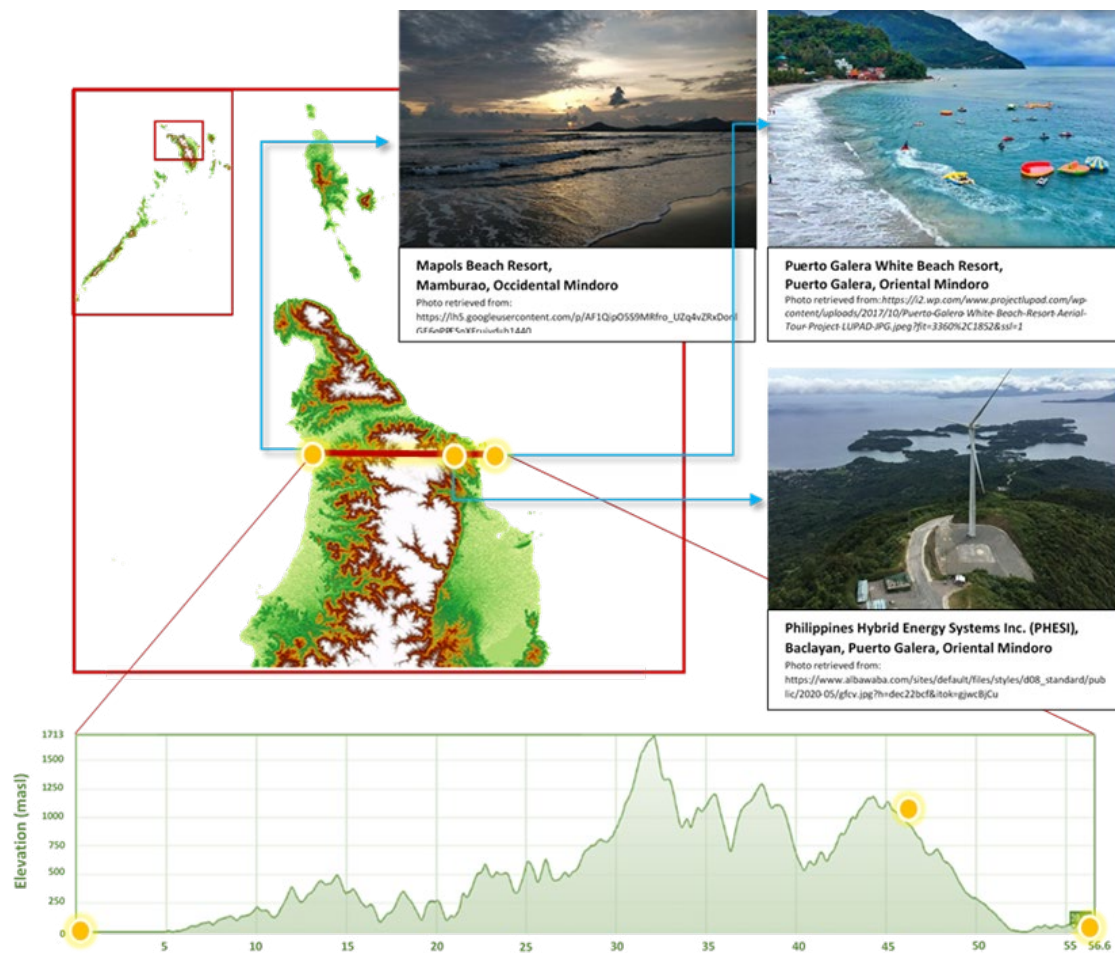
Physical Characteristics

Slope/Elevation

The MIMAROPA region is characterized by its unique topography, with slopes from low-lying and relatively flat coastal areas to hilly and rolling mountainous regions.

Mt. Halcon rises at 2,586 meters above sea level (masl), making it the highest point in the province of Oriental Mindoro. A wind power energy system operated by Philippines Hybrid Energy Systems Inc. (PHESI) rises up to 937 masl in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro. Its altitude is a strategic location for a wind energy farm and provides an overlooking view of the low-lying areas, such as beach resorts. The said location may also open opportunities for tourism growth in the area.

Figure 2.3 Topographic Slice of Mindoro Island



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PPPD)

Note: Not to scale

In the region, the province of Palawan has the largest area of low-lying and gently sloping (0-9%) land, with 567,284.24 hectares or 38.84 percent of the total land area in the province. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro with a total of 186,045.33 hectares or 43.87 percent of the said province. Marinduque, having the least land area among the provinces in MIMAROPA, also has the least land area situated in gently sloping areas. These areas make up 27.18 percent of the total land area in the province.

The same trend was also observed for areas located on 30% slope and beyond. Palawan has the largest land area that falls under the >30% slope category, with 305,177.71 hectares or 45.3 percent of the region's total land area in the said slope category. However, its provincial share is only at 20.89 percent. Notably,

208,935.38 hectares of Occidental Mindoro make up a third or a total of 31.07 percent of land qualifying in the >30% category in the region. These areas are primarily found in the municipalities of Sablayan, Santa Cruz, and Abra de Ilog, among others. The said areas also make up 35.30 percent of the total land area in the province. Further, Marinduque has the least land area with extremely steep slopes in the region, but its provincial share is at 19.85 percent.

In general, more than a third or 36.01 percent of the MIMAROPA region are classified as gently sloping (0-9%). Majority of the region's land falls within the said category. This was followed by areas lying in extremely steep areas or those within 30% slope and beyond, which comprise 24.89 percent of the total land area of the region.

Table 2.1 Land Area Estimates per Slope Category by Province, MIMAROPA

PROVINCE	LAND AREA ESTIMATES PER SLOPE CATEGORY (HAS)											
	0-9%	% SHARE	>9-15%	% SHARE	>15-18%	% SHARE	>18-30%	% SHARE	>30%	% SHARE	TOTAL	% SHARE
MARINDUQUE	25,241.67	27.18	16,523.92	17.79	7,719.04	8.31	24,960.64	26.87	18,438.37	19.85	92,883.64	3.44
OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	164,863.99	27.86	61,103.42	10.32	33,319.65	5.63	123,629.53	20.89	208,935.38	35.3	591,851.97	21.9
ORIENTAL MINDORO	186,045.33	43.87	44,982.04	10.61	21,298.99	5.02	71,623.87	16.89	100,118.43	23.61	424,068.66	15.69
PALAWAN	567,284.24	38.84	197,543.97	13.52	89,233.28	6.11	301,467.61	20.64	305,177.71	20.89	1,460,706.81	54.06
ROMBLON	29,625.13	22.35	21,010.97	15.85	9,757.55	7.36	32,260.41	24.34	39,884.73	30.09	132,538.78	4.91
TOTAL	973,060.36	36.01	341,164.32	12.63	161,328.51	5.97	553,942.05	20.5	672,554.62	24.89	2,702,049.86	100

Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Note: Percent shares are computed using the total land area of each province

Land Classification

The region has a total land area of approximately 2,745,601 hectares. 1,747,038 hectares (63.63 percent) of which are classified as Forestlands while 998,563 hectares (36.36 percent) are Alienable and Disposable (A&D) Land. Presidential Decree No. 705, s. 1975, as amended, provides that Forestlands include public forest, permanent forest or forest reserves, and forest reservations, while A&D Land are those land classified as not needed for forest purposes. A&D Land can be alienated or owned by qualified individuals and/or other interested parties.

The province of Palawan has the largest area of land classified as forestland, with a total of 1,035,926

hectares. This makes up for more than half or 69.54 percent of the total land area in the province, leaving only 30.46 percent of land classified as Alienable and Disposable Land.

The province of Occidental Mindoro has the second largest area of land classified as Forestland, with a total of 431,981 hectares. However, with a smaller total land area compared to Palawan, forestlands in Occidental Mindoro comprise 73.47 percent of the total land area in the province. Thus, only 26.53 percent of the land in the province is classified as A&D Land. On the other hand, despite having a relatively small land area, majority or 76.85 percent of lands in the province of Marinduque are classified as A&D Land.

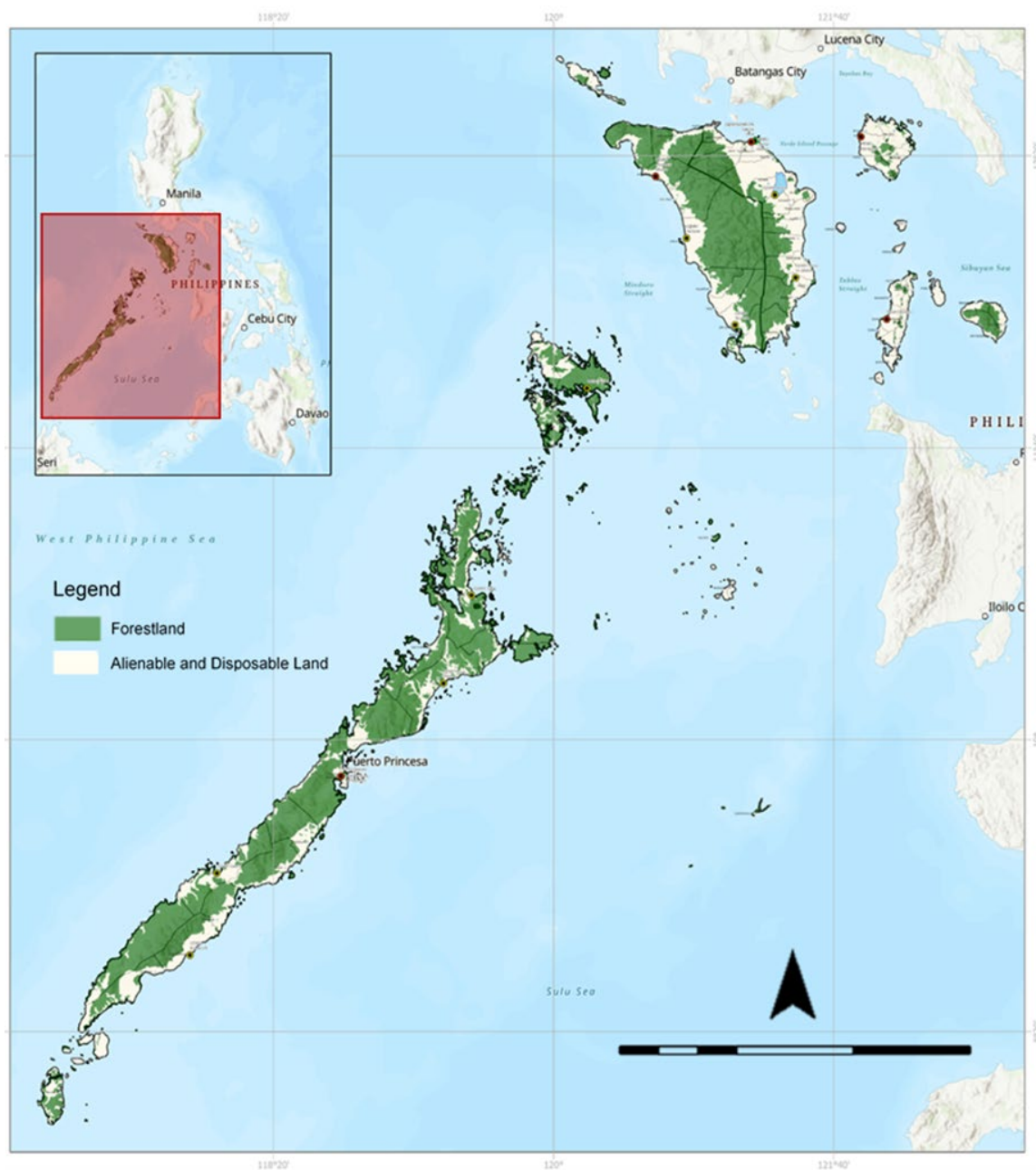
Table 2.2 Land Classification by Province, MIMAROPA

PROVINCE	LAND CLASSIFICATION (HAS), PER PROVINCE					
	FORESTLAND	% SHARE	A & D LAND	% SHARE	TOTAL	% SHARE
Marinduque	22,205	23.15	73,720	76.85	95,925	100
Occidental Mindoro	431,981	73.47	156,004	26.53	587,985	100
Oriental Mindoro	213,577	48.93	222,895	51.07	436,472	100
Palawan	1,035,926	69.54	453,700	30.46	1,489,626	100
Romblon	43,349	31.97	92,244	68.03	135,593	100
TOTAL	1,747,038	63.63	998,563	36.37	2,745,601	100

Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PPPD)

Note: Percent shares are computed using the total land area of each province

Figure 2.4 Land Classification Map of the MIMAROPA Region



Source: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

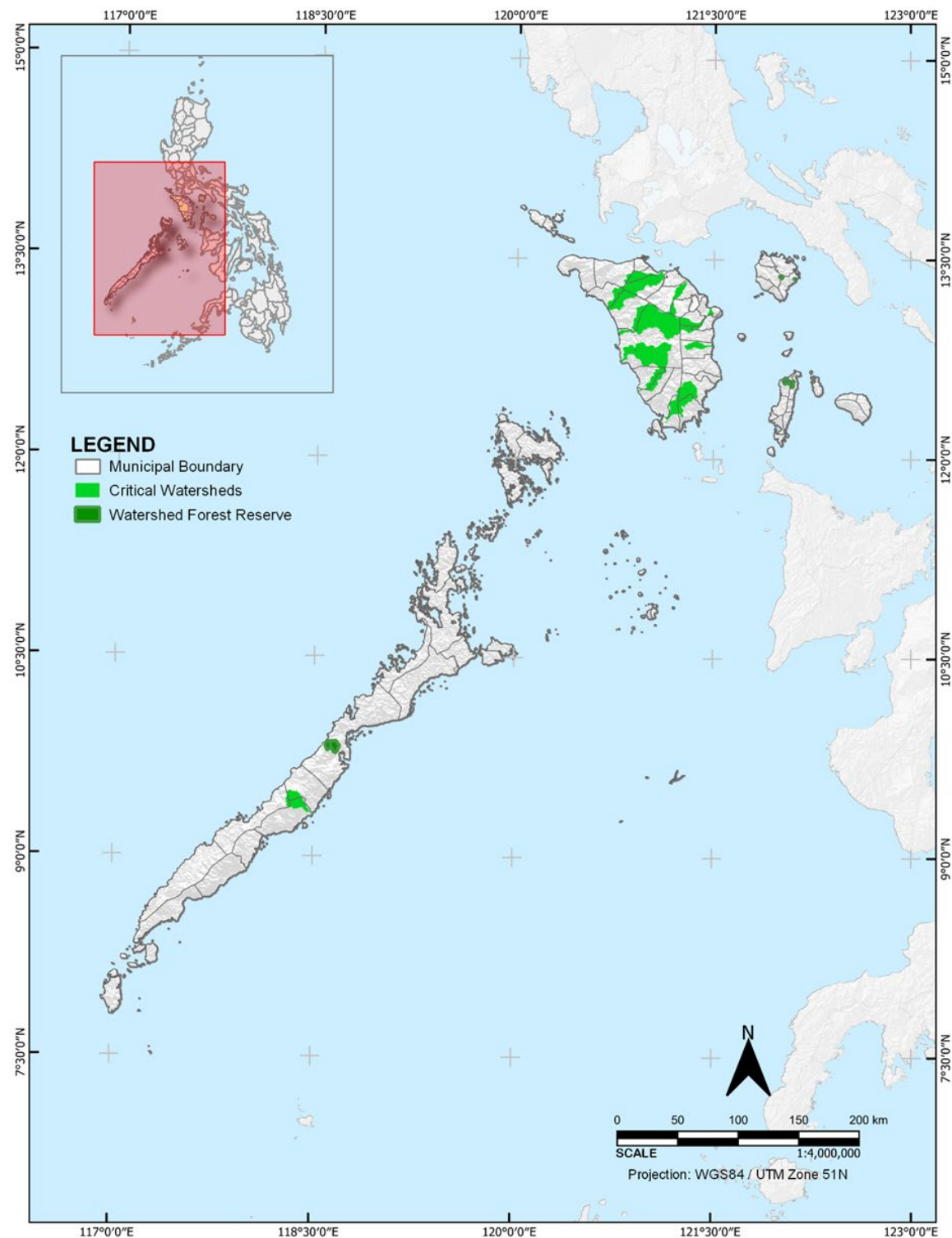
Critical Watersheds

Within the forestland are areas designated as watershed forest reserves. These are parcels of land where vegetation is maintained and conserved to ensure that watersheds are protected, especially those classified as critical watersheds.

In the region, there are a total of ten critical watersheds. One of which is the Malatgao River Watershed located in Palawan. Lumintao River

Watershed, Amnay-Patrick River Watershed, Mongpong Watershed, and Pagbahan River Watershed are located in Occidental Mindoro, while Bansud River Watershed, Catuiran-Bucayao River Watershed, and Pola River Watershed are situated in Oriental Mindoro. On the other hand, two watersheds - Mag-asawang Tubig-Mapalo River Watershed and Caguray River Watershed – traverse the provinces of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro.

Figure 2.5 Critical Watersheds in MIMAROPA



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)
Sources: NAMRIA and DENR MIMAROPA

National Integrated Protected Areas System

The MIMAROPA Region is home to rich biodiversity and critical ecosystems which require protection from anthropogenic activities. Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) refers to the administration of identified portions of land and water delineated based on their physical and biological significance. These areas are being managed to enhance their biological diversity and are protected against human exploitation.

To date, there are a total of 19 protected areas in the MIMAROPA Region, with classifications such as initial component, proclaimed, and legislated. Ten of these protected areas are located in Palawan, five in Occidental Mindoro, two in Marinduque, and one each in Oriental Mindoro and Romblon. All of these roughly cover a total of 838,643 hectares of both land and sea.

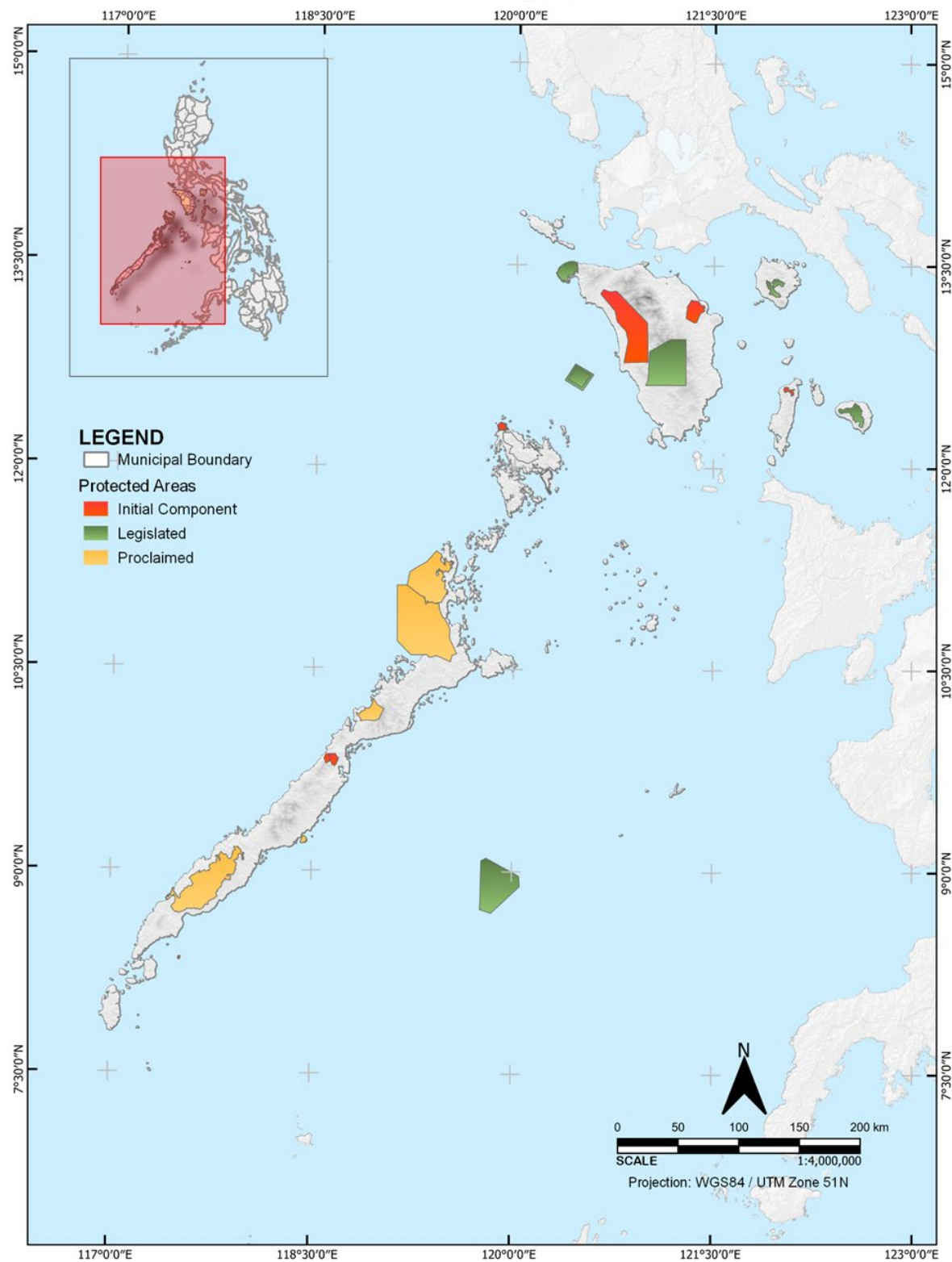
Table 2.3 Protected Areas, by Province, MIMAROPA

NAME	PROCLAMATION NUMBER	DATE	AREA (HA)	STATUS	PROVINCE
Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park	Proclamation No. 212	November 12, 1999	22,202.00	Proclaimed	Palawan
Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape	Proclamation No. 1815	June 23, 2009	120,457.00	Proclaimed	Palawan
Ursula Island Birds Sanctuary	Proclamation No. 14	April 30, 1960	396.00	Initial Component	Palawan
Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary	Proclamation No. 1578	August 31, 1976	3,400.00	Initial Component	Palawan
Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park	Proclamation No. 306	August 11, 1988	33,200.00	Legislated	Palawan
Coron Island Protected Landscape & Seascape	Tagbanawa Foundation of Coron Island (CFSA)	1990	7,748.00		Palawan
Palawan Flora and Fauna Watershed Reserve (I)	Proclamation No. 2221	July 14, 1982	4,776.00	Initial Component	Palawan
Palawan Flora and Fauna Watershed Reserve (II)			2,831.00		
Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary	Proclamation No. 292 and RA No. 11038	April 23, 2000 and August 01, 2018	18,172.69	Legislated	Occidental Mindoro
CALSANAG Watershed Forest Reserve	Proclamation No. 2186	April 29, 1982	2,670.00	Initial Component	Romblon
Francis Burton Harrison Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary	Proclamation No. 09	January 28, 1920	123,000.00	Initial Component	Occidental Mindoro
Busuanga Ranch Pasture Reserve	Proclamation No. 1387	February 13, 1975	40,000.00		Palawan
Marinduque Wildlife Sanctuary	Proclamation No. 696	August 17, 2004	8,827.96	Legislated	Marinduque
Mts. Iglit-Baco National Park	Proclamation No. 557 and RA No. 11038	May 8, 1969 and August 01, 2018	106,655.62	Legislated	Occidental Mindoro
Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park	Proclamation No. 246 and RA No. 11038	February 20, 1996 and August 01, 2018	15,515.22	Legislated	Romblon
Apo Reef Natural Park	Proclamation No. 868 and RA No. 11038	September 06, 1996 and August 01, 2018	15,799.23	Legislated	Occidental Mindoro

NAME	PROCLAMATION NUMBER	DATE	AREA (HA)	STATUS	PROVINCE
Naujan Lake National Park	Proclamation No. 335	January 25, 1968	21,655.00	Initial Component	Oriental Mindoro
El Nido-Taytay Managed Resource Protected Area	Proclamation No. 32	October 08, 1998	89,134.76	Proclaimed	Palawan
Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape	Proclamation No. 342	July 12, 2000	200,115.00	Proclaimed	Palawan
Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary	Proclamation No. 1000	February 15, 2006	1,983.00	Proclaimed	Palawan
Torrijos Watershed Forest Reserve	Proclamation No. 463	April 06, 1932	105.00	Initial Component	Marinduque

Source: DENR MIMAROPA

Figure 2.6 Protected Areas in MIMAROPA, 2023-2028



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)
 Sources: NAMRIA and DENR MIMAROPA

Land Cover

MIMAROPA's total built-up area accounts for 1.35 percent of its total land area. The open forest represents the largest fraction of the total land area of the region, which was recorded at 28.11 percent or 771,672 hectares.

This was followed by brush/shrubs and agricultural land with 26.39 percent and 25.58 percent share, respectively. On the other hand, marshland/swamp recorded the smallest fraction of land in the region with only 0.02 percent or 683 hectares.

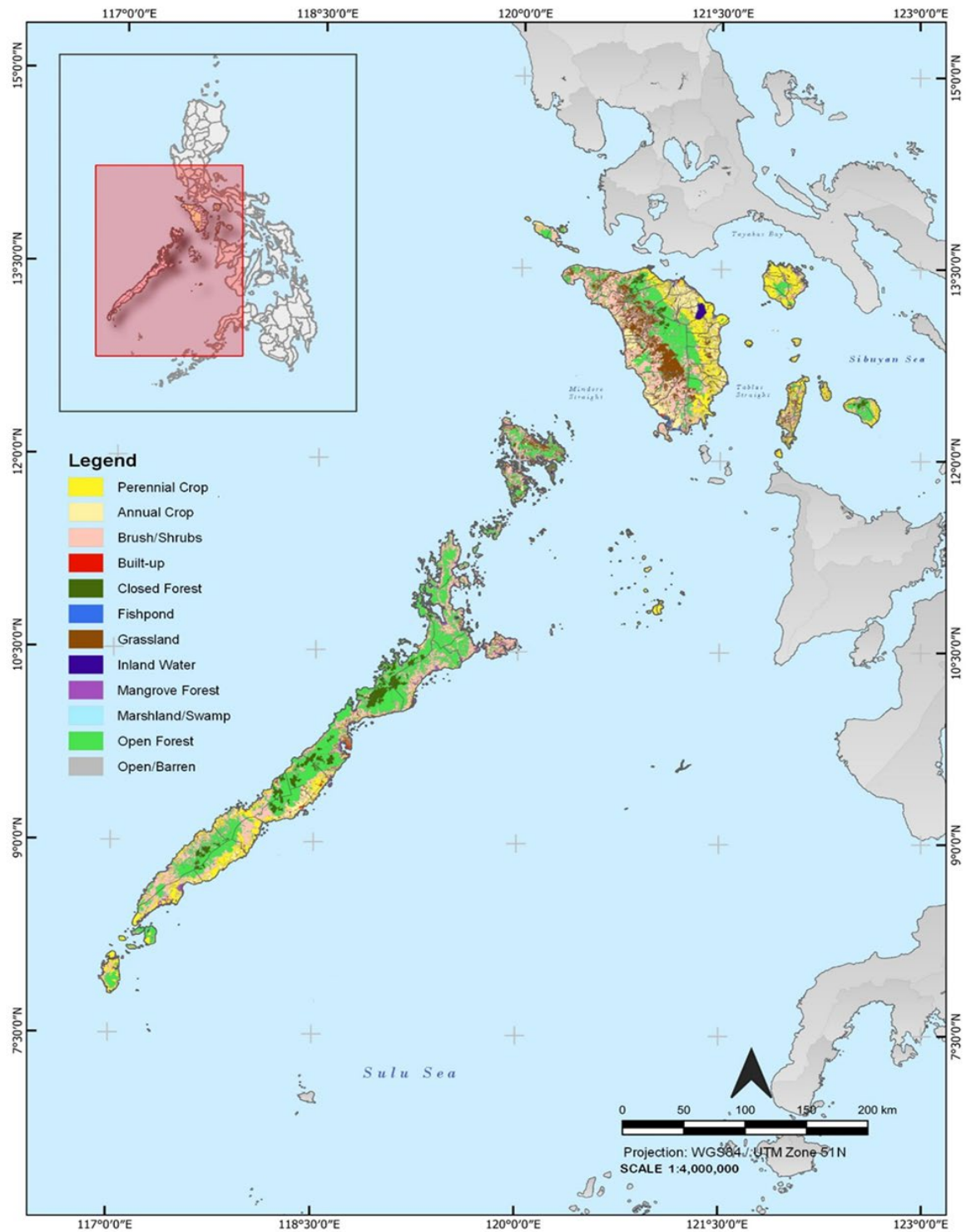
Table 2.4 Land Cover, MIMAROPA, 2015

LAND COVER (2015)	AREA (HAS)	PERCENT SHARE
Agricultural Land	702,428	25.58
Built-up	37,165	1.35
Brush/Shrubs	724,667	26.39
Closed Forest	110,592	4.03
Fishpond	10,795	0.39
Grassland	218,936	7.97
Inland Water	33,192	1.21
Mangrove Forest	68,673	2.5
Marshland/Swamp	683	0.02
Open Forest	771,672	28.11
Open/Barren	13,001	0.47
Others	53,796	1.96
Total	2,745,601	100

Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

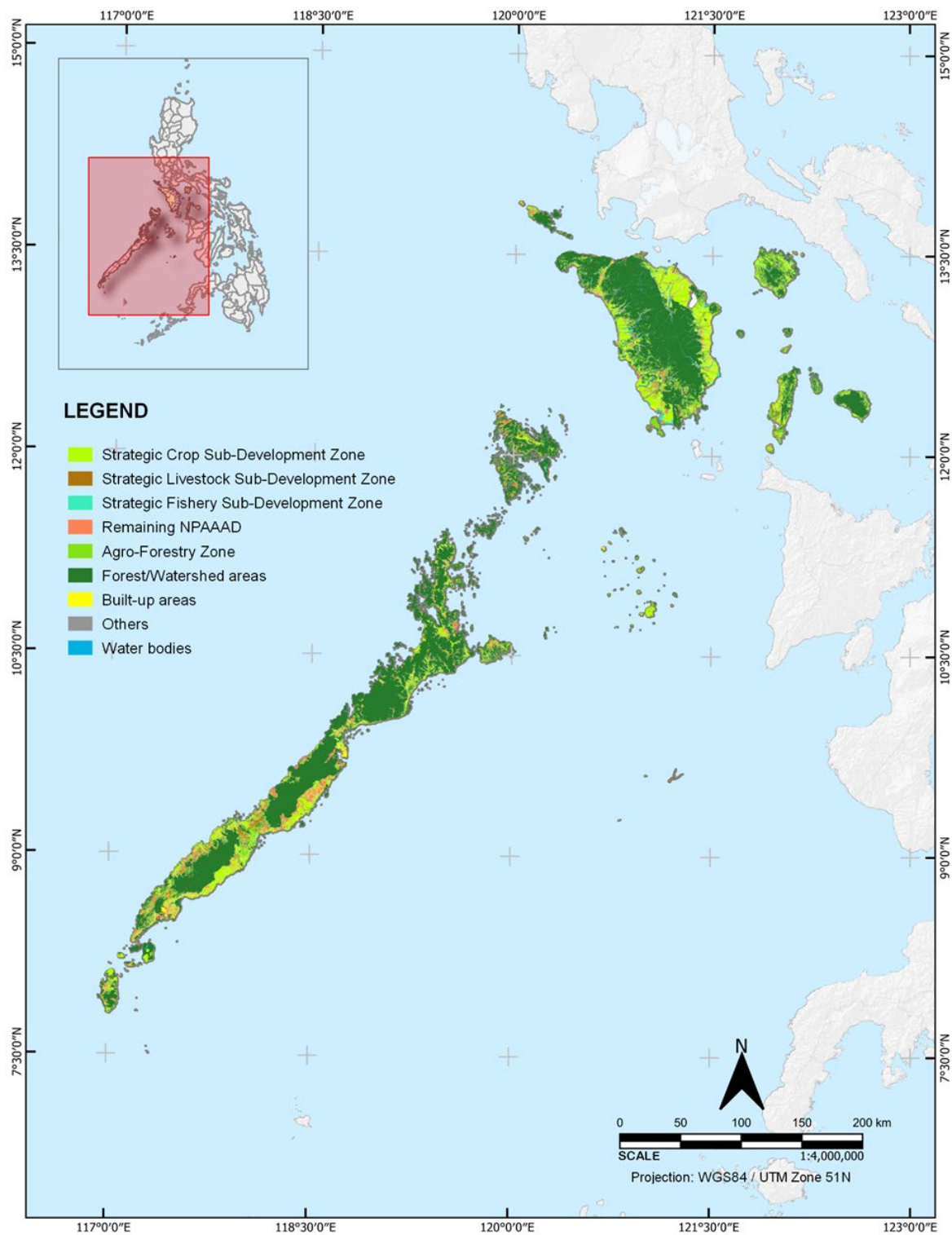
Source: DENR MIMAROPA

Figure 2.7 Land Cover Map, MIMAROPA, 2015



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)
Source: NAMRIA

Figure 2.8 Strategic Agricultural and Fishery Development Zones, MIMAROPA, 2020



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Sources: NAMRIA and Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)

Regional Spatial Framework

The Regional Spatial Framework of MIMAROPA was patterned after the LSDF. The LSDF is a tool that provides the direction of land use and other developmental efforts in the Luzon Island group, and is composed of three main strategies: Concentration, Connectivity, and Vulnerability Reduction. The said strategies were also adopted for the Regional Spatial Framework of MIMAROPA.

Concentration/Urban Agglomeration

Challenges on incomplete and outdated cadastral data have been a long-standing national matter. On top of this, the MIMAROPA Region faces issues and challenges that are exclusive to the region. The legislation of Republic Act No. 8371, a law that seeks to uphold the rights of IPs, has posed challenges on land development. In particular, Ancestral Domain Claims (CADT/Cs) in the region extend outside the forestlands. Thus, alienable and disposable land becomes even scarcer as a resource as conflicted lands/areas cannot be utilized pending an official verdict from the court.

Unnecessary land conversion from agricultural to commercial/residential use may also be detrimental to the future of land use in the region. These gaps put off local implementers from efficiently managing and allocating land resources.

Further, pending legislation of the National Land Use Act (NALUA), various laws on land use and its implementation schemes remain sectoral. This worsens issues on land use planning in the country. The said Act could also address challenges in climate crisis mitigation. However, climate crisis management in the country, particularly in the MIMAROPA region, continues to face limitations due to the lack of appropriate policies that would guide on-ground efforts. Long-term planning and review of sustainable land use at all levels of government are necessary to ensure ethical planning and protect the country's land and water resources.

Concentration/Urban Agglomeration as a strategy for development is crucial in boosting growth and development in the region. The principles of densification, compaction, and smart growth are all necessary to ensure that urban development satisfies key land use concepts and sustainable development.

Five-tiered Hierarchy of Settlements

The spatial structure of settlements in MIMAROPA is a five-tiered hierarchy that follows the principle of concentration/urban agglomeration. Areas of large settlements, in terms of population, are positioned in the upper tiers of the urban hierarchy while areas of smaller settlements are assigned to lower tiers. Areas with strategic roles in the economy, such as: i) provincial capitals (i.e., Mamburao in Occidental Mindoro, Boac in Marinduque, and Romblon in Romblon) and ii) city (Puerto Princesa City in Palawan) are also placed in upper tiers regardless of population size.

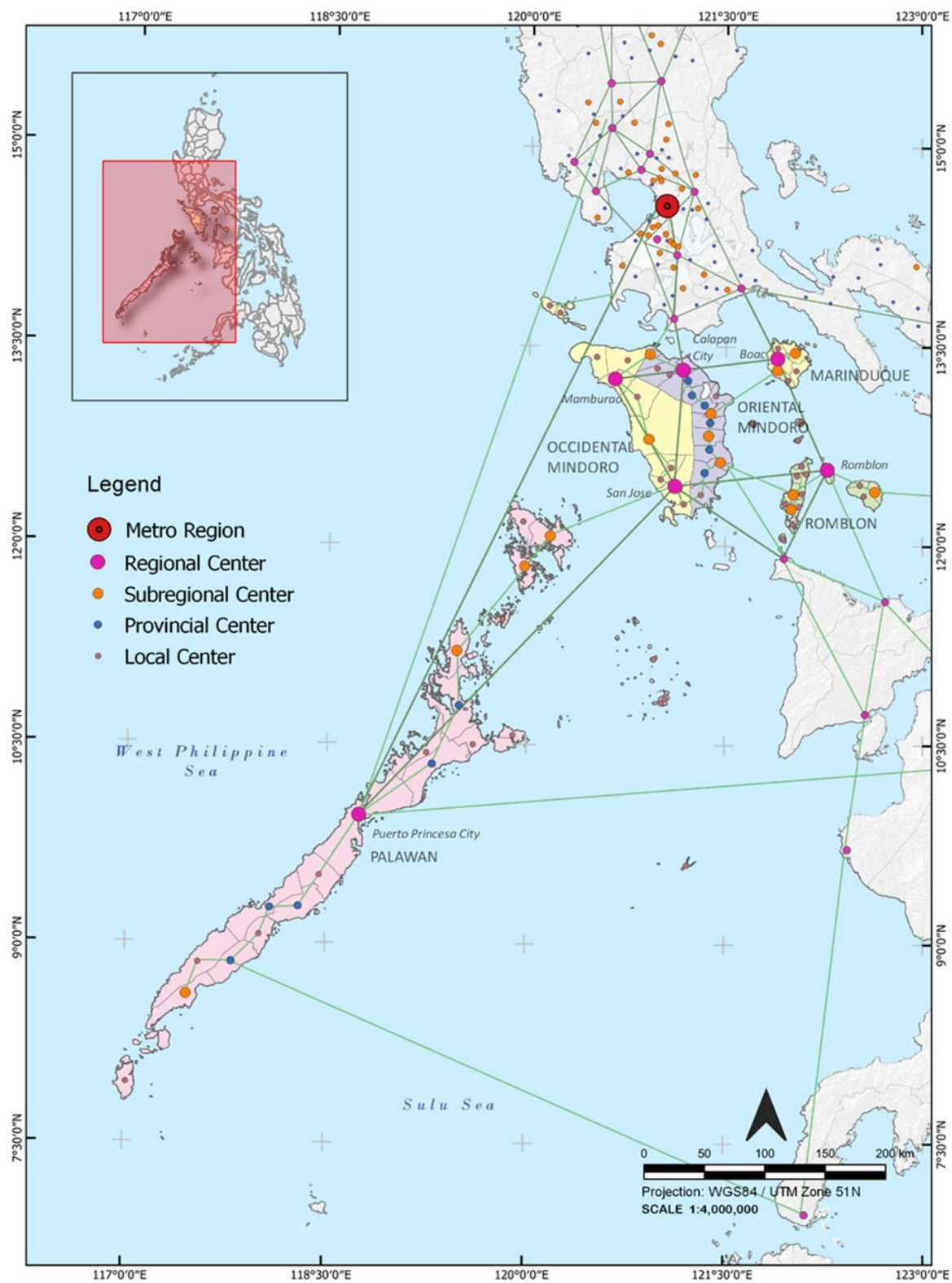
Following the principle of a two-tiered hierarchy, Metro Manila will remain as the primary metropolitan center. All the other centers outside it are classified as i) Regional Center, ii) Sub-regional Center, iii) Provincial Center, and iv) Local Center. The primary goal of the said strategy is to decongest Metro Manila and distribute the urban services among its neighboring centers depending on their designated hierarchy, such that Regional Centers are prioritized, followed by sub-regional centers, then provincial centers, and lastly – local centers. This will result in the emergence of new urban centers outside Metro Manila.

Calapan City is located about 102 kilometers south of Metro Manila. In terms of Metro Manila's sphere of influence, it is the city in the region closest to the Metro Region, almost qualifying in the 100-km proximity radius of the said area. It is therefore a strategic location to assist in the decongestion of Metro Manila. This is also consistent with its designation as MIMAROPA's Regional Government Center, by virtue of EO 682, s. 2007.

Table 2.5 Five-Tiered Hierarchy of Settlements, MIMAROPA, 2023-2028

REGIONAL CENTER (6)	SUB-REGIONAL CENTER (14)	PROVINCIAL CENTER (11)	LOCAL CENTER (41)
Boac, Marinduque	Bansud, Oriental Mindoro	Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro	Aborlan, Palawan
Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro	Bataraza, Palawan	Brooke's Point, Palawan	Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro
Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro	Cajidiocan, Romblon	Gloria Oriental, Mindoro	Agutaya, Palawan
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	Coron, Palawan	Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro	Alcantara, Romblon
Romblon, Romblon	Culion , Palawan	Narra, Palawan	Araceli, Palawan
San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	El Nido, Palawan	Naujan, Oriental Mindoro	Baco, Oriental Mindoro
	Gasan , Marinduque	Quezon, Palawan	Balabac, Palawan
	Looc, Romblon	Roxas, Palawan	Banton, Romblon
	Odiangan, Romblon	Socorro, Oriental Mindoro	Buenavista, Marinduque
	Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro	Taytay, Palawan	Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro
	Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	Victoria, Oriental Mindoro	Busuanga, Palawan
	Roxas, Oriental Mindoro		Cagayancillo , Palawan
	Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro		Calatrava, Romblon
	Santa Cruz, Marinduque		Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro
			Concepcion, Romblon
			Corcuera, Romblon
			Cuyo, Palawan
			Dumaran, Palawan
			Ferrol, Romblon
			Linapacan, Palawan
			Looc, Romblon
			Lubang, Occidental Mindoro
			Magdiwang, Romblon
			Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro
			Magsaysay, Palawan
			Mogpog, Maridnuque
			Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
			Pola, Oriental Mindoro
			Rizal, Occidental Mindoro
			Rizal, Palawan
			San Agustin, Romblon
			San Andres, Romblon
			San Fernando, Romblon
			San Jose, Romblon
			San Teodoro, Occidental Mindoro
			San Vicente, Palawan
			Santa Cruz, Occidental Mindoro
			Santa Fe, Romblon
			Santa Maria, Romblon
			Sofroño Española, Palawan
			Torrijos, Marinduque

Figure 2.9 Hierarchy of Settlements in the MIMAROPA Region, 2023-2028



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Sources: NAMRIA and Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)

Settlements Development Framework

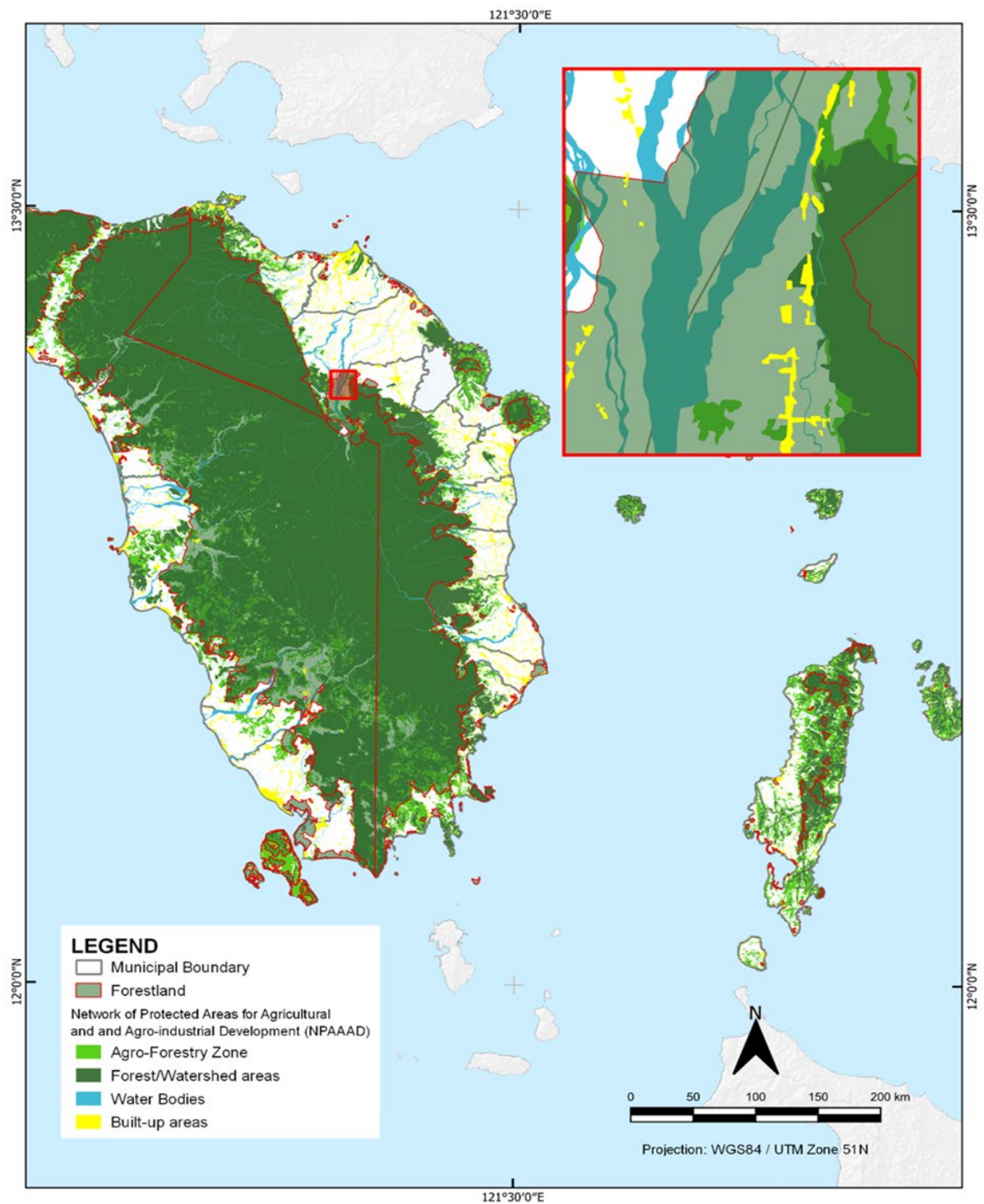
The goal of the settlements development and suitability framework is to ultimately deliver settlements from harm's way. To realize this, it is imperative to identify which areas are prone to life-threatening hazards and/or located within areas that are otherwise identified as A&D, or simply known as areas "where not to build".

Further, for a settlement to prosper, it is necessary to incentivize areas close to built-up areas and roads, as well as those with higher number of urban services (reflected in the hierarchy of settlements). This provides an advantage to areas that follow the principles of urban agglomeration, and directs settlements "where to build".

Development Constraints. Development constraints were divided into two main groups - geologic/hydrometeorologic hazards (GHH) and areas restricted to urban development (ARTUD). This basically identifies "where not to build". The GHH is comprised of hazards such as rain-induced landslides, flooding, and steep slopes. ARTUD, on the other hand, is comprised of alienable and disposable land and forestland – and SAFDZ.

Without proper and strategic planning, settlements will continue to grow in ARTUD, especially in forestlands. Currently, there are encroachments on forestlands as exhibited by built-up areas that fall within forestland. These areas may be found in the municipality of Victoria in Oriental Mindoro, Mamburao in Occidental Mindoro, among others.

Figure 2.10 Overlay Map of Areas Restricted to Urban Development in the MIMAROPA Region



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)
Sources: NAMRIA, DENR MIMAROPA, and BSWM

Settlement Suitability. Aside from development constraints, proximity to certain areas and urban agglomeration was also considered in the sieve mapping framework. These criteria were incorporated under settlement suitability (“where to build”). Specifically, settlement suitability areas in the region are areas that qualify under the following parameters: a) proximity to built-up areas; b) proximity to roads; and, c) hierarchy of settlements (regional center, sub-regional center, provincial center, and local center).

Areas within or close to built-up areas and roads were assigned with lower values. Thus, higher suitability. Higher tiers in the hierarchy of

settlements were also assigned with lower values, which means that regional center is preferred over the sub-regional center, and the latter is preferred over the rank that it precedes.

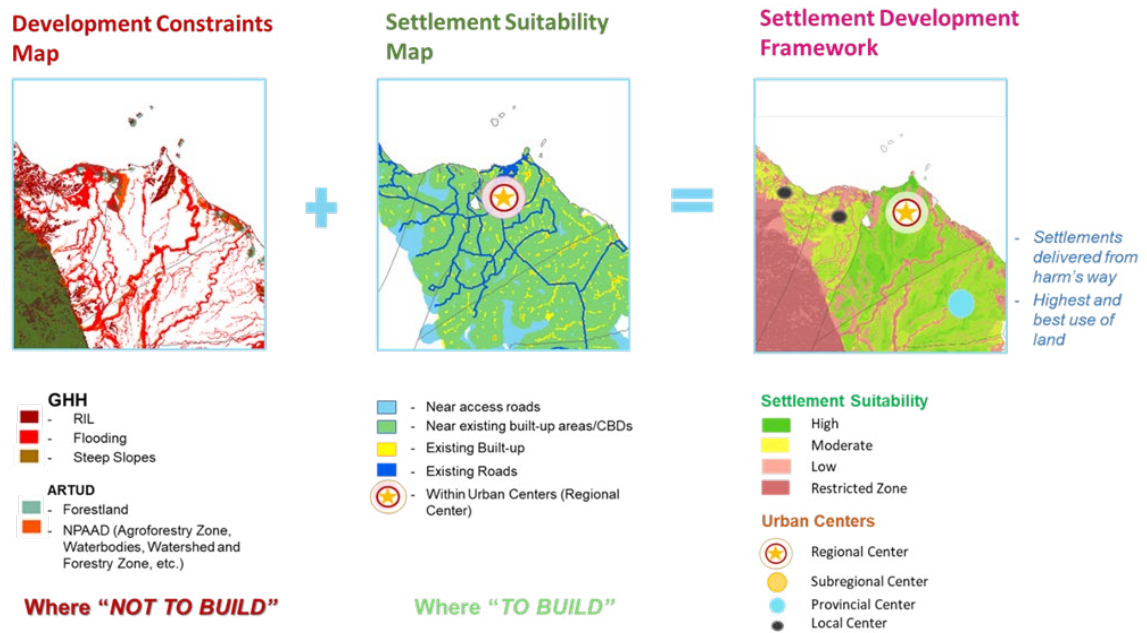
This provides an advantage to municipalities/cities that were designated as regional and sub-regional centers. Areas that were identified with higher suitability based on the parameters include Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro, Mamburao, and San Jose in Occidental Mindoro, Boac in Marinduque, and the municipality of Romblon in the province of Romblon.

Table 2.6 Settlements Framework Parameters by Weight, MIMAROPA

Criteria	Weight (%)	Suitability Scores			
		1	2	3	100
Development Constraints (0.625)					
Rain-Induced Landslide	12.50				
Not Susceptible		1			
Low			2		
Moderate			2		
High				3	
Very High					100
Flooding	12.50				
Not Susceptible		1			
Low			2		
Moderate				3	
High					100
Slope	12.50				
0-9%		1			
9-15%			2		
15-18%				3	
18-30%				3	
Above 30%					100
Land Classification	12.50				
Alienable and Disposable		1			
National Park					100
Timberlands					100
Unclassified Public Forest					100
Agri Production Lands	12.50				
Built-up		1			
Marginal Agri Lands and NPAAAD			2		
Strategic Livestock				3	
SAFDZ / Water Bodies / Agro-Forestry Zone / Strategic Fishery					100
Development Zone / Watershed and Forestry Zone					100
Subtotal Weight	62.5				
Settlement Suitability (0.375)					
Road Access	12.50				
Within 1 km		1			
1-3 kms			2		
beyond 3 kms				3	
Existing Built-Up	12.50				
Within 1 km		1			
1-3 kms			2		
beyond 3 kms				3	
Five-Tier Hierarchy of Settlements	12.50				
Regional Center		1			
Sub-Regional Center			2		
Provincial Center			2		
Local Center				3	
Subtotal Weight	37.5				
Total Weight	100.0				

Source: NEDA MIMAROPA

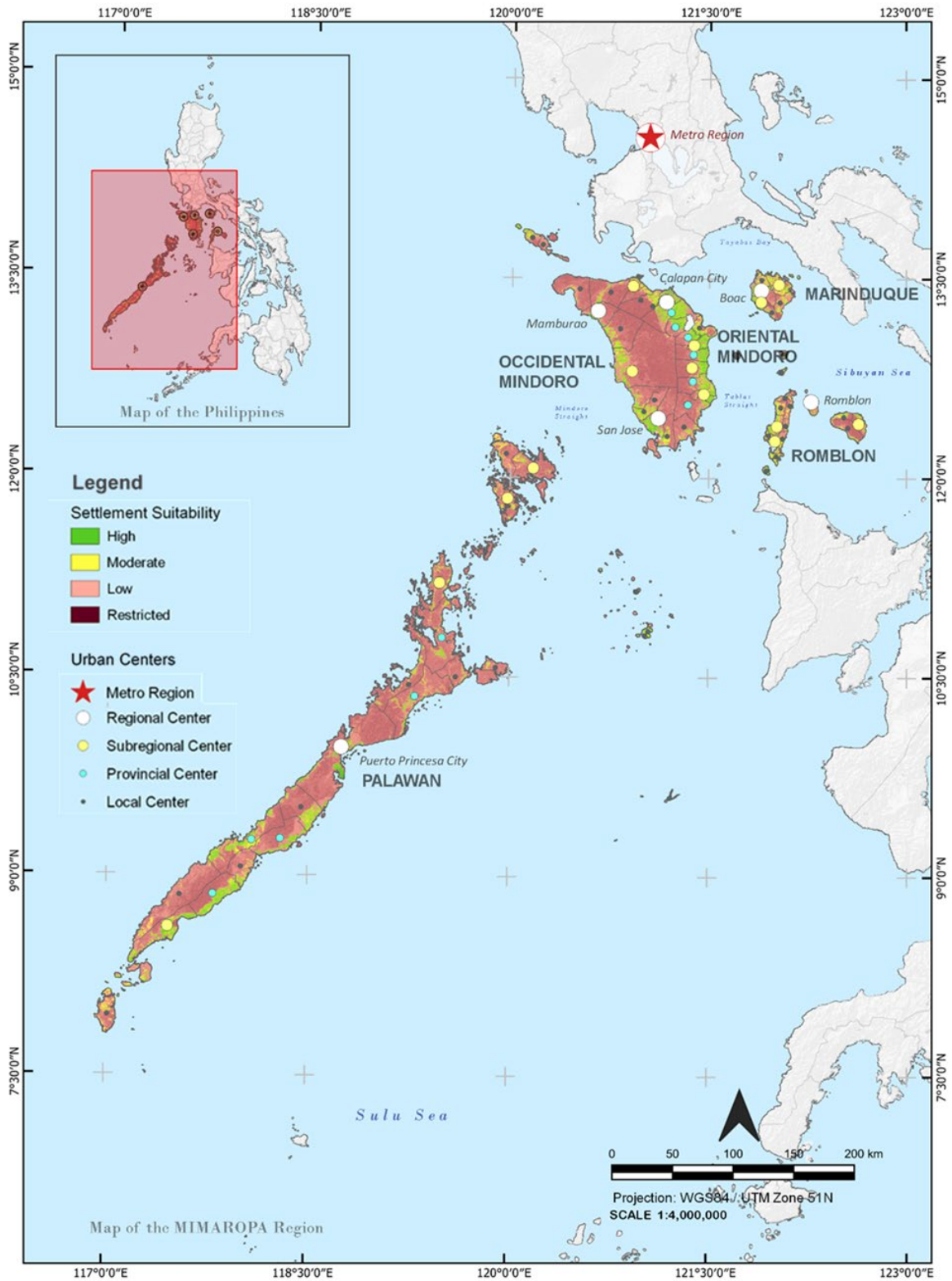
Figure 2.11 Sieve Mapping Parameters for the Formulation of Regional Settlements Framework, 2023-2028



Source: Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Settlements Development Framework. The final sieve mapping revealed that highly suitable areas for development are found in the following municipalities/cities: Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro, Mamburao and San Jose in Occidental Mindoro, Romblon in Romblon, and Boac in Marinduque.

Figure 2.12 Settlements Development Framework for MIMAROPA Region, 2023-2028



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Areas with steep slopes and prone to various hazards in these municipalities were classified as low-suitability areas. This means that settlement development is possible, although not encouraged. Engineering and environmental measures must be observed to ensure public safety in these areas.

On the other hand, those that are within forestland and areas allocated for strategic protection of the watershed, fisheries, etc. were automatically assigned as restricted zones. Development in these areas are highly discouraged and prohibited by Republic Act No. 10601 or “An Act Promoting Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Development in the Country” and Republic Act No. 2874 or “The Public Land Act.”

Proposed Spatial Strategy

The proposed spatial strategy for Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, and Palawan generally follows the Central-Nodal Urban Form (HLURB, 1997).

In Oriental Mindoro, Calapan City will provide the central services and urban functions to support the emerging development nodes. The urban growth

nodes are the municipalities of Puerto Galera, Pinamalayan, Roxas, and Bansud.

On the other hand, in Occidental Mindoro, the three growth nodes are the municipalities of Mamburao, San Jose, and Sablayan, where Mamburao will provide the central services in the province.

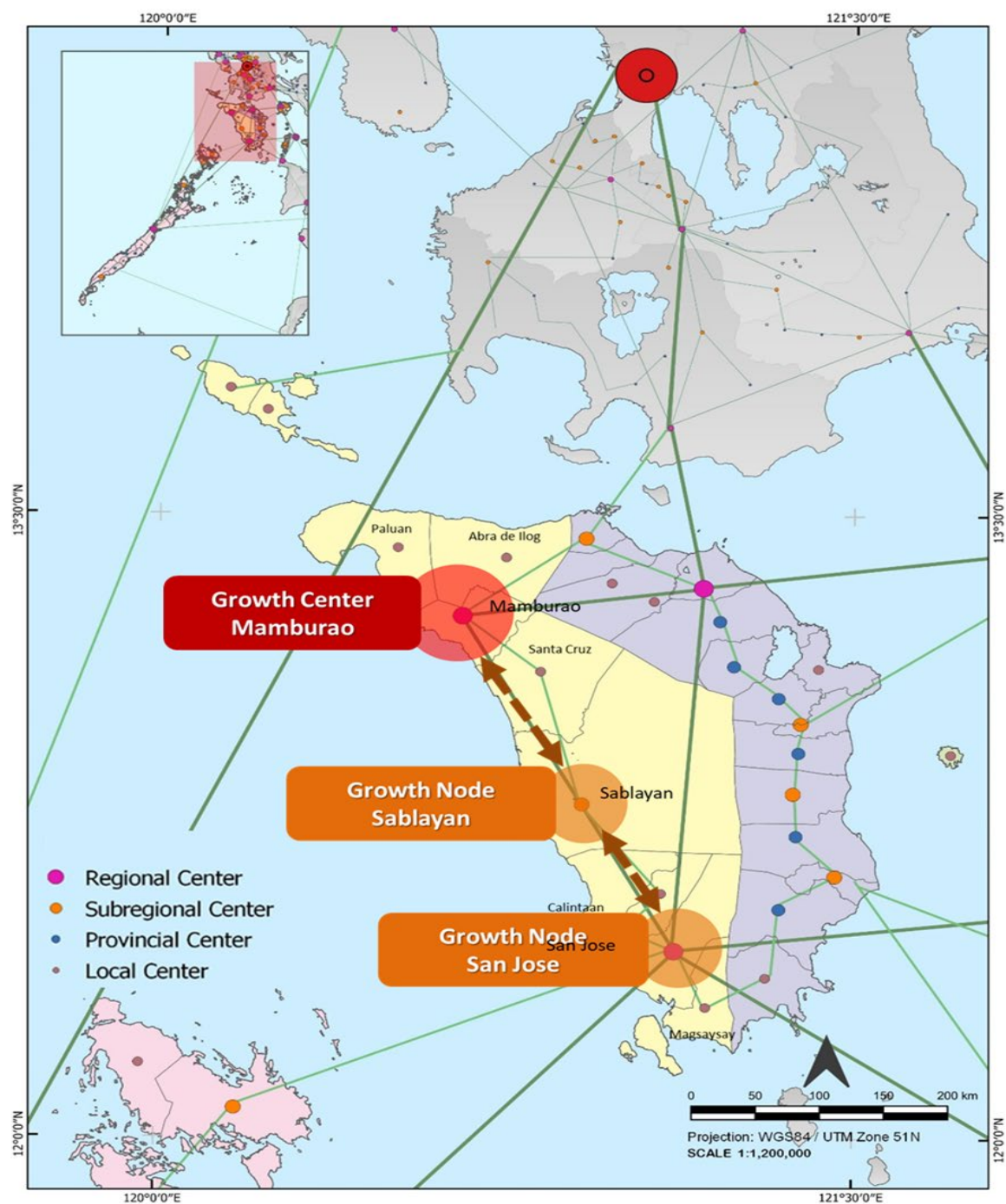
In the province of Romblon, the municipality of Romblon will provide central services and urban functions. Other urban growth nodes are the municipalities of Odiongan, Cajidiocan, and Look.

In Palawan, the municipalities of Coron, El Nido, and Bataraza will be the growth nodes supported by the main growth center, Puerto Princesa City.

Marinduque is the sole province in the region that will follow a radial-circumferential urban form. Its main growth center is the municipality of Boac and the other growth nodes are Sta. Cruz and Gasan.

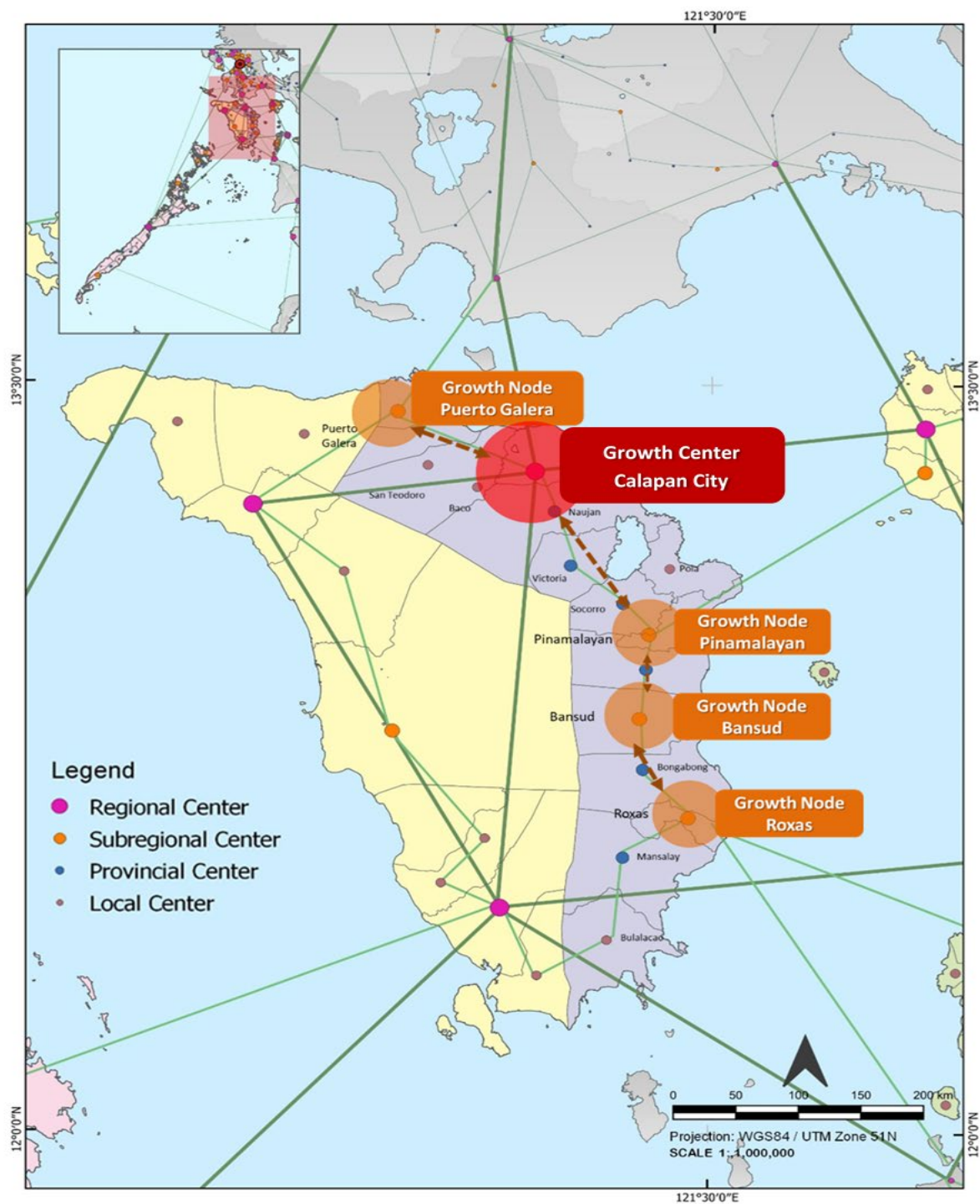
Growth in these identified areas and the entire province will be driven by connectivity infrastructures, urban agglomeration measures, and vulnerability reduction programs consistent with the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Figure 2.13 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Occidental Mindoro, 2023-2028



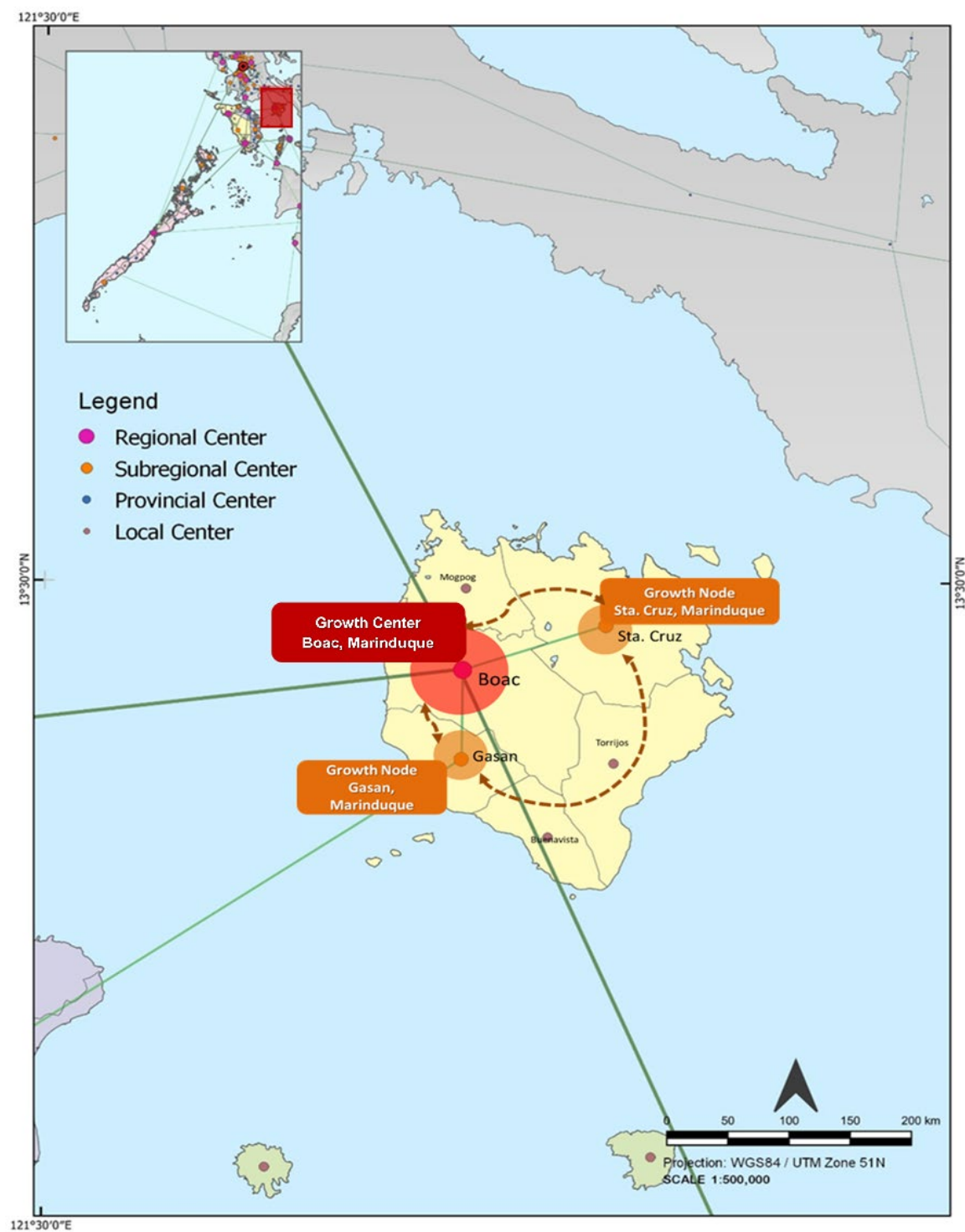
Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PPPD)

Figure 2.14 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Oriental Mindoro, 2023-2028



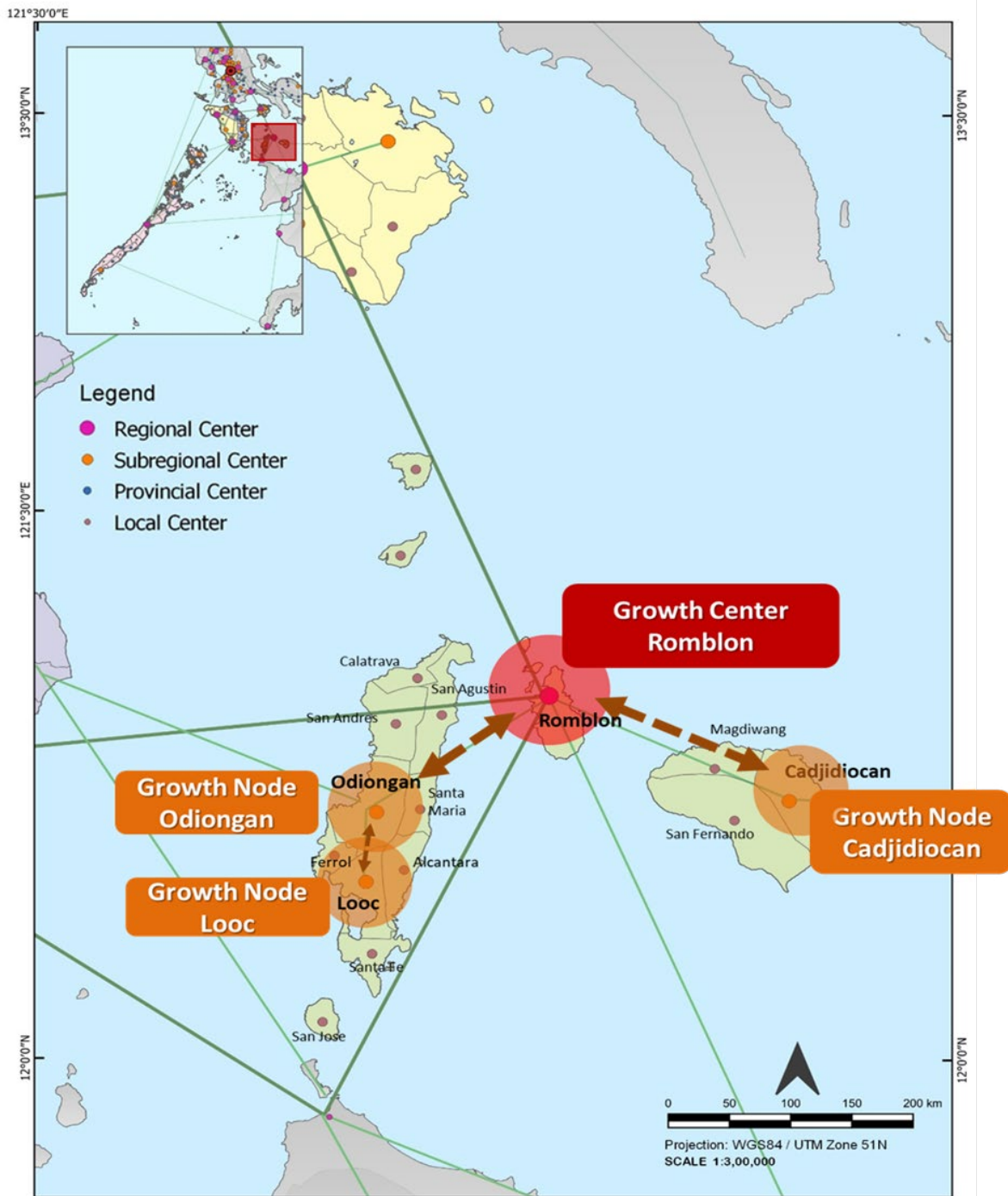
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Figure 2.15 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Marinduque, 2023-2028



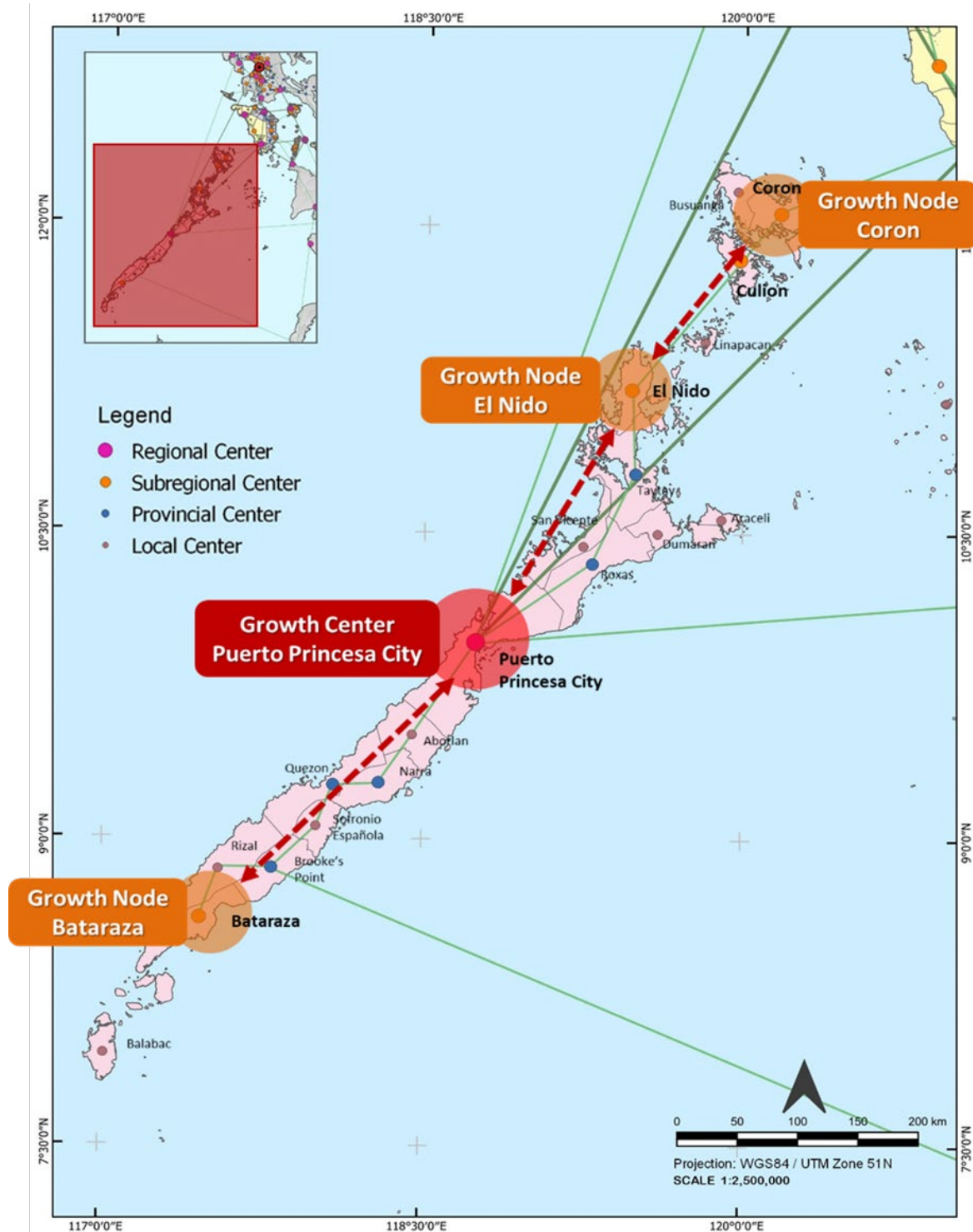
Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Figure 2.16 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Romblon, 2023-2028



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPPD)

Figure 2.17 Proposed Spatial Strategy of Palawan, 2023-2028



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Connectivity

Transportation Network

MIMAROPA is one of the top regions of origin of domestic travelers utilizing water transport primarily because it has no land border with another region. It is connected to the rest of the country through a network of seaports. A total of 41 existing port-to-port points and additional 14 points are being proposed to enhance connectivity and mobility.

Calapan City Seaport is the largest and busiest seaport in Mindoro Island, which is just two hours away by ferry boats and roll-on/roll-off (RORO) ships to-and-from Batangas City International Seaport. Once the ongoing expansion of its passenger terminal building is complete, it will be the biggest port passenger terminal to date as it is expected to accommodate 3,500 passengers at any given time.

As of 2021, the region's national road network is predominantly concrete, surfacing at 87.82 percent or 2,017.98 km out of the total length of 2,297.98 km. Asphalt roads comprise 6.29 percent of the total road network. Gravel and earth roads are only about 5.83 percent and 0.07 percent or 133.94 km and 1.55 km, respectively.

At present, the northern sections of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro are yet to be connected. Said connection will be realized upon the completion of the Mindoro Island Circumferential Road Project, particularly the Abra de Ilog – Puerto Galera Road Section.

The MIMAROPA Connectivity Framework

The MIMAROPA provinces are surrounded by bodies of water. Thus, physical connectivity remains a challenge in the region. Although Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro are physically connected by land, a loop connecting the two provinces is yet to be established.

To support agriculture, trade, and tourism development in the region, critical transportation infrastructure projects will be prioritized to connect island provinces within and outside the region. This interconnection will improve the mobility of people, goods, and services.

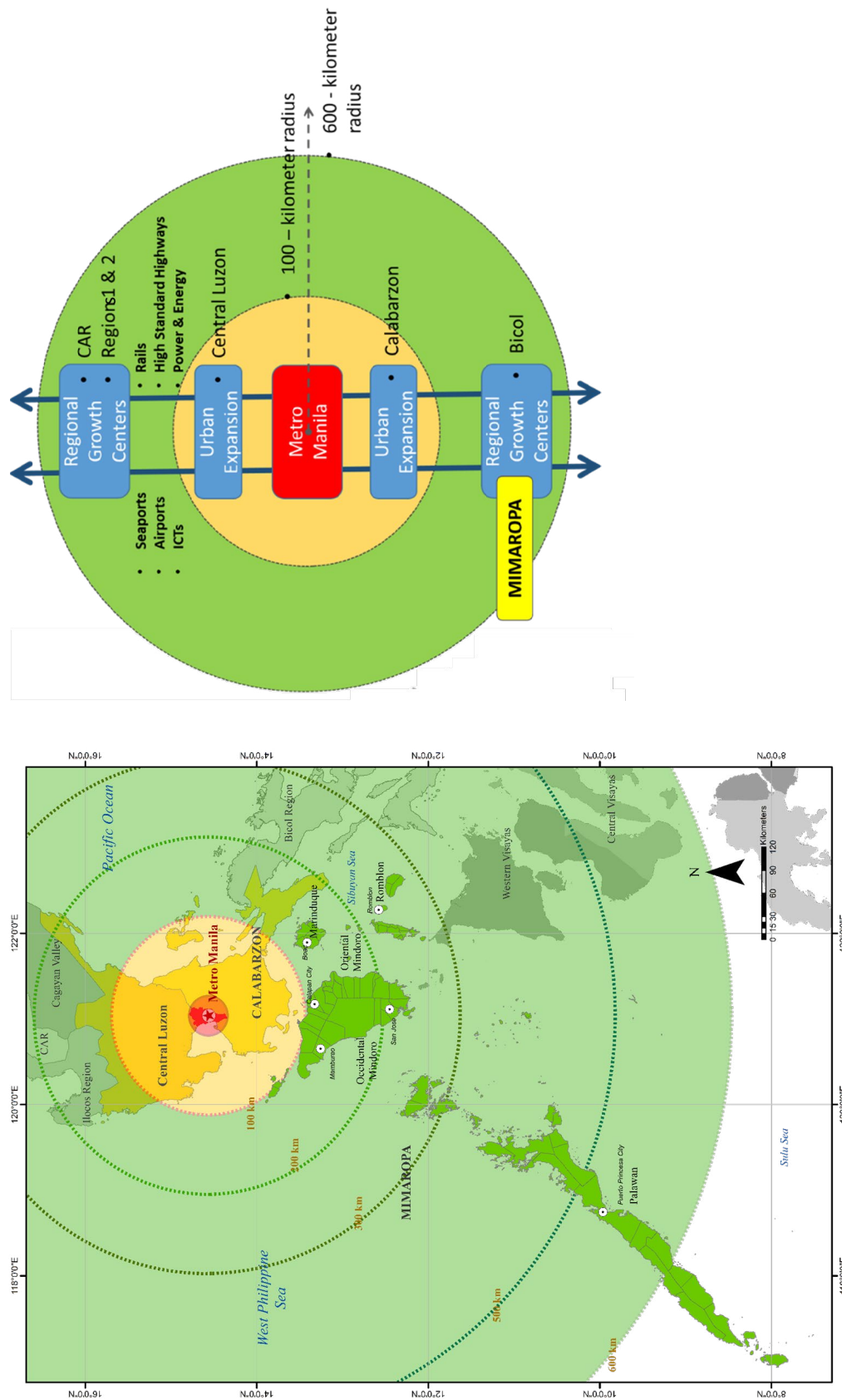
The MIMAROPA connectivity framework, which will make use of an intermodal transportation system, will encourage the establishment of competitive airports, seaports, and road networks to strengthen the Strong Republic Nautical Highway System, Central Nautical Highway, and Western Nautical Highway to allow better access and circulation to the central business districts through the alternative regional growth nodes.

Part of the MIMAROPA connectivity framework is the development of a nautical highway system in the West Philippine Seaboard Section. This will be realized through the proposed extension of Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR) Tollway to the MIMAROPA Region. The controlled access toll expressways will start in Bataan which will bust through Cavite via the proposed Cavite-Bataan bridge. This will then be extended to the region through the construction of the proposed Batangas-Mindoro Super Bridge, allowing the highway system to extend uninterruptedly from STAR tollway to San Jose Occidental Mindoro.

From this point, the current RoRo system from San Jose, Occidental Mindoro to Coron, Palawan will enable the proposed Coron-Culion-Busuanga Bridge to be a vital link to the existing RoRo route from Busuanga to El Nido, Palawan. The road network from El Nido to Bataraza, Palawan will then conclude the West Philippine Sea Board Nautical Highway. The establishment of the latter can potentially provide greater access to the Borneo Indonesia Malaysia Philippines – East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

The connectivity framework of the region shall also pursue other inter-island connectivity strategies, including Information and communication technology and power and energy, which will be discussed more elaborately in Chapter 13.

Figure 2.18 Integrated development concept of the MIMAROPA Regional Spatial Strategy Framework



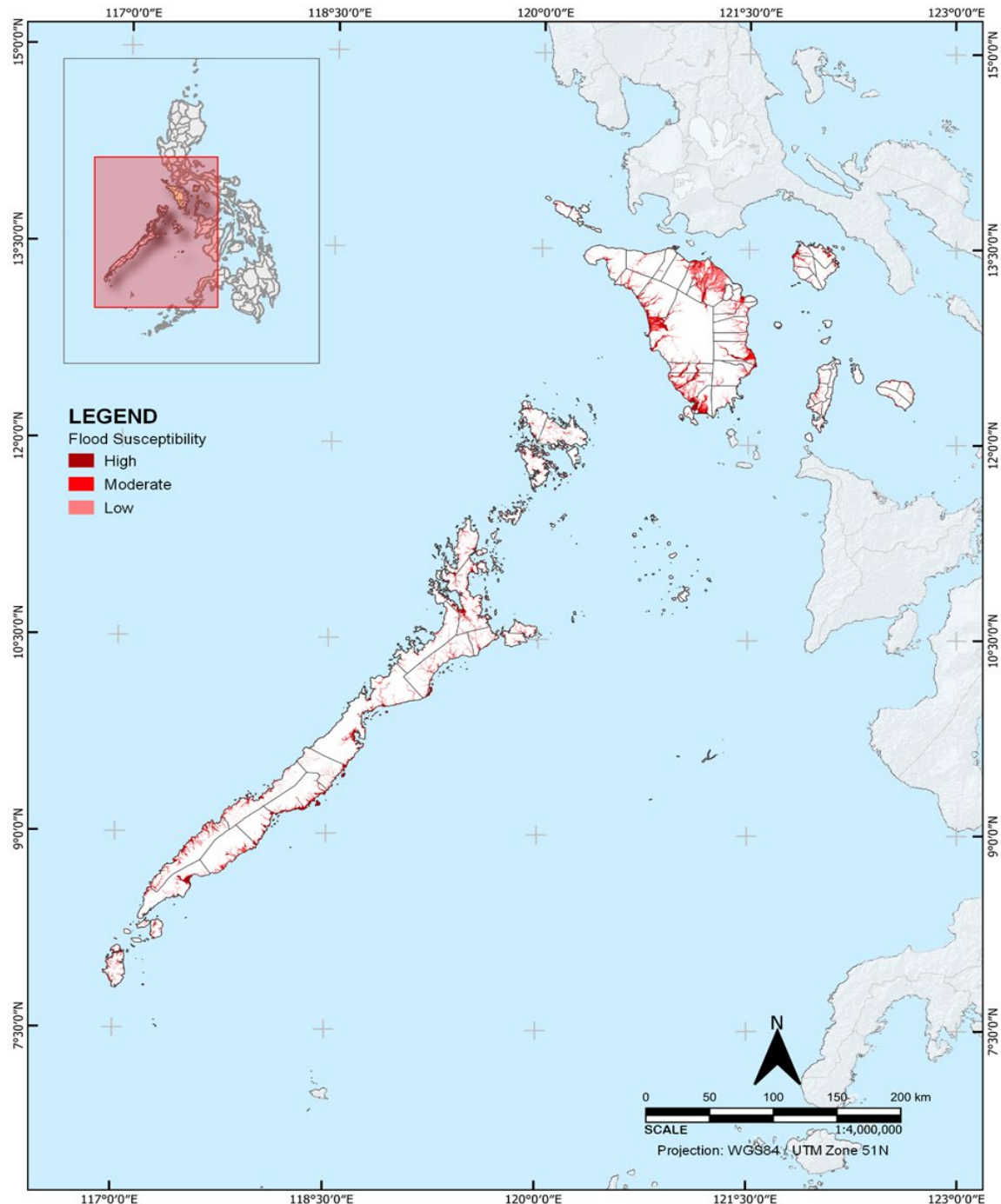
Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPPD)

Vulnerability Reduction

The location and topography of MIMAROPA make it vulnerable to various hazards, both geologic and hydro-meteorological.

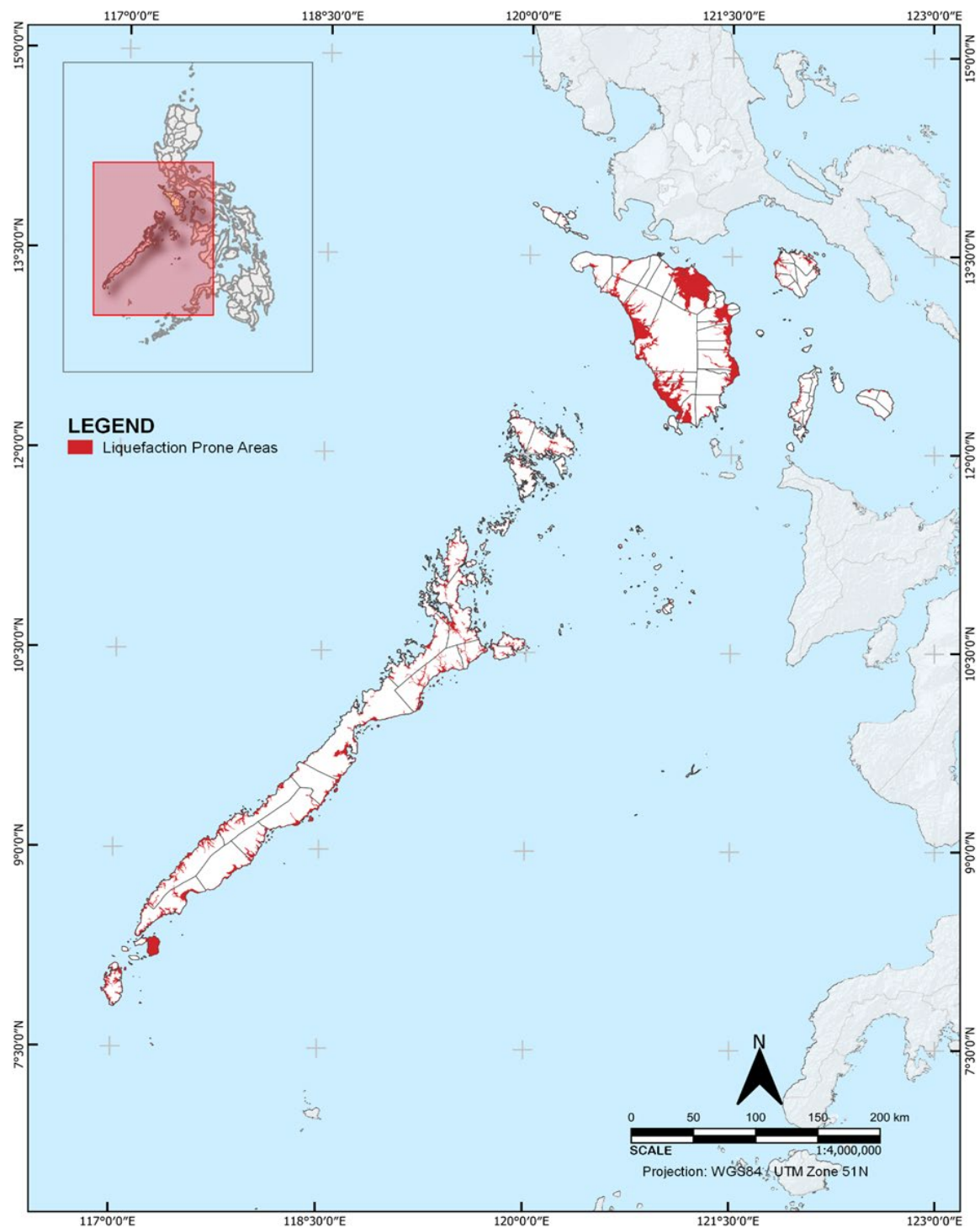
Generally, settlements and developments situated in coastal regions are prone to multiple hazards, as these areas are pre-disposed to flooding, occurrence of storm surges, and liquefaction. The upland and mountainous regions are also prone to hazards such as steep slopes and rain-induced landslides.

Figure 2.19 Flood Prone Areas in MIMAROPA



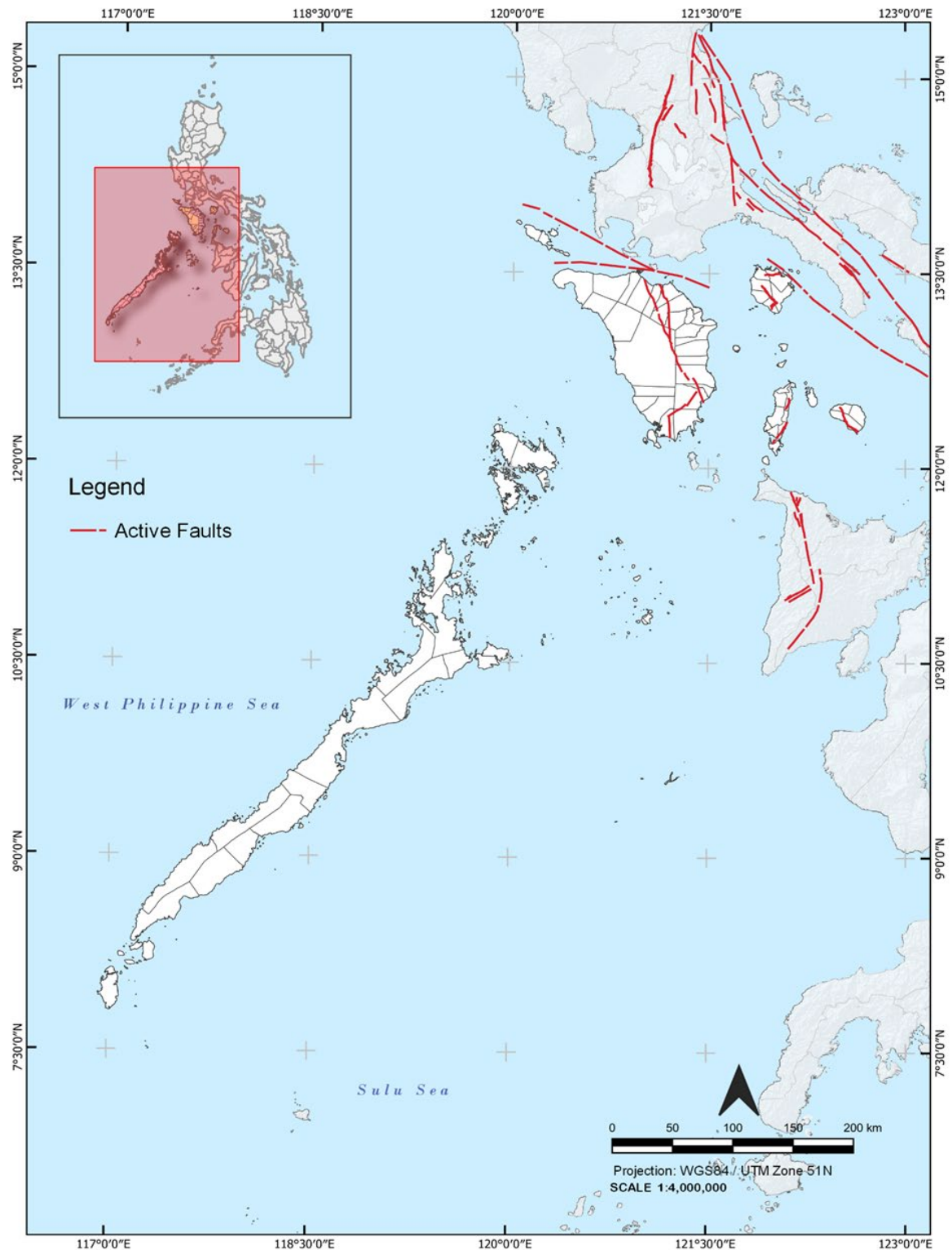
Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)
Sources: NAMRIA, DENR-MGB MIMAROPA

Figure 2.20 Liquefaction Prone Areas in MIMAROPA



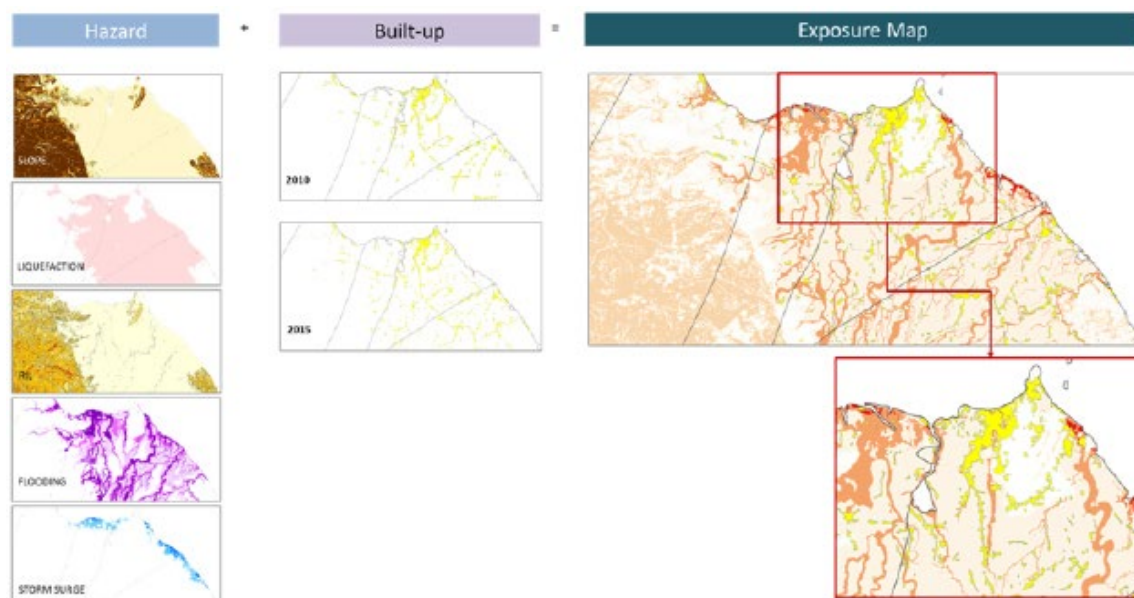
Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)
Sources: NAMRIA, DENR-MGB MIMAROPA

Figure 2.21 Active Faults in MIMAROPA



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)
Sources: NAMRIA and Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

Figure 2.22 Vulnerability Reduction Framework of the MIMAROPA Region, 2023-2028



Source: Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

The vulnerability reduction framework of the MIMAROPA Region made use of a multi-hazard analysis that considered five extreme hazards, such as i) steep slopes (> 30%), ii) liquefaction, iii) rain-induced landslide, iv) flooding, and v) storm surge. These hazards were mapped out to identify areas where one or more of these hazards exist and tend to overlap with one another.

Built-up areas in the region were subjected to this multi-hazard framework to identify the exposure of settlements and developments to extreme hazards. Built-up areas that were affected by one or a combination of these five identified hazards are considered high-risk areas.

In general, built-up areas in coastal regions are most likely to be exposed to higher risks, since most hazards considered are found to overlap within these areas. In MIMAROPA, built-up areas affected by extreme hazards are recorded to be at 18,726.03 hectares, or equivalent to 51.71 percent of the total built-up areas in the region.

In terms of land area, built-up areas most affected by extreme hazards were recorded in the province of Oriental Mindoro, with a total of 6,521.61 hectares or 64.48 percent of the total built-up area in the province. This may be attributed to the settlements/infrastructure in coastal areas, particularly in Puerto Galera. Built-up areas in said regions are more exposed to extreme hazards, and are therefore considered to be high-risk areas.

With relatively smaller built-up areas compared to Oriental Mindoro, 5,223.31 has of built-up areas in Occidental Mindoro are considered as high-risk areas. These areas make up 78.06 percent of the total built-up area in the province, leaving only less than a quarter as not exposed to extreme hazards.

However, hazards may still occur even in areas identified as non-high-risk, although at a lesser extent. These areas may include those that were identified to have low and/or moderate susceptibility to hazards, which does not signal or indicate life-threatening consequences for settlements in the said areas.

Table 2.7 Affected Built-up Areas by Extreme Hazards / Combination of Hazards by province, MIMAROPA

HAZARDS / COMBINATION OF HAZARDS	AFFECTED 2015 BUILT-UP AREAS (HAS)											
	MARINDUQUE	% Share	OCC. MINDORO	% Share	OR. MINDORO	% Share	ROMBLON	% Share	PALAWAN	% Share	TOTAL	% Share
Slope	5.29	0.26	4.18	0.06	25.75	0.25	26.53	1.38	19.82	0.13	83.54	0.23
Liquefaction	507.70	25.20	4083.78	61.02	5558.33	54.96	491.77	25.56	3100.62	30.66	13908.94	137.52
Rain-induced Landslide	83.42	4.14	15.28	0.23	93.61	0.93	121.83	6.33	127.20	1.26	452.95	4.48
Storm surge	0.47	0.02	2.74	0.04	3.04	0.03	1.65	0.09	8.94	0.09	17.02	0.17
Flooding	41.25	2.05	81.87	1.22	166.71	1.65	80.00	4.16	464.98	4.60	843.88	8.34
Slope + Liquefaction	0.11	0.01					0.27	0.01	0.99	0.01	1.38	0.01
Slope + Rain-induced Landslide	7.64	0.38	1.36	0.02	12.31	0.12	19.32	1.00	22.62	0.22	64.78	0.64
Slope + Flooding	0.04	0.002	0.002	0.00004			0.45	0.02	0.09	0.001	0.61	0.01
Liquefaction + Rain-induced Landslide	13.22	0.66	0.01	0.0002	0.71	0.01	13.76	0.72	2.13	0.02	31.21	0.31
Liquefaction + Storm Surge	1.44	0.07	136.93	2.05	10.67	0.11	5.49	0.29	51.01	0.50	208.05	2.06
Liquefaction + Flooding	274.66	13.63	747.36	11.17	604.08	5.97	229.47	11.93	1086.39	10.74	2984.66	29.51
Rain-induced Landslide + Storm surge	0.002	0.0001	0.0001	0.000001	0.002	0.00002	0.04	0.002	0.15	0.001	0.20	0.002
Rain-induced Landslide + Flooding	4.57	0.23	0.63	0.01	1.73	0.02	9.27	0.48	2.98	0.03	19.91	0.20
Storm surge + Flooding	0.18	0.01	6.53	0.10	4.24	0.04	6.06	0.31	4.96	0.05	22.42	0.22
Slope + Liquefaction + Rain-induced Landslide	0.25	0.01					0.10	0.01	0.02	0.0002	0.39	0.004
Slope + Liquefaction + Flooding									1.21	0.01	1.21	0.01
Slope + Rain-induced Landslide + Storm surge									0.004	0.00004	0.004	0.00004
Slope + Rain-induced Landslide + Flooding	0.20	0.01	0.001	0.00001	0.004	0.00004	0.10	0.01	0.19	0.002	0.51	0.01
Liquefaction + Rain-induced Landslide + Storm Surge	0.01	0.001					0.19	0.01			0.21	0.002
Liquefaction + Rain-induced Landslide + Flooding	5.14	0.26			0.15	0.001	5.38	0.28	0.42	0.004	11.63	0.11
Liquefaction + Storm Surge + Flooding	14.55	0.72	143.64	2.15	40.26	0.40	30.55	1.59	79.79	0.79	313.65	3.10
Rain-induced Landslide + Storm surge + Flooding							0.04	0.002	0.02	0.0002	0.06	0.001
Slope + Liquefaction + Rain-induced Landslide + Storm surge									0.02	0.0002	0.02	0.0002
Slope + Liquefaction + Rain-induced Landslide + Flooding	0.06	0.003							0.05	0.0004	0.11	0.001

HAZARDS / COMBINATION OF HAZARDS	AFFECTED 2015 BUILT-UP AREAS (HAS)											
Liquefaction + Rain-induced Landslide + Storm Surge + Flooding	0.38	0.02			0.0003	0.000003	0.21	0.01	0.03	0.0003	0.66	0.01
TOTAL AFFECTED	960.56	47.68%	5224.31	78.06%	6521.61	64.48%	1042.49	54.18%	4974.62	32.16%	18726.03	51.70%
TOTAL UNAFFECTED	1054.17	52.32%	1467.98	21.94%	3592.53	35.52%	881.72	45.82%	10495.64	67.84%	17493.60	48.30%
TOTAL BUILT-UP AREAS	2014.728833	100.00%	6692.288416	100.00%	10114.13177	100.00%	1924.209907	100.00%	15470.26848	100.00%	36219.62741	100.00%

Source: Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Note: Built up areas as of 2015

Exposure Minimization

The main strategies for vulnerability reduction include exposure minimization. Proposed development in areas that were already identified as high-risk and/or restricted shall not be allowed, especially if no appropriate engineering and/or environmental measures are set in place.

Hazard Mitigation

Settlements identified to be located in high-risk areas shall be provided with necessary mitigating measures if complete relocation is not possible. Engineering designs may be patterned to mitigate geologic and hydro-meteorological hazards. For instance, in cases with concerns about stability and sloping earth, retaining walls may be constructed. Techniques in constructing these may include soil anchors or soil nails, tiebacks, shear pins, and slurry walls. Other environmental friendly techniques such as the construction of gabions may also be considered. For streams, construction of ripraps may be recommended.

On the other hand, environmental strategies may also be put in place to mitigate hydro-meteorologic hazards such as typhoon, tropical cyclones, and flooding, among others. Mangrove plantations can be an alternative to the construction of seawalls. Such strategy is encouraged especially for areas with rich biodiversity or those designated as protected areas.

Efforts on connectivity shall also be consistent with this measure to ensure the safety of motorists and the general public. Transportation redundancy may also be an option to reduce the exposure of motorists in disaster-prone or high-risk areas. For example, in case of flood occurrence, alternate routes shall be

established specifically for areas that are no longer passable for motorists. Mitigating the effects of specific hazards, such as flooding, on identified areas is necessary to ensure the continuity of economic activities/development in the region, as well as to ensure the well-being of every MIMAROPAn.

Enhancing Adaptive Capacity

Communities in the region shall also be provided with appropriate capacity building activities such as training that will prepare and equip them during disasters and calamities. Policies and programs shall also be put in place to ensure preparedness for disasters and calamities.

PRODUCTION LAND USE FRAMEWORK

The production land use framework of the MIMAROPA Region considered a number of factors such as settlements or commercial areas, areas identified as “strategic” for production of crops, livestock and fisheries resources based on the recent delineation of Network of Protected Areas for Agriculture and Agro-Industrial Development (NPAAAD) and SAFDZ areas of the BSWM, areas with identified mineral resources, and lastly – forestlands designated as “production forest” by DENR MIMAROPA.

Strategic areas for production of crops, livestock and aquatic resources are all vital in ensuring food security in the region, whereas mineral resources are potential source of economic growth. The MIMAROPA Region is rich in mineral resources, both metallic and non-metallic. Among the metallic minerals present in the region are nickeliferous laterite, copper, gold, silver, chromite (metallurgical and refractory grades), iron, manganese, mercury,

molybdenum, lead, and zinc. Non-metallic minerals are marble, limestone, cement raw materials, silica sand, construction materials, feldspar, talc, barite,

and sulphur. Among the minerals already explored nickel, limestone, and marble have the largest deposits in the region.

PROTECTION LAND USE FRAMEWORK

The protection land use framework shall provide a guiding mechanism to determine which areas should be designated for protection and preservation. This is important in ensuring the sustainability of natural resources in the region.

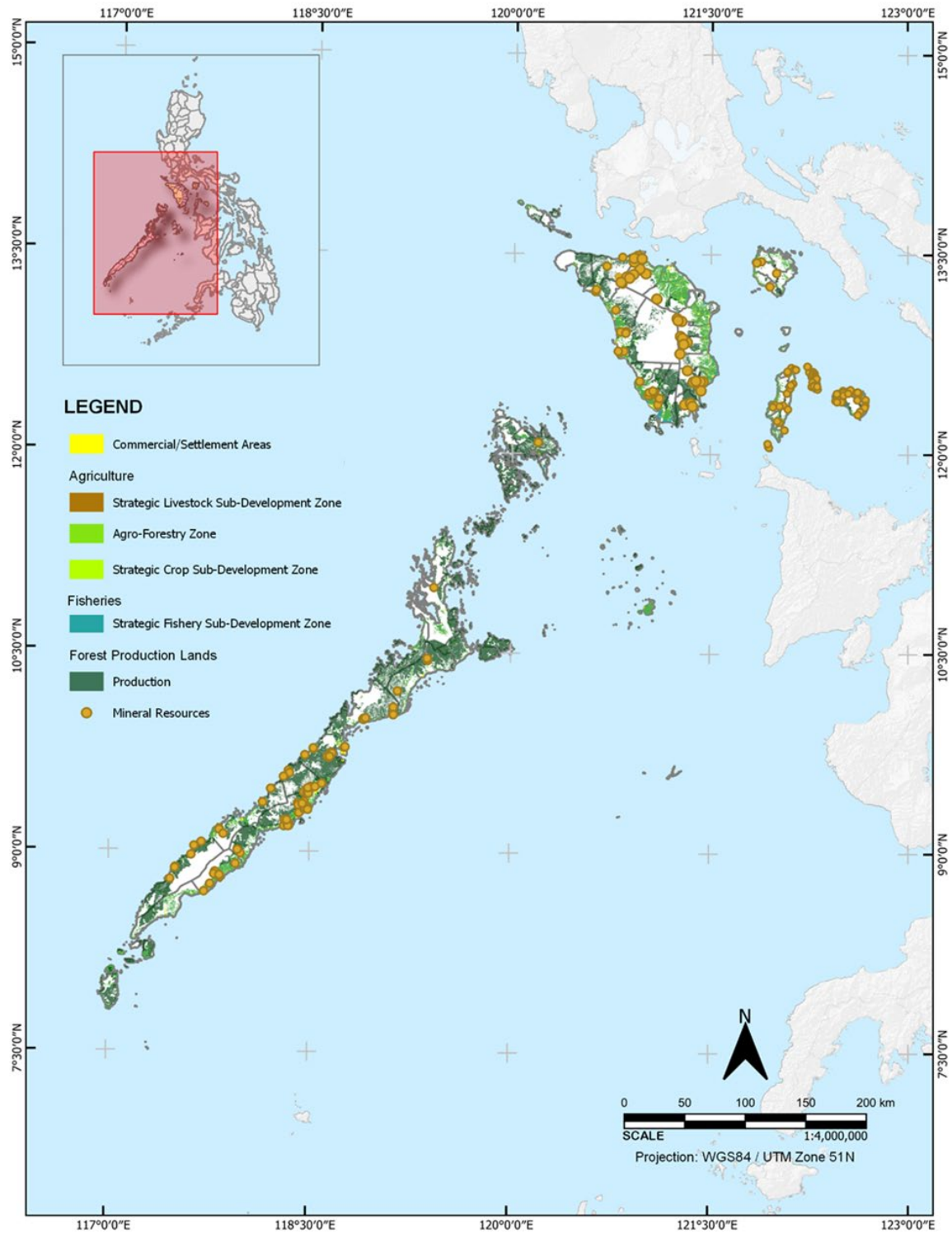
These areas include those that were enumerated in the NIPAS Act or RA 7586, s. 1992. Other areas not included in NIPAS, such as those with high ecological value, rich biodiversity, and those with cultural value or importance, are also included.

The framework also included watershed reserves, water bodies, rivers, lakes, and inland waters, which were delineated through the recent updating of the NPAAAD and SAFDZ of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management.

Road right-of-way pursuant to Republic Act No. 10752 or “An Act Facilitating the Acquisition of Right-of-Way Site or Location for National Government Infrastructure Projects” was also included in the framework. This will allow the region to effectively manage its limited resources by setting aside the areas which will eventually be utilized to further improve connectivity infrastructure projects in the region, particularly major roads.

The protection land use framework also included areas with cultural value, such as areas with issued certificate of ancestral domain titles (CADTs). These documents are issued to qualified groups of indigenous peoples (IP) whose land may only be utilized upon securing the consent of the concerned IP group through the issuance of a free, prior and informed consent or FPIC.

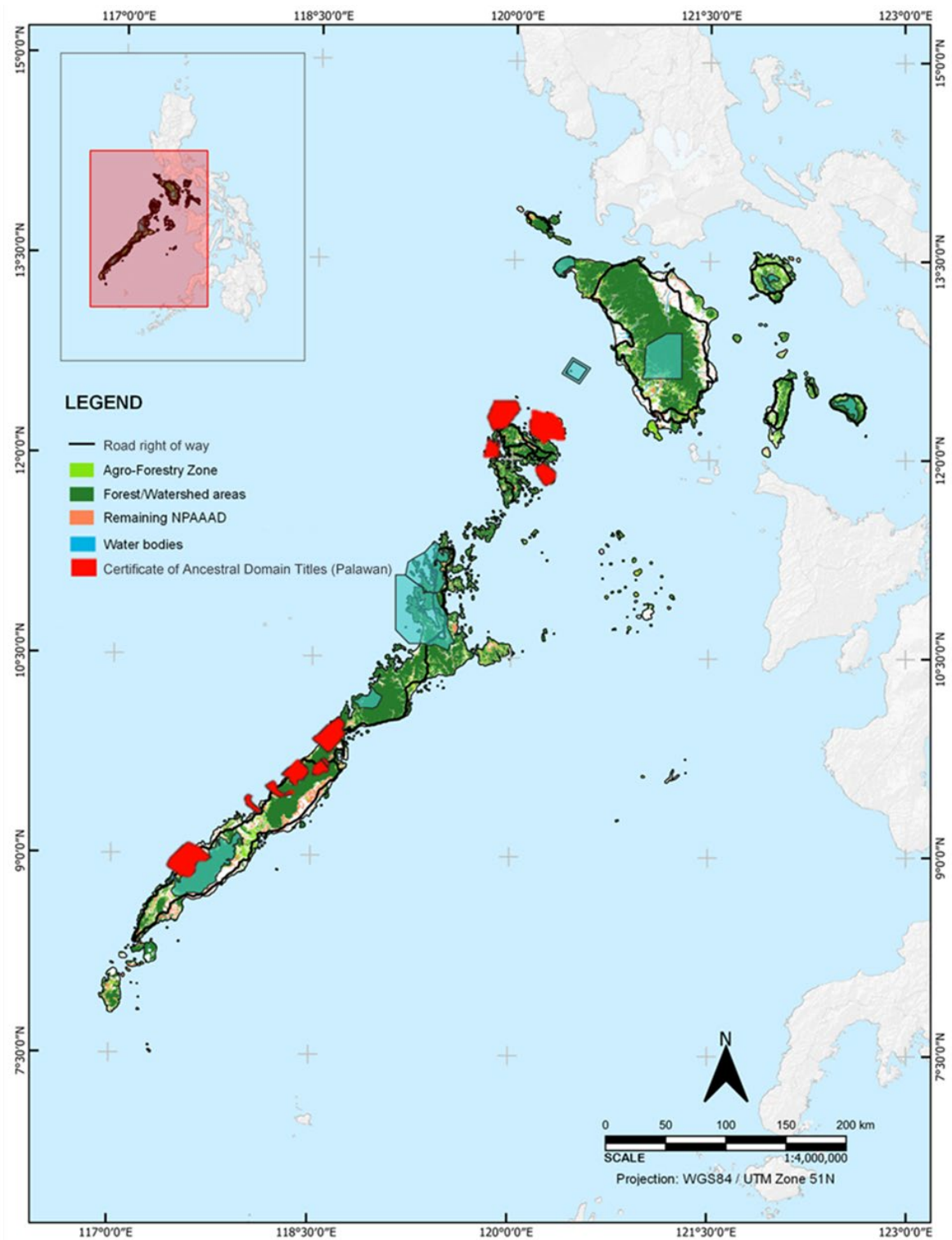
Figure 2.23 Production Land Use Map of the MIMAROPA Region, 2023-2028



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PPFD)

Source: NAMRIA, DENR MIMAROPA, BSWM

Figure 2.24 Protection Land Use Map of the MIMAROPA Region



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPDA and PMED)

Source: NAMRIA, DENR MIMAROPA, DPWH MIMAROPA, NCIP MIMAROPA, BSWM

INFRASTRUCTURE LAND USE FRAMEWORK

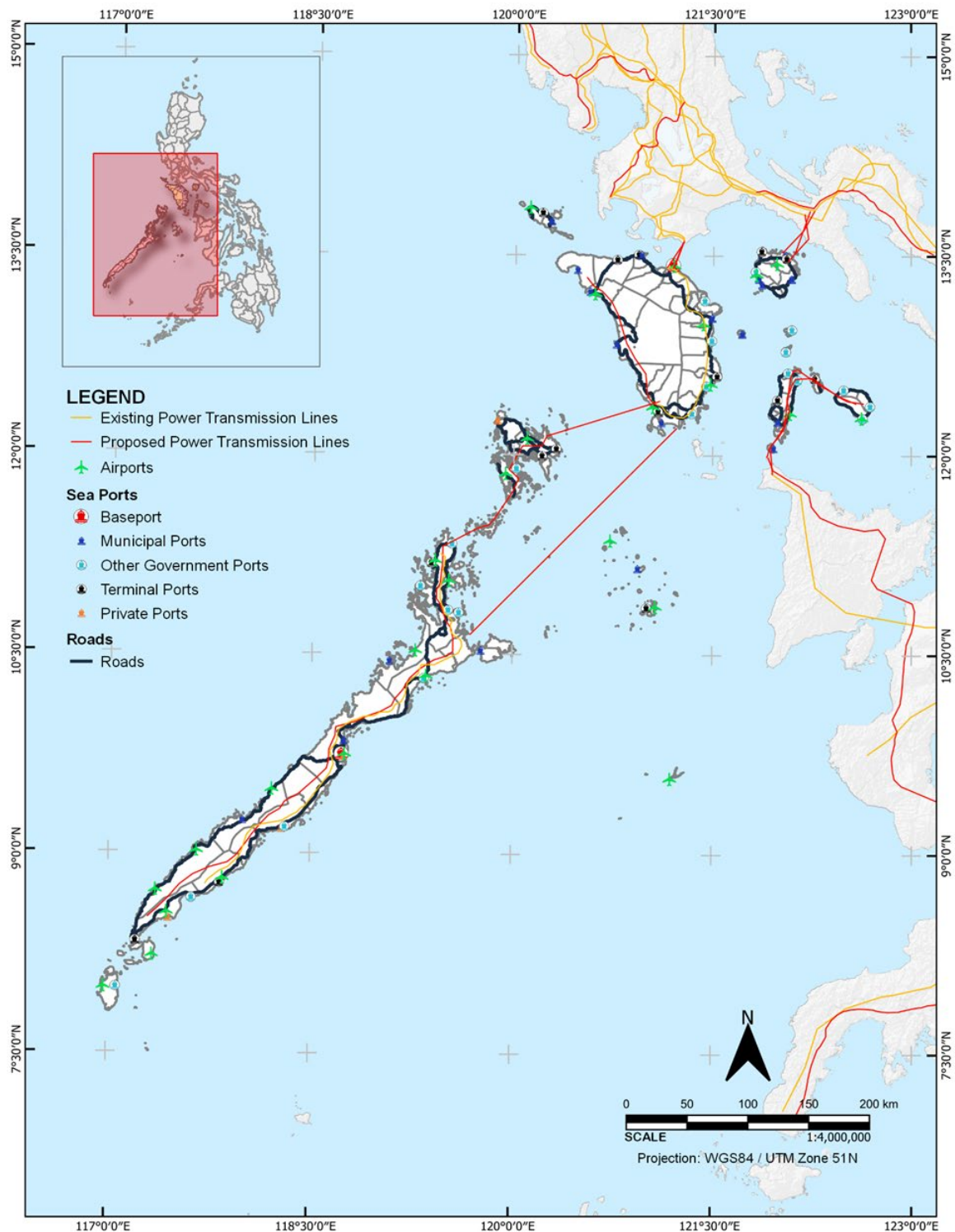
Infrastructure facilities are instrumental in boosting the connectivity and economy of the MIMAROPA region. Connectivity in transport, energy, and communication are vital in ensuring the continuity of development in regional center and sub-regional centers, thereby extending the benefits to local centers.

Major transport infrastructure include the maintenance of existing, and development of new,

airports, seaports, and roads which will link people, products and services throughout the five island provinces of the MIMAROPA region. Linking these islands outside the region is also important to continue the mobility of resources – people and goods and services – throughout the country.

Mapping out the existing and proposed power transmission lines within and outside the region is also necessary to effectively execute the plans to connect the MIMAROPA Region to the Philippine GRID.

Figure 2.25 Infrastructure Map of the MIMAROPA Region



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Source: NAMRIA, DPWH, CAAP, MARINA Regional Office IV, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines

03

Overview of the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan 2023-2028 Strategy Framework

OVERVIEW OF THE MIMAROPA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2028 STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

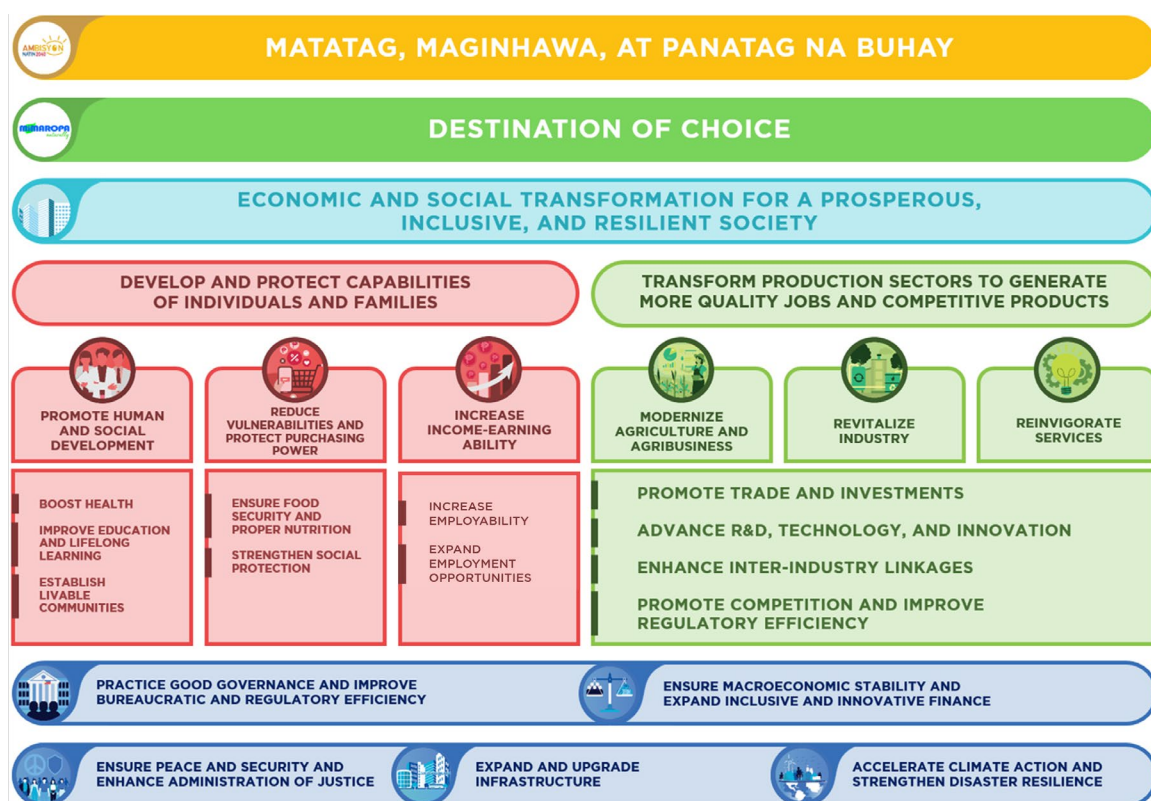
The country's long term vision also known as the Ambisyon Natin 2040, which necessitates inter-generational equity, is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)'s core principles of sustainable and inclusive development.

The MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023-2028 is the second among the four medium term development plans geared towards the Ambisyon Natin 2040. It adopted the vision statement: "MIMAROPA: The destination of choice." The region's stakeholders envision MIMAROPA as the destination of trade and investments, agri-industrial development, modern infrastructure systems, livelihood, residence, employment, adventure, rest, recreation, and retirement.

Consistent with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, the MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028 focuses on the President's 8-point socioeconomic agenda, which seeks to reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction while addressing issues brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The strategies spelled out in the MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028 will bring back the region to its original growth trajectory and more importantly, begin economic transformation for a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society (Figure 3.1). This transformation is in line with the SDGs and critical for achieving the country's long term vision of providing a "matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat."

Figure 3.1 MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028 Strategy Framework



Develop and protect capabilities of individuals and families

For individuals and families, transformation will come by way of ensuring that human and social development services on health, education, and lifelong learning, including the establishment of livable communities, will provide individuals and families with the necessary set of capabilities to be economically productive. They will also have access to training and skills development, and employment facilitation programs to ensure that their capabilities remain relevant. In addition, the government will establish an array of programs to ensure food security and proper nutrition, especially for the most vulnerable, and complemented by a holistic, modernized, and strengthened social protection system.

Boost health. Regional and local government investments in health will be prioritized. Vaccination programs will be intensified. Delivery of health services for IPs and those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) will be strengthened. To improve life expectancy, top causes of mortality and morbidity in the region will be addressed and occupational health care will be promoted. Healthy choices and behavior will be enabled by leveling up the efforts on responsible parenting and reproductive health among families. Strategic interventions to reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancies in the region will be prioritized including localization of population and development strategies. Health literacy as well as appropriate health-seeking behavior will also be promoted.

Improve education and lifelong learning. The quality of education at all levels will be improved. Education-support facilities will be upgraded including the delivery of ICT services. Higher education (HE) and TVET programs for lifelong learning will also be improved to match the industry

arrangements and ensure responsiveness to the needs of the region. Enhancement of the capacity of teaching and non-teaching staff will also be prioritized.

Establish livable communities. The living conditions of households and the quality of the environment where the communities live in will be improved. Social cohesion will also be strengthened to build resilience in the community. Settlements will be connected to economic activities and urban services. Monitoring and enforcement of air and water quality standards will be expanded and waste management strategies will be strengthened.

Ensure food security and proper nutrition. The productivity and resilience of the agri-fishery sector will be enhanced to attain a sufficient and stable supply of food commodities. Buffer stocking capacity for basic food items for emergencies and disasters shall be increased while preventing food wastage.

To expand consumers' access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food, marketing, transport, distribution, payment, and logistics systems will be improved with the use of digital platforms. Technologies will be utilized to improve food packaging and product labeling. Monitoring of price and supply of food commodities will also be strengthened.

Nutrition-specific interventions especially at the local level will be carried out to address stunting, wasting, and obesity. A whole-of-society approach shall be adopted in promoting healthy lifestyle and a culture of active health-seeking behavior among population. Food safety standards especially those associated with persistent organic pollutants (POP) and pesticides and food product certification will also be closely monitored.

Strengthen social protection. Implementation of social protection (SP) programs especially for vulnerable groups (persons with disability, pregnant women, children, IPs, migrant workers, returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), persons in GIDAs, etc.) will be strengthened. Permanent and resilient evacuation centers will be established and mental health and psychological services will be implemented. Use of technologies and innovative practices will be used to improve delivery of SP programs for faster response to the needs of the most vulnerable. Monitoring and evaluation of SP programs shall be institutionalized. Timely and adequate financing of SP programs shall also be ensured. Coordination and collaboration

with public and private stakeholders during disasters will be further strengthened.

Increase income-earning ability. Mechanisms to match HE and TVET priority programs and courses with local and regional industry requirements shall be instituted. Awareness of the PQF and Philippine Skills Framework (PSF) will also be promoted to boost the competitiveness of the workforce. Public Employment Services Offices (PESO) will be maximized to provide services on labor market information, referral and placement, employment coaching, and career counseling to ensure prompt and efficient delivery of employment facilitation programs. Interventions, programs, and policies that address all forms of labor market discrimination in work, education, and training shall be developed. Shared labor market governance will be achieved through integration of lifelong learning principles and processes into human resource development programs and active participation in government-industry associations that promote and implement employment and skills development policies and strategies.

Transform production sectors to generate more quality jobs and competitive products

For production sectors, transformation will come by way of greater support to research and development (R&D), technology development and adoption, and innovation.

Agriculture and agribusiness will be modernized, following a “farm-to-plate” value chain. Industry will be revitalized with focus on manufacturing. Services, including tourism, creative, and business processing sectors will be reinvigorated. The government will also be aggressive in promoting trade and attracting investments.

Modernize agriculture and agribusiness. Irrigation development will be accelerated and provision of agri-fishery machinery and facilities will be intensified. Integrated farming (farm diversification), urban agriculture, ecosystem approach to fisheries management, and adoption of innovative technologies will be promoted to improve efficiency in agriculture and fishery production. Access to markets and AFF-

based enterprises will be expanded by establishing trading posts, bagsakan centers, and online marketing platforms, intensifying product diversification and value adding, improving transportation and logistics, intensifying A&F consolidation and clustering, providing access to affordable financing, and developing the blue economy. To improve resilience of AFF value chains, climate and disaster-resilient technologies will be adopted. Moreover, climate and disaster risks will be integrated in AFF planning and programming. Agricultural insurance coverage will also be expanded.

Revitalize industry. Revitalizing the industry sector will be done by expanding the domestic market production and supplier base and improving the value chain. Value chain will be improved by creating a dynamic industry ecosystem where science-based industries are developed, industries are encouraged to adopt developed technology to increase productivity and workforce is upskilled and reskilled on adapted technologies. Competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) will be improved by upgrading logistics and inter-island transfers, lowering energy costs, promoting renewable energy sources, and digitalizing MSMEs. Support to industries producing for the domestic market will be also intensified. Regional agri-industrial centers will be developed and common service facilities will be established to increase yield and promote and achieve economies of scale.

Reinvigorate services. To reinvigorate services, market expansion shall be achieved and creativity and innovation in significant services growth drivers shall be strengthened. Tourism products and services will be diversified, business processing will be fast tracked, and e-commerce will be accelerated. Access of MSMEs to capital, digital technologies, and start-ups will be improved. Capability-building activities will be provided to ensure sustainable supply of a competitive, creative, and high-skilled workforce.

Advance research and development, technology, and innovation. To accelerate the growth of research and development, technology, and innovation, market-driven R&D shall be intensified. This includes increasing R&D and science, technology, and innovation (STI) expenditures aggressively, creating/improving R&D-related information/database, and increasing the number of partnerships for R&D development. Commercialization, adoption, and utilization of technology shall also be improved by providing assistance and incentives to intellectual

property application and management for R&D and technology personnel and strengthening provincial S&T offices. Innovation and entrepreneurship shall also be accelerated by increasing access to financing opportunities for R&D and innovation projects, accelerating business mentoring and scientific technical assistance, accelerating the implementation of the Philippine Innovation Act, and establishing and promoting innovation hubs and other similar collaborative platforms.

Promote trade and investments. Export sector will be strengthened through expansion of food and aquamarine export products and diversification of metallic and non-metallic export products. Investments in priority industries shall also be increased by intensifying promotion for foreign direct investments (FDI) including environment, social, and governance (ESG) investments, and boosting investments in power, energy, and connectivity infrastructures.

Enabling Environment

Ensure macroeconomic stability and expand inclusive and innovative finance. Favorable business climate characterized by macroeconomic stability and inclusive and innovative finance shall be created. To promote an inclusive, innovative, and healthy financial sector, financial innovation will be accelerated and strengthened by promoting and providing funding for innovation and startups and strengthening the delivery of products and services. Moreover, financial inclusion will be also broadened and deepened by improving the access to relevant financial services and developing barangay micro business enterprises.

Furthermore, productive, equitable, and simple tax systems as well as stable local government finance are key to ensuring sound fiscal management and improving the tax regime. These can be done by simplifying tax systems, procedures, and structures, and developing and expanding digital tax payments. Strengthening the capacity of LGUs on budgeting and expenditure management will contribute to increased revenues and implemented devolved functions.

Expand and upgrade infrastructure. Sustainable, resilient, integrated, and modern infrastructure systems are crucial to economic growth. Economic

and social infrastructures will be expanded and upgraded. Planning, programming, and asset management in infrastructure will be enhanced by employing integrated master-planning development and convergence programs and incorporating resilient and innovative solutions in infrastructure design. Seamless and inclusive connectivity will be achieved by moving people, goods, and information through modernized and smart intermodal transport systems and digital infrastructure facilities, and strengthening and improving and expanding the western nautical highway system and addressing universal mobility and connectivity needs. Public transport systems including new sea and air transport linkages will be strengthened and promoted. Water security, ecological integrity of water systems and resiliency to water hazards will be attained by upgrading and expanding water infrastructure and strengthening integrated water resources management (IWRM) implementation. Affordable, accessible, reliable, and clean energy and an enhanced support to social development will also be provided.

Ensure peace and security, and enhance administration of justice. Peace and security and the practice of good governance will be ensured. Conflict-affected/vulnerable areas shall be protected and developed by reintegrating rebel surrenderers into the community and strengthening community development programs for affected barangays. Moreover, public safety and security shall also be ensured by improving law enforcement and the operability of public safety facilities, enhancing anti-drug inter-agency cooperation and community awareness on disaster risk reduction and management.

Access to civil and criminal justice system will be enhanced by improving case disposition system and justice sector capacity. Penal management and administration will also be improved by increasing and improving jail and prison facilities, enhancing penal operability, and improving the welfare and development of persons deprived of liberty (PDL).

Practice good governance and improve bureaucratic and regulatory efficiency.

Participatory governance will be encouraged by strengthening regional and local development councils and providing capacity development to stakeholders. Public service will be strengthened by ensuring competent and resilient government employees, promoting transparent and clean governance, and improving the competitiveness of LGUs. Burden of regulation will also be reduced through streamlining of delivery of services in the public sector and strengthening compliance monitoring on Ease of Doing Business.

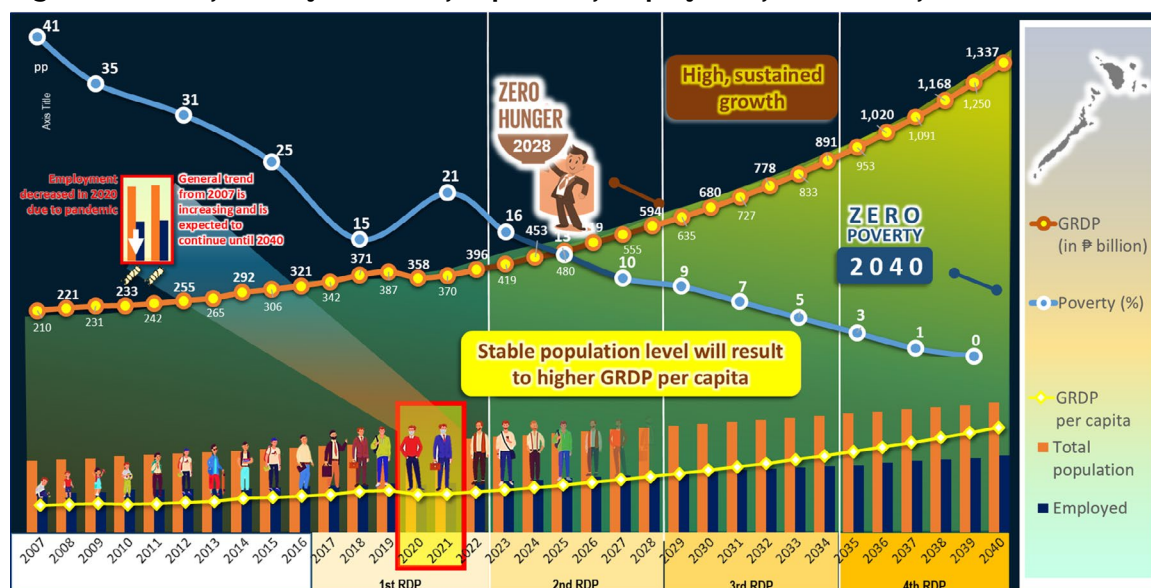
Accelerate climate action and strengthen disaster resilience.

Resilience of communities to disasters (natural and manmade) and climate change will be strengthened. The capacity of LGUs and communities on disaster prevention and preparedness will be strengthened as well as multistakeholder collaboration in building and translating knowledge to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Environment and natural resource management strategies will also be pursued to support and sustain inclusive and resilient economic growth. Protection, rehabilitation, and management of the ecosystem will be intensified. Promotion and expansion of natural resource-based industries and enterprises will also be prioritized.

Headline Targets

The following headline targets that focus on poverty reduction will guide the development agenda of the MIMAROPA Region for the next six years (Figure 3.2):

Figure 3.2 GRDP, Poverty Incidence, Population, Employment, MIMAROPA, 2007-2040



Source: Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA (PFDP)

Manage population growth, lower average household size to four persons. The region's average household size in 2020 was recorded at 4.1, which is an improvement from 2015's 4.4. By effectively localizing the Philippine population management program, MIMAROPA will attain its ideal household size of four persons per household by 2025.

Return to pre-pandemic GRDP trajectory, steadily grow by 7.0 percent annually. MIMAROPA recorded its highest GRDP in 2019 with Php386.78 billion. This, however, dropped in 2020 brought about by the unprecedented health crisis. To estimate when and how the region will be able to return to its original growth trajectory that was disrupted by the pandemic, low-end and high-end growth targets were set at 5.5 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively.

To be at par with the highest level of GRDP achieved in 2019, the region's economy must grow by at least 7.0 percent in 2022 and steadily grow by 7.0 percent annually in the succeeding years. At this rate of growth, full recovery and doubling of the GRDP is expected to be attained in 2032.

Reduce poverty to 9.0 percent. MIMAROPA recorded its lowest poverty incidence in 2018 at 15.1 percent, when the economy grew at a rate of 8.6 percent. This, however, unfavourably increased to 20.8 percent in 2021, when the economy contracted by 7.6 percent. The resulting GRDP per capita was considered in the estimation of poverty incidence targets. Regression analysis showed a significant negative linear relationship between GRDP per capita and poverty level.

Reduce unemployment to between 4.0 to 5.0 percent. Unemployment remained below 5.0 percent from 2016 to 2019. This rate, however, almost doubled in 2020 and 2021 at 7.3 percent and 8.0 percent, respectively. The easing and lifting of restrictions and other post-pandemic recovery efforts are expected to boost economic activities in the region and create an enabling environment for business, investments, and productivity.

Keep food and overall prices low and stable. For the past three years, food inflation in the region accelerated from 1.0 percent in 2019 to 4.2 percent

in 2021. Among the top contributors to the surge in overall inflation were: corn, meat, and fish. Generally, these commodities suffered from weather disturbances, high cost of inputs, and/or pests and diseases which affected its domestic production. An efficient transportation system, post-harvest handling/processing coupled with enhanced accessibility to agricultural and fisheries commodities is expected to support the achievement of low and stable food prices in the region.

Attain food self-sufficiency. With modernized agriculture and adoption of new farming technologies, agriculture and fishery productivity is expected to improve, meeting the food requirements for domestic utilization.

In order to drive the region's economy to its original growth track, key programs and projects will be implemented in the next six years. Strategic infrastructure projects will be prioritized to pursue connectivity and create agglomeration economies, coupled with improved power generation and transmission and revived agriculture and tourism sub-sectors to realize holistic regional development.

Improve quality of transport infrastructures. As of October 2021, paved national roads (secondary and tertiary) reached 99.13 percent or 2,277.80 kilometers out of 2,297.71 kilometers total in the region. This is 16.08 percentage points higher than the 83.05 percent paved roads in 2016. Transportation networks in the region such as those roads implemented through the convergence projects must continue to improve tourism and agriculture in underdeveloped areas, and connect remote towns and municipalities to production, markets, and tourists to induce trade and move economic activities.

Provide stable access to electricity. Over 80 percent of the region's electricity is still generated from oil-based power plants which makes the region highly susceptible to any changes in petroleum price. The proposed interconnection of MIMAROPA with the Luzon and Visayas power grids is envisioned to provide the region's island provinces with access to bulk generation sources from the main grid. This will also provide means to export power once the generation potentials, including renewable energy-based plants, within the island have been developed.

Table 3.1 Headline Targets, MIMAROPA, 2023-2028 (in percentage)

INDICATOR	BASELINE	ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION
	2021	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Population growth managed	1.82	1.82 (low) 1.62 (high)	1.82 (low) 1.62 (high)	1.82 (low) 1.61 (high)	1.82 (low) 1.61 (high)	1.82 (low) 1.60 (high)	1.82 (low) 1.60 (high)	PSA
GRDP (growth rates) increased	3.3	5.5 (low) 7.0 (high)	5.5 (low) 7.0 (high)	5.5 (low) 7.0 (high)	5.5 (low) 7.0 (high)	5.5 (low) 7.0 (high)	5.5 (low) 7.0 (high)	Regional Accounts of the Philippines (RAP); PSA
GRDP per capita (growth rates) increased	2.1	1.2 (low) 2.8 (high)	3.6 (low) 5.3 (high)	3.6 (low) 5.3 (high)	3.6 (low) 5.3 (high)	3.6 (low) 5.3 (high)	3.6 (low) 5.3 (high)	Regional Accounts of the Philippines; PSA
Poverty incidence (% of population) reduced	20.8	16.9 (low) 15.8 (high)	-	13.4 (low) 11.5 (high)	-	11.2 (low) 8.9 (high)	-	Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES); PSA
Unemployment rate decreased	8	7.37 (low) 6.87 (high)	6.80 (low) 6.30 (high)	6.23 (low) 5.73 (high)	5.66 (low) 5.16 (high)	5.08 (low) 4.58 (high)	4.51 (low) 4.01 (high)	Labor Force Survey (LFS); PSA
Inflation rate eased	4.5	4.5 (low) 2.5 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	PSA
Low and stable food inflation achieved	4.2	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	4.0 (low) 2.0 (high)	PSA
100% Rice self-sufficiency achieved/ surpassed	180.27	180.00 (low) 184.78 (high)	184.79 (low) 189.40 (high)	189.50 (low) 194.13 (high)	194.14 (low) 198.99 (high)	199.10 (low) 204.00 (high)	204.01 (low) 209.05 (high)	Department of Agriculture (DA) MIMAROPA

INDICATOR	BASELINE	ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION
	2021	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
100% White corn self-sufficiency achieved/ surpassed	619.96	630.00 (low) 635.46 (high)	635.47 (low) 651.34 (high)	651.35 (low) 667.63 (high)	667.64 (low) 684.32 (high)	684.33 (low) 701.43 (high)	701.44 (low) 718.96 (high)	DA MIMAROPA
100% Pork self-sufficiency achieved/ surpassed	342.24	345.00 (low) 350.80 (high)	351.81 (low) 359.57 (high)	359.58 (low) 368.55 (high)	368.56 (low) 377.77 (high)	377.78 (low) 387.21 (high)	387.22 (low) 396.89 (high)	DA MIMAROPA
100% Tilapia self-sufficiency achieved/ surpassed	19.44	19.50 (low) 19.93 (high)	19.94 (low) 20.42 (high)	20.43 (low) 20.94 (high)	20.94 (low) 21.46 (high)	21.47 (low) 23.00 (high)	23.01 (low) 25.00 (high)	DA MIMAROPA
100% Eggplant self-sufficiency achieved/ surpassed	33.23	33.50 (low) 34.07 (high)	34.07 (low) 34.91 (high)	34.92 (low) 35.78 (high)	35.79 (low) 36.68 (high)	36.69 (low) 37.60 (high)	37.61 (low) 38.54 (high)	DA MIMAROPA
Percentage of paved national roads (secondary) increased	99.23	99.83 (low) 100.00 (high)	100.00 (low) 100.00 (high)	100.00 (low) 100.00 (high)	100.00 (low) 100.00 (high)	100.00 (low) 100.00 (high)	100.00 (low) 100.00 (high)	Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
Households with access to electricity increased	93.6	94.66 (low) 97.99 (high)	95.19 (low) 98.21 (high)	95.72 (low) 99.02 (high)	96.25 (low) 99.54 (high)	96.78 (low) 99.54 (high)	97.31 (low) 100.00 (high)	Department of Energy (DOE)

Sources: PSA, DA MIMAROPA, DPWH MIMAROPA, DOE

Table 3.2. Headline Targets, MIMAROPA, 2023-2028 (In actual units)

INDICATOR	BASELINE (2021)	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION
			2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Population growth managed	3,297,242	No. of individuals	3,411,303 (low) 3,398,584 (high)	3,473,561 (low) 3,453,794 (high)	3,536,780 (low) 3,509,401 (high)	3,601,150 (low) 3,565,903 (high)	3,666,691 (low) 3,622,958 (high)	3,733,610 (low) 3,681,086 (high)	PSA
GRDP (in '000) increased	369,712,025	Pesos	411,498,727 (low) 423,283,297 (high)	434,131,157 (low) 452,913,128 (high)	458,008,370 (low) 484,617,047 (high)	483,198,831 (low) 518,540,241 (high)	509,774,766 (low) 554,838,057 (high)	537,812,378 (low) 593,676,721 (high)	Regional Accounts of the Philippines (RAP); PSA
GRDP per capita increased	115,096	Pesos	120,628 (low) 124,547 (high)	124,982 (low) 131,135 (high)	129,499 (low) 138,091 (high)	134,179 (low) 145,416 (high)	139,029 (low) 153,145 (high)	144,046 (low) 161,278 (high)	Regional Accounts of the Philippines (RAP); PSA
Poverty incidence (% of population) reduced	667,900	No. of individuals	574,361 (low) 538,986 (high)	-	470,260 (low) 406,730 (high)	-	405,771 (low) 326,336 (high)		Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES); PSA
100% Rice self-sufficiency achieved/surpassed	1,225,283.21	Metric tons	1,293,403.31	1,358,073.48	1,425,977.15	1,497,276.01	1,572,139.81	1,650,746.80	DA MIMAROPA
100% White corn self-sufficiency achieved/surpassed	12,089.43	Metric tons	12,393.40	13,384.87	14,455.66	15,612.11	16,861.08	18,209.97	DA MIMAROPA
100% Pork self-sufficiency achieved/surpassed	91,710.58	Metric tons	94,487.72	96,849.91	99,271.16	101,752.94	104,296.76	106,904.18	DA MIMAROPA
100% Tilapia self-sufficiency achieved/surpassed	983.09	Metric tons	1,500.94	1,651.03	1,816.13	1,997.74	2,197.51	2,417.49	DA MIMAROPA
100% Eggplant self-sufficiency achieved/surpassed	5,476.40	Metric tons	5,922.36	6,070.42	6,222.18	6,377.73	6,537.17	6,700.60	DA MIMAROPA
Percentage of paved national roads (secondary) increased	2,280.02	Kilometers	2,293.80 (low) 2,297.71 (high)	2,297.71 (low) 2,297.71 (high)	2,297.71 (low) 2,297.71 (high)	2,297.71 (low) 2,297.71 (high)	2,297.71 (low) 2,297.71 (high)	2,297.71 (low) 2,297.71 (high)	DPWH MIMAROPA
Households with access to electricity increased	771,555	No. of households	807,285 (low) 827,300 (high)	826,621 (low) 846,092 (high)	846,351 (low) 861,646 (high)	866,527 (low) 882,739 (high)	887,156 (low) 901,573 (high)	908,294 (low) 920,272 (high)	DOE

Sources: PSA, DA MIMAROPA, DPWH MIMAROPA, DOE

PART II

Develop and Protect Capabilities of Individuals and Families

04

**Promote Human and
Social Development**



PROMOTE HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Human capital and social development require not only empowering the citizens that make the economy alive but also creating an environment where human beings can learn and apply their knowledge, skills, and competencies. In order to achieve a vibrant economically functioning society, quality health care services should be made available and affordable, quality education must be accessible, and citizens are equipped with knowledge and skills to earn and generate income.

It is crucial to examine the current social demographic condition of the region and monitor the progress of various social development plans, policies, and programs to ensure achievement of the social development goals.

This chapter assesses the social and demographic milieu and discusses the strategies to be pursued to ensure that all citizens of MIMAROPA, especially those in the disadvantaged sector, shall have long, healthy, and productive lives and are capable to engage in lifelong learning, and thus realize their income-earning potentials.

Sub-Chapter 4.1 Boost Health

By 2028, MIMAROPAns shall enjoy longer and healthier lives, because they live in communities, workplaces, and schools that better support their well-being; they are guided to make healthy choices; and they are assured access, with financial protection, to quality health services when needed.

Assessment and Challenges

Numerous gaps in the health sector surfaced during the pandemic. Households, schools, work places, and business establishments were not ready to address the shocks brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no epidemiology and surveillance functions at the local level. Lack of testing capacity and poor data availability were highlighted. Capacities of primary health care facilities are limited and this resulted to the congestion of hospitals. There are barangays in the region that still have no primary health care facilities, such as rural health units or barangay health stations. Of the 1,459 barangay health stations (BHSs) in the region, 1,250 were established as of year 2020. BHSs are the primary health care facilities that can deliver essential health and nutrition services to pregnant and lactating women, infants, and pre-school children.

Further, issues on human resources for health were aggravated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Health workers were overworked and many succumbed to the disease. One of the interventions of the government is the crafting of a bill on granting mandatory continuing benefits to public, private, and barangay health workers during the pandemic and other future public health emergencies (Senate Bill No. 2421/House Bill No. 10701, 19th Congress). Over 15,000 health workers in MIMAROPA shall benefit from this bill if passed into law.

On the other hand, national health insurance program enrolment rate was recorded at 81 percent in 2021.

Moreover, households in MIMAROPA have increasing access to basic safe water supply and basic sanitation facility over the years with rates recorded at 74.06 percent and 73.36 percent, respectively, in 2021.

Stunting is still prevalent in the region. According to the 2019 Expanded National Nutrition Survey (ENNS), 21.9 percent of children less than 2 years old are stunted. Based on the Operation Timbang results, the prevalence rate of underweight and severely underweight children increased, from 7.6 percent in 2020 to 8.03 percent in 2021. The region recorded a 15.4 prevalence rate on stunted and severely stunted children aged 0-59 months old, which is higher than that of 2020 at 14.7 percent. The province of Oriental Mindoro recorded the highest number children who are stunted and overweight in 2021. (Refer to Chapter 3.1 for more discussion on nutrition.)

The Early Childhood Care and Development in the First 1000 Days (ECCD F1K) Program is one of the government's initiatives to address wasting and stunting among children under five years old.

Heart disease tops the leading causes of mortality in the region. According to the World Bank, the life expectancy of Filipinos is 76 for females and 67 for males in 2020. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as heart disease, hypertension, and cancer, directly affect the life expectancy of MIMAROPAns in 2021. Communicable diseases (CDs), such as influenza, pneumonia, and COVID-19, are also in the top five leading causes of mortality in the same year. Meanwhile, NCDs and CDs are also causes of morbidity among MIMAROPAns.

Meanwhile, in 2022, the region's maternal mortality ratio of 70 in 100,00 live births and infant mortality rate of 12 per 1,000 live births are improving but remain a statistic to be monitored in the health and nutrition sector. Child immunization remains slow, with only 58.64 percent fully immunized children in 2021.

Health and nutrition services must reach more indigenous peoples (IP) communities. The lack of data on the health and nutrition services being accessed by the IPs remains a pressing issue to achieve inclusivity and equity. The province of Occidental Mindoro, having high malnutrition prevalence rates (MPR) based on the 2013 and 2015 ENNS, was one of the selected areas in the country that implemented ECCD F1K in 2019. Most number of malnourished children were found in the IP communities which contributed to high MPRs for the past years. Rural health workers reported difficulties in educating IP

mothers due to food preferences and cultural beliefs and practices.

Based on the results of the two-year implementation of the program in Occidental Mindoro, an improvement in the MPR was achieved through strengthening existing health and nutrition services in the community and integrated delivery of services on psychosocial stimulation, early education, and social services for pregnant women and children under two years old.

Teenage pregnancies are prevalent. In 2020, the number of teenage pregnancies in the region was recorded at 4,713 from 5,277 in 2019. Moreover, a total of 63 young mothers gave birth at age 15 and below in 2020. Palawan and Occidental Mindoro recorded the highest number of young mothers under 15 years of age with both 19 cases. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro with 16, Romblon with four, Puerto Princesa City with three, and Marinduque with two.

Further, a total of 4,670 young mothers from ages 15 to 19 gave birth in the same year. Palawan recorded the highest number of young mothers under 15-19 years of age with 1,585 cases. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro with 1,142; Occidental Mindoro with 878; Romblon with 419; Marinduque with 317; and Puerto Princesa City with 309.

Household size is at 4.1. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority's 2020 Census of Population and Housing, the region's average household size in 2020 was recorded at 4.1, which is an improvement from that in 2015 at 4.4.

The analysis of age and sex composition of MIMAROPA's population based on the 2010, 2015, and 2020 censuses. There is a decrease in the young population group age 0-14. However, this is not sufficient to significantly constrict the base of the pyramid. The young age categories make up the large proportion of the overall structure. This means that the fertility rate of the region has remained high through the years. Although, showing a downward trend on the fertility rates was observed from 1993 to 2022 (4.1 in 1993 and 1.9 in 2022). NDHS showed that the country is already below the replacement fertility level of 2.1 children per woman.

Interestingly, there are more females aged above 80 than males, which confirms the life expectancy data for both sexes. Moreover, there is 14.13 percent of children within the 0-4 age group in 2020; 12.11 percent in 2010 and 10.28 percent in 2020.

With 1.82 percent population growth rate from 2015-2020 and if this rate is sustained up to 2025, MIMAROPA should be able to attain the ideal household size at 4.0 which would result to a positive demographic transition. This would mean that interventions to lower mortality rate, fertility rate, incidences of malnutrition and adolescent pregnancy are effective and population is well-managed.

RDC has been proactively crafting and supporting health policies throughout the years. The RDC MIMAROPA, as the highest policy-making body in the region, passed seven resolutions to address various issues and concerns on health from 2017-2021.

Various issues in the health sector remain to surface at the same time that gaps are increasing. Many are still not covered by the national health insurance program. Mental health cases are increasing but the availability, affordability, and access to prevention and management of mental health cases are yet to be prioritized. Many local government units struggle in health and nutrition service delivery systems and investments on health is still low. Timeliness and availability of different health and nutrition data is still wanting, especially on IPs.

Table 4.1.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE (YEAR)		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Subchapter Outcome 1. Children and adult health improved										
Maternal mortality ratio decreased (per 100,000 live births)	2022	70	<70	<70	<70	<70	<70	<70	FHSIS	DOH
Infant mortality rate decreased (per 1,000 live births)	2022	12 {	<12	<12	<12	<12	<12	<12	FHSIS	DOH
Under-5 mortality rate decreased (per 1,000 live births)	2022	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	FHSIS	DOH
Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age decreased (%)	2021	15.40	12.8	12	11.1	10.3	9.4	8.6	ENNS, OPT results	NNC
Hospital-bed to population ratio	2021	1:1,947	1:1,474	1:1,456	1:1,096	1:1,000 ^a	1:1,000	1:1,000	Admin data	DOH
Proportion of fully immunized children	2021	58.64	95	95	95	95	95	95	NDHS, PSA, FHSIS	DOH
Skilled health personnel to population ratio:										
Doctor	2021	1:26,967	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:20,000	1:20,000 ^b	Admin data	DOH
Dentist	2021	1:35,299	1:50,000	1:50,000	1:50,000	1:50,000	1:50,000	1:50,000 ^c	Admin data	DOH
Public Health Nurse	2021	1:3,999	1:10,000	1:10,000	1:10,000	1:10,000	1:10,000	1:10,000 ^d	Admin data	DOH
Subchapter Outcome 2. Life expectancy improved										
Tuberculosis incidence decreased (per 100,000 population)	2022	554	554	decreasing*	decreasing*	decreasing*	decreasing*		Admin data	DOH
Proportion of households with access to basic safe water supply	2021	74.06	75	78	82	87	92	98	FHSIS	DOH

INDICATOR	BASELINE (YEAR)		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Proportion of household with access to basic sanitation facility	2021	73.36	75	78	82	87	92	98	FHSIS	DOH
Subchapter Outcome 3. Healthy choices and behavior enabled										
Modern contraceptive prevalence rate	2021	34.83 (2021)	69.4	71.6	73.8	76.1	78.3	80.5	FHSIS	DOH, POPCOM, PSA
Adolescent pregnancy incidence decreased	2022	4,713 (2020) 3,993 (2022)*	8% 3,614 ^a	7% 3,220	6% 2,810	5% 2,385	4% 1,942	3% 1,483	Admin data	POPCOM

Sources: DOH MIMAROPA, POPCOM MIMAROPA

Notes: *NEDA estimates based on the previous RDP targets

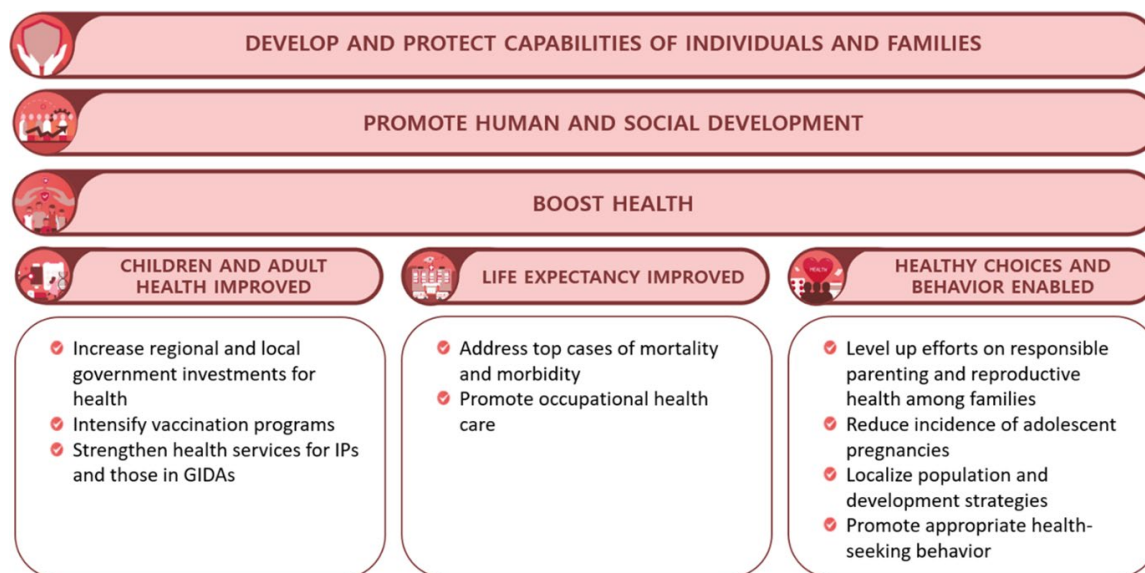
a, b, c, d Philippine standard ratios

e Based on the 2007-2040 population projection by NEDA MIMAROPA

Strategies

The strategy framework contains the key strategies to boost health in MIMAROPA. It emphasizes the need to improve health of children and adult in order to consequently lengthen life expectancy through enabling them to choose healthy practices and behavior.

Figure 4.1.1 Strategy Framework to Boost Health



Children and adult health improved

Increase regional and local government investments for health. The region should invest in the prevention and control of diseases by establishing an epidemiology and surveillance program and disease prevention, among others. Affordable and state-of-the-art health facilities and equipment should be established as well, particularly on specialized treatments (e.g., for dialysis and cancer patients). There should be rehabilitation programs for drug users and centers for geriatric patients.

Improved health provider network would be realized by upgraded government health facilities (e.g., hospitals and rural/barangay health units) through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program; additional health workers through the Human Resources for Health program and Doctor to the Barrios program; and easier referral system through the health e-referral system. Other programs of the government must be appropriately funded to

provide better delivery of health service, such as the Institutionalization of Telemedicine in All Levels of Healthcare, Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program, and the Environmental and Occupational Health Program.

The stakeholders of the health sector should pursue inter-sectoral collaboration for health; LGUs to change course of their health care system and provide adequate manpower; strengthening of local health systems and service delivery networks between local health facilities and hospitals; and provision of competitive compensation, benefits, and service protection for health workers.

The region is yet to fully implement the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, which aims to progressively realize universal health care in the country through systemic approach and clear delineation of roles of key agencies and stakeholders towards better performance in the health system; and to ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services and protected against financial risk.

The increased National Tax Allotment of local government units, pursuant to the Mandanas-Garcia ruling of the Supreme Court, should support the devolved functions of national government agencies, especially on health. LGUs are now empowered to establish better healthcare systems, which are expected to result in better delivery of health services for the public.

Accordingly, there shall be gradual and partial re-devolution of health in the LGUs in 2023, pilot implementation of financial integration and initial phase of full devolution of health in 2024, full implementation of UHC in the region by 2025, evaluation of UHC implementation in 2026, mandatory integration of UHC in all LGUs in 2027, and full adherence of LGUs to UHC integration.

An estimated amount of Php 3.7 billion for the 2023 to 2028 in MIMAROPA is proposed to fund the upgrading of Oriental Mindoro Central District Hospital, Sta. Cruz District Hospital in Occidental Mindoro, Ospital ng Palawan, and Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital (refer to Table 4.1.1). The upgrading of hospitals shall entail establishing laboratories, procurement of specialized equipment, rehabilitation and expansion of wards, and hiring of additional human resource.

Moreover, an estimated amount of Php 283 million for the 2023-2028 in Palawan and Romblon is proposed to fund the repair, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of health facilities affected by typhoon Odette (refer to Table 4.1.2).

Intensify vaccination programs. The pandemic showed the need to protect the people from infectious and contagious diseases and boost their immunity. Hence, the government's vaccination programs must be sustained and strengthened. Vaccination drives against COVID-19, tuberculosis, malaria, polio, viral infections, and other diseases should be intensified to attain better coverage and lower mortality rates. Child immunization programs should be promoted as well to combat bouts of negative media exposure in the recent years.

An estimated amount of Php 939 million for the 2023 to 2028 in MIMAROPA is proposed to fund the vaccination program. This program is already devolved to the LGUs (refer to Table 4.1.2).

Strengthen health services for IPs and those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). The region should come up with interventions to address the barriers in accessing health and nutrition services among IPs.

This may include a benchmark assessment of IPs and ethnicity data and information systems on health and nutrition to improve performance tracking among indigenous communities. For example, the Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project, with Occidental Mindoro and Romblon of the 235 target areas, provides training on culturally sensitive techniques and practices to support implementation of nutrition and essential maternal and child health interventions and services. To effectively reduce cultural constraints in the delivery of health and nutrition services, the project shall encourage the recruitment and training of IPs to become community health workers in their own communities. Programs such as this that include IPs in the implementation and monitoring should be welcomed more in the region. The project has a requirement of Php 11.57 billion; 77.70 percent of the total cost shall be loaned from the World Bank. The government, particularly the DSWD and LGUs, shall provide a counterpart funding for the rest of the cost requirement.

On the other hand, the ECCD F1K program facilitates access to health services from pregnancy to 35 months old to promote the physical growth and development of the child. There is a need to have ethnicity disaggregation to monitor service delivery to indigenous peoples. Consequently, a systematic collection of relevant health and nutrition data on IPs should be done. Training IPs to become community health workers may enhance access and acceptability of the health and nutrition interventions in the indigenous communities. All LGUs should include the ECCD-F1K in their investment programs to provide responsive caregiving, opportunities for early learning, and child's safety and security to enhance holistic development of young children.

An estimated amount of Php 2.7 million for 2023 to 2028 in MIMAROPA shall be proposed to fund the implementation of IP health strategies, pursuant to the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 2013-01, or the "Guidelines on the Delivery of Basic Health Services for Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples" (refer to Table 4.1.1). The JMC aims to set the guidelines that shall address

access, utilization, coverage, and equity issues in the provision of basic health care services.

Life expectancy improved

Address top causes of mortality and morbidity in the region. The establishment of an epidemiology and surveillance program and disease prevention is important to address CDs and NCDs in the region. Moreover, the region should establish functional healthcare provider networks and primary care provider for adequate, accessible, and well-distributed health services. There should be an increased access to functional specialty centers for heart, lung, kidney, neonatal, and cancer.

The health sector should intensify its campaign on the fight against NCDs or lifestyle-related diseases. The public should have accessible information that can be tapped by the public such as DOH call centers and public libraries. Health promotion on maternal and adolescent health, oral health program, family health, immunization, and responsible parenthood, among others, should always be present across all media.

The National Safe Motherhood Program (NSMP), which provides women access to quality healthcare for a safer pregnancy and delivery. It aims to promote the health and well-being of mothers of a Filipino family in the region should be strengthened.

An estimated amount of Php 31.5 million for the 2023 to 2028 in MIMAROPA is proposed to fund the conduct of ladderized epidemiology and surveillance training courses for disease surveillance staff of LGUs (refer to Table 4.1.2). The training includes basic epidemiology and surveillance, advance response training on surveillance, and internet and e-data management, networking and communication, and e-health systems.

Promote occupational health care. The World Health Organization defines occupational health as an area of work in public health to promote and maintain highest degree of physical, mental, and social well-being of workers in all occupations. Work places in the government and private institutions should become conducive for physical and mental health and safety at all times. Guidelines and policies on healthy practices in the work places must be in place and implemented.

The region shall consider adopting the establishment of a Regional Mental Health Council which aims to set a standard for patients' referral system, including barangay health stations to rural health units and hospitals pursuant to RA 11036 or the Mental Health Act.

Healthy choices and behavior enabled

Level up efforts on responsible parenting and reproductive health among families. To level up efforts on reproductive health among families, the local and national governments should improve access to and delivery of family planning services through the availability of contraceptive supplies and commodities in health facilities. Programs for responsible parenthood and family planning should be implemented in populous areas in the region, including and GIDAs.

An estimated amount of Php 4.1 million for the 2023 to 2028 in MIMAROPA is proposed to fund activities relative to the conduct of demand generation for Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning program (refer to Table 4.1.2).

Reduce incidence of adolescent pregnancies. The reduction in the incidence of adolescent pregnancies entails multifaceted interventions such as Adolescent Health and Development (AHD) in the Hospital; Teen Ward; Teen Center on Wheels; The Challenge Initiative; the Social Protection Program for Adolescent Mothers and their Children (SPPAMC); integration of comprehensive sex education (CSE) in school curricula; and social behavioral change communication strategies. The LGUs should also come up with activities that shall bring AHD to GIDAs and IP communities.

An estimated amount of Php 4.1 million for the 2023 to 2028 in MIMAROPA is proposed to fund activities relative to equipping adolescents, teachers, parents, service providers, Sangguniang Kabataan Officials, and other stakeholders on adolescent sexuality and reproductive health, CSE, and SPPAMC (refer to Table 4.1.2).

Localize population and development strategies. LGUs should integrate population and development strategies in their local development

plans. Local population development offices (LPDOs) shall also be established to gather, analyze, and disseminate demographic and socioeconomic data that shall serve as input to development planning and policy development.

An estimated amount of Php 5.4 million for 2023 to 2028 in MIMAROPA is proposed to fund activities relative to the establishment of POPDEV databases in LGUs, especially in the 5th and 6th class municipalities (refer to Table 4.1.2). The database is crucial for development planning and policy formulation and monitoring the LGU performance on population management.

Promote appropriate health-seeking behavior.

Government and private sector efforts must focus on strategies that improve the health and nutritional status of children and adults. The agencies concerned and local government units (LGUs) should formulate plans and policies aligned with the national/regional development plan toward the realization of the Universal Health Care Act. There shall be coordination with all health stakeholders to implement interventions such as healthy public policies; healthy communities on nutrition and environmental health; healthy eskwela on sexual, mental,

and reproductive health; and healthy workplaces.

Every individual has to be able to access and correctly apply information about health. Health literacy is key to patient empowerment, healthy behaviors, and proper care for oneself. Aside from IEC materials being disseminated in various all types of media, webinars, podcasts, or any interactive and participative activities online should be explored in order to explain better the top diseases that cause mortality and morbidity in the region. Learning sessions or focused group discussions on health issues such as NCDs and CDs should be included in the 4Ps program and other related programs and activities as well.

An estimated amount of Php 37 million for 2023 to 2028 in MIMAROPA is proposed to fund activities relative to supporting the TeleMedicine project (refer to Table 4.1.2). This includes procurement and maintenance of ICT equipment and related software for continued telemedicine implementation. The project provides for remote access and delivery of individual-based health services through the use of digital technologies for health.

Table 4.1.2 List of Major Programs and Projects to Boost Health

TITLE	PROVINCE/ CITY	INVESTMENT TARGET (P '000)						TOTAL 2023-2028 INVESTMENT TARGET (P '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Conversion of Oriental Mindoro Central District Hospital to Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital	Oriental Mindoro		267,800					267,800.00
Upgrading of Hospital/Building, Sta. Cruz District Hospital into Level I	Occidental Mindoro		300,000					300,000.00
Upgrading of Ospital ng Palawan with new service capabilities; evolve into Level 3 hospital	Palawan	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	30,000.00
Culion Sanitarium and General Hospital procurement of various equipment for pediatric, surgical, and medical departments	Palawan	523,000	463,100	517,300	633,600	473,800	494,000	3,104,800.00
Establishment of a regional hospital in all provinces	Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	120,000.00
Rehabilitation and Recover Plan for Typhoon Odette	Palawan, Puerto Princesa City, Romblon	283,102						283,102.00
Implementation of the IP Health JMC and Strategic Plan	MIMAROPA	450	450	450	450	450	450	2,700.00
Conduct Ladderized Epidemiology & Surveillance Training Courses	MIMAROPA	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,400	5,500	31,500.00
Healthy Workplace Setting in MIMAROPA Region	MIMAROPA	500	600	700	800	900	1,000	4,500.00
Gender Responsive Capacity Development Activities for Adolescents, Teachers, Parents, Service Providers, SK officials and other Stakeholders on ASRH & CSE; SPPAMC; Establishment of ISDN	MIMAROPA	528.6	581.46	639.61	703.57	773.92	851.31	4,078.47
Capacity Development and Establishment of POPDEV Databases to all Local Government Units	MIMAROPA	704.8	775.28	852.81	938.09	1,031.89	1,135.09	5,437.96
Support to TeleMedicine Project	MIMAROPA	10,000	7,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	37,000.00

Sources: Regional Development Investment Program 2023-2028 of DOH MIMAROPA and POPCOM MIMAROPA

Legislative Agenda

Table 4.1.3 Legislative Agenda to Boost Health

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Supporting passage of house bills on the amendment to the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers (RA 7305) and Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act (RA 7883)	To standardize and provide competitive remuneration to Human Resources for Health (HRH), ensure general welfare, retain talents, and attract competent HRH in public and private health facilities.	DOH, LGU
Amending Sin Tax Law (RA 10351)	To make sure that tax proceeds are used "efficiently, fairly, and effectively" for health initiatives, the government should review the procedures and rules established by the Sin Tax Reform Act of 2012 [Republic Act [RA] 10351].	DOH
Supporting passage of Trans-Fat Free Philippines Act	To recognize the right of people to safe and nutritious food, free from substances like trans fatty acids (TFA) that increase their risk of contracting deadly diseases. It shall protect Filipinos from the threat of death and diseases linked to trans-fat consumption by removing industrially produced TFA from the food supply. Passing this bill shall greatly benefit the Filipinos in living a healthy life away from the chronic diseases brought by trans fatty acids.	DOH, NNC, LGUs
Establishment of a Medical Reserve Corps	To create a pool of medical reserve due to the diverse and shifting needs of communities including those in the healthcare sector. Having medical reserves who would respond to a range of local and national emergencies, disasters and health crisis in the country	DOH and LGUs
Department of Health Specialty Centers Act	The establishment of specialty centers in select hospitals under the direct supervision and control of the DOH that shall address particular conditions and provide specific procedures and management of cases requiring specialized training and equipment	DOH
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Bill	A bill providing for a national policy preventing adolescent pregnancies, institutionalizing social protection for adolescent parents, and providing funds therefor.	DSWD, DOH
Encouraging all LGUs to adopt the RDC Resolution No. 2020-072-908	The RDC MIMAROPA, during its third quarter full council meeting held on 04 September 2020, passed a resolution encouraging all LGUs in the region to provide healthy and nutritious food packs during disasters, calamities, and public health emergencies. The LGUs should be able to adopt the policy through an ordinance or SP/SB resolution accompanied by monitoring mechanisms.	LGUs

Sub-chapter 4.2 Improve Education and Lifelong Learning

Accelerating human capital development is essential to attaining sustainable development despite the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the education sector. There are ongoing initiatives in the region to increase access to universal, high-quality education and to provide learning opportunities for all, no matter which life stage, particularly for the most underserved and disadvantaged portion of the population.

To ensure that all Filipinos realize their full potential and keep up with the anticipated socioeconomic shift, transformative lifelong learning opportunities shall be crucial in strengthening and preserving capabilities of families to be economically productive.

This sub-chapter discusses the assessments and challenges in education in the wake of the pandemic and other disasters. Strategies that shall ensure continued access to quality education in the region are also laid down here.

Assessment and Challenges

Widened learning gap due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The imposition of community quarantines and granular lockdowns during the pandemic had profound effects on all school-related undertakings. This has thrust the Department of Education (DepEd) to partner with local telecom companies to ensure educational continuity. On the other hand, schools in the GIDAs used radio stations to air the teacher's lessons. Both students and teachers have experienced some setbacks and instabilities in their daily lives as a result of community lockdowns. Classes were cancelled; final grades were assessed differently. Teachers and students were abruptly prohibited from leaving or returning home, and many had to stay in their homes under quarantine and check themselves for potential infections. Even fatalities occurred as accidents befell teachers and pupils who were returning home.

The DepEd Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) aimed to address the challenges brought by the pandemic. The BE-LCP began in SY 2020-2021 as the primary response and commitment in finding means to keep education going for the forthcoming school years while also ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of the students, teachers, and staff during the COVID-19 crisis. The LCP, which has important components on K-12 curriculum adjustments, alignment of learning materials, various delivery modalities, and

pertinent teacher and parent/guardian training for homeschooling, was developed through a series of consultations and collaborations with educational institutions and organizations. In order to adjust to the “new normal” while maintaining adherence to the principles of Sulong EduKalidad and Education Futures, changes to some rules and practices were required.

With two years of learning gap due to remote learning, the returning schoolchildren find it hard to pronounce and read words correctly or perform basic mathematical or arithmetic operations. The public-school teachers have observed significant deficiencies in reading, writing, and numeracy skills based on the preliminary assessment of the first week of face-to-face classes. Furthermore, there are several students who have difficulties expressing themselves in a face-to-face setup. With this, the DepEd has launched the “Learning Recovery and Continuity Plan (LRCP)” to improve the reading, writing, and arithmetic (3Rs) proficiency of students.

Furthermore, classes have been delayed to ensure that the learners and teachers are given time to be properly equipped in adjusting to the new learning environment. During this time both learners and teachers did not undergo the traditional face-to-face setup. As a result, the DepEd also conducted the remedial, enrichment, and advancement classes in the summer of 2020. However, the conduct of curricular and co-curricular activities involving gatherings were prohibited except those conducted online.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic placed the 258 programmed projects under Basic Education Facilities Fund (BEFF) program to a halt. These projects amounted to Php 528.22 million and covered the provision of school furniture and the construction, repair, and electrification of classrooms.

Absence of licensed guidance counselors in all public schools. The lack of licensed guidance counselors in public schools became more evident during the pandemic wherein teachers also provided mental counseling and emotional support to pupils/students and parents which are beyond the regular duties and responsibilities of the teacher.

In addition, the profession does not have career progression and most applicants prefer higher salary. These are some things to consider having reasonable amount of guidance counselors in each school. The lack of enough graduates that specialize in guidance counseling is one of the causes of the problem. Also, licensed guidance counselors usually apply in private schools because of more attractive compensation.

Senior High School Voucher Program is implemented in selected areas only. Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS VP) is a financial assistance program wherein subsidies in the form of vouchers are provided to qualified SHS learners in participating private or non-DepEd public SHSs. A total of 109 senior high schools in MIMAROPA implement SHS Voucher Program. The province of Oriental Mindoro recorded the highest number of SHSs with 38. This was followed by Occidental Mindoro with 16 SHSs. On the other hand, Palawan has 12, and both Marinduque and Romblon have 10 SHSs. In addition, Puerto Princesa City provides 12 and Calapan City with 11 SHSs.

The 109 SHSs are located in Puerto Princesa and Calapan cities and other municipalities in the region. Some schools do not implement SHS Voucher Program.

Alternative learning system graduates declined during pandemic. Numerous barriers prevent many Filipinos from enrolling in and completing formal basic education (Grades 1-6 and Years 1-4). Some students drop out, while others live in areas without public schools. Given that every Filipino has a legal right to free basic education, the government established ALS to give everyone the opportunity to access and complete basic education in a way that meets their individual requirements and circumstances.

The pandemic greatly hit basic education; thus, DepEd released Memorandum No. 67, s. 2020, titled “Guidelines on the Implementation of Alternative Learning System Programs in Light of the Basic Education-Learning Continuity Plan,” in order to ensure that education is maintained and in accordance with the most recent Omnibus Guidelines on the Imposed Community Quarantine in the Philippines. Hence, the implementation of Alternative Learning System was modified.

During the peak of COVID-19 in SY 2020-2021, there were 21,940 ALS enrollees in the region, of which 1,378 were completers (6.28%). Of the MIMAROPA provinces, Palawan had the most students enrolled during the academic year (6,003), yet only 373 of them graduated. In SY 2021-2022, there were 23,446 ALS enrollees in the region, of which 9,327 or 39.78 percent are completers. Palawan registered the highest enrollees during the academic year which totals to 6,971 with only 1,615 or 23.17 percent completers. This simply demonstrated how severely the pandemic’s impacts have affected the learning gap among students in MIMAROPA.

Support for the education sector has also come from the private sector. Organizations in the private sector. The Taw Kabui for a Child, Inc, in collaboration with DepEd, and Palawan Aid International’s Kabatangan View Schools in Palawan offered community-based schooling for individuals with disability and underprivileged IPs. The I am A Leader Foundation in Oriental Mindoro also ran initiatives to support the upkeep of educational buildings, including support for Brigada Eskwela events and the delivery of school supplies and health kits.

Enrolment in HEIs in the region steadily increased since 2017. There was an observed growth in the number of enrollees in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) compared to private sector enrolment that was recorded with a declining share.

Based on the CHED Statistical Bulletin, disciplines with high enrolment in 2021 consisted of Business Administration and related fields, Education, Science and Teacher Training, Criminal Justice Program, Information Technology, and Engineering. Programs with high enrolment include Business Administration, Secondary Education, Criminology, Information Technology, and Hospitality Management.

Number of HEI graduates decreased. Disciplines with high number of graduates in 2021 include Business Administration and related fields, Education, Science, and Teacher Training, Information Technology, and Engineering. Programs with high number of graduates were Business Administration, Information Technology, Secondary Education, Elementary Education, and BS Criminology.

On June 4, 2021, the RDC MIMAROPA endorsed the following priority courses of the region: 1) Bachelors in Secondary Education, 2) Bachelors in Elementary Education, 3) Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, 4) Bachelor of Science in Accounting Information System, 5) Bachelor of Science in Nursing, 6) Bachelor of Science in Social Work, 7) Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology, 8) Bachelor of Science in Psychology, 9) Bachelor of Arts in Communication, 10) Bachelor of Science in Development Communication, 11) Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship, 12) Bachelors in Physical Education, 13) Bachelors in Culture and Arts Education, 14) Bachelors in Technical-Vocational Education, 15) Bachelors in Special Needs Education, 16) Bachelors in Early Childhood Education, 16) Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Sciences, 17) Bachelor of Science in Midwifery, and 18) Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (majors in Financial Management, Marketing Management, Human Resources Management, Operations Management and Business Economics). Currently, courses that are being offered by most HEIs in the region include 1) Secondary Education, 2) Business Administration, 3) Elementary Education, 4) Information Technology, and 5) Criminology.

The number of HE faculty with earned master's and doctorate degree was recorded to increase until 2020 but declined in 2021. Faculty members were provided with faculty development grants, with those earning master's degree having the highest share among the approved grantees for the program in 2020. This was followed by those earning their doctorate degrees, for dissertation, and thesis.

Accreditations of HEIs were conducted to ensure quality of institutions and programs being offered. As of 2021, 63 percent of HEIs have Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC); all SUCs have programs accredited by the Accredited Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP); those with designated Centers of Excellence (COE) in the region include Teacher Education Program of Palawan State University and Fisheries Program in Western Philippines University. There are no Centers of Development (COD) yet in the region.

Sufficient development activities (CapDev) activities and learning mechanisms were provided to HEIs. Various capability development activities on developing their learning management systems (LMS) as well as policies on flexible learning mechanisms to HEIs in the region. CHED MIMAROPA facilitated the submission of SUCs Smart Campus Proposals to the DICT. All SUCs submitted their proposals which focus on campus networking, LMS, and learning information systems to address the impact of disruptions caused by external factors.

The Free Education Law or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act of 2017 (Republic Act No. 10931) aims to provide adequate funding and such other mechanisms to increase the participation rate among all socioeconomic classes in tertiary education. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Act (UNIFAST) continued the release of funds for the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES), TES-Tulong Dunong Program (TDP), and Free Higher Education (FHE).

Under the TES program, there was a total of 19,704 grantees during the first semester of SY 2020-2021 and 18,655 grantees during the second semester of the same school year. Total released funds for both semesters amounted to Php 965 million.

Under the TES-TDP, there were 3,896 grantees during the first semester of SY 2020-2021 and 2,394 grantees during the second semester of the same school year. The total released funds for both semesters amounted to Php 47 million.

Under the FHE program, there was a total of 59,037 grantees during the first semester of SY 2020-2021 and 54,962 grantees during the second semester of the same school year. Total released funds for both semesters amounted to Php 742 million.

Two state colleges were upgraded to state universities. The CHED certified the compliance of Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology (MinSCAT) with the requirements for its conversion into Mindoro State University (MinSU) by virtue of Republic Act No. 10596 on March 16, 2021, after successfully passing through a series of rigorous evaluations and assessments. The MinSU is the first state university in the province of Oriental Mindoro.

On July 30, 2021, Republic Act No. 11587 was signed into law by President Rodrigo R. Duterte. The law aims to convert the Occidental Mindoro State College located in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, into a state university to be known as the Occidental Mindoro State University. The OMSC has yet to comply with the requirements for the grant of university status.

On May 27, 2021, President Duterte signed into law RA No. 11551, an act integrating labor education in the tertiary education curriculum. All public and private HEIs shall integrate labor education as part of an elective course and hold a labor empowerment and career guidance conference, which graduating students shall attend. Labor education shall teach basic knowledge on labor rights and other skills relating to negotiation and fostering smooth interpersonal relations in the workplace.

On August 22, 2019, President Duterte signed RA No. 11396 or the “SUCs Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) Act”, wherein all SUCs are required to submit their LUDIP to the CHED and follow their development plans for all future infrastructure projects.

Some areas in research and development concerns in the region must be addressed. According to the DOST MIMAROPA, this includes the need to strengthen partnership between the academe and industry in order to develop technologies aligned to the needs of the province or region. The agency identified public HEIs to be transformed into research universities with capacity building activities to be provided and more sensible proposals produced to avail more funding opportunities. As reported in the National Expenditure Programs from 2019 to 2021, SUCs posted a slight increase in their research outputs, and researches that are utilized by the industry.

Lifelong learning promotes a broader skillset which goes beyond narrow technical skills for a particular job and includes core work skills and transversal skills that are becoming a priority for employers. It also prepares graduates to take on more challenging and demanding positions in the future.

The Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is widely recognized as a pivotal step to equip individuals with necessary skills and competencies in order for them to become more competitive and employable. Beyond employability, it also enhances the chances to gain access to relevant jobs, become more economically active and

productive and be lifted out of poverty or reduce vulnerability to income poverty.

TVET enrollees and graduates decreased in 2020 but bounced back in 2021. TVET enrolment and graduates declined across all modes of delivery except for the Monitored mode. There was also a decrease in number of enrollees and graduates under TVET scholarship programs. Sectors with high enrolment and graduates were 1) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery, 2) Automotive and Land Transportation, and 3) Tourism.

According to the 2021 TVET statistics, there is also an increasing trend of enrolment and graduates on Heating, Ventilation, Airconditioning and Refrigeration, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), AFF, and Automotive and Land Transportation. Further, the region also has 292 accredited assessment centers, 570 assessors, and 640 registered programs. There are 157 registered TVET providers with highest share from the private sector, and TTIs dominating the public TVET institutions.

Students were encouraged to register and enrol for free courses through the eTESDA or the TESDA Online Program because of the implementation of community quarantines during the COVID-19 pandemic. The eTESDA learning portal offers courses on agriculture, automotive, electronics, entrepreneurship, and heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration. Enrollees can also gain access to learning materials on human health/health care, ICT lifelong learning skills, maritime, social, community development and other activities, tourism, and TVET.

TESDA also offered scholarship programs such as the Private Education Student Financial Assistance (PESFA) for marginalized students, Special Training for Employment Program (STEP) for students who desire to acquire entrepreneurial skills or setting up their own livelihood, Rice Extension Services Program (RESP), which provides free skills training for qualified farmers, and Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) to address job skills mismatch. UAQTEA also provides inclusion of free education for TVET students including free competency assessment, allowance and toolkits. In support of the government's effort to bolster the resilience of the Philippine economy amidst the health and economic crises, the Bayanihan 2 enacted into law on 11 September 2020 appropriated funding to cover qualifications/training programs such as TWSP and STEP.

Targets

Table 4.2.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Net enrolment rate increased	2021								Admin data	
Kindergarten		66.15	78.05	82.32	86.59	90.86	95.13	99.4	99.4	DepEd
Elementary		86.21	89.47	91.38	93.28	95.19	97.09	99	99	DepEd
Secondary (Junior High School)		80.76	87.28	88.62	89.97	91.31	92.66	94	94	DepEd
Secondary (Senior High School)		50.2	67.01	70.61	74.21	77.81	81.4	85	85	DepEd
Gross enrolment rate increased	2021								Admin data	
Kindergarten		90.02	90.66	92.53	94.4	96.27	98.13	100	100	DepEd
Elementary		92.92	94.81	95.85	96.89	97.93	98.96	100	100	DepEd
Junior High School		98.37	104.01	105.21	106.4	107.6	108.8	110	110	DepEd
Senior High School		79.96	105.33	110.26	115.2	120.13	125.07	130	130	DepEd
Completion rate increased	2021								Admin data	
Elementary		90.55	92.97	93.78	94.58	95.39	96.19	97	97	DepEd
Junior High School		84.39	86.12	86.7	87.27	87.85	88.42	89	89	DepEd
Cohort survival rate increased	2021								Admin data	
Elementary		90.97	99.98	102.99	105.99	108.99	112	115	115	DepEd
Junior High School		85.02	89.51	91.01	92.51	94.01	95.5	97	97	DepEd
School leaver rate decreased	2021								Admin data	
Elementary		2.20 (2020-21)	1.75	1.6	1.45	1.3	1.15	1	1	DepEd
Junior High School		5.31 (2020-21)	4.07	3.66	3.24	2.83	2.41	2	2	DepEd
Retention rate increased	2021								Admin data	
Elementary	SY 2021- 2022	100.03	100.59	100.87	101.16	101.44	101.72	102	102	DepEd
Junior High School	SY 2021- 2022	104.47	106.05	106.84	107.63	108.42	109.21	110	110	DepEd
Teacher-pupil ratio decreased	2021	1:24	1:24	1:24	1:24	1:24	1:24	1:24	Admin data	DepEd
Teacher-student ratio decreased	2021	1:25	1:25	1:25	1:25	1:25	1:25	1:25	Admin data	DepEd
Graduation rate increased	2021								Admin data	
Elementary		98.08	98.8	99.04	99.28	99.52	99.76	100	100	DepEd
Junior High School		96.82	98.01	98.41	98.81	99.21	99.6	100	100	DepEd
Proportion of learners achieving at least "Nearly Proficient" in the National Achievement Test (NAT) (Grades 6, 10, 12)	2021								Admin data	DepEd
Elementary	SY 2017- 2018	13.18	38.61	47.09	55.57	64.05	72.52	81		DepEd

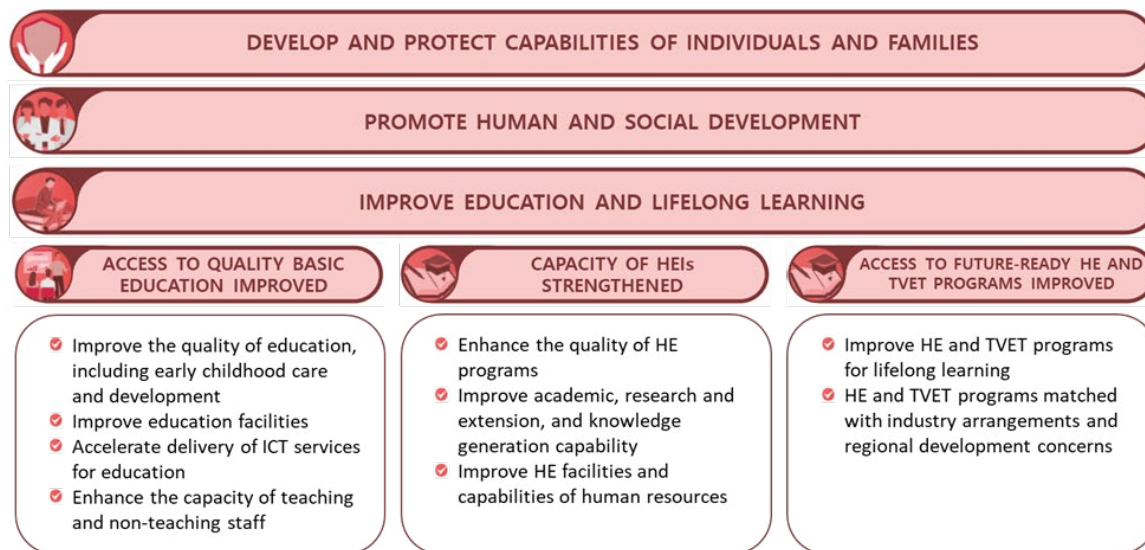
INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Junior High School	SY 2017-2018	32.54	51.46	57.77	64.08	70.39	76.69	83		DepEd
Number of higher education graduates increased	2021	5,066	5,319	5,585	5,865	6,158	6,466	6,789	CHED report	CHED
HE faculty with master's degree increased	2021	130,414	136,935	143,781	150,971	158,519	166,445	174,767	CHED report	CHED
HE faculty with doctorate degree increased	2021	1,316	1,382	1,451	1,523	1,600	1,680	1,764	CHED report	CHED
Percentage of graduate students enrolled in CHED- or RDC-identified priority programs increased	2021	97	98	99	100	100	100	100	SUCs NEP PREXC	CHED
HEIs with accredited programs increased	2021									
Certificate of Program Compliance		63%	68%	73%	78%	83%	88%	93%	CHED report	CHED
Number of TVET enrollees increased	2021	56,581	59,449	60,638	61,850	63,087	64,439	65,636	TVET statistics	TESDA
Number of TVET graduates increased	2021	54,177	53,503	54,573	55,665	56,778	57,913	59,072	TVET statistics	TESDA
Number of graduates from TESD scholarship programs increased	2021	18,327	18,760	19,135	19,518	19,908	20,306	20,712	NEP PREXC (regional data)	TESDA
Number of TESDA Technology Institutions (TTIs) graduates increased	2021	--	7,206	7,350	7,497	7,647	7,800	7,956	NEP PREXC (regional data)	TESDA
Number of TVET persons assessed	2021	21,985	23,546	24,017	24,497	24,987	25,487	25,996	TVET statistics	TESDA
Number of TVET scholarship beneficiaries increased	2021	18,327	18,760	19,135	19,518	19,908	20,306	20,712	TVET statistics	TESDA
Number of assessors increased	2021	570	74	76	77	79	81	82	TVET statistics	TESDA
Number of registered programs increased	2021	640	126	129	132	134	137	140	TVET statistics	TESDA

Sources: DepEd MIMAROPA, CHED MIMAROPA, and TESDA MIMAROPA

Strategies

Towards the ultimate goal of ensuring transformative lifelong learning for all, several areas must be addressed not only by the government but, more importantly, also by the private sector and other stakeholders.

Figure 4.2.1 Strategy Framework to Improve Education and Lifelong Learning



Access to quality basic education improved

Improve the quality of education, including early childhood care and development. Early childhood is the most formative and crucial stage of a person's growth and development (see Chapter 4.1). For children who are enrolled in a day care center, it is important to continuously provide them with supplementary feeding. A set of meal plan that is common across the day care centers within the city/ municipality should be implemented. Likewise, LGUs should provide budget for day care facilities (learning materials, storage units, and other cognitive displays).

Pupil's vocabulary should be increased to thousands of words which include nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Basic grammatical principles should be taught as well until more complex rules are mastered. Further, mathematical relationships, degrees, and comparisons employing numbers and symbols should be taken beyond the sphere of arithmetic and the four operations. It is crucial to improve reading, writing, and arithmetic (3Rs) proficiency of learners

particularly in Grades 4 to 6 or the upper primary years when pupils should be progressing beyond the literacy and numeracy skills.

The most disadvantaged students have been disproportionately impacted by the disruption to education systems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has the potential to have dramatic and long-lasting effects. To close learning gaps and provide seamless, uninterrupted educational routes for all students, it is necessary that the government provides tutorial and remedial classes. Some of the medium- and long-term solutions are to address the lack of classrooms and review the possibility of institutionalizing blended learning modalities.

Strengthening the early childhood education shall get every Filipino child to be future ready. Through the Universal Kindergarten under the K to 12 program, Filipino children now have access to the early childhood education. Starting at the age of 5, children start to attend schooling and give them the means to slowly adjust to formal education. According to research, children who underwent Kindergarten have better completion rates than those who did not. Kindergarten students learn alphabet, numbers,

shapes, and colors through games, songs, and dances, in their Mother Tongue. The Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) is the government's banner program for education as a salient part of the implementation of K to 12 Basic Education program, which starts from Kinder and ends at least Grade 3.

Day care centers play a vital role in the development of children's well-being. To ensure effective and efficient delivery of day care services, day care centers and workers are being assessed and accredited. In 2021, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported 352 assessed and accredited daycare centers and workers from 224 in 2016. This surpassed the targets from 2020 to 2022. Hence, the region needs to expand these services also to the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas in the region. It is necessary to add more day care centers and provincial accreditors to widen the coverage of quality education and early childhood development.

To address the nutritional needs of students to ensure physical and mental capacity to complete study, the Department of Education (DepEd), through the Bureau of Learners Support Services—School Health Division (BLSS—SHD), must continue to implement the School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP). Studies have shown that malnourished children have poor academic performance. If only to reap the full benefits of education, health and education should ideally work in tandem.

Improve education facilities. Related to addressing learning gaps, the region should pursue the Expanded School Building Program to cover more GIDAs. And as the region is often hit by typhoons, it needs to quickly report and assess the damages and rehabilitate education facilities and bring back the school building to its original or previous condition especially because school facilities serve as temporary shelter for evacuees during a disaster. Super Typhoon Odette, for example, brought torrential rains, violent winds, landslides, and storm surges in the provinces of Palawan in 2021. The total cost of estimated damages under the education sector reached Php 694.24 million. A total of 1,493 classrooms were damaged. There were 172 classrooms that were totally damaged and 1,321 classrooms that were partially damaged and needed major repair. The city of Puerto Princesa, municipalities of Roxas, San Vicente, Linacapan, Magsaysay, Agutaya, Kalayaan,

and Cagayancillo were most hit, and many schools needed to be repaired (Refer to Chapter 13 for further details on improving educational facilities).

While it is necessary to improve the infrastructure facilities, it is equally important to ensure the wellness of the pupils. This can be done by implementing the following activities: a) feeding program for pre-school and grade school children; and b) conduct of orientation on Comprehensive Sexual Education and Violence Against Women and Children among pupils in the hope to prevent sexual abuse at home.

Accelerate delivery of ICT services for education. During the height of the pandemic, the education sector was compelled to implement a blended learning strategy to ensure that pupils and students shall experience continuous learning despite series of lockdowns. Given the situation, it is crucial to provide ICT equipment to all teaching personnel toward the institutionalization of blended learning scheme. It is ideal that DICT's programs continue to provide connectivity programs that prioritize learners in GIDAs, academic institutions, and government offices. Programs such as scholarships and specialized ICT trainings would also help deliver learning and teaching opportunities, all supported by a fully functioning and reliable national broadband service.

The DepEd proposed the provision of learning equipment and computers such as desktops, notebooks, and laptops, including the cost of electricity amounting to Php 1.589 million in the seven division schools of MIMAROPA. This aims to provide powerful and modern devices that learners can use for advanced learning and to ensure the effectiveness of the teaching and learning of science, mathematics, and tech-voc literacy.

Enhance the capacity of teaching and non-teaching staff. Improving the capacity of the teaching and non-teaching workforce is vital in the delivery of quality education. Education stakeholders would benefit from programs and capacity-building interventions on open educational resources (OER), gamification of learning, and other new pedagogical practices that enhance the competencies of teachers. Pre- and in-service training of teachers shall be revisited to ensure that capacity-building programs are up-to-date, agile, and responsive to emerging skills and other needs. The Excellence in Teacher Education Act (RA 11713) shall be fully implemented.

This law strengthens the Teacher Education Council, establishes scholarship for students in the teacher education program, and institutionalizes the National Educators' Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) as provider of quality professional development programs for in-service teachers, school leaders, and other teaching-related personnel in all public and private basic education institutions.

DepEd Order No. 32, s. 2011, provides policies and guidelines to capacitate DepEd personnel and staff. Given the pandemic, however, many of the teachers and non-teaching staff were not prepared to the blended modalities in teaching and online enrolment and registration. The government needs to provide Professional Development and Capacity Building Program for Teachers and Non-Teaching Staff to ensure effective and efficient transition to blended learning.

An estimated amount of Php 161 million for the 2023 to 2028 in MIMAROPA was proposed to fund the continuing professional development of the teaching and non-teaching personnel in the seven division offices in the five provinces and two cities of the region.

Capacity of HEIs strengthened to become globally competitive and locally responsive

Enhance quality of HE programs. Academic programs of HEIs in the region must be constantly monitored and evaluated in order to become more relevant and responsive to the needs and opportunities in the region and industries. Thus, HEIs and their programs shall be aligned with international standards which can be assured through accreditation (i.e., COPC, AACUP, COE, COD). Stakeholders in the region shall be tapped to participate in the identification or enhancement of program offerings and in curriculum development. HEIs shall also forge partnerships with the Philippine Regulations Commission (PRC) in order to enhance their programs and capabilities as institutions. According to a 2021 PIDS study, more granular indicators of HEI performance must be developed and regularly published to guide households on whether to pursue HE, and which HEIs or programs to enrol based on timely and accurate information on schools and programs.

Improve academic, research, and extension and knowledge generation capability. Outputs in higher education shall be delivered efficiently and effectively in areas of academic, research, and extension. HEIs shall be encouraged to form joint researches among other HEIs for both basic and applied research and program offerings for resource and knowledge complementation. Strengths and specialties of SUCs in the region shall also be capitalized (e.g., agriculture and fisheries for MinSU, OMSC, MSC, and RSU; health and teacher education for PSU; environmental protection and green technology for WPU). Research productivity shall also be enhanced through crafting of sensible proposals and scaled up through government and industry research funding.

Improvement of innovation in universities and colleges shall also be promoted in terms of R&D, idea commercialization, product development, formulation of intellectual property policies, and knowledge and technology transfer (refer to Chapter 10 for further details on proposed strategies for R&D).

Grants-in-aid programs shall also be strengthened to enhance the capacity of research fellows to push through with basic and applied research across disciplines from offered programs in the region.

Improve HE facilities and capabilities of human resources. Enhancement of education services shall be coupled with improvement of facilities in education institutions. LUDIPs of SUCs need to be fully implemented to address infrastructure needs and upgrading. A total of 151 LUDIP projects amounting to Php 14.6 billion was submitted to the Public Investment Program Online System (PIPOL) in 2022. An allocation of 100 to 150 million pesos per SUC annually shall be sufficient to implement projects under the LUDIP. This shall also be supported with an inventory of all infrastructures and real estate assets.

HEIs are still encouraged to push for flexible learning which would require institutions to be connected through ICT infrastructure. DICT shall be tapped to bridge all HEIs and enable SUCs main campuses and satellite campuses to be connected.

To contribute to the quality of HE programs, human resources of HEIs shall also be improved through upgrading of qualifications and capabilities. The Faculty Development

Program shall be expanded and strengthened simultaneous to capacity development activities for non-teaching staff.

Access to future-ready HE and TVET programs improved

Improve HE and TVET programs for lifelong learning. In some cases, HE and TVET graduates and workers choose to change their fields and develop new skills. The establishment of institutions on future skills or adult learning shall encourage reskilling and upskilling to enable workers and job seekers to benefit from emerging opportunities. These institutions shall also provide research, training, and accreditation for adult education.

Improving the quality and relevance of TVET also requires TVET teachers to improve their professional skills and competencies to apply new teaching and learning methods while maintaining high level of knowledge and skills.

TESDA shall provide more support to enterprise-based trainings (EBTs) as specialized skills are produced with quality in these institutions. Competency-based trainings (CBTs) shall be continuously strengthened since there is an increasing number of enrollees recorded in this type of institution.

Agri-entrepreneurship must also be integrated in TVET course offerings in the region because there was an observed large share of enrollees and graduates coming from the AFF sector. This shall improve trainees' entrepreneurial skills which in turn shall land them on more profitable avenues. These programs shall complement those that cater to tourism and hospitality industries.

HE and TVET programs matched with industry arrangements and regional development concerns.

The HE and TVET programs being provided by HEIs and TVIs need to be at par with international and domestic industry needs and regional and local development concerns (refer to Chapter 6 for further details on employability).

There is a need to improve the labor market information system covering all sectors at the regional and provincial level. Skills gap shall be evaluated and acquired skills validated by TVIs in order to regularly track the progress and identify the needs of prospect and current enrollees and graduates.

A tri-focalized system of education shall also be established for pathway harmonization to guide students and workers to accurately align their needs and decide for more appropriate paths. The regional group shall also be included in the implementation of the PQF. An integration or sharing of databases of graduates from DepEd to TESDA to HEs shall facilitate the different pathways of the education sectors.

The linkage between and among the academe, governance institutions, and industries shall be continuously enhanced to satisfy the demand-driven needs and conform with international and local standards and technology.

Strengthen government-industry-academe linkage. Government agencies should continue partnerships with higher education institutions (HEIs) in hosting programs, activities, and conduct of programs and projects relative to R&D and technology development. HEIs may also be tapped by government agencies in providing technical assistance and source of knowledge relative to R&D and developed technologies. The RRDIC shall continue to function to promote the regions' priority R&D agenda and guide in fostering innovation.

Table 4.2.2 List of Major Programs and Projects to Improve Education and Lifelong Learning

TITLE	PROVINCE/ CITY	INVESTMENT TARGET (P '000)						TOTAL 2023-2028 INVESTMENT TARGET (P '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
School Based Feeding Program (SBFP)	Regionwide	276,771	290,609	302,234	314,323	323,753	333,465	1,841
Last Mile School	All Provinces and Puerto Princesa City	1,826	1,826	1,826	1,826	1,826	1,826	10,956
Indigenous Peoples Education (IPEd) Program	Occ. Mindoro Or. Mindoro Palawan Puerto Princesa City Romblon	4,299	4,299	4,499	4,499	4,799	4,799	27,198
Alternative Learning System (ALS) Program	Regionwide	7,050	7,050	7,050	7,500	7,500	8,000	44,150
Madrasah Education Program	Palawan and Puerto Princesa City	8,614	10,376	10,376	10,800	10,800	11,300	62,266
Monitoring and Evaluation of Programs and Higher Education Institutions	Regionwide	820	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,600	7,820
Institutional Monitoring and Evaluation	Regionwide		500	600	700	800	900	3,400
Technical Education and Skills Development Policy Program	Regionwide	2,628	2,759	2,897	3,042	3,194	3,354	17,875
Technical Education and Skills Development Regulatory Program	Regionwide	1,432	1,503	1,578	1,657	1,740	1,827	9,740
Technical Education and Skills Development Services Program	Regionwide	645,462	647,401	392,468	399,962	385,920	388,685	2,859,900

Sources: *Regional Development Investment Program 2023-2028 of DepEd MIMAROPA, CHED MIMAROPA, and TESDA MIMAROPA*

Legislative Agenda

Table 4.2.3 Legislative Agenda to Improve Education and Lifelong Learning

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Magna Carta of Daycare Workers	The bill aims to increase the benefits and allowances being received by daycare workers to improve their social and economic welfare. Daycare workers play an important role because they provide preschool education and social development services to children which are crucial in child development.	Congress, DSWD, LGUs
Support the Congressional Review of the K-to-12 program and the Second Congressional Commission on Education	The congressional review of the K-12 program shall aim to, among other objectives, improve the employability of graduates, their critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, and their capacity to be productive and engaged citizens of the nation. Meanwhile, Republic Act No. 11899 lapsed into law in 2022 and it created the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II); it shall conduct a national review of the country's education sector after the COVID-19 pandemic exacted a heavy toll on learning.	DepEd, Congress
Expansion of the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) to Elementary Level	The measure aims to extend the current government assistance for high school students and teachers in private education to include students in private schools from kindergarten through grade six in recognition of the complementary role of private schools in providing basic education to Filipino learners. Additionally, it is suggested that the Teacher Salary Subsidy (TSS) be extended to include elementary school teachers working in private institutions.	
Revised Higher Education Act of 2022 (Amendment of RA 7722)	The proposed amendment seeks to strengthen CHED by creating necessary offices that shall enable it to meet the added mandates (cover sports development, supervision and regulation of higher education programs offered by LUCs, developing common standards in accrediting agencies, internationalization of higher education institutions, establishment of national registry for academic information and mobility, and strengthening quality assurance).	CHED
Lifelong Learning Development Framework (LLDF) Act	The proposed development shall describe and set standards for the development of action components and desirable success measures for the promotion and implementation of lifelong learning in cities, municipalities, and lifelong educational institutions.	DepEd, CHED, TESDA, DOLE, PRC, LGUs

Sub-chapter 4.3 Establish Livable Communities

As mandated by the 1987 Constitution, urban land reform and housing shall be undertaken to make affordable and decent housing and basic services available to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas. Security of tenure, availability of services, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy shall constitute adequate housing as per the Advisory on the Right to Adequate housing and Humane Treatment of Informal Settlers issued by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines.

It was also stated in the National Urban Development and Housing Framework that the housing component does not solely stand to achieve the favorable living conditions of a household. Rather, it serves as an entry point through which integration of settlements and urban systems can occur.

The environment and natural resources sector plays a vital role in regional development as it provides various ecosystem services that support the growth of agriculture, fisheries, industry, and services sectors. Nonetheless, this chapter presents the region's efforts to improve the quality and maintenance of water, air quality, expand forest cover, enhance biodiversity conservation, and upgrade waste management practices to establish livable communities and promote human capital and social development of MIMAROPAns.

Assessment and Challenges

Generally, the quality of the environment and natural resources of the region showed mixed performance based on the assessment of the previous regional development plan. Slight improvements in environmental quality have been noted while environmental compliance in terms of air, water, and solid waste management still needs to be improved.

Air quality maintained within ambient air quality guidelines. Over the past years, the recorded air quality of the two monitored cities (Puerto Princesa City and Calapan City) from 2017-2021 was consistently within the standard air quality guidelines ([Particulate Matter] 2.5: 50 micrograms per Normal cubic meters (ug/Nm³) for average 24-hour short-term monitoring and 25 ug/Nm³ for average one-year long-term monitoring). The monitoring station in Calapan City includes samplers that measures PM₁₀ and Total Suspended Particulates (TSP), while the Puerto Princesa City monitoring network measures (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}).

There are three sources of particulate matter in the region. These are the mobile, stationary, and area sources. Most of the emission on this particular

parameter come from power plants. The EMB usually monitors the said parameter through the submission of emission test reports and ambient air quality monitoring reports.

Ambient air quality monitoring is also conducted during Multi-partite Monitoring Team (MMT) activities spearheaded by the MGB and EMB. Sampling stations are strategically identified using scientifically-based siting criteria procedures. Air Quality Sampling equipment such as Hi-volume samplers are used to collect samples for Total Suspended Particulates (TSP), Particulate Matter for 10 microns / 2.5 microns (PM₁₀/PM_{2.5}).

Per RA 8749 of the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, all potential sources of air pollution must comply with the provisions of the law wherein all emissions must be within the air quality standards. For a well-represented air quality data in the region, upgrading/installation of additional monitoring systems and stations in capital towns in the region namely, Boac, Marinduque, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, and Romblon, Romblon to monitor air quality are needed.

Water quality remains a big challenge in the region. From 2017-2021 the priority water bodies being monitored such as the: 1) Calapan River; 2) Madugo River, and Pinamalayan River in Oriental

Mindoro 4) Tagburos River in Puerto Princesa failed to achieve the standard water quality particularly in terms of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), dissolved oxygen (DO), phosphate (PO₄), and fecal coliform (FC). Majority of these priority rivers are considered catchment basin of wastewater from commercial and residential establishments wherein high volume of solid waste, plant materials, and other floating materials in rivers increases the BOD levels. The increasing population and urbanization may also lead to generation of more wastewater from domestic, agriculture, and livestock sources which could potentially worsen water quality.

In 2021, another water quality management area (WQMA) was designated in the region, which is the El Nido-Bacuit Bays. WQMAs are bodies of water deemed to have an important developmental value but was observed to have been affected by economic development thereby needing rehabilitation and restoration.

Continuous water quality monitoring is being done in tourism destination areas such as the Sabang Bay in Puerto Galera, Coron Bay, and Bacuit-El Nido Bays in Palawan. Sabang Bay WQMA includes the monitoring of the whole stretch of Sabang Bay, San Isidro Bay (White Beach), Muelle Bay and the outfall at Timbugan in Puerto Galera. Coron Bay WQMA includes the monitoring of the whole stretch of Coron Bay including 16 tourist island destinations within the bay. Bacuit-El Nido Bay WQMA includes the monitoring of the coastal waters of El Nido Bay (to include the Nacpan Beach, Calitang and Lio Beach), Bacuit Bay coastal waters, 20 tourist island destinations within Bacuit Bay, El Nido Estero and all outfalls along Bacuit Bay. Other recreational waterbodies monitored under the Beachwatch Program are as follows: Honda Bay, Puerto Princesa Bay, Mangarin Bay and Calapan Bay.

Low compliance on RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. As a tool in managing solid wastes, LGUs are required to formulate and implement their 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP) in accordance with RA 9003. There was, however, low compliance among the MIMAROPA LGUs. Only 43 LGUs out of the 78 or about 55% LGUs in the region has an approved 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan. Moreover, 40 LGUs were assisted by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)

in updating their SWMPs, which are expected to be approved by the end of 2022.

In 2021, the total waste collected in the region reached 53,608.20 tons. About 70% of these are residual waste accounting to 37,513.55 tons followed by biodegradable waste recorded at 8,603.80 tons or about 16.05% waste collected in 2021. Out of the five provinces, Palawan recorded the highest waste collected at 47,459.39 tons or about 88.53% of total waste collected in the region. This may be attributed to the greater number of population and commercial establishments operating in Palawan as compared to other provinces in the region.

Though the number of open dumpsites from 2017-2020 decreased, there were recorded reoperation of six dumpsites. There is a 640% increase in the number of open and controlled dumpsites closed and subjected to rehabilitation from 2018-2021.

RA 9003 mandates the closure and rehabilitation of all dumpsites and their replacement with sanitary landfills (SLFs). SLFs are disposal facilities with impermeable liners to prevent liquid discharges from polluting ground and surface waters. As of 2022, there are a total of 13 sanitary landfill facilities in the region including one privately owned SLF by the Coral Bay Nickel Corporation in Sofronio Española. (See Chapter 13)

Unmet housing needs. Housing needs in the region, as of 2021, have been pegged to an estimated 280,094 units. These stem from backlogs, informal settler families (ISFs), displaced households in danger areas, affected by infrastructure projects, with court order for eviction or demolition, and those with landowner of occupied area shalling to sell the property.

It was recorded that around 108,137 comprise the informal settler families (ISFs) in the region. ISFs (according to the National Resettlement Policy Framework 2022) suffer from lack of access to basic services and productive formal jobs; struggle with chronic poverty, difficult living conditions, and high exposure to natural disasters; and are seldom integrated into the broader community, facing higher than average incidence of crime and violence.

On February 5, 2015, the National Housing Authority (NHA) and the Provincial Government of Palawan (PGP) signed a memorandum of agreements (MOA)

for the construction of housing units under the Yolanda Permanent Housing Program (YPHP) in Busuanga, Coron, and Culion in Palawan.

Three years into the implementation of the YPHP in Palawan, a total of 28 housing units were already completed in Barangay Baldat in Culion. Housing projects in barangays Binudac and Galoc are still ongoing, with land development and housing construction of 74 and 319 units underway out of the targeted 274 and 406, respectively. The remaining un-started units are put on hold because the PGP has yet to submit a proposal for new costing of housing units to adjust from price escalation. As of December 31, 2021, the rest of the projects with 4,582 units in the municipalities of Agutaya, Busuanga, Coron, Linapacan, and Barangay Patag in Culion are still subject for processing and compliance with regulatory documents.

Typhoon Odette had badly struck the province of Palawan in December 2021, with houses and settlements areas considered as one of the most affected. A total of 86,996 houses were damaged in the province, 71,361 of which were partially damaged while 15,365 were totally damaged, according to the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Report. Puerto Princesa City was recorded with the highest number of damaged houses, with 29,180 homes for replacement and repair. The majority of damaged houses were classified as old, made of light materials (bamboo, sawali, and galvanized iron), and located along coastal areas and no-build or unsafe zones.

After Typhoon Odette, the affected families had to immediately rebuild their shelters. Those who shall be relocated to the periphery from their barangay or community may also be affected as finding access to basic community services and economic opportunities in the resettlement areas may be difficult.

A total of 257 socialized housing units were already completed and awarded in the province of Palawan. Specifically, 28 housing units were completed and awarded in Coron, 60 in Greenwood, 59 in Divine Mercy, and 92 in Binuatan. Meanwhile, 18 completed housing units were completed in Palm Tree Hauz in Roxas and Culasian but not yet awarded because of the election ban in 2022.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pampamayanang Mangyan Ugnayan, Inc. (PMUI), provided the Alangan tribe in Oriental Mindoro with improved housing to promote social distancing, especially that the tribe is used to living in balay-lakoy where five families live in one shanty.

To help the payees ease their burden on the height of the enhanced community quarantine due to COVID-19, moratorium on the collection of monthly loan amortization from the members of key shelter agencies that include the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG), the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, the Social Housing Finance Corporation, and the National Housing Authority was issued.

Based on the updated housing classifications, households are facing constraints in securing decent and affordable housing. Current price ceilings for socialized subdivision and condominium and economic housing projects increased. Socialized housing projects are ranging from PhP480,000.00 to PhP650,000.00 and economic housing projects at PhP2.5 million.

According to the DHSUD, 11 percent of low-income and urban poor has the ability to pay for housing. The 2021 Family Income and Expenditure Survey also recorded the increase in expenditures of families for housing needs.

Generally, the housing characteristics of the region also showed the need to address physical and tenurial aspect for every concerned household. In the region, the proportion of families in 2020 who owned the house and lot they occupied was at 66.9 percent which is higher than the 64.1 percent at the national level. The reported figures indicate an increase in the sense of security of families and the ability to access services.

According to the 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS), about 85.5 percent of families in MIMAROPA live in houses with strong materials such as galvanized iron/aluminum for the roof material. However, it was recorded that 49.9 percent of families used strong materials such as concrete for the outer walls of their houses. On the other hand, bamboo/sawali/cogon/nipa walls were still common in 31.8 percent of housing units in some areas of the region.

Number of families with limited service level and unimproved facilities reduced. Based on the 2020 APIS, out of the 770,000 families in the region, there is still 11 percent or 84,700 families that are classified under limited service level, 3.1 percent or 23,870 families with unimproved sanitation facilities, and 3.0 percent or 23,100 families are still practicing open defecation.

This is lower compared to the number of families without access to such facilities. Improved sanitation facilities are designed to hygienically separate excreta from human contact. Thus, it is essential that all households put a premium on ensuring that sanitation facilities are included or improved to avoid health and environmental hazards.

Further, only 2.3 percent or 17,710 families in MIMAROPA have handwashing facilities on premises without soap and water, while 5.2 percent or 40,040 families have no handwashing facilities. Only 2.5 percent or 19,250 families in the region have limited services in terms of drinking water wherein drinking water from an improved source is collected for a round trip that exceeds 30 minutes, including queuing. Meanwhile, there is still 2.7 percent or 20,790 families with unimproved service level where drinking water is collected from an unprotected dug well or unprotected spring.

Based on the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFPs) and Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) of the five MIMAROPA provinces and two cities, there are available lands for expansion of built-up areas. Demand for land was determined based on the projected increase in population and economic activities within certain areas in towns and cities which are considered as urban growth centers.

Palawan calculated those settlements with mining operations and activities, major tourism destinations, and diverse economic activities that shall absorb population increase in the province. The same was anticipated for the province of Marinduque as it declared available lands to accommodate increase in population. Oriental Mindoro also predicted additional urban requirement based on

the population growth projections. The provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Romblon also identified future settlements growth but also considered constraints of buildable areas due to physical and natural factors such as hilly terrains, locations of big marble deposits, possible intrusion into marine zones, forests, and agricultural areas.

Puerto Princesa City foresees the continuous growth of its urban center, but primarily through urban infill or appropriate development of its vacant or idle lots. To address the urban sprawl and ribbon-like development from the proliferation of commercial establishments along major roads, a more compact form of urban growth is being considered. The preferred development option of the city consists of developing barangays as satellite service centers, development of a circulation network and multi-modal transport system, expansion of the poblacion, and major investments in rural service centers.

Calapan City also pinpointed its areas for urban expansion based on its land requirements. It aims to achieve medium- to high-intensity development such as putting up commercial centers, multi-modal transportation terminals, and mixed-use developments to attract more investments and induce urban development with minimal environmental constraints.

All municipalities in the provinces of Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, and Oriental Mindoro have already undergone workshops on the preparation of local shelter plans (LSPs). Fifteen out of 17 municipalities in Romblon and 19 out of 24 municipalities in Palawan have undergone workshops on the preparation of LSPs. Forty of these local government units (LGUs) have also conducted writeshops on the formulation of LSPs. However, none of them has an approved LSP.

Generally, the quality of the environment and natural resources of the region showed mixed performance based from the assessment of the previous regional development plan. Slight improvements in environmental quality have been noted while environmental compliance in terms of air, water, and solid waste management still needs to be improved.

Targets

Table 4.3.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Percentage of highly urbanized and other major urban centers within ambient air quality guidelines increased	2021	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	EMB admin data	EMB
Percentage of capital towns within ambient air quality guidelines		0%	0%	0%	33%	33%	67%	100%	EMB admin data	EMB
Monitoring of Water Bodies maintained:										
Priority Rivers	2021	10	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	EMB admin data	EMB
Public Water Supply	2021	0	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	EMB admin data	EMB
Recreational	2021	44%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	EMB admin data	EMB
Water Quality Management Areas	2021	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	EMB admin data	EMB
Percentage of water bodies meeting respective guidelines values:										
Water Quality Management Areas	2021	25%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	EMB admin data	EMB
Number of barangays served by MRFs maintained	2022	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	EMB admin data	EMB
Percentage of LGUs implementing their approved 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan	2021	51%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	EMB admin data	EMB
Percentage of LGUs with climate and disaster-risk informed plans										
PDPFP	2022	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	DHSUD report	DHSUD
CLUP	2022	59%	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	DHSUD report	DHSUD
CDP	2022	82%	91%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	DILG monitoring report	DILG
Number of housing backlogs decreased*	2021	280,094	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	30,094	DHSUD admin data	DHSUD

*Note: *NEDA estimates based on the previous RDP targets*

Strategies

Figure 4.3.1 Strategy Framework to Establish Livable Communities



Environmental quality improved

Expand monitoring and enforcement of air and water quality standards. Ambient air quality monitoring and enforcement of standards shall be expanded. This shall require upgrading/modernizing the existing equipment for assessing ambient air quality as well as establishing additional air quality monitoring stations particularly in the provinces of Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, and Romblon for a well-represented air quality data in the region. Protection and rehabilitation of forestlands through reforestation programs such as the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP) and Forest Protection Program shall continue to be implemented.

Environmentally sustainable transport including clean fuels and mass transport system to reduce air pollutants must be promoted. It shall also include setting of mobile emission testing stations and motor vehicle inspection stations where there is no designated Land Transportation Office Field Unit.

Increasing green spaces at the city and barangay levels is seen to improve environmental quality, reduce urban heat, and promote biodiversity. It is also considered to be beneficial for improving health and overall wellbeing. Increased awareness, understanding, and appreciation of local communities and other stakeholders on the importance of green

spaces shall be pursued and individual actions on urban greening shall be encouraged.

Technical and financial assistance/incentives shall be provided to LGUs to enable them to establish green spaces (e.g., Urban Biodiversity Program, National Greening Program, and Green, Green, Green Program) and enact and implement environment code standards. Moreover, urban farming and community-based gardening shall be intensified to expand green urban spaces that contribute to ensuring food security. Programs and interventions of LGUs on developing green spaces may be considered as part of the performance criteria in the DILG's Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG).

In terms of improving water quality, the establishment of wastewater treatment facilities by water districts or LGUs for sewage and septage management of waste from domestic and commercial resources shall be pursued. Strengthening capacity of the water quality management area governing board through provision of sufficient knowledge and information to its members on water quality management, best practices, and updated technology shall be undertaken.

For proper septage management, septic tanks shall be designed consistent with approved engineering and environmental standards. Construction of three chambered septic tanks shall also be promoted. Improved regulation of wastewater discharge through issuance of discharge permit for commercial

activities must be enforced. Upgrading the capacity of laboratory stations for wastewater analysis shall also be pursued.

Strengthened Clean Water Management Programs shall be institutionalized down to the barangay level. (e.g. Adopt-an-Estero/ Sagip Ilog Program). In support of the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML), EMB MIMAROPA in partnership with the LGUs shall install Trash Traps in most polluted rivers to prevent wastes from flowing into waterbodies. This activity may help reduce flooding during the rainy season.

Strengthen waste management strategies and establish proper waste disposal facilities. Waste management methods and practices shall be strengthened to ensure protection of public health and the environment. Improper solid waste disposal may lead to environmental problems such as air and water pollution, soil contamination, and climate change. Information, education, and communication campaign on waste management program at the household level through the barangay officials based on the waste management program of the local government units shall be instituted.

Waste minimization shall involve ensuring compliance and steering behavioral change at the individual, household, and societal levels towards sustainable production and consumption practices. Household level waste source reduction and public participation shall play a key role.

Waste recycling and other recovery programs such as community-based waste management programs through composting and recovery of rare metals from waste electrical and electronic equipment (urban mining) programs shall be intensified to improve resource efficiency and promote a circular economy. This shall enable public and private investments (e.g., development of green technologies and establishment of facilities) in waste recovery, reuse, and recycling as well as manufacturing and production using secondary raw materials.

Strict implementation of RA 9003 shall be observed to increase LGU compliance and investment to waste management system and facilities. It shall be complemented by provision of technical assistance and capacity building to LGUs on the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of SWMP.

The high cost of establishing sanitary landfills hinders the LGUs in complying with RA 9003. The design and planning phase alone could cost around Php 2.00 million to Php 4.00 million which should cover compliance with government rules and regulations and other professional fees and would take at least two months to complete. It is recommended for adjacent LGUs in the MIMAROPA provinces to pursue the establishment of shared or clustered SWM facilities/sanitary landfill projects to take advantage of economies of scale. This shall enable them to pool resources for the construction, operation, and maintenance of SLFs.

Per record, LGU Puerto Galera has an existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Calapan City which allows them to dispose of their residual wastes into the Calapan City sanitary landfill. Similar agreement also exists for the municipalities of Kalayaan and Puerto Princesa City SLF.

A Feasibility Study was conducted by a private consultant through EMB MIMAROPA to establish a common sanitary landfill for LGU clustering in the region. Based on the study, the most suitable area is located in the Province of Marinduque. The proposed location is located at Brgy. Tungib-Lipata, Buenavista Marinduque with a total area of 5 hectares. It shall cover the collection of all the municipalities in the province namely: Buenavista, Boac, Gasan, Mogpog, Sta. Cruz and Torrijos. There are currently seven issued ECC for the establishment of SLF in the following LGUs: 1) Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro; 2) Victoria, Oriental Mindoro; 3) Alcantara, Romblon; 4) Sta. Fe, Romblon; 5) Odiongan, Romblon; 6) Romblon, Romblon; and 7) Narra, Palawan.

LGUs in the region shall be encouraged and provided support to use alternative waste disposal, innovative recycling technology, and waste to energy facilities that can be operated through partnership with the private sector.

Living conditions improved

Improve quality and affordability. Improving the living conditions shall require increasing access to quality and affordable housing. Hence, expanding housing finance systems and financing programs is necessary to low-income and within middle-income groups. As mentioned in the National Resettlement

Policy Framework (NRPF), certain components of housing production (i.e., land acquisition, land development, housing loan interests) shall be subsidized to reduce the final costs to the intended beneficiaries.

Improving access to housing services also includes information through stakeholder consultations, and social preparation shall be a required component of the resettlement process.

Ensure connectivity of settlements to economic activities and urban services. The following shall be the key considerations in site selection: existing physical and social infrastructure and development direction of receiving/host locality, proximity to urban areas and sources of livelihood, convenient access to modes of transportation, and exposure to natural hazards.

The intermodal transportation network in the region needs to be improved for communities in the region to be connected with one another and to key urban areas. The Pan Philippine Highway, also known as the Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH), is already in place along the East Philippine Seaboard. Through a sophisticated intermodal infrastructure, this enables simple transportation of goods and services from the northern half of Luzon to Mindanao, with MIMAROPA communities serving as bridgeways to the south. Further, the West Philippines Seaboard Section must be set up. San Jose Occidental Mindoro needs to be connected to Palawan for this to happen. The construction of the Coron-Culion bridge shall link the Culion Islands to Palawan's mainland, enabling an uninterrupted movement of products and services throughout the area. See Chapter 13 for full discussion on infrastructure needs and strategies of the region.

Mobility and transport planning shall be integrated in the development planning of provinces and cities. Following the NUDHF, the RDP also recognizes and adopts efficient transport to improve the quality of life of MIMAROPAns. This means reduced vehicular dependence, promoting walkability, and prioritizing mass transportation. For the intra-island mobility, there is a need to build integrated transport terminals in all major island in the region. On the other hand, stakeholders should be encouraged to construct support facilities and economic enterprises within the transport terminals for potential in-transit passengers (Chapter 13). Improving affordability needs to be partnered with interventions to increase families' purchasing

capacity. Thus, implementation of housing strategies requires an integrated approach on providing services on ensuring economic and social welfare.

In 2021, a total of 320.30 km was constructed in the region, resulting to a 0.2865 sq. km FMR density ratio. Compared to the optimal FMR density ratio of at least 2 sq. km, this number is substantially below average. In accordance with the implementation of the Comprehensive FMR National Master Plan 2020 to 2030 and the Farm-to-Market Road Network Plan (FMRNP), the FMR program's implementation shall be sped up. Investments in strategic Farm-to-Market Roads (FMR) must have a focus on remote and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

From 2017 to 2021, a total of 169 tourism road infrastructure projects under the DOT-DPWH convergence were implemented in which 131 were already completed.

The envisioned settlements development in the formulated PDPFPs and CLUPs, consistent with the RSDP, shall contribute to the growth of sub-regional and provincial centers, along with their immediate areas of influence. Following the proposed five-tiered Hierarchy of Settlements (Chapter 2), the following are envisioned to be the subregional centers in the succeeding years: Bansud, Pinamalayan, Puerto Galera, and Roxas in Oriental Mindoro; Bataraza, Coron, Culion, and El Nido in Palawan; Cadijocan, Looc, and Odiongan in Romblon; Gasan and Santa Cruz in Marinduque; and Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro.

Improve resiliency of settlements. Resilience takes part in protecting investments in housing and ensuring sustainability in communities.

LGUs shall closely examine and assess the level of resiliency at the household level by ensuring consistency of its LSP to its LCCAP and DRR plans.

To reduce vulnerability of households to climate change and natural hazards, housing finance, tenure, infrastructure and basic services and structural upgrading, and appropriate site selection for resettlement shall be pursued.

Resettlement site selection shall be rationally identified and planned according to land use

and development plans. An urban database or information management system shall also be established to quickly identify and assess needs for resettlement and housing.

Strengthen social cohesion. In order to strengthen social cohesion in the region, interventions that promote community involvement, participation, and inclusion shall be in place. These shall include community empowerment through collaboration of LGUs, businesses, civil society organizations, and other sectors to encourage participation in planning, implementation, and monitoring of development activities within and among communities – underscoring the importance of their role in shaping the development priorities and directions.

The creation of local culture and arts councils (LCACs), whose mission is to safeguard and advance local cultural assets and the arts, is one of the PDPs' historical achievements. As a result, the DILG issued Memorandum Circular No. 2017-133 ordering all government agencies to pass laws strengthening project implementation culture and creating LCACs. As of September 2019, there are 48 LCACs validated.

To establish a livable community, the LGUs and its citizens should also promote and protect the Philippine identity starting from their communities. They should push for the heritage development, tourism, and culture and arts in order to preserve the cultural, historical, and indigenous significance of their community.

One program of the NCCA is cultural mapping, which enables LGUs to identify and record existing local cultural properties, which then can be used for references. It can also gain interest among stakeholders on the preservation of the resources through the

formation of preservation councils and legislations.

A total of 78 LGUs in MIMAROPA (71 municipalities, 5 provinces, and 2 cities) were recorded to have established local culture and arts councils (LCACs) in 2020. This was based on the inventory of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Of the established LCACs, 55 were validated by the NCCA. Two of these were created by legislation. However, there were 53 that were created by an executive issuance, while 46 LCACs were validated as exclusive, which means that they are strictly for culture and arts purposes only. Finally, there were nine LCACs that were validated as hybrid.

Cultural mapping facilitation should be improved to advance the cultural history and customs of the communities. This entails identification and documenting of both tangible and intangible resources in a place, must be undertaken. As of 2020, 15 LGUs have cultural mapping projects with NCCA. These are the province of Oriental Mindoro; city of Calapan; municipalities of Bulalacao, Mansalay, and Naujan in Oriental Mindoro; municipalities of Buenavista, Gasan, Mogpog, Torrijos, and Santa Cruz in Marinduque; municipalities of Corcuera and San Fernando in Romblon; and municipalities of Aborlan, Kalayaan, and Brooke's Point in Palawan. To support the promotion of culture and the arts in their communities as well as the safeguarding, conservation, and preservation of local cultural and historical assets, local culture and arts councils (LCACs) must be enhanced. Further, prioritization must also be given to integrating culture into development plans. The ability to design, create, and carry out culturally relevant plans and programs rests with local planners.

Table 4.3.2 List of Major Programs and Projects

TITLE	PROVINCE/ CITY	INVESTMENT TARGET (P '000)						TOTAL 2023-2028 INVESTMENT TARGET (P '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Human Settlements and Urban Development Coordination / Public Housing and Settlements Program	Regionwide	2,251	2,476	2,723	2,996	3,295	3,625	17,368
Homeowners Association and Community Development Program	Regionwide	1,942	2,136	2,350	2,585	2,843	3,128	14,984
Environmental Land Use and Urban Planning and Development Program	Regionwide	266	293	322	354	389	428	2,052

Sources: *Regional Development Investment Program 2023-2028 of DENR-EMB MIMAROPA and DHSUD MIMAROPA*

Legislative Agenda

Table 4.3.3 Legislative Agenda to Establish Livable Communities

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Local policy on banning single-use plastic products	Banning single-use plastic products such as plastic straws, stirrers, utensils, food wrappers, instant food packaging, lids, drinking bottles and caps, among others. This is to encourage MIMAROPA LGUs, Agency Regional Offices, Business Organizations, and Other Stakeholders to support the MIMAROPA RDC resolution No. 2018-065-730 on prohibiting the use of single-use plastics.	LGUs, AROs, Business Organizations, and Other Stakeholders
Maritime Safety, Security, and Prevention of Ship Sourced Pollution Bill	The island provinces of MIMAROPA rely on the services of water transportation. The bill shall strengthen prevention and control of marine pollution from any vessel.	Philippine Coast Guard, DENR, DOST, MARINA, PPA
Strengthening of KSAs and creation of Local Housing Boards in LGUs	Renew the NHA Charter and strengthen its organizational structure and functions Broaden mandate to allow securitization not only of mortgages but also of other housing-related receivables or loans resulting in increased funds available for housing development	DHSUD
Further amendments to the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992	The Urban Development and Housing Act, which was passed in 1992, is ripe for further amendments and/r revision to keep up with current and emerging housing concerns and challenges posed by climate change and to institutionalize the provision of other basic services and livelihood components.	DHSUD

05

**Reduce Vulnerabilities and
Protect Purchasing Power**

CHAPTER 05

Reduce Vulnerabilities and Protect Purchasing Power

In 2015, about 30 percent of the total households in the region was considered food secure. This chapter discusses the strategies that will reduce vulnerabilities and protect purchasing power by ensuring food security and proper nutrition. In the next year, the region is expected to: a) ensure food availability and affordability; and b) improve nutrition, food utilization, nutrition, and stability. It was observed that food security contributes to the attainment of nutrition security. When there is an adequate and stable supply of affordable, nutritious that can be easily accessed by people, their nutritional status will also improve.

Likewise, a revolutionary social safety system is required in the region, one that gives every MIMAROPAn the knowledge and abilities to anticipate future shocks, respond to them, and recover from them. Such a radical strategy would go beyond risk management interventions and include fixes for institutional flaws and social injustices that would help people get access to programs that cover all types of risks throughout their lifetimes.

Sub-chapter 5.1 Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition

In particular, MIMAROPA aims to contribute to the achievement of SDG No. 2 or Zero Hunger. This calls for: a) ensuring food security and proper nutrition in the region by focusing on supply side of food security; b) providing wider access to adequate resources for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet; and c) ability of human body to ingest and metabolize food through proper diet, clean water, good sanitation and health care to achieve a state of nutritional well-being.

Assessment and Challenges

Food Availability. From 2017 to 2021, the region was considered self-sufficient in three key commodities such as rice, corn, and pork. However, other food commodities such as eggplant, tomato, squash, chicken, chicken egg, milkfish, roundscad, tilapia, and tuna were reported to be insufficient. In general, MIMAROPA cannot rely on its own production resources to cater the domestic demand for food.

MIMAROPA's low food sufficiency level can be attributed to the low-coverage of irrigation system, limited agri-fishery farm machineries, and agricultural losses such as post-harvest losses incurred from grading, packaging, transportation, and distribution of produce to consumers.

Agricultural products were generally wasted during post-harvest phase. Moreover, the local production of agriculture and fisheries – the main source of food supply – remained vulnerable to disasters, which affected the availability of food supply in the region.

Food Accessibility and Affordability. Among 17 regions, MIMAROPA ranked 9th in terms with highest ratio of food expenditure to total family expenditure. From 2003 to 2018, about 45.4 percent of the household expenditure of the families in MIMAROPA were allocated for food. The total annual family income in the tenth decile was about seven times higher than those in the first decile.

For the past three years, food inflation in the region accelerated from 1.0 percent in 2019 to 4.2 percent in 2021. Among the top contributors to the surge in the overall inflation were corn, meat, and fish.

These commodities suffered from weather disturbances, high cost of inputs, and/or pests and diseases, that affected domestic production. Generally, these commodities have low farmgate price. However, the adverse effects of weather disturbances, high cost of inputs (e.g., fertilizers, fuel), high logistics cost, and pests and diseases that affected the domestic production tend to make the market/retail price higher.

In terms of physical accessibility, limited infrastructure facilities and weak logistics system hindered the delivery and distribution of food products within the region. For instance, from 2014-2021, the region's FMR density was estimated at 0.2865 sq km only. A total of 320.30 km FMRs were constructed in the region during the period. The recorded FMR density ratio was far behind the ideal FMR density ratio of at least 2 sq km.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 exposed the vulnerability of food supply chain in the region, which suffered disruptions during the implementation of community lockdowns. Efforts and initiatives to provide wider access to market and funding for small businesses increased particularly during the pandemic, but still inadequate. From 2020 to 2021, only seven AFF-based associations in MIMAROPA served as operators/suppliers under Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita program, which generated about Php48.49 million in total sales. A total of 123 Diskwento Caravans were also conducted in the region. As of 2021, a total of 47 bagsakan centers/trading posts were established in the region. More than half of these facilities, however, were non-operational.

The region's growing population may result to land use conflict and require conversion of existing agricultural land areas to settlement areas. It is also expected that premature or illegal conversion of prime agricultural lands and irrigable lands into commercial and residential areas will continue.

Food Utilization, Nutrition, and Stability. MIMAROPA ranked 3rd and 1st in terms of highest prevalence of stunting and of wasting among children

less than 5 years old, respectively. Prevalence of malnutrition in children less than 5 years (stunting) significantly increased from 35.8 percent in 2013 to 40.9 percent in 2015, while wasting remained at 9.7 percent in 2015.

On the other hand, based on the Operation Timbang (OPT) results, the prevalence rate of stunting among children less than 5 years old decreased from 15.4 percent in 2021 to 13.78 percent in 2022, while the prevalence of wasting among children less than 5 years old decreased from 4.5 percent in 2021 to 4.1 percent in 2022. Most of the malnourished children were found in the IP communities, which contributed to high MPRs for the past years. Rural health workers reported difficulties in educating IP mothers due to food preferences and cultural beliefs and practices. The prevalence rate of overweight and obesity among children less than 5 years old decreased from 3.4 percent in 2021 to 3.1 percent in 2022.

In terms of food safety, the region needs to increase its efforts in establishing food testing laboratories in every province. Currently, the region has only one FDA-accredited food testing laboratory located in Palawan. Thus, other provinces opted to avail of food testing laboratory services in Manila since it is more convenient than travelling to Palawan, which also incurred additional cost to business establishments.

Among the major challenges in the food availability, accessibility, and affordability of nutritious and safe food were: (i) vulnerability of agriculture and fisheries sector to climate and natural hazards that disrupted supply chain; (ii) food sufficiency level of most of key food commodities were below 100 percent; (iii) high post-harvest losses; (iv) unstable food inflation; (v) inadequate support infrastructures and market platforms, (vi) premature/illegal conversion of prime agricultural lands and irrigable lands; (vii) healthier food alternatives were less accessible and more expensive; (viii) weak facilitation and traceability of food safety standards certification and good agricultural practices; and (ix) limited support to R&D relative to food nutrition-related science to improve quality/dietary requirements.

Targets

Table 5.1.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Sub-chapter Outcome 1: Sufficient and stable supply of food commodities attained										
100 percent Food Sufficiency Level in Key Food in Commodities achieved and surpassed									PSA, Provincial, Municipal, and Regional Program Coordinator's reports	DA, LGUs
Rice	2021	180.27%	184.78%	189.40%	194.13%	198.99%	204.00%	209.05%		
White Corn	2021	619.96%	635.46%	651.34%	667.63%	684.32%	701.43%	718.96%		
Eggplant	2021	33.23%	34.07%	34.91%	35.78%	36.68%	37.60%	38.54%		
Pork	2021	342.24%	350.80%	359.57%	368.55%	377.77%	387.21%	396.89%		
Chicken Egg	2021	4.18%	5.00%	7.00%	9.00%	11.00%	13.00%	15.00%		
Tilapia	2021	19.44%	19.93%	20.42%	20.94%	21.46%	23.00%	25.00%		
Low and Stable Food Inflation achieved	2022	6.10%	2%-4%	2%-4%	2%-4%	2%-4%	2%-4%	2%-4%	PSA, Inflation Report	NEDA
Sub-chapter Outcome 2: Access of consumers to affordable, safe, and nutritious food expanded										
Subsistence incidence among population (%) reduced	2021	7.50%	5.2 (High)		3.9 (High)		2.6 (High)		PSA, FIES	NEDA
			3.9 (Low)		2.6 (Low)		1.3 (Low)			
Prevalence of food insecurity in the population decreased (%)										NNC
Severe food insecurity	2015	26.00%	23.83%	21.67%	19.50%	17.30%	15.17%	13%	DOST-FNRI, NNS	
Moderate food insecurity	2015	32.20%	29.52%	26.83%	24.15%	21.47%	18.78%	16.1%		
Sub-chapter Outcome 3: Nutrition across all ages improved										
Prevalence of malnutrition among children 0-5 years old decreased									Annual OPT Results	NNC
Stunting	2022	13.60%	12.80%	12%	11.10%	10.30%	9.40%	8.60%		
Wasting	2022	4.10%	3.80%	3.60%	3.30%	3.10%	2.80%	2.50%		
Proportion of households meeting 100% recommended energy intake	2018-2019 (National Level)	21.80%	25.70%	28.00%	30.30%	32.70%	35.00%	42.00%	DOST-FNRI, NNS	

Sources: DA MIMAROPA, PSA, NIA MIMAROPA, DOST-FNRI, and NNC

Strategies

In the medium term, strategies to protect the purchasing power of MIMAROPAns will strive to reduce food insecurity, end hunger, and improve nutrition. This outcome will aim to: a) ensure food availability and affordability; and b) improve nutrition, food utilization, nutrition, and stability (refer to Figure 5.1.1), which outcomes are beneficial to existing producers and marginalized farmers and fisherfolk, including women, elderly and indigenous peoples, who are typically subsistence producers/ consumers and have limited market participation.

Figure 5.1.1 Strategy Framework to Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition



To achieve the subsector outcomes and targets, the following strategies will be implemented:

Sufficient and stable supply of food commodities attained

Enhance productivity and resilience of agri-fisheries sector. This strategy involves: a) provision of agri-fishery machineries and facilities; b) acceleration of irrigation development; c) expansion of credit and insurance coverage; d) intensification of capacity building and extension; e) adoption of innovative technology; and f) adoption of sustainable ecosystem (refer to Chapter 7).

A bottom-up approach in planning will be encouraged among adjacent municipalities to identify/update commodity programs, machineries and facilities,

technologies, and physical infrastructure needed by the communities. Investments in irrigation will be focused on construction of disaster-resilient small scale irrigation facilities. Potential irrigable areas shall be identified for the application of new irrigation projects or systems (e.g., drip irrigation, solar-powered irrigation, and sprinkler irrigation). Non-functional irrigation facilities, which were damaged by typhoons, shall be rehabilitated and retrofitted. Investments in construction, rehabilitation, and retrofitting of irrigation facilities will be focused in the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan, which were included in the list of priority sites identified in NIMP 2020-2030.

Clustering of small farmers and fisherfolk (SFF) will be pursued to achieve economies of scale in terms of: a) providing wider access to market

platforms, financing and insurance coverage, and extension services; and b) improving production process, packaging, and distribution of agricultural and fishery products. Additional funds shall be provided for the capitalization of PCIC to increase the insurance coverage in the region. As of 2021, only 24.26 percent or 73,083 of the total number of farmers and fisherfolks in the region were covered by insurance. CDA, DA, and DAR will provide capacity building on strengthening farmers' cooperative and associations (FCAs) and institutional development in the region, particularly in the provinces with least number of such as accredited civil society organization including Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro, and Romblon.

Higher funding for R&D will be supported to conduct: a) market-matching study and identification of technologies appropriate to farm needs and conditions; and b) study to improve productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance risk resilience.

Expand and protect production areas. In collaboration with LGUs, DA, and other concerned agencies, efforts to encourage the practice of urban and vertical agriculture at the household level will be intensified through the implementation of national agricultural programs such as but not limited to High Value Crops Development (HVCD) Program, National Livestock Program, National Organic Agriculture Program, Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo (4K's), Program, and Special Area for Agricultural Development Program (SAAD). These programs will be provided primarily to 4th – 6th income class municipalities in the region: a) Buenvista in Marinduque; b) Looc and Lubang in Occidental Mindoro; c) San Teodoro in Oriental Mindoro; d) Agutaya, Araceli, Cagayancillo, Cuyo, Linapacan, Magsaysay, and Kalayaan in Palawan; and e) Alcantara, Banton, Cajidiocan, Calatrava, Concepcion, Corcuera, Looc, Magdiwang, San Agustin, San Andres, San Fernando, San Jose, Santa Fe, Ferrol, and Santa Maria in Romblon.

Starter kits such as seedlings, compost, stocks, and fingerlings will be provided as well as capacity building for proper crop/fishery/livestock management, pest and disease control, and organic farming. This will promote production in non-agriculture areas and augment local production to provide nutritious food among households and communities.

To ensure stable food supply, it is vital to preserve the region's agricultural land by rationalizing land use allocation and protecting and promoting sustainable development of prime agricultural lands and irrigable areas identified in SAFDZ areas in the region. Additional estimated area of 324,606.79 ha or half of the total existing SAFDZ (659,215.04 ha) in the region can be used as expansion areas for prime agricultural lands. These areas were identified under agro-forestry area having 18 percent – 30 percent slope. Application of appropriate technology [(e.g., implementation of sloping agricultural land technology (SALT)] and identification of suitable crops (e.g., coconut, pineapple) are vital to maximize said areas.

Implementation of existing laws and regulations on land reclassification and conversion [(e.g., Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997, CARP, Local Government Code (LGC))] should be strictly enforced and monitored. Updating of comprehensive land use plans (CLUP) and zoning ordinances of cities and municipalities will be based on the guidelines on land use planning processes and requirements provided by Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and consistent with AFMA of 1997, Fisheries Code of the Philippines, Clean Air Act, and Climate Change Act. DHSUD, DILG, and other concerned agencies will continue to provide capacity building on the formulation/updating of CLUPs to LGUs, particularly to municipalities with no CLUPs (Taytay in Palawan and Cajidiocan, Corcuera, and Santa Maria in Romblon).

In addition, seamless coordination and collaboration among Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), DILG, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and Land Registration Authority (LRA) should be intensified to address the jurisdictional and operational issues on delineation and titling through the implementation of the DAR-DENR-NCIP-LRA Joint Administrative Order No. 01, s. 2012. Activities of MIMAROPA regional technical working group (RTWG) on the JAO No. 01 such as regional mapshop and consultation will be continued to facilitate the exclusion/segregation of all land covered by titles for the issuance of certificate of non-overlap in selected priority ancestral domain/ancestral land survey plans in Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, and Romblon.

LGUs and other concerned agencies should also be encouraged to adopt and operationalize ecosystem approaches to fisheries management such as but not limited to fisheries management areas, coastal resources management, aquaculture/ mariculture management, BFAR's Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) Program, and Balik Sigla sa Ilog and Lawa (BASIL).

In particular, the BASIL program will focus on the following BASIL management areas: a) Oriental Mindoro (Tongloy Lake in Victoria and Naujan Lake National Park in Naujan); b) Occidental Mindoro (Marabong Lake and Tabtaban in Sablayan); and c) Marinduque (Makulapnit Dam in Sta. Cruz).

Strengthen the buffer stocking of basic food items for emergencies and disasters. The Municipal Social Development and Welfare and Disaster Risk Reduction Offices (DRRMO) shall spearhead the conduct of IEC activities that encourage households to practice stocking of other food items at their level. Buffer stocking of rice and other basic food commodities should be improved and monitored to ensure enough supply of food packs, particularly in disaster prone areas and conflict areas in MIMAROPA, including: a) Boac, Gasan, and Mogpog in Marinduque; b) San Jose, Sablayan, and Santa Cruz in Occidental Mindoro; c) Calapan City, Naujan, and Pinamalayan in Oriental Mindoro; d) Narra, Puerto Princesa City, and Taytay in Palawan; and e) Odiongan, Romblon, and Cajidiocan in Romblon. Said municipalities were the top three municipalities per province reported that have the largest built-up area affected by different hazards such as steep slope, liquefaction, rain-induced landslide, storm surge, and flooding.

In addition, dashboard and early warning systems/ anticipatory mechanisms relative to hazard estimation and weather forecasting should be established and maintained (e.g., adoption of the CVRIS in Oriental Mindoro, an online system that will collect, digitize, analyze, and disseminate). This will be facilitated through mainstreaming the use of remote sensing technologies and adoption of site-specific, timely, and simplified climate outlook and weather forecast.

Reduce or prevent food losses/waste. SUCs, DTI, DOST, and other concerned agencies will be tapped to conduct technology/knowledge transfer activities to households and MSMEs regarding natural food preservation and storage, particularly

to communities identified as geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). DENR will strengthen its campaign on segregation of waste disposal and designing of community-garbage collection system, while it continues to provide facilities, equipment, and capacity building for the management of biodegradable wastes. The compost materials from the collected biodegradable waste will be used as fertilizers for urban farming and community gardening in the localities.

LGUs located in large settlement areas such as regional centers, sub-regional centers, and provincial centers in MIMAROPA should establish policies regarding Food Waste Management that will promote, facilitate, and ensure food waste reduction. Unlike lower settlement areas, the areas with large number of population provide more advanced urban services (finance, medical centers, education institutions, gateway ports, among others), which tend to have larger quantity of food waste. The following are included in the higher part of hierarchy of settlements: a) regional centers (Boac in Marinduque, Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro, Mamburao and San Jose in Occidental Mindoro, Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, and Romblon in Romblon); and b) sub-regional centers (Gasan and Sta. Cruz in Marinduque, Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro, Bansud, Pinamalayan, Roxas, and Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, Bataraza, Coron, Culion, and El Nido in Palawan, and Cajidiocan, Looc, and Odiongan in Romblon).

Access of consumers to affordable, safe, and nutritious food expanded

Improve marketing, transport, distribution, and logistics system. To complement efforts on increasing growth and productivity in AFF and avoid disruption in the supply chains especially during calamities and disasters, the region needs to: a) ramp up promotion and use of online or digital platforms/channels for marketing, transactions, payments, and deliveries; b) accelerate construction of farm-to-market roads; and c) construct strategically-located processing and post-harvest facilities (cross-refer to Chapter 7).

RDC MIMAROPA adopted the concept of the proposed Integrated Intermodal Transport Terminal with Point-to-Point (P2P) Transport Services and Trading Center Components. To improve accessibility, mobility, convenience, and safety of the commuting public as well as agricultural products and commodities, Bagsakan Centers or Trading Centers

are devised to address the five major concerns of food security, poverty alleviation and social equity, income enhancement and profitability of farmers, global competitiveness, and sustainability, by providing sufficient, quality, and low-priced goods.

Funds shall be provided for maintenance and operations and repair of non-operational facilities such as bagsakan centers and trading post located in: a) Marinduque (Sta. Cruz, Mogpog, and Buenavista); b) Occidental Mindoro (Abra De Ilog, Lubang, Magsaysay, and Sablayan); c) Oriental Mindoro (Gloria, Naujan, Calapan City, Victoria, Pola, and Mansalay); d) Palawan (Roxas, Puerto Princesa City, Brooke's Point, Aborlan, Coron, and Quezon); and e) Romblon (Looc, San Jose, Calatrava, and San Agustin). Investment for the construction of agroprocessing center in Calapan City (one of the priority projects specified in Master Plan for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development of Calapan City), Provincial Agriculture Center in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, and other similar projects. These will improve processing and value-adding of commodities in the region. DTI and DA, in collaboration with LGUs, will continue the conduct of Agri-Trade and Tourism Fairs, Diskwento Caravans, and Kadiwa to promote, sell, and deliver MIMAROPA's popular local products such as delicacies, processed foods, fashion and accessories, agricultural products, health and wellness products, home decor and other novelty items to different consumers (e.g., Banana Chips of Oriental Mindoro; Butterfly home décor of Marinduque, natural body oil of Romblon, novelty craft/pearl jewelry in Palawan, and dried fish in Occidental Mindoro).

Physical and digital infrastructure (ICT/internet connection) in the region shall be improved. Through the FMR Network Plan, the construction of FMRs particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) will be accelerated (refer to Chapter 7). The region shall capitalize on various tools and information systems such as Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Management Information System (ABEMIS) and Geographic Information System for Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery (GEOAGRI and Infrastructure)/Integrated Road for Agriculture and Development (IROAD) in rationalizing and prioritizing infrastructure investments such as FMRs. Further, transport options shall be expanded to ensure that GIDAs will be linked to markets (cross refer to Chapter 13: Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure).

In terms of marketing, distribution, and transporting fishery/marine resources, fish port complex including cold storage shall be established in the region, particularly in the top fishery producing provinces (e.g., Palawan and Occidental Mindoro) to provide a systematized fish marketing and distribution. The establishment of fish port complex near MIMAROPA fishing grounds will be explored through the conduct of feasibility studies. Public-private partnerships can be tapped in the said establishment and reviving critical community fish landing centers in the region. The facility will provide different services including: a) unloading and marketing of fish; b) provision of fish production and post-harvest facilities (facilities for harbor operations, refrigeration, packaging, and labelling); c) provision of marketing information; and d) knowledge management and information system.

Likewise, to complement the construction of agricultural infrastructure supporting the efficient distribution/transportation of safe and quality food, the following policies and regulations shall be implemented in coordination with national government agencies and LGUs: a) harmonization of transportation guidelines at the national (DOTr, PPAs, PCG) and local levels; b) streamlining of registration processes for the facilities and logistics, and food safety and quality requirements; c) reduction of excessive checkpoints to administrative boundaries of LGUs; d) intensification of border protection by strengthening inter-agency cooperation and biosecurity measures; e) continuation of suspension of pass-thru fees for the transport of goods and products; f) establishment and maintenance hotline numbers for complaints.

Intensify the promotion and utilization of digital platforms of marketing, delivery, and payment transactions. Local delivery and payment services, agri-tourism trade fairs, market-on-Wheels, eKadiwa, and other online marketing platforms such as GCash and official Facebook page shall be maximized to serve more clients. These marketing platforms will be led by conduct of market research and integration of agricultural products to achieve high value-adding and market-oriented development. Moreover, capacity building and technical training on e-commerce in agribusiness, digital payments, and organizational, financial business management, and enterprise development will be provided to AFF-based MSMEs and farmers' cooperative and associations (FCAs).

Strengthen price and supply monitoring of food commodities. The promotion and use of online price monitoring system of DTI and DA for basic necessities and prime commodities such as Bantay Presyo Ni Ani at Kita and e-Presyo, respectively, shall be intensified to provide: a) guidance for consumers in their grocery shopping; and b) basis for the LGUs to provide interventions in stabilizing prices of commodities.

Strengthen price and supply monitoring of food commodities. The promotion and use of online price monitoring system of DTI and DA for basic necessities and prime commodities such as Bantay Presyo Ni Ani at Kita and e-Presyo, respectively, shall be intensified to provide: a) guidance for consumers in their grocery shopping; and b) basis for the LGUs to provide interventions in stabilizing prices of commodities. Likewise, DA in collaboration with the reactivated Local Price Coordinating Councils (LPCC) shall monitor farmgate price of agricultural commodities and timely disseminate the same in the online platform. Other social media platforms such as official Facebook page of DA and LGUs will be utilized to provide easier access of the public in the said information.

Likewise, identification of regions with production surplus that can supply MIMAROPA with production deficit (e.g., “Baguio vegetables” from the province of Benguet in Cordillera Administrative Region) is vital to ensure sufficient supply of food commodities in the region.

Improve packaging and labelling technologies of products. Food packaging and labeling is one of the strategies to address food safety and quality standards. This is expected to improve product marketability, better consumer protection, prolong product shelf life, among others. Hence, development of processing and packaging technologies shall be pursued. Likewise, initiatives on exploring advanced and emerging technologies (e.g., food preservation, smart packaging, and targeted nutrition) including biotechnology shall be supported. DTI, DOST, and FDA will be the primary government agencies that will provide assistance to MSMEs, which will include packaging technology solutions, food preservation, nutritional value of food, information, education, and communication, and capacity building.

Nutrition across all ages improved

Adopt a whole-of-society approach in promoting healthy lifestyle and a culture of active health-seeking behavior among MIMAROPAns. The whole-of-society approach aims to address the root causes of poor nutritional status and detrimental behavior to health by prioritizing and harmonizing the implementation of health and nutrition related interventions and development and nutrition governance by the government, facilitating societal inclusivity, and ensuring active participation of all sectors across age groups and income classes.

To improve nutrition and promote healthy lifestyle and a culture of active health seeking behavior among MIMAROPAns, a whole-of-society shall be adopted. This involves: a) intensified promotion of diversified diet (using available local/traditional foods) and good eating practices; and b) improved health literacy. Utilization and consumption of indigenous species and varieties of plants and breeds of animals (e.g., native/wild pigs in Marinduque) should adopt the food plate model or the right food group proportions specified in DOST’s Pinggang Pinoy to meet the required energy and nutritional needs of an individual. On the other hand, health literacy across all ages shall be improved by tapping local schools and barangays in the conduct of IEC activities relative to the dissemination of affordable nutritious and healthy food alternatives that meet dietary requirements. Guidance and infographics on effective dietary and healthy lifestyle can be translated to local dialects and disseminated through official Facebook page of the LGUs and agencies to reach more stakeholders, particularly those living in GIDAs and depressed municipalities in MIMAROPA.

Government efforts shall focus on strategies that will improve the nutritional status of children and adults to address malnutrition in the region. The agencies concerned and LGUs shall formulate plans and policies aligned with the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN).

Among the government’s flagship programs on nutrition is the Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project (PMNP), which aims to increase simultaneous utilization of a package of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and improve key

health behaviors and practices known to reduce stunting in target LGUs. In MIMAROPA, the PMNP identified the provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Romblon as target areas. The implementation of PMNP started in 2022.

Implement measures to prevent and address wasting, stunting, and obesity. To generate more meaningful data for nutrition program planning and intervention at the local level, DOH together with the MIMAROPA provinces will provide support to increase the e-OPT plus coverage by at least 80 percent of the total estimated number of children (0-59 months old) in their respective areas. Assessment of effectiveness of local nutrition programs shall be conducted to address the gaps and challenges in the implementation of said programs.

To prevent and address early detection of child wasting and stunting, supplemental feeding programs for vulnerable groups (pregnant women-Tutok Kainan Dietary Supplementation Program and school children-micronutrient supplementation program) shall be enhanced.

DSWD and DepEd, in collaboration with the LGUs, will ensure the implementation of PMNP, together with the cascading of Tutok Kainan Dietary Supplementation Program and school children-micronutrient supplementation program. Said programs will focus on the provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, and Palawan, which recorded highest prevalence rate of underweight, stunted, and wasted among 0-59 month old children in 2020 to 2022 among MIMAROPA provinces. The following areas will be prioritized: a) Oriental Mindoro (Mansalay, Bulalacao, Baco, Bansud, Bongabong, San Teodoro, Victoria, and Pola); b) Occidental Mindoro (Abra de Ilog and Paluan); c) Palawan (Balabac, Rizal and Cagayancillo).

Weight management programs shall also be included in primary health care services. The food for feeding programs and relief operations will: a) prioritize the provision of enhanced Nutribun and sesame seeds- and rice-mongo-based complementary foods developed by DOST-FNRI; and b) directly involve from farmers and fisherfolk groups and cooperatives.

Strengthen nutrition-specific, nutrition-sensitive, and enabling interventions especially at the local level. The Early Childhood Care and Development in the First 1000 Days (ECCD F1K) program facilitates

access to health services from pregnancy to 35 months old to promote the physical growth and development of the child. LGUs, in collaboration with DOH and NNC, shall: a) establish and maintain ethnicity disaggregation to monitor service delivery to indigenous peoples; and b) conduct capacity building to IPs as community health workers (cross refer to Chapter 2.1).

Efforts to promote ECCD F1K program in the region have already started and shall be sustained. In particular, the Regional Nutrition Committee (RNC) of MIMAROPA passed a resolution enjoining all LGUs in the region to adopt the ECCD F1K in their three-year local nutrition action plan (LNAP) and integrate LNAP into their annual investment programs and comprehensive development plans. Regional Development Council MIMAROPA also confirmed RNC Resolution No. 4, s. 2021, "Adopting the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) 3.0 Strategy and Organization of SUN Movement Networks in MIMAROPA Region." The SUN strategy was designed to further accelerate the achievement of the World Health Assembly targets by 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, particularly on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. It identifies interventions emphasizing the provision of nutritional support to mothers and families and defines obligations and responsibilities of the government and other organizations and agencies.

To improve the effectiveness of local nutritional programs that are implemented in IP communities in the region, LGUs, in collaboration with DOH and NNC, shall: a) establish and maintain ethnicity disaggregation to monitor service delivery to indigenous peoples; and b) conduct capacity building to IPs as community health workers (refer to Chapter 4.1). The program will focus on the provinces of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro and the city of Puerto Princesa, which recorded the highest prevalence rate of malnutrition among IPs compared to other MIMAROPA provinces.

Moreover, LGUs, in collaboration with NNC and DOH, will ensure that the following national nutrition-specific interventions at the local level, particularly to IP communities and GIDAs identified in the region, will be cascaded: a) Infant and Young Child Feeding; b) Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition; c) National Dietary Supplementation Program; d) National Nutrition Promotion Program for Behavior Change; e) Micronutrient Supplementation; f) Mandatory

Food Fortification; g) Nutrition in Emergencies; and h) Overweight and Obesity Management and Prevention Program.

Enhance access to nutrition, food safety standards and food product certification. Food Testing Laboratories accredited by FDA shall be established in every province. This will ensure safety, quality, and security of food commodities as well as support services for value-adding of fresh produce and development of processed foods.

Moreover, promotion and facilitation of the following programs will be reinforced to keep high regard for environmental protection and workers' health, safety, and welfare while ensuring food safety and quality of agricultural products: a) Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Program; b) National Halal Program; and c) National Organic Program.

Provision of capacity buildings and skills trainings on best practices and technologies on areas of sanitation and hygiene and processing shall be continued. Also, LGUs and national government shall integrate and adopt the concept of green jobs in their plans and programs.

In particular, promotion for good farming of chickens related to food safety shall be intensified. This includes encouraging households to practice free range chicken raising (pastured and traditional free range), which allows chicken in a confined environment to exhibit their natural behavior and access to forage, grasses, insects, and sunlight. Provision of free-range chicken (improved native) and poultry materials and conduct of poultry management training shall be continued to provide to households. Farms managed by AFF-based

cooperatives and associations adjacent to public markets or capital towns (e.g., Calapan City and Puting Cacao, Pola in Oriental Mindoro) will also be provided with large number of free-range chickens including housing and feeds to serve as multiplier farm and be able to supply poultry meat and eggs to localities.

Improve nutrition governance especially in local government units. National programs and projects to be cascaded at the local level will be maximized through convergence. Nutrition governance will be enhanced by: a) strengthening barangay nutrition scholar programs; b) establishing LGU nutrition offices; c) enhancing functionality of all Local Nutrition Committees and capacities of Local Nutrition Workers; and d) strengthening coordination system between the national and local government through the NNC.

Section 16 and 17 of the LGC provides that the LGUs shall exercise powers to ensure and support the promotion of general welfare in its territorial jurisdiction through the provision of basic services and facilities including health, nutrition, and sanitation services. With the full devolution of certain functions of the national government agencies to the LGUs, all LGUs are enjoined to prioritize the programs, projects, and activities included in their respective local nutrition action plans, which shall be formulated in accordance with the PPAN 2017-2022 in the allocation of local funds. In 2011, The Regional Nutrition Committee (RNC) MIMAROPA enjoined all , local government units to create nutrition offices and appoint permanent Nutrition Action Officers (NAO) with adequate support staff to implement the local nutrition action plans and programs.

Legislative Agenda

Table 5.1.2 Legislative Agenda to Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Enactment of Urban Agriculture Law	The proposed law aims to promote urban agriculture and vertical farming in the country's metropolitan areas as an instrument to contribute to attaining food security. Under this proposal, the use of available government- and private-ly-owned land resources in urban areas suitable for growing crops and raising poultry, livestock, and aquaculture will be promoted for agriculture purposes.	DA, DILG, LGUs, DepEd,
	The region's vulnerability to climate and natural hazards coupled with its archipelagic nature make the region more susceptible to supply chain disruption, which in turn causes insufficiency in food supply. The promotion of urban gardening and vertical farming will ensure sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for the increasing population of MIMAROPA provinces, particularly in communities identified as GIDAs. It will also provide alternative source of income to seasonal workers.	
Creation of Nutrition Offices and Appoint Permanent Nutrition Action Offices with Adequate Support Staff to Implement the Local Nutrition Action Plans and Programs	The creation of Nutrition Office with adequate staff is critical to improve the local nutrition status. This will ensure that the implementation of the above-cited policies, plans, and programs will benefit target groups and the planning and implementation of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs with multi-sectoral participation will contribute in the reduction of malnutrition and improved human capital development.	LGUs in MIMAROPA
Adoption of the Early Childhood Care and Development in the First 1000 Days (ECCD FIK) Program	The ECCD FIK Program contains comprehensive package of nutrition specific, sensitive, and enabling interventions to reduce morbidity, mortality, and stunting and wasting prevalence among children 0–23-month-old, and is expected to improve the quality of the country's human resource base, thereby contributing to poverty reduction. The LGUs in MIMAROPA shall adopt the ECCD FIK through the inclusion of relevant components of the ECCD FIK Program in the three-year local nutrition action plan (LNAP). The LNAP shall be integrated in various plans and programs such as comprehensive development plans, annual investment program (AIP), and local development investment program (LDIP).	LGUs in MIMAROPA

Sub-chapter 5.2 Strengthen Social Protection

The MIMAROPA region needs a revolutionary social protection system that equips every MIMAROPAn with the skills necessary to avoid potential shocks, respond to them, and recover from them. Such a radical approach would go beyond risk management interventions and incorporate solutions to structural weaknesses and social inequalities that will assist in gaining access to programs that cover all forms of risks over the course of their lives.

This sub-chapter discusses the social protection programs that must be available to everyone, especially the underprivileged, disadvantaged, and excluded. As people continue to confront risks from natural disasters, political unrest, economic instability, health-related shocks, and other unforeseen events, reducing the number of vulnerable sectors is still one of the region's top goals. Given the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on the area in recent years, MIMAROPA was more motivated than ever to enhance and step up the delivery of social protection programs and solutions in the years to come.

Assessment and Challenges

Improved disaster response to families affected by calamities. From 2020 to 2021 A remarkable increase in the number of clients served through Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) of the DSWD was observed in 2021. The department also achieved notable accomplishments on disaster response to families affected by natural and human-induced calamities such as core shelter assistance, food packs, cash for work, food for work, and emergency shelter assistance (ESA). However, coordination between and among agencies and LGUs on the implementation of projects should be strengthened to avoid duplication of similar programs, projects, and activities (PPAs). Also, mental health and psychosocial services in the disaster response should be given importance.

Increased number of senior citizens provided with social pension. From 2020 to 2021, there were significant increase in the number of senior citizens provided with social pension, many senior citizens are yet to be covered by the program. However, substantial number of beneficiaries on Social Pension for the

Indigent Senior Citizens (SPISC) program need to be covered the RDP target for 2021 was not achieved.

Ensured workers protection during pandemic. The Government intensified its implementation on several livelihood assistance and other social safety net programs for various workers in the formal and informal economy.

MIMAROPA has 84,590 beneficiaries of COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) in 2021. The region also recorded a total of 1,589 displaced land-based and sea-based Filipino workers who received financial assistance through the DOLE-Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)-AKAP. DSWD MIMAROPA reported 107 workers, including migrant workers, who were covered by their social protection services. They also provided intervention and social services to the 28 trafficked persons.

Successful implementation of 4Ps in MIMAROPA. In 2021, one-fifth of the population in the region is considered poor, which translates to 667,900 people. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), the prime social protection program in the region, has already surpassed the 2021 MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan (RDP) target by providing regular and modified conditional cash transfers (R/MCCT)

to 200,714 household beneficiaries. This is more than 1.56 percent above the RDP end-of-plan target of 197,623 household beneficiaries. The increase in the coverage was due to the number of beneficiaries reinstated in the program and the registration of Set 11 households. Being said, it was evident that the program in the region is on track in terms of achieving its goals of improving child education and health outcomes. However, despite the successful implementation, some issues need to be resolved such as; (1) late pay-out, (2) unfairness due to poor screening, and (3) not enough subsidy to meet the increasing prices of today's goods and commodities.

About 7.5% of the region's population are food-poor. A large part of the population in the region is considered food-poor, which translates to 239,600 of the total population in 2021. To address the poverty and hunger in the region, DSWD MIMAROPA launched the Enhanced Partnership against Hunger and Poverty (EPAPH) in November 2021. Proper implementation and close monitoring of the EPAPH and other similar programs in alleviating poverty and hunger should be given importance in able to achieved zero food poor in the region by the end of 2028.

Strengthened social services for women and children. Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) has served a total of 73,544 children, which was 10 percent lower than the RDP target for 2022. The decrease may be attributed to the challenges on procurement such as the lack or limited number of qualified suppliers of SFP goods in the MIMAROPA areas.

Through the provision of livelihood grants to the families of child laborers, the DOLE MIMAROPA was able to remove 390 children aged 5-17 years old from child labor in 2021.

The region, through the DSWD MIMAROPA, also recognized the need to ensure rehabilitation and reintegration of the children in conflict with the law (CICL); it served 41 clients in 2021 through the MIMAROPA Youth Center (MYC).

In 2021, five women in especially difficult circumstances (WEDC) or those victims and survivors of sexual and physical abuse, illegal recruitment, prostitution, and trafficking, armed conflict, women in detention, victims and survivors of rape and incest, and such other related circumstances were assisted by the region. In the five provinces of MIMAROPA, the Philippine National Police MIMAROPA recorded a total of 266 occurrences of abuse cases to women and their children. Additionally, 322 instances of gender-based violence against women, including e-VAW, were documented. Effective implementation of existing policies and programs to protect woman must be ensured.

Limited IEC for persons with disability especially in GIDAs. Many persons with disability become vulnerable to physical and psychological violence because of their disability. It was evident in the country, persons with disability (PWD) were facing discrimination, abuse, exploitation, and bullying because of their attributes. Also, support services are lacking, and government policies and programs are poorly implemented in the region.

Access to existing services remains a concern for PWD, specially those who were residing in far-flung communities.

Slow processing of Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs). The IPs were generally considered the poorest among the vulnerable groups. MIMAROPA is one of the regions with high numbers of IPs which there were issues concerning basic human rights, war and conflict resolution, employment opportunities and discrimination, jurisdiction and ancestral domain, and preservation of their cultures and traditions.

According to NCIP MIMAROPA, as of 31 July 2022, of the 154 IP ancestral domain universe ("CADTeable" or those that can be applied for CADT), there were 112 CADT applications filed: 7 registered, 17 approved by CEB, 95 going delineation process, and 36 no application.

Targets

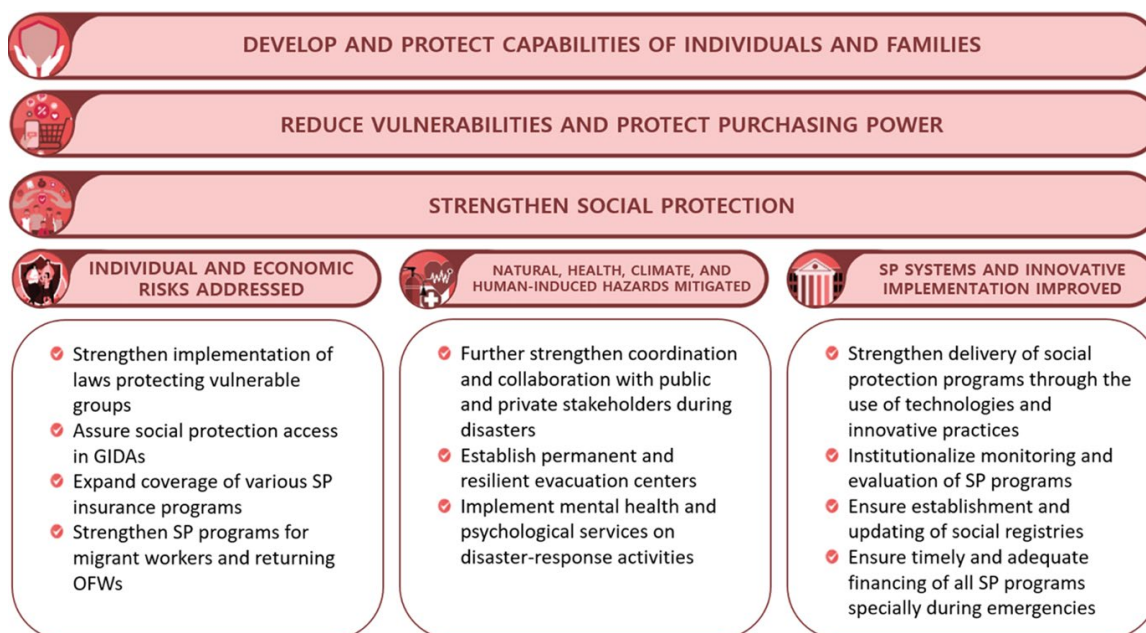
Table 5.2.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE (2021)	ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Percentage of families with Registered Members and Beneficiaries of PhilHealth	89.00% (2021)	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	Admin data (proxy)	DSWD, Philhealth
Number of poor households covered by RCCT/MCCT	200,714 (2021)	210,750	220,786	230,822	240,858	250,894	260,930	Admin data	DSWD
Number of eligible senior citizens covered by social pension	159,594 (2021)	178,292	196,990	215,688	234,386	253,084	271,781	Assuming 100% target by 2028 (Based on PSA 2020 household population above 60 years old)	DSWD/PSA
Total expenditures on SP programs as percentage to GRDP	1.79%	2.22%	2.64%	3.07%	3.58%	3.92%	4.34%	Admin data	PSA/DSWD/DBM

Sources: MIMAROPA Regional Development Report 2021; PDP 2023-2028 (Pre-publication Version) as of 15 December 2022; PSA data on Household Population by Age Group and Sex_Philippines_2020 CPH_rev.

Strategies

Figure 5.2.1 Strategy Framework to Strengthen Social Protection



Individual and economic risks addressed

Strengthen implementation of laws protecting vulnerable groups. Implementation of various laws protecting the vulnerable groups such as women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples, and PWD need to be further strengthened. This includes wider and more effective ways of information, education, and communication on various rights of different vulnerable groups. The region will encourage and promote any activities advocating awareness of laws addressing gender-based issues and concerns, protective measures, etc. Various laws provide programs, projects, services, and institutional mechanisms that vulnerable sectors may use to improve their condition. Among them were: (1) RA 11188, (2) VAWC, (3) Domestic Workers Act, (4) RA 11228.

Children. To address the needs of kids during armed conflict, the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act, or Republic Act No. 11188 will be properly implemented. To lessen child stunting and wasting, nutrition initiatives that have been put in place nationwide shall also be maintained. This could be included in the Nutrition Chapter. Though the challenges on procurement regarding the lack or limited number of qualified suppliers of Supplemental Feeding Program goods in the MIMAROPA areas will be addressed.

Key programs addressing child labor in the region shall be executed with a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach. These are anticipated to cover the economic, social, and psychological components of child labor. These programs involve enhancing coordination systems and providing sufficient funding to address the worries of impacted families. These will also involve setting up strategic helpdesks and referral networks across. Likewise, the region shall support the Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program.

Children who are abandoned by their OFW parents, those who are involved in armed conflict, those who are in dispute with the law, and those who have suffered trauma from disasters shall also receive mental health and psychosocial care.

Women. Provide policies and programs to protect women and women in especially difficult

circumstances (WEDC) including Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004 and the Domestic Workers Act or Batas Kasambahay must be ensured. Under VAWC, a woman victim of violence shall be entitled to the custody and support of her child/children.

Children under seven (7) years old or older with mental or physical disabilities shall automatically be given to the mother, with the right to support, unless the court finds compelling reasons to order otherwise. The Batas Kasambahay states that, all kasambahay shall be treated with respect by the employer or any member of the household. He/she shall not be subjected to any abuse, including repeated verbal or psychological, nor be inflicted with any form of physical violence or harassment or any act tending to degrade his/her dignity.

Persons with disability. To help people with disability cover some of the costs associated with their unique conditions, the region must give disability support allowance. They will be given appropriate PhilHealth benefit packages in addition to mandatory membership coverage as a supplementary aid as mandated in the Republic Act 11228 An Act Providing For The Mandatory Philhealth Coverage For All Persons With Disability, Amending For The Purpose Republic Act No. 7277, As Amended, Otherwise Known As The “Magna Carta For Persons With Disability”.

Senior Citizens. The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010’s Social Pension Program’s aims to ensure that no senior person is left behind. Also, the region shall empower civil society organizations, such as senior citizens’ groups, to be active in various dialogues and development meetings within the region. This is to guarantee the inclusion of relevant programs and activities in the implementation of laws, policies, and programs relevant to them.

Indigenous Peoples. The absence of basic social services like health care and land-related harassment are two of the biggest issues that the indigenous people are facing. The region will keep advocating for the protection of indigenous minorities, especially those who are trapped in conflict and those living in communities where land is being taken. The region will also exert every effort to make sure that indigenous communities obtain essential social services.

DSWD MIMAROPA proposed a number of programs for the implementation of laws protecting vulnerable groups for fiscal years 2023–2028, such as Residential Care (MIMAROPA Youth Center), Php 45.94 million; Supplemental Feeding Program, Php 389.41 million; Alternative Parental Care Program, Php 90.21 million; Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS), Php 503.92 million. In addition, DOLE MIMAROPA proposed Php 24.42 million for the Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP).

Assure social protection access in GIDAs. To ensure social protection in GIDAs, convergence of regional line agencies and LGUs shall intensify the provision of services and projects, (e.g. registration of indigenous peoples in the PhilSys, basic infrastructure). The government will likewise tap NGOs and other civil society sectors that target people in GIDAs. The Bayanihang Bayan Program (BBP) or the Volunteer Program for Government Service is a platform for private sector volunteering services to support government agencies and local government units by virtue of the Volunteer Act of 2007, or Republic Act No. 9418. BBP engages the volunteer assistance of the private sector in the implementation of government programs and projects for stronger partnership between and among the stakeholders.

The Local Government Support Fund–Support to Barangay Development Program (LGSF-SBDP) is the government's priority program to usher development and deliver basic services to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs). The Barangay Development Projects are socioeconomic development projects geared toward the provision of farm-to-market roads, health centers, electrification, water and sanitation facilities, schools, and livelihood projects. For FY 2021, 25 barangays in MIMAROPA were provided with 20 million pesos each for their priority projects amounting Php 500 million. Among the barangays in MIMAROPA that already received their fund allocation for Occidental Mindoro include: Balao, Cabacao, San Vicente, Udalo, and Wawa in Abra de Ilog; Purnaga in Magsaysay; Harrison, and Mananao in Paluan; and Batasan in San Jose. For Oriental Mindoro, among the recipient-barangays include: Benli, Milagrosa, Nasukob, and San Isidro in Bulalacao; Panaytayan in Mansalay; Bugtong na Tuog in Socorro; and Villa Cerveza and Buong Lupa in Gloria. For Palawan, among the recipient-barangays include Amas, Salogon, Samariñana, and

Saraza in Brooke's Point; Abaroan, Dumarao, and Magara in Roxas; and Villa Fria in San Vicente.

For FY 2022, 54 barangays were provided with Php 4 million each to fund their priority projects amounting Php 216 million. Out of the 54 barangays 35 barangays are located in Palawan, 12 barangays in Occidental Mindoro, and 7 barangays in Oriental Mindoro.

Expand coverage of various SP insurance programs. Progress in the delivery of social protection programs in the region was evident in previous years. Efforts to consolidate programs and improve targeting, design, and implementation of various SP programs were properly documented and it has been observed that it contributed to reduction of poverty and inequality. However, there is a need to increase coverage, improve implementation, and coherence of social protection policies. Expansion of coverage of the SP insurance programs should be promoted to achieve a universal social protection for all MIMAROPAns. The current SSS and GSIS systems shall be examined, and alternative plans to expand coverage and benefits must be identified.

Strengthen SP programs for migrant workers and returning OFWs. The region shall support the implementation of the numerous initiatives offered to OFWs. The goal is to map out the various options and opportunities that are available such as to settle, retire, or re-enter in the local workforce or business entrepreneurs to them upon their return to the region. The Department of Migrant Workers proposed “one-stop shop” would assist returning OFWs in making livelihood choices.

A total of Php 6.43 million was proposed by DSWD MIAMROPA through Social Welfare for Distressed Overseas Filipinos and Trafficked Persons Program. Targeted and demographic-specific programs are need as well, such as the DOLE Balik Pinay, Balik Hanapbuhay (BPBH), which combines training and production intervention programs to provide distressed women OFWs with livelihood skills to improve their socioeconomic well-being. The Agri-Negosyo Para sa OFWs program by the DTI, meanwhile, offers a menu of agriculture and agribusiness-related programs and services of the various agencies all under one roof.

Natural, health, climate, and human-induced hazards mitigated

Further strengthen coordination and collaboration among stakeholders during disasters. To withstand and recover from natural and human-caused disasters, it is essential that individuals and communities shall work together to anticipate threats, minimize effects, and rapidly restore functionality after a crisis. The lead agencies must be able to further strengthen the coordination and collaboration among stakeholders in the region in the delivery of SP during disasters and emergency response operations. It is necessary to identify resources, capacity building, structural mechanism, responsibilities and deliverables of each sector, institution, and stakeholder management to facilitate in various stages such as prevention, mitigation, and rehabilitation.

Effective communication plans and strategies must be also developed during emergency response operations in the delivery of SP programs and services. Communication is critical in strengthening coordination and collaboration among agencies. Communication plan for delivery of SP programs and services shall suit island/provincial configuration. It shall promote alternatives in the change in implementation, delivery system, change of personnel and resource mobilizations.

Establish permanent and resilient evacuation centers. Appropriate facilities will be created to house the affected families to reduce the usage of classrooms as evacuation centers during disasters. The evacuation centers will be permanent, earthquake- and typhoon-resistant, and they must also be created with the needs of children, women, people with disabilities, and the elderly in mind. According to OCD MIMAROPA, 18 permanent evacuation shelters have already been constructed in the region as of December 2022, with some still under development and others nearing completion. To secure the safety of the MIMAROPAns during a crisis, the government shall be able to identify the minimum number and the location of evacuation centers in the region and fund the construction of these disaster-resistant facilities. Every municipality in the region shall have an evacuation center, and LGUs should be encouraged to build such.

Implement mental health and psychosocial services on disaster-response activities. There are many lessons learned during big disasters like Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, Ulysses, and Odette,

mental health and psychosocial services are among important interventions which involve many players from government agencies, NGOs, local authorities, and the community itself. The main priority of mental health is to reintegrate people back into their normal lives. Humanitarian and social assistance is an important part of the work to improve mental health of populations affected by disasters but should be complemented with other specific government interventions. The region shall ensure the provision of gender-sensitive and child-friendly mental health and psychosocial services to victims of disasters.

SP systems and innovative implementation improved

Strengthen the delivery of social protection programs using technologies and innovative practices. The integration of digital technology in the implementation of social protection services is driven by the demand for more accurate and efficient services, among public and private institutions. Automation improves data management, reducing workloads and enabling implementers to make more informed decisions. It also provides convenience, faster service, and better security for beneficiaries and the public. The need for transparency also drives the move toward digital technology integration of social protection programs. The establishment of database management system addresses duplication and allows for greater transparency of beneficiary lists for social protection programs. It will also help to increase coverage of the programs. With the advances in and adoption of digitalization technologies, digital payment platforms can be integrated with cash transfer programs. For example, development partners utilized the 4Ps payment platform during emergency responses and they were able to reduce their administrative and transaction costs significantly.

Institutionalize monitoring and evaluation of SP programs. Institutionalization of monitoring and evaluation (M/E) systems is a requisite for resilient, effective, and efficient social protection programs. This shall be conducted regularly among service providers to be able to modify, refine, or even terminate programs to improve implementation and attain the desired results. M/E establish accountability and transparency in the utilization of public funds. Also, it is useful in assessing how convergence among stakeholders at all levels is achieved.

The RDC secretariat maintains a web-based M/E system (ProyekTanglaw) which may be utilized to monitor and evaluate SP programs. RDC secretariat also provides technical assistance for LGUs and RLAs on capacity building of the establishment of monitoring and evaluation system.

Ensure establishment and updating of social registries. Social registries for vulnerable groups shall be created and maintained by concerned agencies and LGUs. The registries of various government entities will be synchronized and integrated with the national ID system to prevent gaps or overlaps. This registry will facilitate targeting, authentication, registration, and enlistment easier. (Some registries must also be connected to the database of particular locations that will emanate from the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) for the delivery of benefits. These coordinated efforts will also make it easier to design new programs.

The enactment of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Act, or Republic Act No. 11315, with its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) institutionalized technology-based system of collecting, processing, and validating locally disaggregated data. This CBMS data may be used for planning, program implementation, and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the local information system. CBMS aims to establish a database at the national and city/municipal levels and to generate relevant statistics at higher levels that will complement and supplement the local level data. In MIMAROPA, between August and October 2022, 45 municipalities are reportedly implementing CBMS, according to PSA MIMAROPA. In relation to this, the region encourages the creation of CMBS databases on each LGU while also encouraging them to keep the databases up to date on a regular basis.

Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) will be vital in the establishment of social registry. It aims to provide valid proof of identity for Filipino citizens and resident aliens in the Philippines to promote effective and efficient transactions with the public and private sectors. As of December 2022, the number of PhilSys registered population in the region was 2,364,143. Also, the number of Physis Identification Cards released by the PSA was 773,355 ePhilID issued and 106,189 PhilID delivered through post offices. According to the PSA, the system aims to contribute to enhancing administrative governance, reducing corruption, and promoting ease of doing business. Additionally, it will help the government's objectives to strengthen social protection and financial inclusion as well as hasten the Philippines' transition to a trustworthy and inclusive digital economy. To hasten the issuance of a national ID, LGUs should encourage their constituents to register in the system. Additionally, LGUs shall assist in the distribution of written and electronic materials, make mobile announcements, and broadcast registration-related updates from the official PhilSys social media pages.

Ensure timely and adequate financing of all SP programs, especially during emergencies. The region shall work more closely with the commercial and civil society sectors to raise more funds for SP projects. This is to guarantee that the SP's emergency responses will have enough funding. The timely replies of SP programs are achievable with enough resources. Additionally, the processes for releasing funds at these times need to be improved and ensured.

In relation to the devolved function to LGUs, LGUs should allot funding for social protection programs/projects as part of their annual IRA for local development. Proper implementation, utilization, and monitoring of the local disaster risk reduction and management fund (LDRRMF) shall be encouraged and promoted to LGUs.

Table 5.2.2 List of Major Programs and Projects to Strengthen Social Protection

TITLE	PROVINCE/ CITY	INVESTMENT TARGET (PHP '000)						TOTAL 2023 – 2028 INVESTMENT TARGET (PHP '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)	All 5 provinces	5,216,846.00	5,273,143.00	4,883,287.00	4,883,287.00	5,029,785.00	5,180,679.18	30,467,027.79
Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP)	All 5 provinces	206,968.00	210,789.00	222,321.00	234,993.00	242,042.79	249,304.07	1,366,418.07
Supplementary Feeding Program	All 5 provinces	161,564.00	43,624.00	44,934.00	45,065.00	46,417.42	47,809.53	389,414.95
Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens	All 5 provinces	1,172,542.00	1,228,321.00	1,255,740.00	1,280,126.00	1,318,530.68	1,358,086.62	7,613,349.30
Assistance to Individual in Crisis Situation (AICS)	All 5 provinces	138,370.00	127,071.00	130,883.52	34,810.46	35,854.76	36,930.29	503,920.03
Residential Care (MIMAROPA Youth Center)	All 5 provinces	9,579.00	16,903.00	16,369.90	1,000.00	1,030.00	1,060.90	45,943.20
Alternative Parental Care Program	All 5 provinces	10,601.04	14,994.24	15,444.07	15,907.39	16,384.61	16,876.15	90,207.49
Social Welfare for Distressed Overseas Filipinos and Trafficked Persons Program	All 5 provinces	869	819	1,132.62	1,166.60	1,201.60	1,237.65	6,426.48
Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP)	All 5 provinces	-	4,000.00	4,400.00	4,840.00	5,324.00	5,856.40	24,420.40

Sources: *Regional Development Investment Program 2023-2028 of DOH MIMAROPA and POPCOM MIMAROPA*

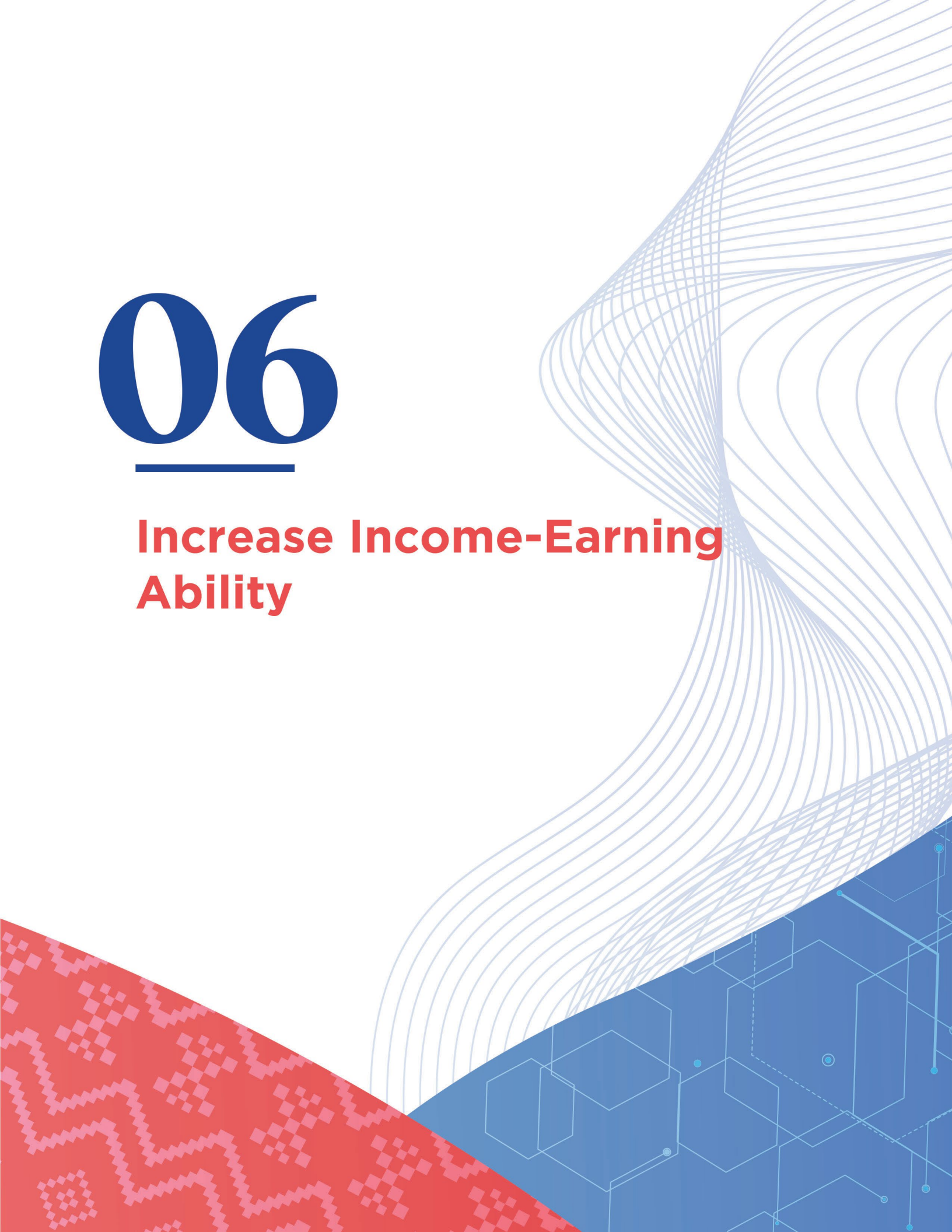
Legislative Agenda

Table 5.2.3 Legislative Agenda to Strengthen Social Protection

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Continuous Monitoring and issuance of joint (congressional) resolution that address adequacy of social security pensions to prevailing economic realities Bill	Joint resolution mandating the implementation of the second tranche of the social security pension increase effective January 1, 2022 to cushion the impact of new taxes and rising prices of goods and services, and to provide social protection for pensioners.	SSS
Persons with Disability Financial Resilience Bill	An act institutionalizing the provision of financial assistance, social pension, and financial protection for Filipino PWD, and for related purposes.	DSWD
Universal and Integrated Social Protection System	<p>The need for a legal framework that will rationalize SP programs towards an integrated system were there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of SP as a basic right provided by the state; • Institutionalization of SP floor; • Establishment of effective coordination structures; • Establishment and updating of social registries; • Enhancement of digital payment platforms; and • Sustainable financing (See Chapter 11.1) and partnerships with the private and civil society sectors 	DSWD and NEDA
Magna Carta of Workers in the Informal Economy	The proposed bill seeks to remedy the shortcoming in our legal system by affirming and establishing as a matter of law the rights, protection, and security afforded to workers and economic units in the informal sector, including rights and labor standards guaranteed to all workers and the entire labor force under the Constitution and relevant labor laws.	DSWD, DILG, DOLE, and DICT

06

**Increase Income-Earning
Ability**



INCREASE INCOME-EARNING ABILITY

By 2028, MIMAROPAns shall have improved their income-earning ability that can better support their goals and objectives to have a stable and comfortable lifestyle, secure in the knowledge that they have enough for their daily needs and unexpected expenses.

The workforce must be developed in order to increase the employability of MIMAROPAns in the local and international job market. Skills training and alignment with current and emerging jobs shall be ensured. It is essential to create a dynamic social partnership based on shared accountability to attain a responsive, equitable, and effective labor market. Employment facilitation procedures that are effective and efficient shall also enable easier and more strategic job search.

Assessment and Challenges

In 2018, TESDA formulated the National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan (NTESDP) 2018-2022, which aims to inform the TVET actors, movers, and leaders in crafting responsive policies and implementing programs and projects to strengthen the sector. It aims to realize its goal through a two-pronged strategic thrust: (1) global competitiveness and workforce readiness and (2) social equity for workforce inclusion and poverty reduction.

On February 22, 2019, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed the “Tulong Trabaho Act,” which aims to develop the skills of the Filipino labor force by providing free access to TVET which is expected to result in improving the country’s employment rate. This also seeks to address unemployment and jobs mismatch by assessing the current requirements of industries.

The NTESDP also identified priority sectors and classified these into three groups. Tourism/hotels/restaurants, construction, IT-BPO (IT-BPM), transport, communication and storage comprise the first group; these belong to industries that have large employment bases and showed rapid

growth. The second group consists of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, including agro-processing and manufacturing, followed by electronics. This group is under industries that have large employment bases but have exhibited negative or minimal growth rate in the past. These industries are important to the economy in terms of value-added and employment. The third group composed of industries in health, wellness, and other social services are sectors with high growth rates and have good incremental economic effects.

Out of the TVET graduates, it was observed that there was a decrease in the number of employed. But this was still above the RDP target. According to the TESDA Study on Employment of TVET Graduates in 2020, it was estimated that labor force participation rate of graduates in the region was at 70.00 percent with higher employment of graduates from Enterprise-Based Training institutions.

From the three sectors with the highest enrolment and graduates, AFF, Automotive and Land transportation and tourism, TVET graduates who were employed in these sectors earned monthly incomes ranging from Php 300.00 to Php 990,000.00. The lowest and highest monthly incomes came from the tourism sector. A greater proportion of those who searched

for a job after training (83.0%) were able to land a job in less than a year.

It was also noted that there was higher employment among TESDA Technology Institutions (TTIs) graduates than graduates from non-TTIs. As of 2021, there were 11 TTIs in all provinces in the region which undertake direct training for TESDA.

There were also improvements on the number of partnerships forged in 2021. The AFF sector had the highest share, followed by tourism and metals and engineering. Further, the highest number of partnerships were with the private sector and LGUs.

The region's working age population increased by 10.65 percent from 1,221,000 in 2020 to 1,351,000 in 2021. The labor force participation rate also increased by 5.34 percentage points from 59.58 percent in 2020 to 64.92 percent in 2021. This can be attributed to the number of people seeking jobs in adjacent regions since local travel restrictions imposed in 2021 were more relaxed compared to the restrictions imposed in 2020.

Employment rate decreased by 0.60 percentage point from 92.75 percent in 2020 to 92.15 percent in 2021. The region's employment rate was higher by 2.41 percentage points compared to the national average employment rate of 89.74 percent. This can still be attributed to the imposition of varied movement restrictions and alert level systems in different provinces and weather disturbances and typhoons that hit the region and affected the productivity of farmers and fisherfolks. On the other hand, the region's unemployment rate of 7.8 percent was lower by -2.41 percentage points compared to the national average unemployment rate of 10.26 percent. This was however higher by 0.60 percentage point compared to 2020's 7.25 percent.

The underemployment rate increased by 3.87 percentage points from 23.86 percent in 2020 to 27.73 percent in 2021. This was also higher by 11.49 percentage points compared to the national average underemployment rate of 16.24 percent.

The MIMAROPA Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board has passed several wage orders since 2017 to ensure competitive compensation among workers and enable them to cope with rising costs of living. The minimum wage rates for establishments with 10 workers and above increased by Php 70.00 per day from Php 285.00 per day in 2017 to Php 355 per day in 2022. Likewise, the minimum wage rates for establishments with less than 10 workers increased by Php 94.00 per day from Php 235.00 per day in 2017 to Php 329.00 per day in 2022.

The number of industries in the region that could take on a large number of on-the-job trainees was constrained. In MIMAROPA, there are very few industries with long-term OJT programs. Additionally, very few businesses have efficient hiring strategies.

Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC) and Philippine Standard Occupational Classification (PSOC) are not updated, particularly for new professions and emerging sectors. The new jobs include ISO Officer, IEC Officers, Land Use Planners, Real Estate Broker, Virtual Assistant on Online System and Social Networking; Speech Pathologist; Regenerative Specialist; and Plastic Fabricator. On the other hand, future jobs include Mine Tourism Officers; Aerospace manufacturing; Repair and Overhauling; Equipment and Maintenance; Fabricator; Equipment Control Officer; Animator; Plant Nutrition Specialist; Seaweed Farmer Technician; and Plant Pathologist. Labor Market Information (LMI) dissemination is insufficient for developing policies, hiring employees, and guiding career paths.

Targets

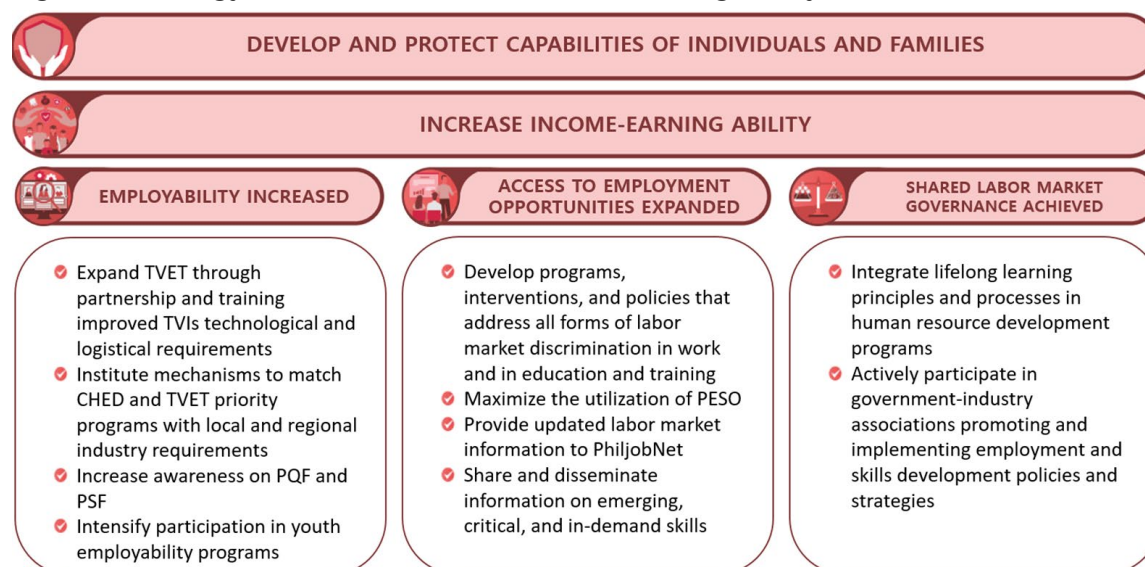
Table 6.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						END-OF-PLAN TARGET	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
TESDA Certification Rate in priority sectors (%) increased*	2021	92%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%		TESDA Admin Data
Employment rate of TVET graduates (%) increased*	2022	93.4	94-96	94-96	95-96	95-96	95-96	95-96	95-96	SDC
Employment rate increased	2021	91.9	94.4 (high) 93.7 (low)	94.8 (high) 94.7 (low)	94.5 (high) 94.4 (low)	94.7 (high) 94.6 (low)	95.0 (high) 94.9 (low)	95.1 (high) 94.9 (low)	95.1 (high) 94.9 (low)	DOLE/POEA/PSA LFS
Unemployment rate decreased	2021	8.02	7.37 (low) 6.87 (high)	6.80 (low) 6.30 (high)	6.23 (low) 5.73 (high)	5.66 (low) 5.16 (high)	5.08 (low) 4.58 (high)	5.08 (low) 4.01 (high)	5.08 (low) 4.01 (high)	DOLE/POEA/PSA LFS
Underemployment rate decreased	2021	27.7	26.5	25.00%	23.50%	22.00%	19.50%	18.00%	18.00%	PSA LFS
Placement rate (%) of Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs) increased*	2022 Sept.	91%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%		DOLE Admin Data
Percentage of MSMEs (%) that implemented productivity improvement program increased*	2022	69%	69-70	69-70	70-75	70-75	70-75	70-75	70-75	DOLE Admin Data

Sources: TESDA, SDC, DOLE, POEA, and PSA

Strategies

Figure 6.1 Strategy Framework to Increase Income-earning Ability



The strategy framework highlights the importance of educational qualifications, training credentials, skills, and competencies that enhance employability. It also emphasizes the need to strengthen interventions that

improve access to employment opportunities. Lastly, it underlines the need to improve labor market governance, with an emphasis on collaboration and shared responsibility.

Employability increased

Expand TVET through partnership and improve training through meeting TVIs technological and logistical requirements. Collaboration with LGUs, NGOs, industry associations, and other organizations shall be intensified to produce a targeted training needs provision and programs necessary for reskilling and upskilling.

Provincial Employment Services Offices (PESOs) shall be tapped to conduct information drives on skills requirements and projections in their communities. Awareness and advocacy campaigns shall also be undertaken to capacitate community TVIs and HEIs on transferring technology, learning methodologies, and training modules of partner industry associations. LGUs can also provide subsidies on the preparation of business projects of students in community-based training institutions.

The micro-credentialing system through the TESDA online programs and massive open online courses (MOOC) shall be strengthened for online certification, onsite services, and other delivery methods of learning.

Assistance shall be rendered to the region's TVET sector to upgrade their facilities and other logistical requirements based on international qualifications. This also includes addressing the workforce needs of the basic sector for social and economic inclusion.

Culture of innovation shall be nourished in the TVET sector through the establishment of innovation centers and mechanisms to encourage innovation, research, and development in organizations and the general public. This shall complement the current project of TESDA Supporting Innovation in the Philippine Technical Vocational Education and Training System (SIPTVETS), which aims to help modernize and reform the Philippine TVET system.

Institute mechanisms to match CHED and TVET priority programs with local and regional industry requirements. TVET shall be flexible in addressing

major concerns of identified priority industries. Thus, the growing demand for workers in various industries requires the government to anticipate and prioritize TVET programs.

Skills need anticipation and forecasting shall be done particularly in sectors with quality jobs and those with high enrolment and graduates in the region. There is a need for TVI- and training-level information systems that shall contain training offerings, costs, passing rates in national certifications, as well as employment rates for every sector.

To improve relevance of TVET, industries shall be encouraged to participate in the development of competency standards, training regulations, and curriculum aligned with technical and soft skills demanded by the industry. Modernized and specialized training centers shall also help in further refining the reskilling and upskilling needs of TVET students.

Enterprises play a vital role in defining the skills requirements and standards of occupational profiles. Increase in employability and readiness of students shall be achieved if employers can facilitate training deliveries from internships, on-the-job trainings, industry immersions, and apprenticeship programs to produce accurate and timely skills anticipation results. Hence, collaboration between TVIs and companies shall be promoted to further strengthen the TVET process.

Increase awareness on PQF and PSF. The implementing rules and regulations of the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) Act were approved on January 15, 2019. The PQF was institutionalized to encourage lifelong learning of individuals, provide employees specific training standards and qualifications aligned with industry standards, ensure that the training and educational institutions comply with specific standards and are accountable for achieving corresponding learning outcomes, and provide government with a common taxonomy and qualifications typology as bases for recognizing education and training programs as well as the

qualifications formally awarded and their equivalents. Employers shall proactively communicate academic curricula and training rules on how evolving workplace requirements should be incorporated. The PQF Registry of Qualifications should be used by employers to better manage their workforce needs and understand how to design jobs. To guarantee that industrial transformation is supported by effective human capital and skills development strategies, PQF and Philippines Skills Framework (PSF) requirements and standards must be incorporated. Skills-occupations mapping is a practice that employers, business associations, and educational institutions may use to address skill gaps and promote job mobility.

Intensify participation in youth employability programs. Educational institutions, particularly for students in senior high school, must proactively seek out effective interventions or programs that support employment. The success of area-based skills initiatives can be increased by creating collaborations between and among TESDA, high schools, regional universities, and regional colleges. Additionally, the private sector can assist with curriculum design, institutionalize feedback processes, and offer guidance on hiring practices.

Programs for out of school youth (OSY) should also be continued and expanded to target those that are most economically proficient. The region would benefit from institutions such as the OSY Technical Training Center, in partnership with CHED, to cater to youth who are interested in short-period courses. TESDA's Equal Employment Opportunities for Out-of-School Youth program is also beneficial especially for IT-inclined youth. Lastly, foreign funding and programs should be exploited; such programs as USAID's Opportunity 2.0 help build a generation of workers and entrepreneurs.

Access to employment opportunities expanded

Develop programs, interventions, and policies that address all forms of labor market discrimination in work and in education and training. The government shall conduct impact assessments of policies, laws, and institutions designed to promote equality. Besides employment facilitation, policies shall be aimed at labor market issues such as gender, context-specific barriers, such as transportation

constraints, security, technological capacities, and discrimination. The government shall explore the development of a framework that can progressively eliminate discrimination between full-time and part-time workers. Pathways shall also be considered for workers transitioning from part-time to full-time status or vice versa. Conduct of skills-occupations mapping to determine and identify policies and interventions to address skills-mismatch shall also be considered.

Conduct of tracer studies to follow youth employment, identify policy gaps, and measure actual school-to-work transition of youth. The tracer study shall be an effective tool in assessing the whereabouts and performance of graduates of the state universities and colleges and other private institutions in the region. The data harvested in the studies shall help the CHED in identifying the priority courses that should be offered by the HEIs in MIMAROPA.

Maximize the utilization of PESO. With technical assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs) can potentially transition to offering a full range of employment, career counseling, and training services for specific in-demand skills through a partnership with TESDA and educational institutions. Moreover, the government shall integrate all employment program monitoring systems, career development support, and labor market information systems in the PhilJobNet to provide a complete employment journey for target clients. Returning Overseas Filipinos shall also have access to these services, facilitating their integration back to the domestic economy. The LGUs shall be encouraged to increase budget allocation to facilitate institutionalization of PESOs.

Continued business engagement remains critical for improving the performance of PESO. To ensure the maintenance, expansion, and promotion of PESO services, increased allocation of local budgets may be necessary. Moreover, better utilization of PESOs would result in improved facilitation efficiency and visibility. To respond more effectively, LGUs can consider investing in digital platforms that automatically update the state of local labor markets and highlight job trends. Similar platforms can also be made more responsive to the needs of PESO constituents by facilitating registration, access, and application. Additionally, PESOs that are

geographically adjacent or whose labor migration is established may conduct combined job fairs and other programs that feature jobs and labor opportunities within their combined areas of jurisdictions or along these migration paths.

Provide updated labor market information to PhiljobNet. Unregistered employers can consider enlisting as part of PhiljobNet to avail of the services, such that labor search costs can be reduced and staffing needs can be addressed. Moreover, the participation of employers can contribute to local development by enriching labor market intelligence. Linking to PhiljobNet improves the data quality and ensures proper characterization of local labor market conditions. Industry associations can also explore ways to reliably and securely link systems that continuously provide updates.

Maintaining a continuing nationwide skills registry through its Skills Registry System (SRS) database is crucial. This shall give potential employers the assurance that the skills registered are current and only those who are actively looking for work are displayed. This is in addition to registering available skills in every locality across the region. This shall facilitate employers' hiring and selection processes. For Regional SRS, the total proposed funding requirement for 2023-2028 amount to PhP2.5 million.

Share and disseminate information on emerging, critical, and in-demand skills. As technology transforms the workplace, the government's social partners shall update key stakeholders. For example, investing in private labor market assessment tools and information systems can be helpful for firms to anticipate and relay emerging skills requirements, inform educational, training, and skills policies, and enhance market interventions, including in terms of timeliness. Moreover, employers, worker associations, and industry groups can consider participating proactively in sectoral bodies to facilitate the exchange of ideas and enhance communication flow.

For 2023-2028, the total investment requirements for the Job Search Assistance Program amount to PhP4.07 million. The JSA program aims to provide timely relevant and accurate signals on the current labor market such as in-demand jobs and skills shortages by developing client-specific LMI and other education and communication materials for job seekers in MIMAROPA.

Shared labor market governance achieved

Integrate lifelong learning principles and processes in human resource development programs. Employers should recognize prior learning outcomes obtained in micro-formal or formal training and provide relevant training to employees based on those. Integrating lifelong learning processes ensure that both employers and employees benefit from learning dividends in the form of better corporate performance, productive employee engagement, and enhanced well-being.

Actively participate in government-industry associations promoting and implementing employment and skills development policies and strategies. Enterprises play a vital role in defining the skills requirements and standards of occupational profiles. Increase in employability and readiness of students shall be achieved if employers can facilitate training deliveries from internships, on-the-job trainings, industry immersions and apprenticeship programs to produce accurate and timely skills anticipation results. Hence, collaboration between TVIs and companies shall be promoted to further strengthen the TVET process.

The TVIs can create marketing plans to advertise jobs that can only be obtained through TVET programs. Participants in TVI networks, for instance, can be required to plan tournaments or skill fairs to display their technical prowess and other qualities. Additionally, TVIs can develop digital platforms that make TVET programs more well-known, with an emphasis on preserving the economy's capacity to accommodate growing capabilities. More importantly, TVET programs must be promoted as essential initiatives for advancing the interests and development of the nation's economy.

As technology transforms the workplace, the government's social partners shall update key stakeholders. For example, investing in private labor market assessment tools and information systems can be helpful for firms to anticipate and relay emerging skills requirements, inform educational, training, and skills policies, and enhance market interventions, including in terms of timeliness. Moreover, employers, worker associations, and industry groups can consider participating proactively in sectoral bodies to facilitate the exchange of ideas and enhance communication flow.

Social partners can participate in capacity-building programs sponsored by the government. Such programs help develop skills needed for sustaining engagement in social dialogues and solving problems. Social partners shall also be

independently able to undertake comprehensive sector assessment and understand the implications of megatrends such as automation, climate change, and the ongoing pandemic on industry or sector outcomes.

Table 6.2 List of Major Programs and Projects

TITLE	PROVINCE/ CITY	INVESTMENT TARGET (₱ '000)						TOTAL 2023-2028 INVESTMENT TARGET (₱ '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Technical Education and Skills Development Services Program	Regionwide	645,462	647,401	392,468	399,962	385,920	388,685	2,859,900.00
Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES)	Regionwide	14,438	15,882	17,470	19,217	21,139	23,256	111,397.98
Job Search Assistance Program	Regionwide	528	580.8	638.9	702.8	773.05	850.35	4,074.84
Skills Registry System (SRS)	Regionwide		500	500	500	500	500	2,500.00

Sources: Regional Development Investment Program 2023-2028 of TESDA MIIMAROPA and DOLE MIMAROPA

Legislative Agenda

Table 6.3 Legislative Agenda to Increase Income-earning Ability

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Jobs Creation Strategy Bill	This piece of legislation would create an Inter-Agency Council for Jobs and Investments co-headed by the Department of Trade and Industry, DOLE, and TESDA, include representatives from employers' organizations and labor groups, and establish working groups that shall focus on developing employment recovery and job creation in specific industries and emerging sectors, such as, but not limited to construction, tourism, agriculture, information technology and business process management, and manufacturing.	DOLE
Lifelong Learning Development Bill	This legislative measure would develop a Lifelong Learning Development Framework through the Philippine Qualifications Framework-National Coordinating Council (PQF-NCC). The PQF-NCC shall determine and set standards for developing action components and desirable success measures for promoting lifelong learning in cities, municipalities, and educational institutions.	DOLE
Enterprise Productivity Act (Amendments to the Productivity Incentives Act)	This bill would fortify the intentions of the "Productivity Incentives Act of 1990" by promoting inclusive and sustainable work productivity programs. It aims to reinforce labor productivity through (a) establishing a Productivity Incentives Committee; (b) adopting productivity incentive programs; (c) granting productivity incentives to employees; and (d) providing a tax incentive to business establishments for granting incentives to employees.	DOLE

PART III

Transform Production Sectors to Generate More Quality Jobs and Competitive Products

07

Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness



MODERNIZE AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS

The agriculture, forestry, and fishery (AFF) sector of MIMAROPA employed 415,418 persons, or 33.53 percent of the region's total employed persons, in 2019. The contribution of the sector to the regional economy has increased from 2017 to 2021. Despite this, the sector still needs to address bottlenecks in order to improve its share to the regional economy.

To maximize the potential of the region's agriculture sector to spur economic growth, the plan will focus on modernizing agriculture and agribusiness by improving the productivity of the agriculture and fishery sector as well as expanding AFF-based enterprises and access to markets.

Assessment and Challenges

AFF Contribution to GRDP and Employment. The growth of the AFF recorded varied performances in the last five years. It dipped significantly in 2016 as it bore the impact of El Niño and recorded a -5.1 percent growth rate. The sector bounced back in 2017-2019 but plunged again in 2020, with a -2.0 percent growth rate. The sector bounced back in 2021, with a 5.2 percent growth rate. At the average growth rate of 2.1 percent and 19 percent contribution to the regional economy for the period 2017 to 2021, the AFF sector remained the lowest among the three sectors.

On the other hand, the agricultural labor productivity in the region has been increasing, but at a slower pace. It increased by 10.43 percent from Php 153,234.00 in 2018 to Php 169,211.56 in 2019. Among the 17 regions, MIMAROPA ranked 8th in terms of agricultural labor productivity.

Poverty incidence among primary producers. The proportion of farmers and fisherfolk belonging to families with income below the poverty threshold significantly improved from 40.8 percent in 2006 to 20.7 percent in 2018 and 37.9 percent in 2006 to 14.7 percent in 2018, respectively. Basically, around 61,500 farmers and 13,800 fisherfolks are still poor in 2018¹. The decrease in poverty incidence among primary producers can be attributed to efforts and interventions provided by the government in

implementation of various agriculture and fishery programs and projects to i) strengthen value chain and local production, ii) reduce production cost, iii) ensure sufficient buffer stocks of agricultural and fishery, iv) strengthen extension services provided, v) enhance food logistics and mobilization, and vi) ensure availability of safe and nutritious food. This includes banner agri-fishery programs on rice, corn and cassava, high value crops, livestock and poultry, coconut industry development, irrigation development, credit/insurance, agri-fishery inputs (e.g., fuel and fertilizers), among others.

Crops. The crops subsector has been the primary driver of AFF. On the average, the crops contributed 57.49 percent to the value of agricultural outputs of the region from 2017 to 2021. The top five commodities with the biggest share in the regional crop production include palay, coconut, cashew, corn, and banana. The region also recorded increases in the production of cashew, onion, arrowroot, cacao, durian, pineapple, eggplant, rubber, coconut, watermelon, and tomato. On the other hand, there were recorded decreases in the production of garlic, calamansi, coffee, banana, cassava, and ginger. During the same period, the area harvested for crops in the region has been dominated by three major crops such as rice, corn, and coconut.

The region was the biggest producer of cashew, coconut leaves, calamansi, calamansi, and arrowroot in the country. The region was also among the top five producers of the following commodities: onion, garlic, avocado, black pepper, greater yam/ubi, talinum, red beans, mustard, calamansi, kinchay,

¹This is based on the number of employed individuals whose primary occupation is farming, plant growing, animal production, and fishing.

grapes, sineguelas, breadfruit, atis, dracaena, mayana, nipa leaves, yellow bell, lagundi, dahlia, ginseng, African palm leaves, pineapple fiber, sesame, guinea grass, sampaguita, ilang-ilang, carnation, banana leaves, tiger grass, and kaong (kernel).

In MIMAROPA, the cropping intensity of NIS increased from 153.88 percent in 2011 to 197.45 percent in 2021. The cropping intensity of CIS also grew from 103.79 percent in 2011 to 182.28 percent in 2021. Moreover, a total of 452 agri-fishery farm machineries were distributed in MIMAROPA provinces, which included 4WD tractors (35Hp, 45Hp, and 90Hp), hand tractors, cultivators, rice transplanters, and corn planters. Additional support for the provision of capacity building relative to agricultural technology and innovation (e.g., drone technology, precision agriculture, vertical farming) should be provided to farmers and fisherfolk.

Limited local supply of inorganic fertilizers has been one of the primary reasons for the rising prices of agricultural commodities in the region. This can be attributed to the low capacity of the country to produce inorganic fertilizers, which made the Philippines, a dependent importer. This pressed the Department of Agriculture to implement the concept of Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS) Program. Said program will mitigate the adverse effects of high prices of fertilizers and degrading concerns of excessive usage of fertilizers, while ensuring food security.

The number of agricultural products certified as organic increased by 34.78 percent from 23 products in 2018 to 31 products in 2021. The number of entities with good agricultural practice (GAP) certification in the region continued to increase with 33 entities including individual farmers and demonstration farms that were GAP certified as of 2021. The region may also explore on the production of HALAL-certified products to cater the needs of Muslims living in Southern Palawan.

Livestock and Poultry. From 2017 to 2021, livestock and poultry products recorded an increase in production at 5.44 percent and 26.17 percent, respectively. About 69 percent of the total livestock and poultry outputs were from backyard production of swine. This was followed by cattle and chicken production with a share of 9.24 percent and 9.04 percent, respectively.

The performance of the livestock and poultry subsector can be attributed to the increasing demand for animal products from households and food and accommodation establishments. The presence of African swine fever and bird flu in nearby areas also provided opportunities for the region to produce and sell products to the adjacent regions.

Fisheries. From 2017 to 2021, the volume and value of fisheries production decreased by 22.70 percent and 7.66 percent, respectively. Aside from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, the decline in region's fishery production was mainly due to the decrease in seaweed production, which was damaged by typhoons that passed through the region. The seaweed production accounted for almost 60 percent of the region's fishery production. The value of seaweed also decreased by 31.71 percent from 2017 to 2021.

As of 2022, a total of 37,005 municipal fishing vessels, including 28,047 motorized boats and 8,958 non-motorized boats, were registered in MIMAROPA. Moreover, the registered commercial fishing vessels in the region reached 265 (200 small scale and 65 medium scale).

Agribusiness. AFF-based MSMEs in the region are currently engaged in food processing, crafting of souvenirs, production of herbal products for hair and skin, and fabric weaving activities. As of 2021, a total of 427 registered cooperatives were identified as agriculture and agrarian cooperatives. Moreover, a total of 67 farmers' cooperatives and associations are accredited by DA MIMAROPA. On the other hand, about 204 establishments were engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fishing industries in 2020. In 2016, value added generated by these establishments increased by 1.85 percent compared to the Php 0.51 billion in 2015.

As of 2021, only 42 shared service facilities (SSFs), including the Business Resource Centers (BRCs), were established and maintained in the region. AFF-based products were promoted and sold to different agricultural trade and marketing schemes such as Diskwento Caravan and Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita program. Seven AFF-based associations from MIMAROPA served as operators/suppliers under Kadiwa from 2020 to 2021. About 63,166 beneficiaries benefitted from 123 Diskwento Caravan conducted in the region from 2017 to 2021.

In terms of share of agricultural export, MIMAROPA contributed a minimal share of 0.18 percent (or \$12.16 million) to the national agricultural export in 2021. Grouper, yellowfins tuna, roundscad, sea cucumber, and other fishery products are the top agricultural commodities being exported by MIMAROPA. For the past 12 years from 2010, there were no approved foreign investments for AFF, except in 2015, with Php 49.89 million.

From 2017 to 2021, the total allocation of crop insurance in MIMAROPA increased by 99.38 percent, from Php 199.01 million in 2017 to Php 396.78 million in 2021, and benefitted 333,109 beneficiaries. The crop insurance covers rice, corn, high value crops, livestock, and non-crop agriculture. While, the total allocation of credit program significantly increased by 272.64 percent, from Php 84.51 million in 2017 to Php 272.64 in 2021, and benefitted 23,635 SFF borrowers and borrower-organizations. These credit programs include SURE COVID-19 Program, Agri-Negosyo Program (ANYO), Kapital Access for Young Agripreneurs Program (KAYA), SURE Programs, and SURE Aid Palay Program.

Aside from the sector's vulnerability to climate and natural hazards, the pandemic also exposed the agriculture and fisheries sector's weak agriculture supply chain system. As we move up to modernize the region's agriculture and agribusiness, the region needs to address several challenges to achieve the desired outcome for the sector. This includes: (i) inadequate FMRs; (ii) slow paced irrigation development; (iii) mismatch between farm machineries/technology and actual mechanization; (iv) limited crop diversification portfolio; (v) low ratio of farmers capacitated with new farm technologies; (vi) unsustainable production practices; (vii) limited post-harvest facilities and high post-harvest losses; (viii) low private sector investments and declining interest among youth due to perceived risks and vulnerability of the sector; (ix) weak AFF sector linkage to industry sector; (x) limited access to credit, financing, and insurance system due to multidimensional challenges emanating from supply and demand side; (xi) limited investments for research and development; and (xii) high cost of farm inputs.

Targets

Table 7.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Chapter Outcome: Agriculture and Agribusiness Modernized										
Poverty incidence among primary producers (farmers and fisherfolk) reduced (%)										
Farmers	2018	20.70%			15.53%			10.35%	PSA, FIES	DA, DAR, LGUs
Fisherfolk	2018	14.70%			11.03%			7.35%	PSA, FIES	DA, LGUs
Percentage Growth of GVA in AFF increased (at constant prices)	2021	5.20%	5%-6%	5%-6%	5%-6%	5%-6%	5%-6%	5%-6%	PSA, Regional Accounts	DA, LGUs
Level of Mechanization improved										
Terrestrial (hp/ha)a	2022	0.084	0.10-0.50	0.50-1.00	1.00-1.50	1.50-2.00	2.00-2.50	2.50-3.00	PhilMech	DA, PhilMech
Blue Economy (Ratio of number of motorized boats to the total number of registered fisherfolks in Juan Magsasaka Registration System)	2022	0.162	0.164	0.166	0.167	0.169	0.171	0.172	Annual Report, Administrative Data, BFAR	BFAR

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Sub-chapter Outcome 1: Efficiency of Agriculture and Fishery Production Enhanced										
Agricultural Labor Productivity Growth Rate Increased (at constant prices)	2019-2020	-4.68% ^a	4.80%	4.92%	5.07%	5.22%	5.35%	5.48%	PSA, Regional Accounts and LFS	DA, DAR, LGUs
Yield (MT/ha)									PSA, Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics	DA, LGUs
Palay	2021	3.95	4.00	4.15	4.25	4.36	4.47	4.58		
Corn	2021	4.08	4.18	4.29	4.39	4.5	4.62	4.73		
Coconut	2021	3.72	3.81	3.9	4	4.1	4.21	4.31		
Cashew	2021	9.2	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.2	0.21		
Banana	2021	2.97	0.48	0.49	0.51	0.52	0.53	0.55		
Calamansi	2021	5.92	9.43	9.67	9.91	10.15	10.41	10.66		
Garlic	2021	2.44	3.04	3.12	3.2	3.28	3.36	3.5		
Onion	2021	11.01	6.07	6.22	6.37	6.53	6.7	6.86		
Percentage of Developed/Irrigated Area increased (%)	2021	77.87%	79.32%	80.00%	80.14%	81.50%	83.14%	85.54%	NIA Annual Accomplishment Report; Administrative Data	NIA
Cropping Intensity Increased (%)	2021	187.87%	190%	190%	191%	191%	191%	192%		
NIS	2021	197.45%	200%	201%	201%	202%	203%	203%		
CIS	2021	182.82%	186%	186%	187%	187%	187%	187%		
Sub-chapter Outcome 2: Access to markets and AFF-based enterprises expanded										
Growth in Value of A&F Exports (%)	2020-2021	-0.26%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	PSA, Trade Statistics	DA, DTI
Growth in Total Approved Investments for AFF (%)	2020-2021	0%	1%-2%	1%-2%	1%-2%	1%-2%	1%-2%	1%-2%	PSA, Approved Investments	Investment Promotion Agencies
Sub-chapter Outcome 3: Resilience of AFF value chains improved										
Ratio of crop insurance coverage (total number of beneficiaries) to the total number of farmers and fisherfolks increased	2022	0.64	0.65	0.65	0.66	0.66	0.67	0.67	PCIC Annual Accomplishment Report, Administrative data	PCIC
Ratio of financing programs (number of beneficiaries (SFF and organization)) to the total number of farmers and fisherfolk increasedb	2021	0.016	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	DA-ACPC's Small Farmers and Fisherfolk Indebtedness Survey	ACPC

Source: DA MIMAROPA, NIA MIMAROPA, PSA, PhilMech, ACPC, PCIC

Notes:

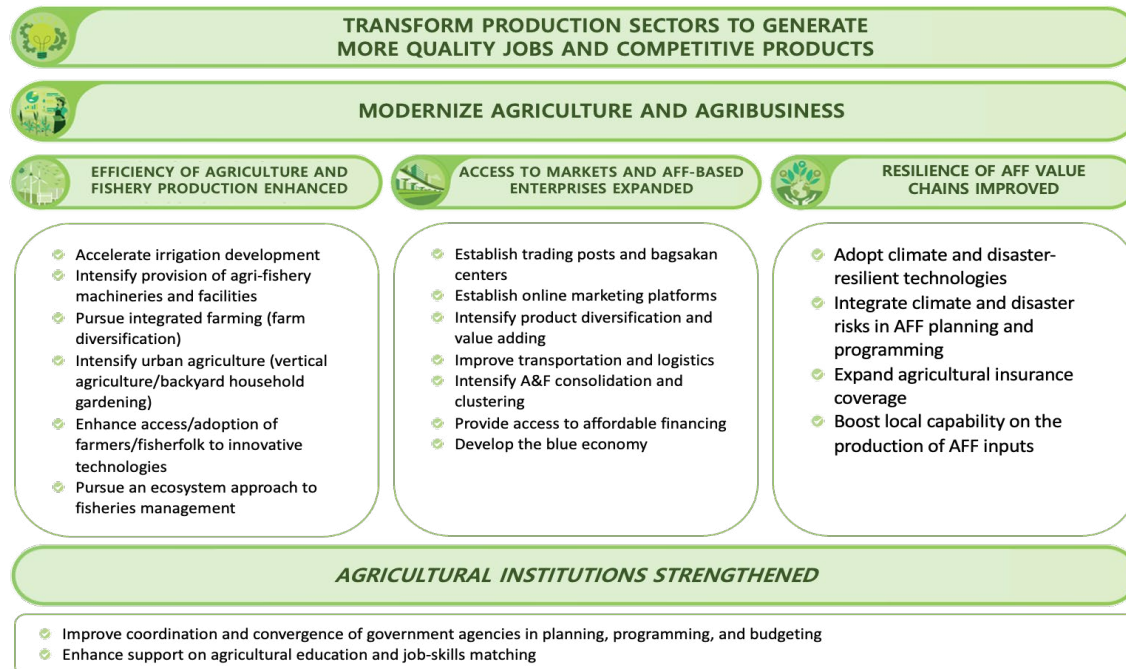
a – Estimated level of mechanization is based on inventory of farm machineries (4WD tractor and hand tractor) provided by DA MIMAROPA and Firmed-Up Service Area provided by NIA MIMAROPA. Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (AMTEC) peak transmission efficiency is also considered in the estimation.

b – The annual targets on the coverage of financing programs are based on the previous performance of credit programs in the region and number of partner lending conduits (PLCs). Since credit is demand-driven, the annual targets are only provisional/indicative and may change during the implementation of the credit programs based on the actual application and approval of loans by our PLCs.

Strategies

The agriculture and fisheries sector is one of the primary growth drivers of the region's economy. It also contributes to the administration's goal of food security, as the region is one of the top producers of cashew, calamansi, onion, garlic, and fishery products. Given the abovementioned challenges, there is a need to modernize agri-fishery and agribusiness by adopting new farming technologies, accelerating agri-fishery infrastructures and physical connectivity, improving market access, and expanding AFF-based enterprises. The desired outcome is to create the productive sectors of the economy to generate more quality and competitive products and achieve economic transformation for a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society.

Figure 7.1. Strategy Framework to Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness



In pursuit of the goals and targets, the region will be guided by the following strategies:

Agriculture and Fishery Sector Productivity Improved

Accelerate irrigation development. As of 2021, the total farmed-up service area (FUSA) in MIMAROPA recorded 68,778.17 ha, or 0.07 percent of the total agricultural land of 983,821.83 ha. As such, a total of 915,043.66 ha of agricultural land are still undeveloped, which can be irrigated through the utilization of new irrigation system. Based on the National Irrigation Master Plan, investments for irrigation system will focus on the following: i) construction of disaster and climate resilient, small-scale irrigation system; ii) retrofitting, restoration,

and rehabilitation of existing irrigation; and iii) modernization and adoption of new irrigation system (e.g., drip irrigation system, solar-powered irrigation, and sprinklers, among others) in areas where it is applicable. Construction and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities will be prioritized in the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan, which are included in the list of priority sites identified in NIMP 2020-2030.

In particular, the construction of the following irrigation facilities will be accelerated to improve crops productivity: i) Ibato-Iraan Small Reservoir Irrigation Project (SRIP) in Palawan, ii) Bagtingon SRIP in Marinduque, iii) Lipitan SRIP in Occidental Mindoro, iv) Ransang River Irrigation Project in Palawan, and v) Malabangan River Irrigation Project.

Intensify the provision of agri-fishery machineries and facilities. Farmers and fisherfolks in the region will be able to access funds that provide machineries and facilities to achieve farm mechanization.

This includes the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund (RCEF), national flagship program for agriculture (rice, corn, high value crops, and livestock and poultry), and Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund. The government will be able to identify appropriate technologies, farm machineries, and equipment (production and post-harvest) to existing small landholdings, farm condition, and labor force in order to achieve farm mechanization. Likewise, in order for the small farmers and fisherfolk (SFF) to access those agri-fishery machineries and facilities, it is vital for the DA, CDA, DAR, and other concerned agencies to intensify the efforts on organizing and clustering SFF into registered/accredited cooperatives and associations.

In terms of livestock and poultry, the region will capitalize on its status as one of the regions considered as ASF and bird-flu-free zone and continue the implementation of measures and protocol on managing ASF and bird flu. However, there is a need to review existing quarantine measures and protocols relative to livestock breeding stocks (e.g., importation of good female swine breeds) to sustain the number of highly productive and suitable animals in the region, particularly in the provinces of Oriental Mindoro and Palawan. These provinces are the top two hog producing provinces in MIMAROPA. Moreover, to sustain the successful prevention of spread of such diseases, the following will be pursued: i) constant coordination and collaboration with LGUs and other concerned national agencies; ii) provision of timely updates on the quarantine measures and protocols; and iii) establishment of a local monitoring system for local movement of animals as part of early warning system (pursuant to guidelines for the Bantay ASF sa Barangay Program).

On the other hand, there is a need to identify areas suitable for the expansion of poultry production in anticipation of the increasing demand for poultry, including modernized poultry houses (tunnel-vent system, air-conditioned pen houses, among others), as the region expects an increase in the scale of production.

Aligned with the National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan (NAFMIP)

2021-2030, the identification of strategic location for the establishment of agriprocessing and post-harvest facilities will be done through the utilization of Geographic Information System for Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery and Infrastructure (GEOAGRI). This will reduce logistics costs and accommodate agricultural services needed by farmers and fisherfolks including its influence area. Among the identified processing facilities that will be established include cold/dry storages for onion, garlic, and tuna in Occidental Mindoro and fish port complex, strategic fish landing sites, fisheries laboratories, hatcheries and mariculture park, Oriental Mindoro Provincial Agriculture Center (PAC), and warehouses. The BFAR will prioritize the procurement of medium-to large-scale commercial fishing vessels that utilize active gears and have weight ranging 20.1 GT to more than 150 GT. These fishing vessels will be distributed among the accredited fisherfolk cooperatives and associations in the region to maximize their fishing activities and increase their catch particularly in the West Philippine Sea.

To eliminate disruptions in the supply chain of agricultural inputs, the national government agencies, LGUs, together with private sector will also explore investments in the development of domestic production of seeds/propagating materials and packaging materials for manufacturing industries in the region. Identification of strategic location of manufacturing plants of agricultural inputs is vital in the development and sustenance of the project.

Pursue integrated farming (farm diversification). Intercropping and integrated farming systems will be widely adopted in the region to maximize land productivity, improve resiliency and sustainability, and provide additional income to farmers. Both farming schemes will address the constraints on diversity, pest, and crop diseases. Intercropping and integrated farming systems involve the identification of suitable crops or combination of crops/livestock/fish that can thrive within the same area.

Based on the updated SAFDZ, the agricultural land identified under agro-forestry is at 324,606.79 ha, which can be used as expansion area for prime agricultural lands in the region. These lands provide an additional half of the total existing SAFDZ (659,215.04 ha) comprising: a) Marinduque with 28,036.92 ha; b) Occidental Mindoro with 71,012.78 ha; c) Oriental Mindoro with 35,468.51 ha; d) Palawan with 158,255.43 ha; and e) Romblon with 31,833.15 ha. Those lands can be maximized by

facilitating sloping agricultural land technology (SALT 1). SALT is a package technology of soil conservation and food production, integrating differing soil conservation measures in just one setting. SALT has different forms, including a) Simple Agro-Livestock Technology (SALT 2), b) Sustainable Agroforestry Land Technology (SALT 3), and c) Small Agrofruit Livelihood Technology (SALT 4). Likewise, integrated farming systems can utilize low technology farm practices such as crops-fishery/livestock farming system. The regionwide sub-projects under Kaanib Enterprise Development Project (KEDP) of Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) such as Coconut Intercropping Project, Animal Integration Project, and Coconut Processing Project should be continued to provide integrated resource service convergence approach. This will increase farm productivity, resulting in additional income to the small coconut farming communities.

On the other hand, the LGUs will identify vast agricultural area identified as pasture land or grazing land (e.g., Busuanga Pasture Reserve) to support the increasing grazing livestock in the region.

Intensify urban agriculture. This entails the establishment of modern artisan and intensification of promotion of urban and vertical agriculture, backyard/household gardening, and farming of edibles, backyard animal raising, and community gardening through the implementation of various national flagship agricultural programs (e.g., high value crops development program) (refer to Chapter 5.1). Similarly, urban households and communities identified under regional and sub-regional centers will be encouraged to produce fresh and healthy food from their backyards and spaces, since more portions of these areas are allotted to urban services, and industrial and commercial purposes. These include the following cities/municipalities: a) Boac, Gasan, Santa Cruz in Marinduque; b) San Jose, Mamburao, Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro; c) Calapan City, Bansud, Pinamalayan, Puerto Galera, Roxas in Oriental Mindoro; d) Puerto Princesa City, Bataraza, Corin, Culion, El Nido in Palawan; and e) Romblon, Cajidiocan, Looc, Odiongan in Romblon.

Vacant urban spaces could be utilized for gardening and farming. Households will be encouraged to establish backyard edible gardens, while community farming will be promoted especially in schools with pupils returning to the face-to-face mode of teaching. This initiative will serve as a source of nutritious food and additional income. Production inputs such

as seedlings, compost, stocks, and fingerlings will be provided. This will be complemented by capacity building for proper crop/fishery/livestock management, pest and disease control, and organic farming.

Enhance access of farmers/fisherfolk to innovative technologies. Modernization requires shifting the base of human productivity from natural resources to knowledge (technology). The LGUs will encourage farmers and fisherfolk to adopt modern production technologies such as a) use of high-yielding, short-maturing, flood/drought/salt-tolerant, pest-resistant, and shorter (for strong wind resistant) varieties of crops; b) use of quality semen of animals and eggs for poultry and quality fish fry and fingerlings; c) facilitation of cloning/propagation/breeding; d) utilization of aquaponics and hydroponics farming; and e) advanced irrigation systems (drip and sprinkler). Moreover, concerned government agencies, GOCCs, SUCs, and LGUs can utilize funds to support the development and implementation of innovative technologies through the Philippine Innovation Act or the Republic Act No. 11293.

Further, efforts on extension services will be intensified by strengthening the Province Led Agri-Fishery Extension System (PAFES). PAFES could provide capacity building and skills training to SFFs and extension workers relative to innovative farming technologies including drone technology, precision technology, safety and standards on processing, packaging, and transporting of food and products. AFF extension workers capacities will also be strengthened. This can be done through a) continuous conduct of capacity buildings on new technologies; b) development or updating of new modalities, methodologies, and approaches of learning management system to conform to the changing needs of extension services; and c) provision of support to the accreditation of extension workers and facilities. Concerned national agencies should tap LGUs and SUCs in the delivery of extension services and to enhance linkages with research and development (R&D).

Pursue an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Aligned with the ridge-to-reef approach, sustainable integrated area development, and the concept of blue economy, the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) No. 263 provides for the establishment of the 12 Fisheries Management Areas (FMA) to sustainably manage fisheries resources consistent with the principles of ecosystem approach

to fisheries management (EAFM). In particular, all provinces of MIMAROPA are covered by three FMAs (5, 6, and 12), which were established based on considerations of stocks boundary/range/distribution, structure of fisheries, and administrative divisions.

The implementation of the Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency (FishCoRe) Project is expected to improve the management of fishery resources and enhance the value of fisheries production in selected Fishery Management Areas (FMAs) covering 11 regions and 24 provinces, including the municipalities of Lubang and Looc in Occidental Mindoro. The project has three components: a) Improved Fisheries and Coastal Resilient Resource Planning and Management (FishCRRM), b) Modern and Resilient Livelihood Investments (MARLIN), and c) Support to Project Implementation and Management (SuPrIM). It will be replicated in other areas of the region.

LGUs will be encouraged to formulate integrated coastal resources use and management plan (ICRUMP). The plan can be anchored on the concept of blue growth, a strategy which emphasizes conservation and sustainable management of productive and healthy ecosystems. The ICRUMP will translate national policies into local level implementation. It will include the following components and activities but not limited to: a) identification of coastal, marine protected areas (MPAs), and their network, which serve as the major components of ICRUMP and ecosystem approach to fisheries management; b) enforcement to complete delineation, delimitation, and zoning of municipal waters, particularly in LGUs with overlapping boundaries; and c) establishment of database system for fisheries for the computation of maximum sustainable yield and maximum economic yield, which are critical tools to propose policies toward utilization of fisheries resources.

Intensive information, education, and communication (IEC) activities will be conducted to increase public awareness, appreciation, and compliance to holistic approach to fisheries management, resource-based conservation measures and policies, and fishery laws.

Access to Markets and AFF-based Enterprises Expanded

Establish trading posts and bagsakan centers.

Efforts will be intensified in the identification of strategic location of new trading posts and bagsakan centers including local food terminals, warehouses, and public markets. Local needs and conditions of adjacent communities will be considered in the process to achieve the economies of scale. Since more than half of the established trading posts and bagsakan centers in the region are non-operational, funding support will be focused in the rehabilitation and revival of these non-operational trading posts and bagsakan centers, including a) four in Marinduque and Occidental Mindoro, b) eight in Oriental Mindoro, c) seven in Palawan, and d) three in Romblon. Likewise, the DA, in collaboration with DTI and LGUs, will utilize public markets of the LGUs as bagsakan center or trading post. All products of the AFF-based MSMEs traded in the bagsakan center will be posted at the same time on online market platforms for wider access of the consumers.

Establish online marketing platforms. The DA, DTI, DILG, and LGUs will continue supporting programs that will facilitate trading between farmers/fisherfolks and consumers/processors through e-commerce with the use of mobile and web-based platforms/channels for transactions, delivery services, digital payment such as eKadiwa, GCash, Facebook, among others, to serve greater number of clients. DICT and SUCs will be tapped to provide assistance in establishing web-page that directly links producers and agripreneurs to consumers and provide venue to buy wide range of fresh and affordable farm and fishery products.

These will also be supported by various online marketing development support such as a) massive awareness activities to introduce new and existing AFF products and b) provision of capacity building to farmers and fisherfolk cooperative and associations to effectively utilize digital payment systems. Additionally, LGUs in collaboration among national agencies and SUCs, will establish registration and

monitoring tools to keep track and regulate local market transactions.

Further, given the archipelagic in nature of the region and limited connection in the transmission grids, goods and information will be expanded through advance and expanded access to digital infrastructure. This can be translated to investing on reliable and affordable electricity to support the telecommunications/internet services and enhancing ICT infrastructure through the effective implementation of the common tower policy (refer to Chapter 13. Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure). A common tower allows multiple telecommunication companies (TelCos) and

fabrication of farm and processing machinery and equipment

- Promote the establishment of business partnerships between the private sector and primary producers (e.g., agribusiness venture agreements, private sector-led contract growing)
- Strengthen entrepreneurial capacity of smallholder primary producers
- Locate processing facilities close to primary production areas to reduce logistics cost
- Promote the utilization of processing wastes for production of energy, fertilizers and high value products

The region will also consider adopting the five “anchor commodities” (rice-based, corn and livestock-based,

Table 7.2 MIMAROPA Agribusiness Opportunities by Province

PROVINCE	AGRIBUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
Marinduque	Coco coir production, butterfly industry, abaca processing, and coconut sugar production
Occidental Mindoro	Tuna production, pickled fruits and vegetables, aquamarine processing, salt industry, and seaweeds
Oriental Mindoro	Banana chips, rice-based delicacies, calamansi purees and concentrates, virgin coconut oil, coffee, cacao, bamboo-based products, lamayo, dried biya, and seaweeds, abaca, buri, and cogon handicrafts
Palawan	Cacao, seaweeds, pineapple, banana, and palm oil
Romblon	Soft broom production (walis tambo), fish and other marine products processing, meat processing, peanut butter production, and coconut oil processing

Source: National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan 2021-2030

internet service providers (ISPs) to co-locate at a single site and share operation expenses.

Intensify product diversification and value adding.

This involves the conduct of market and technology-matching activities and provision of capacity building and facilities to SFFs and MSMEs in terms of product processing, market conditions and trends, product handling and packaging, and compliance with food safety and quality standards. The following can be done in order to create new market and products and increase value-adding activities in the region:

- Pilot government-supported processing facilities to be operated by selected primary producer cooperatives to serve smallholder primary producers
- Promote private sector investment in build-operate-transfer schemes for toll-based processing facilities
- Manufacture fresh/raw agricultural commodities registered to have high production into other products (e.g., pineapple into jam, seaweeds into dried seaweed, and calamansi into puree)
- Develop industries for utilization of local biological materials for packaging, and manufacturing/

coconut-based, fisheries-based, and geographically specialized commodities) identified in the NAFMIP 2021-2030 in its product and market development activities. Below is the list of local commodities that will support upscaling through transformative investments, value-adding, and interventions.

Initiatives on knowledge-sharing activities relative to the information on prices, buyers, suppliers/sellers, and providers of ancillary services will be intensified through the use of different modalities (online and physical platform). Those information will serve as guide to export players for their market decisions and networking.

The government will encourage private sector investments in agriculture and fisheries, particularly in agricultural hubs and technology parks that would promote innovation and technology transfer.

Improve transportation and logistics. As of 2021, a total of 320.30 km was constructed in MIMAROPA, recording a 0.2865 sq km FMR density ratio. This figure is far behind from the ideal FMR density

ratio of at least 2 sq km. The implementation of FMR program will be accelerated in line with the implementation of Farm-to-Market Road Network Plan (FMRNP) and Comprehensive FMR National Master Plan 2020 to 2030.

Investments in strategic FMRs will give emphasis on geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) and far-flung areas. Based on FMNRP, 259.32 km of FMR is proposed amounting to Php 4.64 billion, from 2023 to 2028. This includes a) Marinduque with 9.04 km FMRs amounting to Php 117.48 million, b) Occidental Mindoro with 52.47 km FMRs amounting to Php 723.86 million, c) Oriental Mindoro with 84.20 km FMRs amounting to Php 2.23 billion, d) Palawan with 48.43 km FMRs amounting to Php 577.21 million, and e) Romblon with 65.18 km FMRs amounting to Php 985.12 million.

The region will also utilize Geographic Information System for Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery and Infrastructure (GEOAGRI)/Integrated Road for Agriculture and Development (IROAD), a web-based application that provides wider access to GIS-based data of all FMR projects in planning and investment programming activities and addresses duplication or overlapping of projects with other agencies.

Moreover, the region will eliminate barriers to efficient inter-island transport, primarily lack of modern/efficient ships and port facilities. Investment in shipbuilding will be promoted. It will provide link to the support system for fisherfolk (refer to Chapter 13).

Intensify A&F consolidation and clustering. Clustering or integration of SFFs and MSMEs will be encouraged to consolidate and expand agricultural products to a) achieve economies of scale; b) promote efficient production, processing, and value-adding; c) supply growing domestic demand and international market requirements; and d) provide wider access to formal credit, modern farm technologies and machineries, capacity buildings, livelihood projects, among others. The CDA, in coordination with DA and DAR, will intensify its efforts (including organization building and management) to integrate SFF and MSMEs into larger enterprises, and institutional buyers. Program on consolidation/organizing SFF will be prioritized in the provinces of Romblon, Marinduque, and Oriental Mindoro, which recorded the least number of accredited civil society organizations among the five MIMAROPA provinces. Likewise, in collaboration with LGUs, the

updating of DA's Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and National Farmers and Fisheries Information System (NFFIS), otherwise known as the Juan Magsasaka Project Enrollment and Validation Georeferencing, will be accelerated. This will serve as efficient end-to-end monitoring tool of the government for all interventions distributed to farmer and fisherfolk beneficiaries.

Provide access to affordable financing. Crucial in ensuring access to financial and credit system among farmers is the completion/updating of farmers and fisherfolk registry and inventory of existing AFF investments. Organizing SFFs and strengthening existing cooperatives and associations will be enhanced to allow SFF to access affordable financing and credit programs of the government. Among the activities that can be conducted relative to this include i) facilitation of information awareness advocacy on financing programs by LGUs, especially to far-flung communities or GIDAs; and ii) conduct of capacity building in the preparation of documentary requirements. DA, DAR, CDA, and other concerned agencies will utilize both face-to-face and social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Zoom) to reach wider audiences.

Coverage of innovative, affordable, and accessible financing schemes and processes and agriculture insurance and agri-credit guarantee programs for smallholder primary producers (crowdsourcing, digital banking) will also be expanded. This includes intensification of agricultural guarantee services and establishing more credit surety funds to mitigate risks by financial institutions in extending unsecured loans to farmers and fisherfolk. The DA, CDA, and BSP, in collaboration with LGUs, will intensify their efforts to improve the establishment and enhancing physical network of banks and financial institutions in rural areas, including financial literacy of SFF.

Develop the blue economy. Currently, the main focus of agricultural development programs has been agriculture or the green economy despite the country's archipelagic characteristics. The region must put needed resources to explore the potentials of the blue economy, particularly the fishing industry, by doing the following:

- i. Adopting measures to secure the Exclusive Economic Zone so that it can be safely accessible to local fisherfolk and other economic activities;
- ii. Eliminating barriers to efficient inter-island transport, primarily the lack of modern/efficient ships and port facilities;

- iii. Promoting investments in shipbuilding to private sector (e.g., by including it in the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) and link it to the support system for fisherfolk [e.g., credit, port and processing facilities];
- iv. Formulating/updating FMA plan and organize FMA management body, who will lead in drafting broad policies, guidelines, and measures on establishing reference points and harvest control rules and endorse/recommend the appropriate management measures; and,
- v. Conducting awareness campaigns in coastal communities regarding the adoption of measures on securing the access to the country's fishing grounds.

Viable livelihood options for coastal communities will be promoted to address the seasonality of fisheries. This can be done through the provision of i) adaptive aquaculture and supplemental livelihood (e.g., salt production in Occidental Mindoro; dried fish and seaweed production in Palawan and Oriental Mindoro; souvenir/home furnishing production in Marinduque and Romblon); ii) integrated multi-species aquaculture; iii) establishment of online monitoring, documentation, and traceability of fishery catch (e.g., tuna in Occidental Mindoro); and iv) agricultural and tourism activities and other supplemental livelihood programs for fisherfolk and coastal communities (e.g., natural and organic skincare/beauty and souvenir production in Romblon and Oriental Mindoro).

The areas covering Kalayan Group of Islands will be promoted as rich fishing ground among fisherfolks and commercial fishing enterprises. It will be supported by DA-BFAR with substantial investment in fishing vessels, cold storage, fish landing, transportation, and marketing.

Resilience of AFF Value Chains improved

Adopt climate and disaster-resilient technologies. To mitigate the impact of climate and disaster, investments in systems for prediction of disasters,

include hazard estimation and weather forecasting, will be pursued. This involves a) the use of drones, remote sensing and earth observation technologies, modelling, and information generated by concerned agencies and b) the enhancement of existing crop management decision support tools such as the National Color-Coded Agricultural Guide (NCCAG), Rice Crop Manager (RCM) 2, AgriDoc App, CalamanSeek Application App, Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Kiosk, Climate Vulnerability and Risk Information System (CVRIS) of Oriental Mindoro, project Smarter Approaches to Reinvigorate Agriculture as an Industry in the Philippines (SARAI), and other online applications. These tools and instruments will be supported by appropriate ICT system to make it accessible and available for small farmers and fisherfolk.

Moreover, the LGUs will intensify their efforts to disseminate timely local weather updates and forecast and climate outlook through the utilization of social media platforms such as their official website and Facebook page and translating these reports in their local dialect. This will ensure that a higher number of primary producers are informed.

Integrate climate and disaster risks in AFF planning and programming. The vulnerability of the region to different hazards highlights the need to integrate and adopt climate and disaster risks in the regional and local development plans, and investment programs. Formulation and updating of regional and local development and land use plans will be governed by the planning guidelines and manuals on mainstreaming DRR-CCA issued by NEDA and DHSUD. These guidelines include GIS-based disaster risk assessment, which enables the user to determine factors for fatality and property damage for various hazard events, including the estimation of damage per land use type. Moreover, DHSUD will prioritize the provision of capacity building on geographic information system (GIS) applications to LGUs with no CLUPs and those with CLUPs but for updating (see Table 7.3).

Table 7.3 Municipalities with No CLUPs and For Updating (as of June 2022)

PROVINCE/MUNICIPALITIES	STATUS OF CLUP	PROVINCE/MUNICIPALITIES	STATUS OF CLUP
Marinduque		Palawan	
Gasan	For updating	Aborlan	For updating
Mogpog	For updating	Agutaya	For updating
Santa Cruz	For updating	Araceli	For updating
Occidental Mindoro		Balabac	For updating
Abra de Ilog	For updating	Brooke's Point	For updating
Calintaan	For updating	Busuanga	For updating
Looc	For updating	Cagayancillo	For updating
Magsaysay	No CLUP	Dumaran	For updating
Rizal	No CLUP	El Nido (Bacuit)	For updating
Oriental Mindoro		Narra	For updating
Bansud	For updating	Puerto Princesa City	For updating
Bongabong	For updating	Taytay	No CLUP
Bulalacao (San Pedro)	For updating	Romblon	
Naujan	For updating	Alcantara	For updating
Puerto Galera	For updating	Concepcion	For updating
Roxas	For updating	Romblon (Capital)	For updating
San Teodoro	For updating	San Agustin	For updating
Socorro	For updating	San Andres	For updating
Victoria	For updating	San Jose	For updating
		Cajidiocan	No CLUP
		Corcuera	No CLUP
		Santa Maria (Imelda)	No CLUP

Source: DHSUD MIMAROPA

Local climate change trends and projections will also be considered in the construction of disaster- and climate-resilient farm structures (e.g., small-scale irrigation systems and flood protection system) and retrofitting of existing ones.

Expand agricultural insurance coverage. As of 2021, about 24.26 percent of the total registered farmers and fisherfolk in the region are covered by insurance by PCIC. This is translated to 73,083 farmers and fisherfolk. However, with the limited budget and subsidies provided, the amount of insurance coverage is inadequate to cover production cost and losses. This calls for an increased capitalization of PCIC to boost agricultural and fishery insurance coverage including the implementation of index- and weather-based insurance schemes. Among the five MIMAROPA provinces, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan will be prioritized, as these provinces recorded the lowest

insurance coverage. Additional funds for LGUs based on Mandanas Ruling will be maximized to conduct partnership with LGUs to cover counterparts of the insurance coverage. Digital platforms will be utilized for faster transactions and payments.

Boost local capability on the production of AFF inputs. Economic shocks such as Russian-Ukraine war, global health/pandemic outbreak, and disasters highlight the need to create local business for domestic production of AFF inputs to reduce supply chain disruptions and ensure sufficient buffer stocks and supply. This includes investment of private sector to increase domestic production of seeds/propagating materials, equipment and machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, and packaging materials for manufacturing industries. Likewise, input supply/sourcing will also pursue the establishment of the following facilities: a) organic/composting centers;

b) fish hatcheries and nurseries; c) feed milling plants; d) multiplier farms; and e) breeding centers for livestock and poultry. This strategy calls for the involvement of private sector to invest in these areas to augment government resources through the creation of conducive business climate in the region. establishment of feed mills, including the adoption of modern technologies, will address the high cost of inputs, which is one of the major concerns of hog growers in the region.

Agricultural institutions strengthened

Improve coordination and convergence of government agencies in planning, programming, and budgeting. The policy of decentralization stipulated in the Constitution and other relevant laws as well as the impact of Supreme Court Ruling on Mandanas case will be carried out systematically and efficiently through Executive Order (EO) No. 138, s. 2021, or the “Full Devolution of Certain Functions of the Executive Branch to Local Governments, Creation of a Committee on Devolution (ComDev), and For Other Purposes.” In this regard, localization efforts and initiatives to provide direction setting on national aspirations with local priorities in terms of providing basic services and facilities to the LGUs will be intensified. This calls for the reorganization and restructuring of concerned agencies (e.g., DA, DAR) that will enable them to: i) assume more strategic and steering functions to address persistent development issues; ii) efficiently implement AFF plans and programs at the national and sub-national levels; and iii) rationalize land administration and management functions. Devolution Transition Plans of concerned agencies and LGUs will be considered in the planning and investment programming process.

The CDA, DA, and LGUs will strengthen their vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms to enhance the capacity of agricultural cooperatives and organizations in terms of organizing smallholder farmers and providing them link with investors. PAFES, ATI, TESDA, DTI, DOST, and SUCs will be tapped to deliver extension services and other competency-enhancing interventions needed by SFF, AFF-based MSMEs, cooperatives, and associations.

To hasten the land titling process in the region, the MIMAROPA RLUC and JAO No. 01, s.2012, Regional Technical Working Group will continue to conduct activities to facilitate the exclusion/segregation of all land covered by titles for the issuance of certificate of non-overlap (CNO) in ancestral domain/ancestral land (AD/AL) survey plans. This activity will focus on selected municipalities in Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan, which are identified as RTF-ELCAC priority convergence areas.

Enhance support to agricultural education and job-skills matching. CHED, in collaboration with TESDA, DOLE, and LGUs, will continue to evaluate and enhance the labor capacities of seasonal workers (e.g., farmers, fisherfolk, and farm laborers) through reskilling, upskilling, and development of job and skills matching/bridging programs. Capacity building on the adoption of innovative technology and modern technology on agri-fishery such (e.g, agricultural drone) will be provided to SFF. Likewise, the DA, TESDA, and DTI will be establishing/updating database on existing and emerging agri-fishery related industries that need skilled workers, which will serve as decision-making tool of all bridging program and interventions for agricultural education.

Legislative Agenda

The following legislative measures are necessary to support the strategies to modernize agriculture and agribusiness:

Table 7.4 Legislative Agenda to Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEYFEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
National Land Use Act	<p>This is to establish a national land use framework that will define the indicative priorities for land utilization and allocation across residential, infrastructure, agricultural, and protective uses and integrate efforts, monitor developments related to land use, and evolve policies, regulations and directions of land use planning processes.</p> <p>With the limited land and growing population of MIMAROPA Region, the proposed law will provide for the protection of prime agricultural lands against premature or illegal conversion of these lands into non-agricultural areas. It will support the regional priority thrusts of agri-fishery sector by implementing reforms and developmental programs and projects. The protection and development of this land ensure the following: a) adequate domestic production of foods, b) equitable distribution of allocation of public investments in agri-fishery sectors, and c) improved productivity.</p>	NEDA, DENR, DAR, DTI, DPWH, DOTr, DOT, DILG, DOJ, DOE, DHSUD, and LGUs
Reconstructing and Rationalization of Department of Agriculture (DA)	Effective implementation of national agri-fishery policies, programs, and projects requires enhancing and strengthening agricultural institutions and governance. It calls for greater transparency and accountability to be established into nationally funded programs and projects. This proposed law aims to improve coordination and convergence of DA with other national government agencies and LGUs in planning, programming, and budgeting considering the implementation of EO 138, s. 2021. This will support the DA to perform more strategic and steering functions in rationalizing and managing land resources and effectively cascade agri-fishery programs and projects down to LGUs.	DA, District Representatives of MIMAROPA
Livestock, Poultry, and Dairy (LPD) Development and Competitiveness Act	<p>MIMAROPA Region is not self-sufficient in many key food commodities particularly livestock, poultry, and dairy products. From 2017 to 2021, MIMAROPA's livestock and poultry productions were quite low compared to other regions, recording a total of an average growth of 8.29 percent only, from 121,163.41 MT in 2017 to 131,205.99 MT in 2021. Local production of these commodities, except swine production, remained inadequate to meet the growing domestic demands. Aside from high logistics cost due to the archipelagic nature of the region, the adverse effects of ASF outbreaks and bird flu in LPD industry aggravated its lagging production, pushing market prices to go up. This highlighted the need to provide developmental support to the LDP industry in terms of governing policies and regulations, innovative farm technologies, and machineries, logistics, financing, processing/manufacturing.</p> <p>The proposed law aims to a) improve the availability and affordability of nutritious and safe LPD products, b) pursue better government response to pests and diseases, and c) increase the incomes of LPD and corn farmers.</p>	DA, DILG, LGUs

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEYFEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Amendment of Section 61 of the Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550)	<p>The MIMAROPA registered as the top three fishery producing region, contributing a share of 8.90 percent or 378,093.97 MT, to the national fishery production in 2021. However, the declining fishery production, high cost of inputs (e.g., fuel), lesser fishing activities due to weather disturbances and occurrence of typhoons, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities reported in the region pressed the government to import fishery products to augment the local catch. However, this may affect the livelihoods of local fisherfolk and producers and pull down farm gate prices of the local catch in the region. As such, there is a need to review and amend importation policies, including a) Fisheries Administrative Order No. 195 or the Rules and Regulations Governing Importation of Fresh/Chilled/Frozen and Fishery Aquatic Products, and b) Certificate of Necessity to Import (CNI).</p> <p>The proposed law aims to improve efficiency and transparency in the trade of fishery products that would reduce trade costs and enable the timely importation of fish to augment domestic production in cases of supply deficiency.</p>	DA

08

Revitalize Industry



REVITALIZE INDUSTRY

The industry sector comprises diverse sub-industries: manufacturing, mining, construction, electricity, steam, water, and waste management. The industry contributed about one-third of the total gross regional domestic product (GRDP) from 2000 to 2021. Prominent industries in the region include mining and agro-based products.

The region is a known raw material supplier of agricultural and mineral products because of its rich and abundant natural resources. Existing industries that thrive in the area are mostly micro, cottage, and small industries except mining. The industry sector has yet to maximize its potential to help transform the regional economy and generate more quality jobs and competitive products.

Assessment and Challenges

Contribution of the Industry Sector to the GRDP.

The industry sector was the consistent second biggest contributor to the MIMAROPA GRDP next to the services sector. In 2021, it contributed 34.8 percent to the region's economy. The industry sector was observed to be growing as it showed positive growth rates since 2016. Moreover, the industry sector drove the region's economy and became the second fastest-growing region in 2018. However, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 which temporarily suspended production activities resulted in an estimated foregone revenue of Php 7 billion. During the same period, the sector suffered a negative growth rate of 8.2 percent, its lowest since 2007. The industry sector is set to bounce back from the setback as it registered a 2.2 percent growth in 2021 brought by the significant growth in construction.

Mining and quarrying. The region is the biggest contributor to the country's mining and quarrying outputs averaging a share of 27.6 percent from 2000 to 2021. It is also the second biggest contributor to the region's economy next to agriculture and fishing. However, the industry showed a decreasing growth trend since 2019. In 2021, the growth rate of mining and quarrying dropped to -10.6 percent. Similar trend can be observed in employment generated by the industry as it recorded a 50 percent decrease in employment from 10,000 workers in 2019 to 5,000 workers in 2020. Factors

that affected the growth performances of the sector include global market prices and ease of doing mining business in the region.

In 2021, metallic mining companies, which are operating in Palawan, contributed a total of Php2.67 billion of national and local taxes and fees. About 2.8 percent or a total of Php 75.60 million in royalties were paid to indigenous people in the province. Mining and mineral processing companies also spent Php 2.06 billion for their Annual Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program and Php 505.89 million for their Final Mine and Rehabilitation and Decommissioning Fund. Mineral products extracted in Palawan include nickel ore, mixed sulfide, and limonite ore. These mineral products were usually exported to China and Japan.

Production of non-metallic minerals was registered in Occidental Mindoro and Palawan. In 2021, Occidental Mindoro recorded a total of 18 sand and gravel producers recording a total production of 69,894 cubic meters amounting Php 21.04 million. Moreover, the 21 non-metallic mineral producers in Palawan generated Php 791.72 million in sales of non-metallic minerals which include hydrated lime, milk of lime, crushed limestone, and sand and gravel.

The issuance of Executive Order No. 130 s. 2021 lifted the 9-year mining ban on new mining agreements. This will attract new mining investors to operate mining in the region. However, mining companies will need to conduct several dialogues and consultations as the local communities are apprehensive of the effect of mining operations in their areas.

Manufacturing. The gross value added in manufacturing in the region grew at an average of 7.2 percent from 2001 to 2021. This was higher than the national average growth rate of 4.0 percent. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a minimal effect on the manufacturing sector as it recorded only negative 0.5 percent growth in 2020. On the other hand, the total employment in manufacturing industry decreased by 23.18 percent, from 69,000 in 2019 to 53,000 in 2020. Despite this, labor productivity in manufacturing managed to increase by 30 percent.

The share of the region to the total manufacturing outputs of the country was only 1.1 percent, the second lowest among regions. At the regional level, the share of manufacturing to the GRDP has been increasing since 2015. As the share of the mining industry in the regional economy continues to decline, revitalizing the manufacturing industry shall be done to improve the region's economy and create more jobs for the people.

The manufacturing industry of the region, which operates on a small-scale basis producing agro-based products, contributed 14.9 percent to the region's economy in 2021. This provides opportunities to the region's priority industries to be revitalized. Among the industries include: minerals, seaweeds, pineapple, cacao, rubber, and cashew in Palawan; onion, garlic, salt, seaweeds, and tuna in Occidental Mindoro; rice, banana, calamansi, coconut, bamboo, fisheries, and abaca in Oriental Mindoro; soft broom, fisheries, peanut butter, coconut, marble, in Romblon. Value addition or processing of these products would expand economic activities in manufacturing and will create more jobs.

Construction. The construction industry grew at an average of 9.6 percent from 2010-2021. It contributed an average of 2.1 percent annually to the country's GVA in construction. The industry also recorded a 16 percent decrease in employment generated, from 131,000 in 2019 to 110,000 in 2020. Labor productivity for the construction industry decreased

to negative 8.75 percent. On the other hand, the share of the industry to the GRDP increased from 2000 to 2021 registering an average share of 5.2 percent, 6th among all industries.

Construction statistics from PSA showed that the number of approved building permits in the region from 2006 to 2021 tripled, from 1,000 in 2006 to 3,314 in 2021. Majority or 64 percent of these permits were for residential purposes. Approved permits for non-residential, additions, alterations/repairs/renovations, and street furniture in the region also showed significant increases. Oriental Mindoro got the highest number of approved building permits in 2021 with 1,216 or 37 percent of the total approved building permits in the region. This was followed by Marinduque and Occidental Mindoro with 665 and 552, respectively.

Electricity, steam, water, and waste management (ESWWM). The share of the industry to the country's GVA on electricity, steam, water, and waste management recorded an annual average increase of 1.7 percent from 2000 to 2021. In 2021, the region ranked 13th in terms of highest growth rate for the industry. The growth of ESWWM in the region remained at 2.9 from 2019 to 2021. On the other hand, employment generated from the industry was lower by 40 percent, from 5,000 in 2019 to 3,000 in 2020.

Among the major challenges relative to industry performance of the region includes: (i) COVID-19 pandemic restrictions affecting physical trade fairs, closing of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and travel restrictions; (ii) issues on the promotion of trade such as increasing cost in logistics, travel restrictions, and force majeure; (iii) energy supply; (iv) limited access to finance or insufficient funds for MSMEs development; (v) limited capacity and access to technology and to e-commerce; and (vi) geopolitical conflicts.

Targets

Table 8.1 Indicator Matrix

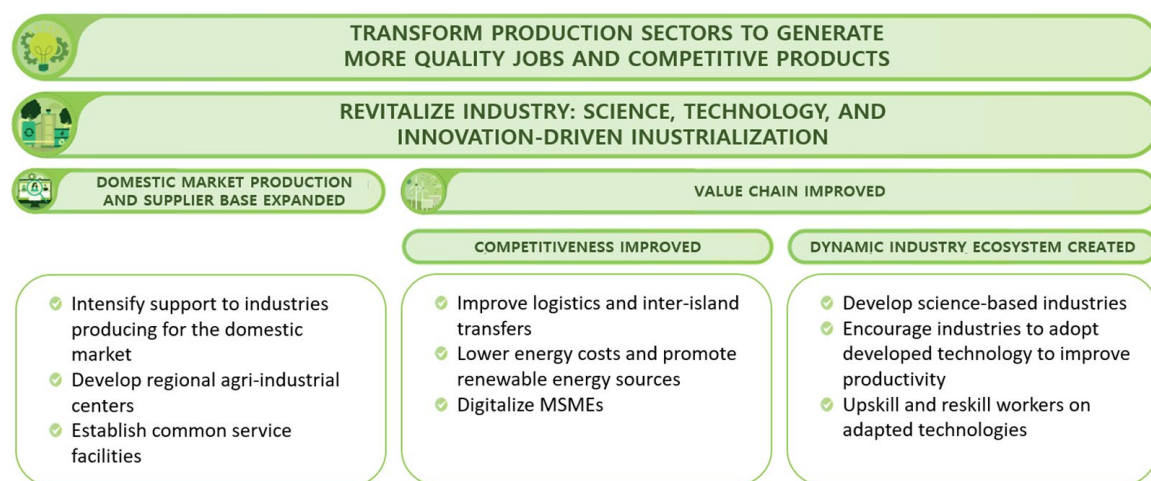
INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Domestic Market and Supplier Base Expanded									
Growth of industry GVA increased (%)	2021	2.20%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	PSA
GVA growth of construction increased (%)	2021	17.50%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	PSA
Moving Up the Value Chain Achieved									
A. Competitiveness Improved									
Percentage of Cities and Municipalities with improved economic dynamism score in the CMCI increased	2021	62% (45/73)	68%	74%	79%	84%	90%	100%	PSA
Share of medium enterprises to total number of MSMEs in the region increased (%)	2021	0.18%	0.19%	0.20%	0.21%	0.22%	0.23%	0.24%	PSA
B. Dynamic Industry Ecosystem Created									
Growth of labor productivity in the industry increased (%)	2020	15.48%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	PSA,DTI, DOLE
Growth of labor productivity in manufacturing increased	2020	29.60%	15-16%	15-16%	15-16%	15-16%	15-16%	15-16%	PSA,DTI, DOLE
GVA growth of industry sector increased (%)	2021	2.20%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	PSA,DTI
GVA growth of manufacturing sector increased (%)	2021	5.40%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	PSA,DTI
Employment generated in industry increased (in thousands)	2020	171	174	177	180	183	186	189	PSA, DTI, DOLE
Number of industry roadmaps updated	2021	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	DTI MIMAROPA
Percentage of Negosyo Centers established/ operationalized (61/73)	2022	84%	86%	89%	92%	95%	97%	100%	DTI, LGUs
Assisted MSMEs adapting e-commerce in business operations (%)	2022	48% (7,513/ 15,358)	Increasing						DTI
Number of Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers (RIICs) established/ maintained	2022	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	DTI/DOST
Percentage of 6-digit export products increased	2021	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	PSA
Inter-Sectoral Linkages Enhanced									
Number of Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers (RIICs) established/ maintained	2022	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	DTI/DOST

Sources: PSA MIMAROPA, DTI MIMAROPA, DOLE MIMAROPA, DOST MIMAROPA, and LGUs

Strategies

To achieve the economic transformation and a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society, two sub-chapter outcomes were identified. The first sub-sector outcome aims to expand domestic market production and supplier base which includes discussion on how strengthening of government-industry-academe linkages may promote in achieving the said outcome. The second sub-chapter outcome aims to improve value chain by improving competitiveness and creation of a dynamic industry ecosystem.

Figure 8.1 Strategy Framework to Revitalize Industry



Domestic Market Production and Supplier Base Expanded

Intensify support to industries that cater to domestic markets. Business establishments in the region are dominated by MSMEs. Their limited resources hinder them from competing against lower-priced imports in the domestic market. The 60 Negosyo Centers (NCs) established in MIMAROPA provide business advisory services to MSMEs to guide them on compliance, documentary and license requirements, financing, management, marketing, among others. The establishment of NCs to the 13 remaining municipalities would bring ease of business closer to MSMEs across the region. The NCs can also serve as avenues for business matching activities. Information from the NCs may also be used as reference in the identification of additional capacity programs, clustering of MSMEs, and potential mix of products and services between and among MSMEs.

To assist small businesses in product promotion, the LGUs usually conduct trade fairs mostly during local festivals. Moreover, DTI MIMAROPA has institutionalized MIMAROPA Naturally Trade Fair which started in 2015. The regional trade fair which is usually conducted in Metro Manila serves as a venue for emerging and accomplished entrepreneurs of the region to showcase their products and expand opportunities and markets. The total sales generated during the regional trade fair reached Php 90 million in 2019, higher than Php 4.5 million sales in 2015. However, the COVID-19 pandemic restricted the conduct of trade fair to online event.

The conduct of the regional trade fair in Metro Manila will be continued given the expected increase in retail activities because of the reopening of the economy. In addition to trade fairs, the region currently hosts four One Town One Product (OTOP) hubs in Romblon, Occidental Mindoro, Marinduque, and Paranaque City. The established OTOP hubs aims to increase the availability and accessibility of MIMAROPA products while reducing the transportation and distribution costs to its urban markets. An OTOP

hub may be established in Oriental Mindoro which can be easily accessed through the Strong Republic National Highway or the SRNH.

Develop Regional Agri-Industrial Centers (RAICs). Agriculture should be developed as an industry through the establishment of Regional Agri-Industrial Centers which will provide access to resources, including state-of-the art production technologies and value-adding facilities. The activities of OTOP, innovation centers, and knowledge hubs can also be integrated in the RAICs.

Currently, the region's state universities and colleges undertake various efforts to strengthen innovation, value-adding, and agri-industry development. Among these include the establishment of food innovation centers, innovation laboratories, woodworking and metalworking school factory, and technology business incubators.

The implementation of the proposed trading center and agro-processing zones in the Master Plan for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development for Calapan City will also be pursued.

Establish common service facilities. The Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Project, which is an initiative of the DTI, provides machinery, equipment, and tools to eligible cooperators under a shared system to boost product innovation and improve the competitiveness of the MSMEs. In 2022, a total of 41 SSFs in the region were established benefitting a total of 132 MSME beneficiaries. The facilities include: (i) Food Testing Laboratory in Marinduque State College amounting Php 5.19 million; (ii) SSF for enhancement of processing of coconut-based products in Oriental Mindoro worth Php 2.19 million; (iii) SSF in digitizing marble production in Romblon worth Php 2.58 million, (iv) SSF on cacao processing in Occidental Mindoro worth Php 1.9 million, and (v) SSF on Toll Packaging Palawan worth Php 2.13 million. Additional SSFs such as cold storage facilities for onion, garlic, soft-shell crabs, and other fishery products; packaging and labelling of agricultural commodities such as banana chips, dried fish, etc.; salt storage and packaging facilities; among others will be established in the medium term.

Another common service facility is the fabrication laboratories (Fab Labs) which capacitate MSMEs towards invention and innovation. Fab Labs are digital laboratories that help grassroots communities translate their design ideas into physical forms

through technology. The region may consider establishing Fab Lab in Oriental Mindoro and Palawan where more than half of the MSMEs are located. The establishment of Fab Labs in the region is expected to improve product competitiveness.

Value Chain Improved

Improving and streamlining value chain can improve business efficiency, increase productivity, provide more job opportunities, and create a dynamic industry ecosystem.

Improve logistics and interisland transfers. Integrating remote island economies into mainstream markets and creating a greater area of cooperation among the five provinces in MIMAROPA rely on dependable infrastructure and efficient delivery of transportation support services. Critical investments that would improve interisland connectivity mobility should be implemented (Refer to Chapter 13: Expand and upgrade infrastructure). This will improve internal and external trade links, lower distribution costs, and would open new opportunities for the industry sector in the region.

Lower energy costs and address other industry gaps. Investments in facilities for processing should be complemented with a stable and affordable power supply. Reliability of power supply and unstable cost of fuel and high dependence on fossil fuels in the region are still a major concern since frequent brownouts and high electricity cost are still experienced in most provinces. The region is still dependent on fossil fuels for electricity. Thus, higher prices can be observed when global prices for fuel such as diesel increased.

The region may transition to renewable energy sources as a cheap source of power supply. However, back-up power plants will still be needed as we transition to renewable energy sources given the latter's high investment cost. Identified renewable energy development projects to support energy generation in the region includes biomass, geothermal, wind, hydropower, and solar projects.

Further, promoting investment in power generation especially for renewable energy requires a favourable policy and regulatory framework that provides certainty and stability to investors (Refer to Chapter 13: Expand and upgrade infrastructure). Industry and value chain gaps will also be addressed to revitalize the industry sector, which suffered from the effects of

COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, advocacy on updating and formulating the business continuity plans will be done to avoid similar problems in the future. On the other hand, value-adding or processing activities on raw products like mineral ores and other agricultural outputs shall be considered in order to revitalize the industry.

Digitalize MSMEs. COVID-19 pandemic pushed the industry to embrace digitalization. Due to quarantine restrictions, MSMEs were forced to rely on the use of ICT and digital services in operating their businesses. In 2022, a total of 7,513 MSMEs utilized e-commerce and online payment in their selling and retailing activities.

Parallel to digitalization of MSMEs are the improvement activities for electronic business permits and licensing system (eBPLS) which enabled LGUs to apply and process building permits electronically. In 2021, 35 LGUs have used eBPLS for business permit and licensing processing.

Dynamic Industry Ecosystem Created

Develop science-based industries. The development and adoption of new technologies pave way for the creation of new products and improvement of services that may result in the emergence of new industries that would lead to better business climate.

To ensure that industry needs are being addressed, it is important that R&D and innovation initiatives are aligned with the MIMAROPA Regional Research and Development Agenda (MRDA). To further accelerate the innovative ecosystem of the region, it is important that the Science for Change Program (S4CP) be continued and strengthened. Information, Education, and Communication campaign, as well as capacity-building programs should also be conducted in the provinces of the region, especially for R&D partners in the SUCs which shall act as primary actors for R&D and STI.

To further improve the priority industries in the region, the respective priority industry roadmaps should be updated or revisited taking into consideration current domestic and international environment and development. The roadmaps should also consider formulated industry roadmaps developed by Department of Agriculture and its attached agencies, Department of Trade and

Industry, Department of Science and Technology and other roadmaps formulated by the government and private institutions. The updating of industry roadmaps on the priority commodities of the region aims to provide direction on how to make these industries competitive.

Encourage industries to adopt developed technologies to improve productivity. This includes the adoption of developed technologies that are responsive to the needs of the region in terms of industrialization. Currently, various DOST-developed technologies were promoted, adopted/ utilized in the region. These include floating seaweed dryers, Vigormin, eco-friendly septic system, ceramic water filter, flood early warning system, marble product packaging, wood finishing techniques, bioremediation. The region may host a forum to promote these technologies and allow the technology adaptors to share the advantages and usefulness of such projects. The region may also consider adoption of smart agriculture technologies from developed countries such as Japan and China, among others. Similarly, the agricultural policies from these countries on may also be adopted.

Upskill and reskill workers on adapted technologies. With the integration of ICT and smart technologies in the industry, the region's manpower needs capacity building through various trainings in order to catch-up with the current manpower demands. Such capacity building activities include the re-orientation of workers on new systems for digitalization, emerging products and services, and changing clients' preferences. In 2021, CHED MIMAROPA has updated the list of priority courses in the region which will guide incoming college students on possible in-demand courses. Further, the Department of Labor and Employment-Bureau of Local Employment published emerging, critical, and in-demand skills. (Refer to Chapter 6: Increase income-earning ability)

Inter-Sectoral Linkages Enhanced

Strengthen government-academe-industry linkages. Government agencies should continue partnerships with SUCs in the region in hosting programs, activities, and conduct of programs and projects relative to R&D and technology development. (Please refer to Chapter 4.2 Improve Education and Lifelong Learning)

Legislative Agenda

The following legislative measures are necessary to support the strategies to Revitalize Industry:

Table 8.2 Legislative Agenda to Revitalize Industry

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Enterprise Productivity Act	This aims to strengthen the productivity improvement and gain sharing between workers and enterprises. Enhancing productivity relies on providing a healthy business climate for business owners and employees. Productivity enhancement incentives should be identified to ensure motivation and productivity of the services and industry sector are at the highest. Having a competitive enterprise or business that provides a productivity enhancement interventions to its workers ensure business sustainability.	DOLE, DTI, NEDA
Internet Transactions Act	The bill seeks to establish an effective regulatory policy for commercial activities conducted through the internet or electronic means. The MIMAROPA, being an island region, mostly relies on e-commerce websites for their needs. The use of commerce for trading and shopping purposes ensures that optimal use of time and monetary resources. However, to ensure safety of consumers using the e-commerce and online shopping services transactions should be institutionalized. Thus, the importance of pushing for an internet transactions act to provide security mechanism for consumers.	DICT, DTI

09

Reinvigorate Services



REINVIGORATE SERVICES

This chapter aims to reinvigorate services by increasing employment and investments thereby enabling economic and social transformation in order to regain the region's high-growth path in developing a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient economy.

By 2028, the following subsector outcomes will be attained: (a) market expansion achieved, and (b) creativity and innovation in significant services growth drivers strengthened. Market expansion and digital transformation will create the pathways for services firms to enhance strong presence in markets, reach new market segments and buyer geographies and pursue diversification. The sector will gain strength, speed, and size from the dynamic ecosystem of technology, talent, and skills development, intellectual property (IP) rights protection, and competition for creativity and innovation.

Assessment and Challenges

The services sector is composed of diverse industries ranging from retail business to education and health services. In 2021, the share of services sector to the GRDP was the highest at 45.64 percent despite suffering directly from the effects of COVID-19 pandemic and indirectly from the effects of the Russian Ukraine conflict. This made the region a predominantly service-based economy.

The services sector was the largest sector in the economy with the share of 45.8 percent when MIMAROPA became the second fastest growing region in the country in 2018. It was also the largest employer with an average of 47 percent share in the region's total employment from 2017-2020. Location quotient analysis revealed the following major industries of the services sector: (i) wholesale, retail, and trade; (ii) financial and insurance activities; (iii) real estate activities; (iv) transport and storage; and (v) arts, entertainment, and recreation that contribute to tourism.

In 2021, the services sector recorded 19,133 establishments, 92 percent of which were classified as microenterprises. Business one-stop shops (BOSS) were established to further improve business efficiency, licensing services, and the business environment at the local level. From 2017-2021,

a total of 60 established and maintained Negosyo Centers (NCs) in the region provided assistance and services to 14,120 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to improve operations.

At the onset of the pandemic, MSMEs were forced to rely on the use of ICT and digital services in their business operations. In 2021, the improvement from business permits and licensing system (BPLS) to Integrated BPLS or iBPLS enabled online application and processing of building and occupancy permits by the LGUs and their constituents. However, only 36 percent of the LGUs in the region have adopted the system. A total of 5,398 MSMEs utilized e-commerce and online payment in their selling and retailing activities.

Tourism industry is one of the major economic growth drivers of the MIMAROPA region. From 2017-2021, the total tourist arrivals in the region reached 7.55 million that generated about PhP79.15 billion in receipts. However, the pandemic exposed the vulnerability of the region's tourism industry. The imposed community quarantines restricted the travel of tourists, which resulted to a 45.5 percent decrease in tourist arrivals during 2020. The industry is expected to bounce back and continue operations under the new normal with the reopening of the region's major tourist destinations.

Among the critical investments in support of tourism development is the implementation of Tourism Road Infrastructure Program (TRIP), which improved

access to major tourism destinations in the region. Currently, a total of 169 DOT-DPWH TRIP amounting to Php 6.37 billion are being implemented in the region, which cover almost 185.202 kms. The enactment of Republic Act No. 11904 or the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act assured protection of the rights and capacities of creative firms, artists, workers, indigenous cultural communities, content providers, and stakeholders and further elevation of the creative economy. There are several government initiatives on creative industries but with limited financial support.

The identified challenges in the services sector

included: (i) urgent need to bounce back from COVID-19 pandemic; (ii) environmental issues on the region's prime tourism destinations such as: sustainability of water quality, encroachment in easement and timberland areas, and inadequate sewage facilities; (iii) accessibility of tourism destinations and MIMAROPA as a whole (inadequate transportation connectivity); (iv) insufficient support facilities (power, water, internet); (v) limited manpower (some LGUs do not have permanent tourism officers/department); (vi) underdeveloped attractions and limited value-adding of products and services; and (vii) limited and outdated tourism information, including areas for investment.

Targets

Table 9.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
GVA Growth rate in the services sector accelerated (%)	2021	3.50%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	PSA
GVA in Transportation, storage, and communication increased (%)	2021	-6.25%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	PSA
GVA in Information and Communication increased (%)	2021	11.03%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	6-7%	PSA
GVA in Wholesale, Retail, and Trade increased (%)	2021	1.76%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	PSA
Employment Generated in the services sector increased	2020	7.20%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	PSA
Tourist Arrivals increased (%)	2021	-42.02%	227%	227%	227%	227%	227%	227%	DOT
Number of tourism enterprise zones established/ declared	2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	DOT-TIEZA
Percentage of accredited tourism establishments increased (%) 710 / 955	2021	74%	79%	83%	87%	91%	96%	100%	DOT

Sources: PSA MIMAROPA, DOT MIMAROPA, and DOT-TIEZA

Strategies

Given the abovementioned challenges, there is a need to reinvigorate the services sector to generate more quality jobs and competitive products. To attain the desired outcome of achieving market expansion and strengthening creativity and innovation in significant services growth drivers in the region, the following strategies shall be implemented:

Figure 9.1 Strategy Framework to Reinvigorate Services



Market expansion achieved

Diversify tourism products and services to rebuild the tourism industry

Promote diversification through multidimensional tourism that offers a range of experiences by highlighting the assets of the region: its people; natural endowments; tradition, heritage, and arts; food and gastronomy (including Halal); medical, health, and wellness; and meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions (MICE); among others. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall accelerate the roll-out of the product development manual and training modules for local government units (LGUs) to ensure the readiness of products and destinations for safe, smart, and sustainable tourism.

Several infrastructure facilities shall be established to support product diversification:

a. Tourism Enterprise Zones (TEZs). The Tourism Act of 1999 supports the establishment of TEZs to spur socioeconomic development through tourism. TEZs can be classified into (i) health and wellness; (ii) eco-tourism; (iii) general leisure; (iv) cultural heritage; and (v) mixed-use. TEZs will provide the

necessary vehicle to coordinate actions of the public and private sectors to address development barriers, attract and focus investment on specific geographic areas and upgrade product and service quality. MIMAROPA has two TEZs in Palawan: (i) flagship public TEZ, the Long Beach in San Vicente and (ii) private TEZ, the Jewel Resort and Spa in Puerto Princesa City.

Other major destinations in MIMAROPA that may be assessed for possible designation as TEZ include:

i. Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro. DOT shall provide funds for the formulation of a master plan prior to establishment of TEZ. The Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) of Puerto Galera may also be updated to include the Puerto Galera Windmill Farm Project which offers Tagaytay-like eco-tourism sites that may be developed as nature-based resorts and rest areas that will cater to tourists exploring the beaches during daytime. The project with eight wind turbines built atop the mountains in Baclayan at almost 2,700 feet above sea level offers majestic and almost surreal views of the whole town of Puerto Galera and the adjacent turquoise sea of the Verde Island Passage, the center of the world's marine biodiversity area.

ii. Lio Tourism Estate in El Nido, Palawan. The estate was designed and developed by Ayala Land as its first ecologically-sustainable tourism destination,

which can be accessed by direct flights from Manila to Lio Airport via Air Swift. The Lio Beach in El Nido is a four-kilometer beachline with views of Bacuit, El Nido Bay. Lio is a master planned community that values nature and takes locals and visitors to a journey of exciting adventures, new discoveries, and peaceful relaxation. Lio harbors several hotels, resorts, tourism and commercial establishments, and residential communities with world-class amenities like Huni, Casa Kalaw, Balai Adlao, Hotel Covo, Seda Lio, and El Nido Cove.

b. Peace Village Development Projects in Mindoro and Palawan. The development of peace villages will greatly boost tourism and other industries; promote inclusive-growth, peace and order, safety and security; and showcase diverse cultures and activities in the region. There are two potential peace village projects in MIMAROPA: (i) Brooke's Point in Palawan; and (ii) Mindoro Island particularly San Jose in Occidental Mindoro and Mansalay and Bulalacao in Oriental Mindoro. Per assessment, these areas can offer an array of cultural and agri-ecotourism products, which are usually in need of infrastructure support and marketing strategies. Thus, convergence projects on product marketing and community empowerment are necessary for the development of these products.

c. Sustainable Tourism Development Project in Coron and El Nido, Palawan. This will support sustainable, resilient, and inclusive ocean-based tourism development in Coron and El Nido through: (i) improvement of urban infrastructure to reduce pollution, improve oceans health, and expand access to basic urban services; (ii) protection of marine ecosystems at key tourist sites by reducing tourism pressures and promoting alternative livelihoods to address overexploitation of marine resources; and (iii) support to tourism micro-small-and-medium enterprise (MSME) recovery through upgrading of productivity support, and skills training for tourism workers focused on digital technologies. To realize the benefits of STDP, financing agreements shall be finalized. TIEZA, in coordination with the Department of Finance (DOF), is studying the possibility of coursing the loan through a government financial institution.

d. Sustainable farm tourism. This is underscored as one of the fastest growing sectors in the country. MIMAROPA is one of the region that have established farm tourism. There are three DOT-accredited agri-tourism farm sites in Boac, Marinduque: (i)

AGREA Farm Estate in Brgy. Cawit; (ii) DMDC Farm in Brgy. Poras; and (iii) Tiyo Ninoy's Integrated Farm in Brgy. Tanza. There are also existing farms in other provinces that can be further developed to meet the requirements for DOT accreditation such as: (i) Yamang-bukid, Mitra Farm, and Coron Agri Ecotourism Farm in Palawan; (ii) Infinity Farm Resort, Faith Paradise Agri Tourism Farm and Hiraya Farm and Resort in Oriental Mindoro; (iii) Tabing-ilog Farm, Love Hidden Farm, Rock of Hope Tomoco's Farm Reort, Argel Farm and Resort in Occidental Mindoro; and (iv) Dad's Bukid and Roldan's agri-tourism farm in Romblon.

e. Convention Centers. Establishing convention centers in the area encourages more investments, infrastructure improvement, and tourism activities. TIEZA sets the requirements for globally competitive convention centers that can host regional, national, and international gatherings such as conferences, symposiums, forum, exhibits, trade shows, concerts, and sports activities among others. MIMAROPA has three convention centers in (i) Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro; (ii) Odiongan, Romblon; and (iii) Boac, Marinduque.

For years, the region's tourism brand, "MIMAROPA Naturally: The Destination of Choice", has been used to showcase the region's diverse array of tourist destinations with white sand beaches, rich marine biodiversity, picturesque landscape as well as various activities like scuba, diving, island hopping, snorkeling, trekking, and photography. This shall be enhanced to create a strong identity highlighting cultural legacies, natural wonders, and other tourism products and services that make the region stand out as a destination with value.

MIMAROPA's tourism industry has evolved throughout the years with the newest offerings of different sites and products as well as business and investment opportunities. Alongside this development, new and more imaginative marketing strategies are needed to showcase the character as a promising and world-class tourist destination that reflects and radiates the region's culture and way of life of the MIMAROPAns.

MIMAROPA – The Destination of Choice FB page, the official marketing and promotions page of the Department of Tourism (DOT) MIMAROPA, highlighted the must-visit places in the region. MIMAROPA boasts major tourism destinations like Coron, El Nido, and Puerto Princesa in

Palawan, Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro, Apo Reef Natural Park in Occidental Mindoro, and Mt. Guiting-guiting in Romblon, which are gaining global popularity through foreign recognitions. There are four sustainable tourism destinations established in MIMAROPA from 2017-2021: Puerto Pension in Puerto Princesa City; and Pangulasian, Lagen, and Miniloc islands in El Nido, Palawan. On May 24, 2019 edition, Spot.ph recommended ten places for snorkeling, three of which are located in MIMAROPA: (i) Coral Garden in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro; (ii) Siete Pecados in Coron, Palawan; and (iii) Miniloc Island in El Nido Palawan.

Fast-track business processing to ensure efficient and effective public service delivery

Simplify and harmonize regulatory requirements in business name registration and licensing processes. Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Delivery Service Act of 2018 provided the framework and mechanism to simplify the lengthy and tedious regulatory processes and requirements in obtaining business permits and licenses. LGUs shall devise ways to encourage more local enterprises and businesses and streamline the requirements and business processes to help MSMEs sustain operations, adopt innovations, and enhance competitiveness.

Streamline requirements and procedures at ports and airports to reduce transport and logistics costs. Redundancies and steps in the submission of requirements to regulatory agencies shall be reduced, particularly in permits and licenses, documentary requirements, client steps, and fees for cold storage, arrastre, freight forwarding, trucking, warehousing, and domestic shipping businesses. Accreditation processes between DTI and concerned agencies shall be harmonized such as the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) for freight forwarding companies. Availability of budget for agencies, such as Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) shall be ensured for hiring of manpower and procurement of appropriate system and software to support efficient 24/7 operations. LGUs shall be encouraged to remove pass-thru fees and ensure safe entry and exit of goods in their respective areas of jurisdiction. To assure the public that the agency remains steadfast in its mandate of enhancing trade facilitation, anchored in its drive of providing quality

service to its stakeholders and the public, there is also a need for new District Collection Office in the busy ports in MIMAROPA particularly those with recorded trading activities in Brooke's Point Agro Industrial Economic Zone, and Rio Tuba Export Processing Zone in Palawan; and Calapan City, and Roxas ports in Oriental Mindoro.

Accelerate e-commerce in businesses to improve processes and wider reach

Intensify awareness and advocacy campaigns on the benefits of e-commerce in increasing their visibility and global reach. Streamlining business operations through digitalization increases productivity and entrepreneur's confidence. DOST MIMAROPA implements the Digitalization of Business Processes of Selected MSMEs project under Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP). The project aims to assist MIMAROPA MSMEs in improving their business operations and addressing customer needs through digital technology solutions. It includes the development of inventory and logistics management systems for enterprises by collaborating with state universities and colleges (SUCs). The Web-based Inventory Monitoring and Logistics Management System (WIMLMS) was turned over to three MSMEs in Puerto Princesa, Palawan: (i) Palawan Adventist Health Products; (i) Le Dessert Cakes and Pastries; (iii) and St. Ives Bakeshop. It is an automated inventory and order management tool developed by PSU which aims to monitor the movement of finished products with real-time dashboard and track the daily transactions of the business from production facility to the branches/customers.

Establish secure e-payment systems and ensure consumer/supplier protection online to promote trust and confidence. To establish a digital ecosystem through inclusive technology for productivity and efficiency, DTI MIMAROPA launched the MIMAROPA Digitally campaign. It is a sub-brand of the MIMAROPA Naturally that promotes the assistance of provincial offices and Negosyo Centers (NCs) to all types of enterprises through established and safe digital payment gateways towards a financially inclusive environment.

The initiative provides opportunities for the development of a vibrant digital payment ecosystem (from business payment and transactions up to

employee salary and bills payment) with different e-commerce merchant acquirers, online payment aggregators, electronic wallets, and payment networks. To ensure delivery of services in a secure and efficient manner, DTI MIMAROPA also partnered with GCash in conducting free onboarding and financial literacy sessions in select municipalities that successfully registered over 800 MSMEs, TODA members and operators, market vendors, and sari-sari store owners. DTI MIMAROPA received the Excellence in Digital Ecosystem Innovation Award for its efforts to promote digital financial inclusion during the GCash Digital Excellence Awards in 2022.

Creativity and innovation in significant services growth drivers strengthened

Increase access of MSMEs to capital, digital technologies, and startups. Investments in STI-driven upgrading of MSMEs, including process, product, organization, and marketing shall be prioritized. Through the Center for Artificial Intelligence Research (CAIR) and DTI's Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers, MSMEs will gain access to ideas, technology, and talents to improve firm performance. Under the Philippine Innovation Act, entities from the creative industries may avail of shared service facilities from DTI and infrastructure and R&D support programs from Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Funds and incentives, such as low-interest loans, scholarships, research grants, training subsidies to promote startups, digital technology careers, innovations, and research projects shall be provided to address industry needs. Financial capital is provided under the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act, Innovation Act, Innovation Startup Fund Act, and Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act to support startup entrepreneurs, scientists, and researchers in achieving STI interventions, accelerating transfer and commercialization of generated technologies, and strengthening of capability of human resources and institutions to undertake R&D.

Start-up policies and programs shall be aligned and harmonized by building the startup ecosystem

and creating a common understanding of the startup journey and ecosystem development among government agencies. The government shall focus on promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and creating an enabling business environment for startups, and allowing more foreign participation.

Facilitate inter-island connectivity for seamless mobility of people and goods in the region. Inter-island connectivity projects were identified in Chapter 13 Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure. Access to major tourism destinations shall be improved particularly those within rural and far-flung areas like Coron and Culion in Palawan that entails high logistics costs. Tourism routes i.e. air, shipping and maritime, and land supported by DOT, DOTr and DPWH shall be developed and expanded. Updating of the National Tourism Cruise Strategy shall be supported to enhance the contributions of local and international cruise tourism and maritime industries to the blue ocean economy and jobs.

Ensure a sustainable supply of competitive, creative and high skilled workforce

Enhance digital, management, and entrepreneurship competencies of workforce. The implementation of the Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act in the region shall be explored, in partnership with DTI and other relevant government agencies and private sector, to establish co-working or shared service facilities to support the development and enhancement of digital skills and competencies of entrepreneurs and workforce, especially women.

Support the implementation of the Philippine Tourism Human Capital Development Plan 2021-2025. To ensure steady supply of trained manpower and competent world-class Filipino tourism professionals, the Tourism Human Capital Development Plan shall be implemented and promoted in the region. DOT's Filipino Brand of Service Excellence (FBSE) Program shall continue the promotion of best qualities and positive values of Filipino hospitality.

Support the formulation and implementation of a Philippine Creative Industries Development Plan mandated under RA 11904. The region's unique assets shall be identified and shall serve as

input in the formulation and implementation of the Philippine Creative Industries Development Plan, which includes value creation, market creation and expansion, investment targets, intellectual property targets, among others.

Support the Creative Industry Development (CIDC) and its partners. Available assistance from CIDC shall be explored such as training and capacity building in business development, financial literacy, ethics, digital skills, taxation, design thinking, contracts, negotiations, and entrepreneurship.

Promote the Malikhaling Pinoy Creative Market Acceleration Program in the Region. This handholding program provides support for trade and investment promotion to increase value chain participation of creative industries.

Support the establishment of Creative Educational Plan by the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in partnership with the private sector and academe. The Creative Educational Plan aims to provide support, develop relevant programs, and grant scholarships to deserving students related to creative industries, including technical-vocational training scholarship programs and continuous education. The CIDC shall provide technical and financial assistance to providers of non-formal learning modalities. DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall continue to extend incentives to academic institutions that provide funds and grants

for the research of their students and faculty on the development and promotion of the services sector.

Strengthen collaboration with the private sector. Involvement of the private sector in mentoring programs and promotion of Science-Technology-Engineering-Entrepreneurship-Arts-Mathematics careers and interventions shall be pursued to build talents in differentiated services proposition. This initiative aims to increase financial, digital, and cybersecurity literacy, and develop entrepreneurial and creative skills from early schooling by revising the curricula (inclusion of mandatory basic computer education, introduction of relevant electives/micro credentials across courses) to support IT-BPM upgrading. It is also high-time to maximize the opportunities that the Philippines' (IT-BPM) sector is one of the best-performing and employment generating activities in the past years. Deeper reforms like the provision of reliable and affordable electricity and digital connection shall be prioritized to create a competitive business environment taking advantage of the region's proximity to the mainland Luzon. The Batangas-Mindoro Interconnection Project (BMIP), a power transmission project that will connect Mindoro Island to mainland Luzon through the installation of a 25-km. submarine cable and a 51-km. overhead lines along with associated cable terminal stations, is expected to provide reliable and continuous supply of power in the provinces of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro.

Legislative Agenda

For the Plan period, the following legislative agenda will be pursued:

Table 9.2 Legislative Agenda to Reinvigorate Services

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Open Access in Data Transmission	Access to data and information is increasingly becoming more important as society accelerates transition to the digital world or the new normal e.g. work from home, online classes/distance learning, telemedicine, and virtual meetings. Due to the region's archipelagic features, the conduct of hybrid/virtual meetings seemed to be one of the breakthroughs of the pandemic. To meet the ever increasing demand for digitalization, a robust digital infrastructure is needed. The proposed bill on Open Access in Data Transmission Act becomes more urgent to spur the development of new information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure that will pave the way for the digital economy. This aims to level the playing field in data transmission and telecommunications market. Its passage will strengthen value chain linkages in the industry and services sectors and facilitate the realization of the full potential of e-commerce and digital trade. This Act also seeks to lower barriers to market entry, fast-track and lower the cost of deploying broadband facilities, and make more spectrum available for Internet service. These changes will also help the internet industry in the region as well as the expected increase in industry competition that will hopefully lead to innovation, expanded access, improved services, and enable more MIMAROPAns to adapt to the new normal by participating in the digital economy.	DICT, DTI
International Maritime Competitiveness Act	MIMAROPA has ports with recorded trading activities - Sub-Port of Puerto Princesa, Brooke's Point Agro Industrial Economic Zone, and Rio Tuba Export Processing Zone in Palawan that will benefit from this bill. It applies to all aspects affecting the imposition of shipping charges by international carriers arriving at or originating from Philippine ports. It also seeks to strengthen the government oversight over local charges imposed by international shipping lines and empower government institutions to promote efficient, competitive and reliable logistics services. The bill is expected to address the expensive shipping rates and regulate the imposition of "excessive, arbitrary, and unreasonable" shipping charges by foreign shipping lines, such as the "destination and origin charges," container deposit fees, container cleaning fees, detention and demurrage charges, and port congestion charges. Under the bill, all port or terminal operators, international carriers, non-vessel operating common carriers (NVOCC), and forwarders should inform MARINA of their regular shipping charges and fees and publish the same in a newspaper of general circulation. No charges or fees should be imposed beyond the published rates.	DOTr, MARINA, DTI

10

**Advance Research and
Development, Technology, and
Innovation**

ADVANCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

Research and development (R&D) and innovation is a process to generate new knowledge that will be used for the creation of new technologies, products, services, or systems. In MIMAROPA, there were observed improvements in the R&D activities such as the increase in expenditure and number of personnel. However, these are not enough; in particular, the level of R&D expenditure of the region is the lowest among the regions based on the 2018 R&D Survey Reports.

Further, the capacity of personnel and technology generators in the commercialization and adoption of R&D and developed technologies, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) approval also need to be improved. The recently approved laws and policies on innovation as well as the presence of the guiding documents such as the National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document (NIASD) and the PAGTANAW 2050 are expected to intensify R&D activities and improve the Science, Technology, and Innovation ecosystem of the country and the region.

Thus, the region's strategic direction for the next six years shall focus on the improvement of the region's R&D and Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) ecosystem by intensifying R&D activities such as advancing demand-driven R&D and technology, ensuring commercialization, adoption, and utilization of R&D and technologies, and increasing entrepreneurial capacity and productivity through innovation.

Assessment and Challenges

Research and Development Ecosystem. The most recent statistics on research and development in MIMAROPA are available in the 2018 R&D survey and the Compendium of Science and Technology Statistics released in 2021. Another source of data statistics on R&D is the Research and Development Information Unified System (RADIUS), which was established for the region to serve as a database for R&D-related information. The system may serve as a repository for R&D related products of the region that may be used in the timely assessment of the region's R&D activities in the absence of the data from the R&D surveys. Below are the highlights of studies/reports including the statistical information gathered from RADIUS:

i. The research and development expenditure in

the region increased by 836 percent from Php 161.73 million in 2015 to Php 1.51 billion in 2018. However, the region's total R&D expenditure in 2018 was the lowest among the regions in the country at 0.03 percent. The ratio of R&D expenditure to the MIMAROPA GRDP also increased from 0.03 percent in 2015 to 0.41 percent in 2018. This was below the national target of 1 percent of the GDP.

ii. The R&D personnel in the region increased by 194 percent from 404 in 2015 to 1,188 in 2018. About 86 percent of the personnel came from government institutions. Moreover, researchers in the region increased from 325 in 2015 to 786 in 2018. However, the region is the 13th among regions in terms of highest number of researchers in the country. Despite these developments in R&D Human Resources it is still important to improve the number of R&D personnel that would serve as knowledge and technology generators of the region.

iii. As of 2022, a total of 33 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) patent applications were recorded in RADIUS. Out of these applications 4 were granted. On the other hand, a total of 83 IPR applications for utility models were recorded in 2022 out of which 35 were granted or 42 percent of the utility model applications. The low application and granting of IPRs may be attributed to the limited capacity of R&D personnel as well as limited resources for IPR application.

The improvements in the status of research and development in the region may be attributed to the activities conducted by the three R&D consortia in the region, namely: (i) MIMAROPA Health Research and Development Consortium (MHRDC); (ii) Southern Tagalog Islands Research and Development Consortium (STIRDC); and (iii) MIMAROPA Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium (MAARRDEC). The research-related activities of these three consortia are harmonized through the formulation of the MIMAROPA Research and Development Agenda (RDA) which provides the region's strategic direction and priority areas relative to R&D. The region's State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), namely Marinduque State College (MSC), Occidental Mindoro State College (OMSC), Mindoro State University (MSU), Palawan State University (PSU), Romblon State University (RSU), and Western Philippines University (WPU) contributed hugely in the formulation of the RDA, which is currently being updated. The SUCs are considered indispensable partners for the enhancement of the region's R&D and innovation ecosystem.

At the regional level, the MIMAROPA Regional Research, Development, and Innovation Committee (RRDIC) was created by the RDC to serve as a clearing house for issues relative to R&D, technology, and innovation. The RRDIC ensures that policies and activities relative to R&D and innovation are responsive to the development thrusts of MIMAROPA. The Council relies greatly on government-academe partnerships to further develop the region R&D and innovation ecosystem. The six SUCs continuous to provide valuable and indispensable support to the RRDIC.

Among the major challenges relative to R&D performance of the region include the following: (i) low R&D expenditure and R&D intensity; (ii) availability of annual R&D related data; and

(iii) limited capacity of R&D personnel as well as resources for R&D application.

Science, Technology, and Innovation Ecosystem.

The country ranked 59th in the 2022 Global Innovation Index (GII) which was lower than the previous ranking. At the regional level, the innovative capacity was included as an indicator for the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) under the Economic Dynamism Pillar. Among the innovation facilities established in the region were: Technology Business Incubation Hubs, Start-up Innovation Hubs, Fabrication Laboratories (Fab Lab), Shared Services Facilities (SSF), Negosyo Centers providing innovation support, Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program (SET-UP), Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers (RIIC), and R&D Centers. The region hosts a number of SSFs and proposes the establishment of priority SSFs in the region. (refer to Chapter 8: Revitalize Industry or pp. 151-152)

The region's SUCs play a significant role in improving the STI ecosystem in the region. Currently, two technology business incubators (TBIs) were established in the region, namely, (1) the Palawan International TBI by the Palawan State University, and (2) the Agriculture and Aquatic TBI by the Western Philippine University. A TBI is a facility where start-ups are hosted and business development services are provided to promote innovation and technopreneurship in the community and to improve competitiveness among strategic sectors, as well as development and commercialization of new technologies. Currently, nine active startup incubates are being hosted in the region generating a revenue of 20 million pesos in 2021 and contributing to the region's employment.

In terms of technology adoption, the number of adaptors of developed technologies in the region decreased from 87 in 2015 to 47 in 2021, falling short of the RDP target of 98 by 52 percent. This may be attributed to the low linkage between technology generators and end-users. Also, technologies are being developed with no specific end-users in mind, affecting the adoption of technologies in the region.

One of the major programs being implemented to foster science, technology, and innovation in the region is the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) by the Department of Science and Technology. Assisted firms under the program

continuously increased from 64 firms in 2019 to 107 in 2021. On the other hand, the number of projects under the DOST-SETUP decreased from 55 to 49 during the same period. Technology interventions provided for firms also decreased from 87 in 2015 to 47 in 2021.

The passage of critical STI-related laws such as the RA 11293 or the Philippine Innovation Act, the RA 11337 or the Innovative Start-up Act, and the RA 7459 or the Inventors and Invention

Incentives Act of the Philippines, is expected to improve the STI ecosystem in the next six years.

Among the major challenges relative to innovation performance of the region include the following: (i) partnership between academe and industry in terms of technology development; (ii) low adoption of developed technologies; and (iii) commercialization of developed technologies.

Targets

Table 10.1 Indicator Matrix

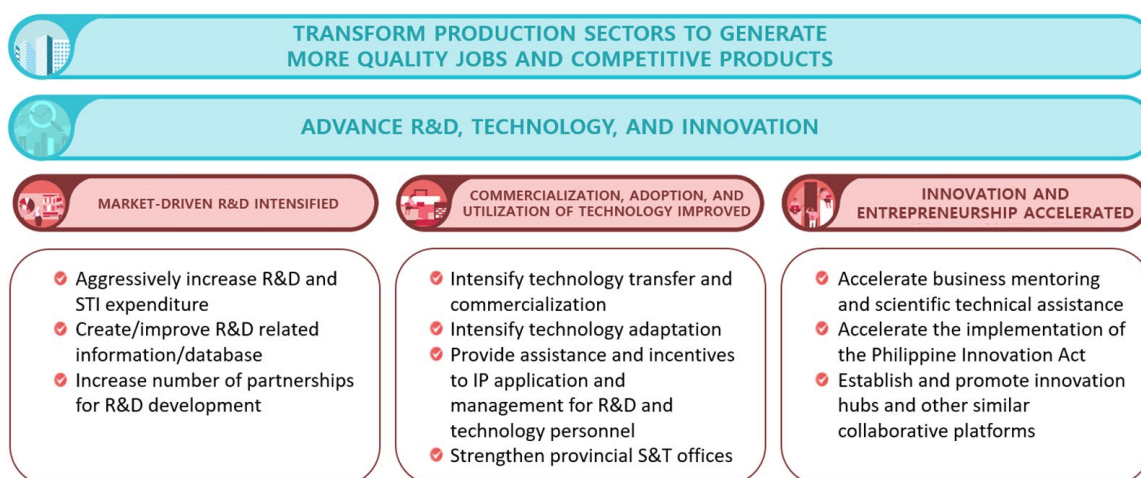
INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Market Driven R&D intensified									
Total R&D expenditure as % of GRDP increased	2018	0.03	0.04%	0.05%	0.06%	0.07%	0.08%	0.09%	DOST-MIMAROPA/ Compendium of S&T statistics 2018
R&D expenditures of MIMAROPA increased	2018	836%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	DOST-MIMAROPA/ Compendium of S&T statistics 2018
R&D intensity of MIMAROPA increased	2018	0.41	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	1	DOST-MIMAROPA/ Compendium of S&T statistics 2018
Percentage of Researchers increased (% per population)	2018	2.51%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	DOST-MIMAROPA/ Compendium of S&T statistics 2018
Commercialization, Adoption, and Utilization, of Technology Improved									
Number of R&D products commercialized increased	2022	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	DTI, DOST, DICT
Ratio of granted Patent applications to the total patents application increased (%) (RADIUS)	2022	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	DOST-MIMAROPA
Ratio of granted Utility Models to the total utility models application increased (%) (RADIUS)	2022	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	42%	DOST-MIMAROPA
Innovation and Entrepreneurship Accelerated									
Number of startups assisted	2022	38	Increasing						DOST, DTI, DICT

Sources: DOST MIMAROPA, DTI MIMAROPA, and DICT MIMAROPA

Strategies

To enable the production sectors to generate more quality jobs and competitive products, there is a need to advance R&D, technology and innovation. The desired outcome is to intensify market-driven and basic R&D activities, improve commercialization, adoption, and utilization of technology, and accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship.

Figure 10.1 Strategy Framework to Advance Research and Development, Technology, and Innovation



To intensify the Research and Development (R&D) activities, the following strategies shall be adopted:

Market driven R&D activities intensified

Aggressively increase R&D and STI expenditure. The region's R&D performance in terms of expenditure increased but was still below the ideal target of one percent of the total GRDP. The region also recorded the lowest ratio of R&D expenditure to the GRDP in the country. Thus, R&D programs and projects shall be identified and ensured that these projects will be given budget allocation for implementation. The region shall increase R&D and STI expenditure with focus on basic research and knowledge creation and innovation and ensure alignment of programs and projects with the relative to MIMAROPA Research and Development (R&D) Agenda (MRDA) to ensure regional thrusts and demand are met. Agencies with research mandate may include in their work program several activities related to investments in human resource development and R&D activities, supportive to the implementation of R&D Science for Change Programs and innovation-related laws and policies, and aligned with NIASD and PAGTANAW 2050

in R&D and STI promotion. Region's stakeholders shall be encouraged to submit and implement more proposals under the Innovation Fund that will spur innovation and research activities. The RRDIC will play an important role in the implementation of these activities, being the region's primary committee on ensuring R&D and STI developments alignment to socio-economic thrusts of the region. It is also important to provide a better R&D environment. The Commission on Higher Education in partnership with the SUCs may also opt to re-engineer basic, technical-vocational and higher education to encourage more enrollees and produce capacitated manpower that may respond to R&D and innovative needs of the region.

Providing a nurturing and supportive environment for R&D is also important to prevent migration or "Brain Drain" of R&D personnel. One reason for brain drain is that better R&D environment and culture are present in other countries or regions which attracts local scientists, researchers, engineers, and personnel. To address this, incentives to R&D personnel such as Science for Change Program-RDLead and the Balik Scientist Program should be promoted and strengthened. Tie-up with Filipino scientists based abroad shall also be explored.

Create/improve database on R&D and technology.

The establishment of STI database provides a better understanding of the region's STI landscape. The database shall provide stakeholders from the public, private, and academe with much needed information regarding R&D and technology outputs that may be easily accessed for commercialization, adoption, and market study and decision making analytics. Included in the database may be information on market or user information system with market and consumer analytics. As observed, surveys on R&D data are available every three years with three years lag time. This makes the intervention to region's R&D and STI activities a challenge. In the absence of a national and regional harmonized database, the RADIUS developed by DOST-MIMAROPA may be used which can in turn also be provided to the industry and business sector for their use. Also, linkages of the government-academe-industry on R&D and STI information should be strengthened.

Increase number of partnerships for R&D development.

The private sector's role in the promotion of a nurturing a supportive environment for R&D should be recognized. The private sector works hand in hand with the public sector by providing information on the current consumer trends and current market demand, STI related investment opportunities, possible solutions to current socio-economic problems, as well as improving the government- academe-industry linkage. The private sector, on the other hand, may seek the assistance of the government and academe relative to the development of R&D and STI products to improve their productivity through the SETUP. The private sector may also identify priority agenda for R&D development as well as solutions to socio-economic challenges encountered by the region and provide sources of funds from national and local sources and collaborators and other R&D investors. Other renowned educational institutions from other countries and in the Philippines may also be tapped for conduct of forums, trainings, and capacity building on R&D, technology, and innovation as part of knowledge sharing and capacity building programs to promote R&D development with multidisciplinary partners.

Commercialization, adoption, and utilization of R&D and technology improved

Intensify technology transfer, extension, and commercialization of STI products.

Assessment shows the low adoption of technology generated. This may be attributed to the low technology commercialization and due to R&D technology outputs being developed with no identified end-users in mind. Further, IPR application and approval for technologies remain a challenge due to limited resources and capacity needs of R&D personnel on IPR applications. To address these issues, various intervention are recommended such as the tapping of the Department of Science and Technology-Technology Application and Promotion Institute (DOST-TAPI) through the DOST-MIMAROPA for the commercialization of developed R&D and STI outputs. The region through the RRDIC and its member SUCs may also continue to conduct fora and technology pitching activities on R&D products and technologies developed to encourage interactions with private sector investors.

Provide assistance and incentives to IP application and management for R&D and technology personnel.

There is a need for continuous capacity building activities for R&D and technology personnel in terms of IPR application and management. The continuous assistance on IPR applications may help improve the innovation ecosystem of the region especially on IPR application, patent searching, and management of R&D personnel that may boost R&D and STI activities. The regions' innovation champions may coordinate with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHIL) as well as DOST-TAPI for assistance and trainings on IP applications and management.

Strengthen provincial S&T offices. The Provincial Science and Technology Offices are expected to lead the development of R&D and STI ecosystem in their respective provinces and ensure the implementation of R&D programs and projects.

Among the requirements, the Provincial S&T Offices must be made more accessible, their capacities strengthened, and enabled to identify the developmental needs of their provinces and potential partners in R&D activities. The provincial S&T offices may institute alliance and identify R&D champions to improve linkages with the academe and the primary industry in the community especially in rural and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas in the region. Enhancing the Capacity building for S&T offices shall be prioritized.

Innovation and entrepreneurship accelerated

Accelerate business mentoring and scientific technical assistance. To ensure sustainability, increase capacity, and improve productivity of startups in the region, partnerships with international, local firms or corporations, and government agencies may be established for coaching and mentoring programs on business operations. Various government programs such as the Kapatid Mentor Micro Enterprise may (KMME) of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Innovations for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines (iFWD PH) of DOST offers assistance and business mentoring interventions. Also, international and local activities such as participation to national and local exhibits and expos where researchers and technology generators can showcase their products should be encouraged. Such activities pave the way for researchers and technology generators to access international and local markets and investors. Further, the participation of R&D and STI personnel as well as the government and the academe in the national and MIMAROPA regional science and technology week provides a venue for

stakeholders to participate in technology forums, launchings, technology pitching, and recognitions.

Accelerate the Implementation of the Philippine Innovation Act or RA 11293. The Philippine Innovation Act states the formulation of the NIASD. The document shall serve as a guide to spur the achievement of the country's innovation goals. NIASD contains strategies and plans to improve the country's innovation ecosystem. In order to achieve the goals set in the NIASD, stakeholder participation from the national and regional level shall be recognized. The NIC, RRDIC, and the private sector may work together in monitoring the implementation of the NIASD thereby strengthening government-academe-industry linkage in the process. The MIMAROPA Regional Research Agenda shall also be harmonized with the NIASD to ensure national and regional development.

Promote and increase the number of established innovation hubs and other similar collaborative platforms in the region. Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) are valuable partners for R&D and STI development. TBIs provide venues for technology commercialization, mentoring and partnerships, and promote investment and grants. Currently two TBIs are present in the region and are located in Palawan. In addition to the identified TBIs, the region's state universities and colleges undertake various efforts to strengthen innovation, value-adding, and agri-industry development through the innovation centers and knowledge hubs.

Relatively, the establishment of Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers (RIICs) in the region should be prioritized. The RIICs play a big role in commercializing market-oriented R&D and promoting local innovation ecosystems. (refer to Chapter 8: Revitalize Industry)

Legislative Agenda

Table 10.2 Legislative Agenda to Advance Research and Development, Technology, and Innovation

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Promoting the Development of the Bamboo Industry by Strengthening the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council, Creating the Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center, Providing Incentives for Bamboo Plantation Development, and Appropriating Funds Therefore	The bill seeks to promote the development of the Philippine bamboo industry through policies and programs that promote the planting of bamboo and accelerate the development of bamboo-based designs and products. It proposes the creation of a Bamboo Industry Research and Development Center, which is tasked to ensure the effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the measure through research and development; and trade and propagation promotion, education, and capacity-building initiatives for farmers, processors, designers, and other stakeholders in the bamboo industry, among others. In the province of Marinduque, bamboo industry is considered as one of their priority industries for development. In previous years, the LGU of Marinduque in partnership with government agencies and MSC, has studied how bamboo may help in the improvement of the environmental status of the province and the region. There were also identified areas for bamboo plantation in the municipality of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro.	DENR, DTI, DOST
Amending Section 177 and Section 216 of Republic Act No. 8293, Otherwise Known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, as Amended by Republic Act No. 10372, and for Other Purposes	<p>The bill seeks to amend the following sections of the IP Code:</p> <p>(a) Section 177 to consider rampant digital reproduction of copyrightable works; and (b) Section 216 of the IP Code, as amended, to address increasing concerns on secondary liability and online copyright infringement issues, such as those related to P2P networks and ISPs.</p> <p>This bill considers the privileges of copyright owners to prevent others from copying, uploading, scanning, digitizing, or distributing their creative work. The bill may also consider digitalizing patent applications in order to streamline and improve IPR filing, applications, and granting. The region may continue to tap DOST-TAPI and IPOPHIL in the management of intellectual property.</p>	IPOPHIL

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11

**Promote Trade and
Investments**

PROMOTE TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

This chapter aims to promote trade and investments in the region to regain a high-growth path in developing a prosperous, inclusive and resilient economy.

By 2028, the following subsector outcomes will be achieved: (a) export sectors strengthened, and (b) investments in priority industries increased. This chapter assesses the performance of trade and investments, identifies key challenges that constrain development and lays down strategies to address the challenges and achieve expanded economic opportunities.

Assessment and Challenges

In the next six years, trade and investments will be important contributors to the regional economy. However, unified efforts from the public and private sectors to address the challenges in promoting trade and investments shall be done in order to maximize its potential in terms of creating jobs, developing skills, and reducing poverty.

Trade of Goods and Services

Trade of goods and services has been one of the biggest contributors to the MIMAROPA economy but was also adversely impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. The region posted a foreign trade deficit of Php 20 billion from 2017-2021.

Exports. From 2017-2021, MIMAROPA's exports of goods and services reached to Php 326.72 billion – Php 110.53 billion for goods and Php 216.19 billion for services. This generated an average share of .013 percent of the total country's exports of goods and services of P 26 trillion.

Per the Philippine Statistics Authority, The share of the top five export partners to the total export goods of the region in 2021 are as follows: (i) People's Republic of China, 38.21 percent; (ii) Thailand, 34.79 percent; (iii) Republic of Korea, 14.66 percent; (iv) Japan, 8.16 percent, and (v) Brunei Darussalam, 4.19

percent. In the past years, Philippines has established strong trade relations with neighboring Asian countries and other Western countries like United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Canada, Spain, France, Australia, and Ireland.

The distribution of exports products as of 2021 are: (i) nickel ores and concentrates, 45.84 percent; (ii) condensates, 39.60 percent; (iii) crude petroleum oils, 11.58 percent; (iv) coconut milk, 1.20 percent; (v) coconut water concentrates, 0.95 percent; (vi) coconut water, other than concentrates, 0.48 percent; (vii) coconut water-based drinks, 0.31 percent; (viii) vegetable saps and extracts, 0.02 percent; (ix) coconut (copra oil), virgin coconut oil, 0.02 percent; and (x) other appliances.

Port of origin for MIMAROPA export is the Sub-Port of Puerto Princesa in Palawan.

Imports. From 2017-2021, MIMAROPA's imports of goods and services reached Php 346.72 billion – Php 309.03 billion for goods and Php 37.68 billion for services. This generated an average share of 0.011 percent of the total country's imports of goods and services of Php 28.90 trillion.

MIMAROPA's top five import partners and share to the import goods are: (i) Japan, 8.16 percent, 44.55 percent; (ii) Indonesia, 30.51 percent; (iii) Republic of Korea, 8.41 percent; (iv) Vietnam, 8.29 percent, and (v) Republic of China, 8.24 percent as of 2021 trading activities. The Philippines has established trade relations with the following European countries e.g. United Kingdom of Great Britain,

Jordan, United States of America, Netherlands, Italy, India, Germany, Israel, Finland, Canada, Spain, Argentina, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, and Austria.

The distribution of imports products as of 2021 are: (i) sulphuric acid, oleum, others, 33.38 percent; (ii) coal, bituminous coal, 23.87 percent; (iii) coal and other coal, 8.70 percent; (iv) Portland cement, 7.35 percent; (v) sulphur of all kinds, 5.99 percent; (vi) others, 5.72 percent; (vii) saturated monohydric alcohols, 4.16 percent; (viii) petroleum coke, 4.11 percent; (ix) dumpers designed for off-highway use, 3.64 percent; and (x) bulldozers and angledozers, 3.07 percent.

Ports of origin for MIMAROPA import are the Sub-Port of Puerto Princesa, Brooke's Point Agro Industrial Economic Zone, and Rio Tuba Export Processing Zone in Palawan.

Among the identified challenges of trading activities in the region include: (i) Urgent need to bounce back from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine-Russia conflict; (ii) Physical trade barriers and inadequate link of remote towns and municipalities to the economic clusters; (iii) Only Palawan has international ports, thus it is the only MIMAROPA province with recorded trading activities; and (iv) Compliance to trade requirements e.g., standards and certifications.

Investments

From 2017-2021, the total approved foreign investments (FIs) in the region reached Php 2.48

billion at an average growth rate of 79.9 percent which comprised an average 0.3 percent of the country's total approved FIs. During the said period, the region's highest approved FIs was recorded in 2018 amounting to P 1 billion. The highest growth rate was 562.7 percent which was recorded from 2020-2021 meanwhile the region's approved FIs with biggest share to the total FIs reached to 0.9 percent in 2017.

The total approved investments of foreign and Filipino nationals from 2017-2021 reached P 18.96 billion at an average growth rate of -10.1 percent which comprised an average .3 percent of the country's total approved investments of foreign and Filipino nationals. During the said period, the region's highest approved investments of foreign and Filipino nationals was P 5.53 billion, recorded in 2019. It was also in 2019 that the highest growth rate of 55.6 percent was recorded. The region's biggest total share to the country's total approved investments of foreign and Filipino nationals from 2017-2021 was 0.4 percent which was recorded in 2017, 2019 and 2020.

Among the identified challenges in promoting investments are the following: (i) Urgent need to bounce back from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine-Russia conflict; (ii) Insufficient support facilities (power, water, internet); (iii) Physical trade barriers and inadequate link of remote towns and municipalities to the economic clusters; (iv) Limited data on areas for investments; (v) Minimal investments in manufacturing and processing; and (vi) Need to encourage foreign direct investments to address the development needs and gaps in the region.

Targets

Table 11.1 Indicator Matrix

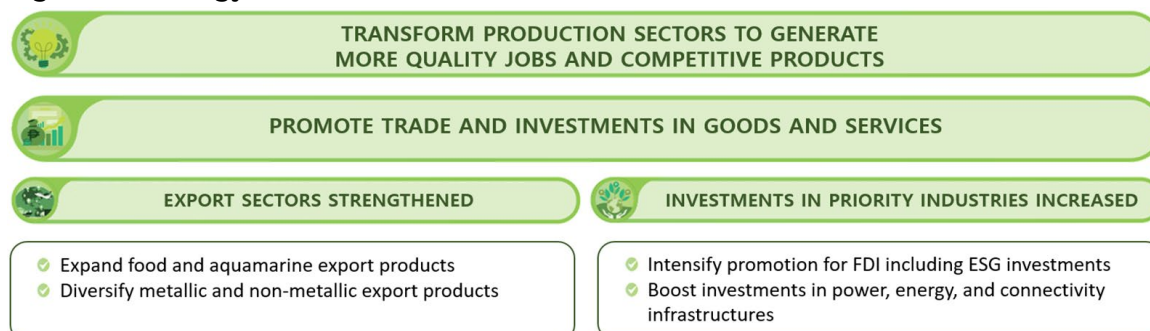
INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Exports Sector Strengthened									
Merchandise exports increased (%)	2021	21.60%	10-11%	10-11%	10-11%	10-11%	10-11%	10-11%	PSA
Services exports increased (%)	2021	-7.10%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	5-6%	PSA
Investments in priority industries increased									
Total approved investments increased (%)	2021	-55.55%	12%	12%	12%	13%	13%	11%	PSA
Foreign Direct Investments increased (%)	2021	11.50%	10-11%	10-11%	10-11%	10-11%	10-11%	10-11%	PSA

Source: PSA MIMAROPA

Strategies

Given the abovementioned challenges, there is a need to promote trade and investments in goods and services to generate more quality jobs and competitive products. The desired outcome is to strengthen the export sectors and increase investments in priority industries. To do this, the following strategies shall be implemented:

Figure 11.1 Strategy Framework to Promote Trade and Investments



Export sectors strengthened

Export sectors will be strengthened by undertaking the following strategies:

Expand food and aquamarine export products.

Agriculture is one of the growth drivers of MIMAROPA region. The region is the biggest producer of cashew, coconut leaves, calamansi, calumpit, and arrowroot in the country. It is also one of the top producers of onion, garlic, avocado, black pepper, greater yam/ubi, talinum, red beans, mustard, camansi, kinchay, grapes, sineguelas, breadfruit, atis,

dracaena, mayana, nipa leaves, yellow bell, lagundi, dahlia, ginseng, African palm leaves, pineapple fiber, sesame, guinea grass, sampaguita, ilang-ilang, carnation, banana leaves, tiger grass, and kaong (kernel). Despite these agricultural resources, there were no approved foreign investments for AFF recorded in the region since 2015 while its share on the country's agricultural exports remains insignificant.

Agricultural exports of the region were limited to coconut i.e. coconut milk, coconut water concentrates, coconut water-based drinks, coconut (copra oil), and virgin coconut oil. There is a need to increase the number of food and aquamarine export

products in the region by encouraging value-adding or processing. Initially, the processing of seaweeds, cacao, coffee, coconut, rubber, cashew, soft-shelled crabs, into high-demand food products and fruits into jams, shall be explored. Exports of fisheries may be strengthened by ensuring that fishery products have met the international best practice for sustainable fishing.

The link between export growth and countryside development must be strengthened through policies to boost rural and farm-based entrepreneurship in identified geographic economic growth areas of the region.

Diversify metallic and non-metallic export products. The overall mineral production and value in the region for metallic increased as influenced by the global market prices. The top two major export products in the region are: nickel ores and concentrates, and condensates. Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation in Bataraza, Palawan is one of the three companies in the Philippines in nickel mining and ranks third among the major suppliers of nickel ores to Japan. Upon extraction, these unprocessed minerals are directly exported to People's Republic of China and Japan and they are benefitting since they have the technology. Thus, there is a need for processing facilities to add value to our produce and make it a competitive export product.

There is a recorded decrease in performance of non-metallic products i.e. limestone, milk of lime, hydrated lime and sand and gravel which can be attributed to the demands on its production. Thus, there is a need to diversify non-metallic products by encouraging value-adding to become export products. Romblon has a large deposit of marble which are usually made into key chains, mortar and pestle, headstone marker, and construction aggregate. Marble can be considered for further researches as it is one of the potential export products.

Investments in priority industries increased

Intensify promotion to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) including Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) investments. With the DTT's Make it Happen in the Philippines campaign, the country is fostering a new business climate which make it truly open for investments. For MIMAROPA, there is a need to integrate all promotion and

facilitation efforts to encourage foreign investments, especially for the local government units. The LGUs must be able to update their comprehensive land use plans, local investment code/policies, mainstream public-private partnership, prepare profiles of proposed investment areas and sector, and strengthen business facilitation and licensing. Those areas are critical to make their respective cities/municipalities/provinces investment-ready and investor-friendly. LGUs may explore to leverage the presence of growth opportunities especially in rural and countryside areas.

The Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion Offices in all LGUs (province, cities, and municipalities) need to be institutionalized to facilitate and coordinate local economic development and investment promotion advocacies, policies, programs, projects and activities. Priority shall be given to the following:

- Establishment of manufacturing/repair facility for shipping/marine vessels;
- Military facility co-location;
- Promotion of export products; and
- Establishment of Economic zones and free ports.

MIMAROPA is also seen as a region that could offer ESG investment opportunities, specifically in the areas of reforestation combined with food security and sustainable livelihood for buffer communities. Though the Philippines does not have a carbon pricing instrument yet, studies have been conducted in coordination with the World Bank. Malampaya Foundation, Inc. (MFI) was awarded 2022 Best ESG Campaign or Case Study to Prevent or Reduce Marine Pollution as it showcases the best ESG performance in line with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). MFI and its partners implement grassroots-based information-education campaigns as part of its program framework to educate partner communities and stakeholders, especially the youth, to attain long-term conservation goals.

To make the region a prime destination of ESG investments, there shall be an established ESG Investments Task Force composed of the public sector (e.g., NEDA, DENR, DTI-BOI, DOF, DSWD, DILG, DOE, CCC, and PhilSA), private sector, academe, and other social partners in order to spearhead the work in building transparent and credible Standards and Certification schemes by stimulating dynamic institutional entrepreneurship in this arena.

Boost investments in power, energy, and connectivity infrastructures in order to overcome the challenges to make the region investment-ready. (See discussion in Chapter 13: Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure).

Among the investments to be prioritized are:

- Renewable energy generation plants in MIMAROPA provinces (wind, hydro, and underwater current)
- Gas and oil exploration in Western Philippine Sea
- Development/installation of water treatment facilities/equipment
- Source development for distribution or for bulk water supply
- Waste to Energy Facility
- Carbon trading

The inclusion of the Province of Palawan in the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), a subregional cooperation founded in 1994, to spur business activities, investment, and trading within the economic area is an opportunity for investments. BIMP-EAGA has five pillars of development: connectivity, food basket, environment and tourism, as well as sociocultural and education. Identified projects include

establishment of new air and sea links, cross-border power interconnection and renewable-energy development, agribusiness development, better trade-facilitation arrangements, sociocultural exchanges, eco-tourism and green-cities development, among others.

Palawan is included in the Greater Sulu-Sulawesi Economic Corridor, a maritime corridor, which include North Sulawesi in Indonesia, Sabah in Malaysia, and the Mindanao island group and Palawan of Philippines. One of the established routes is Buliluyan, Palawan-Kudat, Malaysia roll-on, roll-off (Roro) cargo-shipping route. This route encourages trading and commerce among these countries.

The presence of large agricultural area, pristine tourism areas, and rich cultural resources of Palawan is an opportune for investments, tourism, and sustainable resource development for the Province of Palawan. These resources support most of the development pillars of the BIMP-EAGA. In particular, Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park is identified for sustainable fishery conservation.

Legislative Agenda

For the Plan period, the following legislative agenda will be pursued:

Table 11.2 Legislative Agenda to Promote Trade and Investments

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Urgent ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement	Joining the RCEP will be beneficial to the Philippines to enhance its market access and investments. With Palawan's inclusion in the BIMP-EAGA, the region can directly benefit from the RCEP agreement which is expected to increase competitiveness and strengthen production networks globally, promote regional supply chains through better market access for goods and services, reduce or remove trade barriers, and enhance technology transfer. ASEAN is expected to become the hub of production networks in Asia once the trade agreement is fully implemented.	DTI
Export and Industry Development Act	As export-driven growth remains an economic model which developing regions have tried to emulate, MIMAROPA has attempted to boost its export performance as a pillar for pursuing economic growth and development. Amendments to the law will provide targeted and strategic policy, program, and project support, including non-fiscal incentives, for the development of local industries towards export competitiveness. Most of the provisions of the Export Development Act has lapsed already.	DTI

PART IV

Enabling Environment

12

**Ensure Macroeconomic
Stability**



ENSURE MACROECONOMIC STABILITY

The MIMAROPA Region envisions itself to be the “Destination of Choice”, wherein its people thrive and the region is a place preferred for investments, livelihood, residence, employment, adventure, rest and recreation, and retirement. This could only be possible if it has a strong and vibrant economy and favorable environment for it to flourish. However, recent global and local events affected its economic growth negatively. As such, the region pushes for economic transformation through ensuring macroeconomic stability and expanding inclusive and innovative finance consistent with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, the MIMAROPA RDP outlines the region’s current economic condition and provides for strategies to strengthen and ensure its stability to withstand shocks and downturns.

Subchapter 12.1 Promote an Innovative, Inclusive, and Healthy Financial Sector

The MIMAROPA region recorded its highest gross regional domestic product (GRDP) in 2019 with Php386.78 billion. This, however, dropped in the succeeding years due to unprecedented multiple and simultaneous health, climate, peace and order, and security crises. As such, recovering from said downturns and strengthening the economy by enabling a stable and supportive economic environment are some of the region’s key priorities. These included the promotion of innovative, inclusive, and healthy financial sector in the following areas: i) banking systems; ii) cooperatives; and iii) microfinance institutions.

Assessment and Challenges

Banking systems in the region remain resilient.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges and opportunities for the banking sector as the implementation of various quarantine restrictions limited movements across markets. However, the banking industry and systems across the country and in the region remained resilient during the pandemic and continued to evolve post-pandemic. This is due to diversification in banking operations, which led to an increase in the use of digital financial technologies (fintech), electronic money transactions, and other mobile-money services to pull alongside increased demand in e-commerce retail trade. Accessibility and convenience are key factors in shifting to digital fintech compared to traditional banking. However, this also resulted in increased risk on cybersecurity

and data privacy issues (e.g., phishing, scams), and challenges in regulating and measuring services and activities involving digital money and e-commerce (e.g., number of clients, accounts, and transactions, and amount of transactions), and among others.

Meanwhile, traditional banking remained as the primary option for various market transactions, as it still offers key services, such as loans and individual and business banking. This is evident in the steady increase in deposit liabilities, loan portfolio, and banks and automated teller machines (ATMs), which are further classified as: i) universal and commercial; ii) thrift; and, iii) rural and cooperative. In 2021, deposit liabilities and loan portfolios in the region increased by Php 110,515.54 million and Php 37,268.54 million, respectively. Said indicators exceeded the 2022 end-of-plan period target of Php 106,251.00 million and Php 34,767.00 million, respectively. However, significant challenges remain in increasing authorized government servicing/

depository banks (AGS/DBs) in the region (Please see Table 12.1).

The diversification of operations among banks and microfinance institutions, particularly in adopting digital financial technologies, shall be supported and regulated. This includes digital banking, electronic money issuers (EMIs), money service businesses (MSBs), and pawnshops. Supporting and regulating said services will eliminate or minimize cybersecurity and data privacy risks and further delineate differences across services.

Businesses, cooperatives, and microfinance services in the region remain strong and stable. Despite moderately improving towards achieving the 2022 end-of-plan target, challenges remain in increasing the number of business establishments in the region. On the other hand, the region's significant gains in developing cooperatives were generally unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite business disruptions, the cooperative sector remained resilient and continued to provide services to its members and host communities.

While challenges remain in developing cooperatives, government support, interventions, and internally generated capacities and mechanisms are needed to recover cooperative business capabilities and regain the lost momentum experienced before the pandemic (Cooperative Development Authority, 2020).

Meanwhile, microfinance institutions also exhibited resiliency amidst the pandemic. Immediate response backed by external factors made microfinance institutions more robust and more relevant. Despite exceeding the 2022 end-of-plan period target of less than Php 17.00 million with its Php 15.55 million annual value of outstanding microfinance loans by banks in 2021, challenges remain in attaining pre-pandemic levels of loan portfolio growth, collection efficiency, and scale economies in operations need to be addressed (Taneja, 2021), along with the increase of offered services and diversification of business operations among pawnshops and money-service businesses. Further, access to financial services, particularly for low-income clients and household micro-business enterprises, remains a challenge.

Targets

Table 12.1.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						END-OF-PLAN TARGET	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028			
Number of business establishments increased	2020	22,424	29,190	29,482	29,777	30,074	30,375	30,679	30,679	List of Establishments	DTI MIMAROPA
Number of banks increased	2021	310	364	383	403	424	446	469	469	Banking Statistics Report	BSP
Universal and commercial banks	2021	84	99	104	110	114	121	128	128		BSP
Thrift banks	2021	58	68	72	76	81	85	89	89		BSP
Rural and cooperative banks	2021	168	197	207	217	229	240	252	252		BSP
Number of ATMs increased	2021 (3Q)	351	474	521	574	632	695	765	765		BSP
Universal and commercial bank ATMs	2021 (3Q)	291	393	432	476	524	576	634	634		BSP
Thrift bank ATMs	2021 (3Q)	37	50	55	61	67	74	81	81		BSP

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						END-OF-PLAN TARGET	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028			
Rural and cooperative bank ATMs	2021 [3Q]	23	31	34	37	41	45	50	50		BSP
Number of AGS/ DBs increased	2022 [3Q]	23	25	27	29	31	33	35	35		BSP / BLGF MIMAROPA
Deposit liabilities increased (in million)	2021	₱110,515.54	₱116,986.00	₱128,664.80	₱141,535.70	₱155,689.30	₱171,258.20	₱188,384.00	₱188,384.00		BSP
Loan portfolio increased (in million)	2021	₱37,268.54	₱38,243.70	₱42,068.10	₱46,274.90	₱50,902.40	₱55,992.60	₱61,591.90	₱38,243.70		BSP
Annual value of outstanding microfinance loans by banks (in million)	2021	₱15.55	>₱17.00	>₱17.00	>₱17.00	>₱17.00	>₱17.00	>₱17.00	>₱17.00		BSP
Number of cooperatives increased	2021	1,192	1,200	1,260	1,323	1,389	1,459	1,532	1,532	Cooperative Audited Financial Statements Information System Report	CDA MIMAROPA
Number of compliant cooperatives increased	2021	526	554	582	611	642	674	708	708		CDA MIMAROPA
Total cooperative assets increased (in million)	2021	₱11,694.04	₱18,403.79	₱21,164.36	₱24,339.00	₱27,989.85	₱32,188.44	₱37,016.66	₱37,016.66		CDA MIMAROPA

Sources: 2021 MIMAROPA RDR, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, CDA MIMAROPA

Note: a – Indicated targets are projected using trends from MIMAROPA RDP 2017-2022 RMs

Strategies

Figure 12.1.1 outlines the strategies that shall be pursued to ensure macroeconomic stability and the promotion of innovative, inclusive, and healthy financial sector. Further, it presents the following desired outcomes for the region: i) financial innovation and accelerated and strengthened; and, ii) financial inclusion broadened and deepened.

Figure 12.1.1 Strategy Framework to Promote an Inclusive, Innovative, and Healthy Financial Sector



Financial innovation accelerated and strengthened

Promote and provide funding for innovation and startups. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the digital and e-commerce transformation. Global lockdown and quarantine restrictions made consumers go digital, and purchase goods and services online, raising e-commerce's share of retail trade. Said digital and e-commerce transformation continues to grow post-pandemic as traditional businesses and services adopt digital technologies on key transactions such as e-payments and online selling. Further, this trend allows innovation and startups to also flourish.

In view of this, the region shall provide programs and projects, and technical assistance in promoting innovations in business operations and support startups that will take advantage of digital and e-commerce's continued growth, while ensuring legitimacy and regulation of businesses and electronic transactions. These include developing and expanding the following: i) Startup Development Program and Venture Financing Program for Startup and Technology-based Projects; ii) E-commerce

Promotion Project; iii) Financial Education and Literacy Programs; and, iv) adoption of PalengQR PH. The following are identified agencies responsible for implementing this strategy: i) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) MIMAROPA; ii) Department of Science and Technology (DOST) MIMAROPA; iii) Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) MIMAROPA; iv) Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP); and v) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) MIMAROPA.

Meanwhile, the private sector may also provide support in providing technical and financial support in developing and expanding innovations and startups in the country.

Strengthen delivery of innovative products and services. Similarly, the government shall also take advantage of the digital transformation brought about by the pandemic. The region shall pursue digitization and digitalization of key processes and procedures, particularly in the following areas: i) development planning, and program and project formulation; ii) financial management; iii) budgeting; iv) administration; and, v) service delivery. This can be further pursued by developing and improving local area networks, within and among agencies and government units. The DICT MIMAROPA will take lead in implementing this strategy.

Financial inclusion broadened and deepened

Improve access to banking and micro-financing services. The region shall also pursue the following: i) financial education and literacy programs; ii) establishment of safe digital payment gateways; iii) promotion of a financially inclusive business; iv) creation of a digital ecosystem within the region involving line agencies and LGUs; and, v) cooperative development program.

The following are identified agencies responsible for implementing this strategy: i) BSP; ii) BLGF MIMAROPA; iii) Department of Finance (DOF); iv) Bureau of Treasury (BTR); and, (v) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Develop Barangay and Household Micro Business Enterprises. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the significance and relevance of microfinance institutions and cooperatives by complementing the relief efforts of the government in alleviating the impacts of the pandemic. In its recovery, the region shall develop and expand grassroots-level

microfinance institutions such as Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBEs) and household MBEs to foster a culture of bottom-up planning, support in-house talent and openness to implementation of technology and new processes, and aptly serve low-income clients (cross reference to Chapters 07 and 08). This will then stimulate local economic activities. DTI MIMAROPA and CDA MIMAROPA will take lead in implementing this strategy.

In 2022, the BSP published the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2022-2028. The said strategy serves as a “six-year blueprint to achieve the vision of driving financial inclusion toward broad-based growth and financial resilience” in the country. The Region may use the said strategy to guide the LGUs in facilitating “a coherent, well-coordinated, whole-of-nation undertaking toward the achievement of its vision of inclusive growth and financial resilience for every Filipino”.

Meanwhile, the private sector can contribute to expanding and developing enterprises through aligning their corporate social responsibility initiatives with the need of the region.

Legislative Agenda

The following outlines the legislative action needed to strengthen the effectiveness of the strategies. These include amendments on existing laws or the passing of relevant laws supportive to ensuring macroeconomic stability and lead/responsible agency.

Table 12.1.2 Legislative Agenda to Promote an Inclusive, Innovative, and Healthy Financial Sector

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Passing of Use of Digital Payments Act	<p>The passing of said bill fosters the adoption of safe, affordable, and efficient digital payments in financial transactions with the government, among others.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of digital financial technologies and advanced the transition to digital payment including government transactions. For an archipelagic region, where conducting key transactions remain a challenge, ensuring safe and efficient digital payment in financial transactions with businesses and with the government is needed.</p>	BSP
Passing of Internet Transactions Act	<p>The passing of said bill allows regulation of business-to-business and business-to-consumer commercial transactions over the internet, including those related to internet retail, online travel services, digital media providers, ride-hailing services, and digital financial services.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of digital financial technologies and increased demands in e-commerce retail trade. For an archipelagic region, where connectivity remains a challenge and an increase in the adoption of digital payment mechanisms among businesses and retailers, regulating transactions over the internet is a must.</p>	BSP/DICT
Passing of e-Governance Act	<p>The passing of said act mandates the government to establish an integrated, interconnected, interoperable information and resource-sharing and communications network within the bureaucracy.</p> <p>Further, with the passing of the said act, a strong digital ecosystem can be established in the region. This will be beneficial to an archipelagic region like MIMAROPA, as it would reduce transport costs in processing various transactions considering that the MIMAROPA Regional Government Center has yet to be completed.</p>	DICT

Subchapter 12.2 Ensure Sound Fiscal Management and Improve the Tax Regime

The region's economy has been growing steadily prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, the region recorded a -7.9 percent growth rate in its GRDP and has yet to fully recover from the setbacks caused by unprecedented multiple and simultaneous health, climate, peace and order, and security crises. These crises uncovered gaps in government coordination, policymaking, and implementation, which are areas for development.

The government sector played a crucial role in managing the effects of these crises. It initiated “building back better” practices and spearheaded sustainable and resilient recovery efforts to boost economies. To ensure macroeconomic stability, and regain lost momentum and upward trajectory of the economy, the region needs to ensure sound fiscal management and improve its tax regime, particularly in the following areas: i) revenue collection and allotment; ii) expenditure patterns; iii) budget and fund utilization; iv) fiscal management; and v) devolution of functions.

Assessment and Challenges

LGU revenue collection, allotment, and expenditure patterns recorded varying trends.

For several years, the MIMAROPA Region is highly dependent on the national government's internal revenue allotment (IRA). In 2021, the region recorded a seven-percentage point increase or 88 percent from 81 percent in 2020 IRA dependency ratio. However, this ratio decreased slightly to 85% in 2022. Meanwhile, despite exceeding annual targets prior to the pandemic, the government experience significant tax revenue losses. In 2021, the region recorded a -15.76 percent growth or Php 3.18 billion from Php 3.78 billion in 2020 in total actual revenue collection, which includes real property and business taxes, local fees and charges, and receipts from economic enterprises. This may be attributed to businesses and enterprises still recovering from the negative economic impacts of the pandemic despite flexible measures offered in the filing of income tax returns and tax payments. These negative effects of the pandemic on revenue collection and allotment will still be felt during FY 2023-2025 period.

On the other hand, notwithstanding the increased demand for the government to address the impact of the pandemic due to its unprecedented scope and protracted duration, along with natural disasters and calamities, the region recorded a slight decrease (-6.16 percent) in its total expenditure in 2021. This contrasts with the region's increasing total

expenditure trend since FY 2017. However, there is a slight increase in the total current operating expenditure trend vis-à-vis expenditure on social services in 2021 at 26.27 percent from 25.34 percent in 2020.

Devolution of Certain Functions of the Executive Branch to LGUs. On 03 July 2018, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the petitioners' challenge on the manner in which the just share in the national taxes of the LGUs has been computed. The Supreme Court ruled in the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling that the LGUs' fair share of national taxes comprises collections (custom duties) made by the Bureau of Customs and other collecting agencies in addition to the national internal revenue taxes (NIRT) collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. As a measure to mitigate the fiscal impact of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling, the full devolution of certain functions of the Executive Branch was initiated in accordance with Section 17 of the LGC. Thus, for fiscal sustainability, the devolved functions must permanently be taken out from national agencies and for LGUs to assume them.

On 01 June 2021, former President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed Executive Order No. 138, s. 2021, prescribing full devolution of certain functions of the executive branch to local government. During the second semester of 2021, government line agencies and LGUs underwent various orientations, workshops, and capacity development activities to facilitate the full devolution starting FY 2022.

In line with the full devolution transition efforts, all LGUs in the region have submitted their devolution transition plans (DTPs). However, challenges remain in terms of functions, services, and facilities (FSFs) that provinces have to assume, the following were recorded (as

of 30 September 2022): i) 1,291 fully assumed FSFs; ii) 1,442 partially assumed FSFs; and, iii) 978 yet to assume FSFs. Further, taking into consideration the priority thrusts of newly elected officials may affect the prioritization and implementation of PPAs.

Targets

Table 12.2.1 presents identified indicators and annual targets to be monitored, which support the macroeconomic sector's achievement and sub-chapter outcomes.

Table 12.2.1 Indicator Matrix

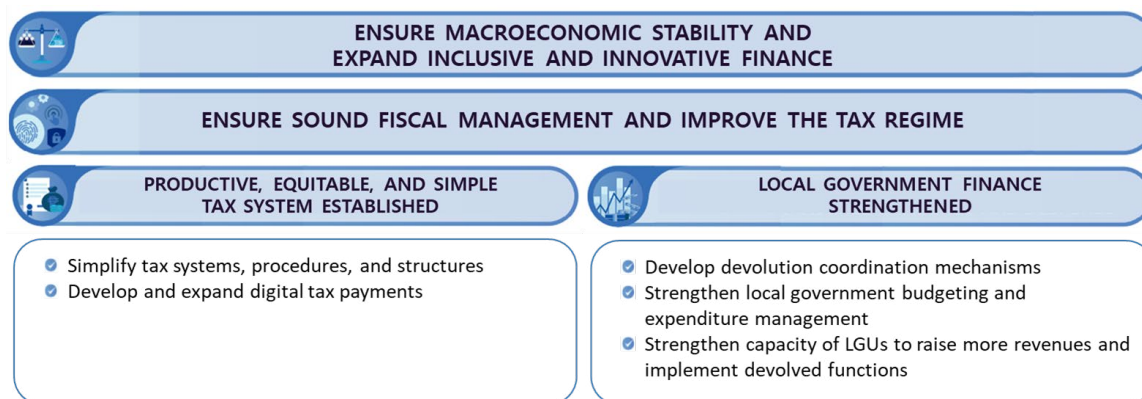
INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						END-OF-PLAN TARGET	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028			
IRA dependency rate decreased	2022	85%	85.00%	84.50%	84.00%	83.50%	83.00%	82.50%	82.50%	Statement of Receipts and Expenditure Reports	BLGF MIMAROPA
Total actual revenue increased (in million)	2021	₱3,184.85	₱3,344.09	₱3,511.30	₱3,686.87	₱3,871.21	₱4,064.77	₱4,271.16	₱4,271.16		
Real property tax increased (in million)	2021	₱589.47	₱782.99	₱822.14	₱863.25	₱906.41	₱951.73	₱999.32	₱999.32		
Business tax increased (in million)	2021	₱1,129.63	₱ 926.32	₱972.64	₱1,021.27	₱1,072.33	₱1,125.95	₱1,182.25	₱1,182.25		
Fees and charges increased (in million)	2021	₱1,013.33	₱1,064	₱1,117.2	₱1,173.06	₱1,231.71	₱1,293.30	₱1,375.97	₱1,375.97		
100% collection efficiency rate maintained	2022	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
Receipts from Economic enterprise increased (in million)	2021	₱452.42	₱475.04	₱498.79	₱523.73	₱549.92	₱577.42	₱606.29	₱606.29		
Ratio of local source of LGU income to total current operating income maintained above baseline	2022	11.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%	15.00%		
Year-on-year growth in social and economic service expenditure [of LGUs] maintained above baseline	2022	25%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%		
Percentage growth in locally-sourced LGU-income improved	2022	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%		
Number of LGUs assessed on revenue and assessment performance maintained	2022	47 LGUs in the region	47 (treasury offices)	47 (treasury offices)	47 (treasury offices)	47 (treasury offices)	47 (treasury offices)	47 (treasury offices)	47 (treasury offices)		
			47 (assessor offices)	47 (assessor offices)	47 (assessor offices)	47 (assessor offices)	47 (assessor offices)	47 (assessor offices)	47 (assessor offices)		

Source: BLGF MIMAROPA

Strategies

Figure 12.2.1 outlines the strategies that shall be pursued to ensure macroeconomic stability through ensuring sound fiscal management and improving the tax regime. Further, it presents the following desired outcomes for the region: i) a productive, equitable, and simple tax system and ii) stronger local government finance.

Figure 12.2.1 Strategy Framework to Ensure Sound Fiscal Management and Improve the Tax Regime



Productive, equitable, and simple tax system established and other sources of revenue mobilized

Simplify tax systems, procedures, and structures.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted social and economic activities and the delivery of public goods and services. The pandemic also showed vulnerabilities in areas vital to the continued operation of critical social institutions, such as government and business transactions, as it limited the movements among transacting public. This resulted negatively in the performance of the economy. While various measures were implemented to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, the need to revisit, update, and strictly implement tax codes (e.g., local revenue codes) must be addressed by adopting new, improved, and efficient practices and developing local revenue sources and collection strategies.

Further, there is a need to capacitate LGU officials (e.g., treasurers, assessors, technical staff, Sangguniang Bayan Members, and local chief executives) on resource mobilization and inter-agency coordination

to ensure proper implementation of DILG-DOF JMC 2019-001, which provides guidelines in setting reasonable rates for regulatory fees and other service charges imposed by LGUs through the issuance of a Local Fees and Charges (LFC) toolkit.

Develop and expand digital tax payments. Similarly, the pandemic accelerated digital and e-commerce technology, which pushed the transacting public to go digital. As such, the need to integrate digital and financial technologies and automating critical processes in tax collection must be ensured. EO 170, s. 2022, which prescribed the adoption of digital payments for government disbursements and collections shall serve as a starting point, among other relevant laws and issuances.

Given this, the region shall pursue the following: i) update general revisions and implement local revenue codes; ii) implement the Comprehensive Rapid Land Tenure Appraisal (RLTA) Program; iii) digitization and digitalization of tax mapping systems; iv) enhance or develop electronic tax payment system in LGUs; and, v) efficient implementation of Electronic Business One Stop Shop (BOSS).

Strengthen capacity of LGUs to raise more revenues and implement devolved functions. IRA dependency among provinces in the region remains

high. As such, LGUs must improve local resource generation through the improvement, development, or establishment of local economic enterprises. Developing and enhancing tax revenue collection efficiency mechanisms in local or internal income sources must also be explored. Increased revenue collections aid LGUs in funding special-purpose appropriation programs and local priorities, which includes FSFs devolved from NGAs.

Local government finance strengthened

Strengthen the capacity of LGUs to implement devolved functions and develop a devolution coordination mechanism. The implementation of the EO 138, s. 2021 and the transition period for the devolution of functions coincide with the first half of the Plan (2023-2025). With the increase in NTA, LGUs are expected to have the capacity to act effectively and efficiently allocate resources through careful planning. The importance of having a comprehensive DTP is germane to the successful

transition and assumption of FSF in the LGUs. The utilization of DILG's capacity development analytics provides necessary guidance and reference among national and regional line-agencies in the provision of capacity development interventions for LGUs.

Strengthen local government budgeting and expenditure management. Likewise, with the increased NTA and local revenue sources, LGUs must efficiently spend funds allocated to local priorities. With improved planning, and program and project formulation, LGUs must correctly identify national-regional-local development priorities. Subsequently, timely reporting and submission of budget and expenditure reports should be warranted.

In view of this, the region shall pursue the following: i) efficient rollout of the Capacity Development Analytics in the LGUs; ii) monitoring and evaluation of the transition and assumption of FSFs in LGUs; iii) develop efficient budgeting and expenditure management systems and processes; and, iv) digitization and digitalization of budgeting and expenditure management processes.

Legislative Agenda

The following outlines the legislative action needed to strengthen the effectiveness of the strategies. These include amendments to existing laws or the passing of relevant laws supportive of ensuring macroeconomic stability and lead/responsible agency.

Table 12.2.2 Legislative Agenda to Ensure Sound Fiscal Management and Improve the Tax Regime

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Passing of Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Act	<p>"The Valuation Reform Act, under Senate Bill No. 1473 and House Bill No. 8453, seeks to implement crucial changes to support the growth of a just, equitable, and effective real property valuation system.</p> <p>LGUs in the MIMAROPA region are still highly IRA-dependent. Further, RPT collection in the past two years was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the passing of the VRA will aid LGUs in creating strategies and mechanisms to effectively and efficiently evaluate real properties."</p>	DOF
Passing of Use of Digital Payments Act	<p>"The passing of this bill fosters the adoption of safe, affordable, and efficient digital payments in financial transactions with the government.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of digital financial technologies and advanced the transition to digital payment including government transactions. For an archipelagic region, where conducting key transactions remain a challenge, ensuring safe and efficient digital payment in financial transactions with businesses and with the government is needed. "</p>	BSP
Passing of e-Governance Act.	<p>"The passing of this bill will mandate the government to establish an integrated, interconnected, and interoperable information, resource-sharing, and communications network within the bureaucracy.</p> <p>Further, with this law, a strong digital ecosystem can be established in the region. This will be beneficial to an archipelagic region like MIMAROPA, as it would reduce transport costs in processing various transactions considering that the MIMAROPA Regional Government Center has yet to be completed."</p>	DICT
Salary Standardization Law VI	<p>"The scope of the Salary Standardization Law of 2019 is only effective until FY 2023. sdf</p> <p>As such, filing, subsequently passing, of an act modifying the salary schedule for civilian government personnel and granting additional benefits effective 2024 and onwards must be guaranteed. Enacting legislative measures to increase the salary of all civilian personnel allows compensation to be competitive and comparable with the private sector."</p>	DOF/DBM

13

**Expand and Upgrade
Infrastructure**



EXPAND AND UPGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE

Expanding and upgrading Infrastructure will help ensure that the goals of bringing down the poverty rate to a single-digit within the six-year period of the Regional Development Plan 2023-2028 will become a reality, and ultimately contribute to elevating the country's status as an upper-middle income economy. The Build Better More (BBM) infrastructure development in the MIMAROPA region for the next six years means expanding and upgrading existing basic physical system that is vital to its economic development and prosperity. It is divided broadly into four sub-sectors namely: (1) Connectivity, (2) Water Resources, (3) Energy, and (4) Social Infrastructure.

The hard visible infrastructure like roads, bridges, electricity, water supply, and telecommunications need to be complemented with soft components such as policies and regulations, to enable the whole system to work efficiently and produce positive results to the economy. These are contained in the region's infrastructure sector's legislative agenda, which include among others, the amendment of Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001, establishment of the Department of Water Resources, and region-specific legislations like the passage of Aerodrome Safety Ordinances in all MIMAROPA municipalities and cities hosting or near airports.

Infrastructure investments in the four infrastructure sub-sectors will have to be strongly pursued to respond to the increasing needs of population, rapid urbanization, and emergence of growth centers in the MIMAROPA region. These priority investments are captured in the major PPAs contained in the Regional Development Investment Program 2023-2028.

Assessment and Challenges

Connectivity

Land Transportation. Upgrading, expansion, and adequate maintenance of the National Road network is continuously pursued by the government. As of October 2021, paved national roads (secondary and tertiary) reached 99.13 percent or 2,277.80 kilometers out of 2,297.71 kilometers total in the region. This is 16.08 percentage points higher than the 83.05 percent paved roads in 2016.

The road density (ratio of length of the region's national road network to the region's land area) is unchanged at 7.76 from 2016 to 2021.

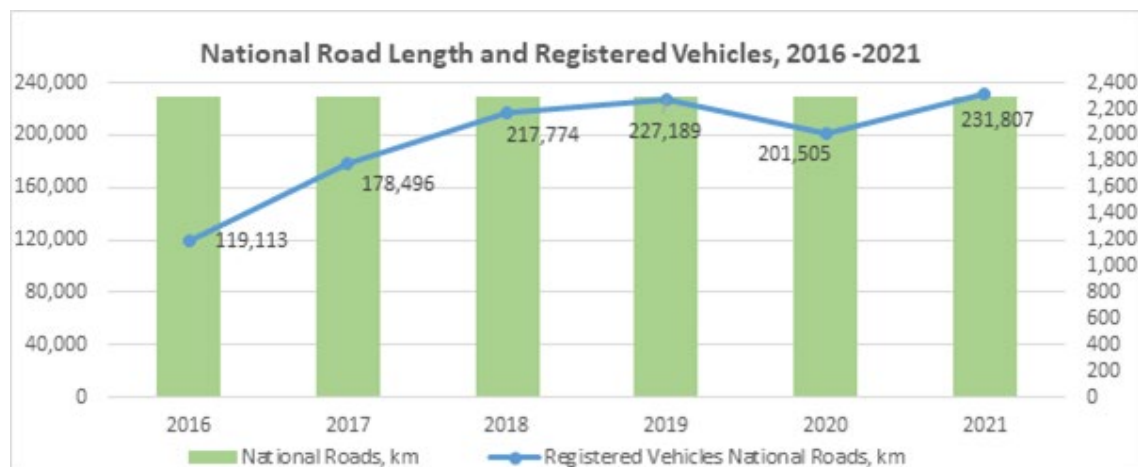
Palawan has the longest length of paved national road with 1,024.46 kilometers, followed by Occidental Mindoro with 418.04 kilometers,

Oriental Mindoro with 329.81 kilometers, and Romblon with 305.82 kilometers. Marinduque has the shortest length of paved national road with 199.67 kilometers.

The permanent bridges in the region have a total length of 22,224 linear meters in 2021 compared to 21,097 linear meters in 2016. Palawan has the longest length of permanent bridges along national arterial road with 8,691 linear meters, followed by Occidental Mindoro with 6,289 linear meters, Oriental Mindoro with 3,487 linear meters, and Romblon with 2,878 linear meters. Marinduque, has the shortest length of permanent bridges along national road with 1,628 linear meters. The total length of bridges in the region reached 23,370 linear meters in 2021.

Figure 13.1 shows that the total length of National Roads in the region has not changed since 2016, while the number of registered vehicles increased by 94.61 percent over the same period. DPWH and the local government units have been rehabilitating and upgrading national and local roads to increase.

Figure 13.1 Length of National Roads and Number of Registered Vehicles, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021



Source: DPWH RBIA, LTO Annual Report

Congestion in major thoroughfares were mitigated through the construction of diversion and by-pass roads, and the widening of strategic road sections.

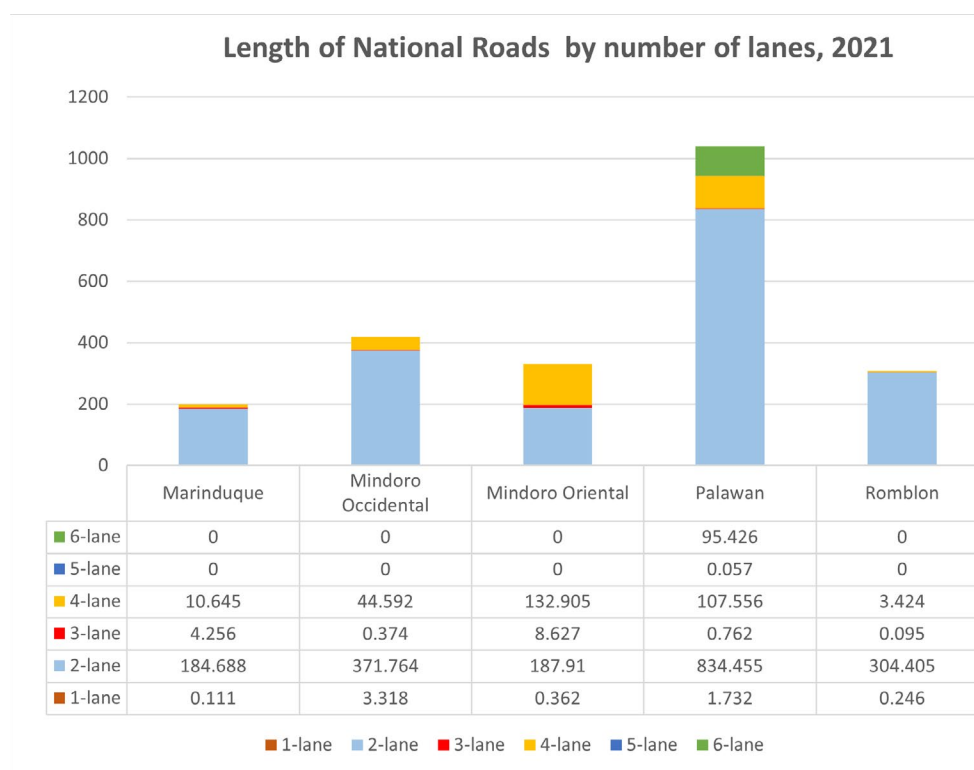
While the length of national roads remain unchanged in the past six years, at least 408.719 kilometers or 17.79 percent of national roads have three or more lanes. The province of Oriental Mindoro has the highest percentage of 4-lane roads with 40.3 percent

while Romblon has the smallest percentage of 4-lane roads with 1.11 percent.

Figure 13.2 shows that all provinces in the region has 4-lane roads except for the province of Palawan which has 95.426 kilometers of 6-lane roads.

The region has a total of 5,583.88 lane-kilometers of national roads as of December 2021.

Figure 13.2 Length of National Roads by number of lanes



Source: DPWH RBIA, LTO Annual Report

Completion of strategic connections such as the Mindoro Island Circumferential Road (MICR), Mindoro Cross Island Road (MCIR), Odiongan East-West Road, Dr. Damian Reyes Road, Palawan Circumferential Road, and various bypass/diversion roads are currently being implemented by DPWH.

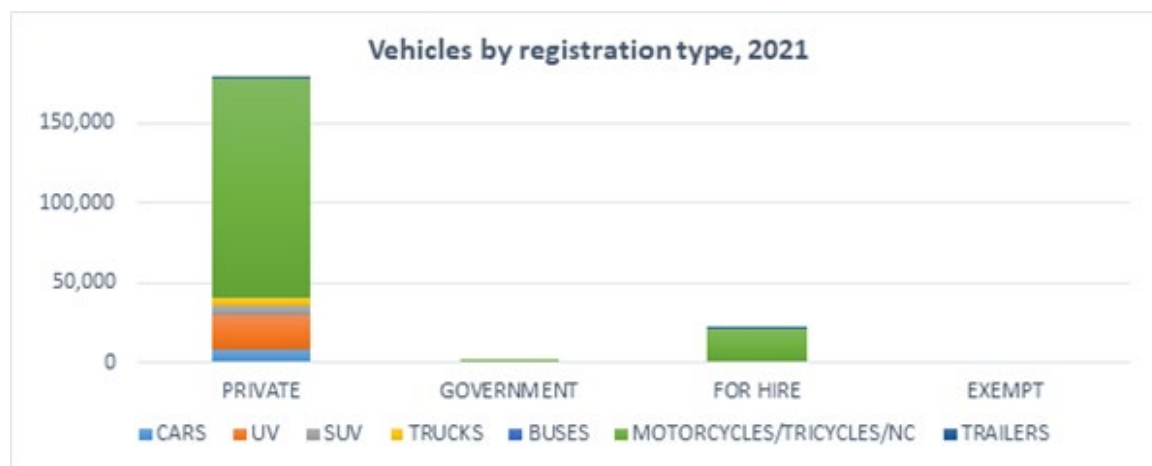
Motorcycles continue to be the most prevalent transport vehicle in 2021 accounting for 78.49 percent of the total registered vehicles in the region.

This is 3.98 percentage points higher than the 74.51 percent share of motorcycles in 2016.

Public transportation system in the region is an area for development. Thus, the riding public relies heavily on private transportation (e.g., motorcycles/tricycles) for mobility.

Figure 13.3 shows the distribution of registered vehicles by vehicle type and registration classification.

Figure 13.3 Distribution of Registered Vehicles by Vehicle Type and Registration Classification, MIMAROPA, 2021



Source: DPWH RBIA, LTO Annual Report

The Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP) requires the LGUs to prepare and submit their respective Local Public Transport Route Plan (LPTRP) to efficiently serve the demand for movement of passengers and goods to, from, and within the centers of socioeconomic activities.

As of mid-2022, only 53 of 78 LGUs have submitted their LPTRPs. Of these, 10 LPTRPs are still under evaluation, 30 LPTRPs are for revision, while only 13 LPTRPs are approved.

Of the approved LPTRPs, only six have been issued with Memorandum Circulars:

- i. Oriental Mindoro – 29 routes
- ii. Occidental Mindoro – 8 routes
- iii. Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro – 10 routes
- iv. Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro – 1 route
- v. Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro – 3 routes
- vi. San Agustin, Romblon – 2 routes

There are currently 77 modernized units in the region which are servicing seven routes in Oriental Mindoro.

Water Transportation. Given the archipelagic nature of the region, water transport remains the main means of transportation across the islands. The region recognizes the need for the continuous improvement of water transportation. Thus, it is critical to continuously improve port facilities, passenger terminal buildings (PTBs), and access roads leading to the major ports in the region namely, Puerto Princesa, Calapan, Roxas, Odiongan, and Bulalacao, among others.

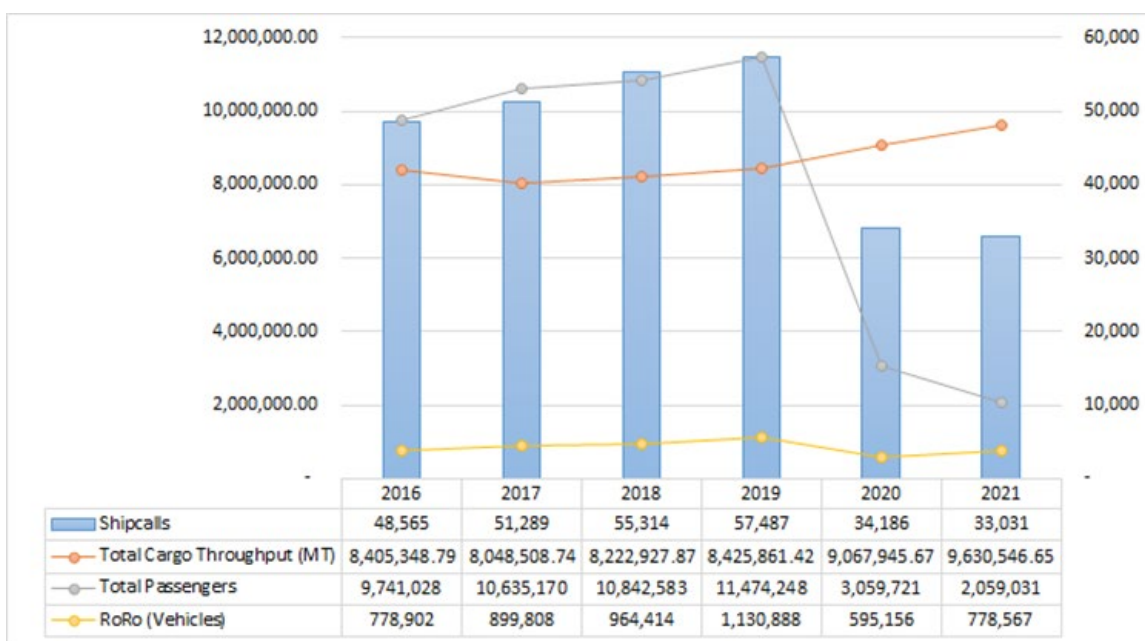
As of 2021, a total of 2,058,031 passengers was recorded across the islands of MIMAROPA region. Total passenger traffic decreased by 33.62 percent from 3,059,721 passengers in 2020 to 2,061,786 passengers in 2021. The number of shipcalls declined by 3.38 percent from 34,186 in 2020 to 33,031 in 2021. In terms of cargo throughput, a total of 9.63 million metric tons of cargo was discharged and loaded at the ports.

The drop of passenger traffic during the pandemic was due to the travel restrictions, and the reduction in maximum allowable passenger capacity. The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) decides to increase the allowable capacity of passenger ships, as the country shifts to a more relaxed alert level status. RORO traffic recorded a total of 778,567 vessels in

2021. Essentially water transportation operation still remains below the pre-pandemic level.

Figure 13.4 shows the Maritime Transport Statistics in MIMAROPA, 2016-2021, in terms of total cargo throughput, total passengers, and RoRo vehicles that passed the MIMAROPA ports.

Figure 13.4 Maritime Transport Statistics, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021



Source: PPA

MIMAROPA has a total of 90 ports broken into: two baseports (Calapan and Puerto Princesa), 14 terminal ports, 23 other government ports, 33 municipal ports, two fish ports, and 16 private ports.

Air Transportation. Based on the 2016-2021 air transport statistics of the region, the recorded aircraft

movement, passenger traffic, and air cargoes have the lowest recorded data in 2020 and 2021 compared to the previous years, from 2016-2019. This may be attributed to community lockdowns and travel restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 13.1 Airport Statistics, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021

Particular	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Aircraft	43,173	76,561	29,948	28,917	8,382	6,306
Passenger Traffic	2,091,353	2,480,930	2,885,319	2,889,141	656,448	181,562
Air Cargoes	20,714,791	22,796,122	23,135,845	23,922,252	10,730,063	14,706,958

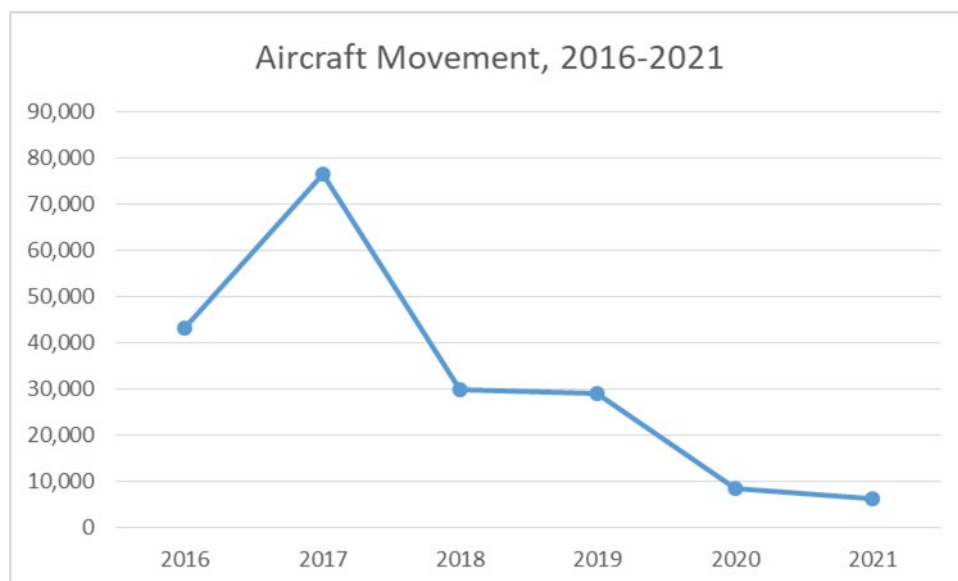
Source: Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines

As presented in Table 13.1, aircraft movement in CY 2021 was recorded at 6,306. This was 85.39 percent lower than the recorded 43,173 aircraft movement in 2016. The data also showed a continuous decline from 2018 to 2019. This may be attributed to the ongoing construction and improvement of

airports from the reference period which limits aircraft movement.

In 2017, aircraft movement gradually increased but declined from 2018 to 2021 due to opening and operation of pilot schools in the region (Figure 13.5).

Figure 13.5 Aircraft Movement, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021

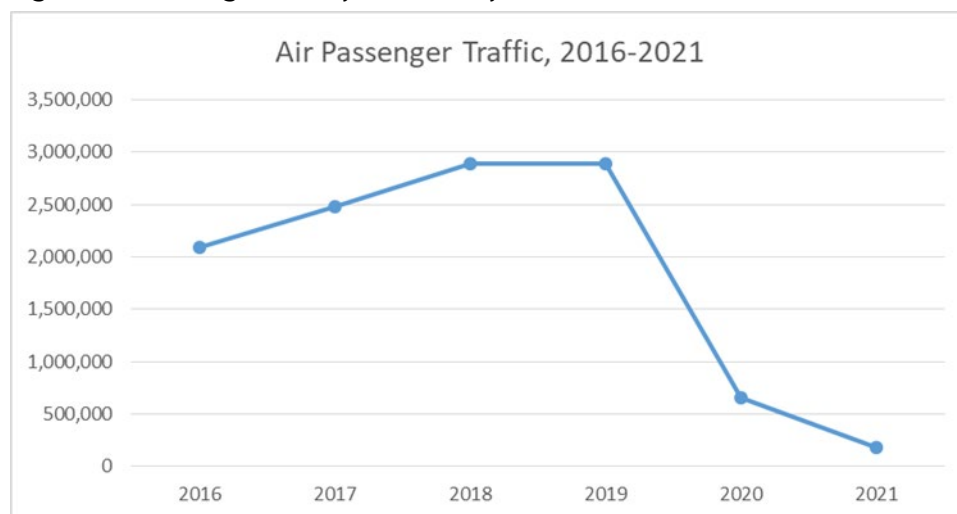


Source: Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines

Passenger traffic in 2021 was recorded at 181,562. This was 91.32 percentage points lower than the recorded 2,091,353 passenger

traffic in 2016. The sudden decline from 2020 and 2021 was also brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 13.6 Passenger Traffic, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021

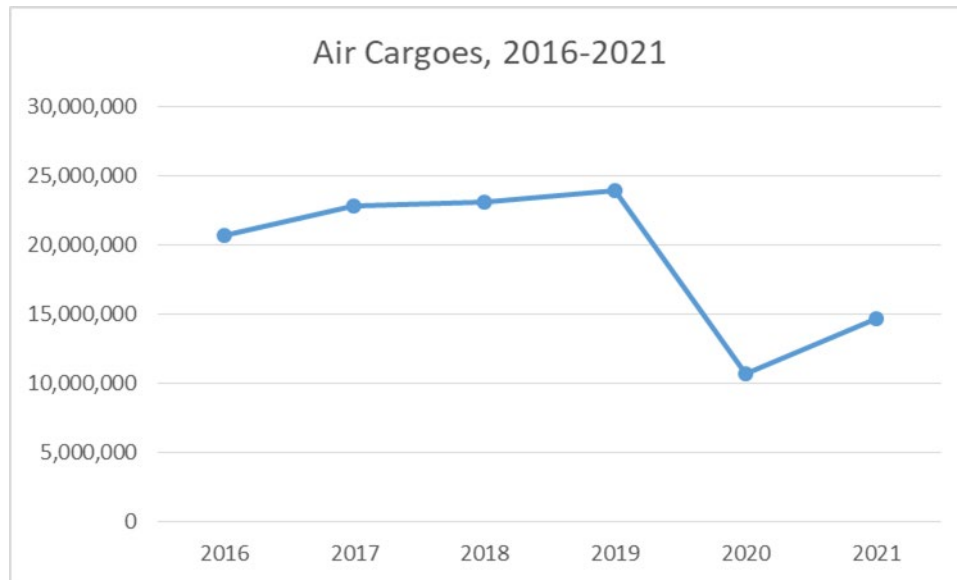


Source: Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines

Air cargo data in 2021 was recorded at 14,706,958 kilograms. This was 29 percentage points lower than the 20,714,791 kilograms accounted for in 2016. Figure 13.7 also shows a dramatic

increase in 2021 compared to 2020 data. This was attributed to the continuous transport of supplies and goods to satisfy commodity needs during the pandemic.

Figure 13.7 Air Cargoes, MIMAROPA, 2016-2021



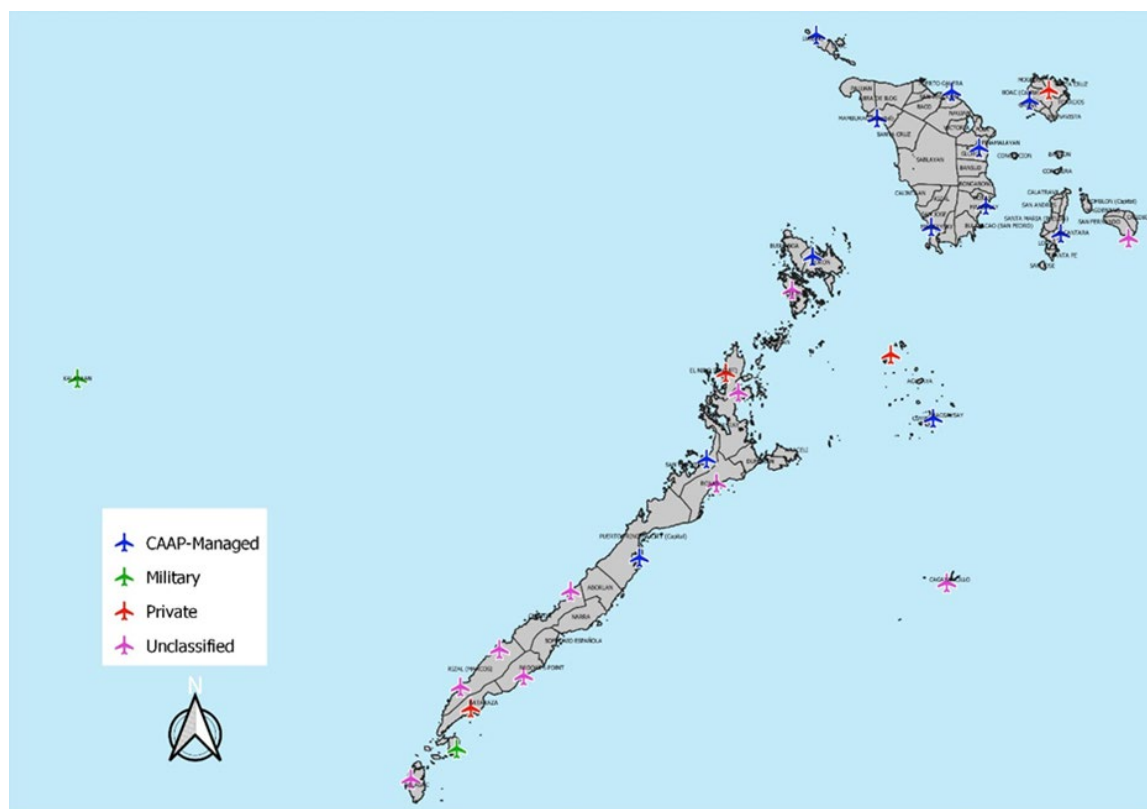
Source: Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines

There are 28 airports in the MIMAROPA region, 12 of which are operated and managed by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). In addition, there are four privately-owned airports in the municipalities of Bataraza, Agutaya, and El Nido in Palawan, and Sta. Cruz Airport in Marinduque, and two military airports in the municipalities of Balabac and Kalayaan in Palawan. Figure 13.8 shows the airport location and classification in the

MIMAROPA Region.

For 2022, there are only eight airports operating in the region which include, Puerto Princesa International Airport, Busuanga Airport, San Vicente Airport, El Nido (Lio) Airport, and Cuyo Airport in the province of Palawan, San Jose Airport in Occidental Mindoro, Gasan Airport in Marinduque, and Tugdan Airport in Romblon.

Figure 13.8 Airport Location and Classification, MIMAROPA Region



Source: NAMRIA

Palawan being a top tourist destination has the most number of flights compared to other destinations in the region.

Puerto Princesa City International Airport has around 20 flights operating to and from the following routes: Philippine Airlines (Manila, Clark, Taipei-Taoyuan); PAL Express (Manila and Cebu); Cebu Pacific (Manila, Cebu, and Iloilo); Air Asia (Manila, Cebu and Davao); and Air Juan (Busuanga and Cuyo).

Meanwhile, the Busuanga Airport have daily flights to and from the following destinations: Air Juan (Caticlan, Manila, Puerto Princesa, San Vicente); AirSWIFT (El Nido, Puerto Princesa); PAL Express (Cebu, Clark, Manila); Cebu Pacific (Manila, Cebu); and Skyjet (Manila).

In addition, the San Vicente Airport has the following daily flights to and from the following destinations: Air Juan (Busuanga, Puerto Princesa); PAL Express (Clark); Royal Air Philippines (Clark); and Skyjet (Manila).

Moreover, the El Nido Airport has AirSWIFT going to and from Busuanga, Caticlan, Cebu, Clark, Manila, Puerto Princesa, and Tagbilaran.

Air Juan going to and from Caticlan, Iloilo, and Puerto Princesa is operating in Cuyo Airport.

Only Cebu Pacific going to and from Manila is operating in San Jose Airport in Occidental Mindoro and Gasan Airport in Marinduque.

Information and Communications Technology.

Internet services in remote and unserved areas, empowers the citizenry by their participation to the global digital economy. In 2021, the region through the DICT, intensified the implementation of connectivity programs to achieve more inclusive ICT access.

Critical roadmaps and programs towards the development of ICT have been taking roots in the region. These include the implementation of the Free Wi-Fi access in public areas and the National Broadband Plan (NBP). Additional digital infrastructures were established in the region to provide ICT services.

Through the Free Wi-Fi for All Program, internet connectivity is being provided in public places for free. Since online connectivity is becoming more significant in the new normal, the great need of MIMAROPAns is being continuously responded with the implementation of various ICT projects.

For 2021, 139 active free Wi-Fi sites were established in the region. These sites were utilized in state universities and colleges, public high schools and elementary, hospitals, ports, municipal plazas, and local government units' town/municipal hall.

The province of Romblon with 40 sites has the highest number of active free Wi-Fi sites in the region. This was followed by Palawan with 35 sites, Occidental Mindoro with 25 sites, Oriental Mindoro with 24 sites, and Marinduque with 15 sites.

In the province of Marinduque, the acquisition of land in the Municipality of Boac was made through a usufruct agreement to facilitate the establishment of a self-supporting tower (SST) with 50 meters in height as part of the NBP component. The project with a proposed budget of PhP 32.3 million will include a tower build up and tower colocation with the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) Tayabas relay station, and microwave radios.

The GovNet project was integrated with the NBP as it aims to interconnect government agencies to provide fast, secure, and efficient fiber connectivity, and improve provision of public services to people. In MIMAROPA, national government agencies and local government units with online presence using the government web template (GWT) and government web hosting services (GWHS) include, LGU Sta. Fe and

LGU San Andres in Romblon, Provincial Government of Marinduque, LGU Socorro in Oriental Mindoro, NTC MIMAROPA, and NEDA MIMAROPA.

Capacity building and upskilling the ICT competencies of teachers, educators, and students in public and private educational institutions were conducted. A total of 769 teachers, 360 non-teachers, and 190 students in the region undergone the ICT specialized trainings such as digital governance and management, digital transformative technologies, and cyber security.

The region continues to boost e-governance and e-services to improved business application processes in MIMAROPA. The integrated business permits and licensing system (iBPLS) which streamline the processing and issuance of various permits, certificates and licenses was introduced and adopted by some LGUs in the region. Among the LGUs adopted the system include, municipalities of Bulalacao, Gloria, Mansalay, Puerto Galera, and Socorro in the province of Oriental Mindoro, municipalities of Rizal and Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro, municipalities of Banton, Ferrol, Looc, and San Jose in Romblon, and municipalities of Busuanga, Culion, Quezon and San Vicente in Palawan.

All these initiatives are in accordance with the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Services Delivery Act, and the President's directive to connect the government to its people.

In MIMAROPA, there were six towers established by the DICT, all of which are unserviceable and subject for rehabilitation (Table 13.2).

Table 13.2 List of DICT Towers, MIMAROPA, October 2021

NO.	PROVINCE	MUNICIPALITY	ADDRESS	TOWER HEIGHT	TOWER STATUS
1	Occidental Mindoro	Mamburao	Barangay Payompon	30 M	For rehabilitation
2	Oriental Mindoro	Calapan City	Barangay Bulusan	30 M	For rehabilitation
3	Oriental Mindoro	Calapan City	Barangay Sta. Isabel	32 M	Ongoing rehabilitation
4	Oriental Mindoro	Pinamalayan	Barangay Zone II	22 M	For rehabilitation
5	Oriental Mindoro	Socorro	Barangay Mabuhay I	22 M	For rehabilitation
6	Palawan	Puerto Princesa City	DICT Palawan, Burgos St. PPC	22 M	For rehabilitation

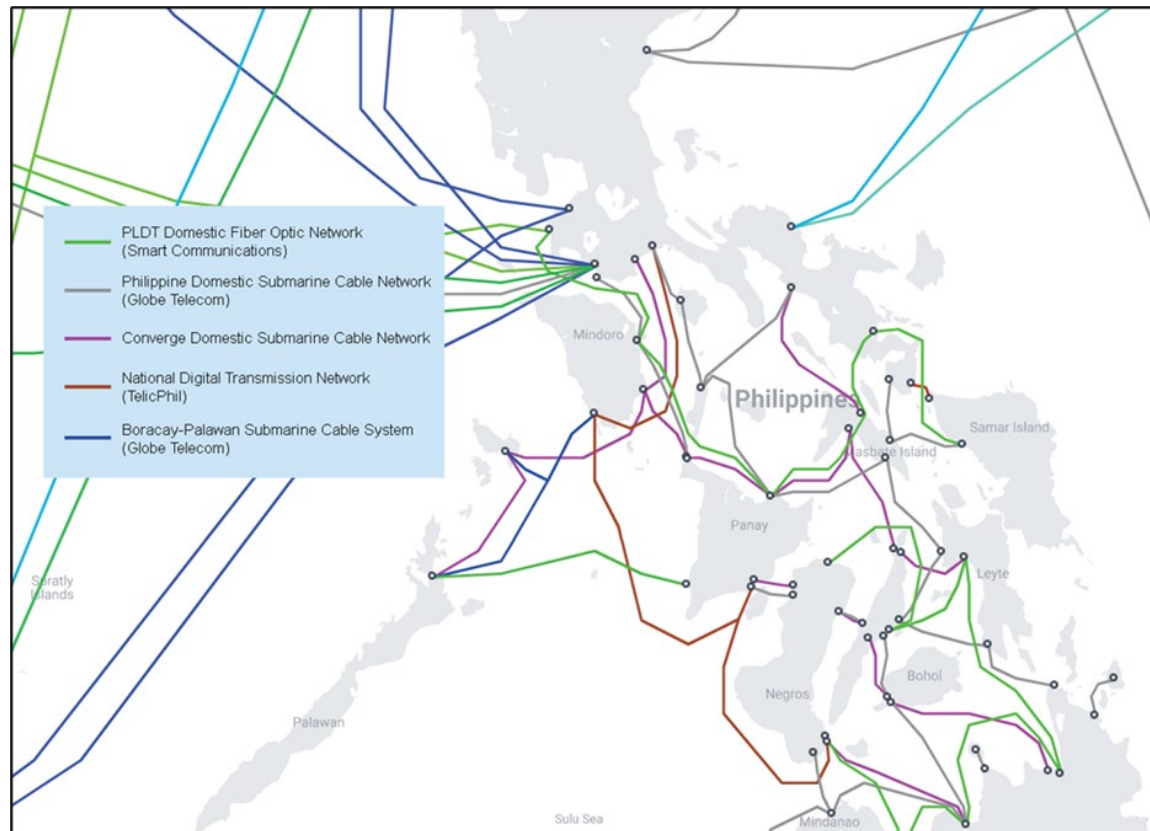
Source: DICT Luzon Cluster 3

There are four major network providers operating in the region, namely: Smart Communications, Globe Telecom, DITO Telecommunity, and Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.

Figure 13.9 shows the existing submarine cables and landing point in MIMAROPA region. The PLDT submarine cable network has its landing points in

Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro and Taytay, Palawan. Meanwhile, the Globe Telecom has its landing points in Pinamalayan in Oriental Mindoro, San Jose in Occidental Mindoro, Boac in Marinduque, Calatrava in Romblon, and Coron and Tatay in Palawan. In addition, the Converge has its own landing points in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro, and Coron and Taytay in Palawan.

Figure 13.9 Existing Submarine Cables and Landing Points, MIMAROPA

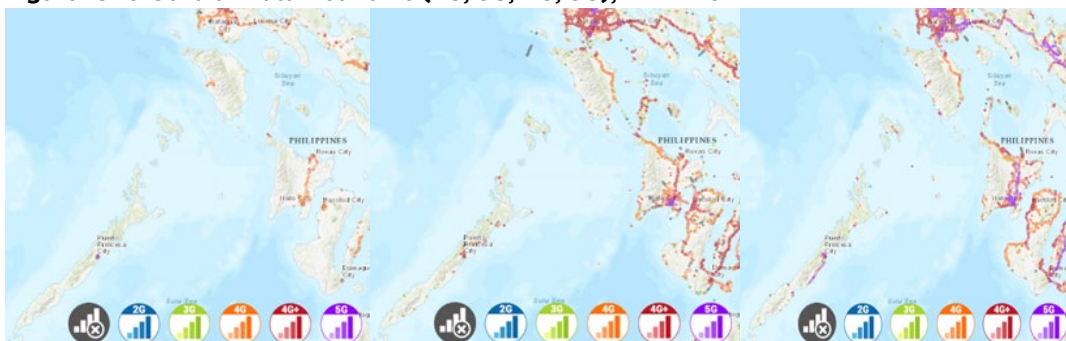


Source: <https://www.submarinecablemap.com/country/philippines>

In MIMAROPA region, only the province of Palawan has available 5G cellular data signals, while the rest of the provinces have 4G data signals as its maximum.

No available data for Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. (Figure 13.10)

Figure 13.10 Cellular Data Networks (2G, 3G, 4G, 5G), MIMAROPA



Source: <https://www.nperf.com/en/map/PH>

The main challenge in infrastructure development is still the physical connectivity to support trade and tourism activities. Critical transportation infrastructure projects in the region need to be given priority at the national level. More investment on strategic infrastructure projects will hasten the economic development of the region.

In 2012, the MIMAROPA Intermodal Transportation Development Plan (MITDP) 2011-2030 identified challenges which must be considered in the succeeding development plans. Investments that build transport capacities and provide accessibility to the Regional Government Center (RGC) and other centers are among them. The RGC in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro should be made accessible to render efficient delivery of services. The provision of efficient transportation links to all of the MIMAROPA provinces is top priority.

Transportation networks in the region such as those roads implemented through the convergence projects (e.g., ROLL IT, TRIP) must continue to improve tourism and agriculture in underdeveloped areas, connect remote towns and municipalities to production, markets and destinations, to induce trade and move economic activities.

There are various challenges in project implementation such as limited contractors operating in the region, high cost of transporting construction materials to small islands, among others.

MIMAROPA seaports are sufficient in quantity, but most are underdeveloped and have inadequate equipment. The increasing cargo and passenger traffic during holiday season is straining the already congested MIMAROPA ports, and also affecting the nearby road networks.

The MIMAROPA region as compared to other regions in the country have been left behind in terms of speed and reliability of internet services.

Water Resources

Water-related data collected is inadequate in time/space frequency to properly assess state of water resources and analyses of available data is lacking

to provide information and insights for sustainable planning and management. The need to invest and establish long-term water-related data monitoring system (for surface/ground water, water quality, sediments, etc.) for the region.

RDC MIMAROPA adopted the IWRM framework as an integral part of development planning and programming in the region, to identify and prioritize projects. The IWRM framework will respond to the challenges such as increasing of water demand together with insufficient water infrastructure that threatens to outstrip sustainable levels of water supply, and the threats on ground and surface water caused by: a) domestic, agricultural, and industrial wastes; b) watershed degradation including deforestation and denudation of forests; and c) climate change and global warming.

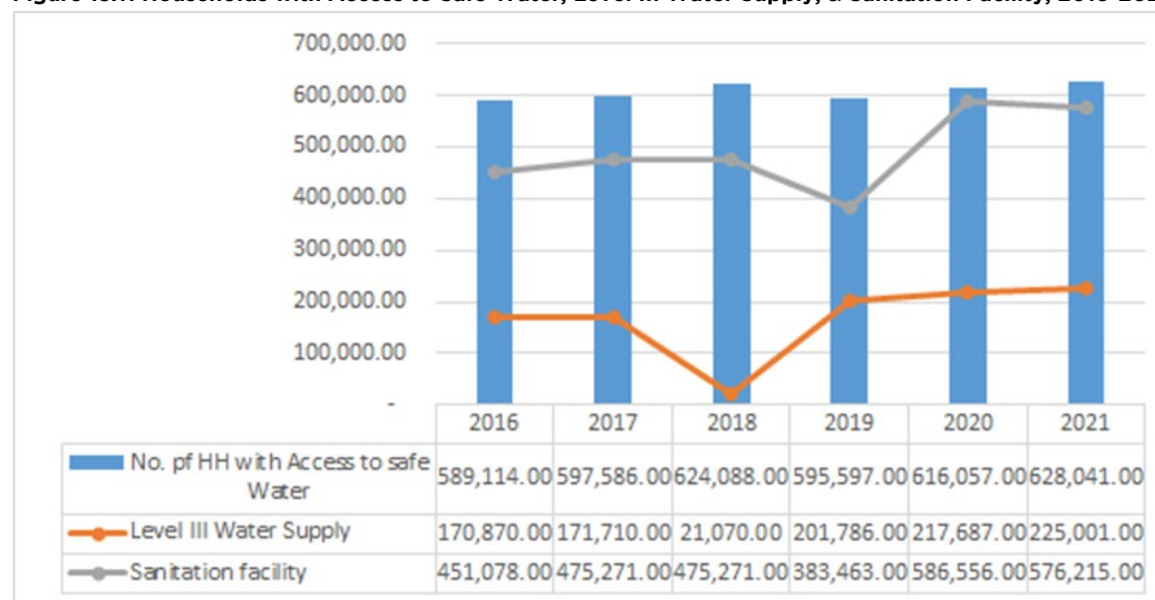
RDC MIMAROPA also adopted the Philippine Water Supply Sanitation Master Plan (PWSSMP) Data Book and Roadmap, this will stimulate infrastructure development in the water sector through interventions supported by significant investments, benefiting households without access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation.

Approximately 84.37 percent of MIMAROPA's households have access to basic safe water sources in 2021, which is not far behind with the national average of about 88 percent. This translates to around 618,041 households. About 36.97 percent of households have Level III service connection in their homes, while only 17.50 percent utilize Level II connection.

Access to Level I service was recorded at 43.53 percent. The safe water sources under Level I include tubed and/or piped deep/shallow wells and protected springs, rivers, streams, among others. Oriental Mindoro with approximately 211,886 households, has the highest access to basic safe water at 102.57 percent. Romblon and Marinduque, ranked second and third with 97.73 percent and 97.72 percent, respectively.

Figure 13.11 shows the number of households with access to safe water, and Level III Water Supply and Sanitation. Facility, 2016-2021.

Figure 13.11 Households with Access to Safe Water, Level III Water Supply, & Sanitation Facility, 2016-2021



Source: DOH MIMAROPA

The increase of MIMAROPA's economic activity taking place in urban areas like Calapan City, San Jose, Odiongan, Puerto Princesa City and surrounding municipalities has been driven mainly by migration which also increase its demand for sanitation services.

In 2021 about 77.41 percent of MIMAROPA's households are with basic sanitation facility or around 576,215 households. Romblon with approximately 52,453 households, has the highest access to basic sanitation facilities at 92.90 percent. Marinduque and Oriental Mindoro, ranked second and third with 92.9 percent and 86.6 percent, respectively.

Irrigation. The cropping intensity increased by 0.53 percent from 187.34 percent in 2020 to 187.87 percent in 2021. The ratio of the actual irrigated area to the total potential irrigable area increased by 1.58 percent, from 76.29 percent in 2020 to 77.87 percent in 2021.

The National Irrigation System (NIS) developed area increased by 2.31 percent from 35,010.46 hectares in 2020 to 35,817.46 in 2021. Oriental Mindoro has the highest percentage of NIS-developed areas with 4.88 percent. There was no increase in the NIS-developed area in Occidental Mindoro, Romblon and Palawan, and no NIS-developed area in Marinduque.

The Communal Irrigation Systems (CIS) developed area in MIMAROPA is at 49,621.08 hectares in 2021, an increase of 3.05 percent from the previous 48,151.68 hectares developed in 2020.

Palawan has the highest percentage of communal irrigation system developed area, with 3.43 percent, followed by Occidental Mindoro with 3.22 percent, Oriental Mindoro with 2.84 percent, and Marinduque with 1.79 percent. Romblon has the lowest percentage of CIS developed area at 1.07 percent.

Flood Control. Due to the geographical location of MIMAROPA, the region is highly susceptible to typhoon and flood-related disasters. The lack of data on flood control remains a problem in measuring achievements in the sector.

The flood control subsector has no reference master plan that consolidates the baseline information, initiatives, programs, projects and activities, goals and desired outcomes for the region.

DPWH invested a total of PHP14.973 billion for 498 flood control projects from 2016-2021. In 2021, DPWH invested a total of PHP3.106 billion for 94 flood control projects. Oriental Mindoro has the greatest number of flood control projects with 39, followed by Marinduque with 16, Occidental Mindoro and Romblon with 14, and Palawan with 11 flood control projects funded in 2021.

Only one flood control project was completed in 2021, amounting to Php 166.373 million located in Occidental Mindoro.

Water Supply. With only 84.37 percent of the population in MIMAROPA having access to safe water and 77.41 percent to basic sanitation as of 2021, achieving the sectoral goals of 96.0 percent access to safe water and 84.0 percent access to basic sanitation by 2022, is a challenge.

Excessive groundwater extraction and subsequent potential land subsidence is also one of the challenges in water sector. The extent of pumping and extraction of ground water shall take into consideration the possibility of salt water intrusion, land subsidence, and depletion of source.

With over 30 water-related agencies with overlapping functions, managing the country's water resources is fragmented and uncoordinated especially in the context and need for integrated land, water, coastal and hazard management.

Water-related data collected is inadequate in time/space frequency to properly assess state of water resources and analyses of available data is also lacking to provide information and insights for sustainable planning and management.

There is also lack of coordination among government agencies, private organizations or individuals responsible or involved in IWRM in terms of planning and management.

The flood control subsector has no reference master plan that consolidates the baseline information, initiatives, projects, programs and activities, and goals and desired outcomes for the region.

Resiliency of Irrigation Facilities. Climate change puts irrigation infrastructure at risk, which affects irrigation systems resilience. Irrigation systems must increase their adaptive capacity to stay resilient in the face of anticipated climate challenges.

Energy

The MIMAROPA region is served by eight Electric Cooperatives namely: Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ORMECO), Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (OMECO), Lubang Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LUBELCO), Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MARELCO), Tablas Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TIELCO), Romblon Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ROMELCO), Palawan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PALECO), and Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BISELCO).

Figure 13.12 shows that the total installed capacity of 65 existing power plants in the region is at 354.16 MW with a dependable capacity of 289.12 MW as of 2021, compared to the 30 power plants at 228.79 MW with dependable capacity of 172.36 MW in 2016. The region's total peak demand increased to 197.32 MW in 2021 from 142.57 MW in 2016.

The total power reserve of the region is at 91.8 MW or 31.75 percent of the dependable capacity or net system reserve in 2021, which is above the 10 percent minimum prescribed in the Philippine Small Grid Guidelines. This is higher than the total power reserved of the region with 29.79 MW or 13.02 percent of the total dependable capacity in 2016. Marinduque and Occidental Mindoro have the least power supply reserve with an operating margin of 1 MW and 3 MW, respectively.

Figure 13.12 Dependable Capacity, Peak Demand, & Excess Capacity, 2016-2021



Source: Department of Energy

The number of households with power connections in 2021 reached a total of 716,775 or 95.24 percent of the total potential households from 643,950 or 84.1 percent in 2016. The 2021 RDP target of 96.6 percent of households provided with electric power supply was not achieved.

Marinduque, Romblon, and Oriental Mindoro have the highest percentage of households provided with electric power supply with 100 percent of the potential households in 2021. Palawan has the lowest percentage of households provided with electrical power supply in the region with 84.1 percent, while Occidental Mindoro attained 89.4 percent household electrification in 2021.

Regional power consumption increased by 8.57 percent from 919 GWh in 2020 to 997.76 GWh in 2021. The increase in regional power consumption can be attributed to the increase in the total number of households being electrified. The gradual resumption of offices, businesses and commercial establishments will further increase power consumption of the region.

The region's renewable energy retained its capacity of 50.9 MW. Several renewable energy projects in the provinces of Oriental Mindoro and Palawan were awarded in 2021 with total potential capacity of about 28.0 MW.

The average distribution losses from the MIMAROPA electric distribution utilities slightly decreased to 10.89 percent in 2021 from 11.36 percent in 2016.

This is within the 12 percent limit approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

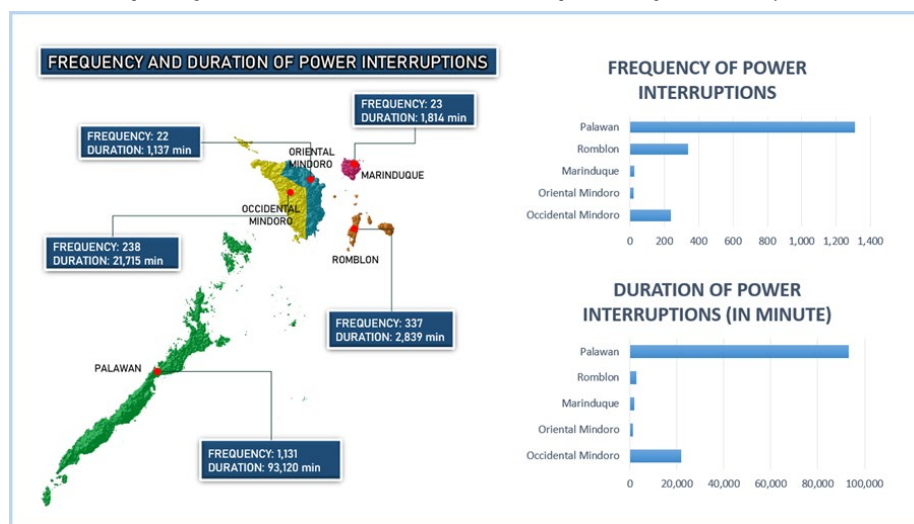
In terms of exploration, given the archipelagic configuration of the country, roughly only 10 percent of the country's territory reveals viable data of petroleum deposits which are mostly concentrated in the offshore of western Palawan and onshore Cebu. Hence, the Philippines is still very much underexplored and so is the MIMAROPA region.

Reliability of power supply, unstable cost of fuel, high dependence on fossil fuels, frequent brownouts, and high electricity cost are the major concerns in the provinces. Figure 13.13 shows the frequency and duration of power interruptions in the Region in 2021.

Over 80 percent of the region's electricity is generated through burning petroleum products. This big dependency on fossil fuels means that the region is highly susceptible to any changes in oil price. The price of oil in particular has increased hugely on wholesale markets in recent years.

While the move towards renewable energy promises potential for far cheaper prices in the long term, over the short to medium term, consumers may have to deal with higher prices caused by high investment in renewable energy. To adapt to this transition, back-up power plants which generate electricity from fossil fuels are still needed, and will be for a long time, for when renewable energy dips.

Figure 13.13 Frequency and Duration of Power Interruptions by Province, MIMAROPA, 2021



Source: Department of Energy

Except for MIMAROPA, all regions in the country are to be fully interconnected to the Philippine Grid.

Malampaya gas field despite being home in MIMAROPA, does not contribute to the region's oil and gas production. As of December 2020, the total government share from its revenue cost US\$11.9 billion. Malampaya's supply is expected to be depleted by 2025 and its contract is set to expire in 2024.

Social Infrastructure

The pandemic showed the crucial role of primary healthcare facilities as hospital overcrowding repeatedly occurred. In 2021, a total of 1,533 primary health care facilities are located in the region, including barangay health stations with and without birthing facilities, wellness clinics, dental clinics, outpatient clinics, specialized facilities, laboratories and rural health units. Of the total primary health care facilities in the region, 107 are located in Marinduque; 195 are in Occidental Mindoro; 561 are in Oriental Mindoro; 446 are in Palawan; and 224 are in Romblon.

The hospital bed to population ratio increased, from 1:1,873 in 2020 to 1:1,947 in 2021. This is still below the standard 1:1,000 hospital bed to population ratio.

A total of 31 licensed hospitals are recorded in MIMAROPA, 14 of which are located in Palawan, 10 in Oriental Mindoro; three in Occidental Mindoro; three in Romblon; and one in Marinduque. Moreover, 18 hospitals are owned by the government. These are all licensed as Level I hospitals.

Classrooms provided to secondary level students. As of school year (SY) 2019-2020, the DepEd recorded a 1:27 pupil to classroom ratio which is better than the ideal pupil-classroom ratio of 1:30. On the other hand, the student-classroom ratio of 1:46 is below the ideal student-classroom ratio of 1:40.

Proper waste management promoted but remains a persisting issue. In 2021, the total waste collected in the region reached 53,608.20 tons. About 70% of these are residual waste accounting to 37,513.55 tons

followed by biodegradable waste recorded at 8,603.80 tons or about 16.05% waste collected in 2021. Out of the five provinces, Palawan recorded the highest waste collected at 47,459.39 tons or about 88.53% of total waste collected in the region. This may be attributed to the greater number of population and commercial establishments operating in Palawan as compared to other provinces in the region. (See Chapter 4.3)

As of 2022, there are a total of 13 sanitary landfill facilities in the region whereas one is located in Occidental Mindoro (Abra de Ilog), three in Oriental Mindoro (Calapan City, Pinamalayan, and Gloria), one in Marinduque (Boac), one in Romblon (San Jose), and six in Palawan (Araceli, Brooke's Point, El Nido, Puerto Princesa City, Quezon, and Roxas). The remaining SLF is privately owned by the Coral Bay Nickel Corporation in Sofronio Española.

Three septage/sewerage facilities were reported in the region. Of the three septage/sewerage facilities, two are in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, and one is in Puerto Princesa City. Also included are the Sabang Sewerage Collection and Treatment System Project in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro and Sewage and Solid Waste Treatment Plant Project in El Nido, Palawan.

Natural disasters, like typhoons, adversely affect health facilities in the region. The onslaught of typhoon Odette in December 2021, damaged many of the health facilities, particularly in the province of Palawan. Primary health care for the large population, especially for the infants, children, and pregnant and lactating women, were disrupted. Typhoon Odette is just one of the many natural disasters that gravely impacted the health outcomes of the region.

Capacity of hospitals to cater to numerous and various types of patients is still low. The region has only four Level II hospitals, all of which are privately owned. In addition, there are 39 infirmaries in MIMAROPA serving the region's total population. Government hospitals, which are all at level I, have been serving a number of patients that is more than their bed capacity requirement.

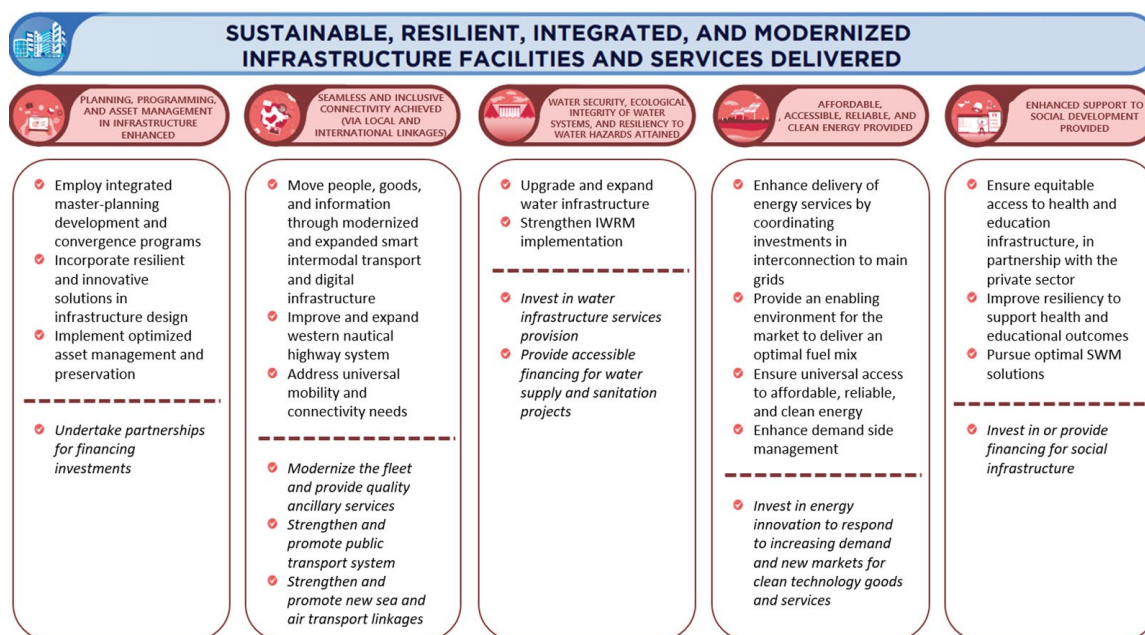
Insufficient classrooms provided to secondary level students. As of 2019, the number of classrooms for elementary and secondary level remained at 24,015 classrooms in the region. This includes 17,789 classrooms in the elementary level and 6,226 classrooms in the secondary level. Palawan (excluding Puerto Princesa City) recorded the highest number of classrooms with 7,276. This was followed by Oriental Mindoro (excluding Calapan City) with 5,834 classrooms and Occidental Mindoro with 3,464 classrooms, and Romblon with 2,813 classrooms. Marinduque reported the lowest number of classrooms with 2,294 classrooms. Puerto Princesa City and Calapan City registered 1,483 classrooms and 853 classrooms, respectively. However, limited number of school facilities in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) are still being observed wherein pupils/students in different grade levels share a classroom.

Lack of appointed Municipal ENR Officer leads to unclear authority, responsibility, and accountability in the implementation of environmental policies such as the SWM. Since the designated MENR Officers also perform other tasks inherent to the original plantilla position, ENR functions become secondary. Further, despite continued efforts of government to encourage the LGUs to comply with Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, insufficient budgetary requirements to establish, operate, and maintain SWMs and limited technical capacity in planning and establishing appropriate SWM services still hamper the full implementation of Republic Act No. 9003.

Strategies

To help ensure that the goals of bringing down the poverty rate to a single-digit within the six-year period, the overarching objective for the infrastructure sector is to “Build Better More.”

Figure 13.14 Strategy Framework to Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure



Note: Strategies above the dashed lines require action by government entities, and those below by non-government entities.

The strategic framework for Chapter 13 (Figure 13.14) is geared toward the delivery of sustainable, resilient, integrated, and modern infrastructure facilities and services. It comprises cross-cutting strategies and specific strategies corresponding to each of the infrastructure subsectors: connectivity (physical and digital), water resources, energy, and social infrastructure.

To enhance planning, programming, and asset management in infrastructure

Employ integrated master-planning development and convergence programs

A master plan provides a sound basis for rational prioritization and a holistic approach in sectoral or area specific development. For instance, the Master Plan for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development in Calapan City was undertaken to coordinate development concerns and identify investment priorities while being responsive in adopting sustainable development approach in emerging issues and opportunities.

The RDC will pursue the formulation, updating, of master plans for various sector and areas with coordination across all government levels, and consistent with priority development strategies of the RDP, some of which as follows:

- i. Updating of the MIMAROPA Intermodal Transport Development Plan
- ii. Formulation of Port City/Municipality Development Master Plan for strategic municipalities and cities in the region
- iii. Formulation of the West Philippine Seaboard Nautical Highway Master Plan
- iv. Formulation of the Cavite-Batangas-Mindoro Logistics and Intermodal Transport Master Plan

Incorporate resilient and innovative solutions in infrastructure design

Infrastructures in MIMAROPA are vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change. Rigorous site selection and applying risk-mitigation measures must be included in planning infrastructure projects. Furthermore, the adoption of Nature based (Green-

Grey) Transportation Infrastructure planning and design is highly encouraged.

Implement optimized asset management and preservation

MIMAROPA seaports are sufficient in quantity, but most are underdeveloped and have inadequate equipment and manpower. While continuing the expansion and development of MIMAROPA ports to ensure inter-island mobility in the region, shall require PPA to shift its focus to sustainable port operations.

Undertake partnerships for financing investments

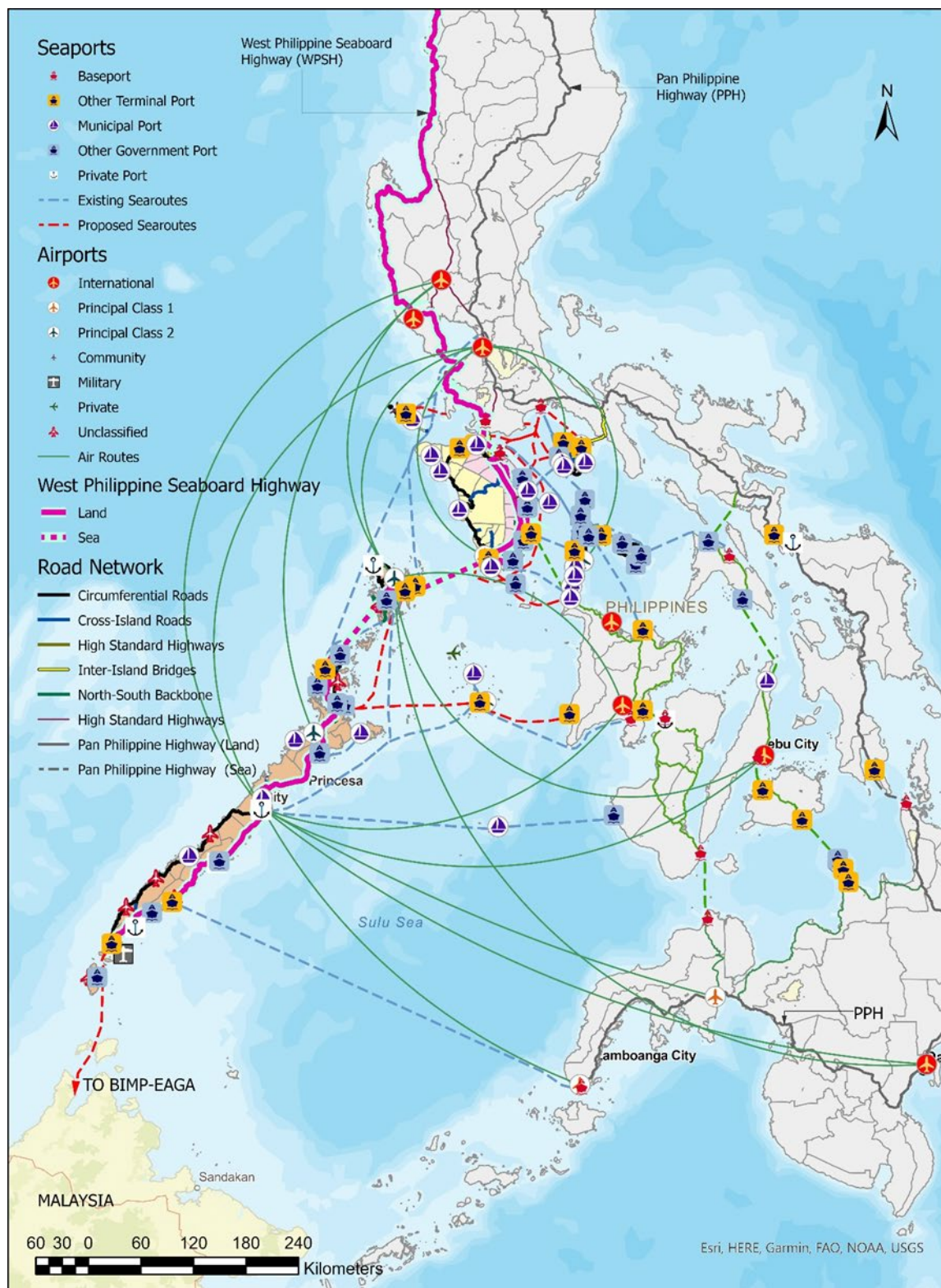
Private sector participation in the financing investments of big-ticket projects, and support infrastructure projects, shall be promoted and encouraged. This includes energy, and power interconnection projects, integrated transport terminals, park and sail facilities in the major ports in the region, shipping, and other logistics support infrastructure. This can be done through direct investments or through Public-Private Partnerships.

To achieve seamless and inclusive connectivity via local inter-island and international linkages

Move people, goods, and information through modernized and expanded smart intermodal transport and digital infrastructure

The proposed Batangas-Mindoro super bridge will further enhance the role of Mindoro Island as gateway to the Island Provinces of Visayas and Mindanao through the Strong Republic Nautical Highway. Faster and efficient transport of goods and people will be realized once the proposed bridge and its complimentary projects such as the STAR Tollway

Figure 13.15 Proposed Intermodal Connectivity and Inter-island Linkages in MIMAROPA



Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PMED)

Extension to Mindoro, West Philippine Seaboard Nautical Highway, and Batangas Spur Road Project are completed.

MIMAROPA being archipelagic in configuration will benefit in the opening of new sea routes. The private sector will spearhead improving transport services in the region through fleet modernization and inter-island route expansion.

This will be in conjunction with the implementation of smart intermodal transport terminals equipped with state-of-the-art fleet tracking, dispatch, and ticketing system that will facilitate seamless transfer of passengers from one mode to another (sea-land-air).

Furthermore, the development of the West Philippine Seaboard Highway will take into consideration existing intermodal transport infrastructure network that takes compatibility, economic feasibility, comparative advantages, climate-risks, and linkages of desired transportation modes in providing seamless connectivity across the western Philippines and open up BIMP-EAGA linkages.

The schematic diagram of the proposed intermodal connectivity and inter-island linkages in MIMAROPA is presented in Figure 13.15.

Invest in advancing and expanding access to digital infrastructure, and support open access through strategic collaboration

Reliable and Affordable Electricity to support the Telecommunications/Internet Services. Essentially, the use of ICT relies on reliable and affordable electricity. Most part of the MIMAROPA region, are rural areas which has sustained disadvantage due to limited connection in the transmission grids. The reliance of ICT on electricity further adds to the complexity of the trade-off between the utilities' financial viability. However, the power requirements of ICT will continue to increase and electricity costs will form a considerable part in the provision of ICT services in the region. In other words, electricity is extremely relevant to internet and broadband development in MIMAROPA.

Broadband development and its geographical spread will depend on increasing national electrification as a pre-condition. Obviously, the deficiency of electricity supply raises telecommunications network cost significantly, but there is often potential for shared backbone infrastructure. Power poles and ducts can carry optical fiber alongside the power cables at low marginal cost.

Whether telecommunication provision and electricity generation and transmission can be coordinated in desirable way depends upon local circumstances. As people generally give higher priority to electricity supply than to telecommunications, it might logically expect that electricity supply would arrive in a community first, and when this happens, telecommunications follow more easily.

The local government units may conduct a review of existing processes and procedures that may be slowing down the development of power facilities and ICT infrastructure in the locality. They may simplify the permit application process for power and ICT infrastructure projects and establish clear and concise regulations for power and ICT infrastructure development, this can help streamline the approval process and reduce delays caused by confusion or misinterpretation of regulations. Increase transparency and accountability in the approval process for power and ICT infrastructure projects. This can include making project information publicly available, establishing public review processes, and ensuring that decisions are based on objective criteria.

Enhancement of ICT Infrastructure. A common tower policy is the strategy being promoted by the government. It allows multiple telecommunication companies (TelCos), mobile networks, and internet service providers (ISPs) to co-locate at a single site while capital and operation expenses is distributed among them.

Under the common tower policy, independent tower companies (TowerCos) will develop shared TelCo tower infrastructures to expand wireless network coverage and improve ICT services across the country.

TowerCos level the playing field for old and new entrants through a more efficient market, allowing further competition in the ICT industry. Thus, more competition could lead to lower mobile prices and supporting innovation, resulting in better consumer access and experience.

The use of ICTs can offer an important complementary component of the national information infrastructure leading to capability building and enhanced learning throughout the region's economy. Indeed, the capacity of a national or regional system of innovation for building the capabilities required to take advantage of ICTs is needed.

Improve and expand western section of the SRNH

Expressways or High Standard Highways are: a) multi-lane divided toll roads which are privately maintained under concession from the government; and b) provide a high level of traffic services by assuring high speed mobility and safe travel to vitally support sound socio-economic development of the regions and the country. The Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH) is an example of integrated network of highway and vehicular ferry routes which forms the backbone of a nationwide vehicle transport system. It is a system of roads and ports developed by the Philippine government to connect the major islands of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. It comprised of the Eastern Nautical Highway, Central Nautical Highway, and the Western Nautical Highway.

The Western Nautical Highway passes through Batangas City in CALABARZON and Calapan City, Roxas, and Bulalacao municipalities of Oriental Mindoro in MIMAROPA. Both CALABARZON and MIMAROPA regions are expected to benefit from the implementation and completion of some major expressway projects such as: a) Laguna Lakeshore Expressway Dike Project; b) Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge Project; c) South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) Toll Road 4 (TR-4); and d) STAR Tollway extension to Batangas Port. The said expressway projects will be instrumental in the realization of the: a) Batangas-Mindoro Bridge Project; b) Marinduque – Quezon Link Expressway (MQLEX); c) expansion of the Western Nautical Highway to Palawan via San Jose in Occidental Mindoro, Coron, Culion and El Nido in

Palawan; d) Calapan – San Jose Expressway Project, and e) Mindoro-Marinduque, Mindoro-Romblon, and Romblon-Panay bridge interconnection projects.

Address universal mobility and connectivity needs

Develop/improve access roads leading to ports and airports. The increasing cargo and passenger traffic during holiday seasons is straining the already congested MIMAROPA ports and also affecting the nearby road networks is one of the challenges in Maritime Sector. To improve passenger mobility and cargo handling during holiday seasons, the need to upgrade the ports and nearby road networks is necessary to solve the congestion in ports. To address congestion there is the need for the widening of the roads where applicable.

Strategic Ports and Airports Development. The MIMAROPA being an island region relies its access and connectivity to each province, and other regions through ports and airports. The region is host to the Puerto Princesa International Airport and the Calapan Port which are considered as major gateways. The expansion of major ports and airports would promote new market linkages, efficiency, ease of travel, and safety of the traveling public.

Inter and Intra-Island Connectivity and Mobility. While inter-island mobility is made possible using the existing ports and airports, there is still the clamor for the establishment of the Western Philippine Seaboard Highway for the island provinces of the region to be included in the nautical highway system. The system will be supported by the investment for the construction of inter-island bridges, and high standard highways.

In the region, the development and improvement of the Puerto Princesa City International Airport (PPCIA) showed how the improvement of air transport sector benefitted largely its local economic activities and the country as well. This development breakthrough may be simulated across the region by improving existing airport infrastructures and constructing new airports in strategic geographic locations in the region.

The completion of Circumferential roads, Cross-Island roads, construction of by-pass and diversion roads support intra-island mobility.

Active transport networks will be developed.

Development and improvement of the existing road system is encouraged to accord the highest priority in the hierarchy of road users for pedestrians and cyclists.

LGUs and private developers will be incentivized to provide green spaces, have pedestrian-friendly and bikeable developments and programs. LGUs will also be encouraged to promote walkability, bikeability and accessibility within their jurisdictions.

Modernize the fleet and provide quality ancillary services

The opening of the region's air transport market to competitive airport service providers, concessionaires, and airline industries will complement the region's air transport management and operations that will facilitate the expected target demands. While the readiness of support land travel infrastructures, and facilities will provide convenient out-going and in-coming access to it.

Encourage private sector investments in the construction of support facilities and economic enterprises within the transport terminals for potential in-transit passengers. To promote efficiency and safety of sea travel, investments in new and modern shipping vessels is also encouraged.

To accommodate growing trade and ship vessel, ports need to make sure their infrastructure is ready to receive incoming traffic while ensuring operations safety and transparency. Ports should use technologies to better manage resources and improve stakeholder coordination to avoid congestion.

Strengthen and promote public transport system

Pursue the use of modern technology in logistics processes to improve stakeholder coordination. The modernization of existing port terminals will contribute to the reduction of overall transportation costs and shipment delays.

Strengthen capacity of LGUs in transportation planning.

Corollary to the implementation of the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP) is the formulation of the Local Public Transport Route Plans (LPTRPs) by the LGUs. However, there is a pressing need to equip the LGUs with the necessary tools and skills to properly undertake transportation planning and management. Transport planning will be effective if it is integrated with land use planning.

Completion of Local Public Transport Route Plans. Completion of the LPTRPs will be pursued to ensure adequate public transportation and logistics services are provided.

To encourage greater private sector participation in the strengthening of the public transport system, there should be rationalized public transport routes, and improved/streamlined road-based transport franchising procedures.

Strengthen and promote new sea and air transport linkages

Establish new missionary sea routes. Shipping companies must be encouraged to serve newly opened missionary routes and inter-regional linkages. These include the Batangas City-San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; San Juan, Batangas-Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro; Roxas, Oriental Mindoro-Calatrava, Romblon; Lucena, Quezon-Odiongan, Romblon-Caticlan, Malay, Aklan; Cajidiocan, Romblon-Masbate City; Lucena, Quezon-Buyabod, Marinduque; Lucena, Quezon-Romblon, Romblon-Culasi, Roxas City, Capiz; Taytay, Palawan-Cuyo, Palawan; Cuyo, Palawan-San Jose de Buenavista, Antique; and Lucena, Quezon-Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

Also, to fast track the opening of Buliluyan (Palawan) – Kudat (Malaysia) sea route, promoting international linkages supportive of BIMP-EAGA agreement.

Air transport supports tourism and business travel. MIMAROPA provinces have at least one airport which when fully utilized (with regular flights and affordable fares) will meet the demand

for ease of travel for tourism and business. The newly opened airport in San Vicente, Palawan provides a convenient direct flight from Manila and Clark. San Vicente airport is near the famous Long Beach and 20 minutes away from the town proper.

To attain water security, ecological integrity of water systems, and resiliency to water hazards

Upgrade and Expand Water Infrastructure

Water infrastructure and facilities will be expanded through the implementation of the Philippine Water Supply and Sanitation Master Plan, MIMAROPA Irrigation Master Plan, and the formulation of the MIMAROPA Flood Control Master Plan. These documents will contain a baseline of information, initiatives, priority projects, programs and activities, to attain the goals and desired outcomes of the water sector for the region.

Corollary, the degradation of natural environments, loss of natural safeguards such as trees, riverbank-side vegetation, wetlands and coastal mangroves should be protected to reduce flooding. The protection on watershed area/forest through development of forest land-use plan, and integrated watershed management plan will help to lessen the impact of water-related disasters.

Adopting local and indigenous measures and technologies to protect water resources, especially in groundwater recharge areas and watershed conservation, and the exploration of new water sources to address the excessive groundwater extraction in the region.

Implementation of flood management and mitigation measures should be accelerated such as construction and maintenance of flood mitigating structures, drainage systems, and flood mitigating facilities in principal river basins.

Investments for irrigation system shall focus on the following: a) construction of disaster and climate resilient, small-scale irrigation system; b) retrofitting, restoration, and rehabilitation of existing irrigation; and c) modernization and adoption of new irrigation system (e.g., drip irrigation system, solar-powered irrigation, sprinklers, among others) in areas where it is applicable. Construction and rehabilitation of irrigation facilities shall be prioritized in the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan which are included in the list of priority sites identified in NIMP 2020-2030.

The construction of Ibato-Iraan and Bagtingon SRIP in Palawan and Marinduque, respectively, should be accelerated to improve rice productivity.

Strengthen the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM)

Water resources development and management must be integrated with land use, coastal and hazard management in the context of IWRM to facilitate the coordination among government agencies, private organizations or individuals responsible or involved in IWRM in terms of planning and management.

In September 2019, RDC MIMAROPA created the Technical Working Group on Water Resource Management (TWG-WRM). It also adopted the IWRM framework as an integral part of development planning and programming in the region to identify and prioritize projects. The MIMAROPA IWRM framework includes the following sustainable outcomes: a) effective protection and regulation for water security and ecosystems health; b) sustainable water resources and responsive services for present and future needs; c) improved effectiveness, accountability, synergy among water-related institutions and stakeholders; and d) innovative responses to future challenges.

The TWG aims to generate water-related information and to identify challenges and opportunities related to water resources in the region. The TWG has been regularly conducting meetings to discuss among others, the La Niña action Plan, and programs and projects for IWRM implementation.

The TWG needs to identify, investments and establish long-term water-related data monitoring system (for surface/ground water, water quality, sediments, etc.) for the region. Since water-related data collected is inadequate in time/space frequency to properly assess state of water resources and analyses of available data is also lacking to provide information and insights for sustainable planning and management.

To address the lack of data on flood control, DPWH needs to develop an asset management information system for flood risk management. This will assist in strategic planning of integrated flood risk management (IFRM) infrastructure development as well as improve monitoring and maintenance works.

Invest in water infrastructure services provision and provide accessible financing for water supply and sanitation (WSS) projects

Water infrastructure and services will be provided through PPPs and other local water districts. To address the WSS sector's fragmented, poorly enforced, and low-coverage regulatory system, the economic regulatory environment will be rationalized/strengthened in particular for WSS projects. This includes the consolidating and harmonizing tariff-setting procedures, establishing performance and technical standards, and developing rules and processes for license granting and revocation. A credible and effective economic regulatory regime is considered as inducing the extension and enhancement of services, encouraging additional private sector

engagement, protecting consumer interests, and addressing the conflicts of interest present in current regulatory institutions. The region supports the creation of the Department of Water Resources with regional offices that will address these issues.

In addition, with government assistance, a framework for rationally distributing WSS resources will be developed.

Power and Energy

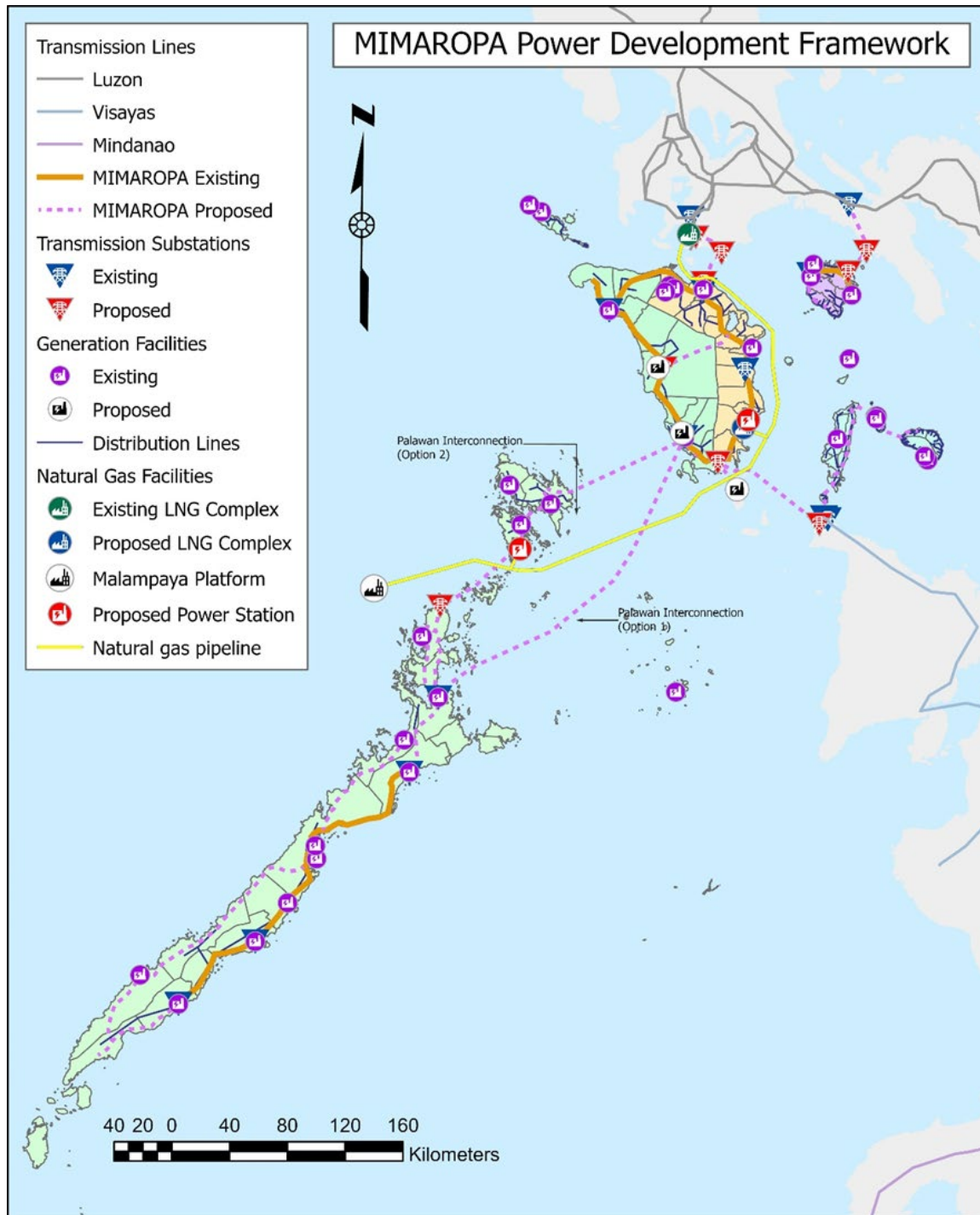
To provide affordable, accessible, reliable, and clean energy

Enhance delivery of energy by coordinating investments in interconnection to main grids, generation, transmission, and distribution

Interconnection to the Main Grid. The proposed interconnection of MIMAROPA with the main grid is envisioned to import power when required through access for bulk generation through the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market. In the long run, it will provide the means to export possible excess power once the generation potentials were developed, including RE-based plants, within the island.

Figure 13.16 shows the MIMAROPA Power Development Framework.

Figure 13.16 MIMAROPA Power Development Framework



Source: National Grid Corporation of the Philippines and National Transmission Corporation; NEDA MIMAROPA

The proposed Batangas-Mindoro, Quezon-Marinduque, Romblon-Panay, and Mindoro-Palawan interconnection projects will provide permanent and long-time solutions on the lingering power crisis in the region. It will foster economic growth by serving the growing demand of electricity in the region.

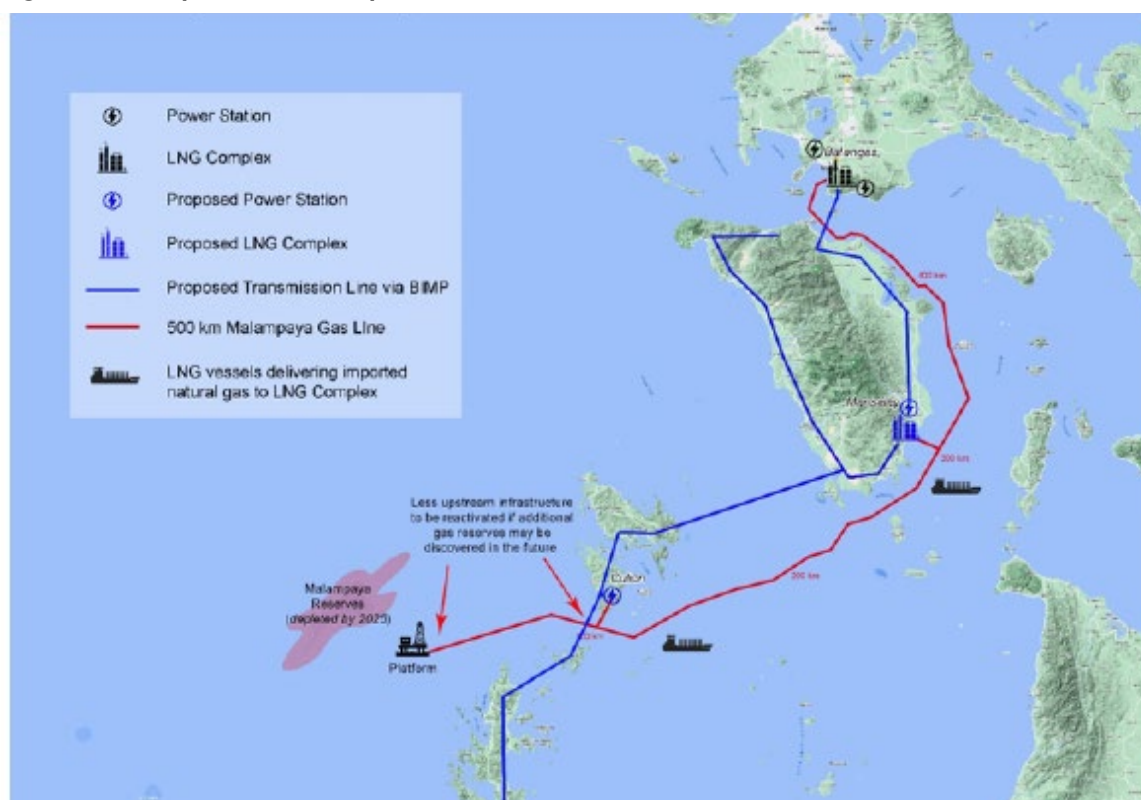
Provide an enabling environment for the market to deliver an optimal fuel mix

Oil and Natural Gas Exploration. The natural gas reserves in Northern Palawan are expected to be depleted before 2025. It would then require to import natural gas from other countries or identify other source of natural gas within the vicinity of Northern Palawan and/or Mindoro, natural gas would need

to be imported into the Philippines through an LNG complex to continue to fuel three (3) critical combined-cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power stations in Batangas, providing 2,700 MW of baseload capacity to the National Grid.

Due to the strategic implications of an LNG complex to the energy security of the Philippines, it should be located at a site that offers ease of expansion over the long-term, which is no longer readily available in Batangas Bay or in the vicinity of the Shell Tabangao Refinery due to the industrial congestion in the area; hence, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro and Coron, Palawan as the site of the first and definitive LNG and CCGT Complex (Figure 13.17) in the Philippines that will serve the electricity consumers of Luzon, and the MIMAROPA region, and ensure the energy security of the country.

Figure 13.17 Proposed LNG Complex



Data Source: <http://shootingthebreezebywanderlust.blogspot.com/mindoros-role-in-burgeoning-philippine>; NEDA MIMAROPA

Facilitate the declaration of power projects as project of national significance. Energy and power projects are of national significance as they play a crucial role in shaping a country's economy and its citizens' quality of life. A stable, reliable and affordable energy supply is essential for economic growth, job creation and promoting competitiveness. The development of energy and power projects also helps reduce dependence on foreign energy sources, increase energy security and enhance the country's overall energy mix. The implementation of these projects requires significant investment and collaboration between various stakeholders including government, private sector, communities and other stakeholders.

Institute power mix policy for power generation towards optimal portfolio to meet 24/7 electricity demand and reserve requirements with spatial and sectoral dimension. It involves considering a variety of factors, including energy mix, availability of resources, cost, and environmental impact. This can be achieved through a combination of traditional and renewable energy sources, such as hydro, thermal, nuclear, wind and solar, to create an optimal portfolio that meets the diverse energy needs of the region. The policy should also prioritize investment in transmission and distribution infrastructure to ensure a stable and reliable supply of power, as well as the integration of advanced technologies such as energy storage systems and demand response programs.

Strengthen the resiliency of energy infrastructures. Strengthening the resiliency of power and energy infrastructures requires a multi-faceted approach that involves the implementation of preventative measures, contingency planning, and investment in new technologies. This can be achieved through regular risk assessments, the adoption of robust security measures, the implementation of redundancy systems, and the development of alternative energy sources. The goal is to create a robust and resilient power and energy system that can effectively withstand any disruptions and minimize the impact on the economy and citizens.

Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy

Promote investment in power generation especially for renewable energy. Promoting investment in power generation, especially for renewable energy, requires a favorable policy and regulatory framework that provides certainty and stability to investors. This can be achieved through financial incentives, such as tax credits and subsidies, as well as the creation of a level playing field for different energy sources. Encouraging private sector investment through public-private partnerships, streamlining of permitting processes, and reducing bureaucratic barriers can also help spur investment in renewable energy. By creating a favorable environment for investment, the government can help accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, sustainable energy future, promote economic development and create jobs, and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Encourage compliance to international standards for constructing power plants and accreditation of contractors. Helps to ensure the safe and efficient operation of power facilities and protects the environment and public health. This can be achieved through the development of clear and transparent regulations, policies, and guidelines that provide a framework for the design, construction, and operation of power plants. The government can also provide incentives for companies and contractors to adopt international best practices and certifications, such as ISO and OSHA, to demonstrate their commitment to quality, safety and environmental performance. By promoting compliance with international standards, the government can enhance the credibility and competitiveness of the country's energy sector, attract investment and create jobs, while also contributing to a safer and more sustainable future.

Enhance demand side management

Pursue implementation of Energy Efficiency Act. Pursuing the implementation of an Energy Efficiency Act is an important step in reducing energy consumption and costs, while also promoting sustainable development and mitigating the impact of climate change. The act should establish clear goals and targets for energy efficiency, provide incentives for businesses and consumers to adopt more efficient technologies, and create a framework for the development and implementation of energy efficiency programs. The act should also require mandatory labeling and performance standards for energy-using products, as well as regular reporting and monitoring of energy consumption and efficiency trends. The government can play a leadership role by implementing energy-saving measures in its own operations and promoting best practices among its agencies and stakeholders.

Invest in energy innovation to respond to increasing demand and new markets for clean technology goods and services

Pursue the entry of new and emerging technologies for power generation (e.g., ocean, fuel cells, nuclear, etc.) consistent with the power mix policy. Pursuing the entry of new and emerging technologies for power generation is essential for ensuring the reliability and affordability of the energy supply and meeting the changing needs of the energy market. This can be achieved through the development of a favorable policy and regulatory environment that encourages innovation and investment in these technologies. The government can also provide technical and financial support to accelerate the commercialization of these technologies, and engage in international cooperation and collaboration to share knowledge and best practices. The entry of new

technologies should be consistent with the power mix policy, which balances the need for reliability and affordability with the goals of environmental protection and energy security.

Distribution Development Plan. In preparation for the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) and the Green Energy Option Program, Distribution Utilities must provide additional information on existing and potential contestable customers for Retail Competition and Open Access (RCOA), available renewable resources, and the number of customers with net-metering (GEOP). Capital expenditure projects and financing needs should be included in their respective five-year DDPs. Through these provisions, the DOE will be able to closely monitor the operation of all distribution facilities and the progress of project implementation in close coordination with ERC.

Uniform Monthly Electric Bill Framework. To protect the public interest affected by DU and electricity supply provider rates and services, the uniform bill should reflect all corresponding charges, including but not limited to generation, transmission, and ancillary services, distribution, supply, and metering charges, universal charges, and bill deposits, subject to any rules and regulations promulgated by the ERC.

Adopting and Prescribing for the Competitive Selection Process in the Procurement by the Distribution Utilities of Power Supply Agreement for the captive market. CSP will be carried out as a clear, transparent, and fair supply procurement process, promoting competition and greater private sector participation in the provision of the least-cost, reliable, and adequate supply of electricity. It addresses the power supply contracting of the country's electric power utilities serving both on-grid and off-grid areas.

To provide enhanced support to social development

Ensure equitable access to health and education infrastructure, in partnership with private sector

Develop health infrastructure guided by the PHFDP 2020-2040. In line with the UHC Act, a health care provider network (HCPN) will be established in every province and/or highly urbanized city to ensure comprehensive and adequate provision of health care services. LGUs and private providers will work with the national government to ensure that the primary care network (barangay health stations and primary health care facilities), hospitals, standalone or specialized facilities, and other ancillary facilities (i.e., private medical outpatient clinics, infirmaries, birthing homes, dental clinics), whether publicly or privately owned, are functionally integrated within the HCPN.

A comprehensive needs assessment of critical health facilities involved in service delivery networks will be regularly conducted. The assessment results will form part of the basis for determining which facilities will be constructed, upgraded, or expanded under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP). National government support for health infrastructure will be guided by the National Allocation Framework, which gives priority to low capacity and high gaps areas.

To ensure equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare goods and services, proposed interventions will prioritize geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA), marginalized populations, and indigenous people communities. Multisectoral partnerships will also be pursued to deliver telemedicine, remote healthcare services, emergency medical service through ambulance and patient transport services, and other innovations for health. Approximately P37.0 million was proposed

for FY 2023-2028 to implement the Telemedicine Project in MIMAROPA.

Issues in the implementation of the BEFF will be addressed. DepEd, in coordination with LGUs, will improve the identification of classroom gaps at the local level to better inform the planning and programming, and facilitate the implementation by DPWH. DPWH will revisit the uniform pricing and specifications for school buildings to account for possible variances in prices and technical requirements by location. Procurement by lot or package will be pursued, as applicable, to encourage more bid participants.

Adopt modern learning spaces. The need to transform the education system to address the enduring education crisis in the country brings forth the need to modernize learning spaces and ensure adequate, safe, and resilient facilities for students. As such, classrooms shortages will be addressed, while adhering to ideal classroom size to maintain safety and health protocols and ensure optimal learning environment.

Universal access of schools to basic utilities such as electricity, internet and water supply will be pursued. Provision of basic facilities, including WASH facilities, libraries, and science laboratories will be ensured. Learning spaces will be designed, configured, and equipped to emulate the classroom of the future. Government allocation for education spending will be prioritized while aid and resources from private sector, non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations will be sought.

The Last Mile School Program's implementation will be the region's primary concern. This program's goal is to fill the gaps in the facilities and resources available to schools in MIMAROPA's geographically isolated and disadvantaged and conflict-affected areas (GIDCA). Under the MIMAROPA Regional Development and Investment Program, DepEd MIMAROPA sought financing of approximately 10.96 billion for the program's implementation from FY 2023 to 2028.

Improve resiliency to support health and educational outcomes

In cooperation with the national government and private stakeholders, LGUs will identify locations within their jurisdiction for health facilities, school buildings and evacuation centers taking into consideration, not only accessibility and demand, but also long-term resilience to natural and anthropogenic hazards and risks including those associated with climate change. National and local government funding, coupled with multi-sectoral partnerships, will be pursued to adequately provide for the construction, retrofitting and repair of health facilities and schools/classrooms, and to withstand better the impact of hazards and calamities and minimize disruption of services/class. In every LGU there will be permanent disaster-resilient evacuation centers, equipped with adequate GEDSI-responsive basic facilities constructed for families displaced during emergencies.

Health system structures that contribute to the ability to prepare for and respond to diseases of public health concern will be established and/or strengthened. Among the top priority structures are the proposed Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines, Center for Disease Prevention and Control, and the Philippine Public Health Laboratory System (PHLS).

Pursue optimal solid waste management (SWM) solutions

Facilitate clustering of LGUs to take advantage of economies of scale. DENR will assist the LGUs in consolidating their efforts, services, and resources for the purpose of delivering common facilities for waste management to take advantage of economies of scale. This will alleviate their respective budget burden for capital-intensive projects, and at the same time, enhance the financial viability of these projects and thus will make them attractive to private investors.

Explore technology options and financing schemes for SWM based on updated LGU waste data. Results

of scientific research and development, and of demonstration projects shall guide the promotion and adoption of low carbon, new modern and innovative technologies, including A menu of technology options and financing schemes for the implementation of SWM projects will be provided, taking into consideration the composition of waste per source, the availability of suitable sites, and GHG emissions avoidance and reduction targets under the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Alongside these, waste analysis and characterization studies (WACS) will be regularly conducted.

Supporting SWM programs will be intensified.

Capacity-building programs will be undertaken to develop the technical capacities of LGUs to undertake WACS and assess technical and financial options for implementing SWM projects. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaigns will be aggressively conducted to promote greater waste diversion, thus, optimizing the use of disposal sites, and to enhance the willingness to pay for SWM services.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) MIMAROPA shall strengthen the implementation of the ecological SWM and toxic substances and hazardous waste management regulations amounting to 90 million pesos for the period 2023 to 2028. A waste-to-energy (WtE) facility shall be implemented after the conduct of the ongoing feasibility study for the proposed project.

Invest in or provide financing for social infrastructure

The private sector are encouraged to provide investments in the building of hospitals, school buildings, and other social infrastructure projects. The private-public partnership is also an option in financing income generating social infrastructure projects both for the national and local government units.

Table 13.3 List of Major Programs and Projects to Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure

TITLE	PROVINCE/CITY	INVESTMENT TARGET (PHP '000)						TOTAL 2023-2028 INVESTMENT TARGET (PHP '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Mindoro Island Circumferential Road	Oriental Mindoro & Occidental Mindoro	288,000	0	50,000	0	0	0	338,000
Victoria-Sablayan Cross Island Road	Oriental Mindoro & Occidental Mindoro	305,000	0	115,000	0	0	0	420,000
Mindoro Super Bridge Project	Oriental Mindoro & Batangas							607,730,000*
Marinduque-Quezon Link Expressway	Marinduque & Quezon							757,940,000*
Coron-Culion Inter-Island Bridge	Coron & Culion, Palawan							4,200,000
Puerto Princesa City Viaduct	Puerto Princesa City							9,656,000
Mindoro-Batangas Interconnection Project	Oriental Mindoro & Batangas							16,870,000
Marinduque-Quezon Interconnection Project								5,320,000
Romblon-Panay Interconnection Project								14,320,000
Mindoro-Busuanga Interconnection Project								10,817,000

*estimated cost

Legislative Agenda

Table 13.4 Legislative to Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Amendment of Republic Act No. 10752 The Right-of-Way Act (ROWA)	This will address difficulties in complying with the law's strict requirements (such as valuation, compensation and expropriation problems) and further expedite the implementation of infrastructure projects; to provide clearer, fairer, and simpler terms for ROW acquisition for both property owners and the Government.	DPWH
Amendment of the EPIRA Law	<p>This revisits the policy thereby ensuring its responsiveness to the power industry.</p> <p>Reevaluation of the tax (VAT) base so that consumers are not taxed for the electricity they do not consume (system loss and subsidy)</p> <p>Strengthen the mandates of DOE, ERC, and NEA in ensuring quality, reliability, and security of the supply of electric power</p>	DOE, ERC, NEA
Amendment of PD No. 87 (The Oil Exploration and Development Act of 1972)	This seeks to revitalize interest and encourage more drilling activity in the country	DOE, DENR, DILG, DOF
Natural Gas Law	Legislation of enabling law for the development of the Natural Gas Industry in the Philippines	DOE
Compliance to ICAO Policy / Passage of Aerodrome Safety Ordinances in MIMAROPA LGUs hosting/near airports	This will address prevailing airport safety situation in the region, and the possibility of crafting a standard local ordinance prescribing Airport Safety Standards that are compliant with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standard operational Safety, Security, Environmental Management, and Emergency Response guidelines	CAAP, LGU
National Quality Infrastructure Act	It seeks to provide the necessary Institutional apparatus to produce products and services of a prescribed national and international standards.	DTI, DA, DOST, DPWH
Department of Water Resources (DWR)	This will address the sector's weak and fragmented institutional structure by streamlining all water-related government functions and separating resource regulation from economic regulation.	NEDA
Upgrading of all hospitals in the region	<p>The region needs to establish hospitals that are equipped with specialized medical treatments for heart and kidney diseases and cancer. This would mean that all public hospitals in the region should be upgraded.</p> <p>For example, the passage into law of the bill converting Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital into MIMAROPA Regional Hospital is one of the projects which will address health issues in the region.</p>	DOH, LGU
Creation of the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines (VIP)	This bill seeks to establish the VIP which focus on research on viruses, the development of vaccines, and the operation of a virology laboratory, virus gene bank, and virus genome laboratory, among others.	DOST, DOH, DA

Targets

Table 13.5 Indicator Matrix

Indicator	Baseline		Annual Plan Targets					End of Plan Target	Responsible Agency
	Year	Value	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Transportation/Roads/Bridges									
Percentage of paved national roads (secondary)	2021	99.23%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	DPWH
Percentage of paved national roads (tertiary)	2021	98.78%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	DPWH
Length of National Roads (lane-kms)	2021	5,584	6,142	6,756	7,432	8,175	8,993	9,892	DPWH
Length of permanent bridges along national roads	2021	22,972	23,038	23,105	23,171	23,237	23,304	23,370	DPWH
Transportation/Motor Vehicles									
Number of Motor Vehicles Registered	2021	231,804	280,486	308,535	339,389	373,327	410,660	451,725	LTO
Registered Vehicles per 1000 population	2021	70.51	82.30	88.91	96.06	103.77	112.11	121.12	LTO/PSA
Licenses and Permits Issued	2021	59,069	62,022	65,124	68,380	71,799	75,389	79,158	LTO
Transportation/Water Transport									
Domestic Cargo throughput	2021	4,174,295.00	4,299,524.00	4,424,753.00	4,549,982.00	4,675,210.00	4,800,439.00	4,925,668.00	PPA
Foreign Cargo Throughput	2021	6,100,773	6,405,812.00	6,710,850.00	7,0158,89.00	7,320,928.00	7,625,966.00	7,931,005.00	PPA
Number of Shipcalls	2021	33,301	34,966.05	36,631.10	38,296.15	39,961.20	41,626.25	43,291.30	PPA
Number of Passengers	2021	2,061,786	2,164,875.00	2,267,965.00	2,371,054.00	2,474,143.00	2,577,233.00	2,680,322.00	PPA
Transportation/Air Transport									
Aircraft Movement	2021	6,306	No target	No target	No target	No target	No target	No target	CAAP
Passenger Traffic	2021	181,562	1,966,456	2,408,021	2,727,494	2,808,317	3,048,240	3,248,389	CAAP
Air Cargoes (in MT)	2021	14,706.96	20,436.29	21,992.70	23,016.93	23,469.59	24,303.30	25,041.75	CAAP
Digital Infrastructure									
No. of areas with free public Wi-Fi access	2021	139	437	No target	No target	No target	No target	No target	DICT
Water Supply and Sanitation									
Proportion of households with access to safe water supply	2021	84.37%	86%	88%	90%	92%	94%	96%	DOH
Water supply (HH with Level III) increased	2021	36.97%	39%	42%	45%	48%	51%	54%	DOH
Level of HH sanitation increased	2021	77.41%	80%	83%	86%	89%	92%	95%	DOH
Irrigation									
National Irrigation System (NIS) Developed Area (ha) increased	2021	35,817.46	39,399.21	41,190.08	42,980.95	44,771.83	46,562.70	48,353.57	NIA
Communal Irrigation System (ha) increased	2021	49,621.08	54,583.19	57,064.24	59,545.30	62,026.35	64,507.40	66,988.46	NIA
Cropping Intensity (Cumulative) %	2021	187.88	190	190	191	191	192	192	NIA

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS					END OF PLAN TARGET	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027		
Ratio of Actual Irrigated Area to the total potential irrigable area increased (percent cumulative)	2021	90.14	92	93	94	95	96	97	NIA
Percent level of Irrigation Development increased	2021	77.87	80	80.14	81.5	83.14	85.54	85.54	NIA
Flood Control									
Number of flood control projects along principal river basins increased	2021	94	99	105	111	117	123	129	DPWH
Power/Energy									
Status of Energization (percent of Brgys. Energized)	2021	94.77	100	100	100	100	100	100	DOE
Percentage of HHs provided with electric power supply*	2021	95.24	97.37	97.99	98.21	99.02	99.54	100	DOE
Regional Energy Consumption, GWh	2021	997.76	1,211.88	1,284.77	1,363.71	1,444.81	1,528.33	1,614.54	DOE
Distribution loss (percent) not exceed ERC-approved distribution system loss cap of 12percent	2021	10.24	9.26	9.21	9.18	9.14	9.11	9.07	DOE
Maintain operating margin or net system reserve above minimum prescribed in the Phil Small Grid Guidelines (10percent)	2021	31.75	≤10percent net operating margin	≤10percent net operating margin	≤10percent net operating margin	≤10percent net operating margin	≤10percent net operating margin	≤10percent net operating margin	DOE/NEA
Renewable Energy capacity (MW, cumulative)	2021	50.9	79.8	79.8	85.8	85.8	85.8	85.8	DOE
Electricity Consumption per Capita*	2021	0.00149	0.00175	0.00184	0.00194	No target	No target	No target	DOE
Frequency of power interruption*	2021	23.15	≤ 30	≤ 30	≤ 30	≤ 30	≤ 30	≤ 30	DOE/NEA
Duration of power interruption*	2021	1,621	≤ 3,375	≤ 3,375	≤ 3,375	≤ 3,375	≤ 3,375	≤ 3,375	DOE/NEA
Price of residential electricity reduced*	2021	9.12	No target	No target	No target	No target	No target	No target	DOE
Share of affordable renewable energy in the power generation mix increased*	2021	12.43	13.38	14.19	15.3	15.81	16.72	17.43	DOE
Social Infrastructure									
Barangay health station to barangay ratio	2021	1:3,268	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOH
Hospital-bed to population ratio	2021	1:1,947	-	-	-	-	-	-	DOH
Pupil-classroom ratio	2020	1:27	1:30	1:30	1:30	1:30	1:30	1:30	DEPED
Student-classroom ratio	2020	1:46	1:40	1:40	1:40	1:40	1:40	1:40	DEPED
LGUs served by sanitary landfill	2019	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	EMB

14

**Ensure Peace and Security
and Enhance Administration
of Justice**

ENSURE PEACE AND SECURITY AND ENHANCE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The attainment of the MIMAROPA's vision as the Destination of Choice rests upon securing a peaceful environment where life rights and properties are protected. Thus, it is important to promote a whole-of-society approach and create a conducive and favorable environment for economic and social development of the region.

Likewise, an efficient administration of justice inspires trust and confidence among stakeholders through integrity, fairness, and accessibility.

Sub-chapter 14.1 Ensure Peace and Security

Maintaining a peaceful, safe, and orderly environment is critical in ensuring sustained economic development. It is crucial in creating an environment where people feel safe to live, work, and do business. To attain this, however, concerted efforts, strong collaborations, and sustained actions among all concerned stakeholders from both the public and private sectors are necessary.

Assessment and Challenges

Geographic Location

Internal Armed Conflicts in MIMAROPA. MIMAROPA Region recorded a significant decrease in internal armed group-initiated violent incidents in the past years. The affected barangays continued to decrease from 1.78 percent in 2017 to 0.6 percent in 2021, which can be attributed primarily to the successful implementation of the Whole-of-Nation approach.

All provinces in the region have created their respective Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (PTF ELCAC). Out of 71 municipalities, 54 have established

Municipal Task Force (MTF) ELCAC. This led to the declaration of the New People's Army (NPA) as persona non-grata across the region, which limited their movement in the area. Localized peace arrangements (LPEs) were also established to empower local officials as the frontlines for peacebuilding process.

These initiatives were reinforced with the heightened presence of security forces in armed conflict-affected areas. Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was able to dismantle majority of the communist terrorist groups (CTGs) such as sub-regional military area guerrilla in Palawan and CPP-NPA-Terrorists (CNTs) in Mindoro Island.

Despite these efforts, there are still some internal armed group-initiated violent incidents recorded in the region, which included arson of properties of private construction companies, harassment on both

civilians and government officials, and ambushes of law enforcement personnel.

The MIMAROPA region recorded a total of 506 surrendered rebels from 2017 to 2021. This could be attributed to the successful implementation of peacebuilding program by the government such as the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) which improved community access to socioeconomic interventions and strengthened community capacities to address conflict issues and peace and the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP), a national reintegration program for former rebels (FRs) aimed at achievement and realization of peaceful and permanent closure of all armed conflicts with the non-stage groups.

The MIMAROPA Regional Task Force (RTF) ELCAC identified 69 priority convergence areas in the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, and Palawan following the criteria specified in the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01-2019 on Executive Order No. 70, s. 2018. These 69 areas were prioritized by the national government in the provision of basic health and social services through the Local Government Support Fund-Support to Barangay Development Program (LGSF-SBDP).

Despite improvement in the number of surrendered rebels, the CTGs sustained their efforts to re-establish insurgent's influence. The IP communities in Mindoro Island remained the primary target of CTGs to recruit new members for their armed revolution. With the lack of awareness of the IPs on ancestral land issues and insufficient delivery of basic socioeconomic services, IP communities are prone and vulnerable to deceptions and radicalization.

The filing of cases against surrendered rebels in the province of Palawan is one of the emerging challenges in persuading CTGs to abandon the life of the armed revolution. With the resurfacing of former rebels, crimes in which they were formerly involved were also filed against them.

Public safety and security situation. MIMAROPA has sustained a generally peaceful, safe, and secure environment with the downtrend in crime incidents for the past years. The crime volume in MIMAROPA decreased by 26.84 percent from 6,252 in 2017 to 4,574 in 2021. The region's average monthly crime rate in 2021 decreased by 5.38 percentage points from 2017's 16.99 percent. Crimes that showed significant

decrease included carnapping, robbery, rape, and physical injuries.

The previous administration strengthened its law enforcement agencies through the aggressive implementation of anti-criminality operations against wanted persons and loose firearms. The fight against illegal drugs remained one of the top priorities of all concerned stakeholders in the region. As one of the root causes of criminality, concerned law enforcement agencies intensified their campaigns against production, selling, and use of illegal drugs. This remarkably decreased the number of illegal drug-affected barangays in the region.

The active participation of the community played an important role in ensuring security, public order, and safety. All barangays in MIMAROPA have established and maintained their Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPAT), Barangay Anti-Illegal Drug Abuse Councils (BADAC), and Barangay Information/Intelligence Networks (BIN). As the prime movers of the barangay peacekeeping operations, these community volunteers have been proactive in community policing, conflict resolution, and crisis management which included disaster mitigation.

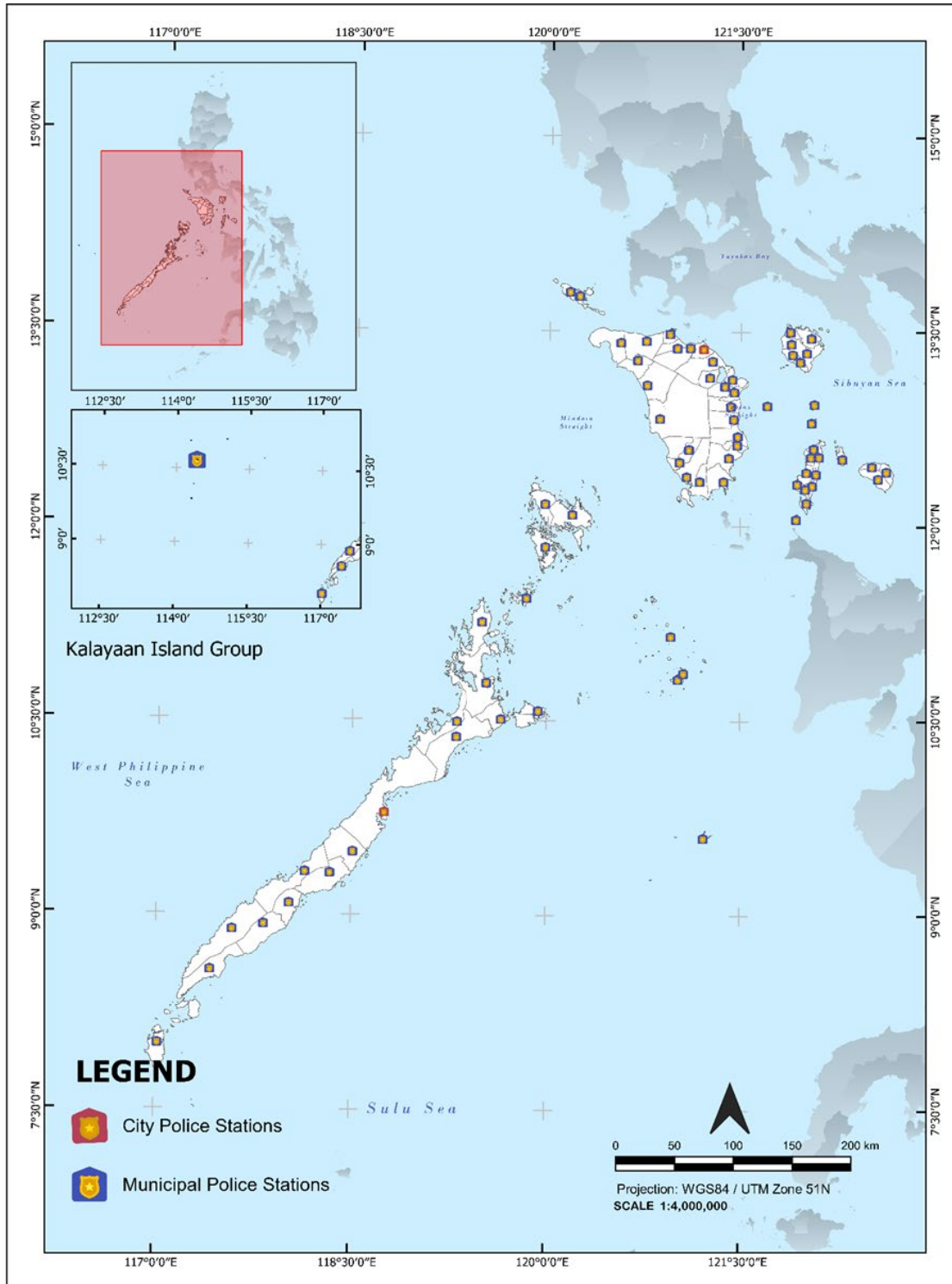
The implementation of strict community quarantine following the declaration of a national health emergency due to COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the decrease in criminality in the region. Community checkpoints and curfews were established in every barangay that limited the movement of people to mitigate and reduce the spread of the virus.

Natural and human-induced disasters have been affecting the social and economic condition of the region in the past years. Several typhoons such as Typhoon Rolly, Quinta, and Ulysses in 2019 and Typhoon Odette in 2021 severely affected the region, which left a total of 59 casualties and heavy damages to infrastructure, agriculture, and settlements. Mitigation efforts and interventions were established through strengthened coordination among Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) key players. LGUs were empowered in terms of disaster preparedness and response. In 2022, a total of 71 municipal police stations (MPS) and 2 city police stations were constructed, 18 evacuation centers were completed, 60 fire stations were established, and 128 fire trucks were procured. (Refer to Figure 14.1.1, 14.1.2, and 14.1.3 for the location map of municipal and city police stations, evacuation centers, and fire stations)

Maritime Situation in the West Philippine Sea. The West Philippine Sea (WPS) remained the primary fishing ground for majority of the fishermen in MIMAROPA, particularly

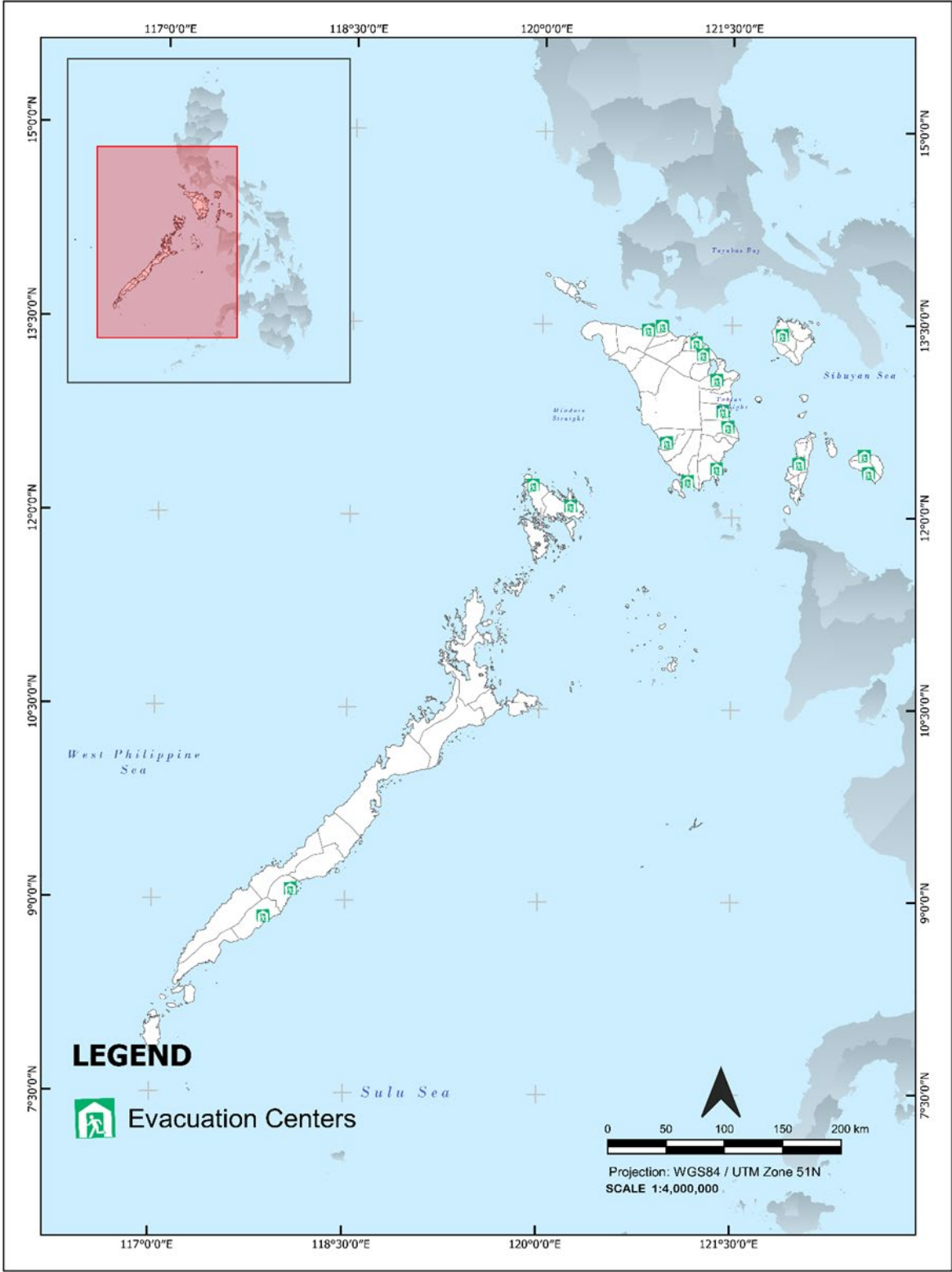
in the provinces of Palawan and Occidental Mindoro. The increasing tension in the WPS limited the fishing area and made fishing operation more dangerous.

Figure 14.1.1 Location of Municipal and City Police Stations, MIMAROPA, 2022



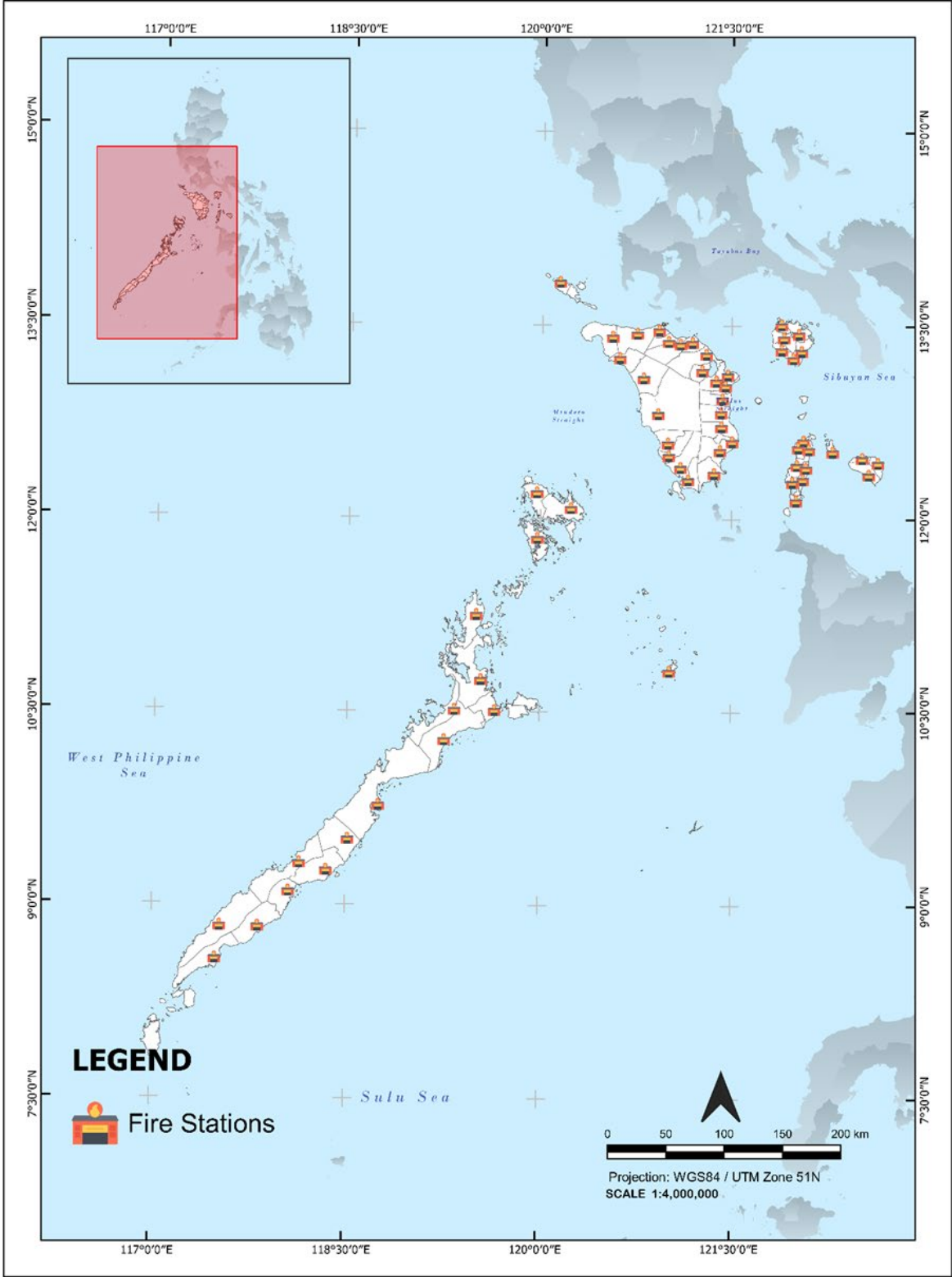
Source: Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Figure 14.1.2 Location of Evacuation Centers, MIMAROPA, 2022



Source: Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Figure 14.1.3 Location of Fire Stations, MIMAROPA, 2022



Source: Generated by NEDA MIMAROPA GIS Team (PFPD)

Table 14.1.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						END OF PLAN TARGET	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028			
100% of Barangay Development Program beneficiary-barangays provided with socioeconomic interventions achieved and maintained	2022	"78% 54 out of 69 priority barangay identified by RTF-ELCAC"	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	RTF ELCAC progress report	RTF-ELCAC, DILG
Zero communist terrorist groups (CTG) initiated violent incidents achieved and maintained	2021	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	AFP admin data	AFP
Zero insurgency-affected barangays achieved and maintained	2021	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	AFP admin data	AFP
100% barangays affected by internal armed conflict cleared	2021	99.38%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	AFP admin data	AFP
Average monthly index crime rate reduced (SDG Indicator)	2021	13.14%	12.50%	12.30%	12.10%	11.90%	11.70%	11.50%	11.30%	PNP crime statistic report	PNP
Percentage of families that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark increased (SDG Indicator)	2020	96.50%	96.90%	97.10%	97.30%	97.50%	97.70%	97.90%	98.10%	Annual Poverty Indicators Surveys (APIS)	PSA, PNP
100% drug-cleared barangays achieved and maintained	2021	1,332	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	PNP crime statistic report	PNP
Zero casualties due to natural disaster achieved and maintained	2021	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Situational Reports	OCD
Zero casualties due to human-induced disaster achieved and maintained	2021	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Situational Reports	OCD, AFP, PNP, BFP
Ideal police-to-population ratio achieved and maintained	2021	1:4,134	1:500	1:500	1:500	1:500	1:500	1:500	1:500	PNP admin data	PNP
Ideal firefighter to population ratio achieved and maintained	2022	1:2,910	1:2,000	1:2,000	1:2,000	1:2,000	1:2,000	1:2,000	1:2,000	BFP admin data	BFP

Sources: AFP, PNP, BFP, MIMAROPA RTF ELCAC, and 2021 MIMAROPA Regional Development Report

Strategies

Figure 14.1.4 outlines some of the strategies that will ensure attainment of peace and security in the MIMAROPA region.

Figure 14.1.4 Strategy Framework to Ensure Peace and Security



Conflict-affected/vulnerable areas protected and developed

Reintegrate rebel surrenderers into the community. To maintain the increasing number of surrendered rebels in the region, there is a need to develop a strategic communication plan to entice the members of armed threat groups to abandon the life of violence and return to civilian life. Local peace and order councils (POC) will be strengthened through the development of a de-radicalization program for conflict-affected communities.

To ensure reintegration of surrendered rebels into mainstream society and becoming productive members of their communities, the government shall continue and improve initiatives and interventions like E-CLIP that will provide surrendered rebels with equal opportunities to basic socioeconomic services and livelihood programs.

The government shall also embark on programs that will improve the capacity of social workers and other relevant government agencies in dealing with former combatants and child soldiers.

Strengthen community development for affected barangays. The government will continue the implementation of programs in barangays affected with armed conflicts such as LGSF-SBDP, particularly in the provinces of Oriental Mindoro, Occidental

Mindoro, and Palawan. Improved transport access in armed conflict areas through infrastructure connectivity projects such as farm-to-market roads and bridges will facilitate the movement of people and agricultural products to boost local economic activities.

Moreover, the government will provide conflict-affected communities with access to basic utilities like power connection, clean and safe drinking water, and internet connection that are vital to the improvement of general well-being.

Furthermore, empowerment of communities and continuing dialogues between and among peace stakeholders, local peace councils, and organized groups will be pursued along with the broad-based participation of the whole community in addressing the root cause of insurgencies and armed conflicts in the region.

Public safety and security ensured

Improve law enforcement and public safety facilities, equipment, and operability. To strengthen law enforcement capabilities, the government will embark on programs that will increase police presence in communities with the attainment of 1:500 police-to-population ratio. The PNP modernization program will continue to give stronger emphasis on professionalization, rights-based policing, and improved capability against

traditional and non-traditional security threats. The program will also provide communities with highly efficient, innovative, and competent police services. Likewise, LGUs will be enjoined to donate land for the construction of MPS and other law enforcement facilities in every municipality. Policing mechanism will be reinforced with the active participation of BPATs, BADACs, civil society organizations, and other community volunteers. The region shall invest on programs and projects that will increase the number of law enforcement personnel and infrastructure facilities, particularly in the Kalayaan Island Group. Philippine Coast Guard will strengthen its presence in the WPS to safeguard the region's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and provide support to fisherfolk.

Enhance anti-drug inter-agency cooperation. Strengthening the commitment of all concerned stakeholders to a holistic campaign against illegal drugs will definitely boost the approaches and interventions of the government. The region will support the institutionalization of the creation of Anti-Drug Abuse Councils. LGU will provide the corresponding budget allocation for the operations of the councils and the conduct of

other anti-illegal drug activities, among others. This will be reinforced with the implementation of Balay Silangan Program that aims to adopt the implementation of a family-based in-house reformation. The program will provide intervention, counselling, and livelihood with the objective of helping drug offenders to become productive and law abiding citizens are re-integrated into society.

Enhance community awareness of disaster risk reduction and management. To improve interventions and efforts in mitigating the impact of natural and human-induced disasters, there is a need to strengthen the institutional capacity of DRRM at the regional and local levels. Community participation shall be promoted by mainstreaming DRRM that will enable awareness on preparedness measures, impacts of particular disasters, as well as government's plans. There is also a need for more disaster response workers in government agencies and LGUs with advanced capacity and capability building on disaster preparedness and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR). Increasing the number of DRRM facilities, equipment, and facilities will also be prioritized.

Table 14.1.2 List of Major Programs and Projects

TITLE	PROVINCE/ CITY	INVESTMENT TARGET (PHP '000)						TOTAL 2023-2028 INVESTMENT TARGET (PHP '000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Communicating for Perpetual and End for Extreme Violence and Forming Alliance Towards Positive Peace and Enriched Communities (C4PEACE)	"Occ. Mindoro Or. Mindoro Palawan"		4,444.00					4,444.00
Enhanced Comprehensive Local Intergration Program (ECLIP)	"Occ. Mindoro Or. Mindoro Palawan"							
Implementation of Barangay Drug Clearing Program	Regionwide	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	2,100.00	12,600.00
Construction of Municipal Police Stations	Regionwide		44,730.00					44,730.00
Construction of WesCom Administrative Building, Barracks, and Water System	Palawan		105,000.00					105,000.00

Legislative Agenda

Table 14.1.3 Legislative Agenda to Ensure Peace and Security

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Anti-Drug Abuse Council Enabling Law/ Ordinances	<p>This will institutionalize the creation of Anti-Drug Abuse Councils in every local government unit in MIMAROPA. It will provide for the corresponding budget allocation for the operations of the Councils and the conduct of other anti-illegal drug activities, among others.</p> <p>Local ordinances creating/activating local anti-drug abuse councils will be pursued in the region. This will ensure that policies and programs relative to anti-drug abuse are mainstreamed and implemented at the local level.</p>	PDEA

Subchapter 14.2 Enhance Administration of Justice

This chapter provides a general assessment of the justice system in the region. Collaboration among relevant agencies is vital in order to build credibility and gain people's confidence. Digitalization of the justice system is also sought as the region adapts to the new normal brought about by the pandemic. Enhanced and expanded access to speedy and fair justice system is expected to minimize doubt and dissatisfaction. Living conditions of PDL inside the jails and correctional facilities are envisioned to improve as well.

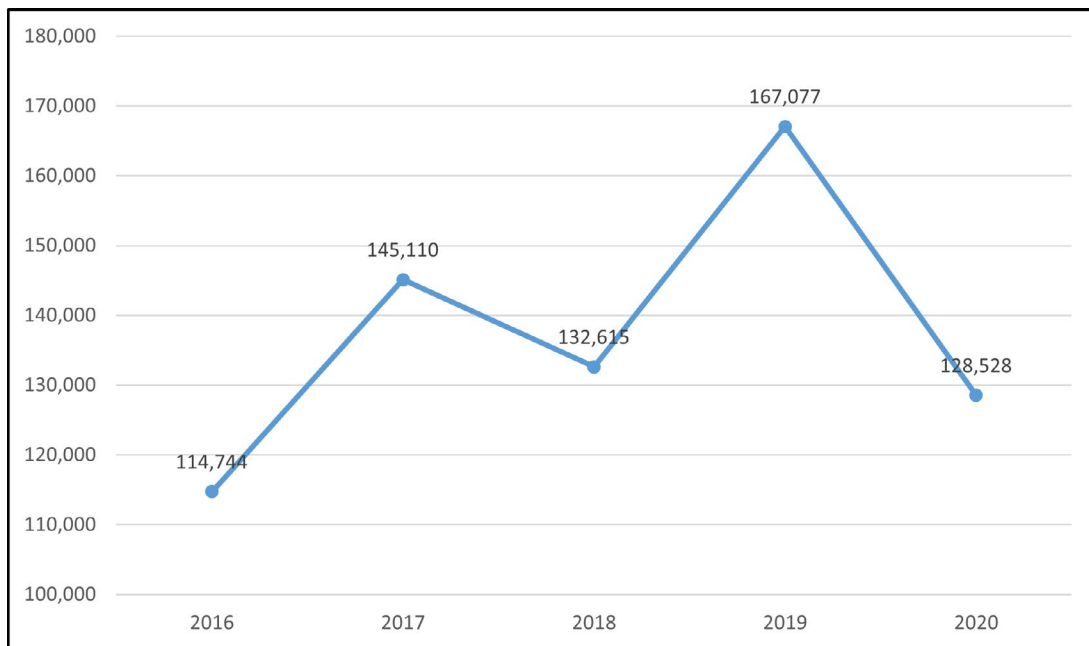
Assessment and Challenges

Improvement in people's access to speedy and fair administration of justice has been slow for the region. The number of indigent clients provided with legal assistance increased from 114,744 in 2016 to 128,528 in 2020. Despite more indigent clients that were provided with legal assistance, the

upward trend was observed until 2020 when the pandemic spread throughout the country. Those were either acquitted, benefitted from demurrer to evidence granted, benefitted from cases provisionally and permanently dismissed, granted probation, benefitted from motion to quash granted, released on recognizance, or released prisoners.

Aside from the COVID-19 pandemic, the region's unique geographical characteristics remained to be a challenge in accessing the judicial system.

Figure 14.2.1 Number of Indigent Clients Provided with Legal Assistance, MIMAROPA 2016-2020



Source: Public Attorney's Office (PAO) MIMAROPA

region's capacity to enhance the delivery of judicial services to MIMAROPAns was still hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. This scenario was also seen in the favorable disposition of cases where an

Being a region composed of island provinces and municipalities, some courts were unserved or closed due to their location and proximity from the town proper. This was coupled with the shortage of lawyers,

judges, prosecutors, evidence storage facilities, and paper-based documentation. These factors are also major contributors to case congestion in courts.

In 2022, the Supreme Court (SC) opted to do a remote bar examination to accommodate lawyer aspirants from different places while border restrictions are in place due to the pandemic. It recorded not only the highest turnout but also the highest passing rate ever with 72.28 percent (8,241 out of 11,402). Apart from this, process innovations by the justice system were also implemented to adapt to the new normal situation. Electronic or virtual consultations and even virtual hearings were done by the lawyers and prosecutors. On penology, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) implemented a virtual visitation system to avoid exposure of PDL in the region's jail and prison facilities to the pandemic.

In terms of penal administration, overcrowding in jail and prison facilities posed a challenge in preventing the PDL to be exposed from diseases like COVID-19.

As of September 2022, there are 19 BJMP-manned jails in the region, only one of which is a female dormitory. The 19 BJMP-manned jails are composed of 16 district jails, two city jails, and one municipal jail. In terms of correctional facilities, there are two facilities in the region, namely, Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm (PPF) in the municipality of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, and Iwahig PPF in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan.

All barangays in the region have established Lupong Tagapamayapa. However, the challenge is how to sustain and ensure that the local justice councils are able to attend to the concerns of their constituents.

The congestion rate in BJMP-manned jails in the region was recorded at 120 percent in September 2022. On the other hand, the BuCor recorded a 287 percent congestion rate in Iwahig PPF in Palawan and a 143 percent congestion rate in Sablayan PPF in Occidental Mindoro.

Welfare development programs are beneficial to PDL, as these help in their reformation and in the improvement of the way of living inside the jail and prison facilities. The following development programs were implemented in jails and prison facilities in MIMAROPA: a) livelihood; b) education; c) behavioral management; d) interfaith; e) culture and sports; f) paralegal services; g) health services; and, h) after-care programs.

On 26 May 2021, President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed the Height Equality Act or Republic Act No. 11546. The new landmark law lowers the height requirements to enter the uniformed services from five feet and four inches to five feet and two inches for males and five feet and two inches to five feet for females, including police, fire, and jail bureaus, to boost recruitment in the uniformed sector.

Generally, the COVID-19 pandemic rose to be the primary challenge for the justice sector in the region. Relevant agencies strived to adapt to the new normal by implementing digitalized programs and processes to ensure the continuity of delivery of services. To address possible issues arising from those innovations, interconnectivity and ICT infrastructure support in the region are necessary.

Targets

To attain an enhanced justice system in the region, core indicators which will be monitored annually were identified. MIMAROPA shall have enhanced access to the civil and criminal justice systems as well as the penal administration with an annual increase of 10 percent until 2028. There should be an increasing number of PDL who benefitted from welfare and development programs; public attorney-to-court ratio at 1:1; jail officer-to-PDL ratio at 1:7; and decreasing jail congestion rate. All barangays shall continue implementing their Lupong Tagapamayapa.

Figure 14.2.2 Location of Jail and Prison Facilities, MIMAROPA, 2022

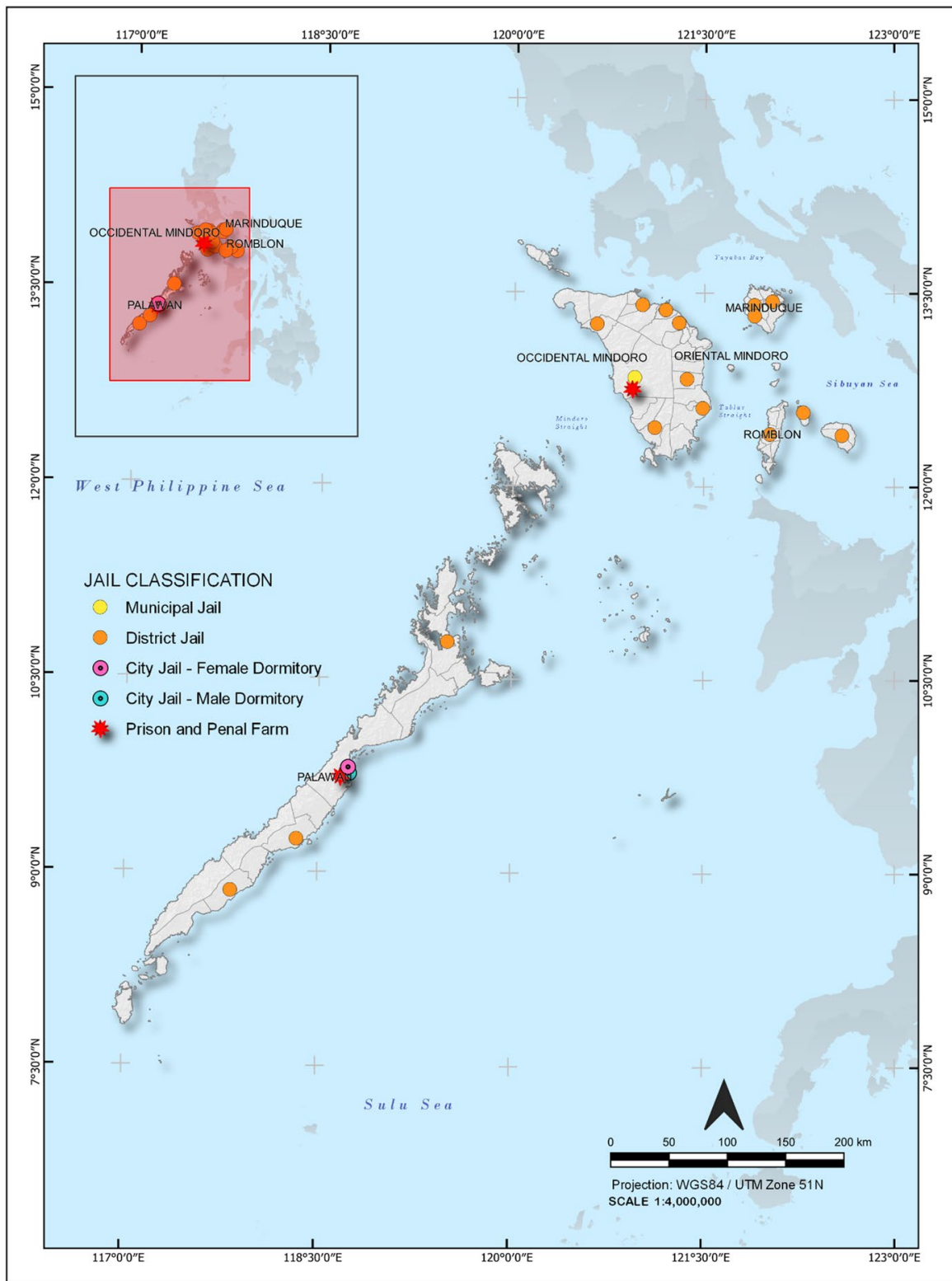


Table 14.2.1 Indicator Matrix

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS							MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
% Increase in the number of indigent clients provided with legal assistance grew at an annual rate of 10%	2020	[23.07%]	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	Agency Accomplishment Report	PAO MIMAROPA
% Increase in favorable disposition rate of cases grew at an annual rate of 10%	2020	[11.89%]	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	10% increase from previous year	Agency Accomplishment Report	PAO MIMAROPA
Ideal public attorney-to-court ratio achieved and maintained	2020	01:01.8	01:01.7	01:01.5	1:01	1:01	1:01	1:01	1:01	Agency Accomplishment Report	PAO MIMAROPA
Number of barangays with Lupong Tagapamayapa maintained	2021	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	Agency Accomplishment Report	DILG MIMAROPA
Number of PDL benefitted from welfare and development programs increased	2020	2,239	2,463	2,709	2,980	3,278	3,606	3,967	4,363	Agency Accomplishment Report	BJMP MIMAROPA, BuCor
Ideal jail officer-to- PDL's population ratio achieved and maintained	2020	1:12	1:10	1:07	1:07	1:07	1:07	1:07	1:07	Agency Accomplishment Report	BJMP MIMAROPA, BuCor
Jail congestion rate decreased at an annual rate of 10%	2020	123%(actual congestion rate)	10% decrease from previous year	10% decrease from previous year	10% decrease from previous year	10% decrease from previous year	10% decrease from previous year	10% decrease from previous year	10% decrease from previous year	Agency Accomplishment Report	BJMP MIMAROPA, BuCor

Sources: PAO MIMAROPA, DILG MIMAROPA, BJMP MIMAROPA, and BuCoR

Strategies

Figure 14.2.2 outlines the strategies that shall be pursued to enhance administration of justice and shows the following desired outcomes for the region: i) access to civil and criminal justice system enhanced and ii) penal management and administration improved.

Figure 14.2.3 Strategy Framework to Enhance Administration of Justice


Access to civil and criminal justice systems enhanced

Increase access to the justice/legal system. Programs that will widen the reach of the justice system shall be pursued. MIMAROPA region consists of island municipalities and provinces. Traveling to town proper and urban centers to process transactions including legal transactions can be troublesome in some areas in the region. The same goes for stakeholders in the judiciary like lawyers and judges who have difficulty in reaching isolated areas.

Given this, the region will pursue programs and projects that would address interconnectivity issues as well as availability measures such as the justice infrastructure program, which would establish justice hubs that house courts, legal aid clinics, and offices for prosecutors and public attorneys, police stations, and jail facilities. As an archipelagic region, setting up justice hubs would be beneficial as this would serve as a one-stop shop for all of the concerns relating to civil and criminal justice system in the region. The justice sector in the region will also pursue the establishment of Justice on Wheels Program. This would provide better access to legal aids and consultations in far-flung areas through mobile caravans. The expansion of PAO 24-hour hotline, e-warrant, and e-subpoena system of PNP shall also be intensified.

Enhance case disposition system. The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed the government to enhance its processes through digitalization. While courts started to implement virtual hearings and consultations, digitalization of its processes such as documentation of cases as well as storage of evidence will be improved. This can be achieved by the provision of infrastructure support for the establishment of storage facilities and the implementation of a central digitalized documentation system in the judiciary.

The region will also pursue measures to address fragmentation in the justice system and improve coordination and collaboration among justice sector stakeholders through the creation of a justice sector coordinating body, or Justice Zones, in the region. This institution shall be composed of the Department

of Justice (DOJ), DILG, Parole and Probation Administration (PPA), PNP, and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) as well as penal management institutions. The Justice Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC) plans to establish in Puerto Princesa City, the first Justice Zone in the region in 2023. The judiciary's human resource capacity shall be also improved. To support this, the recruitment of government lawyers will be made vigorous. The institutionalization of remote bar examinations to accommodate more qualified lawyer aspirants will be pursued. Strict implementation of the Judges-At-Large Act of 2019 or Republic Act No. 11459 will also be monitored.

Penal management and administration improved

Improve PDL's welfare and development. Continued implementation of welfare and development programs in jail and prison facilities in the region will be pursued. Penal institutions in the region will also pursue partnerships with state universities and colleges in the region to provide technical and vocational programs for the PDL. These programs will be evaluated and assessed for possible expansion and enhancement to address the pressing needs of PDL inside the jail and prison facilities.

On the other hand, infrastructure support will be pursued to address the overburdened jail and prison facilities in the region. Construction of additional jail and prison facilities in the region will be pushed. While there are existing jail and prison facilities, these will be assessed for rehabilitation and expansion. As the region pushes for more facilities, more personnel are needed to manage them. Recruitment of jail officers will be intensified as well as the modernization of their equipment and logistics.

To enhance penal operability, enabling policies or laws on the unification of the country's penology system is pursued. The unification aims to institutionalize the country's penology system under a Department of Corrections, which shall have direct management and supervision of jail and prison facilities in the country.

Legislative Agenda

The following policy reviews and legislative action shall be sought to enhance the administration of justice in the region.

Table 14.2.2 Legislative Agenda to Enhance Administration of Justice

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Justice Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC) enabling law	<p>This aims to recognize and institutionalize a government body for the coordination of justice sector.</p> <p>In MIMAROPA, the establishment of Justice Zone, a coordinating body or council, will be pursued in the region for the purpose of strengthening coordination among justice sector and penal institutions to address sectoral issues and concerns and establish a strong mechanism that will enhance the delivery of justice in the region.</p>	DOJ and DILG
Justice sector human resources rationalization	<p>This aims to create more positions in the justice sector alongside the creation of courts increasing number of prosecutors, public attorneys, and other justice sector positions that will address the workload and case congestion.</p> <p>Additional budgetary requirements will be pursued for the region for the creation of additional positions in the justice sector.</p>	DOJ, PAO
Expanded Katarungang Pambarangay	<p>This aims to evaluate the exemption of cases that may be brought before the Lupong Tagapamayapa.</p> <p>Local ordinances among cities, municipalities, and provinces will be passed in the region to evaluate and establish a mechanism that ensures the efficiency and effectiveness of barangay justice system in resolving cases at their level.</p> <p>Local ordinances among cities, municipalities, and provinces will be passed in the region to expand the responsibilities of existing Katarungang Pambarangay to include functions such as monitoring PDL post-incarceration or reintegration into the community.</p>	DILG
Unified Reintegration Strategy	<p>This aims to formulate a comprehensive reintegration program for PDL post-incarceration. This will include incentivization of private sector that will accept PDL as employees.</p> <p>Local ordinances among cities, municipalities, and provinces will be passed in the region to incentivize private sector/businesses that will accept PDL as employees.</p>	DOJ, BJMP, DTI, DOLE, and DSWD

15

**Practice Good Governance and
Improve Bureaucratic and
Regulatory Efficiency**

PRACTICE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND IMPROVE BUREAUCRATIC AND REGULATORY EFFICIENCY

Good governance plays a vital role to ensure people's trust in the system and administration, promote a harmonized society, and broaden opportunities for inclusive development. Services provided and decisions made by a civil servant must pursue economic interests and answer to what benefits the public. Sectors needing the most attention should be provided adequate resources for sustenance while maintaining general accessibility to the government's programs and projects. Its goal is to deliver equitably and be within reach even to the most unfortunate. As a result, citizens' participation towards achieving societal goals is boosted, as well as their compliance with laws and regulations and willingness to pay correct taxes.

Where efficient administration of responsibilities exists, public trust and cooperation subsist. This chapter discusses strategies to encourage participatory governance, ensure a trustworthy and responsive system by engaging both the citizens and government, provide enabling mechanisms to enhance delivery of public services, and improve regulatory efficiency and competitiveness.

Assessment and Challenges

Good Governance

Full Disclosure Policy (FDP). The DILG MIMAROPA 2022 Annual Report showed that out of 78 LGUs in the region, 69 are already compliant with the full disclosure of local budget and finances, and bids and public offerings. The province of Palawan had 15 out of 24 LGUs (62.5 percent) compliant with FDP, while the rest of the provinces achieved 100 percent. As a tool for promoting accountability and transparency, the FDP (DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2010-083) requires LGUs to fully disclose particular financial documents to inform the public on how the budget is disbursed and managed.

Seal of Good Local Governance. MIMAROPA is on a continuing commitment to progress and improve the region's overall performance. In 2022, six municipalities were awarded the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), entitling them to

performance challenge fund (PCF). The PCF is the SGLG incentive fund to be used in financing local development initiatives in pursuance of national goals. LGUs must strive harder to pass all ten governance criteria: (i) financial administration and sustainability; (ii) disaster preparedness; (iii) social protection and sensitivity; (iv) health compliance and responsiveness; (v) sustainable education; (vi) business-friendliness and competitiveness; (vii) safety peace and order; (viii) environmental management; (ix) tourism, heritage development, culture and arts; and (x) youth development.

Development Councils and Plans. Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that NGOs representation in local development councils (LDC) shall constitute not less than 25% of its members. In 2021, 74 LGUs are compliant but the

RDP target of 78 was not met. In 2020, the region recorded 71 functional municipal development councils (MDCs) and five functional provincial development councils (PDCs) both led by the local chief executives. The challenge continues for the whole region, both in complying with what the law provides, and maintaining functionality of the LDCs.

Meanwhile, 66 LGUs have updated their comprehensive development plans (CDP) as per DILG MIMAROPA records. The remaining seven, one from Oriental Mindoro and six from Palawan, are still updating their CDPs.

Regional Government Center (RGC). The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10879, otherwise known as the MIMAROPA Act, identified Calapan City as the regional center. Regional government centers aim to foster the efficient delivery of government services, and to strengthen collaboration and coordination among government agencies. Fifty-one possible agency regional offices (ARO) as locators are in the proposed RGC as envisioned in the Indicative RGC Master Plan and Architectural Schematics. As of 2021, a total of 19 AROs have already fully transferred, while seven have satellite offices in the city.

Full Devolution. In 2021, all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays in MIMAROPA have created a devolution transition committee. Meanwhile, all municipalities in Marinduque and all barangays in Marinduque and Romblon have submitted their devolution transition plan (DTP). These are all monitored by DILG MIMAROPA in support of Executive Order No. 138 or the Full Devolution Program, which aims to strengthen the autonomy and empowerment of LGUs, support decentralization and increase the just share of LGUs in the collection of national taxes.

Digital Transformation. Internet services in remote and unserved areas empower the citizenry through their participation in the global digital economy. In 2021, the region through the DICT, intensified the implementation of connectivity programs to achieve more inclusive ICT access. Critical roadmaps and programs towards the development of ICT have been taking root in the region. These include the implementation of the Free Wi-Fi access in public areas and the NBP.

Additional digital infrastructures were established, and various ICT projects were implemented in the region to cope with the needs that the new normal

has brought. The region has established 139 active free Wi-Fi sites utilized in state universities and colleges, public elementary and high schools, hospitals, ports, municipal plazas, and LGUs' town/municipal hall in 2021.

The Government Network project was integrated with the NBP as it aims to interconnect government agencies to provide fast, secure, and efficient fiber connectivity, and improve provision of public services to people. In MIMAROPA, National Government Agencies (NGAs) and LGUs with online presence using the government web template (GWT) and government web hosting services (GWHS) include the municipalities of Sta. Fe and San Andres in Romblon, municipality of Socorro in Oriental Mindoro, Provincial Government of Marinduque, NTC MIMAROPA, and NEDA MIMAROPA.

Republic Act No. 11055 also known as the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) Act mandated the PSA as the implementing agency to establish a single national identification system for citizens and residents. As of December 2021, MIMAROPA recorded a total of 1.2M registered residents/citizens in the PhilSys ID, which is about 77.6% of the total targeted population. Strengthening PSA's PhilSys program will also help in accelerating the digital transformation in the region.

Competitiveness and Effectiveness

Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI). CMCI is the annual ranking of the country's cities and municipalities developed by the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) through the Regional Competitiveness Councils (RCCs) with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development. Rankings are based on the sum of scores based on five pillars: (i) economic dynamism; (ii) government efficiency; (iii) infrastructure; (iv) resiliency; and (v) innovation. A total of 77 LGUs from the region participated in the recently concluded 10th CMCI on October 20, 2022 wherein Calapan City was hailed as the 5th Overall Most Competitive Component City, topped the government efficiency and resiliency pillars, and fourth in the infrastructure sector. The city also improved its ranking by five steps from 10th in 2021. For provinces, Marinduque ranked 19th and is the highest among all the provinces in the region. Puerto Princesa ranked 18th in 2022 and improved one step higher than its 2021 ranking in the highly urbanized cities (HUC) category.

Targets

Table 15.1 Indicator Matrix: Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic and Regulatory Efficiency

INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						END-OF-PLAN TARGET	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
100% LGUs compliant with 25% or more NGO representation in LDCs achieved and maintained	2020	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100% (78)	DILG
100% functional MDCs/CDCs achieved and maintained	2020	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	DILG
Number of functional PDCs maintained	2020	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	DILG
Number of LGUs with updated CDPs increased	2021	66 -90%	68 -93%	68 -93%	70 -96%	70 -96%	73 100%	73 100%	73 -100%	DILG
Number of RGOs in Calapan City increased	2021	19	23	25	27	29	31	33	33	RGCMC
a. Fully transferred										
b. Satellite office	2021	7	9	11	13	15	17	19	19	
100% LGUs with established iBPLS achieved and maintained	2021	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	DILG
Number of LGUs that have adopted BPCO system for processing construction-related permits increased	2022	33	40	45	50	55	65	73	73	DILG
Number of LGUs conferred with the Seal of Good Local Governance increased	2022	6	10	15	20	25	30	35	35	DILG
100% LGUs compliant to full disclosure policy achieved and maintained	2022	88%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	DILG
Number of LGUs with improved CMCI ranking increased	2022	41	55	63	70	78	78	78	78	DTI

Sources: DILG MIMAROPA, and RGCMC

Fourteen LGUs improved their CMCI ranking for the Most Improved 1st to 2nd Class Municipalities with Occidental Mindoro improving a total of 219 steps from 420th in 2021 to 201st in 2022. San Jose, Occidental Mindoro ranked 22nd in the category, and is the highest rank in the region. On the other hand, 16 LGUs improved in their ranking for Most Improved 3rd to 4th Class Municipalities. Pola, Oriental Mindoro had the highest improvement at 576th in 2021 and 293rd in 2022. Mogpog, Marinduque at 53rd earned the highest rank in MIMAROPA. Cagayancillo, Palawan improved 137 steps from 287th in 2021 to 150th in 2022 in the Most Improved 5th to 6th Class Municipalities. Ten LGUs performed better in this category while Santa Fe, Romblon remained at 126th. Looc, Occidental Mindoro ranked the highest in MIMAROPA for this category at 39th overall.

Ease of Doing Business (EODB). EODB aims to simplify and streamline government procedures to

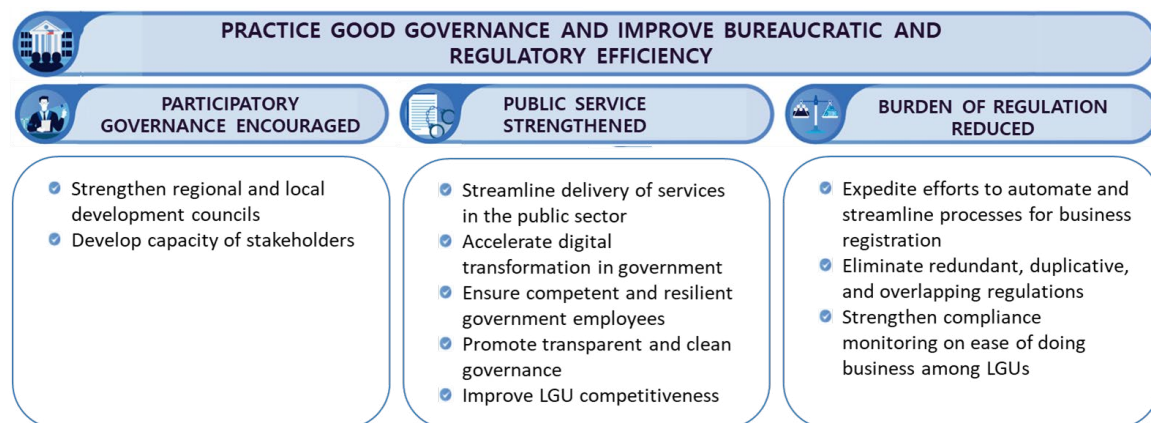
reduce red tape, expedite government transactions and lessen repetitive and non-value-adding processes which are key toward enhancing the competitiveness of the region.

In relation to the government's goal of improving the business climate and promoting efficiency and effectiveness in business registration and service delivery of LGUs, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), DILG, DICT, and DTI Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2021-01 regarding the guidelines for processing business permits, related clearances and licenses in all cities and municipalities was issued. A total of 72 LGUs were compliant with said guidelines in 2021. A 100 percent compliance is expected in the coming years.

Meanwhile, 33 LGUs were compliant with the amended JMC No. 2021-01, which set service standards and streamlines the processing of construction-related permits.

Strategies

Figure 15.1 Strategy Framework to Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic and Regulatory Efficiency



Participatory governance encouraged

Strengthen local and regional development councils

Strengthening Committees. Multi-sectoral and interagency bodies at subnational and local levels provide venue to facilitate problem-solving and interventions to address them. There are existing various interagency bodies in the region and local level such as Regional Development Committee (RDCOM), Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC), RTF ELCAC, among others which must be strengthened through active participation of the members and other representatives. The issuance of Executive Order No. 70 or whole of nation/society approach provide guidance to strengthen the existing bodies including the RDCs for effective governance, socioeconomic development, and delivery of services.

Establishment of Regional Government Center. The establishment of the MIMAROPA RGC will streamline the RLAs' operations, reduce costs in providing services in the region and expedite government-to-business and government-to-citizen transactions. The accessibility of regional offices will provide better services to LGUs in MIMAROPA provinces and the private sector. The coordination and implementation of interagency development programs/projects will be more responsive to the needs of the people with additional revenues to the regional offices. As of 2022, the ongoing backfilling and construction of the RGC perimeter fence, with 30% physical accomplishment.

There are also other concerns about the creation of some government offices for the region. The Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), among others, are serving both the MIMAROPA and CALABARZON regions, which limits their full efficiency in providing region-focused but inclusive efforts in service delivery. Dividing said agencies into separate regional offices will be beneficial to the establishment of the RGC due to the geographical location of its constituent provinces and pursuant to Executive Order No. 103, s. 2002, which aims to further accelerate the social and economic development of the provinces and cities comprising each administrative region.

Implementation of the Full Devolution Program. LGUs' implementation of EO No. 138, s. 2021 through their respective DTPs and updating of said plans, when necessary, will be monitored and guided by committees and government agencies concerned. Assessments of LGUs' compliance and readiness using different tools will be given emphasis by the government. The region will continue to provide its usual support through capacity building and enhancement activities to facilitate decentralization, devolution and delineation of functions.

Moreover, the region will fully commit to developing LGUs' capability to deliver services and provide facilities and promoting local economic growth while capacitating leaders who will be accountable, competent and transparent.

Revisiting the Indigenous People Mandatory Representative (IPMR) Guidelines for Indigenous Peoples'/Indigenous Cultural Communities' (IPs/ICCs) Inclusivity and Full Participation. Section 16 of Republic Act No. 8371 (The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997) provides that the ICCs/IPs have the right to participate fully, if they so choose, at all levels of decision-making which may affect their rights, lives, destinies and their own indigenous political structures. Consequently, the state will ensure that the ICCs/IPs be given mandatory representation in policy-making bodies and other local legislative councils.

The indigenous groups living in the region face the challenge of culture preservation and appreciation during this modern age. According to a representative from a private sector organization, some LGUs fail to recognize their right to participate in LDCs. The region must focus on the challenges and gaps identified and must consider pushing for stronger and further amendments in the guidelines to help easily and effectively address the issues, needs and problems that the IPs are facing.

Develop capacity of stakeholders

Capacity building and technical assistance on the formulation of CDPs, comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs), and provincial development and physical framework plans (PDPFPs). LDCs and government units are tasked to craft their

own comprehensive plans aimed at establishing an economically transformed government.

The CDPs, CLUPs, and PDPFPs of the LGUs are prepared and updated to represent their vision, sectoral goals, objectives, development strategies, and policies within both the medium and the long term. Guidance on the formulation and updating of these plans is issued by DILG, DHSUD, and other government agencies.

Continuous training, technical assistance, seminars/webinars, and the like, by concerned agencies and officials will ensure that plans are formulated and updated following the applicable systems and tools provided by the national government. The regional government bodies will extend support and guidance to local levels in devising their comprehensive, physical framework, and land use plans.

Capacity Building for IPMRs. The IPMR initiative is being carried out by NCIP in collaboration with ICC and IPs through its Indigenous Political Structures (IPS). Their collaborative goal is to increase the number of cities, municipalities, provinces, and barangays that will implement IPMR.

For effective and full participation of the IPMRs, they will be provided with sufficient training and skills which focus on planning and project development, monitoring, and evaluation. With this, their representation in the local development councils will be more recognized and can effectively address the issues and needs of the IP community.

Support DILG MIMAROPA's Capacity Development Programs. MIMAROPA explored different platforms of communication and skills enhancement programs for continued government service during the pandemic. The challenges and difficulties faced through these times brought slow and minimal growth to the whole region and the individuals. The need to improve and strengthen existing skills and resources has become a priority. DILG MIMAROPA initiated various capacity development programs on public accountability, local development planning/full devolution, ease of doing business, peace and order and COVID-19 related activities and projects in 2021. Massive support from different government agencies and NGOs for the planned capacity building and technical assistance programs through funding, mainstreaming and collaboration will be sustained and promoted.

Capacity Building for Private Sector Representatives (PSRs). As mandated by Article X, Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, and provided by Executive Order No. 325, s. 1996 which reorganized the RDCs, PSRs, will be involved in the coordination, integration and review of approved development plans of LGUs, RLAs, SUCs, and other government bodies into the regional development plan. It is noteworthy that PSRs will be provided with similar capacity building such as development planning, project development, monitoring, and evaluation that were provided to government personnel for effective participation in carrying out the functions of the RDC. When necessary, sector focused trainings will also be promoted to ensure that PSRs are fully capable and adept to the area they represent.

Mainstream and promote public awareness on government's mechanisms to intensify citizen's feedback and response. Existing mechanisms such as ARTA Report Card Survey of the CSC, the Citizen Satisfaction Survey conducted by the DILG, the Citizen Participatory Audit Program implemented by the COA, and the electronic Freedom of Information (eFOI) will be sustained and furthered. Mainstreaming and promoting public awareness of these mechanisms and its results will intensify the response and feedback process between the government and the public, thus ensuring transparency and accountability.

Public service strengthened

Streamline delivery of services in public sectors

Inclusion/Identification of services offered by government agencies in their official websites and citizen's charters. To promote efficiency and to streamline the delivery of government services, agencies will specify and indicate all services offered by their office. This will help clients and stakeholders to simplify their transactions through easy identification and faster access to services offered by different agencies. Updating of agencies' official websites and the inclusion of processes per varying transaction and the expected time to deliver each step through the citizen's charter will be monitored.

Integration of Philippine National ID System to

existing government systems and services for easier access of Resident and Non-Resident Citizens/Overseas Filipinos. PhilSys aims to provide valid proof of identity to simplify public and private transactions, promote seamless delivery of service and strengthen financial inclusion of private and public services. When fully implemented, delivery and access to services would lead to contactless, paperless, cashless and digitalized transactions will accelerate the coordination between and among government agencies will be improved.

Integration/Adoption of the ISO Quality Management System as a standard process guide for the delivery of services. Quality management system (QMS) is a formalized system, process, documentation and procedure in delivering goods and services to its client. It helps coordinate and direct an organization's activities to meet customer and regulatory requirements and improve its effectiveness and efficiency on a continuous basis. Following the requirements of the QMS, government agencies will be able to streamline and organize their processes and improve prescribed processing time for a satisfactory delivery of service. Agencies that are already ISO certified will post their certifications on their respective websites for proper monitoring and compliance with government transparency.

Accelerate digital transformation in the government

Fast-track Implementation of the Free Internet Access Program. Investments in expanding, upgrading and modernizing ICT infrastructures will be deployed, and internet connectivity in the whole region will be improved to support uninterrupted and fast private and public transactions. While doing so, the regions' rural, far-flung, and geographically challenged areas must be prioritized. It is also important to note the inclusion of IPs who live in remote areas in the implementation of Republic Act No. 10929 as support for the IPs education, communication, employment, and access to available government services. Through improved and affordable internet connectivity in the region, given its geographical condition, the digital divide will also be addressed.

Encourage use of e-payment platforms for government services and transactions. Maximizing the use of e-payment platforms will bring advantages to both the government and the people they serve. As

part of the transition to digital economy, e-payment platforms, online filing and payment of taxes and full utilization of government applications and online sites will be pushed. The DICT MIMAROPA will spearhead the technical assistance required for the government agencies on these opportunities. The public will be familiarized and updated with the current ways to avail the service needed while ensuring security and safety of private information and financial resources and accesses.

Participation of MIMAROPA LGUs in the Digital Governance Awards (DGA) will also be encouraged. The DGA recognizes LGUs' efforts and best practices in utilizing ICT in delivering government services effectively and efficiently. There are five categories in DGA, namely: G2G (Best in LGU Empowerment Award), G2I (Best in Government Internal Process Award), G2C (Best in Customer Empowerment Award), G2B (Best in Business Empowerment Award), and G2P (Best in Covid-19 Response Award).

Ensure competent and resilient government employees

Conduct of training for Human Resource Development. Professionalization and capacitating development among government employees through training, workshops, seminars and scholarship opportunities are investments that will be constantly monitored in the region. Overall assessment of needs and skills required will be done regularly to know which area of human resources needs improvement and furtherance. Every LGU will have an active and responsive human resource unit to bridge employees' needs. Further, coordination with, and reinforcement of the organizations' support to the goals of the HR unit will be practiced. Foreign or local scholarships and training programs will be fully utilized through nominations of respective supervisors and qualified personnel. It would also benefit government employees when individual development plans (IDPs) are prepared and assess their strengths and weaknesses for appropriate training needs that could lead to the full potential of each human capital.

Gender and Development Planning and Budgeting. MIMAROPA envisions just and fair treatment of its citizens. Through the Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC), existing mechanisms such as capacity building activities and technical assistance will be furthered to ensure

that the government agencies and LGUs align their budget and programs with promoting Gender and Development (GAD) advocacies of the region. These includes conduct of region-wide training and workshop on gender mainstreaming in the formulation, updating and assessment of regional, sectoral development policies, plans and programs using gender analysis tools (i.e., Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines Checklist on Development Planning, among others) and conduct of consultation meetings and workshops on integrating GAD on Technical Budget Review (TBR) Forms and in the conduct of TBR activities.

Promote transparent and clean governance

Creation of Internal Audit Service/Unit in LGUs.

The establishment of Internal audit services/units and creation of plantilla positions for said unit in LGUs will result in a clean and trustworthy administration. This unit will determine the degree of compliance within the set standards, review of financial management records and reports, evaluate management deficiencies and recommend actions to improve the operation and delivery of services. The LGUs' accountability will be more established in the public's view since internal audit revolves around impartiality, objectivity, integrity and independence. Moreover, this could serve as a preventive and detective control and mechanism for LGUs because audit recommendations are easily available and could answer to current management discrepancies before the external auditing body or the Commission on Audit (COA) finds these.

Seal of Good Local Governance. LGUs are continually encouraged to enhance their performance and service delivery through their participation in the SGLG to ensure that local government policies are align with regional, national, and international frameworks for good governance, particularly those pertaining to local government responsibilities. The SGLG is a progressive assessment system that recognizes LGUs for their outstanding performance over a number of years. It pushes for an efficient, effective, transparent, and accountable service delivery.

Functionality of Local Project Monitoring Committees (LPMCs). LPMCs were created in the region to facilitate the implementation of ongoing and critical projects. The committees were

established through Memorandum Order No. 175, s. 1998, and aimed to operationalize and implement the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES) at the provincial, city, and municipal levels. The DILG MIMAROPA, with assistance from the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) and Provincial Planning and Development Offices (PPDOs) identified indicators and parameters to determine the functionality of LPMCs. The indicators include LPMC organization, trainings attended, Field Monitoring Visits (FMVs), preparation of work Program, and implementation and reporting. The DILG will regularly monitor said indicators to assess the functionality of LPMCs which will be mandated through issuance and implementation of guidelines from responsible agencies.

Improve LGU competitiveness

Rewards and Incentive Program. Special recognitions, rewards and/or incentives will be given to LGUs who showcased improvement in their ranking in the CMCI. This will encourage greater participation among LGUs and a reminder to further their efforts. CMCI itself is a comprehensive tool for LGUs to assess in what sector they are lacking. To compensate LGUs who participated but did not improve in their rankings, agencies concerned will provide technical assistance especially in the areas where the LGUs got the lowest scores.

The PCF, as performance based LGU incentives or awards system, supports DILG's banner campaign on transparency, accountability, and good local governance. Further, PCF raises the standard for excellence to be eligible for the incentive funding for local development projects, which aids in the Department's campaign to encourage continual improvement in the performance of LGUs.

Burden of regulation reduced

Expedite efforts to automate and streamline processes for business registration

As a key directive to support the implementation of the Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 (EODB-EGSD), LGUs will

shift to the use of the Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System (iBPLS). The region will fully utilize the software to enable the online processing of business permits, building permits, certificate of occupancy, barangay clearance, and other related licenses, clearances, permits, certifications or authorizations. This will ensure a fast and efficient LGU permitting process and eradicate the red tape in LGU transactions.

Integration of the issuance of barangay clearance in the permitting processes of cities and municipalities, as per DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2019-177, will be monitored. The differing roles and responsibilities of the cities, municipalities and barangays in full compliance of said circular will be highly observed.

Eliminate redundant, duplicative, and overlapping regulations

The region will fully utilize the Regulatory Reform for LGUs Information System (RR4LGUsIS) to retrieve information and cross-reference various and existing regulations. RR4LGUsIS is a web-based application that serves as a database of policies, issuances, and regulations that still exist and which have been amended, repealed, and consolidated. This will help LGUs easily identify redundant, duplicative and overlapping processes. Further, MIMAROPA LGUs will automate procedures, shift to paperless transactions and enhance efficiency in business registration processes.

Following the Guidelines on the Regulatory Reform for LGUs pursuant to EODB-EGSD (DILG-ARTA JMC No. 2019-01), MIMAROPA, through its established Regulatory Reform Teams, will encourage public participation through consultation of the regulatory reform process and lower the cost of transactions in business compliance. Reasonable regulatory fees will be based on the actual costs incurred by the government in providing services.

Strengthen compliance monitoring on Ease of Doing Business among LGUs

In 2021, DILG-MIMAROPA monitored LGU's implementation of the RA No. 11032 and its underlying programs, projects and activities (PPAs). Through the DILG BPLS/BPCO Online Monitoring System, LGUs' compliance, readiness, and capability to streamline business processes will be regularly monitored and reported.

Capacity building activities and technical support will be continuously provided by the DILG MIMAROPA to enable LGUs to reach the standards set by the law and to maintain the optimal increase in the compliance targets.

Table 15.2 List of Major Programs and Projects

TITLE	PROVINCE/ CITY	INVESTMENT TARGET (PHP '000)						TOTAL PROJECT COST ('000)
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Establishment of agency regional government offices in Calapan City	Calapan City							TBD
Seal of Good Local Governance	Regionwide		150,000					150,000
Capacity Development for Human Resource (Technical and Administrative Personnel) based on the Individual Development Plan (IDP)	Regionwide		2,500	3000	3500	4000	4500	19,500
Local Governance Resource Center (LGRC) Strengthening Activities	Regionwide		1,100	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,500	7,500

Source: Regional Development Investment Program 2023-2028 – DILG MIMAROPA

Legislative Agenda

Support to government programs and policies in the form of advocacy activities is significant to achieve national and regional development goals. Enactment of bills and implementation thereof contribute to inclusive growth and harmonization of systems. The agenda presented below represents the need to adapt to changes and the institutionalization of reforms to help the people and the country itself.

Table 15.3 Legislative Agenda to Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic and Regulatory Efficiency

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Implementation of enabling law/s for sectoral representation in the local development councils	Mandate sectoral representation to pursue the interest of different sectors and promote decentralization and participation in local governance. This will strengthen the participation of various sectors, particularly the private sector, in the local government bodies as well as in the MIMAROPA Regional Development Council, which are the key players in the socioeconomic development of the region.	DILG/RDC
Revisiting IPRA and IPMR guidelines on the representation of IPs/ICCs in the local development councils	Intensify inclusivity and recognition of Indigenous People in the local development councils especially in the LGUs in the region where IP mandatory representation is not yet recognized.	NCIP
Creation of Human Resource and Management Offices (HRMO) in LGUs	Establish HRMOs and delegate all human resource related processes and accountability in the office. Local government units in the region that need HRMO include San Teodoro, Naujan, Bulalacao, Mansalay, Victoria, Bongabong and Roxas.	DILG/DBM

16

**Accelerate Climate Action
and Strengthen Disaster
Resilience**

ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION AND STRENGTHEN DISASTER RESILIENCE

Natural disasters and climate change are issues of great concern not only in the Philippines but globally due to their economic, environmental, and social impact. The archipelagic characteristic of MIMAROPA positioned the region's prime assets (e.g., people's lives, properties, and the environment, among others) at a disadvantage to the combined effects of continued temperature increases, changes in rainfall pattern, sea level rise, and typhoon occurrences. Thus, the region is one of the most vulnerable to these hazards.

The enactment of Republic Act No. 10121 otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 has laid the basis for a paradigm shift from just disaster preparedness and response to disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). Moreover, the Climate Change Act of 2009 mandated the local government units to be at the forefront in planning and implementing climate change actions plans in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

This chapter focuses on accelerating climate action and strengthening disaster resilience of communities, institutions, and the natural and built environment at the regional and local level through strengthened partnership and coordination among all key players and stakeholders.

Assessment and Challenges

Vulnerability to natural hazards. Due to its geographic location, MIMAROPA is susceptible to all types of natural hazards (e.g., hydrometeorological and geological hazards). With climate change, the region has also been experiencing extreme weather conditions. The observed annual mean temperature from the six synoptic stations located in Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro; Coron, Cuyo, and Puerto Princesa City in Palawan; Romblon in Romblon; and San Jose in Occidental Mindoro) showed 0.05°C increase from 2015-2020. Based on climate projections by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) for 2020 and 2050, all areas in the Philippines will get warmer, with the largest increase in temperatures in summer, during the months of March, April, and May (MAM). Mean temperatures in all areas in the Philippines are expected to rise by 1.8 °C to 2.2 °C in 2050.

Heating of the climate system has caused global mean sea level rise through ice loss on land and thermal expansion from ocean warming. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report, the global mean sea level increased by 0.20 m (0.15 to 0.25) m between 1901 and 2018. Relative to 1995–2014 data, the likely global mean sea level rise by 2100 is 0.44–0.76m under the intermediate GHG emissions scenario (SSP2-4.5); and 0.63–1.01m under the very high GHG emissions scenario (SSP5-8.5). Such projected increase in sea level might worsen storm surge hazards, particularly in coastal communities, which MIMAROPA is predominantly composed of.

Increasing trend in the amount of annual rainfall was observed in Coron and Cuyo in Palawan; and San Jose in Occidental Mindoro from 2015-2020. Climate projections further indicate a reduction in rainfall in most parts of the country during the summer season in March, April, and May (MAM) while there will likely be an increase in rainfall during the southwest monsoon season in June, July,

and August (JJA) until the transition months of September, October, and November (SON) in most areas of Luzon and Visayas.

The extreme changes in weather and climate pattern may result in intense droughts, water scarcity, flooding, and loss in biodiversity.

Among all the meteorological disasters, typhoons impose the biggest threats to human lives and urban development not only because of its high frequency of occurrence and destructive power, but also due to other typhoon-induced hazards, such as flooding caused by storm surges and heavy rainfall. In the past two years alone, four typhoons have caused major destruction in the region. The total damages and losses brought by Typhoons Quinta, Rolly, Ulysses, and Odette were recorded at Php 8.58 billion and Php 9.90 billion, respectively. The recent onslaught of Typhoon Odette left 118,276 families and 395,433 individuals affected, including 31 casualties wherein 25 individuals died, four went missing, and two were injured.

Mechanisms to address climate and disaster risks are in place but efforts need to be sustained.

100 percent or all provinces in the region have established Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Offices (PDRRMOs). Further, 100 percent compliance rate of local government units (LGUs) in MIMAROPA with Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAPs) as well as completed/updated local disaster risk reduction and management plans (LDRRMPs) were recorded. Said plans detail the LGUs' strategies for enhancing their capacities to respond to the impacts of climate change, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. On the other hand, based on cumulative data from 2016-2021, a total of 61 cities/municipalities or 78 percent of LGUs have been assessed for vulnerability and risk. All city/municipalities in Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro have been assessed.

LGUs are constrained by limited budget, resources, and workforce to implement priority programs and projects on DRRM and CCA. Limited resources result to lack of DRRM/CCA resilient infrastructure. Inadequate early warning systems (EWS) in LGUs were also observed in the region. The

presence of EWS to address disaster risks is crucial to strengthening disaster resilience and the adaptive capacity of communities. Only 30 LGUs or about 38 percent have their operating early warning systems. Meanwhile, some LGUs in the region only have posters as their EWS. LGUs shall establish additional EWS and/or enhance the existing EWS to strengthen disaster preparedness.

Lack of public and community awareness on climate change and disaster risks. The need to increase the level of awareness and preparedness of the public on the impacts of climate change and hazards, especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) cannot be overemphasized. In most cases, people and communities are vulnerable to disasters due to lack of information about these hazards; how to prepare for them; and how to reduce the risks of the hazards affecting their lives and livelihoods. Moreover, the lack of CCA and DRR-related research and information in the region hinders the decision-makers in implementing effective policies and decisions in terms of managing disaster risks and implementing appropriate climate change adaptation strategies.

Low compliance of MIMAROPA LGUs in Local Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET).

The Climate Change Commission (CCC), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) put into effect the tagging of climate change-related programs/projects/activities (PPAs) of LGUs in their annual investment programs (AIPs) through DBM-CCC-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular 2015-01. Through CCE Tagging, local governments align their development priorities with the National Climate Change Action Plan. However, low compliance of LGUs in MIMAROPA was recorded for the past years. Only 7 out of 78 LGUs or about 9 percent have complied with CCET.

Limited data on the province's/region's greenhouse gas inventory. A comprehensive database of GHG emissions and removals is vital in tracking and monitoring the region's and country's progress on its climate change mitigation policy goals. However, currently, there is no mechanism to measure greenhouse gas emissions in the MIMAROPA region.

Targets

Table 16.1 Indicator Matrix

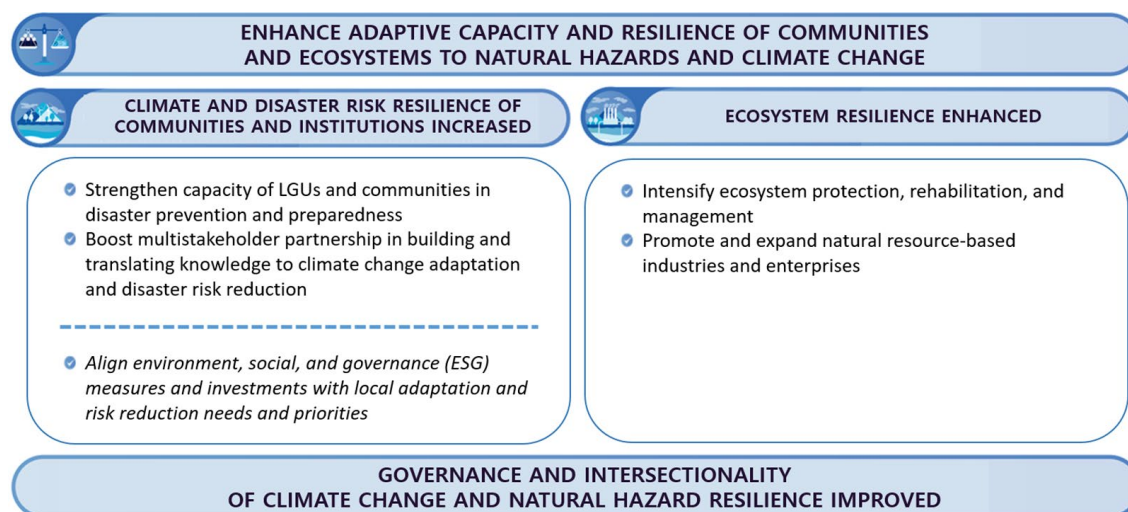
INDICATOR	BASELINE		ANNUAL PLAN TARGETS						MEANS OF VERIFICATION	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
	YEAR	VALUE	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028		
Outcome 1: Climate and disaster risk resilience of communities and institutions increased										
Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population decreased										
Number of deaths attributed to disasters per 100,000 population decreased	2021	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCD admin data	OCD
Number of missing persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population decreased	2021	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	OCD admin data	OCD
Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100, 000 population decreased	2021	12,247	11,022	9,920	8,928	8,035	7,232	6,509	OCD admin data	OCD
Percentage of LGUs with operating early warning systems	2021	35.90%	37.69	39.58	41.56	43.63	45.82	48.11	DOST admin data	DOST
No. of fully functional DRRM operations center increased	2021	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	OCD admin data	OCD
No. of municipalities and cities assessed for vulnerability and risk	2021	5	5	4	-	-	-	-	MGB admin data	MGB
Percentage of LGUs with Local Climate Change Action and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans										
LCCAP	2021	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	CCC admin data	CCC
LDRRMP	2021	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	OCD admin data	OCD
Outcome 2: Ecosystem resilience enhanced										
NGP area planted and site prepared [ha]	2021	3,937 ha	4,331	5,112	3,306	2,376	2,257.20	2,144.34	DENR admin data	DENR
NGP area planted and site protected [ha]	2021	5,303 ha	5,202	13,941	13,232	10,035	9,533	9,057	DENR admin data	DENR
Forest Cover increased [in ha]	2020	947,794.00 ha			995,184 ha				DENR/NAMRIA admin data	"DENR/ NAMRIA"
Forest cover change [from closed to open forest]	2020	-3.00%			-5.00%				"DENR/ NAMRIA admin data"	"DENR/ NAMRIA"

Sources: OCD MIMAROPA, DOST MIMAROPA, MGB MIMAROPA, CCC, DENR MIMAROPA, and NAMRIA

Strategies

Strategies will be geared towards strengthening the implementation of CCA and DRR actions across sectors. Implementing the strategies requires decisive and sustained financing, knowledge build-up, technology and innovation, and concerted action through a whole-of-society approach. Prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation efforts will be continuously pursued. Climate and disaster risk governance will be comprehensive and science and evidence-based for the effective and efficient delivery of these actions.

Figure 16.1 Strategy Framework to Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience



Note: Strategies above the dashed lines require action by government entities, and those below by non-government entities.

Increase climate and disaster risk resilience of communities and institutions

Strengthen the capacity of LGUs and communities in disaster prevention and preparedness. To intensify efforts at increasing awareness and enhancing the capacity of LGUs and communities, capacity-building programs will be conducted to better prepare the communities on the slow and onset disasters and climate change impacts. This shall be complemented with information, education, and communication (IEC) campaign down to the barangay level. The use of documented traditional and innovative practices to increase the resilience of indigenous cultural communities and the GIDAs will be advocated. Increase the awareness and capacity of decision-makers and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector to gain a deeper understanding of risk

and vulnerability from hazards for local planning and decision making. Mainstreaming DRRM/CCA in national, regional, and local development plans and policies shall be strengthened. Provision of technical assistance and capability programs on mainstreaming DRRM/CCA in the local development plan formulation and updating, such as the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFPs), Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and Zoning Ordinances and their operationalization shall be pursued. Strict enforcement of compliance with CCET shall be monitored.

The region will continue to develop, maintain, and ensure availability of geospatial information on climate and specific hazards and risks. Assessment of vulnerability and risk on remaining provinces in the region such as Palawan and Romblon shall be conducted by the MGB.

Capacity building for LGUs shall be conducted to tap available disaster resilience and climate financing such as the National DRRM fund, the People Survival

Fund (PSF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Official Development Assistance (ODA), among others. These financing programs shall be utilized for the adaptation, response, and recovery projects at the local level to increase the resiliency of communities and ecosystem to disaster and climate change impacts.

Investments in green public works and disaster-resilient infrastructure facilities such as flood control measures (e.g., dredging, river and estuary dikes, breakwaters, sea wall, water diversion channels, and disaster resilient evacuation centers) shall be prioritized. This shall include disaster-proofing and strengthening the region's physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, airports, seaports, schools, hospitals, public buildings, and housing.

Installation and upgrading of forecasting and early warning systems especially on GIDAs shall be pursued. Municipal and Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils shall enhance communication links with government agencies such as DOST, PAGASA, and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOLCS) to provide quick and early warnings to their constituents in the event of calamities.

Boost multi-stakeholder partnership in building and translating knowledge to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. As climate change and disaster resiliency is everybody's concern, collaboration among the critical stakeholders such as the government, private sector, academe, civil society, and representatives from marginal sectors (women, youth, and indigenous peoples) will be bolstered to secure sustainable production, accelerate rehabilitation and conservation efforts, strengthen enforcement of environmental rules and regulations, and boost the contribution of ecosystems in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Such partnership may include research and development, the provision of scientific and evidence-based information to decision-makers cannot be underestimated.

Thus, the expertise of private sector and the academe shall be tapped to pursue technological and research projects for the following key priorities: (a) food security, (b) water sufficiency, (c) ecological and

environmental stability, (d) human security, (e) climate-friendly industries and services, and (e) sustainable energy.

Replication of the Climate Vulnerability and Risk Information System (CVRIS) Project of Oriental Mindoro to other MIMAROPA provinces shall be pursued including other projects that aim to compile and disseminate risk data and information. The CVRIS is an online system that collects, digitizes, analyzes, and disseminates information relevant to climate change and agriculture value chain. It integrates national level climate change information with municipal and barangay level data; visualizes the different layers of hazard and socioeconomic factors at a glance; and provide objective basis for multi-sectoral local policy decisions.

Align environment, social, and governance (ESG) measures and investments with local adaptation and risk reduction needs and priorities. The region shall encourage the private sector to align their respective ESG targets and investments (e.g., corporate social responsibility programs) with local priorities and targets on CCA and DRR to efficiently allocate resources toward building resilience. The RDC Special Regional Sub-Committee on the SDG may be utilized as a platform for discussing the rationalization of these efforts. Capacity building on sustainability/ESG reporting for concerned stakeholders shall also be provided to enable accounting of contributions to broader sustainability goals.

Enhance ecosystem resilience

Intensify ecosystem protection, rehabilitation, and management. Strengthen community and private sector participation in the operationalization and management of natural resources through integrated and ecosystem-based approach or nature-based solutions in protection, rehabilitation, and biodiversity conservation (e.g., Adaptive Forest Ecosystem Restoration, Enhanced NGP, Waste to Energy Project).

The interconnectivity of various ecosystems within landscapes and seascapes and its impact on biodiversity, ecological processes, and functions

shall be considered in development planning. This covers the conduct of carrying capacity assessments to inform appropriate management interventions, especially in protected areas and ecotourism sites. Indigenous knowledge, systems, and practices will also be employed to complement science-based approaches in managing ecosystems. Monitoring of the compliance of extractive industry establishments to existing environmental laws, rules, and regulations will also be strengthened.

Pursuant to the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act (Republic Act No. 7611), the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) shall be mainstreamed to guide local governments in planning, policy formulation, and development regulation. ECAN is an integrated ridge-to-reef strategy to safeguard the natural capital of Palawan province and properly manage it as a fragile island ecosystem. Among its many provisions, the ECAN shall ensure the following: conservation and protection of forest; watershed protection; preservation of biological diversity; protection and preservation of tribal culture; protection of the rare and endangered species and their habitat; provision of areas for environmental and ecological research, education, and training; and the provision of areas for tourism and recreation.

The Biodiversity Corridor Project shall also be implemented in the Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor (MBC), through the project, integrated ecosystem management framework and site-specific integrated cluster conservation plans shall be developed and adopted for the MBC.

Strengthening and improving the efficiency of land administration, particularly the streamlining of regulatory mechanisms for land titling, will also be prioritized to ensure land tenure security, thereby increasing people's adaptive capacity to climate change and natural hazards.

Implement Climate Change Integrated River Basin and Development Master Plans. Improving the integration of sustainable land management approaches (e.g., soil and water conservation measures, climate-smart technologies) in local plans and policies shall be pursued to address climate change impacts on land and water resources. The Climate Change-Responsive Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plans shall be implemented for Cluster 3 River Basin (Mag-asawang Tubig, Malaybalay-Baco, Pulang Tubig, Pula, and

Butas) in Mindoro Island, and Cluster 4 River Basin (Iwahig Penal, Inagawan, Aborlan, Malatgao, and Batang-batang) in Palawan.

Promote and expand natural resource-based industries and enterprises. To promote green and blue economy, the government shall pursue enabling policies that will provide more livelihood and economic opportunities, particularly for the poor and vulnerable upland and coastal communities. Investments in activities that foster the sustainable management of natural resources, such as forest and coastal protection and rehabilitation, will be increased to generate more green jobs and livelihood. The government and the private sector shall also promote and develop more biodiversity-friendly enterprises and ecotourism sites within and outside protected areas. Marine-based industries shall also be pushed to provide employment opportunities and income for coastal communities.

Establishment of market-based mechanisms that support natural resource conservation measures such as payment for ecosystem services, and accelerating ecosystems and habitat rehabilitation and restoration shall be pursued. The proper accounting and valuation of natural resources.

Given the wide range of services and products that natural resources provide, it is imperative that their accounting and be mainstreamed in development planning. Proper valuation and accounting of natural resources given that the region is rich in terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

Improve governance and intersectionality of climate change and natural hazard resilience

Pursue cross-cutting measures to enable the implementation of strategies aimed at ensuring resilient communities, institutions, and ecosystems, and fostering a low-carbon economy. This would include addressing the intersectionality of vulnerability in priority sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, transportation, and urban-rural linkages to enhance climate and disaster resilience. These measures focus on improving existing governance structures, facilitating technology-

enabled and science-based policy and planning, and mobilizing sustainable and green investments. The region shall also support legislation on land use zones requiring green spaces in urban centers.

The region will lay the foundation to promote low carbon economy. Promotion of clean energy transition with cleaner alternative fuels and energy technologies for transportation such as hybrid and electric vehicles in pursuit of reducing the transportation sector's direct dependence on oil and gasoline, especially amidst rising fuel prices affecting consumers will be pursued. It is also a move towards reducing air pollution levels. This includes promotion of active transport system like walking and biking to reduce carbon footprint.

Sustainable financing mechanisms for CCA and DRRM efforts shall be determined and rolled out to ensure continuity of programs and projects. This will include the enhanced monitoring of Climate Change Expenditure Tagging of the LGUs.

Developing a sustainable, bankable, and gender-responsive pipeline of projects, implementing a blended approach in climate financing (e.g., grants, investments, and subsidies), and expanding the government's program convergence budgeting approach shall also be pursued. In addition, public-

private partnerships (PPP) will be encouraged to attract more investors.

To mitigate the emission of greenhouse gases, green investments shall be mobilized, localization and operationalization of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and Policies and Measures (PAMs) on key sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture, waste, industrial processes and products shall be pursued. An inventory of emissions and removals alongside their sources shall be developed in order to manage territorial GHGs.

The Regional Development Council (RDC) MIMAROPA shall ensure a monitoring and coordination mechanism for the planning and implementation of NDCs and PAMs, including the cascading of action plans to the agencies and LGUs. It shall coordinate with the Climate Change Commission in localizing the NDC in respective regions to determine regional contributions to the NDC and PAMs.

Ensure provision of social safety nets, recovery and rehabilitation assistance programs and projects to communities, especially with livelihoods reliant on agriculture and coastal resources.

Legislative Agenda

The following legislative measures are necessary to strengthen the protection and management of natural resources toward sustainable and climate-resilient development.

Table 16.2 Legislative Agenda to Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE/KEY FEATURES	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Act	<p>The bill aims to enhance forest ecosystem through reforestation and forest rehabilitation to mitigate climate change, improve and conserve biodiversity, enhance ecosystem functions and services, and provide long-term economic benefits.</p> <p>The bill shall also improve the Region's ecological integrity, protect existing forest resources, conserve biodiversity, rehabilitate denuded areas, and promote economic activities while achieving ecological balance.</p>	DENR
Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Act	<p>This bill aims to institutionalize ICM as a national strategy to ensure the holistic and sustainable management of various ecosystems and natural resources through the "ridge-to-reef" approach.</p> <p>The bill pursues the development of an ICM Framework as a guide for LGUs in building the resiliency of coastal communities to climate change and other hazards which is suitable for an island region like MIMAROPA.</p> <p>Moreover, it complements the implementation of the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) in Palawan.</p>	DENR
Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) Act	<p>This bill aims to greater stakeholder engagement and sustain budgetary support for the implementation of NCA activities at the national and subnational levels. The institutionalization of the NCA will enable the government to quantify and internalize the economic costs and benefits of environmental and climate change externalities into policies and decisions.</p>	DENR

PART V

Plan Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation

17

Plan Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION

The MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028 is geared towards economic and social transformation to reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction in the region, by steering the region's economy back to a high-growth path. This growth must be inclusive, building an environment that provides equal opportunities to all MIMAROPAns.

Efficient and close coordination at various levels of government is crucial in the attainment of economic transformation of the region. The involvement and cooperation of the private sector during monitoring is deemed vital in ensuring that the government remains on track to achieving its targets. Timely assessment and evaluation will also be done to correct deviations.

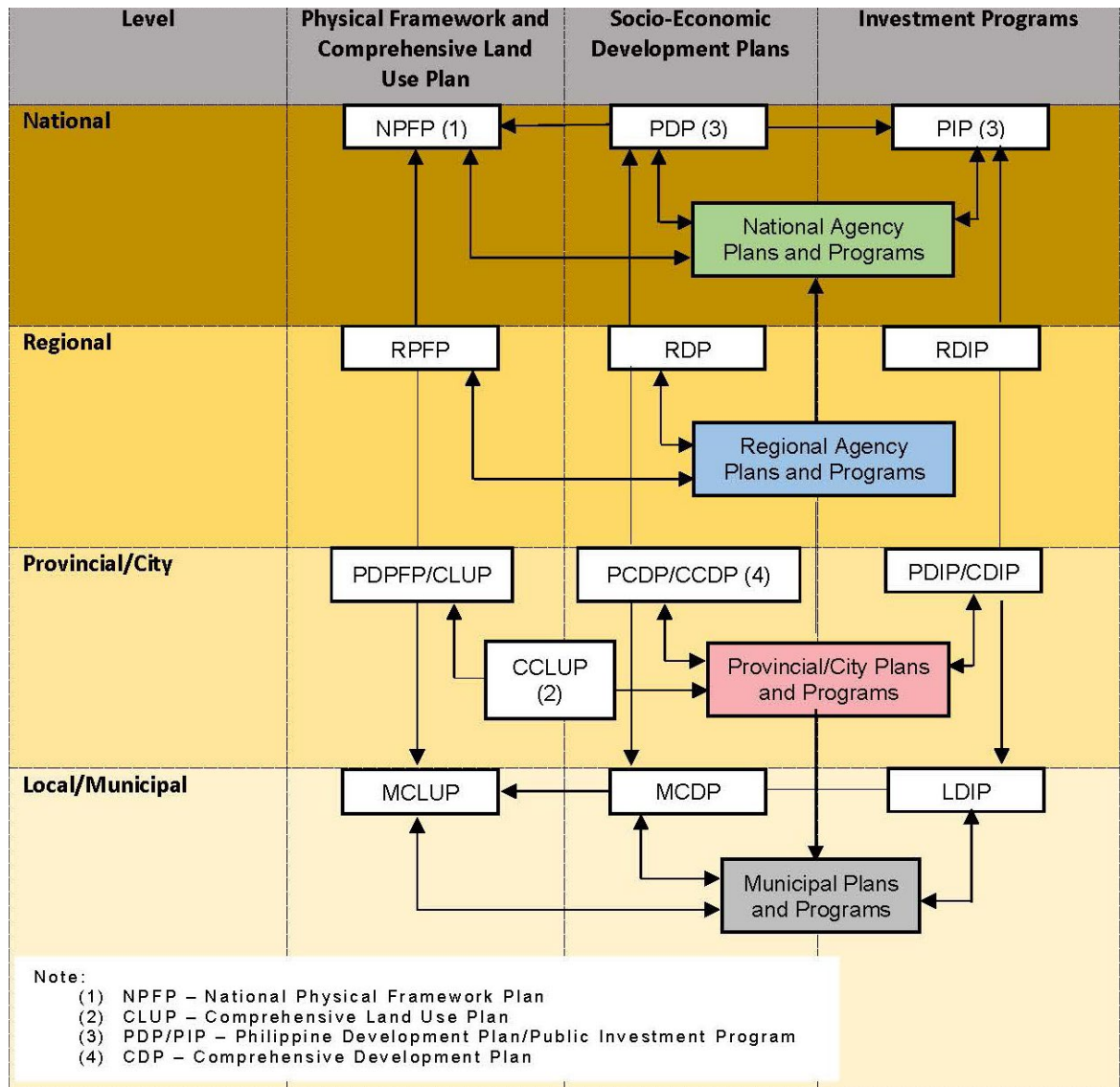
Plan Implementation

The government will set the necessary policies and enabling environment to fully implement the PDP 2023-2028 as well as its localization in the RDPs. Executive Order No. 14 – Approving and Adopting the Philippine Development Plan for the Period 2023-2028, issued by the President on 27th day of January 2023, directed all agencies and instrumentalities of the government to undertake efforts leading to the full implementation of RDP, primarily through programs and projects as contained in the public investment program.

RDC MIMAROPA, as the highest policy and decision-making body in the Region, will coordinate the implementation of the MIMAROPA RDP 2023-2028.

The plan will be implemented through its accompanying document, the MIMAROPA Regional Development Investment Program (RDIP) 2023-2028. The RDIP translates the RDP's goals, objectives, and strategies into schedule of programs and projects (PAPs) within six years.

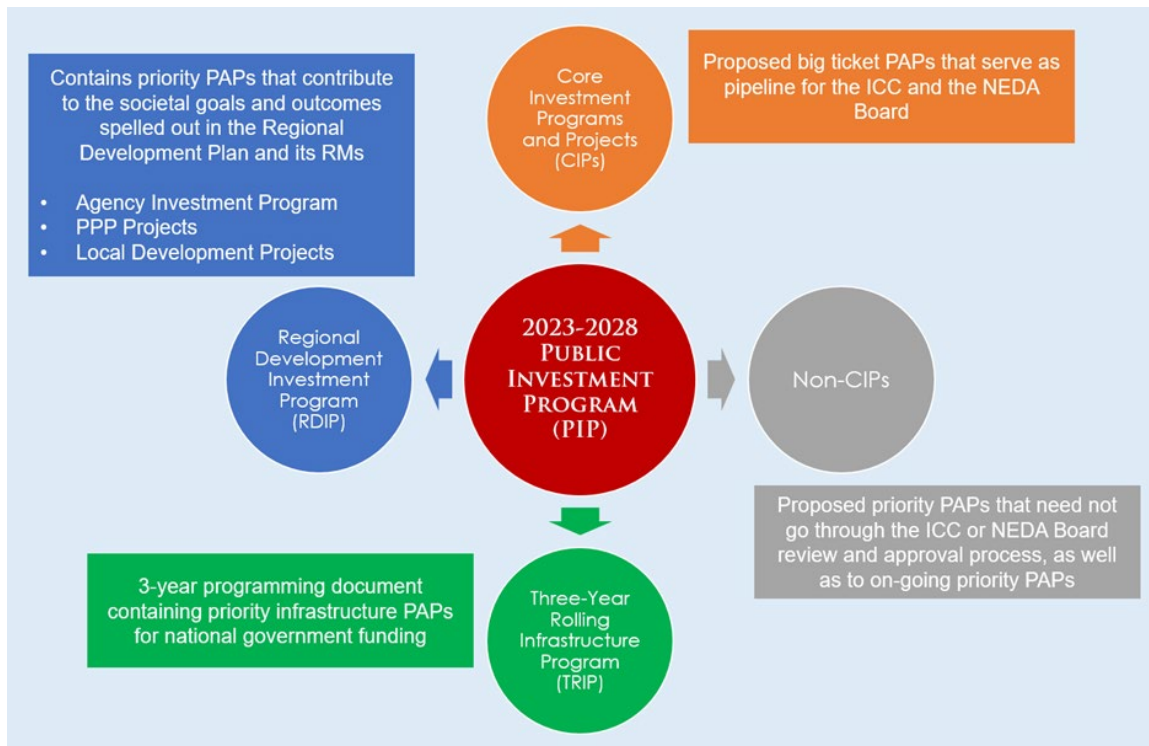
Figure 17.1 Horizontal and Vertical Linkages of Local and National Plans and Investment Programs



Source: NEDA

Shown in Figure 17.1 is the horizontal and vertical linkages of local and national plans, along with public and development investment program. The Public Investment Program (PIP) is the counterpart of the RDIP at the national level, while the Three-Year Rolling Infrastructure Program (TRIP) is a subset of the PIP that provide a more definite list of all government infrastructure projects for planning, programming, budgeting, and execution within three years.

Figure 17.2 PIP, CIPs, Non-CIPs, TRIP, and RDIP Relationship



Source: NEDA; NEDA MIMAROPA

To synchronize planning, programming and budgeting at the national and local levels, the process as presented in Figure 17.2 will be followed. The set of guidelines contained in the Joint Call issued by NEDA on 07 October 2022 for the Formulation of the Public Investment Program 2023-2028 and Three-Year Rolling Infrastructure Program for Fiscal Years 2024-2026 as Input to the Fiscal Years 2024-2026 as Input to Budget Preparation will be observed.

The RDC will regularly issue a similar joint call for the region for the updating of the RDIP and crafting of the regional line agency AIP.

The RDIP shall be the basis for preparing the annual budget proposals of RLAs, SUCs, and government-owned and controlled corporations. Programs and projects at the provincial level will be considered in the RDIP for possible funding of NGAs/RLAs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to monitor and assess the implementation result of the plan, the MIMAROPA RDP will be

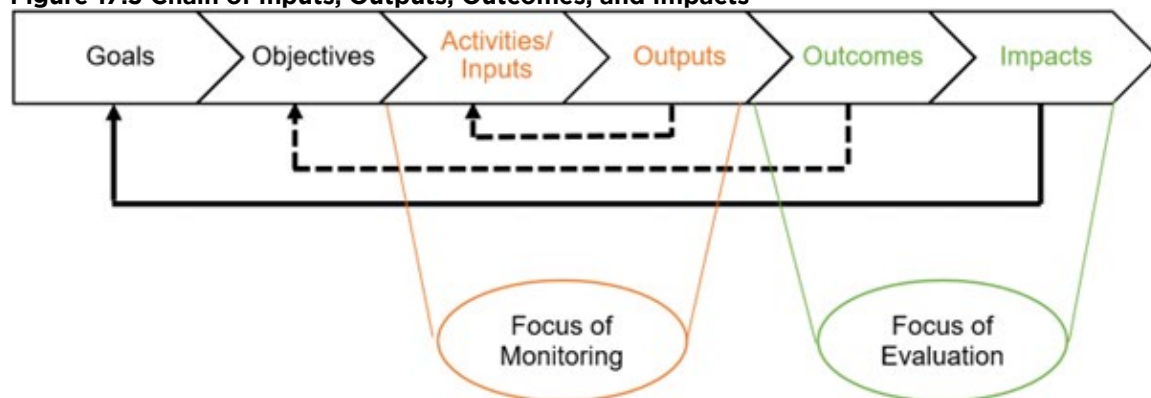
guided by existing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) frameworks and policies of the National Government.

The monitoring will track mainly the use of inputs (activities) and outputs, and to some degree will also track the intermediate outcomes.

In contrast, the evaluation will take place at specific moments, and will permit an assessment of a program's progress over a longer period of time. Evaluation will track changes and will focus more on the outcomes and impact level. This is illustrated by the following graphic, which shows the link of the chain of inputs, outputs, outcomes and impacts with the planning cycle.

Output measurement shows the realization of activities. Outcome measurement shows in what degree direct objectives and anticipated results are realized. Impact assessment shows the degree in which the overall objective or goal of the program is realized.

Figure 17.3 Chain of Inputs, Outputs, Outcomes, and Impacts



Source: 2016 RPMEs Operational Guidelines

The monitoring and evaluation obligations of NGAs are established by existing legislation and those responsibilities must continue to be fulfilled throughout the implementation of the RDP. Different departments and agencies shall continue their monitoring and evaluation responsibilities as defined under their mandate.

The MIMAROPA Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC), in coordination with implementing Departments and Agencies, and as mandated under series of issuances including Executive Order (EO) 308, Memorandum Order (MO) 175, EO 376, Republic Act (RA) 7160, EO 93 and NEDA Memorandum Circular (MC) 1-94, shall take the lead and exercise oversight on the progress of development efforts, facilitate program and project implementation, devolve project facilitation, conduct problem-solving, monitoring, and evaluation to the provincial, city and municipal levels, receive regular reports and updates from the agencies through the ProyekTanglaw System (eRPMEs), and submit to the National Project Monitoring Committee (NPMC), and RDC status reports of programs/projects implemented in the region.

A quick summary of the status of programs, projects, and activities included in the RDP will be made available on the NEDA/RDC MIMAROPA website through a ProyekTanglaw System dashboard.

The progress towards achieving the identified outcomes in the RDP will be monitored and assessed using indicators and interim targets as identified in the accompanying document, Results Matrix (RM). The RM has been instituted in 2011 as an instrument designed to provide results orientation to the Plan. It is anchored on results-based management (RbM), which highlights the achievement of outcomes and impact. It aims to strengthen government-wide results orientation that allows for regular performance assessment of the Plan.

As a living document, the RM is regularly updated to ensure responsiveness to the region's continuously evolving development landscape. The RDP 2023-2028 Results Matrix also contains indicators on Sustainable Development Goals. Performance of these indicators is also included in the Regional Development Report. In support of this, MIMAROPA RDC created a Special Regional Sub-Committee on the SDG which conducted its organizational meeting in December 2020.

The NEDA Secretariat coordinates the annual preparation of the Regional Development Report (RDR). The MIMAROPA RDR contains an assessment of the performance of the region for a given year based on the targets of the MIMAROPA RDP and its accompanying Results Matrix (RM). It also provides strategic and policy direction to refocus priorities and/or catch-up with the targets.

Acronyms

MIMAROPA	Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan
3Rs	Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic
4Ks	Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo
4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
A&D	Alienable and Disposable Land
A&E	Accreditation and Equivalency Program
AACUP	Accredited Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines
ABEMIS	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Management Information System
ACPC	Agricultural Credit Policy Council
AD/AL	Ancestral Domain/Ancestral Land
AFF	Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
AFMA	Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines
AGDB	Authorized Government Depository Banks
AGS/DBs	Authorized Government Servicing/Depository Banks
AGSB	Authorized Government Servicing Banks
AHD	Adolescent Health and Development
AICS	Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations
AIP	Annual Investment Program
ALS	Alternative Learning System
AMTEC	Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center
ANYO	Agri-Negosyo Program
APIS	Annual Poverty Indicators Survey
ARO	Agency Regional Offices
ARTA	Anti Red Tape Authority
ARTUD	Areas Restricted to Urban Development
ASF	African Swine Fever
ATI	Agricultural Training Institute
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
BADACs	Barangay Anti-Illegal Drug Abuse Councils
BAI	Bureau of Animal Industry
BARM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BASIL	Balik Sigla sa Ilog and Lawa
BBB	Build, Build, Build
BBM	Build Better More
BBP	Bayanihang Bayan Program
BEFF	Basic Education Facilities Fund
BE-LCP	Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection

BFS	Balanced Fertilization Strategy
BHS	Barangay Health Station
BIMP-EAGA	Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia- Philippines – East ASEAN Growth Area
BINs	Barangay Information/Intelligence Networks
BINs	Barangay Information Networks
BISELCO	Busuanga Island Electric Cooperative, Inc.
BIST	Business Innovation through S&T
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology
BLGF	Bureau of Local Governance and Finance
BLP	Basic Literacy Program
BLSS—SHD	Bureau of Learners Support Services—School Health Division
BMBE	Barangay Micro Business Enterprises
BMIP	Batangas-Mindoro Interconnection Project
BOC	Bureau of Customs
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
BOSS	Business One-Stop Shop
BOT	Build Operate Transfer
BPAT	Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team
BPBH	Balik Pinay, Balik Hanapbuhay
BPCO	Building Permits and Certificates of Occupancy
BPI	Bureau of Plant Industry
BPLS	Business Permits and Licensing System
BRC	Business Resource Center
BS	Bachelor of Science
BSP	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BSP SLRO	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas South Luzon Regional Office
BSWM	Bureau of Soils and Water Management
BTR	Bureau of Treasury
BuCor	Bureau of Corrections
CAAP	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
CAAs	Conflict Affected Areas
CAB	Civil Aeronautics Board
CADT	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
CAIR	Center for Artificial Intelligence Research
CALABARZON	Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon
CAMP	COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program
CAR	Cordillera Administrative Region
CARP	Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
CBMS	Community-Based Monitoring System
CBT	Competency-Based Training

CCC	Climate Change Commission
CCE	Climate Change Expenditure
CCET	Climate Change Expenditure Tagging
CCGT	Critical Combined-Cycle Gas Turbine
CD	Communicable Disease
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
CDC	City Development Council
CDFs	Controlled Disposal Facilities
CDP	Comprehensive Development Program
CDs	Communicable Diseases
CFIDP	Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan
CFLC	Community Fish Landing Centers
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CICL	Children in Conflict with the Law
CIDC	Creative Industry Development
CIS	Communal Irrigation Systems
CLPEP	Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program
CLUP	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
CMCI	Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index
CNI	Certificate of Necessity to Import
CNN	Communist Party of the Philippines - National Democratic Front - New People's Army
CNO	Certificate of Non-Overlap
CNTs	CPP-NPA-Terrorists
COA	Commission on Audit
COD	Centers of Development
COE	Centers of Excellence
ComDeV	Committee on Devolution
COPC	Certificate of Program Compliance
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPP-NPA	Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army
CPP-NPA-NDF	Communist Party of the Philippines - New People's Army - National Democratic Front
CRADLE	Collaborative Research and Development to Leverage Philippine Economy
CREATE	Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises
CSC	Civil Service Commission
CSE	Comprehensive Sex Education
CSE-VAWC	Comprehensive Sexual Education and Violence Against Women and Children
CTG	Communist Terrorist Groups
CVRIS	Climate Vulnerability and Risk Information System

DA	Department of Agriculture
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform
DCP	DepEd Computerization Program
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DepEd	Department of Education
DGA	Digital Governance Awards
DHSUD	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DMW	Department of Migrant Workers
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DOE	Department of Energy
DOF	Department of Finance
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DOST-PCAARRD	Department of Science and Technology- Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development
DOST-TAPI	Department of Science and Technology- Technology Application and Promotion Institute
DOT	Department of Tourism
DOTr	Department of Transportation
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DRR/CCA	Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DTP	Devolution Transition Plan
DWR	Department of Water
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
EAMP	Ecosystem-Approach to Fisheries Management Plan
EBT	Enterprise-Based Trainings
ECAN	Environmentally Critical Areas Network
ECCD F1K	Early Childhood Care and Development in the First 1000 Days
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
E-CLIP	Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program
E-Commerce	Electronic Commerce
ECQ	Enhanced Community Quarantine
EDCOM II	Second Congressional Commission on Education

eFOI	Electronic Freedom of Information
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
EMI	Electronic Money Issuer
ENGP	Enhanced National Greening Program
ENNS	Expanded National Nutrition Survey
EO	Executive Order
EODB-EGSD	Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery
EPAPH	Enhanced Partnership against Hunger and Poverty
EPIRA	Electric Power Industry Reform Act
ERC	Energy Regulatory Commission
eRPMES	Electronic Regional Monitoring and Evaluation System
ESA	Emergency Shelter Assistance
ESWWM	Electricity, Steam, Water, and Waste Management
ESG	Environment, Social, and Governance
EWS	Early Warning System
FabLab	Fabrication Laboratories
FAO	Fisheries Administrative Order
FBSE	Filipino Brand of Service Excellence
FC	Fecal Coliform
FCA	Farmers' Cooperative and Association
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FDP	Full Disclosure Policy
FHE	Free Higher Education
FIES	Family Income and Expenditure Survey
FinTech	Financial Technologies
FIRe	Fourth Industrial Revolution
FIIs	Foreign Investments
FishCoRe	Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency
FishCRRM	Fisheries and Coastal Resilient Resource Planning and Management
FITS	Farmers' Information and Technology Services
FMA	Fisheries Management Areas
FMR	Farm-to-Market Road
FMRNP	Farm-to-Market Road Network Plan
FMV	Field Monitoring Visit
FRs	Former Rebels
FSF	Functions, Services, and Facilities
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
FUSA	Firmed-Up Service Area
GAD	Gender and Development
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice

GASTPE	Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education
GRDP	Gross Regional Domestic Product
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEDSI	Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion
GEOAGRI	Geographic Information System for Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery and Infrastructure
GEOP	Green Energy Option Program
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHH	Geologic/ Hydro Meteorologic Hazards
GIDAs	Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas
GII	Global Innovation Index
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOCC	Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation
GRDP	Gross Regional Domestic Product
GVA	Gross Value Added
GWHS	Government Web Hosting Services
GWT	Government Web Template
HCPN	Health Care Provider Network
HVCD	High Value Crops Development
HE	Higher Education
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HFEP	Health Facilities Enhancement Program
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
HRH	Human Resources for Health
HRMO	Human Resource and Management Offices
HUC	Highly Urbanized City
HVCD	High Value Crops Development Program
IBPLS	Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System
IAS	Internal Audit Service
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	Indigenous Cultural Communities
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management Act
ICRUMP	Integrated Coastal Resources Use and Management Plan
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDPs	Individual Development Plans
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
IFRM	Integrated Flood Risk Management
IFWD PH	Innovations for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines
IP	Indigenous Peoples

IP	Intellectual Property
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPMR	Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative
IPOPHIL	Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines
IPP	Intellectual Property Products
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IPRA	Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act
IPS	Indigenous Political Structures
IPs/ICCs	Indigenous Peoples'/Indigenous Cultural Communities'
ITA	Internal Tax Allotment
IRA	Internal Revenue Allotment
IROAD	Integrated Road for Agriculture and Development
IPOPHIL	Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
ISFs	Informal Settler Families
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISPs	Internet Service Providers
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JAO	Joint Administrative Order
JJA	June, July, and August
JMC	Joint Memorandum Circular
JSA	Job Search Assistance Program
JSCC	Justice Sector Coordinating Council
KAYA	Kapital Access for Young Agripreneurs Program
KEDP	Kaanib Enterprise Development Project
KIG	Kalayaan Island Group
KMME	Kapatid Mentor Micro Enterprise
KSA	Key Shelter Agencies
LCAC	Local Culture and Arts Council
LCCAP	Local Climate Change Action Plan
LCP	Learning Continuity Plan
LDC	Local Development Councils
LDIP	Local Development Investment Program
LDRRMF	Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund
LDRRMPs	Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans
LEE	Local Economic Enterprise
LFC	Local Fees and Charges
LGC	Local Government Code
LGRC	Local Governance Resource Center

LGSF-SBDP	Local Government Support Fund-Support to Barangay Development Program
LGUs	Local Government Units
LMI	Labor Market Information
LMS	Learning Management Systems
LNAP	Local Nutrition Action Plan
LPCC	Local Price Coordinating Councils
LPD	Livestock, Poultry, and Dairy
LPDOs	Local Population Development Offices
LPEs	Localized Peace Arrangements
LPMC	Local Project Monitoring Committee
LPTRP	Local Public Transport Route Plan
LRA	Land Registration Authority
LRCP	Learning Recovery and Continuity Plan
LSDF	Luzon Spatial Development Framework
LSP	Local Shelter Plan
LSWMP	Local Solid Waste Management Plan
LTO	Land Transportation Office
LUBELCO	Lubang Electric Cooperative, Inc.
LUCs	Local Universities and Colleges
LUDIP	Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAARRDEC	MIMAROPA Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development Consortium
MAM	March, April, and May
MARELCO	Marinduque Electric Cooperative, Inc.
MARINA	Maritime Industry Authority
MARLIN	Modern and Resilient Livelihood Investments
MASL	Meters Above Sea Level
MBE	Micro Business Enterprise
MBC	Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor
MC	Memorandum Circular
MCIR	Mindoro Cross Island Road
MDC	Municipal Development Council
MENR	Municipal Environment and Natural Resources
MFI	Malampaya Foundation, Inc.
MHRDC	MIMAROPA Health Research and Development Consortium
MICE	Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions
MICR	Mindoro Island Circumferential Road
MinSU	Mindoro State University
MITDP	MIMAROPA Intermodal Transportation Development Plan
MMK	Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan

MMT	Multi-partite Monitoring Team
MO	Memorandum Order
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOOC	Massive Open Online Courses
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MPR	Malnutrition Prevalence Rates
MPS	Municipal Police Stations
MPSUID	Master Plan for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Development
MQLEX	Marinduque – Quezon Link Expressway
MRDA	MIMAROPA Regional Research and Development Agenda
MRFs	Materials Recovery Facilities
MSB	Money Service Business
MSC	Marinduque State College
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
MTB-MLE	Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education
MTF-ELCAC	Municipal Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict
MW	Mega Watts
MYC	MIMAROPA Youth Center
NAFMIP	National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan
NALUA	National Land Use Act
NAO	Nutrition Action Officers
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation
NBP	National Broadband Program
NCA	Natural Capital Accounting Act
NCC	National Competitiveness Council
NCCA	National Commission for Culture and the Arts
NCCAG	National Color-Coded Agricultural Guide
NCD	Non-communicable Disease
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NC	Negosyo Centers
NCR	National Capital Region
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey
NEA	National Electrification Administration
NEAP	National Educators’ Academy of the Philippines
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NFFIS	National Farmers and Fisheries Information System
NGAs	National Government Agencies
NGCP	National Grid Corporation of the Philippines
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations

NIA	National Irrigation Administration
NIASD	National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document
NIC	National Innovation Council
NICER	Niche Centers in the Regions for R&D
NIMP	National Irrigation Master Plan
NIRT	National Internal Revenue Taxes
NIS	National Irrigation System
NLP	National Livestock Program
NNC	National Nutrition Council
NOAP	National Organic Agriculture Program
NPA	New People's Army
NPMC	National Project Monitoring Committee
NPOA-ML	National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction, and Management of Marine Litter
NRPF	National Resettlement Policy Framework
NSFI	National Strategy for Financial Inclusion
NSMP	National Safe Motherhood Program
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
NTA	National Tax Allotment
NTC	National Telecommunications Commission
NTESDP	National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan
NTF-ELCAC	National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict
NVOCC	Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODs	Open Dumpsites
OER	Open Educational Resources
OFWs	Overseas Filipino Workers
OMEKO	Occidental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc.
OMSC	Occidental Mindoro State College
OPT	Operation Timbang
ORMECO	Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc.
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSY	Out of School Youth
OTOP	One Town One Product
OWWA	Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
P2P	Point-to-Point
PAC	Provincial Agriculture Center
PAFES	Province Led Agri-Fishery Extension System
PAGASA	Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
PAL	Philippine Airlines
PALECO	Palawan Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PAMANA	Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan
PAMs	Policies and Measures
PAO	Public Attorney's Office
PAPs	Programs, Activities, and Projects
PAR	Philippine Area of Responsibility
PCA	Philippine Coconut Authority
PCF	Performance Challenge Fund
PCG	Philippine Coast Guard
PCIC	Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation
PD	Presidential Decree
PDC	Provincial Development Council
PDEA	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
PDL	Persons Deprived of Liberty
PDP	Philippine Development Plan
PDPFP	Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan
PDRMOs	Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Offices
PESFA	Private Education Student Financial Assistance
PESO	Public Employment Services Offices
PFPD	Policy Formulation and Planning Division
PGP	Provincial Government of Palawan
PhilHealth	Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
PhilSys	Philippine Identification System
PHILVOLCS	Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
PHLS	Philippine Public Health Laboratory System
PIA	Philippine Innovation Act
PIDS	Philippine Institute for Development Studies
PIP	Public Investment Program
PIPOL	Public Investment Program Online System
PMC	Project Monitoring Committee
PMNP	Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project
PNP	Philippine National Police
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
POPCOM	Commission on Population and Development
PO4	Phosphate
PPA	Parole and Probation Administration
PPA	Philippine Ports Authority
PPAN	Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition
PPAs	Programs, Projects, and Activities
PPCIA	Puerto Princesa City International Airport
PPDOs	Provincial Planning and Development Offices

PPF	Prison and Penal Farm
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PQF	Philippine Qualifications Framework
PQF-NCC	Philippine Qualifications Framework-National Coordinating Council
PRC	Philippine Regulation Commission
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PSCED	Philippine Standard Classification of Education
PSF	Philippine Skills Framework
PSF	People Survival Fund
PSIC	Philippine Standard Industrial Classification
PSOC	Philippine Standard Occupational Classification
PSRs	Private Sector Representatives
PSU	Palawan State University
PTB	Passenger Terminal Buildings
PTF-ELCAC	Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict
PUVMP	Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program
PWD	Persons with Disability
PWSSMP	Philippine Water Supply Sanitation Master Plan
PWUDs	Persons Who Use Drugs
QMS	Quality Management System
R&D intensity	Research and Development Intensity
R&D	Research and Development
RA	Republic Act
RADIUS	Research and Development Information Unified System
RAICs	Regional Agri-Industrial Centers
RbM	Results-based Management
RCAs	Residual Containment Area
RCC	Regional Competitiveness Council
RCEF	Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
RCM	Rice Crop Manager
RCOA	Retail Competition and Open Access
RDA	Research and Development Agenda
RDC	Regional Development Council
RDCom	Regional Development Committee
RGADC	Regional Gender and Development Committee
RG0	Regional Government Office
RDIP	Regional Development Investment Program
RDLead	R&D Leadership Program
RDP	Regional Development Plan

RDR	Regional Development Report
RESP	Rice Extension Services Program
RGC	Regional Government Center
RIIC	Regional Inclusive Innovation Centers
RLAs	Regional Line Agencies
CRLTA	Comprehensive Rapid Land Tenure Appraisal
RLTA	Rapid Land Tenure Appraisal
RLUC	Regional Land Use Committee
RM	Results Matrix
RNC	Regional Nutrition Committee
ROMELCO	Romblon Electric Cooperative, Inc.
RORO	Roll-On, Roll-Off
ROWA	Right-of-Way Act
RFPF	Regional Physical Framework Plan
RPMC	Regional Project Monitoring Committee
RPMES	Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System
RPOC	Regional Peace and Order Council
RPS	Renewable Portfolio Standards
RPT	Real Property Tax
RR4LGUsIS	Regulatory Reform for LGUs Information System
RRDIC	Regional Research, Development, and Innovation Committee
RSBSA	Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture
RSDF	Regional Spatial Development Framework
RSU	Romblon State University
RTF-ELCAC	Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict
RTWG	Regional Technical Working Group
S4CP	Science for Change Program
SAAD	Special Area for Agricultural Development Program
SAE	Small Area Estimates
SAFDZ	Strategic Agricultural and Fishery Development Zones
SALT	Sloping Agricultural Land Technology
SALT 2	Simple Agro-Livestock Technolog
SALT 3	Sustainable Agroforestry Land Technology
SALT 4	Small Agrofruit Livelihood Technology
SARAI	Smarter Approaches to Reinvigorate Agriculture as an Industry
SB	Sangguniang Bayan
SBFP	School-Based Feeding Program
SC	Supreme Court
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission

SEP	Strategic Environmental Plan
SETUP	Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program
SFF	Small Farmers and Fisherfolk
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management Act
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Program
SGLG	Seal of Good Local Governance
SHS	Senior High School
SHS VP	Senior High School Voucher Program
SIPP	Strategic Investment Priority Plan
SIPTVETS	Supporting Innovation in the Philippine Technical Vocational Education and Training System
SLEX	South Luzon Expressway
SLFs	Sanitary Landfills
SMERA	SME Roving Academy
SOCCSKSARGEN	South Cotobato, Cotobato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos City
SON	September, October, and November
SP	Sangguniang Panlungsod
SP	Social Protection
SPISC	Social Pension for the Indigent Senior Citizens
SPPAM	Social Program for Adolescent Mothers and their Children
SPPAMC	Social Protection Program for Adolescent Mothers and their Children
SRIP	Small Reservoir Irrigation Projects
SRNH	Strong Republic Nautical Highway
SRS	Skills Registry System
SSF	Shared Services Facilities
SSP	Shared Socioeconomic Pathways
SST	Self-Supporting Tower
STAR	Southern Tagalog Arterial Road
STDP	Sustainable Tourism Development Project
STEP	Special Training for Employment Program
STI	Science, Technology, and Innovation
STIRDC	Southern Tagalog Islands Research and Development Consortium
SUCs	State Universities and Colleges
SUN	Scaling-Up Nutrition
SuPrIM	Support to Project Implementation and Management
SWM	Solid Waste Management
SY	School Year
TBI	Technology Business Incubators
TBR	Technical Budget Review
TCI	The Challenge Initiative

TDP	Tulong Dunong Program
TelCos	Telecommunication Companies
TES	Tertiary Education Subsidy
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TEZ	Tourism Enterprise Zones
TFA	Transfatty Acid
TIELCO	Tablas Island Electric Cooperative, Inc.
TIEZA	Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority
TowerCos	Tower Companies
TR-4	Toll Road 4
TRIP	Tourism Road Infrastructure Program
TRIP	Three-Year Rolling Infrastructure Program
TSP	Total Suspended Particulates
TSS	Teacher Salary Subsidy
TTIs	TESDA Technology Institutions
TVET	Technical-Vocational Education and Training
TWSP	Training for Work Scholarship Program
TWG-WRM	Technical Working Group on Water Resource Management
UAQTEA	Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act
UHC	Universal Health Care
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIFAST	Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education Act
VAT	Value Added Tax
VRA	Valuation Reform Act
VIP	Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines
WACS	Waste Analysis and Characterization Studies
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WEDC	Women in Especially Difficult Circumstances
WesCom	Western Command
WHO	World Health Organization
Wi-Fi	Wireless Fidelity
WIMLMS	Web-based Inventory Monitoring and Logistics Management System
WONA	Whole-of-Nation Approach
WPS	West Philippine Sea
WPU	Western Philippines University
WQMA	Water Quality Management Area
WRI	World Risk Index
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation
WtE	Waste-to-Energy
YPHP	Yolanda Permanent Housing Program

Glossary

Cropping Intensity	It is the number of times a crop is planted per year in a given agricultural area. It is the ratio of effective crop area harvested to the physical area. Area harvested - refers to the actual area from which harvests are realized. This excludes crop areas which were totally damaged.
Food Security	It is the access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. It includes at a minimum: a) the ready availability of nutritionally-adequate and safe foods; and b) an assured ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways without resorting to emergency food supplies, scavenging, stealing, or other coping strategies.
Food availability	It is the dimension addresses supply side of the food security and expects sufficient quantities of quality food from domestic agriculture production or import.
Food accessibility	<p>It refers to the access by individuals to adequate resources for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. It addresses whether the households or individuals have enough resources to acquire appropriate quantity of quality foods, thus, it encompasses their income, expenditure and buying capacity.</p> <p>There are two aspects of food access – the economic and physical access. Economic access refers to factors such as income, poverty and other indicators of buying capacity. Physical access indicators are related to infrastructure and facilities that hasten the access to food.</p> <p>Furthermore, the indicators were grouped into the level of importance which were either key or support. Key indicators are those which best describe the dimension. In the absence of available data for the key indicators, the support indicators will be the alternative for use.</p>
Food Utilization	<p>Food utilization is one of the three dimensions of food security. It is defined as the ability of the human body to ingest and metabolize food through adequate diet, clean water, good sanitation and health care to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all physiological needs are met.</p> <p>In this dimension, it is essential to know if the food available in a given period of time had been accessed and well utilized. A household makes decisions on what food to consume and how to allocate food within the household. Appropriate food intake is vital for nutritional status of the populace.</p>
Food Insecurity	It is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways.
Self-Sufficiency Ratio	It shows the magnitude of production in relation to domestic utilization. It is the extent to which a country's supply of commodities is derived from its domestic production or the extent to which a country relies on its own production resources. A ratio of less than 100 percent indicates inadequacy of food production to cope with the demand of the population; equal to 100 percent indicates that food production capacity of the sector is just enough to support the food needs of the population; ratio of greater than 100 percent indicates that local production is more than enough to support the domestic requirements. The higher the ratio, the greater the self-sufficiency.
Capacity building	The process of developing necessary skills, abilities and resources.
Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index	An annual ranking of Philippine cities and municipalities developed by the National Competitiveness Council through the Regional Competitiveness Committees (RCCs) with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development. (CMCI-DTI)
Comprehensive Development Plan	A six-year sectoral plan of the local government which outlines the development of allocated land for different uses.
Decentralization	A system whereby local government units will be given more powers, authority, responsibilities, and resources. It shall proceed from the National Government to the local government units. (LGC of 1991)

Devolution	The act by which the national government confers power and authority upon the various local government units to perform specific functions and responsibilities. (LGC of 1991).
Devolution Transition Plan	Tool of local government units in carrying out the transition to full devolution.
Ease of Doing Business	Streamline government procedures to reduce red tape, expedite transactions and lessen repetitive and non-value-adding processes.
Full Disclosure Policy	Requires local governments to fully disclose particular financial documents to keep their constituents informed of how the LGU budget is managed, disbursed and used. (DILG).
Government Service	The process or transaction between requesting parties and government offices/agencies involving applications for any privilege, right, reward, license, clearance, permit or authorization, concession, of for any modification, renewal or extension of the enumerated applications or requests which are acted upon in the ordinary course of business of the agency/ office concerned. (RA 11032).
Indigenous People	Inheritors of unique culture, social, economic and political characteristics.
Internal Audit Service	Audit of internal control and processes that determine the degree of compliance within the set standards, review of financial management records and reports, evaluate management deficiencies and recommend actions to improve the operation and delivery of services.
Performance Challenge Fund	Performance-based incentive fund that puts premium on transparency and accountability.
Red Tape	Any regulation, rule, or administrative procedure or system that is ineffective or detrimental in achieving its intended objectives and, as a result, produces slow, suboptimal, and undesirable social outcomes. (RA 11032).
Regional Government Center	The site within the regional center where regional government offices and other B3overnment instrumentalities shall be located. (IRR-RA 10879).
Regulation	Any legal instrument that gives effect to a government policy intervention and includes licensing, imposing information obligation, compliance to standards or payment of any form of fee, levy, charge or any other statutory and regulatory requirements necessary to carry out activity. (RA 11032).
Seal of Good Local Governance	A progressive assessment system that gives distinction to remarkable local government performance across several areas. (DILG).
Agribusiness	It refers to any business related to agri-fishery activities from seed and agri-inputs supply, farm machinery, production, harvesting and transport, processing, wholesale and retail selling.
Farm-to-Market Road	Refer to roads linking the agriculture and fisheries production sites, coastal landing points and post-harvest facilities to the market and arterial roads and highways.
Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP)	It measures the economic performance of a region. It covers the value of goods and services produced in the region. It measures the relative contribution of the three major industries sectors: AFF, Industry, and Services in the region.
Gross Value Added (GVA)	It is defined as the value of output less the value of intermediate consumption. GVA is composed of compensation, depreciation, indirect taxes paid net of subsidies received, and the operating surplus, which is the payment to the producer as entrepreneur.
Growth Rate of Regional GVA in AFF	It measures the pace of growth of the agriculture, forestry and fishing at the regional level.
Share of Regional GVA in AFF to GRDP	It shows the performance or contribution of the region's agriculture sector to the region's total economy.
Alternative Learning	A parallel learning system to provide a viable alternative to the System existing formal education instruction. It encompasses both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills (2017 PSCEd).

Basic Education	Education intended to meet basic learning needs which lays the foundation on which subsequent learning can be based. It encompasses early childhood, elementary and high school education as well as alternative learning systems for out-of-school youth and adult learners and includes education for those with special needs (2017 PSCED).
Early childhood education	Learning and educational activities with a holistic approach to support children's early cognitive, physical, social and emotional development and introduce young children to organized instruction outside of the family context to develop some of the skills needed for academic readiness and to prepare them for entry into primary education (2017 PSCED).
Higher Education	Stage of formal education, or its equivalent, requiring completion of secondary education and covering programs of study leading to bachelor and advanced degrees (2017 PSCED).
LMIs	Measures to enhance employment opportunities, and protect the rights and welfare of workers (NEDA-SDC Cabinet Resolution No. 1, s. 2007).
Mental health	A state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community. It is an integral component of health and well-being that underpins our individual and collective abilities to make decisions, build relationships and shape the world we live in. Mental health is a basic human right. And it is crucial to personal, community and socio-economic development (https://www.who.int/).
PhiljobNet	An internet-based job and applicant matching system which aims to fast track jobseekers search for jobs and employers search for manpower. It provides jobseekers with a listing of job vacancies posted by accredited employers and manpower recruitment agencies (https://ble.dole.gov.ph).
Social Insurance	Programs to mitigate income risks (NEDA-SDC Cabinet Resolution No. 1, s. 2007).
Social Protection	Constitutes policies and programs that seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized by promoting and protecting livelihood and employment, protecting against hazards and sudden loss of income, and improving people's capacity to manage risks. (NEDA-SDC Cabinet Resolution No. 1, s. 2007).
Social Safety Nets	Urgent responses & mechanisms that address effects of socio-economic shocks, disasters and calamities on vulnerable groups (NEDA-SDC Cabinet Resolution No. 1, s. 2007).
Social Welfare	Preventive and developmental interventions to support the minimum basic needs of the poor (NEDA-SDC Cabinet Resolution No. 1, s. 2007).
Universal Health	All Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services, and protected against financial risk (https://doh.gov.ph/).

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Planning Committees

PLANNING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 4.1. BOOST HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Health MIMAROPA

Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - DRD

Member Agencies:

Commission on Population and Development MIMAROPA

Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA

National Nutrition Council MIMAROPA

Department of Budget and Management MIMAROPA

Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA

Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA

Commission on Higher Education MIMAROPA

Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration MIMAROPA

Philippine Health Insurance Corporation

National Commission on Indigenous Peoples MIMAROPA

National Youth Commission

Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators

Private Sector Representatives

CHAPTER 4.2. IMPROVE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Lead Agency/Chair: Technical Education and Skills Development Authority MIMAROPA

Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - DRD

Member Agencies:

Commission on Higher Education MIMAROPA

Department of Information and Communications Technology MIMAROPA

Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA

Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA

Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators

Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA

State Universities and Colleges

Department of Public Works and Highways

Private Sector Representatives

CHAPTER 4.3. ESTABLISH LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development MIMAROPA
Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - DRD

Member Agencies:

Department of Public Works and Highways MIMAROPA	Department of Tourism MIMAROPA
Climate Change Commission	Department of Environment and Natural Resources MIMAROPA
Local Water Utilities Administration	Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA
Office of Civil Defense MIMAROPA	Department of Health MIMAROPA
Department of Transportation	Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA
Department of Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA	Department of Information and Communications Technology MIMAROPA
Department of Energy	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples MIMAROPA	Environmental Management Bureau MIMAROPA
Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
	Private Sector Representatives

PLANNING COMMITTEE ON REDUCING VULNERABILITIES AND PROTECT PURCHASING POWER

CHAPTER 5.1. ENSURE FOOD SECURITY AND PROPER NUTRITION

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA
Vice Chair: Department of Agrarian Reform MIMAROPA
Co-Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PDIPBD

Member Agencies:

Food and Drug Administration MIMAROPA	Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation 4
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources MIMAROPA	Agricultural Training Institute MIMAROPA
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority MIMAROPA	Agricultural Credit Policy Council
Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA	Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA
Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA	National Irrigation Administration MIMAROPA
Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
Cooperative Development Authority MIMAROPA	Private Sector Representatives

CHAPTER 5.2 STRENGTHEN SOCIAL PROTECTION

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Social Welfare and Development MIMAROPA
Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - DRD

Member Agencies:

Commission on Higher Education MIMAROPA	Department of Agrarian Reform MIMAROPA
Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA	Department of Education MIMAROPA
Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA	Department of Health MIMAROPA
Government Service Insurance System Calapan Branch	League of Provinces of the Philippines
National Anti-Poverty Commission	Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples MIMAROPA	National Nutrition Council MIMAROPA
National Youth Commission	Office of Civil Defense MIMAROPA
Philippine Commission on Women	Philippine Health Insurance Corporation Calapan Branch
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority MIMAROPA	Department of Foreign Affairs Consular Office Puerto Princesa
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration MIMAROPA	Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA
Social Security System Calapan Branch	Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA
Council for the Welfare of Children	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
	Private Sector Representatives

CHAPTER 6 INCREASE INCOME-EARNING ABILITY

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA
Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - DRD

Member Agencies:

Commission on Higher Education MIMAROPA	Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board MIMAROPA
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority MIMAROPA	Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA
Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA	Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA
Department of Information and Communications Technology MIMAROPA	Philippine Commission on Women
National Youth Commission	Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA
Philippine Institute for Development Studies	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
Department of Education MIMAROPA	Private Sector Representatives

CHAPTER 7 MODERNIZE AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-BUSINESS

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA

Vice Chair: Department of Agrarian Reform MIMAROPA

Co-Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PDIPBD

Member Agencies:

Food and Drug Administration MIMAROPA	Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation 4
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources MIMAROPA	Agricultural Credit Policy Council
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority MIMAROPA	National Irrigation Administration MIMAROPA
Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA	Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA
Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA	Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority
Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA	State Universities and Colleges
Agricultural Training Institute MIMAROPA	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
Cooperative Development Authority MIMAROPA	Private Sector Representatives

CHAPTER 8 REVITALIZE INDUSTRY: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION-DRIVEN INDUSTRIALIZATION

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA

Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PDIPBD

Member Agencies:

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority MIMAROPA	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas South Luzon
Department of Environment and Natural Resources MIMAROPA	Department of Energy
Cooperative Development Authority MIMAROPA	Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA
Department of Trade and Industry - Competitiveness Bureau	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources MIMAROPA
Philippine Economic Zone Authority	Development Bank of the Philippines Calapan Branch
Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA	Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA
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Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
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CHAPTER 9 REINVIGORATE SERVICES

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Member Agencies:

National Commission for Culture and the Arts	Philippine Ports Authority
Department of Information and Communications Technology MIMAROPA	Department of Tourism MIMAROPA
Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA	Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority	Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA
Department of Transportation	National Telecommunications Commission MIMAROPA
Maritime Industry Authority MIMAROPA	Department of Public Works and Highways MIMAROPA
Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines	Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority MIMAROPA	State Universities and Colleges
Philippine Institute of Development Studies	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas South Luzon	Private Sector Representatives

CHAPTER 10 ADVANCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA
Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PDIPBD

Member Agencies:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources MIMAROPA	Department of Health MIMAROPA
Department of Budget and Management MIMAROPA	Department of Transportation
Commission on Higher Education MIMAROPA	Department of Energy
Department of Information and Communications Technology MIMAROPA	Office of Civil Defense MIMAROPA
Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA	Department of Education MIMAROPA
Department of Foreign Affairs Consular Office Puerto Princesa	Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines
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Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA	State Universities and Colleges
Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
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CHAPTER 11 PROMOTE TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA
Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PDIPBD

Member Agencies:

Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA	Bureau of Local Government Finance MIMAROPA
Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA	Department of Foreign Affairs Consular Office Puerto Princesa
Department of Communications and Information Technology MIMAROPA	Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA
Philippine Economic Zone Authority	Board of Investments
Bureau of Customs Sub-Port Puerto Princesa	Philippine Coast Guard
Philippine Institute for Development Studies	National Security Council
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas South Luzon	State Universities and Colleges
Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
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PLANNING COMMITTEE ON ENSURING MACROECONOMIC STABILITY

SUBCHAPTER 12.1 PROMOTE AN INNOVATIVE, INCLUSIVE, AND HEALTHY FINANCIAL SECTOR

Lead Agency/Chair: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas South Luzon
Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PFPD

Member Agencies:

Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA	LBP Calapan Branch
Cooperative Development Authority MIMAROPA	Pag-IBIG Calapan Branch
Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA	DBP Calapan Branch
Bureau of Local Government Finance MIMAROPA	Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators
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SUBCHAPTER 12.2 ENSURE SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVE THE TAX REGIME

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Budget and Management MIMAROPA

Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PFPD

Member Agencies:

Bureau of Local Government Finance MIMAROPA

Bureau of the Treasury MIMAROPA

Bureau of Internal Revenue Region

Bureau of Customs Sub-Port Puerto Princesa

Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators

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CHAPTER 13 EXPAND AND UPGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Public Works and Highways MIMAROPA

Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PMED

Member Agencies:

Department of Information and Communications Technology MIMAROPA

Department of Transportation

Department of Energy

National Water Resources Board

Local Water Utilities Administration

Electric Cooperatives

National Grid Corporation of the Philippines

National Power Corporation

National Electrification Administration

Philippine Ports Authority

Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines

Philippine Coast Guard

National Telecommunications Commission MIMAROPA

Philippine Postal Corporation - Luzon Area

Environmental Management Bureau MIMAROPA

Land Transportation Office MIMAROPA

Maritime Industry Authority MIMAROPA

Land Transportation Franchising and
Regulatory Board Region MIMAROPA

Philippine Reclamation Authority

Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators

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PLANNING COMMITTEE ON ENSURING PEACE AND SECURITY AND ENHANCE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SUBCHAPTER 14.1. ENSURE PEACE AND SECURITY

Lead Agency/Chair: Philippine National Police MIMAROPA

Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PFPD

Member Agencies:

Office of Civil Defense MIMAROPA

Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA

Department of Information and Communication Technology MIMAROPA

Commission on Human Rights MIMAROPA

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency MIMAROPA

Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators

Private Sector Representatives

SUBCHAPTER 14.2. ENHANCE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Justice Regional State Prosecutor 4

Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PFPD

Member Agencies:

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Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA

Commission on Human Rights MIMAROPA

Bureau of Jail Management and Penology MIMAROPA

Bureau of Corrections

Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators

Private Sector Representatives

CHAPTER 15 PRACTICE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND IMPROVE BUREAUCRATIC EFFICIENCY

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Budget and Management MIMAROPA

Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PFPD

Member Agencies:

Anti-Red Tape Authority Southern Luzon

Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA

Development Academy of the Philippines

Department of Information and Communication Technology MIMAROPA

Civil Service Commission 4

Commission on Audit

Provincial/City Planning and Development Coordinators

Private Sector Representatives

CHAPTER 16 ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION AND STRENGTHEN DISASTER RESILIENCE

Lead Agency/Chair: Department of Environment and Natural Resources MIMAROPA

Vice Chair: NEDA MIMAROPA - PDIPBD

Member Agencies:

Department of Budget and Management MIMAROPA

Department of the Interior and Local Government MIMAROPA

Department of Science and Technology MIMAROPA

Climate Change Commission

Philippine Statistics Authority MIMAROPA

Department of Public Works and Highways MIMAROPA

Department of Labor and Employment MIMAROPA

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development MIMAROPA

Department of Agriculture MIMAROPA

Department of Energy

Department of Tourism MIMAROPA

Department of Transportation

Office of Civil Defense MIMAROPA

Bureau of Local Government Finance MIMAROPA

Department of Trade and Industry MIMAROPA

Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and
Astronomical Services Administration

Mines and Geosciences Bureau MIMAROPA

Environmental Management Bureau MIMAROPA

Biodiversity Management Bureau

State Universities and Colleges

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MIMAROPA RDP Chapter Writers

Part I. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1: Overview of the Regional Economy, Development Context and Trends

Angelo Paolo Aboboto
Vonn Orland C. Leynes
Jobelle M. Cruzado

Chapter 2: Regional Spatial Development Framework

Chieko Elemento

Chapter 3: Overview of the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan 2023-2028 Strategy Framework

Beltisezara A. Garcia

Part II. DEVELOP AND PROTECT CAPABILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Chapter 4: Promote Human and Social Development

Subchapter 4.1: Boost Health and Nutrition

Chara Lois T. Eje
Judy Mae V. Masangkay

Subchapter 4.2: Improve Education and Lifelong Learning

Loreto H. Castillo, Jr.
Vonn Orland C. Leynes
Marissa M. Morales

Subchapter 4.3: Establish Livable Communities

Kimberly Ann T. Pilongo
Vonn Orland C. Leynes

Chapter 5: Reduce Vulnerabilities and Protect Purchasing Power

Subchapter 5.1: Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition

Kimberly Ann T. Pilongo
Chara Lois T. Eje

Subchapter 5.2: Strengthen Social Protection

Jhunjun F. Fajutagana

Chapter 6: Increase Income-earning Ability

Loreto H. Castillo, Jr.
Jhunjun F. Fajutagana
Vonn Orland C. Leynes

Part III. TRANSFORM PRODUCTION SECTORS TO GENERATE MORE QUALITY JOBS AND COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

Chapter 7: Modernize Agriculture and Agribusiness

Kimberly Ann T. Pilongo

Chapter 8: Revitalize Industry: Science, Technology, and Innovation-driven Industrialization

Ruther John B. Col-long

Chapter 9: Reinvigorate Services

Pamela L. De Torres

Chapter 10: Advance Research and Development, Technology, and Innovation

Ruther John B. Col-long

Chapter 11: Promote Trade and Investments

Pamela L. De Torres

Part IV. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Chapter 12: Ensure Macroeconomic Stability

Subchapter 12.1: Promote an Innovative, Inclusive, and Healthy Financial Sector

Julius Carlo F. Hilado

Subchapter 12.2: Ensure Sound Fiscal Management and Improve the Tax Regime

Julius Carlo F. Hilado

Chapter 13: Expand and Upgrade Infrastructure

Francis Bayani F. De Guzman

Jojo R. Datinguinoo

Keizher T. Marasigan

Chapter 14: Ensure Peace and Security and Enhance Administration of Justice

Subchapter 14.1: Attain Peace and Security

Jakeson D. Alcones

Jhunjun F. Fajutagana

Subchapter 14.2: Enhance Administration of Justice

Angelo Paolo Aboboto

Chapter 15: Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic and Regulatory Efficiency

Wilson D. Garcia

Aireen A. Calica

Chapter 16: Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience

Charmaine M. Bejasa

Part V. FROM PLAN TO ACTION

Chapter 17: Plan Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Keizher T. Marasigan

NEDA MIMAROPA - RDP Teams

Editorial Team

Agustin C. Mendoza, EnP

Regional Director
NEDA MIMAROPA

Apollo Edwin S. Pagano, EnP

Assistant Regional Director
NEDA MIMAROPA

Sheryll B. Sarabia, EnP

Chief Economic Development Specialist
Policy Formulation and Planning Division

Bernardino A. Atienza, Jr.

Chief Economic Development Specialist
Project Development, Investment Programming, and Budgeting Division

Roy A. Dimayuga

Chief Economic Development Specialist
Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division

Emerson Kim J. Lineses

Chief Economic Development Specialist
Development Research Division

Ryan O. Manrique

Chief Administrative Officer
Finance and Administrative Division

NEDA MIMAROPA - RDP Teams

Graphics, Design, and Layout

Sheryll B. Sarabia, EnP

Beltisezara A. Garcia

Loreto H. Castillo, Jr.

AVP and IEC Materials

Sheryll B. Sarabia, EnP

**Ryan O. Manrique
Beltisezara A. Garcia
Joel M. Paule
Jayvee G. Menguito**

**Mel Anthony I. Atienza
Dean M. Baja
Wilson D. Garcia
Wilfred Anthony P. Dela Cruz**

Production

Ryan O. Manrique

**Sheryll B. Sarabia, EnP
Beltisezara A. Garcia
Jakeson D. Alcones
Loreto H. Castillo, Jr.
Mel Anthony I. Atienza**

**Joel M. Paule
Kenneth Joy T. Arteza
Dean M. Baja
Wilson D. Garcia
Wilfred Anthony P. Dela Cruz**

Overall Plan Secretariat

Sheryll B. Sarabia, EnP

Chief, Policy Formulation and Planning Division

Beltisezara A. Garcia

Assistant Chief, Policy Formulation and Planning Division

Angelo Paolo Aboboto

Senior Economic Development Specialist

Julius Carlo F. Hilado, EnP

Senior Economic Development Specialist

Engr. Jakeson D. Alcones

Senior Economic Development Specialist

Loreto H. Castillo, Jr.

Economic Development Specialist II

Chieko Elemento

Economic Development Specialist I




MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan 2023-2028


Published by:


National Economic and Development Authority MIMAROPA

J. P. Rizal St., San Vicente South
Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, 5200

 +6343 288-6115

 mimaropa@neda.gov.ph

 <https://mimaropa.neda.gov.ph>

 /mimaropaneda