# Report on the Physical Component of the Conservation Needs Assessment of Mindoro Island, Philippines

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Ву

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# List of Acronyms

CADC	-	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim
CADT	-	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
CBFM	-	Community-Based Forest Management
DENR	-	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOST	-	Department of Science and Technology
EP	-	Exploratory Permit
FMB	-	Forest Management Bureau
FTAA	-	Financial/Technical Assistance Agreement
GIS	-	Geographic Information System
IBA	-	Important Bird Areas
MBCFI	-	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Incorporated
MGB	-	Mines and Geosciences Bureau
MPSA	-	Mineral Production and Sharing Agreement
NAMRIA	-	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
NBSAP	-	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NIPAS	-	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NCIP	-	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
PAWB	-	Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau
PBCPP	-	Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priority-setting Program
PCARRD	-	Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development
RA	-	Republic Act
SPPF	-	Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm

#### Introduction

The Philippines is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of biological diversity. It holds greater than 50,000 species of plants and animals, of which more than half exist only within its islands and are found nowhere else in the world (Ong et al.2002). It even boasts, as a point of comparison, more endemic species on a per area basis than much larger countries like Brazil and Madagascar, such that the Philippines is commonly thought of as the "Galapagos Island multiplied tenfold" (Heaney and Regalado 1998).

However, the Philippine archipelago is also recognized as one of 34 global biodiversity hotspots, or biologically-rich countries that are under a high degree of threat. In fact, less than 6% of its original forest remains and 641 species are listed as globally-threatened under the 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (IUCN 2008; Conservation International-Philippines et al. 2006). The main threats to Philippine biodiversity include the destruction of natural habitats, and unsustainable resource use practices and development activities due to increasing human population pressure. This situation has led to the Philippines being regarded as one of the highest global priorities for conservation of biodiversity.

In 2002, 206 conservation priority areas, comprised of both terrestrial and marine areas, have been identified under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. From the list of conservation priority areas, 128 were identified as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) based on the standard criteria of vulnerability and irreplaceability. These KBAs represent the diverse range of habitats found within the archipelago, including forests, coastal/marine, and wetland ecosystems in general.

Mindoro Island, situated in the central part of the Philippines, constitutes one of the major biogeographic regions in the country, exhibiting high levels of species richness and a diverse range of habitats. It is home to the critically endangered Mindoro Dwarf Buffalo (*Bubalus mondorensis*), locally known as the "Tamaraw", which is found only in Mindoro and is considered as the largest endemic mammal in the Philippines (IUCN 2008). For birds alone, six endemic species have been recorded on the island out of the total 576 species found in the country (Haribon Foundation 2004; Ong et al.2002). Apart from its wealth of biological resources, it is also the home of the indigenous Mangyan tribes, making the island one of the important cultural centers of the Philippines.

But like many of the unique islands of the country, Mindoro's immense natural wealth is threatened by anthropogenic activities such as land conversion, illegal wildlife hunting, and timber poaching; it is also consistently assailed by large-scale mining applications. Most of the original forest cover of the island has already declined in the last century, as shown by the forest cover maps of the ESSC (1999). Protection efforts in the past were either implemented but not sustained, or were sadly unsuccessful at all. Existing conservation programs may also not be enough to significantly secure the island's natural wealth for the future generations.

Mindoro Island is considered as one of the top priority conservation areas both locally and internationally, requiring the need for immediate conservation interventions to protect and preserve the islands' remaining habitats and important wildlife. The Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc. (MBCFI) was established to address the long-term conservation of Mindoro's endemic wildlife and their natural habitats for the benefit of future generations of all peoples through its mandate to develop integrated biodiversity conservation and development programs, which include improved dissemination of knowledge, management practices and the active participation and collaboration of relevant stakeholders.

The conservation needs assessment of Mindoro Island was proposed to aid in decision-making and developing conservation interventions. This report focuses on the mapping and physical aspect of the conservation needs assessment.

#### Objectives

Using geomatics tools, the physical component seeks to provide background information on relevant geographic and spatial features of Mindoro Island, relevant to addressing its conservation needs. It will also assess the extent and distribution of remaining key habitats on Mindoro Island and its municipalities, and within the conservation priority sites identified by MBCFI. The analyses will also provide an indication of the potential coverage of each conservation site as input for the future delineation of their extent or boundaries.

Specifically, the geomatics component aims to:

- 1. Gather relevant secondary data and information on the mapping and physical aspects of Mindoro Island, including administrative boundaries, topography and hydrology, land cover, mineral resources, and tenurial instruments; and
- 2. Provide inputs and recommendations on the mapping and physical aspects of Mindoro Island in support of program development activities of MBCFI.

#### Methodology

#### Secondary data gathering

Available maps and secondary data pertaining to the physical and land use aspect were obtained including topography, climate, land cover, tenurial instruments, administrative boundaries, among other pertinent data. Boundary monuments and benchmarks were secured for geo-referencing of scanned images of tenurial instruments. A review of related literature was conducted and integrated in the report, including geographical references and conservation studies on Mindoro, relevant policies and local land use plans, if available, which were requested from different concerned agencies and organizations.

#### Map digitizing

Hardcopy maps were procured, scanned, digitized, and converted to electronic formats, particularly as shapefiles or JPEG images, for incorporation in a geographic information system (GIS). Tabular data such as technical descriptions and other coordinate data were encoded into spreadsheets and converted into tab delimited text files, which were imported into a GIS software.

#### Spatial analyses

All spatial data were incorporated into a GIS as shapefiles to facilitate better data integration, manipulation, and analyses. All scanned maps were saved in JPEG or TIFF formats. Thematic datasets adopt the Universal Transverse Mercator projection Zone 51 North and the Luzon datum. ArcView<sup>®</sup> GIS 3.2 developed by ESRI was used as the primary software including some 3<sup>rd</sup> party developer extension tools for geo-processing, conversion between projections, area computations, plotting technical descriptions, and topographical analysis.

#### **Results and Discussion**

#### Location

Mindoro Island is situated at the central portion of the Philippine archipelago, off the southern coast of mainland Luzon. The island is bounded on the north by the Verde Island Passage, and partly by the South China Sea; on the east by Tablas Strait; on the west by Mindoro Strait; and on the south by the Sulu Sea.

Its neighboring islands and provinces include:

Batangas province on mainland Luzon to the north; the Calamianes Island Group of the province of Palawan to the southwest; the island province of Marinduque to the northeast; and the island group province of Romblon, and the provinces of Antique and Aklan on Panay Island to the southeast.

#### Administrative Coverage

Mindoro Island is composed of 247 islands and islets, including seven major islands, namely (in order of land area, beginning from the largest): Mindoro, Lubang, Ilin, Ambil, Golo, Ambulong, and Cabra Islands. The islands have a total land area of 1,003,854 hectares (based on the municipal boundary data digitized by Conservation International-Philippines from NAMRIA 1:50,000 topographic maps). It is divided into two administrative provinces: Mindoro Occidental and Mindoro Oriental, each having 11 and 15 municipalities, respectively (Table 1).

Mindoro Occidental has a total land area of 582,748 hectares (which is 58.05% of the total land area of Mindoro), and occupies the eastern half of Mindoro. Mamburao is the provincial capital. Sablayan is the largest municipality in terms of land area, not only for the province but for the entire island, comprising almost 23% of the total land area of Mindoro; it is even almost twice the size of the province of Cavite.

Province	Municipality / City	No. of Barangays	Land Area (ha.)	% of total land area of Mindoro
Mindoro Occidental	1. Abra de llog	9	58,796	5.86
	2. Calintaan	7	31,399	3.13
L	3. Looc	9	12,821	1.28
lotal land area:	4. Lubang	16	12,491	1.24
582,748 nectares	5. Magsaysay	12	35,222	3.51
(58.05% OF LOCAL IAND AFEA	6. Mamburao	15	30,962	3.08
	7. Paluan	12	52,870	5.27
	8. Rizal	11	18,870	1.88
	9. Sablayan	22	230,336	22.95
	10. San Jose	38	39,310	3.92
	11. Santa Cruz	11	59,670	5.94
Mindoro Oriental	12. Baco	27	29,069	2.90
	13. Bansud	13	24,657	2.46
	14. Bongabong	36	48,054	4.79
Total land area:	15. Bulalacao	15	32,470	3.23
(11 95% of total land area	16. Calapan City	62	24,651	2.46
of Mindoro)	17. Gloria	27	27,492	2.74
	18. Mansalay	17	50,547	5.04
	19. Naujan	70	39,759	3.96
	20. Pinamalayan	37	24,347	2.43
	21. Pola	23	10,884	1.08
	22. Puerto Galera	13	22,577	2.25
	23. Roxas	20	8,867	0.88
	24. San Teodoro	8	34,244	3.41
	25. Socorro	26	18,525	1.85
	26. Victoria	32	24,965	2.49
TOTAL		588	1,003,854	100.00

Table 1. Land area of the municipalities and provinces Mindoro.

Mindoro Oriental, on the other hand, has a

total land area of 421,106 hectares (or 41.95% of the total land area of Mindoro), and occupies the western half of Mindoro Island. Calapan City is the provincial capital. The municipality of Mansalay is the largest town of the province.

Based on NSO DATOS 2002 data, there are 588 barangays found in both provinces of Mindoro with 162 and 426 barangays in Mindoro Occidental and Mindoro Oriental, respectively. Naujan has the most number of barangays followed by Calapan City, both in Mindoro Oriental province. San Jose consists of 38 barangays, the highest number of barangays in Mindoro Occidental.

# Topography

Topography describes the nature of the surface of the land. Slope and contour information were interpolated from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) data produced by the joint efforts of the United States National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA), and the Italian and German space agencies (Rodriguez et al.2005). Slope categories used in this report adopts the standard slope classification used by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Mindoro Island is basically considered as highland owing to its high relief and dominantly steeply sloping to mountainous terrain (Figure 1, Table 2). Mt. Halcon is the highest summit on the island, standing at an estimated elevation of 2,560 meters above mean sea level. High elevations and steeply sloping areas are concentrated at the central axis of the island, running from northwest to southeast. Mountainous terrain accounts for 13.94% of the island.

Lowland flat areas are mostly situated at the eastern portion of the island, mainly at Mindoro Oriental; the most extensive flat areas are situated in the municipalities of Naujan, Victoria, Baco, and the City of Calapan, which are typically used for agricultural purposes. Although not as extensive as its neighboring province, lowland flat areas in Mindoro Occidental are situated in the municipalities of Sablayan, Santa Cruz, Rizal, San Jose, and Magsaysay.

Slope Category	Description	Area (ha.)	% to total land area of Mindoro
0 – 3%	Level to gently sloping	278,375	27.70
3 – 8%	Gently sloping to undulating	61,965	6.17
8 – 18%	Moderately sloping	132,690	13.20
18 – 30%	Steeply sloping	164,162	16.34
30 – 50%	Very steeply sloping	227,687	22.66
Over 50%	Mountainous	140,059	13.94
ΤΟΤΑΙ		1,004,938	100.00

 Table 2. Slope categories of Mindoro Island.

**Note:** The area total from the slope computations differ by approximately 11 square kilometers from the computed administrative land area of the islands. This discrepancy is due to the inherent difference in data formats (i.e., raster vs. vector data formats for slope and administrative boundary, respectively), which is best manifested along the coastlines.

#### **Climatic Condition**

Climate refers to the average weather conditions of a place over a certain period or the historical record of average daily and seasonal weather events. It encompasses the temperatures, humidity, rainfall, and other meteorological factors in a given region over long periods of time.

#### Climate Types

Mindoro Island experiences to two climatic types: Type I and Type III based on the Coronas climate classification (PAGASA et al.1992). The two types are described as follows:

Type I: two pronounced seasons, dry from December to May and wet from June to December. Maximum rain period is from June to September. Areas characterized by this climate type are generally exposed to the southwest monsoon (*habagat*) and get a fair share of the rainfall brought about by tropical cyclones occurring especially during the maximum rain period.

Type III: No very pronounced maximum rain period, with a short dry season lasting only from one to three months. This type is intermediate between Types I and II, although it resembles the first type more closely because it has a short dry season. Areas of this climate type are partly shielded from the northeast monsoon (*amihan*) but are exposed to the southwest monsoon and are also benefited by the rainfall caused by tropical cyclones.

The boundary between the two climate types is roughly situated over the highlands, stretching from Abra de Ilog going southwest along high elevations to Bulalacao (Figure 2). Areas classified under Type I comprise almost the entire province of Mindoro Occidental, including Lubang and Ilin Islands; Bulalacao in Mindoro Oriental; but excluding western portions of Abra de Ilog. Mindoro Oriental is mostly classified under Type III, with the exception of Bulalacao and portions of Mansalay and Bongabong.

The noticeable difference in vegetation types on both sides of Mindoro's highlands, for example: grasslands at Sablayan side, and forests at Mindoro Oriental side, is a classic rain shadow effect generally resulting from the two different climate types experienced by Mindoro, the frequency of tropical cyclones, and its topography.

#### Rainfall, Humidity, and Temperature

As of this writing, no substantial secondary data has been gathered yet concerning the rainfall, humidity, and temperature information of the island.

#### Land Cover and Habitat Types

For the purposes of gathering available secondary data on land cover, this report uses two series of national land cover maps: the 1987 data produced by Swedish Space Corporation (SSC), and the 2003 joint NAMRIA and Forest Management Bureau data; the latter being the most recent available land cover data of Mindoro Island. An overlay of the two datasets was also implemented to derive possible changes in land cover during a period of 16 years.

Due to the variance in land area baselines used in each dataset owing to the differing methodologies employed by its developers, both datasets were geo-processed to conform to the extent of administrative boundary data digitized from 1:50,000 topographic maps. This has resulted in non-existent areas in both land cover datasets being treated as existing land in the administrative boundary data; these discrepancies, while negligible (i.e., 0.16% and 0.67% for 2003 and 1987 data, respectively), are reflected nonetheless as "no data" types for purposes of consistency in land area figures.

It should also be noted early on in this section that assessments on the integrity of the datasets have been published in other studies. In the case of SSC data, Kummer (1992) described inherent limitations such as the inadequacy of ground reference data for such an extensive scope, and its incompatibility for comparisons with previous forest inventories. Further, De Alban (2005) similarly highlighted the implications of the SSC data limitations in terms of area calculations and its coarseness for site conservation planning. The Asian Development Bank (2004) also pointed out uncertainties pertaining to the NAMRIA-FMB forest cover data.

#### Despite these weaknesses, the two datasets

are used here mainly on the basis of practicality and the scope of this preliminary geomatics work. This report only consolidates as much relevant secondary information to come up with a quick assessment of the conservation needs of Mindoro Island. Time constraint then rules out the use of more reliable land cover data, such as those derived from satellite image interpretation, which require a considerable period of time to process and interpret, and is thus beyond the time frame of this preliminary study. But basically both datasets are nevertheless official data and are also the best available in the absence of interpreted satellite imagery.

#### 1987 Land Cover Data

For this dataset, eighteen (18) land cover types are discriminated (Figure 4, Table 3). The dominant land cover features include brushlands, cultivated lands, forests (in this case, divided into 3 subtypes), and grasslands.

In 1987, forests took up less than a tenth (8.62%) of the total area of Mindoro, and were mostly situated at the central highlands. Forest types were mainly classified in terms of canopy cover—e.g., greater than 50% cover was treated as closed canopy; pine forests however were not distinguished. Mangroves were similarly sparse and were situated along coastlines and at Apo Reef.

#### 2003 Land Cover Data

Sixteen (16) land cover types, excluding No Data, are reflected in the 2003 data (Figure 3, Table 3). The dominant land cover features include shrublands, forests (which are divided into 4 subtypes), grasslands, and cultivated lands. Forests account for almost one-fifth (19.15%) of the total area of Mindoro; these are mainly found on highlands located at the northern half of the island. Sablayan, being the largest municipality, holds approximately 74,666 hectares (38.84%) of the total forest cover of Mindoro. Forest patches of varying types are scattered in the municipalities of Sablayan, San Jose, Paluan; between the boundary of Pola and Naujan; and Lubang Island, among a few others. Pine forest patches, or conifers, occur only in the municipality of Santa Cruz. Mangroves are sparse and are located along coastlines and at Apo Reef Marine Natural Park.

Shrublands, the dominant land cover which occupies an estimated 33% of the total area of Mindoro, are mainly situated in the northwest, eastern, and southern portions of the island. Grasslands, including partially wooded grasslands, take up a quarter (25.63%) of the total land area of Mindoro. These occur more extensively at the western side of Mindoro, due to the effect of its climate type and topography. Small patches of grasslands also occur on the Mindoro Oriental side, such as in the municipalities of Bulalacao, Bansud, Bongabong, Mansalay, Gloria, and Pinamalayan.

Cultivated areas also account for almost one-fifth (19.40%) of total area of Mindoro. Annual crops generally suggest at most a single planting and harvesting season throughout the year; these types of cultivated lands are scattered across the lowland areas of both provinces. Perennial crops involve at least two planting and harvesting cycles in a year, suggesting the utilization of irrigation; these crop types are more present in Mindoro Oriental, which is easily explained by its generally even rainfall distribution across the year due to the type of climate it experiences. Fishponds are present only in a few municipalities: San Jose, Magsaysay, Roxas, and Calapan.

1987 Land Cover Type	Land Area (ha.)	% to total land area of Mindoro	2003 Land Cover Type	Land Area (ha.)	% to total land area of Mindoro
Arable land, crops mainly cereals and sugar	101,934	10.15	Closed forest, broadleaved	49,495	4.93
Built-up area	598	0.06	Forest plantation, broadleaved	38,441	3.83
Closed canopy, mature trees covering > 50%	20,606	2.05	Open forest, broadleaved	103,608	10.32
Coconut plantations	9,324	0.93	Open forest, coniferous	695	0.07
Coral reef	549	0.05	Mangrove forest	1,133	0.11
Crop land mixed with coconut plantations	120,217	11.98	Inland water	4,058	0.40
Crop land mixed with other plantation	849	0.08	Built-up area	2,243	0.22
Cultivated area mixed with brushland/grassland	545,922	54.38	Cultivated land, annual crop	116,504	11.61
Fishponds derived from mangrove	6,951	0.69	Cultivated land, perennial crop	78,155	7.79
Grassland, grass covering > 70%	104,915	10.45	Fishpond	5,096	0.51
Lake	437	0.04	Barren land	11,545	1.15
Mangrove vegetation	1,615	0.16	Grassland	183,197	18.25
Marshy area and swamp	55	0.01	Marshland	1,904	0.19
Mossy forest	14,124	1.41	Fallow land	595	0.06
Open canopy, mature trees covering < 50%	51,830	5.16	Shrubland	331,529	33.03
Riverbeds	11,743	1.17	Wooded grassland	74,057	7.38
Siltation pattern in lake	94	0.01	No data	1,600	0.16
Unclassified	5,414	0.54			
No data	6,676	0.67			
1987 TOTAL	1,003,854	100.00	2003 TOTAL	1,003,854	100.00

Table 3. Land cover type classifications of Mindoro Island for 1987 and 2003.

Brushlands, although partly cultivated and mixed with grasslands, similarly formed the dominant land cover which occupied more than half of the total area of Mindoro. Grasslands, mainly referring to those areas covered with grasses by greater than 70%, took up only close to a tenth (10.45%) of the total land area of Mindoro. Again, grasslands occurred more prominently at the western side of Mindoro through the effect of geographical factors, with minor patches of grasslands also occurring on the Mindoro Oriental side.

Plantations and cultivated areas accounted for almost one-fourth (23. 14%) of total area of Mindoro. It is

#### not clear, however, which areas are identified

as annual or perennial agricultural plots based on the 1987 classification. The land cover map suggests that croplands mixed with plantations such as coconuts were perennial crops based on their general location; arable lands indicated seasonal cropping. Fishponds were also present in the municipalities of San Jose, Magsaysay, Roxas, Calapan, Pola, and Mansalay.

#### Changes in Land Cover from 1987 to 2003

Despite the inherent weaknesses of the datasets mentioned earlier in this section, an attempt was made to group similar cover types and to match these corresponding broad types between datasets in order to determine changes in land cover from 1987 to 2003. The groupings resulted in a generalization of land cover types into broader categories to allow a plausible comparison between the two maps (Table 4). Land cover types were broadly categorized into four (4) major classifications: forests, grasslands, brushlands, and cultivated areas and plantations; minor classifications (in terms of area) include six (6) types: built-up areas, fishponds, barren lands, inland water bodies, mangroves, and marshes.

Outcome	Broad Land Cover Category	1987 Land Cover Type	2003 Land Cover Type
Plausible	MAJOR	·	
reconciliation	Cultivated areas and plantations	<ul> <li>Arable land, crops mainly cereals and sugar</li> <li>Coconut plantations</li> <li>Crop land mixed with coconut plantations</li> <li>Crop land mixed with other</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cultivated land, annual crop</li> <li>Cultivated land, perennial crop</li> <li>Fallow land</li> </ul>
	Grasslands	• Grassland, grass covering > 70%	<ul><li>Grassland</li><li>Wooded grassland</li></ul>
	Forests	<ul> <li>Closed canopy, mature trees covering &gt; 50%</li> <li>Open canopy, mature trees covering &lt; 50%</li> <li>Mossy forest</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Closed forest, broadleaved</li> <li>Forest plantation, broadleaved</li> <li>Open forest, broadleaved</li> <li>Open forest, coniferous</li> </ul>
	Brushlands	<ul> <li>Cultivated area mixed with brushland/grassland</li> </ul>	Shrubland
	MINOR		
	Built-up areas	Built-up area	Built-up area
	Fishponds	<ul> <li>Fishponds derived from manarove</li> </ul>	Fishpond
	Barren lands	<ul> <li>Riverbeds</li> <li>Siltation pattern in the lake</li> </ul>	Barren land
	Inland water bodies	• Lake	<ul> <li>Inland water</li> </ul>
	Mangroves	Mangrove vegetation	Mangrove forest
	Marshes	Marshy area and swamp	Marshland
Cannot b reconciled	eNO CATEGORY	Coral reefs; Unclassified; No data	No data

Table 4. Matrix of broad land cover categories from matching of 1987 and 2003 land cover types.

Table 5 shows the variance (in percentage change) between the different land cover types from 1987 to 2003, a temporal difference of 16 years. The highlighted values represent the percentage of a particular land cover type that had not changed from 1987 through 2003, or in other words, had remained unchanged either by natural or anthropogenic factors (e.g., 65.94% of cultivated areas in 1987 had remained unchanged as cultivated areas in 2003). For major land cover types, with the inclusion of fishponds and built-up areas, changes that occurred as land conversion into other types are less than 50%; grasslands, for example, remains the highest unchanged cover type (80.21%) in 16 years. Other minor land cover types, such as mangroves, barren lands, inland water bodies, and marshes, have experienced rather drastic changes from 1987 to 2003.

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# Table 5. Variance between 1987 and 2003

%	2003											
1987	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total
1	65.94	23.13	0.93	5.56	0.60	0.42	1.68	0.67	0.26	0.71	0.12	100.00
2	2.11	80.21	7.50	9.46	-	-	0.05	0.63	-	-	0.03	100.00
3	0.51	2.65	67.94	28.65	-	0.00	0.15	-	0.09	-	0.00	100.00
4	5.28	20.10	22.42	51.50	0.02	0.00	0.39	0.18	0.01	0.02	0.07	100.00
5	13.59	11.31	1.78	-	70.21	0.74	-	1.64	-	-	0.73	100.00
6	25.67	13.39	0.03	0.66	1.56	51.09	0.46	3.29	2.60	-	1.26	100.00
7	23.28	24.20	0.27	5.39	0.00	-	44.31	2.46	0.03	-	0.06	100.00
8	24.70	2.77	37.58	-	-	-	-	16.69	-	18.26	-	100.00
9	83.36	2.06	-	-	0.26	1.16	0.45	5.74	6.05	0.91	0.01	100.00
10	56.52	39.50	0.64	0.05	3.29	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	100.00
11	35.25	26.74	6.18	16.13	1.89	4.17	0.49	1.30	1.05	0.37	6.44	100.00
Total	19.45	25.63	19.15	33.03	0.22	0.51	1.15	0.40	0.11	0.19	0.16	100.00

land cover (in percentage).

**Key for Broad Land Cover Categories:** 1 – cultivated areas; 2 – grasslands; 3 – forests; 4 – brushlands; 5 – built-up areas; 6 – fishponds; 7 – barren lands; 8 – inland water bodies; 9 – mangroves; 10 – marshes; 11 – no data.

The following is a brief analysis and description of changes for each particular land cover type:

- 1.) Cultivated areas. An estimated 65.94% of cultivated areas had remained unchanged. About 23.13% have reverted into grasslands, of which the possible causes of conversion could be the abandonment of these farm lands or a prolonged fallow period. About 5.56% have changed into brushlands, or possibly have been developed as agroforests.
- 2.) Grasslands. A large proportion (80.21%) of grasslands had remained unchanged. From the data, 9.46% of grasslands may have succeeded into brushlands by natural progression of vegetation growth and expansion; the change to forests from grasslands may similarly have been through the natural growth of vegetation, or possibly through human-induced reforestation. A small portion (2.11%) of grasslands have also been converted into cultivated areas and other agricultural purposes.
- 3.) Forests. Changes in forest areas were dominantly into brushlands (almost 29%). This may be due to the extraction of forest resources and degradation. Two-thirds of forests (67.94%) remained unchanged from 1987 to 2003.
- 4.) Brushlands. Only a little more than half (or 51.50%) of brushlands had remained unchanged from 1987 to 2003. About 22.42% may have progressed into forests, according to the data. About 5.28% have been converted for agricultural purposes while 20.10% have transformed into grasslands (possibly from conversion into agricultural areas which were later on abandoned, since direct change may be highly unlikely unless evidence to support this observation is available).
- 5.) Built-up areas. Almost three-fourths of built-up areas (70.21%) had remained unchanged. Major changes into other types are into cultivated areas (13.59%) and grasslands (11.31%), which may be considered as highly unlikely.
- 6.) Fishponds. Majority of fishponds (51.09%) had remained unchanged. Changes that occurred were into cultivated areas (25.67%), which is not unlikely; and into grasslands (13.39%), which may have occurred as a result of abandonment.
- 7.) Barren lands. Changes were mainly into grasslands (24.20%). Since these barren lands include riverbeds, the encroachment of grassy vegetation may be possible. On the other hand, 23.28% were converted for cultivation. Less than half (44.31%) of 1987 barren lands had remained unchanged in 2003.
- 8.) Inland water bodies. Only 16.69% of inland water bodies remained unchanged, although

#### 18.26% may have been misclassified

instead as marshes. Conversion into cultivated areas or forests could be unlikely, but may be explained instead through the limitation of the data (since small areas can be easily generalized at coarse map scales).

- 9.) Mangroves. Only 6.05% of mangroves remained unchanged. Much of the change was the result of conversion into cultivated areas (83.36%), which is a highly likely land use change scenario. Other changes involve 1.16% of mangroves converted into fishponds, while 5.74% had reverted into inland water bodies (possibly through the accretion of rivers and inland water bodies on mangrove areas).
- 10.) Marshes. Existing marshes in 1987 became virtually non-existent as of 2003. But again, the limitation of the data should be considered at this point since small areas, such as the condition of marshes in 1987, can be easily generalized at coarse map scales.
- 11.) No data. Changes occurring in this category are not considered for analysis due to the data limitations mentioned earlier in this section.

It may be noted from the result of the land cover change analysis that forest cover increased from 1987 to 2003. However, it can also be argued that forest types in 2003 include forest plantations, unlike 1987 types which were confined to natural forests. The land cover change analysis also had not considered the changes of forest cover in terms of different subtypes or habitats as the classification of forest cover data in both datasets are not readily comparable (i.e., 1987 mainly in terms of canopy cover; 2003 mainly in terms of forest types).

Possibly, the coarse resolution of both land cover maps explains the discrepancies in some improbable changes in cover types such as built-up areas into cultivated areas or grasslands, and inland water bodies into cultivated areas or forests. The analysis, nevertheless, yielded some plausible land cover change outcomes in the 16-year temporal difference. It is suggested that the changes in land cover types could be verified later on through primary data gathering (e.g., accounts or testimonies of local communities concerning land cover and land use changes, municipal government records, provincial DENR offices). But ultimately, the analysis reveals changes in major land cover or habitat types should be monitored for biodiversity conservation assessment and planning.

#### **Geology and Mineral Resources**

#### Geology

Philippine tectonics is one of the most active in the world. The country's tectonic activity is the result of the interaction of three (3) major tectonic plates, namely: the Pacific, the Eurasian, and Indian-Australian Plates (see inset figure A). The boundary between the eastern margin of the Eurasian Plate and the Philippine Sea Plate

is a complex system of subduction zones, collision zones, and marginal sea basin openings (Aurelio and Peña 2004). An actively deforming zone is created in between these two plates, which is referred to as the Philippine Mobile Belt.

The Philippine archipelago, in general, can be divided into two (2) geologic entities, particularly: 1) the Philippine Mobile Belt, and 2) the North Palawan Block. Each of these 2 entities is composed of different types of lithologic units including metamorphic rocks, ophiolites and ophiolitic rocks, magmatic rocks and active volcanic arcs, and sedimentary basins. The country is generally interpreted as a collage of insular arcs, ophiolitic suites, and continental rocks of Eurasian affinity.



**Inset Figure A.** Map showing the interactions of three (3) major tectonic plates, namely: the Pacific, the Eurasian, and Indian-Australian Plates. (Source: Michael D. Fuller at <u>http://www.higp.hawaii.edu).</u>

Metamorphic rocks (or rocks that have been changed from its original form by subjection to heat and pressure) of continental origin are located in northern Palawan, Mindoro, and Panay, and some neighboring islands; metamorphic formations of insular affinity are sporadically distributed throughout the archipelago.

Ophiolites, an assemblage of ultramafic rock fragments of the ocean crust that has been uplifted onto a continental crust, are widely spread throughout the archipelago and represent the basement on which magmatic arcs are developed. Magmatic arcs in the Philippines, however, according to Aurelio and Peña (2004), are still poorly understood.

Sedimentary basins, particularly for Mindoro, are both sedimentary formations thrust over continental formations (belonging to the North Palawan Block) and juxtaposed with the South China Sea ophiolitic crust; the sedimentation fill is composed of a limestone body and overlain by volcaniclastic rocks becoming more carbonaceous towards the surface.

The Philippine Fault is a designated fault zone cutting through almost the entire length of the archipelago (see inset figure B); this fault has been observed to extend to more than 1,200 kilometers from Luzon to Mindanao. The Mindoro/Aglubang Fault, one of several active faults in the country in addition to the Philippine Fault and its branches, represents the break in slope between the mountainous western portion of Mindoro and the flatlands of the eastern portion, as observed in Figure 1.



**Inset Figure B.** Map showing the Philippines flanked by the Philippine Sea and Eurasian Plates. The Philippine Fault traverses the whole length of the archipelago, and is divided into three major segments: northern (NW Luzon to Lamon Bay), central (Bondoc Peninsula to Leyte), and southern (Mindanao and the Moluccas). (Source: Bahay Kubo Research at http://www.bahaykuboresearch.net).

Mineral Resources

Mineral deposits in the Philippines have formed in three distinct geologic environments: oceanic, island arc, and continental. Many of the tectonic regions in the Philippines are a mixture of several environments due

#### to the amalgamation of different tectonic

terrain and the replacement of older geologic environments by younger ones (BMG 1986). Geologic processes lead to the formation of mineral deposits, of which when removed from the earth's surface can never be replaced again and are thus regarded as non-renewable resources.

Due to its complex geologic history, the Philippines' mineral endowments have been recognized as one of the highest in the world, with established reserves of 13 metallic and 29 non-metallic minerals despite its relatively small land area (MGB 2009). According to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, the most prominent metallic mineral reserves are gold, copper, nickel, and chromite, of which the country is ranked at 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th in world mineral endowments, respectively. Copper makes up the bulk of all metallic reserves in the country; limestone on the other hand constitutes the largest non-metallic mineral deposits followed by marble.

The Philippine mining industry produces a variety of mineral products, classified into six general categories of minerals, namely: precious metals; iron and ferro-alloy metals; base metals; fertilizer minerals; industrial minerals; gemstone and decorative minerals. Table 6 shows the minerals included in each of these categories and those found in Mindoro Island (MGB 2009; BMG 1986):

Category	Minerals Included	Major Location
Precious metals	Gold, Silver	San Teodoro
Iron and ferro-alloy metals	Chromite, Iron, Nickel	Ambil Island, Abra de Ilog, Sablayan
Base metals	Copper	Lubang Island
Fertilizer minerals	Phosphate Rock, Guano	Ilin Island, San Jose, Bulalacao
Industrial materials	Limestone, Feldspar, Marble, Silica	Abra de Ilog, Lubang Island
Gemstones, decorative minerals	Gemstones	

**Table 6.** Classification of Mineral Products found in Mindoro.

Gold deposits are widely distributed throughout the Philippine archipelago but most of the large and productive deposits are situated along the Philippine Fault. While Mindoro is way out of the country's premier gold districts (e.g., Baguio, Masbate, Surigao), one well-known gold deposit in Mindoro is situated in San Teodoro area. Silver in the Philippines is always associated with gold and recovered mainly as a by-product of gold and gold-bearing copper mines.

Iron and ferro-alloys—important for the production of iron and steel—also occur in Mindoro, particularly within the Abra de Ilog district and Sablayan. Iron deposits found in Abra de Ilog are classified as contact metasomatic deposits, which are usually the main source of lump iron ore; these are also considered to be the one of the oldest iron deposits in the country. Those concentrated in Sablayan are classified as laterite deposits of the nickeliferous types which are found over ultramafic rocks, and contain significant amounts of nickel, lead, and silicate nickel ore, apart from iron (BMG 1986). Chromite was first discovered in Mindoro, particularly in Ambil Island, during the early part of the American occupation of the country. Potential chromite deposits are concentrated at the northwestern portion of Mindoro Island.

For base or non-ferrous metals, copper is the primary metal with lead, zinc, and molybdenum occurring as co-products; gold and silver also occur as important co-products of copper mineralization. Prospects of copper deposits are scattered across Mindoro, but the most significant occurs in Lubang Island. The oldest known lead-zinc mineralization, occurring as a co-product of copper, is found in Sta. Cruz and Lubang Island.

Prospects of phosphate rock and guano are identified in Ilin Island, San Jose, and Bulalacao. These minerals are utilized as natural raw fertilizers and soil conditioners, and serve as ingredients for the manufacture of inorganic and chemical fertilizers. Guano, for instance, is an important source of phosphorous and nitrogen; these deposits are mostly found in limestone caves, which accumulate

through the excrement of birds and bats. Phosphate rock, on the other hand, is the main source for phosphate in chemical fertilizers.

For industrial materials, minerals found in Mindoro include asbestos, barite, bentonite, feldspar, talc, and silica. Asbestos, utilized for fire-proofing, insulation, and brake lining, are found in Abra de Ilog. Barite, a filler and adulterant for glass and oil well drilling industries, are found in the towns of Mansalay and Roxas. Feldspar, which occurs in Looc in Lubang Island, Abra de Ilog, and Pinamalayan, is mainly used as a constituent of glass, fired clay products, and enamels. Silica, similarly found in Lubang Island, is mainly used in glass manufacturing. Talc deposits, mainly used in ceramics and electrical insulators, are identified in Abra de Ilog.

Finally, gemstones were first discovered in the 1960s along Pagbahan River in Sta. Cruz, Mindoro Occidental by Mangyans. Generally associated as "Mindoro Jade" based on their geologic environments and rock associations, these gemstones greenish gray to light green in color and are underlain by greenschist, gneiss, metagabbro, and marble.

Figure 5 shows the point locations of mineral resource occurrences in Mindoro Island. Further information on these mineral resources can be consulted from BMG (1986).

#### Watershed Areas

PCARRD-DOST et al.(1999) defines a watershed as a topographically delineated area of land from which rainwater can drain, as surface runoff, via a specific stream or river system to a common outlet point which may be a dam, irrigation system or municipal/urban water supply off take point, or where the stream/river discharges into a larger river, lake or the sea.

Ridges of higher elevation generally form the boundaries between two watersheds. At these boundaries, rain falling on one side flow toward the low point of one watershed, while rain falling on the other side of the boundary flows toward the low point of a different watershed.

Watersheds are also interchangeably referred to as a river basin, or a drainage basin, or a catchment. In the Philippines, watersheds vary greatly in size and extent, and usually transcend the boundaries of administrative units. A watershed typology was developed by PCARRD-DOST et al. (1999) as a mechanism for managing watersheds in the country (Annex 1). The provincial scale was chosen as the minimum resolution for delineating and identifying watersheds in this report; watersheds smaller than this scale have not yet been delineated due to time constraint limitations. Watersheds at the provincial level, classified as medium-sized watersheds, range from 100 to 500 km<sup>2</sup>, of which the topographic boundaries occur within at least one but not more than two provinces.

A total of 20 watersheds (with areas  $\geq$  10,000 hectares, or 100 km<sup>2</sup>, and above) have been identified in Mindoro Island, and are treated as major watersheds for the purposes of this report. One out of the 20 major watersheds qualifies as a river basin: Magasawang Tubig. Three are considered as large watersheds, including Busuanga, Bongabong, and Amnay; the rest as medium-sized watersheds. These major watersheds occupy a total land area of 716,413 hectares (or 71.37% of the land area of Mindoro Island).

Nine of these major watersheds are situated in both provinces of Mindoro, particularly: Magasawang Tubig, Busuanga, Bongabong, Amnay, Cagaray, Pagbahan, Pula, Polo-Salagan, and Balete (Figure 6, Table 7). Magasawang Tubig River Basin, the largest of Mindoro's watersheds, is situated across 8 municipalities.

#### Forest Cover within Major Watersheds

Forests are an important component of healthy watersheds. Forests help regulate water flow, maintain water and air quality, provide soil stability through its root system up to some extent (Bruijnzeel 2004), and serve as important habitats for wildlife. Adequate forest cover should be kept within watersheds to maintain the ecological services that it provides.

The percentage of forest cover within these major watersheds ranges from 0.00% to 59.87% with an average of 21.69% (Figure 7, Table 7). Magasawang Tubig River Basin has the highest proportion of forest cover in relation to its land area. Wasig Watershed, on the other hand, is devoid of significant forest areas and is more dominantly covered by brushlands. Only four watersheds, namely: Magasawang Tubig, Bongabong, Rayusan, and Mongpong, have a forest-watershed area ratio above the average.

Watershed Name	Type (PCARRD et al.1999)	Land Area (ha.)	% of total land area of Mindoro	Forest Area (ha.)	% of Forest within Watershed
1. Magasawang Tubig	River Basin	140,222	13.97	83,956	59.87
2. Busuanga	Large Watershed	55,591	5.54	1,717	3.09
3. Bongabong	Large Watershed	55,497	5.53	13,110	23.62
4. Amnay	Large Watershed	53,880	5.37	11,668	21.66
5. Rayusan	Medium Watershed	44,122	4.40	12,086	27.39
6. Butas-Lumangbayan	Medium Watershed	44,028	4.39	3,028	6.88
7. Cagaray	Medium Watershed	42,930	4.28	3,662	8.53
8. Pinagsabaran	Medium Watershed	38,879	3.87	1,012	2.60
9. Lumintao	Medium Watershed	36,991	3.68	1,801	4.87
10. Mongpong	Medium Watershed	32,305	3.22	7,721	23.90
11. Pagbahan	Medium Watershed	31,492	3.14	4,253	13.51
12. Pula	Medium Watershed	24,149	2.41	1,230	5.09
13. Polo-Salagan	Medium Watershed	24,009	2.39	816	3.40
14. Wasig	Medium Watershed	16,382	1.63	-	0.00
15. Labangan	Medium Watershed	14,227	1.42	1,315	9.24
16. Abra de llog	Medium Watershed	13,438	1.34	2,527	18.80
17. Balete	Medium Watershed	13,153	1.31	1,563	11.89
18. Anahawin	Medium Watershed	12,304	1.23	676	5.49
19. Maragooc	Medium Watershed	11,604	1.16	1,568	13.51
20. Sumagui	Medium Watershed	11,211	1.12	1,697	15.14
TOTAL		716,413	71.37	155,406	

Table 7. Major watersheds within Mindoro Island vis-à-vis forest cover.

#### **Tenurial Instruments**

Land tenure instruments affect how site conservation management and planning are implemented in the country. It is necessary to take these prior rights and arrangements into consideration to come up with an appropriate management system, especially if the critical wildlife habitats and conservation sites are already under an existing tenurial instrument.

#### Mindoro provinces as of January 2008 from data

produced by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau. Annexes 2 to 5 provide the details of each instrument. The listing and maps of tenurial instruments provided in this report are by no means exhaustive and complete as of the time of writing; the sheer volume, scope, and coverage of tenurial instrument data and time constraints on data input had implications in the full consolidation of all spatial data into the GIS. The completion and integration of the tenurial instrument data in a common coordinate space and geodatabase is one of the major recommendations of this preliminary geomatics work.

Major tenurial instruments in Mindoro Island include, but are not limited to, the following: protected areas, certificates of ancestral domain titles and claims (CADT/CADC), mining tenements, community-based forest management areas (CBFM), and special reservations.

A total of six (6) protected areas are found in Mindoro. Annex 2 provides a detailed list of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (RA 7586), including initial components and areas proclaimed under the NIPAS Act. Identified protected areas more or less represent each of the major habitat types or ecosystems in Mindoro, particularly: forests and grasslands (Mts Iglit-Baco, Mt Calavite); lake or wetland/freshwater systems (Lake Naujan); mangroves (Apo Reef, Mindoro), coastal/marine (Apo Reef). The status of each protected area is in various steps or stages under the NIPAS Act. F.B. Harrison, in particular, although still listed under the NIPAS has been proposed for declassification as a protected area and delisted from the initial NIPAS components (Haribon Foundation 2004).

Ancestral domains in Mindoro belong to the Mangyan tribes, which consists of eight (8) sub-tribes including: Alangan, Batangan, Buhid, Iraya, Hanunuo, Sulodnon, Tadyawan, and Tau-Buid. Annex 3 provides a comprehensive list of approved titles and existing claims of ancestral domains in Mindoro. Two (2) ancestral domain titles have been approved to the Iraya Mangyan tribe situated in Mindoro Oriental in 2004; eleven (11) claims are presently in the pipeline for application as ancestral domain titles. Ancestral domains have an aggregate land area of 296,664 hectares, covering almost 30% of the total land area of Mindoro.

A total of 92 mining tenements, with a total land area of 607,759 hectares (60.54% of the total land area of the entire island), have been applied over Mindoro Island (Figure 8, Annex 4). These mining tenements are classified into exploratory permits, mineral production sharing agreements, and finance/technical assistance agreements.

The data and maps on community-based forest management areas, so far as of this writing, include areas found in the municipalities of Bulalacao and San Teodoro in Mindoro Oriental. Annex 5 provides a partial list of CBFM areas. The number of CBFM areas in each town consists of, but is not limited to, the following: four (4) in Bulalacao, and two (2) in San Teodoro. One (1) CBFM area has been reported in Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental, particularly in Sitio Palbong, adjacent to the Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm covering Mt Siburan (Haribon Foundation 2004).

Other tenurial instruments include government reservations and special projects. Sablayan Prison and Penal Farm (SPPF) in Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental was established by Proclamation No. 72 on 26 September 1954 as a special reservation among other government penal colonies in the country. The SPPF is situated over the forests of Mt Siburan. Haribon Foundation (2004) identified two (2) DENR special projects within the same municipality, particularly: 1) the Mindoro Pines Seeds Production Area, and 2) the FORI Experimental Forest Area.

#### Boundary Overlaps and Conflicts between Tenurial Instruments

Boundary overlaps exist between many tenurial instruments, which imply a complication of land use management and potential conflicts in jurisdiction. Notable overlaps occur between ancestral domains, which are sprawled across Mindoro Island, and protected areas. Fortunately, both the NIPAS Act (RA 7586) and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (RA 8371), the supporting legal frameworks of both tenurial instruments, contain provisions for the harmonious management and planning of areas classified under

both protected areas and ancestral domains, particularly on ancestral land recognition in protected areas and natural resources management with ancestral domains.

Mining tenements, which are applied across many areas on Mindoro, have extensive overlaps with CBFM areas in Bulalacao, Mindoro Oriental; with some portions of identified protected areas (such as Mts IglitBaco National Park and F.B. Harrison GBRS); and most especially ancestral domains, which can result in potential conflicts. The Provincial Government of Mindoro Oriental, in fact, enacted a 25-year mining moratorium in the province in 2002, particularly Provincial Ordinance No. 001-002 which is pursuant to Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, which empowers local government units to enact laws to protect the environment and mineral resources.

Other overlaps occur between ancestral domains and CBFM areas, particularly within the municipalities of Bulalacao and San Teodoro, Mindoro Oriental. Portions of SPPF in Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental are also subjected to mining applications, particularly under the Kanlaon Mining Corporation FTAA application.

#### **Priority Biodiversity Conservation Areas**

#### Biogeography and Conservation Importance of the Philippines

The biodiversity of the Philippine Islands is one of the richest and most important in the world, having exhibited extraordinarily high levels of endemism as a result of its complex biogeographic history. Sadly, it also has a high rate of habitat destruction and deforestation, making it a global priority for biodiversity conservation (Mallari et al. 2001). It is, in fact, regarded as the hottest of global biodiversity hotspots around the world (Myers et al. 2000).

The biogeography of the Philippine archipelago falls into fifteen (15) biomes, based on the floral, faunal, and geological composition of geographical areas in the country (Simpson et al. 2001). Mindoro Island is a unique biogeographic zone in itself compared to the rest of the islands in the country. Mindoro is also one among seven (7) major Endemic Bird Areas in the country identified by BirdLife International; it hosts ten (10) restricted-range bird species, of which five (5) species are concurrently globally threatened and endemic (Stattersfield et al. 1998; Mallari et al. 2001).

#### National Biodiversity Conservation Priorities

In 2001, Haribon Foundation and BirdLife International identified and compiled a directory of Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the Philippines. The IBAs were good tools for identifying spatial priorities for conservation because they are significant for the conservation of other flora and fauna in addition to birds (e.g., Stattersfield et al.1998, Mallari et al. 2001, BirdLife International 2004, De Alban 2005). Birds were also the best known and most documented terrestrial taxonomic group in the Philippines, and were a good indicator for other terrestrial taxa at coarse scales (e.g., Tabaranza and Mallari 1997, Stattersfield et al.1998, Balmford 2002).

The IBA directory along with other studies has influenced the revision of the first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the Philippines in 1997, which was developed and adopted by the national government to address the country's grave biodiversity crisis (Ong et al. 2002). This revision is embodied in the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priority-setting Program (PBCPP) or the second iteration of the NBSAP, which incorporated the IBAs as part of the 206 identified biodiversity conservation priority areas in the country. The PBCPP outlined the biological justification and recommendations for prioritizing geographic areas for conservation in the country. Several priority areas were identified in Mindoro Island under different priority levels and degrees of conservation efforts (Table 8).

Conservation Priorities	Priority Level	Conservation Efforts
Iglit and Baco Mountains	Extremely high critical	Moderate
Mt. Hinunduang	Extremely high critical	Moderate
Mt. Halcon	Extremely high critical	Moderate
Puerto Galera	Extremely high critical	Moderate
Sablayan	Extremely high critical	Moderate
Lubang Island	Very high	Moderate
Lake Naujan National Park	Very high	High
Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary	Very high	High
Bogbog, Bongabong, and Mt. Hitding	Insufficient data	Low
Malpalon	Insufficient data	Insufficient data

 Table 8. Terrestrial conservation priorities in Mindoro.

Five (5) areas were identified as extremely high critical; three (3) under very high; and two (2) areas were deemed to have insufficient data. Conservation efforts show the degree of intervention conducted at the identified locations. The identified marine conservation priorities in Mindoro include the Verde Island Passage (high) and Tablas Strait (very high).

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA), which similarly builds on the IBA concept, are sites of global biodiversity conservation significance, that intends to support viable populations of trigger species across several taxonomic groups (Eken et al.2004). It is an appropriate framework for identifying fine-scale conservation priorities in the country (Conservation International-Philippines et al.2006). In Mindoro, a total of 10 KBAs have been identified, which are concurrent with identified IBAs on the island (Table 9).

No.	Conservation Priority Areas	IBA (Mallari et al	PBCPP (Ong et al. 2002)	KBA (CI-Phils et al.	MBCFI
1	Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary	Х	Х	Х	Х
2	Puerto Galera (incl. Mt. Malasimbo)	х	Х	Х	Х
3	Mt. Halcon	х	Х	Х	Х
4	Lake Naujan National Park	Х	Х	Х	Х
5	Iglit and Baco Mountains	Х	Х	Х	
6	Siburan (or Sablayan)	Х	Х	Х	Х
7	Malpalon	Х	Х	Х	
8	Mt. Hitding (incl. Bogbog and	Х	Х	Х	
9	Mt. Hinunduang	Х	Х	Х	Х
10	Apo Reef Marine Natural Park	Х		Х	Х
11	Abra de llog				Х
12	Bulalacao				Х
13	Ilin Island				Х
14	Lubang Island		Х		

Table 9. Matrix of identified conservation priority areas in Mindoro vis-à-vis MBCFI priority sites.

Key Conservation Sites in Mindoro and MBCFI Priority Sites

A total of 11 priority conservation areas were identified based on the studies by Mallari et al. (2001), Ong et al. (2002), and CI-Philippines-DENR-Haribon (2006), as indicated in Table 9. The matrix shows a high agreement among the studies on IBA, PBCPP, and KBA in terms of identified conservation priority areas for Mindoro (particularly areas #1-10, except for Apo Reef which is not included under PBCPP; and with the exception of Lubang Island which was identified as a priority only under the PBCCP). (Under the PBCPP, Lubang Island was distinguished as a separate terrestrial biogeographic region; it was determined

as a priority conservation area for taxonomic groups such as mammals, amphibians and reptiles, and arthropods.)

Priority conservation sites initially determined by MBCFI have been juxtaposed with identified conservation priorities from other studies (Table 9). A map overlay of the different conservation priorities is also presented (Figure 9). Of the ten (10) identified sites of MBCFI, seven (7) sites correspond to IBAs, KBAs, and PBCPP areas. Three (3) sites, namely: Iglit-Baco mountains, Mt. Hitding, and Malpalon, are not included as MBCFI conservation priority areas. It should be noted that the priority level of the latter two sites has not been determined due to insufficient data; conservation efforts are also either low or unknown.

Other priority sites determined by MBCFI that do not correspond to the identified priorities of other studies include Abra de Ilog, Bulalacao, and Ilin Island. It is noteworthy to mention here that the two sites, Abra de Ilog and Bulalacao, still form part of the greater Mindoro corridor (as delineated in Ong et al.(2002).

#### Administrative Coverage and Habitat Composition of MBCFI Priority Sites

The administrative coverage of identified priority sites were determined by estimating the general and possible extent of each site in relation to variables such as topography, habitat, and existing tenurial instrument if present, and juxtaposing this with approximate barangay boundary from NSO DATOS. Hence, the identified number of barangays covered by each site is only indicative. Table 10 shows the general extent of each site in terms of approximate land area, and of administrative jurisdiction such as the number of provinces, municipalities, and barangays. The identified priority sites, all in all, fall in 16 out of 26 municipalities (10 and 6 each for Mindoro Oriental and Occidental, respectively) found in both provinces of Mindoro.

No.	Priority Site	Land Area (ha.)	Provinces	Municipalities	Barangays
1	Mt. Calavite Wildlife	18,000	1	1	1
2	Mt. Malasimbo	38,100	2	2	9
3	Mt. Halcon	25,200	2	5	20
4	Lake Naujan National Park	21,700	1	4	21
5	Mt. Siburan	9,800	1	1	3
6	Mt. Hinunduang	20,100	2	3	10
7	Apo Reef Marine Natural Park	15,800	1	1	1
8	Abra de Ilog	44,900	1	1	6
9	Bulalacao	10,200	1	2	7
10	Ilin Island	7,300	1	1	10

 Table 10. Summary of administrative coverage of MBCFI priority sites.

The habitat/ecosystem composition of identified priority sites were determined by overlaying the estimated extents of the sites with the 2003 land cover data (Figure 10). Similar to the groupings implemented for Table 4 in the "Land Cover and Habitat Types" section of this report, broad land cover categories were adopted again. Major habitat groupings or categories include forest, grassland, agricultural (for cultivated areas and plantations), and brushland; minor categories include mangrove, freshwater (representing wetlands such as lakes, inland water bodies, and marshes), and coastal/marine (for areas involving seas or marine areas). Under the "Others" category, other minor land cover types (in terms of land area) such as barren land and built-up areas were grouped.

Table 11 shows the major habitat/ecosystem present in each priority site. Complementing this information, Chart 1 shows the percentage composition of habitats/ecosystems within each priority site

following the estimated land area of each site

as tabulated in Table 10. It can be seen from Table 11 that none of the identified sites consists of all seven habitats/ecosystems.

For major land cover/habitat categories: seven (7) sites are composed of forest habitats albeit in varying percentages in relation to the land area of each site. Grasslands are found in all but two (2) sites, namely Apo Reef and Lake Naujan. Brushlands, which may be considered as agroforests, are present in all sites except Apo Reef. Agricultural habitats or ecosystems can be found in five (5) sites.

For minor land cover/habitat categories, it is interesting to note that one site "specializes" in freshwater and coastal/marine habitats. Lake Naujan, for example, specializes in freshwater habitats while Apo Reef represents coastal/marine habitats. Mangroves are present only in Ilin Island and Apo Reef.

Uphitot	Site									
парна	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Forest	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			Х		Х
Grassland	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х		Х	Х	Х
Freshwater				Х						
Mangrove							Х			Х
Brushland	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х
Agricultural	Х	Х		Х				Х		Х
Coastal/Marine							Х			
Others					Х					Х

 Table 11. Major habitat/ecosystem composition of MBCFI priority sites.

**Key for MBCFI Priority Sites (following Table 10):** 1 – Mt Calavite; 2 – Mt Malasimbo; 3 – Mt Halcon; 4 – Lake Naujan; 5 – Mt Siburan; 6 – Mt Hinunduang; 7 – Apo Reef; 8 – Abra de Ilog; 9 – Bulalacao; 10 – Ilin Island. Cells highlighted in gray color indicate the dominant habitats found in each site.

The presence of habitats/ecosystems in each site, however, does not mean these are at all extensive and/or evenly distributed as shown in Chart 1. The dominant habitats or ecosystems in each site were then determined by an arbitrary threshold of 20% or greater relative to the approximate extent of the site. This also in a way establishes some measure of "representation" of habitats or ecosystems for each site. Cells highlighted in gray color in Table 11 indicate the dominant habitat types found in each site.

Assessing both Table 11 and Chart 1 reveals that forest habitats are dominant in three (3) sites, namely: Mt Malasimbo, Mt Halcon, and Mt Siburan. Forests within identified priority sites constitute about 37% of the total forest cover of Mindoro Island. It should be noted, however, that forest habitats here are referred to in a broad sense without distinguishing between different forest habitat types such as lowland dipterocarps, montane and mossy forests, or forests over limestone and ultramafics. Priorities for forest conservation interventions may perhaps select any of these sites in general, if, and assuming that, other significant criteria for selection (e.g., enabling mechanisms such as social acceptability, institutional and policy support; probability of success; project viability; biodiversity benchmarks) remain equal for all sites, although in reality these are not.

Grassland habitats are significantly present in four (4) areas, namely: Mt Calavite, Mt Siburan, Bulalacao, and Ilin Island. Within identified priority sites, grasslands constitute roughly 13% of the total grassland habitats of Mindoro Island. Possibly, since both forests and grasslands are present in Mt Siburan, site interventions may perhaps focus on forest conservation rather than on grasslands, as interventions for grassland can be directed to Mt Calavite or in the two other sites, depending on viable conditions in other considerations.



# Chart 1. Percentage of major habitat types found within each priority site.

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Freshwater habitats, particularly lakes and marshes, are dominant in Lake Naujan National Park, being the only priority site identified with extensive freshwater ecosystems. Freshwater areas within priority sites represent 66.21% of the total freshwater habitats in Mindoro. Lake Naujan, being a specialist site in terms of freshwater systems among other identified MBCFI priorities, should be a top conservation priority as it represents one of the major ecosystems in Mindoro.

Agricultural habitats are significantly present in three (3) areas, namely: Mt Malasimbo, Lake Naujan, and Ilin Island. Within priority sites, this habitat type represents 10.49% of the total agricultural areas in Mindoro. Agricultural land support far less biodiversity compared to natural forests. But agricultural landscapes benefits from the presence of natural habitats such as forests in terms of enhancing overall diversity and ecosystem services (e.g., pollination, control of agricultural pests, recycling of nutrients critical to plant growth, breakdown of agricultural residues and wastes (Wood et al 2000). Looking at the three sites mentioned above, each site exhibits one other dominant habitat type—almost uniquely from each other—apart from agricultural habitats: Mt Malasimbo involves forests, freshwater systems in Lake Naujan, and brushlands in Ilin Island. Conservation interventions need not be solely focused on agrobiodiversity and agricultural ecosystems as it may not yield high conservation results per unit effort, say, as compared to conservation of forests; the conservation of all key biodiversity habitats including agricultural habitats within these three sites will still likely benefit agro-biodiversity. The overall diversity of these sites is also enhanced with the inclusion of agricultural habitats.

Brushlands are dominant in five sites, namely: Mt Calavite, Mt Hinunduang, Abra de Ilog, Bulalacao, and Ilin Island. Brushlands within priority sites comprise 19.10% of Mindoro's brushlands. Similar to agroecosystems, conservation interventions need not be focused on brushlands or agroforests. The conservation of key biodiversity habitats within these three sites, in addition to and above brushland systems, will still enhance the overall diversity of these sites.

Similar to Lake Naujan, Apo Reef Marine Natural Park is another specialist site in terms of coastal/marine ecosystems among other identified MBCFI priorities. Apo Reef should, therefore, be a top conservation priority as it represents one of the major ecosystems in Mindoro.

Mangroves in the Philippines have been greatly decimated by overexploitation and conversion for aquaculture purposes in recent decades. Needless to mention, mangrove forests are among the critical habitats in the country, and the conservation and protection of mangroves are of great importance. Mangroves are found in Apo Reef and Ilin Island, although they are not particularly a dominant habitat type in identified MBCFI priority sites. Mangroves within priority sites represent 13.55% of the total area of mangroves found in Mindoro. Mangrove conservation need not focus only within identified priority sites. Possibly, an island-wide effort towards conserving the remaining mangroves of Mindoro is more appropriate; thus, strengthening the enforcement of Proclamation 2152, establishing the Mindoro Mangrove Swamp Forest Reserve, virtually putting all mangrove forests in the island under protection and conservation.

#### **Initial Recommendations**

Based on the results and analyses discussed in this preliminary geomatics work, the following are initial recommendations to address data gaps, and conservation issues and needs:

#### Data Gaps

1. Since existing and available land cover data of Mindoro is either obsolete or limited, updated land cover information is necessary to assess the present extent of key habitats for conservation, and to provide a more recent baseline for site conservation planning and program development. This

may be derived from the processing, interpretation, and ground-truthing of recent satellite imageries.

- 2. This report referred to the barangay boundary data from the Datakit of Official Philippine Statistics (DATOS) of the National Statistics Office, which showed only approximate boundaries. Official barangay boundary data including barangay boundary monuments from the cadastral surveys of the Land Management Bureau of the DENR is needed. The data will be used to determine specific communities to be included in site conservation interventions, planning, and management.
- 3. Given the range and diversity of ecosystems and habitats on Mindoro Island, analyses and assessment of the degree of habitat fragmentation should be studied. Satellite images of varying spatial and temporal resolutions are sources to derive land cover baseline information.
- 4. Other geographic information such as land classification, soils, geo-hazards; socio-economic and poverty maps; and maps of development interventions and stakeholders, among others, should be gathered in the future and included in the standard baselines. The information will aid in situational analyses, conservation planning of important sites, and in identifying resource-based livelihood options, considering the geographic conditions of Mindoro. Secondary data gathering and analyses, particularly for the sections covering climatic conditions, and data on other tenurial instruments such as CBFM areas and other government reservations should be similarly completed in the future.

#### Conservation Issues and Needs

- 1. The bases for the selection and priority-setting of conservation priority sites of MBCFI need to be reviewed and laid out. Bases for prioritization should include their alignment with national conservation priorities. Using recent land cover and habitat information, selected priority sites by MBCFI should also look into habitat "representation", such that MBCFI site priorities encompass the entire suite of major habitat types found on Mindoro (such as forest, grassland, freshwater, mangrove, coastal/marine, etc.), together with other significant considerations. In the delineation of more specific site boundaries, each of the priority sites should also be considerable in extent and coverage. Ideally, at least one site should be identified and selected in each major habitat/ecosystem such that conservation efforts are holistic and representative of key biodiversity centers on Mindoro.
- 2. Overlapping tenurial instruments and boundary conflicts, particularly between ancestral domains and mining tenements, are a major issue that needs to be addressed in order to implement successful conservation programs in Mindoro. An effective advocacy strategy backed by sound research findings should be developed to address the proliferation of mining tenement applications in Mindoro in view of the global conservation importance of the island's key habitats and wildlife.
- 3. Degraded watershed areas are mostly situated at the southern portion of Mindoro Island. Future conservation efforts, particularly in Bulalacao, should keep in mind watershed rehabilitation and management, and forest habitat restoration activities.
- 4. Based on the data from NCIP on the status of application of CADTs, several CADCs are still waiting to be processed and converted into CADTs. This can be an opportunity for MBCFI to provide technical assistance and support to IP communities within its target priority conservation

sites in securing their ancestral domains. This could be a foot at the door to gain the support of IP communities to support biodiversity conservation programs.

5. Given the extent of grasslands and other idle/open lands of Mindoro, possible suitable areas could be identified and applied as afforestation/reforestation (A/R) projects under the Clean Development Mechanism, or in voluntary markets using other standards (such as the Community, Climate, and Biodiversity Standards; the Voluntary Carbon Standard, among others). A/R projects may be worth exploring, as these mechanisms not only aim to develop carbon sinks and generate additional fund sources for communities from carbon payments, but also seek to restore forests and conserve biodiversity.

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Annexes

Туре	Areal Extent	Administrative Coverage	Institutional Coordinating Agency	Type and Scope of Watershed Management Plans
	Nation	Whole Country	National Inter- agency Watershed Resources Management Forum,' National Watershed Management Body	Coordination and prioritisation of the different levels of watershed management within a national strategy framework
River Basin	Over 1000 km <sup>2</sup>	Typically the topographic boundaries would include land occurring within 3 or more provinces and 2 or more regions	River Basin authority that is inter regional in extent	Plans aimed at broad sector development planning, and land use zoning. Identification of degraded and,'or economically important medium to large watersheds within the river basin. Identification of medium-large areas in need of protected area status.
Large Watershed	500-100 0 km <sup>2</sup>	Typically the topographic boundaries would include land occurring within 3 or more provinces and at least 1 but no more than 2 regions	Regional Level Watershed Management Council that is inter provincial in extent	Plans aimed at identifying broad land use zones and areas (small to medium watersheds) where there is a need for improved watershed management. Identification of small-medium areas in need of protected area status.
Medium Watershed	100-500 km <sup>2</sup>	Typically the topographic boundaries would include land occurring within at least 1 but no more than 2 provinces	Provincial Level Watershed Management Council	Plans aimed at identifying areas within the watershed where there is a need for field level activities. Implementation plan targets activities on only the critical parts of the watershed.

# Annex 1. Watershed management typologies in the Philippines (Source: PCARRD-DOST et al. 1999).

Small Watershed	10-100 km²	Typically the topographic boundaries would fall within 1 province and include land occurring within 1 or more municipalities	Provincial,'Munici pal Level Watershed Management Council,'Committ ee	Plans aimed at field level implementation of improved watershed,'land management interventions. Plan covers the whole (or most of the) watershed and adjacent land of the participating communities.
Micro Watershed	Under 10 km <sup>2</sup>	Typically the topographic boundaries would fall within 1 municipality and include land occurring within 1 or at most 2 barangays	Municipal,'Baran gay Community Level Watershed Management Council	Plans aimed at field level implementation of improved watershed,'land management interventions. Plan covers the whole watershed and adjacent land of the participating community.

No.	Protected Area Name	Location	Legislation	Date Legislated	Land Area (ha.)
Initia	l Components	•			
1	Lake Naujan Nationa Park	Naujan, Pola, Socorro, Victoria, Mindoro Oriental	Proc. 282 Proc. 335	27-Apr-1956 25-Jan-1968	21,665.00
2	Mts. Iglit-Bacc National Park	Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental Bongabong, Mindoro Oriental	RA 6148	09-Nov-1970	75,445.00
3	F.B. Harrison Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary	Sablayan, Mamburao, and Paluan, Mindoro Occidental	EO 9	28-Jan-1920	140,000.00
4	Mindoro Mangrove Swamp Forest Reserve	Mamburao River, Buluagan River to Lagarum River, Naujan; Batel Creek, Sta. Cruz; Sablayan Point to Bagong Sabang River; Bo. Labangan to Calalayuan Point; Ilin Island; Western side of Sukol River, Bongabong; Western side of Casiliga River, Soguicay Island	Proc. 2152		
Proc	aimed under NIPAS Ac	t	_		
5	Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary	Paluan, Mindoro Occidental	Proc. 292	23-Apr-2000	18,016.19
6	Apo Reef Natural Park	Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental	Proc. 868	06-Sep-1996	15,792.00

Annex 2. List of protected areas in Mindoro under the NIPAS Act (Source: PAWB-DENR. 2008).

Annex 3.	List of	certificate of	ancestral domain	n titles an	d claims in	Mindoro	(Source:	NCIP.	2008).
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No.	Tribe	Location	No. of Beneficiaries	Date Issued/ Approved	Land Area (ha.)
Approv	ved CADT (July 2002	to December 2004)	-		-
	Iraya Mangyan	Sta. Cruz, Mindoro Occidental	689	30-Jan-2004	5,365.11
	Iraya Mangyan	Puerto Galera, Mindoro Orienta	2,888	28-Apr-2004	5,700.83
Claims			•		
9	Iraya Mangyan	Puerto Galera, Mindoro Orienta	I	14-Jul-1995	4,748.00
24	Alangan Mangyan	Sta. Cruz and Sablayan Mindoro Occidental	,	26-Feb-1996	74,200.00
26	Iraya Mangyan	Sta. Cruz, Mindoro Occidental		26-Feb-1996	2,851.00
85	Sulodnon	Socorro and Victoria, Mindoro Oriental		23-Jun-1997	12,000.00
86	Alangan Mangyan	Naujan, Mindoro Oriental		23-Jun-1997	7,537.00
123	Tadyawan Mangyan	Gloria and Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental		05-Jun-1998	3,750.00

124	Alangan Mangyan	Naujan and Baco, Mindoro Oriental	05-Jun-1998	32,000.00
125	Tau-Buid Mangyan	Gloria, Socorro, and Pinamalavan, Mindoro Oriental	05-Jun-1998	21,000.00
126	Iraya Mangyan	Baco, San Teodoro, Puerto Galera, Mindoro Oriental	05-Jun-1998	33,334.00
130	Buhid Mangyan	San Jose, Rizal, Calintaan, and Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental; Bansud, Roxas, Bongabong, and Mansalay, Mindoro Oriental	05-Jun-1998	94,077.00
	Alangan Mangyan (MINSCAT)	Mindoro Oriental		101.00

Tenement No.	Holder / Corporation	Municipality	Area (ha.)	Date Filed	Commodity
EPA-IVB-006	Mindex Resources Development	Puerto Galera	3,159.00	06-Oct-95	gold
EPA-IVB-034	Gem Aggregates	Abra de llog	3,202.00	29-Sep-97	copper, gold, limestone
EPA-IVB-038	Essensa Mining	Bongabong	6,560.00	26-Oct-98	nickel, chromite
EPA-IVB-076	Shibao Mining	Mamburao	4,370.16	10-Oct-05	iron, manganese
EPA-IVB-081	Alad Mining & Development	Paluan	2,849.54	01-Jun-06	nickel, chromite
EPA-IVB-082	Highland Realty Philippines	Sta. Cruz	3,896.00	19-Jul-06	nickel, chromite, iron
EPA-IVB-084	Highland Realty Philippines	Mamburao	1,916.80	02-Aug-06	nickel, chromite, iron
EPA-IVB-085	Astrolabe Mining and Devt	Mamburao; Puerto Galera	4,078.30	04-Aug-06	iron, gold, copper
EPA-IVB-088	Agbiag Mining and Devt	Puerto Galera	1,326.02	10-Aug-05	iron, ore, manganese
EPA-IVB-095	Agbiag Mining and Devt	Looc	810.00	01-Sep-06	iron, chromite
EPA-IVB-096	East Coast Mineral Resources	Paluan	3,828.62	20-Sep-06	nickel, cobalt, chromite
EPA-IVB-101	Highland Realty Phils	Mamburao	4,161.62	26-Sep-06	ore
EPA-IVB-106	Astrolabe Mining and Devt	Abra de Ilog	459.60	20-Oct-06	iron
EPA-IVB-111	Rizal Silica	San Teodoro	2,163.78	30-Oct-06	iron, gold, copper
EPA-IVB-129	Epochina Mining	Naujan	2,996.00	29-Dec-06	iron, gold, copper
EPA-IVB-130	Epochina Mining	San Jose	2,035.00	29-Dec-06	iron, gold, copper
EPA-IVB-142	SKS Construction and Development	Sta. Cruz	4,502.83	21-Feb-07	nickel
EPA-IVB-150	Goldenpine Development	Looc	1,633.88	06-Mar-07	nickel, chromite
EPA-IVB-155	Philorient Mining	Mamburao	8,000.00	19-Mar-07	iron, manganese
EPA-IVB-159	Diamond Group of Investors	Abra de llog	2,746.61	27-Mar-07	nickel, chromite
EPA-IVB-160	Alad Mining and Devt	San Jose	811.06	28-Mar-07	nickel, chromite

Annex 4	. List	of mining	tenements on	Mindoro	Island	(Source:	MGB-DENR.	2008).
		- 3				<b>`</b>		

EPA-IVB-162	Diamond Group of Investors	San Jose	3,963.13	02-Apr-07	nickel, chromite
EPA-IVB-163	JCET Resources Mining		15,328.63	03-Apr-07	nickel, chromite
EPA-IVB-166	Luckystar Integrated Mining	Sta. Cruz	2,249.61	13-Apr-07	nickel, chromite
EPA-IVB-183	APC Mining	Sablayan	2,833.97	22-May-07	gold, copper
EPA-IVB-190	Metallica Mineral Resources	Abra de llog; Paluan	5,913.00	04-Jun-07	gold, copper, nickel
EPA-IVB-193	Metallica Mineral Resources	San Teodoro	1,877.87	13-Jun-07	gold, copper, nickel
EPA-IVB-197	Philminer	Paluan	3,329.24	15-Jun-07	gold, copper, iron, silver
EPA-IVB-202	Goldenpine Development	Sablayan	3,312.09	20-Jun-07	gold, nickel, iron, chromite
EPA-IVB-207	T&D Kim Philippines	Paluan	2,247.24	28-Jun-07	iron, gold, copper
EPA-IVB-217	Gaas Bay Mining	Paluan	2,620.56	19-Jul-07	nickel
EPA-IVB-229	Alad Mining Development	Sablayan	1,370.00		laterite, nickel chromite
EPA-IVB-231	Ludgoron Mining	Sablayan	-	21-Aug-07	Chromite
EPA-IVB-232	Ludgoron Mining	Sablayan	5,184.00	21-Aug-07	Chromite
EPA-IVB-233	Khepa Mining Exploration	Sablayan	6,075.00	21-Aug-07	Chromite
EPA-IVB-241	Mount Baua Mining	Lubang	9,312.00	17-Aug-07	silica, quartz, copper

Tenement No.	Holder / Corporation	Municipality	Area (ha.)	Date Filed	Commodity
EPA-IVB-246	Gaas Bay Mining	Mamburao	3,163.06	03-Oct-07	iron
EPA-IVB-260	Czarstone Mining	Sablayan	1,302.86	09-Nov-07	nickel, chromite
EPA-IVB-264	Imelda Cruz	Bongabong; Pinamalayan	2,291.74	28-Nov-07	nickel, iron, etc
PMPSA-IVB-035	Philippine Marble	Abra de llog	112.00	26-Jun-92	aggregates, marble
PMPSA-IVB-057	Orophil Stonecraft	San Teodoro	748.95	04-Nov-92	gold, silver, nickel
PMPSA-IVB-069	Kantoh International Marble	San Teodoro	1,165.81	22-Feb-93	marble
PMPSA-IVB-070	Philippine Sunrise Marble	San Teodoro	332.88	17-Jun-95	marble
PMPSA-IVB-082	San Teodoro Marble	San Teodoro	712.03	28-May-93	marble
PMPSA-IVB-105	Zipporah Mining & Devt	Abra de Ilog	480.68	09-Jan-93	feldspar
PMPSA-IVB-139	General Cement	Magsaysay	1,962.94	20-Sep-94	limestone
PMPSA-IVB-216	General Cement	Mansalay	770.16	03-Jul-95	limestone
PMPSA-IVB-234	Blue Ridge Mining	Bongabong	2,112.00	01-Sep-95	nickel
FTAA-IVB-004	Kanlaon Mining	Sablayan	293,624.10	26-Feb-94	gold, silver
FTAA-IVB-005	Agusan Petroleum and Mining	Abra de llog	53,952.00	26-Feb-94	gold, silver
FTAA-IVB-006	Royal Cement and Mining	Roxas	53,136.00	26-Feb-94	gold, silver
IPA-(SG)-016	Wilson Kho	San Jose	20.00	29-Mar-99	sand, gravel
IPA-(SG)-033	Bridgestone Mining and Development	Calintaan	19.16	05-Mar-02	sand, gravel
IPA-(SG)-038	Lazaruz Mining	Calintaan	19.15	05-Mar-02	sand, gravel
IPA-(SG)-039	Cypress Mining and Development	Sta. Cruz	19.26	05-Mar-02	sand, gravel
IPA-(SG)-040	Liverpool Mining and Devt	Sta. Cruz	19.68	05-Mar-02	sand, gravel
IPA-(SG)-041	Daytona Mining and Devt	Sablayan	19.21	07-Apr-02	sand, gravel
AMA-IVB-007	Everest Cement & Mining	San Jose	4,319.00	28-Dec-95	limestone
AMA-IVB-014	Kalamanzoo Mining	San Jose	8,074.00	22-Jan-96	limestone
AMA-IVB-032	Jesus Manlulu	Puerto Galera	16.80	19-Jun-96	marble
AMA-IVB-051	Mansalay Mining	Mansalay	3,291.00	04-Sep-96	silica
AMA-IVB-059	First Omega Mining and Development	San Teodoro	243.00	31-Oct-96	gold, copper
AMA-IVB-067 Glendale Mining and Devt		Victoria	648.00	16-Apr-97	bullquartz
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AMA-IVB-071 Rebecca Mendoza L		Lubang	128.31	08-Sep-97	marblelized limestone
AMA-IVB-080	Leonila Salas	Mansalay	243.00	15-Sep-97	silica sand
AMA-IVB-088	Daytona Mining and Devt	Puerto Galera	1,414.00	01-Oct-97	marble
AMA-IVB-093	Silverbell Mining and Devt	Naujan	1,748.55	18-Sep-96	sulphur
AMA-IVB-094	Lazaruz Mining	Bongabong	1,252.29	06-Nov-98	silica
AMA-IVB-095	St. Patrick Mining & Devt	Mansalay	4,374.00	06-Nov-98	silica
AMA-IVB-097 Aglubang Mining		Victoria; Nauian	863.91	13-Nov-98	nickel
AMA-IVB-099 Romulo R. Reyes		Abra de llog	810.00	10-Dec-98	marble
AMA-IVB-100 Rockworks Inc.		Pinamalayan	3,338.00	22-Jan-99	basalt, andesite
AMA-IVB-101 Alagag Mining		Sablayan	3,376.00	09-Feb-99	nickel
AMA-IVB-103 Aglubang Mining		Sablayan	4,596.00	05-Mar-99	nickel
AMA-IVB-105 Silverbell Mining and Devt		Bongabong	5,832.00	04-Oct-99	bentonite
AMA-IVB-119 Chemdyes Mining & Alloys		Looc	128.00	01-Dec-01	bullquartz
AMA-IVB-120	Chemdyes Mining & Alloys	Looc	240.00	01-Dec-01	bullquartz
AMA-IVB-121	Aglubang Mining	Victoria	2,290.67	07-Dec-00	nickel
AMA-IVB-132	Starrex Mining and Devt	Mamburao	1,040.00	22-Aug-01	sand, gravel
AMA-IVB-133	Eagle Crest Mining & Devt	Sablayan	99.63	22-Aug-01	sand, gravel
AMA-IVB-135	Hopewell Mining	San Jose	100.00	22-Aug-01	sand, gravel

Tenement No.	Holder / Corporation	Municipality	Area (ha.)	Date Filed	Commodity
AMA-IVB-136	Liverpool Mining and Devt	Sablayan	99.99	22-Aug-01	sand, gravel
AMA-IVB-137	Oregon Mining and Devt	Rizal	100.00	24-Aug-01	sand, gravel
AMA-IVB-138	Eagle Crest Mining & Devt	Mamburao	99.99	24-Aug-01	sand, gravel

AMA-IVB-139	Starrex Mining and Devt	Sta. Cruz	648.00	18-Dec-01	clay
AMA-IVB-140	Bridgestone Mining & Devt	Sta. Cruz	405.00	18-Dec-01	clay
AMA-IVB-141	Lazaruz Mining	Sta. Cruz	648.00	18-Dec-01	clay
AMA-IVB-142	Sardonyx Resources Intl	Looc	928.32	10-Oct-02	silica rock & sand
AMA-IVB-148	Baegil Resources	Abra de llog	2,038.78	01-Oct-04	iron ore, marble
AMA-IVB-150	-IVB-150 Baegil Resources		749.00	01-Dec-04	iron, marble
AMA-IVB-152	Vic-Soc Mining	Socorro	3,969.00	03-Mar-05	gold
AMA-IVB-159	Dayap Mining	Mamburao	2,500.00	17-May-05	iron, etc

Annex 5. Partial list of community-based forest management areas in Mindoro.

CBFM Holder	Location	Land Area (ha.)
Balatbat Rural Workers CBFM Association Inc.	Bulalacao, Mindoro Oriental	2,936
Cambunang CBFM Association Inc.	Bulalacao, Mindoro Oriental	172
Mangyan Pagpapaunlad CBFM Association Inc.	Bulalacao, Mindoro Oriental	1,519
Pundasyon Hanunuo Mangyan Inc.	Bulalacao, Mindoro Oriental	3,356
Samahan ng mga Mangyan Iraya sa Barangay Baras	San Teodoro, Mindoro Oriental	1,113
	San Teodoro, Mindoro Oriental	594
Palbong CBFM Association Inc.	Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental	545

No.	Priority Site	Municipality	Barangay			
1	Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary	Paluan	Harrison			
2	Mt. Malasimbo	Abra de llog	Balao, Cabacao, Lumangbayan, San Vicente, Udalo			
		Puerto Galera	Aninuan, Balatero, Dulangan, San Isidro			
3 Mt. Halcon		Васо	Baras, Lantuyang, Mangangan I & II, Mayabig, San Ignacio			
		Naujan	Arangin, Balite, Evangelista, Magtibay, Mendoza, Paitan			

Annex 6. Details of administrative coverage of MBCFI priority sites.

		Sablayan	Pag-asa	
		San Teodoro	Bigaan, Caagutayan, Calangatan, Lumangbayan	
		Santa Cruz	Alacaak, Casague, Kurtinganan	
4	Lake Naujan National Park	Naujan	Bayani, Laguna, Montelago	
		Pola	Matulatula, Tabakin	
		Socorro	Batong Dalig, Mabuhay I, Pasil I & II, Santo Domingo	
		Victoria	Bambanin, Bethel, Canaan, Duongan, Jose Leido Jr, Merit, Malabo, Pakyas, San Galacio, San Narciso, Urdaneta	
5	Mt. Siburan *	Sablayan	Batongbuhay, Santa Lucia, San Nicolas	
6	Mt. Hinunduang	Calintaan	Malpalon, Poypoy, Tanyag	
		Mansalay	Bonbon, Don Pedro, Maliwanag, Panaytayan, Santa Maria, Waygan	
		San Jose	Batasan	
7	Apo Reef Marine Natural Park	Sablayan	Poblacion	
8	Abra de llog	Abra De Ilog	Armado, Balao, Cabacao, Lumangbayan, Poblacion, San Vicente	
9	Bulalacao	Bulalacao	Benli, Cambunang, Nasukob, San Juan, San Roque	
		Mansalay	Budburan, Don Pedro	
10	Ilin Island	Magsay say	Ansiray, Bangkal, Buri, Catayungan, Iling Proper, Inasakan, Ipil, Labangan Iling, Natandol, Pawican	

\* In Haribon Foundation (2004), Mt Siburan is generally situated within three barangays: Batongbuhay, Ligaya, and Malisbong. **Note:** The identified barangays covered by each site is only indicative since the data used to determine the administrative coverage involve the general extent of priority sites and the approximate barangay boundary data from NSO DATOS







Figure 2. Climate map of Mindoro Island.



Figure 3. Land cover map c.2003 of Mindoro Island.



## Figure 4. Land cover map c.1987 of Mindoro Island.



## Figure 5. Prospective mineral resources found in Mindoro Island (adopted from BMG 1986).







## Figure 7. Percentage of forest cover within each major watershed of Mindoro Island.







## Figure 9. National conservation priorities in Mindoro vis-a-vis MBCFI priority sites.























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