



ENCOURAGING PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Marine protected areas (MPAs) in the coastal zones surrounding Puerto Princesa City, Philippines, are home to rich marine biodiversity that sustains robust tourism and fishing industries on Palawan Island. Increasingly, MPAs suffer from the growing contamination of plastic waste, largely coming from Puerto Princesa City due to inadequate management of solid waste. High volumes of plastic waste harm the marine ecosystems, posing a threat to fishing and tourism livelihoods.

In response, the project Mitigating Threats to Marine Protected Areas through Reducing and Recycling Plastic Waste employs a two-pronged approach: 1) providing technical assistance to municipal authorities for improved solid waste management (SWM) services, and 2) raising community awareness to increase household-level waste recycling.

STRENGTHENING SWM SERVICE SYSTEMS

A key component of the project is strengthening relationships between SWM stakeholders, including the city government's environmental office, neighborhood-level barangay¹ officials, and management committees engaged with the MPAs. By encouraging strong working relationships across these groups, the project triggers more efficient waste management service provision to over 100,000 city residents. The technical assistance activities of the project, including 480 person-hours of training with local authorities, focus on five densely populated areas where barangay officials show a strong interest in implementing SWM plans.

HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE

- **12,640 city residents** participated in community education events on implementing proper household waste segregation and recycling; approximately **66% of participants were youth**.
- **1,552 students** in 9 elementary and 5 high schools have learned about the negative impacts of plastics waste on the local marine environment.
- Over **100 informal waste collectors** in the coastal outskirts of Puerto Princesa City now work more effectively with local authorities to better assess their needs and effectively leverage their role in the city's waste management system.

PROMOTING HOUSEHOLD-LEVEL WASTE SEGREGATION

Together with local authorities, school officials, and parent-teacher associations, the project supports education and training in communities and schools on the benefits of proper household-level waste segregation and recycling. Reaching thousands of community members, with an emphasis on youth in 14 area schools, these efforts, including beach cleanups and waste analysis studies, raise awareness on the impact of marine plastic waste, promote household waste management, and more effectively integrate informal plastic recycling value chains with the city's growing sustainable SWM efforts.

¹Barangay is the smallest administrative division in the Philippines, equivalent to village or neighborhood in metropolitan areas.

PROJECT: Mitigating Threats to Marine Protected Areas through Reducing and Recycling Plastic Waste | **DURATION:** March 31, 2018

– March 31, 2020 | **IMPLEMENTER:** Candis III Marketing Cooperative (C3MC) | **LOCATION:** Puerto Princesa City, Palawan Island, Philippines | **BUDGET:** \$249,880