

**Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Bohol  
Municipality of Sikatuna**

**COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT PROFILE**

**I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

1. Project Title:

**Development of Lahug Cave in Barangay Badiang, Municipality of Sikatuna - A Municipal Ecotourism Project**

2. Project Type:

This is a capital forming project involving the development of the Lahug Cave as an ecotourism site. A level of technical assistance is also required for the conduct of feasibility study, organization of community and building local capabilities to manage and operate the tourism site. Technical assistance is also necessary for the agricultural development component of the project.

3. Project Components:

The Project has the following components:

a. Lahug Cave Development

- a.1 Community Organizing
- a.2 Capability Building
- a.3 Site Development

b. Agricultural Development

- b.1 Training on appropriate farming technologies
- b.2 Provision of farm inputs
- b.3 Corn, vegetables and fruit crops production
- b.4 Market linkage establishment/ enhancement

4. Project Location :                      Badiang, Sikatuna, Bohol Province

**II. PROJECT STATUS:**

The project is still at the proposal stage. Project Profile is available, as prepared by its proponents. Initial site survey and studies have already been conducted on the area by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its natural features and assets. However, a feasibility study (FS) is still to be conducted, as part of the project, to ascertain the

necessary development activities appropriate for the tourism site and to preserve the natural integrity and beauty of the cave. The FS will also cover an in-depth analysis of the financial and technical viability of the project, on top of the initial studies already conducted.

The proposed project is included in the Local Development and Investment Plan of the municipality and is considered a priority for implementation. This project is proposed for funding from local and foreign donor agencies.

### **III. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:**

#### **1. Project Background:**

The Municipality of Sikatuna is located inland in the southwestern part of Bohol about 12.5 kilometers from Tagbilaran City, the provincial capital. This 5<sup>th</sup> class municipality, in terms of income classification, is generally an agricultural area with rice, corn, vegetables and fruit crops as its major produce.

A survey conducted in 2005 (using Poverty Database Monitoring System) on its people's levels of deprivation showed that about 63.86% of the total number of households in the municipality is living below the income threshold of P10,200.00 per year. The survey also revealed that 48.84% of the total number of households is living below the food threshold. Unemployment rate of 13.74% is also worth-noting.

The same survey showed that Barangay Badiang has high levels of deprivation. 74.36% of its households are living below the income threshold. 9.86% of its working age population is unemployed. About 69 households, or 58.97% of total households is spending less than the minimum food threshold per year.

With these alarming concerns, it is considered a priority of the Municipal Government of Sikatuna to create and develop an enabling environment that would facilitate the generation of jobs, livelihoods and economic activities in the locality to improve conditions of people.

Barangay Badiang is endowed with untapped natural wonders and underutilized agriculture lands. These assets, if developed, can provide significant opportunities for its residents in the area of tourism development and agriculture productivity enhancement.

Developing the Lahug Cave, one of Badiang's natural assets, as an ecotourism site was conceived after various ocular inspections conducted by appropriate government offices. It was found out that the area has a great potential for development that can provide economic and livelihood opportunities for the local community groups. It can also

develop people's appreciation in environmental preservation and management.

In addition to this tourism initiative, the project also involves the development of the agriculture potentials of the nearby contiguous areas. Badiang's soil is suitable for fruit crops, vegetables, corn and cut flowers. Agricultural farms, through land consolidation, can be developed to achieve appropriate levels of production. A honeybee farm can also be established as a sub-activity of the project and can be undertaken by the Women's Group as a way of strengthening women's role in society.

## **2. Project Linkages:**

Considering that one of the project's components is on tourism site development, it contributes in pushing for the establishment of tourism industry in the municipality. It is worth-noting that another cave in the municipality is also due for development, which will serve as an underpass linking the municipalities of Sevilla and Sikatuna.

The proposed project also supports the agricultural development program of the Municipal Government. It enhances the on-going project on corn and vegetable seed distribution in the municipality, with the aim of increasing productivity and ensuring food sufficiency in the area.

The said tourism site development and agriculture production enhancement will also complement the completed CBRMP-funded road project connecting Barangay Badiang and the Poblacion, the town's commercial center. Furthermore, the development of the ecotourism site can also be enhanced with the road construction linking the Lahug Cave to the Badiang-Poblacion Road. This project, however, is still for funding from local and foreign donor agencies.

## **3. Project Objectives:**

- To developed the Lahug Cave of Barangay of Badiang, Sikatuna, as an ecotourism site
- To enhance agricultural production through appropriate utilization of land and adoption of proper farming methods and technologies
- To organize residents into a community-based organization, which are capable of managing and operating an ecotourism site and agri-based economic ventures.
- To increase income of people and improve their living condition

## **4. Sectoral Objectives:**

The project supports the promotion of ecotourism in the Province of Bohol. It hopes to encourage people to appreciate better ecological preservation and management. It contributes to the attainment of food

security in the province as it gives due importance to proper land utilization and agriculture productivity. It also strengthens social capital of people, especially the women, by encouraging organization of community-based economic initiatives.

### **5. Regional and National Objectives:**

The project supports the National Government's program on food security and agriculture development. This is also in line with the poverty reduction program for it stimulates economic activities in rural areas, generating employment and increasing household incomes.

## **IV. PROJECT FINANCING**

### **1. Funds Needed**

The total project cost is P3 million. Broken down as follows:

a. Lahug Cave Development	-	P 2 million
b. Agricultural Development	-	<u>P 1 million</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>P 3 million</b>

### **2. Project Financing**

The project will be funded from both local and foreign sources. A counterpart fund will be provided by the Municipality of Sikatuna.

### **3. Funding Sources:**

The proposed project can be funded by interested Foreign and Local Donor Agencies, Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

### **4. Counterpart Funding**

The Municipality of Sikatuna will set up a counterpart fund for the project in the amount of P300,000.00 or 10% of the total project cost. The community organization will also contribute to the project in form of labor/ personnel for the management and operation of ecotourism site and community-based economic enterprises.

## **V. PROJECT BENEFITS AND COST**

### **1. Beneficiaries**

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the residents of Barangay Badiang, those who are formed into community organization that would manage and operate the ecotourism site. Farmers of the barangay, who will be trained on appropriate techniques in tilling and utilizing their land, will also benefit substantially. With market linkages established, as assisted by the Municipal Agriculture Office and the local government of Sikatuna and the private sector, farmers will be able to sell their produce to ready markets at right prices. As the area develops, residents will be able take the opportunity to engage in economic activities that would provide them additional source of income. Tourism-based activities such as food preparation, transport hire and souvenir making can also be engaged in the long run.

### **2. Social Benefits**

The project will generate employment and utilizes available labor and skills of the barangay to productive activities. With ecotourism and agriculture development as catalysts for cooperation, the barangay residents will be able to strengthen ties with each other, building personal and business relationships, and as a whole, build their social capital. The women sector is also empowered with the opportunity given to them to engage in economic activities. Eventually, the project will bring economic prosperity in the area and improve living conditions of residents.

### **3. Economic Benefits**

The ultimate goal of the project is to improve the living condition of people in Barangay Badiang. This can be attained through generation of employment and business opportunities and improved productivity that would bring economic returns and income to the residents. The development of Lahug Cave and enhancement of agriculture production will bring economic growth to the Badiang area.

## VI. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

### 1. Responsible Agencies:

1. Municipal Government of Sikatuna – Office of the Mayor, Municipal Agriculture Office, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC)
2. Barangay Badiang Community and the Barangay Council
3. Funding Agencies – Foreign and Local Donor Agencies
4. Funding and Support Agencies such as the DOT, DENR, NGOs, Bohol Tourism Office, Provincial Agriculture Office

### 2. Implementation Schedule

Activity	Time Frame	Output	Responsible Person
1. Fund Sourcing	October – December 2006	P 3,000,000.00 funds generated/ sourced	Office of the Mayor/ MPDC
2. Conduct of Feasibility Study	January – February 2007	Plan Feasibility Study/ Plan/ Design	Support Agencies, MPDC, MAO,
3. Lahug Cave Development	March – December 2007	Lahug Cave developed as ecotourism site, Community organized and capacitated	Barangay Badiang Community, Barangay Council, MPDC, Support Agencies
4. Agricultural Development	March – December 2007	Agricultural training conducted, land consolidation undertaken, farm inputs provided, market linkages established, farmers capacitated	Barangay Badiang Community and farmers, Barangay Council, MAO, Support Agencies
5. Monitoring and Evaluation	Start to Finish of project	Monitoring and evaluation report from start to finish of project. Sustainability monitoring will be conducted periodically even after project period.	MPDC, MAO

### **3. Administrative Feasibility**

The Municipal Government of Sikatuna has the full responsibility in implementing this project. It has the capacity to manage and supervise the project through the Municipal Agriculture Office and the Municipal Planning and Development Office. Capacitating the Badiang community from the start of the project, to manage and work at their own, will facilitate sustainable implementation and operation of the ecotourism site and agriculture development. With the assistance from Support/ Funding Agencies, appropriate skills are acquired and market linkages are established. Technical inputs and assistance are also provided from these agencies.

### **4. Legal and Political Feasibility**

This project is in line with the executive agenda of the Municipality of Sikatuna, promoting its tourism and agriculture development. This proposal is also supported by the Sangguniang Panglunsod. Provincial and national government support is essential for this project in terms of technical guidance and linkages.

Preparation of necessary documents will also be made to facilitate the funding and implementation of this project.

### **5. Environmental Clearance**

Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), if needed, will be secured by the implementing agency before the actual execution of the project. Processing of the needed documents is assured to be facilitated by government and is not considered an obstacle to the implementation of the proposed project.

### **6. Social Acceptability**

The residents of Barangay Badiang are hopeful that this project pushes through. They are eager to cooperate for this project as they see that it provides them benefits as the implementation progresses.

Through proper information dissemination, community understanding and support are established. No foreseen negative impact to the society is identified from this project.