

NPC
and the
INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES OF ITS
WATERSHED



For the National Power Corporation, it is not enough to perform its mandate of rehabilitating and managing the eleven watershed systems under its care. It is essential that it improve and touch the lives of its stakeholders especially the indigenous cultural communities or the indigenous people.

Four of the eleven watersheds being protected by NPC through the Watershed Management Department (WMD) host indigenous cultural communities. The Upper Agno Watershed in Benguet, Ifugao and Nueva Vizcaya provinces and the Lower Agno Watershed in Benguet and Pangasinan are homes of Ibaloi, Kankana-ey and Kalanguya tribal groups.

Ibaloi or Nabaloi is an indigenous group in Benguet that mostly live through planting rice in terraced fields. The group also raise cows, pigs and chickens for food. The Kankana-ey group likewise lives through agriculture and builds sloping terraces. They are considered as one of the best vegetable growers in the country. Both ethnic groups have similar customs since they are part of the collective group of indigenous people called Igorot, but they differ in languages. The Kalanguya group, who is a distinct sub-group of the Ifugao, also lives through farming. People belonging to the group refer to themselves as Ikalahan or 'people of the forest.'

For these communities in the northern part of Luzon, NPC-WMD builds a strong partnership with them for forest protection programs and

rehabilitation measures like reforestation and agroforestry. NPC-WMD also gives them capacity trainings and seedlings for tree planting. Recently, NPC inked a memorandum of agreement for a coffee plantation project with the Cobabeng Bobok Arabica Planters Association which comprised of mostly indigenous families.

The Angat Watershed Reservation in Bulacan and portions of Rizal is the dwelling place of the Dumagat tribe. The Dumagat tribe is of the Agta Negrito groups of Luzon and are semi-nomadic people, meaning, they move from one place to another for a span of time. For this group, NPC-WMD has granted them gratuitous permit to gather/harvest non-timber forest products like rattan, bokaue, buho and vines for them to produce products such

as baskets and home displays. This serves as the group's alternative livelihood on top of fishing and farming. NPC has also allowed them to fish in the Angat Reservoir and is regularly dispersing fingerlings in the reservoir for the tribe's livelihood and food supply.

In December 2014, when NPC launched the Angat Rainforest and Ecological Park, the Dumagats were tapped to be NPC's fellow eco-guides for visitors. This now adds to the tribe's means of living. The tribe also participates in NPC's environment rehabilitation and protection programs. Through NPC's efforts, two elementary schools were built within the Angat Watershed for the Dumagat children.

Agtas, who are commonly referred to as Negritos, reside in Tiwi and Buhi Barit Watershed areas in Bicol, though they can also be found in Regions I-IV. They are short and have dark skin, kinky hair and small nose. On top of their contributions to the rehabilitation programs of NPC-WMD, they are also beneficiaries of animal-dispersal program.

The Talaandig tribe is one of the indigenous groups in the province of Bukidnon in Mindanao where the Upper Pulangi Watershed is located. Members of the tribe are also known for living in steep places or slopes (andig). NPC-WMD has tapped at least 270 Talaandig families to be its partner in forest protection and rehabilitation projects. To date, these families were able to contribute in projects in agroforestry (241.709 hectares), Bamboo planting (26 hectares), coffee planting (48 hectares), reforestation (97.75 hectares) and rubber planting (63 hectares).

NPC believes that the empowerment of the littlest communities in its watershed will significantly contribute to the preservation of the ecosystem. Together with the National Commission for the Indigenous People, NPC vows to provide programs for the betterment of the lives of our indigenous communities.

Highlights
CY2019
GAD Activities
(Watershed Area Indigenous Peoples)



Training on Mushroom Production to Indigenous Peoples (IPs) of Benguet

NPC's Watershed Management Department (WMD), in coordination with Benguet State University's Mushroom Project has conducted a livelihood training seminar on mushroom production for the indigenous peoples of barangays Ekip and Karao in Bokod, Benguet.

The second training course on mushroom production was organized by NPC-WMD's Upper Agno Watershed Area Team as livelihood program under the Gender and Development (GAD) Program of NPC aimed to uplift the IPs economic status while engaging them to take part in environmental protection programs.

Twenty-five (25) IP participants from the said Indigenous Cultural Communities benefited from the two- day training. They were introduced to the growing bag cultivation technology for Oyster Mushroom developed in BSU- College of Agriculture by its researchers and plant pathologists namely Dr. Janet S. Luis, among others.

According to Forester Onofre S. Castro, UARWAT Section Chief, "the oyster mushroom cultivation in growing bags and in other indigenous waste materials is a friendlier technology compared to Shiitake cultivation in oak and alnus trunks."

"We hope that our participants can apply the knowledge gained, and grow their own mushroom business to alleviate poverty and to create job opportunities among their neighbors," he added.



NPC CESO gives livelihood assistance to Indigenous Community in Buhi, Camarines Sur

The National Power Corporation's Career Executive Service Officers has extended monetary livelihood assistance to the indigenous people (IP) within the Buhi-Barit Watershed Reservation in Buhi, Camarines Sur.

As part of the Corporate Gender and Development (GAD) Program, GAD Advocates and NPC-CESO Officers Mr. Emmanuel A. Umali, Ms. Bernadette T. Rivero, and Atty. Patrick D. Mabbagu have personally handed the assistance to IP representatives Vilma Coronel and Nimfa Alina.

The assistance will be used as capital investment to their existing livelihood programs such as coco jam production for San Ramon Agta-Tabangon tribe and basket weaving and pili oil production for the San Vicente Agta-Tabangon tribe.

NPC's Buhi Barit Watershed Area Team also assisted the grant and will continue to help the IP communities with their livelihood programs.



NPC's TWAT conducts Livestock Dispersal Program

As part of the Corporate Gender and Development (GAD) Program and in pursuit to improve the lives of the people within the community it serves, NPC through its Tiwi Watershed Area Team (TWAT) has conducted livestock dispersal program which benefited 197 recipients in the Municipalities of Tiwi and Malinao in Albay. Beneficiaries included indigenous people from the Agta-Tabangnon tribe.

The livestock dispersal program aims to give alternative livelihood to its beneficiaries and prevent them from engaging in activities that can be harmful to the watershed. The program does not stop in the grant of the swine, TWAT makes sure that the beneficiaries apply their trainings on swine management.

Under the program, beneficiaries are given a pair of swine which they would grow and take care until it produced offspring. The beneficiary will then give two offspring to other qualified beneficiaries of the program which makes the program sustainable as well.



NPC Trains Communities in Albay on Swine Management

NPC through the Tiwi Watershed Area Team has recently conducted a two-day training on swine management for 114 beneficiaries of its livestock dispersal program in the municipalities of Tiwi and Malinao in Albay.

The training which was held in Nag Park in Naga, Tiwi, Albay aims to improve the social and economic welfare of the communities residing in the Tiwi Geothermal Reservation. It is a continuing livelihood assistance program under the Corporate Gender and Development (GAD) Program.

In partnership with Univet Nutrition and Animal Health Care Company, the training taught the participants various aspects of swine management, from feeding to proper waste disposal. Of the 114 participants, 64 were women as strengthening of NPC's commitment to Gender and Development program.

Tiwi Watershed is one of the 11 watersheds supporting power generation that is protected and managed by NPC.



NPC Holds Technology Demonstration of Livelihood Programs in Nueva Ecija

NPC's Pantabangan-Carrangalan Watershed Area Team (PCWAT), along with the Central Luzon State University, has conducted a demonstration of vermicompost and mango grafting for various Peoples Organizations such as the Tapil Bunga Farmers Association Inc., Calaoan Burgos Upland Farmers Association Inc., and the Salvacion Agri-planters Association.

The said activities under the Corporate Gender and Development (GAD) Program, which are part of PCWAT's livelihood program for its host communities, aim to teach the participants how to make fertilizers and fruit trees for personal use or for small business startups.

PCWAT has likewise conducted the demonstration of vermicompost for the employees of the National Irrigation Administration – Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (NIA-CMIPP). The participants learned about the benefits of using organic fertilizers and how to properly take care of vermiculture.

The Pantabangan-Carrangalan Watershed supports the Pantabangan-Masiway Hydroelectric Power Plant in Nueva Ecija. NPC manages the watershed with the National Irrigation Administration. It is one of the 11 watershed reservations under NPC management.