

## PROBLEMS AND THREATS

The natural resources in Mt. Malindang Range are threatened by the economic activities of the people. There are about 4,000 families living inside the park and about 15,000 families residing within 5 kilometers from the park boundary. Most of these families are marginal and sub-marginal farmers who, in times of necessity, would often turn to the park for additional income through illegal cutting of timber for construction materials, gathering of firewood or fuelwood, kaingin-making and illegal hunting or gathering of non-timber forest products. These illegal activities are facilitated by about 42 roads connecting the park to the urban centers. The DENR lacks the necessary resources to address this big problem. This situation calls for commitment among the different stakeholders to prevent further destruction of its natural resources and to sustain its life-support services for the present and future generations.

## ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE DESTRUCTION OF MMRNP

The destruction of the forest and other resources in Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park may cause great losses or calamities such as:

1. Loss of important flora and fauna species;
2. Shortage of drinking or potable water;
3. Shortage of food or agricultural products;
4. Increased incidence of drought and impact of global warming;
5. Increased impact of air pollution;
6. Denudation of upland areas due to accelerated soil erosion;
7. Destructive flash floods resulting from landslides;
8. Siltation of rivers, coastal zones and fish/marine sanctuaries;
9. Sedimentation of lowlands and irrigated rice fields;
10. Destruction of roads, bridges and other structures;
11. Loss of lives and properties; and
12. Imbalanced ecosystem.

## PRESCRIPTION FOR MMRNP

Experiences have shown that rehabilitating degraded forest ecosystem is very expensive, difficult and relatively unsuccessful. All stakeholders must, therefore, join hands to prevent the destruction of the Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park.

## HOW CAN STAKEHOLDERS HELP PROTECT MMRNP

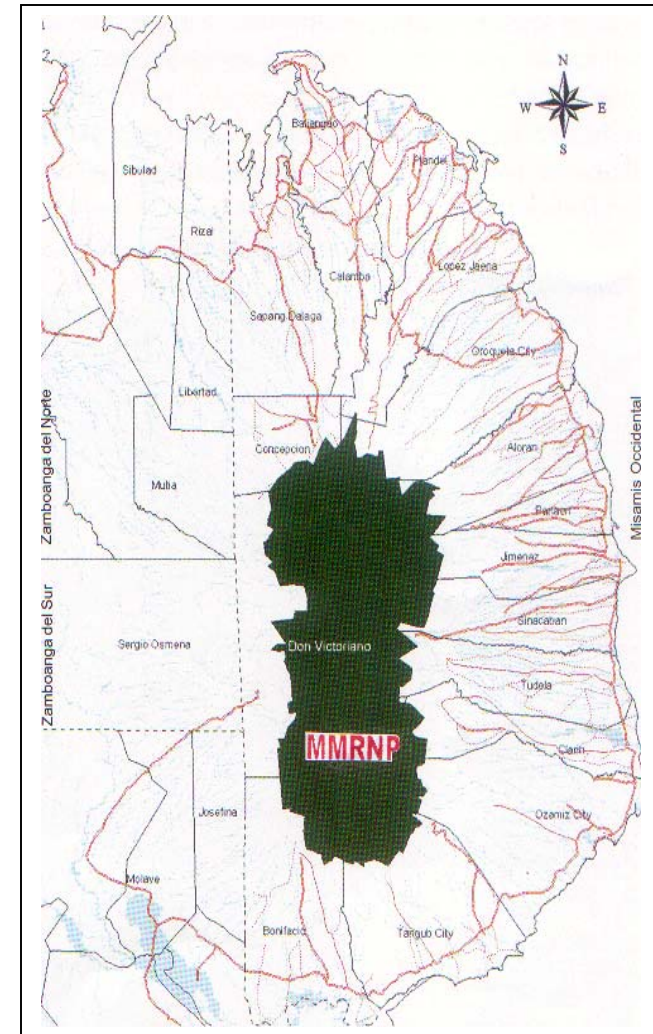
1. Local Government Units and Other Government Agencies
  - Formulate and implement regulations that would protect the park against destructive human activities.
  - Design and implement programs that would generate livelihood and improve the living condition of park occupants and upland farmers.
  - Extend financial or material assistance for the protection of the park.
  - Help educate the people about the importance of the park to the economic sustainability and well-being of all stakeholders.
2. Community/Barangay People
  - Prevent the entry of outsiders into the park.
  - Conduct monitoring and surveillance operation within the territory of the barangay.
  - Report immediately to concerned agencies any illegal activity detected.
3. All stakeholders
  - Use lumber from planted trees for construction or other purposes.
  - Plant more trees for economic or aesthetic values.
  - Support fund-raising campaigns for the protection of MMRNP.

Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park and its Environs is OUR ECOSYSTEM, OUR HABITAT. God requires every stakeholder to protect and keep it.

For more information, please contact:  
MMRNP Protected Area Office  
Capitol Compound, Oroquieta City  
Telefax No.: (088) 531-2184

# MOUNT MALINDANG RANGE NATURAL PARK

The Foundation for Progress



## Province of Misamis Occidental

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
MMRNP Protected Area Office



Biodiversity Research Programme for Development  
in Mindanao: Focus on Mt. Malindang and its Environs

## MMRNP, A PROTECTED AREA

Mt. Malindang Range was proclaimed as a National Park and Watershed Reserve on June 19, 1971 by Republic Act 6266. Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 7586 or the NIPAS Act of 1992, the said range was proclaimed as Natural Park on August 2, 2002 through Proclamation No. 228 which made the same a protected area. It covers 53,262 hectares but the remaining forest cover is about 33,000 hectares. The remaining portion of more than 20,000 hectares are already opened and occupied by about 4,000 families who are mostly indigenous people.

## SOURCE OF POTABLE WATER

Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park is a watershed or catchment area which drains water through 49 rivers and streams, and numerous creeks. It provides potable water for domestic, agricultural and other uses to more than one million inhabitants of Misamis Occidental and the eastern parts of Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur. The potable water from the park is a potential source of revenue for the government if properly managed and utilized.



## MMRNP SUSTAINS AGRICULTURE

The rivers and creeks coming from Mt. Malindang Range provide water for agricultural production in the rice fields and lowland farms of the entire province of Misamis Occidental as well as the eastern parts of the two Zamboanga provinces. The forest enhances cloud formation and promotes regular rainfall for sustainable agriculture in upland areas. The regular rainfall also maintains the steady flow of the numerous rivers, creeks and wells. Aside from being the source of potable water, the park is also the sanctuary of insects, birds and other wildlife species that pollinate the plants and control the number of destructive farm insects and pests.



## PROMOTES HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE

The forest of Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park has contributed much in maintaining the health of the local people through the following:

1. By providing clean water for drinking, and for domestic and other uses;
2. By absorbing carbon dioxide (about 200,000 tons per year) from and releasing oxygen (about 146,000 tons per year) to the atmosphere;
3. By cooling the surroundings and reducing the effect of global warming;
4. By providing beautiful scenery and area for recreation; and
5. By providing a source of food and medicine.



## PROTECTIVE VALUE

Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park, being the highest mountain range in the Zamboanga peninsula, protects Misamis Occidental and the neighboring provinces against storms or strong winds. It prevents soil erosion and landslide of sloping lands and hillsides, and prevents or minimizes the occurrence of drought. It also checks air pollution and reduces the impact of global warming.

## THE VALUE OF MMRNP

Based on the various life support services it provides, the local Protected Areas Management Board (PAMB) estimated that one-hectare forest in Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park is worth 162 million pesos and the entire 33,000-hectare forest is worth 5.346 trillion pesos. Based on the findings of a professor from the University of Calcutta in India who said that a 50-year old tree is worth PHP 9,344,768.00, the value of the Park's entire forest is about PHP 6,167,546,880,000.00. Both estimates show that the park is worth several trillions of pesos, an invaluable treasure of the people.