

NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM

Introduction

The National Greening Program or NGP is the country's most ambitious reforestation program to date. It seeks to plant 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares for a period of six (6) years, from 2011 to 2016.

Legal basis:

Executive Order No. 26, signed on February 24, 2011 by President Benigno S. Aquino III serves as the legal basis for the implementation of the NGP. Executive Order 193, s. 2015 expands its coverage from 2016 to 2028.

The Order provides, among others, that the NGP shall be implemented as a National Convergence Initiative among three (3) national government agencies, namely: Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with the latter as the lead agency

The program was launched on May 13, 2011 by no less than President Aquino at the DENR, with a ceremonial planting of a narra sapling at the DENR's Heroes Park.

Objectives of NGP:

While the NGP is primarily a reforestation program that seeks to bring back the vegetative cover of the country's upland areas, the program is designed in such manner as to achieve more – beyond reforestation, to wit:

- Poverty reduction
- Food security
- Environmental stability
- Biodiversity conservation and
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

Areas for NGP development:

With such an encompassing mission, the following areas are included for development under the program:

- Open, degraded and denuded forestlands
- Protected areas and mangroves
- Ancestral domains
- Civil and military reservations
- Urban areas under the greening plan of Local Government Units
- Inactive and abandoned mine sites and
- Other suitable areas

Implementation Strategies

The NGP is being implemented following a three-pronged approach or strategy:

1. Harmonization of all greening efforts of the government, civil society and the private sector;
2. Provision of incentives to people's organizations, the program's primary partners in the areas of seedling production, site preparation and planting; and
3. Maximization of available science and technology, to include the establishment of clonal nurseries for the production of quality planting stock; the use of bio-fertilizers and pesticides and the use of GIS mapping and geo-tagging.

Expected program outcome:

1. Self-sufficiency in wood and agroforestry products

DENR records indicate that the country's annual requirement for timber is placed at 750,000 hectares; 60,000 hectares for coffee; and 30,000 hectares for fuelwood.

2. Economic security

The NGP is expected to bring about increased and sustainable supply of forest-based raw materials; increased economic activity in the uplands; and optimized utilization of upland resources.

3. Environmental stability

At the end of the program, it is expected that the country's forest cover has increased by 12% from the 2003 level of 7.2 million hectares, with 85% survival rate; increase of 8% in carbon sequestration, that is, from 36 million tons per year to 38.9 million tons per year; increased in water-holding capacity; reduced in downstream flooding and soil erosion; and improved environmental services.

Beneficiaries:

EO No. 26 specifically provides that people's organizations shall be given the primary responsibility of maintaining and protecting the established plantations with appropriate assistance from the government and the private sector.

Status of implementation:

CY2020:

| Program/Project/Activity | Annual Target (FY2020) | Accomplishment (as of July 2020) | % Accomplishment |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Plantation Establishment | | | |
| a. Area planted (hectares) | 49,986 | 23,987 | 48% |
| b. Seedling planted (no.) | | 20,148,079 | |
| c. Jobs generated | 82,572 | 77,380 | 93% |
| a. Persons employed | 11,796 | 16,653 | 141% |