

## INTENSIFIED FOREST PROTECTION AND ANTI-ILLEGAL LOGGING



The Department has been relentless in its campaign to intensify Forest Protection and Law Enforcement. In response, substantial investment has been made to ensure that Field Office personnel are equipped with knowledge and essential equipment/tools for the monitoring and strict implementation of the environmental laws and regulations. The priority activities are the following: (1) continuous forest patrolling thru Lawin System; (2) forest fire prevention; and (3) neutralization of illegal logging hotspots.

### Sustainable Implementation of Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System

Pursuant to DENR Administrative Order No. 2018-21, the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System was adopted as the National Strategy for Forest Biodiversity in the country which will strengthen forest biodiversity protection through the application of a science-based and technology-aided forest protection that is relevant to forest biodiversity management. It integrates forest, biodiversity and threats monitoring, implementation of interventions to address threats and monitoring of the response of the forest ecosystem to these management interventions. It allows management and decision makers to respond directly to threats in a timely manner based on the generated reports.

(Source: FMB)

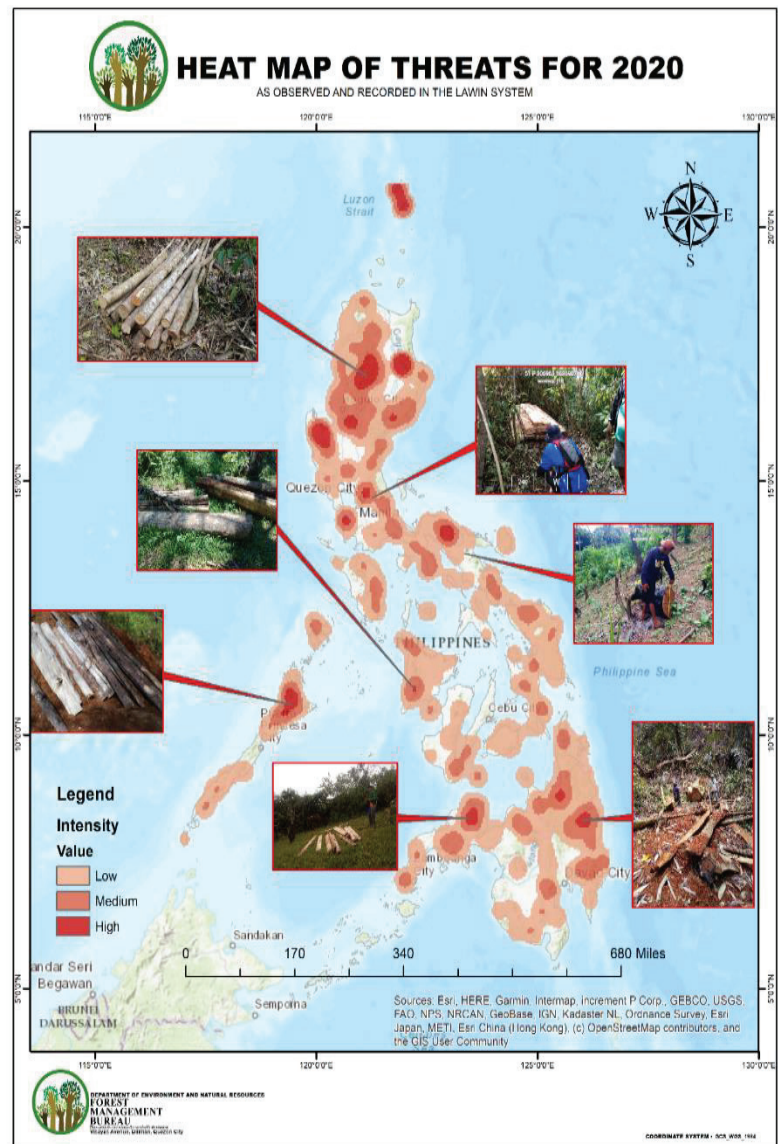


Figure 8.1 Heat Map of Threats for CY 2020

For CY 2020, a total of 4,827 patrollers joined the patrolling. As a result, a total of 112,456 kilometers were patrolled out of the target of 70,206 kilometers, equivalent to 160% accomplishment rate. The patrol team consisted of Forest Rangers, foresters, forest technicians, Forest Protection Officers, Bantay Gubat, and volunteers.

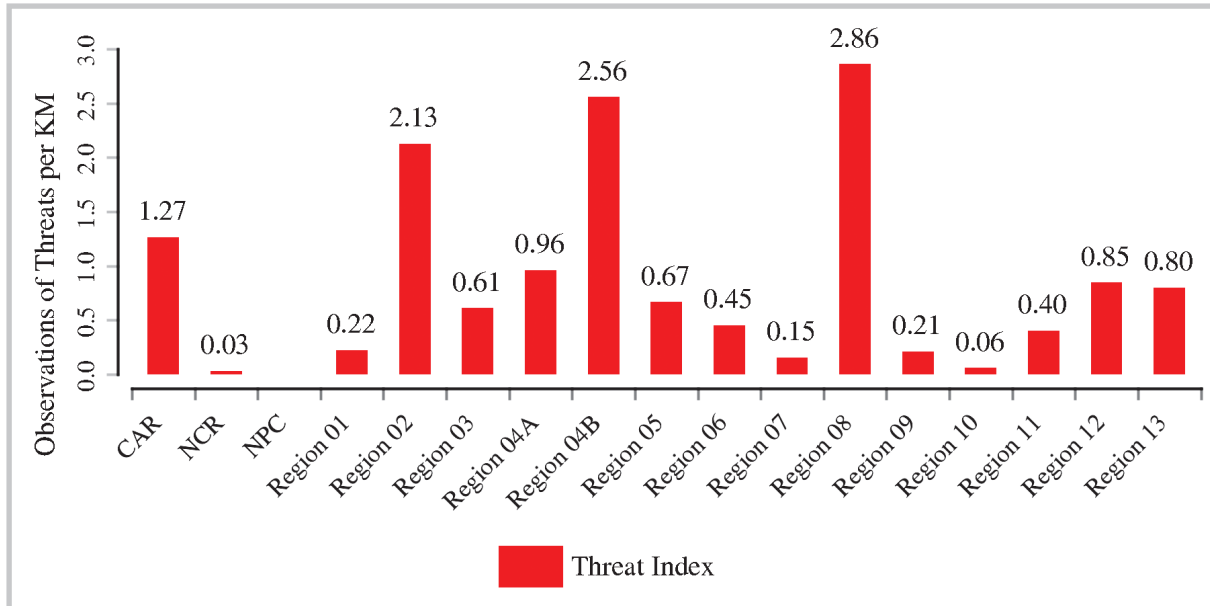


Figure 8.2 Observed threats per kilometer

Of the 4,091 observed threats requiring post-patrol responses, a total of 3,209 or 78% were addressed and responded to. The observed threats can be of natural or anthropogenic activity. The top five most common threats observed during the patrol works are the Annual and Perennial Farming (2,013), cutting of trees (1,117), typhoon-related (1,045), landslide and mudslide (825), and establishment of hut or house and other infrastructure (808).

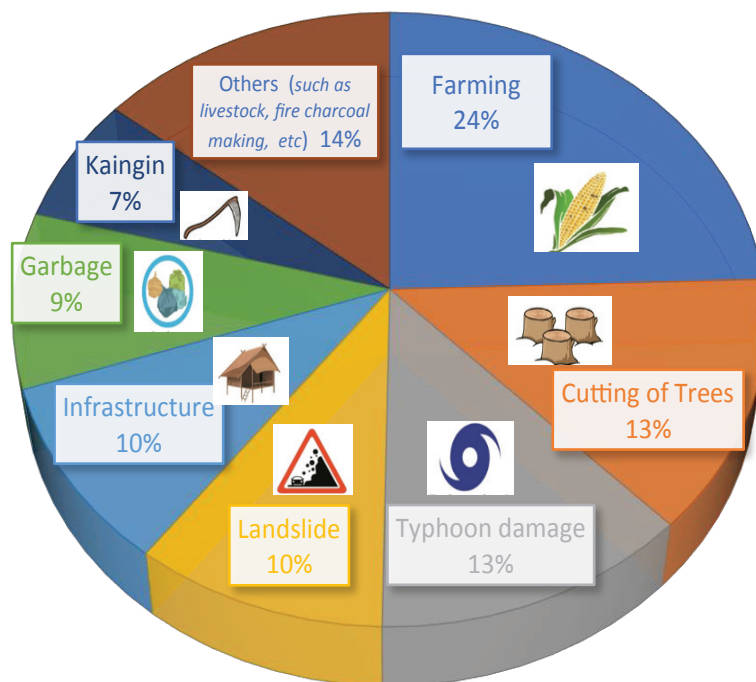


Figure 8.3 Percentage of the observed threats during Lawin Patrol

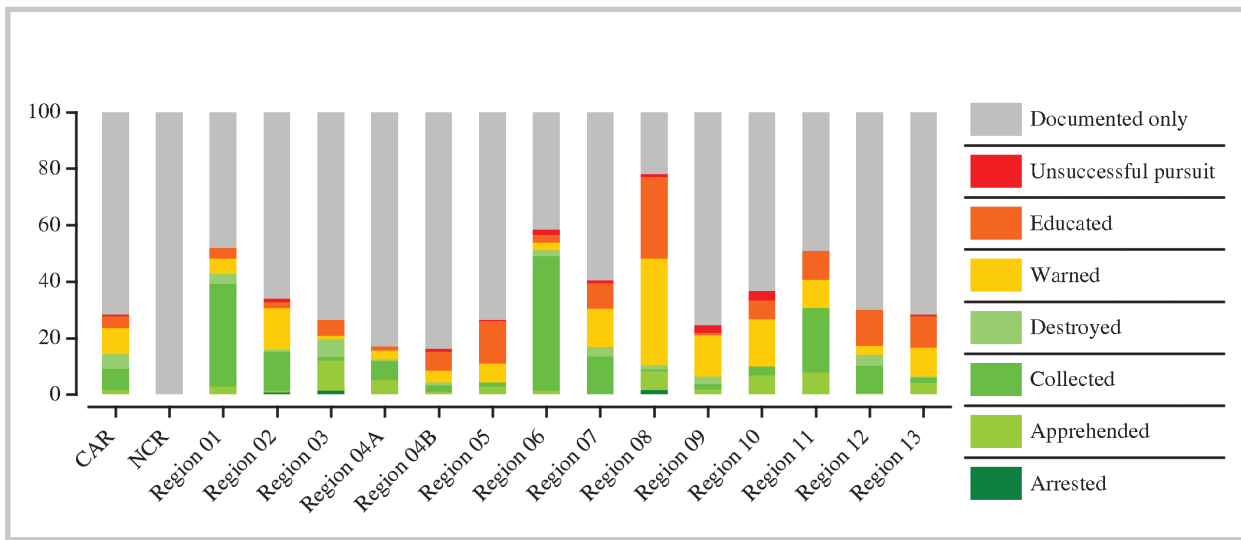


Figure 8.4 Responses to threats per region during Lawin Patrol

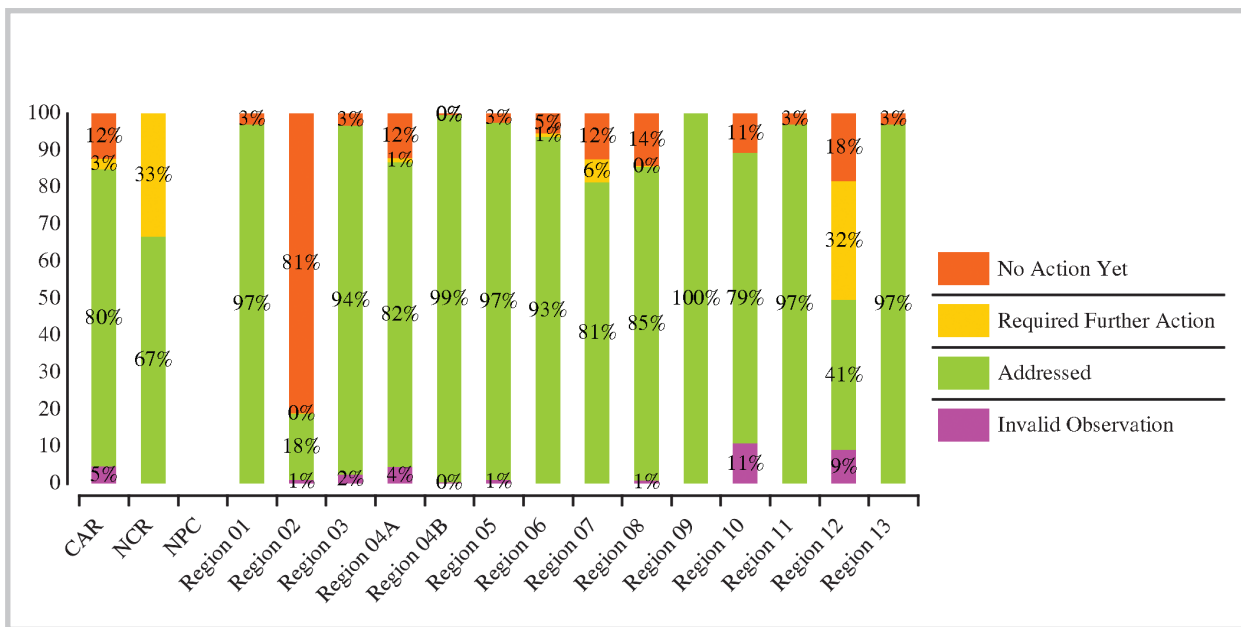


Figure 8.5 Post-patrol threat status per region

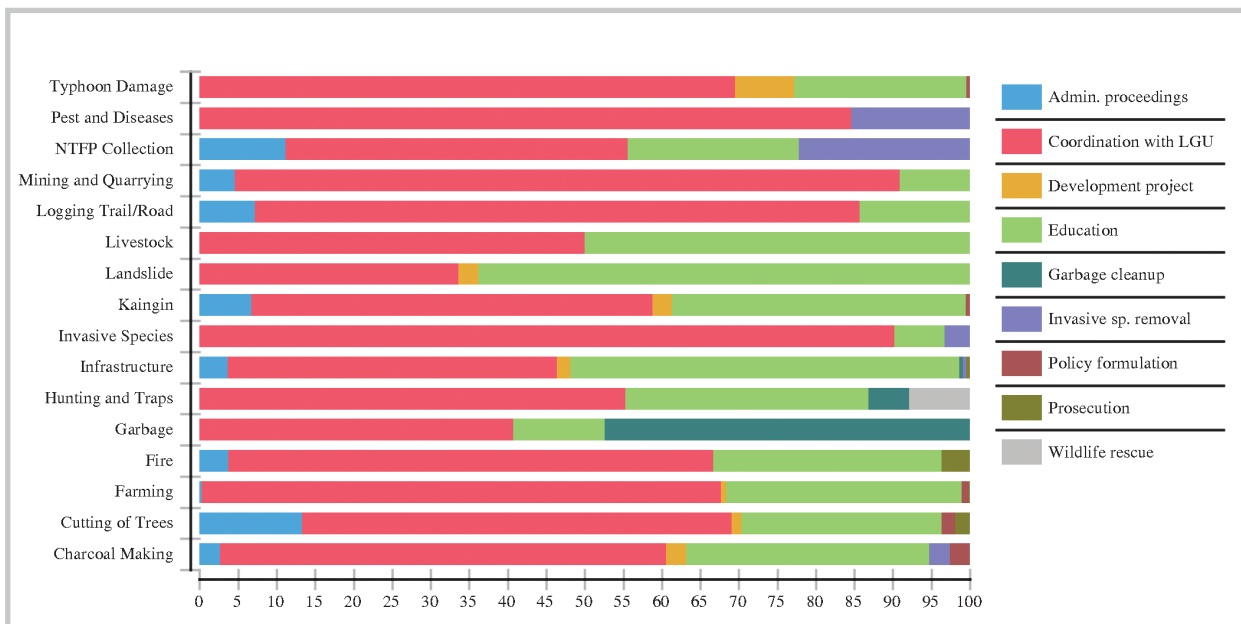


Figure 8.6 Post-patrol responses per threat

(Source: FMB)

The Menu of Activities was created to provide strategies to the Regional Offices in the protection and conservation of the country's remaining forests and natural resources from further destruction and degradation. The COVID-19 pandemic is a new challenge especially in accomplishing the targets; however, through dedication and persistent efforts, the Regions were able to attain more than 100% of the majority of the Menu of Activities. In fact, these activities garnered an overall mark of 139% accomplishment.

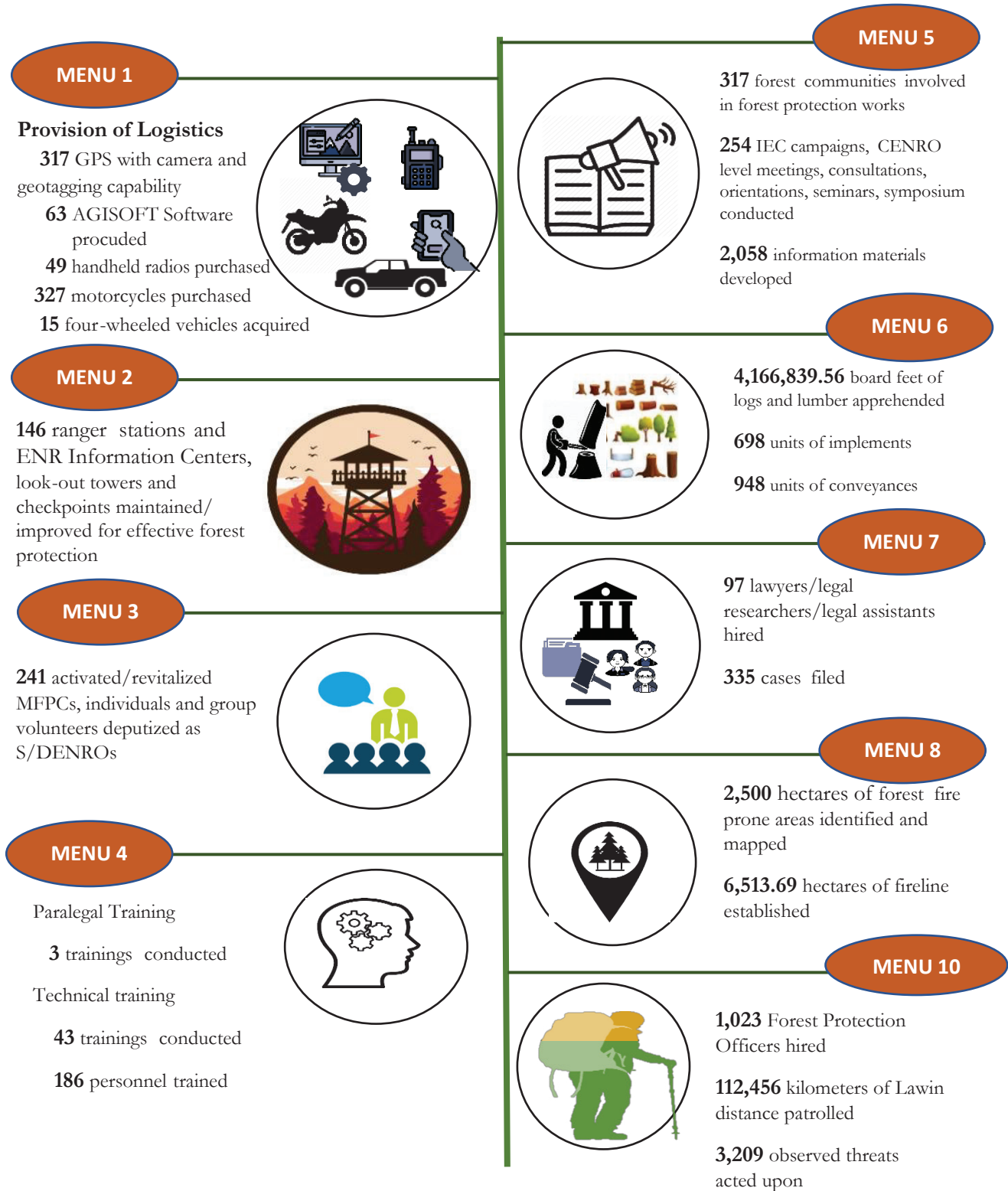


Figure 8.7 Menu of Activities

## Forest Protection Amidst Pandemic

Despite the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department continues to pursue its mandate, “conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country’s environment and natural resources”. Through a strong collaboration effort and coordination with other law enforcement agencies like PNP, AFP, LGUs, as well as regular monitoring and manning in the area, a total of 4,166,839.56 board feet of logs and lumber, 11,704 sacks of charcoal, 698 units of implements, and 948 units of conveyances were apprehended and/or seized with an estimated market value of approximately PhP115 Million. The apprehension resulted in the filing of 335 cases (including information and criminal complaints) in different Prosecutors’ Offices nationwide for violation of PD 705, as amended.

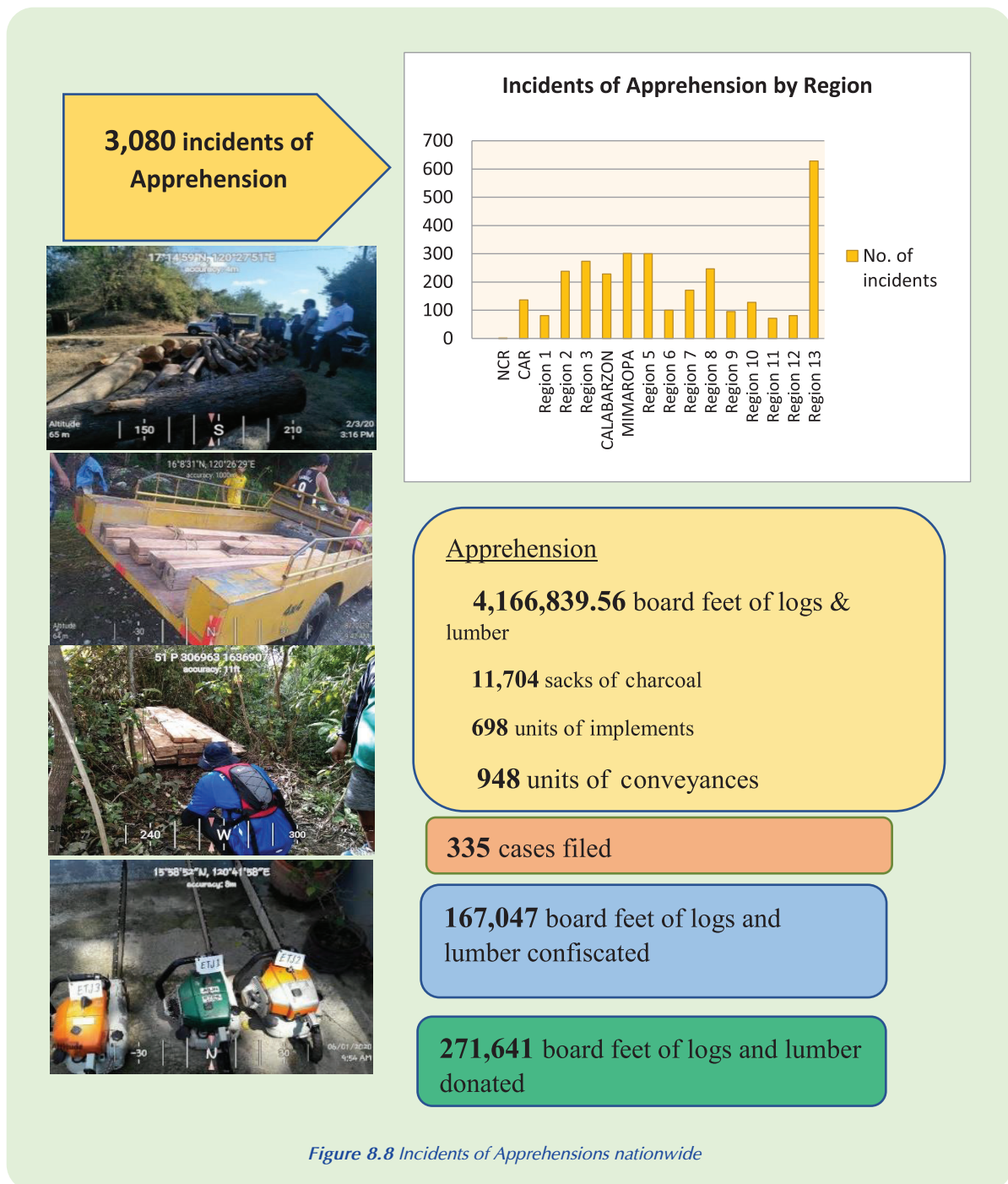


Figure 8.8 Incidents of Apprehensions nationwide

For CY 2020, a total of 167,047 board feet of logs and lumber were confiscated in favor of the Government. The regions donated a total of 271,641 board feet of lumber to various government agencies and institutions for the construction of quarantine facilities in response to the COVID-19 threat to the country.

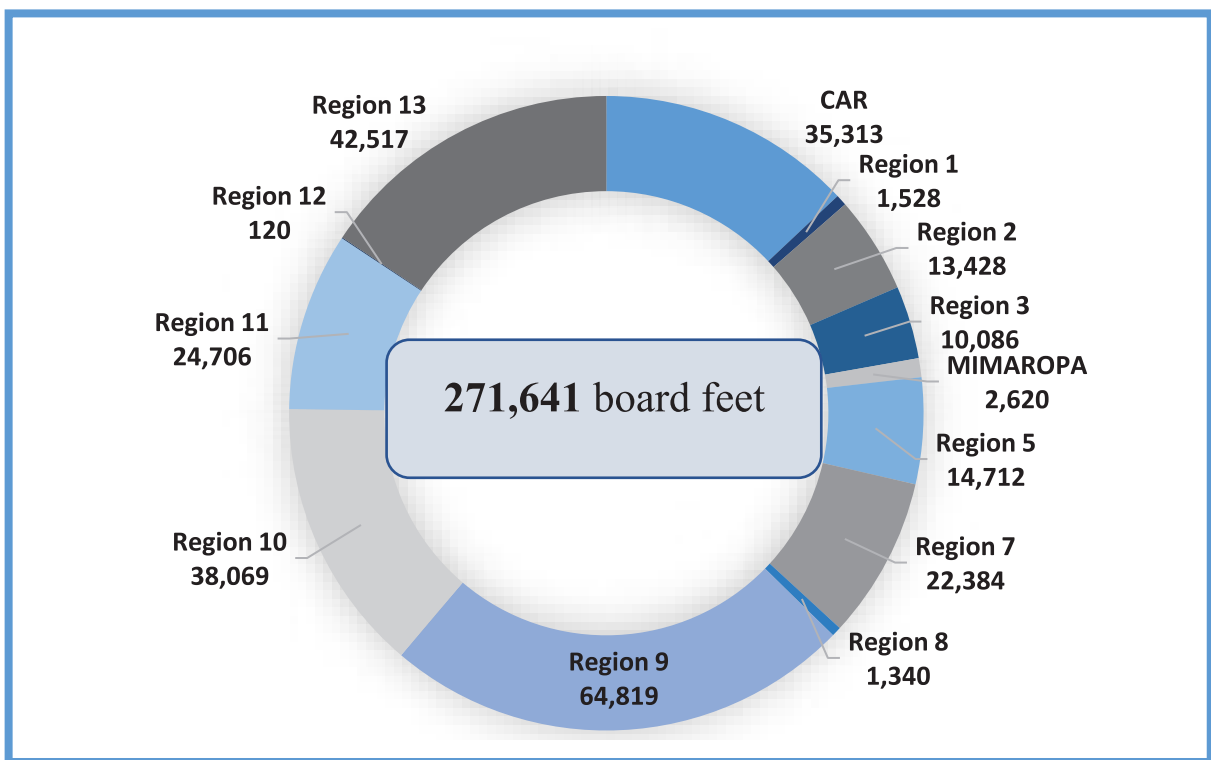


Figure 8.9 Donated lumber in board feet



Figure 8.10 Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) Oroquieta City donated logs and lumber with a total volume of 3,760.88 bd ft to be used for the construction of quarantine facilities



Figure 8.11 A total of 4,000 board feet worth Php240,000 were donated to DPWH which were then turned into 200 beds given to quarantine facilities within Cebu City

For CY 2020, a total of 19 hotspot municipalities were reported or about 30% higher compared to CY 2019 with 14 hotspot municipalities. The five municipalities that have been registered in CY 2020 from zero incidence of apprehension and/or seizure of undocumented forest products in CY 2019 are as follows: Casiguran, Dilasag, Dingalan, Baganga, and Laak.

Further, the consistent efforts of the Visayas Regions to strengthen forest protection and strictly implement environmental laws have registered zero hotspot municipalities since CY 2015.

The Department aims to reduce the number of illegal logging hotspots in the country through the issuance of Executive Order No. 23, series of 2011 “Declaring a Moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in the natural and residual forests and creating the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force”.

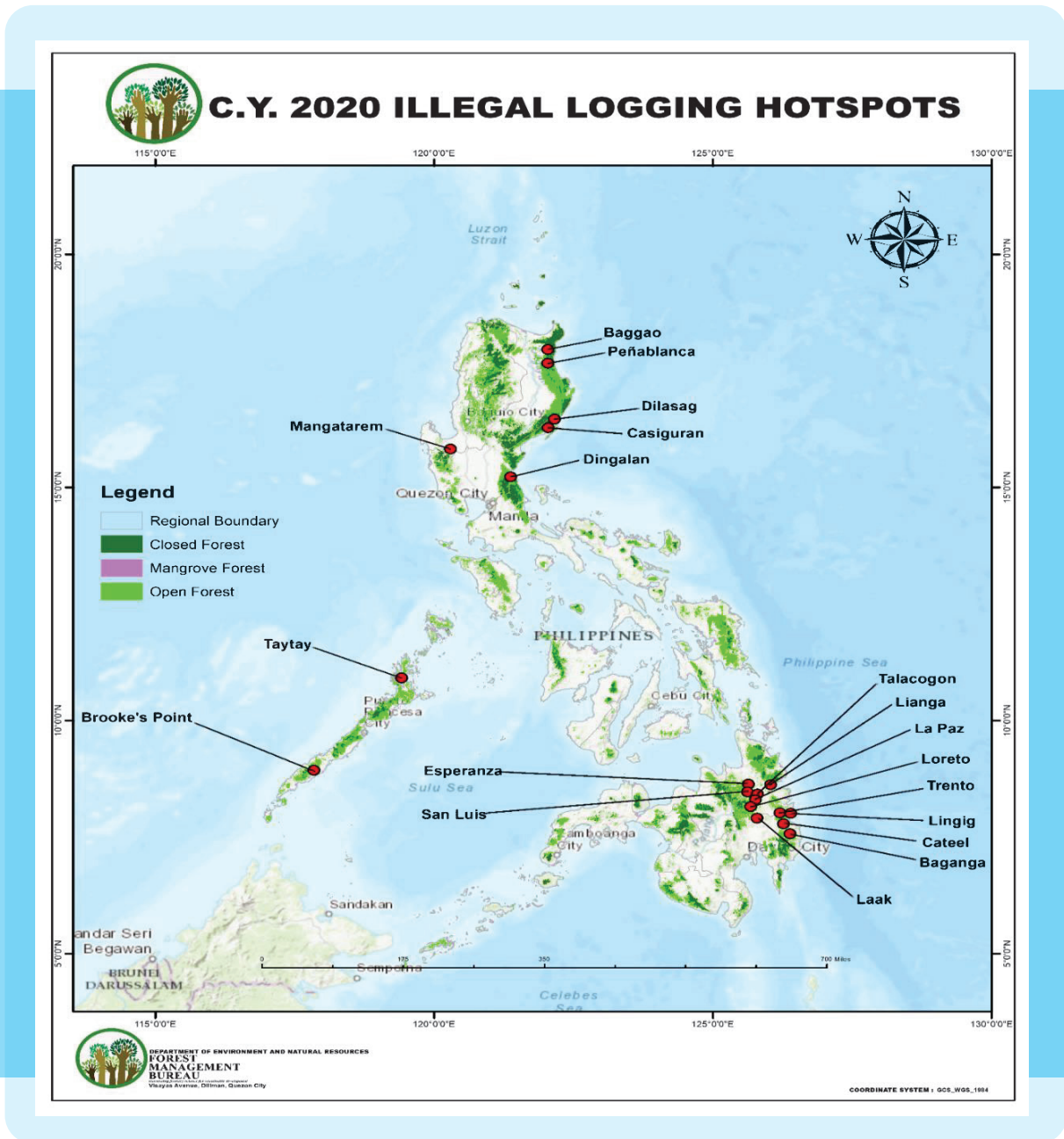


Figure 8.12 Map of the illegal logging hotspot areas nationwide

(Source: FMB)

## Forest Disturbances by Cause

For CY 2020, a total of 11,720.29 hectares were reportedly damaged by fire. This consisted of natural forest and NGP /plantation forest with 1,480.54 and 10,239.75 hectares, respectively. The estimated damaged cost is about Php 168 Million.

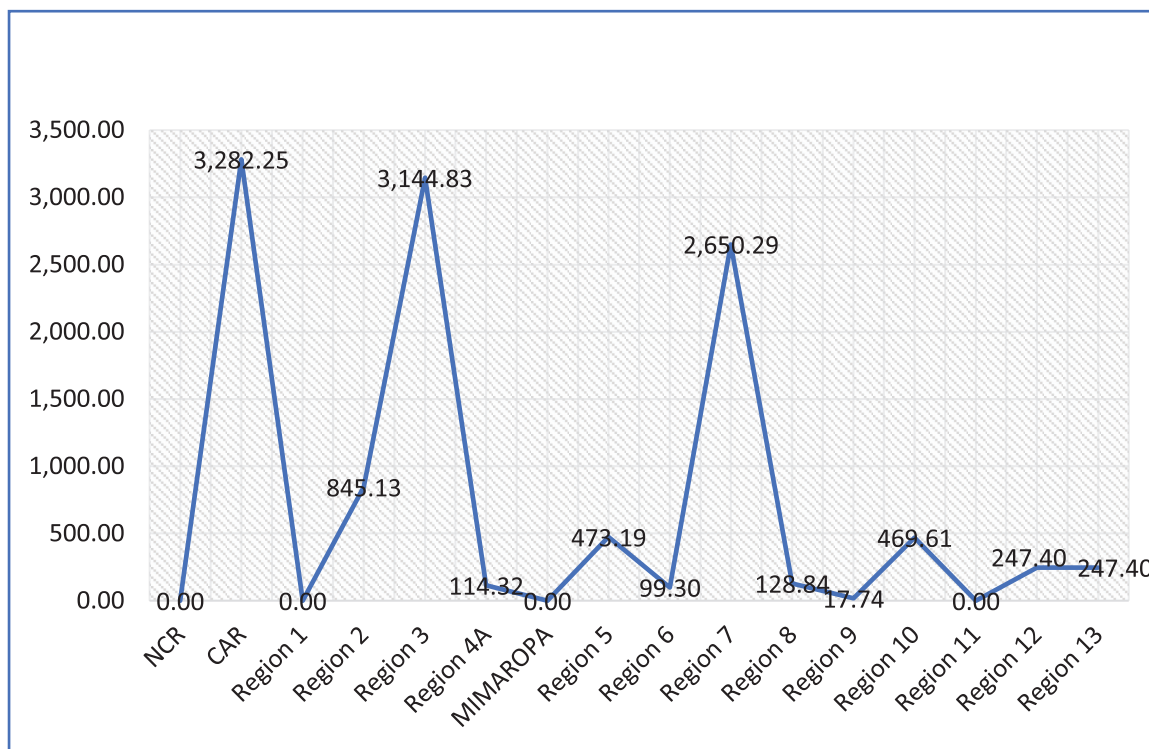


Figure 8.13 Damaged Areas, by region (ha)

## Ways Forward

- Under the President's administration, by 2022, illegal logging hotspots in the country will be reduced by 50%, from the baseline of 17 and 8.2 Million hectares of forests protected against forest fire, poaching, pests and diseases.
- Policy adopting the creation of Strategic Regional Forest Protection Plans which will serve as guidance for the Regions in support to the implementation of Intensified Forest Protection Program.
- Integration of Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) in the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System. Further enhancement of the system to improve the monitoring system.
- Use of advanced technology such as heavy-duty drones for monitoring and surveillance of potential high risk areas for illegal activities identified in the Lawin System.
- Consistent upgrading of the Lawin system to the latest version and incorporating results based analysis and pursuing capacitation of forest patrollers to improve the quality of patrol data generated by the Lawin System.
- Implementation of the National Forest Stocks Monitoring Systems (NFSMS) as additional effort to ensure that the harvested trees/lumber comes from sustainably managed forest.

(Source: FMB)