**The Threat of Environmental Crimes: Effects of Green Crimes on Vulnerable Communities in a Province in the Philippines**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Environmental crimes were categorized into three types: brown, blue, and green. Blue crimes are illegal activities damaging water bodies, encompassing illegal fishing, water pollution, and dumping of waste. Brown crimes are pollution damaging cities and human health, such as air contamination and improper disposal of toxic substances. With illegal logging, animal trafficking, and other destructive activities, green crimes target terrestrial biodiversity. However, this study focused only on green crimes against vulnerable groups in a Philippine municipality and applied qualitative methods to investigate violations of environmental law.. The data were provided by people from the community, policemen, and the Community Environmental and Natural Resources Office (CENRO). The findings indicated lack of awareness about environmental law among people from the community, thus emphasizing greater education and the dissemination of information. Environmental crimes are highly dependent on socioeconomic factors when it comes to participation by the community. Imposition of laws, fines, influential individuals, underreporting of offenses, and other factors pose challenges to law enforcement. The study developed an action plan for campaigns and education on matters to deal with problems and create awareness about environmental legislation. Further, with emphasis on the need to ensure protection of the environment, the action plan is harmonized with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Such actions are fundamental towards enhancing environmental justice and sustainability in the region.*

**Keywords:** *Environmental Crimes, Green Crimes, Community, Vulnerable, SDG 13, SDG 15, SDG 16’*

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Environmental law is meant to safeguard ecosystems and natural resources required for the survival of mankind (Hartt, 2024.) Despite bills meant to enact stringent environmental law, sustainability remains threatened by continued neglect and disobedience, posing a similarly alarming problem.

Environmental crime in the Philippines is a lucrative and quickly developing sector of global criminality, i.e., wildlife trade and illegal logging, which carry long-term consequences. Aside from loss of biodiversity, such activities are threats to food security, inhibit economic development, and reduce government income. Environmental crimes are more socially pervasive because they are largely "victimless" due to a lack of awareness and a lack of research. Illegal logging, for instance, renders deforestation an easy practice, depriving individuals in the forests of livelihood, creating environmental issues such as floods, and contributing to climate change.

Furthermore, Nellemann et al. (2016) pointed out that UNEP-INTERPOL specifies environmental crime as criminal activities that damage the environment and pilfer natural resources for profit or corporate gain. Mallari (2021) listed some of the events, including the arrest of four suspected illegal coconut loggers and the seizure of a van carrying freshly cut coconut timber. Individuals were apprehended for unlawful cutting of acacia and mahogany. The acts violated Republic Act 9175 (Chain Saw Act) and Presidential Decree 705, Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, amended by RA 7161, which prohibits the cutting of trees without a permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Urbanization, industrial growth, and failure to enforce the environment law have led to increasing violations, negatively affecting the community and the environment. At the same time, Quezon Province, endowed with natural resources like forests, seashores, and agricultural lands, boasts huge biodiversity and breathtaking scenery. Natural resources are main sources of sustenance for the people who live here. The rugged landscape of the province is dominated by the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, with Mount Banahaw as its highest peak. The narrow coastal strips and river valleys have limited areas for farming, while the well-drained lowlands offer some land for cultivation. Although there are rich natural resources, data of this study shows an increase in environmental law infraction in the province.

The rapid growth of environmental crime threatens wildlife populations and entire ecosystems, livelihoods, and government revenues. Interpol (2024) estimates that forestry crimes, including corporate offenses and illegal logging, result in losses between $51 billion and $152 billion annually. The agency further included that the environmental effects of such crimes are forest loss, chemical pollution, and the degradation of ecosystem services like clean air, clean water, and food security. Philippine Clearing House Mechanism (2019) revealed that the Philippines is experiencing an alarming level of resource depletion as a result of overexploitation, deforestation, land degradation, climate change, and pollutants such as biological pollution, among others. Illegal logging and other unlawful operations in forests have been recognised as the primary cause of deforestation. They added that the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources reports that the Philippines is losing around 47,000 hectares of forest cover annually.

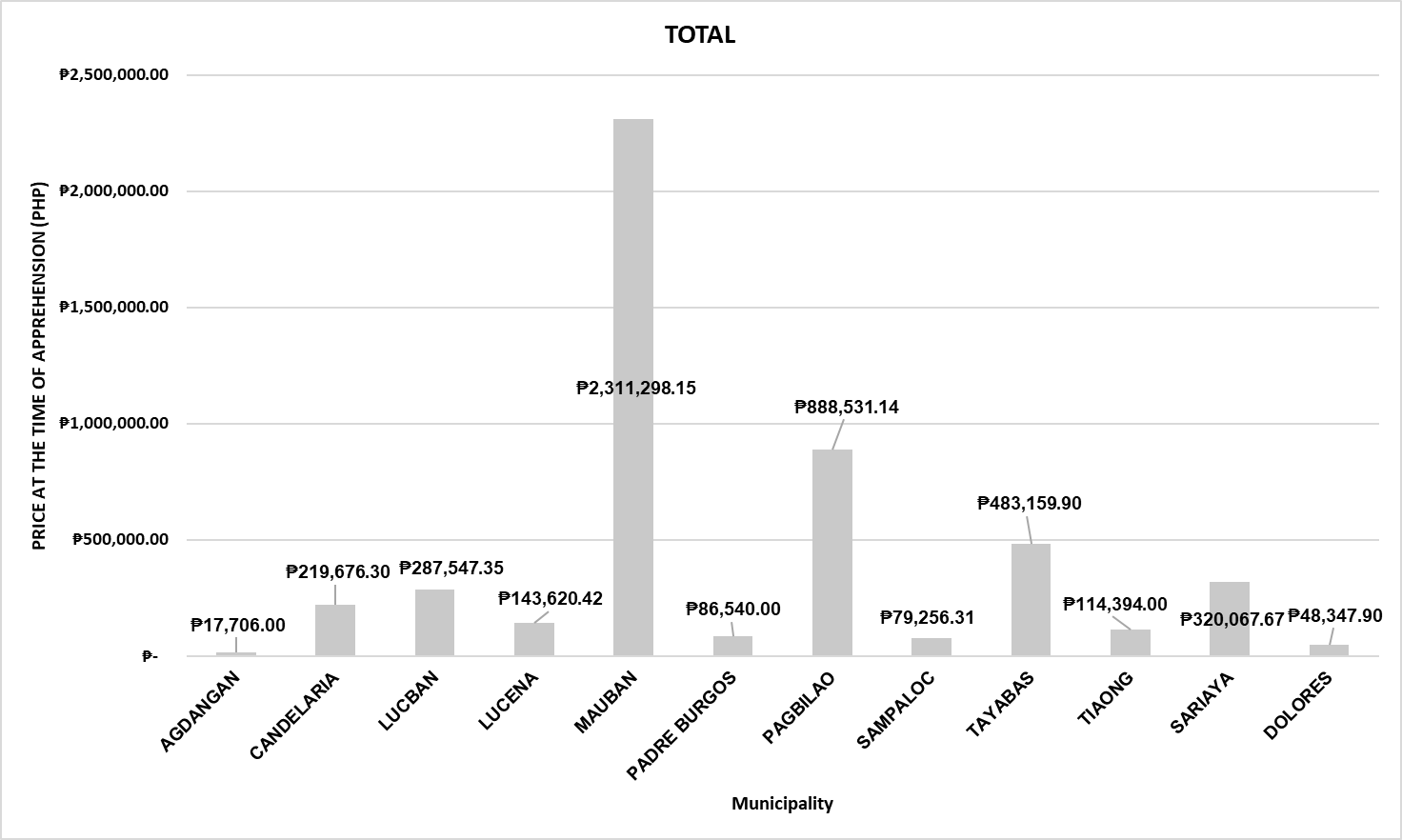
Meanwhile, Mayuga (2020) noted that establishing a separate enforcement bureau for environmental and natural resources laws could provide consistent focus on their implementation. Miguel (2015) further emphasized the need for additional support from local government units and national agencies like the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in addressing green crime violations. By raising awareness and improving enforcement mechanisms, this study seeks to contribute to preserving natural resources and protecting vulnerable communities.

This research focused on the impacts of green crime on vulnerable communities in the chosen municipalities in Quezon Province. Since environmental crime is increasing, it threatens the long-term sustainability of ecosystems and livelihoods. Through this study, an added contribution to the knowledge of the challenges law enforcement agencies encounter in enforcing environmental laws and the importance of increased awareness and enforcement of environmental regulations will be made.

1. **METHOD**

This research aimed to evaluate the impacts of environmental offenses, in particular green law violations, on vulnerable groups in Quezon, Philippines, under the CENRO jurisdiction since these are the most prevalent types of environmental offenses among the nine municipalities covered by the CENRO. By restricting the area to a specific geographic area, the study aimed to acquire detailed information and insight in relation to the effect of green crimes on these vulnerable communities. This allows one to look closely at the local environment more carefully, considering socioeconomic aspects, environmental vulnerability, and sociodynamics. Lucban, Mauban, Pagbilao, Sariaya, and Tayabas were selected as the study locations in view of some determinants that complemented the study goals. These considerations comprised the high natural endowments and data from the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources.

The data utilized in this research were derived from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) covering the years 2017 to 2021. These data concerned violations of environmental laws and revealed that the majority of environmental crimes committed were green crimes, with a specific focus on timber poaching or illegal logging. The reports indicated the number of green law violations per municipality and the estimated value of the damages incurred. Five municipalities with the highest frequency of such violations were identified by the research, which also illustrated trends and associated expenditures through graphical presentation.



*Figure 1.*

Figure 1 highlights data from the years 2017 to 2021, presenting the five municipalities placed under the administration of CENRO that have several reported green law violations and high financial losses arising from timber poaching. The graph illustrate significant differences in values apprehended among municipalities, of which the highest value is PHP 2,311,208.15.

The selection of the five municipalities as the study area is important because it provides an opportunity to undertake an extensive evaluation of the environmental crime situation in focused areas in Quezon. Following the analysis of reported frequency of crimes and economic value of forest poaching, the research further determines the causes, impacts, and implications of environmental crime on local communities and ecosystems. The criteria for choosing these municipalities to be used as the site of study are based on evidence presented by CENRO in the form of experience of violation of environmental law and substantial economic effects derived from such violations that are being exposed vulnerable communities. The criteria for the choice of these municipalities as the research site are premised on the evidence provided by CENRO which shows the existence of environmental law violation and severe economic impacts incurred due to such violation considered vulnerable communities.

This study employed a descriptive research design with the goal of providing a precise and organized description of a population, situation, or phenomenon. According to McCombes (2019), descriptive research answers questions such as "what," "where," "when," and "how." It can apply a number of different techniques in order to analyze one or more variables. As compared to experiments, no variables were controlled or manipulated by the researchers; they merely observed and measured them. A descriptive questionnaire survey was employed to collect data in five municipalities that fall under the jurisdiction of CENRO in this study. This was found to be most appropriate in observing how environmental crimes affect vulnerable populations in Quezon Province. The primary objective was to study the impact of environmental crimes on the communities and identify the extent of awareness among residents regarding the issues. The research also aimed to identify the challenges encountered by law enforcers and government agencies in enforcing environmental laws.

A graph of a number of people

Description automatically generated

*Figure 2.*

Figure 2 shows 340 respondents in three groups: 40 CENRO staff, 150 community residents from five municipalities, and 150 police officers from these same municipalities. The CENRO staff provided perspectives on enforcing environmental law, the community residents provided perspectives on the social, economic, and ecological aspects of environmental crime, and the police officers provided their experience with investigating and enforcing environmental legislation. This varied sample that was given gave profound insights on the impact of environmental crimes on the population, with the evidence spread across different ages and education levels. The consideration by the study of age and education level among respondents helped in including varied experiences and perceptions about environmental crimes. Older participants might have seen more from their previous interactions with long-term effects, while younger participants might be more aware of environmental problems through their contemporary understanding. Education also had a strong influence, with increased levels having a better idea of the laws and matters of the environment. Formal education at lower levels can restrict knowledge but offered alternative views. Engaging community, law enforcers, and CENRO officials in research ensured an all-inclusive grasp of the social, economic, and ecological impacts of environmental crime. The educational, occupation, and age diversity allowed the study to make informed inferences about the impact of environmental violations on and the response of different populations.

The questionnaire was introduced first to the respondents, explaining all research terms applicable and the idea of green laws prior to their administration to ensure their clear understanding of the study's nature on environmental crimes. A request letter was also provided for soliciting permission as well as for respondent participation and stressing the ethical openness of the research. The validity of the results was enhanced by the diversity of the respondents and by the explicit description of the research aims so that there could be a comprehensive exploration of the environmental crimes and enforcement efforts with CENRO, community members, and police officers. The survey was divided into two sections: community members answered sections 1, 2, and 3, which asked for their knowledge and opinions on environmental legislations, and police officers and CENRO answered law enforcers' practices and the effectiveness of laws. This split helped the study capture points from the community and the enforcement agencies, showing a proper view of the effect of environmental crimes. Consequently, the research revealed loopholes and potential for improvement in enforcement of environmental laws.

Data Privacy and ethical protocols were followed while collecting data. A stratified sampling technique was used in the study with three categories of respondents, including the community members, police officers, and CENRO officers, to obtain accurate data. Community members gave input on social, economic, and environmental effects of such offenses, while police officers gave their understanding of law enforcement policy. CENRO personnel contributed experience in environmental regulation and management that informed consideration of institutional reaction. Municipal records provided evidence of extreme green law violations which serve to form the study's conclusions.

The study design used is the mixed-methods study with both quantitative and qualitative data collection. In bringing together data from various respondents, the study highlighted the demand for preventive measures and stricter law enforcement to fight environmental crimes among vulnerable communities. This study also emphasized the challenge and brought forth recommendations to enhance environmental law enforcement, especially in vulnerable municipalities. Forty CENRO respondents, who are predominantly forest rangers, provided valuable insights into the intricacies of environmental law violations. Their first-hand experiences in observing natural resources and implementing laws enriched the study findings. The participation of community members provided added depth to the research, as their own perspectives revealed how these offenses impact their lives and health. Additionally, thirty police officers from municipalities with high rates of environmental infringements offered valuable input on enforcement gaps and strategies for improvement. Together, the findings support evidence-based policy development, resource allocation, and management practices to preserve biodiversity and promote sustainable growth across entire communities, not just in the identified high-risk areas.

**III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

*Level of the awareness of the community on Green Laws*

The community's awareness of environmental laws varies across different levels. Overall, they display moderate awareness of general environmental regulations, such as blue, brown, and green laws. However, low awareness is evident among those with lower education levels and even among college students regarding specific laws like illegal fishing, dumping garbage, illegal logging, and wildlife trade. There is also fair awareness of RA 9147, which pertains to wildlife conservation, and a general recognition of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the leading enforcement agency. Despite this, the community shows low awareness of the Philippine National Police’s (PNP) role in environmental law enforcement. This highlights the need for educational programs to improve the community’s understanding of environmental laws and the roles of various enforcement agencies.

Table 1 summarizes the community's moderate awareness of environmental laws, emphasizing the gaps in understanding specific regulations, such as wildlife protection and illegal logging. It highlights the importance of educational programs to improve knowledge and participation in enforcing these laws. It points out the need for better clarity on the roles of the PNP and DENR and encourages more vital community involvement in reporting violations.

**Table 1. Community Awareness of Environmental Laws**

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| --- | --- |
| Key Points | Details |
| Community Awareness of Environmental Laws | The community members had moderate knowledge of environmental laws, including blue, brown, and green laws. Lower levels of education (21.33% with elementary and 48.67% with secondary education) correlate with less awareness. The study suggests that higher education improves awareness of environmental legislation. However, even college students showed insufficient awareness of specific environmental regulations. |
| Importance of Educational Programs | Seminars, workshops, and symposiums are recommended to improve community understanding of environmental issues and laws. These educational programs are essential for promoting sustainability and encouraging community participation in enforcing regulations. |
| Complexity of Environmental Law | There is confusion and low awareness regarding specific environmental laws, such as those addressing wood poaching and illegal logging. While there is moderate awareness of wildlife protection laws like RA 9147, environmental laws, in general, are challenging to understand due to their complex terminology and legal frameworks. |
| Recognition of DENR's Role | The community is aware that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the lead agency responsible for enforcing environmental laws. This recognition highlights an understanding of the government’s role in environmental protection. |
| Uncertainty on PNP’s Role | The community lacks clarity regarding the role of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in supporting DENR in enforcing environmental regulations. More information is needed to clarify how the PNP and DENR collaborate to uphold environmental laws. |
| Community Participation in Law Enforcement | While the community understands its responsibility to report environmental violations, law enforcement respondents noted weak participation in reporting violators to the proper authorities. This gap in participation highlights the need for improved engagement. |
| Policy Implications | The results highlighted the urgency of the need for specific educational programs and initiatives to enhance community awareness, particularly on individual regulations such as wildlife harvesting and illegal logging. The programs must close the knowledge gap in environmental legislation and promote more engaged participation in enforcing and reporting violations of these laws. |

***Factors why the community violates green laws***

The people are aware of the fact that cutting trees, mining, and logging, which are unlawful practices, enable them to support their livelihoods even though these have destructive effects on the environment. These actions are driven by a lack of knowledge on proper, sustainable practices and socio-economic concerns, according to Nelleman et al. (2016). There is confusion within wildlife collection law, and hence compliance with part, but not all, of the regulations (World Bank Group, 2019). The study advocates for enhanced education, targeted awareness campaigns, and other livelihood programs (Sollund et al., 2022) to reduce illicit activities and their ecological footprints, including climate change and biodiversity loss (Nurse, 2015).

Table 2 documents the findings of the community regarding their involvement in illegal activities such as cutting of trees, poaching wildlife, and illegal mining precipitated by socio-economic necessities and lack of knowledge. It labels the primary causes of these violations as livelihood necessities, ignorance in relation to laws, and inadequate resources. The table also sets the consequences, ranging from environmental degradation, health hazard, to the necessity of education programs against knowledge deficit and in favor of sustainable alternatives.

**Table 2. Community Perceptions and Environmental Violations**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Community Insights | Factors Leading to Violation | Consequences and Concerns |
| Engaging in cutting down trees helps daily existence despite legal prohibition. | Economic need for livelihood and survival. | Environmental degradation, climate change, landslides. |
| There is a need for more clarity on collecting wildlife for daily survival due to confusion. | Lack of information on sustainable alternatives. | Potential involvement in illegal wildlife trade and exploitation. |
| Illegal mining might have improved economic opportunities in areas with limited job options. | Economic opportunities from illegal mining. | Health risks from illegal mining and exploitation. |
| Illegal logging helped provide shelter and daily needs due to limited resources and lack of awareness. | Limited resources and awareness about sustainable alternatives. | Depletion of forests, habitat loss, impact on biodiversity. |
| Uncertainty about wildlife collection laws caused individuals to refrain from such actions. | Lack of understanding of wildlife collection laws. | Compliance with wildlife laws, avoiding exploitation. |
| The community recognized that selling wildlife is illegal and refrained from engaging in such practices. | Awareness of legal restrictions on wildlife trade. | Awareness of wildlife population decline and public safety risks. |
| A better understanding of environmental laws and their provisions is required. | Lack of knowledge on green laws and alternative livelihoods. | Need for education awareness on law provisions. |
| Skepticism towards programs from DENR to help understand environmental conservation requirements. | Lack of awareness about educational resources. | Lack of government programs for law education. |
| Life challenges contributed to violations of environmental laws, driven by socio-economic factors. | Socio-economic challenges such as poverty and survival needs. | Survival-driven illegal activities; lack of sustainable livelihood alternatives. |

The data reveals in Table 3 that police officers face significant challenges in enforcing green laws and apprehending offenders, particularly regarding the ambiguity of penalties and the involvement of influential individuals in environmental crimes. Despite a well-defined procedure for reporting violations and collaboration with the DENR, there is still uncertainty about the adequacy of financial resources, personnel, and community awareness in supporting effective law enforcement. Detecting violations is further complicated by underreporting from the community and limited access to remote areas, though there are sufficient resources and transparent standards for detection. Unclear awareness campaigns and civic involvement hinder prevention efforts. However, police officers remain proactive in patrolling, arresting violators, and enforcing wildlife protection laws, supported by a coordinated effort between DENR and PNP.

**Table 3. Challenges encountered by the POLICE OFFICERS in handling violations of green laws**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Challenges | Observations |
| Law Enforcement & Apprehension | Ambiguity about penalties, involvement of influential individuals, and adequacy of resources and communication. | While legal frameworks exist and there is cooperation with DENR, uncertainty remains around penalties, resource sufficiency, and communication with the community. |
| Detection of Violations | Underreporting by the community, limited access to remote areas, and varying levels of community engagement. | There are sufficient resources and unambiguous detection standards, but violations are difficult to report and monitor in remote regions at the community level. |
| Prevention | Uncertainty about the implementation and impact of awareness campaigns, civic organization involvement, and adequacy of penalties. | Patrols and arrest are active, but campaign and sanctions can be improved. Strict enforcement of environmental laws, such as those for wildlife conservation, is backed by a unified DENR-PNP operational plan. |

CENRO has several challenges in implementing environmental regulations, especially on the adequacy of penalties and participation of influential figures in violations, as summarized in Table 4. While there are good procedures for detecting violators, there remains uncertainty with regards to rules and availability of resources to deal with offenders. Despite these hurdles, there is huge support from CENRO officials and adequate funds to implement regulations. CENRO and law enforcement collaboration in sharing information as well as in building legal parameters is an indicator of being proactive. More efforts are required to eliminate uncertainties and enhance the enforcement of green laws through increased investigation and interaction with the public.

**Table 4. Challenges encountered by the CENRO in handling violations of green laws**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Challenges | Observations |
| Law Enforcement & Apprehension | Insufficient penalties for offenders and ambiguity regarding the involvement of influential individuals. | There are practical operating procedures in apprehending violators, with adequate financial funds and coordination between CENRO and the police, but there is uncertainty over the rules and participation of influential individuals. |
| Detection of Violations | Underreporting of violations and limited access to remote areas such as mountains and forests. | Although procedures and resources for detection are present, low community awareness, involvement, and limited accessibility to some areas hinder efficient detection.  Coordination among barangay officials is recognized. |
| Prevention | Unclear availability of awareness materials and ambiguity regarding community awareness campaigns. | Active proactive operations include violator arrests, patrols, substantial penalties, and collaboration with civic organizations. DENR and PNP have operational plans, but additional studies must be conducted on awareness campaigns. |

1. **CONCLUSION**

The results showed overall familiarity with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the enforcing authorities; however, there is still insufficient understanding about the roles of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and community roles in keeping check on the violations. Special educational programs and information campaign imposition are called for to enable the people to be active stewards of the environment. Also, the study determined that the socioeconomic factors leading to poverty and restricted livelihood options compel communities to resort to environmental crime activities. Though some of the respondents were aware of the negative environmental consequence of their actions, the imperative need to survive leads at the expense of environmental concerns. This highlighted the significance of applying interventions that offer environmental law training and sustainable livelihood opportunities alongside conservation objectives. The results indicated that financial constraints are an important factor in addressing the prevalence of environmental law violations.

In addition, law enforcers such as the CENRO and PNP were confronted with several challenges in their ability to monitor and enforce green laws effectively. The most significant among these are limited resources, inaccessibility to remote areas, and underreporting by the people, all of which make effective enforcement impossible. Inadequate stiff penalties imposed on environmental violators made the enforcement process difficult, particularly when high-profile individuals are involved. Notwithstanding these shortcomings, the research showed that there are clearly set policies and procedures for arresting violators, and this gives one hope for enhancing enforcement capacity. Moreover, this study proposed the SIKAP-SAaGIP program as part of TAGUMPAY to address challenges that have been faced in conservation in Quezon Province. Enhanced public participation through practice in environmental conservation and education is anticipated to enhance cooperation between local authorities, law enforcement agencies, and citizenry, ending up building a more enlightened populace well-placed to enforce environmental laws. The focus on community engagement highlights the need for stronger enforcement processes and special interventions to ensure the effective preservation of the natural resources of the province. Such collective action is instrumental in providing for the long-term sustainability of the ecosystems of Quezon Province as well as the welfare of its people.

To overcome challenges determined, this research recommends the SIKAP-SAGIP program under the TAGUMPAY program to enhance community involvement in the conservation of the environment through education and sustainable practices. The program promotes collaboration among local governments, law enforcers, and members of society to make the population more educated and empowered to implement environmental laws. By setting a strong focus on ensuring community participation in the protection of Quezon Province's natural resources, the study draws attention to the necessity of increased mechanisms for enforcement and targeted interventions. These interventions are needed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the province's ecosystems and well-being of its people.

Program Title: SIKAP-SAGIP stands for "Sustainable Initiatives for Keeping the Environment Safe & Protected - Solutions for Achieving Green and Innovative Practices."

The rationale of the Program

The SIKAP-SAGIP project, or "The Sustainable Initiative for Keeping the Environment Safe & Protected - Strategies for Attaining Green and Innovative Practices," is an environmental program that shall be integrated in the ongoing community extension program of CCJC titled as "TAGUMPAY" (Tinig At Gabay Umpisa ng Maayos na Pamumuhay). This is an abbreviation for "Save the Environment." Its objective is to raise awareness among the community about environmental law, conservation, and protection and highlight instances of environmental law contraventions. SIKAP-SAGIP endeavors to implement ecologically sustainable practices, innovative strategies, and green solutions in the community. The TAGUMPAY Program is committed to helping people enhance a better and compliant community. The community will receive instruction and information on sustainable practices and garbage management through workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns. The beneficiaries of the campaign include community members, MENRO Officers, and current personnel of the PNP. By making SIKAP-SAGIP part of the TAGUMPAY Program, the CCJC expands to cover environmental issues in criminal justice and criminology. This combination allows the program to push for a complete approach to help communities grow, focusing on protecting nature, following laws, and being responsible to society. This study also aligned with SDG 13: Climate Action, as it aims to teach people how to protect and care for the environment. SDG 16, which deals with Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, tries to make people aware of crimes against nature. SDG 17, Partnerships, matches the college's team efforts to spread the word about environmental crimes with the community. The CCJC wants to encourage people to obey the law and help preserve and protect the environment. Also, the community will get extra sustainable practices and resources that protect nature first.

Duties and contributions of each participant

The community can learn about environmental laws, grasp why protecting the environment matters, and use eco-friendly habits daily. By attending workshops, seminars, or community events, the community can become aware of saving the environment and help spread the word in the neighborhoods. SIKAP-SAGIP plans to teach the community why environmental laws are essential and how they affect everyone's health and safety. This program wants to show the community what could happen if people violate environmental laws.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the help of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), along with the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), to implement environmental laws and regulations, these government agencies can team up with SIKAP-SAGIP to offer a community awareness program about environmental law. They can organize training workshops that aim to help people learn about environmental laws and respond to community questions about environmental issues.

Police officers of the Police Community Relations sectionh can contemplate working with this community extension program to give awareness to the community regarding conservation of the environment, green laws, and awareness of green crime problems. Additionally, they can participate in this program to make the community knowledgeable about rules related to the environment to protect the environment.

As this is being done, barangay officials will be on the forefront of community management and engaging with the people. They can engage in the SIKAP-SAGIP program under the TAGUMPAY project to conduct people's dialogues, facilitate workshops and training, and maximize local participation. They can also assist in information dissemination of green laws, work with cooperating agencies, and introduce local environmental initiatives.

A coordinated, team-based approach can inform the people about environmental policies through combining SIKAP-SAGIP with TAGUMPAY and involving DENR personnel, police, and barangay officials. This coordinated activity helps raise awareness, green behavior, and make sure environmental policies are enforced. This increases awareness and responsibility in the people towards environment.

Moreover, based on the conclusions of this study, recommendations are offered to enhance community engagement and compliance with environmental laws. First, there is a need for educational initiatives and public awareness campaigns to explain environmental laws in order to enhance community knowledge and avoid future violations. Following that, an integrated approach should be adopted to deal with concerns highlighted in the data adequately. Outreach programs should aim at spreading information regarding the long-term gains of environmental conservation and the details of sustainable forest harvesting. Another point to consider, local government authorities should focus on creating integrated education programs that emphasize the possible risks and ecological consequences of green law violations. Through the use of different forms of media, including workshops and seminars, will facilitate effective public communication. As a final point, improvement in cooperation between the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is essential in responding to infringements of influential individuals. Enhancing people's awareness and involvement, especially in far-flung communities, will bolster the implementation of environmental policies.

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