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STAKEHOLDERS' INTERVIEWS¹
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVES AND PRIORITIES ON
SIFR MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



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SIFR MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The identity of forest resource stakeholders, or those responsible for maintaining and managing forestland resource has evolved into a much larger understanding of institutions and organizations. The dynamics that characterize this relationship among and between these institutions significantly affect the development, application, and sustainability of appropriate resource management strategies and policies. Samar Island presents a unique and interesting case in local stakeholders dynamics since it possesses a profound and deep historical experience characterized by political instability, social injustice, and economic marginalization. These are elements that underscore the need to appreciate its history, local culture, communities' perceived needs, and complex socio-institutional dynamics. Hence, management and use of the SIFR will require an understanding of the views and perceptions of local government units as stakeholders since the SIFR is located in the middle of the island and covers large portions from each of the island's three provinces.

The stakeholders' interviews focus on local government units as stakeholders. The primary objective of the stakeholders' interviews is to determine the various priorities and preferences of local government units and national government agencies with respect to the value of the island's forest reserve and the potential sustainable management strategies. Key informant interview was employed using an unstructured interview guide. The interview guide consisted of six questions covering three major concerns: role, function and capability of the office; perceived current use of the SIFR and the benefits being derived; and perceived potential use and management options. The results of the interviews were consolidated according to key responses by province and levels of governance. Key responses were ranked according to the number of times they were mentioned. Based on these results, an analysis of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats was done highlighting possible levels of intervention and collaboration.

From January to August 2000, a total of 32 respondents were interviewed: 5 from the provincial level, 20 from the municipal level and 7 from the national government agencies. Respondents were selected based on their current and potential relationship with the SIFR as well as the degree of responsibility concerning the SIFR's management and maintenance.

The results of the interviews reveal the following:

- Role, function and capability – all levels of governance refer to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the primary agency responsible for the management and maintenance of the SIFR. As such, local governments indicated that their role and function with regards to the SIFR is mainly that of coordinating and supporting DENR in its activities. Many of those interviewed did not possess the technical and institutional capabilities to manage their own resource.
- Current management and benefits derived – almost all the respondents do not have any knowledge of a management plan currently being implemented and that the benefits being derived from the SIFR do not substantially contribute to the development of the area. However, it was generally acknowledged that water is the primary resource being provided by the SIFR that is being enjoyed by all levels of governance.
- Preferred use and management options – from the interview results, preference for development options is prevalent among both the provincial and municipal governments.

Specifically, eco-tourism was the unanimous choice since, according to them, it is the most economically sound and environmentally friendly option.

The results of the SWOT analysis show interesting points across levels of governance. In terms of strengths, municipalities have a greater felt stake and responsibility while provinces possess the technical and financial resources critical to local resource management. Weaknesses across all levels of governance show the lack of capability to effectively address the SIFR's biophysical and social issues. Present policies and the availability of legal instruments are the best opportunities local governments can take advantage of if a sustainable and empowering resource management is desired. Lastly, the lack of coordination and increasing rate of forest destruction pose the greatest threat for SIFR management. Consolidating these findings reveal the level of "stakeholdership" prevalent among the different levels of governance and possible avenues for stakeholder convergence.

There are basically four conclusions that can be drawn from the interviews:

1. The contradictions between biodiversity conservation and development are real among the levels of governance;
2. Local governments are neither empowered nor capable of managing their resource;
3. Water may be a key element of integrated resource management; and
4. There is an awareness of the SIFR's value and the need to work for its maintenance.

It is evident that current resource management in Samar Island, particularly with regards to local governments, remain fragmented due to lack of information about the SIFR, the low level of technology available, the limited financial resources, and the prevalent "parochial" arrangements among the stakeholders. A possible point of synergy may be in the provincial level whereby provinces work as "environment brokers". By doing so, a more integrated management strategy for the SIFR may develop and greater response towards addressing local needs is ensured.

STAKEHOLDERS' INTERVIEWS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVES AND PRIORITIES ON SIFR MANAGEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

1. OVERVIEW

It has been increasingly evident during the last few years that any sustainable resource management strategy necessitates the active involvement of a broad spectrum of actors. Whereas before, only physical and technical scientists were thought to be the experts and prime movers in determining resource management options, now, especially in the complex socio-historical experience of Third World countries such as the Philippines, social scientists and communities are gaining greater responsibility in developing and implementing responsive and contextually relevant natural resource management strategies. As a result, the identity of forest resource stakeholders, or those responsible for maintaining and managing forest land resource, has evolved into a much larger understanding of local communities, government institutions and civil society organizations. The dynamics that characterize the relationship among and between these groups significantly affect the development, application, and sustainability of appropriate resource management strategies and policies. As a consequence, the environment, its value, condition, and well being, becomes everybody's concern.

As in many areas in the Philippines where substantial forest is still intact, Samar Island presents a very interesting and challenging look into stakeholders dynamics. Samar Island is the Philippines' third largest island with a total land area of about 1.3 million hectares. Almost 27% of this comprise one of the country's largest intact tropical rainforest which serve as a habitat for diverse populations of endemic, rare, endangered and economically important plant and animal species. The significant level of biodiversity found on the island and the potential threats to it has prompted the government to declare the forest as the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR) in February 1996. The SIFR's exceptionally high level of biodiversity has invited interest and support from international donor agencies to facilitate conservation efforts. Of special importance is the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP), an eight-year UNDP funded initiative meant to establish the remaining forest as a national park. The effort is to preserve the fragile environment that is a habitat to rare and endemic species particularly the Philippine Eagle, the very first of which was sighted in the island during early 1900s.

But Samar Island also possesses a profound and deep historical experience characterized by political instability, social injustice, and economic marginalization - elements that underscore the need to appreciate its history, the local culture, the communities' perceived needs and its complex socio-institutional dynamics specially in relation to the island's rich forest land resource. Of particular importance are the perceptions and views of the local government units since the SIFR is located in the middle of the island and covers large portions of areas from each of the island's three provinces. Because of this, the Local Government Code of 1991 becomes a crucial legal instrument as it may provide the policy and legal basis by which local governments can and should function as responsible environmental managers. It is thus expected that local government units take a more active role in determining the appropriate, sustainable and responsive conservation and natural resource management strategy.

Samar Island and the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) – With substantial assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the SIBP aims to protect a representative sample of the biodiversity of the Philippines by initiating conservation measures in Samar Island. This is expected to be achieved through the establishment of the Samar Island Natural Park (SINP), which is envisioned to cover an area of 347,000 hectares and a surrounding buffer of 123,000 hectares. The project is envisioned to consist of participatory community-based conservation efforts such that forest-edge communities are empowered and act as social deterrents against destructive resource exploitation activities. The SINP will comprise a core area zoned for strict protection and recreational and scientific use (estimated to cover a total area of 135,000 hectares), and a sustainable use area (about 212,000 hectares). Sustainable agro-forestry and other conservation-compatible land uses would be promoted in the buffer zone, which has a resident population of 6,500 households.

Activities during the initial stages of the project have provided for extensive stakeholder participation in design-work with stakeholders expressing support for the project's proposed conservation strategy. An inception workshop (with 86 participants) in June 1999 was convened to clarify project objectives and obtain early input into the design process. A Steering Committee comprising of nine representatives from DENR and Provincial Authorities, and nine from Samar NGOs and community-based groups met seven times between May 1998 to October 1999 to oversee the process. A subsidiary Technical Working Group with 19 members, including experts in the social and biological sciences, was convened 5 times between April 1998 to January 1999. Teams of social outreach specialists were engaged to discuss conservation needs and challenges with forest-edge communities, and undertook community mapping in 57 *barangays*. A public participation plan was developed which identified critical interventions and processes for participation. To create awareness of project activities, the project produced a regular newsletter.

Samar Island Biodiversity Study (SAMBIO) – Complimenting and feeding into the broader activities of SIBP, SAMBIO is an interdisciplinary research effort funded by USAID to determine the most suitable and optimal management option for the island's forest reserve. The study seeks to propose the most efficient and equitable manner of accommodating biodiversity conservation and development through potential sustainable resource management options the results of which will be presented to SIBP, local communities national government agencies and local government units. The study is comprised of three main components: biophysical, socio-economic, and socio-institutional. The biophysical studies include forest resource, mineral resource, flora and fauna, and watershed, and risk assessments. The socio-economic component will determine, among others, the SIFR's recreational, non-use and environmental damage values which will be combined with the results from the other components through benefit-cost and multi-criteria analyses to come up with possible resource management options. Finally, an integral and crucial component of the study is the socio-institutional studies. The component mainly presents the variety of social and institutional concerns relevant to potential resource management options. Participatory rural appraisal activities were conducted among communities adjacent or within the forest reserve. Also, in determining various institutional concerns, consultations with local and national government unit officials, and interactions with local NGOs were conducted.

2. RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

2.1 *Study Objectives*

The primary objective of the stakeholders' interviews is to determine the various priorities and preferences of local government units and national government agencies with respect to the value of the island's forest reserve and the potential sustainable management of its resources.

Specifically, the interviews hope to capture from local government units and national government agencies the following:

- Their perceived function and role with regards to the forest reserve
- Identify the value of the forest reserve in terms of providing benefits
- The perceived impact of current management activities
- Their preferred dominant use or management option.

Over all, the interviews will compliment previous consultations with local government officials and community leaders done by the SIBP during its preparatory phase.

2.2 *Methodology*

Key informant interview was employed in determining the perceptions and interests of local government unit and national government agency officials. In conducting the interviews, a semi-structured interview guide was used. The interview guide constituted six questions covering three major concerns: the role, function and capability of the office; perceived current use of the SIFR, its impact and benefits being derived; and perceived potential use options (*Appendix A: Interview Guide*). The interview guide was developed by the study's socio-institutional specialist, and refined by the study team leader and the senior research associate for institutions. A map of the island showing the location of the forest reserve was also used in order to enable the respondents to situate themselves with respect to the SIFR and the proposed Samar Island Natural Park (SINP). This enabled the respondents to gain a clearer understanding of their spatial relationship with the forest reserve. The map used was provided by the SIBP. The study's senior research associate for institutions facilitated the interviews.

The results of the interviews were consolidated according to key responses and by level of governance. This provides an insight into the nuances and the different levels of understanding with regards to how they relate themselves with the forest reserve. Key responses were ranked according to the number of times they were mentioned. Related responses were grouped. Based on these results, an analysis of their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats was done highlighting possible levels of intervention and collaboration.

Finally, pertinent documents were analyzed and provided a clearer understanding of the respondents' perspectives. These include development plans, budgets, and land use plans.

2.3 Respondents

The stakeholders for this study are officials of local government units and national government agencies. Respondents were selected based on their current and potential relationship with the SIFR as well as the degree of their responsibility concerning the SIFR's management and maintenance. Also, the selection of respondents was done to compliment the initial results of SIBP's PRA study and the linkages established with the LGUs during the SIBP's preparatory phase.

From January to August 2000, a total of 32 respondents were interviewed: 5 from the provincial government level, 20 from the municipal government level, and 7 from the region's national government agencies (**Appendix B: List of Respondents**). All the provincial planning and development coordinators from each of the three provinces were interviewed and, except for Western Samar, all the governors. The selection of municipalities was based on the location of SAMBIO's study sites (PRA, forest and mineral resource assessment, etc.) and wherein may be found substantial forest areas and the communities' high level of dependence on its resources. The selection of national government agencies was based on their relationship with the forest reserve and its resources.

2.4 Limitations

The DENR – The study deliberately excluded the DENR from the set of respondents because of the following reasons:

1. A main feature of the study is to determine the level of working relationship other government units have in relation to the DENR since the agency is the mandated organization tasked to manage the SIFR. Also, the DENR will eventually be the implementer of the SIBP. Excluding the DENR from the stakeholders' interviews will provide a clearer understanding of such relationship hopefully enabling greater articulation of the various constraints and opportunities for collaboration.¹
2. Being that the DENR is the agency responsible for the upkeep of the SIFR, their identity as a stakeholder significantly differs from the others and will thus comprise an entirely new set of parameters.

Interview guide – The main objective of the interview was to get the perspectives of the respondents with regards to their role and function vis a vis the forest reserve and what possible management options can be employed in order for the SIFR to provide optimal benefits to Samar Island's communities. The interview guide was developed to be as simple as possible with much of the substantive elements left to the level of interaction between the respondent and the interviewer. The guide was not pre-tested hence during the course of the interview, modifications were done in terms of how the questions were asked to be able to elicit from the respondent a more spontaneous and candid response. For example, when asked about resource management and conservation, most of the respondents

¹ On June 19, 2000, the study's team leader, Dr. Marian Delos Angeles, together with the senior research associates, held a consultation meeting with DENR Region-8 Director Oscar Dominguez and some of his staff mainly to update them of the project and get a sense of how they were preparing for the forthcoming SIBP implementation phase. During the meeting, the project presented a number of insights regarding local perceptions on the SIBP and SIBF management options based on interactions with NGOs, LGUs, NGAs, and communities. The presentation and the interaction that followed enabled the DENR to assess its own structural and technical limitations and seriously consider the need to establish venues for greater collaborations.

associated these concepts with the use and non-use of resources² (Question #5 and 6). Consequently, when asked about possible management options, many discussed this in the context of land use management, income generation, infrastructure, and local development.³ However, when pursued further, the respondents were able to provide more definite answers which coincided with the intent of the interview. Adjustments were also done in terms of trying to get the respondents' views on the potential use and value of the SIFR beyond their immediate domain of responsibility (Question #6). All of the respondents had difficulty associating SIFR concerns in contexts transcending their own sphere of experience.⁴ As a result, the interview guide was modified such that there were more substantive discussions about commercial logging, mining, and conservation.

Schedule – The interviews lasted for more than eight months beginning in January 2000. During that time, the interviewer was not only involved with the interviews but was also doing other project work since he was also responsible for coordinating and monitoring the project's other field activities and sustaining relations with partner NGOs. Activities pertaining to the interviews involved initial visits to offices, brief orientations, scheduling of appointments, interview proper and analysis of findings. In many instances, the visits resulted in the failure to meet with the person intended due to his or her unavailability at that time.⁵ The lack of efficient communication services in the island also hindered coordination. The distance and travel time from one area to another made it difficult for the interviewer to consistently follow through the work.

3. STUDY RESULTS

The results of the interviews provide valuable insights on the local institutional dynamics and the working relationships that shape current resource management and biodiversity conservation in the island. The results also show the varying nuances within and among levels of governance (municipal-provincial-national) and among local governments (Northern Samar – Western Samar – Eastern Samar). The following tables and descriptions present a summary of the interview results (refer to *Appendix C: Compilation of Interview Results*).

3.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEWS

3.1.1 Roles of the LGUs and LGAs in the Management of the SIFR

Almost all the LGUs acknowledged the DENR as the primary agency tasked to manage the forest reserve and considered COORDINATION as their main role and function with regards to the management of the forest reserve (*Table 1*). For local governments coordination was defined as that of providing the administrative and logistical assistance necessary for implementing or conducting DENR projects as well as the exchange of information that accompanies such task. Specifically, coordination is operationalized in

² Resource management was commonly associated with forest product exploitation and was mainly regarded as a function of land use management. More often than not, conservation was identified with preservation or strict non-utilization of forest resources.

³ The intention was to get a more definitive view on the issues of mining, commercial logging, and conservation.

⁴ Perceived option and value of the SIFR is the same for the municipality/office, province, island, country, and the world.

⁵ During the months of February to March, most officials were involved in school graduations, local festivities, and fiestas. During the summer months, the officials were usually in either Tacloban or "in the field". The months of July to September were fiesta months.

information that accompanies such task. Specifically, coordination is operationalized in terms of assisting the DENR in controlling illegal extraction of forest products, watershed protection, and delineation of boundaries, and in terms of assessing their resources. These ultimately link to their land use planning especially on the provincial level (Table 2).

Table 1
Rank Order of Most Frequently Mentioned Roles of the LGUs for SIFR Management by Province

Rank	Role	Northern Samar	Western Samar	Eastern Samar	Total
1	Coordinate with the DENR	1 (7%)	6 (40%)	8 (53%)	15 (100%)
2	Support the DENR in their projects	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	5 (100%)
3	Identify/delineate/assess/determine the area and its resources	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	1 (10%)	5 (100%)
4	Others*			3	3
5	Collaborate or work with the DENR		1		1
6	Cooperate with the DENR			1	1
7	To manage the resources		1		1
8	Consultative				
9	None				
10	Not much				

*Include responses such as "provide direction" and "develop land use and resource profile"

Table 2
Rank Order of Most Frequently Mentioned Roles of the LGUs/NGAs for SIFR Management by Level of Governance

Rank	Role	Municipal Government	Provincial Government	National Government Agencies	Total
1	Coordinate with the DENR	14 (93%)	1 (7%)		15 (100%)
2	Support the DENR in their projects	4 (80%)	1 (20%)		5 (100%)
3	Identify/delineate/assess/determine the area and its resources	3 (60%)	2 (40%)		5 (100%)
4	Others*	1		2	3
5	Collaborate or work with the DENR		1	2	3
6	Consultative			2	2
7	Cooperate with the DENR		1		1
8	To manage the resources	1			1
9	None			1	1
10	Not much			1	1

*Include responses such as "provide direction" and "develop land use and resource profile"

Interestingly, no respondent from the national government agencies mentioned coordination with the DENR as their main role or function with regards to the SIFR. Instead,

the terms COLLABORATION and CONSULTATIVE were mostly mentioned to describe their working relationship (*Table 2*). This was further qualified as being based on either projects being implemented or in terms of planning. For some (DTI and DPWH), the working relationship is dependent on the agencies' specific needs.

3.1.2 Perceived Role of the SIFR in the Development of Samar Island and the LGUs: Main benefits derived from the SIFR

Most of those interviewed identified PROVIDING WATER and PROVIDING INCOME AND LIVELIHOOD as the primary roles of the SIFR and the benefits that the people derive from it (*Tables 3 and 4*). The value given to both the responses shows how equally important the biophysical aspects of the SIFR are along with the economic gains it provides. Water was given much importance since many of the respondents' areas contain irrigated agricultural areas and have experienced calamities related to water (e.g. floods, drought, pollution, etc.).⁶ The response concerning livelihood shows the importance given to the forest reserve because it is where many of the income generating activities are conducted. All the municipalities included in the study cover a substantial forest area and based on their municipal profiles, include forest resource gathering as a major economic activity. In fact, almost all those interviewed at the LGU level admitted to the existence of timber poaching activities done by certain individuals in their respective communities. However, the respondents explained that these activities merely provide supplies for domestic use and are not intended for relatively large-scale commercial purposes. A particular issue raised concerned rattan license holders who, according to some LGU officials, are not from Samar and as a result the communities are not really benefiting from rattan extraction.

⁶ In 1988, a massive flood devastated large portions of agricultural land in Northern and Eastern Samar claiming 79 lives and displacing almost 60,000 families in 36 towns. Sometime during the early 1990s, mining operations in Bagacay, Western Samar polluted the Taft river which resulted in the loss of the river's aquatic life and endangered Taft's domestic water supply and its coastal areas.

Table 3
Rank Order of Most Frequently Mentioned SIFR Roles in the Development of Samar Island and the Particular Office and the Benefits Being Derived, by Province

Rank	Role	Northern Samar	Western Samar	Eastern Samar	Total
1	Provides water	1 (7%)	4 (29%)	9 (64%)	14 (100%)
2	Provides income and livelihood	1 (9%)	4 (36%)	6 (55%)	11 (100%)
3	Controls floods	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	5 (100%)
4	Provides products for trade	1		4	5
5	Provides food and medicine		2	3	5
6	Provides a balanced environment, proper habitat, and fresh air		1	3	4
7	Provides income through tourism		2	2	4
8	Preserves biodiversity and provides sanctuary for endangered species	2		2	4
9	Prevents soil erosion/landslides		1	2	3
10	None/Not much		1	1	2

Table 4
Rank Order of Most Frequently Mentioned SIFR Roles in the Development of Samar Island / Office and the Benefits Being Derived, by Level of Governance

Rank	Role	Municipal Government	Provincial Government	National Government Agencies	Total
1	Provides water	10 (56%)	4 (22%)	4 (22%)	18 (100%)
2	Provides income and livelihood	10 (91%)	2 (9%)		13 (100%)
3	Controls floods	5 (71%)		2 (29%)	7 (100%)
4	Prevents soil erosion/landslides	3		3	6
5	Provides products for trade	2	3	1	6
6	Provides food and medicine	5			5
7	Preserves biodiversity and provides sanctuary for endangered species	4		1	5
8	Provides a balanced environment, proper habitat, and fresh air	2	2		4
9	Provides income through tourism	4		1	4
10	None/Not much	2			2

3.1.3 Important Current Uses of the SIFR that Provide High Benefits

There were three key responses regarding the issue of the SIFR's current management and its impact in terms of providing benefits. Firstly, there are those who regard the SIFR's current management as helpful but only in terms of the biophysical aspect (e.g. providing water, stability, habitat, etc.). Secondly, there were responses indicating that the current management of the SIFR does not provide benefits because current management of the area did not allow utilization of its resources hence not being economically useful to the respondents. This was further stressed being that when the logging moratorium was declared and after the TLAs discontinued operations, no alternative livelihood was provided by the national government. Thirdly, it was prevalent across organizations that there were indications of the lack of awareness and knowledge of any current management strategy being implemented in the SIFR (Table 5).

Table 5
Rank and Frequency of Mentioned Regard on Current Management and Use of the SIFR in Providing Benefits to Samareños, by Level of Governance and Province

	Municipal Government	Provincial Government	National Government Agencies
Northern Samar	No Knowledge of management system(1)	1. No Knowledge of management system(1) 2. Samareños are not fully benefiting (1)	1. No idea/not aware of current management of SIFR (3) 2. Yes –
Western Samar	1. No – does not provide income (6) 2. Yes – environmentally helpful (5)	Environmentally good but economically bad (1)	environmentally helpful and provides biophysical stability (2)
Eastern Samar	1. Yes – protects environment (5) 2. No – no income (3) 3. No knowledge/not aware of management system (3) 4. Not much/Inadequate benefits (2)	1. Substantial benefits (1) 2. No benefits (1)	3. No – no economic benefits (2) 4. Not much benefits (1)

3.1.4 Perceived Available Management and Use Options for SIFR

Local government units are either not aware or do not have any knowledge of any available management option for the SIFR (Table 6). This is a reflection of how marginal the LGUs feel in terms of activities being done in the SIFR and the level of working relationship they have had so far with the DENR. Based on LGU responses, the main concern has consistently been that of gaining as much economic benefits from the SIFR hence responses such as non-timber forest product extraction and eco-tourism. Across all government levels, the most viable management option for the SIFR is ECO-TOURISM since it is perceived to be the most ecologically and economically-friendly option. Although, interestingly, many respondents do not have a complete understanding of the concept except that it potentially provides income with the least environmental damage. Also, most of those interviewed have a clearer understanding of how eco-tourism works in the coastal areas than in the SIFR itself.

Table 6
Rank and Frequency of Perceived Available Management and Use Options for SIFR by Level of Governance and Province

	Municipal Government	Provincial Government	National Government Agencies
Northern Samar	No Knowledge of available options (1)	1. No Knowledge of available options (1) 2. Biodiversity conservation (1)	1. Eco-tourism (3) 2. Reforestation (2) 3. Social forestry projects (1)
Western Samar	1. No knowledge of available options (4) 2. Non-timber forest product gathering (1) 3. Protection (1) 4. Reforestation (1) 5. Enforcement (1)	1. Eco-tourism (1) 2. Conservation (1)	4. Logging ban/moratorium (1) 5. Preservation (1) 6. None (1)
Eastern Samar	1. No knowledge of available options (4) 2. Eco-tourism (4) 3. Reforestation (3) 4. Conservation (2) 5. Non-timber forest product gathering (1) 6. Sustainable forestry (1) 7. Watershed management (1)	1. Community based forest management projects (1) 2. Sloping agricultural land technology (1) 3. No mention	

3.1.5 Preferred Dominant Uses of SIFR

Across levels of governance, the main consideration for selecting the preferred resource management and use option for the SIFR was income generation. All the respondents emphasized that unless some sort of economic benefit is derived from the SIFR, communities and local governments will have difficulties in ensuring proper and sustainable resource management. It was believed that in order to establish responsibility and accountability over the SIFR, communities must develop their sense of 'stakeholdership'. Foremost among the choices was ECO-TOURISM since it is perceived to be the most environment-friendly economic alternative. Also, ECO-TOURISM is perceived as a local endeavor requiring minimal capital and limited national government intervention. Another viable option considered is SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY which is defined as a form of socially responsive and highly regulated commercial logging. Interestingly, mining was still preferred despite its destructive impact and negative experience in the past.⁷

⁷ In 1991, the Taft river in Eastern Samar was heavily polluted by mine tailings and other toxic wastes coming from the operations of a coal mine located in Bagacay, Western Samar where the headwaters of the river emanate from. The pollution was so heavy and destructive that aquatic lifeforms in the river vanished. The river was considered dead then and has only lately been observed to be recuperating.

Table 7
Priority Ranking and Frequency of the LGUs' and NGAs'
Perceived Dominant Uses of SIFR for Stakeholders' Optimal Benefit

Rank	Role	Municipal Government	Provincial Government	National Government Agencies	Total
1	Eco-tourism	14 (58%)	3 (13%)	7 (29%)	24 (100%)
2	Sustainable forestry/ selective or qualified commercial logging	11 (69%)	3 (19%)	2 (13%)	17 (100%)
3	Conservation/ protection/ preservation	10 (83%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)	12 (100%)
4	Mining	5	1		4
5	Non-timber forest product gathering	4			4
6	Reforestation	4			4
7	Tree farms and plantations	2		1	3
8	Agroforestry	2			2
9	No mention		2		2

4. DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The stakeholders' interviews tried to determine three important aspects of 'stakeholdership' of the SIFR's forest land resource: role, function and capability; perceptions on the current use and management of the SIFR and benefits being derived; and the desired use or perceived management options for the SIFR.

4.1 Role, Function and Capability

Based on the interview results, all levels of governance refer to the DENR as the primary agency responsible for the management and maintenance of the SIFR. Local governments in particular admit that their relationship is mainly characterized as that of providing coordination and support to the DENR and its activities in the SIFR. These are mainly focused on monitoring resource extraction activities, implementation of resource extraction regulations and the apprehension of those involved in illegal resource poaching activities. There was hardly any indication of a more pro-active and developmental form of collaboration. As such, many LGU officials are concerned about the sincerity and capability of the DENR in effectively performing its responsibility as caretakers of the SIFR and its resources. Interactions with the DENR's regional office and provincial officers (PENROs) validate these observations to a certain extent. The DENR admits that there have been lapses on their part in managing the SIFR but these are mainly due to lack of budget and personnel and the prevailing "moral dilemma" they are constantly facing. Recent restructuring in the department and the results of recent budget allocations have hindered the department to appropriately respond to local needs and implement many of their flagship developmental programs such as the Community Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP). As a result, field personnel are experiencing a "moral dilemma" – the desire to work with communities on projects that may provide greater income and sustainable resource management but are not able to do so due to priorities dictated by

institutional limitations. Instead, activities are focused on securing compliance with regulations and sustaining already established activities. Admittedly, the DENR realizes that there is much work to be done and that it is only by working with local governments and the private sector that the DENR can accomplish its role as caretakers of the forest reserve.

Local governments, particularly the provincial government, appear to provide the focus and direction for such collaboration initiatives. A review of provincial development plans indicates a growing concern for sustainable natural resource management as a means of addressing poverty. For example, in Western Samar's Development Plan for 2000-2004, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation are integrated among the objectives of the province's economic development plan.⁸ In both the development plans of Eastern and Northern Samar, the issues of environment and natural resource management are discussed as key elements to the over-all development objective of the provinces and clearly specify potential projects and activities that may be pursued.⁹ However, the development plans do not indicate either the institutional mechanisms or financial support required by these initiatives. Currently, only the province of Western Samar has been able to institutionalize environmental management in its development strategy. The province's environment and natural resource office has an estimated operational budget of about 2.8 million pesos for the year 2000 and has been mostly involved in sustaining current Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) projects. Proposed programs for the year include establishment of nurseries, reforestation projects, enforcement of small-scale mining, and identification of areas for protection as potential eco-tourism sites.¹⁰

Hence, it may well be worthwhile for the DENR to replicate Western Samar's efforts and try to seek ways of establishing, strengthening, and sustaining these in the two other provinces.

4.2 Current Management and Benefits Derived

Almost all those interviewed either do not have any knowledge of a management plan being implemented in the SIFR and they feel that the benefits being derived from the SIFR do not substantially contribute to the development of the area. These responses indicate three very important concerns. Firstly, that the SIFR is not fully understood. Responses from the LGUs, especially from the municipal level, indicate that there is lack of awareness of their forest area. This may be due to the failure to conduct effective information dissemination by the DENR to local communities and the lack of local governments' capability to conduct a thorough inventory and study of its resources. This is evidenced by the fact that during the interviews, municipal planning and development coordinators distinctly expressed this particular concern since they were busy with drafting their municipal development plans¹¹. According to many of them, current land use plans have not been updated since the late 1980s and that the required research is being hampered by limited budget, lack of technical skills and equipment and lack of manpower. Hence, understanding the SIFR and how it may potentially be managed for development purposes is not yet fully known. Secondly, based on the interviews, not all of the respondents are

⁸ Provincial Development Plan 2000-2004, Province of Samar, October 1999

⁹ Provincial Development Plan 1999-2001, Province of Eastern Samar and Provincial Development Plan for Northern Samar 1999-2004

¹⁰ Document obtained from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office: Advise of Allotment (for the quarter ending September 2000)

¹¹ There is currently a directive from the Department of Interior and Local Government for municipal and provincial governments to submit their development plans for the next five years. The deadline for submission of municipal development plans was initially set on July 30 but was moved to a later date due to requests from the municipal governments.

familiar with the term SIFR and that it refers to the island's forest reserve hence they feel that the SIFR is a term exclusive only to the DENR. This is despite the fact that the SIFR has been used to refer to the island's forest reserve for the last ten years or so. But more importantly, the lack of knowledge or awareness of the SIFR is because there really have been no concrete management strategies developed with LGUs. Moreover, the primary resource management approach being applied are those of protection and preservation – two activities that potentially marginalize local upland and forest dependent communities. Lastly, the lack of research on the impact of the current logging moratorium and its being a forest reserve does not enable stakeholders to appreciate the current and potential value of the forest's resources. It has been almost ten years since the Island's forests were declared as a reserve and a logging moratorium was implemented. Since that time, only a few seem to have a clear idea whether such initiatives have enabled the forest to recuperate from its previous condition and whether they can provide needed benefits through a more sustainable form of resource management. At the moment, local governments and the DENR acknowledge the existence of illegal resource extraction activities and that the appreciation for the benefits being derived from the SIFR is contained only among the few who are engaged in these activities.

Interestingly, what is being generally regarded as the main resource of the SIFR is water. To almost all the respondents, water is regarded as the primary resource from the SIFR and that its provision is the main role of the SIFR. This is not surprising since Samar Island's landscape is shaped and carved by complex networks of river systems¹² and has been receiving relatively enormous amounts of rainfall every year. Also, much of the local economy is based on lowland agriculture which heavily rely on water supply and irrigation systems. This highlights the need to look into the forest reserve as a watershed protection service hence stressing its importance to the local economy. As a consequence, it may be helpful for local governments to look into the plausibility of using water as a "brokering" currency – a resource that may encourage a more integrated approach among local governments with regards to resource management.

4.3 Preferred Use and Potential Management Options

Economic development is the main thrust and focus of all the local governments interviewed. This is not surprising since Samar Island, despite its rich natural resource, remains one of the poorest areas in the Philippines. For example, for the province of Western Samar, the poverty incidence for 1994 was 43.1% with most of its residents involved in agriculture (64.25%).¹³ But it is comforting to note that although all of the local governments prefer economic growth and development, there is still a strong awareness and concern for responsible natural resource management.

Samar Island once contained large timber corporations which have been linked to rapid deforestation at a rate of 52,000 hectares a year from 1978 to 1987.¹⁴ The island has also accommodated mining activities such as the exploitation of coal. Unfortunately, massive floods and the pollution of some of the island's major rivers have been attributed to such activities prompting many communities and local organizations to act against these

¹² The name Samar means 'wounded' in Waray, the local dialect. A look at the map of the island shows elaborate river systems making it appear 'wounded' or scarred.

¹³ Provincial Development Plan 2000-2004, Province of Samar, October 1999

¹⁴ Saving Samar's Last Rain Forest: A Primer, Tandaya Foundation, Inc. 1995

exploitative practices. Such was the reason leading to the logging moratorium and forest reserve declaration. But these directions have not been fully beneficial to Samar Island since most of its residents remain poor and impoverished.

From the interview results, preference for developmental options is prevalent among both the provincial and municipal governments. This is validated by provincial development plans, where there is a clear indication that eco-tourism is a viable option such that economic development and ecosystem management is realized. But how to go about this is not yet fully understood. Eco-tourism remains a catchword and a politico-ecologically correct development concept. Its broader meaning and implication has not been properly articulated. This is evident in the municipal level where most of those interviewed regard eco-tourism as the "ticket" to sustainable development.

These perceptions highlight two very significant points. Firstly, Samar Island is constantly experiencing severe pressures to provide economically feasible and ecologically sound alternative forms of development. There are pressures being exerted by large timber and mining companies either to reactivate or continue operations which may potentially provide large but short term benefits. Compounded by lack of institutional capabilities and weak organizational linkages, these pressures may turn into actual environmental threats. Secondly, there is a need to articulate development alternatives that would fit local contexts and needs. Many of those interviewed are still caught up with popular development concepts rather than those that are realistic and convergent with local capabilities. The preference for eco-tourism shows that there has been a need to properly understand eco-tourism but that there has been no clear effort from national government agencies to provide constructive discussions.

5. SWOT ANALYSIS

The results of the interviews show how the different levels of government regard the SIFR and how their respective offices respond to resource management and biodiversity conservation. Interestingly, the results also provide clues as to how levels of government are situated in the current management and biodiversity conservation efforts of the SIFR and what priorities prevail based on various institutional and political characteristics. More importantly, the results highlight concerns crucial in establishing institutional collaborations directed towards sustainable forest land resource management initiatives. To be able to gain an appreciation of current capabilities of local governance and a better understanding as to how best working relations may be established, an analysis of each level of governance strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) is done. The SWOT analysis is also a means of establishing a clear understanding of local government interaction as well as determining potentials for strengthening their respective roles with regards to the management of the SIFR. The SWOT analysis was done by the interviewer making use of the additional remarks from respondents, secondary data and other interview notes gathered during the interview activity (refer to *Appendix C: Compilation of Interview Results* for highlights of the interviews).

The results of the SWOT analysis show interesting points across levels of governance. Firstly, in terms of strengths across levels of government, municipalities have a greater felt stake and a more profound and real sense of management of the SIFR's resources since much of their activities involve the exploitation/use (need) and protection (regulation) of the forest resource. For some of the municipalities, this is further emphasized and made

complicated by the fact that a substantial portion of these municipalities is covered by the SIFR. On the other hand, the provincial and regional/national levels are where the technology and technical skills are found such that appropriate resource management and biodiversity conservation may be appropriately applied. Concerning weaknesses, all the levels of government appear to lack the capability to effectively address the SIFR's biophysical and social issues. This is further compounded by the ambiguity that characterizes their working relationship. With regards to opportunities that each level of government faces, present national policies and programs directed towards effective socially relevant resource management efforts may be used by local government units. And lastly, the main threat these levels of government may encounter are those that arise from lack of coordination and the ever increasing destructive forest resource exploitation that necessitates immediate response.

Consolidating these findings reveal two very important points. Firstly, the results of the SWOT analysis show the levels of "stakeholdership" or how each level of government performs its function in relation to the management of the SIFR. The analysis shows that LGUs and NGAs (except the DENR) are either not fully involved or have been marginal in the overall process of the SIFR's management and biodiversity conservation. This is evidenced by the prevailing weak working relationship with the lead agency and the general lack of knowledge about the SIFR's current management activities. As such, there has been very little articulation of local priorities and potential forms of responding to local resource use needs. However, the analysis reveals a growing concern and awareness of the SIFR's condition and its biophysical and economic value which can become a basis for greater collaboration.

Secondly, the SWOT analysis indicates how each level of governance relate to each other and provides clues as to how stakeholder convergence can be established. Based on the SWOT analysis, it is evident that a potential source of initiative and point of convergence for cross-organizational and inter-local effort may be in the provincial level. Hence, to be able to balance local and island-wide interests as well as working with national agencies, the provinces will have to develop itself as an "environment broker". Brokering activities will include clarification of roles, contextualization of national government programs, local capability building, balancing development and conservation initiatives and establishing working relations with the private sector. These may be undertaken with the assistance of the local NGOs.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SIFR MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

As the SIBP ventures into the implementation phase, much is still uncertain with regards to how various stakeholders of the forest perceive their roles. It is also doubtful whether the larger institutions and society in general, possess the sensitivity to accommodate these perceptions such that proper responses are developed. More and more, it is becoming evident that with the island's vast and rich forest resource, its management and upkeep will surely require an equally extensive socio-institutionally sensitive strategy.

Previous consultations and interactions with forest-dependent communities and local government officials held during the SIBP's preparatory phase indicated that there is already a localized understanding of biodiversity and its value but that there are the more pressing concerns of livelihood and economic well being. Yet, the recognition of this understanding has not been sufficient for formulating concrete steps leading towards localized resource

management and biodiversity conservation strategies. Thus, more questions are emerging: *How do communities cope with the contradictions of conservation and livelihood? What are local governments doing in the face of such contradictions and are they getting the needed supporting mechanisms? Is the current management of the SIFR relevant in the face of the island's increasing poverty? How strong or weak are local governments with regards to their role as environmental managers? Do local governments have a real stake over the forest reserve or are they just political tokens within the traditional top-down resource management approach?*

SAMBIO's socio-institutional component, comprising 4 key elements – participatory rural appraisal (PRA), institutional arrangements, legal review, and stakeholders consultations, is an effort in trying to understand the various complexities that accompany forest resource management and biodiversity conservation. The PRA conducted with 18 forest-edge communities reveals the everyday dynamics of forest land resource use and presents the communities' valuable relationship with the forest.¹⁵ Interactions with NGOs provided the basis for establishing a much clearer sense of institutional relations and the prospects for innovative arrangements.¹⁶ A review of the legal instruments referring to resource management and conservation provided an awareness of the legal milieu into which much of the socio-institutional dynamics will occur.¹⁷ And finally, the interviews with national and local government officials contribute to an appreciation of their roles and capacities in the management of the forest reserve.

For eight months, interviews with local government officials and the regional directors of national government agencies were conducted mainly to capture their perspectives, interests and priorities concerning the SIFR and its management. The results of these discussions interestingly articulated much of what is already known but more importantly highlight the contradictions local governments are faced with and the urgency to respond to these issues.

There are basically four conclusions that can be drawn from the stakeholders' interview results:

1. That the contradictions between biodiversity and development is real and that it is translated in the everyday struggle between implementation of national government policy and localized forest resource use;
2. That local governments, despite the supportive political and legal climate, feel that they are neither empowered nor are they capable to function as effective resource managers;
3. That water may be a key element in integrating local government priorities and natural resource management strategies;
4. And lastly, that there is an awareness of the SIFR's value and a genuine desire to work for its maintenance.

Biodiversity conservation and economic development are two concepts many regard as extreme ends of the resource management spectrum. For local governments, the

¹⁵ Refer to *Understanding Community Preferences for the Use and Management of Samar Island Forest Reserve based on Participatory Rural Appraisal* – SAMBIO PRA Integrative Report by Mr. Luis Eleazar, July 2000

¹⁶ Refer to *SAMBIO Institutional Study* by Dr. Ben Malayang III

¹⁷ Refer to *Possible Legal Framework for Protecting and Managing Samar Island Biodiversity Resources* by Atty. Roberto V. Oliva

proclamation of Samar Island's forest as a reserve in 1986 meant that much of what is left of the forest will be preserved and that the floods that ravaged many communities in 1988 will be avoided. On the other hand, Presidential Proclamation 774 also meant that possible income generation from forest product extraction was lost hence displacing many communities dependent on the forest and forcing them to seek other forms of livelihood, mostly illegal and ecologically destructive. Responding to this has not been easy for most, if not all, of the local governments. The dilemma is real and the struggle to meet national government policy and local development has resulted in further conflicts and instability (the forest is a very politically sensitive area since it is where engagements between government forces and the New People's Army occur).

The inability of most LGUs to properly address this contradiction may be a result of the lack of technical skill, institutional support, and legal instruments. This may be true in the sense that there has been no proper venue, both technical and social, to articulate local government's role in resource management and biodiversity conservation since it has been generally assumed that the DENR is the primary agency tasked to manage the SIFR. Consequently, local governments feel marginalized and consider themselves as simply a body to coordinate with. But this should not be since there have been policy developments that empower local governments to be functional resource managers and provide them with both the policy climate to perform such role and the potential source of financial support to sustain this. For example, the Local Government Code (RA 7160) contains many provisions that clearly give local governments the authority, responsibility, and accountability to manage their own resources. This is further complimented by the DENR DAO Series of 1992 which specifies the rationale and process of devolution and the recent DENR-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular 98-01 which further strengthens the function of local governments as partners in resource management. These are concrete indications of empowering opportunities.

Despite the difficulties local governments are facing, it is quite evident that there is the opportunity to work together and collectively respond to both national and local interests. Painful experiences in the past have made many local governments appreciate the value of the SIFR. But at the same time, recent experiences also have made them very concerned with the increasing need to provide opportunities for economic progress. Yet, it is encouraging that local governments regard the forest reserve's condition as a function of economic growth hence the need to take care of it. But unless local governments can actually determine the real potential and condition of their forest and land resource appropriate, sustainable management strategies may be difficult. This is further stressed by the fact that the state of the forest reserve is profoundly associated with local development and accompanied by socio-historically rooted issues. What is lacking therefore is the occasion to scientifically determine the condition of the forest and articulate its relationship with local needs in a manner that is contextually and culturally relevant. Appreciating the level of awareness prevalent among the different levels of government may be considered as a first step in the process of establishing fruitful collaborations with other stakeholders, particularly with national government agencies. But resource management and biodiversity conservation remain fragmented. Local governments, though genuinely concerned with their resources, remain steadfast with their own plans (mostly contained in the local land use plan). National government agencies on the other hand continue to insist on their regulatory ways. Nowhere is the top-down versus bottom-up development directions more pronounced than in local resource management dynamics in Samar Island. A possible point of synergy and integration may be in the provincial level. Conveniently located in the

middle of the political spectrum, provinces may be able to balance local and island-wide priorities and national interests by working with national agencies. The provinces may thus emerge as "environment brokers" and may start with water as the "brokering currency". By doing so, fragmented management of the SIFR may be resolved and a truly integrated and socio-culturally responsive resource management strategy may be applied.

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APPENDIX A
STAKEHOLDERS' INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. What do you think is the role of your office/agency in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)? How do you carry out such role?
 - In terms of plans
 - In terms of programs and projects
 - In terms of budget
 - In terms of staff

2. What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office/agency in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?
 - In terms of the development of Samar Island
 - In terms of the development of your office/agency

3. Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow the Samareños and to fully benefit from it? (or do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose?) Please explain.

4. To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of SIFR?

5. If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what do you think should be its dominant use/s?
 - For the benefit of your constituents? (for local governments)
Rank _____ Land Use _____
 - For the benefit of Samareños?
Rank _____ Land Use _____
 - For the benefit of the country?
Rank _____ Land Use _____
 - For the benefit of the global community?
Rank _____ Land Use _____

APPENDIX B

List of Respondents

Municipal Level

Mayors

1. Ms. Marites J. Gillamac (Silvino Lobos, Northern Samar)
2. Mr. Wilfrido O. Estorninos (Basey, Western Samar)
3. Mr. Melchor F. Nacario (Calbiga, Western Samar)
4. Mr. Victor L. Tinay (Hinabangan, Western Samar)
5. Mr. Anainas S. Rebato (San Jose de Buan, Western Samar)
6. Mr. Antonio V. Rivera (Dolores, Eastern Samar)
7. Ms. Nelia A. Bandilla (Llorente, Eastern Samar)
8. Mr. Felix A. Montes (Maydolong, Eastern Samar)
9. Mr. Lucino M. Rebamontan (San Julian, Eastern Samar)
10. Mr. Francisco C. Adalem (Taft, Eastern Samar)

Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators

1. Eng'r. Fernando D. Rafales (Calbiga, Western Samar)
2. Mr. Ireneo Abejo (Paranas, Western Samar)
3. Arch. Rodolfo Carpesa (Dolores, Eastern Samar)
4. Mr. Benjamin Mabansag (Maydolong, Eastern Samar)
5. Ms. Maria Irma Daiz (Taft, Eastern Samar)
6. Mr. Marciano Benito Ramos (Arteche, Eastern Samar)
7. Mr. Fernando Ercio (Llorente, Eastern Samar)
8. Mr. Angel Balibag (Can-avid, Eastern Samar)
9. Eng'r. Fluerdelis C. Quinto (San Julian, Eastern Samar)

Governors

1. Hon. Madeline Ong (Northern Samar)
2. Lt. Gen. Ambil (ret.) (Eastern Samar)

Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators

1. Mr. Lorenzo Mahinay (Northern Samar)
2. Mr. Henry Afable (Eastern Samar)
3. Mr. Arthur Cuenco (Western Samar)

National Government Agencies

1. Mr. Cirilo R. Balagapo (Regional Director, Department of Agriculture)
2. Eng'r. Jose T. Rodriguez (Regional Director, Department of Public Works and Highways)
3. Ms. Norma M. Morante (Regional Director, Department of Tourism)
4. Ms. Cynthia Nierras (Regional Director, Department of Trade and Industry)
5. Atty. Buenaventura Go Soco, Jr. (Regional Director, National Economic Development Authority)
6. Mr. Alexander A. Reuyan (Regional Director, National Irrigation Authority)
7. Mr. Narciso B. Nieto (Regional Director, Department of Agrarian Reform)

APPENDIX C

Summarized Compilation of Interview Results

MAYORS

Respondent 1

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordination – with regards to DENR projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The municipality has substantial forest area and agricultural land is mainly used for coconut and abaca plantation Agricultural farming is subsistent
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DENR has a few reforestation projects No municipal environment officer Municipal development still being developed – collecting data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DENR hardly visits the municipality DENR projects is not being monitored The Governor plans to establish a provincial park in the municipality
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controls flooding Livelihood for a few 	Kaingin is uncontrolled
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No knowledge of current management being done in the SIFR	Timber poaching is rampant but mainly for domestic use only, benefits a few although there are those coming from other areas getting their supply from the municipality's forest
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	No knowledge of possible options	Regulate timber extraction activities
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism – not sure how to go about it Regulated and strictly monitored commercial logging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very weak link with the DENR Very little knowledge of SIBP LGUs need the support of national government Lack of understanding between local government and DENR policies and programs

Respondent 2

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and determine the SIFR's resources in relation to the municipality • Collaborate with the DENR through the PAMB • To work with the private sector in utilizing resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGUs are concerned with environmental management but are not properly equipped • LGUs cannot work in isolation and need the assistance of national government and the private sector in terms of providing livelihood activities
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor is a member of the PAMB • The municipality does not have a MENRO • No budget has yet been allocated for the staff and the projects since the plan is still pending approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the establishment of the Cabiga Caves Protected Area, the PAMB • The municipality's environmental management activities are contained in the municipality's development plan which is still waiting for approval from the Sangguniang Bayan has only met once • A proposal for the CBRMP is being developed and contains reforestation and agroforestry activities
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	The Calbiga watershed provides water to three municipalities	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – in terms of being a helpful deterrent to further environmental destruction • No – activities are now illegal and there seems to be very little control over it 	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People should be encouraged to plant trees • The DENR should work with the people • Alternative livelihood programs must be initiated • Long term environmental management must be comprehensive
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforestation • Agroforestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past mining and logging activities did not comply with the set laws and regulations • Logging and mining is only beneficial in the short term • Eco-tourism - needs to be sustainable by developing roads, facilities, and infrastructure • Environmental activities must be accompanied by capable law enforcement and constant education campaigns • LGUs do not have enough support from national government

Respondent 3

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Ideally – coordinate with the DENR in terms of environmental management programs/projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipality is mostly composed of forest, there is very little land for agriculture • The municipality had unfortunate experience with former logging companies • There is very little working relationship with the DENR except for regulating/policing illegal activities
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipality works with the DENR in terms of controlling illegal activities (timber poaching and fuelwood gathering) • The municipality has an environmental management plan (reforestation) which is contained in the development plan but does not have a budget • No MENRO 	
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No benefits to the municipality • Livelihood for a few people (fuelwood gatherers and timber poachers) 	There was commercial logging in the past but it did not contribute to the municipality's development
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – only for the forest and wildlife • No – people are poor and need income 	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	Options must provide capital to support alternative livelihood (with infrastructure and equipment/technology)
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining – preferred because past experience has provided many communities income and the municipality has plenty mineral resource (e.g. pyrite, copper, gold, and aluminum) • Industrial plantations such as coconut (copra) 	Must be complimented with farm to market roads and other supporting infrastructure

Respondent 4

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate – since the LGU is a member of Sohoton Nature Park's PAMB • Supportive – in terms of DENR initiated project such as SIBP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LGUs feels that t they have very little authority in the management of their natural resource especially in terms of protection • More often than not, it is the DENR that is not coordinating with the LGU – not involved in policy and project implementation
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	The municipality is a member of the PAMB (Sohoton Nature Park)	The Basey –Borongan road is a former TLA road which the municipalities may use for protection and conservation efforts – access leads to effective monitoring
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipality is only benefiting from the Sohoton protected area • Water for irrigation • Erosion control • Timber poachers are illegally benefiting from the forest resource • There are 5 rattan concessions in the area 	The water distributing organization, LUWA, is the problem
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful – in terms of preserving the remaining forest • Not helpful – economically dislocated a lot of people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A logging concession, Basswood, formerly operated in the area and 2 communities were directly involved in their operation • Even during the concession's time of operation, there was very little coordination between the DENR, LGU and the TLA
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Non-timber forest resource extraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative livelihood and food security are key in properly implementing conservation and protection efforts • Developing the urban/municipal center may distract upland communities from exploiting forest resource
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective/sustainable logging • Eco-tourism • Non-timber forest resource extraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DENR should transfer skills to LGUs as part of the devolution process • Gov't environmental management projects should include alternative livelihood • Community consultation and participation is important in any environmental management strategy • Mining must have a more responsible and environmentally friendly perspective

Respondent 5

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordinate – in terms of apprehending and monitoring timber poaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1980 – abundant rattan and forest • 1990 – depleted rattan and increase in denuded areas • Timber extraction needs to be controlled/regulated and maintained only for domestic use
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal ordinance • Establishment of check points (with military and police) • A member of the SB as environmental coordinator links with the DENR • No MENRO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A DENR personnel worked with the LGUs but was only there for 6 months • There is no DENR personnel detailed in the area
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source of income for timber poachers • Wood for domestic use 	Generally, the municipality, and Samar as a whole, is not benefiting from the SIFR
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Yes – because it protected the remaining forest No – there is more illegal activity that is happening	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial logging – selective and with proper coordination with LGU • Eco-tourism • Mining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipality had previous experiences with mining companies and know about the economic benefits it may bring • Requires more assistance and support from the DENR • Livelihood for upland communities is important for them to participate in conservation efforts

Respondent 6

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Ideally – close coordination with the DENR especially in the PAMB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LGU has had bad experiences with the DENR due to past efforts in reforestation • DENR has not shared data with the LGU • SIBP – no coordination during the PRA activity and has not yet provided the LGU with the results • Jicotol Cave PAMB – not enough coordination
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LGU is a member of the PAMB • There is a municipal environment officer – also agricultural officer and has no separate budget/funds • Apprehending/monitoring timber poachers and their activities (with PNP) 	No project yet concerning the SIFR and the DENR The Jicotol caves has not been fully developed for income generation
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of water source for domestic use and irrigation • Food • Medicines (from herbs and other medicinal plants) • Income generating through eco-tourism 	Has watershed/irrigation projects with NIA Jicotol valley and the barangays of Villa Hermosa, San Pascual, and Osmeña
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Not aware of any management system	No information from the local DENR office
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DENR should take the lead in any conservation effort especially in assigning more forest guards and in information and education campaigns • LGUs need more support from the DENR • Options must have a strong and practical livelihood component
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-tourism and conservation – may be more sustainable • Commercial logging – experience with San Jose Timber Co. did not benefit the municipality and caused massive floods • Mining – the Taft experience is a warning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People should be aware of how important the forest is • No matter how massive the information campaign, without food and income, protection will not be possible

Respondent 7

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support • Coordination 	Unfortunately, there has been very little work with the DENR especially with regards to the eagle sanctuary
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	Potential work with the DENR and the SIFR is contained in the CBRMP proposal which includes reforestation and eco-tourism	No work directed to the SIFR The LGU is not directly involved in the eagle sanctuary
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Income from eco-tourism 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Yes – forest is protected for future generation (treasure)	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	DENR should involve the LGUs more in the eagle sanctuary activities
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforestation • Eco-tourism and conservation (eagle sanctuary) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial logging – destructive • Mining – causes pollution (from Bagacay mines) • Need to develop other sources of income such as agriculture and fishing

Respondent 8

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordination – especially in the protection of watershed areas	Work with DENR is mainly concentrated monitoring the rattan extraction trade which unfortunately has concessions owners outside the municipality but are extracting it in Maydolong
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No MENRO • CBRMP proposal contains some of the proposed activities for the forest area • Works with the DENR in terms of monitoring timber poaching 	CBRMP will provide funds
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply • Flood control 	Currently, eater sources are affected by forest conversion (kaingin) and timber poaching
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No – the municipality is not fully using its natural resources	LGUs do not have capability to manage their natural resource
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-tourism • Conservation • Reforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far, eco-tourism is concentrated in the coastal areas • Need to divert communities dependent on the forest to other livelihood (cottage industry)
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable forestry – cut and replace • Non-timber forest product utilization • Reforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining – destructive (Taft experience) and no economic benefits for the municipality • Rampant timber poaching activities from other areas • Commercial logging – no coordination and caused floods

Respondent 9

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordination with DENR – in terms of making people aware of the forest and instill importance of conservation and proper use	There are timber poachers in the municipality Main environmental issue is the rampant and illegal extraction of sand and gravel from river banks – very minimal support from the DENR
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No MENRO – proposal already submitted to the province No current project and budget for environmental management 	Very minimal DENR presence in the municipality
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanctuary for endangered species Source of agri-forest products Fresh air Erosion control Water source 	Need to develop the springs and protect the watersheds
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No knowledge of management system	It is possible that the more the people know about the benefits, the more the people may want to exploit
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforestation – cut and replace Eco-tourism Watershed and spring development 	People are not yet open to eco-tourism
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable forestry Eco-tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to understand that the problem of environmental management is deep rooted and broad Conservation is mainly for aesthetic value Environmental management must be participatory and integrative It is important that the municipality be made capable in terms of having the information and data

Respondent 10

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordination – in terms of monitoring forest conversion activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No one agency is capable of sustainable managing and implement conservation efforts Very little knowledge of SIBP DENR has not been coordinating in terms of conservation management efforts (e.g. SIBP)
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No project No MENRO (agricultural officer assumes that role) There is an environmental committee (Chairman is the Mayor) but is not well organized - loose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGUs do not have the capability to manage their resource so they need support and assistance from the DENR and NGOs DENR should be the main actor in environmental management
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watersheds provide the water Some gain income from rattan Biodiversity 	Unable to implement water source/watershed development due to lack of funds
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Inadequate – very little is gained by the communities and municipalities due to lack of skills and capabilities	There is a reforestation program but is very small due to lack of budget and capability
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	Sustainable source of income will make the people protect the forest and take them away from timber poaching and kaingin
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism – income should go directly to communities Commercial logging – need to be closely supervised and mainly for domestic use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining – historically destructive and not beneficial (Taft and MacArthur), no lasting contribution, environmentally bad Conservation – rigidity without providing the basic needs LGUs have difficulty in managing their resources due to financial constraints

MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS

Respondent 11

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Data gathering – mainly to be used in the municipal's land use plan	Very difficult to determine the municipal's natural resource due to lack of manpower, budget, capability, and assistance from DENR
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	No project related to SIFR No MENRO	The municipality is developing its CLUP which contain aspects of environmental management but very little concerning the SIFR per se
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	Provides a ecologically balanced environment Few are benefiting – timber poaching and rattan gathering	The municipality has no data on how large is the municipal's forest area – no capability and budget The municipal's water supply are sourced from local springs
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Not aware of management system	There is no coordination between LGUs and NGAs at local level
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Eco-tourism – currently being developed and community based	Purely LGU initiated
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	Sustainable forestry – must first identify the areas and set strict regulations and enforcement measures	Mining – there used to be mining activities in the communities (gold) but later became destructive Conservation – not possible because people are poor Needs the coordination and assistance of NGAs Needs coordination among LGUs

Respondent 12

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Support – work with the DENR against timber poaching and in their other projects such as tree planting	
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	Recently appointed a MENRO since it is a CBRMP requirement No municipal environment committee	There were plans to apply for the CBRMP but the SS has been hesitant There have been previous projects with the DENR (e.g. PAF and reforestation)
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	None	The forest area has been a source of income for timber poachers and upland farmers who practice shifting agriculture
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No – not providing/generating income	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	Any management scheme will require change in people's values – used to dole outs
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	Eco-tourism and conservation – may be helpful but LGUs has no capability and assistance and needs to involve the barangay/communities	Commercial logging – case to case basis since it provides work but past experiences have filled with abuse Mining – may endanger the river (Taft experience)

Respondent 13

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordination – with the DENR in terms of monitoring timber poaching activities and information dissemination	No knowledge of SIBP
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bantay Kalikasan – 2x held a forum No MENRO 	Most programs and activities of the municipality is focused on infrastructure, coastal/marine management and livelihood which is contained in the land use plan (being developed)
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection vs. landslides Controls floods 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No knowledge of management system	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Reforestation – replacement of trees even those cut for domestic use	
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining – provides employment and direct income Eco-tourism – no skill and information on how to proceed Preservation – need to determine/balance between good and bad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to gather information first to determine size of area and remaining resource Requires full coordination and assistance Commercial logging – destructive

Respondent 14

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordination – in terms of management of the sanctuary (w/ the provincial government) and awareness and information dissemination (w/ the DENR)	
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly designated MENRO as part of the CBRMP requirement also the agricultural officer and livelihood assistance officer A watershed development and rehabilitation program is continued in the proposal submitted for CBRMP There is a Bantay Kalikasan program but is not active 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data gathering and agroforestry activities are contained in the CBRMP proposal The municipality had a previous project with the DENR (PAF2)
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply for both domestic and irrigation activities "breathing ground" 	The Eagle Sanctuary provides conservation of the forest
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes – it prevents destructive activities (i.e. prevented the establishment of a cement plant) The eagle sanctuary may potentially attract tourists 	Through CBRMP, alternative livelihood activities may be initiated
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Eco-tourism	Projects and options must be developmental
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism – must be well managed and sustainable Commercial logging – good but must have limits (incorporate refo, selective, enforcement) 	Mining – economically good abut environmentally bad

Respondent 15

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordinates – in terms of project development and planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DENR presence is hardly felt SIBP just coordinated with regards to PRA and data gathering
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No MENRO A member of the Sangguniang Bayan is the municipal's environment coordinator There are ordinances against poaching and other environmentally destructive activities 	Currently developing the land use plan
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	Not much benefits (only timber poachers are benefiting from the forest resource)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The municipal's water is contained in underground/subterranean rivers Very little forest management activities
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Yes, maintains water resource	Only those engaged in timber poaching and rattan gathering are benefiting
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Sustainable forestry	CBRMP may provide the needed support for sustainable resource management CBRMP must involve upland communities
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable forestry Eco-tourism – contained in the CBRMP proposal and is community based Conservation – needed at first based on critical awareness and then modify itself into utilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities must be provided technology, information and empowerment There must be flexible rules on forest resource use Commercial logging – better than timber poaching but has to be strict and should provide for rehabilitation Mining – very destructive despite economic benefits

Respondent 16

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordinates with the DENR in terms of monitoring timber poaching and forest land conversion	The biggest problem is trying to contain further destruction by providing alternative livelihood
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No budget No staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mt. Huraw is purely a municipal initiative mainly to develop it as an eco-tourism spot – links with the DOT and prohibits any form of extraction Projects are mainly concerned with infrastructure Timber and fuelwood extracted are mostly for local consumption
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	Provides income (legal and illegal).	It is mostly the migrants from Mindanao (Manobos) who are doing most of the forest land conversion (kaingin)
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection Reforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGAs must provide capital for livelihood Extensive training, value formation and awareness building must be provided
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining –the bauxite reserve can provide needed income and employment Reforestation and NTFP gathering Protection 	

Respondent 17

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify forest area and its boundary To determine the resources inside the forest area 	No capability to accomplish these objectives
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforestation (from local gov't – 20% of CDF) WESAMAR counterpart in coffee plantation No MENRO An SB member heads the municipal environmental committee No full time environmental staff No budget except from the SB Environmental projects are case to case 	Has not yet attended SIBP meetings
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides water supply Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourists are mostly local Water supply of late has become dirty Soil erosion and fertility is becoming a problem (link with DA)
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Helpful in terms of preserving the forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs to be balanced with livelihood projects Supply of wood has been scarce
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Enforcement and regulation of timber poaching	Provide alternative livelihood
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agroforestry and plantation establishment Eco-tourism – may provide income Conservation – protects wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial logging – regulations are not being followed such as reforestation but better than timber poaching Mining –destructive

Respondent 18

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and develop the municipality's resources Coordinate with the DENR in terms of the PAMB 	SIBP was consulted before but since January 2000, there has been very little contact
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No MENRO No environmental committee Enforcement of anti timber poaching activities (with PNP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing a proposal for the CBRMP (in the PRA and feasibility study stage) Currently stopped visitors to Calbiga caves due to vandalism and illegal extraction of stalactites and stalagmites Submitted a proposal to DAR for funding of resource survey and institutional capability building
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide fresh air Provide medicines Provide food Controls floods 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No – timber poaching has destroyed many areas and extraction of other products is prohibited	DENR and police are not effective
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need proper education and awareness building Need to provide alternative livelihood Need to develop infrastructure
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation/preservation – no extraction, reforestation Eco-tourism – for educational purpose Selective/sustainable logging – with very strict regulations; cut and plant 	Mining – destructive to the water system

Respondent 19

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Development of the municipal's socio-economic and natural resource profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No capability to gather data No assistance from the DENR
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	No project or program in relation to the SIFR	Development and resource management plans are contained in the CLUP which is still being developed
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controls flooding Provides income for those engaged in rattan and abaca extraction Timber poaching provides alternative income for very few people 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes – so far no severe flooding No – lack of strict regulation has invited timber poaching activities 	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Non-timber forest product extraction (i.e. rattan, abaca, resin, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to first delineate the forest area Need to develop strict policies/rules on timber poaching Strengthen collaboration with the PNP
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism – people are not appreciative and aware of its potentials but there is a proposal for such projects Conservation – encouraged and may be source for future benefits Non-timber forest product extraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need first to create an awareness among the people Need to determine their resources Need to address livelihood Need to work more closely with the DENR Need to address corruption Commercial logging – suspicious and open to abuse and corruption Mining – no control and does not benefit the community directly

Respondent 20

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Support DENR projects	DENR is the main actor
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No MENRO No environmental committee Jicntol watershed project with NIA and Japan 	Plans for managing the municipal's resource is contained in the CBRMP
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply of water Wildlife for food and income Income from NTFP (rattan, medicines, etc.) Source of timber for domestic use 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Not much – timber available only for domestic use and income generated only to a few	Not much knowledge about SIBP
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase forest guards – DENR must initiate this Develop more resolutions and ordinances to control practice of extraction Identify the resources for extraction
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism – preferred but currently concentrated in the coastal, need to develop upland aspect Conservation – prevents illegal activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to be reminded about the big flood in 1986 Commercial logging – bad due to past experience (San Joaquin Co.) which did not do any reforestation Mining – destructive (Tait experience) Must be incorporated in the land use plan with supportive local legislation

GOVERNORS

Respondent 21

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the programs of the local chief executives (municipalities) To support the DENR 	The provincial plan is based on the initiatives of the local governments – participative development and empowerment
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	Plan to establish in Silvino Lobos a provincial forest and nature reserve Working with the DENR in establishing the province's environment office	Still in the process of gathering information regarding the province's forest area – size, inventory of resources, state, etc.
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Biodiversity 	The SIFR should be taken cared of for the benefit of the next generation
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Not fully – minimal impact and only in some areas/cases	Rampant timber poaching in the area
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate land use Provide assistance and support to local governments to make them more capable of using their resources
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People should take more responsibility – empowered to manage their resources and be accountable for it Environmental management must be broad and realistic Mining – not in favor: no social commitment and does not provide a sustainable form of livelihood Commercial logging – destructive

Respondent 22

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Cooperate with concerned offices and agencies (DENR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DENR has not been fully accomplishing its working relationship with the local governments There is very little information from the SIBP and they have not been fully coordinating with the provincial government
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bantay Kalikasan (with the DENR, PNP, and PA) Much of the province's environmental programs are contained in the CBRMP proposal (reforestation, coastal, watershed, etc.) Involved in the management of the Taft Eagle Sanctuary (planning) 	It is important to clarify roles, responsibilities, and functions of the different agencies and offices involved
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source of water Provides livelihood Source of materials/minerals 	Not much information regarding the SIFR
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No – it has limited the potential development of the province (loss of income to be derived from proper use of forest resources)	It is difficult to stop timber poaching if the people remain poor
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to sit down with the DENR to coordinate and consolidate programs and projects in order to appropriately manage resource and provide sustainable livelihood The DENR has not been participating in provincial meetings of the NGA heads (every 2 weeks) The provincial land use plan will try to resolve conflicting land uses
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism – open to a wider clientele and relatively minimal capital Sustainable forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservation & development Poverty – not properly using resources Must develop a realistic plan It is important that resource management functions be decentralized Local governments must be made accountable Resource management requires the common understanding and equal responsibility from other local governments Mining – not realistic and there are problems of enforcement Conservation – capability of the DENR in doubt

PROVINCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS

Respondent 23

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Coordination with different stakeholders (e.g. DAR, DENR, NGOs, etc.)	
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has established the PERNMO – is a devolved office and is responsible for environmental projects with a staff of 10 and a separate budget and is involved in the SIBP No present project/program yet 	
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	Provides income and livelihood to upland communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other perceived benefits due to the logging moratorium Still not enough to help the upland communities from their poverty
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmentally good – conserved resources Economically bad – displaced workers and increased illegal activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No alternative livelihood for the people No source of income for the provincial government
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Eco-tourism and conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are plans (SIBP) but without alternative livelihood, it would be very difficult to implement them Adequate funding is necessary
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism – requires marketing and organization Sustainable forestry – should be accompanied by strict rules on rehabilitation Mining – must have proper technology and strict waste management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIBP should take the lead in fostering collaborations between the different stakeholders Coordination is the key DENR does not have the institutional capability to lead management of SIFR

Respondent 24

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the area of responsibility Provide strategic direction Provide support to municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links and work with the DENR is still being strengthened Last meeting was on May 1999
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	Environmental management structure and personnel not yet fully established and devolved from the DENR	Municipalities are encouraged to develop their own environmental management plan and incorporate it in their land use plan
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The critical component is the watershed – for domestic and irrigation purposes Provides biodiversity Source of lumber 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No knowledge of over-all management program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is a management program, it needs to be reviewed since there seems to be no deliberate/coherent strategy So far, it is evident that most activities are exploitation of resource
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Biodiversity conservation – but it has to be the responsibility of the 3 provinces	LGUs must be provided with the necessary skills and funds to lead conservation efforts
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has to undergo a process – need to know the real situation and collectively (municipal and barangay) develop measures The key ingredient is participatory Livelihood must be provided for it to be sustainable Need to look into the policy implications at the provincial and municipal levels Mining – purely for profit and did not benefit the communities with very serious environmental implications Deep awareness must be instilled in the people

Respondent 25

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	To delineate the different land-uses and determine forest resource	Role of the office is embodied in the provincial development plan
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task Force Kalikasan – an initiative being jointly implemented by the PNP, DENR, PA, and the provincial government – enforcement of anti-poaching laws Most DENR projects have been devolved There is a provincial ENRO who is also the education officer The environmental office is still under the PPDO 	Proposed environmental programs are contained in the CBRMP proposal – will provide funds and technical assistance to communities in their environmental and local development plans
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides water Agricultural products (upland) 	The over-all importance of the SIFR cannot be fully appreciated unless there is a clear awareness and understanding of its potential made evident during the massive floods in Dolores, Can-avid, and Oras in 1989
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial – timber poaching exists but is not as destructive as the TLAs (PAVA, Basswood, SJTC) Current management provides long term benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The benefits before was more felt There is a confusion of roles between the DENR and the provincial government
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBFM SALT 	There is a substantial population inside the SIFR
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism – comparative advantage but requires infrastructure and investment Conservation – will have to work closely with the DENR (eagle sanctuary, watershed, and seascapes) Commercial logging – need stricter measures and provide sustainable livelihood to communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservation + proper utilization (community should benefit) Mining – communities are not favorable due to previous sad experience (Tait experience) Need to facilitate greater sharing and exchange of information between agencies and organizations

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Respondent 26

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Collaboration – in terms of sharing data and facilitating the identification and delineation of alienable and disposable lands	The agency does cover activities in the buffer zones and upper watersheds
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	Field staff have counterparts from the DENR (e.g. PARO – PENRO, MARO – CENRO)	
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controls flooding and erosion Provides water for domestic and agricultural use Provides the proper habitat 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Yes – the logging moratorium has established a sanctuary for biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The logging moratorium is not sustainable since it does not provide the benefits needed by communities. The DENR does not seem to have the structure to properly manage the forest reserve.
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	None	
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	Conservation Eco-tourism Commercial logging – case to case basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DENR should actively lead in establishing linkages to sustainably manage the SIFR Data base (e.g. maps) should be made updated and made easily accessible to other agencies It should contain incentives through livelihood projects that are environmentally friendly Mining only invites abuse and corruption

Respondent 27

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	The agency works with the DENR in the management and maintenance of watersheds	The agency tries to ensure that irrigation systems are established and provides capability building activities to communities who will eventually take responsibility in the care and maintenance of the systems. The island's hydrology has changed in the last 10 years
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	The agency's planning office and hydrologist coordinates with the DENR in delineation of watersheds and project development (e.g. reforestation)	
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	Proper management of the SIFR provides the water used for irrigation	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Not aware of current management being done in the SIFR	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Eco-tourism	
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	Eco-tourism	As long as there are financing schemes for communities to be able to develop alternative livelihood activities

Respondent 28

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SIFR is a potential resource to generate income for the region • It is involved with the SIBP in a consultative level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental protection is a thrust of the agency • The agency is simply involved in the planning of development activities • The agency also monitors other national government agency activities
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agency works directly with local governments (provincial tourism councils) in planning and promoting eco-tourism • Assists LGUs in developing their land use development plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agency is also involved in local reforestation activities as well as working with the Community Based Resource Management Program (CBRMP)
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SIFR provides water for both domestic and agricultural use 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – since it provides bio-physical stability in the area • No – since there is very little economic activity allowed (i.e. fuelwood, timber poaching, upland farming, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects are not properly • People are not aware of the need to conserve biodiversity
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of logging moratorium and preservation activities • Reforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be accompanied by strict enforcement and existing laws • Must look into the long-term biophysical impact
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a balance between long and short term benefits • Mining is destructive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Samar Island as an adventure destination is a potential eco-tourism activity • Logging at this point in time may not be a wise option • Must look into the long-term biophysical benefits • Develop broader local economic views (e.g. orientation, technology) • Must invite active involvement of the LGUs since government cannot be there always

Respondent 29

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Not much	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agency mainly promotes trade and industry activities The agency does not have any direct responsibility in the extraction and processing of forest products The agency does not have any direct relationship with the DENR – case to case basis
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	The agency does not have any programs and projects concerning the SIFR	The agency has integrated an abaca industry development program which has an estimated 40 million budget that involves LGUs, NGOs, FIDA, VISCA, and the DENR
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	Buffer zones provide some of the products sue and processed for local trade	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Cannot categorically say yes or no	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Eco-tourism	Should be led by the LGU with the DOT and DTI
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	Eco-tourism – as long as it is community based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People should be allowed to earn income from secondary forest products Mining – communities should be consulted and given the final authority to approve Commercial logging – not at the moment

Respondent 30

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	The conservation and preservation of the culture and environment are some of the agency's mandates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism as a means and as an end The difficulty is that people do not fully appreciate the value of tourism as an economic activity
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	The agency has incorporated a plan for Samar Island but is still awaiting approval and budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The includes the delineation of the region into tourism zones (RTZ) The agency is still in the data generating/information dissemination stage and is being assisted by the DENR and LGUs (through the Regional Eco-tourism Council)
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	The SIFR is a resource that holds potentials for eco-tourism	Local residents due not yet see the potential value of the SIFR and how it can benefit their lives
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No idea on how the SIFR in general is being managed	The agency is only aware of management activities through the local PAMBs
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Eco-tourism	The DENR does not seem to be capable of managing the whole SIFR
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	Eco-tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities and other stakeholders must be involved – participatory Any intervention will require sizeable input Logging – only certain types of activities and in specific areas

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Respondent 31

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with the DENR on agency projects and with ECC requirements Forest conservation is a concern of the agency
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agency's planning section coordinates with the DENR in terms of certifications and applications The agency has reforestation projects along the roads and in areas critical to DPWH infrastructure projects
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood control (bridges) Soil erosion/prevents landslides (roads) 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	No – rampant timber poaching has only benefited a few and denuded areas are threatening the livelihood of residents	
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Reforestation	Plant trees along the roads and in denude areas
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eco-tourism Tree farming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No commercial logging Mining – should be carefully monitored, underground and not open-pit

Respondent 32

Question	Key Response	Additional Remarks
What is your office's role in the management of the Samar Island Forest Reserve (SIFR)?	Consultative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The agency is a member of the SIBP Technical Working Group The agency is mainly concerned with the buffer zone areas (where most of agricultural farms and plantations are located)
How do you carry out such role in terms of plans, programs/projects, budget and staff?	The Chief of the agency's Planning Division represents the agency in the SIBP's TWG	
What do you think is the role of the SIFR in the development of Samar Island and your office in particular? What benefits do people derive from the SIFR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevents siltation of farmlands and other agricultural areas Provides food (forest products and wildlife) and medicine (medicinal plants) for local residents Provides water for irrigation 	
Does the current management and use of the SIFR allow Samareños to fully benefit from it? Do you think the SIFR is presently serving its purpose? Please explain.	Not much – only those engaging in kaingin, fuelwood gathering, and timber poaching are benefiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DENR is not equipped to effectively manage the SIFR LGUs should take more responsibility and be made more capable Needs for forest guards
To your knowledge, what are the available options for the use and management of the SIFR?	Social forestry programs	Must integrate development and conservation activities with other NGAs, LGUs, and local communities
If the SIFR is to be managed to be of optimal benefit, what should be its dominant use/s?	Eco-tourism (Agri Eco-tourism: Thailand) Social forestry programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logging – selective but must be strictly regulated Mining – not good because of destructive methods and the use of chemicals unless very strict measures are developed Management strategy requires strong and long-term collaboration between government, LGUs, and communities – education and awareness building, funding, capability building, and advocacy through children

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APPENDIX D

SWOT Analysis of Government Units with Regards to Biodiversity Conservation and SIFR

Local Government Units	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	Opportunities	Threats
Municipal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGC provides the legal basis for taking greater responsibility for local resource management Possess critical awareness of environmental issues such as mining and conservation Sincere desire to understand sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation Closer access to local knowledge Able to effectively work with NGOs and POs Clear understanding of the need to work with the DENR Clear recognition of the SIFR's value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacking, if not weak, environmental management plan No existing structure specific to environmental management Staff or personnel specifically assigned to implement environmental projects/programs (usually also functions as the agricultural officer and/or Information and education coordinator) No capability to determine and assess its own natural resource No allotted budget particular to environmental management Weak link and working relationship with DENR Lack if not weak devolved functions Lack of knowledge of pertinent provisions in the LGC Lack of knowledge on DENR projects and other resource management initiatives Very little awareness of the current state of management of the SIFR and its condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The island's League of Mayors may be a venue for greater articulating local resource management issues National resource management strategies and programs encourage local initiatives Aware of the need to balance conservation with development programs Recognizes the value of proper land use planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of commitment from lead national government agency to devolve some of its functions Peace and order situation may constraint effective organizing activities Lack of skills of either the lead agency or NGOs to provide institutional capability Coming elections may affect local resource management priorities and directions Inability to work with the DENR may lead to unabated forest land conversion and rampant timber poaching
Provincial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possess substantial budget, personnel and technical capability to develop a natural resource profile LGC provides the legal basis for taking greater responsibility for local resource management Possess critical awareness of environmental issues such as mining and conservation Sincere desire to understand sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation Clear understanding of the need to work with the DENR Clear recognition of the SIFR's value resource management and biodiversity conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively weak working relationship with DENR Confusion of roles and functions with the DENR No personnel assigned specific for environmental management (except for Western Samar where there is a PENRAMO with a separate office, staff and an allocated budget of about 2.8 million) Lack of conflict management mechanisms Very little awareness of the current state of management of the SIFR and its condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater potential for collaborating with private sector as well as with donor agencies Likely venue for consolidating local resource management activities Greater multi-sectoral based resource management and conservation initiatives Greater co- management potential Aware of the need to balance conservation with development programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflicting inter-provincial resource management and development plans Coming elections may affect local resource management priorities and directions
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possess critical awareness of environmental issues such as mining and conservation Sincere desire to understand sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation Clear understanding of the need to work with the DENR Clear recognition of the SIFR's value resource management and biodiversity conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively weak working relationship with DENR For some, confusion of roles and functions in relation with the DENR Very little awareness of the current state of management of the SIFR and its condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aware of the need to balance conservation with development programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incongruent agency priorities, programs and projects in relation to the management and use of the SIFR's resources

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