

Building Resilience of key biodiversity areas on the local level – Experiences from Zamboanga City, Philippines

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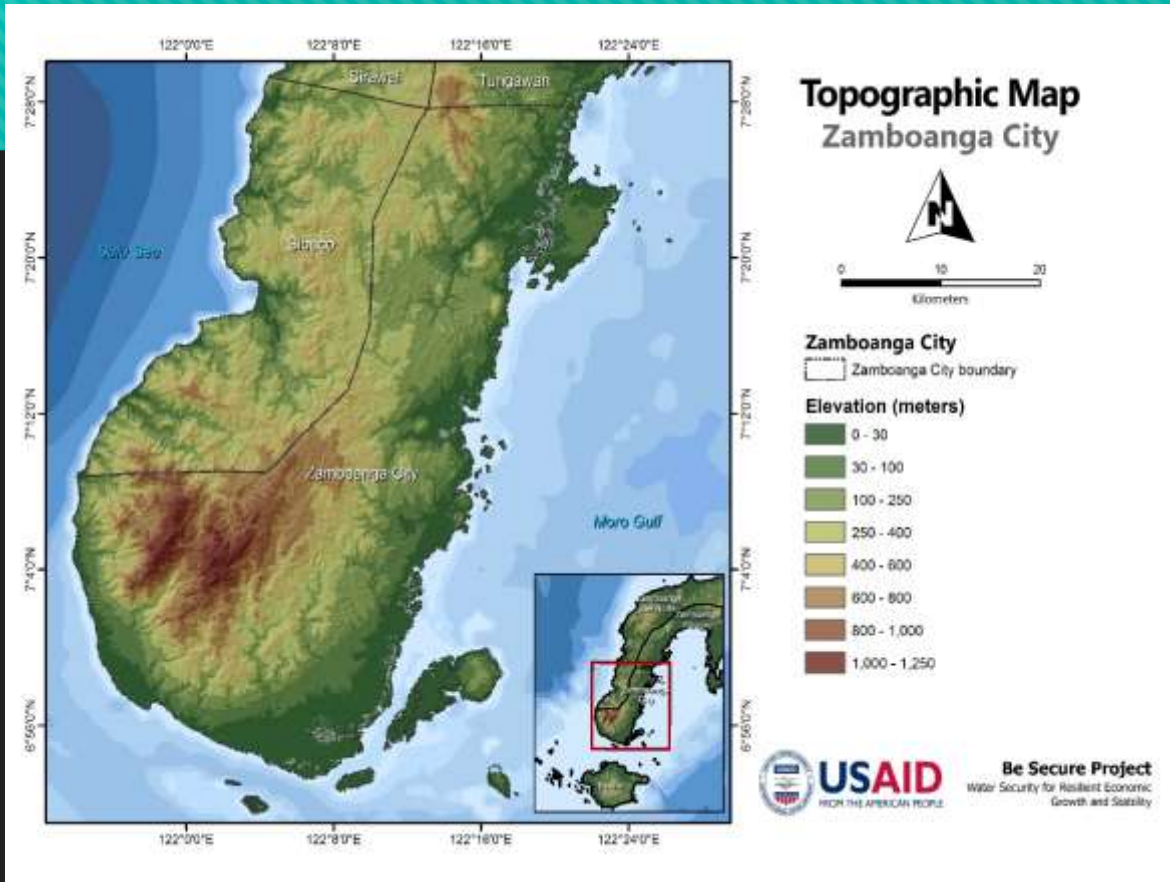
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Urban center

Located at 6° 54' North latitude and 122° 30' East latitude

Inland area

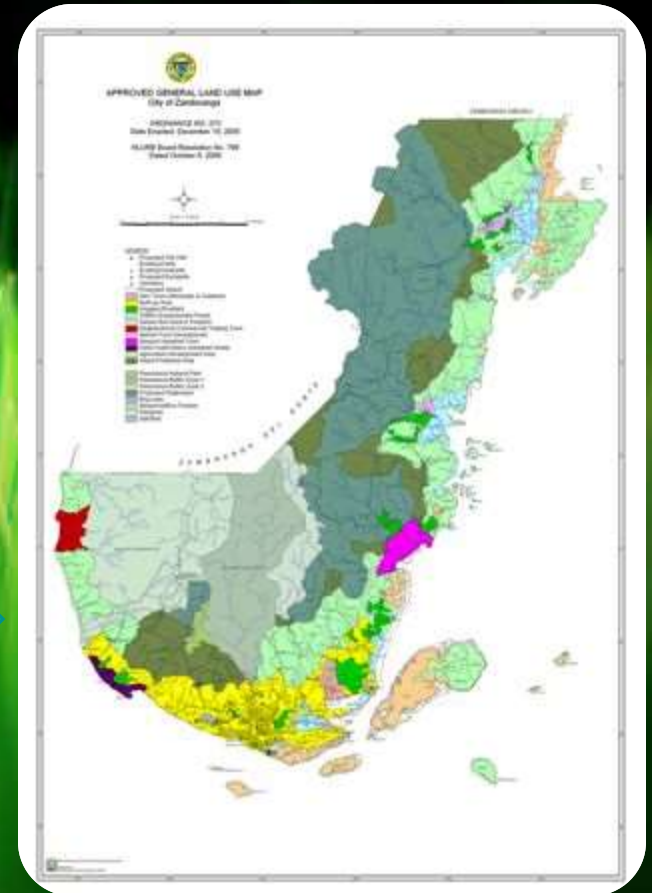
142,089.90 ha, with 25 islets had an aggregate area of 148,338.49 ha

Geographical location

Southernmost tip of the Zamboanga Peninsula in Mindanao; 460 nautical miles from Manila.

Population

934,776 (2015)



Overview: Geographical location & land use

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION (2010 Census)

Urban – 56.01% Roman Catholic – 60.8%
Rural – 43.99% Islam – 34.2%
Others – 5%

*Out of 138 cities, Zamboanga is the 6th biggest city
in the Philippines in terms of population*

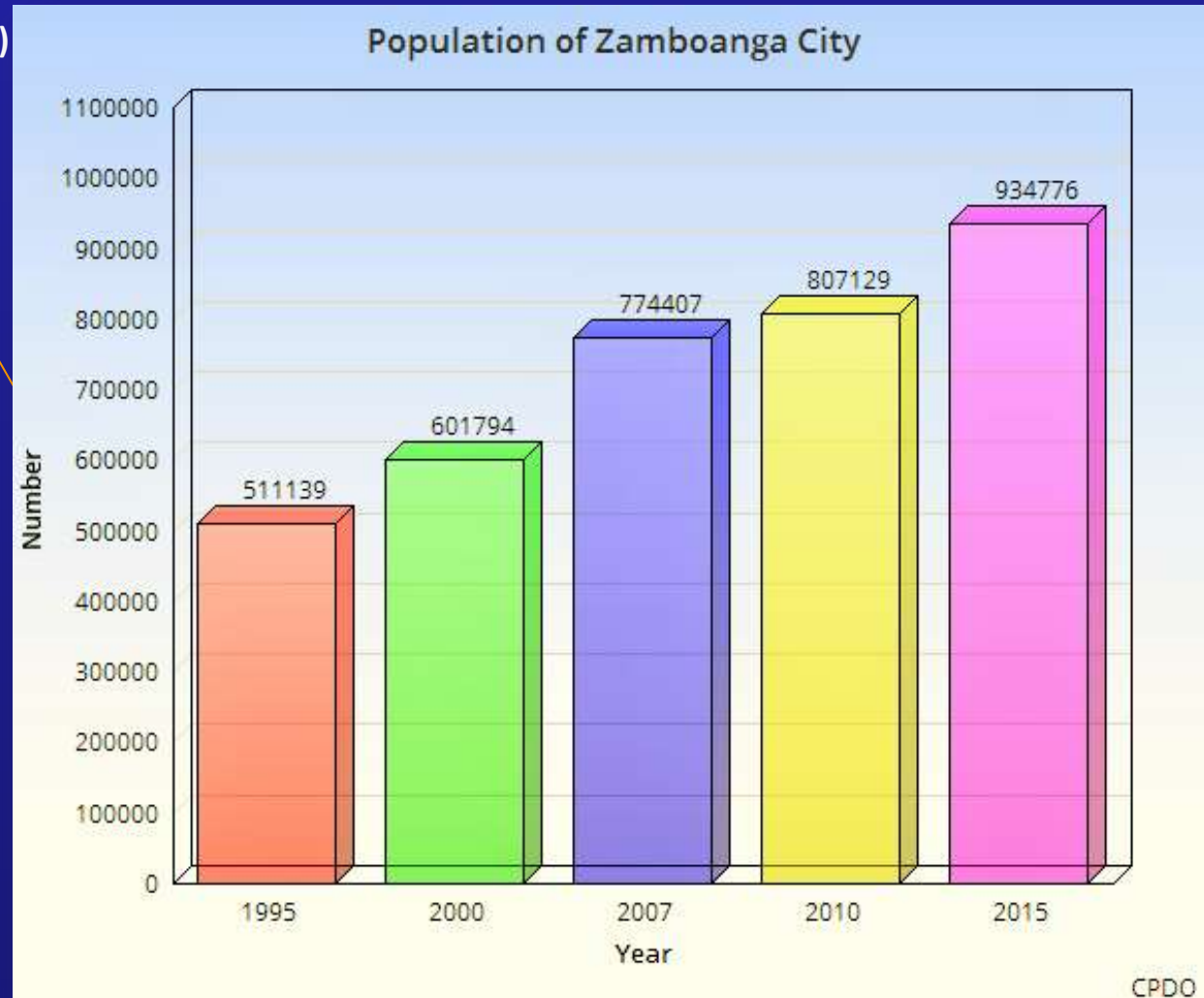
National annual growth rate (2000-2010) 1.90%

AGE DISTRIBUTION

0 - 14 = 34.5% (young dependents)
15 - 64 = 62.2% (working-age)
65 & over = 3.3% (old dependents)

**Growth Rate
2.98%**

Demography



Land area & barangays

148,338 ha

98 barangays
(54 coastal
bgys; 396 km
length)

Land classification

Forestland
76,995 ha
(5,243 ha
mangrove)

A/D
64,474 ha

Protected areas (NIPAS)

Natural Park
17,414 ha

Protected
landscape/
seascape
1,877 ha

River system

11 major rivers
emanate from
the
watersheds

2 river under
WQMA
declared by
DENR

% Share

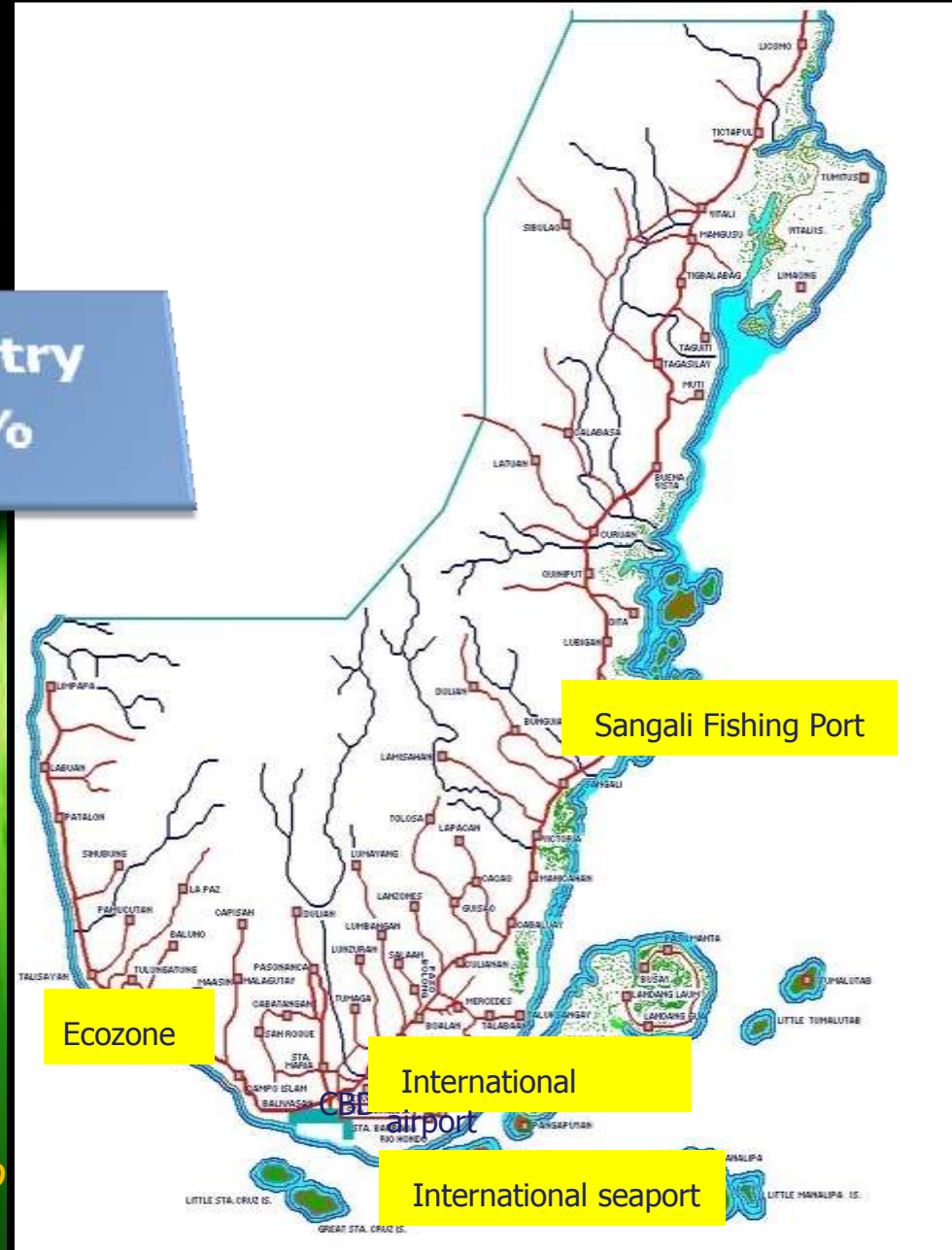
Services
44%

Industry
34%

Agri & Fishery
22%

6.5% growth in GDP
City GDP = PhP52.7 B

Ecosystem services: its contribution to livelihoods, income and economy



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Key biodiversity areas

- Proclaimed protected areas under NIPAS
- Emerging natural local conservation areas (LCAs)
 - Watersheds & its rivers and tributaries
 - Wetlands, including its mangrove forest, coastal/marine areas, lake & islets
 - Urban wildlife sanctuaries / refuges

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Biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Levels of biodiversity are co-dependent for provisions; and sustaining ecological services –
 - Provisions of products
 - Regulatory services
 - Ecological support
 - Cultural or non-material benefits

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Pressures on key biodiversity areas

- Limited inter-agencies coordination and integration
- Varied interests and operational decisions
- Physical threats due to detrimental activities and practices
- Exposure and/or vulnerable on the impact / stresses of climate change and other natural disasters
- Wildlife and its by-products trading
- Related threats – negative attitudes, low investment on R&D, law enforcement and need for capacitation, etc.

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Local government key role and mission

- Protecting and preserving biodiversity
- Building the resilience of key biodiversity areas: Sustain the protection, conservation and development thru participative and pro-active governance
- Focus on community-based approaches:
 - Increasing knowledge and competencies
 - Building partnerships
 - Shift the culture towards positive view and increasing level of awareness

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Local government strategies & programs

- Improve and/or enhance biodiversity conservation competencies;
- Improve attitudes and behavior change involvement in biodiversity conservation
- Increase financing for the maintenance of ecosystems integrity, protection and sustainable livelihood; and
- Strengthen governance through sustain community and inter-agencies cooperation.

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Enhanced local government governance

Adaptive governance enhanced through multi-stakeholder collaboration among organized groups; with greater community participation:

- Watershed Management Council
- Multi-Sectors Forest Protection Committee
- Protected Area Management Board
- Co-management of protected areas
- Water Quality Management Area Governing Board
- City's Mining Regulatory Board
- Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council

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Building resilience

- Strengthened multi-level governance, linkages and cooperation
- Adjacent cities and municipalities benefitted from ecological services
- Vulnerable populations in KBAs transformed into resilient communities
- Well-informed communities involvement
- Established and sustained inter-agencies cooperation in law enforcement
- Intensified private and public sector involvement in financing conservation and protection

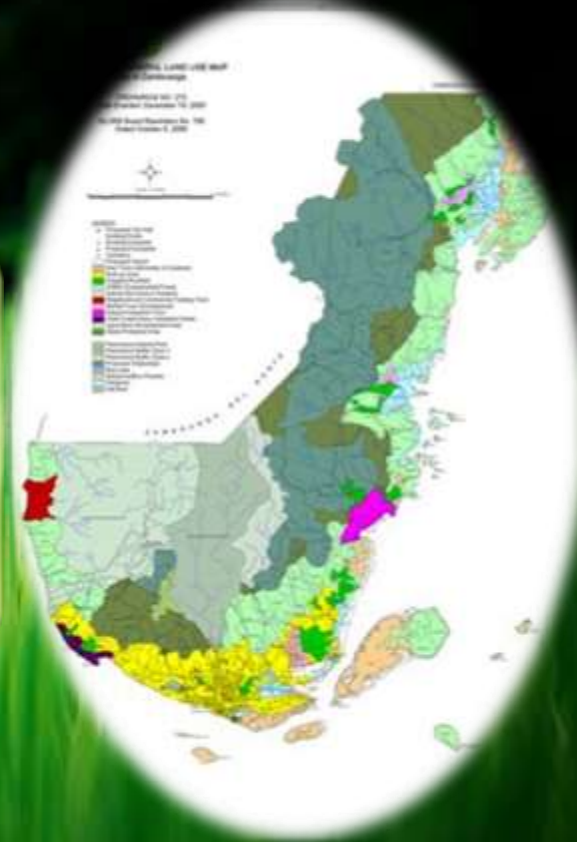
Building Resilience on key biodiversity areas

**Environmental
Governance**

**Management
& Leaderships**

**Enabling
Policies**

**Biodiversity
Resources
protected,
conserved
and
documented**



Acknowledgment

We gratefully acknowledge **USAID** as Zamboanga City's partner for the promotion of broad-based, inclusive and resilient growth in its City Development Initiatives (CDI) approaches, specifically:

- The **Development Alternatives Inc.** (DAI) implements USAID-funded *Philippines-Protect Wildlife Project* currently providing technical assistance, capacity build-up and behavior change;
- *Protect* currently provides assistance and facilitate the updating of the management plans of city's NIPAS protected areas – *Sta. Cruz Islands PLS* and *Pasonanca Natural Park*; development of *Forest Land Use Plan* (FLUP); and appraisal of the coastal/marine areas and islets as emerging local conservation areas (LCAs), and
- Capacitation of law enforcers, local stakeholders and institutions to protect biodiversity and deter illegal wildlife exploitation and trading.
- Likewise, other USAID-supported biodiversity conservation projects, that is, strengthening resilience for growth with equity (SURGE); the Partnerships for Biodiversity Phase 3 (DOI-ITAP); and water security (Be SECURE).



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The City Government of Zamboanga expresses its heartfelt thanks to *USAID - DAI Philippines Protect Wildlife Project* for extending shared financial assistance to the presenter for his travel and participation to the

9th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation

