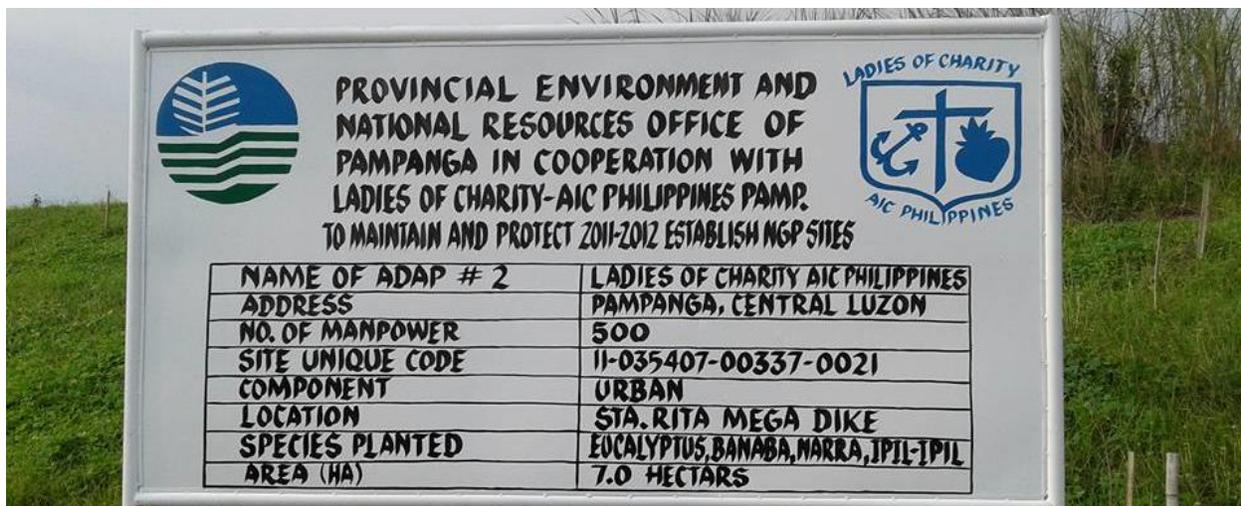




**Philippines, Sta Rita, Pampanga – Trees to prevent soil erosion - Environment
2016 -2021: ‘Yes to creation, all the way!’**

Thanks to the support of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the AIC volunteers from the Pampanga region in the Philippines have started an eco-sustainable project of planting trees on the slopes of the mega dikes to prevent soil erosion in zones at risk.



Context

In 1991, Mt. Pinatubo erupted and lava flowed down to low-lying regions, covering large areas in Zambales and Pampanga. Mega dikes were built to contain the flow in a particular area to prevent it from engulfing everything. The mega dikes were built in the midst of agricultural lands where the soil is susceptible to erosion. Over the past years, there have been instances of the mega dikes breaking apart allowing water to flow down, endangering the neighboring areas. With the onset of climate change, due to neglect of the environment, the people living in low-lying areas now face even greater dangers. Following catastrophes like Typhoon Ondoy and Yolanda, greater precaution is being taken. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) supports NGOs or concerned citizens who wish to assist with planting trees on the slopes around the mega dikes to help prevent them from eroding.

The DENR accorded AIC-Philippines an ADAP #2 project, meaning 7 hectares of land on which to plant trees and care for them for a duration of five years (2016-2021).

Project Theme and Activities

- Prior to plantation, AIC-Philippines commissioned the Barrio official of San Jose, Sta. Rita to clear the land. Holes were dug, so that the volunteers would only have to plant the seedlings. The trees were planted 5 meters apart on all sides to allow them to grow.
- On the evening preceding the plantation, nature was on the volunteers' side, as heavy rains fell, making the soil soft and watery.
- The volunteers launched the project on June 25th 2016, planting the seeds at 4:30pm.
- A total of 430 seedlings were planted (mahogany, eucalyptus, banaba, ipil-ipil and various fruit-bearing trees).
- The volunteers met afterwards to take attendance and plan the next steps.
- There are still 6 hectares of the plot left that will be planted by other AIC groups.



Key Figures

- 430 seedlings planted in one day
- 1 hectare planted in June 2016
- 7 hectares to be planted by September 2016

Partnerships

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Barrio official of San Jose
- Fire Department

Future Prospects and/or Impact

- The remaining 6 hectares will be divided 6 ways. Three local AIC groups will work together to take care of each hectare. Each hectare will be planted with a specific kind of seedling.
- The target is to be able to plant all 7 hectares during the 2016 rainy season (June to September). Planting will take place every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.
- Next year, AIC-Philippines will be monitoring the growth of the trees: regular trimming, watering and inspection by the local groups will be undertaken over the course of 5 years.
- The manual labor required will be carried out by the Barrio official workers. Payment will be determined by the amount of work done.
- Watering of the area will be done by the people from the Fire Department.