

Planting Mangroves for Coastal Protection in the Philippines

17 August 2018

Mangroves are important breeding grounds for aquatic life as well as nesting places for birdlife and absorbers of carbon in the atmosphere. They grow in land sediment between fresh and sea water. Their wood can be used as fuel and for building.

Planting mangroves is one way of protecting coasts from major damage. Their tight and extensive root systems create a buffer against tidal surges and strong winds. Having experienced five metre wave surges during Typhoon Haiyan, our partner Developers is grateful for this extra support to their work in poor communities vulnerable to climate change.

We acknowledge St Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Silverstream whose enquiry initiated the proposal to replant coastal waters.

Developers partnered with the local *barangay* or village council of Tabon and the neighbouring Ipil Integrated School to undertake this programme. The school had been badly damaged in Typhoon Haiyan and the project was a way to involve students in a learning activity to benefit their community. Both groups want to plant more mangroves to better protect their communities from disaster after learning how mangroves will protect their homes and livelihoods.



Photos: Developers

Thank you for your generous donations for mangrove planting and climate justice work.

In the last financial year, CWS was able to send Developers Foundation \$2,585 to plant 2,000 mangroves propagule around Tabon island.

By June 2018, 1,600 had survived. A further 162 mangroves were planted by pupils of Ipil Intergrated School on a neighbouring site—150 have survived.

Developers runs training events and workshops on environmental issues, including climate change.



“Mangrove rehabilitation is a vital undertaking not only for the current population but also for generations to come.” Developers



About Developers Foundation

Developers works across seven *barangay* or villages along the eastern coast of Aklan province. Most are involved in fishing, but significant numbers grow crops in the hills rising from the coast. Many small farmers in these communities are women who provide food for their families in a largely subsistence economy.

Part of the community, Developers has focused on strengthening family livelihoods, climate change education, protecting the environment and disaster preparedness. After Typhoon Haiyan damaged or destroyed 94–98% of homes in November 2013, the communities want to put in place ways to better protect their families from extreme natural disasters and to improve family incomes. CWS is funding the second year of their plan. In the first year they organised over 1,000 households to plant 65,000 root crops and fruit trees, and established a *talipapa* or farmer’s market where locals pay less for produce and the farmers received higher returns. Developers is working to add value to crops like bananas and find new markets as well as running hazard drills, first aid courses and other events. They work closely with the whole community and have good relationships with local government.

Planting Mangroves

Developers met with members of the Tabon and Ipil *barangay* councils to outline their plan to plant one hectare in mangroves made possible by additional donations. The Ipil council discovered that the land they earmarked for the school planting would form the basis of a recreational park for sporting events, something the community lacked. In Tabon, Developers purchased propugales from fisherpeople. After learning about mangroves during science classes, the children of Ipil collected 162. Developers organised potting materials, bamboo stakes, fencing and signage. A team of 20 adults under council direction planted 2,000 mangroves in Tabon while 81 teachers and students took part in Ipil. The council cleared the site of debris before planting and will continue maintenance at Tabon. In Ipil each grade has responsibility for the area they planted. Grades 4–12 students are taking great pride in their new project. Developers is planning to award prizes to recognise their achievements.

Developers would like to plant at least five more hectares in mangroves. Donations can be designated to their project or by purchasing [mangroves](#) through Gifted.

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