



FACT SHEET

Municipality of Calabanga, Camarines Sur | Date last updated: 10 October 2014

QUICK FIGURES

No. of barangays:	48
Population:	78, 845
Male:	40,556
Female:	38, 260
No. of households:	14,601
Income classification:	1 st class

1. Brief historical background

- Founded as a small barangay by Spanish missionaries in 1578, the Spanish Military Government converted it into a full-fledged municipality on July 15, 1749, the date when it was separated from Quipayo as a political unit.
- At its founding, Calabanga had vast forests and swamps and an abundance of wildlife such as monkeys, wild chickens and forest lizards. Some say Calabanga derived its name from the Bicol word “Calabangan”, the plural term of “labang” or “litag”, a kind of snare for catching wild animals.
- Another legend says that Calabanga originated from the word “Calagbangan” meaning the wide, long and straight street spanning from the church through the poblacion, east to west, called locally as “Calabaan” or “Calacbangan”.

2. Climate and Landscape

- **Climate:** Calabanga’s climate is characterized by the absence of dry and wet season with a very pronounced rainfall from November to January.
 - Rainfall occurs throughout the year. However, low rainfall rates are observed during the months of April and May.
 - Higher rate of rainfall occurs from June to March. Northern Monsoon Winds (Amihan) prevail in the area from September to January while the strong South Monsoon (Habagat) mostly occurs in August.
 - Typhoons usually occur from September to January.
- **Landscape:** Calabanga is situated downstream in the Bicol River basin, where the main stream, Bicol River drains into the San Miguel bay.
 - The Bicol River is a medium-size river in Southern Luzon and drains an area of 3,771 square kilometers. Situated in the Bicol Peninsula, it embraces the central portion of Camarines Sur, the northern portion of Albay, and a portion of Camarines Norte.
 - The basin is oriented in a northwest-southeast direction and bounded on the east by a chain of volcanoes and on the west by highlands and lowhills. The flat alluvial land in the Bicol Plain occupies the area between the Eastern Bicol Cordillera and the Ragay Hills.
 - The runoff which is estimated annually at 5,100 million cubic meters, starts from the Mayon Volcano with an elevation of 4,421m, and meanders in a generally northwestward direction.
 - After being regulated through lakes Bato, Buhi, and Baao, the streamflow reaches the mainstream of the Bicol River which owing to its very gentle slope, is affected by tides as far as upstream of Naga City. (PAGASA)
 - Flood-producing rains in the basin from May to February are mainly due to tropical cyclone passages, and northeast monsoon.



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- San Miguel Bay and Bicol River are sources of abundant supply of fish of various species and other marine products.
- Calabanga is endowed with abundant natural resources. The major river systems, the Tigman, Hinaguianan and Inarihan Rivers are presently utilized for irrigation purposes. They originate their main tributaries from Mt. Isarog and flow down in the northwestern direction ultimately discharging to San Miguel Bay.
- It also has natural spring water resources found in the eastern portion of the municipality along the northwestern flanks of Mt. Isarog. Most of these are found to be potential sources for potable water supply of the municipality, aside from the Hamislag and Tawang Rivers.

3. Education

- There are 37 public elementary schools, 8 public high schools and 5 private schools that offer pre-school, grade school and high school.
- Two government-owned institutions are offering college and vocational courses.
- There are 8 private schools and 68 day care centres throughout the 48 barangays.
- Literacy rate is at 98.5%, according to the 2000 data of the National Statistics Office.

4. Health

- There are 3 health centres (1 at the poblacion area and 2 rural health units at the western and eastern part of the municipality) being manned by 3 physicians, 5 nurses, 18 midwives, 1 medical technologist, 1 dentist and 2 sanitary inspectors.
- There are also private medical and dental clinics and 6 pharmacies in the municipality.

5. Economic Activities

- Agriculture is the main source of income. Major crops produced are rice, corn, coconut, abaca, sugarcane, root crops and vegetables.
- Agricultural areas cover 7,603 hectares or more than half of the total land area.
- Next to agriculture are fishing and livestock-raising. The rich fishing grounds of San Miguel Bay and Bicol River are the sources of fish, shellfish, oysters, prawns, shrimps and other products.
- Under the One Town One Product (OTOP) Program of the government, the municipality supports and promotes the production of dried fish local known as *abo* which the town is known for.
- However, based on the 2012 municipal Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), there are 10, 674 households (65%) with income below poverty thresholds. These constituents source of income, are either fishing or farming, which are both seasonal in nature.

6. Environment

- The municipality has swamps and marshes with a total land area of approximately 680 hectares located in the barangays of Dominorog, Balatasan, Punta Tarawal, Balongay, San Bernardino, and Sibobo.
- It also has a national park, a part of Mount Isarog which Calabanga shares with other municipalities along its foot. This is a forest reserve/watershed area, hence no commercial logging exists. Calabanga's territory covers approximately 2,000 hectares of the total land area of Mount Isarog.



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7. Hazards and disasters

- Being a coastal municipality, Calabanga frequently experiences typhoons and floods. From the community risk assessments conducted, the municipality identified the following most damaging typhoons:
 - Typhoon Trix in 1952
 - Typhoon Joan (Sening) in 1970
 - Typhoon Irma (Anding) in 1981
 - Typhoon Dot (Saling) in 1985
 - Typhoons Betty (Herming) and Nina (Sisang) in 1987
 - Typhoon Lola (Monang) in 1993
 - Typhoon Angela (Rosing) in 1995
 - Typhoon Muifa (Unding), Tropical Storm Merbok (Violeta), Tropical Depression Winnie and Typhoon Nanmadol (Yoyong) in 2004, and
 - Typhoon Durian (Reming) in 2006.

- Twelve barangays, mostly coastal, are prone to storm surge and tsunami, 19 barangays are high-risk to floods while 16 barangays, mostly upland, are high-risk to landslide

DRR and ER Projects implemented

Project	Partner Organizations	Year/ Duration	Description
Emergency Response	Japanese Embassy CARE	2004	Relief distribution operation in 5 coastal barangays- Balatasan, Dominorog, Punta Tarawal, San Bernardino, and Balongay
Disaster Preparedness Project	World Bank (Small grants facility) CARE	2006	Disaster preparedness activities in 5 coastal barangays. Activities include DRR trainings, contingency planning workshops, and community drills.
Emergency Response and Rehabilitation Assistance	Canada Fund for Local Initiatives CARE	April-October 2007	Provided emergency response and rehabilitation assistance for the affected communities by Typhoon Durian. The project covered 1,700 families in four barangays for shelter and food security assistance, and 4 public schools for rehabilitation of classrooms.
ACCORD Project	European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) CARE Philippines Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNRD)	01 Jan 2007 – 30 Apr 2008	A community-based disaster risk reduction project that focused on strengthening the capacities of communities and local governments through trainings, contingency planning, community drills, public awareness, and small scale mitigation activities. The project covered 6 barangays and 6 schools in Balatasan, Balongay, Dominorog, Punta Tarawal, San Bernardino, and Cagsao.



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Project	Partner Organizations	Year/ Duration	Description
ACCORD 2 Project	ECHO CARE Nederland CNRD Agri-Aqua Development Coalition (AACD)	15 July 2008- 14 Jan 2010	The project consolidates, replicates and scales up the successes of ACCORD, covering 8 barangays and 33 schools.
ASCEND Project	ECHO CARE Nederland Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development (ACCORD) CNRD AACD Christian Aid	15 June 2010 – 14 Sept 2011	A 15-month DRR Project that aims to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability of communities, schools and local government units in high-risk areas through consolidating and scaling up of gains in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). ASCEND is the third phase of the ACCORD and ACCORD 2 projects.
Food Facility Project	European Union CARE Nederland CNRD AACD	15 Dec 2009 – 14 Dec 2011	The Project's objective is to contribute to improved food security and directly address the issues of food availability, access and use. There were 22 upland and coastal barangays covered. The Project provided farm inputs, post-harvest facilities, livelihood inputs, and fishing implements that complemented with ecosystem management and restoration activities (e.g. establishing the marine sanctuary, tree-growing) and capacity-building activities to support good governance (e.g. advocacy and public awareness, project cycle management training)

Other DRR – related activities implemented by the LGU and other organisations

The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council spearheads simultaneous and integrated actions to reduce disaster risks. Among these are the following:

1. Natural Resource Management: mangrove reforestation projects and planting of fruit bearing trees
2. Aggressive implementation of Ecological Solid Waste Management Program
3. Mainstreaming of DRR in local developments plans such as the Executive-Legislative Agenda and the Annual Investment Plan
4. Yearly insurance of facilities and vehicles
5. Maintenance of gabion
6. Continuing programs on health, education, livelihood, social services that reduce vulnerabilities and increase capacities of vulnerable groups.
7. Organization of pool of trainers for replication and sustainability of DRR initiatives
8. Procurement of basic emergency equipment
9. Housing programmes in partnership with NGOs and other government agencies



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