

Gigantes Islands Forest and Freshwater

Green-Gray Partnership
Project for Philippine Cities
and Municipalities

Carles, Iloilo

Ref No: GGI-00-MP-PT-2007

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With support from:



FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
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INTERNATIONAL





About the Green-Gray Partnership

Climate change can no longer be ignored. The raging waters of typhoons Ondoy in 2009 and Haiyan 2013 are seared in Philippine collective memory. In the span of three weeks in 2020, three typhoons battered the country, inflicting over a hundred fatalities and at least PHP 25 billion (USD 518 million) worth of damage. The Philippines urgently needs to harness nature to uplift communities not just because it's better for the planet, but because making the most of available resources is an economic necessity.

In the last quarter of 2021, just as the Philippines was reining in the pandemic, Conservation International and AECOM began the Green-Gray Partnership Project with eleven local cities and municipalities to kickstart the adoption of nature-based solutions.

Integrating green natural systems into gray infrastructure provides multi-function and cost-effective solutions. Green-gray combines natural elements with hard infrastructure to protect and restore natural processes and create healthier urban environments. The combination allows the creation of natural habitats or system functionality (green infrastructure) in a resilient and optimized manner (gray infrastructure). Many green-gray solutions incorporate wetland and forest habitats. As with all habitat creation/restoration projects, the success of these initiatives depends on an understanding of the ecological structure and function of the target habitats.

Green-gray infrastructure approaches can apply in coastal, freshwater, and terrestrial settings and accomplish a variety of project goals. The typical infrastructure services such as flood management, coastal protection, and improving water quality are delivered alongside other benefits such as safeguarding biodiversity, providing livelihoods, increasing public space, and even financial returns to local communities through carbon credits.

A key reference for this engagement is the *Practical Guide to Implementing Green-Gray Infrastructure* by the Green-Gray Community of Practice, which is led by Conservation International. The guide, published in 2020, provides green-gray case studies and walks

readers through the process of project preparation, design, and implementation. It also defines the critical elements of the green-gray approach:

1. Using science and engineering to produce operational efficiencies;
2. Using natural processes to maximize benefits (i.e. ecosystem services);
3. Increasing the value provided by projects by including social, environmental, and economic benefits; and
4. Using collaborative processes to organize, engage, and focus interests, stakeholders, and partners.

Conservation International selected the pioneer batch of Green-Gray partner cities and municipalities based on the following criteria:

- **Commitment to a Resilient Future** Good track record and strong interest for pursuing a climate-resilient future for their locality;
- **Drivers of Change** Positioned as municipal leaders for a sustainable future for the Philippines;
- **Rich and Diverse Natural Assets** Representation of the abundant biodiversity of the Philippines; and
- **Vulnerability to Impacts of Climate Change** Exposure to the impacts of climate change.

The Green-Gray Partnership Project was meant to equip local governments units (LGUs) with capacities to identify opportunities for the adoption of nature-based solutions and prepare concept notes to rally support for pilots. At the beginning of the project, it was essential to transfer knowledge of green-gray infrastructure through the guide and workshops focusing on case studies. This built a base from which the local governments drew from in order to craft a Statement of Intent and a Concept Design Note (Annex 1), both of which are contained in this document.

This document, containing a high-level design and assessment, may be used by the local governments to seek support for project preparation (in which the concept should be refined with further studies), detailed design, and implementation. Support may be sought from national government, financing institutions, grant giving foundations, and private sector partners.

Municipality of Carles, Iloilo, Philippines

Gigantes Islands Forests and Fresh Water

Gigantes Islands' Watershed Reforestation and Green-gray Improvement of Fresh Water Source Systems



Location
Municipality of Carles,
Iloilo Province, Visayas

Proposed Site
Gigantes Islands

Key Thematic Area
Watershed

Key Issue
Water Security

Green-Gray Solution
Retention Pond and Reforestation

**Proposed Implementation
Timeframe**
2-3 years

- Executing Agencies**
- Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office
 - Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office
 - Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 - Department of Tourism

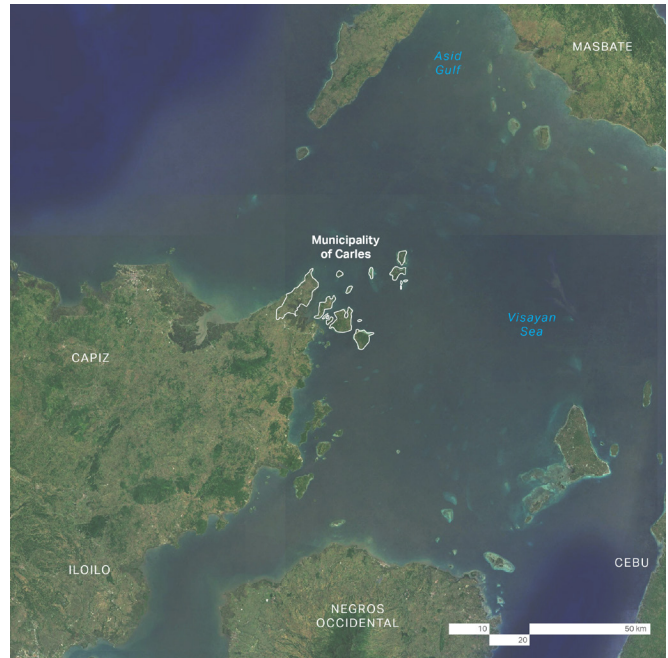
Project Aim
The proposed Green-Gray Infrastructure Solution aims to provide Gigantes Islands with an alternative source of water to alleviate its water security issues by harnessing water from the rainy season. Additionally, a reforestation program will help improve groundwater by acting as a natural filter for the surface runoff coming from the hills of both islands.

15 K
Benefitting Residents
source: Census, 2021

565
Hectares of Forestland potentially rehabilitated

2
Species Red Listed by IUCN
(International Union for Conservation of Nature)

Based only on assumptions and estimates; for verification in next stage



Carles Location Map



Carles Green-Gray Partnership Project Location Map



Overview

Islas de Gigantes or Gigantes Islands, with pristine white sand beaches, unique rock formations, and abundant fresh seafood, is a tourism gem of the Municipality of Carles in Northern Iloilo. While the recent tourist influx has provided the local fishing and farming communities with new livelihoods after the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan, it also poses challenges on the islands' meager fresh water supply and the habitats of endangered species.

The reforestation component of the proposed green-gray project seeks to recover the lost forest area of 565 hectares in the two major islands of Gigantes with the aim to restore the forest's rainwater holding capacity. The infrastructure components are retention ponds across the islands to augment fresh water supply during normal and extended dry seasons, satisfying the demand of both the locals and tourists.

Gigantes Island is one of the main tourist destinations of the Municipality of Carles that contributes to its local economy. Currently, the island experiences lack of reliable water supply that is coming from its groundwater during droughts and peak seasons where tourists flock to the island. Another issue that is that contributes to its unreliable water supply is its denuded timberlands due to the slash and burn farming practice before.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Targets

<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> 
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p> 
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 

Rationale

The white sand beaches and limestone formations of Gigantes Islands off the coast of the Municipality of Carles at the northern tip of Iloilo province are drawing crowds. Local communities, whose farming and fishing livelihoods were devastated by Typhoon Haiyan (2013), found new income streams through tourism. But what was once a hidden gem only known by word-of-mouth gained popularity at a rate that local resources could not handle. With no Level 3 Water Supply system yet and complex challenges in enforcing its forest land use plan, Carles risks its tourism and one-of-a-kind natural resources if water challenges are not addressed swiftly and sustainably.

Gigantes Islands

Gigantes group of islands in Municipality of Carles, Iloilo, is composed of two major islands (North and South Gigantes) with four barangays. A total of 15,230 people inhabit the islands about 25 kilometers away from the town proper and mainly accessible by small passenger boats. Due to its white beaches, lagoon, and rock formations, Gigantes Islands ranks second to Boracay Island in terms of tourist arrivals in Western Visayas, Philippines. Tourists are attracted to Carles, especially Gigantes Islands, for several reasons, top of it is the abundance of cheap and delicious seafood. Scallops are not a rare treat here as the Visayan Sea is one of the most productive fishing grounds in the country, dominated small-scale fisheries.

The IUCN identified Gigantes as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots due to the presence of cave-dwelling and vulnerable Gekkonid Lizard (*Gekko gigante*) and critically endangered Island Forest Frog (*Platymantis insulates*) endemic to the southern island. Gigantes is also home to seven endemic bird species: *Centropus viridis*, *Ninox philippinensis*, *Caprimulgus manillensis*, *Collocalia troglodytes*, *Dendrocopos maculatus*, *Ixos philippinus*, and the *Dicaeum pygmaeum*. In addition, both islands are considered as ancient burial grounds where large secondary burial jars and pots were excavated. Carbon dating done by the National Museum showed that the pots were made at around 200 BC.

Gigantes Islands is one of the six conservation priority sites of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment.

Water scarcity

Unfortunately, the present ground fresh water sources of the islands, which is generally a Level 1 water supply system, cannot satisfy the daily requirement

of its inhabitants. This fresh water shortage is further aggravated by the influx of tourists particularly during dry season, making it a highly priced commodity in the island. The number of visitors in 2017 grew eightfold at 124,701 compared to the first wave of tourists in 2013 at 15,498 (Foundation for the Philippine Environment, 2019). Inadequate fresh water supply has a lot of consequences affecting people's health, land productivity, and biodiversity.

Undeniably, Gigantes Islands is highly vulnerable to climate change. The local government of Carles points forest cover denudation as the main reason for scarcity of fresh water supply in Gigantes Islands. From the original 600.2 hectares of forest cover of the two major islands in the 1930s, only 6% (37 hectares) remain in patches. Deforestation is attributed to firewood cutting and slash-and-burn agriculture. The mangrove forests of the northern coasts have dwindled as well. The local government has attempted to pilot native tree planting programs, but the microclimates in the denuded areas have inhibited seedling growth.

Fresh water is typically sourced from a few groundwater wells and, during dry spells, shipped from the mainland. In a municipality where over 70% of households subsist with Php 5,000 monthly or less, this is not sustainable (Carles Municipal Socio-Economic Profile, 2015; poverty threshold: Php 9,452).

If Carles fails to reverse the forest condition of Gigantes Islands, the cave-dwelling indigenous species will also become extinct. The residents of the islands will remain dependent on expensive fresh water, depriving them of proper sanitation and hygiene.

Efforts to protect Gigantes

There is already a Forest Land Use Plan that incorporates development of Gigantes Islands' Forest area. By 2023, through its devolution plan required by the Mandanas Ruling, the local government targets to create a dedicated Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) to lead the implementation of its environment-related projects and policies.

The Municipal Ordinance No. 2016-11 has made official the Gigantes Islands Marine Protected Area (MPA) and defined the activities allowed and disallowed for different zones within the 8,746-hectare area. Management of the MPA is assigned to the Island Sustainable Development Alliance (ISDA), an umbrella organization of community-based groups involved in disaster preparedness and natural resource management.

The House Bill 7884 or “An Act Declaring Islas de Gigantes as an Eco-tourism Zone,” already passing Congress in 2020 and now awaiting Senate deliberation, will help sustain green-gray infrastructure projects and nature-based solutions. The act aims for the “holistic development of Islas de Gigantes into tourist destinations to stimulate investment and create job opportunities for while also ensuring the protection of the natural resources within the areas for enjoyment of the present and future generations.”



Denuding forest cover in Gigantes Norte Island's watershed

Project Proposal

The Municipality of Carles highly considers the concept of nature-based solutions as an intervention that will significantly address the problem of fresh water scarcity in Gigantes Islands and help its communities to adapt to climate change. The pilot green-gray infrastructure solution that Carles proposes to implement involves two complementary components.

First is the rehabilitation of Gigantes Islands' watershed, that is, reforestation of 565 hectares of denuded public forest cover. This intervention will eventually revert and ultimately sustain the rainwater holding capacity of the forest, hence provide sustainable source of fresh water supply. Rehabilitated watersheds also guarantee the recovery of the almost drying and dying caves in Gigantes Islands, thereby preventing extinction of the indigenous and endangered gecko and frog species. The reforestation project's agroforestry modality will supplement the fishing occupations

of most community members with land-based livelihood opportunities.

Second is the improvement of fresh water sources through inland retention ponds that collect, store, treat and disburse the rainwater within the Gigantes Island to ensure water security for the residents and visitors of the island. Local vegetation, soils, and rocks shall be used in the creation of these small reservoirs. These may be located beside the communal groundwater sources improvised by the Barangay officials. Since the availability of land cannot be confirmed at this stage, design criteria for site selection is provided to guide scoping of the island for potential sites that can developed into retention ponds to collect rainwater coming from the surface runoff from the uplands.

Establish carrying capacity limits

It is recommended that the Municipality of Carles immediately undertakes a carrying capacity study for tourism in the Gigantes Islands. Without such limits and policies that enforce them, developments and visits can go on unchecked. Degradation of the site's environment and waters may lead to a closure for rehabilitation like that of the nearby Boracay Island in 2018.

This anticipates that the islands will soon be officially declared an Eco-tourism Zone and will need a Sustainable Tourism Plan to help manage growth. The data from a carrying capacity study will serve as the baseline for the plan, for the green-gray infrastructure, and help the municipal government set interim limits while a plan is still being developed.

Green-gray infrastructure impact

Reforestation of Gigantes Islands and using green-gray infrastructure in Carles may unlock multiple benefits including:

- Reduce domestic water shortages
- Improve groundwater recharge
- Restore the forest ecosystems
- Generate jobs associated with forest management
- Sustainable tourism growth

Ultimately, the pilot can make a case for the municipality wide adoption of nature-based strategies to:

- Reliably supply all residents and visitors with clean water and sanitation
- Conserve critical habitats and its endangered species

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Targets



Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all



By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels



By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products



Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities



Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts



Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Indicative Implementation Arrangements

Precise implementation arrangements remain to be determined at the pre-design preparation phase, but it is foreseen that the project shall be led and monitored by the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office.

Support may be sought from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, which has an Iloilo campus, and the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, which has already conducted trainings with the local community-based organizations. Partnership with the national government may happen through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Tourism.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

To establish the GGI as an effective solution to substitute conventional infrastructure projects, a set of metrics should be established to evaluate its results:

- Monitoring of the water level in the retention pond
- Monitoring of water quality in the retention pond to ensure that the water can be properly treated for potable use
- Monitoring of the forest growth
- Conducting surveys with the residents to ensure that everyone has adequate water supply
- Closely monitoring number of tourists to ensure that enough water supply won't be depleted

Due Diligence

This document contains a green-gray infrastructure design concept and high-level assessments. More details are required in order to refine this concept into a robust and detailed proposal; thus, the project preparation phase for this project should include:

- Feasibility Study
- Environmental and social impact assessment or environmental and social management framework
- Stakeholder consultations at national and project level implementation including with indigenous people, if relevant
- Gender assessment and action plan
- Operations and maintenance plan, if relevant
- Loan or grant operation manual, as appropriate
- Co-financing commitment letters

If required, the preparation of this project may include the following studies:

- Diagram of the theory of change
- Economic and financial model with key assumptions and potential stressed scenarios
- Pre-feasibility study
- Evaluation report of previous project
- Results of environmental and social risk screening

Conservation International's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) framework

At Conservation International (CI), we are committed to promoting human rights by reducing equity gaps and facilitating the enhancement of social and environmental sustainability. All of our projects are held to strict social and environmental principles as agreed upon and laid out by internationally accepted standards such as the Community, Biodiversity, and Carbon standard, as well as the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) safeguards. However, CI is taking our responsibility to communities and the environment even further with a commitment to tracking and monitoring Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) benefits through our Environmental and Social Safeguards System (CISS), a system that exceeds international standards. To achieve maximum socio-environmental and climate benefits plus long-term sustainability of any project, we believe that communities must be at the center and actively participate in the design of any conservation initiative in which we engage. Central to this, CI engages communities in:

1. Developing the project components, including governance, management processes, and distribution mechanisms in a consultative, transparent and participatory manner with relevant stakeholders (Conservation Agreements ensure that all parties are heard and decisions are made jointly).
2. Addressing gender inequality in all of our conservation programming, monitoring, and reporting efforts.
3. Guaranteeing the long-term financial viability of the project through optimizing project implementation while maximizing benefits.
4. Prioritizing non-monetary benefits whenever possible to increase the number of beneficiaries and better guarantee long-term project success.

ANNEX

Design Note

Statement of Problem and Thematic Area

The lack of reliable source of water supply for both northern and southern islands of Gigantes is posing a threat to the community's water security as well as to Carles' prime tourism attraction. The LGU of has already identified that the groundwater sources that serve the islands are becoming more and more unreliable. The threat of saltwater intrusion on their island's natural reserves are also a major challenge as the islands doesn't have other alternative sources of water supply. There were already occasions where water had to be shipped from the mainland to provide adequate source of water to the community. One contributor for the unreliability of the water supply is the denuded timberlands of both islands. According to the LGU, the farmers of the islands previously practiced slash-and-burn to the point that the forest can't recover anymore.



Gekko gigante,
Significant fauna species in Gigantes Island's watershed



Platymantis insulatus,
Significant fauna species in Gigantes Island's watershed

Project Aim

The proposed Green-Gray Infrastructure Solution aims to provide Gigantes Islands with an alternative source of water to alleviate its water security issues by harnessing water from the rainy season. Additionally, a reforestation program will help improve groundwater by as acting as a natural filter for the surface runoff coming from the hills of both islands.



Denuding forest cover in Gigantes Norte Island's watershed



Denuding forest cover in Gigantes Norte Island's watershed

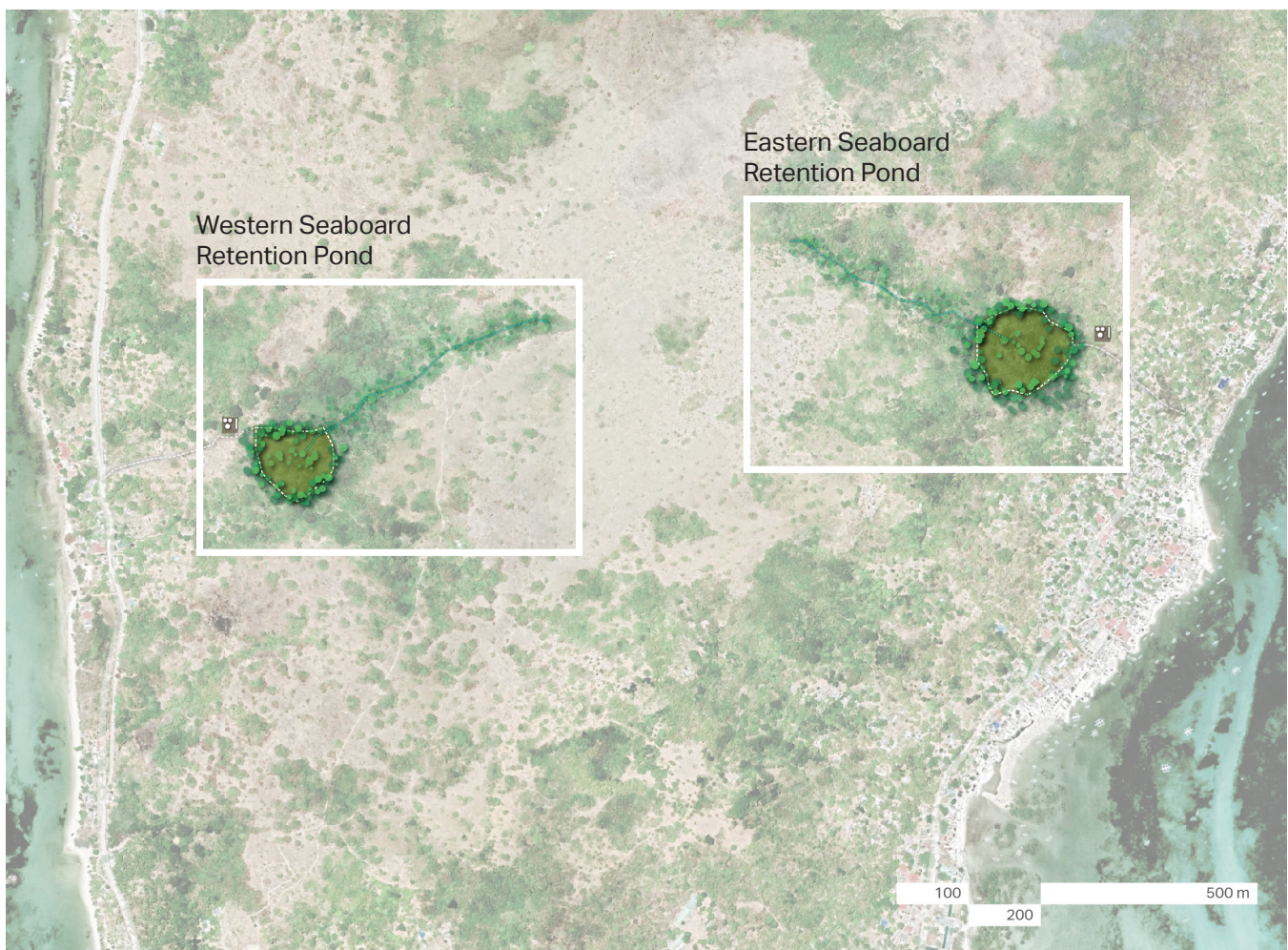
Green-Gray Infrastructure Strategy

Due to lack of information and data that can be gathered by the LGU specifically regarding potential sites that can be developed, the approach for the Municipality of Carles is to propose an indicative location for the potential development of retention ponds. The primary focus of this approach is to provide the LGU with a design consideration in terms of site selection as they proceed with the next stage of the Green-Gray Infrastructure development.

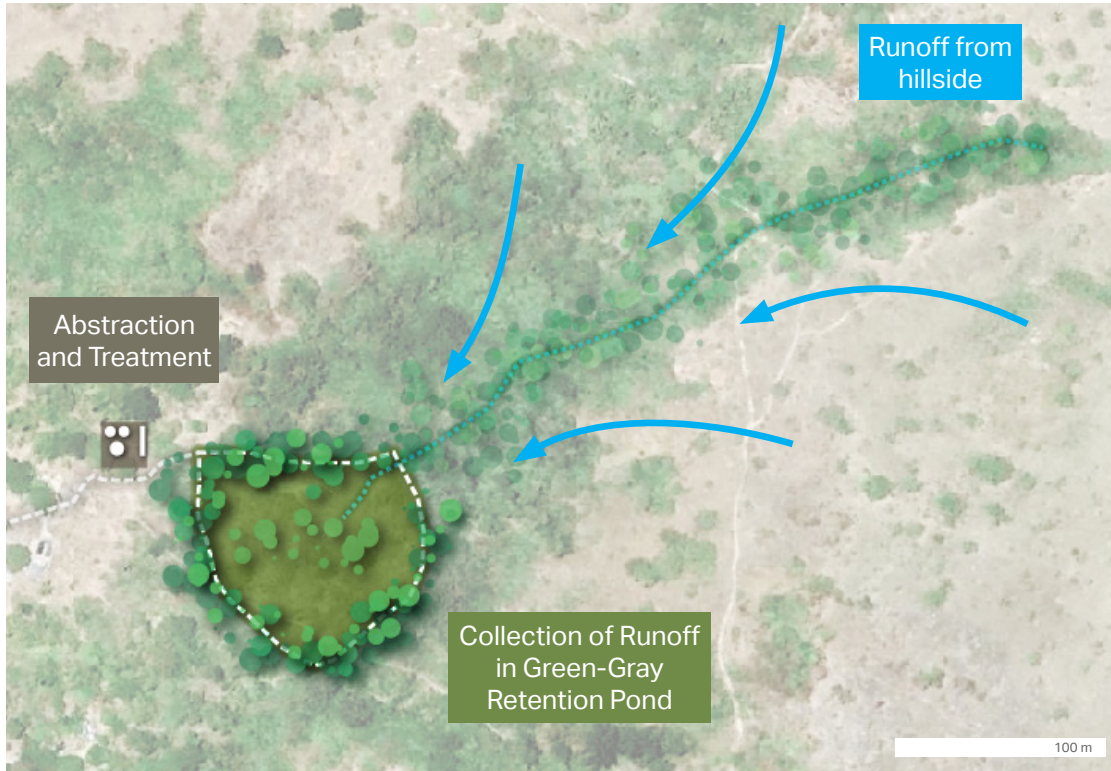
The primary consideration for the site selection is that the retention pond should be in an area where the natural topography will help collect the surface runoff during rainy season and direct it towards the chosen site. The selected site should be big enough to cater to the projected demand of the residents while also taking into consideration the average

annual rainfall within the islands. This information will provide a better understanding on the capacity of the retention pond. An abstraction and treatment facility will be required to treat the collected rainwater in the retention pond for potable use of the community. After treating the water, an overhead storage tank will be used to store the treated water for distribution to the residents of the island.

To reduce the amount of treatment required, a pilot reforestation program along the ridges of the hills can help filter the surface runoff from any sediments. This will also improve groundwater retention of the island. The reforestation program will then be expanded to other parts of the island to bring back its former timberlands.

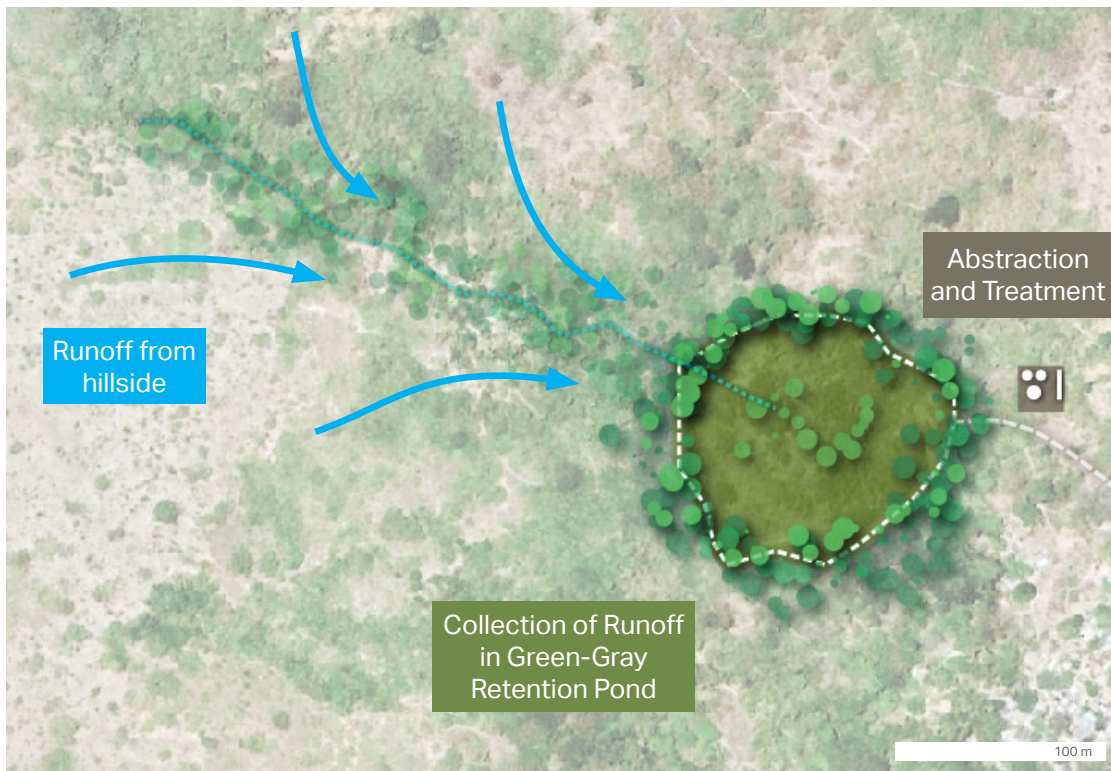


Carles GGI Concept Strategy Plan



Carles GGI Concept Strategy Blow-up Plan: Northern Island - Western Seaboard

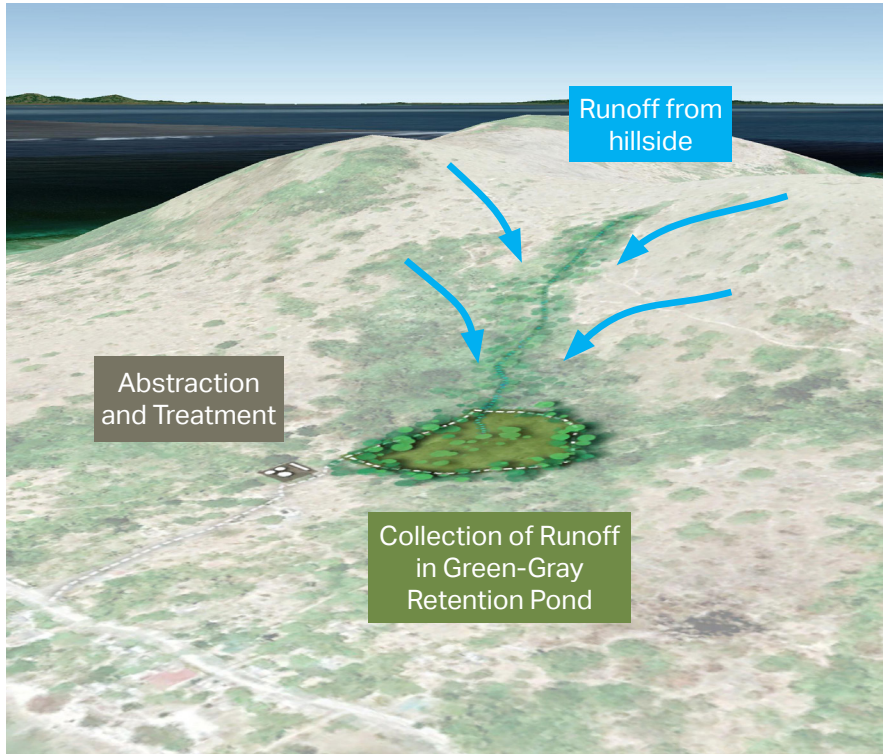
1.0 ha
total land area for Retention Pond



Carles GGI Concept Strategy Blow-up Plan: Northern Island - Eastern Seaboard

1.3 ha
total land area for Retention Pond

Green-Gray Infrastructure Concept Strategy

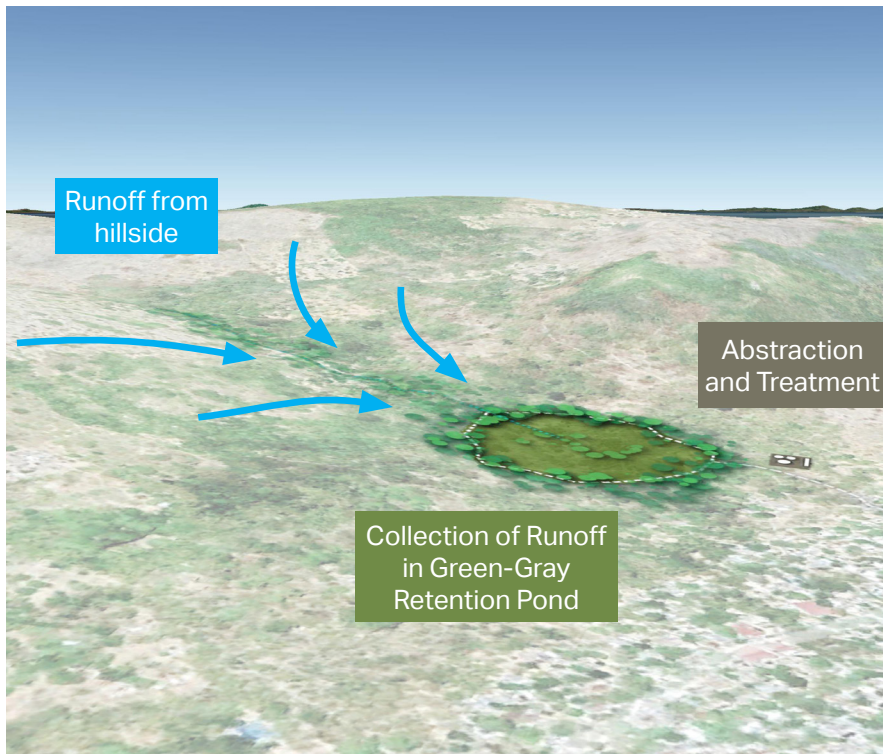


Carles GGI Concept Strategy Aerial View: Western Seaboard



Retention pond

For collection of water runoff collected from hillside.



Carles GGI Concept Strategy Aerial View: Eastern Seaboard



Abstraction and Treatment

Treatment plant for collected raw water that is stored and eventually distributed throughout municipality.

Benefits of a GGI Solution

The proposed GGI solution will provide the LGU guidelines and a framework in selecting potential sites within the islands for the retention ponds. These retention ponds will primarily cater to the needs of the residents; secondly, it will also boost the tourism industry; lastly, it will improve the natural profile of the island that will enhance its biodiversity.

Integrated Holistic Approach

The proposed GGI Solution is a pilot project that is envisioned to be potentially scaled-up or replicated to the other parts of the city. Whilst, the proposed solution is addressing the key issue at hand, it is important to note that addressing the root cause of the problem is essential—that is, the regulation of land use in environmentally critical areas and protection of forestlands.

The LGU should also develop a more comprehensive and sensitive tourism planning for Gigantes Island to ensure that the water supply would be enough to cater to both residents and visitors. Responsible management of number of tourists will help the island be more self-sufficient and sustainable.

Implementation Period

Based on the LGU's infrastructure prioritization plan, they are proposing a timeline of 2-3 years to prepare, implement and construct this GGI solution. Due to lack of data and information readily available, additional studies and scoping work shall be required to validate and collect more information regarding the key issues identified by the LGU and the assumptions that have provided during the concept design stage. The proposed project timeline shall cover the following phases:

1. Pre-design Phase

*estimated at 3-6 months;
potentially varies due to data collection and surveying*

This will include all the necessary study, scoping and data collection needed to establish, verify, and gather information required to proceed with a detailed engineering design.

2. Design Phase

estimated at 2-4 months

A detailed engineering design shall be required to fully develop the conceptual design after using the verified data to accurately design the infrastructure according to the required specifications to address the key issue.

3. Implementation Phase

estimated at 12-36 months

This will include compliance with required regulations/standards, seeking approval of concerned agencies, and observance of due diligence. Upon obtaining the necessary approvals and permits, the construction of the infrastructure or implementation of the prescribed program shall be done.

4. Operation, Maintenance and Adaptive Management

periodical

This shall include periodic monitoring of the infrastructure, maintenance and repair if required, evaluation of the impacts to surrounding communities, rehabilitation and retrofitting if required.

Facts and figures

1.

AECOM launched when a handful of employees from design and engineering companies shared a dream of creating an industry-leading firm dedicated to making the world a better place.

2.

AECOM became an independent company formed by the merger of five entities. While our official founding was in 1990, many of our predecessor firms had distinguished histories dating back more than 120 years.

3.

Since then, more than 50 companies have joined AECOM and, in 2007, we became a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange.

4.

As the world's trusted infrastructure consulting firm with an unrivaled heritage delivering design, planning, engineering, consulting and construction management solutions.

AECOM in the Philippines

Established in 1996, AECOM in the Philippines has grown into a 200+ strong team of planners, engineers, environmental scientists, geologists, landscape architects and technical management specialists driven by a common purpose to deliver a better world.

Creating Sustainable Legacies

We are leading the change towards a more sustainable and equitable future by partnering with our clients to provide solutions that help them achieve their environmental and social value ambitions and advancing sustainable business operations to help prevent the worst impacts of climate change.



47,000 people



Fortune 500 #163



Work across seven continents



2 Million Work Hours Awards



Revenue \$13.2 billion in fiscal year 2020



100% Rating on Corporate Equality Index / Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality 2021

Accolades

- ENR rankings No 1
- Environment Firm
- Transportation Design Firm
- Facilities Design Firm
- Mixed-Used Buildings
- Education Buildings
- Aviation
- Highways
- Chemical Remediation
- Top 10 Military Friendly company 2020
- Military Friendly® Top 10 Company
- Military Friendly® Top 10 Supplier
- Diversity Program
- Military Friendly® Top 10 Employer
- Military Friendly® Top 10 Spouse Employer
- National safety council: 155 Perfect Record Awards
- Achieved a minimum of 12 consecutive months without a recordable injury or illness.
- For each award, achieved a minimum of one million consecutive hours without an injury or illness that resulted in days away from work and zero fatalities.



Bogota, Colombia (C) Conservation International

Since 1987, Conservation International (CI) has worked to spotlight and secure the critical benefits that nature provides to humanity.

Combining fieldwork with innovations in science, policy and finance, we’ve helped protect more than 6 million square kilometers (2.3 million square miles) of land and sea across more than 70 countries. Today, with offices in more than two dozen countries and a worldwide network of thousands of partners, our reach is truly global. But we couldn’t have made it this far without you. Your contributions support our work to protect nature for the benefit of us all.

CI’s work in Asia-Pacific began in 1989 with a pledge to protect some three dozen of the Earth’s biodiversity hotspots, including the Philippine archipelago and the Sundaland rainforests of Southeast Asia.

Since then, our focus in Asia-Pacific has expanded across the region to include other ocean and forest areas considered critical to human well-being. We help improve food security, support innovative financing for conservation projects and establish protected area networks that encompass essential ecosystems.

CI’s unique combination of experience with ecosystem conservation and restoration, community co-design, and stakeholder leadership allows us to advise and lead [green-gray initiatives](#) around the world in collaboration with local, regional and national governments and engineering partners.

Priorities

- **Stabilizing our climate by protecting and restoring nature**
- **Doubling ocean protection**
- **Expanding planet-positive economies**

About AECOM

AECOM is the world's trusted infrastructure consulting firm, delivering professional services throughout the project lifecycle — from planning, design and engineering to program and construction management. On projects spanning transportation, buildings, water, new energy and the environment, our public- and private-sector clients trust us to solve their most complex challenges. Our teams are driven by a common purpose to deliver a better world through our unrivaled technical expertise and innovation, a culture of equity, diversity and inclusion, and a commitment to environmental, social and governance priorities. AECOM is a *Fortune 500* firm and its Professional Services business had revenue of \$13.2 billion in fiscal year 2020. See how we are delivering sustainable legacies for generations to come at [aecom.com](https://www.aecom.com) and [@AECOM](https://twitter.com/AECOM).