**Republic of the Philippines**

**ISABELA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Cabagan, Isabela**

**RESTORING FOREST LANDSCAPES FOR THE PEOPLE,**

**CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY**

**NARRATIVE REPORT**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Addressing environmental issues like biodiversity loss and climate change requires the regeneration of forest ecosystems. An ambitious initiative to restore forest landscapes with an emphasis on benefits to people, climate, and biodiversity was introduced by two researchers and partners from the University of the Sunshine Coast (UNISC), Queensland, Australia, For. Nestor Gregorio and For. Liz Ota in partnership with Visayas State University through Prof. Rotacio Grawoso. This proposed project, Project Oriole "Restoring Forest Landscapes for the People, Climate, and Biodiversity" was attended by the Campus Executive Officer, Dr. Emerson V. Barcellano, Campus Executive Assistant, Dr. Anastacio Sogie G. Saguibo, the directors and deans of the different units, faculty members from the College of Forestry and Environmental Management and staff from Planning and Development Office. This undertaking aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) themes, particularly SDG 2, SDG 13, SDG 15, and SDG 17.

1. **OBJECTIVE**

Reforestation of the degraded areas within the selected upland areas in Isabela and Cagayan for carbon trading within the next 40 years is the project's main goal, with the increased forest cover helping to improve biodiversity and slow down climate change with the help of the Local Government Unit, partners from different agencies, students, and the involvement of local community through Peoples Organizations (POs). Beyond reforestation, the project sought to improve reforestation project design and funding, increase stakeholder engagement, afforestation and revegetation, and provide livelihood projects, socioeconomic aspects, and carbon stock accumulation.

1. **HIGHLIGHTS**

The project began with an extensive assessment of the different potential areas in Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino to identify the most suitable areas for the project during the first quarter of 2023. The project team of Project Oriole is currently seeking different stakeholders for their commitment and possible partnership. The Project Oriole initially considered ISU Cabagan as the implementing partner for the said 40-year engagement which will benefit the institution and the stakeholders. Also, this project aimed to build awareness about the project's goals and empower the community to take an active role in conservation efforts.

Looking ahead, the project's future plans include expanding reforestation efforts, deepening community engagement, and maintaining a steadfast focus on monitoring and evaluating the ecological impact. The goal is to develop a replicable model for sustainable forest restoration, benefiting people, climate, and biodiversity in Isabela and inspiring similar projects worldwide.









