

Background

Due to the significance of Manila Bay to the country, and in consideration of past efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay, PEMSEA has provided assistance to build the capacity of national and local governments and other key stakeholders to work together and set in place a viable and long-term management program for Manila Bay, and its watershed areas. The Manila Bay Environmental Management Project (MBEMP) is being implemented through the concerted efforts of various local and national government agencies, academic institutions, the private sector and civil society groups, with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) serving as the lead agency.

One of the key outputs of the MBEMP is the *Manila Bay Area Environmental Atlas*. The basis for the *Atlas* is the Manila Bay Area's Integrated Information Management System for Coastal and Marine Environments (IIMS) and the Manila Bay GIS database that were developed through the support and efforts of the interagency and multisectoral coordinating committee and technical working groups and the GEF/UNDP/IMO PEMSEA Regional Programme.



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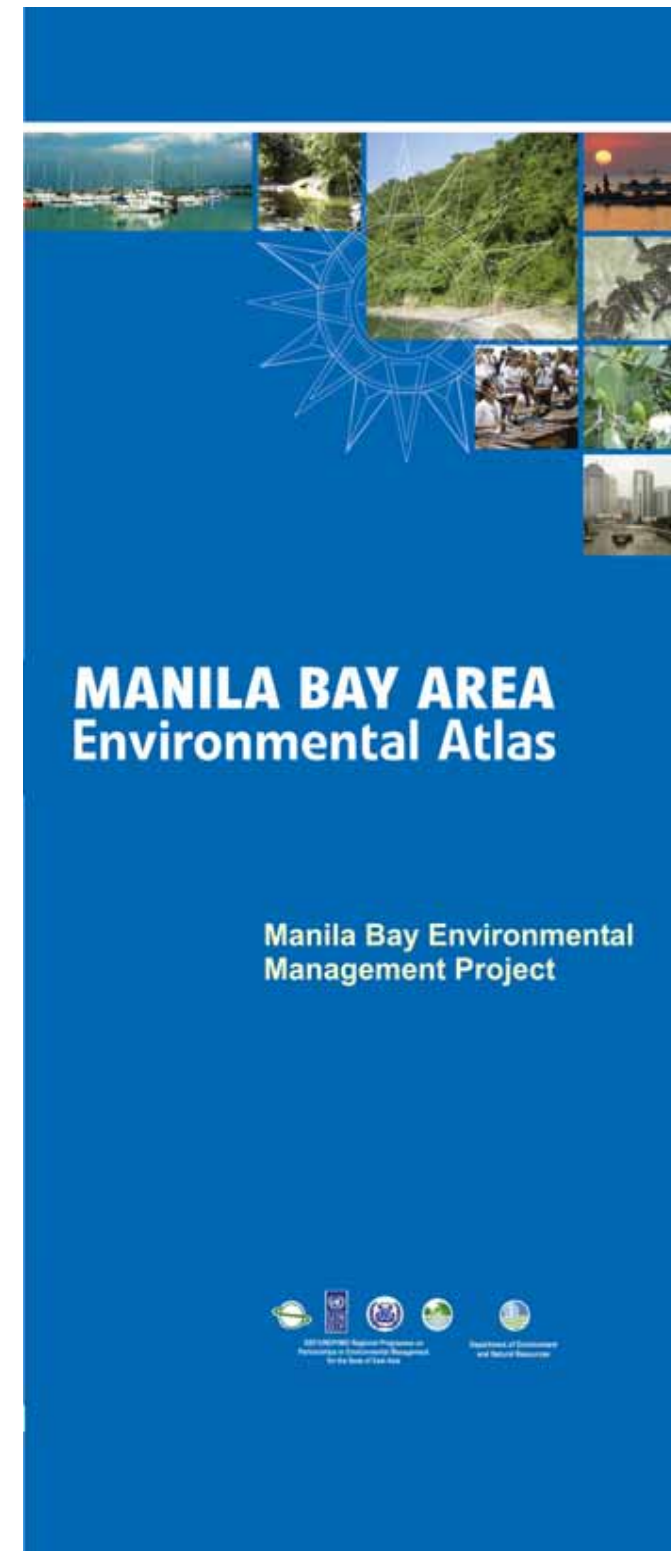
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MANILA BAY AREA
Environmental Atlas

Manila Bay Environmental
Management Project



MANILA BAY AREA ENVIRONMENTAL ATLAS

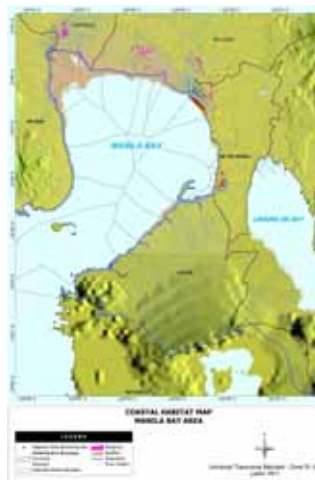
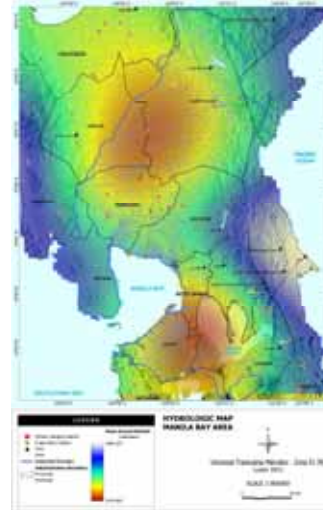


The *Manila Bay Area Environmental Atlas* provides a relevant source of information necessary in policy formulation, planning, decision-making, monitoring and integrated river basin and coastal area management. The *Atlas* describes physical, biological and socioeconomic characteristics of the Manila Bay Area (MBA), provides evidence of the valuable contribution of the habitats and resources to the people and economy of the area, delineates the various environmental issues in and around the bay, and reviews the actions that have been implemented to overcome challenges to sustainable development and management of the MBA.

The *Atlas* is a compilation of data presented in thematic and composite maps, graphs and tables describing the characteristics and status or condition of the MBA. Each map is usually accompanied by a textual description of related findings, socioeconomic significance, risks and challenges that affect the MBA. Photographs are included in the document for better understanding of the places and features of the area.

Physical Characteristics

The *Atlas* describes the physical features of the Manila Bay Area, such as topography, slope, bathymetry, geology and mineral resources, soil types, hydrology, groundwater, rivers, and the sediment and water quality of Manila Bay. Natural hazards—fault lines, volcanoes, and areas that are prone to flooding, landslides, liquefaction and accelerated sea-level rise—are also described in this section. Mitigating and contingency measures to address both human-made and natural risks are currently being developed using the information from the *Atlas*.



Biological Characteristics

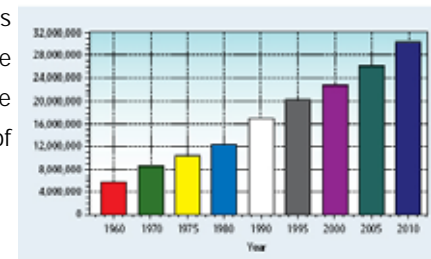
The key biological features—from the mountains to the sea—are described in the *Atlas*. The importance of and major issues affecting forests, grasslands, coastal and marine resources, biodiversity and protected areas are discussed to highlight the need for a holistic and

integrated approach to the management of the economy, environment and resources in the area.

Socioeconomic Characteristics

Relevant information on demographic aspects, major economic activities and land-use features are explained in the *Atlas*. Due to its natural harbor and strategic location, Manila Bay became the gateway to the country's political, socioeconomic and cultural center. Its natural endowments, geography, and land and sea attributes provide livelihood, food, recreation, tourist attractions, transportation, access to international trade routes, and many other goods and services. The MBA currently contributes 52.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product or GDP. However, development concerns and ensuing environmental problems affect the sustainability of economic growth and the resources and ecosystems, and the health and welfare of around 25 million people living in the watershed areas. The *Atlas* presents some good practices that have been implemented and recommendations to ensure the sustainable development of MBA.

Population in the MBA



Land-use Classification in Bulacan

