



Sicogon Island's 360-degree approach to Sustainability: Inclusive Growth

Following the sustainability principles of Ayala Land, as demonstrated in other tourism estate developments such as Lio in El Nido Palawan, Sicogon is envisioned to be a model for sustainable planning and construction. Its retail shops and beachfront hotels will only have three floors and will have a setback of at least 40 meters from the coastline. 282 hectares will be kept as protected forested area.

Inclusive Growth through Capacity Building and Local Employment

The upward trajectory of tourist arrivals and emerging businesses in Sicogon paves the way for greater employment potential for the community. The development of the island into a sustainable tourism estate involves continuing community engagement, skills training, and capacity building initiatives.

While development is underway, ALI is working closely with Ayala Foundation and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) as well as partner schools Leon Ganson Polytechnic College (LGPC) and Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College (NIPSC) to provide training for local talents, and to prepare them for employment on the island or by ALI partner network companies.

ALI's commitment to sustainable communities has made it easier for residents to start or own new micro-financed businesses that serve tourists and future locators. These include services such as Nito weaving, fish processing, and production of kayak and tourist boats.

ALI's integrated "train and employ" approach has produced a total of over 300 college scholars and local trainees in various tourism-related fields. Nearly 500 locals have now been employed in Sicogon Island.

The company plans to source 90 percent of the estate's workforce from the local community, which will translate to 25,000 jobs in the next coming years. Approximately P1 billion annually in earnings for the community will be generated from business opportunities derived from prospective retail and commercial establishments.

ALI is also engaging the community in the conservation of its native vegetation and mangroves. The team has already planted 18,000 saplings, 10,000 of which were already propagated in its own tree nurseries. ALI has also ensured the use of endemic species to make the development more climate resilient, ultimately developing the island into a premier tourist destination that is in harmony with nature.

Ayala Land's continuing efforts to promote social development and environmental stewardship in Sicogon Island, and in all of its developments nationwide, have been geared towards redefining the eco-tourism estate business model.