

# Integrated Development Project in Support to Indigenous Communities in the Caraga Region

Partnership Project with FUNDESO

The enactment of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) in 1997 provided for the legal recognition of the Indigenous Cultural Communities' (ICCs) rights over their ancestral domains. The embodiment of this is the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) which is issued to indigenous groups who are successful in their applications or petitions. The same enactment also recognized the ICCs' rights to identify and implement their own community plans. However, in the Caraga Region, where seven (7) major Indigenous Groups reside, there are no development activities in support of Ancestral Domain Management Planning have been carried out thus far.

The over-all goal of the project is to secure sustainable improvement in the quality of life of 18 indigenous communities in the Caraga Region. The project has three (3) main components currently being implemented in partnership with the Fundacion Desarrollo Sostenido (FUNDESO), and these are: (1) Land Tenure Security; (2) Ancestral Domain Management Planning, (3) Support to ADSDPP Implementation. The two (2) phases of the project both run for 18 months, with each phase having nine (9) IP communities as partners.

PAFID is directly assisting the partner communities in the (1) filing of fully accomplished applications for Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT); (2) formulation of their Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans and in the (3) implementation of significant activities/development projects defined in their community plans, through provision of funds and technical support. These significant activities involve the development and design and implementation of critical social infrastructure, conservation measures and livelihood activities to realize their ADSDPPs.



Top to bottom: Building the frame for a ferro-cement water reservoir; seedling awaiting planting at the community nursery; a community elder conducts a ritual and blesses the new farm machinery given by the project.