

About Region IX

Introduction



Region IX is situated in the Western part of Mindanao, composed of the provinces of Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay and the Cities of Isabela, Dapitan, Dipolog, Pagadian and Zamboanga with Pagadian City is the Regional Center.

1. Demographic Profile

Zamboanga Peninsula	
Provinces	4
Cities	5
Municipalities	78
Barangays	2,005
Cong. districts	10

Province/City	Capital	Population (2007)	Estimated IP Population	Area (km ²)	No. of Municipalities with IP	No. of Barangays with IP
Zamboanga del Norte	Dipolog City	907,238	299,389	7,301.0	25	691
Zamboanga del Sur	Pagadian City*	914,278	301,712	4,499.5	26	681
Zamboanga Sibugay	Ipil	546,186	173,688	3,607.8	16	389
Zamboanga City		774,407	242,388	1,483.4		34
Basilan	Isabela City**	496,503	277,124	140.7	11	210

* Pagadian City is the Regional Center of R-IX

** Isabela City is a component city and capital of the province of Basilan. Isabela City continues to be under the jurisdiction of Basilan for the administration of provincially-devolved services and functions. But for the administration of regional services, the city is part of the Zamboanga Peninsula Region despite the rest of Basilan being under the authority of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

2. Ethnographic Groupings

Ethnic Group	IP Estimated Population					Total
	Zambo. Sur	Zambo. Norte	Zambo. Sibugay	Zambo. City	Basilan	
SUBANEN	224,775	161,670	93,792	104,227	1,201	585,665
YAKAN	1,509	2,395	1,737	29,087	205,354	240,082
KALIBUGAN	12,068	44,908	36,474	19,391	1,825	114,666
SAMAL/SAMA	36,205	53,893	27,790	50,901	46,665	215,454
BADJAO	27,154	35,927	13,895	38,782	21,961	137,719

3. Socio-Economic Profile

Soil cultivation is the main economy of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in region 9. Their system of planting rice is one that needs no permanent system of irrigation. They depend on the coming of the rain. This is done especially by those in the highlands. But those in the lowlands learned to practice wet agriculture.

IPs in the highlands spent a great deal of time hunting, fishing and gathering food for their livelihood. This is true to Subanen, Kalibugan and Yakan tribes. While the Badjao tribe engages in fishing, Sea shell gathering, Agar-agar planting and mat weaving as their means of livelihood.

Major Products	
Agricultural (Raw and Manufactured)	Rice and Corn Coconut Crude Oil Canned Tuna Cassava Banana
Non-Agricultural	Seashells shell craft

Housing Characteristics

Nipa hut is the most common roofing material of the tribal household. Majority of the Tribes live in structures with walls made of natural material like bamboo and few lives in houses built with concrete or cement. The most commonly used floor material is soil, followed by cement and only few of urban households have cement floors; Soil flooring is almost universal in rural areas.

Water Supply and Toilet Facilities

Mainly the rural households use river/stream water for household work. Piped water is available only in urban areas Artisan wells are the major source of drinking water of the tribe. Some of tribal households have some type of toilet facilities, however only few have hygienic toilets (Septic tank/ modern toilets, water sealed) and most of the households have no facility at all.

Possession of Durable Goods

The possession of durable goods is another indicator of a household's socioeconomic level, although these goods may also provide other benefits. Possession of household durable goods like Television, Motorcycle, Sewing Machine and Telephone is not common in IP community; since most families cannot afford them.

Source of Income

Majority of the IPs have adopted sedentary agriculture. Most of them are now planting corn, rice and other root crops. A bulk of their produce is being sold to the market so that they can buy other basic necessities such as salt, kerosene, sugar, etc. however, prices of their products are very low. In most cases, gross farm income for corn could not compensate for the high cost they have incurred during the whole production process. High production is a result of too much dependency on petrochem-based from input which they use to cope-up with the declining productive capacity of the land. This is true toubanen, Kalibugan and Yakan Tribes, While the Badjao tribe engages in fishing, Sea shell gathering, Seaweed farming and mat weaving as their means of livelihood.

Health

The Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in Region IX is among the high risk group with respect to their health status on the following grounds, such as:

- a. There are no hospitals or even health clinics in IP settlements in far flung barangays
- b. Should there be any, they are too far from their settlements
- c. In the face of this reality, the IPs resort to herbal medicines if not of their old and ancient belief of curing illness through quack doctors available in the area.
- d. But most importantly is the fact that our IPs are still the poorest of the poor who cannot afford to even have their illness diagnosed by a doctor or buy proper medicines for their ailment

4. Peace and Order Conditions:

The geographic location of Region IX or Zamboanga Peninsula in Mindanao can be readily seen to have a political and peace and order problems. It is situated in between the muslim dominated regions and the constituents are belonging to the different religious affiliations, tribes and linguistic groups.

Zamboanaga Peninsula is relatively peaceful compared to other Regions in Mindanao. However, it is reported that several insurgent and terrorist groups are operating in the region. These groups includes, the Communist Party/ National Democratic Front/New Peoples Army; The Moro National Liberation Front; the Abu Sayyaf Group' and the rogue of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. There is also the Moro National Liberation Front which signed Peace Agreement with the government. Among the reported criminal activities committed by the anti-government faces are kidnapping, extortion, bombing, killing and other criminal acts. Zamboanga City has been reported to have the high number of terroristic activities, and Basilan to have a high incidence of happening. Extortion is common to all provinces being the income generating activities of all insurgent, terrorist and syndicate groups. Encountered between the military and police against the insurgent and terrorist groups have been reported terminal for the year 2011. The Indigenous Peoples, in some cases, were affected by the peace and order situation in the region.

5. Political Situation

The Political Condition in Region IX is very healthy and promising. The Political actors belong to the prominent families known not only in their own respective locality, but also throughout the country for their National Statures. These includes the Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur, the Jalosjos of Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanaga Sibugay, the Lobregat and Climaco of Zamboanga City, and the Uy of Dipolog City, the Yebes of Zamboanga del Norte and many other personalities. While the political arena is denominated by known political figures but it is well composed. There are new and old timer politicians. Also, youth and women are elected in all political levels. There are also members of the indigenous peoples who are elected in the local levels. IP Mandatory Representative to Local Legislative Councils are recognized and respected in some areas, particularly Basilan and Zamboanga Sibugay.

6. Development Activities Conducted By The Public/Private Sectors Including the Involuntary Organizations that Affects The IPs:

The government sectors joined hands in the development activities through the joint efforts of the Regional Development Council which is considered a better avenue where government agencies come together for the assessment of the general conditions of the general public and consequently find concerted solutions over the problems, particularly the members of the indigenous peoples who are confronted with the prime necessities in life, namely: food, shelter, clothing, education and culture. A various non-government organizations and Civil Society groups are also operating in the IP communities, helping to improve the lives of the people. However, despite of the concerted efforts, the lives of the indigenous peoples especially those who dwell in the far-flung areas remain unsettled and miserable. Recently, the mining activities have been reported to be the development activities that affect the indigenous peoples. Several mining firms operating in the IP areas were complained by several