

## THE PEOPLE OF BAIS CITY: SELECTED SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

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This paper has two parts: the first section presents some physical and social characteristics of Bais City taken from available reports<sup>1</sup>; the second part presents primary data taken from interviews conducted in 1989 in three coastal barangays.

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Bais City is 45 km north of Dumaguete, the capital city of Negros Oriental. With an aggregate land area of 25,109.16 ha, Bais constitutes about 4.35% of the total land area of the province. It is bounded in the north by Mabinay, in the south by Tanjay, in the northeast by Manjuyod, in the west by Bayawan, and in the east by the Tañon Strait. The northern bay of Bais city extends to the municipal waters of Manjuyod and the southern portion of the bay stretches out into the area of Tanjay. The entire marine area, including the bay portions of Manjuyod and Tanjay, is named in this project as the Bais Bay basin.

Based on the land classification data, more than three-fifths (65.59%) of the land of Bais and its 35 barangays is agricultural (Table 1). Less than one-fourth of one percent (0.236%) is considered residential. Not less than one-tenth of one percent (0.152%) is industrial and a seemingly insignificant proportion (0.005%) is classified as commercial. About one-third (33.195%) of the land area is unclassified.

Bais, Ilog, Odiongan, Panamangan, Panala-an, Cambagahan, Tagpo and Tabuac are the eight rivers in the area. Soil type along the two-to-three kilometers inward from the sea coast is generally sandy loam while that in the interior areas is clayish loam.

Based on the May 1990 census of the National Census and Statistics Office, the total population of Bais City and its 35 barangays is 65,980. With a land area in square kilometers of 313.2, the average population density is 210.66 persons per square kilometer.

**Table 1. Land classification of Bais.**


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Agricultural	--	65.59%
Unclassified	--	33.195%
Residential	--	0.236%
Industrial	--	0.152%
Commercial	--	0.005%

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Source: Bais City local government data, 1991.

**Table 2. Location of landholdings among the landed of Bais City.**


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Within Bais	--	75%
Outside Bais	--	13%
Outside Neg. Or.	--	12%

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Source: Bais City local government data, 1991.

## The People and the Land

Agriculture is the principal means of livelihood in the area and farmers constitute 65.7% of the work force. However, the number of landless residents outnumber the landed (57.35% versus 42.64%). Among those who have landholdings, 75.% own land within Bais, 13% outside Bais but within Negros Oriental and the rest own land outside the province (Table 2).

Agricultural land use is primarily for sugarcane covering about 9,056 ha. Coconut occupies 3,307 ha and corn, 2,468 ha.

About 90% of the agricultural land is partly tenanted while about 10% is wholly tenanted. The common crop sharing arrangements, in the order of popular usage, are the 70- 30, 60-40 and 50-50 sharing schemes. Some agricultural lands are tilled under leasehold arrangements.

Agricultural activity in the area is dominated by sugar production. Bais has two sugar mills: the Central Azucarera de Bais (CAB) and the United Robina Sugar Milling Company (URSUMCO). A paper mill is also operated by CAB.

## Births, Deaths and Ailments

In 1990, total births in Bais registered 2,189 and deaths, 243. Eighty-nine percent of those born were delivered at home while only 11% were in the hospital. *Hilots* attended to most of the births (79%). Physicians (11%), midwives (8%) and nurses (2%) handled some of the births.

The leading causes of ailments and, subsequently, deaths are pneumonia/bronchopulmonary diseases and PTB. Bronchopneumonia is also reported as the leading cause of deaths among infants.

## Community-Based Organizations

Bais and its outlying barangays have a number of organizations that are potential units for networking. Some of these associations are listed below:

<i>List of Associations</i>	<i>No. of Officers/Members</i>
<b>A. Farmers' Groups/Fishers' Groups</b>	
Alijes Farmers Association	48
Sab-ahan Farmers Association	40

Mansangaban Farmers Association	52
Tabu-ac Farmers Association	66
Mabunao Farmers Association	42
Cambagiou Farmers Association	29
Dansulan Farmers Association	31
Nagasua Farmers Association	44
Palangging Farmers Association	42
Lowason Farmers Association	29
Tacalan Farmers Association	57
Cambagahan Farmers Association	28
Cabanlutan Farmers Association	38
Halas Farmers Association	30
Tagpo Farmers Association	29
Cambaguio Small Coconut Farmers Assoc. (CASCOFA)	26
Brgy. Okiot Prawn Hatchery Association	57
Capiñahan Fishpond Association	11
Fishermen Association of Canibol	35
Farmers/Fishermen Association of Sitio Combado	46
Dewey Island Swine Raisers Association	30
13 Coops (Consumers, producers, multipurpose)	
<b>B. Other Community Organizations</b>	
10 Rural Improvement Club (RIC) - DA initiated	
RIC Quality Circle of Hda. Valencia	30
RIC of Sitio Combado	24
Dewey Island RIC	30
Canlargo 4-H Club	19
26 Womens organization - DSWD initiated	
10 Senior Citizens Organization - DSWD initiated	
10 Pag-asa Youth Movement - DSWD initiated	
Socio-civic clubs	

### Constraints to Development

Lack of personnel, physical infrastructure and financial resources are identified as barriers to development. Government agencies have identified some of these constraints in the areas of health and sanitation, education and manpower development, social services, community development and protective services.



### ***Health and Sanitation***

- Lack of health centers in strategic barangays
- Lack of hospital ambulance and other health facilities to service indigent patients
- Inadequate financial resources to acquire needed medicines for indigent patients

### ***Education and Manpower Development***

- Lack of school buildings to accommodate the growing school population
- Lack of tertiary educational institutions offering complete academic courses to accommodate high school students from various secondary educational institutions

### ***Social Services, Community Development and Protective Services***

- The Department of Social Services and Development does not have enough financial resources to finance the various livelihood programs.
- INP undermanned and very much below the national standard of 1 patrolman for every 1000 inhabitants.

### **Development Objective and Strategies**

The courses of action identified are congruent with the planners' perception of the obstacles to development. In the reports, no development program deliberately takes into account the criterion of project sustainability.

### ***Health and Sanitation***

- Construct health centers in at least three strategic barangays in the hinterlands
- Acquire more hospital facilities and increase the bed capacity of Bais Emergency Hospital from 25 beds to 50 and later from 50 to 75 beds

### ***Education and Manpower Development***

- Convert Bais City High School and Bais Developmental College into a state college offering complete four-year academic courses

- Bais City Polytechnic college must offer a masteral degree in fisheries
- Construct more buildings and acquire more classroom facilities

#### *Social Services, Community Development and Protective Services*

- Request the national government to extend more financial assistance for various livelihood projects of the DSWD
- Request the national government to create 20 additional items for patrolman for assignment at Bais City, to conform with the national standard of 1 patrolman for every 1000 inhabitants

#### **FOCUS ON THREE COASTAL BARANGAYS: BASELINE DATA**

To get a glimpse of coastal residents' way of life — their community involvement, recreational activities, health and sanitation practices — as well as to determine their levels of knowledge of sanitation-specific environmental issues, selected variables from interview data taken in 1989 were processed and organized.<sup>2</sup> Seventy-seven household heads from the coastal barangays of Okiot, Looc and Capiñahan participated in the study conducted in August-September 1989. Male and female heads of households were interviewed alternately.

#### **Respondents' Characteristics and Household Data**

As shown in Table 3, of the 77 respondents (36 in Okiot, 20 in Looc, 21 in Capiñahan), 45% were males and 55%, females. Majority of the respondents (55%) were 35 years old and above. Most of those interviewed (71%) had at least some elementary education. Only one reported not having gone to school at all. Table 4 shows that the biggest number of households (64%) had between four to six members while about 30 % had between seven to nine. Four households had between 10 to 11 members. The average household size was 5.25. The household population is young, with 62% below 20 years of age.

Majority of those interviewed (56%) earned monthly cash incomes below P600, as shown in Table 5. Sixteen (22%) reported cash incomes above P1000 per month. Thirty-one respondents obtained cash from sea-related activities like fishing and shell collecting. A number (24) were paid for doing work as domestic helpers, salespersons, waiters/waitresses, vendors, mechanic, driver, stone craftsmen, security guard or as masons. Few others (4) earned more as clerks or

**Table 3. Respondents' background characteristics, September - August 1989, N = 77.**

Background Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>3.1 Sex of respondents</b>		
Male	35	45.45%
Female	42	54.54%
Both sexes	77	99.99%
<b>3.2 Age levels of respondents</b>		
15 - 19	2	2.98%
20 - 24	2	2.98%
25 - 29	6	8.96%
30 - 34	14	20.9%
35 - 39	6	8.96%
40 - 44	9	13.43%
45 - 49	10	14.92%
50 - 54	8	11.94%
55 - 59	3	4.48%
60 - 64	4	5.97%
65 - 69	2	2.98%
70 - 74	0	-
75 - 79	0	-
80 - 84	1	1.49%
Total reported	67	99.99%
No response	10	-
<b>3.3 Highest school level attained</b>		
Elementary level	15	23.08%
Elementary graduate	31	47.69%
High school level	9	13.84%
High school graduate	5	7.69%
College level	3	4.62%
College graduate	1	1.54%
No schooling	1	1.54%
Total reported	65	100%
No response	12	-

Table 4. Respondents' household data, September - August 1989.

Household Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
4.1 Household size		
1 - 3	1	1.3 %
4 - 6	49	63.64%
7 - 9	23	29.87%
10 - 11	4	5.19%
Total reported	77	100%
4.2 Total number of household members		
	405	
4.3 Average household size		
	5.25	
4.4 Age levels of household members		
Below 1 year old	5	1.27%
1 - 4 years	23	5.84%
5 - 9 years	40	10.15%
10 - 14 years	40	10.15%
15 - 19 years	58	14.72%
20 - 24 years	29	7.36%
25 - 29 years	42	10.66%
30 - 34 years	37	9.39%
35 - 39 years	29	7.36%
40 - 44 years	21	5.33%
45 - 49 years	22	5.58%
50 - 54 years	16	4.06%
55 - 59 years	11	2.79%
60 - 64 years	9	2.28%
65 - 69 years	8	2.03%
70 - 74 years	2	0.51%
75 - 79 years	0	-
80 - 84 years	2	0.51%
Total reported	394	99.99%
No response	11	



office employees. Sixteen were engaged in buy-and-sell businesses while two others regularly received money from children working in Manila.

### Recreational Activities and Community Involvement

When asked about their favorite forms of recreation, respondents gave multiple responses:

	No.	%
Watching or playing basketball	- 56	72. 73
Attending barangay dances	- 48	62. 34
Cockfighting and other forms of gambling	- 16	20. 78
Watching community presentations (drama, singing contests)	- 20	25. 97
Attending meetings, social activities	- 3	3. 9
Watching or playing volleyball	- 3	3. 9

### Community Involvement

When asked whether they participated in community organization activities, 30 (39 %) said they were not members of barangay associations and five (6%) did not make any comment. Among those 42 who claimed membership in community organizations, 19 (45%) reported they were not actively involved, 17 (40%) said they were moderately active and a minority of 6 (14%) claimed they were very actively involved. Data comparisons are shown in Tables 6 and 7.

### Health and Sanitation Practices

#### *Garbage disposal*

Fifty of the 77 respondents (65%) revealed that they threw garbage daily. Sixteen (21%) threw garbage every other day and 11 (14%) did so only once a week. When asked how they disposed of their garbage, a variety of responses were given:

	No.	%
thrown to river or sea	- 46	59. 74
dumped to a pit	- 11	14. 28

**Table 5. Estimated monthly income of respondents, August - September, 1989.**

Income levels	Frequency	Percentage
Below P300	14	19.44%
P301 - P400	10	13.89%
P401 - P500	8	11.11%
P501 - P600	8	11.11%
P601 - P700	4	5.56%
P701 - P800	3	4.17%
P801 - P900	2	2.78%
P901 - P1,000	7	9.72%
Above P1,000	16	22.22%
Total reported	72	100%
No response	5	

**Table 6. Membership in organizations.**

	(N=77)	
Members	--	55%
Non-members	--	39%
No comment	--	6%

**Table 7. Involvement in organizations.**

	(N=42)	
Very Active	--	14%
Moderately Active	--	40%
Not Active	--	45%

burned	-	27	35.06
waited for garbage truck	-	1	1.3

### *Human waste disposal*

How did respondents and their household members handle disposal of human waste? The responses provided were:

		No.	%
use of water-sealed toilet	-	26	33.77
use of <i>labadora</i>	-	29	37.66
use of <i>antipolo</i>	-	15	19.48
river, seashore, sea	-	4	5.19
bamboo grove	-	2	2.6
open hole	-	1	1.3

### *Disposal of used water*

In the matter of disposing water used for washing dishes and kitchen utensils, the common local practices were:

		No.	%
Used water in basin is thrown anywhere.	-	43	55.84
Water from sink is drained to a hole through a gutter.	-	20	25.97
Water from sink is drained straight to the ground.	-	14	18.18

### *Sources of water*

Where do respondents get water? Drinking water was usually taken from a piped faucet (92.21% or 71 reporting). Two fetched water from a river, four bought by the tins supplied by local water dealers, and one had a water tank.

Water for washing clothes and taking a bath was mostly derived from piped faucets (85.71% or 66 reporting). Six relied on water from the river, two from an open well, and two purchased water from local entrepreneurs.

### *General perception of family health*

When asked of their impressions of family health conditions in their community, respondents said:

		No.	%
Very good	-	40	51.95

Good	-	10	12.99
Somewhat good	-	25	32.47
Not good	-	1	1.3
No response	-	1	1.3

### Levels of Knowledge on Major Ecological/Environmental Concerns

To find out whether or not respondents are knowledgeable about ecological issues, a dozen items were presented to the respondents. In all items, more than one half of those asked gave correct answers--signifying respondents' high level of knowledge in the matter of basic ecological principles.

The three items that were answered correctly by 52 to 61 percent of those interviewed and, in effect, the items that were answered correctly by relatively fewer respondents were:

		% of respondents who answered correctly
Item 4	The corals died because they were smothered with silt.	- 52%
Item 1	Slash-and-burn farming is harmful to marine life.	- 54%
Item 6	The fish died because their gills were smothered with silt.	- 61%

The items that were answered correctly by most of the respondents were:

Item 11	Industrial pollution is harmful to marine and human life.	- 97%
Item 10	Water and silt flow to the sea through the rivers and streams.	- 94%
Item 2	Soil erosion is caused by the cutting of big trees	- 94%
Item 9	Ground water is used for drinking, washing, and watering the plants.	- 92%
Item 5	Corals and other forms of marine life are destroyed due to illegal fishing methods such as the use of dynamite, <i>tubli</i> (a poisonous vine), and others.	- 92%

The four other items were:

Item 12	Talabong is one of the last remaining forests in Negros Oriental/Bais.	- 88%
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- Item 8 Especially in the forests, water collects under the ground. - 82%
- Item 7 Water from forest and seas goes up to form clouds, then goes back down to the forest and seas as rain. - 77%
- Item 3 Soil erosion kills fish and other forms of marine life. - 65%

It would appear from the above results that the respondents had a high level of consciousness of the dangers that destruction of ecological balance pose on the survival of living things and human beings. What they do, however, appears to be not consistent with what they know. For instance, the practice of dumping garbage to the river or sea by majority of the respondents is not consistent with their knowledge of ecological concepts.

The discontinuities and discrepancies between ideas and actual behavior may not simply be because of weak public consciousness but also because of the lack of personal resources and reinforcing social structures needed for the people to effect ecologically sound practices.

#### NOTES

1. Sources of information include the following:
  - Bais City Profile, 1990
  - Health Data, City Information Office
  - Integrated Agricultural Production Program for the City of Bais, 1990
  - DSWD information
2. Trained interviewers from the Silliman University-Social Work Department conducted the interviews. The study was contemplated as a social science input to a project on mangroves handled by Silliman University Marine Laboratory.

**Total Population, Household Population and Number of Households by City,  
Municipality and Barangay as of May 1, 1990**  
(National Census and Statistics Office)

City, Municipality & Barangay	Total Population	Household Population	No. of Household
<b>BAIS CITY</b>			
<b>Coastal Barangays</b>			
Capiñahan	1214	1194	236
Lo-oc	1601	1601	294
Okiot	2663	2633	523
Olimpia	724	724	133
<b>Lowland Barangays</b>			
Barangay 1	4547	4547	842
Consolacion	241	241	43
Hangyad	178	178	35
Katacgahan	500	500	85
La Paz	283	283	54
Rosario	193	193	35
Tamogong	405	405	71
Valencia	916	916	155
<b>Upland Barangays</b>			
Basak	1340	1340	252
Cabanlutan	1373	1373	272
Cambagahan	4296	4294	809
Cambaguio	1198	1198	225
Cambanjao	1132	1132	189
Dansulan	954	954	167
Lonoy	1811	1811	352
Mabunao	994	994	170
Manlipac	1854	1854	316
Mansangaban	1103	1103	194
Panalaan	3582	3582	661
Panamangan	801	801	160
Sabahan	6147	6147	1081
Tagpo	1716	1716	330

**Mixed Terrain****Coastal/Upland**

Tamisú	2230	2230	402
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**Coastal/Lowland**

Barangay 2	7341	7341	1 414
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Biñohon	969	969	181
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Calasga-an	2386	2386	472
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Cambuilao	1160	1160	219
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Canlargo	1453	1453	267
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San Isidro	283	283	55
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Talungon	1102	1102	191
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Tangculogan	907	907	176
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Total	59,623	59,623	10,983
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