



Like an Indian arrowhead, Masbate lies almost at the center of the Philippine archipelago with its tip pointing towards the north of Asia Gulf extending towards the China sea. The island province sprawls with verdant rolling hills and green landscape and rich aquatic reserve.

The wild wild west comes alive in the island every year. Every May, the country's local cowboys flock to the capital town of Masbate to display their power over untamed cattles during its festival called Rodeo Filipino. In this international fair, the arena burst with fun and excitement and shouting.

Masbate is a flourishing island-province. Its three islands (Ticao, Burias and Masbate) are bounded with clean and fine beaches. Its sea waters abound with exotic fishes, corals and many other marine life.

Its mainland takes pride of underground rivers, unexplored caves and green landscape. Masbate's seaport can accommodate large vessels plying the island of Luzon and Mindanao.



HOW TO GET THERE

By Air

Asian Spirit flies to Masbate from Manila daily.

By Land

Masbate can be reached from Legazpi City by land to the Port of Pilar in the adjacent Province of Sorsogon. From there, motorized boats can take you on a three-hour ride to the Port of Masbate.

The islands of Masbate were formed out of Volcanic rocks over one hundred million years later, humans made their appearance in the tropical regions of the earth. They lived on wild animals, plants, and fruits. They made tools of stone, bone, and wood. Some of these very early stone stools and bones have been found in Masbate.

Village settling grew from the development of farming; pottery flourished, stone tools were improved and the early Masbate farmers made axes of polished stones. Many stone axes of this kind have been found in Masbate. They are the remains of the first farmers who used the axes to cut down trees. The early farmers also made beautiful ornaments of shells. They buried their dead in burial caves and jars. Two large caves in Masbate, the Bat-ongan Cave in Mandaon and the Kalanay Cave in Aroroy are known worldwide as burial caves.

About four hundred years B.C., iron and glass as well as woven cloth appeared in Masbate. The stone tools gradually disappeared; agriculture improved. Beautiful decorated pottery were produced. Unearthed fragments of porcelain tell of the brisk trade that existed with China.

BRIEF HISTORY

When Captain Luis Enriquez de Guzman anchored on the shores of Masbate in 1569, he found tiny settlements spread along the coasts engaged in flourishing trade with China. Chinese traders visited Masbate and founded small settlements during the Shri-Vijayan and Madjapahit periods. Ruins of cave-like dwellings resembling "kiva" (possibly built by Indians who accompanied the Chinese traders), were found along the coasts of Aroroy, Palanas, and Masbate. Porcelain jars dating back to the 10th century were excavated at Kalanay (Aroroy) in the 1930s.

Historical accounts show that the Christianization of the Bicol Region actually began in Masbate in 1569:

Father Alonso Jimenez was the first missionary to the islands of Masbate, Burias, Leyte and Samar. Then he went to Ibalon (Bicol) in the province of Camarines, where he resided many years, and made many religious incursions into Albay and Sorsogon. Fray Jimenez is considered the apostle of the island of Masbate.

In December 1600 Dutch Commander Admiral Oliver van Noorth, sought refuge at San Jacinto Harbor after his fleet lost to the Spanish Armada in Manila. He was later engaged in a fierce clash with Limahong's fleet at Canlibas-Matabao passage.

At the height of the Galleon Trade, Mobo contributed first class lumber for the construction of galleons, making it the center of trade in the province and was the capital of the province in the early part of the Spanish occupation.

In 1864, Masbate was declared a separate province from Albay. Guiom was made the capital while Ticao became a commandancia-politico-militar. Shortly before the declaration of Philippine independence by President Emilio Aguinaldo, the town of Masbate was established as the provincial capital.

The Americans came to Masbate in 1900 to extend their pacification campaign. In December 1908, Masbate was annexed to the province of Sorsogon. A bill declaring Masbate as independent province was approved on February 1, 1922.

As early as 1906, the Masbate representative made the proposal to the United States Congress to grant the Philippines her independence.

The first Japanese elements arrived in Masbate the dawn of January 7, 1942 from Legazpi. They landed in several places without facing opposition- the province was too stunned to mount any resistance.

The Japanese occupation reduced Masbate to total economic shambles. Economic activities were limited to fishing, buying/selling, or stealing. Food production ground to a halt. Camote, pakol, banana blossoms, pith, and even such obscure fruits like barobo were used as food substitutes. Lakad-bulan served as cigarette, tea or coffee. Barter transaction prevailed. For lack of nutrition and sanitation, many people succumbed to beri-beri or malaria. Lice and ticks infestations spared only a lucky few.

Dr. Mateo S. Pecson, who was governor of the province, having refused to cooperate with the Japanese, evacuated the provincial government to Guiom, a command post used by the guerrillas. Pecson was eventually arrested by the Japanese and incarcerated in Cavite. He managed to escape; he later joined the guerrilla movement in Central Luzon.

In 1944, Provincial Board Member Atty. Jose L. Almario was conscripted by the Japanese to govern the province. During the Liberation, he was arrested by the guerrillas and charged with collaboration. He was exonerated and saved from set execution by a letter from General MacArthur.

Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa, the lone house representative of Masbate, fought against a congressional bill authorizing the conscription of Filipinos into the service of Imperial Japan and for this he was detained in Fort Santiago.

When Masbate was formally liberated on April 3, 1945, Pecson was sent to Masbate by President Osmeña to organize the civil government, Pecson took the reins of government on May 11, 1945.

LOCATION

The islands of Masbate lie exactly in the center of the Philippine archipelago between latitudes 11o43' north and 21o36' north, 123o09' east and 124o15' east.

It is bounded north by Vurias and Ticao Pass, east by the San Bernardino Strait, south by Visayan Sea and west by Sibuyan Sea. Relative to mainland Bicol, the province faces the southwestern coasts of Camarines Sur, Albay, and Sorsogon.

TOPOGRAPHY

The general surface configuration of the province ranges from slightly undulating to rolling and from hilly to mountainous. In each island, the rugged topography is concentrated in the northeastern and gradually recedes to blunt hills and rolling areas in the south, southeast, and southwest.

The topography of the main island is characterized by rolling hills and discontinuous ranges of highlands and relatively broad bands of lowlands. On its northwestern tip are limestone cliffs which rise almost perpendicularly from the waterline. Several bays indent the coast of the island, the most important of which are Port Barrera and Masbate Bay.

The long and narrow islands of Ticao and Burias are separated from the larger island by the water of Masbate Pass. Ticao Island appears to be the summit of high submarine mountains which is why topography is generally rugged, with very limited expanse of level land. The eastern coast of Burias Island is characterized by broad promontories and sea cliffs. The southern boundary of the province encloses the Asid Gulf which extends to the Visayan Sea. The Jintotolo Channels forms a demarcation between Masbate and Panay islands. The northwestern coast of the main island faces the Sibuyan Sea. Off the western and southern coasts lie scattered reefs and corals.

CLIMATE

Burias and Ticao islands and the western and central parts of mainland Masbate are covered by a climate characterized by no very pronounced maximum rain period, with a short dry season. The southeastern part of Masbate Island have rainfall more or less evenly distributed throughout the year.

The rainfall distribution in the province of Masbate is influenced by the air streams, tropical cyclones, inter-tropical convergence zone and topography. Masbate has the lowest average annual rainfall distribution in Bicol. The highest mean monthly and annual temperatures in the region are also recorded in the province.

POPULATION

The May 2000 Census of Population shows that Masbate had reached 707,668 inhabitants.

DOT-V Accredited Establishments

Bituon Beach Resort

Mobo, Masbate
General Manager - Divina N. Salvacion

Sampaguita Tourist Hotel

Quezon St., Masbate, Masbate
Tel.No. (056) 333-4729
General Manager - Jose . Dacudao, Sr.

MASBATE At a Glance... 2006

INDICATORS	MASBATE
Land Area (sq.m.) (Source: DENR, 2000)	4,151.8
Percentage to the Region's Land Area	22.9
No. of Cities	1
No. of Municipalities	20
No. of Barangays	550
No. of Districts	3
POPULATION	
Population 2000 (Source: NSO)	707,668
Population Growth Rate (1995-2000)	1.71
Household Population (2000)	707,055
Average Household Size (2000) Persons/HH	5.09
Population Density (Pop/sq.km)	170.4
Projected Population 2004	713,523
Projected Population 2005	718,809
Projected Population 2006	723,344
Projected Population 2007	727,864
Projected Population 2008	732,404
Projected Population 2009	736,934
Projected Population 2010	741,459
Income Classification (Source: NSCB 2001)	2nd
Agricultural Areas (Source: BSWM 1998) (has.)	
Palay	
Irrigated	754
Rainfed	19,346
Upland	9,198
TOTAL	29,298
Corn	25,649
Coconut	97,318
Sugarcane	-
Abaca	-
Diversified Crops	592
Coffee	-
Citrus	-
Banana	381
Pasture	104,491
Fruit Trees	-
Grassses	89,232
Shrubs	21,638

LIST OF MUNICIPALITIES

MASBATE/MUN.	MAYOR	TELEPHONE NO.
1ST District		
BATUAN	SEVERINO V. ALFORTE	
CLAVERIA	HENEDINA V. ANDUEZA	
MONREAL	BEN C. ESPILOY	
SAN FERNANDO	HELEN L. BUNAN	
SAN JACINTO	EMILIO ARIS B. ESPINOSA	
SAN PASCUAL	ZACARINA A. LAZARO	
2nd District		
AROROY	ARTURO VICENTE P. MARISTELA, JR.	
BALENO	LEO H. MANLAPAS	
BALUD	CLEMENTE A. ARGUILLES, JR.	
MANDAON	EMILY E. HAO	
MILAGROS	BERNARDITO A. ABAPO	
MOBO	KONRAD A. RAMOS	
MASBATE CITY	SOCRATES M. TUAZON	(056) 333-2504
3rd District		
CATAINGAN	FELIPE L. CABATANA	
CAWAYAN	RAMON A. ABINUMAN	
DIMASALANG	HENRY J. NAGA	
ESPERANZA	MAC JOHN C. SEACHON	
PALANAS	RUDY L. ALVAREZ	
PIO V. CORPUS	DIOMEDES C. AMAROTO SR.	
PLACER	REINARIO G. ESTONILO	
USON	FELIPE U. SANCHEZ	

Philippine Standard Geographic Code

Province of Masbate

REGION V (Bicol Region) Code: **050000000**

Province: **6** City: **7** Municipality: **107** Barangay: **3,471** District: **14**

MASBATE Code: **054100000**

Income Class: **2nd** City: **1** Municipality: **20** Barangay: **550** District: **3**

City/Municipality	Code	Income Class	City Class	Rural/ Urban	District
AROROY	054101000	3rd Class		Partially Urban	2nd
BALENO	054102000	5th Class		Partially Urban	2nd
BALUD	054103000	4th Class		Partially Urban	2nd
BATUAN	054104000	5th Class		Partially Urban	1st
CATAINGAN	054105000	4th Class		Partially Urban	3rd
CAWAYAN	054106000	4th Class		Partially Urban	3rd
CLAVERIA	054107000	4th Class		Partially Urban	1st
DIMASALANG	054108000	5th Class		Partially Urban	3rd
ESPERANZA	054109000	5th Class		Partially Urban	3rd
MANDAON	054110000	4th Class		Partially Urban	2nd
MASBATE CITY (Capital)	054111000	-	Component	Partially Urban	2nd
MILAGROS	054112000	3rd Class		Partially Urban	2nd
MOBO	054113000	5th Class		Partially Urban	2nd
MONREAL	054114000	5th Class		Partially Urban	1st
PALANAS	054115000	5th Class		Partially Urban	3rd
PIO V. CORPUZ	054116000	5th Class		Partially Urban	3rd
PLACER	054117000	4th Class		Partially Urban	3rd
SAN FERNANDO	054118000	5th Class		Partially Urban	1st
SAN JACINTO	054119000	5th Class		Partially Urban	1st
SAN PASCUAL	054120000	4th Class		Partially Urban	1st
USON	054121000	4th Class		Partially Urban	3rd

As of March 2001

Source: NSCB R5

PHYSICAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

a. Physical Area

MUNICIPALITY	IRRIGATED	PALAY		TOTAL
		RAINFED	UPLAND	

MASBATE	754	19346	9198	29298
Aroroy	151	226	4	381
Baleno		503	8	511
Balud	6	2622	856	3484
Batuan	5	406	4	415
Cataingan		1208	2047	3255
Cawayan		350	1865	2215
Claveria	30	20	130	180
Dimasalang	5	428	809	1242
Esperanza		570	34	604
Mandaon		4704	127	4831
Masbate		177	19	196
Milagros	214	3602	250	4066
Mobo	124	235	14	373
Monreal		244		244
Palanas		357	1049	1406
PV Corpus		114	32	146
Placer		1658	1540	3198
San Fernando	128	755	5	888
San Jacinto	8	682	6	696
San Pascual	6		7	13
Uson	77	485	392	954

MUNICIPALITY	CORN	COCONUT	DIV. CROPS	BANANA	PASTURE	GRASSES	SHRUBS
MASBATE	25649	97318	592	381	104491	89232	21638
Aroroy	43	3573	5		26873	5059	4709
Baleno	6	5690	11			7859	2760
Balud	1004	1226	6		9711	3741	81
Batuan	21	4132	5	14		287	122
Cataingan	2009	5672	15			8846	217
Cawayan	3998	1807	299			12939	8
Claveria	886	6288			3670	5250	666
Dimasalang	2055	3232		167		5002	120
Esperanza	1900	4052	12	4		1192	60
Mandaon	1095	878		2	15921	3314	152
Masbate	417	7229		13	4620	2634	1580
Milagros	2831	1138			27975	4261	2284
Mobo	100	4752	14		304	5472	3089
Monreal	530	4508	5			1498	1302
Palanas	2725	4543				7289	1027
PV Corpus	1364	5923	18	26		2897	
Placer	2840	8120	180	21	426	2665	56
San Fernando	72	5181	5	94		398	42
San Jacinto	100	6946	5			2227	1603
San Pascual	360	5331	12	7	14586	2173	551
Uson	1293	7097		33	405	4229	1209

MUNICIPALITY	MANGROVE		FISH-POND	INLAND MARSH	TOTAL
	TREE TYPE	PALM TYPE			
MASBATE	11095	1048	5189	66	385997
Aroroy	1769	32	143		42587
Baleno	32				16869

Balud	842		76		20171
Batuan	123	61			5180
Cataingan	119	119			20252
Cawayan	1642		531		23439
Claveria	636		2		17578
Dimasalang	136			36	11990
Esperanza	128		48		8000
Mandaon	709	112	886		27900
Masbate	599	518			17806
Milagros	838		2584		45977
Mobo	285				14389
Monreal	237				8324
Palanas	6				16996
PV Corpus	34	50			10458
Placer	1270	44	464	26	19310
San Fernando					6680
San Jacinto	298	43			11918
San Pascual	1173		59		24265
Uson	219	69	396	4	15908

Source: BSWM, 1993

MAPPING	LAND USE/ VEGETATION	MASBATE
SYMBOL		
AGRICULTURAL AREAS		270,683
1	Paddy rice irrigated	754
2	Paddy rice non-irrigated	19,346
3	Upland rice	9,198
4	Corn	24,849
24	Ampalaya	-
26	Squash	-
31	Chayote	-
36	Cabbage	-
51	Cassava	230
52	Sweet Potato	361
56	Yam Beans	-
57	Arrow Root	-
59	Ginger	-
60	Gabi	-
72	Watermelon	-
81	Cofee	-
83	Citrus	-
91	Banana	381
105	Mixed Fruit Trees	-
107	Abaca	-
112	Sugarcane	-
113	Pineapple	-
114	Pili	-
116	Coconut	97,318
127	Pasture Land	118,246
GRASSLAND/SHRUBSLAND AREAS		111,042
126	Grasses	89,404
131	Ipil-Ipil	-
134	Shrubs	21,638
WOODLAND AREAS		1,140

136	Forest	1,140
140	Pine Tree	-
WETLAND AREAS		17,261
141	Mangrove Palm Type	1,066
142	Mangrove Tree Type	11,111
144	Inland Marsh Grass Type	66
146	Salt Bed	
147	Fishpond	5,018
148	Nipa	-
MISCELLANEOUS AREAS		4,643
151	Built-up	2,217
152	Beach Sand	24
154	Mine Pit	992
155	Quarry	-
157	Airport	20
158	Riverwash	-
160	Major River/Lakes	1,390
159	Rockland/Volcanic Debris	-
161	Volcanic Ashes	-
TOTAL AREAS (Ha.)		404,769

Source: BSWM/SWAT

LAND USE VEGETATION	
MAPPINGSYMBOL	MASBATE
AGRICULTURAL AREAS	270,683
GRASSLAND/SHRUBSLAND AREAS	111,042
WOODLAND AREAS	1,140
WETLAND AREAS	17,261
MISCELLANEOUS AREAS	4,643
TOTAL	404,769

Source: BSWM/SWAT

B. Topography

a. Mountain Ranges

MAPPING SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	MASBATE
A	0-100 m	311,672
B	100-300 m	80,954
C	300-500 m	11,094
D	500-1000 m	1,049
E	1000-2000 m	
F	>2000 m	
TOTAL		404,769

Source: BSWM/SWAT

Note:

A – Very Low

B – Low

C – Moderately Low

D – Moderately High

E - High

F – Very High

a. Slope

SLOPE	MASBATE
0-8 degree	162,724
8-18 degree	85,566
18-30 degree	89,454

30-50 degree	43,901
50 degree & above	23,125

MAPPING SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	MASBATE (Ha.)	MAPPING SYMBOL	SLOPE CLASS %	DESCRIPTION	MASBATE (Ha.)
Eo	No apparent erosion	82,673	M	0 - 3	Level to nearly level	74,646
E1	Slight erosion	158,333	N	*3-8	Gently sloping to undulating	88,078
E2	Moderate erosion	110,829	O	*8-18	Undulating to rolling	85,565
E3	Severe erosion	48,291	P	18-30	Rolling to moderately steep	89,454
Eu	Unclassified erosion	4,643	Q	30-50	Steep	43,901
TOTAL		404,769	R	>50		23,125
			TOTAL			404,769

Source: BSWM/SWAT

C. Soil Physiography

SOIL TYPE	LAND CAPABILITY	DOMINANT FEATURES	LIMITATIONS & HAZARDS	RECOMMENDED LAND USE	EXTENT	
					HA.	%
Batuan clay Mandawe loam Panganiran clay	Good land (Lands suitable for cultivation)	Level to nearly level; somewhat poorly drained; fine to sub-soil; deep soil	Slight wetness subject to occasional overflow	Paddy rice; ,may be used for upland crops with simple drainage system	26,212	6.46
Sorsogon clay	Good land (Lands suitable for cultivation)	Level to nearly level; somewhat excessively drained coarse textured; moderately deep soils	Slight droughtiness low fertility	Upland field crops especially sugarcane with sufficient irrigation water	632	0.16
Cataingan clay; sandy loam	Fairly good lands (Lands suitable for cultivation)	Strongly sloping; well drained; moderately fine subsoil	Severe erosion if cultivated continuously	Pasture (forage production) or tree farm	68,308	16.88
Beach sand	Fairly good land (Land suitable for limited cultivation)	Nearly level to gently sloping excessively drained; moderately deep	Severe droughtiness; low fertility; severe alkalinity problem	Pasture (forage production) or limited upland cropping with sufficient irrigation water to correct salinity problem	5,704	1.41
Ulay clay, steep phase	Lands limited to forestry	Very steep and nagged; well drained; shallow soils	Excessive erosion of cultivated	Forest land or tree plantation	69,384	17.14
Hydrosol	Lands limited to wildlife	Very poorly drained; marshy or swampy	Very severe wetness	Fishponds, salt bed site or recreation	16,928	4.18

Source: BSWM

PEDO-ECOLOGICAL ZONE	LMU	DESCRIPTION	MASBATE
WARM LOWLAND	1	Active Tidal Flats, Developed (Fishpond/Salt Bed)	5018
	2	Active Tidal Flats, Natural (Mangrove/Nipa)	12177
{<8% slope, <100 m}	8	Beach Ridges and Swales	15088

	9	Broad Alluvial Plains (width >500m.)	10931
elevation,25c or >}	10	Former/Old Tidal Flats	2000
	12	Lower River Terraces	324
	13	Upper River Terraces	1054
	15	Lacustrine Plain	
	17	Inland/Stream/Enclosed Valleys	24403
	18	Collu-Alluvial Fans	
	21	Solutional Depressions(Karst Valley,Sinkhole)	749
	22	Limestone/Karst Plains,Lower Terraces	3388
	23	Limestone/Karst Plains,Upper Terraces	
	24	Tuffaceous Plains (Convex,Flat and Concave Slope	
	25	Volcanic Plains/Residual Terraces	
	26	Lower Foothslopes(Shale,Sandstones Hills)	38541
	27	Lower Piedmont Plains/Foothslopes(Volcanic Hills)	2159
	28	Lower Foothslopes (Limestones Hills)	13639
	29	Lower Foothslopes of Volcanic Cones	
	30	Lower Foothslopes(Metamorphic Hills)	36124
WARM COOL UPLAND	43	Broad Alluvial Valleys (100-500m.elevation) with Remnants of Low Hills	
{<18% slope,100-500m. elevation,22.5-25 c}	45	Inland/Stream/Enclosed Valleys	
	46	Collu-Alluvial Fans	
	49	Residual Terraces,Sloping to Undulating	
	50	Residual Terraces,Sloping to Rolling	
	51	Lower Foothslopes (Volcanic Hills or Mountains)	
	53	Upper Foothslopes (Volcanic Hills or Mountains)	
	55	Lower Foothslopes of Volcanic Cones	
	59	Lower Foothslopes (Limestones Hills or Mountains)	
	61	Solutional Depressions(Karst Valley,Sinkhole)	
	62	Limestones/Karst Plains, Lower Terraces	
	63	Limestones /Karst Plains,Upper Terraces	
	66	Low Limestone Hills	23879
	67	Karst Plateau with Isolated Limestones Hills	174
	68	Shale/Sandstone Plateau	164
	74	Volcanic Complex Plateau	
	76	Low Shale /Sandstone Hills	30437
	77	Low Conglomeratic Hills	
	78	Low Pyroplastic Hills	
	80	Low Volcanic Complex Hills	
	82	Low Andesitic Hills	894
	83	Low Dioritic Hills	799
	88	Low Metamorphic Hills	
	89	Low Ultrabasic Hills	
	90	Low Meta-Rock Complex Hills	425878
WARM COOL	111	High Limestone Hills	60303
HILLYLAND	112	High Shale/Sandstones Hills	23983
{>18% slope,<500 m. elevation,>22.5c}	113	High Conglomeratic Hills	
	114	High Pyroclastic Hills	
	115	High Basaltic Hills	
	116	High Andesitic Hills	9035
	117	High Volcanic Complex Hills	
	118	High Ultrabasic Hills	
	120	High Dioritic Hills	544

	125	High Metamorphic Hills	
	126	High Meta -Rock Complex Hills	39832
COOL HIGHLAND	129	Cinder Cones,Low Rounded & Steep Hills & Ridges	
	156	Shale /Sandstone Mountains	
{>500 m.elevation <22.5c}	160	Low Meta-Volcanic Mountains	250
	162	Metamorphic Mountains	
	163	Basaltic Mountains	
	164	Andesitic Mountains	799
	165	Ultrabasic Mountains	
	168	Complex Volcanic Mountains	
	170	Volcanic Cones,Non-Active	
	171	Volcanic Cones Active	
MISCELLANEOUS	180*	Built-up Areas/Urban Lands	2237
	183	Sandbras/Beach Sand	24
	184	Rock Land	
	186	Riverwash	
	188	Open Pit and Mines	992
	190	Quarry	
	191	Escarpment	560
	193	Major Rivers	1390
	194	Inland Water Lakes	
	195**	Volcanic Ash	
		TOTAL	404769

Source: BSWM/SWAT

b. Soil Suitability

GROUP	COMMODITY CROPS	MASBATE
1	Paddy rice, irrigated & non-irrigated	89221
2	Upland rice, corn sorghum, pineapple, ramie, sugarcane, soybean, mungo, stringbeans, peanuts, cassava, sweet potato, gabi, ubi, eggplants, upo, batao, melons, etc.	103677
3	Baguio beans cabbage, white irish potato, carrots, lettuce, cowpea, sweet peas, and sweet pepper, spinach, cutflower, strawberry, etc.	338
4	Ginger, garlic, onion, cucumber, etc.	107065
5	CottoN, tobacco	106727
6	Coconut, oil palm, banana, abaca, coffee (robusta), etc.	106901
7	Mango, cashew, papaya, santol, tamarind, atis, jackfruit, guava, citrus, guyabano, chico, etc.	107065
8	Durian, marang, lanzones, rambutan, avocado, rubber, etc.	338
9	Bamboo, ipil-ipil, paragrass, pasture, etc.	131448
10	Coffee (arabica), tea, black pepper, etc.	1728

V. SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

a. Area Devoted to Agriculture 1995 – 2001

COMMODITY	EFFECTIVE AREA (ha.)						
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001

PALAY							
Irrigated Farms	3,110	3,130	2,930	3,420	3,500	3,550	3,540
Rainfed Farms	40,060	41,420	42,810	35,970	36,160	36,780	38,760
CORN							
Yellow Corn	380	150	70	3,780	-	-	-
White Corn	40,933	47,140	47,030	35,800	42,890	46,000	47,730
PILI							
MANGO Statistics is still in the process of validation							
PINEAPPLE							
BANANA	1,125	1,102	1,089	1,055	1,080	950	950
ROOTCROP	889	869	890	590	820	820	820
CAMOTE	1,044	1,044	1,135	1,014	1,200	1,200	1,200

Source BAS R5

b. Cropping Pattern

PLANTING CALENDAR	
	TYPE III
Rice	April-June
Corn	
Wet Season	April-June

Dry Season	October-December
3 rd Planting	December-February
Tobacco	Sept.-November
Cotton	Sept.-November
Ampalaya	May-June; November-December
Arrowroot	May-June; December-June
Beans	May-June
Cabbage	April-June; October-December
Carrots	October-December
Cassava	May-June
Celery	May-July, October-December
Paayap	May-June, November-December
Pipino	May-June; Oct.-Jan.
Eggplant	May-June, November-January
Garlic	October-December
Ginger	May-June; Nov.-Dec.
Potato	October-December
Lettuce	April-May; Oct.-Dec.
Melon	May-June; Oct.-Jan.
Monggo	December-January, Sept.-October
Mustard	May-July, October-December
Okra	May-June, October-December
Beans	May-June, November-December
Patola	May-June, November- December
Dry Season	September-October
Wet Season	April-June
3 rd Planting	December-January
Pechay	May-June, October-December
Seguidillas	May-June
Utaw	May-June; Oct-Dec.
Squash	May-June, October-December
Sitsaro	November-January
Pepper	May-June, October-December
Sweet potato	
Tomato	October-January
Ube	
Upo	April-May, October-January
Watermelon	October-January

PLACES OF INTEREST

Masbate, the province, the island, and its capital, occupies a transitional position between Bicol and the Visayas. Like an arrowhead, it lies between the main route south; that is, the Manila-Tacloban highway and the sea lanes of Cebu and the Western Visayas. Its arrowhead tip points to the north, separated by Jintotolo Island from Panay Island on the south.

Composed of three main islands, Ticao, Burias and Masbate, one can enjoy its beaches, scenic hilly landscapes and warm hospitality of the residents.

LIMESTONE HILLS



Limestone Hills, Kalanay, Aroroy, Masbate . Believed to have been inhabited by the Kalanay people. These early inhabitants practiced jar burials. Excavations yielded human bones.

BAT-ONGAN CAVES



Bat-ongan Caves, Mandaon, Masbate are found in this mole-like mountain, famous for its numerous chambers and beautiful rock formation towering at about 150 feet. The caves offer tourists a thrilling experience in steep rock-climbing up to the highest peak.



Villa Bayot, Masbate , Masbate This house was constructed in 1880. In its dining room, Spanish authorities enjoyed the best wines from Manila and Acapulco and the largest lobsters from Masbate Bay. During the Commonwealth period, President Manuel L. Quezon is said to have danced the tango in its halls and slept in its finest bedroom. The Japanese used it as their garrison. In 1944, the American liberators shelled and bombed the capital but the big house was spared. It came under guerrilla siege to dislodge the Japanese, but it remained unscathed.

In 1946, President Roxas visited Masbate and stayed in this house briefly to dance the waltz. His hosts were Don Francisco Bayot and his granddaughter, 1937 Miss Philippines Chita Zaldarriaga.

This is also home to the "Santo Intierro". Every Friday, people queue here to say their prayers to the "Santo".

KALANAY FALLS



A beautiful scenery, Kalanay Falls can be found in Nabangig, Palanas, Masbate

BATONGAN UNDERGROUND RIVER

Bat-ongan Underground River, Mandaon. For daring and adventurous visitors. It is approximately 10 kilometers from the subterranean to Mandaon town.

SOMBRERO ISLAND

Sombrero Island, San Pascual. Hat-shaped island with stretches of white sand beaches.

CAGPATING ISLAND

Cagpating Island, Monreal. It is noted for its crystal-clear waters and beautiful pebbles on one side and a deep rocky side that provides a panoramic view of Masbate Island.

UNDERWATER CAVE

Underwater Cave, Claveria. This cave is located within the jurisdiction of Barangay Boca Engaño, the entrance of which is undersea. During high tide, it will take even an unskilled diver only a few seconds to enter the cave; it is neck-deep during low tide. Inside the cave are well-sealed human caskets carved out of solid wood believed to be 500 years old that still contain human remains.

Each casket measures 24 inches in length and 12 inches in width.

TINALISAYAN ISLAND

Tinalisayan Island. Located in Burias Island, this enchanting place is ideal for sunbathing and swimming.

BUGUI POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Bugui Point Lighthouse, Aroroy. Located at barangay Gumahaang, constructed during the Spanish era.

JINTOTOLO LIGHTHOUSE

Jintotolo Lighthouse, Jintotolo Island, Balud. Picturesque in its 19th century architecture.

COLORADO LIGHTHOUSE

Colorado Lighthouse, Aroroy. Believed to have been built during the Spanish era but renovated during the American regime.

AROROY BEACH

Aroroy Beach. A fast-becoming attraction among excursionists. Its unspoiled natural beauty is the dominant feature.

MATABA-TINIGBAN TO NAPAYAUAN

Mataba-Tinigban to Napayauan Island. A five-kilometer stretch of glittering white sands. At Napayauan Island, the surrounding water is full of marine life. It is ideal for snorkel and scuba diving.

SAN ISIDRO BEACH

San Isidro Beach, Claveria. This beach is located in barangay San Isidro extending south to east from the barangay proper with an approximate and aggregate length of four (4) kilometers. Its

fine and silvery white sand can easily accommodate over a thousand people. The bottom of the sea is clear and sandy extending some one hundred meters from the shoreline with a gradual depth of 5 to 7 feet during high tide. Extending further from the shoreline are beautiful and colorful coral reefs which are inhabited by a wide variety of fishes. The beach is lined by coconut trees.

Ki-ALBAY RIVER

Ki-albay River and Beach, Claveria. This beach extends east-southeast from the town proper with an approximate length of one and a half kilometers of sandy and well-polished pebbles ending in Ki-albay River, a place believed to have been inhabited first by people from Albay, .

COLARA BEACH

Colara Beach, Aroroy. Neat and white sands ideal for weekend excursions and picnics.



MATANGTUBIG SPRING

Matangtubig Spring, Monreal. A unique spring with three sources. The spring comes out of a rock. Trees and lush vegetation give shade in the area around the spring.

CATANDAYAGAN FALL

Catandayagan Falls, Ticao Island One of the most beautiful falls in the province. It cascades from 60 feet to its base where multi-colored fishes cavort. It is one hour by motorboat from the capital.

TALISAY BEACH

Famous for the rocks which serve as natural diving board for swimmers. This is found 13 kilometers southwest of San Fernando in Ticao Island. Smooth, shiny pebbles of various sizes abound.

BONTOD BEACH

A coral island southwest of Masbate, Masbate. Noted for its immaculate white sand. Its beautiful surrounding water teems with exotic coral reefs. It is ideal for snorkel and scuba diving.

BITO-ON BEACH RESORT

Bito-on Beach Resort, Mobo. A 30-minute ride from the capital by boat or jeepney. There are cottages for picnickers and conference rooms for large groups. Food may be obtained right there.

Source: CATANDUANES PROVINCE WEBSITE
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