

Chapter 1.

General Information

Brief History of Cavite

Prior to the arrival of the Spaniards, Cavite was already a significant area of interest for foreign merchants and traders. The colonizers arriving in the late 16th century found significance to the unusual tongue of land thrust into Manila Bay. They perceived its value to become a main staging ground where they could launch their bulky galleons. Formed in the shape of a hook, which in Tagalog is called Kawit, it became the most significant port linking the colony to the outside world.

The present location of Cavite City was once a mooring place for Chinese junks trading that came to trade with the settlements around Manila Bay. In 1571, Spanish colonizers founded a port in the said area. They also fortified the settlement as the first line of defense for the city of Manila. Galleons were built and fitted at the port and many Chinese merchants settled in the communities of Bacoor and Kawit. The vibrant mix of traders, Spanish seamen and local residents gave rise to the use of pidgin Spanish called Chabacano.

In 1614, the politico-military jurisdiction of Cavite was established. It covers all the present territory of Cavite except for the town of Maragondon, which used to belong to the Corregimiento of Mariveles. Maragondon was ceded to Cavite in 1754. Within Maragondon was a settlement established in 1663 for Christian exiles from Ternate, Mollucas.

Considering that Cavite was a valuable asset due to its military importance, Cavite was attacked by foreigners in their quest to conquer Manila and the Philippines. The Dutch made a surprise attack on the city in 1647, pounding the port incessantly, but were repulsed. Likewise, in

1672, the British occupied the port during their two-year interregnum in the Philippines. American forces attacked the Spanish squadron in Cavite. The Spanish defeat marked the end of Spanish rule in the country.

During the Spanish time, there is presence of missionary orders, specifically the friars, who played significant roles in the Spanish occupation of the country. These missionary orders acquired vast haciendas in Cavite during the 18th and 19th century. These haciendas became the source of bitter agrarian conflicts between the friar orders and Filipino farmers. This has pushed a number of Caviteños to live as outlaws. This opposition to the friar orders was an important factor that drove many Cavite residents to support reform, and later, independence. In 1872, a mutiny by disgruntled navy men in Cavite led to a large-scale crackdown of reformers and liberals. Three Filipino priests – Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez and Jacinto Zamora- were executed and dozens others were sent into exile. In 1896, after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution, Cavite took center stage as thousands of Katipuneros liberated in most of the province's towns.

On August 26, 1896, when the Philippine revolution against Spain broke out, Cavite became a bloody war theatre. Led by Emilio Aguinaldo, Caviteños made surprise attacks on the Spanish headquarters and soon liberated the whole province.

Emilio Aguinaldo, the first Philippine president came from the town of Kawit and directed the conduct of the Revolution from his base in the province. He agreed to go into exile in December 1897, but returned to the Philippines in May 1898. On June 12, he declared Philippine independence from the balcony of his home in Kawit.

The Americans established civil government in the province in 1901. The naval station in Sangley Point became the chief American naval base in



The Aguinaldo Shrine at Kawit, Cavite.

the country. During the World War II, the Japanese targeted the naval base during the first wave of attacks on military installations in the Philippines.

Cavite and its people, what they are today, and what will be tomorrow will remain their infinity, as a place with a glorious history, and a people fortified with strength to live and die for a worthy cause.

History of the Cavite Provincial Government

The provincial government of Cavite has a colorful history. During the greater part of the Spanish regime the provincial administration was handled by the alcalde mayor who was the representative of the governor and captain general in Manila. As alter ego of the Chief executive of the country, the alcalde mayor exercised over all executive, judicial, and legislative functions within his jurisdiction. He was in fact a petty captain general because he held under his orders the armed forces of the province for purposes of defense and maintenance of peace and order. By the Decree of June 25, 1847 the title of *alcalde mayor* in Cavite was changed to politico-military governor. He was also tripped of judicial functions.

The last Spanish politico-military governor of Cavite, with headquarters in the *cabecera* of Cavite (now Cavite City), was Col. Fernando Pargas whom Emilio Aguinaldo, as captain municipal of Cavite el Viejo (now Kawit), saw on the morning of August 31, 1896 to ask for a detachment of soldiers to protect his town from bandits. Aguinaldo's plan was to ambush the government troops on their way to Kawit and seize their arms which his Magdalo followers needed urgently to start the armed uprising against Spain.

While waiting for his turn to talk to Pargas in his office, Aguinaldo learned that only one company of soldiers was left in Cavite as all available infantry men had been sent to Manila upon urgent summons from Governor and Captain General Ramon Blanco, who had placed eight Luzon provinces (Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Laguna, Batangas and Cavite) under martial law following the discovery of the Katipunan secret society.

With this valuable information, Aguinaldo returned post-haste to Kawit and with the help of two councilmen, Candido Trias Tirona and Santiago Daño, led the assault and capture of the town's *tribunal* (municipal building). Earlier that day the towns of San Francisco de Malabon (now General Trias) and Noveleta had risen in arms and taken over the control of the local government. It was this cry of Cavite on August 31, 1896, that signalled the beginning of the revolution. This soon spilled over to nearby provinces until it engulfed the entire country.

Spanish sovereignty in the Philippines was overthrown by revolutionists led by Aguinaldo. Historical documents show that during the revolutionary regime, Cavite had three politico-military governors: Mariano Trias, Emiliano Riego de Dios and Ladislao Diwa. The revolutionary regime was succeeded by the American regime. Cavite had nine provincial governors from the start of the American regime

until the establishment of the Commonwealth Government in 1935. These governors were Mariano Trias (1901-1905); Louis J. Van Schaick (1906-1907); Leonardo R. Osorio (1908-1909); Tomas Mascardo (1910-1912); Antero S. Soriano (1912-1919); Luis O. Ferrer, Sr.; (1919-1921); Raymundo Jeciel (1922-1925); Fabian Pugeda (1925-1931) and Pedro F. Espiritu (1931-1934).

The Commonwealth regime lasted from 1935 to 1946. It was interrupted by the Pacific war and the subsequent Japanese occupation of the country. Three governors served during the first phase: Ramon Samonte (1935-1939); Emilio P. Virata, acting governor (1939), and Luis Y. Ferrer, Jr. (1940-1944). Ferrer was succeeded by Mariano N. Castañeda from May to November 1944. The Japanese-sponsored Second Republic under Dr. Jose P. Laurel was proclaimed in October 1943. Dominador M. Camerino was appointed governor from December 1944 to the early part of February 1945. On February 13, Castañeda was recalled as governor by the commander of the advancing Allied forces.

The Commonwealth government was re-established towards the end of February 1945 with Rafael F. Trias as the governor. He served for only a few months after he was succeeded by Francisco T. Arca.

The Third republic was established on July 4, 1946 by virtue of the Tydings-McDuffie Act. Manuel Roxas, the last elected president of the commonwealth, continued as president of the Third Republic. During that time, Dominador Camerino was appointed governor. During the end of his term, Mariano B. Villanueva and Horacio Rodriguez took turn of Camerino's position.

Camerino was elected governor in 1952, but again toward the latter part of his term, he was replaced by Dominador Mangubat who acted as governor from 1954 to 1955. Mangubat was followed by Delfin Montano who was elected governor for four consecutive terms (1956 to

1971). Lino D. Bocalan succeeded him in 1972. He was replaced by Dominador M. Camerino who served as acting governor from October 1, 1972 until his death on July 24, 1979.

Juanito R. Remulla was appointed as acting governor on September 25, 1979. Under the Third Republic, he was elected governor on January 30, 1980. President Marcos proclaimed the Fourth Republic in 1981 and still, Remulla was in his service as governor until May 1986. Fernando C. Campos succeeded him in 1986 to 1987. Remulla was reelected for a long term (1987-1995). He was succeeded by Epimaco A. Velasco from 1995 to January 1998 and when he was given a position as Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr. was appointed in place of him. Bong Revilla served from February 2, 1998 to 2001. He was then replaced by Erineo "Ayong" S. Maliksi in 2001. Maliksi served for three consecutive terms (2001 – 2010).

Gov. Juanito Victor "Jonvic" C. Remulla, Jr. took his oath as the new governor of Cavite last June 26, 2010 at Holy Cross Parish in Tanza, Cavite. During the turn-over ceremony last June 30, 2010 held at the Provincial Capitol Building's Ceremonial Hall, Gov. Remulla vows to continue the programs of the last administration and promise to prioritize public service to the Caviteños. His flagship program is to bring the province on a higher ground by making "Cavite: First Class, World Class". Gaining the trust of his constituents during his first term, Gov. Jonvic was re-elected in May 2013 for his second term of office.

Geographical Location of Cavite

Cavite is part of the Philippines' largest island, the Luzon Peninsula. Found in the southern portion, Cavite belongs to Region IV-A or the CALABARZON region. It is bounded by the provinces of Batangas in the south, Laguna in the east, Rizal in the northwest, Metro Manila and Manila Bay in the north, and West Philippine Sea in the west. Its proximity to Metro Manila gives the Province significant edge in terms of economic development.

Political Subdivisions

The province of Cavite has well-defined political subdivisions. Considering the rising population of the province, the addition of new legislative districts is a good move in order to ensure the appropriate representation of the province in the congress. In the year 2009, by virtue of RA 9727, the province was divided into seven legislative districts. The move to increase the number of congressional representatives in Cavite aids the province to have better representation in the national government and in effect receive more appropriate government services and assistance.

Currently, the Province is composed of 17 municipalities and 6 cities with a total of 829 barangays (Table 1A). The four cities include the seat of the Provincial Government- Trece Martires City, the defense frontier- Cavite City, the provincial summer capital- Tagaytay City and the City of Dasmariñas under the Republic Act 9723 which was ratified on November 25, 2009. The City of Dasmariñas also happens to be a lone legislative jurisdiction of 4th District. City of Bacoor and City of Imus were added in the roster of cities in Cavite by virtue of RA 10160 dated February 08, 2012 and RA 10161 dated April 10, 2012, respectively.

By virtue of Presidential Decree 1163, Imus is the provincial capital but the seat of the provincial government is located at Trece Martires City.



Cavite's political subdivisions

17 Municipalities

6 cities

829 barangays

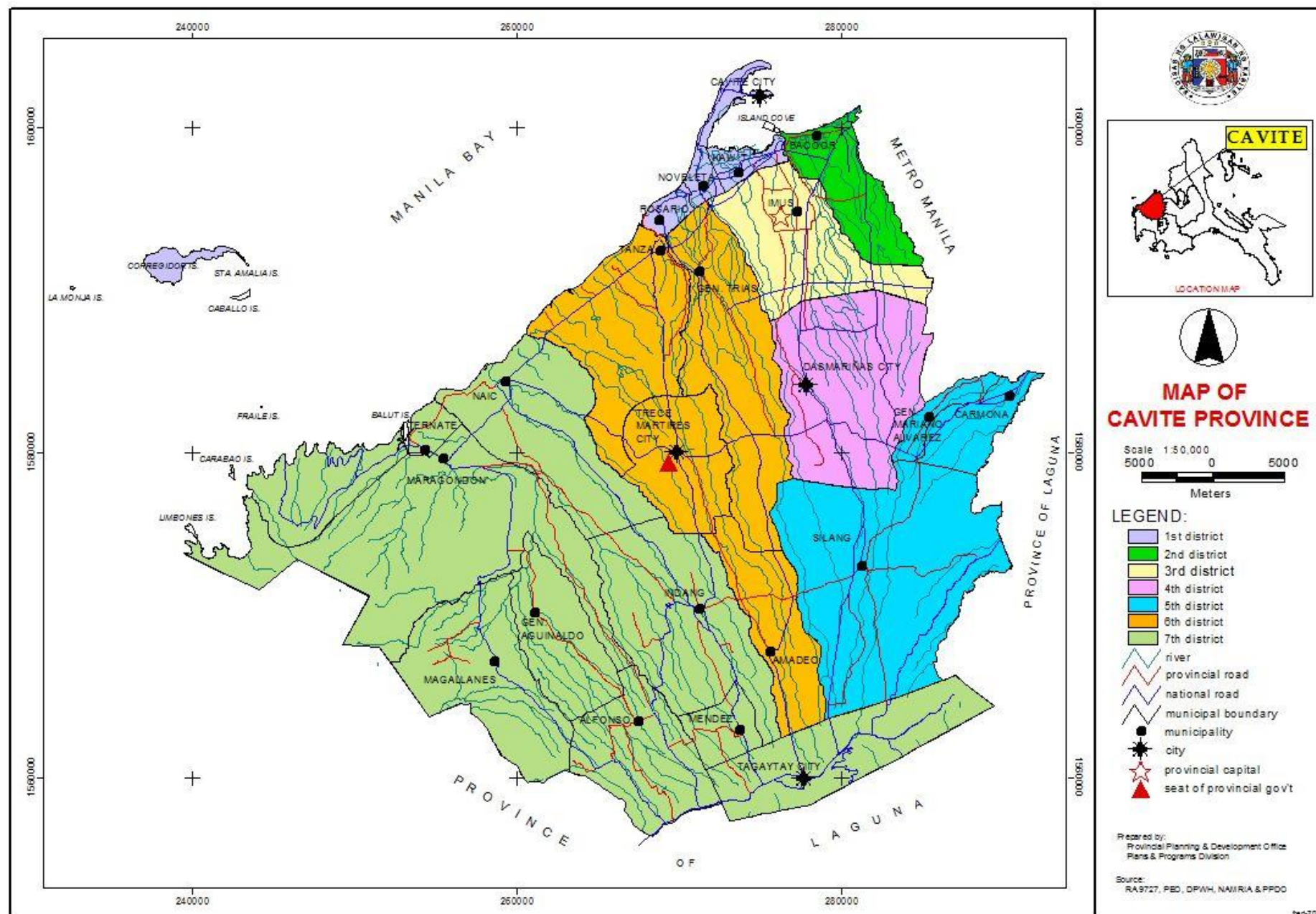
...**Imus** is the provincial capital

Table 1A Number of Barangays by Congressional District and City/ Municipality, Province of Cavite: 2013

City/Municipality	Number of Barangays
1st District	
Cavite City	84
Kawit	23
Noveleta	16
Rosario	20
2nd District	
City of Bacoor	73
3rd District	
City of Imus	97
4th District	
City of Dasmariñas	75
5th District	
Carmona	14
Silang	64
Gen. M. Alvarez	27
6th District	
Trece Martires City	13
Amadeo	26
Gen. Trias	33
Tanza	41
7th District	
Tagaytay City	34
Alfonso	32
Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo	14
Indang	36
Magallanes	16
Maragondon	27
Mendez	24
Naic	30
Ternate	10
TOTAL	829

Source: Provincial Planning and Development Office

Figure 1A Legislative District Map, Province of Cavite: 2014



Satellite Islands

In 1909, during the American Regime, Governor-General W. Cameron Forbes issued the Executive Order No. 124, declaring Act No. 1748 that annexed Corregidor and the Islands of Caballo (Fort Hughes), La Monja, El Fraile (Fort Drum), Sta. Amalia, Carabao (Fort Frank) and Limbones, as well as all waters and detached rocks surrounding them to the City of Cavite. These are now major tourist attractions of the province. The municipality of Ternate also has the Balut Island.

Cavite's Water Resources

Major Rivers in Cavite

The province is being traversed by six major rivers. These are the Maragondon River, Labac River, Cañas River, San Juan River, Bacoor River and Imus River. These rivers are known to have various tributaries passing through the different municipalities of the province.



Corregidor Island Lighthouse

Water source, especially in the upland areas are abundant due to numerous natural springs, waterfalls and rivers. These have become beneficial among domestic, tourism, and industrial users. These include Balite Spring (Amadeo), Saluysoy Spring (Alfonso), Matang Tubig Spring (Tagaytay City), Malakas Spring (General Aguinaldo), and Ulo Spring (Mendez).

The province is also endowed with waterfalls such as Palsajingin Falls (Indang), Balite Falls (Amadeo), Malibiclibic Falls (Gen. Aguinaldo), Talon-Butas Falls (Gen. Aguinaldo), Saluysoy Falls (Alfonso) and Tala River (Gen. Aguinaldo). Nowadays, these God-given natural wonders are being utilized for recreational and leisure activities like picnics and gatherings (Table 1B).

Surface Freshwater Resources

Cavite's hydrological network is composed of main rivers and tributaries. These rivers and tributaries generally have a flowing direction from the highlands of Tagaytay City going to Manila Bay with stretches from the city of Bacoor up to municipality Ternate. This is generally in the direction from upland going to the lowland Cavite.

Japan International Cooperation Agency study

...the groundwater in Cavite is depleting at a rate of 1 meter water level decrease per year

Ground Water Resources

The natural ground elevation or terrain affects the amount of ground water in an area, not to mention the water extraction demand depending on the kind of industries or number of residences. In the lowland areas covering the towns of General Trias, Naic, Tanza, Ternate and the cities of Dasmariñas, Bacoor and Imus, hundreds of artesian wells and deep wells provide water supply for both domestic and irrigation purposes. These have become their major source of water. These have caused the salt water intrusion in the aquifers due to over extraction of water. In a study made by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the groundwater in Cavite is depleting at a rate of 1 meter water level decrease per year. In the upland areas of the province, groundwater is tapped mainly for domestic use through local water supply systems.

Based on the geological studies in Cavite, most of the ground water is stored in the pyroclastic rock reservoir and little in the volcano and clastic rock. Potable water is not reported in the near shore due to the presence of alluvium deposits which may be brackish and saline and are not safe for drinking and other domestic use. Another source of groundwater is called infiltrated rainfall which serves as the direct source of most near surface aquifers. Inflow from surface water reservoir and irrigation water also contributes to the ground water.

Freely-flowing wells occur in the 30-meter elevation of Southern Tanza and in the lower portions of near shore Naic and Ternate while in the City of Imus, it is at the elevation of about 15 meters.

Table 1B Major Rivers of Cavite

Name of Rivers	Length (km)	Point of Origin	Drainage Location
1. Bacoor River	12.3	Pintong Gubat, Molino passing Tanzang Luma, Salinas and Panapaan	Bacoor Bay, Bacoor
2. Imus River	38.4	North of Tagaytay passing Balite, Sabutan, Biga, Silang, Palapala, City of Dasmariñas, Pasong Bayog, San Agustin and connects to Pasong Bayog passing Salitran, Baluctot, Anabu II & Anabu I going to Tanzang Luma, Palico, Imus down to Salinas and Mabolo, Bacoor toward drainage. Tributaries which started from Bucal going to San Agustin joins/connects Imus River in Pasong Bayog. Tributaries found in Baluctot also drain at Imus River.	Bacoor Bay, Bacoor
3a. San Juan River	39.0	Maitim, Amadeo passing Maitim, Lalaan I, Silang, Dagatan, Banaybanay, Calubcob, Panungyanan, Javalera, Biclatan, Manggahan, Jaime Baker; Buenavista, Pasong Kawayan, Bacao, Gen. Trias; Sta. Rosa, Noveleta and Putol, Kawit. Tributaries are at Bucandala and Panamitan.	Bacoor Bay Kawit
3b. Alang-Ilang River		Pasong Camachile River which started from Santiago passing San Gabriel connects with San Juan River; San Jose, City of Dasmariñas converging with San Juan River at Bacao, Gen. Trias	
4. Cañas River	38.9	From Kaybagal, Tagaytay City passing Loma, Amadeo going to Polanan River, San Agustin, Gregorio, Osorio, Lucbanan, Conchu, Inocencio, Trece Martires City; Alingaro, Gen. Trias passing Lubluban River, Santol, Bucal to Julugan, Tanza. Also from Tagaytay City going to Salaban, Amadeo; Balagbag Mahabang Kahoy, Limbon, Alulod, Indang and connects to Paradahan, Tanza Other tributaries are found in Buna Lejos, Limbon connecting in Alulod.	Manila Bay Julugan, Tanza
5. Labac River	30.5	Two contributory rivers located in the upland area. Starting from Buna Lejos, Indang passing Buna Cerca to Calumpang River going to Palangue, Naic to Kay-alamang River passing San Roque down to Labac River. Patutong Malaki, Tagaytay City passing Habulin River, Barangays II & III, Mendez going to Kayquit, Indang straight to Banaba Cerca going to Malainen Bago, Naic	Manila Bay
6. Maragondon River	35.6	Multi-sources Banaba Lejos passing Pantihan I & II. Tributaries are: Habulin River passing East Tambo to Banaba Lejos; from Palocpoc passing Lumampong and Banaba Lejos; Magay River to Maragondon River; Narvaez River passing Tabora to Maragondon River; Matagbak Buruhan River passing Sinaliw na Munti and Sinaliw na Malaki; Aliang River in Magallanes starting from Kaytitinga joined Narvaez River passing Tabora; Another river (unnamed) from west of Kaytitinga and Aliang River passing Magallanes and joined Tabora to Maragondon River	Manila Bay Ternate

Source: National Irrigation Administration

Coastal Resources

Cavite boasts a stretch of about 122.574 kilometers of shoreline. These can be found along Cavite City, City of Bacoor, Kawit, Noveleta, Rosario, Tanza, Naic, Maragondon and Ternate. The richness of Cavite's coastal resources paved the way for our recognition as major producer of oysters and mussels. The fisherfolks are also active producers of sugpo/bangus. On the western coastlines lie the breathtaking beaches with pale gray sand. Thus, basically, coastal resource of the province contributes to the economic activities related to fishery and tourism.

Table 1C Water Area and Coastline Length by City/Municipality, Province of Cavite: 2013

Municipality/ City	Water Area (ha)	Coastline Length (m)
City of Bacoor	957.2472	5,778.4090
Maragondon	12,786.7200	18,526.3100
Naic	6,324.6200	9,122.6800
Rosario	6,017.8690	3,442.4520
Tanza	10,552.8100	11,244.1400
Ternate	10,331.2300	23,627.3500
Kawit	612.2814	6,445.6280
Cavite City	16,051.8174	20,081.5610
Noveleta	4,291.4671	2,895.1020
Sub Total	67,926.0621	101,163.6320
Corregidor Island	25,753.3129	21,410.4240
TOTAL	93,679.3750	122,574.0560

Source: Provincial Government - Environment and Natural Resources Office

Coastal Water Boundaries

The determination of coastal water boundaries is a major undertaking under the Integrated Coastal Resource Management Program. It intends to delineate jurisdiction into water and land-use zones or districts. Also, it aims to provide regulatory framework for permitting and prohibiting human activities according to designated use of coastal space.

The coastal use zoning aims to:

- Validate the previous proposed zoning;
- Delineate suitable areas for particular human uses while minimizing the impacts of these uses to ecosystem and human health;
- Protect critical or representative habitats/ecosystems and ecological process;
- Protect natural and cultural sites while allowing spectrum or reasonable uses;
- Resolve conflicting human activities and uses;
- Protect the human welfare;
- Better management of the coastal areas and environment; and
- Minimize multiple use conflicts.

Mangroves (PG-ENRO Report)

The remaining mangroves in Cavite was surveyed by Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region IV-A, Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Division of the Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) and ICM Coordinators of various municipalities in March 2005 using Global Positioning System or GPS. The area was only 23.8605 hectares which can be found in the municipalities of Kawit and Ternate wherein remnants of the mangroves forest are still present.

The declining area of mangrove forest in Cavite is due to the conversion of the said area to fishponds, salt-beds and built-up or settlement



Coast of Corregidor Island

areas as well as charcoal-making which was observed in the Municipalities of Noveleta and Tanza.

However, in 2007, based on the Annual Accomplishment Report of DENR, there was a 37% increase in aggregate area of mangroves which is about 32.69 hectares or 8.8295 hectares higher than in 2005. This can be attributed to the joint awareness program and mangrove planting projects conducted by the coastal municipalities and the province.

On the contrary, according to the NAMRIA's Satellite Image, the present and existing mangrove areas are far below with an approximate area of 60 hectares. In terms of species diversity, there were 25 identified mangroves, 14 associated species belonging to 17 families. The most dominant species observed are almost the same in 2005 survey except from additional specie which is the *Avicennia officinalis* or Api-api. Old growth mangroves are still vulnerable in the area which is safe from any destruction and intervention from human activities.



Carabao Island - one of the three fish sanctuaries in Cavite.



Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office Mangrove Planting Activity.

The species of mangroves that have been identified and dominated the area are: Bungalon (*Avicennia marina*) and Nipa (*Nypa fruticans*) while Bakauanbabae (*Rhizophora mucronata*), Bakauanlalake (*Rhizophora apiculata*), Pedada (*Sonneratia caseolaris*), Bantigi (*Pemphis acidula*) and other species occasionally grow.

Sanctuaries (PG-ENRO Report)

There are three (3) existing fish sanctuaries in Cavite. One of which is the 56-hectare Carabao Island Fish Sanctuary located in Sta. Mercedes, Maragondon managed by the local government of Maragondon. Another is the 48-hectare Naic Fish Sanctuary situated in Labac, Naic. This is managed by the Local Government of Naic and El Gancho, a non-government organization in the area. Third is the 15-hectare Bulaklakin Reef Fish Sanctuary in Ternate, Cavite managed by the Anak ng Dagat ng Bucana, Inc. in partnership with PG-ENRO, LGU, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Office of the Provincial Agriculturist.

Endangered Species International...

Planting mangrove trees:

- provides nurseries for fish
- protects the coastline from strong winds and waves
- provides soil stabilization, stimulate nutrient retention and water quality improvement through filtration of sediments and pollutants
- allows absorption of carbon dioxide

