

Forest Resources of Misamis Oriental

By VICENTE R. MARABABOL
Provincial Forester of Misamis Oriental

The province of Misamis Oriental has a total land area of 391,681 hectares. On the bosom of this narrow coastal strip of land bordering the Mindanao Sea is a rich stand of timber, which under present estimate re-

presents about 43 per cent of the land area of the province and supporting an industry second to the copra industry. The latest estimate on the extent of the vegetative soil cover of Misamis Oriental is as follows:

Type of Vegetation	AREA		Stand per Ha. cu.m.	VOLUME	
	Per Cent	Hectare		Per Cent	Cubic Meter Million
Commercial Forest	42.6	166,760	151.20 ¹	92.9	16.98
Non-Comm. Forest	17.8	69,840	20.80	6.8	1.23
Mangrove Swamp3	1,140 ²	105.90	.3	0.08
Open grassland	19.9	77,880			
Cultivated	19.4	76,061			
Total	100.0	391,681	277.90	100.0	18.29

The forest of Misamis Oriental like those found in the other provinces belongs to the National government and its exploitation is reserved to our people in accordance with our Constitution.

The greater bulk of the forest is now very much further away from the sea coast and is located in the municipalities of Gingoog, Claveria, upper Merina, Talisayan, Kinoguitan, Saley and Balingasag, and the municipal districts of Lumbia and Lourdes. Most of what is left of the forest is of the tropical rain type, complex in its composition but generally dominated by the Dipterocarp species.

It is estimated that the standing timber throughout Misamis Oriental is around 18.29

million cubic meters with a stumpage value, based on the average forest charges, of no less than 33 million pesos. Its market value is placed at 823 million pesos, based on the present average local market price of ₱0.18 per board foot of rough lumber. Under sustained-yield management, the upland forest of Misamis Oriental could stand a yearly cut of 270,000 cubic meters, while mangrove swamp could yield a yearly cut of 1,200 cubic meters. Considering the amount annually removed from her forests of less than 100,000 cubic meters, lumbering in Misamis Oriental can be developed to the point where it can be the premier industry to replace the uncertain copra industry. In fact, if present figures are to be consider-

1—Stand per hectare of which, 1st group—2.46% consisting of molave, narra, tindalo, yakal; 2nd group—15.16%, almaciga, guijjo, narig, makaasim, bitanghol, balong-eta; 3rd group—51.04%, tangile, mayapis, red lauan, lumbayau, apitong, nato, binggas, oak, pahutan; 4th group—31.34%, white lauan, batete, bagtikan, almon, duguan, miscellaneous species.

2—760 hectares covered with forest.

ed, the minimum amount of timber that can be removed from the forest of this province can easily be expanded twice its present volume. Accordingly, this will also increase the average annual government revenue on her forest of over ₱150,000 to close to one-third of a million pesos.

The province's commercial forests have an average stand of over 150 cubic meters per hectare, a density which makes logging a profitable venture. The species in commercial quantities found in the order of their

abundance are as follows: White Lauan, Tangile, Mayapis, Red Lauan, Batete, Guijo, Lumbayau, Almaciga, Apitong, Nato, Molave, Narra, Bagtikan, Narig and others.

Utilization.—Four (4) timber licenses (including one license agreement) are operating sawmills with aggregate daily capacity of from 29,000 to 35,000 board feet. Of the timber production of 92, 431 cubic meters (39,201,417 board feet) last year (1950-51), 7,224,640 board feet were sawn lumber produced by four (4) sawmills as follows:

<i>Names</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Daily Capacity in Board Feet</i>	<i>Annual Production in Bd. Ft.</i>
Anakan Lumber Company	Anakan, Gingoog	15,000	2,471,832
Sta. Clara Lumber Co.	Lunao, Gingoog	8,000 to 10,000	3,054,272
Claveria Sawmill	Luna, Claveria	4,000 to 6,000	1,464,485
Willkom Sawmill	Kahalantian, Lourdes	2,000 to 4,000	234,451
	Total	29,000 35,000	7,224,640

Last year, almost ten (10) million board feet of logs and 7½ million board feet of lumber went into the foreign and local markets. The exportation of logs and lumber were mostly made to Japan, United States,

South Africa, British Columbia and Belgium. A comparative statement of production of logs, sawn lumber and export for the past five fiscal years is shown as follows:

LUMBER AND LOG PRODUCTION FROM, 1945 TO 1951

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Production</i>		<i>Export</i>	
	<i>Log (Bd. Ft.)</i>	<i>Lumber (sawn) (Bd. Ft.)</i>	<i>Log (Bd. Ft.)</i>	<i>Lumber (Bd. Ft.)</i>
1945-46	162,252			
1946-47	6,876,756		2,941,075	
1947-48	26,727,615	13,951,424		
1948-49	39,667,841	32,032,524	11,089,635	2,535,482
1949-50	16,203,096	7,421,965	4,376,508	6,230,724
1950-51	39,201,417	6,389,332	10,615,511	5,004,630

The lumber industry in Misamis Oriental bears watching. As of last year it had a neck-to-neck race for supremacy in the foreign trade with the copra and pineapple industries. Timber is available in commer-

cial quantities in Misamis Oriental but what is needed is capital, the investors and men who have the know-how and the courage to invest in the lumber business.

