

# Mining firm uses 'green' reforestation technology

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BY LEANDER C. DOMINGO, TMT ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 GREEN BUSINESS

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: Through the use of stems and growth enzymes, a mining company in this province has been producing thousands of seedlings while improving its innovation in growing grasses on rock face walls taking only weeks.

David Way, OceanaGold Philippines, Inc. (OGPI) general manager, said that when the company began its operations in 2013, its environment team in the Didipio Mine in Kasibu town initiated rehabilitation projects that included grassing of areas within the mine site no longer necessary for operations.

Way said this time, OGPI's environment team is implementing its newest innovation to fast track its progressive rehabilitation called "hydro-seeding" where mixture of seed and fertilizer is sprayed onto an area of land. This replaced the traditional method of planting.

He said some of the mine's waste rock dumps are already rehabilitated where rock face walls were stabilized, layered with top soil and coco-nets, and planted with different species of grasses, fruit-bearing trees, bamboo and indigenous forest trees such as mayapis, narra, agohe and tanguile. "At the Didipio mine, we have rehabilitated 94.62 percent of the total available area ready for rehabilitation through plantation of grasses and trees," Way said. As a result, he said OGPI's rehabilitation and reforestation efforts

have been consistently recognized by award-giving bodies such as the Best Mining Forest received for two consecutive years as first runner-up in 2017 and third runner-up in 2016.

Prior to Didipio Mine's construction and commercial operation, grasslands within the perimeter of the project have also been planted with various trees, creating a mini-forest with eco-trails showcasing fully-grown trees of different species. The company uses "macro-somatic propagation" in increasing seedling production of fruit bearing trees, endemic tree species such as narra, yakal, molave, tuai and guijo, and varieties of bamboos where growth enzymes are applied on stems hence eliminating the need for seeds,

Way said.

With the technology, the Didipio Mine has available seedlings of more than 300,000 trees and bamboo at its nursery ready for planting and donation. Way said the company continues to support the government's National Greening Program by establishing plantations within the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

“We have partnered with local farmers, non-government organizations, communities, and other stakeholders in the development of plantation

areas,” he added. OGPI has already planted about 2 million forest and fruit bearing trees and established a total of 1,781 hectares of tree plantations.

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