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Overlay of
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Demographic
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The Regional Spatial Strategy

The SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Spatial Development Framework (RSDF) defines the region's desired spatial structure based on the trends on population, economic activities, and services. It is anchored on the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) that shows the development direction and recognizes the increasing role of cities and the benefits of agglomeration economies, particularly the urban areas, as drivers and venues for growth and poverty reduction. It also promotes spatial integration through a well-connected network of settlements.

Region XII shall continue to adopt the Sustainable Agri-Industrial Development Strategy (SAIDS) to realize its vision as an agri-industrial hub and ecotourism center in southern Philippines. The spatial strategy shall encourage the establishment of ecozones that will support the region's industry clusters. Specifically, the spatial strategy focuses on Tri-Corridor Development that shall develop main and potential corridors involving the establishment of small- to medium-scale processing centers, agriculture and commercial hubs, ecotourism spokes, centers for social opportunities, housing, connected by infrastructure support facilities, and made resilient by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at all stages of the planning process. There shall be three main corridors.

The Cotabato City-Kidapawan City (CK) Agri-Industrial and Eco-Tourism Corridor

The first corridor is the Cotabato City-Kidapawan City (CK) Agri-Industrial and Eco-Tourism Corridor. The primary growth node in this corridor is Cotabato City with Kidapawan City and Midsayap as intermediate urban centers. The major industries that shall be promoted in this corridor are agri-industrial and eco-tourism development. The economic activities

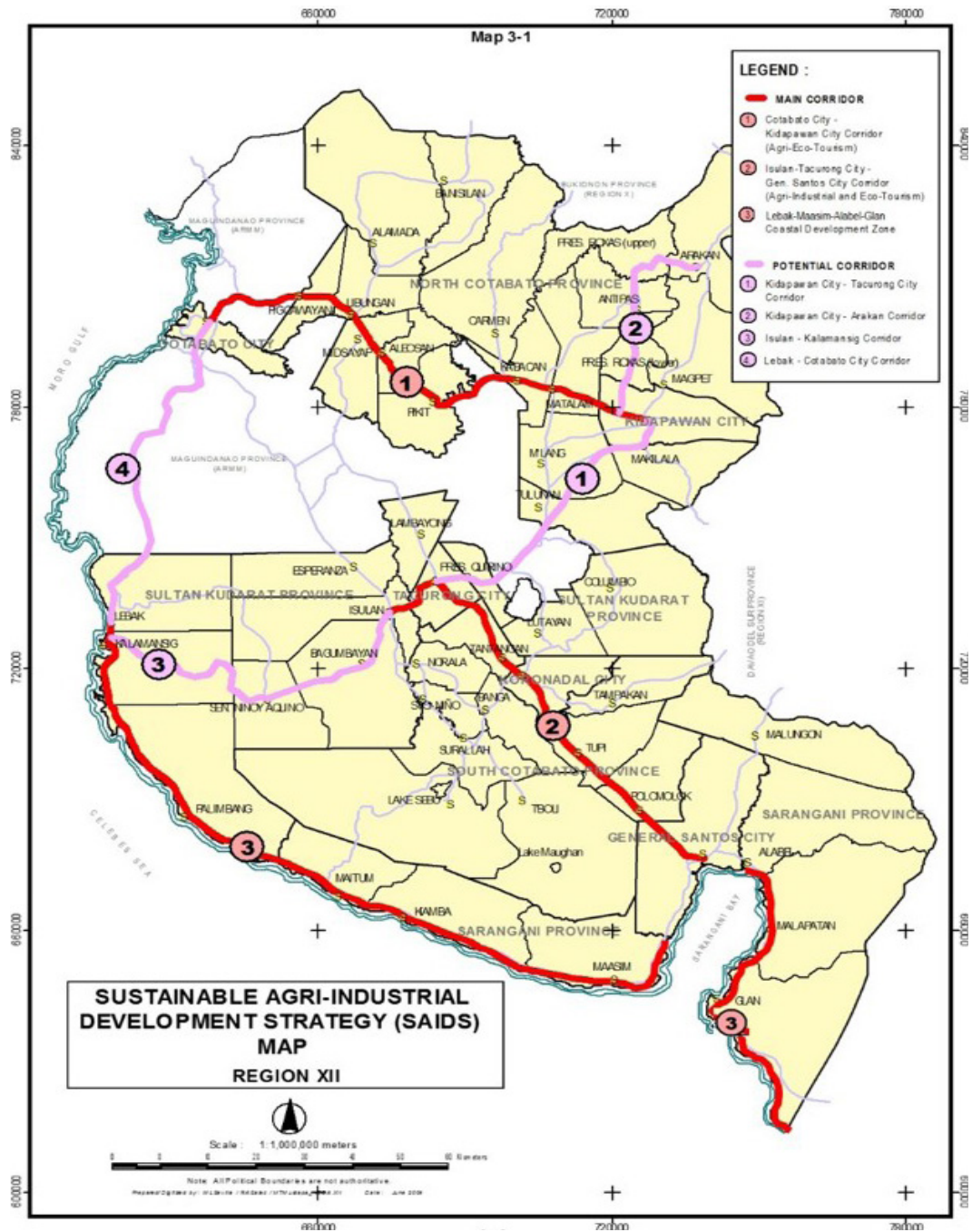
in this corridor could be influenced by the development of Regions XI, X and the ARMM.

Cotabato City as the primary urban center in this corridor shall serve as the institutional, financial and service center, the center for public health with the existence of the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center, and the provisional seat of ARMM. The city as a special economic zone is expected to diversify its economic base and will facilitate the creation of more investments and job opportunities.

Cotabato Province ranks first in the region in rice and rubber production, second in corn, and produces organic coco sugar and delicious tropical fruits. It hosts processing plants for oil palm, rubber and sugar cane. It also produces

freshwater fish. It has the longest zipline (2.2 km) and boasts of beautiful tourism sites. The Mt. Apo Geothermal Power plant in Kidapawan City generates 52 megawatts and another 50-megawatt plant is being worked out as expansion.

Figure 2: The Regional Spatial Development Strategy 2015-2045



Source of data: NEDA XII

The Isulan-General Santos (IGS) Agri-Industrial and Eco-Tourism Corridor

The second corridor is the Isulan-General Santos (IGS) Agri-Industrial and Eco-Tourism Corridor. General Santos City shall be the primary growth node in this corridor with the cities of Koronadal, Isulan and Tacurong as intermediate urban centers.

Koronadal City shall be the regional administrative center of Region XII by virtue of Executive Order 304 series of 2004. The major industries that shall be promoted in this corridor are: high value commercial crops, corn and other agri-based products, fishery-based products, and information communication technology (ICT). Trade linkage in this corridor with Region XI is flourishing due to the natural flow of goods and services between General Santos City and Davao City.

The Lebak-Maasim-Alabel-Glan (LMAG) Coastal Development Zone

The third corridor shall be along the coastal area of the region called the Lebak-Maasim-Alabel-Glan (LMAG) Coastal Development Zone. The primary growth nodes in this corridor are Lebak, Kalamansig, Alabel and Glan with Kiamba and Maasim as the intermediate urban centers. Maitum shall be an ecotourism destination.

The major industries to be promoted along this corridor are marine fishing, coconut, cement, marble, coffee, and nature, dive, sun, and beach tourism.

The Roles of Provinces and Cities in Regional Development

The provinces and cities play an important role in the advancement of the region. The provinces and cities complement each other and the full development of their unique strengths and characteristics could contribute to the development of the region.

Cotabato Province	The agro-industrial center in the northern part of the region producing organic rice, exotic fruits, and processing industrial crops like rubber and sugar. It is a source of energy (geothermal).
South Cotabato	The agro-industrial center in the southern part of the region processing high-value crops like pineapple, banana and the prime agricultural producer of rice, corn and other food crops. It is also an emerging eco-tourism capital of the region.
Sultan Kudarat	The oil palm and coffee production and processing center of the region and producer of organic muscovado sugar, aquamarine fisheries and seaweeds.
Sarangani	The fishery, aquaculture and integrated upland development center of the region. It is a source of energy (coal). It is a growing ecotourism destination with its nature, dive, sun, and beach tourism.
Cotabato City	The cultural and historical center of the region, known as the cradle of the Cotabato Empire Province, a special economic zone and a Halal Hub.
Kidapawan City	The fruit capital of the region, agri-processing center for rubber, sugar and tropical fruits, and the market and distribution center of Cotabato Province.
Tacurong City	The processing center for African oil palm, cereals and grains, meat, poultry, and the provincial market and distribution center of Sultan Kudarat province.
Koronadal City	The Administrative Center of SOCCSKSARGEN region. It positions itself as the region's convention hub.
General Santos City	The metropolitan center of the region being a highly urbanized city and the Tuna Capital of the Philippines. With the presence of the international standard port and airport, it is the transshipment hub of the region to other parts of the country and the rest of the world. It shall also be the prime business, banking, financial and services center of the region.

