

**Palawan State University
Coron Campus**

**Environmental and Biodiversity
Assessment of the New Public Market
of Coron, Palawan**

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Republic of the Philippines
PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY
Puerto Princesa City

North Extramural Campuses
CORON CAMPUS

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Introduction

One of the seventeen (17) mega diverse countries in the world is the Philippines, with two-thirds of Earth's biodiversity due to its geographical location. As defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), biological diversity is "the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems". Throughout this guide, biological diversity is shortened to biodiversity. Assessing the status and trends of biodiversity is essential for sustainable development strategies at all levels, from village to nation to region. Biodiversity is crucial for the well being of people and the Earth. Ecological communities maintain the ecological and evolutionary processes that sustain life. These are necessary to help maintain the planet's chemical balance, moderate climate, renew soil, and conserve species diversity. Plant, animal and other species have intrinsic worth. They are also the source of all biological wealth—supplying food, raw materials, medicines, recreational resources, and a store of other goods and services. With this, the need to assess biodiversity and environment before any development is essential. As stated above, Philippines is a place of diverse flora and fauna and among the hotspots of biodiversity is Palawan, in which it is the home to 49 animal and 56 plant species.

With the arising tourist in Coron, Palawan, this leads to the construction of hotels, restaurants and other establishments. The limited land space in the business center leads people to look for nearby area to build structures. One of these is the proposal of Municipal Government of Coron to construct a new public market for the best interest of the people. The location of the project is situated in Diguiboy, Barangay 6, Coron,



Palawan in which the titled property owned by Twinleaf Group Inc. under transfer Certificate Title No. 065-201400705 dated August 2014 from previous Title TCT-T-20392 with a total of 9.571 and 5.638 hectares of which need to be rezoned. This will be utilized by the community. This study was conducted to assess the environment and the present life forms in the area in order to find out if it is suitable for construction of public market in consideration to the environment and biodiversity.

Scope

This study only focuses on the assessment of environment and biodiversity of the location of New Coron Public Market situated in Barangay 6, Coron, Palawan, its land area and the coastal landing boat.

Methods

The study is a combination of qualitative and quantitative approach, this is to specify the present biodiversity in terms of its quantity and its current condition. Also, to determine if the environment fits for development.

In order to assess the environmental aspect and biodiversity in the area, series of site visitation and inspection was conducted. Observation was done primarily to assess the location of the proposed public market.

Results and Discussion

The inspected area for rezoning is part of a titled property owned by Twinleaf Group Inc. with a total of 9.571 and 5.638 hectares of which to be rezoned. The ECAN Zone of the proposed area fall within the Core Zone. With this, the need to rezone the area for the utilization of the community is essential. Based on numerous site visitation and inspection, flora and fauna



is found in the area. There is existing biodiversity present in the terrestrial such as mahogany, banana, perennial grasses and shrubs (see Table 1). Along the landing area, existing biodiversity is also seen (see Table 2). In terms of the environmental aspect, the soil type is sandy-clay and the water quality along the landing area based on observation is turbid.

Biodiversity

Table 1: Biodiversity in Land

Flora	Biodiversity Count
Mahogany	25
Banana	508
Shrubs	-
Perennial Grasses	-

Table 2: Biodiversity along the Boat Landing

Species of Mangroves	Common/Local Name
Rhizophora Mucronata	Bakhaw Babae
Rhizophora Apiculata	Bakhaw Lalake
Lumnitzera Racemosa	White-flowered black Mangrove
Sea Grass	Common/Local Name
Enhalus Acoroides	"Lusay"
Fauna	Common/Local Name
Anchovy	"Dilis"
Migratory Birds	-



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Conclusion

The biodiversity assessment was typically confined to local scales, which did not allow prediction and assessment of effects of biodiversity loss nor the consideration of scales of ecological processes. With the thorough assessment of the environment and biodiversity, the area is suitable for the construction of the new public market in consideration to the existing life forms in the area.

Recommendations

The terrestrial part of the area can be used for future development, provided that the future structures conform to the soil bearing capacity of the soil type of the area. Also, drainage plan should be a major consideration in the future development. The proposed coastal rezoning can be utilized for boat landing, provided that the boat that will land in the area is monitored to ensure that oil spill and waste is not dumped into the body of water. Mangroves should also be protected in any means. Lastly, a future study about the prediction and assessment of effects of biodiversity loss in the area can be conducted.

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Appendices

Documentations



Grown-up Mahogany in some portion of the area.



Planted bananas by the Municipal Agriculture Office



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Grown up shrubs and perennial grasses



Mangrove area along the Landing area



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Mangroves along the Landing area



Mangroves along the Landing area