



STATE CONSERVATION REPORT OF THE PUERTO PRINCESA SUBTERRANEAN RIVER NATIONAL PARK (PPSRNP; N 652 rev)

Prepared by:

Park Superintendent's Office and Protected Area Management Board
Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park

With the support of:



Philippines National Commission
for UNESCO

STATE CONSERVATION REPORT OF THE PUERTO PRINCESA SUBTERRANEAN RIVER NATIONAL PARK (PPSRNP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of Conservation Report for the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park was prepared in response to a letter from the World Heritage Centre dated 30 January 2014, calling the State Party's attention to reports received by IUCN which allege that activities which negatively impact the Park's Outstanding Universal Value are being carried out.

The Philippines' National Commission for UNESCO oversees the implementation of the World Heritage Programme in the country by closely coordinating with local and national offices in charge of site management as well as other actors which contribute to the conservation, management, and sustainable development of World Heritage Sites.

Upon receipt of this letter, NatCom consulted its Science and Technology Commissioners who are quite familiar with the provincial and local conditions in Palawan (where the Park is located). They have not expressed alarm on the matters contained in the letter. It is their view that following changes in local administrations after the 2013 local elections, there are positive developments in improvements in local governance which extends to the site management of PPSRNP. These however, involved right-sizing of staff, office personnel, and revamping of management plans to address current Park issues, which eventually led to termination of some employees, streamlining and stricter enforcement of policies and management programs. This has sparked several disgruntled groups to lodge complaints involving environmental issues, peace and security, local economy, and even formal complaints challenging the validity of the election of the current local government officials, specifically the city mayor.

Upon coordination with the Park Superintendent and its Management Board, the State of Conservation clarifies that there is no incident of illegal wildlife trading and hunting in PPSRNP from July 2013 when the present administration assumed into office up to present. The new park management plans to continue extensive monitoring and IEC and strengthening the capability and logistics of the Protection Arm of the Park. Likewise, there has been no modification of the Park's boundaries and that the delineation as set forth by national law and as inscribed by the World Heritage Committee has been continuously enforced. There are no forest clearing, beach development, rubber plantations and other farm developments in the core and restricted zones of the property. On the other hand, increase in the tourist arrivals has been addressed by improvements in the visitor booking system, which ensures that the carrying capacity of the Park is not exceeded. Meanwhile, human activities in the buffer zone of the Park are being closely monitored. The Park Management is currently updating its Management Plan to ensure better research, monitoring, identification and implementation of all preventive and mitigating measures to address any impact of such activities to the core zone.

(Prepared by Philippines National Commission for UNESCO)