

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

2015

Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
The Philippines

Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park Management

With the support of:

Philippines National Commission for UNESCO

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I. Executive Summary

The State of Conservation Report of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) has been a new tradition of its Management after 2014, where the World Heritage Centre (WHC) called the State Party's attention to reports received by IUCN, which alleged that activities having a negative impact in the Park's Outstanding Universal Value were being carried out. Today, after elucidating these issues with actual accomplishments, this State of Conservation Report is a testament to the world that the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is well taken care of for the next generations, so that they will see and experience for themselves its unique Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

Time is really too short for those who actually work. 2015 was never an easy year for the PPSRNP Management especially in the course of correcting the lapses of the past. After a year of assumption into office, a new Management Plan is now being carefully drafted by an esteemed group of technical experts to replace a decade-old Management Plan from the past management.

Also after almost a decade, a Survey and Registration of Protected Area Occupants (SRPAO) was also conducted. The management has observed that in-migration has also become a threat to the property's OUV since most of the illegal activities were done by new migrants who do not directly or indirectly benefit from the tourism industry which the PPSRNP has developed. In the implementation of the SRPAO, the management has discovered another challenge. The Park Management and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) found out that the Cadastral Survey that was instrumental in the issuances of land titles were erroneous. Land titles had been issued to parcels of land that is not Alienable and Disposable. This also caused landowners to encroach and expand their land claims. Nonetheless, a correction survey has already been undertaken, results of which are now being awaited. Once this has been corroborated and incorporated with the SRPAO, strict enforcement will follow.

With the goals of keeping the balance of sustainable tourism and environmental preservation and ensuring that the OUV of the PPSRNP will not be infringed by tourism activities and other related activities to which the management generates its income used for the protection and conservation, a Comprehensive Tourism Management Plan (CTMP) has been drafted. With this CTMP, the OUV's protection shall remain a priority while allowing tourists to enjoy the beauty of the park and equitably sharing the gained benefits to local communities. This plan creates a roadmap in developing and regulating the tourism activity through community-centered and conservation-biased approach. A document called "Activity and Infrastructure Guidelines" is already underway with technical assistance provided by the the Philippines National Commission for UNESCO.

Gearing up for the future, this State of Conservation Report includes details on the Proposed Sabang Wharf Complex Development Project, deemed as a model infrastructure development project in a protected environment, harnessing the principles of sustainability and renewable resources management erected in the sense of a Filipino value of "*Bayanihan*" or unity and cooperation.

II. RESPONSE TO THE DECISION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The Management of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and its Protected Area Management Board would like to convey our deepest and sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the World Heritage Committee for commending our humble efforts to “regulate the tourism and control illegal activities” in the property. Upon our assumption into Office in 2013, it has been our fiat since day one to maintain and keep the balance of sustainable eco-tourism and the protection and conservation of our esteemed environment - a management value that we uphold up to this very day.

Nonetheless, this commendation was not taken lightly.

A. Updates on the Survey of the Registration of Protected Area Occupants

2015 is yet another challenging year for the PPSRNP Management. With the results of the SRPAO at hand, its finalization could not push through until the results of the Corrected Cadastral Survey have also been finalized. The erroneous Cadastral Survey that was earlier instrumental in the issuances of the DENR for land titles has caused encroachment, expansion of titled lots and dispute due to overlapping land titles of different owners. Once the corrected Cadastral Survey has been finalized and implemented, the list of qualified tenure migrants will also be finalized.

Initial results of the SRPAO can be summarized as follows:

No of Households	No of Occupants		Total Farm lot	Total Home lot
	Male	Female		
685	1,616	1,522	513.5 Has	111.3 Has

Results of the SRPAO and the Cadastral Survey are being harmonized and finalized so that land titles violating any law, or if found to be falling on timberlands based on the Environmentally Critical Areas Network zone, will be cancelled by the DENR. Consequently, their occupants will be asked by the City Anti-Illegal Squatting Office to vacate the said parcel of land.

B. Updates on the PPSRNP Management Plan

It was late October of 2015 when the bidding process for the Resource Persons for the Proposed PPSRNP Management Plan for 2015-2020 was finalized. Immediately, consultations and interviews were conducted. The First draft of the management plan includes the salient points of the 2002 Management Plan and a partial review of its implementation.

The crafting of the PPSRNP Management Plan was designated as task of the technical expertise of The Kahublagan sang Panimalay Foundation Inc. (KPF), a non-profit, non-stock private corporation engaged in social research and community development work.

The organization continued to expand the work on development. The consolidation gave birth to the foundation as approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 7, 1988. Over the last 42 years, the initiatives and

projects of Kahublagan sang Panimalay were institutionalized as it worked with local government units. The street children projects led to the creation of a Council for the Welfare of Urban Children of Iloilo City headed by the Mayor and is funded of the City up to this day. Various activities and projects led to the formations of other institutions in the LGU such as: Solid Waste Management Council of Iloilo, the Iloilo Water Management Council in the Province, the Rainwater Harvesting Program of the province of Iloilo, and the Philippine Watershed Management Coalition, a national coalition of individuals and institutions in the country advocating for the protection of watersheds (since 1991) which held its 12th national conference on watershed last March 26-27, 2014.

The mission of the foundation is to study and develop alternative development schemes focused on disadvantaged groups through research and community development

The Terms of References for the said project summarized the management planning process for the PPSRNP as follows: *“A review of documents, reports and other studies will be done together with interviews of key informants to get an over-all picture of the current state of the PPUR and its management. The results of the secondary review of relevant materials, reports and documents and from interviews will serve as inputs to the stakeholder workshops. This strategic management plan will be a product of a participatory process to ensure ownership of the plan by the stakeholders. The role of the external consultants from the Kahublagan sang Panimalay Foundation (KPF) will be that of facilitators and resource persons.”*

Corollary to the preparation of the Management Plan is the building of a cooperative decision-making system and culture of conservation among stakeholders. The Plan shall assist in structuring the information stream into strategic decision-making processes while establishing ownership and accountability for the PPSRNP among the stakeholders.

The Plan, therefore, becomes a “social contract” between the PPUR management and the stakeholders. The Social Contract is not set in stone because the natural heritage it purports to conserve and protect, including its stakeholders, is a living ecosystem. The strategic and adaptive management cycle shall be at the heart of the Management Plan, which shall revolve around non-negotiable objectives and prescriptions for the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) protection and conservation anchored on conservation values.

The draft management plan if for years 2015 to 2020 and is attached for reference and for finalization.

The major activities in the Eight Steps in the preparation of PPSRNP’s Strategic Management Plan are described below. Other activities may be identified during the plan preparation process.

Steps	Activities
1. Obtain the decision of PPSRNP Stakeholders	1. Submission of a proposal to the bid published by the PPSRNP for the preparation of the Management Plan. The publication of the PPSRNP for the bid is an indication of the decision of the stakeholder.

<p>2. Determine the Status of the Outstanding Universal Value of the PPSRNP.</p>	<p>2. Review of the characterization of the PPSRNP prepared in the past.</p> <p>3. Staff workshop to understand DPSIR (Driver, Pressure, State, Impact, Response) as a framework for ecosystem assessment.</p> <p>4. Gathering of data from primary and secondary sources</p> <p>5. Preparation of a preliminary assessment of the OUV</p> <p>6. Review of OUV statement</p> <p>7. Assessment of whether the natural values of PPSRNP are in “favorable condition”</p>
<p>3. Define the parameters of stakeholders’ participation</p>	<p>8. Review of the list of stakeholders and previous stakeholders’ analysis if any.</p> <p>9. Extensive stakeholders’ analysis</p> <p>10. Determination of boundaries of discussion and negotiations with stakeholders’ groups as seen in the policy and objectives of conservation. In World Heritage Projects, no trade-off between different interests of stakeholders is possible.</p> <p>11. Implementing a Strategy of knowing the stakeholders and parameters of discussions; preparing a plan for the empowerment of inputs from all groups and Grouping of stakeholders shall use published criteria. through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews (KII).</p>
<p>4. Validation of preliminary assessment</p>	<p>12. Validation of preliminary assessment through workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. On Conservation objective b. On Community participation c. On Tourism stakeholders d. On Management-organization
<p>5. Craft the strategy map and balanced score card</p>	<p>13. Conduct of a strategic planning workshop to craft the strategy map and balanced scorecard from four perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The stakeholders b. The internal process c. Financial sustainability through tourism and community livelihood

	d. Learning and growth of the organization
6. Examine management options	14. Workshop of a small group of representatives of major stakeholders to undertake examination of management options. Scenario building and D-P-S-I-R ecosystem tools maybe used. (Drivers-Pressures-Situation-Impact-Response or DPSIR).
7. Agree on management policies	15. Continuation of the small group workshop to agree on management policies
8. Agree on management actions	16. Establish agreement on and prioritization of management actions with programs and projects that have targets, indicators and costs (through small group workshop).
9. Preparation of the draft	17. Write up and edits
10. Submission to PPSRNP Management for consultation and Approval	18. Formal submission of the first draft to the PPSRNP Management by the working team. PPSRNP management is the author of the first draft, the process of preparation is assisted by the proponent.

C. Tourism Management Plan

In response to growing tourism industry within the Park, a draft Tourism Management Plan was crafted to identify the sustainable tourism vision, issues and concerns flagged and proposed programs and projects. The Draft Tourism Management Plan follows the key principle of tourism development while strengthening conservation of Park's OUVs of limestone or karst landscape, high biodiversity and ecological processes. The aforementioned plan espouses a community-centered approach that equitably distributes benefits to the community that conserves its environment.

The Plan proposes enactment of Puerto Princesa City Council Ordinances and Resolutions for tourism accessibility, sustainability, infrastructure, community capacity-building, and security. Several identified key tourism issues are in terms of, 1) Organization and Administration, 2) Boundary and Zonation, 3) Infrastructure and Activities, 4) Accessibility, 5) Interpretation, 6) Capacity-Building, 7) Risk Preparedness and Climate Change Adaptability, and 8) Sustainability.

The draft comprehensive tourism management plan is enclosed for reference.

D. Updates on the Review of the MOA of the Devolution of Management of the PPSRNP.

With reference to the result of the UNESCO World Heritage Site Reactive Monitoring Mission, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources- Biodiversity Management Bureau has invited the PPSRNP-PAMB for a review of the existing Memorandum of Agreement between the DENR and the City Government of Puerto Princesa on the devolution of basic services, facilities and functions of the DENR, including the protected areas and wildlife concerns. Said MOA was supplemented by another agreement and transferred the full management, protection and maintenance of the PPSRNP to the City Government of Puerto Princesa.

The review was attended by the Protected Area Superintendent of the PPSRNP and a battery of lawyers from the City Legal Office. On the said meeting, the PASu of the PPSRNP presented the accomplishments and current and future undertakings of the PPSRNP under the Administration of the City Government. The DENR has agreed unanimously that the MOA is still legal and binding and that the management of the PPSRNP is still in good hands under the City of Puerto Princesa.

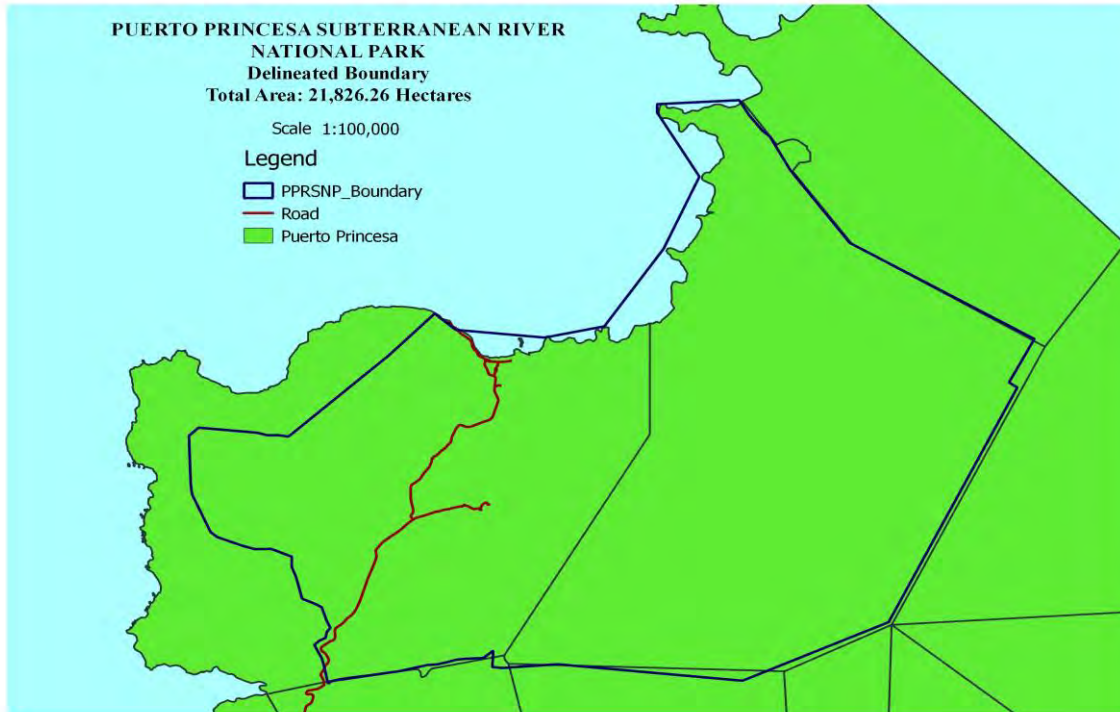
E. Activity and Infrastructure Guideline

Recognizing Republic Act 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and being fully aware that some activities and infrastructures brought forth by the increased tourism influx and the development it instigated may infringe the integrity of the Park's OUV, the management requested the technical assistance of the Philippines National Commission for UNESCO for an *Activity and Infrastructure Guidelines*.

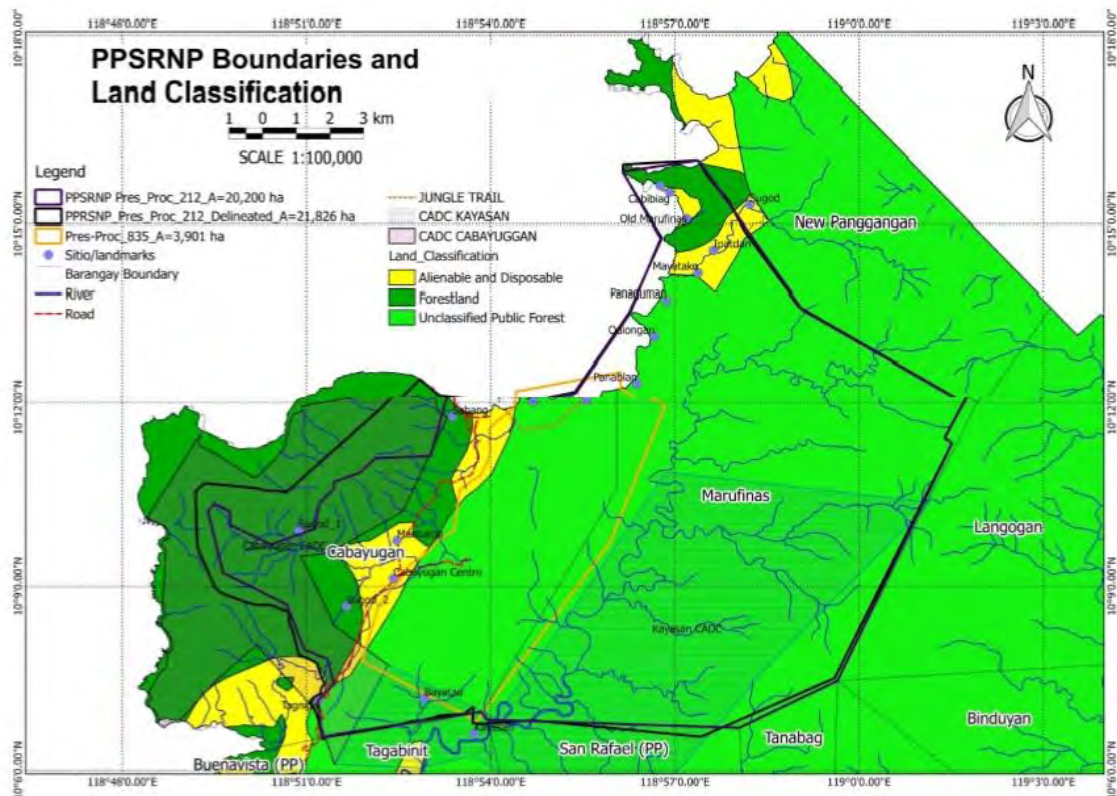
Enclosed is the proposed project proposal for implementation in 2016.

F. Property's Boundary and Zonation Scheme

Park boundary has been finalized and ground demarcated with concrete posts with 3 inches orange PVC pipes along every corner, resulting to an area of 21,826.26 hectares with peripheral of 69.9 kilometer contrary to the previous 20,000 hectares and the 22,202 hectares as stated in the Presidential Proclamation 212 s1999 which established the PPSRNP. Hence the boundary was increased in the north west of the property as recommended by the IUCN and



UNESCO mission to include the head water at Bentuan Peak and Mount Bloomfield within Barangay Cabayugan. The finalization of demarcation includes the correction of the Park boundaries in the proposed Enhanced National Protected Area System (ENIPAS) which will soon be signed into law.



Zonation of the park was adapted from Environmental Critical Areas Network Zones of Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Law act of 1992 (Republic Act 7611) and was initially discussed on the management board meeting for further studies and plans relative to delineation/increase of buffer zones and enhancement/maintenance of the forest corridors.

III. OTHER CURRENT CONSERVATION ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE PARTY WHICH MAY HAVE IMPACT ON THE PROPERTY'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

The Park Management strengthens the protection of the Park and control over illegal activities through the establishment of strategic monitoring stations within and in the peripheral areas previously identified entry point or the critical areas. The number of environmental officers such as park rangers, environmental specialist and biologist (terrestrial and marine) to overlook the area and maintain its environs was beefed up. By 2016 there would be four park rangers monitoring each of the eight hotspots within the park property including buffer zones area.

Other current conservation issues identified by the State Party were as follows:

a. Climate change

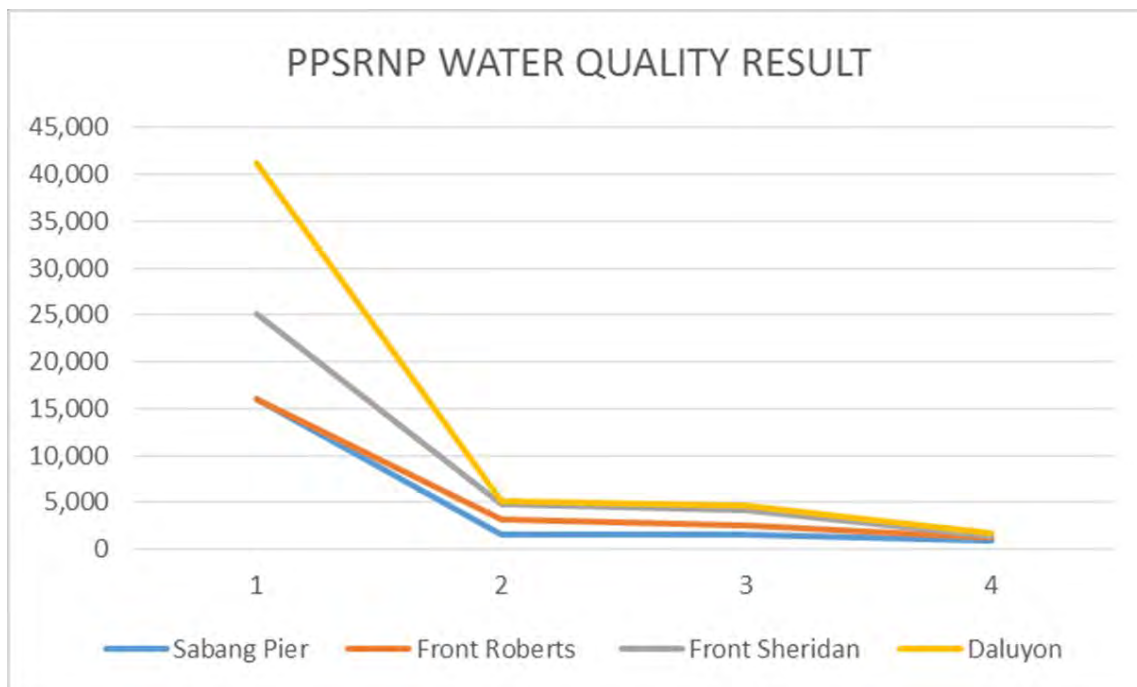
Phenomena associated with climate change included long dry seasons and heavy rains. Rains caused flooding in the river that causes sediment run-off inside the cave and to the critical coral reef in the heritage property. Despite the strengthened protection of the marine protected zones, the coral reef has not achieved resiliency due to strong wave

action during north east and south west monsoon and more destruction during typhoons. Likewise, El Niño caused bleaching in the coral in the park area.

Frequent Strong winds have degraded the forest in the area. There were at least five trees uprooted near central park station in 2015, two near Underground River and few old growth mangrove tree at Sabang mangrove area. This is due to the forest being over thin soil in the rocky and limestone substrate of the park, which cannot withstand tropical depressions and typhoons.

b. Public/household waste water

In the 2013 water monitoring, there were coliforms noticeable beyond standard limit accumulated in a sample traced, caused by livestock near the waterways, particularly backyard piggery. In 2014, the accumulated coliform drastically dropped due to management intervention by removal of most of the livestock near river and waterways. However, the water quality still pose a considerable threat in the area.



Source: PCSD Laboratory Test Result

*From 16,000 MPN/100 ML in 2012 to 170 MPN/100 ML in 2014 (Parameter: Coliform MPN(Maximum Probable Number)/100 ML)

*Most of the Sample parameters passed the National Standard (DAO 34 series of 1990) Class A and B for fresh water (Class II for Drinking & Class I for recreational)SB for marine and coastal water (Class I for recreational)

c. Research and monitoring

It has been noted that the park biological baseline data were outdated. The PPSRNP budgeted one million pesos for updating the biodiversity and forest cover of the property and its buffer to fit current conservation needs to underpin scientific research-based management. This initiative of park management aims to determine the population of the triggered species vis-à-vis its relation to the habitat within the park and extent of the forest cover of the area. The same is to hinge the current biodiversity state of the park and to understand pressure and the response needed to formulate management intervention for protection and conservation.

The last assessment conducted was in 1999 intended for the faunal and floristic component. One of the most comprehensive studies documented was the population and response of the key understory bird species in 2009, which was conducted by Dr. Neil Aldrin Mallari for his doctorate thesis.

Currently, bat monitoring is conducted religiously by the Environment and Protection Unit of the Park Management. It has established a monthly Bat Counting and Monitoring of Roosting Sites in the PPUR Cave. There were 63,300 recorded number of individual bats emerging in the cave. These results indicated lower than the average count (ca. 73,000) but not lower than the lowest count (ca. 56,000) based on the established 2014 baseline.

Furthermore, a special program of Sea Turtle Conservation was initiated to ensure the protection of marine biodiversity. A Sea Turtle Hatchery was also established by the Park at Martafe Beach. Rangers were also stationed in the area to conduct monitoring as well as rescue and conservation.

IV. POTENTIAL MAJOR RESTORATIONS, ALTERATIONS AND/OR NEW CONSTRUCTION(S) WITHIN THE PROTECTED AREA

Prior to kick-off, all major projects are required to comply with impact assessment as promulgated under the Presidential Decree 1586, also known as Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PEISS), in which proponents of the project should commission an expert group to conduct *Environmental Impact Assessment. Administrative Order 42 (2002) – Rationalizing the Implementation of the Philippine EIS System* gives authority, in addition to the DENR Secretary, to the EMB Central and Regional Office Directors to grant or deny issuance of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)

A. Restoration of former forestry area

Forest restoration has been conducted along the forest corridor which is the only remaining contiguous connection and link between Mount Bloomfield forest and Saint Paul Mountains forest, bisected by a road and in around 800 meter secondary growth forest between the populated Sitio Sabang and Sitio Manturon of Barangay Cabayugan.

Around 4200 seedlings have been planted to replace overgrown running bamboos which have prohibited the passage of animals in the two forest blocks. All plant species are native in the area such as Ipil (*Intsia bijuga*), Kupang (*Parkia javanica*), Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), Kamagong (*Diospyros philippinensis*), and several other native species in the area.

At the Central Park Station (CPS), there is now rehabilitation through natural regeneration of about 1000 square meters. Likewise, gradual removal of non-native plants at CPS such as coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), ornamental such as San Francisco plants (*Codiaeum variegatum*) which have been planted along trails in the park.

B. Reconstruction and re-establishment of ranger station

The ranger station at the Underground River is being reconstructed due to aged light materials. The re-established Odiongan station which was moved to the Panablan area as part of the strategic monitoring of both terrestrial and marine resources. The core area for marine turtle conservation in the park, the Sitio Martafe monitoring station, likewise serves as a marine turtle conservation and at the same time monitoring station at the buffer zone at the North West park boundary. Kayasan monitoring station will be established to monitor park's inner and south boundary.

C. Upgrading of board walk going underground Cave Area and jungle trail

The Board walk has been partially upgraded and elevated to minimize obstruction passage of wildlife such as monitor lizards and small mammals that reside in the area. It is 150 meters long, from cave opening lagoon to registration area, with a width of 1.5 meters.

Jungle trail has been renovated to gain access to land in case of rough seas. Most of the materials used in both upgrade were apprehended and confiscated wood by the DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and were lobbied to be used for that particular purpose.

V. FUTURE PLANS

Based on the studies made by Dr. Mallari, the current management regime of the park has been found out to be inadequate in assuring the lowland forest habitats and species. It has been noted that currently, it has lower protection status in which they are located in the designated buffer zones where clear cut conservation program and biodiversity monitoring strategies which serves as the death certificate of wildlife within the property. This underscores its urgency in terms of decision-making to set biodiversity management protocols, while taking into account the legitimate livelihood of communities residing within the property. Therefore, the need to conduct a thorough review of current zonation and to develop a detailed management related zoning plan of the property is being prioritized. Monthly Biodiversity Monitoring Survey (BMS) by the park rangers is recommended to be conducted in the succeeding years.

The economic impacts of tourism and developments in and around the PPSRNP cannot be under estimated. The poor socio-economic status of the communities affects the biodiversity of the park in general. At this juncture, upliftment of the socio-economic and cultural tradition of the communities in and around the PPSRNP is necessary through provision of livelihood while sincere efforts of the management should be religiously done to effectively implement its protection and conservation initiatives to the park's environs.

Nevertheless, it should be noted that the cultural values and practices of the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICC) residing inside the property would not be compromised while the park management is sincerely doing its responsibility in maintaining the balance of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The development has huge impact as it entails, among others, increasing demand for material used for construction (such as wood and for boat maintenance). There are almost 85 accredited pump boats to transport visitors from Sabang to park and vice versa. If put together annually, this causes degradation of about 1.2 hectares of matured forest cover lost. Hence, increasing demand in utilizing natural resources both, terrestrial and marine, is again

caused by the struggle of community members for economic development. Thus, the shift from wooden hull to fiber glass boat hull is being considered to be implemented by the PAMB and park management.

The use of multilingual device inside the cave pursuant to the City Ordinance no. 647 is soon to be adopted by the state party, which provides – “All persons entering the cave of the Puerto Princesa Underground River are prohibited from speaking loudly or creating noise/sounds that disturbed the serenity thereby disrupting the ecosystem inside the PPUR cave.”

Attachments

- 1. Draft Management Plan**
- 2. Comprehensive Tourism Management Plan and Annexes A & B**
- 3. Sabang Wharf Complex Development Project**
- 4. Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park Year End Report (2015)**
- 5. Infrastructure and Activity Guidelines Project Proposal**

PUERTO PRINCESA SUBTERANNEAN RIVER NATIONAL PARK (PPSRNP)

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOREWORD

by the Mayor of Puerto Princesa City/Chair of the PAMB

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The PPSRNP /PPUR as World Heritage Site/Protected Area
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4. The Strategic Management Plan - Vision for 2015-2020; Mission, Goals/Objectives, Strategies (Strategy Map and Balanced Scorecard)

1. INTRODUCTION

This section introduces the background and rationale of the strategic management plan of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean National Park (PPSNP). It covers a discussion on the UNESCO, the World Heritage Convention and the Legal Framework that provides the mandate and policies that protect the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the PPSNP.

1.1. UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention and the Legal Framework

The Philippines is one of the member states of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture or UNESCO among 195 countries and 8 associate members. Being a member-state, the country cooperates with the UNESCO in the implementation of ratified international treaties and agreed policies. It has established a National Commission for UNESCO with a Charter that provides the roles and responsibilities of the government and the UNESCO. See the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines Charter. <http://www.unesco.gov.ph/content/article/Charter%20and%20Bylaws>.

The UNESCO was created in 1945 to respond to the need for propagating world peace through moral and intellectual solidarity of nations; specifically by: (1) *“mobilizing for education, so that every child, boy or girl, has access to quality education as a fundamental human right and as a prerequisite for human development; (2) building intercultural understanding through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity wherein UNESCO created the idea of World Heritage to protect sites of outstanding value; (3) pursuing scientific cooperation such as early warning systems for tsunamis or trans-boundary water management agreements, to strengthen ties between nations and societies; and; (4) protecting freedom of expression [considered] as an essential condition for democracy, development and human dignity.”*<http://en.unesco.org/about-us/introducing-unesco>

The UNESCO’s current overarching objectives based on its Medium Term Strategy 2014 – 2021 are: (1) Peace – contributing to lasting peace; and (2) Equitable and sustainable development – contributing to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. Among the 9 strategic objectives are: SO 6: Supporting inclusive social development, fostering intercultural dialogue for the rapprochement of cultures and promoting ethical principles; and SO 7: Protecting, promoting and transmitting heritage. See UNESCO’s Medium Term Strategy 2014 – 2021.

UNESCO is also the prime mover in the UN system for *“the protection and management of cultural and natural sites or geographic areas, where implementation of its ideas is carried out.”*The scope of its mandate includes *“world heritage sites, one third of which are natural; biosphere reserves; geoparks; intangible cultural heritage; and memory of the world programme.”* (<http://en.unesco.org/about-us/how-we-work>)

A place that is declared a **world heritage site** is considered a legacy from the past with universally exceptional value, that which is “both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration”. It not only belongs to a respective state or territory but to all people in the world. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>. There are ten (10) criteria for assessment based on applicability (at least one or more) before one site can be declared a world heritage site of outstanding universal value. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/>

These are:

- (i) To represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) To be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) To be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) To be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- (vii) To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) To be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (ix) To be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) To contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

The protection, management, authenticity and integrity of properties are also important considerations. Since 1992 significant interactions between people and the natural environment have been recognized as **cultural landscapes**.

In the Philippines there are 9 sites that made it in the UNESCO world heritage lists. Four of these are baroque Churches in the Philippines and 2 others – the Historic Town of Vigan and the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras are included cultural heritage: and three are natural parks. Of the latter, the **Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is one of those natural parks inscribed for its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)**.

In November 1972, an international treaty on the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* was ratified. The Convention noted the threats of destruction to cultural and natural heritage sites not only due to the traditional causes of decay but also the changing socio-economic conditions in societies. The Convention provided among others: the definition of cultural and natural heritage (Articles 1 – 3); the recognition of the need for the national and international protection of the cultural and natural heritage (Articles 4 – 7); the creation of intergovernmental committee for the cultural and natural heritage (Articles 8 – 14); the creation of a fund for the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage (Articles 15 – 18); the conditions and arrangement for international assistance (Articles 19 – 26); the provision of education programmes (Articles 27 – 28); reports (Articles 29) and others agreed upon in protecting these world heritage sites. See <http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

The Philippines being a signatory State of the Convention on World Heritage is bound to honor such international treaty by providing structures and resources to protect these sites and support the UNESCO world heritage mission:

- Encourage countries to sign the World Heritage Convention and to ensure the protection of their natural and cultural heritage;
- Encourage States Parties to the Convention to nominate sites within their national territory for inclusion on the World Heritage List;
- Encourage States Parties to establish management plans and set up reporting systems on the state of conservation of their World Heritage sites;
- Help States Parties safeguard World Heritage properties by providing technical assistance and professional training;
- Provide emergency assistance for World Heritage sites in immediate danger;
- Support States Parties' public awareness-building activities for World Heritage conservation;
- Encourage participation of the local population in the preservation of their cultural and natural heritage;
- Encourage international cooperation in the conservation of our world's cultural and natural heritage. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>

The 1987 Philippine Constitution states the ownership and responsibility of the State to protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment of Filipino citizens (Art. XII, Sec 2, par.1-2). It also makes distinction in land use such as the conservation and protection of national parks (Art xxxxx). Specific laws enacted for the protection and management of natural protected areas in the Philippines government had enacted and passed national and local laws and policies to address protection of the environment and natural ecosystems.

- a. The NIPAS Law. Foremost of the national laws in the protection and management of areas rich in biodiversity and for the conservation of ecosystem is Republic Act No. 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Area Systems (NIPAS) Act of 1992. It defines protected areas as the *"identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique, physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploration"*. This law is regarded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the legal framework for the establishment and management of protected areas in the Philippines. It is an expression of commitment of the State to the UN Conventions such as the World Heritage Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, Convention on Migratory Species, and the ASEAN Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. The implementation of the Law was made specific through the DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 25 Series of 1992, and was amended on December 2008 through DAO 2008-26. Through the NIPAS Act, 240 protected areas were identified including those earlier proclaimed before the effectivity of the Law. Specific laws were enacted to give focus by respective local government (pursuant to the Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of the Philippines) and emphasis on the establishment and management of the protected areas Systems. Such is the case of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park which has the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act of 1992 or RA 7611.

http://www.bmb.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=120:establishing-and-managing-protected-areas&catid=58:protected-area-management

- b. Local Government Code or Republic Act 7160 of 1991 transferred power and authority from central government to local government units. Certain functions of national government were devolved to LGUs including environmental protection. The law adheres to decentralization as matter of state policy. It stipulated local government to exercise autonomy, including local revenue generation in order to address local needs and priorities, attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make more effective in attaining national goals including environmental protection. (Brillantes, Jr. 1994 cited in Mallari, 2009).

c. Strategic Environment Plan for Palawan Act or Republic Act 7611 is a comprehensive policy framework for the sustainable development of Palawan consistent with the national government's goal of protection and enhancement of the natural resources and endangered environment of the province. It is intended to serve as a guide to the local government and national agencies involved in the formulation and implementation of developmental plans and programmes. Through SEP, a zoning scheme called Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) has been established. ECN is a graded system of protection and development control where terrestrial and marine, coastal zones are allocated into (1) core zone or 'no touch' strict protection zone with maximum protection and free of human disruptions; (2) a buffer zone with restricted area wherein limited extractive activities may be allowed; (3) controlled use area where logging and mining may be allowed; and (4) multiple use areas where intensive agriculture, fisheries and industrialization may be undertaken and settlements and urbanization may take place. The ECAN also recognizes the tribal ancestral lands that may encompass the zones by recognizing Ancestral Domain instruments or through delineation of traditional use zone. ECAN, as the main strategy of SEP addresses the following elements: (a) forest conservation and protection through the imposition of a total commercial logging ban in all areas of maximum protection and in restricted-use zones; (b) protection of watersheds; (c) preservation of biological diversity; (d) protection of tribal people and the preservation of their culture; (e) maintenance of maximum sustainable yield; (f) protection of rare and endangered species and their habitat; (g) provision of areas for environmental and ecological research, education, and training and (h) provision of areas for tourism and recreation.

d. Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA Law) or Republic Act 8371

IPRA Law was signed in 1997. It provides solid policy directions which seeks to recognize, promote and protect the rights of indigenous people who are the primary occupants of the protected area. These include the right to Ancestral Domain and Land; right to self-governance and empowerment, social justice and human rights and the right to cultural integrity. A Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) is granted as title to genuine and qualified IP tribal communities over their ancestral lands. The title guarantees ownership over ancestral domains after the area is identified and delineated in accordance with law. The administration and management of CADT is based on traditional rights and practices. The traditional property regimes exercised by the indigenous peoples (IP) under their customary laws govern the relationships of all individual within their communities.

In the LGC of 1991 certain functions of national government were devolved to LGUs including environmental protection. It is apparent that DENR would not devolve some of its functions to the LGUs, a great deal of confusion and potential conflict could arise owing to overlapping legal responsibilities. In addition to this the Strategic environment Plan of Palawan strengthens the devolution of environmental protection remit of LGUs. The SEP goes so far as to create its own

environmental governance system with functions similar to DENR through the PCSD and its own zoning system (ECAN). This illustrates the conflicting policies of a NIPAS managed by central government vis a vis the growing popularity and utility of decentralized governance in archipelagic setting. Faced with this dilemma, PPSRNP has adopted the novel approach for the Philippines of co management arrangement between DENR and the LGU.

Management zones in PPSRNP

(1) Core Zone (Strict Protection)

The strict protection zone comprises all areas within the PPSRNP where natural forest still exists including the edges of intact forest and areas of mountain above 1,000 m or other areas with very steep gradients, as well as areas with endangered and rare species. These areas shall be strictly protected and maintained free of human activities. Thus no entry is allowed except for research and traditional indigenous use, both of which should be non-consumptive and non-intrusive, while collection of salvage timber, dead wood or other plants, animals dead or alive, rocks, guano etc or other human activity is prohibited (DAO 25: section 10 (a)). Additionally, Tabon scrubfowl *Megapodius cumungii* nesting sites, sea turtle *Chelonia mydas* nesting beaches and swiftlet *Collocalia fucifaga* nests are included here.

(2) Buffer Zone

All areas that generally surround the core zone and protective barrier are classified as buffer zones (SEP law, Sec. 9.2 (a)). Limited and non-consumptive activities may be allowed in these areas. The following are 3 subzones of the buffer zone:

- a. Restricted Use Zone. This zone comprises areas from 500 – 1000m elevation with 36-50% slope and includes areas that are either (a) declared 'Critical Watersheds'; (b) a 200 m belt in the mainland and 100 m belt in the islands surrounding the core zone; (c) poor, stunted and sparse stands of semi-deciduous forest which has a low regeneration capacity; or (d) designated biodiversity hotspots and highly threatened by human activities based on scientific studies. These areas are
 - Babuyan River Protection Zone: the area between the proclaimed eastern boundary of PPSRNP and the Babuyan River. This is a low-elevation area of exceptional biodiversity upstream from the existing Kayasan Ranger Station and includes the natural boundary of the river itself.
 - Culiatan-Kayasan Protection Zone: the area along the southern boundary of PPSRNP up to the forest edge from Sitio Culiatan to Sitio Kayasan.
 - Panablan Protection Zone: the forest area between the northern boundary of PPSRNP and Sitio Odiongan, which includes valuable beach forest.

- Forest Corridor Protection Zone: the forest area between SitioSabang and SitioManturon in the western boundary of PPSRNP that extends up to Mt. Bloomfield and remains as the only between the two ecosystems.
 - Mangrove Prtection Zone: the mangrove swam and immediate surroundings on the north-wesern border of PPSRNP
 - Cabayugan Catchment Protection Zone: the area covering the inflow of Cabayugan River three kilometers north east of Manturon center.
 - Recreation Zone: areas of high recreational, tourism, educational or environmental awareness values where sustainable ecotourism and other recreational, conservation education or public awareness activities maybe allowed as prescribed in the Mangement Plan (DENR Administrative Order 25, Series 1992 section 10h)
- b. Controlled Use Zone. This zone comprises areas from 300-500m elevation with 19-35% slope and provides the outer barrier to the core and restricted use areas. Controlled forest extraction, such as the collecting of minor forest products, and strictly controlled logging and mining, may be allowed (SEP Law Chap 2, Sec 9, 2b)
 - c. Tradition Use Zone. This zone comprises areas below 300 m elevation but above 18% slope, and includes the edges of intact forest where traditional land use is already stabilized or is being stabilized. Management and control are carried out with the other supporting programmes of the SEP (SEP Law, Chap 2 Sec. 9. 2c)
 - d. Multiple-use Zone. This zone comprises areas with 18% slope and below but not exceeding 300m elevation where the landscape has been modified for different forms of land use such as extensive timber extraction, grazing and pastures, and agriculture and infrastructure development. Control and management are strictly integrated with other supporting programmes of the SEP and other similar programmes of the government (SEP Law, chap 2, Sec. 9 (3)).

1.2. PPSRNP or PPUR as World Heritage Site and Protected Area

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) is also known as the Princesa Underground River (PPUR) or in early days as the St. Paul Subterranean River, *“inscribed to the UNESCO’s list of natural World Heritage Sites in 1999 based on the criteria that it met upon assessment:*

- Criteria (vii): The property contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance: *“The PPSRNP features a spectacular limestone or karst landscape. It contains an underground river that flows directly to the sea. The lower half of the river is brackish and subject to ocean tide. The associated tidal influence on the river makes this a significant natural phenomenon. The river’s cavern exhibits dramatic speleothem and several large chambers of as much as*

120m wide and 60m high. Its accessibility and navigability up to 4.5.km inland allows it to be experienced by the general public, who can view the magnificent rock formations on a river cruise unequalled by any other similar experience elsewhere in the world.”

- Criteria (x): The property contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity: The PPSRNP *“includes a full mountain-to-sea ecosystem, protecting the most significant forest area on ultramafic soil, forest on limestone soil, mountain forest, freshwater swamp forest, lowland evergreen tropical rainforest, riverine forest, beach forest, and mangrove forest included in the property. It contains outstanding biodiversity with the Palawan Moist Forest recognized by the WWF’s Global reporting as containing the richest tree flora, with high levels of regional and local endemism and as being the largest and most valuable limestone forest in Asia”*. (UNESCO and PPSRNP websites)

Having accorded with the above criteria based on the integrity of its “excellent condition” of the mountain-to-sea ecosystem and its uniqueness of the mangrove forests alongside with the flora, fauna, and the bioecological connection with the caves and surrounding forest as well as the protection of its core areas makes the PPSRNP a site of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

The PPSRNP comprises more than twenty-one thousand hectares of property and covers three barangays (village).¹Being a World Heritage Site, it is considered of adequate size to protect all various landforms and the estuarine ecosystem. Its location is described as follows: The PPSRNP is *“located in the Saint Paul Mountain Range, north-west of Puerto Princesa with a land area of 201 km, consisting of a core zone of 58 km and a buffer zone of 144 km. It is bounded by St. Paul Bay to the north and the Babuyan River to the east, which traverses the barangays of Marufinas, Cabayugan and Tagabinet.”* (Mallari, 2009)

Further the UNESCO described the PPSRNP boundaries *“cover the entire watershed of the underground river, thus protecting water quality and quantity and ensuring the long term viability of the outstanding natural values contained within the property. The biodiversity values of the property are emphasized in Barangay Marufinas along with the adjacent barangays which also contain significant biodiversity values and habitats.*

Mallari (2009) further describes the biodiversity of the Park:

“PPSRNP protects one of the largest blocks of forest on the island of Palawan. The forests are comprised of lowland dipterocarp and molave forest, karst forest, and montane forests at higher elevations, while coastal regions host mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs. Approximately two-thirds of the reserve vegetation is pristine dominated by trees such as

¹ The property size was reported earlier at 22,202 has; upon review by PPUR experts and staff from Haribon Palawan, the PPSRNP is now measured at **21, 591**hectares.

apitong *Dipterocarpus grandiflora*, *ipillnstiabijuga* and other hardwood speices. Large specimens of *Draconomelondao*, *Switoniafoxworthyi*, *Atunaracomosa*, *Diospyros* and *Pometiapinnata* are also found (Palawan Tropical forest protection Programme 1999 cited in Mallari, 2009). The karst forest is restricted to small pockets where soils have developed. Typical tree species in this kind of forest are *Antidesmaspp*, *Drypetes spp.*, *Sterculia spp.*, and *Pipturus spp.*, including the largest lianas in the genera *Stophantus*, *marillana* and *Champersia* (Madulid 1998 cited in Mallari, 2009).

The PPSRNP is home of Indigenous peoples from Palawan: the Batak and Tagbanua peoples. The latter is the largest indigenous group who live in communities where the underground River is located around the boundaries of Barangay Marufinas. Inside the Park are 3 CADC communities. They are generally upland farmers whose livelihoods are dependent on forest products and practice swidden agriculture with dry rice, root crops, vegetables, and increasingly tree crops, and largely into local subsistence economy. They have their own traditions and customs, and generally have low level of mainstream education (Mallari, 2009). These indigenous peoples (IPs) would commonly reach primary grade level because of far distance of formal schools. Marufinas has no secondary school. It also does not have road access but mostly open seas.

Aside from Marufinas, the communities that are located along the boundaries and peripheral areas are those covered by Barangays Cabayugan, Tagabinet and New Pangganam. These communities are non-IPs and are mostly migrant settlers whose livelihoods are also dependent on farming and on the Park's tourism activities.

The challenge of conserving and protecting the PPSRNP requires a great deal of effort to keep the balance between the upkeep of the Site's biodiversity and in managing stakeholders who are beneficiaries of the Park's abundance and natural beauty. To continue to be part of the List of the World Heritage Site, a management plan must be in place to conserve and protect the ecosystems of the property.

1.3. Review of Management Plan 2002 Salient Points

Management guidelines and the judicious implementation of these are vital to the success of any conservation and protection goals of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the case PPSRNP, there are several threats to the property from adverse activities in contiguous areas and those surrounding the property such as forest clearing, agricultural, and tourism activities. To ensure that the natural values of the property are not compromised and impacted, vigilance, careful planning and effective management are keys to conservation.

One of the keyfeatures of the PPSRNP management is the City government's legal ownership of the property while it is also covered by the NIPAS Act of 1992 which legitimizes the protection and conservation of protected areas in the Philippines. The law mandates that a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) as the management decision-making body for any protected

areas. In case of PPSRNP, the PAMB is chaired by the Puerto Princesa City Mayor and co-chaired by the DENR CENRO.

Stakeholders from national and local agencies, as well as organizations and communities benefitting from the property must be considered throughout the planning and management of the site to ensure the protection and conservation of its natural values.

Management of the Park must be conducted within the boundary of its two zones: the core zones and the buffer zones to ensure the integrity of the natural values and ecosystem of the property. Regulation of human activities such as those related to the use of forest products, agriculture, and tourism must be in place in these two zones. Park management requires strategies, plans and approaches to manage all the aspects that impact on the property's ecosystem.

In 2002 a Management Master Plan was crafted based on a Management Strategy document. The 2002 documents identified the serious constraints in the management of the property. These were: *(1) an ill-defined institutional structure; (2) lack of adequate resources; (3) boundaries which do not include and give no control over the catchment of the underground river (Cabayugan River); and (4) lack of means of protection of the surrounding great forested areas, because the Park is too small to protect its own biodiversity in perpetuity.*

From an evaluation of the property management and its serious constraints, the mission and programs of the park were recommended:

The Park adopted as its mission, *conservation of the Park and the underground river in its natural state*, which requires: (1) appropriate management and protection of the Park from pollution and threats particularly its river waters and catchment both inside and outside of it; (2) conservation of natural ecosystems, both inside and outside the underground part of the river itself, and in other catchments carefully considering and controlling of land-use. Through the cooperation of stakeholders, particularly local communities but also visitors, the tourism industry, and others; (3) that the surrounding great forests be protected in order to maintain biodiversity within the Park; and (4) protection of endangered and endemic species, as required by the NIPAS Act;

The Management Strategy (Draft for PAMB 2002) document prescribed 9 strategies and recommended 7 programs which aimed to address the conflicts and threats to the park.

The nine prescriptions were:

- i. **Ecosystem Management** that promote sustainable and community based development and institution of a credible management zoning regime;
- ii. **Park Protection and Law Enforcement** through the establishment of a patrolling system of properly equipped core-park rangers with support from community rangers and public information to raise awareness in local communities;

- iii. **Research and Monitoring** through the creation of a research advisory committee to provide systematic data information for sound management decisions of the PAMB;
- iv. **Public awareness** through the identification and training of stakeholders who will cooperate and help in the information dissemination;
- v. **Community Development** through linkage with agencies that will be able to transfer appropriate and sustainable technology for livelihood and basic services to people in the community to lessen dependence in forest resources and lessen demand for land;
- vi. **Tourism and Visitor Management** through community involvement to regulate and monitor tourism-related activities, facilities and infrastructure development;
- vii. **Regional Integration** that will ensure all development activities that have direct and indirect impact to the property are known and ensure that legal requirements are followed.
- viii. **Institutional Management** that ensures settlement of institutional arrangements between City government and the DENR; and that plantilla positions are created qualified staff are hired; and the approval, implementation and monitoring of the plan are done by the PAMB;
- ix. **Sustainable Financing** through an effective planning, sourcing, and management of funds that will be able to sustain the operations of the Park.

The seven programs were outlined in the Management Plan 2002 based on the inside and outside the National Park: The programs and corresponding goals were:

Program	Goal	Description
I: Ecosystems Management	To maintain ecosystems and their component in their natural state, or to restore them to their natural state where they have been damaged.	Definition of the Strict Protection zone, Multiple use zone, recreational zones, restoration zones, administrative zones, supplementary protection zones, and supplementary management zones.
II. Park Protection and Law Enforcement	Compliance with the laws and regulations pertaining to the Park and its Management.	Strict enforcement of the rules and regulations by the protection section inside the park; management agreements with local communities in supplementary protection zones; and establishment and training of local community park rangers.
III. Research and Monitoring	To provide the information needed for effective management of the and to coordinate and control research undertaken by outside bodies.	Collection of baseline data, identification of monitoring subjects in and outside the park; convening Research Advisory committee to assist in the research needs of the park; evaluating and coordinating research requests and proposals by outsidies bodies and where needed soliciting research proposals.
IV. Public Awareness and Community Relations	To ensure stakeholders support the park and work towards its	Immediate objectives are: To ensure that local residents and visitors are aware of boundaries, access policies and regulations.

	mission	<p>To provide interpretive facilities for visitors.</p> <p>To compile and categorize a list of stakeholders, and to design an information program targeting priority groups;</p> <p>To participate in local community development to try to ensure that the direction it takes is favorable to the Park.</p> <p>Establishing a sponsorship program for as many Park projects and activities as possible.</p>
Program V. Tourism and Visitor Management	To maximize the benefit of tourism and visitors to the Park.	<p>Inside the Park, low -impact day-visitor access is planned. It includes:</p> <p>Developing the capacity to receive 50,000 visitors annually at the underground river, within specified daily limits, but reducing visitor impact.</p> <p>Phasing out use of Central Park Station, to eliminate major adverse impact on sensitive habitats and to allow local communities to fill the market niche.</p> <p>Ensuring that visitor entry is controlled and that visitors are efficiently informed about entry conditions</p> <p>By raising tourism revenue to cover Park operating and new investment costs.</p> <p>Maintaining visitor monitoring undertaken in 1997/8/9;</p> <p>Soliciting and taking account of visitors suggestions and complaints.</p> <p>Outside the Park, suitable nature-related tourism is encouraged in surrounding local community areas, to distribute tourist-based income more widely both to the more commercially orientated immigrant community and to the more traditional indigenous communities. The difficulties inherent in the latter are recognized.The Park will continue to participate in local cultural and sports festivals.</p>
Program IV: Regional Integration	To represent the Park and its interests in outside programs or projects in which it is a stakeholder.	<p>To ensure that the Park's interests are considered from the very beginning in any development plans, whether government or private.</p> <p>A second objective is to establish international recognition of the Park through listing as World Heritage Site by UNESCO</p>
Program VII: Institutional Development, Organization, and Administration	To adopt and execute the foregoing programs	<p>For the City Government of Puerto Princesa to continue its responsibility based on mandate; for the DENR CENRO to perform advisory role only; for the PAMB to advise on policies and oversee implementation, to appoint a Park Superintendent and qualified staff for proper training; relocation of Park Headquarters; for City government underwrite</p>

		core staff salaries including them in City plantilla.
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1.4. Review of Progress of Implementation

I. Ecosystem Management

Definition of the Strict Protection zone, multiple use zone, recreational zones, restoration zones, administrative zones, supplementary protection zones, and supplementary management zones.

Presidential Proclamation No. 212 stated that the total coverage area of the Park is 22,219 hectares. It was revealed later that there was typographical error in the total number described in the policy statement. Thus, there was a 628 hectare discrepancy from the original description of the Park. In 1971, the DENR provided descriptions and map demarcations of the boundaries used in Proclamation 835 and later Proclamation 212 dated 1999, and in Proclamation 3901 dated 2006. The latter, however excluded the Alienable and Disposable (A&D) blocks. (Haribon Palawan Terminal Report; interview with NevongPuna, December 5, 2014)

A more detailed description of the final property boundary was developed by PAMB and was accepted by the DENR LEP through PAMB resolution 125, Series of 2009. The PPSRNP project with Haribon Palawan implemented ground delineation survey, construction and installation of park monuments that completed the 30 corners for a total coverage area of 21,591 hectares. The project was able to address the Alienable and Disposable (A&D) blocks issue and was corrected by the DENR. Further it was informed that Proclamation 3901 needs to be updated because the areas used by the IPs were classified as Core Zone based on a study undertaken by NGOs in 2006. However, allegedly 2013 records showed that the corrections were not approved by the previous administration. (Haribon Palawan Terminal Report; interview with NevongPuna, December 5, 2014)

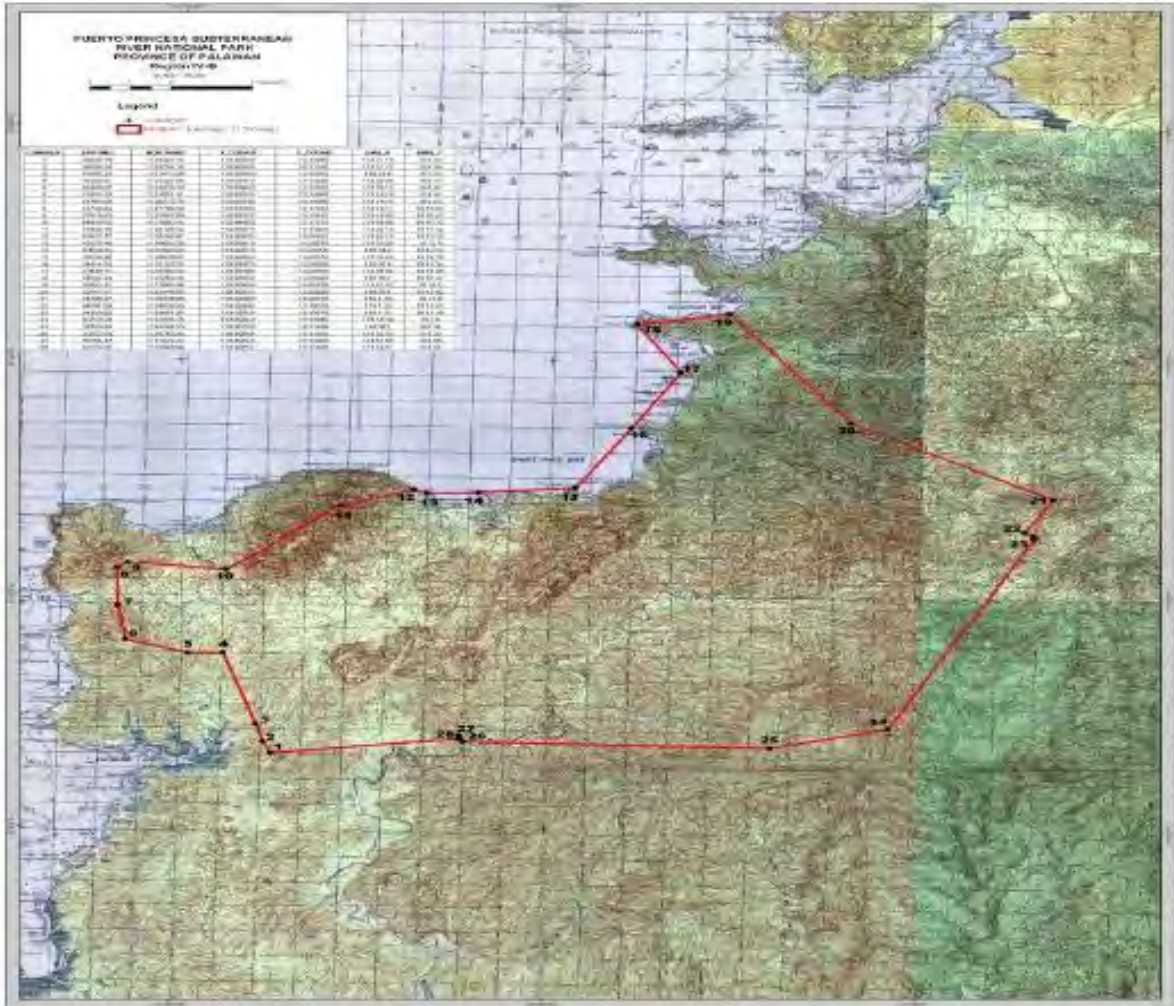
The Haribon Palawan Ground Delineation Survey, Construction and Installation of Park Monuments Project was completed in 20114 (?) and it physically showed and marked the property boundaries of the PPSRNP property except for the Tandol-rock Tandol-rock file area (no. 15 monument) wherein the monument was not erected *due to strong wave action near the rock installation area but final GPS reading was established in the actual site.* See Table x

The project was also able to provide a scientific point of view with regards to the confirmation about the PPSRNP property boundary which found the typographic error on the PP No. 212 property size description and with *“minor trimming resulted with the inclusion of Mount Bloomfield headwater and watersheds areas as recommended by the IUCN as a life-support system in sustaining water supply to the Underground River and the inclusion of Cleopatra’s Needle Mountain range as additional key biodiversity area of the World Heritage Site.”* (Haribon Terminal Report, 201_)

Table x. Number of Corners, Locations and Coordinates Based on Ground Boundary Delineations and Monuments (Ref. PPSRNP PP212) Haribon Palawan Report

CORNER	LOCATION	ELEVATION	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	Liyang Ridge Area, Tagabinet	78 m	10° 6' 23.92" N	118° 50' 50.7" E
2	Culiatan Creek, Cabayugan	60 m	10° 6' 55.1" N	118° 51' 10.8" E
3	Kuwago Ranger Station, Cabayugan	81 m	10° 07' 9.7" N	118° 51' 3.8" E
4	Tagnipa Roadside, Cabayugan	154 m	10° 8' 42.82" N	118° 50' 52.8" E
5	Tagnipa Ridge, Cabayugan	184 m	10° 8' 42. " N	118° 50' 10" E
6	Kabuluan Creek, Cabayugan	200 m	10° 8' 59. " N	118° 49' 19" E
7	Bungkaylan Creek, Cabayugan	400 m	10° 9' 45. " N	118° 49' 13" E
8	Nagbartik Creek, Cabayugan	350 m	10° 10' 33. " N	118° 49' 11" E
9	Nagbartik Peak, Cabayugan	400 m	10° 10' 41. " N	118° 49' 20" E
10	Pamamanaan Peak, Cabayugan	400 m	10° 10' 32. " N	118° 50' 40" E
11	Nagduyan Peak, Cabayugan	500 m	10° 11' 52. " N	118° 52' 10" E
12	Sabang Water Falls, Cabayugan	4 m	10° 12' 14. " N	118° 53' 10" E
13	Buddhist Temple Area, Cabayugan	7 m	10° 12' 27.9" N	118° 53' 16" E
14	Central Park Station, Cabayugan	1.8 m	10° 12' 05" N	118° 55' 20" E
15	Underground River Approach	5 m	10° 12' 18" N	118° 54' 34" E
16	Banban Point, Marufinas	6 m	10° 13' 32" N	118° 56' 20" E
17	Ipatdan Point, Marufinas	5.3 m	10° 14' 43" N	118° 56' 52" E
18	Atulayan Point, Marufinas	6 m	10° 15' 45" N	118° 56' 14" E
19	Bansalagen Point, New Panggangan	5 m	10° 16' 00" N	118° 57' 32" E
20	Karampi Ipatdan Ridge	650 m	10° 13' 59" N	119° 00' 92" E
21	Upper Mauta, Langogan	1,200 m	10° 12' 6.98" N	119° 1' 46.6" E
22	Upper Langgogan Area	1,300 m	10° 11' 24.43" N	119° 1' 23.96" E
23	Upper Langgogan Area	1,300 m	10° 11' 19.41" N	119° 1' 31.35" E
24	Cleopatra's Needle, Concepcion	1,597 m	10° 07' 07" N	118° 59' 36" E
25	Karatong Point, Tanabag	800 m	10° 06' 01.8" N	118° 58' 04.4" E
26	Pamalpalan Creek, Tagabinet	42 m	10° 06' 41" N	118° 53' 56" E
27	Inner Pamalpalan, Cayasan Area	44 m	10° 06' 42" N	118° 53' 47" E
28	Kayasan Water System Area	47 m	10° 06' 58" N	118° 53' 48" E

The final delineated map of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is shown on Figure x. The report also provided tables that showed the State of Endemic Fauna Species, the State of Threatened Fauna Species, Forest Types and Locations of Flora Diversity in PPSRNP, Rare and Endangered Species of Plant Species in PPSRNP. Data on biodiversity inventories was provided in the terminal report as annexes for future planning, project design and program implementation and monitoring. (Haribon Palawan Terminal Report, 201_)



Following the ECAN zone identification, the PPSRNP protected zone assessments include

- a. Original park area as strict protection zone except administration and information zone. From staff interviews they infer that the strict protection zone was expanded to the buffer zones.
- b. Administration and Information zone: **No data yet**
- c. Ranger zone: **No data yet**
- d. UR outflow: **No data yet**
- e. Multiple use zone of 127 hectares paddy disputed tenurial rights: **No data yet**
- f. Recreation zone: Only essential maintenance is done such as the Monkey Trail.

- g. Restoration zone: Covered most of the Central Park Station planned to be phased out; much of the built area at the underground river outflow, and Manturon ranger station was not restored but used as administrative zone.
- h. Supplementary protection zones: Covered 291 hectares of Fish Sanctuary, Fish Reserve (most of St. Paul Bay), Forests of Mt. Bloomfield as forest corridor; Great forest N & E of the Park, Barangays Cabayugan and Marufinas, and the Certified Ancestral domains.

Park and zone boundaries were not marked. Disputes on tenurial rights on multiple-use zone were not resolved. Barangays are linked to the City Agriculture and & Coastal Resource Management programs for the declaration and establishment of the Fish Sanctuary and Fishery Reserve. The new parts of the Park have not been zoned and are not actively managed by the Staff.

- i. More than half of the Park (15,075 hectares) is designated core zone of the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) including the *de facto* multiple use zones and A & D land.

II. Park Protection and Law Enforcement

Strict enforcement of the rules and regulations by the protection section inside the park; management agreements with local communities in supplementary protection zones; and establishment and training of local community park rangers.

Rangers were supposed to be deputized by the DENR. However their short-term contracts and incomplete submission of requirements to the CENRO prevented the plan. While the local government (LGUPP) is supposed to be responsible for the implementation of the program, providing for permanent plantilla positions for this critical and much needed resource was not given immediate priority.

III. Research and Monitoring

Collection of baseline data, identification of monitoring subjects in and outside the park; convening Research Advisory committee to assist in the research needs of the park; evaluating and coordinating research requests and proposals by outside bodies and where needed soliciting research proposals.

There were no official plans and activities under the research and monitoring program.

IV. Public Awareness and Community Relations

- 1. Awareness of local residents and visitors on boundaries. Park bulletin, brochures and booklets on tropical forests and tropical seas were published.

2. Interpretive facilities for visitors. Some signs and information materials were sponsored by local establishments and institutions. Interpretive signs were donated by PTFPP.
3. Establishing sponsorship programs. Some signs and information materials were sponsored by local establishments and institutions. Interpretive signs were donated by PTFPP. Other interpretive facilities and self-guiding trails were to be developed, for example, the daylight hole and inflow.
4. Compilation and categorization of stakeholders for information program design. **No data provided yet**
5. Participation in Local Community Program. There was active participation of the Park Staff in local community activities. The community development officer represents the Park in Council meetings. Assistance was extended to a cooperative on handicrafts and pumpboat owners and operators in registering their cooperative with the Cooperative Development Authority.

For the IP communities, the PPSRNP – PAMB facilitates their application for Almaciga license. The Almaciga is a forest product, a sap extracted from the bark of the xxx tree. It is used as a raw material for varnish and resin. The demand for this product is high and most male IPs are engaged in this livelihood. Assisting them to get a license prevents them from being victims of scrupulous buyers; as well, the licensing enables the PPSRNP monitor their economic activities in the forest areas of the Park.

The Community development workers of the PPSRNP assist the IPs in converging and monitoring support modalities from other government agencies, for example in providing training or technical assistance for the proper and better rattan harvesting.

PAMB Aid is another program for the impoverished communities within and in the peripheral boundaries of the Park. A kitty fund of 1 million pesos is distributed to IP (BgyMarufinas, Bayataw and Cayasan) and non-IP communities (BgyTagabinet, and Cabayugan). The former receives half of the aid; while the other half is distributed to the non-IP communities. The Community workers help them prepare livelihood project proposals to identify the use of the funds in their community. For example the trail development project was proposed by the communities from Bayataw, Cayasan; without the trail it is hard for the IPs to deliver products and to transport people for emergency situations.

V. Tourism and Visitor Management

Indicators of program implementation were observable. There were new canoes, boardwalk, script for interpretive trails, organizing of handicraft cooperative, printing of tickets, training of

community guides, and creation of database (although staff were trained this has not been implemented yet).

The goal of having a low-impact day-visitor access inside the Park is implemented as follows:

- Developing the capacity to receive 50,000 visitors annually at the underground river, within specified daily limits, but reducing visitor impact.

To understand the limits in the number of visitors that can daily visit the underground river, a study was done on the Tourism Carrying Capacity of the PPSRNP funded by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARD) and monitored by the *Forestry Environment Research Division*. The study was part of an initiative on ecotourism and biodiversity conservation. It reported on “*The Limit of Acceptable Change (LAC) Theory, specifically the distance of boats from another during cruise and the Boullon’s mathematical model were used in computing PPSRNP’s Tourism carrying capacity. Based from the 181 selected visitors interviewed and the discussion with PPSRNP management authorities. The following carrying capacities were derived*”:

Table x below shows the computed number of visitors that can be accommodated at different capacity levels and LAC options.

Table x. Computed Number of Visitors at Different Capacity Level and LAC Options

Carrying Capacity Levels	LAC 1 (1.5m distance = 56 boats) Visitors recommendation)	LAC 2 (100m distance = 11 boats) PASU preference)	LAC 3 (52.5m distance = 24 boats) Computed Option	LAC4 (30m distance = 33 boats) Compromised Option
Carrying Capacity	448	88	192	264
Potential Carrying Capacity	3,584	704	1,536	2,112
Real Carrying Capacity	1,400	18	34	342

The report finds that:

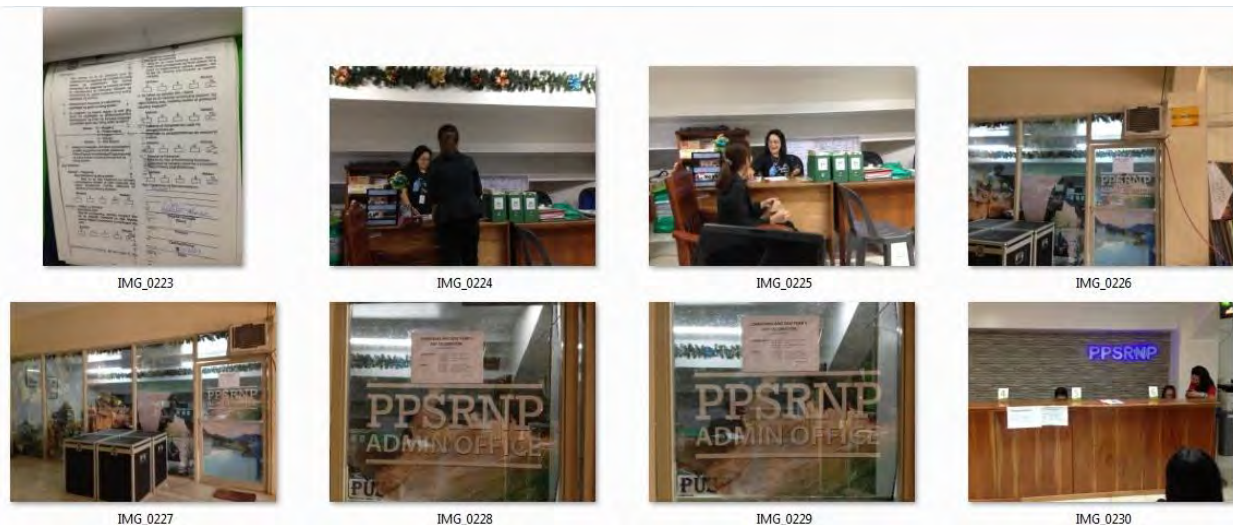
The number of visitors in PPSRNP is projected to increase five times by 2020 (or 2,110 visitors per day); hence, its carrying capacity needs to be adjusted. The following management strategies can be considered by the PPSRNP management board or PAMB in effectively managing the flow of visitors in the park:

1. *Adapt LAC and or LAC4 model as they promote the three basic principles in sustainable tourism: (a) environmental friendliness; (b) community’s acceptability;*

- and (c) visitor's satisfaction. LAC2 and LAC 3 only addresses management objective i.e., biodiversity conservation.*
2. *Revisit the PAMB resolution that sets the maximum number of visitors to only 600 per day. This can be increased more or less to 1,400 visitors following the computation in LAC1. Adopting LAC 1 though would require the following:*
 - *Increasing the anchorage in the holding area to allow more boats;*
 - *Redesigning of boats to accommodate more passengers;*
 - *Increase the number of tour guides; and*
 - *Promote monkey tour and paddle boating, while visitors are waiting for their turn to cruise the river.*
- Special conditions for Peak Days (>200 visitors per day), including a timed ticket system:
Current permit application uses a numbering system indicating date/time (?) released.
No information yet if there are guidelines used for special conditions during peak days.
 - Modifying procedures inside the cave (route, noise, use of lights): **No data yet.**
 - Grouping canoes and increasing their capacity and modifying lights: **No data yet.**
 - Improving the boat service to and from Sabang in cooperation with the Pumpboat Association: Effectively implemented sea ferry program through the pumpboat association.
 - i. As stakeholders, the Sabang Sea Ferry Multi-Purpose Cooperative provides the boats that transport tourists from wharf to the PPUR; the number of boats now is 68 and projected to be 72 by 2015.
 - ii. The membership of sea ferry owners in the cooperative is community-based; the cooperative associates include the sea captain, "tripolante", and helpers. There are still 14 boats that are operated by non-members. Operating a boat/sea ferry service requires accreditation from PPSRNP.
 - iii. Current guidelines for accreditation are based on qualifications that include: Boat operators and handlers must come from buffer barangays; they must have a counterpart in the protection of the environment; activity on the conservation; accreditation is done yearly (supposedly); the guidelines are still undergoing study – to determine the appropriate qualifications and actions for accreditation.
 - Phasing out picnicking at the underground river, to reduce adverse impact and to allow local communities to fill that market niche: **No data yet**
 - Extending and improving the board walk between the beach and the underground river: **No data yet**

- Improving nature interpretation by boatmen in the cave: There were training activities conducted for community guides. This contributes to the planned community-based eco-tourism and sustainable coastal fish farming in the community. Cave guides were trained with old guides but there are new ones that are not trained yet.
- Developing the Underground River, Monkey and Jungle Trails as self-guiding interpretive trails with capacity of 500, 300 and 100 visitors per day respectively:**No data yet**
- Phasing out use of Central Park Station, to eliminate major adverse impact on sensitive habitats and to allow local communities to fill the market niche:The plan not to use the Central park station by the administrative function is not implemented yet.
- Ensuring that visitor entry is controlled and that visitors are efficiently informed about entry conditions. The PPSRNP administrative office has a radio frequency system aside from the ticketing system. The communication facility enables the PPSRNP staff to communicate with the Site and the City Office.
- Opening a suitably located information and booking facility in the City-proper: The PPSRNP occupies office spaces for the PASuAdministrative Office/PAMB Secretariat and the PPSRNP Booking and Ticketing Office at the ground floor of the Puerto Princesa City Coliseum located at the City proper. See photos below.

Photo Exhibit. X. PPSRNP Office – Admin and Booking Offices





IMG_0235



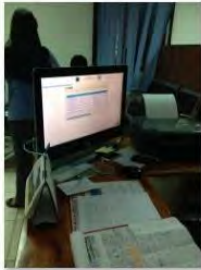
IMG_0236



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IMG_0241



IMG_0242

- Devising a booking and ticketing system: In 2011 booking system was computerized, currently maintained by a former staff now a service provider on honorarium basis. The system includes:
 - i. Permit application uses a numbering system indicating date/time(?) released.
 - ii. Use of internet to connect from PP office to the UR administration site.
 - iii. They are now testing the swiping of card system, which they are currently reviewing on a monthly basis. See photo of card/internet connections.
 - iv. Reason for the card system is to go paperless, one stop shop, more efficient, and card to serve as souvenir.
 - v. The office will also derive income from the IT permit card sharing the cost with the local provider similar to the photo stalls that are currently operating in the UR.

- Establishing designated Park entry points (Sabang pier, Jungle Trail - Sabang end, Lion Cave, San Rafael junction - Kayasan): **No data yet**
(A modern terminal zone tourism agency infrastructure is being proposed where wharf is currently located.)

- Publishing a tourist trade Park Bulletin to inform the trade (not the public directly) of all relevant entry information twice-yearly: **Will check if the** Information Bulletin 39/2013 from PCAARRD informing about the Tourism Carrying Capacity PPSRNP is considered a Park Bulletin.

The concept of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is not highlighted in the training or in the tourist guidelines except that the PPUR is in the UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites and that PPUR garnered other awards.

- By raising tourism revenue to cover Park operating and new investment costs: Revenues from visitors increased since 1993: 2,818 times from 1993 to 2003; 915 times from 2004 - 2014; and 38,866 times from 1993 to 2014. Within the period, the Year 2012 was the year that had generated the highest revenue, a gross total of Pesos 54,104,030.50, brought about by the barrage of international information on the PPUR as one of the seven wonders in the world.
- Maintaining visitor monitoring undertaken in 1997/8/9: There was 1,034% increase in tourist arrivals. More than 70 to 85% were local tourists and 15 to 30% are foreigners. Visitor monitoring is undertaken including daily statistic reports.

Terminal space is no longer enough for the number of tourists who await for their turn to be ferried to the PPUR. A modern terminal zone tourism agency infrastructure is being proposed where wharf is currently located.

- Soliciting and taking account of visitors' suggestions and complaints. Feedbacks are randomly solicited and forms are made available to visitors. Customer feedbacks are collated and reported (how often?). Collecting customers'/visitors' feedback – based on record – is practiced since 2007. The feedback form allowed the visitors to check on or rate the performance of the staff and the facilities which included the following
 - a. KabutihangAsal
 - b. HandasaSerbisyo
 - c. Kalinisan at Kaayusan
 - d. MaayosnaKaayusan

VI. Regional Integration

The first objective is to ensure that the Park's interests are considered from the very beginning in any development plans, whether government or private. A second objective is to establish international recognition of the Park through listing as World Heritage Site by UNESCO

There was no activity planned. Development in adjacent areas should also be assessed of its possible impact to the Park.

UNDP program for GEF - A local consultative body was created to review and recommend projects on global warming, pollution of international waters, destruction of biological diversity, and depletion of stratospheric ozone.

VII. Institutional Development, Organization and Administration

Institutional Setting

The PPSRNP Office is composed of the Main Administrative Office and the Booking Office. The Admin Office is also the office of the Park Superintendent (PASu) and PAMB Secretariat. The Booking Office is used by the personnel who process the permit application. It is based at the ground floor of the Puerto Princesa City Coliseum.

The PPSRNP Protected Area Management Board (PAMB)

In December 1992 DENR signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Local Government of Puerto Princesa which effectively transferred the protection and management of the Park from DENR to the local government. The Puerto Princesa City Government formally took over the management of the Park in 1993. Through an Executive Order, the city mayor formed a 15-person Protected Area management Board (PAMB) with the Mayor and the Regional Executive Director of DENR as co-chairs. The mayor appointed all the PAMB members. A park superintendent and other protected area staff were installed as part of the rationalization of the protected areas network in the Philippines under the NIPAS Law and to comply with the bid requirements of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

With the change of administration in 2013, members and staff of the PAMB from the local government side were replaced by the newly elected Mayor.

Composition

Recently an executive committee (Execom) of the PAMB was established. The PAMB approved/issued Executive Order No. 01 in August 2014 which prescribed the composition, functions and other purposes of the Executive Committee of the PPSRNP. It is composed of the following:

- Chairman: The City Mayor
- Co – Chair: The Regional Executive Director (Region IV-B – MIMAROPA) of the DENR
- Members:
 - Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC)
 - City Legal Office
 - Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
 - City ENRO
 - Barangay Marufinas
- Further to the List of PAMB Members are the following:
 - City Planning and Development Coordinator

- City Tourism Officer
- Chair, SP Committee on Natural Resources
- President Tourism Council
- Conservation International
- PB of New Pangangan
- PB of Cabayugan
- PB Tagabinet
- PB Marufinas
- Cabayugan, IP Representative
- Marufinas, IP Representative
- President, SSFMC
- PO Representative
- CADC Kayasan IP Representative
- Board Secretary
- Project Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) Members
 - PDEC Chairman (DENR-CENRO)
 - PDEC Member (OCPDC)
 - PDEC Member (ELAC)
 - PDEC Member (PCSD)
 - PDEC Member (City ENRO)
 - PDEC Member (PPSRNP)
 - PDEC Secretariat (PPSRNP)

The duties and function of the PAMB – ExeCom include:

- (1) Formulate, review and recommend approval of policies, guidelines, plans, and programs, agreements and other related documents including the Manual of Operations for the management of the PPSRNP;
- (2) Approve/endorse application for research by students, academe and other agencies/institutions;
- (3) Prepare internal rules of the PAMB;
- (4) Determine user's fee in PPSRNP
- (5) Oversee implementation of the PPSRNP management plan
- (6) Monitor and evaluate the progress in the implementation of the management plan including the harmonization with ADSPP of three CADCs;
- (7) Assess the performance of the PASu and other PA personnel and compliance of partners to the terms and conditions of any understanding, contract and agreement; and
- (8) Perform other functions as maybe delegated by the PAMB.

There is still apprehension that DENR wishes to take control of the Underground River from the City Government. Few members of the PAMB were asked to identify tasks between City and the LGUs.

Organization

The PPSRNP Organizational Structure was developed. See appendix.

The Park Superintendent is (PASu) by 54 staff in 5 components, namely: Administration & Supervision, Tourism & Information, Community Development, Protection & Law Enforcement, and Maintenance & Development. At present there are 24 full time staff members; 3 of them reports at the City office. Currently there are also 35 casual workers hired/contracted for 12 months; 9 for 6 months; 10 for 3 month. About 50% comes from the local communities and there are about 11 who are city-based. Other staff members are now employed on 6-month contracts rather than 12 months as previously done.

The staff members were hired through recommendation and endorsement by friends. They were screened by the new administration. Some senior staff members have been replaced by political appointees.

The Park has no permanent staff and no plantilla position has been created by the City government. The Cave Guide and Maintenance and utility are all on contractual employment basis.

PPSRNP Funds:

PPSRNP funding is currently self-sustaining. The main sources are the revenues generated from Visitors'/Tourists' entrance fees. Funds also finance the PPSRNP operational activities, and administrative costs that include personnel salary and maintenance of building and facilities. There is a Trust Fund (IPAF? based on what policy?). Upon the advice of xxxx an account was opened. The source of the trust funds comes from the share of the Park from businesses such as the photo stall at the UR and other related-businesses dependent on the PPUR.

Staff Development.

At present there is no training program for the staff. There were some training conducted for cave guides.

In mid-2014 an assessment and training on xxxx were conducted. The conduct of the assessment was prompted by the Tourists' booking problem. Booking and administration structure in 2013 was reviewed. The PPUR staffs went through a training workshop and Tourism orientation. They were trained on how booking should be implemented, how attendants should be attired, how to approach visitors, and what to say to clients.

The City Tourism office gave the training to tourist guides for partner establishments – for guided tours, travel agency, and transportation handlers. The training also Included information on the management structure, Park Policy and Do's and Don't's and the History of PPUR/National Park.

Guidelines for Tourists were prepared and provided (published?).

Management Infrastructure

The building was completed in 2001 but this is not yet in use. The Central Park Station still used by administrative staff and visitors.

1.5. Summary of the Assessment and Planning Process

There is a significant threat by the development taking place in the property. For example, wild life trade is increasing in the UR.

There is a struggle between tourism development and conservation/protection work to maintain the property's OUV

Biodiversity concerns is something to focus and work on and need increased investment

Currently the focus is only managing tourists; there is only one staff managing focus and concerns on biodiversity. There is less assessment of land by PAMB

Current management had to deal with inherited legacy management.

Need guidelines for preservation of biodiversity and the need to come with the zone plan.

- Boundaries/ competing tricky issues among IPs, biodiversity, buffer zones, multiple zones – zonal identification is important one to address quite urgently –
- PAMB needs to make immediate decision of the zones. The Management plan needs to recognize role of IPs within reason those relying heavily on UR catchment
- Start the process of developing forest maps; identification of those in the buffer zones

A Protected Area Management Plan/Implementation Plan is basic to the World Heritage Site criteria. The 2002 Plan was not submitted to world heritage organization. Only a printed management plan dated 1999 was submitted prior to the Park expansion. There is a need to classify zones and current data need to be verified to have basis for stability and continuity in the protection of biodiversity which should have a study to support and to identify vulnerable areas where it can happen.

2. JUSTIFICATION AS WORLD HERITAGE AND PROTECTED AREA

- Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
- As Protected Area

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

- Boundaries of the site
- Setting and buffer zones

4. ANALYSIS OF AND BY STAKEHOLDERS OF OPPORTUNITIES, THREATS AND ISSUES/CONCERNS AND INTERNAL ANALYSIS

- Stakeholder identification and analysis
- Summary and analysis of opportunities and threats
- Major External Issues and Concerns (Physical/biodiversity condition, tourism, community development, etc.)
- Summary of Strengths and Weaknesses, Internal Issues

5. VISION, MISSION, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES (STRATEGY MAP)

- Vision
- Mission
- Strategic Themes
- Strategies from Four Perspectives: Stakeholders, Internal Process, Financial and Learning and Growth
- Alignment with the CLUP 2013 – 2022 of Puerto Princesa
- Alignment with Northwest Cluster Strategic Plan

6. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND POLICIES (BALANCED SCORECARD)

- Objectives, Measures, Baseline, Targets, Initiatives, Schedule of Implementation and Budget
- Cascading to Communities for Strategic Alignment and Synergy in Action for Effective Implementation

ACRONYMS

A & D	Alienable and Disposable
CADC	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim
CADT	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
CLUP	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GIS	Geographic Information System
ECAN	Environmentally Critical Areas Network
ICCROM	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KBA	Key Biodiversity Areas
LEP	Land Evaluation Party
MEF	Management Effectiveness Framework
NAMRIA	National Mapping Resource Institute
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PPSRNP	Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
PPUR	Puerto Princesa Underground River
RA	Republic Act
SEP	Strategic Environment Plan
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

AD	Ancestral Domain
Brgy.	Barangay
BHW	Barangay Health Worker
BNS	Barangay Nutrition Scholar
BSPO	Barangay Service Point Officer
CADC	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim
CENRO	Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
CI	Conservation International
CPS	Central Park Station
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
E	East
ECAN	Environmentally Critical Areas Network
EO	Executive Order
Fig.	Figure
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ha./has.	Hectare/s
IPRA	Indigenous People's Rights Act
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature

km	kilometer
m	meter
MoA	Memorandum of Agreement
mm	millimeter
N	North
NE	North East
NGO	Non-Government Office
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PCC	Palawan Conservation Corps
PPC	Puerto Princesa City
PPSRNP	Puerto Princesa Subterranean R. National Park
PTFFP	Palawan Tropical Forestry Protection Programme
R	River
RA 7160	The Local Government Code, 1991
RA 7586	National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992
RA 7611	Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act, 1992
RA 8371	Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997
RA	Republic Act
SEP	Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act (RA 7611 of June 19, 1992)
So.	Sitio
SPSRNP	St. Paul Subterranean R. National Park
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UR	Underground River
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

APPENDICES

References

- **Hard Copies:**

“Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (World Heritage site One of the Official New 7 Wonders of Nature) Visitors Guide”

“Welcome to one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park”

“Palawan Handy GuideMap” published by Handy Travelguides Publishing

“Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park Organizational Structure”

“Important Facts About the PPSRNP”

“Executive Order No. 1 by PAMB: An Order for the Composition of the Executive Committee of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park – Protected Area Management Board, Prescribing its Compositions, Functions and for other Purposes”

“List of PMB Members”

“Visitor Entry Permit”

“Barangays and Sitios within the PA”

“PPSRNP Consolidated Report on Clients’ Feedback for the Month of July 2013”

Sample - PPSRNP Client’s Feedback Form

No Title – List of Staff Table – Name, Position, Salary, Status, Area of Assignment, CTC No.

“Socio-economic and Environmental Changes in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines”
Department of Health Research Institute For Tropical Medicine

“Renewed Wonder: Experience PPUR version 2.0, The Wonder - Special Edition – 1st Puerto Princesa Underground River Day Celebration, November 11, 2014”

“The Wonder – Form A Dark Past ... PPSRNP Starts Anew With its New Management” July 2013-2014 Maiden Issue

Softcopies (pdf) and Websites

PAMB, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Part Management Strategy, 2002

“Maximising the Value of Ecological and Socio-economic Data in Support of Conservation Planning for Key Understorey Bird Species in Palawan, Philippines” by Neil Aldrin D. Mallari (2009)

“Protection, Conservation, Management And Development Of The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park” Terminal Project Report by Haribon Palawan

Websites:

PPSRNP

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/advisorybodies/>

Table xx. List of PPSRNP Staff as of 2014

Position	Number of Staff	Status
Administrative Officer	1	Contractual
Information Officer	1	Contractual
Environment Management Specialist	1	Contractual
Assistant Environment Management Specialist	1	Contractual
Event Organizer/Records Officer	1	Contractual
Supply Officer	1	Contractual
Biologist	1	Contractual
Community Organizer	1	Contractual
Assistant Community Organizer	2	Contractual
Nurse	2	Contractual
Administrative Assistant	2	Contractual
Recreational Welfare Assistant	3	Contractual
PAMB/PDEC	1	Contractual
Booking Attendant	7	Contractual
Liaison Officer	1	Contractual
Messenger/Utility	1	Contractual
Tourist Receptionist	8	Contractual
CPS Maintenance	1	Contractual
Cave Guide – Team Leader	1	Contractual
Cave Guide	30	Contractual
Life Guard	4	Contractual
Driver	1	Contractual
Foreman	1	Contractual
Casual	34	J.O.

Table xx. ENTRANCE FEE COLLECTED IN PUERTO PRINCESA SUBTERRANEAN RIVER NATIONAL PARK 1993-2003

MONTH	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
January			187,115.00	172,110.00	334,480.00	285,044.50	165,475.00	207,650.00	301,695.00	171,270.00	193,835.00
February			150,030.00	180,400.00	356,125.00	298,875.00	218,050.00	364,050.00	247,390.00	157,550.00	149,780.00
March			137,870.00	142,370.00	346,085.00	289,395.00	270,655.00	346,300.00	318,445.00	113,630.00	167,325.00
April			224,290.00	383,380.00	602,837.00	411,250.00	408,120.00	580,615.00	583,075.00	483,100.00	339,785.00
May			260,760.00	295,915.00	519,575.00	379,475.00	403,959.00	545,055.00	693,700.00	286,900.00	383,780.00
June			105,397.50	195,375.00	268,781.50	241,605.25	228,125.00	205,220.00	214,585.00	206,185.00	240,440.00
July			72,595.00	143,320.00	209,950.00	197,700.00	155,219.17	145,470.00	88,345.00	89,190.00	168,470.00
August			118,070.00	111,900.00	140,875.00	151,900.00	160,757.00	183,642.26	44,450.00	85,445.00	112,735.00
September			64,415.00	88,650.00	236,529.00	116,275.00	93,250.00	166,008.93	76,200.00	154,790.00	167,250.00
October			92,365.00	167,643.65	192,580.00	76,592.50	128,950.00	324,640.68	90,760.00	97,831.00	160,020.00
November			70,890.00	155,195.00	241,311.00	108,363.60	201,825.00	183,475.00	58,155.00	76,359.00	159,825.00
December			79,750.00	132,630.00	273,275.00	182,975.00	261,365.60	163,395.00	72,560.00	116,205.00	198,265.00
TOTAL	86,610.00	1,277,442.91	1,563,547.50	2,168,888.65	3,722,403.50	2,739,540.85	2,695,750.77	3,415,521.87	2,789,360.00	2,038,455.00	2,441,510.00

**ENTRANCE FEE COLLECTED IN PUERTO PRINCESA SUBTERRANEAN RIVER NATIONAL PARK
2004-2014**

MONTH	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
January	388,790.00	345,115.00	361,065.00	598,690.00	804,785.00	1,319,640.00	1,904,330.00	2,105,568.17	5,529,814.00	5,904,325.00	4,400,220.00
February	239,654.15	383,680.00	438,770.00	458,360.00	835,480.00	1,216,800.00	1,784,245.00	2,395,911.41	6,449,751.00	5,745,290.00	5,241,255.00
March	472,387.50	372,595.00	371,780.00	480,995.00	728,165.00	1,710,155.00	1,701,205.55	2,921,940.00	6,639,868.50	5,032,885.00	5,098,055.00
April	479,917.00	546,855.00	477,090.00	808,745.00	1,160,910.00	1,706,735.00	2,801,620.50	2,881,168.00	4,720,905.00	4,139,475.00	5,395,967.50
May	486,750.00	504,915.00	622,085.00	609,030.00	1,194,450.00	1,971,151.00	1,795,553.65	3,348,122.50	4,657,240.00	3,564,165.00	4,625,945.00
June	250,262.61	300,805.00	359,148.00	542,370.00	640,130.00	1,613,893.60	1,721,633.00	2,358,668.86	3,257,130.00	3,558,165.00	3,172,065.00
July	212,760.00	137,185.00	371,680.00	470,015.00	817,695.00	1,216,698.20	1,721,663.00	2,040,862.00	3,971,015.00	3,724,110.00	3,146,645.00
August	213,385.00	261,150.00	363,295.00	574,915.00	804,510.00	1,207,316.35	1,509,036.50	2,528,658.00	3,353,107.00	3,586,305.00	2,581,395.00
September	145,827.26	99,030.00	353,920.00	436,240.00	554,645.00	1,362,372.95	1,450,288.00	2,598,081.00	3,136,710.00	3,051,020.00	
October	328,442.00	179,540.00	494,055.00	484,855.00	940,550.00	839,416.95	983,825.00	2,639,972.50	4,430,250.00	3,663,760.00	
November	219,630.00	272,910.00	395,960.00	477,240.00	765,790.00	914,706.50	1,883,928.00	3,101,339.00	4,392,370.00	2,748,250.00	
December	241,730.00	265,500.00	365,510.00	567,035.00	678,470.00	1,429,276.00	1,679,425.50	2,891,285.00	3,565,870.00	2,847,730.00	
TOTAL	3,679,535.52	3,669,280.00	4,974,358.00	6,508,490.00	9,925,580.00	16,508,161.55	20,936,753.70	31,811,576.44	54,104,030.50	47,565,480.00	33,661,547.50

Table xx.ANNUAL TOURIST ARRIVALS 1990 - 2014

	1990			1991			1992			1993			1994		
	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total
TOTAL	1,299	1,955	3,254	4,168	2,717	6,885	6,951	3,184	10,135	11,428	4,992	16,420	11,365	4,302	15,667
<i>Percentage</i>	40.00%	60.00%		61.00%	39.00%		69.00%	31.00%		70%	30%		72.54%	27.45%	

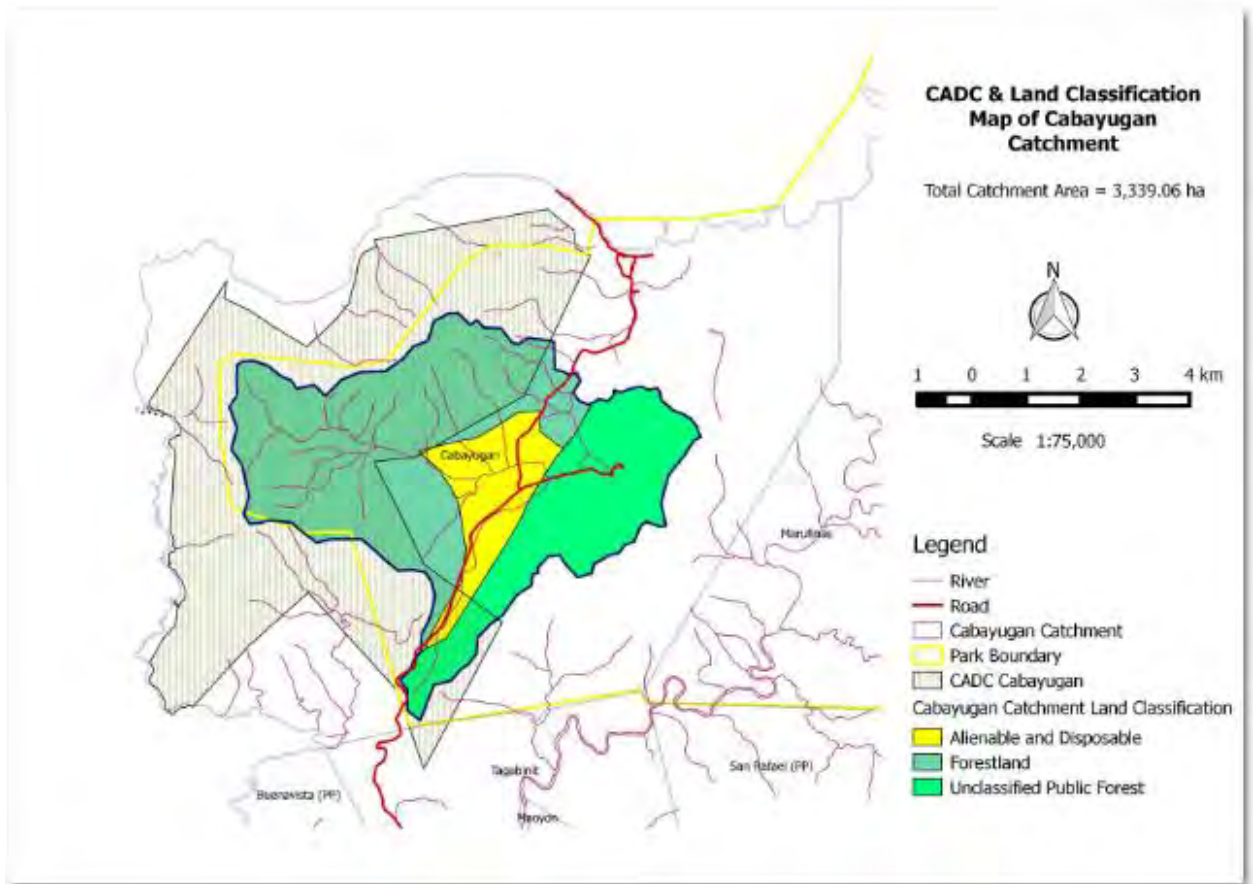
	1995			1996			1997			1998			1999		
	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total
TOTAL	12,809	4,488	17,297	19,123	5,941	25,064	31,619	8,360	39,979	22,229	8,547	30,776	23,863	7,338	31,201
<i>Percentage</i>	70.27%	29.73%		76.30%	23.70%		79.09%	20.91%		72.22%	27.78%		76.48%	23.52%	

	2000			2001			2002			2003			2004		
	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total
TOTAL	25,138	7,501	32,639	18,680	3,933	22,613	15,816	2,417	18,233	23,373	2,856	26,229	29,369	5,227	34,596
<i>Percentage</i>	77.02%	22.98%		82.60%	17.40%		86.74%	13.26%		89.11%	10.89%		84.89%	15.11%	

	2005			2006			2007			2008			2009		
	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total
TOTAL	26,920	7,222	34,142	36,306	9,962	46,268	49,185	14,086	63,271	76,065	17,363	93,428	122,501	21,718	144,219
<i>Percentage</i>	78.85%	21.15%		78.47%	21.53%		77.74%	22.26%		81.42%	18.58%				

	2010			2011			2012			2013			2014		
	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total	Local	Foreign	Total
TOTAL	52,060	20,738	66,781	54,988	19,913	68,881	65,003	22,524	81,504	99,440	26,243	119,657	151,871	32,972	178,815
<i>Percentage</i>	86.07%	13.90%		83.85%	16.15%		84.35%	15.65%		82%	18.01%				

Figure x. CADC and Land Classification Map of Cabayugan Catchment



ANCESTRAL DOMAIN CLAIM MAP

Map # 9

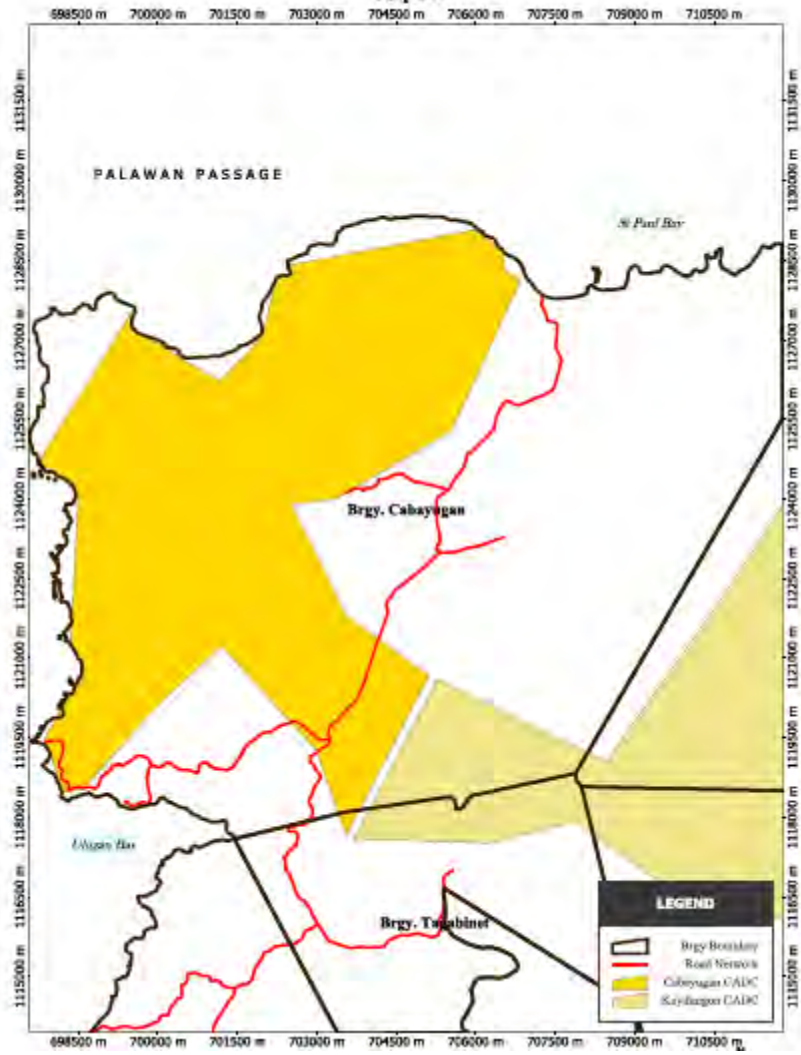


Figure xx. PPSRNP Organizational Chart

**PUERTO PRINCESA
SUBTERRANEAN RIVER
NATIONAL PARK**

Comprehensive
Tourism Management Plan
2016

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED

CBST – Community Based Sustainable Tourism

DepEd – Department of Education

ITP – In the Pipeline

NIPAS – National Integrated Protected Areas System

OUV – Outstanding Universal Value

PCG – Philippine Coast Guard

PCSD – Palawan Center for Sustainable Development

PPSRNP – Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park

PPUR – Puerto Princesa Underground River

PSFI – Pilipinas Shell Foundation, Inc.

PSU – Palawan State University

SREC – Sabang Renewable Energy Corporation

TESDA – Technical Education and Skills Development Agency

I. Introduction

Rationale

Owing to its unique and awe-inspiring landscape and rich biodiversity, the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) is one of the main world-class tourist destinations in the Philippines. Its central feature is the 8.2 kilometer-long underground river, more commonly referred to as the Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR), which draws thousands of tourists daily, both local and foreign.

Most of the land area of the national park is located within the vicinity of the St. Paul Mountain Range, a prominent geologic feature on the western coast of central Palawan. Although originally under the management of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the City Government of Puerto Princesa has managed the National Park since 1992. The park is within the political jurisdiction of four barangays namely Cabayugan, Marufinas, New Panggangan, and Tagabenit.

As a biodiversity rich area, PPSRNP's conservation significance has been recognized with its inscription as a World Heritage Site, a National Geological Monument, New 7 Wonders of Nature, and also as Ramsar Site on Wetlands of International Significance. Its unique physical, geological, and biological features constitute one of the most intact habitats for many globally threatened and endemic species of flora and fauna.

PPSRNP's inclusion in the New Seven Wonders of Nature in 2012 increased its tourism promotion and drew global attention to the natural wonder, resulting to an overwhelming tourist inflow to the park every year. With the rapid growth in tourist arrivals, concerns have been raised about the adverse effects of uncontrolled tourism to the natural resources and the Outstanding Universal Value of PPSRNP. As such, there is a need for the development of a tourism strategy management plan.

This document evaluates and assesses current and proposed tourism-related policies and programs with an aim to address key management and conservation issues and opportunities posed by tourism in PPSRNP.

This preliminary survey of tourism industry players is an initiative to assess the prevailing conditions of existing tourist destinations/attractions, which will form part of the Strategic Management Plan for PPSRNP.

For the PPSRNP, the key guiding principle of the strategic management plan is alignment to sustainable tourism development. More specifically, it means that the tourism product must:

1. Promote tourism development that maintains the essential ecological processes which results to the conservation of natural heritage and biodiversity;
2. Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities and conserving their living and built environments; and
3. Promote enterprise development that fairly distributes the benefits to the community and local stakeholders and thus contribute to inclusive growth and poverty reduction /alleviation.

These strategic principles will ensure that the local tourism industry will contribute to the protection and enhancement of PPSRNP's "Outstanding Universal Value." Based on the site's inscription dossier, PPSRNP's OUV is hinged on the following criteria:

Criterion (vii): *The Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park features a spectacular limestone or karst landscape. It contains an underground river that flows directly to the sea. The lower half of the river is brackish and subject to ocean tide. The associated tidal influence on the river makes this a significant natural phenomenon. The river's cavern exhibits dramatic speleothems and several large chambers of as much as 120m wide and 60m high. Its accessibility and navigability up to 4.5km inland allows it to be experienced by the general public, who can view the magnificent rock formations on a river cruise unequalled by any other similar experience elsewhere in the world.*

Criterion (x): *The property contains globally significant habitat for biodiversity conservation. It includes a full mountain-to-sea ecosystem, protecting the most significant forest area within the Palawan Biogeographic Province. There are eight intact forest formations: forest on ultramafic soil, forest on limestone soil, montane forest, freshwater swamp forest, lowland evergreen tropical rainforest, riverine forest, beach forest, and mangrove forest, included in the property. It contains outstanding biodiversity with the Palawan Moist Forest recognized by the WWF's Global Report as containing the richest tree flora, with high levels of regional and local endemism and as being the largest and most valuable limestone forest in Asia.*

This means that the tourism strategy should promote:

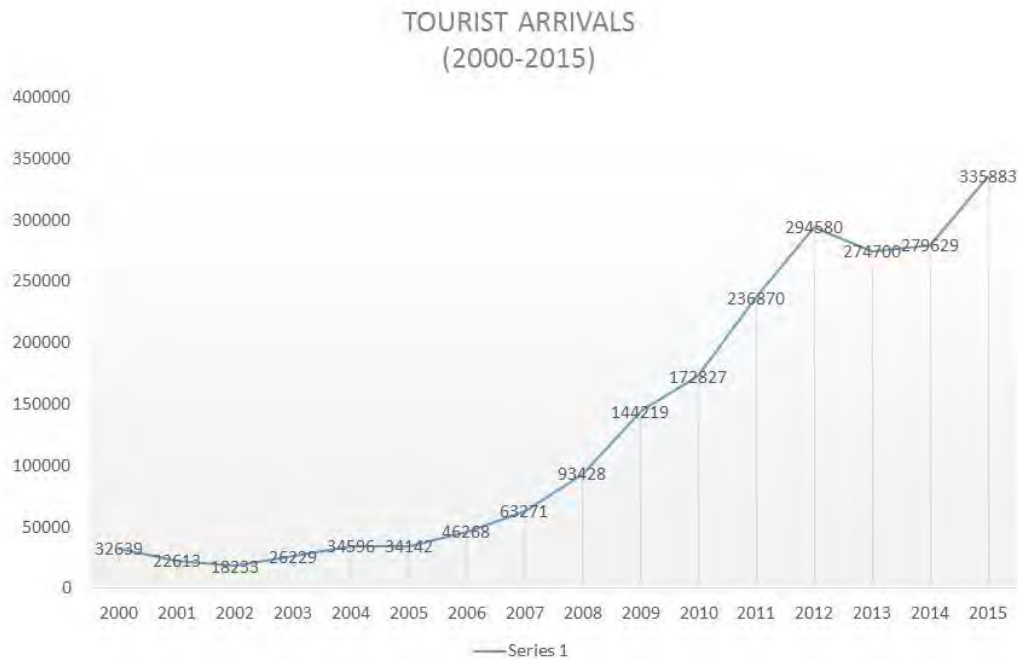
1. Economic value of biodiversity conservation;
2. Biodiversity conservation by raising awareness amongst residents and visitors; and
3. Provide additional funds for conservation generated from tourism.

In summary, PPUR's tourism strategy will focus on three main pillars namely: conservation, community, and enterprise development based on sustainable development guidelines.

Visitorship

Since its inscription, the Puerto Princesa Underground River's annual visitorship soared from measly 32,639 to an increase of 335,883 visitors, a total of 90.3% increase in the span of fifteen years with an average of 6.02% annual growth rate and 16.81% compounded annual growth rate.

Year	Annual Number of Visitors	Growth Rate
2000	32,639	-
2001	22,613	(19.4%)
2002	18,233	(24.02%)
2003	26,229	30.49%
2004	34,596	24.18%
2005	34,142	(1.33%)
2006	46,268	26.21%
2007	63,271	26.87%
2008	93,428	32.28%
2009	144,219	35.22%
2010	172,827	16.55%
2011	235,870	26.73%
2012	294,580	19.93%
2013	274,700	(7.24%)
2014	279,629	1.76%
2015	335,883	16.75%



An increasing number of visitors come to the park all-year-round but the most number of visits come from the peak months of December up to June. The months of June to November are considered lean months with lesser but still significant number of tourist arrivals. Most of the tourists who visit the park are locals, comprising the average of 82.34% of the visitorship for the last fifteen years since its inscription as a UNESCO natural world heritage site this is as oppose to 17.66% foreign tourist arrivals within the inscription years. Being voted as one of the New 7 Wonders of nature have a minimal growth impact to the visitorship of the park as can be seen from the slight decline of tourist arrivals from the year it was listed as such in 2012 to the year that followed when arrivals were cut by 6.7%.

The PPSRNP sources its fund for operations solely from the entrance fees collected from the visitors of the park. Visitorship has been the life-blood of its protection and development. With this in mind, the Puerto Princesa Underground River Office under the City Government of Puerto Princesa has been monitoring its visitorship to keep track of its funds and oversees its responsible allocation.

II. Tourism-related ordinances and resolutions

Accessibility

Resolution No. 944-2015

A resolution passed on February 5, 2015 ratifying the memorandum of agreement entered into by and between the city government of Puerto Princesa, the Daluyon Restaurant, Tribal restaurant, Sabang zip line, and the SM Shoemart with spouses Primo and Wilhelma Avellano, owners of a 2000 square meter parcel of land at Sitio Sabang, Brgy. Cabayugan being used as passage for public transport and authorizing the payment of the lease of said property from October to December 2013 for the amount of Php45,000. This road leads to the Sabang mangrove area and the trail to the underground river.

Sustainability

Ordinance No. 546

Ordinance 546 was passed on January 2013 establishing the guidelines for community based sustainable tourism (CBST) development in the city. It aims to promote the general well-being of the residents and empowers them through equal access to resources and participation in tourism development in their respective villages; capacity building for the management and operations of the CBST program; conservation and protection of the natural environment as well as the cultural resources of the city; creating community-based tourism products and livelihood; establish a sustainable funding mechanism for the project and the community; devising of systematic rules and procedures for the development of various tour packages; diversification of tourism into eco, agricultural, cultural, rural, and adventure tourism; and the formulation of guidelines for the program.

PPUR-related CBST guidelines

1. Bayatao/Kayasan Tribal Village
The guideline for the homestay program is being crafted at present and will be effective this year.
2. Mt. Bloomfield Hiking guidelines on Barangay Cabayugan
The hiking activities at Mt. Bloomfield which include a visit to the Sabang Waterfalls will commence soon. Guidelines for this activity are already drafted and will take effect February 2016.
3. New Panggan Snorkeling and Dive Site
This tourism activity aimed to help boost the income of the community will take effect February 5, 2016. Boats that will be used will come from the village, not from Sitio Sabang of Barangay Cabayugan.
4. Lion's Cave (geological museum)
The PPUR office is still waiting for the cave assessment conducted by the Palawan Center for Sustainable Development (PCSD). Once completed, the site will be converted into a geological museum. A guideline will be crafted and the target date for the opening of the museum and the guideline is 2016.
5. Association of Recycled Handicraft in Barangay Tagabinet
The crafting of guideline for this livelihood program for women weavers is underway. It is targeted to be finished on February 15, 2016, in time for the opening of the showroom.

Ordinance No. 647

An ordinance enforcing strict observance of silence inside the cave of Puerto Princesa Underground River

This ordinance was passed on February 18, 2015 as a solution to the noise pollution caused by both boatmen and tourists inside the underground river which is affecting the ecosystem. It imposes the strict observance of silence inside the protective cave and adopted a multi-lingual ear-plug audio guide.

Infrastructure

Resolution No. 804-2010

In this resolution, the city government of Puerto Princesa authorized the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park – Protected Area management Board to manage the parking facilities in Sitio Sabang, Barangay Cabayugan.

Capacity building

Resolution No. 363-2014

This resolution passed on March 17, 2014 requests “The Honourable City Mayor Lucilo R. Bayron thru the Puerto Princesa Underground River Management office to include/convert the Sabang jungle trail into a community based sustainable tourism project” adding more employment especially for tour guides.

Resolution No. 680-2012

This resolution was passed on October 2, 2012 during the term of former Mayor Edward Hagedorn. This is an agreement entered by the city with the Kambak-Kambak souvenir enterprise for the PPUR visitors’ souvenir certificates upon request for a minimal fee of Php50 in which Php20 will be remitted to the city as royalty fee. It was aimed to promote PPUR then as a tourist destination and as an additional income source for the city. However, after the inscription of the PPUR to the new Seven Wonders of Nature in 2012, the tourist arrivals have since doubled.

Security

Ordinance No. 555

This ordinance, passed on April 15, 2013 amended Ordinance No. 495 or the Tourism Code of 2011, upping the amount of penalties plus imprisonment for travel and tour business and tour guides who engage on tour-related businesses without license. This would assure strict implementation of the code which would avoid unlicensed tour operators and guides and unauthorized entry to some of the nearby sites.

Resolution 323-2014

The City Council likewise passed said resolution on March 17, 2014 “Requesting the Honourable City Mayor Lucilo R. Bayron to create a committee that shall develop a system to manage and thereby prevent untoward incidents of drowning in Sitio Sabang, Barangay Cabayugan” as a response to the January 1 and 2, 2014 drowning incidents on the said place. A month before this resolution, on February 10, the City Council passed **Resolution 324-2014** aimed on putting up of two floatation devices on Sabang beach to avoid incidents of drowning.

Proposed Ordinances from the Assessment Team

Additional ordinances on security and safety
IP empowerment

Product development
Regular biodiversity trainings and seminars
Deputization of rangers
Strict ordinances on encroachments
Infrastructure guidelines (IRR of a proposed law relating to this) also on activity guidelines
Alay sa Puerto
Rest of the Cave/Sea/Mountain

III. Key Tourism Issues and Responses

Significant increase in tourist visitorship was evident after the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park's (PPSRNP) inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999, and after being voted as one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature in 2012. While this global attention has brought in remarkable interest and appreciation to the site's rich biodiversity which has also resulted to various economic opportunities, it also generated several concerns which if not addressed accordingly may endanger the property's Outstanding Universal Value. The PPSRNP Management Office under the City Government has identified these pressing issues and designed the necessary responses. (See Appendix E for Matrix of issues and responses)

A. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The challenging condition of Philippine governance which provides the term of political office often limits the continuity of programs and assessment of their outcomes. An organizational audit or reorganization is encouraged to ensure the competence of programs and their respective personnel. This also outlined the need for specialists directed to handle particular concerns. In line with this, the current PPSRNP Management Office has recently appointed a Marine Biologist and an Enterprise Development Officer to strictly monitor the underwater habitat and economic activity of the site, respectively.

Reports on illegal activities (wildlife trading, illegal logging, etc.) within the National Park have also raised the flag on the possibility of deputizing the Park Rangers. This would enable them to have the necessary police powers to vigilantly patrol the property and therefore protect its biodiversity.

Tourists booking a trip to the Puerto Princesa Underground River also became a challenge given the sheer volume of tourist arrivals. In 2013, an attempt to take the reservations online was initiated however this was short-lived and was reverted back to walk-in arrangements. To prevent negative customer experience the PPSRNP Management Office has already opened a booking facility at the Puerto Prinsesa City Coliseum located at the city proper. Permits are currently being regulated in accordance to the cave's prescribed carrying capacity. Personnel are also trained to handle various issues related to booking problems.

B. BOUNDARY AND ZONATION

The current strip of restaurants and souvenir shops are noticeably sprawling in number which clearly shows the urgent need to develop an Infrastructure Guideline that will provide the necessary requirement in creating 'Visual Integrity' among commercial structures as well as the proper designation of zones. This will be reflected on the proposed Tourist Complex at the Sabang Wharf which will embody the key values of architectural harmony while highlighting the local industries particularly the culinary and arts and crafts sector.

Alleged private properties located at the core zone of the inscribed site were also reported. Immediate investigations were conducted to trace these illegal acquisitions. Land conversions involving timberlands turned into farm lands

are also alarmingly affecting the water quality in the Subterranean River. A review of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) and the Water Code of the Philippines were imperative in defining the restrictions in land acquisition and activities. As a result of these efforts, land titling was discontinued two years ago.

C. INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

Construction of additional facilities is also necessary provided that these adhere to the Infrastructure Guideline that will be enacted. Consultation among local stakeholders (land owners, business owners, etc.) yielded favourable responses in committing to the principles of these guidelines. The Infrastructure Guideline will also dictate the appropriate activities both for the local community and tourists in maintaining the harmony between tourism activity and respect for the biodiversity of the property.

The construction of a Tourist Facility at the Sabang Wharf is already being implemented. Interactive Information Kiosks are going to be strategically installed alongside with local products in response to a more active information drive for tourists. This is scheduled to be completed within the 1st quarter of 2016.

Tourism recreational activities conducted within the core and buffer zones endanger the site's OUV. The development and immediate implementation of an Infrastructure Guideline and Activity Guideline will further strengthen the conservation efforts of the community.

Some activities have already been crafted guidelines through regulation and systems. This will ensure the systematic conservation of sites and safety of visitors. In the appendix are New Panggangan Snorkelling & Dive Site Guidelines and Mt. Bloom Fields Hiking Guidelines.

The proposed improvement of the Sabang Wharf includes the installation of a breakwater which will effectively protect the boats of the local fishing community. The wharf will also strategically feature a water treatment facility that will ensure the quality of waste water released to the sea.

Bgy. Cabayugan, the highly-visited tourist area in Puerto Princesa, regularly experiences fluctuating power supply. Generators have been largely used by both residential and commercial areas. This 2016, renewable energy of 2.3 MW will soon be sourced from a 3.5 hectare Solar PV/Diesel Hybrid Plant and Micro-Grid farm regulated by the Sabang Renewable Energy Corporation (SREC). This amount of energy can supply 600 households, 50 small size hotels, and 24 mid-size hotels.

Equal distribution of tourism benefits to other barangays situated along the core and buffer zone of the PPUR suggests the development of other potential sites for tourist destination. A number of natural and cultural sites that can also be marketed not only increase in economic viability but also aides in decongesting the PPUR from high visitor traffic.

D. ACCESSIBILITY

The increasing rate of tourist visitorship has also caused alarming traffic issues. Tourists had to wait for hours for their turn to get inside the PPUR via the paddle boats. Today a total of eighteen (18) paddle boats and tour/cave guides serve the National Park. The PPSRNP Management Office also increased the seating capacity of the motorboats from 8 to 10 people per trip. The number of motorboats has also increased. The Management has also successfully developed a systematic centralized dispatch system. On a fair weather, the tours start at 8:00am promptly giving way to the early 6:00 am return of nocturnal cave bats.

Accessibility is not only limited to roads and ferry schedules of tourists visiting the PPUR but also to the impact of these developments to the Indigenous People (IP) of the traditional communities. Trails to their areas did not only bring curious visitors but also created roads for food, medicine, and education. These trail systems are currently being improved and expanded.

E. INTERPRETATION

Boat trips inside the PPUR have been made even more memorable by animated local boat guides. However, the spiels and exchange of discussions sometimes become uncontrollable creating unnecessary noise which disturbs the cave's ecosystem.

In response, Audio Guides were developed pursuant to local Ordinance no. 647 which aims to minimize the noise created by group discussions on boat tours. The multi-lingual Audio Guides has been recently launched this January 2016. These are also being reviewed for further improvement particularly on the script, narrative, and musical scoring. Content of the audio guides are recommended to highlight the OUV of the property as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as its management and conservation.

The official PPUR website is currently being redesigned to feature a more appealing and user-friendly layout. The content would also feature the newest destinations opened for the public. It will also prescribe the age and profile of the target visitor given the challenging terrain as well as their recommended activities. The new website will be launched this 2016. This will also be complemented by Information Kiosks strategically positioned in Tourist Facilities. The worn out Visitor Center at the airport will also be redeveloped for a more appealing look capitalizing on the elements of biodiversity of the PPUR.

Signages are currently limited with no unifying element, which makes them visually disturbing. The PPSRNP Management Office already requested private partners to install appropriately designed signages using durable and environment-friendly materials. Official road directional signages are also going to be installed this 2016.

Collateral materials (brochures, maps, flyers etc.) are also being reviewed for a more consistent heritage-based creative output. This will greatly help in providing tourists options 'where and what to do' during their stay. Content of these materials is also being reviewed since it is crucial in setting the expectation of tourists.

All these efforts in interpreting the Heritage Values of the PPUR should be anchored on local knowledge that can be sourced if properly mapped. A Cultural and Natural Heritage Mapping Exercise will be able to identify, document, and discuss various elements from every barangay that ultimately create a repository of heritage data. This is currently being planned and will involve public school teachers.

Development of Site Museums and Information Kiosks are also ways in effectively distributing tourists. Currently being discussed are the following museums and exhibitions:

- a) Science Research Station located at the Central Park Station.
- b) Geological Site Museum at the Lion's Cave. (The cave was approved for this kind of development by the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development.)
- c) Exhibition on the IP's Cosmology at the former center of a local faith group.
- d) Marine Biodiversity Site Museum at the New Panggangan Dive Site.

An existing tour program designed by the Ateneo de Manila University which involves the local IP community will be revisited and actively implemented to empower the people while ensuring that their lives and practices are not commoditized.

F. CAPACITY BUILDING

Locals are key players in the Tourism industry managing the PPUR. Annual trainings are being conducted to encourage the community to actively participate on various programs (basic tour guiding, diving and bird watching etc.) where job opportunities are also viable.

Livelihood trainings were also initiated within the barangay level providing the local communities sustainable means to perform their daily activities and improve current economic conditions. Hog-raising which is a typical backyard industry began to pose threats on the environment due to the improper waste disposal system. To address the pressing negative impacts of waste management the local piggery industry was trained on organic hog-raising which resulted to the tempered odor of the pigpens which were located along residential and commercial areas. Recycling programs were likewise enacted.

Other capacity building exercises provided to the local community includes paralegal training, basic accounting, basic bookkeeping, etc. In partnership with Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc., the IP community received training and assistance in putting up organic backyard farming. This addresses the basic concern on food supply which is currently dependent on the city's supply. The community is also projected to undergo training for homestayng. They will soon receive guests to have a first-hand experience and encounter of indigenous lifestyle imparting the value of interdependence of man and nature.

G. RISK PREPAREDNESS AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTABILITY

Climate Change threatens the world's rich biodiversity including humanity itself. This global phenomenon is currently being addressed in an array of efforts from academic research to private and public projects in decreasing carbon footprint emissions. Effects of climate change have been alarmingly visible particularly in tropical countries like the Philippines, and more evidently in its coastline like in Puerto Princesa.

Oftentimes the discussions on Climate Change are left on technical language among experts and scientists. There is a growing need to cascade these findings down to grass-root level. Information Drive focused on Climate Change, its effects, and the mitigation measures is already being planned. This will educate the local stakeholders how this global crisis may affect the OUV of the PPUR if the community respond differently from the protocol identified by international summits on Climate Change.

Although a number of personnel from the PPSRNP Management Office have already attended local conferences on Climate Change this is still encouraged to be sustained and disseminated to other local agencies and organizations. Continuing education related to Disaster Preparedness for the current staff and workshops and trainings for new employees are also recommended.

Implementation of these protocols should also be strongly enacted (basic safety warning signs, emergency evacuation plans, mountain and coastline emergency response teams, etc.) to guarantee safe tourist experience.

H. SUSTAINABILITY

Tourism efforts should ultimately find balance between its economic viability and the conservation of the heritage values of a site. If the heritage values of the PPUR are compromised by unregulated human activity then its 'exceptional beauty' may then become a pigment of the past.

Local stakeholders are becoming more aware of the significance of the PPUR for their community and for the entire humanity. To heighten the sense of ownership among the local community the 'Alay sa Puerto' was initiated in 2013 which provided free entrance to the PPUR exclusive to residents of Puerto Princesa.

Heritage values are already being transmitted to the younger generation by integrating the OUV of the PPUR in their school curriculum. Public school teachers were also advised to incorporate the PPUR in various classroom activities and educational campaigns.

To ensure the sustainability of ongoing efforts in conserving the OUV of the PPUR, a long term projection of fund sourcing is already being discussed. A sinking fund would later become instrumental in funding management cost as well as the continuation of programs. A fund manager that will be responsible in making necessary investments is also being considered.

Funds can also be raised from the revenue of local products and crafts. However, recent inspection of available items identified lack of product identity

and branding. It is also recommended that these local industry players receive product and service development trainings.

At the core of the PPUR sustainability is the pristine condition of its biodiversity. The PPSRNP Management Office started in 2015 a Three-day Rest of the Cave Program. This is a notable effort that sends a strong message to both the local community and the tourist sector that the cave and its ecosystem like any living organism requires a period of recuperation. This is already regulated as an annual event and will gradually expand to a wider area covering from ridge to reef.

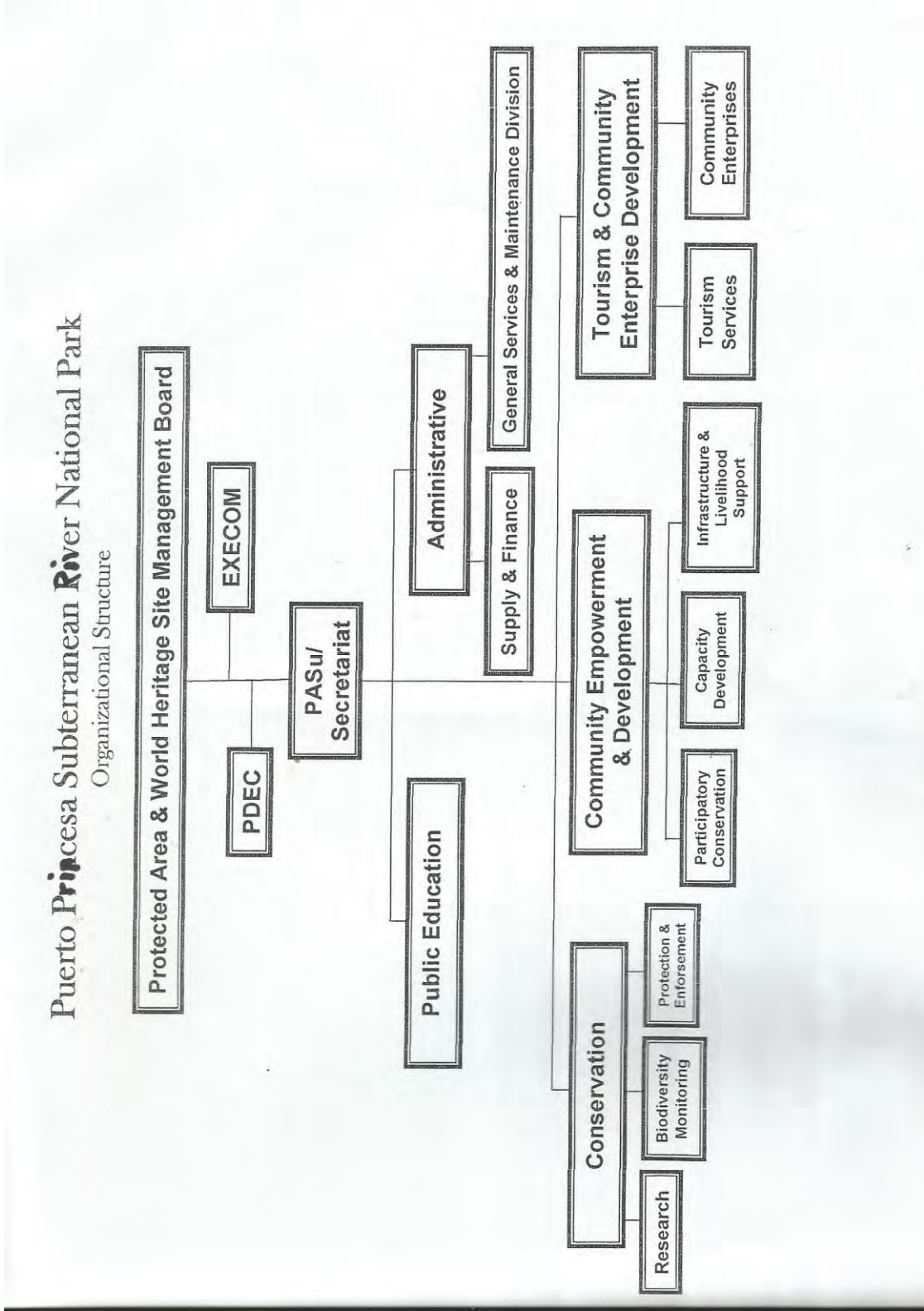
IV. Appendices

Appendix A: Organizational Chart

Appendix B: New Panggangan Sorkelling & Dive Proposed Guidelines and Mt. Bloom Fields Hiking Guidelines

Appendix C: Issues-Response Matrix

Appendix A. Organizational Chart



Appendix B. New Panggangan Snorkelling & Dive Site Guidelines and Mt. Bloom Fields Hiking Guidelines



Proposed Guidelines for New Panggangan Snorkelling & Dive site

1. Guests should secure a tour permit at the NPRT Desk located at the PPUR Sabang Information Office. Permit should contain the necessary information such as:
 - a. Name of Guest
 - b. Nationality
 - c. Age
 - d. Sex
 - e. Date and time of visit/tour.
2. Payment for the tour should be settled before departure at the Sabang Wharf Dive site information booth.

Package Cost: P 4,100 maximum of (4) four persons

Inclusions:

a. Permit	P 160/pax x 4 = P 640.00
b. Environmental Fee	P 40/pax x 4 = P 160.00
c. Lunch	P 200/pax x 4 = P 800.00
d. Boat hire	P 625/pax x 4 = P 2,500.00
Package Cost	P 4,100.00

3. On cases of trips where the maximum number of guests are not met (eg. only 2 pax), the guests will only pay the excess for the boat hire.
4. Guests/Visitors should strictly abide all guidelines and rules set by the park management.
5. The boat should have a maximum guest capacity of 4 persons per trip and will render services only to its manifested passengers all throughout the recreational tour.
6. Boat must have a crew of 3 persons (1 Boat Captain and 2 Deckhands).
7. Boat must have complete safety requirements such as life jackets (for guests & crew), first aid kits, floaters etc.
8. Boat manifest should be properly filled-up by the crew for the Coast Guard perusal and documentation before departure at the Sabang wharf.
9. Boat crew should be able to provide their guests the necessary information regarding the park, environmental conservation and protection lectures, tour prohibitions and other information.
10. Guests/Tourists should be taken by the boat crew to New Panggangan for swimming equipment rentals (flippers, goggles, snorkels, booties, etc.) and should return their rented equipment after the tour.
11. Boat crew should provide their guests with freshly cooked buffet lunch (eg. fish, crabs, shrimps, shells, seaweeds and fruits or coconuts) and clean drinking water during the tour.
12. Boat crew should assist their guests during swimming/snorkeling and must always keep a close watch to ensure the safety of everyone during the tour.
13. Boat crew must ensure that all their guests and personal effects are on-board the boat before leaving Bgy. New Panggangan.



City Coliseum, National Highway, Bgy. San Pedro
 Puerto Princesa City 5300, Philippines
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www.puerto-undergroundriver.com



- 14. Boat crew should assist their guests during boat disembarkation at the Sabang wharf.
- 15. Boat crew must check the boat for any personal effects or belongings that might be left behind by the guests.
- 16. Boat crew should properly and courteously thank their guests for taking the chance to experience the recreational tour and encourage them to invite or promote the tour (eg. Post pictures / blogs on social media or tell their experiences to friends).

Prepared by:

Noel Tabujara
E.D.O

Conformed:

Elizabeth A. Maclang
Park Superintendent



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Mt. Bloom Field Hiking Guidelines

Please submit the Booking Form the soonest e.g. one (1) booking form per group compose of maximum (7) individuals; and send the mountaineer information and waiver through any fast courier later or at least (1)day before your trekking date. The waiver should be printed at the back of the mountaineer information and notarized waiver of each person and your expedition is not considered final.

Office address;
Ground floor
City Coliseum National Highway
Bry. San Pedro PPC.

You can pay and get your permit at the park Booking office during office hours and office days when you arrive in Puerto Princesa City . Hope you consider an early arrival to avoid any inconvenience especially if your group decides to take the public transport.

Environmental fee: Php 40
Gen, Entrance fee: Php 100
Guide: Php 450
Porter: Php 300

To avoid questions or doubts regarding to your trekking application and reservation, please answer/ fill-up the form diligently and CLEARLY; and should be properly signed. Unsigned form/ documents are not considered valid.

Mount Bloom Field Area; and your group is advice to read the attached rules and Regulations on Mountaineering of the park set by the Protected Management Board. None compliance to the rules and regulations of the park would lead to DENIED TREEKING APPLICATION OR CANCELLATION OF MOUNTAINEERING PERMIT and VIOLATION WILL BE DEATH WITH.



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SABANG WHARF

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN OF SABANG INTEGRATED WHARF DEVELOPMENT, SABANG BEACH, PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN



Sabang Wharf

Entrance to the Underground River

Puerto Princesa Subterranean National Park

Puerto Princesa Subterranean National Park

GENERAL SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT

- MASTER PLAN FOR SABANG WHARF
- DESIGN OF PASSENGER TERMINAL BUILDING
- DESIGN OF UNDERGROUND RIVER SIDE BOAT BERTHING FACILITIES (RECEIVING DOCKS)
- DESIGN OF COMMERCIAL SPACES
- DESIGN OF SUPPORT FACILITIES

CONCERNS REGARDING BIDDING OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN

- PPUR PAMB CURRENTLY HAS NO PART IN THE SELECTION OF THE DESIGNERS.
- DUE TO THE UNIQUENESS OF THE PROJECT – A PROTECTED AREA, UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE – IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE DESIGNERS HAVE EXPERIENCE DESIGNING IN PROTECTED AREAS. SPECIFICALLY MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES.

CONCERNS REGARDING BIDDING OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN

- THE TERMINAL BUILDING MUST BE UNIQUE AND SPECIAL AND MUST NOT BE JUST ANY BUILDING, AND AS SUCH IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE SELECTION OF THE ARCHITECT IS BASED NOT JUST ON TECHNICAL BACKGROUND, BUT ALSO AN APPROVED DESIGN OUTPUT.

DESIGN CONCEPT AS
APPROVED BY THE CITY
COUNCIL AND TIEZA BOARD

EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE

ADVANCED COPY - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION



PROPOSED SABANG WHARF TERMINAL 2015
ARCHITECT DYLAN L. MELGAZO

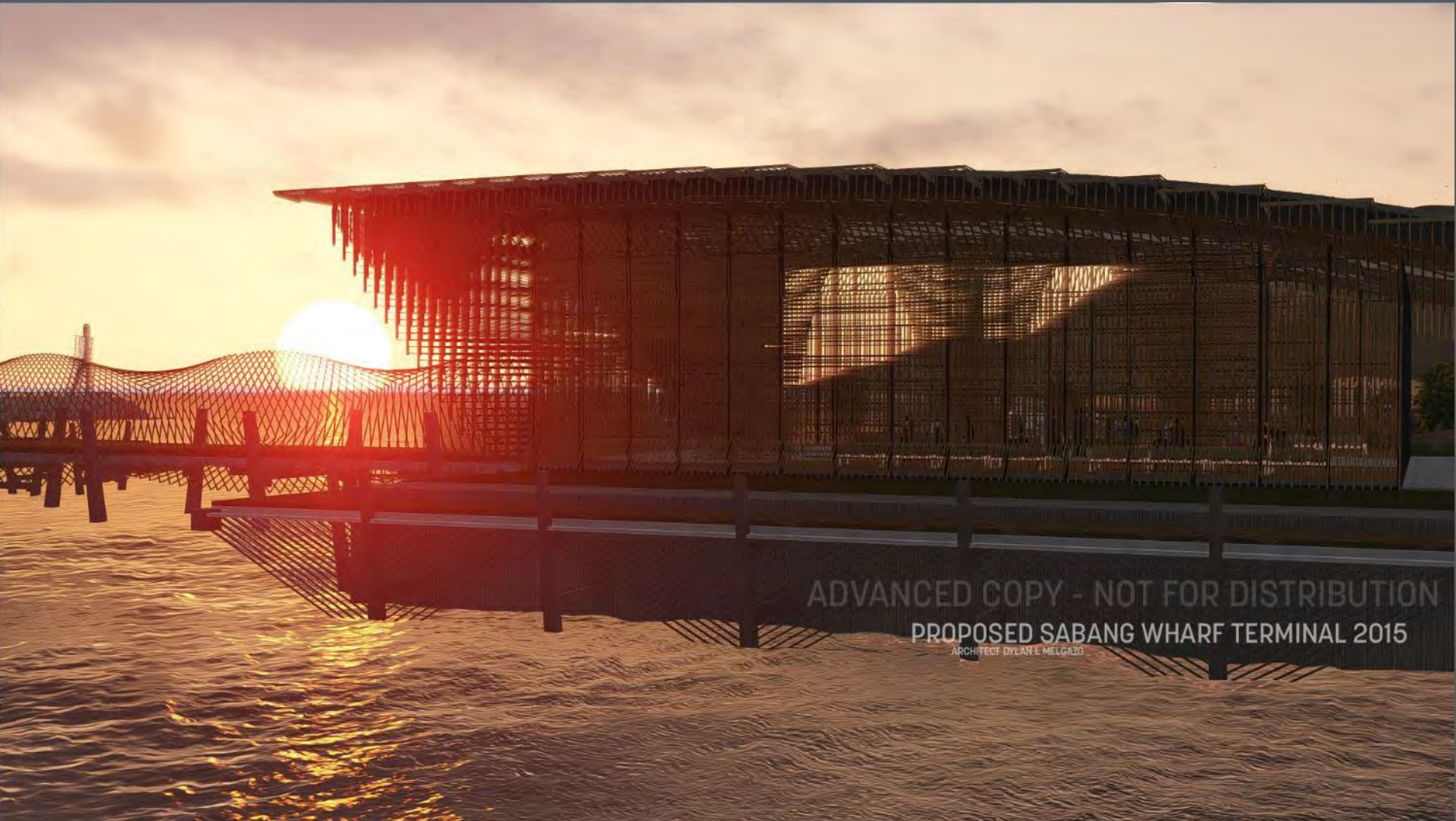
EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE



PROPOSED SABANG WHARF TERMINAL 2015
ARCHITECT DYLAN L. MELGAZO

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EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE



ADVANCED COPY - NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

PROPOSED SABANG WHARF TERMINAL 2015

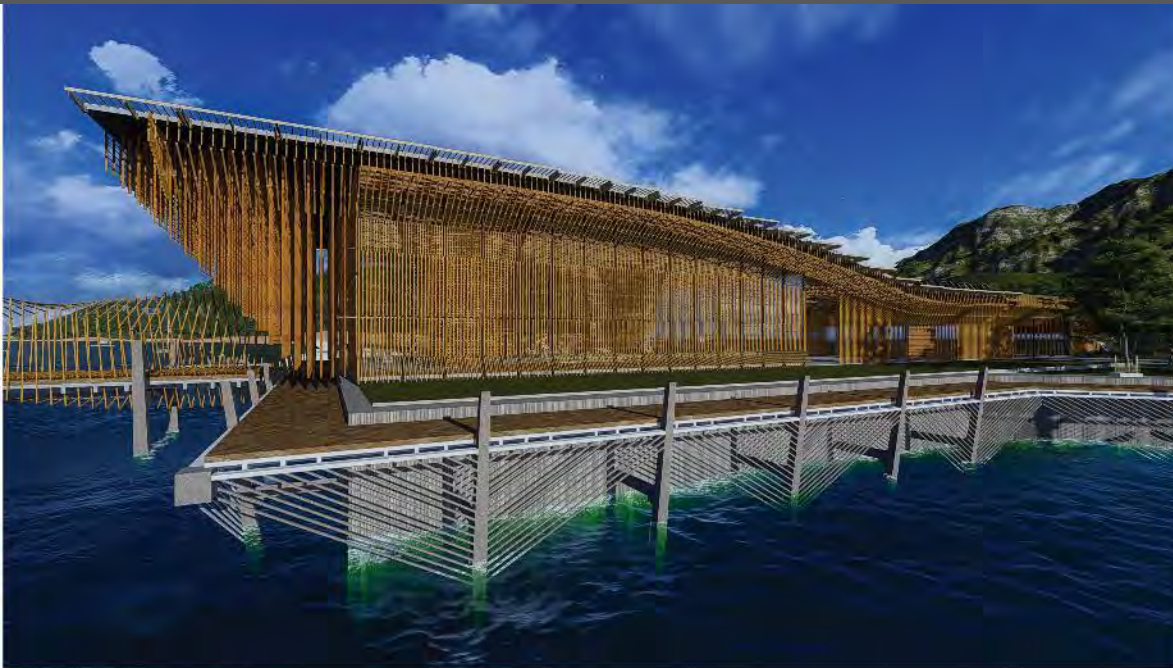
ARCHITECT DYLANE MELGAZO

INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE

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PROPOSED SABANG WHARF TERMINAL 2015
ARCHITECT DYLAN L. MELGAZO





Sabang Wharf | A Worthy Prelude to Majesty

The inclusion of the Puerto Princesa Underground River as one of the world's New Seven Wonders of Nature has not only brought joy and pride to our Nation, it has also caused a significant increase in tourism visiting the city. However, the existing terminal facilities that lead to this natural wonder may soon become inadequate with the influx of guests coming from all over the world. We can also see that the current entrance fails to address the tranquil and beaming beauty of the town. There is great potential waiting to be harnessed, let us make it a reality.

The development of the new wharf in Sabang would not only significantly improve the conveyance system, it opens up the underground River, it also creates an opportunity for the wharf to be used as a waterfront destination. With a wide and grand new avenue of livelihood which would promote the local charm. By the creation of a facility that reveals the character of Puerto Princesa - innovative but locally sensitive, respectful but serene, dynamic but calm - we provide a worthy gateway to one of the most magnificent natural wonders of the world.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS



PERSPECTIVES

The Proposed Redevelopment of Underground River Terminal Gateway to the Underground River
SABANG WHARF



PUERTO PRINCESA SUBTERRANEAN RIVER NATIONAL PARK

Year End ACCOMPLISHMENT Report

January - November 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Divided into parameters and points of focus, this report will give us a rundown on the accomplishments of the Park in terms of what Tourism Management, How they maintained the Security and Emergency Response towards ill-starred incidents, the Protection and Conservation of the Park's Outstanding Universal Value, the continuing Research and Biodiversity Monitoring and Rehabilitation, the thrust of Community Development or Improving the Quality of life of the impact communities, Information, Communications, Promotions and Advocacy of the Park, capacity and Skills Development and the Management and Administration in General of this God-given Natural Wonder all summing up to the guiding principle of the Park Management to Keep the Balance of Sustainable Tourism and Conservation and Protection of the Environment

The Park's Investment Plan for 2014 defined its goal for PPSRNP *“Conservation of PPSRNP as a World Heritage Site through strengthening community driven conservation and protection measures while advocating sustainable tourism and development”*

In line, of course to the Park's Vision to be a Model World Heritage Site: *“To conserve the Underground River and the Park in its natural state thru community participation in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development”*.

TOURISM MANAGEMENT

From January 1 to December 1, 2015, the PPSRNP earned **PhP 50, 235, 445.00** from the collection made by the **City Treasurers Office** from the Entrance Fee.

Month	Amount
January	5,530,530.00
February	4,905,465.00
March	4,979,765.00
April	6,444,765.00
May	5,473,530.00
June	4,250,960.00
July	4,234,930.00
August	3,668,475.00
September	3,040,710.00
October	3,959,275.00
November	3,747,040.00
Total	50, 235, 445.00

A total of **310,513** individuals visited the PPSRNP, including **242,021** locals and **68,492** foreign guests of the year.

Recorded monthly visitor arrivals to the Park:

Month	Local	Foreign	Total
January	20,568	7,156	27,724
February	19,107	8,920	28,027
March	22,308	6,764	29,072
April	31,976	5,707	39,738
May	33,545	6,193	39,738
June	24,494	5,220	29,714
July	17,809	5,794	23,603
August	18,673	6,968	25,641
September	18,324	3,868	22,192
October	17,520	5,833	23,353
November	17,697	6,069	23,766
Total	242,021	68,492	310,513

Monitored and assisted Park Trekkers, birdwatchers, overnight guests and researchers at Central Park Station:

Local Guests	=	1,078
Foreign	=	2,231
TOTAL	=	3,309

This includes guests from the cruise ships that visited the city in the months of January, February, July, September, October and November.

Month	Cruise Ship	No. of Guest
January	MV Superstar Aquarius	493
	MV Europa	84
February	MV Superstar Aquarius	322
July	MV Legend of the Seas	400
September	MV Statendam	400
October	MV Legend of the Seas	800
November	MV Legend of the Seas	400
	MS Pacific Venus	100
Total		2,999

Assisted and facilitated the tours of the following important guests and notable personalities:

- Sandy Daza and the Crew of ANC
- Bishop Broderick Pabillo of the CBCP
- HE Joachim Heidorn, Ambassador of Germany to the Philippines and Party
- National Media Guests
- DFA Officials

Notwithstanding, equal importance, courtesy and service were also given to regular guests as part of the thrust of the management.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF THE PARK'S OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

To maintain the integrity of the PPSRNP as a protected area, protection and law enforcement has been very vital to the management.

The Management conducted 24 Hours resource use monitoring at the Park Monitoring Station (Kuwago Base) to which 48,192 Vans and 15,611 other Vehicles has been recorded to pass through the park.

Regular foot patrolling has also been conducted by the Park Rangers within the park’s boundary and monitored the following:

Illegal Activities	No. of incidents	Quantity	Area
Bat manure “Guano” collection	1	3 sacks	Lions cave
Rattan collection	3	7500 poles	Lumalayag, Sogod 1, martafe
Unsustainable Kaingin	3	6 ha.	Bantuan, sogod 1, Bayatao, Kayasan, areas of marufinas
Gravel and sand extraction	2	200 sacks	Cabayugan River
Cutting	7	35 ipil tree	Tagnipa and Sitio Tubay
Cutting of Mangrove	1	0.15 ha	Nasuduan
Occupancy of timberland	2	1.5 ha	Sogod 1 and Manturon
Charcoal making	2	0.5 ha	Sogod 1 and Manturon

As part of the Research and Biodiversity Monitoring, The Environment and Protection Unit has established a monthly Bat Counting and monitoring of Roosting Sites in the PPUR Cave. There were 63,300 recorded number of individual emerging bat in the cave. These results indicated lower than the average count (ca. 73,000) but not lower than the lowest count (ca. 56,000) base on the established 2014 baseline.

The following activities were also conducted:

- Coastal and Riverbank clean-up on ARAW (March 25)
- Tree Planting on Earth Day (April 22)
- Coastal Clean-up on World Environment Day (June 5)
- Tree Planting Activity on Pista Y’ ang Kagueban day (June 27)
 - First (1st) celebration of the said event in Barangay Cabayugan, planted more than 1,200 dipterocarp seedlings in Forest Corridor area of Sitio Manturon.
- Old CPS Restoration on IsDa Revolution “Let the Cave Rest” (July 3 to 5)
- Tree Planting and Coastal Clean Up on PPUR Day Celebration (November 10)
- Coastal Clean Up and Jungle Trail Maintenance on “BALIK GUBAT, BALIK DAGAT” by Delta P and PCC (August 4 & 5)
- Mini Tree Planting (September, October and November) [Total of 3,700 (at least) seedlings planted]
- River Clean Up by Bgy. Cabayugan (November 24)

With the newly created position, Marine Biology Specialist, not just the terrestrial boundary of the park can be monitored but also the marine protected area of the park. A special program of Sea Turtle Conservation was initiated to ensure the protection marine biodiversity.

A Sea Turtle Hatchery was also established by the Park at Martafe Beach. Rangers were also stationed in the area to conduct monitoring as well as rescue and conservation noting the following incidents:

- On March 9, One (1) stranded decomposing body of dead Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was recovered 500m away from Underground River beach and buried along Central Park Station (CPS) beach sand.
- On May 12, One (1) stranded body of weak Green Sea Turtle was rescued in front of CPS bay and brought to CPS for observation. After few hours, it continues to weaken and died. It was buried along CPS beach sand.
- On October 12, One (1) stranded Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) was rescued in front of Panablan beach, it was found to have 4 visible holes on its body that was believed to have caused its disorientation.
- On December 10, One (1) stranded moderately decomposing body of Green Sea Turtle was recovered 500 meter away from CPS and buried along the beach of CPS.
- 55 Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), 639 Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) and 77 Green (*Chelonia mydas*) hatchlings are recorded to be released along PPSRNP marine protected area. A total of 771 hatchlings.

The following data was also monitored.

Month	Sea Turtle Species			No. of Released hatchlings
	Green (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)	Olive Ridley (<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>)	Hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)	
January	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
February	N/A	105	N/A	105
March	N/A	141	55	196
April	N/A	393	N/A	393
July	77	N/A	N/A	77
TOTAL	77	639	55	771

- Installation of Ranger Station at Panablan.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Organizing and empowering towards the protection and conservation of the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP).

- Basic Life Support with First Aid for Lay Rescuers conducted on March 17 to 19.
- Completion of Bayatao Elementary School Stage conducted on March 22.
- Organization and Training of Bird Tour Guides conducted on March 23 to 24.
- Gift Giving of Bags and School Supplies in Bayatao Elementary School conducted on March 28.
- Training Needs Assessment for Community Park Warden and Sabang-Mangrove Paddle Boat Tour Guide Association conducted on April 14.
- Helped and Participated in the Brigada Eskwela'15 conducted on 3rd week of May to 1st week of June.
- Four (4) day Indigenous People Youth Ecological Camp in Tagabinet Elementary School conducted on May 27 to 30.
- Training Need Assessment and Meeting with Marufinas Community conducted on June 8.
- One (1) day Basic Organizational Development Seminar conducted on June 12.
- Three (3) day Community Tour Guiding Seminar conducted on June 17 to 19.
- 2nd batch of the Three (3) day Community Tour Guiding Seminar conducted on August 3-5
- Seminar-workshop on Basic Entrepreneurship for Community Based and Sustainable Tourism September 29-October 01
- 10 day training on home-Food Production and Integrated Farming Bio-System. November 9-17
- 2nd batch of Organic Hog Raising Seminar Training conducted on December 8 and 9.
- Awarding and Distribution of 104 units of Solar Home System for the Tagbanua Tribe in Sitio Bayatao and Kayasan in Barangay Tagabenit on December 21.
- Setting-up and Institutionalization of Tourism establishments in Sitio Sabang and Orientation Seminar on Basic Customer Service and Restaurant Operation held last December 19-20.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS, PROMOTIONS AND ADVOCACY

- Released and published PPSRNP Visitors Guide, Jungle Trail, Birding Brochures
- Represented the City of Puerto Princesa in the 22nd PTAA Travel Tour Expo in Manila on February 13 to 15, and won the “1st Runner Up Best Decorated Booth”
- Attended in the launch of MOA of Ateneo School of Government and Community Stakeholders for G (Government) – Watch on September 5
- IsDa Revolution “Let the Cave Rest” (July 3 to 5).
- Attended Travel Mart on August in Glorietta, Makati.
- Attended Travel Mart on September in Mall of Asia, Pasay.
- Attended Travel Mart on September in Singapore.

EVENTS

- Mangrove propagules planting in the Love Affair With Nature on February 14, 2015.
- Participated in the Balayong Festival on March 4
- Initiated the Araw ng Taraw 2015 on March with the following activities: Larong Pinoy, Basketball, Sing and Dance Contest, Quiz Bee, Padugo sa Taraw (Blood Letting Activity – Partnership with City Health Office), Local and National band exhibition, and Boat race.
- Participated in the International Coastal Clean Up Day on September 19
- Celebrated 2nd year of PPUR day on November 6 to 11
- Participated in “Pista na Pasko na” Light a Tree Program on December 1
- Celebration of 16th years Inscription in UNESCO as World Heritage Site on December 4

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

As the Secretary of the governing body that provides management and policy direction to the park or Protected Area Management Board, the management facilitated 8 PAMB Meetings: 6 Regular and 2 Special, which resulted with passing of 12 PAMB Resolutions and 5 PDEC onsite inspections.



Representing PPUR at the Balayong festival.



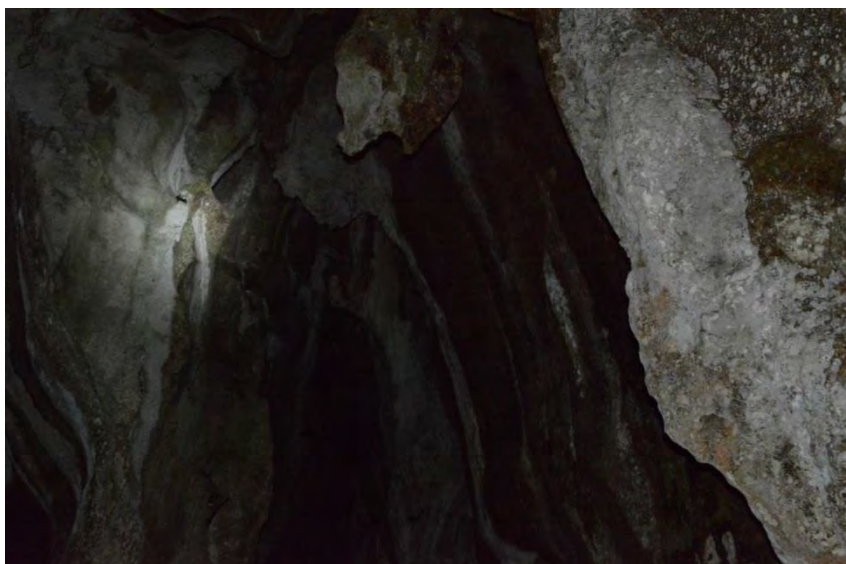
The city fish port employees dressed up as the Palawan peacock.



A big crowd awaits the start of the festival.



Paddling the boat through the underground river.



Monitoring the bats.



A big crowd prepares for feast of the forest.



A couple of kids helping out during the tree planting.



Group picture afterfeast.



Boat crew picking up solid wastes along the beach.



The river in sitiosabang, ready for cleanup.



The collected trash at the end of the day.



The hatchery in martafe.



A big crowd awaits the release of the sea turtles.



Newborn sea turtles making their way towards the ocean.



Illegal tree cutting



House made out of the illegally cut trees and illegal occupancy.



The reduction of forest turtles as a result of the illegal tree cutting



Sitio Bayatao School Stage construction



Tour guiding seminar with Shell Phil



School supplies giving to the students of Cabayuagan Elem. School

ANNEX : PAMB MEETING AND PDEC INSPECTIONS



Meeting of PAMB members at Circon Lodge Hotel



Proposed resort along Sitio Sabang Beach



Construction of Infinity pool at Sitio Panaguman

PUERTO PRINCESA UNDERGROUND RIVER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

I. PROJECT TITLE

“Developing Infrastructure and Activity Guidelines for the Puerto Princesa Underground River: An Inter Agency Seminar-Workshop”

A Collaborative Project among:

Philippines National Commission for UNESCO (UNACOM)
Puerto Princesa City Government

II. BACKGROUND

Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park is one of the world’s most impressive cave systems featuring spectacular limestone karst landscapes, pristine natural beauty, and intact old-growth forests and distinctive wildlife.

In the extract of the decision during the World Heritage Committee Decision 38COM 7B.70 there were needs to address a number of issues including clarification of the boundaries of the property, threats from land claims and illegal land sales including development, and issues related to wildlife trade, farming, commercial plantations and illegal logging. The IUCN mission concluded that the effectiveness of the current management efforts to address a number of present and potential threats means the property does not remain under heavy pressure from current and increasing levels of tourism and pressure on the Management Authority to allow more access to the property. Little progress has been made in regards to clarification of the zoning of the property and until this is resolved and agreed further work on many of the other issues will be difficult, including the updated Management Plan for the property. Coordination with local communities, provincial authorities and with other agencies will be important to this process ensuring the core areas and its OUV along with the overall integrity of the property continue to be protected.

The development of the infrastructure guidelines will ensure that the Puerto Princesa Underground River will conduct the sustainable conservation program of the world heritage sites and would not place into the endangered list.

III. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park features a spectacular limestone karst landscape with its underground river. A distinguishing feature of the river is that it flows directly into the sea, and the lower portion of the river is subject to tidal influences. The area also represents a significant habitat for biodiversity conservation. The site contains a full mountain to the sea ecosystem and protects forests, which are among the most significant in Asia.

The Puerto Princesa Underground River represents one of the largest and most important underground river in the world. A distinguishing feature of the 8.2 kilometers river is that it flows directly into the sea. It hosts one of the most complex cave systems. It consists of a large main gallery through which the river flows, and which branches out into the several inlets and small tributaries. Though it is a well explored cave, many minor branches have yet to be investigated.

The river contains scientifically and aesthetically unique formations from secondary mineral deposits not found elsewhere. Cave formations and the relationship of tides with the speed of fresh water flow within the PPUR allow scientists to conduct studies in understanding the Earth's evolution.

The fossilized remains of a sea cow or Serinia, estimated to be at least 20 million years old, have been found embedded in perfect condition in the cave's walls. It is first to be found in the country and in the world.

IV. OBJECTIVES

1. To conduct a series of lecture in the areas of environment and anthropology, architecture and engineering and tourism, evolve a conceptual framework for infrastructure guidelines of Puerto Princesa Underground River.
2. To conduct consultation with the community, non-government organizations, academe, local, municipal and provincial government in the areas of infrastructure/activity development.
3. To document current state of infrastructure and activity in the World Heritage property
4. To develop infrastructure and activity guidelines for Puerto Princesa Underground River.

V. PROJECT ORGANIZATION

Project Director: (1pax)

- Develops the over all concept, establishes logistical resources and supervises project implementation
- Mobilizes the USTGS-CCCPET consultants and other government and non government experts in various fields to conduct the modules of the project
- Establishes the linkage between the academe and the provincial government to ensure the realization of the project
- Ensures the standard of timeliness and quality in the delivery of project outputs
- Conducts the regular scheduling of the modules for the smooth implementation of the project
- Conducts the regular scheduling of the modules for the smooth implementation of the project
- Handles and monitors the financial flow and timely funds liquidation
- Serves as communication point between the UST CCCPET and the provincial government

Project/Research Coordinator: (1pax)

- Drafts the initial guidelines texts along with the Guidelines Development Researcher
- Supports the conducts of the seminar-workshop on guidelines development

Guidelines Development Researchers (Architecture, Engineering and Tourism: (4pax)

- Identifies the significant infrastructure of the Puerto Princesa based on consultations
- Establishes the framework for plotting the conservation guidelines
- Develop infrastructure and activity guidelines for publication

Research Documentation Assistant: (1pax)

- Develops a comprehensive bibliography on the PPUR
- Selects pertinent readings for reproduction and resource of the participants
- Documents (video and photo) all activities of the project

Speakers' Bureau:

Anthropology and Environment Cluster:

Architecture and Engineering Cluster:

Tourism Cluster:

VI. PARTICIPANTS

The participants should be the following:

1. Mayor
2. Vice-Mayor
3. Councilors
4. Planning Officer
5. Tourism Officer
6. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)
7. Department of Environment and National Resources (DENR)
8. Department of Agriculture
9. Department of Tourism
10. Department of Education
11. Resort's Owner

VII. OUTPUT

Part I: Guidelines for Infrastructure and Activity Development in the Puerto Princesa, Palawan Heritage Zones

Part II: Proceedings of "Developing Infrastructure Guidelines for the Puerto Princesa Underground River: An Inter-Agency Seminar-Workshop"

Note: *All publications will be underwritten by the University of Santo Tomas*

VIII. ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

- All participants in the workshop will receive a certificate of participation and certificate of completion from the UST-CCCPET and City Government at the end of activity.
- The UST-CCCPET will conduct continuing education to interested groups and process evaluation studies of post-workshop infra-projects of the province.

IX. TIMETABLE

DATE	DESCRIPTION
First Month	Introduction Anthropology and Environment Cluster Optional Fieldwork
Second Month	Consultation with Leaders on Engineering and Architecture Optional Fieldwork
Third Month	Tourism Cluster Consultation with Leaders on Tourism Optional Fieldwork
Fourth Month	Guidelines Writing

X. BUDGET

Please see attached detailed budgetary requirements.