

RHYTHM OF THE SEA

**COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE
OF
SAN VICENTE, PALAWAN**

**BY
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Coastal Resource Management Project
of the
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CONTENTS

Preface and Acknowledgments	vii
Foreword from the Municipal Mayor of San Vicente	viii
Acronyms	ix
Commonly-Used Local Terms	x
List of Terms	xii
Chapter 1	
Profile, Plan, Action! (<i>Introduction</i>)	1
The PCRA Team	4
Chapter 2	
All About Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment (<i>Some Explanatory Notes</i>)	5
Resource Mapping	7
Group Interviews	9
Habitat Assessment	9
Chapter 3	
Life In The Town (<i>Municipal History and Socio-economic Profile</i>)	15
The Local Economy	16
Agriculture	19
Cottage Industries	20
Tourism	20
Basic Services	21
Education	21
Health	21
Welfare	22
Security	22
Transportation	22
Water	22
Electricity	23
Communication	23
Finance	23
Chapter 4	
Village Life At A Glance (<i>Barangay Histories and Profiles</i>)	25
Binga	26
New Canipo	27
Sto. Niño	28
Alimanguan	28

San Isidro	29
New Agutaya	30
Poblacion	31
New Villafria	31
Port Barton	33
Caruray	34
Chapter 5	
Things You Can Find On The San Vicente Coastline (<i>Geography and Environmental Features</i>)	59
Climate and Rainfall	61
Oceanography	62
Chapter 6	
Treasures Under The Sea (And Along The Coast, Too) (<i>Coastal Habitats and Resources</i>)	65
Reef Fish	69
Commercial Fishing Potential	69
Corals	70
Seagrass	71
Algae	73
Substrate	73
Mangroves	74
Plankton	74
PCRA Results	
Chapter 7	85
Things People Do With Fishes And Beaches (<i>Coastal Resource Uses</i>)	92
It's a Woman's World, Too	96
Tourism, Mining, etc.	
Chapter 8	99
Who's In Charge? (<i>Legal and Institutional Framework</i>)	
Chapter 9	107
Fishers (And Scientists) Are Talking About ... (<i>Issues and Management Considerations</i>)	
	117
Chapter 10	
Now, What? (<i>Action Plans</i>)	125
References	126
List of Participants	

TABLES, FIGURES and BOX ITEMS

Tables

3.1	Socio-economic data in coastal villages of San Vicente, PCRA 1997	18
5.1	Land and water use classification of San Vicente	60
5.2	Islands in San Vicente	61
5.3	Coliform levels in the waters of San Vicente	64
6.1	Most abundant families of fishes in San Vicente	68
6.2	Characteristics of coral reefs in San Vicente	70
6.3	Summary of benthic assessments (percentage of frequency cover) of four sites in Port Barton, 1998	72
6.4	Extent of seagrass and algae in San Vicente	72
6.5	Benthic substrate cover in San Vicente	73
6.6	Mangrove communities in San Vicente	75
6.7	Results of the habitat assessment in San Vicente, PCRA 1997	77
6.8	Assessment of coral reefs in San Vicente, PCRA 1997	78
7.1	Fishing households and ownership of gear in San Vicente, PCRA 1997	94
7.2	Role of women fishers in San Vicente, PCRA 1997	97
8.1	Ordinances pertaining to coastal management in San Vicente	102
9.1	Summary of coastal resource management issues in San Vicente, PCRA 1997	110
9.2	Management issues and their causes, Port Barton	112

Figures

2.1	The Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment process	6
2.2	Habitats identified by the PCRA participants in San Vicente, 1997	7
2.3	Coastal resources identified by the PCRA participants in San Vicente, 1997	8
2.4	Basic format for transect diagrams	10
2.5	Basic format for trend and calendar maps	11
2.6	Simplified set of criteria for habitat assessment	12
2.7	Habitat assessment recorded on snorkeling slate	13
2.8	Substrate sheet showing approximate condition of the reef	13
3.1	Coastal habitats and political boundaries of San Vicente, Palawan	17
4.1	Coastal resource map of Sto. Niño	37
4.2	Coastal resource map of Binga	38
4.3	Coastal resource map of New Canipo	40
4.4	Coastal resource map of Alimanguan	42
4.5	Coastal resource map of Poblacion	44
4.6	Coastal resource map of Port Barton	46
4.7	Coastal resource map of Caruray	48
4.8	Coastal resource map of Boayan Island	50
4.9	Coastal resource map of San Isidro	52

4.10	Coastal resource map of New Agutaya	53
4.11	Coastal resource map of New Villafria	54
5.1	Calendar diagram for weather patterns in sitio Boding and Proper, barangay Binga, PCRA 1997	63
5.2	Calendar diagram for weather patterns in sitio Gawid, barangay Caruray, PCRA 1997	63
6.1	Sampling stations of the Silliman University study in San Vicente, 1996	66
6.2	Catch composition by fish families in San Vicente	67
6.3	Plankton distribution in San Vicente	74
6.4	Transect diagram of coastal resources in San Vicente classified according to habitat, PCRA 1997	79
7.1	Resource uses identified by San Vicente fishers during mapping sessions, PCRA 1997	87
7.2	Transect diagram of coastal resource uses in San Vicente according to habitat, PCRA 1997	88
7.3	Types of fishing gear used by San Vicente fishers	93
7.4	Seasonality of fishing gear, PCRA 1997	95
9.1	Major coastal resource management issues in San Vicente, PCRA 1997	109
9.2	Trend diagram for Sitio Old Site, Caruray	114
9.3	Trend diagram for Sitio Panindigan, Poblacion	114
9.4	Trend diagram for Sitio Sta. Cruz, Caruray	115
9.5	Trend diagram for Sitio Albaguen, Port Barton	115
Boxes		
4.1	Results of visitor survey in Port Barton	35
6.1	Results of a coral reef survey in Port Barton	71
8.1	Summary of the PCSD Guidelines for the coastal/marine component of the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) for Palawan	103
8.2	Summary of PCSD Guidelines for tourism-oriented establishments in Palawan relevant to coastal zones	106
10.1	Initial Development Plan for San Vicente	120
10.2	Action Plan for 1998-2002, Port Barton	121

PREFACE and ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Rhythm of the Sea provides a baseline of information about the coastal environment of San Vicente, Palawan. This profile is intended to assist with management planning at the barangay and municipal government levels in San Vicente. It can also serve as a guide for other municipalities in Palawan.

Coastal resource management (CRM) cannot occur without informed participants and stakeholders in the process. Also, CRM cannot proceed without knowledge and valid data on the condition and status of the resources to be managed. This profile provides both a baseline on the environment as well as the people and their economy. Because people are the entry point for CRM, people, their activities and their problems are a focus of this profile.

Rhythm of the Sea is produced as part of the Coastal Resource Management Project's activities in San Vicente, Palawan. The project aims to develop and encourage leaders among local communities, non-governmental organizations, and government units to work for CRM. It is jointly implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, local government units, non-governmental organizations and other assisting agencies. Technical and administrative support is provided by Tetra Tech Environmental Management, Inc.

A few individuals were instrumental in the production of this book, in addition to all the local community and government participants mentioned in Chapter One. Overall technical editing was done by Alan White and Asuncion Sia. Editorial comments were provided by Benjamin Francisco, Tom Bayer and Sandra Zicus. The coordination efforts of Mel Corkum in Palawan; the comments and support of former Mayor Antonio Alvarez as well as other municipal officials, the editing of Evangeline Miclat and the layout and word processing work of Leslie Tinapay of Coastal Resource Management Project were all essential contributions.

FOREWORD from the MAYOR

Many Filipinos share the traditional view that local government officials are in office to see to their every need, from womb to tomb. Indeed, in my early days in politics, I, too, had the notion that it was my job to provide the people of San Vicente everything they needed, and that was literally what I did, or at least tried to do. It took three years and thousands of requests for financial and commodity assistance before it dawned on me that I needed a different approach to address people's problems.

During my second term as mayor, I heard about a project in Central Visayas that had the community actively managing, protecting and guarding their natural resources. In realizing that this could spell the difference in the sustainability of their resource use and livelihood, I sought more information.

Impressed, I set about replicating this project in San Vicente. It was not easy. Most politicians still subscribed to the outdated notion that resource development projects were "high risk, low impact projects", generating few photo opportunities or "monuments" that would stand testimony to their efforts to get re-elected. Also, the few who controlled the resources in the municipality objected to the empowerment of community members who would someday be potential leaders conversant about their rights and able to protect these rights. Moreover, many among the community members themselves viewed government projects as doleouts and would rather be given farm inputs or fishing gear than taught sustainable coastal resource management practices.

Fortunately, the people who gave the project a chance were greater in number and strong in their resolve to try something new. It is to these people's credit that the Strategic Environmental Plan-San Vicente, Palawan, adopting the successful strategies of the Central Visayas project, was implemented in our municipality. Realizing their inherent role as managers of their natural resources, these people — upland and small rainfed lowland farmers, forest dwellers and fisherfolk — worked to enhance the integrity of the environment. Today, they are involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of resource management activities in their areas.

When the Coastal Resource Management Project came to San Vicente, it found a municipality with a people steeped in participatory processes and evolving towards self-reliant fishing and farming communities, and taking part in making decisions regarding resource use and the implementation of these decisions. The Project took the right track when it started project activities with the participatory coastal resource assessment. For a community jealous of its new-found role, involvement in the fundamental step towards determining its future directions is vital. Ms. Yasmin Arquiza presents to us in this book the results of this important collaboration between the Coastal Resource Management Project and the people of San Vicente.

(Sgd) Antonio C. Alvarez
Former Municipal Mayor

ACRONYMS

ADA	agricultural development area
BMC	barangay management council
CENRO	Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CORIAL	Coastal, Ocean, Reef and Island Advisors Ltd.
CRM	coastal resource management
CRMP	Coastal Resource Management Project
DA-BFAR	Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ECAN	Environmentally Critical Areas Network
ECC	environmental compliance certificate
EIS	environmental impact statement
GPS	global positioning system
IEE	initial environmental examination
IMA	International Marinelife Alliance-Philippines
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LGU	local government unit
LTC	Lanas, Tago-tago, Capitol (sitios in San Isidro, San Vicente)
MPN	most probable number
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
PALECO	Palawan Electric Cooperative
PCRA	participatory coastal resource assessment
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PCSDS	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff
SEP	Strategic Environmental Plan
SEP-SVP	Strategic Environmental Plan-San Vicente, Palawan
SPIADP	Second Palawan Integrated Area Development Project
SUML	Silliman University Marine Laboratory
TAO	Technical Assistance Office
TDA	tourism development area
TDC	Tugdunen, Dapi, Coroan (sitios in Port Barton, San Vicente)
URTI	upper respiratory tract infection
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

COMMONLY USED LOCAL TERMS

Local Terms (General)

amihan
antipara
baha mula sa umaapaw na ilog
bahura
bakawan
banlik
baybayin
binabaha kung minsan, kulay putik
ang tubig at ilalim
buhay na bahura
buhay na lusay
bukana
busero
dagat
daplak
dinagko nga pangisda
gasangan, bahura
ginagawang palaisdaan
habagat
hibasan
hindi maganda, sira
hindi malapad
hindi nagalaw
hunasan
ilegal na pag-angkin ng nipa
isdang gagmay
kakulangan sa gamit
(walang kapalit sa nasirang arong)
kalagayan
kanal
katamtaman
katunggan
kulang sa tubig na malinis
kulay putik na talaga
lapus-lapus
lupa
lusay, lusayan
mababang bilihan ng lupa
maganda

English Translation

northeast monsoon
 goggles
 floods from overflowing river
 coral reef
 mangrove
 silt
 beach
 seasonal sedimentation, heavy sediment load in
 the water column and at the bottom
 live coral
 live seagrass
 estuary
 compressor-aided diver
 marine zone
 north wind
 commercial fishing
 coral reef
 converted to fishpond
 southwest monsoon
 reef flats
 low quality/poor condition
 not wide
 undisturbed
 reef flats
 illegal claims on nipa stand
 small fish
 lack of equipment (no replacement for destroyed
 fish aggregating device)
 condition
 passes, channels
 moderate
 mud flats
 lack of clean/potable water
 permanent sedimentation of bottom
 blowhole, hole in the rocks
 terrestrial zone
 seagrass
 low prices for land
 good

<i>makasaysayang lugar</i>	historical place
<i>malapad</i>	wide
<i>maraming pagbabago</i>	many changes
<i>masyadong mahigpit na batas</i>	overly strict laws
<i>may burak na nakalutang sa tubig</i>	suspended sediments
<i>may dumi</i>	some pollution, erosion
<i>mga dayo na mangingisda</i>	fishers from outside
<i>minahan</i>	mining area
<i>naagnas na baybayin</i>	beach erosion
<i>nakakasirang paraan ng pangingsda</i>	destructive fishing
<i>natumbang kahoy</i>	fallen trees
<i>ninanakaw ang isda at sinisira ang arong/payaw</i>	fish are stolen/fish aggregating device are vandalized
<i>pagguho ng lupa</i>	landslide
<i>pagkawasak sa puy-anan sa yaman-dagat</i>	habitat destruction
<i>pagputol sa bakawan</i>	mangrove cutting
<i>pagtukod ug fishpond</i>	conversion to fishpond
<i>pamayanan, puy-anan</i>	settlement
<i>pangko</i>	indigenous sailboat
<i>pantalan</i>	port
<i>panyapak, frogman (slang)</i>	fins
<i>parke</i>	park
<i>pasyalan</i>	recreational area
<i>pinakamaganda</i>	excellent
<i>pinuputol para panggatong, pagpapatayo ng bahay</i>	cutting for firewood, poles
<i>pinutol ang mga kahoy</i>	cut trees
<i>polusyon</i>	pollution
<i>problema sa samahan (wala pa, hindi aktibo, hindi nagkakaisa)</i>	problem in organization (not organized, not active, no unity)
<i>putik</i>	siltation, soil erosion
<i>puy-anan</i>	house
<i>rawis</i>	fringing reef
<i>salatan</i>	south wind
<i>santwaryo</i>	sanctuary
<i>sari-sari store</i>	variety store/general merchandising store
<i>sirang tulay</i>	bridges in state of disrepair
<i>sobrang dumi</i>	heavy pollution
<i>sobra-sobrang pangingsda</i>	overfishing
<i>subasko</i>	squall
<i>tandol, punta</i>	point
<i>torotot</i>	snorkel
<i>walang burak</i>	no sediment
<i>walang buyer ng isda</i>	no buyers of fish catch
<i>walang health center/kulang sa gamot</i>	no health center, lack of medicines
<i>walang ibang kabuhayan sa taghirap na mga buwan</i>	no alternative livelihood during lean months
<i>walang kalsada</i>	no roads
<i>walang kasiguruhan sa tirahan</i>	no security of land tenure
<i>walang paaralan para sa mga bata</i>	no school
<i>walang pagpuputol na nagaganap</i>	no cutting

LIST OF TERMS

RESOURCES

FISH

Local

anay-anay or abay-abay
agahon
alumahan
asohos/asu-os/aso-os
bakoko
balo
banak
bangsi
bangus (semilya)
bisugo
burao
dalagang-bukid
danggit
dapa
darag-darag
dilis
espada
galunggong
hasa-hasa
haol-haol
hilo
kabayo-kabayo
kalapato
kalaso
 emperor bream
katambak
lapu-lapu
liwit
mamsa
mangagat
matambaka
maya-maya
mulmol
pak-an
palata
pagi
pating
rompe
sagisi
salayginto
salay-salay
salmollete
sapsap
sulid
suno

Local

Common English

giant basslet
 red snapper
 mackerel
 whiting
 sweetlip
 needlefish
 mullet
 flying fish
 milkfish fry
 threadfin bream
 mackerel, tuna
 fusilier
 rabbitfish
 sole
 gray snapper
 anchovy
 cutlassfish
 scad
 mackerel
 sardine
 eel
 seahorse
 hunchback trevally
 lizardfish *kanuping*
karaho lizardfish
 emperor bream
 grouper
 hairtail
 jack
 snapper
 big-eyed scad
 snapper
 parrotfish
 hard-tailed scad
 damselfish
 stingray
 shark
 barracuda
 threadfin bream
 yellow-striped crevalle
 crevalle, trevally
 goatfish
 slipmouth
 fusilier
 grouper

Common English

talakitok
tambakol
tamban
tangigue
torsillo
tulingan

jack
 yellow-fin tuna
 sardine
 spanish mackerel
 seapike
 frigate tuna

SHELLS

Local

bagasay
balingsara
budyong
bulatok
halaan
kapinane
kaykay
kibaw
lapas
liswi
lumban
payong-payong
punaw
sa-ang
sagisi
samong
sanang
saroksarok
sihi
sikad-sikad
sisi
suso
tagitis
tahong
taklobo
taktakon
takurog
talaba
tanakogon
tarab
tipay

Common English

n.t.
 n.t.
 helmet shell
 n.t.
 venus shell
 abalone
 n.t.
 n.t.
 abalone
 cone shell
 cowry
 turban shell
 venus shell
 spider shell/conch
 n.t.
 top shell
 n.t.
 n.t.
 top shell
 n.t.
 oyster
 snail
 n.t.
 mussel
 giant clam
 dolphin shell
 n.t.
 oyster
 n.t.
 pen shell
 ark shell

OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Local

agokoy
alamang
alimango
alimasag

Common English

fiddler crab
 sergestid shrimp
 mud/mangrove crab
 blue crab

n.t. - no translation

<i>balatan</i>	sea cucumber	<i>bondak-bondak</i>	hook and line
<i>banagan</i>	spiny rock lobster <i>hipon</i>	<i>bubo sa alimango</i>	crab trap
penaeid shrimp		<i>bubo</i>	fish trap
<i>lambay</i>	blue crab	<i>ganti-ganti</i>	squid jigger
<i>pitik</i>	combfish	<i>hipon-hipon/orang-orang</i>	jigger
<i>pugita</i>	octopus	<i>kitang</i>	bottomset longline
squid		<i>kitang-pamating</i>	longline for shark
<i>pusit bahura</i>	reef squid	<i>kurantay</i>	encircling gill net for herring
<i>sugpo</i>	penaeid shrimp	<i>lambat pang-danggit</i>	net for rabbitfish
<i>tamilok</i>	mangrove worm/ship borer	<i>lambat sa semilya</i>	net for milkfish fry
<i>tauban</i>	cuttlefish	<i>ng bangus</i>	

MARINE MAMMALS, SEABIRDS & REPTILES

Local

ahas dagat
ambuhutan
buwaya
dugong
ibon dagat
kanaway
lawin
lumba-lumba
pawikan
talabong
wild duck

Common English

sea snake
 whale
 crocodile
 dugong
 seabird
 seagull
 eagle
 dolphin
 sea turtle
 heron
 wild duck

PLANTS

Local

bakhaw
baryaw-baryaw
guso
kahoy
lato
lumot
nipa
samo
uway

Common English

mangrove
 seagrass
 seaweed
 wood
 seaweed
 moss
 nypa
 n.t.
 rattan

OTHERS

Local

bato
buhangin
silica

Common English

stones, pebbles
 sand
 silica sand

USES

FISHING GEAR & PRACTICES

Local

baklad
baling
bitana

Common English

fish corral
 beach seine
 beach seine

<i>subid</i>	longline
<i>talakop</i>	ring net
<i>timing</i>	hook and line for threadfin bream
<i>lamat-alimasag</i>	crab gill net
<i>lamat-palutaw</i>	surface gill net
<i>lamat-pamating</i>	gill net for shark
<i>lamat-pamusit</i>	net for squid
<i>lamat-panolid</i>	net for fusilier
<i>paanod</i>	drift gill net
<i>pamalo</i>	net for needlefish
<i>pamana</i>	spear
<i>pamana sa pusit bahura</i>	spearfishing for reef squid
<i>pamana sa tauban</i>	spearfishing for cuttlefish
<i>pamo</i>	drift gill net
<i>pangawil</i>	hook and line
<i>pangugita</i>	jigger
<i>pantihan/lambat-palubog</i>	bottom set gill net
<i>rabnot</i>	reef seine
<i>sikad-sikad</i>	net for schools of fish nearshore

