



SHARED MANAGEMENT: THE CASE OF UBA MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA)

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ABSTRACT

The paper presented the best practices of Uba Marine Protected Area (MPA). Collaboration with the People's Organization, different government agencies and NGO's resulted in Uba MPA success story. Moreover, despite of its good management the MPA still encountered challenges. This paper provided recommendations in order to address the said challenges.

KEY WORDS: Uba, MPA's, Fish Sanctuary, BLGU, PO's

I. RATIONALE

The dwindling fishery catch due to over fishing and illegal fishing activities caused degradation to the mangrove forest and the coral reefs worldwide. The cited problems were due to over exploitation of the marine ecosystem which caused degradation of the coastal environment. In order to address the problem the NGO's, GO's, PO's, BLGU, MLGU's collaborated for the solution of the said problems in order to increase fish production and effective coastal management. Such the Uba experience. Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) refers to an area reserve by law or ordinances where fishing is not allowed or regulated with the end view of conservation and having a spawning area of the marine organism. In view of the foregoing allows the said organism to regenerate. White, **Aliño** and Meneses (2006) defined Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) as areas in the region, whether coastal or offshore where fishing activities are set aside for management and conservation measures or to an areas where some semblance of protection, whether legislated or not is exercised. The MPA's has the following benefits: improved fishery yields, promote tourism revenues, recreation, scientific and research, education, biodiversity improvement, flood and erosion reduction, spiritual, cultural and aesthetics values.

Marine Protected Area (MPA) is the most popular tool in marine conservation. It has the following advantage: stabilize a variety of life (biodiversity), management, provide a framework of managing human and economic activities and promotes the development of eco-tourism (Meclat, n. d.).

The paper , an assessment study of participative or shared management of Marine Protected Areas in Uba Cortes, Surigao Del Sur. It determined the extent in implementation of development projects to the fishing communities. The problems/challenges encountered and the institutions which provided the management support in MPA management.

Further, a strategy of having a sustainable use of marine resources is through the Marine Protected Areas (MPA's). With the increasing level of environmental awareness and continuing degradation of coastal resources, marine protected areas have emerged as a highly advocated management strategy to avert dwindling marine resources (Vale, n. d.).

Sustainable use of resources is the challenge of the times. With MPA's, it manifested how to have a sustainable use of resources (Tomaquin & Senoc, 2008). And again with the dwindling fishery resources conservation is the need of the times. To the fact that many fishery scientist believe that MPA's may be one of few management tools that can ensure the sustainability of fish stocks and support reef fishes (Nguyen Thi Trang Ahung 2010).Hence, the study.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study specifically covered the following objectives:

1. Determine the organizational culture of Uba MPA;
2. Determine the challenges encountered;
3. Give the interface of collaborations of various governmental units, PO's , NGO in the Management of Uba MPA.
4. Give a proposed intervention needed for the challenges encountered in the marine reserved participatory or shared management.

III. METHOD USED

THE RESEARCH DESIGN

The study used qualitative interview as a method aided by field observation .In the qualitative interview focus group interview and participative observation were used aided by audio visual recorder, camera and field diary.

The following were the research procedure employed:

1. Seeking permit from the Barangay Captain;
2. Identifying the key informants and seeking free and informed consent;
3. Conducting the field interview and participative observation;

4. Encoding the result

5. Terminating the research.

THE SETTING

The coastal village of Uba is under the jurisdiction of MLGU Cortes in Surigao del Sur. Surigao del Sur province in particular is astonishing possessing rich marine life. The waters of Hinatuan to Carrascal are endowed with profusion of coral reefs areas, sea grasses, forest mangroves which supports the diverse marine life. Truly the province is very rich in marine biodiversity.

There is a need to assess Management of the MPA's. The management enhancing programs such livelihood projects to the fisher folks, sustainability of the marine reserves, establishments of artificial reefs, mangrove conservation and similar programs should be evaluated in its effectiveness in the end view of developing integral development interventions. Thus, this study was undertaken in the coastal frontier of Uba Cortes, Surigao del Sur., a typical fishing village of the province.

Barangay (village) of Uba is a coastal village of Cortes, Surigao del Sur. Fishing is the leading occupation followed by coconut farming. The Barangay has a Marine Protected Area (MPA) commonly called in the locality as fish sanctuary.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Bantay Dagat. The fish warden in the site

Barangay. The smallest political division in the Philippines headed by a chair person or "Punong Barangay" locally known as Barangay Captain

Bayanihan. Volunteer work of the fisher folks concerning the work in the MPA

Fish Sanctuary. The Marine Protected Area in Uba is also called fish sanctuary.

Marine Protected Area. It is an area of the marine ecosystem or coastal area reserve by local or national legislation where fishing is not allowed. Only scientific, cultural and educational activities are allowed in the MPA.

National Greening Program. The coastal rehabilitation Program of DENR which is also a form of livelihood project for the fisher folks

Pantawid. Anti-Poverty Program of the Philippines which is directly managed by the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development).

Pulon-Pulong. The village meeting concerning MPA matters.

Village. This refers to the site of the study

IV. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The study was based on theories from the fields of management, conservation and sociology. The following theories were reviewed:

Olum (2004) cited Koontz and Weihrich (1990) that management is the process of designing and maintaining an environment in which individuals, working together in groups, efficiently accomplish selected aims. The members and officers of the MPA in the performance of their duties need to be assessed as an organization. Hence, It continue to innovate to meet the challenges of the organization.

Levy and Merry (1986) presented transformation and transition stages in management as enunciated as” A combination of process-oriented strategies of planned change. Transformation is the process strategy to help members towards “awakening”. Transition is a goal strategy to help managers cope with managing change programs (Levy and Merry 1986 as cited by Odtohan, 2006).

Mohman and Cummings (1991) presented the self-design concept in management as” The organizations are capable of self-designing to achieve its performance. Emphasized the cyclical process involving series of designing and implementing activities for the organization to adjust (Mohman and Cummings 1991 as cited by Odtohan, 2006).

The theory of Mohrman and Cummings (1991) which states that the organization is capable of self-designing strategies to achieve its objectives are very much relevant in the present study. For it is a platform or guide in determining the effectiveness of the organization of the site/MPA in achieving its objectives. The innovations of the MPA’s in order to best achieve its goals were self-designing activities of the latter to best achieve its ends.

The theory of Levy and Merry (1986) which discussed the relevance of planned change in management which is anchored on goal oriented strategies which will lead in the cooperation of the members in the management goals. The present study reviewed the said theories since the objectives of this present investigation is to determine the level of support of the MPA/site members in the goals of the MPA as an organization .Thus , reinforces the relevance of the theory of Levy and Merry (1986).

The sociological theories of functionalism and symbolic interactions were also reviewed. Andersen and Taylor discussed the theory of functionalism as it interprets each part of society in terms of how it contributes to the stability of the whole (Andersen and Taylor, 2006). On the other hand symbolic interaction means people act toward things because of the meaning things for them (Andersen and Taylor, 2006).

In February 1998, the Philippine Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550) was signed into law. The code consolidates all laws pertaining to the fisheries sector and repeals or modifies previous status that is inconsistent with it. It declares as a state policy that achieving food security is the main consideration in the development, management and conservation of fisheries and aquatic resources.

Its provisions reflects a strong adherence to a long term sustainability, fully recognizing its multiple dimensions and complex elements in the fisheries context through several prohibitive and regulatory measures seeking to balance protection with reasonable and responsible use (Ingles, 2004).

Marine Protected Area conservation is a form of technology. Technology according to Ogburn (1950) brings out change in organizational culture. Since the governance of MPA's was structure in a form of voluntarism it able to assimilate management change or social change as a whole (Hibbing and Glicks 1994).

In addition it is a form of sustainable use of resources defined much in the movement of sustainable development. Manuel and Ganapin defined sustainable development as using of resources without sacrificing the needs of future generations. The MPA's in addition, besides being a typology of sustainable use of resources it also promotes community ownership of the reserve.

The MPA is a very strong example of conservation anchored on the principle of sustainable development or a school of thought of development without sacrificing the needs of the future generation (Manuel, 1990).

V. DISCUSSION

1. THE ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE OF UBA MPA

Uba, a coastal Barangay of Cortes, Surigao Del Sur is blessed with rich coral reef and marine biodiversity resources, yet the residents of Uba realizes that marine resources if over exploited would lead to depletion. It is in this fervor that they established the marine reserve to allow a sustainable use of resources. The management of the reserve has the overall rating of Very Satisfactory in implementation based on the following factors: sustainable financing, institutional management, people integration, monitoring and research, visitor's management, sustainable livelihood, law enforcement, ecosystem management. Thus its success was due to the close cooperation of the LGU of Cortes, BFAR; the PO's which managed the reserve, the Fish Project, Green Mindanao, Rear Pride, the residents of Uba and other stakeholders.



Figure Number 1: The MPA of Uba Public Awareness campaign

Another factor for its success story was also attributed to the following: The reserve aims/vision/objectives/core values were visibly defined. Thus the members have a guide on what to expect from the MPA management. It aimed to promote local tourism as an alternative source of revenue of the PO. Its integrated coastal resource management provided an avenue of holistic administration.



Figure Number 2: On site observation by the researcher

Among the best practices identified by MPA management were: voluntarism or Bayanihan spirit was very much alive among the members. The PO provided livelihood activities, integration of gender and development issues, and assistance from the LGU and other agencies. Close collaboration with the Fish Project, and Rear Pride. The other aspects of community based coastal project was "Very Much Satisfactorily" implemented such: mangrove conservation, fish cage management, coastal sanitation. Effective community development work, habitat conservation, scientific zoning system was holistically adopted, including the committed Bantay Dagat. The education committee was assigned by the PO to educate the community for the relevance of the fish sanctuary. Uba reserve management was anchored on food security, conservation, and empowerment



Figure Number 3: The late Marino Tabugon, a village leader volunteer of the MPA

The Barangay Uba Fishermen Association which co-managed the Marine reserved with the BLGU of Uba is registered in the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) with Registration Number CN 200731524. At the start it has 37 members and having a 1,500 (Philippine Pesos) honorarium per month. The MPA has 18 hectares buffer zone and 12 hectares core zone. Partner in the management of the reserve includes the "Pantawid" beneficiaries, Youth Alliance for Environmental protection (YAEP).



Figure Number 4: The active village "Pulong -Pulong" (Participative meeting)

The fish sanctuary also received support in terms of capacity training of its members from LBDA (Lanuza Bay Development Alliance) , Green Mindanao, Rare Project and Fish Project. The Youth Alliance for Environmental Protection (YAEP) is an action because oriented group committed to the conservation of the environment through advocacy and education. While Green Mindanao advocacy includes sustainable development, assistance to the marginalized sectors, community based resource management, rehabilitation and protection of the critical ecosystem. Linkages with relevant institutions and generate funds for the purpose. Barangay Uba successfully implemented a bay wide proactive project designed to build public awareness and prepare institutions for the on-going community based coastal resource management (CRMP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Another significant component of the sanctuary management is the integrations of mangrove forest rehabilitation under the National Greening Program (NGP) of DENR under its coastal forest rehabilitation component.

Active "Pulong-Pulong" had been conducted in the Village of Uba regarding the concerns in the management of the MPA/Fish sanctuary. In the said regular "Pulong-Pulong" issues which affect the management of the reserved was discussed and given solutions.



Figure Number 5: The Mangrove rehabilitation of Uba

There was an active collaboration of the women, professional, religious, youth sectors in the management of the Uba MPA that the said sectors provided their voluntarism just to make the management of the fish sanctuary sustainable. The beneficiaries of the "4 P's" (Pantawid) through its representatives or link assisted in guarding the reserve again in voluntary manner. As a whole the residents of Barangay Uba (village) were aware of the relevance of the fish sanctuary for conservation, sustainable use of coastal resources including its aesthetic and tourism value. The assistance given by the MLGU of Cortes in capacity assessment and cash assistance provided an added support in its governance.



Figure Number 6: Traditional boat making in the site

The Challenges in Uba MPA Governance

The following are the challenges in Barangay Uba Marine Protected Area management:

1. The honorarium provided for the "Bantay Dagat" (fish warden) is relatively meager;
2. The livelihood component of the program is not enough to cover the whole residents of the Barangay;
3. Sustaining the environmental values of the residents needs constant capacity building;
4. Lack of revenue from the local tourist;

5. Intrusion of the illegal fishers was also reported;
6. The Uba MPA needs boat houses;
7. making the sea weed industry as vibrant as an alternative livelihood program;
8. Collaboration with the private sectors needs to be sustained;
9. There was a limited international or foreign tourist who visited Uba MPA;
10. There is limited number of supply of scuba diving equipment in Uba MPA;
11. The boat houses needs major repair.

THE INTERFACE OF COLLABORATIONS BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL UNITS, PO'S, NGO IN THE MANAGEMENT OF UBA MPA

The success of MPA depends largely on the strong collaboration of the different stakeholders such the Barangay, Peoples Organization, LGU, GO's and the NGO's. Since it is anchored on collaboration, the MPA is considered as grassroots movements aiming for people's empowerment, sustainable use of resources, conservation and good governance. The BLGU of Uba supported the reserve by giving the honorarium to the fish warden/"tanod", providing livelihood projects/interventions. The DSWD in the "Pantawid" program and SLP, DENR the NGP for the mangrove conservation which belongs to the coastal forest classification. The MLGU of Cortes for the livelihood projects and honorarium of the "Bantay Dagat". The Rear Project for the coastal environmental advocacy, free bill boards and capacity building for the members and among others. The Green Mindanao for environmental advocacy and capacity building. The Fish Project for the environmental advocacy, capacity building. BFAR for the livelihood assistance to the fisher folks. In each activity of the MPA there were active pre-planning and the members actively involved until its evaluation and monitoring. On the other hand the LBDA also provided technical assistance and capacity building.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

The paper would like to provide the following recommendations:

1. The LGU of Cortes should increase the assistance given to "Barangay" Uba in order to sustain the success story of Uba MPA.
2. The Provincial Tourism Office should promote the Uba sanctuary for local and foreign tourist.
3. Community based tourism projects be implemented.
4. for further research: an assessment of the livelihood program is undertaken.

PROPOSED INTERVENTION SCHEME

PURPOSE

The intent of this proposes intervention scheme is to address the challenges encountered of the Uba Marine Protected area.

MECHANICS OF IMPLEMENTATION

This endeavor for a collaborative work of the PO, the different NGO's with advocacy/work in the MPA, the BLGU, BFAR, MLGU and NGP of DENR including the Department of Education and DOT.

SCHEDULE OF IMPLEMENTATION

As soon as it will be approved by the PO who managed the Uba MPA and the BLGU of Uba the said measures is hereby suggested to be implemented.

Recommended Activity

The Challenges in Uba MPA Governance	Objectives	Strategies to be Employed	Agencies and Persons to be involved	Time Frame	Propose Source of fund
The honorarium provided for the " Bantay Dagat" (fish warden) is relatively meager	Increasing the honorarium of the "Bantay Dagat (fish warden) will improved their self esteem	Lobby for the increase in the Barangay Council	BLGU	Year round	BLGU
The livelihood component of the program is not enough to cover the whole residents of the Barangay	Increase the livelihood Projects for the fisher folks	Lobby for the increase in the Barangay Council and the "Sanggunian" of Cortes (Municipal Council)	BLGU, MLGU	Year Round	Environmental and GAD fund
Sustaining the environmental values of the residents needs constant capacity building	Enhance the environmental values of the residents	Seminar in environmental Values	DEP ED, MLGU, BLGU	Every semester	BLGU
Add the MPA Guard House	Increase the number of MPA guard houses	Funds for the additional MPA guard houses can be sourced out from the Private Sector	NGO, PO , BLGU	Year Round	MLGU, BFAR

		through the PPP (Public and Private Partnership)			
Lack of revenue from local tourist	Increase the number of foreign tourist	Seek the assistance form DOT in promoting Uba MPA as a tourist destination	DOT, BLGU, MLGU. Provincial Tourism Office	Year Round	DOT
Intrusion of illegal fishers were also reported	To have zero rate of intrusion in the MPA	Strict implementation of MLGU ordinance in cases of intrusion in the MPA	BLGU, MLGU, PNP , BFAR	Year Round	MLGU
The Uba MPA needs boat houses	Assigned (one) boat house each "Purok" (cluster of household).	Encourage each "Purok" to have their own boat house.	BLGU	Year Round	BLGU
Making the sea weed industry as vibrant and as alternative livelihood program	Increase the harvest of " guso" (sea weed) as a form of mariculture	Secure training from BFAR for an enhanced "guso" culture.	BFAR	Year Round	BFAR

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VIII. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BFAR	Bureau of Fishery and Aquatic Resources
BLGU	Barangay Local Government Unit
CDA	Cooperative Development Authority
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOT	Department of Tourism
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
GO	Government Organization
LBDA	Lanuza Bay Development Alliance
LBP	Land Bank of the Philippines
MLGU	Municipal Local Government Unit
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	None Government organization
NGP	National Greening Program
PO	Peoples Organization
SLP	Sustainable Livelihood Project

IX. NOTE



1. The research was conducted during the administration of Mayor Pet Trinidad.
2. NGO refers to the Non-Government Organizations in the site.
3. The President of the PO during the conduct of the site was the late Mr. Marino Tabugon.
4. The LBDA (LBDA) provided trainings to the fisher folks regarding the effective management of the MPA.

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