



THE INTERFACE OF SOCIOLOGY AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT : THE SAGIP WAKATAN EXPERIENCE

Ramel D. Tomaquin, Ph.D.

Professor 6, College of Business and Management, Surigao del Sur State University, 8300 Tandag City, Philippines

ABSTRACT

KEYWORDS:

Bayabas, Sagip Wakatan, NGP DENR, Mangroves, Public Management

The paper presented the impact of “Sagip Wakatan “ the mangrove conservation program of MLGU Bayabas. A coastal town of Surigao del Sur in the Philippines. It presented the panorama in the collaboration of the community or villagers and the government units in the Philippines such : BLGU, MLGU , the DENR NGP, PEAR and BEAR which contributed to its success story. The other components of “Sagip Wakatan “ were : the “ Gakit Festival” for its tourism element, values integration, participatory approaches in its management , reforestation component and the livelihood interventions. It was found out that “ Sagip Wakatan” have tremendous impact in environmental governance, improve earnings of the villagers due to its livelihood interventions . And the development of community based tourism Program. Hence, a success story indeed.

I. RATIONALE

Sociology is a dynamic or vastly growing field of inquiry borrowing themes from various disciplines like environmental studies, management , development studies, public administration, statistics ,corporate administration , community development to name a few. Environmental sociology as an area of sociology had been widely practiced by development workers and academics mostly in the rural setting. Practitioners of Environmental Sociology were also being labeled as development workers. In the Philippine setting practitioners in this sub field of sociology ranges from the academics , NGO workers or development workers of government agencies and multinational corporations for their corporate social responsibility (CSP) .Which the integration of environmental sociology had been enormous. The paper used the agenda and platform of environmental sociology to present the panorama of the “ Sagip Wakatan”, the mangrove conservation program of the Municipal Local Government Unit of Bayabas in Surigao del Sur Province of the Philippines. Mangrove preservation means a vicinity preserve by local or national legislation that proscribe wanton harvesting of mangroves and similar species this actions /activities are prohibited in the brackish/near shore or fresh water areas .In some extent fishing is regulated and back up by a local ordinance or legislation. With the noble aim of sustainable development use of coastal resources. Hence, it is an area for breeding ground of or a progeny area of the mangrove reef fishes . Thus, in this view allows the said life form to invigorate . Moreover, in order for the mangrove conservation program to succeed good legislation at the local level is a must. The paper presented the vista in the success story of

the local government unit of Bayabas for its success in mangrove conservation .The grassroots, collaborative, development oriented and participatory movement called “ Sagip Wakatan”.

This paper presented the milieu or setting of the project and its impact including the community/village participation which contributed to its success story. And is indeed value narrating for its varied multi sectors engagement/collaborations worthy to be emulated by other MLGU’s. Hence, a very democratic and development movement.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURES

The following literatures have been reviewed :

The study of Retsy Tomaquin-Malong (2013) discussed the following findings:

“The MPA’s of Cortes were presently achieving its purpose of conservation measures and food security despites of problems encountered. With the collaboration of the NGO’s, and LBDA. The governance of the MPA’s was centered on biodiversity and interventions of the displaced fisher folks. The program of converting the illegal fishers into stewards of the MPA’s by employing them as Fish wardens were commendable indeed. Increase in fish catch had been reported since the MPA’s had been established. The MPA’s promoted other industry such Eco. Tourism (Tomaquin-Malong, 2013) .”

The study of Esther Consuelo Tan (2008) “ The Socio-Economic Assessment and Environmental Practices of Mangrove Settlers of Davao Gulf ” provided the following recommendations:

“ Authorities should limit urban migration to the coastal areas and develop eco-friendly development programs or projects taking into consideration the cost and benefits of development interventions. Program implementers should source -out strategies through peoples initiative and empowerment management (Consuelo- Tan , 2008) “

III. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of the study used the sociological thoughts of functionalism and symbolic interaction .

Andersen and Taylor (2006) discussed that functionalism is a theoretical perspective that interprets each part of the society in terms of how it contributes to the

stability of the whole . Andersen and Taylor (2006) furthered discussed that symbolic interaction theory is a theoretical perspective claiming that people act towards thing because of the meaning of things have for them.

IV. TOUR OF RESEARCH INQUIRY

The following are the tour of the research inquiry:

1. What is the demographic profile of the key informants?
2. What is the organizational culture and the best practices of “ Sagip Wakatan “?
3. What are the challenges encountered in the implementation of “ Sagip Wakatan “ and its propose development interventions?

V. THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



Figure 1. The Schematic Diagram of the Paper

VI. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study used Descriptive survey method aided with field work of what research scientist called “ Field or Case Study “. Moreover interview guide , perception scale and researcher made questionnaire , observation were the supplemental tools.

VII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. What is the demographic profile of the key informants?

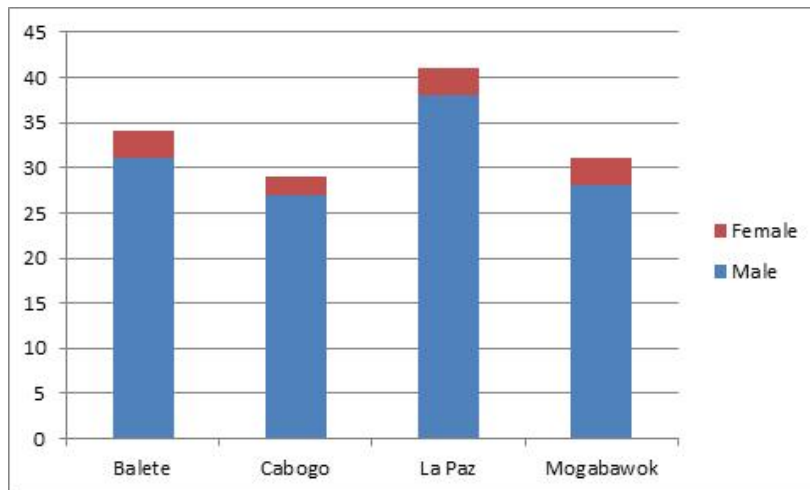


Figure 2. Distribution of respondents in every site according to sex (n=135)

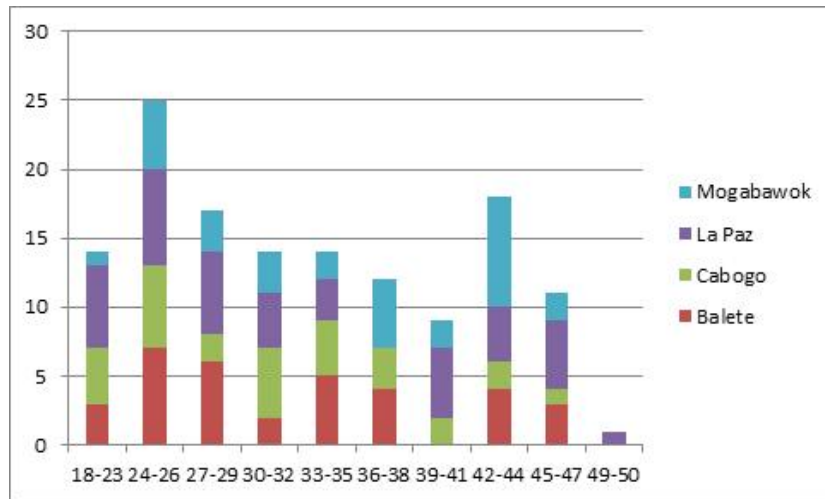


Figure 3. Distribution of the age of the respondents (n=135)

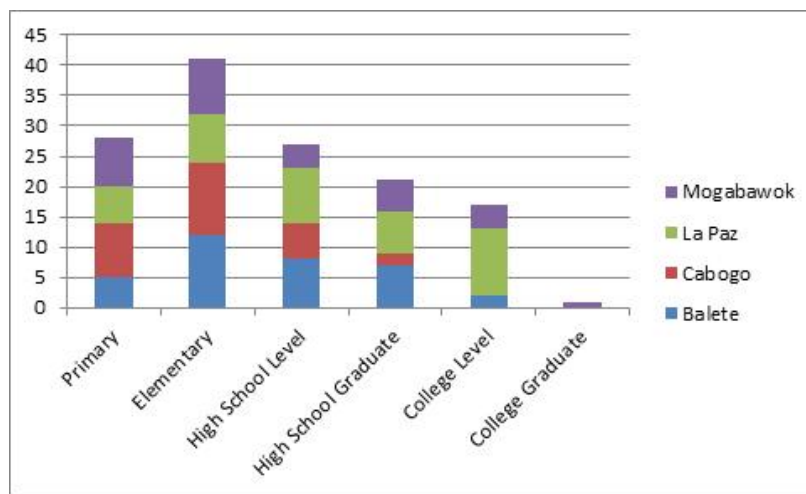


Figure 4. Distribution of respondents according to educational attainment (n=135)

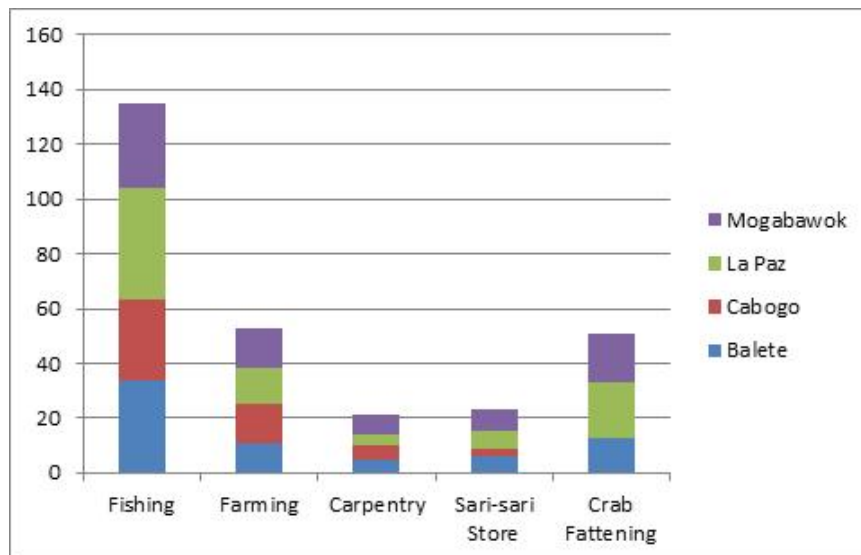


Figure 5. Distribution of respondents according to their sources of income (multiple responses, n=283)

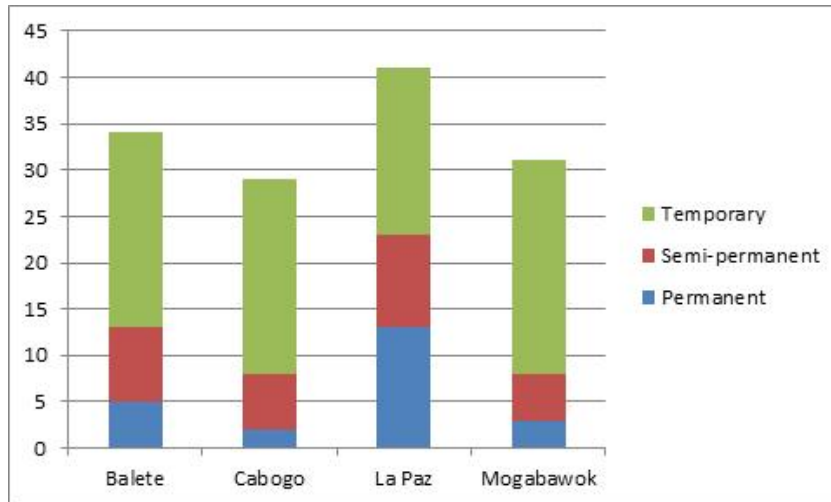


Figure 6. Distribution of respondents according to their type of dwelling (n=135)

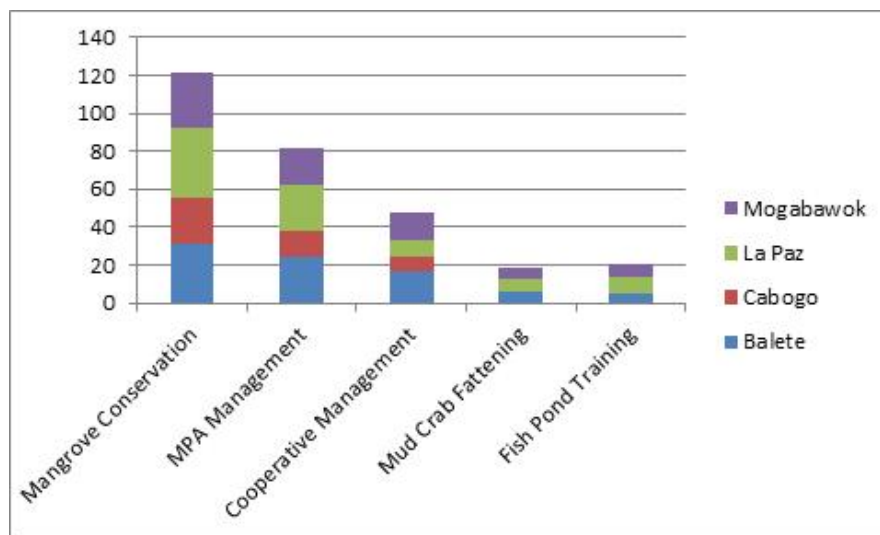


Figure 7. Distribution of respondents according to the type of fishery training they attended (multiple responses n=289)

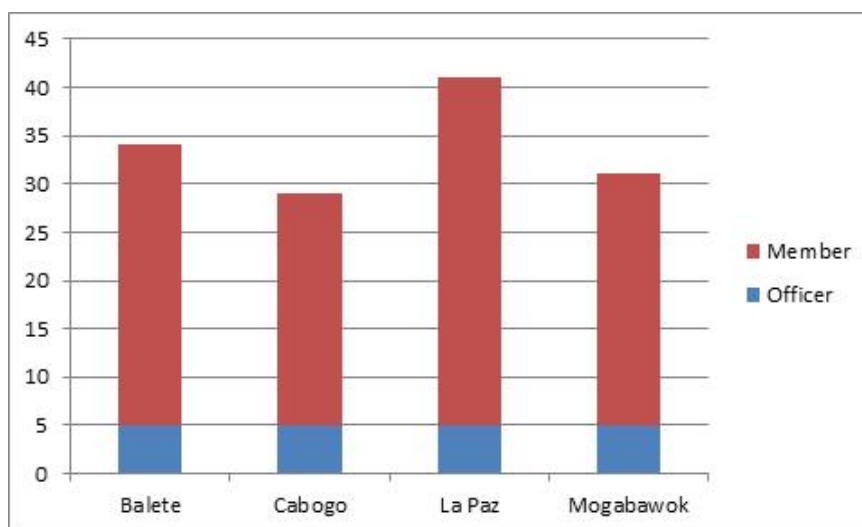


Figure 8. Distribution of respondents according to their memberships in People's Organization (n=135).

2. What is the organizational culture and the best practices of “Sagip Wakatan”?

Mangrove rehabilitation is an integral part of the coastal resource management program the LGU of Bayabas. Which aims for preservation and valuing the biodiversity, community and cultural tourism importance. It was anchored with the cultural component of the program the “Gakit” festival. Its leading platform or agenda is for deterrence of disaster such floods, soil erosion besides its recreational importance. In particular the mangrove forests are areas for perpetuation of various species of fish, safeguard for siltation and soil erosion in addition also of its aesthetic and research, educational value. The LGU's in the Philippines were empowered by the Local government Code of 1991 to develop the mangroves forest with the end view of sustainable development. That the importance of mangrove forest for environmental governance, tourism and scientific and cultural value was harnessed since “Sagip Wakatan” provided measures for effective conservation program which was a grassroots and development oriented initiative. The Program of “Sagip Wakatan” was anchored on environmental restitution with village/community full participation of the project and so the communities were co-stewards of the endeavor. Thus resulted to a collaborative accomplishments which contributed to its success. Hence it is a village based program which aim to empower the immediate fishing communities. In view of this preservation procedures, hands-on involvement of the community was observed. Committed MLGU and other support agencies such: The National Greening Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), PFAR and BPAR contributed to the success of “Sagip Wakatan”. The collaborative engagements of the women, “4 P's” recipients, professional sectors, fisher folks, farmers, academe made the implementation of “Sagip Wakatan” a collaborative or multi sector endeavor. Its significant components were monitoring the mangrove forest covers, implementing its infrastructure components such buildings, guard houses for its marine protected areas, sea wall and sea wall boulevard, “Gakit” festival/festivities and provided 15 hectares in Barangay Mogabawok as a marine/community tourism park. Installations of bill boards, presence of patrol boats, constructing rest houses, coastal resource management were properly implemented. Active fish warden/“bantay dagat”, network system in case of intrusion in the mangrove conservation sites was carried out in “Very Satisfactory” fashion. Waste management was also instituted, reforestation regularly conducted, presence of active village community leaders (“Purok” or link leaders), guarding the mangrove forest was “Very Satisfactory” instituted. Regular feed backing or monitoring observed was observed. Capacity building with the fishers association with organizational structure down to the “Purok” or link level was manifested

indeed. Orientation for the tourist regarding the relevance of the mangrove forest was properly observed. Mangrove conservation facilities was periodically checked. NGO's were welcome as partners of mangrove conservation/governance. Hence active collaborations were evident. The mangrove conservation was back up by a Municipal Council resolution and fishery laws integrated in the conservation. Funding from LGU allocated regularly. BFAR technical assistance was successfully instituted and DENR assistance though NGP vigorously was undertaken.

Active collaborations/engagements of DENR and BFAR through the following projects were highly commendable via the following programs: (ISF) the integrated social forestry program, (NGP)- the National Greening Program, enhance NGP which were all form coastal forest rehabilitation program. The “Sagip Wakatan” planning included the following which was “Highly Satisfactorily” completed: hydraulic mapping, consultation with the fisher folks, budget allocation for infrastructures of community tourism like rest houses, pavilions, tourist cottages, sea side board walk/walk ways, sea walls, guard houses, recreation centers and among others. BFAR assistance was sought in the identification of mangrove species and technical assistance. In Providing adequate staff by the MLGU, participatory approaches were employed. Encouragement of NGO's involvement and inclusion of the MLU budget for “Sagip Wakatan” was “Very Satisfactory” implemented indeed. It can be deduced that the program was properly staff, facilities like BFAR patrol boats and binoculars was adequately provided. Active involvement of the public and private sectors was evident. The program generated local employment such contributed to the development of restaurant or food industry in the municipality. Mangrove similar species had been identified, including the communal mangrove and tidal forest delineation, and inland fishery protected area were identified. Law enforcement in the issuance of “Sagip Wakatan” ordinance was “Highly Satisfactorily” implemented. Capacity/capability training for MLGU staff in coastal resource management was “Highly Satisfactory Implemented”. Periodic mangrove reforestation conducted and use of Bill Boards, web portal and was “Highly Satisfactorily Implemented”. It instituted community voluntarisms with the cooperation and engagements of other national and local agencies. The success of “Sagip Wakatan” is worth narrating indeed. The following components of “Sagip Wakatan” was “Very Satisfactorily Implemented”: environmental governance as a response to climate change initiatives, support of NGO's involvement in mangrove conservation, facilities adequately provided, clear vision, objectives, mission of “Sagip Wakatan” widely instituted. Livelihood interventions adequately provided. Monitoring and assessment of mangrove forest covers regularly conducted.

3. What are the challenges encountered in “ Sagip Wakatan Program” and its propose development interventions

Challenges	Recommendation/ Propose Development Intervention	Strategies
Intrusion in the Fish Sanctuaries by the illegal fishers .	Enhance or religiously Implementation of "Sagip Wakatan Ordinance "	Enhance the Fish Warden Program
Conversion of mangrove areas into fish ponds .	Encourage the entrepreneurs of the fish pond operation to observe DENR, and BFAR issuances in fish pond conversion .	Selected site for fish pond operation be identified to have a lesser conversion of mangrove area into fish pond.
Limited foreign Tourist	Promote " Sagip Wakatan" using Tri Media Approach.	Social media be used in the promotion of "Sagip Wakatan".
Enhance Involvement of NGO's in Mangrove Conservation .	Provide non cash incentives for the NGO's like awards and commendation in order to encourage them to actively involved in " Sagip Wakatan".	Memorandum of agreement be signed by the NGO's in the site and the MLGU concerning NGO's assistance to the mangrove conservation.
Intensify the integration of environmental education in the basic education	Provide learning module in environmental education to be crafted by the basic education sector .	Integration of the importance of mangroves be included in lesson log. Most specially in social studies and science subjects.
Intensify the Promotion of " Gakit Festival" the cultural and tourism component of " Sagip Wakatan".	Tri Media Promotion of " Gakit " festival " can be enhanced by providing actual fisher folks video file as testimony of the benefits of " Sagip Wakatan". Which can be viewed in " U tube" and other social media.	Encourage the "Surigaonon" to donate any amount for the mangrove conservation movement
Intensify Mangrove reforestation employing the enhance NGP Program of DENR .	Encourage involvement of the business sector for possible funding from their corporate social responsibility funds.	It is recommended that MLGU will enter into memorandum of agreement with the Multinational companies for collaboration in mangrove conservation.
Encourage the creation of fisher folks cooperatives .	Secure the assistance from the Philippine Cooperative Agency for training in cooperative mandate.	For initial move the Peoples organization should convene for possible discussion of forming a cooperative.
Encourage the voluntarism of "4 P's" recipients in guarding the mangrove sites .	An incentives can be formulated to encourage/enhance " Pantawid" beneficiaries active involvement in guarding or patrolling the mangrove conservation site.	Make an action plan which will draw the activities for possible active collaboration of the " Panatawid" beneficiaries in guarding the Mangrove conservation to illustrate their love in voluntarism.
Encourage more multinational companies to have their corporate social responsibility in the sites .	Merged partnership of multinational companies in mangrove conservation in the context of PPP.	It is suggested that CSR (Corporate Social Responsibilities) of Corporations in the province be focused on mangrove rehabilitation.
Have an active convergence/collaboration/engagement with DOT, DPWH in enhancing more the "Sagip Wakatan" infrastructures.	Sign or a memorandum of agreement with DOT, DPWH in context of construction more infrastructure of " Sagip Wakatan" facilities in support of its environmental tourism component.	Convergence initiatives with national agencies is suggested to enhance the governance of mangrove conservation. Take for example in the tourism component . The Department of Tourism can provide a framework on how to enhance the tourism part of " Sagip wakatan".
Conversion of PO's into Cooperatives	Establishing more PO's based cooperatives can improved the earning differentials of the fishers .	For the initial "CBU " or Capital Build Up it is suggested to apply for assistance from DSWD " SLP " Program.
Formulate learning module for mangrove conservation program based on "Sagip Wakatan " experience	Linkage with the education sector along this development intervention is a terrain to venture to.	The learning module which will be develop is a part of propagation of " Indigenous Knowledge System and Practices ".Which is a part of Philippine Intellectual knowledge Tradition . It should be preserve for posterity and as part of Filipino heritage.

VIII. CONCLUSION

1. "Sagip Wakatan" the Mangrove conservation program of the Municipal Government of Bayabas was anchored on reforestation measures, environmental governance, livelihood interventions and have eco-tourism component. Likewise its cultural component the "Gakit" festival or festivities which has a huge tourism value or importance which was "Very Satisfactory" implemented.
2. The infrastructure component of "Sagip Wakatan" was properly in placed /instituted or implemented like the cottages, pavilions, boulevard, sea side walking area, guard houses, road network etc. And was "Very Satisfactorily" Implemented.
3. The DENR through its NGP Program, BFAR and the Provincial Fishery and Aquatic Resources actively assisted the MLGU of Bayabas for its "Sagip Wakatan" Program. So with the Provincial Tourism office and DOT in the tourism component of "Sagip Wakatan". The "Gakit" Festivity or festival.
4. The residents of Bayabas accepted the noble aim of mangrove conservation and actively participated in its different activities / endeavors;
5. Participation of the Public and Private Sectors in "Sagip Wakatan" was highly evident.
6. The governance of "Sagip Wakatan" was "Very Satisfactory" implemented.
7. The challenges in the governance of "Sagip Wakatan" does not affect its "Very Satisfactory" management.
8. The MLGU of Bayabas employed participatory, development oriented and community based approaches and harnessed fishers and other sector involvement in the program.

IX. LIST OF ABBREVIATION

BFAR	Bureau of Fishery and Aquatic Resources
BLGU	Barangay Local Government Unit
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DENR	Department of Environment and National Resources
DOT	Department of Tourism
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
ISP	Integrated Social Forestry Program

LGU	Local Government Unit
MLGU	Municipal Local Government Unit
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGP	National Greening Program
PFRAO	Provincial Fishery and Aquatic Resources Office
PO's	People's organization
PPP	Public and Private Partnership
SLP	Sustainable Livelihood Project.

X. REFERENCES CITED

1. Malong, Tomaquin Retsy "BEST PRACTICES IN MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA'S) STEWARDSHIP IN THE CONTEXTS OF PARTICIPATORY ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE, EMPOWERED FISHING COMMUNITIES AND THE ECONOMICS OF ITS SUSTAINABILITY IN CORTES OF CARAGA REGION, PHILIPPINES: A DISCOURSE". (2013). The European Journal of Social Sciences in <http://www.idpublications.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Full-Paper-BEST-PRACTICES-IN-MARINE-PROTECTED-AREA-MPAS-STEWARDSHIP-IN-THE-CONTEXTS-OF-PARTICIPATORY.pdf>
2. Margaret L. Andersen and Taylor, Howard F. "Sociology: Understanding a Diverse Society". 4th edition. Thomson Wadsworth, Australia, 2006.
3. Sagip Wakatan Ordinance of the Municipal Government of Bayabas Surigao del Sur, Philippines.
4. Tan, Esther Consuelo "Socio-Economic Assessment and Environmental Practices of Mangrove Settlers in Davao Gulf", JPAIR (Philippine Association of Institutions for Research) Vol.1, 2008, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines.

XI. Acknowledgments

1. Associate Prof. Jocelyn B. Panduyos R and E Director of Surigao del Sur State University for sharing her technical expertise in social research;
2. Dr. Gerry B. Estrada for the research load given to the researcher;
3. To the Barangay Captains and Fishers of La Paz, Balete, Cabogo and Mogabawok for their hospitality;
4. Retsy Tomaquin-Malong, DPA for editing this work;
5. Hon. Maria Clarita Limbaro for her generosity.