

ABSTRACT

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Governance of a Marine Protected Area in the Philippines: An Institutional Sustainability Analysis of the Sagay Marine Reserve.

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This is a study concerning the analysis and assessment of the governance and institutional sustainability of the Sagay Marine Reserve (SMR) in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, Philippines. Criteria and indicators were used to establish and assess the interventions, governance and institutional sustainability of the Marine Protected Area (MPA). The criteria and indicators include: MPA management planning; resource generation and mobilization; programs and projects implemented; policy formulation and legislation; operations and management, and networking, linkaging and coordination.

The study employed a questionnaire and direct interview with 102 respondents coming from the stakeholders of the protected area. Data analysis involved using mean to determine and interpret the institutional sustainability level. The questionnaire was translated into the local dialect of respondents.

Findings show that various agencies and stakeholders have been part of SMR governance since the late 70's. These include the academe, local government units, national government agencies, private sectors, non-government organizations and people's organizations. These stakeholders served as respondents who rated the SMR governance in terms of sustainability. Tabulated results show that management planning, policy formulation and legislation, as well as networking, linkaging and coordination were all rated satisfactory while resource generation and mobilization, programs and projects, and operations and management were rated as very satisfactory. The over-all governance of SMR was rated satisfactory.

Governance and institutional issues and concerns that were identified according to priorities include: (1) alternative livelihood for the community; (2) illegal fishing and encroachment of commercial fishers from other provinces; (3) financial sustainability for SMR governance; (4) lack of national government support; (5) lack of SMR personnel; (6) lack of co-management mechanisms; (7) low level of community involvement in law enforcement; (8) information and education; (9) lack of biodiversity monitoring; (10) and less priorities in terms of infrastructure development for tourism and other needed facilities.

The study recommends the urgent formulation and adoption of a management plan and a management manual; alternative sustainable livelihood; deputation of community volunteers for law enforcement; approval of the Implementing Rules and Regulation of SMR law; additional personnel component of SMR; capacity building of PAMB, DENR and SMR personnel; tourism blueprint preparation; installation of Biodiversity Monitoring System; strengthening community development, organizing and designation of community development workers; and definition of functions between national government agencies and the Sagay City Government.