Agusan River Basin



Address: Agusan del Sur

Description: Known as the home of record-setting Lolong, the saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) that earned the distinction of being the world's largest captive crocodile to date, the Agusan marshland is one of the most significant wetlands of the country. Acting like a sponge, the site contains almost 15% of the country's freshwater resources in the form of swamp forests.

Status: Closed

Site Profile Summary

Protection Status	- Through Proclamation No. 913, s. 1996; Republic Act 7586 or the NIPAS Act of 1992
Area	- 40,812.84 hectares
Bio-geographic Features	- Peat-swamp forest; a catch basin of rivers from the provinces of Bukidnon, Compostela valley, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte from December to March.
Flora	- 40 tree species, 33 of which are endemic (Non-tree flora species have not yet been assessed and are of least concern, though conservation action using appropriate management strategies is still required)
Fauna	- The 1009th Ramsar site, Agusan Marsh is winter ground for migratory and wetland birds, and is one of the 117 Important Bird Areas of the Philippines, and is one of the country's most ecologically significant wetland ecosystems.
Livelihood Resources	- Fishing, farming

Biophysical Profile

Agusan Marsh is surrounded mostly by agricultural lands. Mine operatiosn in the headwater create receptacles and serve as carriers of silt, fecal materials, mine tailings, and other harmful wastes. This damages water quality, and heavy siltation disturbs the ecosystem.

Sociocultural Situation

Talacogon's three barangays within Agusan Marsh has a total of 6,500 residents, 95% of whom belong to the Manobo tribe (within the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Protection Plan [ADSDPP] Loreto). The leadership system among Manobos rest in the elders, called Manigaon. They manage community affairs, ensure peace, and engage with other communities. The Manobo spirituality and beliefs reflect their profound ties to the land and its resources.

Geopolitical Situation

Municipalities claim jurisdiction over the marsh. In the Municipality of Loreto, the marshland is part of ancestral domain (Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title or CADT 090). There is a critical need to harmonize the NIPAS act and the IPRA law in the management of the marsh.

Threats

- Land conversion and watershed denudation
- Water quality
- Logging
- Dynamics in Governance
- Illegal fishing
- Lolong the crocodile
- Agusan River Basin Development Plan
- Boundary conflicts
- Low biodiversity awareness
- Traders' control over farmers' harvest

FPE-funded Projects and Initiatives

Date	Project	Proponent
2016	Agusan Marsh Conservation Management Plan Review & Polishing	FPE Mindanao Regional Unit
2016	Agusan Marsh Conservation Management Plan Presentation & Commitment Building	FPE Mindanao Regional Unit
2015	Agusan Marsh Stakeholders Conservation Management Planning Workshop *A key preliminary step in the creation of a conservation management plan for the marsh, and the creation of a Technical Working Group to facilitate the polishing and implementation of the plan*	FPE Mindanao Regional Unit
2012	Research and Socio-Economic Assessment of Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary	Mindanao State University Naawan Foundation for Science and Technology Development, Inc. (MSUN-FSTDI)

Reference

Kalikasan BCSD Knowledge Series Twenty-One - Tales of the Manobos: Agusan Marsh, 2016. Foundation for the Philippine Environment.

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