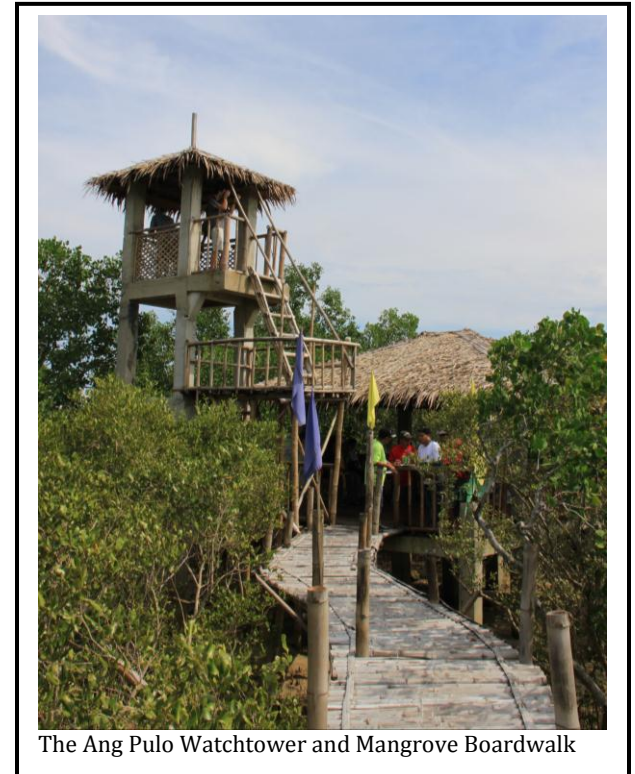


Calatagan Mangrove Forest Conservation Park - Marine Protected Area Barangay Quilitisan, Calatagan, Batangas

Introduction

Two islets in Barangay Quilitisan, Calatagan called “Pulong Buhangin” have been declared a municipal nature park through Sangguniang Bayan resolution no. 76 on 8 September 2009. These islets are being co-managed by the Barangay (village) Local Government Unit and Talimusak, a local people’s organization (PO) in Barangay Quilitisan composed of fisher families. The Calatagan Mangrove Forest Conservation Park (CMFCP) or “Ang Pulo” veers away from the typical form of tourism which capitalizes on visual appreciation or sight-seeing. “Ang Pulo” stands out from other beach destinations because it is a mangrove forest with elevated boardwalks, signs, viewing platforms, huts and observation towers. This community run mangrove tour is highly educational and engages the visitors to participate in an on-going coastal reforestation. The tidal flat is extensive with scattered clumps of mangroves, seagrass beds and isolated sand bars. The Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP) supported the establishment of a community-based sustainable tourism (CBST) in CMFCP, part of this CBST is the development of a shorebird field guide wherein Talimusak can increase tourism activities through bird watching. An initial assessment of shorebirds in CMFCP was conducted last 25 November 2010, Twenty-seven (27) shorebirds were recorded inside the CMFCP. The CTSP is collaborating with the Municipal Local Government Unit of Calatagan in improving coastal resilience in the Verde Island Passage by piloting a mangrove rehabilitation scheme to safeguard coastal communities from the impacts of climate change.



The Ang Pulo Watchtower and Mangrove Boardwalk



Member of the Barangay Council of Quilitisan and Talimusak

education, these are as follows: 1) Planting mangroves; 2) Tidal walk with interpretation; 3) Kite flying demo and production; 4) Gleaning demonstration; 5) Kayaking or boating; 6) “De Layag” boating; 7) Snorkeling; 8) Glass bottom boat tours; 9) Bird watching; 10) Sunset viewing

Shorebirds of Ang Pulo

The birds of Ang Pulo were surveyed with the assistance of CIP and CTSP. The total shorebirds intercepted was twenty seven species with 15 migrant species, 1 endemic species, and 11 resident species.

Development of a Shorebird Field Guide

A shorebird field guide was developed aimed at diversifying income of Talimusak members to improved management of the mangrove nature park.



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Mangroves of Barangay Quilitisan

The remaining mangrove areas are classified into fringing and overwashed types of mangrove forest. The fringing mangrove is situated between 120° 36' 58.2" longitude and 13° 53' 0.9" latitude with an aggregate area of thirteen (13) hectares dominated by *Avicennia marina*, *Avicennia alba* and *Rhizophora stylosa*. The substrates are characterized by muddy at the seaward zone and clayloam at the middle extending to the landward zone. Few regenerations of *A. marina* and *A. alba* was observed at the landward zone of the mangrove.



The bamboo raft (balsa) ride inside the Calatagan Nature Park

Mangrove associates observed in the area include *Pongamia pinnata*, *Thespesia populnea*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Ipomea pescaprae*, *Terminalia catappa* and *Acacia farnesiana* as the dominant species.

The four (4) hectares overwashed mangroves at the Polo Island is located between 120° 36' 56.48" longitude and 13° 53' 14.1" latitude. Mangrove species growing on sandy/coralline substrate include *Rhizophora stylosa*, *Avicennia marina* and *Sonneratia alba* as the dominant species. Mangrove associates are represented by *Morinda citrifolia*, *Pongamia pinnata* and *Acacia farnesiana*.



Rufous-Necked Stint non breeding found in Ang Pulo

Mangrove Rehabilitation

A joint mangrove rehabilitation project was launched last 25 June 2010 with the Philippine Coast Guard, Provincial Government of Batangas, Municipal Government of Calatagan, Batangas, USAID and Conservation International-Philippines. The rehabilitation was aimed at restoring a 5,000sqm of mangrove forest in Ang Pulo.



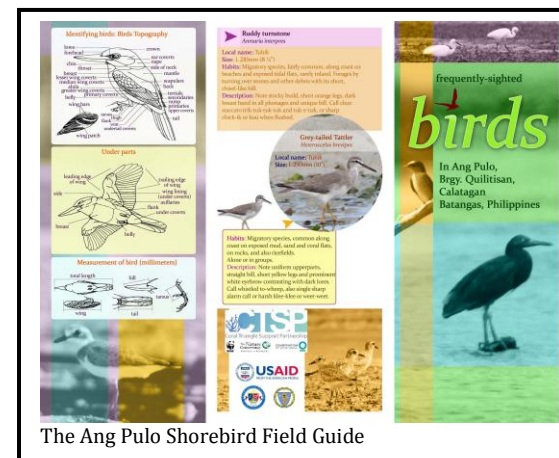
The 200 Philippine Coast Guards Planting mangroves during the Joint Mangrove Rehabilitation of Ang Pulo

Mangrove Board Walk

The Mangrove boardwalk and watch tower was constructed through the assistance of the Sulu Sulawesi Seascapes project of Conservation International-Philippines (CI-P) through the Walton Family Foundation last 2009. The Boardwalk was built and maintained by the Municipality of Calatagan together with Talimusak aimed at diversifying income of the community and conserving the mangrove forest around Barangay Quilitisan through CBST.

Ang Pulo Business Plan Development

The Ang Pulo Business Plan was conducted through the assistance of CI-P through the course of implementing the CTSP in the Philippines. The Plan was to develop a product activity to increase capacity of Talimusak in managing the mangrove nature park. Ten (10) product activity were developed for Ang Pulo for eco-tourism and



The Ang Pulo Shorebird Field Guide