



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

# **World Heritage Patrimoine mondial**

**39 COM**

Paris, 15 May / 15 mai 2015  
Original: English

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**CONVENTION CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DU PATRIMOINE  
MONDIAL, CULTUREL ET NATUREL**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE / COMITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL**

**Thirty-ninth session / Trente-neuvième session**

**Bonn, Germany / Bonn, Allemagne  
28 June – 8 July 2015 / 28 juin – 8 juillet 2015**

**Item 7 of the Provisional Agenda: State of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and/or on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

**Point 7 de l'Ordre du jour provisoire: Etat de conservation de biens inscrits sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial et/ou sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril**

**MISSION REPORT / RAPPORT DE MISSION**

**Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park (Philippines) (652rev)  
Parc national de la rivière souterraine de Puerto Princesa (Philippines) (652rev)**

**30 November – 5 December 2014**

This mission report should be read in conjunction with Document:  
Ce rapport de mission doit être lu conjointement avec le document suivant:

**WHC-15/39.COM/7B**

IUCN

**REPORT ON THE MISSION TO Puerto – Princesa Subterranean River National Park, Philippines  
FROM 30<sup>th</sup> November TO 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2014**



Photos © Naomi Doak

Naomi DOAK (IUCN)

January 2015

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The mission wishes to express its gratitude to the Government of the Philippines for its invitation to undertake the reactive monitoring mission and for its hospitality and assistance throughout the duration of the visit. In particular it would like to express its gratitude to the representatives from the City of Puerto Princesa and Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) who assisted in the preparation and organization of the mission and accompanied the mission team throughout the visit, responding to requests for information and organizing the logistics of the visit.

The mission is grateful to Dr Virginia Miralao, Secretary General of the Philippines National Commission for UNESCO, as Chair of the meeting held in Manila and her staff, in particular Prof. Eric Zerrudo who accompanied the mission and Mr Adriann Caldozo who assisted with logistics. The mission is also grateful to representatives from provincial authorities, who accompanied the mission on each day of the field visit.

The mission is particularly grateful to the Protected Area Superintendent, Ms. Elizabeth Maclang and her staff from the property who organised the visit to the property and meetings with local communities and who also provided the mission with helpful information, data and documentation and took time to exchange information with the mission.

The mission would like to extend its gratitude and thanks to the representatives of the Katala Foundation and the Centre for Sustainability and other experts who met or consulted with the mission during the visit, for their efforts to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

## Table of Contents

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	2
1. BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION.....	5
2. NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY	9
1.1 Protected area legislation .....	9
1.2 Institutional framework .....	9
1.3 Management structure .....	9
1.4 Other International designations and programmes .....	9
3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES/THREATS .....	10
3. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY .....	19
4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	20
Annex I – Terms of Reference .....	24
Annex II – World Heritage Committee Decision, 38 COM 7B.70 .....	24
Annex III – Mission itinerary and programme .....	24
Annex IV – List and contact details of people met .....	24
Annex VI – Photographs.....	24
Annex VII – Other supporting documents .....	24

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of South East Asian Nations
<b>CADC</b>	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>OUV</b>	Outstanding Universal Value
<b>PA(s)</b>	Protected Area(s)
<b>PAMB</b>	Protected Area Management Board
<b>PASu</b>	Protected Area Superintendent
<b>PCAARD</b>	Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development
<b>PPSRNP</b>	Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park
<b>RAMSAR</b>	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
<b>SRPAO</b>	Survey and Registration of Protected Area Occupants
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The monitoring mission was undertaken from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 (see Terms of Reference Annex I, World Heritage Committee Decision 38COM 7B.70 Annex II; Itinerary and Programme Annex III). It aimed to follow up on the issues and concerns raised by World Heritage Committee Decision 38COM 7B.70 and to assess progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the decision. The mission comprised Dr Naomi Doak, independent consultant representing IUCN.

The mission was able to meet with key representatives from the Management Authority for the property (Protected Area Management Board, PAMB), staff under the City of Puerto Princesa (Protected Area Superintendent, PASu), as well as staff from other relevant government institutions at both the provincial and national level including the City Tourism Council, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the City Planning Department. Issues pertaining to the conservation of the property and its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) were also discussed and raised with representatives from NGOs.

The mission noted the efforts of the State Party to address a number of the issues raised in Decision 38COM 7B.70 including clarification of the boundaries of the property, threats from land claims and illegal land sales including development, and issues related to wildlife trade, farming, commercial plantations and illegal logging. The mission concluded that the effectiveness of the current management efforts to address a number of present and potential threats means the property does not remain at significant risk. However, the property remains under heavy pressure from current and increasing levels of tourism and pressure on the Management Authority to allow a variety of activities as well as longer and more access to the property. Little progress has been made in regards to clarification of the zoning of the property and until this is resolved and agreed further work on many of the other issues will be difficult, including the updated Management Plan for the property. Coordination with local communities, provincial authorities and with other agencies will be important to this process and in ensuring the core areas of the property and its OUV along with the overall integrity of the property, continue to be protected.

The State Party, through the Provincial authorities and in particular the current Management staff, continues to make progress on adequately addressing issues regarding management of the number of tourists, engagement with local communities, activity and land use regulations for private properties within the current boundaries and related regulations. There has been significant progress in relation to these issues since the previous PAMB and Staff of the property have been replaced with a new and proactive management including a new Protected Area Superintendent (PASu), Park Biologist and an increased number of rangers.

While the mission considers that the only substantial change in the scale or severity of the threats to the property is related to the increasing tourism pressures, including a proposal for a new jetty and information centre, the property is without doubt facing threats from land development and speculation and other issues identified in the Decision. While these do not pose a significant and direct threat to the integrity of the property engagement of the State Party at all levels (including National Authorities) in a timely manner will be needed.

The limited responsibility for management of the property at a National Level, focus on the tourism values of the property (compared to the biodiversity values for which the property was also inscribed), temporary nature of the current staff contracts and lack of funding from provincial

authorities underscores the potential for further threats to arise. Despite clear steps taken on a number of issues threatening to impact on the property the overarching issue of resources and management effectiveness remains the most important to ensure the integrity of the property and the Outstanding Universal Value for which it was inscribed.

To summarize, the mission concludes that the majority of concerns raised in Decision 38COM 7B.70 have been addressed or at a minimum progress has been made to address them and as a result positive progress has been made in regards to many of the threats to the OUV of the property. However, a number of existing issues remain, primarily in regards to the level and management of increasing tourism at the site and the planned zonation of the property.

There is a clear need for increased and secured resources for management. The mission encourages the State Party to provide greater support and attention from the highest national political level and other relevant government agencies, along with the provincial administration.

The mission considers the level of threat to the property to have decreased through the significant efforts of the current Management. The mission therefore recommends the list of recommendations below as essential issues to be addressed by the State Party in regards to the threats to the property and its OUV.

R1. In relation to the issue of the property's boundaries and zonation scheme

*Develop, finalise and submit for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN a detailed management related zoning plan for the property, to allow for the current level and extent of occupation, designate appropriate areas for tourism and to ensure core areas of habitat are identified and provided with increased levels of protection, including the definition of an appropriate buffer zone to ensure protection of the core area.*

R2. In relation to threats to the property from land claims and illegal land sales, and related illegal resort developments

*Continue to address threats from land claims, illegal land sales and illegal developments within the property and resulting threats to its Outstanding Universal Value, including by:*

- a) Developing regulations for appropriate tourism development within and adjacent to the property;*
- b) Mapping of current land ownership and use within the property to inform any approval of future land sales;*
- c) Continue and strengthen efforts to engage local people in the process, to ensure awareness of the boundaries and zones of the property and garner support for its conservation, as well as an understanding of the legal basis for current efforts and enforcement decisions;*
- d) Submit the completed SRPAO results to the Committee along with a report outlining actions taken in the case of illegal occupants and or land sales.*

R3. In relation to tourism management scheme and revised management plan

*Take urgent measures to improve the property's management effectiveness, including:*

- a) *Provide adequate and secure human and financial resources to the management authority to implement management actions;*
- b) *Strengthen cooperation and coordination with all relevant agencies and stakeholders at the provincial and national levels to contribute to the effective implementation of management actions;*
- c) *Address impacts from high intensity tourism by developing and implementing a detailed, integrated, extensive and long-term tourism management plan that includes actions to address the current impacts from high intensity tourism in the property and its vicinity;*
- d) *Advise the World Heritage Centre of plans for any expansion of existing tourism facilities including the Pier at Sabang including providing a copy of any Environmental Impact Assessment in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and in line with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessment;*
- e) *Submit to the World Heritage Centre an English version of the updated management plan for the property.*

R4. In relation to the issue of threats to the property from other (illegal) activities including wildlife trade, farming activities and commercial plantations and illegal logging and/or other illegal activities resulting in deforestation

*Enhance and strengthen inter-agency cooperation, including between provincial and national level authorities, to continue to address the issue of illegal use of resources, transportation, and land sale, including through budgetary provisions to the management authority to facilitate increased staffing, patrolling and engagement with local communities and protected area occupants to garner their support for the continued conservation of the property and its OUV.*

R5. In view of recent progress and current actions underway to address a number of the issues highlighted above, and the time frame required for implementing a number of the recommendations, the mission further recommends that the State Party be requested to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of the property , in order to provide information on overall progress made in implementing the measures and recommendations above, including management of tourism and overall management effectiveness.

## 1. BACKGROUND TO THE MISSION

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999 under criterion (vii) (superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty) and (x) (globally significant habitat for biodiversity conservation), Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) comprises an area of approximately 22,202 ha and contains a spectacular limestone karst landscape including an 8.2km long underground river. The highlight of this subterranean river system is that it flows directly into the sea, with its brackish lower half subjected to tidal influence, distinguishing it as a significant natural global phenomenon.

Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park encompasses one of the world's most impressive cave systems, featuring spectacular limestone karst landscapes, pristine natural beauty, and intact old-growth forests and distinctive wildlife. It is located in the south-western part of the Philippine Archipelago on the mid western coast of the island of Palawan, approximately 76 km northwest of Puerto Princesa and 360 km southwest of Manila. Located in the Saint Paul Mountain Range, north-west of Puerto Princesa, the capital of Palawan Province (Figure 1) the property consists of various landforms, the most impressive of which is the karst mountain landscape (Annex VI) and the 'mountain-to-sea' ecosystem it contains has some of the most important forests in Asia.

The park is home to 165 bird species, 30 mammal species, 19 reptile species, 10 amphibian species and over 800 plant species. Endemic mammals include the Palawan tree shrew, Palawan porcupine and Palawan stink badger. Dugong have been recorded in the marine component of the park. Monitor lizard and marine turtles are also present. The Palawan Peacock Pheasant has also been recorded in this site (recognized as an internationally threatened species). The subterranean fauna has not been studied in detail, but comprises fish, prawns, snakes and insects. The tunnel and chambers of the subterranean river are home to abundant populations of swiftlets and bats (eight species). Further studies are required to determine the extent and diversity of the underground fauna.

Approximately two-thirds of the site is forested, dominated by hardwood species. Three forest formations are present: lowland, karst and limestone. In the coastal area, mangroves, mossy forest, seagrass beds and coral reefs are also found. The property is home to a number of iconic species including plants and animals found on the IUCN Red List such as the Palawan Hornbill (*Anthracoceros marchei*), Philippine Cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*), Alexandrian Laurel (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), Almaciga (*Agathis philippinensis*), Blackboard Tree (*Alstonia scholaris*), Philippine Flat-headed Frog (*Barnourula busuangensis*), Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*), Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Bearcat (*Arctictis binturong*), and Palawan monitor lizard (*Varanus palawanensis*).

The World Heritage Centre and IUCN received information from a concerned party regarding a number of threats to the property. On 30 January 2014, the World Heritage Centre requested further information from the State Party on these issues. The State Party subsequently submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property on 1 April 2014. A number of the possible threats to the property identified were acknowledged as having potential to impact its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Of particular concern were the issues with land claims and illegal land sales in the property. In addition, the absence of data on deforestation and the scale



of illegal wildlife trade and hunting over the past years made it difficult to draw conclusions on the current state of conservation of the property.

The information provided by the State Party in response to the concerns also suggested that areas regarded as buffer zone by the State Party are within the boundaries of the inscribed property. Consequently, there is a lack of clarity regarding which activities are permitted inside the property and where they are permitted in regards to core habitat for biodiversity. In order to support the comprehensive resolution of these different issues, it was recommended that the State Party invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, to assess its state of conservation, clarify the boundaries of the property and buffer zone, and consider the measures needed to ensure any impacts from the above-mentioned issues and threats are avoided.

The objective of the monitoring mission was to assess progress by the State Party in the implementation of Decision 38 COM 7B.70 and support a comprehensive resolution of the issues relating to the boundary of the property and buffer zone, impacts from land claims and illegal land sales in the property, and to assess its state of conservation.

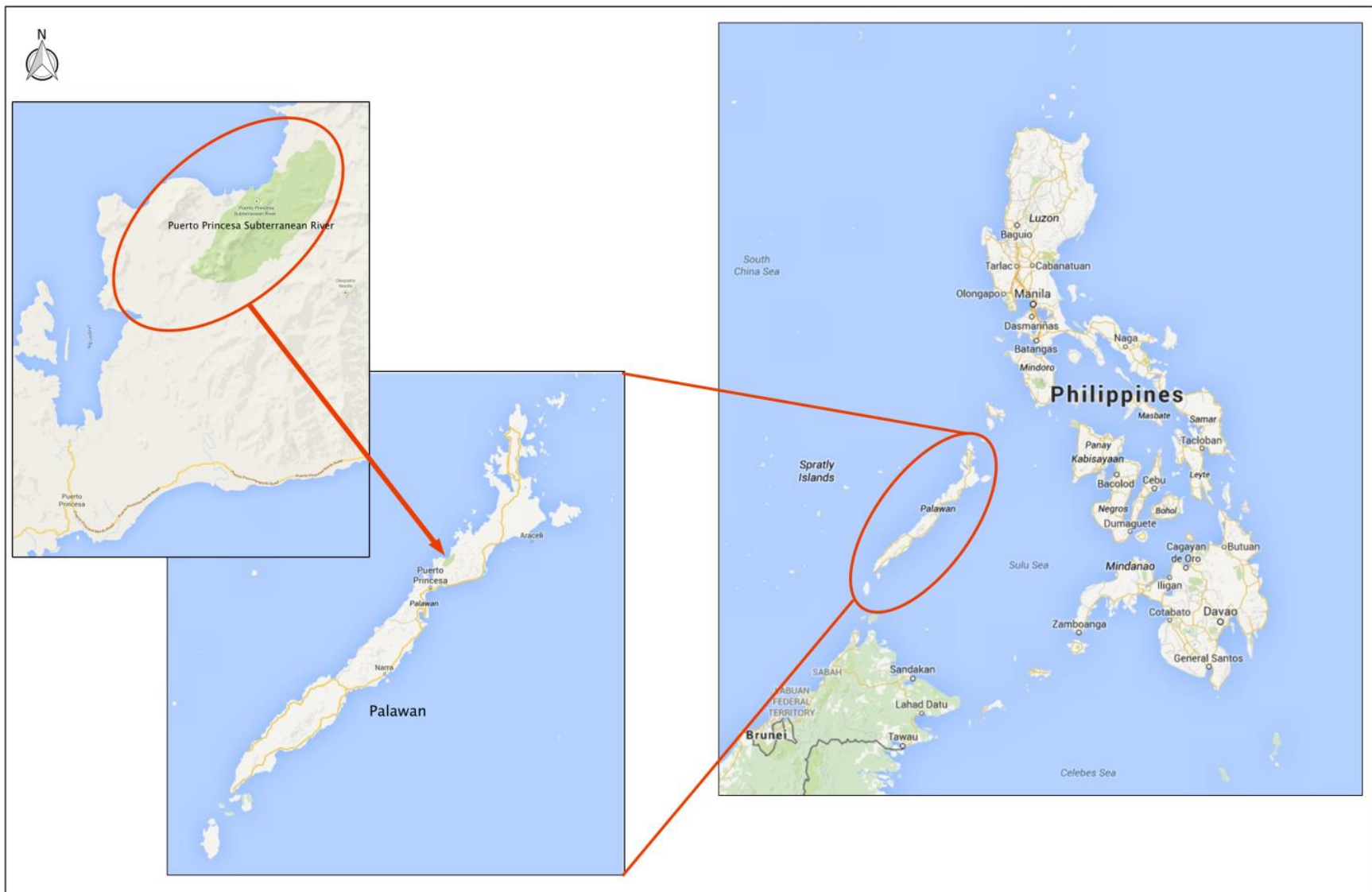
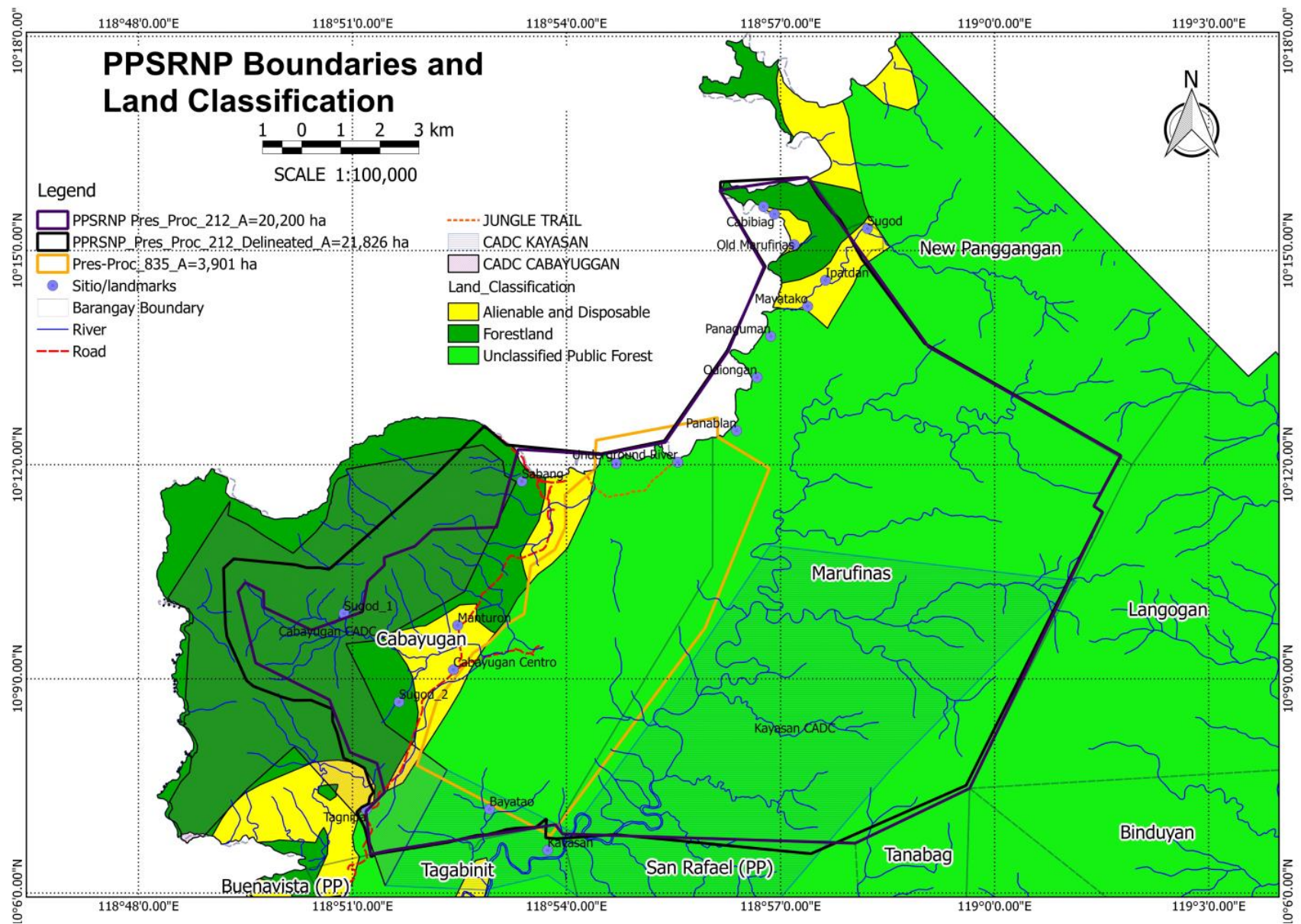


Figure 1: Location of the property (see Figure 2 for detailed map of boundaries).



**Figure 2:** Boundaries and land classification of the property.

## **2. NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTY**

### **1.1 Protected area legislation**

To maintain long-term conservation of natural resources and to keep the ecosystems in the (St. Paul) Subterranean River National Park intact, Presidential Proclamation No. 212, s. 1999 declared an area of 22,202ha under the National Integrated Protected Area System Act of 1992 (Annex VIII). The Presidential Proclamation included specific GPS co-ordinates for the nominated area. The area outlined by the Proclamation ensures complete protection for the area of the catchment of the underground river. Confirmation of the demarcation on the ground has resulted in a slightly smaller area of 21,826ha (Figure 2).

The property includes land within the boundaries of three Barangays (local administrative units; Cabayugan, Marufinas, Tagabinet) within City of Puerto Princesa. The most significant component of the property for catchment integrity of the subterranean river is in Barangay Cabayugan with important biodiversity values also found in Barangay Marufinas.

### **1.2 Institutional framework**

Responsibility for the management and the protection of the property is provided at a local, or provincial, rather than a national level through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for Devolution that places local ownership of the property, and hence management responsibility, with the City Government of Puerto Princesa. The legal owner of the property is the City Government of Puerto Princesa. While management responsibility is placed with the local authority it is also covered by the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, providing National level legal protection and conservation of the property.

The overall institutional framework for management of the property has not significantly changed since inscription of the property and the existing MoA between National Authorities and the Local Government provides the City Mayor with the full responsibility over the property. All management decisions for the property are made by the Mayor in consultation with the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), which includes representatives from relevant local authorities, communities (including those with Certificates of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC) and Protected Area Occupants), and provincial staff from national level agencies.

### **1.3 Management structure**

The property is managed by the City Government of Puerto Princesa through the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) and staff, who report to the City Government and the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). The role of the PAMB, comprised of representatives from the management agency, local communities, tourism sector and other stakeholders, is to advise on the management of the property including the implementation of the management plan and issues related to public participation in protected area management.

The Protected Area Superintendent and the members of the PAMB hold primary responsibility for reporting to the City Mayor and for implementation of the Management Plan for the property, along with other key responsibilities for the day to day management including tourism and approval of development proposals.

### **1.4 Other International designations and programmes**

Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is also an ASEAN Heritage Park and includes a RAMSAR wetland of International Importance.

### 3. IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES/THREATS

The IUCN reactive monitoring mission was invited to the property in order to assess key issues identified as having the potential to impact the OUV of the property (see Annex I for the Terms of Reference for the mission) including, but not restricted to those identified in Decision 38 COM 7B.70.

#### 3.1 The property's boundaries and zonation scheme

In 1993, at the time of the initial IUCN Technical Evaluation of the property, the evaluation recommended that while the property was suitable for World Heritage Listing the area was too small to adequately protect its underground river watershed and the important biodiversity of the property. As a result the inscription was deferred and the original 5,753ha was revised and an expanded nomination was considered, which defined a 5,753ha core zone, and a 33,000ha buffer zone under a City Resolution. The 1999 IUCN evaluation noted that some of the locations within the expanded area, as designated by the City Resolution, did not meet World Heritage criteria (eg. Ulugan Bay), and IUCN considered that the nomination was confined to the core area of the park and to the immediately adjacent Barangays of Tagabinet, Cabayugan and Marufinas. The 1999 IUCN evaluation also noted that a draft Presidential Proclamation, noting GPS coordinates, was submitted to the World Heritage Centre on 15 September 1999, and at the time IUCN recommended to the Bureau that the property *"be inscribed on the World Heritage List [...], subject to a signed Presidential Proclamation and a map of the site being available by the time of the November 1999 Bureau Meeting"*. Presidential Proclamation No. 212, s. 1999 of 12 November 1999, subsequently defined the Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park covering 22,202ha, "more or less", to include the complete watershed of the subterranean River. The area demarcated on the ground was subsequently checked, resulting in the current area of 21,826ha (Figure 2). The official World Heritage area on record at the UNESCO World Heritage Centre remains 22,202 ha.

In Decision 38COM 7B.70 the World Heritage Committee encouraged the State Party to submit a zonation plan for the property in light of issues of land sales and development in a number of areas within the final boundaries of the property, to clarify the components within the boundaries considered as buffer zone by the management authority, and in order to better address tourism management and forest conservation issues.

Maps provided during the monitoring mission outline the previous boundary submissions as well as the current boundaries (Figure 2). The overlay of the boundaries indicates the significant changes in the property in response to the recommendations of IUCN and the Committee. The map also shows the current land categories recognised within the property including the areas categorised as Alienable and Disposable, primarily those within the property that were inhabited prior to inscription and a broad definition of forest types. Additional maps also identify a number of the current land categories recognised by the management authority, most notable land classified as Alienable and Disposable (Annex VI).

While the map shows the initial boundaries (1993), subsequent boundary modifications, and current recognised boundaries, extent of land classified as Alienable and Disposable and broad forest types and cover it does not represent the zoning scheme requested in the Decision. Other maps made available to the mission (Annex V) outline additional data regarding the Certificates for Ancestral Domain Claims, proposed management zones (2002) and Environmentally Critical Areas Network Zones (Revised 2001). However, the zoning of the property is yet to be undertaken. Discussions during the mission indicate that the State Party has made little progress

on the zonation of the property and as such control of developments within the boundary and management of the property will remain difficult.

In addition to the data provided on the maps the mission was provided with an updated species list for the property (Annex VII). At the time of inscription the focus of both the evaluation and the nomination was the subterranean river and subsequent management attention has focussed on this issue. However, the biodiversity values of the area are significant and substantial and should also be the focus of management efforts.

In light of the fact that the majority of pressures on the property originate from tourism activities in key areas of the property and from developed areas within and adjacent to its current boundaries, and considering the unfavourable socio-economic status of many communities both occupying and surrounding the property, the mission suggests the State Party prioritises the development of a management zoning plan to ensure core areas of habitat are identified and provided with increased levels of protection, while ensuring that the entire property is protected against undue developments within and adjacent to its boundaries, including through the clear definition of an appropriate core area and buffer zone around the property.

The Management Board and local authorities developed a management plan for the property. However, this plan was being updated at the time of the mission with work being done by consultants. The mission met with one of these consultants to discuss issues pertaining to the management of the property. In terms of management challenges particular concerns were raised regarding the urgent need to develop a zoning plan for the property as well as the current nature of financing and annual nature of the staff contracts.

The mission encourages the State Party to expedite the zoning of the property to identify core areas of the property and determine appropriate zones for activities already being undertaken within the boundaries both in terms of tourism and local communities, including indigenous peoples. This will greatly assist in addressing issues of land sales and land use change, in order to enhance the protection of OUV.

**Recommendation R1**

*Develop, finalise and submit for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN a detailed management related zoning plan for the property, to allow for the current level and extent of occupation, designate appropriate areas for tourism and to ensure core areas of habitat are identified and provided with increased levels of protection, including the definition of an appropriate buffer zone to ensure protection of the core area.*

**3.2 Threats to the property from land claims and illegal land sales, and related illegal resort developments:**

The mission visited areas within the boundaries of the property, notably within areas currently designated as Alienable and Disposable (see Figure 2), where continued efforts are needed to tackle on-going land use changes including land sales and illegal resort development. These changes, while not strictly in contravention of the legally allowed activities within the areas currently zoned as Alienable and Disposable under provincial regulations, require increased monitoring and control as well as development of guidelines and legal guidance as such areas are contained within the boundaries of the inscribed property.

The identification of areas of the property largely occupied and used by indigenous peoples and

subject to CADC is fundamental to the zonation and management planning for the property. Resolution of land claims from prior to the Presidential Proclamation allows indigenous land owners, present at the time the National Park was proclaimed and before the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List, to remain within the boundaries of the property. While the land claims allow existing land owners to remain as occupants it does not stipulate any limits on the land use, sale or subsequent development on these lands. All proposed buildings and developments within the boundaries of the World Heritage property require approval by the PAMB. However, sale of land within the areas of the property classified as Alienable and Disposable land under Philippines land classification (see Figure 2) does not require approval from the PAMB despite any subsequent development on the land requiring this approval. The mission met with groups of local residents who indicated that while they were supportive of the World Heritage property they are concerned by potential restrictions on land sales and development of resorts or tourism.

The mission believes the PAMB should be notified of any change in land ownership within the boundaries of the property as these changes have the potential to lead to extensive development planning but also encroachment into forested areas of the property as initial land holders sell land to developers and then move further into the property to find land or conduct agricultural activities. This issue is of ongoing concern as requests for development approval within the property appear to be continuing and new construction was observed in a number of locations.

Resorts of significant size occur within the boundary in the Alienable and Disposable land around the town of Sabang. These resorts have both direct and indirect impacts through increased tourism, waste generation, increased traffic levels and resort activities. These resorts were given permission under previous Protected Area management. Given increases in tourism and interest in land sales the delay in clarifying and formalising a property zoning plan and proposing management zones is concerning. The mission noted that without clear management zones and identification of these on the ground encroachment could occur in a number of locations and impact the property. The mission was alarmed at the level of land sales within local communities to larger development and the apparent approval of these by the previous Protected Area Management Board, both within the boundaries of the property and adjacent to the property. The mission also noted the willingness and desire within local communities for increased tourist development as a potential source of income and livelihood. In addition the presence of large residences within the boundaries of the property and their on going additions, despite pending investigations of the approval process, indicates a lack of concern from investors in regards to any legal consequences. The mission visited one such private residence where construction of an infinity pool without building approval from either the City or the PAMB had been detected and continued despite instructions from the PAMB to the owner and architect. Efforts to resolve the issue of land sales are ongoing but involve a lengthy process focused on clarification of land title and ownership between the Protected Area, the indigenous communities and owners within the Alienable and Disposable area.

While the mission acknowledges that clarification of land tenure including CADC and land title is a long and complicated process that stems from issues originating from before inscription of the property, continued building and potential expansion of village areas may lead to land use change within the current boundaries. Despite requests for a zoning plan for the property no current zoning plan is available. While a commitment to zoning issues and options of zoning areas within the current boundaries continue to be discussed no progress appears to have been made on this issue.



Decision 38 COM 7B.70 noted the intention of the State Party to conduct a Survey and Registration of Protected Area Occupants (SRPAO) in order to clarify the issue of land claims and land sales in the property. The survey would subsequently allow for clarification regarding illegal occupants and on going Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC) within the boundaries of the property. The Committee requested that occupants found to be illegal be removed from the property while ensuring clear land titles for legal occupants. Significant progress towards completion of the Survey has been made. However, this work is yet to be completed and as such no final report was available to the mission. Results to date are shown in the Table below and the final report, along with the correction survey of cadastral data for the property, was expected to be completed in December 2014.

**Table 1:** Update on the Survey and Registration of Protected Area Occupants (SRPAO)

Barangay	No. of Households	Actual Occupants		Total Occupants	Farmland (ha)	Homeland (ha)
		Male	Female			
Marufinas	109	259	229	487	120.90	36.37
Canayugan	541	1,274	1,206	2,483	359.86	68.31
Tagabinet	35	83	87	170	32.75	6.65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>513.5</b>	<b>111.33</b>

The clarification of land use, linked to zoning of the property is without doubt a key issue to the ongoing conservation of the property, now that the boundaries have been finalised, and the values for which it was inscribed, especially in light of the previous land sales and development inside the property. The PAMB acknowledge the importance of this issue and expressed a commitment to developing building and resort guidelines and requirements as well as additional guidelines for related structures including signage and advertising. Similar regulations for appropriate tourism development within the property and its vicinity were also recommended in Decision 38 COM 7B.70 but are yet to be available for the review of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN.

While applications for development must be approved by the current PAMB there is concern over ongoing development plans on land sold under the previous management board within areas inside the property boundaries. It is important that the World Heritage Committee be informed of any plans to expand tourism development or tourism related infrastructure, including plans to develop a new pier and tourism centre at the port of Sabang, in line with paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*.

The mission noted the efforts of the Protected Area Superintendent and the current PAMB to address issues of land sales and illegal developments, including private residences. However, it considers that more support is required from the highest local and national political level to address this issue. Greater attention needs to be paid to improved coordination, cooperation and collaboration regarding development schemes and proposals adjacent to the property, including prosecution and follow up on existing developments. The mission makes the following recommendations to the State Party:



## **Recommendation R2**

*Continue to address threats from land claims, illegal land sales and illegal developments within the property and resulting threats to its Outstanding Universal Value, including by:*

- a) Developing regulations for appropriate tourism development within and adjacent to the property;*
- b) Mapping of current land ownership and use within the property to inform any approval of future land sales;*
- c) Continue and strengthen efforts to engage local people in the process, to ensure awareness of the boundaries and zones of the property and garner support for its conservation, as well as an understanding of the legal basis for current efforts and enforcement decisions;*
- d) Submit the completed SRPAO results to the Committee along with a report outlining actions taken in the case of illegal occupants and or land sales.*

### **3.3 Tourism management scheme and revised management plan**

#### **3.3.1 Tourism management**

The mission was provided with an opportunity to visit the key tourism areas within the property, namely the town of Sabang, the Mangrove tour and the Subterranean River and assess the management scheme for tourists to ensure tourism pressure remains within carrying capacity. The mission was able to inspect:

- The ticketing and permitting system for reservations
- The reception area for tourists and the allocation of groups to boats for transport to the River
- The current system for transporting visitors from the pier in Sabang to the River
- Tourist management system at the Subterranean River including boat operations
- Local community run activities at other sites within the property

In addition to visiting the key tourist areas, the mission had the opportunity to discuss issues of tourism management with the protected area staff stationed in Sabang. While tourism management is currently the major concern for the staff they indicated that the current system, with its revised maximum number of visitors is assisting in management of the pressures from high visitation. During the visit to the site the mission was also able to discuss a number of planned mitigation actions and issues regarding the management of impacts from the high level of tourism. These include options for encouraging tour agents to bring visitors to the property in the afternoon so that visitor numbers are not all concentrated in the morning.

The previous allowable number of guests was set at 900 per day as a maximum. Current management have indicated that as this is below the recommendation of the study conducted by Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARD) and the Forestry and Environment Research Division of the Department of Natural Resource's research on the Tourism Carrying Capacity of the PPSRNP (Summary provided in Annex VII). As such the maximum number of visitors per day has been set at a maximum of 1200, which is still below the recommended number from the study (1,400 as a maximum). A

summary of the report on the Carrying Capacity was provided to the mission (Annex VII) but not the full report.

Current Protected Area management is keen to follow the recommendations of the Tourism Carrying Capacity study and is reported to be developing a Manual of Operations for the Park with the input of various Organizations, Government and Non-Governmental Organizations. In addition monthly monitoring of the cave bat and swiftlet populations is ongoing to detect impacts from the level of tourism, including bat temporal roosting areas and abundance in relationship with visitor influx.

The mission considers that the tourism management system in place at the time of the property's declaration as one of the "New 7 Wonders of Nature" did not have the capacity to accommodate the increasing influx of tourists resulting from that declaration. It also considers that the current system remains unable to deal with the increasing number of tourists and in particular their concentration of visits in the morning. Tourism management should be further improved to avoid and mitigate negative impacts on the property. No integrated management plan for tourism appears to have been developed for the property, despite significant and annual increases in tourist numbers, which also appear to have led to an increase in general traffic on the one road that provides access to the main tourism area. The State Party feedback indicates tourism management is being included in the revised Management Plan, which was to be completed by December 2014 but no draft plan was presented to the mission. The mission recommends that a detailed and integrated tourism management plan be developed and provided to the World Heritage Centre and that stakeholders be consulted in planning and further action.

### 3.3.2 Management Plan

As part of the process to update the management plan, the mission was able to meet with one of the consultants engaged on the updating of the plan. However, no version of the updated management plan was available at the time of the mission and detailed information on the resources, including staffing and budget available to ensure long-term management effectiveness remains lacking. It also remains unclear how the issue of long-term management of tourism will be included in the new management plan.

Effective management of the property requires that the Protected Area Staff and Management Board continue to cooperate with other agencies as well as local communities and Protected Area occupants to address issues related to the intensity of tourism and other illegal activities. Cooperation with local police has increased but with a limited annual budget, determined solely by annual tourism numbers these efforts remain somewhat restricted. Park authorities have insufficient human and financial resources to effectively combat the issues impacting the property as well as managing the large number of tourists and the associated impact.

Cooperation with local communities, agencies and officials at a number of different levels, including local stakeholders needs to not only continue but also be scaled up.

Because it is directly or indirectly linked to all of the threats and issues outlined above either through a legacy from the previous management, lack of mandate to enforce existing regulations or a lack of coordination and communication between relevant authorities, ineffective management of the property is perhaps the most serious threat to the OUV of the property. While a significant improvement in management of the property appears obvious since Committee Decision 38 COM 7B.70 a lack of resources and a focus primarily on management of tourists

specifically in the context of the ticketing system and transport of visitors to the underground river, rather than overall property management, means management effectiveness remains an issue for the property.

### **Recommendation R3**

*Take urgent measures to improve the property's management effectiveness, including:*

- a) Provide adequate and secure resources including staff to the management authority to implement management actions;*
- b) Strengthen cooperation and coordination with all relevant agencies and stakeholders at the provincial and national levels to contribute to the effective implementation of management actions;*
- c) Address impacts from high intensity tourism by developing and implementing a detailed, integrated, extensive and long-term tourism management plan that includes actions to address the current impacts from high intensity tourism in the property and its vicinity;*
- d) Advise the World Heritage Centre of plans for any expansion of existing tourism facilities including the Pier at Sabang including providing a copy of any Environmental Impact Assessment in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, and in line with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessment;*
- e) Submit to the World Heritage Centre an English version of the updated management plan for the property.*

### **3.4 Threats to the property from other (illegal) activities**

The mission was asked to assess threats to the property from a number of illegal activities including wildlife trade, farming activities and plantations, and illegal logging in response to reports received of such activities within the boundaries of the property and to also assess any residual impacts from recent illegal activities that have since been addressed.

#### **3.4.1 Wildlife trade**

The reports received by IUCN and the World Heritage Centre noted, among other things, concerns about wildlife trade, including for the pet trade and for consumption, both of bush meat and traditional medicine.

The mission was able to meet with representatives from many of the communities located within the boundaries of the property and local communities from areas adjacent to its boundaries and discuss with them some of the issues believed to be impacting on the property at length, including reports of wildlife trade. None of the local community representatives the mission met with indicated wildlife trade as an issue related to the World Heritage property and a meeting with NGOs previously working in the area indicated they had no knowledge of wildlife trade in the area impacting on the biodiversity of the property.

Wildlife trade was noted as a general issue and threat across the island of Palawan and while it is noted to have a significant impact on species such as the Philippine Cockatoo and increasingly the Philippine Pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) found on the island, there were no reports indicating

it was a significant issue for the property. Despite this conservationists are expressing increasing concern for a number of species found on Palawan including the Palawan Forest Turtle (*Siebenrockiella leytensis*), which is found within the property, after an increase in the number of seizures involving this critically endangered species.

Continued commitment from the management authority and increased enforcement to address this issue is critical to the maintenance of the property's OUV. Recent activities undertaken to address the issue and detect any evidence of wildlife trade include inspection of vehicles entering and exiting the property at a designated checkpoint manned by local community members (Annex VI) employed by the Protected Area Management.

PPSRNP Rangers conduct monitoring patrols throughout the day and on all days of the week to ensure that there is no illegal wildlife trade. The new management also increased the number of park rangers from 10 to 21 including a resident park biologist and two environmental management specialists. There have been no detected incidents of illegal wildlife trade and hunting in the property since the current management assumed office.

### 3.4.2 *Farming activities and commercial plantations (particularly rubber)*

The mission was able to inspect areas of the property reportedly affected by farming and agricultural activities during the field visit. This confirmed the presence of agricultural activities within the boundary of the property. However, the areas visited were also within areas covered by a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) or land currently designated as Alienable and Disposable. As such the farming activities are not deemed illegal. However, until a clear zonation scheme for the property is developed outlining these areas and the activities allowed within them there remains little doubt that they could expand into adjacent forested areas.

One of the areas reportedly threatened by commercial plantations, Sitio Bayatao, is classified as one of the traditional and controlled zones, and includes areas occupied by Indigenous Peoples with Certificates of Ancestral Domain Claims. This area is in the area designated by the management authority as a buffer zone for the inscribed property and human activities are carried out by two indigenous groups, Tagbanua and Batak, that occupied the area prior to the inscription of the site. There are no rubber plantations inside the boundaries of the inscribed property but this again highlights the urgent need for clarity regarding the zonation of the property and clarity around areas the management authority considers the buffer zone. The reported rubber plantation was outside the property boundary and on land classified as Alienable and Disposable.

The mission noted and acknowledged the ongoing issue of land tenure, use and sales resulting from the long history of indigenous peoples and process of Certificates of Ancestral Domain Claims regarding the protected area occupants and the local communities that occupied the area prior to its designation as a national park and inscription on the World Heritage list. The mission commends the current management staff for ongoing efforts to engage and support the local communities both within and adjacent to the boundaries of the property. However, the issue of farming and agricultural use of land within the boundaries of the property as a result of occupants from prior to inscription and from land title claims, CADC and land sales can't be addressed by the management staff alone and requires cooperation from local provincial authorities and support for sustainable livelihoods along with the clarified zonation of the property.

### 3.4.3 *Illegal logging and/or other illegal activities resulting in deforestation*

Logging and tree clearing has occurred previously within the property but at fairly low levels and only in inhabited areas of the property. While reports of increased logging have been received in certain areas of the property observations of these areas and discussions with local communities indicate these activities were undertaken in areas previously cleared and used for shifting cultivation, predominantly within the buffer zone of the property or within the areas designated for occupation by local, indigenous communities with existing land rights including CADC.

Decision 38COM 7B.70 requested the State Party to take the necessary measures to address illegal logging within the boundaries of the property. The decision also requested the State Party to provide a copy of the Survey and Registration of Protected Areas Occupants (SRPAO) as part of activities to clarify land claims and land sales in the property. The process of clarifying land claims also provides a detailed understanding of the land use practices and areas where shifting agricultural practices are used both now and in the past. The Survey and Registration data collection process also allowed inspection of areas where clearing of land had been reported. The mission had detailed discussions with relevant authorities and stakeholders, including local community members living within the property boundaries, receiving clarity on the issue of agricultural activities and clearing of areas covered by CADC within the property boundaries.

The deforestation reported to have occurred included 1,490ha of forest converted to other land uses during 2002-2007. The State Party reported that this area included land predominantly in the buffer zone of the inscribed property. However, until a clear zoning plan for the property is finalised it is unclear which areas are considered buffer zones. A number of areas observed during the Mission were described by staff as buffer zones for the property and a clear, finalised map of the land use including official zoning and land classification is required before these areas can be clarified. A map outlining adjacent forest areas to the property would also allow for appropriate zoning and buffer zone designation while assisting current efforts to designate conservation areas important for biodiversity, such as Cleopatras needle (Figure 1) and forest areas adjacent to the existing property.

The Park Biologist also raised concerns over the initial reports as much of the area may also have been previously subject to shifting agricultural practices and as such was not primary forest. Through the current management's efforts to strengthen the safeguarding of the property there have already been 8 hotspots identified within the PPSRNP which the park management currently monitors for any illegal logging or clearing. This includes areas within the buffer zone and land sold under the previous management.

The mission welcomes the efforts of the management staff to work with the local communities and support alternative livelihoods and understanding of the importance of the property. This includes the activities to rehabilitate and enhance forest corridors in identified areas of the property. However, the mission remains concerned about continued private tourism development (e.g. canopy walk, land previously sold to investors, and areas fenced as private land), along with the high levels of traffic on the one road leading to the key tourist point within the property. Roads potentially impact directly on the fragile landscape and indirectly via initiation of clearing for further building and development and many other potentially threatening processes. While the mission saw no specific evidence of resort development along the main road through the property there was evidence of additional tourist developments including a canopy walk. These developments appear to be on land classified as Alienable and Disposable but without a clear

zonation scheme it will remain difficult to control further impacts.

The mission acknowledges the efforts of the State Party and in particular local park staff to work with local indigenous communities and occupants of the property to address the issue of illegal clearing of land and to raise awareness of the boundaries, land tenure and activities. A Local Community Liason officer is employed as a member of the park staff to work with occupants to encourage alternative, sustainable livelihoods and support local communities. Local communities, both within the boundaries of the property and in surrounding areas are being increasingly involved in the protection of the property through outreach programmes that raises awareness of the issue and the value of the property.

#### **Recommendation R4**

*Enhance and strengthen inter-agency cooperation, including between provincial and national level authorities, to continue to address the issue of illegal use of resources, transportation, and land sale, including through budgetary provisions to the management authority to facilitate increased staffing, patrolling and engagement with local communities and protected area occupants to garner their support for the continued conservation of the property and its OUV.*

### **3. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY**

#### **3.1 Outstanding Universal Value**

The mission affirms a number of issues highlighted as threats to the Outstanding Universal Value of the property in Decision 38COM 7B.70. These issues and the resulting impact on the OUV of the property, including the need for a clear zoning plan for the property and current effectiveness of management, despite clear and significant progress by the current Protected Area staff and Management Board, remain of some concern to the current mission and there is a need for tangible progress in addressing them.

Overall since the change in the management staff for the property the State Party has achieved progress and results in addressing some of the threats to its OUV through:

- Revision of the carrying capacity and recommended level of tourism
- Changes to the tourism management system including ticketing, boat operations, facilities for tourism, monitoring of impacts
- Increased engagement and support with local communities both within and adjacent to the property
- Increased staffing levels and monitoring of illegal activities including wildlife trade, illegal logging, developments within the property (tourism and private dwellings)
- Employment of a Protected Area Biologist with an increased focus on monitoring biodiversity
- An approach to management of the property that includes consultation with the local communities

While significant progress has been made on some of the previously identified threats, a limited amount of data from previous monitoring results in regards to specific species and biodiversity of

the property makes it difficult to measure the impacts of measures taken on the biodiversity values for which the property was inscribed.

Detailed mapping of forest cover is also now available along with an updated and somewhat expanded species list for the property to inform the decision making process around zonation of the property and also detect any impacts from the level of tourism. However, lack of earlier data on this prevents a clear assessment of current population trends for key species. Indirect impacts from threats linked to the level of tourism are now being monitored. A lack of connectivity between key habitat areas within the property has also been identified as a threat to the conservation of some species. The Management Authority is to be commended for its efforts to address this issue through the establishment of a nursery and rehabilitation of areas of forest important to ensure connectivity.

Specific issues raised by the Committee that remain a threat to the OUV of the property and where further action from the State Party is required include:

- Management planning for increasing tourism and related impacts in light of a continued increase in visitor numbers.
- Completion of the updated Management Plan for the property including a detailed zoning plan identifying core habitat areas and buffer zones.

Reports of illegal logging and commercial plantations inside the property appear to be limited to agricultural activities of resident indigenous peoples and developments outside the boundaries of the property respectively. These issues do not pose a significant threat to either the superlative beauty of the property or its biodiversity values. The efforts of the Protected Area staff, including the Protected Area Superintendent, to work with the property's residents and the local communities around the property, is to be commended. However, the imbalance between the escalating needs of the local communities and the capacity of the protected area staff to support the increasing demands of the large volume of tourists, combined with observations made throughout the mission, are tangible evidence of an ongoing threat to the property.

The State Party should increase its efforts to adequately address some of the identified issues including detailed zoning plans for the property to identify high use areas with local residents and core habitat for biodiversity, development regulations for private properties (resorts and residential) within the current boundaries and related activity regulations, land use changes within the boundaries of the property, tourism planning and effective management.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The mission considers that while significant progress has been made in regards to a number of the threats identified and others have been clarified a number of threats remain to indicate that a greater level of management control and protection for the property is required. Unless there is continued and decisive management action the property and the values for which it was inscribed, will continue to be threatened by a number of issues. The mission makes a number of recommendations (see below) regarding action required to address the issues that continue to impact on the property. The mission suggests that the State Party express clearly its willingness and commitment to implementing the recommendations, while considering them a matter of high priority.

The efforts of the State Party and in particular local staff to engage with local communities and control illegal activities within the property including land clearing and wildlife trade is to be commended given the pressure on local communities. However, these threats remain an issue and should continue to be monitored.

Construction of the new Sabang Wharf as a centre for tourism management regarding departure of tourists from Sabang to the Subterranean River entrance should only be conducted with a suitable Environmental Impact Assessment, including an assessment of the potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, in line with IUCN's World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment<sup>1</sup>, the results of which should be shared with the World Heritage Committee. Mitigation activities for the impact from any expansion or changes to the current pier should be in place and effective. However, concerns remain in regards to the potential increase in tourist levels in the property post construction, including integration into a long-term tourism management plan.

Areas found within the current boundaries of the property suffer from the impacts of high intensity tourism and utilisation by Protected Area Occupants, including previous land sales to investors and speculators. Subsequent impacts and encroachment into forested areas remains a possibility and it is the view of the mission that this should be monitored so as to detect any threat to the integrity of the property and the values for which it was inscribed.

The mission notes that the area currently under agriculture and intensive settlement existed at the time of inscription of the property. However, the issue of housing and resort developments within the boundaries and encroachment into forest areas remains and while it is not viewed as a significant threat to the integrity of the property, should be monitored. The lack of response of the previous Management staff to address this issue only emphasises the lack of previous management effectiveness and the improvement since the current management was appointed.

Progress has been made in regards to a number of the identified threats, including reports of illegal logging, assessment of Protected Area Occupants and Carrying Capacity. The mission encourages the State Party to seek greater support and attention from the highest national political levels and other relevant government agencies, along with engagement from the World Heritage Committee, in raising support to address the other identified threats to the property.

Through the State of Conservation reporting process, the State Party has provided some detail on the status of the update to the management plan and steps taken regarding tourism management. However, a long term, integrated tourism management plan is still required for the property, particularly in light of on going tourism increases.

Ensuring effective management of the property remains the single most important issue in regards to its integrity and the conservation of its OUV. While there have been a number of other issues raised as a concern by the World Heritage Committee this issue underpins the majority if the issues reported to the Committee. While there have been significant and clear improvements in the overall management a number of issues remain including the urgent need for a clear and comprehensive zoning plan, which is essential to on-going efforts to address many of the issues raised.

The view of the mission is that while a number of the identified threats to the property and its Outstanding Universal Value have been addressed or clarified, including threats to the conditions of integrity from illegal logging, commercial plantations, wildlife trade, and resort development, a

---

1

[https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn\\_advice\\_note\\_environmental\\_assessment\\_18\\_11\\_13\\_iucn\\_template.pdf](https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_advice_note_environmental_assessment_18_11_13_iucn_template.pdf)



number of issues remain a threat to the property. In particular the lack of a clear zonation scheme for the property, guidelines for development and building (commercial or private), enforcement of existing regulations, consistently high tourism levels and staff uncertainty remain a threat. The mission considers that the State Party should be requested to prioritise actions to address the remaining threats to the property. The mission considers the list of recommendations below as essential issues to be addressed by the State Party in regards to the threats to the property and its Outstanding Universal Value:

R1. In relation to the issue of the property's boundaries and zonation scheme

*Develop, finalise and submit for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN a detailed management related zoning plan for the property, to allow for the current level and extent of occupation, designate appropriate areas for tourism and to ensure core areas of habitat are identified and provided with increased levels of protection, including the definition of an appropriate buffer zone to ensure protection of the core area.*

R2. In relation to threats to the property from land claims and illegal land sales, and related illegal resort developments

*Continue to address threats from land claims, illegal land sales and illegal developments within the property and resulting threats to its Outstanding Universal Value, including by:*

- e) Developing regulations for appropriate tourism development within and adjacent to the property;*
- f) Mapping of current land ownership and use within the property to inform any approval of future land sales;*
- g) Continue and strengthen efforts to engage local people in the process, to ensure awareness of the boundaries and zones of the property and garner support for its conservation, as well as an understanding of the legal basis for current efforts and enforcement decisions;*
- h) Submit the completed SRPAO results to the Committee along with a report outlining actions taken in the case of illegal occupants and or land sales.*

R3. In relation to tourism management scheme and revised management plan

*Take urgent measures to improve the property's management effectiveness, including:*

- a) Provide adequate and secure resources including staff to the management authority to implement management actions;*
- b) Strengthen cooperation and coordination with all relevant agencies and stakeholders at the provincial and national levels to contribute to the effective implementation of management actions;*
- c) Address impacts from high intensity tourism by developing and implementing a detailed, integrated, extensive and long-term tourism management plan that includes actions to address the current impacts from high intensity tourism in the property and its vicinity;*
- d) Advise the World Heritage Centre of plans for any expansion of existing tourism facilities including the Pier at Sabang including providing a copy of any Environmental*

*Impact Assessment in accordance with paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines and in line with IUCN's World Heritage advice note on Environmental Assessment;*

- e) *Submit to the World Heritage Centre an English version of the updated management plan for the property.*

R4. In relation to the issue of threats to the property from other (illegal) activities including wildlife trade, farming activities and commercial plantations and illegal logging and/or other illegal activities resulting in deforestation

*Enhance and strengthen inter-agency cooperation, including between provincial and national level authorities, to continue to address the issue of illegal use of resources, transportation, and land sale, including through budgetary provisions to the management authority to facilitate increased staffing, patrolling and engagement with local communities and protected area occupants to garner their support for the continued conservation of the property and its OUV.*

R5. In view of recent progress and current actions underway to address a number of the issues highlighted above, and the time frame required for implementing a number of the recommendations, the mission further recommends that the State Party be requested to submit a report to the World Heritage Centre on the state of conservation of the property , in order to provide information on overall progress made in implementing the measures and recommendations above, including management of tourism and overall management effectiveness.

## **ANNEXES**

### **Annex I – Terms of Reference**

### **Annex II – World Heritage Committee Decision, 38 COM 7B.70**

### **Annex III – Mission itinerary and programme**

### **Annex IV – List and contact details of people met**

### **Annex V – Additional maps of the property**

- a) Property boundaries showing final and previous boundaries
- b) Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC)
- c) Proposed Management Zones - 2002
- d) Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) Zones

### **Annex VI – Photographs**

### **Annex VII – Other supporting documents**

- a) Example of New Card System for tourists
- b) Summary of Tourism Carrying Capacity Study
- c) Updated Species List
- d) Presidential Proclamation 212 of 1999

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### IUCN Reactive Monitoring Mission Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park – The Philippines

**1-10 December 2014**

At its 38th session, the World Heritage Committee requested the State Party of the Philippines to invite a reactive monitoring mission to Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park World Heritage Site, to be conducted by IUCN (Decision **38 COM 7B.70**). The objective of the monitoring mission is to support a comprehensive resolution of the issues relating to the boundary of the property and buffer zone, impacts from land claims and illegal land sales in the property, and to assess its state of conservation. The mission will be led by Naomi Doak, representing IUCN.

In particular, the mission should undertake the following:

- 1 Examine the property's boundaries and zonation scheme, to clarify if any activities that are incompatible with its Outstanding Universal Value are (or may be) occurring inside the property;
- 2 Assess threats to the property from land claims and illegal land sales, and related illegal resort developments;
- 3 Assess the current status of threats to the property from other (illegal) activities, including but not limited to those listed below, and also assess any residual impacts from recent illegal activities that have since been addressed:
  - 3.1 Wildlife trade (for pets and for consumption, including bush meat and traditional medicine);
  - 3.2 Farming activities;
  - 3.3 Commercial plantations (particularly rubber);
  - 3.4 Illegal logging and/or other illegal activities resulting in deforestation;
- 4 Assess the tourism management scheme in place for the property to ensure tourism pressure remains within carrying capacity;

The State Party should facilitate necessary field visits to key locations. In order to enable preparation for the mission, it would be appreciated if the following items could be provided to the World Heritage Centre (copied to IUCN) as soon as possible and preferably no later than 1 month prior to the mission:

- a) The (draft) revised management plan for the property;
- b) Clear, high resolution maps of the property's boundaries, including its zonation;
- c) Updated data on deforestation and wildlife trade, covering a period of at least the last three years;
- d) The full report of the study on the Tourism Carrying Capacity of the Puerto-Princesa Subterranean River National Park, conducted by Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARD) and the Forestry and Environment Research Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- e) The report of the Survey and Registration of Protected Areas Occupants (SRPAO);

The mission should also hold consultations with the Philippine authorities at national, provincial and municipal levels. In addition, the mission should hold consultation with a range of relevant stakeholders, including i) researchers; ii) NGOs; iii) representatives of local communities; and iv) representatives of the tourism industry.

Based on the results of the above-mentioned assessments and discussions with the State Party representatives and stakeholders, the mission will develop recommendations to the Government of the Philippines and the World Heritage Committee with the objective of providing guidance to the State Party for actions to be taken to address identified threats to the property, and to improve the conservation of its Outstanding Universal Value. It should be noted that recommendations will be provided within the mission report (see below), and not during the mission implementation.

The mission will prepare a concise report on the findings and recommendations within six weeks following the site visit, following the World Heritage Centre reactive monitoring mission report format.

**Decision: 38 COM 7B.70**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/7B.Add,
2. Recalling Decision **23 COM VIII.A.1**, adopted at its 23rd session (Marrakesh, 1999),
3. Notes with appreciation the State Party's commitment to the protection and conservation of the property, and commends the efforts undertaken by the new park administration to regulate tourism and control illegal activities;
4. Notes the State Party's intention to carry out a Survey and Registration of Protected Areas Occupants (SRPAO) to clarify the issue of land claims and land sales in the property, and requests the State Party to take appropriate measures to remove illegal occupants from the property, while ensuring clear land titles for those occupants that are considered legal;
5. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, an electronic and three printed copies of the draft revised management plan of the property, including a clear zoning scheme and regulations for appropriate tourism development within the property and its vicinity, for review by the World Heritage Centre and IUCN;
6. Further requests the State Party to invite an IUCN reactive monitoring mission to the property, in order to support a comprehensive resolution of the issues relating to the boundary of the property and buffer zone, impacts from the land claims and illegal land sales in the property, and to assess its state of conservation and consider the measures needed to ensure any impacts from the above-mentioned issues and threats are avoided, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015;
7. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2015**, a report, including a 1-page executive summary, on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above recommendations, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th session in 2016.

# Annex III – Mission itinerary and programme

## Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP)

2014 Reactive Monitoring Mission

30 November to 07 December 2014


IUCN Representative: **Naomi Doak**

PPSRNP Representative: **Elizabeth Maclang**

UNESCO NatCom: **Eric Zerrudo /Adriann J. Caldozo**

Date/Time	Activity	Location
30 November		
	Arrival in Puerto Princesa City	
2 PM	Meeting with PAMB	Circon Hotel, Puerto Princesa
6:20 PM	Meeting with the Mayor of Puerto Princesa	City Hall – Mayors office
1 December		
	Depart for PPSRNP	Depart from Puerto Princessa
	Field Visit	Jungle Trail and Mangrove Paddle Boat (Sabang) <i>Overnight at the Central Park Station</i>
	Field Visit	*PPUR
2 December		
	Field Visit	*Panaguman,Brgy. (Marufinas) *Sentro/Upper Marufinas <i>Overnight at the Central Park Station</i>
3 December		
	Field Visit	*AM-Bayatao (Tagabinet)  *PM-Manturon, Forest Corridor (Cabayugan)  <i>Overnight in Daluyon Beach and Mountain Resort and Spa</i>
4 December		
AM 1PM PM	Travel to PP City Meeting with NGOs Exit Meeting with PAMB World Heritage Night Thanksgiving Gala	City Hall Conference Room    Puerto Princesa City
5 December		
AM	Departure to Manila	Manila Airport
PM	Debrief Meeting with National Agencies Departure from Manila	PH UNESCO Nat Com Office, Department of Foreign Affairs

**Annex IV - List and details of people met**  
List of participants from individual meetings



Republic of the Philippines


**PUERTO PRINCESA SUBTERRANEAN RIVER NATIONAL PARK**

**Protected Area Management Board**

Puerto Princesa City

**PAMB Meeting**

**ATTENDANCE**



**PAMB**  
Members

Date : November 30, 2014; 2:00 PM  
Venue: CIRCON HOTEL, Valencia Street, Puerto Princesa City

NAME	DESIGNATION/OFFICE	SIGNATURE
1. <i>Marcelita D. Leticia</i>	<i>P/B Bay Area Pangasinan</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
2. <i>BETHANE S. MANILA</i>	<i>Director PCCAS</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
3. <i>Teresita C. Austria</i>	<i>PO Rep/SEMPAC - chairperson</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
4. <i>Jeanne G. Tabangay</i>	<i>Program Manager / CI-Phila</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
5. <i>AZULINA E. Gamutia</i>	<i>DENR DENRO</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
6. <i>CRISTOP V. CONA</i>	<i>P/B MARUPINKS</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
7. <i>ARSENIO P. PABOTANG Sr.</i>	<i>IP REF. Bldg. MARUPINKS</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
8. <i>Tutu B. Almonte</i>	<i>Aidy. City ENRO / City ENRO</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
9. <i>NORMA V Francia</i>	<i>IP REF. Cabayugan Cade</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
10. <i>ED B. AHORRO</i>	<i>CTC (PDO)</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
11. <i>Jansen I. Jontib</i>	<i>Legal officer / ELAC</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
12. <i>AUREN CYNTHIA M. Amurto</i>	<i>City Tourism DEPT.</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
13. <i>Emer D. Garraez</i>	<i>OIC-CENRO / DENR</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
14. <i>Fernando, Allen</i>	<i>CCPRC</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
15. <i>ERIC VERRERO</i>	<i>UNESCO - PHILS.</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
16. <i>NAOMI DOAK</i>	<i>UNW W.H. advisor</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
17. <i>Ronelito C. Carbay</i>	<i>PDEC</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
18. <i>Emigeth A. Macatangay</i>	<i>Board Secretary</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
19. <i>Jan Elmer Badilla</i>	<i>PAMB Secretariat</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
20. <i>ANCHOUY BARRIOS</i>	<i>PAMB Secretariat</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
21. <i>BRIAN A. ANAS</i>	<i>PAMB Secretariat</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
22.		
23.		
24.		
25.		



## EXIT MEETING with IUCN-WORLD HERITAGE MISSION

Venue: Marianne Hotel

Bgy. Bancao-bancao, Puerto Princesa City

Date: December 4, 2014

[illegible]



## **Philippines National Commission for UNESCO**





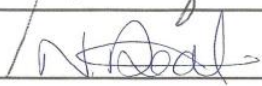

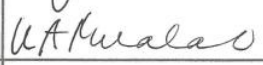
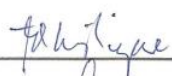
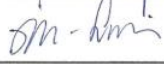

**Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park  
Debriefing Meeting with National Agencies  
Philippines National Commission for UNESCO Office  
G/F, DFA Building, Roxas Boulevard  
2:00 PM, 5 December 2014**

### **Provisional Agenda**

1. Brief Introduction of Attendees
2. Summary of Mission (c/o PPSRNP)
3. Recall of the Rationale for the Reactive Monitoring Mission of IUCN to Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (C/O IUCN)
4. Initial Impressions and Recommendations of Expert (c/o IUCN)
5. Response from the National Agencies ( DOT, PCAARD, PH NatCom)
6. Other Matters

**Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park  
Debriefing Meeting with National Agencies  
Philippines National Commission for UNESCO  
G/F, DFA Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City  
05 December 2014**

**Attendance Sheet**

NAME	SIGNATURE
ATTY. MINERVA ALDABA MORADA	
Carmela A. Pantaleon	
ANDREW A. EVANGELISTA	
ELIZABETH A. MACIANG	
NAOMI DOAK NCN	
Adriann Galindo	
Freddie Gay Blanes	
Virginia A. Mualas	
Eric Zerrudo	
Tommy Plastique	
THERESA MURDITA S. LIM	
ERIC ZERRUDO	

**Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park  
Debriefing Meeting with National Agencies  
5 December 2014**

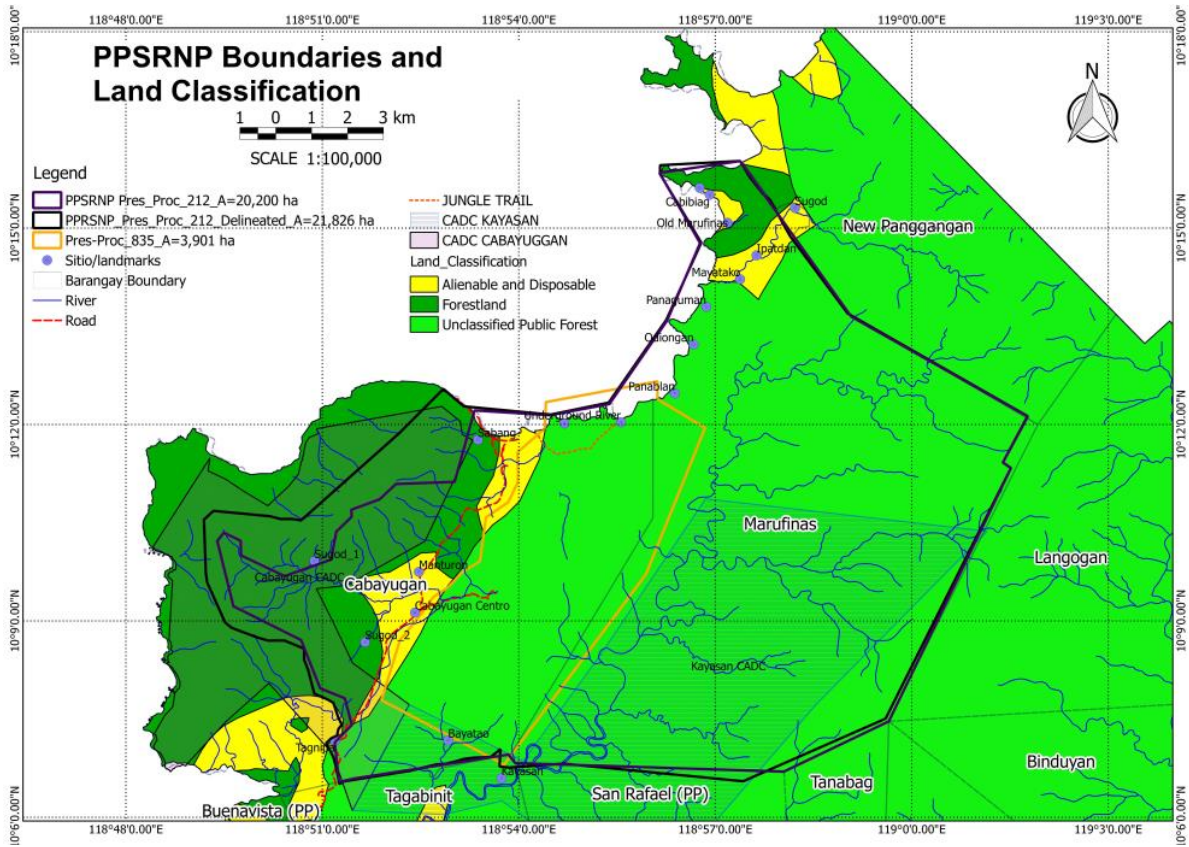
**Attendance Sheet**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Atty. Minerva Aldaba Morada	Director for Region IV-B	Department of Tourism
Ms. Carmela A. Pantaleon	Executive Assistant	
Mr. Andrew A. Evangelista	Science Research Specialist	Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development
Ms. Naomi Doak		International Union for the Conservation of Nature
Dr. Theresa Mundita-Lim	Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Ms. Teresita Blastique	In-charge, Resources Assessment Section of BMB	
Ms. Elizabeth Maclang	Protected Area Superintendent	Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
Prof. Eric Zerrudo	Commissioner	Philippines National Commission for UNESCO
Dr. Virginia Miralao	Secretary-General	
Mr. Freddie Gay Blanco	Programme officer for Science	
Mr. Adriann Caldozo	Programme Officer for Culture	

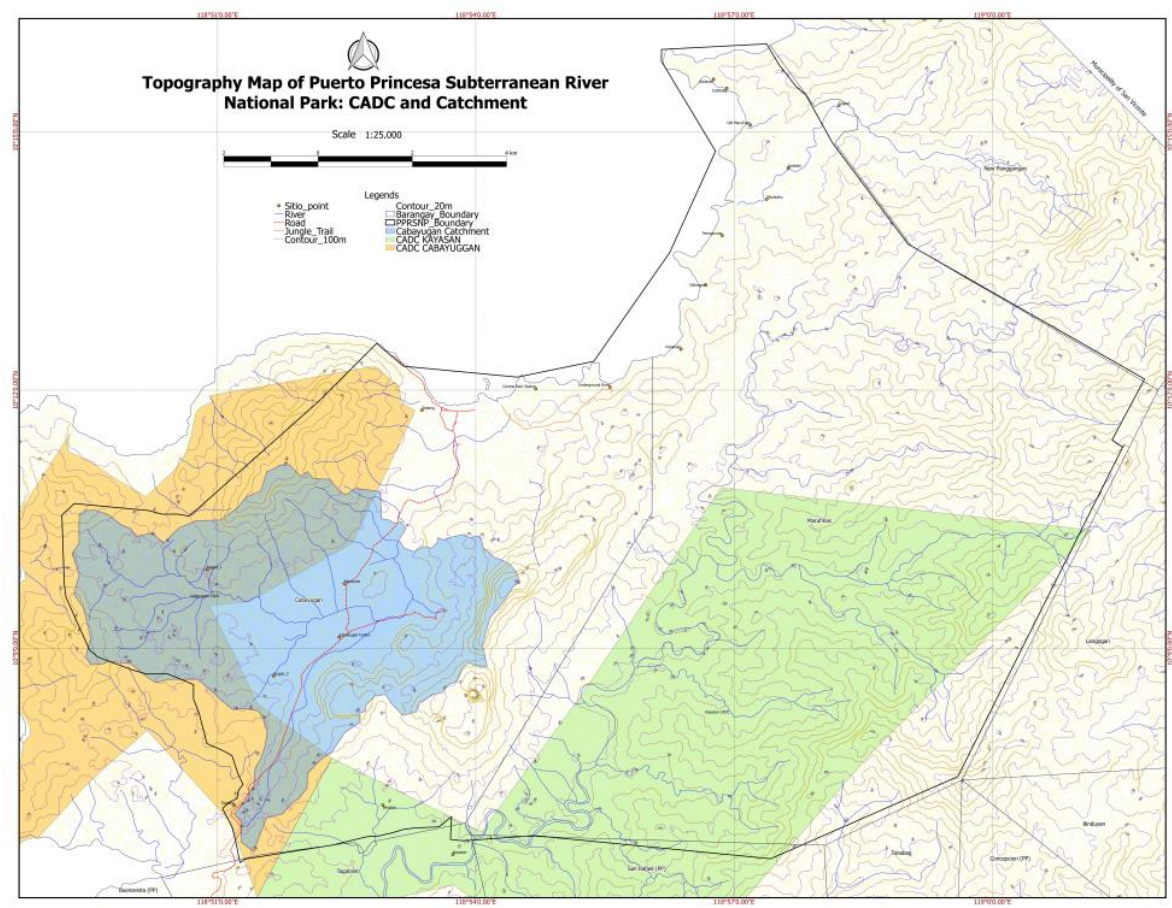


Annex V – Additional maps of the property

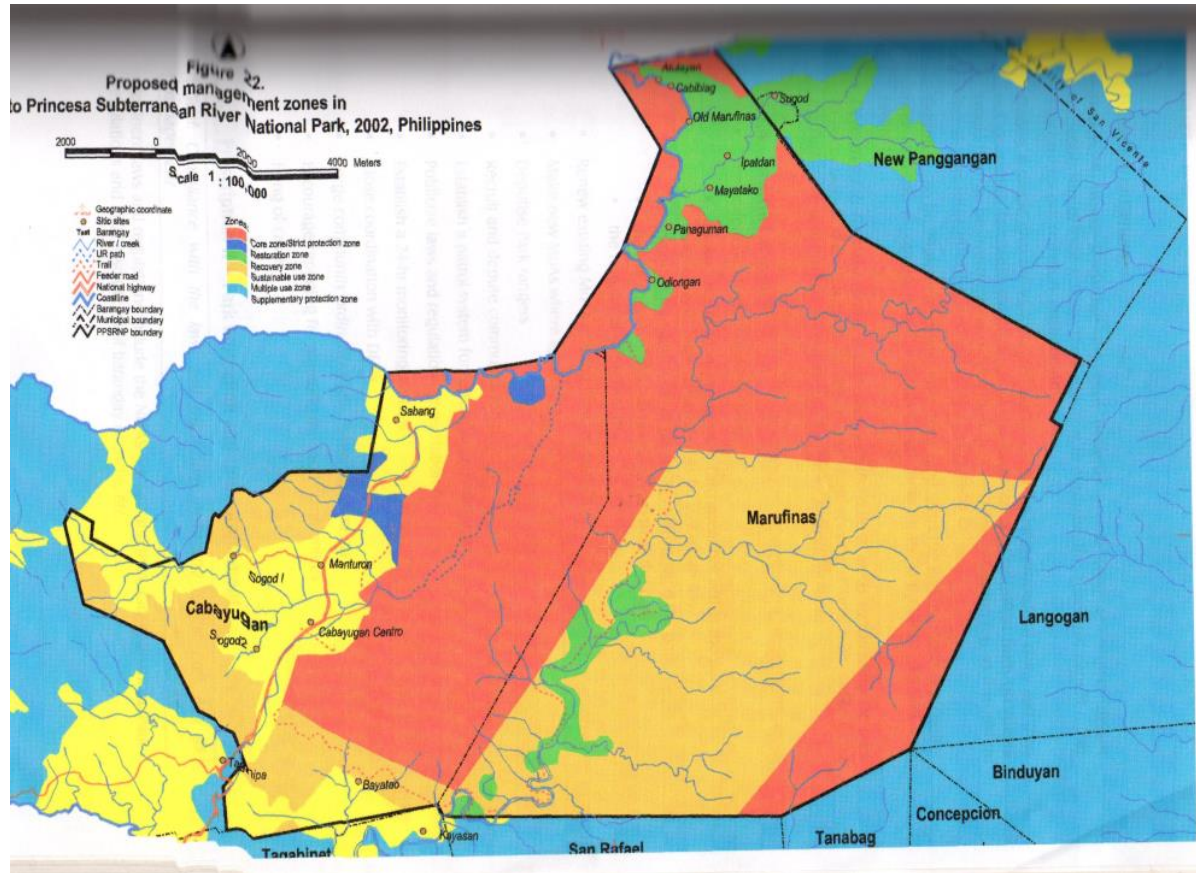
a) Property boundaries showing final and previous boundaries



b) Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC)

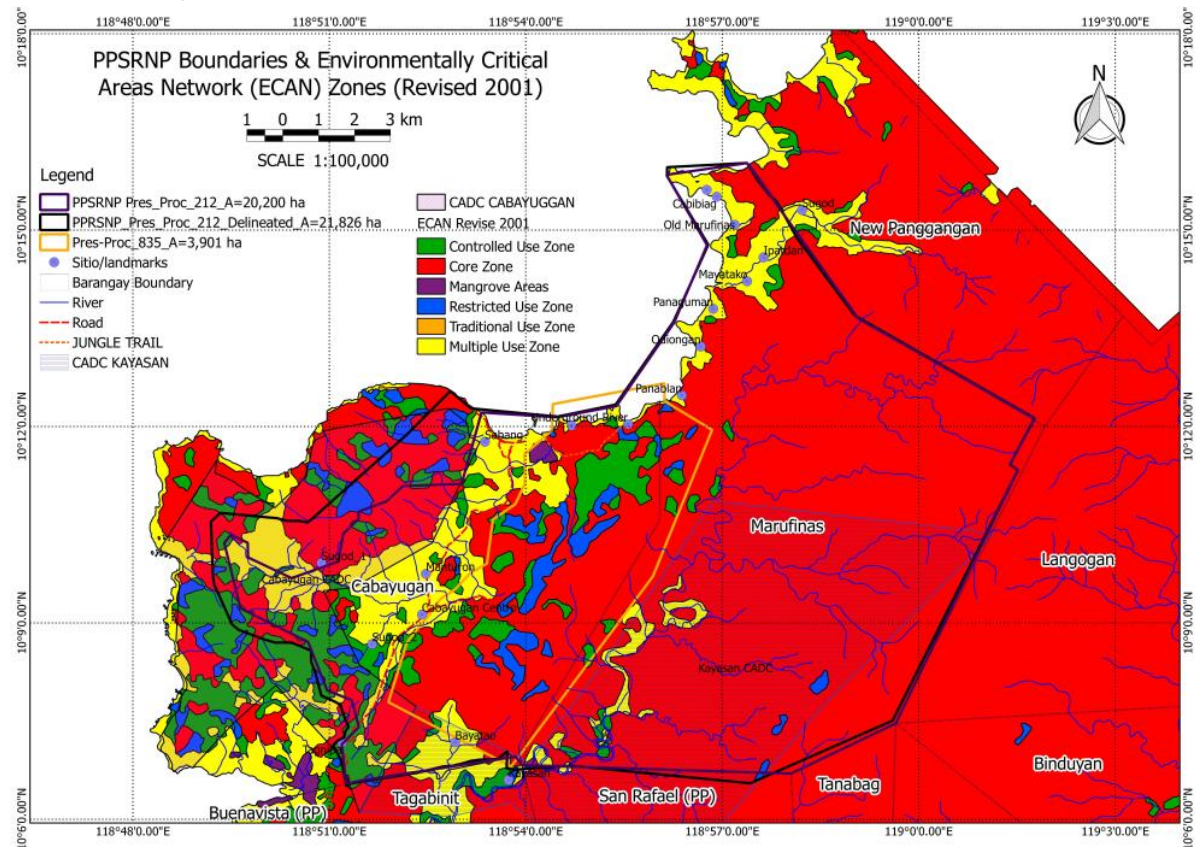


c) Proposed Management Zones - 2002





d) Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) Zones





## Annex VI – Photographs



Figure VI.1: Limestone formations at the beach in front of the Subterranean River.



Figure VI.2: Limestone formations with the property.



Figure VI.3: Inspection station at vehicle checkpoint.



Figure VI.4: Vehicle checkpoint.





Figure VI.5: Removal of rubbish from the property.



Figure VI.6: Current Sabang Wharf and ticket office.



Figure VI.7: PAMB meeting with the mission at the start of the mission.



Figure VI.8: Proposed Sabang Wharf redevelopment.





Figure VI.9:



Figure VI.10:



Figure VI.11: One of the species of bats inhabiting the cave system.



Figure VI.12: Formations within the cave system of the Subterranean River.





Figure VI.13: Formations within the cave system of the Subterranean River.

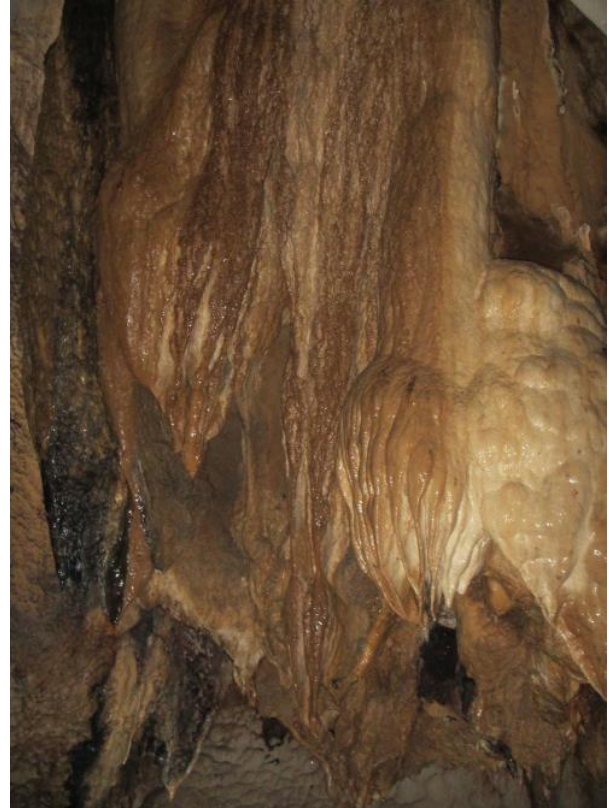


Figure VI.14: Formations within the cave system of the Subterranean River.



Figure VI.15: Formations within the cave system of the Subterranean River.



Figure VI.16: Boats used to shuttle visitors from Sabang Wharf to the Subterranean River.



Figure VI.17: Boats at the entry to the Subterranean River.



Figure VI.18: Private residence development within the boundaries of the Property.



Figure VI.19: Infinity Pool at a private residence.





Figure VI.20: Meeting with local communities.



Figure VI.21: Roadside sign regarding the Canopy walk development.



Figure VI.22: Advertisement for resort activities.



Figure VI.23: Clearing of land within the property for agriculture (within the Alienable and Disposable land classification).

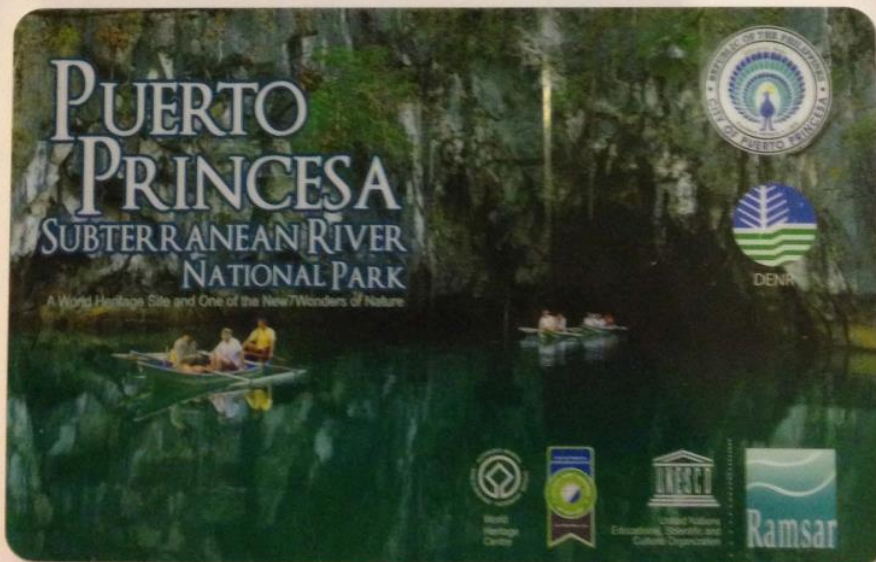
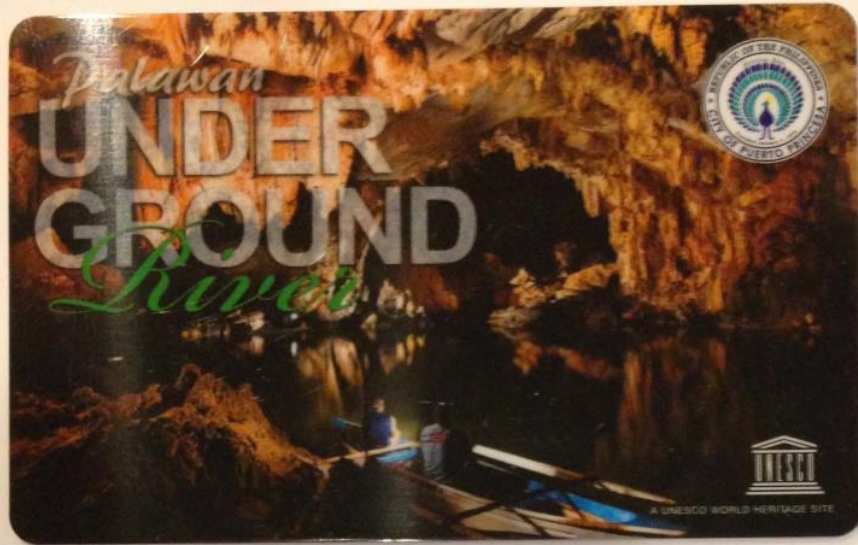


Annex VII – Other supporting documents

a) Example of new card system for tourists

Annex VII

a) - Example of new card system for tourists





NAOMI, DOAK

AUSTRALIAN

IUCN

Contact No.: 03-54487108

e-mail add: nomes06@gmail.com

Valid Thru: Invalid Card

Thank You for Visiting Puerto Princesa City  
from Mayor Lucilo R. Bayron

This permit allows the bearer to tour the  
Underground River only on the date indicated on this permit.

NAOMI, DOAK

AUSTRALIAN

IUCN


Contact No.: 03-54487108

e-mail add: nomes06@gmail.com

Valid Thru: Invalid Card

Thank You for Visiting Puerto Princesa City  
from Mayor Lucilo R. Bayron


**Visitors**



The number of visitors in PPSRNP is projected to increase five times by 2020 (or 2,110 visitors per day); hence, its carrying capacity needs to be adjusted. The following management strategies can be considered by the PPSRNP management board or PAMB in effectively managing the flow of visitors in the park:


1. Adopt LAC1 and/or LAC4 models as they promote the three basic principles in sustainable tourism: (a) environmental friendliness; (b) community's acceptability; and (c) visitors' satisfaction. LAC2 and LAC3 only address one management objective, i.e., biodiversity conservation.
2. Revisit the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) resolution that sets the maximum number of visitors to only 600 per day. This can be increased, more or less, to 1,400 visitors, following the computation in LAC1. Adopting LAC1 though would require the following:
  - increasing the anchorage in the holding area to allow more boats;
  - re-designing of boats to accommodate more passengers;
  - increase the number of tour guides; and
  - promote monkey tour and paddle boating, while visitors are waiting for their turn to cruise the river.

**Boats**




Two types of boat used by the Park Authorities in river cruising.

**Subterranean River**




The mouth of the subterranean river.

**Sabang Port**

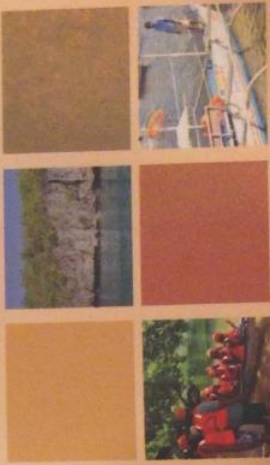


Visitors from Sabang port on their way to the PPSRNP loading area.

Information Bulletin No. 39/2013



**Tourism Carrying Capacity of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park**



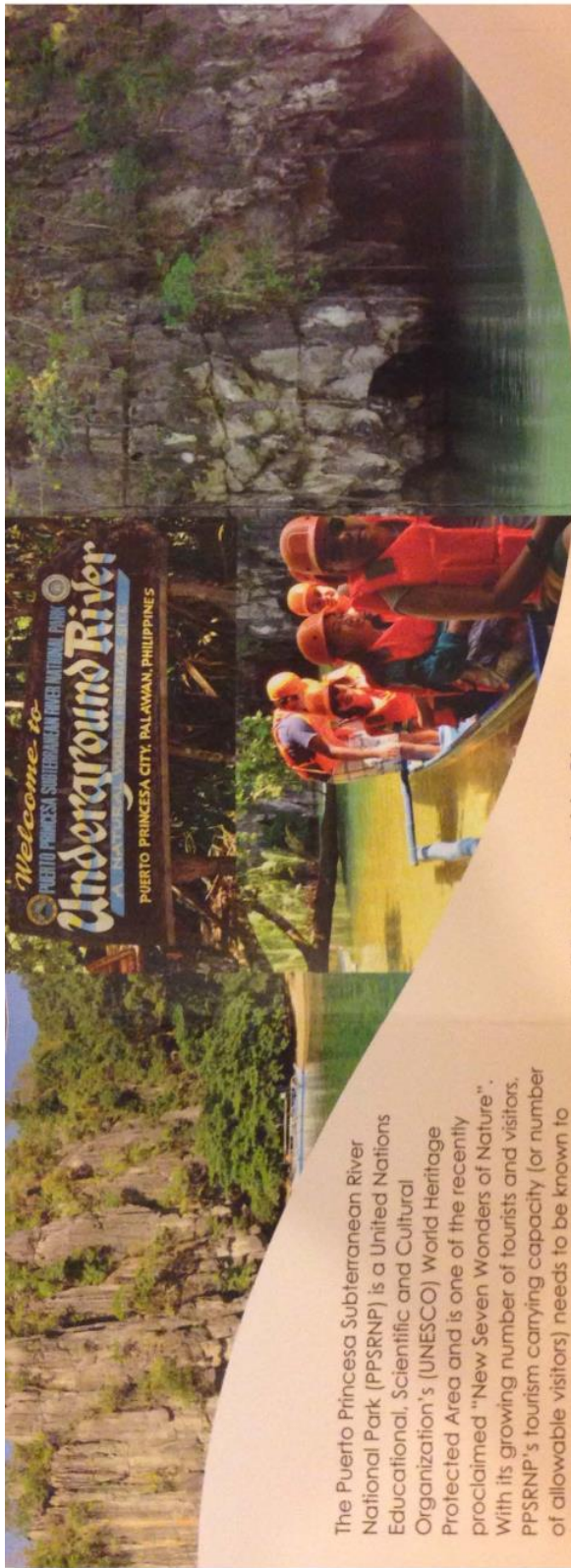
**Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)**  
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

For more information, please contact:

**Dr. Lope A. Colanag**  
Supervising Science Research Specialist  
Chief, Community Forestry Section  
Upland Forests Ecosystems Division  
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau  
College, Laguna

**Dr. Patricia S. Taylon**  
Executive Director  
PCAARRD, Los Baños, Laguna  
Tel. Nos.: (63) (049) 534-0014, 534-1956, 534-2005;  
534-2883, 534-9707, 534-6980, 534-7927  
Fax Nos.: (63) (049) 534-0016, 534-7922  
Email: pccard@pccard.dost.gov.ph  
Website: <http://www.pccard.dost.gov.ph>





The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Protected Area and is one of the recently proclaimed "New Seven Wonders of Nature". With its growing number of tourists and visitors, PPSRNP's tourism carrying capacity (or number of allowable visitors) needs to be known to guide the design and implementation of relevant strategies that will preserve its natural beauty and maintain its ecological integrity.

The project on Tourism Carrying Capacity of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park is funded by PCAARRD and monitored by the Forestry and Environment Research Division as part of its initiative on ecotourism and biodiversity conservation.



### Limit to Acceptable Change

The Limit of Acceptable Change (LAC) theory, specifically the distance of boats from one another during cruise, and the Bouillon's mathematical model were used in computing PPSRNP's tourism carrying capacity. Based from the 181 randomly selected visitors interviewed and the discussion with PPSRNP management authorities, the following carrying capacities were derived:

*Computed number of visitors that can be accommodated at different carrying capacity levels and LAC options.*

Carrying Capacity Levels	LAC1 (1.5m distance = 56 boats) Visitors' recommendation	LAC2 (100m distance = 11 boats) PASU preference	LAC3 (42.5m distance = 24 boats) Computed option	LAC4 (30m distance = 33 boats) Compromised option
Carrying Capacity	448	88	192	264
Potential Carrying Capacity	3,584	704	1,536	2,112
Real Carrying Capacity	1,400	18	34	342

c) List of species (updated)

Order	Family	Scientific Name	Common Name
SORICOMORPHA	Soricidae	<i>Crocidura batakorum</i>	
SORICOMORPHA	Soricidae	<i>Crocidura palawanensis</i>	
SORICOMORPHA	Soricidae	<i>Suncus murinus</i>	House shrew
SORICOMORPHA	Soricidae	<i>Crucidura fuliginosa</i>	
SCANDENTIA	Tupaiaidae	<i>Tupaia palawanensis</i>	Palawan Treeshrew
CHIROPTERA	Pteropodidae	<i>Acerodon leucotis</i>	Palawan Flying Fox
CHIROPTERA	Pteropodidae	<i>Cynopterus brachyotis</i>	Lesser Dog-faced Fruit Bat
CHIROPTERA	Pteropodidae	<i>Eonycteris spelaea</i>	Dawn Bat
CHIROPTERA	Pteropodidae	<i>Macroglossus minimus</i>	Dagger-toothed Long-nosed Fru
CHIROPTERA	Pteropodidae	<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Pteropodidae	<i>Rousettus amplexicaudatus</i>	Geoffroy's Rousette
CHIROPTERA	Emballonuridae	<i>Emballonura alecto</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Emballonuridae	<i>Saccolaimus saccolaimus</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Emballonuridae	<i>Taphozous melanopogon</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Megadermatidae	<i>Megaderma spasma</i>	Lesser False Vampire
CHIROPTERA	Hipposideridae	<i>Hipposideros ater</i>	Dusky Leaf-nosed Bat
CHIROPTERA	Hipposideridae	<i>Hipposideros diadema</i>	Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat
CHIROPTERA	Rhinolophidae	<i>Rhinolophus acuminatus</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Rhinolophidae	<i>Rhinolophus arcuatus</i>	Arcuate Horseshoe Bat
CHIROPTERA	Rhinolophidae	<i>Rhinolophus borneensis</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Rhinolophidae	<i>Rhinolophus creaghi</i>	Creagh's Horseshoe Bat
CHIROPTERA	Rhinolophidae	<i>Rhinolophus macrotis</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Rhinolophidae	<i>Rhinolophus virgo</i>	Yellow-faced Horseshoe Bat
CHIROPTERA	Rhinolophidae	<i>Rhinolophus inops</i>	Philippine Forest Horseshoe Bat
CHIROPTERA	Rhinolophidae	<i>Rhinolophus subrufus</i>	Small Rufous Horseshoe Bat
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Glischropus tylopus</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Harpiocephalus harpia</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Kerivoula hardwickii</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Kerivoula pellucida</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Kerivoula whiteheadi</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little Long-fingered Bat
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Miniopterus schreibersii</i>	Schreiber's Bent-winged Bat
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Miniopterus tristis</i>	Great Long-fingered Bat
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Murina cyclotis</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Murina suilla</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Myotis horsfieldii</i>	Horsfield's Myotis
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Myotis macrotarsus</i>	Pallid Large-footed Myotis
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Myotis muricola</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Myotis rufopictus</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Pipistrellus javanicus</i>	Javan Pipistrelle
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Scotophilus kuhlii</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Tylonycteris pachypus</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Vespertilionidae	<i>Tylonycteris robustula</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Molossidae	<i>Cheiromeles torquatus</i>	
CHIROPTERA	Molossidae	<i>Mops sarasinorum</i>	
PRIMATES	Cercopithecidae	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Crab-eating Macaque
PHOLIDOTA	Manidae	<i>Manis culionensis</i>	Philippine Pangolin
RODENTIA	Sciuridae	<i>Hylopetes nigripes</i>	Palawan Flying Squirrel
		<i>Sundasciurus juvencus</i>	Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel

CARNIVORA	Muridae	<i>Sundasciurus rabori</i>	
		<i>Sundasciurus steeri</i>	
		<i>Chiropodomys calamianensis</i>	
		<i>Haeromys pusillus</i>	
		<i>Maxomys panglima</i>	Palawan Maxomys
		<i>Mus musculus</i>	House Mouse
		<i>Palawanomys furvus</i>	
		<i>Rattus exulans</i>	
		<i>Rattus tanezumi</i>	
		<i>Rattus tiomanicus</i>	<i>Rattus tiomanicus</i>
	Hystricidae	<i>Sundamys muelleri</i>	Müller's Sundamys
		<i>Hystrix pumila</i>	Phillipine Porcupine
		<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	Leopard Cat
		<i>Aonyx cinerea</i>	Asian Small-clawed Otter
		<i>Mydaus marchei</i>	Palawan Stink-badger
		<i>Herpestes brachyurus</i>	
		<i>Arctictis binturong</i>	Binturong
		<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	Common Palm Civet
ARTIODACTYLA	Suidae	<i>Viverra zangalla</i>	Malay Civet
		<i>Sus ahoenobarbus</i>	Palawan Bearded Pig

38 Species were recorded  
10 palawan endemic  
1 endangered  
5 Vulnerable  
3 near-threatened



MALACAÑANG  
MANILA

PMS LIBRARY

MFN 8799

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 212

AMENDING PROCLAMATION NO. 835, SERIES OF 1971, RENAMING THE "ST. PAUL SUBTERRANEAN NATIONAL PARK" TO "PUERTO PRINCESA SUBTERRANEAN RIVER NATIONAL PARK"; EXPANDING ITS AREA COVERAGE TO TWENTY TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED TWO (22,202) HECTARES; AND, DECLARING IT AS A PROTECTED AREA PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT 7586 (NIPAS ACT OF 1992)

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 835 was issued on 26 March 1971 reserving three thousand nine hundred one (3,901) hectares of the public domain for national park purposes to be known as the "St. Paul Subterranean National Park" situated in the City of Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan;

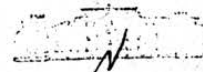
WHEREAS, the management and control of the St. Paul Subterranean National Park has been devolved to the City Government of Puerto Princesa by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources by virtue of a Memorandum of Agreement dated December 16, 1993, in recognition of the city government's success in environmental protection and conservation;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Puerto Princesa, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, has moved for the inscription of the said Park in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List to promote it as a world travel destination and ensure its protection and conservation in accordance with national government thrusts and objectives;

WHEREAS, the City Government feels the need to rename the Park to "Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park" to make it readily identifiable with its actual setting and location;

WHEREAS, UNESCO has inspected the Park and asked that, to qualify, its area be expanded to include the river tributaries of the Subterranean River to ascertain its sustainable management;

NOW, THEREFORE, upon recommendation of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, and by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby order the amendment of Proclamation No. 835 by renaming the St. Paul Subterranean National Park as "*Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park*"; declaring it as a protected area pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 (NIPAS Act of 1992); and expanding it from



three thousand nine hundred one (3,901) hectares to twenty two thousand two hundred two (22,202) hectares, more or less, more particularly described, as follows:

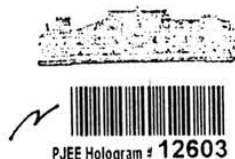
**From Malipien Point (GPS Coordinates N 10 Deg. 12 Min. 10.86 Secs; 118 Deg. 54 Mins. 26.97 Secs. E)**

**PRS92 COORDINATES: 708960, 1128404**

To point 1 Length = 1632.7500, Angle in XY Plane = N 80d43' E  
To point 2 Length = 2870.7500, Angle in XY Plane = N 34d39' E  
To point 3 Length = 2374.4900, Angle in XY Plane = N 21d55' E  
To point 4 Length = 2184.8900, Angle in XY Plane = N 30d56' W  
To point 5 Length = 2324.9448, Angle in XY Plane = N 78d22' E  
To point 6 Length = 5240.7520, Angle in XY Plane = S 35d20' E  
To point 7 Length = 5822.5245, Angle in XY Plane = S 60d4' E  
To point 8 Length = 1478.0024, Angle in XY Plane = S 27d26' W  
To point 9 Length = 272.6714, Angle in XY Plane = S 55d55' E  
To point 10 Length = 7877.3328, Angle in XY Plane = N 26d7' E  
To point 11 Length = 3214.6595, Angle in XY Plane = S 63d41' W  
To point 12 Length = 7517.5430, Angle in XY Plane = N 88d55' W  
To point 13 Length = 276.6232, Angle in XY Plane = N 24d36' W  
To point 14 Length = 4677.0658, Angle in XY Plane = S 80d25' W  
To point 15 Length = 962.4000, Angle in XY Plane = N 3d55' W  
To point 16 Length = 755.2000, Angle in XY Plane = N 39d35' E  
To point 17 Length = 655.7700, Angle in XY Plane = N 21d43' W  
To point 18 Length = 825.7200, Angle in XY Plane = N 62d38' W  
To point 19 Length = 1592.1900, Angle in XY Plane = N 25d41' W  
To point 20 Length = 1948.6700, Angle in XY Plane = N 65d10' W  
To point 21 Length = 1851.4600, Angle in XY Plane = N 12d46' W  
To point 22 Length = 320.4000, Angle in XY Plane = N 28d31' E  
To point 23 Length = 556.2200, Angle in XY Plane = S 59d34' E  
To point 24 Length = 372.5500, Angle in XY Plane = S 6d11' W  
To point 25 Length = 1372.8600, Angle in XY Plane = S 62d22' E  
To point 26 Length = 1350.5900, Angle in XY Plane = N 70d41' E  
To point 27 Length = 795.2200, Angle in XY Plane = N 11d49' E  
To point 28 Length = 584.4000, Angle in XY Plane = N 44d33' E  
To point 29 Length = 254.0300, Angle in XY Plane = N 7d5' E  
To point 30 Length = 824.3700, Angle in XY Plane = N 69d37' E  
To point 31 Length = 577.4900, Angle in XY Plane = N 49d33' E  
To point 32 Length = 1751.3400, Angle in XY Plane = N 89d30' E  
To point 33 Length = 2210.9610, Angle in XY Plane = 11d39' E  
To point 34 Length = 2017.7329, Angle in XY Plane = N 88d55' E

containing an area of twenty two thousand two hundred two (22,202) hectares, more or less, as shown in the Geographic Information System (GIS) Map of the City Government.

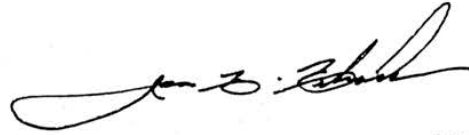
Any and all private rights, if any there be, shall be respected.



PJEE Hologram # 12603

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila this 12th day of November, in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and ninety nine.



By the President:

FMS LIBRARY

Received

NOV 19 1999

Date

RONALDO B. ZAMORA  
Executive Secretary



PJEE Hologram # 12604

12



PMS LIBRARY BCODE005079