
**IMPACTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND
RECOVERY PLAN IN PHILIPPINE ASEAN
HERITAGE PARKS (AHP)**

OUTLINE

- Philippine AHPs
- Impacts of Covid -19 Pandemic
- Best practices and strategies

IMPACTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RECOVERY PLAN IN PHILIPPINE ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS (AHP)

- Mt Apo Natural Park
- Mt Iglit-Baco National Park
- Mt Kitanglad Range Natural Park
- Mt Malindang Natural Park
- Mt Makiling Forest Reserve
- Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park
- Mt Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary
- Mt Timpoong-Hibok-hibok Natural Monument
- Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary

IMPACTS

| | POSITIVE IMPACTS | NEGATIVE IMPACTS |
|--------------------|---|------------------|
| BIOPHYSICAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Reduced human pressure✓ Vegetation along ecotourism sites, riverbanks, previously degraded areas regenerated✓ Increased observations, sightings of endangered/threatened including key species✓ Improved forest cover✓ Improved water quality of rivers and creeks✓ Increasing trend of reef fishes and coral reef cover in coastal ecotourism sites | |

IMPACTS

| | POSITIVE IMPACTS | NEGATIVE IMPACTS |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Disturbance/threats from ecotourism activities were lessened ✓ Less accumulation of solid wastes in ecotourism sites ✓ Heightened appreciation of flora and fauna | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Decreased/loss of income of local communities especially those that are involved in ecotourism services ☐ Decreased/loss of income of PAMOs used for operations and management including salaries and wages of contractual employees, with exception of some AHPs with SAPA ☐ Loss of tourism and recreation opportunities ☐ Land use conversion were observed in some areas ☐ Earnings of resources users were affected resulting to decreased in the capacity to pay users fee |

IMPACTS

| | POSITIVE IMPACTS | NEGATIVE IMPACTS |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---|
| SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Difficulty in transporting farm produce to markets❑ Deterioration of trekking facilities and trails❑ Lessened contact with Ips due to fear of contracting the virus❑ Ability of PAMOs to sustain technical assistance provision to PO enterprises affected |

IMPACTS

| | POSITIVE IMPACTS | NEGATIVE IMPACTS |
|------------------------|------------------|---|
| LAW ENFORCEMENT | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Frequency of monitoring decreased and confined to limited areas due to travel restrictions❑ Increased in illegal activities i.e. poaching, intrusion/trespassing, encroachment/expansion of farms, gathering of wild plants, online selling of wildlife, hunting, water extraction, kaingin, charcoal making and damage and vandalism on facilities❑ Unchecked dumping and accumulation of solid wastes |

IMPACTS

| | POSITIVE IMPACTS | NEGATIVE IMPACTS |
|-------------------|--|---|
| GOVERNANCE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Collaboration & partnership with local, national and international NGOs for operations and pandemic support ✓ Opportunities to use on-line platforms was exploited by PAMBs in meetings, stakeholders engagements, events and special activities ✓ Migration of activities on-line developed the capacities of PAMOs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ PAMO operations hampered i.e. monitoring, patrolling, except in the case of TAMARAW monitoring which was done with the participation of the Ips ☐ Increased cost due to health protocols ☐ Difficulty of attaining PAMB quorum due poor internet connections and restrictions ☐ Difficulty of convening meetings at the community level and among stakeholders resulting to postponement of activities and events ☐ Anxiety |

IMPACTS

| | POSITIVE IMPACTS | NEGATIVE IMPACTS |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| GOVERNANCE | <p>✓ The lull in ecotourism provided opportunity to pursue other important priority activities such as research, repair and maintenance works and exploration of partnership with various institutions regarding restoration and rehabilitation of biodiversity</p> | |

BEST PRACTICES AND STRATEGIES

- Crowd-funding to support the operations and salaries of park rangers
- Tapping/mobilization of financial resources from corporate foundations
- Provision of alternative livelihood for PA staffs as frontliners
- Setting up of TRUST Fund out of income collection for contingency purposes
- Use of online booking which is more convenient, manageable and COVID-proof

BEST PRACTICES AND STRATEGIES

- Provision of capacity trainings on alternative source of income and livelihood (i.e. backyard gardening)
- Implementation of family-approach ENGP as alternative source of income
- Provision by LGUs of assistance to PA communities for livelihood fishing services
- Development and capacitation of Community-Based Sustainable Tourism

BEST PRACTICES AND STRATEGIES

- Strengthening protection systems and collaboration and coordination with the LGUs and other concerned agencies and communities
- Empowerment of local communities to be more resilient
- Pursued repair and construction of facilities using staff that used to be employed for ecotourism purposes
- Use of internet for marketing and promotion

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

