



Northern and Central Luzon



Agta communities on Palaui Island, Sta. Ana, Cagayan

Although the Agta communities are recognized as Palaui Island's first inhabitants, they face possible displacement. Parts of their Ancestral Domains have been claimed by a naval reservation, while others are developed as tourism projects, which have not secured the communities' FPIC. Their livelihoods are also at risk, as a fisheries sanctuary has been established without considering traditional fishing grounds.

The communities are currently in the process of securing a CADT, and have begun the initial stages of delineation, data gathering and resource inventories. In 2020, a Technical Working Group was convened to assist with the delineation, with members from government agencies, the local government unit, the Church and the IP communities. Thereafter, the delineation process begun and this was concluded on October 2020 and they are now waiting for the issuance by NCIP of their CADT. After the delineation of their ancestral domain, the Agtas started formulating their ADSDPP with the assistance of the Franciscan Apostolic Sisters of Cagayan. The crafting of ADSDPP was likewise concluded on August 2021 and they initially set a stakeholders meeting in September 2021 to solicit funding for their ADSDPP projects but this was canceled due to stricter protocols against COVID 19. Moreover, the communities have prepared a Memorandum of Understanding regarding future eco-tourism developments on the island, but work on this has been stalled by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Ayta communities in Bagac and Hermosa, Bataan

The Ayta of Bataan is still recognized as the “first peoples” in the province. As such, their rights to land should supersede those of lowland migrants, who settled in these areas later. However, discrimination against the Ayta communities persists.

For governance, the Ayta in Bataan have established their indigenous political structure, called Pamahalaan ng Ayta sa Bataan, or PANABAT, which is headed by elders called puun. The puun were instrumental in the implementation of previous interventions.

Likewise, PANLIPI has sought to ensure that formal mechanisms to recognize indigenous leaders and political systems are inclusive and culturally appropriate. To this end, PANLIPI has assisted the Ayta communities through dialogues and mediation to resolve conflicts related to the IPMR selection process.



Ayta communities in Botolan, Zambales

The Ayta communities in Botolan were displaced from their Ancestral Domains following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991. A CADT was granted over some of their traditional territories in 2010, allowing many of them to return to the four barangays covered by the title.

The communities are presently working to develop resource inventories for the Ancestral Domain, to identify areas that are well-suited to livelihood activities. To facilitate this, some community leaders have had the opportunity to build skills in GPS monitoring. However, activities are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Dumagat communities in General Tinio

The Dumagat of General Tinio has begun to transition to permanent settlements and agricultural livelihoods, although many still rely on harvesting of non-timber forest products for food and income. PANLIPI's community facilitator has been able to secure funds and equipment from local organizations and individuals. These donations will aid the development a community vegetable garden within the Dumagat Ancestral Domain, where community members have already begun cultivating rice, papaya, sweet potato and other cash crops.

The communities have also begun the process of drafting guidelines for the selection of IPMRs in the local legislative councils at the barangay, municipal and provincial levels.





Southern Luzon



Hanunuo communities, Mansalay and Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro

The Hanunuo occupy the lowlands and shorelines of Oriental Mindoro, and consequently, have had the most opportunities to intermingle with migrants and other non-indigenous residents. The communities have applied for a Certificate of Ancestral Land Title (CALT), while an application for a CADT is in process. On these, the requisite census of IPs in Mansalay, and the delineation of the Ancestral Domain have been completed.

Activities to develop the ADSDPP had also begun. To assist with this, PANLIPI's community facilitator and selected IP leaders have had the opportunity to build skills in GPS monitoring, and test their newly acquired knowledge in areas within the Ancestral Domain. Unfortunately, further activities have been stalled by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the long lockdowns imposed as a result of the pandemic, PANLIPI also received complaints from the indigenous communities, who had not been given social amelioration packages by government. PANLIPI coordinated with the NCIP and local government on the communities' behalf, to ensure that they would receive the necessary financial assistance and food packages.



Alangan and Tao Buid communities, Sablayan and Sta. Cruz, Occidental Mindoro

The Alangan communities in Sablayan and Sta. Cruz have secured formal recognition of their Ancestral Domain through a CADT issued in 2012. Migrants have settled within the domain and claimed the lands that they occupy.

The indigenous political system is headed by leaders called Kuyay and Tanungan. Each settlement, or Balai Lakoy, selects a Kuyay, and from these, a head called a Tanungan is appointed. PANLIPI's project provided the communities with opportunities to revive and strengthen this system, by conducting capacity building activities and supporting the establishment of the Katipunan ng mga Kuyay ng Alangan (Kuyay). This has resulted in an increase in the number of Kuyay's who actively participate in the community's activities.

PANLIPI has also begun engaging with the Tao Buid indigenous communities in the area. Their ancestral lands are currently being surveyed, and data is being gathered toward the preparation of their ADSDPP. However, portions of the Ancestral Domain remain contested - a boundary dispute with the local penal colony is yet unresolved, and migrants have also settled within the domain and claimed the lands that they occupy. PANLIPI assists the communities in dialogues seeking to resolve these conflicts.

Both the Alangan and Tao Buid communities continue to practice customary laws, particularly those for conflict resolution. Documentation of these practices is also currently ongoing.



Tagbanua communities, Barangays Sta. Lourdes and Marufinas, Puerto Princesa, Palawan

The Tagbanua community of Barangay Sta. Lourdes has struggled against a garbage dumpsite that the city government has established within their traditional territories. While this project was not blocked, the community has been able to negotiate for the payment of damages, support for livelihood projects and employment of its residents. However, mining and quarrying activities threaten other areas of their Ancestral Domain, and another city government-sponsored housing settlement may also be introduced. Nevertheless, the Tagbanua communities are in the process of securing formal tenure over their Ancestral Domains and have begun segregating privately owned lands from their traditional territories, gathering the necessary data and conducting resource inventories.

PANLIPI has intervened on the communities' behalf before government agencies and other potential partners. For example, coordination with the NCIP was necessary to ensure the grant of a COC for the IPMR of the province of Palawan. Assistance was also extended towards the preparation of a project proposal for a community biodiversity conservation project, which was later submitted to the Foundation for the Philippine Environment for consideration.



Visayas



Sulod Bukidnon community, Barangay Jayubo, Lambunao, Iloilo

PANLIPI primarily engages with the Sulod Bukidnon of Barangay Jayubo, Lambunao, Iloilo, but have also had the opportunity to work with other communities from Jamindan, Capiz and Valderama, Antique.

Securing formal recognition of the Sulod Bukidnon Ancestral Domain in Lambunao is of primary concern. Delineation of these lands has only just begun, following a legal battle to reverse the declaration of a portion of the domain as an educational reservation. Delays from the NCIP have so far prolonged the process.

In Capiz, the indigenous community has established the Jamindan Bukidnon Tribal Association (JABTA) to manage the production and sale of their local crafts. PANLIPI supported the community in its bid to be recognized as a School of Living Tradition (SLT) by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), by assisting with the preparation of the necessary documents. Phase of the SLT project should be underway, but the COVID-19 pandemic has limited its progress.



Mindanao



Manobo Tinananon communities of Arakan Valley, North Cotabato

The traditional territories of the Manobo Tinananon are covered by six Certificates of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADCs) previously issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Following the passage of the IPRA, the communities have decided to consolidate these certificates into a single CADT. The unified claim has been approved, and is due for awarding. For the ADSDPP, data gathering, resource inventories and data consolidation have been completed, but further progress has been halted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Another Manobo community in Kidapawan City, thru their Tribal Council - MADADMA or Manobo Apao Descendants Ancestral Domains of Mt. Apo seeks the assistance of PANLIPI in their negotiations for royalty and formulation of their ADSDPP. Their Ancestral Domains also currently host a geothermal plant managed by the Energy Development Corporation (EDC). The company and communities have concluded an agreement, whereby one centavo per kilowatt hour will be paid to the communities, in compliance with the relevant Department of Energy Guidelines. Given this, the communities have begun crafting a community royalty development plan, which will guide how these proceeds will be used.

The Manobo community in Kidapawan City had been recognized by the Department of Agriculture for their organic farming practices. However, they have not been able to return to their farms since the magnitude 6.0 earthquakes that rocked areas in Mindanao in 2019. The farms are unfortunately located in identified geo-hazard areas, preventing their expansion and further development.



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Mindanao



Mandaya communities, Barangay Calapagan, Lupon, Davao Oriental

The Mandaya Ancestral Domain is rich in natural resources, including fertile soil, forests and minerals. However, these areas have also long been sites of struggle. Logging and mining operations have encroached on traditional territories, which have also witnessed military clashes with rebel groups.

Despite these threats to their safety, the Mandaya communities have established abaca plantations, and seek to make a living from the fiber and by-products that these can generate. Unfortunately, further planning activities with the communities have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.