



**Commissioner Louie F. Mencias**

**Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving**

# **Buhay Dagat**

**“Buhay na Dagat”**

**at**

**“Kabuhayan sa Dagat”**

**If we take care of the sea it will  
continue to provide for us.**

# **Community-based Sustainable Tourism in a Marine Protected Area**

- Support marine conservation**
- Promote nature tourism**
- Help alleviate poverty in coastal areas**



# Marine Protected Areas

- 28 are NIPAS Act declared
- Rest declared through municipal ordinance
- 350 have documented management status
- Majority need to be managed more effectively
- Most MPAs have inadequate funding
- Successful MPAs are monitored and managed by local communities and LGUs
- Become dive sites

# BUHAY DAGAT

## PRIMER

### Community-based tourism in a Marine Protected Area



PARTNERS FOR  
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



**Bluewater**  
CONSULTANCY

"Protecting our reefs, protecting our lives."



# OBJECTIVES

- Encourage continuing protection and management of MPAs
- Create additional income opportunities for local communities
- Help develop eco-tourism enterprises
- Infuse environmental education in the activity
- Create greater awareness and appreciation of reef protection and conservation

# MSN Management Rating System

Rating	Phase	Management Performance	Description
Level 1	Initiated	Passing	MPA establishment activities are in progress
Level 2	Established	Fair	MPA is legalized and management activities have started.
Level 3	Enforced	Good	MPA regulations are implemented and management activities are maintained for 2 years or more.
Level 4	Sustained	Very good	MPA is well-enforced over the years; participation and support from the LGU and community is consistent.
Level 5	Institutionalized	Excellent	Management and enforcement is consistently maintained and is assured by additional legal support.

# 10 Pilot Sites

Selection criteria:

1. Established MPA with effective management
2. Presence of local communities or POs
3. No threats to security or safety
4. Strong potential for coastal tourism
5. Receptive and supportive LGU

# 10 Pilot Sites

Selection criteria:

6. Reef is suitable for snorkeling
7. Community is ready to have tourism
8. Diveable at least 6 months in a year
9. No threats from environmental disturbance (pollution, sedimentation, mining or uncontrolled development)
10. Absence of natural or human induced hazards

# Capability Building



- Training for snorkeling guides
- 18 years of age, male or female
- In good physical condition
- Ability to swim and communicate
- Involved in monitoring & protection
- Willingness to learn
- Interested in tourism as supplementary livelihood



“Preserving the reefs, preserving our lives”

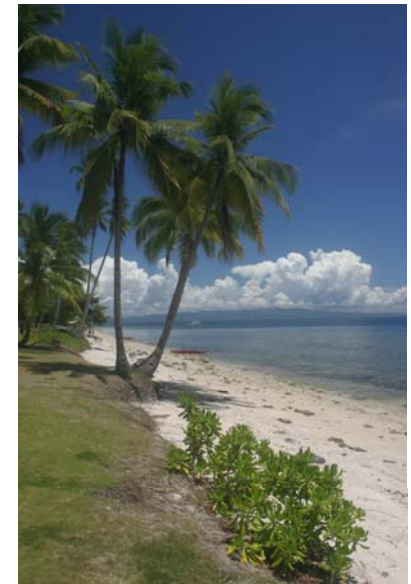


One day introduction to the marine environment.

# Buhay Dagat Site

## 1<sup>st</sup> site: Cabilao Island, Municipality of Loon, Bohol

- has 2 MPAs that are at least 10 years old
- primary diving destination in the Visayas
- identified as priority site for tourism development in the tourism master plan of Loon



# Buhay Dagat Site

Cabilao Island, Municipality of Loon, Bohol



# Buhay Dagat Site

## 2<sup>nd</sup> site: Hundred Islands National Park, Alaminos City, Pangasinan

- the first protected area in the country established in 1940
- 123 islands spread out in an area approx. 1,844 hectares
- exceptional island formations



# Buhay Dagat Site

Hundred Islands, Alaminos City, Pangasinan



# Developments

- Cabilao Island – acquired 20 sets of snorkeling eqpt. and have been offering snorkeling in their MPAs
- 100 Islands – formed association of guides, have eqpt.

Next sites:

- Palaui Island Protected Landscape & Seascape  
Cagayan Province
- Sagay Marine Reserve & Sipalay, Negros Occidental

More municipalities are requesting for the program

Selection continues and validation of pilot sites

Program may be extended to other MPAs

# PARTNERS





**Usec. Cynthia Carrion**  
**Executive Director**

[www.buhaydagat.info](http://www.buhaydagat.info)

lcmencias@yahoo.com