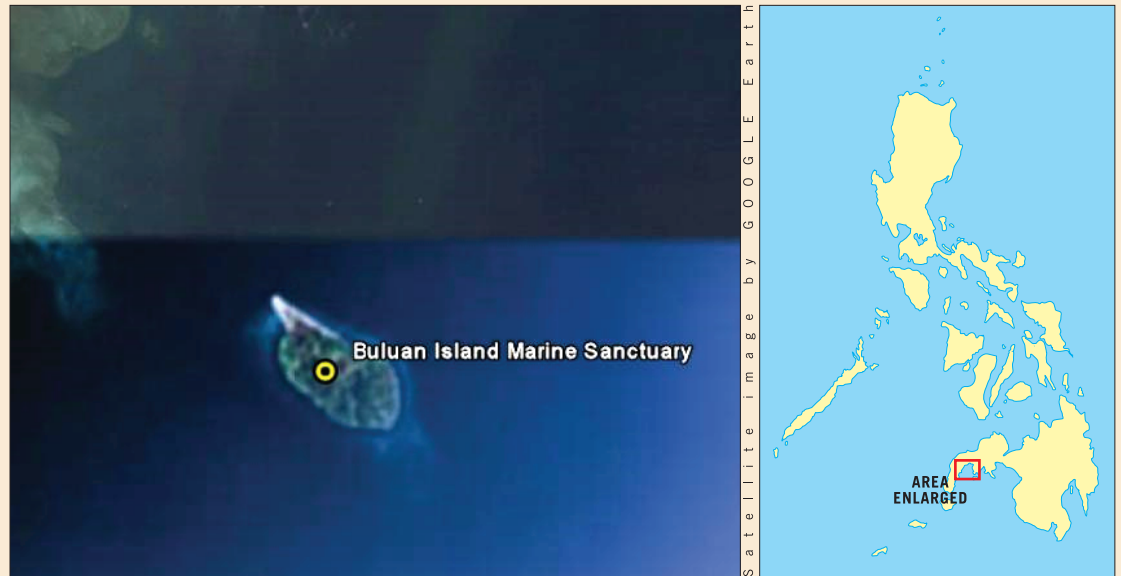


2009 Most Outstanding MPA Finalist



BULUAN ISLAND MARINE SANCTUARY

Barangay Buluhan
Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Buluan Island Marine Sanctuary rests 2.63 km southwest of mainland Barangay Buluan, the westernmost barangay of the municipality of Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay

DESCRIPTION

- Established in 2004 then passed as Municipal Fisheries Ordinance No. 09-214-2006
- 63.17 hectares of waters surrounding Buluan Island
- The only place in the municipal waters where hard and soft corals are still intact and undamaged by dynamite fishing, commercial fishing boats, and massive siltation

NOTEWORTHY FLORA AND FAUNA

- 21 observed families of fishes including Sphyraenidae, Scaridae, Nemipteridae, and Mullidae
- Sightings of giant clams (*Tridacna* sp.) and marine turtles

KEY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Ipil Fishery Law Enforcement Team was organized to intensify the existing fishery law enforcement
- Manpower, communication equipment, logistics, and firepower were enhanced
- Violators are apprehended, and requisite fines are collected
- MOA signed between the DAR-WMCIP and LGU providing technical assistance for the establishment of Buluan sanctuary
- Livelihood projects such as seaweed farming and culture of bangus, tilapia, groupers and king crabs initiated
- Massive mangrove reforestation campaign or aquasilviculture implemented
- Artificial reefs established
- Participation of fisherfolk organizations, Philippine National Police, municipal and barangay LGUs, Rotary Club, and international donors
- Full-time fishery technicians hired



BENEFITS

- 50% increase in catch of fishers along the periphery of the sanctuary attributed to the spill-over effect of the marine sanctuary
- 30% increase in the species of fish observed since establishment of the marine sanctuary
- 61.58% increase in hard corals present
- Marine turtles have begun nesting on the island
- Upsurge in the number of local and foreign tourists



ISSUES & CONCERNS

- Possible encroachment of illegal fishers from within and outside the municipality
- Instilled buoys and markers are being destroyed by subsistence and spear fishers to enter the no-take zone



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strict implementation of fishery laws
- Increase budget allotment for CRM activities
- Increase participation of resource users and stake holders
- Make CRM as one of the frontline services of the municipality since it is vital in ensuring food security and addressing the current problem of Global Warming due to Climate Change