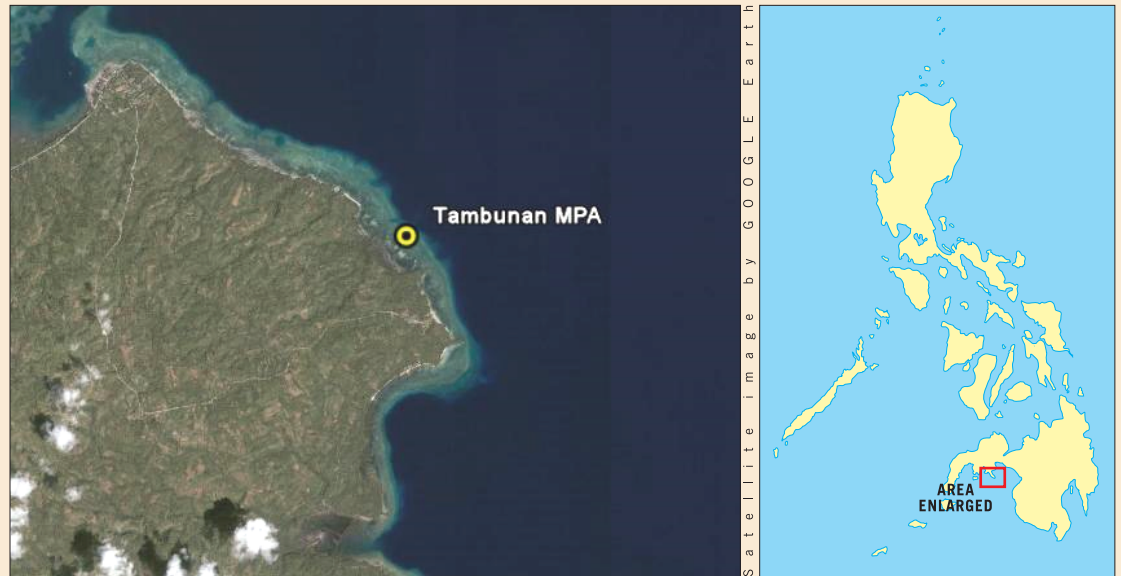


2009 Most Outstanding MPA Finalist



TAMBUNAN MARINE PROTECTED AREA

Barangay Malim
Tabina, Zamboanga del Sur



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Tambunan Marine Protected Area is located 3 km east of Poblacion in Tabina, Zamboanga del Sur.

DESCRIPTION

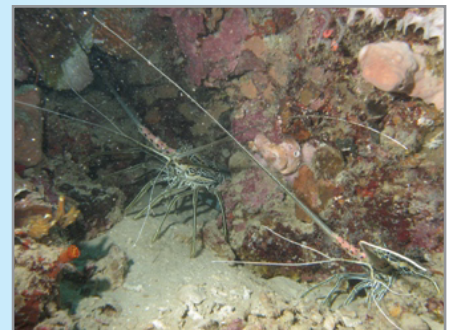
- Declared a marine sanctuary through a Municipal Ordinance No. 03-91 and formally launched in July 2003
- 103 hectares core area within which 8.5 hectares are protected mangroves
- 95 hectares marine sanctuary with large coral patches
- Coral cover fair to good and dominated by massive, branching, and submassive types, notably *Porites*, *Diploastrea*, *Goniopora*, *Fungia*, and faviids

NOTEWORTHY FLORA AND FAUNA

- Abundance of fishery resources around the MPA – mackerel and tuna-like fishes, jacks, round scads, sardines, sailfish, flying fish, and needlefish, including reef associated types such as parrotfish, eels, siganids, and goatfish
- Rich in mollusks and crustaceans such as squids, octopus, cuttlefish, as well as lobsters, blue crabs, various shrimps, and mangrove crabs
- Over 94 species of reef fishes accounting for medium-scale biomass, i.e., 10 to 30 mT/ km²
- Pristine seagrass area with 7 species; mangroves within narrow sheltered embayment composed of *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Avicennia lanata* Ridley, and *Sonneratia alba*

KEY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Managed in coordination with barangay officials of Barangay Malim and people's organizations of TAMINO and KASALO who assist in mangrove reforestation
- Two fish wardens assigned in the MPA conduct patrols and apprehend violators
- The IBRA 9 also assisted during its establishment together with the EcoGov who regularly assisted in the conduct of resource assessment and IEC campaign
- Transplantation of branching corals to 1.7 hectares of sandy patches in 2004
- Awarding of projects to fishermen-beneficiaries as alternative livelihood, i.e., Fish Cage Project and the Tabina Enhanced Environmental Project
- Carrying out public awareness campaigns on the ordinances related to resource conservation and protection, i.e., regulating the operation and maintenance of payao in the municipal waters off Tabina (M.O. 94-33), the banning of compressor fishing (M.O. 007-08), and prohibiting the cutting of mangroves (M.O. 011-08)



BENEFITS

- Transplanted corals have grown considerably
- Giant clams seemed to have increased in number
- Milkfish breeders or the sabalo were observed to spawn in the area
- Sanctuary frequently visited by other municipalities and provinces who were in the process of formulating CRM plans and establishing sanctuaries
- Divers from as far as Cebu and Davao have come to experience the richness of the Tambunan Dive Site

ISSUES & CONCERNS

- Intrusion of commercial fishing boats with high-tech paraphernalia could not be apprehended by local fish wardens who have inadequate support facilities

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continuous IEC campaign should be conducted also in schools and the religious sectors
- The Bantay Dagat should also be strengthened to assist in the patrol discouraging violators from encroaching in the area
- More alternative livelihood should be introduced such that source of income is not limited only to the fishing industry
- Greater access of funds should be provided for its expansion and maintenance