



# Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND GULF OF THAILAND (SCS SAP) Project

## Second Roundtable of Local Representatives of the SCS SAP Project

17 September, 2025, Jakarta, Indonesia

## Chart on Practices and Lessons Learnt at the Site/local Level

**Coron-Busuanga, Palawan, Philippines**

**Mr. Luigi Lubrico, EnP**





REPUBLIC ACT (RA) 7611  
Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP)  
Law for Palawan Act

A Special Law approved in June 19, 1992 UNDER  
THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

A Policy Making, Monitoring, Coordinating and Implementing Body

Provides for developing the Policy Framework for the Sustainable  
Development, Protection and Enhancement of the environment and  
natural resources of Palawan.



## About Busuanga & Coron, Palawan

Two (2) Municipalities: Busuanga & Coron

Total land area: 122,298.83 has.

Population (2020): 91,472

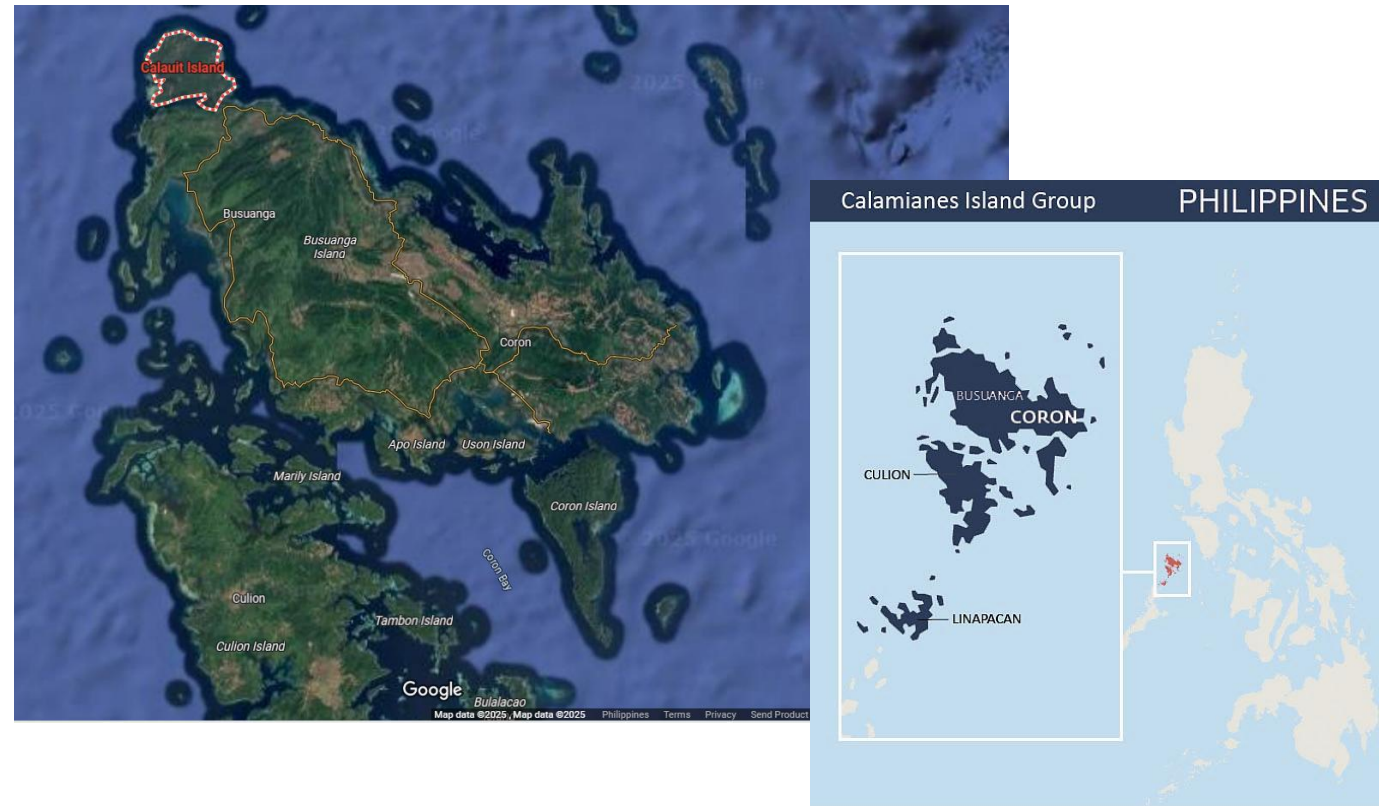
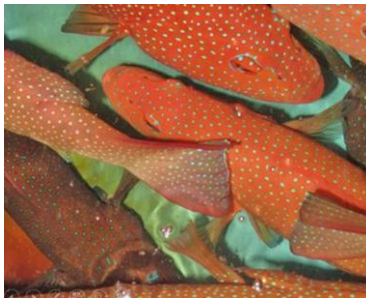
Indigenous Peoples: Tagbanuas

Conservation/Protection Areas:

- 12,420.7 has. of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- 4,036 has. of Mangroves (“no touch”)
- 3,494 has. of Corals and Seagrass (“no touch”)

Main economic activities:

- Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry



## Threats to Coastal Habitats and Environmental Concerns

- Climate Change
- Habitat Degradation
- Environmentally-destructive activities (unsustainable fishing, wildlife poaching, improper waste disposal, mangrove cutting, harvesting of corals)



# Key Activities for conservation & sustainable use of coastal habitat and/or fisheries & land-based pollution management

1. Mapping of ECAN Zones and Mainstreaming to the Local Planning System
2. Regulating Entry and Operation of Environmentally Critical Projects and Activities
3. Strengthening Environmental Law Enforcement, esp. in Wildlife Hotspots
4. Increasing Awareness and Capacities of Local and Indigenous Communities
5. Monitoring of Coastal Ecosystems and Environmental Conditions (Water Quality, Corals, Seagrass, Mangroves)
6. Environmental Research and Strengthening Of Knowledge-base





# Calamianes Group of Island MPA Network (CMN)

Coron bay important passage connecting Sulu Sea and the western seaboard of the Philippines

MOU bet. 4 LGUs: Coron, Busuanga, Culion & Linapacan

Identified as important fish refugia (egg dispersal and larval settling)

Composition: Mayors, CMN Officers, and 5 Committees: Membership, IEC, Livelihood, Finance & Election

CMN Members – 38 MPAs as of Dec 2021



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# Calamianes Group of Island MPA Network (CMN)

## VISION

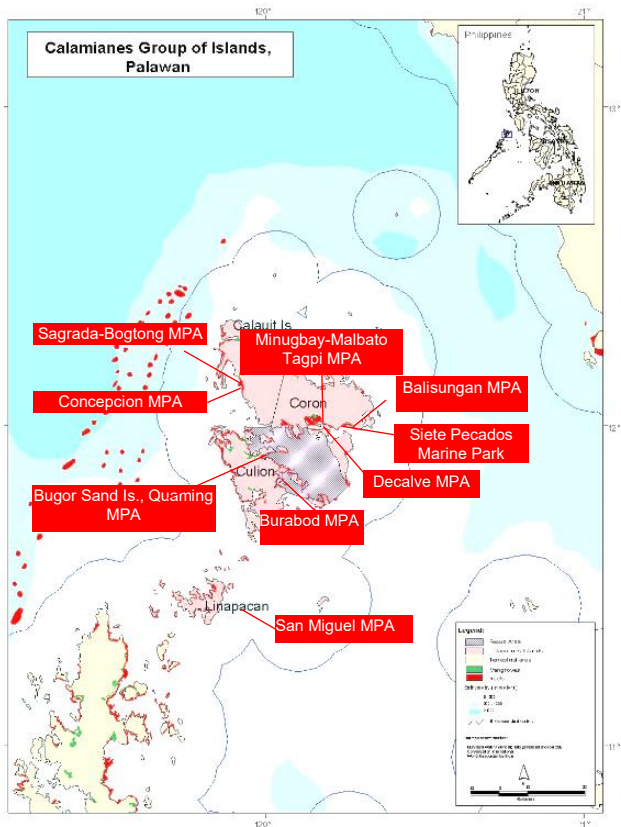
By year 2025, at least 30% of critical coastal and marine habitats in Calamianes Group of Islands are protected and resilient to climate change with improved biological diversity and health and sustained equitable access, socio-economic activities and cultural values for future generations.

## MISSION

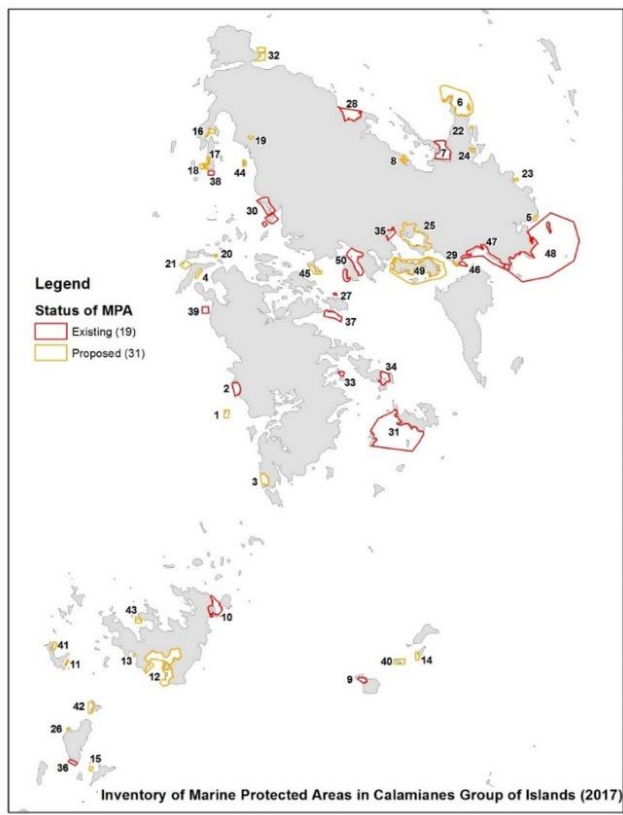
Support local government and communities in the operationalization of Calamianes MPA network including women-managed and IP-managed areas and improving management effectiveness of these MPAs



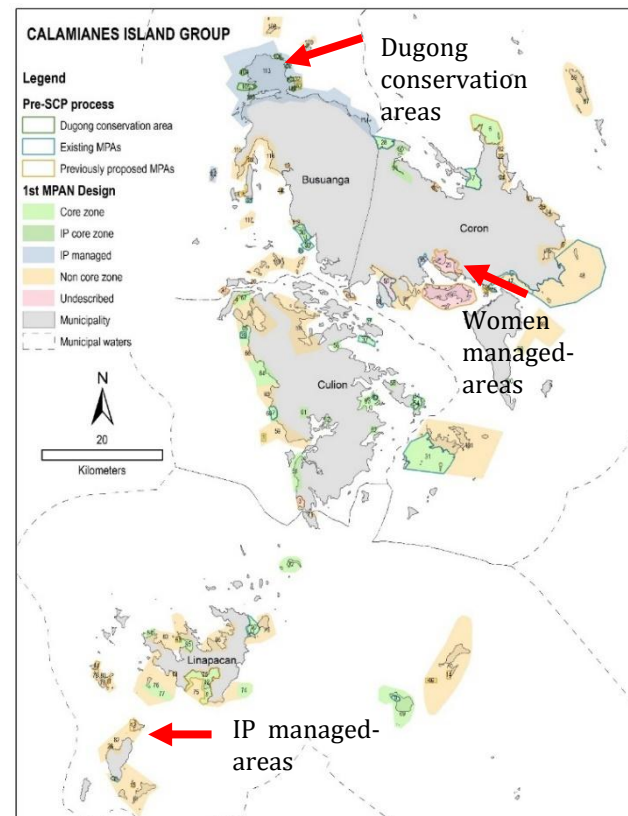
# Calamianes Group of Island MPA Network (CMN)



2005 – 9 MPAs  
2,022 ha




2017 – 50 MPAs  
22,380 ha



2019 MPAN – 78 MPAs  
112,700 ha

 Coral reef –  
35,900 ha

 Seagrass –  
15,150 ha

 Mangroves –  
8,270 ha

52% coral reef  
58% mangroves  
61% seagrass



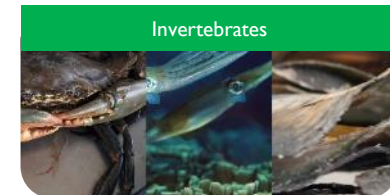
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# Reducing threats to MPAs and MPA network



Threats reduced



Conservation targets

# Highlights of Key Achievements

## 1. Establishment & Management of High Value Conservation Areas (HCVAs)

- Calamian MPA Network = with 12,420.7 has. of MPAs in Busuanga-Coron
- Calauit Island Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary (3,701.62 ha) – initial component PA

## 2. Approval and Implementation of plans and maps for sustainable resources management & use

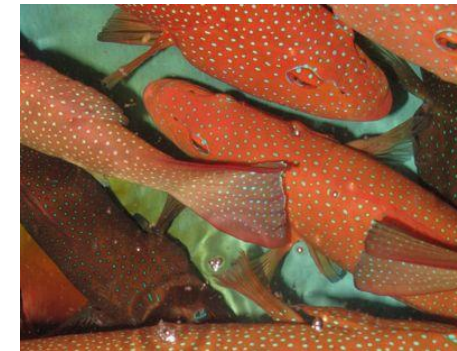
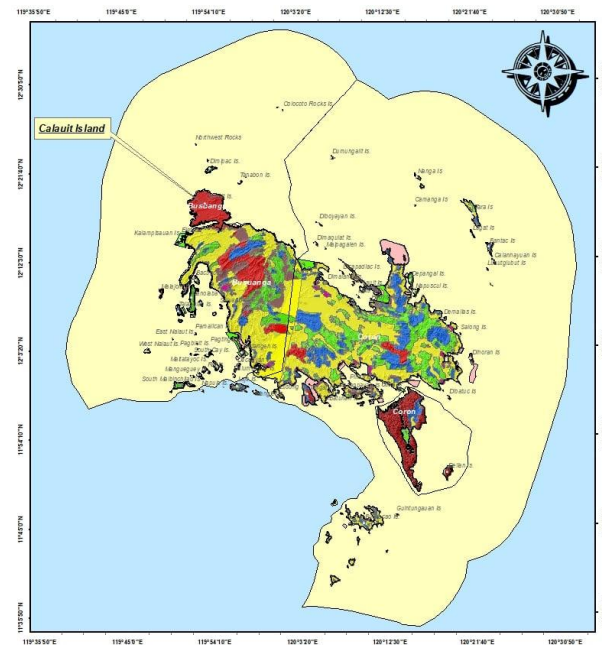
- Busuanga & Coron ECAN Zones Maps
- Ongoing development of Busuanga & Coron ESWMPs

## 3. Reform of laws/regulations or management approach for ecosystem sustainable use and land-based pollution prevention

- Live fish trade policy
- Population studies on threatened species
- Agreement on limiting the number of bagnet fishing gear licenses in Calamianes (thru USAID Project)



Source: islandhoppinginthephilippines.com



# Highlights of Key Achievements

## 4. Engagement of related stakeholders

- Partners: NGOs, POs, Academe
- Networks: CGI MPA Network (CMN), Calamianes Resilience Network (CRN)
- Special Project Teams (USAID FISH, ECOFISH, & Fish Right)
- Women-managed Areas (WMAs)
- Platforms/Events: MPA summits, Listening Sessions, Capacity Dev't

## 5. Enforcement mechanism and effectiveness

- WTMUs and WEOs
- Ongoing integration to PALAWEEN
- Compliance monitoring of establishments & projects
- Decrease in illegal fishing activities

## 6. Financial mechanism for sustaining conservation and management

- External funding of special projects (e.g., USAID)
- Capacity building of LGUs on project development, esp. for food-energy-water and climate change



# Lesson learnt (challenges and solution to address challenges)

Challenges	Solutions
Dispersed geography of the islands of Coron and Busuanga entails greater logistical demands and resource allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strategize activities that involved travelling to the islands.</li><li>• Enhance collaboration with partners for potential resource sharing.</li></ul>
Lack of representation of marginalized groups in participatory planning and decision-making activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consultations and listening sessions</li><li>• Capacity building of small-scale commercial fishers and other marginalized sectors</li></ul>
Legitimacy of representation of fishers and other marginalized sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extensive research and profiling of marginalized stakeholders in the sites</li></ul>
Gaps in biological information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extensive research and replication of studies in other areas</li><li>• Establish knowledge/information-sharing platforms</li><li>• Citizen science as a way to engage communities</li></ul>
Environmentally-destructive activities (illegal fishing, overfishing, wildlife poaching, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the efficiency of law enforcement thru capacity building, provision of adequate equipment &amp; supplies</li><li>• Community-driven regulation</li></ul>
No limit on fishing licenses that can be issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secure agreement on limiting the number of licenses at the local level.</li></ul>





**THANK YOU!**