

# Fisherfolk Communities' Perceptions On The Viability And Sustainability Of Marine Protected Areas As Ecotourism Destinations In Iloilo Province, Philippine

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***ABSTRACT:** Sustainability is a broad discipline, giving students and graduates insights into most aspects of the human world from business to technology to environment and the social sciences. The core skills with which a graduates leaves college or university are highly sought after, especially in a modern world looking to drastically reduce carbon emissions and discover and develop the technologies of the future. Sustainability draws on politics, economics and, philosophy and other social sciences as well as the hard sciences. Sustainability skills and environmental awareness is a priority in many corporate jobs at graduate level and over as businesses seek to adhere to new legislation.*

<https://www.environmentalscience.org/sustainability>

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## INTRODUCTION

Over the decades, tourism has experienced continued growth and deepening diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. Modern tourism is closely linked to development and encompasses a growing number of new destinations. These dynamics have turned tourism into a key driver for socio-economic progress. Today, tourism has become one of the major players in international commerce, and represents at the same time one of the main income sources for many developing countries. This growth goes hand in hand with an increasing diversification and competition among destinations and one of them is ecotourism. UNWTO (2018).

Ecotourism is a form of responsible tourism which strives to achieve certain goals: Traveling to natural parks and landmarks, minimizing damages caused by conventional tourism, providing financial benefits to local businesses and building environmental awareness. Empowering local communities and their culture, and supporting civil rights are also a big part of responsible travelling especially when it comes to coastal destination. (<http://www.philippinestravelpackage.com/ecotours/>)

Thus, this study is conducted to assess the viability and sustainability of Marine Protected Areas as Ecotourism Destination in Iloilo as assessed by the fishers folks community.

### **Statement of the of the Problem and the Hypothesis**

This study aimed to assess the viability and sustainability of marine protected areas in the province of Iloilo as ecotourism destinations.

Specifically, the study sought to answer the following question;

1. To describe profile of the fishers folks in the marine protected area in the province of Iloilo in terms of age, sex, and length of stay;
2. To describe the assessment of fishers folks community on the viability and sustainability of Marine Protected Area in the province of Iloilo as ecotourism destination when grouped according to its demographic;
3. To describe the knowledge of the fishers folk community with regards to marine protected area in terms of its development

### **Hypothesis**

There is no significance difference as to the establishing, strengthening, sustaining and institutionalizing of Marine Protected Areas in the Iloilo Province as assessed by the fishers folks community.

**Theoretical Framework**

According to Jean-Pierre Aubin, Alexanddre Bayen and Patrick Saint-Pierre (July 19, 2001), Viability Theory designs and develops mathematical and alogarithmic methods for investigating the adaptation to viability constrains of evolution governed by complex systems under uncertainty that are found in many domains involving living beings, from biological evolution to economics, from environmental sciences to financial markets, from control theory and robotics to cognitive sciences.

**Conceptual Framework**

Based on the theory in marine protected areas according to Aubin when following factors be present in the definition of ecotourism, the conceptual framework is formulated. The operationalization of the framework included an assessment of governance in terms of enforcement, implementation and maintenance. The conceptual framework shows the relation of the ecotourism destination in the assessment of the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas as ecotourism destination in the Province of Iloilo.

**Research Paradigm**

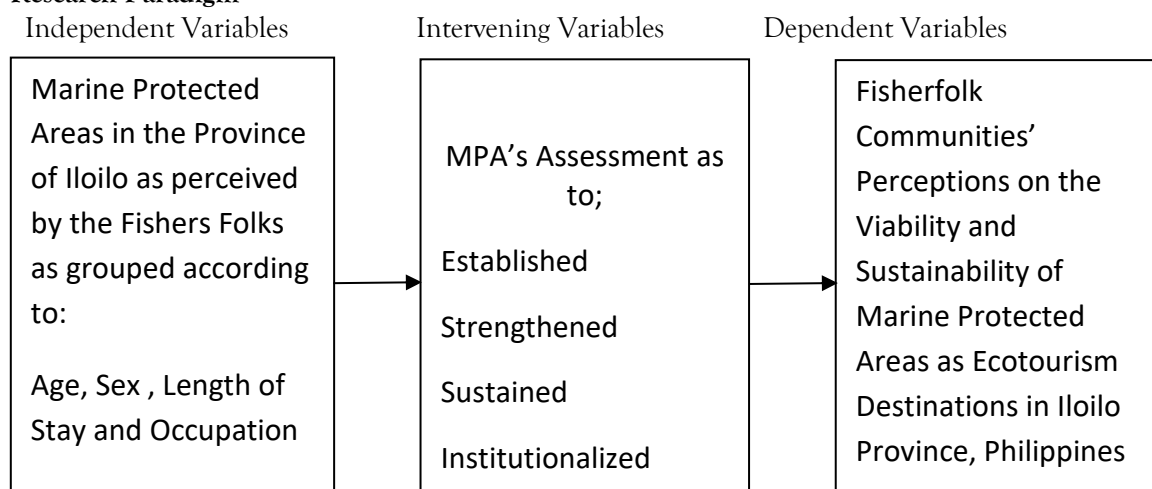


Figure 1. Shows the research paradigm showing the relationship of variables in the study.

**Significance of the Study**

Fishers Folk Community, Province of Iloilo – This study will be beneficial to them by providing enough jobs, opportunities, and to help protect the environment in the Marine Protected Areas.

The Academe, can be used as a basis of developing a place and visualizing possible opportunities.

Department of Tourism – this study will serve as their basis for the recommendation for the recommendation of the tourist destination specifically coastal and island tourism in the province.

Tourist – There is something to visit and experience in Province of Iloilo. Tourists are very important in this research study because of their contributions to the Tourism Industry and the local people's source of income.

Bureau of fisheries and Aquatic Resources - this study will guide them the current state of the Marine Protected Areas

Local Government Unit – specifically the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) will serve as basis for policy formulation to protect and manage marine protected areas.

Future Researchers – this study will serve as their basis if there is an upcoming study which is related to this research.

**Scope and Limitations of the Study**

This study aimed to evaluate and assess the viability and sustainability of Marine Protected Areas. as Ecological Tourism Destination in Province of Iloilo.

To gather the needed data, the researcher gathered information through a personal interview, focus group discussion and survey with the help the people living in the place using an adapted questionnaire. This research study was conducted during the fiscal year 2017 - 2018

## **Methods & Design**

### **Research Design**

This study will utilize the descriptive quanti-qualitative research design. It describes data and characteristics about population or phenomenon being study without influencing it in any way. Descriptive research answers the questions who, what, when, where and how. On the other hand, quanti-qualitative research design is a method of inquiry appropriated in many different academic discipline in the social science but also in the market and further context.

### **Locale of the Study**

The local of this study includes all Marine Protected Areas identified my Municipality in the Province of Iloilo

### **Respondents and/or Subjects of the Study**

The respondent of the study will be the community of the identified Marine Protected Areas in the Province of Iloilo which include the Local Government Unit, Municipal Tourism Officer, Municipal Agricultural Officer, NPDC, Seafdec Technician.

### **Sample Size**

The researcher will choose 10 fish stakeholder as respondents (who agreed to participate in the study. Those who decline are disregarded for ethical consideration) in every Marine Protected Areas as identified and supported by Municipal Ordinance in 8 municipality in the province of Iloilo namely; Ajuy, Banate, Batac, Carles, Concepcion, Estancia, Miagao and San Joaquin, who has in depth knowledge in the Marine Protected Areas.

### **Sampling Techniques**

The researcher will gather data using two variants of data collection: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Self Administered Survey [using adapted Management Evaluation Analysis Tool (MEAT) (SA)] were employed. The study uses Statistical (employed Descriptive Statistics using frequencies mean, ANOVA and T-test) and for Qualitative (using themes) Analysis.purposive sampling method. However, the researcher will also have to solicit advice to people who could analyze data to apply appropriate statistical tools.

### **Research Instrument**

To gather data in this particular study, the researcher will utilize the instrument use by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The MPA MEAT is a harmonized version of the MPA Report Guide of the Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc. (CCEF,White et al. 2004) as modified by the Philippine Environmental Governance Project 2 (EcoGov2), (Arceo et al. in prep), facilitated by the MPA Support Network (MSN) through the CTI (Coral Triangle Initiative) Support Partnership or CTSP. Some elements are incorporated in the MPA MEAT to gauge and highlight important threshold indicators and processes that help promote and achieve MPA management effectiveness outputs and outcomes. A Voice recorder will also be use to document the Focus Group Discussion.

### Data Gathering Procedure

Prior to the gathering of data, the researcher will Explore the Marine Protected Areas in the Province of Iloilo. The researcher will have to observed the vicinity and interacted with the residents. After which a random interview with some residents will be conducted in order to get background information about the place.

Once the research paper is approve to conduct the study, the researcher will write letter address to the concerned parties through the researchers' team; the VP for Administrative Affairs of th Iloilo State College of Fishers and the Provincial Agriculture Office to conduct the study in the Province of Iloilo which has identified as a Marine Protected Areas.

### Data Analysis Procedure

The 48-item modification of the CCEF rating to incorporate other indicators and weighted importance values takes into account the suggestion of the WB score card (Staub and Hatziolas 2004) and of certain threshold governance processes (EcoGov2 in prep., Arceo et al.) to help gauge some outputs/outcomes and define effectiveness (Hockings et al. 2000).

## PRESENTATION, ANALYSES AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

### Descriptive Analysis

This research used the descriptive and inferential statistical tool using frequency, Mean and One-Way ANOVA in SPSS version 23 for analysis.

Table 1 presents the profile of the respondents in the marine protected areas in the Province of Iloilo in terms of age, sex, length of stay and occupation.

As to age, the respondents were grouped as 30 years old and below, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70 and 71 and years old and above; sex, male and female; Occupation, Fishers folks, Government Employee, Private Employee and Entrepreneur; and Length of Stay, 25 years and Below, 26-40, 41-55, 56-70 and 71 and Above. Of this number, there were 127 or 11.7% of the respondents aged 30 years old and below, 213 or 19.7% aged 31-40, 240 or 22.2% aged 41-50, 405 or 37.4% aged 51-60, 77 or 7.1% aged 61-70 and only 20 or 1.8% aged 71 and years old and above. The average age of the respondents is 47.27.

As to sex, there were 827 or 76.4% male respondents and 255 or 23.6% female.

The respondents are predominantly Fishers folks with 858 or 79.3% count out of 1082 respondents, there were 73 or 6.7% Government Employees, 11 or 1% Private Employees and 140 or 12.9% Entrepreneurs.

As to Length of Stay, there were 64 or 5.9% respondents at 25 years and below, 392 or 36.2% fell under 26-40 years length of stay, 342 or 31.6% with 41-55 years, 263 or 24.3% with 56-70 years and only 19 or 1.8% with 71 and above years of stay. Table 1 shows the data.

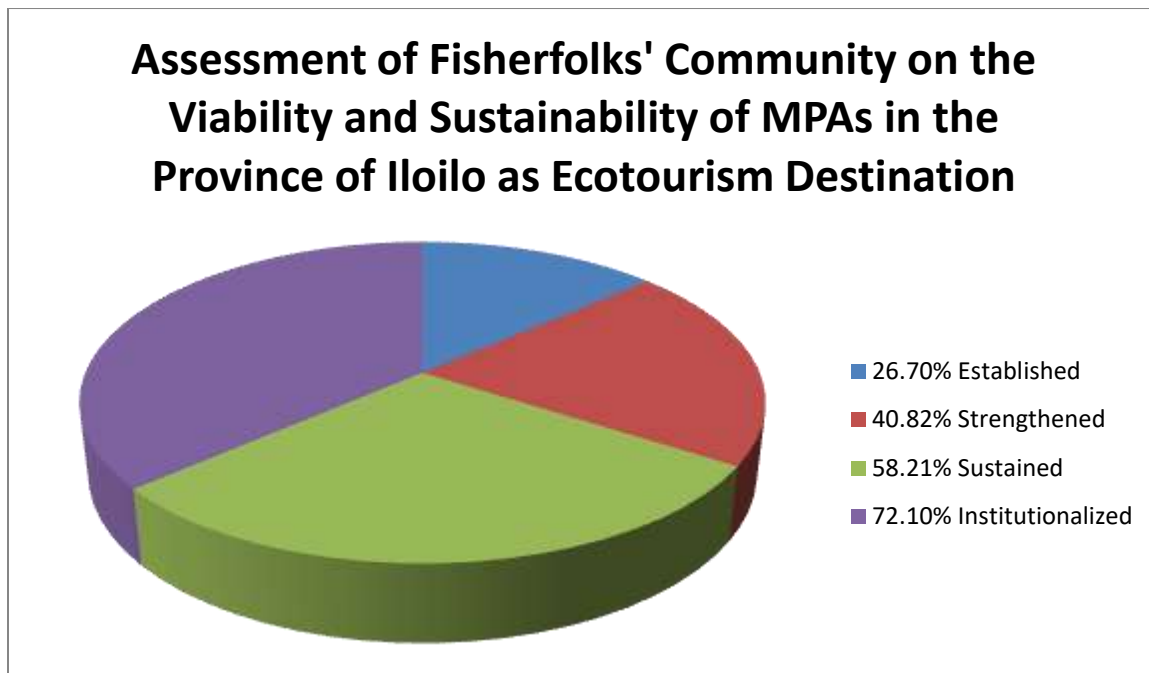
### Profile of the Respondents

**Table 1.** Profile of the respondents in terms of Age, Sex, Occupation and Length of Stay

Characteristics	f	%
Age		
30 and Below	127	11.7
31 - 40	213	19.7
41 - 50	240	22.2

51 - 60	405	37.4
61 - 70	77	7.1
71 and Above	20	1.8
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TOTAL	1082	100.0
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Mean = 47.27 years		
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Sex		
Male	827	76.4
Female	255	23.6
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TOTAL	1082	100.0
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Occupation		
Fishers folks	858	79.3
Government Employees	73	6.7
Private Employees	11	1.0
Entrepreneurs	140	12.9
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TOTAL	1082	100.0
<hr/>		
Length of Stay		
25 years and below	64	5.9
26 - 40	392	36.2
41 - 55	342	31.6
56 - 70	263	24.3
71 and Above	19	1.8
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TOTAL	1082	100.0
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**Chart 1.** Shows the assessment of fishers folks community on the viability and sustainability of Marine Protected Area in the province of Iloilo



The data showed that the four (4) Indicators of viability of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) namely; Established, Strengthened, Sustained and Institutionalized were “Satisfied” with the mean scores of 26.70, 40.82, 58.21, and 72.10 respectively. MPA was described as established and operational with the cumulative mean score of 72.10. This means that the Marine Protected Areas in the Province of Iloilo are viable and sustainable as ecotourism destinations.

During the survey, it was found out that 93.5% of the respondents had knowledge on Marine Protected Areas, 92.1% were stakeholders, 83.7% perceived that the Marine Protected Area is functional and sustained and this implies that MPAs’ assessed by the fisher folks community not just only viable and sustainable but it also decrease the behaviour of illegal fishing. They are aware the importance of MPAs not just as a breeding or sanctuary but also a tourist income in the area.

Table 2. Present the result in employing the machine-processed One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), significant differences were noted in the respondents’ perception on the levels of viability of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) categorized as to Established ( $F = 2.14, p < 0.05$ ), Strengthened ( $F = 2.14, p < 0.05$ ), Sustained ( $F = 1.88, p < 0.05$ ) and Institutionalized ( $F = 2.23, p < 0.05$ ) in the Province of Iloilo as ecotourism destinations as perceived by the respondents when grouped as to age. The data do not support the hypothesis that the there are no significant differences in the indicator of viability and sustainability of MPAs in the Province of Iloilo as ecotourism destinations. This also implies that as the respondent aged, their assessment of the MPAs varies. This shows on the table below;

Table 2. Differences in the Assessment of Fishers Folks community on the Viability and Sustainability of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Province of Iloilo as Perceived by the Respondents When Grouped as to Age

Level of Viability	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
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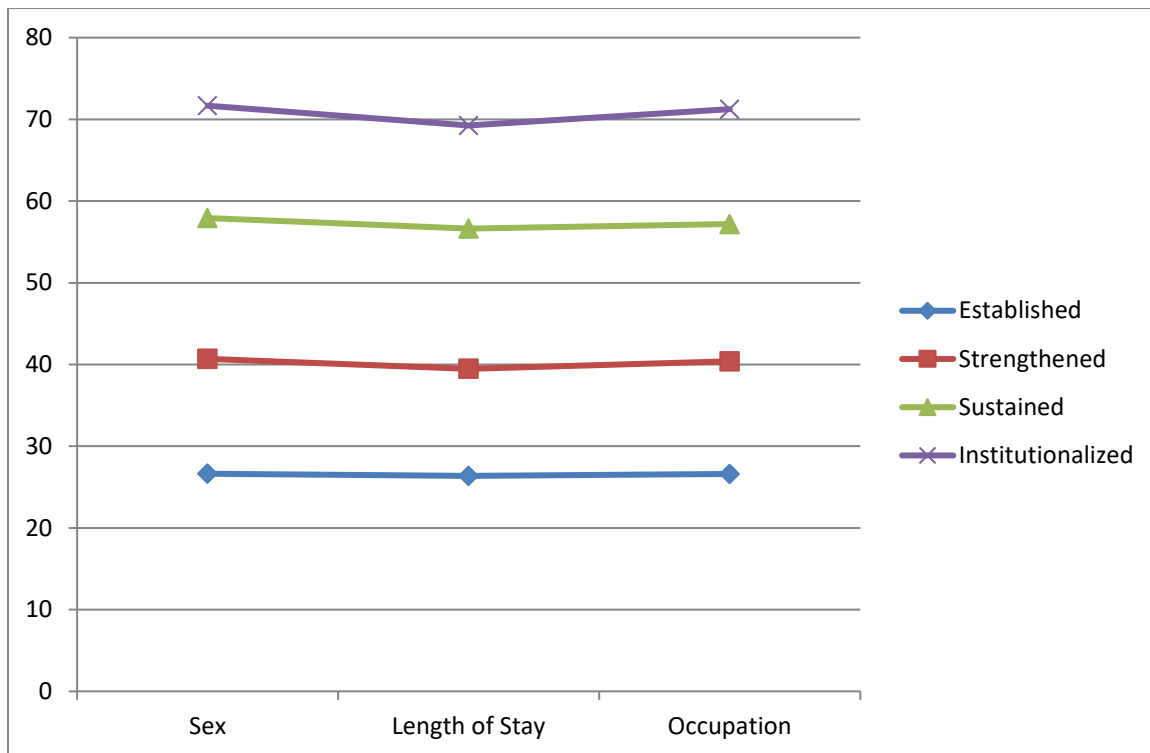
<b>Established</b>	Between Groups	87.84	39	2.252	2.14*	.000
	Within Groups	1097.52	104	1.053		
	Total	1185.36	108			
				1		
<b>Strengthened</b>	Between Groups	1405.50	39	36.039	2.14*	.000
	Within Groups	17560.26	104	16.852		
	Total	18965.77	108			
				1		
<b>Sustained</b>	Between Groups	5905.13	39	151.414	1.88*	.001
	Within Groups	83899.32	104	80.518		
	Total	89804.45	108			
				1		
<b>Institutionalized</b>	Between Groups	15224.57	39	390.374	2.23*	.000
	Within Groups	182090.24	104	174.751		
	Total	197314.81	108			
				1		

\*Sig < 0.05 level of significance

Further, when the machine-processed t-test was employed, no significant differences were noted in the respondents' perception on the levels of viability of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) categorized as to Established ( $F = 1.855$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ), Strengthened ( $F = 1.855$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ), Sustained ( $F = 1.833$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ) and Institutionalized ( $F=1.048$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ) in the Province of Iloilo as ecotourism destinations as perceived by the respondents when grouped as to sex, length of stay and occupation. The data support the hypothesis that there are no significant differences in the assessment of fishers folks on the viability and sustainability of MPAs in the Province of Iloilo as ecotourism destinations as perceived by the respondents when grouped as to sex, length of stay and occupation. This means that the respondents' perceptions do not vary as their occupation vary.

Chart 2. Shows the data that indicates the viability and sustainability of MPAs in the Province of Iloilo as ecotourism destination as assessed by the Fishers folks community when grouped as to sex, length of stay and occupation. The data do support the hypothesis that there are no significant differences in the indicator of viability and sustainability of MPAs in the Province of Iloilo as ecotourism destinations.

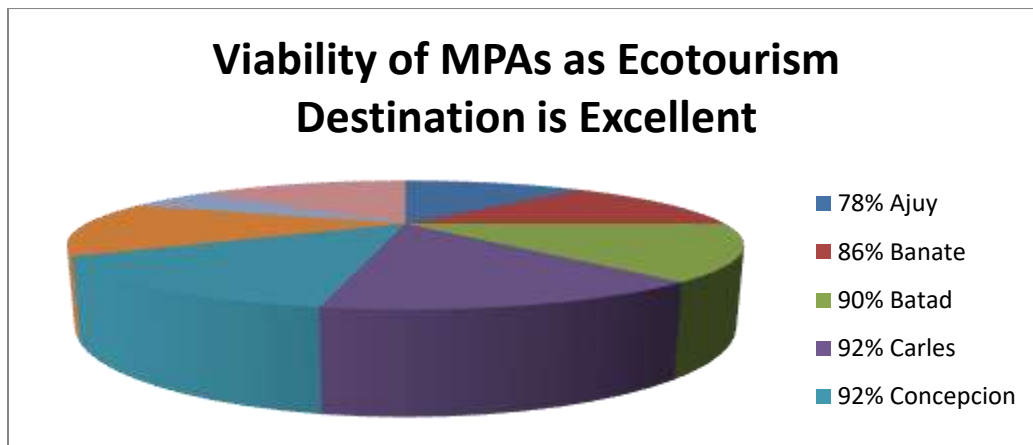
Chart 2. The shows that there is no significant difference in the level of viability and sustainability as perceived by the respondents.



This also implies that as regardless of the respondent sex, length of stay and occupation are aware of the information in assessing of the MPAs as viable and sustainable ecotourism destination.

Chart 3. Shows the viability of Marine Protected Areas in the eight (8) municipalities in the Province of Iloilo when measured using the Management Evaluation and Assessment Tools (MEAT) Form. The result showed that Ajuy, Banate, Batad, Concepcion, Carles and Estancia, Miagao and San Joaquin are 78%, 86%, 90%, 92%, 92%, 93%, 90, 34% and 92% viable respectively.

Chart 3. Indicates the Assessment of Fisher Folks Community on the Viability of MPAs in the Province of Iloilo



**Scale:**

- Established** At least 20 Total Cumulative Score
- Strengthened** At least 31 Total Cumulative Score
- Sustained** At least 47 Total Cumulative Score
- Institutionalized** At least 63 Total Cumulative Score

These data shows that the MPAs on that municipalities are viable as ecotourism destination. The Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in which the Management should focus on the following areas that will make it sustainable.

Table 3. The Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Management Focus for Sustainability of the Eight (8) Municipalities in the Five Districts of the Province of Iloilo

Management Focus for Sustainability	Actual Score in Percentage Form (%) as to Viability of Marine Protected Areas in The Province of Iloilo as Ecotourism Destinations							
	Municipalities							
	Ajuy	Banate	Batad	Concepcion	Carles	Estancia	Miagao	San Joaquin
Management Plan	78	78	89	89	89	89	67	89
Management Body	83	100	100	100	100	100	45	100
Legal Instrument	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Community Participation	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Financing	67	75	83	83	83	83	17	83
IEC	72	72	86	86	86	86	29	86
Enforcement	85	95	95	95	95	95		95

Monitoring & Evaluation	70	88	81	88	88	88	88
Site Development	68	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>60% 92%</b>

Table show that those are the areas in which the management of Marine Protected Areas should focus in order for the MPAs to be sustainable as ecotourism destination.

**Thematic Analysis**

.Below are the emerging themes based on the interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGD):

**1. Passion vs. Necessity**

Being an Operations Unit Manager (OUM) of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) requires not just an 8 hour job but working beyond the prescribed time day and night in order to maintain and safeguard the protected area. Most of the OUM's and BFARMC said that the passion is needed to protect the area not just a necessity that they have to perform or a task that is assigned to them. According to McNeely et al., 1990 as cited by Subade 2005, "Biological resources are the fundamental building blocks for development and provide the basis for local self-sufficiency. In particular, biological diversity, which characterizes such resources, is a global asset, bringing benefits to people in all parts of the world. Thus, efforts to maintain the diversity of biological resources are urgently required at local, national and international levels thus protecting the MPA's are not just mere necessity but should include passion and self-sacrifice in doing so."

**2. Ideals vs. Reality**

Protecting Marine Protected Areas should undergo various assessments in order to meet the standard set by the regulating body such as the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) in order to create a Municipal Ordinance. Even if you check in the RA 8550 section A, it states that "to achieve food security as the overriding consideration in the utilization, management, development, conservation and protection of fishery resources in order to provide the food needs of the population."

Furthermore, it also states in Section (c)that to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management and conservation of the fishery and aquatic resources in Philippine waters including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in the adjacent high seas....;

(d) to protect the rights of fishers folks, especially of the local communities with priority to municipal fishers folks, in the preferential use of the municipal waters....;

(e) to provide support to the fishery sector, primarily to the municipal fishers folks, including women and youth sectors, through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, construction of post-harvest facilities, marketing assistance, and other service;....

However, most of the MPA sites are not enjoying these provisions and, if there are, those were just only few. As shared by the participants who had been interviewed, those who directly benefit the MPA's are persons in-charge because they have access to the area in terms of fishing and profit sharing as a venue for recreation. Furthermore, it is known to all that in order to declare an area as MPA's, there should be BFARMC's that will advise the LGU as stated in;

"Section 73. The Municipal/City Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (M/CFARMCs). - The M/CFARMCs shall be created in each of the municipalities and cities abutting municipal waters. However, the LGU may create the Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils

*(BFARMCs) and the Lakewide Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (LFARMCs) whenever necessary. Such BFARMCs and LFARMCs shall serve in an advisory capacity to the LGUs.”*

But there are MPA sites which do not have BFARMC's prior to the declaration of the areas as emphasized by most of the interviewees.

### **3. Political Will vs. Personal Interest**

With the establishing of MPA's in various municipality in this study, you can find the diverse ways on how each municipality managed the areas and maximizing fund as allotted by the LGU, as well as the funds coming from the provincial and the national government.

There are MPAs that were strengthened, sustained and even institutionalized although they only met the minimum rating points. It was found out that the political will of various LGU's from municipal level down to the Barangay plays a vital role in realizing the protection of the MPAs.

In the research paper of Eggart and Ellegård (2003) and OECD (2005), they have identified a number of economic drivers that fishermen are into illegal fishing or LGU's or politicians involved in illegal fishing:

a. Over-capacity of fishing fleets. According to the OECD (2005) excess capacity has the potential to be 'an extremely powerful driver' of fishing, particularly in fisheries exploiting higher value catches, because if the vessels are not offered incentives to remove themselves from the fleet, they will face large costs which can only be mitigated through engaging in fishing. The motivation to engage in will also increases if there is little or no regulation of capacity, and there is no consideration of the ability of fishers to generate an income (OECD, 2005).

b. Market demand and price for fish. The higher the price of a fish species the more likely it is to be targeted illegally, and the economic gains from IUU fishing of high-value species are often significant. (Miller, in OECD, 2005 p. 38).

c. Levels of Sanctions. In the absence of severe penalties, fishing can be a lucrative option. The OECD (2005) argues that very few countries have levels of fines that are effective deterrents, and suggests that the forfeiture of catches and vessels could have a greater deterrent effect than fines. Nonetheless, there are instances when even high sanctions do not pose a sufficient disincentive, for example when the perpetrators suffer from extreme poverty.

d. Economic and social conditions of fishers. OECD (2005) reports that in a number of fisheries fishing activities are carried out by fishers from developing countries with poor economic and social conditions. It should be recognized that the same can apply in developed countries (Personal communication: Clark, 2014). Additionally, people from poor economic and social conditions are employed on vessels in situations where they are exploited and have no social protection.

e. Level of monitoring, control and surveillance activities can have a significant effect on fishing, by providing positive signals to legitimate fishing operators and discouraging potential non-compliance. These factors are similar to the reason why other fisherman are into illegal fishing and getting fish from other municipal waters.

According to the British historian Lord Acton in the book of Keltner (2007), as cited in The Power Paradox states that "Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely." Unfortunately, this is not entirely a myth, as the actions of Europe's monarchs, Enron's executives, and out-of-control pop stars reveal. A great deal of research especially from social psychology lends support to Acton's claim, albeit with a twist: Power leads people to act in impulsive fashion, both good and bad, and to fail to understand other people's feelings and desires.

No matter how good politicians are in implementing rules pertaining to protected areas, they may tend to violate certain laws pertaining to fishing. Based on the responses of the participants, the political will and personal interest of the LGU can stop the proliferation of illegal fishing in various municipal waters.

#### **4. Sustainability vs. Viability**

In the economics literature, natural resource values that are independent of people's present use of the resource have been variously termed 'existence,' 'intrinsic,' 'non-user,' and 'non-use' values. These values are said to arise from a variety of motives, including a "desire to bequeath certain environmental resources to one's heirs or future generations, a sense of stewardship or responsibility for preserving certain features of natural resources, and a desire to preserve options for future use." He stressed his belief that a majority of environmental and resource economists accept the hypothesis of non-use values, at least in principle, and that many of them believe that non-use values can be large in the aggregate in some circumstances. Thus, if non-use values are large, ignoring them in natural resource policy-making could lead to serious errors and resource misallocations.

The additional looming threat to our MPA's is the time when they are viable as Ecotourism destinations then the influx of tourist visiting to the visit might give as second thought on promoting it as ecotourism destinations.

Along with increasing calls for more MPAs, there are growing expectations for more effective management.

#### **5. Different Sites Unique Surprises**

Every Marine Protected Areas in the Province of Iloilo are distinct, they have their own uniqueness for example the site in San Joaquin offers a scenic view similar to the coast of Hongkong and Taiwan. Plus it is also a breeding sites for giant clams "taklobo". Also in the coast of Estancia and Carles, dubbed as the Alaska of the Philippines that offers a bounty catch from the seas and scenic views in its shoreline.

Thus, the effective management of marine protected areas that can translate the trends revealed by stock assessment into a specific management action can be achieved through the application of decision rules. These rules compare the performance indicators with pre-determined reference points, and if certain conditions are met, will automatically trigger certain management actions'. (Queensland Government 2001) as cited in the works of Day et al., (2002)

In general, the Marine Protected Areas in the Province of Iloilo are viable as Ecotourism Destinations as perceived by the respondents.

#### **SUMMARY**

Based on the assessment of the fishers folks communities in the marine protected areas in the province of Iloilo is viable and sustainable as ecotourism destinations.

There is a significant difference as perceived by the respondents on the marine protected areas in the province of Iloilo in terms of age, however there is no difference when grouped according to sex, length of stay and occupation.

The indicators of viability and sustainability as adapted in the survey instrument of Arceo et el of the marine protected area in the province of Iloilo as ecotourism destination as perceived by the respondents in terms of strength, sustainability and institutionalization has scored of 65.8% with an equivalent of Excellent.

There a significant difference in the assessment of viability and sustainability among the respondents in terms of age. Which implies that as the respondent grows older or aged they are no longer aware of new information pertaining to the viability and sustainability of MPAs. For them it exist and what more. But as to sex, length of stay and profession there is no significant difference in the establishing, strengthening, sustaining and institutionalizing marine protected areas as ecotourism destination in the province of Iloilo.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Therefore the researcher concluded that based on the assessment of the fishers folks community of Marine protected area in the province of Iloilo as ecotourism destination, is viable and sustainable as an Ecotourism Destination. However following recommendation are recommended by the researcher in order to fulfill its functionality, sustainability and viability.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the finding of this research paper, the researches recommend the following;

1. Projects are good but Government Projects is preferred to be given to the host community in a form of grant, because by grant, the project would have assessment from time to time. If you can see in the table on monitoring and evaluation of each municipality has a below monitoring and evaluation of their respective MPA's other are just only relying on the NGO's and or other Government Offices like the BFAR.
  2. Budget is a must. It should be taken 40% of the total intelligence fund of the local executive and in the social economic enterprise of the LGU's. And a quarterly assessment by the DENR , DA or Respective NGO's is a must.
  3. Premium salary must be allotted to the BFARMC's and OUM, they risk their life in protecting the MPA's for the sake of the illegal fishing activities of the politicians.
  4. Illegal fishing vessel, devices or paraphernalia shall be burned. Confiscating it makes a venue for corruptions.
  5. We cannot stop illegal fishing, unless everybody are involve, especially in the LGU's
- Therefore we suggest based on the above recommendation that government projects in the MPA's should be in a form of GRANT so that there will be assessment, evaluation and monitoring.

### **Areas for further research**

This research paper should be follow-up yearly for more comprehensive status of our Marine Protected Areas and future studies may also pursued in the following areas; Socio-economic Impact of MPA's, Evaluation and Inventory of Marine Life in the MPA's; Assessment of the Climate Change Impact, Effectivity of Government Project in Coastal Management and so on so forth.

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