



## Bolos Point, Cagayan



Address: Cagayan

Description: Belonging to the Cagayan corridor of the Sierra Madre range, Bolos Point is a pocket of biodiversity in the Pacific seaboard. Its remoteness and considerable inaccessibility makes it vulnerable to rampant logging and illegal fishing activities. Conservation and protection through community-based capacity-building have therefore been pursued in this site.

Status: Closed

### Site Profile Summary

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Ecosystem Types      | - Coastal-Marine<br>- Montane Forests  |
| Protection Status    | Protected Seascape and Landscape   |
| Geographical Profile | - Belonging to the Cagayan corridor, one of the four identified corridors in the Sierra Madre mountain range.<br>- The only coastal barangay in the municipality of Gattaran in Cagayan.<br>- Featuring rugged terrain, steep mountain slopes, and narrow coastal strips.<br>- As of 2004, 16% of the 11,476 hectares of forest cover in Bolos Point remain untouched. |
| Flora                | - Rattan, a highly sought-after raw material that is dwindling in most parts of the country, still flourishes in the area.   |
| Fauna                | - Rich in coastal and marine resources, particularly sharks.<br>- Part of the migratory path of dolphins, whales, and sea turtles.   |
| Indigenous Peoples   | - The population is mostly comprised of Ilocanos (approx. 85%), but there are small populations of Aeta and Igorot IP groups.  |
| Livelihood Sources   | - Forest products, agriculture, fishing and other coastal/marine resources   |

### Threats

- Vulnerability to rampant logging and illegal fishing activities (e.g. use of dynamite and cyanide) as a result of inadequate law enforcement action in the area, which is in turn mostly attributed to the

remoteness of Bolos Point.

- There are also legalized logging activities that might be serving as fronts for illegal operations since cutting outside the permitted area is commonplace.
- Rattan is in danger of being depleted, given the rate of extraction.
- Marine fauna species with greater conservation needs, such as sharks, dolphins, and turtles are being exploited because of their high commercial values.

## FPE-funded Projects and Initiatives

| Project  | Grant Type, Strategy          | Duration  | Implementing Partners                                      |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| A Shift Towards Area Specific Intervention Through Strategic Planning For The FPE Priority Site In Bolos Point | Medium, Proactive, Sites      | 2007      |  |
| Short-Term Proposal for Bolos Community Resource Management  | Medium, Sites                 | 2007      | - Cagayan Valley Partners in People Development (CAVAPPED) |
| Bolos Point Community-based Resource Management Project  | Medium to Large, Site-focused | 2001-2005 | - Cagayan Valley Partners in People Development (CAVAPPED) |

## Key Outcomes

- Research on baseline data for Bolos Point's natural resource and socio-economic profiles.
- Formation of the Cagayan Council for Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor (CCSMBC), a multi-sectoral collaboration which has mobilized the passing of an Executive Order by the provincial government declaring the Cagayan Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor as a Protected Landscape and Seascape.
- Formation and capacity-building of five sectoral organizations representing the indigenous people, women, fisherfolk, farmers, and a consortium of NGOs/POs for the conservation of Sierra Madre de Cagayan. Continuous PO training has increased the community's knowledge on biodiversity conservation and organizational and financial management.
- Establishment of important linkages between local communities, NGOs/POs, local government, and other stakeholders involved in the area.
- Strong advocacy for indigenous peoples' rights and development of information-education-communication (IEC) campaigns for students.
- Provision of farm supplies, motorized banca, and fishing equipment to support sustainable livelihoods.
- Installation of a communal irrigation system and the development of a rattan training project, rice enhancement production program, organic fertilizer production, fish processing, and salt production.
- Establishment of a meeting area/resource center, resource management zone, sea turtle nesting ground, agro-forestry nurseries, demo farms, and sari-sari stores.
- FPE's CBRM project in Bolos Point is complementary to ongoing (double check, maybe this has already ended if lifted from 2004 reference?) initiatives of the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor Program (CI-Philippines, USAID) within or adjacent to Gattaran.

## Reference

- *Foundation for the Philippine Environment. 2004. Sustaining Biodiversity Conservation Initiatives: Site Focused Projects 2003. Quezon City, Philippines: Foundation for the Philippine Environment.*

