Status Monitoring of the Seagrass beds of Palawan

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Background of the study

• Since 1989, our office called PIADPO back then was already conducting coastal resource assessment on the municipalities in Palawan.

• Worldwide, a total of 60 species of seagrass have been identified.
• 16 in the Philippines and 13 in Palawan.
Background of the study

- Are submerged flowering **marine plants**
- Serves as **nursery, feeding habitat and breeding grounds**
- Ecologically as important as **mangroves, and coral** habitats
Study location

- 21 municipalities
- 13 in the North and
- 8 in the South
Objectives

1. To conduct a comparative analysis on the baseline and monitoring data of the seagrass beds of Palawan
2. To make a trending analysis on the condition of the seagrass resources in the past 15 years
3. To provide the concerned LGU’s with information to formulate ordinances for protected areas.
Methodology

1. The Transect quadrat sampling method was used in all the assessment and monitoring activities used in this study.
2. The method used was by English et al., (1997)
Seagrass condition in 11 municipalities based on percent cover

Baseline
- Excellent: 30.2%
- Good: 28.4%
- Fair: 38.9%
- Poor: 2.6%

Monitoring
- Excellent: 0.9%
- Good: 5.3%
- Fair: 24.4%
- Poor: 69.4%
Baseline data has an average of 16,566 while the monitoring data has an average of 8,335. A reduction of 8,231.
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largest decrease was seen in</td>
<td>7598</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooke's point</td>
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<td>Largest increase was seen in</td>
<td>2896</td>
<td>3166</td>
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<tr>
<td>Araceli</td>
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Largest decrease was seen in Brooke's point: 7598 shoots/m²

Largest increase was seen in Araceli: 270 shoots/m²

Largest decrease was seen in Brooke's point: -5418 shoots/m²
From 2400 shoots /m² it went down to five times or 19.2% of its original density
Recommendations

1. Intensive information education campaign (IEC) on the role of seagrass on the marine ecosystem

2. Strict protection, monitoring, and inclusion in marine protected areas (MPAs) of the seagrass beds

3. Incorporating adaptive measures on the effects of climate change on our coastal communities and resources
Related Literature


Thank you for your time!