

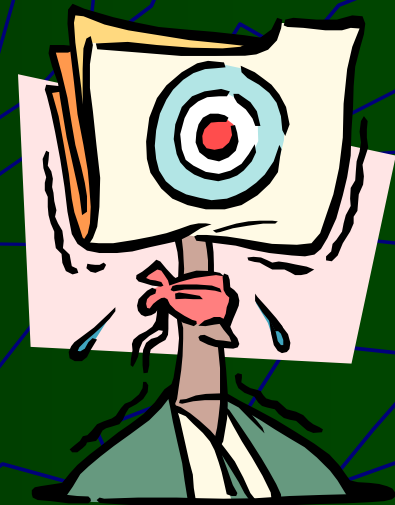
The background of the slide features a dark green field with a network of thin, light blue lines representing a topographic map or contour lines. In the lower-left corner, there is a stylized compass rose with a blue arrow pointing towards the upper-left. The compass rose includes labels for cardinal and ordinal directions: 'N' for North, 'NE' for Northeast, 'SE' for Southeast, and 'SW' for Southwest. The main title is positioned in the upper-left to center area of the slide.

ASEAN Peatland Project ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT: A REPORT

Presented by: **ROBERTO P. CERENO**
College of Forestry & Natural Resources
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Rationale

- Ensuring the sustainable management of peatlands
- Awareness raising, capacity building and institutional strengthening at the national level and in the pilot communities



Project Sites



Leyte
Sab-a
Basin



Agusan
Marsh

Methodology

- Meeting with the Local Peatland Working Group
- Community visits / familiarization tours
- Multi-sectoral seminar-workshop on ecotourism development:
- Field validation and presentation of preliminary plans to stakeholders
- Report preparation & submission

Guiding Principles

Ecotourism is ...

- ▶ Leisure and learning activities where visitors enjoy nature, culture and interchange with local people in an agricultural, mountain or fishing village.
- ▶ Travel to rural areas that encourages enjoyment, environmental education, engagement & conservation.



Guiding Principles

Tenets of ecotourism (the 5Es):

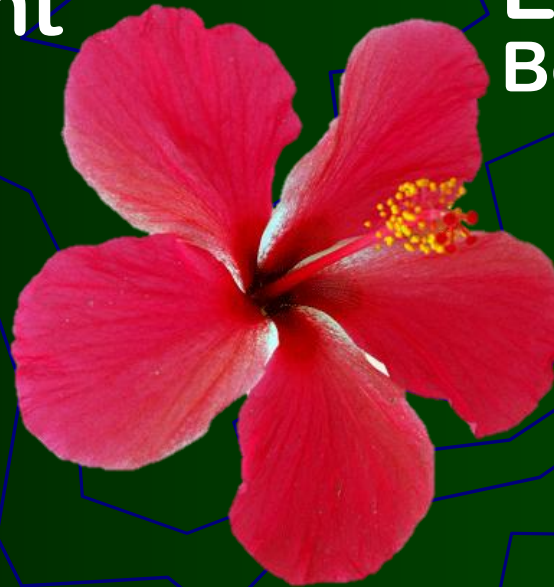
Visitor
Enjoyment

Economic
Benefit

Conservation
Education

Stakeholder
Engagement

Environmental
Protection



Guiding Principles

Potential benefits:

- ▶ Economic diversification opportunities
- ▶ Excellent tool to educate the public
- ▶ Preservation of natural & cultural heritage
- ▶ Development of “pride of place”

Guiding Principles

Peatland ecotourism theme:

It's more fun in the
Peatlands



Assessment for Ecotourism

The 5 As of ecotourism:

1. Attractions:

peatland forest, waterbodies, farms, rare flora & fauna, historical landmarks, festivals/ events, OTOP products



Assessment for Ecotourism

The 5 As of ecotourism:

2. Activities:

nature walk, trail running, camping, biking, birding, fishing, river cruising & rafting, kayaking, photo safari, nature education, farming activities, arts & crafts, native food cooking, etc.



Assessment for Ecotourism

The 5 As of ecotourism development:

3. Accommodation:

homestays, pension house, inns, campsites

4. Amenities:

visitor center, nature interpretation,
tour guiding, info materials,

5. Access:

road network, travel mode & duration,
transport service, communication

Assessment for Ecotourism

- Meeting with the LPTWG , DENR Caraga, Butuan City, 2 March 2012



Assessment for Ecotourism

- Community visits / fam. tour: San Francisco, Bunawan & Talacogon: 3-4 March 2012



Assessment for Ecotourism

- Multi-sectoral seminar-workshop on ecotourism development: 5 March 2012

Vision: *"Agusan peatland is a sustainable, world class and unique ecotourism destination managed by responsible, empowered and peace loving community working together for the benefit of the future generation without sacrificing the cultural heritage nor the environment."*



Assessment for Ecotourism

- Multi-sectoral seminar-workshop on ecotourism development: 5 March 2012



Assessment for Ecotourism

- Hot spring, Agipawa lake (Kalingayan, Bunawan)
- Forest wildlife , Agri-tourism (Pagasa, Sta. Josefa)
- Peat Forest, Birding, Fishes/Fishing (Tamboon Creek), Culture (Lumad), Rafting (Gakit), Kasawangan Lake, Farming, Organic Farming-Caimpugan, San Francisco
- Lakes, Sacred Place (Ritual Place), Lumbia forest, Hunting Ground, Talacogon

Possible Ecotourism Projects

Peatland Ecosystem Awareness Tour (PEAT)

- Peat swamp flora



- and fauna?

Possible Ecotourism Projects

Peatland Ecosystem Awareness Tour (PEAT)

- Marshland & peat swamp landscape



Possible Ecotourism Projects

Peatland Ecosystem Awareness Tour (PEAT)

- Nature & culture interaction



Possible Ecotourism Projects

Peatland Ecosystem Awareness Tour (PEAT)

- Tourism & livelihood



Possible Ecotourism Projects

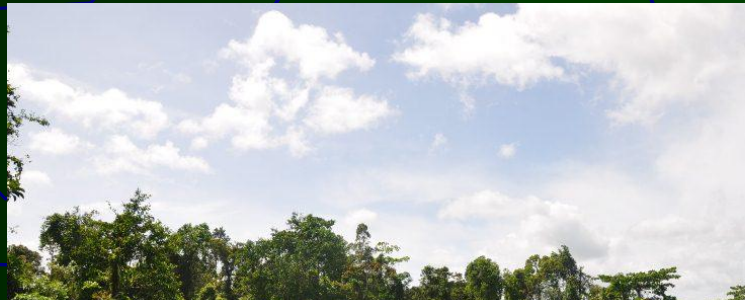
Peatland Ecosystem Awareness Tour (PEAT)

- Birding & marsh wildlife watching tours



Possible Ecotourism Projects

Peatland Ecosystem Awareness Tour (PEAT)



- Boardwalk & observation deck

Possible Ecotourism Projects

Agusan Marsh:

- Peatland tour: board walk & viewdeck for nature education, birding, photo safari, river cruising, etc.
- Marshland tour & river cruise
- Visitor reception facility
- Information materials, collaterals & signage
- Training & organization of eco-tour guides & emergency rescue volunteers
- Organization of homestay accommodation
- Arts, crafts & livelihood ventures

Possible Ecotourism Projects

Tourism Market:

- Students of Caraga universities, colleges schools
- Local Philippine tourists
- International: short & long haul

Possible Ecotourism Projects

Organization & management

- LGUs
- Local communities
- NGOs

Local enterprises to organize & implement
PEAT

Thank You for Your Attention



*Toog hug
Agusan del Sur
2 March 2012*

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