

Assessment of mangrove flora of Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS) San Vicente, Sta. Ana Cagayan valley, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

The status and species composition of mangrove forest is a basic and pre-requisite for the management and conservation of mangrove resource. The study was conducted to determine the status and species composition of mangrove forests of Palaui Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS), San Vicente Sta. Ana, Cagayan, Philippines. A Transect Line Plot (TLP) method was employed to obtain data on the structure of mangrove community. Results revealed that there were 16 true mangrove species belonging to 7 families and 10 associate species belonging to 9 families where *Rhizophora apiculata* was the densest species (23.36%), most dominant (22.5%), most frequent (17%) and has the highest importance value (62.88%). Mangrove forest is still in good condition with 53% crown cover, stand density of 2,335 trees/hectare and regeneration of 10 seedlings per plot. Three genera of *Rhizophora* were identified (*Rhizophora apiculata*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, and *Rhizophora stylosa*). Other genera of major and minor mangrove species are well distributed in the study area. The adaptability and diversity of mangrove species highly depends on favourable ecological and environmental conditions however; the anthropogenic and natural disturbances observed may possess a great threat to mangrove biodiversity.

Key words: Assessment, composition, mangrove, species, Palaui Island, Philippines