
NATURAL RESOURCES OF DAGUMA RANGE: ITS POTENTIAL TO AGRO- ECO TOURISM

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ABSTRACT

The study aims to find out the potentials of Natural Resources of Daguma Range to Agro- Eco Tourism. Specifically, to determine the degree of potentials of Natural Resources on: social, economic, environmental, and cultural aspects; the visibility of National, and LGU's in project implementations in preservation and promotion of Natural Resources in the Municipality. The study aimed to address the needs on preservation of natural resources despite of development in the area. This study was descriptive in nature with survey documentations and historical methods for Data collection, the progress in promoting awareness on the local history and in the development of the study of the places that covers Daguma Range. The study revealed that natural resources is effective tool to enhance the beauty of Bagumbayan and be useful in community in different aspects.

Based on these findings, the following recommendations are recommended:

Municipal officials and law making body must give priority to the programs that will enhance the beauty of Bagumbayan; Natural Resources and beautiful spots will be uploaded in internet or municipal website; Leaflets/ handouts about the enchanted beauty of Bagumbayan will distribute to different schools of Sultan Kudarat; symposiums in different schools/ offices/ and even barangays to showcase the beauty of Bagumbayan; Continuous research be done on the preservation of Natural Resources and sustainable development of it so that next generation will enjoy its beauty; The study expanded not only in local but on National level so that sustainable development will be materialized.

KEYWORDS: *Natural Resources, Agro Tourism, Eco-tourism, Daguma Range, Sustainable Development*

INTRODUCTION

Natural Resources can be utilized as a specialized tool for the development of the country. There are several places throughout the world where the amount of natural resources are abundant. Natural resources can be associated with the word tourism, wherein it attracts and allow the world to see what the particular country has to offer for immigrants, visitors, and the like. Eco- Tourism will highlight global challenges and the local opportunities sustainable development of tourism and promoting solutions that balance conservation, communities and sustainable development.

Tourism is an industry that is helpful for the growth of the economy, the responsibility of tourism development in the locality is shared by both the government and the people in certain community. The government laydown the policy in tourism development. Government should provide infrastructure such as roads to encourage the tourists to visit the place as it will make the economy of the place healthy.

Tourism is an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance of foreign and employment, to mold and enhanced sense of national pride for all the Filipinos.

Agro- Eco tourism principle is to guide tourism initiatives towards sustainability and community participation. It is considered ways in which we understand how ecotourism ventures impact on the lives of people living in and around. From the development perspective, ecotourism ventures should only be considered successful if local communities have some measures of control over them and if they share equitably in the benefits emerging from ecotourism activities. The research has proposed an empowerment framework as a suitable mechanism for aiding analysis of the social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of ecotourism on local communities. Regina Scheyvens (1999)

Republic act No. 9593 also known as “the tourism Act of 2009” states that, the State declares tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and the industry of national interest and importance which must be harnesses as an engine of socio- economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of National pride for all Filipinos. To this end the tourism Act 2009 was passed on 12 May 2009, granting fiscal and non fiscal incentives to tourism business. Dennis G. Dimagiba.

Statement of the Problem

The conduct of this study was driven by the intention to make a survey and to determine the potentials of natural resources of Daguma Range in the municipality’s Agro- Eco Tourism. Towards this end, the survey was conducted.

Specifically, this study wanted to answer the following questions:

1. To what degree are the potentials of the natural resources to Agro- Eco Tourism in terms of:
 - 1.1 Social
 - 1.2 Economic
 - 1.3 Environmental
 - 1.4 Cultural
2. Are the local/Provincial/National government involvement. Interventions visible in the implementation of the program for the preservation and promotion of natural resources in the municipality?
3. What natural resources can be found in the municipality which can be potentials to tourism?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study was descriptive evaluative in nature. With survey, documentations, and historical methods for data collection.

Locale of the study

The study was conducted in the places that covers Daguma Range, specifically Bagumbayan.

Respondents of the study

The respondents of the study were the selected dwellers of Daguma Range in the municipality of Bagumbayan. The LGU Personnel, Municipal Planning Development, Municipal Eco- Tourism Personnel, Department of Agriculture, DENR Personnel. They were perceive to be the most effective agents in promoting natural resources and its potentials to agro-eco tourism of Bagumbayan among the local and international tourists.

Data Gathering Instruments

A researcher- made survey instrument, FGD, and interview determined the variables of the study. The profile of the dwellers along Daguma Range and their degree of awareness contributed to agro-eco tourism in terms of social, economic, cultural, and environmental aspects. It determined also the local, provincial and national government interventions in the preservation and protection of natural resources.

DEGREE OF POTENTIALS OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN AGRO- ECO TOURISM

Table 1. Potentials of Natural Resources for Agro- Eco Tourism in Daguma Mountain Range in terms of Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural. SKSU, 2014

Indicators	Weighted Means	Verbal Description
1. Social	2.90	Agree
2. Economic	3.02	Agree
3. Environmental	2.97	Agree
4. Cultural	2.98	Agree
Overall Mean	2.97	Agree

Table 2. Interventions on the implementation of the program about the preservation and the promotion of Natural Resources in the municipality of Bagumbayan. SKSU,2014

Indicators	Weighted Means	Verbal Description
National	3.28	Partly Often
Provincial	3.31	Partly Often
Local Government Unit	3.31	Partly Often
Overall Mean	3.30	Partly Often

Table 3. Natural Resources found in the municipality of Bagumbayan with Potentials to Agro- Eco Tourism. SKSU ,2014

Natural Resources	F (Frequency)	Rank
Caves	62	3
Falls	78	2
Water Sheds	2	5
Water Reservoir	5	4
Forest and Timberlands	86	1

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the result of the study, it revealed that the respondents' degree of awareness on the potentials of Natural Resources on the Agro- Eco Tourism was at moderate level, which was in the middle of "strongly disagree" and "strongly agree".

It also revealed that among the Social, Economic, Environmental and cultural aspects, natural resources contributed much to the economic development of the certain community.

It was also found out that the National, Provincial and local Government as well as LGU's participation and visibility in the implementation of the program related to the preservation and promotion of Natural Resources in the Municipality was at the moderate level which was the midpoint between the levels of "Not at All" and "Very Often".

It also revealed that among the three (3), National, Provincial, and LGU, Local and Provincial Government garnered the high percentage rate from among the choices which the respondents choose the most visible in implementing the programs on preservation and promotion of the natural resources.

It was also established that from among the enumerated Natural Resources which can be a potential to agro- eco tourism, the respondents responded that the forest and timberland is the most commonly found in the municipality that got the highest frequency, followed by falls in the rank 2, and caves for rank 3.

The overall assessment given by the respondents to the potentials of Natural Resources in the municipality was very good, all of them agree to the statement that the researcher asked to the questionnaire.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the following conclusions are drawn:

It can be concluded therefore that the natural resources is very good tool in promoting the Agro- Eco Tourism of the municipality, and a way to produce livelihood and source of income to the people of the said community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These are the recommendations of the researcher based on the findings and the conclusions of the study:

1. Care for caves, falls, and other natural resources that are potentials to the municipality for environmental protection.
2. Charcoal making and mining should be minimized to a tolerable level to avoid denudation of forest.
3. Municipal officials and law making body must give priority to the programs that will enhance the beauty of Bagumbayan.
4. Natural Resources and beautiful spots will be uploaded in internet or municipal website; Leaflets/ handouts about the enchanted beauty of Bagumbayan will distribute to different schools of Sultan Kudarat
5. Symposiums in different schools/ offices/ and even barangays to showcase the beauty of Bagumbayan;
6. Continuous research be done on the preservation of Natural Resources and sustainable development of it so that next generation will enjoy its beauty;
7. The study expanded not only in local but on National level so that sustainable development will be materialized.

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