Monitoring long-term sustainability in the Batanes Islands, Philippines:
The Creation of Batanes Observatory

Batanes Tourism and Hospitality Monitoring Center
5 July 2023
Batanes, THE PHILIPPINES

Batanes Tourism and Hospitality Monitoring Center

Member since 2023

Hosted by University of the Philippines Diliman

Monitoring area Batanes, the Philippines
Why Batanes?

Republic Act No. 8991

Home of the Indigenous Peoples

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List

Extensive ecosystem
Land area: 23,000 HA
Marine territorial: 450,000 HA

Total population: 18,831 (2020)
with *45,439 tourist arrivals in 2019

A place of emotional appeal that shapes the Ivatans' pride of place

* Source: PGO-Tourism Office
Vision

A well-preserved natural and cultural environment that supports sustainable tourism, promotes heritage conservation and social equity, through healthy collaboration and data from the observatory.

Objectives

- Build participatory approach by creating awareness and support capacity-building in sustainability and resiliency among tourism stakeholders.
- Develop and provide methodological references and recommendations for a sustainable and resilient Batanes.
- Systematic monitoring and evaluation of indicators of sustainability and resiliency in support of future decision and policy making.
- Identify and disseminate good practices in the process of facilitating the exchange and comparison of information.
- Promote a condition of balanced tourism that empowers and legitimizes the Ivatan’s control over its activities and management practices.
2019
- Stakeholders mapping
- Ethics clearance secured
- Endorsement campaign at the local and national levels

2020
- Creation of Technical Working Group with 22 members
- Series of stakeholder workshops aid the identification of priority areas
- First application to INSTO March 15, 2020

2021
- Creation of EO 34
- Virtual TWG meetings held
- Initial studies on the effect of the pandemic on the Ivatans

2022-2023
- Research activities resumed
- Revised applications 2 April 2022 and 25 November 2022
- Identification of indicators to be monitored, including Cultural Integrity and Biodiversity
- Final submission to INSTO 8 May 2023
Sustainability Issues

What are observed changes in specific issue area?

Which issues have the greatest impact?

Which issues have evolved most rapidly?

What issues are currently worked on? What issues need to be prioritized!
Six Key Issues Monitored (2022-2023)

- Governance
- Cultural Integrity
- Biodiversity
- Economic Benefits
- Solid Waste Management
- Resident Satisfaction
- Physical Carrying Capacity

Participatory Process
Looking into the future

**Research Focus**

Acceptance into INSTO on 16 June 2023

**2022-2023**
- Governance
- Solid Waste
- Local Satisfaction
- Physical Carrying Capacity

**2023-2024**
- Economic Benefits
  - Tourism
  - Seasonality
- Employment
- Water Waste Management

**2024-2025**
- Climate Change
  - Water Management
- Energy
- Accessibility

Continuous monitoring of indicators
Celebrating group success as the journey continues!
Maraming salamat po.