



Training Farmers as Birdwatching Guides at Candaba Wetlands

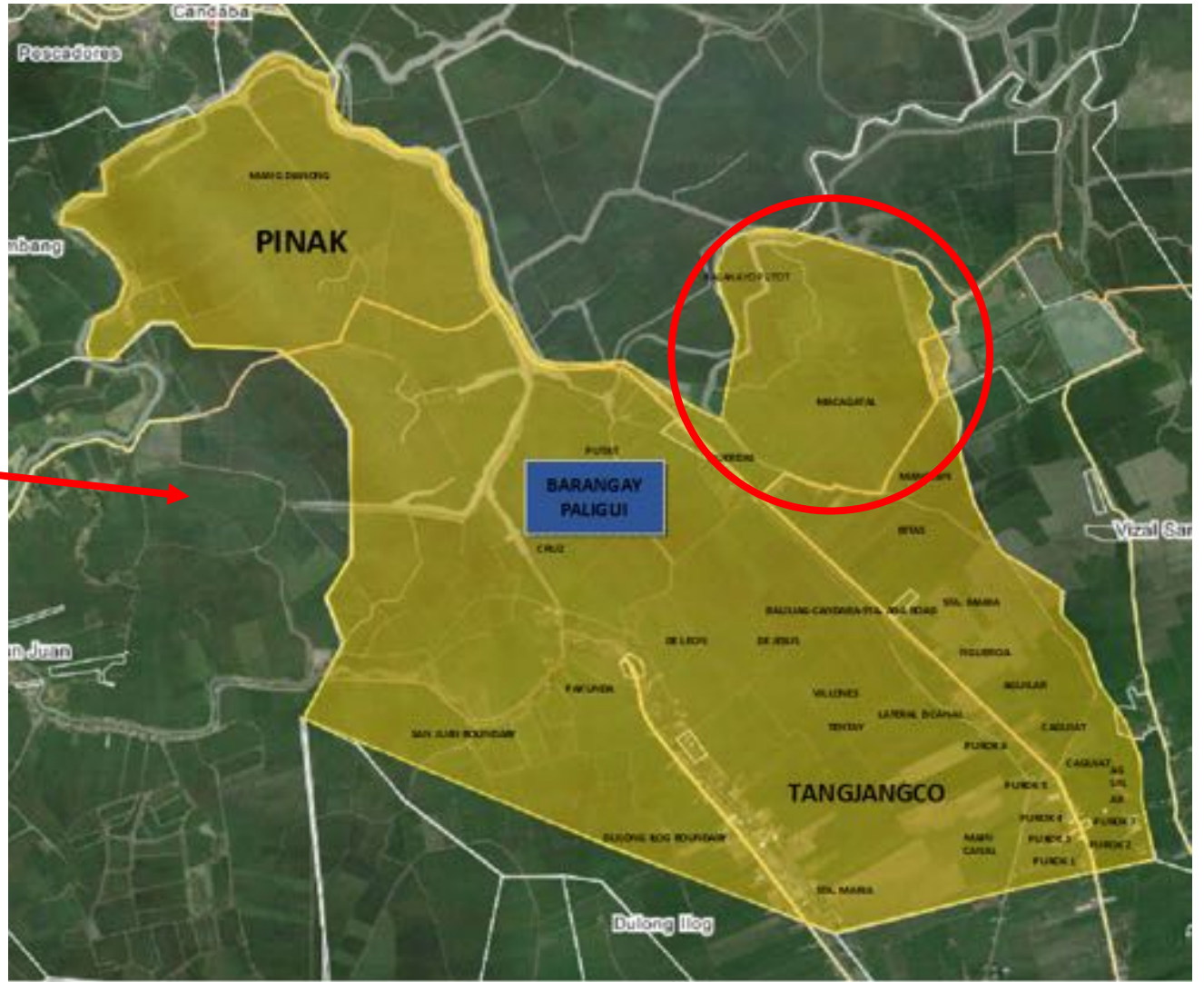
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The training, which is part of a project, is an attempt to conserve a portion of the Candaba Wetlands (awareness raising and capacity development).







Introduction to the Case Study

- Candaba Wetland continues to be drained or converted to wet agriculture severely limiting habitat for waterfowls.
- conversion into fishponds causing vegetation cover to be patchy.
- siltation is also apparent.
- mostly privately owned with very small part that is state-owned but has been classified as “alienable and disposable” land thus posing a peculiar concern for conservation.
- because of declining yield in agriculture, farmers are forced to sell their land
- lately, these wetlands are being filled to give way to real estate development, ie housing subdivisions, economic zones, etc.
- during interviews, it was learned that farmers consider migratory birds as pests and were indifferent to the ides of protecting them.


What was done and when and where did you do it?

- Rapid ecological, sociocultural and economic assessments (August 2017 – September 2018)
- Training of Macagatal Irrigators Association (MIA) and other community members on bird watching guides (March 2018) sustainable agricultural practices (September 2018)
- Training was conducted by Department of Tourism and Agricultural Training Institute of the Department of Agriculture
- Preparation of a management plan that included designating a certain portion of the 132-hectare property as conservation area to be supported by a Barangay





Main target group for the activity are the Local Government officials and the Farmers

A woman in a brown top stands at the front of a meeting room, presenting to a group of people seated around a table. The room has yellow walls, a Philippine flag, and a projector screen displaying a grid pattern. A circular logo is visible on the wall to the right.


What are the results of the action?

Preparation of a management plan that included designating a certain portion of the 132-hectare property as conservation area (including for migratory birds) to be supported by a Barangay (Village) Resolution

What was the key to success?

Support from the Village Officials; Municipal Agricultural Office; Department of Tourism (Central and Region 3); Key officials of the MIA





What was your biggest challenge in achieving success?

- Getting the trust of the farmers; convincing them that they can still derive livelihood from their farms even if there are migratory birds.
- Conflicting information coming from the Department of Agriculture during the ATI training, ie birds are pests

Sponsors/partners for the activity

- Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia
- Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau – Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Department of Tourism (Central and Region 3)
- Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute





Birdwatching Guides Training



Sustainable Agricultural Practices Training



Organized Birdwatching Guides Association of Candaba, Pampanga

Thank you

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