



Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve Philippines

EAAF NETWORK SITE CODE FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

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Site Information Sheet on East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network Sites (SIS) – 2017 version

Available for download from <https://eaaflyway.net/about-us/the-flyway/flyway-site-network/>

Categories approved by Second Meeting of the Partners of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership in Beijing, China 13-14 November 2007 - Report (Minutes) Agenda Item 3.13

Notes for compilers:

1. The management body intending to nominate a site for inclusion in the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Site Network is requested to complete a Site Information Sheet. The Site Information Sheet will provide the basic information of the site and detail how the site meets the criteria for inclusion in the Flyway Site Network. When there is a new nomination or an SIS update, the following sections with an asterisk (*), from Questions 1-14 and Question 30, must be filled or updated at least so that it can justify the international importance of the habitat for migratory waterbirds.
2. The Site Information Sheet is based on the Ramsar Information Sheet. If the site proposed for the Flyway Site Network is an existing Ramsar site then the documentation process can be simplified.
3. Once completed, the Site Information Sheet (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the Information Sheet and, where possible, digital versions (e.g. shapefile) of all maps.

1. Name and contact details of the compiler of this form *:

Compiler 1

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2. Date this sheet was completed *:

DD/MM/YYYY

01/07/2025

3. Country *:

Philippines

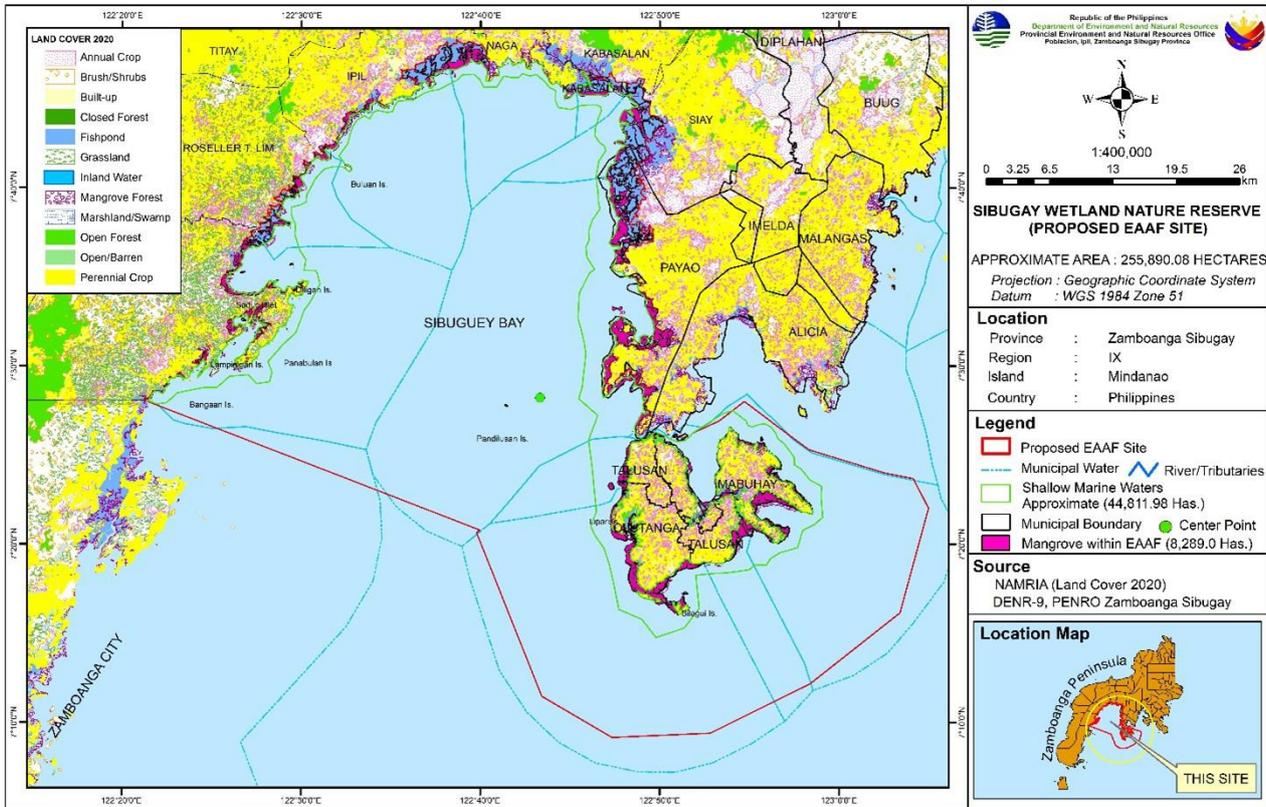
4. Name of the Flyway Network site *:

Accepted English transcription of the Site's name.

SIBUGAY WETLAND NATURE RESERVE

5. Map of site *:

The most up-to-date available and suitable map of the wetland should also be appended to the SIS (only in digital format and shape file). The map must clearly show the boundary of the site. Please refer to the



“Digitising Site Boundaries in Google Earth” file linked [here](#).

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in decimal degrees) *:

Provide the coordinates of the approximate centre of the site and/or the limits of the site. If the site is composed of more than one separate area, provide coordinates for each of these areas.

N7°28'13.218" E 122°43'21.150"

7. Elevation *: (in meters: average and/or maximum & minimum)

The wetland is a coastal area with a mean elevation of -3.15 to 13.26 MASL.

8. Area *:

The total area of the site, in hectares. If the areas of discrete site units are known, please also list each of these together with the names (or labels) used to identify and differentiate these units.

Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve has a total area of about 255,890.08 hectares composed of about 8,289 hectares of mangrove forest, 18,837 hectares of Forest land, about 44,811.98 hectares of shallow waters which includes about 2,330 hectares of mudflats and the rest are deeper marine waters. Its foreshore stretches along 146 kilometers covering one hundred three (103) coastal barangays of the ten(10) municipalities.

9. General overview of the site *:

A brief (two sentences) summary of the site, mentioning principal physical and ecological functions, and its importance for migratory waterbirds.

The mangrove forest plays a major role in the productivity of the wetland. The bay hosts thousands of waterbirds as staging ground during the migratory season. It supports eight (8) Threatened species and eight (8) Near Threatened waterbirds within the East Asian Australasian Flyway. Banded waterbirds from Australia, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Russia were documented in the wetland, all were reported as first resighting in the flyway.

10. Justification of Flyway Site Network criteria *:

Please provide waterbird count information (with year of latest count) that demonstrates that the site meets the criteria of the Flyway Site Network (Annex 1). That is:

- it regularly supports > 20 000 migratory waterbirds; or,
- it regularly supports > 1 % of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of migratory waterbird; or,
- it supports appreciable numbers of an endangered or vulnerable population of migratory waterbird
- it is a “staging site” supporting > 5 000 waterbirds, or > 0.25% of a population stage at the site.

A listing of the populations of migratory waterbirds covered by the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership and the 1% thresholds is attached (Annex 3).

The “staging site” criterion is particularly difficult to apply and application of this should be discussed with the Secretariat. Also, note that some species have several populations that are very difficult to distinguish in the field.

[x] Criterion: it supports appreciable numbers of an endangered or vulnerable population of migratory waterbird .

Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve supports an appreciable number of eight (8) globally threatened waterbird species, four (4) of which are Endangered and four (4) are Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Conservation Status (IUCN Red List)
Far Eastern curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Endangered
Great knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Endangered
Siberian Sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Endangered
Black-faced spoonbill	<i>Platalea minor</i>	Endangered
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Vulnerable
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Vulnerable
Chinese Egret	<i>Egretta eulophotes</i>	Vulnerable
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Vulnerable

Population counts of Globally Threatened migratory waterbird species for the recent five years:

Species*	Global threat status (IUCN Red List CR, EN, VU categories)	1% population threshold	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average annual count (2019-2025)	Average % of population size (Average annual count divided by the 1% threshold)
Far-eastern Curlew <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Endangered	350	90	412	177	278	55	227	117	193	0.55
Great Knot <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Endangered	4300	219	1455	270	18	83	444	153	377	0.08
Siberian Sandplover <i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Endangered	260			72	4		159	130	91	0.35
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper <i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Vulnerable	850			18					18	0.02
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Vulnerable	900			26					26	0.03
Chinese Egret <i>Egretta eulophodes</i>	Vulnerable	75		2	13	7	9	2	1	6	0.08
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Vulnerable	800	34	1						18	0.02

Additional information supporting the justification of Criterion:

The study of Dr. Jiang Hongxing on the Current situation of Black-faced Spoonbills in China presented in Hong Kong last February 26, 2025 showed that in 2023, the Endangered Black-faced Spoonbill (BFSS) with tracker made Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve as its last stopover site before returning to China.

Criterion: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 20,000 or more migratory waterbirds.

Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve supports more than 20,000 bird of migratory waterbird populations as follows:

Order	Family	Species	Scientific Name	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Ave.year
ANSERIFORMES	Anatidae	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				160	282	51	15	127
PODICIPEDIFORMES	Podicipedidae	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		293	4		109	272	66	149
PELECANIFORMES	Ardeidae	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	169	11	13	8	15	2	8	32
		Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2,759	8,116	683	739	143	2,101	1,253	2,256

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		Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	5,789	8,610	1,716	2,020	4,923	3,734	6,899	4,813
		Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	5,793	22,109	10,389	9,533	4,314	2,494	5,519	8,593
		Chinese Egret	<i>Egretta eulophotes</i>		2	13	7	9	2	1	6
SULLIFORMES	Fregatidae	Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>				29	35	26	10	25
		Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>				14				14
CHARADRIIFORMES	Recurvirostridae	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	692	1,020	13	2	54			356
		White-headed Stilt	<i>Himantopus leucocephalus</i>			199	212	569	329	803	422
	Charadriidae	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	151	589	284	220	251	119	249	266
		Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	34	1						18
		Common Ringed-Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>						69		69
		Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	52	11	88	59	23	506	73	116
		Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	1	189	69		8	3,219	160	521
		Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		32	49	1		29		28
		Siberian Sand plover/Lesser Sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>			72	4		159	130	91
	Scolopaciidae	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	129	278	167	33	86	279	177	164
		Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	43	89	56	37	14	74	2	45
		Far Eastern Curlew	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	90	412	177	278	55	227	117	194
		Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		6	3	1	5	6		4
		Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	2	1	31		1	48	1	14
		Great Knot	<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	219	1,455	270	18	83	444	153	377
		Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		252	14			59	3	82
		Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>		13		179		91		142
		Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>			18					18
		Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			26					26
		Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>			25					25
		Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	44	238	111	18	129	169	163	125
		Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	7	22	12	6		9		11
		Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Tringa brevipes</i>		52	106	70	88	80	98	82
		Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	215	171	76	7	166	419	525	226

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		Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	332	350	523	3	190	270	291	280
		Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		10						10
		Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				29		28	1	15
		Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1	1	2			104	9	23
		Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				86		215	117	209
	Laridae	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	4,049	16,715	8,504	3,573	4,522	15,869	3,806	8,148
		Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>		5,530		2				2,766
		Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			1,243	389	985		1	655
			TOTAL	20,571	66,578	24,956	17,737	17,059	31,503	20,650	28,389

Average waterbird count 2019-2025: 28,389. Average waterbird count for the most recent five years (2021-2025): 22,381

<p>Additional information supporting the justification of Criterion:</p>	<p>There was a decrease in the number of birds observed in the wetland sites for 2022 compared to the previous years. Other areas in the country also noted similar observations and this could be attributed to the weather conditions during the AWC. It could be that northward migration was scheduled much earlier than expected to evade unfavorable conditions.</p> <p>During the 2023 AWC schedule there was a Low Pressure Area (LPA) experienced in the wetland sites, causing massive flooding till February which attributed to the low counting data generated.</p> <p>Egrets and Terns are among the most abundant species documented from 2019-2025. Highest count recorded for was in 2020 for Intermediate Egret at 8,610; Little Egret at 22,109; Whiskered Tern at 16,715; and Gull-billed Tern at 5,530. More field observers were deployed in 2020 to cover bigger portion of the wetland through the financial support of the RFI funds from ACB with the assistance from PhilBio.</p>
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Criterion: A wetland should be considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of migratory waterbird.

Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve supports two migratory waterbird species (Intermediate Egret and Common Tern) that meet the 1% population threshold criterion based on average counts for the recent 5 years. Two other species (Little Egret and Kentish Plover) had a count exceeding their 1% threshold in at least one of the most recent five years.

Species name	Biogeographic population name	1% population threshold	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average annual count (2019-2025)	Average annual count (2021-2025)	Average % of population size (2021-2025)
Intermediate Egret <i>Ardea intermedia</i>	<i>intermedia</i> E, SE Asia	1,000	5,789	8,610	1,716	2,020	4,923	3,734	6,899	4,813	3,858	3.86
Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	<i>garzetta</i> E, SE Asia	10,000	5,793	22,109	10,389	9,533	4,314	2,494	5,519	8,593	6,450	0.65
Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	<i>himantopus</i> , E & SE Asia	1,000	692	1,020	13	2	54			356	24	0.02
Kentish Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	<i>alexandrinus</i> , E Asia	700	1	189	69		8	3,219	160	521	691	0.99
Far-eastern Curlew	C & E Asia (bre)	350	90	412	177	278	55	227	117	194	171	0.49

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<i>Numenius madagascariens is</i>												
Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	<i>affinis</i>	1,000		5,530		2				2,766	<1	<0.01
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	<i>longipennis</i>	460			1,243	389	985		1	655	524	1.14

11. Wetland Types *:

List the wetland types present (see Annex 2). List the wetland types in order of their area in the Flyway Network site, starting with the wetland type with the largest area.

Marine/Coastal Wetlands

1. A - Permanent shallow marine waters
2. I - Intertidal forested wetlands
3. G - Intertidal mud/sand
4. F - Estuarine waters
5. C - Coral Reefs
6. E - Sand shores
7. B - Marine subtidal aquatic beds
8. D - Rocky marine shores

Human-made wetlands

1. Aquaculture ponds

12. Jurisdiction and Support:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Ministry of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

1. Department of Environment and Natural Resources-IX Regional Office
2. Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office Zamboanga Sibugay
3. Community Environment and Natural Resources Office Imelda, District 1 of Zamboanga Sibugay
4. Community Environment and Natural Resources Office Kabasalan, District 2 of Zamboanga Sibugay
5. Provincial Local Government Unit of Zamboanga Sibugay-

SP Resolution No. 2022-8601, July 10, 2022

"A Resolution Recommending to the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) the Nomination of Sibugay Wetlands Nature Reserve to be Designated as a Ramsar Site and Flyway Site under the East Asian-AustralAsian Flyway Network"

6. Municipalities of Zamboanga Sibugay

Under **District 1**

1. Olutanga - Sixteen (16) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 2018-51, September 25, 2018

"A Resolution Nominating Sibugay Wetlands to be Designated as Ramsar Site and Flyway Site under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network"

2. Talusan - Eleven (11) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 202-2018, September 25, 2018

"A Resolution Nominating Sibugay Wetlands to be Designated as Ramsar Site and Flyway Site under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network"

3. Mabuhay - Eighteen (18) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 2025-324-A, March 4, 2025

"A Resolution Nominating Sibugay Wetlands to be Designated as Flyway Site under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network"

4. Payao - Twelve (12) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 479-2028, September 10, 2018

"A Resolution Nominating Sibugay Wetlands to be Designated as Ramsar Site and Flyway Site under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network"

7. Municipalities of Zamboanga Sibugay

Under **District 2**

5. Siay - Four (4) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 252-09, June 13, 2018

"Resolution Recommending the Nomination of Siay-Kabasalan Wetland as Ramsar Site to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and as part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network"

6. Kabasalan - Six (6) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 285-0620-2K18, June 20, 2018

"A Resolution Respectfully Recommending to the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) formerly Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

for the Nomination of Siay-Kabasalan Wetland as Ramsar Site to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and as part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network”

7. Naga - Seven (7) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 77, September 18, 2018

“A Resolution Nominating Sibugay Wetlands to be Designated as Ramsar Site and Flyway Site under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network”

8. Ipil - Eleven (11) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 09-1176-2018, September 5, 2018

“A Resolution Nominating Sibugay Wetlands to be Designated as Ramsar Site and Flyway Site under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network”

9. R.T. Lim - Seven (7) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 128-09-2018, September 10, 2018

“A Resolution Nominating Sibugay Wetlands to be Designated as Ramsar Site and Flyway Site under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network”

10. Tungawan - Eleven (11) Coastal Barangays

SB Resolution No. 18-337-18, September 18, 2018

“A Resolution Nominating Sibugay Wetlands to be Designated as Ramsar Site and Flyway Site under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network”

13. Management authority *:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland and the title and/or name and email address/phone number of the person or persons in this office with direct responsibility for managing the wetland.

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MAYORS OF DISTRICT 1 OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY

Mayor **ARTHUR P. RUSTE, SR.**

Municipality of Olutanga, ZS

Mayor **GILBERT T. EDEM**

<p>Municipality of Talusan, ZS</p> <p>Mayor EDRELUISA O. CALONGE Municipality of Mabuhay, ZS R.</p> <p>Mayor JOSHUA CARLO R. MENDOZA Municipality of Payao, ZS</p> <p>MAYORS OF DISTRICT 2 OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY</p> <p>Mayor JULIUS M. ACOSTA JR. Municipality of Siay, ZS</p> <p>Mayor KATRINA C. BALLADARES Municipality of Kabasalan, ZS</p> <p>Mayor JOUIE T. BALLADARES Municipality of Naga, ZS</p> <p>Mayor RAMSES TROY D. OLEGARIO Municipality of Ipil, ZS</p> <p>Mayor MICHAEL A. PIODENA Municipality of R.T. Lim, ZS</p> <p>Mayor ANGELITO ANINON Municipality of Tungawan, ZS</p> <p>Chairperson ROBERTO “Ka Dodoy” BALLON Kapunungan sa Gagmay’ng Maningisda Fishermen Cooperative (KAGMAFCO) Coalition of Municipal Fisherfolks Associations of Zamboanga Sibugay (COMFAS) Kapunungan sa Gagmay’ng Maningisda sa Concepcion (KGMC) kqmckagmafico@gmail.com</p>
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14. Bibliographical references *:

A list of key technical references relevant to the wetland, including management plans, major scientific reports, and bibliographies, if such exist. Please list Web site addresses dedicated to the site or which prominently feature the site, and include the date that the Web site was most recently updated. When a large body of published material is available about the site, only the most important references need be cited, with priority being given to recent literature containing extensive bibliographies.

<p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources 2020-2022 PENRO Zamboanga Sibugay Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Medium Term Plan. 262pp</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources 2019-2028 Provincial Foreshore Development and Management Plan. 118pp</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources 2023-2028 Zamboanga Sibugay Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. 111pp</p> <p>DENR 2012-2014 Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment (PCRA) Reports</p>
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DENR PENRO Sibugay 2019-2025 Annual Waterbird Census Reports

DENR PENRO Sibugay 2022 Marine Turtle Reports

DENR PENRO Sibugay 2022 Flying Fox Reports

DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09 "Philippine Red List of Threatened Wild Fauna"

Jakosdalem, P.G.C., Oporto, D.O., Fernandez, G.L., Paguntalan, L.J., Dela Cruz, M.F., Reintar, A.R.T., (2020). ASEAN Flyway Network Waterbird Census and Wetland Assessments 2019-2020: Sibugay Bay Wetland

Kennedy, R.S., Gonzalez, P.C., Dickinson, E.C. Miranda Jr., H.C. and Fisher, T.H. (2000). A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines. New York: Oxford University Press.

15. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

The climate of the province is moderately normal (climate type III). Annual rainfall is ranging from 1,599-3,500 mm (63.0-137.8 in). Temperature is relatively warm and constant throughout the year which varies from 22 degrees to 35 degrees celsius. The province is situated outside the country's typhoon belt.

16. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, and climate (including climate type).

The predominant soil type of the province is clay. The stone content and soils in the slope area have low fertility due to leaching and low organic material content. Perennial crops are extensively grown in many areas. Antipolo Clay Loam is the most common type of soil all over the component municipalities

17. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

The Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve is a bay with 16 water bodies draining on it. The mangroves, seagrass beds, wide mudflats, and coral reefs regulate the impact of siltation and flooding in the area. Likewise, it controls the impact of sea surges protecting settlements and other developments in the coastal areas.

18. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant, and animal communities present in the Flyway Network site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve is host to different notable migratory species. During their stop-over, the waterbirds usually use the site for foraging and roosting. The ecosystem services of the different coastal and marine ecosystems within the bay generally include supporting, provisioning, regulating, and cultural, sustaining the marine-dependent populace surrounding the bay.

19. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered, or bio geographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the SIS.*

(Please add here the species which do not come under sec no 14)

The recent inventory conducted in the mangroves of Siay, Zamboanga Sibugay documented twenty-four (24) species, thirteen (13) families, and seventeen (17) genera of mangrove species. The activity also recorded eighth (8) pteridophyte species and sixteen (16) angiosperm. The result showcased the diversity of flora in mangroves. Also, it highlights the presence of *Avicennia rumphiana* which is listed as Vulnerable by IUCN. Its conservation status among other noteworthy species underscores the importance of continued protection of this ecosystem.

20. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 10. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the SIS.*

(Please add here the species which do not come under sec no 14)

The wetland serves as foraging and breeding site for the Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtle, the Endangered Green Sea Turtle and the endangered Whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*). Two (2) Vulnerable species of Seahorses were documented in Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve, Barborr's Seahorse (*Hippocampus barbouri*) and Spotted Seahorse (*Hippocampus kuda*).

Three (3) species of flying foxes (bats) are roosting in the mangrove forest of the wetland which includes the Philippine endemic and endangered Golden-crowned flying fox, the Large flying fox and the near threatened Island flying fox. The existing colony of flying foxes in the wetland is believed to be the largest colony in the country.

Eight (8) Near threatened species have also been recorded in the area namely Eurasian Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Red Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Red-necked Stint, Grey-tailed Tattler, and Asian Dowitcher.

From 2018 to 2025, banded waterbirds from China, Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Russia were documented in Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve and all were first reported resightings.

From China, a Black-tailed Godwit with 4C (white flag) inscription on its right tibia was recorded in Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve on August 16, 2023. Banding data from correspondence with the Shorebird leg-flag sightings in the EAAF website revealed that it was banded as a juvenile on September 25, 2014 at Shanghai Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve. It took almost nine years for its first reported resighting.

The Endangered Great Knot with V55 Inscription on its blue flag was observed in the wetland on October 7, 2025 and according to Ms. Katherine Leung, it was banded on April 28, 2024 at Tianjin, Bohai Bay.

Ruddy Turnstone with E-11 inscription was banded in Nan Pu mudflat, Bohai Bay, China on April 25, 2016. It was recorded in Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve on January 19, 2018, February 1, 2018, April 3, 2018, and January 5, 2019.

Red Knot with AC inscription on its white flag is the most documented waterbird so far in the wetland. It was banded in Chongming Dao, Shanghai, China on April 18, 2014 and it has been recorded in Sibugay, Philippines from 2018-2022: 2018 (March 2; April 3; September 24; November 24), 2019 (March 21; April 5; Dec. 25), 2020 (Oct. 16-17), 2022 (Jan. 17; Feb. 22; March 18).

From Australia, a Great knot with 5KL inscription was documented on August 16, 2019 and said waterbird was banded in Broome, Western Australia as confirmed by Mr. Joris Driesen.

Great Knot with Yellow band over Yellow flag over Red band on Left tibia and Yellow band over Green band on right tarsus was banded in Broome, Western Australia on August 11, 2013 and was recorded in the wetland on August 29, 2018. Per information from Mr. Adrian Boyle, the species has been seen 22 times since its banding including a record from Kamchatka, Russia.

Rudy Turnstone with AJA inscription was banded in Roebuck Bay, Western Australia was seen in the wetland on September 1, 2020.

From Japan, a Red Knot with 116 inscription on the blue flag was recorded in the wetland on March 22, 2019 and according to the bander, Mr. Jun Hosoya, it was banded on September 6, 2018 at Torinoumi Miyagi-ken Pref., Japan. Accordingly, they have banded ten Red Knots from 2010 to 2018.

A Red-necked Stint with PAN 959 partial inscription on its metal ring was documented on October 2, 2020 and banding data provided by Ms. Mariko Hisaka Senda showed that the waterbird was banded at Komuke Marsh, Kpguchi, Numanoue, Monbetsu, Hokaido Pref., Japan.

A Grey-tailed Tattler with no. 10 inscription on its blue flag was recorded in the wetland on January 30, 2024. According to Mr. Chun-Tu Chang, it was banded at Xiyuan, Kinmen County, Taiwan on April 16, 2012, meaning it was only after 12 years that its first resighting was reported.

Ruddy Turnstone with J8 inscription was banded in Han-pao, Changwa County, Taiwan on August 7, 2018. It has been resighted three times in the wetland on December 25, 2029, August 1, 2020, and August 21, 2021.

A Common Redshank with BX inscriptions on both flag was observed at the wetland area on October 20, 2020. Banding data from Ms Katherine Leung showed that it was ringed at Mai Po Reserve in Hongkong on April 7, 2020 as an adult.

Great Knot with Z8 inscription was banded in Khairusova-Belogolovaya river estuary Russia and its banding date was July 23, 2017. Said species was recorded in the wetland on September 11, 2018 and September 1, 2020.

During 9th Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS) virtual conference in November 2021 hosted by Korea, it was reported by a research group from The Netherlands that one of the Great Knot with tracker made a stop over in Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve in 2017.

These are some of the banded waterbirds the DENR Sibugay Team were able to document from 2018 to 2025. It is an indication that Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve is one of the missing link in the EAAF as most of the documented banded waterbirds are first reported resightings in the flyway..

21. Social, economic, and cultural values:

a) Describe if the site has any general social, economic and/or cultural values e.g., fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values:

Some portions of the wetland are utilized for aquaculture, mariculture, oyster farming, crab fattening, and dried fish production. Some locals produce nipa shingles for personal use as well as for commercial purposes. Some communities gather shellfish during low tide for consumption and trade. In some areas, seaweed farming is also being practiced by individual families or by Peoples Organizations.

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? (Double-click the checkbox to check and choose “Checked” under “Default Value” from “Check Box Form Field Options” window)

If yes, tick the box → and describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- I. Sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- II. Sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- III. Sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- IV. Sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

22. Land tenure/ownership:

a) Within the Flyway Network site:

Bulu-an Island in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay is privately owned, other portions of the proposed flyway site are classified as Forestland

b) In the surrounding area:

Adjacent areas of the proposed flyway site are classified as Agricultural land .

23. Current land (including water) use:

a) Within the Flyway Network site:

Aquaculture, Mariculture, Oyster farming, Ecotourism, settlements, seaports, navigational lane, seaweed farming, fried fish production.

b) In the surroundings/catchment:

N/A

24. Factors (past, present, or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

a) Within the Flyway Network site:

Solid waste and water pollution/mine tailings, Red Tide phenomenon in adjacent bay to the wetland, siltation, and unregulated mariculture and installation of fish cages along shallow waters.

b) In the surrounding area:

Expansion of settlement areas, commercial establishments for recreation and reclamation pose potential risk to the wetland.

25. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Flyway Network site:

In particular, if the site is partly or wholly a World Heritage Site and/or a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, please give the names of the site under these designations.

Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve - RAMSAR Site No. 2552, January 8, 2024; and Portions of the proposed Olutanga Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (OIPLS) is part of Presidential Proclamation 2152 - an initial component of the NIPAS

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN (1994) protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate, see Annex 3):

Ia ; Ib ; II ; III ; IV ; V ; VI ; **N/A**

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

CY 2023-2033 Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve Management Plan

If yes, is it being implemented?: If no, is one being planned?

Partially implemented (through DENR regular activities under the Coastal Management Program.

d) Describe any other current management practices:

The management body for the declared Ramsar Site is yet to be created, continued collaboration with the concerned Local Government Units (Provincial, Municipal, and Barangay LGUs) and other concerned stakeholders for the conservation, protection, and management of natural resources is currently being practiced through the two (2) existing Marine Protected Area Network (MPAN) Alliances within the site.

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

1. Creation of a Management Body and committees to handle different management concerns of the Sibugay Wetlands Nature Reserves/Sibugay Wetlands

2. Merging of two (2) existing Marine Protected Area Networks alliances (SMART-SBDA and ATOM)
3. Creation and operationalization of Bantay Dagat by Municipalities
4. Purchase of floating assets for seaborne patrol
5. Capacity building for the stakeholders
6. Forging of Memorandum of Agreement among parties for the protection of waterbirds, wetland conservation, and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g., details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

The Sibugay Wetland Nature Reserve has been a research site for marine-related research from different colleges and universities within the region even without an established/existing research facility, to wit:

1. Inventory of Mangrove Species and Mangrove Associates present in Siay, ZDS - 2025, MSU-IIT;
2. Inventory of carbon stocks for manroves and seagrass in selected sites of Sibugay Wetlands - 2025 by MSU-IIT; and
3. Continuation of the ASEAN Flyway Network Waterbird Census and Wetland Assessments 2019-2020: Sibugay Bay Wetland through the Philippine Flyway Project to be implemented in 2026-2030.

28. Current communications, education, and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitors' centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

DENR-led CEPA activities in collaboration with existing MPAN alliances, highlighting the importance of conservation of the coastal and marine ecosystem.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Kabog Mangrove Ecotourism Park in the Municipality of Siay, Zamboanga Sibugay consists of 1.5 kilometer boardwalk, four (4) mini watch-out towers, one (1) big observation platform, and a wharf - this project is funded by the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) in 2023. Tourist boats from the Local Government of Siay, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic resources (BFAR),

30. Threats *:

Which of the following threats is present historically – when the threat stopped but the effects are still there (H), currently (C) or potentially (P)?

	Historically	Currently	Potentially
Residential and commercial development			
housing and urban areas		C	
commercial and industrial areas			P

tourism and recreation areas C

Agriculture and aquaculture

annual and perennial non-timber crops

wood and pulp plantations P

livestock farming and ranching

marine and freshwater aquaculture C

Energy production and mining

oil and gas drilling

mining and quarrying C

renewable energy P

Transportation and service corridors

roads and railroads P

utility and service lines

shipping lanes C P

flight paths

Biological resource use

hunting and collecting terrestrial animals P

gathering terrestrial plants P

logging and wood harvesting

fishing and harvesting aquatic resources C P

Human intrusions and disturbance

recreational activities C

war, civil unrest, and military exercises H

work and other activities

Natural system modifications

fire and fire suppression

dams and water management/use C

other ecosystem modifications C P

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

invasive non-native/alien species P

problematic native species

introduced genetic material **P**

Pollution

household sewage and urban waste-water **C**

industrial and military effluents

agricultural and forestry effluents **C**

garbage and solid waste **C**

air-borne pollutants

excess energy

Geological events

volcanoes

earthquakes/tsunamis **P**

avalanches/landslides

Climate change and severe weather

habitat shifting and alteration **C** **P**

droughts **P**

temperature extremes **P**

storms and flooding **C** **P**

Please write here any additional threats and comments/queries you have on the threats.

N/A