

PROFILE
MT. APO NATURAL PARK

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area : Mt. Apo Natural Park - 54,974.87 hectares
 Buffer Zone I - 2,571.73 hectares
 Buffer Zone II - 6,506.40 hectares

Location	MANP Area (ha)	Buffer Zone I (ha)	Buffer Zone II (ha)
Region 11			
Davao City	9,024.00		
Digos City	16,089.00	130.60	957.40
Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur	10,106.00	2,441.13	
Bansalan, Davao del Sur	6,376.67		1,984.00
Region 12			
Kidapawan City	2,139.70		2,364.50
Makilala	7,238.50		758.50
Magpet	4,001.00		442.00
TOTAL	54,974.87	2,571.73	6,506.40

Legal Basis : Proclamation No. 882 dated September 24, 1996
 Republic Act 9237 dated February 3, 2004

Conservation Status : Mt. Apo NP is identified as one of the Key Biodiversity Areas of the country

Geographical Location

Lies between 6°47' N and 7°07' latitude and between 125°09' E and 125°27' E longitude. The Park falls under the jurisdiction of two (2) Regions, namely: Davao City, Bansalan, Digos and Sta. Cruz, all in the Province of Davao del Sur in Region 11 and Makilala, Magpet, and Kidapawan City, all in the Province of North Cotabato in Region 12.



MANP Forest and Land Cover

City/ Municipality	Closed Canopy Forest	Open Canopy Forest	Brushland/ Cultivated Area
Region 11			
Davao del Sur			
Davao City	3,940	3,096	1,988
Digos City	412	2,451	14,314
Sta. Cruz	1,012	3,901	7,634
Bansalan	1,311	1,853	5,196
Region 12			
Cotabato			
Makilala	2,200	1,393	4,404
Kidapawan City	1,155	2	3,348.20
Magpet	2,574	764	1,105
TOTAL	12,604	13,460	37,898

Accessibility

The Park is accessible through Davao City which has excellent air connections with the outside world through Manila. From Davao City, one can motor to the foothills from where there are trails to the summit of Apo.

There are five (5) entry points to the park. The following trails are officially opened and co-managed by concerned LGUs in accordance with PAMB Resolutions and the Municipalities respective mountaineering and trekking guidelines/ordinance as adopted by PAMB:

1. Via Sibulan - Tudaya Trail , Sta. Cruz , Davao del Sur, Region XI;
2. Via Kapatagan Trail, Digos City, Region XI;
3. Via Kidapawan – Ilomavis, Kidapawan City, Region XII;
4. Via New Israel – Makalangit, Makilala, North Cot., Region XII;
5. Via Bongolanon Trail, Magpet, North Cotabato, Region XII



PHYSICAL FEATURES

Topography and Soil

Mt. Apo NP is a mountainous with soil type of clay-loam, a fertile volcano soil and mineral type classification.

Elevation

Highest elevation at the Mt. Apo is 3,143.6 meters above sea level, the highest mountain in the Philippines.

Climatic Condition

There is no pronounced dry and wet season within the Park. Rain may fall anytime of the year particularly from May to October.

BIOIGICAL FEATURES

Flora

There are eight hundred (800) estimated vascular and non vascular plant species. Among Mt. Apo's endemics collected between 300 masl and 1000 masl are members of the genera *Pipturus*, *Sauravia* and *Poikilospermum*. *Humalanthus populneus*, *Elephantopus spicatus*, *Piper apoanum* and *Vanda sanderiana* maybe extinct in the wild (Madulid and Agoos. 1991). Endemic at the mid altitudes include *Agathis philippensis*, *Lithocarpus submonticolus* (endangered), and *Peperonia elmeri* (endangered). Upper montane endemics are *Cypholopus microphyllus* and *Nepenthus copelandi*.



Actual resource inventory collected data on five representative habitats indicated a total of 126 floral species recorded, 50 are considered endemic to Mt. Apo or the Mindanao Faunal Region. These are almaciga, almon, waling-waling, igem, kalantas, mindanao kalingag, apo bubonan (*Aglaia apoena*) and other species; 18 species are considered to be at risk (e.g. waling-waling, kalantas including a rattan species (*Plectocomia elmerii*), pahutan

(*Mangifera altissima*), *Shorea sp.* like almon, mayapis, malaanonang, narig, guijo; 37 species are considered to have economic, cultural and medicinal importance. Most species are used for construction either light or heavy, these include *Shorea sp.* like lauaan, guijo, apitong, and *Bambusa sp.* like buho and bagakay; as fibers like wild abaka (*Musa sp.*), for baskets and containers (rattan and pandan), food for wildlife like balite (*Ficus sp.*), kalingag (*Cinnamomum mercadoii* and *mindanensis*), ulayan (*Lithocarpus sp.*) etc; and other medicinal plants like wild betel nut (*Areco caliso*), saging bundok (*Musa balbasiana*), kalingaga, hagimit (*Ficus sp.*), hamindang (*Macaranga bicolor*).

Fauna

Previous studies have identified 272 species of birds, 40% of these or 111 are endemic to Mt. Apo. Of all species recorded, 2 are in the critical list: Philippine Eagle (*Pterocophaga jefferyi*) and abukay (*Cacatua heamatopygia*); 10 are endangered species among these are: Mindanao scops owl (*Otus mirus*), lesser eagle owl (*Bobu philippensis*), Mindanao lorikeet (*Tricoglossus johnstoniae*), whrittled hornbill (*Aceros leucocephalus*); 20 vulnerable and 20 are near threatened. 96 species were identified to have both cultural and economic importance to nearby communities or communities within MANP.



Mammalian diversity has a total of 53 species, 49% are endemic: tudaya giant rat (*Bollimus bagobos*), wild pig (*Sus philippinensis*), tarsier (*Tarsius syriacta*), (*Acerodon jubatus*); 3 are listed as threatened: tree shrew (*Urogale Everetti*), *Acerodon jubatus*, and Phil. Brown deer (*Cervus marianus*); and 26 were found out to have economic and cultural values. Most are utilized for food as protein source, extracts from hoofs and toes are common remedy for stomachache, omens observed during rituals and farming practices and the dispersal of seeds as important ecological values.

There are at least 53 species of Herpetofauna recorded. This include 17 species of amphibians and 36 species of reptile; 10 (36%) are restricted to the Mindanao faunal region: bak-bac (*Rana magna*), lokwak-manobo (*Ansonia mcgregorii*), “tok-tok”manobo (*Kalaula picta*), cobra (*Naja samarensis*) In general, population and conservation status are poorly known and studied; 3 are on the critical list: ibid (*Hydrosaurus pustulatus*), halo and turtle (*Cuora ambionensis*) turtle. A total of 24 species are known to be with local and cultural uses. Most are for food, bait for fish, asthma and other respiratory remedies, bad omen e.g. halo (*Varanus salvatoo*) and as a very important indicator of habitat condition.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL FEATURES

Cultural Resources

Six indigenous groups - Manobos, Bagobo, Ubos, Atas, K'Iagans and the Tagacaolo consider Mt. Apo as their ancestral domain and their home. These tribes have lived around this mountain that they also consider as sacred ground, their place of worship and burial ground of Apo Sandawa, their great forefather. A number of genealogies of known Lumad leaders in South Central Mindanao trace their roots to Mt. Apo. For the Lumads, the term Apo was coined from the name of their great grandparent Apo Sandawa. Mt. Apo is the wellspring of their spiritual and cultural way of life, source of food and medicine.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FEATURES

Mt. Apo has a total of thirty- nine (39) barangay communities residing within the park. The 1997 unvalidated census and registration showed a population of 25,252 individuals, distributed in some 6,845 households. Of this household count, 2,232 (33%) are indigents – including a number of migrating IPs’ to the area. Nearly one and a half percent (1.49%) also include some migrating Muslims. The bulk of the population by household comprises migrants, coming mostly from the Visayas region and a few from Luzon and Mindanao

There are three (3) major categories of livelihood activities in Mt. Apo. These include farming, rendering of services and other off - farm types of livelihood. Generally, the occupants’ livelihood is farm-based.

USES

Ecotourism and Recreation Potentials

Mt. Apo Natural Park as the highest peak in the country, mountaineers all over the world dare to climb the Park. The trekkers/mountaineer usually visits Mt. Apo during summer especially during Holy Week. The following are the beautiful sceneries that most tourists go for are:

- 1) *Tudaya Falls* – 3 km from the Bagabos settlements. According to the natives, this enchanted falls roars angrily at times and to appease the evil spirits the natives make offerings;
- 2) *Agco Blue Lake* – unusual, some parts of the lake are icy cold, while others are hot enough to cook an egg;
- 3) *Marbel River* – milky white marbel river nestled 1,800 feet above sea level is an astonishing sight to hold;
- 4) *Latapec Falls or Malasila Falls* – falls about 200 meters high cascades on rocks sending up sprays and has a twin fall
- 5) *Pafalagui* – It has a series of nine rungs each rung between 200 to 300 meters apart. The falls never dry even summer;
- 6) *Montebago Falls* – located between Nueva Bida and Batasan and can be seen from the highway like a thin white veil in the distance with an approximate elevation of 300 meters;
- 7) *Saguig Falls* – elevation is about 100 meters
- 8) Lake Venado
- 9) Lagarbaes or Bongolanon Falls
- 10) Kinarunan Waterfalls



- 11) *Flortam Hotsprings* –located at Brgy. Batasan and connected by a road three (3) kilometers along the National Highway. It is for picnicking and excursim place with mini-pools of both hot and cold water.

THREATS

Conversion of forest to agriculture is the main threat to all the habitat types while uncontrolled collection of ferns, orchids and other non-timber forest species, uncontrolled trekking and the ineffective forest protection contribute to the fast degradation Decline of faunal species is primarily caused by habitat destruction, over hunting for food and pets and to some extent the introduction of exotic species. The presence of widespread, non-endemic species (which are normally limited to lowland, agricultural/urban or disturbed areas) in mid-montane and mossy forests indicate that disturbance has reached these habitats.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

The Regional Executive Director
DENR, Region 11, Davao City
Tel. (082) 234-4401; 234-1100

The Regional Executive Director
DENR, Region 12, Cotabato City

PAWD Chief/PASU Leonilo R. Rivera
DENR, Region 11, Davao City
Tel. (082) 234-4401; 234-1100

The Management Board of MANP was organized in September 1994 and renewed its appointed in 2000