



**Excerpts from the Minutes of the 100<sup>th</sup> PCSD Regular Meeting**  
**Municipal Hall, Municipality of Busuanga, Palawan**  
**1 September 2003**

**Present:**

1. Rep. Vicente A. Sandoval - Chairman  
Palawan rep. (1<sup>st</sup> District) House of Representatives
2. Winston G. Arzaga, Executive Director, PCSDS- Secretary
3. Usec. Renato A. De Rueda, DENR - Member
4. Usec. Cesar M. Drilon, Dept. of Agriculture - Member  
Rep. By Virgilio A. Alforque, BFAR-MIMAROPA Region
5. Atty. Joselito C. Alisuag, SEMP-NP - Member
6. Mr. Bobby Castro, Business Sector - Member
7. RADM Ruben G. Domingo, WESCOM - Member
8. Hon. Alberto G. Enriquez, Pres., League of  
Municipalities rep. by John Patrick Matta - Member

**Absent:**

1. Hon. Edward S. Hagedorn, City, Mayor, PPC - Member
2. DDG Augusto B. Santos, NEDA - Member
3. Hon. Joel T. Reyes - Vice-Chairman
4. Rep. Abraham B. Mitra - Member  
Palawan rep. (2<sup>nd</sup> District) House of Representatives

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**PCSD Resolution No. 03-212**

***“A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE ISLAND OF BALABAC AND ITS  
SURROUNDING WATERS, AS PRIORITY SITE OF THE ENVIRONMENTALLY  
CRITICAL AREAS NETWORK (ECAN)”***

**WHEREAS**, the island of Balabac and its surrounding waters is home to a rich diversity of marine species including 500 to 564 species of corals, the said area being part of the Coral Triangle;

**WHEREAS**, the island of Balabac is likewise blessed with extensive cover of mangrove forest and contains the only *Ceriops tangal* forest in the country and also home to endemic animals such as the Philippine Mousedeer (*Tragulus napu nigricans*), the Philippine Freshwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) and the Philippine Cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropygia*);

**WHEREAS**, the waters known as the Balabac Straight or Palawan Passage is the convergence point of the Sulu and South China Sea and is the traditional route of pelagic fishes and migratory birds. It is likewise home to five (5) species of seagrass and about one hundred (100) species of seaweeds;

**WHEREAS**, the adjacent island and waters off Sabah, Malaysia has been declared as a protected area by the Sabah and Malaysian authorities;

**WHEREAS**, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) has the power to declare sites in Palawan as part of the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) in the terrestrial, marine and ancestral domain zones as provided by Republic Act 7611, otherwise known as the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act;

**WHEREFORE**, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the island of Balabac and its surrounding waters and islands is hereby declared as **PRIORITY SITE OF THE ECAN**;

Be it resolved further, that a multi-agency team shall be formed composed of representatives from PCSDS as the lead agency, Conservation International, and Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas, and other government agencies and private organizations that may be identified.

Resolved finally, that a Management and Protection Plan shall be formulated by the staff of the Council in collaboration and funding support from the Non-Governmental Organizations active in Palawan and Balabac such as the Conservation International and the Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas – World Wildlife Fund.

**SO RESOLVED.**

Busuanga, Palawan 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2003.

  
**EXEC. DIR. WINSTON G. ARZAGA**  
Secretary

  
**HON. VICENTE A. SANDOVAL**  
PCSD, Chairman