



The Oars Women of Lake Pandin in the City of San Pablo

Summary

Pandin Lake is one of the famous lake among the seven lakes that the City of San Pablo is being proud of. What makes Pandin Lake experience *fantastic* are the women workers, oarswomen or bamboo raft paddlers. These women are an important element that adds spice to the lake's experience.

Year 2005, when a group of 18 mothers living near the lake organized themselves through the assistance and guidance of Mr. Mandy Mariño (a civic leader) to help their husbands who are farmer-fishermen in providing for the needs of their household and children's education.

Mr. Mariño donated one (1) bamboo raft and a contribution of PhP. 100.00 from the members as their initial investment to start with the livelihood project - to cater visitors of Pandin Lake who would like to experience rafting at the lake. Division of labor is being practiced among oarswomen.

A group prepares food for the guests, another group takes care of preparing souvenir products and welcoming guests, others paddle the raft. In case of large tour groups, the oarsmen help their wives paddle the rafts.

To improve their craft while preserving the ecosystem of the lake and providing excellent service to tourists, the Local Government of San Pablo provided these mothers several trainings and seminars, and to ensure the safety of both visitors and Pandin Lake workers, the LGU equipped them with Life Vests, First Aids Kits, Stretcher, and uniforms.

Income derived from their products and services are equally divided among the members. Testimonies from these working mothers brought significant change in their lives and in the community because of this livelihood project between the city government of San Pablo and civic leaders.

To date, this livelihood project became popular not only in the Province of Laguna but also throughout the country. This was being featured by various national television programs, and recently it was included in the ABS-CBN MALASAKIT CAMPAIGN and this year's Summer Station ID.



Project Description

San Pablo City is well known having the only city in the Philippines with Seven Crater Lakes. To promote the natural beauty of the lakes, the city government together with other private sectors supported the initiative of

a small group of oarswomen, a group of 18 mothers living around Pandin Lake. This aims to help their husbands who are farmer-fishermen to earn additional income for their families. Believing in the tourism potential of Lake Pandin and to improve the tourism activities , facilities , services, and to give additional employment to the community.



The increase of tourist arrival is one of the major challenges encountered at the start of this livelihood project this may directly affect the ecological balance around the lake, but after under the vigilant watch of these oarswomen, the Lake Pandin environment is protected, cleanliness is

maintained, non-biodegradable materials are not allowed to be used, littering is strictly prohibited in and outside the lake waters.

The Local Government of San Pablo together with the oarswomen of Pandin Lake spearheads the annual clean-up drive.



The fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Council (FARMC), a Civic Society Organization highly supports the practices of the Bangkeras. The LLDA provides technical assistance while San Pablo LGU provides them with financial assistance and promotions.



Implementation Procedure

One of the major problems of many rural communities in the Philippines is the people are just waiting for the programs and projects the government has to offer, often times the government provided them all the necessary assistance but some of them chose to be unproductive citizens. Here in the City of San Pablo the Local Government is encouraging private sector's initiatives. The government provides immediate assistance to private sectors that shows their desire to be more dynamic citizens.

It was year 2005 when a group of 18 mothers living near the lake organized themselves to help the head of their families who are farmer-fishermen in providing for the needs of their household and children's education. Being known as the only city in the Philippines with Seven Crater Lakes they thought of a unique way to take advantage of Lake Pandin's natural enticing beauty to improve their lives through tourism. Pandin is the second smallest of the famous lakes, with an area of 23.54 hectares, and second deepest with a depth of 63 meters. It is the only one among the seven which water is pristine that makes it ideal for swimming or just dabbling.

The livelihood project started with one bamboo raft donated by Mr. Mandy Mariño, a civic leader and a contribution of One (1) hundred pesos (Php.100.00) each from the members as their initial investment, this will cater visitors of Pandin Lake who would like to experience rafting in the lake. The average of tourist visiting Pandin that time was only 10 to 15 pax with an income of One hundred fifty pesos (Php. 150.00) per month. They know that the small income from the project would not be enough to help their family's daily lives so they seek the assistance of the city government.



Meeting with City Mayor Loreto S. Amante

The Local Government of San Pablo recognizes their initiatives and immediately provided them assistance to improve their craft while preserving the ecosystem of the lake and to provide excellent service to the tourists; they were provided various trainings and seminars, some of these are the following:

First Aid & Disaster Preparedness Training



Tour Guiding Workshop/Seminar



Sustainable Eco-Tourism Management Seminar



Sustainable Tourism Product Development & Marketing Products and Services Branding & Promotions Seminar



And to ensure the safety of both visitors and Pandin Lake workers, the LGU equipped them with Life Vests, First Aid Kits, stretcher, and uniforms. While undergoing trainings and seminars, the local government thru the City Tourism Office assists them in the promotion of Lake Pandin and its Bangkeras in various venues like print and broadcast media, social media among others. This was featured by various national television programs, and recently it was included in ABS-CBN MALASAKIT CAMPAIGN and this year's Summer Station ID. Under the Bottoms-up Budgeting Program the group were provided ten thousand pesos (Php. 10,000.00) for their livelihood project.

In order to maintain the beauty of Pandin Lake the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) also provided them technical assistance on how to protect its water and environment, while the LGU spearheads an annual general clean-up of Lake Pandin. - no cases of forest and vegetation destruction around the lake, cleanliness is maintained, non-biodegradable materials are not allowed to be used, littering is prohibited in and outside the lake waters.

In recognition of the Bangkeras vigilance and advocacy for the overall welfare of the natural environment and the families of the host community, their leader Mrs. Tina Abrego was awarded "Bayani ng Lawa" by the LLDA; the City Mayor Loreto S. Amante, City Tourism Officer Ms. Donnalyn E. Briñas were also awarded by the Department of Interior and Local Government last January 9, 2016 for their invaluable effort in

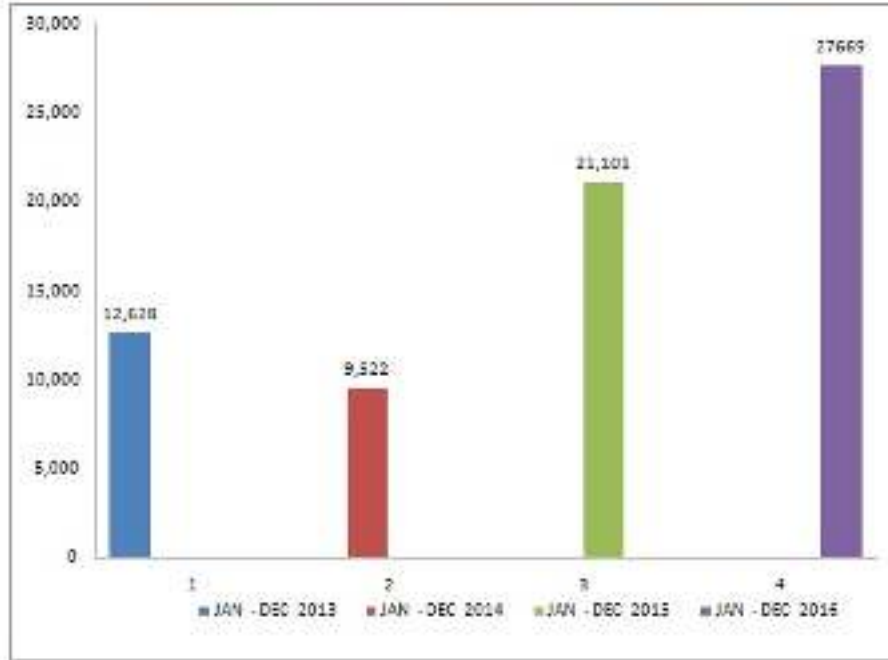
developing the eco-tourism of Pandin Lake.





This livelihood project became popular not only in the Province of Laguna but also throughout the country. To date, the group Samahan ng mga Kababaihang Bangkera ng Pandin has 22 women members and 12 rafts to paddle. Tourist Arrival for the year 2016 increased by 27,669.

Figure 1. TOURIST ARRIVAL FROM 2013 to 2016



Civic Organizations are also involved in this project by giving their assistance to the said oars women. The Seven Lakes International Organization donated two (2) bamboo rafts, while the San Pablo Medical Society donated funds for the construction of rest rooms. This proves that public and private partnership is a perfect example of implementing

successful programs for its people.





Project Result/Impact

The lives of Pandin Bangkeras improved significantly after they were organized. Their efforts to help their farmer-fishermen husbands to earn additional income for their daily needs proved successful for the past 12 years. Their hard work alleviated their families from poverty which is one of the major problems of many rural communities in the Philippines.



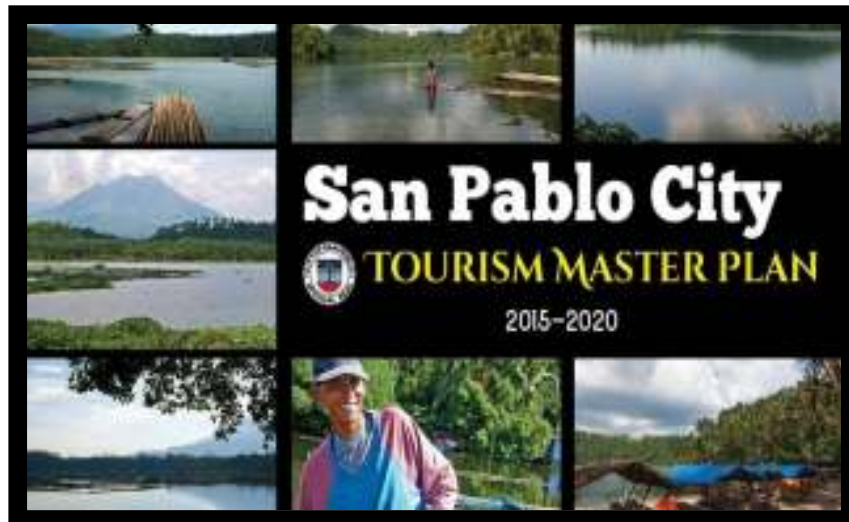


The Local Government of San Pablo envisions the city's tourism industry as a premier eco-adventure tourist attractions and destinations not only in the Province of Laguna but throughout the country, but also in the world.

This will mean more opportunities for its citizens. Before, the local government is encountering problems in implementing tourism programs and projects, some of its citizens are not aware of the good effect of tourism industry to the city's economy. But because of what transpired in Pandin Lake, San Pableños came to realize the importance of strengthening the city's tourism industry. They are now expressing their support to the LGU's tourism programs.

The formulation of the Tourism Master Plan for the City of San Pablo is very timely as it responds to the call of harnessing local resources, both natural and social-cultural, as a vehicle of socio-economic development.

This will support key development objectives of poverty alleviation, employment generation, income redistribution, people empowerment, and environment and natural resources conservation.



With the passage of Resolution No. 2015-858 adopting the City Tourism Master Plan and City Ordinance No. 2016-76 also known as an Ordinance Formulating and Establishing the 2016 Tourism Code of the City of San Pablo by the Sangguniang Panlungsod (City Council) will served as a comprehensive framework for the establishment and management of a sustainable tourism in the City - projects that are environment-friendly, conscious of the needs of the local people, income generating, and ensuring the satisfaction of local and foreign visitors.



The City's Tourism Master Plan now on its third year of implementation aside from continuously supporting the activities in Lake Pandin, is focusing on the development and installation of tourism facilities in Sampalok Lake, being the most accessible among the other lakes and is located at the heart of the city. The TMP also offers a menu of tourism and tourism-related business opportunities, which business entrepreneurs and other interested groups could invest on, thus helping propel the economic growth of the City.



Certificates of Incorporation, Awards and Recognitions

 REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDGA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

COMPANY REG. NO. CN201408951
COMPANY TIN 009-771-956

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:

This is to certify that the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of

SAMAHAN NG KABABAIHANG MANGINGISDA AT BANGKERA SA LAWA NG PANDIN INC.

were duly approved by the Commission on this date upon the issuance of this Certificate of Incorporation in accordance with the Corporation Code of the Philippines (Batas Pambansa, Blg. 68), and copies of said Articles and By-Laws are hereto attached.

This Certificate grants juridical personality to the corporation but does not authorize it to undertake business activities requiring a Secondary License from this Commission, such as, but not limited to, acting as: broker or dealer in securities, government securities eligible dealer (GSED), investment adviser of an investment company, close-end or open-end investment company, investment house, transfer agent, commodity/financial futures exchange/broker/merchant, financing company, pre-need plan issuer, general agent in pre-need plans and time shares/club shares/membership certificates issuers or selling agents thereof. Neither does this Certificate constitute as permit to undertake activities for which other government agencies require a license or permit.

As a registered corporation, it shall submit annually to this Commission the reports indicated at the back of this certificate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this Commission to be affixed at Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, this 7th day of May, Twenty Fourteen.


FERDINAND B. SALES
Director
Company Registration and Monitoring Department







Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
SJS - REGIONAL OFFICE NO. 4-A
Fisheries Production Division
Bansang, Los Baños, Laguna



This

CERTIFICATE OF AWARD

is hereby awarded to

**FISHERFOLK OF PANDIN LAKE
SAN PABLO, CITY, LAGUNA**

as recipient of

3,000,000 pcs. Tilapia Fingerlings

*"Ensuring Food Security, Improving Productivity
and Alleviating Poverty in the Countryside"*

Given this 17th day of October, 2016 Pinya Calatagan
Beach Resort, Brgy. Sta. Ana,
Calatagan, Batangas.


Dr. LILIAN C. GARCIA, CESE
OIC-Regional Director

- THANK YOU -