

## Week 2 Option 3: Mini-Resilience Assessment

### Defining and Describing the System:

Topic: Boracay Island resilience on its ecosystem cultural services degradation

#### Actors Involve:

Department of Tourism, Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and Highways, Malay Aklan Provincial and Local Government, Boracay Island Communities, Stakeholders & Businesses, NGO's and Tourists

#### Introduction:

Boracay Island is <sup>1</sup>famous for being one of the world's top destinations for relaxation. The island is located northwest tip of Panay Island in Western Visayas region of Philippines. The boom of Boracay Island started in 1980's known for budget destinations for backpackers and in 1990 Boracay beaches were being acclaimed as the best in the world. The white beach, the main tourism beach, is about four kilometers long and is lined with resorts, hotels, guesthouses houses, backpacker's inn, restaurants and other tourism related business Because of its pristine beaches many foreigners even locals from the country visits the place.

Data shows that the record of tourism per year is increasing. <sup>2</sup>The government target of 1.5 million for arrivals amid persistent concern for the island's environment and sustainability. DOT data showed that 1,560,106 visitors went to the 1,032-hectare island last year 2015, surpassing the 1.5 million targeted by tourism and local officials, or 5.96-percent higher than the 1,472,352 recorded in 2014. <sup>3</sup>In 2016, it reached a record high of 1.7 million tourist arrivals beating the government set target of arrivals.

With tourism flocked in the island, big companies sought their opportunity to have their business in the island. Big hotels were raised and sacrificing most of the vegetation area and trees been cut down in replacement of concrete tall buildings. Currently the island has now a shopping mall located at the top of the hill.

The uncontrollable coming of businesses and arrivals of tourism makes the island vulnerable to environmental degradation and is now becoming rampant. <sup>4</sup>Tourism development is causing sand erosion, coastal pollution and adverse environmental changes. The island also suffers from the phenomenon known as algae bloom because of untreated waste water from rapid development which affect sanitation and environment controls. This algae bloom stirs debate between locals

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1 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boracay>

2 <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/754567/record-tourist-arrivals-in-boracay>

3 <https://www.rappler.com/business/industries/171-aviation-tourism/157508-record-high-tourists-boracay-2016>

4 <http://www.manilatimes.net/boracay-on-the-edge-of-disaster/168264/>

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and experts saying that it is normal in the point of view of local but the experts says different that it's brought by pollution and population in the island. The island now is becoming dirty with all the trash seen around due irresponsible tourist and even locals. The carrying capacity of the island has reached its limits and it will bring the island to more serious problem in the future if the occurring issues will not be handled and mitigated as early as now.

### **Objective:**

This assessment will focus on Boracay Island Philippines ecosystem cultural services degradation from the flocked of tourism arrivals and rapid development. The assessment will help save Boracay Island and promote sustainable tourism and development to mitigate the island from degradation and cause more serious problem of the island in the coming years. All this changes and transformation is for Boracay Island, its ecosystem, local community and stakeholders to cope with its current problematic state/situations in development, tourism and environmental issues that affects the well-being of the islander.

### **Methodology:**

The four areas in Boracay Island are Station 1-3, Yapak, Bulabog and Manoc-Manoc. Station 1, 2 and 3 is a four kilometer long white beach that's popular to many tourists. Fronting it are restaurants, bars, hotels and backpackers accommodations such as hostels and guesthouses. Yapak is known for its secluded part and no fancy establishments around only small huts along the beach for tourists to relax. Bulabog is where the water sports activities in the island is located. Manoc-Manoc is the entry and exit point of the island.

The main focus of this mini assessment is to identify the factors that causes the ecosystem cultural services degradation. Using the current state of the island, this will help the assessment to identify those factors as well as the contributions of the actors. All information's will be gathered together to have a basis for the starting point of this mini assessment to come up with programs and policies for all the actors involve to help maintain and save the island from more degradation.