



CARRYING CAPACITY OF TOURIST SPOTS IN PAGUDPUD, ILOCOS NORTE: AN ASSESSMENT

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Carrying capacity is the maximum number of individuals that can be accommodated in an area without affecting the state of the environment, the level of satisfaction of the visitors, and the social culture of the host community. Likewise, it is also defined as the ability of the resource systems of a given area to support the activities of its population. This descriptive-cum-exploratory study assessed the carrying capacity of the three tourist spots/ destinations in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte. It specifically determined the environmental factors of the areas and the social and environmental carrying capacity. The study covered the owners or operators of the identified tourist spots. Document reviews, interviews, and ocular inspections were conducted to gather pertinent data needed in the study. A structured interview guide was constructed.

The findings showed that the vegetative cover of the three beach resorts is more or less similar except in Panzzian where there is a remarkably diversified species of plants within the area. Majority of the plants available are dominated by coconut palms. Only few species of trees are found in the area. The vicinity of the infrastructure is covered by carabao grass and other species of weeds. There are also varied species of ornamental plants used to beautify the resorts. Among the migrating birds found in the areas are wild ducks and “bannatiran” abound at the lakes. This shows that the management of the beach resorts emphasizes the need for conserving species and habitats because natural areas are irreplaceable. The resorts’ source of water is spring. Daily wastes on the other hand are being collected by dump trucks.

The aforecited findings will enable the beach resorts operators/ owners to identify the particular area they should focus on to preserve the integrity of the place for sustainability.

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