

# Govt moves to protect Mt. Mantalingahan

[By Eireene Jairee Gomez](#)

August 8, 2021

80



Mt. Mantalingahan. PHOTO FROM WIKIPEDIA

A Land Use Plan has been mapped for the protected [Mount Mantalingahan](#) in [Palawan](#) to ensure its preservation and the optimum development of its resources valued economically at \$5.5 billion.

Under the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#)' (DENR) technical assistance program known as "[Protect Wildlife Project](#)," funded by the [United States Agency for International Development](#) (USAid), about 206,567 hectares of Mount

Mantalingahan's protected landscape had already been zoned. The zoned area also includes forest land outside the protected area of 153,836 hectares.

Mapping of [\*Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape\*](#) (MMPL) is a powerful tool in defining which activities are appropriate for each zone and prescribing what is allowed in each area.

With its 120,457 hectares of forest, [\*Mount Matalingahan\*](#) is the headwater for 33 watersheds.

Among the species of animals that can be found in Matalingahan are the Philippine cockatoo, the talking mynah, the blue-naped parrot, the Philippine pangolin and many other highly endangered wildlife.

Production areas totaling 82,469 hectares of protected area and 71,367 hectares of conservation area have also been designated under the Forest Land Use Plan of Southern Palawan.

Ecosystem services from MMPL's rich natural resources, whose value is placed at \$5.5 billion or P265 billion, bring

about economic benefit to the community, according to [Jeanne Tabangay](#), managing director of Palawan Biodiversity Conservation Corridor.

The [Protect Wildlife Project of USAid](#) targets to conserve around 750,000 hectares of biologically significant sites. These are protected areas, forestlands, watersheds, mangrove forests, and coastal and marine areas.

Mount Matalingahan is the highest peak in Palawan. It straddles around the towns of Bataraza, Brooke's Point, Rizal, Quezon and Sofronio Española. Through the years, it has been faced with natural and manmade threats from illegal logging, wildlife poaching, mining and kaingin (slash and burn).

The USAid noted that Matalingahan also faces risks of high poverty incidence, unclear or inconsistent regulatory policies on resource uses, communities that lack tenure rights, weak enforcement systems, and the vulnerability to climate risks such as drought and intense rainfall.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/08/news/regions/govt-moves-to-protect-mt-mantalingahan/1810105>