

SOLI-SOLI (*TYPHALATIFOLIA*) OF LAKE DANAOSAN FRANCISCO, CENTRAL PHILIPPINES AS AN INDUSTRY AND AS A FESTIVAL EMBLEM: ITS STATUS, PROCESSING AND PROPOSED CONSERVATION OPTIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

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ABSTRACT

Soli-soli (*Typhalatifolia*) a plant found abundantly in Lake Danao, San Francisco, Cebu was studied as an industrial resource, its processing and a festival emblem of the fiesta celebration of Pacijan Island. This is a descriptive study where a questionnaire was used as a tool for gathering the data given to the weavers of solisoli, festival organizers, LGU officials, selected inhabitants and tourists of Pacijan Island. Results showed that soli-soli plant was converted into bags, belts, caps, and mats. Tourists usually buy them because of their unique material. The soli-soli was processed by harvesting the young soli-soli plant. Then this is dried under the heat of the sun for 2-3 days depending on the intensity of the heat. They are then cleaned and made into strip and tanned at different colors. Then weaving will commence depending on the desired articles to be made. Gender composition on the soli-soli industry is dominated by the females at 60% and males at 40%. Marketing of the soli-soli products was done locally and some were brought to nearby provinces like Cebu City and Ormoc City. Mats topped among the saleable articles followed by bags, hats, fans, slippers and ropes. Results further showed that soli-soli festival is done every third Sunday of March in San Francisco where it depicts the soli-soli plant which abounds around Lake Danao and a freestyle street dancing competition using the soli-soli plant as the dominant material for the costumes of the participants. Extraction of soli-soli is heavy from January to June for making articles for the incoming fiesta and during summer for many tourists are expected to visit Camotes Islands during this time. Problems of soli-soli industry are limited marketing potential, financing, and product development of the soli-soli products.

Keywords: Soli-soli, *Typhalatifolia*, festival emblem and Pacijan