

# **DELINEATION OF LEBAK ANCESTRAL DOMAIN**

## **BRIEF BACKGROUND:**

The Ancestral Domain of the Dulangan Manobo of the town of Lebak, Sultan Kudarat covers a total of 25,000 hectares. It comprises thirteen (13) barangays. It is within the claimed domain where the operations of the controversial IFMA 20 and 22 are located. The people have, however, opposed the extension of the Company's operation and are now fighting harder against the renewal of the IFMA.

The municipality is located on the western portion of the Province of Sultan Kudarat, and bordered in the north by South Upi, Maguindanao; in the south by Kalamansig; in the west by Celebes Sea; in the east by Esperanza.

The Municipal Mayor, Honorable Dionesia Bisana, has expressed support for the planned delineation of the domain. Through the efforts of IPMR Florencio Apang, the LGU has committed to provide additional funds in the actual survey and delineation activities.

The NCIP has advised the community to fast track the completion of its Recognition Book to also facilitate the issuance of a Survey Authority. As such, the PAFID is now working closely with the Head Claimant, Datu Mileton Blag, in the conduct of research and documentation works and preparatory activities for the initial ground survey.

## **ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED SO FAR:**

In preparation for the conduct of the survey and delineation of the Ancestral Domain of the Manobo-Teduray of Lebak, Sultan Kudarat, and the PAFID –Mindanao team conducted the following activities:

1. **Community Consultations.** Two consultations were held in Sultan Kudarat, particularly in the towns of Lebak (the focus of the project) and Esperanza, which is adjacent to the claims of Lebak.
  - A. The first consultation meeting in Lebak was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 at the Tribal Hall in Sitio Dano, Barangay Keytodac. 48 residents composed of 25 females and 23 males attended this.

Discussed in the meeting was the financial support given by the ILC for the conduct of the on-ground survey of the people's Ancestral Domain. The community expressed their gratitude for

the assistance and will work with PAFID to achieve their objective of delineating their ancestral territories.

The group showed the perimeters of their domain through their 3-Dimensional map which was constructed in 2004. They also informed that the NCIP has advised them to fast-track the completion of their Recognition Book as a pre-requisite to the issuance of a survey authority. A survey team was then formed to accompany the PAFID's technical team in the conduct of the survey.

A plan of action was formulated and this prioritized, among others, the following: (a) coordination with the provincial and regional NCIP to discuss both the drafting of the Recognition Book and the conduct of an on-ground survey; (b) conduct of a GPS Instrumentation Training to selected members of the community who will lead the actual delineation of the domain; and (c) coordination with the LGU for the security of the survey team and some logistical support.

- B. The second consultation meeting was held in the afternoon of 16 August 2016 at the Barangay Hall of Legodon in Esperanza town. Total attendees were 38 residents composed of 24 females and 14 males/elders.

Discussed was the proposed survey and delineation of Lebak Ancestral Domain, which is adjacent to the claims of the Manobo-Tedurays of Esperanza town. The community supported the initiative of their neighbors and clarified that there is no boundary conflicts on both sides. The 3-Dimensional Map of the community was used to locate and identify the natural boundaries of the two claims.

They proposed that a team from their side would be allowed to accompany the survey team to help identify the exact locations of their natural boundaries. This they said would also help them since a portion of their domain will also be delineated and monumented.

The Lebak leaders welcomed the Esperanza proposal and agreed to have a joint survey team.



*Sitio Dano, Barangay Keytodac, Lebak, Sultan Kudarat*

2. **GPS Instrumentation Training/Orientation.** The activity was conducted at the LDCI office in Cotabato City from 13 – 15 September 2016. It was held jointly with the Teduray-Lambangian Ancestral Domain Claimants (TLADC) who also have claims adjacent to the Lebak AD and which soon start their own perimeter survey covering 12 municipalities in Maguindanao.

Five (5) members of the Lebak survey team joined the thirteen (13) from the Maguindanao team in the orientation session on how AD survey is conducted and a practicum on the use of the Global Positioning System survey instruments. Practice sessions were held in the safer areas of Cotabato city and the results were immediately downloaded to review and assess the two groups' performances.

3. **Perimeter Survey (1).** The first survey was conducted from 07-12 October 2016, in partnership with the TLADC of Maguindanao, which has established common boundaries with the Lebak claim. Survey team was composed of five leaders from Lebak and another 8 from Maguindanao to facilitate identification of common corners and boundaries. Six corners were recorded and concrete monuments installed. The dimensions of the monuments followed the exact specifications of the NCIP.

#### 4. Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title Processing

The application of Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title requires proofs and evidences of the people's ownership of their claimed domain. As such, series of researches, documentation – both photo and written accounts, anthropological data, and genealogy are required to complete all requirements as required by the NCIP.

This is also a pre-requisite before the issuance of a Survey Authority and the conduct of actual ground survey of the domain.

Data-gathering activities started in November 2016. A reconnaissance was done last 10 – 12 November 2016 in line with the documentation process to be conducted.

##### A. Data Gathering (1)

A focus group discussion was conducted at Sitio Dano, Barangay Keytodac, Lebak, Sultan Kudarat last 11 November 2016. It was attended by twenty-four (24) community members, fifteen (15) of which are male and nine (9) were female. The activity first discussed the documents required by NCIP and activities to be conducted to be able to secure them. The genealogical data of two (2) clans was reviewed and updated



*Focus group discussion held in Sitio Dano.*



## B. Data Gathering (2)

Due to security concerns, Datu Meliton Blag, the head claimant, was not able to attend the FGD in Sitio Dano. The researcher went to Sitio Elem, Barangay Salangsang, Lebak, Sultan Kudarat to personally meet with the head claimant and conduct another focus group discussion last 12 November 2016. It was attended by six (6) community members, four (4) of which are male and two (2) were female.



*Focused group discussion with Datu Meliton and other community members in Sitio Elem.*

The session discussed about the different Indigenous Knowledge, Systems, and practices particularly on their spiritual belief, spiritual entities, tribal musical instruments, tribal games, and landmarks inside their claim.

Pictures of some musical instruments that were available were taken.



*Tugo (left) and Fahanday (right). Traditional musical instruments.*



*Sagagong (gong ensemble) that the group usually play during gatherings, celebrations, or during free time as recreational activity.*





*Sitio Dano burial ground with guided by Vens Apang*

### **C. Data Gathering (3)**

A literature review and library research in Mindanawon Library at Ateneo de Davao University and the University of the Philippines Mindanao College of Humanities and Social Sciences Library was also conducted. There were several CADT application documents in the Mindanawon Library, which was useful in the planning of the activities to be conducted. There were also undergraduate manuscripts and theses that the researcher was able to scan in the library of the College of Social Sciences in the University of the Philippines Mindanao.

In preparation to the next field visit, the researcher gathered the CADT Application forms from the online website of NCIP Region XII.

### **D. Data Gathering (4): Census**

A week before, the team tried to reach the NCIP XII Provincial office to set an appointment and clarify the needed requirements and assistance for the application of the CADT of the Dulangan Manobo of Lebak. The group was told that the NCIP needed assistance in the completion of the Census and Population of the members of the Tribal Community Lebak Association.

A meeting held last 24 January 2017 was attended by fourteen (14) people, three (3) of which were female and eleven (11) were male. Discussed, among others, was the completion of the census of the entire AD. The plan was to distribute census forms to each leader and ask them to conduct the census in their assigned areas. While discussing the form, the leaders explained that they will definitely have a hard time filling the form out due to its complexity. As a solution, it was agreed during the meeting that they set a schedule for the researcher to visit their area and gather each community member to be asked questions using the form. First in the schedule was Sitio Dano.

After the meeting, nine forms were accomplished. However, to facilitate the immediate completion of the census, the census form was simplified and distributed to specific sitios and barangays. Two (2) purok already have data in the barangay, fortunately they were willing to lend their copy.



*Kim Reina Toyongan collecting Census data in Sitio Ebe, Barangaay Keytodac, Lebak, Sultan Kudarat.*

After a week of census, the researcher completed seven (7) purok with the help of the respective Barangay Health Workers of specific barangays.



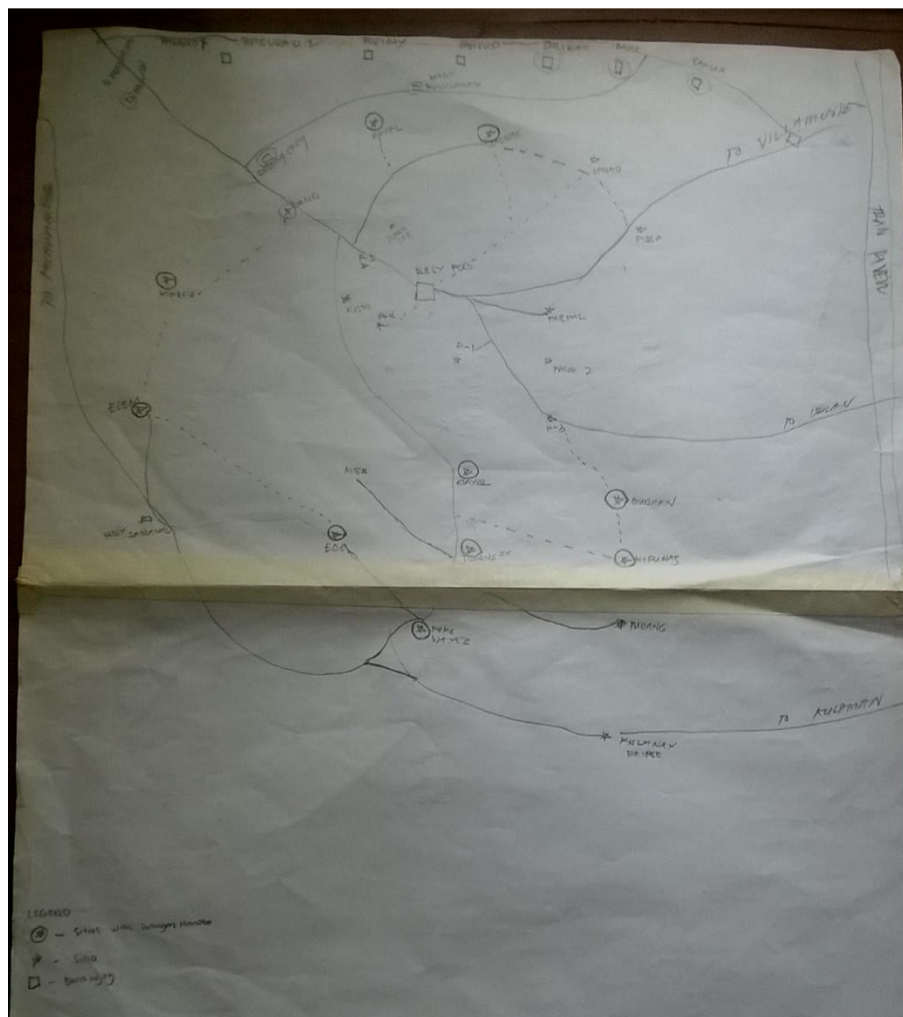
## E. Data Gathering (5)

There are several historical landmarks and significant places that the researcher was able to visit during the field activity. From 24 January 2017 to 02 February 2017, with the help and guidance of community members, various rivers, water sources and mountain peaks were photographed and their historical accounts recorded.

## 5. PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY MAPPING

### (A) Sketch Mapping

Last 18 January 2017, Kagawad Joel Apang, Marcial Apang Jr. and a few members of the community made a map of barangay Keytodac. The map is composed of sitios and some nearby barangays. Elders are preparing a Sketch map of the entire domain.



*Map of Barangay Keytodac composed of sitios occupied by IPs and Non IP groups.*

## **(B) 3D Map Construction**

The 3D Map Construction and Land Use Coding session conducted by the PAFID (under its Land Tenure Program) from 25 January 2017 to 02 February 2017 enabled the community to identify their AD boundaries through pins encircled through strings. 60 pins, indicating the exact locations where AD monuments will be installed when the actual survey will be conducted, was placed in the 3D map.

Of this number, six monuments have already been installed during the initial survey conducted in October 2016.

The continuation of the AD survey therefore to be conducted with the support of the ILC will require the installation of 54 monuments.



*Lita Licofo and some community members and tribal leaders identifying land uses and the boundary of the Ancestral domain claim, including the IFMA areas.*

## **6. Coordination Visit to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)**

Datu Meliton Blag, from a conversation last 12 November 2016 mentioned that he made a map of the whole Ancestral Domain claim and submitted it to the NCIP but failed to keep a copy of his own. The documents already submitted to the NCIP are essential for the identification of documents available and those that should be given more attention in the collection of data.

Venancio Apang, together with Kim Reina Toyongan and other PAFID staff went to the NCIP Provincial office located at Isulan, Sultan Kudarat last 19 January 2017. They met with Engineer Jessie Matias, an NCIP XII Geodetic Engineer, and informed that to date, since PAFID and the NCIP IX still do not have a Memorandum of Agreement, the NCIP IX cannot support them and thus will not be able to provide documents submitted to them by the Manobo community.

## **7. Spatial Data Produced**

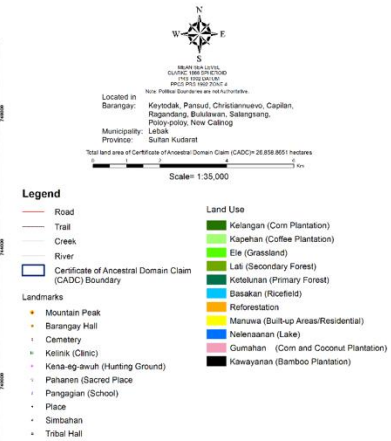
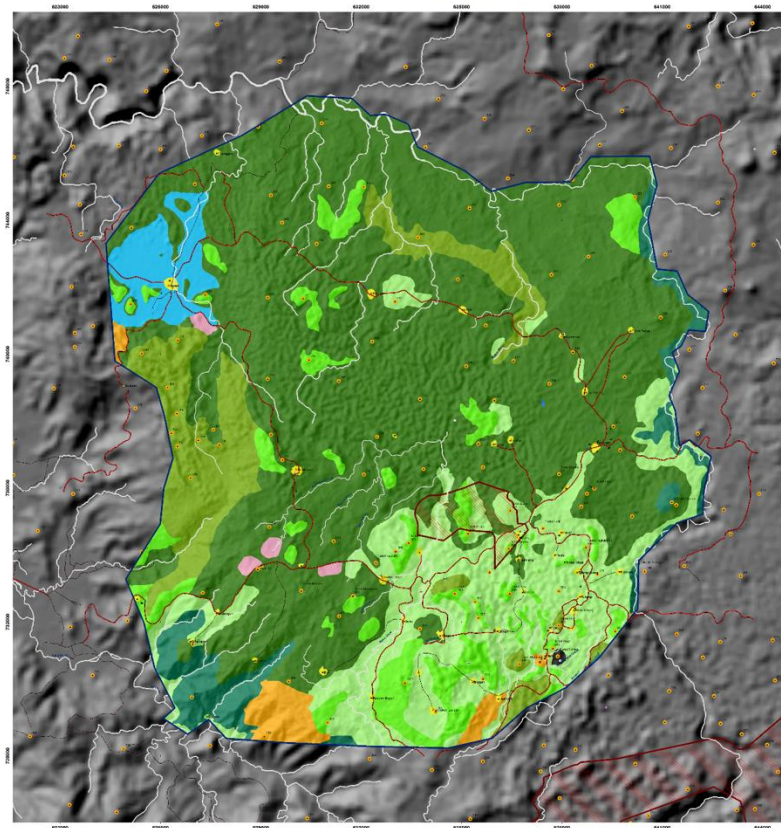
Because of the Participatory Mapping Activities, Spatial Data on the Extents of the Ancestral Domain Claim of the Manobo-Dulangan Community has been determined. The claim shall cover an approximate area of 26, 853,000 (66,355,224 Acres). Furthermore, the natural boundaries of the Ancestral Domain claim has also been identified. This shall facilitate the conduct of boundary agreements that shall be forged by affected adjacent communities in the future if needed.

The extents of overlap of the adverse claim of the Industrial Forest Management Agreement (IFMA) of the DACON, Inc. has also been identified. Affected communities as well as the natural resources are now known because of the Community Land-Use and Cover map that was produced by the Participatory Mapping process. The Land-Use and Cover maps show the approximate areas and coverages of each local land use and estimates the percentage of each land-use category in the Ancestral Domain Claim. These maps shall also be very useful in the formulation of the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Management and Protection Plan, which shall be undertaken by the Manobo-Dulangan by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2018.



# **KASULTAN OWOY TITULO SA KELIM TANA TUPU SA DULANGAN MANOBO DIYA SA ESPERANZA, SULTAN KUDARAT** (Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim of the Dulangan Manobo Tribe of Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat)

**FOR VALIDATION**



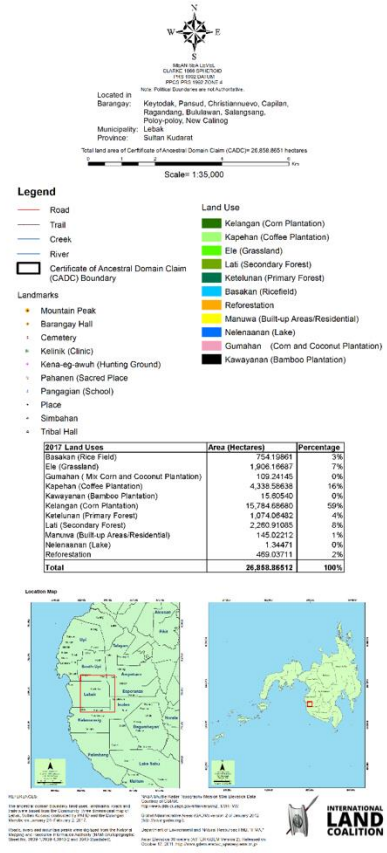
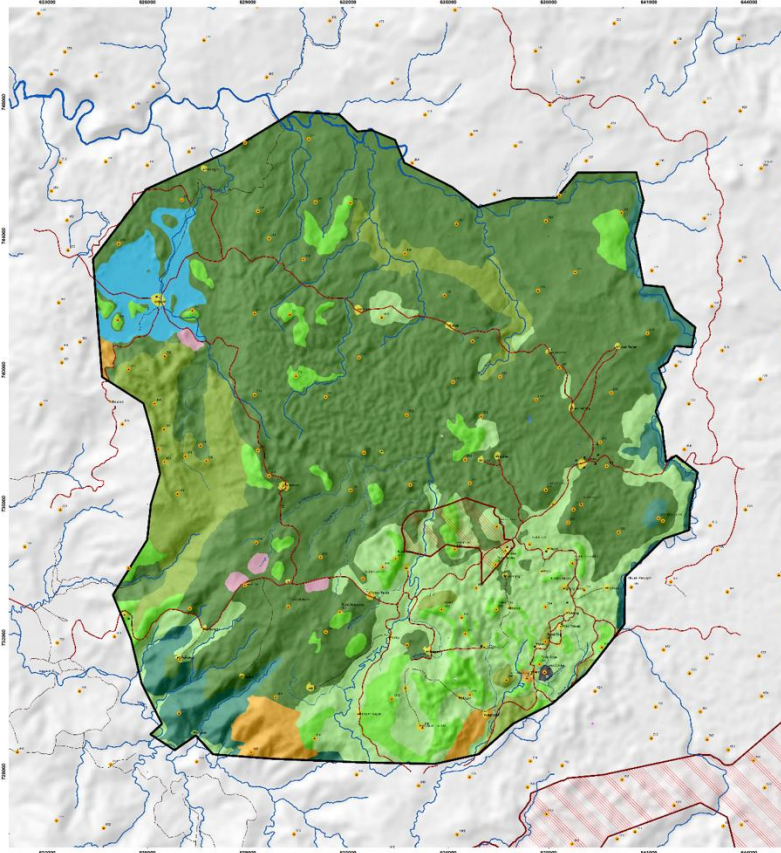
2017 Land Uses	Area (Hectares)	Percentage
Basakan (Rice Field)	754.15061	3%
Ele (Grassland)	1,905.15687	7%
Gumahan (Mix Corn and Coconut Plantation)	109.24145	0%
Kapehan (Coffee Plantation)	4,235.58638	16%
Kawayanan (Bamboo Plantation)	15.80540	0%
Kelangan (Corn Plantation)	15,784.60605	59%
Keteunuan (Primary Forest)	1,074.05482	4%
Lali (Secondary Forest)	2,260.91085	8%
Manuwa (Built-up Areas/Residential)	145.02212	1%
Nelenaanan (Lake)	1.34471	0%
Reforestation	469.03711	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,858.86512</b>	<b>100%</b>



**INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION**

**LAND USE MAP (2017)**  
**Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim of the Dulangan Manobo Tribe of**  
**Lebak, Sultan Kudarat**

**FOR VALIDATION**



**MAP SHOWING THE CURRENTLY OPERATED INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (IFMA) OF THE DULANGAN MANOBO TRIBE OF LEBAK, SULTAN KUDARAT**  
(Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim)

**FOR VALIDATION**

