

My Biodiversity Experience

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Earth is perfectly made by God for His people to live. It consists of different bodies of land and water where thousands of species of plants and animals can be found. But sad to say that nowadays some species of plants and animals are already endangered and extinct. One of the Marine Reserves here in the Philippines is the Danjungan Island in Cauayan, Negros Occidental.

Danjungan Island is a paradise where you can rest, relax and enjoy while learning and discovering its mysteries. It is a 43-hectare island that lies in the Sulu Sea, 3 km west of Negros Occidental. This island has 5 lagoons and bears 7 different main ecosystems, the mangrove forests, sea grass beds, coral reefs, beach, open ocean, cave and limestone forest. These ecosystems are interdependent to each other.

Spending my summer vacation even just for 3 days in that place is a great opportunity that I will treasure for the rest of my life. It's full of fun and adventure. I learn different species of mangrove, birds such as egret, sea eagles, black-naped orioles, crows, flowerpecker, sunbirds, kingfishers, fruit doves, white-breasted wood swallows and many more. Of course, I will never ever forget my first snorkeling experience. This is my most favorite camp activity where I saw different species of sea grasses, seaweeds, corals, fishes like clownfish, grouper, butterfly fish, mudskipper, moray eel, giant clam, and bats in the caves.

Likewise, I cherish the friendship I established with my fellow campers coming from other cities and municipalities and the kindness and expertise shown by our facilitators.

As I leave the island, there are lots of things that I realize and learn. This is the fact that I'm now truly in love with nature. Biodiversity experience is really exciting and wonderful. I appreciate more the true beauty of God's creation and I learn how important our marine wildlife. We, the people are responsible for all the destructions of our environment so it's our responsibility too to bring back its natural beauty.

To my fellow youth, let us join hands together in protecting and conserving biodiversity to make again this planet a perfect place to live in. It's my prayer for Danjungan Island to blossom forever for God's honor and glory.

