

Dispatches From the Field

Aeta Community Secure a Title

After more than 3 decades of struggle, the Aeta people of Pastolan in Hermosa Bataan finally secured legal recognition of their traditional rights with the formal awarding of their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) in a modest ceremony held at the village center in May, 2004.



The Samahan ng Aeta sa Pastolan (SKAP) sought PAFID's assistance in 1999 to secure legal recognition of their rights over their traditional lands located within the former Subic Naval Base complex. The Aeta feared that the non-recognition of their rights over their domain will eventually lead to their cultural demise as an Indigenous Community.

Along with the PAFID evidences and proofs of traditional management and ownership were gathered along with a complete survey and traverse of the whole Aeta domain. A total of 4,375.000 hectares of land was mapped which identified and marked the traditional boundaries of the Aeta territory.

In order to help facilitate the drafting of a Community Based Ancestral Domain Management Plan, the PAFID conducted a Participatory Community Mapping training for the Aeta people of Pastolan. A 1:5000 scale 3D-model of their whole domain was constructed and was used as the main planning tool for the Aeta in determining the current uses and situation of their land. Based on the information that was generated, the community has been able to finalize their future plans for environmental protection and identify their development priorities

