

## Customary Laws on Biodiversity Conservation Among the Tagbanwa of Palawan

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The Article discusses how the *Tagbanwa* have implemented strategies for biodiversity conservation based on their customary laws. It begins by discussing the importance of customary laws in the Philippine legal system and by providing a background on the *Tagbanwa*, specifically those located within the Malampaya Sound study site. It then focuses on five principles behind their conservation strategies: waste prevention, precautionary management, sustainable harvesting, user's pay arrangement, and natural pattern replication. It shows their viability by applying them to five resource uses: crop cultivation, marine resource extraction, medicinal application, honey gathering, and house building.

Furthermore, it addresses the global and national recognition accorded to the role of indigenous people in biodiversity conservation, particularly with respect to the utilization of their indigenous knowledge.

The Article then concludes that the customary laws can enrich the country's efforts to attain sustainable development instead of patterning conservation measures after Western models.