

**DIVERSITY ASSESMENT IN SELECTED SEAGRASS ECOSYSTEMS  
OF ZAMBALES, PHILIPPINES**

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

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## ABSTRACT

**SONIEGA, ANNA DOMINIQUE G.**, Department of Environmental Science, College of Arts and Sciences, Central Luzon State University, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, **June 2019, DIVERSITY ASSESSMENT IN SELECTED SEAGRASS ECOSYSTEMS OF ZAMBALES, PHILIPPINES**

Adviser: ANNIE MELINDA PAZ-ALBERTO, Ph.D.

Seagrass ecosystem is considered to be one of the most important resources in the coastal areas and has significant importance to the fisheries. It is home for many marine organism. Dugongs and turtles are very much dependent on seagrass for them to survive. Seagrass can be found along coastlines of all continents. The study identified and classified the different seagrass species and associates in the area. It determined the function of the marine organisms. This study identified the threats that causes the degradation of seagrass ecosystem. A total of seven seagrass species have been identified namely *Cymodocea rotundata*, *Cymodocea serrulata*, *Thalassia hemprichii*, *Syringodium isoetifolium*, *Halodule uninervis*, *Enhalus acoroides* and *Halophila ovalis*. *Cymodocea rotundata* got the highest IVI in Candelaria. *Thalassia hemprichii* got the highest IVI in Barangays Lipay, Libaba and Garreta while *Enhalus acoroides* had the highest IVI in Magalawa Island and Barangay Sto. Tomas. The species diversity of seagrass ecosystems in Zambales, Philippines is very low. Marine organisms functions as source of food, medicine, fibre, fuel, fertilizer, handicraft and others such as horticulture, bioindicator and beach cleaner. Dynamite fishing and quarrying posed major impacts in the seagrass ecosystems in Zambales.

Keywords: Seagrass ecosystem; seagrass; transect-quadrat method