

Documentation of Cultural Properties in Tabaco City, Philippines through Cultural Mapping

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Abstract

This research project was conducted to document the cultural properties of Tabaco City, Philippines, through Cultural Mapping. It sought to generate baseline data for cultural statistics on tangible and intangible heritage, natural heritage, significant personalities, and cultural institutions. This study adopted the Cultural Mapping Methodology of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Participants of this cultural mapping were composed of 11 mappers who were trained to do the heritage documentation. Ethnography, community immersion, in-depth interviews, document analysis, participant observation, historiography, and photo documentation, were used in data collection. Findings revealed that the cultural mapping project in Tabaco City, Philippines was able to document and provide an inventory of the cultural properties of the place that showcase the city's rich culture that could be used as baseline data in the formulation of promotional activities, conservation projects, policies, and legislation to safeguard and protect the city's heritage resources fully. This study recommends that the output of this cultural mapping must be disseminated to schools and libraries so that the community, especially the students, researchers, and cultural workers, can raise their awareness of the city's rich culture, and thorough research on the documented cultural properties must be conducted. Moreover, the government and other stakeholders must strengthen their efforts to foster awareness, appreciation, and protection of the cultural properties of Tabaco City, Philippines.

Keywords: Cultural Mapping, Heritage Documentation, Cultural Properties, Tabaco City

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1 INTRODUCTION

Heritage is a valuable resource that we inherited from our ancestors. It includes natural and cultural environments such as land formations, historic places, sites, built structures, biodiversity, archival collections, cultural practices, knowledge, and living traditions (ICOMOS, 2002). Heritage is categorized into cultural and natural, which should possess outstanding universal value bearing exceptional cultural and natural significance that will transcend national boundaries and be significant for present and future generations (Favis, 2000).

Cultural heritage has two types, tangible and intangible. Tangible heritages are immovable and movable. The immovable heritages refer to building heritages such as architectural works, monuments, sites, historical centers, buildings, cultural landscapes, parks, gardens, and industrial archaeology. At the same time, movable heritage includes collections in museums, libraries, and other archival collections that could be easily transferred from one place to another. Moreover, intangible heritage occurs in non-physical forms such as oral traditions, beliefs, practices, local

crafts, dances, songs, and expressions. On the other hand, natural heritages refer to the physical and biological formations, geological and physiographical formations that constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants.

Fostering the preservation and enrichment of Filipino national culture is mandated in the Philippine Constitution under Sec 14, Art XIV. The state shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage resources and create a balanced atmosphere where the historic past co-exists in harmony with modern society. Further, Republic Act No. 10066 or the National Heritage Act of 2009 mandated the Philippine government for cultural preservation as a strategy to maintain Filipino identity, strengthen, protect, protection, conserve, and promote the Philippines' cultural heritage.

In the Philippines, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the government agency with the constitutional mandate to safeguard, develop, and promote Filipino culture through the formulation of policies and programs, has established a cultural mapping program for Local Government Units (LGUs) based on RA 10066 article IV, V, and VIII, stating that the said agency shall ensure support in the preservation and enrichment of Filipino culture and maintain an inventory of cultural property. The NCCA also has the mandate to document and maintain an inventory of all cultural properties and sustain sociocultural practices and declare heritage zones to ensure the implementation of adaptive reuse of cultural property; and the appearance of streets, parks, monuments, buildings, and natural bodies of water, canals, paths, and barangays within a locality.

In addition, the NCCA is also responsible for establishing and maintaining the Philippine Registry of Cultural Properties (PRECUP) according to Republic Act 10066, which mandates Local Government Units (LGUs) to conduct comprehensive cultural mapping projects. It also assists LGUs in preparing inventories of cultural properties that must be safeguarded and documented. The agency also requires LGUs to submit copies of their inventories, which becomes one of the criteria for the seal of good governance. The aforementioned legal mandates of the agency authorized it to establish the Cultural Mapping Program to assist the local government units in identifying and documenting their cultural properties that will be used as baseline data for cultural statistics and recommend mechanisms to integrate the cultural profiles in the development plans, programs, and activities of Local Government Units.

One way to identify and safeguard a heritage is through cultural mapping. As defined, cultural mapping is a systematic process of documenting and recording the heritage resources of the community (Rabang, M. R, 2015). It is also a process that describes the community's assets and relationships to raise awareness, develop plans and pass legislation that would solve problematic issues (Cultural Mapping Toolkit, 2010). Cultural mapping has two types: cultural asset mapping and community identity mapping. The first type of cultural mapping is a tool that identifies, manages, and visually presents information on local cultural assets (Alzarooni, 2011). It also involves classifying and recording tangible cultural assets, including art, cultural organization, festivals, historical sites, and museums. The latter consists in exploring intangible cultural resources such as traditions, beliefs, and practices that define the identity of the people. This cultural mapping project aimed to document the cultural properties of Tabaco City that will generate baseline data for cultural statistics on tangible, intangible, natural, and significant personalities and cultural institutions.

2 METHODS

2.1 Cultural Mapping Methodology

This study adopted the Cultural Mapping Methodology of the NCCA (Horfilla et al., 2019). This study included training on heritage documentation and hands-on documentation of the various heritage resources of Tabaco City. The project was implemented through a memorandum of agreement between the Local Government Unit of Tabaco City and NCCA, which was implemented in 6 phases: scoping and negotiation, social preparation, training of the local team, data gathering, data validation, and finalized cultural profile.

2.2 Instrumentation

This study utilized the cultural mapping forms from the NCCA to gather vital information from the identified key informants. There are 28 forms/templates used as guides for mapping and documenting the cultural properties of Tabaco City. There were six(6) forms used for mapping the natural resources, seven(7) forms for tangible immovable heritage, seven(7) for movable cultural heritage, five(5) for intangible cultural heritage, one(1) for significant personalities, one(1) for a cultural institution, and one(1) form for LGU Programs and Projects for culture.

2.3 Data Collection

This study employed qualitative and quantitative approaches to cultural mapping. Ethnography, community immersion through Sikolohiyang Filipino (Marcelino and Pe-Pua, 2000), in-depth interview, document analysis, participant observation, historiography, and photo documentation, were used in the data collection.

2.4 Data Treatment

The data gathered were categorized as built heritage, intangible cultural heritage, movable heritage, natural heritage, cultural institutions, and significant personalities.

2.5 Participants

Participants of this cultural mapping were composed of 11 mappers who were trained to do the heritage documentation. The mappers underwent online training on ten cultural mapping modules before they were sent to the field to do the hands-on cultural mapping. The training of the cultural mapping team included lectures on cultural heritage, an overview of cultural mapping, techniques of heritage documentation, and guides for the consolidation and presentation of cultural data.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 The cultural properties of Tabaco City, Philippines

Cultural mapping is considered a tool for community development and planning because it raises awareness of the community's heritage or cultural resources, which could generate valuable information as a basis for conservation planning, development, and legislation (Rabang, 2015). The cultural mapping activity in Tabaco City is a worthy endeavor. It has become an opportunity for the locals of Tabaco City to appreciate, preserve and enrich their culture. Documenting their cultural resources would raise people's awareness about the fascinating culture embedded in documented cultural properties.

The cultural mapping in Tabaco City was the first of its audacious attempt to preserve, promote and protect the city's cultural resources and the community's cultural identity. On the other hand, mapping environmentally critical areas may provide relevant data that will help the residents of Tabaco City, the Local Government of Tabaco, and other concerned government agencies understand the risks and natural hazards and mitigate the effects of disasters. Subsequently, the output of this cultural mapping could provide valuable and relevant information that would foster the preservation and enrichment of the heritage of Tabaco City.

The cultural mapping project in Tabaco City, which started on January 2020 and was completed in March 2022, was able to produce an inventory of the cultural properties of Tabaco City, which was compiled in the profile of Significant Cultural Heritage of Tabaco City called "Hanapon Ta Ining Pagkamoot: A Cultural Mapping Project of the Local Government of Tabaco City. The documentation of the profile was then submitted to the NCCA. The outputs of the heritage documentation in Tabaco City are the following:

3.1.1 Significant Natural Resources

One volume of 14 natural resources includes land formation, water bodies, plants (flora), animals (fauna), and protected areas. Among them are as follows;

1. *Bukid/Mayon Volcano (Mount Mayon Natural Park)*. It is considered the world's most perfectly formed volcano for its symmetry (Buot, 2009). It rises 2 462 meters above sea level and has a circumference of 62.8 km (Chua, 2019). Five (5) municipalities surround it; Guinobatan, Camalig, Daraga, and Sto. Domingo and Malilipot, Albay, and three (3) cities; Ligao, Tabaco, and Legazpi City. For Tabaco City, the areas covered by Mayon Volcano include the Barangays of Magapo, Oson, Buhian, Buang, Common, Mariroc, San Isidro, and Bonot.
2. *San Miguel Island*. It is situated in Tabaco Bay within the Lagoon Gulf area. It is characterized by hilly to mountainous and slightly rolling areas and plain and elevated areas at about 35m above sea level. It has a total land area of 44 km² (Nieves and Bradecina 2011). There are three upland barangays on San Miguel Island: Angas, Visita, and Hacienda. Barangay Rawis and Sagurong are the coastal barangays of the Island.
3. *Oras Falls*. It is a plunge-type fall that measures approximately 14.8 meters high and is found in Barangay Oras, Tabaco City.
4. *Abaca*. The primary materials used in the native products like bags, doilies, wallets, rugs, doormats, and ropes
5. *Buyo or Betel piper*. Being readily available and cheap helps amid high inflation.
6. *Herba Buena (Mentha cordifolia)*. It is one of the alternative herbal medicines in Tabaco City used for treating non-serious ailments.
7. *Lakad Bulan (Blumea balsamifera)*. A common herbal plant used by them without worrying about side effects.
8. *Karagumoy (Pandanus Simplex)*. It is an economically important species of Pandanus (screw pine) endemic in Tabaco, City. For a long time, it has supported the livelihood of people from different Barrios like Sitio Nagsipit Brgy Mariroc, Brgy. Magapo and San Miguel Island.
9. *Oregano (Origanum vulgare)*. A common herbal plant in Tabaco City.
10. *Sibulyas (Onions)*. Commonly used spice in most of the dishes in Tabaco City
11. *Pili Tree Canarium Ovatum*
12. *Dita Tree (Alstonia Scholaris)*
13. *Cuyog or Juvenile Siganids (S. canaliculatus, S.spinus, and S. argenteus)*. It is primarily used as a food coined in Sagurong as "chickens of the sea" and fermented by the juvenile siganids as part of food preservation and sells in the market.
14. *San Miguel Island Marine Fishery Reserve*. A fish sanctuary that houses several healthy coral reefs and schools of fish. While in the shallow area, weeds and seagrasses are visible. The fish sanctuary's coral, sea grass, and seaweeds are visible above the water during low tide. (Soliman, V. S. 1999).

3.1.2 Tangible Immovable Properties

One volume of 15 built structures includes government structures, schools, educational complexes, private structures, commercial establishments, churches, temples, places of worship, monuments and markers, heritage sites, houses, and vernacular architecture. The following are tangible and immovable.

1. *Bahay na Bato*. An old Spanish house that was built in 1868. Formerly, it was the Bell-Smith and Company House. It is considered one of the most beautiful ancestral houses in Tabaco City, Philippines.

2. *Tabaco Presidencia Building*. A building that represents a neoclassical design that is reminiscent of other vintage government buildings in the Philippines, like the Central Post Office and the National Museum in Manila. Only five to six buildings of similar design are believed to exist in the country.
3. *Sagurong Elementary School RP-US Bayanihan Building*. The first Elementary School Bayanihan building in the Eastern part of San Miguel Island, Tabaco City, was built in 1970.
4. *San Antonio National High School Gabaldon Building*. A Gabaldon Building in San Antonio National High School in the urban center of Tabaco City. The building was built in 1913.
5. *Tabaco South Central Elementary School Gabaldon and Marikina Building*. A Gabaldon Building in Tabaco South Central Elementary School was built in 1913.
6. *San Vicente Ferrer Parish Church*. A church was built in 1958.
7. *St. John the Baptist Church (Dakulang Simabahan)*. It is a Spanish baroque church made of volcanic stone blocks with an elegant stone façade embellished by a column pinnacle and decorative urns at the top of the structure (Ayo, 2017). This church was built in 1850 and declared a National Cultural Treasure of the Philippines. (National Museum of the Philippines, 2012)
8. *Cimburrio*. It is a chapel built 1861, made of volcanic rocks inside the Tabaco City Catholic Cemetery. The chapel is unique, with a domed octagonal shape and a combination of medieval and baroque architecture, which was patterned after the structural design of St. John the Baptist Church.
9. *Tabaco Rizal Monument*. One of the oldest statues of Jose P. Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines, was built in 1953. It is located at the Tabaco City Plaza.
10. *Sinimbahanan (The Ruins of Roman Catholic Church)*. The ruins or remnants of the 1st stone church in Tabaco City.
11. *Tabaco Catholic Cemetery*. A Spanish-colonial Catholic cemetery with a fence made of volcanic rocks.
12. *Chinese Catholic Cemetery (Cementerio de Chinos)*. The first and only Chinese Cemetery in Tabaco City was built in 1896.
13. *Tabaco City Cemetery*. An extension of the public cemetery of Tabaco City was built in 1953.
14. *Tabaco City Park and Plaza*. It was formerly called "Plaza Libertad." It was built in 1929.
15. *Old House of Bernardita Bobier*. An old house built during the American era. It was built in 1919.

3.1.3 Tangible Movable Cultural Properties

One volume of 16 tangible movable cultural heritage that includes archeological Objects, Ethnographic Objects, Religious Objects, and archival holding, among which are the following:

1. *St. John the Baptist Church Bells*. An old bell found in St. John the Baptist Church is believed to be 135 years old.
2. *Bed of Angela Manalang Gloria*. An old century bed made of wood.
3. *Tabaco Cañon*. The Tabaco Cañon, displayed at the Tabaco City Plaza, is believed to have been abandoned since the Filipino-American war.
4. *Beso De Judas*. A religious image owned by Obed Family is believed to be more or less one hundred (100) years old. The statue of Beso de Judas was from Spain and brought to Tabaco City by a priest named Señor Demetrio Villar.
5. *Divino Rostro Sculpture*. A religious image that is believed to be 87 years old.
6. *Dolorosa*. A religious image was estimated to be more than a century old.

7. *Ecce Homo*. It is one of the oldest religious images toured during Semana Santa in Tabaco City. It is believed to be more than 100 years old.
8. *Flagelacion*. A century-old religious image.
9. *Maria Magdalena*. A century-old religious image.
10. *Maria Salome Cleofas*. A century-old religious image.
11. *San Pedro*. A century-old religious image.
12. *Santa Veronica*. A century-old religious image.
13. *Santo Entierro*. Religion is believed to be 100 years old.
14. *San Vicente Ferrer*. A religious image that is believed to be more than 70 years old.
15. *Señor de la Agonía (Agony in the Garden)*. A religious image that is believed to be more than 60 years.
16. *Nazareno*. A religious image that is believed to be 50 years old.
17. *Unpublished Compilations of Poems of Angela Manalang Gloria*. An archival collection of the literary works of Angela Manalang Gloria- one of the early Filipina poets writing in the English language.

3.1.4 Intangible Cultural Properties

One volume of 14 intangible cultural heritage, including oral traditions, social practices, rituals, folk knowledge, and traditional or indigenous craftsmanship. The following are mapped ICH in Tabaco City, Philippines.

1. *Pabasa/Pasyon*. A religious practice during the lent season.
2. *Superstitious Beliefs*. This is a collection of indigenous beliefs about an impending eruption of Mt. Mayon Volcano and some thoughts on folk healing and miracles.
3. *The Legend of Tabaco City*. A folk legend that explained the etymology of Tabaco City.
4. *The Origins of the Barangay Names in Tabaco, City*. A collection of folk narratives about the etymology of the barangays in Tabaco City.
5. *The Legend of Natunawan*. A folk legend about Natunawan Island, Tabaco City.
6. *Binutong*. It is a popular breakfast or merienda made from glutinous rice and coconut milk wrapped in banana leaves. The banana leaves were covered and tied to give the “bunting” savory and delightful flavor.
7. *Marcasotes*. It is a steamed cake cooked in handmade paper bags. It is cooked in huge clay pots lined with cut banana bark, giving it a delightfully unique firewood-smoked aftertaste and aroma.
8. *Tilmok*. It is a variant made from the meat of river crabs (ulok) wrapped in pumpkin leaves and cooked in coconut milk and other spices.
9. *Santigwar*. A traditional/indigenous healing that serves as a mantra for healing.
10. *Padyak Making*. The art of making a pedicab.
11. *Pagibo nin Tabak*. Traditional art of making a bolo.

3.1.5 Significant Personalities

This category includes prominent men and women who significantly contribute to society. This category contains historical men and women, awarded artists, traditional craftsmen and artisans, scientists, legislators, and academicians. Among the prominent personalities in Tabaco City are the following;

1. *Dr. Amando D. Cope*. He was a war veteran, legislator, philanthropist, and an outstanding physician of the Province of Albay.
2. *Angela Marie Legaspi Manalang-Gloria*. She was then the matriarch of Filipino women writing in the English language. Most of her literary works revolve around topics that were considered taboo in a then male-dominated society.
3. *Antonio Almonte Berces*. He was a municipal councilor from 1951-1955 and the first professional public accountant elected to the municipal council. He ran as Municipal Mayor from 1960-1965 and won two(2) terms. During his mayorship, he made sure that there was plenty of portable water supply and a well-kept drainage system (rivers and canals) for everyone.
4. *Fidel Carual Vosotros*. He was known as “panday” for his achievement in producing the first hand-made pair of scissors in the country in 1916. He was the one who introduced the cutlery industry in Tabaco City.
5. *Glenda Ong Bongao*. She implemented the Gender and Development Program to avoid discrimination in Tabaco City and implemented the monthly honorarium for the barangay workers and sweepers. She created scholarships for students raised and supported by solo parents who lacked financial support for their studies.
6. *John Angelo de Dios Ortiz*. He is the only PWD in Tabaco who knows how to cross stitch using his feet. He indeed dramatically impacts people’s lives by being an inspiration and motivation that his disability never hindered him from being a productive, talented, and responsible human being.
7. *Cielo Krisel Lagman-Luistro*. She served as Congresswoman of the First District of Albay for two consecutive terms (1998-2004), member of the Sangguniang Bayan and the Albay Sangguniang Panlalawigan, and Director of the National Liga ng mga Barangay. She was also elected as Mayor of Tabaco. Her leadership in Tabaco paved the way for its progress and development.
8. *Milarose “Miles” Poblete*. She is a performing artist. She won the Grand Champion in GMA 7 Metropop Star Search in 1999. Currently, she is the female lead vocalist of the Band named “Hotdog.”
9. *Rep. Edcel C. Lagman*. An eight-term Congressman of the First Congressional District of Albay has been a trusted and competent public official for the past quarter of a century. His name is synonymous with integrity, steadfastness, intelligence, and dependability. He has a track record of being fearless when it comes to advocating contentious issues, from the repeal of the death penalty and comprehensive agrarian reform to the controversial reproductive health bill.
10. *Ronaldo Comploma Reyes*. He is an outstanding teacher and educational leader. A multi-awarded educator for his creative scientific works that contribute to the industry, curriculum, and enterprise development
11. *Victor Soliman*. He was an academician, researcher, and scientist whose works focused on Biodiversity Conservation in Fish Sanctuaries and Marine Reserves in Tabaco City and Bicol Region

3.1.6 Cultural Institutions

This category includes libraries Schools (Formal Education) Civil Society Organizations. The following are the identified cultural institutions in Tabaco City, Philippines.

1. *Tabaco Pei Ching School*. It was one of the first, if not the earliest Chinese education institutions in the Philippines. The founding of this institution marked the beginning of Chinese Education in Tabaco City in the 19th century. It was established to preserve the Filipino-Chinese heritage by teaching the Filipino-Chinese students basic education and inculcating Chinese culture and traditions.

2. *Bicol University Tabaco Campus*. A leading school in Fisheries in the Region. It was awarded as Center for Excellence and Center for Development in Fisheries in the Bicol Region. It is also a top-performing school in social work and Nursing.
3. *Amando Cope College*. The school is the pioneering nursing school in Tabaco City San Miguel Elementary School. It was founded in 1910 and became the first primary school on the Island of San Miguel in Tabaco City.
4. *Catholic Central School of Tabaco City, Albay, Inc.* It was founded in 1912 and was the first catholic school in the City of Tabaco.
5. *Daniel B. Peña Memorial College Foundation (DBPMCF)*. It is one of the oldest existing schools in Tabaco City, whose establishment provided quality education to the youth in the 3rd District of Albay.
6. *St. Gregory the Great Seminary*. It was established to take charge of the formation of young boys who planned to join the ordained ministry of the Catholic Church.
7. *Tabaco National High School*. It is one of the best national high schools in the Province. Besides topping scholarships and achievement tests in the division and the region, the school takes pride in producing local leaders in the government and a host of famous and successful professionals in the country and the world.
8. *Tabaco South Central Elementary School*. It was founded in 1910. It is the pioneer elementary school here in the City of Tabaco. It is the first institution that offers primary education to the people of Tabaco City. With the entrance of the Thomasites (Geo W. St. Claire in Tabaco) in 1902, the American education system reached Tabaco: George Steele established the Tabaco Public School (later Tabaco South Pilot Elementary School) in 1910.
9. *San Miguel Elementary School*. It was founded in 1910 and served as the first primary school on San Miguel Island in Tabaco City. Its establishment facilitated the realization of the government to provide free access to education.
10. *Islam in Tabaco*. This is the first and only Islamic community with a Mosque in San Miguel Island, Tabaco City.

3.2 Environmentally-Critical Areas

The province of Albay is situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire and on the country's eastern seaboard. It has been subjected to the pressures and consequential effects of the Pacific Jinx that of being situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, making it vulnerable to earthquake, tsunami, and volcanic hazards, and along the Western Pacific Basin, which is a generator of climatic conditions such as typhoons, monsoon rains, and thunderstorms, among others (Espinass, 2013).

Tabaco City is one of the component cities in the Province of Albay, which is vulnerable to disasters, natural and man-made. Albay is particularly prone and exposed to natural and man-made disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, flash floods, floods, landslides, and volcanic eruption. In fact, on November 5, 2020, super typhoon Rolly (Goni) hit Tabaco City that heavily damaged the place, including some of its built heritages, the St. John the Baptist Church- a national cultural treasure and the Bahay na Bato were heavily damaged.

Flooding is one of the major threats in Tabaco City, especially in the town proper, where most of the heritage structures are located. Figure 1 shows the flood hazard with Built Heritage.

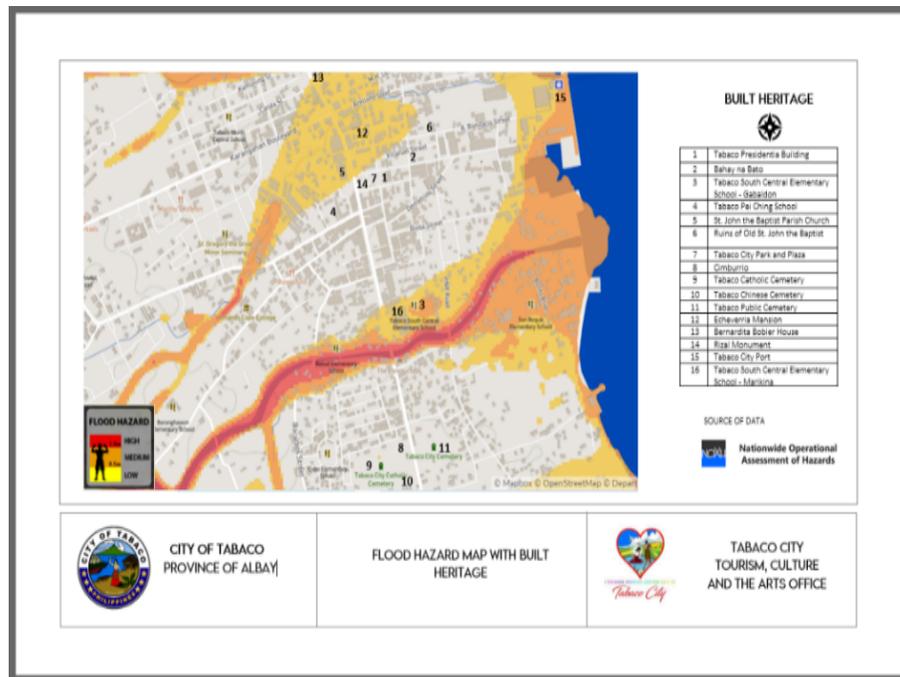


Figure 1. Tabaco City Flood Hazard Map with Built Heritage. Source of Data; PROJECT NOAH.

Furthermore, cultural institutions like the Daniel B. Pena Memorial Colleges, Catholic Central School, Tabaco South Central School, Bicol University Tabaco Campus, and other cultural institutions found in the town proper are prone to flooding due to the presence of creeks and rivers nearby as shown in Figure 2.

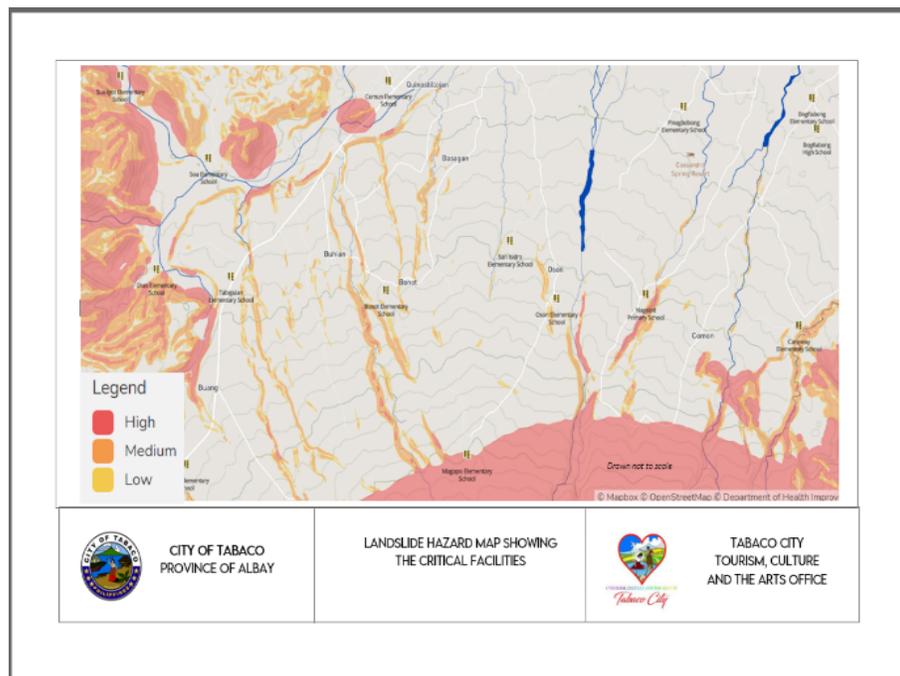


Figure 2. Flood Hazard Map with Cultural Institutions (Low land areas) Source of Data; PROJECT NOAH.

In contrast, cultural institutions in the upper barangays are less susceptible to flooding except in those areas near the river's tributaries, as shown in Figure 3.

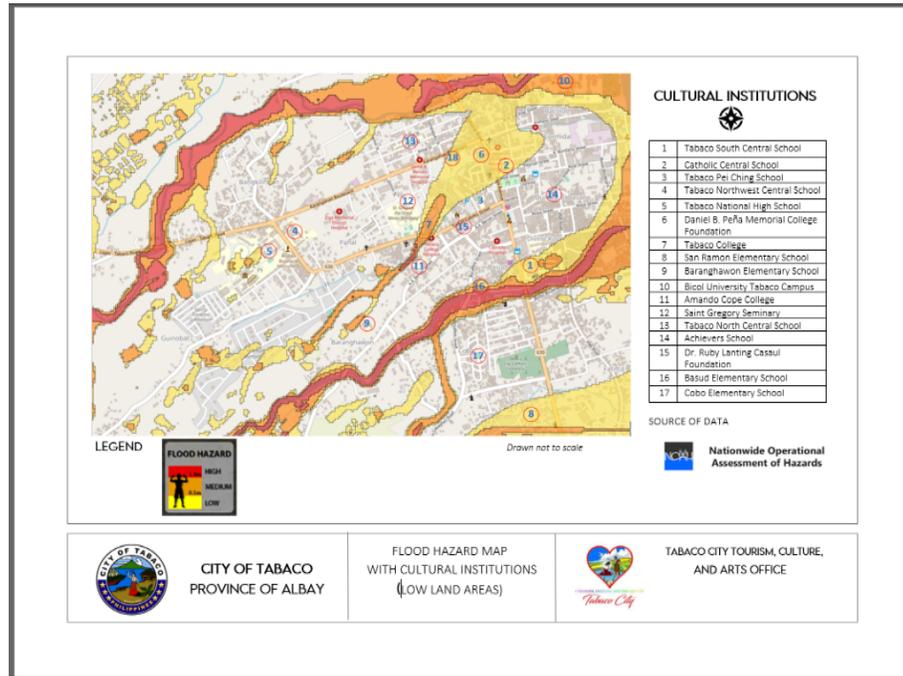


Figure 3. Flood Hazard Map with Cultural Institutions (Upland Areas) Source of Data; PROJECT NOAH.

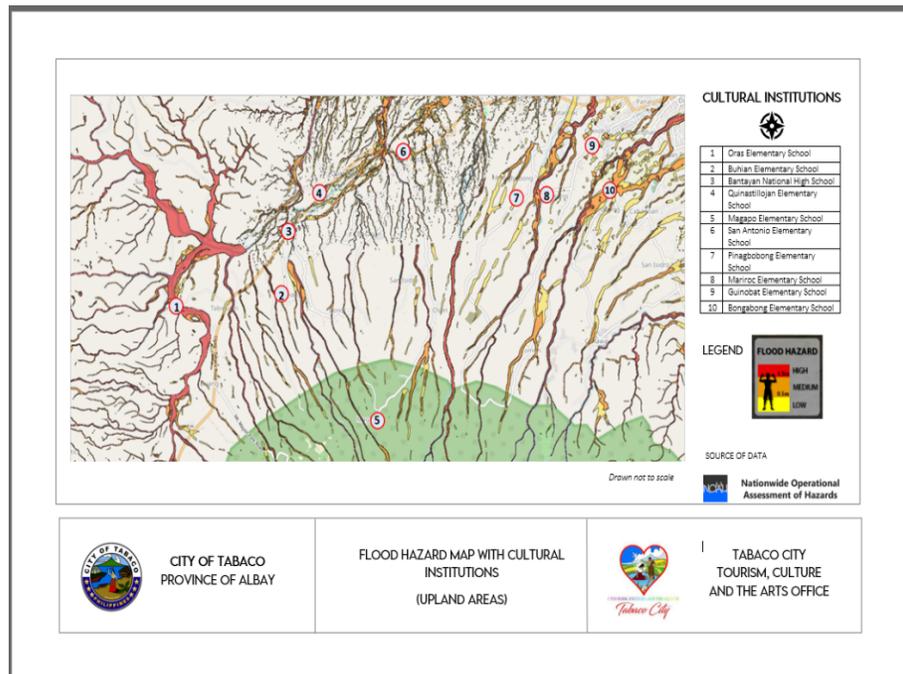


Figure 4. Flood Hazard Map with Cultural Institutions (Inland Barangays) Source of Data; PROJECT NOAH.

The upland barangays where some natural heritages are found, such as Mayon Volcano Natural Park, Oras Falls, and the protected San Miguel Fish Sanctuary where different marine resources are found, are susceptible to natural hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, flashfloods, and typhoons. Figure 4 shows the Tabaco City Flood Hazard Map with Cultural Institutions in the island barangays.

Figure 5 shows the Tabaco City Landslide Hazard Map with Critical Facilities. While protecting cultural resources as part of cultural identity, mapping environmentally critical was necessary to ensure the protection and preservation of the city's rich culture. Having established the risks and hazards of a flood, fire, and volcanic hazards that threaten the area may help the local government of Tabaco in assessing the hazards and the vulnerability of the cultural properties and lay down mitigation measures for the protection of cultural properties.



Figure 5. Landslide Map Showing the Critical Facilities Source of Data; PROJECT NOAH.

4 CONCLUSION

Despite the restrictions and limitations brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the cultural mapping project in Tabaco City was able to document and provide an inventory of the cultural properties of the place that showcase the city's rich culture. The documentation of the heritage resources in Tabaco City could be the baseline data in formulating promotional activities, conservation projects, policies, and legislation to safeguard and protect their heritage resources fully. However, there is still so much documentation and thorough research to be done since some important missing data on the documented cultural properties.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The output of this cultural mapping project must be disseminated to schools and libraries so that the community, especially the students, researchers, and cultural workers, can raise their awareness of the city's rich culture. Moreover, the Local Government Unit of Tabaco City should continue the cultural mapping project. It must train the next batch of cultural mapping teams to document other cultural properties not covered in the 1st cultural mapping project. Also a thorough research on the documented cultural properties must be conducted to reveal

comprehensive and complete data about the cultural properties. Strengthening efforts both by the government and other stakeholders that will foster awareness, appreciation, and protection of the cultural properties of Tabaco City must be done through the conduct of activities that shall include but are not limited to cultural presentations, exhibits, and reproduction of educational or promotional materials that will promote the cultural properties of Tabaco City.

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