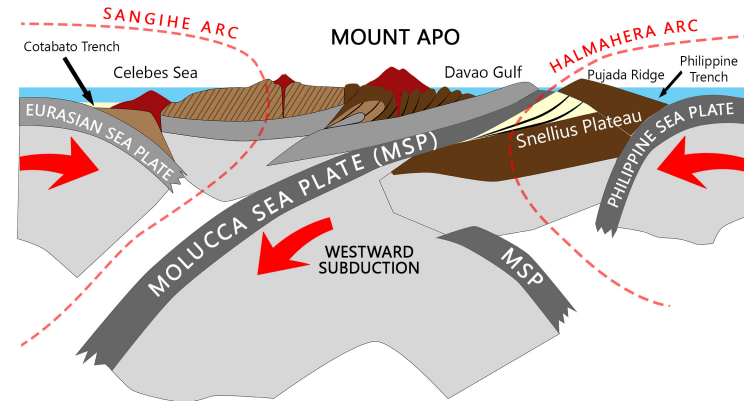


Geological Significance of Mt. Apo Geopark

Mount Talomo, Mount Sibulan, and Mount Apo are the three (3) volcanic systems that make up the Apo Volcanic Complex known as the Mt. Apo Geopark. It belongs to the Central Mindanao Volcanic Arc (CMVA) which was formed through a double verging subduction of the Molucca Sea Plate.



According to Sajona (2000) and Pubellier et al (1999), the CMVA was formed when the Eurasian plate pushed the Sangihe Arc eastward to Molucca, and Philippine Sea Plate pushes the Halmahera Arc westward of the Molucca, resulting to the formation of mountain ranges within the CMVA, including Mt. Apo as the Philippines' highest peak.

The double verging subduction of the Molucca Sea Plate was considered a rare geological phenomenon globally, since it is one of the world's present-day example of an arc-arc collision. Such geological feature is central to Mt. Apo's ongoing bid to be recognized as a UNESCO Global Geopark (UGGp).



MT. APO NATURAL PARK PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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MOUNT APO NATURAL PARK & GEOPARK

An ASEAN Heritage Park
and Aspiring UNESCO
Global Geopark



Mt. Apo Natural Park

Mt. Apo, the highest peak in the Philippines at 2,954 meters above sea level, spans a total area of 64,052.47 hectares with 54,974.47 hectares designated as MANP area and 9,078 hectares as Buffer Zone. Located in south-central Mindanao, the park stretches across Regions XI and XII, covering parts of Cotabato (Magpet, Makilala, Kidapawan City), Davao del Sur (Bansalan, Sta. Cruz, Digos City), and Davao City.

MANP was officially established on February 3, 2004, through R.A. No. 9237. It is home to the three major tribes namely, the Bagobo-Tagabawa, Bagobo-Klata, and Ubu Monuvu, whose ancestral domains share common boundaries with the Mt. Apo.

Management and Administration

At the national level, Mt. Apo Natural Park is part of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) and is administered by the DENR Secretary through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), under RA 11038 or the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018.

At the site level, the park is managed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), chaired by the DENR Regional Executive Director. PAMB includes elected officials (e.g., Senator, Congressman, Governor, Mayor, Barangay Captains) and non-elected members (e.g., heads of national agencies, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, academe, private sector). It is responsible for formulating specific policies and in making decisions for MANP. Also, a Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) headed by a Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) handles the day-to-day operations at the site and serves as the technical arm of the PAMB.

Forest Zones



Mt. Apo is one of the most ecologically rich mountains in the Mindanao Region (Enriquez et al, 2024), endowed with four (4) different types of forest formations, such as:



Lowland Evergreen Forest (Up to 1,200 masl)

Dominated by towering dipterocarp trees such as Tanguile and Yakal. This forest provides habitat for the Philippine Eagle, and supports vital watersheds.

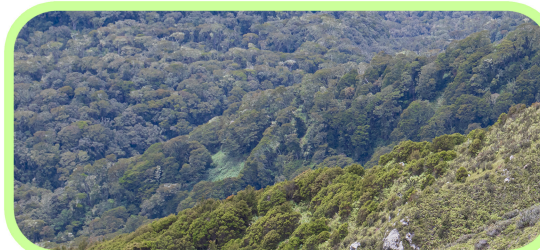
Lower Montane Forest (1,200–1,800 masl)

The most extensive ecosystem richly populated with trees like *Elaeocarpus*, *Lithocarpus* (Oak), and *Syzygium*.



Upper Montane/Mossy Forest (1,800–2,600 masl)

This zone is characterized by constant rainfall, and high humidity which makes trees cloaked in mosses, and lichens.



Sub-Alpine Zone (2,600–2,954 masl)
Dominated by Tinikaran, Rhododendrons, and Wild Blueberries.

Diverse Flora and Fauna

At least 1,479 species of plants and animals, including rare and endangered species can be found on Mt. Apo.



Medinilla apoensis

Over 1000 floral species are found in Mt. Apo, which includes 50 endemic, 3 critically endangered, 18 vulnerable; and 37 with economic/ cultural value.



Mt. Apo Blueberry (*Vaccinium fallax*)

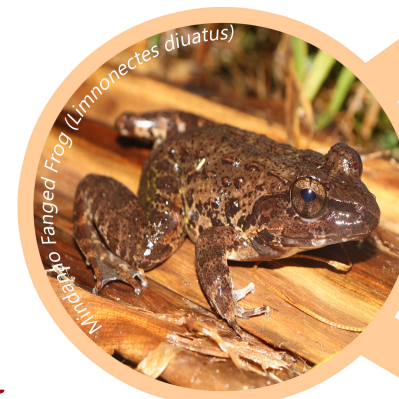
In the early 1900s, A.D.E. Elmer described dozens of new plant species from Mount Apo, many of which bear the epithet apoensis or apoense.



Agalmyia calelanensis



Philippine Eagle



Mindanao Fanged Frog (*Limnonectes diuatus*)

For fauna, over 479 species including 53 mammals; 36 herpetofauna; 272 birds; and 118 butterflies.



Apo Sunbird

In 1904, E.A. Mearns explored Mount Apo and recorded dozens of bird species. His collections led to the formal description of the endemic Apo Sunbird (*Aethopyga boltoni*) in 1905.