

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 23, 2014, Shell Guam Incorporated donated two lot parcels to the Guam Preservation Trust on the condition that it be used for certain non-commercial, educational, and research purposes to further scientific research and education. Additional conditions were to provide a habitat for plant and animal species and communities and other natural resources on Guam.

The Atantåno Heritage Preserve will involve collaborative efforts and the shared responsibility of Guam's community. It is the Guam Preservation Trust's intention to promote the site as a venue to educate and build the capacity of our community, foster advocacy, stewardship, and sustainability of our cultural and natural resources. The integrated development of Atantåno Heritage Preserve will focus on the preservation and conservation of the on-site cultural and natural resources, maintaining the cultural landscape of Atantåno.

Atantåno Property Boundary

The Guam Preservation Trust's Atantåno property is located between the villages of Piti and Santa Rita. The property incorporates two lot parcels: Lot 15 (325, 027+ sq. meters) and Lot 16 (372, 485+ sq. meters). The Atantåno property is appraised as "underdevelop" for M-2 Heavy Industrial zoning.¹

Located east off of Route 2A towards the village of Agat, Atantåno is surrounded by private and public properties. Geographically, the property is bounded to the east by Mount Tenjo and the Tenjo river in the northeast. The Paulåña River meets the Atantåno River in the southeast portion of the property, defining the Atantåno River wetlands, which bisect the property.

****Atantano property map****

¹ Reference: Micronesia Appraisal Associates 2009

History of Atantåno

Early CHamoru people inhabited Atantåno during the Latte Period of Guam, indicated by multiple latte house structures in the property. Latte Period pottery sherds, chert flakes, and pieces of stone tools denote an extensive use of the area during this period. The only radiocarbon date directly associated with the property also indicate that people continued to live in the area until ca. 1660AD after the first Spanish contact in 1521 and before the establishment of the first Catholic mission in Hagåtña.

Atantåno is composed of multiple natural habitats (wetland, riverine, and savanna) utilized from the prehistoric period (1000-500 years ago known as the Latte period) to multiple colonial periods, to WWII, until the early post-War era. The 1994 survey identified several indigenous and native plants traditionally used for *āmot* (indigenous medicine), some even identified as rare for certain types of *āmot* practices.

According to Spanish documents from the late 1600s, there were settlements in the hills overlooking the Orote/Sumay coast up until the Spanish government decided to relocate and consolidate the indigenous people around the church. By the late 1700s, a passageway into Agat was created through a wide range of mangrove swamps in and around the Guatåfi, Tenjo, and Aplacho Rivers. During the 1800s, the Spanish established rice fields in the northern end of Atantåno (north of the current location of the Atantåno Shrine). By the 1900s rice production continued in the vicinity and the water had been diverted from the rivers to assist in watering these rice fields. The locale was also utilized to herd cattle and to hunt.

Significance of Atantåno

Guam possesses a wealth of unique history and culture molded over centuries of indigenous and colonial settlements. The archaeological survey recorded a prehistoric interior settlement deemed significant and potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D. A total of 9 sites were found, some with multiple Latte-period house structures, complete with the island's iconic columns (*haligi*) and capstones (*tåsa*). Aside from Latte structures, ceramic and lithic scatters were also found in the area. The 27-hectare area was considered significant for it “represent[s] a situation not often encountered in the island, namely, a dense cluster of Latte sets

in a relatively undisturbed interior (non-coastal) geographic setting”.² Atantâno’s historical significance, however, goes beyond archaeological sites. It also shows continuous changes in landscape and land use throughout the early colonial periods, revealing distinct points of Guam’s history through people’s relationship to the land.

****photo: Site 2, Feature A, southern row after vegetation clearing. View is west.
(Hunter-Anderson 1994****

Framework

The framework component of the masterplan is comprised of Research and Development, Education and Outreach, and Heritage Enterprise. These components direct the goals and objectives of the Atantâno Heritage Preserve:

- **Research and Development** will seek sustainable outcomes that will guide *Education and Outreach* and *Heritage Enterprise* components. Sustainable partners for Research and Development may be organizations (civic, non-profit, NGO, private corporations, and public entities – both local and federal) or individuals (philanthropists and special interest estates).
- **Education and Outreach** are *goal-driven* and produce sustainable outcomes that are measured through assessments and repeat visits. Partners to sustain Education and Outreach may be educators, tour guides, village organizations, and visiting student exchange programs.
- **Heritage Enterprise** is products and services driven by heritage and culture, which in turn will reinforce and sustain research development and education and outreach. Examples of heritage preserve products or services may be memorabilia items, camping supplies, special guided tour, restaurant, venue/lecture halls, floral sales, etc.

Vision:

² Hunter-Anderson 1994: 78

The Atantano Heritage Preserve is a community-based education center for Guam's people to experience, teach, and learn about CHamoru cultural and natural resources, shared with visitors and protected for future generations.

Targets:

1.Wetland ecosystem/Riparian areas

- Both animals and plants
- Endangered (but also culturally significant non-endangered species)
- diadromous refers to those whose lifespan is spent partially in freshwater, partially in salt water

2.Savanna areas

- Both animals and plants
- Endangered (but also culturally significant non-endangered species)
- Note the different savanna types on Guam
- okso is the CHamoru word for ridge or hill

3.Ancient settlements/artifacts (archaeological resources)

4.Cultural heritage/cultural practices

- Need to gather oral histories
- E.g., can ask suruhas about the gathering of medicinal plants in Atantano
- Need archival research specific to Atantano
- E.g., documentation of gabgab (arrowroot) gathered and cleaned in Atantano stream

Other thoughts:

- Need to get these watersheds listed as a priority for certain federal funds (Piti watershed is listed as a priority)
- Consider historical context (e.g., sea level rise and fall; extent of Apra bay inland)
- Service area/center (keep in mind how these will impact the preserve; and what are we trying to achieve)
- Important to have the community aware of and invested in these targets/threats in their backyard

Threats:

1. Threats to culture? (e.g., today's generation over-occupied with technology)

2. Fire

- Caused by poachers?
- Considerable # of fires over the years
- Lowers the diversity of species

2. Sedimentation

- Caused by hash run trail setters?
- Also caused by fires
- Also caused by feral ungulates
- Also caused by construction/development activities

3. Feral ungulates

- Also threat to outplanting

4. Development and construction activities

- Upland activities affect the environment at the lower elevation
- Other upland activities include off-roading and farming

- Impacts from the channelization of water
- Past construction has bulldozed latte sites within Atantano

5. Invasive species

- Brown tree snake
- Invasive plants overwhelm the native plants
- Predatory flatworm

6. Lack of community awareness = community disconnect

- Leads to lack of stewardship

7. Lack of ethnographic research (relevant oral histories)

- Leads to zero authentic place-based knowledge

Other thoughts:

- Need full assessments for critical baseline information
- The targets and threats are not set in stone; oftentimes modified as workshops continue
- Homework given to reflect on and rate the viability of targets and the degree of threats
- Site visit to Atantano on Monday, Dec 13. Meet at the trailhead.

Vision: