



# Huluga Primer

THIRD EDITION

Huluga is a promontory overlooking Cagayan River. It's in *sitio* Taguanao, *barangay* Indahag, near Lawndale Spring -- eight kilometers from St. Augustine Cathedral.

**Is it composed only of caves?** No. Huluga is composed of Open Site and caves. The prehistoric inhabitants of Huluga used the Open Site for their fortified village. The caves were used mainly as burial ground.

To visualize the difference between the two, place your hand on a table. Your hand represents the caves, and the vast table area is the Huluga Open Site, where the people constructed their village.

**Were artifacts found in the Huluga Open Site?** Yes. Even in June 2003, we discovered potsherds, obsidian flakes, a whale harpoon, pieces of Ming and Ching Dynasty porcelain, a piece of tektite, and a Spanish coin minted between 1788 and 1808.

**How large is the Open Site?** About two hectares, but it could be wider if artifacts show up nearby.

**Were artifacts found in the caves?** Yes. One major find was a female skull — dated 377 AD — with associated material culture such as boat-shaped coffin, broken pieces of earthenware, stone and metal tools, wild boar tusks, among others.

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**Does the National Museum consider Huluga as having cultural and archaeological significance?** Yes. In 1991, the National Museum assigned accession numbers X-91-Q2 to the Huluga Open Site and X-91-R2 to the caves. These numbers indicate that the areas and their artifacts are invaluable Philippine heritage.

**Is there a law that guarantees protection of Huluga?** Yes: Republic Act No. 4846 as amended by the Presidential Decree 374. There is also a law on caves. Construction projects that can adversely affect cultural sites are required to have an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

**What is the condition of Huluga today?** Roughly 60 to 80 percent of the Open Site has been destroyed. The caves are spared, but they remain unprotected.



**When did you know that a bridge would be made in Huluga?** In 1999, when the administration of mayor Vicente Y. Emano expressed plans to demolish the Open Site and caves, to give way to the P600-million road-and-bridge project.

**What was the response of people concerned with Huluga?** Antonio J. Montalvan II told Councilor Maryanne Enteria about the project.

Enteria was the head of the Tourism Committee and Montalvan was a member of the Historical and Cultural Commission.

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**What did Enteria do?** She organized a team to survey the area of Huluga in June 1999. The team was composed of

- Enteria herself
- Dr. Erlinda Burton, an anthropologist at Xavier University
- Representatives of the City Engineer's Office, City Planning and Development Office, City Tourism Office and Montalvan.

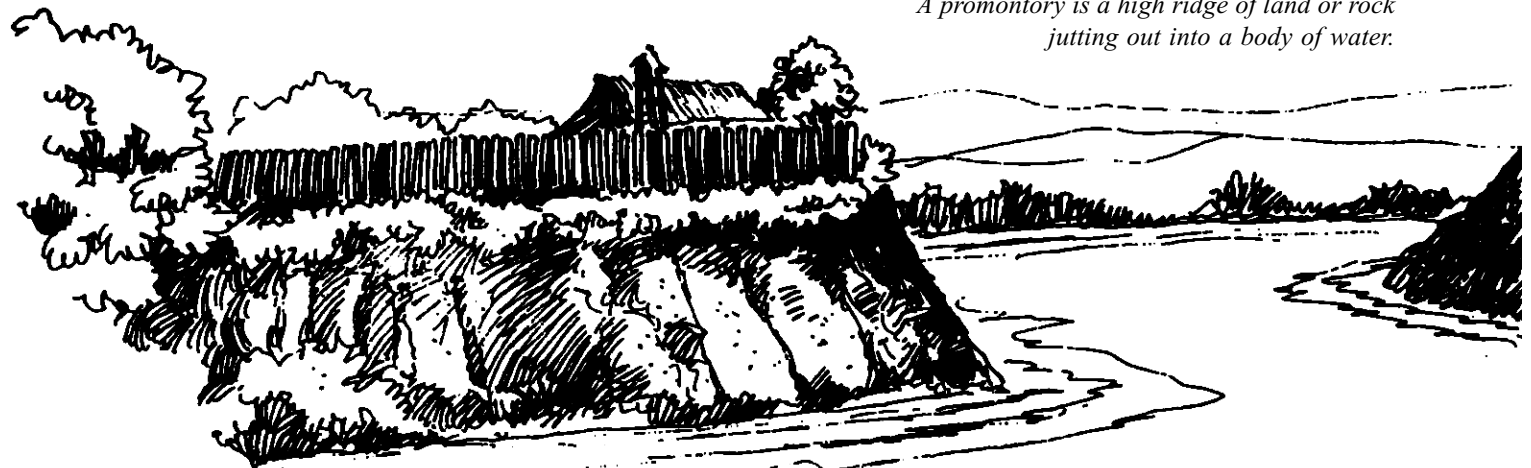
**What was the finding of the team?** The Huluga Open Site and caves could be destroyed by the project.

**What was the recommended solution?** Burton recommended that no heavy construction be made within a radius of 2,000 meters in Huluga because "there are other sites close to the Open Site, which would also be destroyed."

**What was Enteria's response?** She recommended the diversion of the bridge project to Emano that morning. Later, in the afternoon of the same day, Enteria said Emano had promised to divert the construction.

**Were there other actions made to protect Huluga?** Yes, the City Council approved Resolution 4433-99 on September 28, 1999 to protect Huluga. But the Council didn't make an ordinance.

*A promontory is a high ridge of land or rock jutting out into a body of water.*



*Concept by Nonoy Estarte, Museo de Oro*