

Reforma –Cebu :

A Community-based Resource Management Initiative and Climate Change

By

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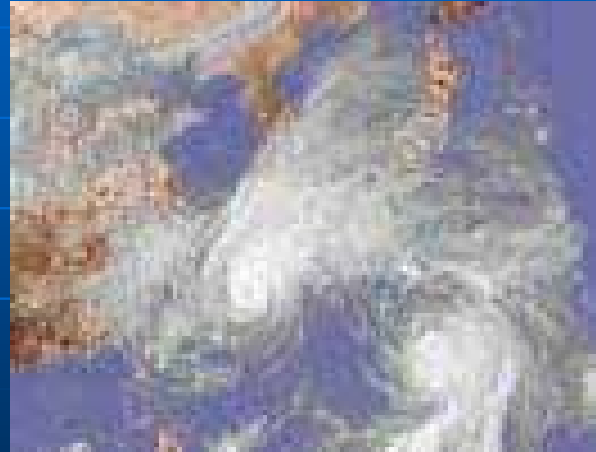
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The Philippines

- Extremely vulnerable to the ravages of climate change.
- Forty three million Filipinos living along or near the coastlines is at risk from rising sea levels if the present trend of global warming is not adequately addressed.

Philippines & Extreme Weather Events

- Average of 19 typhoons/ year with increasing intensity within the last 10 years
- The regularity of El Nino and La Nina wrecked havoc on agriculture and displaced/affected its most vulnerable sectors



Population and Resources

- Population (2.3 %/year) pressure on land and marine resources with resultant exploitation/extraction and conversion of forestal areas for agricultural and commercial use.



Cebu- and sea level rise

- Map of Cebu (Visayas and the Philippines; Maps showing areas which will be affected by sea level rise)





Cebu Upland Situationer

- Less than 1 percent forest cover
- Mostly sloping and upland terrain
- and used for subsistence agriculture;
- Small strip of lowland flat areas.



- Water as a major concern with its increasing urban demand and



- dependence on extraction from the aquifer as its main source



- With the recent variability on length of dry and rainy seasons
- There is a discernable upsurge of water-borne diseases like upper respiratory ailments and dengue (June-December and even on traditional dry months)

Location and extreme weather events

- Vulnerable to storm surges, typhoons, flooding of low-lying areas
- landslides of specific sloping areas;
- Drought and water stress in mountain communities during El Nino episodes



Upland Resource Management Initiatives in Cebu



- 3 Protected Forest Reserves – Nug-as-Dalaguete Forest Reserve, Buhisan Reforestation Project and Campo 7 Experimental Forest
- The last two were declared as part of the Central Cebu Protected Landscape

Change in Approach

- A change from a purely punitive to a more empowering upland resource management approach was made in the early 80s.

REPORMA- Cebu Project

- Envisioned as a multi-sectoral project centered on preserving/protecting the resource endowments of a 123-hectare Camp 7 Experimental Station through participatory management.
- Its basic tenet is the recognition of community residents as stewards of their upland and forest resources.

Major Activities



- Stakeholders Consultation
- Community Profiling
- Participatory Eco-Governance (PEG) Training and Action Planning
- Upland Resource Inventory
- Formation of task forces (livelihood, eco-tourism, youth, health and sanitation, governance and capability building)

- Multi sectoral partnerships and advocacy on related environment concerns like coastal resource management, urban renewal, climate change, migration and health-related issues
- KNOW-Net (knowledge network) where the community is linked through internet broadband
- ESD on water management- using appropriate technologies like rain water catchment/collecting

- Eco-tourism – to be managed by the youth sector and local government unit
- Income augmentation activities (feasibility study phase)- green charcoal & others
- Food security initiative- family/backyard gardening & school-organic farming showcase

Impacts and Achievement

- Local government units' pro-active stance in conserving the experimental station's tree stocks and related natural resources through its resolutions and formation of a task force on environment and eco-tourism.
- Increasing involvement of youth and women in ecological and health related concerns.



- Inventory of the area's resource endowments updated and
- Partners /Resource agencies' directory initiated.
- Project feasibility studies on alternative livelihood activities.

Major Constraints

- Squatting and illegal tree harvesting for charcoal -making and quarrying of stones.
- Transition problems & political alignments among elective government officials



- Limited capability of newly elected officials on development planning, networking and resource management advocacy
- Inadequate system of records keeping, monitoring and evaluation of development projects and activities.
- Varying degree of involvement among partners
- Limited knowledge on " forest as a resource/support system"

Success stories and lessons

- Increasing interest among stakeholders was made possible through immersion, advocacy, constant dialogues and technical /capability building support to local government's activities on areas like migration, health, child labor advocacy.
- Recognition of partners' interests/expertise as the starting point for joint undertakings.

Global Issues and Local Concerns

- Limited awareness on climate change concerns, disaster mitigation and management
- With reactive stance on man-made and natural disasters (e.g. landslides, water stress during dry seasons)

Future challenges

- * People First
- * Stewardship



- Campo 7 as a resource management showcase with activities like vulnerability assessment and adaptation, water management and related activities like health monitoring (e.g. increasing dengue and upper respiratory cases at the municipal level due to climatic changes)



- Paradigm shift from high-visibility projects (e.g. infrastructure)
- To
- A more balanced development agenda with emphasis on governance, participatory development and delivery of basic services.

■ Thank you

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