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SEVENTH

*Changing Landscapes,*

INTERNATIONAL

*Humanscapes, and*

CONFERENCE ON

*Mindscales in a*

PHILIPPINE STUDIES

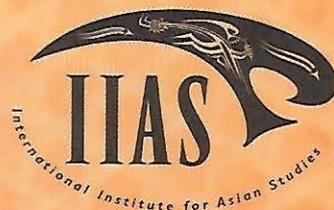
*Globalizing World*



*16-19 June 2004*

PROGRAMME & BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

*Leiden, the Netherlands*



**Seventh International Conference on Philippines Studies (ICOPHIL) -  
"Changing Landscapes, Humanscapes, and Mindscapes in a Globalizing  
World", Leiden, The Netherlands, 16 – 19 June 2004**

**First presentation:**

**"Enhancing the role of Indigenous People in Sustainable Forest  
Management in Mindenao and Northern Luzon'**

**Marc P. Lammerink and Sylvia Miclat**

Nowadays-great concern exists about the rapid vanishing of tropical rain forests. The recognition of its crucial role has led to a global concern for forest conservation and sustainable forest management.

Studies on the knowledge of indigenous people, living in tropical forest areas and often depending on them for their livelihood, reveal a wealth of information on sustainable forest development and management and confirm their important role. Their practices should be a major resource for designing new methodologies for sustainable forest management. Nevertheless, decisions about forest management are often taken in remote government offices, far from the people affected by these changes.

This participatory research program seeks to enhance local initiatives of indigenous people responding to external interventions affecting their surrounding forests. Integral part of this process of community empowerment is increasing their negotiation power vis á vis local government units, forest departments and private businesses. This is a key to achieving sustainable community-based tropical forest management.

For exchange and sharing best practices, the program is carried out in five countries: Nicaragua, Panama, Guatemala, the **Philippines** and Vietnam.

In the Philippines ESSC from Ateneo University is responsible for project implementation. In Mindenao fieldwork has started with the Tasaday community in Lake Sebu and with the Bukidnon-Pulangiyen community in Bendum, Bukidnon. Furthermore, the Kankanaey areas in Mountain Province in northern Luzon and the Tadian ancestral domains have been selected.

See Paper

**Seventh International Conference on Philippines Studies (ICOPHIL) - "Changing Landscapes, Humanscapes, and Mindscapes in a Globalizing World", Leiden, The Netherlands, 16 – 19 June 2004**

**Second presentation:**

**“The Research for Development Programme on Biodiversity on Mt. Malindang: The Demand-Driven Process<sup>1</sup>”**

**with co-presenters: Dra Mariliza V. Ticsay<sup>2</sup>, Ir. M. van Veenhuizen<sup>3</sup>, Dr. Marc Lammerink<sup>4</sup>, and Dr. Perry S. Ong<sup>5</sup>**

**ABSTRACT**

The Biodiversity Research Programme (BRP) for Development in Mindanao: Focus on Mt. Malindang and Environs is a demand-driven, collaborative research programme initiated by the Dutch Government aimed to develop innovative North-South research partnerships based on national research agenda priorities. The BRP is a product of a participatory and consultative process involving various stakeholders. The BRP follows guiding concepts in its biodiversity research where each research activity is location-derived and development-oriented. The research agenda, priorities and methods are based on the needs of the people and the biodiversity in the area. The BRP promotes multi-stakeholder participation involving not only the scientific research community, but also most importantly local communities and stakeholders, including local governments and nongovernmental organizations. The BRP is also systems-oriented and interdisciplinary bringing together the natural and socio-economic/cultural components and their interactions, which affect biodiversity. BRP also uses an integrated ecosystem or landscape approach. BRP recognizes the interconnection between ecosystems; acknowledging that what happens in one ecosystem affects the other ecosystems in the landscape. Through the programme activities, BRP aims to contribute to conservation, management and sustainable use of biological resources, build and strengthen national capacity for biodiversity research, and promote research cooperation on equal footing. An overview of the experiences of the Programme in terms of developing North-South research cooperation on equal footing in the last four years will be given.

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1 Paper presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> ICOPHIL, Leiden, The Netherlands 16-19 June 2004  
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5 Chair, BRP Joint Programme Committee

## **The Research for Development Programme on Biodiversity on Mt. Malindang: The Demand-Driven Process**

Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, Ir. M. van Veenhuizen, Dr. Marc Lammerink  
and Dr. Perry S. Ong

### **Introduction**

Demand-driven, collaborative research programmes, which aim to develop innovative North-South research partnerships, were initiated by the Netherlands Development Assistance Research Council (RAWOO) in the early nineties, as a response to the Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation's interest in seeking advise on how to shift the emphasis on research cooperation more towards the needs in the South.

These demand-driven, collaborative research programmes should have the following key characteristics:

- Developing countries draw up their own national research agenda following priorities in the selected policy area (e.g., biodiversity, health, etc.);
- Dutch research capacity is mobilized on the basis of concrete needs identified in the respective countries;
- Research activities area accompanied by support activities in the area of human resource development, networking, and institutional development; and
- Active involvement of all key partners in the programme management

In 1996, a fact-finding mission was commissioned by RAWOO to assess the possibilities for setting up a long-term collaborative research programme in the field of biodiversity and sustainable development, involving resource users in the formulation of research questions in the Philippines<sup>6</sup>. Accordingly, the context of

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6 The reasons for selecting the Philippines are indicated in Lammerink, Marc P. 1998, "Demand-driven research cooperation on biodiversity research. A case study" The Hague, The Netherlands, P.10

the Philippines both in terms of governmental support, NGO activities and universities' interests and research gaps offer good opportunities for RAWOO to formulate a collaborative research programme in the field of biodiversity and sustainable development.

RAWOO found a ready ally in the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), whose concern is the promotion of sustainable agriculture through natural resource management and environmental protection in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia. These two institutions jointly prepared and packaged the programme for funding by the Dutch government and other possible donors. SEARCA facilitated and organized the activities in the Philippines of a group of environmental practitioners known as the Philippine Working Group (PWG) and university researchers involved in the endeavour. RAWOO mobilized professional and material resources in the Netherlands and advised the Dutch government on the implementation of the programme. The Dutch government through the Ministry of Development Cooperation (DGIS) has since approved the *Biodiversity Research Programme (BRP) for Development in Mindanao: Focus on Mt. Malindang and Environs*. Funds in the form of a grant have been awarded to SEARCA to implement the programme over a 5-year period.

### **Programme Objectives**

As a programme for biodiversity research, BRP was conceived by its proponents for several reasons. *First*, is to contribute to the conservation, management, and sustainable use of biological and genetic resources in a specific site in the Philippines through research. Mt. Malindang in Mindanao Island (Figure 1), conceded to be a good example of the state of biodiversity in the Philippines, was chosen over other sites because of the comparatively few and disjointed



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conservation and development efforts placed there (where possibly the highest incidence of biodiversity is combined with the least scientific activity).<sup>7</sup> The urgency of the situation requires an immediate response from research, i.e., to provide findings and information that will guide purposive and sustained action by local stakeholders in alleviating the destruction of this “hot spots” remaining natural resources. It was felt that the success and sustainability of any research and development undertaking is highly dependent on the involvement and participation of all relevant stakeholders, i.e., the academe, policy-makers, government officials, the private sector, non-government organizations and community-based organizations representing local communities, indigenous peoples, farmers and fisherfolks in setting the research agenda and priorities. The consensus is that a research agenda grounded on actual needs of stakeholders and target beneficiaries stands a better chance of being accepted and supported locally. The participatory nature of BRP is highlighted in its processes wherein stakeholders and partner researchers participate in practically all aspects of the programme. This includes all activities from research agenda formulation to pre-implementation planning, and finally to implementation. BRP is a test case to show that the so-called participatory approach can make a difference in setting research priorities where they may be conflicting needs and interests and power issues involved among the multiple stakeholders. The far-reaching implication is that if the BRP approach can be documented and refined as a methodology, it may be used in other sites where biodiversity is similarly threatened.

Figure 1. Location map

The *second* concern of the BRP is to develop a comprehensive approach to integrating support for collaborative research and support for building and strengthening national capacity for biodiversity research, to include support for (a) research training and making better use of existing but often under-utilized capacity, (b) developing methodologies for assessing needs and setting priorities

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<sup>7</sup> Lammerink, Marc (undated). A case study of demand-driven research cooperation on biodiversity research.

through participatory approaches, workshops and networking, (c) building up and strengthening research institutes and infrastructure of biological collection, libraries, databases, information and communication facilities, and (d) development of mechanisms for linking research, policy and practice through networks, seminars and workshops.

Finally, the *third* purpose of the BRP is to demonstrate a paradigm shift in the traditional manner of a “collaborative” research programme that is conducted between a developed (North) country, which is the donor, and a developing (South) country, which is the recipient -- a partnership that is not so easy to achieve, not when the North is in control of funding and has all the necessary organizational capacity and access to information including donor preference or specifications in terms of the research agenda, programme design, and research implementation, while the South is short of funds, capacity and access but nevertheless has its own priorities and in-depth understanding of its own context.<sup>8</sup> The BRP aims to promote equal footing or true partnership between the North and South partners whether in terms of management/administration or technical expertise requirements of the research.

### **Process Approach**

Biodiversity research for development is relatively a new thing in the Philippines particularly one that is participatory, interdisciplinary and multistakeholder.<sup>9</sup>

Given the programme’s objectives and the importance of the consultative process that the objectives imply, several activities were undertaken in coming up with the programme framework (Figure 2).

A national workshop was held in July 1997 in Los Baños, Philippines, bringing together more than fifty participants representing different sectors, regions and

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8 North-South Research Partnerships: Issues and Challenges. RAWOO Publication no. 22. 2001  
9 Ganapin, DJ. 2002. Biodiversity Research: Making it Relevant for Local Development. Paper presented for RAWOO’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. Utrecht. 15 November 2002

areas of expertise to produce a biodiversity research agenda for the Philippines, and to come up with recommendations for a management structure and implementation mechanisms for the proposed programme of biodiversity research.

That September, RAWOO conducted a workshop in Leidschendam, the Netherlands to discuss the policy principles and organizational framework of a proposed Philippine-Dutch collaborative effort on biodiversity research. The Philippine agenda served as the major input for this workshop, which was attended by about forty participants coming from various organizations involved in biodiversity research, policymakers and NGO representatives.

The main conclusion of the workshop was that it was possible to develop such as joint programme on the basis of the directions set out in the Philippine agenda. However, the need for special activities in order to further elaborate the *Mindanao research agenda* into specific, detailed research projects was emphasized. A Pre-Implementation Phase (PIP) was needed to serve the purpose of determining exactly where, what, how and with whom specific research project are to be carried out. At the same time, it served to build further consensus and commitment among the key actors to be involved in the different activities. Four teams of Mindanao researchers, with inputs from some Dutch experts, conducted a Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) and a Stakeholders' Analysis in the upland, lowland and coastal ecosystems of Mt. Malindang during this period. The PIP aimed to develop the research agenda into specific projects while providing the exercise to establish rapport and levelling off between partners from different scientific communities i.e., The Philippines and the Netherlands.

The Biodiversity Research Programme (BRP) officially started on 1 July 2000 and is now on its fourth year. Fourteen Mindanao<sup>10</sup> institutions and seven Dutch<sup>11</sup> institutions carry our research activities. A Joint Programme Committee (JPC) composed of Filipino and Dutch representatives serves as the highest policy-making body of the programme. A Support Secretariat (NSS) in Luzon, a Site Coordinating Office (SCO) in Mindanao, and a Support and Liaison Office (SLO) in the Netherlands coordinate programme-level and project-level research and support activities. The PWG composed of Luzon-based natural science and social science experts continue to serve as an advisory body to the JPC, as well as provide technical back staffing to Mindanao researchers. A Local Advisory Group (LAG) composed of representatives from key stakeholder groups of Mt. Malindang advises the JPC on how BRP can operate more effectively with strong participation and clear lines of coordination with local stakeholder groups. The LAG provides direct linkages with local governments, institutions and stakeholders especially in the translation of research outputs for policy advocacy. Figure 3 shows the Management Structure of the BRP.

Management Structure for the Biodiversity Research Programme



10 Misamis University (MU), Mindanao State University (MSU)-Marawi, Mindanao State University (MSU)-Iligan Institute of Technology (IIT), Mindanao State University (MSU)-Naawan, Mindanao Polytechnic State College (MPSC), Research Institute for Mindanao Culture (RIMCU), Central Mindanao University (CMU), Bukidnon State College (BSC), Northern Mindanao Institute of Science and Technology (NORMISIST), University of the Philippines (UP)-Mindanao, University of Southeastern Philippines (UseP), Southern Philippines Agribusiness Marine and Aquatic School of Science and Technology (SPAMAST), Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology (DOSCAST), Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College (SKPSC)

11 Wageningen University and Research Center (WUR) Department of Social Sciences, WUR ALTErrA Green World Research, WUR Department of Soil Quality, The Netherlands National Herbarium- Leiden Branch, NATURALIS -The Netherlands National Natural History Museum, International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (UNESCO-IHE/Delft), Centre for Environmental Studies (CML)- Leiden University

## Component Activities of the Programme

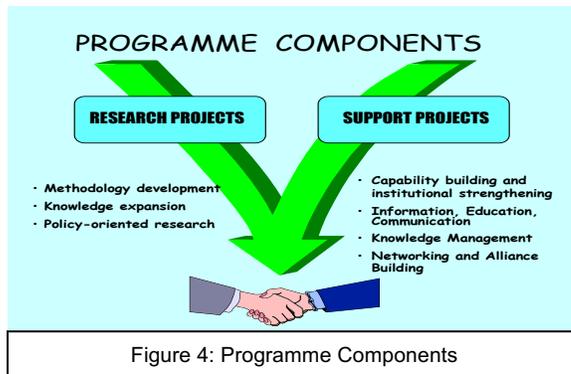


Figure 4 shows the two types of activities supported through the programme, i.e., research projects and support activities. Research activities and projects proposed and undertaken by proponent institutions and researchers in Mindanao fall within the

umbrella programme framework and research agenda developed through the series of consultations and programme formulation workshops involving both the Philippine and Dutch sides during the Pre-Implementation Phase. These proposals were submitted to the JPC for evaluation on how well they satisfy BRP goals and objectives and how well they contribute to the overall research framework of the programme. Priority was given to researches that involved collaboration of scientists from different Mindanao partner institutions and those that included the participation of Dutch scientists to fill up an acknowledged expertise gap in the study. In general, component research activities in the BRP were envisaged to focus on methodology development, knowledge expansion/improvement and policy-oriented research on biodiversity conservation.

The support component of the BRP was seen as necessary to boost the relevance of the programme to development problems in the research area. This would show that the research activities of the BRP are not for the generations of knowledge alone but do in fact have a development orientation. Included, as key support activities are human capability building and institutional strengthening for

biodiversity research, information, education and communication (IEC), and networking and alliance building for biodiversity conservation. One of the more important activities is to develop databases and information and knowledge management network that allows access to BRP research findings and other relevant biodiversity information to a range of users both local and international, as well as for easier translation of said research results to something more tangible and relevant to the needs of the local stakeholders.

### **The Research Projects**

The so-called First Generation Research activities implemented during the second and third year of the programme gathered benchmark information on biodiversity across a representative swath of the Mt. Malindang landscape, namely: (1) biodiversity of a crater lake, (2) agrobiodiversity of a cabbage patch in the upland area, (3) botanical diversity of montane and lowland forests, (4) biodiversity of a river ecosystem, and (5) biodiversity of coastal waters. For the third and remaining years of the programme, priorities were for research results that can be harnessed for the development of local communities. Emphasis is placed on the integration of research activities through the organization of three Master Projects in the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and socioeconomic-cultural environment following the landscape ecology approach. These Second-Generation Research projects will focus on upland-lowland bio-social interactions and aim to provide policy recommendations for biodiversity management and conservation. Furthermore, there is a continuous call for research projects intended to fill in gaps in understanding the landscape not covered by the master projects, placing increasing emphasis on social research, policy analysis, eco-governance and livelihood opportunities.

### **The Support Activities**

Support activities are planned in such a way that they complement the research activities to strengthen research itself and its utilization promote participation by various stakeholders and build sustainability.

- Capacity-Building Support activities are meant to build capacities of local stakeholders and institutions to adopt alternative development strategies and policies, and
- The Programme will pursue national and international linkages to disseminate results and learnings with potential applications to other biodiversity “hot spots” in the region.

### **Research Collaboration on an Equal Footing – The BRP Experience**

Equal partnership for the Philippine and Dutch partners was envisaged in all aspects of programme implementation in the BRP, when the programme was initially designed. They must have an equal say in the policy-making and decision-making processes, and they must play an equal role in the governance and management structure of the research programme for the sustainability of the partnership in the long term. From Day 1 of PIP, the challenge of the programme is to develop successful cooperation in research-for-development between the North and the South, in which the principle of ownership is integrated with partnership. This means that northern researchers have become collaborators and offer their expertise in a process driven by the needs of the Philippine partners.<sup>12</sup>

The thorough agenda-setting process and the extensive PRA of the research area, with the researchers and local stakeholders of Mt. Malindang during the PIP, did not facilitate immediate interactive and interdisciplinary partnership with the Dutch researchers for demand-driven research.

In the first years of the programme, the need to build up programme management and to start involving the local Mindanao partners, through communication, information and capacity building was the predominant concern. Attention was on human resource development of the Mindanao researchers,

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12 Van Veenhuizen, Rene. 2004. SLO Project Continuation Brief: Letter of Intent submitted to DGIS.

and not so much yet on development of partnership with the Dutch research community. Moreover, research focus was on baseline data gathering.

Although familiarization with this new paradigm of a demand-driven collaborative research programme is a work in progress for the main actors, secretariats, and researchers, research activities have considerably improved with the development and implementation of the master projects during the fourth year of programme implementation. A lot of effort has been put in this process of integration of disciplines and activities under the landscape approach led by the Filipino researchers, with the involvement of Dutch researchers.

The challenge to develop a successful North-South research collaboration also means keeping Northern partners interested and involved in a research programme that is driven by a Southern agenda. Partnership building requires innovativeness and flexibility from both sides. Northern collaborators have to become collaborators and offer their expertise in a process driven by the needs of the Southern partners. The structure of the BRP facilitates collaboration between the Dutch and Filipino institutions by the availability of an infrastructure for research and assistance in finding research partners.

Initially, it was difficult to foster collaborative activities between the Philippine and Dutch researchers. Partnership development started very carefully and has started to grow only recently. It appears that a certain momentum of research, familiarity with the programme and trust in programme management are needed before researchers reach out and get involved. Furthermore, the researchers find the need for support and collaboration, on-the-job, or when their research is actually underway. In most cases, this did not sit very well with the Dutch researchers, who needed at least 3-6 months' notice for any field visits to be planned.

The original set-up of the Programme was less attractive to the Dutch institutions, because they have to be patient and invest quite some time in communication, to acquire rather limited funding for a short period of time. Matching of funds by the Dutch institution is expected, and staff time (i.e., salaries and fees) is allowed only in support activities. Because of the “limited” funding, Dutch researchers can only allocate limited time for field activities. This follows that only a limited number of Dutch institutions can also be involved for a certain time period.

The demand-driven process and facilitating partnership with Dutch institutions is one of trying out and finding balances. The Dutch institutions involved are aware of and dedicated to this demand-driven approach to collaborative research. Thus, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed for participating Dutch institutions that are interested to be involved for a longer period than the one-year approved funding.

Lessons learned from the last four years of the BRP show that genuine cooperation and equal partnership are not easy to attain. ***The process is slow, but steadily developing.*** Programmes of this sort need long-term commitment and funding to assure that the ‘critical mass’ develops which can sustain the process. The *Biodiversity Research programme for Development in Mindanao* has taken up a very interesting development path and is becoming a showcase for the Philippine and Dutch research community for *research-for-development* partnerships. Bringing its activities to an end would be a great loss and tremendous waste of money.

Figure 2. Milestone Activities in the Development of the BRP



Ladder of Events (PIP):

Ladder of Events (BRP):



With the Participation of government, non-government organizations, academe, local stakeholders and Dutch partners in each step

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