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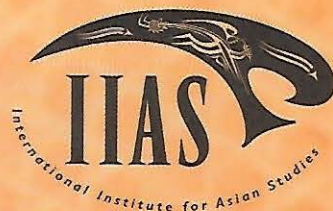
Globalizing World



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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

Enhancing the role of Indigenous People in Sustainable Forest Management in Mindanao and Northern Luzon

Marc P. Lammerink and Sylvia Miclat, November 2007

Introduction

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The proposed project has several key features, both in terms of concepts and approach, which will be clarified hereafter.

Participatory forest management and community empowerment

Generally speaking, there is broad agreement among all major parties involved in forest management -- governments, state forestry organizations, NGOs, academic and research institutions and local community groups -- that the participation of local communities is central to achieving sustainable use of forest resources. Experience with various approaches to forest management has underscored the importance of participation as a means of improving equity, effectiveness and sustainability. It has also become increasingly clear that participatory approaches must be differentiated and context-specific in order to be successful.

This leaves us with two major challenges:

- (i) what is the most appropriate form of participation in any given local situation; and
- (ii) what are the possibilities for scaling-up local experiences and responses to the national level and, eventually, international level, especially in view of the delicate issues at hand.

Forests provide diverse benefits to multiple groups of users. Rights, resource flows and social relationships are complex, dynamic, and may lead to conflict between users. A first step in managing these conflicts is to identify the various stakeholders with an interest in forest management and to determine their rights,

responsibilities and objectives. Analysis of the local institutional context and social dynamics may shed light on power relationships amongst user groups.

An appropriate policy and regulatory framework at national and local levels are increasingly recognized as playing a crucial role in enabling local initiatives on forest management to become successful. Local forestry initiatives need to be developed within a policy framework that fosters economic activities in and around the forest. Assigning economic value to forests and related economic activities through sound taxing, incentives and market policies are a cornerstone to the sustainability of local initiatives on forest management.

Indigenous people and forests

Indigenous peoples and other communities living in forests and depending on them for subsistence number some 60 million people world-wide¹. Forests are their habitat, and their entire means of survival. For many forest-dwelling indigenous people, forests also have aesthetic and spiritual importance.

Their traditional knowledge, acquired over centuries of interaction with forests and trees, generally leads such communities to relate to their forest habitat in ways that protect and sustain the forest as an ecosystem. The forest is an extension of their temporal and spiritual lives. Their cultural security is bound up with the security of forest lands.

However, according to Salim et al, everywhere they are beset by similar forces: loggers, ranchers, colonists; erosion of their traditional rights of access and use; displacement of their homes; erosion of their livelihoods; ignorance of their

1 E. Salim and O. Ullsten, "Our forests, Our future", Report of the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development, Cambridge, 1999

culture, their historical custodial values, their accumulated intellectual property; disregard by authorities; often persecuted by the politically strong. These forces are likely to intensify as demands on forests increase.

Evidence shows that the erosion of natural and biological resources goes hand in hand with eroding and even disappearing traditional knowledge and diminishing cultural diversity. Many traditional societies break up and numerous customs, cultural expressions and languages are vanishing. More than half of the 6,000 languages currently spoken are unlikely to survive this new century.

Indigenous knowledge and endogenous development

At the same time there is an increased awareness of the fragility of the earth's ecosystem and the recognition, that indigenous knowledge and traditional cultures may contain key characteristics that need to be taken serious to meet the global challenge of bio-cultural sustainability. The importance of indigenous knowledge and practices is increasingly being observed by the scientific, donor and development institutions.

Presently many universities, development agencies (WB, UNESCO, IFAD and FAO) have programmes focusing on Indigenous knowledge. Also UN conventions such as UNCBD and UNCCD acknowledge the importance of indigenous knowledge (IK).

In the mainstream initiatives from the last decade many indigenous techniques and practices have been documented, improved and made available by building on the conventional academic traditions of documenting what can be observed and measured. These databases are accessible in scientific and governmental

circuits. Such *ex-situ* conservation approaches can have important functions to demonstrate the relevance of IK. But at the same time these approaches face the delicate line issue of Intellectual Property Rights. It faces the risks of extracting knowledge from a local community and opening its use and benefits by outsiders, who may even patent it. The benefits of the local community who provided the knowledge to the IK database are often very limited in this approach. The Philippines is among one of the few countries in the South, that have laws to protect these intellectual property rights. To avoid extracting knowledge from its original base, in this research project the enhancement of *in-situ* development of local knowledge systems and '*in-situ* documentation' (not *ex-situ*) is promoted .

Furthermore, in many of the mainstream initiatives in the domain of IK, the focus is limited to the biophysical side of IK, which can be understood from the perspective of scientific (international/western) knowledge systems. Aspects of IK such as the way local people interpret the world (i.e. their worldview or cosmovision), the roles of traditional leaders and spiritual practices and the way local people learn, teach and experiment in order to improve their own traditional knowledge and practices are often not considered.

This research program, complementary to mainstream initiatives, promotes endogenous development. This is development from within based mainly, but not exclusively on locally available resources, such as land, water, vegetation, local knowledge and the values and preferences of local people. Endogenous development strives to optimise the dynamics of these local resources and thus to contribute to economic growth ecological stability and cultural diversity. Endogenous development aims at the local determination of the development options; local control over the development process and the retention of the benefits of development within the local area².

2 Bertus Haverkort et al., "Development from within – lessons and perspectives of endogenous development", COMPAS-Magazine, December 2001, pag. 38-42.

Local control over the dynamics of local knowledge systems is another reason why in this research project an '*in-situ* documentation' is promoted, in which it is important to document processes of knowledge generation (concepts, ways of learning, teaching and experimenting), but not necessarily the concrete outcomes as solutions to specific problems. Local determination and retention will allow harnessing these knowledge generation processes between local communities.

Although many authors agree, that indigenous knowledge is valuable and should be preserved- only a few cases could be found where interventions were actually based on incorporation and full development of this knowledge. Moreover, little attention is given to the approaches that could be applied for supporting indigenous communities to harness specific forest-related knowledge in their own development process.

In most cases forestry innovations are still based on formal forest knowledge only. And although information exchange between formal and indigenous knowledge systems has been encouraged for several years now, this has not led to much results yet³.

Comparative approach

This research program recognizes that approaches to forest management which build on participation of local communities must be geared to local circumstances and situations, and thus be context-specific. Such participatory approaches are geared to cooperating with indigenous communities and organizations in developing their own initiatives to strengthen their culture and ways of interacting with the environment, without abolishing useful outside knowledge, so as to maintain the integrity of the tropical forest. As said earlier, scaling-up local

3 Louise van Leeuwen, "Approaches for successful merging of indigenous forest-related knowledge with formal forest management. How can modern science and traditions join hands for sustainable forest management", IKC – Natuurbeheer, 1998.

experiences, responses and approaches to the national- and/or international level remains a major challenge.

Identifying local experiences and best practices and adding these to the global forest-related knowledge reservoir is one way of accumulating knowledge. On the other hand, global forest-related knowledge can be relevant and useful for local purposes as well, provided such knowledge is "localized" in an appropriate way, that is adapted to the specifics of the local socio-cultural context.

The present study aims to add local experiences, lessons and practices related to the role of indigenous people and IK in forest management to the global knowledge base. At the same time, it seeks to share and exchange experiences and lessons on practices, methods and approaches among countries with a view to joint learning. Last but not least, it intends to distil more general knowledge and to assess why certain forest policies, methods and management practices work in one situation and not in others.

Foreseen main phases and activities of research approach⁴

The main phases and activities of the research approach of the program are foreseen as follows:

Preparatory phase

- Program development, in which the local partner organisations in five countries conduct a situational analysis, establish a network of multi-stakeholders,

⁴ See also: M.P. Lammerink, "A detailed look at the PAD approach", in: PLA Notes no. 35, London, June 1999: Special issue on community water management, pag. 34-41

conduct a broad-based consultation through agenda-setting workshop and draw up country assessment reports.

- Proposal development workshop, in which the representatives of the selected countries will devise the general research design, the country specific research- and capacity enhancement activities and the network of local partners. Based on the workshop outcomes a full research proposal will be drafted.

Diagnosing phase

- In-country capacity development for field research on key-issues, starting with a joint workshop on research design and participatory research methods, defining selection criteria for area and communities to be included and preparing participatory assessment proposals, specific workplans and budgets. Outcomes will be reviewed by international and national group.
- Community selection and problem identification through participatory assessment on needs, possibilities and constraints of selected indigenous communities in the context of each country and priority definition of key-issues.
- Diagnosis of problems and potentialities and evaluation of possible solutions, in which the agenda for further research and experimentation is adapted by community members and other local stakeholders. Feedback will be given both on process and results to national networks.

Experimenting phase

- Experimentation and evaluation of possible solutions through joint development and field testing/experimenting of problem-solving strategies, methods and tools for enhancement and development of indigenous knowledge and practices of forest management. Feedback on process and results to national networks. Documentation of initial results and review by the international and national support group.

Sustaining phase

- Institutionalisation and organisation development; systematisation and sustaining the process; sharing and evaluating results, reporting and dissemination of findings through national and international groups.

Role of ESSC and Indigenous people in Mindenao and Northern Luzon

In the Philippines Environmental Science for Social Change Inc. (ESSC) is working with several communities under this project. In Mindenao communities involved are the Tasaday in Lake Sebu and the Pulangiye in Bukidnon, while in the Mountain Province in northern Luzon, some Kankanaey communities are engaged.

The ESSC team has formulated an indicative framework and an outline for the situational analysis report, which was formulated with the following major sections:

- Introduction and objectives
- Basic assumptions, methods, and approach
- Philippine forest and IP situationers, including related policies
- Mountain peoples and forest management
- Summary of major findings

The framework presents a background for the global call to give due recognition to indigenous peoples. The report briefly notes the national response in the Philippines through the legislative enactment and passage of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act. As is highlighted the Philippines is a signatory to international conventions and treaties that aim to strengthen the capabilities of indigenous people in contributing to the country's sustainable development. The evolution of Philippine forest policies and programs is presented to show

government's response to the national concern on the country's forests and its resources. In this section, the decline of Philippine forest cover and the reasons for this situation are briefly tackled.

For the document a variety of literature on Philippine forest policies and programs, including the latest forestry statistics from the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have been collated. Also proceedings from the conferences on knowledge systems and natural resource management of indigenous peoples (IPs) have been reviewed, in addition to the ancestral domain management plans. Data on IP population and other documents, such as the Indigenous Peoples' Sectoral Agenda and Medium Term Development Plan, have been requested from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. Other policy declarations pertaining to IPs, such as issues on tenure, peace and order, economic development and cultural advancement provided during the IP Congress in Mindanao in October 2003 have been used as major reference materials.

The case study on three selected communities is discussed in the section under Mountain Peoples and Forest Management. Results from the review of related literature and studies on the indigenous knowledge systems and practices of other indigenous groups in the Philippines is presented to show both uniqueness and commonality of the characteristics of indigenous knowledge systems and practices in the Philippines. For the presentation of the indigenous concepts/beliefs and resource use practices a framework is adopted with some minor revisions from the 1991 UN report on Indigenous Peoples Traditional Knowledge and Management Practices. A summary of major findings wraps up the report which was presented during the International Agenda-Setting Workshop, which took place end of May 2004, in Evora, Portugal.

Network of stakeholders

An initial identification of potential members of a network of stakeholders committed to the sustainable forest management in the areas visited has been undertaken. ESSC is also coordinating a network around community forestry in the highlands, which can equally serve as a future global reference group. As ESSC is very well aware, networks in the Philippines abound for various advocacies and cause-oriented intentions. For that reason the team will consider carefully the establishment of another network in order to avoid that this will duplicate existing efforts.

Additionally, people and organizations contacted or identified by ESSC in the visited areas of the Philippines consist of community leaders/representatives, representatives from other supporting organizations, government officials from the local government units and the office of the local municipal council, and officials from agencies, such as the environment and natural resources department, agriculture department, education department. Also the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), through its Chairperson Reuben Dasay Lingating, was informed of the possible activities under this program. During the field visits, links with other assisting non-government agencies in the areas were renewed and established. These groups included the Helobung Troupe in the Tasaday community, the NCIP-Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project officials and staff and the Cordillera Studies Centre at the University of the Philippines in Baguio City. The team also informed and coordinated with local government units through the municipal planning officers.

The team from ESSC formulated a set of basic assumptions to guide the flow of the data gathering and analysis based on their previous already existing work with IP communities. This included the ancestral domain management plans and community resource mapping activities earlier facilitated through ESSC. The site visits allowed levels of participatory community resource use analyses, where the

community resource maps generated by the community previously and digitized by ESSC were presented anew to community members for revalidation. Significant changes in land use practices were obtained and status of resources and management updated. There were interviews with key informants specifically community leaders and community development staff closely working with the communities and representatives from other non-government organisations providing assistance to IP communities.

Such field visits were conducted in the Tasaday community in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato and in the Bukidnon-Pulangiyen community in Bendum, Malaybalay, Bukidnon, both in the Mindanao region from 16-30 October 2003. Due to security problems in Bendum, however, the team was not able to go around and gather the Pulangiyen community members to validate their resource use and management practices as indicated in their ancestral domain plans. In lieu of this activity, in-depth discussions were undertaken with a Pulangiyen community development worker and with other ESSC staff in the area.

It was also during this trip when the study team coordinated with local government units and agencies and other non-government assisting agencies. They gathered basic data and information such as municipal development and land use plans and socio-economic profiles.

Visits to the Cordillera Region in northern Luzon were also done and provided opportunities to respond to a forest situation request from the Cordillera Green Network, an NGO based in Baguio City. This NGO is mainly doing reforestation projects in certain parts of the region. Two other trips to the Kankanaey areas in Mountain Province during this period were also undertaken and linked with the on-going workshop for the Tadian ancestral domain management planning and the subsequent follow-up to explain and present the results of the community resource mapping activities previously facilitated by ESSC. These activities

provided the team a good opportunity to speak with community participants and local government officials in the area.

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 Process¹”

with co-presenters: Dra Mariliza V. Ticsay², Ir. M. van Veenhuizen³, Dr. Marc Lammerink⁴, and Dr. Perry S. Ong⁵

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.

1 Paper presented at the 7th ICOPHIL, Leiden, The Netherlands 16-19 June 2004
2 Coordinator, BRP National Support Secretariat, SEARCA, Los Baños, Philippines
3 Coordinator, Support and Liaison Office, ETC Foundation, Leusden, The Netherlands
4 Co-Chair, BRP Joint Programme Committee
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 Philippines⁶. Accordingly, the context of

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



conservation and development efforts placed there (where possibly the highest incidence of biodiversity is combined with the least scientific activity).⁷ 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

⁷ 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.⁸ 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.⁹ 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

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 25th Anniversary Conference. Utrecht. 15 November 2002

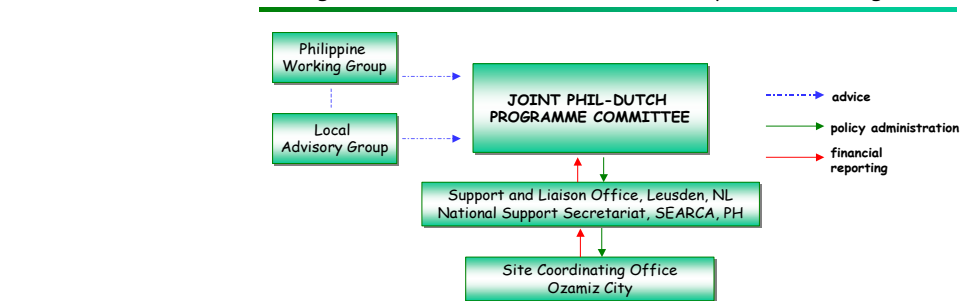
areas of expertise to produce a biodiversity research agenda for the Philippines, and to come up with recommendations for a management structure and implementation mechanisms for the proposed programme of biodiversity research.

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 Mindanao¹⁰ institutions and seven Dutch¹¹ 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

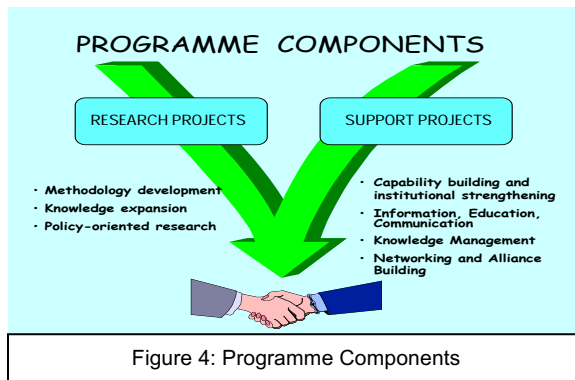


Figure 4: Programme Components

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.¹²

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,

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.

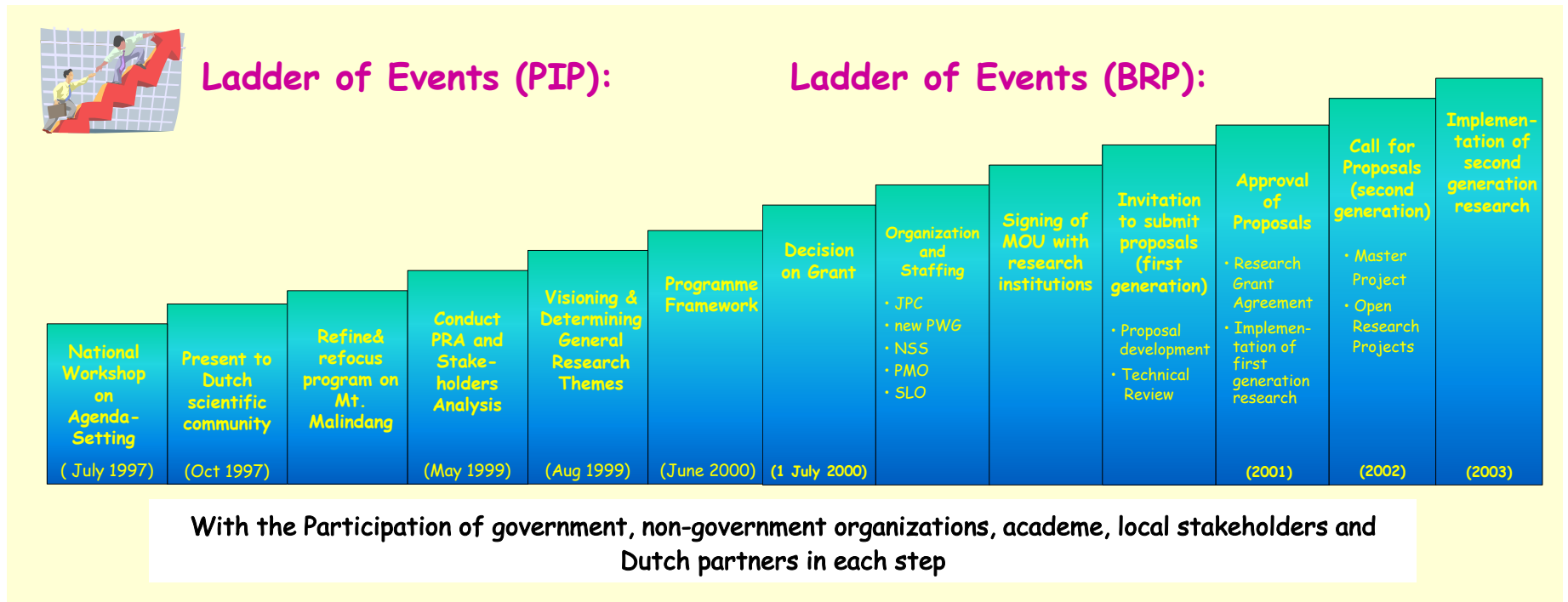
Initially, it was difficult to foster collaborative activities between the Philippine and Dutch researchers. Partnership development started very carefully and has started to grow only recently. It appears that a certain momentum of research, familiarity with the programme and trust in programme management 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



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