Reconciling the Customary Practices of Indigenous Palawan People with the Management of Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape, Palawan, Philippines

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Mt. Mantalingahan
Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL)

Proclaimed in June 2009
Area: 120,457 hectares

5 municipalities
36 barangays
230 villages
2,951 households
(91% Palawan)
Why is Mantalingahan Important?

Forest cover: 79%
11 vegetative cover types

Plants: 861 species
Mammals: 35 species
Birds: 90 species
Reptiles: 30 species
Amphibians: 14 species
Globally threatened: 23 species

New Discoveries: at least 11 species (both flora & fauna)
Why is Mantalingahan Important?

Total Economic Value: US$ 5.6 B

1. Direct Uses
   Water
   Timber
   Occupants’ land-based livelihood
   Occupants’ river-based livelihood
   Ecotourism

2. Indirect Uses
   Carbon stock
   Soil conservation
   Soil fertility maintenance
   Watershed and biodiversity functions
   Protection of coastal & marine ecosystems
   Ecosystem services of tropical forests
   Recreation
Why is Mantalingahan Important?

Life

Home

Future
MMPL: Home of Indigenous Palawans

MMPL occupants comprise 15% of the total IP population in 5 municipalities

Traditional Sources of Subsistence:
- swidden
- hunting
- gathering of wild food sources
The Major Threat

Protect the ancestral home? or Displace the IPs?
Gaining the Support of the Indigenous Palawans

230 upland villages in 36 brgys in 5 municipalities
MMPL Management

MMPL is managed by a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB)

• multi-sectoral (including IPs)
• composed of 71 members
• affirmed by the DENR Secretary
• guided by an adopted operations manual
MMPL Management & Business Plan
Adopted through PAMB Resolution 2010-01

participatory  community-based  integrative
MMPL Community Development Programs

rights

ecosystem services

tenure

economic benefits
Conservation Agreements

Conservation Agreement

Threats to Biodiversity

Conservation Actions

Benefits

Opportunity cost

Enforcement: patrolling, confiscation, etc.
Reforestation
No hunting
No deforestation
Dev. of local policies
Demarcation (as needed)

- Water supply
- Support for agriculture, agroforestry and forestry best practices
  (training, capital assistance, and incentives from doing conservation actions)
Site 1. Panalingaan watershed
Site 1. Panalingaan watershed

Conservation Actions

Benefits
Site 2. Aribungos and Ipilan Ancestral Domain
Site 2. Aribungos and Ipilan Ancestral Domain
Site 2. Aribungos and Ipilan Ancestral Domain

Conservation Actions

Benefits
## Assets-based framework to understand the link between human wellbeing and natural resource management

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<th>access influenced by</th>
<th>in context of</th>
<th>resulting in</th>
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<td>Natural capital</td>
<td>Gender</td>
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<td>Food cultivation</td>
<td>1. Farm food cultivation</td>
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<td>3. Forests gathering of wood/ firewood, wild plants and animals (NTFP)</td>
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<td>Local beliefs and practices (including IKS)</td>
<td>E. Shocks droughts floods pests diseases disturbed peace and order climate change impacts</td>
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<td>Stability of income</td>
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<td>harvesting/gathering</td>
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Healthy Ecosystems & Human Well-Being

human well-being

• At least 600 households engaged as conservation stewards with additional household income
• Indirect beneficiaries: lowland farmers, fisherfolks

ecosystem services

• water supply
• carbon sequestration
• controlled soil erosion and flooding
• (fisheries)

healthy ecosystems

• 120,457 hectares placed under formal management
• at least 23 threatened species being protected
Our work has just begun…

With stronger partnerships and thorough understanding of the deep connection between the people and Mantalingahan, we envision to accomplish more in the years to come, keeping our vision of a healthy ecosystem for the well-being of the people of Palawan.
dakéláng
salamat
dimyo
génsan