

The background features a pattern of overlapping green circles of varying shades, with a central, semi-transparent image of a globe showing the Earth's continents and oceans.

Philippines: Governance and Local Empowerment in the Environment and Natural Resources Sector

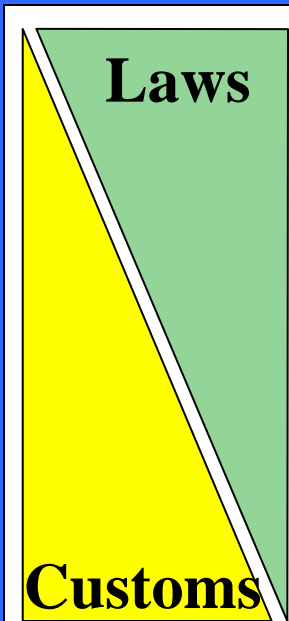
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Topics

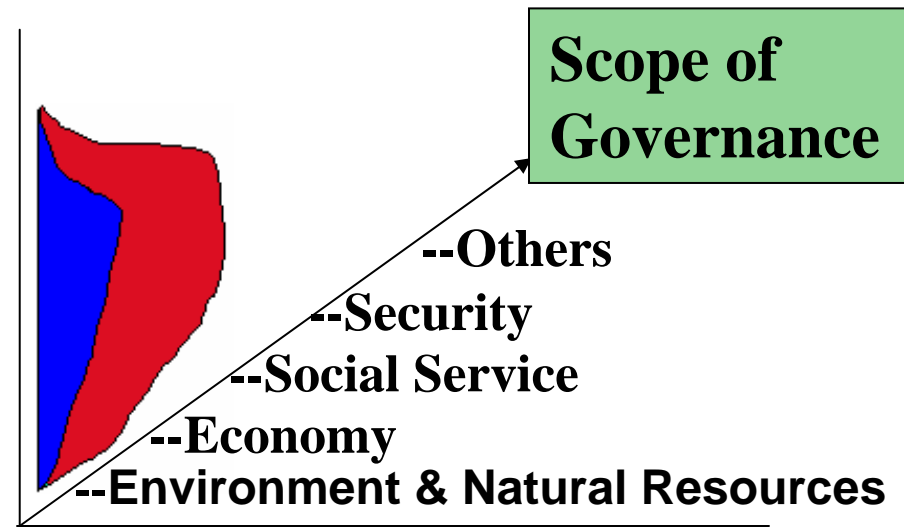


- National Policies on Governance and the Governance of the Environment and Natural Resources sector
- Policies on Local Empowerment, Devolution, and Decentralization
- Experiences on Local Empowerment, Devolution, and Decentralization in the ENR sector
- Role of GIAHS Project in Promoting Environmental Governance
- GIAHS projected institutional and management structure



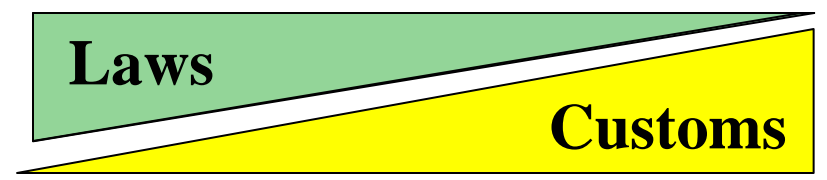
Levels of Governance

- Global
- National
- Sub-national
- Local



Public National LGUs **Non-Public Civil Industry Communities Society**

Sectors of Governance



Governance over certain time and periods

What is Governance?



- Totality of institutional controls in society
- Statutory (as prescribed by law) and customary (as prescribed by traditions)
- Government is formal system of statutory governance; not the totality of governance
- Recurring problems: disharmony of statutory and customary governance systems especially in the **ENR sector**

Environmental Governance

“Good environmental governance broadly refers to societal control mechanisms and processes that link key decisions and actions on the environment to shared social and ecological objectives”.

A group of people, including men and women, are seated around a large table in a meeting room. They appear to be engaged in a discussion or collaborative work. The room has large windows in the background, and the overall atmosphere is professional and focused. The text is overlaid on this image.

Enabling Laws/Policies for Improved Governance and Local Empowerment in the Philippines

- ❑ The Local Government Code of 1991 (empowering LGUs in local governance)
- ❑ The Ecological Solid Waste Management Act (ESWM)
- ❑ The Indigenous Peoples Right Act of 1997 (IPRA)
- ❑ Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999
- ❑ Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)
- ❑ National Integrated Protected Area System Law of 1991 (NIPAS)
- ❑ Executive Order on Community-Based Forest Management of 1995 (CBFM Strategy)



Selected Experiences on Local Empowerment and Devolution/Decentralization in the Environment and Natural Resource

- **The Ifugao *Muyong* (forest) system**
- **Forest Co-management in Nueva Vizcaya**
- **Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM)**



Role of GIAHS Project in Promoting Environmental Governance

- Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are sustainable
- Promote conservation and adaptive management of globally significant agricultural biodiversity systems
- Focus on the human and knowledge systems, including their socio-organizational, economic and cultural features that support GIAHS without compromising their resilience, sustainability and integrity

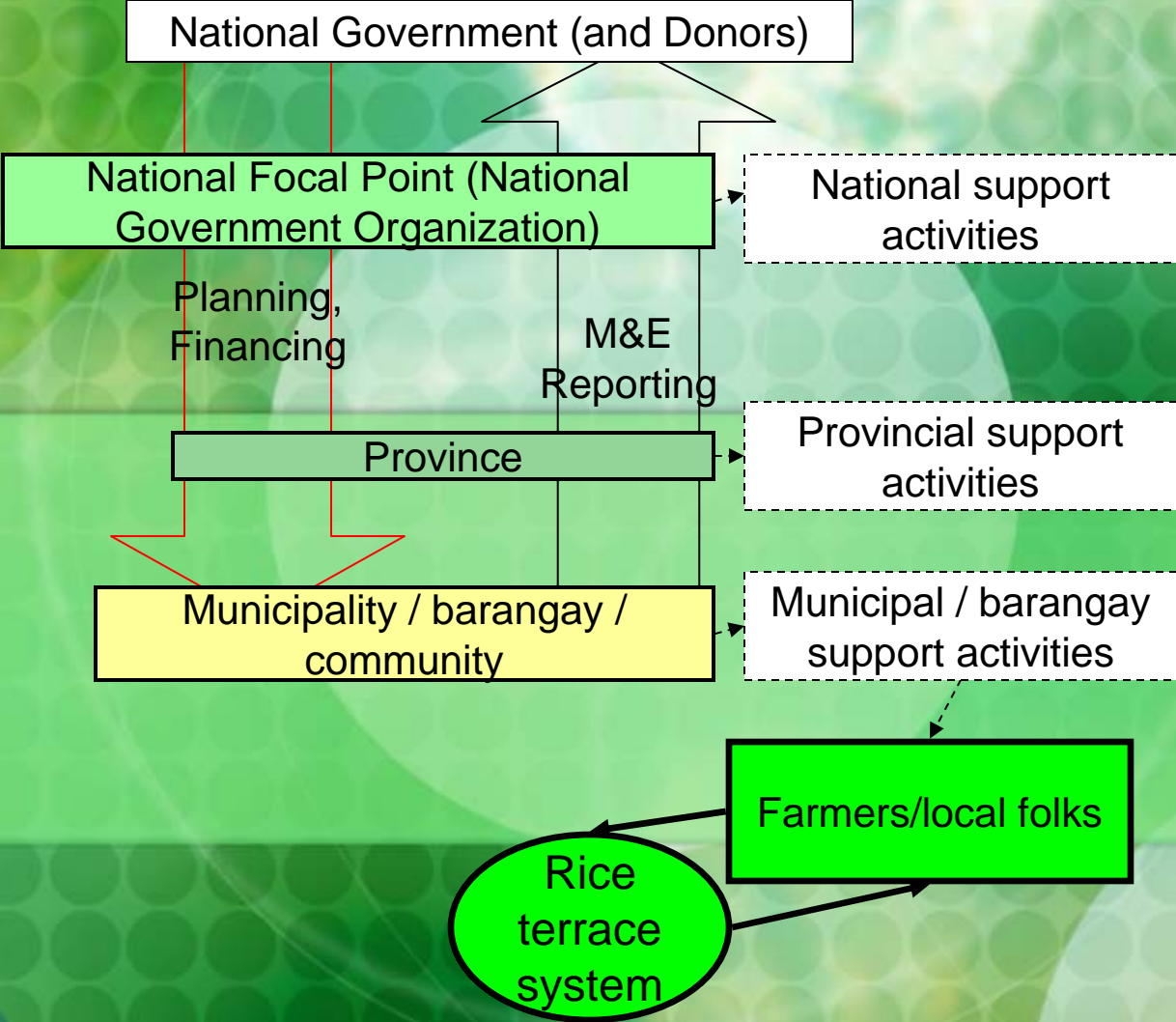


Why we need an innovative institutional structure for GIAHS

The Ifugao Rice Terraces' agricultural heritage systems is at risk from:

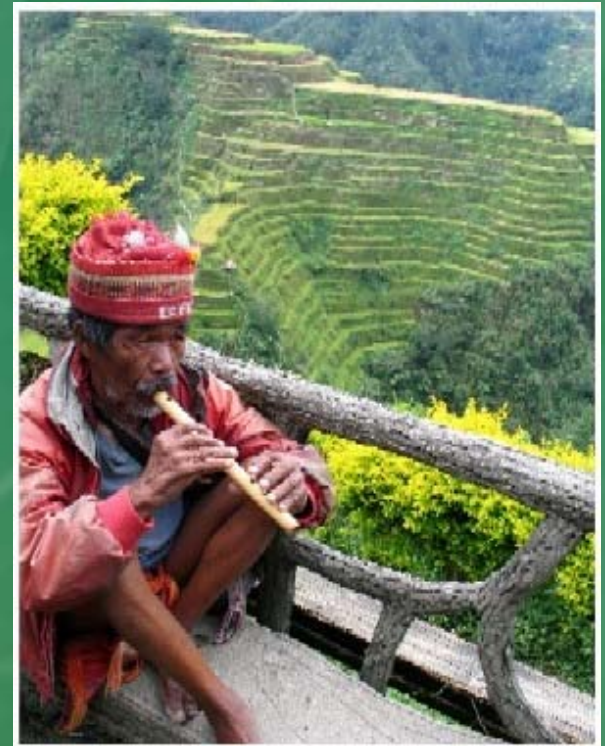
- loss of customary institutions and social organizations in favor of government formal structures
- strain on the capability of traditional institutions and resource management systems associated with modernization and globalization
- abandonment of traditional resource management systems in favor of unsuitable and ecologically harmful technologies due to market and policy pressures
- abandonment of traditional beliefs that link indigenous peoples and nature due to increasing contact with the commodity-market

GIAHS Support Delivery System



At the **National Level**, GIAHS-supportive environmental governance requires:

- Anchoring GIAHS- supportive macro policies, strategies, programs, standards, resource allocation decisions and actions on accountability, participatory processes, transparency, responsiveness, and rule of law principles
- Enhancing the capacity of the State to formulate responsive and effective policy and programs independent of pressure from special interests



At the **Regional/Provincial Level**, GIAHS- supportive environmental governance requires:

- Mainstreaming the conservation and adaptive management objectives of GIAHS in regional and provincial level sectoral and inter-sectoral policies, development plans, programs, and projects, following the principles and practices of good environmental governance

At the **Municipal and Barangay Levels**, GIAHS-supportive environmental governance requires:

- Integration of GIAHS and environmental governance processes and principles
- Harnessing local political, social and economic processes as well as appropriate new technologies
- Strengthening organizational management capacities and values of local institutions



Summary

- Over the last 20 years, the Philippines has taken significant changes in improving its governance.
- Recognizes the legitimate claims of the IPs, respect for customary laws and local knowledge (i.e. Ifugao Rice Terraces and the Muyong system of communal forest management).
- The Philippines continues to learn, reflect, and re-direct its efforts to improve its policies, strategies and programs for effective and efficient governance.



Summary

- The GIAHS initiative is supportive of the emerging thrust of the Philippines to improve environmental governance at all levels.
- Effective conservation of GIAHs calls for sustainable strategies that recognizes the different realities and hierarchies, as well as the complex and dynamic processes, interactions and interdependence in the landscape and agricultural systems.

