

IFUGAO RICE TERRACES AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE SYSTEMS



Dynamic Conservation and Practice



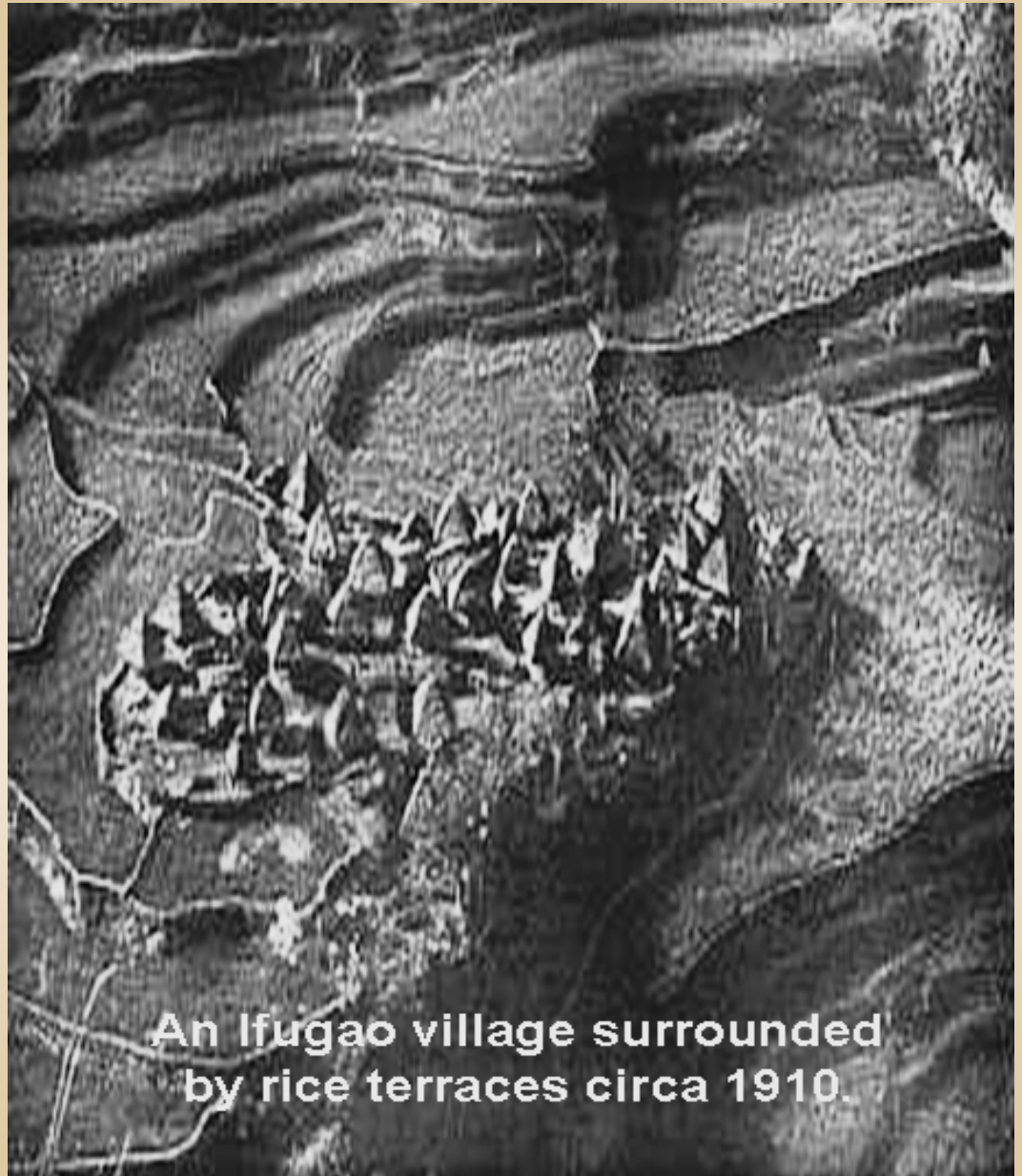
**Location : Ifugao Province
Cordillera Mountains
Northern Philippines**

Area : 20,000 hectares

Age : 2,000 years

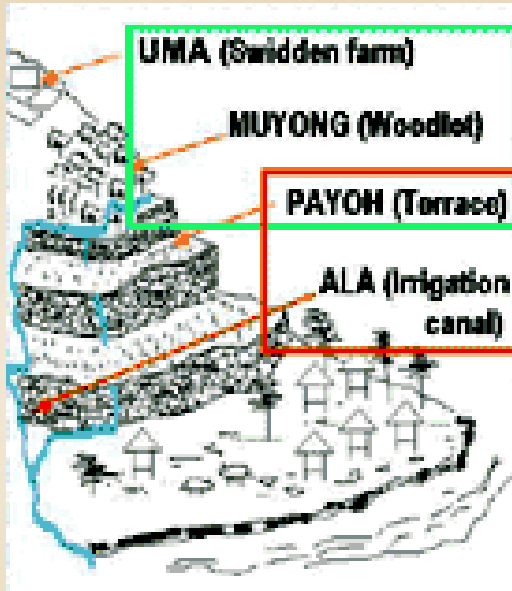
**: Declared as
UNESCO
Heritage Site**

**Ave. Annual Rainfall :
73.4 inches**



**An Ifugao village surrounded
by rice terraces circa 1910.**

Ifugao Rice Terraces Mountain Landscape



The IFUGAO RICE TERRACES landscape is made up of series of terraces and “Muyongs” (Private Forests) and patches of swidden farms



Hungduan rice terraces showing patches of Muyong, extensive rice terraces and the pinugo in the mountain ridges.

Its Irrigation Water



Irrigation water comes from the forested sub-watersheds and conveyed through canals to the terraces



Terracing stabilizes slopes and reduces surface soil erosion.



Water is maintained in the terraces all year round.

The Rice Farming





**A “mumbaki” or
native priest.**



**A bulol guarding a newly harvested
rice inside an Ifugao's rice granary.**



Traditional rice varieties are grown.



Old rice straw left in the terraces to decompose.



**Paad rice ritual conserves
and sustains fish and
shellfish production in
same terraces.**



The “*Muyong* / *Pinugo*” – Private Forests



A traditional “Muyong” (private forest) above rice terraces.



The Muyong is a family forest located above terraces varying in size from 0.5 ha to 2.5 ha.

It is a natural forest with as many as 264 plant species that supply many family needs.





A muyong that has been reforested with exotic trees.



Agroforestry is practiced in Muyongs.



Bakuwog (*Sandoricum vidalii*)



Indigenous plants are used as pesticides and removal of pests and insects are manually done.

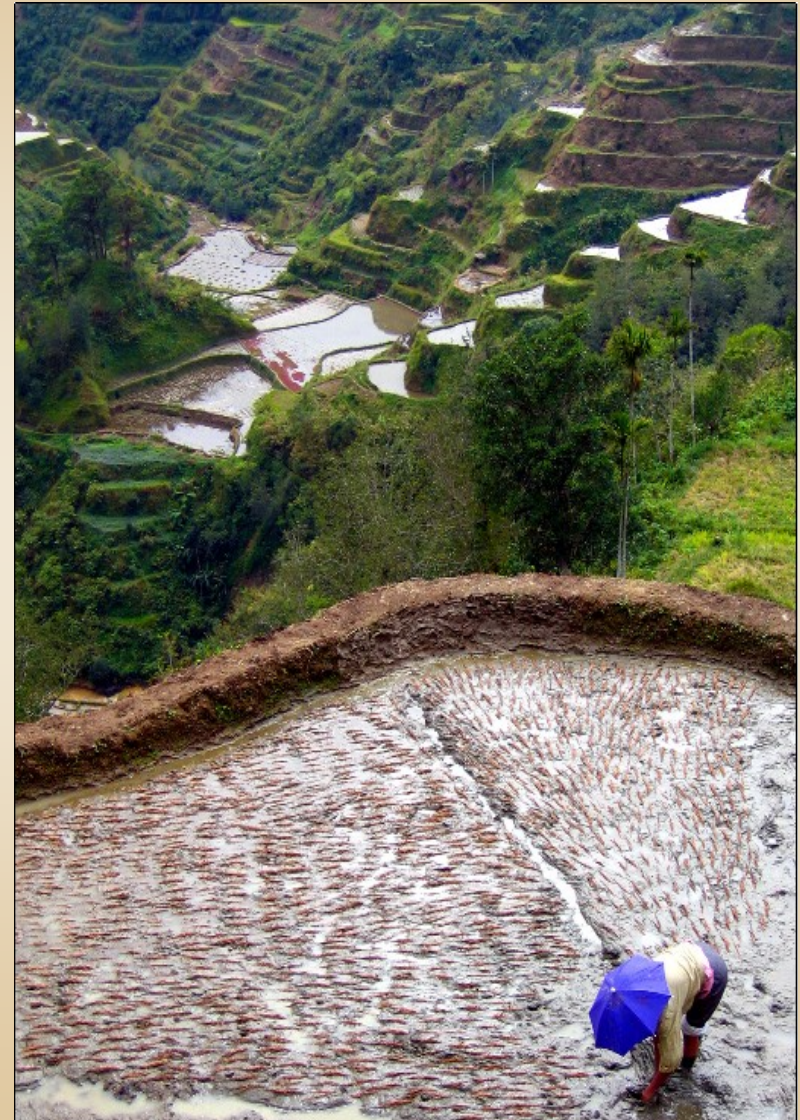


Woodcarving products

Dynamic Conservation and Practices



**Terracing of the
mountain slopes.**



**Maintaining Muyong
(family forests)
sustains the
irrigation water.**



**Traditional silvicultural
practices are carried out
in the Muyong to keep
them productive.**



**Strict adherence to
planting calendar
minimizes damage to rice
plants and harvest caused
by rodents and other
pests.**





High diversity in Muyongs supply food, medicine, construction materials and pesticides.

An aerial photograph of a tropical landscape. The upper half of the image shows a steep, densely forested hillside with a mix of green and brownish-yellow foliage. Below the hillside, a small village with several small, simple houses is visible. The lower half of the image shows terraced fields, some of which are green and others are brown, indicating different stages of cultivation or harvest. A small body of water is visible in the bottom left corner.

Trees and other plants are harvested selectively when needed.



The traditional rice granary of the Ifugao's. Note the posts made of tree stumps sourced from the Muyongs.



Mayoyao Rice Terraces. Structures with painted roofs are rice granaries.

Inheritance is the mode of ownership and are not partitioned to smaller sizes.





Natural resources use and rice production are based on old indigenous customs and beliefs preventing over-exploitation of land resources and promoting biodiversity conservation.

Threats and Issues

- Out – migration
- Changes in local governance
- Better access to education
- Christianization
- New crops and farming technologies
- New job opportunities





Increasing build-up of buildings and other structures because of urbanization is taking over some areas of the rice terraces particularly along the main roads near the Banaue poblacion

Our heritage.....

