Snatching Success from the Jaws of Failure
Session 2 – Lessons for Forests and NRM

FOREST PEOPLE FACING CHANGE IN THE PHILIPPINES

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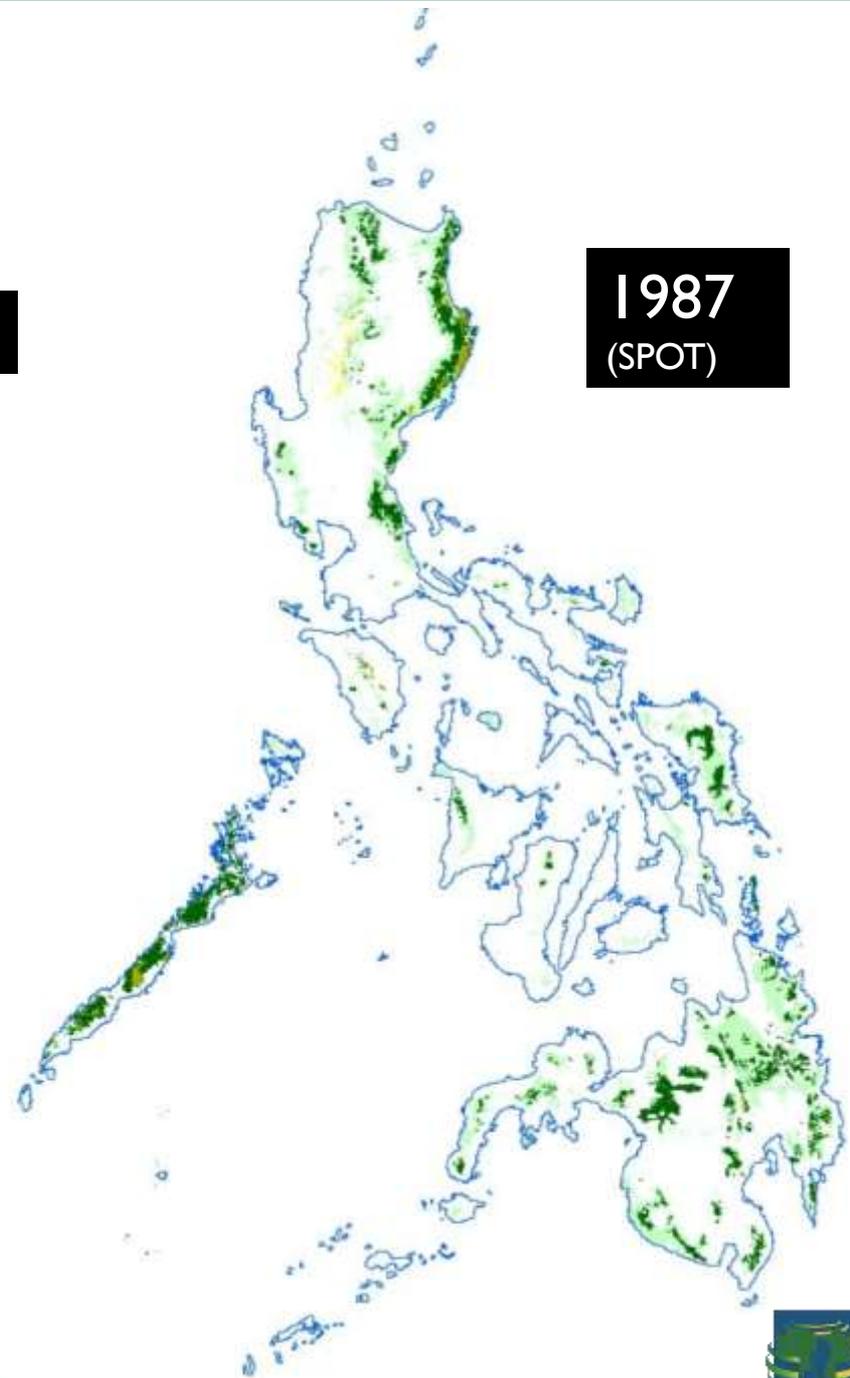*7 December 2016*

STORIES ON…

- What changes forest people faced

- Why projects failed to address rural poverty

- How we are learning from our failures

DECLINE OF THE PHILIPPINE FOREST*

23.7%

1987
(SPOT)

■ Old Growth Forest

* ESSC and The Bookmark, Inc., 1999, Philippines

ESSC

ESSC'S CONTINUING WORK WITH FORESTS AND PEOPLE

- Global Forest Land Use Change 1990-2005 by EC and FAO (Forest Resource Assessment)
- Forest cover change monitoring
  - Mapping the decline of Philippine forests
  - Philippines forest cover inventory (2000-2002) using remote sensing
  - Monitoring deforestation hotspots
  - Satellite remote sensing partnership with UCL
- Community-based youth forest management

IMELDA'S IPIL-IPIL CAMPAIGN, 1970S

Forest Loss 60%

- What worked?

  - Widespread adoption of ipil-ipil (*Leucaena leucocephala*), part of required tree planting in the youth civic action program during martial law, endorsed by the First Lady

- What did not work and why?

  - People were promised fast big money that did not materialize because bioenergy plant was not constructed (Pat's story)

- Unexpected outcomes

  - Enterprising farmers in Visayas found ways to sell ipil-ipil to Taiwan

  - Ipilan ni Mang Totoy in Gabaldon got washed away during a disaster, land subsequently sold for real estate (Pedro's story)

CONTRACT REFORESTATION ERA, 1980S

Forest Loss 66%

- What worked?
  - Government recognition of massive forest loss after the massive logging era of the 1970s and before and that something must be done
- What did not work and why?
  - Mahogany, falcata, and gmelina were the species of choice during the era, no matter the place or purpose, so people who were promised big money (gmelina millionaires) but planted on protected forests got disillusioned.
  - Payment scheme (daily wage) incentivized destruction of seedlings planted soon after so that people can get paid for another day.
  - Result = 200% reforested but 20% survival rate
- Unexpected outcomes
  - The Visayan fear of watersheds – if your place gets declared as a watershed, you are doomed.

PHILIPPINE WORKING GROUP (PWG)
ON COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT
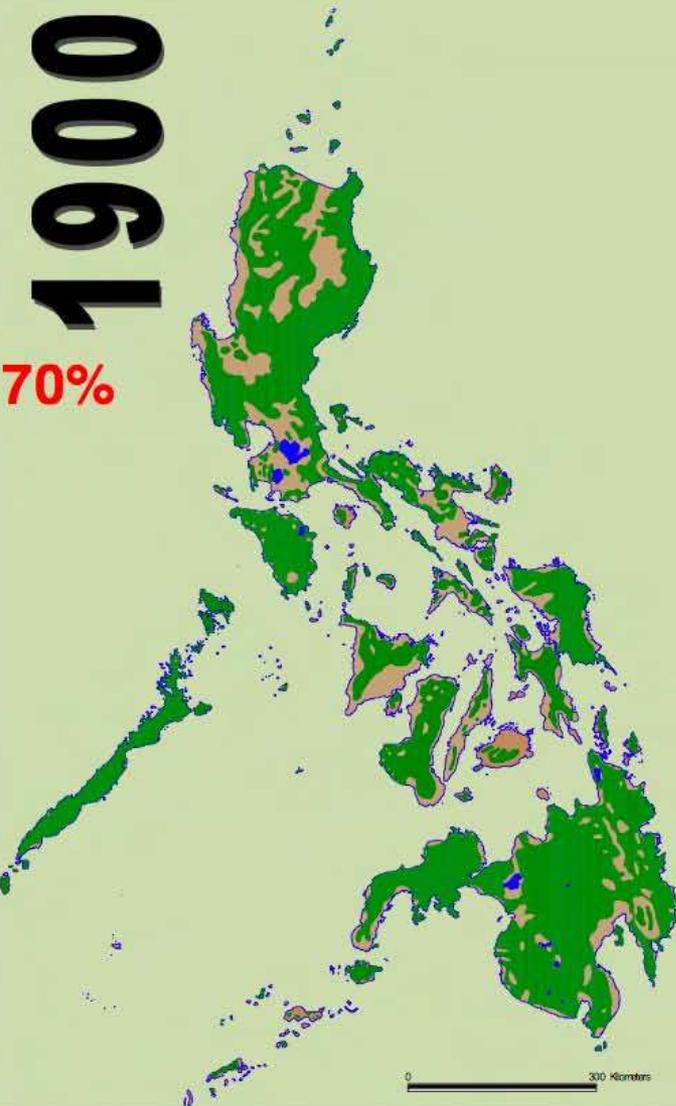
COMMUNITY-BASED 1990S

Forest Loss 76%

- What worked?

  - Decline of the Philippine Forest, scenarios A & B

  - Community mapping approaches helped promote tenure

- What did not work and why?

  - Donor-driven financing led to dissipation of momentum when funds ran out, also in protected areas and management councils that mostly became dysfunctional when the funds were gone

- Unexpected outcomes

  - Some PO leaders became village chairs
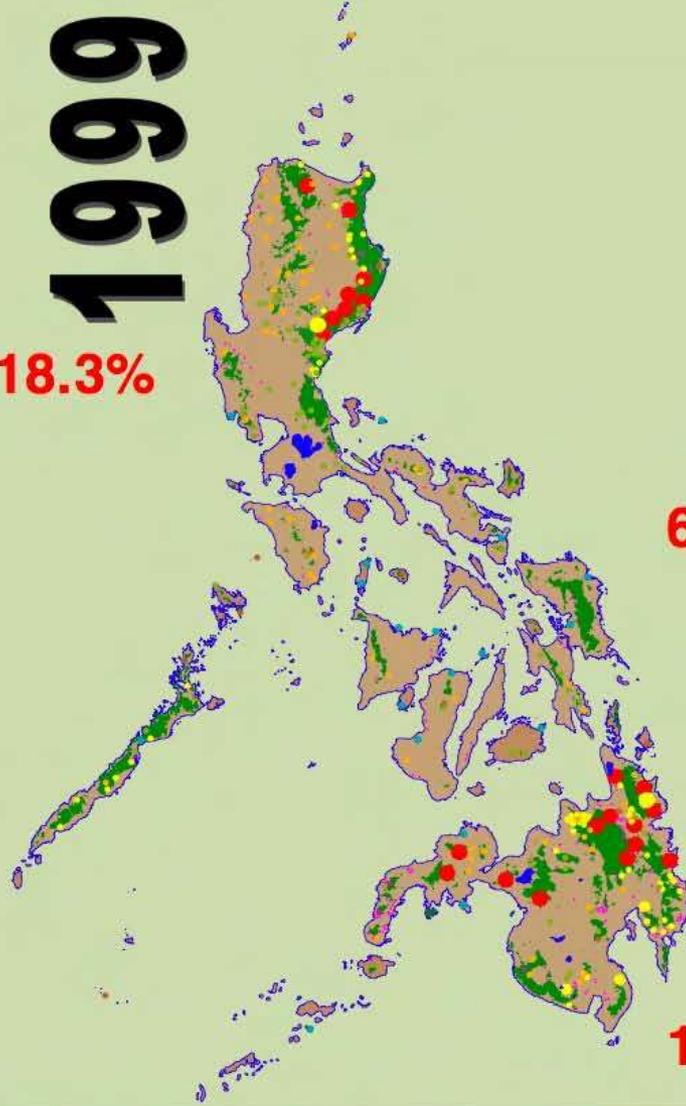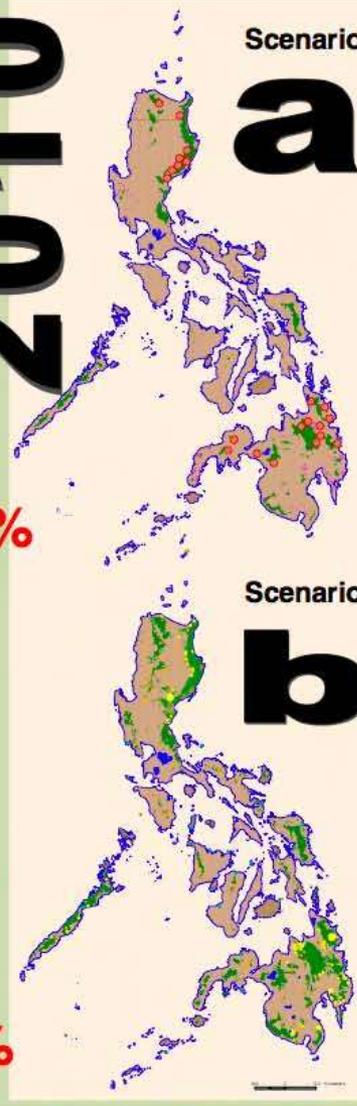
  - Community mapping approaches used for taxation

1900 — 70%

1999 — 18.3%

2010 — Scenario **a** — 6.6% — Scenario **b** — 19%

300 Kilometers

Decline of the **PHILIPPINE FOREST**

Legend
- Forest
- Lake
- Watershed Project
- Protected Area
- NIPA/NIPAP
- Mangrove Rehabilitation
- CBFM
- 1,000-25,000 ha
- 25,000-50,000
- 50,000-above
- IFMAS
- TLA
- Post TLA

DISASTERS IN THE 2000S

Forest Gain XX%

- What worked?

  - Ondoy (Ketsana) floods, 2009 = CSR projects emerged that paid attention to plight of communities upstream of Manila

- What did not work and why?

  - Real-Infanta-General Nakar flash floods, 2004 = backlash on small-scale tree farmers in Mindanao, after a presidential executive order banning logging in the entire country

- Unexpected outcomes

  - Revival of civil society and government discussions and responses to forests and flooding, forests and mining, passage of a law prioritizing disaster preparedness at all levels

  - Allowed space for discussing past disasters that were already warning us

FORESTS AND DISASTERS

NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM, 2010S

- What's working?

  - Diverse indigenous species promoted, rainforestation initiatives by some NGOs

  - Seedling production now closer to planting site, bringing income to local communities

  - Funding mainly from within (government, private)

  - Extended from 2016 to 2028

- What's not working and why?

  - Still fixated on quantitative physical targets (% accomplished) than social and livelihood outcomes

- Unexpected outcomes

  - …

HOW ARE WE LEARNING FROM FAILURES

YOUTH CONNECTING TO FORESTS AND FARMS IN BENDUM

YOUTH MARKING THE *KALIYAAN (DIPTEROCARPUS VALIDUS)* WILDLINGS

200 YOUTH STANDING BESIDE *KALIYAAN* (*DIPTEROCARPUS VALIDUS*) SEEDLINGS FROM ONE TREE

KEY LESSONS FOR PROJECT DESIGN

- It is not anymore about making big money. Time is more important than money. Long-term, consistent support is key.

- Local needs are primary. Diversity is key.

- Get high-level support and local ownership at the start.

- Without tenure and access, nothing can be sustained.

- Livelihoods and markets cannot be designed distinctly.

KEY LESSONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Building social capital generates long-run returns for people and forests,

- Rebuilding relations with people and with the land, especially where there are indigenous communities, is critical for the cultural integrity and environmental stability

- Carefully manage people's expectations.

- Invest in the youth.

- Harness women's capacities.

- Monitor social outcomes

- Local government needs to be pulled in, however difficult