

SAMUT-SARI

The quarterly newsletter of the Philippines-Netherlands Biodiversity Research Programme for Development in Mindanao

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BRP hosts Mt. Malindang Implementors' Summit

To get the active involvement of the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Misamis Occidental in the implementation of research activities in Mt. Malindang and its environs, a Mt. Malindang Implementors' Summit was held on 17 September 2002 in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental.

The Summit was participated in by representatives of LGUs and other organizations and agencies who are implementing projects and other activities in the Mt. Malindang environs.

As a backdrop, the LGUs of Misamis Occidental, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the SEAMEO Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on 25 May 2001 to establish their partnership in the implementation of the programme. Although the provincial government has shown its support for the BRP from the beginning, it has not been involved in the implementation of any research or support activity of the BRP. The summit served as the first step in getting its active involvement in the programme.

The summit aimed to gather information on various programs, projects and activities that are being implemented by the cities and municipalities of Misamis Occidental; to identify activities that have a bearing on the environment and its conservation; to identify gaps, overlaps, and problem areas among the identified activities; and to prepare concept proposals for the gaps, overlaps or problem areas that can be considered for funding by BRP for implementation of the concerned LGU.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Delfin J. Ganapin, Jr., JPC Chair, gave an overview of the BRP, citing the nature,



Hon. Loreto Leo S. Ocampos, Governor of Misamis Occidental, delivered the welcome remarks during the Summit.

rationale and objectives of the programme. He hopes that through the programme and with the active participation and support of the LGUs, the BRP would benefit not only Mt. Malindang and the province, but the whole country as well.

Honorable Loreto Leo S. Ocampos, Governor of Misamis Occidental, delivered the welcome remarks during the summit. He acknowledged the active role played by the Netherlands government in funding and implementing development programs in the province. He mentioned two areas of concern that he hopes the BRP could give attention to: (1) that results and information generated by research will be passed on to the province, and (2) that the BRP could help in developing food production technology that will boost crop yield without harming the environment. In his final note, the Governor promised to give the BRP the full support and assistance necessary for its success.

There were two workshops held during the summit. The first was the identification of gaps, overlaps, or problem areas encountered in the implementation of the projects by locality. Results of the workshop indicated that problems were related to agriculture, fisheries and infrastructure.

These were attributed to lack of financial resources and manpower.

The second workshop centered on environmental problems and the drafting of proposals for research and development projects. Four proposals were drafted for research and two for development projects. Proposed research projects include: (1) a preliminary study on the problems encountered by the LGUs in Misamis Occidental on their mangrove reforestation, (2) biological study of anchovies, (3) assessment of water quality (river and brackish water), and (4) marine resource ecological assessment of all coastal cities/municipalities of the province. Proposed development projects, on the other hand, are: (1) rehabilitation of watershed and protected areas, and (2) implementation of ecological solid waste management program.

The BRP researchers likewise reported their research findings to the LGUs. This is in consonance with the commitment of the BRP to the stakeholders of Mt. Malindang – that is, that research outputs will be shared to them.

Through the summit, the BRP hopes to have a stronger and more active partnership with the local government of Misamis Occidental. ■

BRP calls for second-generation research projects

One of the guiding principles of the BRP is the landscape approach in its research methodology. However, the recently concluded first-generation projects have not fully characterized the interactions and interconnectivity among the elements of contiguous ecosystem.

Now that the BRP is on its third year, it focuses on second-generation research activities that will attempt to explain human-biodiversity interactions and their impact on biodiversity, as well as to provide knowledge for formulating alternative strategies and policies that relate to habitat restoration, biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihood development. It also hopes to implement support activities that will build capacities of local stakeholders and institutions to adopt alternative development strategies and policies.

A proactive approach is needed to ensure that the landscape approach and the close integration of the social

and biophysical aspects of biodiversity are fully addressed in the second-generation research activities. To respond to these needs, the BRP called for two types of research projects: the master projects and the open research proposals. The master projects are intended to fill up gaps in the geophysical landscapes (i.e., coastal, terrestrial, and riverine ecosystems) in terms of geomorphology (i.e., soils at the landscape level), biodiversity (i.e., plants, animals and soil organisms), and the socio-economic environment looking at aspects of institutional analysis, participatory methodologies, and gender issues and concerns. Open research proposals, on the other hand, are intended to fill up gaps in understanding the landscape not covered by the master projects. These projects will be more specific and will place increasing emphasis on social and policy research. This include people/migration, information, labor and matter (products and sediments), policy

and eco-governance, and identification of sustainable livelihood strategies.

The National Support Secretariat (NSS) sent out invitations to the Heads of Mindanao research institutions to submit concept proposals for its second-generation activities. Two master concept proposals for aquatic and terrestrial environment were submitted by the researchers, as well as six open concept proposals, two of which were approved for full proposal development, namely: "Participatory Conservation and Utilization of Endemic, Rare, and Economically Important Plants in Three Barangays of Don Victoriano, Misamis Occidental" by Dr. Cecilia B. Amoroso of Central Mindanao University, and "Biodiversity Conservation of Arthropods through Participatory Research and Training in the Uplands of Mt. Malindang" by Dr. Emma M. Sabado of Mindanao State University - Marawi, both considered as action research proposals. ■

Mindanao Biodiversity Research Consortium formed

To form a Mindanao Biodiversity Research Consortium (MBRC), researchers from Mindanao institutions attended three meeting-workshops on 21-24 July, 11-13 and 22-25 August 2002. The first and third meeting-workshops were held in Central Mindanao University (CMU) and the second was held in Mindanao Polytechnic State College (MPSC).

Aside from the formation of a MBRC, the meeting-workshops were conducted to: (1) update the Mindanao researchers on the status and progress of the BRP; (2) explain the "master projects"; and (3) prepare concept master proposals. Researchers from 14 academic institutions (CMU, MPSC, Mindanao State University (MSU) - Marawi, MSU - Naawan, MSU - Iligan Institute of Technology (IIT), Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology (DOSCAST), Southern

Philippines Agribusiness, Marine and Aquatic School of Technology (SPAMAST), Xavier University, Ateneo de Davao University, Bukidnon State College (BSC), Liceo de Cagayan University, Misamis University (MU), Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College (SKPSC), and University of the Philippines Mindanao) and one non-academic agency (Protected Areas and Wildlife Division - Department of Environment and Natural Resources) participated in the three meeting-workshops.

The master projects are envisioned to be integrative and will focus on the complexities of the interrelatedness and interactions of the ecosystems. Two concept proposals were drafted: "Biodiversity Assessment Towards Comprehensive Characterization of the Aquatic Ecosystems in the Northeastern Part of Mt. Malindang

through Participatory Approach," and "Interactions and Interconnections of Biodiversity Resources Across Terrestrial Ecosystems in Mt. Malindang and its Environs."

It was also during the meeting-workshops that a project coordinator, project leaders, and research team members for each project were identified. The project leaders were selected based on the following criteria: researcher's work/research experience, time availability (sufficient time on the job), maturity, attitude, commitment, and technical capability. Drs. Proserpina Gomez-Roxas and Jose B. Arances were chosen as project leaders for the aquatic and terrestrial groups, respectively.

These proposals were then submitted to the National Support Secretariat (NSS) based at SEARCA, Los Baños, Laguna for external review. ■

BRP conducts Researchers' Workshop

As part of the capability-building component of the BRP, a Researchers' Workshop was held on 16-17 September 2002 in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental. The workshop aimed to orient the researchers to the spirit and premises of development research, to clarify the criteria of quality development-oriented research, to provide an overview of methodologies in field-based environmental research, and to discuss the system of project monitoring and evaluation to arrive at common agreements regarding the criteria for quality assessment.

A total of 38 researchers from Mindanao research institutions participated in the workshop. Discussions centered on the nature, context and substance of research for development, on enhancing a "development research culture" in Mindanao, and related methodological, ethical and evaluation issues in development research.

Drs. Cynthia Bautista, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy at the University of the Philippines Diliman (CSSP-UPD), Paul Hillegers of ALTERRA Green World Research, Leontine Visser, JPC member and Marc Lammerink, JPC Vice-Chair provided inputs on the history of development research in the Philippines, holistic landscape approach, lifescapes and mindscapes, and monitoring and evaluation of research projects, respectively.

Dr. Doracie Nantes, Associate Professor of the CSSP-UPD, presented a narrative on the methodological, ethical and evaluation issues in development research. She shared some of her experiences in undertaking research and identified the qualities of a development researcher. She stated that a researcher "should maintain a questioning mind especially in relation to the truthfulness of the method, presentation of results, and interpretation of the data gathered. A good researcher should be open to the

(continued on page 4)

JPC holds its 4th meeting

The BRP Joint Programme Committee (JPC) held its fourth meeting on 16-20 September 2002 in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental, Philippines. The meeting was conducted with back-to-back activities for the Mindanao researchers and the local stakeholders in the Mt. Malindang environs. A business meeting served as the culminating activity for the JPC members during the week.

JPC members, NSS/Programme Management Office (PMO) and Support and Liaison Office (SLO) staff, Dr. Paul Hillegers, Senior Researcher of ALTERRA, Mr. Paul Smits, Deputy Secretary of the Netherlands Development Assistance Research Council (RAWOO), and Ms. Yaa Peparah Amekudzi, JPC member of the Health Research Programme (HRP) in Ghana attended the meeting. Dr. Delfin J. Ganapin, Jr., as Chair of the JPC, presided the meeting.

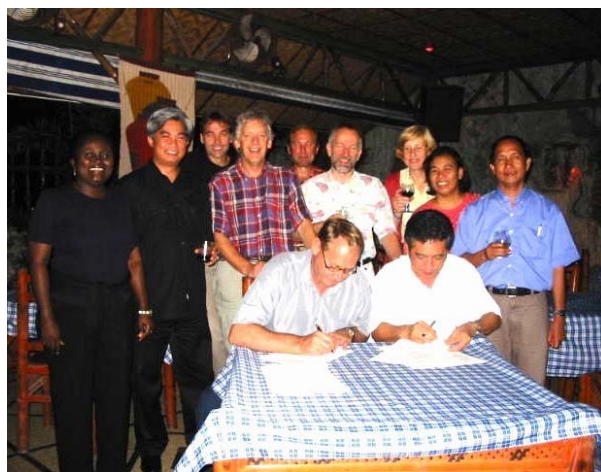
The JPC evaluated the six open concept proposals. Two were approved and regarded as action research while the rest will be integrated in the master projects. The selection was based on the following criteria: (1) location-derived and need based, (2) promoting multi-stakeholder participation, (3) systems oriented/interdisciplinary, (4) links to master proposal, and (5) the potential/quality of the proponent to be developed as researcher in Mindanao.

It was also decided during the meeting that an Integration Workshop be held on 5-10 November 2002 at SEARCA, College, Laguna to develop the full master project proposal for biodiversity research in Mt. Malindang and its

environs. The JPC then selected a multidisciplinary group of Mindanao-based researchers to participate in the workshop.

Dr. Emma M. Sabado reported the lessons and insights she got from her participation in the International Agricultural Center (IAC) – Integrated Pest Management (IPM) course. Mr. Paul Smits presented a programmatic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for the BRP, which highlighted the importance of developing BRP's own M&E instrument. Dr. Paul Hillegers discussed ALTERRA's role in the BRP, and Ms. Yaa Peparah Amekudzi, gave an overview of the HRP, a Ghanaian-Dutch collaboration for health research and development.

The meeting concluded with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SEARCA and ALTERRA, represented by Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Deputy Director for Professional Services and Administration, and Dr. Paul Hillegers, respectively. Both institutions have agreed to cooperate towards the fulfillment of BRP's objectives, specifically in undertaking research for biodiversity conservation and in strengthening capabilities for doing biodiversity research. ■



To formalize partnership between ALTERRA and SEARCA, Dr. Paul Hillegers, Senior Researcher of ALTERRA, and Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Deputy Director for Professional Services and Administration, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 20 September 2002. Witnesses are (L-R) Ms. Yaa Peparah Amekudzi of HRP Ghana; Dr. Delfin J. Ganapin, Jr., JPC Chair; Mr. René van Veenhuizen of SLO; Dr. Marc Lammerink, Vice-chair of JPC; Mr. Paul Smits of RAWOO; Dr. Lijbert Brussaard, JPC member; Dr. Leontine Visser, JPC member; Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, NSS Coordinator; and Dr. Victor B. Amoroso, JPC member.

Dr. Sabado attends IPM course in the Netherlands

Dr. Emma Sabado, a BRP researcher from Mindanao State University - Marawi attended a training programme on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) conducted by the International Agricultural Centre (IAC) on 22 April - 28 June 2002 in Wageningen, The Netherlands. Fifteen participants from different countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia attended the programme. The programme consisted of the following courses: (1) Introduction to IPM, (2) Participatory Extension of Sustainable Crop Protection, (3) Development of IPM Approaches, (4) Role of Pesticides in IPM, and (5) Literature Search.

Dr. Sabado expressed her great appreciation of the programme, especially on topics covering “Farmer Participatory IPM Research based on CABI Bioscience Experiences” and “The Role of Pesticides in IPM,” the exercise on literature search using literature retrieval software, which she said has helped her in the preparation of her second-generation research proposal, and the technical excursions, which she said has greatly exposed her to things she has never seen and experienced before. She added that her knowledge of IPM was enriched through her participation in the programme.

Dr. Sabado fully agrees with what Mr. Huub Stoetzer, IPM Coordinator emphasized, that “training courses like IPM transfer more than just information.” She said that the training course she attended provided an example of how information can be communicated and applied in a learning situation. She added that she gained a lot from the course, “knowledge- and experience-wise.”

Although she admits that what she experienced in the Netherlands cannot be duplicated in the Philippines due to various constraints, she still believes that there is much that can be done to help the indigenous people in managing their pest problems using the available local resources and in the conservation of biodiversity in the upland areas of Mt. Malindang. ■



Dr. Emma Sabado (standing, sixth from left) with the other participants of the training programme.



Lesson on tractor driving.

(BRP conducts...from page 3)

criticism and suggestion of others in order to improve her methodology and make her analysis and presentation of findings more critical and ingenious.” She concluded by emphasizing that development research is done “to contribute to the empowerment of people.”

Two group discussions were conducted in the workshop. The first was the identification of the kind of attitude or the qualities a BRP researcher must possess and the challenges he/she can face in the field. The following are the qualities drawn

from the discussion: (1) commitment and passion to pursue development research; (2) openness to unlearn and learn new habits and ideas; (3) the ability to reflect upon and monitor oneself; (4) emotional maturity and patience for the unfolding of long processes; (5) cultural sensitivity and respect for knowledge of others; and (6) competence.

The second was the evaluation of the proposed monitoring and evaluation instrument of Dr. Marc Lammerink. The researchers gave their comments and suggestions for its improvement,

which can be used for the assessment of BRP projects.

The Workshop concluded with a synthesis and the challenge to assert the mission of the BRP.

The Researchers’ Workshop was held in conjunction with the 4th Joint Programme Committee (JPC) Meeting. It also served as a venue to present highlights of the first-generation researchers and to defend second-generation concept proposals (master projects and open proposals). ■

RESEARCHERS' INTEGRATION WORKSHOP

Filipino and Dutch researchers develop integrated master programme

“We have reached a milestone.” Thus said Dr. Leontine Visser, JPC member on the fourth day of the Researchers’ Integration Workshop held on 5-10 November 2002 at SEARCA, College, Laguna. The workshop, which is a follow-up to the series of workshops organized



Filipino researchers and Dutch research partners worked together to develop the integrated master programme.

by Mindanao-based researchers in July-August 2002, aimed to finalize the second-generation studies into an integrated master programme. Fifteen Mindanao-based researchers as well as potential Dutch research partners participated in the workshop. JPC members acted as facilitators and resource persons.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Gil C. Saguiguit, Jr., SEARCA Deputy Director for Professional Services and Administration said, “If we do this (workshop) right, this will be a milestone in the continuing saga of the BRP.”

The six-day workshop centered on the following: (1) review of the BRP as a “research for development” programme; (2) analysis of the physical, biological, socio-cultural and economic characteristics of the landscape; (3) identification and mapping of threats, opportunities, and expressed needs within the Mt. Malindang landscape in relation to biodiversity management and conservation; (4) analysis of the “how” questions related to resolving priority issues and meeting urgent needs; (5) identification of the knowledge that would be needed in answering the “how” questions; and (6) development of the selected priority studies into full proposals.

Data and information in identifying priority issues and urgent needs of the local stakeholders came from the

analysis of satellite imageries and GIS maps, first-generation research findings, and information from Mr. Rolando Dingal, Protected Area Superintendent (PASU) and Mr. Andy Pestaño, Project Director, CARE-Agencies Working for Ecological Sustainability of Mt. Malindang’s Environs (AWESOME).

The knowledge identified in answering the “how” questions established the set of potential studies relevant for the landscape.

There were two proposals developed, one for aquatic environment, which included the Langaran and Layawan Rivers, two of the important rivers of the landscape, as well as the coastal ecosystems of the landscape; and another for terrestrial environment, which included the montane forest, upland farms and the lowlands.

Selected researchers, with support from Filipino JPC members, worked on improving the drafts and putting them together into the master programme.

MASTER PROGRAMME



FOR THE AQUATIC ASPECT OF THE LANDSCAPE

Contributing members:

Delfin Ganapin, Jr., Proserpina Gomez-Roxas, Grace Bacaltos, Erik de Ruyter van Steveninck, Aurelia Luzviminda Gomez, Marc Lammerink, Alita Roxas, Wilfredo Uy, Leontine Visser

Study 1. *Comparative Assessment of Langaran and Layawan Rivers for the Enhancement of a River Basin Management Plan*

Study 2. *Comprehensive Analysis of Ecological, Socio-Economic and Policy Factors for the Development of Strategies to Sustain Coastal Biodiversity and Improve Fish Stock Management*

Project Summary:

The knowledge gaps and issues from the “first-generation” researches on the coastal, river and riparian ecosystems in Mt. Malindang span from bio-physico-chemical to social dimensions. This project is proposed to address these gaps and issues because failure to do so will prevent us from formulating a more effective and relevant strategy towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The results of this project, together with the information and knowledge generated from the first-generation researches, will be used in making realistic actions that will enhance and conserve biodiversity and sustain development in the Mt. Malindang area.

Two major concerns affecting the aquatic ecosystems are addressed in this project, namely; the sustainability of the river systems and the poor state of fish stocks in the coastal waters. Langaran river and its basin is presently utilized for various purposes, to include, among others, quarrying, agriculture and construction of irrigation dams. The river has significant economic benefits but information from the first generation researches indicate threats to its sustainability. Such threats could have interlocking effects that run from the river basin to the coastal ecosystems. Although the poor state of fish stock in coastal ecosystems may or may not be

one of these effects, such poor state is a major concern of the study considering the proportion of people that are economically dependent on fish.

To address these concerns, water quality and quantity of the two rivers, land use patterns within the basin as well as food production systems and environmental conservation strategies within the impact areas of the dams will be assessed. Some bio-physico-chemical parameters and the prevailing socio-economic factors, and the Fisheries Code and related laws and ordinances that contribute to the poor state of fish stock will be assessed as well. Results of the assessment and the information that is already available will be used in enhancing a river management plan, in sustaining coastal biodiversity and in improving the management of fish stock in the area.

 **FOR THE TERRESTRIAL ASPECT OF THE LANDSCAPE**

Contributing members:

Delfin Ganapin, Jr., Victor Amoroso, Jose Arances, Janet Arlalejo, Myrna Ballentes, Renato Boniao, Gemma Constantino, Ron de Goede, Gloria Galan, Joy Jamago, Olga Nuñezza, Colin Ridsdale, Grace Villanueva

Study 1. *Assessment of Resource Diversity and Availability for Better Understanding and Management of Critical Resources*

Study 2. *Analysis of Significant Interrelationships of Critical Resources for Enhancing People’s Initiatives for Biodiversity Conservation*

Study 3. *Assessment of Scientific and Local Knowledge System (LKS) in Conserving and Managing Biodiversity for Community Level Capacity-Building*

Project Summary:

Study 1 is geared towards knowledge generation on the critical resources of Mt. Malindang so that a better understanding of resource diversity and availability in the area can lead to better management of these resources. These critical floral, faunal and soil biotic resources include the economically important species as well as those that are threatened. Pertinent but wanting and/or missing information will be gathered. Critical resources would include the biotic and abiotic resources of the selected sites that are threatened by species erosion because of unsustainable utilization (e.g., overutilization, overcollection), among others.

Study 2 aims to analyze and probe the interactions of various factors that affect and influence critical resources in Mt. Malindang so that knowledge gained will enhance local people's efforts in biodiversity conservation.

Study 3 intends to assess scientific and local knowledge systems in biodiversity conservation to be able to identify, recommend and develop concrete strategies to enhance the capability of the local communities and other relevant stakeholders (also using the outputs of Studies 1 and 2) towards the conservation and sound management of Mt. Malindang's biodiversity resources.

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“Every time I come back from a BRP meeting, I always have something new to share with my students.”
- Ms. Luz Gomez,
UP Mindanao

MVT gives orientation to faculty of Mindanao institutions

Dr. Mariliza V. Ticsay, National Support Secretariat (NSS) Coordinator, visited 11 Mindanao research institutions (University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), UP Mindanao, SPAMAST, DOSCST, MU, MSU-IIT, MSU-Naawan, Surigao del Norte College of Agriculture and Technology (SNCAT), Northern Mindanao State Institute of Science and Technology (NORMISIST), BSC, and CMU) on 3-16 December 2002 to give an orientation of the BRP to its faculty members.

The orientation started with an overview of the BRP, which included the development of the programme, its objectives, unique features, programme components, management structure, and first-generation research projects.

After the overview, Dr. Ticsay then proceeded to explain the master projects, the mechanics on how researchers could participate in its implementation, the criteria for the selection of researchers to implement the master projects, and the timeline of the programme’s activities for January and February 2003. An invitation to submit letters of intent were given out to the Director of Research of each institution for distribution to interested faculty members.

Faculty members who are already involved in the BRP were asked to share their insights and lessons learned in their participation in the programme. Ms. Aurelia Luzviminda Gomez of UP Mindanao said, “Every time I come back from a BRP meeting, I always have something new to share with my students.”

SAMU'T-SARI is the official publication of the BRP. Its name was derived from the Pilipino term for biodiversity which is “*samu't-saring uri ng buhay.*” *Samu't-sari* means variety.

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