

Participatory Development of Indigenous People in the Bataan Natural Park

SLIDES PRESENTATION

Learning Case: Participatory Development of Indigenous People in the Bataan Natural Park

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Abstract

- The Aytas are considered to be among the most disadvantaged among indigenous tribes of the Philippines.
- With a shrinking forest cover and degradation of what remains, the traditional way of hunting and gathering from the forest has become much less productive.
- A survey done by Motin et al. (Indigenous Perspectives, 2006) in 2005 showed that the Aytas of Kanawan get by with only \$0.47 per day per person.

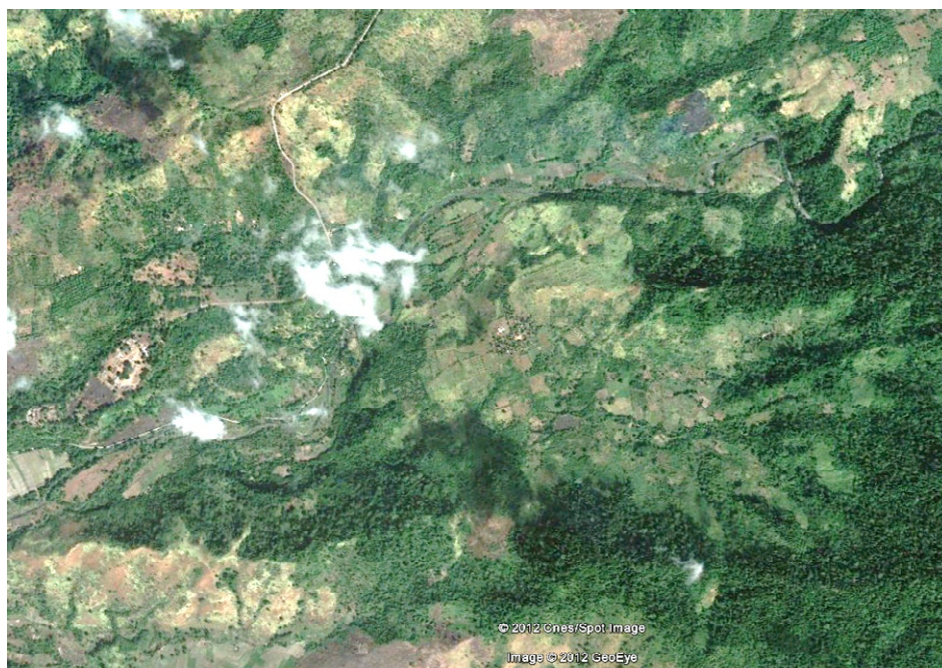
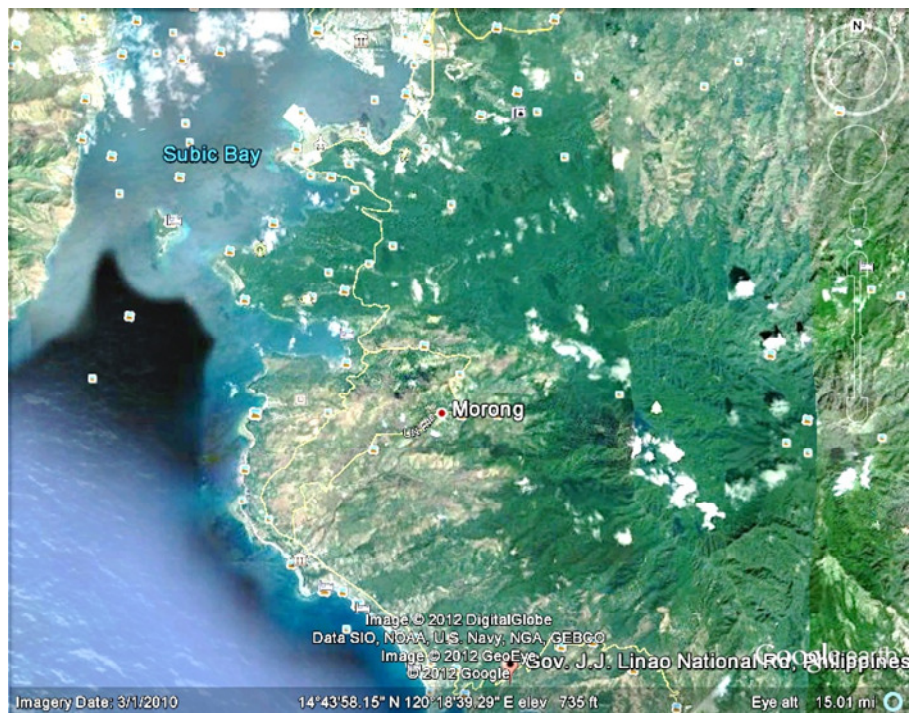
Abstract

- Groups of Aytas were given training in basic financial management in preparation for livelihood activities.
- Assertion of IP rights on their ancestral domain has led to increased employment of Aytas in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.
- Earnings from fruit trees and other crops produced within the 227-hectare reservation and gathered from the forest have increased but the productivity remains low.

Abstract

- **Empowerment of Aytas initially involved education with respect to their rights and responsibilities followed by guided discussions on how to preserve their cultural heritage.**
- **Subsequently, they actively participated in the formulation of a project to conserve the forest and establish sustainable means of livelihood.**
- **The project involved their education on the importance of biodiversity, training in parataxonomy, forest inventory, biodiversity assessment, production of seedlings of indigenous forest trees, reforestation, ecorestoration, and forest protection.**







THE AYTA COMMUNITY

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graph TD; PK[Pangkatatubong Kapulungan] --> KM[Konseho ng Matatanda]; KM --> PA[Pamunuan ng Tribo]; KM --> CA[Committee on Audit]; PA --> CF[Committee on Finance]; PA --> C1[Committee on Environment]; PA --> C2[Committee on Culture & Education]; PA --> C3[Committee on Agriculture]; PA --> C4[Committee on Peace & Order]; PA --> C5[Committee on Livelihood]; PA --> C6[Committee on Health]; PA --> C7[Committee on Infrastructure]; PA --> C8[Committee on Tourism];
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The diagram illustrates the organizational structure of the Pangkatatubong Kapulungan. At the top is the Pangkatatubong Kapulungan, which oversees the Konseho ng Matatanda. The Konseho ng Matatanda oversees the Pamunuan ng Tribo and the Committee on Audit. The Pamunuan ng Tribo oversees the Committee on Finance and eight other committees: Committee on Environment, Committee on Culture & Education, Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Peace & Order, Committee on Livelihood, Committee on Health, Committee on Infrastructure, and Committee on Tourism.

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The Magbukún Aytas of Kanawan (2001-2004)

VERY LOW EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Only 4 HS graduates out of ~300 Aytas

POOR HEALTH STATUS

**High infant mortality
Malnutrition**

EXTREME POVERTY (\$0.47/person/day)

**Loss of livelihood from forest
Very high unemployment rate**

Aytas' tale of declining honey yield

"Unats" started gathering honey from BNP in 1989

- **Up to about 1989-1990**
 - **Aytas were able to find ~10 hives/day in ~1 hectare of forest**
 - **Beehives usually ~ 6 ft long, yielding ~60 L of honey**
- **Today**
 - **only one hive & sometimes none found after roaming 5 to 10 hectares in a day or two.**
 - **Hives only ~2.5 ft long & contain only 4 – 8 L of honey**



Rural LINC Program

Mobilize S&T to reduce poverty

- **Empower and mobilize the “natural stewards” of forest resources, the IPs**
- **Improve productivity & sustainability**
 - **Develop high value goods from non-timber forest products**
 - **Embark on bioprospecting and natural products R&D to find the hidden molecular treasures in bioresources**
 - **Study scientific basis for sustainable productivity**

The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA, Republic Act 8371)

Enacted to “recognize, protect and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities/ indigenous people”.

By 2004, the Aytas have heard about IPRA but had only a vague idea about its provisions.

Barriers:

- **IPRA is written in English**
- **The Aytas have very low educational status**

EMPOWERING AYTAS AS “STEWARDS” OF THE FOREST

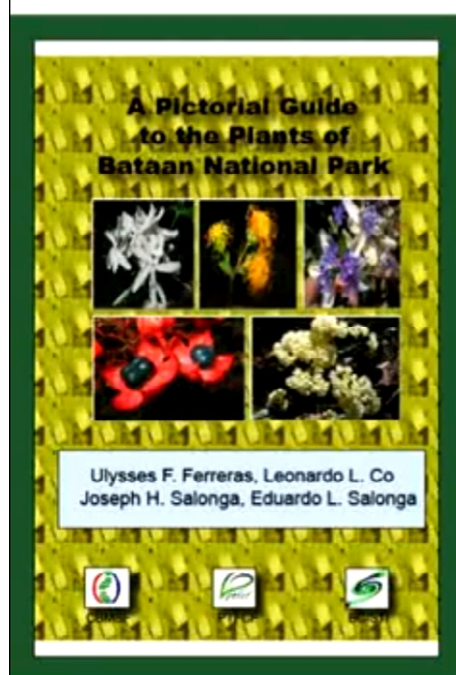
- Community consultations - FPIC
- Education/Information dissemination
 - IP rights & responsibilities
 - biodiversity & conservation
- Motivation & mobilization
- Sustainable livelihood/ other incomes
 - Utilization of non-timber forest products
 - Employment in SBMA
 - Bioprospecting – IPR & benefit sharing re traditional medicine



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & ECORESTORATION



c/o Ulysses Ferreras, Field Biologist



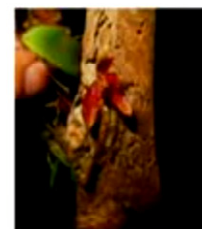
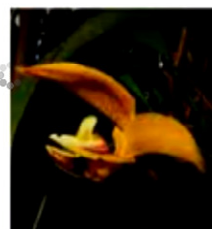
Authors:

UF Ferreras – Field Botanist

LL Co – Senior Botanist

JH Salonga – Ayta Tribal Leader

EL Salonga – one of few remaining Aytas with a deep & intimate knowledge of the plants & animals of Bataan



L: *Bulbophyllum dearei*, a new record for Luzon Is

R: *Bulbophyllum catenulatum*, new record for Bataan Peninsula

Bioprospecting (c/o Dr. Grace Yu)

Limuran (*Calamus ornatus*), a species of rattan



Traditional food of Aytas
& remedy for diarrhea

Bioactivities found:
Anti-motility
Anti-inflammatory
Anti-cancer

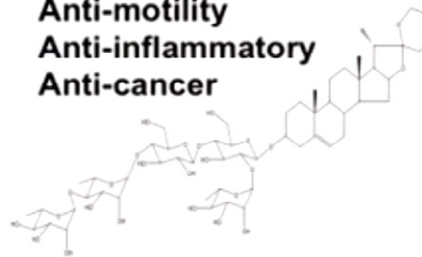
Compounds isolated:

Diosgenin

Spirostanol Saponin 1

Spirostanol Saponin 2

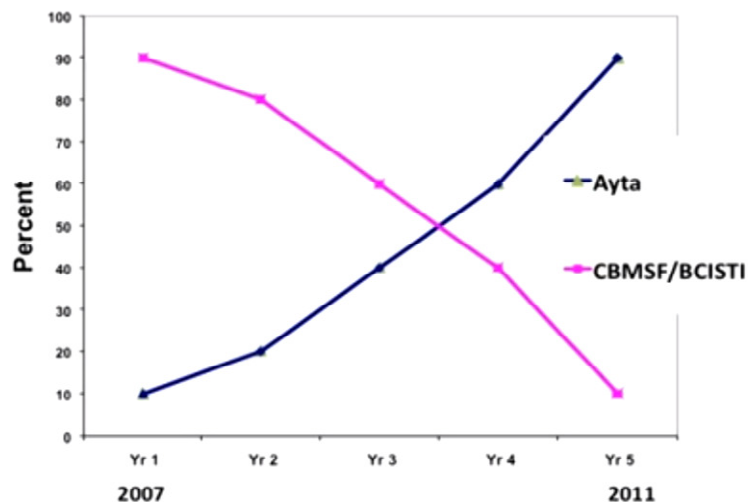
Spirostanol Saponin 3- most promising compound



Product development → commercialization

→ profit sharing/royalties

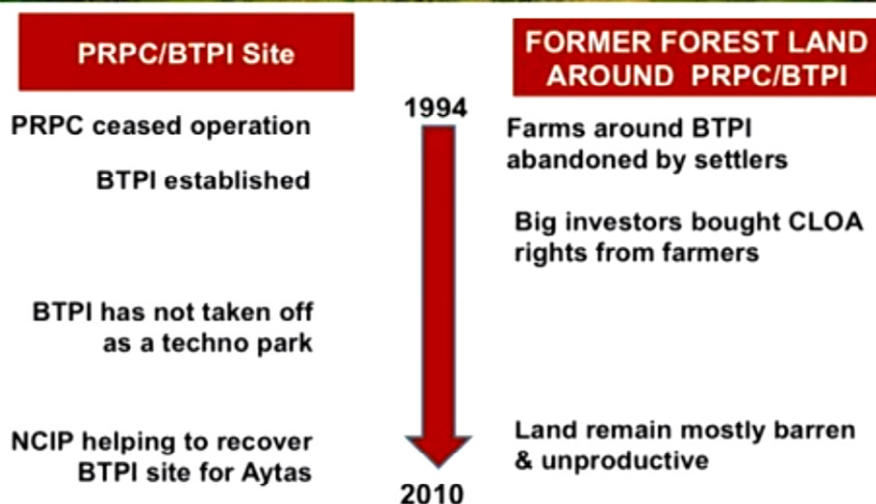
Transfer of Conservation management to Aytas



Once management is transferred to the Aytas, how can the effort become sustainable?

How can one institutionalize their role as stewards of the forest?

RECOVERY DIFFICULT BEYOND THE TIPPING POINT



AYTA'S LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES BASED ON NTFPs

- ❖ Honey gathering
- ❖ Ecotourism & Cultural presentations
- ❖ Sale of vegetables & fruit trees
- ❖ Food processing – Instant teas
- ❖ Sale of seedlings of forest trees
- ❖ Handicraft – using seeds of wild plants & trees

SET UP OF MARKETING OUTLET

BIGKIS Pasalubong & Souvenir Store
 Joint effort of
 Aytas, fishermen & farmers

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- **Community must be consulted & involved to ensure sustainable development.**
- **An objective tool must be used to assess impact of development interventions.**
- **It is extremely difficult to restore once the situation is beyond the tipping point. Conserve biodiversity & the environment!**



SCDI

Issues and Concerns

- **There are an increasing number of outsiders (“unats”) who have filtered into the Magbukun ancestral domain, and this trend will likely continue into the future.**
 - **How can community well-being be promoted in light of this infusion of settlers and Magbukun intermarriages with lowlanders?**



- **Many development agencies and organizations with their own organizational missions and interests have engaged the Magbukun community with projects.**
 - **How can the collective impact of development interventions from the outside by national and local government agencies, civic organizations (e.g. Rotary Clubs), non-governmental organizations (Earthday Foundation, etc.), business groups (buyers of community produce) be purposively achieved?**

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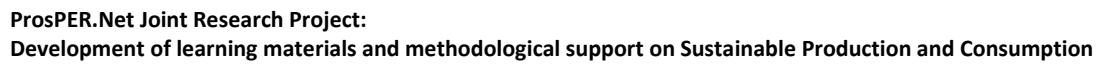


- **The Magbukun tribe need tribal leaders who are competent in facilitating participatory community decision-making, linking with development intermediaries, facilitating community collaboration and resolution of conflict, etc.**
 - **How can effective and responsive community governance be attained and sustained?**
 - **How can opportunities for developing community leadership be generated?**



- **How can the culture and language of the Magbukun be propagated among the young and documented for appreciation by outsiders?**





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- **The Magbukun community is exposed to annual risks of cogon fire that destroy their crops and orchards. How can natural and man-made disasters be prevented and the risks managed?**





- **The transport of farm produce and non-timber forest products from Kanawan involves bringing the goods down an incline then across the narrow Hanging Bridge to the paved road.**
 - **What can be done to help the Aytas in transporting goods to and from Kanawan?**







- **The literacy rate among the Magbukun is low. They do not have the facility nor the habit to document processes and decisions. They are unable to generate and share data for planning and decision-making (inventory of family and community assets and socio-economic conditions).**
 - **How can community interaction and decision-making processes be facilitated?**
 - **Can information and communication technology (ICT) assist in this concern?**



- **The handling of finances has always been a problem among Ayta families.**
 - **How can they be prevented from entering into usurious loan arrangements?**

- **How can the development of the Magbukún Aytas in Kanawan be facilitated so they can rise from extreme poverty to moderate poverty and beyond?**



Large-scale charcoal production (observed in other Magbukun tribes)



“Large-scale charcoal production in itself is an unsustainable practice and is even against the law. The Aytas, however, reason out that charcoal making is a traditional practice of theirs and that only dead and dried forest trees are used.”

<http://pehfphilippines.com/projects_research.html>

- **How can S&T-based microenterprises be created to accelerate progress in Kanawan?**



- **What policies and guidelines can be set to replicate the effort in other poor IP communities?**

- **What good practices, policies and guidelines in other poor IP communities can be replicated in Kanawan?**

















Gathering and hunting Activities



- Foraging for wild tubers, freshwater shellfish
- Trapping red ungle fowl (labuyo)
- Hunting and trapping wild boar, monkeys, and deer

End of Presentation

Planting

- **Fruit trees: mangoes, jack fruit, guava, atis, banana, coconut, papaya**
- **Root crops: sweet potatoes & cassava**
- **Other crops: peanut, corn & miscellaneous vegetables**

Demographics (2010 Survey)

- **Total population: 403**
- **Number of households: 89**
- **Kulots (“pure” Aytas): 43.2 %**
- **Mestiza/o (from mixed marriages): 24.6%**
- **Unats (non-Aytas): 32.2%**

Most recent survey showed a population over 500, approaching 600.

The Magbukún Aytas of Bataan

- 600 population
- 115 families
- 21 receiving CCT

The Magbukún Aytas of Bataan

- One of the 5 main groups of Ayta tribes in Central Luzon
- Least known of the Ayta groups

Religious Practices

“The Ayta Magbukun believes in Diyos (God) as the Supreme Being.

“Exposure to Christianity has had much influence in the religious practices of the tribe.”

...

“Preferences toward various Christian groups range from Catholic to Protestant, often depending upon the favorability of the current priest or individuals ministering among them.

Despite the many outside influences, the Ayta's have retained their traditional perspectives, interweaving the new with their cultural beliefs.”

...

“*Anito* or spirits are believed to dwell in both the physical and meta-physical world, in the rocks, trees, rivers, in the underworld, in the clouds, and in their *nawini*, the Ayta physical body.”

- http://pehphilippines.com/projects_research.html

Impact of Power, Transport, Communications, Electricity

	Positive	Negative
Electricity	Lighted houses; livelihood tools; Radio and television for news	Entertainment: Videoke Conspicuous consumption
Roads	Access to market and jobs, social visits; Access to government services Wider dispersion of members	Intrusion by corporate and other outsiders (mining, logging, informal settlers)
Cell phones	Family communications, training & employment opportunities Facilitate communication & collaboration with assisting groups/agencies	Openness to unsavory external influences and conflict of interest with tribe; loss of cultural integrity