

Landscape Governance Forum

Landscape Governance and Indigenous Peoples¹

¹ This material was presented by Dave De Vera of the Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID) during the Landscape Governance Forum held in June 2019 in Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental in Northern Mindanao, Philippines as part of the project on *Improving Tenure Security of Smallholder Farmers in Select Areas in the Philippines*. This project is implemented by the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) in partnership with Xavier Science Foundation, Inc. (XSF), with technical support from Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) as facilitated by the UN-Habitat. The initiative aims to secure the tenure of about 2,500 households of indigenous peoples in two municipalities in Bukidnon, Northern Mindanao. This project is funded by German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development/BMZ and UN-Habitat as part of the “Secure Access to Land and Resources (SALaR)” program. The views indicated in this material do not necessarily reflect those of the GLTN and BMZ.



Landscape Governance and Indigenous Peoples

Dave De Vera
2019



Landscape Governance is not new.....



Similar approaches has been practiced by Indigenous Communities for hundreds if not thousands of years. (M. Ferrari)

Elements of Indigenous Governance

Indigenous territories have a range of diverse but inter-related ecological systems. (M. Ferrari)



Awuyuk; Sacred lakes and waters of the Ancestral Domains of the Tagbanwa in Coron



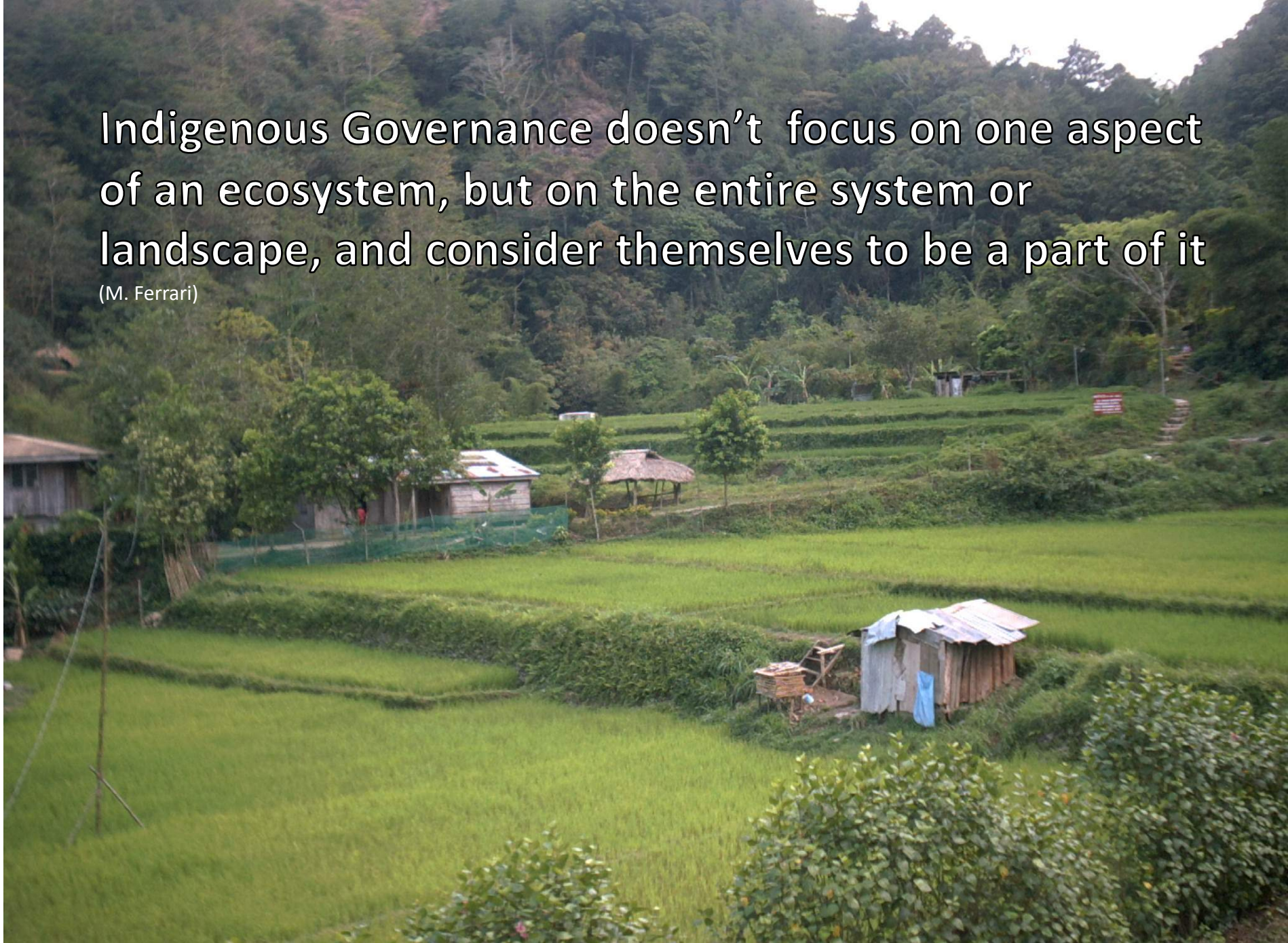
The Tayan; community micro watersheds in Mt. Province



The Muyong of the Ifugao

Indigenous Governance doesn't focus on one aspect of an ecosystem, but on the entire system or landscape, and consider themselves to be a part of it

(M. Ferrari)



Most importantly,
the relationship
between the natural
environment and
human communities
plays a central role in
of the Governance of
the Indigenous
Landscape (M. Ferrari)



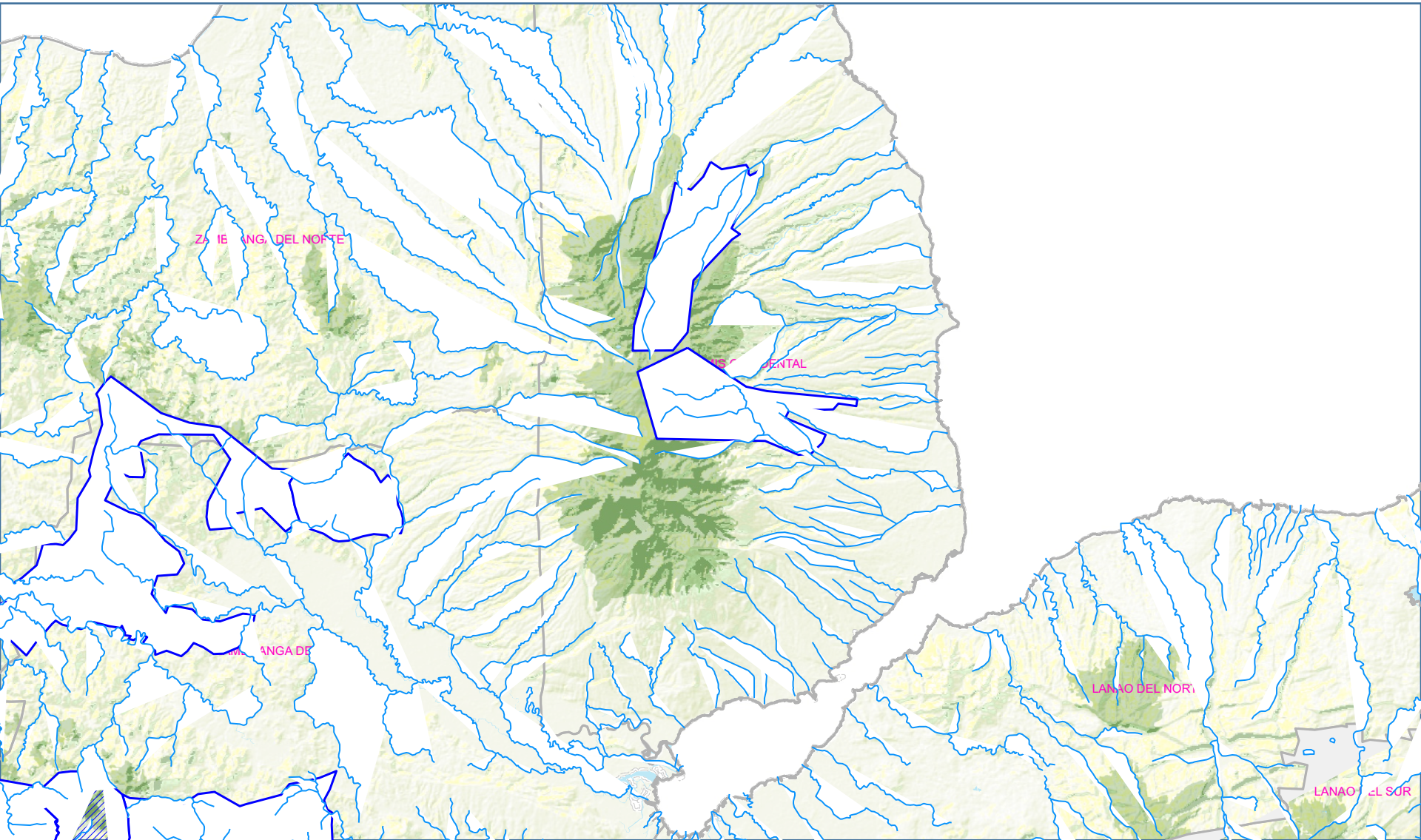
Features of Ancestral Domains and Indigenous Territories

- Ancestral Domains go beyond Political Boundaries



- Extents of Ancestral Domains are usually defined by natural geographic features

Mt. Malindang



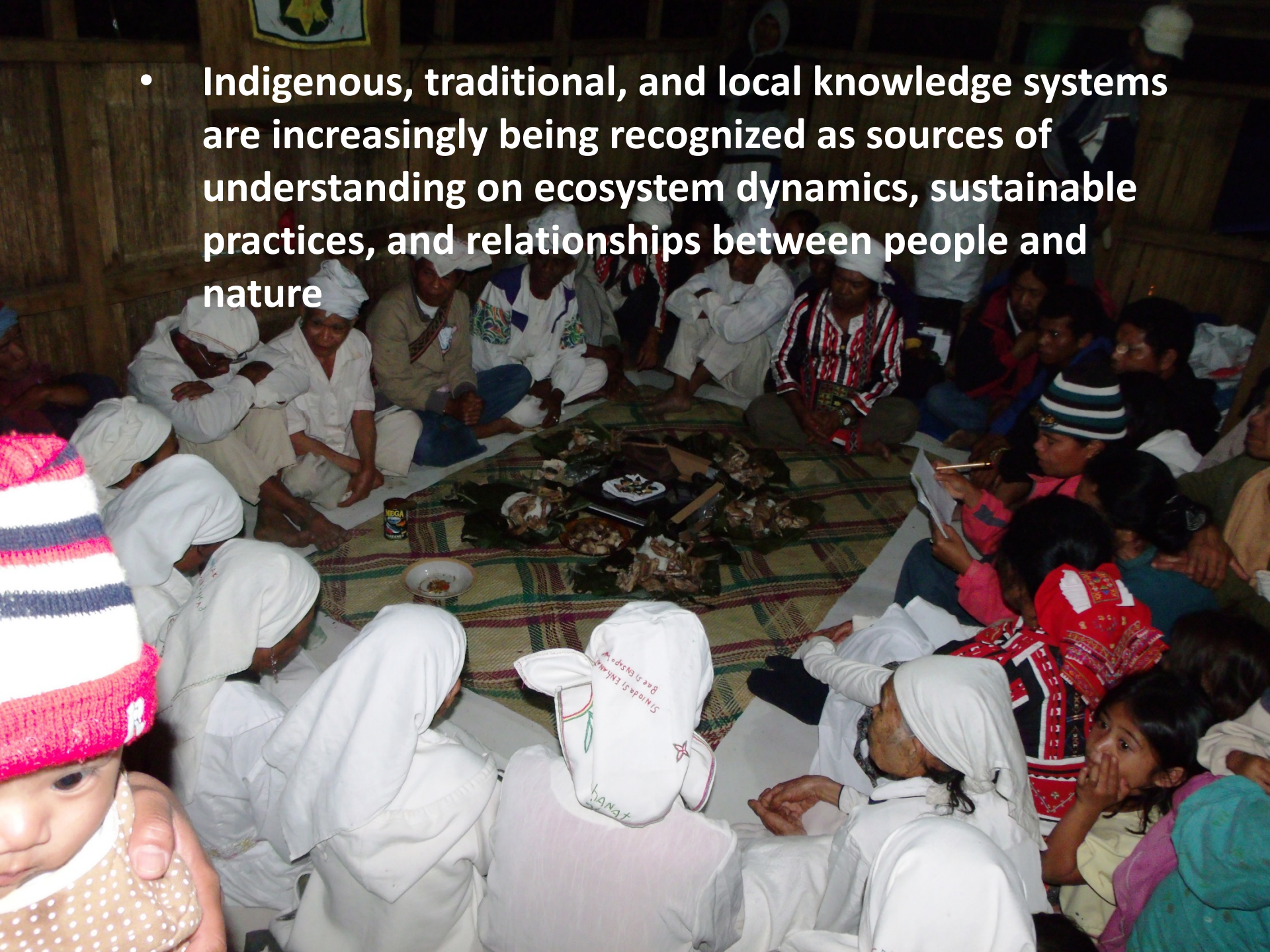


The boundaries and extents of Ancestral Domains/Indigenous territories are products of lifelong relationships, historical agreements, common experiences and shared governance of resources.

Significant contributions of Indigenous Governance

- Indigenous Peoples bring knowledge diversity to landscape governance..
- Traditional Knowledge bring new levels of definition or understanding of the landscape approach.
- Traditional Knowledge highlights the very close and balanced relationship between the various values and dimensions (physical, social, political, spiritual) of managing a territory in a holistic way. (M. Ferrari)

- Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge systems are increasingly being recognized as sources of understanding on ecosystem dynamics, sustainable practices, and relationships between people and nature



- Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge systems are increasingly being recognized as sources of understanding on ecosystem dynamics, sustainable practices, and interdependencies between people and nature



Indigenous Governance of has served as the main driver in protection and conservation of the environment and a venue for the assertion of Traditional Knowledge.



Forest Cover

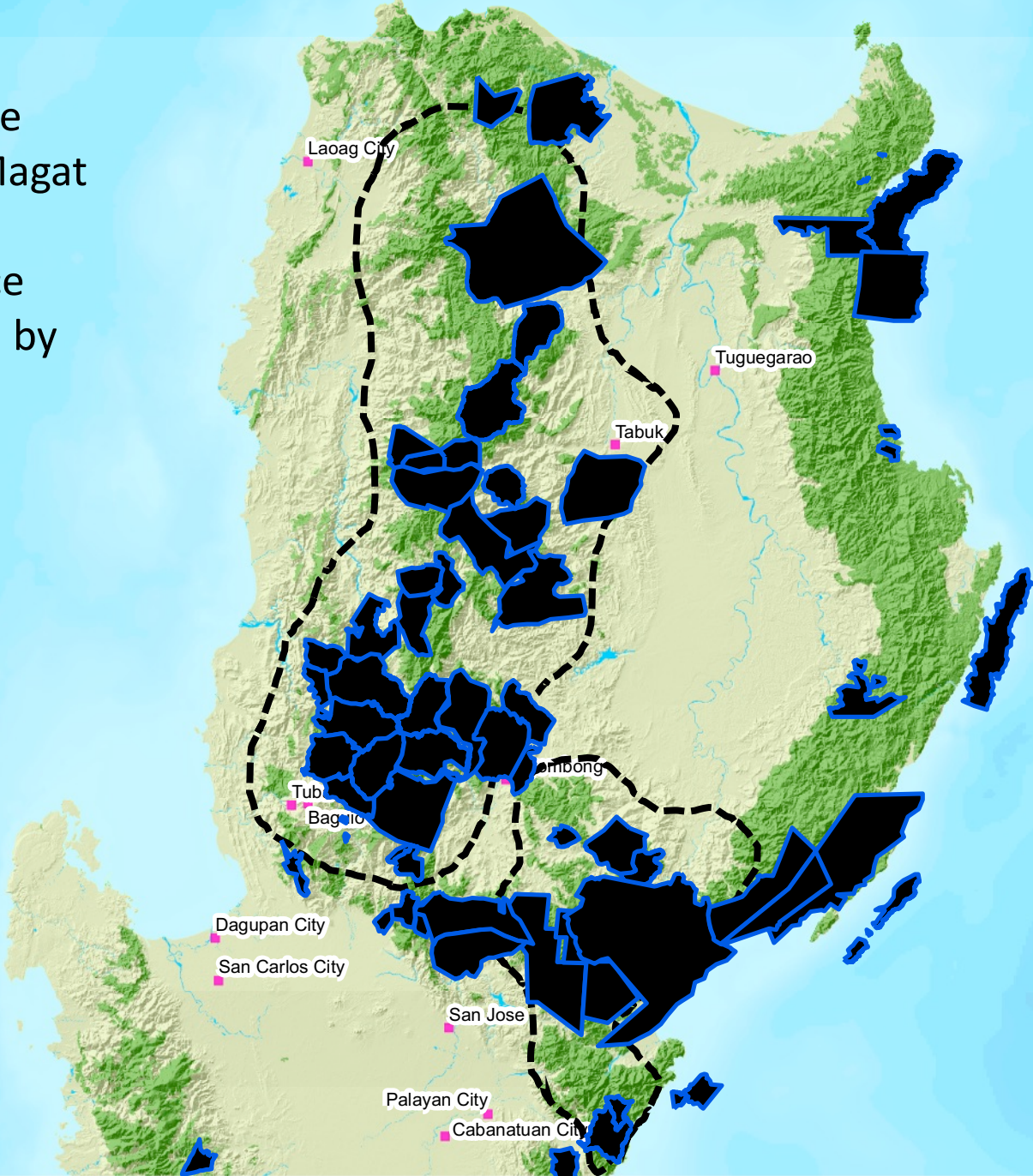
Key Biodiversity Areas

Parks/Protected Areas

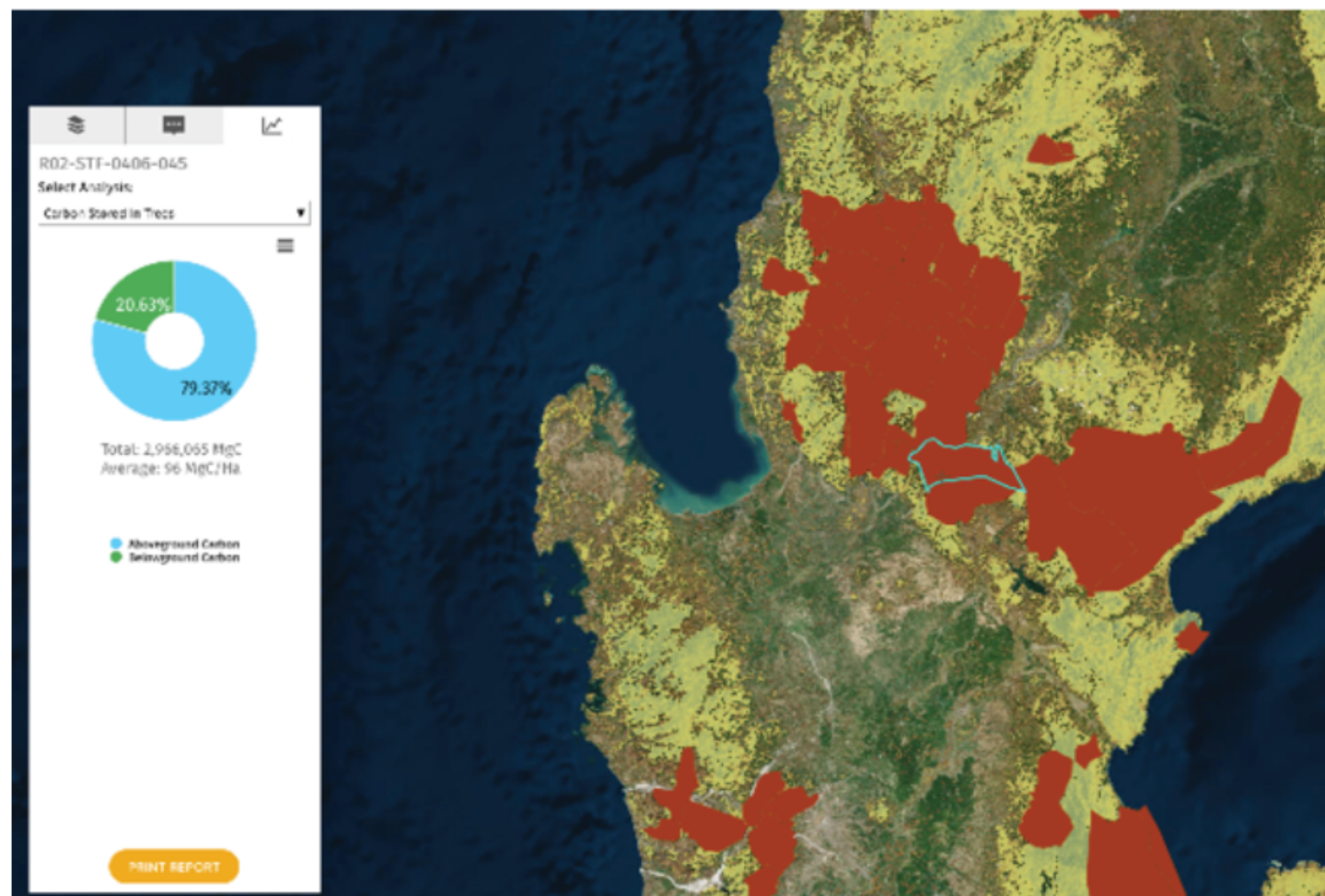
Ancestral Domains



The Major watersheds of the Agno River basin and the Magat Dam that provides water to thousands of hectares of rice lands are actually Governed by Indigenous Communities



The Philippines' Ikahalan People Hold Nearly 3 Million Tonnes of Carbon in Their Land, Equivalent to Yearly Emissions from 2.3 Million Cars



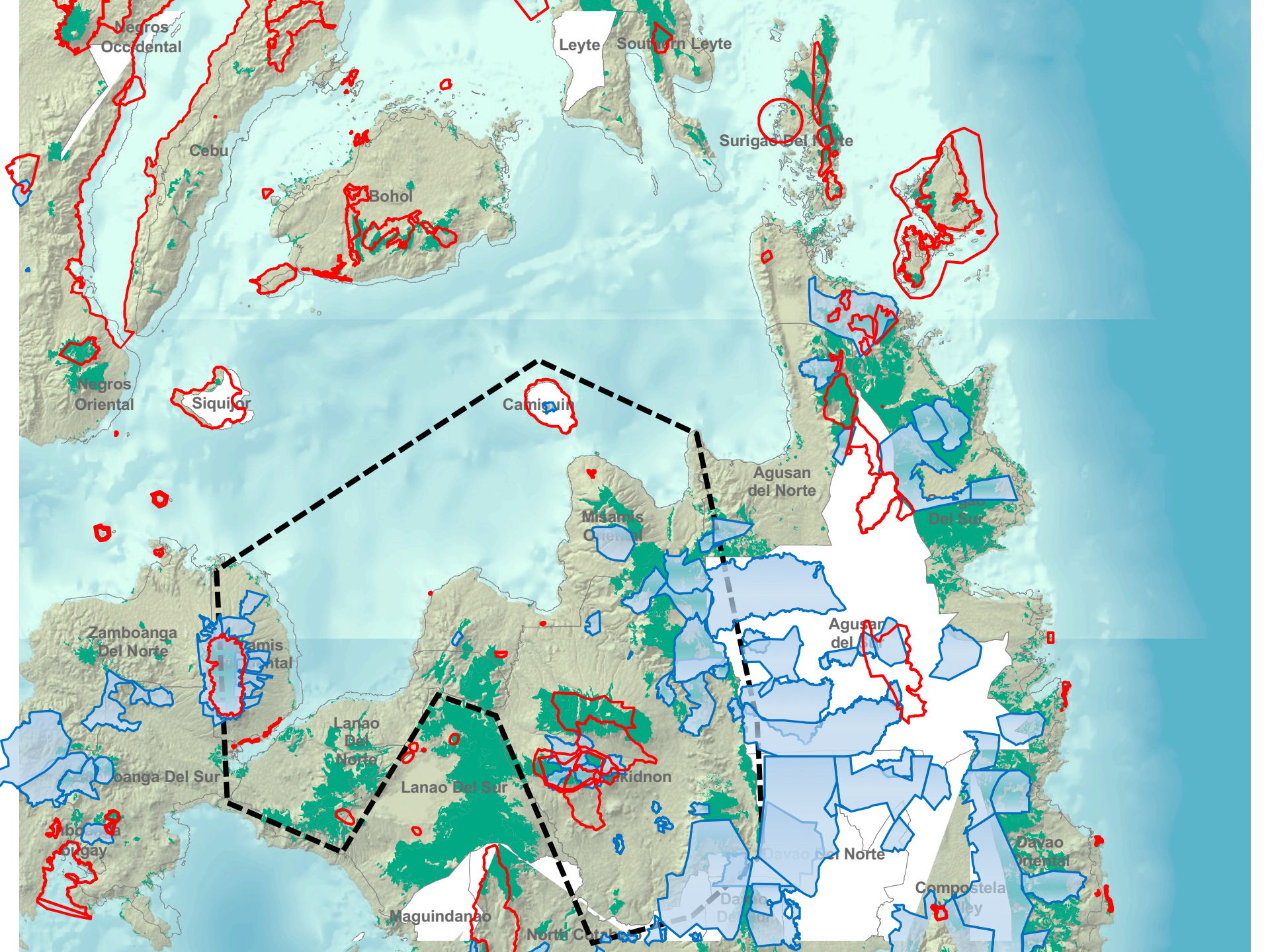
Ancestral Domains in Region 10

CADT No.	Indigenous Community	No. of Rights holders	Area
1. R10-TAL-0703-0010	Talaandig	4,922	11,105.57
2. R10-KIT-0703-0011	Matigsalug-Manobo	24,405	102,324.82
3. R10-QUE-0204-018	Manobo	1,398	1,595.29
4. R10-BAL-1005-036	Higaonon	1,247	14,872.42
5. R10-IMP-1206-054	Higaonon	1,484	14,313.76
6. R10-MLY-0906-049	Bukidnon	1,154	4,536.05
7. R10-MLY-1008-083	Bukidnon	2,867	466.74
8. R10-CLA-1008-084	Higaonon	404	18,028.64
9. R10-ORO-0309-105	Subanen	2360	6,980.00
10. R10-MLY-0309-106	Bukidnon	833	4,203.09
11. R10-IMP-0309-107	Higaonon	237	113.68
12. R10-MLY-0609-110	Bukidnon-Higaonon	8,853	36,464.71
13. R10-CAB-0709-124	Bukidnon Umayamnon	1,483	8,106.13
14. R10-CLA-0709-126	Higa-onon (MAMACILA)	1,977	17,588.28
15. R10-MLY-0110-152	Bukidnon-Pulangiyen	1,586	1,662.35
Total		55,210	242,361.53

Ancestral Domains

CADT No.	No. of Rights holders	Area
1. R10-MLI-0906-000142	55	102.7400
2. R10-MLY-0906-000143	67	257.9450
3. R10-OPO-0709-000225	427	52.0000
4. R10-VAL-0110-000249	1,487	944.5276
5. R10-MAR-0210-000259	70	567.7188
Total	2,106	1,924.9314

As of 2013, the NCIP has awarded 15 Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles and 5 Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles (CALT) covering a combined total area of 244,286.46 Hectares benefitting at least 57,316 rights holders.



Challenges and Concerns

Today, Philippines is losing a very broad range of Traditional Knowledge Systems along with a lifestyle and culture that has been successful in managing natural resources and environmentally critical areas for a very long time.



Limited Understanding of IP Governance and Traditional Knowledge

- Indigenous knowledge often is not fully understood and taken seriously by scientists and policymakers.
- Limits the power of Indigenous Peoples to effectively participate in landscape studies that shape policy decisions
- Often, participation of IPs in collaborative planning is more a function of tokenism rather than of genuine belief and recognition.

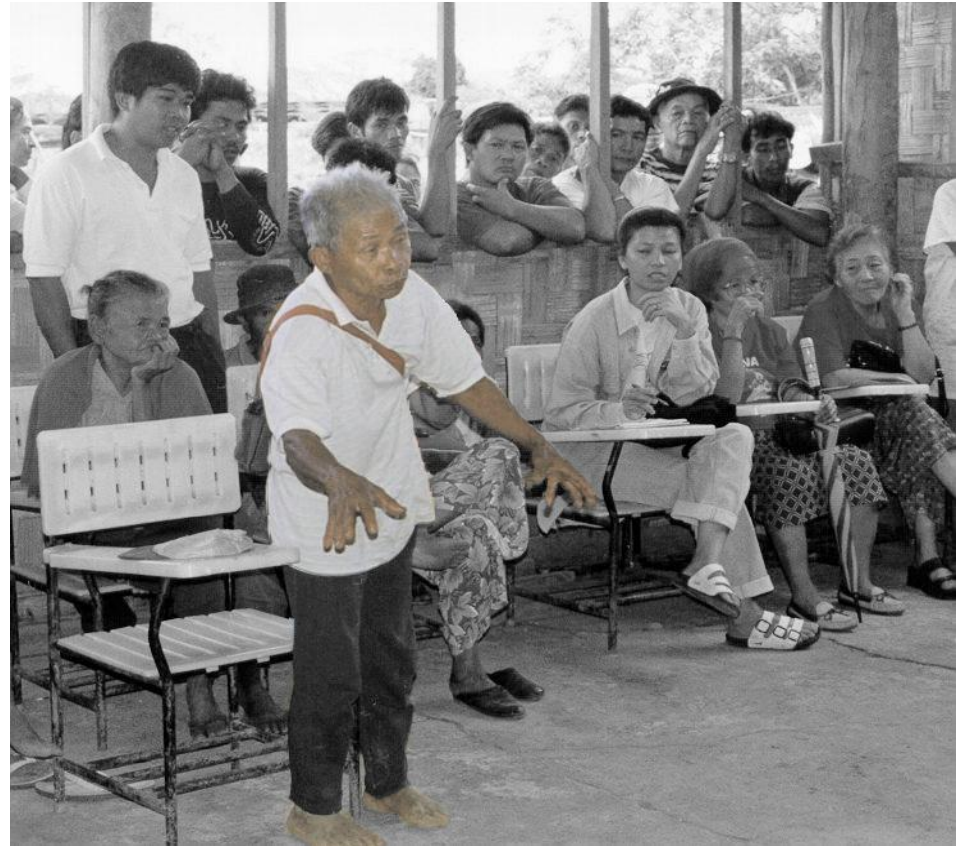
Limited Understanding of IP Governance and Traditional Knowledge

- Scientist often have a difficulty in understanding and accepting indigenous groups who assert the primacy of cultural and spiritual values in the Governance of their Landscape.



While the contribution and effectivity of Indigenous Governance is slowly being accepted and recognized.

Governmental Programs, Policies and our Political System play a major role in further eroding the weakening of IP Governance.



Harmonization of competing interests, plans and structures

- The rush to “HARMONIZE” plans force state actors to Generalize which tend to minimize the role and rights of IPs in the Governance of the Landscape.
- Structures that are established to facilitate co-management and joint planning often introduce a system alien to IPs and result in the dilution of their right and capacity to exercise their Traditional Governance of their Ancestral Domains.

Ways Forward

- Facilitate the activities that generate more information on Traditional Knowledge and Governance.
- Advocate for Legal and policy measures, most crucially towards recognizing indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights to territory, natural resources, and collective governance, respect of customary knowledge and practices.



Ways Forward

- Support and initiate activities and policies towards recognizing Traditional Governance and Knowledge as valid conservation initiatives.
- Promote Social recognition of conservation, cultural, and livelihood values of Traditional Governance of Ancestral Domains, through public exposure, awards, media coverage, and other such actions.

Ways Forward

- Facilitation for advocacy and networking, both among indigenous peoples governing their Ancestral Domains and among support groups.
- Conduct and initiate joint activities with IPs to educate, inform and sensitize planners and policy makers on Traditional Knowledge Governance.