



Poverty and the Philippine Environment

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Outline

- Natural Resources
- Environmental Crisis
- Poverty
- Environmental Advocacy

Rich Natural Resource Base,
Skilled Forces of Production

FORESTS



The Philippine forests are among the most **diverse** in the world.

FORESTS

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT



- World's richest plant and animal species
- Global biodiversity rankings: 2nd (fishes), 5th (plants, trees, and mammals), and 8th (reptiles)
 - 8,120 species of flowering plants
 - 3,500 species of indigenous trees
 - 33 species of gymnosperms
 - 640 species of mosses
 - 2,400 species and sub-species of fish
 - 3,000 species of plants which are endemic to the Philippines
- While the rest of the whole world discovers 1 specie per Taxa (family) per year, the Philippines discovers 5 or 6 specie per taxa per year

FORESTS



Source of:

- Food
- Water
- Clean air
- Electricity
- Shelter
- Livelihood

MINERALS



Philippines has rich mineral resources for national industrialization.

MINERALS



5th mineralized country worldwide
 9 million hectares (30%) of land:
 13 metallic ores
 4.7 BMT (02)
 29 non-metallic
 15 BMT
 Philippine production
 Gold (2nd)
 Copper (3rd)

AGRICULTURE



The Philippines has vast land resources suitable for agriculture.

AGRICULTURE

- 14.2 million hectares of alienable and disposable land – 47% of the country's total land area
- 13 million hectares or 43% of total land area are classified as agricultural lands
- 10.3 million hectares of prime agricultural lands
 - More than half allocated to rice and corn production



AGRICULTURE

1,210 species of agricultural plants:

- 477 have food value
- 363 feed value
- 627 medicinal/herbal value
- 201 ornamental value
- 35 valued as fiber crops



FRESHWATER RESOURCES



The Philippines has **rich** water resources due to its geographic location.

WATER RESOURCE CRISIS



Inland bodies of flowing water: 421 rivers, 69+ natural lakes, 100,000+ hectares of freshwater swamps, 4 major groundwater reservoirs

Rainfall usually abundant, regular.

Potentially, RP has 226 MCM of freshwater sources.

Potential to provide:

- domestic/industrial needs
- waste disposal systems
- transportation/navigational pathways.

MARINE RESOURCES



The Philippines is **richest** in marine biodiversity and has the longest discontinuous coastline and one of the richest coral reefs in the world.

DECLINING MARINE RESOURCES

- RP regarded as "Center of Marine Biodiversity" in the world, surpassing the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.
- Around 2,500 fish species
- Rich coral reefs, with 488 out of 800 known species worldwide
- Longest discontinuous coastline worldwide
- 24 major fishing bays and gulfs, half of these have annual yield levels of 50 metric tons



Rich Natural Resource Base +
Skilled Forces of Production =

Potential for national industrialization, self-sufficiency, sovereignty, and prosperity, away from debt, hunger, and poverty

Environmental Crisis

Plunder of Natural Resources

DEFORESTATION

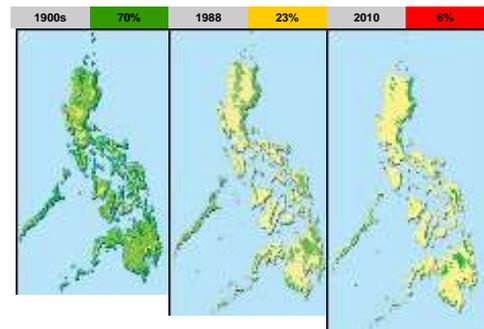
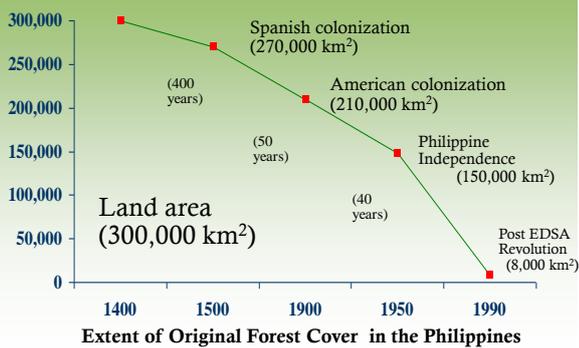


The Philippine forests are among the most **diverse** in the world but also among the most **endangered**.

DEFORESTATION

- Forest cover was reduced from 70% in 1909 to only 18.3% in 1999. Ideal = 54%
- 1900s: 21 million hectares (70% of total land area)
- 1988: 6 million hectares (Luzon, 49%, Visayas, 10%, Mindanao, 40%)
- 1999: 800,000 hectares
- +93% of original forests lost in past 500 years
- Still shrinking at an average rate of 2% per year

Philippine forests reduced from 70% (1909) to 18.3% (1999)

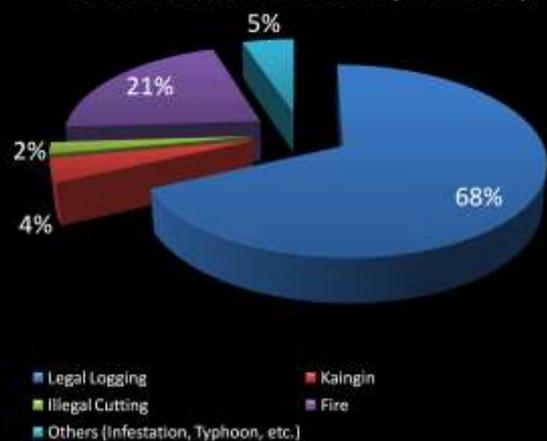


The causes of deforestation

- Corporate, large-scale logging
- Massive forest conversion
- Illegal logging by legal licensees and non-licensees
- Unsustainable forest management



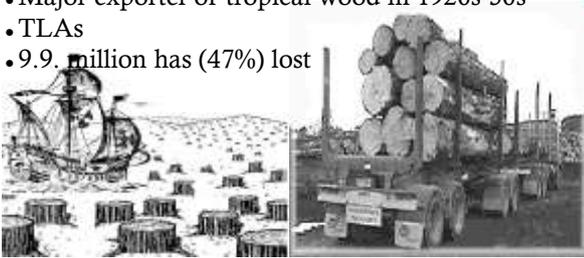
DEFORESTATION BY CAUSES (1981-2002)



The causes of deforestation

COLONIAL PLUNDER OF RESOURCES

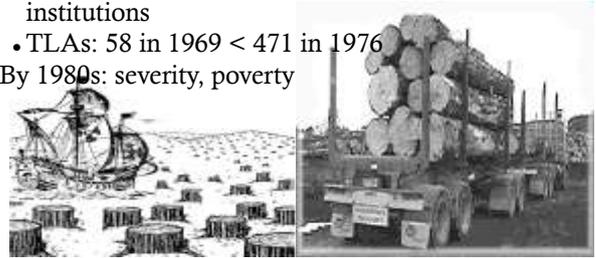
- Spanish occupation
- American occupation
- Major exporter of tropical wood in 1920s-30s
- TLAs
- 9.9 million has (47%) lost



The causes of deforestation

Foreign subservient government

- Marcos dictatorship
 - Unregulated logging
 - Greed, corruption, cronyism, weak pol institutions
 - TLAs: 58 in 1969 < 471 in 1976
- By 1980s: severity, poverty



DEFORESTATION



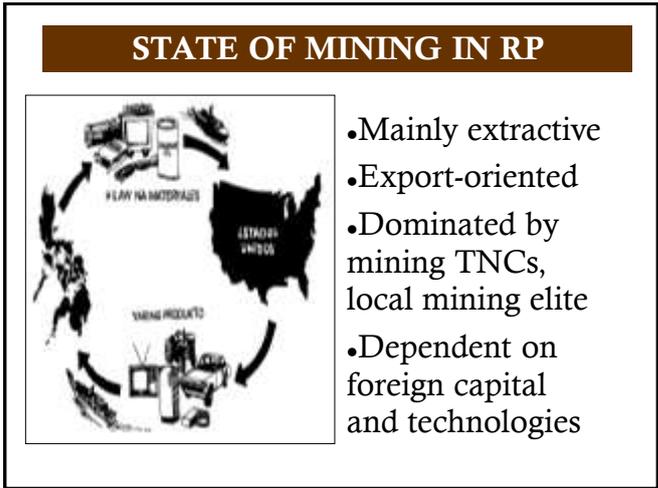
FAO's *State of the World's Forests 2007*: world's net forest loss of 20,000 ha/day (area of France)
More demand for cheap wood and crop exports in Europe, Japan and the US
 $\frac{3}{4}$ of world's commercial timber output is utilized by only $\frac{1}{4}$ of population



MINING LIBERALIZATION



Philippines has rich mineral resources for national industrialization.
But policies are geared towards large-scale mining for export.



Philippine Mining Act of 1995 or Republic Act (RA) 7942

Basic Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows 100% foreign ownership A Large-Scale Mining Operation by nature and uses "Open-Pit Mining" method
Area covered per 1 FTAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 81,000 hectares - onshore, meaning when the operation is in land 324,000 hectares – offshore, meaning when the operation is in water/sea
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 – 50 years
Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows 100% foreign capital that reach US\$ 50 million
Economic Privileges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% repatriation of profits (profits are to be brought back to the home country, not necessarily to be invested in our country) 6 years Tax Exempted (Income Tax) 10 years Tax exempted (for the exportation of minerals) No tax on importation Can employ foreigners Right to sell or transfer mining right to other companies Right to confidentially
Political Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber rights (allowed to cut trees and sell the logs) Water rights (allowed to own water sources found in the mining area) Easement rights (right to displace the people living in communities prospected to be mined) Right to intrude in private lands





MINING LIBERALIZATION

Large-Scale Mining Operations

Effects on Rivers

- a. Drying-up of Rivers
- b. Poisoning and Contamination
- c. Heavy Siltation

Threats to the People's Access to Food, Air, and Water

AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

The Philippines has vast land resources suitable for agriculture, but agricultural production is in **crisis**. The land as ecosystem is in various stages of **degradation**.

AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

• Shrinking agricultural lands

1990: 8 million hectares
late 90s: -5 million ha.

1990s: **land use conversion**
- 1 million farmers displaced
- 2,405 (92%) out of 2,610 applications for conversion approved by DAR (1988-2001)



YEARLY AVERAGE



AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

• Land Degradation

- 1984: 8.25 million has.
- 2004: 13.5 million has.

• **Soil erosion**
• Recurrent drought degrades parts of food producing regions



AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

• Pollution

- Chemical-based agri practices

- 80-90% of ricefields 'addicted' to HYVs

• Crop Conversion

- Dictated by TNCs/landlords
- GE, GMO, HVC crops
- Biofuels



AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

• Landlessness and backward agriculture

- 7 out of 10 farmers
- 5% control 50%
- 2002: Only 30% of total farm areas irrigated
- 2000: 11,500 tractors and 700 harvester-threshers
- foreign monopoly control ensured in laws: AFMA (1997) and PVPA (2002)



WATER RESOURCE CRISIS



The Philippines has **rich** water resources due to its geographic location, but it is **currently in the middle** of a water crisis.

WATER RESOURCE CRISIS

- 2 out of 5 Filipinos (34%) do not get water from formal sources for domestic consumption
- Lowest annual per capita availability of freshwater
 - Only 65% of households have potable water
 - Only 45% of irrigable lands irrigated
 - Demand for surface water higher than supply
 - Drinking water costly and privatized

WATER RESOURCE CRISIS

WIDESPREAD POLLUTION

- 158 of 421 rivers unsafe for drinking; 50 biologically dead
 - Ex. Marilao River, Laguna Lake
- 60% of groundwater sources depleted 26% and contaminated with coliform
- Cause: waste dumping, large-scale extractive activities
 - Ex. 2003: 9 large dams operational, 14 dams by 2005

DECLINING MARINE RESOURCES



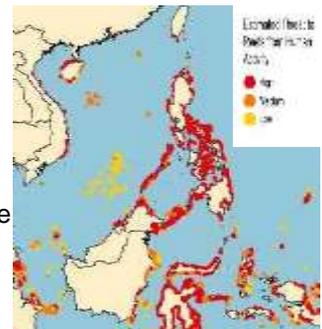
The Philippines is **richest** in marine biodiversity and has the longest discontinuous coastline and one of the richest coral reefs in the world.

But fish production is in crisis and fishing and breeding grounds are diminishing.

DECLINING MARINE RESOURCES

The irony of bountiful seas

- Declining catch
- Declining maximum sustainable yields
- Degraded coral reefs
- Decreasing mangrove areas
- Pollution



DECLINING MARINE RESOURCES

- Overfishing
 - 90% fish stocks depleted in 50 years
- Degradation of marine environment
 - Only 4% of coral reefs in good condition
- Monopoly control of fishery resources
- Open access policies
- Privatization of municipal fisheries
- Displacement – VFA, Jx



INDICATORS OF A NATION IN CRISIS

- OUTSTANDING DEBT (BUREAU OF TREASURY) - P5,681 trillion (about \$127.67 billion) as of the end of 2013 (increased by 4.5 percent)



- OVERSEAS REMITTANCES - \$25.1B or P1 Trillion

- POEA: 4,884 Filipinos ARE GOING ABROAD EVERYDAY in 2013

- 1.5 million Filipinos were deployed abroad in the start of BS Aquino's term

- Last year, the BS Aquino government has breached the two million mark in deployment of OFWs for a year, the highest record in history since labor export was enforced in the 1970s.



INDICATORS OF A NATION IN CRISIS

EXCLUSIONARY GROWTH NOT INCLUSIONARY

- growing corporate profits and personal wealth of a few in the midst of massive poverty and unemployment
- The total net income of the country's foreign and Filipino Top 1000 corporations almost doubled from P1599 billion in 2006 to P11.08 trillion in 2012.
- Top 40 richest Filipino-2009: US\$16.4 billion ;2013:US\$64.2 billion or P2.7 Trillion



INDICATORS OF A NATION IN CRISIS

Family poverty incidence

- Philippine Statistics Authority:(April,2013):22.3 percent in the first half of 2012; 19.1 percent in the same period in 2013; based on a very low poverty threshold of P8,022/month for a family for food and non-food requirement or roughly P52/person/day
- IBON : a family of six needs P1,051 per day or more than P30,000/month for the cost of food, clothing, shelter and education; 66% of Filipinos earn less than P 125.00 per day.



Environmental Advocacy

People's response to the crisis

Our environmental advocacy is

- People-oriented
- Scientific
- Patriotic

The struggle for the environment is the struggle for the people.



**Maraming
Salamat po!**