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VALUE CHAIN WORKSHOP ENTITLED:**

**“Improving Value Chain Dynamics for Natural Products in
the Furniture, and Gifts and Home Décor and Fashion
Accessories Industry”**

CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES

JULY 2-3, 2008

**HOSTED BY ENTERPRISEWORKS/VITA AND THE
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The Biological Base of the Furnishing Industry: Our Forests, the Condition of our Raw Material Factories



Perry S. Ong

Director and Professor

Institute of Biology, UP Diliman

Trustee and Treasurer

Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation

Chair, Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern

Earth can't meet human demand for resources

WASHINGTON — The consumption of forests, energy and land by humans is exceeding the rate at which Earth can replenish itself, according to research published on Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The study, conducted by California-based Redefining Progress, a nonprofit group concerned with environmental conservation and its economics, warned that a failure to rein in humanity's overuse of natural resources could send the planet into "ecological bankruptcy."

Earth's resources "are like a pile of money anyone can grab while they all close their eyes, but then it's gone," said Mathis Wackernagel, lead author of the study and a program director at Redefining Progress.

Scientists said humanity's demand for resources had soared during the past 40 years to a level where it would take the planet 1.2 years to regenerate what people remove each year.

The impact by humans on the environment had inched higher since 1961 when public demand was 70 percent of the planet's regenerative capacity, the study showed.

"If we don't live within the budget of

nature, sustainability becomes futile," Wackernagel said.

The study, which details the population's impact on the Earth with a quantitative number, measured the "ecological footprint" of human activities such as marine fishing, harvesting timber, building infrastructure and burning fossil fuel that emits carbon dioxide (CO_2) into the atmosphere.

Researchers then used government data and various estimates to determine how much land would be required to meet human demand for those actions.

For example, Wackernagel and his team found that in 1999, each person consumed an average of 2.3 hectares. The global average was significantly lower than industrialized countries such as the United States and United Kingdom where 9.6 hectares and 5.3 hectares, respectively, were consumed per person.

Ecological bankruptcy'

In order to develop a formula that measured humanity's consumption with the Earth's regenerative capacity, the researchers were forced to reach several assumptions and omit the use of some resources because of insufficient data.

The results, for example, excluded the impact of local freshwater use and the release of solid, liquid or gaseous pollutants other than CO_2 into the environment.

Even though the findings revealed that human use of resources was far outstripping Earth's supply, it stopped short of determining how long the process could continue without detrimental consequences.

"Like any responsible business that keeps track of spending and income to protect financial assets, we need ecological accounts to protect our natural assets," Wackernagel said. "And if we don't ... we will prepare for ecological bankruptcy."

Wackernagel said the study's results could be used to gauge the impact of new technologies and how they affect the environment.

The use of an alternative technology, such as one that produces renewable energy or replaces natural biological processes, could allow society to live better without increasing consumption, he said.

Governments could also determine the impact consumers and businesses were having on depleting area resources and evaluate potential ways to reduce consumption, Wackernagel said.

Reuters

In 1961, only 70% of earth's regenerative capacity was used. In 2000, this rose to 120%

Ecological Footprint:

Marine fishing, timber harvesting,

Building infrastructure, fossil fuel burning

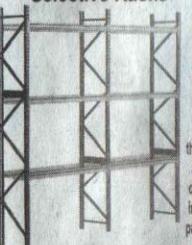
In 1999, global average: each person consumed 2.3 hectares lower than US (9.6) or UK (5.3)

Title: Humanity's Resource Demand Exceeds the Earth's Capacity

Website: www.rprogress.org Article can be viewed on this website: www.pnas.org

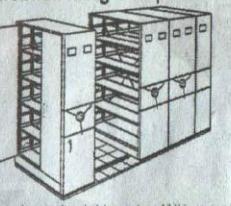
11 RP sites said to hold key to species' survival

By Blanche S. Rivera



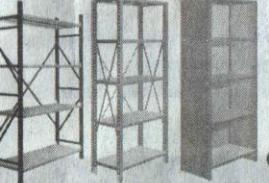
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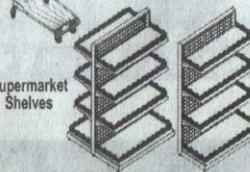


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THERE ARE AT LEAST 11 SITES in the Philippines which hold the

key to the survival of some of the world's endangered species.

The sites, identified by the Washington-based Alliance for

Zero Extinction (AZE), are habitats of those species. If the habitats are destroyed, the species will be lost.

The 11 AZE sites are: Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park for the Northern Luzon shrew mouse; Mt. Isarog National Park for the Isarog shrew mouse and the striped shrew rat; Siburan for the black-hooded coucal (kind of bird), and Ilin Island for the Ilin hairy tail cloud rat.

Madagascar, we wind up losing a major portion of global biodiversity, regardless of how successful we are anywhere else," he said.

'Hot Spots Revisited'

Conservation International launched "Hot Spots Revisited," a book discussing the environmental hot spots in the world, which rose in number to 34 in 2004 from 25 in 1999. The book was launched in Manila on Friday.

Mittermeier said Madagascar, which has about 50,000 square kilometers of forest left, was the single highest priority area for conservation because of increased habitat loss.

Similar situation

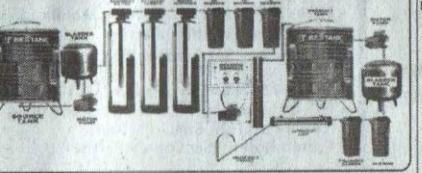
"The situation in Madagascar is very similar to what you have in the Philippines, where you've lost at least 90 percent of the natural forest. You have to save every last patch of natural forest you still have," he said.

Conservation International noted that the Philippines, one of 17 megadiversity nations in the world, had more endemic species than the United States and Canada put together.

It is also considered by many environmentalists as the "hottest hot spot" due to the endemism (species native to a particular geographical area) and rate of destruction and number of threats.

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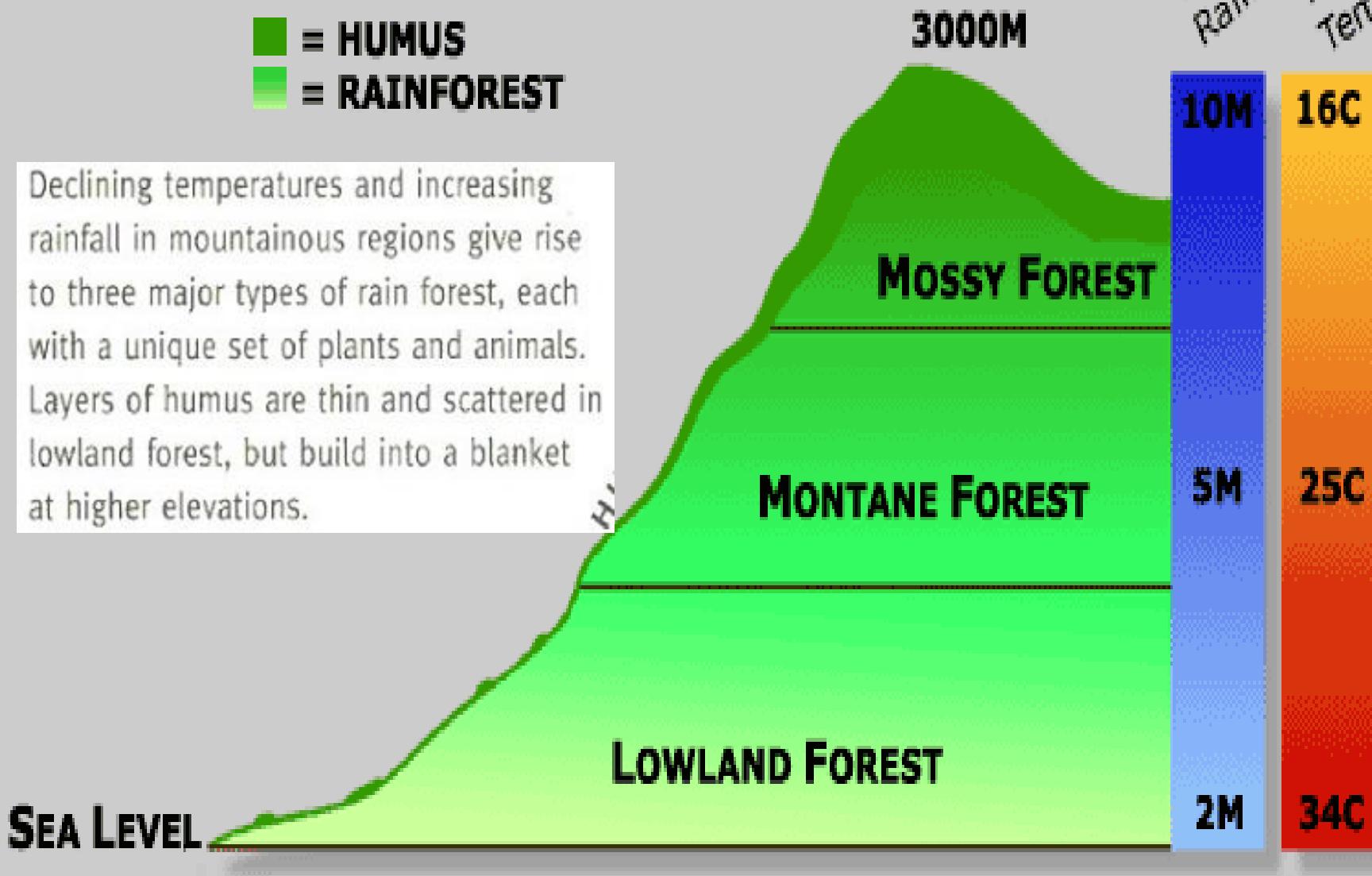
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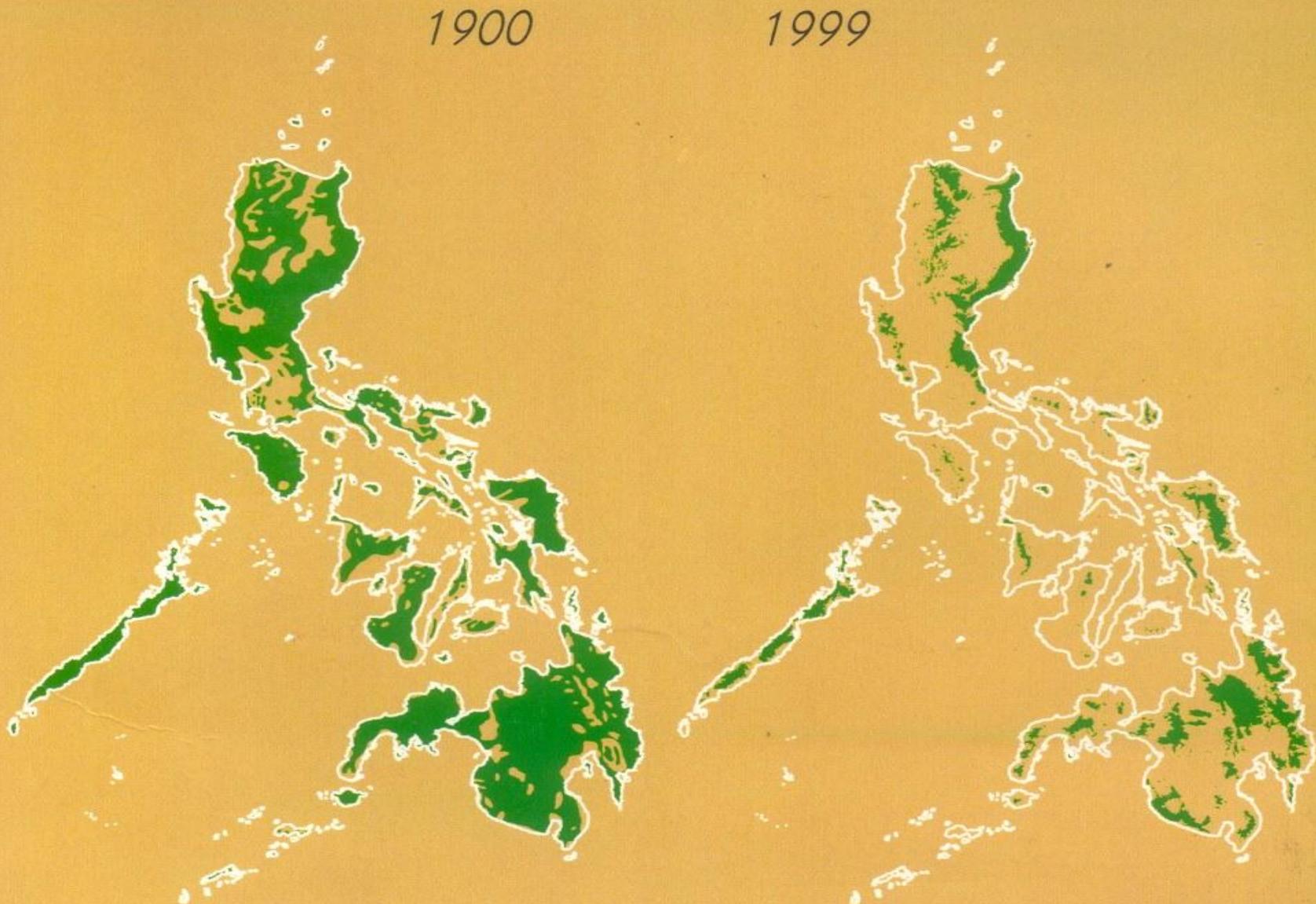
Annual
Rainfall
High
Temperatures

 = HUMUS
 = RAINFOREST

Declining temperatures and increasing rainfall in mountainous regions give rise to three major types of rain forest, each with a unique set of plants and animals. Layers of humus are thin and scattered in lowland forest, but build into a blanket at higher elevations.



Extent of Forest Cover Loss in the last 100 years

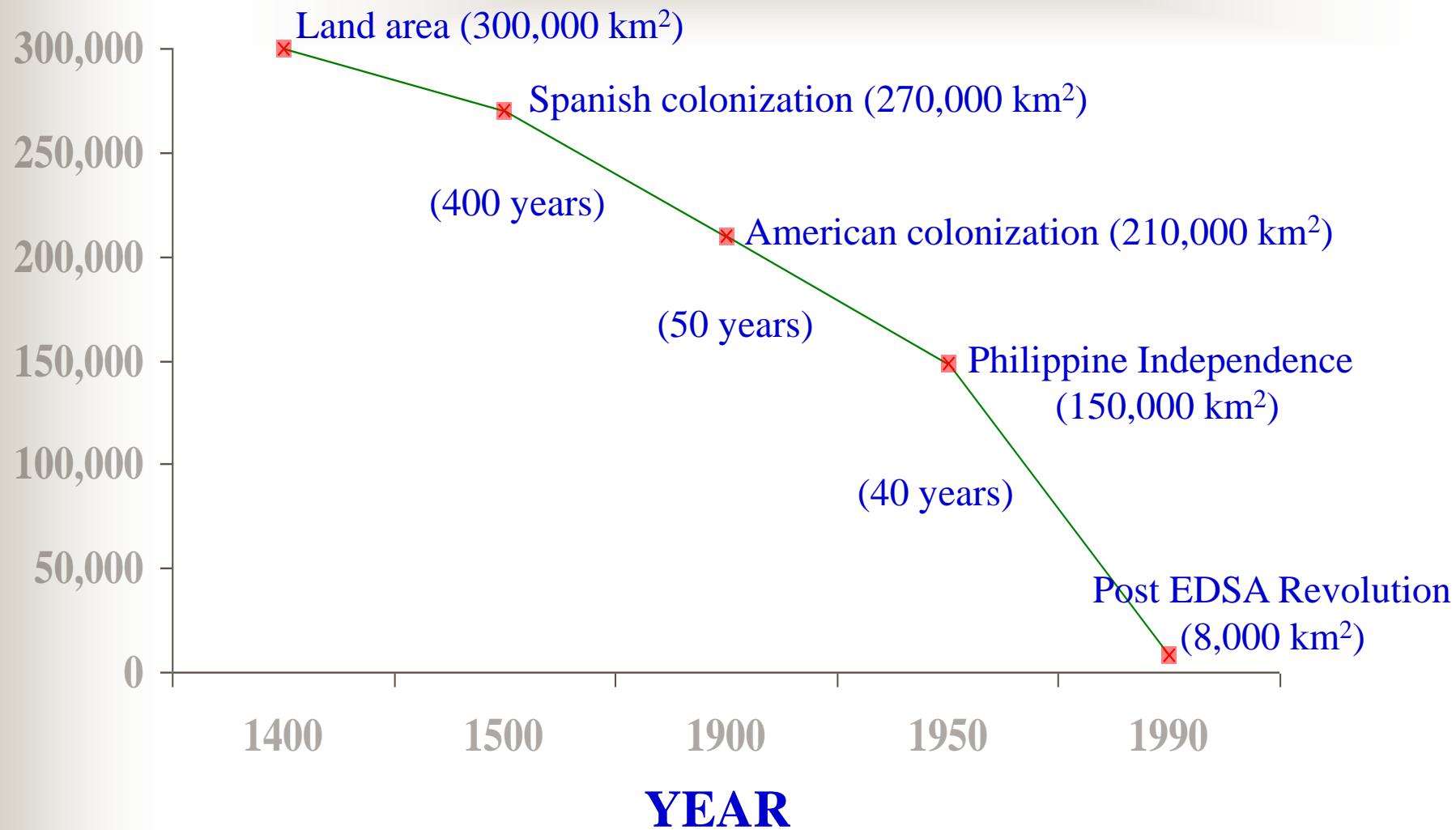


Source: Environmental Science for Social Change, 1999

Forest in 1992

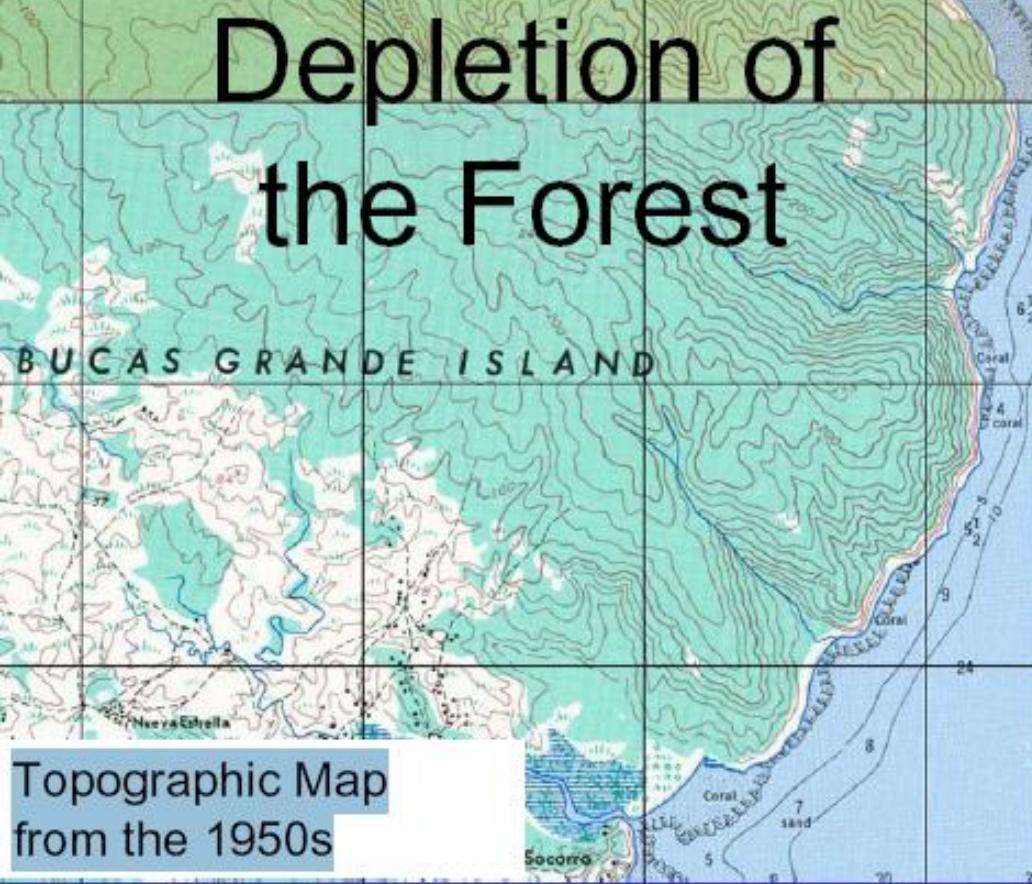


(km²)



Extent of Original Forest Cover in the Philippines

Depletion of the Forest



Topographic Map
from the 1950s

The Philippine Forests were heavily logged until the 1980s and are still decreasing by estimated 1.4%. The estimated forested area ranges from 5-7 million hectares. 15.9 million hectares are legally declared as forest land.

(Status of Tropical Forest Management 2005)

Lecture Forum on Disaster Risk Management



Bucas Grande



Silago, Southern Leyte

Juergen Christmann, GDS DED

Illegal Logging



San Miguel, Leyte



Biliran Island



Marabut,
Samar



Marabut,
Samar



Juergen Christmann, GDS DED

Farming in the uplands, Legal or illegal, leads to Deforestation!!!



Marabut

Linked to the problem of landlessness!!!



Biliran Island

HAND

(Human Aggravated
Natural Disasters)



Other Recent Disasters

- Southern Leyte, 2003
- Sierra Madre, 2004
- Calapan, 2005
- Guinsaugon, 2006
- Milenyo, 2006
- Reming, 2006
- Seniang, 2006
- Preemptive Evacuation, 2007
- Frank, 2008

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WORLD

Landslides toll tops 160

Monday, December 22, 2003 Posted: 1830 GMT (2:30 AM HKT)

MANILA, Philippines (CNN) -- Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will travel Monday to the southern Leyte province, hit hard over the weekend by deadly landslides caused by days of flooding, officials in Manila said.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the death toll had risen to 161 and 93 people remained missing and feared dead from the torrents of mud, rocks



Access to many hard hit areas has been difficult for rescue crews.



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WORLD

Philippines storm kills 350

Tuesday, November 30, 2004 Posted: 5:25 PM EST (2225 GMT)

MANILA, Philippines -- A powerful storm has triggered landslides and flash floods that have killed as many as 350 people in the eastern Philippines, according to officials.

Rescuers are now racing to the region to try to save people stranded in three coastal towns before a new typhoon strikes the same area.

At least 150 people are missing in the eastern Philippines, which is largely cut off by landslides and floodwaters which have washed away bridges and roads, officials say.

Helicopter crews are struggling to find ground solid enough to land on and dropped food packages to residents huddled on rooftops or high ground.

Officials are arranging for a coast guard

Uprooted trees litter a swollen river near Infanta town in Quezon province.

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(PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE PHOTO)



(PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE PHOTO)



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(AP PHOTO)

Forests and floods, revisited

In 2005, the FAO and CIFOR published a report, *Forests and floods: Drowning in fiction or thriving on facts?* The report asserted that scientific evidence did not support the conventional wisdom linking deforestation to large-scale flooding. Far from being the final word, the report re-ignited a long-simmering controversy.

Now a study published in *Global Change Biology*, and promoted by an essay in *Nature*, offers evidence that flood risk is correlated with loss of natural forest cover after all. Corey Bradshaw and colleagues assembled national-level data on forest cover and flood events from 56 developing countries from 1990 to 2000. Their models -- which control for various potentially confounding factors -- succeed in explaining 65% of the variation in flood frequency across countries, with 14% explained by forest-related variables. Their analysis suggests that a decrease in natural forest cover of 10% could lead to an increase of 4 to 28% in flood frequency, with the associated economic loss and human misery.

NEWS & VIEWS

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Forests and floods

William F. Laurance

One strategy for reducing catastrophic floods invokes protecting or regenerating forests that lie upstream of a threatened region. Support for this approach comes from a global-scale analysis of flood risk.

Floods can be devastating, especially in developing countries, which are already struggling to improve the welfare of their people. Floods in such countries during the 1990s took almost 100,000 lives, displaced more than 300 million people and caused more than US\$1 trillion in damage to properties^{1,2}. To mitigate flooding, several nations are investing in projects to restrict the loss of forests or to reforest cleared lands that lie upstream of a potential flood region. But these strategies are controversial. Some argue that the link between forests and flooding is too weak to justify the often large outlays needed to retain or recover forests^{3,4}. In the journal *Global Change Biology*¹, however, Bradshaw *et al.* provide strong correlative evidence that native forests do reduce the frequency and severity of floods in



WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon and the whole of Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: RHEA BLANCAS, PDI RESEARCH/12/03/07

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RP faces water crisis – ADB

Unless things are turned around, river, groundwater systems will fail by 2025

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP NEEDS
'servant leaders,'
says Chief Justice

/A4

SENATE
restores debt
payments to
2008 budget

/A10

By Doris C. Dumla

THE PHILIPPINES' WATER RESOURCES ARE FAST deteriorating with rapid urbanization, with only about 33 percent of river systems still suitable as a supply source and up to 58 percent of groundwater now contaminated, a new Asian Development Bank study said.

In its publication, "Asian Water Development Outlook 2007" launched last week, the ADB warned that water availability in the Philippines could be "unsatisfactory" in eight of its 19 major river basins and in most major cities before 2025.

The ability of groundwater—or water held underground or in pores and crevices,

Metro Cebu at present, the study said.

Untreated discharges

"Water quality is poorest in urban areas, the main sources of pollution being untreated discharges of industrial and municipal wastewater," the ADB said.

Although groundwater resources are generally abun-

"The majority of solid waste disposal and landfill sites are poorly operated and maintained, permitting leachate to pollute some water resources," it said.

In Manila, for instance, the study noted that less than four percent of the population was connected to the sewer network, with many high-income households constructing their own facilities.

Pasig one of most polluted

"Flush toilets connected to septic tanks are widely used, and often serve large housing developments. However, sludge treatment and disposal facilities are rare, resulting in indiscriminate disposal of untreated or poorly treated effluent into the

urban population annually, is having a major impact on water resources," the study stressed.

Danger signals

The study also pointed out the following:

- 16 rivers are now considered biologically dead during dry months;

- 48 percent of water pollutants arise from domestic waste, 37 percent from agricultural waste, and 15 percent from industrial waste;

- Solid waste generation in Metro Manila, now estimated at 5,345 tons per day, is expected to double by 2010. But only 65–75 percent of the waste generated is collected, with only 13 percent of that recycled, and the remainder just thrown away.

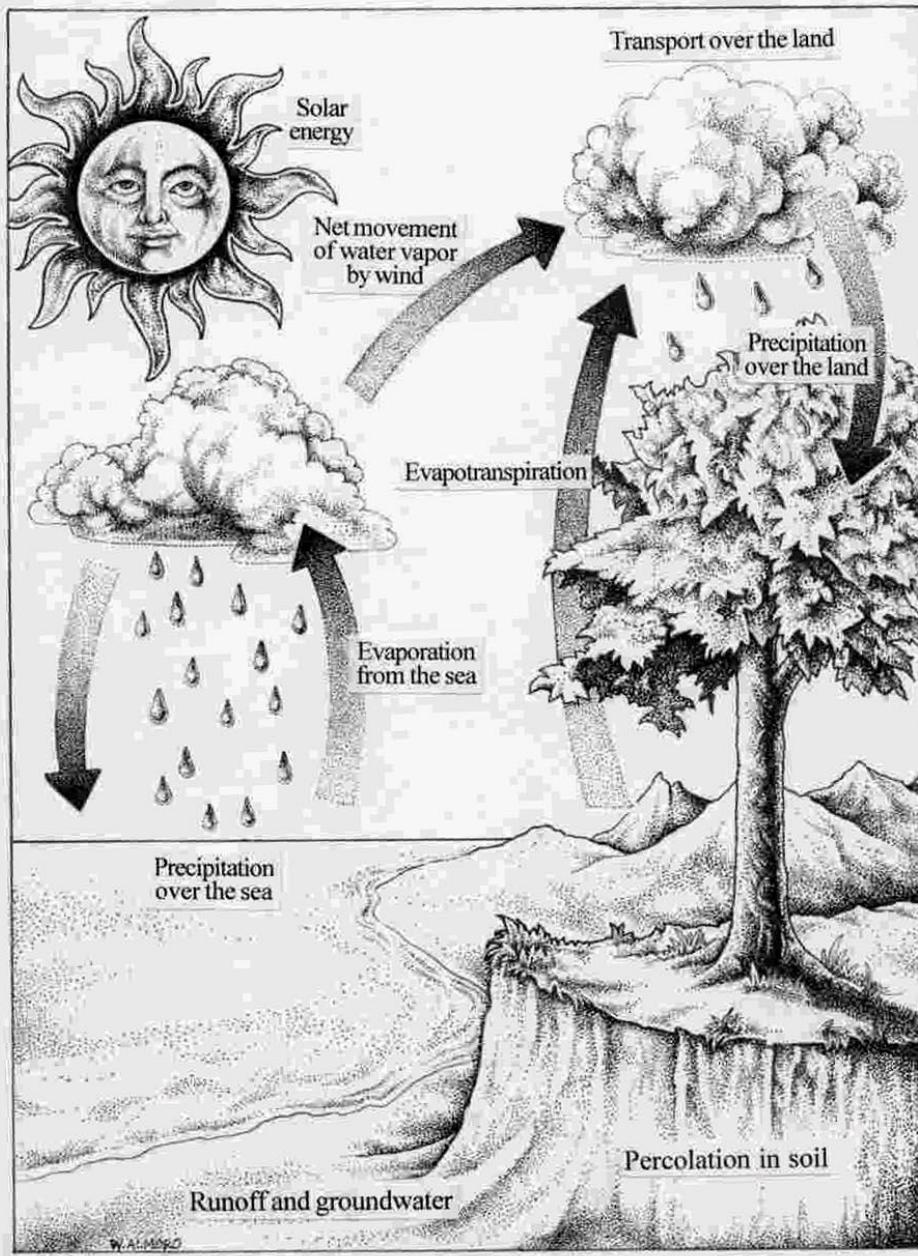
95 small to medium-scale hazardous waste treatment facilities;

- Approximately 50,000 tons of hazardous waste are stored on- or off-site due to lack of proper treatment and landfill facilities.

Investments needed

The priority sector constraints that the country must address include sector "under-funding" and slow promulgation of environmental legislation, such as the Water Resources Management Act and the creation of a National Environmental Management Authority, the study said.

The study also lamented the insufficient enforcement of existing legislation, and the weak legal and regulatory framework for environmental impact assessments,



Water Cycle

Breaking News: OI_

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DENR order to resume logging ends 18-yr rest of Samar forest

By Vicente Labro

Inquirer

Last updated 01:05am (Mla time) 11/15/2007

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has allowed a big logging firm to resume its operations in Samar after this was stopped in 1989 when the government declared a logging moratorium on the island.

Ricardo Tomol, regional technical director for forest protection and resource management of the DENR here, said the Timber License Agreement (TLA) of Basey Wood Industries Inc. (Baswood) was extended by six years to allow it to cut the amount of trees that it could have cut during the moratorium.

Tomol said the area where Baswood would be allowed to cut trees was reduced by 30 percent. Seventy percent of the area is already under the Samar Island Natural Park, a protected area.

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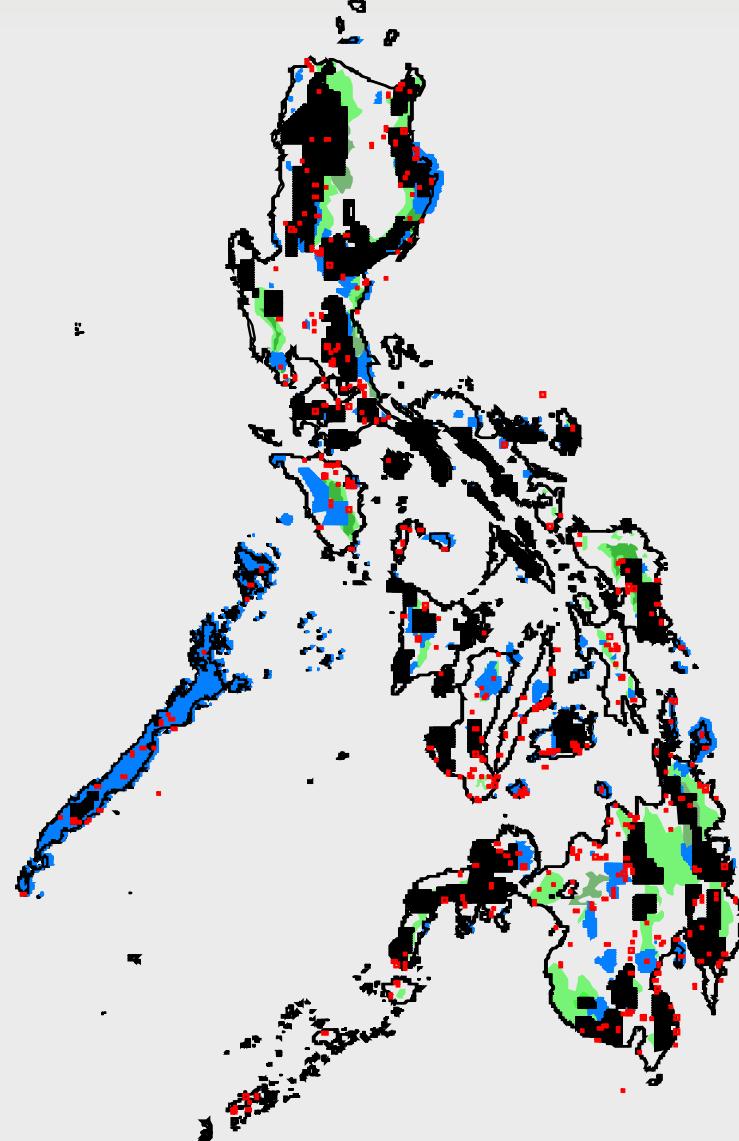
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Threatened Bird Mining Applications Localities



Conceptual Framework

LOSS OF FOREST(state)



DIRECT FACTORS (pressures)

RESOURCE USE and OVEREXPLOITATION	HABITAT LOSS and DETERIORATION
INTRODUCTION OF EXOTIC SPECIES and DISEASES	POLLUTION and CLIMATE CHANGE

SOCIOECONOMIC and POLITICAL DRIVERS (pressures)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY and REGULATIONS		
SOCIAL FACTORS	ECONOMIC FACTORS	DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

SOCIETY'S RESPONSE

DIRECT CONSERVATION ACTIONS	SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION and RESEARCH
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY and LEGISLATION	EDUCATION and CAPACITY BUILDING
ADVOCACY	RESTORATION
INDUSTRY/PRIVATE SECTOR	
FUNDING	

Twelve Most Serious Environmental Problems that faced Past and Present Societies

Jared Diamond 2005

*“Collapse: How Societies Choose to
Fail or Survive”*

1. Destruction/conversion of Natural Habitats
2. Overharvesting of wild foods (fisheries)
3. Loss of Biodiversity
4. Soil erosion and degradation
5. Depletion of fossil fuel as energy sources
6. Depletion of freshwater sources

7. Earth's photosynthetic ceiling have been used, diverted or wasted.

8. Chemical Pollution

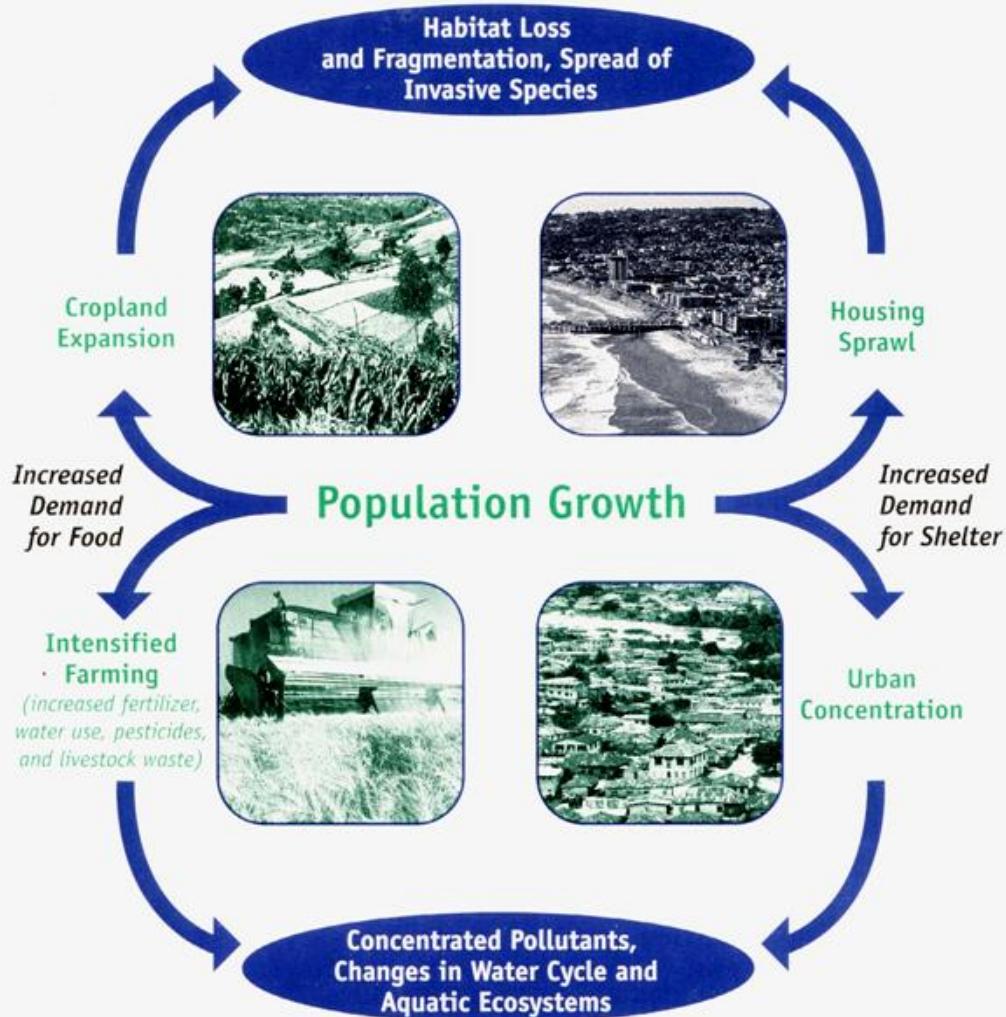
9. Biological pollution

10. Climate Change

11. Human Population Expansion

12. Human Impact on the environment

Limited Alternatives: Population Growth and Responses in Agriculture and Housing



Demand for food and for basic shelter tends to closely parallel human population growth. For a country to meet these basic needs using its own natural resources, it must experience development sprawl or intensification, and most often some combination of the two. Each response can have dramatic consequences for biological diversity. Imports and exports of food also affect the scale of demand. And transportation networks, economic productivity, affluence and public policies tend to shape the geographic patterns of housing and urban growth.

To illustrate, human population expansion affects the 11 other problems.

More people means more deforestation, more toxic chemicals, more demand for wild fish, more loss of biodiversity, etc.,

Impact of Population

90 Million Filipinos, with a five member household = 18M households

If each household has a cellphone = 18 million cellphones

If each cellphone requires 5 watts to charge per day = 90 Megawatts of electricity are needed just to power cellphones alone.

These 12 environmental problems
were discussed separately, but they
are linked.

One problem exacerbates another or
makes its solution more difficult.

Changing MAPs

Mindsets

Attitudes

Practices

Bridging GAPs

Goals

Aspirations

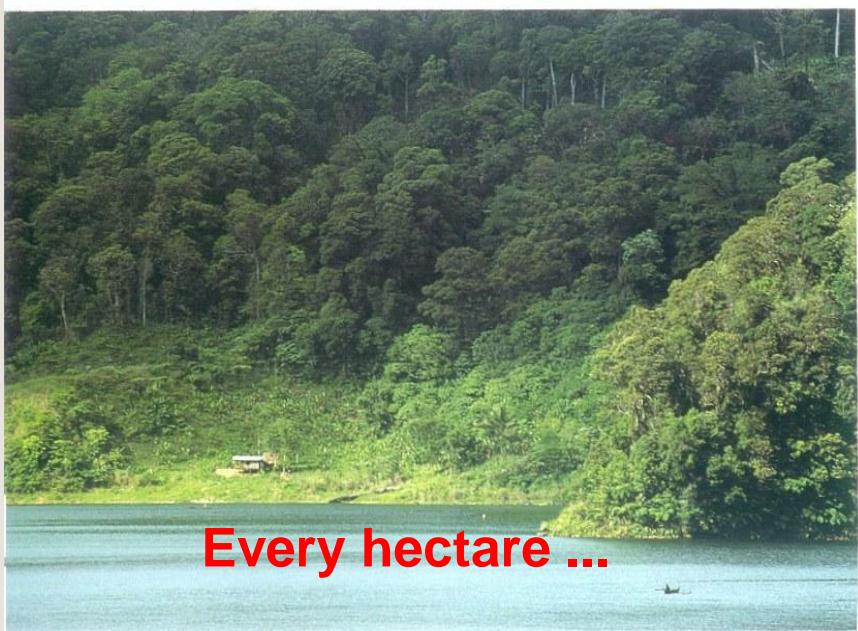
Passion



Every Species...



Every second...



Every hectare ...

**In our fight to
conserve our
Biological Base,
everything counts!**