

REFORESTING DENUDED LANDS

Responding to Poverty and
Climate Change?

SCOPE OF STUDY

- Tinongdan, Itogon
- Pinukpuk, Kalinga
- - both villages are located in the Cordillera Region, Northern Philippines

Rationale of Study

- 1> assess how WB funded project is living up to its objectives
- 2> recommendations for future initiatives

Methodology

- Community visits and interviews with community members and officials
- Interviews with key government representatives
- Review of project reports

Key Findings

- no significant forest growth in the target areas
- some individual lots with fruit-bearing trees
- no significant increase in per capita income of households
- basic needs of communities not met – water and livelihood opportunities
- community associations set up for the projects are no longer active

Analysis

- Reforestation Contracts are considered to be failures in terms of its stated objectives of poverty alleviation and environmental protection – no trees, no income
- Communities do not “own” the projects but are seen as sources of “contracts”
- Bigger issue of land rights not resolved by projects and thus sustainability is compromised

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recognition of land rights for indigenous peoples a must
- Recognition and strengthening of existing indigenous socio-political structures is more sustainable and cost-efficient

