

**ULAN's story:**

ULAN envisions a just, equitable and inclusive society in a sustainable natural environment. Its mission is to promote community empowerment through law, development, and policy reform.

ULAN started in 2003 out of a desire by its founders to expressly articulate their human rights values on environmental issues using law and localized development as tools. It was established by human rights practitioners who believed that environmental issues must be discussed in the context of human rights and its broader implications on poverty and injustice. It caters primarily to marginalized sectors that have a direct link to their natural environment such as Indigenous peoples, small farmers and fisherfolk.

ULAN is primarily a legal NGO that provides legal representation to marginalized communities involved in environmental protection, in courts and other administrative bodies. In exchange, the communities are required to engage in climate adaptation work within their communities that ultimately benefits them and other indirect beneficiaries.

By doing so, ULAN has turned around the problem of court delay into a continuing incentive for communities to rehabilitate their natural environment.

Because of this legal representation, ULAN has a stellar record of dismissal of harassment suits against hundreds of community leaders and members who were wrongly accused for various crimes simply for protecting their environment.

ULAN is headed by one of its co-founders, Atty. Ronaldo Gutierrez, and is currently its Executive Director.

**Past Projects:**

- In 2007, ULAN became involved in non-partisan election work to combat large-scale electoral fraud in the Philippines.
- In 2012, it began to work on disability issues and has since contributed extensively in promoting PWD sensitivity, inclusive employment, accessibility rights, PWD data management amongst others.
- It has a policy advocacy component as well and in the last 6 years, ULAN has been successful in promoting respect for disability rights. It is likely the only environmental NGO that also works on disability issues in the Philippines.

**Ongoing projects:**

- ULAN opened this 2024 with a Paralegal Training on IPRA, NIPAS, E-NIPAS, and Criminal Procedure, with the youth of Ikalahan Youth Organization (IKAYO) at Dagwey Training Center, Bgy. Imugan, Nueva Vizcaya. More paralegal trainings will reach ULAN's partner-communities this year.