



Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services in the Philippines (Phil-WAVES)

Dir. ANGELITO V. FONTANILLA
Financial and Management Service
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Republic of the Philippines

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Outline of Presentation

1. Background
2. Objectives
3. Implementation Structure
4. Accomplishments
5. Issues/Concerns
6. Next Steps



Background

Philippine Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services

Phil-WAVES Program is a trust-funded partnership between the Government of the Philippines and the WB.

The Philippines was identified as **one of the five pilot countries*** for WAVES due to:

- high government demand for indicators, tools, and methodologies that will determine the sustainable use of natural resources
- potentially have a large impact on the poor and economic growth
- the GoP has a high latent capacity in Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) from previous initiatives, while academe and private organizations (POs) have the necessary skills for ecosystems accounting

* - Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, Madagascar and the Philippines

Laguna Lake Basin and Southern Palawan

- two areas where the pilot study is presently being done
- these areas are considered to be the **microcosm** of the entire country in terms of:
 - richness in biodiversity
 - presence of various alarming environmental issues
- these areas represent the **status quo** found in other regions of the country





Main Objective

The **Phil-WAVES** Program is anchored in its main objective of:

- promoting **sustainable development through wealth accounting**, the natural capital as its major determinant



Specific Objectives

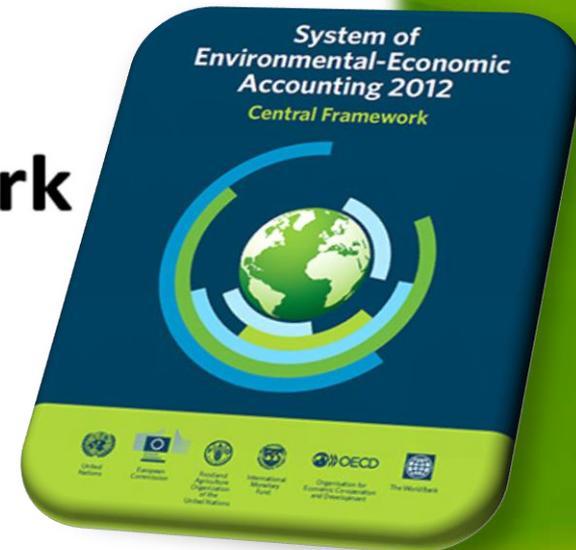
- (i) Develop **macroeconomic indicators** for NC values to measure sustainability of eco. devt.
- (ii) Develop **national accounts for minerals and mangroves** based on SEEA to analyze impact of diff. NR & rev. sharing scenarios on shared prosperity
- (iii) Develop **ecosystem accounts for Southern Palawan and the Laguna Lake basin** to analyze trade-offs associated w/ diff. resource & ecosystem use scenarios
- (iv) Build **capacity for institutionalization of prioritized SEEA modules.**



SEE A

System of Environmental-Economics Accounting - S E E A

A coherent & integrated
measurement framework
for organizing
environmental data
& applying it to
sustainability & green economy
decision-making



What will Phil-WAVES do?

- **National Mineral Accounts:** What is the mineral wealth of the Philippines & how could it be shared equitably & sustainably?
- **Ecosystem account for Southern Palawan:** What are the social, economic & environmental trade-offs of different resource use scenarios (e.g. minerals vs. ecotourism) & what are the implications for sustainable management?



What will Phil-WAVES do?

- **National Mangrove Accounts:** What is the value of mangroves & mangrove reforestation? For coastal zone protection? For fisheries & tourism? For REDD+?
- **Ecosystem account for Laguna Lake basin:** How can water pricing capture the value of other competing water uses (e.g. habitat for fisheries, watershed protection, recreation etc.)?



Philippines

- **Institutional analysis**: assessment of past resource accounting initiatives to identify latent capacity, bottlenecks in implementation & way forward
- Assessment of the **Phil. statistical system**
- **Macro and cross-sectoral analysis** of past uses, policy applications of envtl. acctg. & ID of current & emerging policy issues pertaining to **land based resources & terrestrial ecosystem**
- **Assessment** of studies & available data that account for stocks & flows of eco. services from **coastal & marine ecosystems**: fisheries, invertebrates, sea grasses, aquaculture, mangroves, and coral reefs in municipal & exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters



Key Activities and Accomplishments

- **Concept note** was approved
- **Components & work plan** were agreed
 1. Macroeconomic indicators + policy analysis
 2. Accounts for minerals & mangroves + policy analysis
 3. Ecosystem accounts for Southern Palawan & Laguna Lake Basin + analysis of resource use scenarios
 4. Institutionalization of SEEA modules
- **Implementation arrangement** is ongoing
 - NEDA, NSCB, DENR, LLDA, DOF, DBM, DA





Lessons Learned

- **Capacity & resource constraints** need to be addressed upfront
 - **Implementation support** provided for key implementing agencies
 - Country coordinator + assistant
 - Technical staff for SEEA implementation + technical advisor
 - **Scope** narrowed down
 - **Phase implementation approach** to ensure maximum flexibility
- **Exploring synergies** with other WB & GoP initiatives & projects is critical





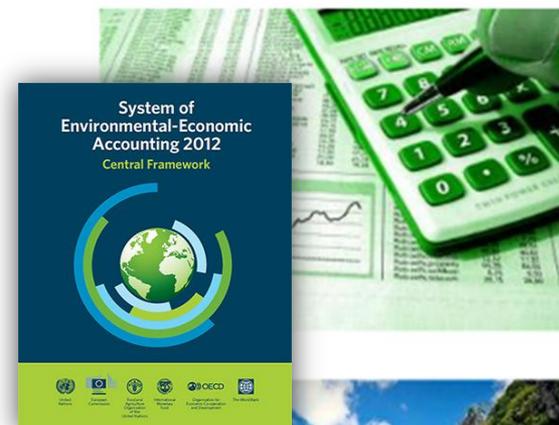
Challenges of building institutions

- **Early engagement of stakeholders** through **communications and outreach strategy** is crucial for building ownership
 - Key GoP agencies & local governments
 - NGOs, CSOs & media
 - Academia & other development partners
 - Private sector
- **Factual advocacy on decision makers** is key to illustrate that natural resources have implication on national budget



Next Steps

- **Institutional arrangement** will be finalized
 - Establishment of Philippines WAVES Steering Committee
 - MoU between GoP agencies with respective TOR
 - Hiring of country coordinator & technical staff
- **Communications strategy & action plan** will be developed
- **Training for SEEA implementation** will begin with a focus on minerals
- **Preparatory workshops** will be organized for ecosystem accounts



Ecosystem Accounts for the Laguna Lake Basin

The LLDA strongly supports the project because it will provide vital inputs in managing the lake and watershed.

EXPECTATIONS:

- assess the value of the lake and the watershed based on the ecosystem services
- to help LLDA track the quality of water in the lake for appropriate action

This would help LLDA draft strategic plans to:

- maintain the quality of the lake
- would serve as important inputs in the water pricing negotiations between LLDA and water concessionaire Maynilad in June 2014

TWG OF LLDA and WAVES Team discussed the two most important policy issues:

- Water pollution
- Siltation
- The information generated will be crucial in **modelling** the causal relationships between the quality of water in the Lake and the silt and pollutants
- Understanding the monetary component is equally important to underpin the development of payment mechanism for water use
 - could lead to sustainable financing of improved water resource management
- This would allow LLDA to strategize and create policy responses to existing threats and its sources



Phil-WAVES: Where theory and practice meet

26 March 2014, Manila, Philippines

The Phil-WAVES mission in February 2014 demonstrated the successful convergence of theory and practice of natural capital accounting (NCA).

The two-week mission comprised of:

- training on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA 2012) central framework conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- scoping visits to the two ecosystem pilot sites:
 - Laguna Lake Basin (12 February 2014)
 - Southern Palawan (17-20 February 2014)

Numbers crunching

- ABS conducted a one-week training course and introduced the main building blocks of SEEA:
 - Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)
 - Regional Statistics offices
 - National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and
 - Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the DENR
- Using presentations and workshop exercises, the participants learned:
 - SEEA concepts and techniques and
 - how these could be translated to support informed policy making
- The ABS also conducted a separate, more focused session on the production of mineral accounts - including background and technical information on producing monetary estimates for mineral assets.

Around the Laguna Lake Basin

A scoping visit covered three major stopover points:

- Caliraya Botocan Kalayaan (CBK) power plant
- Panguil EcoPark and
- Maynilad water filtration plant

As main hub of commerce, energy production and ecotourism, the Basin also provides a host of ecosystem benefits such as flood mitigation and fish habitat.



Around the Laguna Lake Basin

The LLDA, the lead government agency for the Laguna Lake ecosystem account, welcomed the use of ecosystem accounting to craft strategic plans that would:

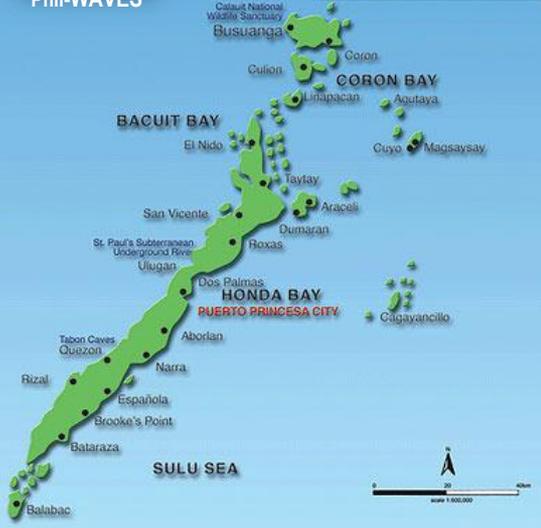
- integrate land and water management and
- assess the overall value of the lake and its watersheds

The information to be generated by the project will be crucial in modelling the causal relationships between the quality of the water in Laguna Lake and the silt and pollutant loads of waters draining into the lake.

LLDA intends to use the ecosystem accounts to support strategic plans on the development of payment mechanisms for water use and in the long-term to plan sustainable financing schemes.



Phil-WAVES: Where theory and practice meet



Southern Palawan

The Phil-WAVES Team also conducted a scoping visit in Southern Palawan to be better acquainted on the various land uses of this region, which is abundant in natural resources and rich in biodiversity.

“Being an area of rich biodiversity, Palawan has a high potential for eco-tourism. At the same time, it has abundant mineral resources, forests and agricultural land. Which of these types of uses can you allow to maximize the value of the country over the long term?”

- Elisea “Bebet” Gozun, WAVES Country Coordinator, explaining how WAVES could be used as a tool to better assess the costs and benefits of varying land uses.

Southern Palawan

The TWGs visited a mining area, an oil palm plantation, a model agricultural/coconut farm, the Palawan tribal center and conducted dialogue with the community of rice farmers comprising Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and non-IPs.

It was determined by the TWG that the Southern Palawan ecosystem account would be used to address policy issues related to competing land uses such as:

- mining
- expansion of land for industrial plantations particularly palm oil plantations, and
- decline of rice productivity



Phil-WAVES: Where theory and practice meet



Expanding WAVES within the academe

Consultants were contracted to:

- support the valuation and policy work of the ecosystem accounts for the Laguna Lake basin and Southern Palawan respectively
- develop training materials, draw on local experts as well as students to support the analytical work and data collection

Building expertise and technical capacity in the academe was an identified strategy to institutionalize wealth accounting as an evidence-based tool for sustainable and inclusive development.



*/Originally published in WAVES GPP Newsletter
Published in DENR Website/26 March 2014

WB Project - Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

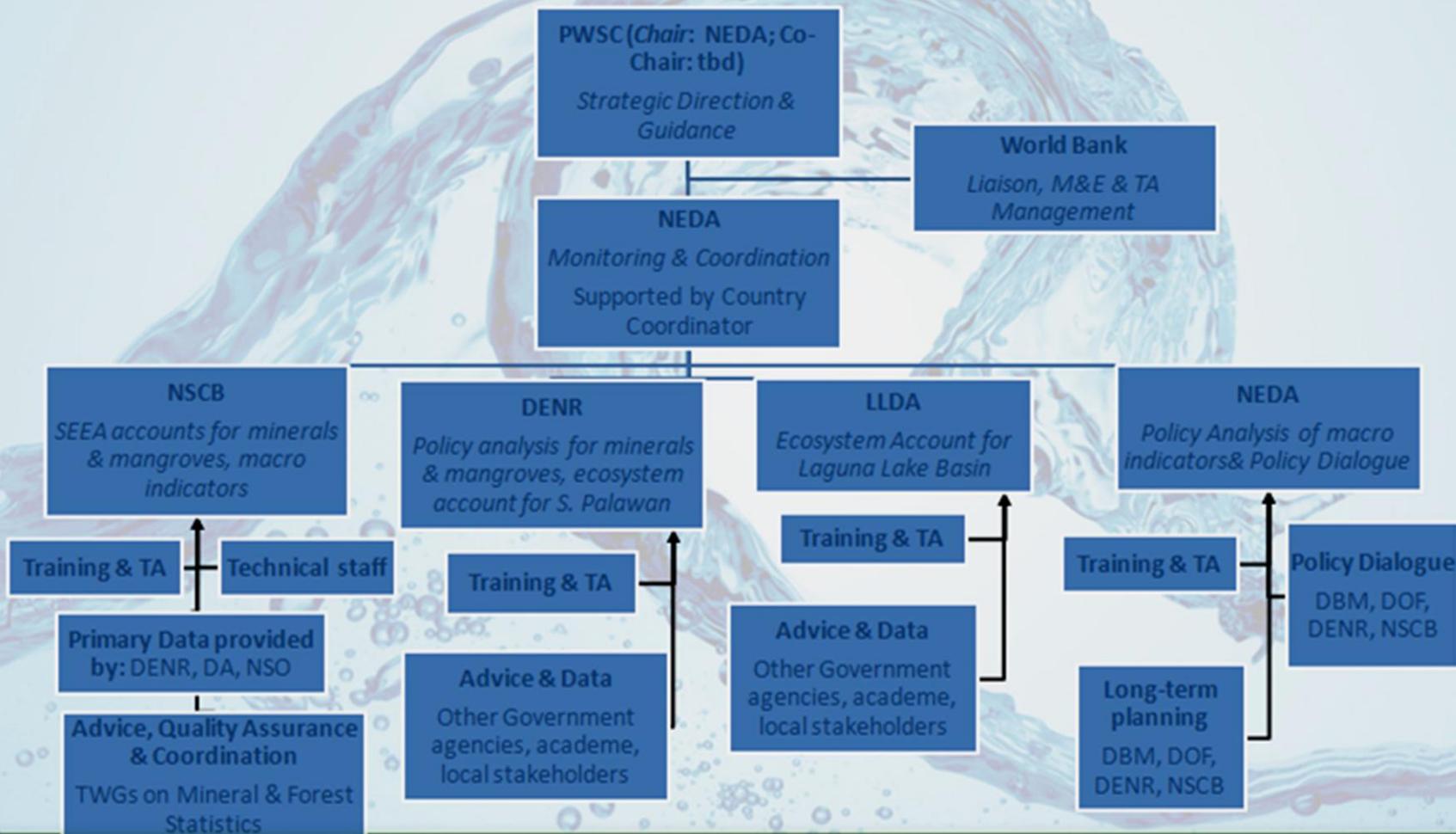
- Close linkages between the EITI and WAVES initiative
- While revenue transparency, the core essence of EITI implementation, some stakeholders particularly civil society organizations (CSOs), are looking to WAVES for the broader picture

EXPECTATIONS:

- WAVES will provide an idea to what extent the country and the communities are getting the fair share in the wealth generated by the country's mineral resources
- It was agreed with the EITI team to collaborate closely on communication and to update each other frequently

IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

Steering Committee



IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

National Technical Working Group

Chaired by Director, FASPS and co-chaired by Director, PPSO

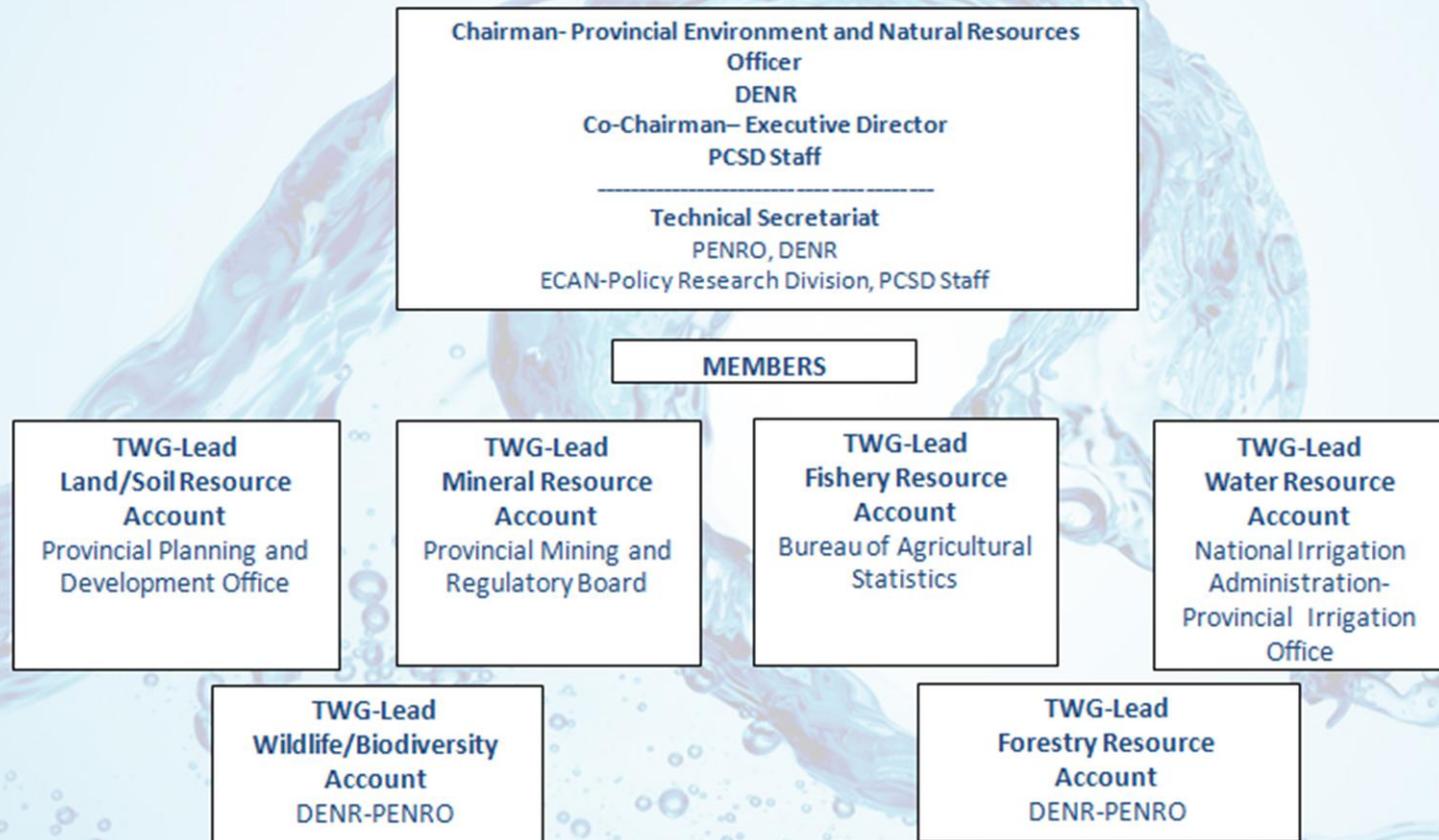
Members composed of representatives from:

- BMB- Biodiversity Management Bureau
- EMB- Environmental Management Bureau
- ERDB- Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau
- FMB- Forest Management Bureau
- LMB- Land Management Bureau
- MGB- Mines and Geosciences Bureau
- NAMRIA- National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
- PPSO- Policy and Planning Service Office
- Region IV-B



IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

Local Technical Working Group



Accomplishments

➤ Institutional Arrangement of Phil-WAVES:

- Creation of DENR National and Local (Southern Palawan-based) Technical Working Group
- Creation of Project Coordinating Unit (PCU)
- Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) Process
(Endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the IPs, NCIP, DENR, NEDA, LGUs to the Provincial NCIP for issuance of FPIC)
- Issuance of Certification to Proceed by NCIP- Palawan Provincial Office





Accomplishments

Conducted Trainings, Workshops and Consultations

(Nov. 2013-Jan. 2014)

- Ecosystem Account
- Consultation with IPs, Fisherfolks, Farmers & Private Sector Groups
- ABS-ANU Training Course
- Video Conference with ABS, WB and ESA on Trial Accounts

Training on Ecosystem Accounting (10-14 February 2014)

Field Trip to Southern Palawan (17-20 February 2014)

Small Group (National TWG) Meeting (28 February 2014)

Joint Sub-Group Meeting/Workshop (13-14 March 2014)

Small Group Meeting (NAMRIA, FMB, Phil-WAVES-PCU, FASPS
(19 March 2014)

Meeting between Local TWG and Ms. Villaluz (WB) and Ms. Gozun
(WAVES Country Coordinator (15 April 2014)

PHIL-WAVES: Priority Policy Issues



Sector	Policy Issues	Environmental Concerns
Agricultural Land	Food security, Declining Productivity, Competing land uses, Climate change	Watershed management, Irrigation, Soil erosion, Groundwater contamination
Forest land	Deforestation, Watershed and Protected area management, Competing land uses	Downstream water supply, Siltation, Increasing upland population, Geohazards, Conservation
Minerals	Economic contribution, Resource rents, Distribution of benefits, Government incentives, Governance, Regulation of small-scale mining,	Responsible mining, Environmental damages, Sustainability of income from mining
Water	Potential water scarcity, Deterioration of watersheds, Low sewerage coverage	Deficient watershed management , Siltation, Pollution, Saltwater intrusion
Fisheries, coastal and marine	Overfishing, Competition among user groups, Scaling up conservation , Undervalued economic activities	Size of coastal settlements, Risks from Climate change and geo-hazards, Ecosystem degradation , Sustainable tourism
Tourism	Benefit to the poor, competing land use	Environmental management in tourist areas
Energy	High cost, efficiency, energy mix	Geothermal energy in protected areas

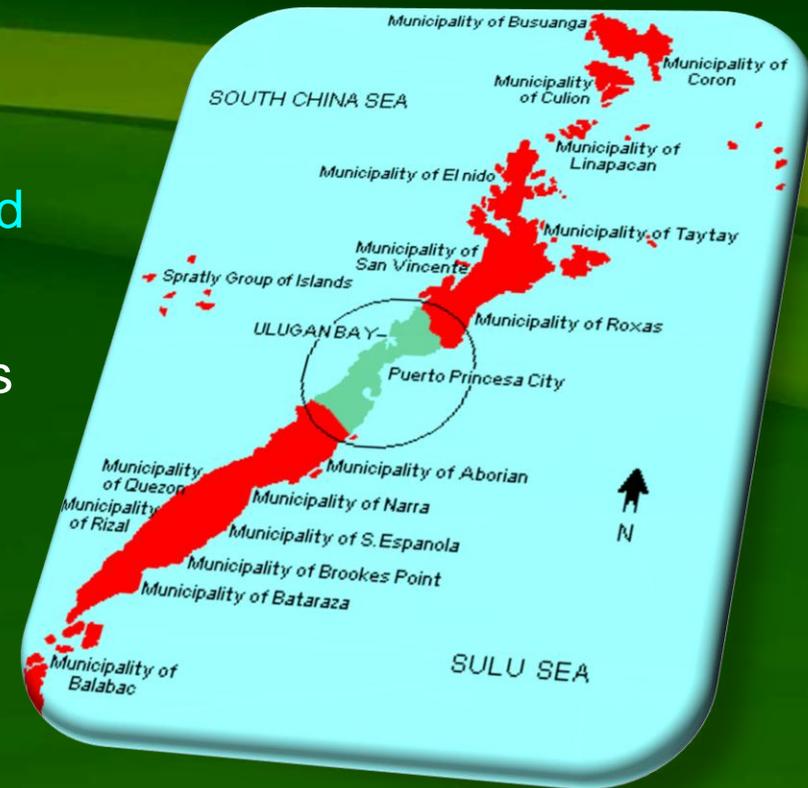
POLICY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY ECOSYSTEM ACCOUNTS IN SOUTHERN PALAWAN

- Land use conflicts;
- Conservation vs. allowing sustainable use of ecosystem resources; and
- Governance

Ecosystem Accounts for Southern Palawan

A range of policy issues were identified by the mission:

- dealing with competing land claims (palm oil, agriculture and mining)
- understanding and regulating on-site impacts of mining, illegal logging and coastal zone developments



Ecosystem accounts, once developed:

- would provide an excellent basis for supporting policy-making in these fields, allowing comparison of the economic and sustainability effects of land use options
- better understanding and monitoring of the environmental effects of mining and their economic implications

NEXT STEPS

- **Institutional Arrangements**

- a) Facilitate the release of the NCIP Certificate of Precondition
- b) Clarify working arrangement, cost sharing & responsibilities between national & local TWG
- c) Update working arrangement, following finalization of data gap & availability assessment

NEXT STEPS

- **Development of Ecosystem Accounts**
 - d. Drafting of data gap assessment
 - e. Finalization data gap & availability assessment
 - f. Drafting of detailed work plan, including identifying responsibilities, staff & budget resources, & additional support needed
 - g. Finalization detailed work plan



Wealth
Accounting and
Valuation of
Ecosystem
Services
in the Philippines (Phil-WAVES)

Thank you!

Dir. ANGELITO V. FONTANILLA
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The Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) is considered in the industry today as one of the most socially and environmentally-sensitive legislations in its class.

Specific provisions:

- Local government empowerment
- Respect and concern for the indigenous cultural communities
- Equitable sharing of benefits of natural wealth
- Economic demands of present generation while providing the necessary foundation for future generations
- Worldwide trend towards globalization
- Protection for and wise management of the environment



*Philippine Mining
Act Of 1995*

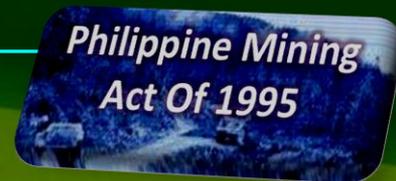
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY CONCERNS

A significant feature of the Mining Act of 1995 and its IRR is the premium given to **environmental protection**. Stringent measures were institutionalized to ensure the compliance of mining contractors to internationally accepted standards of environmental management.

Some of the highlights provided for in the IRR:

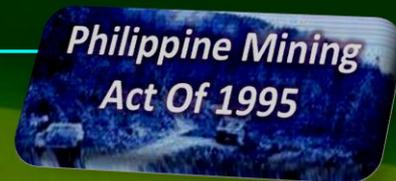
- Mandatory allocation of an **approximately 10% of the initial capital expenditures** of the mining project for environment-related activities;
- Mandatory annual allocation of 3-5% of the direct mining and milling costs to implement an Annual **Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP)**;
- Mandatory establishment of a **MINE REHABILITATION FUND (MRF)** to be composed of: a) a Monitoring Trust Fund of PhP40,000; and b) a Rehabilitation Cash Fund of PhP5 Million or 10% of the EPEP cost, whichever is lower. Such Funds are to be deposited as trust account in a government depository bank to be managed by the MRF Committee;
- Mandatory establishment of the Contingent Liability and Rehabilitation Fund (CLRF) to be managed by a Steering Committee chaired by the MGB Director with members coming from concerned government agencies;

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY CONCERNS



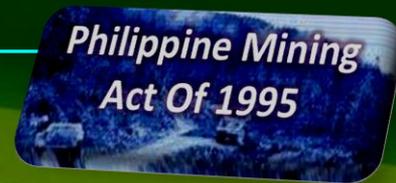
- Conduct of Environmental Work Program (EWP) during the exploration stage and an EPEP during the development and operations stage
- Institutionalization of an incentive mechanism to mining companies utilizing engineered and well-maintained waste and tailings disposal systems with zero-discharge of materials/effluents and/or with wastewater treatments plants
- Mandatory constitution and operationalization of a Multipartite Monitoring Team composed of representatives from the MGB, DENR Regional Office, affected communities, Indigenous Cultural Communities, an environmental NGO, and the Contractor/Permit Holder, to monitor mining operations
- Mandatory establishment and operationalization of a Mine Environmental and Protection and Enhancement Office (MEPEO) in each mining/contract area which shall set the level of priorities and marshal the resources needed to implement environmental programs

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY CONCERNS



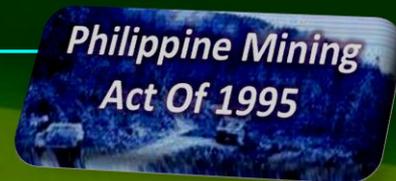
- Mandatory preparation and implementation of a final Mine Rehabilitation/ Decommissioning Plan at least five years prior to the end of the life of the mine, to be undertaken in consultation and in coordination with the concerned communities;
- Imposition of higher penalty (P50.00/MT) to mining companies that are found to have illegally discharged and/or discharging solid fractions of tailings into areas other than the approved tailings disposal area;
- Authorizing the MGB Regional Director to summarily suspend mining/quarrying operations in case of imminent danger;
- Mandatory compliance with the rules and regulations of the Mines Safety Rules and Regulations by all Contractors, Permittees, Lessees, and Permit Holders; and

ON SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY



Mining contractors/operators shall allocate a **minimum of 1% of their direct mining and milling costs** for the development of the following:

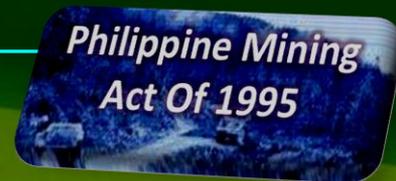
- Host and neighboring communities and mine camp to promote the general welfare of inhabitants in the area
 - This includes construction and maintenance of infrastructures such as roads and bridges, school buildings, housing and recreational facilities, water and power supplies, etc.
- Mining technology and geosciences, particularly those related to improved efficiencies and environmental protection and rehabilitation



ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)

The IRR highlights the role of LGUs in mining projects, both as beneficiaries and as active participants, in consonance with the Constitution and government policies on local autonomy and empowerment.

- In consonance with the LG Code of 1992 (LGC), LGUs have a share of **forty percent (40%) of the gross collection** derived by the National Government from mining taxes, royalties and other such taxes, fees or charges from mining operations in addition to the occupational fees (30% to the Province and 70% to the Municipalities concerned);
- In consonance with the LGC and the People Small-Scale Mining Act (RA 7076), the LGUs shall be responsible for the issuance of permits for small-scale mining and quarrying operations, through the Provincial/City Mining Regulatory Boards;
- To actively participate in the process by which the communities shall reach an informed decision on the social acceptability of a mining project as a requirement for securing an Env'l Compliance Certificate (ECC);



ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)

- To ensure that relevant laws on public notices, consultations and public participation are complied with;
- To participate in the monitoring of mining activities as a member of the Multipartite Monitoring Team, as well as in the Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee;
- To act as mediator between the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and the mining contractor as may be requested/necessary;
- To be the recipients of social infrastructures and community development projects for the utilization and benefit of the host and neighboring communities; and
- To coordinate with and assist the DENR and the MGB in the implementation of the Mining Act and the IRR.

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 79

“ INSTITUTIONALIZING AND IMPLEMENTING REFORMS IN THE PHILIPPINE MINING SECTOR, PROVIDING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBLE MINING IN THE UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES”

Signed by President of the Philippines, 06 July 2012

THRUST

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 79
“ INSTITUTIONALIZING AND IMPLEMENTING REFORMS IN THE PHILIPPINE MINING SECTOR, PROVIDING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBLE MINING IN THE UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES”

The Thrust of Executive Order 79

- improve environmental mining standards
- increase revenues to promote sustainable economic development and social growth, both at the national and local levels

Pursuant to these objectives, the order focused on enhancing coordination among stakeholders to ensure strict compliance by mining operators to the existing mining laws and regulations

Changes introduced on the ENVIRONMENT ASPECT

In addition to the areas closed to mining applications as provided under Section 19 of the Mining Act has been expanded:

- Protected areas categorized and established under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (“NIPAS”) under Rep. Act 7586
- Prime agricultural lands including:
 - plantations and areas devoted to valuable crops
 - strategic agriculture and fisheries development zones
 - fish refuge and sanctuaries declared as such by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
- Tourism development areas, as identified in the National Tourism Development Plan and

Changes introduced on the ENVIRONMENT ASPECT

- Other critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining as determined by current and existing mapping technologies, that the DENR may hereafter identify pursuant to existing laws, rules, and regulations

Implementation of ensuring environmental compliance is now not solely the responsibility of the National Government -

- enforcement will now be done in coordination with LGUs, which shall confine themselves only to the imposition of reasonable limitations on mining activities conducted within their jurisdiction

Existing mining operations will now be placed under review by a multi-stakeholder team led by the DENR.

Likewise, the use of mercury in small-scale mining is strictly prohibited and small-scale mining shall be confined only to declared People's Small-Scale Mining Areas or *Minahang Bayan*.



Changes introduced on the ENVIRONMENT ASPECT

- No new mining operations will be approved in Palawan, consistent with the following:
 - Existing laws such as Mining and NIPAS Acts
 - Critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining that will be declared by the DENR based on existing laws, rules and regulations
 - The ecological uniqueness of Palawan's flora and fauna and the need to protect the same is recognized
 - RA 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan calls for the protection of Palawan's environment and natural resources
 - Recognition of its potential for other forms of investments (eco-tourism such as the Puerto Princesa Underground River)

Mining firms pour \$1.311 B on expansion projects in '13

By Czeriza Valencia (The Philippine Star) | Updated April 28, 2014 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines - Investments in the mining sector grew 61.4 percent, exceeding the target last year on continued capital expenditures of existing mining projects as well as potential big ticket projects that are still in the pre-development stage.

Investments in the mining sector totaled \$1.311 billion last year from \$812.5 million in 2012. The target for 2013 was \$817.58 million.

"These are all continuing investments, no new investments were made last year," said Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Leo Jasareno.

This year, miners are expected to invest a total of \$1.324 billion in the local extractive industry.

Mining investments last year went to the Palawan HPAL Project of Coral Bay Nickel Corp., a joint venture of Japanese firms Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Mitsui & Co., Sojitz Corp. and Filipino firm Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corp.

Other recipients were the Canatuan silver-gold project of TVI Resource Development Philippines. (TVIRD), the Teresa Gold Project of Lepanto Consolidated Mining, nickel projects of Surigao Integrated Resources Co. in Surigao del Norte, Philsaga Co-o Gold Project of Philsaga Mining Corp., Toledo Copper Project of Atlas Mining and

Development Corp., and the Didipio copper-gold project of Oceanagold Corp.

Investments in the pre-development work for projects that are in the feasibility stage also continue to pour in. Expenditure continues in the proposed Tampakan copper-gold project of Sagittarius Mines, Inc., the Silangan Copper Project of Philex Mining Corp., Far Southeast Gold Project of Lepanto, King-King copper-gold project of St. Augustine

Copper and Gold Ltd., and the Agata copper-gold-nickel project of TVIRD.

The moratorium on the granting of new mining contracts remains until a law providing for a new revenue sharing scheme between the government and mining companies is passed.

Kalingas score mining provision in Organic Act

by Zaldy Comanda

April 30, 2014



Tabuk City, Kalinga – A group that swore to protect the Chico River and Tabuk Valley farmlands from pollution yesterday said it is seeking a provision in the draft Organic Act for Cordillera to ensure that the environment will be protected.

The Kalinga Anti-Pollution Action Group (KAPAG) scored the framers of the Organic Act for placing provisions pertaining to “responsible mining,” claiming that it made a mockery of the avowal of the document to protect the region’s environment.

The group claimed that “responsible mining is a myth in the local mining scene,” and challenged the framers to identify a sample of that state of mining in the region and the whole country.

“Let them show us a place in the country where mining co-existed and is co-existing with agriculture in the best sense of the word and we will change our position,” the group said, adding that it will support the so-called responsible mining that is included in the draft.

KAPAG, organized in 2012, aims to avoid a recurrence of the time in the early 80s when a mining firm in Pasil, Kalinga polluted the farmlands of the Tabuk Valley, which led to the decrease in rice harvest of Cordillera’s rice granary by as much as 40 percent in a number of occasions.

The group’s statement added that Tabuk and the entire Kalinga province is primarily rice producing and destruction of the environment in lieu of mining would mean the death of the primary source of livelihood of the people.

The group claimed that the framers ignored the fact that with the mining stance of the Organic Act, they could be provoking a replay of the Chico River Dam conflict because “the tribes who courageously fought against the destruction of the Chico River Dam project now own lands in the Tabuk Valley.”

It added that natives of Kalinga will not just seat down to as they look at the destruction of their lands as they fought so hard to get their land that their families’ have been tilling for years.

Not seeing any possibility that the framers would give up mining as an economic activity and source of revenues in the new set-up, the group instead asked for concessions that would allow them elbow room to defend the Tabuk Valley from mining pollution in case autonomy wins.

House OKs reduction of surface miners' retirement age

By Jess Diaz (The Philippine Star) | Updated May 1, 2014 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines - The House committee on labor and employment has endorsed a bill seeking to reduce the retirement age of surface mine workers from 60 to 50 years old.

The committee chaired by Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles approved House Bill 4271, which amends Presidential Decree No. 442 or the Labor Code of the Philippines.

Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan, the bill's principal author, said the proposed amendment would put surface mine workers such as the mill, mechanical, electrical and tailings pond personnel on equal footing with underground miners.

"Surface mine workers, like underground miners, are susceptible and vulnerable to health hazards due to exposure to hazardous elements. Their jobs include handling and sorting minerals extracted from mining pits and maintaining electrical and mechanical equipment and fixtures in mining sites. Hence, the need to reduce the retirement age for this group of workers as well," Cosalan said.

He said the retirement age for underground mine personnel was reduced from 60 to 50 years old on Feb. 26, 1998 under Republic Act No. 8558.

"The rationale behind this is that the continuous exposure of underground miners to hazardous elements and risks makes them susceptible and vulnerable to all types of health problems and danger," Cosalan said.

The lawmaker said the reduction in the retirement age for underground miners was reiterated in the implementing rules and regulations issued by the Department of Labor and Employment.

He said he learned that the Social Security System has refused mine workers to be covered by the law and the implementing rules, claiming RA 8558 did not specifically amend the social security law that governs retirement and retirement benefits.

"Hence, it becomes necessary to expressly and specifically amend the Social Security Law to ensure that retired mine workers are allowed to enjoy all the benefits and privileges of SSS members," he said.



DECEMBER 27, 2013

OFFICIAL GAZETTE

DEPARTMENT OF

357

RESOURCES

Special Provision(s)

1. **Royalties Income.** In addition to the amounts appropriated herein, Ten Million One Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Pesos (P10,157,000) for MOOE and Seventeen Million Two Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Pesos (P17,249,000) for Capital Outlays sourced from ten percent (10%) of royalties derived from the development and utilization of mineral resources within reservations shall be used for special projects and administrative expenses in accordance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 7942, subject to the submission of a Special Budget pursuant to Section 35, Chapter 5, Book VI of E.O. No. 292.

The Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB) shall submit, either in printed form or by way of electronic document, to the DBM, copy furnished the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance, quarterly reports on the financial and physical accomplishments on the utilization of said amount including the list of projects and activities and their corresponding amounts. The Director of MGB and the Bureau's web administrator or his/her equivalent shall be responsible for ensuring that said quarterly reports are likewise posted on the official website of the MGB.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

➤ Training, Workshops, and Consultations Conducted:

- Consultation on Ecosystem Account (November 28, 2013)
- Launch Workshop
(Identified Key Policy Issues on: Protected Areas and Biodiversity and Forestry, Mining and Mineral Development; and Coastal Resource Management and Fisheries)
- Consultation with IPs, Fisher folks, Farmers and Private Sector Groups
- ABS-ANU Training Course and Follow-up Specialist Training on Existing Data
- Video Conference with ABS, WB, and ESA, on Trial Accounts (November 2013 and January 2014)



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Training on Ecosystem Accounting (February 10-14, 2014)

- Participants were introduced to Ecosystem Accounting and to the analytical approaches used in Ecosystem Accounting, and to support the development of work plans for the development of Ecosystem Accounts in Lake Laguna and Southern Palawan;
- Identified priority ecosystem service for valuation;
- Narrowed down coverage of the pilot study in Southern Palawan to 3 areas within Mt. Mantalingahan: one (1) in Española and two (2) in Brooke's Point; and
- Drafted detailed matrix on Trial Accounts with identified ecosystem pressure, services and indicators related to the Laguna Lake Basin and Southern Palawan area.
- Field trip Southern Palawan (February 17-20, 2014)



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

➤ **Small Group (National TWG) Meeting:**

February 28, 2014

(In preparation for the Joint Sub-group Meeting in Palawan)

➤ **Joint Sub-group Meeting/Workshop:**

March 13- 14, 2014

(Came up with three matrices covering Upland, Lowland, Coastal/Marine Ecosystems and prioritized watersheds for the pilot study in Southern Palawan, namely *Mambalot-Pilantropia*, *Brooke's Pt.* and *Pulot, Sofronio Española*)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Small Group Meeting (NAMRIA, FMB, Phil-WAVES-PCU, FASPS):**

March 19, 2014

(Land Cover and Forest Cover definition and scope were clarified and agreement was made between FMB and NAMRIA)

- **Meeting between the TWG (Local) and Ms. Maya Villaluz and Ms. Bebet Gozun:**

April 15, 2014

(Came up with Agreements, Keypoints, and Data Needs-Refer to Minutes of the Meeting.)