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Swallowed by a cayman : integrating cultural values in Philippine crocodile conservation

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Jan van der Ploeg was born on the 18th of July 1977 in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Growing up as a boy in Mozambique and Rwanda he dreamed of becoming a park ranger and protecting African elephants. It turned out to be Philippine crocodiles. Jan finalized his secondary education at the Wagenings Lyceum in 1995, and studied environmental anthropology at Leiden University. He graduated in 2001 on an MA thesis on the political ecology of herder-peasant conflicts, based on extensive fieldwork in North Cameroun. From 2001 to 2008 Jan served as coordinator of the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development (CVPED), the joint research and education program of the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML) of Leiden University and the College of Forestry and Environmental Management (CFEM) of Isabela State University in the Philippines. In 2003 he co-founded the Mabuwaya Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserve the Philippine crocodile in the wild on Luzon. The applied research conducted in the framework of the Philippine crocodile conservation project resulted in this thesis. Since 2011 Jan is working at the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology of Leiden University where he is teaching several courses in the field of environment and development.

Barbossa: 'You know the problem with being the last of anything, by and by there be none left at all.'

Jack Sparrow: 'Sometimes things come back mate. We're living proof, you and me.'

Barbossa: 'Aye, but that's a gamble of long odds, ain't it? There's never a guarantee of coming back. But passing on, that's dead certain.'

[...]

Jack Sparrow: 'That's a sad commentary in and of itself.'

Barbossa: 'The world used to be a bigger place.'

Jack Sparrow: 'World's still the same. There's just... less in it.'

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007)

