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**Ako Ay Agta, Ako Ay Pilipino: Proceedings of the Agta workshop held at Isabela State University on 15-19 August 2005 in Cabagan, Isabela, Philippines**

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# AKO AY AGTA, AKO AY PILIPINO!

## Proceedings of the Agta workshop

ATI-RTC  
Isabela State University Cabagan Campus  
Garita, Cabagan, Isabela  
15-19 August 2005



Edited by:

Tessa Minter, Myrna C. Cureg, Jan van der Ploeg,  
Antonia M. Bagunu, Ma. Theresa R. Aggabao,  
Jennifer G. Valencia, Dante M. Aquino and Maria L. Ranay

Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development  
Isabela State University  
2005



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Agta Workshop *Ako ay Agta, Ako ay Pilipino!* took place from August 15-19, 2005 at the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center in Cabagan, Isabela. The event was organized by the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development (CVPED) in co-operation with Tanggol Kalikasan with funding from the Netherlands Government. A total of 231 Agta participants belonging to 68 Agta families from the municipalities of Tumauini, Ilagan, San Mariano, Maconacon, Dinapigue, Divilacan and Palanan attended the workshop.

The workshop consisted of: 1) a participatory problem analysis of challenges the participants face in their daily lives; 2) a dialogue between the participants and government officials about this problem analysis; 3) a training on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and the National Integrated Protected Area System Law by Tanggol Kalikasan; 4) a presentation by CVPED of the preliminary results of an anthropological study on the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park conducted between 2002-2005; and 5) an educational and cultural program for the participating children.

The following concerns stood out from the participants' participatory problem analysis:

### Environment and livelihood

- Illegal activities such as logging, dynamite-, cyanide- and electro-fishing, and commercial hunting continuously take place in the Agta's ancestral domains.
- These environmentally destructive activities have a negative impact on the Agta's livelihood opportunities, notably on subsistence hunting and fishing.
- This situation results in poor nutrition and increased poverty.

### Health and education

- The Agta's health condition is generally bad, due to poor nutrition and lack of access to medical facilities.
- Hardly any Agta children follow education because there is a lack of schools, materials and teachers in their residential areas.

### Relationships with government and others

- The Agta encounter discrimination, intimidation, harassment and exploitation by non-Agta on a daily basis.
- Government programs generally fail to reach the Agta.
- The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples' program to award titles to the Agta's ancestral domains under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act has so far not met its targets.
- Agta ancestral domains are continuously being encroached on by non-Agta.

The workshop participants called for government action on the above mentioned issues by presenting a *manifesto*, signed by 111 Agta, to all attending government representatives. In response, the following commitments were made:

- The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples committed to finalize the titling of the Agta's ancestral domain by October 2005; to set up offices in each municipality; and to assign Agta officers in the commission.
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development promised to provide training and capital resources for livelihood development, and to assist in the setting up of indigenized Day Care Centers for children up to four years old.

- The Department of Education assured that through the School in Every Barrio Program, the department will address education problems in Agta settlements by providing teachers and books in far flung areas.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources recognized its responsibility in protecting the natural resources of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park.
- The Isabela State University announced that all Agta students who wish to enroll in any of the university's campuses will be exempted from paying tuition fees.
- The Provincial Health Office committed to distribute mosquito nets among the Agta of the Isabela in order to fight malaria.
- The representatives of the Local Government Units of Maconacon, Tumauni, San Pablo, and Dinapigue expressed their commitment address the needs of the Agta communities in their respective municipalities.

## PREFACE

This report documents the Agta workshop *Ako ay Agta, Ako ay Pilipino!* which took place from August 15-19 2005 at the Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center in Cabagan, Isabela. A total of 231 individuals belonging to 68 Agta families from seven municipalities in Isabela Province participated in the five day program. The workshop was organized by the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development (CVPED) and took place at the end of an anthropological study on the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, which was conducted from 2002-2005. One of the workshop's main aims was to let the participants make a participatory problem analysis of the challenges they face in their daily lives and to facilitate a dialogue between the workshop participants and government officials on this problem analysis. In addition, Tanggol Kalikasan, an environmental lawyers group, trained the participants on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and the National Integrated Protect Areas System law. Further, CVPED presented the preliminary results of its anthropological study in order to validate these results with the workshop participants. Last, as the organizers aimed towards maximum women's participation in the workshop and presentation activities, an educational and cultural program was organized for the children.

Why was this workshop so important? In fact the workshop's theme *Ako ay Agta, Ako ay Pilipino!* says it all. Although the Agta are Filipinos just like the rest of the Philippine Republic's population, and despite the enactment of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act in 1997, they experience discrimination at many levels. Moreover, the Agta still belong to the poorest of the poor. They suffer from high child mortality rates, poor nutrition and lack of education. Yet, in talking about these concerns we hardly ever hear the voices of the Agta. Whenever we speak of the Agta's culture, economic situation or future it is usually other people speaking for and about them, rather than the Agta speaking for and about themselves. But what do the Agta really want? What do they really think? What do they really feel? This workshop was designed to let the participants think and speak for themselves and to stimulate them to enter into a dialogue with government officials. The present document is intended to further support this process. It contains a detailed account of all the discussions that took place during the workshop and it summarizes the most important conclusions.

The organization of the workshop would not have been possible without the support and hard work of a large number of people. Here is the proper place to thank them all. The workshop was funded by the Netherlands Government in the framework of the Junior Expert Program. We thank Dr. Hans de Iongh and Dr. Gerard Persoon of the Institute of Environmental Science, Leiden University for their indispensable support. Isabela State University President Dr. Romeo Quilang and Cabagan Campus Prof. Richard Ramirez warmly welcomed the participants and facilitators at the ATI-RTC in Cabagan. We thank Atty. Asis Perez, Atty. Lolly Sheen and Atty. Jay Lim of Tanggol Kalikasan for their dedicated and intelligent training approach. Hon. Governor Grace Padaca made the opening and closing ceremonies unforgettable experiences; we thank the Governor for her time and genuine commitment. Hon. Mayor Christopher Mamauag of Cabagan, Hon. Mayor Francisco Talosig of Maconacon, Ms. Perla Visorro of Cagayan Valley Partners in People's Development, Bishop Sergio Utleg, Doctor Manuel Beltran, Doctor Rosa Rita Mariano and Mrs. Emely Maligay greatly contributed to the workshop's substance. We thank the Provincial Government of Isabela, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the Diocese of Ilagan, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Office of the Protected Area Superintendent of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural

Park, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Education and the Local Government Units of Maconacon, Dinapigue, San Pablo and Tumauini for their constructive participation in the workshop's closing program. Mr. Bawi Donato, Mr. Noni dela Peña, Mr. Salvador Ancheta, Mr. Pedro Taberner and Mr. Boy dela Peña assisted in bringing all participants together. The ATI-RTC provided excellent facilities and much-needed flexibility; special thanks go to Mr. Boy Bauí for his creativity. Dr. Mary Aquino energetically facilitated the workshops and plenary program in cooperation with Mrs. Rosalinda Lucero, Mrs. Norma Maddalora, Mr. Rey Baquiran, Mr. Samuel Telan, For. Jessie Guerrero, For. Dominic Rodriguez, For. Bernard Tarun, For. Marites Balbas-Gatan, Mr. Roldan Dugay and Mr. Edmund Jose. The children's program was implemented with great care by the Teachers College of ISU Cabagan. Our deep gratitude for this goes to the Dean of Teachers College Dr. Nenita Magno, Dr. Olive Beltran, Dr. Adora Amugauan and to all practice teachers and instructors who were involved in the program. Dr. Andres Masipiqueña, Ms. Joylin Gumarang, Ms. Wilda Calapoto, Mr. Arnold Macadangdang and Mr. Eso Tarun were the wire pullers throughout the workshop's organization: thank you!

The editors

Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development

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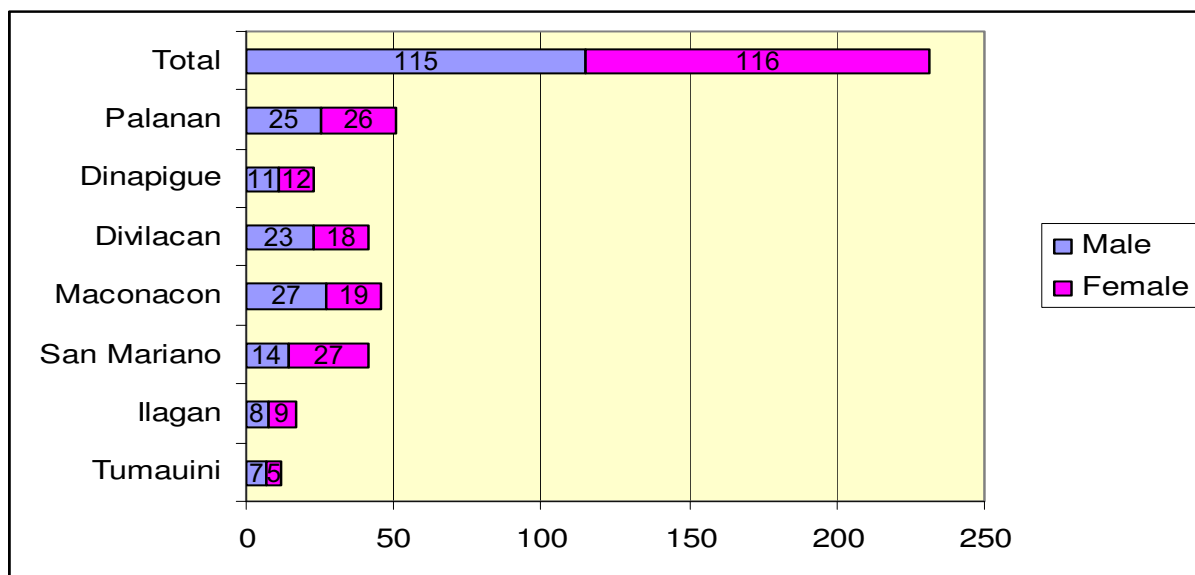
## INTRODUCTION

The Agta workshop *Ako ay Agta, Ako ay Pilipino!* took place from August 15-19 2005 at the Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC), Garita, Cabagan, Isabela. The Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development (CVPED), in co-operation with Tanggol Kalikasan, organized the workshop as closing activity of the Junior Expert Program (2002-2005). The event was made possible through the financial assistance of the Netherlands Government.

A total of 231 Agta individuals from 68 households attended the workshop. Of these 115 participants were male and 116 were female. Around half of the participants were adults, while the other half consisted of children and adolescents. The participants came from seven municipalities of Isabela. The largest groups came from the towns of Palanan (51 participants), Maconacon (46 participants), Divilacan (41 participants) and San Mariano (41 participants). Smaller groups came from the municipalities of Dinapigue (23 participants), Ilagan (17 participants) and Tumauni (12 participants). Unfortunately, the invited families from San Pablo and Cabagan were not able to make it to the workshop.

The participants followed a five day program which culminated in a day of interaction between the participants and representatives of government offices such as the Provincial Government of Isabela, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Office of the Protected Area Superintendent of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Education and various Local Government Units. The Agta workshop provided an opportunity for the participants to identify common concerns and to think of possible solutions. For, although the participants live river valleys and mountains apart, they face many similar challenges in the field of livelihood, food security, health, and education. This report documents what they consider to be the causes of these problems and how they wish to address them.

**Table 1:** Distribution of male and female Agta participants per municipality.



## **Aim of the workshop**

Under the Junior Expert Program of CVPED, PhD researcher Tessa Minter and research assistant Maria L. Ranay conducted a three year anthropological study on the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (2002-2005). The Agta workshop was organized at the end of this research and had the following specific objectives:

1. To facilitate a participatory analysis of challenges the Agta face in their respective settlement areas;
2. To facilitate a dialogue between the participants and government officials from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Office of the Protected Area Superintendent, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Education, and the Provincial and Municipal Governments.
3. To provide training on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, the National Integrated Protected Area System Law and the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Act to the adult participants.
4. To present to the participants the main research results of the anthropological study by CVPED and to receive the participants' feed-back on these results.
5. To provide an educational and cultural program to the participating children, implemented by the Teachers College of Isabela State University Cabagan.

## **Who are the Agta?**

The Agta are the indigenous people of the Sierra Madre. They are the descendents of the Philippines' first colonizers, who arrived in the archipelago between 35,000 and 60,000 years ago. When so-called Malay peoples settled in North Luzon around 1400 BC, they started trading and inter-marrying with the proto-Agta (Bellwood 1999: 284; Headland and Reid 1989: 44-5). Today, the Agta comprise only a very small portion of the Philippine population: their total population is estimated at around 9,000 individuals. In contrast to the rest of the Philippine population, the Agta population is not growing. The main reason for this is high mortality, especially in children. A newly born Agta child has only 50 percent chance to reach age 15 (Early and Headland 1998: 4). This means that relative to the non-Agta population, the Agta population is becoming ever smaller. The Agta population of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park has remained more or less constant over the past five years: of the 23,000 inhabitants of the park around 1,700 (7.4 percent) are Agta (Magaña 2000; Minter and Ranay 2005a).

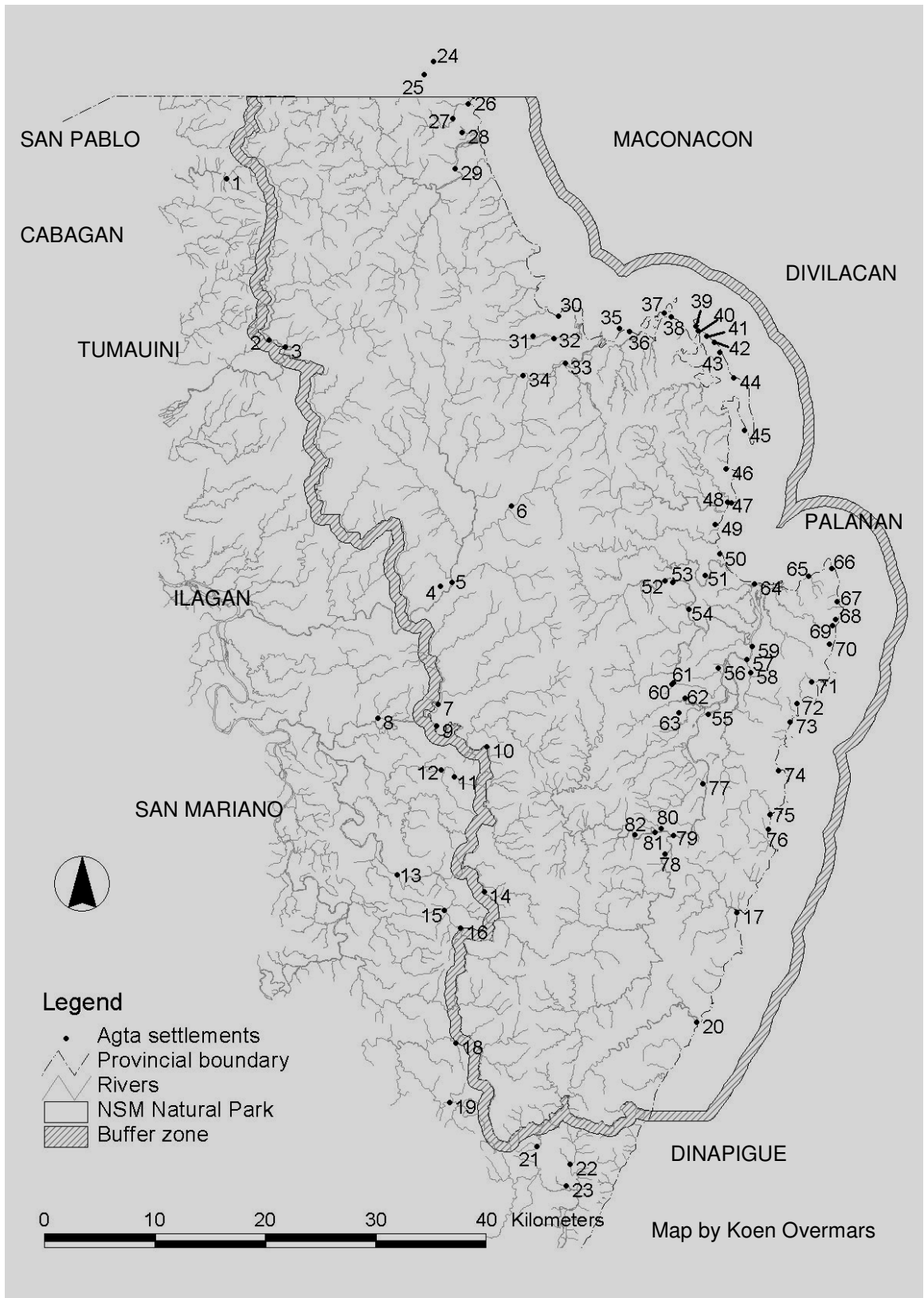
## **Settlement patterns**

The Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park live in small *sitios* along rivers and coasts, generally far removed from roads. Usually their settlements are situated away from non-Agta residents (see map 1 and table 2). Within the park, various Agta dialects are spoken by Agta groups who are internally related through blood or marriage ties. The Agta prefer to settle only there where they have relatives and where they can speak their own Agta dialect. It is in these areas that they fish, hunt and conduct other livelihood activities. Until the 1950s, the different Agta groups conducted intra-tribal raids which are called *ngayao*. Although these *ngayao* no longer take place, the Agta still avoid

entering the hunting and / or fishing grounds of other non-related Agta groups who speak different dialects. Thus, while it is often said that the Agta are 'nomadic', this is only partly true. In fact, the Agta strongly attach to and identify with their place of origin. Although Agta households frequently shift their place of residence, they generally stay within the range of what they call their *mapisan*: a group of interrelated Agta families.

But why do the Agta shift their settlements at all? There are three main reasons for them to do so. First, they move when better livelihood opportunities arise elsewhere. Second, they move when a group member has died: the Agta believe that the spirit of a dead relative can cause sickness or even death. Therefore it is considered better to leave the site temporarily and return when the spirit has found peace of mind. Third, when members in a group have a conflict, some may leave the site until everyone's feelings have calmed down (Minter and Ranay 2005a).

**Map 1:** Distribution of Agta settlements in and around the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (Source: Minter and Ranay 2005a).



**Table 2:** Agta settlements in and around the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park per municipality with corresponding numbers in map 1 (Source: Minter and Ranay 2005a)

SAN PABLO	39.Honeymoon Island, Dibigo
1.Apogan, San Vicente	40.Dimasalansan, Dibigo
TUMAUNI	41.Dikabiritbitan, Dibigo
2.Makihawe, Antagan 1	42.Makahoyag, Dibigo
3.Kapanagen, Antagan 1	43.Dialinawan Dakkel, Dibigo
ILAGAN	44.Makengaden, Dibigo
4.Malabinao, Kabisiera 10	45.Pier Tagulan, Bicobian
5.Disiuppi, Kabisiera 10	46.Dicaudang-udangan, Bicobian
6.Kanagman, Kabisiera 10	47.Dicambonoy, Bicobian
SAN MARIANO	48.Dicamaran, Bicobian
7.Divisoria, Dibuluan	49.Diaguan, Dimapnat
8.Dibuluan Proper, Dibuluan	50.Disokad, Dimapnat
9.Dunoy, Dibuluan	51.Dimapnat Proper, Dimapnat
10.Camalaclacan, Dibuluan	PALANAN
11.Kamerasitan, San Jose	52.Pitak, Dialomanay
12.Diwagden, San Jose	53.Nicalingan, Dialomanay
13.Batag, Del Pilar	54.Dialomanay Proper, Dialomanay
14.Dimabigao, Casala	55.Ditambale, Sta. Jacinta
15.Digud, Del Pilar	56.Dikabayo, Centro West
16.Dipili, Del Pilar	57.Pagsalangatan, Marikit
17.Divinisa, Casala	58.Dikente, Marikit
18.Diwagao, Buyasan	59.Dibungco, Marikit
19.Dialwas, Buyasan	60.Sapinit, Dinipan
DINAPIGUE	61.Babbibinan, Dinipan
20.Dimatatno, Dimaluadi	62.Dinipan, Dinipan
21.Dicadican, Ayod	63.Dikalao, Dinipan
22.Ango, Ayod	64.Sabangan, Culasi
23.Ditabigui, Ayod	65.Dimatog, San Isidro
MACONACON	66.Diagu, San Isidro
24.Dibolu, Sta. Marina	67.Dipaguiden, San Isidro
25.Diangu, Sta. Marina	68.Kabantiguian, San Isidro
26.Sabangan, Reina Mercedes	69.Diaromitan, San Isidro
27.Diaduan, Reina Mercedes	70.Kalanatian, San Isidro
28.Reina Mercedes Proper, Reina Mercedes	71.Disumangit, Didadungan
29.Samiento/Sumuyak, Canadam	72.Dilabewan/Cacawayanan, Didadungan
DIVILACAN	73.Banagu, Didadungan
30.Dibol, Dicitian	74.Kanaipang, Didadungan
31.Dicaroyan Proper, Dicaroyan	75.Diguyo, Didadungan
32.Dicaroyan, Dicaroyan	76.Dikapisan, Didadungan
33.San Juan/Anao, Ditarum	77.Diambarong, Didian
34.Sapinit Proper, Sapinit	78.Magtaracay, Didian
35.Dibubun, Dilakit	79.Dipagsanghan, Didian
36.Dimabungtot, Dilakit	80.Diamulong, Didian
37.Dipudo Island, Dilakit	81.Lupigi, Didian
38.Dipudo, Dilakit	82.Lucban, Didian

## **Livelihood**

The Agta directly depend on forest and aquatic resources for their survival. They follow a mixed economy of hunting, fishing, barter, non-timber forest product collection, agriculture and various sorts of wage labor.

### *Hunting and fishing*

In spite of decreasing wildlife stocks and the subsequent increasing importance of alternative economic strategies, hunting and fishing still are among the core components of contemporary Agta livelihood.

In hunting, Philippine warty pig (*Sus philippinensis*), Philippine brown deer (*Cervus mariannus*) and to a lesser extent long tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) are the preferred game species. Hunting tactics depend on the number of hunters, the specific type of wildlife and weather conditions of the moment, and the availability of trade partners. Strategies include driving with or without dogs, individual or team stalking, ambushing, and jack lighting (hunting at night using flashlights). The Agta use a mixed set of hunting tools, including bow and arrow, match gun, air gun and snare traps. Although hunting is primarily a male activity, women may join in hunting as well or even engage in independent hunting (Griffin and Griffin 2000: 322; Estioko-Griffin, 1984).

Fishing takes place in rivers as well as on and behind reef flats. A great variety of both freshwater and saltwater fish species are caught. Lobster catching and shell gathering are also important sources of livelihood. Fishing is as much a women's as a men's job, although some division of labor exists in relation to fishing sites: women tend to fish in the somewhat shallower parts while men more often reach greater depths. Fishing is predominantly done with various types of spears, made of scrap metal. A rubber strip is attached to the spear to propel it. The spear is supplemented with self made goggles and torches both during day and night.

### *Gathering of non-timber forest products*

Garcia and Acay (2003: 75) documented the Agta's use of over 300 plant species for 15 major use categories. Most plants are used for consumption and medicinal purposes. Important sources of food are various kinds of wild fruit, notably rattan and rambutan, as well as a number of wild root crops.

Among the most important commercially collected plants are various species of rattan. Rattan is a product that has always been used by the Agta for construction and boundary marking purposes. At least since the 1970s, rattan is also collected for commercial purposes. The rattan is – usually via one or several middle(wo)men - eventually sold to a small number of rattan collection permit holders. There are two Agta permit holders in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park: Mr. Gener Cabaldo in Reina Mercedes, Maconacon and Mr. Melencio Salazar in Didaddungan, Palanan. Unfortunately, both rattan permits have a history of exploitation by non-Agta.

Another important product is wild honey, which is collected during the summer months of April and May. This is very much a male activity. Occasionally, honey is traded with by-passers, but it is mostly used for own consumption.

The commercial collection of Pygmy Swiftlet nests (*Collocalia troglodytes*) has become an increasingly important livelihood activity for Agta households in San Mariano, Palanan and Dinapigue in the past five years. The nests are, via middle(wo)men, eventually sold to Chinese restaurants in Santiago, Ilagan and Manila. Nest collection takes place throughout the year. There is fierce competition between Agta and non-Agta in this activity.

### *Logging*

Ever since corporate logging has officially ended in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, illegal small scale logging is continuing on a large scale. Every day, hundreds of loggers enter the park in order to extract various hard wood species. The most valued of these are narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*) and almaciga (*Aghatis demara*). Illegal logging is especially rampant along the rivers of Abuan, Disabungan, Catalangan, Pinacanauan de San Vicente and Pinacanauan de Tumauni.

The Agta settlements located in these watersheds serve as gateway, stop-over and source of labor for the illegal loggers. The Agta perceive this situation with dismay. Although many among them can often not resist the temptation of earning a meager income in logging activities, the Agta in general strongly feel the loggers are the cause of the rapid degradation of their main source of livelihood: their hunting and fishing grounds. It is because so much logging takes place in their ancestral domains that their hunting and fishing success decreases. They feel pressured to engage in logging themselves in order to make ends meet. Moreover, the presence of large groups of loggers in small Agta settlements is generally experienced as a burden: many loggers disrespect, exploit and maltreat the Agta. Given the high numbers of loggers entering and passing by their settlements, the Agta feel powerless in handling the situation (see Minter and Ranay 2005 for more details).

### *Agriculture*

Agta households throughout the park practice swidden farming on their own (untitled) land. White corn, upland rice, banana, cassava, sweet potato and a variety of green vegetables are the most frequently planted crops. Various Agta communities in Maconacon, Palanan and San Mariano are engaged in wet rice cultivation on irrigated land. In both swidden and permanent agriculture however, yields are poor and never sufficient to satisfy households' needs. Between 1998 and 2003 the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Conservation and Development Project has implemented agricultural assistance projects in Agta communities throughout the park. Nowhere in the park do Agta have tenure security, with the exception of a small number of families in barangay Sta. Marina, Maconacon, who have been awarded Certificate of Stewardship Contracts in the 1980s.

In addition, many Agta adults and children work as paid farm laborers during land preparation, planting and harvesting season. Payment varies depending on the location and the activity. While land preparation and planting is usually paid in fixed amounts plus meals, harvesting is paid as a share of the harvest.

## **Belief system**

Most Agta either implicitly or explicitly adhere an animistic belief system which recognizes various categories of spirit beings. The main division is between spirits of deceased ancestors (*anito* or *kalidua*) who may roam around dwellings of living relatives on the one hand, and environmental spirits (these are likewise referred to as *anito*, while there are more specific names for specific types of environmental spirits) who inhabit certain rocks, coral reefs, trees, springs or forest/beach floors. Both classes of spirits may influence daily Agta lives either positively or negatively, notably in the spheres of sickness and hunting and fishing success. The ancestral spirits need to be appeased by offering them food regularly. Failure in this respect causes the ancestors to become angry, jealous and hungry, which then results in sickness of living relatives. Spirits of the deceased are especially feared in the months following a family member's death: for that reason the closest relatives usually move away from the settlement where death occurred after the burial. This greatly influences the Agta's settlement patterns as described above. Environmental spirits generally cause sickness, lack of catch or hunting / fishing accidents when certain taboos are broken. These may include over-harvesting of certain species or disrespectful behavior during hunting or fishing expeditions. Various rituals are practiced to neutralize the spell of such spirits. Some Agta individuals have the ability to cure victims of environmental spirits. These spirit mediums are believed to have been selected by friendly spirits to perform a healing practice. During the healing process the healer's body is possessed by the benevolent spirit who cures the patient by overpowering the malevolent spirit (*magablon*) (see also Rai 1985).

Regarding the Agta's conversion to Christianity, there are great differences between communities. Most members of the coastal settlements in the municipality of Palanan are Born Again Christians. In the rest of the park some Agta claim to be Roman Catholics while most do not regard themselves to be Christians. Even when respondents have been converted to Christianity however, many of them still follow above described animistic belief system at the same time.

## **Structure of the proceedings**

The report documents in detail the sessions of the Agta workshop. The report is organized chronologically: we start with the opening program on Monday 15 August 2005 and end with the closing ceremonies on 19 August 2005. In this report we have not presented the exact transcriptions of everything that was said during the workshop; rather we have opted to summarize the issues that were raised by the participants, presenters, moderators, and guests. For detailed transcriptions we refer to the videotapes that were made of the entire workshop and that are available on request at the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development. The attachments include background information on the workshop: 1) the *manifesto*; 2) the methods used during the workshop; 3) the program of activities; 4) the names of the participants; and 5) a list of abbreviations used in the text.

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## DAY 1: 15 AUGUST 2005

MODERATOR / MASTER OF CEREMONIES: *Dr. Dante M. Aquino*  
Isabela State University – Cabagan

### SESSION ACTIVITIES

1. Opening program

### PRESENTERS

*Dr. Romeo R. Quilang*  
President, Isabela State University

*Hon. Grace Padaca*  
Isabela Governor

*Ms. Perla Visorro*  
President Cagayan Valley Partners in  
Peoples' Development (CAVAPPED)

*Dr. Dante M. Aquino*  
Isabela State University – Cabagan

2. Workshop 1a: Problem identification

Workshop 1a  
*Mr. Danny dela Cruz* – Sapinit, Divilacan  
*Mr. Jeffrey Magudang* – Kabisera 10, Ilagan  
*Mr. Totoy Magay* – Kabisera 10, Ilagan  
*Mr. Noni dela Peña* – Dimasalansan,  
Divilacan  
*Mr. Nolie Maggay* – Diangu, Maconacon  
*Mr. Eyok Eduarte* – Makihawe, Tumauni  
*Mr. Steve Manuel* – Digud, San Mariano  
*Mr. Fred Impiel* – Dibuluan, San Mariano

3. Workshop 1b: Problem analysis

Workshop 1b  
*Mr. Steve Manuel* – Digud, San Mariano  
*Mr. Romy Mora* – Diangu, Maconacon  
*Mr. Mario Matias* – Digud, San Mariano  
*Mrs. Fidela Impiel* – Dibuluan, San Mariano  
*Mr. Pilo Ancheta* – Del Pilar, San Mariano

4. Cultural show

Isabela State University

### 1. OPENING PROGRAM

The Agta Workshop commenced with an opening program at the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center located at the Isabela State University, Garita, Cabagan, Isabela, Philippines.

**Welcome message**

*Dr. Romeo R. Quilang*

President, Isabela State University

President Quilang warmly welcomed the participants to the workshop. He stressed that the workshop is an opportunity for the participants to discuss their problems as a people. He added, however, that they are expected to propose solutions to their problems. He also announced ISU's commitment to the Agta people: among which is free education/free tuition and miscellaneous fees if they study at ISU.

**Keynote address**

*Hon. Grace Padaca*

Isabela Governor

The Governor asked if the Agta participants listen to Bombo Radyo and introduced herself to the Agta participants as Bombo Grace Padaca, now the Governor of the Province of Isabela. She reminded the participants that three months after she became Governor, she visited the Agta of Dimasalanan, at Honeymoon Island, Divilacan. This is to signify her sincere concern for the welfare of the indigenous people in the province.

Governor Padaca welcomed the participants and recognized the importance of the workshop. She acknowledged the assistance coming from the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development. The Governor added to the workshop theme "*Ako ay Agta, Ako ay Pilipino!*" that the Agta present in the workshop are also Isabelinos whom she recognized as very important constituents in her administration as Governor of Isabela.

The provincial Governor emphasized the importance of the workshop in the following statements:

- The fact that many people are not aware of their rights, the Agta included, makes the activities that will be conducted during the series of workshops very appropriate for them. The Governor emphasized that it is not only important to know one's rights but to even fight for one's rights.
- She empathized with the Agta by saying that she herself used to be very shy because of her physical disability. She therefore understands how the Agta feel when being discriminated. But as shown by her present position as Governor, such shyness can be overcome with the proper motivation and by knowing what is right.
- Governor Padaca provided inspiration by citing the story of Juliet Chavez (the first Agta beauty queen) as an example of a person who used to be ridiculed but became more popular than the very people who used to ridicule her when later she became Miss Palanan and her story was featured in a television show.
- If people know their rights, they will be able to reach far and high.

The participants were informed on various government programs, which are being implemented through different agencies and institutions:

- Isabela State University's curricular programs in Palanan: knowing how to read, write and count will already make a difference in the participants' lives, but being able to reach college and earn a degree is a lot better.
- The provincial government recognizes the problem of lack of medicine and medical personnel so the Governor makes this a priority of her administration.
- The Governor offered her help to the indigenous people and assured the participants that she will ask CVPED to continue coordinating with her office so that her office can help them.
- For the administration of Grace Padaca, the Agta are important because they are Isabelinos.

### **Opening presentation**

*Ms. Perla Visorro*

Cagayan Valley Partners in Peoples' Development (CAVAPPED)

Ms. Visorro acknowledged the attendance of the Agta to the workshop. She said that their attendance shows their unity and she emphasized that this is indeed important in their battle for their rights as a people. She then stressed the importance of strengthening their tribe by explaining why the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) is beneficial to indigenous people. The IPRA:

- recognizes and formalizes the indigenous peoples' communal type of land ownership which they have been practicing since time immemorial;
- recognizes the concept of control and ownership of the indigenous peoples over their ancestral domain;
- recognizes and respects the customary laws practiced within the ancestral domain;
- recognizes the political system of the indigenous peoples.

Ms. Visorro then discussed the future of the Agta in a protected area. Protected areas:

- ensure protection of their rights as indigenous peoples and the preservation of their culture;
- support their role as guardians of the forest and other natural resources;
- ensure food security and indigenous peoples' sustainable livelihoods;
- provide an opportunity for the Agta to attain their aspirations and other tribal goals;
- provide opportunities for the education of their children;
- open the opportunity for non-traditional partnerships and alliances with other indigenous groups, local communities, people's organizations and stakeholders in protected area management;

Ms. Visorro concluded her speech by saying that the Agta's protection of their forest ensures not only their survival as a tribe but also the survival of the other people of Cagayan Valley that depend on Sierra Madre for ecological services.

### **Introduction to the program**

*Dr. Dante Aquino*

Isabela State University

Dr. Aquino discussed with the participants the objectives of the workshop:

- to present to the participants the initial research results of the anthropological study conducted by the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development and to receive the participants' feed-back on these results;
- to provide a training on various relevant laws to the participants;
- to assist the participants in making a problem analysis of challenges they face in their daily lives;
- to facilitate a dialogue between the participants and government officials about this problem analysis;
- to provide a literacy and cultural program to the participating children.

Dr. Aquino then explained to the participants the day-to-day schedule of activities during the workshop. He announced that:

- during the last day of the workshop (Friday), the participants will present the workshop output to government officials.
- a health education program is scheduled on Thursday in which doctors from the district and provincial hospital will deliver lectures on health care.
- on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 to 12:00, workshop participants may have a free consultation at the Milagros District Hospital.
- children are invited to participate in a children's education and cultural program throughout the week.

Dr. Aquino then introduced the personnel in-charge of registration and transportation, the organizers, the facilitators, the coordinators and practice teachers and their supervisors to the workshop participants. The opening program ended at 10:15 with a few reminders on the prohibition of the use of alcohol on the workshop premises and a call for the proper use of the facilities.

## 2. WORKSHOP 1A: PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

### **Introduction to Workshop 1a**

*Dr. Dante Aquino*

Isabela State University

Dr. Aquino explained to the participants that they will be divided into five groups according to area of origin. The workshop participants were invited to actively participate in the identification and analysis of the challenges they face in their communities. They were reminded that the workshop output will be presented to policy audiences on the last day of the workshop.

### **Planned workshop groupings**

Group I: Tumauni; Blos River and Diangu River, Maconacon; San Pablo.

Facilitators: Mr. Sammy Telan & Atty. Lolly Sheen

Documenter: Ms. Rose Lucero

Group II: Palanan Coast north of Culasi; Dimasalansan, Divilacan.

Facilitators: Dr. Mary Aquino & Ms. Maria Ranay

Documenter: Ms. Norma Maddalora

Group III: Palanan Coast south of Culasi; Dinapigue.

Facilitators: For. Jessie Guerero and Atty. Asis Perez

Documenter: Dr. Myrna Cureg

(Note: group III was not able to participate in workshop 1A because the group arrived late due to unfavorable weather conditions in Palanan)

Group IV: Interior of Palanan; San Mariano.

Facilitators: For. Marites Balbas & For. Dominic Rodriguez

Documenter: Ms. Jennifer Valencia

Group V: Ilagan; Sapinit, Divilacan.

Facilitators: Mr. Rey Baquiran and Dr. Dante Aquino

Documenter: Ms. Wilda Calapoto

### **Presentation group I: Tumauni; Blos River and Diangu River, Maconacon**

Presenter 1: *Mr. Nolie Maggay*

Present situation in Diangu River, Sta. Marina, Maconacon

Environment:

- Presence of rivers, cogonal areas, rattan and forest trees.
- A sanctuary for nursing deer was established but Ilocano people in the barangay still snare trap them for food.
- Riceland is also present with irrigation facilities.

Health services:

- Health workers come to the barangay.
- Patients are also brought to the Health Center for emergency cases.
- If medicines are available in the center, the health workers provide them with medicine but if it is not available, they cannot do anything.

Education:

- A school building is present in barangay Sta. Marina but there is no teacher.
- Other schools are too far for children to attend.

Livelihood/Food:

- Rice farming and fishing are the main source of living.
- There is surplus in rice production so they sell the excess harvest.

Family:

- There is peace and harmony in the family but sometimes there are misunderstandings between husband and wife which cannot be avoided.

Relation with outsiders:

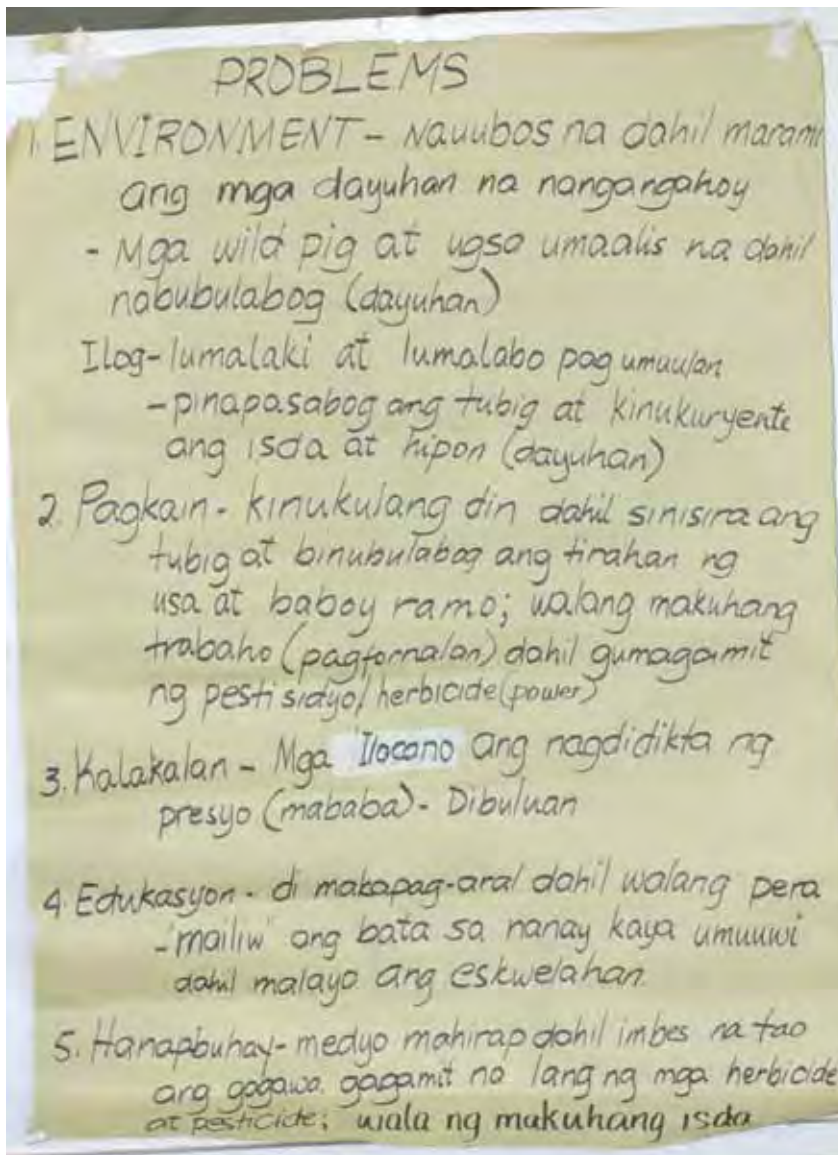
- Loggers from outside give coffee, sugar or other groceries in exchange for the logs.
- Health workers' treatment is good.

Government services:

- No other government agencies serving the community.

Trade:

- We sell our products directly to the buyers.
- Cheating is avoided with the use of weighing scale.



Presenter 2: *Mr. Eyok Eduarte*

Present situation in Blos River, Maconacon

Environment:

- Presence of rivers, cogonal areas, rattan and forest trees.
- Presence of rice fields with irrigation facilities.
- Decreasing population of fishes in rivers due to illegal fishing practices.

Health services:

- Presence of barangay service vehicle to bring the patients to the Health Center.
- The residents often suffer from cough and malaria.

Education:

- School is present in barangay.
- Children have access to school and are studying.

Livelihood:

- Rice farming and fishing are the main source of living.

Family relations:

- There is peace and harmony within the family.

Relation with outsiders:

- Loggers who come to the community give money and other food in exchange for the trees they cut.
- Other people treat them well.

Government services:

- No other government agencies serve in the area except education and health.

Trade:

- Sell excess harvest of rice and fish to other community residents.
- No problem in selling.

Present situation in Makihawe, Tumauni.

Environment:

- Bushy forest, plenty of bamboos, cogon and forest trees.
- Grassland areas are also present.
- Grassland and cogonal areas are cut and burned by outsiders.
- Denudation of forests due to illegal logging.

Health:

- There are no midwife or health workers serving the community.
- Patients are brought to the health centre but this is too far.
- Residents commonly suffer from dengue and malaria.
- There is a lack of health workers to give attention to health problems.

Education:

- There is no school in the community; our children are not studying.
- Children are deprived of education due to lack of schools and teachers.

Livelihood and food:

- Banana and cassava are the main crops grown.
- Fishing is the main source of living.
- Sell some excess fish for cash to buy food.

Family relations:

- There is peace and harmony within the family.

Relation with outsiders:

- Loggers coming from outside give food and some cash so that they can log in the community.

Government services:

- No government agencies serve the community.

Trade:

- We sell our products directly to buyers outside the community.

## **Presentation group II: Dimasalansan, Divilacan; Palanan north of Culasi**

Presenter: *Mr. Nonie dela Peña*

Backgrounder:

- We Agta move from one area to another every now and then.
- Before, the forests in Divilacan were still virgin forests.
- Start of environmental degradation in 1982-1985 when logging roads were established to the inner forests area.

Dimasalansan at present, problems identified:

Environment and natural resources:

- There is an observed decrease in the volume of fish catch (fish, lobster, crab).
- There is still plenty of rattan.
- Deer and wild boar are slowly diminishing.
- This decrease is caused by logging activities of outsiders in the area.

Food:

- There is inadequate supply of food especially during rainy days.
- Sweet potato and cassava are the staple food during rainy season.
- The limited crops planted serve as source of food that keeps the family alive.

Health:

- Malaria, cough and diarrhea are commonly experienced in the area.
- Local health centers are short in medicine stocks.
- There is no permanent health personnel assigned in our area so we are forced to go to the town proper to seek medical assistance.
- We often just bring our patients to the traditional healers especially if the weather is bad.

Education:

- There are inadequate rooms and teachers.
- For grades I and II, there is only one room and one teacher. The same is true for grades III & IV and grades V & VI.
- The school is not accessible from our place. The children have to ride a boat for one hour to reach the school.
- Children cannot go to school during rainy season.

Livelihood:

- We are doing the following activities: 1) gathering and selling rattan; 2) fishing (catch is minimal due to dynamite fishing); 3) hunting wild animals; 4) slash and burn farming (cassava, bananas, vegetables, rice, corn).

Government services, we know the following government agencies:

- DENR for the environment;
- Police for peace and order;
- DSWD for relief and other services.

Trade:

- We sell our products at the town proper.
- Some buyers come directly to our place to buy the products.
- The problem is that our products are sold at a low price.
- The reason for this is our low level of education, which makes us prone to abuse by outsiders who buy our products at a very low price.

Relation with outsiders:

- We cannot prohibit outsiders to do illegal logging and illegal fishing because they threaten to kill us if we do that.
- Illegal loggers and fishermen are protected by influential people. Sometimes, even the police and the PAMB members are the ones who operate in illegal activities: they collect a user's fee from the boats and afterwards they do not inspect them anymore.



#### **Presentation group IV: Interior Palanan and San Mariano**

Presenters: *Mr. Steve Manuel, Mr. Fred Impiel and Mr. Mario Matias*

Present situation in Del Pilar, San Mariano:

- Barangay Del Pilar is a large barangay.
- Mario presented the map of Digud.
- Illegal logging is a problem.
- Fishing: *tilapia* (tilapia) and *igat* (eel)

Present situation in Dibuluan, San Mariano:

- Fred described the area of Dibuluan.
- Located in the area is an Army detachment.
- Problems identified include: 1) illegal fishing using blasting materials (even small fishes die so they cannot catch enough for their needs anymore); and 2) illegal logging.

General problems identified by the group:

Environment:

- Environmental degradation due to: 1) cutting of trees through chain saw (done by strangers/outside) which scares/drives away wild pigs and deer; and 2) dynamite/cyanide fishing.

Livelihood:

- Insufficient food which results from: 1) cutting of trees through chain saw which scares/drives away wild animals; and 2) dynamite and cyanide fishing (this kills small fish; likewise, it destroys reefs, the breeding site of fish).
- We cannot sell our goods at a good price since it is the Ilocanos who dictate the price.

Education:

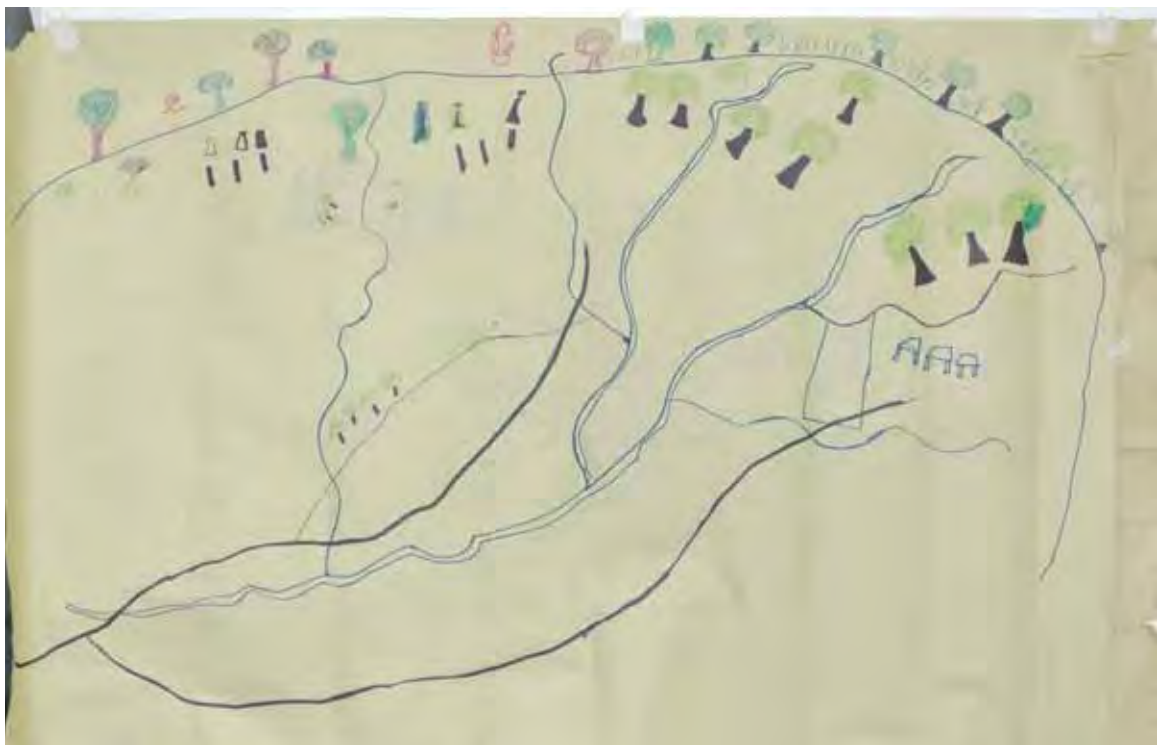
- We cannot afford to study. We do not have the means; it is difficult to find work. Since the school is far from our homes, the children get homesick.

Government services:

- Unreliable government services: when some relief goods arrive, the Agta do not receive our share. Since we are not receiving any help from the government, we do not have the interest to vote.

Comments/suggestions:

- The DENR should be more vigilant of the aforementioned environmental problems.
- The DENR should visit the affected area.
- Problems concerning the environment should be discussed with the DENR. It was suggested that the DENR officials should be the ones to call the attention of the violators so as not to endanger the lives of the folks on site.



**Presentation group V: Sapinit, Divilacan; Kabisera 10, Ilagan**

Presenter 1: *Mr. Danny dela Cruz*

Problems identified:

Environment:

- Excessive hunting/trapping of wild animals: many people are hunting and this causes depletion of wild animals.

Education:

- Lack of schools/teachers. There is no school in Sapinit. There is a school in Divilacan Centro, but this is very far.

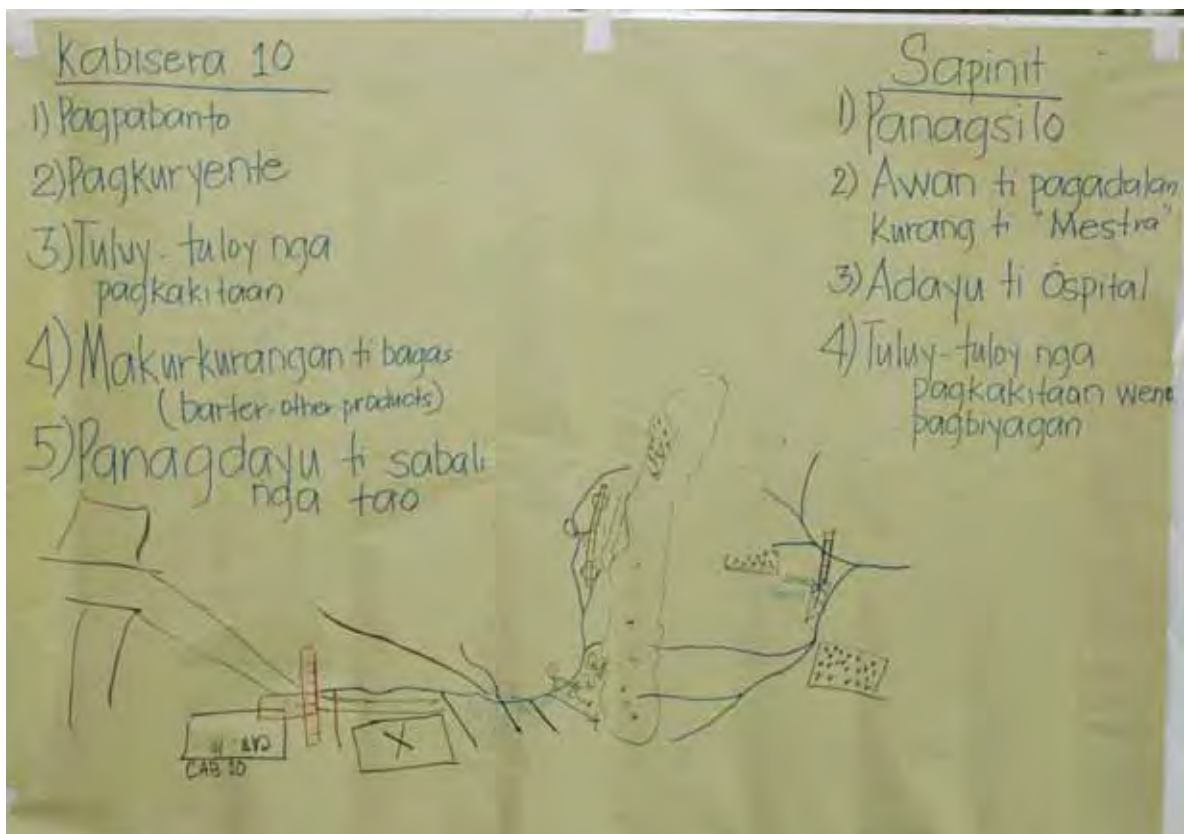
- The school in Divilacan offers education up to grade II only. When children reach grade III, there is no more school to go to. There are not enough teachers to teach higher grade levels.

#### Health:

- Distant hospital: if we have a sick family member who needs to be brought to the hospital, this is very difficult. There are doctors in Palanan but for emergency cases.
- The barangay captain of Sapinit assists sick people by bringing them to Ilagan by plane.
- Medicines are not available.
- When a wife gives birth, someone from the community takes care of it.
- Traditional medicine is used to cure illnesses.

#### Livelihood:

- If we do not have a steady source of income, we resort to logging.
- We have not received any livelihood support.
- The resources we are getting from the forest like *uway* (rattan), are slowly diminishing.



Presenters 2 & 3: *Mr. Jeffrey Magudang and Mr. Totoy Magay*

#### Problems identified:

##### Environment

- Dynamite fishing: use of dynamite when fishing destroys one of our important sources of livelihood.

- Electro-fishing: there are people from other places who practice electro-fishing in our area. These people should not be allowed to do this because even small fishes die. We call on all of you to prohibit people to do electro-fishing.

Livelihood:

- If we do not have a steady source of income, we are forced to resort to logging and other illegal activities.
- Lack of supply of rice: we don't have enough rice supplies to feed our families.

Relations with outsiders:

- Outsiders destroy our resources.
- Outsiders conduct logging activities.

### 3. WORKSHOP 1B: PROBLEM ANALYSIS

#### **Instructions on aims and procedure of the workshop**

After the group presentations of workshop 1a, Dr. Aquino concluded that wherever the participants come from, whether from the uplands or the lowlands, from the river valleys or from the coast, there are many common problems that Agta communities are facing. Therefore, from the situations presented, five major problem areas were identified and the participants were re-grouped along these thematic lines for Workshop 1b:

#### **Planned workshop groupings**

##### I Environment

Facilitators: Mr. Rey Baquiran and Dr. Dante Aquino

Documenter: Ms. Wilda Calapoto

##### II Health and Food

Facilitators: For. Jessie Guerrero and Atty. Asis Perez

Documenter: Dr. Myrna Cureg

##### III Livelihood and Trade

Facilitators: For. Marites Balbas & For. Dominic Rodriguez

Documenter: Ms. Jennifer Valencia

##### IV Education

Facilitators: Dr. Mary Aquino & Mr. Roldan Dugay

Documenter: Ms. Norma Maddalora

##### V Relations with government and outsiders

Facilitators: Mr. Samuel Telan & Atty. Lolly Sheen

Documenter: Ms. Rose Lucero

#### **Presentation group I: Environment**

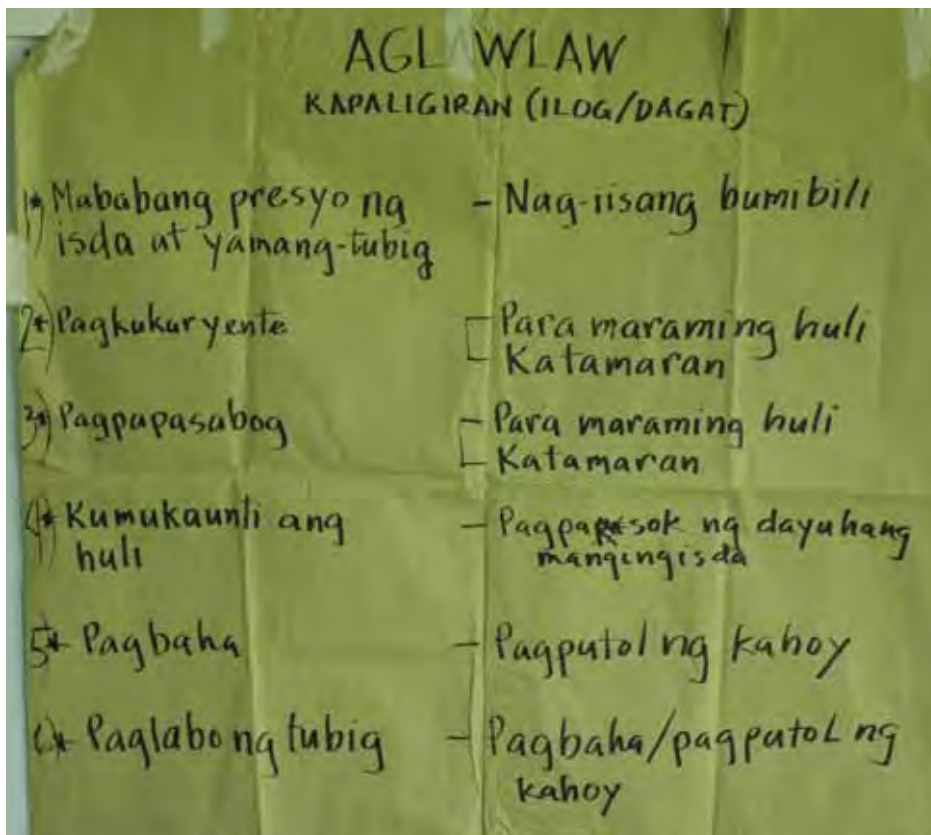
Presenter: *Mr. Steve Manuel*

Problem causes and effects identified for forest areas:

- Excessive cutting of trees (soil erosion and poverty).
- Decreasing number of wild animals: animals move deeper into the forest due to cutting of trees by outsiders.
- Destruction of crops: burning practices by people who cut trees. Bananas are destroyed by farm animals. Loggers should be prohibited from entering forested areas so that they cannot cause destruction anymore.

Problem causes and effects identified for rivers and seas:

- Low buying price for fish and other water resources: only one buyer, no competition.
- Electro-fishing and dynamite fishing: outsiders do this to increase their catch; however, it results in decreasing catch.
- Flooding: due to cutting of trees.
- Murky water of rivers: due to flooding and cutting of trees.



## Presentation group II: Relationships with government and outsiders

Presenter: *Mr. Romy Mora*

Reasons why people come to our places:

- To gather logs, catch fish and farm.
- To look for areas where they can practice illegal logging.
- To gather rattan.

Effects of their presence in our community:

- They abuse and rape Agta women.

- They assault Agta people when we tell them that they should not conduct illegal activities.

What government agencies do when they visit our place:

- Technicians of the Department of Agriculture provide seeds and fertilizer but we need to pay for this after the harvest.
- Staff of the Department of Health provides medicines and vitamins.

- The Department of Social Work and Development give relief goods but the Ilocanos are given more than what the Agta receive.

How other people treat Agta:

- Other people refuse to lend farm implements.
- They envy Agta when they are provided help by support groups.
- When hired as laborers, Agta receive similar rate of payment.
- When we sell our products, other people dictate the price, which is too low. However, when we buy other people's products, they demand a very high price.
- Politicians make many promises but nothing is fulfilled yet.
- In leadership, the Ilocanos are elected barangay leaders. However, Agta *purok* leaders or mayors should be assigned to lead the Agta.

### Presentation group III: Livelihood and trade

Presenter: *Mr. Rodel Corpuz*

Problem analysis

Environmental degradation due to:

- Cutting of trees through chain saw (done by strangers/outside) which drives away wild pigs and deer.
- Dynamite and cyanide fishing.

Insufficient food which results from the following:

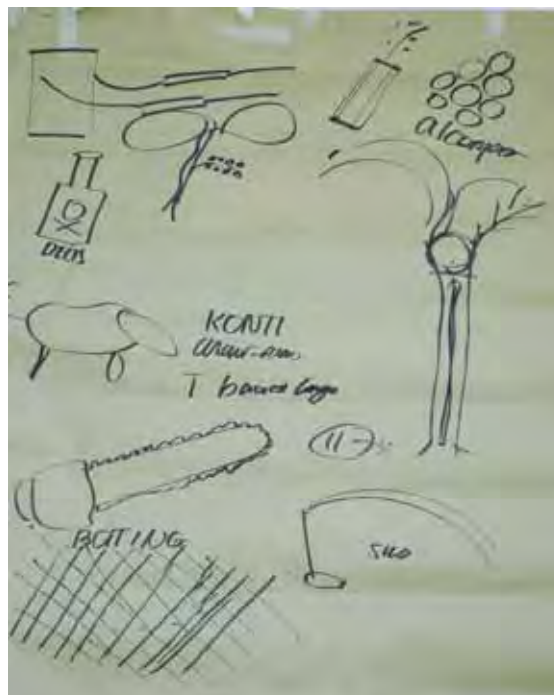
- Cutting of trees through chain saw which drives away wild animals.
- Dynamite and cyanide fishing: this kills small fish and ruins reefs, the breeding sites of fish.

- We at a the the

We cannot

- We

from



cannot sell our goods good price since it is Ilocanos who dictate price.

afford to study:

do not have the means.

- Since the school is far our homes, the children get homesick.

## Presentation group IV: Health and food

Presenter 1: *Mr. Mario Matias*

### Food:

- Plants eaten: cassava, sweet potato, *ilos* (root crop), *bokyan* (root crop bigger than *ube*), *siguig* (like ube but with thorns), *potalo* (rootcrop), *boklog* (rootcrop with plenty of long roots), *gallan* (like gabi with big leaf), rice, *anibong* shoots (palm), rattan shoots, sugarcane, coconut, pineapple, fruits (like mangoes, jackfruit, pomelo, guava).
- Fish and shells eaten: tilapia, *igat* (freshwater eel), *burasi* (like tilapia or *bangus* with whitish flesh), shrimps, *palileng* (small fish), *agurung* (pointed shell), *agatul* (small crabs).
- Big animals eaten: *biklat* (phyton), *banyas* (monitor lizard), deer, wild boar, monkey, *madipak* (*musang* or wild cat)
- Birds eaten: *kalaw* (Rufous Hornbill), *abuyo* (Red Jungle Fowl), *kali* (Crested Serpent-Eagle)

### Situation concerning food sources:

- The rivers and forests serve as sources of food.
- The men usually look for food.
- We also cultivate some crops.
- Although the different kinds of food identified are still found in our areas, compared to earlier times, there is a decrease in wild animals: wild pigs and deer are very hard to find now. Sometimes we are hunting every day for one week without any catch. There is not much problem with root crops, vegetables and fruits coming from forest vegetation, outsiders do not yet harvest these so it is still abundant.

### Causes of fish depletion:

- Electro-fishing using battery operated device: 12 volts battery with two wires and stick.
- Dynamite fishing: use of *bumbong* (dynamite)
- Chemical fishing: putting fertilizer in a bottle or empty can of sardines. Using *alcamphor* (mothballs). When two kilos of *alcamphor* are placed in the river, it will kill all the fish. *Decis R* is a liquid pesticide used to kill fish. *Tuba* is made from bark and fruit of a certain tree which when placed in shallow water can kill fish. *Sagisa* or a creeping plant which is found only in the forest. It only kills one kind of fish so it is not that harmful.

### Causes of diminishing number of wild boar and other animals:

- Logging: when wild pigs hear chainsaws used in logging, they move far from the noise. They move deeper into the forest because of the entry of loggers.
- Blasting and trapping: wild pigs are killed with blasting material. *Silo* (trap) is made from rope tied to a tree, this is mostly done by outsiders.

### Effects of food depletion:

- Hunger: the Agta go hungry. If the wild animals also have limited food and if their habitat is destroyed, their numbers will continue to decrease and there will be shortage of food.



Presenter 2: *Mrs. Fidela Impiel*

**Health:**

- Common illnesses include malaria, colds, flu, headache, rheumatism, asthma, high fever, *til-i* (on and off fever), measles.
- Health practices: We make use of medicinal plants / herbal medicine. Agta go to the doctor if traditional medicine does not work. The doctor prescribes medicine. Some doctors render free service. However, in San Mariano, if you do not have money, they will not treat you. So we pay. When we go to hospital with a chaperone who will speak for us or when we have a letter coming from the mayor, we are given free medical assistance. However, if we go alone, we have to pay. During bad weather or if there is flood or the river is high, we cannot go to the doctor.



### **Presentation group V: Education**

Presenter: *Mr. Pilo Ancheta*

Children are not going to school because:

- There are no schools in the Agta settlements. Schools are located far from Agta homes. Examples: 1) in Dimasalansan, Divilacan children have to ride a boat for one hour to reach the nearest school; 2) in Del Pilar, San Mariano it takes four hours of hiking to reach the school; 3) children in Makihawe, Antagan, Tumauni have to hike for seven hours; 4) in Disulap, San Mariano it takes one hour hiking to reach school; and 5) there is a school but there are no teachers in Sta. Marina, Maconacon.
- In most schools only limited grade levels are offered.
- Poverty: some parents cannot afford to pay the contributions of their children.
- Early marriage.

### **Open forum/reactions**

Call for unity: *Amay Bawi Donato* gave food for thought in reaction to the different problems presented. The Agta people should be firm in protecting their ancestral land or else, they will be defeated by the fair skinned outsiders who exploit their resources. “If we will stand firm, no one can destroy our sources of fish, wood, lobster, and shrimps. No one can destroy these if we will work together. There are enough of us if we will join together.”

### **Reminder**

Dr. Aquino explained to the participants that the solutions to the problems raised may be addressed in the last day of the workshop as government representatives and policy makers will attend the presentation of the workshop output.

### **4. CULTURAL SHOW**

A cultural show by ISU students was presented at the ATI-RTC premises as a welcome presentation and for the entertainment of the participants.

## DAY 2: 16 AUGUST 2005

MODERATOR

*Dr. Dante M. Aquino*  
Isabela State University – Cabagan

SESSION ACTIVITIES

PRESENTERS

1. Warming up

*Dr. Mary Aquino*  
Facilitator

2. Presentation of results;  
anthropological study on the Agta of  
the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park

*Ms. Tessa Minter and Ms. Maria Ranay*  
Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and  
Development

3. Lecture on health concerns

*Dr. Manuel Beltran*  
Chief of Hospital  
Milagros District Hospital

*Dr. Rosa Rita B. Mariano*  
Provincial Health Officer II

*Ms. Emely O. Maligay*  
Health Education and Promotion Officer

4. Workshop 2: Action Planning

*Mr. Bello Salazar* – Kanaipang, Palanan  
*Mr. Bening Plata* – Dimasalansan, Divilacan  
*Mr. Nolie Maggay* – Diangu, Maconacon  
*Mrs. Fidela Impiel* – Dibuluan, San Mariano  
*Mr. Danny dela Cruz* – Sapinit, Divilacan

5. Lecture on government structure and  
indigenous peoples

*Atty. Asis Perez*  
Tanggol Kalikasan

1. WARMING UP

*Dr. Mary Aquino*  
Facilitator

The plenary session started with the warming up activity wherein Dr. Mary Aquino led the participants in singing action songs, while presenting a musical slide show featuring pictures of the workshop's first day.

## 2. PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS; ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE AGTA OF THE NORTHERN SIERRA MADRE NATURAL PARK

*Ms. Tessa Minter and Ms. Maria L. Ranay*  
Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development

### **Structure**

The presentation consisted of four parts:

1. Introduction
2. Population, housing and culture
3. Livelihood
4. Problems and solutions

### **I Introduction**

Tessa Minter presented picture slides and discussed in Ilocano the process that she and research assistant Maria L. Ranay followed in gathering the data.

- The research was conducted during three years (2002-2005);
- The researchers visited all Agta communities of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park;
- The researchers accompanied the Agta in their daily activities like harvesting, hunting and fishing;
- Tessa Minter shared stories about her home place and expounded on the difference between her culture, life and problems and the culture, life and problems of the Agta;
- She explained that anthropologists study about the culture and the lives of people and then write books about those cultures for other people to read.

### **II Population, housing and culture**

The researchers showed a map of the Philippines and the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park highlighting the nine municipalities of San Pablo, Tumauini, Ilagan, San Mariano, Maconacon, Palanan, Divilacan, and Dinapigue. Tessa Minter asked the Agta participants if they saw their hometowns on the map; the audience answered “yes.” Tessa further asked what Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park meant to them. Mr. Balanggi Osbal (Dinapigue) answered, that the area is for them, the Agta people. And because the land is theirs and they live because of the land, then they have to take care of it. It was explained to the audience that all the areas they presently occupy are part of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park. The researcher explained that the black shaded areas on the map are places where the Agta people live. The GPS was used to map their settlements and to produce this map of Agta living areas. It was emphasized that it is important for their settlements to be on the map, so that government can easier locate their villages and easier include them in its programs and projects. Said settlements were also numbered and one Agta location after another was pointed on the map so that the audience could grasp the picture of their home place.

It was pointed out that the Agta people are composed of different groups that speak different dialects.

It was noted by the researchers that the Agta use different types of houses depending on how long they intend to stay in a certain place. They settle along seashores or river banks.

The Agta may move between places from time to time. The reasons for the movements of the Agta people are as follows:

- to look for food and livelihood;
- to get away from misunderstandings;
- to visit relatives; and
- to get away from the spirits of recently deceased relatives.

Several cultural practices in relation to death of the Agta people were highlighted:

- The Agta burn their house when a household member dies; they move out of their place because they are afraid of the spirit of the recently deceased person. If they do not move out, they get sick.
- It is not acceptable for the Agta people to cross a river with a dead body.
- The Agta use *gay-gay*: they close off certain portions of the river after a relative has died. If somebody enters without permission, he/she will be killed according to Agta customs.

At this point, Tessa Minter asked the participants what they can say about the things that were just presented. *Amay Bawi Donato* explained the question again to the participants and encouraged the participants to voice out any reaction so that Tessa can verify and clarify whatever it is that is not clear in the presentation. The reaction from *Fidela Impiel* was that all the things that were presented and spoken about were correct. She thanked Tessa for this. *Nolie Maggay* added that he has not seen anything lacking in the presentation. Another participant pointed out that the observation regarding the *gay-gay* is right. It is indeed part of the Agta culture. If one enters the area beyond *gay-gay* without permission, he or she will be killed. People are already complaining and we are fighting about it. The essence and the true meaning of the *gay-gay* is no longer the same as during the olden times. *Nane Almoneda's* reaction was that Tessa has presented a lot of information about the Agta. He said that he hopes that among the Agta people, this is not only pure documentation of what they are, what they have and what they do. He pointed out that if they are left on their own, they could not bring back the past. However, if all the Agta people will unite and other people will help them, then they could do something to save the remaining resources found in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park.

### **III Livelihood**

Tessa observed that the Agta get their income not just from one activity, but from many different activities. The most important sources of income are hunting, fishing, rattan gathering, farming, paid farm labor, collection of swiftlet nests, logging, basket and mat weaving. Tessa mentioned that about two years ago, a logging company was still operating in Dinapigue. The Agta there were asked to work as equipment guards until the company left the area. But even now that the company left, many Agta families are still dependent on logging for their daily income. Still, even the Agta who do the logging, don't like the activity because of the damage it brings to the forest. Tessa observed that due to logging activities, hunting becomes much more difficult for the Agta because the wild animals go deeper into the forest, away from the chainsaws.

Another problem is that relationships between Agta and loggers from outside are often not good:

- The Agta do not receive enough payment for their logs.
- There are conflicts between the Agta and loggers.
- The women suffer from this situation

The discussion on logging raised several reactions in the audience. Balangi Osbal expressed his dismay, asking how they can continue to survive with the rampant illegal logging activities. Seemingly, people from the *centro* of Dinapigue are always against the Agta because the people there are supporting logging. He called on the other Agta to unite so that the bulldozers cannot enter their communities anymore. All those who are into illegal logging are against the Dumagat. Then he said: “let us reinforce our strength so that people will not enter our communities anymore.” Noni dela Peña informed the audience that as a member of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), he is ready to extend assistance whenever they need help. The PAMB can come to the rescue so that all the illegal activities in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park will be stopped. He expressed that the PAMB members are ready to help the Agta even at the expense of their lives. Alonso dela Peña commented that the sea and the mountains are the sources of their food everyday. He asked if it is still possible for them to bring back all the resources that were taken from the sea and the mountains: “do we have the control in the protection of the resources in these areas?” Dante Aquino assured the participants that the organizers will take note of the query and reminded the participants to please share those issues with government officials during the presentation on Friday.

After this short exchange of comments, Tessa Minter proceeded with the presentation on livelihood. All of the Agta are into *aguma* (swidden farming) and some also do *agtalon* (lowland rice farming). Some have small and some have bigger lands to work on. They plant a variety of crops: rice, corn, cassava, sweet potato, *gabi*, green vegetables, and some fruit trees. Aside from their *uma* (swidden) and *talon* (rice farm), the Agta are also engaged in providing labor services to other farmers. Tessa verified again if there are questions and if she was able to present the complete picture regarding livelihood. Melencio Salazar requested that the need for a project on farm animal dispersal be included. They are just hoping that this project could materialize in their communities.

#### **IV Problems, issues and solutions**

Maria L. Ranay continued the presentation and mentioned that many problems were discussed by the Agta during the conduct of the study. In relation to the forest, it was mentioned by many of the informants that many animals could be hunted before, even if hunters did not go far into the forest. Now, there is a different situation: many logging companies have operated in the forest and cut down many trees. And even now that the companies have left, the logging still continues. So the forest has lost many trees and it is much more difficult today to see and hunt wild pigs and deer. This causes a food problem for the Agta.

When the Agta trade their products (meat, fish, lobster, logs, rattan, etc.) they often do not receive the correct payment. Most Agta do not know how to compute, which is why

they are cheated. This is caused again by the Agta's lack of education: there are not enough school facilities and there is an accessibility problem.

Land grabbing: Agta lands are not titled and often non-Agta farmers consider the Agta's land as their own.

Discrimination: non-Agta often look down upon Agta and treat them disrespectfully. The Agta are badly informed about meetings, so that is why they often do not attend.

## **Reactions**

Noni dela Peña commented that in one way or another, they have all been doing legal as well as illegal activities in their community. He called on the Agta people to correct whatever illegal activities they have done or are still doing. He emphasized that they all work hard for their families. There are reasons for their actions. However, whatever situation they are in, they have feelings and a heart to know what is right. Dante Aquino said that we all have different situations and we have a reason for the things that we do. However, it is always better to do what is right. Another participant asked a question about the status of the mining operation in Dinapigue. He said that some of the Agta from Dinapigue did not join in the Agta workshop because they feared it was about the mining. He asked what they can do in relation to this problem. In response, Dante Aquino commented that any questions concerning the mining in Dinapigue should be presented to the proper authorities involved.

## **3. LECTURE ON HEALTH CONCERNS**

### **Common health problems and diseases**

*Dr. Manny Beltran*  
Chief of Hospital  
Milagros District Hospital

Doctor Beltran discussed with the audience a number of common diseases and how these can be prevented.

Diarrhea and parasites

- Wash hands before eating
- There is a need for clean drinking water and toilets

Malaria

- Use mosquito nets
- Maintain cleanliness of surroundings
- Eliminate breeding grounds of mosquitoes

Dengue

- Usually caused by mosquito bite in the morning
- Maintain cleanliness of surroundings

Goiter

- Caused by iodine deficiency
- Eat seafood

- Iodine deficiency also causes low IQ or mental retardation

#### Measles

- By nine months, a child should have been vaccinated against measles
- Health centers administer vaccine against measles

### **Government health services**

*Dr. Rosa Rita B. Mariano*

Provincial Health Officer

Services of government hospitals:

- If there is someone in the family who is sick, they should not be afraid to go to the government hospital because the services are free.
- There are government hospitals in Cabagan, Palanan, Dinapigue, Echague, Roxas and Cauayan.
- The Rural Health Unit is staffed with municipal health officers, nurses, midwives and barangay health workers.

Isabela Provincial Health Office organizational structure:

- The Rural Health Office is staffed with midwives.
- The Barangay Health Office is staffed with midwives and Barangay Health Workers.

Delivering Babies:

- Government intends to help train local health workers or people in the barangay to deliver babies. This way, the danger of having casualties may be lessened.
- Ask the barangay health worker or midwife to extend help.

Child care:

- If there is no increase in population, this may indicate high mortality, especially among children.
- Children should be observed closely.
- The importance of breastfeeding was emphasized.
- Children are prone to diarrhea so the doctor advised to continue breastfeeding and give plenty of water.
- Oresol or oral rehydration may be administered. Oresol can be made by boiling water and adding sugar and salt.

### **Mosquito nets**

*Ms. Emely O. Maligay*

Health Education and Promotion Officer

The nurse requested the workshop organizers to list down the names of heads of the family without mosquito nets. A list of all Agta families of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park was provided to the nurse on the basis of which mosquito nets will be distributed among them by the Provincial Health Office.

### **Open forum**

Child care and dealing with sterility:

- Mr. Noni dela Peña raised two questions about caring for children and the problem of couples who are unable to have children.
- In response, Dr. Mariano explained that the common problem among Filipinos is having plenty of children. Couples who have been married or living together for one year without being blessed with a child, if they do not practice family planning, may have a problem with infertility. They were advised to go to a clinic for tests. The doctor stressed that what is important for a couple with such problems is to remain loving and caring for each other.
- Dr. Beltran advised the participants that couples should not get married too young as early marriage leads to high risk of developing marriage problems.

#### Seeking medical help

- *Amay* Bawi Donato mentioned that many Agta get sick but are afraid to go to the hospital to seek medical help.
- The doctors thanked him for bringing this to their attention and advised the Agta not to fear visiting government hospitals or health units.
- It was emphasized that they should not worry about money because the medical personnel are there to extend help. What is important is for their sickness to be treated well.
- Dr. Beltran suggested that the participants could seek assistance from officials in the community, town, province or district. For example, the people can go to the Governor's office to ask for a PhilHealth card so that they can have a discount.
- Dr. Mariano added that they can also go to the barangay captain or to their social welfare officers and give them their names so that their PhilHealth cards can be issued to them.

## 4. WORKSHOP 2: ACTION PLANNING

### **Instructions on aims and procedure of the workshop**

Dr. Dante Aquino reviewed the identified causes of the problems raised in workshop 1b. He then instructed the participants to focus on the following questions in workshop 2:

- What is needed to improve the situation?
- What can we do ourselves?
- Where do we need outside assistance to come in?
- Which agencies need to be specifically addressed to deal with these issues?
- What can be done on the short-term?
- What should be done on a longer term?

## Workshop groupings

Action planning and group presentations took place as in workshop 1b:

### Presentation group I: Environment

Presenter: *Mr. Bello Salazar*

ENVIRONMENT: FOREST LAND, RIVERS AND SEAS		
Problem	Solution	Agencies concerned
Cutting of trees (resulting in soil erosion and poverty)	Coordinate with/consult government agencies; Exert greater effort in earning a living	DENR

High buying price of rice due to monopoly of buyer	Co-ordinate with government agencies; Sell products in other places.	LGU
Decreasing catch: wild animals move deeper into the forest due to the cutting of trees by outsiders	Limit the use of traps in hunting wild animals; Law enforcement	DENR
Crop destruction: outsiders who let their carabaos graze near Agta fields	Place warning signs; Put up fence; Fine people who leave animals to graze near crops.	Agta people
Low selling price of fish catch and other water resources due to monopoly of buyer	Co-ordinate with government agencies; Sell products in other places.	LGU
Electro- and dynamite fishing (to catch more fish and out of laziness)	Be more industrious/use other technologies; Law enforcement.	DENR
Decreasing fish catch: 1) entry of fishermen from outside; and 2) dynamite and electro-fishing	Prohibit electro- and dynamite fishing	DENR
Flooding Cutting trees	Law enforcement	DENR
River siltation	Law enforcement	DENR

# Aglaw-law

Kapaligiran (Lupa/bundok)  
Gubat

Problema

Dahilan

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1) ▶ Pamumutol ng kahoy          | • Pagguho ng lupa   |
|                                  | • Kahirapan   |
| 2) ▶ Mababang presyo ng Palay    | • Nag-iisang bumibili   |
| 3) ▶ Kumakaunti ang huling hayop | • Lumalayo ang mga hayop dahil sa pamumutol ng kahoy ng mga dayuhan |
| 4) ▶ Pagkasira ng mga pananim    | • Pagsusuga ng kalubaw at pamumutol ng kahoy                        |

# Mga Pam

Lupa, bundok at gubat

1. ▶ Pagkunsulta sa DENR  
→ Magpakasipag sa paghahanap buhay
2. ▶ Makipag usap sa katapit na lugar
3. ▶ Bawasan ang paggamit ng silo sa paghuli ng hayop
4. ▶ Maglagay ng "gay-gay" (bawala)  
→ Maglagay ng bakod  
→ Pagmullatim ang nagsusuga sa pananim

## Presentation group II: Food and health

Presenters: *Mr. Nolie Maggay, Mr. Jomar Almoneda and Mrs. Fidela Impiel*

FOOD		
Problem	Solution	Agencies concerned
Destruction of crops due to typhoon or drought	Seek help from the municipal government; Borrow planting materials from neighbors; Plant other crops that will serve as food for the family; Work to earn a living or to have other sources of food.	DENR, DA, LGU
Decreasing fish stock due to dynamite and electro fishing	Prohibit the use of electro-fishing and dynamite fishing	DENR
Decreasing catch of wild boar due to logging and use of traps	Prohibit the use of hunting traps by outsiders	DENR
Lack of farm implements such as carabaos, tools and insecticides	Seek assistance from agencies that can extend help	DENR, DA, LGU
No products to sell. Earnings from such may be used to buy household supplies like coffee, sugar, etc.	Gather rattan; Gather root crops; Engage in handicraft production.	
Destruction of crops by carabaos of other people.	Assigning officials from the municipal government to prohibit placing animals near banana plantations.	
Lack of irrigation facilities: fields depend on rainfall so farmers practice one cropping per year	Rehabilitation of irrigation	

HEALTH		
Problem	Solution	Agencies concerned
Malaria	Use mosquito nets Maintain cleanliness of surroundings	Barangay Health Clinic; Rural Health Unit
Flu	Take-in medicine	Barangay Health Center
Fever	Ask for medicine in health center	Rural Health Unit
Asthma	Drink boiled <i>dangla</i> (medicinal plant)	Agta
<i>Til-i</i>	<i>Hilutin</i> (massage the child)	Agta

Measles	Injection	Rural Health Unit
Stomachache	Take-in medicine	Rural Health Unit; Barangay Health Center

Problema	Solusyon	Ahensya
1) Malaria	* Agusar ti mosquitero * Agdatus kadagit Aglawka	Clinic/RHU
2) Trangkaso	* Agtumar ti Agas	Health Center
3) Gurigor	* Mapan day Center * Agdawat ti Agas	RHU/
4) Asthima	* Uminom ti dangla	Karruba/Center
5) Kamoras	* Agpa-injection	RHU
6) Sakit ti Boksit	* Agtumar ti Agas	Clinic/RHU
7) Til-i	* Piluten ti Ubing	

### Presentation group III: Livelihood and trade

Presenter: *Mr. Bening Plata*

LIVELIHOOD AND TRADE		
Problem	Solution	Agencies concerned
Decreasing fish catch	Prohibit the practice of electro-, dynamite-, and chemical fishing; Prohibit foreign vessels and fishermen as well as local folks from using illegal fishing methods; Construct fishponds; Engage in farming.	LGU Barangay Officials
Decreasing hunting catch	Prohibit outsiders from hunting; Give local folks the right to hunt; DENR and Barangay should enforce the law.	DENR, Barangay officials
Small land area for farming	Find alternative livelihood	Agta

Cutting trees	Look for alternative livelihood like farming; Increase volume of rice and fruit production.	Agta
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PROBLEMA	SOLUSYON	Ahensya nga mabatin makatulong
1) Bumabassil ti makalap	→ Maiparit ti agusar ti bungbong, koryente ken alcampor → agtanggal, agkoman	LGU, Barangay officials
2) Bassil ti masukay nga daga	→ Agsapul ti sabali nga pagbirukan tapno magatang ti kasapulan nga arado, pala, piko	
3) Bassil ti maala nga alingo, ugso ken dadduma pay nga ayop	Maiparit ti dayuhan ken tattao nga agusar ti pabanta, blasting, laneke ken silo	DENR, Brgy Officials
PROBLEMA	SOLUSYON	Ahensya nga mabal... MAKATULUNG
3)	→ Maikkan li tattao ti karbengan nga agtiliw → Pagbawalan ng DENR at barangay officials	
4) Panagtari kayo	→ Agsapul ti sabali nga pagkakitaan kas koma agkoman → Padamihin ti mulmula nga pagay, prutas	

### Presentation group IV: Education

Presenter: *Mr. Danny dela Cruz*

EDUCATION		
Problem	Solution	Agencies concerned
Children cannot attend or are forced to stop going to school; School is located too far from Agta residence;	Parents should work together to construct houses near schools as long as there is livelihood available; Coordinate/seek assistance from government agencies;	NCIP DepEd DSWD LGU
There is a school but there are no teachers; No money to pay contributions and to buy school supplies; Limited grade level offered in nearby school; Early marriage	Build a boat that children can use in going to school; Construct a school building even if it is made out of bamboo, wood or other indigenous materials as long as there are teachers that will be assigned by the government.	Agta

### Presentation group V: Relations with the government and others

Presenter: *Mr. Romy Mora*

RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS		
Problem	Solution	Agencies concerned
Illegal activities by outsiders (illegal logging, illegal fishing, trapping of deer and pigs)	Prohibit entry of outsiders by imposing fines; Prohibit entry of outsiders by politely asking them	LGU Barangay officials
Land grabbing by outsiders	Coordinate with barangay officials and municipal officials	LGU
Harassment of Agta by outsiders (rape, abuse, assaults)	Agta folks should unite in guarding their ancestral land; Report such incidents to the barangay captain; Report it to police.	LGU PNP Agta People
Discrimination of the Agta in: the distribution of relief goods buying and selling	Education; Agta should get relief goods personally from municipal officials; Set aside relief good for the Agta communities; The barangay captain should assist Agta in trading their products.	LGU Barangay officials
Failure of politicians in fulfilling their promised projects	By means of unity and cooperation, the Agta people can suggest projects based on their own felt needs and aspirations.	Agta People

<u>PROBLEMA</u>	<u>SOLUSYON</u>	<u>AHENSYA</u>
1. ILLEGAL A PANAGTARI-KAYO, PANAGKALAP KEN PANAGSILO TI UGSA, DAGITI DAYUHAN.	→ MAIPARIT TI SUMBREK BABAEN TI PANAG-MULTA DA. → PARITAN IDA BABAEN ITI DIPLOMASYA A SARITA.	LGU (BRGY. OFFICIALS) AGTA PEOPLE
2. PANAGAGAW DAGITI DAYUHAN TI DAGA.	→ IYUMAN KAGITI BARANGAY OFFICIALS WENNO MUNICIPAL OFFIALS.	LGU
3. PANANGKARIT KEN PANANGBUT-BUTENG DAGITI DAYUHAN.	→ AGBINNANTAY DAGITI AGKAKALUGARAN. → IREPORT TI BARANGAY CAPITAN → IREPORT TI POLICE.	LGU
<u>PROBLEMA</u>	<u>SOLUSYON</u>	<u>AHENSYA</u>
4. PANANGLAKSID TI KARBENGAN DAGITI AGTA (DISCRIMINATION) - Panagited ti relief goods. <del>- Panaglako ken panag-</del> - Panaglako ken panag-gatang	→ Edukasyon → Dakani mismo ti mapan mangala iday munisipyo. → "Mangtedda ti Luga" tapno dumanon dagiti Agta iday ili nga mangala kadagiti relief goods. → Ti Barangay Capitan ket tumulong nga mangkita ti presyo ti lako keti gatangen dagiti Agta.	LGU
5. PROYEKTO NGA INKARI DAGITI PULITIKO NGEM SAN A NAARAMID.	→ Babaen ti Cooperasyon ken Panagkaykaysa ket isayangkat ti proyekto ti bukod a kapanunutan.	Agta people

## 5. LECTURE ON GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Atty. Asis Perez  
Tanggol Kalikasan

The resource person, Atty. Asis Perez, delivered the lecture in a low key manner by way of using simple terms, giving examples and repeating important concepts. He also used drawings presented on transparency films.

## Presentation highlights

Atty. Perez emphasized that the law provides strength to the people. He highlighted this point by repeatedly saying in Filipino: “*nasa batas ang lakas*” (the strength of the people is in the law.) The resource person asked the participants to repeat the statement and further stated that the law is for the people.

The first transparency for the lecture showed a drawing of many people of different sizes, skin color, gender and educational background. The resource person used this to emphasize the point that people from all walks of life should be equally treated by the law. This should not be hard, according to Atty. Perez, because the source of the strength of the law is the people. There can be no government without the people because the strength of the government comes from the people.

The Philippines is a democratic republic. It is written in the constitution that the authority of the state comes from the people. In a democratic republic, the people choose their leaders, their representatives. Therefore, the authority of the leaders comes from the people.

The resource person demonstrated the concept of “strength in unity.” He asked five non-Agta facilitators in the conference hall to sit on the table in front and then requested the strongest Agta among the participants to lift the table. Obviously, the task could not be possibly done. The resource person then asked the five strongest Agta to carry the table. They were able to lift the table with the five non-Agta seated on it. From this demonstration, Atty. Perez related to the great problems the participants had discussed during their presentations. He stressed that if only one of them will carry these big problems, that one person cannot handle the problems. But if ten or if all the Agta people will unite to solve the problems, the people will be able to solve the problems. It is in unity that there is strength, emphasized Atty. Asis.

In 1987, all Filipinos joined together to ratify the Constitution, that is why we could say that it is us who made our laws. Our government is comprised of three branches: the legislative, executive and judicial branches:

Legislative branch	Executive branch	Judicial branch
Makes the laws of the land	Implements the laws that were passed by the legislative branch.	Interprets the law. Makes decisions on cases.
Congress, Senate	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Education (DepEd), etc.	Municipal Trial Court, Regional Trial Court, Court of Appeals, Supreme Court

Together, these three branches are responsible for making the resources of the country more productive and protecting these natural resources, and for protecting the citizenry.

But not only do the people have rights over the natural resources of the country, they also have the responsibility to take care of these resources to enable the existence of a balanced ecology. Therefore there are laws and rules to be followed by the people: such as the prohibition of dynamite fishing and the poisoning of resources in water bodies. It is the work of the government to protect the natural resources of the country.

In relation to indigenous peoples' rights, Atty. Perez stressed Article 11, Section 22 of the Philippine Constitution, which deals with the rights of indigenous peoples. Thus, being an indigenous people, the Agta have the right to be protected by law. The government should take care of the rights of the indigenous peoples.

The resource person asked: "why are there instances that the Agta are being driven away from their ancestral domain?" He emphasized that Congress passed the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act. This law looks into indigenous peoples' rights to land properties as passed on by their ancestors.

## DAY 3: 17 AUGUST 2005

### MODERATORS

*Dr. Dante Aquino*  
Isabela State University – Cabagan

*Dr. Mary Aquino*  
Facilitator

### SESSION ACTIVITIES

1. Warming up

### RESOURCE PERSONS / FACILITATORS

*Dr. Mary Aquino*  
*Mr. Rey Baquiran*  
*Ms. Rose Lucero*  
Facilitators

2. Recapitulation

*Dr. Dante Aquino*  
Isabela State University – Cabagan

3. Lecture: the Philippine Constitution and the rights of indigenous peoples, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title system

*Atty. Asis Perez*  
Tanggol Kalikasan  
Lecturer

4. Field trip Callao Caves

ISU Cabagan faculty members  
Teachers College student practice teachers

### 1. WARMING UP

*Dr. Mary Aquino, Mr. Rey Baquiran and Ms. Rose Lucero*  
Facilitators

The participants were gathered to sing the song *Kumusta Ka* and were assigned to dance with partners. At the end of the phrase *Ako ay Masaya*, they continually exchanged partners until they ended up with their original partners. The game's objective is further familiarization among the participants. A second action song *Kung Ikaw ay Masaya* was taught to the participants, which they performed with utmost enjoyment.

### 2. RECAPITULATION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY

*Dr. Dante Aquino*  
Isabela State University

The participants recalled the following topics discussed during the previous day:

- Strengthening the power of indigenous peoples by being aware of one's rights.
- Presentations on problems and their solutions per problem area: environment; livelihood and trade; food and health; education; relations with government and other people.

- The prevention and management of diseases: *Amay* Bawi Donato remarked that in the absence of Oresol, a homemade concoction in treating diarrhea can be made by boiling water and adding a pinch of salt and sugar. Maryjane Manuel pointed out the following practices in preventing the spread of malaria: 1) use mosquito nets; 2) clean the surroundings; 3) don't stock water in open containers as stagnant may serve as breeding place for mosquitoes.

### 3. THE CONSTITUTION AND THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS ACT AND THE CERTIFICATE OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN TITLE SYSTEM

*Atty. Asis Perez*  
Tanggol Kalikasan  
Lecturer

#### **Presentation highlights**

Atty. Perez emphasized that: "if there is unity, there is strength": If the action is done alone, the work may not be completed easily but if it is done by people working together, the task is accomplished a lot easier.

The natural resources like rivers, mountains and forests are the indigenous peoples' wealth:

- *Likas Yaman* (natural resources) are their source of livelihood.
- These resources existed even before man's birth.
- The distinction between natural resources and man made things will be established in the lecture.

The Constitution states that all land, bodies of water and all natural resources are owned by the State. The composition of the State is as follows:

- Territory (*Lupa*)
- People (*Agta*)
- Government
- Democracy

Premise: the Agta are part of the State and they have equal rights with other Filipinos in the ownership of the nation's natural resources. All the wealth of the State is equally owned by Filipinos and all benefits derived from it must be equally shared. As owners of the State, the people have the right and the duty to take care of the natural resources.

#### **Intermission numbers**

*Amay* Bawi Donato rendered an Agta song. *Nana* Rosing Cortez rendered an Agta song expressing that although the Agta wander to other places, they still feel that they are always in the same place of origin.

## **Agta documentary**

A video was shown featuring a documentary on the Agta in Aurora. The video depicted a comparison of the Agta's abundant life before and the present destruction of their livelihood caused by logging activities and destructive fishing practices of outsiders.

## **Continuation of the lecture**

Atty. Perez repeated that "if there is unity, there is strength" and that if the action is done alone, the work may not be completed easily but if it is done by people working together, the task is accomplished a lot easier. He defined Ancestral Domain as the land that the Agta have inherited from their forebears and which they have been using ever since. Atty. Perez posed the following queries:

- Do you have inherited lands?
- Do you know where your ancestral domain is located?

In response, the participants presented a number of answers: *Amay* Bawi Donato and Mr. Roger Eslabon explained to the other Agta that the ancestral domain covers not only the places where their ancestors used to hunt; the area where houses are erected and the areas that they till and the areas where they gather fruits are also included in the ancestral land. Ms. Begnet Impiel confirmed that the area where they live and gather fruits is their ancestral domain. This has been their original land area. They come and go in this area, but they consider this their very own. Mr. Melencio Salazar asked: are these the only possessions of the Agta? He emphasized that: "it is not only those areas planted with trees and even corn but also the rivers and its resources and all other things within our area that are included, because it is also part of our wealth. The deer, wild pigs and monkeys are part of our inheritance." *Amay* Bawi Donato said that the rivers, oceans and its resources are also ours because they are our source of living.

Atty. Asis explained that the law states the Agta's right of ownership. He made it clear that the so-called ancestral domain is composed of the following:

- Land
- Hunting grounds
- Forests
- Burial grounds
- Residential areas
- Areas of worship
- Minerals
- Rivers, oceans and their resources

He further pointed out that the areas that have been used by the Agta and their ancestors and the areas from where they derive their livelihood is their ancestral domain. He also mentioned that the areas wherein Agta obtain their source of livelihood and conduct other activities are still owned by the Agta even if non-Agta people are squatting on it. It is important for the Agta to know their rights because it is from the law that they can get their strength. The law is with them, it is for them.

Atty. Perez discussed the Agta's rights over their ancestral domains as follows:

- The right of ownership (*Karapatan sa Pagmamay-ari*): the Agta ancestral domain is rightfully theirs as dictated by their inheritance.
- The right to cultivation (*Karapatan Pagyamin ang Lupa*): the Agta can till the land and raise crops.
- The right to reside (*Karapatan Na Manatili Sa Lupa*): the Agta cannot be evicted from their ancestral domain.
- The right of reclamation (*Karapatang Makabalik*): in the case of evacuation due to calamities, the government is mandated to help the Agta go back to their ancestral domain.
- The right to regulate entry to ancestral domain (*Karapatang ng Regulasyon ang Pagpasok ng mga Dayo*): the Agta have the right to regulate the entry of other people within the ancestral domain because they are the owners of the land.

The law provides all of the rights enumerated above. Atty. Asis asked whether these rights are being rightfully observed.

- Mr. Estaniel Prado explained how their land in Palanan was originally reserved for the Agta, but then an armed group came in and wanted to grab the land and told the Agta to move somewhere else. Estaniel sought help for them to regain their land.
- Mr. Steve Manuel described that their lands in Limbag have been occupied by Ifugaos and that they have started planting their land. They cannot drive away the Ifugaos. The Ifugaos said that they will fight back and will not leave the area. That is why they cannot make them leave the area.
- Mr. Alonso dela Peña claimed that they have cleared 200 hectares of land for planting but some areas were occupied by squatters. They have reprimanded the outsiders, but they have been authorized to till the land. The incidence has been brought to the attention of the barangay but no action was taken.
- In reaction to the claim of Alonso in Divinisa, Mr. Balanggi Osbal also described a similar experience wherein *Kristianos* had been taking advantage of their land and their crops. Just like in the case Alonso presented, they were also driven off their land. He pleaded for the government to help them reclaim their land.
- Mr. Jeffrey Magudang explained to the group his stand that since he has inherited land from his father and grandfather, he makes it a point to protect and preserve it. He recalled his father saying that he has to protect the land because when he gets married and has children of his own, his family can depend on this land. He said: “the forest is ours; let’s protect it so others won’t grab it from us.” In Kabisera 10, Ilagan, there have been land-grabbing incidences but the Agta there won’t let it happen again. No one can claim what is not rightfully theirs.

In reaction to all situations presented, Atty. Asis Perez emphasized that the Agta are the sole owners of their ancestral domain. They have the right to preserve and protect it.

It is important that others know the boundaries of their land. These should be indicated by natural landmarks. Since there are no *muhon* (monuments) in the forest, the government tries to assist by surveying the boundaries. The government delineates land boundaries to clarify its ownership. There are government agencies that can assist in the boundary delineation of ancestral domains.

Ms. Lenie Caramat explained that she has observed people from the government, particularly of the Local Government Unit (LGU) and the DENR, measuring the land if outsiders want to buy the land. *Amay Bawi Donato* confirmed the claim of Lenie by

saying that based on his experience, if there are outsiders (*unat*) who want to own the land, they request the DENR to conduct a survey. Lenie Caramat also presented a problem concerning their permit to extract rattan from the forest. She said that they are among the Agta who were granted a rattan cutting permit, but they cannot make use of it because they lack the means. They are allowed to gather rattan but their problem is paying the forest charges to be able to transport the products. Even though they are licensed, the high fees being charged are hard to deal with.

Mr. Roger Eslabon described their way of setting boundaries by using natural indicators like the creek in their place. In the case of *Lakay Bawi* in Palanan, he said, it is the DENR that sets the boundary so that outsiders will not encroach on their land. In their own case, there is a big tree that serves as a boundary indicating that outsiders should not trespass. However, the outsiders usually remove these signs. In response, Atty. Perez emphasized that there is a need to enforce the law. To do this, they have to attend to the paper work. The documents will help inform people that the Agta cannot be forced to leave their ancestral domain.

Mr. Alonso dela Peña wanted to inquire, why after DENR surveyed the area for their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim and a concrete monument (*muhon*) had been put in place, there were still two families of outsiders who had gained access to the area and planted banana so that they can claim that it is theirs. Atty. Perez assured the participants that a Commissioner from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) will be present during the workshop's last day. That is the time for them to address their problem of surveying and ascertaining their ancestral domain to the NCIP Commissioner. Now that they are aware of their rights, they have to know the boundaries of their ancestral land and complete its papers so that they can be assured of the enforcement of the law.

Mr. Nane Almoneda recognized their lack of education as one hindrance in the completion of their papers. The outsiders will usually ask who they are and if they have the proper papers to support their claim to the land. They do not have papers to show. They need these papers of proof. In reaction, Atty. Perez urged the participants to let the representatives of NCIP know their immediate need for the completion of the papers to support their claims to their ancestral domain.

*Amay Bawi Donato* reiterated that they need to make the NCIP realize that they have to move fast in completing the needed papers for their ancestral domain claim. He shared with the group that he had been told that it would take a very long time and expressed his worries that the NCIP has to move faster before they are coerced to leave their ancestral land.

Mr. Roger Eslabon also described that he planted banana adopting PLAN's technology in his area and managed it well. As his farm improved, others entered the area and tried to drive him away. He asked why others want to displace us even if they know they are tilling the area.

Mr. Jeffrey Magudang asked if those Agta living in Divilican who also have claims to lands in other municipalities are entitled to have titles to that land. Atty. Perez explained that their claim to their ancestral land is not bound by municipalities: ancestral domains may cross municipal boundaries. Jeffrey Magudang further explained that outsiders had occupied their lands in the other municipality already because they cannot work on its

title since it is far away. Atty. Perez reiterated that even if the land is located in another town, it is still part of the whole ancestral domain and therefore they may claim it.

Mr. Basilio Ignacio claimed there had been many incidents of land grabbing in Diangu, Maconacon. Atty. Asis Perez responded that such incidents occur because their ancestral domain titles have not yet been granted.

Atty. Perez concluded the session by emphasizing the similarities of the problems presented. He once more stressed:

- The importance of identifying and marking the Agta's ancestral domain, by putting landmarks on it.
- The need to request the assistance of the NCIP Commissioner to speed up the titling of their ancestral domains.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Dante Aquino discussed the mechanics for the presentations to the government officials, to be staged on Friday. The participants were asked to choose three presenters from among themselves who will deliver the presentations. The chosen representatives were:

- Mr. Estaniel Prado for environment, livelihood and food
- Mrs. Fidela Impiel for health and education
- Mr. Noni dela Peña for relations with government agencies and other people

It was explained that a pre-presentation will be conducted on Thursday in order for the other participants to comment on the data presented for refinement of the final presentation.

Several practical announcements about the upcoming field trip to Callao Caves were also made. Dr. Dante Aquino described the place and informed the participants that like the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, Callao is also a protected area. This means that certain environmental rules need to be observed:

- Participants can swim but not take a bath and use soap.
- Observe cleanliness in the area. Proper disposal of waste should be observed during snacks and supper.

### **4. FIELD TRIP TO CALLAO CAVES**

The group left the ATI-RTC after lunch at around 13:00. The original plan was for the participants to visit the caves but the organizers decided to allow the participants to proceed directly to the swimming site as families expressed desire to swim and have fun after the two-and-a-half-day learning sessions and workshops.

Swimming competitions and parlor games were facilitated by the faculty members of the Physical Education Department and the faculty and practice teachers of the Teachers College. After enjoying swimming and fun-filled games, the participants and organizers left the swimming site at around 17:00. Dinner was taken at the Callao Caves Resort.

Tired but recharged, the group returned at the ATI-RTC at around 21:00.

## DAY 4: 18 AUGUST 2005

### MODERATOR

*Dr. Dante Aquino*  
Isabela State University – Cabagan

### SESSION ACTIVITIES

1. Warming up

### RESOURCE PERSONS / PRESENTERS

*Dr. Mary Aquino*  
*Mr. Rey Baquiran*  
Facilitators

2. Recapitulation

*Atty. Lolly Sheen*  
Tanggol Kalikasan

3. Lecture: National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act and the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP) Act

*Atty. Lolly Sheen*  
Tanggol Kalikasan

4. Refining of presentations for the dialogue program with government officials on Friday

*Mr. Estaniel Prado*  
Environment, livelihood and food

*Mrs. Fidela Impiel*  
Health and education

*Mr. Noni dela Peña*  
Relations with government agencies and other people

5. Presentation and finalizing of the *manifesto*

*Dr. Dante Aquino*  
Isabela State University – Cabagan

6. Agta cultural show

### 1. WARMING UP

*Dr. Mary Aquino and Mr. Rey Baquiran*  
Facilitators

The Agta participants started the day's activities by singing warming up songs introduced by Dr. Mary Aquino and Mr. Rey Baquiran. Then, Dr. Mary Aquino presented a musical slide show and emphasized that the solutions to problems presented by the participants in the past workshops are part of their preparations for the future.

## 2. RECAPITULATION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY

*Atty. Lolly Sheen*

Facilitator

Review of the lessons taught by Atty. Asis Perez. Atty. Sheen recalled that Atty. Perez discussed the concept of the State which is composed of the following elements:

- Territory (land)
- People
- Natural resources

As owners of the land, the people have the right to own and use its resources.

## 3. NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM ACT (NIPAS) AND THE NORTHERN SIERRA MADRE NATURAL PARK (NSMNP) ACT

*Atty. Lolly Sheen*

Tanggol Kalikasan

### **Lecture highlights**

Atty. Sheen put emphasis on the Philippine's vast natural resources. The indigenous peoples are the owners of these resources and are the rightful persons to dictate how these should be used. The wealth of the forest includes wild pigs, deer, and monkeys. The rivers provide eel, crabs, fishes, *ludong*, and *agaap*. The country also has mines with gold, iron, and silver. She also stressed that the indigenous peoples are the original dwellers of the Philippines. Being Filipinos, the law tells us what our rights are. The rights of indigenous people in the law:

- It was reiterated that the indigenous peoples have the right to maintain their culture, and be given due respect for their way of life.
- It was also pointed out that as members of an indigenous group, the Agta have the right to own their ancestral domain.
- The law now recognizes that the Sierra Madre is owned by Agta people since it is their ancestral domain. The only thing missing now is their title to the land.

There is a need to protect the ancestral domain and its resources. As owners of the resources in the ancestral lands, the Agta also have the responsibility to take care of it. These areas are protected because of their abundant natural resources. Natural resources which may be abundant now will get depleted or destroyed if these are not well managed. The Agta people's ancestral domains are important not only to the Filipinos but to the whole world.

### **Video showing**

A video presenting the Agta way of life was shown. The importance of the Sierra Madre was presented by different authorities. A chieftain in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija was shown dedicated to the protection of the ancestral lands of his people. It was shown that in Dilasag many people from outside the area worked for the logging company PATECO.

Different views on the uses of the resources in the Sierra Madre Mountains were shown. The problem of abuse of natural resources leading to their depletion was shown.

About 97 percent of our source of water comes from the Sierra Madre. Our water supply will be affected once we lose the trees in the forest. Ms. Rosa Perez of the PAGASA weather station cited the importance of the Sierra Madre in controlling the flow of water to the valley. Its forest cover absorbs water, thus controls water run-off. Its forest serves as shield for the strong wind during storm.

Dr. Ong of the Institute of Biological Science of the University of the Philippines indicated that the fate of the Sierra Madre is in everybody's hand. He identified the following practices that should be adopted in order to help conserve and protect the Sierra Madre:

- Let's start planting trees.
- Don't buy endangered species.
- Support environmental organizations.
- Recycle paper.
- Report illegal activities.

### **Continuation of lecture on NIPAS & NSMNP Act**

Atty. Sheen focused on the question why the Sierra Madre is so important:

- It is the Agta's source of livelihood.
- It is endowed with flora & fauna. There are different plant and animal species that serve as an important source of food to human beings. There are other species that are unique and thrive only in this area.
- It is a major water source. It supplies the entire island of Luzon with water. Trees gradually release water so that it regulates the supply of water to the lowlands.
- Flood/typhoon control. The Sierra Madre serves as windbreaker during typhoons. Trees help control the flow of water during typhoons.
- Wood Supply: the forest in the Sierra Madre is an important source of wood.

### **Protecting the Sierra Madre**

Atty. Sheen discussed important points regarding the sustainable management of the resources by asking the following questions:

- As a member of the Agta community, do you have a role to play in the protection of the Sierra Madre?
- Who are the ones responsible for the management of the resources and in leading the people?

Atty. Sheen explained that there are officials who are responsible for the enforcement of the law. Mr. Jeffrey Magudang responded that the Agta do not necessarily enforce the law but they help in explaining the law and give guidance to the other Agta people.

Atty. Sheen explained that protected areas like the Sierra Madre have leaders who formulate regulations. In the Sierra Madre, the Protected Area Management Board

(PAMB) manages the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP). It is important to know the composition of the PAMB for the following reasons:

1. To know who formulates the regulations;
2. To know to whom to address the problems;
3. To present proposals on the management and protection of the NSMNP.

### **Composition of the PAMB**

The indigenous people of the Sierra Madre have 12 members in the PAMB representing different areas in the park:

- Maconacon – 2 members
- Divilacan - 2 members
- Palanan – 3 members
- Dinapigue – 1 member
- San Pablo, Cabagan, Tumauni, San Mariano and Ilagan – 4 members

In addition the following people are represented in the PAMB:

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) (the Regional Executive Director and the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer)
- Women representatives (indigenous or non-indigenous women)
- Barangay captains
- Municipal mayors
- *Sanggunian Kabataan* (representative of the federation)
- Provincial government

### **Functions and responsibilities of the PAMB**

The PAMB decides on what is allowed and what is not allowed in the protected area and initiates programs on environment like:

- Reforestation
- Rehabilitation of the environment

The PAMB also executes the overall management plan for protected areas. In managing the NSMNP, the PAMB must take the culture of the indigenous peoples into consideration. Consultation of indigenous people must take place before the drawing up of management plans.

### **Intermission numbers**

An action song was led by Ms. Maryjane Manuel. Then, Atty. Sheen led an environmental song regarding birds, trees, fish, and other forms of life which should not go extinct.

### **Continuation of the lecture on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA)**

The IPRA promulgates that the Agta people have a say in the management of their ancestral domain. The PAMB will formulate regulations that respect and are in accordance with the cultural practices of the Agta people. The policies formulated by PAMB should not contradict traditional laws.

Who should lead or take charge inside the ancestral domain? Inside the Sierra Madre, the Agta people are the ones who should be leading the protection of the land within their ancestral domains.

What should be enforced? The laws of the Agta should be enforced because the State believes that since they are the ones living there, the land is important to them and therefore they will protect these lands.

In order to protect the Sierra Madre, the Agta should report any act violating the law (see below).

### **Open forum**

Mr. Melencio Salazar asked if outsiders are allowed in the NSMNP. The situation wherein outsiders are hiring Agta people as guide to search for narra and other hardwood species in the innermost part of the forest was brought up. It was suggested that Agta people should not allow themselves to be exploited.

Mr. Gener Cabaldo asked for clarification of the concept of tribal laws and rights. He also brought up their problem of acquiring titles for their ancestral domain and asked if they can get assistance. He said that it is high time that Agta people obtain land titles so that they will have something to hold on to: to justify their residence inside the park.

Atty. Sheen emphasized that they should ask and fight for the issuance of their title for the ancestral domain. It was suggested that NCIP representatives should be here. They should be the ones discussing our laws/ordinances.

## **4. REFINING OF PRESENTATIONS FOR THE DIALOGUE PROGRAM**

The three Agta representatives chosen by the participants to give the presentations concerning problems and solutions in their communities on the workshop's last day. The presentations were rehearsed before the other Agta participants in order to improve their performance. The presentations held were the following:

- Mr. Estaniel Prado on environment, livelihood and food
- Mrs. Fidela Impiel on health and education
- Mr. Noni dela Peña on relations with government agencies and other people

### **Comments and suggestions on the presentations**

Dr. Aquino suggested to Mr. Estaniel Prado that in the conclusions of his presentation, the environmental impact on rivers and oceans should also be included so that all natural resources are covered by the presentation.

It was also remarked that Mrs. Fidela Impiel's format of presentation is very clear and well organized and it was suggested that the other presenters will also adopt that format. Solutions to the problems should be included in the presentations.

## 5. PRESENTATION AND FINALIZING OF THE *MANIFESTO*

### **Presentation of the *manifesto***

Dr. Dante Aquino presented the *manifesto* (see Attachment A) to the participants. He explained to them its importance by saying that the *manifesto* lists all issues, concerns and possible solutions to problems presented by the Agta during the workshop in one single document. This document will be presented to the government officials. This is a formal way of drawing government's attention to the Agta's concerns.

The *manifesto* was presented line by line for the participants' understanding and approval. Wordings and contents were adjusted on the basis of the participants' comments.

It was agreed in the forum that the term "Agta", "Dumagat" or "Agay" may be used interchangeably.

The participants were informed that if they fully agree with the contents of the *manifesto*, they shall affix their signatures in the space provided on the document. It was emphasized that affixing one's signature should be a voluntary act on the part of the participant. Signing participants can be adults only. In affixing the signatures, Mr. Noni dela Peña suggested that the list of participants be used to call the participants one by one for their signature.

## 6. AGTA CULTURAL SHOW

The Agta cultural show started with the children participants staging Agta and non-Agta songs, dances and stories which they practiced during the previous days of the education and cultural program. After the children's performances, various adult participants rendered songs and acts, which culminated in a very enjoyable dancing event.

**DAY 5: 19 AUGUST 2005**

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

*Dr. Dante Aquino*  
Isabela State University – Cabagan

PLENARY ACTIVITIES

PRESENTERS

1. Opening program

Invocation

*Bishop Sergio Utleg*  
Diocese of Ilagan

National anthem

*Ms. Juliet Chavez*  
Miss Palanan

Messages

*Prof. Richard Ramirez*  
Executive Director  
Isabela State University at Cabagan

*Hon. Christopher Mamauag*  
Municipal Mayor Cabagan, Isabela

*Mr. Bawi Donato*  
Agta Leader, Palanan

*Bishop Sergio Utleg*  
Diocese of Ilagan

*Mrs. Nellie Miranda*  
DSWD Regional Director for Region 02

*Dir. Jovito Layugan*  
DENR Region 02

2. Problem analysis presentations  
by Agta participants and  
presentation of the *manifesto*

*Mr. Estaniel Prado*  
Agta Representative  
Dipagsanghan, Didian, Palanan

*Mrs. Fidela Impiel*  
Agta Representative  
Dibuluan, San Mariano

*Mr. Noni dela Peña*  
Agta Representative  
Dimasalansan, Dibigo, Divilacan

3. Government messages and  
reactions

*Mrs. Corazon N. Espino*  
National Commissioner  
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

*Dir. Mario L. Ramirez*  
DepEd Superintendent

*Ms. Flor Piano*  
NCIP Provincial Office Isabela

*Engr. Clarence Baguilat*  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Regional Director Region 02

*For. Abundio Galamgam*  
PASu NSMNP Staff  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

4. Presentation of results anthropological study on the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park *Drs. Tessa Minter*  
CVPED

5. Graduation ceremony and closing program. *Hon. Grace Padaca*  
Provincial Governor Isabela

*Hon. Francisco Talosig*  
Municipal Mayor Maconacon

*Dr. Andres Masipiqueña*  
Program coordinator  
CVPED

*Dr. Dante Aquino*  
Isabela State University – Cabagan

*Drs. Tessa Minter*  
CVPED

## 1. OPENING PROGRAM

The last day of the Agta workshop was opened with the invocation led by Bishop Sergio Utleg of the Diocese of Ilagan. Ms. Juliet Chavez, reigning Miss Palanan, led the national anthem.

### **Welcome messages**

*Prof. Richard Ramirez*  
Executive Director  
Isabela State University Cabagan

Prof. Ramirez welcomed the guests consisting of government officials and representatives of organizations to the biggest gathering of Agta ever, an event that according to him qualifies for inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records. The campus director emphasized the role of our Agta brothers and sisters in the protection of the Sierra Madre. On behalf of the 16,000 students of the ISU system and the more than 1000 faculty and employees, he welcomed all those in attendance to the program and announced that in any of the ISU campuses, Agta students will not need to pay tuition fee.

*Hon. Christopher Mamauag*  
Municipal Mayor Cabagan, Isabela

The Municipal Mayor of Cabagan welcomed the guests and participants to the workshop. He said that he hoped that the Agta participants, in the few days of their stay in Cabagan, observed the life of the lowlanders and understood better why they need to continue protecting the watershed of the Sierra Madre so that farmers in the lowlands can continue their farming activities. With the Agta people protecting the forests in the Sierra Madre, the people in the lowlands are able to grow crops. Thus, the lowlanders must learn to appreciate the role which the Agta play in the survival of all communities in the region.

*Mr. Bawi Donato*  
Agta leader, Palanan

Mr. Donato thanked the organizer of the workshop for bringing the different Agta families to this workshop. He was inspired with the acknowledgement that the Agta communities are instrumental in maintaining the secure and prosperous lives of the people living in the lowlands. With Agta communities protecting the Sierra Madre, people in the lowlands can go on with their lives without any danger that can be brought about by the destruction of natural resources in the uplands.

*Bishop Sergio Utleg*  
Diocese of Ilagan

The Bishop mentioned in his message that he, being a representative of the Church, is present in this gathering because it is not only the government which has the sole responsibility of providing support to indigenous peoples. Other support groups can provide the Agta assistance in terms of giving respect and assisting them in fighting for their rights. If people are not properly informed on their rights, they are easily taken advantage of. He also emphasized the importance of providing the Agta community with proper education because it can be their defense when negotiating for the price of their products. Regardless of color and cultural affiliation, all Filipinos have equal rights in the eye of justice. Although the Agta have once been taken advantage of, this will not happen again if they are aware of their rights and they have enough education.

*Dir. Nellie Miranda*

DSWD Regional Director for Region 02

DSWD Dir. Nellie Miranda, the newly appointed Regional Director for Region 02 read the message of the DSWD Secretary.

The Secretary acknowledges the importance of this occasion in which the Agta and Government Officials are given the opportunity to have a consultation. The reality of indigenous peoples being deprived of their rights in their own ancestral lands is recognized. It is high time to listen to needs and wishes.

The Agta are at the forefront of the fight against the destruction of the Sierra Madre. Their ancestral land is one of the two places in the Philippines with full natural resources that are useful not only to the Filipinos but to the whole world. The Agta will not destroy their mountain home because any threat to the mountain is a threat to their homes. It is a pity how other people belonging to majority groups are discriminating against the Agta.

The protection of the Agta's rights is expressed in the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA). NGOs and POs now help them like the Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAH) and the Liberating the Indigenous Peoples (LIPI). By supporting and extending help to the indigenous people, we can all help in the protection of the Sierra Madre. This occasion is a venue for strengthening the aspirations for the protection of indigenous people's rights and the protection of the Sierra Madre.

*Dir. Jovito Layugan*

DENR Region 02

Dir. Jovito Layugan explained that RED Baguilat was not able to attend the Agta workshop at this moment because he was in a meeting of the Furniture Federation in Gamu, Isabela. The RED promised however to proceed to ATI-RTC immediately after the meeting in Gamu to deliver his message.

Director Layugan stated that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is tasked with varied functions and among the most important is the distribution of lands to the people especially those living in mountain ranges like the Sierra Madre Natural Park. There are also many problems in relation to this task, where the most pressing one is the problem on illegal logging.

He emphasized that the Agta people are considered the guards of the mountain range because they live in the area. They are the major stakeholders of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park. Agencies should focus on the development problems besetting important natural resources in Region 02. Among the agencies of the government, the National Irrigation Administration is the one responsible for providing water to the rice fields, while the Local Government Units are responsible for providing the infrastructure needed for the Agta's agricultural enterprises.

The Director reiterated that the Agta people are the active protectors of the forest. The Agta people should be serious in this undertaking because whatever happens in the mountain range will also affect the lowlands. Dir. Layugan added that the Agta should

not just be followers; they should join hands with government agencies in protecting the natural resources.

## 2. PROBLEM ANALYSIS PRESENTATION OF THE AGTA PARTICIPANTS

In this session, three representatives chosen by and from the Agta participants, presented to the audience their analysis of three major problem areas as discussed in the first four workshop days. They illustrated their analysis with picture slides. The three problem areas were the following:

- Livelihood, environment and food
- Health and education
- Relationships with government and others

### 1. Presentation on livelihood, environment and food

*Mr. Estaniel Prado*  
 Agta Representative  
 Dipagsanghan, Didian, Palanan

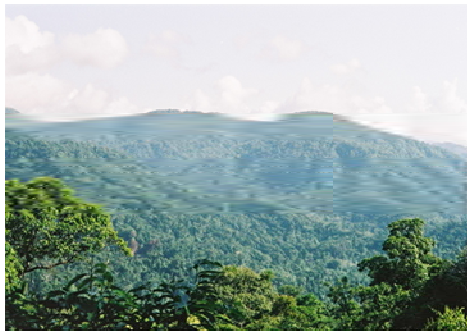
Area	Problem	Solution
Livelihood	Decreasing sources of livelihood due to illegal practices like dynamite fishing, electro-fishing, snare-trap hunting and illegal logging.	Stop all illegal activities like dynamite fishing, electro-fishing, snare-trap hunting and logging, that are destroying the environment by strictly enforcing the laws.
Environment	Destruction of the natural resources due to illegal practices like dynamite fishing, electro-fishing, snare-trap hunting and illegal logging.	
Food	Lack or absence of food: Agta go hungry.	

Mr. Estaniel Prado showed pictures depicting the destruction of the environment which affects their livelihood and sources of food. Dynamite fishing destroys rivers and coral reefs that serve as home to the fish. Illegal logging and slash and burn farming destroy the forest.

Mr. Prado called on the government officials to fight these illegal activities because these have resulted in decreasing hunting and fishing catch. These problems cannot be addressed without government support.



Estaniel Prado na faga-Dipagsangan, Palanan



Pangkabuhayan



## Kapaligiran



Pagkain



## **SOLUSYON**

- **Ipagbawal ang pangunguryente at pagpapasabog ng dinamita**
- **Magpakasipag**
- **Pagpapatupad ng mga batas**



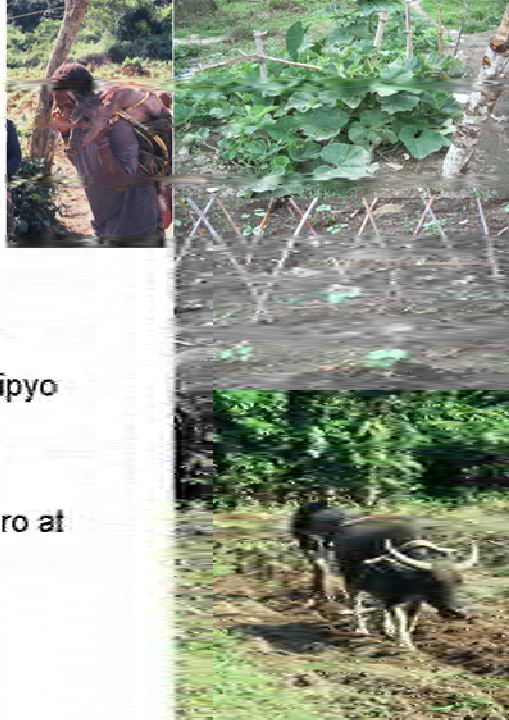
**Ang mga responsableng ahensya at tao na dapat magpapatupad ng batas ay ang mga sumusunod:**

- Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman (DENR)
- BFAR (Bureau Of Fisheries And Aquatic Resources)
- Pamahalaang pang-agrikultura (DA)



### **Solusyon**

- Pagpapahalaga sa kalikasan
- Pagtatanim
- Ipagbawal ang paggamit ng silo sa mga kristyano
- Sustenableng pangangaso
- Humingi ng tulong sa munisipyo
- Rehabilitasyon ng patubig
- Paggawa ng banig, sumbrero at basket



### **Ang mga responsableng ahensya at tao na dapat magpapatupad ng batas ay ang mga sumusunod:**

- Pamahalaang pang-agrikultura (DA)
- Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman (DENR)
- Pamahalaang Lokal (LGU)





### ***Solusyon***

- Ibawal ang mga paggamit ng paputok (dinamita), kuryente at lason
- Mahigpit na pagbabawal ng DENR at mga opisyaless ng barangay sa paggamit ng mga ilegal na gawain
- Maghanap ng ibang pagkakakitaan gaya ng pagbubungkal ng lupa, pagyayantok, sustinableng pangangaso, paramihin ang pagtanim ng mga prutas at palay o gulay
- Mabigyan ng karapatan ang AGTA para manghuli ng mga ilegal na gawain

Ang mga responsableng ahensya at tao na dapat magpapatupad ng batas ay ang mga sumusunod:

- Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas Yaman (DENR)
- Pamahalaang Lokal (LGU)
- Opisyaes ng barangay



**Mabuhay ang mga AGTA  
ng Sierra Madre!**

*Maraming Salamat po sa  
inyong lahat!*

## 2. Presentation on education and health

*Mrs. Fidela Impiel*  
Agta Representative  
Dibuluan, San Mariano

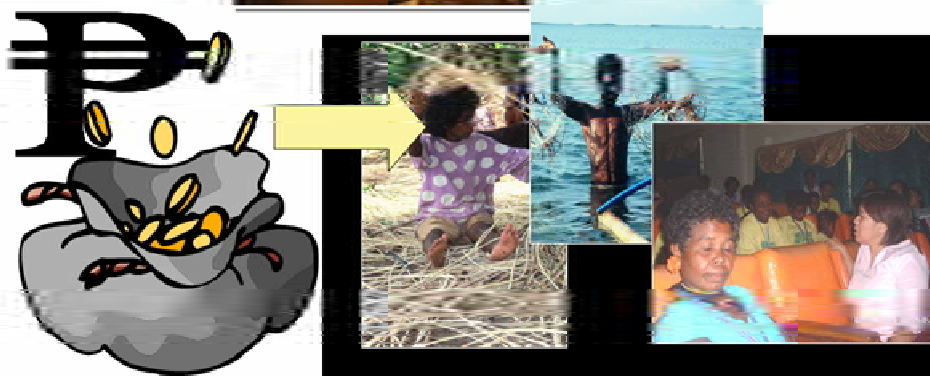
<b>Area</b>	<b>Problem</b>	<b>Solution</b>
Education	Agta children do not go to school because: 1) absence of schools in or near Agta settlements; 2) no school for grades 4 to 6 in most barangays; 3) no boat for the children to ride to go to school; 4) Agta parents cannot afford travel and tuition costs children.	Provide schools and teachers in or near Agta settlements.
Health	Lack of medicine for diseases and other illnesses	Provide health centers near Agta settlements and ensure free access to medical services.

Mrs. Fidela Impiel emotionally explained to the audience officials the different problems confronting Agta communities in the field of education and health. She showed a picture of children, the Agta children who are not able to study and she expressed her desire to see their children and grandchildren being able to study some day.

Mrs. Impiel described the Agta people as poor and she added that although few are able to study, they reach up to grade II only because they have to transfer to schools located far from their settlements.

When the children go to school, they sometimes have to ride a boat to reach the school or they have to hike for hours. Thus, to solve their problem on education, she appealed to government representatives to facilitate the establishment of schools and the detailing of teachers in their places.

In the area of health, Mrs. Impiel mentioned their problems with malaria and other diseases. She appealed for the establishment of health centers so that they can get medicine when the need arises, especially because they usually do not have money to buy medicine.







### 3. Presentation on relationships with government and others

*Mr. Noni dela Peña*  
 Agta Representative  
 Dimasalansan, Divilacan

Area	Problem	Solution
Relationship with government and others	Illegal logging, illegal fishing, illegal hunting.	Strict law enforcement.
	Grabbing of Agta's land by non-Agta lowlanders.	Coordinate with the barangay and municipal officials.
	Rape, abuse and harassment of Agta by lowlanders.	Unite in keeping peace and order in the area.
	Non-recognition of the rights of the Agta people.	Education
	Cheating of Agta by non-Agta in buying and selling activities.	Education
	Projects promised by politicians not being implemented.	Intelligent voting.

Mr. Noni dela Peña expressed dismay regarding illegal activities conducted by outsiders in the Agta's ancestral domain. The Agta people make use of indigenous or traditional means of hunting and catching fish which do not harm the overall population of their food sources. In contrast, illegal logging, illegal fishing and illegal hunting practices deplete the volume of their catch. To solve the problem, he proposed that outsiders should be prohibited from entering and performing any illegal activity in their ancestral domain by enforcing fines to violators. Mr. dela Peña called on the higher officials to be more vigilant in enforcing the laws protecting their domain.

Another problem raised was grabbing of the Agta's land by outsiders in the Agta's ancestral domain. They have made initiatives to coordinate the problem with barangay officials. However, due to their lack of education, they still cannot get any concrete action and solution to their problem.

Next, Mr. dela Peña addressed the fact that in buying and selling their products, the Agta are often cheated by non-Agta trade partners. To solve this, the Agta need to be properly educated so that they will not be easily taken advantage of.

Harassment of Agta women and men by lowlanders was another problem raised. Mr. dela Peña claimed that outsiders seem to have protectors who enable them to harass the Agta. Despite this, he called on the Agta people to unite and report to proper authorities such harassments being committed.

Frequent non-recognition of the rights of the Agta people: an example is the fact that relief goods intended for the Agta often do not reach them.

Projects promised by politicians not being implemented: an example is the slow processing of their ancestral domain titles.

## Relasyon sa Gobyerno at sa ibang Tao

### Problema:

1. Illegal na pangangahoy, pangangisda at paggamit ng silo ng mga dayuhan



### Solusyon:

- Ibawal ang pagpasok sa pamamagitan ng pagmumulta sa kanila
- Bawalan sila sa pamamagitan ng magandang pakiusap.



### Ahensya na makakatulong:

- LGU (Barangay Officials)
- Mga Agta



Problema:

2. Pang – aagaw ng mga dayuhan ng lupa



Solusyon:

➤ Makipag – ugnayan sa mga barangay officials at municipal officials



Ahensiya na makakatulong:

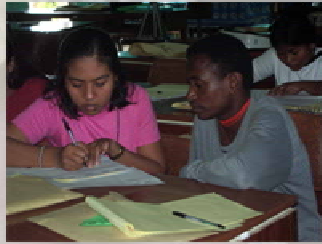
➤ LGU

Problema:

3. Paghahamon at pananakot ng mga dayuhan

Solusyon:

- Magkaisang magbantay ang mga magkakalugaran
- Ireport sa kapitan ng barangay
- Ireport sa pulisya



Ahensiyang Makakatulong:

- LGU



## Problema:

- 4. Pagtatakwil sa mga karapatan ng mga Agta
  - Sa pagbibigay ng relief goods
  - Sa pagtitinda at pamimili



## Solusyon:

- Edukasyon
- Kami mismo ang kukuha ng mga relief goods sa munisipyo
- Ang barangay kapitan ay tumulong sa pakikipagkalakalan ng mga Agta



## Mga Ahensiyang Makakatulong:

- LGU



Problema:

5. Proyekto na ipinangako ng mga pulitiko na hindi natutupad

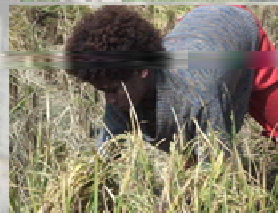
Solusyon:

- Sa pamamagitan ng pagkakaisa at kooperasyon ay magmungkahi ng proyektong galing sa sariling isip at



Mga Ahensiyang makakatulong:

- Mga Agta



## **Presentation of the *manifesto***

To underpin and formalize what was said in the three presentations, Mr. Noni dela Peña presented the *manifesto*, signed by 111 Agta individuals to all government officials present. Copies of the document were sent to various non-attending line agencies and Local Government Units after the workshop.

### **3. GOVERNMENT MESSAGES AND REACTIONS**

#### **Message of the NCIP Commissioner**

*Mrs. Corazon N. Espino*  
Commissioner  
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

The Commissioner explained that her presence during the conference signifies that the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) is interested to listen to the needs of the Agta people. She said that she had been in Maconacon and admired the beauty of the place. She remarked however, that that the place is still undeveloped, and thus needs to be developed.

The Commissioner spoke about how the NCIP could bring services to the indigenous peoples. The first problem she said is about the land. The NCIP has started to negotiate about the lands and work is underway to solve the titling of the lands. This concerns the Agta in Maconacon and other adjacent coastal areas. It was also emphasized that in the Sierra Madre, the lands have already been titled. The Agta people will have their own lands if they so desire. The Commissioner observed, however, that the Agta people do not have a permanent settlement. She said the Agta are always moving around: they go where the fish are; if the waters are high, they move out. But the government wants otherwise. It wants the Agta people to have a permanent piece of land to live on and to establish their families. The Agta need to have their own community or barangay and they should be organized so that they could be given training. They could also be given schools, health centers and support to their agricultural activities. So there is a need for the Agta people to stay in one place so that the government can help them.

Commissioner Espino has visited Maconacon to see how the Agta people live there. She stated that the whole Sierra Madre is for the Agta. If the Agta do not permit non-Agta to enter their lands, then it will be so. It is the concern of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to give land to the indigenous peoples. Ten thousand hectares of land is presently being measured in Maddela, Quirino. The people there will talk about how they will divide the land among themselves.

The Commissioner further observed that the Agta do not want to have a permanent house. She said that she hopes their preferences will change after they have been given land of their own. An Agta has been appointed in the NCIP. Many among the Agta are professionals. She expressed her full knowledge and understanding of their real situation. NCIP is giving scholarships for tertiary education so the Agta were encouraged to determine what they would like to do and NCIP committed to assist them in realizing their plans.

The government, through its different agencies, is ready and willing to help, but the Agta people need to be organized. The government could give them plants and animals so that they could pursue their agricultural activities. The Agta people are known to be hard working and industrious which is why they have survived. They could have their own hospital if only they are organized. So they need to learn.

All of the other assistance will follow after the Agta people have been given their land. The Sierra Madre is for the Agta people. They are considered the most courageous, industrious, patient and strong among the indigenous peoples. They do not have doctors but they have surpassed illnesses that came their way. The help of the government is being extended to them through the NCIP.

The lawyers of NCIP will also fight for the Agta's rights as an indigenous people. As the lowlanders have their own rights, the Agta people also have theirs and they will be treated according to the rights accorded to them.

Open forum:

- Mr. Melencio Salazar explained that the Agta move between different places where they can find or gather food. This is the reason they do not have permanent residences and do not build permanent houses made of lumber. Now they have realized that they need to build houses made of lumber so that even if they move around, they have a place to come home to. However, he said that they are ashamed to request for chainsaw so that they can build houses. The NCIP Commissioner encouraged them to unite so that in number, it will be easier to request for a chainsaw. The Commissioner signified that she can provide the chainsaw which they need to build houses.
- Mr. Bawi Donato stressed to the Commissioner their need to have land titles. He mentioned the threats of outsiders squatting on their ancestral land and later on claiming ownership of the land. The Commissioner again reminded the group that the Sierra Madre is the land of the Agta. It is the ancestral land of the Agta and no other person or group can claim ownership of any part of their ancestral land. So they have to unite and create pressure so that work on the titling of the lands will be facilitated more rapidly. There is an assigned staff of the NCIP to assist the Agta in the process.

### **Message of the DepEd**

*Dir. Mario L. Ramirez*  
DepEd Superintendent

Mr. Caliguiran opened his message with the words: "we are here to show that we love you Agta". He continued to say that the presence of the different agencies is an indication of their love and concern for the indigenous people.

He has seen the presentations of the three Agta representatives this morning and he said that in his opinion, there is no need anymore to teach them because they are already very good. He promised that all the problems and needs that were presented on education will be presented to the Superintendent.

The Department will address the problem through the program of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo which is the "School in Every Barrio" program. He requested that the

barangays with no schools be identified. He also said that barangays where schools exist but many residents are living in far flung sitios and children have to travel far to reach the school should also be identified. The government will detail teachers, provide books and other needs.

### **Message of the NCIP provincial level**

*Ms. Flor Piano*

National Commission on Indigenous Peoples  
Provincial Office Isabela

Ms. Piano also acts as the NCIP representative in the PAMB so she introduced herself as the person who works with them, the person who defends the Agta and their needs. NCIP is there to protect the rights of the indigenous people.

Ms. Piano is pleased with the involvement of the academe, NGOs and line agencies in the Agta's situation. It is a good thing to see groups working together to protect the rights of the indigenous people to their ancestral domain. The IPRA is the Agta's weapon to fight for their rights. The government guarantees that the rights of the indigenous peoples will be recognized and promoted. It is the mandate of the State to recognize the ancestral domain.

The NCIP recognizes the nomadic nature of the Agta so NCIP is aware of the problems that they are facing. The NCIP and the Agta have been targeting the titling of the ancestral domain. The Agta communities are very lucky because several NGOs and GOs have been working to assist them. For example, the research output of Delia Magaña (anthropologist with PLAN International) is now in the hands of NCIP and is being used as basis for the plans. However, until now, the titling of the lands has not materialized. October 2005 is the set deadline for the titling of the ancestral domain. NCIP is hoping to meet that deadline.

Ms. Piano stressed that the *manifesto* signed by the Agta that was drafted in this workshop is an important document that NCIP will attach in the report to speed up the titling of the ancestral land.

The NCIP has two important programs in the Sierra Madre: SIERRA and MADRE:

- The word SIERRA can be used as an acronym for the protection of the rights of the Agta: S stands for *Sama-sama tayo* (unity), I for IPRA, R & R for Recognition of Rights and A for Ancestral domain. The essence of the word Sierra is to recognize that the Agta are the ones with prior rights to the natural resources in their ancestral domains. IPRA guarantees the Agta's rights to their ancestral domain.
- The word MADRE in Sierra Madre can likewise be used as an acronym for the NCIP's plans for the Agta. M stands for *Magandang plano* (beautiful plan), A for Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan, D for Development, R for Resources and environment and E for Economic activities. The problems and needs presented by Estaniel, Fidela, and Nonie will now be integrated in the ADSDPP.

The community center for the Agta in Kabisera 10 is a project of the NCIP. Mr. Rey Baquiran who works for an NGO has done a lot for the project. DepEd is also addressing the problem on education.

### **Message of the DENR**

*Engr. Clarence Baguilat*

Regional Executive Director

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

RED Baguilat empathized with the participants by stressing that he himself is a member of an indigenous group, the Ifugao, a neighbor of the Agta in the Cordillera. He expressed appreciation for the chance that was given to the Agta to meet as one group because it is important that people in the government will hear them. Through the workshop, people like him will be able to know personally their culture, rights, needs and problems.

He acknowledged the importance of the presence of the NCIP in the gathering because now, the NCIP can facilitate the issuance of titles or CADT for their domain.

It was explained that the DENR is responsible for the management and protection of the natural resources. Trees should be cut for consumption and not for accumulation of wealth.

The DENR encourages indigenous peoples to assist in the maintenance and protection of the Sierra Madre. Although there are DENR forest guards, their area of coverage is quite large so they cannot do the job alone. They need assistance from the Agta communities. The DENR has trained and deputized indigenous people to help perform this important function.

RED Baguilat encouraged the Agta to strive to be educated. He cited his own experiences as an example of how through education, any person, regardless of cultural affinity, can achieve what he himself has achieved now. He challenged the Agta to obtain proper education so that they could keep at pace with development and adapt to the mainstream.

### **Message of the PASu**

*For. Abundio C. Galamgam*

PASu staff – Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

PASu Savella could not attend the workshop due to personal circumstances and therefore For. Galamgam delivered a presentation on the PASu's behalf.

The Agta have become a minority only because of their low population numbers. However, this should be erased in their minds: the Agta people have potentials that need to be harnessed so they should not underestimate themselves. There is a need for training to improve their traditional skills.

The Agta should live in harmony with nature: their role is to guard and protect nature. They are very knowledgeable about the situation in their area. They should support the projects of the different agencies because they will benefit from them.

The office of the PASu is there for the protection and conservation of the Sierra Madre. Natural resources need to be used but not destroyed through the sustainable management and use of natural resources.

## **Open forum**

### Education:

- Mr. Gener Cabaldo raised the issue that teachers are not paid their salaries on time. He cited the case of Maconacon, Reina Mercedes. Teachers cannot go to the remote sitios if they do not receive their salaries on time. The representative of DepEd explained that the salaries of teachers come from different sources. It either comes from the national budget or the LGU. To address the problem, there is a need to know if the teacher is paid from the national budget or from the LGU.

### Law enforcement for the protection of natural resources:

- Newly appointed NCIP Tribal Affairs Assistant Mr. Gener Cabaldo addressed a question to Tanggol Kalikasan (TK). The pull-out of NGOs from the Sierra Madre has brought back many old habits. People are again practicing illegal logging and illegal fishing. Even though the Agta report these activities to the proper authorities, they cannot stop these activities on their own. Mr. Jay Lim of Tanggol Kalikasan responded by explaining that TK aims to inform people on the laws on the environment and to see to it that these laws are enforced properly. However, he emphasized that the people also carry the responsibility of helping in the enforcement of the law. He reminded the people that it is in the people themselves where the strength of the law lies.
- Mr. Bello Salazar said that in Palanan where he is from, the Agta have a problem with a person named Delo from Quezon who still practices illegal activities in their place. They are afraid that if this will continue, the destruction in the area will get worse. Government officials give Delo protection. The Agta do not have the proper authority to enforce the law since they do not have titles to their land. He asked about the proper authorities that the Agta could contact in case they encounter problems with this person.
- Dir. Layugan of DENR recognized the problem of logging in the area. He said that before, NGOs were there to actively assist in the enforcement of the law in the area. However, since most of these groups have already pulled out, the old habits are back. He emphasized that despite the fact that some of the funds for the protection of the forest have already been depleted, the DENR still continues in performing its mandate. In Palanan, the Agta were awarded a CADC. The Agta are the ones who will help in protecting the forests because the DENR cannot do all of this. He confirmed that armed men from Quezon are the ones doing illegal activities in the area. He rhetorically asked what the DENR can accomplish if the indigenous people living in the area will not give them the needed information. The Agta are given the responsibility to protect their ancestral domain because these lands are their sources of living.
- Ms. Anette Personal of the NCIP Regional Office assured Mr. Bello Salazar that if they already have their titles and in case they encounter problems with outsiders, they can bring the problem to the attention of NCIP through their offices located in San Mariano, Ilagan, Cauayan or Santiago City. The NCIP has

hearing offices that will assist them in their fight against people who do not respect their rights to their ancestral domain.

- Mr. Jay Lim of Tanggol Kalikasan acknowledged that there really are people from Infanta, Quezon (TKs main area of coverage) who have transferred their illegal activities to Isabela since TK has created pressures on their operation in Quezon. He assured the participants that Tanggol Kalikasan will continue to run after these illegal loggers if the Agta will cooperate in giving them information so that these people can be brought to justice.

#### Mining:

- Mr. Tanting Donato raised the issue of conflict of interest regarding their responsibility of protecting their ancestral domain on the one hand, and the government's move to encourage foreign investors in opening up mines in the country on the other hand. Even in Palanan, there are people who conduct mining activities. He is confused about these conflicting priorities of the government.
- A representative of the NCIP explained that there are so-called prior rights. Meaning that the indigenous people who have been in the area even before the enactment of the IPRA will not be evicted. While the government is making all efforts to improve the economy of the country by encouraging investors to engage in mining in the country, this does not mean that they can operate in the Agta's ancestral domain without the Agta's prior consent. If the Agta will not allow mining companies to operate in their ancestral domains, the companies will not be given a license to operate.

#### Absence of NCIP in Palanan:

- Mr. Bawi Donato asked why NCIP has not yet established an office in Palanan.
- In response, the NCIP introduced Mr. Gener Cabaldo, who was appointed as NCIP Tribal Affairs Assistant I in July 2005. He was assigned to cover Palanan. As their direct representative, Mr. Cabaldo will link the Agta to the NCIP. The NCIP representative also explained that they plan to put up offices in every municipality, headed by the Indigenous People Development Coordinator. The NCIP National Commissioner will ensure that officers will be assigned in these municipalities.
- Dr. Dante Aquino assured the participants that Mr. Gener Cabaldo, as their duly appointed representative, will come to them and bring their problems to the attention of the proper authorities.

#### The right to reclaim land:

- Mr. Nonie dela Peña asked if it is possible for them to reclaim an ancestral area in Divilacan which, based on tax declaration, has been named as the property of an outsider. He asked if it is still possible for them to reclaim this land and apply for its title.
- According to the NCIP representative, the IPRA was passed in October 27, 1997. Mr. dela Peña has to determine when the tax declaration was granted. It is important to know if it was given before or after October 27, 1997. If it is after 1997, then it is covered by the IPRA. The NCIP is aware that there are titled properties in Divilacan. What Mr. dela Peña has to do is to write NCIP explaining the circumstances involved and NCIP will give the letter to a lawyer to determine whether the title is legal or not.

## 4. PRESENTATION OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE AGTA OF THE NORTHERN SIERRA MADRE NATURAL PARK

*Drs. Tessa Minter*

Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development

### **Introduction**

The researcher presented highlights of her study entitled “Livelihood strategies, resource use and social change among the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park”, which was carried out under the DGIS Junior Expert Program within the Framework of the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development (CVPED). The various aspects discussed were illustrated with a slide show. The study took place from 2002-2005 and involved field work in all Agta settlements in and around the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP). The study was conducted for Ms. Minter’s PhD dissertation (to be finalized and defended in 2007).

### **Population**

The census of the Agta of the NSMNP conducted by Ms. Minter and her research assistant Ms. Maria Ranay between 2002-2005 shows that the total Agta population in the protected area numbers 1,737. If we compared this figure to the census published by Ms. Delia Magaña in 2000, we can conclude that the Agta population of the NSMNP has not grown at all! This is an alarming fact: while the rest of the Filipino population grows rapidly, the Agta population remains small. This is due to the Agta’s high mortality rate, especially among children.

### **Settlement patterns and mobility**

Not all Agta speak one language: different Agta dialects are spoken within the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park. Although the Agta are indeed mobile, they are not as mobile as is generally assumed. Mobility of Agta families is rather predictable and limited to the area within which they have their closest relatives and where they can speak their own dialect. The Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park are not a homogeneous group: they consist of various groups of closely related families who generally speak the same Agta dialect. The most important of these groups are the following:

- The Agta from Diango/Dibolo, Blos (Maconacon), Sapinit (Divilacan), Disiuppi, Kanagman and Malabinao (Ilagan), Apogan (San Pablo) and Makihawe (Tumauini).
- The Agta living along the coast of Divilacan until the mouth of Palanan River.
- The Agta living along the coast south of Palanan River until Dinapigue.
- The Agta living in the interior of Divilacan and the northern part of San Mariano.
- The Agta living in the interior of Palanan and the southern part of San Mariano.
- The Agta living in the interior of Dinapigue and the Agta living along the Ilaguen River in San Mariano.

### **Livelihood strategies and resource use**

The Agta follow a mixed economy of various livelihood activities, the most important of which are the following:

- Hunting: the Agta are using different hunting methods such as *pana* (bow and arrow), *deposporo* (match gun) and snare traps
- Fishing is the second main component of Agta livelihood. There are two types of Agta fishermen/women: 1) fishing in rivers using tools such as spear, self-made goggles, torch, nets (only used occasionally); and 2) fishing in the sea often with the same kind of tools but under different circumstances (the men fish in deeper waters; the women on top of the coral reefs. Almost all coastal Agta engage in lobster fishing.)
- Barter: hunting and fishing catch is bartered for rice and other products with farmers.
- Other products collected are: 1) wild root crops (women dig up the root crops from the forest ground, making holes 2-3 meters deep); 2) wild fruits (fruits like rambutan serve as a very important source of Vitamin C); 3) honey (collected during summer season, mostly by men); 4) birds' nest collection (a relative new livelihood opportunity for the Agta from Palanan, Dinapigue and San Mariano is to collect nests of the pygmy swiftlet from caves, these are highly priced delicacy); 5) weaving of mats and baskets of pandanus leaves (women usually do this for household consumption, but sometimes the products are sold by order); and 6) rattan collection (there are two rattan collection permit holders among the Agta of the NSMNP: (a) Mr. Gener Cabaldo in Maconacon; and (b) Mr. Melencio Salazar in Palanan. Unfortunately these permits are often abused by non-Agta. Rattan is sold in both raw and processed form. In selling their rattan, the Agta are often exploited by their buyers. Skills training in the production and trading of rattan products is one of the activities that could be developed in the future to address the problem in livelihood.)
- Farming: all Agta households encountered in the NSMNP are involved in extensive farming activities. Most Agta have fields planted with upland rice, white corn, cassava, sweet potato, banana, vegetables and fruit trees. A minority is involved in irrigated rice farming: notably in Maconacon and Palanan.
- Paid farm labor: many Agta work as farm laborers on non-Agta's fields.

### **Key issues**

The key issues presented here are based on the researcher's assessment during her field work among the Agta of the NSMNP.

- Environmental degradation and implications for livelihood: The Agta say it used to be very easy for them to hunt and fish. However, nowadays, environmental degradation has affected their livelihood base. The main cause of environmental degradation is logging. Logging brings about numerous problems: 1) the trees of which wild pigs and deer eat the fruits are cut down, leading to a decrease in the stock of wild animals; 2) fish stocks are depleted by dynamite-, electro- and cyanide fishing practiced by loggers staying upriver; 3) carabaos of outside loggers destroy the crops planted by Agta; 4) Agta men and women are often intimidated and exploited by outside loggers; 5) There is a vicious circle: because the Agta's livelihood base is destroyed by logging it becomes hard for them to make a living without engaging in logging themselves, even though they do not like the activity.
- Exploitative trade relations: in trading their products, the Agta are often exploited by their non-Agta trading partners. The long-term solution is to address literacy and education.

- Lack of access to basic government services such as health care, education and security and protection
- Loss of ancestral lands due to land grabbing and logging. The NCIP works on one CADT for the entire Sierra Madre, however the Agta in the park are not one big homogeneous group. The entire Sierra Madre is a huge area which will pose management and protection problems if it is awarded one CADT. The Agta cannot defend their ancestral domains just by themselves: they need to be given physical support by government at all levels.
- Discrimination: in spite of all the talk about the Agta, there is still discrimination going on in the classroom, in the field, in government agencies, etc.
- Lack of interaction with government officials: government officials rarely visit Agta *sitios* because they are located in remote areas. However, it is extremely important for government officials to go directly to Agta settlements in order to be exposed to the Agta's real lives.
- Empowerment: in empowering the Agta, the first step is to listen to the people, to listen to their thoughts, aspirations and ideas.

### **Presentation of settlement map and census report**

After the presentation, Drs. Minter supplied all Agta groups and government offices present with a copy of the census report written by the researcher and her assistant Ms. Maria Ranay. The report contains the 2005 census of the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park as well as a map showing the distribution of their settlements.

### **Reaction by Hon. Mayor Francisco Talosig of Maconacon**

Maconacon Mayor Francisco Talosig congratulated the Agta participants for their successful participation in the workshop. He extended his invitation to the participants to drop by his house in case they are in San Vicente and announced that they have a boat in San Vicente that they can use. Then the mayor gave his views concerning the problems raised in the presentation.

- Exploitation in trade: the Agta of Maconacon trade whatever they catch and there are many opportunists who take advantage of them. Although some of the Agta are educated, many are illiterate so they are often victimized by people who pay them less than what is due to them.
- Education: the LGU Maconacon supports the Agta of the municipality from elementary to high school. They have school buildings and teachers. The mayor expressed gratitude for the assistance that will come from the DSWD regarding the Day Care Centers. He, however, mentioned that in barangay Reina Mercedes for grades I-VI, there are only four teachers and four classrooms. He requested the Governor's office for one additional classroom and teacher and he said that he will take care of the other classroom and teacher needed. He mentioned that he is supporting one Day Care Center in barangay. Sta. Marina which has only five students. His office is paying one teacher so that these pupils can continue their education.
- Loss of ancestral lands: in Maconacon, one Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim has been awarded.
- Lack of interaction with government officials: the Agta of Maconacon are shy so the Mayor frequents their place in Reina Mercedes.

- A hanging bridge about 100 meters long started construction in 2004. The work is difficult but if Agta men can help in the construction, they will be paid for their labor.
- Empowerment: empowerment starts with educating the children. Thus, the local government is supporting those who would like to study. Today, there is one Dumagat who is a member of the Municipal Council. The wife of Mr. Gener Cabaldo is the Barangay Secretary. The Agta communities provide a solid vote for politicians so they are regarded as very important political constituents.
- Health: if doctors in the municipality cannot deal with critical cases, the patient is flown to Tuguegarao for medication.

## Open forum

### San Pablo:

- Mr. Abraham Lauan, the Municipal Planning Development Officer (MPDO) of San Pablo inquired about the number of households and the population of Agta in his municipality. Tessa Minter informed the MPDO of San Pablo that there is only one settlement of Agta in Apogan, San Vicente, San Pablo, Isabela with five families composed of 24 individuals.

### Social services:

- The DSWD Regional Director Nellie Miranda said that her office is interested in the census report because her office wants to know the number of children and their profile. This will help her office in addressing the problems raised by Mrs. Fidela Impiel during the presentation in the morning and those raised in the *manifesto*.
- There are three means of support that the DSWD can extend: 1) training: there is a trainer in rattan use who can assist in developing the skills of Agta families in making and marketing rattan products; 2) capital for livelihood: this program provides self-employment assistance. There is a need to study how the Agta families can be assisted in livelihood activities; 3) Day Care: for children up to four years old. The center will be an indigenized one. The children will be taught Agta songs, dances. There will be workshops with the community. Members of the tribe will be trained to teach the children. The DSWD will also coordinate with the local registrar and the MPDC for the issuance of birth certificates to children.
- Mr. Bawi Donato inquired if the support mentioned by the DSWD Regional Director is intended for the community of Fidela only. The DSWD Regional Director answered that she is referring to all Agta communities. She further explained that if the Agta can make Day Care Centers out of indigenous materials, then DSWD will provide the other materials they will need.
- Ms. Bebot Ferrer of LGU Tumauini announced that the Agta from Tumauini can coordinate with them and they are willing to assist them regarding education, health and peace and order.
- Mr. Abraham Lauan, MPDO of San Pablo, also encouraged those from Apogan to contact the LGU San Pablo for assistance.
- Ms. Teresita Calabarzon, DSWD representative, invited the Agta to a program in the Isabela Capitol in October during which the indigenous peoples of the province will be showcasing their indigenous talents.

#### DENR on logging:

- DENR Regional Technical Director Layugan referred to the continuous logging activities in the park mentioned in Tessa Minter's presentation. He said that this probably is still taking place in the western part of Isabela particularly in San Pablo and Ilagan. He also mentioned that there is still logging in the eastern side by a financier from Quezon. Then he asked Tessa to particularly identify the area where the pictures were taken so that the DENR can address the problem.
- Drs. Tessa Minter then explained that the pictures of the logging company were taken two years ago in Dinapigue (LUZMATIM). However, she said that greater attention should be given to the other picture about the water logging in Digud, San Mariano. She said she still has many other pictures of such activities in all western municipalities of the park.

#### Agta groups:

- Mr. Ruben Bastero of NCIP Central Office disclosed that it was only after the presentation of Tessa Minter that he learned that the Agta communities have separate sub-groups. He asked for the specific census on the different groups so that they can use this as the basis of giving CADT to the group. He pointed out, however, that the decision to have just one title or several titles remains in the hands of the Agta themselves.

#### Registration of children:

- Mr. Abraham Lauan, MPDO of San Pablo, commented that it is a basic human right to have a name, a family, and nationality so he emphasized to the Agta parents that it is very important to register their children. As an example he mentioned that in the future some of them may want to go abroad: if they do not have the proper documents however, it will be hard for them to travel.
- Mayor Talosig of Maconacon reacted by saying that one reason why some Agta are not registered is that when they are asked to name their relatives, as a cultural practice, they do not usually reveal those names because they believe that "*agbusali da*" (they will develop boils).

#### Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT):

- Mr. Noni dela Peña confirmed that the Agta population consists of different sub-groups and that although they move around within their areas, they usually do not transfer to the area of other sub-groups. However, through one another the Agta have relatives everywhere. For example, he said that although he himself does not have relatives in Dinapigue, he is related to *Amay* Bawi Donato, who has relatives in Dinapigue. So therefore, through one another they all somehow have blood relations with the Agta from other sub-groups. Although they live in separate groups, they are in the end all relatives. Thus, he stated that granting just one title for the whole Agta ancestral domain would not pose a problem because all Agta are related. He wants this title for the entire Sierra Madre because according to him it will be a lot easier to accomplish than smaller titles to smaller domains.

#### Forest charges on rattan:

- Mrs. Lenie Caramat, the daughter of Mr. Melencio Salazar, who was granted a permit to extract rattan in Palanan, asked the DENR if the forest charges for

transporting rattan can be reduced. They are being charged PhP. 50,000 to transport the extracted rattan and they cannot afford to pay this amount of money.

- Regional Technical Director Layugan explained that the pricing of forest charges for rattan is computed per linear meter. However, if the rattan is transported in sliced form, it has to be weighed. He clarified that it is not the DENR that prescribes the price for computation of forest charges but the Department of Trade and Industry. The DENR only implements it. The situation cannot be changed because it is a regulation.
- Mr. Bawi Donato suggested that since Mrs. Caramat and Mr. Salazar, who are authorized to extract rattan, are complaining of the high forest charge, maybe it would be a lot easier if all of the Agta will join hands to handle the rattan business. It is a pity if outsiders will come in to take over or claim a share because then the Agta will again be at the losing end.
- Mrs. Caramat emphasized that she and her father are the ones holding the permit but since they do not have capital, they were forced to let an outsider make use of the permit in the past. They have been waiting for other Agta to join the business but when no-one came they were forced to let an outsider use the permit so that they could continue the operation and get a little income: they were just asking for royalty. Now, they again took over themselves and broke their relationships with the outsider, but their problem still is their lack of capital.
- In reaction, Regional Technical Director Layugan pointed out that it is illegal to allow other people to use the permit. He also stressed that the royalty the Agta receive in exchange for making their permit available to non-permit holders is very small. He then empathized with the problem of the Agta permit holders and made an appeal for the Department of Trade and Industries or the LGUs to allow the Agta to pay the forest charges after they have marketed the products. He stated that if the government is sincere in helping the indigenous people, then it should indeed give them special consideration.
- Mayor Talosig of Maconacon asked Mr. Gener Cabaldo, who holds a rattan permit in Maconacon, if he is having the same problems. The mayor explained that in Maconacon the LGU officials support the operation of the Dumagat permit holders because if they are not able to pay the forest charges, then they cannot renew the permit. Someone is assigned to assist the indigenous people in the marketing and management of the rattan operation.

## 5. GRADUATION CEREMONY AND CLOSING PROGRAM

The graduation ceremony started at around 16:00 with the delivery of a closing message by Governor Grace Padaca to the participating Agta families and their children.

### **Closing message**

*Gov. Grace Padaca*  
Provincial Governor of Isabela

The Governor praised the adult participants for their successful participation in all different workshop activities and the children for their good accomplishments in the cultural and educational program facilitated by the Teachers College of the Isabela State University.

The Governor then announced that the Provincial Government will give each of the present Agta families a weighing scale to bring home. The weighing scale can be used for weighing their harvest or the meat or fish that they sell.

She then stressed that the officials of the Provincial Government together with the municipal officials and all other agencies are there to work with the Agta. The Governor encouraged the participants to be partners because it is not only the Agta people who need outside help but the people living in the lowlands also need the Agta's help as protectors of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park. Governor Padaca urged the participants to always remember that they have brothers and sisters – Isabelinos – to work with.

### **Graduation ceremony**

The graduation ceremony took place at the multi-purpose court which was decorated with the artworks produced by the Agta children. All members of the participating families received certificates of participation, which were distributed by the workshop organizers Dr. Dante Aquino, Dr. Andres Masipiqueña and Ms. Tessa Minter of the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development. As each family received their certificates, they were congratulated by Mayor Francisco Talosig of Maconacon and given a weighing scale by Provincial Governor Grace Padaca.

### **Homeward bound**

The graduation ceremony ended at around 17:00, after which the participants prepared for their long trip home. The participants from the coastal municipalities left the ATI-RTC by bus at dusk. The participants from the western municipalities left by jeep in the early morning of Saturday 20 August 2005.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The workshop *Ako ay Agta, Ako ay Pilipino!* brought together 68 Agta families from seven municipalities in the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park to identify common challenges and to think of responses to these challenges. This was done through participatory problem analysis, action planning, legal training, and a dialogue with government representatives. During the workshop sessions, the participants grouped the issues they wished to address in three main categories:

#### **1. Environment and Livelihood**

- Illegal activities such as logging, dynamite-, cyanide- and electro-fishing, and commercial hunting continuously take place in the Agta's ancestral domains.
- These environmentally destructive activities have a negative impact on the Agta's livelihood opportunities, notably subsistence hunting and fishing.
- This situation results in poor nutrition and increased poverty.
- The participants urgently requested the Department on Environment and Natural Resources to strictly enforce existing environmental laws which prohibit these destructive activities inside the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park.

#### **2. Health and Education**

- The Agta's health condition is generally bad, due to poor nutrition and lack of access to medical facilities. This results in high mortality rates, especially in children.

- Hardly any Agta children follow education because there is a lack of schools, materials and teachers in their residential areas. Most Agta parents cannot afford to pay for school expenses. Their lack of education puts the Agta in a disadvantageous position when trading their products: their illiteracy and innumeracy makes them vulnerable to exploitation.
- The participants requested that government looks into these issues and addresses them as soon as possible.

### 3. Relationships with Government and Others

- The Agta encounter discrimination, intimidation, harassment and exploitation by non-Agta on a daily basis. The participants called for attention and protection from barangay, municipal, provincial and national government officials in relation to non-recognition of their rights.
- The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples' (NCIP) program to award titles to the Agta's ancestral domains under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act has so far not met its targets. As Agta ancestral domains are continuously being encroached on by non-Agta for agriculture, logging and other purposes the participants urgently requested the NCIP to speed up the process for the titling of the Agta's ancestral domains. As long as they cannot show their formal ownership titles, they feel powerless in the fight for their ancestral land.
- Government programs generally fail to reach the Agta. The Agta feel especially left out when it comes to the distribution of relief goods.

The participants presented the above issues before government officials on the workshop's last day in the form of three power point slide presentations. In addition, they underpinned their call for government action by presenting a *manifesto*, signed by 111 Agta adults, to all attending government representatives. In response, the following commitments were made:

- The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples committed to finalize the titling of the Agta's ancestral domain by October 2005; to set up offices in each municipality; and to assign Agta officers in the commission.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources recognized its responsibility in protecting the natural resources of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park.
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development promised to provide skills training, capital resources for livelihood development and assistance in the setting up of indigenized Day Care Centers for children up to four years old.
- The Department of Education assured that through the School in Every Barrio Program, the department will address education problems in Agta settlements by providing teachers and books in far flung areas.
- The Isabela State University announced that all Agta students who wish to enroll in any of the university's campuses will be exempted from paying tuition fees.
- The Provincial Health Office committed to distribute mosquito nets among the Agta of Isabela in order to fight malaria.
- The representatives of the Local Government Units of Maconacon, Tumauni, San Pablo, and Dinapigue expressed commitment to assist in addressing the needs of the Agta communities in their respective municipalities.

In addition, the results of the anthropological study on the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, conducted by PhD researcher Tessa Minter and research assistant Maria Ranay of the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development

(CVPED), were validated with the workshop participants. The initial results were likewise presented before government officials on the workshop's last day. The researchers provided copies of their census report on the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park to all interested persons and agencies present. The importance and relevance of all issues presented by the Agta participants were confirmed and emphasized by the researchers. They further stressed that:

- The demographic situation of the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park is alarming: their population has not grown in the past five years, which means that relative to the quickly growing non-Agta population their numbers are decreasing.
- The Agta are seriously suffering from environmental degradation in their ancestral domains. This directly affects their livelihood opportunities as well as their daily food intake.
- In awarding ancestral domain titles to the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park it was suggested not to let the awarded title cover a very large area because: 1) this is likely to pose management problems and 2) it is advisable to take into account the existence of sub-groups within the Agta population.

## **ATTACHMENT A: THE *MANIFESTO***

*MANIFESTO* OFFERED TO ATTENDING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON FRIDAY  
19 AUGUST 2005

**KAMI, mga nagkakaisang Agta, Dumagat o Agay mula sa hilagang bahagi ng kabundokan ng Sierra Madre, lalawigan ng Isabela, ay sama-samang nagpapahayag ng mga sumusunod:**

[We, the united Agta, Dumagat or Agay from the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, Province of Isabela, join hands in expressing the following concerns:]

**Sapagkat mula noong ika-15 hanggang ika-19 ng buwan ng Agosto, taong 2005, kami ay nagkatipon-tipon dito sa Isabela State University, Cabagan, Isabela upang pag-usapan ang aming kasalukuyang kalagayan;**

[Whereas on August 15-19, 2005, we gathered at the Isabela State University, Cabagan, Isabela, to discuss our present situation;]

**Sapagkat sa aming pag-uusap ay aming nalaman ang iba't ibang sitwasyon at problemang aming kinakaharap na may kinalaman sa araw-araw naming pamumuhay. Amin ding nabatid ang pagkakaparepareho ng aming suliranin;**

[Whereas in our discussions, we learned about the different situations and the problems we are facing in our daily lives. We also realized that we have common problems;]

**Sapagkat sa aming talakayan ay aming natukoy na ang aming patuloy na kahirapan ay dulot ng mga sumusunod:**

[Whereas in the discussions we had, we recognized that the vicious cycle of poverty we are experiencing is a result of the following:]

- 1. Walang tigil na pagkasira ng kagubatan dahil sa malawakang pamumutol ng mga kahoy doon na nagdudulot ng baha, pagkaanod ng lupa at pagkawala ng mga hayop at iba pang yamang gubat;**  
[Continuous destruction of the forest due to widespread logging activities that bring about flood, soil erosion, the loss of wild animals and other forest resources;]
- 2. Kumakaunting huling mga isda at ibang lamang tubig dahil sa pagpapasabog, paglalason, pangunguryente at iba pang di nararapat at mapanirang paraan ng pangingisda;**  
[Decreasing volume of fish catch and other fisheries resources due to dynamite fishing, electro-fishing and other illegal and destructive fishing methods;]
- 3. Mababang ani sa mga sakahan dahil sa kakulangan ng mga angkop na kagamitan, pamamaraan, suportang serbisyo ng pamahalaan at mga sangay nito at iba pang mga institusyon;**  
[Low production of crops due to lack of appropriate tools, farming methods, lack of support services from the government and its line agencies and institutions;]
- 4. Patuloy na pagkakasakit at paglala ng mga problemang pangkalusugan dahil sa kakulangan ng mga suportang serbisyo mula sa pamahalaan at sangay nito at iba pang mga institusyon;**

[Exposure to illnesses and worsening health problems due to lack of health support services from the government and its agencies and institutions;]

5. **Walang sapat na edukasyon dahil sa kawalan ng guro, kakulangan ng paaralan at mga pangangailan para rito at suportang serbisyo mula sa pamahalaan at sangay nito at iba pang mga institusyon;**  
[Lack of education due to shortage of teachers, lack of schools and other facilities as well as support services from the government and its agencies and institutions;]
6. **Hindi pagkilala ng aming karapatan sa aming mga lupaing ninuno dahil sa kakulangan ng kaukulang titulo na nagpapatibay ng aming pagmamay-ari nito;**  
[Non-recognition of our rights to our ancestral lands due to the absence of a title that will prove our ownership of the land;]
7. **Mabagal na proseso at dokumentasyon para sa pagkilala ng aming karapatan sa aming pagmamay-ari ng aming lupang ninuno dahil sa kakulangan ng suporta at pagkilos ng mga kinauukulang ahensya ng pamahalaan at para sa aming makabuluhang pakikilahok at pakikisangkot;**  
[Slow process of documentation for the recognition of our right to ownership of our ancestral land due to the lack of support and action of concerned agencies, and for our relevant participation and involvement.]

**Sapagkat matapos naming matukoy at maintindihan ng masusi ang aming problema at ang mga dahilan ng mga ito ay nag-isip din kami ng solusyon sa aming problema sang-ayon sa aming kayang gawin, at ito ay ang mga sumusunod:**

[Whereas after we have identified and closely analyzed our problems and their causes, we also came up with solutions to the problems that we can implement, and these are the following:]

1. **Kami ay magkaisa at magsama-sama upang mapagyaman pa ang kaalaman para maipatupad ang mga batas pangkalikasan at makipag-ugnayan sa mga kinauukulan tulad ng DENR, lokal na pamahalaan at iba pang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan, ganoon din ang iba pang mga institusyon;**  
[We will unite and join hands to enrich our knowledge of environmental laws and to coordinate with concerned agencies like the DENR, the Local Government Units and other agencies of the government and other institutions]
2. **Kami ay humihiling sa DENR at lokal na pamahalaan na kumilos upang mapigil ang mga paglabag sa batas pangkalikasan tulad ng ilegal na pamumutol ng kahoy, pagpapasabog, paglalason, pangunguryente at iba pang mapanirang pamamaraan ng hanapbuhay sa kagubatan, katubigan at karagatan;**  
[We request the DENR and the Local Government Units to act in order to prevent violation of environment laws like illegal logging, dynamite fishing, chemical fishing, electro-fishing and other destructive livelihood practices in the forest, wetlands and oceans;]
3. **Kami ay magsisikap upang mapagyaman ang aming mga sakahan at pag-ibayuhin ang pagkuha ng mga angkop na suportang serbisyo mula sa pamahalaan at sangay nito at iba pang mga institusyon;**

[We will strive to improve farm productivity and work hard to get appropriate support services from the government and its line agencies and other institutions;]

- 4. Kami ay makikipagtulungan sa pamahalaan at mga sangay nito at iba pang mga institusyon upang matugunan ang aming mga suliraning pangkalusugan at pagkakasakit at hihilingin namin sa kanila na mas pasiglahin pa ang suportang serbisyo sa amin;**

[We will cooperate with the government and its line agencies and other institutions in order to address our health problems and we will request these agencies to improve their support services;]

- 5. Kami ay gagawa ng mga pamamaraan upang mapag-aral namin ang aming mga anak tulad ng mga sumusunod: magpatayo ng paaralan kahit yari sa buho at kawayan o kaya ay sama-samang paggawa ng tirahan ng mga bata na malapit sa paaralan o lumipat ng tirahan doon basta may pagkakakitaan. Ganoon din, kami ay makikipag-ugnayan sa pamahalaan upang madagdagan ang mga guro sa aming mga lugar;**

[We will find ways to send our children to school by doing the following: construct school buildings even if these are made of bamboo, join hands in constructing dormitories for our children near the school, or resettle in areas near schools as long as there is available source of income. Likewise, we will coordinate with the government to assign school teachers in our areas;]

- 6. Kami ay magsisikap na magkaroon ng katuparan ang aming kagustuhan na makamit ang kaukulang titulo na nagpapatibay sa aming pagmamay-ari sa aming lupang ninuno;**

[We will strive to make our dream to get a title a reality so that we will have proof of ownership of our ancestral land;]

- 7. Kami ay makikiisa at maninindigang hilingin sa NCIP at iba pang kinaukulang ahensya ng pamahalaang mapabilis ang proseso ng pagpapatibay ng aming pagmamay-ari sa aming lupang ninuno batay sa aming paniniwala at hangarin na naka-ugat sa pagkakaisa.**

[We will unite and stand together in requesting the NCIP and other agencies of the government to speed-up the process of certifying our ownership of the ancestral lands based on our beliefs and aspirations rooted in unity.]

**Na bagama't ito ay aming pansariling suliranin ay amin din namang nalalaman na may kaukulang ahensya ng pamahalaan na dapat naming maging katuwang at makasama sapagkat sila ang pangunahing may responsibilidad ukol sa mga bagay na ito.**

[Whereas despite the fact that these are our own problems, we know that there are proper agencies of the government that can be our partners and can join us in pursuing our goal since these agencies are mandated to act on these matters.]

**Kung kaya't ngayong ika-19 ng Agosto, 2005, kami ay nagkasundo na:**

[Therefore, on this 19th day of August 2005, we hereby resolve that:]

- 1. Kami ay magkakaisa na patatagin ang aming pagsasama-sama at pagtutulongan bilang isang lipi at tribo upang aming sabay-sabay na**

**maisakatuparan ang aming pangarap na mapaunlad ang aming mga sarili, pamilya at pamayanan;**

[We will join together to strengthen our unity and cooperation as one people and tribe so that we can together realize our aspirations to improve our selves, our family and community;]

**2. Kami ay magtulong-tulong na pangalagaan at ipagtanggol ang likas yaman na matatagpuan sa aming lupang ninuno para na rin sa aming kabuhayan at patuloy na pag-unlad;**

[We will work together to protect and defend our natural resources found in our ancestral domain for the sake of our livelihood and for continued development;]

**3. Kami ay maging tunay na kabahagi at katuwang ng pamahalaan sa makabuluhang pamamahala ng bansang Pilipinas para makilala ang aming kakayanan at likas na karunungan;**

[We will become true partners and co-workers of the government in the meaningful governance of our country, the Philippines, so that our abilities and intelligence will be properly recognized.]



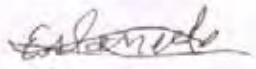


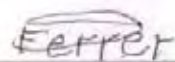
**4. At aming bibigyan ng kopya ang mga sumusunod na kinauukulang ahensya at hilingin ang kanilang lubos, makabuluhan at makatotohanang pagtulong at suporta na nasasaad sa aming mga nabanggit na mga sulosyon sa aming mga usapin at suliranin na nakasulat sa itaas ng dokumentong ito:**

[And we will furnish copies of this *manifesto* to the following agencies and we will request their complete, meaningful and genuine help and support to the solutions of the issues and problems:]

- **Pambansang Komisyon para sa mga Katutubo**  
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
- **Kagawaran ng Kapaligiran at Likas – Yaman**  
Department of Environment and Natural resources (DENR)
- **Kagawaran ng Kagalingan at Kaunlarang Panlipunan**  
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- **Kagawaran ng Edukasyon**  
Department of Education (DepEd)
- **Kagawarang Pangkalusugan**  
Department of Health (DOH)
- **Kagawarang Pang-agrikultura**  
Department of Agriculture (DA)
- **Panlalawigang Pamahalaan ng Isabela**  
Provincial Government of Isabela
- **Mga lokal na pamahalaang pangbarangay at pambayan na nakakasakop sa aming lupang ninuno**  
Barangay and municipal local government units within the ancestral domains;

**Kung kaya, aming inilagda ang aming pangalan o idinigpi ang aming kanang hinlalaki bilang pagpapatunay ng aming kusang loob na pagpapatibay sa lahat ng mga nakasaad sa kasulatang ito. Ngayong ika 19 ng Agosto, 2005 dito sa ATI-RTC, Isabela State University, Cabagan, Isabela.**


[We therefore hereby sign or affix our thumb marks to this *manifesto* as we willingly signify our support to all its contents this 19th day of August 2005 at the ATI-RTC, Isabela State University, Cabagan, Isabela.]

Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi	Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi
 Nonie Tamara	 NANTONG CARAMAT
 Estaniel Prado	 MARIO MATIAS
 FIOELA TAMANG	Boy 

Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi	Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi
JENAP MARTIN	Melina Donato
OSE Limpit	Tommy Donato
Emay Limpit	Lena Malabata
Carmita Matias	Juanito Malabata
Manuel	<del>Manuel</del>
Mary Jane Manuel	Randy Gener Cabalob
Orbis Manuel	Balagui Debal
PURKA Manans	Linda Debal
Stacey	Nelita Bolit
Stacey Manuel	Wina Plata
Darlita Pardo	Tessie Almonde
Marilyn Matias Miran	Atty Almonde
Lina	Lakab Dala Cruz
Lina Laramat	Diger Estaban
Mary Salazar	Nelita Donato
Bella	Darlita Santos
BEIYO Salazar	
Melina Salazar	
Thay Salazar	

Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi	Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi
Daisy De la Cruz	Inclay A.
Agnes Cortez	Inclay Almonte
May Almonte	Maring
FRED F. TAMAYO	Narsing Malasta
Lilia Plata	Lina Babilan
M D P	Maria De la Cruz
Margie P. Donato	Pistina Donato
Linda Donato	Ely Cabaldo
Fernand Sales	Rosbar Cabaldo
Roberto Layagan	Iming Donato
Jameth Gallaciano	Henry Plata
Alonzo Dela Peña	William Plata
Eden Dela Peña	Alex Donato Ordina
maile m s	Tatay Mags
Sarazar	Saman Donato
Linda Dela Peña	Lily Donato

Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi	Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi
Bawi Dorato	Tony Aduanan
Josell Plata	Wally Dorato
Molly Bela Peña	Rodel Corpuz
Nane Almoneda	Benigno Padie
Nemie Ordinario	Emanuel Padie
Jomar Salazar	Romy Morn
Ray Plata	Edna Magas
Jomar Almoneda	Vicente Tangilan
Miguel Almoneda	Oliver Ciriño
Adelina Salazar	Bernie Ignacio
Peter Dorato	Yndyot Impiel
Caring Dorato	LARRY MORN
Rising Cortez	Babay Tangilan
Jonas Plata	Oliver Ignacio

Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi	Pangalan/Lagda o Digpi
 Afary Padre	 Arkan Domingo
 Rose Padre	 Jenny Domingo
 Briden Domingo	 Arnel Oliveros
 Idip Padre	 Jeffrey Magudon
 Elma Ahmad	 Eileen Malabata
 Nohie Magay	
 Coryn Ahmad	
 Bonbon Ahmad	
 Evelyn Ahmad	
 Patricia Ignacio	
 Sherly Ignacio	
 Eyzak Zampiel	
 Keray Zampiel	
 Elobe Ahmad	

## **ATTACHMENT B: WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY**

### **WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY**

Several activities were undertaken during the Agta workshop in order to attain the objectives set by the organizers.

#### **Participatory problem analysis**

Among the main objectives of the workshop was to facilitate a participatory problem analysis by the workshop's adult participants. The analysis consisted of three stages: problem identification; problem analysis; and action planning. During all stages participants were using drawings and symbols to give expression to their thoughts. These were compiled on Manila papers together with some basic text and presented to the other groups by the workshop participants.

Workshop 1a dealt with problem identification. The participants were divided into five groups according to their area of origin in order to identify the specific problems they are encountering in their different residential areas. The major problems that were identified in workshop 1a were categorized into five problem areas: 1) environment; 2) health and food; 3) livelihood and trade; 4) education; and 5) relations with government and others. For workshop 1b the participants were regrouped according to these five problem areas. During this workshop, the participants worked on a problem analysis by identifying the causes of the problems.

In workshop 2 the participants engaged in action planning. Maintaining their assigned groupings, the different groups worked on the identification of possible solutions to their problems. The participants were stimulated to first think of solutions which they can implement themselves without outside assistance, before calling for outside (government) assistance.

#### **Training**

An essential part in the overall design of the Agta workshop was the training of the participants on the following topics: 1) the Philippine Constitution and the rights of indigenous peoples; 2) the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title system; 3) the National Integrated Protected Area System Act and the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Act.

Environmental lawyers from Tanggol Kalikasan served as resource persons. The methodology used in the training included lectures with a highly visual overhead transparency presentation, discussion, story telling, film showing and role playing.

#### **Dialogue and *manifesto***

On the last day of the workshop, a dialogue between the adult participants and government officials was facilitated. The workshop participants had prepared Power Point photo presentations on three main problem fields they had identified during the

preceding days: 1) environment and livelihood; 2) health and education; 3) relationships with government and others. These presentations were held by three different Agta representatives before an audience consisting of government representatives from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Office of the Superintendent of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Education and Provincial and Municipal Governments. The main issues the participants addressed were compiled in a *manifesto* by the workshop facilitators. The *manifesto* was adjusted and approved by the participants line by line. Those participants who wished to sign to *manifesto* affixed their thumb marks on the document before it was presented to the various government agencies. The attending government representatives responded to the presentations and the *manifesto* by presenting their priorities and plans of action for the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park. Meanwhile there was room for questions, remarks and discussion among the participants.

### **Presentation of research results**

The Agta Workshop was conducted at the end of the three-year anthropological study on the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park conducted by PhD researcher Tessa Minter and research assistant Maria L. Ranay of the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development (CVPED).

On the second day of the workshop the researchers presented the main research results of the anthropological study to the adult workshop participants in order to receive their feedback on these results. Using PowerPoint slides featuring photographs and key information derived from the study, the researchers explained in Ilocano the major findings and implications of their study. The participants then gave their comments.

During the workshop's last day, the researchers again presented their initial findings to the attending government officials. This time the presentation was held in English. In addition, the census data collected by the researchers were at this moment presented to the audience as well and copies of the census report were distributed to all Agta groups and government agencies.

### **Educational and cultural program**

The participating children attended a five day educational and cultural program facilitated by the faculty members and practice teachers of the Teachers College of Isabela State University at Cabagan. The activities conducted and the strategies used included counting and computing through role-playing games; the alphabet, reading and writing; drawing and coloring; singing, dancing and making an Agta cultural show; sports and games; basic hygiene and sanitation.

## ATTACHMENT C: PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

### Program summary

Sunday, 14 August 2005

- Arrival of participants and registration

Monday, 15 August 2005

- Opening program.
- Workshop 1a: Problem identification and output presentation.
- Workshop 1b: Problem analysis and output presentation.
- Cultural show: Isabela State University.

Tuesday, 16 August 2005

- Presentation of research results of anthropological study on the Agta of Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park by the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development.
- Lecture on health concerns by Provincial Health Office.
- Workshop 2: Action planning and output presentation.
- Training on Government structure and indigenous peoples by Tanggol Kalikasan.

Wednesday, 17 August 2005

- Training on the Constitution and the rights of indigenous peoples by Tanggol Kalikasan.
- Training on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title System by Tanggol Kalikasan.
- Field Trip to Callao Caves.

Thursday, 18 August 2005

- Training on National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) and Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP) Act.
- Rehearsal presentation of problem analysis by Agta participants.
- Refining of *manifesto*.
- Agta cultural show.

Friday, 19 August 2005

- Opening program.
- Presentations of problem analysis by Agta participants.
- Presentation of *manifesto*.
- Reactions and presentations of line agencies and local government units.
- Open forum.
- Presentation by Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development.
- Graduation ceremony.

## Workshop program

SUNDAY, 14 AUGUST 2005	
1500 – 1700	Arrival of participants and registration
1700 – 1800	Dinner

MONDAY, 15 AUGUST 2005	
0600 – 0800	Breakfast
0800 – 1000	Opening program: Invocation National anthem Welcome by ISU President Dr. Romeo Quilang Keynote address by Governor Grace Padaca Keynote address by CAVAPPED director Ms. Perla Visorro Introduction by moderator Dr. Dante Aquino
1000 – 1030	Break
1030 – 1200	Workshop 1a: problem identification
1200 – 1330	Lunch and rest
1330 – 1430	Workshop 1a: output presentations
1430 – 1500	Break
1500 – 1600	Workshop 1b: problem analysis
1600 – 1700	Workshop 1b: output presentations
1700 – 1800	Games
1800 – 2100	Dinner & cultural show: Isabela State University

TUESDAY, 16 AUGUST 2005	
0600 – 0730	Breakfast
0730 – 0800	Warming up
0800 – 1000	Presentation of research results of anthropological study on the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park by Tessa Minter and Maria Ranay of the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development
1000 – 1030	Break
1030 – 1200	Workshop 2: action planning
1200 – 1300	Lunch and rest
1300 - 1400	Lecture on Health concerns by the Provincial Health Office
1400 – 1515	Workshop 2: output presentation
1515 – 1530	Break
1530 – 1700	Lecture on Government structure and the indigenous peoples by Tanggol Kalikasan
1700 – 1800	Games and music
1800 - 2100	Dinner and movie

WEDNESDAY, 17 AUGUST 2005	
0600 – 0730	Breakfast
0730 – 0800	Warming up and recapitulation
0800 – 1000	Training on the Constitution and indigenous peoples' rights by Tanggol Kalikasan
1000 – 1030	Break
1030 – 1200	Training on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) and the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT)
1200 – 1300	Lunch
1300 – 2100	Field trip to Callao Caves

THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST 2005	
0600 – 0730	Breakfast
0730 – 0800	Warming up
0800 – 0930	Training National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) and Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP) Act
0930 – 1000	Break
1000 – 1130	Training National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) and Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park (NSMNP) Act
1130 – 1300	Lunch and rest
1300 – 1600	Refining and rehearsal of presentations for the dialogue program with government officials on Friday; presentation and refining of the <i>manifesto</i>
1600 – 1800	Preparation for cultural show
1900 – 2200	Dinner and Agta cultural show

FRIDAY, 19 AUGUST 2005	
0600 – 0800	Breakfast
0800 – 1000	Opening program: Invocation by Bishop Sergio Utleg National anthem by Ms. Juliet Chavez Welcome by ISUC Campus Director Richard Ramirez Welcome by Hon. Mayor Christopher Mamauag, Cabagan Message by Mr. Bawi Donato, Agta Representative Palanan Message by Bishop Sergio Utleg, Diocese of Ilagan Message by DSWD Regional Director Nellie Miranda Message by Dir. Jovito Layugan of DENR
1000 – 1040	Presentation of problem analysis by Agta participants: 1. Livelihood, environment and food by Mr. Estaniel Prado 2. Health and education by Mrs. Fidela Impiel 3. Relationships with government and others by Mr. Noni dela Peña  Presentation of <i>manifesto</i> by Mr. Noni dela Peña
1040 – 1050	Keynote address by NCIP Commissioner Corazon Espino
1050 – 1100	Open forum
1100 – 1110	Message by DepEd Supervisor for Private Schools Reynante Caliguiran

1110 – 1125	Presentation by Flor Piano of NCIP Isabela
1115 – 1200	Open forum
1200 – 1300	Lunch
1300 – 1315	Presentation by Tessa Minter of CVPED
1315 – 1325	Reaction by Mayor of Maconacon Hon. Francisco Talosig
1325 – 1400	Open forum
1400 – 1410	Message by RED Clarence Baguilat of DENR 02
1410 – 1430	Presentation by DENR PASu Representative Forester Abundio C. Galamgam (DENR)
1430 – 1515	Open forum
1515 – 1615	Break
1615 – 1800	Graduation ceremony
1800 – 2100	Dinner and departure of participants from coastal municipalities

<b>SATURDAY, 20 AUGUST 2005</b>	
0600 – 0700	Breakfast
0700 – ...	Departure of participants from western municipalities

## ATTACHMENT D: ROSTER OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

### Workshop participants

Household number	Participant number	Names	Gender
Makihawe, Tumauni			
1	1	Gogay Aluad	M
	2	Evelyn Aluad	F
	3	Kaloy Aluad	M
	4	Randy Aluad	M
	5	Divina Aluad	F
	6	Junjun Aluad	M
2	7	Begnit Impiel	M
	8	Yud-yod Impiel	F
	9	Arnel Impiel	M
	10	Lolibeth Impiel	F
3	11	Elok Aluad	M
	12	Nora Aluad	F
Kabisera 10, Ilagan			
4	13	Jeffrey "Pokkan" Magudang	M
	14	Neneng Magudang	F
	15	Delma Magudang	F
	16	Jemmalyn Magudang	F
	17	Reden Magudang	M
	18	Jomar Magudang	M
	19	Sherwin Magudang	M
5	20	Cardo Cabaldo	M
	21	Marie Cabaldo	F
	22	Michelle Cabaldo	F
	23	Joseph Cabaldo	M
	24	Richelle Cabaldo	F
	25	Sarah Cabaldo	F
	26	Reston Cabaldo	M
	27	Joan Cabaldo	F
	28	Totoy Cabaldo	M
	29	Marissa Cabaldo	F
Digud/Dipili, Del Pilar, San Mariano			
6	30	Mario Matias	M
	31	Carmen Matias	F
	32	Alvin Matias	M
	33	Jessica Matias	F
	34	Baby Matias	F
7	35	Emoy Impiel	M
	36	Ose Impiel	F
	37	Winner Impiel	F
	38	Jocelyn Impiel	F
	39	Cecil Impiel	F
8	40	Jomar Mariano	M

	41	Marilyn Mariano	F
	42	Baby Mariano	M
9	43	Sofing Mariano	F
10	44	Oklis Impiel	F
	45	Marites Impiel	F
	46	Maviel Impiel	F
	47	Joan Impiel	F
11	48	Boy Ferrer	M
12	49	Steve Manuel	M
	50	Mary Jane Manuel	F
	51	Fernandico Manuel	M
Kamalaklakan, Disulap, San Mariano			
13	52	Rosanna Layugan	F
	53	Lab (baby) Layugan	F
14	54	Aboy Almonte	M
15	55	Inday Almonte	F
	56	Junjun Almonte	M
	57	Mia Almonte	F
	58	Bianca Almonte	F
	59	Lorna Almonte	F
Dibuluan, San Mariano			
16	60	Fidela Impiel	F
	61	Linda Impiel	F
	62	Fred Impiel	M
	63	Janet Impiel	F
	64	Julius Impiel	M
	65	Teresita Impiel	F
	66	Connie Impiel	F
	67	Roosevelt Impiel	M
17	68	Rodel Corpuz	M
18	69	Osbel Cabaldo	F
	70	Ele Cabaldo	F
Diango/Dibulo, Sta. Marina, Maconacon			
19	71	Labtag Impiel Mora	F
20	72	Basilio Ignacio	M
	73	Serly Ignacio	F
	74	Ronato Ignacio	M
	75	Robin Ignacio	M
21	76	Berning Ignacio	M
	77	Kolag Ignacio	F
	78	Joel Ignacio	M
	79	Rocky Ignacio	M
22	80	Eyok Eduarte	M
	81	Mercy Eduarte	F
	82	Gerwin Eduarte	M
	83	Alvin Eduarte	M
23	84	Nolie/Arthuro Maggay	M
24	85	Golem Ignacio	M
25	86	Bongbong Aluad	M

	87	Elma Aluad	F
	88	Marites Aluad	F
	89	Roldan Aluad	M
	90	Maricel Aluad	F
26	91	Vicente Tanguilan	M
	92	Babai Tanguilan	F
	93	Trixy Tanguilan	F
27	94	Ollay Cariño	M
	95	Dellang Cariño	F
	96	Rosemarie Cariño	F
	97	Jay Cariño	M
	98	Ronel Cariño	M
	99	Bibi Cariño	F
28	100	Romy Mora	M
29	101	Biday Domingo	F
	102	Robelyn Domingo	F
	103	Sela Domingo	F
	104	Along Domingo	M
30	105	Jenny Domingo	F
	106	Orokan Domingo	M
	107	Daniel (Baby) Domingo	M
Blos, Reina Mercedes, Maconacon			
31	108	Epnak Padre	M
	109	Atang Padre	F
32	110	Daggoyang Padre	M
	111	Idyu Padre	M
	112	Rosi Padre	F
	113	Rosita Padre	F
33	114	Igiw Padre	M
34	115	Gener Cabaldo	M
35	116	Carlos Alegre	M
Dimasalansan, Divilacan			
36	117	Nonie Dela Peña	M
	118	Merly Dela Peña	F
	119	Alvin Dela Peña	M
	120	Marissa Dela Peña	F
	121	Marites Dela Peña	F
	122	Robelyn Ordinario	F
37	123	Bening Plata	M
	124	Mila Plata	F
38	125	Roger Eslabon	M
	126	Marietta Eslabon	F
	127	Jonabel Eslabon	F
	128	Junel Eslabon	M
	129	Joan Eslabon	F
39	130	Alex Ordinario	M
	131	Noimie Ordinario	F
	132	Bryan Ordinario	M
40	133	Samar Donato	M

	134	Margie Donato	F
	135	Marivic Donato	M
Divilacan Centro			
41	136	Padilla Santos	M
	137	Ariel Santos	M
	138	Ogin Santos	M
	139	Rommel Santos	M
42	140	Narsing Malacasta	M
	141	Eileen Malacasta	F
	142	Daniel Malacasta	M
	143	Robin Malacasta	M
43	144	Agnay Cortez	M
	145	Rosing Cortez	F
Dicaudang-udangan, Divilacan/Cacauayanan, Palanan			
44	146	William Plata	M
	147	Lilia Plata	F
	148	Wilma Plata	F
45	149	Jomar Plata	M
	150	Wina Plata	F
Sapinit, Divilacan			
46	151	Danny Dela Cruz	M
	152	Nadia Dela Cruz	F
	153	Rhoda Dela Cruz	F
	154	Baby Dela Cruz	F
47	155	Lakub Dela Cruz	M
	156	Arnold Dela Cruz	M
	157	Junie Dela Cruz	M
Centro, Dinapigue			
48	158	Jomar Salazar	M
	159	Rosie Salazar	F
49	160	Laling Bahit	F
	161	Allan Bahit	M
50	162	Balangga Osbal	M
	163	Linda Osbal	F
	164	Lilik Osbal	F
	165	Angelu Osbal	F
51	166	Tessie Almonte	F
	167	Alling Almonte	M
	168	Maribel Almonte	F
	169	Charlene Almonte	F
	170	Arlene Almonte	F
	171	Ryan Almonte	M
	172	Elena Almonte	F
52	173	Caring Donato	F
	174	Warly Donato	M
	175	Rogin Donato	M
53	176	Nolie Donato	M
	177	Liday Donato	F
	178	Ronel Donato	M

	179	Jay Donato	M
	180	Baby Donato	M
Dikente, Palanan			
54	181	Bawi Donato	M
	182	Liling Donato	F
	183	Peter Donato	M
	184	Esther Donato	F
55	185	Roger Donato	M
	186	Motong 'Abraham' Donato	M
Disumangit, Palanan			
56	187	Pasting Donato	F
	188	Iming Donato	M
	189	Mayeth Donato	F
	190	Joshua Donato	M
Diambarong, Palanan			
57	191	Estaniel Prado	M
	192	Darlita Prado	F
	193	Lorna Prado	F
	194	Ibbeth Prado	F
Dimatog, Palanan			
58	195	Otoy Plata	M
	196	Moises Plata	M
59	197	Juanito Malacasta	M
	198	Lena Malacasta	F
	199	Joel Malacasta	M
60	200	Nane Almoneda	F
	201	Jomar Almoneda	M
Dikabayo, Centro West, Palanan			
61	202	Tony Donato	M
	203	Melina Donato	F
	204	Susan Donato	F
	205	Leny Donato	F
Kanaipang, Didadungan, Palanan			
62	206	Alonso dela Peña	M
	207	Carnacion dela Peña	F
	208	Lillik dela Peña	F
	209	Etet dela Peña	F
63	210	Mency Salazar	F
	211	Motong Salazar	M
	212	Roxan Salazar	F
64	213	Nantong Caramat	M
	214	Lennie Caramat	F
	215	Neneng Caramat	F
	216	Ismael Caramat	M
65	217	Otoy Plata	M
	218	Bello Salazar	M
	219	Iling Salazar	F
	220	Giselle Salazar	M
	221	Niknik Salazar	M

	222	Denden Salazar	M
66	223	Adelina Salazar	F
	224	Melencio Salazar	M
	225	Melissa Salazar	F
67	226	Rowena Sangbay	F
	227	Arnel Oliveros	M
	228	Wayna Cauilan	F
	229	Divina Cauilan	F
Dialomanay, Palanan			
68	230	Juliet Chavez	F
	231	Rodel Chavez	M

### Summary workshop participants

Total number of participants	231
Total number of households	68
Total number of men	115
Total number of women	116
Total number of adults	119
Total number of children	112

## Roster of guests 19 August 2005

Name	Position/Agency
1. Butch C. Mondoñedo	PAWCZMP Specialist
2. Mary Margaret Mature	DMO – II/NCIP
3. Daniel Belit	NCIP
4. Richard Curibang	TAA – I/NCIP
5. Ernesto G. Laongayan	NCIP Central Office
6. Reynante Z. Caliguiran	DepEd Supervisor
7. Johnnie A. Ventura	Media/Northern Herald
8. Cindy F. Fernandez	Media
9. Marilyn C. Acorda	LGU San Pablo
10. Abundio C. Galamgam	CENRO – Palanan
11. Francisco G. Talosig	Municipal Mayor Maconacon, Isabela
12. Bonifacio C. Brioles	MPDC Representative Dinapigue, Isabela
13. Jay S. Lim	Tanggol Kalikasan
14. Rosario N. Corpuz	DSWD Isabela
15. Consencia P. Junagan	DSWD Isabela
16. Josephine D. Lopez	SWO-I/IP Coordinator PSWDO Cagayan
17. Roger G. dela Rosa	CAO-II/NCIP-R02
18. Nelly C. Miranda	OIC RD-DSWD-R02
19. Christopher Mamauag	Municipal Mayor Cabagan, Isabela
20. Ruben S. Bastero	NCIP – Central Office
21. Corazon M. Espino	NCIP Commissioner
22. Annette P. Pedro	NCIP – R02
23. Samuel S. Gonzales	NCIP – R02
24. Luis B. Franco	Barangay Kagawad Luquilu, Cabagan, Isabela
25. Marissa Hamor	SWO-II/DSWD
26. Eloisa Babaran	R10/DSWD
27. Sergio Utleg	Diocese of Ilagan
28. Bebot M Ferrer	Municipal Administrator LGU Tumauini, Isabela
29. Jovito P. Layugan, Jr.	DENR
30. Jhonny Miranda	ABAY Foundation
31. Abraham D. Lauan	MPDC San Pablo, Isabela
32. Darlene Gemino	ABS-CBN Reporter
33. Ruby S. Pestanio	PDO-I/PPDO Isabela
34. Flordeliza L. Piano	CDO III-NCIP
35. Benjamin D. Verzola	Acting SEMS-ENRO, Provincial Capitol
36. Geronimo P. Cabaccan, Jr.	ENRO-Provincial Capitol
37. Sworling Hagada	CDO-III/NCIP
38. Teresita V. Calabarzon	DSWD-SWO-III
39. M-anne V. Donato	Student Bagabag, Nueva Viscaya (SIL) from Palanan
40. Tanting Donato	Student Bagabag, Nueva Viscaya (SIL) from Palanan
41. Bugs Almoneda	Student Bagabag, Nueva Viscaya (SIL) from Palanan
42. Clarence Baguilat	Regional Executive Director, DENR 02

## ATTACHMENT E: LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADSDPP	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan
ATI-RTC	Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center
BHC	Barangay Health Clinic
BHO	Barangay Health Office
BHW	Barangay Health Worker
CADC	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim
CADT	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CML	Institute of Environmental Sciences
CFEM	College of Forestry and Environmental Management
CAVAPPED	Cagayan Valley Partners in Peoples Development
CVPED	Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development
COA	Court of Appeals
DA	Department of Agriculture
DCC	Day Care Center
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DepEd	Department of Education
DGIS	Directorate General of International Cooperation
DOH	Department of Health
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
GOs	Government Organizations
GPS	Global Positioning System
HEPO	Health Education and Promotion Officer
IP	Indigenous People(s)
IPDC	Indigenous People Development Coordinator
IPHO	Isabela Provincial Health Office
IPRA	Indigenous Peoples Rights Act
ISU	Isabela State University
ISUC	Isabela State University Cabagan
JEP	Junior Expert Program
KALAHI	<i>Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan</i>
LGUs	Local Government Units
LIPI	Liberating the Indigenous Peoples
MPDO	Municipal Planning Development Officer
MTC	Municipal Trial Court
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NIA	National Irrigation Administration
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Area System
NSMNP	Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park
PA	Protected Area
PAGASA	Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration

PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PASu	Protected Area Superintendent
PATECO	Pacific Timber Export Corporation
PEHM	Physical Education Health and Music
PENRO	Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
PHO	Provincial Health Officer
PO	Peoples Organization
RED	Regional Executive Director
RHU	Rural Health Unit
RNIP	Regional Network on Indigenous Peoples (within CVPED)
RTC	Regional Trial Court
RTD	Regional Technical Director
SC	Supreme Court
TC	Teachers College
TK	Tanggol Kalikasan
TLA	Timber License Agreement

The Agta Workshop *Ako ay Agta, Ako ay Pilipino!* took place from 15-19 August 2005 at the Isabela State University in Cabagan. The event was organized by the Cagayan Valley Program on Environment and Development in cooperation with Tanggol Kalikasan. A total of 231 Agta participants belonging to 68 Agta families from the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park attended the workshop. The workshop consisted of: (1) a participatory problem analysis of challenges the Agta face in their daily lives, (2) a dialogue between the participants and government officials about this problem analysis, (3) a training on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act and the National Integrated Protected Area System Law, (4) a presentation of the initial results of an anthropological study on the Agta of the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park conducted between 2002-2005, and (5) an educational and cultural program for the participating children



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