

Governance of Medicinal Plant Resources by Local Communities in a Rural Landscape in Siquijor, Philippines

U. Galamiton¹, D. Melana¹, O. Magallones¹ and I.E. Buot Jr.²

¹Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines and ²University of the Philippines Open University and Institute of Biological Sciences, University of the Philippines Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines

A photograph showing a deforested area. In the foreground, a large, cut log lies horizontally on the ground. To the left, there is a pile of brush and debris. In the background, several standing tree trunks are visible, some with sparse foliage. The overall scene depicts the aftermath of logging or deforestation.

Deforestation is rampant BUT as trees are cut, medicinal shrubs and herbs are destroyed as well

Objectives of the paper:

- 1. Document medicinal plants in Siquijor, central Philippines**
- 2. Capacitate or empower local communities in designing conservation management strategy for medicinal plants**



Focused on mobilizing faith healers and herbal collectors to take the lead in formulating a Community Based Ethnobotany Resources Conservation Framework Plan, hence, leading the conservation of medicinal trees and shrubs they have been utilizing.





.. includes
more than
7,100 islands
covering
297,179 km²
in the
westernmost
Pacific Ocean.



Method. Survey using personal interviews, participatory field survey and identification and small group discussion with the herbalist and other local stakeholders.

Medicinal Plant Species Documentation

**A total of 63 species
belonging to 50 genera
and 25 families of
medicinal plants were
documented.**









1. Local people use either the bark, roots, leaves or other parts of the plants as medicine.

2. As perceived by the local herb experts, 21 species were considered rare. Hence, they must be vulnerable to or endangered of extinction.

What has been
done so far?

I. Organizing the medicinal plant collectors and the herbalists



2. Creation of a Community Based Ethnobotany Resources Management Committee that will formulate and develop the draft of the conservation framework plan



3. Community biodiversity education

Ethnobotany nurseries



4. Establishment of *Barangay Ethnobotany Resources Nursery* through the collaborative effort of the local herbalists, Environment Bureau and the Local Government Units.



5. A database of ethnobotany resources was started showing photographs, local and official common name, family name, scientific name, parts utilized, intended cure, and method of preparation to serve as source of information on ethnomedical practices in the island of Siquijor.

Also, we emphasized:

1. Intergenerational cooperation
2. Local/national collaboration
3. Close coordination with the
Department of Health



Capacitating local communities in governing these ethnobotanical resources sustains medicinal plants and hence, livelihood of the local people in Siquijor