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

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

Syzygium
Tugas (Molave)
Dapdap
ERYTHRINA
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

Thursday, October 9, 2014
3. Community biodiversity education
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.