

Biodiversity Issues and Concerns in the Forests of Satoyama-like Landscapes in the Philippines

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Summary: Satoyama-like landscapes in the Philippines are mosaics of patches composed of villages, farmlands, grasslands and forests resembling the satoyama structure in Japanese landscapes. Many of these unique and dynamic patches are found in the rural countryside far from urbanization. In this study, woody species along altitudinal zones were identified in four bio-culturally significant satoyama forests of Mount Pulag, Mount Akiki, Mount Mayon and Mount Makiling in Luzon Island using standard field techniques. Cluster and ordination analyses showed lower elevation species encroaching in higher altitudes displacing other species. Whether this is due to climate change or due to the natural and complex process of succession going on, is yet unknown and therefore has to be verified. Biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation and degradation, deforestation and bio-invasion were observed. Natural (volcanic activity for Mount Mayon) and anthropogenic causes (shifting cultivation, logging, frequent harvesting of resources) were evident. Concerns for environmental rehabilitation and ecological restoration through appropriate sustainable management practices are urgent. Managed harvesting of resources, Assisted Natural Regeneration coupled with sustainable policy reforms could be of help. Regional collaboration and interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary discussions among various disciplines and sectors with the community people are necessary.



Center is a satoyama-like landscape in northern Philippines. At the sides are the common resources in the satoyama forest of southern Philippines (Mount Mayon and Mount Makiling).

IPSI Activity Cluster: Cluster 1: Knowledge Facilitation and Cluster 5: On-the-Ground Activities

Duration of the project: 1 year

Budget: 1M yen

Challenges, risks and opportunities identified: poverty, illiteracy, and rampant shifting cultivation in some areas.

Impact and/or benefit of the project outcome: Knowing the real problem which led to designing of appropriate management strategy.