IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Re(Connecting) with the Ifugao Rice Terraces as a socio-ecological production landscape through youth capacity building and exchange programs: A conservation and sustainable development approach			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
[1]University of the Philippines Open University, Los Baños; [3]Ifugao State University			
Other contributing organization(s) *(IPSI members and/or non-members)*			
[2]University of the Philippines Los Baños; [4]Benguet State University Open University; [5]Mountain Province Polytechnic State College			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
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Format of case study *(manuscript or audiovisual)*	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
capacity building, exchange program, conservation, sustainable development, Ifugao Rice Terraces, tablet-based learning			
Date of submission *(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)*		13 December 2019	
Web link *(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)*	https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:7506/SITR_vol5_fullset_web.pdf#page=159		

Geographical Information

Country *(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even "global")*									
Philippines									
Location(s) *(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)*									
Batad (Banaue), Hungduan, Kiangan and Mayoyao, Ifugao Province									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link *(if location is identified)*									
https://www.google.com/maps/place/16°46'12.0%22N+121°06'00.0%22E/@16.7700051,121.097806,12z/									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
Covering a total area of approximately 263,000 hectares, Ifugao province is a landlocked and generally mountainous landscape characterized by thick forests, creeks, and streams that are tributaries to major rivers. Ifugao is situated within the Cordillera mountain range in the Northern Philippines. With eleven municipalities, the province is home to an approximate 203,000 people who mostly belong to the Ifugao ethnic group.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
The Ifugao Rice Terraces, a SEPL influenced and sustained by accumulated traditional knowledge and sustainable practices, is the primary source of the livelihoods of the Ifugao communities through providing food and income. It also provides vital regulating services such as biodiversity conservation (through organic agriculture), carbon sequestration and nutrient cycling, soil and water conservation, and pest regulation.									

Contents

Status *("ongoing" or "completed")*	Completed	Period *(MM/YY to MM/YY)*	

Rationale *(why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed)*

Since human activities "have significant influences in shaping SEPLs", the role of indigenous and rural communities in conservation must be accentuated in proposing and planning conservation projects. Nonetheless, SEPLs are not entities fixed in time. No amount of conservation can retain their 'initial' characteristics since these systems are dynamic and constantly evolving. However, industrialization and a diminishing rural population, to name a few socio-ecological problems, threaten these landscapes. A diminishing rural population, primarily caused by youth out-migration, is one of the problems confronting a renowned SEPL in the Philippines.

Objectives *(goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study)*

The Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) faces various challenges such as under-management of biocultural diversity and socio-ecological systems, poor maintenance, abandonment of rice terraces, unregulated tourism activities, and out-migration of young Ifugaos. To address these, rehabilitation efforts and initiatives have been initiated by various sectors to restore conditions in the IRT and aid in its conservation and sustainable development. The youth capacity building and exchange program was implemented to address the knowledge transfer and out-migration problems confronting the IRT. Hence, the case study examined the youth capacity building and exchange program of its contribution to the IRT as a SEPL. The study aimed to understand the views and values of the program participants towards IRT.

Activities and/or practices employed

Through a conservation and sustainable development approach, the program was executed in four phases: needs analysis, development of tablet-based training modules, youth training and exchange program, and contextualization of the training modules.

Results

The needs analysis indicated that the youths are still interested in being involved in the conservation and sustainable development of the IRT as a SEPL and recommended the integration of digital platforms to help them understand and appreciate their culture better. Based on these needs, experts from collaborating universities developed tablet-based training modules which discuss Satoyama landscapes, ecosystem services, sustainable development, natural and cultural heritage, and digital technology. With the exchange program, the participants interacted with each other, resulting in the interchange of ideas, reflections, and perceived values of IRT conservation and sustainable development.

Lessons learned *(factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities)*

Results showed that there were diverse youth perceptions; specifically Ifugao youths (one group of the program participants -- the othe group composed of urban youths) revisited the importance and value of IRT. However, the study recognizes a potential data bias from the skewed female-male distribution of the program participants. To sustain the impacts of the program, further utilization of mobile technology in indigenous youth training can be explored, capacity building program of families can be conducted, and future programs targeting Philippine SEPLS can be influenced.

Key messages

Through these modules, the Ifugao youths reportedly gained new knowledge about the IRT landscape. Their values towards IRT were influenced by the modules and by the urban youths' (another group of the program participants) views. Similarly, the urban youths have experienced and gained a deeper understanding of the IRT and Ifugao culture. These value (re)connections will strengthen, maintain, and build the youths' positive relationship with nature that benefits the conservation and sustainability of the IRT. Alongside increasing the knowledge and improving the values of the youths, it is also necessary to develop stewards who will initiate change and will advocate and commit to sustainability.

Relationship to other IPSI activities *(if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.)*

This case study originally appeared in the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review v. 5.

Funding *(any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study)*

The authors would also like to extend their gratitude to Dr. Koji Nakamura for his guidance and support to this initiative; and to Mitsui & Co, Ltd. and the Satoyama Development Mechanism for funding Y4IRT and the contextualization of the training modules, respectively.

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
■						■			
									
Strategic Goal C			**Strategic Goal D**			**Strategic Goal E**			
■		■					●	●	
									

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

■	■							
								
	■	■			■