

PLENARY SESSION III

Plenary Paper:	Conservation and Management of Philippine Terrestrial Ecosystem
Chairman:	Ruben L. Villareal
Plenary Speaker:	Enrique P. Pacardo
Rapporteur:	Benito S. Vergara
Discussants:	Delfin M. Ganapin Jr. Domingo M. Ramirez

I. SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSIONS

The discussions centered on several important issues:

- Developing a rational land use plan adopted at all levels (national, regional, provincial, local) to ensure sustainable natural resource use and avoid conflicting use of resources;
- Protecting the remaining primary forest areas, especially in critical areas (national parks, forest, nature reserves, watersheds), as well as endangered flora and fauna, for maintaining biodiversity and ecological stability;
- Providing strong support for environment cum population related programs;
- Promoting and enhancing implementation of community-based, participatory and integrated approaches to natural resource management, taking off from successful examples;
- Providing adequate research and development support for long-term and priority concerns related to agricultural sustainability, management of logged over areas, upland, coastal and urban rehabilitation and management;
- Promoting environmental education and extension programs for all sectors of society;

- Establishing line agencies (DENR, DA, DAR), NGO and academe network for natural resource management at the national, regional, provincial and grass roots levels;
- Evolving a comprehensive national policy of environmental ethics and management, which would encompass promotion of environmental awareness; formulating and enforcing legislation, which would protect and enhance the environment; and giving support to NGOs to encourage their participation;
- Recognizing the scale and nature of current urbanization and assessing the extent of deterioration so that the resource base can be rehabilitated and preserved;
- Adopting low-waste and environmentally sound technologies utilizing recycling, rehabilitation and renewability;
- Adopting agriculturally sustainable technology and practices, such as organic agriculture, integrated farming and integrated pest management;
- Promoting economic incentive schemes for regulating use of natural resources and pollution control measures;
- Developing and adopting an environmental master plan for major urban centers and the 179 Community and Environment Natural Resource Offices throughout the country reflective of the Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development (PSSD); and
- Developing strong and effective preventive and anticipatory environmental management mechanisms, such as Environmental Impact System (EIS) at all levels (national, regional and local) for hazardous biological and chemical handling and regulation, etc.

II . RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A national agricultural land use policy, which will resolve the conflict between agriculture and industry in terms of positioning for space, should be formulated.
2. Appropriate measures to protect prime agricultural lands from being converted to other agricultural uses should be carried out.

3. There is a need for a well-coordinated and well-funded national soil conservation program covering both lowlands and uplands.
4. There is a need for agricultural planners of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to acquire the necessary skills in agroenvironmental planning/program implementation. Likewise, there is a need for extension workers of the DA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to acquire the knowledge and technology in upland soil conservation.
5. There is a need for the DA, DENR and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to collaboratively establish a coherent program for sustainable agroenvironmental development.
6. DAR and the DENR should provide security of tenure to the uplanders or those occupying areas classified as forestlands.
7. A program to monitor and control pesticide and fertilizer pollution should be implemented.
8. There is a need to pursue vigorously an integrated population and environmental resources development program.

