

The Forest Resources Bill

Legislative Advocacy for Forest Restoration



RFRI Seminar Series: Green Mondays
Institute of Biology, UP Diliman
14 November 2011





Outline

- Who we are
- The need for a new forest policy
- The Forest Resources Bill
- Campaign timeline



WHO WE ARE



**“No food,
no home,
no sex.
No wonder
he’s
almost
extinct.”**



- Critically endangered; near extinction due to destruction of habitat
- **Eagles and other birds are barometers of how well a forest ecosystem is doing**



A membership organization dedicated to
the **conservation of Philippine**
biodiversity through

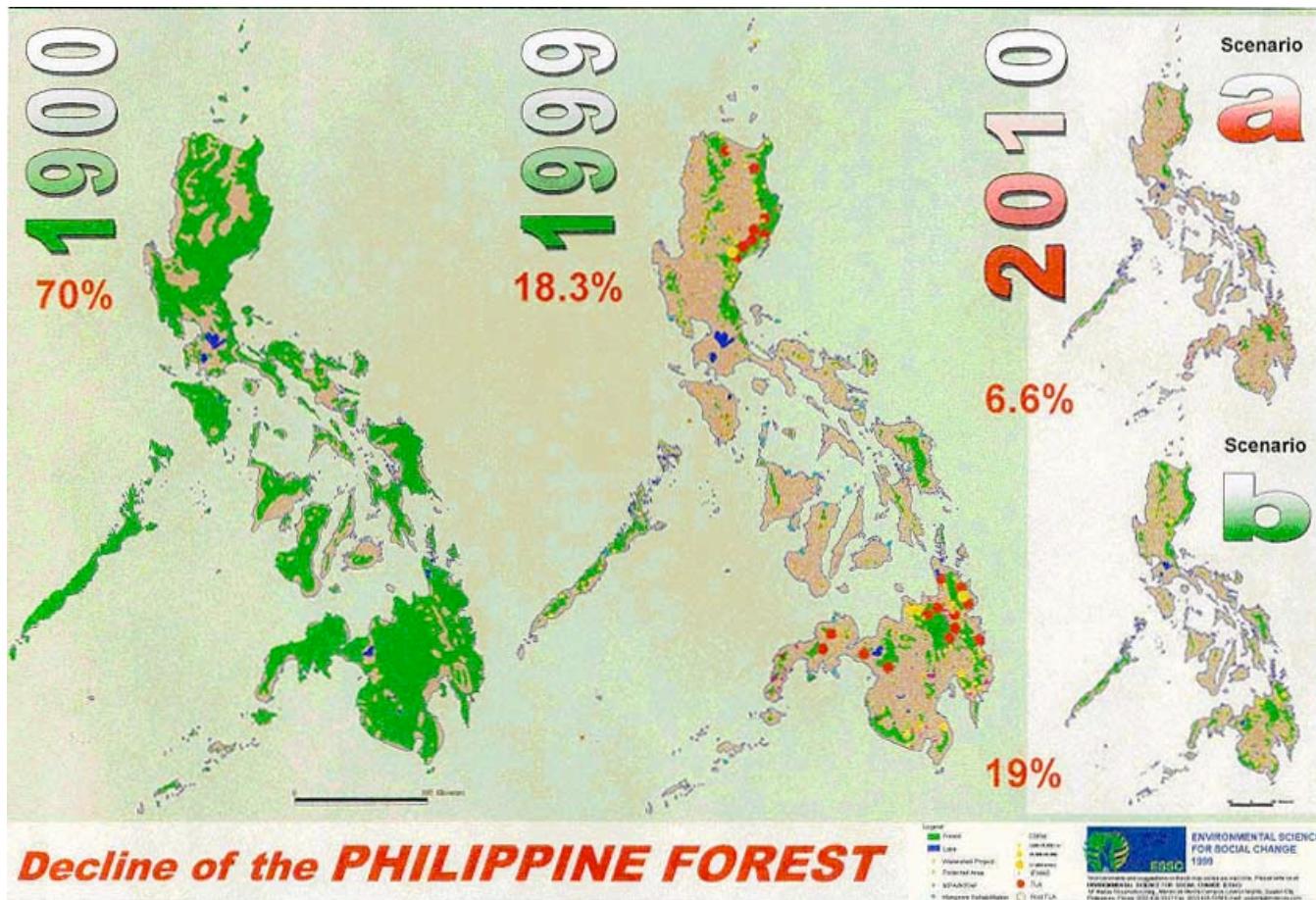
Research
Site action
Constituency development



THE NEED FOR A NEW FOREST POLICY



24% forest cover



– DENR 2003 (uses FAO definition)



Ideal forest cover

- 54% forest cover ideal based on vulnerable slope percentage
 - Dr. Percy Sajise et al. (1996)
- 40% forest cover required to maintain hydrological functions
 - Dr. Rex Cruz, UPLB chancellor (2011)



Current forest policy

- 1904: The Forest Act, Philippine Forest Policy
- 1975: Presidential Decree No. 705
 - revising PD 389, Forestry Reform Code
- 1992: NIPAS Act
- 1995: EO 263, CBFM as national strategy
- 1997: IPRA
- 2011 : EO 23, logging moratorium



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



THE FOREST RESOURCES BILL



Core provisions

- New forest definition
- Protection of all natural and restored forests
- Protection, production, + restoration area
- Watershed continuum-based management
- Devolution of forest management functions



New forest definition

- “An ecosystem or an assemblage of ecosystems dominated by trees and other woody vegetation; a community of plants and animals interacting with one another and its physical environment”
- At least 60% forest cover
 - versus at least 10% of UN-FAO



Protection of natural and restored forests

- Natural: primary and secondary
- Only non-timber forest products allowed to be extracted
- Timber harvesting for subsistence by IPs and local communities in woodlots
- Commercial logging, mining, etc. prohibited



+ Restoration area

- Priority 200m “buffer zone” around natural forests
- Rainforestation
 - DENR MC 2004–06: Guidelines in the integration of rainforestation farming strategy



Watershed continuum



From ridge
to reef



Devolution

- Phased devolution of forest management functions to willing and able LGUs



CAMPAIGN TIMELINE



FRB filed Oct-Nov 2010

Filed in the House of Representatives by

- Rep. Jesus Celeste (I-Pangasinan)
- Rep. Teddy Baguilat (Ifugao)
- Rep. Arthur Defensor Jr. (III-Iloilo)
- Rep. Mel Sarmiento (I-Western Samar)
- 2 other versions of the Sustainable Forest Management Bill (SFM) in HOR



Congress hearings, TWGs

Nov 2010 +: 3 forest bills filed and consolidated

1. Original **Sustainable Forest Management Bill**
2. FRB
3. The **Sustainable Forest Ecosystems Management Bill**
 - DENR, Society of Filipino Foresters, Philippine Wood Producers Association



Senate hearings, TWGs



December 2010
onwards



Apr 2011 : Sagip GUBAT





Sagip GUBAT network

Sagip GUBAT formally created as a **national network of forest conservation advocates** aiming to:

1. Raise awareness on the importance of forests and the urgency of the FRB
2. Lobby for the enactment of the FRB and other important forest policies
3. Strengthen multi-stakeholder, forest-based partnerships



4. Facilitate CSO participation in forest policy development, implementation, and monitoring;
5. Share information and resources among those engaged in forest conservation-related activities; and
6. Promote integrity in forest governance.



Green Parade



July 23,
QC circle

3,300
participants





Save Sierra Madre Day



Sept 26, Marikina
Riverbank, Provident Village
chapel, DENR,



Issues and challenges

1. Protection of secondary forests
2. Rainforestation
 - Draft Congress committee report
 - National Greening Program
3. Rebooting Senate talks
4. Networking and mobilization



campaigns@haribon.org.ph

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