



DYNAMIC CONSERVATION OF PHILIPPINE GIAHS



Presented by:

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Brief Information and Overview
2. Progress and Accomplishments
 - Land and Water Conservation
 - Community Livelihoods Improvement
 - Policy Outputs and Research
3. Achievements and Milestones
4. Hurdles and Struggles
5. Next Steps and Way Forward



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)



- IRT is in the province of IFUGAO in Cordillera Administrative Region, Northern part of Luzon Island in the Philippines
- With a total land area of 251,778 hectares
- Pilot Area of GIAHS is in Municipality of Hungduan, Ifugao covering an area of 260.3 square kms .



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)



- IRT are the priceless contribution of Philippine ancestors to humanity, built 2000 years ago and passed on to generation to generation
- IRT represent an ending illustration of an ancient civilization that surpassed various challenges and setbacks posed by modernization



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Agricultural Biological Diversity

- Country's only remaining highland mountain ecosystem featuring ingenuity of the Ifugaos in agricultural farming.
- It consists of different ecosystems that contain various species of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles as well as numerous plant species.
- IRT is the `living cultural landscapes devoted to production of one of the world's most staple crop today, rice.



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) Knowledge Systems

The rice terraces are supported by indigenous management of “**Muyong**”

- ❑ It is managed through collective effort using the traditional tribal practices.
- ❑ Traditional silvi-cultural practices are carried out to keep them productive
- ❑ **Muyong** is a family forest located above terraces varying size from 0.5 ha. to 2.5 ha.



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) Knowledge Systems

- The Ifugaos are spending most of their labor in rice terraces and forest land; while occasionally tending to root crop cultivation
- Indigenous rice terracing include Ifugao's knowledge on water irrigation, stonework and terraces maintenance



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) Socio-cultural Diversity

- IRT epitomize the absolute blending of the physical , socio-cultural, economic, religions and political environment
- Population of about 180,815; 69% of the labor force involved in agriculture
- a primarily cooperative approach of the whole community based on detailed knowledge of the rich biodiversity
- Traditional economy characterized by terrace agriculture, woodlot maintenance and swidden farming.



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Significant Characteristics and Functionalities

- ❑ The Philippines' IRT inscribed in the World Heritage List on December 3, 1995 for the following criteria:
- ✓ Dramatic testimony to a sustainable communal system of rice production, harvesting water from the forest clad mountain tops and creating stone terraces, a system that has survived for two millennia.
- ✓ Memorial to the history and labour of more than a thousand generations of working together as a community,



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Significant Characteristics and Functionalities

- ✓ Outstanding example of land-use resulting from a harmonious interaction between people and environment with steep terraced landscape of great aesthetic beauty.
- The Ifugao Rice Terraces consists of different ecosystems that contain various species of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles as well as numerous plant species in different forms



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

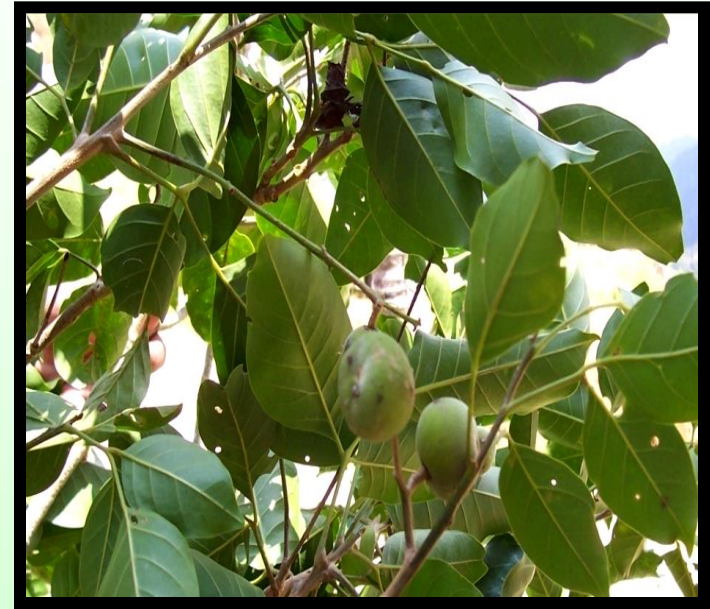
Significant Characteristics and Functionalities

- Awareness of the people on the values and importance of floral resources is one factor that influences the biodiversity richness of the community;
- The people do not only see the economic and commercial values of the biodiversity resources but more importantly they also consider the ecological value;
- Among the important uses of plants in the community are for food, construction materials, fuel, medicine, and wood carving materials



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Significant Characteristics and Functionalities

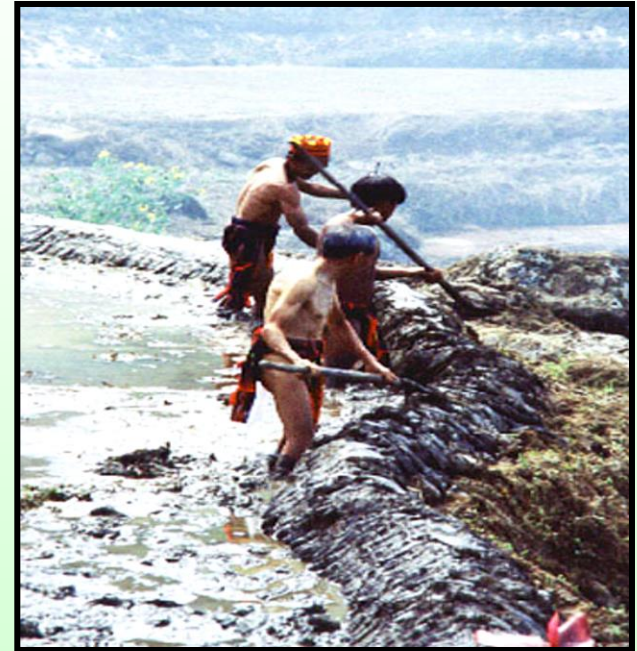


Bakuwog (*Sandoricum vidalii*)

Indigenous plants are used as biological control for pests and insects.



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) Significant Characteristics and Functionalities



Preserved indigenous knowledge systems on biodiversity conservation



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Significant Characteristics and Functionalities



Inherited customs & traditions





Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) Significant Characteristics and Functionalities



Organic Rice Farming System



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Significant Characteristics and Functionalities



Natural resources use and rice production are based on old indigenous customs and beliefs preventing over-exploitation of land resources & promoting biodiversity conservation & protection.



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) Inscription on the List of World Heritage Site in Danger



The Ifugao Rice Terraces of the Philippine has been inscribed on the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger on December 13, 2001, after a joint ICOMOS-IUCN reactive monitoring mission.



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) Inscription on the List of World Heritage Site in Danger



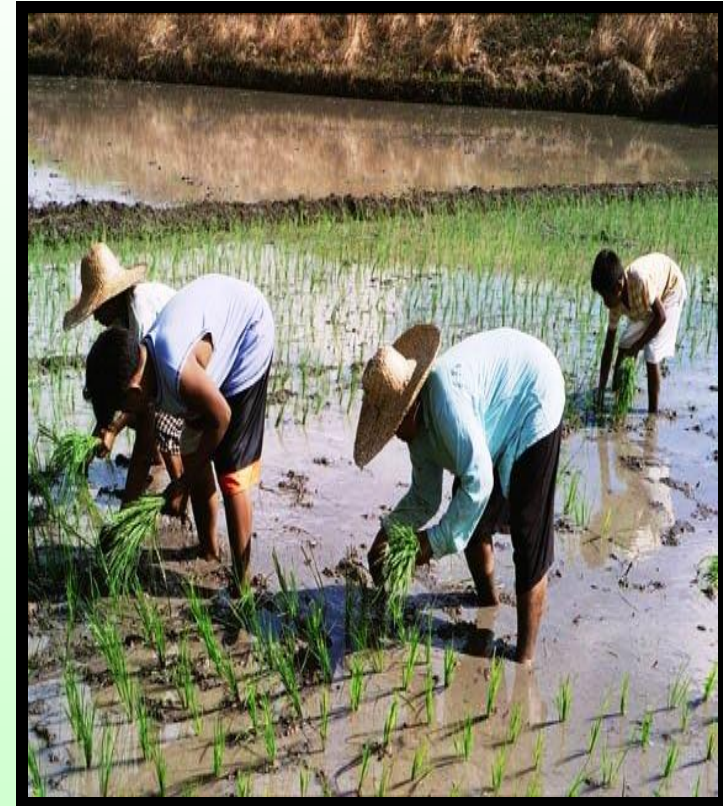
The culture and the rice terraces have been subjected to a variety of socio-economic and cultural forces that led to the vulnerability of the terraces under the impact of irreversible change.



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Progress and Accomplishments

- ❑ **Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity**
 - ✓ Nursery establishments at barangay level nurseries for forest and fruit tree seedlings, & indigenous trees
 - ✓ Crop diversification through the integrated rice farming system in the seven heritage barangays
 - ✓ Planting of alternative crops in abandoned rice terraces as climate change adaptation option



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Progress and Accomplishments

- ❑ **Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity**
- ✓ Woodlot enrichment or agro-forestry establishments in the seven heritage barangays
- ✓ Biodiversity enrichment and diversification
- ✓ GIAHS agroforestry establishment in 5 heritage barangays



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Progress and Accomplishments

❑ Land and Water Conservation

- ✓ Repair and rehabilitation of damaged terraces and slopes, irrigation canals
- ✓ Mapping of rice terraces
- ✓ Management and control of earthworm
- ✓ Construction of Hazard mitigation structures



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Progress and Accomplishments

□ Community Livelihood Improvements

- ✓ Promotion of cultural festivals and sponsored “one barangay, one product”
- ✓ training on agro-ecotourism for naturalist guides and survival skills
- ✓ Establishment of alternative crops in abandoned rice terraces
- ✓ Introduction of Livelihood projects
- ✓ Collaboration with existing markets for organic products
- ✓ Capacity building for livelihood projects
- ✓ FS on marketing and labelling of GIAHS organic product diversification



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Progress and Accomplishments

❑ Policy Outputs and Research

- ✓ Gather and review information on national and global agricultural heritage systems
- ✓ Series of consultations/focus group discussions to come up with criteria and procedures for the recognition of GIAHS sites
- ✓ Formulation of Philippine National Criteria and Procedures for the recognition of GIAHS sites
- ✓ Research, identification and documentation of the recognition and conservation management processes for potential GIAHS sites



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Achievements and Milestones

- ❑ Inspired by the GIAHS concept, the Philippines has now established its own National Important Agricultural Heritage System (NIAHS)
- ❑ IRT-GIAHS was able to develop two (2) sets of Philippine Criteria and Procedures in identifying and prioritizing (ranking) of possible GIAHS sites for recognition, namely:

1st set -Global Criteria – adapted to Philippine Conditions that helps **IDENTIFY** potential sites; and



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Achievements and Milestones

2nd set – National Criteria – that helps **PRIORITIZE** which sites maybe given priority for dynamic conservation.

- ❑ Mainstreaming of GIAHS in the sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and Master plan of concerned IRT-LGU and appropriate institutions/agencies;
- ❑ Identification of an appropriate institution (i.e. NCCA) to shepherd and sustain the GIAHS initiative in the Philippines;
- ❑ Availability of “long list” of candidate GIAHS sites in the Philippines



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) **Achievements and Milestones**

- ❑ Documentation of good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of IRT-GIAHS
- ❑ Compendium of important agricultural sites (regional, national and global)
- ❑ Case studies of five (5) selected candidates as GIAHS sites
- ❑ Draft Inter-agency MOA re Framework for recognition of GIAHS/NIAHS sites which incorporates the candidate sites under the national heritage system



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT) **Hurdles and Struggles**

- ❑ Need to address productivity of goods and services to maintain economic viability and interest to the indigenous agricultural and socio-cultural practices
- ❑ Harmonize indigenous traditions of construction (e.g. Manual rock-and-mud terrace construction) viz modern technologies (e.g. Concreted dikes and canals)
- ❑ Minimize the impact of modern communications and social media in maintaining traditional socio-cultural interests
- ❑ Warding off attempts to commercialize indigenous sites (e.g. Water boarding over hills and into the rice paddies)



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Next Steps and Way Forward

- ❑ Strengthen and explore synergies to ensure sustainability of GIAHS by replicating potential sites for up scaling with other proposed projects; (i.e. GIAHS Phase 2 or Agro biodiversity through GIAHS approaches or the Rice Plus – Dynamic Conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in rice and other farming systems in agricultural landscapes of the Philippines)
- ❑ Mainstreaming the dynamic conservation of agro-biodiversity (through the formulation of laws and policies) into the national plans and programs



Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Next Steps and Way Forward

- Taking into account the formulation of the Philippine Criteria and procedures for recognition, steps will be undertaken to recognize the agricultural heritage sites through the existing recognition systems of the NCCA and National Museum (e.g. Registry of Cultural Properties); National Commission on Indigenous People (ADSDPP Process); DA (NPAAD and SAFDZ); and DENR (PA Management Plan)





Ifugao Rice Terraces (IRT)

Next Steps and Way Forward

- ❑ Issuance of an Inter-agency MOA re Framework for recognition of GIAHS/NIAHS sites which incorporates the candidate sites under the national heritage system
- ❑ Recommend identified potential sites for national recognition under NIAHS and submit the same for GIAHS global recognition like the IRT



Salamat!

Haggiyo

