

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. The top half shows a patchwork of green agricultural fields, some with visible irrigation channels. A dirt path winds through the fields. In the bottom left corner, there is a dense, dark green forest. A semi-transparent brown rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title text. A thin white line extends from the right side of the title box towards the center of the image.

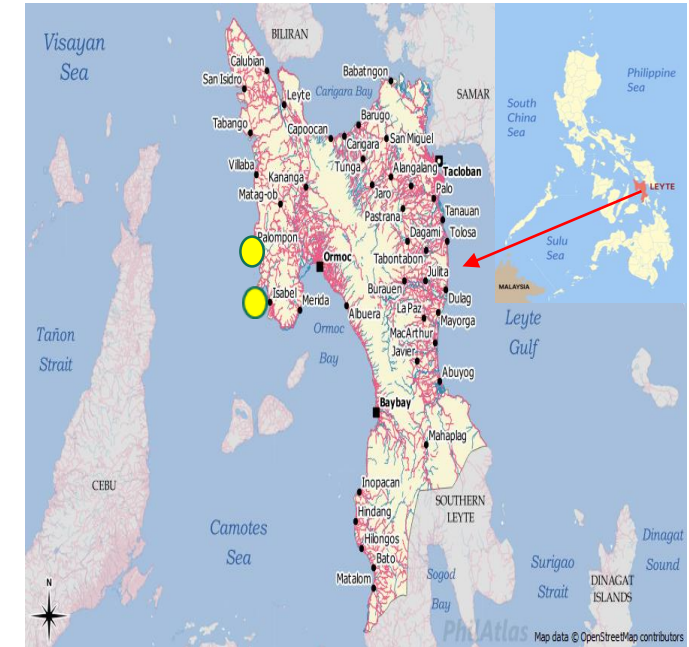
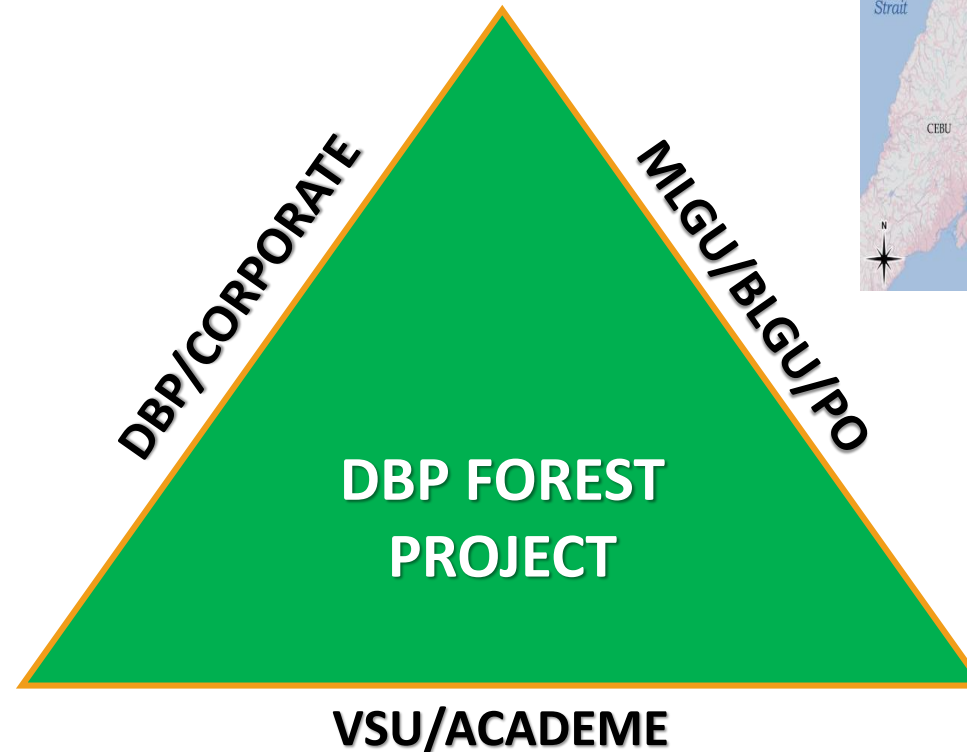
# Corporate-Public Partnership on Community-Based Forest Landscape Restoration Approach in Northwestern Leyte, Philippines

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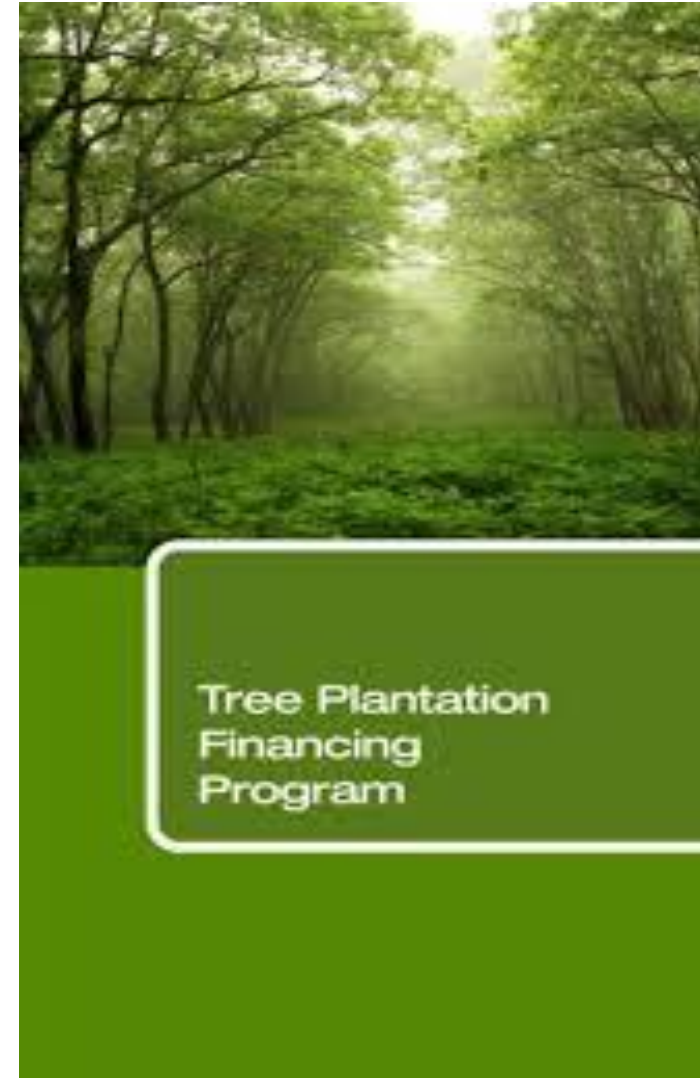
# Background

- DBP Forest Project for Upland Watershed Rehabilitation
  - Partnership project:
    - Development Bank of the Philippines
    - Local Government Units of Palompon & Isabel, Northwestern Leyte
    - With participation of POs, private corporations, DENR, local interest groups



# DBP FOREST PROGRAM

- 'Greening the Country'
  - Caring for mother earth
  - Caring for the people
  - Sustaining growth
  - Banking on trees



# DBP FOREST PROGRAM

- DBP's belief

- 'Key to protecting & improving environment is helping establish FORESTS'
  - Prevent soil erosion
  - Conserve water
  - Provide habitat to wildlife
  - Create rural livelihood opportunities

- Features:

- Protection of watershed areas
- Development of downstream industries thru forestation/agroforestry
  - **Planting of high value fruit trees**
  - **Planting of timber trees, other forest species, bamboo & ilang-ilang**
- Coastal/mangrove rehabilitation



# DBP FOREST PROGRAM

- Priority areas
  - Disaster prone areas with critical watersheds/river basin
  - Areas in watersheds for restoration
  - Critical watersheds supporting irrigation systems
  - Degraded mangroves & beach forests





# DBP FOREST PROGRAM

- DBP assistance
  - Cost of planting stock
  - Allowance for mortality: 10% cost of planting stocks
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year support for operating expenses: up to 40% cost of planting stocks
- VSU-LGU counterpart
- Assistance from other support agencies/groups
- Harvest sharing
  - 70% for partner
  - 30% for DBP





# Rationale

- Denudation of upland watershed & mangroves
  - Indiscriminate cutting of trees and burning for agriculture (slash-and-burn farming)
  - Charcoal production
  - Small-scale illegal logging





# Rationale

- Observed diminishing water supply from natural springs





# Rationale

- Rehabilitation of watershed
  - Protection & service for lowland communities
  - Protection and service for rice & other food production activities





# Project focus

- Development of protection forests using indigenous/native trees,
- Establishment of sustainable tree farms and agroforestry farms in *kaingin* areas,
- Enrichment & restoration planting of nursery-grown mangrove seedlings in open and denuded sites,

- Generate “green-based” livelihood
- Promotion/advocacy for supporting local policies & programs
- Adoption of sustainable co-management scheme with participating communities
- Linking locals to support agencies and markets



# Development Strategies: Preparatory activities

- Awareness-building/information campaign
- Community visits/partnership-building
- Creation of functional local units
  - Project Mgt. Team (PMT)
  - Brgy-based Mgt Team (BMT)
- Site identification – participatory workshops & field survey





# Community Participation

- Counter-parting scheme adopted
  - project cooperators provide counterpart labor for site preparation and planting, and maintenance
- Formal agreement between LGUs and project cooperators to ensure accountability and responsibility





# Development Strategies: Capability Development/Skills Training





# Development Strategies: Assessment and Species Selection

- Site-species suitability assessment
  - Fruit trees
  - Forest trees
  - Mangrove species



# Development Strategies: Nursery Establishment and Quality Planting Stocks Production





# Development Strategies: Procurement & dispersal of high-value grafted fruit tree

- High-value fruit trees from accredited producers





# Development Strategies: Agroforestry Farm Development

- Conversion of kaingin farms into high-value fruit tree-forest tree based agroforestry farms





# Protection Forest Development

- Critical slopes
- Ridges/mountain tops



# Maintenance and Protection in Upland and Coastal Project Sites

- Approved plantation establishment, maintenance and protection plan
  - required by the Project Management Team being the approving body
  - Brgy-based Working Unit as the ground monitoring team
- Maintenance and protection of established protection & mangrove forests - joint responsibility of project barangays and LGU-Isabel





# Monitoring and Evaluation

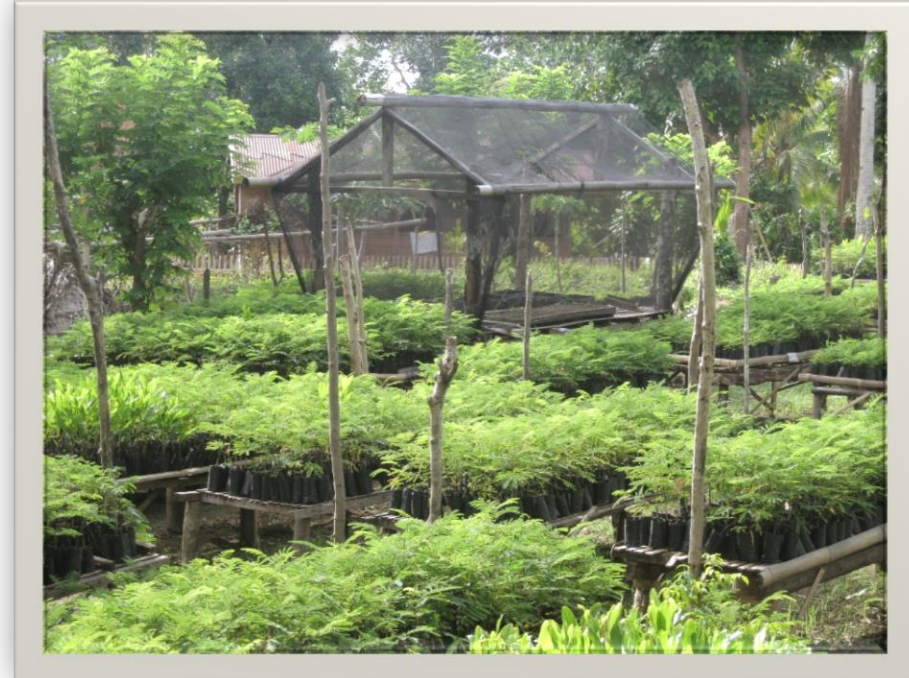
- M&E by Project Management Team
  - Done regularly
  - Semi-annual M&E for project milestone
- Project Management Team supervises project implementation
- MENRO-LGU – Head of Site Working Team: ground monitoring of project activities
- DBP Technical Team mid-term & year-end field monitoring





# Forest-based/NRM Livelihoods

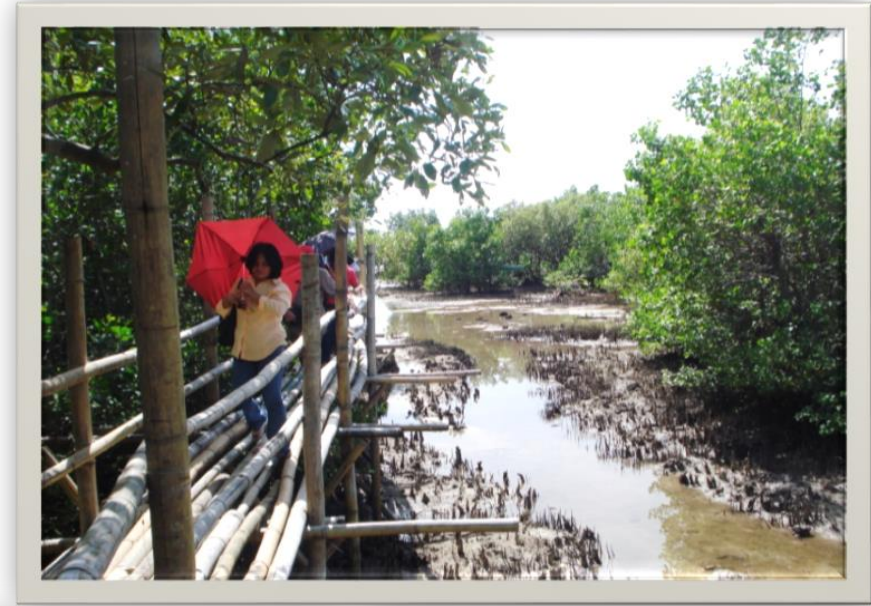
- NRM-Based Social Enterprise Development
  - Planting stock production: P 1,012,495.00
  - Cash-for-work counterpart: P 330,762.80 (as of June 2012)





# Opportunities emanating from project

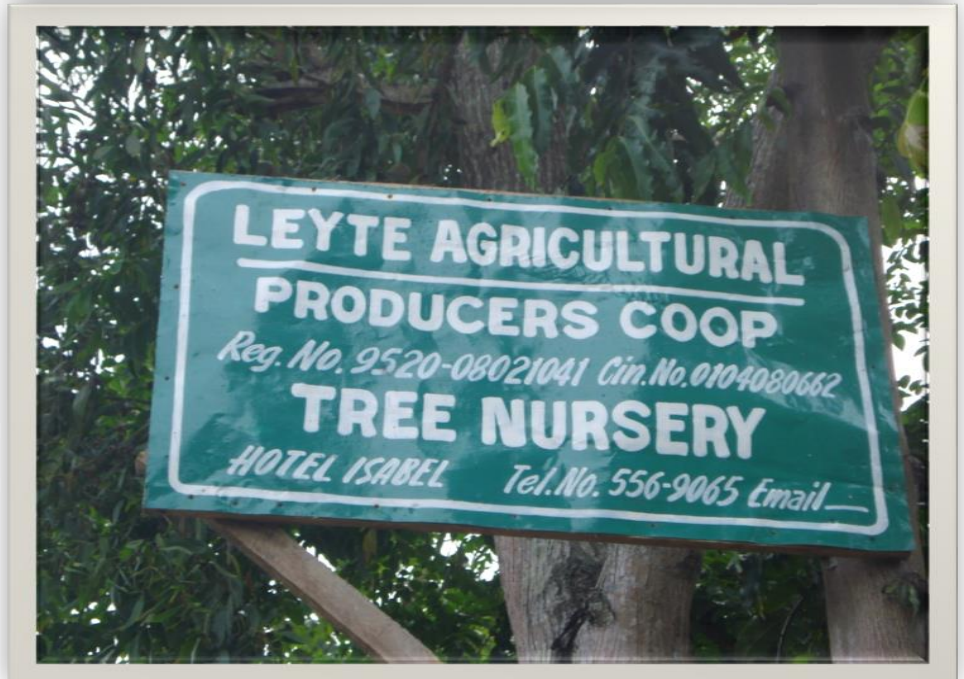
- Eco-tourism establishment
- Building-up MENR office
- Increasing support/interest of local political leaders
- Creation of municipal guideline on Tree Cutting & Harvesting
- Intensification of critical micro-watershed rehabilitation & protection





# Opportunities emanating from project

- Support to school's environment programs
  - Isabel Central School won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Municipal Sustainable Eco-friendly School Contest
- Inclusion of Environment in Annual Agri-Industrial Fair
- Capability building of local PO – Leyte Agricultural Producer Cooperative
  - Quality seedling production
  - Field development
    - Ecotourism
    - Reforestation





# Project Impacts

- Transformation of idle/abandoned lands & marginal *kaingin* farms into productive/useful lands
- Improved peoples' appreciation and engagement to forest/watershed rehabilitation activities
- Building-up of model municipal, barangay, individual household quality tree nurseries
  - Forest-based livelihood opportunity
- Organization of farmer-cooperators into farmer association
- Start to improve watershed landscape
- Forest rehabilitation as part of elementary & high school academic activities



# Conclusion & Recommendations

- DBP Forest Program showcases a forest restoration financing model & an opportunity that can stir-up local governments and communities participation and engagement.
- Corporate engagement with communities can be expanded beyond support for tree growing and agroforestry - by considering support for product processing and marketing
- Models for other corporate financing schemes for community-based forest landscape restoration had been tried to succeed, which are worth piloting in other sites, eg. Pampanga State University's Private Corporation-Supported Reforestation Program in Mount Arayat, Pampanga, Philippines.



# Thank You

