



A bold action against illegal logging...

DEFENSOR CANCELS INITIAL 276 FOREST TENURIAL AGREEMENTS

As a signal to correct the system of tenurial agreements nationwide, DENR Secretary Michael Defensor last December 8 initially cancelled 276 tenurial agreements on forestlands: 43 Industrial Forest Management Agreements (IFMAs) and 233 Community-based Forest Management Agreements (CBFMAs), mostly in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) and Region 11 (Davao Provinces). The cancellation comes after DENR's review of these licenses since February 2005.

More than 8,000 various forest tenurial agreements--- a few TLAs, 200 IFMAs, 3,000 SIFMAs and 5,000 CBFMAs--- nationwide existed before Defensor took over DENR September 2005.

These licenses were scrapped because of DENR's discovery of violations of the terms and conditions of the

agreements and the provisions of various department administrative orders. The CBFMAs have apparently been used as shelters for illegal logging in the natural forests and tree plantations owned by the government.

Defensor said the logging situation in the country should immediately be corrected. Though there is a prevailing impression that all logging operations, whether legal or illegal, have caused the unwarranted degradation of the country's forests, Defensor said there should be a distinction between those who faithfully comply with regulations and those who do not. He added that the government should show to the public that legal, commercial logging could be efficient and sustainable, which is possible with operating only 1.5 million to 2.3 million hectares of forestland to meet the need the country's need for wood.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!

FROM PHILIPPINE WOOD PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Under Certain Conditions

CONTROLLED LOGGING ALLOWED IN DAVAO REGION

Regulated timber harvesting in Davao region's private plantations, IFMAs, TLAs and CBFMAs received the green light from DENR Secretary Michael T. Defensor recently. His memo dated November 16, 2005 also stipulated the following conditions: Certificate of Timber/Lumber Origin (CTO/ CLO) issued by the Central Of-

implementation of strict anti-illegal logging measures and monitoring of activities of existing WPPs and operations in areas under forest tenure instruments.

Defensor issued an earlier memorandum (October 20, 2005)

(Continued on page 2)

The Country's First.....

ARMM Enacts Sustainable Forest Law

The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) recently passed the country's first law on sustainable forest management, paving the way for the planned protection of the region's remaining forests.

In passing this law--- Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act (MMA) No. 161, otherwise known as the Regional Sustainable Forest Management Act which also incorporates the Shariah laws on forestry practices-- the ARMM Regional Assembly preempted Philippine Congress' long-awaited approval of the act on national sustainable management of Philippine forest which had been pending since the 10th Congress.

Ferres-guerra, information officer of the Philippine Environmental Governance (Ecogov) which helped ARMM craft the law, explained that ARMM is the only region with this kind of law because ARMM's forests are severely threatened.

As of last year, the forests of ARMM consisted of closed canopy forests (primary growth rainforests), open-canopy forests (natural second growth, plantation, and other forests) and mangroves (swamp and tidal zone forests) with areas of 119,607

hectares, 123,002 hectares, 53,620 hectares, respectively.

Forestry regulations applying to the rest of the country are embodied in PD 705, a martial law decree issued in 1975, which even the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) considers outdated.

MMA 161 compels the region's local governments to adopt forest management plans which prescribe

MMA 161 compels the region's local governments to adopt forest management plans which prescribe the forests to be protected and those which could be economically exploited under certain conditions.

the forests to be protected and those which could be economically exploited under certain conditions. It mandates local governments to prioritize forest protection and development which must be initiated by indigenous communities instead of commercial firms.

The law bans commercial logging in protected areas, prioritizes the rehabilitation of all watershed areas and promotes ecotourism as it institutionalizes local communities' participation in governance to prevent anomalies in forest activities.

The implementing rules and regulation of MMA No. 161 are expected to be approved soon by ARMM's Regional Assembly.

Regulated Logging Measures Allowed

(Continued from page 1)

to implement anti-illegal logging measures--- prompted by documented illegal logging cases in the region and subsequent complaints raised by some members of Congress in its hearing earlier that month. The memo ordered: Cancellation of all existing operations plans and other similar permits; ban on the movement of logs/lumber, and ban on processing/milling of stockpiled logs until their sources have been verified.

The PWPA appealed to the DENR not to generalize the implementation of said memorandum by exempting its members from the suspension order. It explained that active PWPA members legitimately operating in the region--- like C. Alcantara and Sons, Inc., Baganga Plywood Corp., San Manuel Wood Products Inc., Mindanao Omega Industries Corp., Consolidated Plywood Industries, Inc., and Mintrade Corp.--- will suffer incalculable business losses; and that these companies adhered to DENR policies.

The DENR responded to the PWPA request on October 25, 2005, 2005; allowing all wood processing plants to resume milling operations of their stockpiled logs after verification of their sources; and issuing them the required certificates of origin of their milled/manufactured wood products. These twin moves not only would allow wood processing but also enable the timely transport of wood products to meet domestic and foreign supply commitments.

<p>WoodStock</p> <p>Bi-monthly publication of the Philippine Wood Producers Association</p>	<p>EDITORIAL BOARD</p> <p>Antonio C. Olizon, Chairman of the Board</p> <p>Fernando A. Lu, President</p> <p>L.D. Angeles, Managing Editor</p>	<p>E-mail us at :</p> <p>pwpa@greendot.com.ph</p> <p>for your comments, feedback or letters to the Editor</p>
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Defensor Confirms: No more logging in Samar

DENR Secretary Michael Defensor recently confirmed reports--- attributed to Samar, Leyte and Biliran bishops that he had given them his personal commitment last December 2--- that San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC), reportedly owned by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, would not be allowed to resume logging operations in the Island of Samar.

SJTC counsel Napoleon Poblador said, however, that Defensor may have been misquoted, noting that there had been no legal move (by the oppositors) to question the lifting of the moratorium on logging operations in Samar.

At a news conference where he announced the cancellation of 276 forest management agreements, Defensor said Borongan Bishop Leonardo Medroso was not misquoted when he told reporters about the former's commitment. Medroso announced after meeting with Defensor that the environment secretary had assured the bishops that SJTC would not resume logging operations in Samar.

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As a result, the bishops called off an anti-logging and anti-mining caravan rally scheduled for Dec. 5, and their plan to collect 200,000 signatures to petition President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to cancel SJTC's logging permit.

The Church, environment groups and provincial governments in Samar Island have opposed the DENR decision to uphold the SJTC timber license agreement (TLA) covering 95,770-ha area inside the 330,000-ha Samar Island Nature Park.

They claimed that Defensor upheld SJTC's TLA as a condition for his confirmation as DENR secretary in June by the Commission on Appointments. Enrile is one of its members.

Together with the other licensees, the DENR stopped SJTC's operations in 1989 as part of a logging moratorium in Samar for an inventory of the island's remaining forests and to study the recent flood's causes. The moratorium was not lifted by subsequent Environment secretaries until a large part of Samar island was proclaimed in 1996 as a forest reserve and in 2003 as a nature park.

Did you know that...

White cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) is the world's **slowest growing tree**

After 155 years, a white cedar tree found on a cliffside of the Canadian Great Lakes area--- grew to a height of 4 in. and weighed only 17 g, averaging a growth of 0.11 g each year.

General Sherman tree, the giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) is the worlds **most massive living tree**

Growing in the Sequoia National Park, California, USA, it stands 83.82m tall, with a diameter of 11.1 m and a girth of 31.3 m. The trunk has a volume of 1,487 m³. This tree is estimated to contain the equivalent of 606,100 board feet of timber and its red-brown bark may be up to 61 cm thick in parts. Its weight, including the root system, is estimated at 2000 tonnes.

Stratosphere Giant is the world's **tallest living tree**

Measuring 112.7 m as of July 2004, this coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) was discovered by Chris Atkins (USA) in August 2000 in the Rockefeller Forest of the Humboldt Redwoods State Park, California, USA.

(Source: www.guinnessworldrecords.com)

Announcement!!!

The proceedings of the Philippine Forestry Development Forum held in June, 2005 at ADB can now be downloaded. Join our continuing Forum through our website.

www.philforestforum.com

You can also e-mail us at philforest@greendot.com.ph

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as of January 20, 2006:

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CARP Author Named Land Reform Presidential Adviser

Comprehensive Agrarian Reform (CARP) proponent and former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez has recently been appointed as presidential adviser for land reform by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Alvarez authored CARP, also known as Republic Act (RA) 6658, in 1988 in his first Senate term. It became the Aquino administration's centerpiece program.

Before becoming senator, Alvarez became the first minister of agrarian reform during Aquino's term.

Alvarez said agrarian reform is a basic tool in the current administration's ten-point agenda to fight poverty and implement the objectives of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

He also co-authored laws on the Cooperative Code which increased Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. capitalization from P750 million to P2 billion; opened credit facilities from P200 million to P20 billion for countryside projects through the Expanded Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp.; improved the Agrarian Reform Fund from P50 billion to P100 billion; and upped members of the DAR Adjudication Board to expedite resolution of agrarian disputes.

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Haribon Foundation Calls for Rainforest Restoration

Solicit support from various stakeholders to its so-called Road to 2020.

This was the main objective of the national consultation sponsored by Haribon Foundation supported by funds from the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands. Almost a hundred participants from the government and non-government organizations attended the November 16-18, 2005 (Imperial Palace Suites, Quezon City) meetings.

Road to 2020 targets a million hectares of forestland for restoration or that must remain as natural/native forest, in the eastern parts of the country, and using the so-called "rainforestation" technology in order to achieve forest biodiversity.

The main papers read during the consultation dealt with: Loss of biodiversity due to deforestation; shot-gun approach to, and, hence failure of, reforestation/forest cover restoration; the prevalent practice of using of fast-growing non-indigenous tree species in plantations; and the application of rainforestation technology in restoring native forest and biodiversity.

Workshop participants agreed that rainforestation technology could be adopted in protection forestlands containing old-growth forest and adequately-stocked residual forest (ASLO).

The participants did not dispute the time-tested selective logging system (SLS), conjunctively with its Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) and enrichment planting (EP) or assisted natural regeneration (ANR), as prescribed by the government in production forestland, and SLS actually already subsumes the so-called rainforestation technology.

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The participants also accepted that the science-based nurse-climax method of initiating forestation is better adopted in grassland, open and denuded forestland in speeding-up forest recovery than direct, immediate rainforestation (with native species).

The establishment of tree plantations---with fast-growing species because of yield productivity, commercial importance and economic returns--- has been acknowledged by the participants as a distinct

forestry management practice that should be let by itself in order to produce wood needed by the country.

PWPA through its president Fernando A. Lu, EVP Alfonso C. Keh, Jr., director-VP Florio M. Buñag, executive director Leonardo A. Angeles, adviser Jose A. Lorenzo, Forestry and Environment coordinator Maila R. Vasquez, Richard Ng of LUZMATIM and Forester Emmanuel Aragonés of IDC attended the dialogue.

Average Plywood and Substitute Prices: NCR Survey

	Before (Dec. 15, 2005)	Now (Jan. 9, 2006)		Before (Dec. 15, 2005)	Now (Jan. 9, 2006)
	(in Pesos/piece)			(in Pesos)	
3mm (1/8) plywood	220	240	18 mm (3/4) plyboard	700	665
4 mm (3/16) plywood	273	263	1/8 lawanit	148	163
5 mm (1/4) plywood ordinary	293	284	3/16 lawanit	217	225
5 mm (1/4) plywood marine	344	333	1/4 Hardiflex	332	338
10 mm (1/2) plywood	496	487			
18 mm (3/4) plywood ordinary	810	761			
			Note: all pick-up prices inclusive of VAT		

RP log and lumber imports at a glance

The Philippines has become a heavy importer of logs and lumber products which the country used to export decades back, according to the National Statistics Office (NSO).

These log and lumber imports come from various parts of the world, among them Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Brazil, Germany and South Africa.

1989-2003 saw the country importing 7.7 million cubic meters of logs cumulatively valued at \$ 925.6 million. The Philippines began

importing logs in 1989, when 397,296 cubic meters valued at \$ 29.82 million came to our shores.

Log importation peaked in 1996 when the country shipped in 877,585 cu m (\$ 127.412 million). The figure slid down to 768,474 cu m (\$117.82 million) in 1997 and further down to 584,759 cu m (\$ 54.34 million) in 2000.

Latest NSO figures indicate that the country bought 355,787 cu m of logs (\$ 33.1 million) in 2003.

Imports from 1993-2003: 4.26 million cu m of lumber (\$ 1.03 billion).

The Philippines became a big lumber importer in 1993 when it bought 462,941 cu m worth \$ 45.24 million. Lumber importation peaked in 1996 when the country externally sourced 567,426 cu m valued at \$ 161.97 million. The figure went down to 411,657 cu m in 1998.

In 1999, however, imports went up again to 381,235 cu m and further to 401,086 cu m in 2002 before it settled at 338,064 cu m in 2003.

Importation of wood products, culled by PWWA from DENR Philippine Forestry Statistics:

FIVE-YEAR WOOD-SUPPLY OF THE PHILIPPINES

Log Supply, 000 cum												
Source/Year	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		5-Yr.- AVERAGE	
Local	717		800		571		403		501		600	
Import	584		585		551		434		356		500	
Export	15		-		5		1		<1		Nil	
ADC	1,286		1,358		1,117		836		856		1,100	
% import ADC	45%		43%		49%		52%		42%		46%	
Primary Wood Products Supply, 000 cum												
Source/Year	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		5-Yr.- AVERAGE	
Local	556		615		744		718		933		700	
Import	520		486		493		504		479		500	
Export	75		136		115		119		139		120	
ADC	1,001		965		1,122		1,103		1,273		1,080	
% import ADC	52%		50%		44%		46%		30%		46%	
Aggregate Export-Import, 000US\$												
Products/Year	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003		5-Yr.- AVERAGE	
	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
Logs	4	69,450	16	54,341	157	44,707	43	40,613	1	33,108	45	50,000
Primary Wood	15,386	157,571	27,447	117,136	20,704	119,594	23,128	137,796	20,160	158,227	20,000	140,000
Downstream Wood	243,396	9,035	334,345	12,250	233,365	5,479	238,551	6,125	245,065	9,473	260,000	10,000
Total	258,786	236,056	361,808	183,727	254,226	169,780	261,722	184,534	265,226	200,808	280,045	200,000

Source: Philippine Forestry Statistics, FMB/DENR. Data for 2003 are preliminary as provided by FMB/DENR. Compilation by L. D. Angeles.

Note: Primary wood products refer to lumber, veneer and plywood and downstream wood products refer to furniture of wood and manufactured articles of wood. Export in terms of fob and import in terms of cif. Five-year average in rounded figures.

WELCOME YEAR OF THE DOG... ER... EARTHWORM

By Ferdie Lu

Happy New Year! Welcome the year of the Dog. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been boasting about the upturn of the economy with the strong showing of the Philippine Peso and the drop of interests rates to an all time low since the latter part of 2002. Let's pray that this will indeed be a better year for all of us. Hopefully, our industry does not go to the dogs!

The heavy rains in December again sent jitters to the officers of PWPA. We don't want a repeat of what happened last year when a nationwide suspension of logging operations was imposed after unusually heavy rains caused disastrous floods and mudslides in Southern Aurora and Northern Quezon.

We sympathize with the inhabitants of the areas that suffered extensive flooding due to heavy downpours. On the other hand, we also thank DENR Secretary Defensor for immediately clarifying that logging (and mining) had nothing to do with the floods. This was very evident in the island of Mindoro where there were no (legal) commercial logging for the past decades.

Biologist and earthworm expert Dante Flores, in an article published by (the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI), claims that Brazilian earthworms are tell-tale signs that an area has been logged-over. It is said that worm's excretion becomes compact and blocks the entry of water into the soil thereby facilitating floods. "If you want to stop flash-floods, you really need other earthworms because they bore holes, which make it easier for the rain to go straight to the roots of the trees," Flores said.

In his study these past three years, Flores said that Brazilian earthworms, which usually thrive in the lowlands, come with tree species used for replanting after a forest has been logged over. The trees are often taken from the lowlands where the Brazilian earthworms are found. We would like to conclude that the Brazilian earthworms were not caused by logging rather, by the replanting of non-indigenous tree species.

Worm experts should perhaps explore uses for Brazilian earthworms. We recall that wormburgers, a great source of protein, become a fad sometime ago and vermiculturists were raising worms for this exotic delicacy. Can this be a source of income for upland dwellers?

Officers of the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) and the PWPA met in an informal dinner prior to an official meeting hosted by Undersecretary Tom Aquino of DTI. Issues discussed

were raw material sourcing and reduction of tariff on certain imported wood materials for furniture making. It was agreed in principle that both associations would work hard at fostering better cooperation and support each other's needs. PWPA hosted the first informal meeting so CFIP promised to host the next.

At the DTI meeting, PWPA agreed on a stay of the present tariff rate of plywood rather than pursue an increase of 5%. It was also agreed that there would not be any objection to the further lowering of tariff on MDF products. Both associations also agreed on market matching for each other's benefit. CFIP helped a lot in the lifting of the nationwide logging suspension last year.

The reinstatement of the license of San Jose Timber Corporation (SJTC) drew many negative reactions from the clergy, environmentalists, media and some members of Congress. While its license was arbitrarily suspended during the Aquino administration, the lifting of SJTC's TLA is misconstrued as political quid-pro-quo. After a meeting with several bishops in Samar, Secretary Defensor seemed to have backtracked on his decision to allow SJTC to resume operations.

Atty. Manuel Joseph Bretaña of the Castillo-Zamora Poblador law firm, counsel for SJTC, accompanied by the company's representatives met with PWPA officers. Early on, several media personalities were hounding chairman Tony Olizon for comments. But since SJTC preferred to be the only source of statements on the issue, Tony parried all the requests for interview.

Another visitor of PWPA was Ms. Amy Colayco of the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. Bem came to announce the holding of Global Vision 2006, an international wood conference in conjunction with New Zealand Forest Industries Exhibition 2006 in Rotorua, New Zealand from March 8 to 11, 2006. (See separate article on page 11)

The Board of Directors held its final meeting for the year last December 14th at the Good Earth Oriental Cuisine at the Fort. There was almost perfect attendance save for a couple of directors who were out of town. A sumptuous dinner was served and thereafter, a simple exchange gift among directors and staff transpired.

(PWPA President Ferdie Lu will now write the column, Here Comes the Eagle, in lieu of Wood for Thought column of erstwhile PWPA President, now Chairman of the Board Tony Olizon.)

Greater Challenge: Balancing Restoration and Development

by Stewart Maginnis and
William Jackson

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is a tool for ensuring that forest restoration complements development at the landscape scale

DEFORESTATION and forest degradation have altered many of the world's tropical forest landscapes, with just 42% of remaining forest cover (or 18% of original forest cover) in the tropics left in large, contiguous tracts. At least 830 million hectares of tropical forest are confined to fragmented blocks, of which perhaps 500 million hectares are either degraded primary or secondary tropical forest.

In addition to the large area of fragmented tropical forest, 350 million hectares of former forest land can no longer be classified as forest because of the extent through which they have been degraded by fire, land clearance and destructive harvesting practices. Such areas often remain in a state of arrested succession because the conditions do not support secondary forest regeneration or conversion to other productive land-uses. These areas lack nearly all forest-related attributes (structure, function, productivity, composition) and constitute the greater part of degraded forest landscapes. Another 400 million hectares of productive agricultural land still retain significant tree components. Despite the fact that forest fragmentation, modification and degradation have shaped so many of the world's remaining tropical forests, many national forest strategies still tend to focus on how best to manage and protect intact forests. And, even when national forest programs and strategies put a premium on restoration, they tend to focus on the establishment of industrial roundwood plantations. Forest landscape restoration (FLR) builds on the growing realization

that such strategies alone are insufficient to guarantee a healthy, productive and biologically rich forest estate in the longer term.

What has been missing so far?

Conventional responses to the fragmentation and degradation of forest resources could hardly, on their own, restore the full range of forest-related goods and services required by society. Plantation forestry, for example, definitely has a place in FLR. On their own however, industrially oriented plantations will rarely replace all forest functions which have been lost or compromised through landscape-level deforestation, fragmentation and degradation. We therefore need to 'create' space within the landscape so that other complementary restoration strategies can be deployed. 'Dominant use' is a perfectly legitimate approach to site-level activities, while the achievement of 'multiple functionality' should be the goal of landscape-level management. Thus, a landscape must be configured so that it accommodates plantations, protected reserves, ecological corridors and stepping stones, regenerating secondary forests and agro-forestry systems (or other agricultural systems that make use of on-farm trees) as the foundation of multiple functionality. Taking a landscape-level perspective into account in site-level management results not only in potentially healthier landscapes, but also in improved stand-level management. Two case-studies highlighted two key principles critical to building a landscape perspective into decision-making:

- **Meaningful public participation:** As many as 500 million people live within modified and degraded forest landscapes in humid tropics and are dependent on both agricultural and forest resources for their livelihood.

Practitioners need to realize that landscapes, especially modified or degraded ones, have many different stakeholder groups — each with its own peculiar needs and priorities. FLR seeks not only to take local people's needs into account but also to involve them actively in decision-making and implementation; and

- **Balancing land-use trade-offs:** It is common to hear about the need for win-win solutions, that is, where two independent outcomes (such as biodiversity conservation and economic development) are maximized through a single intervention. Win-win outcomes, however, are extremely rare, particularly at the site level. Trade-offs happen always, especially when two sets of priorities are involved and compromise solutions result. Without a landscape perspective, the same types of compromises tend to be repeated over and over again until key forest-related functions are lost from the landscape. Under an FLR approach, the ecological and economic benefits of FLR complement other approaches to economic development at the landscape scale. Many of the challenges to making forest landscape restoration work are social, legal and political in nature. For example, ambiguity over ownership rights for timber trees growing on private or communal agricultural land in Ghana during the '80s and '90s resulted in many farmers 'ring-barking' ecologically and economically valuable trees. Persuading farmers to invest in tree-planting became impossible even if it seemed apparent that they would benefit agronomically. In spite of these problems, though, opportunities still abound for practitioners to make decisions using a landscape perspective.

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Greater Challenge: Balancing Restoration and Development

The Shinyanga case-study

The Shinyanga region in Tanzania used to be covered with dense acacia and miombo woodland, but by 1985 much of the landscape became semi-desert. Significant areas of forests had been cleared under colonial tsetse fly eradication schemes and some of the remaining areas were converted to cash crops such as cotton and rice in the 1970s. In 1975 many residents were relocated under the government's 'villagisation' program, which meant that they had to leave their homes, their farms and, most significantly, their *ngitili* — their enclosures of acacia-miombo woodland.

The Sukuma have long relied on *ngitili* to provide them with dry-season fodder for their cattle, firewood and other essential products. But by 1985, a mere 1000 hectares of *ngitili* remained across the entire region. Previous government land rehabilitation initiatives relied mostly on exotic species and largely failed, so in 1985, government foresters started to consult with the local people as to what strategy might succeed. The response was almost unanimous — prioritize *ngitili* restoration.

The first task of the new program (HASHI) was to raise awareness about the importance of restoring forest resources within a degraded landscape context. Farmers and communities obtained help to select the most promising sites for their *ngitili*, as well as advice on how to manage them. Besides giving advice to individual farmers, HASHI also worked closely with the dagashida, the traditional community assemblies that lay down and enforce customary by-laws. It wasn't long before the *ngitili* were transforming the lives of tens of thousands of people. In Mwendakulima village, for example, where animal fodder and forest product shortages were common, the villagers removed the grazing pressure from 105 hectares of severely de-

graded land in 1987 and the site was soon colonized through natural regeneration. Income from *ngitili* now supports the Shinyanga region's basic social services such as the construction of primary schools and the employment of local village health workers. Some villages have anecdotal evidence that water supply has also improved because of the *ngitili*.

The HASHI project recently sampled 172 out of the 800 villages in the Shinyanga region. They enumerated over 15,000 individual and communal *ngitili* covering around 70,000 hectares. When one considers that this pattern of woodland restoration has also occurred in other 628 surveyed villages, it is probable that over 350,000 hectares of once-degraded forest land had been restored in less than 20 years (Barrow, et al.2002).

What makes forest landscape restoration different?

The concept of FLR is different from many other restoration-orientated technical responses for several reasons:

- It focuses restoration decisions on how best to restore **forest functionality** (that is, the goods, services and processes that forests deliver), rather than on simply maximizing new forest cover;
- It encourages the practitioner to take site-based decisions within a **landscape context**, ensuring, at the very least, that such decisions do not reduce the quality or quantity of forest-related functions at a landscape level;
- It requires that **local needs** are addressed and balanced alongside national-level priorities and requirements for reforestation, thus making **local stakeholder involvement** in planning and management decisions an essential component;

- While promoting the need for site-level specialization, it strongly discourages actions that would result in **human well-being** being traded off against ecological integrity at the landscape level, or vice versa. Such trade-offs are unsustainable and tend to be counterproductive in the medium to long term;
- It recognises that neither the solutions to complex land-use problems nor the outcomes of a particular course of action can be predicted accurately, especially as ecosystems and land-use patterns change over time. FLR is therefore built on **adaptive management** and requires that necessary provision is made for monitoring and learning; and
- Given the complex challenge of restoration, FLR will normally require a package of tools.

Over the long term, FLR cannot be driven solely by good technical interventions but will require supportive local and national policy frameworks. In many situations it is likely that policy change will follow to support good innovative practice. Therefore, if FLR is to succeed, practitioners need to familiarize themselves with how other land-use policies impact the restoration and management of forests. They also need to convince both policymakers and local communities of the benefits of FLR — and to show that these will actually materialize.

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- (Source: Tropical Forest Update 2005 Volume 15 No. 2)

Paje: Our Strength Lies In Natural Resources

DENR undersecretary for environment and forestry Paje, said in a joint meeting of the Rotary Club (RC) of Alabang and RC of Las Piñas West, that of the country's great internal strengths is its natural resources.

He said that our land area of about 30 million hectares and a water resource of 400 million hectares must be managed properly. A vast area of water with continental shelves under it presents an opportunity to find ten or more Malampaya-like natural gas fields to enable the country to export natural gas. He also cited the benefits to be derived from the sea and from freshwater.

He mentioned that in the next 5 years, water could fuel cars and the country--- which produces 900 M to 1 B m³ of water but only consumes 600 m³--- could fuel all cars with water.

He advocates encouraging the private sector, including foreign investors, to develop these natural resources, but says that we can only do this if we have the proper constitutional framework, legislation and enforcement.

He explained that he sees nothing wrong with foreigners owning some of our forests and other natural resources because they cannot bring these out of the country anyway in the event that they pull out their investment. He also advocates planting more trees in Metro Manila.

PWPA Board and Staff Observe the Merry Season

The PWPA Board of Directors celebrated the Christmas season in a yuletide party coinciding with the Board meeting last December 14, 2005.

The simple get together, held at Good Earth Oriental Cuisine at Fort, Global City, Taguig, culminated with an exchange of gifts among the board members and the PWPA staff who all enjoyed the sumptuous food and flowing drinks.



PWPA Board of Directors, Guests & Staff members - Chairman Antonio Olizon, President Fernando Lu, Chair Emeritus Antonio Bernas, EVP Alfonso Keh, Jr., Ms. Edith Alcantara, Messrs. Florio Buñag, Charlie Liu, Evaristo Narvaez, Jr. Alex Ong, Stanley Tan, Ramon Uy and Wellington Yao, also present are Messrs. Richmond & Richard Ng, Joe Valenzuela (LUZMATIM), Jose Lorenzo, Ding Angeles and Staff.

PWPA Pangasinan Chapter Hold Events

The PWPA Pangasinan Chapter held its general membership meeting last November 30 at the Am-am Restaurant, Dagupan City with OIC Chapter president Conrado F. Chua facilitating discussions with 44 active members on Chapter problems and projects, like the renewal of lumber dealership permits and a tree planting program with government agencies and local schools.

The Chapter celebrated Christmas with a party--- preceded by a seminar on wood products--- on December 17 at the Star Plaza Hotel, Dagupan City.

PWPA Central office manager Regino M. Serafico and industry coordinator Ricardo M. Patawaran attended both events and expressed PWPA's support to the Chapter's projects.

MUST READ!

New Zealand Forest Industries 2006 International Exhibition & Conference

New Zealand Trade and Enterprise invites PWPA members to attend the **New Zealand Forest Industries Show 2006** (FI2006), 8-11 March 2006, in Rotorua, New Zealand.

FI2006 showcases the best of New Zealand's forest and wood processing industry, from advanced research into tree breeding to sustainable plantation forest management, environmental harvesting techniques and advanced wood processing technology. Activities during the four-day event includes international exhibition and conference, technical seminars and workshops, industry tailored tours/site visits and related social and networking events.

To make the most of your visit to New Zealand, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise can help arrange business matching opportunities and coordinate site visits to New Zealand companies of most interest to the participants.

Profiles of New Zealand companies represented in the event are in the **Wood Technology Catalogue**. Copy may be obtained through Ramoncito Bernales or Amy Colayco who may also be able to help with your itinerary. Telephone number: **891 4625**. Fax 891 5458. Email ramoncito.bernales@nzte.govt.nz, amy.colayco@nzte.govt.nz

Visit website forestevents.co.nz for more information on New Zealand Forest Industries 2006.

Contributed by: Ms. Amy S. Colayco, Trade Development Executive, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise

Administrative Adjudication Case Dismissed

In the October-November 2005 issue of Woodstock, a PWPA member--- Minrico Lumber Enterprises Co., Inc.--- was noted to have allegedly shipped illegal logs, lumber and fitches, resulting in an administrative adjudication case in recent months. Due to the disinterest of the DENR, however, the case against Minrico had been dismissed.

TRADE INQUIRIES

<p>===== PWPA Mail Delivery System =====</p> <p>Online Message Inquiry From:Martin V. Santos Email: martin_santos@telus.net Company:Quality Wood Export</p> <p>Dear Sir/ Madam,</p> <p>We are looking for major suppliers of kiln dried A- Grade Falcata Lumber, 1 5/8" thick x 4" & wider x 54/56" long. We prefer to deal with at least 2 suppliers who each one can supply us 200,000 bf per month for a long term requirement.</p> <p>We are also interested in leasing a warehouse/ plant that has end trim saws and multi-rip saws and preferably with a container loading ramp.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for all the leads you can refer us. We will fly out to Mindanao once we could make any deal and start the operation.</p> <p>Sincerely yours, Martin V. Santos Quality Wood Export</p>	<p>British Columbia, Canada Cell 1 604 854 0920 Fax 1 604 814 3568 martin_santos@telus.net</p> <p>End of Message</p> <p>===== PWPA Mail Delivery System =====</p> <p>Online Message Inquiry From:MYLENE MALVAR Email: my_m@armadillo.ph Company:ARMADILLO HOLDINGS INC.</p> <p>I WOULD LIKE TO INQUIRE IF WE CAN BUY LOGS AND SOLID WOOD FROM LOG DEALERS HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES TO BE USED FOR ARCHITECTURAL PURPOSES ONLY?</p> <p>End of Message</p> <p>===== PWPA Mail Delivery System =====</p>
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Former PWPA Admin Officer Passes Away

PWPA condoles with the family of former PWPA administrative officer Celia Ducay, who died in a tragedy recently when her residence burned. She served PWPA for almost 35 years and retired in 1999.

PWPA directors, officers and staff members went to her wake at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels at Sucat, Parañaque City.

While we are mourning the loss of our friend, others are rejoicing to meet him behind the veil. ~John Taylor

08 November 2005

Regular Plywood Council Meeting
Jade Garden, Greenbelt 1, Makati City
HOST: Surigao Development Corp.

15 November 2005

Consultation meeting between PWPA and DENR Special Concern office director Nilo Tamoria, Deputy Head, Anti-illegal Task Force Max Restaurant, Quezon City

16-18 November 2005

3-day National Consultation on Philippine Rainforest Restoration, sponsored by the Haribon Foundation, Imperial Palace Suites, Tomas Morato-Timog Ave., Q. C.

23 November 2005

Regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors
PWPA Office, Makati City

30 November 2005

PWPA General Membership Meeting
(Pangasinan Chapter)
Am-am Restaurant, Dagupan City

01 December 2005

Dialogue-meeting between CFIP-PWPA
hosted by Export Development Council re: raw material supply,
BOI Bldg, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

07 December 2005

Dialogue-meeting between PWPA and San Jose Timber Corp.
counsel and representatives
PWPA Office, Makati City

14 December 2005

PWPA Board Meeting & Christmas Party of the Board of Directors
Good Earth Restaurant, The Fort
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.

15 December 2005

Plywood Council Meeting & Christmas Party
Gloria Maris, Greenhills, San Juan
HOST: Asia-Pacific Timber & Plywood Corp.



The Philippine Wood Producers Association
3/F LTA Condominium Building
118 Perea Street, Legaspi Village,
Makati City 1229
PHILIPPINES

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