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*Parks, people, planet:*

*inspiring solutions*

# Improving and Diversifying the Philippines' National PA System

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# Philippines:

## A MEGA-BIODIVERSITY COUNTRY



Together with 17 other countries, host  
70-80% of the world's biodiversity

More than half of its 52,177 described  
species are found nowhere else in the  
world

On a per unit area basis, Philippines  
harbor more diversity of life than any  
other country on the planet



One of the hottest biodiversity  
hotspots in the world



# Protected Areas in the Philippines

240 protected areas = 5.44 M ha

170 terrestrial PAs = 4.06 M ha

70 marine PAs = 1.38 M ha

Huge ecological gaps

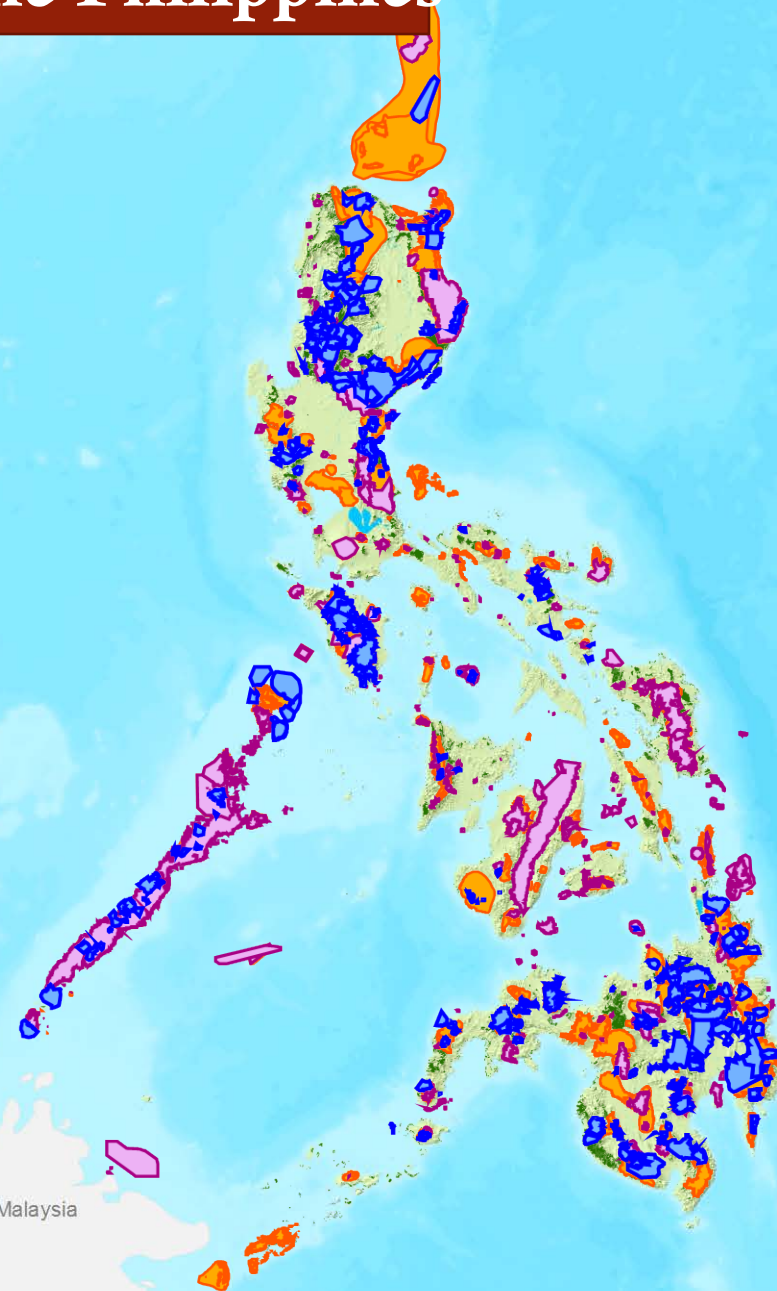
Only 35% of PAs are within KBAs

69 KBAs still lack government protection

Formal gazettement through NIPAS takes years:

Only 13 of 240 PAs are legislated in 20 years

113 PAs covered by Presidential Proclamations



# Improving and Diversifying Philippines PA System

- To recognize strength of local and traditional governance in conservation
- To improve ecological coverage, strengthen connectivity
- To share benefits equitably
- To leverage support (UNDP, GIZ, national)





# OTHER Forms of Governance

- **LOCAL CONSERVATION AREAS**

- Designated by LGUs
- Established through LGU Ordinances *by LGUs*
- *Existing Laws – LGU Code and Fisheries Code*

- **INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS**

- Recognition of areas conserved by indigenous peoples within their ancestral domains (may consist of sacred places, burial grounds, sustainable hunting areas)
- Existing Laws – IPRA Law





# Establishment of Conservation Areas by Local Governments (LCAs)

- Capitalize on LGU presence, commitments and social capital
- LGU interests in protecting watersheds, highly vulnerable areas, promote ecotourism
- Networks, corridors, expansion of existing PAs, inter LGU LCAs
- Greater prospects of protection and mainstreaming in local development plan
- High potential for greater coverage: almost half (45%) of the country's municipalities are located in KBAs





# Recognition of ICCAs

- 7 pilots to understand and document processes; evidence of links between traditional governance and conservation
- Subnational and National ICCA Conferences to increase awareness
- Strengthening capacities of IP organizations and network of leaders – National ICCA Consortium
- Global and regional exchanges; cross visits, links with Global ICCA Consortium and UNEP/WCMC
- 5 ICCAs declared; 200 more potential within KBAs and natural landscapes
- Resource mobilization, pilot model on sharing of ecosystem benefits



# National PA System Master Plan



- To include LCAs and ICCAs



# Recommendations

- Support countries in recognizing LCAs and ICCAs and in developing national database system to facilitate the process of recognition of Other Effective Conservation Measures
- Link with Global Registries/UNEP-WCMC
- Global recognition of LCAs and ICCAs as part of the PA system (in achieving Aichi Targets)



**Maraming Salamat  
Po!**

**Thank you very  
much!**