

Managing Mangroves Ecosystem & Its Land Use Conflicts

**Barangay Talisay
Bontoc Southern Leyte**

2012

CASE STUDY

Researchers

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Background

“Mangrove forest is also known as the “rainforest of the sea.” It grows well in tropical countries, including the Philippines. Mangroves are an important part of the coastal and marine ecosystem that includes the sea grass and the coral reefs.

The mangrove areas in Barangay Talisay Bontoc Southern Leyte is the subject matter of the case study at hand. Issues or conflicts of varying degree and scale is happening for a quite a long period of time already.

The Land Conflicts

DENR through CENRO continue to issue Revocable Permit Application (RPA) to occupants of foreshore lands without really monitoring as to whether or not their issuances were followed as what the law provides.

Also the issuance of RPA per se has raised land conflicts even more, rather than manage the ecosystem since increasing number of informal settlers and the RPA application also gave several problems to LGU Bontoc and the RPA holder as well as the mangroves development in the area in general.

There were conflicts against DENR vs LGU, DENR vs RPA holder, RPA holder vs. LGU Bontoc, and private persons vs private persons.

Respondents

- Respondents were chosen as to the 12 residents who seriously took effort to apply for a Revocable Permit Application (RPA) from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office (CENRO) out of the 367 total number of residents which also went to the MPDO to secure Zoning or Locational Clearance but the MPDC Engr. Rodrigo Tomaub refused their applicaiton for lack of legal basis.

Methodologies

- 1. Focused Group Discussion (FGD) - 12 participants attended the FGD.**
- 2. Key Informant Interview Survey Questionnaire**
5 have managed to be interviewed by the researchers to include SB Abenion (Environment) and Barangay Chairman Maglinte (Talisay) took effort to provide answers to the questions at hand.
- 3. Activity Workshops to Analyze the Conflict**
 - Conflict Tree, Conflict Resolution Tree and Conflict Mapping

Results & Discussions

3. Activity Workshops to Analyze the Conflict

Figure 2 - CONFLICT TREE
(Settlement at mangroves area in Barangay Talisay
Bontoc, Southern Leyte)

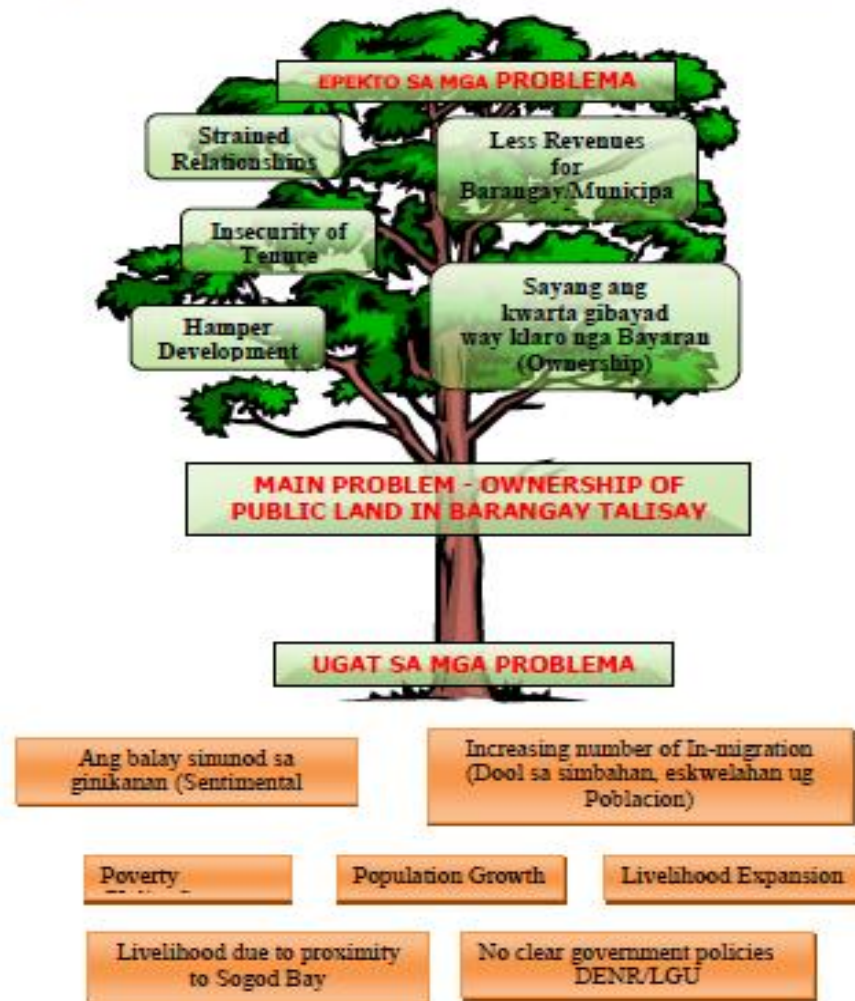
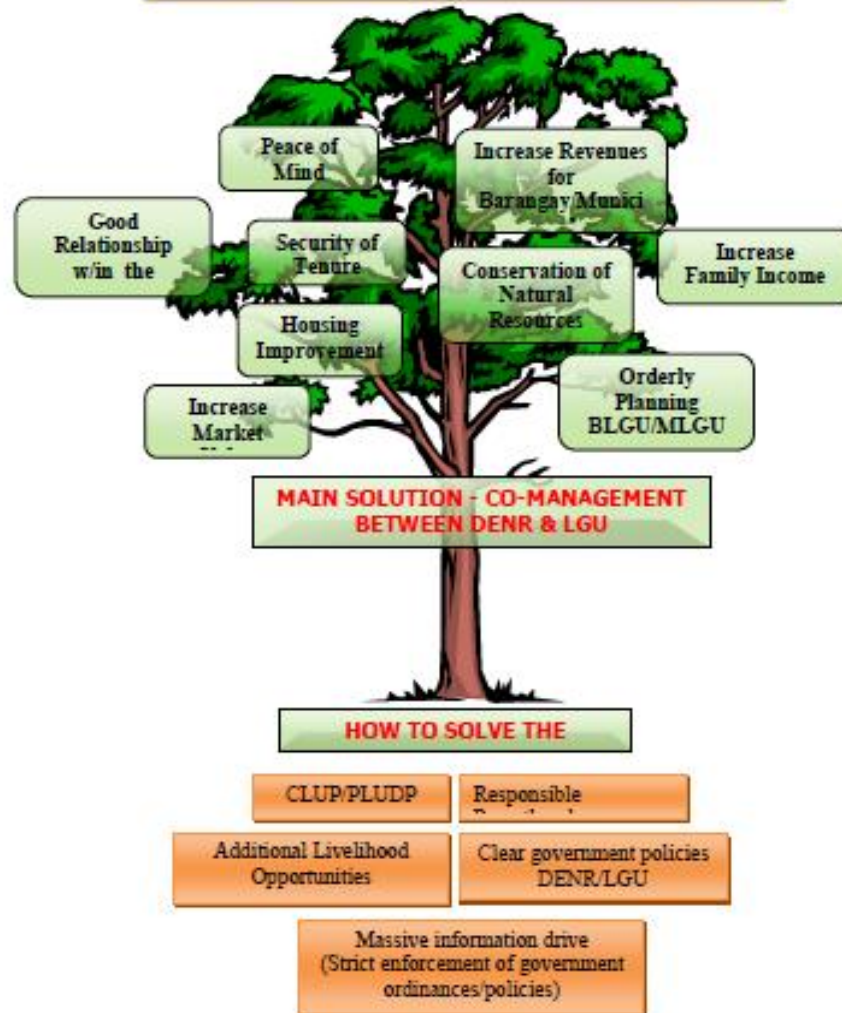
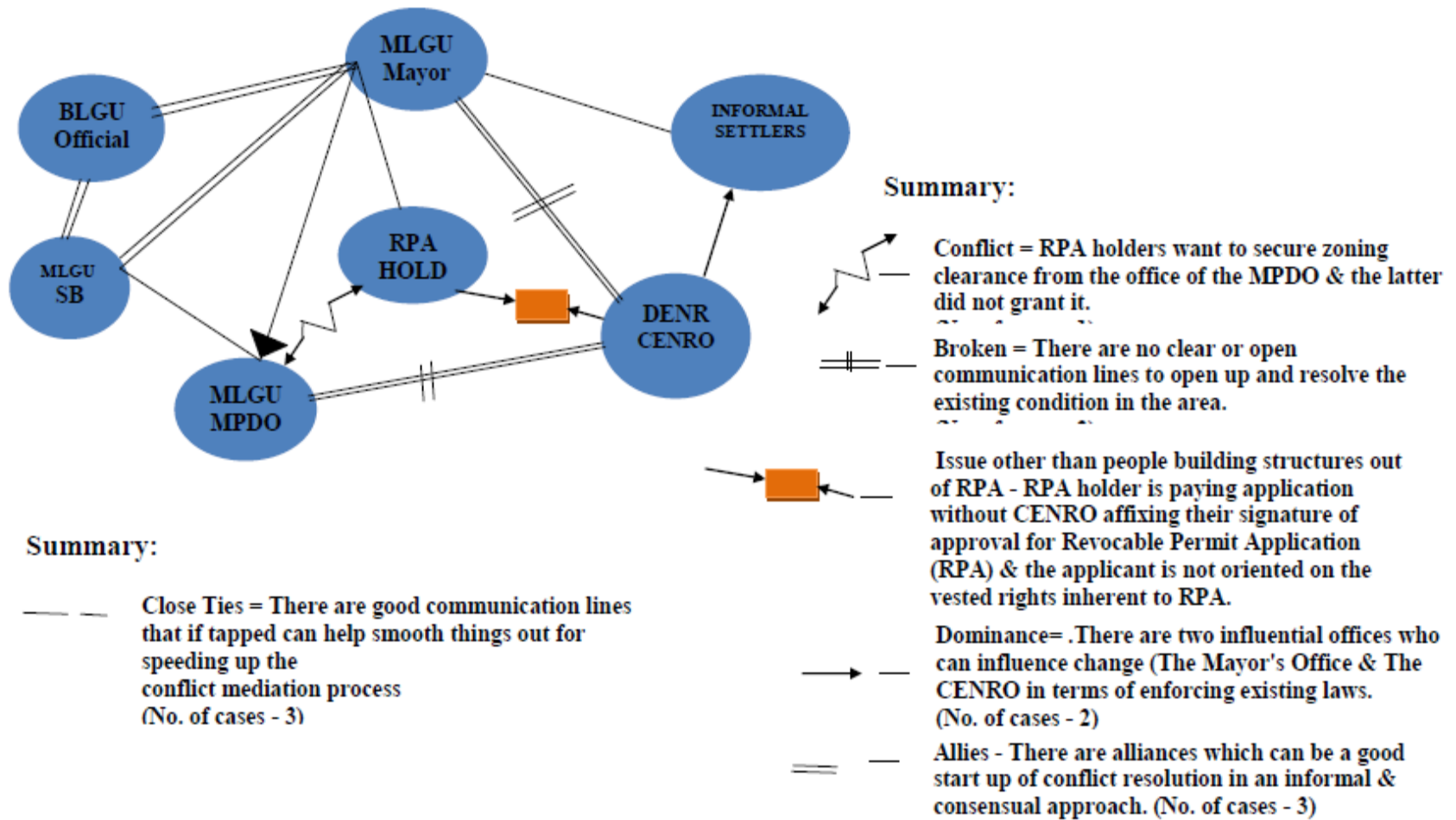


Figure 3 - CONFLICT RESOLUTION TREE

(Settlement at mangroves area in Barangay Talisay)



**Figure 4. The Conflict Map
(Settlement in Mangrove Areas of Barangay Talisay)**



	1990's	DENR BLGU MLGU	Reversion of 194 lots into timberland	The need to provide safer grounds for affected residents who are vulnerable to flooding, storm surge and typhoons.	Displaced community	The need to have better alternative site for affected families who will be displaced.	Local and national	-family -barangay -municipal -provincial -national
	2002	DENR BLGU MLGU	RPA applicants applied Locational Clearance at LGU	The need to have security of tenure.	No clear tenurial rights	Increasing number of residents despite no clear land rights	Local and national	-family -barangay -municipal -provincial -national
	2003	DENR BLGU MLGU	DENR together MLGU and BLGU conducted Information Education Campaign (IEC) to the residents for site	Increasing number of informal settlers in the area.	Mangrove area/cover decreasing faster	Increasing number of residents despite no clear land rights	Local and national	-family -barangay -municipal -provincial -national

development prior to further issuance of RPAs.

Conflict Analysis Summary

- RPA was only applicable during the 1960s and below because the population is not yet big and only fisher folks are building houses made of light materials.
- The local government during the 1960s granted relief for the residents from armed conflicts in the upland of Bontoc and identified the mangrove areas of Talisay as the relocation site.
- Number of informal settlers continue to increase while mangrove covers continue to decrease at an alarming pace
- RPA holders were just paying the fees to the DENR without assurance of tenure.
- Other conflicts are happening like tax declaration holders out of a cancelled 194(A & D)lots which were reverted back to foreshore land.
- RPA holders securing Locational or Zoning Clearance on the basis of RPA .

Implications & Recommendations

- Integrated Coastal Management through Co-Management scheme with the DENR and LGU Bontoc - "A Co-Management Agreement is a relatively new mechanism whereby the responsibility for the management, development, protection and utilization of a specified area of forest land, including mangroves, and its forest resources within the geographic jurisdiction of the LGU or cluster of LGUs is shared between the DENR and the LGU or cluster of LGUs.
- Governing policies: **RA 7160; DENR-DILG JMC 2003-01, DENR-DILG JMC 98-01"**²

Implications & Recommendations

- Currently, LGU Bontoc is updating its Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) for the next ten (10) years. Integration of the Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) specifically mangrove areas in Bontoc has to include this recommendations to enable the sustainable management of the marine resources as well as to reduce vulnerability and exposure to climate change and natural disasters of those residents in Barangay Talisay particularly those who are living within the critical foreshore area

Reflections

Both the DENR through PENRO and the LGU concerned have to take concrete steps to really address foreshore land management in terms of avoiding informal settlers specially those who are building permanent structures made of strong materials. The sad part of it is that mangroves covers are decreasing rapidly so that effects on marine resources sustainability and pollution control capability will be significantly affected by such depletion. People in the area will be highly vulnerable to wave surges and tsunami, typhoons and flooding compounding the social and economic burdens of the Municipality.

Thank you

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