



**THE NEED FOR POLICY
REVIEW AND
PROGRAMMES IN
RESPECT OF FARMING IN
FORESTLANDS**

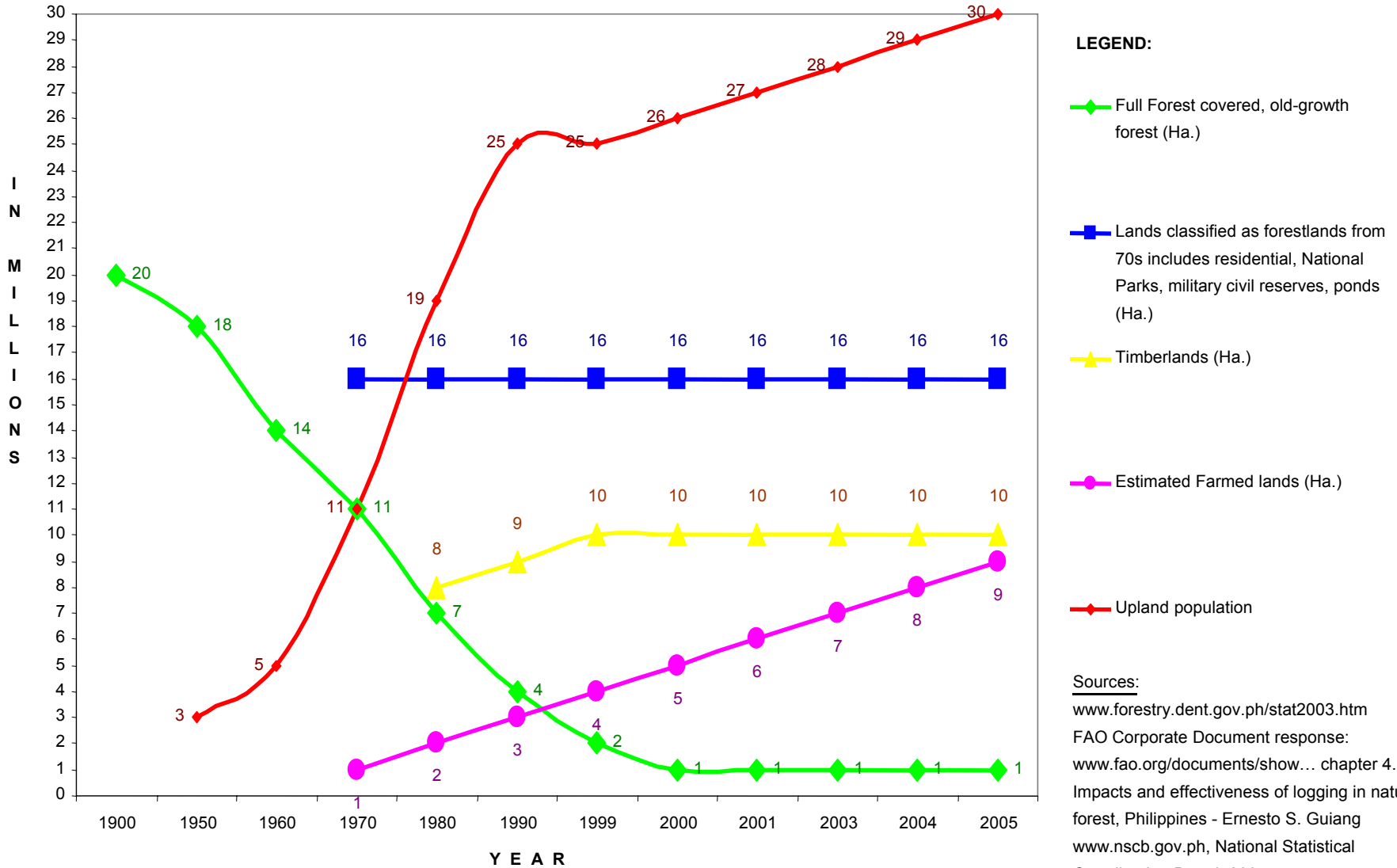
Forestlands as it used to be



A wide variety of trees
Biodiversity
Permanent Cover

The Philippine forestlands overtime

LAND USE AND POPULATION IN FOREST LAND



Sources:
www.forestry.dent.gov.ph/stat2003.htm
 FAO Corporate Document response:
www.fao.org/documents/show... chapter 4.
 Impacts and effectiveness of logging in natural forest, Philippines - Ernesto S. Guiang
www.nscb.gov.ph, National Statistical Coordination Board, 2005

THE REALITY IN THE UPLANDS

HOW IT IS NOW: MASSIVE
UNSUSTAINABLE UPLAND
FARMING



Observations

- Natural old-growth forest has almost been eliminated completely in the last century with less than 1 million HAs left out of 20 million in 1900
- In the 1970s, about 16 million HAs were identified as of forestlands and were classified as:
 - 10 million timberlands of these lands
 - 5 million residential, military/civil reserves and parks
 - 1 million unclassified
- Huge migration into forestlands from 1970s onwards, 30 million by now of 85 country wide
- Massive farming in timberlands, nearly all timberland is farmed or unsustainably exploited

Observations (continued)

- An estimated 5 million Ha of forestland is constantly eroded and has an annual soil loss between 3-10 cms (300-1000 M³/Ha) depending on the steepness of the slope farmed.
- This erosion:
 - Reduces agricultural productivity
 - Destroys the forestland resource base
 - Eliminates bio-diversity in the forestlands
 - Creates flooding and siltation
 - Poses a serious threat to water and energy supplies
 - Results in heavy loss of life and money

Conclusions

- The overall Philippine natural resource base is seriously under threat by the misuse in forestlands through bad farming practices by upland farmers
- The upland population cannot be moved out anymore
- There is an urgent need to change present bad farming practices into sustainable ones

What has been done about this in terms of key policies

- Revised Forestry Code by Presidential Decree No. 705 of 1975
- The 1987 Philippine Constitution
- Executive Order No. 192 on the Reorganization of the Environment and Natural Resources
- Executive Order with legislative and executive powers issued in 1987
- Local Government Code by Republic Act No. 7160 of 1991

What has been done about this in terms of (key) policies (cont.)

- The Law on National Integrated Protected Area Systems by Republic Act No. 7586 issued in 1992
- The Law on Forest Charges on Timber and Other Forest Products by Republic Act No. 7161 issued in 1991
- Executive Order No. 263 on Community-based Forest Management Strategy
- Indigenous People's Rights Act by Republic Act No. 8371 in 1997
- Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) in 1997

Effectiveness of policies

- The data above show that the policies for sustainable use of forestland resources have been less successful
- There is a need to amend, improve, formulate new policies

Reasons for the apparent poor policy implementation

- Absence of tenurial instruments for most upland farmers
- The instruments provided by law did not result in sustainable land use
- Near total absence of extension services for farmers to adopt policies
- Apparent very poor enforcement of the policies

What to do

1. Stop uncontrolled landuse and promote participatory landuse planning in each upland barangay, a plan that shows which areas are allocated for agriculture (as provided for under AFMA/SAFDZ/NPAAAD), and which areas to be protected/reforested. Ensure enforcement through EAC, extension, awards, sanctions, penalties

What to do (cont.)

2. Increase productivity on existing/agreed farmland in line with agreed landuse plan by:
 - promoting the application of well-tested soil and water conservation measures
 - promoting diversified farming systems whereby farmers switch from unsuitable crops like corn and cassava to (fruit) tree crops as soon as possible, provide seedlings
 - Having in place an effective extension services delivery system to coach farmers
 - Have well maintained barangay roads for market access and service delivery

GOOD UPLAND FARMS



What to do (cont.)

3. Create barangay level forest protection and reforestation schemes in line with agreed landuse plan and similar to CLUP as referred to in the proposed Landuse Act, but at barangay level also



**Protection of remaining forest
pockets**

Policy recommendations for LGUs

- P/MLGUs capacity built by a NEDA/HLURB/**LUPC** accredited CSOs to enable them to help BLGUs and upland communities in the formulation of a barangay landuse plan, which implementation is doable
- P/M/LGUs should support BLGUs and upland barangay communities with formulating and implementing their barangay landuse plans
- All MLGUs with upland areas should fill up the MENRO post and MENRO should be tasked to facilitate and enforce implementation of the landuse plans of the barangays

Policy recommendations for LGUs (cont.)

- All MLGUs must put in place and fund an extension system that can effectively facilitate sustainable farming in the forestlands agreed to be farmed in landuse plans
- The P/MLGU should provide appropriate engineering services to the BLGUs with upland areas to properly maintain their vital roads

Policy recommendations for National Agencies

- NEDA/HLURB/LUPC to monitor through its RPEMS the LGUs performance in terms of sustainable use of forestlands as outlined and ensure enforcement
- NEDA/HLURB to train/build capacity and accredit at least one CSO/province with uplands, that can take care of coaching the P/MLGUs to help BLGUs with participatory landuse planning

Policy recommendations for National Agencies (cont.)

- Except perhaps NIPAS areas but otherwise the DENR/DLR should devolve all functions in respect of protection measures to the M/BLGUs
- The relevant sections of the DENR/DLR should be transformed into capacity building institutions that will service the upland M/BLGUs (MENRO) and communities with their efforts for sustainable use of forest lands

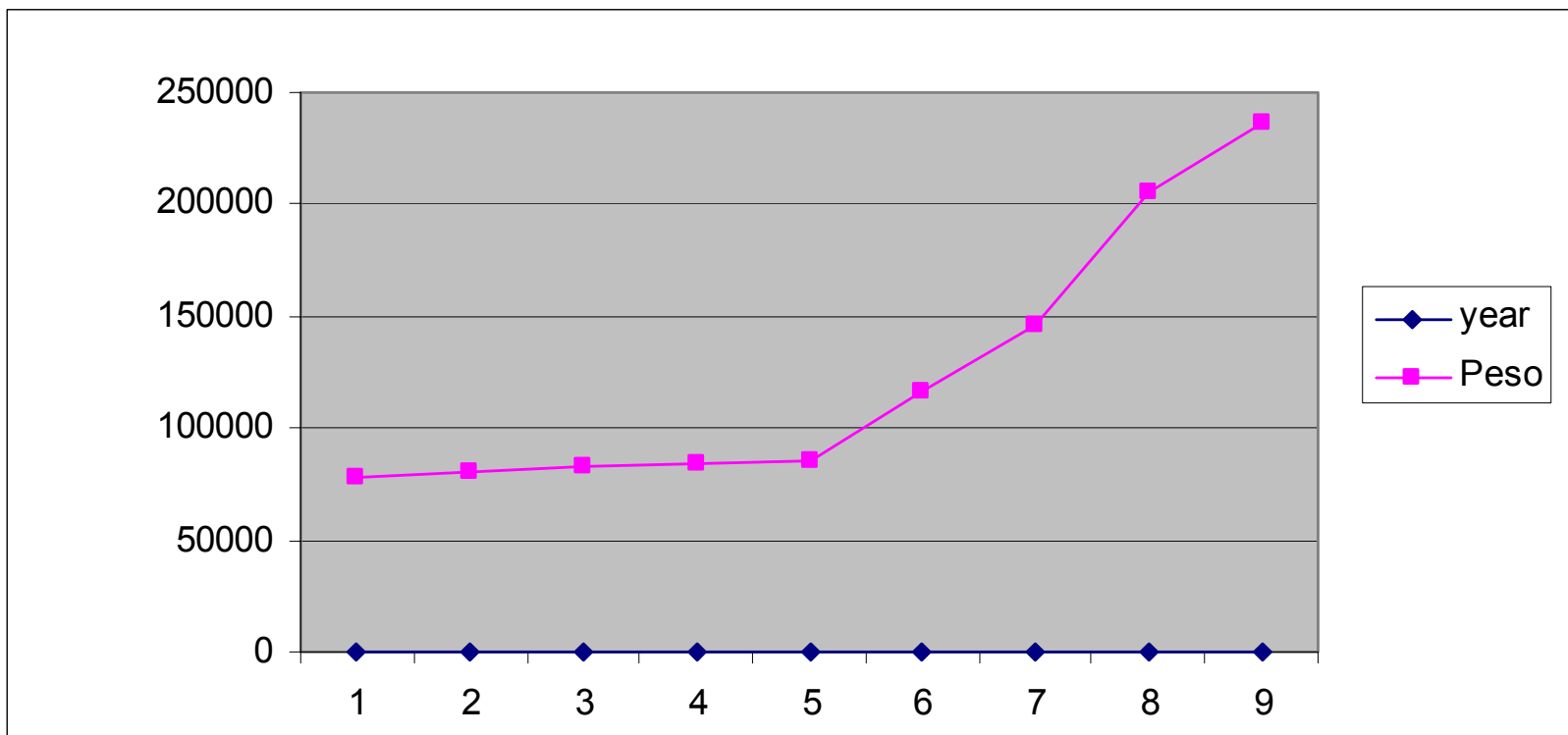
Policy recommendations for National Agencies (cont.)

- The DA should formulate and implement an upland agricultural policy that will support/facilitate LGUs efforts towards sustainable agricultural development in forestlands reserved for that purpose in their barangay landuse plans
- The DA will instruct its ATIs and RFUs with its supporting bureaus to strengthen the LGU extension mechanism outlined above and ensure this capacity building of LGUs to properly coach upland farmers with sustainable agriculture
- The DA will design, implement and monitor a nation-wide sustainable agricultural upland development programme for LGUs to implement

Estimated investment costs per municipality assuming it has 5 upland barangays

- Peso 3 million one time investment
- Peso 2.25 million annual recurrent costs

Estimated income trend for an upland farm that has applied proper upland agricultural technologies



DAGHANG SALAMAT