



**TOWARDS DEVELOPING A VIABLE COMMUNITY-BASED
BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION MODEL: THE CASE OF MTS.
PALAY-PALAY/MATAAS-NA-GULOD PROTECTED LANDSCAPE,
LUZON ISLAND, PHILIPPINES**



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ABSTRACT

In the face of a growing biodiversity crisis, protected landscape management agencies should look for an innovative and adaptive measure that ensures biodiversity conservation while providing socio-economic benefits to the local community. Anchored on this view, this study extensively analyzed Mts. Palay-palay/Mataas-na-Gulod Protected Landscape's community-based biodiversity conservation (CBC) program vis-à-vis the Protected Area Management Board's (PAMB) management practices, as well as the stakeholders' role in the management of the protected landscape, in order to develop a viable community-based biodiversity conservation model. The Strategic Planning Method (SPM), a hybrid qualitative-quantitative technique, was utilized resulting into the recognition of the strength and opportunity as the dominating strategic factors over the program's presumed threats and experienced weaknesses. This creates an ideal scenario where PAMB can maximize strengths and opportunities while minimizing weaknesses and threats leading to the formulation of optimal and supplemental strategies to address the enumerated gaps of the CBC program. Consequently, a model called "Inang Palay Community-Based Biodiversity Conservation Model" with four distinct features (goal-oriented, participatory, SPM-based, and viable) was developed. The model is intended to assist decision-makers in exploring different key areas of protected landscape management, in giving insights into the significance of individual components within the CBC program, in incorporating stakeholders' preferences in every step of the management process and in allowing PAMB to initiate appropriate and acceptable actions as well as foster increased community capacity to constructively address protected landscape-related issues.

Key words: Inang Palay community-based biodiversity conservation model; strategic planning method; Philippines