



BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH IN THE PHILIPPINES: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

18-20 July 2009

Nagoya University, Japan

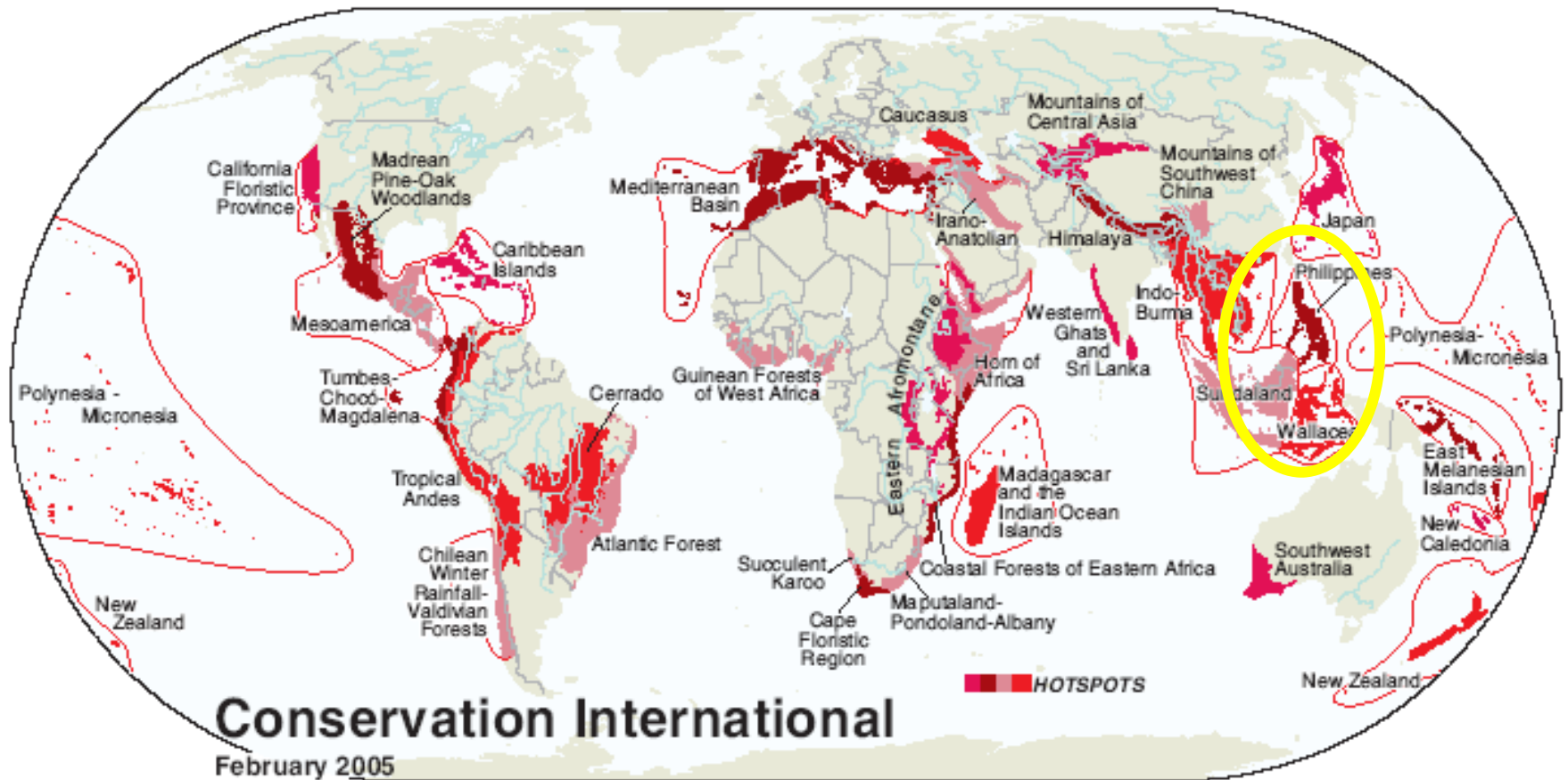
1st ASIAHORC Symposium

The Philippines: Flora and Fauna

Taxonomic Group	Species	Endemic Species	Percent Endemism
Plants	9,253	6,091	65.8
Mammals	167	102	61.1
Birds	535	186	34.8
Reptiles	237	160	67.5
Amphibians	89	76	85.4
Freshwater Fishes	281	67	23.8

Conservation International:
Biodiversity Hotspots (2006)

The Philippines: A Biodiversity Hotspot

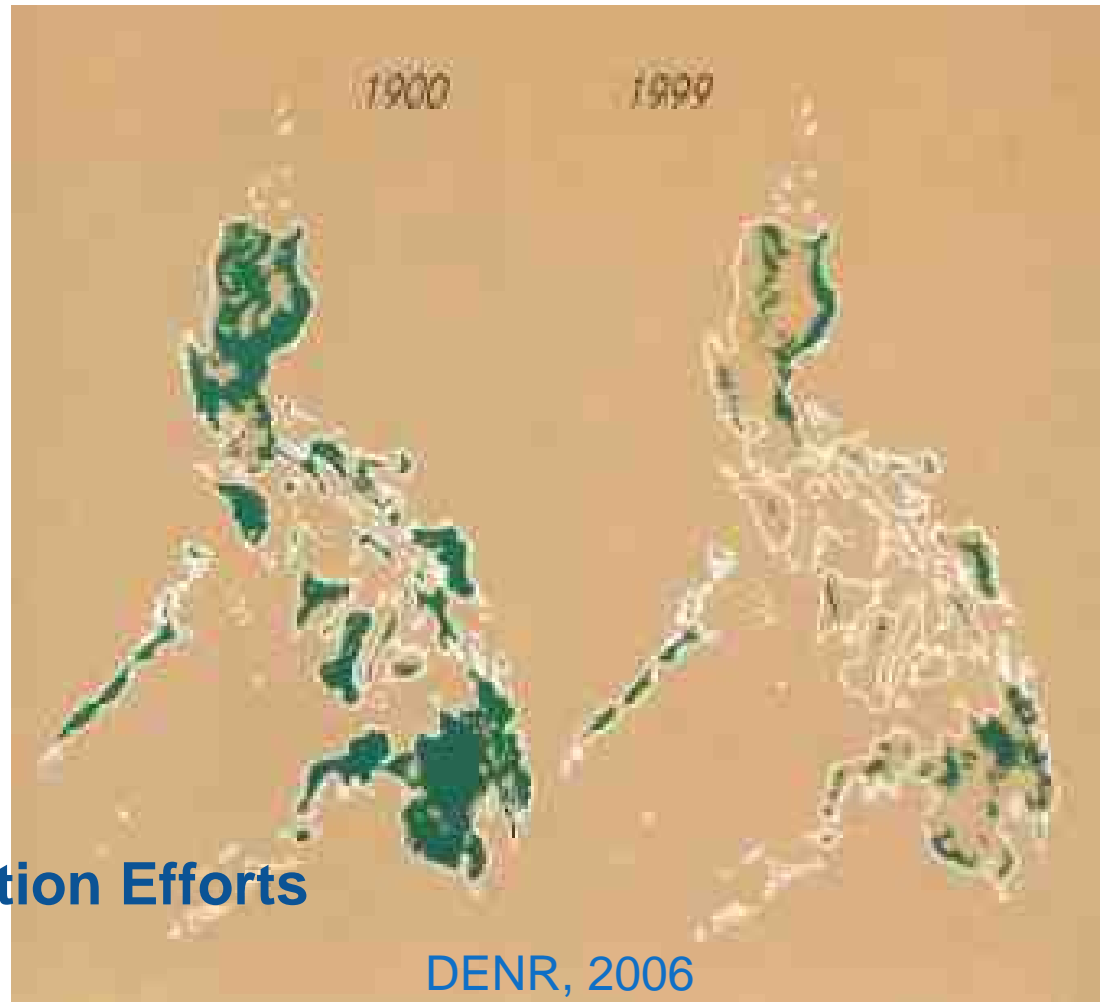


Threats to our Biodiversity

Forest Cover in the Philippines

Urgent Need!

1. assess Biodiversity
2. strengthen Conservation Efforts



Challenges to Biodiversity Research

□ Limited Courses/Programs on Biodiversity & Conservation

■ Solutions:

- Develop university courses or degree programs in biodiversity/systematics/conservation
- Integrate biodiversity & conservation topics in natural science courses
 - non-biology and non-science majors (tertiary level)
 - Elementary level & High School or Secondary level
- Biodiversity and conservation summer camps

Challenges to Biodiversity Research

- **Filipino Taxonomists are Endangered Species.**
 - **Solutions:**
 - Student Scholarship: DOST-ASTHRD Program
 - Motivate young researchers to pursue this field of study
 - More training for researchers (fellowships, workshops)
 - Creation of database of Filipino taxonomists
 - Promotion of biodiversity research thru symposium (eg. ASBP, MSP, PSM, etc.)

Challenges to Biodiversity Research

- **Limited Research Funds/Scientific Infrastructure**
 - **Solutions:**
 - Source-out funds from other donors apart from NRCP (eg. UNESCO, IFS, etc.)
 - Research collaboration with countries in the Asia-Pacific Region
 - Research Grants/Awards for Young Scientists
 - Young Researchers Exchange thru the JSPS Asia Core Networking Program

Challenges to Biodiversity Research

□ Permit Requirement (Bioprospecting Law)

■ Solutions:

- Make systems for obtaining permits easier and less time consuming
- Give exemptions to researchers doing purely academic/research studies

Challenges to Biodiversity Research

□ Inadequate Biodiversity and Conservation Awareness Campaign Program

■ Solutions:

- Increase biodiversity and conservation efforts
- Re-echoing of ASIAHORC symposium by organizing a Biodiversity Forum at home country by the participants
- Active participation of LGUs, NGOs and indigenous communities

OUR GOAL

work as a TEAM

(Together Everyone Achieves More)

The Philippine Representatives to the 1st ASIAHORC Symposium on Biodiversity

- Dr. Christian Joseph Cumagun, University of the Philippines-Los Baños
- Dr. Thomas Edison dela Cruz, University of Santo Tomas
- Dr. Karl Marx Quiazon, Central Luzon State University
- Dr. Vernie Sagun, Ateneo de Manila University
- Mr. Orlex Yllano, Adventist University of the Philippines
- Dr. Marie Frances Niavales, University of the Philippines Visayas
- Engr. Maria Lourdes P. Orijola, Dept of Science and Technology
- Engr. Clarissa Cajulis Rivera, Dept of Science and Technology