THE QUADRANGULATION APPRAISAL TECHNIQUE¹ AS RESEARCH STRATEGY FOR THE NEGROS ORIENTAL ANCESTRAL DOMAIN RESEARCH PROJECT²

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THE GOVERNMENT'S Ancestral Domain Management Research Project, of which this article is an outgrowth, was conducted by the Silliman University Task Force for Ancestral Domains on the three indigenous cultural communities³ of Negros Oriental--the Negritos of Canggohob, Mabinay and the Bukidnons of Tayawan, Bayawan and Cabatuanan, Basay from July to November 1996 (see Figure 1). This article represents a part of the major report on the Ancestral Domain Management Plan (ADMP).

To carry out the ancestral domain project, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office created, as its special arm, the Provincial Special Task Force for Ancestral Domains (PSTFAD)⁴ whose

¹This research approach was adapted from the model used by Dr. Nichol R. Elman in his dissertation, "Rural People Response to an Integrated Development Project of a Philippine Institution of Higher Learning," University of the Philippines Los Baños College, Laguna, 1993.

² The research project was commissioned and funded by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources office of Negros Oriental in pursuance of the Constitutional mandate "for the recognition and protection of the rights of the indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands and domains to ensure their economic, social and cultural well-being" (Philippine Constitution 1987, Section 22, Article II; Section 5, Article XII; and Section 6, Article XIII).

³ Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs), also called Indigenous Peoples (IPs) refer to "a homogenous society identified by self-ascription and ascription by others, who have continuously lived as community on communally bounded and defined territory, sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, and who, through resistance to the political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos" (Department Administrative Order No. 02, Series of 1993, Section 3, Article 1).

⁴ The Provincial Special Task Force for Ancestral Domains (PSTFAD) refers to the Special Task Force based in specific Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENRO) which is responsible for the identification, delineation, recognition and management of ancestral domain claims as defined in the Department Administrative Order No. 02, Series of 1993.

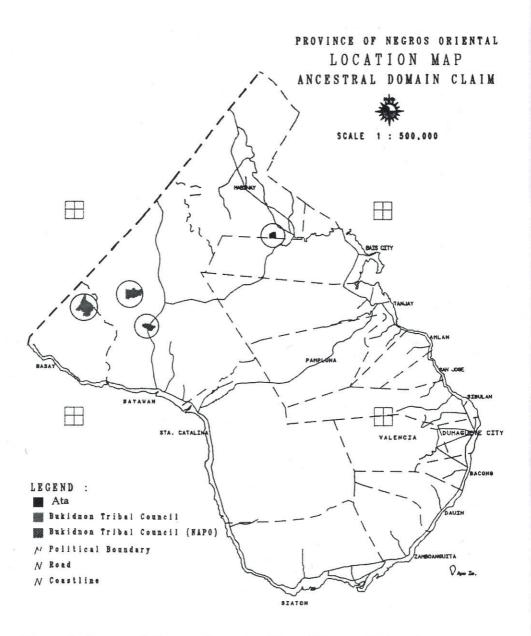


Figure 1: Ancestral Domain Location Map of Negros Oriental

main task was to assist the indigenous communities in the formulation of their respective Ancestral Domain Management Plan. In the first organizational meeting of the Provincial Special Task Force on Ancestral Domains in November 1994, Silliman University was designated as the Nongovernment Organization component of the PSTFAD and became the official research team to carry out the research investigation on the three identified communities. The results of the research were to be used by the PSTFAD in identifying, delineating, and recognizing the ancestral domain claims of the three indigenous cultural communities in the province and in assisting them in their preparation of their Ancestral Domain Management Plan (ADMP).

In consonance with the Rules and Regulations For the Identification, Delineation and Recognition of Ancestral Land and Domain Claims, Department Administrative Order No. 02, Series of 1993, the Silliman University Task Force recommended a full-scale research in the three identified indigenous communities of Negros Oriental. In the series of meetings and consultations attended by members of the PSTFAD, several problems became evident which necessitated the performance of a full-scale research.

First, there was the absence of a comprehensive and current literature on the indigenous constituents of the three identified areas that would provide some understanding of their way of life, their economic, social, and cultural situation, their indigenous practices, tradition, and heritage beyond a few, scattered, and dated accounts. Neither

⁵ The Silliman University group was then composed of Dr. Nichol R. Elman, Director of the Silliman University Extension Program, Dr. Ceres E. Pioquinto and Prof. Andrea G. Soluta of the Department of English and Literature, Prof. Rolando V. Mascuñana of the Anthropology Department, Atty. Joel Obar of the College of Law, and Ms. Wilfa V. Manginsay of the Extension Program. The group was later designated as the Ancestral Domain Research Team and thereafter became officially known as the Silliman University-DENR Task Force on Ancestral Domains.

The Ancestral Domain Management Plan (ADMP) is a comprehensive management scheme formulated by the indigenous cultural communities themselves for the implementation of ecologically sound indigenous land use and environmental protection systems. Under this plan, the indigenous cultural communities exercise general supervision and control over the management of their respective ancestral domain claims including the resources therein (Department Administrative Order No.02, Series of 1993, Section 1, Article VI).

resource management were available in the existing materials which could provide the Task Force with valuable leads. Second, even at the earlier stage of the PSTFAD consultations, two major problems namely, the conflicting claims from different individuals with major stakes in the outcome of the ancestral domain project; and the submission of fraudulent or spurious proofs of ethnic affiliations of purported tribe members by certain interest groups made field research not just an imperative but the only way to ascertain the authenticity of the claims. Accordingly, the PSTFAD organized an ocular inspection and verification in the early part of 1995.

The special requirements of the Ancestral Domain Management Project, however, necessitated the use of a research strategy in accord with the specification of the Guidelines on the Management of Certified Ancestral Domain Claims. The Quadragulation Appraisal technique or the Quadrangular approach to field research was developed by the Silliman University Task Force for this purpose. Using this research strategy, the Silliman University Task Force carried out a comprehensive community appraisal and profiling survey of the three indigenous cultural communities in July to November 1996.

⁷ The philosophy underlying the quadrangular approach is articulated in the Guidelines on the Management of Certified Ancestral Domain Claims as promulgated in the DENR Department Order No. 02, Series of 1993, Article 1, Section 3:

The Indigenous Peoples have the right to formulate an ancestral domain management plan reflective of their needs and aspirations. It shall be prepared by the community itself according to its own indigenous knowledge systems and practices with the option to avail of external assistance under terms and conditions determined by the community.

The quadratech model with its focus on the role of partner-communities, is rooted on the same fundamental philosophy with ecognizes the individual's rights to self-determination. This distinctive feature makes the quadrangulation technique a most effective research strategy in realizing the main abjectives of the Constitutional policy on ancestral domain.

The Quadrangulation Appraisal Technique (Quadratech)

The Quadrangulation Appraisal Technique (Quadratech) constitutes a paradigm shift from the conventional community survey which uses only the interview schedule or questionnaire. The quadratech approach, on the other hand, involves not just the gathering of primary and secondary data, but also the participation of the community organizers, the complementary external appraisal or assessment team (CEAT), and the involved collaboration of the partner-community in a constantly interactive relationship.

The diagram below schematically describes the interrelationships between component parts of the research process. In this diagram, the researcher/research team is aided by the following: the primary data collected by the interviewing team using structured interview schedule and the participation of partner-communities; the secondary data such as periodic progress and process recording and documentation lodged in the various concerned interagencies as well as published and unpublished materials found in libraries; the project staff or community organizers assigned in the partner-communities who gather and validate the primary empirical data; and the complementary external assessment/appraisal composed of interagency representatives (both GOs and NGOs) who **provide** the critical perspective on the data and serve as potential sources **f** technical and financial assistance. The principal researcher is both a participant and an observer in the research process. The relationship **Setween** the partner-community, the CO, as well as the CEAT is dynamic. The area for the secondary data is static because of their nature as mchair research data.

Primary Data

Dama Gathering

In the quadratech model used by the Silliman University Task

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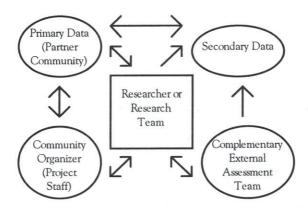


Figure 2. Diagram of the Quadratech Approach Paradigm used by the Silliman University Special Task Force on Ancestral Domain in conducting field research in three identified Indigenous Communities in Negros Oriental.

had some previous research experience in conducting socioeconomic surveys were chosen to assist the Task Force in conducting the interview. The interviewers were given proper orientation and training on the said study. The interview question, written both in English and in Cebuano, consisted of a checklist and a set of structured questions as well as an open list of possible answers or responses. For the open-ended questions, the respondents were asked to explain themselves while the interviewer noted the answers *verbatim*.

Prior to being used in data gathering, the interview instrument was pretested among selected members of the indigenous communities in the three research areas to test the validity, clarity, and relevance of the questions. Given the smallness of the population of these communities, the Task Force decided to include the initial pretest respondents in the final list of respondents. Part of the reason was that the research team was aiming for 100% respondents. The inclusion was also justified by the fact that, except for the reduced length of the final questionnaire, there were no substantial changes in the content of the interview schedule.

The interview schedule used among the respondents in the indigenous communities covered by the study included the following subjects, namely:

- 1. certain social, economic and psychological characteristics of the respondents in the areas under study
- 2. health and sanitation
- 3. family and community relationships
- 4. indigenous knowledge and practices
- 5. ownership of land
- 6. mobility assessment
- 7. social and cultural involvement
- 8. development projects and infrastructure
- 9. ancestral domain
- 10. certain behavioral observations noted among the respondentindigenous people within the duration of the research activities

Data gathered by the community organizers (COs) as well as information collected by the research team during field visits also constituted the primary data and reinforced those gathered through the interview schedule. The primary data are additionally useful for validating the secondary data.

Bole of Partner-Communities

As an indispensable component of the research process, partnercommunities are sources of valuable information that go into the primary
lata. In the quadratech model, however, partner-communities are more
lan just data banks; they are active participants in the preparation,
late and determination of action plans for their community
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Following the quadratech model, the Negrito and Bukidnon communities were more than just respondents and providers of

raw data for the baseline survey. As an integral part of the research process, members of these indigenous partner-communities played a central role in the formulation of their ancestral domain management plan and development programs. The community discussions of their workplans followed a matrix format in a series of seminar-workshop held both in the respective areas of Canggohob, Tayawan, and Cabatuanan and in Dumaguete. The COs and the Task Force research team facilitated the workshops and provided guidance in the format and content of the action plans. The output of the individual indigenous group's action plan was presented to the Task Force for review and assessment.

The Secondary Data

Also known as "arm chair" data or library research data, the secondary data consist of information collected from published or unpublished literature, maps, periodic progress reports, process recording or documentation that may be found in libraries or archives as well as in the files of pertinent agencies and offices. In the duration of the research work on ancestral domain, the Silliman University Task Force collected data not just through the use of the interview schedule, but also additional information from various sources and interagencies for supplementary information. The Task Force also checked published and unpublished literature related to indigenous communities, monthly and quarterly progress reports of various agencies, results of the yearly participatory community assessments, logbooks of the community organizers/extension workers, and other documents related to the study. This kind of information is useful in corroborating the findings of the primary data.

The Project Staff or Community Organizers

In the quadrangulation model, the Project Staff or Community Organizers (COs) stand at the juncture of the research process, occupying a mediating role between the partner-communities and the Research Team, as well as between the partner-communities and the Complementary Assessment Team, as conduit of valuable information. As

providers of empirical data, they play a critical role in data gathering, particularly in assessing the quantity and quality of the data, and finally in judging their validity. As the vital link between the Research team and the partner-communities, they pave the way for the research team's entry into the community as well as facilitate interactions between them.

During the course of the field research, the Silliman University Task force assigned Community Organizers (CO) in the partnercommunities of Canggohob, Tayawan, and Cabatuanan. One CO for each of the three research areas lived with the community for four months to have an in-depth understanding of the culture and lifestyle of the people; observe their socioeconomic activities and civic involvement; and learn about the community's dreams and aspirations. As participant-observers in the locality, the COs immersed themselves in the everyday life of the community and monitored the people's activities to gain insights from them. They conducted in-depth interviews with respondents of the baseline data survey to fill in the "gaps" left by insufficient or questionable data. At the same time, the COs worked closely with the complementary external assessment team for information verification, clarification, and validation. It was also the responsibility of the COs to corroborate the results of the baseline survey with the secondary data on indigenous peoples kept by the different interagencies concerned.

The Complementary External Assessment/Appraisal Team (CEAT)

In the case of the research study on the indigenous communities in Negros Oriental, the CEAT is composed of representatives from both government agencies and nongovernment organizations. Leading the agencies is the Department of Environment and Natural Resources whose mandate of government is to implement the Constitutional policies pertaining to ancestral domain claims of the indigenous cultural communities. In this research study, the CEAT was composed of representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor and Employment, National Irrigation Administration, Department of Health, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Department of Trade and Industry, Office

of Southern Cultural Communities, among others. There were some representatives of NGOs and People's Organizations.

Ideally, the CEAT should be exposed to the partner-communities of indigenous peoples during the research period, but they are not meant to have knowledge of the structured interview schedule intended for the respondents and the objectives of the research work in order to avoid bias. Their full involvement in the project also come a little later in the research process when the initial findings are presented for evaluation. In the quadratech model, the CEAT's role in the research process is to assess, verify or substantiate the findings from the structured interview schedule as well as from the information gathered by COs in their field experience.

In the course of the research on ancestral domain, the Task Force initiated a series of workshops in which the interagencies were organized to supplement the information gathered on the baseline data. The CEAT also provided more relevant information which were not available in the field or have been overlooked by the researcher/research team. Aside from critiquing the results of the baseline data during the interagency consultation workshop, the CEAT examined the needs of each community to determine the basic services to be rendered. At the same time, the CEAT evaluated their respective roles and programs and assessed their individual capabilities to extend support services to the indigenous communities. In the implementation of the Ancestral Domain Management Plan, the CEAT plays a support role as potential sources of both financial and technical assistance to the indigenous people.

The Research Team: SU Task Force on Ancestral Domain

The role of the research team in the quadratech approach is integrative in nature. As the principal research team, the Silliman University Task Force on Ancestral Domains directed the entire research process from the formulation of the community profiling questionnaires, to the collation, analysis, and synthesis of all data during the course of the research, and then in the presentation of the data to the communities and interagencies for evaluation and validation in a series of consultations and seminar-workshops. In keeping with the role of the existing Provincial

Special Task Force on Ancestral Domains (PSTFAD) outlined in the Guidelines, the Silliman University Task Force served as a channel of information, education, and communication for the partner-communities of Canggohob, Tayawan, and Cabatuanan, as well as between the partner-communities and the interagencies.

The first task of the Task Force members was to conduct personal or group interviews with individual COs assigned in the partner-communities to assess the quality of their initial outputs in the field. The interview centered on the personal experiences of the COs during their four months of community integration. The researchers and the COs regularly corroborated the primary data. To gain first-hand information of the partner-communities, as well as to monitor the progress of the COs, the Task Force visited the research areas periodically to conduct ethnoecological studies through personal interviews with members of the indigenous communities and direct observation of the people's surroundings and lifestyles.

During these field trips, the team also visited a number of local government units in the municipalities of Mabinay, Bayawan, and Basay to gather information on community profiles, development projects, demographic data, maps and other relevant records on the indigenous communities. Among the major accomplishments of the Task Force was the reconstruction of the genealogical graph or family tree of the three indigenous communities as an essential first step in determining the legitimacy of the groups' ethnic affiliations. The findings of the research were then presented to the communities and the interagencies involved in the project in a number of community consultations and multisectoral meetings facilitated by the team. In keeping with its integrative role in the quadratech process, the Task Force remained in constant contact with the partner-communities, the COs, and the CEAT throughout the entire research period.

Validation of Ethnicity

Department Administrative Order No. 02, Section 1, Article 1, specifies the awarding of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADCs) to "bonafide Indigenous Peoples members and communities"

[underscoring supplied]. This declaration makes the authentication of ethnicity of prospective recipients of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC)⁸ a basic prerequisite in the preparation of Ancestral Domain Management Plan.

One of the most effective anthropological tools used in ascertaining the validity of the claimed ethnic affiliation of members of a particular group is the genealogical graph or the reconstruction of family tree. The reconstruction is a painstakingly long and tedious process, but the accuracy of the family tree diagram in tracing and in authenticating genealogical roots is difficult to challenge and therefore proves extremely useful right in the initial stages of accounting for the legitimate composition of groups applying for the Certificate on Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC). And since the diagram clarifies the complex relationships among the families such as how various households in the community are related to each other, whether consanguinally or affinally, it also instills among the members of the indigenous community being studied a sense of pride in their ethnicity and cultural heritage, in the process promoting societal integration.

In tracing the intergenerational level diagram, a number of informal interviews with the family heads and spouses were conducted during the field visits. The respondents were asked questions regarding their ethnic background, places of birth, number of years they have resided in the area, among other questions. The respondents were normally asked to trace his family (ascending-descending manner) as far back as he could remember. The formal interview also included questions whether the respondents had any relatives in the particular community under study and whether the relations were blood, affinal, and/or ritual. The COs assisted in identifying the indigenous members in the area by making a list which included the names of the respondents' children, family members who were married and their spouses, the latter in order to determine the

⁸ The Certificate on Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC) declares and certifies the claim of each indigenous cultural community over a corresponding territory earlier identified and delineated as ancestral domain. The certification is issued in the name of indigenous community claimant and placed under the custody of its recognized indigenous socio-political leadership or people's organization. (DAO 02, 1993, Section 1, Article IV).

incidence of intermarriages. The data the COs collected were entered in a logbook for preliminary reconstruction of the family tree. The data were double-checked every time the research team made a field visit.

In the early stages of the research, students who assisted in the interview also helped in the house-to-house informal and exploratory interview. The preliminary data they collected formed part of the information that went into the genealogical study. Local residents also helped in identifying the names of the indigenous people. Similarly, the wives of respondents often provided data on children, their relatives, and siblings.

The reconstructed genealogical diagram then underwent a series of rigorous double-checking with some members of the community. This group interview authenticated the names, ethnicity, and generational age level of community members. In the course of the research period, the Task Force accomplished three genealogical graphs for each of the indigenous communities being studied. On three separate field works, the genealogical diagrams were presented to the respective community for validation and this offered opportunities for emendations and corrections right in the presence of the indigenous groups involved and the members of the Task Force, local officials, as well as officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. An important dimension of this process is the community acknowledgment of the accuracy and validity of kinship relations indicated in the reconstructed family tree diagram. The presentation of these genealogical graphs to representatives of the CEAT in a seminar-workshop was equally imperative in order to give the interagencies some understanding of the research procedure in whose results, as a support system, they have a major stake.

Seminar Workshops and Community Consultations

Following the quadratech principles, the philosophy behind the Department Administrative Order No. 02, Series of 1993, Section 3, Article 1, in which the "Indigenous Peoples are given the right to formulate an ancestral domain management plan reflective of their needs and aspirations," and in consonance with the Basic Steps in the ADMP Preparation, Section 4, Article II, seminar-workshops in which the

partner-communities are trained for skills and know-how that will prepare them for the task of drafting their own ADMP, form an integral part of the entire research process. Similarly, these seminar-workshops are also meant for representatives of various agencies in anticipation of their own involvement in the project.

Consequently, the Silliman Task Force, assisted by the COs, organized a number of seminar-workshops aimed for this purpose. As crucial preparatory stages in the formulation of the ADMP, these seminar-workshops focused on the individual members of the indigenous communities as well as on representatives of the CEAT and their roles,

responsibilities, and duties in the preparation of the ADMP.

The first workshop presented to the group, composed mainly of representatives from the line agencies, the initial findings from the baseline data for evaluation and validation by the CEAT. The critical perspective on the data provided by this group helped the Task Force determine which aspects of the research process or the data needed to be reviewed, reassessed or substantiated, and which problem areas needed to be addressed promptly. At this seminar-workshop, the CEAT representatives also evaluated their own roles in relation to the project on hand, assessed their individual intervention schemes, and considered their most effective points of entry in areas of concern such as health, education, and community infrastructure.

The second workshop involved the representatives of the interagencies and members of the Working Group of each indigenous community consisting of the tribal leaders, the barangay captains, and officials of the three research areas. In this workshop, the Silliman Task Force presented the family tree or genealogy of each indigenous group to the interagency representatives for their information. The validated data

were also presented to the participants for review.

In preparation for the drafting of the ADMP, two major activities highlighted this two-day workshop. The first major activity of this workshop was the assessment of community and interagency profile using the S.W.O.T. Method (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). The participants were subdivided into two groups: one group from the indigenous people, and another from representatives of the

interagency. Using development concepts as framework for discussion, the indigenous people were asked to identify, analyze, and appraise their existing natural resources and socioeconomic conditions through community resource mapping and other participatory processes. In this exercise, the Working Groups judged the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of each of these factors in the development of their communities. On the other hand, the interagency representatives were tasked to look into their perceived roles after having been presented the information on the indigenous people. During the presentation of the workshop output by the indigenous people, the CEAT served as the panel of assessors.

The second major workshop activity was the community tactical planning which began with an exercise in visioning and formulating of strategic goals and objectives. A discussion of the tactical planning procedure and brainstorming for ideas that would constitute the contents of the tactical plan were the main issues of this session. In keeping with the quadratech approach, the focus on the tactical planning process and the emphasis on the necessary skills required to carry out the process were meant to equip the groups with the know-how and the proficiency that will enable them to formulate and subsequently implement their own tactical and action plans by themselves.

Only a preliminary draft of the tactical plan was accomplished by the participants in this workshop. As a trial plan, this was critiqued for both content and structure by the Task Force using the strategic goals criteria of (1) simplicity, (2) measurability/quantifiability, (3) attainability, (4) realizability, and (5) time-boundedness. The final tactical plan, which was meant to be the product of the entire community's collective effort, was to be accomplished within 15 days after that workshop at each indigenous group's respective locality.

A third and final workshop to review and validate the final draft of the tactical plan was organized at each research site. The action plan prepared by the indigenous people themselves were clarified, analyzed, and teviewed by the Task Force and then presented to the community for acknowledgment prior to being synthesized into written reports that would form the ADMP.

In between the scheduled seminar-workshops were a number of community consultations in the three research sites organized and facilitated by the Task Force. In these community gatherings, members of the indigenous groups discussed issues pertaining to their ancestral claims and decided for themselves relevant courses of actions reflective of their needs and the aspirations of their community. At each of these community consultations, findings of the research and the groups' genealogical diagram were presented for community verification and authentication. When emendations on the data were necessary, the revised information was always returned to the group for confirmation and community acknowledgment. In the quadratech framework, the partner-community remains an active participant to the end of the research process. The people-centered approach of the quadratic model has the added premium of inculcating among constituents of partner-communities the values of self-reliance and group solidarity.

Conclusion

The essence of the quadratic approach to research may be summed up in one word--empowerment. The fashionable word of the '90s deriving from the work of the Brazilian educationalist Paulo Freire, empowerment means acquiring the awareness and the skills to take charge of one's own environment. In Calvert and Calvert's words it means "showing people how to take their destinies into their own hands" (1996: 123). Locally translated, it means community action. From the point of view of policy makers, whether the council of tribal leaders, or the local or national governments, this means encouraging individuals and groups to make their own decisions and to take part in shaping their own future. Thus, it involves the active and effective participation of people in the making of decisions affecting them. Veering away from the traditional "top-down" approach toward what is popularly known today as "bottoms-up" principle, empowerment allows people to initiate policies as well as shape the development of policies initiated by others. As the Brundtland Commission (WCED 1987) so rightly points out, "without participation,

development will not happen and the environment will be destroyed" (in Calvert & Calvert 1996: 177).

Rooted in the same philosophy is the constitutional mandate on ancestral domains. Recognizing that it is no longer enough for the government to tell people what it is going to do for them, policy makers of this constitutional provision have specifically defined in the ADMP Guidelines the role of the indigenous communities in shaping their own future through collective discussions and community decision-making processes. In allowing this, the government commits itself to safeguarding the constitutional policy respecting the rights of the indigenous communities to self-determination, justice, and equity.

The people-centered approach of the quadratech model which provided the framework for these community consultations makes it an appropriate complementary procedure in realizing the government's commitment. But since the first step in empowerment is learning how things work on the local, in the case of the indigenous cultural communities, on the rural or village level, the processes of the quadratech approach in the preparation of the Ancestral Domain Management Plan described in this chapter, also provide the best tool and the first step in teaching the indigenous communities the necessary skills in realizing the goals of the ADMP. It should be stressed, however, that this exercise should be considered not as the culmination of a research effort, but as a beginning of a much longer process of community self-education.

Acknowledgments

Many people have our gratitude for their help in the completion of this research report, only some of whom it is possible to mention here. Our greatest debt is to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Negros Oriental.

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