Improving watershed rehabilitation outcomes in the Philippines using a systems approach
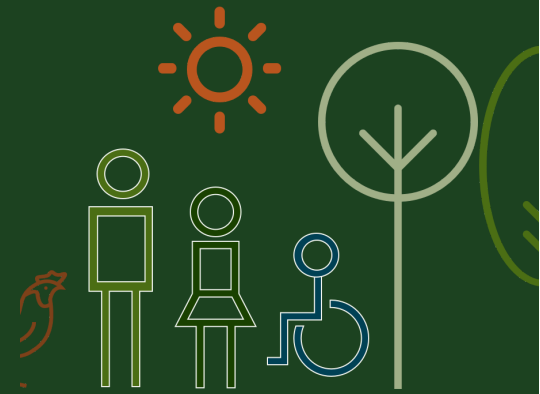
Key details

Location
Philippines

Duration
Start Mar 2012   **End** Mar 2017

Budget   AUD 2,034,788

Commissioned organisation
University of the Sunshine Coast

Partners
Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Harvard University; James Cook University; Queensland University of Technology; Southern Cross University; Visayas State University

Project Leader
Professor John Herbohn - University of Sunshine Coast

Program   Social Systems

Project code   ASEM/2010/050

Overview

This project aimed to rehabilitate critical watersheds in the Philippines.

Substantial deforestation has occurred in many critical watersheds in the Philippines. In March 2011, the Philippine government launched the National Greening Program (NGP), which aimed to reforest 1.5 million hectares of denuded forestlands by 2016. The program has been expanded until 2028 to rehabilitate another 7.1 million hectares of degraded forest. Following the community-based forestry approach, the NGP focuses on how reforestation can benefit local communities.

Project Outcomes

- Conducted scientific investigations to determine the success of reforestation programs in the Philippines including the current National Greening Program (NGP)

- Developed a policy assessment model to identify key intervention points to improve outcomes of watershed rehabilitation

- Designed and pilot-tested an evidence-based community-led watershed rehabilitation program to inform policy makers and program implementers on best practice in people-based forest landscape restoration