



Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) (C 722)

2019 STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

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Executive Summary

The improvement of the conservation and management conditions of the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras is a continuous and joint effort of various stakeholders. Led by the Provincial Local Government Unit and supported by local, national and international partners, the conservation program ensured the protection of the property. In terms of legislation, the most significant progress made is the implementation of Republic Act 10533, known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 with its provision on Indigenous Peoples (IP) Education Program that supports education initiatives on Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices and community history; indigenous languages; Indigenous Learning System and community life cycle-based curriculum and assessment. Another relevant development was the issuance of Executive Order No. 39 on 30 September 2016, establishing the Ifugao Rice Terraces Rehabilitation and Development Council and Executive Order No. 29 Series of 2017 (renewed in 2019 through EO # 35) establishing the GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems) Sustainable Development Committee. Both Council and Committee are chaired by the Provincial Governor and they provide an active inter-agency mechanism to oversee and implement various projects and researches pertaining to the preservation of the rice terraces. Various other significant conservation projects are recognized i.e., Forestland Management Project, Muyung Project, Ifugao Indigenous Peoples Education Center, Ifugao Satoyama Meister Training Program, International Innovation Center for Indigenous Studies, Handi Project and IRT-GIAHS Research and Development Center, Center for Taiwan-Philippines Indigenous & Local Knowledge and Sustainable Studies and many others.

A major construction in the offing is the Alimit Hydro Complex, a large-scale hydropower facility. Part of it will be in Mayoyao, a municipality that hosts one of the designated rice terraces clusters. However, the hydropower facility does not cover the buffer and core zones of the area.

Finally, as the IRTMP covers a period of ten years, the Provincial Government hopes that the momentum generated by the progress of its projects shall continue for the foreseeable future. A recommendation is for the IRTMP to have a Mid-Term Review during the first semester of Year 2020.

Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

Furnish below is Decision 42 COM 7B.15, and the response of the State Party can be found below each point of action.

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7B. Add,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 7B.45** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Regrets that the State Party did not submit a report on the state of conservation of the property by the deadline of 1 December 2017, as requested by the Committee in Decision **40 COM 7B.45**;
4. Welcomes nonetheless the efforts and progress made by the State Party to improve the overall state of conservation and management of the property;
5. Requests the State Party to continuously implement the Rice Terraces Master Plan 2015-2024, including not only the tangible conservation of the property, but also the Ifugao practices and intangible cultural heritage associated with it;

Response

The State Party, through the governance efforts of the Provincial Government and in cooperation with concerned national and international agencies, has been actively implementing the IRTMP 2015-2024 through the multiple action components identified within the plan, specifically (a) the biophysical component, (b) the socio-cultural component, (c) economic development component, and (d) the support system component. The specifics for each component and their respective updates are laid out below:

A) Bio-physical Component

As the Property incorporates both natural and cultural aspects to form a harmonious whole, the bio-physical makeup of the property ensures the sustainability of the synergy. The general objective of the IRTMP regarding this component is to sustain the viability of the Ifugao Terraces through Biodiversity Conservation utilizing indigenous knowledge systems. The following have been accomplished and/or are being implemented under this component;

- A research project called Ifugao Rice Terraces Assessment will start on December 1, 2019 and will end on December 30, 2020. It is funded by the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiatives (IPSI) through its Satoyama Development

Initiatives in the amount of US\$10,000 or PhP 500,000. The research project is an inventory and assessment of all components of the Ifugao Rice Terraces, especially on the ecosystem services from its rich biodiversity. The project will use the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) framework by the United Nations with the attempt to collectivize all conservation efforts among organizations to provide an agreeable and scientific information as basis for political (legislative) and societal (cognitive) measures anent to the significance of the Ifugao ecosystem services and resiliency for sustainable development. This will be implemented by the Ifugao State University through its IRT GIAHS Research and Development Center and will cover the four World Heritage Site municipalities.

- In relation to the IRTMP component on community-based forest management program, this is covered by a special program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) called the Forestland Management Project. FMP is a ten-year (2012-2022) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project that aims to strengthen forestland management in three critical river basins through the implementation of collaborative and comprehensive Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) strategies. It aims to strengthen management of forestland through collaborative and holistic implementation of comprehensive and sustainable forestland management strategies in the Upper Magat Watershed, Province of Ifugao. It also aims to improve the socio-economic conditions and quality of life of upland dwellers through more productive development and utilization of available resources.

The Project is expected to integrate conservation and development-oriented activities with full participation and capacitation of local communities. These include 147 People's Organizations (POs) within the identified 24 sub-watershed areas as well as the DENR and other stakeholders. The total project investment cost is estimated at Php 5,870.64 million.

- The Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) was able to implement projects pertaining to the Expanded National Greening Program (E-NGP) as a mechanism to maintain the Muyung System, the main source of water for the irrigation system of the Rice Terraces. For 2017 to present, it was able to establish a total of 660 Ha for E-NGP, composed of 187 Ha of Agro-forestry, 257

Ha for the reforestation project, 210 Ha for other fruit trees and 6 Ha for bamboo plantation. This was done in coordination with various cooperatives and people's organizations in Ifugao.

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been implementing since 2016 the project "Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agrobiodiversity in Traditional Agroecosystems of the Philippines" to help respond to the need for enabling frameworks, create incentives and benefit-sharing measures, promote pro-biodiversity initiatives and address the core drivers of biodiversity loss. Funded by the Global Environment Facility and jointly implemented by FAO, the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) with partner local government units, the project is working to enhance and promote the sustainable use of agro-biodiversity (ABD) in traditional agro-ecosystems.

The project will conserve globally important agrobiodiversity (of rice, mung bean, taro, yam, banana, Manila hemp and others) in traditional agroecosystems. It will have an agroecosystem and landscape perspective, maintaining the provision of ecosystem services on which ABD conservation depends, and addressing threats originating in the broader landscape. It will help ensure favorable policy conditions; consolidate community-based governance; strengthen technical and organizational capacities at individual and community levels; promote market-based incentives for ABD conservation; and create conditions for further nationwide replication.

The project currently works in Hingyon and Hungduan in Ifugao Province, and Lake Sebu in South Cotabato Province, which are known for their rich crop diversity conservation initiatives and heirloom farming practices using traditional and natural methods. The project's implementation is using an allotted fund of PhP 669, 614, 540.00 or USD 13,701,955. The expected date of the completion of the project is 2019.

- On December 2017, the Biodiversity International and the World Agricultural Heritage Foundation conducted a much needed training workshop on Resiliency Assessment for Climate Agro Ecosystems and Communities for the farmers of Kiangon, Ifugao. Actual resilience assessment was conducted in the Nagacadan Rice Terraces.

- In 2015, the Ifugao Provincial Government applied for funding with the Sustainable Inclusive Development Projects of the Italian Embassy for a proposal on Ifugao's "Muyong Project". It was approved and implementation started in 2016, with a total fund of PhP35 million. The Muyong Project by the Provincial Government of Ifugao seeks to enrich/reforest at least 405 hectares of land through a well laid-out agro-forestry plan and forest enrichment activities which, through peoples' participation, are expected to provide additional livelihood source and income to about 2,500 farmers. This project rests on sound environmental practice supportive of Ifugao's traditional culture of maintaining the Muyong, the parcels of land traditionally maintained as source of firewood and as watershed for the farmlands.
- PhP 21,000,000 from the Department of Agriculture was utilized for the project "Batad Rice Terraces Rehabilitation" accomplishing 21 irrigation systems repair and construction, repair of damaged stonewalls, construction of protection walls amounting to PhP 5,000,000 and reforestation projects with the purpose of watershed rehabilitation.

B) Socio-cultural Component

As living cultural landscape, the property's intangible dimension is indispensable. The IRTMP's socio-cultural component aims to strengthen the utilization of intangible and tangible cultural heritage towards the conservation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces. The following have been accomplished and/or are being implemented under this component:

- In the area of indigenous knowledge, systems and practices (IKSP), education is key in giving value to the intangible aspect of Ifugao heritage on a lifelong integration and a long-term basis. In 2013, the Philippines saw the passing of Republic Act Number 10533, known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013. A significant and relevant provision of this law is the section on Indigenous Peoples (IP) Education Program. The law provides a program that supports education initiatives undertaken through formal, non-formal, and informal modalities with emphasis on any of, but not limited to, the key areas of: Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices and community history; indigenous languages; Indigenous Learning System (ILS) and community life cycle-based curriculum and assessment; educational goals, aspirations, and competencies specific to the Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC); engagement of elders and other

community members in the teaching-learning process, assessment, and management of the initiative, recognition and continuing practice of the community's ILS; and the rights and responsibilities of ICCs.

- This was given more substance and action through an order from the Department of Education. It is DepEd Order No. 62, s. 2011 entitled Adopting the National Indigenous Peoples Education (IPED) Policy Framework and DepEd Order No. 43, s. 2013 entitled Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10533 otherwise known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013. The Department of Education (DepEd) adopted the Indigenous Peoples Education Curriculum Framework which seeks to provide guidance to schools and other education programs, both public and private, as they engage with indigenous communities in localizing, indigenizing, and enhancing the K to 12 Curriculum based on their respective educational and social contexts.
- The establishment of the Ifugao Indigenous Peoples Education Center and Community Heritage Galleries (IPED Center) by the Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (SITMo) aims in the long run to fully integrate traditional knowledge into the formal education system by harmonizing traditional knowledge transfer and modern educational pedagogy. The Center is community-led but works closely with the Department of Education and the local governments. Knowing fully well that the long-term sustainability of the rice terraces lies in the continued appreciation of the values attached to the terraces by the younger generation of Ifugaos, the Center functions as a heritage learning center and a venue for other cultural activities. Organized civic groups like culture bearers, rice terraces farmers, indigenous knowledge holders, young professionals, volunteers and heritage advocates compose the community component of the center. The center also houses a traditional weaving center mainly for women farmers and a community center for the Ifugao Intangible Heritage and Performing Arts Society (IIHPAS.)
- One youth-oriented project of the IPED Center is the Handi Project. Handi is the vernacular for “long time ago”. The Handi Project is an initiative of SITMo that aims to bring the Ifugao youth closer to their own cultural resources and traditions.

Handi grew from a simple request of a local teacher to bring her students to the Ifugao Museum in Kiangan. Despite being Ifugao themselves, her students had never been to their own culturally important places. There was a desire to know about their shared history, but financial costs, transportation difficulties, and other logistical constraints were prohibiting them. Learning this, SITMo immediately spurred into action, and in just three weeks, the students were able to experience the very first school fieldtrip of their lives on September 18, 2015. Within six months, the project had expanded to include all elementary schools of Kiangan, and this 2019, Handi has helped reconnect over 1,500 Ifugao students to their cultural roots and history. The project has grown in breadth as well to encompass different aspects of education: from printing educational materials for younger learners, creating learning labs for older students to training teachers on imparting cultural knowledge and appreciation. A growing library on Ifugao literature is housed at the IPED Center for researchers, students, teachers and community members.

The project is run by dedicated volunteers and is fueled by the support of public and private individuals and organizations. SITMo believes in investing in these children, the future leaders of the Ifugao society, and giving them all equal opportunities to learn about their culture through the museums and facilities right in their neighborhood; the same institutions which were made for them but which for different reasons have been largely inaccessible. Among others, SITMo believes that heritage appreciation among the younger members of Ifugao society is needed to address the problem of youthful apathy towards the rice culture that in turn results to abandonment and neglect of inherited terraced rice fields.

- The Ifugao Archaeological Project (IAP) is a continuing archaeological research by UCLA and SITMo in partnership with the National Museum of the Philippines and the local governments of Ifugao. It seeks to bring about empirical data on the cultural property through scientific research that should translate to better policy development and management of the rice terraces. The project is a rising model for academic and community collaboration in scientific research

To date, numerous peer-reviewed publications have been produced by the project that should serve as a major reference for policy-making and for educational purposes.

The Ifugao Archaeological Project utilized multiple datasets to establish the origins of Philippine Cordillera rice terraces. Dominant historical narratives in the region suggest a 2,000-3,000 ybp inception of the terrace systems, but previous Bayesian modeling and current archaeobotanical, ethnohistoric, and ethnographic data indicate a shift to wet-rice cultivation that coincided with contact with the Spanish. As argued by the lead archaeologist, Dr. Stephen Acabado (2017), the emergence of wet-rice cultivation in the highland region was an indicator of an influx of lowland populations avoiding the Spanish colonization. Utilizing archaeological datasets, including radiocarbon determinations, faunal isotopic signatures, human osteological remains, archaeobotanical data sets, energetics assessments, and spatial data, it is argued that wet-rice cultivation in Ifugao, Philippines, is a recent phenomenon, a response to the intrusion of the Spanish Empire in the northern highland Philippines (Acabado et al. 2019).

- In 2011, through a project called Nurturing Indigenous Knowledge Experts (NIKE), a 173-page Ifugao Indigenous Knowledge Workbook was written by Ifugao State University, sponsored by the UNESCO Association in Japan. It contained indigenous knowledge in eight areas which are: land and water management, rice production practices, biodiversity conservation practices, stone works, house construction, laws and justice system, rituals, dances and festivals. In 2019, this workbook is in the process of being updated and expanded by the Ifugao State University.
- On July 12, 2019, the Ifugao State University (IFSU) with the National Chengchi University (NCCU) of Taiwan launched the Center for Taiwan-Philippines Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Sustainable Studies or CTPILS at the IFSU campus. The main collaborative partners of the said center are IFSU, NCCU, University of California Los Angeles, Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement and University of Hawaii – Manoa. With a budget of PhP5,000,000 a year (2019-2021), this Center will conduct a series of projects that will promote indigenous knowledge, systems and practices, especially through the Indigenous Peoples' Education (IPEd).

One of its projects is the Ifugao Indigenous Educators Training Program whereby schoolteachers are given a series of training activities on cultural conservation, sustainable studies; research and culture; curriculum design and learning resources. The targets are 80 trained schoolteachers who will produce 40 learning resources and 40 action research. The learning resources are on topics related to indigenous knowledge.

- The Provincial Government through the support of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), was able to implement various programs for the safeguarding of Ifugao cultural identity and heritage through the conservation, promotion, and transmission of indigenous knowledge and skills. These initiatives include the expansion of Schools of Living Traditions (SLT) amounting to PhP 87, 745.00 or USD 1, 795.48, handicraft making training amounting to PhP 86, 194.00 OR USD 1 763.74, and stonewalling skills transfer amounting to 116, 913.00 or USD 2, 392.32.

In 2018, the “Documentation of the Built Heritage of the Municipality of Kiangan, Ifugao” was approved and funded by NCCA, and the project cost was PhP 200,000 or US\$4,000. This project is an inventory of all the traditional houses of Kiangan, Ifugao, including the rice granaries on the rice terraces. Then in 2019, this documentation of traditional houses merited an award from the World Wood Day Foundation (WWDF), receiving US\$12,000 or PhP 600,000 for the identification of the wood species used in the construction of the identified traditional structures in Kiangan, Hungduan and Mayoyao. This research grant is for the period June 2019 to March 2020.

- In cognizance of the UN-FAO designation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, the Ifugao State University put up a research hub: the Research and Development Center for the Ifugao Rice Terraces as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (IRT – GIAHS R & D Center). This was established in 2016 as one of the departments of the Ifugao State University and mandated to managed projects that are linked to the sustainable development of the Ifugao Rice Terraces and its landscapes.

It has various programs: the Ifugao Satoyama Meister Training Program – Phase II; Youth for Ifugao Rice Terraces (Y4IRT); Development of Kiangan, Ifugao Municipal Built Heritage Inventory, International Innovation Center for Indigenous Studies; and Center for Taiwan-Philippines Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge and Sustainable Studies.

- The Youth for Ifugao Rice Terraces is a youth capacity building and exchange program funded by Mitsui & Co., Ltd at PhP5,000,000 or US\$ 100,000. It is a collaborative two-year project of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), Kanazawa University (KU), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and Ifugao State University (IFSU). Five (5) learning modules on sustainable development of the IRT were developed and given to Ifugao youth as a learning activity, using digital tablets as a mode of learning.
- As a joint initiative to the Youth for IRT project, the contextualization (translation to two dialects: Tawali and Ayangan) of the 5 instructional materials was also a one-year project (March 2018 to March 2019) for the Ifugao community. This project was funded by the Satoyama Development Mechanism for PhP500,000 or US\$10,000.
- In May 2019, UNESCO selected the proposal named “Ifugao Traditional Houses: A Springboard for Re-energizing Culture, Preserving Landscape, and Support Household Resiliency in a UNESCO World Heritage Site”, as one of its few Replicators under its RURITAGE project. Ruritage is funded under H2020 and has selected 6 rural areas located primarily in the EU and in the EEA and 3 in the 16 ENP countries, which would like to transform themselves in in sustainable development demonstration ‘laboratories’, through the enhancement of their unique Cultural and Natural Heritage potential. In particular, RURITAGE will make successful practices and solutions on heritage-led rural regeneration available and replicable; identify the financial resources needed to preserve cultural heritage in rural areas; promote the engagement of rural communities in the decision-making processes; and provide roadmaps for the development and long-term sustainability of heritage-led regeneration strategies. This project will be until 2022.

- Additionally, documentation of the flora and fauna in the Rice Terraces, as well as identification of profiling of indigenous knowledge holders have been spearheaded and completed by the Provincial Government. These documents are available through the Ifugao Cultural Heritage Office.
- The Provincial Government entered to a partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) entitled: “Cultural Extravaganza, Sining at Tanghalan (Arts and Performances)” through the DepEd’s Special Education Funds with the beneficiary of 539 students across 11 sections in Lagawe National High School.

C) Economic Development Component

The general well-being of the property requires the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of its most direct stakeholders. The objective of this component is to improve the socio-economic status of all stakeholders through Community-based agro-Industry Programmes. The following have been accomplished and/or are being implemented under this component:

- The Tourism Office of the Ifugao Provincial Planning and Development Office conducted various capacity-building activities such as effective customer service training, culinary training and homestays and restaurants, tour guide training and development, including capacities for first-aid and basic life support.
- Skills development for handicraft making worth PhP 86,194.00 or US\$ 1,766.99 is being done to capacitate local craftspeople for business opportunities.
- The Kapatid Mentor ME (KMME) is a program of the Department of Trade and Industry that aims to help Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs scale up their business thru weekly coaching and mentoring by business owners and practitioners on different functional areas of entrepreneurship to be held in Negosyo Centers nationwide. In Ifugao, the number of trainees since 2016-2019 reached 75 entrepreneur graduates who are now managing their businesses guided by the program.
- PhP 1,500,000 worth of agroforestry and livelihood project funds of PhP 500,000 each from the Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource

Management Project II (CHARMP2) was just awarded this November to three (3) farmers organizations namely the a) Anao Farmers Association; b) (Gala) Gumhang Agricultural Livelihood Association; and c) Abatan Farmers Association. The project's purpose is to reforest 45 hectares with coffee in Tinoc, rambutan in Hingyon and pomelo (red chandler) in Hungduan of 15 hectares each respectively. Moreover, the project includes livelihood projects like vegetable production, livestock production, food processing and other related activities.

D) Support System Component

The effective and continued operation of property as an effective World Heritage Sites requires stable infrastructure and institutional support. The general objectives of this component are to maintain efficient infrastructure programs, and to utilize technical designs for long-term use, projection, and preservation to achieve a positive impact. The following have been accomplished and/or are being implemented under this component:

- In relation to maintaining the desired state of conservation of the property, rehabilitation, repair, and restoration work were done on existing Communal Irrigation Systems (CIS), with funding in the amount of PhP 822, 796.23 or USD 16, 837.16 (based on 2016-2019 average exchange rate) coming from the Rice Terraces Conservation Fund (RTCF).
- The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) was also able to implement CIS-related projects in different municipalities in Ifugao- including municipalities where the inscribed sites are- amounting to PhP 155, 405,000 for 2017 or US\$ 3, 180.10.
- A project entitled: "Rehabilitation and Establishment of Bangaan World Heritage as a Living Cultural Landscapes Model" proceed to identify houses and structures within the Bangaan Cluster for development and improvement to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value is not affected in any way. As of 2019, 13 native houses were repaired, 4 native houses were constructed, a cobblestone parapet, and a public comfort room have been completed. The roofs of the houses in the village were painted for aesthetic purpose. Transformation of a house into a

livelihood center was done. A total of PhP2,680,000 or US\$53,600 was spent for this project.

- Non-intrusive safely railings and safer pathways were introduced in Batad leading to Tappiya Falls, which is a side attraction when viewing the Batad Cluster.

6. Reiterates its request to the State Party to ensure the necessary human and financial resources to support the implementation of the Master Plan of the property through operational arrangements;

Response

The promulgation of Executive Order No. 39, effectively creating the Ifugao Rice Terraces Rehabilitation and Development Council (Annex VI) and Executive Order No. 35, establishing the Ifugao GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System) Sustainable Development Committee (IGSC), ensures that the necessary human and financial resources will be channeled towards the preservation of the property. The Council and Committee are composed of different agencies at the provincial and national levels that are directly involved in the conservation efforts of the property. These are: Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Tourism Infrastructure and Economic Zone Authority (TIEZA), agencies within the provincial government (such as the Provincial Planning and Development Office, the Offices of the Municipal Mayors) and finally civil society, specifically non-government organizations that involved themselves with heirloom rice production. The Council and Committee are tasked to ensure proper support, monitoring and evaluation with regards to the conservation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces, particularly through the production of heirloom rice, thus ensuring the steady economic development of rice producers, as well as the continued use of the terraces. On the financial support borne out by the Council, initial funding in the amount of PhP 1,200,000.00 or USD 20,000.00 was provided by the Office of the Secretary of the DA. This amount is hereby appropriated for the Rice Terraces and Development Projects, Programs and/or Activities and these are: the Rehabilitation of Monkilong CIS at Pindongan, Kiangan PhP60,000.00; Rehabilitation of Kappugan-Baay CIS phase 11 at Ambabag, Kiangan PhP110,000.00; Rehabilitation of Umiyon CIS phase VII at Mungayang, Kiangan PhP60,000.00; Rehabilitation of Amdaulon-Pulitang CIS at Julongan, Kiangan PhP400,000.00; Rehabilitation of Awa CIS at Abatan, Hungduan PhP145,000.00; Rehabilitation of Licho CIS at Mapawoy, Mayoyao

PhP140,000.00; Research and Documentation of Rice Culture at Kiangan, Ifugao PhP80,000.00; Conservation and Preservation Initiative for Banaue Rice Terraces Through the Chawwa Farming System at Viewpoint, Banaue PhP145,000.00; Research and Development on IRT Conservation PhP60,000.00 Since the promulgation of the Executive Order, the council was able to provide support in training farmers for heirloom rice production. It should be noted that the council covers the whole province of Ifugao and not just the clusters inscribed as World Heritage.

Moreover, the issuance of Executive Order No. 29 (later renewed in EO # 35), establishing the Ifugao GIAHS Sustainable Development Committee (IGSC) recognizes the importance of research projects in the conservation of the property. The Committee is tasked to provide assistance and support in the conduct of research projects related to the conservation of Ifugao Rice Terraces. These research projects are done by meisters under the Ifugao Satoyama Meisters Training Program. The committee is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in cooperation with the Ifugao State University and the Provincial Government of Ifugao. Since its promulgation the committee, through its members, provides support to researchers and trainees in their research projects. The conducted research projects cover only the municipalities inscribed in the World Heritage List.

Apart from the developments with the Council and the Committee, the provincial Government has also ensured the continued utilization of the Rice Terraces Conservation Fund (RTCF), which comes from the revenue of the 200 KW Ambangal Mini Hydroelectric Plant in Kiangan, Ifugao. Proceeds from the fund are being used for the development of irrigation not just in the inscribed sites, but also other rice terraces around the province. Another hydro-plant was constructed in Likud Asipulo, Ifugao and the revenue will also be used to complement the RTCF in the future. For year 2015, the amount of PhP950,000 was spent from the RCTF on the rehabilitation of communal irrigation systems. In 2016, the amount of PhP1,50,000 was spent on rehabilitating 7 communal irrigation systems. The RTCF was also spent on skills training on stonewalling, weaving and handicraft making, as well as on database establishment on culture bearers and bio-diversity in the rice terrace ecosystem.

One area that needs attention is human resources development. In 2014, the Ifugao Satoyama Meister Training Program or ISMTP was organized. It is a human capacity development project formally named as "Human Resources Development Program for

the Sustainable Development of GIAHS Designated Site, Ifugao Rice Terraces in the Philippines”, funded by JICA and collaboratively implemented by IFSU, UPOU, Kanazawa University, Ifugao GIAHS Support Committee-Japan, Ifugao PLGU and GIAHS MLGUs. This 6-year training program (2014-2020) is aimed to develop appreciation and meaningful understanding of the importance of IRT conservation among the local communities. As a training program, it will capacitate local communities on technical knowledge and skills to help enhance their economic conditions, sustain indigenous practices and conserve the IRT landscape. A total of 102 meisters are in their communities, abiding by their duties as conservators of the Ifugao Rice Terraces. A total of JY140,000,000 or PhP6,160,000 or US\$ 280,000 was spent for this program.

The ISMTP training program enabled the trainees to value research and were taught how to translate it to extension activities or projects. All research-projects are geared towards the conservation of the Ifugao Rice Terraces classified in the following:

General Classification	# of Researches	Thematic Classification
Agriculture and Indigenous Flora	12	Agricultural Technology, Crop Science, Pest Management, Forestry, Biodiversity
Livestock and Indigenous Fauna	8	Agricultural Technology, Crop Science, Pest Management, Forestry, Biodiversity
Baselining	23	Tourism, Economics, IP Education, Health
Product Development/Enterprising	12	Food, Pest Management
Social Studies	18	Tourism Management, Solid Waste management, Economics, Museology, Policy Assessment
Culture	8	Indigenous Food, Arts and Crafts, Indigenous Knowledge

7. Encourages the State Party to continuously monitor the implementation of regulations to control infrastructural and physical developments within the property, and to ensure the full participation of local communities and residents in its operation;

Other conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property’s Outstanding Universal Value.

a. Implementation Rate of Projects

While there has been strong institutional support for the implementation of the IRTMP 2015-2024, the implementation rate of the project has been average, owing to the lack of manpower and the sheer scale of rehabilitating the various rice terraces clusters not only of those inscribed in the World Heritage List, but the rice terraces in the entire province. It is hoped that, with the establishment of the Ifugao Rice Terraces Rehabilitation and Development Council, the implementation rate will be improved due to the more centralized nature of activities. More legislative measures can also be done to ensure that there will be adequate job security and tenure for cultural workers tasked with the implementation of the IRTMP and the conservation of the property.

b. Financial Support

While the RTCF remains a constant source of funding along with the 20% Development Fund from the Provincial Government, the financial support that the property receives from local, national and international sources is encouraging. At the local level, the municipal local government have allocated funds for conservation-related activities (Banaue PhP98,976,300; Kiangang PhP5,118,300; Hungduan PhP42,005,015; Maoyayao PhP 8,591,625). National agencies such as the National Irrigation Authority, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resource have also allocated funds for the conservation of the rice terraces. There have been companies that have provided financial resources for the rehabilitation of the Rice Terraces such as Universal Harvester Inc., Carmeldre, Toshiba Company, Mitsui Co Ltd. and Black Pencil. JICA proves to be a major supporter, with its investment in the Forestland Management Project and the Ifugao Satoyama Meister Training Program. Other countries have also given financial support such as Italy (Muyong Project), Taiwan (Center for Taiwan-Philippines Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge and Sustainable Studies) and Netherlands (Netherlands Funds –in Trust).

More can be done in terms of attracting foreign funding. It is hoped that the formation of the Development Council will help in the drafting of project proposals and requests to ensure more funding opportunities in the future. Additionally, legislative measures can also be explored to ensure that the property maintains its desired state of conservation.

c. Outmigration and Issues on Economic Development

An unwanted effect of economic development in the region is the waning interest in maintaining the rice terraces as viable sources of income, thus spurring outmigration especially from the children and extended family of the owners of the rice terraces. Continued outmigration will become a conservation issue since the property is inscribed as a cultural landscape and in fact requires the full participation and harmonization of the Ifugao people with their Heritage. Further, the waning marketability of heirloom rice produced by the terraces has also caused farmers to shift to other more profitable agricultural items. It is hoped that, as the years progress, more programs for economic development and livelihood generations will be implemented to address the outmigration issue. It is also recommended that other national agencies be encouraged to contribute to addressing these issues, such as the participation of key trade, industry and tourism agencies or bodies in projects specifically tailored to the world heritage values of the property, particularly on projects involving food and/ or agricultural tourism.

Based on data gathered, it was evident that the population embodying IRT's traditional knowledge is aging, and Ifugao youths lack or has limited traditional knowledge—which threatens the IRT's sustainability. Hence, the Youth for the Ifugao Rice Terraces was established with the objective of addressing this and out-migration and the other pressing needs. This project used digital tablet-based training modules programs. Since Ifugao is a remote province with limited internet accessibility, using a portable and mobile device such as the digital tablet to contain the modules through a non-internet-dependent application was the project's approach. Having tablet-based training modules makes it easier for target youths to learn more on the IRT as they can access the materials anytime, anywhere through a single device.

d. Threats to the Intangible Dimension of the Property

A by-product of the outmigration issue has been the slow erosion of the intangible values that animate the cultural landscape of the Ifugao people. This covers not only cultural practices such as the Hudhud chants, but also indigenous agricultural practices that keep the property harmonious, such as the Chawwa system and the muyung system of forestry. It is good to note that various provincial and national government institutions are addressing these threats. The Provincial Government is thus hopeful that with the Indigenous Peoples' Education and various programs in partnership with DepEd on incorporating IKSP in school curricula will help in ensuring values transmission to the

younger generation. All these, in conjunction with already-existing SLT Programs, will capacitate the younger generation in preserving the terraces. The State Party is studying how to utilize the mechanism under the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH to safeguard and promote the ICH aspects of the Rice Terraces, especially traditional agricultural/ rice production techniques in consultation with relevant communities.

In conformity with paragraph 172 of the Operational guidelines, describe any potential major restorations, alterations, and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

Renewable energy provider SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) has yet to start its project, Alimit Hydro Complex. The first phase entails the construction of the 120-megawatt (MW) Alimit Plant and the 20-MW Olilicon Plant. The capital outlay for this phase is expected to be between US\$450 to US\$550 million. The second phase of the complex includes the 250-MW Alimit pumped storage facility.

All four of the Local Government Units (LGU) hosting the Alimit Hydro, namely the Municipalities of Aguinaldo, Lagawe, Lamut, and Mayoyao, have signified their approval for what is set to be Ifugao's first large-scale hydropower facility. The project area in Mayoyao, one of the municipalities hosting a designated rice terrace cluster, is not in the buffer and core zones.

Another project already with permission from the community (and government) is the Kiangon Mini Hydro Corporation Project of the Alternergy Company. It is a run-off river type and it covers non-buffer zone barangays.

Other than these energy projects, there are no major and/or significant development within the core and buffer zones of the property. As the property is a living cultural landscape, small-scale development within the property is to be expected, and so far, all have been compliant with adopted infrastructure guidelines and with the general guidelines prescribed by the Provincial development Office to ensure the sustainability and harmonization of any development within the property's boundaries.

8. Also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the Committee at its 44th session in 2020.

Response: The Ifugao Rice Terraces Master Plan (2015 – 2024) will be up for a Mid-Term Review as it is already on its 5th year in June,2020. This is necessary to see the progress in the implementation of the plan.

9. Public access to the state of Conservation Report

The State Party welcomes the open accessibility of this report in the World Heritage Centre website.

10. Signature of the Authority



JERRY U. DALIPOG

Governor, Province of Ifugao