



ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACTS OF FLASHFLOODS AND LANDSLIDES IN BRGY. ANDAP, NEW BATAAN, COMPOSTELA VALLEY, PHILIPPINES: A LOCAL COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT – In December 2012, Brgy. Andap, New Bataan in Compostela Valley suffered catastrophic damages due to Typhoon Bopha. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) activities were conducted in Brgy Andap six months after the calamity to elicit the community's local ecological knowledge on the land use and livelihood changes; their impacts on environmental degradation; causal factors of the 2012 flash flood and landslide; solutions for livelihood recovery; and recommendations to mitigate flashfloods and landslides. The various PRA activities include timeline, community-based resource maps, causal mapping, and focus group discussion. New Bataan used to have lush primary forest, fertile soils and abundant minerals. For decades, the livelihood in the community was mainly agricultural planting vegetables, annual crops and perennial trees. Logging and mining activities since the 1950's resulted to deforestation. These decade-long activities have increased the area's vulnerability to natural disasters. Locals perceive logging and mining activities as the major causes of landslides and floods in the locality. Community recommendations to aid in the community's livelihood recovery include support for the restoration of farming activities in the form of subsidies for agricultural inputs, provision of trainings and seminars on modern agricultural practices and establishment of micro-credit financing institutions. To mitigate flashfloods and landslides, the community recommends logging ban and planting of trees in the denuded forests, moratorium on mining and introduction of livelihood opportunities. Protection of the environment will lead to sustainable livelihoods. Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies as well as careful consideration of the local geological and geographical characteristics of the locality, should be integrated in the revision of the New Bataan Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and the Barangay Andap Development and Security Plans to make the local communities climate change-sensitive and resilient. This study has shown that participatory rural approaches provide an in-depth understanding of the local community's perception on the causes and impacts of natural hazards, and how to mitigate these impacts.

Keywords: flashfloods, landslides, logging, mining, natural hazards, participatory rural appraisal



JOURNAL OF NATURE STUDIES
(formerly Nature's Bulletin)
Online ISSN: 2244-5226

To cite this paper: Magcale-Macandog, D.B., Macandog, P.B.M., Acosta, L.A., Eugenio, E.A., Lin, E.K., Gonzalo, M.T., Ambe, J.M. & delos Reyes, J. 2020. Assessment of the Impacts of Flashfloods and Landslides in Brgy. Andap, New Bataan, Compostela Valley, Philippines: A Local Community Perspective. *Journal of Nature Studies*. 19(2), 62-83.