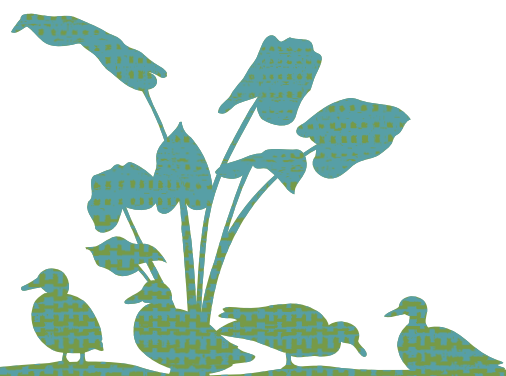
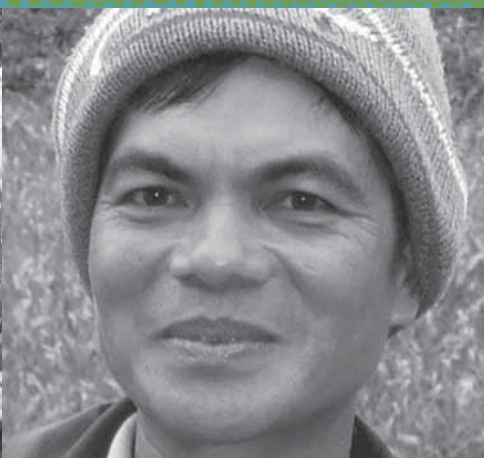


Landcare in the Philippines



A practical guide to
getting it started and
keeping it going



Australian Government

Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research

LANDCARE
FOUNDATION
PHILIPPINES

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Landcare Foundation of the Philippines, Inc.



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The Landcare Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. (LFPI) was established in 2003 by the World Agroforestry Centre (International Centre for Research in Agroforestry) under a project funded by the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI). LFPI's initial mission was to operate a Small Grants Program to landcare groups in northern Mindanao through a special Landcare Trust Fund provided by AECI. Since then it has broadened its mission to supporting the development of landcare throughout the Philippines.

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Foreword

Research agencies, including the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), have been involved in developing and adapting farming technologies in the Philippines for many years. Much of the work has focused on overcoming problems such as land degradation while attempting to simultaneously improve the livelihoods of farming families.

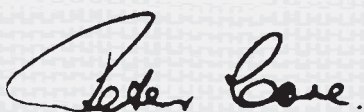
While landcare has been at the forefront of this work for more than a decade, its focus now extends well beyond natural resource management issues to encompass all aspects of people's livelihoods, including health, income, cash flow, access to markets, and education. Initiated in Claveria in northern Mindanao in 1996 as a partnership between the World Agroforestry Centre, local farmers and the municipal local government unit, it has achieved change in the adoption of conservation farming technologies and improved livelihoods at a rate rarely observed in the Philippines.

ACIAR is proud to have been involved as a research partner in this effort since 1999, for the last 5 years in conjunction with the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). During the 10 years of Australian agency involvement, landcare has grown to involve more than 8,000 farmers in more than 20 municipal sites throughout Mindanao and the Visayas. This has involved partnerships with more than 60 research, government, non-government and academic agencies. In the process, landcare has helped reshape thinking and practice towards a more participatory research and extension model, where everyone has a more active role in achieving beneficial outcomes relevant to their community needs.

This change in thinking and practice has highlighted the important role of facilitation—working with farmers and others in rural communities to facilitate change 'from the inside out'. It is a skill that has relevance not only to landcare but also to any community development process demanding long-term sustainable change.

This manual provides practical guidelines for all those involved in this important role—the practitioners (extension workers, community organisers and farmer facilitators), local government officials and other agency managers who wish to understand how landcare works. What makes the manual especially valuable is that the guidelines come from 15 local landcare facilitators who between them have more than 100 years of landcare experience.

The manual builds on ACIAR's 2004 publication, *Landcare in the Philippines: stories of people and places* (Monograph 112), which tells the stories of more than 40 people who contributed to the growth of landcare in the country. The book inspired many people to become involved in landcare and we hope that this new manual will help them, and those of you who are new to landcare, to use the landcare approach for the benefit of your communities.



Peter Core

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

