

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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| Date: | December 16, 2011 | Entry Number: | 1178 |
| Case Study Name: | Environmentalism, Development, and Participation on Palawan Island, Philippines | | |
| Author: | Austin, R.L. & Eder, J.F. | | |
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| Region: | Oceania | | |
| Country: | Philippines | | |
| Ecosystem Type: | Agriculture, mangrove forest, forestry, and coastal | | |
| Social Characteristics: | Coastal & Rural | | |
| Scale of Study: | Community | | |
| Resource Type: | Forestry, agriculture, fisheries, land use | | |
| Type of Initiative: | Research driven project | | |
| Community Based Work: | Local resource management | | |

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| Keywords: | Coastal resource management, community-based resource management, environmentalism, hybrid NGOs, NGOs, participation, Philippines, sustainable development |
| Summary: | <p>On Palawan Island, Philippines, known for its high biodiversity and dynamic environmental movement, development, participation, and conservation have been enveloped by the twin discourses of environmentalism and sustainable development. This essay considers environmental policy on Palawan and several case studies of sustainable development projects that emphasize community-based resource management (CBRM). Recent critiques suggest that CBRM has not been successful because communities lack self-sufficiency and claims of “local participation” are merely rhetorical. We argue that analyses of CBRM should consider three aspects of Philippine environmentalism: whether rhetoric regarding resource management matches reality in the eyes of local residents; the overlapping roles of government and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); and multiplex relationships of NGOs with local communities. Our findings suggest that despite some difficulties, stronger NGO roles in CBRM have generally resulted in better environmental protection, and through relationships with NGOs, communities in the Philippines can indeed take action to serve their own best interests.</p> |