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Thesis Social Forestry and Forest Governance 2023

Title: Comparison of Mangrove Reforestation Programs in two

Coastal Barangays in Lucena City, Quezon Province,

Philippines

Author: | Aclan, Neslyn Faith Palomares

Adviser: | Tapia-Villamayor, Maricel A.

Stream: | Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access: General Public

Type: | Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

This study compared the mangrove reforestation programs and conservation efforts in two coastal barangays, namely Ransohan and Barra, in Lucena City, Quezon Province, Philippines. It employed a convergent mixed methods approach, collecting and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data using resource system as a framework to identify the significant differences between the coastal barangays. Rhizophora and Avicennia species are the dominant mangrove species in Ransohan and Barra. The mangrove reforestation project in Ransohan is school-led while that of Barra is Barangay LGU-led. Ransohan had a larger mangrove forest area at 17,813.795 m2 compared to Barra which has 5,314.553 m2. However, Ransohan experienced a significant decline in mangrove cover from 2010 to 2020, while Barra showed a slight increase. The mangrove reforestation project in Ransohan provided an alternative source of income and increased awareness among students, while in Barra, the focus was on coastal protection and potential for ecotourism. Both barangays reported benefits such as food sources, flood mitigation, wind and wave protection, and habitat provision for fisheries. The study found that gender, educational attainment, and household size are significant socioeconomic predictors of participation in mangrove programs. The success of the program is primarily facilitated by collaborative mangrove management. However, constraints include a lack of science-based approaches and funding agencies to ensure sustainability. The study concluded that analyzing the mangrove



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reforestation programs as a resource system is essential for capturing the necessary considerations to achieve desired outcomes. The interconnectedness of various dimensions, particularly the biophysical and the socioeconomic conditions, underscores the concept of "no one size fits all" and "high specificity". Each coastal community has its own unique stories, practices, values, motivations, desires, and needs, depending on their social, economic, biological, and physical context. Therefore, appropriate assessment and program implementation should be conducted to encourage active participation from the locality in programs aimed at sustainable development.

Title:

Decolonizing Analysis: The Role of Social Forestry in Alleviating Research Fatigue in the Aeta Community of Barangay Gordon Heights, Zambales Philippines

Author:

Cariño, Cyril Josse Laude

Adviser:

Mariano, Krisandra A.

Stream:

Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access:

Restricted

Type:

Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

This study was conducted to identify the role of Social Forestry in alleviating research fatigue in the Aeta community of Brgy. Gordon Heights, Zambales, Philippines. Here, research fatigue is defined as the exhaustion experienced by indigenous communities when they are frequently misrepresented by the academe or if they do not receive the benefits promised to them by non-indigenous researchers and organizations. The rationale for this research emanates from the exigency for more publications on research fatigue in the context of the Philippines, and the need for the integration of Social Forestry concepts to resolve the issue of respondent weariness. To address the objectives, the decolonizing methodology was employed to analyze the narratives of the participants without undermining their local knowledge and experiences regarding the research problem. Immersion, in-depth, and key informant interviews were conducted to collect the pertinent data necessary in addressing the research questions. For this study, the findings suggest that the Aeta community has already engaged in varying research and development projects pioneered by academic and



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governmental institutions. These projects include (1) the Comprehensive Site Development, (2) the Veggie Training Production, and (3) the Ecotourism and Management Plan in Gordon Heights. The findings of this study indicate that the researchers who visited their community benefited more compared to the Aeta tribe because of their failure to report back to their respondents and the lack of positive changes presumed to occur in the community. Lastly, the results of this study suggest that CBFM can be a good avenue for the Aeta community to recognize their methods of managing natural resources since it promotes the restoration of the forest and ensures the Aeta community's benefits from their overarching participation. The indigenous people's role as environmental stewards and their rights to social justice, however, may be able to help limit the occurrence of research weariness since it acknowledges and protects the rights of the Aeta community while ensuring their reciprocated benefits from land they are safeguarding.

Title: | Perceived Impacts of the Up Laguna-Quezon Land Grant

(LQLG) Ecotourism Development by the Adjacent

Communities

Author: | Catalla, Arvin Josef Bodegon

Adviser: | Camacho, Leni D.

Stream: | Social Forestry and Forest Governance

Access: | General Public

Type: | Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

The aim of this study is to describe the existing ecotourism sites in the area as well as potential natural and physical resources for ecotourism development, determine the current and potential tourism visitation rates, determine the perceptions and attitudes of the local communities towards the potential impacts of ecotourism development, identify the issues and challenges of the ongoing ecotourism project, and to provide recommendations for the effective implementation of the ecotourism project at the LQLG. A semi-structured survey questionnaire that included a combination of open-ended and fixed-response questions was developed in order to gather information for the study. In



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addition, key informant interviews and direct field observations were conducted in order to supplement the information collected. The study found that the continued presence of the illegal settlement within the land grant is the main limiting factor to ecotourism development in the area. Results gathered from the interviews and questionnaires revealed that many residents of the adjacent communities support ecotourism development in the LQLG. Lastly, the LQLG faces multiple issues and challenges in developing ecotourism in the area. Including the presence of informal settlers, political interference from the LGU of Real, Quezon, CLOAs issued by DAR, lack of community linkages, legal matters, peace and order, reported presence of insurgents, and the transient nature of the tenure of the managerial position in the LQLG. To conclude, the overall perceived impact of the surrounding communities on the development of ecotourism is positive and hopeful, mainly due to the possible economic impact that comes from ecotourism development. The study recommends the consideration of a resettlement program once more, for community linkages to be established, more stringent record-keeping, and for the position of land-grant grant manager to be made a full-time manager with at least a three-year term.

Title:

Analysis of Sustainability of People's Organization: The Case of NED Landcare Association in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines

Author:

Del Castillo, Louise Bernadette Cahigas

Adviser:

Sabino, Lorena L.

Stream:

Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access:

Restricted

Type:

Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

The main purpose of the study was to develop an indicator for assessing the sustainability of people's organizations (POs), with a specific focus on the Ned Landcare Association (NLCA) in Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines. NLCA is a farmer-led people's organization that has been operating since 1999 and continues to survive even with inadequate support from external stakeholders and geographical remoteness



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from service providers. The rationale for this research stems from the scarcity of relevant literature concerning the sustainability of POS and their corresponding indicators. Consequently, it is imperative to identify these sustainability indicators in order to ensure the long-term viability of organizations and their programs aimed at enhancing local communities and facilitating comprehensive community development and natural resource management. To achieve its objectives, the study employed a combination of methods. A comprehensive literature review was conducted, specifically focusing on the development of twelve PO indicators designed to assess the sustainability of POS classified into internal and external aspects, with each focusing on social, economic, and environmental factors within the context of NLCA. In particular, (1) Membership, (2) Activities, (3) Policies, (4) Projects and Programs, (5) Leadership, (6) Governance, (7) Vision, Mission, and Goals, (8) Livelihood and Enterprise Activities, (9) Adoption of Landcare Approach and strategies, (10) Linkages and Networking, (11) Financial Assistance from Partners, and (12) Introduction to Landcare Approach and Strategies. Additionally, field data collection was carried out using various techniques, including focus group discussions, surveys, and key informant interviews. Statistical analysis techniques were employed to enhance the depth of the study's findings. Three statistical analysis methods, namely Spearman Correlation Coefficient, Chi-squared test, and Point Biserial Correlation, were used to establish the relationship between sustainability indicators and demographic and socio-economic data. The level of organizational sustainability was assessed using the Standard Normalized Value (Min-Max method) with equal techniques for each indicator's sustainability index. Descriptive statistics were used to provide a comprehensive characterization of the demographic and socio-economic profile of NLCA members. Furthermore, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) using the Varimax rotation was employed to identify the most significant contributing factors that determine the sustainability of NLCA. The study's findings indicate that the NLCA exhibits a high level of sustainability, primarily attributed to its strong linkages and networks, effective leadership, successful projects and activities, sound governance, and clear vision, mission, and goals. However, there are specific areas of the organization's overall



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development and sustainability that require attention. Particularly, emphasis should be placed on membership engagement, policy formulation, livelihood initiatives, and enterprise activities. Moreover, the study reveals that age plays a significant role in influencing the sustainability of NLCA. Therefore, it is crucial for the organization to ensure that the younger generation of Landcare members actively embrace Landcare strategies and maintain collaborative partnerships with external stakeholders. It is important to continue implementing new projects and activities, enhancing governance systems, and effectively communicating the organization's vision, mission, and goals to both existing and new members. Moreover, the findings of the Principal Component Analysis revealed that membership, policies, and access to livelihood and enterprise activities have relatively minimal contributions to the sustainability of NLCA. Several factors contribute to this, including a shortage of manpower and the absence of second-line generations to sustain farming practices. Additionally, there is a lack of awareness and understanding regarding the organization's policies, further hampering progress. NLCA has initiated only a limited number of income-generating activities. Therefore, it is crucial for the organization to prioritize these components in order to enhance overall improvement and development. To foster sustained engagement, the NLCA should prioritize efforts to motivate members to remain actively involved in the organization's activities. By encouraging continued participation, NLCA can enhance its overall sustainability and ensure the effective implementation of its initiatives.

Title:

Impacts of National Greening Program (NGP) Using L.I.F.E. Indicators: The Case of Damutan Agro-Forestry Farmers Association (DAFFA), Hinoba-an, Negros Occidental

Author:

Donesa, Glydel Cepalon

Adviser:

Sabino, Lorena L.

Stream:

Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access:

Restricted

Type:

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Abstract/Executive Summary:

The National Greening Program (NGP) has been the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) flagship initiative since its inception in 2011. This comprehensive campaign aims to combat poverty, enhance food security, restore environmental stability, preserve biodiversity, and address climate change through massive forest rehabilitation and management practices. As a partner of DENR in implementing NGP, Damutan Agro-Forestry Farmers Association (DAFFA), a recognized people's organization, has collaborated closely to reforest and rehabilitate degraded areas in Barangay Damutan, Hinoba- an, Negros Occidental. Through their active participation in this collaboration, DAFFA members have experienced tangible improvements in their standard of living. Their commitment responsible forest management has formed a solid foundation for addressing environmental degradation, fostering sustainability, and building resilience to climate change. However, there is a lack of data on the extent of the impacts of NGP on DAFFA, as well as the level of participation that they contributed in the collaboration with DENR. In order to fill this gap, a household survey was conducted with DAFFA members, and key informant interviews were carried out with key stakeholders, including the DAFFA Chairman, CENRO Kabankalan, and MENRO Hinoba-an. These data collection efforts were conducted last January 2023 to provide valuable insights into the program's effects on DAFFA and their engagement in the NGP initiative. Their levels of participation were determined based on the timing of participation, participants' profile, extent of participation, and degree of participation. The livelihood, income, forest, and equity (LIFE) indicators were used to assess the extent of the impacts of NGP on DAFFA. Results from the Wilcoxon signed-rank test showed that there is a significant difference in the livelihood, income, and forest conditions before and during NGP. Chi-square test of independence results showed significant relationships educational attainment and extent of participation, migrant



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status and degree of participation, income, and extent of participation, and equity and timing of participation. Participants of the household survey consistently expressed high regard and appreciation for NGP, indicating that the program has had an overwhelmingly positive influence on their lives. Overall, NGP has had a profound and lasting impact on the DAFFA members, enhancing their livelihoods, income, and forest condition, while promoting equity and sustainability.

Title: | Small-Scale Forest-Based Social Enterprise Potential of

Mount Isarog: The Case of Barangay Sto. Niño, Pili,

Camarines Sur

Author: | Eligoyo, Keanu Nava

Adviser: | Peras, Rose Jane J.

Stream: | Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access: | General Public

Type: | Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary: | Mount Isarog, a rich biological diversity area, faces high

poverty rates in surrounding barangays due to lack of job opportunities. This study examines the small-scale forestbased social enterprise (SSFBSE) potential in barangay Santo Niño. Qualitative and quantitative research methods were employed through the use of key informant interviews and household surveys among 80 respondents. The social-life cycle assessment (SLCA) was used to assess the sustainability of SSFBSES in barangay Santo Niño. About 68 floral species were determined, crucial for sourcing products in setting up SSFBSES locally. Further, farming's the major livelihood form in Barangay Santo Niño, while most of the family have a monthly income of Php 1000 -Major findings in socio-economic Php sustainability include (1) existing SSFBSES in the area are

still few & most of them are family-run and (2) higher

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education access in the locality's still a major concern. No
local reports that SSFBSEs have contributed to the
environmental loads in the barangay due to their limited
number. When it comes to institutional sustainability,
existing SSFBSEs have (1) no child labor and forced labor
as the existing enterprises are family businesses, (2) fair
salaries among the identified enterprises are evident as
they're family businesses, (3) no discrimination since both
genders are equally involved, and (4) strong prohibition on
timber extraction within public domains but allowed within
private lands through obtaining a permit to cut from the
barangay. To conclude, Mount Isarog, in the case of
barangay Santo Niño, can be a potential source and venue
for SSFBSE in the locality. The researcher recommends
that a verified list of timber and NTFPS may provide future
SSFBSES information on which raw materials to source for
products. Further, monitoring of public lands allowable for
extraction should be done to avoid overutilization of natural
resources by the public.

Title:

A Closer Look on Social Capital in the Management of Lagadlarin Mangrove Forest, Lobo, Batangas, Philippines

Author:

Eugenio, Derick Jan Hidalgo

Adviser:

Gevaña, Dixon T.

Stream:

Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access:

Restricted

Type:

Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

This study examined the social capital of the local community in Barangay Lagadlarin and its impact on the Lagadlarin Mangrove Forest (LMF) in the Philippines. The highlighted the contributions of various research stakeholders, including governmental bodies, local educational organizations, and institutions, in regulation, environmental resource provision, capacity-building activities, and community engagement



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within the LMF. The investigation focused on social ties and its diversity, resource utilization, trust, and the perceived effects of social capital on the LMF. The findings revealed that while members of the people's organization Maliliit (PO), Samahan ng na Mangingisda Pangangalaga ng Kalikasan sa Barangay Lagadlarin (SMMPKBL), exhibited higher social capital values relative to their non-affiliated counterpart due to the former's higher social relations, embedded resources, and social trust values, there are still opportunities for improvement in the PO's social capital, as their social capital values were determined to be low. The study emphasized the need to nurture social capital, strengthen social ties, and enhance cooperation among stakeholders for effective conservation and sustainable mangrove forest management.

Title:

Mangroves Enhancing Local Climate Resilience: The Case of Olo-olo Mangrove Forest and Ecopark, Lobo, Batangas Philippines

Author:

Hernandez, Alexa Samantha Rivera

Adviser:

Gevaña, Dixon T.

Stream:

Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access:

General Public

Type:

Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

This study presents the status of Olo-olo residents in terms of climate resilience in facing climate hazards. The climate resilience of the respondents was determined by assessing the proposed four main features of community climate resilience: climate change awareness, economic flexibility, social trust, and disaster readiness. A quantitative survey using a 5-point Likert scale was utilized and the relationship of mangrove awareness was also assessed to determine if it can be correlated with perceived climate resilience. The purposive sampling method was used in



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Title:

A Thematic Analysis of Stakeholders' Perspectives on the Collaborative Forest Landscape Governance in the Selected Communities of Mount Makiling Forest Reserve

Author:

Hutamariz, Sidrian Greg Asprer

Adviser:

Peras, Rose Jane J.

Stream:

Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access:

General Public

Type:

Thesis



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Abstract/Executive Summary:

The global community has recognized the complexity of forest management and the inadequacy of previous approaches in achieving sustainable environmental and resource management. In response, landscape approaches such as Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) have emerged to address these challenges by integrating sustainable land use practices and fostering collaboration among multiple stakeholders. However, the operationalization of landscape approaches on the ground has been limited. The concept of Collaborative Forest Landscape Governance (CFLG) has emerged, aiming to enhance collaboration, empower and achieve long-term ecological and stakeholders, socio-economic benefits in forested landscapes. This study explored the CFLG concept in the Philippines focusing on two barangays at the foot of Mount Makiling Forest Reserve. Santa Elena and San Vicente are adjacent communities with varying elevations and soil classifications. Mount Makiling's diverse land types are reflected in these areas, such as forest, agroforests, and agricultural farms. Meanwhile, two (2) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) (with 23 participants) and 22 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted with a total of 45 respondents in Barangay San Vicente and Santa Elena, Santo Tomas, Batangas. Results revealed that Santa Elena had a total of 16 identified stakeholders of forest-related initiatives, while San Vicente had 18. There are 13 forest-related initiatives identified in Santa Elena, and 18 in San Vicente, with 4 of them being inter-community programs. Meanwhile, the respondents provided various answers on the characteristics and capabilities required by stakeholders for successful CFLG implementation. Some of the themes generated from this aligned with existing literature, while others were unique to the local context. Respondents' definition and perception on the CFLG have generated a total of 17 themes, in which most themes in **CFLG** definition were "forest management," "participation," "cooperation", "administration". and



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Stakeholders demonstrate familiarity with CFLG terms individually and as a whole term, but their understanding of operations limited. Required stakeholder is characteristics and capabilities align with literature findings. Good collaboration efforts exist, but the top-down management approach in the LGU level and limited inter-community programs pose challenges. Independent funding and stronger stakeholder connections are also key findings in this study. Nevertheless, all participants expressed positive sentiments regarding the implementation of the CFLG concept in their respective communities. Recommendations include developing systematic management strategy for a better CFLG implementation, stakeholder increasing engagement, prioritizing information dissemination, tailoring strategies community needs, and engaging with forest management experts for deeper understanding of the CFLG on the ground.

Title:

City-Level Urban Forestry Programs of Yokohama, Japan and Quezon City, Philippines: A Comparative Policy Analysis

Author:

Laruya, Jeoffrey Molina

Adviser:

Mendoza, Marlo D.

Stream:

Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access:

General Public

Type:

Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

A comparative study has been undertaken to examine the urban greening policies and programs in Yokohama City and Quezon City and their corresponding internal processes in integrating these into urban city landscapes. It describes policy mechanisms in detail to identify each city's best practices and possible areas for improvement. The study interviewed key informants to gather information from those directly involved in implementing the policy and



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programs. The study also obtained data from secondary
sources from each city's local government unit to
supplement the study's evaluation of enacted policies and
program implementation being compared and analyzed.
Results of the study showed that (i) the programs and
projects of both cities highlight the intensification of
greening initiatives to mitigate various societal problems
and recognize the importance of community participation
for effective and efficient policy implementation, (ii) the
cities' greening policy and subsequent programs
significantly consider the local norms and attitudes that are
embedded in their respective societies, (iii) it is essential to
have a stable policy that is a product of thorough research,
genuine public consultation with robust sustainability
considerations, (iv) the present disparity and perceived
weakness in each of the city-level greening programs can
be addressed by learning from the best practices of each
city when feasible, and, (v) having an effective and
functional monitoring and evaluation system as a
management feedback mechanism is an important aspect of
the policy-making process.

Title: | Gender Analysis of an Ecotourism Site Amidst the Covid-19

Pandemic: The Case of Silonay Mangrove Conservation

Area and Eco Park

Author: Luma, Eleazar Suyom

Adviser: | Mariano, Krisandra A.

Stream: | Social Forestry

Access: Restricted

Type: | Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary: Gender equality in the forest sector assigns the roles and

strategies of men and women to a specific task that give them opportunities to participate in decision-making and livelihood income. This research analyzed the roles of men

and women in the mangrove eco-tourism park since the



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ongoing pandemic had given them limited opportunities in
their community. This research was validated using the
harmonized gender and development guidelines tool which
determined the ratings of the current situation of the
community based on the eco-tourism and project
identification and planning acknowledged by their major
stakeholders or community leaders. The results of the
research showed that the project of ecotourism in the
mangrove community was gender-responsive, giving
support to men and women in participation,
decision-making, labor, and livelihood sectors. The results
further showed that opportunities to create a harmonious
livelihood income through the ecotourism park were given
to men and women, thereby achieving equality in their
community.

Title:

Awareness and Practices on Solid Waste Management During the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Case of Barangay Mayondon, Los Baños, Laguna

Author:

Maligalig, Avrailen Pamulaklakin

Adviser:

Malabayabas, Felisa L.

Stream:

Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access:

General Public

Type:

Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

Solid waste management (SWM) has become one of the root causes of environment-related problems affecting forestlands and water resources. Recently, Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease infection has shot up and caused concerns in waste disposal, especially for those infected and can be infected by the virus. Thus, this study was conducted to analyze the awareness and practices on SWM among Barangay Mayondon, Los Baños, Laguna residents during the pandemic. Specifically, a) to identify the level of awareness on SWM among officials and residents in the barangay, b) to determine the practices of the residents and



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Title:

Resiliency and Perception about Climate Change Amid Multiple Hazards of Barangay Calangay, San Nicolas, Batangas, Philippines

Author:

Villanueva, Toni Rose Adang

Adviser:

Peras, Rose Jane J.

Stream:

Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access:

General Public

Type:

Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

In recent years, the Philippines has been grappling with consecutive occurrences of natural hazards typhoons, floods, drought, ASF, the COVID-19 pandemic, landslides,



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earthquakes, and Taal Volcano's violent eruption on January 12, 2020. These events are further exacerbated by climate change, amplifying their scale, duration, intensity, and frequency. Despite these consecutive disasters and unequivocal manifestations of climate change, published in many highly respected journals, there are still individuals who adopt a neutral stance or express skepticism about climate change. Therefore, based on a survey questionnaire (n = 212), this paper explores the resiliency and perception of climate change in a multi-hazard zone, specifically in Barangay Calangay, San Nicolas, Batangas. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and three analytical strategies: word count, content analysis, and constant comparison analysis. The findings indicate that the largely female respondents were mostly aged 26 to 44, educated up to high school, unemployed, and poor. This is coupled with low system capacity, particularly modularity and safe Nevertheless, the community has high agent and institutional capacity. Responsiveness (3.62) scored the highest for the agent capacity indicators, while information flows (3.88) for the institution. Consequently, the majority of the respondents (90%) believed in climate change, and according to the beliefs of 82%, 78%, and 90% of respondents, it is real, urgent, and an important matter to tackle, respectively. While 41% opine that climate change is anthropogenic, only 72% perceive it as a problem. In fact, only about two-thirds (67%) of the respondents perceived its effect as negative, while others believed otherwise. This then calls for climate-related educational programs campaigns and/or awareness to counter misconceptions that may serve as barriers to resilience. Moreover, government entities and policymakers should prioritize and invest in the improvement of agent, institutional, and system resilience, particularly in infrastructure, and structural adaptation measures.

Title:

Coping with Pandemic: The Case of BS Forestry Graduates
Dealing with Employment Uncertainty



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Author: | Zalameda, Graciella Marie Ardieta

Adviser: | Malabayabas, Felisa L.

Stream: | Social Forestry and Agroforestry

Access: | General Public

Type: | Thesis

Abstract/Executive Summary:

People across the country have taken steps to control the spread of COVID-19 since its outbreak. The initial step is the strict implementation of several health safety protocols. Due to the lockdown, several business establishments while some companies started closed. offloading employees to cut costs. These then led to an unstable employment situation in the country. This study aims to analyze how BS Forestry graduates cope with employment uncertainty brought about by the pandemic. In line with that, the researcher wanted to identify the job opportunities given to BS Forestry Graduates and how the University and College have students the helped its to he employment-ready. Thirty-nine BS Forestry graduates took part in the study. Five (5) of these graduates participated in the online Focus Group Discussion, while the rest took part in the online survey. Key informant interviews were also conducted to several individuals who are working within the vicinity of UP Los Banos. It was found that although there are lots of employment opportunities in the sector, it is hard for some Fresh Graduates to land a job due to the qualifications that most institutions require. This study also showed that most of these graduates adapt emotion-focused coping strategies.