



# Philippines

- Archipelago, composed of 7,100 islands with low lying areas
- Among longest coastlines in the world with 32,400 kms (susceptible to storm surges, sea level rise)
- About 60% of its population is coastal
- 78% of the provinces are coastal
- 1,496 municipalities, 42,025 barangays
- Along typhoon belt area (~21/yr)



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- Considering all these natural resources, we are the center of biodiversity; also a hotspot – with high rate of biodiversity lost...
  - Long coastline also equals many coastal municipalities (and barangays) – that need technical support for ICM integrating CCA and DRR.

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- Researchers get research grants, do field work, make reports, attend conferences - get rewards.
  - The project ends when the grant ends and could not be sustained – leaving the community with practically nothing but reports placed in the shelves.
  - We need to capacitate the community, empower them so they become steward of the environment. People as partners of development

# On Capacity building

- We need players, practitioners . A lot of universities and NGOs, but only few have the capacity to do R&D, M&E
  - We need tools and resources
- Some may have capacity – but the university or institution does not allow them to do community work on top of their teaching job. Not a priority.
  - Need to emphasize the role of the academe as development partners – not simply as “consultants”
- Need funds for capacity building...



# Mainstreaming Adaptation to Development Planning: learning from ICM

- Early community involvement through baseline assessment and planning is essential
  - Making them partners
- Outside technical and financial assistance is often critical, but local governments and communities must allocate their own resources for sustainability
- The community needs technical assistance or support from the academe or the NGOs – which is at the moment limited



# Summary

- Stressing the importance of local communities active involvement in the development process
- Capacitating the academe and NGOs with appropriate skills and tools – to become more effective