

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF T'BOLI INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN ALLAH VALLEY WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE, MINDANAO, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT

Traditionally, T'boli people live in scattered settlements on the highlands of South Cotabato in the Southern Mindanao region. This study was conducted to determine the environmental management practices of the T'boli indigenous communities in Allah Valley Watershed Forest Reserve and sought to develop critical understanding of the complex ways where the T'boli people are articulated with and accommodate contemporary activities with regards to environmental management. The study examined the contribution of the T'boli people in nature conservation using a qualitative research design to discover their implementing policies in preserving their ancestral territory. The data acquired in this study was derived from an interview and focus group discussion conducted with the selected members of the T'boli indigenous communities which tackled strategies to strengthen environmental policies outlined from their culture and tradition and various legislations. As a minority group relying on natural resources, it is in their moral obligation to promote environmental protection of their ancestral domain, thus, the study highlighted their participation in ecosystem and biodiversity management, protection, law enforcement, and policy development. As such, the management practices of the T'boli Indigenous Community played a vital role in the conservation and protection of Allah Valley Watershed Forest Reserve. Also, the initiatives of the T'boli Indigenous Community provided more responsive and empowered management practices in Allah Valley Watershed Forest Reserve.

Keywords: Environmental Management Practices, T'boli Indigenous Communities, Watershed Forest Reserve, Allah Valley, Mindanao.