

Buffalo Utilization and Conservation in the Philippines

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State of utilization of buffalo genetic resources

- The Philippine carabao population consists mainly of native swamp buffalo
- The Philippine carabao is used for draft, milk and meat production.
- As a draft animal, the Philippine carabao is used primarily for land preparation, transporting farm production outputs, produce and other heavy loads.
- In some remote areas in the country, native carabaos are used for religious and cultural activities.

Policies, strategies, programs and management practices

- 1935 Constitution of the Philippine Government
"conserve and develop the patrimony of the nation..."
- 1986 Constitution
"The State shall develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos... It shall support indigenous, appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, and their application to the country's productive systems and national life."

Policies, strategies, programs and management practices

- 1946 – Republic Act 11 or the Carabao Slaughter Ban (this was amended in 1963, 1970 and 1980 and was lifted)
- 1960s – government provided generous incentives in the procurement of exotic commercial breeding stocks
- 1982 – the UNDP through the FAO in collaboration with the Philippine Government, implemented a project on “Strengthening of the Philippine Carabao Research and Development Center”

Policies, strategies, programs and management practices

- 1993 - Republic Act 7307, an act creating the Philippine Carabao Center to conserve, propagate and promote the Philippine Carabao for draft and other purposes, was implemented.
 - the Philippine Government, through the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), signed a program document to undertake with the FAO on the "Conservation and Use of Animal Genetic Resources"

Convention on Biological Diversity (FAO)

- Article 1

The objectives of this Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies.

Convention on Biological Diversity

- Article 3

“While the states have the sovereign right to exploit their resources, they also have the duty to conserve them and to facilitate access for sound uses to other contracting parties”

- Article 6

The need for policy development and integration is acknowledged in the CBD, and governments are encouraged to develop national strategies on biodiversity, and to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

Recommendations for enhanced international cooperation

- Regular programs for regional (Asia Pacific) and international conservation information exchange in genetic resources
- Capacity building particularly on database and human resource development
- In-depth studies like gene-marking researches and activities for native farm animal genetic resources

References

- Status of Philippine Animal Genetic Resources: A Country Report. Food and Agriculture Organization. Rome, 2003.
- The State of Capacities in Animal Genetic Resource Management. Food and Agriculture Organization. Rome, 2007.

Thank You