

Bello, Rolando T., Ma. Angeles O. Catelo, Corazon L. Rapera, Sining Cuevas and Alvin Paul J. Dirain. Study on the Impact of Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) on the Preservation of Ancestral Lands and Welfare of Indigenous Communities. College of Economics and Mangement, University of the Philippines at Los Baños, College, Laguna. UNDP-DAR SARDIC Programme. August 1998.

The study aimed to determine how the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) can provide the tenure security and promote the well being of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs). It covered two study sites i.e., Lake Sebu in South Cotabato and Gadang in Kapangan, Benguet. Lake Sebu in South Cotabato is covered by two (2) Certificates of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) covering two (2) Indigenous Communities (ICs) namely, the T'boli and Ubo groups while Gadang in Kapangan is inhabited by the Kankana-ey group whose agricultural lands are covered by three (3) collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) and was organized into an Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) area. The study shows that CARP made an impact on the preservation of ancestral lands through the issuance of CLOAs to Kankana-ey group in Gadang, Kapangan. The establishment of an ARC also proved beneficial to their welfare. Moreover, farm to market roads (FMRs) were built and the gravity irrigation system was constructed which enabled the farmers to increase their cropping intensity and rice production. The study also concludes that the Ancestral Domain Management Plan, an offshoot of the issuance of the CADC in Lake Sebu, provided the means through which the ICs can realize their social, economic and cultural welfare. The Plan contained the activities that would provide the economic support systems while simultaneously protecting the environment and conserving the natural resources. The Plan is consonant with the status of the area as a component of the integrated protected area system. The study noted some conflicts in certain provisions of law. The Ancestral Domain Management Plan (ADMP) of the IPs was affirmed although it cannot be fully implemented since a pivotal element of the forest management activity concerned the harvesting of matured timber which runs counter to the spirit and letter of the statute on protected areas and the forestry code. The CARP Beneficiary Certificates (CBCs) were supposed to be issued to CADC/CALC holders for the IPs to avail of the programs under CARP. However, the study noted that the issuance of CBCs is rather limited. Subsequently, the Special Tribal Agrarian Reform Communities (STARCs) are still being formed in agricultural areas in order to funnel the support services provided for CARP beneficiaries.