

### III. EXPEDITIONS AND OTHER FIELDWORK

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#### Philippines

*Flora and vegetation study of Suluan Island, Eastern Samar, Philippines* — A group of botanists from the University of San Carlos Botany Research Group (USC-BRG) and CEBU (Ms. E. Elumbaring, Dr. B. Heeger, Dr. F. Seidenschwarz, and Ms. S. Semblante) is studying the flora and vegetation of Suluan Island, Eastern Samar, Philippines. A species list, a description of vegetation types, and a report of the ecological conditions will be prepared. Analyses are focusing on the vegetation cover of the untouched karstic limestone hills. There is little human impact on this forest type but the high frequency of typhoons causes a mixed forest vegetation of old growth species and pioneer tree species. There is little information about Philippine forests on karstic limestone hills. The survey is sponsored by the German Development Service.

*Floral survey of the Kotkot and Lusaran watersheds in Cebu Island* — A floral survey of the Kotkot and Lusaran watersheds in Cebu Island is carried out by the USC-Botany Research Group. The study includes a taxonomical survey and ethnobotanical studies. The objectives of the study are to document the existing floral situation and produce a comprehensive inventory (including people's plant knowledge and plant use) for a master plan of the watersheds of Cebu. Meaningful are also the changes that have taken place over time. The increasing population growth causes a high pressure on native forest areas, which have shrunk to small patches of several hectares each. These

small areas are the home of extremely rare and endangered species. The project is supported by the non-governmental umbrella-organization, the Cebu Uniting for Sustainable Water (CUSW), which is composed of a number of environmentalist-groups and other local civic groups.

Participants: Ms. S. Bajamundi, Mr. D. Bicknell, Ms. E. Elumbaring, Mr. A. van Gilst (Larenstein International Agricultural College, Netherlands), Dr. B. Heeger, Mr. S. Lalwani, Ms. W. Lape, Ms. M. Mahilom, Ms. M. Maglasang, Dr. F. Seidenschwarz, Ms. S. Semblante, and Ms. R. Villareal.

***GIS-Vegetation Survey of the watersheds of Cebu City*** — A vegetation mapping of Cebu Island was started by the USC-BRG some time ago. The first step was to identify vegetation and land use units that can be derived at three levels: 1) From satellite images, 2) from aerial photographs, 3) by mapping in the fields (maps of large scale). The group is now supported by students from the Larenstein Geographical Information Centre of the Larenstein International Agricultural College (LIAC), Deventer, Netherlands. The new project is carried out in connection with a university cooperation project between several Dutch universities (NUFFIC) and the University of San Carlos. Additional support is coming from the European Space Agency (ESA) through a cooperation research project, using radar images that were taken by the satellites ERS-1 and ERS-2.

***Survey of wild growing plant species of Cebu*** — Mr. D. Bicknell is working on a checklist of wild growing plant species of Cebu Island. The floral listing includes a high number of rare and endangered species. New taxa are expected. —

F. Seidenschwarz