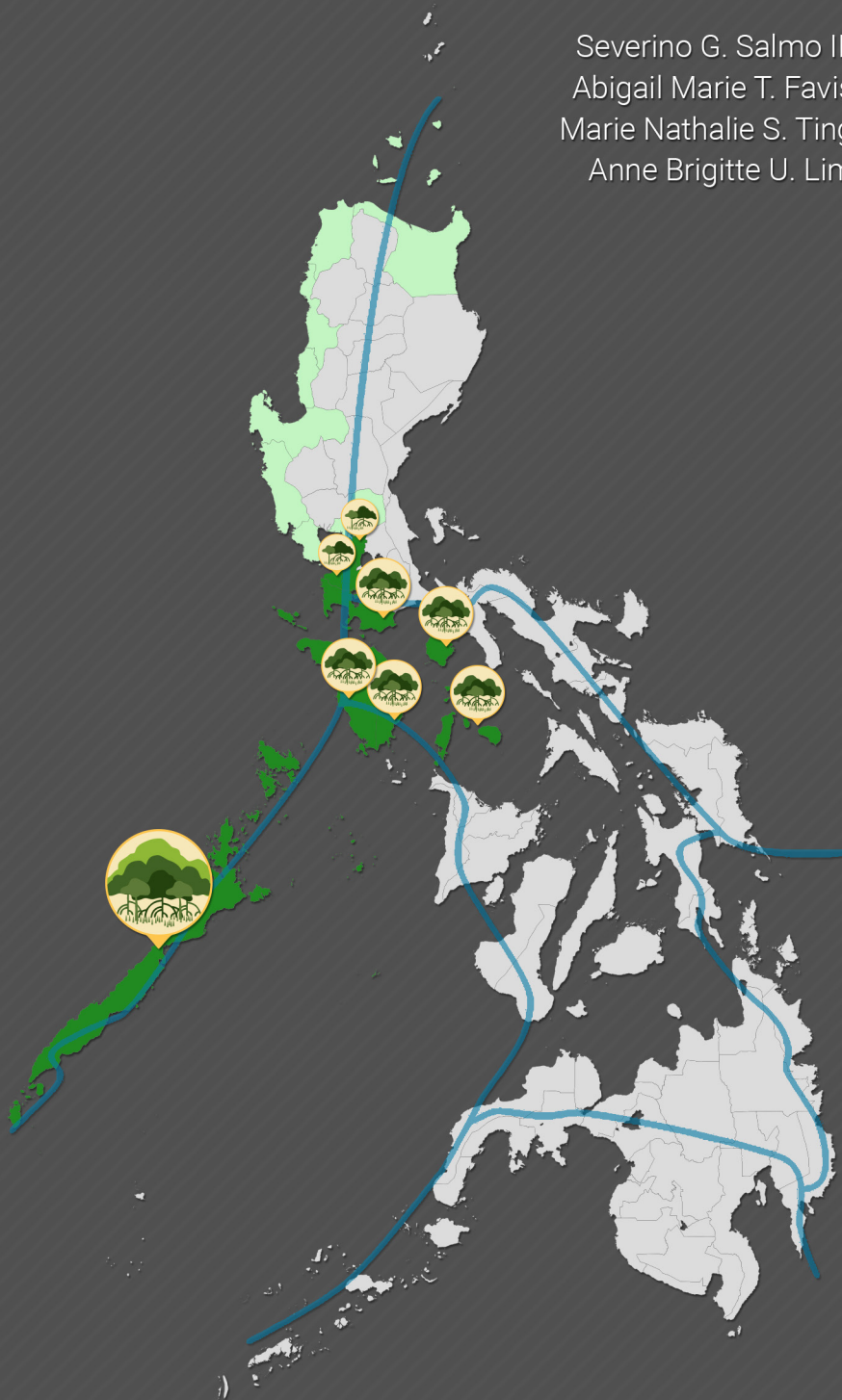
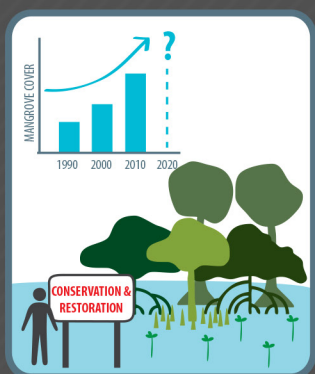
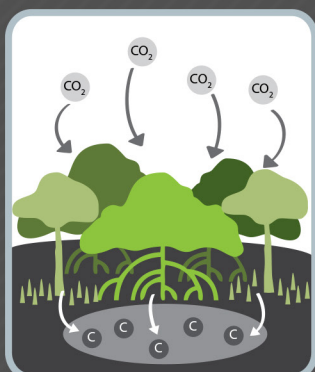
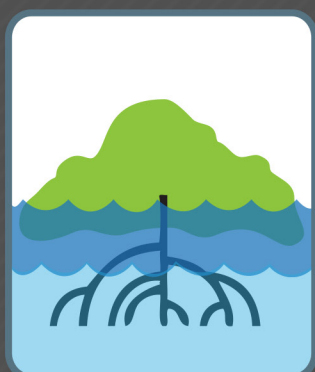


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Editors:

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About the cover: With climate change upon us, stronger and more frequent typhoons and sea level rise threaten the survival of both mangroves and communities along the Philippine coasts. Mangroves are special trees that help buffer our coasts and efficiently absorb excess carbon dioxide from the air. However, mangrove forests have been decimated through decades of clearing and unsustainable human activities. Looking past the short-sighted gains, coastal communities and local governments now know that they need the living fortresses, sustainable food, and valuable products and services that mangrove ecosystems provide. Good governance is key to restoring the resilience of mangrove habitats and improving the plight of communities that depend on them.

Highlighted (in dark green) on the Philippine map are the eight provinces of Southern Luzon that are featured in the following Proceedings. The icons show the relative status of the mangrove forests per province—from healthy to degraded. Also highlighted (in light green) are Northwestern Luzon provinces that were featured in the 1st Mangrove Summit Proceedings.

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Table of contents

List of Acronyms	ii
Messages	
Message from Dr. Evangeline P. Bautista	v
Message from Dir. Henry A. Adornado	vi
Message from Mr. Enrique Nuñez Jr.	vii
I. Introduction and Overview	1
II. Status of Mangroves Per Province	
A. State of the Mangroves in Marinduque	4
B. State of the Mangroves in Romblon	7
C. State of the Mangroves in Palawan	12
D. State of the Mangroves in Occidental Mindoro	14
E. State of the Mangroves in Oriental Mindoro	16
F. State of the Mangroves in Batangas	21
G. State of the Mangroves in Cavite	26
H. State of the Mangroves in the National Capital Region	29
III. Technical Presentations	
A. Status of Mangroves and Mangrove Management in the Philippines <i>Carmelita I. Villamor, Ph.D.</i>	31
B. Mangrove Forest Extent Mapping in Southwestern Luzon Using 2015 Landsat Imagery <i>Al Jayson G. Songcuan, Alvin B. Baloloy, Ariel C. Blanco, Laura T. David, Gay Amabelle Go, Ivy Elaine Cadalzo, Mia Shaira Estabillo, Rey Rusty Quides, and Ayin Tamondong</i>	33
C. Resiliency and Vulnerability of the Coastal Zone against Sea Level Rise <i>Samuel S. Mamauag, Ph.D.</i>	41
D. Integrating Mangrove Ecosystems Approaches to Integrated Coastal Management <i>Porfirio M. Aliño, Ph.D.</i>	44
E. Blue Carbon Initiatives in the Philippines <i>Ma. Josella Pangilinan</i>	48
F. Status of Mangrove Research and Management in the Philippines: Challenges and Opportunities <i>Miguel D. Fortes, Ph.D. and Severino G. Salmo III, Ph.D.</i>	50
IV. Workshop Output	58
V. State of the Mangroves in Southern Luzon: A Synthesis of Experiences, Lessons, and Management Recommendations	61
<i>Marie Nathalie S. Ting, Abigail Marie T. Favis, Anne Brigitte Lim, and Severino G. Salmo III</i>	
VI. Directory of Participants	71
VII. Appendices	74