



Nearly one-fifth of all land in Cordillera is ancestral domain of indigenous peoples

Ancestral domains formally recognized by the Philippine government make up 18.4 percent or nearly one-fifth of the entire land area of the Cordillera Administrative Region. From 2002 to 2010, a total of 20 certificates of ancestral domain title (CADT) for indigenous peoples (IPs) were awarded to indigenous peoples by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) covering a cumulative area of 336,660.06 hectares. Beneficiaries are IPs from the following ethnolinguistic groups: Ayangan, Bago, Ibaloi, Isneg, I'wak, Kankanaey, Kalanguya, Tuwali, Tingguian and others.

As per Republic Act No. 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, ancestral domains refer to "all areas generally belonging to IPs composed of lands, inland waters, coastal areas, and natural resources held under a claim of collective or individual ownership, continuously occupied or possessed by IPs by themselves or their ancestors since time immemorial..."

Out of the total of 20 CADTs awarded in CAR, 13 titles were awarded in Benguet, 2 titles were awarded in Ifugao, while one CADT was awarded each to Abra, Apayao, Kalinga, Mt. Province and the city of Baguio.

As of October 2010, Benguet has the largest CADT area at 257,550.50 hectares or 76.5 percent of all ancestral domains in the region. Ifugao is second at 47,187.53 hectares or 14.0 percent while Apayao is third at 11,268.03 hectares or 3.3 percent. Happy Hollow in Baguio City is the smallest ancestral domain in the region at 146.42 hectares or only 0.04 percent of total area awarded. Other CAR provinces each comprised less than three percent of the total. No CADTs were awarded in CAR for the years 2003 and 2007.

Benguet has the distinction of having been awarded with the very first CADT in the Philippines when CADT No. CAR-BAK-0702-001 covering a total of 29,444.34 hectares was awarded on February 2002 to the Bago and Kankanaey of Bakun, Benguet.

Table 1
NUMBER AND AREA OF APPROVED CERTIFICATES OF ANCESTRAL DOMAIN BY PROVINCE/CITY
Cordillera Administrative Region
2002-2010
(Area in hectares)

Province/City	2002		2004		2005		2006		2008		2009		2010	
	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area
CAR	1	29,444.34	2	42,854.58	1	11,268.03	2	17,273.51	8	149,198.91	5	83,169.12	1	3,451.57
Abra											1	3,918.70		
Apayao					1	11,268.03								
Baguio City							1	146.42						
Benguet	1	29,444.34	2	42,854.58			1	17,127.09	7	123,382.60	1	41,290.32	1	3,451.57
Ifugao									1	25,816.31	1	21,371.22		
Kalinga											1	7,112.35		
Mt. Province											1	9,476.53		

Source: National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

Who are the indigenous peoples?

A group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription by others, who have continuously lived as organized community on communally bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed customs, tradition and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and culture, become historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos.

IPs shall likewise include peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures, or the establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may have been displaced from their traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their ancestral domains.

Source: NSCB Resolution No. 5, series of 2008

OCTOBER IS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' MONTH

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