

DEFORESTATION HISTORY IN THE PHILIPPINES



MASUNGI
— GEORESERVE —

PRECOLONIAL PERIOD

90% of the Philippine virgin forests were intact. The country has a total land area of 30 million hectares.



SPANISH COLONISATION

70% of virgin forests in the Philippines were left intact. Lands were converted into haciendas and trees were down to build infrastructure and ships for the galleon trade.



AMERICAN COLONISATION

30% of the virgin forests were left by the 1940s. Large-scale commercial logging for exports were introduced during this period.

MARTIAL LAW PERIOD

300,000 hectares of trees were destroyed annually due to about 200 licensing agreements to log natural virgin forests. The Philippines was a major exporter of logs to countries such as the United States and Japan.



SUBSEQUENT PERIODS

2.9% of our virgin forests remain in 2013. A ban on logging now exists in natural forests. All over the country, however, there are still illegal loggers at large particularly noted in the Mindanao and Sierra Madre Mountain Range areas where the last remaining forests are. The total forest cover is at 23.38%.