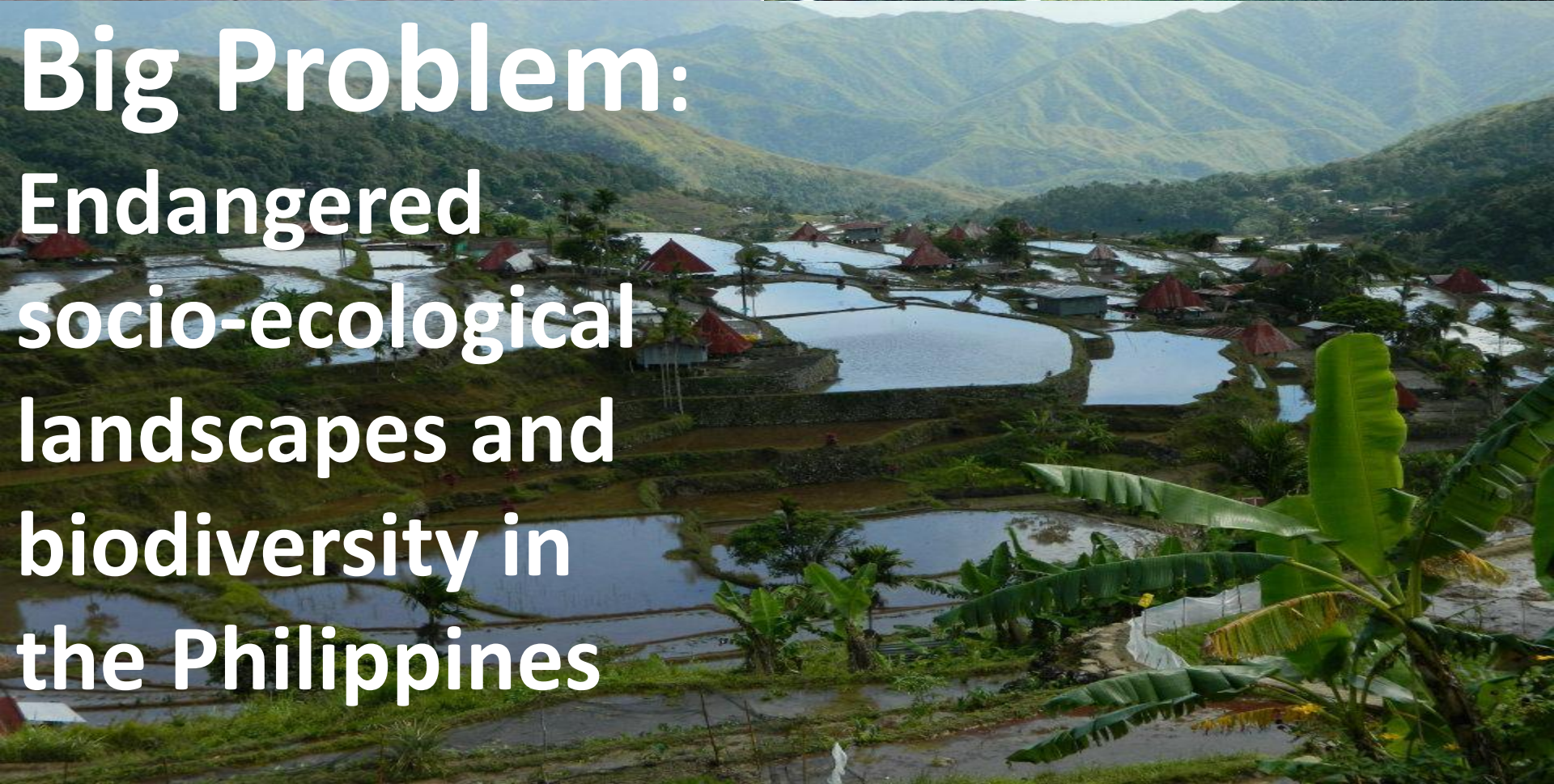# Empowering Young Successors in the Management of Biodiversity and Traditional Landscapes: The Case of the Earth Ambassadors of the University of the Philippines Open University

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Big Problem: Endangered socio-ecological landscapes and biodiversity in the Philippines

The **UP Open University Earth Ambassadors** is a project that aims to train a **core group** of selected **elementary students** to promote awareness about **sustainable development**, **biodiversity conservation** and management of our **natural ecosystems** and **traditional socio-ecological landscapes**
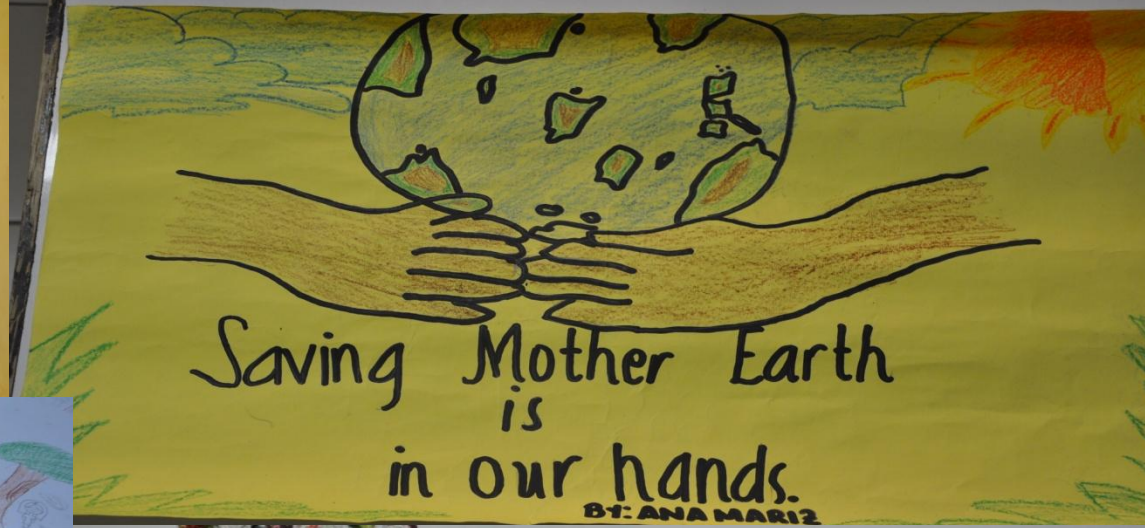
A walk to the forest with the kids to develop love for nature

Guided workshop and discussions

Presentation of outputs

Field activity like tree planting

Blogging for the environment

Challenges

1. Time management and participation of UPOU Earth Ambassadors and teacher in charge *on official time*

2. Co-sponsorship of the activities

3. Enhancing natural science background among teachers of UPOU Earth Ambassadors

Addressing Challenges

1. Crafting Memo of Agreement with partner schools to make everything official

2. Collaborating with local government and private organizations for co-sponsorship (big activity)

3. Regular training courses/workshops are conducted to update teachers of the UP Open University Earth Ambassadors of the latest trends in environmental science and biodiversity conservation

Next Steps

1. Expand membership of UPOU Earth Ambassadors
2. Assist earth ambassadors in organizing activities in their communities
3. Provide regular venue for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary discussion, training and forum among teachers, organizers and co-sponsors
4. Sustain and strengthen partnership with local, national, regional and international organizations (e.g.,IPSI) in co-sponsoring activities of the UPOU Earth Ambassadors

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