

Manobo: Mgo ngaran, puwason | Filipino: Sa bawat ngalan, kagubatan |
Sugbuanon: Sa kada ngalan, lasang

In late 2021, Kulagu Tu Buvongan, a collective of majority Pantaron Range indigenous lumad members, held a series of recording sessions and workshops focused on forest calls and non-lexical vocables, non-words used in daily forest life, that also mimic forest fauna sounds. Several indigenous elders in refugee camps in Davao City recreated forest sounds from memory and explained their meanings and use. Some sacred, some for play, these sounds were later taught to children in the camps, many of whom were born in exile and have never experienced forest life in their ancestral domains.

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[illegible]

1- Land reform in the Philippines has failed. The current oligarchic Philippine elite continue to perpetuate the injustices committed by Spanish and American colonizers. Farmer and peasant landlessness go hand-in-hand with the continued exploitation and forced expulsion of lumad (the Philippine term for indigenous people) from their land.

Image link:

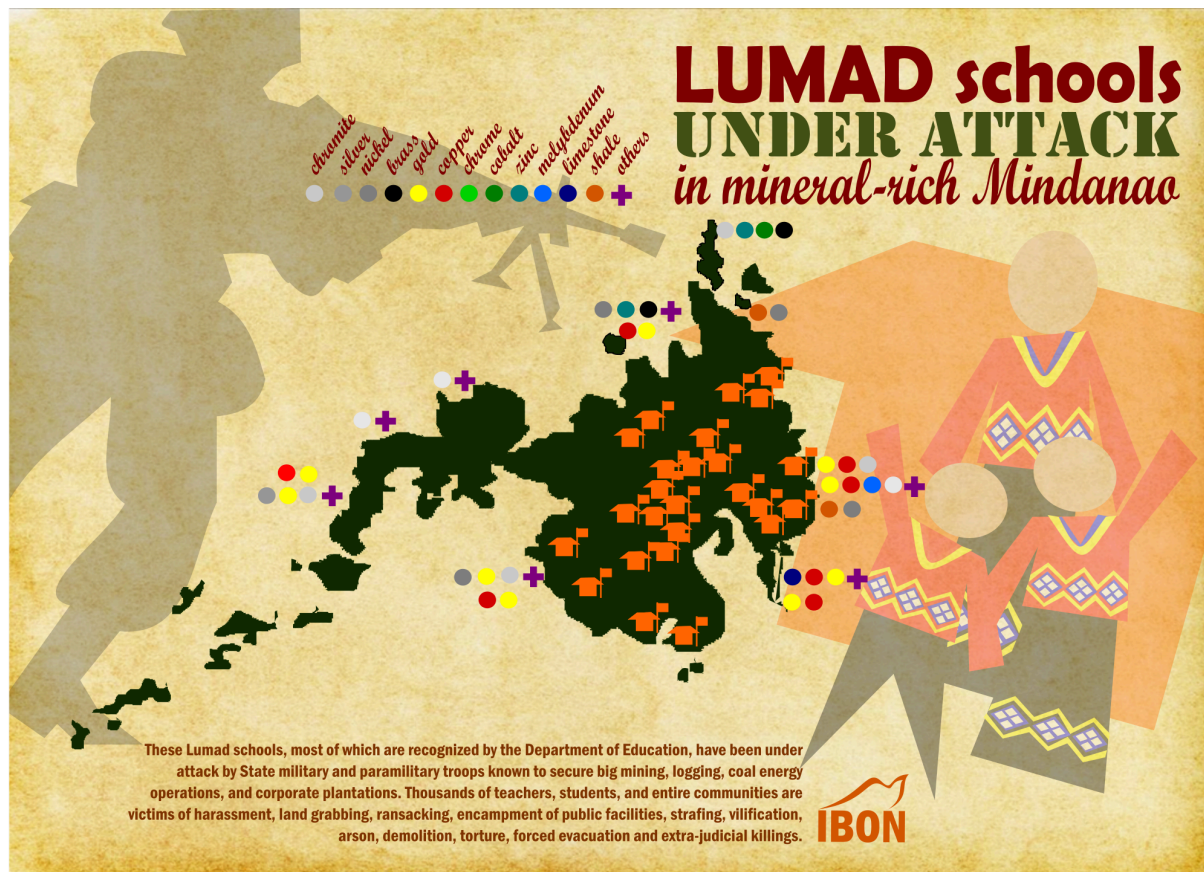
<https://www.ibon.org/large-landholdings-amid-peasant-landlessness/>



2- Mining contracts come at the expense of lumad lands, endangering watersheds and entire ecosystems for short-term profit.

Image link:

<https://www.ibon.org/15-biggest-mining-operations-in-mindanao/>



3- Lumad schools continue to be attacked by state military and paramilitary troops.

Image link:

<https://www.ibon.org/lumad-schools-under-attack-in-mineral-rich-mindanao/>

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Philippine indigenous activists killed during Duterte's presidency, July 2016 to June 2021:

Courtesy of Philippine indigenous rights organizations, Katribu and Sandugo

Joaquin Cadacgan, 9/7/2016
 Remar Mayantao, 12/7/2016
 Senon Nacaytuna, 12/7/2016
 Rogen Suminao, 12/7/2016
 Hermi Alegre, 15/7/2016
 Makenet Gayoran, 30/7/2016
 Jimmy Barosa, 12/8/2016
 Jerry "Dandan" Layola, 12/8/2016
 Jessebelle Sanchez, 12/8/2016
 Jimmy Saypan, 10/10/2016
 Venie Diamante, 5/1/2017
 Veronico Delamante, 20/1/2017
 Renato Anglao, 3/2/2017
 Matanem Pocuan, 4/2/2017
 Moryel Latan, 6/2/2017
 Emelito Rotimas, 6/2/2017
 Jerson Bito, 11/2/2017
 Pipito Tiambong, 11/2/2017
 Edweno "Edwin" Catog, 16/2/2017

Datu Pedro Pandagay, 23/3/2017
Federico Plaza, 3/5/2017
Mario Versoza, 21/5/2017
Daniel Lasib, 26/5/2017
Ana Marie Aumada, 27/5/2017
Ande Latuan, 6/7/2017
Remond Lino, 12/7/2017
Romy Rompas, 16/8/2017
Roger "Titing" Timboco, 23/8/2017
Obello Bay-ao, 5/9/2017
Erning Aykid, 15/9/2017
Aylan Lantoy, 15/9/2017
Samuel Angkoy, 3/12/2017
Mateng Bantal, 3/12/2017
Pato Celarbo, 3/12/2017
Artemio Danyan, 3/12/2017
Rhudy Danyan, 3/12/2017
Victor Jr. Danyan, 3/12/2017
Datu Victor Danyan Sr., 3/12/2017
To Diamante, 3/12/2017
Ricky Olado, 28/1/2018
Ricardo Mayumi, 2/3/2018
Garito Malibato, 22/3/2018
Jhun Mark Acto, 21/4/2018
Dande Lamubkan, 30/4/2018
Carlito Sawad, 23/5/2018
Burad Salping, 25/5/2018
Beverly Geronimo, 26/5/2018
Jose Unahan, 6/6/2018
Nestor Sacote, 10/6/2018
Menyo Yandong, 10/8/2018
Rolly Panebio, 18/8/2018
Jean Labial, 19/8/2018
Rex Hangadon, 15/9/2018
Jimmy Ambat, 7/10/2018
Eteban Empong Sr., 18/11/2018
Rommel Romon, 23/11/2018
Randel Gallego, 24/1/2019
Emel Tejero, 24/1/2019
Randy Malayao, 30/1/2019
Sanito "Tating" Delubio, 1/3/2019
Jerome Pangadas, 15/3/2019
Kaylo Bontolan, 7/4/2019
Datu Mario Agsab, 8/7/2019
Alex Lacay, 9/8/2019
Jeffrey Bayot, 12/8/2019
Bai Leah Tumbalang, 23/8/2019
Sammy Pohayon, 11/9/2019
Romen Milis, 25/4/2020
Roel Baog, 1/5/2020
Reynante Linas, 1/5/2020
Don Don Cenimo, 11/6/2020
Randy Pindig, 11/6/2020
Bai Merlinda Ansabu Celis, 23/8/2020
Resky Ma Ellon, 3/11/2020
Deric John A. Datuwata, 5/11/2020
Mario Aguirre, 30/12/2020

Garson Catamin, 30/12/2020
Maurito Diaz Sr., 30/12/2020
Rolando Diaz, 30/12/2020
Eliseo Gayas Jr., 30/12/2020
Roy Giganto, 30/12/2020
Reynaldo Katipunan, 30/12/2020
Artilito Katipunan Sr., 30/12/2020
Jomar Vidal, 30/12/2020
Julie Catamin, 28/2/2021
Randy "Pulong" Dela Cruz, 7/3/2021
Puroy Dela Cruz, 7/3/2021
Abner Esto, 7/3/2021
Edward Esto, 7/3/2021
Angel Rivas, 15/6/2021
Lenie Rivas, 15/6/2021
Willie Rodriguez, 15/6/2021

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Amidst the pandemic lockdowns in 2021, Manobo and Tinananun indigenous elders in refugee camps in Davao City recreated forest sounds from memory and explained their meanings and use. The sounds and stories behind these sounds were documented and later taught to children in the camps, many of whom were born in exile and have never experienced forest life in their ancestral domains. The sounds all correspond to different birds, animals and insects, some of which haven't been seen in years.

Mobilization and production for these was initially supported by OCAC Taipei in 2021, with additional donations by Quezon City-based artist Lyra Garcellano and The Observatory (Singapore), along with the personal resources and initiative of the collective members.



4- Names of animals in Manobo.

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5- Documenting recording sessions in Davao City. Unfortunately, since the security situation has worsened, most of the collective members and people involved must be kept anonymous. The raw video documentation materials were soon lost after the recording.



6- Sounds were made mostly with human voices, but also with the help of simple tools fashioned from plant materials.

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From these initial workshops in 2021, the collective's projects have since travelled as installations in various venues across the world. The work is presented as human voices (Pantaron Range elders and their children), presented through a multichannel sound setup, with variable visual components adjusting to the different locations.



7- In Hong Kong, the work was presented at the rooftop of Para Site, with the sound weaving in and out of the staircase and the open space. Few people actually realize that Para Site exists in the building it occupies, most people know it by its tenant who occupies the first floor more prominently: a funeral service. The names of martyred indigenous activists during the Duterte presidency are streamed on an LED. As you look at the names on the LED, you also see yourself amidst the backdrop of Hong Kong development, some of whose capital have links to exploitative practices in the Philippines and Philippine migrant labour.

Installation documentation by Jason Chen, signals...瞬息: signals... here and there @ Para Site, Hong Kong, 2023.



8- Along with the sound component of the work, for the iteration in São Paulo, names of Brazilian indigenous activists, who were martyred during a similar time-period in the Bolsonaro presidency, are streamed on another LED, alongside the names from the Philipppines.

Installation documentation by Filipe Berndt, A Fonte Deságua na Floresta @ FONTE, São Paulo, 2024.



9- Abu Dhabi, much like the rest of the Emirates and this region, is reliant on foreign labour from the Philippines, Southeast Asia, and other countries. Reacting to this context, the installation was augmented with plants that were originally endemic to the Philippines and Southeast Asia. These plants, now functioning as decor for homes, offices and other development projects, are often taken for granted in their current contexts, but were once only found in the deep jungles of Southeast Asia and Pantaron Range, where the collective members are mostly from.

Installation documentation by Ismail Noor, Way of the Forest, courtesy of 421 Arts Campus, Abu Dhabi, 2024.