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Ancestral Domain Disputes Of Indigenous Peoples: The Case Of Bataan Province

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Abstract: This case study aimed to narrate the experiences of Indigenous cultural communities / Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) in the seven (7) Ancestral Domain in the Province of Bataan. The researcher used Qualitative Research Approach. The researcher used in-depth interviews and Focus Group Discussion as the primary data collection method to harness the needed information. The data gathered were subjected to analysis and interpretation of the researcher. Through this study, the researcher sought to address and discern the ICCs/IPs of Bataan sentiments from their life experiences. The results of the study provides a thorough profile of the ICCs/IPs in Bataan, focusing on the Ayta Ambala and Ayta Magbukon communities. These groups have a long history of occupation in the region and have faced significant challenges in securing legal recognition for their ancestral domains. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) plays a crucial role in the formalization of ancestral domain claims through Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs). However, the process is often delayed due to bureaucratic and legal obstacles. Indigenous communities face various types of disputes, including legal, administrative, cultural, social, and economic challenges. Legal issues, such as discrepancies in land titles and overlapping claims, are among the most prominent problems. These challenges are exacerbated by limited access to legal assistance and the slow pace of government intervention. Additionally, conflicts arise from the development activities by non-indigenous groups that threaten the cultural practices and livelihoods of the IPs. The study highlights ongoing efforts by the NCIP to address ancestral domain disputes through documentation, surveys, and community consultations. However, delays in processing ancestral domain claims and difficulties in coordination among government agencies remain persistent issues. There is also a noted lack of awareness among IPs about their legal rights, which further hampers their ability to protect their lands. The study results suggest the need for more robust government intervention, better coordination among agencies, and improved legal assistance for ICCs/IPs. Empowering the communities through education on their rights and improving the processing of CADTs are essential steps toward resolving these disputes. There is also an emphasis on respecting cultural practices and involving IPs in decision-making processes to safeguard their rights.

Key Words: Indigenous People, Ancestral Domain, Bataan Provinces, Dispute, Marginalized, Ayta, Profiling, Problems.

I. INTRODUCTION

Indigenous Peoples (IPs) worldwide possess unique cultures, languages, and histories, deeply connected to their ancestral lands and natural resources. However, they face challenges such as land rights disputes, cultural preservation, and marginalization. Historically, colonial powers reinterpreted native land customs, often denying IPs ownership and exploiting their resources. In the Philippines, the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA) recognized IPs' rights to ancestral domains and established the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to protect these rights. Despite this, securing ancestral domain titles remains challenging due to bureaucratic hurdles, resistance from local governments, and limited resources. In Bataan, 34% of the province's land, approximately 46,200 hectares, is recognized as ancestral

land, home to 18 Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) of the Aeta. These communities rely on forests and mountains for their livelihoods, but face threats from agricultural expansion and urban development. The lack of formal land ownership, poverty, discrimination, and agricultural issues further exacerbate their struggles. The NCIP, tasked with implementing IPRA, supports ICCs in formalizing land claims through Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs), which ensure land tenure security. However, challenges persist, including limited funding and complex processes. Strengthening NCIP's capacity and fostering collaborations with local governments and NGOs are vital for addressing these issues.

This study aims to understand the experiences of ICCs/IPs in Bataan, assess the impact of NCIP programs, and propose solutions to improve their well-being. By engaging with IP leaders, elders, women, and youth, the research highlights the importance of addressing land rights disputes and fostering sustainable development. Through policy recommendations and community-based initiatives, it seeks to empower ICCs/IPs to preserve their heritage and overcome socio-economic challenges, ultimately contributing to their self-determination and inclusion in national development.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research documented the historical background and experiences of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) involved in Ancestral Domain disputes in Bataan, focusing on land conflicts. A qualitative case study approach was employed to explore community-specific issues through data collection and analysis. Participants included IP leaders, elders, women, and youth from Ayta Ambala and Ayta Magbukun communities across 12 municipalities and 18 Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs). Respondents were selected based on population sampling and validated through community endorsements and NCIP records. Data were gathered using documentary analysis, interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), and observation. The documentary analysis followed NCIP and Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (RA 8371) guidelines, ensuring alignment with legal requirements. Interviews captured personal perspectives on ancestral domain challenges and government projects. FGDs facilitated in-depth discussions in a language familiar to participants, and observation provided additional context. Data were analyzed statistically using frequency and ranking to quantify challenges and organize findings. The study adhered to ethical standards, obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality, and complying with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (RA 10173). By assessing demographic data and current NCIP programs, the study aimed to propose solutions addressing the rights and challenges of IPs and evaluate its implications for public administration.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter covers the obtained data, on the Ancestral Domain Disputes the case of Bataan Province specifically on the land conflict. In addition, problem encountered intervention and implication to the public administration.

3.1.1 The Profile of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples

To determine the veracity of the respondents, the demographic profile was gathered to verify their eligibility to the predetermined parameters in this research study. This study provided insight how the live of the Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous Peoples of Bataan. The researcher thought that in order to come up with the analysis of their experience as well as the historical background of the problem / dispute the encountered now a days.

Table 1
Ancestral Domain in the Province of Bataan

REGISTERED				
No.	CADT No.	Location	Claimant	Area (Hectares)
1	R03-HER-0703-008-A	Pastolan Village, Brgy. Tipo, Mun. of Hermosa, Bataan	Ayta Ambala	4,284.1256
APPROVED				
2	R03-LIM-1215-196	Sitio Kinaragan, Brgy. Duale, and Sitio Aryada Brgy. Alangan Mun. Limay, Bataan and Brgys of Maligaya, Malaya and portion of Cabcaben, Mun. of Mariveles, Bataan	Ayta Magbukon	3,602.2387

SURVEYED				
3	RIII-BAT-005-AD	Brgys of Payangan, Tubo-Tubo, and Payangan, Mun. of Dinalupihan, Bataan	Ayta Ambala	4,754.0567
4	RIII-BAT-004-AD	Brgys of Tala and Pag-Asa Mun. of Orani, Bataan, Brgy. Palili Mun. of Samal, Bataan. Brgys of Bangkal, Mabatang, Salian, and Gabon, Mun. of Abucay, Bataan. Brgys. of Tanato and Dangcol City of Balanga, Bataan, and Brgys of Munting Batangas, Binukawan, and Banawang, Mun. of Bagac, Bataan	Ayta Magbukon	14,977.148
ON – GOING PROCESS				
5	R03-MAR-0116-200	Brgys of San Isidro, Alasasin, Maligaya, Malaya, Cabcaban, Upper Biaan, Brgy. Biaan, and Portion of Brgy Balon – Anito Mun. of Mariveles, Bataan, and Brgys of Binwangan, Paysawan and Sitio Duhat Brgy. Saysain, Mun. of Bagac, Bataan	Ayta Magbukon	9,095.9753
6	RO3-MOR-0618-224	Sitio Kanawan, Brgy. Binaritan, Mun. of Morong, Bataan	Ayta Magbukon	11,769.1035
IDENTIFIED				
7	RIII-BAT-006-AD	Sitio Parapal, Brgy. Mabiga and Brgy. Bamban Mun. of Hermosa, Bataan	Ayta Ambala	3,000.00

As define in NCIP Administrative Order No. 01, series of 2020, Ancestral Domain refers to areas owned by Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs), with lands, inland waters, coastal regions, and the natural resources within them. These areas are claimed under ownership and have been occupied or possessed by ICCs/IPs, either collectively or individually, since time immemorial, through their ancestors. Meanwhile, Indigenous Cultural Communities are group of people identified both by self-recognition and recognition by other, who have historically lived as organized communities within a distinct and communal territory.

The process of delineating ancestral domains involves identifying, marking, and officially recognizing the boundaries of the land traditionally occupied and used by Indigenous Peoples. This process is essential for legal recognition and protection of Ancestral Land rights. Below are the key steps tangled in the delineation of ancestral domains, which can vary slightly depending on the country and the specific legal framework in place.

The Stage 1 of the delineation process is Social Preparation 1, which begins with the creation of the Provincial Delineation Team (PDT) of Community delineation team (CDT). The key activities involved in this stage include forming the PDT or CDT, ensuring the composition of the team is appropriate for the task. This is followed by notifying all relevant stakeholders about the upcoming activities. The team then conducts community-wide Information, Education, and Consultation (IEC) sessions to inform and engage the local population. Data gathering and documentation take place next, which includes conducting pre-survey research to gather pertinent information. The final step in this stage is an ocular inspection, which involves a physical survey of the area in question to verify preliminary findings and assess the land.

On the Stage 2 is Social Preparation 2, which focuses on the validation of data gathered and the endorsement of the Provincial Delineation Team (PDT) of Community delineation team (CDT) and its supporting documents to the Ancestral Domains Office (ADO). This stage begins with the resolution of any boundary conflicts that may have arisen. Following this, the data and proofs gathered during Stage 1 are validated to ensure their accuracy. The PDT or CDT then prepares and submits a detailed report of their findings. This report, along with supporting documents, is reviewed by the Regional Review Board (RRB). Finally, the Regional Director endorses the PDT/CDT report and all relevant documents to the ADO for further action.

The Stage 3 involves the Deliberation of the CADT Application for the issuance of the Certificate of Recognition of Ancestral Domain. In this stage the Ancestral Domains Office (ADO) review the report prepared by the PDT / CDT along with its supporting documents. Following the review, the CADT application is deliberated to determine whether it meets the requirements for the issuance of the Certification of Recognition, marking a critical step in formalizing the ancestral domain claim.

Survey and Initial Verification of Survey Returns is in Stage 4, which involves several key activities. It begins with the issuance of work order or Survey authority, authorizing the survey team to commence their tasks. The next step is mission planning, followed by notifying all relevant parties about the upcoming survey. A reconnaissance is then conducted to assess the area and plan the survey operations. The team establishes project controls and proceeds with the perimeter survey of the ancestral domain. After the survey is completed, data processing takes place, and the survey returns and reports are prepared. The final step in this stage is the initial verification of the survey returns to ensure accuracy and compliance with the established guidelines.

Stage 5 is the Final Verification of Survey Returns and Endorsement of the Survey Plan and Technical Description for map validation, projection, and publication. This stage begins with the final verification of the survey returns to ensure that all data is accurate and complete. Once verified, the survey plan is projected to the Land Registration Authority (LRA) for further processing. Afterward, the survey plan and its accompanying technical description are endorsed to the Regional Office (RO) for map validation, projection, and eventual publication, completing the technical verification process necessary for official recognition.

The Stage 6 is Map Validation, Projection, Publication, and Preparation of the Recognition Book, which involves several important activities. First, the common projection of the survey plan is conducted in coordination with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). If necessary, research and segregation of overlapping or conflicting claims are undertaken. The community map is then validated to ensure it reflects the accurate boundaries of the ancestral domain. Following this, the technical description is published to formalize the details of the domain. Lastly, the Recognition Book is prepared, which includes the completion report of all survey activities, consolidating the documentation necessary for final recognition of the ancestral domain.

The Stage 7 is the approval of survey plan and the review and evaluation of the Recognition Book. This stage begins with the approval of the survey plan by the Ancestral Domains Office (ADO). Following the approval, the Recognition Book (RB) undergoes a thorough review by the Regional Review Board (RRB), the ADO, and the Legal Affairs Office (LAO). If any issues or recommendations arise from the review, the Provincial Delineation Team (PDT) must address and comply with the findings of the RRB and ADO before moving forward in the process.

The final Stage is the Approval of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) or Certificate of Ancestral Land Title (CALT). In this stage, a final deliberation of the CADT/CALT application is conducted to ensure all requirements and documentation are in order. Following the deliberation, the Ancestral Domains Office (ADO) prepares the CADT or CALT, finalizing the formal recognition of the ancestral domain or land which is then ready for issuance to the indigenous community.

National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Bataan is Catering seven (7) Ancestral Domains eighteen (18) identified cultural communities

3.1.2 Distribution of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs)

The table show the distribution of Indigenous communities in seven (7) Acestral Domain in the province of Bataan eleven (11) Municipality are inhabited of Indigenous Peoples eighteen (18) Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) as follows for the distribution of the political boundaries.

Table 2
Distribution of IP Community per Municipality

Name of Ancestral Domain	Location of Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous Peoples		
	Sitio / Purok	Barangay	Municipality
Ancestral Domain of Ayta Ambala of Dinalupihan, Bataan		Bayan-Bayanan	Dinalupihan
		Tubo-Tubo	
		Payangan	
Ancestral Domain of Ayta Ambala of Pastolan, Tipo, Hermosa, Bataan	Pastolan Village	Tipo	Hermosa
Ancestral Domain of Ayta Ambala of Bamban and Parapal, Hermosa, Bataan	Parapal	Mabiga	
		Bamban	
Ancestral Domain of Ayta Magbukun of Mariveles and Bagac, Bataan	Upper Biaan / Balon Anito	Upper Biaan	Mariveles
Ancestral Domain of Ayta Magbukun of Limay, Bataan	Kinaragan	Duale	Lima
	Aryada	Alangan	
Ancestral Domain of Ayta Magbukun of Morong, Bataan	Kanawan	Biniritan	Morong
Unified Ancestral Domain of Ayta Magbukun of Abucay, Balanga, Bagac, Orani and Samal (ABBOS)		Bangkal	Abucay
		Dangcol	Balanga
	Duhay	Saysain	Bagac
	Matatalangaw	Banawang	
	Ulingan		
	Bayan-Bayanan	Pag - Asa	Orani
	Looban	Palili	Samal

The Indigenous Cultural Communities of Indigenous Peoples located across several municipalities in Bataan. The focus is primarily on the Ayta Ambala and Ayta Magbukun communities, which are two of the major indigenous groups in the region. It is categorized based on their ancestral domains—specific geographic areas traditionally occupied by these communities.

These domains are integral to the cultural, spiritual, and economic practice of Indigenous Peoples. For each ancestral domain, the document provides detailed locations, including the Sitio, Barangay, and the Municipality where these communities are situated.

The locations include the Ancestral Domain of Ayta Ambala in Dinalupihan, Bataan, where communities such as Bayan-Bayanan, Tubo-Tubo, and Payangan are located. The Ancestral Domain of Ayta Ambala in Pastolan Tipo, Hermosa, Bataan identifies Pastolan Village as a significant Ayta Ambala community. Similarly, the Ancestral Domain of Ayta Ambala in Bamban and Parapal, Hermosa, Bataan includes areas like Parapal and Mabiga in Hermosa and Bamban.

For the Ancestral Domain of Ayta Magbukun in Mariveles and Bagac, Bataan, areas such as Upper Biaa and Balon Anito are highlighted as key Ayta Magbukun locations. In the Ancestral Domain of Ayta Magbukun in Limay, Bataan, communities such as Kinaragan in Duale and Aryada in Alangan are notable. The document also identifies Kanawan in Biniritan, Morong, as an important Ayta Magbukun community under the Ancestral Domain of Ayta Magbukun in Morong, Bataan.

Lastly, the Unified Ancestral Domain of Ayta Magbukun (ABBOS) encompasses multiple locations across municipalities such as Abucay, Balanga, Bagac, Orani, and Samal, with key areas including Bangkal in Abucay, Dangcol in Balanga, and Duhat in Bagac.

3.1.3 Types of Conflicts

The table shows the category the types of disputes indigenous communities face, providing an organized view of the complex challenges they experience in relation to their ancestral domains.

Table 3
Types of Disputes

Category	Types of Disputes
Legal Disputes	- Discrepancies in land titles and maps
	- Significant delays in processing ancestral domain claims
	- Overlapping claims on the same lands
	- Inadequate legal recognition of ancestral domains
	- Limited access to legal assistance
	- Lack of awareness about legal rights and processes
Administrative and Government-Related Disputes	- Lack of effective government intervention
	- Lack of coordination among government agencies
	- Conflicts between local government interests and indigenous claims
Cultural and Identity-Based Disputes	- Impact on cultural practices and traditions
	- Internal divisions within communities
Social Disputes	Social exclusion and discrimination
Economic and Livelihood-Related Disputes	Loss of access to essential land and resources

The ancestral domain disputes experienced by Indigenous Cultural Communities / Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) in Bataan reflect a comprehensive set of challenges that threaten both the livelihood and cultural identity of these communities. These disputes are categorized into legal, administrative, cultural, social, and economic dimensions, each contributing to the complexities that indigenous communities face in securing their ancestral lands.

On the legal issues dominate the disputes in Bataan's ancestral domains. The most significant challenge is the discrepancies in land titles and maps, ranked as the top issue among the indigenous communities. These discrepancies stem from outdated land surveys and conflicting documentation, leading to confusion and disputes with other land claimants, including private landowners and corporations. Overlapping claims on the same lands exacerbate these legal challenges, making it difficult for the Indigenous Communities to assert their rights over their Ancestral Domains.

Another legal problem is the significant delays in processing ancestral domain claims. Bureaucratic inefficiencies, a lack of resources, and slow-moving legal procedures mean that many indigenous communities are left in limbo, unable to secure formal recognition of their ancestral lands. This delay makes them vulnerable to encroachment and unauthorized development projects.

Additionally, there is an inadequate legal recognition of ancestral domains, despite the existence of laws like the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA). Many ICCs/IPs in Bataan have yet to secure Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADT), which are crucial for legally protecting their lands. The lack of legal assistance further hampers their efforts to navigate these legal processes, as many communities lack the financial resources and access to lawyers who can help them defend their land rights.

On administrative and Government-Related Disputes involves issues with the administrative processes and government involvement. Indigenous communities face a lack of effective government intervention in resolving their land disputes. Government agencies, responsible for protecting and enforcing IP rights, often act too slowly, leaving many disputes unresolved for years. This ineffective government response is compounded by the lack of coordination among government agencies, with conflicting actions from different departments contributing to delays and confusion in resolving land disputes.

There are also conflicts between local government interests and indigenous claims. Local government units (LGUs) sometimes prioritize infrastructure projects, tourism initiatives, or resource extraction over the Ancestral Domain claims of Indigenous communities. The influence of powerful corporate or political entities often sways land-use decisions, further marginalizing the IPs in Bataan.

The disputes over ancestral domains in Bataan are not only legal or administrative but have deep cultural implications. Land disputes affect cultural practices and traditions by disrupting the communities' access to sacred sites and cultural landmarks. These places are integral to their spiritual and cultural identity, and their destruction or desecration threatens the preservation of indigenous heritage.

The pressure of land disputes also causes internal divisions within communities. Differing opinions on how to handle land claims—whether through negotiation or confrontation—can lead to fractures within indigenous groups. This lack of unity weakens their collective ability to defend their land rights and preserve their culture.

On social exclusion and marginalization are prominent factors in the disputes faced by Indigenous communities in Bataan. Social exclusion and discrimination limit their participation in decision-making process particularly in government policies that affect their land. They are often underrepresented in political bodies, leading to decisions that do not reflect their interests or rights.

Finally, land disputes have profound economic consequences for indigenous communities in Bataan. The loss of access to essential land and resources due to encroachment or unauthorized developments has disrupted their traditional livelihoods. Indigenous communities rely heavily on farming, hunting, fishing, and gathering to sustain themselves. Losing access to their ancestral lands means not only the loss of economic resources but also a threat to food security, pushing many communities into poverty.

3.2 The Historical Background and Experiences of the Indigenous Peoples involve in Ancestral Domain Disputes

The researcher conducted interview and focus discussion with eighteen (18) ICCs/IPs in seven (7) Ancestral Domain in the province of Bataan to learn more about the historical background of the Ancestral Domain Dispute as well as the live experience of the IPs in terms of the Land Dispute within their Domain where they are involved.

3.2.1 Struggles for Ancestral Land: The Ayta Magbukon's Fight for Recognition and Rights in Mariveles and Bagac

The Ayta Magbukon Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) of Mariveles and Bagac, Bataan, pursued recognition of their Ancestral Domain through a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) application. The claim spanned 9,095.9747 hectares, encompassing Sitio Upper Biaan in Barangay Biaan, Mariveles, and parts of Bagac, including Sitio Duhat in Barangay Saysain. Filed on March 5, 2004, the application involved 149 Ayta Magbukon and 8 non-indigenous claimants, guided by NCIP processes. The community's journey began in 2011 with consultations on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA). Population censuses, genealogical surveys, and land validations followed, culminating in boundary surveys in 2012 and map verification in 2013. On June 5, 2014, the application was endorsed to the Regional Office, and by July 9, 2014, it reached the DENR and DAR. Despite significant progress, challenges such as conflicting land claims by migrant settlers and legal ambiguities complicated the process. The Ayta Magbukon, part of the Negrito ethnic group, maintained a deep cultural and spiritual connection to their ancestral land. Their livelihoods revolved around sustainable practices like swidden farming, honey gathering, and hunting. However, the influx of settlers introduced environmental degradation and land-use conflicts, disrupting traditional practices.

The NCIP played a crucial role, conducting surveys and facilitating consultations to address these disputes. While the IPRA allowed for coexistence between indigenous and non-indigenous land users, overlapping claims and settler resistance persisted. Relocation or compensation for settlers and mutual respect for land use systems emerged as potential solutions. For the Ayta Magbukon, the ancestral domain represented more than land—it was the foundation of their identity. Their efforts to secure CADT recognition underscored their enduring commitment to protecting their heritage amidst numerous challenges.

3.2.2 Resilience in the Highlands: The Ayta Magbukon's Struggle for Ancestral Domain Recognition in Limay, Bataan

The Aeta/Ayta Magbukon Indigenous Peoples (IPs) of Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, pursued legal recognition of their ancestral domain, spanning 3,602 hectares. The process began in 2004 with a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) application led by Chieftain Danilo Salonga and supported by the NCIP, Project Development Institute, and local government. The Aetas, composed of 52 households, faced significant challenges, including resistance from non-IP settlers, local authorities, and funding shortages. The NCIP played a crucial role in facilitating their CADT journey, starting with Information Education Consultations (IEC) on IPRA in 2004. A population census and genealogical survey followed in 2009-2010, validating 228 direct claimants. Despite opposition, perimeter surveys were conducted from 2010 to 2011, aided by additional funding. Land boundaries were delineated using natural landmarks, completing a community-validated map in May 2011. Essential documentation was transmitted to DENR and DAR in September 2012.

Historically, the Aetas, part of the Negrito ethnic group, lived in lowlands before displacement by settlers during Spanish colonization. Driven to the mountains, they preserved their traditions while adapting to lowland culture. Their ancestral lands hold deep cultural and spiritual significance, with sacred sites like Mt. Alay-ayon tied to rituals and folklore. The land serves as their livelihood source through shifting cultivation, honey gathering, and small-scale farming. Resistance from settlers and local authorities complicated the CADT process. Many settlers had government land titles, while reforestation projects added tension. The NCIP mediated conflicts, fostering dialogues to address concerns. Despite delays caused by funding gaps and document losses, the Aetas remained steadfast in reclaiming their lands.

Recognition of the CADT affirmed the Aetas' cultural identity and legal rights, safeguarding their traditions and ensuring land protection against external threats. The Aetas continue environmental stewardship, balancing resource use with sustainability. This milestone symbolizes resilience and determination amidst centuries of displacement, ensuring their ancestral domain remains integral to their heritage and future.

3.2.3 Claiming Heritage: The Ayta-Magbukun's Struggle for Ancestral Land Recognition of UNIFIED CADT (ABROS)

The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) or Republic Act No. 8371, enacted in 1997, aimed to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and their ancestral domains. Following its passage, communities, including the Ayta-Magbukun ICCs/IPs of Bataan, sought recognition of their ancestral lands. The Ayta-Magbukun, residing in the municipalities of Abucay, Samal, Balanga, and Bagac, applied for a unified Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) covering approximately 10,000 hectares. Historically, the Ayta-Magbukun lived a mobile lifestyle, retreating to Bataan's mountains to avoid conflicts and colonial pressures. They maintained cultural practices, relying on forest resources and sustainable farming methods such as "kal-anan," where soil regeneration was prioritized. Conflict resolution was traditionally managed by the "Pamunuan ng Tribo" and the "Konseho ng Matatanda" or Council of Elders.

On June 14, 2012, the Ayta-Magbukun submitted their CADT application to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). In 2013, the community in Brgy. Banawang, Bagac, was included through tribal resolutions. The NCIP's Provincial Delineation Team (PDT) began the delineation process in 2014, conducting community meetings, consultations, and fieldwork to gather documents, including elder testimonies, genealogical data, and photographs of traditional landmarks.

Despite progress, challenges arose. The complex application process required extensive documentation, which was arduous for the Ayta-Magbukun due to their reliance on oral traditions. Verifying titled properties within the domain added delays. Additionally, external threats such as illegal logging and encroachment by non-IPs jeopardized the integrity of their land.

The Ayta-Magbukun's population of around 1,500 engaged in farming and traditional livelihoods, balancing cultural preservation with modern influences. Infrastructure improvements brought both opportunities and challenges. Access to education and telecommunications expanded but risked eroding traditional practices among younger generations. To address this, cultural education initiatives were prioritized. Environmental degradation posed another significant threat to the community's ancestral domain. Sustainable practices like seasonal hunting and rotational farming contrasted with illegal activities and land conversion pressures. The CADT, once granted, would empower the Ayta-Magbukun to enforce environmental regulations and safeguard their lands.

In June 2017, the PDT validated gathered proofs during a community meeting, solidifying the Ayta-Magbukun's claim. Despite slow progress due to institutional backlogs, the community remained steadfast, working with the NCIP and local governments to advance their application. Their efforts reflected a commitment to reclaim their ancestral lands and preserve their cultural identity for future generations. Through their journey, the Ayta-Magbukun demonstrated resilience, balancing tradition with modernization. Their pursuit of the CADT not only symbolized legal recognition of their rights but also their determination to protect their ancestral domain, ensuring its sustainability and the preservation of their heritage amidst evolving challenges.

3.2.4 Resilience Amidst Displacement: The Ayta Ambala's Journey to Reclaiming Their Ancestral Domain in Pastolan

The Ancestral Domain of the Ayta Ambala Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC) in Pastolan Village, Tipo Hermosa, Bataan, spanned 4,284.1256 hectares. This indigenous group, comprising 430 families or 1,620 individuals, had a rich history of resilience and cultural preservation tied to their ancestral land. Historically referred to as "Kayakay" or "Pastolan," the land was central to their traditions, livelihood, and spiritual practices. The name "Pastolan," derived from "Pastuhan," highlighted its past use as a grazing area, a practice introduced by their ancestors. The Ayta Ambala faced numerous challenges, including forced displacements during the American military occupation in the early 20th century. The establishment of Olongapo as a military base in the 1960s further displaced them from Boton, Binictican, and Kalayaan, forcing relocation to Cabalan. Promised residential lots in Cabalan largely went to non-Ayta settlers, compounding their marginalization. In the 1970s, they returned to Pastolan to reclaim their ancestral land.

Their struggle for formal recognition began with the passage of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) in 1997. The Ayta initiated the delineation of their domain, supported by the Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). Combining traditional knowledge with modern tools, they defined an area of 4,355 hectares. Despite challenges from overlapping claims and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's (SBMA) management of parts of their domain, the Ayta persisted. In 2004, they were awarded the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT), securing legal recognition of their land rights. However, conflicts continued due to industrial developments, such as the Subic Power Corporation, which disrupted traditional livelihoods. Legal frameworks under the SBMA complicated the Ayta's ability to fully control and benefit from their land.

Despite these obstacles, the Ayta Ambala upheld sustainable practices, integrating cultural traditions into environmental stewardship. They actively engaged in reforestation and conservation, safeguarding the biodiversity of their domain while advocating for their rightful share of revenues generated from land use. The community also developed the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) to ensure sustainable management. Their journey symbolized the broader struggles of indigenous peoples in the Philippines. The CADT was a significant milestone, affirming their rights while highlighting ongoing challenges in balancing development with cultural and environmental preservation. Their resilience and dedication to justice stood as a testament to their enduring connection to their ancestral domain, inspiring other indigenous communities facing similar battles.

3.2.5 Roots of Resilience - The Struggle for Ancestral Land and Identity of the Ayta Ambala of Dinalupihan

The Ayta Ambala Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC) of Dinalupihan, Bataan, shared an enduring connection to their ancestral domain, a mountainous expanse stretching across Zambales, Tarlac, and Bataan. This land provided sustenance, a foundation for their cultural identity, and a harmonious way of life rooted in traditions. However, colonial rule, modern development, and the encroachment of non-indigenous settlers gradually disrupted their ownership and use of this territory. In response, the Ayta Ambala filed a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) application with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) on February 26, 2004. This step was aimed at securing formal recognition of their ancestral lands under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997. Their claim included Barangays Payangan, Bayan-bayanan, and Tubo Tubo in Dinalupihan, as well as portions of Olongapo and Subic in Zambales. Despite their determination, the CADT process remained arduous, involving perimeter surveys, documentation, and conflict resolution. By 2019, the application process was still incomplete, hindered by boundary disputes, titled properties within their domain, and ongoing encroachments.

Historically, the Ayta Ambala thrived in Central Luzon's mountainous regions, relying on hunting, gathering, and agriculture. Colonial disruptions displaced them, yet their connection to the land persisted. Post-colonial systems of land ownership introduced new challenges, as many Ayta sold portions of their ancestral land due to financial needs or were deceived into exploitative deals. This led to fragmentation, cultural erosion, and over-exploitation of natural resources. Land conflicts emerged, with non-indigenous settlers exploiting the Ayta's vulnerabilities and disputes arising among Ayta groups themselves. In 2018, boundary conflicts between Ayta communities in Dinalupihan and Zambales were resolved through dialogues facilitated by the NCIP. However, external pressures persisted, including the overuse of resources and encroachments by corporations.

The Ayta Ambala turned to their "Konseho ng Matatanda" (Council of Elders) for internal conflict resolution, emphasizing amicable settlements. For disputes involving external parties, they relied on NCIP intervention. Despite these efforts, delays in legal recognition left them vulnerable to further exploitation. Cultural erosion also threatened their identity, as younger generations became disconnected from traditions, language, and rituals. Sacred sites, once central to their spirituality, faced neglect or encroachment. Elders sought to preserve cultural knowledge through storytelling and rituals, but modern pressures continued to weaken traditional practices. The Ayta Ambala's struggle exemplified the broader challenges faced by indigenous communities in the Philippines. While the CADT process offered a pathway to legal recognition, the journey remained fraught with delays and uncertainties. Their resilience and unwavering commitment to reclaiming their ancestral land and preserving their heritage reflected their deep-rooted connection to their cultural identity and the land itself.

3.2.6 Guardians of Ancestral Land: The Ayta Ambala's Struggle for Cultural Survival and Land Rights

The Ayta Ambala of Parapal, located in Hermosa, Bataan, faced numerous challenges in their struggle to protect their ancestral domain. This indigenous community has maintained a profound connection to their land, which has provided sustenance and cultural significance for generations. The Ayta Ambala initiated the process of applying for a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) with the help of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and various non-governmental organizations. The CADT application aimed to secure formal recognition of their rights under the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, representing a vital step in safeguarding their land rights and preserving their cultural heritage. Historically, the Ayta Ambala practiced a sustainable way of life, relying on their forest and rivers for food, shelter, and medicine. They lived harmoniously with nature, utilizing traditional farming and gathering methods. During Spanish colonization, the Ayta managed to maintain their autonomy by retreating to remote areas. The American occupation saw increased interaction with non-indigenous communities, yet they largely retained their traditions. The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in 1991 was a turning point, displacing many Ayta families and destroying their homes and farmland.

In the late 20th century, encroachment by lowland settlers led to land conflicts. Local officials began requesting permission for non-indigenous settlers to reside on Ayta lands, initially framed as temporary arrangements due to conflicts in the area. However, these temporary settlers claimed ownership, intensifying disputes over the land, especially during the 1980s when influential families and local politicians began to assert their claims. The Ayta Ambala experienced various forms of land grabbing, forcing them to navigate complex legal battles. Despite ongoing demolition orders and repeated displacements, the community persisted in asserting their land rights. With the support of the NCIP and organizations like PANLIPI, the Ayta Ambala actively pursued their CADT application. The CADT serves as a critical document that legally recognizes indigenous rights over ancestral domains. The application process, however, proved lengthy and complex, with bureaucratic delays and opposition from private claimants hindering progress. The NCIP provided legal assistance, facilitated dialogues, and conducted surveys to help the Ayta Ambala articulate their historical ties to the land. The NCIP also assisted in developing the Ayta Ambala's Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADS DPP), aimed at managing their land sustainably while preserving their cultural practices. Despite facing challenges, the ongoing CADT application remained a beacon of hope for the Ayta Ambala, representing their struggle for land recognition and protection.

The story of the Ayta Ambala exemplifies the resilience of indigenous communities in the face of adversity. Their fight for recognition is about more than land; it encompasses their cultural identity, traditions, and the right to live with dignity on their ancestral domain. Elders like Chieftain Jovelita Yandan shared personal testimonies of their connection to the land, recounting the efforts of their ancestors to protect it. Their narratives reflect a deep-seated belief that the land is not merely property to be owned but a

sacred space to be cared for and preserved. Despite the pressures from modernity and external influences, the Ayta Ambala continued to uphold their traditions and practices. Leaders like Lolita Pelagio Valdez reminisced about the gradual encroachment of settlers and the challenges of maintaining their cultural heritage. Their testimonies encapsulated the community's enduring commitment to preserving their identity while navigating the complexities of contemporary challenges.

The ongoing support from the NCIP played a pivotal role in empowering the Ayta Ambala. Their guidance in legal processes, mediation of disputes, and assistance in sustainable development planning contributed significantly to the CADT application. The Ayta Ambala's struggle for recognition remains a testament to their deep connection to their ancestral land, a fight intertwined with their history, identity, and cultural survival. As they continue their efforts, the hope is that their ancestral domain will be recognized, ensuring the preservation of their way of life for future generations.

3.2.7 Claiming Heritage: The Struggle for Ancestral Domain Recognition of the Ayta Magbukun in Morong, Bataan

The Direct Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) application of the Ayta Magbukun Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) marked a significant milestone in their quest for the recognition and reclamation of ancestral lands in Morong, Bataan. Covering 12,301.35 hectares, the application included Sitio Kanawan in Brgy. Binaritan and parts of Brgys. Sabang, Mabayo, and Nagbalayong. This effort reflected the Ayta Magbukun's enduring connection to their ancestral domain, which they had managed sustainably for generations through agriculture and forest-gathering practices. Initiated in 2004, the formal application process involved local tribal leaders such as Chieftain Rodelio Tamundog and Joseph Salonga. This initiative was not merely about land ownership but also aimed at preserving their cultural heritage, livelihoods, and environmental stewardship. The Ayta Magbukun sought to protect their ancestral domain from external encroachments and ensure sustainable development for future generations.

The recognition journey of the Ayta Magbukun's ancestral domain was long and complex, characterized by historical challenges, legal struggles, and socio-political dynamics. For centuries, they inhabited the mountainous regions of Morong, subsisting on traditional agriculture, hunting, and gathering while maintaining a deep spiritual bond with the land. Their domain was rich in resources and sacred sites integral to their cultural identity. However, like many Indigenous groups in the Philippines, they faced displacement due to colonial interventions and modern government projects. A pivotal moment in their history came with the establishment of the Bataan Techno Park and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), which encroached upon their ancestral lands and displaced numerous Ayta families from their traditional territories in "Limon" to Sitio Kanawan.

In light of these challenges, the Ayta Magbukun began the formal application process for recognition under the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA), RA 8371, which was enacted in 1997 to safeguard Indigenous Peoples' rights to their ancestral lands. The IPRA mandated the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to oversee the delineation, titling, and protection of these lands. The Ayta Magbukun formally submitted their application in 2004, engaging in various stages that included population censuses, genealogical surveys, and validation of their historical ties to the land. Despite encountering administrative obstacles and boundary disputes with neighboring Indigenous groups, particularly the Ayta-Ambala ICCs/IPs of Pastolan, the Ayta Magbukun remained committed to securing their land rights. By 2013, the NCIP issued a work order for the perimeter survey of their claim, followed by community map validation and ground surveys to finalize the delineation of their ancestral domain.

By 2017, the application progressed to the projection of the survey plan and publication of the CADT application, indicating a nearing conclusion to their lengthy struggle for land recognition. These ongoing efforts showcased the resilience of the Ayta Magbukun and underscored the critical need for legal recognition to secure their cultural survival and sustain their ancestral lands. Their CADT application exemplified their determination to protect their heritage and assert their rights in a rapidly changing socio-political landscape. While awaiting final approval, the Ayta Magbukun continued advocating for the full acknowledgment of their ancestral domain, which remained central to their identity and future. The Ayta Magbukun Indigenous Cultural Community has long-standing ties to their ancestral domain, which encompasses significant natural and cultural resources vital for their way of life. The community's historical practices of shifting agriculture and forest gathering were sustainable, demonstrating their deep respect for nature. However, their ancestral lands faced encroachment due to government resettlement initiatives and economic developments, which limited their access to essential resources and threatened their cultural

identity. Despite these adversities, the Ayta Magbukun maintained their customs and governance structures through their "Apu" council of elders, ensuring community cohesion and cultural continuity. In summary, the Ayta Magbukun's application for the CADT represents a profound narrative of resilience, cultural preservation, and the struggle for land rights amid external pressures. Their journey reflects not just a quest for legal ownership but also a commitment to preserving their cultural heritage and securing their rights for future generations.

3.3. Problems Encountered

The data presented in the table highlights the major problems faced by indigenous communities regarding ancestral domain disputes, ranked by frequency of occurrence.

Table 4
Problems Encountered

Problems Encountered	Frequency	Ranking
There are Discrepancies in land titles and maps	18	1
There are significant delays in processing ancestral domain claims.	17	2
Indigenous peoples and other parties have overlapping claims on the same lands.	15	3
There is a lack of effective government intervention to resolve land disputes.	14	4
There is inadequate legal recognition of ancestral domains.	10	5
Land disputes are affecting cultural practices and traditions, including the destruction of sacred sites and cultural landmarks.	10	5
Indigenous communities are limited approached in the source of income.	10	5
Differing opinions on land claims are causing divisions within communities and straining relationships between neighboring communities.	9	6
Indigenous communities have limited access to legal assistance.	9	6
There is a lack of awareness among indigenous peoples about their legal rights and processes.	8	7
There are conflicts between local government interests and indigenous claims, along with the influence of powerful entities over land use decisions.	8	7
Lack of coordination among government agencies	8	7
Indigenous peoples face social exclusion and discrimination, along with limited representation in decision-making bodies.	8	7

The most frequent problem (18 occurrences) is the discrepancy in land titles and maps, which underscores the complexity and inconsistency of land documentation. Conflicting or inaccurate land titles can create confusion and disputes between indigenous peoples and other stakeholders, complicating efforts to recognize ancestral domains properly. With 17 occurrences, delays in processing claims are ranked second. Indigenous communities face bureaucratic slowdowns in securing legal recognition of their lands, further intensifying tensions and conflicts over land use. These delays prevent timely resolution of issues and impede economic and cultural activities.

A frequent issue (15 occurrences) is the overlapping claims on the same lands by indigenous peoples and other parties. This problem reflects the lack of clear land demarcation and inadequate mechanisms to resolve ownership disputes. Overlapping claims create legal confusion and fuel conflicts between multiple stakeholders. The fourth most significant issue (14 occurrences) is the lack of effective government intervention. Indigenous communities struggle with inadequate or insufficient government action to address land disputes, which leads to unresolved conflicts, further delaying justice for these communities.

With 10 occurrences, inadequate legal recognition of ancestral domains ranks fifth. The legal framework may not always effectively protect indigenous land rights, resulting in disputes and non-recognition of ancestral claims. This weak legal acknowledgment leads to more barriers in securing rightful ownership. Also with 10 occurrences, land disputes have affected cultural practices and traditions, including the destruction of sacred sites and cultural landmarks. Similarly, 10 instances point to indigenous communities losing access to land and resources essential for their traditional livelihoods. Land disputes disrupt the economic survival of these communities, leading to social and economic disadvantages. With 9 occurrences, differing opinions on land claims are causing divisions within indigenous communities and straining relationships between neighboring groups. The disputes create internal fragmentation, weakening the collective power of communities to assert their land rights.

Also with 9 occurrences, limited access to legal assistance hinders indigenous communities from effectively managing the legal process to protect their rights over the claims. Many communities have lack of knowledge financially to hire legal professionals, putting them at a disadvantage. Indigenous peoples face a lack of awareness about their legal rights and processes, occurring 8 times. Also with 8 occurrences, conflicts between local government interests and indigenous claims highlight the tension. The influence of powerful entities often overshadows indigenous claims, leading to biased land use decisions. With 8 occurrences, lack of coordination among government agencies further complicates the resolution of disputes. When agencies fail to collaborate effectively, indigenous communities face fragmented and inconsistent responses to their claims. Finally, also at 8 occurrences, social exclusion, discrimination, and limited representation in decision-making bodies indicate the marginalization of indigenous voices. Without adequate representation, indigenous peoples struggle to influence land policies and decisions affecting their future.

The frequency and ranking of these problems reveal several critical themes: the need for better legal recognition, faster and more effective government intervention, greater access to legal support, and enhanced coordination among stakeholders. Addressing these issues holistically will require public administration reforms, policy improvements, and stronger community engagement.

The results highlight several problems encountered by Aytan communities in Bataan Province regarding dispute. Most frequently encountered problem, discrepancies in land titles and maps, reflects the mismatch between indigenous claims and official land records. This inconsistency causes confusion and complicates efforts to secure ancestral domain titles, leading to disputes with other land claimants.

The Delays in the legal recognition of ancestral domains are a major issue, stemming from bureaucratic inefficiencies and lack of resources. These delays leave indigenous communities vulnerable to encroachment and prevent them from fully asserting their rights over their lands.

On Indigenous peoples face conflicts due to overlapping land claims with private landowners, corporations, or government projects. These overlapping claims fuel disputes and hinder indigenous communities' efforts to protect their ancestral domains.

While the government's inability to efficiently resolve land disputes is a recurring problem. Weak government intervention often results in unresolved disputes, leaving indigenous peoples without the support needed to assert their rights. Despite existing laws, and situation on the ground the Aytas / IP in the province of Bataan have still lack of formal legal recognition to their territories and claims. This insufficient legal status weakens their land claims and hinders their ability to defend their rights in legal contexts.

On the Land disputes are not just legal issues but also cultural. The destruction of sacred sites and cultural landmarks disrupts indigenous peoples' spiritual and cultural practices, threatening the preservation of their heritage. As a result of land disputes, indigenous communities have limited access to their natural habitat and to their source of income, such as farming, hunting, and fishing. This jeopardizes their economic stability and way of life.

Differing opinions on how to handle land claims are causing divisions within indigenous communities. These internal conflicts weaken their ability to collectively defend their land rights and strain relationships with neighboring communities. Indigenous communities often lack access to adequate legal assistance to defend their claims in court or in disputes with powerful landowners or corporations.

A lack of awareness among indigenous peoples about their legal rights further compounds their challenges. Without knowledge of available legal avenues, they are less equipped to assert their land rights and engage in government processes. While local government interests, such as development projects or tourism, often clash with indigenous land claims. These conflicting interests, especially when influenced by powerful entities, can lead to decisions that prioritize development over the protection of indigenous land rights.

The poor coordination between government agencies results in fragmented responses to land disputes. Without a unified approach, it becomes harder to resolve disputes efficiently and fairly.

The ranking of these issues indicates that discrepancies in land records, delays in legal processes, and overlapping claims are the most pressing concerns, while limited legal support and government coordination continue to exacerbate the problems encountered by Ayta Community for the recognition of their claims.

3.4. Common Lived Experiences

Table 5 presents the common real life experiences by Aytas of Bataan Province relative to their ancestral domain disputes.

The ancestral domain cases of Bataan, which span across various municipalities, reveal a range of shared experiences, challenges, and themes among the Ayta Community. Despite the diversity of their locations, specific historical contexts and traditions, there are several overarching similarities that bind these communities together in their struggles and aspirations.

Show on the table the similarities on the Experience and historical background of Ayta Communities in Bataan in terms of Geographical and Environmental Context, Cultural Heritage and Preservation, Historical Significance and Ancestral Ties, Land Conflicts and Legal Struggles, Resilience and Community Solidarity and Role of Government and NGOs.

Table 5
The Common Lived Experiences

Similarities	Experience and historical background of Ayta Ambala and Ayta Magbukun of Bataan.
Geographical and Environmental Context	The ICCs/IPs of Bataan live in areas full of natural resources like forests, rivers, and farmlands. These places, which are often mountainous and near the coast, provide what they need for farming, hunting, and fishing. The land is important for their daily lives and for keeping their culture alive.
Cultural Heritage and Preservation	The ICCs/IPs of Bataan have a deep bond with their territories, which are significant to their livelihood and culture. Their traditions, rituals, and practices are closely connected to the land, passed down through generations. They make strong efforts to protect their languages, customs, and knowledge, as these are key to their identity and survival as indigenous peoples.
Historical Significance and Ancestral Ties	The communities have a profound ancestral connection to their land, dating back to pre-colonial times. Their ties to the land are reflected in oral histories, legends, and culturally significant sites, which strengthen territories and highlight the need for legal recognition.
Land Conflicts and Legal Struggles	The ICCs/IPs of Bataan have faced land encroachment, unauthorized developments, and ownership disputes, often due to government projects, private development, or non-indigenous settlers. These conflicts have led to prolonged legal battles for securing Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs), essential for protecting their lands.
Resilience and Community Solidarity	Despite many challenges, the ICCs/IPs of Bataan show great resilience and unity. They adapt to changes, whether facing natural disasters like the Mount Pinatubo eruption or dealing with legal and social pressures. Strong community bonds, with leaders and members working together, help them protect their land and culture. Their collective efforts to preserve their ancestral domains reflect their enduring strength and determination.
Role of Government and NGOs	The ICCs/IPs of Bataan interact with different GAs and NGOs in gaining recognition and aid. The NCIP assists on the legalities on the process of CADT applications, while NGOs offer crucial services like education, livelihood help, and legal aid. This relationship is complex, presenting both opportunities and challenges in securing support for indigenous rights.

Its shows that Ayta of Bataan Province, live in areas full of natural resources. a mountainous range and forest were hunting, fishing and to survive the daily need of the members within the ancestral domain.

Their traditions, rituals, and practices are closely connected to the land, passed down through generations. They make strong efforts to protect their languages, customs, and knowledge, as these are key to their identity. A profound ancestral connection to their land, dating back to pre-colonial times. Their ties to the land are reflected in oral histories, legends, and culturally significant sites, which strengthen their claims to their ancestral domains. On the land conflict by land encroachment, unauthorized developments, and ownership disputes, often due to government projects, private development, or non-indigenous settlers. These conflicts have led to prolonged legal battles for securing Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs), essential for protecting their lands. These struggles reflect the broader challenges to the Ayta of Bataan. They adapt to changes, whether facing natural disasters like the Mount Pinatubo eruption or dealing with legal and social pressures. Strong community bonds, with leaders and members working together, help them protect their land and culture. Through the combine efforts of different government agencies and support from NGO the IPs of Bataan gain the recognition and assisting by legal process for their application.

3.5. Actions Undertaken by NCIP to Resolve Indigenous Peoples's Ancestral Domain Disputes

The NCIP contribute significantly to addressing and resolving ancestral domain disputes faced by IP group / Ayta group in Bataan Province, where several IPs have long inhabited the region, the NCIP's efforts are important in ensuring that their rights to ancestral lands are recognized and protected. This narrative case study explores the actions taken by the NCIP in resolving ancestral domain disputes in seven Ancestral Domain across the province.

The NCIP's efforts across the seven Ancestral Domain in Bataan highlight the complexities of resolving ancestral domain disputes and the multifaceted approach required to address these challenges. From legal advocacy and community organizing to capacity-building and sustainable development planning. Despite of progress made, ongoing support and vigilance are needed to ensure that these communities can fully realize to continue the preservation of their tradition over their Ancestral Domain claim.

The Ayta Magbukon of Unified CADT community faced significant challenges in securing legal recognition of their ancestral domain. The NCIP, recognizing the need to formalize these claims, initiated a series of consultations and dialogues with the community. The process began with the gathering of historical data, traditional land use patterns, and testimonies from elders to establish the perimeter of their claims. NCIP facilitated the filing of CADT application. This included mapping out the area and submitting the necessary documentation to prove the community's long-standing connection to the land. The NCIP also provided legal assistance to navigate the complex bureaucratic processes involved in the application, ensuring that the community was adequately represented in all legal proceedings.

In Dinalupihan, the Ayta community's ancestral lands were under threat from agricultural expansion and unauthorized developments. The NCIP stepped in to mediate the disputes between the indigenous community and the other claimants to the land. One of the key actions taken by the NCIP was to establish a Task Force on Ancestral Domain Conflicts, which included representatives from both the indigenous community and local government units. This task force was instrumental in conducting thorough land assessments and verifying the legitimacy of the Ayta's claims. The NCIP also organized a series of public hearings to gather input from all stakeholders, ensuring transparency in the process. Additionally, the NCIP provided capacity-building programs for the Ayta community, educating them on their rights under the IPRA Law by equipping them with the necessary skills to defend their land claims. These programs were essential in empowering the community to actively participate in the resolution process.

The Ayta community in Samal faced challenges in maintaining their territories relevant on the conflicting titles overlapping to their claims. The NCIP approach in Samal involved extensive land validation and the reconciliation of conflicting records. The NCIP conducted a detailed survey and mapping exercise to accurately delineate the scope or perimeter of their territories. The NCIP also facilitated the resolution of conflicting claims by organizing mediation sessions between the Ayta community and other parties. Furthermore, the NCIP advocated for the issuance of a CADT for the Ayta of Samal, which would provide them with legal security over their ancestral lands.

In Orani, the Ayta Magbukon community faced historical land dispossession and ongoing threats from private developers. The NCIP's actions in Orani were focused on reclaiming and protecting the community's ancestral domain. The NCIP began by conducting a comprehensive ethnographic study to document the historical and cultural significance of the land to the Ayta Magbukon. This study formed the basis of their CADT application. The NCIP also provided legal assistance to the community, helping them file lawsuits against unauthorized developments and land encroachments. To strengthen the community's claim, the NCIP facilitated the creation of a reforestation involving the community, which allowed the Ayta

Magbukon to manage and protect their ancestral forests. This agreement not only reinforced their connection to the land but also provided a legal framework for sustainable resource management.

The Ayta Ambala in Hermosa were heavily impacted made by the destruction of Pinatubo during the eruption, which led them displaced and loss of their ancestral lands. The NCIP Bataan provincial office and community service center was focused on the restoration and rehabilitation of the Ayta community. This included facilitating access to temporary shelters, healthcare, and livelihood programs. In terms of land restoration, the NCIP worked on the revalidation and remapping of the ancestral domain affected by the disaster. This involved updating the CADT application to reflect the new geographical realities and ensuring that the community's rights were upheld despite the environmental changes.

In Morong, the Ayta Magbukon community's ancestral domain was threatened by the establishment of economic zones and infrastructure projects. The NCIP's strategy in Morong involved a combination of legal advocacy and community organizing. The NCIP supported the Ayta Magbukon in filing a petition against the encroachment of their ancestral lands by private developers and government projects. This petition was backed by evidence gathered through participatory mapping and historical documentation. The NCIP also provided legal representation to the community in court, ensuring that their case was heard at the highest levels.

The Ayta community in Limay faced similar challenges to those in other parts of Bataan, including land encroachment and unauthorized development. The NCIP's approach in Limay was to strengthen the community's legal standing and enhance their capacity to defend their ancestral domain. The NCIP conducted different trainings in Ayta community, focusing on land rights, legal procedures, and advocacy strategies. These trainings were designed to strengthen the Ayta to diligently participate in the process of CADT application and to engage with local authorities. To address ongoing disputes, the NCIP also facilitated the creation of a local Indigenous Peoples' Organization (IPO) in Limay. This organization served as a formal body through which the Ayta could organize, advocate for their rights, and negotiate with other stakeholders. The IPO was instrumental in mobilizing the community and ensuring that their voices were heard in the resolution of land disputes.

3.6 Proposed measure to resolved Disputes Ancestral Romain

The issue of territorial disputes is a critical challenge faced by different tribes and IP community across the country specially in Bataan Proince. These disputes often arise due to overlapping claims, unauthorized developments, and the encroachment of non-indigenous entities on lands that are traditionally and historically owned by indigenous communities.

This case study proposes several measures aimed at resolving these disputes effectively, ensuring that the rights of ICCs/IPs are upheld while promoting harmonious coexistence and sustainable development.

Resolving ancestral domain disputes demands a comprehensive approach that considers legal, social economic and cultural dimensions. By strengthening legal frameworks, promoting inclusive decision-making, building the capacities of indigenous communities, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, These measures, when implemented comprehensively, can provide long term preservation of indigenous cultures, ensuring that these communities can thrive while maintaining their connection to their ancestral lands.

The table show the problem encountered by the Ayta Communities Bataan province particularly the Ayta Ambala and Ayta Magbukon communities, face numerous challenges in securing and protecting their ancestral domains. These issues arise from historical, legal, and bureaucratic barriers that prevent the proper acknowledgement and defense of their ownership.

In Bataan, many indigenous communities struggle with inconsistencies in land titles and maps. The boundaries of their ancestral lands are often inaccurately documented or overlap with government records or private land titles. These discrepancies arise due to outdated surveys and a lack of coordination between government agencies. These conflicting documents complicate efforts to recognize and secure IP land rights, leading to confusion and disputes with other land claimants.

IPs in Bataan experience prolonged delays in the legal acknowledgement of their territory. Bureaucratic inefficiencies, limited resources, and slow-moving legal process make it difficult for indigenous communities to secure formal titles for their lands. This delay leaves them vulnerable to land encroachment, resource extraction, and development projects imposed without their consent.

In Bataan, indigenous lands are often subject to overlapping claims from other parties, including private landowners, corporations, and government projects. These overlapping claims create tensions and

conflicts between IPs and other stakeholders, making it difficult for indigenous communities. Clear land demarcation and inadequate conflict resolution mechanisms further exacerbate these disputes.

The government's response to land disputes involving IPs in Bataan has been ineffective. Many disputes remain unresolved for years due to the lack of a coordinated approach from government agencies and insufficient resources to address these issues. Government interventions are often delayed or biased towards powerful interests, leaving indigenous communities without the support they need to protect their lands.

Despite the IPRA Law being in place, a legal recognition of Indigenous Lands in Bataan is still insufficient. Many indigenous communities have yet to receive formal titles for their lands, and the legal processes to secure these titles are slow and cumbersome. This lack of recognition undermines their ability to protect their lands from external threats and weakens their claims in legal disputes.

Land disputes in Bataan are not just legal and economic issues but also have cultural consequences. The destruction of sacred sites, cultural landmarks, and traditional lands due to encroachment and development threatens the cultural identity of IPs. These sacred spaces are integral to their spiritual practices, and their loss has a profound impact on the community's heritage and way of life.

Land disputes or encroachments have resulted in indigenous communities in Bataan deprivation of land and resource entitlements essentials to traditional source of income, such as farming, hunting, and gathering. This loss disrupts their economy, affects food security, and pushes many indigenous families into poverty, as they can no longer sustain themselves through traditional means.

Disagreements over land claims and differing opinions on how to manage these disputes are causing divisions within indigenous communities in Bataan. Some members may favor negotiating with external stakeholders, while others push for more confrontational approaches. These internal conflicts weaken the unity of the communities, making it harder to present a collective front in defending their land rights.

Indigenous communities in Bataan often lack the financial resources and access to legal professionals needed to defend their land rights. Without legal assistance, they are at a disadvantage when navigating the legal processes involved in securing land titles or defending their claims against corporations or private landowners. This limitation weakens their position in legal disputes and leaves them vulnerable to exploitation.

Many indigenous people in Bataan are unaware of the legal options. This lack of awareness prevents them from effectively engaging with government agencies and defending their ancestral domains. Without adequate knowledge of their rights, IPs are often left out of decision-making processes and are more vulnerable to land grabbing and exploitation.

Local government unit of Bataan interest in the following, such as infrastructure development, tourism, or resource extraction, often clash with the ancestral land claims of IPs. These conflicting interests can lead to the preference or focus on the development initiative over the rights of Ayta Community, particularly when powerful political or corporate entities are involved. This dynamic can result in biased land use decisions that favor development over the protection of indigenous land rights.

Limited coordination between various government, indigenous affairs, and ecological preservation complicates the resolution of land disputes in Bataan. Agencies often operate in silos, leading to fragmented and inconsistent responses to indigenous land claims. This disorganization delays the resolution of disputes and contributes to the ongoing marginalization of IPs.

Indigenous peoples in Bataan face social exclusion and discrimination in various sectors, including access to government services and representation in decision-making bodies. They are often marginalized in political processes, leaving them with limited influence over policies that affect their lands and communities. This social exclusion perpetuates inequalities and limits their ability to advocate for their rights effectively.

Table 6
Proposed Measures

Problems	Measures	Objective	Strategies	Expected Output
Land Title Discrepancies	Establish a review system for land titles.	Clarify land titles and resolve discrepancies	Form a task force to audit and reconcile conflicting land title records.	Accurate land records and resolved title conflicts.
Delays in Ancestral Domain Claims	Reduce the claim processing time by 50%.	Expedite the processing of ancestral domain claims.	Streamline processes, improve staffing, and implement digital tracking for claims.	Faster resolution of ancestral domain claims.
Overlapping Land Claims	Implement mediation mechanisms for conflicting claims.	Address and settle overlapping claims.	Organize regular mediation sessions between claimants and government.	Reduced land conflicts and mutually agreed settlements.
Lack of Government Intervention	Increase government-led resolutions of land disputes by 40%.	Improve government intervention in land disputes.	Strengthen government agencies' capacity to resolve disputes and enforce decisions	More effective government involvement and dispute resolution.
Inadequate Legal Recognition of Territories	Increase the number of ancestral Domain legally recognized	Achieve full legal recognition of ancestral domains.	Advocate for policy reforms and collaborate with legal entities to support indigenous claims.	More ancestral domains recognized under the law.
Disputes Affecting Cultural Practices	Decrease in reported destruction of cultural sites.	Protect cultural practices and sacred sites.	Enforce cultural protection laws and involve indigenous communities in land dispute solutions.	Preservation of cultural sites and continued indigenous practices.
Loss of Access to Resources	Increase land area available to indigenous peoples for livelihood.	Restore access to traditional lands and resources.	Negotiate land restoration and sustainable resource management with involved parties.	Reinstated access to resources for indigenous communities.
Divisions Within Communities	Reduce incidents of community division over land disputes.	Promote unity among communities with differing land claims.	Facilitate dialogue and consensus-building within and between communities.	Stronger community cohesion and collaborative resolution of disputes.
Limited Legal Assistance	Increase access to free or affordable legal services.	Provide adequate legal support for indigenous communities.	Partner with legal aid organizations and establish a pro-bono program for land disputes.	Improved legal support and higher success rates in land claim cases.
Lack of Awareness of Legal Rights	Conduct legal education campaigns in 80% of indigenous communities.	Raise awareness of legal rights among indigenous peoples.	Develop community-based legal training and information dissemination programs.	Greater understanding of legal processes and rights among indigenous communities.
Conflicts with	Decrease in legal	Resolve	Establish a joint task force	Harmonized land

Local Governments	disputes between local governments and indigenous communities.	conflicts between local government and indigenous claims.	to harmonize local government policies with indigenous rights.	use plans and reduced conflicts with local governments.
Lack of Coordination Among Government Agencies	Increase inter-agency meetings and joint actions by 60%.	Improve coordination between government agencies on land issues.	Set up a coordinating body to facilitate collaboration and data sharing.	Streamlined efforts and faster resolution of land disputes.
Social Exclusion and Discrimination	Increase indigenous representation in government by 30%.	Promote inclusivity and representation of IPs in resolution process	Advocate for policy changes ensuring the productive and activeness of IPs during land use decision.	More inclusive governance and better representation of indigenous concerns.

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This Chapter presents a summary of the study's finding, followed by the conclusion drawn from these results and the corresponding recommendation. The findings, conclusions and recommendation are presented in alignment with the sequence of the research questions.

4.1 Summary of Findings

1. There are seven (7) Ancestral Domains in the Province of Bataan: 1 is registered, 1 is approved, 2 are surveyed, 2 are in the process, and 1 is an identified Ancestral Domain.
2. A total of eighteen (18) Ayta Community in Bataan Province.
3. A common issue across all cases was the existence of discrepancies in land titles and maps, leading to confusion over the boundaries of ancestral domains. Overlapping claims, particularly involving non-indigenous parties, have compounded these disputes.
4. Significant deferment in the processing of Titles (CADT) have hindered the resolution of land conflicts, leaving indigenous communities vulnerable to encroachment and unauthorized developments on their lands.
5. There is a general lack of effective government intervention to resolve land disputes, particularly in terms of enforcing IPRA and addressing the influence of powerful external entities on indigenous lands.
6. Many Ayta community in the Bataan Province struggle with inadequate legal recognition of their ancestral domains.
7. The disputes have significantly impacted the heritage / cultural traditions of Ayta Ambala and Ayta Magbukun. Sacred sites and cultural landmarks have been destroyed, and indigenous groups are losing access to lands essential for their traditional livelihoods. This erosion of cultural heritage is a critical concern for the preservation of indigenous identities.
8. Differing opinions on land claims have caused divisions within indigenous communities and strained relationships with neighboring communities, further complicating efforts to resolve disputes.
9. Indigenous peoples face social exclusion, limited representation in decision-making bodies, and marginalization in the broader public administration system. Their voices are often unheard in discussions about land use and development, leading to unresolved grievances.
10. While NCIP is mandating the custody / protecting the rights of Aytas in the Provinits efforts have been hampered by insufficient resources, bureaucratic delays, and lack of coordination with other government agencies. This has limited its ability to resolve ancestral domain disputes effectively.

4.2 Conclusion

1. There are seven (7) Ancestral Domains in the Province of Bataan: 1 is registered which is the Pastolan AD, 1 is approved which is the Ancestral domain of Mariveles, 2 are surveyed which is the Ancestral Domain of Dinalupihan and the UNIFIED Ancestral Domain of Abucay, Balanga, Bagac, and Orani Bataan, 2 are in the process which is the Ancestral Domain of Limay and Morong Bataan, and 1 is an identified which is the Bamban – Parapal Ancestral Domain in Hermosa Bataan
2. There are total of eighteen (18) Ayta Community in Bataan province
3. There are different types of disputes such as: Legal Disputes, Administrative and Government-Related Disputes, Cultural and Identity-Based Disputes, Social Disputes and Economic and Livelihood-Related Disputes
4. There are common issue across all cases was the existence of discrepancies in land titles and maps, leading to confusion over the boundaries of ancestral domains.
5. There are Overlapping claims, particularly involving non-indigenous parties, have compounded these disputes.
6. There are Significant interruption in the processing of their Titles (CADT) have hindered the resolution of land conflicts, leaving indigenous communities vulnerable to encroachment and unauthorized developments on their lands.
7. There is a general lack of effective government intervention to resolve land disputes, particularly in terms of enforcing IPRA and addressing the influence of powerful external entities on indigenous lands.
8. There are many indigenous communities struggle with inadequate legal recognition of their ancestral domains. This issue, coupled with a limited to obtain legal assistance and awareness of their rights, has left many communities unable to effectively defend their claims.
9. There are significantly impacted the culture and traditions of Aytas. Sacred places have been destroyed, and indigenous groups are losing access to lands essential for their traditional livelihoods. This erosion of cultural heritage is a critical concern for the preservation of indigenous identities.
10. There are Indigenous peoples face social exclusion, limited representation in decision-making bodies, and marginalization in the broader public administration system.

4.3 Recommendations

1. Strengthen the Legal Framework and Implementation of IPRA – The IPRA Law should be executed fully to ensure the recognition and protection of ancestral domains. This includes expediting the processing of ancestral domain claims, improving legal recognition mechanisms, and addressing discrepancies in land titles and maps. Clear guidelines on land demarcation should be established, and government agencies must be held accountable for delays in processing claims.
2. Enhance Government Coordination and Intervention - A coordinated and integrated approach is needed among government agencies involved in land management, indigenous affairs, and dispute resolution. Establishing an inter-agency task force focused on ancestral domain disputes can help streamline processes and improve responsiveness. Government intervention should be timely and impartial, prioritizing the rights of IPs over conflicting interests.
3. Provide Access to Legal Assistance - Indigenous communities in Bataan should be provided with better access to legal assistance to effectively defend their land rights. Legal aid programs and partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can empower IPs by ensuring they have the resources to navigate legal processes.
4. Promote Cultural Preservation and Respect for Sacred Sites - The government, private sectors, and civil society must ensure that land disputes do not compromise the cultural practices and traditions of indigenous communities. Development projects and land utilization should be considered for the preservation of sacred sites and cultural landmarks. Cultural impact assessments should be mandatory in areas with significant indigenous presence.
5. Resolve Overlapping Claims Through Mediation and Conflict Resolution Mechanisms - To address overlapping claims on ancestral lands, conflict resolution mechanisms, such as mediation and arbitration, should be strengthened. These mechanisms should involve all relevant stakeholders and be designed to prioritize indigenous land rights while ensuring fairness and transparency.

Establishing clear land boundaries and resolving overlapping claims will reduce tensions between IPs and other parties.

6. Improving the Decision-making bodies – IP Community must have a stronger voice in processes that affect their lands and source of income. Their presentation in local government and national agencies responsible for land use planning should be enhanced to ensure their concerns are addressed. This inclusion will promote more equitable and culturally sensitive land policies.
7. Promote Transparency and Accountability – Mandatory public consultations should be development in every projects involving Ancestral Domains or Ancestral Lands, to ensure that IPs are well informed and able to engage in every decisions making to managed and supervise for the good outcome of the project.
8. Support Sustainable Livelihoods for Indigenous Communities - Addressing land disputes should also focus on supporting the traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples. Programs that promote sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism, by using the natural resources that benefits IPs to improved their economic well-being while preserving their cultural practices.

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