

Towards a Low Carbon Development: Programs and Policies in the Philippine Forestry Sector

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Outline of Presentation

- The Philippines forestry sector
- Drivers of deforestation
- GHG emissions of the LUCF sector
- Initiatives toward low carbon development
- Issues and concerns
- Recommendations

The Philippines' declining forests

- When early Spanish colonizers first landed in the Philippines in 1521, 90% of the country was covered with lush tropical rain forest $\approx 27\text{M ha}$
- By 1900, forest cover figure was down to 21M ha ($\approx 70\%$ of total 30 M ha)
- In 1995, there were only 5.6 ha (19%) of remaining forest
- In 2002, forests slightly increased = 7.2M ha because of reclassification

Drivers of Deforestation

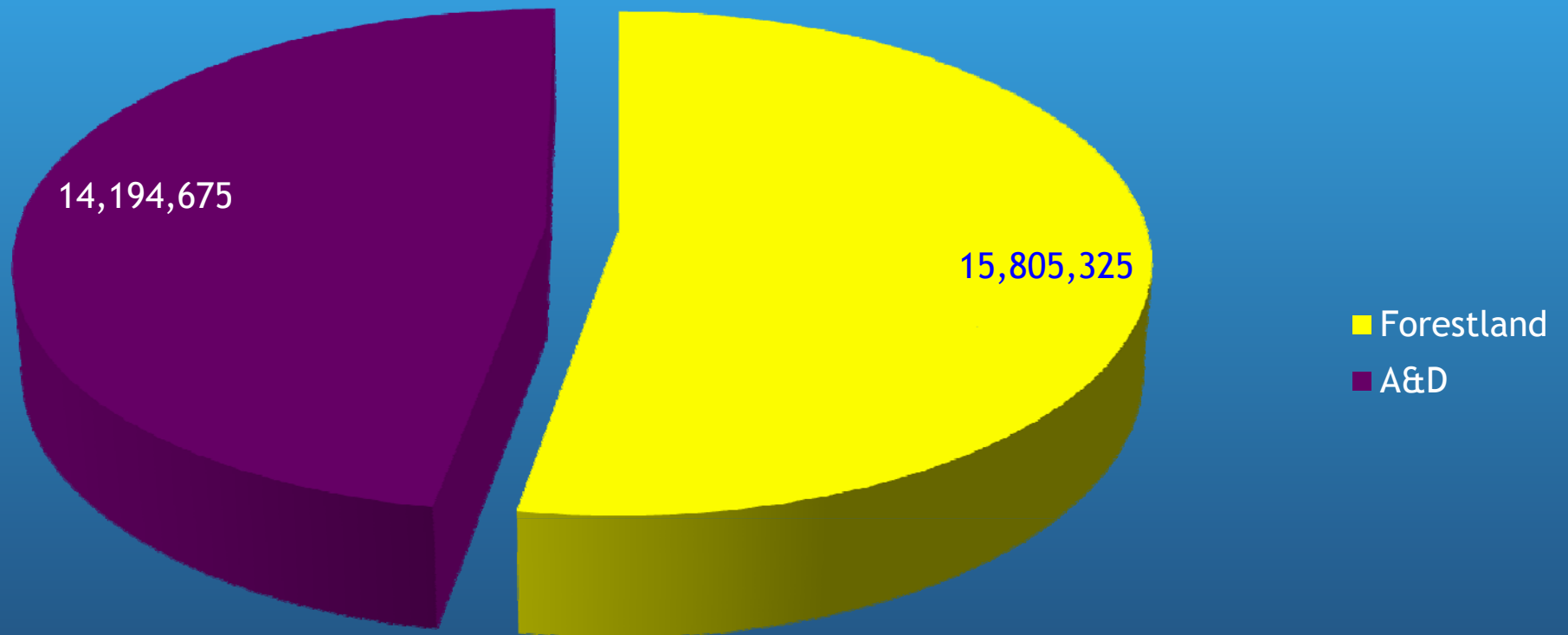
- Population growth
- Illegal logging
- Shifting cultivation
- Poor implementation of the laws
- Inability of reforestation efforts to cope with past pace of deforestation and degradation
- Forestry and non-forestry government policies

Table 1. Licensees' number and area, forest cover, and deforestation in the Philippines, 1959-1992.

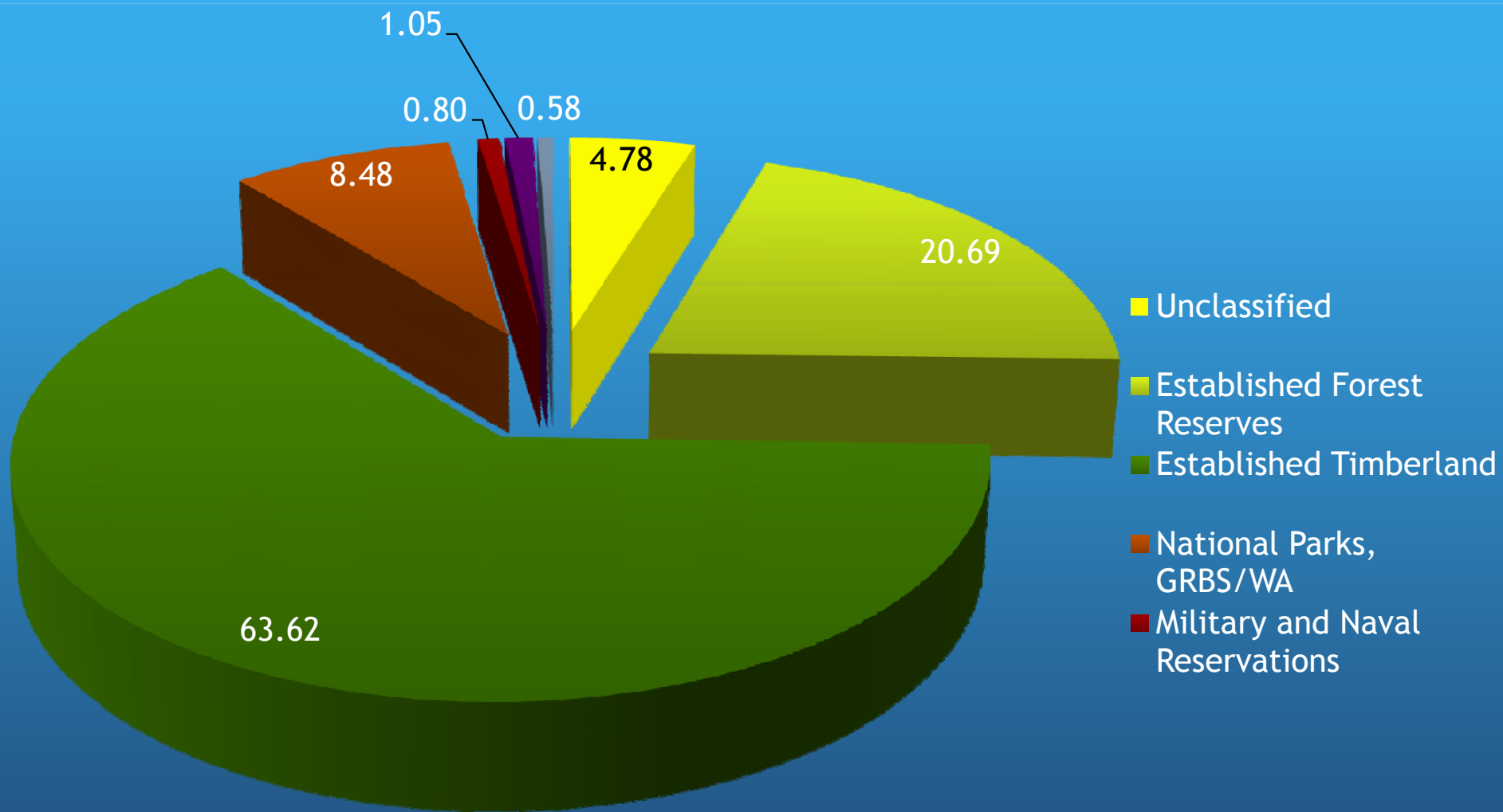
YEAR	LICENSEES NUMBER	LICENSED AREA (000 HA.)	FOREST COVER (000 HA.)	AREA DEFORESTED (000 HA.)
1959-60		4,485	13,000	225
1961-62		6,554	12,500	245
1963-64		7,928	12,000	265
1965-66		6,745	11,450	284
1967-68		8,302	10,850	296
1969-70	412	9,357	10,250	300
1971-72	461	10,598	9,650	298
1973-74	422	10,290	9,050	297
1975-76	471	10,137	8,500	280
1977	376	10,211	8,100	264
1978	315	8,769	7,800	248
1979	284	8,310	7,600	230
1980	261	7,939	7,400	210
1981	257	7,754	7,200	190
1982	217	7,539	7,000	170
1983	133	5,779	6,900	152
1984	157	6,347	6,800	136
1985	165	6,594	6,600	122
1986	159	5,847	6,500	110
1987	154	5,579	6,400	100
1988	120	4,737	6,300	94
1989	113	4,634	6,200	90
1990	96	3,760	6,100	88
1991	81	2,917	6,015	87
1992	71	2,311	5,900	85

Source: Pulhin (1996).

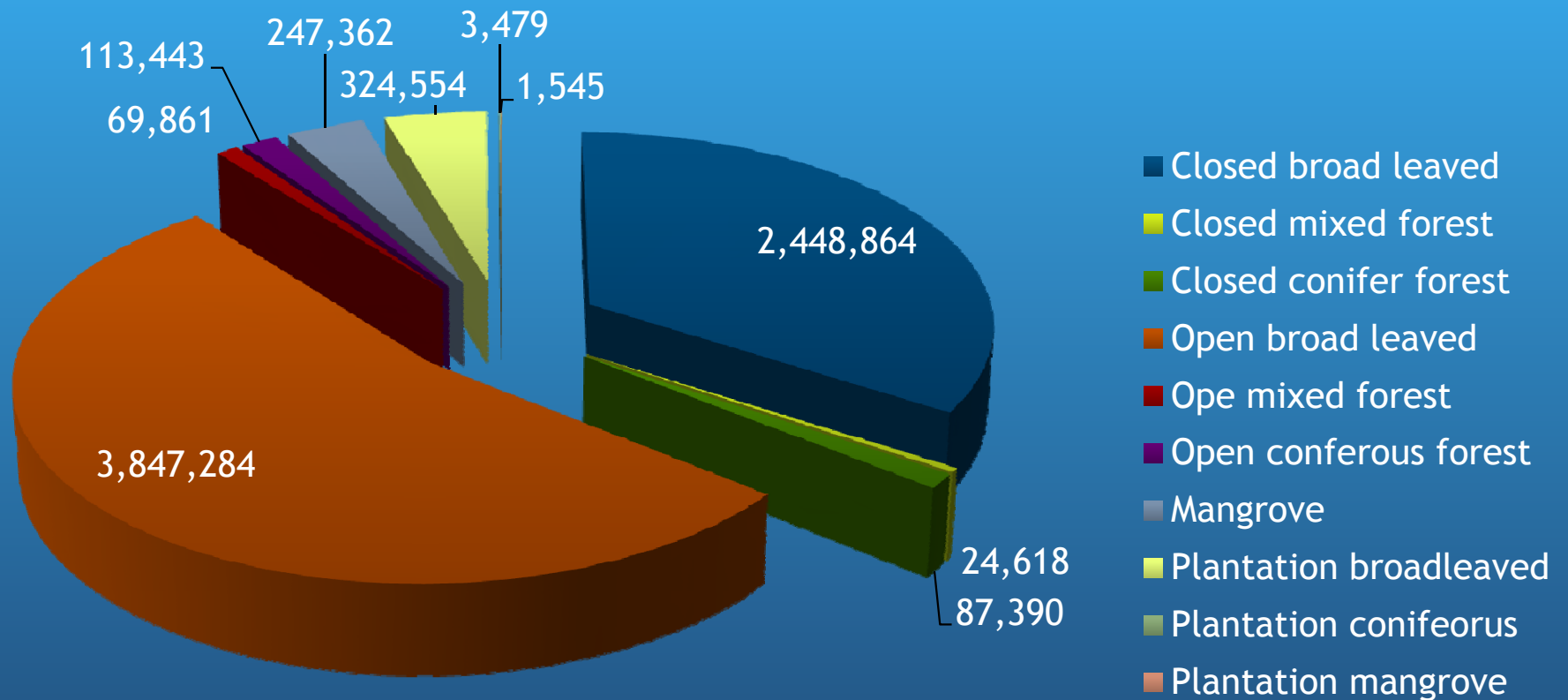
Land classification in 1997



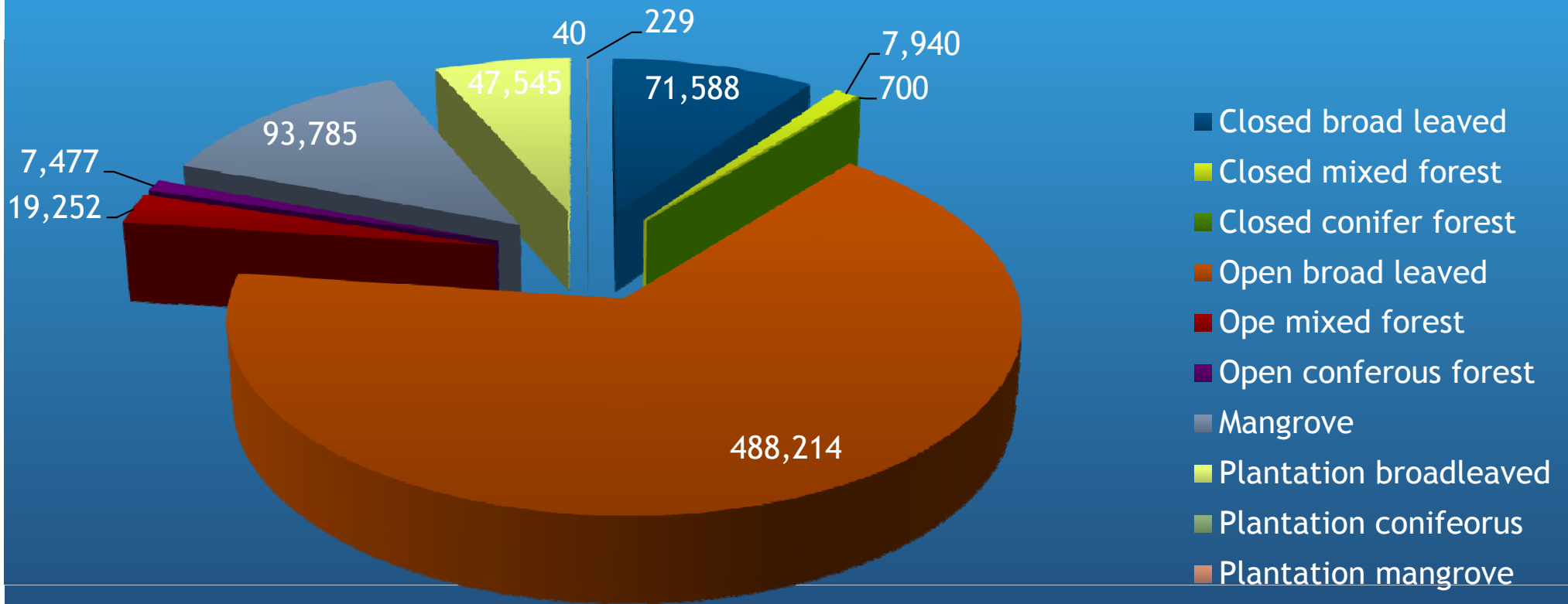
Land subclassification under forestland



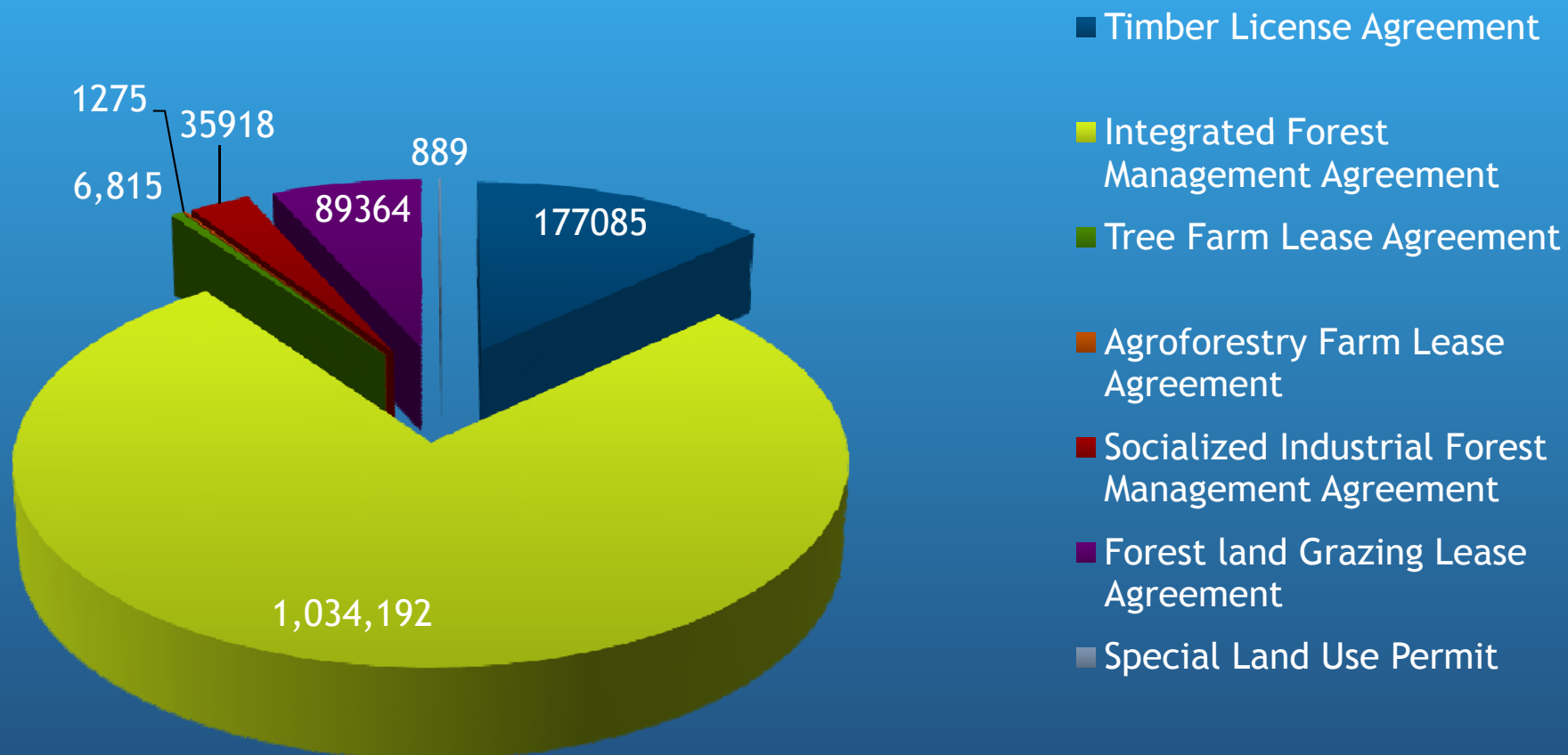
Forest cover inside forestland (2003, in Mha)



Forest cover inside private lands

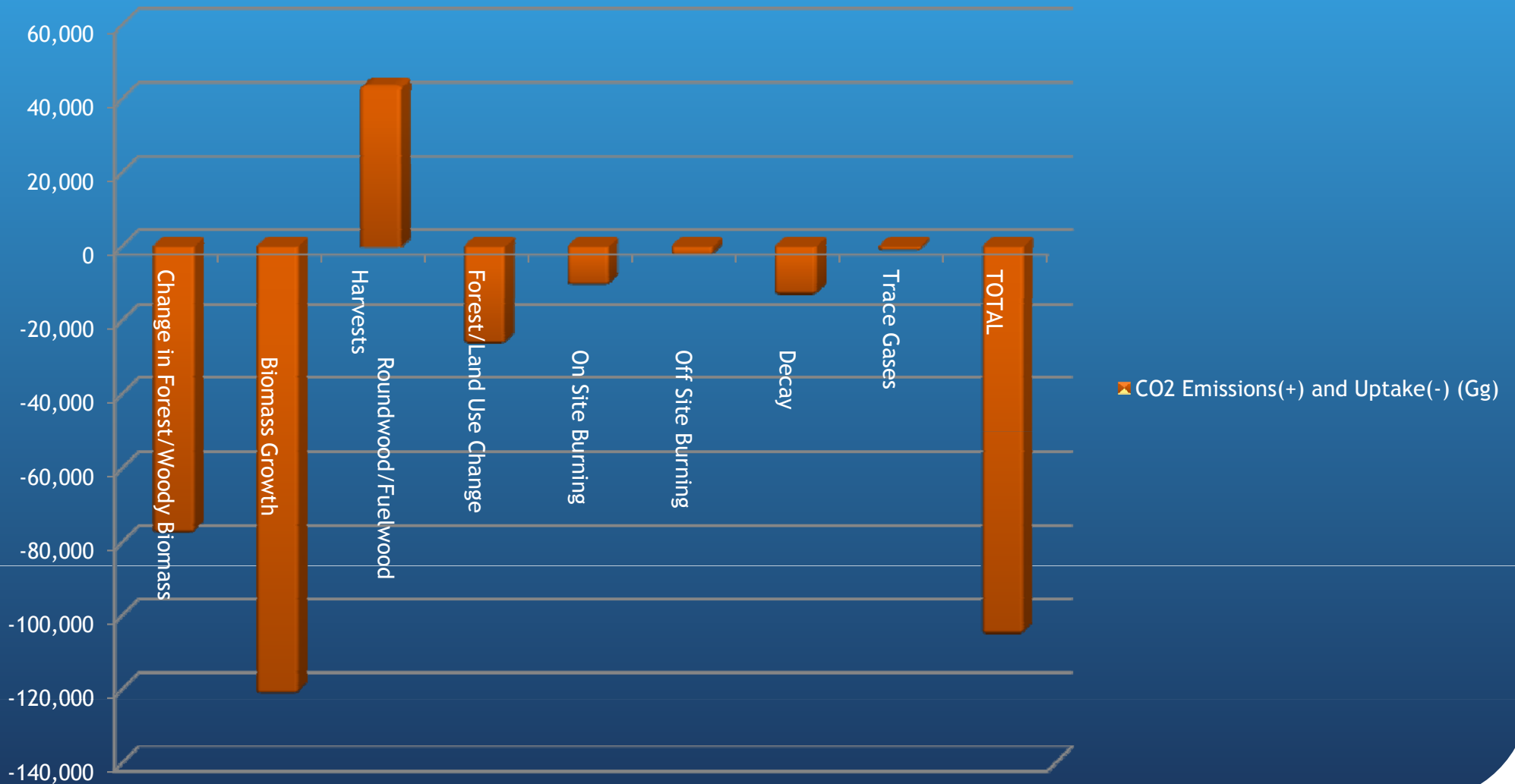


Areas under tenure



Summary of 2000 LUCF GHG Inventory

CO2 Emissions(+) and Uptake(-) (Gg)



Policies leading to low carbon emissions

- Even before climate change issue Philippines has policies already that promote forest protection
1. EO issued by former President Corazon Aquino to ban timber exports on March 18, 1989

2. RA 7586 - National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act

- Signed in 1992
- Aims to preserve the Philippine environment through a system of PAs in order to maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems, preserve genetic diversity, ensure the sustainable use of resources, and to maintain natural conditions to the greatest extent possible

2. RA 7586 - National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act

- Has over 200+ components comprising of proclaimed national parks, game refuge and wildlife sanctuaries, nature reserves, wilderness areas, mangrove reserves, watershed reservations, fish sanctuaries, protected landscapes and seascapes
- Indicates the need for creation of Protected Areas Management Board (PAMB) to govern the PA
- Act indicates the need to counteract the major drivers of Philippine deforestation

Policies leading to low carbon emissions

3. Executive Order 318

- Issued on June 09, 2004
- Promotes sustainable forest management
- Watershed as a management unit
- Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) shall be the primary strategy in all forest conservation and development and related activities

Policies leading to low carbon emissions

4. RA 9729 otherwise known as The Climate Change Act

- Passed in 2009
- Established the Climate Change Commission (CCC)
- CCC is the policy-making body of the government on climate change
- CCC tasked to develop a National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC)
- CCC tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government adaptation and mitigation plans

Policies leading to low carbon emissions

5. The National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC)

- Signed on April 28, 2010
- 12-year plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Contains the strategic priorities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

Policies leading to low carbon emissions

Strategies for the forestry sector in NFSCC

- Formulation of enabling policies towards enhancing the ability of the forestry sector to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon stocks
- Strengthen governance mechanisms in REDD+ coordination and implementation through establishment of appropriate institutional arrangements

Policies leading to low carbon emissions

Strategies for the forestry sector in NFSCC

- Promote a watershed approach towards REDD+ planning, implementation, and enforcement
- Establish REDD+ R & D
- Establish and implement a sub-national REDD+ MRV system
- Formulate and implement a national REDD+ communication plan and capacity building program
- Establishment of sustainable financing mechanism for REDD+ projects

Policies leading to low carbon emissions

6. Executive Order 881

- Issued in April 2010
- Directs CCC to coordinate existing climate change initiatives, REDD-Plus, and other similar mechanisms
- Designates the DENR as the operational implementer of REDD-Plus

Policies leading to low carbon emissions

7. Executive Order No. 23

- Issued on February 2011
- Declares a Moratorium on the Cutting and Harvesting of Timber in the National and Residual Forests and Creating the Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force
- Impose a total log ban throughout the country
- Mandates the creation of a national task force against illegal logging that will have regional counterparts

Some issues and concerns on forest protection

- Poor implementation of policy e.g. logging ban policy
- Policy driven by politics
- Graft and corruption in the forestry sector
- Conflicting policies e.g. policy in forestry conflicts with policy in agriculture
- Lack of financial resources to implement protection on the ground. Protected areas are protected only on paper

Recommendations to attain low carbon emissions in LUCF sector

- Strict implementation of forestry policies
- Policy on PES
- Review and harmonize policies across sectors
- Provide incentives to forest managers
- Encourage private-public partnership in forest management
- Define and delineate protection and production forests
- Identify new PAs

Recommendations to attain low carbon emissions in LUCF sector

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of policy. Such a feedback mechanism is necessary in order to provide a basis for further refinement
- Capacity building of different stakeholders
- Pass land use act
- Integration of different plans
- Low impact logging

Research and Development Agenda

- Valuation studies in watersheds and protected areas
- Studies on review of policies across sectors
- Incentives to ensure protection of forests
- Barriers to forest protection
- Quantification of forest degradation
- Drivers of deforestation and degradation in protected and watershed areas

Research and Development Agenda

- Impacts of community based logging on carbon emission
- Carbon assessment of different agroforestry technologies in areas under forestlands

Thank you for your
attention