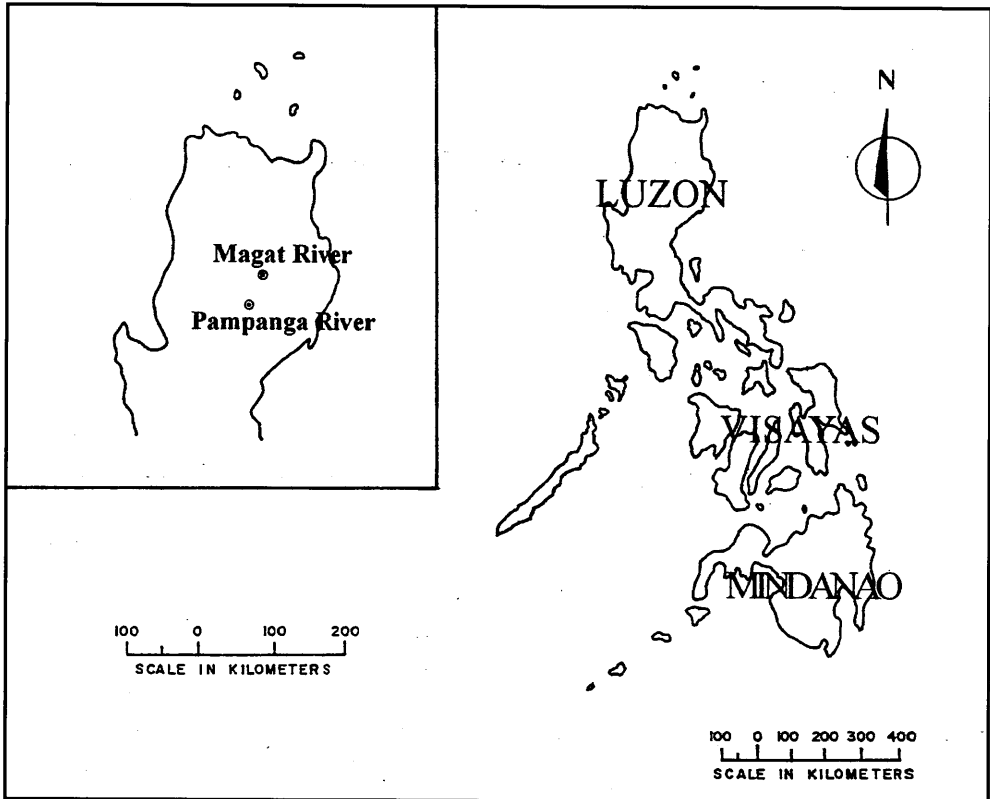


# Philippines

**Philippines-1: Ilog Magat**

**Philippines-2: Ilog Pampanga**



## Introduction

The Philippines archipelago consists of about 7 100 islands with an aggregate land area of 300 000 km<sup>2</sup>. Ninety percent of the area lies in the 11 largest islands - approximately two thirds in the two large islands of Luzon and Mindanao. The entire island group is closely scattered within the zone bounded by latitudes 4.5° to 21° N and longitude 117° to 127° E, which is in the tropical belt and south-east of the Asian mainland. Total population in the country was estimated in 1994 to be 68 million.

The country has a variety of topographical features, from the low marsh at the head of the Manila Bay to the high mountain masses, with the highest peak at Mt. Apo in Mindanao with an elevation of 2 954 m. The climate prevailing in the country is generally characterised by two pronounced seasons consisting of a dry period from November to April and a wet period during the rest of the year. The mean annual precipitation is 2 360 mm, measured from the various stations in the islands.

On water resources, the Philippines has about 421 major rivers with drainage areas ranging from 40 to 25 469 km<sup>2</sup> and 59 natural lakes, aside from numerous individual streams. The two river basins included in the catalogue are the Magat River Basin and the Pampanga River Basin. Both rivers are located in the island of Luzon - the Magat River in the Cagayan Valley region and the Pampanga River in the Central Luzon region.

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for a large portion of the Cagayan Valley population. Industrial development is still at a very low level although the valley, with its abundant natural resources, offers a good potential for advancement. Economic activity in Central Luzon is essentially agriculture. However, there is a trend toward industrialisation in the provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga due to their proximity to the highly urbanised Metro Manila area.

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