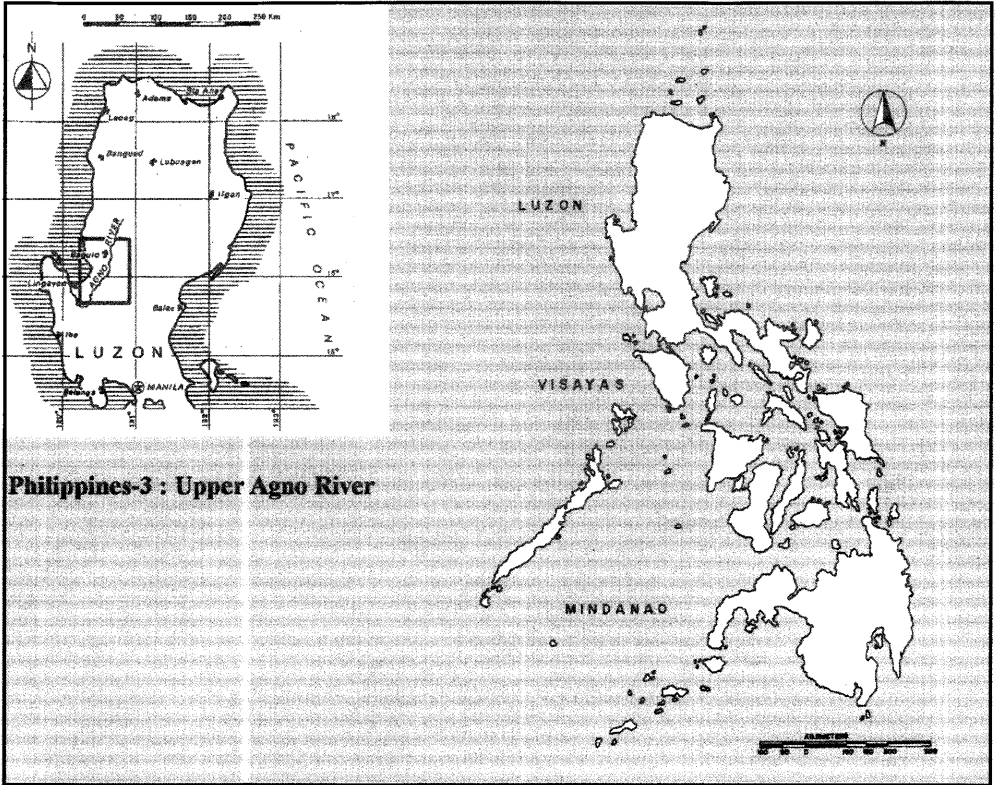


Philippines

Philippines-3: Ilog Itaas ng Agno



Introduction

The Upper Agno river basin is selected as the Philippines' contribution to the second volume of the Catalogue of Rivers. The river basin which lies in the western portion of the central part of the Luzon island is bounded by the provinces of Benguet, Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan. The basin is a sub-catchment of the Agno river basin, the fifth largest river basin in the Philippines. The upper portion of the Agno River basin was chosen because below the outlet of the watershed at San Roque, the boundary is not well-defined. This is due to the complexities of the river network at the intersection of the Agno and Tarlac rivers leading to the Poponto swamp.

The basin is bounded by two steep ranges of the Cordillera mountains and is elongated in the north-south direction. It lies between the latitudes 16° 15' - 16° 55' N and the longitudes 120° 35' - 120° 55' E. The tributaries of the basin are generally short and steep. Climatic conditions in the area indicate two pronounced seasons, wet from June to October and dry during the rest of the year, and fairly uniform temperature. The watershed receives an average rainfall of 2,800 mm a year. It experiences a relatively high precipitation intensity, one of the world's record rainfalls having been observed at Baguio City.

The watershed consists mostly of grassland with minor portions covered with secondary growth forest. Because of the fertile alluvial soils predominant in the area, agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for a large portion of the population. Upland farming of rice and vegetables is practised especially in areas near town centres. The watershed is sparsely populated with concentration of houses typically near the town centre. Major multipurpose reservoirs have been constructed in the watershed, namely, the Ambuklao and Binga hydroelectric plants which were constructed in the late 50's. At present, significant interest is focused on the river basin because of the proposed construction of the San Roque Multipurpose Dam at the outlet at San Roque, San Manuel, Pangasinan. The San Roque Dam when completed is expected to generate 345 MW of power supply for the Luzon grid and provide year-round irrigation to 87,000 hectares of farmlands in the provinces of Pangasinan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

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