

Scanning the Landscape: Media Coverage of the Env't

PPI Seminar-Workshop on Environmental Reporting

Major observations about environmental reporting practice in the local media

* event-focused: attention is trained when there is destruction, adverse effect, protest actions; one event is trumped by another which has more drama, gore, tension

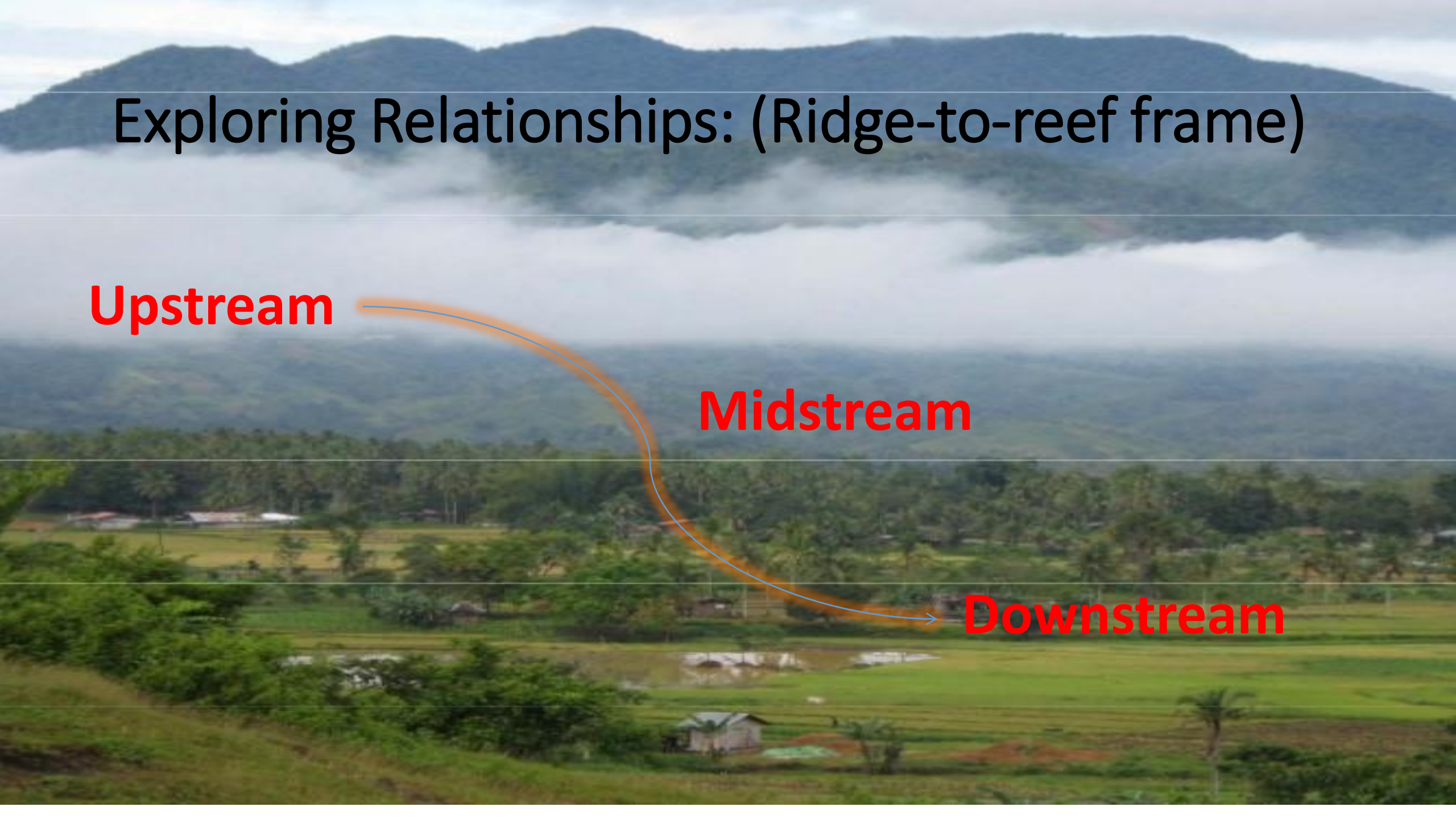
- lack of contextualizing
 - the broader picture
 - the long term trend
- need to have more depth; identifying gaps and pointing out policy, regulatory implications; surface good practices and approaches

Exploring Relationships: (Ridge-to-reef frame)

Upstream

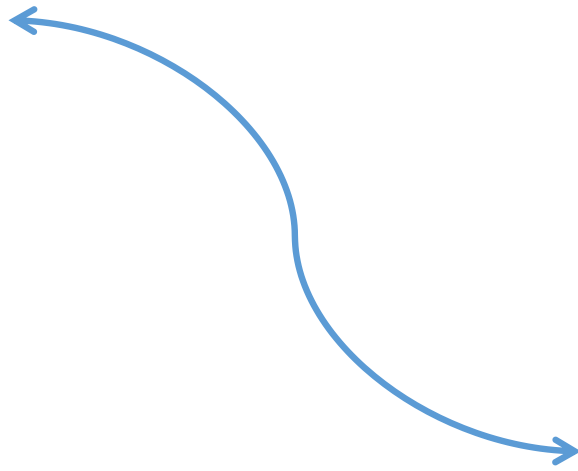
Midstream

Downstream



Exploring Relationships: (Ridge-to-reef frame)

DEFORESTATION



URBAN FLOODING

Important things to watch out, ask about:

- Parameters, standards for decision making: when to use or not to use a certain resource
- Process of carrying out projects, development initiatives
- Who decides? (Who has control over the resources in question)
- Are those who decide informed enough? What is the extent that they know about the development initiative?
- Who benefits from the projects?
- What are the associated costs of the project, financial and non-financial? Who bears the various costs?
- Who oversees the implementation of the various stages of a project?
Capacity?

The Challenge of Environmental Reporting in Mindanao:

- **It has been experiencing the brunt of a new pattern of storm visits**
 - JTWS: between 1950 and 1990: every 10 years, a storm that makes landfall in Mindanao in November or December crosses the island.
 - Since 2011, the occurrence has become almost annual (Sendong, Pablo)
- **The region's economy is highly dependent on agriculture, which in turn, is underpinned by the health of its natural resources.**
- **The impact of decisions done by leaders in one locality overflows into other localities.**

The Challenge of Environmental Reporting in Mindanao:

- **Policymakers are focused on exploiting the potentials of agribusiness and minerals extraction to help boost the region's economy**
- **Poverty is driving, in a silent way, continued destruction of the region's natural resources**

Taking abreast of in-depth trends

- Communities
- NGOs/advocates
- Govt agencies and bodies
- Academic institutions, research institutes