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**AN EVALUATION OF A METHOD OF ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PLANNING OF A SUB-REGION**

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Abstract:

The environmental discipline is being sharpened by new and practical methods of environmental management. These are often aimed at enhancing knowledge-building and decision-making in the field of environment. In the Philippines, there is a need to effectively incorporate ecological considerations into the planning process. In particular, a suitable methodology of ecological evaluation has to be introduced for the purpose of regional development planning. This method has been characterized as practical and inexpensive and especially adapted to the limiting conditions of a developing country. Of academic significance is the need to discuss concepts and procedures dealing with methods and techniques and their relation to other aspects of environmental management.

The study area chosen manifests characteristics that typify those of the other regions in the country. Hence, the method was applied with the end in view of making it generally applicable to the other areas of the country.

The method derives some features from decision theory, the overlay approach, as well as indicators and indices. It is a method of ecological evaluation rather than a survey because it employs qualitative indicators and aggregation of values while the latter involves direct measurements. The resulting application revealed that the method satisfactorily met the ten basic criteria adopted for the evaluation of the method itself. These criteria are comprehensiveness, selectiveness, workability, data utilization, objectivity, explicitness of criteria, portrayability, expandability, commensurability, and relevance to regional planning.