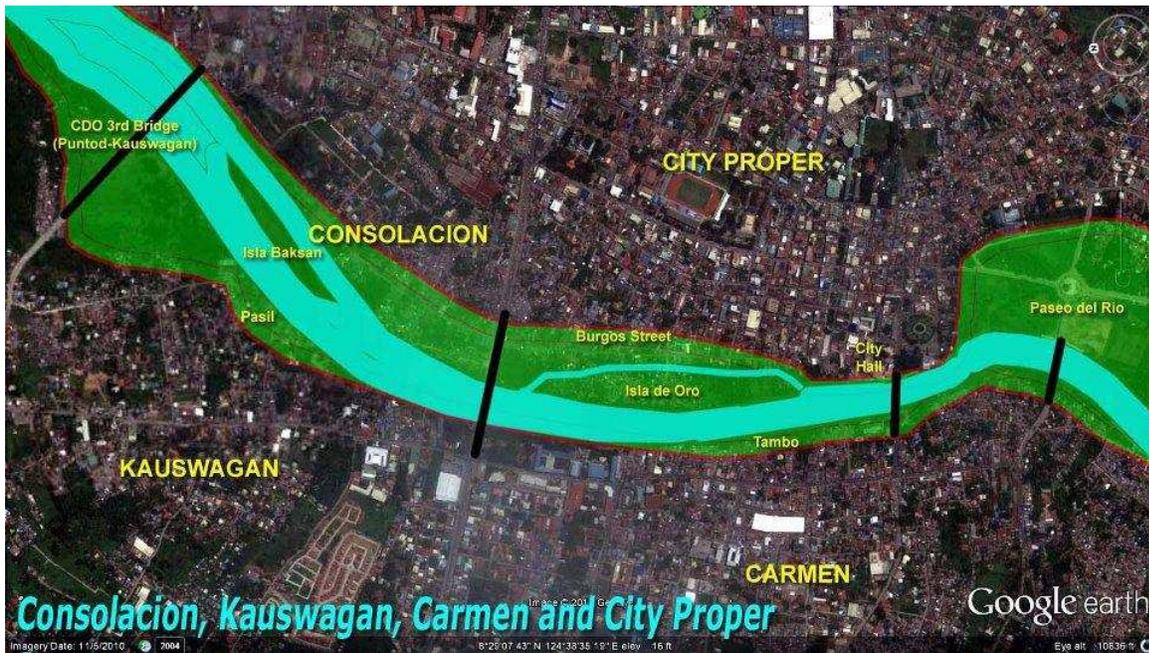


## Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City Flashflood



The blue area is the river running through Cagayan de Oro. The green areas are the totally devastated communities, with water up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of houses at 2 am while most are sleeping. The city could not account for all the dead and missing especially that most of those living in or near the river banks are informal settlers. Isla de Oro as shown here is full of these shanty houses. Now it is tragically devoid of anything.



Some of the victims were able to clamber up rooftops of their houses but logs illegally cut coming from the mountains with the rampaging water “bulldozed” them.



A seemingly calm scene the morning after. The retrieved bodies covered in mud have to be hastily buried in mass graves for lack of coffins and formalin. The few funeral parlors in the 2 cities could not cope-up with the disaster.



Another scene the morning after. The destruction of lives and properties is just incredible. Right now, thousands of people are in evacuation centers scattered around the 2 cities. The government is ill-equipped. I went around Cagayan de Oro this morning (22 Dec) and I saw people sleeping in the pavements and in grasses with nary a mat or a blanket to cover them. The children, oh, the children, pity the children!



Even big trucks are no match for the rampaging waters. What more for the frail bodies of the victims?



Some victims, dazed and waiting for help. Whom can they turn to?



The bald mountains unable to hold the rampaging waters is a recipe for disaster. People worry every ominous sign of rain.



To rebuild and to be able to go on living. For those whose love ones are dead or are lost to the sea and mud, living will be meaningless and like waiting for death.