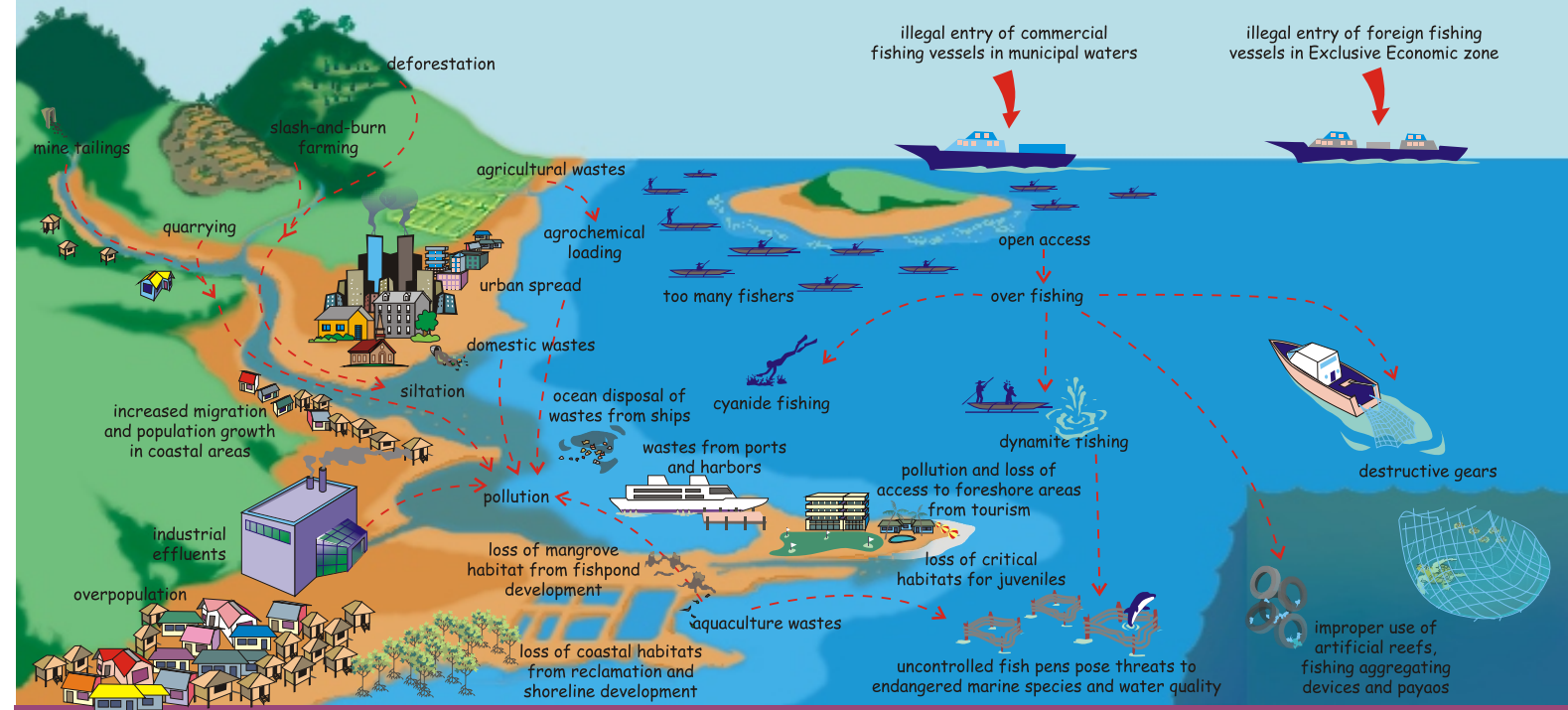


Human Impacts on the Philippine Coastal Environment



“LIVING ON THE EDGE”

The coasts are the natural crossroads between human activity and the sea. Here is where agricultural and urban waste flows in the land, smoggy clouds pour out their contaminants, ships flush their tanks, and cities bulldoze wetlands to extend their land seaward... Globally, nutrient and sediment pollution have contributed to the decline of estuaries, coastal wetlands, coral reef, seagrass beds and other coastal ecosystems. Because the ocean's vital processes are heavily concentrated in coastal waters, disruptions there have a disproportionate effect on the whole ocean ecosystem. (Weber, 1993)