

Building the Technical Expertise of LGUs for the Robust Implementation of Ridge to Reef Approach/Watershed Ecosystem Approach to Local and Provincial Land Use and Development Planning in the Philippines

Activity Report/Completion Report

1. Title:

Inception Meeting

2. Duration and Date:

The activity was conducted for one (1) day, on February 22, 2024,

3. Venue:

The activity was conducted at the J&V Hotel and Resort, City of San Fernando, La Union.

4. Content and Methodology:

The Inception Meeting began with Ms. Michaela Delfinado, Head of the Office of Provincial Planning and Development Coordination (OPPDC) from the Provincial Government of La Union (PGLU), welcoming the participants and outlining the PGLU's goal of creating a robust Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP) using the ridge to reef/ecosystem management (R2R/WEM) approach. Mr. David Rabelas of the OPPDC acknowledged representatives from various agencies and announced their inclusion in the Technical Working Group (TWG).

Dr. Rex Cruz, leader of the APN-funded project, presented the project, covering its rationale, objectives, outputs, and methodology. He also discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Planning Team composed of the Core Group of Experts (CGE), Planning Core Group (PCG), Support Group (SG), and Technical Working Group (TWG) as outlined in the Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2023-001, series of 2023 of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). A lecture on the R2R/WEM approach followed, emphasizing its significance in harmonizing plans towards sustainable development. Dr. Cruz also presented the project work plan and timeline for APN and a separate project funded by the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), highlighting their interconnectedness and contribution to the R2R-based formulation of the PDPFP.

An open forum ensued, with the concern of the convergence of various agencies to formulate the PDPFP anchored in the R2R approach being raised. A representative from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) emphasized the importance of empowering indigenous peoples (IPs) through upholding their rights in the planning process. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)

offered assistance with training needs assessment and provide expertise on ICT and infrastructure. In turn, the other national government agencies (NGAs) also expressed their willingness to contribute as resource persons for capacity-building activities.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) highlighted its role in providing map data through the Regional Development Council - Regional Geographic Information Network (RDC-RGIN). They also raised concerns about harmonizing the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP), Integrated River Basin Management Plan (IRBMP), and other related plans, to which Dr. Cruz suggested that a harmonization framework at the DENR level be in place to address this issue.

The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) noted the mapping discrepancies between local government units (LGUs) and suggested the need for training on mapping for PGLU and LGU staff to capacitate them on creating maps and using Geographic Information System (GIS) software.

The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG) mentioned the finalization of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Investment Plan (AFMIP) 2024-2028 and their intention to update it based on the approved PDPFP. They also emphasized the importance of legislating the R2R approach. Lastly, other agencies expressed their support and commitment to the PDPFP formulation process.

5. Participants and Facilitators

The participants during the inception meeting comprised representatives from key offices of the Provincial Government of La Union including the Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office, the Office of the Provincial Assessor, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, and the Local Economic Enterprise & Investment Promotions Unit.

Representatives from various key regional government agencies also joined the meeting. Regional government agencies including the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) were present during the inception of the project.

The meeting was spearheaded by Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, the project leader along with the project staff and key members from the Office of the Planning and Development Coordination, Provincial Government of La Union (OPPDC-PGLU).

6. Reflections/Concerns/Recommendations/Lesson Learned:

The Inception Meeting served as an avenue for the leveling-off of expectations among the UPLB, PGLU, and other concerned agencies and offices. Moving forward, it was raised that the project team shall set to conduct visioning activities for the province. It was also agreed that the OPPDC shall handle the finalization and organization of the Planning Team. The target months for the conduct of capacity-building activities and training needs assessment shall be from March to September. Finally, it was agreed that the APN project would serve as a guide in the entire formulation process of the PDPFP.

7. Activity Materials

The activity included essential materials such as the program of activities and microphones for the open forum. To facilitate active participation, stakeholders were also provided with pens and notepads to take notes throughout the meeting.

8. Appendices

Appendix - Directory of Key Attendees.

No.	Full name	Address/Agency
1	Roland Faminialagao	PGLU
2	Roshelle A. Mamaril	PGLU
3	David M. Rabelas	PGLU
4	Vanessa C. Badua	PGLU
5	Michaela Louise T. Delfinado	PGLU
6	Mariel Faye M. Mina	PGLU
7	Remedios G. Garellano	PGLU
8	Jo Angela Villanueva	PGLU
9	Michael K. Lopez	PGLU
10	Sharon A. Vilorio	PGLU
11	JP Roma Duque	PGLU
12	Edgar Bryan Gurion	PGLU
13	Jomar L. Hufana	PGLU
14	John Joseph Ordoño	PGLU
15	Jonalyn O. Saranquin	PGLU

16	Jay-ar Raquedan	PGLU
17	Kristina Tunio	PGLU
18	Mark Taguined	PGLU
19	Jennelee Piza	PGLU
20	Nicholas G. Perlas	PGLU
21	Hanzel Guerrero	PGLU
22	Marinette Aquino	PGLU
23	Ernesto Callanta	PGLU
24	Aldrin Fandialan	UPLB
25	Garry M. Oca	UPLB
26	Diego Miguel C. Sapnu	UPLB
27	Marinelle Agonia	UPLB
28	Glenda Alcachupas	UPLB
29	Mirasol M. Guinto	UPLB
30	Vida Q. Carandang	UPLB
31	Rex Victor O. Cruz	UPLB
32	Viella Marie Tunay	UPLB
33	Dennis Go	UPLB
34	Pocholo Jairus Del Rosario	UPLB
35	Kier Lorenz B. Hernandez	DHSUD Region I
36	Jack Apigo	LTFRB Region I
37	Christine Joy Gonzales	DTI Region I
38	Bernard Quiros	DENR Region I
39	Erljan Balagot	DICT Region I
40	Dave Ezra G. Picar	DICT Region I
41	Racquel T. Atawe	NEDA Region I
42	Marvin C. Biligan	NCIP Region I
43	Reggie R. Colisao	DILG Region I
44	Nicolette May O. Amon	DILG Region I
45	Maria Cristina Rarogal	DA Region I

46	Glaiza Transfiguracion	DA Region I
47	Irene Taltal	DA Region I
48	Venus Cardenas	DENR-PENRO
49	Jason Jose Orpilla	DPWH Region I
50	John Lester Rittan	DOST Region I

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

