

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

1. Title:

Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP) Writeshop

2. Duration and Date

The writing workshop was held from December 9 to 12, 2024 (4 days).

3. Venue

The activity was conducted at the Chatel Hotel, Baguio City.

4. Content and Methodology

The PDPFP Writeshop for the Provincial Government of La Union was led by the Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (OPPDC). The 4-day workshop was divided into two parts: the pre-workshop orientation and levelling-off, and the workshop proper.

Pre-workshop Orientation and Levelling-off

The first day of the workshop focused on aligning participants from two key groups: the Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (OPPDC), which is tasked with developing the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP), and a facilitation and resource team from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

The orientation, led by Mr. David M. Rabelas, EnP, established the workshop's methodology, core objectives, and expected outcomes. The main objective was to produce a comprehensive PDPFP by synthesizing and refining outputs from the OPPDC's previous workshops and focus group discussions. A key deliverable was to ensure the new plan fully integrated the Ridge-to-Reef/Watershed Ecosystem Management (R2R/WEM) Approach.

The UPLB staff were on hand to provide technical assistance throughout the workshop. Their job was to ensure that the participants applied the R2R/WEM Approach correctly as they worked and to help them refine their data into actionable outputs. Meanwhile, the OPPDC staff were responsible for the hands-on work. This meant actively participating, validating data, and providing critical input from various sectors. The writers, in particular, were tasked with making sure the draft PDPFP and its frameworks truly reflected the local realities, priorities, and aspirations of the community.

Ultimately, the workshop's success depended on the strong collaboration between the OPPDC and UPLB, built on teamwork, open communication, and timely contributions.

Preparatory Session

Mr. Mario U. Tercero, EnP, a member of the UPLB staff, provided technical guidance to assist OPPDC participants with the drafting of the PDPFP. His presentation focused on three key areas. For the content, he stressed that data, including facts, figures, and statistics, must be the core basis of the plan and should not be overlooked. He also emphasized the use of clear, concise, and compelling statements, but with a professional tone. Lastly, he stressed the importance of coherence and consistency and cross-checking of data for accuracy. He also underscored the importance of appropriately citing all references and data sources used in the document. Lastly, For. Tercero advised printing the PDPFP in volumes for easier reference.

Writeshop Proper

The writeshop, spanning from Day 2 to Day 4, brought together the OPPDC and the UPLB team. The session began with opening remarks from Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz, a UPLB Professor Emeritus and a watershed expert, who highlighted the critical importance of integrating the R2R/WEM Approach into the PDPFP. Dr. Cruz noted that this holistic principle was absent from the province's previous plan. As such, the UPLB team's objective was to guide the OPPDC in applying the framework to the current plan. This integration is vital for two key reasons: it ensures compliance with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) memorandum, and more importantly, it promotes a comprehensive approach to development by considering the interconnectedness of natural ecosystems and human activities from the ridge down to the reef. Dr. Cruz concluded by highlighting that a well-designed plan serves as a roadmap for the province to achieve its long-term goals while simultaneously protecting its natural resources.

Ms. Michaela Louise Delfinado-Javier, EnP, of the OPPDC, and Dr. Jerome Orate led the drafting of Chapters 1 and 2 of the plan. Chapter 1 provided the historical background of the province, its objectives, context, and coverage, along with an outline of the PDPFP. Meanwhile, Chapter 2 focused on the province's vision, which is a core component of the PDPFP's development.

During the writeshop, the team developed key sections of the plan. The Planning Environment section detailed the province's existing conditions, challenges, and opportunities, laying the foundation for the strategic frameworks to be developed later. Additionally, the Physical Resources and Watershed Management Units Characterization section provided a detailed assessment of the province's natural resources, including its topography, land cover, mineral resources, and water systems. This data was critical for the PDPFP team to analyze potential

vulnerabilities and opportunities for natural resource conservation and management, particularly with the integration of the R2R/WEM approach.

A dedicated OPPDC team was assigned to analyze the province's economic landscape, focusing on the structure of La Union's economy and its key sectors, including agriculture, tourism, fisheries, and manufacturing. The final section of the plan, Income, Employment, Service Access and Poverty, focused on the socioeconomic conditions of the province. This chapter detailed the demographics, population data, income levels, employment rates, and the community's accessibility to essential services like education and healthcare.

On the fourth day of the workshop, participants drafted the Development Goals, Objectives/Targets, and Strategies section of the plan. This session was dedicated to addressing La Union's key challenges and establishing strategic directions for the province's development. The final day was focused on finalizing the Programs, Projects, and Activities (PPAs).

5. Participants' Concerns and Key Takeaways

The participants acknowledged the importance of the writeshop and its role in developing their PDPEP with the direct assistance of the UPLB team. The sessions provided a critical venue for refining the plan's content and ensuring that all sections aligned with the province's overarching development goals. Beyond its function as a workspace, the writeshop fostered a robust collective environment where both the participants and the technical staff engaged in a meaningful exchange of information. This process of mutual learning strengthened the final output and enhanced the participants' understanding of the planning framework.

6. Appendices

Attendees 08 - 12 December 2024

Appendix 1. List of participants.

No	Name	Office/Agency
1	Diego Sapnu	UPLB
2	Viella Tunay	UPLB
3	Paulo Dimagiba	UPLB
4	Sophia Dulay	UPLB
5	Denise Navarro	UPLB
6	Pacholo Jairus del Rosario	UPLB
7	Francis Emmanuel Florece	UPLB
8	Mario U. Tecero	UPLB
9	Rex Victor O. Cruz	UPLB

10	Vida Carandang	UPLB
11	Bobby Mendoza	UPLB
12	Marinelle Decena	UPLB
13	Glenda Alcachupas	UPLB
14	Dennis Go	UPLB
15	Jonathan Likwong	UPLB
16	Garry M. Oca	PG La Union
17	Merven Medrano	PG La Union
18	Melda L. Pocsidon	PG La Union
19	David M. Rabelas	PG La Union
20	Ebelyn H. Bernardo	PG La Union
21	Charles A. Lionen	PG La Union
22	Achilles Lonzaga	PG La Union
23	Joseph B. Garcia	PG La Union
24	Louis David Q. Garcia	PG La Union
25	Jean Angallon	PG La Union
26	Carla Mendoza	PG La Union
27	Michaela Louise Javier	PG La Union
28	Ruby Jean Balanon	PG La Union
29	Jerome Orate	PG La Union
30	Gewel Supsup	PG La Union
31	Nicole Justine Jacildone	PG La Union
32	Richard Rivera	PG La Union
33	Ronald Cabrillos	PG La Union
34	Norcelie Jucutan	PG La Union
35	Laarnie Obligacion	PG La Union
36	Jommary Hipolito	PG La Union
37	Julie Ann Arciaga	PG La Union
38	Kathrina Manipon	PG La Union
39	Kimberly Alicna	PG La Union
40	Mayer Iandle Abaya	PG La Union
41	Ernesto Callanta	PG La Union
42	Wilbert Gacayan	PG La Union
43	Roshelle Mamaril	PG La Union
44	Roland Faminialagao	PG La Union
45	Marinette Aquino	PG La Union
46	Maribel Faye Mina	PG La Union

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

