

GIS SPECIALIST'S EXIT REPORT

(Eighth Engagement – Year 2007)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The three month engagement of the GIS specialist which had ended last April 2007 mainly focused on the following: (1) Capacity building of the LGU and Institutions' GIS operators, (2) Monitoring of LGUs conducting the municipal-wide LUB-BDP and (3) Harmonization of GIS/GPS manuals with other related manuals being developed under the LUB-BDP scheme.

The capacity building of LGU/Institutions' GIS operators was held last February 6, 2007 at Mergrande Ocean Resort in Talomo District, Davao City. The 4-day training aims to gather all LGU-GIS operators that were previously trained by the Programme and evidently shown its active participation during the LUB-BDP implementation in their respective municipality. UDP had also included institutions and agencies that are already knowledgeable with GIS ArcView software but still needs orientation with the GIS interventions on LUB-BDP scheme. The training involved basic troubleshooting, executing alternative strategies, delivering appropriate outputs and most importantly, understanding the GIS interventions within the scheme.

The second activity was the monitoring and assessment of the GIS specialist on the maps of LGUs conducting the municipal-wide LUB-BDP. For the municipalities of Lake Sebu (South Cotabato), Alabel (Sarangani), Tarragona (Davao Oriental), the maps containing some comments were re-sent to the respective municipalities for their correction or validation. They were monitored a couple of weeks to retrieve the corrected/validated maps. Currently, the barangays under the municipality of Lake Sebu and Tarragona have all been consolidated while the municipality of Malalag and Alabel are still in the process of finalizing some activities/corrections. The integrated maps are in preparation for a workshop which aims to derive their municipal maps from these community based maps. Though not all maps will be harmonized, the workshop will only test the existing land cover and proposed land use maps as an actual test data.

The third activity was the design and development of the LUB-BDP guidelines. During its design, the concept and scope of every manual have been established. Each manual corresponds to the LUB-BDP process flow making it more comprehensive to understand. The scope of every manual has also been established to easily harmonize with the next manual. So far, the contents of the GIS/GPS manuals are being developed. After its development, the manuals will be subjected for review and approval while its packaging will be right after all manuals under LUB-BDP will be finished.

The implementation of the three activities is in relation to the Programmes final assistance to the LGUs and Agencies. Skills, process and manuals are all part of sustaining mechanism of the scheme which is being developed and enhanced before the life-term of UDP ends. Though there are no big issues and concerns encountered and foreseen by the GIS specialist, all activities should be closely monitored and followed-up for it to undergo the process of review and inspection which can assure the quality that the Programme will impart to its LGU/Institution stakeholders.

A) Progress and Development Update

- 1) Skill development and training
 - 1.1) All GIS participants that were able to attend the training produced the expected outputs that the GIS specialist had set.
 - 1.2) Very minimum supervision was done during the training. A very clear indication that they have grasped the concept and basics of the technical operations both of GIS and GPS.
 - 1.3) Less technical support were received from these participants during their actual mapping operations in their localities.
 - 1.4) Some GIS participants are already being utilized and requested by other LGUs or Institution for technical assistances

- 2) Map Production and Consolidation
 - 2.1) The GIS specialist had assigned Mr. Romy Bayawa, the GIS operator on LUB-BDP, to finalize the LUB-BDP maps of the barangays. Except for those municipalities conducting the municipal-wide and those few that haven't submitted their maps yet, all data are in the GIS computer and its file and format is being checked and updated. These are expected to be finished by the month of June 2007.
 - 2.2) The consolidation of the boundaries, existing land covers and proposed land covers of the barangays under Tarragona and Lake Sebu have already been printed and prepared in preparation for the map edging activity of the community.

- 3) LUB-BDP manual development
 - 3.1) There are a total of seven volumes included in the whole LUB-BDP package. Its scope and topics were individually established and a schematic diagram showing the over-all process of the scheme has already been outlined.
 - 3.2) The second module of the LUB-BDP which is called "Perimeter Map Production" will be finished on the second week of May 2007 while the third module named "Map Digitization" is expected to be finished on the third week of the same month.
 - 3.3) The two GIS/GPS manuals covers both comprehensive and technical discussions designed for team leaders and GIS/GPS operators. These include the following: (1) A step-by-step process in arriving at a certain expected output, (2) Strategies, alternatives and basic troubleshootings, (3) Technical operations and (3) Forms and basic preparations

B) Issues and Concerns

- 1) Skill development and training
 - 1.1) The applied GIS/GPS training was attended by selected GIS and GPS operators. Although all operators complied with the exercises required by the trainers to be finished, the total participants only reached 25 out of the expected 29. The absence of the four participants may impact a little to the skill enhancement of the Programme but these participants greatly missed the opportunity to further learn the application of GIS and GPS on LUB-BDP.

- 1.2) Majority of the covered municipalities of the Programme lacks technical skills in operating and applying the GIS and GPS technologies. Should they realize the need to replicate the LUB-BDP scheme and use these GIS and GPS to generate the maps of their barangays, they will always contract out GIS/GPS operators, requiring them to allot budgets as payments for the operators' services.
- 2) Map Production and Consolidation
 - 2.1) Although majority of the maps are already at UDPs GIS computer, there are still a few such as the municipality of Maasim, Glan of Sarangani Province and Laak of Compostela Valley that haven't submitted their maps. The GIS specialist have already set a deadline for their submission, however, failing to comply will result for their maps not to be checked and not to be included in the final package of LUB-BDP maps.
 - 2.2) The perimeter map, land cover and proposed land use maps of Lake Sebu and Tarragona have already been consolidated and prepared for the next activity which is the map edging. However, the municipality of Malalag and Lake Sebu are still in the process of validating their barangay maps. The final mapping activity has been decided to join all the municipalities conducting the municipal-wide LUB-BDP in one venue, therefore, they workshop will be moved at a later date.
- 3) LUB-BDP manual development
 - 3.1) The manual for GIS and GPS technical operations are expected to be finished last March 2007. However, due to the details and unforeseen topics that need to be included in the manual, it is still under development. The GIS specialist have requested the LUB-BDP coordinator and the Programme Co-directors to extend the deadline for the manual development and agreed to the said request. The incident may have delayed the production of manual but it will surely improve its contents and quality.
- 4) Other Concerns
 - 4.1) As UDP prepares its phasing out, one concern that the GIS specialist wants to raise is the turning-over of GIS equipment. Although there are requirements that were made for the provinces to comply two years ago, it needs to be monitored. An assessment should also be done to the remaining provinces whether they have complied with the standards that the Programme had set.
 - 4.2) Another concern is the distribution of the newly procured GPS units to its possible stakeholders. It is imperative also that the Programme has to come up with the decision where to turn-over the GPS devices.

Recommendations

On trained GIS/GPS operators

- The applied GIS/GPS on LUB-BDP training was the last capacity building of the Programme to the selected GIS/GPS operators. The participants who were able to comply with the outputs

expected during the training and have shown their skills to sustain the mapping operations under LUB-BDP should be promoted to other LGUs for assistance and technical supports. With this, the GIS specialist is suggesting to include the roster of trained GIS/GPS operators in the LUB-BDP manual that is being developed. A directory of resource persons with their contact numbers or email addresses. This will enable other LGUs to have technical resources knowledgeable in applying the GIS/GPS on LUB-BDP once the LGU started implementing the said scheme.

On map production and consolidation

- The GIS specialist recommends the close monitoring and follow-up to the barangay maps of the municipality of Malalag and Alabel. Once finished validating by the LGUs, the maps will be processed and consolidated in preparation for the map edging workshop.
- A frequent follow-up should also be implemented to the municipalities of Maasim, Glan, Laak and Nabunturan for them to submit the barangay maps in order for it to be included in the final packaging of LUB-BDP maps.

On GIS / GPS equipment

- In order to ensure the proper turn over of GIS equipment to a rightful stakeholder, the Programme needs to carefully discuss and assess the performance and support of PLGUs. It is also recommended to consider other institutions or agencies which are foreseen to cater the needs most especially the municipalities implementing LUB-BDP or related activities.
- With regard to the GPS equipment having models Sportrak Pro, the distribution can be done by LGUs. The GIS specialist recommends for these devices to be equally distributed since all covered municipalities have trained GPS surveyors. Also, the number of GPS devices corresponds to the number of covered LGUs and partner agency of the Programme. However, this recommendation is still subject for discussion with UDP coordinators, managers and directors.