

LGU CAPACITY BUILDING for Sustainable Upland Development

Consultancy Report
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Submitted
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INTRODUCTION

As the Upland Development Programme in Southern Mindanao (UDP) prepares to mainstream and institutionalize its developed replicable model on Sustainable Upland Development (SUD), local government capacity building efforts were focused on strengthening of the interactions/interplay of the three dimensions of governance, namely:

- The State
- Civil Society
- Private Sector

LGU Capacity Building activities and tasks related to this consultancy work with the Programme were therefore a mix of the following [as contained in the Terms of Reference]:

1. continuation of the assistance to & monitoring of the service providers engaged for the continuing facilitation of land use-based barangay development planning In pilot barangays;
2. assistance & monitoring of the service providers engaged for the facilitation of the LGU Replication of the SUD model in 2 PPOs (Sarangani Province & Compostela Valley Province);
3. assistance to the RM/Environment Coordinator in formulating the training design and TOR for service providers to be engaged in LUB-BDP Replication contracts;
4. exploratory efforts with civil society groups and business sector with barangay local government to push efforts for sustainability of the SUD model.

Specific Activities/Tasks Undertaken in 2005:

A. Activities with the Service Providers on Piloting LUB-BDP:

The main assistance with this group was the conduct of the LUB-BDP Service Providers Forum in June 2005. The main objective of the forum was to orient the twelve (12) service providers (NGOs/Pos/consulting

groups) about the Sustainable Upland Development (SUD) Model. In 2004, the SUD components as well as the integratedness of UDP's approach were imparted to the service providers in a feedbacking session with the groups engaged by the Programme. This year, the orientation on the SUD model was part of the iterative process that the Programme undertakes with various groups to ensure appreciation and internalization of the model.

The groups that were in attendance and whose representatives were actively participating in the discussion included the following:

- * from PPO 5
 - * ACEDev, Inc.
 - * Horizon Integrated

- * from PPO 4
 - * COMDEV, Inc.
 - * MTRC, Inc.
 - * MCRD, Inc.
 - * IPHC

- * from PPO 3
 - * BDS, Inc.
 - * PROTEAM, Inc.
 - * IDS

- *from PPO 1 & 2
 - * VWAB, Inc.

- * from Davao N.
 - * Kahublagaan, Inc.
 - * MAGI, Inc.

Aside from the sharing by National Co-Director Dashiell P. Indelible on the SUD model and the requirements/challenges posed by the model on the municipal planning & development teams that the 12 service providers are capacitating to sustain efforts in the Land Use-based Barangay Development Planning in each partner MLGU of the UDP, the 1-day forum also tried to check with the service providers where they found difficulties with the current terms of reference on the conduct of MPDTeam Capability Building Activity on LUB-BDP and also to test the appreciation and commitment

of the service providers to pursue this kind of planning approach: bottom-up with land use component.

Tangible Result 1:

As far as the TOR was concerned, the service providers were in full appreciation of the tasks and expected outputs spelled out in their contracts. Requests, though of professional fee increases were shared specially by the Davao City-based groups in order to make room for their transportation expenses. This was handled by encouraging them to check with the PPOs on the availability of vehicles that shuttle from Davao to their respective areas of assignment. To date, only six municipalities have not done their piloting on LUB-BDP: the municipalities of Mabini, Compostela Valley Province; Kapalong and New Corella, Davao Norte; Jose Abad Santos, Davao del Sur; Kiamba & Maasim, Sarangani Province. Maitum of the same province is 50% done. The 84% accomplishment over 2-year period was possible because of the availability of service providers, Igu counterparts, manpower to do the gps readings for barangay boundary surveys and provincial staff available to do digitization & printing of maps. To date, thru the RM/Environment Coordinator, the Programme has the LUB-BDP manual available to users. Pre-and Post-test tools as well as monitoring forms are also in place.

The twelve(12) service providers are from the civil society groups. They have been tapped starting October 2003 to implement the MPDTeam Capability Building Activities on Participatory Land Use-based Barangay Development Planning in order to test what UDP has started at the sitio level (starting with 4 sitios) with Community Watershed Plans which were then the Programme basis to capacitate the Municipal Planning & Development Teams to help the barangays formulate their land use-based barangay development plans as it was clear that the CWPs could not really be mainstreamed or anchored in a higher level plan which never existed then at the barangay level- the most basic local government unit of the country. These service providers agreed to do piloting of the LUB-BDP approach to planning at least for two reasons: to learn the land use planning technology in order to enhance their current participatory planning tools and approaches and to share also with the Programme their bottom-up planning framework and of course, for the monetary incentives for their staff as well. The service providers have demonstrated that they can capacitate both municipal and barangay functionaries to mobilize community participation. With humility, they have acknowledged that their biggest learning from their engagement with the Programme is learning and appreciating the technology of land use planning. THIS THEY HAVE PUT ACROSS WHEN THEY REPORTED AFTER THE MINI WORKSHOPS THAT EVEN IF UDP WERE FINISHING ITS PROJECT LIFE, THEY SHALL REPLICATE land use-based barangay development planning (LUB-BDP) IN THEIR CURRENT AND FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS WITH LGUS OR

DONOR AGENCIES AS PART OF THEIR APPROACH. Some service providers even went to the extent of identifying in which non-UDP areas they would implement the LUB-BDP. This implies the replication of LUB-BDP in so many a communities not just those covered by the UDP in Southern Mindanao and elsewhere in the country.

B. LGU Replication of the SUD Model

The Programme in half of year 2004 decided to support two municipalities replicating the Programme's core components starting with land use-based barangay development planning. Two service providers were tapped based on their previous experiences and background of their staff. The two municipal replicating local government units were Nabunturan, Compostela Valley Province and Alabel, Sarangani Province. This effort was to pilot test the process of NGOs facilitating the LGUs' replication of sustainable upland development components. The Integral Development Services-Phils. (IDS-Phils.) was tapped to facilitate the replication process in Nabunturan while IPHC-Davao Medical School Foundation covered the Alabel area.

The designed terms of reference indicated that there would be HOST LGUS in the replication process coming from the UDP-partner LGUs with best upland practices. The municipality of Laak played host lgu to the replicating municipality of Nabunturan. Alabel was a different experience being a municipality with a co-management agreement on Calminda Watershed Management signed by the MLGU-DENR-PLGU (The province came a bit later than what was expected).

Realizations of the limited piloting effort on SUD replication:

A lot of replication success depends on the ability of the process manager and the effectiveness of facilitation skills in the transfer of systems/procedures/technologies/infusion of orientation.

Here was a situation where the service providers were limited in full grasp of the SUD model although they were equipped with their experiences on certain components of the model. Moreover, this limited piloting effort started with the SUD model not yet fully articulated by the Programme in 2004 and it extended towards early 2005 where PPOs were also in the process of redefining their roles as they faced uncertainty of an extension period for UDP. Much of good will coming from PPOs who had grasp of interventions was needed, unfortunately this was quite

wanting at the PPO1. Nevertheless, the IDS proceeded with the tasks per terms of reference.

The municipality of Laak shared their technologies/systems/extension techniques/learning sites for the farmers and even their learnings and insights specifically during the cross visits of Nabunturan to the five UDP-covered barangays of the municipality. Nabunturan was a quick learner. It is now replicating the SUD model in more than five barangays including the convergence sites of ARCDP and InFRES projects.

In Alabel, IPHC-DMSF was a big help to the Municipal Implementing Unit of the watershed co-management agreement. Where it was not clear for the team on how they would proceed with the co-management agreement as to roles and tasks, the initial UDP intervention of land use-based barangay development planning and attempt for maps integration helped them a lot. IPHC-DMSF guided them thru the process of role clarification and enhancement of the Calmindawide Watershed Management Plan which originally was a result of staff work only; wanting in stakeholderhood of the upland communities in this critical watershed.

Tangible Result 2:

This limited piloting of the LGU Replication of the SUD model highlighted the limitations of the service providers modality. Indeed, there is a crucial process needed to transfer the technologies and systems/procedures to the service providers for their deeper internalization of the model in order that they will be real effective facilitators and help to the LGUs' replication of the SUD components.

Limited as it was, though the LGU Replication of the SUD model demonstrated that municipalities with co-management agreements with DENR and the provincial government can undertake real watershed management if they approach co-management using the elements of the SUD model. Big areas such as the Calminda watershed becomes easier to manage when there is involvement of the upland communities, barangay councils and an enhanced manpower complement for providing the upland agricultural extension services.

The Nabunturan experience is worth looking at for what the local government unit has mastered in order to replicate the SUD in many barangays in so short a time, starting with land use-based barangay development planning. It is worth documenting both barangay and municipalitywide for the municipality to be a future host lgu for SUD replication by other interested ligus.

C. Exploratory Tasks in relation to SUD Mainstreaming/Policy Support

This task was addressed by thru two efforts: one was in relation to creating awareness about the SUD Model among Civil Society Groups and putting the accountability on sustaining upland development efforts among the barangay leadership.

C.1 The Watershed Management Forum

The SUD Model was shared in this forum which was organized in partnership with the Forestry Development Center of UPLB. This was also a demonstration of the *bayanihan spirit* among funding organizations for the environment of Mindanao Island.

The forum was attended by more than two hundred delegates from the six regions of Mindanao Island. The delegates represented various NGO networks, barangay and municipal officials, representatives from the DENR. Co-sponsors of this forum were the GTZ-Mindanao, the CRS, World Vision, the PBGEA, Philippine Wood Industries and the Liga ng mga Barangay.

Tangible Result 3:

A Forum Resolution calling on the Mindanao Economic Development Council to spearhead the convergence of all efforts and support for the uplands was signed and submitted to MEDCO for proper channels to the Office of the President. The resolution called for a serious consideration of the government and private sector support for sustaining uplands development efforts.

A full documentation of this forum is yet to be submitted by the Forestry Development Center which beg for more time to have their documentation submitted late 2006 as they are full attention now on the issues confronting Los Banos military reservation areas being turned fast into subdivisions by land developers.

Tangible Result 4:

The liaison with the Forestry Development Center led to UDP's becoming a resource person on the Congressional Committee on Natural Resources Committee Hearing on the Proposed National Land Use Act.

The LUB-BDP was well-taken by that congressional committee such that barangay land use planning is proposed to become part of the National Land Use Framework (per available draft bill, this is page 15, lines 4-19).

Tangible Result 5:

The involvement of PBGEA (Pilipino Banana Growers and Exporters Association) signals the consideration of other stakeholders in the uplands of the role of the business sector in pursuing upland development. HOWEVER, there is a need for the NGO networks not just to depend on MEDCO as it is lost in too much bureaucracy to be able to address concerns involving big plantations and professional environmental services in the uplands.

A follow-up discussion is necessary in order that the business sector with their corporate responsibility is made accountable to plow back investments into the uplands.

[Note: a full documentation with photos on this forum will be attached to this report]

C.2 Liga ng mga Barangay Forum

The Programme sponsored this Forum in order to orient (part of the iterative process) the barangay leaderships on the SUD Model and to keep them abreast of the developments as far as policy support to SUD is concerned.

The forum was attended by 6 Provincial Chapter Presidents of the Liga ng mga Barangay and 47 other Provincial Liga officers (new stakeholders/possible champions for SUD) and by 104 Punong Barangays of UDP-partner barangays.

Specific issues and concerns were raised before Mr. Eduardo Tiongson, the Executive Director of the National Liga ng mga Barangay Secretariat/before DA USEC Edmund Sana with the technical inputs from UDP evaluator/forum resource person, former DENR USEC Elmer Mercado.

Tangible Result 6:

It was deliberate that no prior role playing as to what to present to the higher leaderships and as to what to resolve was done. This was because we had to test to

water so to speak to determine how the Punong Barangays feel about their accountabilities towards a safe/secure environment for their constituents.

The forum ended with the Liga ng mga Barangay resolved that each barangay will peg part of their IRA for upland development.

They resolved also to support the League of Municipalities of the Philippines' call for a national policy support on sustainable upland development.

[Note: a full documentation will be attached to this report]

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