



Formulating the Natural Resources Management And Development Plan

A FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

FORMULATING THE MUNICIPAL NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NRMDP)
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Illustrative Outline of an NRMDP

COVER

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Formulating the Municipal Natural Resource Management and Development Plan (NRMDP) A Facilitator's Guide



6-Month Schedule of Activities

The schedule of activities should be flexible, but it is beneficial to target a certain timeframe for each activity.

STEPS	TIME (month)	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
Initiate roundtable discussion with municipal officials and concerned persons	1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGU commitment obtained. • Tentative schedule of activities developed.
Organize a working committee for NRM planning	1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EO of the Mayor creating the Working committee executed. • Committee meets and prepares activity plan
Assess NRM conditions, related initiatives and factors	2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps produced and analyzed. • Derived maps produced. • Representative villages visited and consultations conducted. • Farming systems analyzed • Data/information consolidated
Expose working committee to appropriate technologies and promising initiatives	2 nd	Working Committee members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - visited the selected learning sites - given seminar on technical and institutional innovations for NRM. - underwent teambuilding exercises
Conduct NRM Planning Workshop	3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRMDP framework developed. • Shared vision for NRM crafted. • Priority strategies identified. • Action plans for priority activities identified
Facilitate a write shop to produce the NRMD Plan	3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft NRMDP produced and reviewed. • Final copy of NRMDP produced
Submit the NRMDP for adoption at the Sangguniang Bayan	4 th & 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRMDP adopted at the Sangguniang Bayan. • IRR of the NRMDP developed & approved.
Organize local manpower to implement the NRMDP	6 th	Local manpower installed
Obtain support from partners and execute memorandums of agreement	6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders' and Investment forum conducted • Memorandums of Agreement executed
Take-off preparations	6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local implementers prepared to implement the NRMDPTasks assigned • Set up coordinating office

Harnessing Greater Community Support And Encouraging Investments For the NRMDP

1. Conduct a stakeholders' forum at the municipal level to harness greater community support.
 - Present the approved NRMDP and encourage project implementers in the area to participate in implementing the plan.
 - Project implementers or agencies who participated in the planning process will have more reason and commitment to participate in implementing the NRMDP.
2. Conduct an investment forum to gain support from both internal and external agencies.
 - The LGU need not be a lone-ranger in implementing the plan. LGU resources have always been limited, but external resources could be tapped for NRM.
 - Present the approved NRMDP to invited investors from within and outside the municipality. Overseas Development Agencies (ODAs) maybe interested to provide funds for some activities. A list of ODAs are available at the DILG or the National Economic Development Administration (NEDA).
3. Execute Memorandums of Agreement between project holders and investors.



Introduction

This quick guide is intended for facilitators who work with local communities and their Local Governments in natural resources management (NRM) planning and implementation. When used by a facilitator, it can help an interested local government together with its citizens prepare a local plan to better protect and manage natural resources important to them. This guide is developed based on facilitators' experiences in Mindanao. It is more useful, but not exclusive to localities with extensive upland resources.

Through a locally developed NRM plan, local communities, together with the LGU and its partners are guided by a shared practical vision and a set of strategies and priorities. The plan will guide them how to optimize limited manpower and budgets in order to manage the local natural resources better. As a result, LGU officials and local communities can be more effective in protecting their remaining forests and water supply, rehabilitate degraded upland areas, improve upland farm productivity and expand rural income opportunities.

The NRM planning process is best done just before the start of the LGU's annual planning and budgeting cycle, i.e., around May to July of each year. Once developed and adopted, the multi-year NRM Plan can serve as guide in preparing annual investment plans (AIP).

The facilitator can follow the quick steps outlined in this guide. The nature and scope of each step can be further understood if the facilitator is able to read some of the key references cited in this publication.



Local Manpower for Implementing the NRMDP

To operationalize the NRMDP, annual funding should be allocated and reflected in the Annual Investment Plan (AIP). Including the creation of institutional infrastructure, this should be elaborated in the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of the NRMDP. The local manpower for NRM is suggested below:

1. Strengthen the municipal Working Committee, or the ENRC to provide over-all direction and guidance for the programmed activities, monitor progress, and obtain citizen feedback.
2. Organize a special line unit within the LGU to handle the NRMDP implementation. This special unit can be under the MPDC or directly under the Municipal Mayor. If the LGU has the resources, it is best to establish a Municipal ENRO to handle implementation of NRM programs on a sustainable basis.



Adoption Process of the NRMDP

1. Choose a member of the Sangguniang Bayan, preferably the Chairman of the Committee on Environment or Agriculture to sponsor the adoption of the NRMDP.
2. Formally submit the draft NRMDP for deliberation at the Sangguniang Bayan.
3. Seek the representation of Working Committee in public hearing, during the adoption of the NRMDP.
4. Ensure that legitimate and participatory process is employed in the adoption of the NRMDP.
5. To avoid delays, ensure that a reasonable timeline is observed in the adoption process. Facilitator and the Working Committee should consistently follow up the status of the NRMDP adoption at the Sangguniang Bayan.



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Objectives in Formulating The NRMD Plan

1. It enables local communities working with their local governments to better protect the natural resources such as remaining forests and the various products and services they supply, eg. water, food, and rural livelihoods.
2. It guides the local government in the allocation of limited manpower and funding for sustained NRM interventions.
3. The local planning process provides a value for greater citizen participation and promoting co-management of national NRM.
4. It encourages investments from within and outside the municipality (i.e. national government agencies, donor agencies) etc.



Operational Requirements for the Writeshop

After the community reaches consensus on priority concerns that must be addressed and key strategies to achieve them, it is time to put the agreements into a formal plan document.

1. Organize a pool of writers from the Working Committee. The writeshop can be done by a few people with writing skills.
2. Assign encoders, lay-out designers, or cartographers.
3. Gather the needed materials and conduct a two-day writeshop.
4. Obtain the services of a professional editor or reader if necessary.
5. The writeshop can be done in two phases. The first phase will produce the draft plan. The second phase will produce the final draft after final editorial work and approval from the Sangguniang Bayan.



Using Different Planning Approaches and Tools

There is a range of participatory tools that facilitators can use to help local communities and LGUs in effective planning. The most important consideration is choosing the right approach for the right situation and the skill or expertise in the applying these approaches. However, there is no replacement of a good facilitator, an effective facilitator enhances the planning process.

There are many sectors, often with competing interests that are involved in local natural resources management. Reaching consensus among them is a critical first step. Two tools may be considered for this purpose.

- For rapid participatory assessment purposes, one can use SWOT Analysis, which stands for Analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats. SWOT Analysis enables community members to identify interventions that are within their control.
- For participatory planning, one can use the Technology of Participation (TOP), which covers Current Reality Dialogue (CRD), Vision-setting, Consensus-building and action planning.



Basic Steps in Formulating The NRMD Plan

Initial Phase

1. Start a roundtable discussion with municipal officials and concerned personnel. Organize a working committee for NRM planning. *Page 4*
2. Together in the working committee, assess the NRM conditions, related initiatives, key actors and relevant stakeholders. *Page 6*
3. Expose the working committee to appropriate technical and institutional innovations. *Page 7*

Mid-Implementation Phase

4. Facilitate the NRM planning workshop. *Page 8*
5. Facilitate workshop to develop the NRMD Plan. *Page 10*

Completion Phase

6. Submit the NRMDP for adoption at the Sangguniang Bayan. *Page 11*
7. Organize local manpower to implement the NRMDP. *Page 12*
8. Obtain support from partners and execute memorandum of agreement. *Page 13*



Things to Do During the Initial Meeting with LGU Officials

1. Make a presentation on overview of the nature of local NRM, including key goals , issues, recent trends, promising initiatives, etc.
2. Provide the LGU a list of contacts of promising NRM initiatives and potential partners that they could begin to communicate.
3. Discuss the needed support (i.e. personnel, funding etc.) in NRM planning.
4. Discuss what your agency can offer as LGU partner.
5. Ensure that the terms of the partnership are clearly understood and mutually agreed.
6. Discuss the need for and the operational requirements of a working committee.
7. Develop a timeframe and schedule of activities.



NRM Planning Workshop Process

CONTENT	PROCESS	FOCUS QUESTIONS
Situation Analyses: Identify opportunities, constraints, gaps and challenges	Current reality dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the local trends in natural resource management? • What are similar national and global trends in NRM? • What programs have been locally initiated to address NRM issues? • In the programs studied, what actions are common and what are gaps? • What are the constraints in implementing these programs? • Given the local condition, what interventions might be appropriate to address the twin goals of economic development and natural resources management?
Decision making: Craft a practical vision and identify priority actions	Visioning and Priority setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the conditions presented in terms of opportunities, gaps, and constraints, what would you like to see in the area of natural resource management? • Given the existing initiatives, what would you like to prioritize in the coming 12 months to realize your vision?
Resolving for victory: Assign tasks and identify resources to reach success	Action planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions are doable and how do we do them?

Expose the Working Committee to Appropriate Technologies and Promising Initiatives

1. Identify local communities and local governments that have initiated self-help solutions. The facilitator should identify sites that have similar situations
2. The internet is a rich source of information, most government agencies have good websites like the DENR (www.denr.gov.ph). Local and regional offices of national government agencies, as well as academic and non-government organizations are also sources of good inputs.

The following are recommended information sources that the facilitator can begin with:

- The Galing Pook Foundation (www.galingpook.org)
- League of Municipalities
- League of Cities Best Practices Program
- Annual Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran, c/o the DILG
- GOFAR (Replicating Good Practices for Improved Local Governances c/o DILG offices)
- LGU-oriented units of Regional offices of Government Agencies (DENR, DA, DLR)
- NGOs (Foundation of the Philippine Environment, UNDP Small Grants, Program, World Agroforestry Centre)



3. Organize a field visit to the sites if resources permit. Alternatively, invite resource persons to visit your locality.

Functions of the Working Committee

The Working Committee shall:

1. Be responsible in implementing agreed activities related to the development of the NRM plan, including team building and capacity building.
2. Facilitate the discussion and adoption of the NRMDP at the barangay and municipal levels.



3. Design and propose the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the NRMDP.
4. Ensure representation and participation of all key stakeholder groups within the municipality especially those that are usually marginalized in decision making processes.
5. Seek partners within and outside the municipality

Operational Requirements and Working Arrangements of the Working Committees

1. The Working Committee can be created through an Executive Order of the Mayor. This committee can be called a Technical Working Committee or NRM Planning Council. The Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Council (ENRC) maybe utilized for this purpose if it is already functional.
2. The Working Committee should be multi-sectoral or multi-agency, represented by government officials, functionaries, local or external project holders, peoples' organizations, and private sector groups.
3. The Working Committee may be headed by, or work closely with the MPDC or the Municipal Environmental Officer (if any).
4. The LGU should allocate funding for the Working Committee to function.



Assessment of Natural Resources Conditions Using Various Approaches and Tools

"A problem well understood is a problem half solved" so goes the saying. With this in mind, a good facilitator helps the local community and the LGU understand the problem and identify opportunities in managing their natural resources.

What are the basic actions and what tools can be used?

1. Establish the LGUs' area of responsibility and identify the watersheds within the locality . Watersheds are key land features that affects the nature of the local water supply.
2. Assess the remaining forest-cover and the various "hot spots" or critical areas. Use land use and vegetation maps.
3. Get to know the upland settlement and user groups that depend on the forests and the uplands. How can they be motivated to become better partners? Use available population data, assess farming systems practices and conduct focused group discussions.
4. Determine past and ongoing interventions. Conduct institutional resource mapping to familiarize the interests of supporting institutions.
5. To do the above, ask key informants (e.g. senior citizens, women leaders, tribal leaders etc.); tap skilled technicians from government agencies; and involve volunteers from local educational institutions and NGOs.

