
Rio+5 Special Focus Report

Community-based Resource Management and Integrated Coastal Management: Two Asian Experiences

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[\[Español \]](#)

The Philippines is an archipelago lying in the tropical Indo West Pacific region. With 7,100 islands and 13,411 kilometers of coastline (UNDP 1991), its coastal areas are very important to its people. The coastal population of the Philippines in 1990 was 36.3 million or 60% of the total population (Morales, 1993). Fisheries contributed 19.5% of the agricultural sector's productivity level in the same year. Despite the sizeable proportion of people living in the coastal areas and the greater contribution of fisheries to national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), there has been a terrestrial bias in Philippine development and environment concerns. The fragmentation in the management of coastal areas further aggravates this bias. There are several government offices responsible for coastal area management. The Local Government Code or Republic Act 7160 (LGC or RA 7160) further complicates the institutional arrangements for coastal area management in the Philippines today.

Different initiatives in coastal management were started by different agencies in various parts of the country. These include small and big projects such as community-based resource management initiatives at the barangay level by NGOs and bay wide efforts such as the Fisheries Sector Program (FSP) by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Coastal Environment Program (CEP) by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Some of the community-based resource management projects have been relatively successful and promoted communal activities. On the other hand, in areas where there are more than one agency implementing a coastal management project, local people become more confused and event fragmented in their actions.

This paper presents two relatively successful initiatives. The first one is a community-based resource management (CBRM) project in an island barangay and the second one is a multi-agency effort to develop and implement a broad-based National Course on Integrated Coastal Management (NCICM).

The first CBRM project is the Marine Conservation Project of San Salvador (MCPSS) began in 1988 by Haribon Foundation. Since Haribon's withdrawal from the project in 1994, the local community has continued to implement the local initiatives relating to marine conservation and livelihood activities. The island has a total land area of 380 hectares with around 1,500 residents in 255 households. The project

object was "to reverse the downward trend in fish yields from the coral reefs through community involvement in resource management." The major project components include:

1. resource management planning
2. research and monitoring
3. community organizing
4. community education to provide information and raise community awareness about key topics
5. support activities such as facilitation of construction of physical structures
6. development of alternative livelihoods
7. linkages with and support for outside agencies and groups
8. encourage active participation in the project activities
9. avoid responsible roles for concerned NGOs and government

As of 1993, a local organization called Samahang Pangkaunlaran ng San Salvador (SPSS) or Organization for Development of San Salvador has begun coordinating the efforts on the island. The success of this project is mainly due to three main reasons:

1. The community considers it a success because of the tangible benefits they observed as a result of the project.
2. There is recognition of the community's prior right to the resource even without any transfer of ownership.
3. The local community members with support from the local government are vigilant in the enforcement of local ordinance for the protection of their marine resources.

The second initiative is an effort to scale up the impact of successful initiatives as well as improve the implementation of integrated coastal management efforts in the country through training. This project involves six Philippine-based institutions--the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries (DA-BFAR); Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Coastal Environment Program (DENR-CEP); Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc. (Haribon); International Center for Living and Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM); International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR); and the department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Resources Development (DOST-PCAMRD). Each institution plays a define role in the whole project. Different agencies have different responsibilities based on their organizational strength. The main objective of the project is to develop cadres of middle level managers with the same integrated coastal management framework. The project has four (4) phases not necessarily occurring in chronological order and not distinct from each other. These are: course design and module development; pilot training; training implementation; and ensuring sustainability. The 4 phases are part of one whole project process.

1. Course design and module development. Based on extensive experiences in the Philippines, a broad-based curriculum framework was developed. Based on the framework and the results of the training needs analysis, the course was designed. The initial plan was for a mix of instructor and

material based modules. The first draft included 14 modules.

2. Pilot Testing. The 14 module course was tested in an actual 14 day training with participants coming from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The course was then adjusted to comprise 9 modules that will run for 12 days according to reactions from the participants and a course evaluation conducted by the organizing committee. Some modules were combined to provide more coherence to the course.
3. Training Implementation. This involves implementation of the training for seven (7) sets of local participants. The participants are Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) practitioners from the DENR, the Regional DA, the Local Government Units (LGUs), academe and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). To date a total of 105 participants have taken up the course and 20 resource persons have used the modules developed for the course.
4. Activities for Sustainability. This involves several activities. The conduct of a trainers training will hopefully help familiarize 40-50 possible NCICM trainers for the country. The adaptation of the course to fit local government officials is being done in conjunction with the local government academy (LGA) of the Philippines. Publication of the project experience as well as the training course is also an important use of the project output beyond the project lifetime.

Concurrent to these phases were the networking and linkageing efforts of the participating institutions. To make sure that duplication is avoided in the conduct of ICM training in the Philippines and the region, networking and linkaging have also been a vital activity under the project. To date, we are now finishing phase 2 and are now doing activities that can be considered under phases 3 and 4. This year's project activities include: the trainer's training; documentation and publication; training evaluation; and adjustment of the course in partnership with the Local Government Academy to adapt it for local government officials.

Both initiatives qualify as best practice primarily because of two main factors--the participatory process in implementation which has generated sense of ownership for the project from the stakeholders themselves and the institutional as well as personal commitment of the organizations and individuals involved in the project.

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