

# Practices That Work!

## Reason for starting the innovative practice

To rationalize the management of the headwaters of the Pulangi River, Tagoloan River, Cagayan River, Davao River, Umayam River, Agusan-Cugman River, and other important emanating rivers emanating from Bukidnon; considering that the Province of Bukidnon is the headwater of the said major rivers. This innovative practice was further encouraged with the creation of the BWPDC through Presidential Memorandum Order #270 (PMO #270).

## Role of Implementing Organization

The Provincial Government of Bukidnon Chairs the Council (i.e., a multi-sectoral, inter-agency group); with members from NAPOCOR, DENR, CMU, NIA, BSC, SANREM, MLGUs, and NGO representatives. The Province acts as the Convenor for the said Council. The plans, programs, and strategies formulated by the Council are carried-out on the ground level by the member-entities using their respective financial resources.

## How it works

The BWPDC (i.e., the Council) represents the whole province. The municipalities within the province have been clustered into seven (7), each representing a particular river watershed flowing out of the Province to the six (6) neighboring provinces and four (4) cities. So, under the BWPDC, are seven (7) Cluster Councils, Chaired by one (1) of the LCEs from within the Cluster itself. Follow the same nature of the BWPDC, each Cluster Council is inter-agency and multi-sectoral. They formulate and develop their own Cluster Watershed Management Plan via the Participatory manner using the "Watershed Approach" planning; with Technical Assistance from the BWPDC. The plans, programs, and strategies formulated by the Cluster Council are carried-out on the ground level by the member-LGUs with their partner-entities using their respective financial resources. The Province provides a counterpart fund for the Cluster Council's funds; and funds from external sources are welcome. Between the Provincial level Council and the member-entities, is a MOA signed among the Parties; while between the Cluster level Council and the partner-entities is another MOA signed among the parties. So far, one Cluster Council is already operational and the other six (6) Cluster Councils are in the process of being organized.

## General Information

### Innovative Practice Name

Putting the Bukidnon Watershed Program into operation

### Location

Malaybalay, Bukidnon

### Date Started

January 2000

### Date Completed

October 2000

### Estimated Cost:

LGU Cost: PhP575,000

### Implementing Office Address

Bukidnon Environment and Natural Resources Office  
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### **How barriers/obstacles were overcome**

Getting the various agencies to talk, which are hostile with each other, and share in a common vision, mission, goals, and objectives within a river watershed, is quite a challenge. Hostile, due to mistrust, lack of confidence, and possibly, sad experiences in their past dealings with each other. With the use of the “Watershed Approach” planning, the stakeholders are made to see and realize their inter-relationships and inter-dependencies with each other (i.e., upstream-downstream dwellers are dependent to each other). A series of participatory multi-sectoral planning workshops for consensus building using the Technology of Participation were undertaken. Each stakeholder invests in the resources conservation and rehabilitation, as well as, share in the consequent benefits. During some of the Planning Workshops, the participants had to pay for registration and their travel expenses charged to their respective agencies; while the Province takes care of food, accommodation, supplies and materials, staff work and coordination, and other incidental expenses.

### **Details of benefits and results**

There is marked improvement in the working relationships among the member-entities of the BWPDC; a noticeable positive Citizen reaction; a growing awareness among the Citizens on environmental hazards and benefits; a long-term perspective on environmental management on the part of LCEs and legislators; an increasing number of environment-related Ordinances being passed by the LGUs (aside from seriously taking this into account in the preparation of the CLUPs) and Provincial E-Code, which eventually will redound to improved services; and an increasing number of LGUs investing in



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