

Practices That Work!

Reason for starting the innovative

The loss of forest cover and the open access condition of the forestland areas in the eastern part of Ilocos Norte particularly in the municipalities of Carasi, Dingras, Sarrat, and Solsona often resulted to frequent grass fires during summer months and landslides and flooding during rainy months. Individual municipalities on their own ventured into some stopgap measures to alleviate their respective concerns but their individual efforts did not make much impact on the state of the river system. The collective actions of these four affected municipalities is an attempt to rationalize investment on environmental management given limited individual resources.

Role of Implementing Organization(s)

The CARDISS Integrated Watershed Management Project is being implemented by an inter-LGU Technical Working Group under the guidance of the Executive Council composed of the respective LCEs of the participating municipalities. The Provincial Governor is the Honorary Chairman of the Council with the PPDC acting as Project Facilitator for the provincial coordination and support. To set the project development process into motion, the members of the MLGUs conduct a rotational system municipal hosting. The municipal host provides the venue and other logistics necessary to support the activity

How it works (Processes and Resources)

The inter-LGU cluster was introduced to the community watershed project by way of a multi-sectoral orientation workshop sponsored by the Provincial Government. The exercise essentially helped the inter-LGU TWG to know what it takes to prepare a localized watershed management program. This included the technical, policy, organizational and communication requirements of watershed project formulation and implementation. The second activity undertaken is the resource management appraisal which facilitated the shared generation of observations, insights or factual information about the circumstances surrounding the use, protection and development of natural resources within the watersheds enveloping the 4 municipalities. As a result, each municipality was able to assemble the environmental transect, and issues map and problem tree analyses which form part of the appraisal report. To expand the options available to the cluster, a crossvisit to Nueva Vizcaya (1999 Most Outstanding Province for Ecosystem Management) was organized. The other stages that still need to be undertaken are the Consensus-Building Workshop for the presentation of the RMA Report to a larger multisectoral audience and the development of a Strategic Action Program Document for the forthcoming AIP budget.

General Information

Innovative Practice Name

CARDISS-Padsan Inter-LGU Strategic Watershed Management Project

Location

Carasi-Dingras-Solsona-Sarrat,
Province of Ilocos Norte

Date Started

January 25, 2000

Date Completed

September 30, 2000

Estimated Cost

LGU: PhP 189,000
GOLD:PhP 223,900

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How barriers/obstacles were overcome

1. The Padsan river system is linked to the larger Laoag River Basin. It was not until the Resource Management Appraisal Workshop that the four municipalities were clarified about their interconnectivity following the boundary delineation exercise.
2. The active participation of the Provincial Government is an additional premium to the heightening recognition of four LGUs to work together as a team. The support given to the CARDISS group is an indication that the provincial leadership increasingly welcomes joint undertakings. This is a clear acceptance of the participatory processes with strong emphasis of civil society participation advocated by GOLD.

Details of benefits and results

1. **Participation and Transparency** – The level of participation is quite high with all the proponent municipalities attending the orientation workshop. The Zanjeras (farmers association), Agrarian Reform Communities and the youth group stood as civil society representatives. Together with the leadership of Jun Carte of Carasi, civil society representatives in the TWG helped in conducting and putting together the resource management report.
2. **Financial/Resource Mobilization and Improvisation** – The phases of activity of the project were co-financed by the municipal LGUs in the cluster on a rotation basis. The inter-LGU cluster has been linking with the Agricultural Training Institute based at the Mariano Marcos State University. Attempts are currently underway to link the project with the College of Forestry of the same University. The DENR-CENRO has likewise pivoted early technical support particularly in the conduct of resource management appraisal and the provision of technical planning and seedling provision support to LGU driven reforestation activities such as the “BANTAYAN” project of Solsona.
3. **Inter-LGU Coordination** – The MLGU cluster members have begun to exchange information and conduct consultations pertaining to flooding, erosion and deforestation problems. The LGUs have found good reason to consult on the potential repercussions of the project as a leverage to the proposed Laoag River Basin Project which they feel they should have a hand in the formulation process. The cluster has also expressed the desire to reach out to other non-participating municipalities which are situated in the same watershed.
4. **Impacts of Technical Assistance** – What used to be a compartmentalized view and parochial concern over watershed issues the municipalities have shifted towards an integrated watershed perspective. The LGUs are now aware of the relational aspects of resource management and project development in the Padsan watershed, which they found they commonly share. The LGUs have developed an appreciation that they can actually have in their own modest means have been doing what amounts to watershed management initiatives. The wisdom of supplementarity and complementarity is finding its way in the planning and project development culture, now that each LGU are better aware of the structure and dynamics of their watershed.