



Manupali Watershed: Lantapan NRM Planning and Implementation

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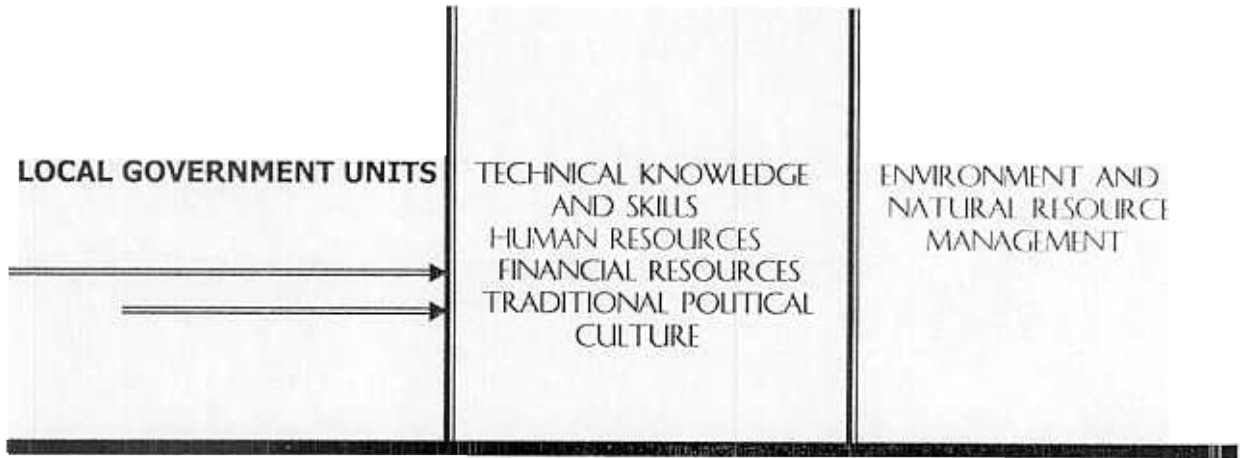
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1.0 Background

The search for better watershed management derives from global and national environmental concerns. Traditionally, watershed degradation has been viewed in terms of what is happening and treating the symptoms. The methods used by national government have tended to be top-down, in which residents are passive recipients of external interventions. But in recent years, watershed management looks at why degradation is happening and tackling the underlying causes. Now, it is better appreciated that natural resources within individual watersheds can be used for economically productive purposes while maintaining the delivery of water to downstream users. Watershed degradation does not have to be an inevitable consequence of using land for agriculture or forestry, smallholders can engage in farming and management of natural forest resources in both a productive and resource-conserving manner (Garrity, DP., 1998). This has focused attention on evolving a local and demand-driven community-based approach to watershed management, whereby local people actively participate in management and sustainable utilization of their local watershed resources for multiple purposes with the aim of providing optimal benefits to the greatest number of people living in, or downstream of, individual watershed areas. The decentralization and devolution process in the Philippines has advanced this interest. Today, the Philippine Local Government Code provides more autonomy for Local Governments to draw their template of development, having to perform their functions as political arm of the national government with a corporate role to play, as well. Among other provisions in the Local Government Code is that, of Local Governments to secure and protect the environment and natural resource endowments for present and future generations. However, during the early years of the Local Government Code implementation, most Local Governments have not actively pursued the implementation of this mandate due to some constraints namely: 1) Lack of technical capabilities; 2) Lack of trained personnel(human resource factor); 3) Financial inadequacy; and 3) Traditional political culture. Recently however, more and more Local Governments are now engaged in environment-related activities on their own, with some guidance from external service providers. This encourages Local Governments to initiate, innovate and design their own methods of implementation. What Local Governments need are decision-support tools that could serve as basis for their decision-making and planning process and that could probably be provided by Research Institutions like ICRAF and others.

CONSTRAINTS AND GAPS TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND WATERSHED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



2.0 The case of Manupali Watershed: Lantapan, Bukidnon Philippines

In 1996, the workplan-holders (including ICRAF) of USAID-funded SANREM CRSP (Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management-Collaborative Research Support Program) provided technical assistance to the Local Government of Lantapan through a small planning grant, that enabled the Local Government to engaged in a planning and development process of their Natural Resource Management and Development Plan (NRMDP). Research results from SANREM provided the technical meat of the plan and the planning process was largely drawn by the Local Government, through the multi-sectoral Natural Resource Management Council (NRMC), created by the Local Government for purposes of planning and implementation. The local-level planning received national recognition and the present Local Government administration is actively implementing the plan on the basis of "public-private partnership". The experience we had in Lantapan, brought to us some lessons:

1. Research and the scientific community may have greater impacts when the information are shared at the institutional level, like the Local Government and farmer-level institutions.
2. Local Governments have the potential to innovate new methods and harness support for effective and sustainable watershed management. They are the key to resolving land degradation issues, provided, they are well-provided with appropriate information that supports their decision-making process.
3. Local Governments have the legal backbone that supports these types of endeavors and that, they only need to be motivated to be able to release their unclear vision, and understand their devolved functions concerning watershed management.
4. Devolved and participatory NRM planning and implementation is more cost-effective than traditional top-down planning and implementation. The value of ownership is much encouraging than that of being recipients of services.
5. Local NRM planning and implementation may not require large sum of money and a Highly bureaucratic procedures.
6. The key to success are: collaboration, cost-sharing and partnership.

3.0 Some innovative features in the NRM planning process and implementation in Lantapan

Some innovative features of the Lantapan NRM planning and implementation process--which could be potentially extrapolated to other sites elsewhere--include:

1. Organization of a multisectoral Natural Resource Management Council (NRMC), which represents a cross-section of community groups, local legislators and municipal and provincial government line agencies that, by goodwill, serve as voluntary local planners.
2. Backed-up by research-based information and technical assistance from different local, national and international stakeholders and partners.
3. The NRMC underwent capacity-building activities, which is also a way of leveling-off the council members' expectations and roles and to address the information needs and planning skills of the diverse members.
4. Adopted the 'technology of participation' (TOP) approach--developed by the USAID funded Governance on Local Democracy Project (GOLD) in eliciting information and ideas from the planning participants during workshops on visioning, strategic directions and action planning.
5. Systematic verification and consultations with local government officials at the village and municipal levels and with local people during public assemblies. The different villages passed a Resolution to manifest their approval and support of the plan.
6. The plan was legitimized with implementing guidelines for management and funding allocations of the plan.
7. The plan is implemented based on public-private partnership. The Local Government called upon all project holders in the area to support the objectives of the plan by streamlining their Research and Development activities.
8. The Local Government has allocated some budgets and organized project management team to support the plan implementation.

**FRAMEWORK FOR INITIATING LOCAL NRM PLANNING
AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL**

**CONDUCT AN ORIENTATION-BRIEFING
WITH KEY OFFICIALS & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE
MUNICIPALITY**



**ORGANIZE A POOL OF FACILITATORS
(Usually 3-men team)**



**PROVIDE NECESSARY CAPACITY-BUILDING
PROGRAM FOR THE FACILITATORS**



**CREATE AN ORGANIZATIONAL
FRAMEWORK FOR PLANNING
(THE NRMCM)**



**DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A
CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAM
FOR THE NRMCM**



**INITIATE PARTICIPATORY
DATA GATHERING AND
FEEDBACKING**



**PREPARE WORKING MAPS
AND OTHER INFORMATION
MATERIALS**



**CONDUCT PARTICIPATORY
VISIONING AND ACTION
PLANNING WORKSHOP**



CONDUCT WRITESHOP TO DRAFT PLAN FRAMEWORK

**SETTING THE PROGRAM
MANAGEMENT TEAM &
PREPARE FOR TAKE-OFF**



**DRAW STAKEHOLDERS'
SUPPORT FOR PARTICI-
TORY IMPLEMENTATION**



**FINALIZE & LEGITIMIZE
THE PLAN AT BARANGAY
AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS**



**VERIFY & DRAW LOCAL
SUPPORT FOR ACCEPTA-
BILITY OF THE PLAN**



**VALIDATE FRAMEWORK
PLAN AND CONDUCT
COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

