

FINAL EXAM (part I) – Case study

Mainstreaming Indigenous Peoples Participation in Environmental Governance in Compostela Valley and Bukindon (Philippines)

History and Background of the Project

The Republic of the Philippines is a country consisting of 7,107 islands located in South-East Asia, between the Philippine sea and the South of China sea, east of Vietnam. The country is divided into 17 administrative regions, separated into three main blocks: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Its territory is full of mineral reserves, forests (18.3%) and croplands (47%). According to the Human Development Report of the United Nations (HDR 2012), the Philippines is classified as a country with Medium Human Development Index.

However, there are large differences between different provinces, and among the last 10 provinces in terms of human development are the **seven provinces of Mindanao, where the project is implemented**. Their HDI is comparable to those of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia. The Filipino archipelago has one of the largest and richest ecological biodiversity in the world. During the last decade, the flora and fauna have been threatened especially by the impact of the mining enterprise, such as the timber industry, and mining have intensified demands for the government to extend its activities to the unprotected areas of the country. These areas are often inhabited by indigenous peoples, who must move because of the military activities of companies seeking to protect their areas, and due to the large impact that the activity of the enterprise has on people and their livelihoods.

In this context, this proposal became a relevant project, given that it is framed within the Convention on Biological Diversity United Nations (CBD) and the laws of the Philippine Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, but especially due to the consequences of the **typhoon Haiyan**, which has badly hit one of the areas of intervention, affecting more than 1.946 beneficiaries.

The project relies also on the NGO experience in project management with Indigenous Communities and its capacity to reach and help those people, which are the most vulnerable and marginalized within the Philippine society (lack of possession of the land, lack of exercise of their rights, lack of basic social services).

The alternative chosen seeks to intervene in the poverty trap in which this group is immersed, to promote their role as advocates and managers of the environment (primitive forests and watersheds) and the biodiversity of the Philippine Islands.

To enable indigenous communities to defend their rights to autonomy and self-determination, they must ensure their rights to their ancestral lands and they can define their own development options in their respective territories according to their customs and traditions.

Thus, beyond the acquisition of the Title Recognition of Ancestral Domain, it is also important to identify and map their territories showing different areas and/or land uses and points of cultural references.

Nevertheless, given the aftermaths of the typhoon Haiyan, during all 2014, beneficiaries of Sibuyan island (Romblon-Luzon province) will need extra support.

The project is located in the basin of Pulangi in Bukidnon province (Malaybalay City and Municipality Cabanglasan) and the area of Mount Kampalali (Puting Bato) in the province of

Compostela Valley. Its local organizations are strong and well organized with a very high level of participation of men and women. The project contributes to maintain and develop capacities of these organizations, as in the case of the indigenous community of Bukidnon-Higaonon which has created the Bukidnon-Higaonon Tribal Association (BUHITA).

To achieve optimal results the NGO will advise these communities in local policies, mining exploitation and developing capacity for the management of natural resources and sustainability mechanisms.

The project is in an area of the Philippines with the highest concentration of the indigenous population of the country. The HDI of Mindanao is 0.635, which is 15% above the national average (0.747).

Concretely, the incidence of poverty in this area goes up until 42.4%, which is almost 40% above the national level (25.7%). Inequality indicators are following this trend also. Indigenous people represent 34.5% of the total population, with a level of extreme poverty of 54.2%, which makes them the poorest and most vulnerable people in the region.

The economy of the region is characterized by having an abundance of wood resources and minerals such as iron, gold, silver, nickel, chromium, manganese and copper. Most of these resources are placed on the former territories of indigenous communities, resulting in the development of activities of illegal pruning, the introduction of monoculture and mining, giving the lack of legal recognition of their land and the existence of plans to protect resources in the area.

The EU financed project it has begun 2 years ago in the provinces of Romblon, Abra, and Compostela Valley and its implementation is being successfully completed. However, after the Typhoon Haiyan, extra support is needed, especially in Romblon province, where the establishment of appropriate sustainability mechanisms is crucial.

Beneficiaries

The main project, partially funded by the European Union, benefits 4 indigenous communities who actively participated in the design of the intervention. Overall, the project will benefit 24,385 natives, distributed as follows: (a) 6.990 indigenous of Luzon island, (b) 17. 395 in Mindanao, in the provinces (1) Compostela Valley (2) Bukidnon; (c) The Lumad tribes, who live in the south and were not converted to Islam.

Intervention Logic

Overall Objective

To improve the quality of life of the indigenous people (IP) communities in the Philippines.

Specific Objective

To address poverty among four IP communities through the provision of livelihood options for the household level intervention and assist in the formulation of sustainability mechanism to implement community-level interventions on natural resource management.

Expected Results

- Instruments for forest conservation and improvement of the availability of natural resources, raw materials, and income generation were started.
- Mechanisms for sustainable income-generating initiatives have been started.

The project will enable :

- 1) Security of land tenure for communities of indigenous peoples to enable them to develop a system that provides options that do not harm the environment and culturally sensitive.
- 2) Protection and restoration of natural resources within the ancestral domain.
- 3) Development of business / sustainable funding mechanisms, which include payments for environmental services, transparent mechanisms for corporate social responsibility and community background.
- 4) After the typhoon, establishment, and maintenance of rainforestation farms.

Budget :

European Union	729.894€
NGO	113.674€
Local Organisation	125.021€
Sought Contribution*	126.064€
Total	1.094.653€

***Sought contribution**

The funds will go mainly towards post-emergency rehabilitation; purchase of inputs and materials for afforestation of agricultural plots (seeds, agricultural tools, polyethylene bags) and equipment of the patrol to protect the environment (boots, umbrellas, radios, fire extinguishers, etc.). It will also be used to cover six months of insurance and salaries of patrolmen.