

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MID-YEAR TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP PHIL-WAVES MEETING FOR SOUTHERN PALAWAN

I. The recently concluded Technical Working Group (TWG) Phil-WAVES Meeting for Southern Palawan held on June 25, 2014 at SCO Conference Room, DENR-Central Office provided a venue to further discuss and update the members on the following:

- Progress Report on the Development of Ecosystem Account for Southern Palawan
- Status on Data Collection per Ecosystem (Upland Forests, Lowland Croplands, Coastal Marine)
- Report on the Accomplishments of Ms. Verna Duque.
- Report on the responses from NAMRIA, FMB, PCSD and LLDA on ESA's Final Proposal
- Review/ Finalization re: Framework of Ecosystem Accounting in Southern Palawan
- Status on the Request for FPIC
- Proposed Trainings (i.e. Valuation of Ecosystem Services, Bio-physical Modeling, Data/ Spatial Analysis
- Proposed Video Conference (VC) by Stefanie Sieber on 2nd week of July, 2014 and the World Bank Mission in September, 2014
- World Bank approved Grant

II. Discussions/ Agreements:

A. FMB Land Cover Change Analysis Presentation

- Land Cover of 2003 and 2010 were used in the presentation.
- FMB presented the difference between Standard and Aggregated Land Classification, the former having 21 classifications and the latter with only 14 classifications.
- FMB also flashed thematic maps of land classification (A&D and forestlands), ECAN Zones (controlled use, core, multiple use, restricted, and traditional), and Cadastral.
- Observations stated below were gathered from the maps presented:
 - a) Cross-matching the land classification and cadastral map, an encroachment of the cadastral to the forestland of the land classification map can be seen.
 - b) The question on how forestlands were titled was brought up by the TWG members.
 - c) A guest from the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC) Executive Director, Atty. Grizelda Mayo-Anda, asked if these titles are true or fraudulent.
 - d) May Lacao of PCSD mentioned that DAR (Department of Agrarian Reform) can answer this issue
 - e) Multiple Use Zone under the ECAN Zone map is consistent with the Cadastral Map. Although the exact land area which encroached the forestland is not yet determined, ground validation confirmed that the area was found to be composed

of riceland on its upper portion, oil palm plantation on the upper edge, and coconut plantation on the lower portion of the land.

- f) Multiple Use Zone is also found to be bigger than the Restricted Zone
 - g) 2003 Land Cover shows some limitations of the map, like:
 - the presence of 0 on the data, which is highly impossible
 - the absence of perennial crops is improbable too because the 2010 Land Cover Map indicated presence of riceland and coconut plantation, which technically should be more than 7-year old
 - h) Closed forest declined in the span of 7years while open forest increased.
 - i) Built-up areas are visible in the 2010 Land Cover Map but not in 2003's.
 - j) Wooded grassland is the largest in 2003 but diminished and converted mostly to perennial in 2010.
 - k) Arrived at the conclusion that, land cover change (2003 to 2010) is multi-factorial: image resolution, software used, and ground validation must be all considered in interpreting the maps.
- B. Hiring of experts was also aired by the body during the meeting as the project's demand for more technical people increases. The following, according to the members, are needed:
- a) Hydro-geologist- in doing the water- balance analysis as suggested by ERDB
 - b) CRM Specialist/Modeller – to assist in developing coastal ecosystem account
 - c) Data Banking- to provide additional staff support with the Knowledge Information Systems Service (KISS) of DENR
 - d) GIS Specialist- a full-time Project Staff is needed
- C. If found to have a need for those experts, drafting of TOR must be done to determine specific tasks and timeline of the activities needed. It was suggested that this has to be done immediately by Dr. Gem Castillo, World Bank Local Consultant.
- D. ESA's offer must also be clarified, according to NAMRIA. Does the offer include software sharing or data analysis only?
- E. BSWM will provide digital map on soil to determine soil erodability and erodability
- F. The necessity of sediment retention modelling by Dr. Lars Hein must also be considered by the body according to Dr. Gem Castillo.
- G. Conduct of Policy Review on the existing laws and policies governing the issues identified by the Project in Southern Palawan should also be done.
- H. Communications plan must also be reinforced and according to ELAC Representative, Atty. Grizelda Mayo-Anda, it must have its concentration on the local government unit.

III. Proposed Meetings/Deadline of Activities:

- July 11- Finalization of Ecosystem Account Framework by Dr. Gem Castillo
- July 15- Meeting with PSA (tentative)
- July 16-Video Conference at World Bank, Manila
- 2nd week of August- Analysis and Draft of Report (Ecosystem Accounts) by Dr. Gem Castillo
- September- Trainings (Bio-physical modelling, data/ satellite analysis, valuation of ecosystem services)

IV. The meeting was attended and actively participated by the TWG members from DENR-Central and Local-Palawan, World Bank and a guest from ELAC.