



WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MEETING OF THE PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT FORUM – WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PDF WG on SRD)

21 January 2010 (2pm)

Office of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning Conference Room
3rd Floor, Department of Agriculture (Main Building)
Diliman, Quezon City

1.0 Call to Order/Opening Messages

The meeting was called to order by DA Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano at 2:20 in the afternoon.

In his opening remarks, he acknowledged the Working Group's accomplishment in the previous year and expressed appreciation on the active participation of the members of the Working Group. He mentioned that the 2010 Annual PDF Meeting may not be held this year but the WG and the sub-WGs already have Action Plans to deal with for the year.

For his part, Dr. Walter Salzer was curious on what may come out in 2010 considering that the issues prioritized are all exciting like land use and climate change, especially that we are putting them prominently into the political discussions. He commended the active participation of the WG members especially from the civil society in the previous year. He urged the other members for more regular attendance and active participation in implementing the action plans. Nevertheless, he is expecting a positive and fruitful year for the WG and sub-WGs.

Undersecretary Serrano welcome the new faces in the meeting and initiated a round of introduction. The complete list of attendees is presented in Annex 1.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

There having no additional topics proposed, the provisional agenda was adopted by the body (Annex 2).

3.0 Feedback on the Meeting held on November 5-6, 2009 in Tagaytay City

The meeting of the Working Group in Tagaytay was generally assessed as satisfactory. However, Dr. Salzer remarked on the absence of most convenors of the sub-WGs which could mean that the meeting was not given enough importance. He also commented that the 1 ½ days maybe too long and a venue within Metro Manila could have been more practical in view of the long travel time (about 2 hours) to Tagaytay.

For his part, Undersecretary Serrano observed that there were several meetings on-going within the venue with almost the same agencies involved. In future, he requested the secretariat and the representatives of government agencies and development partners to better coordinate in order to avoid overlapping meetings.

Undersecretary Serrano requested the secretariat to re-circulate the schedule of regular meetings of the WG to all members

4.0 Updates

4.1 Updates from the Task Team

During the Tagaytay meeting of the PDF WG, a Task Force was created to promote the priority issue on natural resource governance and the following activities were identified :

Priority Issue	Activities
Natural Resource Governance	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Survey among candidates on their position on key rural development issues and publication of results2. Advocacy for the passage of the National Land Use Act3. Increase public awareness on issues on natural resource governance (media program)

The Task Force had its first meeting in December 2010. In recognition of the positive experiences of the civil society in pushing for critical issues through advocacy and campaigns ,it was agreed that the civil society shall likewise lead the PDF initiatives.

On **Activity 1: Survey among candidates on their position on key rural development issues and publication of results**

- The survey will be conducted by March where the list of Presidentiables could have been shortened and limited to those who have been accredited by Comelec.

- Questions will be drafted/ formulated by the Task Force and will be presented to the WG for comments/approval.
- A Forum with the Presidentiables will be organized where the issues and questions will be raised by selected representatives from the different sectors (e.g. farmers, fisherfolks, Indigenous Peoples, upland dwellers) .
- The concept and guidelines of the forum will be further defined by ANGOC and the different CSO members and will be presented to the Task Force for discussion in its next meeting.

On *Activity 2: Advocacy for the passage of the National Land Use Act*

Atty. Aison Garcia/SALIGAN represented the CSOs. He informed the body that the CSOs have internally discussed the concept and on how to step up the campaign. The proposal will be presented in the next meeting of the Task Force. He also reported on the status of the different bills filed in Congress/Senate as well as discussed the similarities and differences of said bills.. He also prepared a matrix for the WG members' information. (please refer to Annex 3).

Atty. Garcia also shared the reflections of the civil society and emphasized the following concerns:

- How much will it cost to implement the NLUA?
- What agency/body will head the agency in charge – NEDA or HLURB?

Mr. Bresciani asked whether there were other reasons and other issues hindering the passage of the law over the last 16 years, Atty. Garcia explained that the some of the bills were inherited from former lawmakers and have to be re-filed at each Congress. It was at the 12th Congress where the land use bill reached 2nd reading, the highest status that the bill had achieved so far.

In response to the query of Dr. Salzer, Atty. Garcia mentioned the chances of passing the law before the election was remote. The different versions of the NLUA bill need to be consolidated and until now, the TWG headed by NEDA has not come up with a consolidated report. So far, the version of Representative Rissa Hontiveros is the most updated one.

Ms. Cunanan/DENR informed the body that with the passage of the Climate Change Act, the Implementing Rules and Regulations may already contain some strategies and elements which could be incorporated into the proposed National Land Use Act.

Undersecretary Serrano welcome the suggestion and hoped that the Climate Change Commission would also take note and consider the potential overlaps of the agencies in its discussion of the IRR tomorrow (22 January).

Ms. Firmeza/NEDA suggested to link the efforts with the NEDA-RDCS which is the secretariat to the National Land Use Committee.

In recognition of the urgency of passing the bill, Dr. Salzer emphasized that it is crucial that this issue be continuously be brought into the discussion before the election and even after. As this is a gateway issue, people from the rural communities should be able to raise related issues such as unregulated land use, land grabbing and forest degradation. He further encouraged the body to think about ways on how this issue could be best advocated. He also committed some support from GTZ in this undertaking. Mr. Bresciani/WB also mentioned possible support from LAMP2 especially for activities related to the management of public lands.

Mr. Acosta/INREM-ADB also mentioned that since their program involves Land Use Assessment and Zoning for Riverbasins and Watershed, there is potential support on local land use regulations for DA,DAR and DENR.

Undersecretary Serrano suggested further brainstorming on NLUA advocacy and *how to prepare for the next Congress*, to included discussions on the substance of the bill and tactical campaign or a program that should target the incoming Congress persons. He volunteered to host the discussions and to invite other government officials as resource persons. He also cited the important role of media as an important partner in this endeavor.

Atty. Garcia reiterated the readiness of the civil society for the campaign. He also shared the lessons from CARPER where it is important that the government agency concerned own the bill while the CSOs will do the pushing with the legislative. In addition, new champions will have to be identified.

Finally, Undersecretary Serrano took cognizance of the challenges ahead and added that other related legislations such as the Local Government Code may have to be looked into in relation to certain implementation issues, e.g. LGU can override decisions on conversions by national agencies.

On *Activity 3: Increase public awareness on issues on natural resource governance (media program)*

Father Francis offered his radio program as a venue to create public awareness on environmental issues, however, further discussions will have to be pursued regarding topics, speakers/resource persons, schedule, etc.

4.2 Updates from the Working Group/sub-Working Groups

- **WG**

Results-Based Management (RBM)/ Managing for Development Results (MfDR)

Mr.de Perio/NEDA Project Monitoring Staff updated the body on the workshop held on January 12-14 wherein the participants from the oversight (NEDA, DBM, DOF) and the 3 RD agencies formulated the logical framework for the RD sector and aligned their Major Final Outputs (MFOs). At the

moment, the group in charge is the process of formulation and polishing of the indicators and strategies to facilitate monitoring of MTPDP results. The next stage will be on harmonizing the support of development partners in the topic.

Director Ferrer/DENR commented on the difficulty in selling the introduction of RBM/MfDR since the earlier attempts, hence, proposed that the concept be presented at the Cabinet Meeting to gain good acceptance by the agency officials.

According to Dr. Salzer, the most important part is to first agree with the oversight agencies and get a clear commitment from the Harmonization Committee. He also inquired about information on updates regarding MfDR and where to find them. NEDA will post the information and coordinate with the secretariat.

In response to Undersecretary Serrano's query regarding the next steps, Mr. De Perio clarified that the introduction of RBM/MfDR will be first piloted in the RD agencies (agriculture, agrarian reform and natural resources) and then later implemented in the other sectors. DBM is also contemplating on adopting the results-oriented system for the next planning process starting by February. However, Undersecretary Serrano pointed out that the timing may be delayed already, especially that the CSOs would also be interested to look into the budgeting process as expressed during the Tagaytay meeting.

Climate Change

Dr. Salzer reported on the activities of the Interagency Committee on Climate Change which is being supported by GTZ under its project Adaptation to Climate Change and Biodiversity (ACCBio). The report on adaptation strategies for 8 areas is being finalized by the TWG for submission to the Climate Change Commission. There are also possibilities to include support to mitigation measures. The REDD project (of GTZ) is piloting methods to monitor the quantity and quality of forest as basis for applying REDD schemes. ADB is also going in a similar direction and coordination will be undertaken. Considering that there are a lot of other initiatives, it was suggested for NEDA to come up with a list of Climate Change initiatives including those in the pipeline and circulated to members of the WG.

Undersecretary Serrano also mentioned about the complaints he has been receiving from staff attending different meetings on similar topics and confirmed that the first step is to harmonize activities by exchanging information. He further recommended that all these initiatives must align with the National Framework and Action.

Mr. Penot/EC also informed the body that EU is starting a Climate Change program similar to the GTZ and expressed willingness to align with the other GOP initiatives. While the list will be appreciated, he also suggested to be precise with the typologies.

Other Climate Change related initiatives mentioned were: WB on Climate Change Issues in Agriculture (for appraisal in February), ADB Technical Assistance for demonstrating REDD initiatives.

At the DA Undersecretary Serrano cited the on-going discussions on Climate Change in order to increase awareness and appreciation of staff, including clarification and use of terms. Copy of the training material will be provided next meeting and will also be posted at the DA website

Regarding the request for feedback from Copenhagen, Undersecretary Serrano promised to provide copy of the report to the members of the WG as soon as the official report becomes available.

- ***Sub-WG on Agribusiness***

Mr. Cuevas/DA-PADCC updated the body on the progress of the 13 (out of 17) proposals worth PhP560 million positively considered for financing by private investors during the National Convergence Initiative Agribusiness Forum held in November. Today, negotiations are on-going between the proponents and the potential investors. He acknowledged the support provided by GTZ in developing the Agribusiness Investment proposals. He also thanked GTZ and AECID for co-sponsoring the Forum.

The Sub-WG also finalized their 2010 Action Plan which included the following:

1. Legislative Agenda (Passage of the NLUA, Agri-Extension Law and the Agri-Agra Law)
2. Support to Activities that will massively promote agribusiness
3. Joint activities with World Bank, e.g. stakeholders conference
4. Assessment/Studies of SAFDZs
5. Formulation of the National Biomass Management Plan and Pilot testing

- ***Sub-WG on Upland Development***

Ms. Cunanan/DENR confirmed the key priority issues identified during the Tagaytay meeting.

Undersecretary Serrano suggested a dialogue or forum with the WG to discuss issues on sustainable forest management and looked forward to more interaction with the WG.

In response to Dr. Salzer's query on who (development partners) is mainly supporting upland development, Ms. Cunanan informed the body that 2 proposals are now awaiting ICC approval- INREM which is supported by ADB and IFAD and Pro-FORM which is supported by JICA. Dr. Salzer proposed a meeting among GTZ, JICA, IFAD and ADB to exchange information and strengthen coordination on upland development measures.

Regarding the concern raised by Dr. Salzer on the possibility of signing the CBFM Strategy that has been finalized 2 years ago, no clear response was given by Ms. Cunanan. Mr. Acosta/INREM-ADB offered to support the finalization of the document and the subsequent signing by DENR management.

- ***Sub-WG on Land Policies***

In lieu of a report on updates, PARO Pacis/DAR presented the 2009 Accomplishment on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. Undersecretary Serrano suggested to include a discussion on policy issues and legislative agenda in the sub-WG Action Plan. He reiterated the interest of the civil society to participate in pushing for the legislative agenda related to land policies as well as to get involved in the CARPER targeting and budgeting processes.

Mr. Bresciani/WB expressed his disappointment that meetings of the sub-WG have not materialized, but certainly the World Bank would be interested to discuss issues such as the NLUA and exit strategy for DAR after the extension period.

4.0 Other Matters

Undersecretary Serrano announced that another meeting may be called by the first week of February to review the Action Plans and the general directions of the Working Group in 2010.

Dir. Natural/DA announced the forthcoming inception workshop on Vulnerability Assessment Tools for DA, DAR and DENR on February 3-5, 2010.

6.0 Adjournment

Having no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 in the afternoon. The next regular meeting will be held on March 18, 2010 and will be hosted by the World Bank.

**Prepared by:
Erlinda F. Dolatre
GTZ**

ATTACHMENT 1

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

2:00pm	Call To Order	Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano/Dr. Walter Salzer
10 minutes	Adoption of Agenda	
20 minutes	Feedback on the Meeting held on November 5-6, 2009 in Tagaytay City	
20 minutes	Updates from the Task Team (December 10, 2009 Meeting)	
	Updates from the WG/sub-WG	
10 minutes 10 minutes 10 minutes 10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG MfDR c/o K. Firmeza, NEDA Climate Change Initiatives • Sub-WG on Agribusiness • Sub-WG on Upland Development • Sub-WG on Land Policies 	<p>Usec. Serrano/ Dr. Salzer</p> <p>Mr. G. Serrano/Mr. M. Agbon Usec. Gerochi/Mr. A. Tayyab</p> <p>Usec. Madueno/Mr. F. Bresciani</p>
	Discussions	
	Other Matters	
	Adjournment	

List of Attendees

Co-Convenors:

Undersecretary Segfredo R. Serrano Department of Agriculture
Dr. Walter Salzer GTZ

Government Partners

OIC Director Nieva Natural	Department of Agriculture
Fernando Flores	Department of Agriculture
Pia Q. Astilla	Department of Agriculture
Toni Marcel Rimando	Department of Agriculture
Willy Ruin	Department of Agriculture
PARO Cristeta Pacis	Department of Agrarian Reform
Lenie Tenorio	Department of Agrarian Reform
Eva Benita Tuzon	Department of Agrarian Reform
Valerie Silva	Department of Agrarian Reform
Monina M. Cunanan	Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Rita Flordeliz	Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources
Wilfredo de Perio	National Economic Development Authority
Katherine Firmeza	National Economic Development Authority
Rory Jay Dacumos	National Economic Development Authority
Prince C.T. Mamhot	House of Representatives

Development Partners

Fabrizio Bresciani	World Bank
Aristeo Portugal	Food and Agriculture Organization
Matthew Penot	EU Delegation
Romeo Acosta	ADB-INREM
Mary Ann Botengan	ADB-INREM

Civil Society Organizations

Lawyer Aison Sy Garcia	AR Now!/ SALIGAN
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