



WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

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

17 June 2010
(2 o'clock in the afternoon)

Conference Room
Office of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning
Department of Agriculture
Diliman, Quezon City

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was formally called to order by DA Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano and Dr. Walter Salzer, Co-Convenor of the Working Group at 2:50 in the afternoon.

The Co-Convenors acknowledged the members in regular attendance to the meetings of the Working Group (WG). 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 Approval of the Minutes of Regular Meeting held on March 18, 2010

The minutes of the regular meeting held on March 18, 2010 was conditionally approved and members were requested to send their comments to the Secretariat within one week for incorporation in the final documentation.

4.0 Update from the Co-convenors

The co-convenors informed the body on the 27 May 2010 informal meeting of the co-convenors of the parent WG and the sub-WGs in view of the perceived *lack of energy* by some members of the WG as well as within some sub-working groups, except the sub-WG on Agribusiness which regularly held meetings.

Dr. Salzer also pointed out the re-assignment of Mr. Ahsan Tayyab/ADB, co-convenor of the sub-WG on Upland Development and Mr. Gonzalo Serrano/AECID for the sub-WG on Agribusiness thereby leaving these two sub-WGs without co-convenors.

The co-convenors recognized the flexibility of each sub-WG in organizing themselves. Undersecretary Serrano suggested to review its current membership and invite other agencies/development partners whom they think could contribute in the policy discussions. He proposed that the selection of new co-convenors be decided upon by the sub-WGs.

It was agreed that if meetings are not convened or proved not to be fruitful within the next three (3) months, decisions will have to be made, such as change in leadership, dissolution of the concerned sub-WG or forming groups like task teams to deal with special topics or issues.

The convenors of the sub-WGs were requested to make a report by the next meeting regarding their decision on whether to resume discussions or close the sub-WGs.

Undersecretary Serrano also reminded the co-convenors to review the respective Work Programs of the sub-WGs developed during the 2009 Annual Meeting held in Tagaytay and identify what realistically could be done.

With the assumption of the new administration under President Aquino, Undersecretary Serrano encouraged the members from the government side to include the priority issues/topics being discussed in the WG on SRD in the transition reports that the agencies are preparing for the incoming secretaries, especially for DA, DAR and DENR.

Undersecretary Serrano requested Ms. Geron/WB to find out if there is any plan for a PDF meeting before the end of the year.

5.0 Updates from the WG/sub-WGs

5.1 Parent WG

Topic: *RD-related Policies*

Mr. Mamhot/CPBD confirmed the inclusion of the list of RD-related policies/laws for review (such as the NIPAS, IPRA, Mining Act) as well as new laws for enactment (such as the NaLUA) submitted by the secretariat in the on-going crafting of the legislative agenda for the 15th Congress.

Dr. Salzer informed the body of the GTZ support to DENR-PAWB regarding the review of the NIPAS law. The TOR for the study is currently being discussed with PAWB and Atty. Oposa. He believes that without getting rid of overlaps, there cannot be a good regulation of access to land. However, GTZ alone cannot support the overall review of the law, hence called for support from other members especially the development partners.

Fr. Lucas/ANGOC pointed out the necessity of reviewing other land-related laws in pursuing the crafting of the National Land Use bill.

Mr. Bresciani/WB cited that the Land Administration Framework developed under the LAMP Project could be an input in the review of land-related laws.

In recognition of the long and tedious process of legislative approval, Undersecretary Serrano suggested for the WG to adopt a more pragmatic approach, i.e. looking at *killer* provisions. In addition, he emphasized the need to craft a strategy for advocating the proposed policy changes.

Ms. Geron/WB proposed to present the results of LAMP 2 in the next meeting.

Topic: Climate Change

With the growing interest and support to climate change issues, Undersecretary Serrano asked the body whether the WG on SRD would still be the appropriate body to tackle the issue. He further inquired whether there is a need to establish a new WG considering that climate change issues affects a broader sector and not only RD agencies are involved but other agencies as well such as DOTC, DPWH, DOE.

Dr. Salzer/GTZ cited a previous meeting with donors/development partners and he felt the difficulty of coordinating support among themselves. He suggested GOP to lead the coordination efforts. Meanwhile, he proposed two options – Option 1 to establish a separate WG (although he expressed apprehension whether the main PDF would allow the creation of new WGs) and Option 2 to establish a Task Force on Climate Change to assist the Climate Change Commission (CCC) in coordination and harmonization of efforts. However, he recognized that NEDA has the same mandate as well.

Ms. Jolongbayan/NEDA shared the agreement made in Bonn regarding similar issues on coordination and harmonization, thus NEDA and CCC will have their meeting to thresh out these concerns and the roles these agencies. In the meantime, she proposed for the WG on SRD to expand its membership to address coordination work until such time that the CCC is fully organized.

Dr. Salzer/GTZ reminded everyone of the current issues being dealt with by the WG and including climate change issues would be too much to handle and the WG might lose focus on RD issues earlier agreed and prioritized.

Dir. Ferrer/DENR suggested for the WG on SRD to come up with a coordination mechanism with CCC.

Undersecretary Serrano indicated that the WG on SRD could serve as *incubator* for climate change issues but at the same time there is a need to review the specifications of the Climate Change Act, especially the role of CCC. Since he considers NEDA as the logical coordinator within the Philippine Government, he requested NEDA to convene a GOP dialogue within the next two weeks and report the results in the next meeting.

Topic: Results-based Management/Managing for Development Results (MfDR)

Ms. Jolongbayan/NEDA reported that the Capacity Assessment of agencies is already halfway to completion and results will be presented to the government and development partners by August 2010.. One highlight under the ADB-TA is the formulation of the

results framework for the RD sector which will already be used for MTPDP formulation and budgeting purposes, although it is not yet clear whether the chapters of the plan will be thematic or sectoral.

5.2 Sub-WG on Agribusiness

Mr. Agbon/DA-PADCC and Head, National Convergence Initiative Secretariat reported the continuing capacity development for regional Convergence Initiative on Agribusiness frontliners, especially on marketing and organizational aspects. The sub-WG is currently preparing the National Agribusiness Enhancement Program under the new administration. By next week, a workshop will be held to take stock of experiences and lessons learned, formulate strategies to intensify agribusiness as means for rural development among the convergence RD agencies and come up with a strategic plan for the medium-term.

Mr. Bresciani/WB suggested to consider the WB presentation to the CPBD as input to this workshop.

5.3 Sub-WG on Upland Development

Dir. Ferrer/DENR informed the body that the two programs in support of upland development – INREM (funded by ADB) and Pro-FORM (funded by JICA) are not yet implemented.

On the devolution of ENRM services in line with the Local Government Code and other relevant laws, Mr. Virtucio/WB inquired whether DENR plans to use their Environment and Natural Resources Project (ENRMP) as a platform to operationalize this policy. Ms. Geron/WB also cited the MRDP which mirrors what DA will do under a decentralized set-up. She further reminded DENR to look back at the lessons from ENR-SECAL funded by the World Bank.

In response, Dir. Ferrer/DENR dismissed the perception that DENR is re-centralizing. She further clarified that DENR may have to look at the role of the LGUs especially in terms of targeting the right beneficiaries.

Dr. Salzer asked whether these issues are discussed or is there optimal exchange of experiences among parallel projects in the sub-WG. Dir. Ferrer/DENR cited that the sub-WG has not met since 5 months, however within DENR, lessons from different projects have been incorporated in the design of new projects.

5.4 Sub-WG on Land Policies

Undersecretary Madueno/DAR presented the accomplishment of CARPER.

Mr. Bresciani/WB raised the issue on the 1.8 million hectares under collective CLOA which need to be subdivided for issuance of individual titles but not very well defined under CARPER law. He also suggested the need to come up with GIS maps to identify agricultural lands and improve cadastral mapping. DAR could benefit from the LAMP project experiences especially in computerization of maps could be used.

Regarding the subdivision of CLOA, Undersecretary Madueno/DAR informed the body that the ARBs are given the option to keep the CLOA or subdivide to individual ARBs. While the law provides that each ARB could receive as much as 3 hectares, Dr. Salzer expressed interest on information about land distribution according to sizes. According to Undersecretary Madueno, this could have been captured under the 2002 Census of Agriculture and promised to make a presentation in the next meeting.

With regard to Dr. Salzer's query on the how many people are already living/occupying forest lands, Dr. Lasco/ICRAF cited the statistics in mid-80s wherein the population was estimated to reach 20 million. Given this magnitude and the potential threat to the environment, Dr. Salzer suggested for the new administration to take a more realistic look on land issues - what is on the ground.

Thus, Undersecretary Madueno underscored the importance of passing the National Land Use Act in order to address conflicts in land-related policies. In addition, Mr. Bresciani/WB highlighted the following concerns relating to the discussions on the bill- 1. *How much land to set aside for food security?* 2. *How much irrigation support services would be needed?* and 3. *How to process land conversion in peri-urban areas?*

As there is no known plan for a forum on land issues, Dr. Salzer inquired whether the WG should plan something big about land laws by the end of the year. Undersecretary Serrano suggested a national debate. Ms. Jolongbayan/NEDA suggested for the sub-WG to coordinate with the National Land Use Secretariat on any plan.

5.5 Updates from the Task Team

- *Forum with the National Candidates*

Fr. Lucas/ANGOC reported on the successful completion of the series of forum with national candidates (Senatoriabes, Vice-Presidential candidates and Presidential candidates) dubbed as "*Kaunlaran sa Kanayunan, Dignidad ng Mamamayan*". For three successive Tuesdays in April 2010, about 600 representatives from the basic sectors including farmers, fisherfolks, indigenous people, rural youth and women, the government, private sector, church and the media attended the forum co-organized by ANGOC and the Catholic Media Network. Basic sector representatives raised their issues and positions of candidates on such issues were documented and affirmed by making them sign on the documentation report.

Four of the Presidential candidates participated (Richard Gordon, JC delos Reyes, Eddie Villanueva, Nicanor Perlas). Since president-elect Aquino did not participate in the forum, the issues raised were summarized and transmitted to him through Mr. Neric Acosta who was responsible for drafting the green agenda of the new administration. In the transmittal of such issues, Mr. Marquez/ANGOC as lead for this initiative, requested for an audience with the President. Unfortunately, the secretariat has not received a reply from Mr. Acosta on this regard.

- *Campaign for the Passage of the National Land Use Act*

Ms. Tolentino/ANGOC reported that the Task group has reviewed the 2008 unified bill provided by the NEDA-NLUC side by side with the other bills earlier filed in Congress in

order to come up with a *new version* . Upon completion of the draft of this *new version*, the co-convenors will be requested to transmit this version to the NEDA-NLUC Secretariat. Ms. Tolentino also informed the body that possible sponsors of the new bill are also being identified.

Undersecretary Serrano suggested to look at the timing for the filing of the new bill as it will compete with equally important bills such as Freedom of Information and the GAA process.

Fr. Lucas/ANGOC expressed the necessity for filing the bill within the first 100 days of the Aquino administration and amendments to be discussed later.

As to the work program and timetable, Ms. Tolentino/ANGOC informed the body that this is still being finalized with GTZ which so far has committed support to the undertaking. She also requested for more active participation of representatives from Government agencies in this undertaking.

6.0 Other Matters

6.1 PDF WG Policy Paper (For Updating)

The secretariat will circulate the WG Policy Paper and gather suggestions from members after one week and Ms. Jolongbayan/NEDA will make the refinements and present the updated version to the WG.

6.2 MTPDP Timeline (For Information)

6.3 Membership of the Sub-Working Groups (For Updating)

6.4 Announcements

- Members are requested to accomplish the Survey Forms Re: Client Satisfaction Survey on the Leadership and Facilitation of the PDF WG on SRD
- Invitation is extended to the Regional Consultation for Water Summit organized by the DA

7.0 Adjournment

Having no further issues to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 in the afternoon.

Prepared by:
Erlinda F. Dolatre
GTZ

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AGENDA

2:00pm	Call To Order	Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano Dr. Walter Salzer Co-Convenors
	Adoption of Agenda	
	Approval of the Minutes of Meeting (March 18, 2010)	
	Updates from the WG/sub-WGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate Change - Managing for Development Results (MfDR) • Sub-WG on Agribusiness • Sub-WG on Upland Development • Sub-WG on Land Policies 	Usec. Serrano/ Dr. Salzer NEDA Asst Director Lui Jolongbayan Mr. Marriz Agbon Dir. Lourdes Ferrer Usec. Madueno
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates from the WG Task Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forum with the National Candidates - Campaign for the Passage of the National Land Use Act 	Fr. Francis Lucas Maricel Tolentino
	Discussions	
	Other Matters	
	Adjournment	

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List of Participants

A. Government Partners

Usec. Segfredo Serrano, Co-convenor	DA
Ma. Leni Lebrilla	House of Representatives
Prince Mamhot	House of Representatives
Luisa Jolongbayan	NEDA
Nieva Natural	DA
Toni Marcel Rimando	DA
Fernando Flores	DA
Marriz Agbon	DA-PADCC
Benjamin Cuevas	DA-PADCC
Usec. Gerundio Madueno	DAR
Valerie Silva	DAR
Ruel Limbo	DAR
Ma. Lourdes Ferrer	DENR

B. Development Partners

Walter Salzer, Co-convenor	GTZ
Genaro Castro	FAO
Rodel Lasco	ICRAF
Fabrizio Bresciani	World Bank
Carolina Figueroa- Geron	World Bank
Felizardo Virtucio, Jr.	World Bank

C. Civil Society

Fr. Francis Lucas	ANGOC/CMN
Maricel Tolentino	ANGOC
Eugene Tecson	Centrosaka