

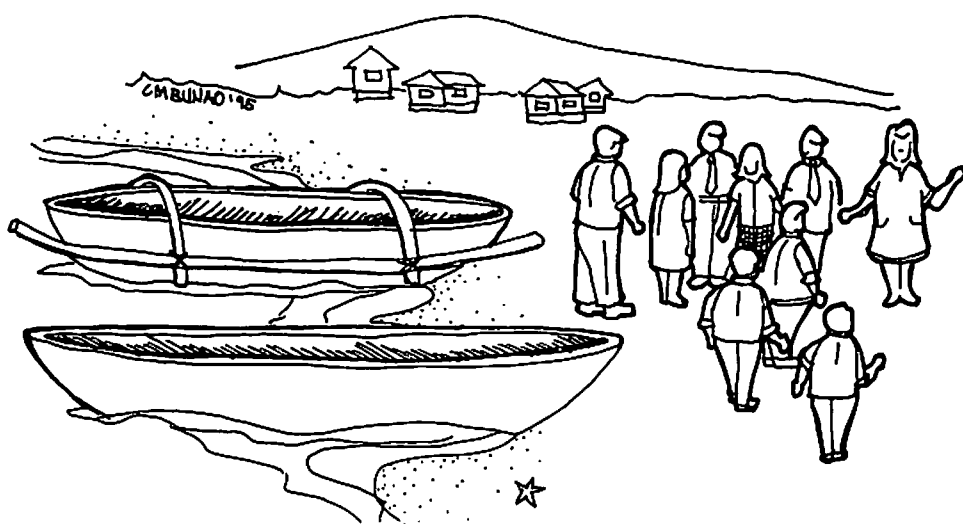
Collaborative Training Program in Coastal Management in the Philippines: a Local Initiative with a Global Perspective

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A collaborative project in developing a broad-based coastal management training program in the Philippines is being undertaken by a group of government and nongovernment agencies. It addresses the lack of expertise in planning and implementation for coastal management in the country. The process will be documented to serve as a guide in starting and maintaining the process of collaborative training in coastal management in the region. Other training initiatives are outlined including regional and global efforts.

The Philippine Initiative

Coastal zone management efforts in the Philippines date from the early 1980s when the National Environmental Protection Council initiated coastal zone planning. Subsequent coastal management activities in the country included those of the Silliman University, the ASEAN-US Coastal Resources Management Project (CRMP), the ASEAN-Australia Living Coastal Resources (LCR) project, the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development's (DOST-PCAMRD) National Research & Development programs, the Department of Agriculture's Fisheries Sector Program (DA-FSP), the Department of Environ-



ment and Natural Resources' Coastal Environmental Program (DENR-CEP), various nongovernment organizations' initiatives, and the International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC)-supported project on community-based coastal resources management of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UPMSI). These programs have been implemented with various degrees of failures and successes, and a measure of lessons learned.

The poor results of some of these programs' activities were attributed to the lack of expertise in planning and imple-

mentation for coastal management. This appears to be a common problem in most developing countries. Training seems to be the obvious solution but there are other factors, nontraining considerations such as the absence of common national goals and standards in the formulation and conduct of coastal management programs. The need for coastal management practitioners became acute with the launching of the DA-FSP in 1990 and the DENR-CEP in 1993. The implementation of the Philippine local government code which bestowed the responsibility of managing coastal resources on municipalities exacerbated the need. The local government units are not equipped for this new responsibility and the expanding activities brought by this development.

A group of government and nongovernment organizations addressed this issue in the project "Development of a broad-based coastal management training

program in the Philippines" (CMTP). This Rockefeller Brothers Fund-supported project is a collaboration among the DA's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, DENR, PCAMRD, the Haribon Foundation, the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction and ICLARM. The project will also involve the cooperation of academic institutions, other government organizations (GOs) and nongovernment organizations (NGOs).

The CMTP project's collaborative approach in training arises from the need for: 1) a coastal management framework that spells out common goals and standards in coastal management planning and implementation in the Philippines; 2) integration and consolidation of the experiences and lessons in coastal management in the Philippines; and 3) a way out of the present social and economic constraints in manpower development in coastal management.

The training program will develop a pool of coastal management practitioners in the Philippines from GOs, academe, NGOs and peoples' organizations, both at the national and local levels, who will work together in the formulation and implementation of an integrated coastal management plan for each region in the Philippines. The project aims to train participants to: a) be able to enumerate the basic concepts of integrated coastal management; b) acquire certain skills and knowledge in coastal area management planning and implementation; and c) define their role and the necessary skills and attitudes as effective coastal managers. These training objectives will be confirmed with a formal training needs analysis. The project also seeks to develop schemes for effective collaboration and regional networking in coastal management training;

and to have collaborating agencies agree on a curriculum and training development guidelines for succeeding coastal management courses.

The program design and curriculum will be developed incorporating recent approaches to coastal management such as combinations of regulatory and nonregulatory techniques, use of national and local approaches in varying scales, and participatory planning and implementation.

Initial training needs analysis points to the need for group-based validated training material, considering such factors as stability of topic content, number of individuals to be trained, desired trainee performance standards, scarcity of qualified resource persons, and need for implementation in various locations. Cost-sharing (e.g., transportation and daily subsistence allowance of participants, training venue) among the collaborators in the implementation of the validated training package is another feature of this collaboration.

Regional and Global Initiatives

One of the ASEAN-US CRMP's goals was to increase existing capabilities within the ASEAN region to develop and implement integrated coastal management strategies through its training programs. These programs included short-term training courses, medium-term academic training and technical seminars-workshops throughout the life of the project. Its national coordinating agency in the Philippines, PCAMRD, pursued this goal by conducting municipal coastal resources management training-workshops and trainers-training in broad-based coastal management, based on the training module developed by the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center (URI-CRC).

The URI-CRC's summer institutes in coastal management conducted since 1991 drew on the experience gained by the Center's work in the US and elsewhere. Short-term training courses on special area management conducted in the Prince of Songkla University's Coastal Resources Institute, Thailand, and at Silliman University, Philippines, focused on coral reefs. Participants from these international training courses included potential coastal man-

agers from a wide variety of organizations. Though initially a minority among those active in coastal management, NGOs have increased needs for coastal management practitioners as community development has broadened to include resource management. In-house training courses were also conducted by these NGOs, drawing on the expertise of those earlier trained under the ASEAN-US CRMP, URI-CRC and PCAMRD training programs.

NGOs in particular use environmental education as a tool in community development in coastal areas. Training in environmental education is a gap addressed in a recent workshop conducted by the Haribon Foundation. The workshop identified areas of significant capability in environmental education for sharing of strategies and frameworks in order to fill the needs and gaps in actions and policies in coastal areas of the region.


ICLARM will set up for the CMTP project an informal network of institutions involved in coastal management training in Southeast Asia. It may become a node of the UN's Train-Sea-Coast Programme which, among other objectives, aims to facilitate, through a cooperative network between developed and developing countries, the exchange of standardized materials, information and instructors for optimum worldwide use. The CMTP network will keep track of national and international developments in training and develop a scheme of exchange and referral in the Southeast Asian region. The output of this component will be a how-to manual in starting and maintaining the process of collaborative training in coastal management.

The Asian Fisheries Social Science Research Network (AFSSRN) established in 1983 addresses the need to enhance national social science research capabilities in various fields including coastal resource management in Asia. The Network is conducting short courses in introduction and practical application of research methodologies appropriate for multidisciplinary social science research on fisheries, coastal resource management and aquaculture.

The Australian International Development Assistance Bureau-sponsored Tropical Marine Ecosystem Project (TROMES) complements the efforts of AFSSRN.

TROMES provides training for managers of coastal and marine resource areas in management techniques for ecologically sustainable development of coastal and marine resources and provides a link between managers and marine scientists. It builds on the expertise developed under the ASEAN-Australia LCR project which trained scientists to assess coastal ecosystems. The TROMES training has been conducted in Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines.

The UNDP-assisted Regional Programme for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in the East Asian Seas executed by the International Maritime Organization will also undertake capacity building as a strategy. It will conduct regional short-term and self-sustaining training courses on marine pollution prevention and management in the context of integrated coastal management.

The CMTP network would like to disseminate information on these training activities and other organizations' efforts to various organizations with identified training needs. Development, exchange and adaptation of standardized training packages could be facilitated through Train-Sea-Coast. Train-Sea-Coast promotes development of training courses which are trainee-sensitive or learner-centered. This overall guiding principle makes course development for any training or public education program truly responsive to the 1992 UNCED call for enhanced human resources development. Common understanding of coastal resources and issues among those directly affected by management initiatives is the minimum success indicator in training on coastal management. It is a prerequisite to establishing consensus in managing rapidly expanding human demand for fish and other resources on the earth's limited coastal ecosystems. Collaboration in training for greater effectiveness and efficiency in terms of time, funds and other resources is expected to fast-track the process. 

ICLARM Contribution No. 1133.

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