

ACTIVITY REPORT
Project Management and Implementing Team Meeting
La Union Technology and Livelihood Training Center, San Fernando City, La Union
Dec. 05, 2014

I. PROCEEDINGS

Opening prayer followed by the introduction of the JVOFI staff, a presentation of the project's current status, a discussion of its various issues and a focused group discussion among the representatives of LGUs and Government agencies present.

II. DISCUSSIONS AND AGREEMENTS

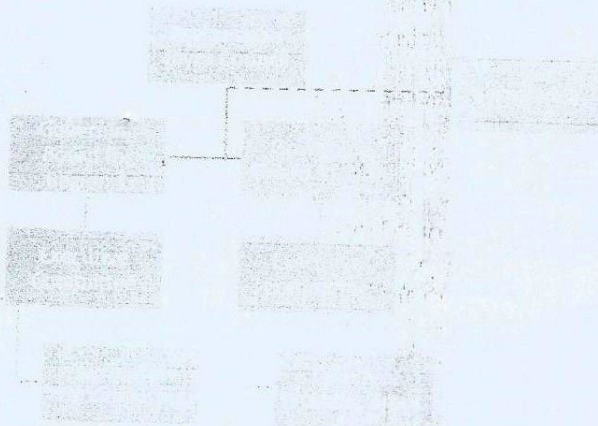
1. Identified beneficial uses and threats to the Amburayan River and Watershed
 - Aside from those identified by JVOFI, LGUs offered the following threats and benefits:
 - Bangar – include sand and gravel extraction,
 - Sudipen – include sand and gravel extraction
 - Bakun – include ecotourism, sand and gravel extraction
 - Kibungan – include sand and gravel extraction and ecotourism
 - Atok – include fishing and ecotourism
 - Kapangan – include sand and gravel extraction
 - In terms of siltation as an identified threat, participants would like to distinguish natural siltation from anthropogenic siltation.
 - EMB-Region 1 also stepped in to clarify the use of the term 'mining' and 'quarrying'. Mining refers to the extraction of metals while quarrying refers to the extraction of non-metallic materials like gravel.
 - Another possible threat raised was an abandoned Sto. Nino Mines tailings pond in Tublay, Benguet.
2. Delineation of watershed areas needs to be prioritized to identify barangays which are included in the project.
 - DENR – Region 1 has already delineated areas covered by the Amburayan, they have also advised JVOFI to include Brgy. Luna in La Union as a project area.
 - PENRO Cuanso has already provided data for project areas in Benguet but insists that this needs ground validation.
 - Data of land areas from different offices vary, participants have suggested that everyone follow the data provided or validated by DENR
3. Identify specific activities of the project (especially for 2016) so that it can be included in the municipal plans of areas involved.
4. Engr. Remedios Jimenez of EMB Region 1 outlined the following steps in the process of WQMA designation:
 - a) Provide a comprehensive map delineating areas covered (up to the barangay level) by the Amburayan river (including its watersheds and tributaries).
 - b) In the covered areas, gather information about: the number of households in each barangay, number of households along the river, potential sources of pollution (waste disposal, piggeries that drain into river and others)



- c) Identify sampling stations for water quality testing. Determine water quality
- d) From the information gathered (water quality, threats to the river, sources of pollution), identify what the LGUs and Government Agencies can do for recognized problems of the river and its watersheds. A monthly stakeholders meeting is usually conducted for the presentation of data and issues.
- e) Gather documents that attest to the LGU's support for the WQMA designation (resolutions from LGUs)
- f) Public consultation
- g) Submission of 10 month water quality testing data, documents, profiles and other information gathered
- h) Approval
- i) Designation of Amburayan River as a Water quality Management Area by the secretary of the DENR
- j) Formal meeting of stakeholders to designate Amburayan River Council, governing board and technical working groups.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A focused group discussion of representatives from government agencies resulted in the following proposed structure for the management of the Amburayan River



- Roles and functions of each group have to be further specified
 - A ratio of 5 : 2 : 2 is usually followed for the creation of a council and governing board (5 from the LGU; 2 from NGOs; 2 from other sectors like business and academe)
2. The following are to be considered in choosing water quality sampling areas:
 - Sampling stations should be distributed in upstream and downstream areas
 - Prioritize: areas where major tributaries converge, areas where activities (fishing, agriculture, quarrying) are heavy, areas where a significant number of households live near or on the riverbank
 - Sampling stations should be safe and accessible (their distance to laboratory facilities considered).

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IV: PLANNING RESULT:

ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME	POINT PERSON
1) FINALIZE MAPS Delineation of watershed (that drain into the Amburayan) boundaries And identify tributary creeks and springs	DEC. 15, 2014 DEC. 15, 2014 JAN. 15, 2015	*La Union doesn't have shape files per barangay *Bangar doesn't have the ability to do thi *Benguet: DONE (get documentation) *shape files for La Union: SIR TONY (PENRO La Union) *shape files for Ilocos Sur: PENRO Delineated per barangay for both Ilocos S and La Union
2) IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES (pending: complete and proper documentation of identified issues)	JAN. 30, 2015	JVOFI STAFF
3) CREATION OF LGU TASK FORCE	NLT JAN. 15, 2015	*for La Union (DONE) *for Benguet *Ilocos Sur (DONE)
4) IDENTIFICATION OF SAMPLING STATIONS (10 stations; locations?)	NLT DEC. 16, 2014 NLT DEC. 16, 2014	*for Benguet (with Sir Raul Cubangay) *for Region 1
5) 1st STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING (present issues, documentation, findings, baseline info, etc.)	FEB. 20, 2015	Stakeholders (tentative venue: VIGAN!)
6) STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING	April 16-17, 2015	(Tentative venue: Kapangan)
7) STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING	June 24-25, 2015	

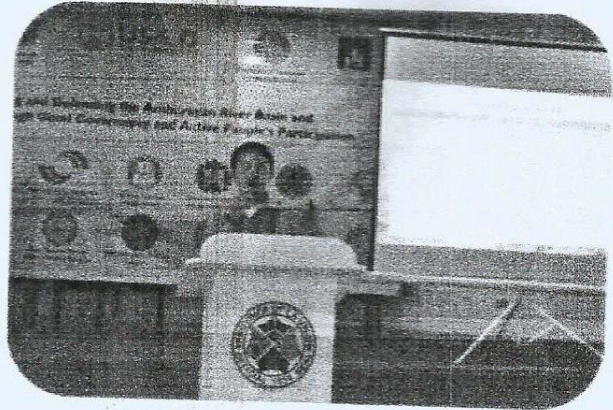
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IV. PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



La Union Provincial Administrator, Dr. Geoffrey S. Tillan giving the opening address and welcoming partners from Region 1 and CAR.



Community Development Coordinator for La Union, Karl D. Alangui, providing a brief project orientation.



Project Officer for Benguet, Corazon P. Sajonas, providing the current status of the project including accomplished activities and data gathered.



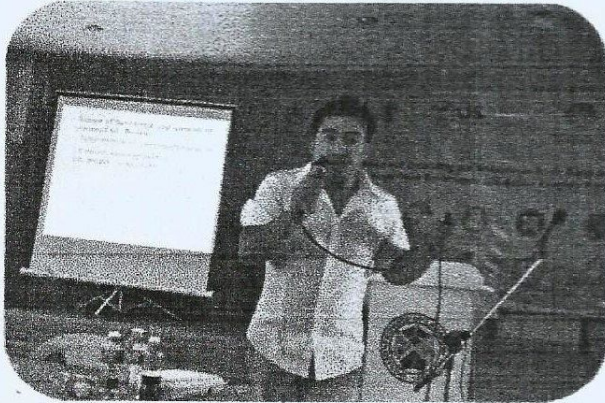
Program Manager, Rhoda Fe D. Buenavista, facilitating the discussion of the project's issues and concerns.



Group discussion of LGU representatives from Region 1 and Benguet.



Group discussion of representatives from various Government Agencies and members of the Academe in Region 1 and Benguet.



Representative of the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office of Tublay, Abner Lawagan, presenting discussions and issues raised by the LGUs.



Engr. Remedios Jimenez presenting agreements and recommendations given by the government agencies present.



Participants of the Project Management Team Meeting for "Protecting and Defending the Amburayan River Basin through Good Governance and Active People's Participation" held in San Fernando, La Union on December 5, 2014.

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DEC 18 2014