

Local CRMNet Building in Palawan Kicks-off

Preparations for the formation of a local Coastal Resources Management Network (CRMNet) in Palawan kicked-off with an Orientation and a Participatory Research, Monitoring & Evaluation (PME) Workshop last December 14, 2000. Held in Puerto Princesa City, the Orientation-Workshop is in line with the CRM network's objective of monitoring the multitude of CRM projects in the country.

Atty. Gerthie Mayo-Anda, CRMNet Vice President for Palawan and Assistant Executive Director of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC), briefed the participants on the background and nature of the CRMNet and its relevance to the ongoing CRM efforts in Palawan. This was followed by an open discussion on issues and courses of actions that may be taken.

After the break, Prof. Elmer Ferrer shared an input on the Historical Perspective of CBCRM in the Philippines giving emphasis on the Thrusts of Fisheries Programs, Scope and Timing, Amount of Funding and the different Approaches, Principles and Components across time.

Another lecture, this time on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) concepts and issues, was conducted in the afternoon with Ms. Rebecca Rivera-Guieb, fellow of the Resource Pool's PM&E cluster as discussant. The PM&E workshop proper immediately followed Ms. Guieb's lecture. (See related story in box).

The Orientation and PM&E Workshop was sponsored by the CBCRM Resource Center and co-sponsored by the Palawan Network of NGOs (PNNI), Inc. It was attended by 35 participants from non-government organizations, bilateral projects, local government units and the academe.

Palawan CRM Orgs to conduct M&E to remain responsive to fishers' needs

by: Nora "Bing" O. Gamolo

In the early 1990's, diverse groups involved in development work- government, non-government groups, national and international bodies, universities and research institutions- began addressing the coastal resource depletion and environmental degradation.

Many programs and projects became participatory in their approach, emphasizing the need to organize the fisherfolk to manage their coastal resources. With community organizing, these programs and projects became known as "community-based coastal resources management (CBCRM)", as opposed to the purely resource conservation tack practiced during the 1970s when programs of similar nature were first initiated.

In Palawan, the site of numerous environment and coastal resource management projects, a workshop was conducted on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (P&ME) to ensure that their respective organizations remain responsive to the needs of the fisherfolk in their communities. The participants are leaders of Palawan-based CRM projects that have developed differently. Each has different objectives, and therefore, has different components. Each has targeted different sectors as partners, and is being implemented in different parts of the island.

The differences in objectives and approaches within the participating organizations led to the surfacing and processing of several views on P&ME which the participants believed could help them open windows towards more socially responsive implementation of projects done in the name of the people.

(Ms. Gamolo is with the FRMP-IEC component and acts as the chairperson of the Communications Committee of the CRM Network. This article is an excerpt from the one she wrote for Sagip-Dagat, the official newsletter of FRMP)

Palawan Workshop Shows Timeliness of CRM Monitoring & Evaluation

Participants of the Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) Workshop held in Puerto Princesa, Palawan agreed that it's time for their programs to go through a process of P&ME.

"Is it timely to conduct a P&ME? Yes it is. In fact it's long overdue! ", one workshop group reports. "It's time for a PME for us to identify the strengths and weaknesses of CRM projects in the province". Other groups reasoned out that since some projects are in their terminal phase, a PM&E is very opportune. A P&ME could also be a step towards finding out whether CBCRM really works or not.

As a consequence, the participants identified the need for more training on PM&E to enable themselves to monitor their respective programs and eventually other programs as well.

The P&ME Workshop was a preliminary activity towards the creation of a local CRM Network in Palawan. It was held last December 14, 2000 and was attended by CRM practitioners from the member organizations of Palawan NGO Network Inc. (PNNI), Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), Office of the City Agriculturist (OCA), SPCP-ASTI and people's organizations like HOBBAI and LAMMBAT.



(Standing) Myrna Rosco, president of the Honda Bay Boatmen Association (HOBBAI), points out some issues on coastal resources management that may need to be addressed by the local CRM Network. Seated participants are members of the Palawan NGO Network (PNNI).

Learning & Knowledge Management in CBCRM

Knowledge will be the most critical asset of any nation and in the realm of CBCRM, there is a growing need to re-create and disseminate the lessons reaped from more than three decades of its implementation to a much wider audience.

With this in mind, the CBCRM Resource Center sponsored a sharing on Learning and Knowledge Management last December 01, 2000 at the Balay Kalinaw in UP Diliman. In attendance were members of the Resource Pool and the CRM Network. Main discussant was Mr. Roger Ricafort, Coordinator for Learning of Oxfam Hongkong.



Learning and knowledge management involves bringing different strands of information together, effectively learning from the end-product, using whatever it tells, and sharing it with whoever may benefit from it. It is a creative facilitation of both formal and informal generation of knowledge and the skillful and timely deployment of this "intellectual capital".



The sharing was also meant to enrich the theorizing work of the Resource Center in general and the resource pool in particular. It was suggested that knowledge creation (i.e. actual research) need not be the primary task of the Resource Center and instead, it could function as Knowledge Entrepreneur who would coordinate learning activities and learning skills enhancement among CBCRM practitioners. This sprung from the fact that there exists a rich learning and knowledge base among practitioners just waiting to be disseminated.



(Fourth from left) Ms. Lorna Victoria of the Center for Disaster Preparedness and Resource Pool Fellow of the Disaster Management Cluster raises a point during the Sharing on Learning & Knowledge Management. Seated from left are Ted Jacinto of Tambuyog, Bimboy Peñaranda of SNV, Niva Gonzales of SIBP- PAWB, Lorna Victoria (CDP), Leila Peralta (USAID), Thelma Magcuro (CSWCD), Florangel Braid (FRMP) and Vanessa Gordovez (Hayuma). Behind is Bing Gamolo (FRMP)

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New Acquisitions for 2000

Video/ VCD Title

(VHS) Questions of Difference: PRA, gender and environment by IIED (2 hours 15 minutes) 19995

(VHS) Three Simple Questions - Learning to change video series by Transform

(VCD) Humanity Development Library: For sustainable development and basic human needs by Humanity CD Ltd and Participating Organizations (1996)

BOOKS

Agriculture and Food

Improving Food Security: A Guide for rural development managers (1995)
by Michael Hubbard

Sustainable Rural Development – Starting from a critical review of conventional approaches (1998)
by Andrew Shepherd

Agroecology: The science of sustainable agriculture, 2nd ed. (1998)
By Miguel Altieri

Beyond Farmer First (2000)
edited by Ian Scoones and John Thompson

Farmers' Research in Practice - Lessons from the field (1997)
edited by Veldhuizen, et al.

Food for thought: Ancient visions and new experiments of rural people (1999)
edited by Bertus Haverkort and Wim Hiemstra

Livestock in Poverty-focused Development (1999)
by Steve Ashley, et al.

Practical Food Smoking: a comprehensive guide (1995)
by Kate Walker

Small-scale Food processing (1997)
edited by Peter Fellows and Ann Hampton

Nature is Culture: Indigenous knowledge and socio-cultural aspects of trees and forests in non-European cultures (1997)
edited by Klaus Seeland



Roger Ricafort gives input on Learning and Knowledge Management. Seated from left are the CBCRM RC staff and Becky Rivera, fellow of the PM&E cluster of the Resource Pool.