



Flor Barangan of the Coastal Environmental Project -DENR discusses a point during the FGD. Seated from left are: S. Cruz of NEDA, B. Magat of CEP-DENR, F. Barangan of CEP-DENR and C. Courtney of CRMP-DENR.

Shifts in Donor Policies Result to Larger and Broader CBCRM

CBCRM is basically an NGO initiative but because of the shifts in the policies and strategies of donor agencies and government rural development programs, it has taken a larger and broader face.

So goes an observation, which was presented during the Focused Group Discussion (FGD) on Government Bilateral/ Multilateral and Donor-Assisted CBCRM Programs last July 16. The FGD is first in a series of discussions in relation to an ongoing Review on CBCRM that is being undertaken by the CBCRM RC.

Based on the results of the review of literature on the various CBCRM/ ICM projects, it was also observed

that although the practices and processes have evolved into a viable resource management/ conservation tool, it has yet to fully mature into an empowerment/ social equity approach. One controversial finding was that of CBCRM not guaranteeing a “win-win” solution for all stakeholders because in the process, it limits certain rights and access to resources of other resource users.

The presentation started off with the profile of the Central Visayas Regional Project (CVRP) of the World Bank in 1984 to the more recent Coastal Resources Management Project (CRMP) of USAID and Fisheries Resources Management Project (FRMP) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Among the data presented were the projects’ background information, objectives and highlights, reported impacts and project appreciation of the lessons learned. One of the research team leaders, Mr. Elmer Mercado, presented the research results.

Around thirty-five (35) participants from USAID, CRMP-DENR, BFAR, CEP-DENR, and Bondoc Peninsula Project attended. It was sponsored by the CBCRM Resource Center with support from the FORD Foundation.

*The CBCRM research, formally called **State of the Field: CBNRM Projects in the Philippines** is part of a larger review of **Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) initiatives in the country. It aims to:***

- *identify and characterize reported strengths and constraints of CBCRM approaches as practiced in the Philippines;*
- *create a publicly accessible and comprehensive collection of CBCRM materials; and*
- *identify new issues, needs and modes of inquiry for further research.*

Other areas of this ongoing study are forestry and irrigation.

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Center Sponsors back2back Discussions

July 11, 2000. As part of its contingent learning towards the furtherance of CBCRM theories and practices, a back to back sharing was held at the CSWCD Conference Room, UP Diliman. The first topic was on the results of a masteral thesis on CBCRM in the Philippines and the other was on the outcome of a Conference of Gender, Globalization and the Fisheries in Canada last May.

Presenters were Jennifer Graham of the Coastal Resource Research Network (CoRR) for the first part, and Prof. Linnea "Ging" Tanchuling from the College of Social Work and Community Development (CSWCD), UP Diliman for the second.

CBCRM: An Evolving Dynamic

In her 1998 graduate work entitled *An Evolving Dynamic: Community Participation in Community-Based Resource Management in the Philippines*, Ms. Graham attests that there is a multiplicity of factors affecting the participation in a community. She observed that kinship, economic security, social standing and gender matter in mobilizing community residents in the activities and in the general implementation of CBCRM projects.

The discussion, however, centered more on the developments of CBCRM in the Philippines from the time the thesis was written to the situation at present. Change was particularly true with regards to the hot issues underneath the CBCRM framework.

Two years ago, the major issues in CBCRM were more on defining community, participation, dynamics and equity. There was also the question of scaling up CBCRM (applying the model to a larger context and not only to specific sites). During that time, the challenge of building-up a collection of international CBCRM case studies was considered a priority.

Today, the major concern is the assessment of CBCRM's real and lasting impacts in the community. Is CBCRM really improving the lives of the people it professes to help? Another is the need to build not just a collection of cases but to establish a learning network that will systematically manage all information on CBCRM.

Itching to react to the articles you've just read?

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Women's group challenges CB(C)RM commitment to gender

" Is CB(C)RM promoting a truly gender sensitive society or does it only add up to women's multiple-burdened lives? "

A statement coming from a Yucatan delegate in a Conference on Gender, Globalization and Fisheries last May, claims that CB(C) RM **only uses women's labor to make resources sustainable and does not empower her** because in the end, the question of benefits still remain. Does she earn from the efforts she puts into the management of resources or is it still the capitalist who catches the big fish?

In resource management programs, women are often part of the protection of mangroves and fish sanctuaries but their efforts are not translated into an empowered position in the household and sometimes even in the community. So is CB (C) RM for the women too, or has it treated her unfairly?

And if technological inputs purport to make lives easier, some women experiences testify that it has resulted otherwise. In other countries, technology further imprisons fisherwomen because stricter quotas are enforced without consideration to her other concerns. An example of a Canadian woman's license being revoked because she was not able to fish for several days was cited. It was later found out that her absence was due to her sick child who needed her attention.

In the ensuing open forum, Prof. Tanchuling surmised that the flaw must have been in the design of the program. The question of gender equity should have been clear from the start of the project and not during its implementation only.

She further stated that in a global perspective, one would realize that the gender and fisheries problem is more complicated. Therefore one would rethink whether CBCRM is a sufficient enough solution to address these complexities.

A participant then rejoined that although CBCRM may not be the one, singular answer to the plight of gender and fisheries in the global context, it can still be a step towards this.