Mainstreaming Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Development and Land Use Plans

UN-HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

MDG ACHIEVEMENT FUND

Informal settlements along the Sorsogon's coast

Urban congestion in the city center

Road flooding in Sorsogon City

CHALLENGE:
Climate Change Adaptation in Cities Necessitates Re-assessment of the Development and Land Use Plans

Poor urban management leads to problems of environmental degradation, traffic congestion, unplanned built up areas, deterioration of basic services provision, imbalance between open space and built up space, and improper distribution of land uses.

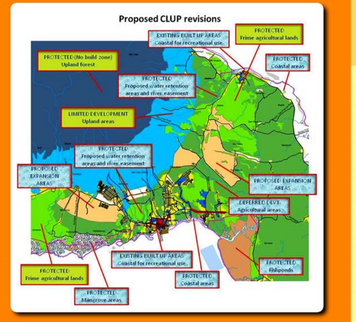
Sorsogon City's role as a center of commerce, education and administration in Sorsogon Province attracted migrants, making the city one of the most populous area in the Bicol region. Sorsogon City's built up areas are concentrated near the coasts. Today, 37 out of 64 barangays in the city are coastal. However, the areas for settlements, commerce and agriculture are threatened to be damaged by floods or coastal inundation due to the city's high vulnerability to climate change factors such as increased precipitation, strong typhoons and sea level rise.

These phenomena and considerations were not integrared in the old statutory plans of the city. Sorsogon City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), which is the detailed sectoral development plan of action, have not considered climate change issues, risks and challenges. Revisiting and enhancing these local plans will enable the city to cope with the pressures of urbanization and disasters intensified by climate change.

RESPONSE:
Revisions of CLUP and CDP Towards Climate Change Sensitivity

Sorsogon City, the pilot area for the Cities and Climate Change Initiative of UN-Habitat, reviewed and enhanced its CLUP and CDP to strategize and address its issues on loss of land due to coastal inundation and erosion of soils along the river banks. Proper siting of residential, commercial and other spaces for services or utilities as well as the reformulation of the spatial and development plans can create a safer and livable Sorsogon City.

Recognizing the importance of updating the CLUP and CDP, various representatives of the Sorsogon City Government, national government agencies, private sector, members of the academe and professional groups, Non-Government Organizations, and community representatives, underwent a series of workshops and coaching sessions with the support of UN-Habitat. They assessed the existing plans, integrated the vulnerability and adaptation assessment results and decided together on the strategies that will address land use related issues. Outputs of the activities included proposed spatial strategies, proposed programs for area and sectoral development, and recommended amendments for zoning ordinances.



Sensitizing the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) to Climate Change

CLUP/CDP PROCESSES	INTEGRATED RISK SENSITIVITY PROCESSES
Orientation and Data Gathering	Get overview of CLUP/CDP and climate change impacts Assess hazards, vulnerability, capacities, emergency response and management
Situational Analysis and Sectoral Studies	Identify levels of risks and capacities per area/sector
Objectives and goals setting	Review and set vision, goals and objectives integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives
Update long term and short term plans	Assess and update thematic maps and 15-year CLUP and 15-year CDP incorporating climate change risk and adaptation plans
	Assess and update medium term (6-year) CDP and 3-year Executive-Legislative Agenda

What's Different?

What makes CLUP/CDP formulation climate change sensitive is the inclusion of different processes and tools of risk sensitive planning in the different stages of data gathering, analysis, objectives setting and formulation.

Climate and Disaster Risks of the city are used early on in the CLUP process and the issues related to them are addressed in the objectives and goals setting, spatial planning and development strategies.

People's Participation in the CLUP/CDP Review

The review and reformulation processes involved the active participation of different government and private stakeholders representing the various sectors of society instead of contracting the reformulation of the entire plans solely to external experts. Participants coming from specific city departments, national government agencies and NGOs were assigned to corresponding sector working groups such as social, economic, infrastructure, institutional and environmental sectors. This method built the stakeholders' sense of ownership of the plans and reflected the actual situation and vision of Sorsogon City residents. Land use plans (CLUP) and city development plans (CDP) became acceptable, comprehensive and suitable to the city's needs.

The City Planning Development Office functioned as the Secretariat and Main Project Coordinator. The Climate Change Technical Working Group oversaw the implementation of the project. Sectoral groups helped in collecting and validating information, discussing land use issues and strategies/plans, reported to the entire working group and integrated feedback in their plans.

CONSIDERATIONS IN SPATIAL STRATEGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE RISK PLANNING

Specific parameters are considered in strategizing for spatial allocations and risk reduction. Some of these are:

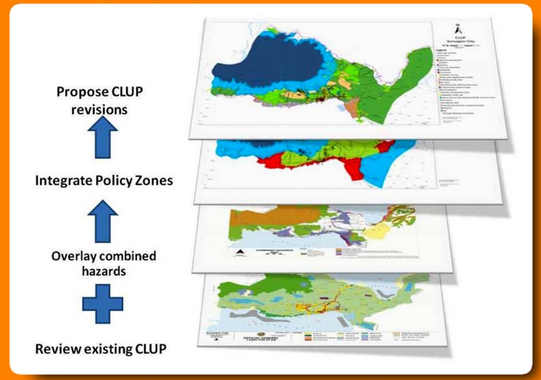
- Protection of existing developments
- Relocation of existing living and production areas to safer grounds
- Siting future developments to safer areas
- Protection of prime agricultural lands
- Application of mitigation and adaptation measure for areas in hazard zones
- Protection and enhancement of environmental assets

Spatial strategies are complemented by development strategies through:

- Formulation of development controls such as zoning ordinances
- Formation of housing assistance or relocation assistance
- Construction, improvements and maintenance of infrastructures and basic service utilities
- Environmental protection
- Emergency management
- Economic development

The participatory workshop: Interface between CLUP, CDP and Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sorsogon City on September 19-20, 2010

Sorsogon City Comprehensive Land Use Plan Enhancement



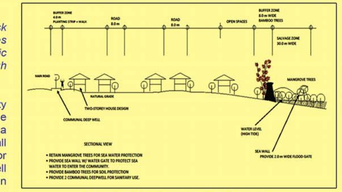
The process of developing the CLUP map composed of overlaying different thematic maps

CLUP and CDP Reformulation in Sorsogon City

Sorsogon City stakeholders envision their city as:

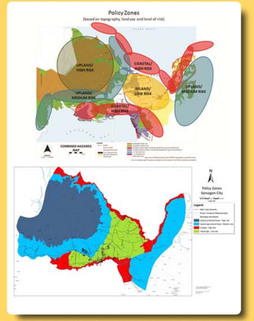
"A model city in climate change and disaster risk resiliency with a contented, empowered and values oriented society that pursues socio-economic development within the limits of nature through genuine commitment to good governance".

Using the updated land use plans, the city government has started to convert one of the identified low risk urban expansion areas as a magnet for development by building the new cityhall pn an inland site, alloting safe settlement sites for coastal settlers and government employees as well as encouraging business companies to invest within the vicinity.



Sample of Settlements Development

Multi-Sectoral Focus Group Discussions



The 2 Policy Zone maps of Sorsogon City show the levels of risks for the entire city

Planning Process Outputs

Through the participatory local land use and development planning processes, the working groups composed of diversified stakeholders from the city were able to produce thematic maps, recommendations for the amendment of zoning ordinances and proposed legislation for medium and high risk areas. Zoning proposals included:

- protection and expansion of green spaces
- conversion of hazardous areas to agricultural land use
- protection of waterways
- restrictions in housing density
- identification of lands for investments
- identification of areas for master planning

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For more information contact:

UN-HABITAT Philippines
31/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue
1229 Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No.: (632) 901 0431 and (632) 901 0432
Website: www.unhabitat.org.ph