

Focus Group Discussions Conducted for the Assessment of the Typologies of Land Conflict and Applicable Grievance Mechanism



The Rule of Law in Mindanao (ROLMIN) project conducted series of focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs) with partner government agencies, LGUs, and communities in the Mount Apo Natural Park (MANP) area from September 11 to 21. These field activities aimed to assess conflict typologies and alternative grievance and dispute resolution mechanisms (ADRs), contributing to the project's objective of improving preconditions for gender-responsive and culture-sensitive ADR implementation. Women, Indigenous Political Structure leaders, and Barangay Lupon members from ROLMIN pilot barangays in Davao del Sur (Managa and Alegre in Bansalan; Sibulan and Sinoron in Sta. Cruz and Kapatagan and Binaton in Digos City) and Davao City (Sibulan and Daliaon Plantation) were invited as participants to share their experiences and perspectives. Partner agencies, including the DENR, NCIP, and DILG, who play crucial roles in land administration and management in the MANP, also shared information and expert views.



The field-based assessment yielded findings regarding the range of land and resource conflicts in MANP, applicable

ADRs, implementation challenges, and the status of women's rights, representation, and access to resources. It also facilitated exchanges on how women can be better supported in attaining advances over their rights, representation, and resources through more responsive ADR implementation. While not intended as project intervention activities, the discussions also provided opportunities for women and other community and government stakeholders to reflect about their own circumstances and consider possible solutions within their respective spheres of influence. For example, women were able to consider how, in general, land inheritance rules or customs impact men and women differently, how expressions of power and influence vary between genders, and what potential ways exist for achieving more balanced land and resource ownership, access, and control that can be initiated within their home and family environments, as well as outside. Duty-bearers had insights about how service delivery and coordination among authorities can be improved.

Capacity Development Assessment Workshop conducted for the Mt. Apo Natural Park PAMB Members



A capacity development assessment workshop was conducted from 26-27 September at the Big 8 Corporate Hotel in Digos City for the members of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP). The purpose of this workshop was to identify the capacity needs of PAMB as an organization to function effectively as the highest governing body of Mt. Apo Natural Park. During this 2-day activity, participants enumerated the capacity needs of PAMB, ranging from managing meetings to benchmarking other protected areas in the Philippines and abroad. Among the identified capacity needs were basic parliamentary procedures, DOJ-accredited Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), paralegal training, and conflict resolution training, to name a few.

One of the issues discussed during the workshop, considering the project's scope of intervention, was the non-inclusion of Region 12. This concern was noted and responded to with an agreement that PAMB members from Region 12, can always participate in any capacity-building measures of the program. Recognizing the value of the activity, the Protected Area Management Office (PAMO), an office under the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), also requested a capacity development intervention, emphasizing their role as the "frontline" and their need for retooling and training, particularly in conflict resolution.

ROLMIN UPDATES

PROMOTION OF THE RULE OF LAW IN MINDANAO

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Results-based monitoring for the Rule of Law in Mindanao (ROLMIN) project is now up and running!

The results-based monitoring system for the ROLMIN project has already been set up. The system primarily aims to track progress and significant milestones for each output and results indicator. It also provides an overview of risks and possible challenges in attaining the specific indicator, which may serve as a signal to consider alternative solutions when necessary. There were many digital tools available



on the web for setting up the project's monitoring system, but the programme has decided to use the existing platform of GIZ, which is the GIZ – Results based monitor.

All the outputs and result indicators in the approved log frame have now been successfully integrated into the system. Anyone with access may update the data accordingly or provide more information on the indicator assigned to them. This system not only intends to highlight the well-intentioned efforts of the project, but also ultimately serves as another data-driven approach to measure the results.

Any questions or support needed regarding the monitoring system can be directed to the programme's M&E advisor. Above is a screenshot of how the monitoring system looks like, which can be also access through this link: <https://www.giz.de/wirkungsmonitor/overview.action?projectid=102602>

Face-to-Face meeting with DENR-LMB to discuss comments of NEDA

On Wednesday, 27 September, ROLMIN Principal Advisor, Christina Rentzmann and ROLMIN Intern, Anna Saatberger participated in a meeting with Director Emelyne V. Talabis, Atty. Marlou P. Alutaya, Conrado A. Bravante, and other representatives of FASPS, LMB, and DENR Region 11 in order to facilitate the review and revision of the project documents in view of the comments and/or recommendations of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) at the Penthouse of Land Management Bureau in Quezon City. In this regard, this face-to-face meeting was also used to discuss further matters of the implementation of ROLMIN.

Exploratory meeting with ANGOC and KAISAHAN

An online exploratory meeting with the civil society organizations Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) and KAISAHAN was conducted last 19 September to discuss potential collaboration for the implementation of the ROLMIN programme. Given the organizations' reach and network, the programme explored the possibility of engaging with the organizations in the areas of capacity development and advocacy communications. Some of the points raised during the meeting were the paralegal training for women and youth conducted by KAISAHAN, the policy briefs and knowledge products that can be reprinted by the programme, the availability of gender-specific manuals on the Philippine Commission on Women's (PCW) website, and the recommendation to reach out to Alternative Law Group (ALG) for possible collaboration.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

➤ 24 - 26 OCTOBER - Capacity Building Activity with PAMO

A conflict-sensitive, Do-No-Harm, and NVC training for the Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) of MANP in Davao.