

Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) Receives Training in Conflict Sensitivity, Do-No-Harm, and Non-Violent Communication

The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) officials of Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) from both Regions 11 and 12 underwent an orientation on Conflict Sensitivity, Do-No-Harm, and Non-Violent Communication (NVC) from 24 to 26 October 2023, at Insular Waterfront Hotel Davao City. The twenty participants were familiarized with the theories, principles, tools, and approaches of conflict sensitivity, do-no-harm, and non-violent communication. Practical exercises and simulations were incorporated to apply these tools, and a planning workshop followed to ensure the integration of these approaches into their daily duties.

Post-training, participants rated the orientation on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest. They gave a rating of 4.75 for meeting expectations, an average of 4.60 for the appropriateness of the topic, and an average of 4.75 for the usefulness of their learnings in their roles.



Coordination meeting with DOJ-OADR and LMB

On 27 October, RoLMin Technical Advisor, Charlotte Lozada together with a representative from the Land Management Bureau (LMB), Special Investigator III, Ms. Kristine F. Macandog had an exploratory meeting with the Department of Justice Office of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (DOJ-OADR). The discussion focused on the potential collaboration on certification training for the partner agencies, women members of the indigenous political structure/council of elders and select women members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa and barangay human rights action officer/s. Scheduled on the 1st quarter of 2024, this will be a 40-hour course aiming to provide advanced knowledge and skills to lead an interest-based mediation process, handle and make sound decision on disputes. The whole training course will integrate gender, conflict, and culture responsiveness in handling land conflict.

RoLMin meeting with PLCPD

The RoLMin team was able to meet up with the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) to discuss ideas on a push for a new land management policy at the national level, including a new legislation. PLCDP is a foundation, initiated and governed by legislators from the Senate and Lower House, with a mission to push for priority legislation and to build a network of legislative champions and policy constituency in civil society.



RoLMin participates in the EU Gender Focal Persons (GFP) October meeting

The EU-GFP meeting took place on Friday, October 27 at the EU Delegation Office, RCBC Tower, Makati. The session hosted a presentation by PANTAY of their work on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) bill with the support from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The presentation included political mapping and CSO lobby plan for the SOGIE Equality Bill and the results of a communication campaign with various key messages for the SOGIE advocacy plan.

The second part focused on the internal GFP discussions with the member states, updating the deliverables and the progress of the stakeholders mapping. Of much interest to RoLMin for area of engagement is on women, peace, and security (NAP-WPS) on women's meaningful and equitable participation in governance, access to transparent and adequate financial measures in promoting women's leadership and institutional mechanisms to safeguard women's rights. Lucile Martin, EU Gender Focal and the Chair of the GFP presided the meeting.

Strategic Planning and Insights: RoLMin Team Collaborates with DENR, Embarks on Learning Visit in Zambales



The staff members of the RoLMin project, with partners from Land Management Bureau (LMB) and DENR Region 11, recently conducted a strategic planning and learning visit in Zambales from 13-15 November. The activity was utilized to revisit the program work packages, assess the completed tasks, and outline the next steps for the upcoming months. For the first day, Ms. Junica Soriano, the project consultant, presented the results of the typology of conflicts study conducted in the Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP), specifically focusing on the Davao side of the protected area. The study aimed to identify the types and range of conflicts and evaluate the applicable alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The actual strategic planning was conducted on the 2nd day with the presentation of the progress so far per work package and the next steps to be undertaken.

On the last day, the group visited the Aeta tribe of Zambales to learn from their experiences in reclaiming their ancestral lands and their community's dispute resolution practices. Chieftains Salvador Dimain and Fe Balbin, along with heads of the two Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities and select council members, participated in the activity.

Overall, the visit served as an opportunity for the project team and its DENR partners to incorporate valuable insights from the typology of conflicts study and draw inspiration from the successful experiences of the Aeta tribe in land reclamation and conflict resolution.



DENR, NCIP, DILG Join RoLMin's consultation and assessment workshop

Officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) were selected to participate in the consultation and assessment workshop. The event, organized by the GIZ – RolMin project, took place on 22 November 2023 in Davao City. The workshop's primary goal was to assess the existing and required capacities of key government line agencies and local complaint bodies at both the individual and institutional levels in handling land-related disputes.

In addition to the capacity assessment, the workshop aimed to map out existing mechanisms and processes for facilitating land claims and resolving land-related conflicts based on issuances and mandates of respective government agencies. Discussions also delved into the roles of relevant offices in supporting capacity development for complaint bodies to foster interagency collaboration.

This activity serves as a preparatory step for the development of a capacity-building framework and training modules. These resources aim to strengthen the capacities of relevant government agencies and community-based conflict resolution bodies, enabling them to effectively facilitate land claims and land-related disputes.



Sub-working groups from DENR meet to consolidate outputs for the joint policy formulation



The five sub-working groups tasked to draft the various components of the joint policy on the issuance of land titles and Resource Use Instruments (RUIs) held a workshop meeting on 24 November at Seda Vertis North in Quezon City to consolidate the outputs and updates, as agreed upon with the National Technical Working Group (TWG). The workshop aimed to present the updates and recommendations on harmonizing land related policies of the main land regulating agencies. The five sub-working groups namely Land Titling, Mapping and Data Sharing, Coordination Mechanisms for Sec. 58 of IPRA, FPIC, Tenurial Instruments and other DENR Permits and Enforcements, and Dispute Resolution presented the updated outputs of their respective sub-working groups. The outputs were then consolidated in preparation for the national TWG meeting in January 2024. This activity aligns with the project's Output 1 which aims to support the drafting of a joint Executive Order or memorandum between DENR, Land Registration Authority (LRA), and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) on land titling and RUIs.



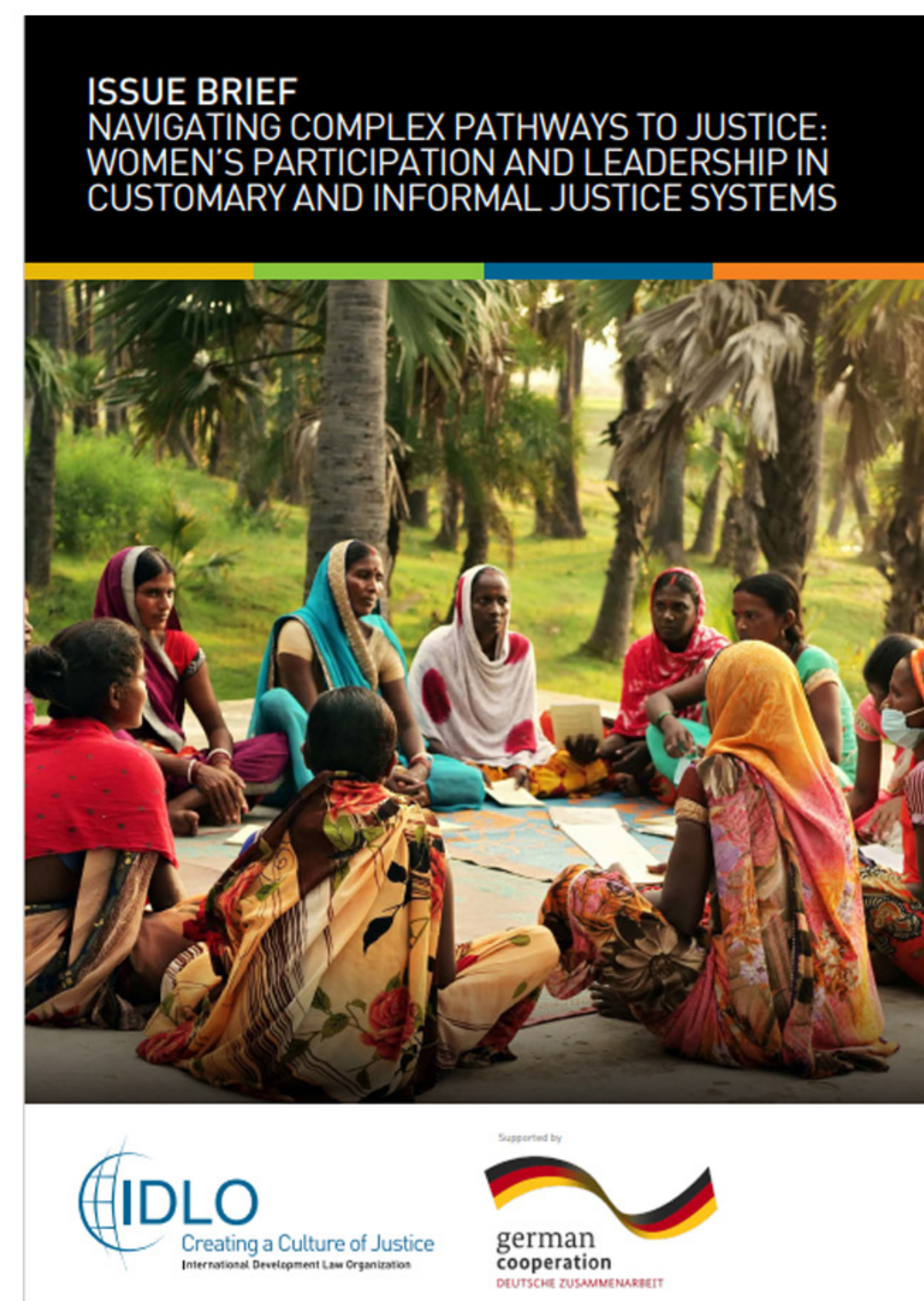
RoLMin supports the launch of issue brief on women’s participation and leadership in customary and informal justice systems



A joint event between RoLMin and International Development Law Organization (IDLO) took place last 23 November to launch the issue brief on Women’s Participation and Leadership in CIJ Systems. Spearheaded by IDLO and supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the report highlights the challenges impeding women’s involvement in CIJ systems, the roles of women as justice providers in such systems, and recommendations to improve women’s participation and leadership in CIJ systems. The report features several case studies illustrating how women engage in different types of customary and informal justice systems globally.

The Philippines’ barangay system is among the case studies included as one of the CIJ platforms. As the smallest unit of governance in the country, barangay is considered as the most accessible justice system to the community, playing a crucial role in preventing gender-based violence. The localization of international and national standards has been instrumental in improving women’s participation in this type of justice system. Despite the persistent negative perceptions and attitudes towards the leadership roles of women in CIJ systems, their active involvement can contribute to a more inclusive and responsive justice systems, particularly for victims of gender-based violence.

To mark the launch of the publication, the event was attended by representatives from various agencies of the government and development organizations engaged in and around issues of rule of law and women’s empowerment. IDLO presented the findings and recommendations to further strengthen women’s participation and leadership in CIJ systems, discussing their relevance in the Philippine context. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion to promote dialogue around women’s justice needs in the Philippines. Read the full issue brief here [women_and_cij_issue_brief.pdf \(idlo.int\)](#)





IP Communities of Mt Apo, DENR, and NCIP Join a Learning Visit to the Cordillera Administrative Region

As part of the initiative to raise awareness and disseminate information on land-related rights and conflict resolution, the project facilitated knowledge sharing through a peer-to-peer learning exchange between the IP communities in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and the Bagobo Tagabawa tribe of the Davao region from November 27 to 30. Representatives from National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Region 11, Protected Area Superintendent (PASu), and GIZ joined the Bagobo Tagabawa in visiting the Karao of Bokod, Benguet, Kalanguya of Tinoc, Ifugao, and the Kankanaey of Sagada, Mountain Province. The purpose was to learn from their experiences in conflict resolution and land rights concerns. The learning visit also aimed to allow the IPs from Davao to share their own experiences, contributing to the documentation process that can enhance their Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP). The 4-day activity enabled participants to learn from the different practices of the communities through observation, storytelling, and photography.

The learners explored three ancestral domains with diverse indigenous communities. In the Bokod Ancestral Domain, shared by the Karao, Ibaloi, and Kankanaey, the Karao constitute a numerical minority. They visited the Ambuklao Dam, built in the 1950s before IPRA, capturing its significance through photography. The Tinoc Ancestral Domain, belonging to the Kalinguya, remained closed to outsiders until the 1990s. Residents endured days-long journeys to access Baguio City and shared gardening technologies upon opening. In the Sagada Ancestral Domain, contrary to popular belief, at least seven indigenous communities reside, and a resource person provided insights into its diverse population.

The main findings and ways forward were derived from daily reflections of the participants, mainly focused on conservation areas, cyclic political structures, relations with migrants and businesses within the ancestral domain, and the communities' resistance and subsequent engagement with the government.





Pilot Testing of Supplemental Gendered Manual on ADR



RoLMin pilot-tested the key sections of the supplemental gendered manual in two batches: one for key partners on December 11 and another for community stakeholders on December 12. The goal was to ensure the viability of integrating gender, culture, and conflict-sensitive considerations into alternative dispute resolution (ADR) policies, capacities, processes, approaches, and mechanisms.

The validation used both experiential and appreciative inquiry methods to further improve the manual for the participants. The main focus was on revisiting gender and social inclusion concepts in the context of conflict (Module 1).

Another validation will take place in the first quarter of 2024, specifically focusing on legal imperatives to integrate gender and social inclusion in the context of conflict (Module 2) and integrating gender and social inclusion in alternative dispute resolution (Module 3).

RoLMin meets NCIP Commissioner

RoLMin had the chance to meet with newly appointed NCIP Commissioner Jennifer “Limpayen” Sibug-Las on December 15 at NCIP’s Manila Office. The National Commission on Indigenous People is an important partner for the project in reaching the indigenous cultural communities in Mt. Apo Natural Park as well as addressing IP concerns on the national level. Topics discussed included the importance of customary justice systems and their interface to state justice systems, the work of RoLMin regarding the Joint DAR-DENR-LRA-NCIP Administrative Order No. 01-12, and GIZ’s work in the country in general.

UPCOMING EVENT:

January 8-12, 2024:
Assessment Workshop on Capacity Needs
in Land Conflict Resolution

Consultation and Assessment Workshop
with Barangay representatives and IPS
Leaders on Mechanisms, Processes and
Capacities in Resolution and Handling of
Land-Related Conflicts