



Workshop Output

The workshop aimed to develop a two-year action plan to enhance the mangrove management in Central and Eastern Visayas. There were three groups (Group 1: Leyte/So. Leyte provinces, Group 2: Ea. Samar/Samar provinces, and Group 3: Bohol/Cebu provinces). Guide questions were provided to identify the challenges involved in updating the mangrove status per province/municipality and in enhancing regional collaboration. The guide questions are as follows:

1. What are the challenges in determining and/or regularly updating the mangrove status in your jurisdiction?
2. How to enhance regional collaboration on mangrove management? What aspects can you collaborate with other provinces? Identify indicators and methods to achieve the objectives.

The common challenges identified in updating mangrove status are as follows:

- Institutional jurisdiction. There are sometimes overlapping duties and responsibilities among government offices involved in mangrove monitoring and evaluation.
- Ineffective communication. There is a lack of, or ineffective communication, between agencies implementing mangrove rehabilitation program. Sharing of best practices or lessons among agencies are rarely practiced.
- Updating mechanism. There is no existing mechanism on the updating of mangrove status (e.g., extent, rehabilitation, and restoration programs).
- Lack of mangrove information. Lacking systematic database that houses information about the status of mangroves. These information can be used by the mangrove managers to improve their management efforts.
- Limited experts. There is limited technical expertise among mangrove managers, especially in science-based approach in implementing rehabilitation and restoration programs.
- Budget constraint. There is budget limitation to support projects; thus, implementation of projects is mostly short-term, and monitoring and evaluation are oftentimes not budgeted.

The identified suggestions on ways to improve/enhance the regional collaboration on mangrove management are as follows:

- Creation of network of mangrove conveners to update the status of mangrove rehabilitation/restoration.
- Creation of database and formation of monitoring and evaluation team.
- Regular conduct of mangrove summits and capacity building workshops for mangrove managers.
- Collaboration with the academe to equip the local mangrove managers with technical knowledge.
- Collaboration with other local government units/ departments to educate them about the importance of mangrove ecosystem.
- Development of IEC materials about the importance of mangroves.

The outputs for each group were summarized in **Table 1**. There was a consensus that the participants will meet again for another mangrove summit and agreed to do so at least once a year. The province of Leyte will be the host for the next summit.

Table 1. Summary of the answers from three groups. They have identified challenges in updating mangrove status. The topmost challenge is institutional jurisdiction among institutions implementing mangrove rehabilitation and

Group 1: Leyte, Southern Leyte, Ormoc City, Municipality of Palompon	
Challenges in updating mangrove status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archipelagic System • Communication System • Support from the stakeholders • Monitoring system from the concerned agencies • Prioritization of mangrove management of the LGUs • Institutional support and policies
Ways to enhance and achieve collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish island-wide network of mangrove conveners (LGUs) • Organize fora, summits, symposia and capability buildings • Incorporation of Mangrove ecosystem to elementary school curriculum • Source out fund supports
Success indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Island-wide network conveners established • Number of fora, summits, symposia organized and capability building • Elementary curriculum incorporated with mangrove ecosystem • Amount of funds sourced out
Group members	<p>Leyte: Melecia Sumbeli, Joel Balado, Antonio Orapa, Ranulfo Arbiol Southern Leyte: Eva Abad, Reina Lagumbay Ormoc City: Rafael Junnar Dumalan, Fe Cormoposa Palompon: Raoul Bacalla (<i>presenter</i>)</p>

