

LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Northern Mindanao¹

Presentation material web link:

https://angoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LG-Lecture.Final_.pdf

OVERALL LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

Challenge resource governance professionals, policymakers, community leaders and other stakeholders to:

- Adopt an integrative perspective;
- Look beyond sectoral boundaries;
- Take into account cross-sectoral concerns; and,
- Work in multi-disciplinary teams.

PRESENTATION OUTLINE:

- Changing Context
 - Fast Transforming World
 - Impact in Northern Mindanao
 - Need for a More Responsive Resource Governance
- Landscape Governance
 - Defining Landscapes
 - Think Landscapes
 - Achieving Coherence & Making Institutions Work

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- Moving Forward
 - Education and Information Sharing
 - Common Action
 - Policy Advocacy

DISCUSSION:

The first part of the module presents a graphic overview of the world’s situation. It illustrates the changes where the rapid growth in population makes the world crowded, the current development approach results to imbalance, the changing climate makes the world fragile and that development in technologies are shrinking the world allowing people to travel and migrate. This changing global context impacts on the local context, and in this particular case, Northern Mindanao, southern Philippines.



Figure 1. Fast changing world we live in. Content sources: UNDP, 2015; CFO, 2016; PSA, 2016; Kreft et al., 2015

The region has experienced several environmental disasters like Typhoon Washi or “Sendong” in 2011 and Typhoon Bopha or “Pablo” in 2012 which affected thousands of lives and properties in two (2) major cities of Northern Mindanao – Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City due to flashfloods. According to studies done by Xavier University – Engineering Department, the amount of rainfall on 16 January 2017 ever recorded was 150 millimeters (mm) in a span of only nine (9) hours as compared to 84 mm of total rainfall from 1979 to 2008. This showed that climate change and over population have effects to the current environmental threats experienced by many people.

Marginalization of communities also posed an impact to the region; vast tracks of land are converted into commercial plantations paving way to

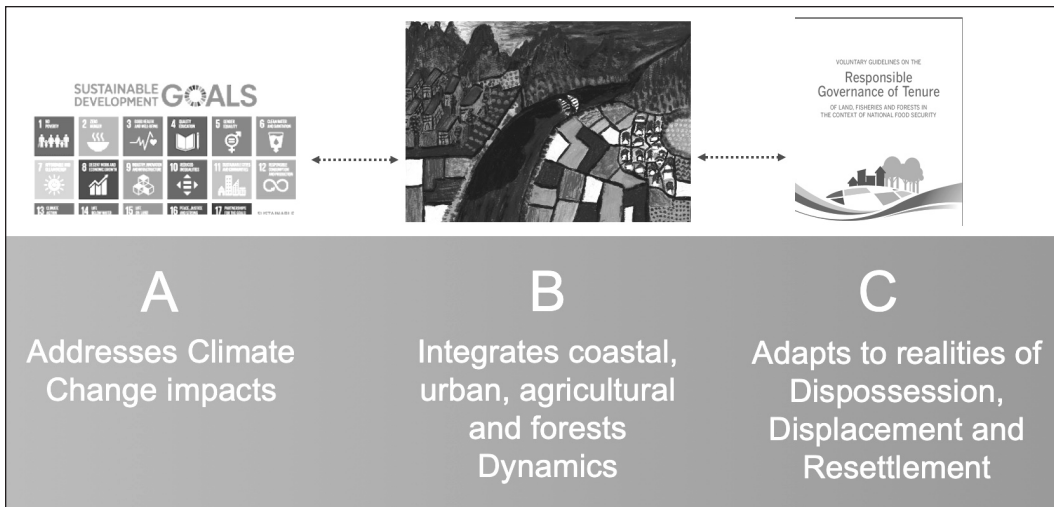


Figure 2. Sustainable and ecologically-friendly initiatives.

more encroachments to forest areas in the hinterlands. Violence such as wars and political conflicts are intensifying in nearby towns. All these factors are contributory to the high poverty incidence in the region.

A More Responsive Governance of Resources

There are several key initiatives that provides sustainable and ecologically-friendly undertakings to mitigate the current state of a region or a country. These are globally recognized and are adapted as it relates to a particular area. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, and innovative tools such as the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) are global initiatives to address these challenges. Respectively, SDGs address climate change impacts, VGGT adapts to realities of dispossession, displacement and resettlement; and STDM integrates coastal, urban, agricultural, and forest dynamics on governing resources.

The second part of the module is focused on Landscape Governance. It starts with the process of defining landscapes, particularly for participants to define landscapes in their own language.

Landscape Governance promotes an inclusive and participatory approach that in ways will have governance of resources that (a) works for people through the enhancement of food security, securing tenure, facilitates investments, and considers gender; (b) builds sustainable partnerships and networks; and, (c) resolves conflicts.

ACTIVITY 1

Getting to Know You

Objective:

To promote familiarization among the participants. It will also allow them to settle their feelings and emotions during the course of the training

Methodology:

- ❑ The facilitator shall request the participants to form a circle. This depends on the number of participant but everyone should be within a particular space.
- ❑ Each one is requested to introduce themselves – name and place of residence.
- ❑ Soon after the introductions, the facilitator may use the game “The Boat is Sinking” mechanics, where participants will group themselves based on the number or idea given by the facilitator. Possible categorization includes age, profession, hobbies, among others. This activity will loosen the participants and incorporate themselves as part of the bigger group.

To facilitate the discussion on landscape governance, the facilitator introduced another game, grouping the participants based on their respective landscapes and languages. Three (3) groups were identified: *Cebuano/Bisaya*, *Tagalog* and *Talaandig/Binukid*.

Landscape Approaches

A presentation on the various landscape approaches, emphasizing that each person may have different perspective of a landscape. In terms of approach, it can be viewed as an island approach, network approach, ecosystem approach or an integrated landscape approach. The key element in all the above-mentioned approaches are PLACE, PEOPLE and POWER.

What is Landscape?

- ❑ As “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of humankind with the physical environment centrally” (Council of Europe, 2000)
- ❑ An area delineated by an actor for a specific set of objectives. It constitutes an arena in which entities, including humans, interact according to rules (physical, biological and social) that determine their relationships.

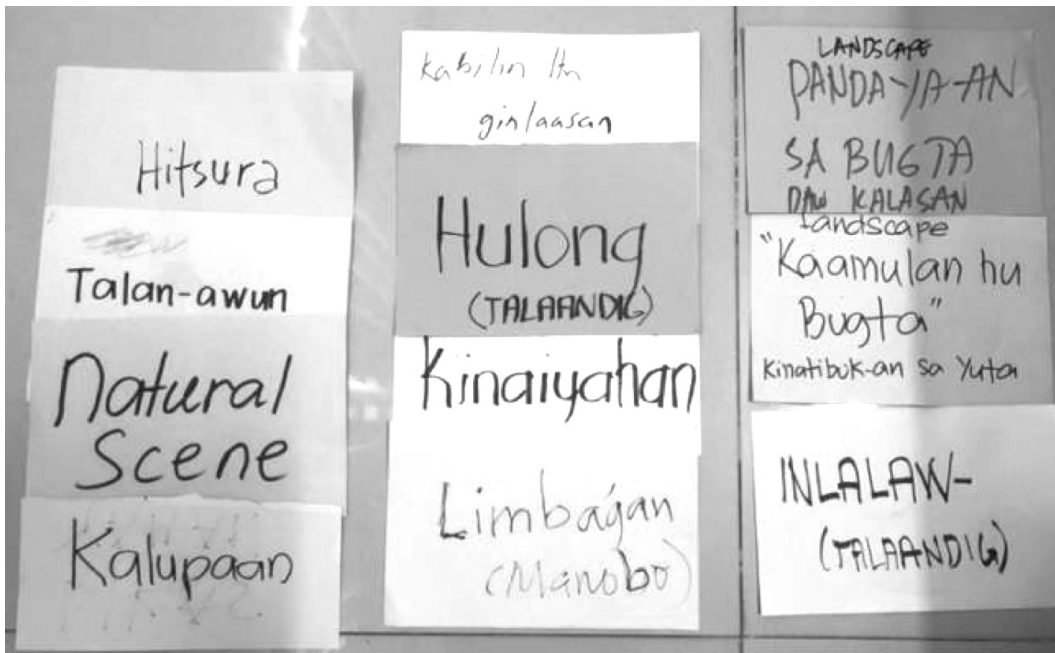


Figure 3. Sample Activity 1 output.

What is Landscape Governance (LG)?

“The exercise of political, economic and administrative authority” to manage a country’s or any other social or political system’s “affairs at all levels.”

It “comprises the complex mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, mediate their differences, and exercise their legal rights and obligations.”

- ❑ LG is a place-based multi-stakeholder process of negotiation and spatial decision-making, with the aim to maintain, enhance or restore landscape functions as well as the goods and services that these provide (van Oosten et al, 2014)

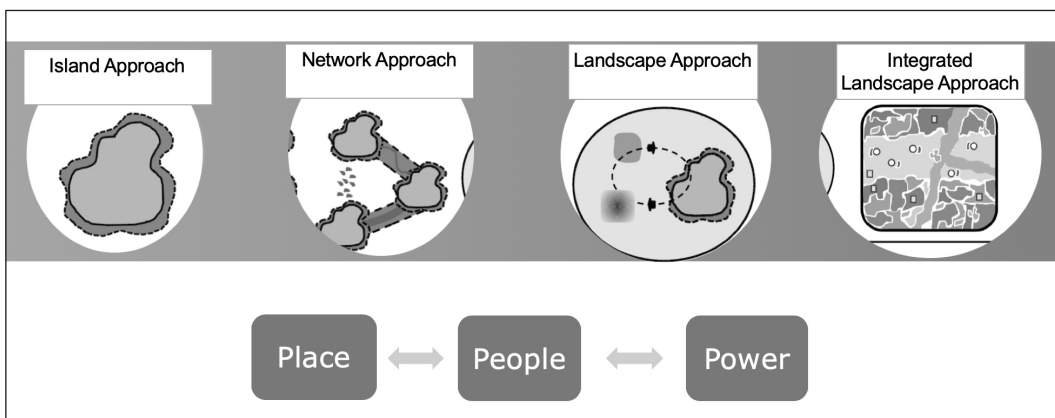


Figure 4. Landscape approaches.

- ❑ LG is polycentric by nature, as it can be driven by multiple objectives and multiple stakeholder arrangements at the same time (Ros-Tonen et al., 2018)
- ❑ LG is the process of multi-sector, multi-actor and multi-level interaction and spatial decision making at the landscape level that aims at the development of landscape specific policy targets rather than at sectoral objectives or individual actor goals (Sunderland, 2014; Reed, 2015)

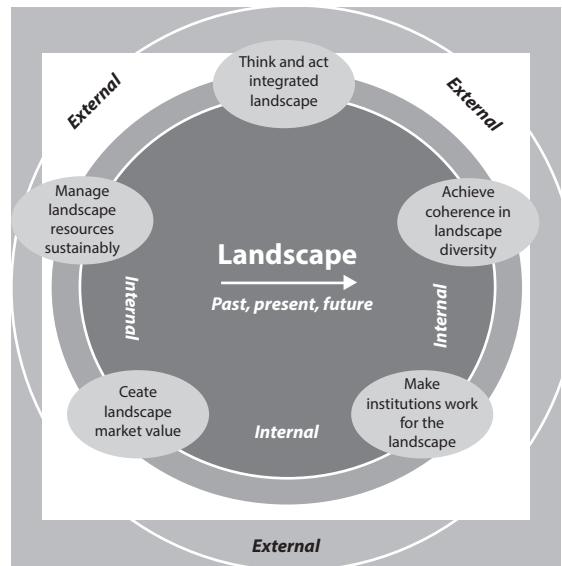


Figure 5. Core components of Landscape Governance.

ACTIVITY 2

Landscape Mapping

Objective:

To familiarize the stakeholders on how they view their landscapes.

Materials:

- ❑ coloring pens
- ❑ manila papers
- ❑ decors

Methodology:

- ❑ The participants are grouped according to their respective landscapes or areas.
- ❑ They were provided with various art materials and decors that they can use to build their own landscapes in a creative manner.
- ❑ Each group are tasked to discuss their vision of a landscape, mapping out every detail of it.
- ❑ Thirty minutes were provided for the group exercise. Each group will then have a reporter to present their output.

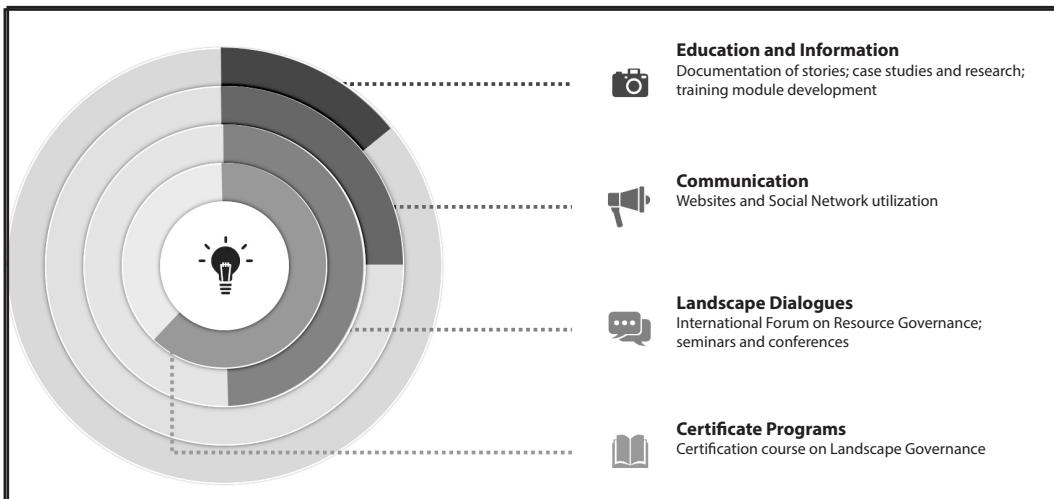


Figure 6. Interconnectedness of education and information, communication, landscape dialogues, and certificate programs.

MOVING FORWARD

The concept of landscape governance is not new to many who have been working with various stakeholders. The IP communities have known this concept and been practicing it in their own cultural and traditional ways.

In order to facilitate landscape governance as a concept to sustain cooperation, collaboration and inclusiveness of every stakeholders, it is important to appreciate interconnectedness. Education and information, communication, landscape dialogues, and certificate programs are considered key interventions to further the initiative.

COMMON ACTION

An example of a landscape governance presented is the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Mt. Kalatungan range, Bukidnon, Philippines. The initiative involved multi-stakeholders working together to facilitate a funding mechanism to reforest the mountains of Kalatungan and promote conservation efforts to sustain the ecosystems services.

Policy advocacy is being advanced at various levels – local, regional and national. □

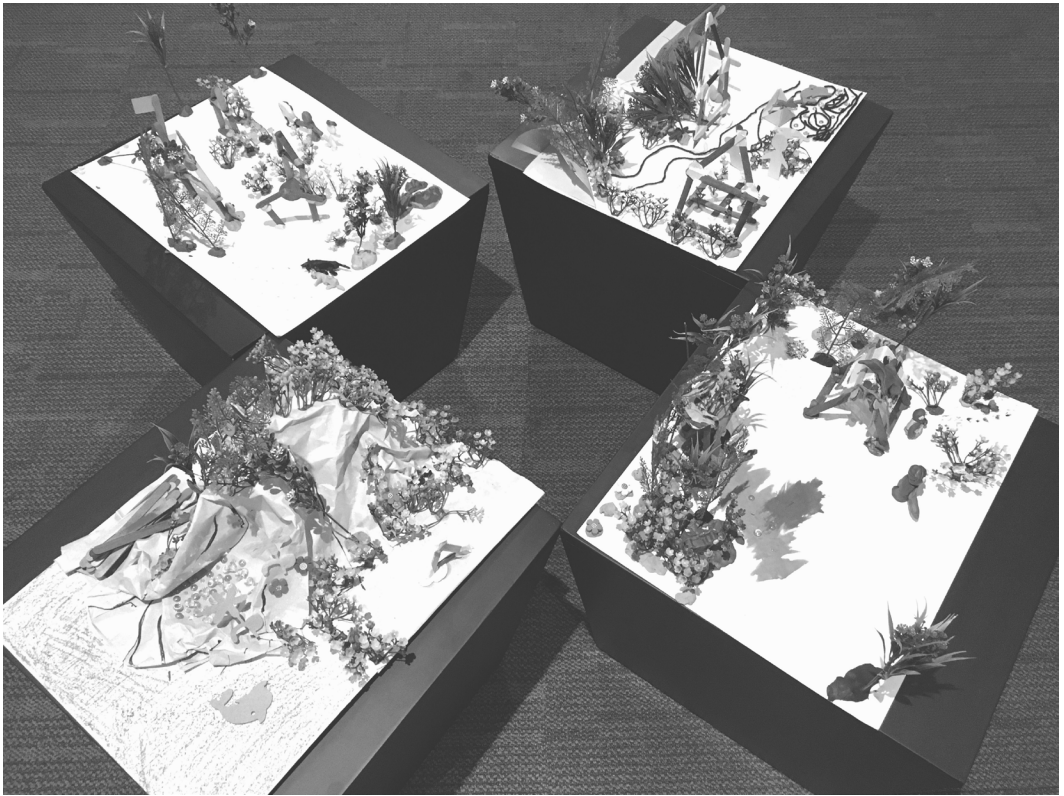


Figure 7. Sample Activity 2 output.

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