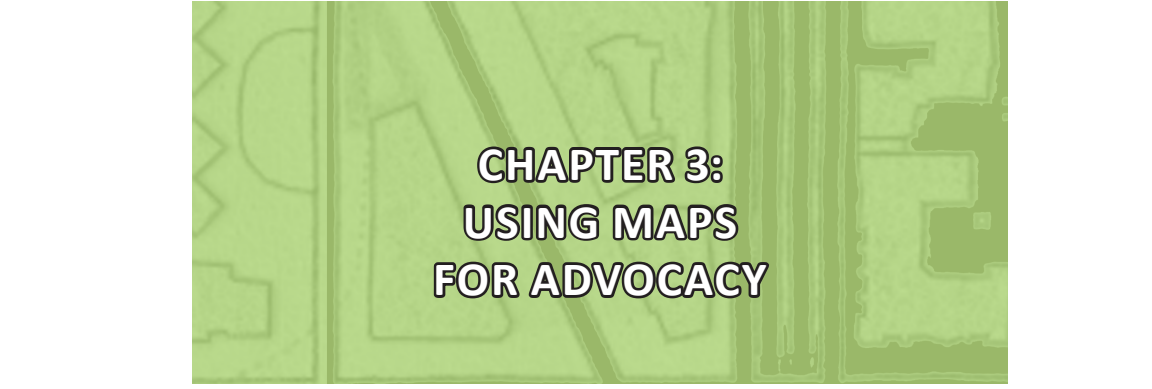


CHAPTER 3: USING MAPS FOR ADVOCACY





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In today's complex world, land rights defenders all over the world confront immense challenges in advocating their causes. Foremost of which is the ability to effectively share data and clearly communicate their message to policy makers and the public at large, given the wide array of available information in different mediums that are accessible to anyone at any given time. One strategy that may address this issue is the use of spatial data, carefully composed into advocacy maps. Maps can be a simple, yet powerful, means for communicating and sharing information and advocating a cause.

Developing Advocacy Maps

Land rights defenders often face very complex problems that require a thorough understanding of the various factors and issues that affect communities and threaten their land security. The volume of information that is generated in the course of addressing land conflicts often overwhelms advocates, which sometimes makes it very difficult to articulate a clear statement and position. Hence, it is very important to be systematic in the collection of data, its analysis and the formulation of an advocacy statement. The following steps are important in developing an advocacy map for land rights defenders:

Steps

- Identify the sectors, affected ecosystems, issues, and themes;
- State the campaign message or advocacy statement;
- List the data needed;
- Collate and organize map data;
- Communicate the message; and,
- Validate the output map with the concerned group or community.

Identifying the Affected Ecosystem, Sectors, and Issues

At the onset of the mapping activity, the main issue/s that will be addressed must be clearly identified and defined. Local communities are often confronted by multiple issues arising from a land conflict caused by an investment or a project initiated by an adverse party. For instance, indigenous communities affected by a mining development face displacement, environmental destruction, damage to livelihood or agricultural areas, among other issues. The adverse effects may also be faced by a number of sectors. This is usually the case as large-scale investment projects cover a wide area and its impacts affect a wider landscape. Hence, a major mining activity may have an impact on downstream communities as it affects the sources of water and the agricultural areas. Moreover, the mining activity will also affect the integrity of the biodiversity and of any environmentally-critical area within the immediate coverage of the investment. In this case, issues raised by environmental advocates will become an integral part of the coverage of the advocacy map.

The Campaign Message

Once the involved sectors, the affected ecosystem, and issues to be addressed are clearly identified, the main campaign message should be clearly stated. Ranking the impacts of the multiple issues caused by the development project faced by the sectors is a good way of creating a hierarchy of the problems; it will also help in crafting the main advocacy message. In many instances, the negative effect on all

of the sectors would embody the main message. This will be common to most sectors and would have the highest impact on those affected by it. In the case of mining, the damage caused to the environment would be the issue that cuts across all sectors and ecosystems. The immediate effects particular to a sector, for example, could include: (1) land tenure and local communities; (2) loss and contamination of water which affects the agricultural sector; and, (3) damage to environmentally-critical areas for environmentalists.

Required Data

The extent and type of information needed to develop the advocacy map will be based on the issues and impacts that were earlier identified. In many instances, it would depend on the availability of data and the community's capacity to secure, and in many instances, generate the spatial data critical to the advocacy work. A checklist of the minimum required data, its format and possible sources will be helpful in systematizing the gathering data for the advocacy maps.

Data/Layer	Format	Source
Certificate of Ancestral Domain (CADT)	Hardcopy	NCIP-ADO, AnthroWatch
CADT	Shp.	LandMark
Land Cover Data	Shp.	NAMRIA
Watersheds	Shp.	DENR-BMB
Protected Areas	Shp.	DENR-BMB
CADT Zoning Map	Hardcopy	NCIP-Planning
CADT Zoning Map	Shp.	PAFID
Groundwater flow	Shp.	BSWM
NPAAD	Shp.	BSWM
Rice Production Statistics	Doc.	DA/PSA
Forest Cover Statistics	Doc./xls	DENR-FMB
Mining tenement	PDF.	DENR-MGB
Mining Tenement	Shp.	MICC

Formulating the Message

A community workshop, wherein all of the concerned and affected sectors are represented, should be conducted to formulate the message. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) shall be conducted for each sector wherein the spatial information representing their particular ecosystem, issues and themes shall be presented and analyzed. After the FGDs, each sector shall have their own sectoral statement. A plenary session shall be conducted in order to synthesize all reports and come up with the main advocacy statement for the map.

Organizing the Map

Once all the required information has been collected, the group shall develop several maps wherein the various ecosystems and sectoral themes are represented. The advocacy map will have the agreed sub-themes, which are represented as individual plates or sections in the main map. For instance, the map could be divided into six subsections. These sub-sections of the advocacy map shall contain the main message and the agreed sectoral thematic layers, which represent the particular issue that affects the concerned sector.

Local Validation

The draft map containing the basic local information, sectoral layer with spatial data showing their issues and the main advocacy message, which is a result of the agreements in the plenary, will then be presented to community members for validation. The map and all of its elements should be thoroughly discussed to ensure its familiarity and comprehension of all sectoral representatives concerned. If a consensus is reached that the map represents both the sectoral as well as collective aspirations of the group, a resolution should be drafted to legitimize the map. Once this is done, the map may be finalized for publication.

Communicating the message

Armed with supporting data and a powerful visual tool such as the map, the message shall be communicated clearly and objectively to the intended audiences: (a) first is the target of the advocacy i.e. the policymakers and the purveyors of development aggression (the mining, logging or other such companies engaged in extractive practices); and, (b) second is the general public who should be made aware that, even though they are not directly affected by this particular advocacy or situation; they are part of the larger ecosystem and should be concerned as well; not to mention that a similar case may happen or may already be happening in their backyard.

Ensuring credibility of your data

Land rights defenders face opponents who possess economic and political power and are often the perpetrators of development aggression and land grabbing against local and indigenous communities. Thus, it can be expected that very serious challenges will be mounted at every opportunity against the advocacy position of the affected communities and its supporters. Hence, it is very important to ensure the credibility of any information that is generated in any advocacy mapping initiative.

The following pointers are necessary in the process of developing an advocacy map:

- Data sources have been published and officially acknowledged.
- Data sources are available in the Public Domain.
- Data sources are cross-referenced or triangulated; at least three sources should mention/indicate the same spatial information before it is included.

The Tampakan Advocacy Map

Advocacy maps provide an excellent opportunity for communities to tell their stories and document the critical changes that they observe in their environment in a given period.

The development of the Tampakan advocacy map is an initiative that enabled the local community and support groups to effectively articulate to the public and policy makers their opposition to Sagittarius Mines, Inc. in Tampakan, South Cotabato, Philippines.

Background

The Tampakan Copper-Gold Project is reportedly the seventh largest undeveloped copper mine in the world. When operational, it will be one of the largest copper-gold mines in Southeast Asia. Owned by Glencore-Xstrata, with the Australian company Indophil holding a minority stake, the mine is operated by its local subsidiary, Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI). The final overall mine area is estimated at around 10,000 hectares, falling within the boundaries of four provinces (South Cotabato, Sarangani, Davao del Sur and Sultan Kudarat). The area is mostly forested and includes a substantial portion of the ancestral domain of an indigenous community – the Bla'ans. The mine's open pit of some 500 hectares would be dug to a depth of 785 meters, while the topsoil stockpile would cover an area of five hectares and the pit ore stockpile would be 49 hectares.

The company's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) estimated that 5,000 people, mostly indigenous, would be directly affected and would require resettlement. The mining project will directly affect five watersheds, around 4,000 hectares of old-growth forest, and five ancestral domains.

“The Tampakan project has caused the murder and harassment of too many indigenous leaders who oppose it. For communities, the human rights violations and threats are one of the reasons

for their opposition to the development of the mines, second to their displacement and the impacts to their ancestral domains,” Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), a non-governmental organization supporting the communities in their struggle against SMI, alleged in an emailed statement.

As of May 2014, the Tampakan project was officially on “downscaled status”, after undergoing an 80 percent reduction in its programmed funds and staffing for 2014. It is not suspended nor abandoned. Glencore/Xstrata has indicated that they are pushing for their target of commercial operations by 2019. They have also committed themselves to pursuing completion of all their regulatory requirements, including securing consent from indigenous peoples and working on the local ban on open-pit mining.

Developing a Map to Articulate the Peoples Advocacy against the Tampakan Mining Project

The Social Action Center of the Marbel Diocese initiated the generation of spatial data critical to understanding the impact of the proposed mining operations of SMI in Tampakan. In order to challenge or refute the flood of supposedly credible information on the benefits and minimal impacts of the SMI project, the anti-mining advocates agreed to build a “Participatory 3D model” (P3DM) of the whole impact area, including a mock-up of the facilities of the proposed SMI mining project.

All critical information including the spatial data, as well as the schematic diagrams of the proposed mining facilities, were carefully analyzed and reproduced to scale. Spatial information composed of available data layers on protected areas, land cover, land tenure and cultural information from the affected indigenous communities were overlaid in the P3DM.

Local and international experts, along with community members and CSO partners, then collectively analyzed all the information generated and consolidated in the P3DM. The collective analysis was used to generate the consensus “Advocacy Position” of the anti-mining advocates. These were

later presented in a Provincial Consultation in Marbel, South Cotabato.

On 23 September 2009, international and local experts critiqued the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Tampakan Mine Project in a public forum held at the South Cotabato Gymnasium and Cultural Center.

The Social Action Center of the Marbel Diocese and the Office of the Governor co-organized the activity to bring together the SMI/Xstrata consultants and experts from the anti-mining groups to present to the people how the Tampakan mining project will actually impact the people and environment.

During consultation, the SMI/Xstrata consultants explained the merits of the mining operation and the supposed benefits it will give to the host communities. In response, Clive Wicks and Filipino experts, Atty. Ipat Luna and Kail Zingapan of Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID), presented their evaluation and discussed the real risks of the project that seemed to be covered up in the massive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) documents.

The anti-mining advocates argued that the Tampakan mine development, which covers an area of approximately 10,000 hectares, will have a devastating effect on the environment. The development will cut down almost 4,000 hectares of forests, including old growth forests. It will contaminate the water source of communities on six rivers with arsenic and acid mine drainage. The Mal river will be the worst affected as many streams in its catchment will be destroyed and replaced by the tailings dam. This will have a severe impact to numerous downstream communities as the Mal River, the region's biggest river system, is the main source of irrigation for the agricultural sector in the neighboring province of Davao del Sur.

Kail Zingapan, who worked with local indigenous communities to produce an impressive 3-D map of the Koronadal Valley and the Tampakan watersheds, explained what the mining project would mean for the affected communities.

In presenting the “People’s Map”, Zingapan asserted: “This is the People’s Map, we did not invent this. The people pointed out to us where their lands are located and we plotted them on the map. We showed them the outcome and they saw that the mine development area covers their ancestral lands; it seems not all of them were consulted or correctly informed of the risks by SMI”.

People were shocked as Zingapan placed the supposed mine tailings dam area on top of the hill and the fresh water dam right where Mal River is located. “This is your land where you live and get your food and everyday needs. It is up to you now if you want to see this land devastated and taken away from you,” she said in the Visayan dialect.

Environmental lawyer Ipat Luna, on the other hand, explained her legal evaluation of the EIS, “The EIS inadequately sets out the direct losses to be caused by the project and has gaps in terms of other legal permits and compliance.”

She further added, “The Stakeholders’ Development Framework fails to appreciate the unique cultural identity of the B’laan and merely enumerates standard social development interventions.”

After the presentation of SMI’s EIA and its subsequent critique, Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez of the Diocese of Marbel said: “No mining project will ever be good for us. Let us continue to support the South Cotabato Environmental Code that bans open pit mining.” The Bishop further reiterated that there is no need for the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (Provincial Council) to review the said code.

Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM) National Coordinator Jaybee Garganera said, “Unlike SMI/Xstrata who are here to get the approval of the people to mine their lands, the experts and non- governmental organizations are here because the communities requested our help. We are here also because we believe that the claimed benefits of this mining project are clearly outweighed by the impacts it will bring to water, agriculture, forests, biodiversity and communities.”

After the presentation of the mining opposites, SMI/Xstrata consultants found it hard to convince the people that their project will not impact negatively on many lives.

After two hours of open forum, Governor Arthur Pingoy, Jr. concluded and assured the people: “As the governor of this province, I will implement the (Provincial Environmental Code) Ordinance. There will be no open-pit mining in the province unless there is an order from the Courts. I am duty bound to implement the Ordinance.” He added that the forum was primarily organized to allow the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to arrive at an informed decision in reviewing the provision of the Provincial Environment Code banning open pit mining.

More than 6,000 people went to listen and ask questions at the forum. Most of them were able to go inside, while some people stayed outside due to lack of space. They were still able to follow the proceedings as a big screen was set-up and broadcast what was happening inside. Information on the Tampakan P3DM has been digitized and put in a GIS making further widespread dissemination possible.

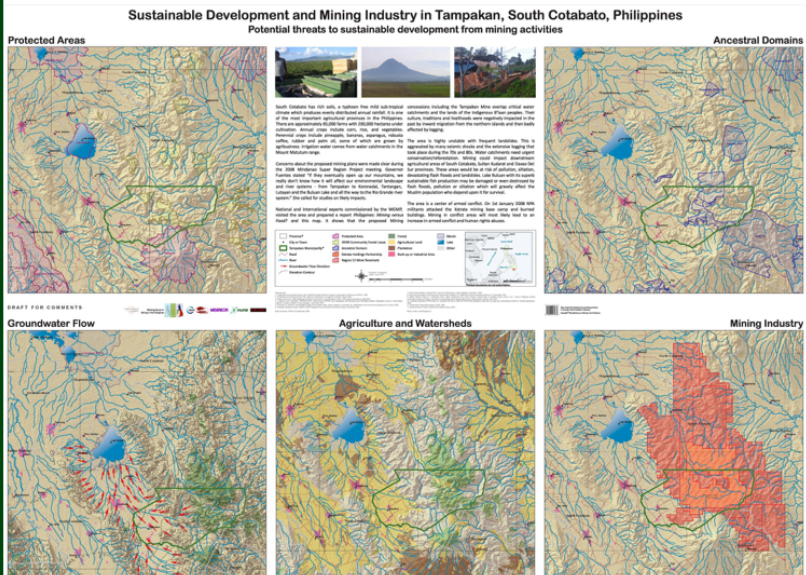


Figure 58. A map showing the mining industry in Tampakan, South Cotabato, Philippines, and its potential threats to sustainable development.

To view further examples of maps used for advocacy, visit the following:

- Using P3DM for advocacy (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7Lfrpn6VsU>)
- Anti-mining advocacy maps (<http://www.piplinks.org/maps.html>)