The Philippine EIS System inputs to Planning Resettlement and Livelihood Projects

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Outline

I. Philippine Environmental Policies & embedded requirements related to resettlement & livelihoods

II. Case study key findings

III. Suggestions to maximize usefulness of the Philippine EIS System in Planning Resettlement and Livelihood Projects

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**Project Planning & Decision Making Process**

**Country Safeguard System**

- **Project Conceptualization**
  - Conceptualizing the project

- **Feasibility**
  - Feasibility study

- **Detailed Engineering Design**
  - Detailed engineering design

- **Project Construction & Development**
  - Construction and development

- **Implementation**
  - Implementation of the project

**DENR**

- **EIA, Environmental Quality Standards**
  - Assess Environmental Impacts & Formulate Management Measures

- **Natural Resources**
  - Regulating/Managing the Use of Mineral, Water & Forest Resources

- **Biodiversity**
  - Biodiversity Conservation/Management

**Resettlement as a consequence of development projects…**

- **Resettlement Planning**
  - Resettlement Planning

- **Implementing Resettlement Projects**
  - Implementing Resettlement Projects (as part of impact management)

* **DENR – Department of Environment and Natural Resources**
Major Laws on Safeguards

Philippine Environmental Policy (1977)

Declared a continuing policy of the State:
- productive and enjoyable harmony of man and nature
- Social & economic requirements of present & future generation
- Environmental quality conducive to a life of dignity and well-being

Government Agency in charge: Interagency including DENR & other agencies like agencies in charge of housing, social welfare, health, education, etc.

Required Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for undertakings with significant environmental impacts

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Major Laws in Safeguards

EIA Law – PD 1586 (1978)
- Establishment of the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System
- Focused on bio-physical environmental impacts
- Implementing Agency: DENR thru the Environmental Management Bureau

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EIA Law in the Philippines

Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC)

Positive review of the EIA

Contains:

- Description of the Scope of the Project subjected to EIA
- General Conditions and conditions on Environmental Management and Monitoring
- Restrictions
- **Recommendation** to parties and authorities for proper appreciation and action and **integration into their decision making processes**

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EIA Law in the Philippines

EIA & ECC

🔹 Not the approval for implementation
🔹 Among the considerations for approval

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Pre-identified impacts to be included in the study

**Land**

**Water**

**Air**

**People**

- Displacement of settler/s
- In-migration
- Cultural/Lifestyle change (especially on Indigenous People, if any)
- Impacts on physical cultural resources
- Threat to delivery of basic services / resource competition
- Threat to public health and safety
- Generation of Local Benefits from the project
- Traffic congestion

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Assessment of Displacement

Baseline Data Requirements

• Demographic data of impact area
• Census of population / property that will be displaced / disturbed
• Housing ownership profile / availability of housing/ number of informal settlers

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Assessment of Displacement

Assessment Parameters

• Impact on Demography
• Availability of alternative public access
• Housing options for displaced settlers
• Change/conflict in land ownership
• Disturbance of properties/settlers
• Right of way change/conflict

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Assessment impacts of proposed projects under the People Module

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- Displacement
  - In-migration
  - Cultural/lifestyle change
  - Physical cultural resources impact
  - Threat to delivery of basic services & resource competition
  - Threat to public health and safety
  - Generation of local benefits
  - Traffic congestion

- Baseline Environment
  - Social Development Plan (SDP)
    - Relocation (as necessary)
    - Livelihood/Employment
      - Health and safety
    - Education & recreation
    - Environment and sanitation
      - Peace and Order
      - Spiritual, etc.

- Impact Management
  - Relocation Framework/Plan
Resettlement

• Necessary for displacements as impact of development projects
• Part of the impact management but not necessarily a part of the project itself
• Subject to separate ECCs

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3 EIS Case Studies

• 3 Coal-Fired Power Plants
• Looked into the resettlement and livelihood discussions in the EIS
• Looked into the resettlement and livelihood conditions in the ECC

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observations</th>
<th>Possible reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of displacement does not meet the requirements under existing</td>
<td>Lack of capacity for EIA Preparer and/or reviewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>guidelines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents of the resettlement plan varies</td>
<td>Guidelines are too general, EIA Preparers have different perspective; reviewers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>lack guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline data and assessment not specific to the particular community to</td>
<td>EIA Preparers often rely on readily available secondary data which is usually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be displaced</td>
<td>per municipality/city</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Key Findings with 3 case studies

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<td>Not all of the ECC issued contain conditions on resettlement</td>
<td>May have been missed by the one who drafted the ECC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not all of the ECC issued contain conditions on livelihood</td>
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Recommendations to maximize usefulness of the System in Planning Resettlement and Livelihood Projects

1. Enhancement of Policies and Existing Guidelines
2. Enhancement of capacity of EMB and EIA Practitioners
3. Improving the transmission of inputs to & coordination among government agencies

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Enhancement of Policies/Guidelines

• include identification and analysis of the type of displacement impact (*funding institutions classifications can be referred to, such as involuntary acquisition of land or restrictions on land use and access, etc.*)

• Explicitly indicate in the guidelines the need to integrate findings in the air, water, land modules in the assessment of the need to relocate and choice of relocation site

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Enhancement of Policies/Guidelines

• clarify when a relocation plan or framework shall be required as part of the EIS and what will be its contents

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Enhancement of capacity of EMB and EIA Practitioners

• Orient EMB & other EIA Practitioners on the importance of the Philippine EIS System inputs in planning resettlement and livelihood programs and how the results of the impact assessment can be used

• Training/Orientation on enhanced policies and guidelines

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Improving the transmission of the Philippine EIS System inputs

• institutionalize and ensure implementation of transmission procedures of key results and recommendations of the EIA critical to the formulation of appropriate resettlement and relocation plan

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In summary

The success in implementing safeguard policies depends on

• Good policies
• Clear standards/requirements
• Capable implementing agencies
• Capable EIA Practitioners (consultants/preparers, reviewers)
• Appreciation and dedication to the GOAL...

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Maraming salamat sa pakikinig...

Thank you very much for listening