

PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STAFF

I. BACKGROUND

The legal basis for the creation of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is Republic Act No. 7611 otherwise known as the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan (SEP) Act. This is the plan that provides the comprehensive framework to guide all sectors in the implementation of programs and projects to attain sustainable development in the province. While the implementation of SEP is a collective concern of local government units, national agencies, non-government organizations, and other stakeholders, it is the council that is mandated to provide policy direction and governance on the implementation of the Strategic Environmental Plan.

To fulfil the Council's mandate, a professional staff serves as its machinery to discharge its functions. The 75-man Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) coordinates, evaluates and monitors SEP implementation using the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) strategy, a zoning scheme that is the main strategy of SEP. It also provides technical inputs to the Council in setting the policy direction to meet SEP goals and objectives aside from implementing special projects and specific laws that include the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, the National Cave and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act and the Chainsaw Act.

In support of SEP implementation, the PCSD Staff also operationalizes the Environmental Monitoring and Evaluation System (EMES), undertakes policy research and conducts environmental education and extension services.

II. THRUST and PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR 2011

1. Plans, Policies and Guidelines Approved and Issued

The goals of sustainable development in Palawan continue to be challenged by issues on the implementing effects of climate change. Initiatives in 2010 to address these issues shall continue to be the focus of researches and studies in 2011 to come up with sound plans and policies.

Policy researches and studies shall continue to be undertaken to assist in the policy making functions of the Council and in planning. To support the implementation of the Wildlife Act, updating of the list of the threatened wildlife species and the identification of critical habitats shall be carried out during the year. Being the implementing agency of the Wildlife Act in the province of Palawan, the role of PCSDS shall be strengthened in networking with entities and institutions engaged in wildlife protection and management. Preparations for the necessary documentation for the installation of PCSD as the Wildlife Management Authority (WMA) in Palawan by CITES shall be done.

Moreover, carrying capacity studies shall continue to be undertaken to assess the vulnerability of various ecosystems in Palawan in responding and adapting to the effects of climate change. Specifically, forest cover monitoring shall be done to foster both the resiliency of the forest in responding to the effects of climate change and to improve the protection of habitats of wildlife species.

This activity shall be assisted by the GIS facility of PCSDS and for reason of efficiency, there is a need to upgrade the existing GIS to a level where it can respond effectively to the current need.

Policy analysis shall also be undertaken on the implementation of communal forestry pilot- tested in four municipalities. The study shall centre on the biophysical, economic and socio-institutional aspects of forestry as it relates to the sustainable development objectives of the SEP. Policy guidelines shall be formulated on this aspect to facilitate implementation of appropriate communal forestry program for Palawan.

To support the above studies and for the formulation of sound policies, resource valuation studies shall continue to be conducted to determine the value of resources the society is losing or gaining in the implementation of projects.

The monitoring of the conditions of the environment and its resources through the operation of EMES is essential. EMES shall be strengthened by creating systems for information storage, retrieval and manipulation so that information generated from research and monitoring could be used for pro-active planning and decision making.

2. Advocacy, Technical Assistance and Other Support Services Provided

The PCSDS shall continue to support and strengthen its linkages with the communities, the local Government Units and local organisations and institutions. The conduct of environmental education and provision of environmental extension services shall focus on priming up communities and organisations to adapt to the possible effects and impacts of climate change. Information and education campaign shall continue to be carried out to wean the people from destructive practices that defeat the gains from the implementation of SEP in Palawan. Moreover, review of the implementation of the integrated curriculum in schools shall be done, as well as the evaluation of the curriculum's contribution to the SEP objectives.

Education and information campaign in the implementation of the Wildlife Act shall be intensified. Communities shall be trained and organised to assist and become part of wildlife trade monitoring network. There shall be a continuing training and deputation of Wildlife Enforcement Officers at the LGU level to strengthen their capacity in wildlife monitoring and apprehension of those involved in wildlife trade.

Technical assistance shall continue to be provided to the LGUs in the review and revision of their Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plans ensuring that local plans are in consonance with ECAN and SEP. The focus of planning at the local level shall give due emphasis on the importance of the preservation of the forest and biodiversity in providing resiliency to the ecosystem to mitigate the impacts of climate change and the preservation of endangered habitats and habitats of endangered wildlife species. Moreover, the LGUs shall also be assisted in the formulation of ECAN Zone Management Plans to provide development and conservation options in the ECAN Zones.

The upgraded GIS facilities of PCSDS shall continue to provide data and mapping services to the LGUs and various organisations. The services provided by the Environmental Laboratory of PCSDS shall be enhanced not only to

monitor water quality but also to provide information to aid in finding solutions to water quality problems such as pollutions and sedimentation. On the other hand, the Palawan Sustainable Training Institute (PSDTI) shall continue to be managed by the staff. Trainings and skills development shall be expanded to include capability building programs for communities and programs for eco-governance.

3. *SEP Guidelines, Rules, Regulations and Other Special Laws Enforced and Monitored*

The PCSDS shall continue to be the lead agency in Palawan in coordinating, monitoring and evaluating programs and projects within the SEP framework. The SEP Law and the ECAN guidelines established in the PCSD Clearance System, provide the parameters and the basis for ensuring that projects are properly located in the appropriate zones hence preventing adverse environmental impacts. Compliance monitoring of the conditions embodied in the PCSD Clearance of projects shall continue to be undertaken by the Staff. The presence of PCSDS District Management Offices all over Palawan shall enable the staff to enhance its coordination and monitoring functions.

In compliance to its mandate to implement related environmental laws in Palawan, the PCSD shall continue to enforce the Wildlife, Chainsaw and Caves Act in the province. In the implementation of the Wildlife Act, issuance of local transport permit shall continue to be undertaken. Also, a re-validation of wildlife certificates previously issued shall be done to update existing list and strengthen control. Setting up of additional Wildlife Trade Monitoring Units (WTMU) shall be done in sea and air ports to strengthen wildlife monitoring at the local level. Additional rescue centres shall also be established to assist in confiscated wildlife rehabilitation. Moreover, the staff shall continue to assist the provincial government in the management of Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary. It shall assist in plan formulation, wildlife monitoring and other technical assistance needed by the provincial government.

Cave profiling and cave resources inventory shall be given priority by the staff and the drafting of the Provincial Cave Management Plan. The LGUs shall be assisted to create Cave Management Committees for better cave resources planning and management at the local level. On the other hand, registration and monitoring of the use of chainsaws shall continue to be undertaken.

The staff shall continue to render legal services and assistance to the Council in its adjudication, litigation and mediation activities in relation to enforcement of environmental laws in Palawan.

III. BUDGET for 2011

The approved budget for FY 2011 is P52.021M to be sourced from fund 101 broken down as follows:

PARTICULARS	P'000			TOTAL
	PS	MOOE	CO	
1. Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP)-Fund 101	24,987.00	24,744.00		49,731.00
Automatic Appropriations Retirement and Life Insurance Premium	2,290.00			2,290.00
TOTAL	27,277.00	24,744.00		52,021.00

*Inclusive of RLIP 2.290M

The budget requested for Personal Services is P27.277M and maintenance and Other Operating Expenses is P24.744M.

**PALAWAN COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STAFF
LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR OPIF**

