

Final Report on
“The Development of Management
Plan
for El Nido Marine Reserve”

El Nido

Protected Area Foundation, Inc.

BACKGROUND

A team from International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) visited El Nido, Palawan in April 1994 to examine existing systems pertinent to its Fisheries Co-Management Programme in the Philippines. This visit motivated the development of a relevant proposal by DENR's El Nido Marine Reserve - Project Management Office (ENMR-PMO) entitled, "Development of Management Plan for El Nido Marine Reserve". The proposal engendered the objectives to:

1. Encourage and document the involvement of the community in the formulation or finalization process of the management plan for the El Nido Marine Reserve which was drafted in 1992; and,
2. Make use of the project as an entrypoint to motivating community participation.

Preliminary activities on the project such as review of the draft Management Plan, coordination with El Nido Municipal Mayor, informal organization of on-site steering group, conceptualization and pre-testing of the barangay workshop design were started in October 1994 while awaiting the official signing of the Project Grant Agreement. The Agreement was signed in December 1994 with ICLARM providing the fund in the amount of P135,000.00 and Foundation for the Philippine Environment administering this fund. The ENMR-PMO, with the cooperation of El Nido Protected Area Foundation (ENPAF), an on-site NGO, performed the actual implementation of the Project.

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A group composed of representatives from ENMR-PMO, ENPAF, Haribon-Palawan and the LGU (on-call) through the Municipal Vice Mayor was informally organized to discuss and walk through the draft Management Plan. Essential considerations during this review were potential areas in the draft where active and freewheeling community participation can be harnessed simultaneously with the generation of local information to beef up the Management Plan.

The draft Management Plan of 1992 was considered a good baseline information for this Project. Certain inadequacies indicated below, were identified but these were considered as potential entrypoints to meeting the goal of propelling community participation through workshop:

1. Community participation in the formulation of the 1992 draft plan and corresponding inputs are obviously unrecognized and missing, respectively.
2. Resources in the draft plan, especially terrestrial, are the common and known endemic species of Palawan Province and not specifically of El Nido. Being on-site, the local people have the best knowledge of their resources, its status and uses including the marine resources which are inadequate in the plan. Workshop output related to this can likewise yield the degree of use of these resources for local livelihood so that management interventions may be studied to sustain the yield.
3. The existing zoning plan of El Nido Marine Reserve especially the mainland (zoned as buffer) needs further review. This can be supplemented by local inhabitants who can determine existing and preferred land uses.
4. Wants and preferences of the local people are subdued in the plan probably because they were not involved in the planning.

This ICLARM project can be highlighted in one of the sections to describe the process of developing or finalizing the plan where the community played a major role.

5. The concept of an advisory body in the draft plan as well as its composition can be interesting subjects during community consultations on this ICLARM project.
6. There is absolutely a need to update the issues and problems and address new ones considering the span of time when the draft plan was prepared. One example is the enactment in 1992 of NIPAS (National Integrated Protected Areas System Act), SEPP (Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan) and Local Government Code after the Reserve was established - each has bearing on the realization of a Management Plan.

SEMINAR/WORKSHOP: DESIGN AND AS AN ENTRYPOINT OF THE PROJECT

Informal approach such as interviews, conversations, dialogues, meetings - either with groups or individual - has been employed to explain the importance of community involvement in the formulation of a management plan.

In formalizing the statements and comments gathered in the locality through this approach, a workshop with seminar has helped attain the following objectives to:

1. Gain additional insights from a more experienced individual either from within or outside the community.
2. Provide an occasion to foster among community people camaraderie, uninhibited and healthy exchange of views and a reinforced or renewed position on issues discussed.
3. Transform individual ideas into collective decision or stance.

Together with the general objectives to motivate community participation and generate information to supplement the inadequacies of the 1992 Management Plan, the above workshop objectives were integrated to formulate a design. The design employed groupwork to answer 5 pre- formulated questions. These are:

- 1) *Anu-ano at gaano karami ang mga likas-yaman na matatagpuan at pinakikinabangan sa inyong Barangay? (What are the natural resources which are found and useful in your Barangay? How abundant are these?),*

This is workshop #1. Data generated from this exercise provides a situationer of the different resources utilized by the community either as food, source of income, medicine, etc.

- 2) *Anu-ano ang gamit ng inyong Barangay? (What are the different uses of your Barangay?),*

This workshop #2 focuses on how a community uses its environment. This part is an important consideration in any zoning to be made in the area.

- 3) *Anu-ano ang mga kasalukuyang isyu, problema at panganib sa kalikasan ng inyong Barangay? (What are the existing environmental problems, issues and threats in your Barangay?),*

This workshop #3 gives an update of the issues and problems the community is confronted insofar as their environment is concerned.

- 4) *Sa pamamagitan ng mga kasagutan sa bilang 1 at 2, paano ninyo gustong isagawa ang pagso-sona ng inyong lugar?* (Based on your answers to Questions 1 and 2, how would you like your area zoned?),

This workshop #4 produces a picture of how community allocates its resources for their various uses.

- 5) *Sinu-sino ang mga pangunahing gaganap sa tungkulin ng pagpapatupad sa inyong planong sona?* (Who are principal persons in your community who could help realize your zoning plan?).

This workshop #5 identifies keyplayers or point persons in the community whom the appropriate Management Board can consult on issues arising from the management of the protected area.

A list of activities are accomplished before the conduct of any workshop proper. This includes:

1. Attendance by any member of the Steering Group to barangay assembly at least a week before the intended workshop in their area to notify the community, aside from the formal invitation, of the proposed workshop - the objective, the date, the desired representation of all sectors in respective barangays, etc.,
2. Clearance and endorsement from the Municipal Mayor to the Barangay Captains regarding the conduct of workshop,
3. Role playing/Dry run by the Steering Group, and
4. Completion. of workshop materials including food and snacks, petromax lanterns, boat hire arrangements.

During the conduct of workshop in the different barangays, the Steering Group divides to act both as Documentor and Facilitator.

The Barangay Captains assist the Steering Group in identifying the multi-sectoral representatives to the workshop in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Invitations are thereby prepared and printed by the Steering Group and sent to Barangay Captains at least a week before the workshop for distribution to the concerned.

Workshop is conducted in every barangay and delivered in Cuyonon or Tagalog. A lecture/seminar to orient the community of the Project and workshop objectives is given before the actual conduct. The participants are divided into 4 to 8 groups depending either on the number of sitios/purok represented or/and on the number of participants, whichever is preferred by the whole group but taking into consideration the representation of all sectors.

A reporter is designated by each group and he is responsible not only in explaining the output of the group but giving brief assessment of the performance of each of his members. The documentor or the facilitator can make use of this opportunity to confirm his initial observations.

A post-evaluation sheet is distributed for all participants to fill up before the workshop formally ends. This evaluates the performance of the facilitators, the overall conduct of the workshop including time allocated

for each, food and snacks served, condition of the workshop venue and whether objectives were met. Synthesis of the outputs is done in the Office before the team returns to the Barangay for concurrence or comments by the same group of participants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SYNTHESIS OF OUTPUTS

The Workshop Conduct

The barangay workshop has been accomplished in: Teneguiban, Bagong Bayan, Bebeladan, Aberawan, Bucana, Manlag, Corong-Corong, Barotuan, Pasadena and Villa Libertad. Of these 10 barangays, only Teneguiban of eastern El Nido is outside the Marine Reserve, but included in the design primarily to re-evaluate earlier desire of eastern barangays to be placed at the aegis of Marine Reserve management and protection since 1990. This was seen as one crucial issue which should be addressed in the final management plan.

Barangays Masagana, Maligaya and Buena Suerte - all located in the Town proper or Poblacion - were combined for a workshop but the conduct had a slight difference from those held first with the conventional lectures/ seminars by invited resource speakers. This modification from the earlier design for the 10 barangays was considered to rationalize :

- 1 . Target participants from the Town Proper or Poblacion are generally indirect users whose perspectives, wants, preferences, issues and problems on the environment and its resources are considerably different from the 10 barangays earlier covered where most are direct resource users.
2. While people in the Poblacion have better access to information and technology, the sense of responsibility, ownership and interest on matters relating to environment and resources seem to be less profound than barangay folks where discussion of such matters of their lives' mainstream entails lesser effort of motivation.

The five barangays in Eastern El Nido outside the El Nido Marine Reserve (San Fernando, Sibaltan, Villa Paz, New Ibajay, Mabini) joined the workshop of the 3 barangays in the Town Proper. Their participation was accommodated in view of their demand to be included in the Management Planning.

The following major meetings/seminars were held in connection with this Management Plan Project:

1. Conceptual Framework of a Management Board for El Nido - This was held on March 7, 1995 with the objective of coming up with a mechanism to merge the primary laws related to the formation of an appropriate Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) namely: R.A. 7586 (NIPAS Act), R.A. 7611 (SEP for Palawan), and R.A. 7160 (Local Government Code). All of these laws were reviewed and discussed to orient the attendees.

This was attended by representatives from all the barangays of El Nido, NGOs (FPE, ENPAF, El Nido Foundation, Haribon Palawan), DENR (PAWB and Region IV), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and the private sector (Ten Knots Development Corporation).

The highlight of this is the conceptualization of a Management Board to be called, El Nido Resource Management Board which is envisioned to implement this Management Plan.

2. Consultative Seminar/Workshop on the Development of El Nido Marine Reserve Management Plan - This was held on August 12, 1995 and attended by representatives from all barangays of El Nido. Resource Speakers from ICLARM, SEAFDEC, SEARCA, PANAC, PCSD graced the affair to give insights on community-based resource management, resource planning, institutional linkages and the importance of community/multi-sectoral involvement in the formulation of Management Plan.

This coincided with the workshop for the 3 barangays in the Poblacion and the 5 eastern barangays.

Local resource persons included the Project Leader of ENMR-PMO, the Municipal Vice Mayor and the Steering Group who gave lectures on :

- a. Management Plan: Its Importance and Processes Involved in its Formulation,
 - b. NIPAS Act, SEP and LG Code Terms of Unification
 - c. Zoning : A Tool in Resource Management.
 - d. Community Involvement : Its Importance in Planning and Policy Formulation.
3. Conflict Resolution - Held on December 18 and 19 with a resource speaker from Tanggol Kalikasan, the participants from the 18 barangays were given insight on resolving issues and problems. The workshop made use of the problems and issues presented during the barangay and town workshops as the case.

The Synthesis Process

Barangay outputs reflected in the brown paper and loose sheets such as post evaluation forms are brought back to the Office every after conduct of barangay workshop as basis for analysis by the Steering group.

In each barangay, the status of a particular species or resource whether abundant, common, threatened or extinct is arrived at by getting the average of the tally from the number of participating groups which has indicated said species and its status. From this average a numerical equivalent is assigned to describe the category.

In getting the overall status of resources for the entire El Nido, same procedure is followed except that the average is taken from the number of participating barangays - the maximum is 14 with the last 5 eastern barangays (San Fernando, Sibaltan, Villa Paz, New Ibajay and Mabini) counted as 1.

The existing uses of El Nido is collated into general uses from the outputs of all the 14 groups. As in the resources found in El Nido, this subject is herein appended in Tagalog in this report.

The problems and issues are listed from all barangays before these are classified either ecological, economic, social, political or institutional. It is stressed however, that in certain cases, a particular issue or problem can appear once, twice or thrice in the list depending on interrelationships. Example, tile problem on increasing migration or population which is associated with ecological, economic, social or political, appears in all the 4 appropriate categories.

The output on workshop No. 4 on desired zoning of respective barangays is reflected through a sketch map prepared by participating groups. Unless time allows as in Barangay Bagong Bayan, group maps are ideally presented and deliberated in tile workshop occasion to come up with an integrated zoning map; otherwise, group outputs are processed at office base by the Steering Group and included in all other collated outputs for concurrence or further comments when the group returns to the barangays.

The general zoning map is prepared by the Steering Group by integrating all the zoning plan prepared by all barangays.

The-output on the keyplayers identified to help in the implementation of their zoning plan are maintained and checked against the sectors to be represented in respective barangays. These sectors include, where applicable, the indigenous group, women, youth, elders, fishermen, farmers, boceadores (balinsasayaw gatherers), education, health, religious, government and non-government organizations.

NATURAL RESOURCES OF EL NIDO

El Nido's resources (Tab. 1) are rich but are threatened by unsustainable exploitation of these. Its forest and marine ecosystems are inhabited by diverse flora and fauna. which are sources of livelihood to many.

Among their valued resources are: Edible bird's nest or "*balinsasayaw*" and "*barako*" or squid which give the people big income during summer.

Barangay Bagong Bayan, Aberawan, Pasadeña and New Ibajay still enjoy, from the rest of El Nido's barangays, a good supply of freshwater. This is valuable for domestic and agricultural use. The supply is however threatened by continuous destruction of its watershed by logging and kaingin.

Fish and other marine products like *lapu-lapu*, *tanigue*, *samaral*, *malasugi*, *talakitok*, *banak*, *salmon*, *dilis*, *banagan* or lobster, etc. are not only an important source of protein for the local people but for commercial trade. These still abound throughout the area but overfishing and-destructive means of harvest such as use of fine-mesh net, dynamite and cyanide fishing by fishermen both from outside and within El Nido reduce the chance of sustaining yield of these resources.

Non-timber forest products such as *buho*, *rattan*, *yantok* and *cogon* are gathered from Barangays like Villa Paz, Aberawan, Manlag, Villa Libertad and San Fernando for ties, thatches, wall panels, and furniture for local and commercial use.

Various species of hardwood trees are cut for house and banca construction, for government infrastructure projects, for resort developments and/or shipped to outside municipalities like Cuyo and provinces like Mindoro, Romblon, Quezon and Batangas. These species are *apitong*, *narra*, *ipil*, *kalantas*, *antipolo*, etc. From among these species, ipil (*Intsia* sp.) is the most preferred because of its known all-weather quality and guarantee from termite infestation. These qualities make the species priced and overexploited. While logging is banned in the entire Province of Palawan, the destructive activities remain unchecked or hardly regulated.

Monkeys, wild pigs, Palawan bear cat, *durian* or porcupine, *balinton* or scaly anteater, *dengen* or river otters, "*pikoy*" or green parrots, *pawikan* or marine turtles, and *balud* or pigeons are still a common sight but crocodiles, *tabon* or megapode, *abukay* or cockatoos and *duyong* or seacow are either feared extinct or becoming rare.

Tab. 1. MGA LIKAS-YAMAN NG EL NIDO

KALAGAYAN/BILANG NG NAGRESPONDENG BARANGAY					
LIKAS-YAMAN	SAGANA	KARANTWAN	NANGANGANIB MAUBOS	BIHIRA	WALA NA
Ahas	5	1			
Alabukay			6	2	2
Alamang				2	
Alikumo		1		1	
Alimango	2	3	4		
Alimasag	2	2	3		
Amogis		2			
Anahaw				1	
Anibong			1		
Apitong	3	3	3	1	
Aradungao				1	
Baboy-damo	2	2	4	4	
Bagulan		1	2		
Bakawan	4	3	5		
Balat		1	3	1	
Balilit				1	
Balinsasayaw	1	2	2	1	
Balinton	1	1	6	2	
Balud	2	3	1	1	
Banagan		1	3	1	
Banak		1			
Banga		1			
Bangus fry		1	2	2	
Baryaw-baryaw	1				
Bato	1				
Bayawak	6	3	2	1	
Binturong				3	
Bising	4	2	1		
Bisukol/Kuhol	1			1	
Buding				4	
Buhangin	2				
Buhangin	3		1		
Buho	5		1		
Bulalo			1	1	
Buli			1		
Buwaya				1	5
Cogon	4	1	1		
Corals	2	1	2	2	
Dalag			1	1	
Dao		1			
Dapo/Orchids	3	3	4	2	
Dengen	1				
Dilis			1	1	
Dulo			1		
Durian		4	3	1	

Note: Ang numero na nakatala ay nagpapakita ng bilang ng mga barangay na nagresponde.

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LIKAS-YAMAN	SAGANA	KARANTWAN	NANGANGANIB MAUBOS	BIHIRA	WALA NA
Duyong			2	7	
Graba	7		1		
Guano	1	1	1		
Hipon		3	1	3	
Hito	1			2	
Ipil		5	2	3	
Isda	3	4	3		
Isdang Tabang		1			
Kahoy	2	1	2		
Kalaw	1				
Kamagong	1	1	1	1	
Kapis				1	
Karawkaw			1		
Kasoy	1	1			
Katsili			1	1	
Kawayan		1			
Kawayan-Kawayan		1			
Kiao/Siao			2	3	
Kiay-kiay			1		1
Kibaw			3		
Kilik		1			
Kuday			1	1	
Kulapo	1				
Kuwago					1
Labuyo	4	3	2	2	
Lato	1	3	1		
Lawin	1	2	2	2	
Lumba-lumba			2		
Lupa	1				
Man-la	1		1		
Maya	4			1	
Musang	3	1			
Narra	1	2	7	4	
Nato					3
Nipa		3	2		
Pagong	1	3			
Palos	1				
Pandan	1				
Paniki	1				
Pantot	1			1	
Papait	1				
Pasiak		1		1	
Pawikan	1	2	4	1	
Pikoy	2	2	6		
Pitik		1	1		

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LIKAS-YAMAN	SAGANA	KARANTWAN	NANGANGANIB MAUBOS	BIHIRA	WALA NA
Pugita		2	1	3	
Pukyutan	1	1	1	2	
Punay	1				
Pusit	1	4	1		
Puyo	1				
Rattan		2	2		
Sabalo				1	
Samong		1	2	3	
Seagrasses			1		
Shells	1	5	1		
Silica	1				
Simaron				1	
sugpo	1		2	1	
Tabon			2	2	1
Taklobo	1	2	4		
Talaba	1				
Tamilok			1	1	
Tandikan	1	2	3	1	
Tikling				1	
T'ipay			1	1	
Tirik				1	
Tubig	2	5	3		1
Ulang	1				
Unggoy	7		1	1	
Uwak				1	
Wild Duck	1				
Woodpecker			1		
Yantok	1		5	1	
Katutubong Tao				2	
Kultura	7				
Kuweba	11				
Malinis na Hangin	14				
Tanawin	14				

The rare sighting of *buding* or whale shark which persisted at Bacuit Bay this summer (April, 1995) evoked pride among communities at the western part of El Nido as a species they own.

El Nido's people, their indigenous culture, the area's panoramic land and seascape, its soil, clean air and archaeological caves were resources not originally not included in tile community's list but included after facilitators perform their role to educate and inform the community these are valuable resources too.

EXISTING USES OF EL NIDO

To most people of El Nido, the area is used as settlement and source of livelihood from fishing, agriculture, tourism, logging and collection of *batinsasayaw* or edible bird's nest.

Majority of the fishing population are found at coastal barangays like Bebeladan, Corong-Corong, the Poblacion, Bucana, Teneguiban, San Fernando and Sibaltan. This is the reason why its use as dock or port for their bancas and for other incoming vessels is indispensably regarded.

Other uses of the area are: source of food, seat of local government offices, market, wildlife habitat, silica mining and source of construction materials (such as lumber, gravel and sand, *bakawan* or mangroves, cogon, *nipa*, *buho*).

Because of its unique and natural scenery, El Nido is a favorite destination of local and foreign tourists, too.

ISSUES, PROBLEMS AND THREATS

Problems and issues differ among barangays outside the Poblacion depending on the impacts to their livelihood. Example, coastal barangays which heavily rely on fishing as source of income commonly complain of illegal fishing. Lowland and upland communities are concerned of decreasing water supply due to logging and kaingin. Poblacion barangays where the seat of local government and center of employment and trade are located, underscore political-related issues, garbage disposal, high/unregulated prices of basic commodities as primary concerns which need to be addressed.

Problems and issues identified (Tab. 2) by the community participants have been classified as ecological, economic, social, political and institutional and found out that in most cases, these have cross-cutting linkages - i.e. the social problem on increasing population and migration poses problem also on tile area's ecology with the pressure created on resource use and competition.

The problem of lack of medical services especially during outbreaks of disease like malaria, gastro-intestinal and respiratory ailments and oil emergencies did not miss all barangay's concern. While these may not be easily interfaced with environmental concerns, this problem can be potential entrypoytits and primary consideration in any development project which may be proposed in the Municipality.

Strict law enforcement by El Nido Marine Reserve Management is urgently desired by eastern barangays but barangays within the protected area consider the present enforcement works a problem in their sourcing of materials for construction and repairs of houses.

Conflicts on barangay boundaries especially in Bagong Bayan has been a major problem presented in resource utilization and environmental protection. Its watershed falls outside the political and management of the Municipal Government and El Nido Marine Reserve, respectively.

The exercise on the identification of threats to the community if these problems and issues are not addressed tested the community's level of awareness and concern being the first to suffer consequences. Their livelihood is particularly looked at when the threats are discussed. The facilitators at this point moderate and take advantage of the active discussion by instilling that responsibility to address these issues is not therefore the government's alone but the community's foremost.

DESIRED ZONING OF EL NIDO

The workshop on zoning or resource allocation was the most liked and challenging among the 5 parts. Familiarity with the existing El Nido Marine Reserve zoning and a need to further zonify the mainland were evident during the exercise. Women were most active in this workshop and tended to be more conservative in further opening forestlands for local use.

The western mainland which is the buffer zone of El Nido Marine Reserve under DENR AO 14, Series of 1991, as amended, was subjected to further zoning by all barangays within the existing protected area.

Watersheds and inaccessible limestone forests were generally zoned for protection and closed to use even by immediate communities. Secondary forests surrounding their "core" zone were considered buffers where gathering of any product therein shall be regulated. Established cultivations of rice, cashew and mango and centers of barangay population were zoned as multiple-use.

The islands retained its status as "core" zone with the beaches allocated for soft-impact activities of local residents such as snorkeling, family outings and picnics, island hopping and shelter of fishing boats during high seas.

Mangroves inland were zoned "core" while mangroves seaward and along riverbanks were allocated for buffer where they can gather materials for local construction.

Boundaries of neighboring barangays were termed "zone of co-operation". This may either fall under "core", buffer or multiple-use zone but made distinct by the joint responsibility of the concerned barangays in its management and protection.

For the communities, "core" and protection zone of DENR AO 14, Series of 1991 are synonymous and imply no resource extraction allowed. Buffer zone means logged over areas surrounding the "core" zone where resource use is regulated. Multiple-use zone are areas basically with established communities, fully cultivated for rice, cashew and mango and where resource utilization may be extensive.

Fig. 1 shows the community zoning plan as consolidated from the workshop outputs.

DESIRED ZONING PLAN IMPLEMENTORS

The people chosen by barangay participants as keyplayers to the realization of their zoning plan represent the different sectors present in the community. A complete sectoral representation includes: the youth, the elders, women, indigenous group, health, farmers, fishermen, education, government and non-government agencies, religious, business/private, boceadores, barangay council and sitio or purok leaders.

Except for Teneguiban and Bagong Bayan, there are no indigenous groups present in most barangays.

THE PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

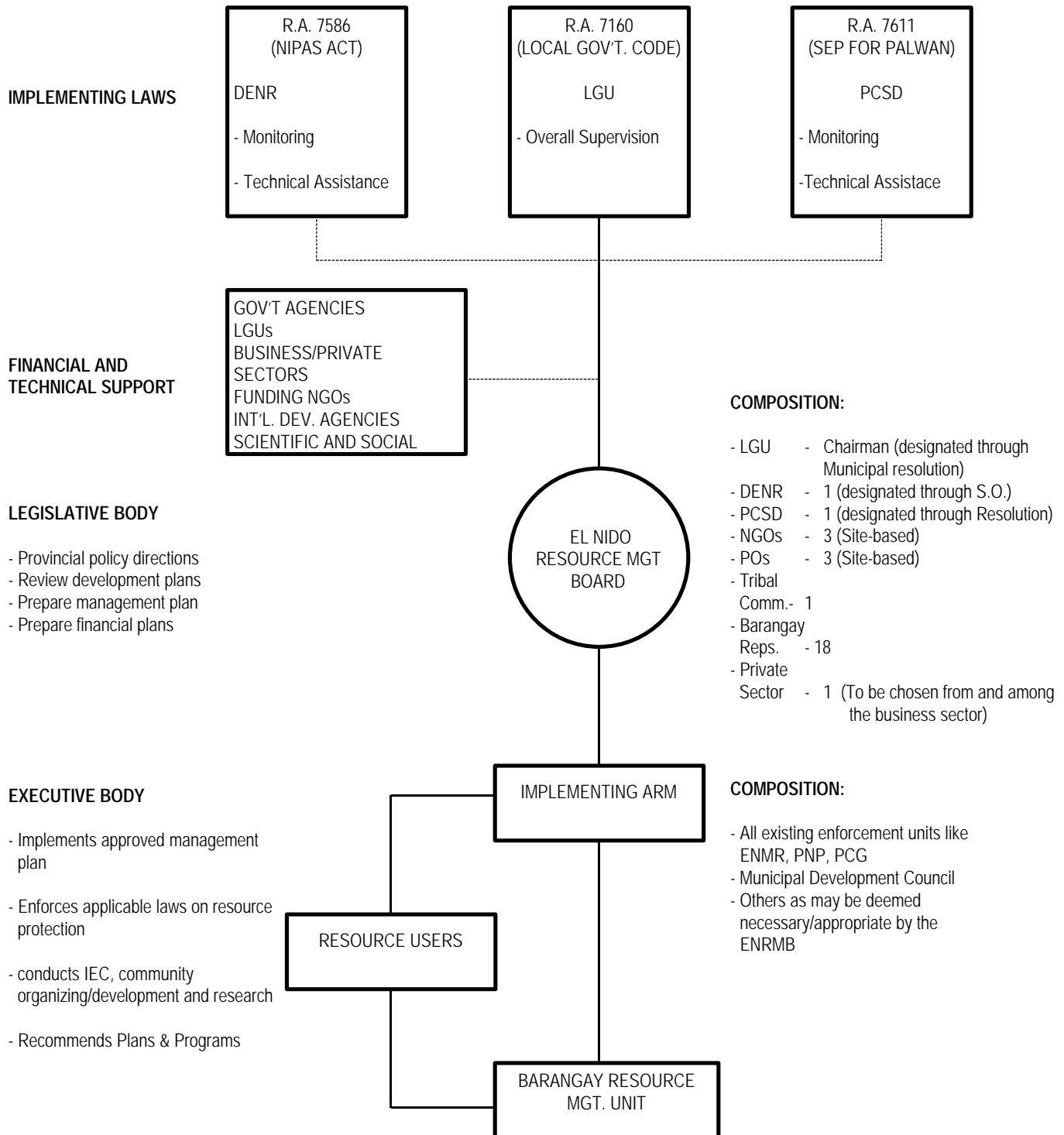
A framework (Fig. 2) was conceptualized as an output of the seminar held on March 7, 1995. This framework strived to merge primary laws governing the environmental management in the Province of Palawan. These laws - R.A. 7586 (NIPAS Act), R.A. 7611 (SEP for Palawan), and R.A. 7160 (Local Government Code) - are an essential consideration in organizing a decision-making body in the management of El Nido's protected area and resources.

In said framework, the proposed El Nido Resource Management Board (ENRMB) shall be a legislative body which functions primarily to: a) provide policy directions, b) review all plans and programs in accordance with an approved Management Plan, and c) seek and appropriate funds for sustained *operations*. This Board shall be chaired by the *Local Government* with members from DENR, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), 3 on-site NGOs and POs, the tribal community, representative from each of the 18 barangays and 1 from the private sector in El Nido.

The Board shall have its implementing arm which shall serve both as its Secretariat and executive body. As an executive body, it shall, among others: a) implement approved management plan, b) conduct IEC, community organizing/development, visitor management and research, and c) prepare management and financial plans.

The implementing arm shall have its counterpart at the barangay level and it shall be called the Barangay Resource Management Unit.

Fig. 2. A Conceptual Framework of the Appropriate Resource Management Board for El Nido, Palawan



PROPOSED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

A list of prioritized programs and project propositions to address the identified problems and issues was done by the Steering Group in consultation with ENMR-PMO and the Local Government through the Municipal Vice Mayor after processing the output and participation of the community during the "Conflict Resolution" seminar/workshop conducted in December, 1995.

In order to check consistency, these proposed programs and projects were matched (Tab. 3) against the problems and issues.

A consultation with the community on the prioritization made together with the corresponding schedule of implementation over a five-year timeframe, costing and fund sourcing is suggested for consideration in succeeding activities.

PROPOSED COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

CODE/NO.

TITLE

1. Institutionalization and operationalization of El Nido Sustainable Resource Management Board and its Community Management Plan, respectively.
2. Immediate reactivation of the El Nido Marine Reserve as an environmental law implementing agency.
3. Establishment of and enforcement of municipal fishing vessel licensing system (incoming/outgoing municipal users of PA)
4. Installation and enforcement of an entrance/user fee system
5. Expansion of the PA to include the eastern barangays and the northernmost barangays of Taytay Municipality.
6. Ground Truthing of PA
7. Installation of environmental monitoring system
8. Upgrading of salaries/benefits for PA employees
Realistic salaries, appropriate authority, modest housing project for employees, provision for needed materials and equipment, trainings and skills development, payment of overtime and night differentials, a good package of life and accident insurance and step increments for outstanding performance.
9. Information, education and communication mobilization (towards volunteer program)
10. Alternative Livelihood and Income-Generating Projects (through Cooperatives)
 - a. Oyster Culture
 - b. Eucheuma Farming
 - c. Mud Crab
 - d. Fish Culture in Cages
 - e. Salt Production
 - f. Souvenir and Gift Shops
 - g. Meat and Fish Processing

- h. Tailoring Shop
 - i. Beauty Parlor and Barber Shop
 - j. Photo and Video Shops
 - k. Dive Shops
 - l. Rattan, Buho, Cogon and Pandan Growing
 - m. Cooperative Store (with storage/warehouse)
 - n. Duct/Swine/Poultry
 - o. Lending facilities fl farm and fishing implements
11. Research
12. Infrastructure Projects
- a. Farm to Market Roads
 - b. Block Ice Plant and Block Ice Storage
 - c. Barangay and Day Care Centers
 - d. Potable Waterworks System
 - e. Drainage and Sewerage System
 - f. Barangay Health Center
 - g. Training and Technology Centers
 - h. Electric/Solar and Telecommunication System in all Barangays
 - i. Mango, Cashew and Fish Processing Center
 - j. Recreation and Amusement Centers (multi-purpose complex with function halls and Visitor Center)
 - k. Administrative Facilities (El Nido Protected Area Administrative Bldg., Ranger Stations, Research Station with Laboratory, Boardwalks and Interpretive Boards)
 - l. Cover Terminal with Fish Storage Facilities
13. Tenurial instruments
- a. Census of occupants within the protected area including registration of occupants,
 - b. Socio-economic survey to include skills identification of would-be beneficiaries,
 - c. Community organizing and intensive education campaign,
 - d. Modification and/or legislation of land-use policies
14. Reforestation/Rehabilitation of Critical Upland Sites
15. Stabilization of Critical Shorelines and Coastal Forests
16. Installation of Appropriate Solid Waste Management in the PA
17. Formulation of Sustainability Financing Plan

Tab. 3 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED ISSUES AND PROBLEMS OF EL NIDO

ISSUES AND PROBLEMS	PROGRAM / CODE																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1. Logging	■	■					■		■	■	■	■	■	■			
2. Kaingin	■	■					■		■	■	■	■	■				
3. Destruction or fast depletion of mangroves	■	■					■		■	■	■	■				■	
4. Uncontrolled resource (lumber, gravel, sand) extraction for govt. projects and resort construction	■	■					■		■		■			■			
5. Lack of environmental considerations in government projects	■				■												
6. Widespread infestation of agricultural products	■						■		■			■					
7. Loss/Destruction of wildlife habitat		■						■		■							
8. Quarrying of marble cliff	■						■		■	■							
9. Development in core or strict protection zones	■	■				■	■		■		■						
10. Lack of drainage, sewerage and waste disposal system	■						■		■		■	■					■
11. Overfishing	■	■	■	■			■		■	■	■	■					
12. Destructive/Non-sustainable fishing	■	■					■		■	■	■	■					
13. Erosion and Siltation							■		■		■			■			
14. Uncontrolled poaching/overharvesting of edible bird's nest or "balinsasavaw"	■	■		■			■		■	■	■		■				
15. Smuggling of lumber		■	■						■								
16. Improper/Lack of appr.technology in farming, fishing							■		■		■	■					
17. Monoculture for economically profitable products	■						■		■		■	■					
18. Beach erosion							■		■		■			■			
19. Pollution - i.e. garbage	■	■					■		■		■	■					■
20. Uncontrolled erection of house along seashores	■	■					■		■		■		■				
21. Increasing population	■						■		■		■	■	■				
22. Poor roads							■		■		■	■		■			
23. Poor irrigation							■		■		■	■		■			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
24. Remote from/lack of medical services	■						■		■		■	■	■				
25. Lack of Income-generating opportunities	■								■	■	■	■	■				
26. Lack of farm-to-market road	■					■	■		■		■	■					
27. Lack of schools, teachers									■		■	■					
28. Lack of potable water							■		■		■	■					
29. High/no price control	■								■	■	■	■	■				
30. Increasing migration and competition of resources	■					■	■		■	■	■	■	■				
31. Lack of funds and lending banks	■			■					■		■	■					
32. Poor harvest and returns							■		■	■	■	■					
33. Lack of markets									■		■	■					
34. Price of produce controlled by middlemen & capitalists	■								■		■	■					
35. Drought							■		■		■			■	■		
36. Flooding							■		■		■			■	■		
37. Inequities on awarding yantok concession	■			■		■	■		■		■		■				
38. Resistance to regulation	■								■	■	■		■				
39. Poor education/lack of knowledge and discipline i.e. on health, proper hygiene, waste disposal resource use/harvesting							■		■		■	■					■
40. Lack of support for environmental protection	■								■	■	■	■	■				
41. Uninformed/passive public									■		■						
42. Encroachment in restricted areas	■	■			■	■	■		■		■	■	■				
43. Limited area to cultivate And erect house	■					■			■		■	■	■				
44. Increasing population	■			■			■		■	■	■	■	■				
45. Lack of participation in decision/acceptance of projects	■								■		■						
46. Uncertainty over land tenure	■				■	■	■		■		■	■	■				
47. Lack of/Unenforced ordinances regulating resource utilization	■	■	■	■			■										
48. Unclear policies or system of awarding/monitoring “balinsasayaw” gathering	■			■			■		■		■						

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Assessment of Resources

The local community are knowledgeable of the resources found in their areas. In the identification of their resources, they tend to indicate readily resources which are: a). closely associated with their main source of living, i.e. *balinsasayaw*, fish; b). banned or regulated species used for house construction and repairs and/or traded for additional income, i.e. *ipil, narra*; c). protected, common and vanishing species either observed, heard from elders, or learned from IEC efforts and materials, i.e. *duyong, pawikan, buwaya, alabukay*; and d). common or strange food, i.e. *lato, tamilok*.

Workshop output shows native plants of medicinal and biological diversity significance are either, a). unpopular among the participants, b). nonexistent in their respective barangays or c). overlooked by facilitators in their lecture as valuable resources.

Just as there still are abundant and common species in El Nido, there are also rare, threatened and extinct species declared by certain barangays. *Alabukay* or yellow-vented cockatoo, for example, has been declared extinct in Barangays Pasadeña and Barotuan. *Tabon* or megapode has been declared extinct in Barangay Bagumbayan. These examples can be subjected to preliminary research with the goal of validating the status so that appropriate interventions may be recommended or instituted.

Likewise, IEC and research components of protected area management should include the promotion of biological diversity conservation and propagation of endemic and ethno-botanic important plants.

The people and their culture, the area's semi-pristine and panoramic land and seascape, clean air and archaeological caves are some of the area's natural and sensitive resources which the community was not able to readily account as valuable resources until suggested by facilitators. This cannot be concluded as lack of awareness on the part of the local people as the descriptive account (i.e. *Sagana/karaniwan/nanganganib maubos ...*) of resources in the workshop design may not have been the proper or applicable terms for it.

These attributes are concerns for consideration in developing IEC programs aimed at achieving regional pride among the local residents and their responsibility to preserve these for posterity and promotion for ecotourism as one of the viable livelihoods for the locality.

The El Nido Resource Management Board

The adoption of a body that will manage El Nido's resources deserves consideration if management philosophy subscribes to the local community's right to decide being the primary stakeholder and the first to be affected by right and wrong decisions.

Its close linkage with the DENR, PCSD and other government and non-government agencies and the private sector should be included as one of its major functions in order to realize its various programs and projects including trainings to better equip it in its role as a management authority.

The composition of the Board at the legislative and executive level can be subjected to a review in the succeeding activities. As it appears, membership is many and to dispense of its role in the immediate decision or resolution of an issue may be difficult to attain.

In the installation of an implementing arm, existing groups which are already organized and trained to perform actual functions. A cadre from this organized group can assist or initiate the organization and training of members of respective Resource Management Unit in the implementation of the approved management plan at the barangay level. When institutionalized and under the guidance of the central implementing arm, barangay issues and concerns are immediately resolved at such level. Where necessary or applicable, unresolved concerns can be represented by the central implementing arm for resolution by the governing board.

Under this set-up, the big number of barangay representation to the governing body may be reduced from 18 to 1 or depending on the degree of barangay concerns needing representation at such legislative level.

Area's Zoning

Sketch maps of zoning prepared by each barangay contain many information on 1 identified river systems, cultivations and habitations. These valuable information, if used as reference for monitoring and boundary monumentation, should be transcribed and recorded in a standard base map.

The term "zone of cooperation" rather than "zone of co-operation" is worth adopting in adjoining barangay boundaries. Applying the latter might be misconstrued by the local people as equal utilization of resources. Promoting the term "zone of cooperation", on the other hand, likewise promotes the value of unity and cooperation among the local people in the responsibility for the protection and sustainable development of El Nido and its resources.

Barangay Bagumbayan is one of the areas enjoying a good supply of potable water. This is attributed to a fairly good cover of its watershed.

In tracing its watershed, however, it was found out that this is outside the barangay boundary and inside the political boundary of Taytay Municipality.

This can pose a potential threat to the amenity being enjoyed by Bagumbayan if the prevailing forest destruction by illegal logging and kaingin in this part of Taytay continues unchecked.

The functionalization of the proposed El Nido Resource Management Board to represent this concern to the local Government of Taytay is imperative and urgent. Along with this, an allotment of one seat for Taytay in the management board may be explored to address not only this issue but also that -of Barangay Mabini in the eastern side of El Nido especially if the latter will be finally included under a protected area management like the present of El Nido Marine Reserve. Adjoining the southern boundary of this is Sandoval, Taytay where a new airport has just been completed. This new airport can pose a threat or a potential to the ecological integrity and economic development of El Nido, respectively.

Except for the eastern barangays outside the El Nido Marine Reserve, no zoning was done by barangays on the marine ecosystem starting from the intertidal zone. Some of the probable reasons why barangays within the Reserve did not undertake zoning of this component are: a) the concern to manage and protect this is still ascribed to the government, b) this ecosystem is viewed as a common property therefore, concern to zone it to its uses must be a majority decision not attainable in the barangay workshop design or c) the local people are comfortable with existing zoning as multiple-use.

Similar to the terrestrial ecosystem, the different uses of the coastal and marine area can be accommodated appropriately through zoning. A baseline of information on the following need to be considered in zoning this particular ecosystem:

1. Assessment of resources to include seagrasses, algae, corals, fish, mollusks, echinoderms, plankton, etc.
2. Methods of harvest or fishing gears used
3. Water quality, water current, etc.
4. Use and users of the area

Several studies have been conducted in El Nido and results can be used as baseline data for this purpose. The most recent (1995) is the coral assessment conducted by ENMR-PMO to update the study conducted by the University of the Philippines- Marine Science Institute in 1986.

This study by ENMR-PMO recommended that an island to island approach to zoning would be best considering that just about all of the open water between the islands is multiple-use zoned. There are 3 areas that are actually part of the mainland (Ipil Point, Cudugnon Pt./Bita Bay and Saminaytay Point), but these were looked at in terms of their nearshore habitat.