

Communication and Natural Resource Management

Report by Working
Group 1

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Introduction

The Isang Bagsak (IB) experience in enabling people to become drivers of their development through PDC and NRM presents evidence of the importance of PDC in development taken in a holistic context.

General recommendation

- We recommend sustaining the IB community of practice as an avenue for continued exchange and collaboration in PDC training, research and evaluation and other PDC initiatives
- PDC is a process that is used for developing local involvement, resolving issues, identifying problems and solutions, sharing knowledge and information

Pre-conditions

- Human resources – implementers with knowledge of the local culture, expertise in PDC and content, commitment and motivation.
- Physical resources – interactive tools, both indigenous and introduced; minimum physical resources to facilitate the process.
- Socio-cultural pre-conditions – there is a mandate and clear expectations of implementers, the community and other stakeholders and an enabling environment that allows the PDC process to unfold.
- Time – needs to be considered from the perspectives of implementers, donors and local participants

Recommendations for training

- We recommend instituting experiential, value based, culturally sensitive, collaborative/interactive, inclusive and empowering training in PDC based on the IB principles for the following stakeholders: decision makers, media specialists, communication, training and education institutions and communities.

Recommendations for research

We recommend research must address how to achieve and sustain both the process of participation and the outcomes/impact of participation.

This requires:

- A shared framework describing PDC processes and effects.
- Community involvement in design, implementation and dissemination.

We recommend PDC research utilization and dissemination must address:

- What is generalizable and what is unique
- How access to publication outlets can be increased
- Who owns the rights to publish

Recommendations for scaling-up

- We recommend PDC should seek to maximise involvement and collaboration of a multi-stakeholder environment to support local development
- We recommend scaling up the process with drivers of development based on impact assessment and improve methodology to influence practice and policy at every level

Action Plan

- Support power and stakeholder analysis, conflict management and provide a forum to bring stakeholders together
- Share impact assessment results with government and approach government through PDC
- Form an international working group to compile and refine tools for the research and evaluation of the PDC process and impact, and develop training programs, materials and systems for participatory research and evaluation
- Engage the support of donors and policy makers for research, research training, research dissemination and publication

Action Plan

- Train PDC trainers/facilitators, people at the grass roots level, media specialists and decision makers
- Develop and refine PDC tools, methods and materials advocating PDC
- Integrate PDC into existing communication, NRM and other technical curricula
- Align PDC and donor requirements
- Include PDC in project formulation