

**TANGGOL KALIKASAN**  
**THE INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAM**  
**Concept Paper**

**I. Introduction**

**A. Background**

With the devolution of government powers accompanying the passage of the Philippine Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A. 7160), local governments were granted powers to effect governance in their respective jurisdictions. Accompanying these powers are functions then lodged in national government agencies. Among the devolved functions are those pertaining to the environment department, like pollution control and solid waste management, management of communal forest, integrated social forestry, regulation of small-scale mining, and related functions for environmental protection.

Fisheries management and regulatory functions in municipal waters have likewise been devolved to local governments, particularly, the municipal governments. Under existing laws, municipal councils have exclusive power to grant fisheries privileges in municipal waters. And in pursuit of the general welfare, these local governments are likewise tasked to enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, health, comfort and convenience.

To implement these tasks, the provincial, city or municipal government may opt to appoint Environment and Natural Resources Officers (ENRO). In their absence or concurrence, the local chief executives (the Barangay Captains, Mayors and Governors) themselves are obligated to adopt adequate measures to protect and conserve the resources and to enforce all laws relative to the governance of the local government unit, including environmental law.

Indeed, with the passage of the Local Government Code and other relevant environmental legislations, the responsibility on the environment has been passed on to local governments. These powers and responsibilities under the laws further broaden the role of local governments on the environment aspect of governance.

**B. The Challenge**

The ever-expanding role of local government units (LGUs) in the environment aspect of governance poses both an opportunity and a challenge. It is a welcome opportunity, since LGUs, as grounded managers of the natural resources and representatives of the resource stakeholders, are more likely to make informed decisions and enact more relevant resource policies than national agencies. LGU

presence in the local areas also signifies more efficient and effective policy enforcement and program monitoring.

However, the fact that powers and functions have been devolved does not equate to actual transfer of capacity or corresponding responsible governance. In most likelihood, the actual capacity, particularly the technical and financial aspect, still lie with the national agency. Our own actual experience shows that most LGUs have yet to fully comprehend their roles and functions in environmental protection and are still in the process of developing their capacities in fully implementing their environmental mandate. Thus, while the devolution of environmental function is indeed an opportunity, ensuring full capacity for local governments to effect their given mandate poses an exciting challenge.

## **II. The Institute of Environmental Governance**

As a response to the above challenge, Tanggol conceptualized and spearheaded the establishment of Institutes of Environmental Governance (IEG) in local areas in the Philippines to provide the much-needed capacity that will enable local executives, as local managers and policy-makers, to more effectively perform their given mandate. Apart from being a capability-building program, the IEG also provides for a venue to engage government in advocacy for local environmental and natural resource policy and program reforms. It calls for collaboration among Tanggol Kalikasan and other partner NGOs, academic institutions and LGUs in addressing issues affecting basic sectors. The training program is accredited by the Civil Service Commission, the LoGoTRI PhilNet.

TK taps local partners in establishing Institutes all over the country. This institutional arrangement (explained in detail below) ensures the replication of the program throughout the country with minimum intervention from TK after the establishment and program take-off. A phase-out period for every Institute established will be determined, after which, the academic institution is free to manage the capability-building program. This arrangement also encourages program sustainability in the level of the local partner academic institutions. Existing mechanisms in the academic institutional system supports the incorporation of the IEG in the school extension program.

### **A. Components of the Institute of Environmental Governance Program**

The capability-building program has five (5) components as itemized below:

- Component I: IEG Level 1 for Barangay LGUs
- Component II: IEG Level 2 for Municipal, City and Provincial LGUs
- Component III: IEG for Judges and Prosecutors
- Component IV: IEG for National Legislators
- Component V: IEG for Selected National Government Agency Officials

## **B. Institutional Framework**

Tanggol will be responsible for the over-all coordination of the program. Each component will be implemented in collaboration with different local partners. This concept paper describes each component depending on its implementation stage:

### **1. Component I: IEG Level 1 for Barangay LGUs**

Program partners from local state colleges and universities will be tapped to house the IEG local centers. These local centers shall host the trainings to be conducted in their respective regions or provinces, depending on the capability of the partner institution and the local area of scope. Each area-based program shall be managed autonomously under a joint management scheme between the host institution and Tanggol Kalikasan. The scheme is intended to ensure the flow of both the academic and experiential learning as well as to enable each area-based institute or program to adopt and adjust to local conditions.

To date, Tanggol Kalikasan, with the support of local academic institutions, has already established fourteen (14) Training Centers for Luzon (all regions except the Cordillera Autonomous Region), three (3) centers for Visayas and six (6) in Mindanao.

### **2. Component II: IEG Level 2 for Municipal, City and Provincial LGUs**

For Level two trainings, IEG partners offering Level 1 trainings may also provide trainings for different IEG Components as may be necessary. The training design for IEG Level 2 is designed or modified based on the need and time constraints of the target participants.

### **3. Component III: IEG for Judges and Prosecutors**

Tanggol Kalikasan also train judges, prosecutors and lawyers affiliated with institutions such as the Supreme Court, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), Office of the Ombudsman, and the Department of Justice (DOJ) on environmental governance. TK in partnership with the Philippine Judicial Academy (PhilJA) and the University of the Philippines Institute of Judicial Administration (UP-IJA) undertake this program.

#### **4. Component IV: IEG for Selected Regional and Provincial Government Agency Officials**

This will comprise conducting environmental law and law enforcement trainings to build the capabilities of National Government Agency officials, especially those of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). Trainings for the local NGA law enforcers shall be proposed to be conducted by a selected local IEG Training Center established in Component 1 of this program.

#### **5. Component IV: IEG for National Legislators**

A capacitated executive arm and well-informed judiciary functions best if it is supported by sound environmental law and policy, thus the need to capacitate national legislators as well. The feasibility of holding a capability-building program for members of the Senate and the House of Representatives and the possibility of a partnership will be explored through initial talks with the Committees on Environment of both Houses.

### **C. Training Approach and Design**

The program will employ the Integrated Ecosystems Approach (*Taga-Ilog Method*) in designing training modules and selecting participants for training. The approach considers common resource bases in the geographic regions of the participants for training, such as bays, gulfs, watersheds, and declared protected areas. The training design will revolve around the management and law enforcement of the common resource base. Thus, the participants, as far as practicable, will come from one contiguous area.

The institute or program will endeavor to design its programs towards the attainment of specific and measurable impacts on the common resource base, thereby realistically addressing the issues affecting the basic sectors. A given period of time will be allotted for the evaluation process from six (6) months to one (1) year after the training. It is the goal of the program to monitor the impact of the training not only on the participants, but also the effect of the program on the resource base.

Conducting the training in a concerted effort in one contiguous zone ensures training efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the training. The concentrated effort will also enable the institute or program to properly monitor and evaluate training impact on participants and the natural resource base. Thus, each training shall be designed based on existing ecological, social and other relevant conditions in the target area.

Subject to adjustment and specific training design for a particular ecosystem, the training framework shall include: (1) Basic Ecological Principles (2) Applicable Resource Management Models with Livelihood Programs (3) Relevant Environmental Policies (4) Basic Enforcement Skills, and (5) Integrated Area Specific Action Planning (ASAP). Training shall proceed from three (3) to four (4) days and shall be conducted using popular education techniques. The training is financed through a counterpart scheme, Tanggol Kalikasan and the partner institution provide the training materials and resource persons and the participants shoulder their transportation, food and accommodation expenses that they can charge to their official training funds. Sponsorships and project funds may be provided when available.

At the end of each training, the participants shall draft a six-month to one-year Integrated Area Action Plan (IAAP) which the training participants must implement in their own localities. Success indicators and benchmarks shall be established as part of the monitoring and evaluation system of the IAAPs. The IEG centers shall adhere to these indicators when evaluating the implementation of the IAAPs in the localities of the training participants.

The IEG does not only deal with capacity-building on the theoretical level, and results to a tangible and practical action plan governed by sound environmental governance know-how which the participants learn from the training.