

THE SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAMME IN PHILIPPINES (1998-2007):

ADDRESSING POVERTY, GENDER INEQUALITY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION



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ISBN (Series): 92-1-131743-6
ISBN (Volume): 978-92-1-132077-0
HS/1111/09E

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Editors: Ingrid Uys
Design and layout: UNON Printshop
Printer: UNON, Publishing Services Section, Nairobi, ISO 14001:2004-certified.

Cover photos: CENRO-CSWM orientation © Lipa EPM Unit, Lapasan Street © Cagayan De Oro EPM Unit, Clearing garbage from the creek © Cagayan De Oro EPM Unit



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ABBREVIATIONS

EPM	Environmental Planning and Management
LA21	Local Agenda 21
SCP	Sustainable Cities Programme
UN	United Nations
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN-HABITAT/ROAP	United Nations Human Settlements Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



PREFACE

The Sustainable Cities Programme/LA21 Programme in the Philippines was started in 1998 by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources. It was targeted at secondary towns and was perceived as a localization of the Philippine Agenda 21. Its main purpose was to pioneer the integration of environmental planning and management within the city organizations using the Sustainable Cities Programme-Local Agenda 21 (SCP-LA21) approach. Three cities were selected as demonstration cities, that is, Lipa, Tagbilaran and Cagayan De Oro. By enhancing the capacity of local government units in participatory environmental planning and management, the programme sought to address issues of poverty, inequity, powerlessness, gender inequality, and environmental degradation evident in the participating cities. Each city went systematically through a 4 phase Environmental Planning and Management process as follows: Phase 1 - start up, Phase 2 – strategy and action planning, Phase 3 – follow up and implementation, and Phase 4 – consolidation and replication. Upon the termination of the Project in 2001, the application of the Environmental Planning and Management process showed good prospects in curbing urban problems. The participating Local Government Units found that managing sustainable urbanization presented tremendous challenges, requiring them to undertake bold institutional and policy reforms and new urban environmental strategies.





CHAPTER 1: THE SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAMME PROCESS

The development potential of cities all over the world is being increasingly threatened by environmental deterioration. Aside from the obvious effects on the health and well-being of people, environmental degradation directly impedes socio-economic development. For development to be truly 'sustainable', cities need to find better ways of balancing the environment with the pressures on it by human beings.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERIORATION IS AVOIDABLE

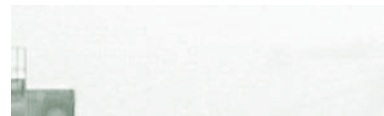
The Sustainable Cities Programme recognizes that environmental deterioration is not inevitable. Although many cities are suffering severe environmental and economic damage, there are encouraging signs that deterioration is not a necessary evil or an outcome of growth. Mounting evidence from cities around the world show that the fundamental challenge to development is good urban governance, better planning and more effective management.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAMME - A PARTICIPATORY PROCESS MODEL FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Sustainable Cities Programme is a world-wide technical cooperation facility of UN-HABITAT and UNEP. It works at city level in collaboration with local partners to strengthen their capabilities for environment planning and management. It is a participatory process model to promote Good Governance. Employing a common conceptual framework tested in many countries, the Project adopts a style and methodology unique to each city to meet that city's specific needs.

The Sustainable Cities Programme emphasizes that properly planned and managed cities hold the key to human development in a safer environment.

Good Urban Governance is the key and is characterized by the principles of partnerships, transparency, & accountability. The Sustainable Cities Programme also supports the improvement of governance at the municipal level. It also promotes gender parity as an integral aspect of environment planning and management.



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