

Manila, Philippines

Interlocal government cooperation for the **construction of infrastructure** and actions aimed at preserving the natural conditions of Manila Bay.

Local Government Units (LGUs) are key stakeholders in the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan (MBSDMP), for decision-making on and implementation of inclusive public infrastructure development, urban planning, procurement, revenue generation, public service delivery, etc. Therefore it is crucial to have as many Manila Bay LGUs as possible actively involved in the Master Planning process led by the National Economic Development Agency (NEDA) and implemented by Deltares and the Philippine consulting consortium. VNG International, together with The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) play a brokering and capacity development role strengthening LGUs to voice the needs and interests of their citizens stronger by organizing themselves in associations.

Project activities

- Technical Assistance through VNG International expert missions influencing the individual LGU level, IGC level and enabling environment level
- Participation in local meetings and Technical Assistance through the League of Cities of the Philippines on all levels of intervention

Context

Demographic moves and land use change in Manila Bay lead to the need for a Sustainable Development Master Plan for Manila Bay (MBSDMP). The MBSDMP approach aims to make use of solicited private sector investments to achieve strategic management and development goals for inclusive growth, ecosystem protection, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, water quality improvement and upgrading informal settlements. This means an active role for the public agencies soliciting investments. Local Government Units (LGUs), being provinces, cities and municipalities can play a key role in land use, solid waste and integrated water management (including sewage) and catalyse interests of inhabitants of areas affected by big infrastructures. LGUs can generate economies of scale, by managing these services together. In the case of water management, what is done by one LGU affects another LGUs within the water basin (down- or upstream). At the same time service providers and planners experience problems in service delivery with LGUs. Also, many plans do not involve LGUs from the beginning, although this is a requirement laid down in the local government code. LGUs don't have the bigger picture and experience problems with national government plans and projects. LGUs are not necessarily a player every agency is aware of.



Results

To assist in the institutional development, of inter-municipal and intergovernmental cooperation initiatives in Manila Bay, for effectively representing the LGUs' interests and for the execution of projects aimed at the construction of infrastructure and actions aimed at preserving the natural conditions of Manila Bay.

Involved parties

- *City departments:* The key permanent staff at LGU level are: Planning development officer (responsible for annual investment plan), Budget officer and Engineers
- *Governmental:* The League of Cities, ABB-BP: 8 LGUs in North Manila Bay, MANATUTI WQMA: LGUs and civil society organisations from Quezon, Malabon, Valenzuela around the Malabon-Navotas-Tullahan-Tinajeros (MANATUTI) River Basin in Manila are formally organised as WQMA (Water quality management association), which is a way to get funding for water management. Supported by Partners for resilience, other Intergovernmental Convergences (e.g. CABATALES)



"Finding the way forward until the elections have been settled"

Maarten Beks, VNG senior board advisor: "During the International River Summit we also met with the President of two key professional associations such as the President of the Philippine League of Environment and Natural Resources Officers (where the Environment Officers of the various cities and municipalities in Manila Bay Region are members) and the Chapter President of the Association of City Planning and Development Officers. These two associations will be helpful in convening the technical officers that we are targeting for the capacity building workshops to be organized next year. This is extra helpful because due to elections next spring the elected officials will not be focused on the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan. Working with the technical staff and focusing on the inter-local government cooperation will be the way forward until the elections have been settled."

