

# Naga, Philippines

(PFS duration: June – Oct. 2012; Tracer Study: May 2015; Source of Financing: Local Resources; National Grants etc.)

## Background

CDIA delivered two PFSs for the integrated Naga River Revitalization Project (iNRRP) in 2012, aimed at assisting the city government of Naga to achieve its vision, with specific focus on the four priority sectors encapsulated in the city's Comprehensive Development Plan 2011–2020. The PFSs covered 8 components / projects in total which include the Flood protection and mitigation and its extension, the Naga River Transportation, Bicol River Transportation, River Walk, Sanitation, Solid Waste Management, and Isla Sison Redevelopment.

“The Naga River is the host of the 305 years old ‘Fluvial Procession’ held in honor of the patroness of Naga. It has a religious, historical and cultural attachment to the people and City of Naga, so the project is not only the physical rehabilitation but also the revitalization of the religion, history and culture of the people of Naga. It will improve the protection and resilience of the communities along the river and also enhance the environment and economic conditions of the river and the city as a whole. The PFS has set the tone for interventions which the city government can implement to be able to save the river. It is also the basis for accessing financial support from the central government for the implementation of the projects; some of which are already complete and ongoing”.

(Attorney John Bongat, Mayor of Naga City, 2015)



Fig. 10: Constructed Float Wharf on Naga River



Fig. 11: Naga River Transport Boat

## Progress:

- The river transportation project, with a total investment cost of PHP 20 million from DILG, is complete. Five floating wharfs have been constructed, two passenger boats (of 20 seat capacity each) purchased and initial trainings constructed for the crew men. The operation permit has been granted, but the city has to pass an ordinance that would determine the boat fare.
- The Flood protection and river walk, with a total investment cost of about PHP 651.3 million from DPWH, are ongoing. Flood protection is 45% complete, but progress on the river walk is constrained by property along the river easement.
- The city has not conducted most of the studies recommended by the PFS (except for a hydrographic study in 2013 on the flood protection project), and the Design and Monitoring Frameworks have not been reviewed or updated by the city since the completion of the PFS. No trainings or any other support have been received by the city from any other organization or institution for the projects.
- The city is seeking 40% grant from the DPWH for the sanitation project, although the MNWD prefers investing into septage rather than a comprehensive sewerage system because of the enormous respective estimated investment cost (approximately PHP 1.3 billion).
- Some general recommendations of the PFS are being implemented for the Bicol river transportation and the solid waste management projects. Awareness raising campaigns have been conducted on solid waste and the MNDC is drafting a resolution, which if passed, would enhance its status to a corporate body that will be able to access resources and invest in the Bicol river.
- Isla Sison project is not financially bankable, but also politically sensitive since elections are just around the corner. Politicians would prefer not to take decisions that would negatively affect their votes from the urban poor who reside in this area.

### Development Impacts:

- The CDIA delivered PFS served as the main basis for the city government to access finance for the implementation of the ongoing projects.
- 40 (all male) **employment** was generated during the implementation phase of the river transportation. 70% of those employed are local residents of the project area. About 3,500 residents, students and tourists (52% female; 48% male) will benefit from the transportation facility.
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- The **flood protection** will benefit about 20,000 households in 12 of the 27 barangays in Naga City that are low-lying and flood-prone. Most of the affected households are urban poor (40% of beneficiaries), who now have been relocated to more climate-resilient areas. As a result, flood related deaths have been decreasing, with no casualty being reported recently. While the death tolls are minimal (approx. 4 people in the past 5 years), damages to property are still severe.
- About 5,000 residents and tourists will benefit from the river walk. About 26,000 jobs were said to be created by the two projects (70% residents from project locations, 99% male).
- 199 households (informal settlers), who constitute 60% of total residents along the Naga River have been relocated to more resilient communities. **Relocation** cost is provided by the city government, which includes a cash fund of PHP 2,500 to PHP 3,500 per household, as well as food and non-food item.
- About 42 **stakeholders** are involved in the planning and implementation of the project. 30 (71%) are male and 12 (29%) are female. These stakeholders include members of the city council (Sanggunian Panlungsod), barangay captains, private sector representatives, academia, youth, NGO/civil society, religious, and the front liner department of the city government.
- The Naga River Development Council has been formed since 2014, comprising the office of the congress woman, the city administration and other stakeholders of the city. It regularly updates the city stakeholders on the progress, challenges and next steps on the river rehabilitation project. This further enhances the transparency and accountability of the city government about the projects.



Fig. 12: Segment of Newly Constructed River Walk



Fig. 13: Completed Segment of Flood Protection Wall



Fig. 14: Barangay Cararayan Relocation Site