

PROCEEDINGS 2026-10

Urban Studies Program

Advancing Iloilo River Management

**Key Outcomes from Stakeholder Consultation
with the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council
(IBRDC)**

09 October 2025

LEDIPO Meeting Room, Iloilo Business Center Bldg., Brgy. Arsenal-Aduana,
Iloilo City

*Rhodella A. Ibabao, Brian C. Ventura, Alan Dino E. Moscoso, Jeestin Kent S. Gabinera,
and Nicko Jay S. Miranda*



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Cover Image Credit

"Mr. Keith Cameña, representative from the Office of the City Planning and Development Coordinator, discusses the Iloilo Waterways Map formulated by their office with the stakeholders."

Photo courtesy of the Urban Studies Program Iloilo

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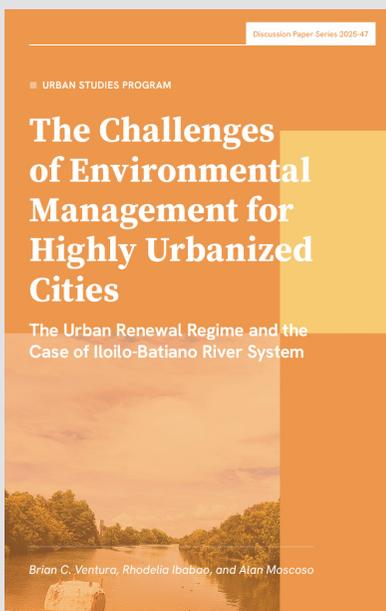
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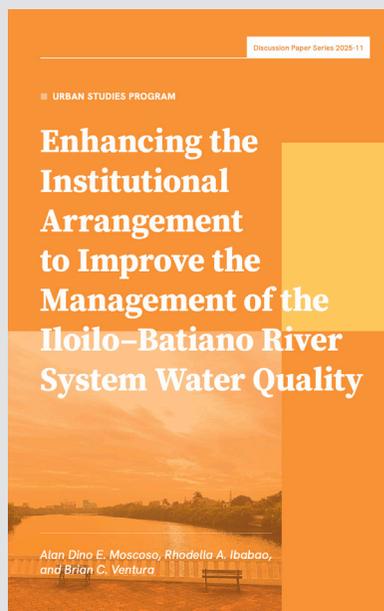
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Brian C. Ventura, Rhodella Ibabao, and Alan Moscoso

DISCUSSION PAPER

The Challenges of
Environmental Management
for Highly Urbanized Cities_
The Urban Renewal Regime
and the Case of Iloilo-
Batiano River System



*Alan Dino E. Moscoso, Rhodella A. Ibabao,
and Brian C. Ventura*

DISCUSSION PAPER

Enhancing the Institutional
Arrangement to Improve the
Management of the Iloilo-
Batiano River System Water
Quality

About the Proceedings

This is a report on the Stakeholders' Consultation with selected members of the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council, held on October 9, 2025, at the LEDIPO Meeting Room, Iloilo Business Center Bldg., Brgy. Arsenal-Aduana, Iloilo City.

The University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) Research Team's project, entitled "Revitalizing an Urban River: Stakeholders' Engagement to Improve the Water Quality of the Iloilo-Batiano River Basin," is under the Urban Studies Program (USP), funded by the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS).

Acknowledgement

The activity was made possible through the UP CIDS-Urban Studies Program funds and the logistical support of the Iloilo City Government, through the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO). The UPV Project Team would like to thank all the participants for their generosity and enthusiasm in sharing their experiences and views. Also, the administrative staff from both the Iloilo City LGU-CENRO and the UP Visayas Research Team are commended for their organizational skills, which contributed to the success of the activities.

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Executive Summary

The consultation with the select members of the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council (IBRDC) was held on October 9, 2025, at the LEDIPO Meeting Room, Iloilo Business Center, under the project “Revitalizing an Urban River: Stakeholders’ Engagement to Improve the Water Quality of the Iloilo-Batiano River Basin.” The activity was convened by the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the City Government of Iloilo, in collaboration with the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) and funded by the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) Urban Studies Program.

Purpose and Objectives

The consultation aimed to:

- Gather insights and recommendations from key stakeholders involved in Iloilo River management and planning;
- Identify issues, challenges, and opportunities in sustainable Iloilo River governance;
- Discuss the delineation of the Iloilo River’s area of influence for planning purposes; and
- Formulate policy directions and collaborative actions toward updating the Iloilo River Development Master Plan and strengthening the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council as a multi-sectoral governance body.

The session also served as the first official activity following the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between UP Visayas and the Iloilo City Government in August 2025, signifying a strengthened partnership for research-based and inclusive river management.

Key Points of Discussion

- **Institutional Context:** The IBRDC was reconstituted through Executive Order No. 082-2025 to oversee the protection, rehabilitation, and development of the Iloilo-Batiano River system and other tributaries. Participants affirmed the need to reinforce its institutional mandate through legislation.

- **Policy and Governance:** Stakeholders emphasized the absence of an updated Iloilo River Development Master Plan and proposed that the legislation of revision and adoption through a city ordinance, ensuring continuity and accountability across administrations.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Persistent issues such as wastewater discharge, untreated effluents, and solid waste accumulation were raised, calling for stricter implementation of wastewater treatment, riparian buffer zones, and reforestation programs.
- **Coordination and Integration:** The need for improved inter-agency coordination, financing mechanisms, and a long-term maintenance plan for the Iloilo Esplanade was underscored.
- **Land Use and Planning:** Participants discussed the delineation of the river's area of influence, noting that the boundaries were defined during the Esplanade project but require integration into updated land use and zoning policies.
- Moreover, considerations for delineating the area of influence were guided by specific legal instruments and planning documents, specifically the Fisheries Code, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), the Zoning Ordinance, and the need to protect the heritage area within the Calle Real district. The integration of national laws and thematic concerns is consistent with the standard planning practice in the Philippines.
- **Community and Public Access:** Ensuring equitable access to the river and encouraging community-based stewardship were identified as priorities to sustain public engagement and environmental awareness.
- **Data and Knowledge Systems:** Establishing a centralized data infrastructure for research, policy, and project monitoring was recommended to support evidence-based management decisions.

Agreements and Recommendations

The participants reached a consensus on the following actions:

- Review and update the 2001 Iloilo River Development Master Plan and align it with collaborative governance and integrated water resource management principles;

- Institutionalize the IBRDC through an ordinance, separate from the executive order, for greater legitimacy and permanence;
- Strengthen environmental rehabilitation initiatives and pollution control measures, including the upgrading of wastewater facilities;
- Develop data-sharing protocols and a centralized information system for river management;
- Encourage community and barangay-level participation through local river management committees; and
- Conduct follow-up technical meetings leading to a River Summit to consolidate policy directions and program commitments.

Policy Recommendations

Institutionalization and Governance

- Pass a city ordinance to institutionalize the IBRDC and define its powers, functions, and membership structure.
- Update and adopt the 2021 Iloilo-Batiano River Development Master Plan and adopt it through a legislative measure to ensure continuity beyond a single administration.
- Designate a permanent office or coordinating body within the local government unity (LGU) for knowledge management, planning, and implementation support.

Environmental and Infrastructure Management

- Develop a Comprehensive Sewerage and Septage Management Plan (CSSMP) to address wastewater discharge from residential, commercial, and industrial sources.
- Strengthen enforcement of environmental laws, including riparian easement, zoning, and pollution control regulations.
- Implement reforestation and buffer zone programs along critical riverbanks to stabilize ecosystems and reduce flooding and erosion.

Data and Knowledge Systems

- Establish a centralized data infrastructure shared by LGUs, national government agencies (NGAs), and academic partners to improve coordination and policy coherence. The CENRO can be a possible data center for the integration of information.
- Standardize river monitoring indicators to track water quality, sedimentation, and biodiversity conditions.

Community and Private Sector Engagement

- Empower barangays through the inclusion in the IBRD Committee membership and community-based stewardship programs.
- Encourage partnerships with the business sector and civil society for joint clean-up drives, awareness campaigns, and sustainable tourism initiatives.
- Promote river heritage education through digital platforms and integration into local cultural programs.

Financing and Sustainability

- Develop financing schemes for river rehabilitation, Esplanade maintenance, and eco-tourism development.
- Allocate regular city budget support for river protection and data management activities.

Conclusion

The consultation reaffirmed the shared commitment of government agencies, academic institutions, and partner organizations to safeguard the Iloilo-Batiano River as a vital ecological and cultural resource. Participants called for an updated master plan and stronger institutional mechanisms to harmonize efforts, ensure policy continuity, and promote sustainable river governance.

The proceedings will serve as a key reference for the forthcoming updates to the Iloilo River Development Master Plan, guiding future policy formulation, project development, and collaborative actions toward a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable river system.

Project Overview and Methods

Background

The Iloilo River is vital to the city's economy, environment, and cultural identity. However, increasing pollution, encroachment, and climate impacts threaten its long-term sustainability. The stakeholder consultation on river management was conducted to gather views, priorities, and recommendations from key actors involved in or affected by the management of the Iloilo River.

The consultation aimed to ensure inclusive participation and evidence-based decision-making for a sustainable management of the Iloilo River through integrated and participatory approaches aligned with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6, 11, 13, and 15).

For the stakeholder consultations, a collaborative governance model was used to frame urban river management. The framework focuses on integrating diverse stakeholder perspectives and resources to achieve the sustainable health of the river, a goal that no single entity can accomplish alone. The primary goal is to improve river health, manage urban challenges such as flooding and pollution, and enhance both human and ecological well-being. This approach moves away from traditional top-down methods by emphasizing shared decision-making and mutual learning to address complex environmental and socioeconomic challenges.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) forged a significant collaboration between UP Visayas and the Iloilo City Government, signed on August 26, 2025. The project focuses on collaborative efforts among key actors that integrate knowledge, viewpoints, values, and practices that can enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of actions in Iloilo River management.

Activity Objectives

- To understand stakeholder perceptions of current and envisioned river conditions;
- To identify key issues, challenges, and opportunities in river management;

- To discuss the considerations and concerns in the delineation of the area of influence of the Iloilo River for planning purposes; and
- To discuss policy recommendations to improve collaboration and holistic management of the Iloilo River

Methods for the Stakeholder Consultations

Pre-Activity Meetings

Before the stakeholder consultations, several preparatory meetings were held online to align objectives, roles, and strategies. The team prepared a detailed agenda, identified participants, and distributed invitation letters to ensure everyone came informed and ready to contribute.

The CENRO staff diligently delivered the letters, followed up through calls, texts, and emails, and coordinated venue bookings with the City Government of Iloilo.

Consultation Approach

A participatory approach was used with the members of the IBRDC. These are the officers of the Iloilo City LGU offices, the NGAs, and the Chair of the Environment Committee of the Metro-Iloilo Guimaras Economic Development Council (MIGEDC). A group of researchers from UP Visayas requested to join the consultation as part of their study on the biophysical components of the Iloilo River.

The consultation with the IBRDC consisted of presentations and open discussions. For the business sector, a set of guide questions was sent to them, and their responses were discussed during the activity.

Pre-Activity Online Survey

The survey was administered both online and in person with the members of the IBRDC. Its purpose was to collect quantitative and qualitative data on stakeholders' views and priorities.

Data Collection and Analysis

Qualitative data were gathered from the focus group discussions. A thematic analysis, guided by the principles of Policy Coherence Analysis (PCA), was conducted to identify dominant themes and examine policy linkages. This analysis served as an initial assessment of relevant laws, department issuances, city ordinances, plans, and executive orders related to water management and the Iloilo River. References were mainly sourced from the Offices of the Sangguniang Panlungsod Secretary and the City Mayor, complemented by online materials. The PCA helped reveal areas of coherence, conflict, and opportunity across key policy domains.

Consultation with the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council Members

Rationale of the Stakeholders' Consultation with Selected Members of the IBRDC

As a multi-sectoral body, the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council is chaired by the City Mayor and co-chaired by the Sangguniang Panlungsod Chair for the Environment Committee. The Iloilo City ENRO is the Secretariat.

The Council was [re]established to address issues, such as river pollution and informal settlements, through E.O. No. 082-2025. In the new E.O., its long-term initiatives include not only the rehabilitation of the Iloilo River but also include Jaro River, Dungeon Creek, Jalandoni Creek, Ignore Creek, Rizal Creek, and all other tributaries within Iloilo City. Its functions are as follows (Section 2, E.O. No. 2025-082):

1. Ensure a sustained, active public-private sector collaboration in all planning and development efforts for the protection, rehabilitation, and development of the Iloilo-Batiano River, Dugon Creek, Calajunan Creek, Rizal Creek, Ingore Creek, and all other natural waterways in Iloilo City as identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
2. Strengthen, harmonize, and enforce all existing policies that will support the rehabilitation, protection, and sustainable development of all such natural waterways in Iloilo City;
3. Promulgate new policies and guidelines that will ensure the rehabilitation, protection, and sustainable development of all such natural waterways with careful regard to the welfare of barangays situated along them; and
4. Oversee the management of natural and man-made protection measures along the natural waterways, including mangroves, dikes, revetment walls, River Esplanade Network, etc.

The participants of the stakeholders' consultation and pre-activity online survey were the officials and representatives from the following institutions:

Iloilo City Local Government Unit

- Office of the City Engineer's Office
- Office of the City Planning and Development
- Office of the City General Services
- Office of the City Health
- Office of the City Disaster Risk Reduction & Management
- Iloilo City Local Culture and Arts Council - Committee on Cultural Heritage and Conservation
- Office of the City Zoning Administrator
- Office of the City Architect
- Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions Center

Metro-Iloilo Guimaras Economic Development Council (MIGEDC)

- Environment Sector

Municipality of Oton Local Government Unit

- Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office

National Government Agencies

- DENR-Environment and Management Bureau Region VI
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Department of Public Works and Highways Region VI

Private Sector

- Metro Iloilo Water District

Academe

- AVAMOS UPV Research Team

Activity Rationale

EnP Janis Mae C. Sy

OCENR Officer

The Stakeholders' Consultation marks the first official activity under the MOA signed last August 2025 between the Iloilo City Government and UP Visayas. While collaboration and coordination between the two institutions began in 2024 through various activities, the activity formally launched the institutionalized partnership aimed at supporting the sustainable development and management of the Iloilo River.

Key Points Raised:

- The activity features the presentation of pre-workshop survey results conducted by UPV and a discussion of the Iloilo River Map by the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO).
- It aims to identify considerations in delineating the Iloilo River's area of influence for planning purposes, discuss the challenges and potentials in defining and managing this area, and explore the possibility of declaring the Iloilo River as a Natural Heritage Treasure.
- The activity seeks to align local policies and development plans with the ongoing Executive-Legislative Agenda (ELA) and Capacity Development (CapDev) Plan to ensure that outcomes can inform local policy and legislative support.
- This initiative complements national and regional development frameworks and aligns with the vision and priorities of Iloilo City under the leadership of Mayor Raisa Treñas.
- The city's major priorities include inclusive governance, economic growth, real estate development, infrastructure and connectivity enhancement, sustainability, and improved quality of life.
- The workshop is anchored on Mayor Raisa Treñas-Chu's "RISE to Action" program, ensuring strategic alignment with the city's development direction.
- This activity is also aligned with the Iloilo City Government and the DENR's Project TRANSFORM, reinforcing efforts toward sustainable and integrated urban-river management.

Introduction of the UPV Research Team and Collaborator and Discussion of Pre-Activity Survey Results

Prof. Rhodella A. Ibabao

Project Leader

Introduction of the UPV Research Team

The UPV Research Project Team

- Rhodella A. Ibabao – Project Leader
- Brian C. Ventura – Project Research Fellow
- Alan Dino E. Moscoso – Project Research Fellow
- Jeestin Kent S. Gabinera – Project Staff
- Nicko Jay S. Miranda – Project Staff
- Mary Jane J. Castromayor – Administrative Staff
- Hearty G. Adolfo-Sapanza – Administrative Staff

The Collaborator and Convenor of the Stakeholders' Consultations

- The Iloilo City Government - Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources Officer

The functions of the Iloilo City Government's City Environment and Natural Resources Office are to manage, conserve, and protect the city's environment and natural resources. The office has regulatory and enforcement functions in the public's compliance with environmental laws.

Discussion of Pre-Activity Survey Results

Initial findings were presented to the stakeholders, highlighting the data collected from the online survey. The survey achieved a 74 percent response rate, with 20 out of 27 invited participants providing feedback.

Discussion on key items are found in the Open Forum session. The summary of key survey results is presented in the Annex.

Presentation of Initial Assessment of Ordinances, Resolutions, and Executive Orders

The Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod Secretary and online postings from 1989 to 2025 were the sources of the ordinances and resolutions. The Office of the City Mayor was the source of the Executive Orders.

- There are 25 ordinances and resolutions from 1989 to 1923; and
- 1 Executive Order for 2025

Below are the themes of Resolutions and Ordinances From 1989 to 2023:

- River dredging/Flood control/Oversight and public inquiry
- River clean-up/Environmental protection/Budget allocation
- Environmental awareness/River clean-up/Community participation
- Environmental protection/Sustainable development/Local environmental governance
- Property acquisition/Land transaction confirmation
- Environmental rehabilitation/Riverbank protection/Inter-agency partnership
- Water quality management/Environmental governance/River system protection
- River Resource Protection and Conservation
- Mangrove Protection and Monitoring/Environmental Management
- Iloilo River Management/Regulation of River-Based Businesses
- Water quality management/Environmental protection/River system rehabilitation
- Enforcement of Environmental and Zoning Regulations Along the Iloilo River
- Executive Implementation of River Preservation Laws
- Iloilo River Clean-up and Rehabilitation Partnership – 4
- Land Use and Zoning (Urban Planning and Development)

- Water quality management/Environmental protection/River system rehabilitation
- Housing and Relocation for River Danger Zone Residents
- Traffic and Parking Management/Public Space Regulation – 2
- Septage and Sewerage Management – 3

Observations

The following observations have been made:

- The most frequent topic in the resolutions was the Iloilo River Clean-up and Rehabilitation partnership, which was addressed in four resolutions. Other prominent topics included sewage/sewerage management and traffic/parking management.
- Ordinances and Resolutions have annexes and are supported by data. The resolutions highlighted partnerships and collaborations.

Yet, no resolutions were found for the adoption of the Iloilo River Development Master Plan and creation of the IBRDC. Furthermore, no resolution has explicitly stated the heritage value of the Iloilo River in the provisions.

Key Points Raised

A key point raised was the passing of E.O. No. 2025-082 for the [re]constitution of the IBRDC. One of its functions is to provide oversight not only to the Iloilo River but major creeks and rivers as well. Moreover, participants also recommended the enactment of a new master development plan through the passage of a city ordinance rather than merely through an executive order. A city ordinance ensures its institutionalization, long-term implementation, and continuity across different administrations.

Presentation of Maps as Considerations for the Delineation of the Area of Influence

Ar. Keith Cameña, Planning Officer

Office of the City Planning and Development Coordinator

Key Points of the Presentation

The following observations have been made:

- The map illustrated the parts of the stretch of the Iloilo River, from its upstream tributaries to its outlet at the Iloilo Strait.
- It showed the delineated area of influence established by the city government during the Esplanade project, covering adjacent barangays and floodplain zones.
- Map showed the other rivers and creeks that join Iloilo River.
- The presentation underscored the map's importance as a planning and management tool for guiding policy, zoning, and coordinated river management actions.
- Regarding the river's area of influence, the Zoning Officer noted the boundaries were already set during the Esplanade project. The planning and development process successfully defined these zones, which streamlines the management, coordination, and implementation of current and future river-related activities.

Prior to the consultation on October 9, the UPV Research Team coordinated with the CPDO to request a draft map of the Iloilo River for use in the consultation. The UPV Team provided suggestions to the CPDO via text for map improvements, which included:

- Labeling creeks or major portions of the river. Since this map will have varied uses in the future, the labels will help identify specific portions of the river.
- Although the map is clear and easy to follow, there are a few visual enhancements that could improve readability, especially for individuals who tend to get confused when reading maps.

- Adding a north arrow would help users quickly understand the map's direction and align it with fieldwork or other references.
- Incorporating major landmarks, such as seaports and wharves along the Iloilo River will give people better spatial orientation when viewing the waterways.
- Apart from landmarks, placing symbols of the location of infrastructure projects along the river (such as Mobile Sewerage Treatment Plants (MSTPs) to be turned over to the City LGU) can be more readable. Symbols can be added for new developments along the river.

Open Forum

Summary of Key Issues

During the open forum, the following key issues were raised:

- The absence of an updated Iloilo River Development Master Plan;
- The lack of an equivalent plan for the management of the Batiano River in the Municipality of Oton. The Batiano River is the upper and original course of the Iloilo River system. The river originates in Oton and flows into the Iloilo City districts of Arevalo and Molo before becoming part of the Iloilo River, which then empties into the Iloilo Strait. They form part of a single, continuous waterway known as the Iloilo-Batiano River System;
- The reduced profile of the Oton LGU after the formation of the original Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council in the mid-2010s;
- The unclear extent of the study concerning the Batiano River to the Oton LGU's Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), who also serves as the Chair of the Environment Sector of the MIGEDC;
- Management of riverbank encroachment and informal settlements has been initiated along specific sections of the Iloilo River. However, these environmental and social issues remain primary concerns for the LGU Oton in the Batiano River area, indicating a need for potentially different or more robust strategies in these connected waterways;

- Wastewater discharge and solid waste accumulation from commercial establishments, subdivisions, and institutions along the river remain largely untreated due to the absence of proper disposal systems and Sewerage Treatment Plans (STPs). This problem is compounded by the lack of a comprehensive sewerage master plan for Iloilo City;
- The need for improving the coordination among implementing agencies to minimize fragmented initiatives;
- The lack of financing mechanisms for river rehabilitation; and
- The absence of a plan for the long-term maintenance and operations of the Iloilo Esplanade.

Thematic Synthesis of Stakeholder Inputs

1. Visions for the Iloilo River

On the need for a unified goal for the Iloilo River

Prof. Rhodella A. Ibabao – UPV Project Leader

Prof. Ibabao highlighted the absence of a shared vision among stakeholders regarding the Iloilo River. She proposed that establishing a common goal—such as declaring the Iloilo River a national heritage treasure—could align efforts and unify perspectives across institutions and organizations.

On the reclassification of the river

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa – Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa explained that there was an attempt to reclassify the Iloilo River from Class A to Class B. It was not pursued due to potential restrictions affecting industries located along the river. He noted that some manufacturing and agricultural operations might be prohibited if the reclassification were implemented.

On the use of the social media

Engr. Noel Z. Hechanova – Executive Assistant (EA) for Environment

Engr. Hechanova affirmed the value of social media as a tool for engagement and awareness, especially among younger generations. He also highlighted that the Iloilo Esplanade fostered a sense of ownership among the community by making the river more accessible and visible as part of Iloilo's identity.

On the current river classification

Prof. Danilo O. Ortillo - UPV AVAMOS Research Team

Prof. Ortillo shared that existing research classifies the Iloilo River as Class C, which means that it is suitable as fishery water for the propagation and growth of fish and other aquatic resources. It is also within Recreational Water Class II, which includes activities such as boating and fishing.

2. Environmental Rehabilitation and Water Quality Management**On traditional practices reflecting river water quality**

Engr. Neil G. Ravena - General Services Office (GSO) Head

Engr. Ravena recalled a traditional practice where newly circumcised boys would bathe in the river after the procedure without developing infections. He suggested this historical observation could provide anecdotal evidence for historical water quality assessments of the Iloilo River, though it would require corroborating data to be considered a reliable indicator.

On the existing studies about the aquatic life in the river

Prof. Rhodella A. Ibabao - UPV Project Leader

Prof. Ibabao suggested collaborating with the College of Fisheries to check for any existing or ongoing studies related to the marine ecosystem and aquatic life within the Iloilo River.

On the importance of establishing baseline data

Engr. Noel Z. Hechanova - Executive Assistant (EA) for Environment

Engr. Hechanova proposed gathering baseline data by comparing past and present conditions of the Iloilo River. He shared personal observations from his residence near Sooc, Arevalo, where the river used to be navigable and rich in marine life, such as fish and shells, which have since declined. These observations could serve as reference points for future studies on the river's transformation.

On maintaining realistic goals for river classification

Prof. Rhodella A. Ibabao - UPV Project Leader

Prof. Ibabao acknowledged the aspiration for a higher classification but emphasized the importance of aligning it with current realities and limitations. She suggested determining, during strategic planning of the IBRDC, how long the river should remain under Class C while reassessing parameters that could be improved to raise its classification in the future.

On the installation of additional modular sewerage treatment facility

Engr. Neil G. Ravena – General Services Office (GSO) Head

Engr. Hechanova mentioned that the barangays have requested for the installation of modular sewerage treatment plants in Iloilo City. The seven existing ones were built by Metro Pacific Iloilo Water.

3. Land Use and Area of Influence Delineation

On river easement policies and public access

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa – Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa clarified that there are existing policies on river easements; however, some private property owners have constructed fences that restrict public entry. He emphasized the importance of reviewing the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) framework for the Iloilo Esplanade, which aims to ensure public access while respecting private property rights. He also noted that the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) issues Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLAs) to individuals or groups operating along the river and suggested revisiting relevant ordinances and policies governing easements.

On the role of the Iloilo River Esplanade as a reclamation and flood control project

Engr. Noel Z. Hechanova – Executive Assistant (EA) for Environment

Engr. Hechanova noted that the Iloilo Esplanade is also part of a national reclamation and flood control initiative that integrates environmental management with urban development.

On the delineation of the river's area of influence

Prof. Rhodella A. Ibabao – UPV Project Leader

According to the Zoning Officer, there is no issue with the delineation of the Iloilo River's area of influence, as the city has already established this during the implementation of the Esplanade project. The boundaries and zones of influence were clearly defined as part of the project's planning and development process, ensuring clarity in management, coordination, and implementation of river-related programs and activities within the designated area.

The former City Planning and Development Coordinator mentioned that considerations for delineating the area of influence were guided by

regulatory frameworks and local planning instruments, specifically the Fisheries Code and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

The EA for Environment further added that zoning ordinance was also used as a base in the delineation for the Esplanade.

Both the Zoning Officer and GSO head emphasized the need to protect the heritage area within the Calle Real district, where the Heritage Law was used as a reference.

On urban transformation and adaptive reuse

Prof. Rhodella A. Ibabao - UPV Project Leader

Prof. Ibabao mentioned that in other cities, bypass or diversion roads have similarly evolved into linear parks due to changes in transportation, land use patterns, and the opening of new roads. These reflect adaptive urban planning.

4. Community Participation and Social Inclusion

On accessibility of the river to the public

Ar. Regina C. Gregorio - The Iloilo City Architect

Ar. Gregorio observed that many riverfront areas are privately owned, limiting public access. Although there are designated public areas, they are often distant from communities due to the presence of privately owned properties along the riverbanks.

On the Iloilo River Esplanade, as a means of public access

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa - Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa noted that the Iloilo Esplanade serves as a major public access point, providing spaces for the community to enjoy and interact with the river environment.

On community access and pedestrianization

Engr. Noel Z. Hechanova - Executive Assistant (EA) for Environment

Engr. Hechanova shared that the Esplanade project addressed accessibility issues by transforming the area into a public space. It was the first community-led pedestrianization effort, initiated by the residents of Molo who advocated for converting the project from a vehicular road into a pedestrian zone.

On the development of the Iloilo River Esplanade

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa – Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa shared that Esplanade 1 was originally designed for road traffic but was converted to pedestrian use after public advocacy. This transition enhanced connectivity and encouraged community interaction.

On the integration of leisure and accessibility in urban infrastructure

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa – Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa cited Sunset Boulevard as a parallel case, initially planned as a roadway but later expanded to include bike lanes and leisure spaces in response to community demand.

On expanding stakeholder involvement and pollution control

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa – Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa suggested elevating the initiative to the Liga ng mga Barangay and involving the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), schools, and manufacturing industries in discussions, particularly those contributing to river pollution. He proposed that the Iloilo River be developed as a potential source of clean, potable, and domestic water.

5. Financing and Economic Opportunities

On the impact of the Iloilo River on adjacent property values

Prof. Rhodella A. Ibabao – UPV Project Leader

Prof. Ibabao noted that there is currently no study assessing the impact of the Iloilo River on nearby property values. She mentioned that in other countries, properties near rivers often have higher assessed or tax values. She suggested this as a potential area for future research.

6. Data and Knowledge Systems

On the establishment of a data management system

Prof. Rhodella A. Ibabao – UPV Project Leader

Prof. Ibabao mentioned the importance of establishing a structured data infrastructure to archive documents, research, and other references related to the river.

On data centralization and institutional support

Engr. Noel Z. Hechanova - Executive Assistant (EA) for Environment

Engr. Hechanova suggested initiating a centralized data system under the City Planning and Development Office or CENRO, supported by institutional partners such as the University of the Philippines.

7. Governance and Institutional Mechanisms**On the classification and legal implications of the Iloilo River**

Engr. Neil G. Ravena - General Services Office (GSO) Head

Engr. Ravena mentioned that the DENR was consulted regarding the implications of the Iloilo River's classification, particularly on easement and accessibility. It was noted that the Iloilo River is technically a tidal inlet with brackish water, and therefore not a river in the legal sense. This distinction affects which laws and policies apply to its management. The city government may utilize this classification to define easement boundaries differently since regulations for rivers may not fully apply.

On the review and updating of existing policies

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa - Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa discussed that while existing policies considered factors such as land use and local needs, the context and priorities have evolved. Emphasized that updated analysis and policy review are necessary to address current needs and maximize economic and environmental outcomes.

On the historical identification and management concerns of the Iloilo River

Ms. Menchie G. Paniergo - LGU-Oton Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer

Ms. Menchie Paniergo recalled that in 2014, discussions were held with the DENR to determine whether the Iloilo River is an estuary or an arm of the sea. The River Basin Management Office of DENR officially recognized it as a river and developed a master plan in 2014, which can serve as a baseline. Moreover, she raised concerns regarding mangroves constricting the river flow, potentially causing bottlenecks, and dredging needs, and emphasized the importance of considering the Batiano River in future planning efforts.

On revisiting existing laws and policies

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa – Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa emphasized the importance of reviewing and updating existing laws and policies to adapt to administrative and contextual shifts over time.

On the need for an updated master plan

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa – Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa stressed the importance of updating the existing master plan and prioritizing its revision as the next step toward comprehensive river management.

On the definition of buffer zones and strengthening of the IBRDC

Mr. Jose Roni S.J. Peñalosa – Former City Planning and Development Coordinator (CPDC)

Mr. Peñalosa proposed defining the river's buffer zone and leveraging the support of the City Mayor to strengthen IBRDC in partnership with the University of the Philippines to advance sustainability and livability goals. He also recommended the creation of a ten-year concept plan for river management, accompanied by a corresponding legislative agenda to institutionalize its implementation.

Key Recommendations and Ways Forward

The stakeholders proposed the following actions in response to the challenges and concerns. Responses were categorized according to the themes.

1. Environmental Rehabilitation and Water Quality Management

- a. Upgrade or construct wastewater treatment facilities.
- b. Strengthen the implementation of the riparian buffer zones and reforestation programs.

2. Land Use and Area of Influence Delineation

- a. Review and update guidelines for riverbank zoning and land-use planning.

- b. Consideration for the area of influence: Integrate river management into the planning of the Calle Real, which is a National Heritage Zone.

3. Community Participation and Social Inclusion

- a. Form and train the barangays into local river management committees.
- b. Enhance awareness campaigns about the Iloilo River by engaging social media influencers.
- c. Pursue collaboration for capacity development and project preparation.
- d. Promote community-based river stewardship and adopt-a-river programs.
- e. Include the social media and digital platforms for information, education, and communication.

4. Financing and Economic Opportunities

- a. Review policies and plans to enhance Iloilo River management and strengthen collaboration with the private sector through public-private partnerships that support sustainable river management.

5. Data, Knowledge, and Innovation Systems

- a. Establish data-sharing protocols among agencies.
- b. Establish a data infrastructure for an integrated source of information about the Iloilo River.

6. Governance and Institutional Mechanisms

- a. Review the composition of the newly constituted IBRDC and its functions, having it approved through an ordinance, apart from an Executive Order (EO).
- b. Update the Iloilo River Development Master Plan and strengthen the IWRM and Collaborative Governance principles.
- c. Have the Master Plan legislated through an ordinance, not just through an EO.
- d. Strengthen enforcement of existing river protection laws, specifically the Fisheries Code.
- e. Designate an LGU office that will manage knowledge sharing and management.

- f. Identify champion/s of the Iloilo River for legislative support.
- g. Conduct follow-up technical meetings in preparation for a River Summit.
- h. Analyze the potential implications, including benefits and drawbacks, of officially declaring the Iloilo River a National Heritage Treasure.
- i. Use the workshop outputs and study results as references for the updating of the Iloilo River Master Plan.

Conclusion

The stakeholders expressed a unified call to review and update the 2001 Iloilo River Development Master Plan and reconstitute the IBRDC. There is also a need to pass separate ordinances for the reconstitution of the IBRDC and the adoption of the updated master plan.

The consultation reaffirmed that sustainable river management requires shared responsibility among government, communities, and the private sector to restore and sustain the river as a vital ecological and social asset. Collaborative action, data-driven planning, and community participation are crucial in achieving resilient and inclusive river management.

The proceedings shall serve as one of the official records of the consultation and guide subsequent technical studies, policy formulation, and project development, such as the updating of the Iloilo River Development Master Plan, ensuring sustainable use and protection of the Iloilo River.

Annex

Annex A. Flow of Activities

Time	Activity	In-Charge
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Registration	UPV and OCENRO
8:30 AM – 8:45 AM	Prayer Acknowledgment of Participants	OCENRO
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Activity Rationale	OCENRO
9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Presentation of the UPV Research Team and Discussion of Pre-Activity Survey Results	UPV
	Discussion of the Map of the Iloilo River	OCPDC
10:00 AM – 11:10 PM	Open Forum	All
11:10 AM – 11:30	Synthesis and Ways Forward and Photo Op	UPV Research Team OCENRO
	Key Recommendations and Ways Forward and Photo Op	LGU OCENRO and UPV Research Team

Annex B. Participants' Profile

Some attendees of the Iloilo River stakeholder consultation held positions in, or represented, two different offices.

Types of Participants, Number, and Representation		
Sector	Number of Participants (Male and Female)	Representation
Iloilo City Local Government Offices	17 (13 Males, 4 Females)	General Services Office (1), Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (6), City Health Office (1), Zoning Office (1), Iloilo City Cultural Heritage Committee/Office of the City Architect (1), City Engineer's Office (1), Office of the City Planning & Development (2), Iloilo City Cultural Heritage Committee (1), City Disaster Response and Recovery Management Office (1)

National Government Agencies	4 (3 Males, 1 Female)	DENR-EMB (1), DPWH-RO6 (1), DENR-PENRO (1), DILG-Iloilo City (1)
Academe	4 (1 Male, 3 Females)	AVAMOS Research Group, UP Visayas
Private Sector	1 (1 Female)	Metro Iloilo Water District
Multi-sectoral Group/LGU	1 (Female)	Metro Iloilo-Guimaras Economic Development Council/ Municipality of Oton-LGU
Total	27	—

Annex C. Policy, Plan, and Project Alignment of the UP CIDS Funded Project

PIP 2023 - 2028	ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION FOR PROSPEROUS AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES								
PIP STRATEGIES	LIVABLE CITIES	SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, INTEGRATED, MODERNIZED INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES	CLIMATE ACTION AND DISASTER RESILIENCE						
DENR 7-POINT PLAN and NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN PRIORITIES	IMPROVE WATER AND AIR QUALITY	INCREASE FOREST COVER	CONSERVE PA BIODIVERSITY	ENSURE WATER SECURITY	CLIMATE LENS IN POLICIES	RESPONSIBLE MINING	EFFECTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE		
ILOILO VISION (PROVINCE)	A ROBUST, PROGRESSIVE, GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE AND RESILIENT ILOILO								
ILOILO VISION (CITY)	BY 2028, ILOILO SHALL BE A MODEL OF A LIVABLE, WELL GOVERNED CITY OF EMPOWERED AND INNOVATIVE ILOILOGOS THAT SAFEGUARD THE ENVIRONMENT AND PRESERVE THE CULTURE WHILE SUSTAINING A ROBUST, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT ECONOMY								
RESILIENCE PILLARS	LEADERSHIP and GOVERNANCE	LOCAL ECONOMY	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT and HUMAN SECURITY	INFRASTRUCTURE	ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE				
PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES	PROVIDED EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION	INCREASED INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	MANAGED GROWTH AND PROMOTED PUBLIC SAFETY, ACCESSIBLE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES	PROTECTED AND MANAGED THE RESOURCES AND ASSETS OF THE PROVINCE	ATTAINED FOOD SECURITY				
CITY PRIORITIES	INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE	ECONOMIC BOOM and REAL ESTATE SURGE FUTURE GROWTH HORIZON	QUALITY OF LIFE	INFRASTRUCTURE and CONNECTIVITY UPGRADES	SUSTAINABILITY and GREEN CITYSCAPE				
A.C.T.O.A. PRIORITIES of Mayor Raissa Tetas	NATURE BASED RESILIENCE	INNOVATION and ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT TOURISM	ACCESS TO EDUCATION COMMUNITY PROTECTION	CULTURAL PRESERVATION			Sources: PROJECT TRANSFORM and ICCHC WORKSHOPS, 2025		

Annex D. List of Participants from the Consultation with IBRDC on October 9, 2025



ATTENDANCE SHEET

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES VISAYAS
 UP CIDS Project 3: Revitalizing an Urban River: The Stakeholder Engagement and
 Coordination in Improving the Governance of the Iloilo-Batiano River Basin, Year 2

1/2

Date: 9 October 2025

Venue: From Locations in The Delimitation of Area of Influence: Davao Bay, Liloilo, Bataan Drive Bldg., Brgy. Aswal, City Proper, Davao City

NO.	NAME	OFFICE/UNIT	SEX			SIGNATURE
			Male	Female	Prefer not to say	
1	JOJO DEONILYN VARGAS	PHS RG / ANTEL	✓			
2	ROSEL MARONTE	G&O	✓			
3	YANIL MAF R. SY	OCEANCO		✓		
4	XIAN DINO MASLOSO	SOPHEA - UPV	✓			
5	IAN JOHN PAMPLONA	CHO	✓			
6	SHARIT MAE TAYTAYZON	OCEANCO		✓		
7	EVAN NINA S. FERNANDES	DPWH P&C	✓			
8	JOCKEY TAYAN	DEVELOP	✓			
9	JUSTIN ROST GAMBILAYON	UPV	✓			
10	JENNIFER ALBA	OCEANCO		✓		
11	WILFREDO SY, JR.	ECM / OCAP / MICE		✓		
12	CONCEPCION PONCE	UPV		✓		
13	MARK DORIS AND D. CAPELINA	UPV		✓		
14	DANILO ORTILLO	UPV	✓	✓		
15	CHRISTINE MAE DEANO	UPV		✓		
16	DANILO ORTILLO	UPV	✓	✓		



ATTENDANCE SHEET

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES VISAYAS
 UP CIDS Project 3: Revitalizing an Urban River: The Stakeholder Engagement and
 Coordination in Improving the Governance of the Iloilo-Batiano River Basin, Year 2

2/2

Date: _____

Venue: _____

NO.	NAME	OFFICE/UNIT	SEX			SIGNATURE
			Male	Female	Prefer not to say	
17	RYALINAR JR.	CEO	✓			
18	RESINA C. GREGORIO	OCAR		✓		
19	LEONIL D. SARA	M&EL, P&C		✓		
20	KATHRYN M. JAMOU	CHO		✓		
21	LEITH CAMENA	OCEANCO	✓			
22	ANTHONY GARCERA	SEPRC		✓		
23	ALJ JISUE	MPTW		✓		
24	ANNA C. VARGAS	WSP - UPV	✓			
25	WILSON RANDOLPH A. BATA	OCEANCO		✓		
26	JOSE RANI PENALOSA	ICCHCC	✓			
27	MENHIE RIVEROS	MSMU OHW		✓		
28	MARYLON SULT	M&E		✓		
29	MARICA NEEL HECHONOVA	OCEANCO / EA-AP-ENI	✓	✓		
30	CELESTE R. NARAN	OCEANCO		✓		
31	ANDREA DIACNE B. WATE	OCEANCO		✓		

Annex E1. Pre-Stakeholders' Consultation Survey Questionnaire for the IBRDC Members

As a valuable stakeholder for the management of the Iloilo River, we have prepared pre-workshop guide questions for the activity "Considerations for the Delineation of Area of Influence for Iloilo River" scheduled from 8:15 AM to 11:45 AM, Thursday, October 9, 2025, in the LEDIP Office, Iloilo Business Center, Building, Brgy. Arsenal-Aduana, Iloilo City. You or your representatives in the office can answer the questions, as members of the organization. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

The UPV Research Team and Iloilo City LGU-CENRO.

PART I. RESOURCE PERSON'S PROFILE

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Position: _____

Email add: _____

Contact number: _____

Sex at Birth: ___ Male ___ Female Age as of Last Birthday: _____

PART II. GUIDE QUESTIONS

You are requested to share your views on the value of the river, its role in urban river/landscape, governance and management challenges, stakeholder engagement, and considerations in the delineation of a river's area of influence.

1. For the vision for the Iloilo River

- a. What kind of benefits do we want to get from the river in the future?
- b. What is the desired state that we want for the river?
- c. What is the desired role we envision for the river to play for Iloilo City?
- d. How do we ensure our vision remains relevant?

2. For the mission of your organization to achieve the vision for the Iloilo River

- a. What is/are the roles of your organization in achieving the vision for the Iloilo River?
- b. Why do you perform this/these role/s?
- c. Which roles are critical/important in achieving the vision?

3. At present, what are the values that you put on the Iloilo River? Check options that apply under the categories below.

Has Economic Opportunities

- Facilitates transportation (Navigation and Transport)
- A vital source for industries (Infrastructure and Resource Functions)

- Contributes to ecological benefits such as water purification, flood control, and biodiversity conservation
- An important source for drinking water (Water provision)
- Supports life fish and other wildlife (habitat provision)
- Other:

Has Economic Opportunities

- Supports economic activities
- Increases the value of nearby properties
- Helps drive local economic growth
- Creates new employment opportunities
- Other:

Has Socio-cultural Functions

- Offers opportunities for various recreational activities like walking, jogging, and community events (Health and Recreational Value)
- Provides aesthetic appeal (Aesthetic Value)
- Access to the river offers a connection to nature (Cultural connection)
- Enhances people's life satisfaction, spiritual needs, and overall well-being (Cultural connection)
- Other:

As Good Urban Climate

- Contributes to a good urban climate through urban greening
- Can make surrounding areas cooler by reducing the urban heat island effect
- Promotes wind flow and ventilation, which helps to disperse heat and enhance the natural cooling effect.
- Cools the surrounding air through a process of evaporation
- Other:

4. For planning the Iloilo River

- a. What are the main causes of the Iloilo River's poor water quality (in terms of dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform)?

On Natural Drivers

- Shift in rainfall patterns and increased temperatures that influence river flow and pollutant concentration.
- Natural disasters such as floods that can transport larger volumes of pollutants and sediments, and droughts, can concentrate pollutants in lower river flows.
- The natural geology and climate of a river basin determine its baseline conditions

On Anthropogenic (Human) Drivers

- A higher density of people and housing results in more impervious surfaces, pollution, and wastewater generation.
 - Discharges from establishments and industries that are untreated or poorly treated effluent into rivers.
 - Poor solid and water waste management due to insufficient collection, treatment, and disposal of wastes and sewage, which leads to direct dumping into urban rivers.
 - Weak, fragmented, and poorly enforced environmental regulations allow polluters to operate with little accountability.
 - Poor inter-agency cooperation leads to miscommunication and delayed responses to pollution incidents.
 - Agricultural runoff from upstream
 - Practices such as straightening river channels, building levees, and reclaiming floodplains for development alter the river's natural flow and cut it off from its floodplain.
 - Socio-economic factors (e.g. Low environmental awareness, low income, and limited education) contribute to environmentally harmful behavior.
- b. What are the possible causes of the changes in the flow, width, and depth of the river for the past 20 years?
- c. Are there specific metrics your organization is using to track the environmental, social, and economic benefits of the Iloilo River
- Yes
 - No
 - I am not aware

If Yes in 4b, what are these metrics?

5. On Governance & Stakeholder Concerns

- a. Who are the stakeholders that make significant contributions to enhancing the Iloilo River in general?
- b. What are the current roles that stakeholders have been performing to achieve the vision for the Iloilo River? Check those that apply.
- Initiate and coordinate partnerships by inviting various stakeholders to discuss river basin issues and establish a shared vision for water management.
 - Provide valuable local knowledge and perspectives, creating opportunities for deliberation and building consensus around management goals and strategies.

- Mobilize social capital, including financial and technical resources, which are crucial for implementing management plans.
 - Increase legitimacy and buy-in by building trust and ensuring that management decisions are legitimate and socially accepted.
 - Monitor and provide feedback on various projects to ensure adaptive and responsive management.
 - Support sustainable practices through their willingness to engage in protection measures, contributing to the long-term health of the river system.
 - Other:
- c. What primary mechanisms are already in place to achieve an effective Iloilo River management? Check those that apply.

On the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Framework

- The presence of an office or a council that harmonizes policies and initiatives across various institutions that have water-related functions.
- Engaging in river basin planning involves setting objectives and measures for the sustainable use, protection, and restoration of water resources within the entire basin.
- The presence of a single action plan with clear timelines and identified responsibilities helps unify the efforts of all implementing parties.

On Multi-level Governance Structures

- The presence of large-scale bodies, like the Laguna Lake Development Authority in the Philippines, that manage river basins that cover multiple political jurisdictions, for a unified approach to the entire river system.
- Inter-agency or inter-local task forces are set up to clarify roles and responsibilities across a shared territory.
- There is a clear framework or policy that defines the relationship between national, regional, and local governments to receive the necessary technical and financial support.

On Stakeholder Partnerships

- There is public and community participation in terms of door-to-door education, volunteer river patrols, and community-based waste management.
- Expert and academic collaboration on scientific knowledge and data.
- There is engagement of the private sector (industrial associations, entrepreneurs, and businesses) in managing their own environmental impacts, specifically their transition toward cleaner production methods.

- Multi-stakeholder platforms, such as committees and task forces, are present to build consensus and balance competing stakeholder interests.
- Diverse engagement methods are used, such as online surveys, face-to-face meetings, citizens' juries, participatory mapping, and citizen science.

On Supporting institutional and legal instruments

- River management goals are integrated into urban plans and land-use regulations.
 - There is a legal framework that establishes the authority of managing bodies, defines responsibilities for resource management, and enables the enforcement of penalties for illegal actions.
 - There are transparent and clear budgeting processes that allocate funds across different levels of government and stakeholder initiatives.
 - Data and information sharing are practiced for evidence-based decision-making processes across all coordinating bodies. These platforms are web portals and geospatial databases that allow for the sharing of real-time data on conditions, such as water quality, pollution sources, and flood risk.
 - There is a clear conflict resolution mechanism for resolving disputes, including formal grievance redress systems and mediation with a neutral third party.
 - Resources, training, and support are provided to disadvantaged or less organized stakeholders.
 - Other:
- d. What are your personal engagements on river conservation and protection in general?
- e. How should the public be educated about flood forecasts and river information?

6. Which general aspects of Iloilo River management should be prioritized for the next 10 years? Please check only two (2).

- Water quality and pollution (Managing primary sources of pollution in urban rivers (e.g., stormwater runoff, sewage, industrial effluent); improving monitoring systems and data analysis to identify pollution sources and improve urban water management)
- Ecological restoration and ecosystem services (River restoration in heavily modified urban area; integration of green roofs, rain gardens, wetlands alongside traditional gray infrastructure; establishing riparian vegetation and improving urban river biodiversity)

- Hydrology and flood risk (Research and projects that deal with urban expansion, land use changes, and climate change, and their influence on urban hydrology and increase the risk of flooding; strategies on appropriate flood management strategies to include addressing aging flood mitigation infrastructure)
- Governance and community engagement (Strengthening communication mechanisms among different stakeholders; strategies to enforce policies and regulatory instruments to ensure sustainable urban water management; improving awareness and public engagement on environmental education and community-led conservation projects)
- Economics and investment (Developing investment models to fund large-scale improvements; strengthening policies and implementation of eco-tourism or green businesses; setting up financial mechanisms, such as stormwater fees or public-private partnerships, to secure adequate funding for river management)

Annex E2. Summary of Key Online Survey Findings on Iloilo River Management with Members of IBRDC

Respondent Profile

- Total Respondents vs. Participants: 20 of 30 or 74% response rate
- Sectors Represented: City LGU (planning, zoning, engineering, sanitation, DRRM, cultural heritage), national agencies (DENR, DPWH, DILG), academe (UP Visayas), and private/NGO representatives
- Gender Distribution: 55% male, 45% female
- Average Age: 40.25 years
- Composition: City officials, national agency staff, and academic researchers—reflecting a mix of technical, planning, and policy roles

Table 1. Sector, Institution, Position, and Number of Participants

Sector	Institution	Position	Number of Participants
City Local Government Unit	Office of the City Planning and Development Coordinator	City Planning and Development Coordinator	1
		Planning Officer III	1

Table 1. Sector, Institution, Position, and Number of Participants			
Sector	Institution	Position	Number of Participants
	Iloilo City Local Culture and Arts Council - Committee on Cultural Heritage Conservation	Secretariat Member	1
		Members	2
	Office of the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management	LDRRMO III	1
	City Health Office	Sanitation Inspector IV	
	Office of the Zoning Officer Iloilo City	Head	2
		Zoning Officer II	
City Engineer's Office	Architect	1	
National Government Agencies	DPWH Regional Office 6	Engineer 3	3
	DENR - EMB R6	Engineer I	
	DILG Iloilo City	LG00 III	
City Local Government Unit	Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) – Oton/ Metro Iloilo Guimaras Economic Development Corporation (MIGEDC)	MENRO and MIGEDC Chair for Environment	1
Academe	AVAMOS Research Group, UP Visayas	Project Staff 1	5
		Associate Professor	
		Project Leader/Assoc Prof	
		Instructor	
		PTA	
Total			20

Table 2. Sex a Birth		
Sex at Birth	Number	Percentage
Male	11	55
Female	9	45
Total	20	100

Table 3. Age Distribution of Respondents		
Age Group	Number	Percentage
21-24	1	5
25-28	4	20
29-32	1	5
33-36	2	10
37-40	0	0
41-44	1	5
45-48	3	15
49-52	4	20
53-56	1	5
57-60	0	0
61-64	0	0
65-68	1	5
69-72	1	5
No Answer	1	5
Total	20	100
Mean	40.25	
Median	46.5	
Mode	none	

Vision for the Iloilo River Total Respondents vs. Participants: 20 of 30 or 74% response rate

- Supports biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Provides clean water, serves as a food source, and offers flood protection
- Becomes a center for tourism, recreation, transport, and cultural pride
- Promotes sustainable urban development and climate resilience
- Uses data-driven management tools (AI, IoT) and renewable energy innovations (floating solar, micro-hydro)

Vision for the Iloilo River Total Respondents vs. Participants: 20 of 30 or 74% response rate

- Supports biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Provides clean water, serves as a food source, and offers flood protection
- Becomes a center for tourism, recreation, transport, and cultural pride
- Promotes sustainable urban development and climate resilience
- Uses data-driven management tools (AI, IoT) and renewable energy innovations (floating solar, micro-hydro)

Vision for the Iloilo River Total Respondents vs. Participants: 20 of 30 or 74% response rate

- Clean, unpolluted, and safe—compliant with water quality standards (Class B/C).
- Healthy ecosystem that supports aquatic life and sustainable livelihoods
- Visually and culturally significant, integrated with the city’s heritage and identity
- A model for river restoration and governance in urban settings

Desired Role of the River

The Iloilo River is envisioned as:

- A lifeline of the city—providing food, transport, recreation, and flood protection
- A driver of sustainable growth, ecological stability, and cultural preservation
- A symbol of pride and venue for economic activities such as eco-tourism

- A natural buffer integrated with green infrastructure for climate adaptation

Strategies to Realize the Vision

Recurring themes across responses:

- Collaborative and institutional efforts: Strengthen inter-agency coordination and stakeholder participation
- Strong regulations and enforcement: Continuous monitoring and compliance
- Public engagement and education: Promote awareness through schools, media, and community programs
- Data-driven planning: Use evidence-based indicators and regular assessments
- Sustainable eco-tourism and resource management as complementary strategies

Roles and Reasons for Participation

Sector	Roles	Reasons
LGUs	Planning, monitoring, enforcement, stakeholder coordination	Mandated by CLUP, promote community welfare, ensure sustainability for future generations
NGAs (DENR, DPWH, DILG)	Technical support, regulation, infrastructure	Legal mandate, environmental protection
Academe (UPV)	Research, water quality testing, policy advice	Scientific mission and civic responsibility
NGOs/Communities	Advocacy, clean-up, participation	Environmental awareness, social commitment
Critical roles include coordination, enforcement, monitoring, education, and policy formulation.	Critical roles include coordination, enforcement, monitoring, education, and policy formulation.	Critical roles include coordination, enforcement, monitoring, education, and policy formulation.

Causes of River Changes

- Natural: Siltation, erosion, sediment buildup, influence
- Human-Induced: Urbanization, reclamation, encroachment by informal settlers, infrastructure projects
- Climate Factors: Heavier rainfall, flooding, and climate change impacts.
- Governance-Related: Poor planning, dredging inconsistencies, and weak regulation

Monitoring and Metrics

Only about 20% of organizations use formal metrics. Reported indicators include:

- Environmental: Water quality, biodiversity, mangrove cover, waste volume
- Social: Community participation, health, sanitation access
- Economic: Tourism growth, property values, job generation

Governance and Stakeholder Roles

Most recognized contributors:

- LGU Iloilo City (10), DENR (9), DPWH (5), BLGUs (6), IBRDC (5), academe, NGOs, private investors.
- Key functions: partnership coordination, monitoring, promoting sustainable practices, mobilizing resources, and policy legitimacy.
- Existing mechanisms include:
- Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) frameworks and multi-level governance structures (80%)
- Stakeholder partnerships (private sector, academe, NGOs)
- Institutional instruments (urban planning integration, data-sharing platforms, legal frameworks)

Priorities for the Next 10 Years

Top priorities identified:

- Water quality and pollution control (15 responses)

- Hydrology and flood risk management (2)
- Ecological restoration and ecosystem services (2)
- Governance and community engagement (1)
- Economics and investment (0)
- Focus: pollution management, community engagement, governance coherence, and ecosystem restoration

Annex F. Suggestions to Improve Maps for Planning and Policy Purposes

Map/s can show:

- Land use patterns along the river, including commercial, residential, institutional, and recreational areas.
- Environmental features such as mangrove stands, riparian buffers, and flood-prone zones were clearly identified.
- Areas affected by siltation, encroachment, and reduced width, indicating the need for continued rehabilitation.
- Existing and proposed infrastructures—such as bridges, drainage outfalls, and Esplanade extensions
- Administrative boundaries and jurisdictions of barangays and agencies responsible for river sections
- Narratives on how development pressures influence the river's flow and ecosystem condition.

Annex G1. Photo Documentation of the IBRDC Consultation on October 9, 2025

EnP Janis Mae R. Sy, Iloilo City Environment and Natural Resources Officer, delivers her welcome message and explains the rationale to the stakeholders attending the workshop.



Dr. Rhodella A. Ibabao, Project Leader, presents the initial results of the pre-workshop survey.



Ar. Keith D. Cameña, Planning Officer from the Office of the City Planning and Development, discusses the Iloilo Waterways Map formulated by their office with the stakeholders.



Engr. Noel Z. Hechanova, former Head of the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources and currently the EA for Environment, shares his knowledge and provides feedback during the discussion on the unrevised Iloilo River Masterplan.



The UPV Research Team under UP CIDS welcomes the UPV AVAMOS research team for another study on Iloilo-Batiano River: (from left to right) Christiba Mae Deano, Mary Ann Cadeliña, Prof. Concepcion P. Ponce, and Prof. Danilo Ortillo.



The UP Research Team and the stakeholders in the workshop.

Center for Integrative and Development Studies

Established in 1985 by University of the Philippines (UP) President Edgardo J. Angara, the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) is the policy research unit of the University that connects disciplines and scholars across the several units of the UP System. It is mandated to encourage collaborative and rigorous research addressing issues of national significance by supporting scholars and securing funding, enabling them to produce outputs and recommendations for public policy.

The UP CIDS currently has twelve research programs that are clustered under the areas of education and capacity building, development, and social, political, and cultural studies. It publishes policy briefs, monographs, webinar/conference/forum proceedings, and the Philippine Journal for Public Policy, all of which can be downloaded free from the UP CIDS website.

The Program

The thrust of the Urban Studies Program is to bring to the fore the critical issues around urbanization and urban humanity in the policy discourses for the country. It brings together studies on cities especially with acute vulnerabilities such as coastal cities across the Philippines that directly respond to emerging concerns on urbanism with a specific lens on inclusive and just resilience framework.

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