



PROCEEDINGS 2026-15

Urban Studies Program

Stakeholder Collaboration for Sustainable Iloilo-Batiano River System

Consultation Outcomes with Barangay Officials
of Iloilo City

28 October 2025

LEDIPO Meeting Room, Iloilo Business Center, Aduana St. Iloilo City

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



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Cover Image Credit

"Barangay representatives rank the key issues affecting the Iloilo River"

Photo courtesy of the Urban Studies Program Iloilo

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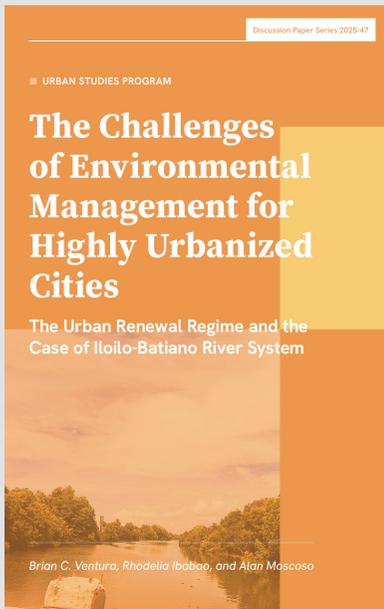
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DISCUSSION PAPER

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



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

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



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PROCEEDINGS

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

About the Proceedings

This report documents the Stakeholders' Consultation held with invited representatives from various barangays in Iloilo City. The activity took place at the LEDIPO Meeting Room, Iloilo Business Center Building, Aduana Street, 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).

Acknowledgements

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 stakeholder consultation with the Iloilo City Barangay representatives was conducted on October 28, 2025, at the LEDIPO Meeting Room, Iloilo Business Center, Aduana St. Iloilo City. These activities formed part of the project “Revitalizing an Urban River: Stakeholders’ Engagement to Improve the Water Quality of the Iloilo-Batiano River Basin,” jointly implemented by the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) and the Iloilo City Government through the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), under the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) Urban Studies Program.

The consultation aimed to foster participatory and collaborative governance in urban river management, ensuring that policies and plans for the Iloilo and Batiano Rivers are informed by multi-sectoral perspectives from the local government, national agencies, the academe, and the business community.

Prior to the stakeholders’ consultation, a questionnaire asking respondents to assess issues affecting the Iloilo and Batiano Rivers was administered both in print and online. The issues included were originally identified by the Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council in 2002. The survey aimed to revisit these topics to determine whether the issues persist or if new concerns have emerged. Participants were asked to rank the issues according to their current significance and to suggest potential solutions to address them.

During the consultation, the identified issues were discussed in detail. A total of 26 participants, representing 22 barangays across the six administrative districts of Iloilo City, attended the stakeholders’ consultation. Additionally, 49 completed questionnaires were received from respondents in both Iloilo City and the Municipality of Oton. Among the questionnaire respondents, 31 were barangay officials, while the remaining 18 were members of the community or other stakeholders.

Purpose and Objectives

The consultation was designed to:

- Gather insights, experiences, and recommendations from key stakeholders of the river;
- Identify issues, challenges, and opportunities in river management and governance;

- Formulate collaborative policy directions to address the issues affecting the Iloilo-Batiano River System; and
- Strengthen partnerships with barangay LGUs and institutionalize their participation in river management.

This consultation marked the initial implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between UP Visayas and the Iloilo City Government (signed in August 2025), which institutionalized the partnership for evidence-based and inclusive river governance.

Key Points of Discussion

1. Identification and Prioritization of Issues in the Iloilo-Batiano River System

- a. The two priority issues identified in the river system were on deficient garbage disposal system and poor water quality.
- b. Illegal fishing was considered the least significant concern by barangay officials.
- c. A considerable number of barangays reported the presence of informal settlers along the riverbanks, highlighting potential socio-environmental challenges.

2. Governance and Institutional Framework

- a. The City Local Government Unit (LGU), Barangay LGUs, and the local community were recognized as the primary stakeholders responsible for key roles in river management.
- b. River clean-up emerged as the most common activity undertaken by barangays to address pollution and was also the primary form of personal engagement reported by respondents. Several barangays were noted for conducting regular and well-organized clean-up initiatives.
- c. Improper solid waste disposal was identified as the main contributor to the river's poor water quality, followed by improper septage disposal.
- d. Despite ongoing challenges, some barangays have successfully implemented waste segregation and recycling initiatives, earning recognition and awards for their efforts.

- e. Participants agreed that solid waste management, along with wastewater and water quality management, should remain government priorities over the next ten years.
- f. The award-winning “trash-to-cash” program implemented by Barangay San Rafael was highlighted as a model for replication across other barangays. However, the City LGU noted that priorities in some barangays do not always align with broader city objectives, resulting in uneven implementation of programs and policies.

3. Environmental and Technical Concerns

- a. The absence of sewage treatment facilities in commercial and industrial establishments remains a critical contributor to river pollution.
- b. Clearing obstructions, such as nipa vegetation, in the Batiano River is necessary to prevent flooding and maintain navigability.
- c. The river has potential for water transportation, which could support local mobility and economic activities.
- d. Tourism opportunities, including floating restaurants and river tours, were identified as additional uses of the river, emphasizing the need for improved water quality and aesthetics.
- e. Installation of additional interceptors at the outfalls of line canals and drainage systems in each barangay discharging into the rivers is recommended as an interim measure to reduce pollutant inflow.

Agreements and Shared Views

- Sustain and strengthen river clean-up activities in individual barangays, building on successful initiatives such as the “Saturday Habit.” Regular clean-ups not only remove visible waste, but also reinforce community engagement and environmental stewardship.
- Adopt and replicate best practices from barangays that have demonstrated effective solid waste management programs, including waste segregation, recycling, and incentive-based schemes such as “trash-to-cash.” Sharing these models can enhance efficiency and foster wider participation across the city.

- Coordinate with the Iloilo City and Oton governments to relocate informal settlers along riverbanks. This measure aims to reduce direct disposal of solid and liquid wastes into the rivers while ensuring that relocated communities have access to proper housing, sanitation, and livelihood opportunities.
- Install additional waste collector traps and interceptors at waterways discharging into the Iloilo and Batiano rivers. These structures can help prevent solid waste from entering the main river system, complementing upstream waste management efforts.
- Establish more Modular Sewage Treatment Plants (MSTPs) in creeks, tributaries, and other strategic points as an interim measure to reduce water pollution, particularly from domestic and small-scale industrial sources.
- Enforce strict regulations requiring commercial and industrial establishments to operate functional sewage treatment facilities, including substantial penalties for non-compliance. Strengthened regulatory oversight is essential to addressing a major source of river pollution.
- Clear river obstructions, such as overgrown vegetation, debris, and silted areas, to improve water flow, enhance navigability, and prevent flooding in surrounding communities.
- Install floating barriers at barangay boundaries to improve solid waste collection efficiency and prevent the downstream movement of garbage, while supporting barangay-level accountability and localized river management.

Policy Recommendations

- Work with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), Iloilo-Batiano River Development Council (IBRDC), and key stakeholders to design coordinated approaches that will effectively address non-attainment pollution parameters and strengthen river clean-up initiatives.
- Enact an ordinance imposing stricter penalties for violations of environmental laws, such as improper disposal of solid waste and wastewater into the Iloilo and Batiano Rivers.

- Strengthen enforcement of the “Saturday Habit” (E.O. 18 s. 2025 – An Order Declaring Every Saturday as Clean-Up Day in the City of Iloilo), with particular emphasis on penalties for non-compliant barangays.

Conclusion

The strong turnout of barangay officials/representatives and their active engagement in the discussion indicate a solid awareness of the importance of the Iloilo–Batiano River system. Their ongoing programs and activities show a genuine commitment to help rehabilitate and maintain the river’s health. However, they emphasized the need for greater cooperation from their constituents, as well as additional support from the city government—particularly in the form of waste-sorting, composting facilities, and other waste-management systems.

The officials/representatives also identified commercial establishments lacking proper wastewater treatment facilities as significant contributors to pollution. Yet, they noted that their authority over these private entities is limited, highlighting the need for stronger enforcement mechanisms at the city level.

Project Overview and Methods

Background

The Iloilo River plays a central role in the city's economic vitality, environmental health, and cultural identity. However, growing challenges—such as pollution, encroachment, and the impacts of climate change—pose significant threats to its long-term sustainability. In response, a stakeholder consultation on river management was conducted to gather insights, priorities, and recommendations from groups directly involved in—or affected by—the stewardship of the Iloilo River. Among these stakeholders are the barangay officials, whose daily interaction with their constituents provides them with first-hand knowledge of on-the-ground conditions and community activities.

The consultation sought to promote inclusive participation and evidence-based decision-making toward sustainable river management. It followed integrated and participatory approaches aligned with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and relevant Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

A collaborative governance model served as the guiding framework for the consultations. This model emphasizes the integration of diverse stakeholder perspectives, capacities, and resources to achieve a shared goal: the long-term ecological health of the river. Recognizing that no single institution can address these challenges alone, the approach aims to restore river health, reduce flood and pollution risks, and enhance both human and ecological well-being. It departs from traditional top-down management by promoting shared decision-making, transparency, and mutual learning to navigate complex environmental and socioeconomic issues.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on August 26, 2025, formalized the collaboration between UP Visayas and the Iloilo City Government. Through this partnership, the project aims to integrate knowledge, perspectives, values, and practices from key actors to enhance the legitimacy, coherence, and effectiveness of initiatives for 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; and
- To discuss policy recommendations to improve collaboration and holistic management of the Iloilo and Batiano rivers.

Methods for the Stakeholder Consultations

Pre-Activity Meetings

Before the stakeholder consultations, several online preparatory meetings were held 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

Participants were encouraged to actively share their experiences and perspectives, fostering a collaborative dialogue on the conditions of their barangays and the collective efforts influencing the water quality of the Iloilo-Batiano River system.

Pre-Activity Online Survey

Both online and in-person surveys were conducted with barangay representatives to obtain comprehensive quantitative and qualitative insights into stakeholders' priorities and perspectives.

Data Collection and Analysis

Qualitative insights were gathered from focus group discussions (FGDs), complemented by questionnaire responses that ranked participants' priority issues. The responses were then subjected to quantitative analysis to uncover patterns and commonalities in participants' perspectives.

Consultation with the Barangay Representatives

The Participants

The participants of the stakeholders' consultation (n=26) and pre-activity online survey were the officials and representatives from the following barangays/office:

Iloilo City Barangays

- Bakhaw
- Bolilao
- Bofifacio-Arevalo
- Desamparados
- Dungon A
- Inday
- Mohon
- Navais
- North Fundidor
- North San Jose
- President Roxas
- San Agustin
- San Jose
- San Rafael
- Santo Domingo
- Seminario
- South San Jose
- Sta. Cruz
- Sto. Nino Sur
- Tabucan
- Tap-oc
- Yulo

Oton Barangays (Response is through the Online Survey)

- Alegre
- Botong
- Buray
- Cagbang
- Lambuyao
- Poblacion East
- Poblacion North
- Poblacion West
- San Antonio Oton
- San Nicolas

Iloilo City Local Government Unit

- City Environment and Natural Resources Office

On the other hand, the survey respondents (n=49) were mostly non-students (76.5 percent) and senior citizens (19.6 percent). The group were mostly barangay officials (60.8 percent).

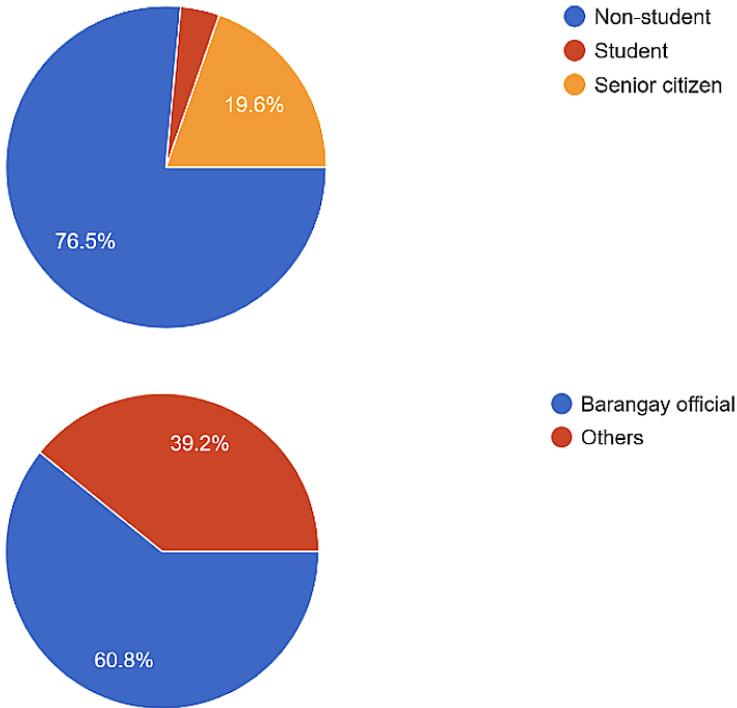


Figure 1. Classification of the Survey Respondents

Activity Rationale

The Stakeholders' Consultation constituted the inaugural activity under the Memorandum of Agreement executed in August 2025 between the Iloilo City Government and the University of the Philippines Visayas. While collaborative engagements between the two institutions commenced as early as 2024, this consultation marked the formal activation of their institutionalized partnership toward the sustainable development and governance of the Iloilo River.

The consultation sought to elicit community perspectives on the current conditions and issues affecting the Iloilo River and to compare these with the concerns identified in the 2002 IBRDC River Masterplan. The process aimed to revisit, validate, and update key issues and to inform the development of responsive strategies moving forward.

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

Introduction of the UPV Research Team

Alan Moscoso

Project Research Fellow

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 - City Environment and Natural Resources Office

Discussion of DENR- EMB Water Quality Results and Issues Affecting the Iloilo-Batiano River

Alan Dino E. Moscoso

UPV Project Fellow

The DENR-EMB water quality results from recent sampling periods indicate that the Iloilo and Batiano rivers still failed to meet DENR compliance standards for dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, biological oxygen demand, and phosphate levels. However, the rivers generally met the standards for pH, total suspended solids, temperature, and color. These findings confirm the presence of significant water pollution in both rivers, and participants unanimously agreed with the results of the water quality tests.

Barangay representatives attributed the problem of poor water quality primarily to the absence of sewage treatment facilities in commercial and industrial establishments. They emphasized the need for regulatory agencies, such as the DENR-EMB, to strengthen enforcement of environmental laws, monitor and regulate businesses more strictly, and impose penalties on violators. Many of them downplayed the contribution of household septage to the river's pollution.

Participants also highlighted the persistent presence of solid waste and floating debris. Several barangay representatives reported that their communities conduct regular clean-up activities as part of their efforts to address this concern.

Siltation was likewise identified as a key issue requiring intervention. Participants noted that increasing sediment accumulation has made sections of the river shallower and less navigable, underscoring the need for appropriate mitigation measures.

Workshop and Survey Response Outputs

The participants were divided into two groups—the Iloilo River group and the Batiano River group. The list of issues from the 2002 Iloilo–Batiano River Masterplan, along with additional issues identified by the groups, was written on Manila paper and posted on the wall. Each participant was given three colored Post-it stickers, which they used to rank the three most important issues by placing a sticker next to the corresponding item.

In the second workshop, participants were asked the following questions and instructed to write their responses on meta cards:

1. Who are the stakeholders that perform significant contributions to enhancing Iloilo and Batiano Rivers in general?
2. What are the current roles that stakeholders have been performing to achieve the vision for Iloilo and Batiano Rivers?
3. What is your personal engagement on river conservation and protection in general?
4. What are the main causes of Iloilo and Batiano River's poor water quality (in terms of dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform)?

5. Which aspect(s) on Iloilo and Batiano River management should be prioritized for the next 10 years?

Below are the combined results of the focus group discussion and the survey responses, Results from the two groups were presented to the assembly and subsequently discussed.

1. Who are the stakeholders that perform significant contributions to enhancing Iloilo and Batiano Rivers in general?

The participants identified the City and Barangay LGUs, along with the local community, as the primary groups that perform—or should perform—the main roles in the preservation of the Iloilo–Batiano River system (Table 1). The responses suggest that barangay representatives place a high level of reliance on city or municipal authorities for river management, possibly reflecting long-standing institutional arrangements or past experiences. The waste hauler, J.S. Layson, was specifically mentioned, with participants noting that source segregation is perceived as ineffective because waste are ultimately mixed in collection trucks and commingled at the same landfill.

Table 1. Percentage of responses on who are the stakeholders that should perform significant contribution in Iloilo–Batiano River management

Group/Entity	Percentage
City/Municipal LGU	31.2
Local community	20.4
Barangay LGU	18.3
Private sectors	8.6
NGOs	6.5
NGAs	4.3
Business owners	4.3
Civil society organizations	2.2
Academe	2.2
JS Layson	1.1
MIWD	1.1

2. What are the current roles that stakeholders have been performing to achieve the vision for Iloilo and Batiano Rivers?

Almost half of the responses emphasized clean-up activities, whether conducted as regular initiatives or during special occasions (Table 2). Participants from Iloilo City attributed this strong focus to the institutionalization of the city’s “Saturday Habit” through Executive Order No. 18, series of 2025, which designates every Saturday as a citywide clean-up day. This policy has significantly reinforced both the visibility and frequency of clean-up efforts at the barangay level, fostering community participation and a shared sense of responsibility for river maintenance.

In addition to clean-up activities, environmental monitoring was described primarily as the routine observation of river conditions, focusing on visible indicators such as the accumulation of solid waste and the level of participation of barangay constituents in clean-up programs. This suggests that monitoring efforts are largely action-oriented and visually driven, with greater emphasis on tangible, observable issues rather than less visible but equally important indicators of river health, such as water quality parameters.

An effective and award-winning “trash-to-cash” program implemented by Barangay San Rafael was highlighted as a replicable model for other barangays. The program not only incentivizes proper waste disposal, but also strengthens community engagement in sustainable waste management. However, the city LGU noted that priorities across barangays do not always fully align with city government objectives, resulting in uneven implementation of city-wide programs and policies. This highlights the need for stronger coordination between the city and barangays, ensuring that local initiatives complement broader governance strategies while maintaining flexibility to address specific community contexts.

Table 2. Percentage of responses the current roles of the stakeholders

Roles/Activities	Percentage
Clean-up	46.8
Solid waste management	14.9
Environmental monitoring	10.6
Information and education campaign	8.5
Ordinance	6.4

Roles/Activities	Percentage
Dredging	4.3
Mangrove planting	4.3
River rehabilitation	2.1
Research	2.1
Baroto race	2.1

3. What is your personal engagement on river conservation and protection in general?

As barangay representatives, the participants reported actively engaging in clean-up programs within their respective communities, as well as in the dissemination of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials (Table 3). Although not always explicitly detailed, several participants also mentioned involvement in wastewater management-related actions as part of their personal contributions. This is noteworthy given that wastewater has been identified as a major contributor to pollution in the Iloilo–Batiano River system. However, solid waste continues to receive greater emphasis in both individual actions and community initiatives, largely because it is more visible and immediately observable than dissolved or non-point pollutants. This contrast underscores a common tendency to prioritize highly visible environmental issues, even when less apparent sources may have more significant long-term impacts on water quality.

Table 3. Percentage of responses on personal engagement on river conservation

Personal engagement	Percentage
Clean-up drives and meetings	31.6
Solid waste management	31.6
IEC materials dissemination	18.4
Tree/Mangrove planting	13.2
Wastewater management	5.3

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

Improper waste disposal emerged as the top issue identified by the participants, and during the group discussions this was consistently understood to refer primarily to solid waste (Table 4). While floating garbage was acknowledged as a highly visible and unsightly problem, the participants ranked the septage issue as the second most significant concern, recognizing it as a less visible but equally critical source of river pollution. Importantly, the discussions also revealed that participants were aware of the contributions of both industrial and commercial establishments, as well as informal settlers, to the degradation of the river system. This indicates a nuanced understanding among participants that river pollution is driven by multiple sources and stakeholders, rather than by household waste alone.

Table 4. Percentage of responses on what are the main causes of Iloilo and Batiano River's poor water quality

Causes	Percentage
Improper waste disposal	44.4
Septage	28.9
Industrial/commercial waste	13.3
Illegal settlers	11.1
Illegal fishing	2.2

5. Which aspect(s) on Iloilo and Batiano River management should be prioritized for the next 10 years?

Consistent with earlier responses on the causes of river pollution, participants emphasized that government intervention—particularly by the city or municipal LGU—should prioritize solid waste management, followed closely by wastewater management (Table 5). Siltation was also identified as a significant factor exacerbating pollution, as accumulated sediment and shallow river conditions hinder the natural flushing of waste by tidal waters. To address this, participants recommended river dredging as a complementary measure to improve flow, facilitate waste transport, and restore navigability.

The relocation of informal settlers emerged as another priority concern. Participants noted that households situated close to the riverbanks often

dispose of both solid and liquid wastes directly into the river, a practice further compounded by backyard livestock operations, particularly pig pens, whose wastes also enter the river. These observations underscore the complex interplay of physical, social, and infrastructural drivers of pollution in the Iloilo–Batiano River system and highlight the necessity of integrated and multi-sectoral management approaches that simultaneously address waste management, settlement patterns, and river maintenance.

Beyond environmental concerns, participants also recognized the potential of the Iloilo–Batiano River system as a resource for water transportation and tourism, including floating restaurants and river tours. Harnessing these opportunities requires ensuring improved water quality and aesthetic conditions, further reinforcing the need for comprehensive river management strategies.

While awaiting the establishment of a proper septage management network and treatment facilities, participants suggested that interim measures—such as the installation of additional interceptors at canal outfalls discharging into the rivers—could help reduce the inflow of pollutants and mitigate further deterioration of water quality. Such measures, combined with solid waste management, dredging, and relocation strategies, form a cohesive framework for safeguarding the ecological and socio-economic functions of the Iloilo–Batiano River system.

Table 5. Percentage of responses on which aspect(s) on Iloilo and Batiano River management should be prioritized for the next 10 years?

For prioritization in the next 10 years	Percentage
Solid waste management	28.0
Wastewater/water quality management	26.0
Widening/dredging	18.0
Illegal settlers' relocation	10.0
Community engagement	6.0
River easement	4.0
Mangrove	4.0
Flood control	2.0
Seawalls	2.0

Key Recommendations and Ways Forward

- Strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act) by installing appropriate facilities and equipment that enable effective waste segregation at the source. The current practice of commingled waste collection undermines public motivation to segregate waste, as segregated materials are ultimately mixed during collection. Notably, participants did not mention the ongoing establishment of the Iloilo City Solid Waste Management Facility (ISWMF), indicating a gap in information dissemination. This underscores the need to regularly update barangay officials on city-level solid waste management programs and clarify how these initiatives will affect waste handling practices at the barangay level.
- Sustain and further promote the “Saturday Habit” initiative as an effective mechanism for mobilizing communities to manage solid waste. Its institutionalization has increased participation and visibility of clean-up activities, and it should be highlighted as a good practice that reinforces shared responsibility between the city government and local communities.
- Enhance information and education campaigns on septage pollution affecting the Iloilo and Batiano rivers, while ensuring the effective enforcement of the local septage management ordinance. Raising awareness of the less visible, but significant impacts of wastewater and septage on river health is critical to balance the current emphasis on solid waste and encourage broader compliance with wastewater management regulations.

Conclusion

The recent DENR-EMB water quality results reaffirm that the Iloilo and Batiano rivers continue to experience significant pollution, particularly in terms of dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, biological oxygen demand, and phosphate levels. While parameters such as pH, total suspended solids, temperature, and color generally meet compliance standards, the overall water quality remains below acceptable limits, highlighting ongoing environmental challenges. Barangay representatives largely agreed with these findings, reflecting a shared recognition of the rivers’ degraded condition.

The participatory workshops and survey responses reveal that river pollution is driven by multiple, interconnected sources. Improper waste disposal, particularly solid waste, emerged as the most visible and immediate concern, while septage, industrial and commercial effluents, and informal settler activities were recognized as equally important but less conspicuous contributors. Participants demonstrated a nuanced understanding that pollution arises not only from household practices but also from systemic and structural factors, including the lack of sewage treatment facilities and inadequate regulatory enforcement.

Stakeholders perceived the City and Barangay LGUs, along with local communities as the primary actors responsible for river management, with substantial reliance on municipal authorities to enforce regulations and implement programs. Current stakeholder actions are predominantly focused on clean-up activities, reinforced in Iloilo City by the “Saturday Habit,” along with limited engagement in environmental monitoring, IEC campaigns, and solid waste management initiatives. Personal engagement among barangay representatives mirrors these patterns, emphasizing visible interventions such as clean-ups and information dissemination, while wastewater management receives comparatively less attention.

Looking forward, participants prioritized solid waste management and wastewater management as the main areas for intervention over the next ten years, followed by river dredging to address siltation and informal settler relocation to mitigate direct waste disposal into the rivers. These priorities underscore the need for integrated, multi-sectoral approaches that address both physical and social drivers of pollution, including community behavior, industrial compliance, and infrastructural limitations.

Key recommendations to support these priorities include the full implementation of R.A. No. 9003 through the provision of facilities for source segregation and effective solid waste management, sustained promotion of the “Saturday Habit” to strengthen community participation, and enhanced IEC campaigns coupled with enforcement of the local septage ordinance. Together, these measures aim to improve river water quality, enhance community engagement, and establish a more sustainable framework for the long-term management and protection of the Iloilo–Batiano River system.

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	CENRO
	Acknowledgment of Participants	
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Activity Rationale	CENRO
9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Presentation of the EMB Water Quality Results and Discussion of Pre-Activity Survey Results	UPV
10:00 AM – 11:10 PM	Open Forum	All
11:10 AM – 11:30	Synthesis and Ways Forward	UPV Research Team
	Key Recommendations and Ways Forward	CENRO
	Photo Opportunity	LGU CENRO and UPV Research Team

Annex B. List of Participants from the Consultation with Barangay Representatives on October 28, 2025

Iloilo City Business Center Building
Aduana St., Iloilo City
October 28, 2025

University of the Philippines Visayas
UP CIDS Project: Revitalizing an Urban River: Stakeholders' Engagement in Improving the Water Quality of the Iloilo-Batiano River System Year 2

Name	Office/Unit/Barangay	Sex (M/F)	Signature
1. FELIPE B. SALVALDOSA	BAR. KAWD. BUDY. CALIBINAN, JARD 1. C.	M	
2. JOHAN T. MOLO	BAR. KAWD. MARIANAN LAMAZ	M	
3. MEDIA B. ISMAEL	BRGY. SAN ANTONIO C.P. / BS	F	
4. Lourdes B. Aguirre	Brgy. Tabucan Mand. J.C.	F	
5. LOUIE AZUCARAS	BRGY NORTH FUNDADOR	M	
6. Maria Ina Moscoso	LOTREAL, UP Visayas	M	
7. JESTIN KEAT CASINERA	UP VISAYAS	M	
8. MELINA P. BELANDRES	BAR. KAWD. TABUCAN, MAND. J.C.	F	
9. APRIL GELBO LERAN	Brgy. Balinguaya District	F	
10. APRIL GELBO LERAN	Brgy. Balinguaya District	F	
11. STEPHEN CLACTON	BRGY KAWD. NORTH ARBAYO	M	
12. Andrea Mae Buni	San Jose Arbohan	F	
13. NELSON BALLOS	BRGY. PRES. ROSAS C.P.	M	
14. Luzmila Tabucan	Brgy. San Roque Mand. J.C.	F	
15. JANEVIC B. DAVILA	Brgy. Inday Iloilo City Proper	F	

Attendance Sheet

Iloilo City Business Center Building
Aduana St., Iloilo City
October 28, 2025

University of the Philippines Visayas
UP CIDS Project: Revitalizing an Urban River: Stakeholders' Engagement in Improving the Water Quality of the Iloilo-Batiano River System Year 2

Name	Office/Unit/Barangay	Sex (M/F)	Signature
16. BETTY M. TACAVANA	SOUTH SAN JOSE HOLA, J.C.	F	
17. Kim Lloyd Desjeron T.	TAP-OC molo Iloilo City	M	
18. JEAN J. ROSAL	BAR. KAWD. J.C.	F	
19. MARIANNA C. SARGANDO	Brgy. San Agustin	F	
20. VANESSA FERRER	Brgy. Desamparadas Jaro	F	
21. JANE JOSE C. MALIBI	Brgy. Semaroma Jaro	M	
22. RONA MAY D. ABANGAN	LOT. NING SUK ADELAL, J.C.	F	
23. JOEL E. AWANGD	BANWANG	M	
24. JIM CARLOS PERA CARANAN	NAWANG J.C.	M	
25. MARY ROSE A. TROMON	NORTH SAN JOSE, JARO	F	
26. Sherry Mae Tataranga	OCEIRO	F	
27. LEO L. ARBITORA	BRGY NORTH FUNDADOR	M	
28. RYAN CULAN	BRGY NORTH FUNDADOR	M	
29. RYAN PAMPANCO	OCEIRO	M	
30. JOSEPH ESTRELA	YULO DRIVE ADELAL	F	

Annex C. Pre-Stakeholders' Consultation Survey Questionnaire for the
Barangay Officials and Constituents

Pre-workshop Questionnaire for Barangay Officials and Constituents

As a valuable stakeholder for the management of Iloilo and Batiano Rivers, we have prepared pre-workshop guide questions for the activity "Revitalizing the Iloilo-Batiano River System"

Anyone in your barangay can answer the questionnaire. The links below are provided - please disseminate widely to all barangay members.

Before answering the questionnaire, please indicate which river you wish to assess — the Iloilo River or the Batiano River. If you intend to assess both rivers, kindly complete a separate questionnaire for each.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

-The UPV Research Team, Iloilo City LGU-CENRO, and Oton LGU-MENRO

Survey link:

<http://bit.ly/3KQnisa>

Survey QR Code:



Iloilo-Batiano River System



Please put a check (✓) which river you would like to assess:

() ILOILO RIVER or () BATIANO RIVER

Part I. Issues

Please rate the issues affecting the river. Rate **10** if you think it is very important and **1** if it is not important to you. Please shade or put a check ✓ on the ☆

1. Poor water quality *
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

2. Presence of solid wastes and other floating debris *
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

3. Siltation or persistent sediment loading *
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

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

5. Which aspect(s) on Iloilo and Iloilo River management should be prioritized for the next 10 years?

River Planning and Management

(You may answer in Hiligaynon or Tagalog if you prefer. Please attach addition sheets when necessary)

1. Who are the stakeholders that perform significant contributions to enhancing Iloilo and Batiano Rivers in general?

2. What are the current roles that stakeholders have been performing to achieve the vision for Iloilo and Batiano Rivers?

3. What is your personal engagement on river conservation and protection in general?

Part II. Resource Person's Profile

Name (Optional): _____

Barangay: _____

Category:

Mark only one oval.

Non-student

Student

Senior citizen

Position in the Barangay:

Mark only one oval.

Barangay official

Others

Age as of last birthday: _____

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



EnP. Janis Sy, Iloilo City Environment and Natural Resources Officer, delivers her welcome message and provides the participants with an overview of the workshop's purpose and rationale.



Mr. Alan Moscoso, Project Fellow, presents the program of activities and sets the flow for the workshop.



Punong Barangay Joel Alvarado of Barangay Bakhaw presents the results of the Batiano River group's discussion.



Barangay representatives rank the key issues affecting the Iloilo River.



Brgy. Kagawad Azucena Tabuyoc of Brgy. San Rafael discusses the solid waste management programs implemented in her community



The UPV Team, CENRO staff, and barangay officials pose for documentation after a productive 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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