



National
Water
Resources
Board

PHILIPPINE DISCUSSION MATERIALS FOR SESSION 2 (ISSUES AND CAUSES)

*Engr. Evelyn V. Ayson
Chief, Evaluation Section
Water Rights Division
National Water Resources Board*

ORGANIZATION

ISSUE #1 : Lack of coordination among water related agencies

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

1. Fragmented approach in water resources management and development.
2. Inconsistencies in the implementation of water related policies.
3. Overlapping of water related plans, programs and activities.

Importance: High

Causes :

1. Several agencies are involved in the development and management of water resources.
2. Each agency has its own plans, programs and activities (sectoral approach).
3. Lack of financial and human resources.

ISSUE #2 : Conflict in the management of the water resources among different government and non-government organization within the region

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

1. Confusion among water users on which agency has the responsibility to regulate/allocate water resources in a particular area.
2. Ineffective implementation of laws and policies on water resource regulation and allocation.

Importance: High

Causes :

1. Several agencies are involved in different water resources activities.
2. Different interpretation of each agency's mandate.
3. Interlocking laws, policies, Executive Orders and other executive issuances.

POLICY AND PLANS

ISSUE #3 : Difficulty in implementing integrated water resources management and development plans (national level).

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

1. Inefficient allocation of water resources.
2. Ineffective regulation of water extraction.
3. Creation and establishment of RBOs hampered.
4. Different approaches in the implementation of plans and programs within a river basin.
5. Plans and programs not fully implemented.

Importance: High

Causes :

1. Limited financial support and participation from various stakeholders.
2. Highly centralized regulation and allocation of water resources.
3. Lack of IEC and awareness campaign for stakeholders.

ISSUE #4 : Lack of comprehensive strategic plan for priority river basins to organize and create RBOs.

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

1. Not fully implemented the MTPDP and other international commitment on IWRM that is to establish additional river basins in the country.
2. Ineffective allocation of water resources.
3. Uncoordinated implementation of programs, plans and activities within the basin.

Importance: High

Causes :

1. Comprehensive water resources plan for priority river basins has not been prepared .
2. Lack of coordination and stakeholders participation in the formulation of integrated plan.
3. Lack of financial support from the government to initiate and implement the plan.

ISSUE #5 : Lack of comprehensive drought management plan.

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

1. Lesser water for allocation due to scarcity of water.
2. Severe damage to crops resulting to loss of income to the farmers.
3. Lower food production.

Importance: Low

Causes :

1. The drought management plan is only implemented during the effects of El Niño occurrence .
2. Limited IEC and awareness campaign on drought related effects.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

ISSUE #6 : Difficulty in the implementation of water rights system.

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

1. Water use conflicts.
2. Unregulated water resources abstraction.
3. Over extraction of water resources.
4. Depletion of water resources in terms of quality and quantity.

Importance: Middle

Causes :

1. Lack of information dissemination on the policies and laws related to water rights system.
2. Lack of human and financial resources to monitor and enforce the policies.
3. Lack of cooperation with some local government units.
4. Some water related laws and policies are susceptible to different interpretations.
5. Highly centralized responsibility in water allocation.

ISSUE #7 : Prioritization of domestic use in times of emergency over other uses.

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

1. Conflicts among different water sectors especially domestic use and agricultural use.
2. Other water users will be deprived of the use of water.
3. Severe damage to crops and other agricultural products.

Importance: Middle

Causes :

1. According to the Water Code, domestic water use has priority in time of emergency thus it asserts its preferred position.
2. Lack of alternative measures on how to manage the limited supply of water.
3. Limited water supply in times of emergency (unharnessed alternative source of water supply).

PARTICIPATION

ISSUE #8 : Protest/Opposition filed by existing water user against the new water permit application on the ground of adverse effect on the use of water.

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

1. Causes delay in the water rights application and allocation processing.
2. Increase in number of pending water permit applications for processing.
3. Increase in the number of unresolved water use conflicts.
4. Unregulated water extraction.

Importance: Middle

Causes :

1. Limited awareness on available data/information with regards to water source under protest.
2. Lack of coordination between new applicants and existing water users within the river basin.
3. Lack of awareness on existing laws, rules and regulations and procedures.

ISSUE #9 : Lack of multi-sectoral participatory framework.

Problems caused by the issue (Effects):

1. Lack of cooperation from various stakeholders.
2. Ineffective water allocation and implementation of water rights system.
3. Water Use Conflict among different sectors i.e. water supply and agriculture.

Importance: Middle

Causes :

1. Lack of technical capability of NWRB staff to prepare the framework.
2. Limited financial resources to conduct consultations/trainings.
3. Plans and programs could not be fully implemented.