



WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Creation of NWRB

- The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) was created in 1974 by Presidential Decree 424 and is governed by the Water Code of the Philippines (PD1067).
- In 1977, the NWRB absorbed the economic regulatory functions the defunct Public Service Commission (PD1046)
- The issuance of Executive Order No. 123 in September 2002 made the NWRB be transferred from Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for purposes of administrative control and supervision.

The NWRB Mandate

- The NWRB is the government coordinating and regulating agency for all water resources development activities in the country.
- The NWRB is tasked with the formulation and development of policies on water utilization and appropriation, the control and supervision of water utilities and franchises and the regulation and rationalization of water rates.

Objective

The objective of NWRB is to achieve a scientific and orderly development and management of the water resources of the country consistent with the principles of optimum utilization, conservation and protection to meet present and future needs.

NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Chairman – Secretary of Environment & Natural Resources
Vice Chairman – Director-General, National Economic Development Authority
Members – Secretary, Department of Finance
Secretary, Department of Health
Secretary, Department of Justice
Director, National Hydraulics Research Center
Executive Director, National Water Resources Board

BOARD

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

**POLICY & PROGRAM
DIVISION**

**POLICY FORMULATION
SECTION**

**PROGRAM EVALUATION &
COORDINATION SECTION**

**WATER RESOURCES
ASSESSMENT SECTION**

**WATER RESOURCES
INFORMATION**

**WATER RIGHTS
DIVISION**

PERMIT SECTION

EVALUATION SECTION

**COMPLAINTS &
INVESTIGATION SECTION**

**LITIGATION &
ADJUDICATION SECTION**

**WATER UTILITIES
DIVISION**

**REGISTRATION &
LICENSING SECTION**

**WATER RATES
EVALUATION SECTION**

**LITIGATION &
ADJUDICATION SECTION**

**SYSTEMS & ACCOUNTS
SECTION**

**MONITORING &
ENFORCEMENT
DIVISION**

**OPERATION &
MONITORING SECTION**

**WATER METER
CALIBRATION SECTION**

**ENFORCEMENT
SECTION**

EVALUATION SECTION

**ADMINISTRATIVE &
FINANCIAL
DIVISION**

**GENERAL SERVICES
SECTION**

**PERSONNEL &
RECORDS SECTION**

**BUDGET &
ACCOUNTING SECTION**

**COLLECTION &
DISBURSEMENT SECTION**

The powers and functions of the NWRB

- Formulate and adopt policies and guidelines on water resources development and management consistent with the national development plans;
- Effect inter-sectoral / inter-departmental coordination of water resources plans and programs within the context of national plans and policies for social and economic development;
- Regulate and control the utilization, exploitation, development, conservation and protection of the country's water resources;

Cont . . .

- Adjudicate and grant water permits and Certificate of Public Convenience/Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the operation and maintenance of water utilities and services, impose penalties for administrative violations thereof and make all decisions and determinations provided thereof;

Cont . . .

- Supervise and control all water utilities and their franchises, equipment and other properties and regulate and fix water rates to be charged by waterworks operators except those falling under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and the Local Water Utilities Administration;

Cont . . .

- Exercise original jurisdiction over all disputes relating to water appropriation and utilization and water rates of above mentioned water utilities;
- Review and approve rules and regulations prescribed by any government agency that pertain to the utilization, exploitation, development, control, conservation or protection of the country's water resources;

Cont . . .

- Impose and collect reasonable fees or charges from water appropriators and public utility operators which shall be used for the purposes deemed by the Board to be necessary for achieving the purposes and objectives;

Cont . . .

- The NWRB is tasked with the formulation and development of policies on water utilization and appropriation, the control and supervision of water utilities and franchises and the regulation and rationalization of water rates.

LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Legal and institutional context on water resources management

Legal

- The 1987 Philippine Constitution
- The 1974 Presidential Decree 424
- The Water Code of 1976
- The Environmental Code of 1997

Institutional development

- About 30 various government agencies undertakes programmes and projects exclusively within its own field of responsibility
- Under this setting, NWRB was created in 1974 as the authoritative national organization to coordinate and integrate all activities in water resources development and management

FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: EXISTING SITUATION

POLICY-MAKING
NEDA

Coordination/Regulatory
NWRB

**WATER QUALITY
& SANITATION**

*EMB-DENR DOH
BRL EMS*

**WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT**

*FMB-DENR BSWM
NIA NPC*

**INTEGRATED AREA
DEVELOPMENT**

*LLDA- DENR RDC
BOI ARBC*

DATA COLLECTION

*NWRB BRS NAMRIA
MGB LWUA NIA
PAGASA MWSS*

RESEARCH

PCAFNRRD

CLOUD SEEDING

*OCD PAF
BSWM PAGASA*

WATER SUPPLY

*DPWH PMO-RWS
MWSS DILG*

IRRIGATION

NIA DA

HYDRO-POWER

*NPC DOE
NEA ERC*

FLOOD CONTROL

*DPWH PMO-SWM
PMO-MFCP*

PORTS & NAVIGATION

PPA

**FISHERIES &
RECREATION**

BFAR PTA

Current situation and perspectives of the legal and institutional framework

- Adoption of integrated water resources management system
- Water Code and IRR provides a framework for water resources development and management
- NWRB remains at the forefront of coordinating and regulating the activities in the water sector

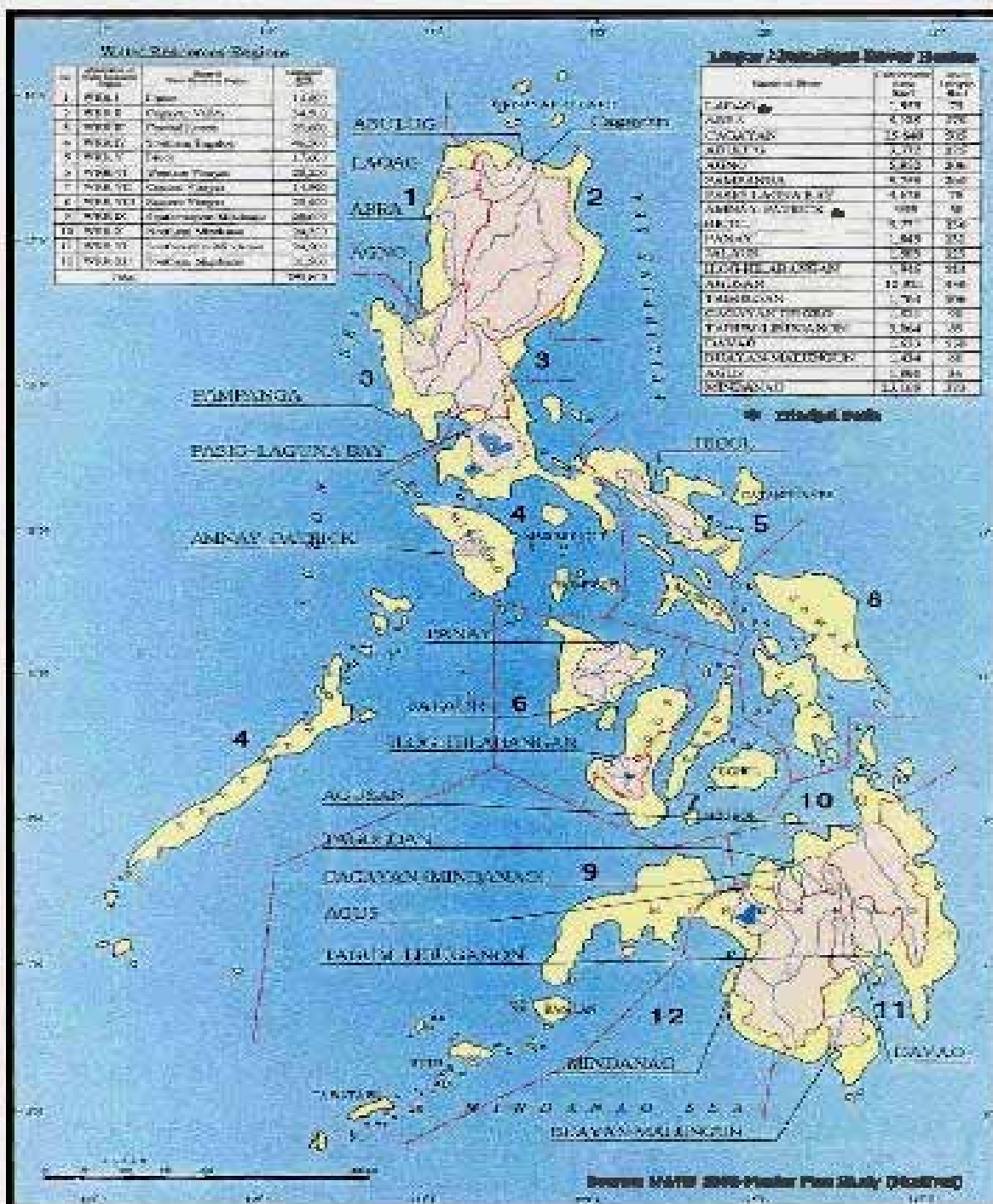
Current situation (cont. . .)

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) another important institution in the water sector
- Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and the Agno River Basin Development Commission (ARBDC) are the existing river basin organization

The Role of NWRB Towards IWRM

NWRB has divided the country into 12 Water Resources Regions (WRR's) in order to have manageable unit for comprehensive planning of water resources development

Water Resources Regions in the Philippines



Water Resources Assessment

To have an overall picture of water resources situation, assessment of available water supplies in relation to the current and projected water demands were undertaken.

WATER POTENTIAL BY WATER RESOURCES REGION

Water Resources Region	Number of River Basins	Drainage Area (KM ²)	Potential Water By Region (MCM)		
			SW	GW	TOTAL
I	14	134-5,125	3,250	1,248	4,498
II	38	101-25,469	8,510	2,825	11,335
III	24	66-9,759	7,890	1,721	9,611
IV	97	56-4,678	6,370	1,410	7,780
V	30	46-3,771	3,060	1,085	4,145
VI	38	41-1,945	14,200	1,144	15,344
VII	19	82-572	2,060	879	2,939
VIII	33	103-1,067	9,350	2,557	11,907
IX	34	87-1,202	12,100	1,082	13,182
X	29	102-10,921	29,000	2,116	31,116
XI	35	93-3,064	11,300	2,375	13,675
XII	30	170-23,169	18,700	1,758	20,458

On-going activities of NWRB

- Project on Water Resources Assessment for prioritized Critical Areas
- Preparatory activity for the technical cooperation project for Raw Water Pricing Methodology in the Philippines with NWRB as co-executing agency

(Cont. . .)

- Improvement of the National Water Data Collection is an on going activity which aim to improve the three national primary monitoring networks for streamflow, groundwater and water quality.
- National Water Information Network which is a design of a personal computer-based system that would electronically link the databases of the collecting agencies as well as providing easy access to user agencies. .

(Cont. . .)

- NWRB is a member of the Steering Committee (SC) on the preparation of River Basin and Watershed Management Project (RBWMP), a 6-year development initiative that will pilot a comprehensive program on natural resources management within the context of a river basin planning and management.
- Proposed Master Plan Study on Comprehensive Agusan River Basin Development .

Issues and Concerns/Challenges

- Increasing demand for water
- Increasing pollution of water resources
- Inadequate institutional capacity building and financial support

(cont. . .)

- Fragmentation among water-related agencies
- Improvement of a coordinated and systematic basic water data collection system

(cont. . .)

- 1998 Master Plan Study identified nine water-critical urbanized areas
- Government is committed to provide adequate, safe, accessible and affordable water supply
- Adopt Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) based on river basin for sustainable development

Measures

- Pursuing economic pricing of raw water to ensure sustainability of the quantity and quality aspects of raw water sources;
- Safeguarding the quality of water at all times;
- Pursuing the preservation of the environment, particularly the maintenance and development of watershed areas.
- Implementation of the Clean Water Act

(cont. . .)

Measures

- Pursuing the strengthening/creation of an independent and regulatory authority;
- Implementing the capacity building programs for the water resources sector;
- Continuing financial and technical assistance on the water data collection activities;
- Adopting the holistic approach in water resources development through creation of River Basin Organizations;

(cont. . .)

Measures

- Review of the existing Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Water Code of the Philippines;
- Preparation of a new / revised organizational and manpower structure of the NWRB

Goals

Effective Regulatory Framework for Water Resources Management (water resource regulation)

Effective Framework for Sustainable Water Utilization (Economic regulation and cost recovery)

(Cont. . .)

Goals

Mechanism and policy for coordination and integration of water resources development and management

Water Sector Vision Statement

"By 2025, water resources in the Philippines are being used efficiently, allocated equitably and managed sustainably with provision for water-related disasters."

Thank you...