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About Angat Kalikasan

Angat Kalikasan: Young Leaders Convergence for Environmental Governance is a response to the identified challenges in youth engagement in biodiversity conservation and sustainability in the Philippines. It is a 4-day summit that strengthened the agency and facilitated the empowerment of eighty (80) Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) members across the Philippines through experiential learning visits and rigorous workshops on environmental governance, project development, and policy advocacy. At the end of the summit, SK members had the opportunity to propose environmental policies and projects for potential funding, in collaboration with their identified people's organization.

Angat Kalikasan is a program of Angat Buhay Foundation, supported by the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, and co-presented by the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations, Save Philippine Seas, and Angat Cebu BPO.



About the Angat Kalikasan Toolkit

This toolkit summarizes the principles and best practices discussed in Angat Kalikasan. These strategies can support SKs in their role in enhancing community-level environmental governance through problem-solving approaches, stakeholder management, policy creation, advocacy campaigning, and monitoring. The toolkit also includes activities and templates that participants can use as they further develop and refine their environmental initiatives.

DEAR FELLOWS,

The Angat Kalikasan Young Leaders Convergence for Environmental Governance marks a milestone for us at Angat Buhay, as the first initiative under our Climate Action and Sustainability pillar. This shift is significant for us as an organization, because it is our way of strengthening our commitment to respond to issues related to climate change and the environment.

Since Angat Buhay's inception in 2016, we have been at the forefront of disaster relief and rehabilitation work. Fueled by the power of collaboration, we perfected our systems for swift delivery of relief assistance to areas most in need. But in this work, we also witnessed many heartbreaks: typhoons and heavy rains ruining towns and cities; changes in seasons growing more intense, threatening our fields and waters; and the millions of homes that suffer loss each time a calamity hits their community.

Alam namin na gaano man kabilis ang aming disaster response—at gaano man karaming beses tayo magbaba ng relief at rehabilitation assistance—hindi ito sapat na tugon sa mga hamon na ating hinaharap. Our collective experiences with disasters prove that our support for communities must be designed towards sustainability and deeper impact. Angat Buhay aims to contribute proactively in this regard, by expanding our services and catalyzing action towards climate change.

”

This is a fight for the welfare of our communities, especially those in the most vulnerable areas of our country. More importantly: This is a fight for your future.

With this in mind, the Angat Kalikasan fellowship has grown ripe in meaning, as we empower a new generation of Filipino leaders to embrace this advocacy. I understand that this is a huge imposition—but it is only right to start among your ranks. This is a fight for the welfare of our communities, especially those in the most vulnerable areas of our country. More importantly: This is a fight for your future.

Laban ito para sa mundo na mamanahin ninyo. Naniniwala ako sa inyong kakayahan, husay, at sigasig. Alam ko na hindi ninyo kami bibiguin, kaya sulong lang, tuloy lang—tungo sa Pilipinas ng ating mga pangarap.



ATTY. LENI GERONA ROBREDO

14th Vice President of the Philippines,
Chairperson & President, Angat Pinas, Inc.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT

Our archipelagic Philippines is a treasure trove of natural wonders and abundant resources. Two-thirds of the world's biodiversity thrives sporadically across the country's more than 7,000 islands. The vibrant hues of green and blue across vast lands and waters are home to unique flora and fauna species found nowhere else on Earth.

However, the biodiversity in the Philippines, like in many parts of the world, faces significant threats. Habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources are putting immense pressure on these ecosystems. As we approach a tipping point, it is imperative that we take collective action to mitigate this unfortunate scenario. This is an urgent and critical call to action to address the crisis facing our Philippine biodiversity.

The youth are pivotal to biodiversity conservation as the successor generation inheriting our earth with all its challenges.

Recognizing and involving young people in biodiversity initiatives fosters a sense of responsibility and ownership, creating a stronger foundation for effective conservation strategies that address national environmental issues and scale up to the global level. While it is their right to be engaged and become stewards and champions of biodiversity, leveraging their passion, energy, and unique perspectives to develop sustainable solutions, it ultimately remains their decision to take on this vital role.

The "Policy Toolkit for Environmental Governance," a collaborative effort among dedicated conservation partners, serves as a comprehensive resource offering essential knowledge and practical insights for aspiring conservationists within the government sector. This toolkit aims to equip young leaders with the skills and understanding necessary to effectively address environmental challenges through policy formulation and implementation.

By disseminating best practices, guidance, and innovative solutions, the toolkit empowers its users to proactively advance sustainable environmental governance, benefiting both the country's biodiversity and its citizens.

The beacon of hope ignited by the youth in Philippine environmental governance shines brightly. Let us nurture this flame to ensure a sustainable and thriving future.



HILLY ANN ROA-QUIAOIT, PH.D.
Chair/CEO
Foundation for the Philippine Environment

PHILIPPINE BIODIVERSITY AND YOUTH'S ROLE IN CONSERVATION

The Philippines is one of the 18 mega-biodiverse countries in the world. Appreciating the country's rich biodiversity and understanding the threats that put it at risk is crucial in creating informed policies, legal frameworks, and programs. These programs should also recognize Filipino youth's potential in leading conservation efforts and addressing environmental challenges.

Rich Biodiversity from Ridge to Reef

Our country's biodiversity is supported by a variety of ecosystems found in the Philippines' mountains, forests, and marine environments. As of 2020, the Philippines has 7.2 million hectares of forest cover. Species endemism in the terrestrial environment is high, covering at least 49% of terrestrial wildlife. The country also ranks 4th in bird endemism.

The Philippines is located at the apex of the Coral Triangle, an area in the Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia described as the center of global marine biodiversity.

The country has over 500 species of corals, 42 mangrove species representing 18 families, and 16 species of seagrass. These ecosystems support more than 3,000 species of fish, five of the seven sea turtle species, and other marine megafauna such as whale sharks, and dugongs, among others.



Biodiversity

The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem



Endemism

The situation in which a species is restricted to a particular geographic region as a result of isolation or in response to abiotic conditions.

Sources: Convention on Biological Diversity | Philippines - Country Profile; Department of Environment and Natural Resources | Philippine Forest Statistics 2022; Asian Development Bank | State of the Coral Triangle: Philippines

FURTHER READING

Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015 - 2028



[Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#)

Recognizing the importance of biodiversity to the country's economy and resilience, the Philippine government has formulated the action plan, which will be updated in 2024.

[Read resource here](#)

Threats to the Philippine Biodiversity

At least 700 species in the Philippines are threatened, making it one of the top global conservation areas. The major drivers of biodiversity loss are connected to unsustainable human activities that affect the country's key ecosystems. The table below provides the main drivers of biodiversity loss, practices contributing to these drivers, and their impacts.

Drivers	Examples of practices that contribute to the drivers	Examples of impacts on biodiversity
Changes in land and sea use	Deforestation for agricultural and urban uses	Habitat loss and degradation
Overexploitation	Illegal wildlife trade, illegal fishing, and other unregulated activities	Decrease of species population, leading to local or global extinction
Pollution	Chemical pollution from factories and other infrastructure	Negatively impacts soil and water quality, affecting wildlife and human health
Presence of Invasive Species	Planting invasive trees such as mahogany and gmelina in forests	Decline of native plant species, negatively affecting ecosystems
Climate change	Reliance on fossil fuels resulting in excessive greenhouse gas emissions	Increase in sea surface temperature resulting in coral bleaching and die offs

Sources: United Nations Environment Programme - Five drivers of the nature crisis

Benefits of Protecting Biodiversity

Addressing threats to the country's biodiversity benefits the Filipino people. Our survival depends on the country's natural resources, and here are some of the benefits we gain from it.



Ensures food security

As an agricultural and fishing nation, our food sources rely on the health of the country's ecosystems.



Improves health

Healthy biodiversity provides clean water, nutritious food, and maintains clean air, while also improving our mental health and well-being.



Supports communities

Communities rely on biodiversity for their sources of livelihood.



Benefits the economy

The rich biodiversity supports several sectors (e.g., tourism and food) that significantly contribute to the country's economy.

Fights against climate change

Healthy ecosystems play an important role in nature-based climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Existing Laws to Protect the Environment

Environmental conservation is enshrined in the Philippine Constitution of 1987. Article 2, Section 16 states that the State “shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”

The Philippine government has also enacted a number of laws to protect and conserve natural resources. Some of the laws are:



National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 (Republic Act (RA) 7586)

Aims to protect natural diversity by establishing a comprehensive system of protected areas, known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

Amended in 2018 with the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018 (RA 11038)

Established 94 protected areas and emphasizes authorities' accountability in case of violation or failure to implement or enforce the law.



Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550)

Regulates municipal and commercial fishing, for the benefit and exclusive enjoyment of the Filipino people.

Amended in 2014 with RA 10654

Mandates stronger measures to deter illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by providing higher penalties and using better monitoring systems.



Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (RA 9003)

Provides an Ecological Solid Waste Management Program, creates the necessary institutional mechanisms and incentives, declares certain prohibited acts with corresponding penalties, appropriates funds, and addresses other related purposes.

Amended in 2022 with the Extended Producer Responsibility Act (RA 11898)

Requires large companies (i.e., total assets of PhP100 million) to adopt and implement policies for the proper management of plastic packaging wastes.



Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act (RA 9147)

Provides for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats, appropriating funds for this purpose and other related objectives.



Climate Change Act of 2009 (RA 9729)

Establishes the framework strategy and program on climate change, mainstreaming it into government policy formulations, and creating the Climate Change Commission for this purpose, among others.



Filipino Youth's Role in Biodiversity Conservation

The youth sector is vulnerable to worsening environmental degradation, but it is more than just a victim of environmental impacts. With the right opportunities and support, youth can lead sustainability and conservation efforts.

Sangguniang Kabataan and Environmental Governance

Recognizing youth's role in environmental leadership, the Philippine Youth Development Action Plan (PYDP) 2023-2028 promotes young Filipinos' active participation in 10 Centers of Participation, including Environment and Governance.

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) supports the nexus between environment and governance by ensuring meaningful youth participation in policymaking at the barangay level while also upholding PYDP's environmental priorities. SK can improve and support environmental governance through the following:



Creation of policies to advance advocacies

SKs, as a policy-making body in barangays, can create policies that address environmental challenges while benefiting the community.



Community building and mobilization

SKs can help onboard communities, especially the youth sector, in environmental projects through public consultations, environmental education efforts, and capacity-building programs.



Leading and sustaining environmental projects

SKs can lead sustainable environmental initiatives by maximizing the barangay's available resources and connecting the initiative(s) to the community's needs or livelihoods.

The following chapters can help SK councils uphold good environmental governance by addressing key environmental challenges in their communities.

Sources: National Youth Commission - Philippine Youth Development Action Plan (PYDP) 2023-2028

STRATEGIES FOR IDENTIFYING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Identifying environmental challenges in your locality is the first step in improving environmental governance.

Problem identification sharpens your focus.

Identifying the problem requires a combination of strategies designed to sharpen your focus. Findings from applying these strategies uncover the problem’s root causes and consequences while allowing the development of appropriate and targeted solutions to address environmental challenges.

Data Gathering Provides Background to Environmental Challenges

Gather data from your target community using a combination of the following methods.

<p>Observation or site visits</p>	<p>Observing communities and conducting site visits can generate or confirm assumptions about environmental issues. Site visits can include informal conversations, observing interactions in the community, and field studies.</p>
<p>Focus group discussions (FGD)</p>	<p>FGDs bring together a small group of stakeholders directly affected or involved in the environmental problem. Engage participants in small groups of 8-10 depending on their profiles and the facilitator’s ability to guide the discussion.</p>
<p>Key informant interviews (KII)</p>	<p>One-on-one interviews with experts provide deeper insights due to their immersion in the problem or their roles in the community (e.g. government officials, community leaders). Interviewing two or three informants could suffice, but more may be needed depending on the scale of the problem.</p>
<p>Surveys</p>	<p>Conducting surveys can be a complementary strategy to FGDs and KIIs or it can be a stand-alone tool in identifying problems. Surveys are commonly executed in the form of questionnaires or polls. Surveys are easier to disseminate and analyze, allowing data gathering from a large pool of respondents.</p>

Data Gathering Best Practices

- ✔ **Secure respondents' consent, take notes, and/or record sessions.**
Always ask the respondents' consent before conducting the research. Prepare a consent form in the local language for them to sign before sessions and explain the goals of the research. Assign someone to take notes or use recording mobile apps to document the proceedings.
- ✔ **Prepare guide questions for FGDs and KIs.**
Craft questions with your goals and objectives in mind. Engaging different stakeholders may require multiple sets of guide questions. For example, while general questions can be posed to all participants, specific inquiries for government officials will differ from those for business owners.
- ✔ **Ask open-ended questions when appropriate.**
If possible and appropriate, ask open-ended questions to gain deeper insights. Open-ended questions typically start with "what," "why," and "how." They are also good follow-up questions to inquiries answerable by "yes" or "no."
- ✔ **Provide a safe space when conducting research.**
Offer anonymity to respondents when necessary, and assure them that their inputs will not affect their relationship with relevant stakeholders. This helps create a safe space to voice out observations, experiences, and opinions to allow a more authentic discussion that can uncover the problem.
- ✔ **Adjust strategies based on the capacities of communities.**
As much as possible, use the local language when conducting interviews and surveys. When access to gadgets or stable internet connection is limited, distributing printed surveys may be more appropriate than using online forms.

Methods for Root Cause Analysis

After gathering data, you may proceed in conducting a root cause analysis (RCA). It ensures that you address the underlying issues rather than just the symptoms, reducing the likelihood of the problem resurfacing. Some of the RCA methods are:



5 whys

A method involving repeatedly asking "why", ideally five times, to drill down to the root cause of the problem



Fishbone Method or Ishikawa diagram

The fishbone diagram's head represents the main problem, while the bones represent the possible causes leading to it



Problem tree analysis

Maps out the causes and effects of a problem from a systems perspective

Data Analysis and Creation of Problem Statement

- 1 Analyze the data to identify common themes and trends. The required analysis would depend on the data-gathering tool used.

	Qualitative Analysis	Quantitative Analysis
Definitions	Interpretation of non-numerical data from FGDs, KIIs, and observations , focusing on prevailing themes, perspectives, and contexts surrounding an environmental problem.	Interpretation of numerical data from surveys, polls, and assessments , focusing on trends, patterns, and intersections surrounding an environmental problem.
Sample Findings	The FGDs' analysis revealed that the respondents had heard the term "climate change" but did not understand how it affects the community.	Survey results found that 60% of 125 student respondents have heard about climate change; only 10% of them understands its causes and effects.

- 2 Craft a problem statement based on the findings. The statement should identify the problem and provide context on its relevance to individuals affected.



SAMPLE PROBLEM STATEMENT

There is widespread awareness of climate change among the youth sector, but there is a significant knowledge gap regarding its causes and effects. This poses a barrier to meaningful youth participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts within the community.



Reminder: Adjusting your focus

As you go through the process, there's a possibility that your initial assumptions about the problem might evolve. The data you gathered may point you to deeper issues or more urgent concerns. Stay flexible and adjust your focus or problem statement accordingly.



Activity: Problem Tree Analysis

Adapted from Ashoka's Systems Change Masterclass

Description:

The activity will help you see the relationship between the an environmental problem's causes and effects.

Materials needed:

Printed templates or pen and paper



Objectives

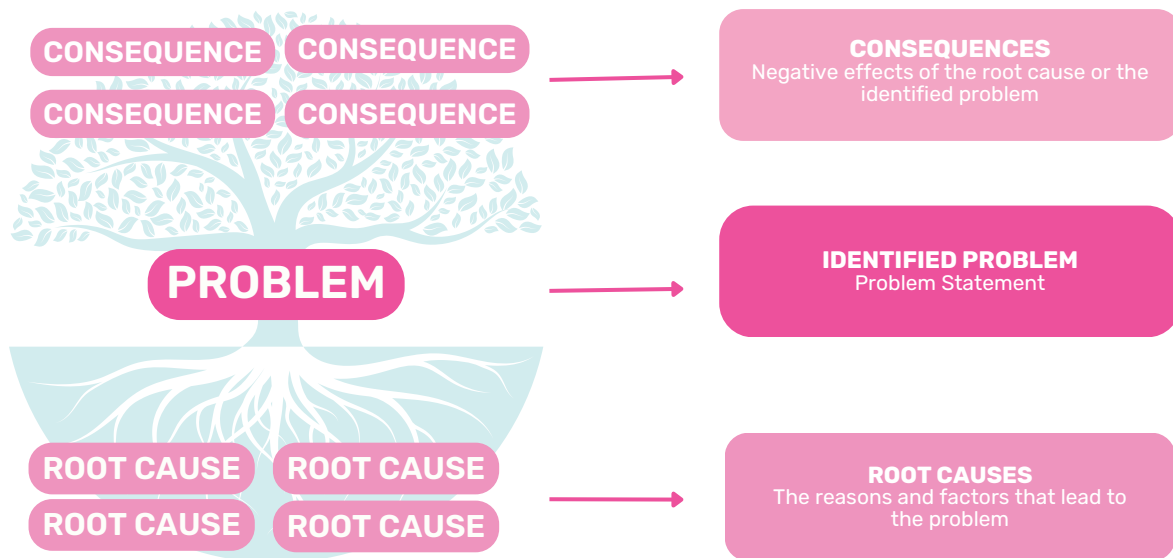
By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- enhance your problem identification skills to support your role in environmental governance.
- identify a key environmental problem in your community, its causes, and consequences.



Instructions

1. Create a problem statement based on your initial observations or assumptions. Write it on the tree's trunk.
2. Write the primary causes of the problem on the the tree's roots.
3. Write down the problem's social, environmental, economic, and political consequences on the tree's leaves.



Download

Problem Tree Template



Key takeaway

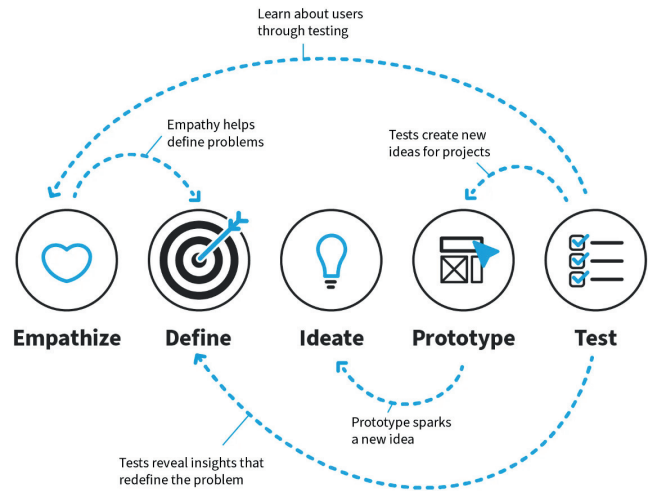
Identifying environmental problems requires policymakers to take a systemic perspective. Without proper analysis, you might end up with an inaccurate core problem, leading to incorrect solutions.

ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES THROUGH HUMAN-CENTERED DESIGN

Applying human-centered design principles to environmental initiatives will help make projects more socially just.

Developing Human-Centered Environmental Solutions Through Design Thinking

Human-centered design (HCD) serves as a framework to develop systematic solutions that positively impact both people and the planet. One of the tools used to develop HCDs is design thinking, a non-linear problem-solving approach that aims to understand people, challenge prevailing assumptions, redefine problems, and develop innovative solutions. Design thinking has five phases.



Phase	Goal and example
Empathize	Understanding of the issue, experiences, and motivations. Example: Conduct FGDs and KIIs, with residents and fisherfolk groups to understand their views about marine plastic waste.
Define	Analyze findings to define the core problem and develop solutions. Example: Identify pain points the community is experiencing due plastic waste in the sea. Develop the problem statement.
Ideate	Challenge assumptions and generate several ideas. Example: Ideas may include banning of single-use plastics (SUPs), education campaigns, and trash collection programs.
Prototype	Create scaled-down versions of proposed solutions. Gather feedback from the community. Example: Ask stakeholders' thoughts about a policy banning SUPs, information campaign strategy, and trash collection as fishermen's alternative source of livelihood.
Test	Conduct tests and adjust strategies based on the feedback to see the best solution to the problem. Example: Launch a policy banning SUPs, an education campaign to a small group, work with few fishermen to collect waste as an alternative source of livelihood.

Source: Borthwick et al., 2022: Interaction Design Framework - Design Thinking (DT) | From human-centred to life-centred design | University College of Estate Management - Human-centred design 101: here's what it means for architectural design

Methods for Solution Ideation

One of the goals of design thinking is to discover the best combination of solutions available to address a problem. This step is accomplished by generating as many ideas as possible and then narrowing down the list based on relevance and effectiveness. Some of the most common design thinking methods for solution ideation are outlined below:



Brainstorming

The most common strategy where designers discuss many ideas in a limited duration without criticism or evaluation, leading to a diversity of applicable solutions.



Brainwriting

A participant writes as many solutions as possible on a piece of paper for five minutes and passes it on to another person who will build on those ideas. The process ends after all participants have contributed ideas.



Mind mapping

A visual representation that encourages nonlinear thinking of ideas and concepts, showing the problem and solution's connection.

Source: Interaction Design Framework - Design Thinking (DT) | Sydney Business Insights - [For the sake of the planet we need to rethink human-centred design](#)

SOLUTION TREE ANALYSIS

Solution Tree Analysis is the reverse of the Problem Tree Analysis discussed in Chapter 1. It is a problem-solving approach distinct from design thinking principles. However, in addition to employing some design thinking strategies such as brainstorming and mind mapping, it is also a complementary tool for developing HCD solutions. This is particularly useful for addressing complex or systemic environmental challenges.



FURTHER READING: BALANCING THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE PLANET



HCD is one of many strategies for tackling environmental challenges. As these problems evolve, new approaches emerge. One such approach is Life-centered Design, which applies concepts of HCD while considering all living creatures on the planet. When applied effectively, these frameworks can enhance environmental governance.

Read: [For the sake of the planet we need to rethink human-centred design](#)



Activity: Solution Tree Analysis

Adapted from Ashoka's Systems Change Masterclass

Description:

The activity will help you generate possible solutions to solve environmental problems from a systems perspective.

Materials needed:

Printed templates or pen and paper



Objectives

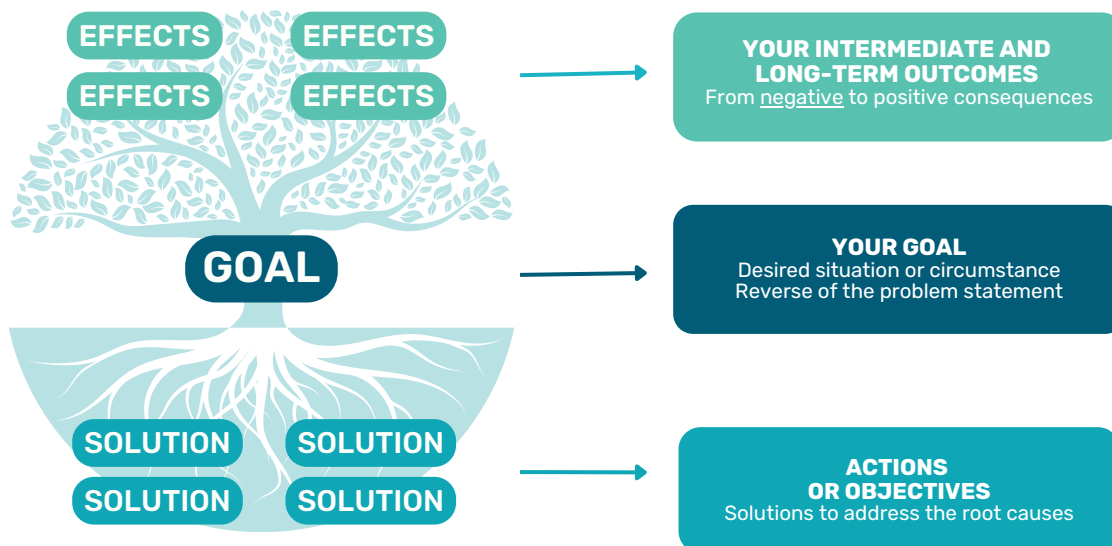
By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- enhance your solution identification skills to address environmental challenges in your community.
- generate and list actionable solutions for the identified problem and their positive effects.



Instructions

1. Define your goal. The goal is the reversed version of your problem statement in Chapter 1. Flip the problem statement and turn it into a positive statement or goal. Write it on the tree's trunk.
2. Identify and write the solutions on the roots. They may address some of Problem Tree's root causes directly or indirectly.
3. Identify the effects of the goal and solutions. These may also directly or indirectly address the consequences written earlier. Write the effects on the tree's leaves.



Download
Solution Tree Template



Key takeaway

Addressing environmental problems and protecting biodiversity require an ecosystem of solutions designed to fit the context where the problem exists.

EFFECTIVE STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Knowing who to engage and how to mobilize them is one of the pillars in addressing development issues.

Environmental governance is built on collaborative systems.

Effectively managing stakeholders requires mapping the relevant individuals and organizations, understanding their roles in the system, and strategizing how to engage them.



Map Potential Stakeholders in the Community

Mapping your stakeholders can help you identify the organizations and individuals who have influence over, or interest on, the environmental challenges. Here are some of the stakeholder groups that might be present in your community:



Elected leaders or Government Representatives



People's Organizations or Non-Government Organizations



Youth Sector and Organizations



Faith-based Groups and Institutions



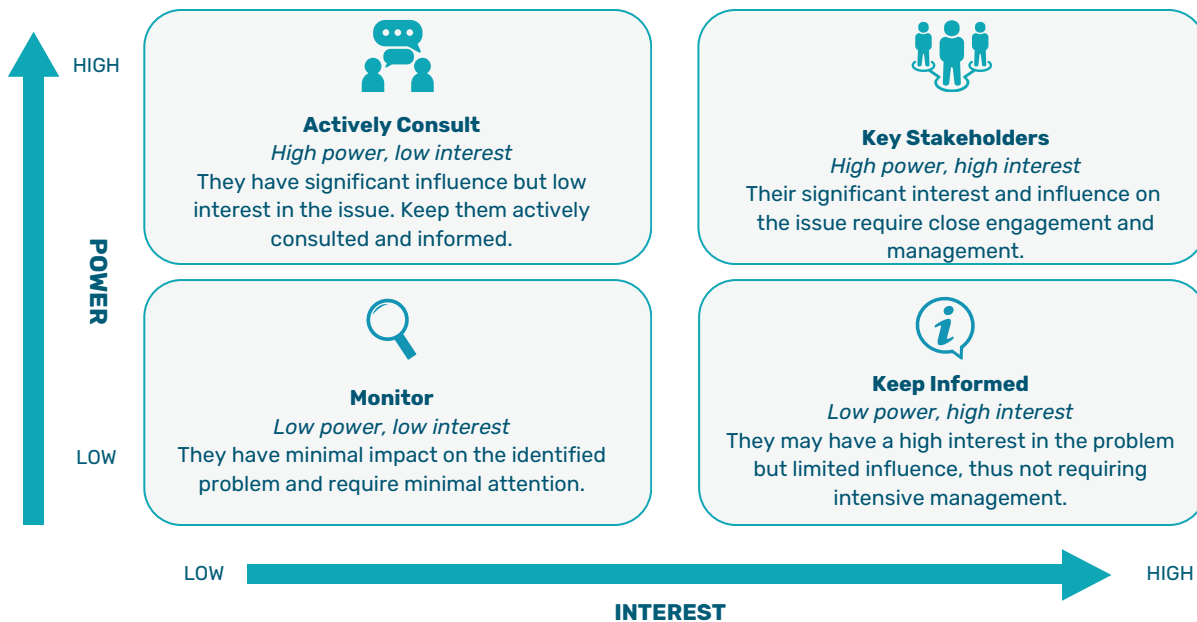
Businesses and Private Companies



Schools and Alumni Organizations


Stakeholder and Power Analysis


Power analysis determines stakeholders' roles in the environmental problem you are addressing. It also helps in prioritizing and allocating resources based on their influence (i.e., ability to affect outcomes) and interest (i.e., level of concern). The power analysis categorizes stakeholders into four quadrants:




Three Cs of Stakeholder Engagement

There are several ways to manage stakeholders and keep them engaged and supportive of your environmental agenda. However, at the minimum, your strategy must have the following objectives:

 **Clear engagement goals** Set clear and feasible outcomes or “asks” before reaching out to your stakeholders to facilitate smooth engagement or partnership with them.

 **Collaborate and seek common ground** Emphasize the need for collaboration while seeking common ground and mutually beneficial solutions to address environmental problems.

 **Communicate and adapt** Regular communication builds trust and positive stakeholder relationships, enabling tailored approaches based on their personalities, needs, and perspectives.



Reminder: The Stakeholder Ecosystem is Constantly Changing

Monitor changes that could shift stakeholders' positions on environmental issues and their priorities. For example, elections impact stakeholder roles in environmental governance due to possible administrative changes. New stakeholders can also emerge, and existing stakeholders' priorities may shift. In those instances, revisit and change your strategy.



Activity: Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Description:

This activity will help you visually map direct and indirect stakeholders you should prioritize and outline your asks per individual or organization.

Materials needed:

Printed templates, pens, smartphone or laptop to conduct research



Objectives

By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- identify relevant stakeholders involved in environmental challenges in your community.
- assess stakeholders' level of influence and interest on the problem you are addressing.
- create an initial stakeholder engagement plan.






Instructions

- List down all the individuals or organizations connected to the environmental challenge you identified on a sheet of paper.
- Map stakeholders on the Power Analysis Template. Plot them based on their influence and interest. Identify key stakeholders, and those to keep informed, consult, and monitor.
- Answer the Stakeholder Engagement Plan Template. Following the example below, list down the stakeholders you aim to engage in your initiative's activities*. Specify what you hope to get out of the engagement or partnership.

*Note: List down tentative activities you have in mind. Once your project or policy's concept is final, revisit the plan and adjust accordingly.

Sample Stakeholder Engagement Plan on Addressing Plastic Waste

 Stakeholders	 Activities	 Asks
SEA Movement	Set meeting and discuss	Partner with local establishments to reduce single-use plastics at source
Restaurants, cafés, and schools	Write a letter to them Set meetings	Make single-use plastics like straws upon request
DENR	Write a letter about DENR policies on balloon releases	Do not endorse balloon and lantern releases



Download

Stakeholder Mapping, Power Analysis, and Plan Templates



Key takeaway

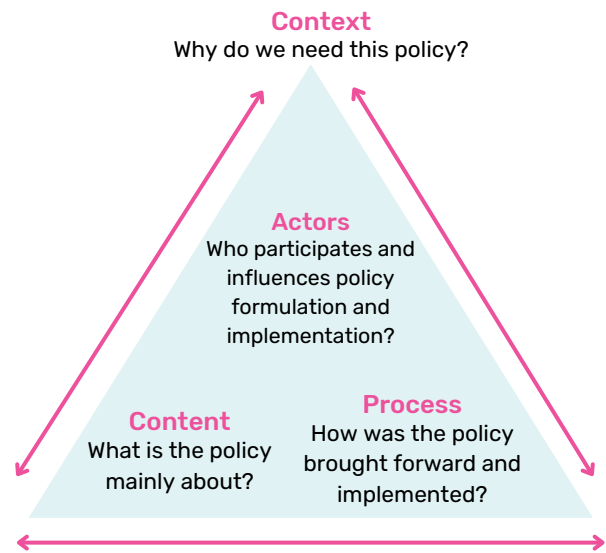
The stakeholder management practices above clarify the stakeholders' roles in the environmental problems you are addressing. Understanding their roles will help you make informed decisions about the stakeholders that you need to prioritize, monitor, and inform.

WRITING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

Policies and resolutions are tools for advancing environmental governance by addressing environmental challenges, allocating resources, and ensuring collaboration and accountability among stakeholders.

Interrelated Factors in Policymaking

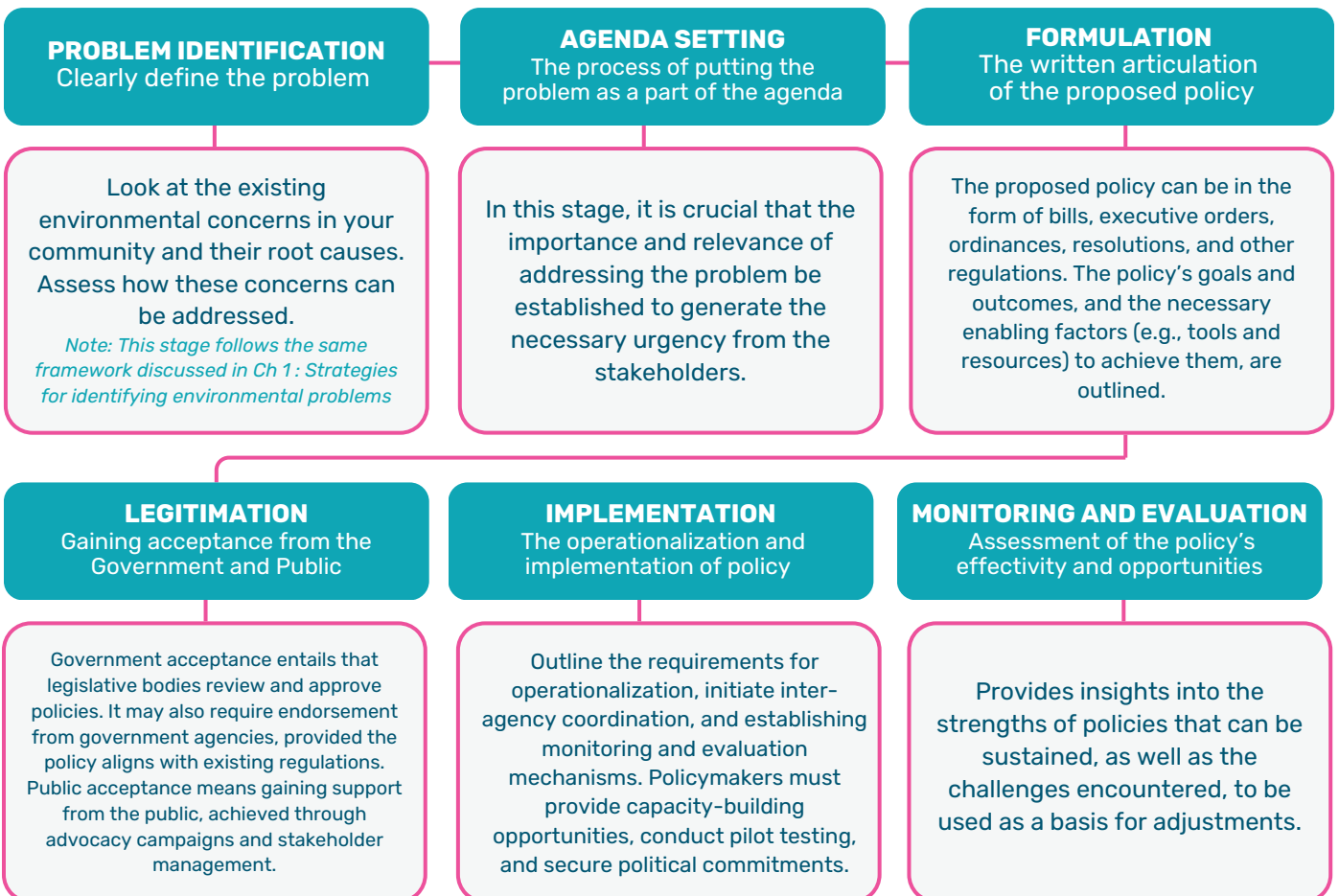
Policy design must be evidence-based, considering people's experiences, values, habits, traditions, and resources, which influence communities and their environment. The Policy Triangle Framework illustrates these factors and guides the development of impactful policies.



ADAPTED FROM WALT & GILSON (1994)
A MODEL FOR HEALTH POLICY ANALYSIS

The Policymaking Process

The process is composed of six steps.



Source: Walt & Gilson (1994) - Reforming the health sector in developing countries: the central role of policy analysis

The Content and structure of Resolutions

A resolutions is typically divided into four parts: the title, preamble, resolving clauses, and signatories. See example below.

TITLE
A clear and concise statement about the resolution's purpose.

1 **RESOLUTION TO ENHANCE OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION MANAGEMENT**

PREAMBLE
Context setting (e.g "Whereas clauses") and describes the different aspects of the problem being addressed.

2
Whereas, ocean plastic pollution has increased significantly, threatening marine life, human health, and local economies;
Whereas, current recycling rates and waste management practices are insufficient to manage the volume of plastic waste generated;
Whereas, lack of adequate funding and policy support for recycling infrastructure has exacerbated the problem;
Whereas, public awareness and community involvement in waste reduction are crucial for sustainable change;

3
Be it resolved that, the XXX commits to increasing funding for the development of modern recycling facilities;
Be it further resolved that, comprehensive public awareness campaigns be launched to educate citizens on the importance of reducing plastic waste and participating in recycling programs;
Be it further resolved that, policies be enacted to encourage businesses to reduce plastic use and invest in sustainable packaging solutions;
Be it finally resolved that, these actions be reviewed annually to assess progress and make necessary adjustments to meet our environmental goals.

RESOLVING CLAUSES
Begin with words like "Resolved" or "Be it resolved".
Contains the specific decisions or actions the organization commits to undertake.

4

FIRST NAME, LAST NAME DESIGNATION FIRST NAME, LAST NAME DESIGNATION FIRST NAME, LAST NAME DESIGNATION

SIGNATORIES
Signatures of proponents, representatives of approving bodies, local government officials, and representatives relevant government agencies, among others.

Context and Factors to Consider in Achieving Policy Legitimation

To gain the policy acceptance from the government and the public sector, policymakers must consider the five different factors outlined below:



Transparency

Transparency is crucial in building trust and legitimacy through open consultations, accessible reports, and clear communication on the rationale and intended impacts of policy.



Rationality and Evidence

The policy should be based on sound evidence and rational analysis. Policymakers can use existing and verified data, published research, and relevant case studies to justify a policy.



Ethical Considerations

Policies that consider ethical standards, such as fairness and justice, and assess the impact on different demographic groups to ensure that no group is disproportionately disadvantaged, are more likely to gain public approval.



Alignment with Prevailing Norms

Policies aligned with existing cultural and societal norms are easier to legitimize. Policies that do not align with existing norms may face resistance.



Involvement of Influencers

Support from influential figures such as politicians, celebrities, experts, and respected community leaders can enhance legitimacy and sway public and government opinion through endorsements.

Balancing Perspectives for Effective Environmental Policies

The Policy Triangle Framework emphasizes process, content, and context, with actors at the center: policymakers, communities, and stakeholders. Viewing environmental challenges through these actors' perspectives reveals critical insights. Policymakers must balance these perspectives to drive effective, sustainable solutions for the community and environment.





Activity: Environmental Resolution Writing

Description:

This activity will allow you to apply the policymaking process, with particular focus on the structure of resolution and in consideration of the factors that influence policy legitimation.

Materials needed:

Laptop or preferred gadget/pen and paper



Objectives

By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- draft a new resolution or revise an existing resolution related to the environmental issue you are addressing and the solution you are advocating for.
- gather feedback about the resolution you wrote from your peers or mentor(s)



Instructions

- Write a resolution and check its alignment with the legitimation considerations outlined in this chapter.
- If you have an existing resolution, review the document and apply necessary changes.
- Gather feedback from your peers or mentor(s). Adjust the resolution according to their feedback.



REMINDER: USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN WRITING RESOLUTIONS

AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) can speed up the writing process by providing generic provisions, improving grammar structure, and enhancing the clarity of text. However, AI tools do not have the capability to write with your community's context and existing nuances in mind.



Download
Resolution Writing Template



Key takeaway

The success of the policies and resolutions you write is influenced by your ability to highlight why existing problems must be acknowledged by the government and public sector. You can do this by working with different stakeholders and influencers in developing transparent, ethical, and evidence-based resolutions.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Monitoring the progress and outcomes helps policymakers assess the strengths and areas for improvement of an environmental initiative or policy.

Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is not a linear process. Some M&E components may be implemented at the onset of the initiative's development, while others should be done throughout the project duration.

A basic M&E framework can be distilled into four components: (1) goal and objective setting; (2) key performance indicator (KPI) identification; (3) data collection and monitoring; and (4) program assessment and adjustment.



1. Goal and objective setting

Define the policy or program's goal and objectives early in development of the initiative. Goals should follow the SMART format (i.e., specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time bound). A single goal may also have multiple objectives.

SAMPLE GOAL:



Enhance students' understanding of the causes and effects of climate change, empowering them to actively participate in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

SAMPLE OBJECTIVE:

By the end of the academic year, 60% of students will demonstrate improved knowledge and understanding of the causes and effects of climate change based on assessment scores and participation in educational activities and discussions.

2. Key performance indicator (KPI) identification

Identifying KPIs ensures objectives are met. KPIs can be classified as qualitative and quantitative. See the matrix below for their differences and uses in M&E.

Type	Sample KPIs	Sample Methods of Measurement
 <p>Quantitative Focuses on measurable outcomes and numerical data</p>	<p>Knowledge Increase Better understanding of environmental topics</p>	<p>Pre-test and post-test An assessment that can compare the community or target audience's baseline knowledge on the environmental topic.</p>
	<p>Reduction in pollution levels in percentage For example, reduction of waste in a community</p>	<p>Conducting waste inventory Measurement of the amount of waste generated before and after the policy or program has been implemented.</p>
	<p>Citizen participation Number of individuals, groups, or households applying desired eco-friendly behaviors</p>	<p>Surveys Analysis of the community's (sample size) eco-friendly behaviors pre and post policy implementation.</p>
 <p>Qualitative Focuses on subjective assessments, and perceptions</p>	<p>Improved public perception and awareness of environmental issues For example, perception on the importance of healthy seas</p>	<p>FGDs and KIIs Assess how stakeholders' perception of the seas and marine ecosystem has changed after the implementation of the initiative.</p>
	<p>Improved state of a specific area in the community For example, monitoring of commonly littered areas</p>	<p>Observation Conduct random checks in areas with prior solid waste management issues. Visually assess improvements.</p>

3. Data collection and monitoring

Collect insights from different data points throughout the initiative's implementation period. Data collection is done before, during, and after the implementation period.



Reminder: avoid using vanity metrics as KPIs

Source: [Tableau | Vanity Metrics: Definition, How To Identify Them, And Examples](#)

Vanity metrics are data that appear attractive but do not contribute to the understanding of a policy or program's impact, nor can they be used as a guide to inform future strategies. These metrics may include social media followers or engagement, number of event attendees, or number of contest participants. For example, having many attendees at a symposium doesn't automatically translate to environmental protection and conservation. Other metrics must be used to verify your initiative's impacts.

Phase	Goal
Pre-implementation	Establish baselines Understand the existing situation and circumstances revolving around an environmental issue. <i>(Note: This is done during the problem identification phase.)</i>
During implementation	Gather real-time feedback and identify opportunities for course correction Identify challenges and address them promptly to ensure that the initiative remains on track.
Post-implementation	Assess the program's overall impact Comparison of the project's outcomes with the baseline data. Measure growth and identify other achievements.

4. Program assessment and adjustment


Assess the initiative by analyzing its impacts based on the gathered data, experiences gained, and stakeholders' observations. The insights generated from the assessment should be used to adjust components of the program or policy, or the entire initiative if necessary.

Addressing common M&E challenges

Here are some M&E challenges you may encounter and the steps to take to avoid or address them.


Lack of resources and expertise

Conducting M&E requires resources (e.g., money, time, manpower). Analysing data also requires sufficient statistical knowledge. Lack of resources and expertise may hinder the implementation and accuracy of your M&E efforts.

- 
Solution: Some evaluation approaches can be conducted with minimal cost. For example, gathering data from technologically-skilled demographics through Google Forms is more efficient than printing survey forms. Consult experts from your partner stakeholders or work with academia to effectively analyze your findings.

Insufficient or inaccurate data

Conducting quantitative evaluation is prone to this challenge. Vital data points (e.g., gender or age) may be missed during initial data gathering. Participants providing feedback or taking assessments using printed forms also have the tendency to not write their names which makes attribution of results challenging.

- 
Solution: Ensure that the data collection tools capture necessary information. Provide clear instructions in filling up forms or questionnaires. Conduct manual checks or spot checks to see if the data gathered is sufficient and correct. Conduct a follow through data collection if needed.



Activity: Creating your M&E Framework

Description:

A well planned M&E Framework is crucial to your environmental initiative's success. This activity will help you work on an M&E framework applicable to your project or policy.

Materials needed:

Printed templates or pen and paper, mobile phone or gadgets to conduct research



Objectives

By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- finalize your environmental initiative's goal(s) and objectives.
- plot KPIs and methods of measurement in alignment with your initiative's goals, objectives, and activities.



Instructions

- Use the template provided to complete your initiative's M&E Framework.
- Start by working on your SMART goal(s) and objectives. One goal can have multiple objectives.
- Next, list the activities in your environmental initiative that will help you achieve your objectives. You can build on the list of activities you have initially plotted or those that you included in the Stakeholder Management Activity.
- Work on your KPIs and methods of measurement (MOM) next. Ensure that your KPIs are attainable given the resources available.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Example

GOAL	
Enhance youth's understanding of the causes and effects of climate change, empowering them to actively participate in climate change mitigation and adaptation (CCAM) efforts.	
Objectives	By the end of the year, 60% of youth aged 18-23 will demonstrate improved knowledge and understanding of the causes and effects of climate change through assessment scores and surveys.
Activities	Conduct two CCAM sessions to train at least 60 youth in the barangay.
KPIs and MOM	60% of training participants increased in CCAM knowledge based on pre- and post-test results.



Download

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework



Key takeaway

The M&E framework serves as your project's guide in implementing your initiative. Your activities and targets must always be aligned to your goals and objectives.

CRAFTING AN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN

Environmental advocacy campaigns play a crucial role in raising awareness, mobilizing public support, and influencing policy decisions to address environmental challenges.

The Link Between Environmental Governance and Advocacy Campaigns

A well-crafted advocacy campaign helps to gain support from the government and public sectors in pursuing environmental projects and policies.

An advocacy campaign requires policymakers to put together several environmental governance components, from problem identification and policy formulation, to monitoring and evaluation. All these should work together in consideration of the appropriate contexts.



Crafting Context-Based Campaigns and Initiatives

Applying context mapping in building your advocacy campaign helps in understanding the enabling factors and barriers of environmental initiatives, which can include:



Influences

Factors that influence, sustain, or shift the situation such as political, economic, and social climate; technological, legal, cultural, and environmental trends; and unknown or unpredictable circumstances.



Story

Key elements of the new narrative you're building such as the heroes (proponents or key allies), villains (environmental violators), and the desired outcome.



Risk management

The resistance and risks you or your team might face, including physical, mental, emotional, financial, or reputational risks, and your plan to mitigate them.

The Campaign Canvas

It's now time to put together your advocacy campaign using the Campaign Canvas. It ensures that your campaign has the necessary elements to succeed. It focuses on four key pillars: purpose, people, place, and process.



PURPOSE

Connected to the concepts and output from Chapter 1: Strategies for identifying environmental problems; Chapter 2: Addressing environmental challenges through human-centered design; and Chapter 5: Monitoring and evaluating environmental policies and initiatives



Change: Based on the problems you've identified that contribute to the current situation, what needs to change?



Goals: What is the specific goal for this project?



Vision: What is the long-term vision for what we want to achieve with this project?



Objectives: What do we need to do to bring this about?



PEOPLE

Connected to the concepts and output from Chapter 3: Effective stakeholder management and engagement



Partners: Who do we need to bring about this change? Who's our audience? Who can we collaborate with?



Activities: What are the key activities and tasks that we need to do to support these people to take action?



Asks: What do these people need to do? What do we ask from them?



PLACE

Connected to Context Mapping discussed in this chapter



Influences: What are the relationships, trends, or events that have influence and/or help sustain the current situation or could shift it?



Story: What are the key elements of the new narrative we want to create?



Risks: Why might this plan fail? What resistance could we face? Are there risks to the team and the other people involved?



PROCESS

Connected to the concepts and output from Chapter 5: Monitoring and evaluating environmental policies and initiatives



Outcomes: What does success look like?



Assumptions: What assumptions have we made about how the system will respond? Why do we believe this plan will succeed?



Monitoring and Evaluation: What will we track and measure to show we are making progress towards our objectives? How will we know we're on the right path?



Activity: Crafting your Campaign Canvas

Description:

Use the Campaign Canvas to create a policy or environmental advocacy campaign.

The Campaign Canvas serves as a guide in assembling all the necessary components of your campaign.

Materials needed:

Printed template



Objectives

By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

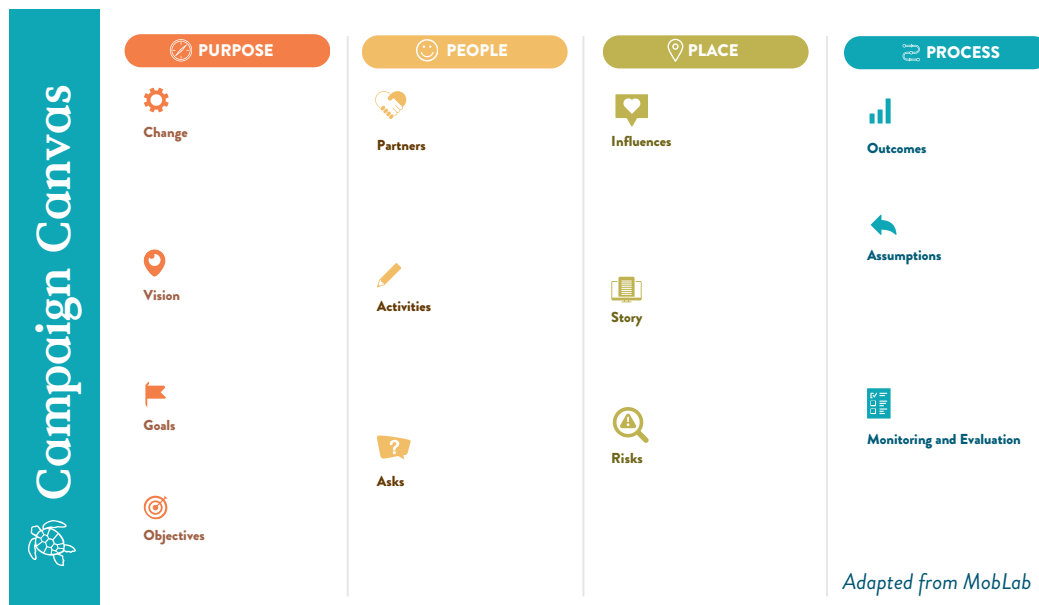
- review your output from the previous activities and their alignment with your environmental policy or project.
- complete your Campaign Canvas.



Instructions

1. Gather your outputs from the activities from Chapters 1 to 5 of this toolkit.
2. Complete the campaign canvas template provided. See sample below.

Note: You may have already completed most of the items the template requires. However, there are some segments that you still need to work on (e.g., story).



Download

Campaign Canvas Template



Key takeaway

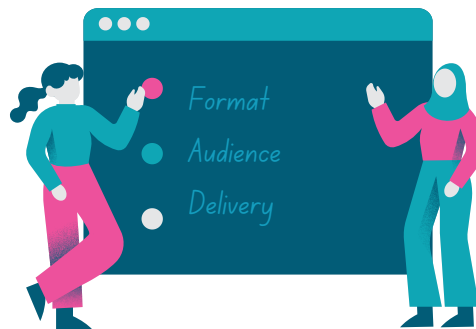
The success of an advocacy campaign lies in the combination of multiple essential components. Plotting these components will enable you to identify which areas or activities are lacking. The activity can also help ensure that the entire team is aligned in terms of strategy.

DELIVERING AN EFFECTIVE PITCH

An effective presentation or pitch helps communicate your environmental policy advocacy campaigns to the right audience and at the right level.

Pointers for Impactful Pitches

A sharp and impactful project pitch can help establish strategic partnerships, secure necessary resources to implement initiatives, and gain support from different stakeholders. Pitches are most of the time delivered in a formal or structured setting. The list below outlines a set of reminders applicable to most structured or formal pitch settings.



1. Format and structure



What's the pitch format? Pitches can be delivered in person, via online meeting platforms (e.g., Zoom), or submitted as video recordings. Each format requires different kinds of preparation.



Is there a template? Organizers may provide a template in Google Slides or PowerPoint format. The templates outline information organizers are expecting from your pitch.



How much time do you have? How many minutes do you have to pitch? If it's a recorded pitch, what's the maximum duration allowed based on the guidelines?



Are there deadlines? In competitions, organizers will set deadlines for the submission of presentations and related documents. Failure to adhere might lead to disqualification.

2. Know your audience



What are their priorities? Align your pitch with the organizer's goals and objectives. For competitions, check the judging criteria set by the organizers.



Who are you pitching to? Check their demographics (e.g., age group, spoken language, background) and tailor your approach accordingly. For competitions, it may be helpful to learn about the judges' expertise or profession. Anticipate questions that might come from your audience and prepare clear and straightforward answers.



Reminder: Always Be Pitch Perfect

In competitions, the judging panel may only be revealed during the pitch. Therefore, it's best to focus on aligning your pitch with the judging criteria and the priorities of the funder.

3. Presentation content and design



Are you using understandable terms? Avoid complicated words and jargons. Use simple words and straightforward explanations.



Is your presentation readable? Use easy-to-read fonts and font sizes. Ensure that the text's color is readable against the presentation's background.



How is the data presented? Visualize data using appropriate charts. For example, use line charts to show trends and bar charts to compare. Label the charts accordingly.



Are your slides visually appealing? Use relevant and relatable images and icons to emphasize key messages on your presentations.



PRO TIP

Improve presentation design by using free online tools like Canva. It has free templates, icons, and graphics relevant to different themes. Photos taken from your community is better than stock photos available online.

4. Delivery and engagement



Are you dressed accordingly? Ensure your attire is appropriate for the audience and pitch format. Some competitions may require formal or semi-formal clothes.



Are you connecting to your audience? Tell stories and case studies that resonate emotionally with the audience. Emphasize your project or policy's impact to the community and the environment.



Are you speaking naturally and emphasizing key points? Speak naturally to make the audience feel comfortable and connected. Adjust the tone of your voice and the pace of your delivery to emphasize key points. Avoid overly theatrical delivery since it might shift the focus away from your key points.



PRO TIP

Practice, practice, and practice! Go through your presentation several times and deliver your lines. Practice in front of your team or mentors and solicit for feedback. Adjust your presentation and delivery accordingly.

Crafting an Effective Elevator Pitch

An elevator pitch is another way to introduce your environmental initiative. It is a project presentation, useful in both formal and informal settings, typically lasting 30 to 90 seconds and covering the following components:



Introduction

Introduce yourself and the problem you are addressing



Your value proposition

Reasons why people should trust you or your team



Present your solution

Your plan of action



Offer a call to action

Desired action from your audience



Activity: Preparing your Elevator Pitch

Description:

This activity will help you improve your project's elevator pitch by following a set of tips and receiving feedback from mentors or peers.

Materials needed:

Checklist, pitch presentation, laptop or gadgets



Objectives

By the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- enhance your ability to deliver an effective elevator pitch.
- ask feedback from mentors on areas for improvement in your pitch.



Instructions

1. Draft your elevator pitch following the components outlined in this chapter. You may build on the idea that you submitted in the Angat Kalikasan application process or draft a new concept if your priorities shifted after the workshop.
2. Use the Elevator Pitch Checklist to assess your delivery. Take note of your challenges or questions and discuss them with your mentor(s) or peers.

Elevator Pitch Checklist

ELEVATOR PITCH CHECKLIST		
Reminder: The guide below provides some key questions for developing pitches based on the typical structure of an elevator pitch. Adjust your pitch according to the setting (e.g., the event or meeting you are attending) and the people you are talking to.		
Component	Questions	Yes or No
Introduction	Did you introduce yourself and the organization you represent?	
	Did you explain what you do?	
	Have you explained the environmental problem that requires attention?	
Present your solution	Did you explain how you and your team is addressing the solution?	
	If applicable, have you shared any positive effects of the solution you applied?	
Your value proposition	Have you described the contributions you've made, including the problems you've solved.	
	Are there unique skills that you or your team can offer, relevant to the environmental challenge?	
Call to action	Did you seek for an appropriate response to the interaction (contact info, a referral, an appointment, etc.) or clearly stated your desired action from your audience?	
Challenges and questions (Seek help from peers or mentors)		



Download
Elevator Pitch Checklist



Key takeaway

Impactful pitches are born out of lots of practice and by addressing identified areas for improvement. Be proactive in seeking feedback from the experts and apply that feedback in your pitch, and incorporate it into your practice.



Young Leaders Convergence for Environmental Governance