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PASIG CITY: ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING CLIMATE POLICIES

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KEY MESSAGES

- The prioritization of Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) in climate action plans is both a technical and political exercise that needs to be done by specialized working groups with administrative and legislative powers to decide and give approval on which priority Programs/Projects/Activities (PPAs) would benefit the city and citizens the most while maximizing their greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction potential.
- In order to advance and finance LEDS, a review of development plans such as the Local Development Investment Plan (LDIP) and Annual Investment Plan (AIP) that state the specific funding allocation plans should be undertaken. In order for the cities to achieve

the reduction targets of their GHG emissions, baseline data in the urban sectors needs to be generated and in turn, specific targets and quantifiable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) shall be set and integrated in the plan for monitoring the progress of implementation. The priority sectors differ from city to city based on local contexts, available resources, and overall goal of the current administration. Most of Pasig's energy efficiency efforts are limited to government infrastructure and there is a need to expand to residential, commercial, and industrial sectors through the proper implementation of the Local Green Building Code and an increase of energy efficiency and conservation practices, as mandated by the recent Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In a rapidly urbanizing world, local government units (LGUs) and their communities play a pivotal role in tackling climate change and advancing sustainability in cities. Pasig City, one of the pilot cities of the Ambitious City Promises (ACP) project, is a residential, industrial and commercial hub that is among the top 10 most populous cities in the Philippines.

An analysis of Pasig's Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and Local Development Investment Plan (LDIP) has been conducted to define the baseline of policy interventions and identify the challenges of the local government that need to be addressed. It was identified that the existing priority areas of the city are transportation, water, and urban planning sectors.

A review of Pasig's Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) has been conducted to examine whether Pasig's PPAs reflected the city's climate change mitigation policy

that is centered on energy GHG management, sustainable energy systems and use of resources and lifestyle change towards environmental protection. Preliminary results of the scoping of PPAs and city stakeholder mapping exercises done during the first city-level technical workshop were also taken into consideration. These local planning documents have been compared with the urban sectors of the Promise of Seoul, a comprehensive climate action plan launched by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, to promote holistic climate action planning. The prioritization of PPAs was based on their relative importance as indicated in local planning documents, allocated funds, target completion date, and public consultations from September until November 2018. This assessment on the relevance of climate change mitigation in the PPAs provided an entry point for enhancing the integration of LEDS with the city's goals and visions to be an "Ecological City" aligning its activities with nature.

PROBLEM DEFINITION

Conducting a desk review of all local plans and documents does not capture the entirety of local government's responsibilities. The PPAs indicated in the plans are often a long wish list of what the local government wants to implement but may not necessarily have the resources or capacities to do so. The exceptions are the city's Local Development Investment Plan (LDIP) and Annual Investment Plan (AIP), which document the actual allocation of public funds for certain PPAs.

A review of these two local plans makes it clear that cities are aiming to achieve reductions in their GHG emissions but lack baseline data as well as specific targets and KPIs required for monitoring the progress towards reaching overall mitigation goals.

The absence of clear and quantifiable targets and indicators in investment plans makes it challenging to prioritize PPAs with a LEDS lens. LGUs employ the Goals Achievement Matrix (GAM) tool prescribed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). A working group assesses and prioritizes the PPAs in the CDP with the tool on the basis of alignment with political objectives, time lines, required funds, feasibility, political will and interaction with other PPA. However, the tool doesn't completely address the climate change related parameters and many LGUs lack accessible and time-sensitive data, particularly on GHG emission. These challenges make it difficult to establish targets and indicators and include the LEDS lens.



KEY FINDINGS

- The assessment of existing climate policies of Pasig City identified the emerging priority urban sectors: transport, water, and urban planning. Each of the sectors respectively has 11, 8, and 6 PPAs attributed using the GAM prioritization in their LDIP.
- Although LGUs are given autonomy in governing their respective jurisdictions, some components of these priority sectors require inter-LGU cooperation to address issues such as traffic management between cities, water management from upstream to downstream and overall land use incompatibilities.
- While energy did not emerge as a priority because of the limited mandate LGUs have in this sector, it still presents a crucial entry point for LEDS seeing as the energy sector emits 39% of the city's GHG. Most of the city's energy efficiency efforts are limited to government infrastructure and there is a need to expand to residential,

commercial, and industrial sectors through the proper implementation of the Local Green Building Code and an increase of energy efficiency and conservation practices.

- LGUs are mandated to employ public consultation processes in the formulation of development plans. However, it was not explicitly mentioned in the reviewed planning documents how this process was carried out and which stakeholder groups have been involved.
- The results of the assessment of exiting climate policies were also presented to the public, so that the citizens could give their insights on their awareness of such PPAs. In the consultations, a discrepancy in the priorities of the PPAs between the plan and the public has been identified, as solid waste came up as a priority by the public. This discrepancy speaks more on the public services provided by the LGUs rather than its lack of consideration for to LEDS.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analysis of Pasig City's existing climate policies, the following recommendations have been determined.

At the National Government Level:

- As cities need the resources and capacities to refine their LCCAPs, the roll-out of capacity building activities for local governments on conducting LED strategies through the DILG's Local Government Academy (LGA) should be continued and intensified. For better alignment between the cities and the levels of government, the enhanced LGU Guidebook on the Formulation of Local Climate Change Action Plan should be the basis for the capacity-building.

At the Local Government Level:

- When formulating local development plans, technical working groups (TWG) representing various societal groups and scientific experts should consistently be consulted during the planning stage in order to create financially- and socially-relevant indicators addressing climate change issues.

- Mainstream relevant LEDS KPIs in the development plans, and especially the LDIPs in order to support the PPA prioritization, funding and implementation process. This starts with enhancing the periodic generation and analysis of city-level climate data sets that informs the determination of clearly defined targets and KPIs for LEDS.

- Enhance the existing Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Management Council and include members that have administrative and legislative powers to speed up the prioritization and implementation process as well as establish a sound monitoring, reporting, and verification system aligned with national systems.

- Replicate and institutionalize Pasig City's initiative to form a Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Management Council or to encourage the use and mobilization of existing similar multi-departmental body to facilitate local climate action planning.

- Promote and support inter-LGU cooperation as strategy to address transboundary urban issues that influence low emission development strategies, in accordance with Section 33 of the Local Government Code and the framework prescribed by the Philippine Development Forum.

- Ensure the alignment of PPAs to the National Climate Change Action Plan and the Nationally Determined Contributions demonstrating the complementary and reinforcing co-benefits arising from adaptation and mitigation actions across all sectors.

- Maximize the public participation provisions of the Local Government Code to integrate the public's knowledge, experience, perspective and resources, and align the LGU's planned PPAs with the concerns of different stakeholders.

- Strengthen and consistently conduct awareness-raising activities on climate change to gain informed insights and recommendations from the public to be used in the formulation and updating of LEDS.

- Develop the city's Local Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan in adherence to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (RA 11285).



CONCLUSIONS

Although the national stand towards climate change is that mitigation should be taken as a function of adaptation, both mitigation and adaptation measures should be implemented hand-in-hand. With this in mind, it is imperative that the national government supports local climate action by designing enabling policies and providing the necessary capacity building to local governments for them to mainstream LEDS initiatives into their local development plans and PPAs.

The prioritization of LEDS in climate action plans is both a technical and political exercise that needs to be done

by specialized TWGs with administrative/legislative powers to decide on which PPAs would benefit the city and citizens the most while maximizing their GHG reduction potential. The TWG must be consistent and well-versed in all national climate change plans and priorities as well as have clear city-level baseline data to ensure the alignment and effectiveness of local efforts. A customized monitoring process with selected climate-oriented KPIs, developed through consistent multi-stakeholder participatory exercises, should accompany the development of LDIPs in order to allocate funding towards climate action goals.



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The purpose of the policy brief series under the IKI Ambitious City Promises project is to support more informed evidence-based decision-making on the priority areas within the project cities or their respective national governments. It is targeted at the policy-makers and the government officials who are involved in developing and/or executing the climate action plan.

The Ambitious City Promises project supports nine city local governments in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam in developing and implementing low emission development strategies. Through the project, local governments in Southeast Asia adapt this model of inclusive, ambitious climate action, mainstreaming low emission development strategies and creating new climate leaders. The project is implemented by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI).