

# Abstract

## SESSION 2:

Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

## WORKSHOP 2.1:

Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels

## Strengthening Governance Partnerships at the Local Level and Improving Fisheries Management: Case Study from Northern Mindanao, Philippines

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This paper presents a case study of the Iligan Bay Alliance of Misamis Occidental (IBAMO) as a multi-stakeholder body that provides a governance partnership framework for inter-local government collaboration. The study adopted the participatory diagnosis and adaptive management (PDAM) framework (Andrew et al. 2007) to analyze and implement management of small-scale fisheries (SSF) consistent with major governance approaches particularly the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM).

Experiences in the strengthening of IBAMO as a governance partnership are highlighted in this paper: (1) building on existing linkages and expanded partnerships; (2) re-establishment and expansion of IBAMO providing the governance framework for inter-LGU collaboration and strengthening fisheries and coastal resources management (CRM) initiatives; (3) setting-up of IBAMO as a multi-stakeholder body that is composed of the local government units (LGU), regional offices of national government agencies, with the Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental serving as Secretariat; (4) recognition of the importance of “champions” from the LGUs, which serve as members of the technical working groups; (5) cultivation of a strong commitment among Local Chief Executives; and (6) recognition of the role of external institutions (including civil society groups) in catalyzing the process to enhance fisheries governance.

Mobilizing a management constituency (i.e., IBAMO) is best placed to address the threats and opportunities identified and serve as an essential step in legitimizing the EAFM and increasing the potential for its success. Adaptive fisheries management, in this context, involved the negotiated design of integrated EAFM to complement CRM and its subsequent implementation through the IBAMO, as a governance platform to improve SSF management.



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**About Len R. Garces:**

Mr. Len Garces is a Research Fellow at WorldFish and has more than 25 years extensive fisheries and aquaculture research experience in Southeast Asia. Mr. Garces obtained his MS in Marine Biology from the University of the Philippines in 1988. He has been involved with multi-disciplinary projects on Natural Resources Management focused on small-scale fisheries (SSF), coastal resources management, and fisheries rehabilitation needs assessment to cope with disasters (e.g., typhoon and tsunami). He has also been part of a research and ecological assessment team and supervised fieldwork activities for the conduct of Resource and Ecological Assessment Studies in the Philippines. His current research interests include practical application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM), biodiversity conservation and management, and improving fisheries governance.