



# The Role of Public Participation in the Negotiations in the CBD for Geo-engineering

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# Rationale

## The Value of Public Participation

Broadens the range of views and breaks sectoral thinking

Results in better outcomes and better governance

Enables institutions to find common ground

Strengthens the sense of ownership and belonging

Built over time and predicated on trusts



**Public participation**

# Opportunities for CSOs

## International

### CBD Provisions

- Article 23
- Article 26
- Article 29.8

## Regional

**SGP** | Small Grants Programme  
by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity  
German Financial Cooperation  
KfW No. BMZ 2011 66 545 (SGP 1)  
KfW No. BMZ 2015 69 177 (SGP 2)



## National

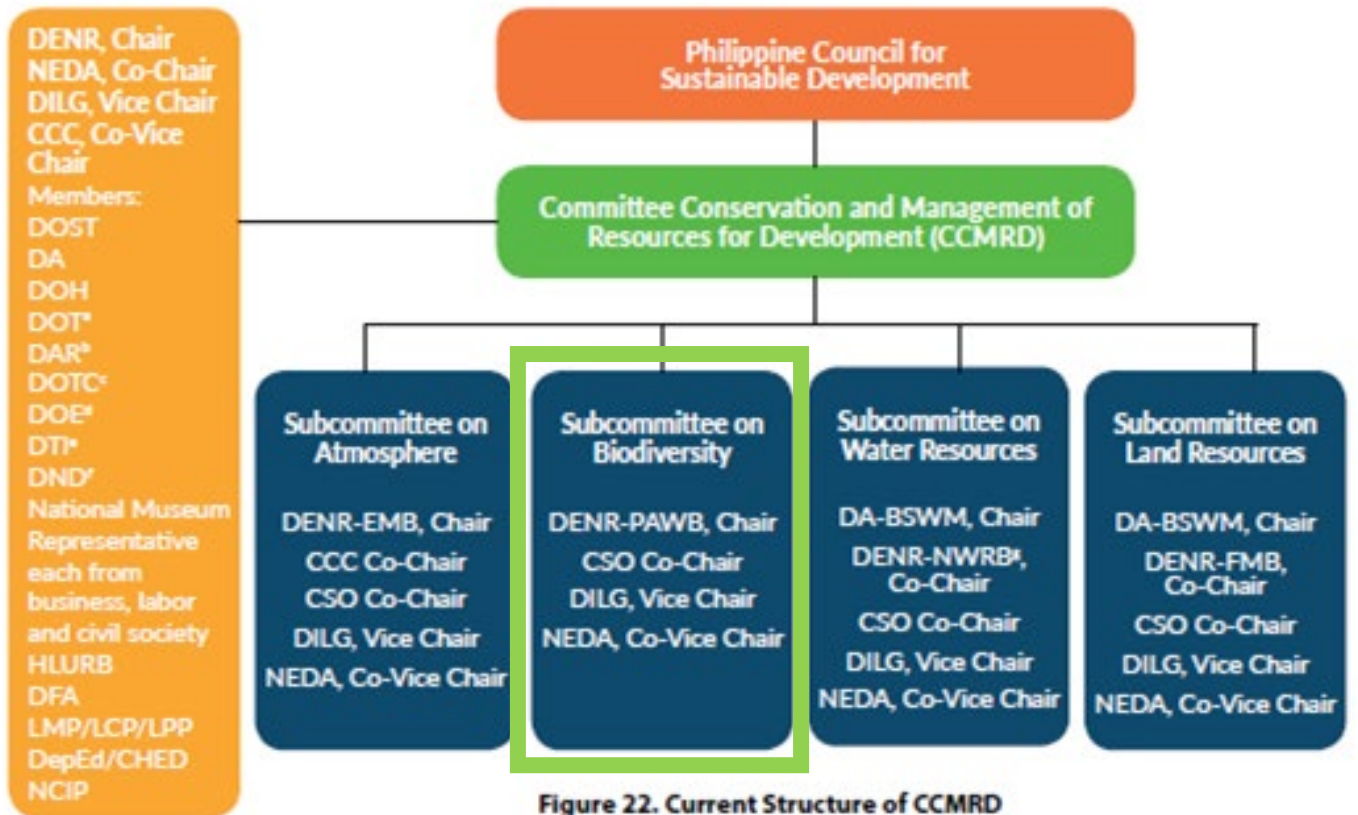
### Legislative, Executive Measures and Court Decisions

- Access to information
- Conduct consultations

# Philippine Experience

## Strong National Consensus

### C. Governance of Biodiversity in the Philippines



### Sub-Committee on Biodiversity

- Gather the views of agencies (NGOs, business sectors, IPLCs)
- Mechanisms for public participation enable the government to have its ears to the ground and be attuned to and take heed of what the people are saying.

Source: DENR BMB PBSAP 2015-2028

# On the issue of geo-engineering

## GEOENGINEERING MONITOR



### CIVIL SOCIETY PETITION: WITHHOLD ENDORSEMENT OF THE OCEAN NOURISHMENT PROJECT IN SULU SEA, PHILIPPINES

NOV 07 2007

by International Tawi-Tawi Organization

We, civil society organizations working on various development issues across the Philippines, recently learned about the Ocean Nourishment Project being promoted by the Australian for-profit entity Ocean Nourishment Corporation (ONC) as a solution to Climate Change. It involves the dumping of tons of urea granules into the ocean to stimulate the growth of phytoplankton that would eventually sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

An article on ocean fertilization published in the 12 September 2007 issue of the New Scientist magazine revealed that ONC is proposing to conduct a large-scale field experiment on its patented urea fertilization technology in Philippine waters. It was confirmed from various sources that the target area of urea dumping is the Sulu Sea in south-western Philippines.



### No ECC for Sulu Sea project – DENR



- Katherine Adraneda () - November 22, 2007 - 12:00am

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Lito Atienza said yesterday the government would not issue any environmental compliance certificate (ECC) to the "ocean fertilization" project in the Sulu Sea unless its proponents could show "sufficient" data that such an undertaking would not damage the environment.

Atienza asked Climate Research Ltd. to submit data on the possible adverse impact of its Ocean Nourishment Research Project on the ecosystem, and safety measures to address the expected upsurge of algal blooms due to the dumping of urea granules into the Sulu Sea.

Climate Research Ltd. intends to make use of 1,000 tons of "nutrients" or nitrogen-rich urea, an organic chemical compound produced from urine, in its project.

"Unless sufficient information is provided to establish that the project will not harm the environment, an environmental clearance will not be issued by the department for the project," Atienza said.

# Precautionary Principle

## Principle 15

### Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

(from Rio Summit 1992)

Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

For more information, log on to  
[www.aseanbiodiversity.org](http://www.aseanbiodiversity.org)



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A large, vibrant collage of biodiversity images. At the top center is a woman with yellow flowers in her hair and a tiger draped over her shoulder. To the right is a butterfly on a flower. Below the woman is a tiger. To the right of the tiger is a frog. At the bottom are children sitting on a log. The background features a map of the ASEAN region and various other nature elements like birds and a boat.

Championing  
Biodiversity  
Conservation in  
the ASEAN  
Region