

Climate Change Adaptation Effort in the Municipality of Lingayen, Pangasinan

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Climate change is one of the most strenuous problem the world is facing. The evidence is clear it surrounds us. This study was focused on assessing the Climate Change Adaptation efforts of the Municipality of Lingayen, Pangasinan. The researchers used a qualitative design on data gathering.

The researchers sought to determine the climate change adaptation efforts of the Municipality of Lingayen, Pangasinan. To achieve this objective, the study employed both document review and interview methods as the primary means of data collection. Four key personnel from the Municipal Government of Lingayen served as the main research subjects and sources of the necessary data and documents. These participants were the department heads of the following offices: the Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO), the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), and the Lingayen Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (LDRRMO).

These four officials were instrumental in the formulation of the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) of the Municipality of Lingayen. They were also directly responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the municipality's climate change adaptation programs and initiatives. Their extensive involvement in both planning and execution made them credible and knowledgeable respondents for the study.

The data-gathering process utilized a combination of a document checklist and interview guide questions. The document checklist was used to guide the review of official documents, ensuring that all relevant information was systematically analyzed. This tool specifically addressed Problem 1, which involved establishing the profile of the Municipality of Lingayen, Pangasinan. Both the document checklist and the interview guide questions were employed in Problem 2, which focused on identifying the efforts and initiatives of the Municipality of Lingayen in line with the priority areas of the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP). Similarly, these same instruments were used in Problem 3, which examined the challenges and limitations encountered by the municipality in implementing climate change adaptation measures consistent with the NCCAP framework.

Before the actual data collection, the researchers secured the necessary permissions and approvals. A formal request letter, duly signed and endorsed by the thesis adviser, was submitted to the Dean of the College to seek authorization for the conduct of the study. Another official request letter, also noted by the thesis adviser, was forwarded to the Office of the Municipal Mayor of Lingayen to obtain permission to conduct interviews within the respective local government offices. Upon approval by the Municipal Mayor, the researchers were allowed to proceed with the interviews and document collection.

The interviews were conducted individually at the respective offices of the four department heads. The duration of the interviews varied depending on the availability and depth of discussion with each respondent, ranging from 30 minutes to as long as two hours. Prior to the start of each session, the purpose of the study, as well as the nature, objectives, expectations, and time frame of the interview, were clearly explained to the participants. The researchers also assured each respondent of the confidentiality and anonymity of their responses to encourage open and honest participation.

The interviews were conducted in a formal yet conversational manner, allowing for a natural exchange of ideas while adhering to the prepared guide questions. Questions were presented one at a time to allow respondents sufficient time to reflect and provide thoughtful answers. The responses were manually recorded and encoded to ensure accuracy and reliability of the data collected.

In addition to interviews, the researchers conducted a comprehensive document review to support and validate the information obtained from the respondents. Prior authorization was sought from the Municipal Mayor to access relevant municipal documents. The reviewed materials included the Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP), records of implemented adaptation projects, and other related planning and policy documents. These documents served as primary evidence to substantiate the findings and provide a deeper understanding of the municipality's ongoing climate initiatives.

The collected data from both primary and secondary sources were analyzed using thematic analysis, a qualitative method that involves identifying and interpreting recurring themes and patterns in the data. This approach enabled the researchers to systematically organize the findings and draw meaningful conclusions about the climate change adaptation strategies of the Municipality of Lingayen.

Through this rigorous process, the researchers were able to obtain valuable insights, relevant concepts, and practical examples that explain the municipality's proactive stance on climate change adaptation. The integration of in-depth interviews and document analysis ensured that the study presented accurate, factual, and evidence-based information regarding the efforts of the Municipality of Lingayen, Pangasinan, to address and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

Upon the results on the findings of the study, conclusion was inferred; with regards to the data gathered, the Municipality of Lingayen Pangasinan is located at the northwest part of Pangasinan by the Agno River. The entire area of land and water is 23,012.66 hectares. The months of for wet and dry seasons have been altered due to climate change. In the months of December, February, January and November saw the lowest rainfall totals ever recorded for the same time period. December 2009 had the highest rainfall among those months. The theme that has been given priority is food security, water sufficiency, ecological and environmental stability and human security. In terms of challenges encountered the respondent's office share the same dilemma. The challenges are as follows; lack of budget, inadequate community participation and lack of skilled personnel.

Based on the summary of findings and conclusion of the study, the researchers recommended the following; the Municipality of Lingayen may create income generating projects to cover the budget lacking in the implementation of the climate efforts, the Municipality of Lingayen may continue its information dissemination to promote community cooperation and participation and the Municipality of Lingayen may look into innovative alternatives to implement plans for sustainable energy.