



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR)
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG)**

JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR (JMC) NO. 01, SERIES OF 2024

Date: OCT 03 2024

To : All Governors, City/Municipal Mayors, Members of the Local Sanggunian, Officials of the DENR and DILG, and Others Concerned

Subject : Guidance in the Implementation of the Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Sustainability through Multistakeholder Engagement (Project TRANSFORM)

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1.0 BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) No. 192, s. 1987¹, Republic Act No. 6975 or the *Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1991*, and Republic Act (RA) No. 7160 or the *Local Government Code of 1991*, the Philippine Government underscored the policy of the State to ensure sustainable use, development, management, conservation, and protection of the nation's environment and natural resources, promote peace and order and public safety, further strengthen local government capability aimed towards the effective delivery of basic services to the citizenry, and foster resilient and inclusive communities.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Plans stress the importance of actions being "gender responsive, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems, and respectful of human rights" as mandated by RA No. 10121 or the *Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010*. Additionally, RA No. 9729 or the *Climate Change Act of 2009* calls for a "gender-sensitive, pro-children, and pro-poor perspective" in all climate change and renewable energy efforts, plans, and programs.

The President, His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., in His State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24, 2022, emphasized the importance of taking decisive action to address impacts of climate change, stressing the need for a comprehensive approach to disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation. He called for stronger collaboration between government agencies,

¹ Providing for the Reorganization of the Department of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources; Renaming it as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and for Other Purposes

local government units (LGUs), and the private sector to enhance the country's resilience to climate-related risks.

The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 envisions that by 2028, the nation's communities, institutions, and both natural and built environments will be more resilient to the effects of natural hazards and climate change. In order to achieve this, the government will enhance cross-sectoral convergence and coordination, while implementing a comprehensive risk management strategy aimed at reducing overlapping vulnerabilities and addressing the complexities of managing the interconnected and cascading risks brought about by climate change across various sectors.

The ongoing and emerging challenges presented by climate change and disaster risks underscore the need for resilient LGU systems that can design and implement evidence-based and inclusive resilience strategies. The interdependence of risks, the involvement of various stakeholders in each community, and the broader development challenges faced amplify the complexities involved in building resilience.

Relative thereto, Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Sustainability through Multistakeholder Engagement (Project TRANSFORM) is designed with strategies and mechanisms rooted in strategic partnerships aimed at transforming LGUs into models of adaptive, inclusive governance, and sustainable development. The program seeks to seamlessly integrate science and technology with local and traditional knowledge, translating these insights into both policy and practice at the local level. This holistic approach is carried out in collaboration with a diverse range of stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), people's organizations (POs), academic institutions, and local communities. By fostering these partnerships, Project TRANSFORM aims to create resilient, well-governed communities that are equipped to meet contemporary challenges and future uncertainties.

Moreover, the implementation of Project TRANSFORM will significantly advance the national government's goal of achieving sustainable development, underscoring the imperative that disaster resiliency and economic growth must be pursued in tandem with robust environmental protection. This approach ensures that progress is not only measured by economic indicators but also by LGU capacity and the preservation and enhancement of our natural resources for future generations.

2.0 PURPOSE

This JMC is being issued to institutionalize and prescribe the guidelines in the implementation and coordination of the Project TRANSFORM for guidance of all concerned LGUs, national government agencies (NGAs), and other stakeholders.

3.0 PROGRAM COVERAGE

This JMC shall cover identified priority public-private partnership projects implemented by the LGUs, NGAs, and other partner agencies under various

partnership agreements or schemes authorized by law particularly on programs covered under the resilience pillars of Project TRANSFORM such as human development, infrastructure, livelihood programs, and environmental conservation efforts. These pillars are essential for fostering resilience in LGUs and communities, ensuring they can withstand and recover from environmental, social, and economic challenges.

4.0 DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this JMC, the terminologies are defined in **Annex A**.

5.0 GENERAL GUIDELINES

5.1 Selection Criteria

The implementation of the Project TRANSFORM shall be carried out by the DENR Regional Executive Directors in coordination with the DILG Regional Directors, ensuring that the achievement of project's objectives will ultimately lead to sustainable and impactful outcomes. The determination of the priority LGUs is based on the following criteria:

- 5.1.1 LGUs with a diverse economic base and areas for green jobs that include agriculture, industry, and other services or opportunities in the blue economy (e.g., sustainable fisheries, ecotourism);
- 5.1.2 LGUs that represent diverse geographical areas, such as coastal, mountainous, urban, and rural regions that is facing significant environmental challenges prone to natural disasters, environmental degradation, or critical ecosystems in need of protection, such as Protected Areas and Tourism sites;
- 5.1.3 LGUs that are requiring urgent support for infrastructure preparedness and existing climate adaptation initiatives, including air pollution, solid waste management, sewerage systems, and flood and landslide-prone areas; and
- 5.1.4 LGUs that have challenges in health and social services such as high rates of specific diseases, water sanitation and hygiene issues, malnutrition, and other pressing health concerns.

5.2 Selection Process

As a general rule, a letter shall be issued by the DENR and DILG to the Local Chief Executive (LCE) of the identified provinces, cities, and/or municipalities informing that they are beneficiaries of the project, highlighting the roles and directives in project implementation.

5.3 Roles and Responsibilities

- 5.3.1 The DENR shall:
 - a. Carry out the implementation of the Project TRANSFORM in coordination with the DILG and/or in accordance with the project framework and roadmap;

- b. Coordinate with the DILG in identifying provinces, cities, and municipalities that are beneficiaries of the program;
- c. Identify the key areas of intervention based on the needs of the LGU and set the foundation for the project's logical framework;
- d. Provide technical guidance and capability enhancement project interventions;
- e. Ensure the active participation of implementing partners and stakeholder groups;
- f. Monitor and evaluate progress of the project;
- g. Ensure sustainability of the project in close collaboration with lead partners; and
- h. Provide and/or mobilize counterpart funds for the implementation of the project.

5.3.2 The DILG shall:

- a. Review its existing plans and programs for LGUs to identify gaps and areas where Project TRANSFORM can provide the most value;
- b. Collaborate with NGAs, NGOs/CSOs, and private sector to align local plans with project goals;
- c. Encourage LGUs to spearhead community engagement activities to raise awareness on Project TRANSFORM and its benefits; and
- d. Assist the DENR in monitoring the progress and evaluating the effectiveness of the implemented activities.

5.3.3 The DENR and DILG shall create a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and a Technical Working Group (TWG) for the implementation of this JMC.

Project Steering Committee

- Chair : Secretary, DENR
- Co-Chair : Secretary, DILG
- Members : Executive Director, League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)
Executive Director, League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
Executive Director, League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)
Representative, Private Sector
Representative, NGOs/CSOs
Representative, Academe

Technical Working Group

- Chair : Undersecretary, DENR
- Co-Chair : Undersecretary, DILG
- Members : Director, DENR, Central Office
Director, DILG, Central Office

Member, LPP
Member, LCP
Member, LMP
Member, Private Sector
Member, NGO/CSOs
Member, Academe

The Project TRANSFORM Management Office, created under DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2024-01 dated 11 January 2024, shall serve as the implementing arm of the project. At the regional level, DENR and DILG regional field operating units shall also organize a Regional Technical Support Team (RTST), which shall be established through a Regional Special Order (RSO), which will be capacitated within one year from the issuance of this JMC.

5.3.4 The LGU shall:

- a. Forge Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), as applicable, with the DENR, DILG, and other partners for the project implementation;
- b. Submit reports to the DENR and DILG within the timelines prescribed; and
- c. Provide for counterpart funds for the identified project as inputs to their respective local land use and development plans and investment programs.

6.0 SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

6.1 The project implementation shall follow a participatory approach, wherein the DENR, DILG, LGU, and the partner/stakeholders, shall be involved in the process, through the following:

6.1.1 **Scoping and Logical Framework.** The process begins with scoping, where the RTST with guidance from the TWG identifies the key areas of intervention based on the needs of the LGU and sets the foundation for the project's logical framework. This involves defining the project's objectives, outcomes, and indicators that will guide all subsequent activities.

6.1.2 **Assessment and Baseline Data Collection / Review of Current LGU Plans.** The RTST reviews current LGU plans to identify gaps and areas where Project TRANSFORM can provide the most value. Once the framework is established, the team conducts a thorough assessment of the current situation within the participating LGUs. This step involves collecting baseline data to understand the existing conditions, challenges, and opportunities.

6.1.3 **Engaging Stakeholders.** The RTST moves to engaging the implementing partners and stakeholders to foster a sense of co-ownership and collaboration. This step is building partnerships and ensuring that all relevant key players are involved and will act on

the project. Stakeholder engagement includes consultations with LGUs, community leaders, CSOs, private sector, and other key players.

- 6.1.4 **Training and Capacity Building.** This step equips LGU officials and other stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed to implement sustainable development practices. The training covers a wide range of topics, from technical skills to governance and leadership development to empower LGUs to take the lead in their development initiatives such as Work Plans/Operations Plans ensuring that the program can be sustained and the project's impacts will be achieved after its completion.
- 6.1.5 **Action Planning/Commitment Setting.** The RTST facilitates action planning sessions with the LGUs and other stakeholders. A detailed action plans will be outlined including the steps needed to achieve the project's objectives. The commitment setting ensures that all parties are aligned and dedicated to the project's success. The action plans serve as a guide for the implementation phase, providing a clear direction for all activities.
- The said action plan shall be approved by the LGU TWG and endorsed to the Local Sanggunian for adoption. Furthermore, the priority projects shall be included in the approved LDIP and AIP, that are consistent and aligned with the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP), in the case of provinces, and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), in the case of cities/municipalities.
- 6.1.6 **Partnership Agreements.** The PSC and RTST together with the LGUs and its implementing partners moves to establishing partnership agreements through a MOA/MOU to formalize the commitment and mechanism for managing relationships and resources throughout the project.
- 6.1.7 **Project Implementation.** The LGUs and other stakeholders to execute the activities outlined in the action plans and ensure that the project stays on track and achieves its objectives.
- 6.1.8 **Monitoring and Evaluation.** The PSC and RTST and its implementing partners through the Project TRANSFORM Management Office shall regularly track the project's progress against its indicators and outcomes through the conduct of regular reporting mechanism. The collected and analyzed data shall be shared to the RTST, LGUs, and its implementing partners in order to make risk-informed decisions to adjust the project's approach as needed. The evaluation also provides valuable insights for future projects, contributing to the broader goal of continuous learning and improvement in local governance.

7.0 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- 7.1 The DENR, DILG, and LGUs shall ensure the participation of their partners and stakeholders in the implementation and in any of the monitoring activities conducted for the project.
- 7.2 The DENR, DILG, and LGUs shall ensure that the implementation of the project shall be in accordance with the approved designs as stipulated in the MOA/MOU, work and financial plans, local land use and development plans, investment programs, and specifications consistent with the relevant provisions of applicable laws, circulars, and other relevant issuances.
- 7.3 The DENR, DILG, and LGUs shall ensure that the project will be completed within the project duration including approved time extension, and within the project cost based on the approved designs, plans, and specifications, and adhering to national standards in design and quality of workmanship.
- 7.4 In case of delay of project implementation, the LGU shall be guided with the PSC and RTST and its implementing partners.

8.0 PROJECT MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 8.1 LGUs shall submit reports on the status updates and progress of the project to the DENR, copy furnished to DILG.
- 8.2 The LGUs shall provide DENR and DILG a copy of the EO constituting the members of the TWG for Project TRANSFORM at the local level.
- 8.3 The DENR and DILG shall provide a third-party monitoring and evaluation.

9.0 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AND FUNDING

- 9.1 The responsibility in the implementation of the projects shall rest upon the LCE and other local officials concerned. It is also the accountability of said local officials to ensure that all forms of support either funds or technical assistance coming from the implementing partners and stakeholders are efficiently utilized in accordance with existing and applicable laws and policies.
- 9.2 LGUs shall establish or prioritize programs that are aligned to the mandate of NGAs to ensure continuous support for project activities.
- 9.3 LGUs shall advocate for the adoption of supportive local ordinances and policies that reinforce the project's goals and ensure its continuity.
- 9.4 LGUs shall ensure community engagement, ownership, and social inclusivity into the project's design and implementation.

9.5 All expenses relative to the implementation of this JMC shall be chargeable against available funds of the concerned agencies and offices, subject to existing laws and applicable accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

10.0 SUPPLEMENTAL POLICIES AND ISSUANCES

When necessary, supplementary guidelines will be issued by the DENR and/or DILG providing for specific details to further facilitate the effective implementation of this JMC.

11.0 SEPARABILITY

If, for any reason, any part or provision of this JMC is declared invalid or unconstitutional, any part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

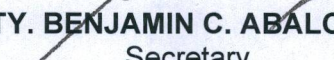
12.0 REPEALING CLAUSE

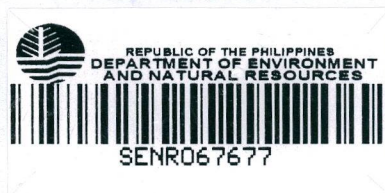
All orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of the JMC are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

13.0 EFFECTIVITY

This JMC shall take effect upon publication in the Official Gazette and fifteen (15) days after the filing thereof in the University of the Philippines Law Center – Office of the National Administrative Registrar.


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ANNEX A: Definition of Terms

Annual Investment Program (AIP): A document that outlines the priority programs, projects, and activities of a local government unit (LGU) for a particular year, including their corresponding budgets.

Baseline Data: Initial data collected before a project begins, which serves as a reference point for measuring progress and impact over time.

Blue Economy: Economic activities related to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs, while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems.

Climate Change Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 9729): A law that integrates climate change into government policy formulations and creates the Climate Change Commission, tasked to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate government programs on climate change.

DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources): The primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, including forests, lands, minerals, and waters.

DILG (Department of Interior and Local Government): The government agency responsible for promoting peace and order, ensuring public safety, and strengthening the capability of local government units (LGUs) in delivering basic services to the citizenry.

Green Jobs: Jobs that contribute to preserving or restoring environmental quality, including jobs in sectors like renewable energy, energy efficiency, and natural resource conservation.

Local Chief Executive (LCE): Refers to the elected official who heads a local government unit, such as a mayor for cities and municipalities or a governor for provinces.

Local Government Unit (LGU): The political subdivision of the Philippines with local autonomy, which includes provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays.

Logical Framework: A planning tool used in project management that outlines the objectives, outcomes, activities, and indicators to guide project implementation and evaluation.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): A formal agreement between parties that outlines the roles, responsibilities, and terms of collaboration for a specific project or initiative.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): A non-binding agreement between parties that outlines the general principles of collaboration or partnership.

Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (Republic Act No. 10121): A law that provides for the development of policies and programs on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) in the Philippines.

Project Steering Committee (PSC): A high-level group, typically comprising government officials and key stakeholders, responsible for providing strategic direction, oversight, and decision-making for the successful implementation of a project.

Project TRANSFORM (Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilience and Sustainability Through Multistakeholder Engagement): A flagship program of the DENR that promotes a collaborative approach to building resilience and sustainability in local government units (LGUs) by integrating science, technology, and traditional knowledge with the active participation of multiple stakeholders.

Protected Areas: Areas of land or water set aside by law or policy for the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, often restricting human activities to ensure the protection of ecosystems.

Public-Private Partnership (PPP): A cooperative arrangement between the government and private sector for the development of infrastructure and delivery of services.

Resilience Pillars: The foundational elements of Project TRANSFORM that focus on human development, infrastructure, local economy, and environment, aiming to build robust and adaptive communities.

Sanggunian: The legislative body of an LGU, which can include the Sangguniang Barangay (village council), Sangguniang Bayan (municipal council), Sangguniang Panlungsod (city council), or Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial board).

Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, encompassing economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

Technical Working Group (TWG): A group of experts and stakeholders tasked with the detailed planning, coordination, and implementation of specific projects or programs under Project TRANSFORM.