

Transect Mapping Guidelines

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Table of Content

TRANSECT MAPPING	1
Description.....	1
Relevance for the Project.....	1
Required Inputs.....	2
Supplies and materials.....	2
Duration.....	2
Proposed steps.....	2
Example of Transect Map: Barangay Harubay, Municipality of Calabanga, Mount Isarog National Park.....	3
Example of Transect Map: Sitio Calitang, Barangay Bucana, Municipality El Nido, El Nido Marine Reserve.....	4

TRANSECT MAPPING

Transect mapping is a tool used to describe the location and distribution of resources, the landscape and main land uses. It further allow participants to identify constraints and opportunities with specific reference to locations or particular ecosystems situated along the transect. The tool involves outdoor activities, on-field observation and discussions and diagramming. The output is a transect map. An example is attached to the handout.

Description

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Relevance for the Project

A transect map provides important information on the various ecosystems located along the transected area. More importantly it facilitates the identification of potentials and constraints of the area, as perceived by the participants. It represents a good basis for problem identification, analysis and for planning environment-related

¹ Adapted from Rambaldi G., RRA conducted in El Nido, Palawan in January – February 1997, National Integrated Protected Areas Programme (NIPAP)

development initiatives. Repeated transect mapping (along the same route) at given intervals, represents a simple but effective manner for monitoring change.

Required Inputs

- Human Resources
- Participants (6-10)
- Facilitator
- Co-facilitator

Supplies and materials

- Notebook (for the walk)
- Craft paper (one sheet 1 m x 2 m)
- Pencil and markers of different colours
- Resource map (recommended)

Duration

The conduct of the tool may start in the early morning with the walk and end in the afternoon with the preparation of the map.

Proposed steps

1. Identify community members knowledgeable of the area and willing to guide you in a walk across their economic domain (the areas whence the community derives its livelihood).
2. Agree with the participants on the route the group will walk, taking into consideration the items of interest (forest, farms, water intake, settlements, sacred areas, etc.) and information of relevance which surfaced in the conduct of other participatory tools previously completed (e.g. Resource- or Socio-economic Maps).
3. Walk along the agreed route. Do not rush. Observe and discuss issues with the participants. Let the community guide and teach you. Do not lecture. Take notes. Induce participants to identify potentials and constraints along the route and in ecosystems you will walk across. Interact with people you encounter along the way to acquire additional information.
4. Once completed the walk, ask participants to reproduce the information on a large sheet of craft paper (1 m x 2 m). Assist them in the process of reproducing their reality into the form of a transect. Assist them in entering the information, below the transect line according to topics of relevance (e.g. crops, livestock, wild animals, soils, vegetation, problems (constraints), potentials (solutions). Indicate names of locations and important landmarks. Stimulate discussion in the process.
5. Ask participants to write their name and the date at the bottom of the diagram.
6. Validate the output within a larger forum.
7. Make a copy for your records and leave original with the community members.

Example of Transect Map: Barangay Harubay, Municipality of Calabanga, Mount Isarog National Park



