SDG 17 | Indicator 17.2.2

ISU Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on the SDGs (2025)

Isabela State University (ISU) initiated and participated in cross-sectoral dialogue on water security through a stakeholders' forum on the Cagayan de Oro River Basin. The forum brought together local and regional government, the city water district, academic and research institutions, and nongovernmental organizations to discuss water resource planning and climate adaptation. The dialogue addressed issues relevant to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

ISU Leads Stakeholders' Forum on Water Security in the Cagayan de Oro River Basin

January 30–31, 2025 | USTP Cagayan de Oro Campus



Building on its water research in Northern Luzon, ISU convened the Stakeholders' Forum on the Development of a Water Security Framework in the Cagayan de Oro River Basin at the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP). The forum extended ISU's research collaboration to state universities and river basin management councils beyond its home region. The initiative was undertaken under the leadership of then ISU President Prof. Ricmar P. Aquino

and Prof. Orlando F. Balderama, Vice President for Research and Development, Extension and Training.

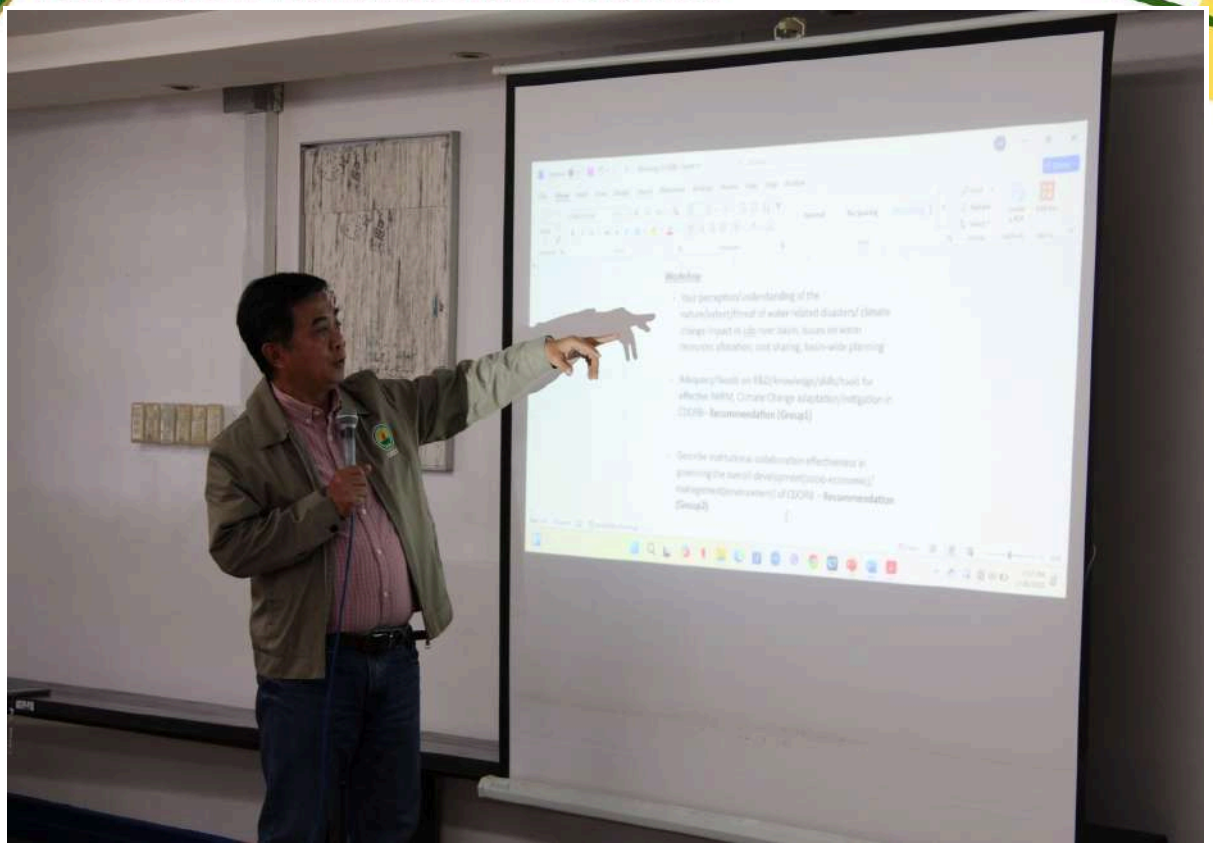
The forum gave participants a venue to discuss water security challenges and climate adaptation strategies, share potential solutions, and explore the Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) model as a decision-support tool. Representatives of the Cagayan de Oro City Government, regional government agencies, academic and research institutions, the city water district, and nongovernmental organizations opened the forum by sharing their respective roles in integrated water resources management for the basin.








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Project and Technical Presentations

Prof. Apolinario B. Gonzaga Jr., USTP Vice President for Research and Innovation, welcomed the participants and emphasized the need to consider community health in planning amid social pressures and commercial development. Prof. Balderama then presented the project on developing a water security framework for the basin and using WEAP to assess how climate, land use, and socioeconomic changes could affect water resources. He discussed the ISU–USTP partnership, the purpose of the forum, and ISU's dam management research with Kyoto University. He also outlined the project's rationale, objectives, expected outputs, methods, timeline, and data requirements.

Prof. Balderama also briefed participants on the venue and arrangements for two upcoming events: the 2nd International Symposium on Integrated Flood and Sediment Management in River Basin for Sustainable Development (FSMART 2025) and the 3rd International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Management.

Engr. Czarimah S. Valdez explained WEAP's functions, applications, and structure. She walked participants through a sample WEAP system, demonstrated how it could simulate future scenarios, and showed a recorded overview of the interface.

Forester Analie L. Uayan, Chief of PFMS and Permanent River Basin Focal Person for the Cagayan de Oro River Basin Management Council (CDORBMC), presented the basin's profile and the Council's milestones, challenges, interventions, and recommendations. She also discussed relevant provisions of the National Economic and Development Authority's Regional Development Plan for 2023–2028 and resolutions from the Northern Mindanao Integrated Water Security Summit to help align the Council's work with the project's objectives and expected outcomes.


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What is WEAP ?
Water
Evaluation
And
Planning

Stakeholder Workshop and Open Forum

Prof. Balderama facilitated a breakout session where participants shared their understanding of water-related disasters, assessed the research knowledge and skills needed for integrated water resources management, and discussed how well their institutions work together.

During the open forum, stakeholders raised concerns about water sources and projections, water quality, the water development plan, water losses, and policy implementation. Participants expressed interest in having the project's findings inform the CDORBMC Master Plan. Prof. Gonzaga thanked attendees for taking part in the discussions and encouraged them to join the intensive WEAP training planned by the ISU Research and Development, Extension and Training (ISU-RDET) team.

Follow-up Consultations and Data Gathering

On January 31, 2025, the ISU-RDET team gathered project data through focus group discussions with stakeholders at different research sites. Engr. Mark Alexis Sabines, Director of Masterson Food and Agricultural Development at Xavier University, shared accounts of Typhoon Sendong and drew on his experience in hydrologic and watershed modeling.

Forester Uayan, who also serves as focal person at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 10 River Basin Management Office, discussed difficulties encountered during disaster pre-assessment. She also discussed issues and proposed arrangements for FSMART 2025 and conveyed her office's continued support for the symposium.

Mr. Virgilio M. Fuentes, Chief Science Research Specialist of the Technical Services Division at the Department of Science and Technology Region 10, discussed the symposium's relevance to the water resources master plan. He also addressed the intended audience and identified capacity development as a key project deliverable.

The forum and follow-up consultations enabled ISU to gather technical and institutional input for the proposed water security framework. They also identified issues for further study and gave government, academic, utility, and civil society participants an opportunity to discuss how the research could inform planning for the river basin.



