

Chapter 3

Vision

A community river that promotes ecological balance; develops society's total well-being and quality life; displays aesthetic harmony of nature and structures; and supports local, regional and national economic activities for a more progressive Iloilo City.

Environment

Goal 1.0

A river that conforms to the prescribed water quality standards.

Objectives 1.1

- a) To achieve a compliant rating on the standard parameters for the prescribed water quality of a Class C river;
- b) To ensure that effluents of commercial and industrial establishments along the river are within standards set by DENR;
- c) To ascertain practice of proper waste management of settlers along the riverbank.
- d) To adopt measures confronting issues on water pollution;

Goal 2.0

Preserve/conservate significant portions of the river to help realize ecological equilibrium in the urban landscape.

Objectives 2.1

- a) To establish/rehabilitate mangroves in denuded areas identified for preservation/conservation or protection;
- b) To prescribe appropriate plant species for selected conservation and mangrove rehabilitation areas;
- c) To integrate infrastructure developments around mangrove areas without destroying its ecosystem and natural surroundings;
- d) To engage in data-banking on the river's ecology, environmental quality, carrying capacity and biological productivity for a more sustainable effort towards ecological balance.

Goal 3.0

Minimize flooding by eliminating restriction in the flow of water of the Iloilo River.

Objectives 3.1

- a) To establish floodway channels in and around the river perimeter, in coordination with the Iloilo City's Urban Drainage and Flood Control Program;
- b) To continually pursue the dredging of the river especially in the downstream/waterfront areas;
- c) To encourage adoption of better farming practices in erosion-prone areas adjacent to Iloilo River;
- d) To regulate construction/reclamation activities on properties adjacent to the river bank especially those that construct and alter the natural gradient of the riverbanks;
- e) To remove all significant obstructions to the free flow of water in the Iloilo River;
- f) To safeguard and prevent unauthorized alteration of channel width and to consider the natural drainage characteristics in developing lands along the stretch.

Land Use and Urban Design

Goal 1.0

Generate open space for the city that will help promote greater harmony between man and nature.

Objectives 1.1

- a) To identify and delineate properties along the banks that will be developed as open space;
- b) To increase private sector involvement in the management of the identified open space;
- c) To establish a linear park to serve as an alternative recreation site for people in the city.

Goal 2.0

Enhance the scenery of both northern and southern banks and realize complementarity between the built and the natural environments.

Objectives 2.1

- a) To standardize design for buildings and development of property along Iloilo River bank;
- b) To remove unwanted and dilapidated structures specifically in the waterfront area;
- c) To enforce the zoning ordinance and standards in the implementation of urban land use;
- d) To restore and preserve historical landmarks especially in the Iloilo River wharf and the adjoining Downtown Central Business District Heritage Conservation Zone.

Socio-Economic

Goal 1.0

Improve the quality of life of residents in barangays along the Iloilo River.

Objectives 1.1

- a) To improve the health and sanitation condition of formal and informal settlers in affected barangays;
- b) To address the land tenure problems of informal settlers along the bank of Iloilo River and its tributaries;
- c) To provide livelihood opportunities for the constituents of communities affected by the development of Iloilo River;
- d) To enhance educational opportunities for qualified residents for a collective edge in the labor market;
- e) To encourage activities that will cater to the development of sound mental and spiritual well being thereby reinforcing positive values on the individual;
- f) To study on site development that will minimize relocation of informal settlers.

Goal 2.0

Provide tourist, transient and day-time population accessing the river perimeter with facilities and ambiance that ensures safety, comfort and enjoyable trips.

Objectives 2.1

- a) To improve dock facilities and the designated waiting areas for passengers of sea crafts with amenities for their travel convenience and relief;
- b) To identify spaces along the river bank that will accommodate spin-off activities of people;
- c) To encourage support of public and private entities in the creation of a positive perception of place.

Goal 3.0

Pursue the economic potential of Iloilo River while prudently considering environmental impact.

Objectives 3.1

- a) To explore economic advantages of promoting eco-tourism along Iloilo River;
- b) To promote environment-friendly and sustainable fishing methods;
- c) To recommend efficient stevedoring, arrastre and portage fees and services;
- d) To provide alternative livelihood for displaced fish coral operators;

Infrastructure and Transportation

Goal 1.0

Construct the essential infrastructure facilities that will boost the proposed development for Iloilo River.

Objectives 1.1

- a) To construct roads and bridges that will connect the central business district (CBD) with the districts of Jaro, La Paz and Mandurriao;
- b) To ensure adequate communication and power facilities for the proposed river development that will help increase business activities in Iloilo City;
- c) To provide infrastructure facilities that are sensitive/appropriate to the needs of informal settlers;
- d) To improve the drainage system in the vicinity of the river.

Goal 2.0

Improve overall circulation in the vicinity of Iloilo River and enhance access to facilities.

Objectives 2.1

- a) To open new routes for vehicular traffic across and along the banks of Iloilo River;

- b) To identify alternative routes that will hasten transport of goods and services to and from towns and wharf area;
- c) To increase mobility around points of interest along the river;
- d) To provide pedestrians with friendly facilities that will improve comfort and mobility of the people.

Institutional

Goal 1.0

Establish and strengthen an appropriate institutional mechanism to ensure the realization of policies, programs and projects of the master plan.

Objectives 1.1

- a) To deputize the Iloilo River Development Council or create a river management office that will coordinate and oversee the efficient and effective implementation of the Iloilo River Development Plan;
- b) To encourage greater private sector involvement in the development and maintenance of facilities along the Iloilo River;
- c) To establish closer collaboration among concerned city and municipal government, and other stakeholders in the continued development of the Iloilo River;

- d) To encourage legislators to ratify ordinances in support of the proposed Iloilo River Development especially on the issues of but not limited to environmental protection; traffic; fishing operations; social welfare and land use;
- e) To equip members of the IRDC especially the technical working staff with needed skills and authority to efficiently and effectively operationalize development.

Development Zones

The master plan of Iloilo River's revitalization program is guided with the concept of inter-cultural planning using the philosophy of *symbiosis*. "Symbiosis" refers to mutuality between nature and society as analogous to biological organism. In this context, a place is reflective of order between man-made and natural environment to support human activities. As a resource, Iloilo River is part of the ecological system that interacts to form a community that adapts and evolve as the environment changes. Human activities form an important part of this ecological system.

In development therefore, the concern is to maintain harmony between nature and man without exceeding the natural capacity of the system to support human activities. When this concern is addressed, only then can the synthesis of an intelligent/smart planning towards organic and sustainable development achieve its purpose.

There are three development thrusts proposed for Iloilo River (*Map 6*) :

- Environmental conservation and protection development (*Stations 3 & 4*)
- Recreational zone (*Station 2*)
- Wharf redevelopment (*Station 1*)

Interim Action Plans

The preparation and approval of the Iloilo River Development Master Plan is expected to undergo a lengthy process before it can be implemented. Series of consultations, meetings, stakeholder workshops, public and city council hearings will have to be conducted before the final document is produced.

However, the promise of the master plan's realization is not enough to prevent City and Barangay governments from introducing physical improvements that may not be in congruence with the proposed framework. In anticipation of the possible infrastructure growth and influence of human activity on Iloilo River, the Project Management team proposes an interim management plan to ensure the controlled and coordinated improvement and development while the Iloilo River Development Master Plan awaits its full implementation.

The interim policies seek to ward off activities along Iloilo River that are contradictory with the goals of the Iloilo River Development Master Plan. It hopes to maintain status quo if not improve the present bio-physical condition of Iloilo River, and facilitate a coordinated effort from among local and national government agencies and other interests.

Among the identified interim management measures are as follows:

- Issuance of a Memorandum Order or an Executive Order directing barangay officials to prevent further establishment of illegal structures and informal settlers in areas along Iloilo River that are earmarked for development under the Iloilo River Development Master Plan, and improve present local vigilance and monitoring systems.
- Issuance of a directive from the Iloilo City Urban Poor Affairs Office (ICUPAO) to update and finalize list of recognized informal settlers along the Iloilo River and establish a cut-off-date for the said inventory subject to the prescription of R.A. 7279, other wise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act.
- Issuance of a Memorandum Order and correspondence to all city line departments and concerned national government agencies to form part of a technical staff that will coordinate existing or proposed projects along Iloilo River with the IRDMP Project Management Team.
- Lobby for the speedy enactment and implementation of the Iloilo City Fishery Ordinance which delineates the fishing zone areas.

- Provide mechanisms for ensuring the strict implementation and compliance to the prescriptions on Iloilo River protection, rehabilitation and development as identified in the Iloilo City Comprehensive Land Use Plan (1998-2001) and City Zoning Ordinance (regulation Ordinance No. 2001-072) at the following levels:
 - √ Issuance of business permits by the City Mayor's Office;
 - √ Issuance of building construction and occupancy permit by the City Building Official's Office;
 - √ Multi-partite monitoring of ECC compliance with the City ENR Office.
- Defer processing and approval of foreshore lease applications.
- Conduct a city-wide IEC campaign and advocacy on the proposed Iloilo River Development Master Plan.
- Establish a structural mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Iloilo River Development Interim Plan through either the City Planning and Development Office or through the IRDMP Project Management Team/CENRO.
- Immediately upon approval of the master plan, propose for the enactment of an ordinance declaring selected zones in the project area as Special Protection Zones and establish corresponding regulation
 - on its utilization and access (depending on the proposed measures identified by the master plan).
- Organize a technical working staff to undertake day to day activities of the master plan.
- Request Philippine Ports Authority to dump river materials collected from their on-going dredging activities in a designated area for the City Government to utilize as filling resource.
- Encourage continuous research and study on Iloilo River and its dynamics.