

Email by Jones Napaldet and Inocencio Jr Buot to Dalton Baltazar

Fri, Feb 24, 2023

1. Do you see the project benefitting any city in the area? What kind of benefits will it contribute to the city?

Definitely, if the project will be successfully implemented in a large scale using the knowledge learned from the study, then it can be used to clean up the river's water. The clean water from the phytoremediation set-up can be used to irrigate salad crops of the valley. The clean-up of the river can also support the ecotourism industry of La Trinidad because the black water of Balili River during summer is a constant 'eye sore' in the community.

2. Do you know if the city has plans to implement the constructed wetlands that you proposed?

La Trinidad local government units are open to such a project and Benguet State University can offer an area adjacent to the river that can be used as phytoremediation set-up.

3. As the project was a research/demonstration project can you identify some additional challenges related to education, research or more effective management?

We don't really foresee any issues related to education and research but we foresee some minor issues with land managers in the area but there's really no issue that cannot be overcome by persistence and 'paki-usap' for greater good.

4. I am not sure about the size of the project, but from the descriptions, it seems that no actual restoration and nature management activities were undertaken and rather this was a knowledge creation project. Is that correct?

We can increase the size of the phytoremediation set-up to 2000 m², it may not accommodate entirely the river flow but it could clean-up a significant flow of the river.

5. Were the set-ups actually used to clean the water for the city?

No, the set-up was actually used to gather research data but we plan to really establish it as a phytoremediation set-up upon further funding.

6. How will the local government and citizens benefit from this project? . I.e. should they be direct beneficiaries of the project to be selected? Was the local government planning to somehow use the results of the study to create a larger CW somewhere in the city?

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Most likely, if the result would be adopted by La Trinidad LGU once they see the positive results

7. Are there additional news articles, video, presentation etc. that discusses the project from a different, more policy-relevant angle?

Unfortunately, we do not yet have these. We only have our proposal (see attached) which failed to get funded.