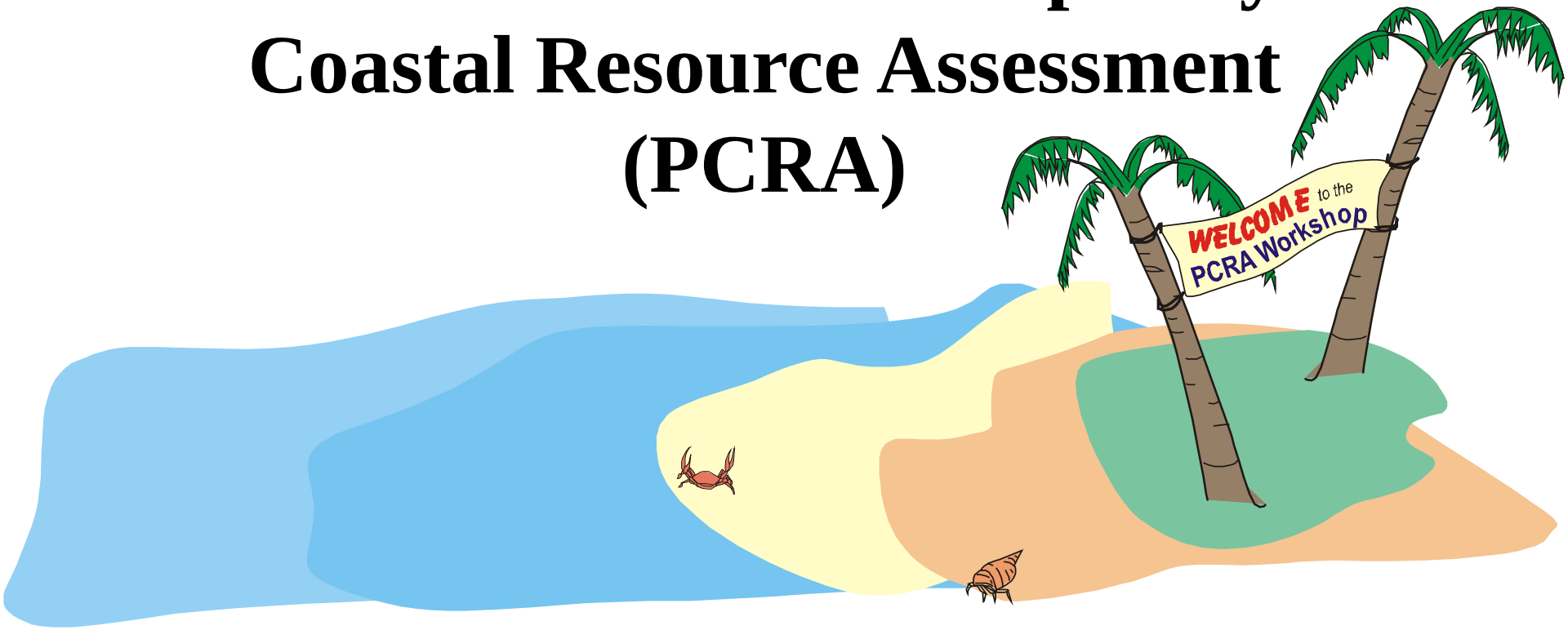
Lecture/Discussion #4:

Introduction to Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment (PCRA)



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Five-phase CRM Process Adapted for Philippine Local Government

National policy and legal framework

Phase 1

Issue identification and baseline assessment

Phase 2

CRM plan preparation and adoption

Phase 3

Action plan and project implementation

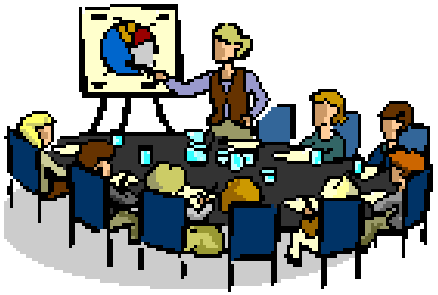
Phase 5

Information management, education and outreach

Local legislation

Regulation

Coastal law enforcement



External revenue sources

Annual program preparation and budgeting

Revenue generation

Phase 4

Monitoring and evaluation

Multisectoral and inter-LGU participation and resource sharing

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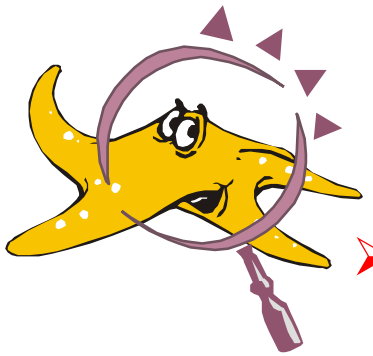

Key content points:

- An essential element of successful CRM is active participation by the entire community including day-to-day resource users (fisherfolk), local government, national government, NGOs, academe, private sector and other stakeholders.
- PCRA is an effective process of gathering information from local residents that involves the community in data collection.
- PCRA serves not only as a research tool for the coastal stakeholders, but also as a hands-on educational experience about the coastal environment they will help manage.
- PCRA results are important inputs to CRM planning.
- It is strongly encouraged to conduct PCRA at regular intervals to monitor habitat and fisheries conditions as well as current resource uses and practices.

CRM planning and PCRA

- CRM planning must be based on sound information on the condition and use of coastal and nearshore fisheries resources. Coastal environment and nearshore fisheries profiles and subsequent management plans are based on assessment, compilation and analysis of information about coastal and fisheries resources, resource use activities and characteristics of resource users.

- PCRA is an effective process for gathering information from local residents that involves the community in data collection.

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- The “local knowledge” provided is a critical component of the background information for planning. Data gathered from PCRA activities make up the “coastal environment profile” of an area.
- Done well, a coastal environment profile greatly facilitates – and is essential to – formulating and implementing a CRM plan.

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One of the important outcomes of PCRA process:
Coastal Environment Profile

A coastal environment profile is a document that presents secondary information and primary data gathered from resource assessment activities in an organized and integrated form.

It is essential for good planning and implementation.

INTRODUCTION
- Background
- Special Area Management
- Past Management Efforts
- The Coastal Environment Profile

GEOGRAPHY
- Climate
- Land Characteristics
- Coastal Waters

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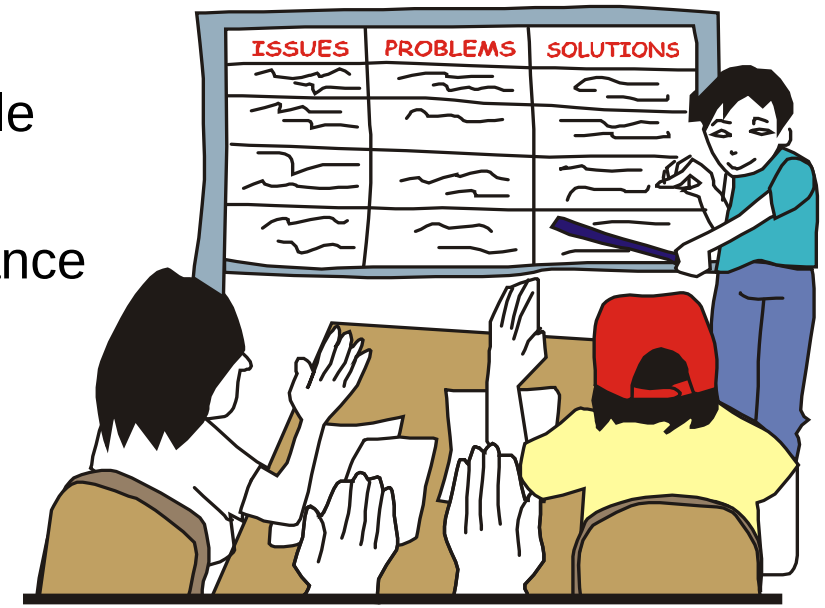
PCRA framework and benefits

PCRA — resource assessment from the perspective of local users, integrating local wisdom and knowledge with technical expertise

- Generates information for CRM planning purposes
- Resource management made more participatory
- Community empowerment
- Ensures vital inputs from multiple stakeholders
- Useful in CRM project performance monitoring and evaluation
- Tool to achieve objectives of CRM



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Important components of the PCRA process

- Gathering documented information
- Observation and participation
- Gathering local knowledge
- Obtaining local feedback on gathered and observed information

Analyzing and integrating all information to produce coastal environment profile

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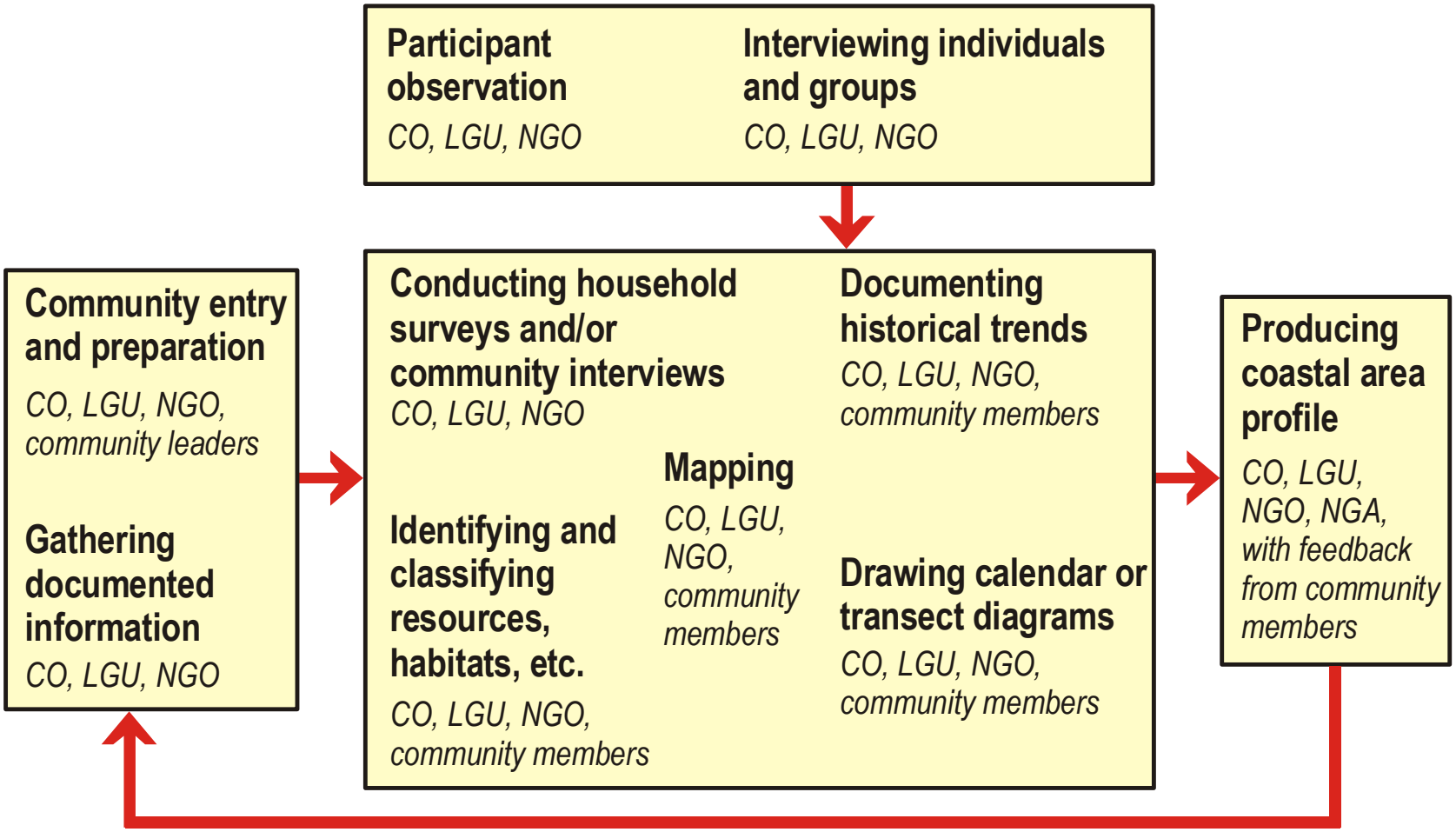
PCRA offers the following beneficial outcomes:

- Resource users become aware of the status of their resources, issues, and problems associated with the decline of these resources.
- Their participation allows them to participate actively in subsequent phases of the CRM process and contribute to decisions that will be supported by the community.
- PCRA is not only a research tool, it also serves as an educational tool that takes participants through the analytical and critical thinking stages regarding their coastal resources, resulting in informed decision-making and action.
- PCRA helps mobilize the community's sense of collective ownership and responsibility for the problems and issues of their coastal environment as well as the appropriate solutions to address these.

Interrelated methods of PCRA and the important players



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PCRA Methods

PCRA Method	PCRA Tool	Expected Output
INTERVIEW	• Interview Guide • Calendar Diagram Form • Trend Diagram Form	• Socio-demographic Profile • Calendar Diagram • Trend Diagram
COMMUNITY RESOURCE MAPPING	• Map	• PCRA Maps
TRANSECT WALK	• Transect Diagram Form	• Transect Diagram
HABITAT ASSESSMENT		
• Coral Assessment	• Use of Quadrat • Manta Tow	• Coral cover • Other information
• Seagrass Assessment	• Quadrats • Transect Line	• Seagrass cover • Dominant species • Other Information
• Mangrove Assessment	• Quadrat • Transect Line	• Density • Dominant species • Condition

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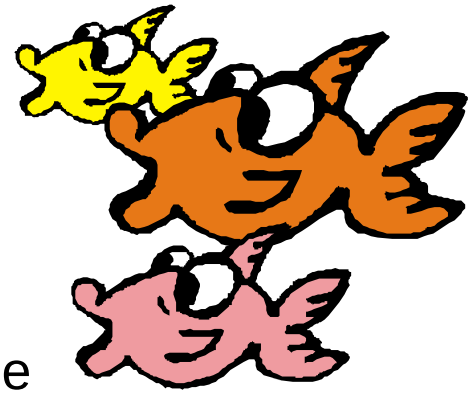
Limitations of PCRA



1. If a more specific inquiry (e.g. coral taxonomy, fish stock assessment, water quality and hydrological analysis, etc.) is a primary concern, PCRA needs to be triangulated and complemented with more in-depth resource assessment activities.
2. There are well-known dangers of the less vocal members of the community and the “non-influentials” being overlooked as sources of information. Thus, it is important for PCRA participants conducting the interviews to be sensitive to such indications.
3. Not all PCRA participants drawn from the local community may be immediately conversant in conducting interviews and focus group discussions. Facilitators need to exert some effort to validate information generated and to complement such PCRA data gathering with follow-up interviews and focus group discussions.