2ND UNIVERSITY EXTENSION WEEK CELEBRATION

URS-LIFT-C

Linking Innovative Future-Building Technologies and the Community

OCTOBER 6-8, 2026

THEME: "TRANSLATING FUNCTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES"

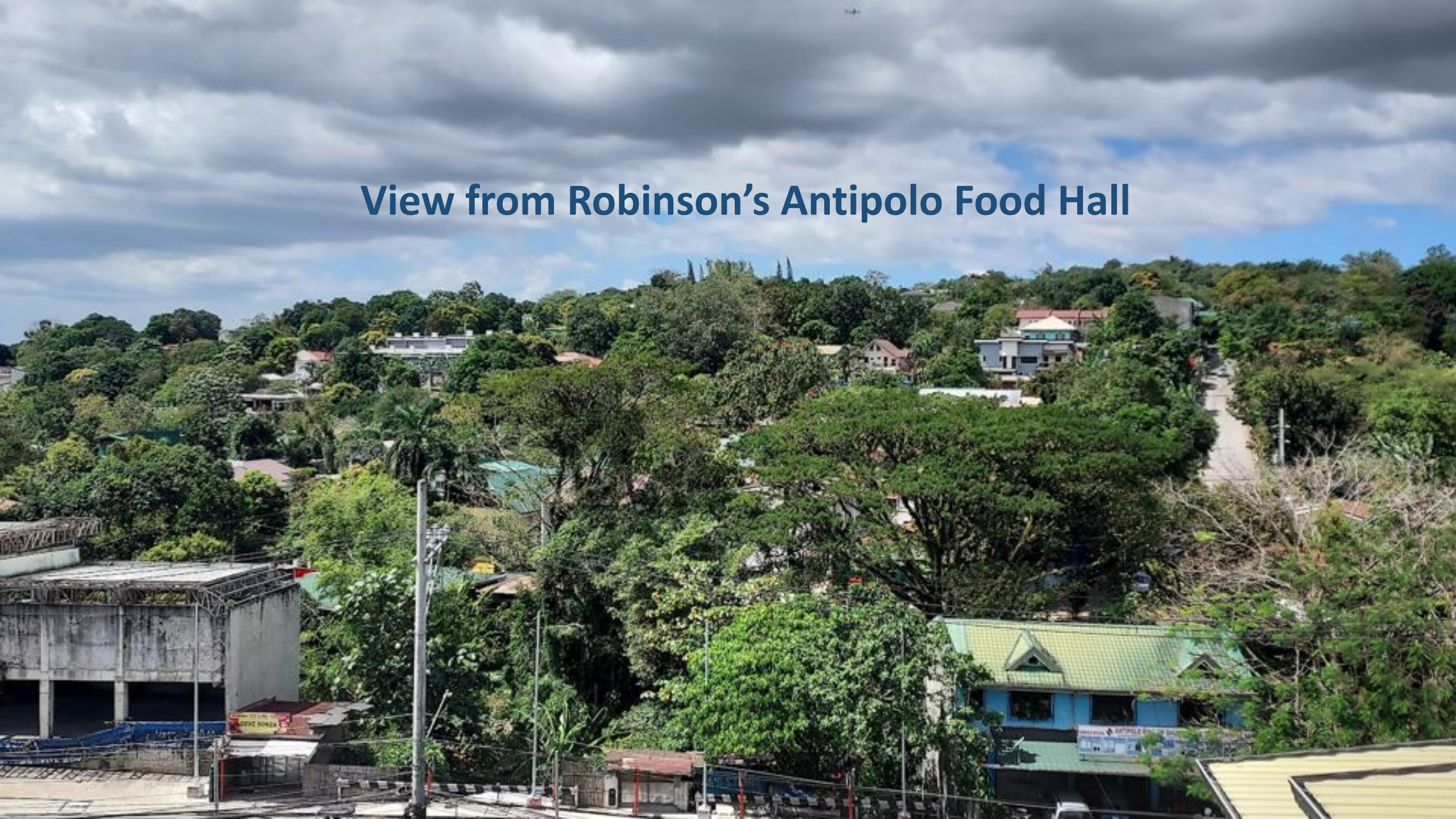
TRANSLATING FUNCTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

ESSC
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, INC.

Rowena Soriaga, MDM

5 October 2026

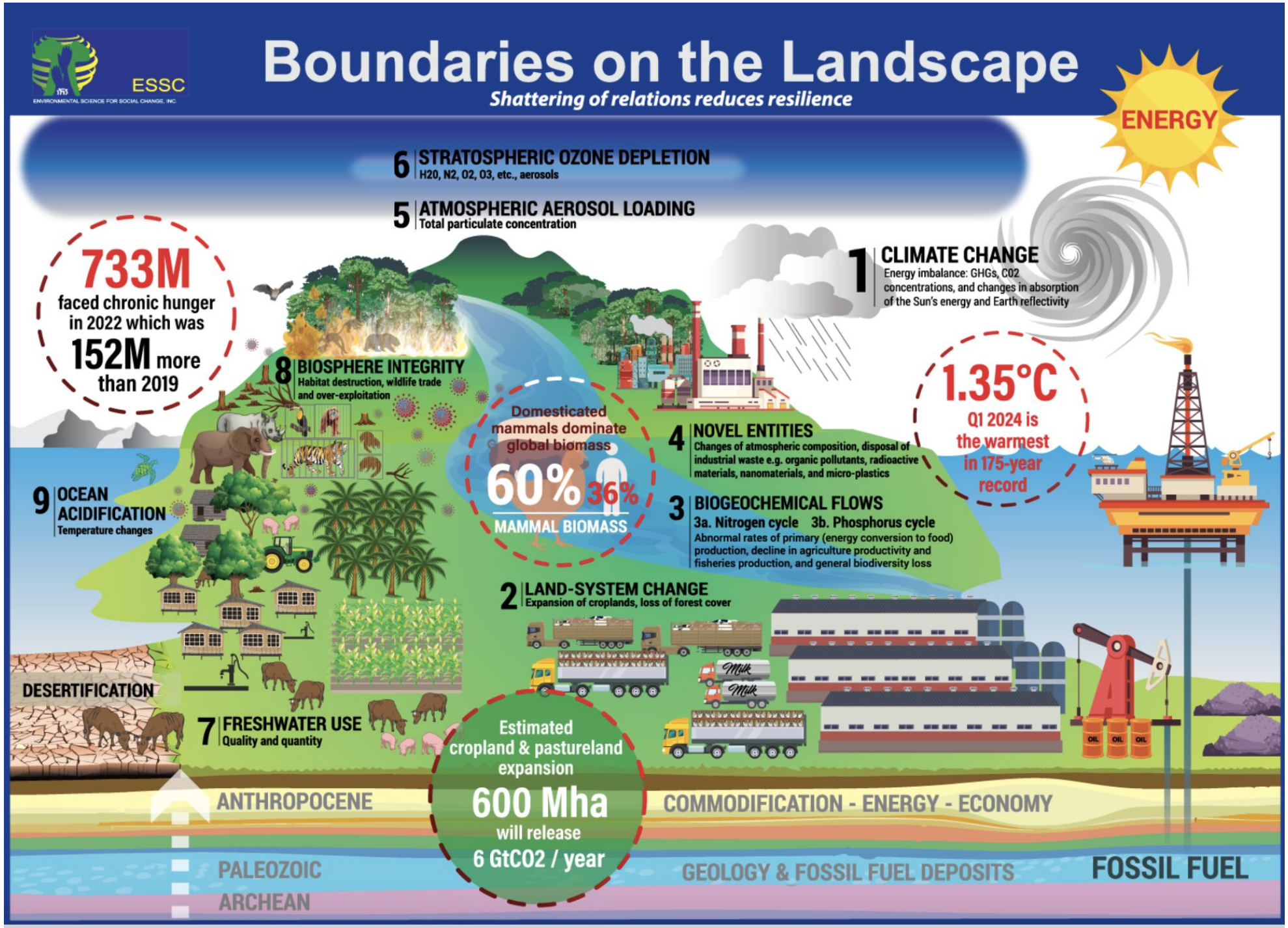
View from Robinson’s Antipolo Food Hall



What makes an environmental framework “functional”?

To build functional extension technologies:

1. **Respect Ecological Boundaries**
2. **Move from Top-Down Delivery to Co-Design**
3. **Integrate Nature-Based Solutions**


ESSC
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, INC.
Boundaries on the Landscape
Shattering of relations reduces resilience
ENERGY
6 STRATOSPHERIC OZONE DEPLETION
H20, N2, O2, O3, etc., aerosols
5 ATMOSPHERIC AEROSOL LOADING
Total particulate concentration
733M
faced chronic hunger in 2022 which was
152M more than 2019
1 CLIMATE CHANGE
Energy imbalance: GHGs, C02 concentrations, and changes in absorption of the Sun's energy and Earth reflectivity
1.35°C
Q1 2024 is the warmest in 175-year record
8 BIOSPHERE INTEGRITY
Habitat destruction, wildlife trade and over-exploitation
Domesticated mammals dominate global biomass
60% 36%
MAMMAL BIOMASS
4 NOVEL ENTITIES
Changes of atmospheric composition, disposal of industrial waste e.g. organic pollutants, radioactive materials, nanomaterials, and micro-plastics
3 BIOGEOCHEMICAL FLOWS
3a. Nitrogen cycle 3b. Phosphorus cycle
Abnormal rates of primary (energy conversion to food) production, decline in agriculture productivity and fisheries production, and general biodiversity loss
9 OCEAN ACIDIFICATION
Temperature changes
2 LAND-SYSTEM CHANGE
Expansion of croplands, loss of forest cover
DESERTIFICATION
7 FRESHWATER USE
Quality and quantity
Estimated cropland & pastureland expansion
600 Mha
will release
6 GtCO2 / year
ANTHROPOCENE
COMMODIFICATION - ENERGY - ECONOMY
PALEOZOIC
GEOLOGY & FOSSIL FUEL DEPOSITS
FOSSIL FUEL
ARCHEAN

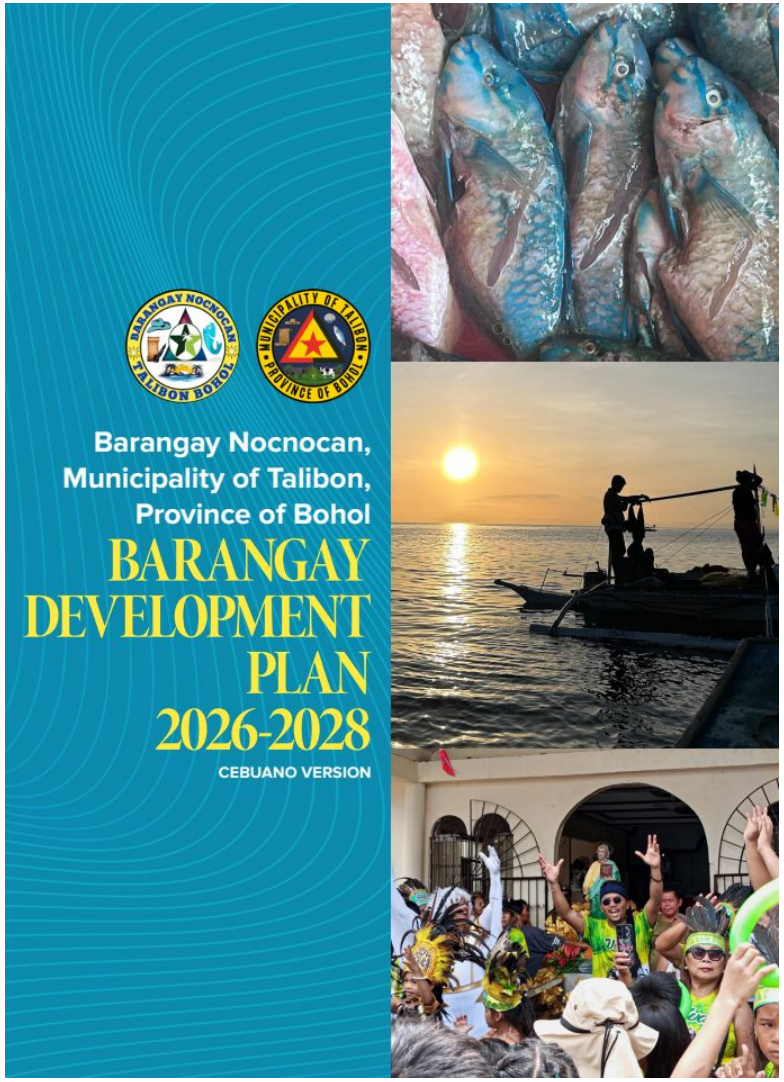
Co-Design over Top-Down Implementation

Sustainable communities are built on

agency,

ownership, and

local capacity.



Integrate Nature-Based Solutions

Future-building technologies must work *with* nature, not against it.

Strategic Call to Action

Suggested Webinar Topics for our Changing Climate

- **Water Security & Drought-Resilient Agroecology**
  - Teach households how to capture, filter, and stretch water supplies during extended dry spells.
- **Ecosystem Restoration & Watershed Governance**
  - Show how native tree restoration and multi-story agroforestry stabilize microclimates, reduce soil degradation, and protect water sources supplying downstream communities.
- **Climate-Smart Livelihoods & Community-Based Early Action**
  - Equip neighborhood associations and school gardens with skills in cultivating and encouraging more uses of non-hybrid, heat-tolerant indigenous vegetables (e.g., *kangkong*, *saluyot*, *alugbati*).

Webinar Delivery & Extension Strategy Ideas

- **Format:** Structure each webinar into two parts—a **technical session** by a URS subject matter expert/faculty member, followed by a **field demonstration video or practitioner story** showing practical application on the ground.

- **Target Audience Alignment:** Design webinars for hybrid attendance so that barangay captains or homeowner associations can broadcast the Google Meet stream in multipurpose halls.

- **Follow-up Action:** Pair each webinar with a downloadable, single-page **Infographic Action Sheet** in Tagalog for distribution across URS Extension social media pages.

Nurturing a Lasting Legacy

Environmental stewardship is not an isolated subject area;

it is the foundation upon which all economic, social, and cultural progress rests.

Environmental stewardship is not an isolated subject area

“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.”

— Pope Francis, Laudato Si –

Praise Be to You: On Care for Our Common Home

Salamat po