



INITIATIVES FOR PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND CLIMATE ACTION

Lead Implementing Office: Institute for Environmental Conservation and Research (INECAR)

External Partner Institutions: Local Government of the City of Naga and the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources

The City of Naga, where Ateneo de Naga University (ADNU) is located, is the religious, educational, transportation and commercial center of the Province of Camarines Sur in Southern Luzon. As of 2024, Naga City had an estimated 210,000 resident population with daily daytime transient influx (e.g. students, workers from nearby towns, traders, pilgrims, etc.) reaching 190,000. The city is right at the junction of the Bicol River and its tributary, the Naga River and the area defines a critical component of the greater Bicol River Basin (BRR) that experiences occasional flooding. The city's development is linked to those of nearby municipalities (e.g. those represented in the Metro Naga Development Council) in the province that share common geography and sustainability challenges. It is in this context that the university has advocated for direct participation in policy development, planning and project implementation for sustainable communities in the BRR in general, and the City of Naga, in particular.

Through its **Institute for Environmental Conservation and Research (INECAR)** and other units/offices, ADNU is implementing initiatives for participation in policy development, project planning and implementation for sustainable communities and climate action for the Metro Naga area. In particular, ADNU:

1. is a member of the governing board of the Naga River Watershed Water Quality Management Area which has a direct management, monitoring, and decision making role in the important area and its resources. ADNU's participation is made possible through its partnership with the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Region 5 and the City Government of Naga.
2. sits on the Naga City Resilience Council which was created on August 14, 2019 and actively participates in realizing its mandate to assess risks, prevent and reduce impacts of disasters, and ensure development continuity.
3. has a memorandum of understanding with the National Resilience Council and the City of Naga to achieve and improve resilience outcomes (including the completion of LGU scorecard), conduct community-level risk assessments. ADNU's Center for Community Development (CCD) is also involved. INECAR assisted in capacity-building programs on leadership and governance, science and technology to create resilient local government units. In particular, ADNU is the academic partner of the Local Government of Naga in improving disaster risk reduction programs and strengthening resilience to climate-related disasters through the provision of important data for science-driven policies, capacity-building and technical training, evaluation of resilience scorecards and development of resilience toolkits.



4. created a Solid Waste Generation Report (Data Dashboard) - an online spreadsheet application using open-source software to visualize solid waste generation in Naga City to support data-driven planning and decision-making related to solid waste management. ADNU's partnership with the Solid Waste Management Office (SWMO) of the City Government of Naga ensures the maintenance of the dashboard where SWMO personnel regularly input collected data which are then processed with results displayed in the dashboard. Available data started from 2018 to date.
5. served as academic partner of the Local Government of Naga in implementing its programs related to the UN-ESCAP Localizing the 2030 Agenda in Asian and Pacific Cities Project. Among the projects implemented are the Sustainable Urban Resource Management (SURM) initiative and the development and implementation of the city's community-based monitoring system.
6. has a partnership with the EMB of DENR which provided for a plot in its campus for the placement of an Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station – one of three automated monitoring station in the whole of Region 5 and provides real time data on air quality in the Naga City as a designated airshed in the country.
7. more recently (this 2025), with the participation of other university units (e.g. Center for Community Development, etc.), was involved in:
8. the participatory multi-stakeholder workshop of the Local Government of Naga to establish the targets, goals and indicators (termed as "2028 Finish Lines") of the new administration of Mayor Leni Robredo, especially on the vision for a Cleaner, Greener and Flood Resilient Naga.
9. the review of the city's Local Climate Change Action Plan resulting in program
10. recalibration based on current needs of the city, with valuable INECAR input and actual research outputs