

**REPORT ON THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION TRAINING**  
**FOR COASTAL MANAGERS**

May 14-15 2005  
Port Sudan, Sudan

A training on alternative dispute resolution and coastal management was conducted in Port Sudan, Sudan from May 14-15, 2005. The main objectives of the training were

- To introduce the participants to the concept of alternative dispute resolution
- To introduce the participants to various processes for alternative dispute resolution
- To provide the participants a deeper knowledge and understanding of conflicts in the context of coastal management
- To show the participants the processes within integrated coastal management that can be used to prevent or manage conflicts.
- To develop the skills of the participants in conflict analysis
- To develop the skills of the participants in negotiation and mediation

Overall, the training achieved its objectives both from the aspect of imparting of the theoretical foundations of alternative dispute resolution to the aspect of harnessing the skills of the participants in the skills necessary for alternative dispute resolution. The use of local coastal and marine issues as a context for the training and the participatory approach adopted during the training were twin pillars for the successful training. However, the training is only an introductory training on alternative dispute resolution. PERSGA is highly encouraged to conduct more advanced trainings on alternative dispute resolution to deepen the understanding of the participants on the various aspects of alternative dispute resolution and to further hone the skills of the participants in the different alternative dispute resolution processes.

The support of the local government of Port Sudan, the key ministries and other local stakeholders were also key to the success of the training.

It is also highly recommended that the program on integrated coastal management that is being development in the area integrate mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution.

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The training was facilitated by a training team composed of Ingrid Gorre (PERSGA consultant), Florisa Almodiel (PERSGA consultant), and Dr. Taha Bedawi (local counterpart).

## 1. Substance/Content

Topics covered by the training include the following:

- Introduction to conflicts and dispute resolution mechanisms
- Conflicts diagnosis
- Process Options
- Communication
- Negotiation
- Mediation

A copy of the training module is herein attached (Annex A). The module on the Laboratory was revised given the time constraints. The NASA exercise was cancelled to give more time for the lecture. The laboratory group exercise for mediation had to be modified where the mediation clinic was done by the entire group instead of splitting the participants into two groups. The presentation of the case of Boracay also had to be shelved to give way to the closing ceremonies by 10pm.

The discussion with Dr. Taha on the major issues in the Red Sea was crucial to the development of the laboratory exercises for negotiation and mediation. The issue on land disputes involving the tribes and the local/state government emerged as a major issue in the exercises.

As part of the discussion of process options, we also discussed the processes within integrated coastal management that can facilitate dispute resolution.

### Recommendation:

It is also helpful for trainers to be fully briefed on their major issues on conflict so that the training can be designed to ensure that the modules will equip the participants of the necessary knowledge and skills in the management of conflict.

The participants were very much interested in the topic of integrated coastal management. It is recommended that a training

be conducted at the local level on integrated coastal management.

## **2. Participants (ANNEX “B”)**

The participants were well chosen. Most stakeholders were represented coming from the academe, NGOs, media and the local government.

The participants were very receptive to the concepts of the training and were very active in the workshops and discussions.

Recommendation: It would have been better if representatives of the local fisher folks were also represented. The language barrier between the trainers and the local community however prevented this and should have been addressed by employing a translator.

## **3. Scheduling/Preparation (ANNEX “C”)**

The flight from Khartoum to Port Sudan was scheduled at 2pm. The plane left at 10pm and arrived 11.30pm. The planned briefing for the training team had to be cancelled due to the 8 hours delay.

Recommendation: We were told that the delay in flight schedules has been frequent and expected. This should have been taken into consideration as to ensure that a briefing of the training team happens a day before the training.

## **4. Process**

The training module was slightly modified upon arrival to adapt to local cultural requirements in relation to the time schedule.

The training was conducted through a mix of lectures and activities.

Laboratory exercises were conducted to test if the participants were able to understand the concepts and apply and skills imparted in the training. The last activity where the participants were engaged in simulated mediation was very effective as it was able to immediately check on the understanding and application of the skills. It was a pity that there wasn't enough time to involve all the participants to do actual mediation and learn from the evaluation of their fellow participants.

Recommendation:

It would be helpful if trainers are informed at the early stage in the training design of the particular cultural context that needs to be taken into account. For example, the length of time to be allotted for opening and closing ceremonies were not factored in as well as the specific time for lunch and tea breaks.

## **5. Resources**

The venue was very conducive to the training. It was the right size and the right conditions. Dr. Taha was very helpful and efficient in ensuring that all the needed training supplies are provided for.

Recommendation:

Dr. Taha should keep up the good work.

## **6. Resource Materials**

Because of lack of material time to prepare the individual kits because of the flight delay, we were only able to give Dr. Taha the readings on the day of the training. Nevertheless, we left copies of the lectures and the reading materials for their use in the development of modules on alternative dispute resolution.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Training Module (Annex "A")
2. Program of Activities (Annex "B")
3. List of Participants (Annex "C")
4. Photo Documentation of the Workshop (Annex "D")
5. Claims for Reimbursement (Annex "E")

### **Submitted by:**

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