BUILDING WITH NATURE IN MANILA BAY: 10 STRATEGIES

Photo by: Ivan Sarenas

1. Adopt biodiversity and ecosystem guidelines in coastal zoning, sectoral and local development, and land-use plans.

2. Combat coastal erosion by applying nature-based solutions to restore tidal habitats and to build coastal defenses.

3. Stop tidal flat conversion in municipal waters and use dredging materials from rivers as part of coastal defense.

4. Reconsider mangrove planting practices on tidal flats and shift towards restoration of original mangrove forests in abandoned and informal fishpond areas.

5. Regulate deep-well water extraction to reduce land subsidence and shift towards use of surface water and rainwater.

6. Reduce flooding by providing "Room for the Rivers", e.g. by restoring original river flows, dismantling obstacle fish ponds and dikes along waterways, and replant riverbanks.

7. Avoid reclamation and fishpond expansion in areas with vital ecosystems and biodiversity such as spawning and nursery areas for fish and shellfish and of waterbird areas of international importance.

8. Manage up to 10,000 hectares of coastal wetlands found in 10 bird congregation areas within the Manila Bay *Key Biodiversity Area* (KBA) to save at least 2/3 of the Bay's migratory waterbirds and to provide food security for marginalized fishing communities.

9. Provide capacity building to various agencies and coastal LGUs on BwN solutions on wetland restoration and flood mitigation as part of disaster risk reduction.

10. Adopt BwN approach in solutions used by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), e.g., no tidal embankment in areas where "Building -with-Nature" can do a better job for people and biodiversity.

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