

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN PD 1586 COMPLIANCE

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ABSTRACT

This study delves into the complexities and hurdles encountered in aligning compliance efforts with the mandates of PD 1586, emphasizing the importance of robust stakeholder engagement processes and meaningful public participation. By navigating through challenges such as resource limitations and varying stakeholder interests and ensuring inclusivity, the endeavor seeks to foster transparency, accountability, and equitable decision-making. Through collaborative dialogue and proactive engagement, the project aims to enhance the overall efficacy and legitimacy of PD 1586 compliance, ultimately contributing to sustainable development and environmental stewardship in the Philippines. Through a methodology involving the random selection of 150 stakeholders responding to a validated questionnaire, Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) identified three key factors shaping stakeholders and the public in ensuring the effective implementation of PD 1586. These factors encompass Collaborative Conservation, Holistic Engagement, and Transparency in overcoming PD 1586 compliance. The study contributes to the discourse on enhancing participatory mechanisms within environmental governance frameworks, offering insights to policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders seeking to foster meaningful engagement and ensure effective compliance with PD 1586.

Keywords: Stakeholder Engagement, PD 1586, Exploratory Factor Analysis, Compliance

1. INTRODUCTION

Presidential Decree No. 1586 was created to establish an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System that includes other environmental management measures to pursue a comprehensive and integrated environmental protection program. Under the EIS System, project proponents must submit an Environmental Impact Statement, a comprehensive document outlining the project's potential environmental impacts on air, water, land, and socio-economic aspects. The assessment identifies appropriate mitigation measures and outlines the public consultation and participation plan. Stakeholder engagement involves the communication between an organization and the individuals and groups that are affected by or have an influence on the organization. Organizations that understand the value of interacting with their stakeholders aim to replace one-way communication with two-way dialogue to increase mutual understanding. Therefore, engaging with stakeholders is a practical approach to better communication with internal and external stakeholders. Successful stakeholder engagement strategies should promote sustainability by emphasizing opportunities to improve environmental, social, and financial outcomes. (Bruce and Dr. Shelly, 2010). Further, community engagement and sustainability insights enhance existing conceptual frameworks for assessing public participation. While greater public involvement has led to enhancements in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and environmental decision-making in the Philippines, examining case studies exposes significant challenges related to conflicts within communities and the representation of various local interests during crucial planning phases (Cooper, 2000).

The primary objective of this study is to identify and analyze the factors encountered in complying with PD 1586 concerning stakeholder engagement and public participation. Specifically, it aims to identify the key barriers faced by stakeholders and government agencies in implementing PD 1586 requirements, explore contributing factors, and propose strategies for enhancement. Despite the legal provisions outlined in PD 1586, several challenges impede the effective implementation of stakeholder engagement and public participation in environmental decision-making processes. These challenges include limited awareness and understanding of PD 1586 requirements, insufficient institutional capacity and resources, inadequate mechanisms for ensuring inclusivity, and socio-cultural factors affecting engagement quality. Yet, the importance of community engagement is widely acknowledged, and the extent to which communities are actively involved and their voices are considered in the decision-making process remains inconsistent (Berry et al., 2019).

Solving this issue is essential as it directly impacts the welfare of impacted communities and the sustainable

utilization of natural resources. Enabling genuine community involvement guarantees that environmental decisions consider local insights, issues, and aspirations, thus fostering more knowledgeable and inclusive decision-making procedures (National Research Council, 2008). This practice nurtures a feeling of ownership, empowerment, and responsibility among community members, thereby advancing social fairness and environmental sustainability (Beierle, 1998; Charnley et al., 2005; Abelson et al., 2003).

2. METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in Davao City, with 150 stakeholders randomly selected as research participants. The research participants were asked to respond to a questionnaire, and experts in the field performed validation before administration. Modern data collection processes, facilitated by platforms like Google Forms and Qualtrics, are highlighted, ensuring the continuity and quality of quantitative research outputs (Torrentira, 2020). The factors were identified using the Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA). Exploratory factor analysis is frequently used to identify the underlying factors of several observable variables (Auerswald & Moshagen, 2019). The factors were visually represented and identified using a scree plot. These factors are analyzed using content analysis techniques to develop the resilience framework.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section exhibits the analysis and interpretation of the gathered data Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Test. The table below presents the KMO Measure of Sampling Adequacy and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity, crucial indicators in our research. The KMO score of .846 indicates a high level of correlation in our samples, making it suitable for analyzing variables within the dataset. Bartlett's test of Sphericity reveals a significant value of 4099.899 with a significance level of less than .001. This underscores the appropriateness of our data for identifying and addressing challenges in stakeholder engagement on PD 1586 compliance. Furthermore, the result from Bartlett's test of Sphericity leads us to reject the null hypothesis, suggesting that identifiable factors contribute to and strengthen our understanding of the determinants influencing stakeholder engagement and public participation in overcoming challenges on PD 1586 compliance, providing valuable insights for further analysis and potential solutions.

Table 1. KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy		.846
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	4099.899
	df	435
	Sig.	.000

Scree Plot. Figure 1 provides a visual representation of the total variance explained and the Eigenvalues graph, illustrating the importance of each component. The graph showcases the gradual decline of Eigenvalues, indicating the relative significance of each factor. This visual aid is instrumental in determining the optimal number of factors to retain, particularly where the curve flattens. The graph becomes flatter around component 5, where Eigenvalues drop below 1. This marks a crucial point of interest, as it signifies a decline in importance. In our analysis, that dimension is discarded if the items within a dimension fall below the minimum threshold. Consequently, based on this analysis, we have identified and retained three factors deemed as determinants. This visualization aids in streamlining our focus on the most influential components, contributing to a more refined and insightful interpretation of the data.

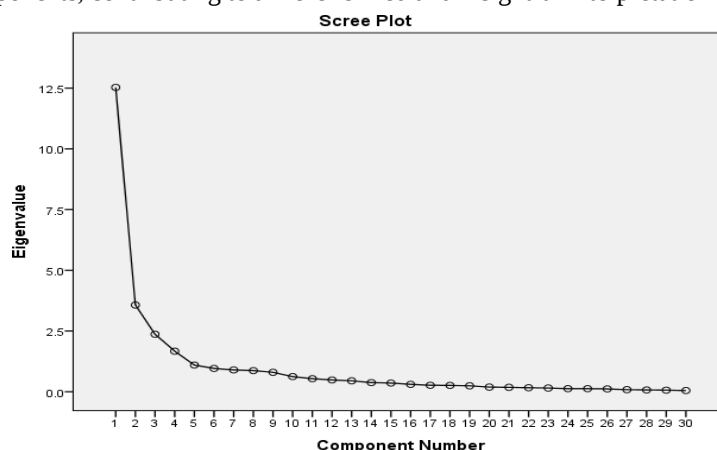


Figure 1. Scree Plot

Rotated Component Matrix- There are three factors generated using the SPSS Statistics software. Below are the factors identified based on each question's common denominator. Table 2 presents collaborative conservation as the first factor contributing to stakeholder engagement in overcoming challenges in PD 1586 compliance. It emphasizes the pivotal role of stakeholder engagement in implementing PD 1586, an environmental protection and sustainability policy. It acknowledges the challenges inherent in implementing such policies and highlights the significance of actively seeking stakeholder feedback throughout planning and decision-making. Adherence to the provisions of PD 1586 is emphasized, along with an understanding of the potential consequences of non-compliance. Confidence in understanding the legal obligations of PD 1586 underscores the importance of compliance for environmental conservation efforts.

Table 2. Rotated component matrix with grouped attributes of “Collaborative Conservation.”

Factor	Attributes	Loadings
Collaborative Conservation	9. The challenges in implementing PD 1586 can be mitigated through improved stakeholder engagement.	.802
	1. Stakeholder engagement is essential for the effective implementation of PD 1586.	.797
	7. Stakeholder feedback is actively sought during the planning and decision-making process of PD 1586 projects.	.791
	5. Stakeholder engagement is essential for the effective implementation of PD 1586.	.767
	2. I fully adhere to the provisions outlined in PD 1586 for environmental protection.	.763
	4. I understand the potential consequences of non-compliance with PD 1586 on environmental conservation efforts.	.760
	3. I am confident in my understanding of the legal obligations imposed by PD 1586 for ensuring environmental sustainability.	.740
	6. I believe that PD 1586 adequately addresses the need for public participation.	.734
	10. PD 1586 compliance fosters transparency in decision-making processes.	.581
	8. The current mechanisms for public participation in PD 1586 compliance are effective.	.579

The opportunity for stakeholders to monitor and evaluate its effectiveness, responsiveness to community needs and concerns, empowerment of communities in decision-making processes, encouragement of active involvement from community members, and the provision of adequate opportunities for community participation (Draskiewicz et al., 2015; Shandas et al., 2008). Furthermore, as more organizations respond positively to relevant sustainability issues, stakeholder engagement is emerging as a means of understanding the hopes and concerns of those impacted by organizations. Thus, communication with stakeholders has emerged as a necessary part of businesses' ability to minimize their environmental impact (Bruce and Dr. Shelly, 2010).

As presented in Table 3, the second factor is Holistic Engagement. It serves as the cornerstone for sustainable progress. It embodies transparency, effectiveness, responsiveness, inclusivity, empowerment, legitimacy, continuous dialogue, effective issue resolution, and shared understanding. This comprehensive approach fosters a dynamic ecosystem where stakeholders are informed, empowered, and actively participate in shaping decisions, ensuring that PD 1586 projects align with sustainable development goals while harmonizing community needs with environmental preservation.

Table 3. Rotated component matrix with grouped attributes of “Holistic Engagement.”

Factor	Attributes	Loadings
Holistic Engagement	30. Stakeholders are adequately informed about the decision-making processes within PD 1586 compliance.	.780
	28. Stakeholders perceive PD 1586 compliance efforts as effective in achieving sustainable development goals.	.773
	24. Decision-makers demonstrate responsiveness to stakeholder concerns in PD 1586 projects.	.767
	25. Stakeholder engagement processes in PD 1586 compliance are inclusive and participatory.	.695

27. PD 1586 compliance promotes community empowerment and capacity building.	.682
21. Stakeholders perceive PD 1586 compliance as a legitimate and credible process.	.667
23. PD 1586 compliance encourages continuous dialogue between stakeholders and decision-makers.	.665
20. PD 1586 compliance effectively addresses issues of land development and environment extraction.	.658
26. There is a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities among stakeholders in PD 1586 projects.	.587

As presented in Table 4, the third factor is Transparency. It includes variables relating to transparent decision-making processes, meaningful contributions from community members, clear channels for community feedback, and access to relevant information for community members.(Kaplan-Hallam et al., 2018; Cañizares-Espada et al., (2021). It has several key areas that require attention for effective environmental decision-making. These include improving public awareness, bolstering inclusivity for marginalized groups, establishing clear feedback mechanisms, fostering communication between stakeholders and decision-makers, building trust through transparent processes, ensuring flexibility to accommodate diverse perspectives, and allocating adequate resources. Addressing these aspects comprehensively will enhance PD 1586 compliance, contributing to more sustainable and equitable environmental outcomes.

Table 4. Rotated component matrix with grouped attributes of “Transparency.”

Factor	Attributes	Loadings
Transparency	14. The level of public awareness about PD 1586 and its requirements is sufficient.	.834
	22. The engagement of marginalized or vulnerable groups is adequately addressed in PD 1586 projects.	.720
	15. There are clear channels for stakeholders to provide feedback on PD 1586 compliance.	.693
	11. There is adequate communication between stakeholders and decision-makers in PD 1586 projects.	.640
	19. There is trust between stakeholders and decision-makers involved in PD 1586 compliance.	.609
	29. There is sufficient flexibility in PD 1586 compliance to accommodate diverse stakeholder needs.	.597
	18. The resources allocated for stakeholder engagement in PD 1586 projects are sufficient.	.591

Study Framework



Figure 2: Factors of Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation: Overcoming Challenges in PD 1586 Compliance.

This was developed based on the study's findings that identified three factors: Collaborative Conservation, Holistic Engagement, and Transparency.

Collaborative Conservation: A collaborative approach is essential to effectively comply with PD 1586, involving stakeholders and encouraging public participation. This strategy seeks to unite decision-makers, stakeholders, and marginalized groups through transparent communication and feedback mechanisms, fostering trust and a collective responsibility for environmental preservation. Adapting compliance to meet diverse needs ensures that conservation

efforts are inclusive and sustainable, ultimately enhancing PD 1586 compliance and promoting a cooperative culture for protecting natural heritage.

Holistic Engagement: Holistic engagement in Stakeholder Engagement and Public Participation within the context of PD 1586 Compliance encompasses a multifaceted approach to bridging gaps, fostering trust, and accommodating diversity. This approach recognizes the complexities inherent in compliance efforts and emphasizes the importance of comprehensive involvement from all stakeholders. By prioritizing transparent communication channels, addressing the needs of marginalized groups, and establishing mechanisms for meaningful feedback, holistic engagement ensures that decision-making processes are inclusive and informed. Through trust-building initiatives and flexible frameworks that accommodate diverse perspectives, stakeholders are empowered to actively contribute to the compliance process, ultimately leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes in line with the goals of PD 1586.

Transparency: Transparency is the cornerstone of effective stakeholder engagement and public participation within PD 1586 compliance. Overcoming challenges in this domain necessitates a commitment to openness and accountability at every stage of the compliance process. By fostering transparent communication channels, decision-makers can provide stakeholders with clear and accessible information regarding PD 1586 requirements, project objectives, and potential impacts. This transparency empowers stakeholders to engage actively in compliance, offering valuable insights and feedback. In addition, when decisions are made through transparent processes, it helps to build confidence and trust among stakeholders. This creates a culture of collaboration and shared responsibility, which ultimately leads to more equitable and sustainable outcomes for everyone involved. By making a steadfast commitment to transparency, compliance efforts for PD 1586 can better navigate challenges and achieve their goals effectively.

4. CONCLUSION

Through data analysis, this study has pinpointed three vital factors that impact stakeholder involvement and public participation in addressing the challenges of PD 1586 compliance: collaborative conservation, holistic engagement, and transparency. Considering these dimensions when tackling PD 1586 compliance hurdles is imperative, as it will inspire more citizens to become actively engaged. By incorporating these dimensions into the decision-making process, policymakers can elevate community involvement, promote transparency and accessibility, encourage teamwork, and demonstrate the importance of community input. Such efforts will ultimately lead to more comprehensive and effective environmental governance, increasing the overall participation of citizens in shaping environmental policies and decisions.

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