The Integration of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Flood Control Project Management in Libmanan River Projects

Engr. Jovelyn C. Martinez[a], Engr. Eva S. Ocfemia, Ph.D[b1]

[a] *jovelyn.martinez@ust-legazpi.edu.ph*
[a]*University of Santo Tomas-Legazpi Graduate School, Legazpi City 4500, Albay, Philippines*

Abstract

This study assessed the status of the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in the Libmanan River Flood Control Project, focusing on the planning, design, and execution stages. Using a descriptive-evaluative research design, the study examined the extent to which EIA requirements were integrated into project development and identified strengths and gaps in implementation. Findings revealed a consistently high level of integration across all phases: screening and scoping during planning (M = 4.35), project design (M = 4.28), and monitoring, compliance, and stakeholder participation during execution (M = 4.45). These results indicated that environmental and social considerations were systematically embedded from project conception to implementation, reflecting a holistic and participatory approach. The evaluation of specific environmental mitigation measures further yielded a mean score of 4.33, demonstrating that mitigation strategies were highly integrated, technically sound, and responsive to socio-ecological needs. The project utilized data driven tools, stakeholder consultations, and structured planning to ensure that flood control interventions were environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive. Insights from DPWH project staff, local government officials, community representatives, and external experts affirmed that the EIA process functions not merely as a compliance requirement but as a strategic tool guiding sustainable and resilient flood management. Grounded in relevant theoretical frameworks on risk, resilience, structured adaptation, and socio-ecological systems, the findings underscored the effectiveness of integrating environmental, technical, and social considerations throughout the project cycle. Based on these results, the researcher crafted a policy recommendation aimed at enhancing the integration of Environmental Impact Assessment within the 1st District Engineering Office (DEO) on Libmanan River Projects. The proposed policy emphasized strengthened participatory mechanisms, adaptive management, capacity-building initiatives, and the institutionalization of data-driven monitoring systems to further sustain environmental protection, community resilience, and long-term project effectiveness. Overall, the study demonstrated that comprehensive EIA integration contributes significantly to responsible, transparent, and sustainable infrastructure development.

Keywords: Environmental Impact Assessment; EIA Implementation; Flood Control Project; Libmanan River; Environmental Mitigation Measures; Sustainable Infrastructure; DPWH

1. Introduction / Background of the Study

Flooding remains a persistent global challenge, causing loss of life, damaging infrastructure, and disrupting ecosystems. Climate change has intensified both the frequency and severity of flood events, highlighting the

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need for effective flood control measures within comprehensive disaster risk management strategies. In the Philippines, seasonal flooding—especially during the monsoon season—makes well-planned flood control projects a priority for both national and local governments. Assessing the integration of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in projects such as the Libmanan River Flood Control Project during the planning, design, and execution phases is vital to ensure that interventions protect communities, preserve agricultural lands, and safeguard infrastructure without causing environmental harm.

The Philippines' legal framework mandates environmental considerations in major development projects. Presidential Decree No. 1586 (1978) established the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) System, requiring the submission of an EIA and the issuance of an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) prior to project implementation. Additionally, the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (RA 10121) requires local government units to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into their planning processes. Evaluating how the Libmanan River Flood Control Project adhered to these requirements provides insight into the challenges of integrating environmental safeguards and informs future improvements.

The Libmanan River Basin in Camarines Sur is highly flood-prone, with low-lying barangays such as Awayan, Tara, Poblacion, and Gaongan frequently experiencing severe inundation. Contributing factors include sedimentation buildup, riverbank erosion, and channel constriction, which reduce the river's carrying capacity. Heavy rainfall, combined with high tide, exacerbates flooding, leaving farmlands submerged and delaying agricultural recovery. In response, the Department of Public Works and Highways – Camarines Sur 1st District Engineering Office (DPWH-CS-1st DEO) initiated the Libmanan River Flood Control Project, focusing on riverbank protection, strengthening vulnerable sections, and improving water conveyance. While these structural interventions aim to reduce flood risks, they inevitably interact with natural systems, affecting sediment dynamics, aquatic habitats, and vegetation. Therefore, assessing how environmental considerations were integrated into the project is essential. A focused evaluation determines whether ecological impacts were adequately identified, whether mitigation measures were effectively applied, and what operational challenges were encountered. Understanding these elements informs engineering strategies that enhance sustainability and community resilience within the Libmanan River Basin.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a critical tool for sustainable development, helping planners and policymakers anticipate environmental, social, and economic impacts before decisions are made. Modern EIA emphasizes evidence-based analysis, public participation, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that projects balance development goals with ecological integrity (Shan et al., 2025; Lousada et al., 2025; Ibrahim et al., 2025). Recent studies demonstrate the practical importance of EIA principles in flood control projects. Research in Shanghai has shown that hybrid strategies combining green and grey infrastructure effectively reduce flood hazards while remaining cost-efficient (Shan et al., 2025). Adaptive river management models in borderland basins have demonstrated the benefits of integrating structural and ecosystem-based interventions to address governance gaps (Lousada et al., 2025). Studies in Metro Manila highlight the need to consider social vulnerability in flood risk assessments to ensure equitable disaster risk reduction (Dulawan et al., 2024; Kurata et al., 2023). Holistic evaluation frameworks that incorporate environmental, social, and human factors enable decision-makers to fully anticipate potential impacts (Zeng et al., 2023). Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) ensures that environmental concerns are considered early in planning, supported by legal and institutional accountability (Prathaithep et al., 2022; Pinheiro, 2025). Collectively, these studies illustrate that EIA extends beyond regulatory compliance, serving as an integrated framework that promotes environmentally and socially sustainable flood management.

Project outcomes in flood control management serve as indicators of whether interventions translate into real-world resilience, community safety, and environmental sustainability. The effectiveness of flood control projects depends not only on technical design but also on sound management practices, adaptive strategies, and community participation. For instance, restoring traditional flood control facilities has been shown to reduce costs and improve resilience (Ogura et al., 2025). Integrating real-time monitoring and adaptive reservoir management achieves both flood hazard reduction and efficient water resource use (Zhou et al.,

2023). Strong project management—including clear stakeholder coordination, resource allocation, and monitoring—enhances sustainability. Moreover, community participation in planning, monitoring, and maintaining infrastructure strengthens local awareness, cooperation, and the durability of technical solutions (Ibeanu et al., 2023; Sotto, 2022). Conceptual frameworks such as the Flood Adaptation Hierarchy and adaptive sociohydrological strategies emphasize the importance of sequencing interventions, monitoring outcomes, and considering human–environment interactions (Peck et al., 2022; Sung et al., 2018). Comparative studies further confirm that infrastructure alone is insufficient; governance, stakeholder engagement, and adaptive management are essential for sustained outcomes (Yasitli, 2018; Pandit, 2021). Systematic assessments that combine technical evaluation, operational planning, and community engagement lead to measurable reductions in flood risk and improved long-term sustainability (Choden, 2018).

Despite extensive research on flood control management, community engagement, and risk assessment, there remains limited understanding of how EIA is systematically integrated into local government flood control projects. Most studies focus on technical design, ecological considerations, or social involvement separately, without examining how these elements interact within a single project framework. Consequently, little is known about how EIA informs decision-making, resource allocation, operational planning, and stakeholder participation. This study addressed this gap by examining the DPWH-CS-1st DEO Libmanan River Flood Control Project. It focused on how environmental assessments were incorporated into planning, how social and ecological factors influenced technical and operational decisions, and how stakeholder participation enhanced project sustainability. The findings provide evidence-based recommendations to improve the effectiveness, resilience, and sustainability of flood control interventions in the Philippines and other flood-prone regions, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical EIA principles and practical project management.

1.1. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to evaluate the integration of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the Libmanan River Flood Control Project, focusing on how environmental considerations were incorporated into project planning, design, and execution to ensure sustainable and effective flood control interventions. Specifically, the study aimed to determine the status of EIA process implementation across the three key project phases: planning, design, and execution; describe the specific environmental mitigation measures applied in the project based on EIA findings; identify the issues and challenges encountered by the 1st District Engineering Office (DEO) in implementing the Libmanan River projects; and recommend engineering interventions to enhance the integration of EIA into future flood control projects, thereby promoting environmental sustainability, operational efficiency, and community resilience.

1.2. Theoretical or Conceptual Framework

The theoretical framework of this study provides the foundational theories relevant to understanding flood control project outcomes and the integration of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in local interventions. The study is anchored on five key theoretical frameworks, which collectively offer a strong basis for evaluating how EIA informs planning, design, execution, and operational effectiveness. The Risk Theory and Systems (Nazgol et al., 2025) emphasizes that flood risk is shaped not only by hazards but also by exposure and vulnerability, with resilience acting as a mitigating factor. This theory highlights the need for a holistic assessment approach that balances technical, social, and ecological considerations to reduce overall flood impacts. Complementing this, the Resilience Theory (Peck et al., 2022) provides a structured framework

for prioritizing adaptation strategies, integrating nature-based solutions, engineered measures, and governance interventions to achieve sustainable and resilient flood management. Similarly, the Adaptive Management Theory (Olsonoski & Gianoli, 2024) focuses on urban flood contexts, evaluating resilience through the pressure, state, and response stages, and stresses the importance of adaptive capacity and real-time monitoring to enhance community preparedness and operational effectiveness.

The Socio-Ecological System Theory (Robson et al., 2025) guides the planning, design, and rehabilitation of flood control structures through GIS-based multi-criteria analysis, hydrological modeling, and socio-economic considerations, ensuring that structural interventions support environmental sustainability while promoting community well-being. Building on these theoretical foundations, the EIA-Integrated Flood Control Project Framework (Martinez, 2025) incorporates systematic environmental assessment, stakeholder engagement, adaptive management, and outcome-oriented evaluation. This framework bridges theoretical EIA principles with practical project implementation, ensuring that flood control projects achieve risk reduction, ecological balance, and enhanced community resilience. Together, these theories provide a robust basis for evaluating and improving flood control projects in a manner that is technically sound, socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable.

The conceptual framework focuses on evaluating how EIA is integrated into Flood Control Project Management, particularly in the DPWH-CS-1st DEO Libmanan River Project. EIA is conceptualized as more than a regulatory checklist; it is a systematic tool that helps planners anticipate potential challenges, minimize environmental harm, and ensure social responsibility. To understand its role in flood control, the study examines four key EIA processes: Screening, Scoping, and Baseline Assessment; Impact Prediction and Evaluation; Mitigation Measures and Alternatives; and Monitoring, Compliance, and Stakeholder Participation. These processes ensure that before project implementation, the baseline conditions are well understood, risks are predicted, mitigation strategies are planned, and the community is involved throughout the project cycle.

Following the EIA processes, the flood control project itself operationalizes the assessment results. Its effectiveness is examined across four main areas: Planning and Design, Implementation and Construction, Operational Effectiveness, and Community Engagement and Sustainability. Planning and design translate assessments into practical, environmentally friendly solutions, while implementation and construction ensure these solutions are responsibly executed. Operational effectiveness evaluates whether the project successfully reduces flood risks and improves water management, and community engagement ensures that local residents understand and actively participate in sustaining interventions. Together, these elements illustrate how thoughtful planning, technical execution, and people-centered approaches combine to build resilient communities.

Finally, the framework emphasizes the importance of Policy Recommendations and a Feedback Mechanism. Policy recommendations guide decision-makers in improving regulations, adopting best practices, and planning future projects effectively. Feedback mechanisms ensure that lessons learned from monitoring and community input are incorporated into ongoing planning and assessment, creating a cycle of continuous learning and improvement. By evaluating the integration of EIA in the Libmanan River Flood Control Project, this study provides insights into how flood control initiatives can be more effective, sustainable, and socially responsible, ultimately benefiting both communities and the environment.

2. Methodology

The realization of this study was made possible through the use of appropriate methods and procedures. This chapter presents the research design, respondents of the study, data gathering tools, procedures of the investigation, statistical tools for data analysis, and ethical considerations.

1.3. Research Design

This study employed a mixed-methods case study design to provide a comprehensive understanding of how Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was integrated into the planning, implementation, and management of the DPWH-CS-1st DEO Libmanan River Flood Control Project. The mixed-methods approach combined quantitative and qualitative techniques to capture a holistic view of the EIA process, its technical application, effectiveness, and the lived experiences of stakeholders. The quantitative component utilized structured surveys and rating checklists administered to project managers, DPWH staff, environmental officers, and selected community representatives. These instruments measured the extent of EIA integration across its major sub-components: screening, scoping, and baseline assessment; impact prediction and evaluation; mitigation measures and alternatives; and monitoring, compliance, and stakeholder participation. The quantitative data determined how the EIA process influenced key project outcomes, including the quality of planning and design, implementation fidelity, operational efficiency, and community participation. The qualitative component employed semi-structured interviews and document analysis to gain deeper insights into stakeholder perspectives, challenges, and real-world experiences in applying the EIA process. Project documents—including EIA reports, mitigation plans, monitoring data, and compliance records—were systematically examined and scored to produce an objective measure of EIA implementation. By triangulating data from surveys, interviews, and document analysis, the study generated a comprehensive and credible assessment that revealed not only procedural compliance but also the effectiveness of EIA in supporting sustainable flood control and enhancing community resilience.

1.4. Respondents of the Study

The respondents consisted of key stakeholders directly involved in or affected by the DPWH-CS-1st DEO Libmanan River Flood Control Project, as they possessed firsthand knowledge of EIA integration in project management. These included DPWH project staff—such as project managers, engineers, and environmental officers or EIA specialists—who were responsible for planning, design, implementation, and monitoring. Their insights provided critical information on how EIA stages were applied. Local government officials, including municipal engineers, planning officers, and barangay leaders, contributed perspectives on project coordination, regulatory compliance, and community consultation. Community representatives—such as residents along the Libmanan River and leaders of community associations or NGOs—provided insights into operational effectiveness, social acceptability, and project sustainability. Where feasible, external experts, including environmental consultants or academics, were included to offer objective assessments and benchmark the project against best practices. The study employed purposive sampling to ensure that respondents were knowledgeable about or directly affected by the project. The sample included 7 DPWH staff, 4 local government officials, 16 community representatives, and 3 external experts, ensuring a diverse and representative range of perspectives.

1.5. Data Gathering Tools

Multiple research instruments were used to evaluate the integration of EIA into the Libmanan River

Flood Control Project, capturing both quantitative data and stakeholder experiences. A structured questionnaire was administered to DPWH personnel, local government officials, and community representatives to gather insights on planning, implementation, and project management. For the EIA component, four sub-variables were assessed: screening, scoping, and baseline assessment; impact prediction and evaluation; mitigation measures and alternatives; and monitoring, compliance, and stakeholder participation, with five items per sub-variable. For flood control project outcomes, the sub-variables included planning and design, implementation and construction, operational effectiveness, and community engagement and sustainability, each also represented by five items, resulting in a total of forty survey items. A document review and scoring checklist was used to verify the presence and quality of EIA reports, project proposals, mitigation plans, monitoring logs, and compliance records. Semi-structured interviews explored stakeholder insights, challenges, and lessons learned, while field observations validated site conditions, assessed the functionality of flood control structures, and examined community involvement. The integration of these tools ensured a comprehensive and reliable evaluation of EIA implementation.

1.6. Procedures of the Investigation

The study began with the conceptualization of the research problem, wherein the researcher identified and defined the focus on evaluating EIA integration in the Libmanan River Flood Control Project. This was followed by a review of relevant literature, identification of EIA sub-variables, and formulation of research objectives. Approval was obtained from the thesis adviser and academic panel to ensure that the methodology, scope, and ethical considerations met academic standards. Permission to conduct the study was secured from the DPWH-CS-1st DEO, the local government unit of Sipocot, and community leaders, enabling access to project documents, personnel, and respondents. Data collection instruments—including questionnaires, interview guides, observation checklists, and document review sheets—were developed and validated by three DPWH engineers. A pilot test was conducted to assess clarity, reliability, and usability. The validated instruments were then administered to the respondents, and field observations were conducted to verify operational effectiveness and stakeholder engagement. Quantitative data were coded, tabulated, and analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data from interviews, observations, and document reviews were analyzed thematically. Triangulation of multiple data sources enhanced the validity and reliability of the findings. Finally, the research report was drafted, revised based on adviser and panel feedback, and submitted for evaluation and archival purposes.

1.7. Statistical Tools

Descriptive statistics were used to summarize and present the data. Frequency and percentage described the distribution of responses, while the mean reflected the average rating for each sub-variable, indicating the level of EIA integration and project effectiveness. Standard deviation measured variability among responses. Weighted mean provided a clearer assessment of strengths and areas needing improvement, while ranking identified the most and least effective components. Qualitative data were analyzed thematically to complement the quantitative results and strengthen the findings through triangulation.

1.8. Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to established ethical standards in conducting research involving human participants, institutional data, and environmental information. Permissions were obtained from relevant agencies, including the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and the local government of Sipocot, Camarines Sur. Participants were informed of the purpose, scope, and voluntary nature of the study and provided informed consent. They were assured that participation involved no risk or harm and that they could withdraw at any time without penalty. All data were treated with strict confidentiality, with identities anonymized. Data were securely stored and used solely for academic purposes. Findings were reported accurately and objectively, without fabrication, falsification, or misrepresentation.

3. Results and Findings

This section presents and discusses the results of the study on the status of the implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in the Libmanan River Flood Control Project. Specifically, it examines how the EIA process was applied during the planning, design, and execution stages of the project. The analysis focuses on the extent to which EIA requirements were followed in each phase, highlighting strengths, identifying gaps, and relating the findings to established EIA guidelines and relevant environmental management frameworks.

The assessment of the planning phase, which included environmental screening and scoping processes, yielded a mean score of 4.35, indicating a highly integrated approach. The project conducted environmental screening prior to approval, clearly defined the scope of the EIA from the outset, and collected comprehensive baseline data on water, air, soil, and biodiversity. Stakeholders, including technical experts and local communities, were actively consulted, and documentation was thorough and publicly accessible. The integration of both environmental and social considerations demonstrated a holistic approach that anticipated risks and considered multiple alternatives. Viewed through the lens of Risk Theory and Systems (Nazgol et al., 2025), these findings suggested that flood risk management is not limited to hazard mitigation alone but also addressed exposure, vulnerability, and resilience. By carefully planning interventions with both environmental and social dimensions in mind, the project established a strong foundation for sustainable and resilient flood control.

In the design phase, the project received a mean score of 4.28, reflecting a highly integrated and well-planned approach. Project objectives, activities, resource allocation, and timelines were organized to align with overall goals while accounting for technical, environmental, and social considerations. Stakeholder engagement, particularly with local communities and technical experts, informed the design process, ensuring that the interventions were practical and context-sensitive. This finding aligned with the principles of Resilience Theory (Peck et al., 2022), which advocated a structured approach to prioritize adaptation strategies by integrating nature-based solutions, engineered measures, and governance interventions to achieve sustainable and resilient flood management. The project design demonstrated that technical planning, environmental protection, and social inclusivity could be harmonized to create effective flood management solutions, although further refinement could strengthen the integration between technical measures and local stakeholder priorities.

During the execution phase, which assessed monitoring, compliance, and stakeholder participation, the project earned the highest mean score of 4.45. This indicated a highly effective approach to tracking progress, ensuring adherence to environmental standards, and involving stakeholders throughout the project

cycle. Monitoring processes were structured and consistently applied, enabling timely identification of issues and implementation of corrective actions. Compliance with environmental and social regulations was observed systematically, and stakeholder participation was evident, with local communities, technical experts, and authorities actively consulted in decision-making. These findings resonated with the Adaptive Management Theory (Olsonoski & Gianoli, 2024), which emphasized resilience through real-time monitoring and adaptive capacity. The project's strong monitoring and participatory mechanisms reflected a commitment not only to technical implementation but also to adaptive and responsive management, enhancing community resilience against flood risks.

Overall, the evaluation across planning, design, and execution demonstrated consistently high integration, with mean scores of 4.35, 4.28, and 4.45, respectively. Screening and scoping showed that early-stage environmental assessments were comprehensive, with stakeholder consultations and baseline data ensuring potential risks and alternatives were fully considered. The project design reflected robust planning that balanced technical, environmental, and social needs, while the highest score in monitoring and stakeholder engagement highlighted the project's excellence in operational oversight and participatory governance. Collectively, these results suggested that the Libmanan River Flood Control Project employed a holistic approach that was technically sound, socially inclusive, and environmentally responsible, aligning with the frameworks of Peck et al. (2022), Olsonoski & Gianoli (2024), and Robson et al. (2025). In conclusion, the project exemplified how careful planning, thoughtful design, and active engagement can result in sustainable and resilient flood control interventions.

The evaluation of specific environmental mitigation measures yielded a mean score of 4.33, indicating a highly effective and integrated approach. Mitigation strategies were carefully aligned with technical standards, environmental management, and community needs. Tools such as GIS-based multi-criteria analysis and hydrological modeling were applied to ensure interventions were efficient and context-sensitive, while socio-economic considerations ensured community well-being was maintained. Guided by the Socio-Ecological System Theory (Robson et al., 2025), these measures balanced environmental, social, and technical dimensions, enhancing both ecosystem health and community resilience. The findings highlighted that mitigation strategies were not only technically sound but also socially responsible and sustainable, demonstrating a holistic approach to flood risk reduction. It is recommended that the project continue adaptive management practices, regularly update technical models, and expand community participation to ensure that mitigation measures remain effective, context-sensitive, and widely supported.

The study also explored issues and challenges encountered by the DPWH-CS-1st DEO, local government units, community representatives, and external experts. DPWH project staff emphasized that the EIA functioned as a comprehensive tool for ensuring environmental and community safety, going beyond regulatory compliance to integrate technical, social, and environmental aspects. Local government officials noted that the EIA promoted transparency and participatory governance, supporting sustainability and community protection. Community representatives highlighted the benefits of having a voice in decision-making and access to environmental information, illustrating genuine engagement in the project. External experts confirmed that the EIA provided guidance in project design and implementation, integrating environmental, social, and technical considerations to enhance sustainability and resilience. These perspectives collectively showed that the EIA was more than a procedural requirement; it was a strategic tool that supported effective, socially inclusive, and environmentally responsible flood management. Recommendations included strengthening community participation through consultations and information-sharing, maintaining rigorous monitoring of environmental and social impacts, and continuing adaptive management strategies to ensure the project responds effectively to emerging challenges.

4. Discussion and Implications

The findings of this study demonstrate that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is highly integrated into the planning, design, and execution of the Libmanan River Flood Control Project, reflecting both technical rigor and social inclusivity. In the planning stage, high integration of environmental screening and scoping, as indicated by the mean score of 4.35, aligned closely with the Risk Theory and Systems framework (Nazgol et al., 2025). The theory emphasizes that flood risk is not solely determined by hazards but also by the exposure and vulnerability of communities and ecosystems. By conducting comprehensive baseline assessments and involving stakeholders from the outset, the project effectively balanced technical considerations with social and environmental needs, fostering resilience and minimizing vulnerability. This approach underscores that EIA is not merely a procedural compliance tool but a strategic instrument for risk-informed decision-making.

In the design stage, the mean score of 4.28 reflected a thoughtful integration of technical, environmental, and social considerations, which is consistent with the Resilience Theory (Peck et al., 2022). The project demonstrated structured prioritization of adaptation strategies, integrating engineered solutions, nature-based interventions, and governance measures to achieve sustainable flood management. These findings implied that projects adopting a resilience-oriented design framework are better positioned to respond to changing environmental conditions while ensuring that interventions remain contextually relevant and socially supported.

Execution, monitored through a score of 4.45, highlighted the critical role of real-time monitoring, compliance, and stakeholder participation in operational effectiveness, as theorized in Adaptive Management Theory (Olsonoski & Gianoli, 2024). Active engagement of local communities, technical experts, and authorities ensured adaptive capacity, enabling the project to address emerging challenges promptly. This participatory approach also reinforced accountability and transparency, promoting trust between implementers and the community. The implication for practice is that embedding participatory and adaptive mechanisms into flood control projects can significantly enhance resilience, improve compliance with environmental standards, and ensure socially acceptable outcomes.

The evaluation of mitigation measures, guided by the Socio-Ecological System Theory (Robson et al., 2025), demonstrated a high level of integration (mean score 4.33) in aligning technical interventions with socio-economic and ecological considerations. By using GIS-based multi-criteria analysis, hydrological modeling, and stakeholder-informed planning, the project mitigated flood risks while supporting environmental sustainability and community well-being. This indicated that socio-ecological approaches can serve as an effective framework for balancing development objectives with environmental protection, highlighting the importance of evidence-based planning and participatory decision-making.

Stakeholder perspectives further reinforced the practical significance of EIA integration. DPWH staff emphasized its role as a holistic tool addressing technical, social, and environmental dimensions. Local government officials recognized the EIA as promoting transparency and governance, while community representatives highlighted its role in providing voice and access to critical information. Experts confirmed that EIA served as a guide for sustainable and resilient project implementation. These findings aligned with prior studies emphasizing the importance of participatory governance and socio-ecological considerations in flood management (Peck et al., 2022; Olsonoski & Gianoli, 2024; Robson et al., 2025). The implications were clear: projects that incorporate stakeholder perspectives at every stage are more likely to achieve sustainable, socially accepted, and environmentally responsible outcomes.

From a policy perspective, the study suggested that institutionalizing adaptive monitoring mechanisms, participatory engagement, and holistic mitigation planning into flood control project protocols could improve both project effectiveness and community resilience. Regular capacity-building for implementers and community stakeholders could reinforce understanding of environmental risks and adaptive strategies, while real-time monitoring tools and data-driven decision-making could enhance operational

responsiveness. For further research, longitudinal studies could examine the long-term sustainability and social impacts of EIA-informed flood control projects, providing additional evidence on best practices and strategies for replicating success in other river basins.

In conclusion, the integration of EIA in the Libmanan River Flood Control Project demonstrates how a combination of technical expertise, participatory planning, and adaptive management creates a flood control intervention that is not only effective in risk reduction but also socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. The study highlights the importance of theoretical frameworks in guiding project implementation, offering practical lessons for future flood control projects, policy formulation, and further empirical inquiry into EIA integration in local development initiatives.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The study on the integration of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the Libmanan River Flood Control Project reveals several key conclusions. First, the EIA process is thoroughly and effectively implemented across the planning, design, and execution stages. Environmental screening, scoping, and baseline assessments are conducted comprehensively, ensuring that both ecological and social factors are carefully considered before project approval. Design processes incorporate technical requirements, environmental protection, and community needs, reflecting a robust and strategic approach to sustainable flood management. Execution stands out as particularly strong, with monitoring, compliance, and stakeholder participation effectively ensuring project accountability, adaptive capacity, and operational success. Collectively, these findings indicate that the project is not only technically sound but also socially inclusive and environmentally responsible, aligning with established theoretical frameworks, including Risk Theory and Systems (Nazgol et al., 2025), Resilience Theory (Peck et al., 2022), Adaptive Management Theory (Olsonoski & Gianoli, 2024), and the Socio-Ecological System Theory (Robson et al., 2025).

Second, the mitigation measures implemented are strategically designed, technically robust, and socially responsive. The project applied data-driven tools, GIS-based analyses, and hydrological modeling to plan, design, and rehabilitate flood control structures in a manner that balances environmental sustainability with community well-being. Stakeholder engagement and socio-economic considerations were integrated, ensuring that interventions are effective, practical, and socially acceptable. These practices highlight the importance of a holistic, participatory approach to environmental management, demonstrating that EIA can serve as a guiding framework for resilient and sustainable flood control interventions.

Third, the perspectives of key stakeholders—including DPWH project staff, local government officials, community representatives, and external experts—confirm that the EIA is more than a procedural requirement. It provides holistic guidance that integrates technical, environmental, and social dimensions, promotes transparency, fosters participatory governance, and builds adaptive capacity within the community. Stakeholder involvement strengthens both the effectiveness and sustainability of project outcomes, ensuring that interventions are context-sensitive and broadly supported.

Based on these findings, several practical recommendations are proposed. The Libmanan River Flood Control Project should continue to strengthen community participation by creating additional opportunities for residents to engage in planning, monitoring, and evaluating project activities. Expanding information-sharing sessions and public consultations will help ensure that local concerns, knowledge, and priorities are incorporated into decision-making. Regular capacity-building programs for project staff and stakeholders can enhance understanding of environmental risks, adaptive strategies, and resilience planning. Moreover, integrating real-time monitoring technologies and data-driven tools can improve early detection of emerging challenges and enable timely corrective actions.

The study also recommends that adaptive management and mitigation practices continue to be updated using the latest technical and ecological information to ensure sustainability under changing environmental conditions. Stronger coordination between technical teams and community representatives can further enhance context-sensitive interventions, while periodic evaluation of environmental, social, and

operational outcomes can inform policy refinements and the planning of future flood control projects.
In conclusion, the study demonstrates that the integration of EIA into flood control project management is a critical factor in achieving sustainable, resilient, and socially inclusive outcomes. By maintaining a holistic approach that combines technical rigor, environmental stewardship, and stakeholder participation, future projects can replicate the successes observed in the Libmanan River Flood Control Project, contributing to safer communities, healthier ecosystems, and more effective flood risk management.

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