Promoting Green Infrastructure: A Policy Framework for Sustainable Utilization of GAA Allocated Budget in Government Projects in Real, Quezon

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Abstract

This study investigates the development of a comprehensive policy framework for the sustainable utilization of General Appropriations Act (GAA)-allocated budgets in government-funded projects, with particular emphasis on the integration of green infrastructure initiatives in the Municipality of Real, Quezon, Philippines. As governments increasingly face the challenge of balancing infrastructure development with environmental sustainability, the efficient allocation and utilization of public funds have become critical in achieving long-term development goals. The study examines key policy dimensions, including green infrastructure policies and regulations, sustainability-oriented budget allocation practices, environmental impact assessment procedures, monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and public participation and stakeholder engagement. A descriptive-correlational research design was employed to assess the extent to which these policy components influence the sustainability outcomes of government projects. Data were gathered through structured survey questionnaires administered to government officials, project implementers, environmental practitioners, community representatives, and other relevant stakeholders. Descriptive and inferential statistical tools were utilized to analyze the relationships among variables and determine their contribution to sustainable project implementation. Findings reveal that the effective integration of green infrastructure principles within GAA-funded projects significantly contributes to environmental protection, resource efficiency, climate resilience, and sustainable community development. Results further indicate that transparent budget allocation processes, rigorous environmental assessment procedures, robust monitoring and accountability systems, and active stakeholder participation positively influence project effectiveness and sustainability outcomes. Moreover, the study demonstrates that collaborative governance and evidence-based planning strengthen the alignment of public investments with national sustainability targets and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Based on the findings, the study proposes an Outcome-Based Sustainable Budget Utilization Framework that serves as a strategic guide for policymakers, local government units, and implementing agencies in optimizing GAA-funded projects. The framework promotes environmental stewardship, fiscal responsibility, social inclusiveness, and sustainable economic growth, thereby enhancing the long-term impact and effectiveness of public infrastructure investments in Real, Quezon and similar local government contexts.

Keywords: Sustainable Budget Utilization, General Appropriations Act (GAA), Green Infrastructure, Policy Framework, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)