

Tacloban north. Environmental situation and recommendations regarding the dumpsite Santo Niño.

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1. Background/Introduction

UN Habitat supports the city of Tacloban in the planning process for a “Comprehensive land-use plan, 2013-2022” in an area north of Tacloban. The preliminary plan is to relocate 7000 families (figures up to 100 000 people have been mentioned) to the area.

The municipal dumpsite of Tacloban, Santo Niño, is situated within the planned area. UN Habitat and the city of Tacloban have requested support to identify key environmental issues that should be looked into when working on the further planning of the area.

The municipality of Tacloban is looking into finding a new location for a landfill. This process and the construction will take a couple of years and dumping of waste at Santo Niño will continue until the new landfill is operational.



Tacloban north resettlement, February 2014. There is ongoing excavation work in the area.

2. Santo Niño dumpsite

The Tacloban Municipal dumpsite Santo Niño is located approximately 14 km north of Tacloban City on the eastern side of the highway to Babatngon. The dumpsite is installed without bottom lining which means that leachate will infiltrate directly into the ground and reach the groundwater. There is no installed system to collect leachate and the leachate drains directly to an open waterbody downstream. The dumpsite is not fenced and has free access for unauthorised people. There is ongoing work to improve the dumpsite. The dumpsite receives municipal waste from Tacloban city and is also used for debris waste generated by Yolanda.

To close the dumpsite a pre-closure assessment, closure plan, aftercare plan and monitoring plan shall be prepared. Closure procedures should be done in accordance with DENR Administrative Order

09/2006 *General Guidelines in the closure and Rehabilitation of Open Dumpsites and Controlled Dump Facilities* (Section 37 of RA 9003). According to Section 6.1 a Pre-Closure Assessment is to be carried out, including (amongst others)

- Evaluation of potential or existing impacts on the ecological and human environment
- Determination of potential contaminants and formulation of appropriate mitigating and remedial measures



Santo Niño. There is ongoing dumping of waste on the site. Right. Cell for health care waste.

The dumpsite, the current environmental situation and closure procedures are described in attached document. *Environmental situation at Santo Niño waste dumpsite, Tacloban* (March 2014)

3. Recommendations

There is a dumpsite within the area planned for residential use. This constitutes an environmental risk and potential health hazard to the neighboring population, which should be assessed.

To look into these issues a risk assessment is recommended to decide on required mitigation measures. The risk assessment should include identified risks

- before and during the time for closure of the dumpsite
- after closure of the dumpsite

It should take into account risks to humans but also environment issues should be covered; eg

- Spreading of hazardous substances through air, dust and water (surface and groundwater)
- Uptake of toxic and hazardous substances to vegetation, animals and fish.
- Spreading of diseases by vectors (flies, rats etc)

Closure procedures etc is described in more detail in the attached document. *Environmental situation at Santo Niño waste dumpsite, Tacloban* (March 2014)

The results of the pre-closure assessment and risk assessment can be a buffer zone around the dumpsite and mitigation measures prior to the closing of the dumpsite and after closure of the dumpsite.

EMB (Environmental Management Bureau) is the lead authority in those issues.