Geotagging: An Innovative Tool To Enhance Transparency and Supervision

Transparency through Geotagging

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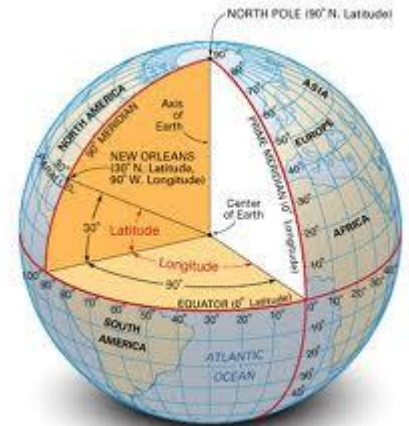**Geotagging**

- Process of assigning a geographical reference, i.e, geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) + elevation - to an object.

- This could be done by taking photos, nodes and tracks with recorded GPS coordinates.

- This allows geo-tagged object or SP data to be easily and accurately located on a map.
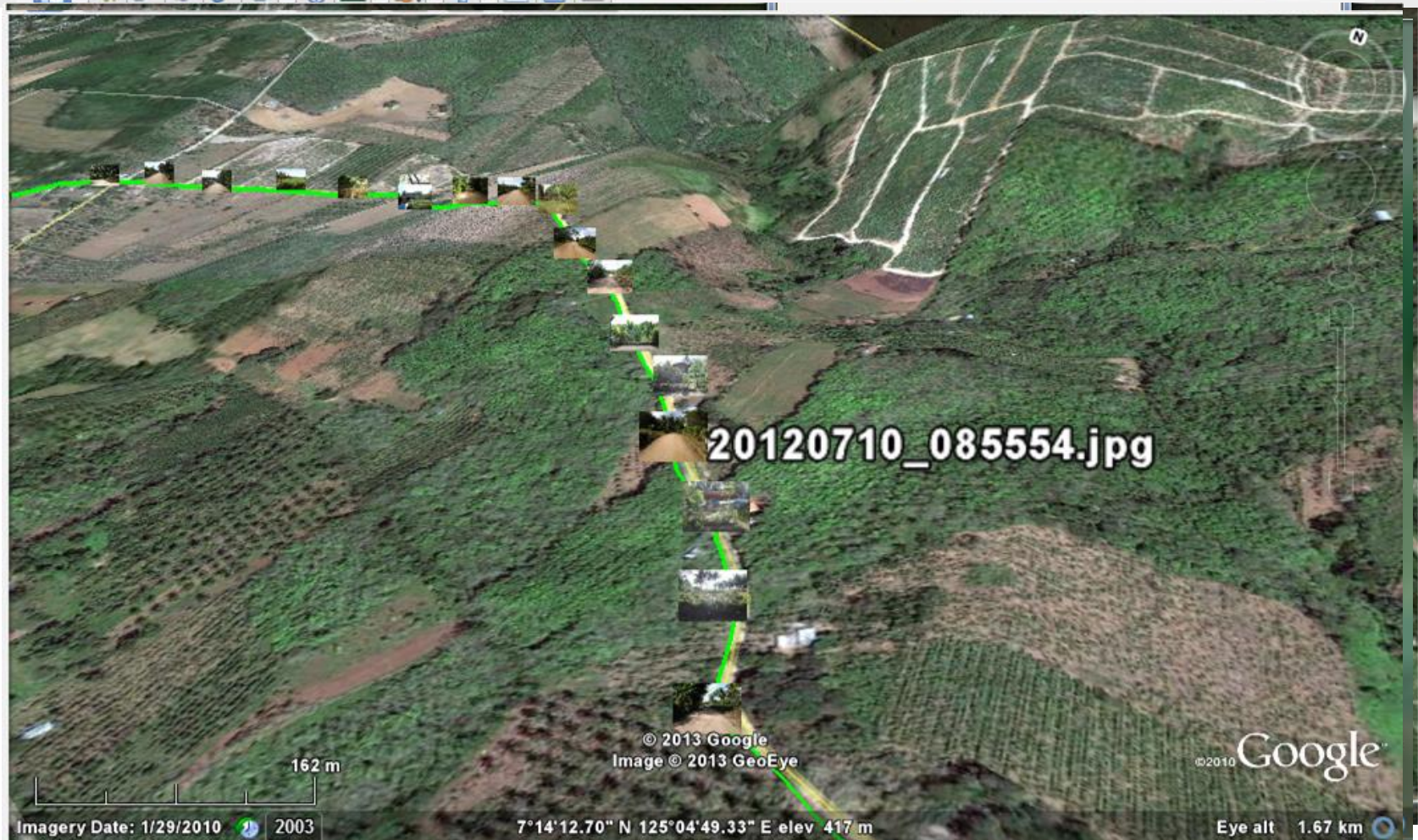

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What is Geotagging application in the Philippines?

- A revolutionary and inexpensive approach of using ICT + GPS applications for accurate visualization of sub-projects
- Device required is only a GPS enabled android cellphone, and access to freely available apps
- Easily replicable for mainstreaming to Government institutions & CSOs
- Will help answer the question: **Is the right activity implemented in the right place**? – (*asset verification tool*)
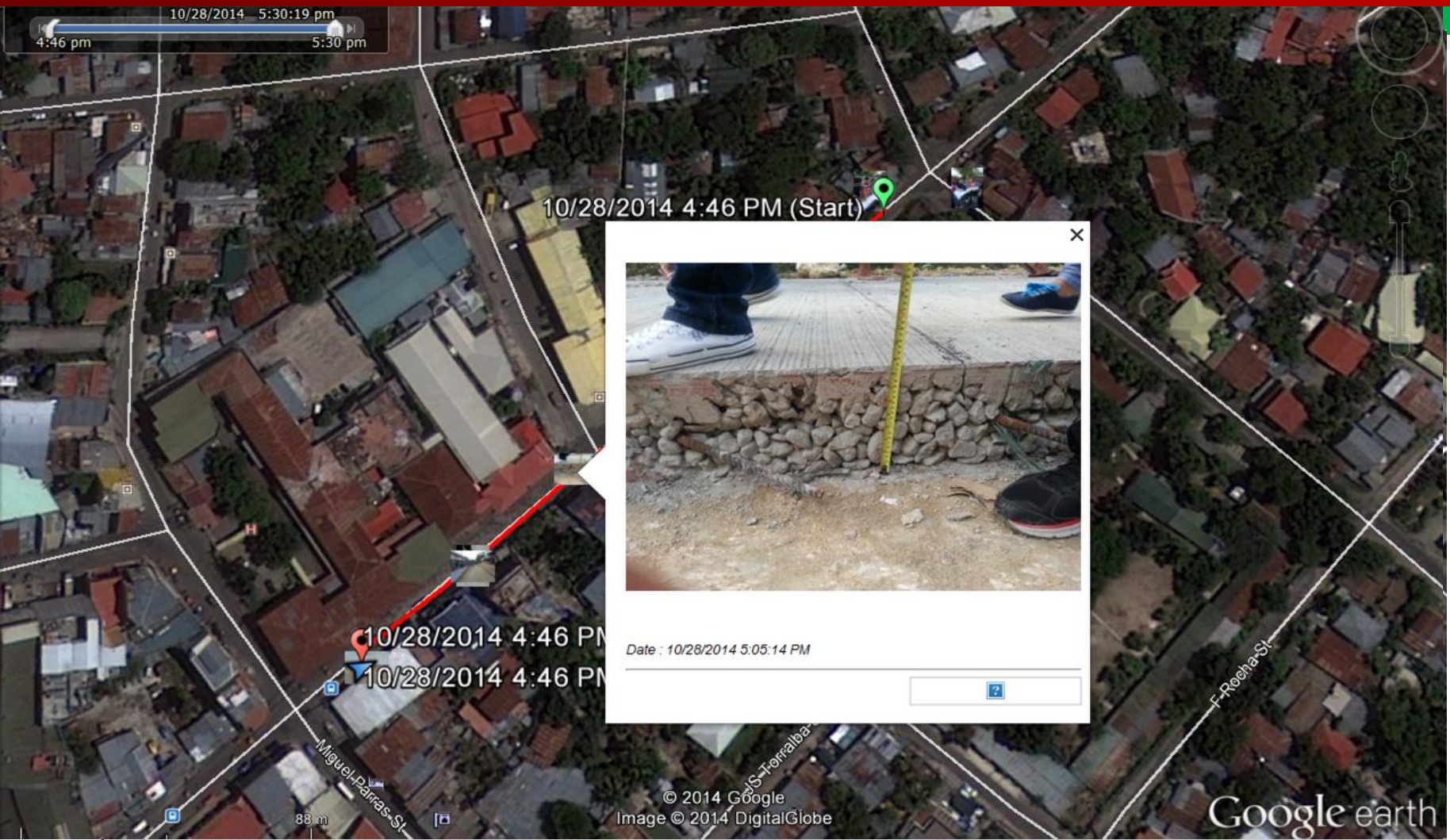
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Geotagging Example No. 1: Visualization of a farm-to-market road in a conflict area: showing specific location, ground distance, track / alignment, elevation profile, ground photos (with coordinates, date and time taken) of Farm-to-market Road, i.e. baseline information + Progress photos + 3D visualization

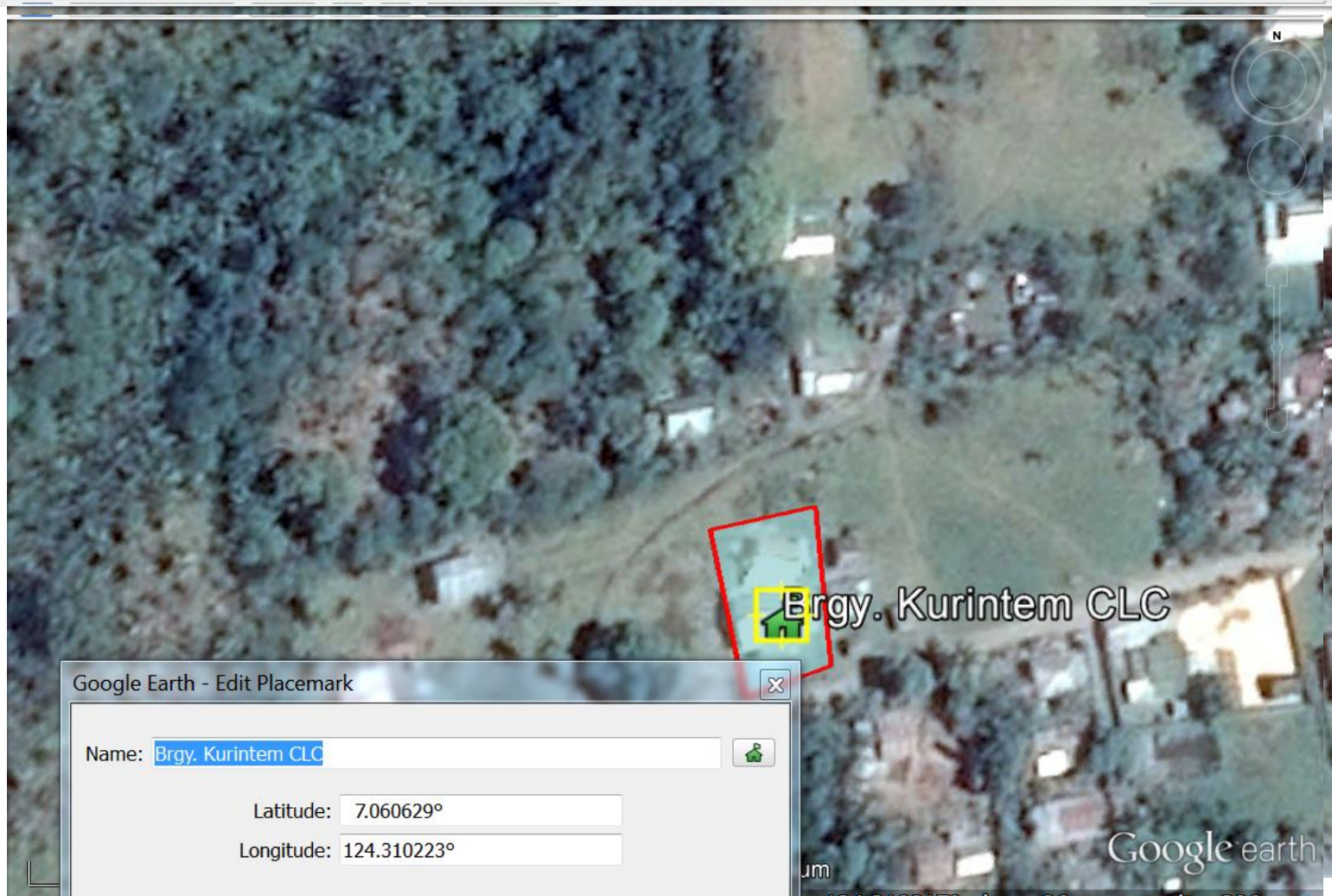# Geotagging: An Innovative Tool to Enhance Transparency and Supervision

Geotagging Example No. 2: Location and Visualization of rehabilitation of a city road in Earthquake damaged-area in Tagbilaran, Bohol, Philippines by the auditors and the citizen volunteers

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Geo-tagging Example No. 3 Visualization of a water supply project showing specific location, elevation profile from the source , distribution lines and faucets, and ground photos of community faucets

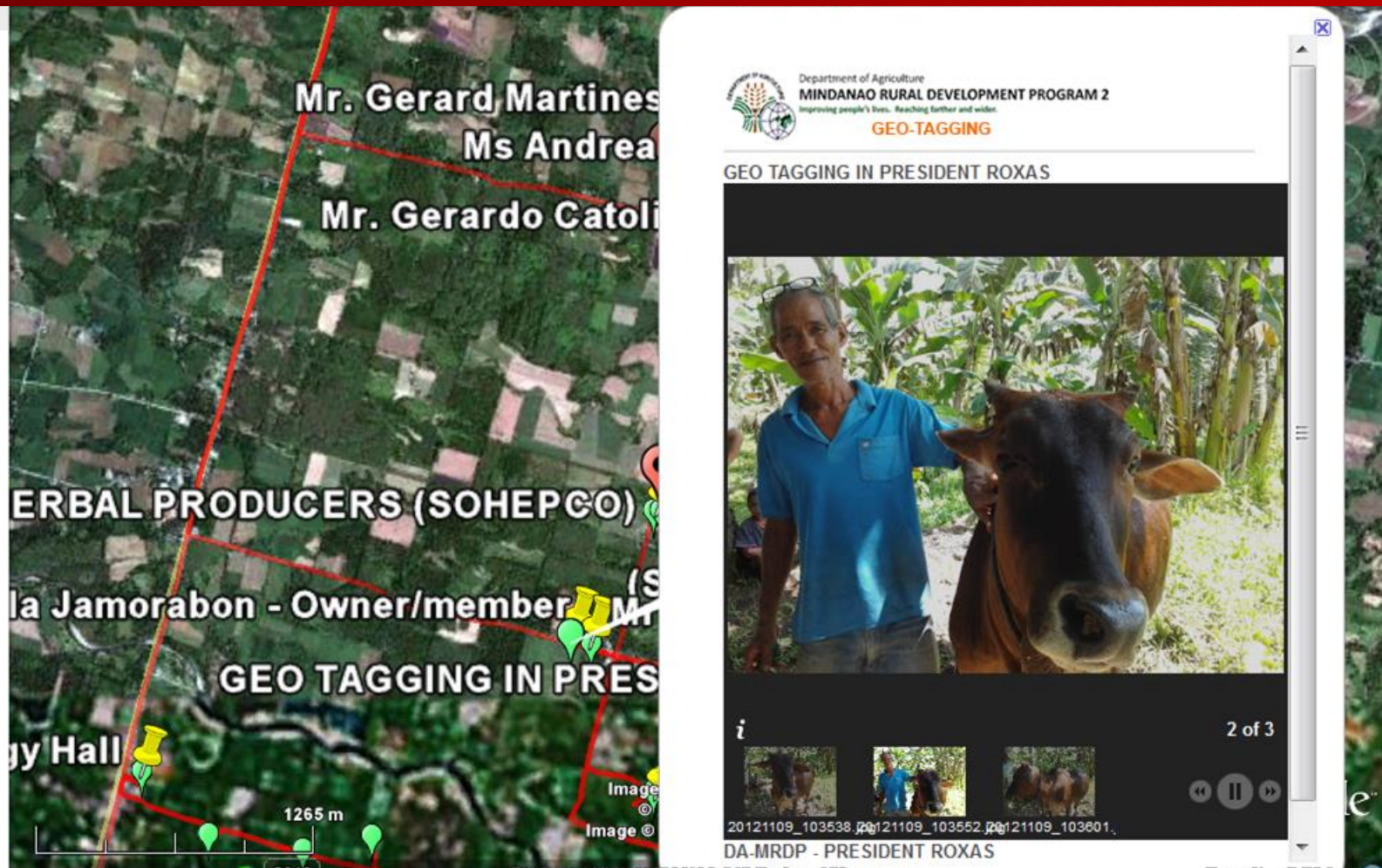# Geotagging: An Innovative Tool to Enhance Transparency and Supervision

Geo-tagging Example No. 4: Visualization of a Community Learning Center in a conflict affected area: showing specific location, polygon of the lot , and ground photos (with coordinates, date and time taken)

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Geo-tagging Example No. 5: Mapping and visualization of an irrigation system; showing the main canal and the sub-laterals, current service area, service area to be generated as a result of irrigation improvement + geotagged photos of the inventory of condition of the structures and the canals , eqmt mobilization, progress photo graphs

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Geotagging Example No. 6: visualization and mapping of distribution of micro SPs to individual beneficiaries

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Geo-tagging Example No.7 : innovative approach for engaging citizenry and civil society in identifying and reporting road subproject with quality issues.

Use of UAV or drone to complement Geotagging

Stages of Application

Identification / Planning

detailed engineering & design

Procurement

Construction implementation / progress payment

Audit / post procurement / Evaluation

Validation of FS info including track / route, and site condition

Validation / confirmation of detailed engineering info as profile, road or bridge / dam condition

Disclosure of information including virtual site visits by the potential bidders and the public prior to bid opening

Validation of site location & progress in construction implementation through virtual visits. Public disclosure will allow citizen participation in monitoring

Under research by COA to determine best way to use geotagging in the audit process

Developments so far….

- One of the integrity-strengthening tools listed in the World Bank's New Procurement Framework

- Adopted by a number of national line agencies (e.g. DA, DENR, DPWH, NIA, DSWD and DILG) for non IFI financed projects

- Government Policy Procurement Board evaluating the tool for possible policy issuance

- Adopted by the Commission on Audit in its Guide to the Audit of Procurement / tool in its Citizen Participatory Audit

What is clear about Philippine geotagging experience?

- Application of the technology is simple and not intimidating

- A powerful tool for boosting transparency, improving supervision, and detecting fraud and corruption in all stages of project implementation

- Offer innovation to increase the fiduciary team's value proposition in supporting contract implementation and audit

- A versatile tool which can be utilized in almost all type of subprojects, including those in isolated and conflict-affected area

- An effective vehicle to support civil society engagement in accountability which could lead to improved public perceptions of the government's credibility

Thank You for Your Attention