



NEWSLETTER

BMUB-IKI

in the Philippines

July – September 2017

Collated by the Support to the Philippines in Shaping and Implementing the International Climate Regime (SupportCCC II) Project

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CLIMATE POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- **President Duterte's SONA 2017 highlights on Climate Change and Environmental Protection.** In his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24, 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte addressed the administration's key agenda on prosperity, law and order, and peace under the theme– "A comfortable life for all." [Read More](#)
- **CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster meeting in response to SONA 2017.** In response to the pronouncements by President Rodrigo Duterte during his State of the Nation Address in July 2017, the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) convened for the second time this year on August 31. [Read More](#)
- **Climate agency under new leadership.** Commissioner Emmanuel de Guzman was re-appointed as the acting secretary and vice chairperson of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), serving also as the executive director of the body's Climate Change Office. [Read More](#)
- **PH prepares international climate reports.** The Climate Change Commission held a Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on July 7, 2017 to begin finalizing the roadmap for the Philippines' Third National Communication (TNC) and first Biennial Update Report (BUR). [Read More](#)
- **Consultations on PH's NDC underway.** The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Senate Committee on Climate Change organized a multi-stakeholder consultation forum that tackled the development of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and its sectoral targets on July 18, 2017 at the Philippine Senate. [Read More](#)

- **Advancing Green Finance in the Philippines.** The Climate Change Commission, together with the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, convened leaders of the country's finance sector to promote green financing during the High-Level Roundtable and Multi-stakeholder Forum on July 31, 2017 at the Senate of the Philippines. [Read More](#)
- **Ongoing review and updating of the Philippine NCCAP.** The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is currently spearheading the review and updating of the Philippines' National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2011 -2028. [Read More](#)
- **DENR as the National Designated Authority (NDA) for the GCF sets-up procedure for rationalizing climate project proposals.** With support from the *Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme* implemented by UN Environment/UNDP/WRI, the Philippines has begun developing its own prioritization and project screening tool to identify its greatest needs in terms of adaptation and mitigation vis-à-vis the Green Climate Fund investment criteria. [Read More](#)
- **Building sector NAMA in the Philippines.** On August 4, 2017, the Climate Change Commission, National Housing Authority, and the Philippine Green Building Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will facilitate the development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) for the building sector and promotion of green buildings in the country. [Read More](#)
- **Forging partnership to build capacity of LGUs on local climate change action planning.** The Climate Change Commission and the Local Government Academy (LGA)-Department of Interior and Local Government signed a memorandum of understanding on July 25, 2017 to prepare trainers and coaches to help local governments across the Philippines on on local climate change action planning. [Read More](#)
- **PSF updates: new secretariat, two additional LGU projects approved.** The People's Survival Fund (PSF) Board convened two times in July 2017 under the leadership of the Department of Finance (DOF). These meetings are the first ones this year engaging the members of the Board in key policy discussions relevant to the fund operations. [Read More](#)
- **Philippines pioneers catastrophe risk insurance program.** This program will provide coverage for national assets in 25 provinces against losses from typhoons and earthquakes, which are estimated to cost the country US\$3.5 billion per year. [Read More](#)

IKI PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **International Climate Initiative (IKI) Calls for the 2018 cycle of Support.** The selection process for IKI Funding is [online!](#) For 2018 the IKI is primarily looking for regional or national proposals, as joint programmes, that implement overall programmatic approaches
- **Sustaining German-Philippine cooperation on climate protection and biodiversity conservation.** The Philippines is now gearing up for the next round of IKI country pledge with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) taking the lead.
- **Building on capacities and lessons learned for enhancing transparency and climate reporting in the Philippines: Information Matters Summary Workshop and Closing Event.** Participating agencies valued the impact of the Project supporting the set-up of measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems and databases, the compilation and improvement of GHG inventories, and the development of baseline scenarios for their sectors. [Read More](#)
- **IM Project trains government partners on GHG inventory for AFOLU Sector.** [Information Matters](#) organized Orientation-Workshop on Preparing Greenhouse Gas Inventories for Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU).

- **Contributing to “Caring for All Life under the Sun”.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol with the theme “Caring for All Life Under the Sun”, as well as the annual International Day of the Protection of the Ozone Layer on September 16, 2017. [Read More](#)
- **Kick-off workshop on Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) standards review in the Philippines.** The BMUB IKI funded Cool Contributions fighting Climate Change (C4) project is providing technical and policy advice to the Philippines government, through the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Energy (DOE), for the adoption of applicable international standards related to RAC equipment and systems.
- **Green Banking project successfully launches Green Finance Specialist Programme in India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.** In the framework of the capacity building project [Green Banking](#), RENAC is offering the [Green Finance Specialist Programme \(GFS\)](#) for professionals from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.
- **WWF-Philippines promotes Sustainable Consumption and Production through “The Sustainable Diner: A Key Ingredient of Sustainable Tourism”.** WWF-Philippines launched The Sustainable Diner project through an inception workshop at Seda Vertis North on September 26, 2017.
- **Advance SCP conducts Innovative Instruments and Incentives Workshop.** The Advancing and Measuring Sustainable Consumption and Production for a Low-Carbon Economy in Middle-Income and Newly Industrialized Countries (Advance SCP) project conducted a Regional Workshop on Innovative Instruments and Incentives for the Promotion of Climate Friendly Products in the Market.
- **ICLEI implements IKI-supported project on low-carbon urban development in three Southeast Asian countries.** The project supports selected cities in Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam in achieving ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets and contribute to their country’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).
- **National PUV Modernization Program Launched in the Philippines.** The Department of Transportation (DOTr) launched the Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) modernization program.
- **GIZ-TRANSfer Facilitates Strategic Planning Workshop for PH PUV Modernization.** The Department of Transportation (DOTr) conducted its Strategic Planning Workshop for the PUV Modernization.
- **GIZ TRANSfer - workshop on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in Public Transport and Public Transport Industry Consolidation.** Participants from the DOTr and its attached agencies were provided with technical inputs on key performance indicators (KPI) and consolidation strategies in public transport.
- **Five cities commit to build their climate resilience through urban plans and designs.** To demonstrate and build knowledge on innovative urban adaptation designs that could boost climate resilience, the “Building Climate Resiliency through Urban Plans and Designs” project partnered with five cities, namely, Angeles, Legazpi, Ormoc, Cagayan de Oro and Tagum. [Learn More](#)
- **2nd International Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Community of Practice Workshop - Impressions & Takeaways.** The Philippine delegation actively shared what the EbA Mainstreaming in the Philippines has gained for the past 17 months of project implementation while also cognizant of knowing and learning from other country experiences. [Read More](#)

- **Community of Practice - Sharing Practical Experiences and Generating Results on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA).** EbA Training of Trainers, EbA Facilitators Courses and EbA in the People Survival Fund (PSF) Orientation Series – major capacity development measures in the Philippines through the global EbA Mainstreaming project. [Learn More](#)
- **What are the benefits and costs of Ecosystem-based Adaptation – EbA Valuation Training.** Raising awareness and providing basic understanding of why and how to use valuation methods of EbA for adaptation policy planning stood at the center of the one-week training.
- **Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board Technical Planning Assistance Program (HTPAP) on Climate Smart Land Use and Development Planning.** Almost 100 local government planning teams in selected major river basins and pilot EcoTown areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao received trainings on climate smart land use through the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) together with the assistance of the SupportCCC II project.
- **Philippines, Germany consolidate good practices in managing 60 existing protected area all over the PH – at least 56 new areas declared.** A learning exchange summit provided the venue for sharing the knowledge and experiences of project partners from over 160 PAME-supported sites all over the Philippines. [Read More](#)
- **Blue Training of Trainers: Seas around the world are at the forefront.** More and more countries are consering how they can effectively manage their marine spaces and resources. This requires skills provided by the Blue Solutions developed Trainings. [Read More](#)
- **BIOFIN-UNDP, UP Pi Sigma Fraternity hold a debate on mobilizing biodiversity financing from unconventional sources.** The 30th Annual Open Debate discussed pressing and controversial issues of the day as well as new ideas and proposed innovative solutions to social, economic or environmental concerns. This year's debate topics include urgent and relevant environmental issues, which was the theme for the elimination round. [Learn More](#)
- **BIOFIN Philippines, Bhutan engage in south-south exchange to advance finance solutions for biodiversity conservation.** A delegation from Bhutanexchanged expereinces with the BIOFIN Philippines team as well as key government and non-government organization partners with regards to the implementation of the BIOFIN methodology. [Read More](#)
- **Rare conservation fellows celebrate Fish Forever journey.** Campaign teams from 12 local government units were recognized in a festive ceremony on September 1 to celebrate their achievements in promoting sustainable fisheries. [Learn More](#)
- **Project trainees hold PH's first assessment of endangered Napoleon wrasse fish.** Representatives of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, World Wildlife Fund - Philippines, local academic community, and the Tubbataha Management Office, including marine park rangers, whom the BMUB-commissioned Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project earlier trained on assessing the endangered Napoleon wrasse fish species, conducted the first-ever targeted assessment of the high-value fish species in the Philippines at the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and World Heritage Site.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE'S SONA 2017: Highlights on Climate Change and Environmental Protection



In his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 24, 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte addressed the administration's key agenda on prosperity, law and order, and peace under the theme– "A comfortable life for all."

Full text of President Duterte's [SONA 2017](#)

Climate Change and Food Security

The current government plans to focus on the basics of food production, developing better ways of processing raw materials, and encouraging investors to do the same. This is seen to provide better income for local farmers while improving the quality of products for consumption here and abroad. Duterte instructed relevant agencies to look into the impacts of climate change to food security in the country.

He urged the legislators to pass the National Land Use Act to ensure the rational and sustainable use of our land and other resources.

Environment and Mining

The President made it clear the protection of the environment must be made a priority. He sent a strong message to mining companies against irresponsible practices that pose harm to the environment. He warned them to rehabilitate the areas and communities affected by mining or he will raise taxes. He also advised them to declare correct income and pay right taxes.

Disaster Preparedness

Duterte also gave an order to government agencies to work on making the country more resilient against natural disasters. For this issue, he again asked the Congress to enact a law for enhanced disaster resiliency and quick disaster response.

He directed the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management to immediately work hand in hand with the concerned LGUs, the private sector and the affected communities, in undertaking disaster [resiliency] measures. #

(Photos courtesy of PCOO)

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CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster meeting in response to SONA 2017



(Photo courtesy of CCC)

In response to the pronouncements of President Rodrigo Duterte during his State of the Nation Address in July 2017, the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) convened for the second time this year on August 31. The CCAM-DRR Cluster discussed the draft roadmap of the cluster, as well as the proposed Mindanao Action Plan for ensuring water sufficiency and food security in region. The cabinet cluster also discussed the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other actions related to the SONA 2017.#

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Climate agency under new leadership

Commissioner Emmanuel de Guzman was re-appointed as the acting secretary and vice chairperson of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), serving also as the executive director of the body's Climate Change Office.

Secretary De Guzman, together with Commissioners Vernice Victorio and Noel Gaerlan, leads the agency in charge of climate change policy in the country. They are serving a fixed term as mandated by the Climate Change Act.

Before joining CCC, De Guzman was senior advisor on disaster risk reduction of the World Meteorological Organization. He was also a consultant for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with gender considerations in national policies and plans.

Secretary De Guzman led the Philippine delegation during the climate negotiations in Paris in 2015.#

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PH readies international climate reports



The Climate Change Commission held a Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on July 7, 2017 to begin finalizing the roadmap for the Philippines' Third National Communication (TNC) and first Biennial Update Report (BUR).

Hosted by the Implementation & Oversight Division of the CCC, the preparatory workshop served as notice towards the completion of the Project Identification Form (PIF), which will be submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Around 40 participants were in attendance, mostly from relevant government agencies.

They were engaged in identifying the necessary information and institutional arrangements to ensure submission of climate reports such as the TNC-BUR to be communicated to the UNFCCC in a timely manner.#

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Consultations on PH's NDC underway

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the Senate Committee on Climate Change organized a multi-stakeholder consultation forum that addressed the development of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and its sectoral targets on July 18, 2017 at the Philippine Senate.

Speaking at the forum, Senator Loren Legarda stressed the importance of taking climate action and said that the Philippines' NDC should reflect mitigation as a function of adaptation.

Legarda, Chair of the Senate Committees on Climate Change, Finance and Foreign Relations, said that pursuing a development path consistent with the 1.5°C goal would not only protect the people and the environment, but will also spur economic growth.

"The implementation of our NDC is contingent on financial support. We can tap billions from public and private funds, but we can only do so if the plans we develop are truly responsive to the scale of the impacts of the climate crisis in our communities," she added. Relevant agencies presented the potential targets in their respective sectors in relation to the country's NDC. The following sectors were represented: agriculture, waste, industry, transport, forestry, and energy.#

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Advancing Green Finance in the Philippines

The Climate Change Commission, together with the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, convened leaders of the country's finance sector to promote green financing during the High-Level Roundtable and Multi-stakeholder Forum on July 31, 2017 at the Senate of the Philippines.

Officials from the banking industry, financial institutions, civil society organizations, development partners, and the national government discussed measures and ways that the Philippines could establish a green bank and improve stakeholders'

access to local and international sources of climate finance, particularly the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The GCF is an operating entity under the UNFCCC. Officials of the South Korea-based GCF Secretariat were present during the events at the Senate to provide information about international climate finance.

Secretary De Guzman said that these discussions are part of our efforts to transition towards a green economy.

"Our NDCs will serve as our roadmap on how we intend to transition towards a green economy. It will provide convergence points where the government, private sector, academe, development partners, CSOs, and other stakeholders could collaborate in financing and implementing green initiatives. More importantly, our NDCs will provide a menu of climate change projects and programs that anyone could invest or undertake," De Guzman added.#

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(Photos courtesy of CCC)

Ongoing review and updating of the Philippine National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP)



(Photo courtesy of CCC)

By GIZ, SupportCCC II Project

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is currently spearheading the review and update of the Philippines' National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2011 - 2028.

Consultation meetings and workshops have been conducted and scheduled with relevant government agencies to agree on a common framework for the review and updating process of the NCCAP.

Agencies are tasked to submit their accomplishments from 2011-2016 related to the performance indicators identified under the NCCAP's priority areas. CCC will use gathered data to come up with a Monitoring and Evaluation Report of the five-year implementation of the NCCAP. Initial results of this undertaking are expected to be available by November 2017.

The findings will eventually serve as inputs for the plan's updating. Moreover, process goes hand in hand

with the ongoing revisiting of the INDCs to come up with the country's NDCs.

The NCCAP was developed in 2011 following the adoption of the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC) in April 2010. It outlines the country's agenda for adaptation and mitigation for 2011 to 2028. It is a comprehensive plan which addresses the challenges when it comes to climate change. More specifically it provides a roadmap to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience of communities and natural ecosystems, prioritize adaptation options to the impacts of climate change and encourage the private sector to optimize mitigation opportunities towards sustainable development. The NCCAP was developed along the seven (7) thematic priority areas, seen below.

The Support to the Philippines in Shaping and Implementing the International Climate Change Regime (SupportCCC II) Project, implemented by the CCC and GIZ, has commissioned the technical consulting agency Asian Institute for Development Studies Inc. (AIDSI) to assist CCC facilitate the process. At the same time, the SupportCCC II Project has also been providing policy and technical advisory services to the CCC and key agencies for this initiative. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) through its International Climate Initiative (IKI).#

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PRIORITIES	OUTCOMES
1. Food security	The objective of the national strategic priority on food security is to ensure availability, stability, accessibility, and affordability of safe and healthy food amidst climate change.
2. Water sufficiency	In light of climate change, however, a comprehensive review and subsequent restructuring of the entire water sector governance is required. It is important as well to assess the resilience of major water resources and infrastructures, manage supply and demand, manage water quality, and promote conservation.
3. Ecological and Environmental stability	Ecosystem resilience and environmental stability during the plan period is focused on achieving one immediate outcome: the protection and rehabilitation of critical ecosystems, and the restoration of ecological services.
4. Human security	The objective of the human security agenda is to reduce the risks of women and men to climate change and disasters.
5. Climate-friendly industries and services	NCCAP prioritizes the creation of green and eco-jobs and sustainable consumption and production. It also focuses on the development of sustainable cities and municipalities.
6. Sustainable energy	NCCAP prioritizes the promotion and expansion of energy efficiency and conservation; the development of sustainable and renewable energy; environmentally sustainable transport; and climate-proofing and rehabilitation of energy systems infrastructures.
7. Knowledge and capacity development	The priorities of the NCCAP on knowledge and capacity development are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced knowledge on the science of climate change; Enhanced capacity for climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction at the local and community level; and Established gendered climate change knowledge management accessible to all sectors at the national and local levels.

DENR as NDA for GCF sets-up procedure for rationalizing climate project proposals

By UNDP GCF Readiness Programme



PHOTOS: (L-R) a) Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change and Focal Point of the NDA for GCF, welcomes the participants during the GCF Orientation and SPT Inception Workshop. b) Assistant Secretary Evelyn Cruzada of the Office of Cabinet Secretary shares her thoughts on the GCF.

The Philippines has participated in the global initiative funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and World Resources Institute (WRI) - the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Programme. The DENR was designated as the National Designated Authority (NDA) to the GCF.

Moving forward from the recent leadership transition that took place in the DENR, the appointment on August 1, 2017 of the DENR Undersecretary for Climate Change as the Focal Point of the NDA for GCF triggered the efforts towards putting-in place a country-wide procedure and accountable institutional mechanisms for rationalizing project proposals for submission to the GCF.

With the aim of upholding a whole of government approach, informed decision-making and putting forth the national climate change priorities, the DENR, with support from UNDP Component of the GCF Readiness Programme, has embarked on the development of the Screening and Prioritization Tool for GCF. This tool is envisioned to provide guidance to the DENR as the NDA in endorsing project proposals that will help realize the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and maximize GCF as an alternative climate financing option to support climate-related projects that are expected to yield significant gains but are currently unfunded by the government.

A GCF Orientation and Screening and Prioritization Tool (SPT) Inception Workshop was held on August 17 to 18, 2017 in the Sulo Hotel, Quezon City. DENR

bureaus and attached agencies, and Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction focal persons, selected Civil Society Organization (CSO) representatives participated in the activity. The activity provided an orientation to the participants about GCF and the GCFRP. The draft SPT was also presented to the participants to secure feedback/recommendations on the said tool and its intended users.

To finalize the SPT, two clusters of consultation workshops will be undertaken on September 21, 2017 among government agencies and CSOs, and on September 22, 2017 among development partners and private sector. The SPT is targeted to be adopted, alongside with the No Objection Procedure, by October 2017. A No Objection Procedural Manual shall be developed to provide a reference material that will serve as a guide to the National Steering Committee (NSC) and Technical Working Group (TWG) for GCF. The NSC and TWG are proposed to be created through a DENR Special Order with DENR as the NDA for GCF and Chair of the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR.#

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Building sector NAMA in the Philippines



(Photo courtesy of CCC)

On August 4, 2017, the Climate Change Commission, National Housing Authority, and the Philippine Green Building Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will facilitate the development of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) for the building sector and promotion of green buildings in the country.

The MOU primarily seeks to integrate sectoral mitigation actions into our country's development plans; foster exchange of knowledge and best practices on sustainable building design and renewable energy; and build a sustainable technical support network for government agencies and relevant stakeholders on NAMAs for the building sector.

CCC Secretary Emmanuel M. De Guzman said that the MOU signifies the collective resolve of both the public and private sector to provide sustainable and climate-resilient living conditions for the Filipino people.

“This is one convergence that is worth undertaking for our building sector, which has an oversized environmental footprint. More than 30 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to buildings, and these emissions could double by 2050 if we carry on with business-as-usual,” De Guzman said.

According to the UNFCCC, NAMAs refer to any action that reduces emissions in developing countries and is prepared under the umbrella of a national governmental initiative. They can be policies directed at transformational change within an economic sector, or actions across sectors for a broader national focus.

NAMAs are supported and enabled by technology, financing, and capacity-building and are aimed at achieving a reduction in emissions relative to 'business as usual' emissions in 2020.#

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used to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation in key LGU plans.

The initiative targets to train faculties from state universities and colleges, learning research institutions, provincial disaster risk reduction and management offices, and regional offices of DENR and PAGASA.

The newly trained LCCAP trainers and coaches are expected to guide, train and backstop planning and technical staff of LGUs nationwide in formulating or updating their LCCAPs as required under the Climate Change Act of 2009.

This initiative is supported by the Vertical Integration and Learning for Low Emission Development (VLED) Project which is implemented by UN-Habitat, in partnership with adelphi Research, and with support from the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (IKI-BMUB).#

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Forging partnership to build capacity of LGUs on local climate change action planning



Dir. Marivel Sacendoncillo of DILG-LGA and Sec. Emmanuel De Guzman of CCC sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen efforts of their respective agencies for the roll-out of the LCCAP training in the different regions of the country.

The Climate Change Commission and the Local Government Academy (LGA)-Department of Interior and Local Government signed a memorandum of understanding on July 25, 2017 to prepare trainers and coaches to help local governments across the Philippines on local climate change action planning.

The training program has been tailored to deepen participants' knowledge on the nine-step LCCAP formulation process and on how such process can be

PSF updates: new secretariat, two additional LGU projects approved

The People's Survival Fund (PSF) Board convened two times in July 2017 under the leadership of the Department of Finance (DOF). These meetings are the first ones this year engaging the members of the Board in key policy discussions relevant to the fund operations.

Among the most recent decisions of the Board was the change of Secretariat, from the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to the DOF bringing in the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). The Fund Secretariat is tasked to facilitate the project proposals submitted by proponents, coordinate the project evaluation, and disseminate information and updates on the PSF, among others.

The PSF Board also recently approved two projects from Gerona, Tarlac and San Francisco, Camotes Island, Cebu. In total, the Board has approved four projects since the first project call in 2016. While there is high demand for funding, the PSF remains challenged by the requirements of putting forward sound climate change adaptation projects.

One of CCC's response is to develop standardized information and training materials on the PSF, together with development partners, including GIZ. A number of pilot rollouts were conducted using the draft modules to solicit feedback and further enhance the content and delivery of the training.



CCC Commissioner Noel Antonio V. Gaerlan opens the two-day PSF Module Simulation Training in Clark, Pampanga where participants reviewed and tested the modules developed to raise awareness on the fund, build capacity of proponents and technical partners, and guide the development of project proposals to access the Fund.

The PSF is a national adaptation fund of the Philippines, the first of its kind. The fund is open to local government units and local community organizations for climate change adaptation projects. The PSF issues call for proposals twice a year, in April-May and October-November.#

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Philippines pioneers catastrophe risk insurance

The Philippines as an archipelagic state is hit by extreme weather events, like tropical cyclones numerous times a year. Current climate trends show that these will likely to increase. Communities and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. For the country to be more climate resilient, the Philippines recently launched a catastrophe risk insurance program for national and local government agencies in August 2017.

This program will provide coverage for national assets in 25 provinces against losses from typhoons and earthquakes, which are estimated to cost the country US\$3.5 billion per year. Insurance payouts are made when pre-defined parametric triggers are met. It further contributes to the country's national disaster risk finance strategy by supporting the Philippines in responding to the impacts of severe natural disasters.

"It demonstrates the global leadership of the country in developing innovative financial solutions to mitigate the financial impacts of extreme climate and weather related events, as well as major earthquakes." (World Bank Country Director).

The program builds on a multi-year partnership with the World Bank, which has included the preparation of a catastrophe risk model and a national disaster risk finance strategy by the Department of Finance. Under the program, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), a government-owned insurance agency, provides the government and the 25 participating provinces with catastrophe risk insurance. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development acts as an intermediary to transfer GSIS's risk to a panel of international reinsurers which were selected through a competitive bidding process.

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Flood damage in Manila, Philippines 2012. Photo: AusAID

International Climate Initiative (IKI) Calls for the 2018 Cycle of Support

The selection process for IKI Funding is now [online!](#)

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) selects projects for IKI funding on the basis of ideas competitions that are generally announced once a year. Overall the IKI aims to support measures that are essential for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). One priority therefore is to help partner countries to achieve the Aichi Targets, another to contribute to climate actions under the Paris Agreement.

For 2018 the IKI is primarily looking for regional or national proposals, as joint programs, that implement overall programmatic approaches with a volume of generally 15-20 Mio Euro. Bilateral support will only be received by the IKI priority countries where specific funding information applies. Among them probably South Africa, Mexico, Philippines, Costa Rica, Brazil and possibly other countries which will be handled through additional IKI calls. [More funding Information](#)

Funding under IKI is intended for a variety of applicants, like federal implementing agencies, NGOs, business enterprises, universities and research institutes, international and multinational organizations and institutions among others.

The selection process consists of two stages. For the first stage, coherent project outlines need to be submitted in English through the [online platform](#) using the corresponding user interface on the IKI website.

BMUB will then evaluate all complete project outlines based on foreign and development policy criteria as well as available funds. The Deadline for submission is October 12, 2017. Project outlines submitted after this deadline or not using the appropriate channel or format will not be considered in the further stages of the selection procedure.

In the second stage the lead executing organizations of promising project outlines receive a written invitation to present a formal project proposal and, immediately after that, can request funding for preparing the project, for instance for studies, appraisal missions, or planning workshops with partner institutions. As a rule, decisions on applications for this will be made within one month from the date on which the complete documents required for the decision were submitted. Lead organizations then have eight months to submit their project proposal.

BMUB will subsequently evaluate this detailed project proposal according to appropriate requirements, like

monitoring and safeguards and templates and announce its completion.

For the first time IKI also provided [Webinars](#) on the current selection procedures. Click images below for the specific topic of interest.



UPDATES FROM ONGOING IKI PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Sustaining German-Philippine cooperation on climate protection and biodiversity conservation

By GIZ, SupportCCC II Project

In April 2017, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) announced that the Philippines will remain a focus country of Germany's bilateral assistance in the common fight against climate change and for the preservation of biodiversity through the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

Ms. Barbara Schäfer, Deputy Head of BMUB's International Climate Finance Division, who visited the Philippines in April to meet with key government partners, communicated that BMUB is planning to commit up to 35 million Euro of bilateral support to the country. This time BMUB is pursuing a programmatic approach instead of commissioning individual projects.

In line with this pronouncement from BMUB, the Philippines is now gearing up for the next round of IKI country pledge with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) taking the lead.

CCC had organized a series of consultation meetings and workshops that gathered key sectoral government agencies from July to August to develop a programmatic proposal that contains the country's priorities for this year's IKI country pledge.

In developing the program proposal, the Philippines is guided by a whole-of-government approach to ensure engagement of as many relevant stakeholders as possible, including national government agencies, local government units, civil society and private sector. It has been aligned with the current Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 and the National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028.

Moreover, the IKI portfolio under development will have a strong focus on the Philippines' Post-Paris Agreement priorities and its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) as the guiding principle as well as the national implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011 – 2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Philippine government is finalized the concept note of the IKI program, which it formally communicated to BMUB at the end of September.

Since 2008, BMUB has been supporting technical cooperation projects in the country under the IKI, totaling more than 62 million Euro in bilateral funding for 16 projects that are completed, ongoing or in the pipeline. These projects are aimed at supporting Philippine institutions and communities, and creating a more enabling policy environment. In addition, 46

global and regional projects that are completed, ongoing or in the pipeline include components operating in the Philippines.

The BMUB IKI-funded *Support to the Philippines in Shaping and Implementing the International Climate Change Regime* (SupportCCC II) Project, implemented by GIZ, has been providing technical and policy advisory services to the CCC and other key government agencies. The Project also serves as BMUB's interface project tasked to organize regular networking and knowledge exchange sessions among IKI implementing organizations for a strengthened cooperation in the Philippines.#



Three rounds of consultation meetings and workshops spearheaded by the CCC and the Office of the Cabinet Secretary with relevant government agencies to develop the Philippine program for the next round of IKI country pledge. (Top- Bottom) 1) July 6; 2) July 25; and 3) August 11.



Mitigation Efforts

Building on capacities and lessons learned for enhanced transparency and climate reporting in the Philippines:

Information Matters Summary Workshop and Closing Event

By GIZ, SupportCCC II Project



To wrap up the activities of the [Information Matters Project](#) that were carried out in the Philippines from September 2013 – August 2017, a Project Closing Mission was conducted from August 29 – 31, 2017. This mission paved the way for the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the participating sectoral lead and national government agencies to evaluate how the technical capacity needs were addressed. These needs derived from a gap analysis conducted in 2013 which provided the baseline for evaluating the variety of capacity development missions, focus group discussions and technical backstopping activities conducted within the Project timeline. The mission further provided inputs on the next steps towards sustainable climate reporting in the Philippines, building on capacities and knowledge built from the Project.

During the Summary Workshop and Closing Event, jointly organized by the CCC and GIZ on August 31, representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Transportation shared their appreciation of the Project. They value the impact of the Project supporting the set-up of measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems and databases, the compilation and improvement of GHG inventories, and the development of baseline scenarios for their sectors.

The CCC noted the significance of the IM Project in enhancing capacities of the agencies on climate reporting, assisting the delivery of the CCC's mandate to facilitate capacity development for agencies on climate action. The relevance of the project design and delivery of capacity development activities responding to the priority capacity development needs as identified by the agencies was further highlighted. Moving forward and applying the knowledge gained through this project, the sectors and the CCC are confident to submit good quality climate reports to the UNFCCC.



Ceremonial turning over of knowledge products from the IM Project to support sustainable climate reporting in the Philippines. (Photo courtesy of CCC)

The Event also provided a platform to showcase the various knowledge products developed by the Information Matters Project to support the set-up of MRV systems and BUR process as well as Primers on MRV, Baselines, and Climate-relevant Data Management jointly elaborated by the Project and the CCC. All these documents were officially received by Sec. Emmanuel de Guzman, Acting-Secretary and Executive Director of the CCC and its Climate Change Office (CCO) and Ms. Sandee Recabar, Division Chief of the Implementation Oversight Division of the CCC-CCO and the Project focal person in the CCC.

Participants included representatives from agencies in charge of mitigation and GHG inventories for the sectors Agriculture, Waste, Industry, Transport, Forestry, and Energy who were involved in the Project activities as well as the GIZ Projects Transport and Climate Change (TCC), Towards Climate-friendly Technologies and Measures (TRANSfer), and Forest and Climate Protection in Panay (ForClim II) and the USAID Project Building Low Emission Alternatives to Develop Economic Resilience and Sustainability (B-LEADERS).

[Read More](#)

IM Project trains government partners on GHG inventory for AFOLU Sector

By GIZ, SupportCCC II Project

The Information Matters Project, jointly implemented by the Climate Change Commission in and the GIZ, organized an orientation-workshop on IPCC 2006 Guidelines & Software for Greenhouse Gas Inventories for AFOLU the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector from August 24-25, 2017 to enhance capacities of government agencies in preparing and reporting GHG inventories.

The 2006 IPCC Software was specifically used and tested during the activity so that participants' familiarity with the Agriculture and Land Use National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (ALU) Software increased. Technical staff involved in collecting sectoral activity data and GHG inventories for AFOLU from the Department of Agriculture, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Philippine Statistics Authority, and



Department of Environment and Natural Resources participated in the two day training workshop. Dr. Florencia Pulhin, an expert on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and Software from the Forestry Development Center, University of the Philippines-Los Baños – College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB-CFNR) shared her technical expertise as the trainer for the activity.

Towards the end of the workshop, the participants expressed their appreciation for the activity and highlighted the need to strengthen access to data and coordination among national government agencies on data sharing towards the preparation of inventories for AFOLU as well as decide on which tool to use.

[Read More](#)

Contributing to “Caring for All Life under the Sun”

By GIZ SupportCCC II Project



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol with the theme “Caring for All Life Under the Sun”, as well as the annual International Day of the Protection of the Ozone Layer last September 16, 2017.

This year, DENR introduced the Kigali amendments to the Montreal Protocol on phasing down Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) which are potent greenhouse gases (GHG) with high global warming potential (GWP) to the public. They also highlighted the adoption of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent as the unit of measure in reporting HFCs and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

In support of this anticipated shift in reporting towards CO₂ equivalent of HFCs, the Cool Contributions fighting Climate Change (C4) project mission organized focus group discussions about the greater understanding of potential emissions measured under the Montreal Protocol and the actual emissions that will form part of the GHG inventory in climate reporting for the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



Discussing low carbon development potential of refrigeration and air conditioning with CCC Sec. Emmanuel M. De Guzman.

The C4 mission also provided the proposed higher tier methodology for measuring emissions from the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) sector. This approach also covers the emissions from the energy consumption of the identified RAC appliance or system identified in the inventory. The higher tier GHG inventory in the sector is essential to establish the business-as-usual (BAU) scenario that will serve as a baseline for projecting the mitigation strategy that will optimize GHG emission reductions and create greater low carbon development opportunities in the sector.

HCFCs are the last remaining industrial gases used as refrigerants that have Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) and at the same time contributes to global warming due to its high GWP.

[Read More](#)

Kick-off workshop on RAC standards review in the Philippines

By GIZ, SupportCCC II

The Ad Hoc Technical Working Group, under the Technical Committee on Household Cooking and Heating Appliances (BPS TC 23/30), was formed to review applicable standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electro-technical Commission (IEC) for the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector in order to identify feasible mitigation options.

The results of this review process will be useful in developing the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and preparing the industry for the ratification of the Kigali amendments of the Montreal Protocol.

The BMUB IKI funded Cool Contributions fighting Climate Change (C4) project is providing technical and policy advisory to the Philippines government, through the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR) and the Department of Energy (DOE), for the adoption of applicable international standards related to RAC equipment and systems.

The first of a series of meetings and workshops on RAC standards was conducted from August 17-18, 2017 in Subic. Technical staff from regulatory agencies participated in said activity, representing the DENR-EMB Philippine Ozone Desk, the DOE's Energy Research and Testing Laboratory and the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Philippines Standards (DTI-BPS).

As a result of the technical discussions, the adoption of ISO 817:2014 on *Refrigerants Designation and safety classification* as Philippine National Standard was agreed. The ISO 5149-1 on *Refrigerating systems and heat pumps – Safety and environmental requirements* will also initially adopted subject to further clarifications.

The BPS TC 23/30 is also composed of other RAC industry stakeholders including businesses like Panasonic, Hitachi, Concepcion Carrier, Koppel, Samsung, Haier, Electrolux, Kolin; testing laboratory TÜV Rheinland; and professional organization Integrated Institute of Electrical Engineers.#



(Top) Ad Hoc Technical Working Group members of BPS TC 23/30 during their first meeting and workshop in Subic in August 2017. (Bottom) Ms. Bellrose Buraga of the Philippine Ozone Desk of DENR-EMB presented the timelines of how the Philippines achieved compliance to the Montreal Protocol

Green Banking project successfully launches Green Finance Specialist Programme in India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam

By RENAC



In the framework of the capacity building project [Green Banking](#), RENAC is offering the [Green Finance Specialist Programme \(GFS\)](#) for professionals from India, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. [GFS](#) is a combination of a 20-week online training and a 3-day face-to-face (F2F) seminar on green energy and climate finance. The [Green Finance Specialist Programme](#) started on the 26th of June 2017 with more than 125 participants. This blended-learning programme, which is in the process of gaining accreditation from the [Finance Accreditation Agency \(FAA\)](#), will end in November 2017 when the respective F2F trainings will take place in the five partner countries.

For further information on Green Banking, please visit the [Green Banking Website](#).

WWF-Philippines promotes Sustainable Consumption and Production through “The Sustainable Diner: A Key Ingredient of Sustainable Tourism”

By WWF Philippines

Sustainable consumption and production has always been an integral part of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines’ conservation programmes as evidenced by local implementation of projects centered on sustainable agriculture and sustainable fisheries.

In order to close the consumer loop, WWF-Philippines will be launching The Sustainable Diner project through an inception workshop at Seda Vertis North on September 26, 2017. The Sustainable Diner focuses on the role of the food service industry and the dining public in ensuring that sustainability is taken into consideration throughout the value chain.

The food service industry accounts for a substantial share of local consumption and production as dining out is fast becoming a part of the Filipino’s daily habit. In fact, spending on restaurants and hotels is the second highest in terms of consumption expenditure

growth, which indicates a growing culture of out-of-home consumption. Due to economic growth and increased income, Filipinos are now more willing to spend on higher value goods and services, such as better quality meals, ready-to-eat food delivery services, and new restaurant trends.

“With The Sustainable Diner project, WWF-Philippines hopes to help lessen food wastage and contribute to the improvement of the implementation of sustainable consumption and production processes in the food service industry”, says Joel Palma, President and CEO of WWF-Philippines. “This can be achieved by engaging with three key stakeholders: the government, local food service businesses, and of course the Filipino dining public.”

Filipino cuisine has been highlighted as one of the top reasons for visiting the country. It has also been recognized as a rising consumer trend. Because of these, the local dining industry has become a key component of our burgeoning tourism industry. The tourism sector is seen to grow by 7.6% this year, and this gives us an opportunity to champion sustainable dining as a key driver of achieving balance between the socio-economic growth of the country as well as the protection of our natural resources and food security.

By integrating sustainable consumption and production principles into national and local policies, as well as in business practices and consumer top-of-mind behavior, WWF-Philippines believes that together, it is possible to reduce food wastage, further stimulate economic growth, and protect the resources that ensure food security in the country.



The Sustainable Diner project promotes sustainability throughout the food service value chain: from sourcing and preparation, to consumption and waste management. Photo by: Ben Beringuela

About SCP and The Sustainable Diner

The Sustainable Diner project of WWF-Philippines aims to contribute to improving the implementation of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and lessening food wastage in the country. WWF-Philippines wants to engage the government, food service businesses, and consumers so they will

support sustainable dining practices and help make the Philippines' food service industry more environmentally friendly.

The Sustainable Diner project, under Sustainable Consumption and Production, is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

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Advance SCP conducts Innovative Instruments and Incentives Workshop

By GIZ Advance SCP

The Advancing and Measuring Sustainable Consumption and Production for a Low-Carbon Economy in Middle-Income and Newly Industrialized Countries (Advance SCP) project conducted a Regional Workshop on Innovative Instruments and Incentives for the Promotion of Climate Friendly Products in the Market on 5-7 July 2017 in Pattaya City, Thailand with following objectives:

- To provide knowledge on innovative instruments and incentives to promote ecolabelling and green products
- To discuss concepts, approaches, and best practices in European countries
- To develop incentive concepts from different perspectives (Government/Business, Government/End consumer, Business/End consumer); and
- To develop implementation plans for piloting their selected incentive.



A total of twenty-seven (27) participants from government agencies, manufacturer associations, and eco-labelling program implementers from the project's target countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) actively participated in the workshop. Technical input was provided by Mr Siddharth Prakash and Mr Tobias Schleicher, experts from Oeko Institut e.V. The participating countries were also able to share and discuss their existing incentive schemes and their experiences in implementation.

As output of the workshop, each participating country conceptualized two (2) incentive programmes. These are as follows:

Country	Incentive Programmes
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial incentive for development of wood pellet industry* • Financial Incentive for Encouraging utilization of solar energy
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “myRelamp” - Conventional Bulb Replacement Programme - • “mySECCI” - Sustainable Energy Efficient Construction Initiative
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Homes Design (GHD) Incentive • Take-back Incentive System for Eco-labelled Products
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing GPP by collaboration between government and manufacturers • Special discount for Green Products*

** selected incentive for development of draft implementation plan for piloting*

Through prioritization based on their selected criteria, each country selected one concept for piloting. Implementation plans were developed for the selected concepts. The project is currently discussing and planning for the piloting of selected incentive concepts.

ICLEI implements IKI-supported project on low-carbon urban development in three Southeast Asian countries

By ICLEI

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability spearheads the “Ambitious City Promises: Commitments for low-carbon urban development in Southeast Asian large cities.” The project supports selected cities in Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam in achieving ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets and contribute to their country's nationally determined contribution (NDC). Running from January 2017 to June 2020, it is funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

The project aims to assist cities in developing and implementing an ambitious mitigation plan dubbed

“City Promise.” Anchored strongly on stakeholder engagement, it intends to make local climate initiatives more participatory. Under the project, three model cities (one per country) are selected. Selected cities will encourage local stakeholders to pledge support, engage in project activities, and take an active role in fulfilling the city’s action plans especially those concerning low carbon urban development. Two observer cities per country are identified and expected to benefit from capacity building and peer-to-peer learning.

Pasig City serves as model city in the Philippines. Home to at least 755,000 people (2015), the city is marked for its rapid urbanization and commercialization; evidenced by its robust commercial, industrial, and residential hubs. The cities of Marikina and Parañaque are satellite cities.

In Indonesia, the model city is DKI Jakarta. At least 10 million people reside in this metropolitan area (2013) creating high demand for energy and consequently, increasing the city’s GHG emission. Jakarta committed to reduce its GHG emissions by at least 30% by 2030. Observer cities are being finalized.

The capital city of Hanoi is Vietnam’s model city. Although only second largest in terms of population (behind Ho Chi Minh), Hanoi is the center of business, culture, technology, education and acknowledged as one of the most peaceful cities in Asia. The city’s economy, which has grown rapidly over the past decades, accounts for around 13% of Vietnam’s GDP. Soc Son and Son Tay are considered satellite cities.

Participating cities will receive technical guidance from ICLEI and the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG). In 2015, SMG released the [Promise of Seoul](#), which outlines the city’s pledges to take actions against climate change. The Ambitious City Promises project will be formally launched in Seoul, Korea on October 19 in conjunction with the Seoul Mayors Forum on Climate Change.



Considered one of the most economically dynamic cities in the Philippines, Pasig City is a residential, industrial and commercial hub. Pasig is one of the model cities under the IKI-funded Ambitious City Promises project. (Photo: Pasig Morning Glow by Yacine Petitprez, [source](#))



National PUV Modernization Program Launched in the Philippines

By GIZ, TRANSfer II Project

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) launched the Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) modernization program with the signing of Department Secretary Arthur Tugade and OIC Catalino Uy of the Omnibus Franchising Guidelines (OFG) as the major component of the program on June 19 in Quezon City. Closely supported by GIZ-TRANSfer, the program aims to set the transportation of the Philippines towards sustainability and safety for the citizens and the environment. This is directed towards safe and comfortable transport, predictable travel time, positive change of behavior for the drivers and commuters, and efficient fare system.

The program is a collaboration of DOTr, and its attached agencies - Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Office of the Transport Cooperatives (OTC), and the Local Government units (LGUs). The following agencies are also expected to be crucial in the implementation of the program: Department of Finance (DOF) and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for financing; and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for regulation and necessary implementation; Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for local manufacturers preference for the vehicles and parts; and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for alternative livelihood scheme in the transition.

The head of agencies that participated in the launch were: Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, LTFRB Chairman Martin Delgra, MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim, DBM Secretary Benjamin Diokno, and DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez. Other financial partners--Landbank and Development Bank of the Philippines, representatives from various transport groups, the academe, and supporting international organizations with GIZ at the forefront --have also shown their support in the program launch.

The modernization of public transportation in the Philippines is set to meet the safety, energy efficiency, and emission standards. With the massive transition among all sectors, Sec. Tugade told reporters in the after event press conference, "I'm appealing for the cooperation and support of the riding public, operators and drivers on this initiative of the government to ensure a safe and modern public transport in the country."#

GIZ-TRANSfer Facilitates Strategic Planning Workshop for PH PUV Modernization

By GIZ, TRANSfer II Project

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) conducted its Strategic Planning Workshop for the PUV Modernization among the Road Sector with high ranking officials and staff of DOTr, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), and Office of Transportation Cooperatives (OTC) to identify issues, policy directions, roadmap (timeline and budget), and Public Utility Vehicle Management, Project Management Office (PUVM PMO) organization structure in Davao City from August 10-12.

After the PUV Modernization Launch last June 19, 2017--the said strategic planning is a crucial step towards the implementation of the program. The three-day strategic planning was facilitated by GIZ-TRANSfer Project Manager (PH) and Senior Advisor Melissa Elsa Cruz, assisted by Senior Advisor Dr. Danielle Guillen and Intern Kriztia Torayno.

Undersecretary for Road and Infrastructure Thomas Orbos opened the meeting and stated the importance of the output and plans of the workshop for the PUV Modernization. The main beneficiaries of the program, he stated, should be the commuters themselves.

The meeting concluded with increased commitments for the success of the PUV modernization from the DOTr and its attached agencies. Collaborative efforts were elaborated between the DOTr, LTO, LTFRB, and OTC further strengthened by the commitments from Undersecretary Thomas Orbos, Asst. Secretary Mark Richmond de Leon LTFRB Chairman Martin Delgra,

LTFRB Board Member Lizada, and OTC Chairman Emmanuel C. Virtucio.

LTFRB Board Member Aileen Lizada closed the meeting with hopes for a stronger coordination towards realizing the PUV modernization program for the welfare of the commuting public and of drivers and operators for better and sustainable transport mobility.



Usec. for Road Transport and Infrastructure, Thomas Orbos (right) leads the discussion with the DOTr team for their strategic planning with Asec. for Road and Infrastructure, Mark de Leon (left)

GIZ TRANSfer - workshop on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in Public Transport and Public Transport Industry Consolidation with the Department of Transportation (DOTr)

By GIZ, TRANSfer II Project

In line with the ongoing assistance of the GIZ TRANSfer project in the context of the Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), GIZ organized a workshop on *Public Transport Industry Consolidation and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)* last August 3, 2017 in Pasig City. The participants from the DOTr and its attached agencies were provided with technical inputs on key performance indicators (KPI) and consolidation strategies in public transport. Discussions also centered around fare restructuring of public transport services.

Undersecretary Anneli Lontoc opened and contextualized the workshop by providing guiding remarks on the overall objectives of the DOTr and the Government towards a more sustainable public transport system in the Philippines. Dr. Christian Mettke of GIZ introduced the workshop with an overview of GIZ experiences and international lessons learnt in the context of public transport reforms, highlighting the need to consolidate public transport industries and to develop a regulatory framework that aligns operators' incentives with policy objectives.

In the following, Robin Kaenzig, transport economist and project consultant of GIZ, provided guiding input on consolidation strategies and key performance indicators, backed by different case studies. The discussion was focusing on strategic elements but also technical details of KPIs or consolidation strategies but also fare structures.

The workshop was closed by Assistant Secretary Mark De Leon, who reiterated the need to define the KPIs for transport, the continued assistance needed by the DOTr, as well as the urgency of the task ahead for the DOTr. He remained hopeful for the future of the PUV Modernization in the Philippines and expressed his gratitude for the assistance of GIZ in this endeavor.



Participants of the Public Transport Service Performance Workshop held at Discovery Suites Ortigas.



Undersecretary Anneli Lontoc, opened the meeting, encouraging all the participants to “maximize the presence of [the] experts”.



Robin Kaenzig, project consultant of GIZ TRANSfer Project



Adaptation to the impacts of Climate Change



The mayors of the five partner cities signed the Declaration of Commitment. Seated from left to right: Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal, Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno, Angeles City Mayor and League of Cities of the Philippines President Edgardo Pamintuan, Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon and Ormoc City Mayor Richard Gomez. Partners who expressed their support (at the back) included Climate Change Commission Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman and officers and staff from the HLURB, DILG, LCP and UN-Habitat

Five cities commit to build their climate resilience through urban plans and designs

By UN-Habitat

The convergence of climate change and rapid urbanization is a key development challenge Philippine cities face today. Considering this urgent development issue and the vulnerabilities of towns and cities, the Philippine government sees the need to strengthen the capacities of cities and urban centers to increase their resilience to climate change impacts and achieve sustainable development and improved quality of urban living.

To demonstrate and build knowledge on innovative urban adaptation designs that could boost climate resilience, the “Building Climate Resiliency through Urban Plans and Designs” project partnered with five cities, namely, Angeles, Legazpi, Ormoc, Cagayan de Oro and Tagum. Legazpi City Mayor Noel Rosal acknowledged, “I agree that climate change is a development issue and also a continuing learning experience.” Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan of Angeles City, stressed that “while we have a lot to share with our partners, there is certainly a lot more to learn in return and this is where our enthusiasm in this project is anchored.”

In the signing ceremony held last 24 August 2017 in Makati City, Philippines, mayors of the five cities declared their support to implement the project, ensure the participation of their respective stakeholders and vulnerable communities, collaborate with and complement efforts of the national government in enhancing policies and programs to address the causes and effects of climate change and urbanization, enrich knowledge sharing, and take the lead in pursuing local actions promoting climate resilient urban adaptation plans and designs.

In outlining the project framework, UN-Habitat Country Programme Manager Cris Rollo welcomed the mayors as key partners of the project with important roles in achieving project results. Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno acknowledged the challenge to the 5 partner cities, selected from an initial list of 71 cities, to be the urban laboratory of innovative approaches and committed the city to work and deliver results.



Director Nora Diaz of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) discussing how the project can enhance the existing Comprehensive Land Use Planning (CLUP) Guidelines particularly on urban design.

Secretary Emmanuel de Guzman of the Climate Change Commission (CCC), Director Anna Bonagua of the Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Commissioner Melzar Galicia of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) and Deputy Director Veronica Hitois of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) witnessed the signing and expressed support to the project.

Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon echoed the messages of the partners saying “May this project improve our knowledge and equip us with the right tools to plan wisely and develop the city to implement sustainable urban development plans and designs as this is our declaration of commitment, and we commit. We are looking forward for a fruitful partnership with you and I shall declare this is another TAGUMpay (success) for Tagum City.”



A work planning workshop with the technical staff of the partner cities and the Regional Directors of the HLURB fleshed out initial plans for the project at the city level.

The “Building Climate Resiliency through Urban Plans and Designs” project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

2nd International Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Community of Practice Workshop - Impressions & Takeaways



By GIZ, SupportCCC II Project

On 21-24 August 2017 in Bangkok, and 25-27 August 2017 in Hua Hin, Thailand four members of the Philippine EbA Community of Practice participated in the 2nd International EbA Community of Practice Workshop, organized by the global BMUB-IKI funded project Mainstreaming EbA. The Philippine delegation actively shared what the *EbA Mainstreaming in the Philippines* has gained for the past 17 months of project implementation while also cognizant of knowing and learning from other country experiences.

Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) as a nature-based solution is a promising approach to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. It is a cross-sectoral response to many challenges and is therefore addressing a multitude of international commitments and targets including the SDGs, UNFCCC Paris Agreement & NDCs, UNISDR Sendai Framework for DRR and CBD Aichi Targets. However, very little consolidated experience and few suitable methodological approaches for strengthening EbA in policy, planning and implementation at international, regional and national level is available. Furthermore, additional evidence on the benefits and co-benefits of EbA measures is needed.

Therefore the main objectives of the 2nd international EbA Community of Practice workshop in Thailand were to share concrete experiences and results from national and international partners on EbA mainstreaming, including promising entry points for strengthening EbA within policy frameworks, institutions and governance structures, options for financing EbA measures and providing evidence on EbA effectiveness and success stories. Additionally a stocktaking of the knowledge exchange under the global network of EbA practitioners (community of practice) during the last year was conducted common joint interests and targets defined.

Two different Training sessions, each one including a full-day field trip to Sirindhorn Environmental Park-Hua Hin, Thailand was part of the event followed by parallel Training courses on Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Adaptation into development planning and on Valuation of ecosystem services in an EbA context.



Actual visit in a waste water treatment plant, Mangrove Park

Each of the Philippines delegate were assigned specific topics for the sharing sessions: Mr. Magalang provided the overview and the gains of the EbA Community of Practice; Dr. Perez was country sharer on national climate change financing; Mrs. Bandojo shared EbA mainstreaming into the Comprehensive Land Use Plan 12-step process while Mr. Ragub shared the EbA link of national and sub-national planning. Furthermore an Open Space was organized where they shared various Knowledge products including an exhibition on EbA Mainstreaming in the Philippines.



Albert, Elizabeth and Jay-ar taking turns in explain EbA Mainstreaming in the Philippines during the Open space

These partners look back at the 2nd EbA International Community of Practice with valuable insights:

“The workshop was an opportunity to exchange country experiences on EbA and related activities. Learning good practices in other places makes one wonder how can this be applied in the context of local situations. The presentations are succinct and interesting enough. I particularly was eager to know how to assess the success and effectiveness of EbA measures and how are these valued. I hope to pursue this further.” (Dr. Rosa Perez representing CCC-National Panel of Technical Experts).

“Within the Philippine context, the workshop provided an avenue to assess the current EbA mainstreaming and proceed to actual implementation anchored on the current administration’s development agenda as one of the foundation strategy for the medium-term geared towards attaining the Philippine Long Term Vision (LTV) 2040. Moreover, the one and a half-day orientation on EbA valuation techniques provided an eye-opener to different valuation techniques of the ecosystems services. A more hands-on training on actual valuation using local examples is highly recommended.” (Jay-Ar Ragub from the National Economic and Development Authority of the Eastern Visayas Region).

“It was a successful gathering of members of the EbA CoP where knowledge and lessons on EbA mainstreaming were shared. As a privileged member of the CoP, I have personally gained additional know-how and techniques on the effective mainstreaming of EbA concept into national plans and programs. I have learned that a successful EbA mainstreaming would necessitate the determination of the benefits and costs of EbA-related undertakings. These benefits can be demonstrated by undertaking EbA valuation on the ground and by gathering evidence from project sites which I think should be focused on in shaping the way forward for EbA mainstreaming efforts [...]” (Albert Magalang representing the EbA Community of Practice in the PHL).

[Read More](#)

Community of Practice - Sharing Practical Experiences and Generating Results on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)

By GIZ, SupportCCC II Project

Members of the Philippines EbA Community of Practice (CoP) underwent an EbA Orientation as well as a formal EbA Training of Trainers already in April 2017. This was jointly organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the global BMUB-IKI funded project “Mainstreaming EbA – Strengthening ecosystem-based adaptation in planning and decision-making processes” implemented by GIZ.

From these two major capacity developing activities, the CoP further undertook the “EbA in the People Survival Fund (PSF) Orientation Series” that yielded 44 EbA project ideas from 9 regions. The project proposal of South Cotabato, Mindanao has been formally submitted to the Climate Change Commission for review and submission to the PSF Board. Their collaboration with the River Basin Control Office of the DENR resulted to the action plan to integrate EbA in the updating and/or finalization of River Basin Master Plans. To date, field level implementers report that they are pursuing EbA measures as part of their regular activities in the river basins/watersheds/sub-watersheds.



PSF Orientation Workshop & Training of Trainers

The Community of Practice further implemented the EbA Facilitators Courses in regional clusters, starting with the Mindanao cluster in July, the Visayas cluster in early August and the Luzon cluster in late August. The EbA Regional Facilitators reported that they have initiated the dialogue and the actual designing and implementation of EbA awareness raising activities for local governments and communities in their respective regions. This is an evidence that the prosperous collaborations between DENR, academic institutions and non-government organizations in advocating EbA is taking shape also at the sub-national level.

In 2016, the CoP for example involved themselves in the Science and Policy Forum, focused on lake ecosystems. This year, three national conferences focused on biodiversity, environmental science and waste management. The 2nd International Conference on Environmental Science held at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna provided the opportunity to share the results of the EbA Stocktaking in the terrestrial ecosystems of selected sites in Southern Leyte Province. Dr. Rosa Perez, member of the Climate Change Commission - National Panel of Technical Experts presented the Study. The presentation was complemented by Mr. Albert Magalang, Chief of the Climate Change Division of the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR who emphasized the use of evidence-based EbA measures in implementing the DENR’s strategy for environmental safety and ecological integrity.

The EbA CoP sharing also includes exhibits and presentations in national and international conferences to established contacts with non-government organizations to also getting involved in EbA Mainstreaming in the Philippines. This is work-in-progress with ongoing interactions between the Tebtebba NGO and the EbA Community Phl. More opportunities for collaborations is seen in the future with the Philippine Environmental Engineers Society and at the upcoming Climate Change Consciousness event in November that will gather more EbA advocates in the country and identify champions for nature solutions and green infrastructure as measures to adapt to climate change.

What are the benefits and costs of Ecosystem-based Adaptation – EbA Valuation Training

By GIZ, SupportCCC II

After the fruitful gathering at the 2nd International Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Community of Practices in Thailand the Philippines through the global *EbA Mainstreaming project* organized a one-week EbA Valuation Training from 18 -23 September including a practical learning session using Manila Bay as a case study.

This is in line with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENRs) commitment for the inclusion of EbA concept that will address ecosystems resilience and ecological integrity as part of the national adaptation strategy, which is being updated.

The Training included sessions on valuing EbA benefits and costs, making it comparable with that of grey or hard infrastructures; How valuation has been used in actual decision-making contexts in the Philippines; Saved wealth/ saved health valuation approach; an interactive learning and application; and EbA stocktaking methodology and results.



Opening of the week-long EbA Valuation Training

Demystify valuations of EbA measures and assist in contextualizing it within real-world adaptation planning and decision-making were among the overall expected outputs of the training. Raising awareness and provide a basic understanding of why and how to use valuation methods of EbA measures for adaptation policy planning was another focus.

Among the participants who evaluated the training as “*highly useful, knowledge gaining and decisive for the development of the country’s adaptation and mitigation strategies*” were representatives from DENRs Forest and Biodiversity Management Bureau as well as the Climate Change Division, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Aksyon Kalikasan, River basin Control Office and Visayas State University.

It is crucial to use the results of undertaking ecosystem valuations in order to help demonstrate evidence-based EbA measures with potentials for scaling up such that every awareness-raising and learning activity that the EbA Community of Practice will undertake has the aspects of direct and co-benefits of the EbA priority options.

Enhanced access to the People’s Survival Fund (PSF) through the development of PSF trainers’ module

By GIZ, SupportCCC II Project

The SupportCCCII project, together with other development partners, national government agencies, and members of the National Panel of Technical Experts, are supporting the Climate Change Commission (CCC) in coming up with a People’s Survival Fund (PSF) Trainers’ Module that is expected to be officially launched during the Climate Change Consciousness Week in November 2017. The modules aim to provide standard key messages on the requirements and operational processes of the PSF. The development partners bring to the table experiences on the ground working with local government units and community organizations in climate change adaptation planning and mainstreaming that are relevant to accessing the PSF.

A number of dry-run workshops are being conducted by the CCC together with development partners with various audience to solicit feedback on the effectivity and cohesion of the modules, especially with the existing guidelines on climate change adaptation (CCA) and project development available. After a phase of evaluation and improvement if necessary these modules are aimed that LGUs and community organizations will have a full understanding of the PSF and will be better equipped to strategize how they can access the PSF.

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Climate Smart Land Use and Development Planning

By GIZ, SupportCCC II Project

Almost 100 local government planning teams in selected major river basins and pilot EcoTown areas in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao received trainings on climate smart land use through the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) together with the assistance of the SupportCCC II project since January 2017. Focusing on Climate Vulnerability and Disaster Risk Assessment, local government units (LGUs) enhanced their capacities in developing land-use plans adjusted to the increasing impacts of climate change. The HLURB Technical Planning Assistance Program (HTPAP) used the climate vulnerability and disaster risk assessment (CDVRA) that was released by the Climate Change Commission for HLURB’s Land Use preparation guide and approved by the HLURB Board.

The goal of these assessments is to identify the root causes for vulnerability to climate change. Overall communities are enabled to compensate uncertainties and to ensure that adaptation measures are locally beneficial and sustainable. As such, identification and assessment of vulnerability at the local level will increase the likelihood that the proposed adaptation measures are relevant.

The SupportCCC II-HTPAP supported trainings combined the use of digitizing climate vulnerability and disaster risk maps through geographic information system (GIS) and impact chain analysis that is based on the Assessment Report 4 (AR4) and very recently the Assessment Report 5 (AR5). Given the number of LGUs trained on using GIS in CDVRA and the new version of the impact chain, the HLURB now gears to updating its CDVRA training syllabus. The updating of the CDVRA syllabus and actual training envisages consistency of application of tools and methodology across regions. Another next step will be the capacity development of 60 HLURB planners and GIS staff through tailor-made trainings before the year ends.



Biodiversity and Climate Change

Philippines, Germany consolidate good practices in managing 60 existing protected area all over the PH – at least 56 new areas declared

By GIZ, PAME Project



Biodiversity partners. The German Government has cooperated with the Philippine government in the field of environment and natural resource management.

The Protected Area Management Enhancement (PAME) Project successfully held a National Learning Exchange at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Pasig City, on 6-7 September 2017. The learning exchange summit provided the venue for sharing the knowledge and experiences of project partners from over 160 PAME-supported sites all over the Philippines.

“The Philippines is a focus country for Germany in the fight against climate change. The Philippines and Germany have already established a strong partnership in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as biodiversity conservation,” Dr. Gordon Kricke, German Ambassador to the Philippines, said.

The PAME Project is a partnership between the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB). The project has supported a global record of 160 protected areas in the country. Fifty-six (56) new terrestrial and marine protected areas covering 170,000 hectares were also established, including Negros Occidental that has been acknowledged as a special wetland area under the RAMSAR convention and also as a major East Asian-Australasian Flyway site.

DENR-BMB Director Mundita Lim also highlighted “*the importance of the country’s biodiversity, with the Philippines being one of the world’s most mega-diverse countries.*”

Overall, the PAME project reached its goal to improve the state of management effectiveness of more than 60 National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) areas as shown by the average increase in the management assessment scores by more than 30% for these areas. In addition, the capacities of more than 17,000 representatives of communities, national and local government units, the DENR, civil society organizations, and the academe to manage protected areas were developed under the project.

The event drew together more than 200 participants from different partner government units and organisations across the country to share their stories and experiences in the management and conservation of their respective environmental protected areas. Among these experiences are the effective cooperation among the national and local governments, communities, NGOs, indigenous peoples, and other stakeholders; empowerment of communities to take the lead in developing their culturally unique approaches to protected area management; inclusion of sustainable tourism and other livelihood projects in the management approaches; and empowerment of women to play important roles in protected area management.

The learning summit also featured poster presentations and creative ways of promoting and highlighting the importance and uniqueness of biodiversity in protected areas, for example, in Catanduanes, the partners used butterflies as mascots.

The Philippines is one of the world’s 17 most biodiverse countries, which together host 70% of the world’s biodiversity. However, it is also a global biodiversity hotspot due to its continued population growth, overexploitation of resources, pollution, and extreme vulnerability to climate change. Under the PAME Project, the German government, through GIZ, worked with the Philippine government to develop the capacities of the Filipino people to sustainably manage their biodiversity for food security, sustained livelihoods, health, and protection from the disastrous impacts of climate change.

[Read More](#)



PAME Principal Advisor Berthold Schirm and BMB Director Mundita Lim handing over the project’s knowledge products to DENR Undersecretary Maria Paz “Ipat” Luna, in behalf of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.



The National Learning Exchange included a “PAMElihan” (marketplace) session where posters from the PAME 160 sites were presented and showcased.



The butterfly mascots of Catanduanes were used as part of their awareness raising campaign and were made out of recyclable materials.



Blue Training of Trainers

By GIZ, Blue Solutions Project

Seas around the world are at the forefront. More and more countries are wondering how they can effectively manage their marine spaces and resources. This requires skills – those skills that the Blue Trainings on climate change, ecosystem services and spatial planning by the global [Blue Solutions Project](#) provide.

The main objective of the blue training is capacity development in the field of coastal and marine management. Various concepts and methodologies on “Integrating Ecosystem Services”, “Climate Change Adaption” and “Blue Planning in Practice” get introduced. Through exercises, case work and role plays participants are interactively engaged. Furthermore the workshop gives future trainers the opportunity to make their own experiences as trainees and enhance their capacities related to participant-centered training, moderation, facilitation and visualization techniques.

The demands for marine specialist trainings are increasing. This led to the expansion of the pool of potential trainers and participants through an international "training of trainers" in cooperation with the Mami Wata Project.#

[Read More](#)

Rare conservation fellows celebrate Fish Forever journey

By Rare

Campaign teams from 12 local government units were recognized in a festive ceremony last September 1 to celebrate their achievements in promoting sustainable fisheries.

Conservation fellows, associates, supervisors, and their mayors received certificates and plaques at the University of the Philippines Bahay ng Alumni from

Rare staff who worked alongside the teams during the three-year program.

“From August 2014 until today, we have been with you and shared with you this journey that we call Fish Forever,” said Rocky Sanchez Tirona, Vice President of Rare Philippines. “Today, this is the pinnacle of it, but like all good graduations, this is just the beginning, and we’re looking forward to working with you further and supporting our mission for sustainable fisheries.”

In response, the government partners pledged to ensure that their local ordinances designating exclusive fishing zones for municipal fishers, as well as increasing protection for marine sanctuaries, would be fully implemented.

“Our managed access areas + sanctuary will not only be on paper, but definitely on the water,” said Melvin Maglayon, Rare conservation fellow from San Carlos City. “We are planning to turn over the management of our marine protected areas in Sipaway, and we see the Fish Forever Pride campaign as the way to implement it well, before we turn it over to the community.”

Mayor Benjamin Tria of Looc, Occidental Mindoro expressed the desire for continuing partnership with Rare in improving the livelihood of fishers and rehabilitating resources.

“We are challenged, and with the fisherfolk, by the hope created in their hearts and in their minds that we can give them a better life,” he said. “The challenge to us, the LGUs and the politicians, is perhaps giving them better governance.”

[Rare’s](#) Fish Forever program in the Philippines is partially supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) as part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI).#



BIOFIN-UNDP, UP Pi Sigma Fraternity hold a debate on mobilizing biodiversity financing from unconventional sources

By UNDP BIOFIN Project

For the second consecutive year, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through the [Biodiversity Finance Initiative \(BIOFIN\)](#), partners with the University of the Philippines Pi Sigma Fraternity in holding the 30th Annual Open Debate Tournament. The yearly debate competition, which is the longest running in the Philippines, discusses pressing and controversial issues of the day as well as new ideas and proposed innovative solutions to social, economic or environmental concerns. This year's debate topics include urgent and relevant environmental issues, which was the theme for the elimination round. Up for discourse were proposals on the feasibility of mobilizing financing for biodiversity conservation from various sources such as: 1) income from the automobile excise tax under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act; 2) accrual and use of royalties collected from bioprospecting; 3) compensation for the harmful fishing practices of foreign fishing vessels in the Scarborough Shoal; and 4) the shift from mining to sustainable tourism development.

The tournament was formally opened by Ms. Floradema Eleazar, Team Leader of the Inclusive and Sustainable Development Unit of UNDP. She highlighted the importance of this activity as arguments and ideas raised in the debates would contribute to the drafting or refinement of enabling legislation or implementing guidelines relating to biodiversity conservation and financing. She ended her talk by reiterating that *"the UNDP appreciates this partnership as we are one with Pi Sigma Fraternity in its principle of Service to the Community."*

Dr. Vincent Hilomen of the Biodiversity Management Bureau echoed the same thought in his opening message and highlighted the need for students to engage in such activities. This will enable them to learn more and appreciate biodiversity around them and at the same time, relate this to current affairs. Prof. Jerwin Agpaoa, UP Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, cited in his remarks that students, when made aware of the issues happening around them, will become confident and well equipped to give their take and stand on matters such as the ones lined up for the debate.

Ms. Eleazar said UNDP hopes that annual debates such as that of UP Pi Sigma's will continue to carry relevant environmental issues with the arguments, hopefully finding their way in the policy making process of government.

Around 250 individuals attended this year's elimination round with debate teams represented by student organizations from well-known universities. Spectators

were from various sectors including law, college and high school students from within Metro Manila.

BIOFIN contributes to closing the financing gap for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by identifying, accessing, combining and sequencing sources of biodiversity funding to finance the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), the country's roadmap to conserving biodiversity. The PBSAP implementation costs PhP24B/year or PhP334B from 2015-2028. However, public expenditure was estimated at only P4.9B/year thus revealing a gap of almost PhP19B. Several finance solutions to address the gap were identified and are being piloted by BIOFIN at present.#



Photo credits: UP Pi Sigma Fraternity

BIOFIN Philippines, Bhutan engage in south-south exchange to advance finance solutions for biodiversity conservation

By UNDP BIOFIN Project

The [Biodiversity Finance Initiative \(BIOFIN\)](#) in Bhutan visited Manila under a south-south exchange workshop with the Philippines. Led by Norbu Wangchuk of the Gross National Happiness (Planning) Commission, the Bhutan delegation was represented by key officials from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, and UNDP Bhutan.

The delegation had an opportunity to exchange learnings not only with the BIOFIN Philippines team with regards to the implementation of the BIOFIN methodology, but also with the latter's key government and non-government organization partners.

- Armida Andres, Chief of the Biodiversity Policy and Knowledge Management Division, and Angelita Meniado, Overall Foreign Assisted Projects of the Biodiversity Management Bureau, shared with the group how BIOFIN's work in the Philippines impacts on the government's policy and planning, processes especially among the Bureaus of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

- Director Helen Habulan of [Municipal Development Fund Office \(MDFO\)](#) gladly shared with Bhutan delegation MDFO's work with and financial assistance to LGUs in the Philippines.
- Assistance Division under the International Finance Group of DOF shared with BIOFIN Bhutan its experience in facilitating a debt-for-nature swap between the Philippines and the governments of the United States of America and Italy. *"I have never heard about debt swap before. It is very interesting to see that interest payment for loans are being waived off so that the [debtor country] can spend it for biodiversity and environment conservation works. It is a very good strategy for financing conservation activities which can support both biodiversity and livelihoods"* said Sigyel Delma of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of Bhutan.

As a result of the debt-for-nature swap between the Philippines and USA, the [Forest Foundation for the Philippines \(FFP\)](#) and Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE) were created. BIOFIN Bhutan also met with FPE Executive Director Oliver Agoncillo and FFP Executive Director Jose Antonio Canivel.

Initiated by and established for non-government organizations with support from the World Wildlife Fund, Philippine Development Forum, governments of the Philippines and US, FPE was created. It provides financial assistance to strengthen and support NGOs, peoples' organizations (PO) and communities to enable them to be agents of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Jigme Dorji of UNDP Bhutan remarked that he was *"deeply impressed with the role played by the non-governmental organizations,"* such as the Forest FPE and FPE. He opined that *"The Government of Bhutan may like to explore a mechanism to empower the local NGOs so that they can reach out to local people more effectively in the areas of biodiversity conservation/promotion at the grassroots level."*

South-south initiatives enable BIOFIN countries to learn from respective experiences in terms of implementing the BIOFIN methodology. Bhutan is among the BIOFIN countries that are currently at the early stages of the BIOFIN implementation while Philippines is at the advance stage. Learnings from the exchanges will guide Bhutan's prioritization of finance solutions given their current context and needs. It will also provide direction for their business case development and pilot project implementation. Philippines have presented a variety of finance solutions to Bhutan during the south-south exchange.

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Project trainees hold PH's first assessment of endangered Napoleon wrasse fish

By GIZ, Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project

Representatives of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, World Wildlife Fund - Philippines, local academe, and the Tubbataha Management Office, including marine park rangers, whom the BMUB-commissioned Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project earlier trained on assessing the endangered Napoleon wrasse fish species, conducted the first-ever targeted assessment of the high-value fish species in the Philippines at the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and World Heritage Site.

They found a density of 6 to 7 fish (mostly sized 50 to 70 cm) per hectare in their surveyed 19.3x0.5-kilometer area, about twice the reported density in Queensland in 2002. Juvenile fish were among the staghorn corals that proliferate in the lagoon, supporting findings from other scientific researches that Tubbataha is both a source and a sink of fish larvae. Dr. Cleto Nañola of the University of the Philippines - Mindanao, which trained the assessors on behalf of GIZ, claims that the population of Napoleon wrasse in Tubbataha is very stable.

Upcoming Events

12th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS-COP 12) – Sulu Sulawesi Side Event

Establishing a network of safe havens for green turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, in Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape

October 24, 2017, Philippines International Convention Center, Manila

[Learn More](#)

Ecosystem-based Adaptation Training

Learn how to use ecosystem services targeted for adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

November 20 – 22, 2017, Academy for International Cooperation, Bonn

[Learn More](#)

Free Online Courses



Climate Change and Agriculture

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), in partnership with the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), launched a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on climate change and agriculture.

November 13, 2017

[Learn More](#)

Climate Change, Risks and Challenges

WFF Germany and Deutsches Klima-Konsortium (DKK) created an English online course on climate change: Climate Change, Risks and Challenges

October 1, 2017

[Learn More](#)

Publications

Climate Finance Readiness publication

Climate finance readiness published a new publication on the topics of climate financing strategies, political economy of climate financing, green bonds for the financing of national determined contributions (NDCs), anti-corruption in the GCF, and a guidebook to the Creation of GCF-proposals

Lessons Learnt from 4th Call of the NAMA Facility are available now

The NAMA Facility presents a review and analysis and lessons learnt drawn from [4th Call for NAMA Support Projects](#)

Sectoral implementation of NDCs

New series of information papers on the sectoral implementation of national determined contributions (NDCs) of the Paris agreement [Learn More](#)



Publications

How to Mitigate Methane Emissions from Rice Production

Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security Research Program (CCAFS) of the CGIAR System Organization has released a peer-reviewed article on a novel way to reduce methane emissions from rice production.

‘Climate-based suitability assessment for alternate wetting and drying water management in the Philippines’ [Learn More](#)

Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) published a toolkit for accessing Green Climate Fund (GCF) funding

‘Green Climate Fund Proposal Toolkit 2017: Toolkit to develop a project proposal for the GCF’ provides step-by-step guidance to help governments and project developers to navigate the GCF’s requirements when developing funding proposals. [Learn More](#)

Green Climate Fund Proposal Toolkit 2017:

Toolkit to develop a project proposal for the GCF



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