

# ECOTOWN

Ecotown Demonstration Framework



## INTRODUCTION

The manifestation of climate change, in the form of rising temperature, variability of precipitation, increase and intensity of typhoons, sea level rise, and the risk of more droughts, floods, heat waves, and forest and grassland fires have impacts on the economy, environment and communities.

The government has begun to address the challenges posed by climate change and just recently approved the Climate Change Act, which provides the policy framework, establishment of an organizational administrative structure, and allocates budgetary resources for its important functions. These functions include the formulation of a framework strategy and programs, the mainstreaming of climate risk reduction into national, sector and local development plans and programs, the recommendation of policies and key development investments in climate-sensitive sectors, and undertaking the work of vulnerability assessments and capacity building.

The formulation of the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), which prioritizes food security, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate-smart industries and services, sustainable energy and capacity development as the strategic direction for 2011-2028. NCCAP anchors on the implementation of the plan at the local level on building ecologically sound, stable and economically resilient towns or ecotowns. An ecotown is a planning unit composed of municipalities or a group of municipalities located within and around boundaries of critical key biodiversity areas, which are at high risk to climate change. Ecotowns will be built around protected areas and key biodiversity areas, using ecosystem based approach that will scale up best practices.



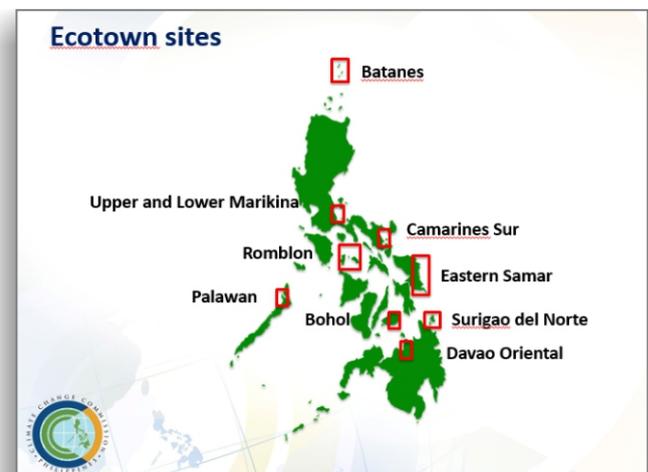
## GOAL

The main goal of the ecotown is to build the resiliency of communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change. In doing so, it aims to contribute in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), specifically goals 1, 5 and 7. With the objective of increasing the adaptive capacities of communities, it addresses MDG 1, which aims to end poverty and hunger through employment generation and provision of livelihood opportunities that are climate resilient. The ecotown initiative is also firmly aligned with the idea of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It has been acknowledged that a combination of economic development, environmental stability/sustainability, and social inclusion, are realities that local communities must have in order to become climate change resilient.



## DEMONSTRATION SITES

Palawan (San Vicente), Surigao del Norte (Del Carmen, Pilar, San Benito and San Isidro), Eastern Samar (Borongan City, Canavid, Guiuan and Llorente), Rizal (Antipolo City, Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo and Tanay), Lower Marikina (Cainta, Marikina and Quezon City), Camarines Sur (Milaor, Naga and San Fernando), Davao Oriental (Baganga, Boston and Cateel), Romblon (Odiangan, Romblon and Sibuyan Island), Bohol (Antequera, Balilihan, Catigbian, Cortes and Maribojoc) and Batanes (Basco, Iatan, Mahatao, Sabtang and Uyugan).



## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Building the resiliency of communities and ecosystems is increasing the adaptive capacity of communities through economic means (income, employment) and adaptive capacity of ecosystems through protection, conservation, sustainable management (healthy ecosystems). Improving the adaptive capacity of the poor is a priority since they are less able to recover from shocks that can be climate change or economic in nature.

The expected benefits from ecotown demonstration are as follows:

1. **Climate resilient communities**
  - 1.1. Increase in income through the introduction of climate resilient livelihood projects and financing schemes
  - 1.2. Provision of green jobs/eco-jobs
  - 1.3. Presence of climate-smart infrastructure to support economic activities
  - 1.4. Empowerment of communities
2. **Climate resilient ecosystems**
  - 2.1. Biodiversity conservation
  - 2.2. Enhancement of carbon stocks
  - 2.3. Incremental agricultural produce
  - 2.4. Increase in volume of fishery produce
  - 2.5. Utilization of natural resources as defense against climate change impacts

Communities will also be empowered through capacity building to improve their skills for future employment and Local Government Units (LGUs) capacitated in the development of their climate-smart local plans.

## ECOTOWN COMPONENTS

1. Natural Resource Assessment. This component will look into the ecological and socio-economic-related information of the area.
2. Vulnerability Assessment. VA will be conducted to determine the vulnerabilities and risks of the ecosystems, communities, and infrastructure vis-à-vis the impacts of climate change.
3. Environment and Natural Resources Accounting. This component primarily involves the creation of natural resource accounts that will determine both the physical stocks and its corresponding monetary value of the natural resource.
4. Initiation of Adaptation and Mitigation Measures. Based on the NRA and VA, a menu of adaptation measures will be developed for the different ecosystems.
5. Application of Climate Adaptation Support Service. An interim financing scheme in which target beneficiaries will be compensated for the protection and/or rehabilitation of the ecosystems for a certain period.
6. Design and implementation of financing scheme (s). Financing scheme(s) will be developed to support the adaptation and mitigation measures for the area and increase the economic resilience of the communities.
7. Integration of climate change in local plans. The climate-smart local plan serves as local climate change action plan (LCCAP) that will incorporate the adaptation and mitigation measures vis-à-vis effects of climate change in the existing local development plans.



## ECOTOWN MILESTONES

- Formulation of strategic Upper Marikina Riverbasin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) ecotown “green growth road map” as part of the implementation of the NCCAP. The road map shall be composed of prioritized mitigation and adaptation measures identified by the stakeholders and partners based on results and findings of the assessments and inventory.
- Baseline Information and Vulnerability Assessment which covers four (4) major technical studies that are inter-related to each other and these are: Geographical Information System (GIS)-based VA mapping, Adaptive Capacity, Natural Resources and Ecosystems Services Accounting/Inventory, and GHG Inventory.
- Implementing the Ecotown Scale-Up Project (Phase 2): Climate Resilience Green Growth Planning at the Provincial Level in the Provinces of Palawan and Oriental Mindoro to 1) enhance climate change resilience and promote inclusive green growth in participating provinces, and 2) replicate climate resilient green growth planning and implementation models in other provinces to institutionalize the approach at the national level.
- LGU were capacitated through a variety of trainings and workshops under the capacity building program, which essentially is an integral part of the Ecotown-technical assistance. These trainings include GIS, Natural Resource Management, Benefit-cost Analysis, Adaptive Capacity, GHG Emissions Inventory and Payment for Environmental Services (PES).
- Examining the vulnerability of selected sectors to the impacts of climate change and identifying the appropriate climate change adaptation/mitigation measures. In particular, the findings and recommendations have been adopted by several municipalities such as Rodrigues and Baras, Province of Rizal and San Vicente, Province of Palawan as bases for updating and “climate proofing” the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Comprehensive Development Plan.

## PARTNERS IN DEMONSTRATION

The main partners in the ecotown demonstration are the local government units in the demonstration sites. Development partners that have provided support in the demonstration include the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).