

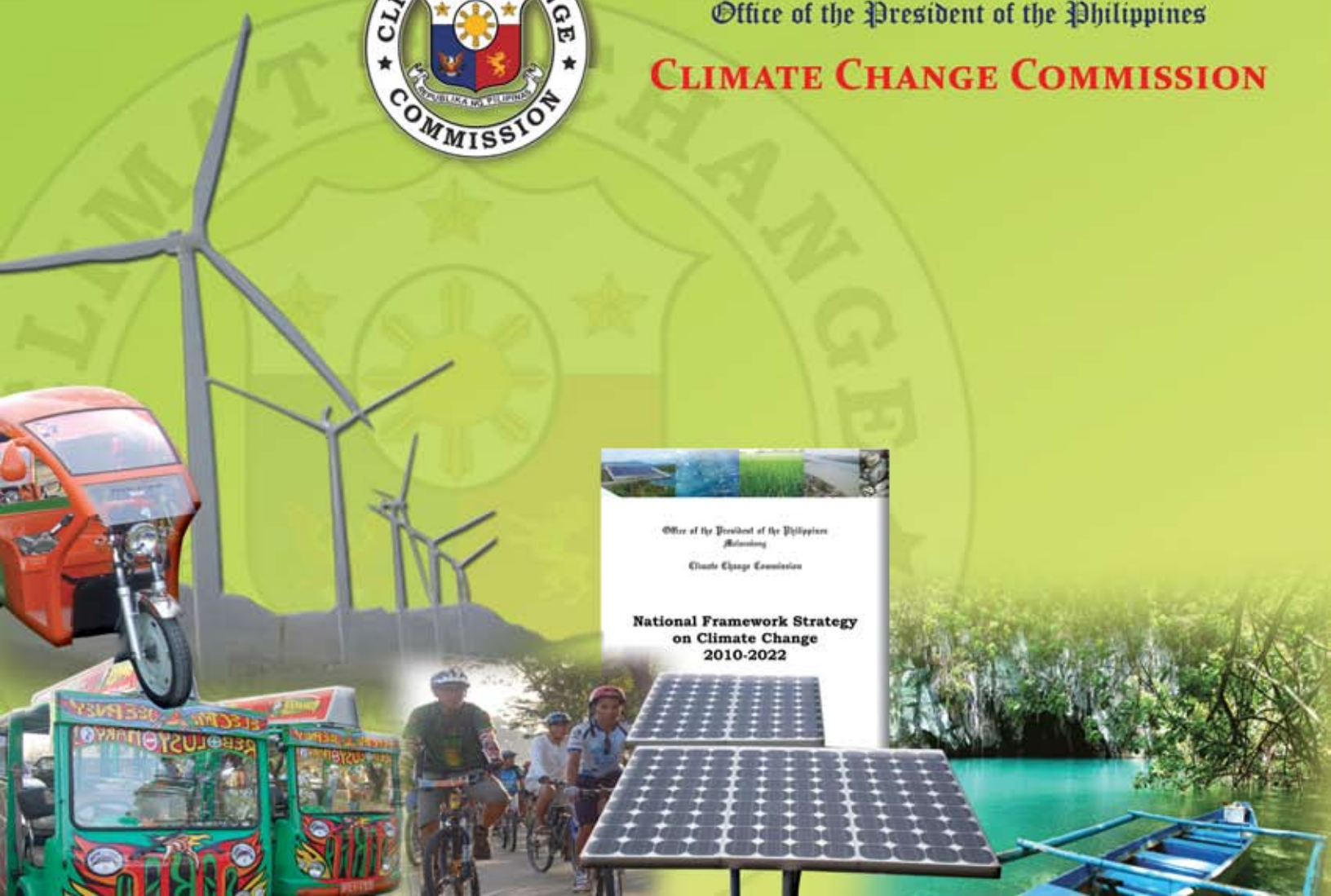
# Climate Change Commission Accomplishment Report

01 January to 31 December 2010



Office of the President of the Philippines

**CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION**



Office of the President of the Philippines  
*Malacañang*  
Climate Change Commission

**National Framework Strategy  
on Climate Change  
2010-2022**

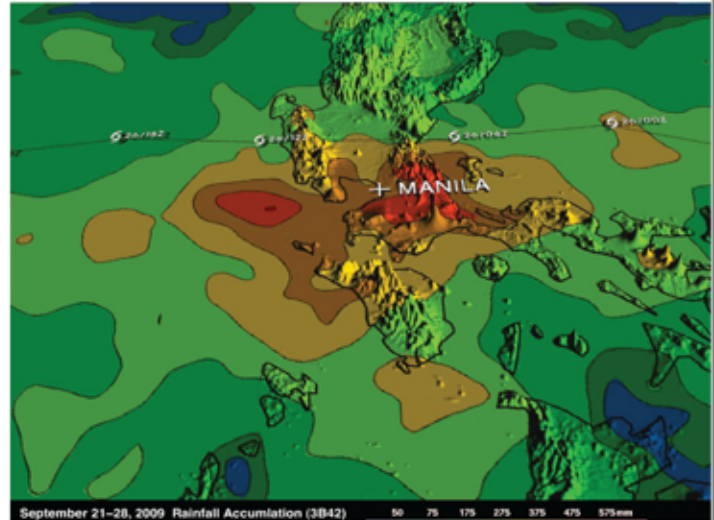


# OVERVIEW

The United Nations reported that the Philippines is one of the top twelve countries at the greatest risk from climate change, facing more frequent and more intense storms as the impact of climate change intensifies. Typhoons passing in the country are hitting harder and stronger. And after each typhoon, the country struggles to recover from losses both human and material. The typhoon-prone communities evolved adaptive lifestyles and coped with these destructive events. Over the years, the increasing intensity of these devastations has been almost unimaginable in loss of fortune and lives.

As the second most disaster-prone country in Southeast Asia according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Philippines is a victim, extremely exposed and sensitive to climate hazards due to its geographical, geophysical and socio-economic circumstances. With a high population occupying the low elevation coastal zone defined as a coastal zone with less than ten meters of elevation and with seventy per cent of cities and towns are coastal areas, the country has experienced dramatic and negative effects of climate change such as coastal flooding and extreme heavy rainfall induced by flooding and landslides. Tropical storms of historic scale have inflicted devastation and tragic loss of lives in our country.

And apart from typhoons, global warming is also affecting the country's agriculture, fishing stocks, forests and cities due to the effects such as drought brought about by the El Niño weather system. Climate change also impacts on ecosystems. The increase of sea temperature of 0.5 degrees Celsius causes coral bleaching.



Data from NASA's TRMM satellite was used to create an enhanced 3-D topographic rainfall map of Ketsana's flooding rains received in the Philippines. The dark yellow and orange areas indicate 375 mm (~15 inches) to over 475 mm (~19 inches), respectively. The red area over Manila indicates almost 2 feet of rain fell.

*Credit: SSAI/NASA, Hal Pierce*



# Climate Change Commission



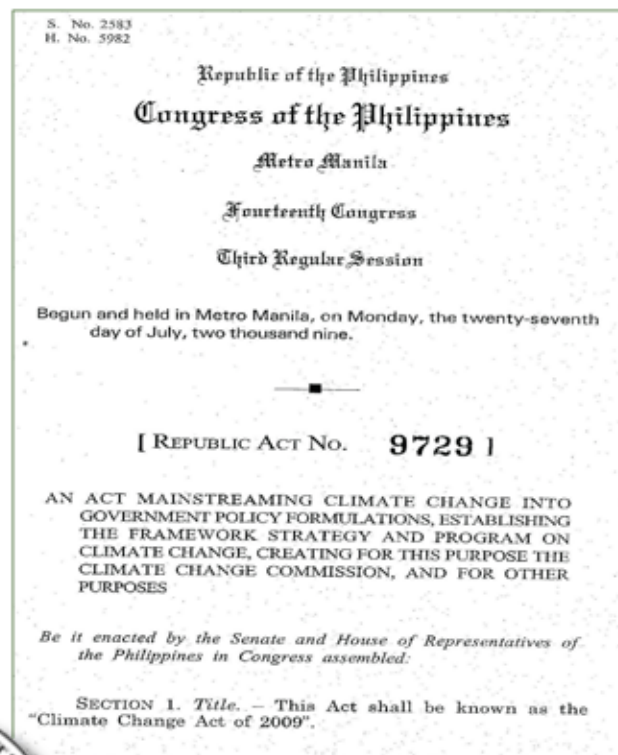
Since climate change is a cross-sectoral issue, and most government agencies need to be involved, an institutional mechanism that can guide and coordinate the different agencies was established.

The Climate Change Act (Republic Act 9729) elevates the issue of climate change to the level of national security and to the level of the presidential attention, as it established a coordinating and policy-making body in addressing climate change. The Climate Change Act created the Climate Change Commission (CCC) under the Office of the President (OP) as a lead policy-making, coordinating, and evaluating body for the implementation of climate change-related programs and actions.

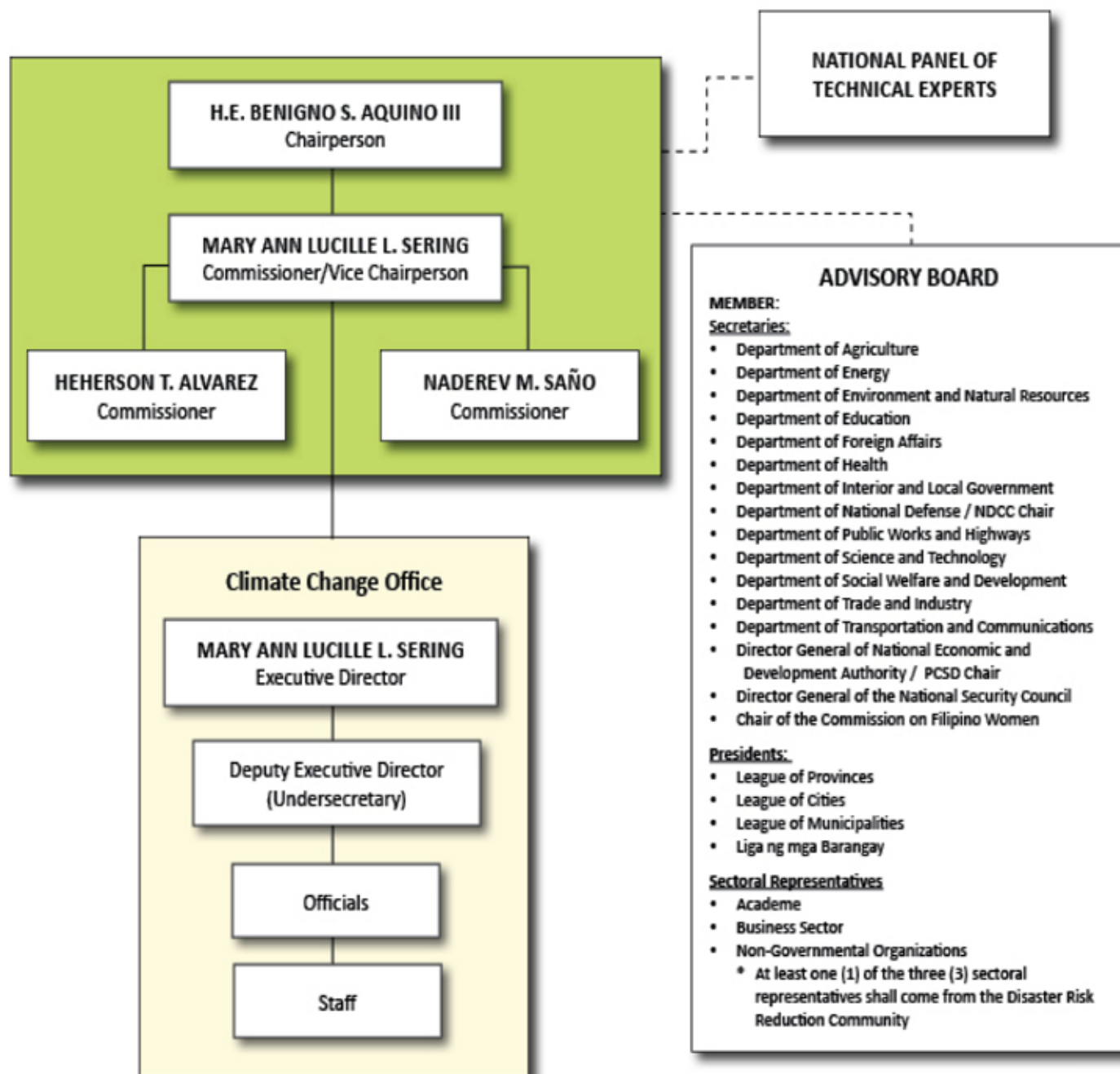
The Commission is headed by President Benigno Aquino III. Joining him in the Commission are three commissioners who have a fix term of six years. They are Secretary Mary Ann Lucille Sering, appointed as vice chairperson of the Commission and the Executive Director of the Climate Change Office; Commissioners Heherson T. Alvarez and Naderev M. Saño.

A total of 23 government agencies, local government units and representatives from the academe, business sector, and non-government organizations (NGOs) compose the body's advisory board to ensure accountability.

The Climate Change Commission is mandated to formulate the official National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC) and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP).



# CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION



\* Commissioners have a fixed term of six (6) years

# Strategy on Climate Change

**A**s mandated by RA 9729, the Commission, together with a select group from government and non-government agencies and the academe crafted the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC). The Framework was signed last April 28, 2010 at Puerto Princesa, Palawan. It is the country's roadmap in creating a climate risk-resilient Philippines, with the general goal of building the country's adaptive capacity and increasing the resilience of natural ecosystems to climate change, and optimizing mitigation opportunities.

The NFSCC was formulated within the context of the country's sustainable development goals and governance/institutional factors that affect the country's ability to respond to climate change. The changing climate conditions will have a myriad of impacts and underscore the vulnerabilities in all sectors of society and the economy. Addressing climate change moves beyond the environmental challenges and will have to be closely linked with economic targets and social sustainability.

This will serve as the basis for a program for climate change planning, research and development, extension, and monitoring of activities to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change. In addition, the NFSCC was formulated based on climate change vulnerabilities, specific adaptation needs, and mitigation potential, and in accordance with the international agreements.

Likewise, the NFSCC was formulated under the Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Local



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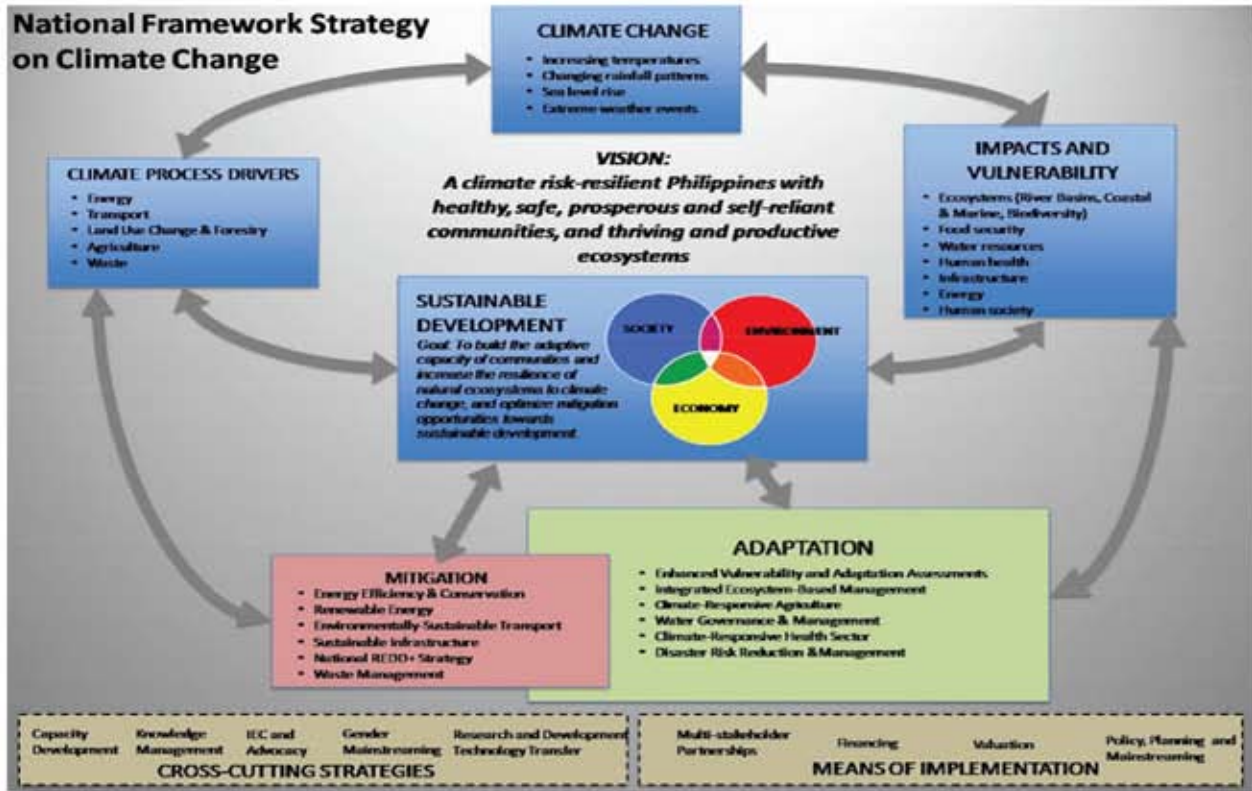
Climate Change Commission

## **National Framework Strategy on Climate Change 2010-2022**

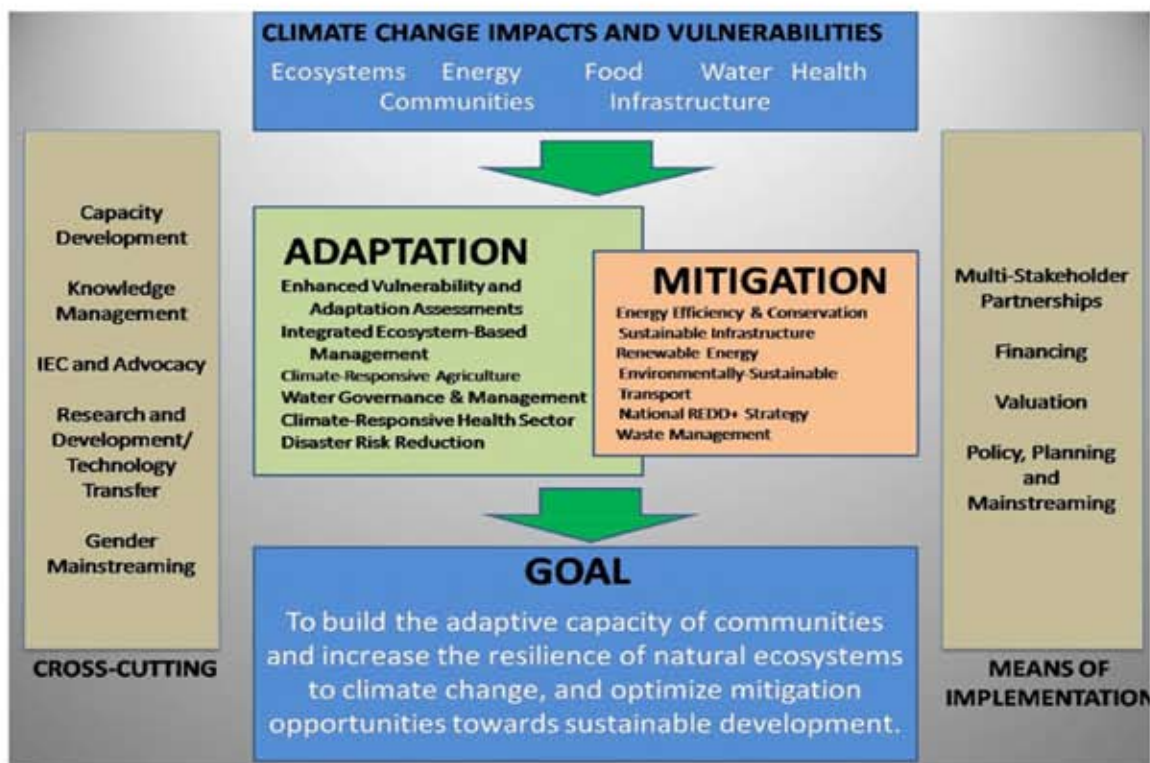


Development Planning and Decision-Making Processes Project, a three-year inter-agency Project implemented by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), and the newly-created Climate Change Commission (CCC). It is funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and administered by the United Nations Development Programme.

CD copies of the NFSCC was distributed to the 23 members of the advisory board.



### ▲ Climate Change Framework



### ▲ Operational Diagram

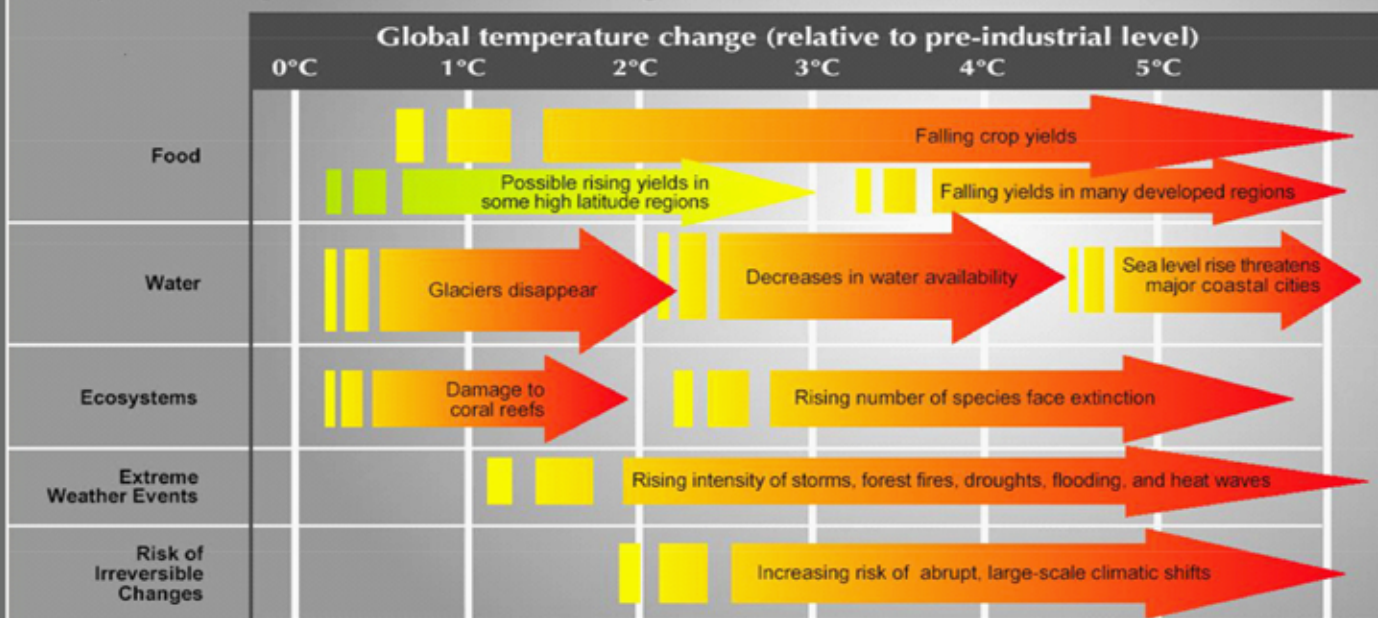
# National Climate Change Action Plan

**A**fter the signing of the NFSCC, the Commission is now developing the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP). The NCCAP shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Assessment of the national impact of climate change;
- (b) Identification of the most vulnerable communities/areas, including ecosystems to the impacts of climate change. Variability and extremes;
- (c) Identification of differential impacts of climate change on men, women and children;
- (d) Assessment and management of risk and vulnerability;
- (e) Identification of greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation potentials; and
- (f) Identification of options, prioritization of appropriate adaptation measures for joint projects of national and local governments.

The NCCAP will be developed to address a realistically achievable country-driven program of action for integrated climate change adaptation and mitigation. Under the NCCAP, priority programs and activities will also be developed to address the urgent and immediate needs and concerns of the Philippines relating to the adverse effects of climate change.

## Projected Impacts of Climate Change



C = Celsius; CO<sub>2</sub> = Carbon Dioxide

Source: Adapted from the *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*.





In preparation for the drafting of the NCCAP, a Capacity Building and Assessment Workshop for the NCCAP was held in Tagaytay City last 28 – 29 October 2010. The key objectives of the workshop is to provide a forum for knowledge sharing between the scientific community and policymakers in government, particularly on the usage of science-based data in crafting realistic and achievable country goals for the NCCAP.

This workshop was attended by 65 participants from the academe, government and non-government agencies. Objective of the gathering was to ensure that the climate change adaptation programs of the various sectors are in harmony with the NFSCC.

After the workshop, there will be consultations with key stakeholders starting January 2011 in preparation for the drafting of the NCCAP. Under Section 13 of the Republic Act 9729, the Commission is expected to develop the NCCAP on or before April 28, 2011.



# Climate Change Negotiations

The meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is held annually for two weeks. The last COP was held in Cancun, Mexico from November 27 to December 11, 2010.



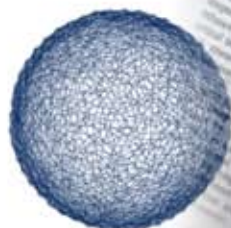
The COP also serves as the Meeting of Parties (CMP) on the Kyoto Protocol, the only legally binding instrument requiring developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 5% by 1990 levels. Developed countries are not required to commit but can do so on a voluntary basis.

The Philippine Delegation, led by the



Climate Change Commission, attended the COP meeting in Cancun and negotiated on the four building blocks based on the Bali Action Plan namely Mitigation, Adaptation, Technology Transfer and Finance.

The recently concluded COP 16 was considered a success of a sort compared to the COP 15 that produced the Copenhagen Accord in 2009. The Copenhagen Accord was considered a failure as it was drafted only by a selected few and did not go through the normal UNFCCC process of negotiations. The Accord only prioritizes least developed countries,



COP15  
COPENHAGEN  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

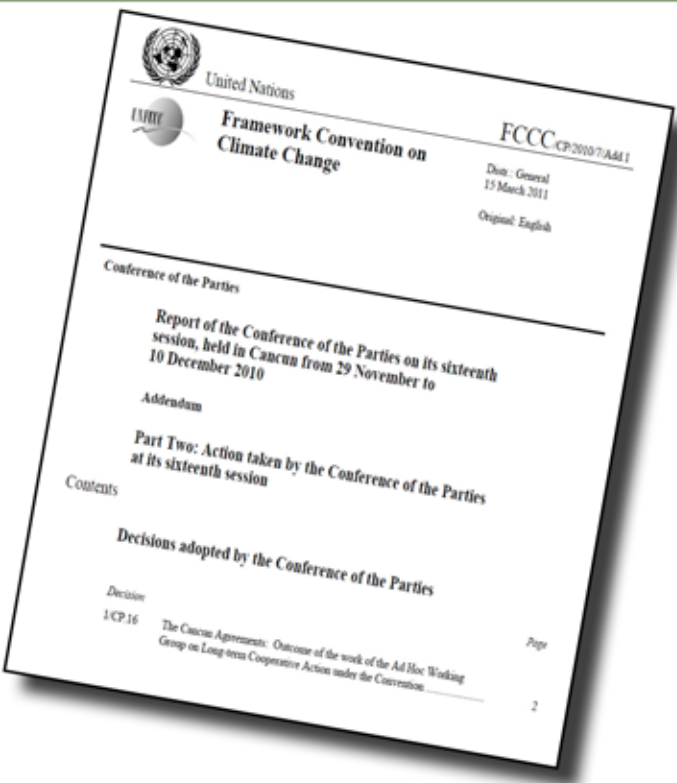


small-island states and African states for Adaptation financing, effectively disqualifying the Philippines. This is one of the reasons why the Philippines did not accede to the Copenhagen Accord.

The COP 16 produced sets of decisions called the Cancun Agreements. The success of the Cancun talks for the Philippines can be attributed to two reasons: 1) It salvaged the integrity of the UNFCCC process of negotiations by insuring inclusiveness and 2) it established the Green Climate Fund or GCF, a fund that will provide financing for mitigation and adaptation plans and programs for all vulnerable developing countries such as the Philippines. One of the Philippine delegates negotiated, in behalf of the biggest block of developing countries called the Group of 77 and China, in the establishment of the GCF.

**T**he Cancun talks however failed to produce a strong mitigation action from developed countries, as it is now a pledge and review system. A pledge and review system is country-driven and not necessarily responsive to what science requires. A weak pledge will mean a continuous greenhouse gas accumulation in the atmosphere, an activity considered by scientists as the main cause of global warming and climate change.

**N**egotiations will continue in South Africa for 2011 to discuss other issues left hanging in Cancun such as the new commitment period of GHG reduction under the Kyoto Protocol and the details of the Green Climate Fund. The Cancun Agreement created a transitional



committee that will meet to decide on the details of the Green Climate Fund for probable adoption in the UN Conference on Climate Change in Durban, South Africa. The Transitional Committee of the Green Climate Fund shall be composed of 15 members from developed countries and 25 from developing countries with the Asian Group only entitled to 7 nominees. The UNFCCC secretariat has given all groups until January 30, 2011 to submit their nominees.



# IEC Activities

Section 9 paragraph (p) of RA 9729, mandates the Commission to "Oversee the dissemination of information on climate change, local vulnerabilities and risks, relevant laws and protocols and adaptation and mitigation measures."

In line with this mandate, the Commission distributed the following IEC materials:

1. Reducing your Carbon Footprint - 3,000 copies
2. Global Warming (Tagalog) - 3,000 copies
3. Carbon Calculator - 3,000 copies
4. RA 9729 - 2,500 copies
5. RA 9729 IRR - 2,000 copies
6. National Framework Strategy on Climate Change - 2,500 copies



## CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR

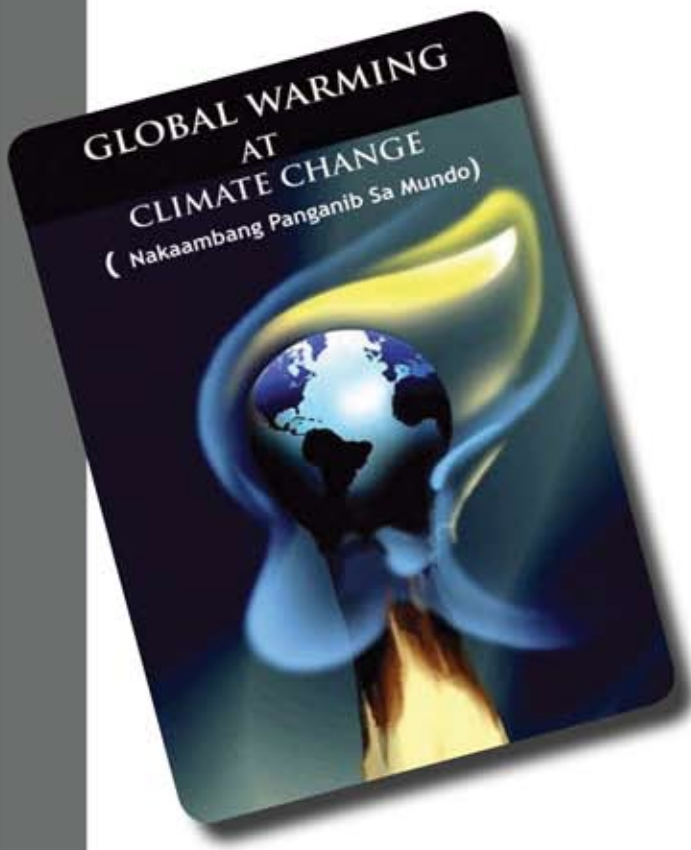
CARBON CUTTING is fun and easy! Calculate your CARBON FOOTPRINT by filling-in the following lifestyle questions. Are you working to stop climate change or are you contributing to it? See how much carbon you add and can subtract from the atmosphere by encircling what activities apply to you to get your average carbon footprint!

CARBON IN YOUR LIFESTYLE	+(lbs)	-(lbs)
<b>AT HOME</b>		
Do you use incandescent light bulbs for all your household lighting?	+300	
Do you use air conditioning for more than 12 hours a day?	+1000	
Do you take long showers with inefficient showerheads?	+340	
Do you always use hot water?	+550	
Do you leave small appliances and lights on and/or plugged when not in use?	+970	
Do you use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) for all your household lighting?		-300
Do you use a microwave?		-55
Do you cook using a gas oven or green charcoal (recycled from waste)?		-330
Do you harvest and use rainwater?		-14
<b>TOTAL:</b>		
<b>CONSUMPTION</b>		
Do you regularly purchase/consume items that come in disposable/plastic packaging?	+3260	
Do you regularly eat pre-packaged meals/takeout/prepared food?	+5000	
Do you print single-sided?	+3300	
Do you consciously eat locally produced food?		-5000
Do you recycle and compost most of your biodegradable waste?		-730
<b>TOTAL:</b>		

CARBON IN YOUR LIFESTYLE	+(lbs)	-(lbs)
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>		
Do you drive a personal car as your daily mode of transportation?	+2750	
Do you speed unnecessarily at more than 60mph?	+140	
Do you carpool as your daily mode of transportation?		-1600
Do you regularly clean and maintain your car, improving efficiency?		-200
Do you use alternative car fuels like biodiesel, bioethanol, or LPG?		-3000
Do you take public transport as your daily mode of transportation (eg. Bus or MRT)?		-2000
<b>TOTAL:</b>		
<b>Bonus: Carbon offset activities you can organize with your community!</b>		
Plant a tree to absorb your carbon		-300
Use a wind turbine for your power needs		-3280
Going solar for your power needs		-820
Nurture a "green roof" (vegetating your roof to reduce cooling needs and pollution)		-2250
Establish a community garden as a space for alternative recreation		-120
Eat less meat or go vegetarian		-1924
<b>TOTAL:</b>		
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>		
How old are you?		
Are you a:		
Climate Hero: 0 - 8,999		
Carbon Cutter: 9,000 - 11,999		
Carbon Indifferent: 12,000 - 14,999		
Carbon Conspic: 15,000 - 18,000 lbs/year		



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# Sustaining Publicity

**A**s part of the Commission's climate change awareness program, press releases on climate change-related activities/events were produced and distributed to all major media outfits.

During the period under review, 37 press releases were prepared and sent out with a total of 44 pick-ups. In addition, ten photo releases were also produced and sent out with 11 pick-ups.



*The Climate Change Commission held a presscon to emphasize the importance of Executive Order 23 in fighting climate change. Climate Change Secretary Mary Ann Lucille Sering (center) said that the landmark move of the president clearly manifests that fighting climate change is an important priority of his administration. President Aquino sits as the Chairperson of the CCC.*

*According to Sering, the move of the President to issue the moratorium is very timely and highly judicious in the light of the growing risk to disasters faced by our vulnerable communities especially with the extreme weather events the country experiences now. Climate experts attribute this climatic aberrations to global climate change.*

*With Sering are (from L-R) Haribon Foundation Executive Director Blas Tabaranza, Presidential Assistant II for Climate Change Elisea G. Gozun, World Wildlife Fund for Nature Climate & Energy Head Atty. Angela Ibay and Ateneo School of Government Associate Director for Communications Mary Grace P. Santos. The presscon was held at the Environmental Studies Institute at Miriam College.*

# Special Events

The Commission organized and participated in climate change-related events such as:

## 1. CLEAN WATER AND ENERGY FOR A HEALTHY WORLD WEEK (MARCH 22-28) –

In accordance with Proclamation 2023, the Commission spearheaded the Week's celebration which started with the holding of the "Regional Summit on Forest Protection" in Tuguegarao City led by Bishop Ramon B. Villena of the Regional Development Council of Region 2.

This was followed by the "Provincial Water Awareness Month" in the Iloilo Province under the auspices of the Office of Governor Niel D. Tupas, Sr.

## 2. EARTH DAY 2010 (APRIL 18-24) –

A three-leg marathon "Earth Day Run" kicked off the week-long celebration of Earth Day 2010. The event was held to drum up awareness against the danger posed by climate change to the people.

Co-sponsored by the newly-formed Climate Change Commission (CCC), the National Geographic organized a 10-kilometer, 5-kilometer and 3-kilometer run, held at the grounds of the SM Mall of Asia. At least 6,000 runners participated in the event.



The Commission also launched a photography and art exhibit on the same day to highlight the significance of water and its protection, as well as climate change.

A short film contest about water conservation was also conducted and participated in by film makers – students, professionals and videographers. Dubbed “Earth Day 2010: Clean Water Short Film Contest,” the competition, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), aims to raise public awareness on the urgent need to conserve water.



Meanwhile, the photo and art exhibit at the lobby of the IMAX Theater inside the SM Mall of Asia was also conducted and focused on water, as the nation reels from the impacts of the El Nino phenomenon, which already has affected the country’s food production.



Other activities for Earth Day 2010 include: Photo News Contest on Climate Change and the Fr. Neri Satur Award for Environmental Heroism, among other events.

### 3. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (JULY 6) –

**A**iming to educate every Filipino down to the grassroots level on the impacts of climate change, the Commission has signed an agreement with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Department of Education (DepEd) and UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines to use culture and the arts as an effective tool for public information.

The MOA, signed during the observance of World Environment Day in Batangas City last June 28, 2010, seeks to “develop and promote broadcasting and different disciplines in the arts and creative industry in establishing standards in environmental management.”





#### 4. LGU SUMMIT + 3I LUZON IN LEGASPI, ALBAY –

**T**he Commission co-organized this event with the Local Government of Albay. About 300 people attended the summit that included 33 governors, other local chief executives, planning managers, scientists and academe sector, civic society and community leaders, legislators, and development partners from across the country. Focus of the summit is the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in the Philippines.



## 5. GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK –

As the lead agency for this celebration, the Commission, in cooperation with the various government agencies, organized activities designed to create awareness and motivate the people to do their share in the fight against climate change.

Exhibits and contests were held in various government agencies. Highlight of the celebration was the Inter-Faith Dialogue held at the Social Hall, Malacanang between various religious, civic and private organizations where they explored possibilities their organization can help stop climate change.



### **KNOCKING OUT CLIMATE CHANGE.**

*Climate Change Commissioner Heherson T. Alvarez shows 8-Division World Boxing Champion and Sarangani Representative Manny Pacquiao devastating facts about climate change. The boxing icon rallied the Filipinos to stop and fight climate change in a short message given in the occasion of the celebration of Climate Change Consciousness Week to be aired in television stations around the country.*

# Future Plans and Programs

**A**s the Commission moves to further strengthen its internal and external capabilities and pursue the realization of its objectives, it is working on the finalization of the NCCAP which RA 9729 mandates to be finished one year after the formulation of the NFSCC or by the end of April 2011.

The NCCAP has already undergone several consultations with various concerned sectors such as government and non-government organizations, the academe and business sectors.

Once the NCCAP has been finalized, it shall serve as a guide for local government units (LGUs) in the formulation, planning and implementation of their respective climate change action plans (LCCAP).

The CCC as well as the other concerned national government agencies are prepared to extend the necessary technical and financial assistance in order for the LGUs to complete their respective action plans.













## **CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION**

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