



NEWSLETTER

BMU-IKI

in the Philippines

January – March 2020

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

CLIMATE POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Philippine climate science experts call for declaration of climate emergency.** The National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) called for the declaration of a climate emergency in the country. [Read More](#)
- **Resolution declaring climate and environmental emergency filed in Philippine Congress.** On February 17, Deputy Speaker and Lone District of Antique Representative Loren Legarda filed a resolution at the House of Representatives urging the declaration of a climate and environmental emergency and ensuring enhanced and coherent climate actions in the executive and legislative agenda of the government. [Read More](#)
- **Legarda champions low carbon economy policy in Congress.** Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda pushes for the promotion of “low carbon economy” through House Bill (HB) No. 2184, filed on July 16, 2019 at the House of Representatives, which aims to establish a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions cap-and-trade system in the industrial and commercial sector. [Read More](#)
- **GCF Philippines website launched.** The Climate Change Commission, as the national designated authority of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the Philippines, launched the “Green Climate Fund Philippines” website and can now be accessed via <https://www.gov.ph/web/green-climate-fund/home>.
- **PH ended 3-year presidency of UN convention on migratory species.** The Philippines ended its three-year presidency of the 12th Conference of Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) turning the presidency over to India at COP 13 on February 17, 2020. [Read More](#)
- **Air quality monitoring is high on DENR priority.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continues to strengthen its air quality monitoring system to ensure that the environment and public health are protected from the dangers of air pollution. [Read More](#)
- **Ban on single-use plastics in all Philippine gov’t offices.** The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) had approved a resolution imposing a ban on single-use plastics in all government offices all over the country. [Read More](#)

- **DENR urged private sector participation in national greening program.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had called for increased private sector participation in the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP), a flagship reforestation initiative of the government aimed at increasing the country's forest cover. [Read More](#)

IKI PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) renews its partnership with Rare and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP).** BFAR renewed its partnership with Rare Philippines and the LMP last March 10.
- **Municipality of Pandan in Antique launched campaign on sustainable fisheries for climate resilience.** On February 14, coastal communities, small-scale fishers and local government officials from the Municipality of Pandan professed their love for the ocean as they launched a campaign to promote responsible fishing behaviors and protect their marine ecosystem for climate resilience.
- **New urban development department gears up for expanded role with a brown bag on climate resilient shelter and city extension planning.** UN-Habitat conducted a virtual brown bag with Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) on local shelter planning (LSP) and planned city extensions (PCEs).
- **Beyond Research: Sustainability in the Food Service Sector.** On March 3, 2020, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines brought together project partners to The Sustainable Diner Summit with the theme, "Beyond Research: Sustainability in the Food Service Sector".
- **Strengthening partnerships for sustainable tourism in the Philippines.** On February 14, 2020, the Department of Tourism and Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI) hosted the 9th meeting of the Philippine Stakeholder Advisory Group (PSTAG) for Sustainable Tourism in Makati City.
- **Resource efficiency training with the private sector.** The Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI) conducted its first Resource Efficiency Tool Training with the SM Hotels and Conventions Corp. on February 19, 2020 through the Transforming Tourism Value Chains Project. [Read More](#)
- **LGUs support PH Roadmap for Low-carbon and Resource-efficient Tourism.** Some local government units expressed their support for the Roadmap for Low-carbon and Resource-efficient Tourism in the Philippines by signing a manifesto during the 10th Eco-Forum: Accelerating Growth through Investment and Sustainability in February 2019 in Clark, Pampanga. [Read More](#)
- **Philippines stands firm on its commitment to increase financing for protected areas.** The Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018 received a total of Php 2 billion (or about USD 40.6 million) for its implementation this year, a part of which was a result of BIOFIN Philippines' finance solution that aims to mobilize funding for protected areas from the national government. [Read More](#)
- **Taking Deforestation Out of Banks Portfolios in Emerging Markets.** ASEAN contains some of the world's most biodiverse tropical forests, but with fast rates of forest loss, mainly due to agriculture, land use change as well as infrastructure projects, the ASEAN region and Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Myanmar in particular will lose most of their native forests and biodiversity within 20 years if business practices do not change.
- **12th Training of Trainers on mangrove and beach forest rehabilitation and conservation.** Mangrove rehabilitation in the Philippines has been a pillar of conservation activity for Zoological Society of London (ZSL) over the last 11 years. ZSL has conducted 30 training courses with 1,500 participants coming from various sectors and institutions.
- **ZSL ProCoast team joined the 5th International Mangrove Macro-benthos and Management Meeting.** Dr. Jurgenne H. Primavera, Chief Mangrove Scientific Advisor of ZSL Philippines, highlighted some of the best practices of ProCoast Centers of Learning such as the Pedada, Ajuy breakwater that addresses coastal erosion, the Leganes abandoned pond reversion, and the Katunggan It Ibajay Ecopark as a tool for mangrove protection.

GENERAL NEWS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Philippine climate science experts call for declaration of climate emergency

The National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) called for the declaration of a climate emergency in the country.

In February 2019, the NPTE submitted a resolution entitled Declaration of a Climate Emergency and the Immediate Need to Consolidate Government Data to Generate a Nationwide Climate Risk Assessment to the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

The resolution proposed using the term climate emergency instead of the term climate change to emphasize the urgency of the climate problem. It pointed out that as of 2019, forty-one (41) countries, including twenty-eight (28) European Union member states have already declared a climate emergency.

The resolution urged the government to mobilize its people, institutions, and resources to identify cities and municipalities that are most at risk from the prevailing climate emergency.

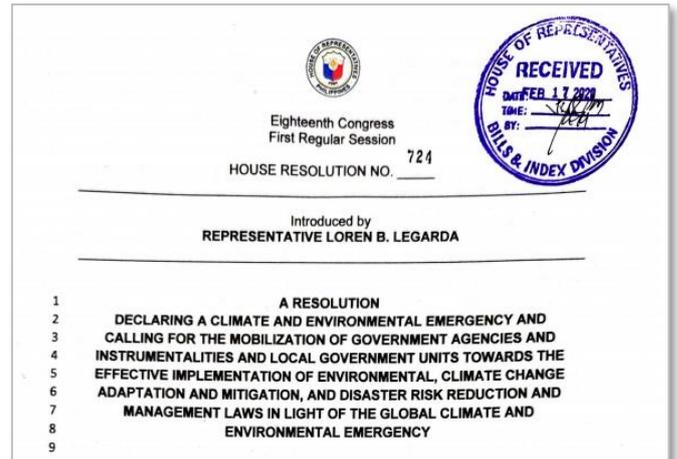
Noting that the CCC is in the best position to gather and analyze data sets from national government agencies and produce baseline climate risk assessments at a city/municipality scale, the resolution also recommended that the lead agency assembles a team of GIS specialists, remote sensing image analysts, and data scientists to work on the gathering, integration, and initial analysis of data.

The NPTE is an advisory body to the CCC composed of the country's leading climate scientists who have pursued local scientific studies and contributed to several reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

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Members of the NPTE presented their resolution for a declaration of a climate emergency to CCC officials. Photo credits: Climate Change Commission.



Resolution declaring climate and environmental emergency filed in Philippine Congress

On February 17, Deputy Speaker and Lone District of Antique Representative Loren Legarda filed a resolution at the House of Representatives urging the declaration of a climate and environmental emergency and ensuring enhanced and coherent climate actions in the executive and legislative agenda of the government.

Titled “A Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency and Environmental Emergency and Calling for the Mobilization of Government Agencies and Instrumentalities and Local Government Units towards the Effective Implementation of Environmental, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Law in light of the Global Climate and Environmental Emergency,” [House Resolution No. 724](#) supports the earlier call for the declaration of climate emergency by the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE).

The resolution said that “there is a growing consensus that the entire planet is under climate emergency and that failure to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and to build the adaptive capacities of communities to climate change would lead to unprecedented loss to human society, environment and global economy.”

It added that reducing the adverse effects of climate change will be critical policy objectives, following the findings of 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which stated that climate change will increase the poverty rate between now and 2100 and will jeopardize sustainable development.

The resolution encourages the implementation of the CCC's National Climate Risk Management Framework (NCRMF) for national government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to produce baseline studies

and conduct climate risk assessments that consider future climate impacts and scenarios.

It also urges the government and LGUs to urgently mobilize and effectively implement existing laws on environmental protection, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management in the country.

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Legarda champions low carbon economy policy in Congress

Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda pushes for the promotion of “low carbon economy” through [House Bill \(HB\) No. 2184](#), filed on July 16, 2019 at the House of Representatives, which aims to establish a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions cap-and-trade system in the industrial and commercial sector.

The bill comes timely as the Philippine government finalizes its first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

According to Legarda, a clear policy path towards low carbon development is in line with the Philippines’ resolve to transition into a cleaner and climate-friendly future. She added that incentivizing investments in low-carbon and innovative technologies, undertaking an environmental audit of government and private sector operations, and building stakeholders’ capacities for GHG mitigation are other interventions that could be explored

[Read More](#)



GCF Philippines website launched

The Climate Change Commission, as the national designated authority of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the Philippines, launched the “Green Climate Fund Philippines” website and can now be accessed via <https://www.gov.ph/web/green-climate-fund/home>.

The website aims to inform the public on the GCF processes and policies, as well as provide timely advisories and updates relative to the country’s activities to access the Fund.

At the GCF Board Meeting in Songdo, South Korea in November 2019, the Philippines successfully secured a grant of USD10 million for a project led by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and Land Bank of the Philippines, to establish a multi-hazard impact-based early warning system (MHIBEWS) in the country.

[Read more](#)

PH ended 3-year presidency of UN convention on migratory species

The Philippines ended its three-year presidency of the 12th Conference of Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) turning the presidency over to India at COP 13 on February 17, 2020.

Since assuming the COP 12 presidency in 2017, the Philippines—through DENR and its Biodiversity Management Bureau and together with the CMS Secretariat, had been busy hosting events during international conferences promoting better protection of migratory species pursuant to the objectives of the Convention.

CMS, also known as the Bonn Convention, is the only global environmental treaty established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. It has been adopted by 124 countries under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme.

During its term, the Philippines had successfully promoted the CMS agenda in Southeast Asia. It has integrated CMS resolutions in the promotion of marine protected areas in the ASEAN region and the management of ASEAN Heritage Parks, including sites relevant to migratory species.

In addition, Philippines had effectively integrated the CMS objectives into the framework of Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), a regional cooperation six countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and the Philippines—with shared jurisdiction over the most diverse marine eco-region in the world. The CMS resolutions on the protection of marine turtles, sharks, rays and marine mammals are now put into action with the implementation of the CTI Regional Conservation Action Plan.

The Philippines, through its Protected Area System, manages 15 internationally important sites for waterbirds.

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Air quality monitoring is high on DENR priority

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) continues to strengthen its air quality monitoring system to ensure that the environment and public health are protected from the dangers of air pollution.

“Air quality monitoring, which is an integral part of an effective air quality management system, has always been one of the top priorities of the Department,” said Director William Cuñado of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB). EMB is the DENR line bureau tasked to set air quality standards and monitor ambient and point source pollutants.

Air quality monitoring is a crucial for taking corrective actions to reduce air pollution which, according to the World Health Organization, is the largest single environmental health risk, causing numerable non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular and respiratory ailments, stroke and lung cancer.

“By providing accurate and reliable data through our air quality monitoring, we could help the public—especially those who are at risk—to take action to better protect their health and guide our policymakers in coming up with measures to tackle air pollution,” Cunado added.

The EMB has a total of 75 air quality monitoring stations that are strategically located in 16 regions nationwide, 34 of those are capable of continuous online monitoring, while 41 are using manual method of sampling. These stations are capable of measuring air pollutants, particularly PM10 or particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter and PM2.5, whose diameter is 2.5 micrometers or less. Fifteen (15) of these in eight regions are also capable of measuring gaseous air pollutants, such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and sulfur oxide.

The locations of these monitoring stations are strategic, based on the siting criteria of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, as prescribed by Republic Act 8749 or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999. To ensure that quality data are provided to the public, regular calibration and maintenance of these stations are carried out by EMB technical personnel.

The monitoring of PM2.5 is being prioritized by EMB because the tiny inhalable particles can travel deeply into the respiratory tract, reaching the lungs. These fine particles pose the greatest risk to health. The current ambient air quality guideline values for PM2.5 are 50 micrograms per Normal cubic meters (ug/Nm³) for average 24-hour short-term monitoring and 25 ug/Nm³ for average one-year long-term monitoring.

According to EMB, the air quality standards for PM2.5 are being reviewed and updated by the Inter-Agency Committee for Environmental Health, chaired by the Department of Health and vice-chaired by the DENR.

The inter-agency body is also reviewing the emission standards for stationary or industrial air pollution sources.

In 2003, the DENR issued an administrative order requiring all industrial facilities with potential to emit air pollution to conduct and submit ambient air quality self-monitoring to EMB.

This year, the EMB is scheduled to formulate the standards for hazardous ambient air quality.

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Ban on single-use plastics in all Philippine gov't offices

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) had approved a resolution imposing a ban on single-use plastics in all government offices all over the country.

NSWMC Resolution No. 1363, Series of 2020 directs the DENR to “prepare and implement” the ban on the use of “unnecessary” single-use plastic products by national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and all other government-controlled offices.

The plastic products covered by the ban are cups less than 0.2 millimeter in thickness, drinking straws, coffee stirrers, spoons, forks, knives, “labo” or thin and translucent plastic bags, and thin-filmed sando bags lower than 15 microns.

The DENR will come up with specific guidelines for the implementation of the plastics ban, which forms part of the government’s “solid waste avoidance and minimization strategy.”

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DENR urged private sector participation in national greening program

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had called for increased private sector participation in the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP), a flagship reforestation initiative of the government aimed at increasing the country’s forest cover.

“We hope to encourage more private companies to help us in restoring and protecting our forests as we seek to establish new ENGP plantations,” Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said after signing agreements with two private entities in relation to their participation in the ENGP.

The two companies are Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) and SteelAsia Foundation Inc. (SAFI), which both agreed to collaborate with the DENR in the national greening efforts by planting and nurturing trees.

The government has made it easier for the private sector to join the ENGP with last year issuance of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2019-03, which provides the guidelines for private sector participation in the reforestation program.

The DAO allows companies to enter into public-private partnership scheme through establishments of new ENGP plantations, maintenance and protection of existing plantations, and protection of existing forests outside ENGP areas.

ENGP is the extension of the National Greening Program created by virtue of Executive Order (EO) 26 and implemented from 2011 to 2016. During its six-year implementation, the program posted an accomplishment of 1.3 billion seedlings planted in 1.7 million hectares.

Established in 2015 under EO 193, ENGP seeks to cover the remaining 7.1 million hectares of open, degraded and denuded forests in the country from 2016 to 2028.

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The SupportCCC II Project would like to express its gratitude to the implementing organizations of BMU-IKI supported projects in the country for their continued support to come up with this quarterly newsletter. Special thanks goes to the following projects:

- *Raquel Capio, GIZ, ProCoast Project*
- *Ed Tongson, WWF Philippines, Taking Deforestation out of Banks Portfolio in Emerging Markets Project*
- *Angel Uson, Rare Philippines, Fishing for Climate Resilience Project*
- *Angelique Ogena, UNDP Philippines, BIOFIN Project*
- *Jonna Ellaine Jordan, WWF Philippines, Sustainable Diner Project*
- *Kiko Velhagen, PCEPSDI, Sustainable Tourism Value Chain Project*
- *Jenina Alli, UN-Habitat Philippines, BCRUPD Project*



Adaptation to the impacts of Climate Change

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) renews its partnership with Rare and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)

By Rare Philippines

One year after co-hosting the National Coastal Fisheries Summit, BFAR renewed its partnership with Rare Philippines and the LMP last March 10. Their commitments include promoting preferential rights for municipal fishers, enhancing climate resilience, combating illegal fishing, seeking sustainable finance, and supporting marine protected areas. Technical Working Groups on marine protected areas, municipal fishers' rights, illegal fishing, climate change, and sustainable finance were formed to ensure that these commitments are met.

Municipality of Pandan in Antique launched campaign on sustainable fisheries for climate resilience

By Rare Philippines

On February 14, coastal communities, small-scale fishers and local government officials from the Municipality of Pandan professed their love for the ocean as they launched a campaign to promote responsible fishing behaviors and protect their marine ecosystem for climate resilience. Representatives from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture joined the communities in pledging to revitalize the municipality's coastal marine habitats and secure its people's livelihoods. Campaign ambassadors or mascots such as Mamsie participated in the event to convince people to take pride in the marine species and habitats that make their communities unique and move them to adopt sustainable fishing practices to protect it.

“Aton kadagatan, aton bwat damlag, aton buruligan” (Our Seas, Our Future, Our Responsibility). It was the call of the Pandanons who promised to preserve their four marine protected areas while promoting responsible fishing behavior among their coastal dwellers. Pandan joins three other municipalities – Libertad, Culasi, and Sebaste – in creating a network of coastal communities that fosters climate resilience in managing the fishing grounds in Pandan Bay. Pandan is one of seventeen municipalities across the Visayas and Mindanao that have partnered with Rare to emphasize the importance of sustainably managing



Pandan Mayor Plaridel E. Sanchez VI posed with campaign ambassador, Mamsie, from the neighboring pioneer site of Libertad town, after giving his message of commitment to support coastal communities in sustaining fisheries resources.

fishing grounds, including mangrove areas as means for communities to adapt to the changing climate.

The campaign is one of the initiatives under the Fishing for Climate Resilience project supported by the BMU/IKI. This regional initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable small-scale fishing communities to adapt to climate change through the adoption of the ecosystems-based approach in the fisheries sector.

New urban development department gears up for expanded role with a brown bag on climate resilient shelter and city extension planning

By UN-Habitat Philippines

While the newly created Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) of the Philippine national government started operations this year, its members had been actively participating in the the IKI-funded Building Climate Resiliency Through Urban Plans and Designs (BCRUPD) project in the last

three years through its former offices, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

With its enhanced mandates and functions, the new department articulated the need for the strengthening of its capacities and, through BCRUPD, requested for a costed project extension to assist in the formulation of its human settlements framework.

As the implementing agency of BCRUPD and drawing from its previous experience of facilitating the development of the Local Shelter Planning Manual and Planned City Extension Guide with national government, UN-Habitat conducted a virtual brown bag with DHSUD on local shelter planning (LSP) and planned city extensions (PCEs) to meet these emergent needs. The brown bag focused on integrating LSP and PCE processes into the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) that DHSUD is mandated to train local governments on. BCRUPD's current outcome areas include mainstreaming climate resilience building into the CLUP training modules that DHSUD delivers for LGUs.



As such, climate resilience building was strongly integrated into the technical discussions on LSP and PCE, with guidance on how to include analyses on exposure and sensitivity, population growth in risk areas, and climate-driven housing provisions and standards and infrastructure requirements.

Attended by 23 DHSUD staff, the virtual brown bag adopted a more informal format compared to onsite trainings, resulting in a marked increase in participants' confidence to ask questions and share experiences from the ground. A follow-up, online technical session is scheduled on April 28, 2020. One year after co-hosting the National Coastal Fisheries Summit, BFAR renewed its partnership with Rare Philippines and the LMP last March 10. Their commitments include promoting preferential rights for municipal fishers, enhancing climate resilience, combating illegal fishing, seeking sustainable finance, and supporting marine protected areas. Technical Working Groups on marine protected areas, municipal fishers' rights, illegal fishing, climate change, and sustainable finance were formed to ensure that these commitments are met.



Mitigation Efforts



The summit aimed to gather project partners for learning and sharing insights and to increase the awareness of target stakeholders at the national and local levels to help better sustain and scale up the implementation of long-term SCP policies and strategies supported by scientific data and an evidence-based approach.

Beyond Research: Sustainability in the Food Service Sector

By WWF Philippines

On March 3, 2020, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines brought together project partners to The Sustainable Diner Summit with the theme, “Beyond Research: Sustainability in the Food Service Sector”. The participants were from national agencies and local government units, the food and beverage industry, the hospitality industry, the academe, civil society, and the media. Held at Seda Vertis North, Quezon City, Mr. Jose Angelito Palma, WWF-Philippines’ Executive Director, welcomed the participants of the summit. The Sustainable Diner project’s highlights and updates were then presented by Ms. Melody Melo-Rijk, WWF’s Project Manager for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the Philippines.

Various project stakeholders shared messages to discuss the established partnerships in building SCP strategies, namely, H.E. Anke Reiffenstuel, German Ambassador to the Philippines, Hon. Emmanuel De Guzman, Secretary of the Climate Change Commission, Hon. Maria Rica Bueno, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Tourism and Hon. Maria Josefina Belmonte, Mayor of Quezon City,

The Sustainable Diner project reported research studies they’ve conducted in collaboration with its consultants. The studies were developed through intensive research and analysis, with inputs based on experiences encountered since the project’s inception in 2017. The action research studies focused on the following: Food Waste Management Case Study, Feasibility Study on Food Donation Program, Cost-Benefit Analysis of Sustainable Business Approaches, Food Service Life Cycle Assessment, Eco-labelling Criteria for Food Service and Environmental Teaching Manuals for Primary and Secondary School Teachers.

Overall, the summit became a learning and sharing event for its project stakeholders. This includes scaling

up the implementation of long-term SCP policies and strategies supported by scientific data and evidence-based approaches. The summit aims to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 12, which focuses on SCP in the Philippines.



The event aimed to recognize the advocacy partners and to report back the results of action research to the project stakeholders. The participants were from national agencies and local government units; the food and beverage industry; hospitality industry; the academe; civil society; and the media.



(Left) To address environmental issues, knowing and understanding the concepts and issues is the first step. In the Philippines, there are still knowledge gaps when it comes to these things. Mr. Alfred Johann Lee, a former teacher, and a freelance writer, editor, and graphic artist presented the Environmental Teaching Manuals for Primary and Secondary School Teachers. (Right) Ms. Melody Melo-Rijk of The Sustainable Diner project presented the Food Waste Management Case Study including project highlights and updates.



Good Food Community showcased their sustainable and locally crafted products together with other invited exhibitors of sustainable alternatives and products.



9th PSTAG meeting led by DOT and PCEPSDI in February 2019.

Strengthening partnerships for sustainable tourism in the Philippines

By PCEPSDI

On February 14, 2020, the Department of Tourism and Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI) hosted the 9th meeting of the Philippine Stakeholder Advisory Group (PSTAG) for Sustainable Tourism in Makati City.

The meeting updated key stakeholders on the Transforming Tourism Value Chains project's engagements with Hotels and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) businesses. Moreover, the implementation plan of the Roadmap for low-carbon and resource efficient tourism in the Philippines was outlined and the awareness campaign on phasing out single use plastics for the private and public sector was presented.

The project is developing an events sustainability checklist together with the DOT and planning the roll-out of more information sessions with the members of Philippine Hotel Owners Association Inc.



Ezekiel Dimagiba of PCEPSDI facilitated the training with SMHCC.

Resource efficiency training with the private sector

By PCEPSDI

The Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. (PCEPSDI) conducted

its first Resource Efficiency Tool Training with the SM Hotels and Conventions Corp. on February 19, 2020 through the Transforming Tourism Value Chains Project.

The session trained SMHCC engineers, purchasers, and food and beverage personnel to use the tool, developed by UNEP-Denmark Technical University Partnership (UDP) and Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), to calculate their hotels and conventions' greenhouse gas footprint and analyze consumption patterns in support of their 5-year sustainability plan.

The PCEPSDI and SMHCC signed memorandum of understanding to promote sustainable consumption and production towards sustainable tourism in the Philippines.

[Read More](#)



Kiko Velhagen of PCEPSDI presented policies and strategies for sustainable tourism development in the Philippine.

LGUs support PH Roadmap for Low-carbon and Resource-efficient Tourism

By PCEPSDI

Some local government units expressed their support for the Roadmap for Low-carbon and Resource-efficient Tourism in the Philippines by signing a manifesto during the 10th Eco-Forum: Accelerating Growth through Investment and Sustainability in February 2019 in Clark, Pampanga.

The forum, attended by several local chief executives across the Philippines, aimed to raise awareness among LGUs and help them integrate sustainability practices in developing their respective Local Tourism Action Plans. This event was organized by the Bridging Leaders for Sustainable Development, Inc., an organization part of the Philippine Stakeholders Advisory Group of the Transforming Tourism Value Chains project, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Islands.

[Read More](#)



In October 2019, the Bankers Association of the Philippines and WWF-Philippines organized the Sustainable Finance Dialogue Forum in Makati.

Taking Deforestation Out of Banks Portfolios in Emerging Markets

By WWF Philippines

ASEAN contains some of the world's most biodiverse tropical forests, but with fast rates of forest loss, mainly due to agriculture, land use change as well as infrastructure projects, the ASEAN region and Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Myanmar in particular will lose most of their native forests and biodiversity within 20 years if business practices do not change. Local financial institutions and regulators in these countries have a crucial role to play in the transition to a sustainable economy and the mitigation of systemic risks that major Environmental and Social (E&S) issues can present.

With funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through WWF-Germany, WWF-Philippines is implementing the project titled "Taking Deforestation Out of Banks Portfolios in Emerging Markets." The project employs a two-pronged approach to harmonize policy in the region and build the capacities of domestic banks in sustainable banking.

In 2019, the project together with the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), organized two dialogue fora on sustainable finance in April and October 2019 respectively. The events gathered over 660 bankers who were introduced to various topics on sustainable finance and climate change.

The project published the Sustainable Banking Assessment (SUSBA) report (accessible through the [SUSBA website](#)). The [report](#) assessed the environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices of 29 banks from five ASEAN countries. An [assessment](#) of the regulatory framework in five ASEAN countries (except Philippines) highlights the changing regulatory environment in the region. For 2020, the project will launch a training program for banks on E&S risk management and sustainability reporting for implementation in 2020.

Tools and models developed by WWF under the Taking Deforestation Out of Banks Portfolios in Emerging Markets Project:

CLIMRIS (Climate Risk Mapping by Banks)

- A [methodology](#) to help banks map and assess the physical impacts of climate change and natural disasters such as floods, typhoons, earthquakes and drought on their loan books.
- Results of assessment will help banks jumpstart engagement with their counterparties (borrowers) leading to actions reducing risks from loan defaults or from deflation of mortgaged assets.
- This tool will be introduced to commercial banks through bilateral trainings in 2020.

SUSBA (Sustainable Banking Assessment)



- A [tool](#) used to assess and monitor progress on Corporate Governance and ESG integration in banks from six countries (Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand) in the ASEAN.
- Findings from two years (2018-2019) of assessment show that Philippines banks show room for improvement in integrating ESG to their portfolios.

SUSREG (Sustainable Regulations Assessment)



- A newly developed tool for assessing sustainable banking regulations and guidelines in five ASEAN countries.
- The [report](#) provides a basis for constructive engagement and capacity building with central banks, regulators and banking associations, consistent with WWF's goal to strengthen and harmonize regulatory and banking practices across ASEAN.



Biodiversity and Climate Change



A flock of migratory birds hover over the Naujan Lake National Park in Oriental Mindoro. Photo credits: DENR-MIMAROPA Region.

Philippines stands firm on its commitment to increase financing for protected areas

By UNDP BIOFIN Project

The Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018 received a total of Php 2 billion (or about USD 40.6 million) for its implementation this year, a part of which was a result of BIOFIN Philippines' finance solution that aims to mobilize funding for protected areas from the national government. This fruitful initiative was a collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Office of Congresswoman Josephine Sato, a well-known legislative BIOFIN Champion and partner.

Funding for 107 legislated protected areas was assured by the inclusion of a Php 1.44 billion budget in the National Expenditure Program, and an additional Php 500 million allocation advocated by the House of Representatives and the Biodiversity Management Bureau of DENR. With BIOFIN support, a Legislators' Forum convened House representatives and encouraged them to lobby for increased budget for the ENIPAS roll out. "We, the representatives of the people having very important protected areas within our respective districts, whether marine or terrestrial national parks, strict nature reserves, protected landscapes or seascapes, cannot simply watch idly by," Sato speaking to her co-legislators during the forum. "Needless to say, it is high time for us to be more involved, to more actively participate, not just at the policy level, but equally important, at the financing side as well" she added.

Alternately, the Philippine Senate also approved an additional Php 90-million for Samar Island Natural Park Protected Area's budget.

The ENIPAS Act of 2018

The ENIPAS Act, which was signed into law in 2018, declared 94 national parks as new protected areas expanding this to a total of 107 legislated protected areas. A protected area that is legislated puts it under the management of the government ensuring a regular annual budget for its conservation. The Act also allows for the collection of funds from environmental compliance certificates (ECC) and special use permits from industries operating within the protected areas and imposes stricter fines for violators. These funds go straight to a trust fund called the Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF), which is then channeled back for conservation projects.

Protected Areas' valuable provisions

Protected areas house unique biological features and ecological values essential to sustain human, plant and animal life and development. Its biological features provide a variety of goods and services to support sustainable development such as food, clean water and air, medicine, protection from the harmful effects of climate change, livelihoods and even psychological health benefits, among others. The economic value of ecosystem services in the Philippines is estimated at Php 2.3 trillion (USD 46 billion) ranging from timber and fuelwood production, water provision, ecotourism, carbon sequestration, flood prevention, and fishery production, among others. Cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries are among the biggest industries generating substantial revenues from genetic resources. Global sales of pharmaceuticals derived from genetic resources range from USD 75 billion to USD 150 billion. The net present value from bioprospecting of Philippines' endemic species in closed canopy forests per annum in perpetuity amounts to USD 39.8 million. It is therefore imperative to recognize the critical importance of protecting and

maintaining the natural, biological, and physical diversities of the environment that can be found in these areas.

Increasing financing for Protected Areas

Coupled with the investment program are two other finance solutions: an awareness raising campaign called the Year of the Protected Areas and Public Private Partnerships. An information campaign called the Year of the Protected Areas or YoPA Campaign is a finance solution being implemented by BIOFIN and is underway. Talks with the Tourism and Interior and Local Government departments are on-going to iron out details of the said campaign, which will be led by the DENR together with BIOFIN. This finance solution will increase the public's awareness on and appreciation of protected areas but at the same time increase the revenues through protected area visitations – revenues which can be ploughed back to the protection and conservation of these areas.

Meanwhile, Public-private Partnership (PPP) is a finance solution that taps investments by the private sector in specific protected areas. BIOFIN also seeks to develop a refined PPP policy for protected areas in close collaboration with the PPP Center of the Philippines.

[Read More](#)

12th Training of Trainers on mangrove and beach forest rehabilitation and conservation

By GIZ ProCoast Project

Mangrove rehabilitation in the Philippines has been a pillar of conservation activity for Zoological Society of London (ZSL) over the last 11 years. ZSL has conducted 30 training courses with 1,500 participants coming from various sectors and institutions. Even with all of these under their belt, ZSL still strives to widen their scope and reach in disseminating science-based knowledge and skills on coastal greenbelt rehabilitation. The **12th Training of Trainers on Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation** (ToT MBFRC) was held last 11-15 February 2020 in three locations -- 1) *Katunggan It Ibajay*, Ibajay, Aklan; 2) Villa Adelina Inn, Ajuy, Iloilo; and 3) Smallville 21 Hotel, Iloilo City. ZSL organized the training in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) project *Sustainable Coastal Protection through Biodiversity Conservation in Coastal Ecosystems Affected by Typhoons in the Philippines* (ProCoast).

The ToT MBFRC was delivered via a series of lectures and several practicum activities. The training also showcased the best practices in three of ProCoast's centers of learning – Katunggan It Ibajay, Ajuy Pedada Mangrove Ecopark and Leganes Katunggan Ecopark.

Participation cut across various sectors, 29 of which were focal persons for mangrove related activities from the academe, local government units, private sector, and non-government organizations. 20 other participants came from 11 ProCoast targeted replication areas in Bohol and Negros Occidental provinces.

Other than emphasizing the importance of mangroves and beach forest ecosystems, the ToT MBFRC equipped the participants with the necessary skills and knowledge they needed to guide them in planning rehabilitation interventions and conceptualizing a Mangrove Rehabilitation Plan in their respective areas. Participants in the ToT MBFRC experience and acquire science-based rehabilitation techniques in mangrove nursery establishment, outplanting, monitoring, and maintenance. As well, the training serves as a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences among the participants which further deepens their understanding about mangrove rehabilitation and intervention options.

ZSL-Philippines continuously communicates with the ToT MBFRC alumni to elicit updates regarding their training plans and other activities in their respective areas. A Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation Facebook page was also created providing ZSL and training graduates a platform where they can further share initiatives and experiences in their areas after the training.

The training provided both the participants and trainers an opportunity to share their innovative ideas and experiences on coastal greenbelt rehabilitation. Furthermore, it was seen that the training has enabled communities and project partners to become more effective mangrove resource managers, and this has contributed towards strengthening community coastal protection and resilience from natural disasters.



Ms. Rona Joy Loma, ProCoast Training Specialist and Biologist, (shows how to collect and bag mangrove wildings at Pedada Mangrove Ecopark, Pedada, Ajuy, Iloilo, 13 Feb 2020 / Photo credit: ZSL Philippines)

ZSL ProCoast team joined the 5th International Mangrove Macrobenthos and Management Meeting

By GIZ ProCoast Project

Attended by 321 participants from 38 countries, the 5th Mangrove Macrobenthos and Management Meeting (MMM5) held its first meeting for Southeast Asia last 1-5 July 2019 in Singapore. MMM is a series of international conferences initiated in 2000 and convened within a 3 to 6-year interval in locations where mangroves are a major component of its coastal landscape. The meeting, hosted by the National University of Singapore, creates a venue for world-renowned researchers, practitioners and non-government organizations to present mangrove research studies and initiatives all over the world.

Dr. Jurgenne H. Primavera, Chief Mangrove Scientific Advisor of ZSL Philippines gave a keynote address entitled, "Lessons in Mangrove Rehabilitation in the Philippines over the Decades." She highlighted some of the best practices of ProCoast Centers of Learning such as the Pedada, Ajuy breakwater that addresses coastal erosion, the Leganes abandoned pond reversion, and the Katunggan It Ibajay Ecopark as a tool for mangrove protection. ZSL submitted two abstracts and these were presented in poster format by Ms. Rona Joy Loma, ZSL ProCoast Training Specialist. The abstract titles were as follows: 1) Breakwaters: a green-gray strategy for mangrove rehabilitation in highly eroded coastline of Pedada, Ajuy, Iloilo, Philippines; and 2) Training of Trainers on Mangrove and Beach Forest Rehabilitation and Conservation. These abstracts showcase ProCoast initiatives on sustainable protection of coastal ecosystems and communities from impacts of climate change.

The MMM6 is set to happen in Colombia June 2022.



The IUCN Mangrove Specialist Group during the MMM5, 1-5 July 2019, in Singapore.