



ACCELERATING CLIMATE
AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION

Philippines
Mission Report
18-26 June 2018, Manila



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFD	Agence Francaise de Developpement (French Development Agency)
CAN International	Climate Action Network International
CCC	Climate Change Commission
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DA	Department of Agriculture
DoE	Department of Energy
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DoF	Department of Finance
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit, GIZ GmbH GIZ (German International Cooperation)
ICLEI SEAS	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Southeast Asia
ICSC	Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities
LGUs	Local Government Units
NCCAP	National Climate Change Action Plan
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NICCDIES	National Integrated Climate Change Database Information & Exchange System
PSF	People's Survival Fund
NDCP	NDC Partnership
SU	Support Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB	World Bank
WWF	World Wildlife Foundation



I. Context (Background information)

The Philippines submitted its intended nationally determined contributions (I)NDC in October 2015 and ratified the Paris Agreement in March 2017. The country follows the philosophy of pursuing climate change mitigation as a function of adaptation. Mitigation measures as such will be pursued in line with sustainable development and a low-emission development that promotes inclusive growth.

The country's (I)NDC intends to undertake GHG emissions reduction of about 70% by 2030, relative to its business as usual (BAU) scenario of 2000-2030. Reduction of CO₂e emissions will come from the energy, transport, waste, forestry and industry sectors. Its mitigation contribution is conditioned on the extent of financial resources, including technology development and transfer, and capacity building that will be made available to the country. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction will be mainstreamed and integrated into the country's plans and programmes at all levels.

The Philippines joined the NDC Partnership in November 2017 and has recently appointed the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) as focal agencies.

II. Objectives of the mission

The Philippines is engaging in collaborative partnerships and exploring potential domestic and international support and resources towards meeting ambitious climate change goals through a country-driven approach. The NDC Partnership provides such avenue that would support the implementation of the Philippine NDCs.

Members of the NDC Partnership Support Unit (SU) undertook a scoping mission for country engagement on 18-22 June 2018 in Manila, Philippines. The mission's objectives were to:

- Familiarize relevant stakeholders about NDC Partnership's country engagement strategy and the services and resources it offers;
- Meet with NDC Partnership focal points and other relevant government representatives to understand the status of Philippines' NDC implementation, identify challenges and priority NDC needs including areas for possible support by the Partnership to the government;
- Meet with representatives of international organizations involved in NDC implementation in the Philippines to map/understand ongoing support programmes; and
- Agree on concrete next steps for country engagement in the Philippines.

III. Main results and findings

During the scoping mission, members of the Support Unit (SU) met with:

- Focal points from the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and the National Economic and Development Authority;
- Government agencies and departments from Department of Finance, Department of Transport, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Energy; and
- Partners from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), ICLEI Southeast Asia, Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB), World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) Philippines, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) for CAN International, France, Australia, EU Delegation and Agence Francaise de Developpement.

The CCC's mandate includes:

- a. Policy making body of the government under the Office of the President, tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the programs and action plans relating to climate change
- b. Ensure mainstreaming of climate change including disaster risk reduction (DRR), into the national, sectoral and local development plans and programs;
- c. Coordinate and align climate change programs of national government agencies, including leading participatory consultation processes, policy coordination and identification of gaps or needs; and
- d. Identify, coordinate and align existing and future support from bilateral donors or international organisations, among others.

The Philippines INDC was framed with the concept of pursuing climate change mitigation as a function of adaptation. The government has revisited the assumptions and parameters of the INDC and is currently reconstructing the targets and priorities for the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):

- “Revisiting” what has been pledged;
- “Reconstructing”¹ its mitigation and adaptation priorities through a review and consultation process with relevant government agencies, including cost-benefit analyses of mitigation options;
- “Reporting” its first NDC, updating every five years, M&E, MRV etc.
- “Redefining” the NDCs to reflect increasing ambition and integration of NDC in national, local and sectoral development plans

Current CCC activities related to NDCs:

- Establishment and implementation of an M&E system – National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation System – incorporating climate risk into development planning processes;
- Establishment of the National Integrated Climate Change Database Information and Exchange System (NICCDIES), to monitor and track climate actions
- Development of a uniform module or toolkits for local government units (LGUs), through a value chain approach. For vulnerability and adaptation, support comes from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and for GHG emissions, support comes from USAID

The CCC highlighted the importance of articulating the country’s NDC development and update and reinforcing ambition. It has been expressed that the NDCs are envisioned to be a transitional investment and development plan towards Low Emissions Climate Resilient Development.

The CCC stressed the importance of social preparation – raising awareness of NDCs and its investment potential to contribute to economic growth and development of the country, not only within the government but the society – including business, CSOs and the general public.

The SU has been requested to develop a three-minute video commercial on NDCs and its potential to contribute to economic growth whilst increasing resilience of its people. This video will be shown in national television and social media to start the country’s social preparation.

The CCC is currently the Nationally Designated Authority (NDA)² to the Green Climate Fund.

¹ Current phase

² core interface between Philippines and the Green Climate Fund, GCF



Should the Philippine government engage with the Partnership, the Climate Change Commissioner would like SU to provide the CCC monthly reports on progress.

Participants at the roundtable discussion held 19 June 2018 were keen to learn about the Partnership's country engagement process, including requirements, should the government decide to avail of support to their NDCs provided by the Partnership. Participants were also keen to know how the NDC Partnership process may influence policy formulation and legislation.

During the mission, the following NDC-related needs were initially identified by various stakeholders:

- Understanding and social preparation (informing or raising awareness of the public, business sector and CSOs of NDC implementation);
- Tools and methodologies for economic planning and long term scenario building (ie emissions projections, climate risk assessments). These need to be translated into layman's language for better understanding by the general public;
- Development planning support for DoF and NEDA, particularly how much it will cost to undertake mitigation and adaptation options;
- Transition plan or roadmap per sector to implement NDCs, including a resource mobilization strategy;
- Action Plan/Roadmap by sectors to implement commitments in accordance to Paris Agreement; NDC mainstreaming in sectoral plans, incl alignment with Sendai Framework and SDGs;
- Capacity development to generate bankable climate-friendly project proposals and screen proposals with climate lens;
- Green financing;
- Continuation of budget tagging support;
- Calculation of costs of mitigation and adaptation, and costs of implementation of mitigation and adaptation;
- Information and knowledge to learn where appropriate technology is available, incl technology and knowledge transfer and development, highlighting the importance of climate justice and provisions in the Paris Agreement;
- Good system and practices such as those related to risk information and loss and damage;
- Develop indicators for adaptation measures;
- Low technology early warning systems in barangays/villages, aligned with indigenous practices;
- Green schools (edible gardens, rainwater harvesting, solar electrification); and
- Coordination between the government bodies who are responsible for coordination (ie DoF, CCC, DENR), as it relates to climate finance; and also coordination between implementing and development partners.

SU briefed implementation/development partners on the Partnership's work and country engagement strategy, including Partnership Plan and facilitation process. Participants highlighted the importance of bringing in the private sector for additional financing and collective impact in terms of climate action and achieving NDCs and highlighted that IPs, DPs and CSOs have a role to play in encouraging the GoP to make sure that the letter of request is of good quality and that it is concrete enough for Partners to respond to this request. Participants discussed the Partnership's role to improve cooperation between donor and recipient countries and the need to ensure that GCF proposals are aligned with NDC plans in the country. Overall, they were supportive of the Partnership and the Partnership Plan process. They stand ready to respond, once the government forwards its request for support in terms of NDC support needs and priorities.

IV. Agreed next steps

SU and CCC focal points agreed on the following next steps:

- SU to discuss with Communications Team in Washington DC will start planning the three-minute video requested by the CCC. Expected filming date is mid-July 2018.
- CCC will discuss internally, in consultation with various departments/sectors and agencies, and prepare the letter of request for NDC-related support from the Partnership. Once the SU receives this letter, it will be forwarded to the Partnership and will indicate start of country engagement.

V. Conclusion and suggestions on the way forward

The scoping mission overall was successful whereby the objectives of the mission were met. Focal points and government departments and agencies were sensitized about the Partnership's work and country engagement strategy and highlighting the importance of country ownership and leadership. Government agencies were made aware that the purpose of the Partnership is to support implementation of the country's NDCs without interfering in the ongoing DC update process in the country.

The SU did not have the opportunity to meet with the People's Survival Fund due to scheduling reasons. SU would have liked to raise awareness of the Partnership's work and country engagement strategy as they are seen as an important partner. SU was keen to learn more about the Fund's operations, its role or link in NDC process, and its coordination mechanisms with other departments or government agencies.

It is anticipated that the GoP will submit to the Partnership a letter of request for support of NDC-related support needs in the very near future.