

Transformative Adaptation for Evolving Climate Hazards: Insights from the Philippines' Climate Action Initiatives

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United Nations
Climate Change



Philippines: A Country in the Face of Evolving Climate Risks

- The Philippines ranks 4th among countries most affected by climate risks from 2000 to 2019 (Germanwatch 2021)
- It enacted RA 9729 or the Climate Change Act of 2009 which highlights the need for appropriate adaptation in recognition of the country's vulnerability to climate change, and pursue mitigation as a function of adaptation
- Even with sufficient policy framework and vigorous efforts for climate action, climate change still does and will affect the country
- The evolving dynamics of climate risks in the Philippines warrants a transformative approach that transcends the conventional absorptive and adaptive methods

Long-term Climate Risk Index (CRI): The 10 countries most affected From 2000 to 2019 (annual averages) (Germanwatch 2021)

CRI 2000-2019 (1999-2018)	Country	CRI score	Fatalities	Fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants	Losses in million US\$ PPP	Losses per unit GDP in %	Number of events (2000-2019)
1 (1)	Puerto Rico	7.17	149.85	4.12	4 149.98	3.66	24
2 (2)	Myanmar	10.00	7 056.45	14.35	1 512.11	0.80	57
3 (3)	Haiti	13.67	274.05	2.78	392.54	2.30	80
4 (4)	Philippines	18.17	859.35	0.93	3 179.12	0.54	317
5 (14)	Mozambique	25.83	125.40	0.52	303.03	1.33	57
6 (20)	The Bahamas	27.67	5.35	1.56	426.88	3.81	13
7 (7)	Bangladesh	28.33	572.50	0.38	1 860.04	0.41	185
8 (5)	Pakistan	29.00	502.45	0.30	3 771.91	0.52	173
9 (8)	Thailand	29.83	137.75	0.21	7 719.15	0.82	146
10 (9)	Nepal	31.33	217.15	0.82	233.06	0.39	191

Republic Act 7160 (**Local Government Code**): "The municipality, consisting of a group of barangays, serves primarily as a general-purpose government for the coordination and **delivery of basic, regular and direct services and effective governance** of the inhabitants within its territorial jurisdiction."

Republic Act 9729 (**Climate Change Act**): "LGUs shall be the **frontline agencies in the formulation, planning and implementation of climate change action plans** in their respective areas ... Municipal and city governments shall consider **climate change adaptation, as one of their regular functions**"

Through the Local Government Code and the Climate Change Act, local governments and communities are at the forefront of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in the Philippines

LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

The LCCAP is the localization of the National Climate Change Action Plan formulated by the national government, recognizing the multitude of context and the difference of scale

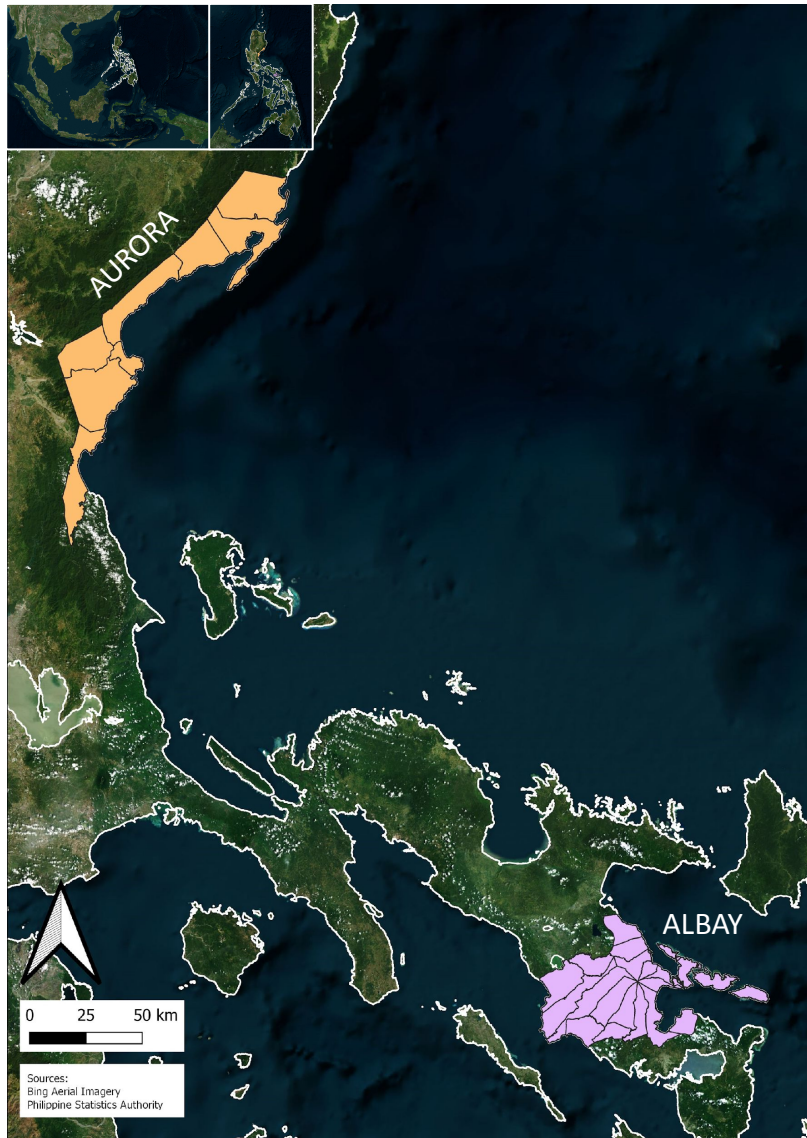
Monitoring and Evaluation

Planning, Prioritization, and Budgeting

Data Gathering, Assessment, and Analysis

Initial Preparations for LCCAP Formulation

Book4: LCCAP Guidebook



UPLB-INREM has implemented two APN-CAPaBLE Projects in 2017 and 2021:

Enhancing Climate Risk Resilience through Human Security Development and Capacity Building in the Province of Aurora, Philippines (CBA2017-03MY-Pulhin)

Resilience-building and Future-proofing Strategies in a Multi-stressed Scenario in the Province of Albay, Philippines (CBA2021-05MY-Pulhin)

Enhancing Aurora Province's technical proficiency to formulate climate action plans

Addressing the multiple climate hazards in Albay province

Through this project, UPLB-INREM and partner institutions has:

- Provided technical assistance to eight (8) municipal local government units for the creation and updating of their climate action plans such as Local Climate Change Action Plan and Climate Disaster Risk Assessment Plan

Through this project, UPLB-INREM and partner institutions has:

- Engaged six (6) municipal and city local government units of the Quinali A Watershed through participatory vulnerability and probabilistic scenario assessments which will be mainstreamed into their climate and development plans



The 3D Resilience Framework

(Source: Béné, Wood, Newsham, and Davies 2012)

Intensity of change / transaction costs

stability

flexibility

change

Absorptive coping
capacity

Adaptive
Capacity

Transformative
Capacity

(persistence)

(incremental adjustment)

(transformational responses)

Resilience

The Philippines' VISION

A **CLIMATE RISK-RESILIENT** Philippines with healthy, safe, prosperous and self-reliant communities, and thriving and productive ecosystems.

- APN CAPaBLE projects CBA2017-03MY-Pulhin and CBA2021-05MY-Pulhin contribute to achieving the climate risk-resilient vision of the Philippines by **enhancing capacities of the provincial and local governments to formulate and implement their adaptation plans**
- Achieving resilience requires **a change of knowledge, attitude and behavior** among the frontline agencies and communities, especially amid evolving climate hazards
- The projects facilitated this transformation not only in designing appropriate strategies to manage current vulnerabilities, BUT ALSO in **visualizing risks as multifaceted and interlinked phenomena with cascading and compounding impacts**; and **capitalizing on the synergy made possible through inter- and trans-disciplinary collaboration in addressing the complex drivers and impacts of the climate crisis.**

Summary, Implications and Conclusions

- The Philippines has a long history of responding to climate change, which is further strengthened by its existing policy framework (the Climate Change Act).
- Adaptation is the country's a pivotal strategy to achieving climate risk resilience, and the local government units are at the helm of these efforts.
- Amid the country's active climate response, the Philippines is still beset with climate risks given the evolving nature of climate hazards.
- More than a strategy or innovation, the APN CAPaBLE projects (CBA2017-03MY-Pulhin and CBA2021-05MY-Pulhin) treated adaptation as a transformative process that capitalizes on social, institutional and governance factors as important drivers of change.
- Continued capacity building of the local governments and communities is key to realizing resilience goals, with focus on enhancing collaborative actions and wider perspective towards understanding risks.
- Nurturing a holistic/systems-approach mindset and fostering a culture of synergy among various climate actors are therefore crucial in starting and sustaining the transformative climate action, and these enabling factors should be articulated in the country's climate policies.