



GGGI Philippines: Fact Sheet

Ecotown

Challenges

The Philippines archipelago contends with an assortment of environmental challenges that have been compounded by the effects of climate change. The Philippines coastal areas, which support a significant amount of the country's population and economic activity, in particular face considerable challenges in the form of:

- Increasingly adverse weather due to tropical storms
- High vulnerability to sea-level rises, coastal inundation, and flooding
- Landslides due to heavy rainfall, soil erosion and deforestation
- Threats to local fishing industries
- Poor urban waste management and water sanitation

Activities

The Government of the Philippines (GoP) recognizes the threat environmental challenges pose to its socioeconomic growth and have made it a priority to address climate change vulnerability into the country's overall development strategy. As a result, the GoP has adopted the National Climate Change Action Plan, which sets a goal to enhance climate change resiliency in the country's municipalities and provinces. In support of this goal, GGGI has partnered with the Climate Change Commission on the Ecotown project to incorporate green growth action plans into municipalities and provinces located within and around high-risk biodiversity areas, such as coastal regions.

Completed in 2014, the Demonstration of the Ecotown Framework in Municipalities phase of the project focused on the coastal municipality of San Vicente on Palawan Island and included:

- Climate change and natural disasters vulnerability assessments, natural resource accounting and hazard analysis in the agriculture, coastal and marine, forestry and health sectors
- Identification and prioritization of climate change adaptation measures that considered effectiveness, cost, technical feasibility, social and cultural feasibility, sustainability and overall impact
- Climate proofing of municipal development plans

The Ecotown Scale-Up Project: Climate Resilient Green Growth (CRGG) Planning at the Provincial Level phase of the project draws upon the lessons learned from green growth activities in San Vicente in order to enhance climate

resilience and green growth in the provinces of Palawan and Oriental Mindoro. Phase two work includes:

- Replicating and implementing the Framework model at the provincial-level
- Developing municipal and provincial-level Climate Resilient Green Growth (CRGG) strategies and actions plans
- Assessing provincial CRGG plans to identify investment opportunities for bankable projects

Designing and implementing a capacity building strategy to enhance local government officials' knowledge and experience in the application of CRGG strategies and plans

Overall Objectives

- Enhance the adaptive capacity of provinces to deal with climate change impacts through local development plans
- Empowers local government to implement climate change adaptation measures as new growth engines.
- Replicate climate resilient green growth planning and implementation models in other provinces
- Institutionalize the approach at the national level.

Implementing Partners

- Climate Change Commission (CCC)
- Members of the National Project Advisory Committee (various government agencies)
- Local councils

Contributing Partners

- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
- German Society for International Cooperation Agency (GIZ)
- USAID

Results to Date

- Development of Ecotown Framework
- Completion of climate change vulnerability and risk assessments in the agriculture, coastal and marine, and health sectors
- Completion of environmental and natural resource accounting in the agriculture, coastal and marine, and forestry sector
- Production of recommendations for climate change adaptation measures