



**TAMBUYOG**  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

## **Voluntary Submission to the COP25**

### **Position Paper on Ocean and Cryosphere in the Context of the Philippine Situation**

**Christian Aid  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Institute of Social Order  
NGOs for Fisheries Reform  
Parabukas  
Rare  
Save Philippine Seas  
Tambuyog Development Center**

**12 December 2019**

Christian Aid, Environmental Defense Fund, Institute of Social Order, NGOs for Fisheries Reform, Rare, Save Philippine Seas, and the Tambuyog Development Center, a consortium of civil society organizations (CSOs) operating in the Philippines, commend the work the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has undertaken leading up to Conference of Parties 25 (COP25).

The consortium appreciates the multi-stakeholder, whole-of-society approach of the UNFCCC, through the conduct of multiple regional consultations in the months leading up to COP25, where some of the Philippine-based non-government organizations have participated during the Asia Pacific Climate Week last September 2-6, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The consortium also appreciates the UNFCCC's open call for submissions to stakeholders, ensuring that the viewpoints of every stakeholder in the climate crisis is heard and addressed.

Lastly, the consortium welcomes and strongly supports the initiation of COP25 as a COP that will highlight the concerns of the ocean and cryosphere, in consideration of the recently released IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.

Climate change has continually battered the agriculture and fisheries sector in the Philippines, with the International Food Policy Research Institute projecting a cost of about PHP 26 billion per year in losses through 2050 due to direct climate risks like extreme weather events. This number becomes increasingly intimidating when indirect climate risks are taken into account, such as unquantified social costs from displacement caused by sea level rise and salinization of ground water. Considering that 60% of municipalities in the Philippines are coastal, making them highly susceptible to both the fast (storm surges) and slow (sea level rise and salinization) onset events of climate change, and considering that these communities are the most impoverished sector of the population, they are highly vulnerable to climate change and its effects.



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Added to these, increasing sea water temperature also leads to coral bleaching which cause the loss of habitat for some fishes and marine organisms on which small fishers depend on for their livelihood; and to diseases on seaweeds that serve as alternative source of income of the sector. Consequently, these also result not only to insecurity of food production and to the aggravation of the poverty conditions of the said sector.

The Philippines recognizes the significant role of oceans in reaching Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets. This includes protecting or restoring coastal 'blue carbon' ecosystems, fostering resilience of fisheries, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the maritime transport and fisheries, and fostering ecosystem- based adaptation, the latter having both mitigation and development co- benefits.

### **Means of Implementation**

The consortium welcomes the recent approval by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) of the project proposal of the Philippines for the establishment of a multi-hazard impact-based forecasting and early warning system (MH-IBF-EWS). As previously reported in the Convention, financing for mitigation accounts for more than 70% while only 25% for adaptation climate finance was provided to developing countries in 2013 to 2014.

Given these contexts, the consortium calls on the following:

1. To provide a balanced funding portfolio for climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts as well as include a finance mechanism to enhance resilience and risk management for those facing climate change-related losses and damages under the existing financial mechanisms in the Convention;
2. To improve ease of access to climate finance particularly to at-risk coastal communities and governments;
3. To continue and replenish the different financial mechanisms existing under the Convention;
4. To strengthen the mandates of financial mechanisms existing under the Convention in order to support the impending coming into effect of the Paris Agreement;
5. To provide mechanisms that provide avenues to outline nature-based courses of actions specific to addressing climate change risks to marine and coastal ecosystems and to facilitate stronger engagement across sectors when addressing vulnerability to climate change;
6. To establish stronger accountability measures under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
7. To include socio-economic behavior change strategies, as prescribed in the scientific assessments, as a means to address the important challenge and threat of destructive human behaviors and practices; and
8. To establish effective, science-based and participatory fisheries management as an insurance for the resiliency of the fisheries resources and the communities that rely on them in the face of climate change negative impacts to regions within the tropical belt.



## **Agriculture and Fisheries**

The consortium emphasizes that agriculture, fisheries and food production are important to the economies of developing countries and the livelihoods of their peoples. In light of this, the consortium strongly urges countries to ensure resilience of food systems in marine, coastal, lowland, upland ecosystems and the corresponding value chains while undertaking mitigation efforts in the agriculture sector.

The consortium also emphasizes the need to provide support to climate-resilient but viable livelihood options which the fishers and farmers can engage in, both to ensure their economic well-being and also assure their access to food and water.

The consortium also calls on the COP to intensify efforts in both fisheries and farming in agriculture in the context of adaptation and resilience co-benefits specifically under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture.

The consortium also calls on the COP to discuss efforts in agriculture in the context of adaptation and adaptation co-benefits.

## **Ocean and Cryosphere**

The consortium calls on the COP:

1. To provide science-based and enforceable policies to encourage an increase in investment in science and technology to address the concerns of the ocean and cryosphere, in light of the recent IPCC Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate;
2. To consider different types of connectivity (e.g., land-sea, larval sources and sinks, social and ecological systems) in developing adaptation and mitigation strategies for the ocean and cryosphere;
3. To provide science-based and enforceable policies to support climate-smart coastal management and nature-based solutions, with the aim of conserving ecosystem service and function;
4. To adopt and or strengthen Ecosystem-Based Adaptation, which is a proven cost-effective coastal protection tool that can have co-benefits and secure ecosystem well-being (SROCC); and
5. To strengthen inclusive socio-institutional responses, including community-based and locally-driven adaptation and risk management, capacity building, participatory processes, institutional support for adaptation planning and support mechanisms for communities that are important tools to address climate change impacts (SROCC).