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MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO : **Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science**
Water Resources Management Office

The Directors
Climate Change Service
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service

Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The OIC Director**
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST INPUTS/RESPONSES ON THE KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE DENR ON THE ASEAN+3 MACROECONOMIC RESEARCH OFFICE (AMRO) ANNUAL CONSULTATION VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES**

DATE : 30 AUG 2023

This refers to the email dated July 4, 2023, from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) regarding the in-person ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) Consultation Visit (ACV) to the Philippines proposed scheduled on **06 September 2023 in DENR**. This is the first time that the DENR is included in AMRO's Annual Consultation visits. Also, in the scheduled AMRO meetings with other agencies, the **AMRO will be spearheaded by either the Undersecretary or the Head of the Institution**.

AMRO is the regional macroeconomic surveillance organization that aims to contribute to securing macroeconomic and financial stability in the ASEAN+3 region. To this end, AMRO conducts ACV in every ASEAN+3 member country in order to deepen its understanding of key issues related to its respective member economy. AMRO also furnished guide questions for discussion during the meeting.

Based on available data, this service prepared initial responses for the AMRO's guide questions through the link below ***(Please see Annex A)***. Considering that some of the questions are in the purview of your offices, may we request you to **(1) validate the initial responses prepared by this service and submit further inputs**; **(2) submit data regarding the DENR green projects** and its status; and **(3) submit monthly series on natural resource supply and on pollution** to facilitate the preparations of briefer for the DENR's authorized representative. Please note that the inputs/data will not be submitted to AMRO but will only serve as a guide to the DENR in the course of the discussion during the consultation visit.

In this regard, we would greatly appreciate receiving your inputs and/or responses **on or before 1 September 2023** through this link: https://bit.ly/3YTsPBv.

For your appropriate action, please.

CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

MEMO NO. 2023 - 734

ANNEX A.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE DENR FROM AMRO

TOPICS	KEY QUESTIONS	INPUTS/ RESPONSES	REMARKS (additional inputs/ responses/ comments from Concerned Office/Division;)
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES	a. Could you share the state and outlook of the natural resource supply in the Philippines?	**According to Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2028)[1] :** **Forests** • The country has 663 million metric tons of carbon stocks in living forest biomass. The land use change and forestry sequestered 1.3 percent of the country's greenhouse gas emissions in 2011. On February 26, 2011, President Benigno S. Aquino III issued EO 26 ordering and declaring the implementation of the National Greening Program or NGP as a government priority. The NGP aims to plant 1.5 billion trees covering 1,500,000 ha of public lands by the year 2016 and is the main strategy for reforestation of the Philippine government. **Inland Water/Wetlands** • The Philippine Biodiversity Conservation identified 216 lakes, 421 principal rivers, and 22 marshes, swamps, and lakes all over the country. The BMB has identified 756 inland wetlands with 651 (86%) river systems, 83 (11%) lakes, 16 (2%) water storage/reservoirs, four ponds, and two marshes/pools (1%). Inland water/wetlands, a freshwater source, become a congregating point for human settlements. They are the most accessed but they receive the least accorded conservation attention. Major government agencies have	

[1] PBSAP 2015 -2028. Retrieved from *https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ph/ph-nbsap-v3-en.pdf*

		commonly related wetland concerns but no committees to synergize or oversee these. **Caves and Cave Ecosystems** • More than 1,500 caves have been recorded nationwide with still a significant number of caves yet to be discovered, assessed, surveyed, and classified. Despite the country's cave biodiversity and significance, most of these are in danger due to increased demand for recreational sites, vandalism, treasure hunting, mining, pollution, illegal collection of cave resources, and rapid urbanization. **Coastal and Marine Ecosystems** • The Philippines, being situated at the apex of the Coral Triangle, is considered to be the richest marine ecoregion in the world or the center of marine shore fish diversity. • Based on the State of the Coral Triangle Report from the Philippines in 2012, mangrove cover has increased from 0.247 million ha in 2003 to 0.311 million ha in 2012 due to mangrove reforestation efforts. Planted mangroves have reached up to more than 44,000 ha (Samson & Rollon, 2008; Primavera, Rollon, & Samson, 2011). Several interventions have been introduced to address mangrove rehabilitation loss such as the NGP in 2011, Integrated Coastal Resources Management Project (ICRMP), and the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP). **Urban Biodiversity** • Urban biodiversity is a new concept in the Philippines but some pockets of green space and landscape have been established. Through synergism between and among different sectors, these urban green spaces can be improved for urban residents to	

		benefit from their ecosystem services and enhance human well-being. • At least 47 migratory species such as the vulnerable Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes)* have been recorded at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area. Records from 2007-2011 show that the site supports at least one percent of the estimated population of Black-winged stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) using the EAAF. The site faces threats such as waste from nearby cities, heavy metals and other organic contents coming from residential and industrial effluents. Other threats include on-going land reclamation projects and mangrove cutting.	
ENVIRONMENT AND POLLUTION	a. What are the major threats to the natural environment and the natural resource supply in the Philippines?	**The Current Issues facing the DENR[2]** - **Environmental Pollution** *First is the poor implementation of environmental law to address environmental pollution. For solid waste, since RA 9003 was enacted in 2000, not much has been done to address the garbage problem in our country. The latest figure from EMB shows that only 38% of the Local Government Units (LGUs) have complied with the law. LGUs are having a hard time complying with the requirement due to lack of technical and financial support. Underwater quality, water pollution remains a big challenge affecting our rivers and other water bodies. And for air quality, in metro manila alone, rapid deterioration of air quality was recorded. Based on research, women are the most vulnerable by the effects of environmental pollution. Among the effects are the following; infertility, spontaneous abortion, adverse birth outcomes and an increased risk of breast cancer.*	

[2] DENR, An Overview. Retrieved from *https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1oJSET5z-elHWpWWaTUMcQc7aDKJO172c/edit#slide=id.p1*

		- **Deforestation** *Another current issue is deforestation, protection and maintenance of areas especially those tagged as illegal logging hotspots is a big challenge for the department, because illegal logging activities in these areas are unabated.* - **Climate Change** *For climate change, the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries affected by climate change. These were manifested in the form of temperature rise, variability of precipitation, and changes in the frequency and intensity of typhoons, droughts, and floods. According to the United Nations, women and girls experience the greatest impact of climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health and safety.* - **Coastal and Marine** *Under coastal and marine, in pursuit of development, coastal communities resorted to land reclamation, mangrove conversion to fishponds or residential areas, and improper coral reef care, all of which have weakened the natural protection provided by coastal environment. In addition, coastal erosion from natural causes has been reducing available land for development and Filipinos are exposed to the risk of coastal disasters especially women and children living near the coastal areas.* - **Mining** *And for mining, its activities affect the land use and vegetation of an area. Some mining companies/ permittees are not compliant to mining standards and regulations.*	

	b. What is the latest state and outlook of the pollution (e.g. air, water, waste, etc.) in the Philippines?	**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**[3] **Air Pollution** Throughout the year, air pollution has become a significant issue in the Philippines. Per the World Health Organization's health and environment scorecard, the country records an annual mean of 24 micrograms per cubic metre (μg/m³) for fine particulate matter, significantly surpassing the recommended maximum level of 5 μg/m³. The primary sources of air pollution in the Philippines are the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil, which is worsened by the fact that a substantial portion (53%) of the population lacks access to clean cooking fuels and technology, leading to potential long-term deterioration of air quality. Vehicular emissions also contribute significantly to air pollution, especially in areas like Metro Manila. In 2022, instances of heightened air pollution were also recorded in various locations outside Metro Manila, including San Fernando City Station in Pampanga, Antipolo City Station, Biñan City Station, Puerto Princesa City Station, and the Davao City Station. **Plastic Pollution** Plastic pollution is a severe environmental issue in the Philippines, characterized by the annual generation of 2.7 million tons of plastic waste. The country's inadequate waste management system and heavy reliance on single-use plastics contribute to this problem, resulting in significant challenges. The World Bank has described the situation as 'staggering.' The inefficient recycling system and unsustainable plastic consumption further exacerbate the issue, leading to an	

[3] 4 Biggest Environmental Issues in the Philippines in 2023. Retrieved from *https://earth.org/environmental-issues-in-the-philippines/*

		estimated loss of approximately US$890 million from unrecycled plastic products. Despite these challenges, some residents and companies in the Philippines have taken proactive steps in recycling. Notable examples include companies like Infinity Eight Trading and Marketing Corporation, which purchases plastic waste, converts it into pellets, and resells it as raw materials for producing items like food cartons and bottles. In 2022, the government introduced the Extended Producer Responsibility Act (EPRA) to address the issue. Under this law, companies are required to establish programs for reducing, recovering, and diverting plastic waste. By 2028, these companies are expected to achieve an 80% offset or recovery of their plastic product footprint, marking a significant step toward combating plastic pollution in the country. **Marine Pollution** Marine pollution is a critical environmental issue in the Philippines, ranking as the third-largest contributor to marine plastics. The country generates over 2 million tons of plastic waste annually, and according to the World Bank, approximately 20% of it ends up in the sea, threatening marine biodiversity. Undersecretary Theresa Lazaro of the DFA, also cited that without action, there could be more plastics than fish by 2050, leading to overheated and acidified oceans. To address marine pollution, the Philippines has taken several measures. The Philippine Port Authority collaborated with WWF Philippines to reduce plastic waste leakage by 50% in ports like Cagayan de Oro, Batangas, and Manila North. The DENR also implemented a National Plan of Action on Marine Litter, aiming for zero waste in Philippine waters by 2040. This	

		plan involves diverse policies, public-private partnerships, and awareness campaigns, targeting land-based sources of marine plastics due to improper waste disposal. While the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law is seen as a positive step, the effectiveness of these efforts depends on factors such as commitment and sustained implementation. The Philippines recognizes the need for integrated approaches that tackle both land-based plastic pollution and educating the public about waste management practices to achieve meaningful results in combating marine pollution. **Sea Level Rise** In 2022, the Philippines experienced recurring floods, including devastating flooding in Northern Mindanao and the Visayas region that resulted in the loss of at least 51 lives. The country topped the World Risk Index due to factors like sea level rise, which contributes to coastal flooding. The capital city, Manila, is facing a dire situation as it's subsiding at a rate of 20 millimeters per year, exceeding the sea level rise nearly tenfold. Projections indicate that without intervention, Manila's residents could be displaced by 2100. Despite challenges, the government is taking steps to address the issue. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced a plan in 2022 to implement flood mitigation infrastructures such as floodgates, pumping stations, box culverts, and enhanced drainage systems. They are also focusing on declogging drainage canals in Manila and prioritizing low-lying areas to reduce the impact of coastal flooding. However, achieving effective mitigation remains a significant challenge.	

	c. What are the government policies on environmental protection and reduction in pollution (e.g., "Polluters pay")	**Major Environmental Laws**[4] **Republic Act 9275 Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004** The law aims to protect the country's water bodies from pollution from land-based sources (industries and commercial establishments, agriculture and community/household activities). It provides a comprehensive and integrated strategy to prevent and minimize pollution through a multi-sectoral and participatory approach involving all the stakeholders. **Republic ACT 8749 Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999** The law aims to achieve and maintain clean air that meets the National Air Quality guideline values for criteria pollutants, throughout the Philippines, while minimizing the possible associated impacts to the economy. **Republic Act 9003 Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000** In partnership with stakeholders, the law aims to adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program that shall ensure the protection of public health and environment. The law ensures proper segregation, collection, storage, treatment and disposal of solid waste through the formulation and adaptation of best eco-waste products. **Republic Act 6969 Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990** The law aims to regulate, restrict or prohibit the importation, manufacture, processing, sale, distribution, use and disposal of chemical substances and mixtures that present unreasonable risk to human health. It	

[4] Major Environmental Laws. Retrieved from *https://ecac.emb.gov.ph/?page_id=43#:~:text=REPUBLIC%20ACT%208749%20PHILIPPINE%20CLEAN,associated%20impacts%20to%20the%20economy*

		likewise prohibits the entry, even in transit, of hazardous and nuclear wastes and their disposal into the Philippine territorial limits for whatever purpose; and to provide advancement and facilitate research and studies on toxic chemicals. **Presidential Decree 1586 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Statement of 1978** The Environment Impact Assessment System was formally established in 1978 with the enactment of Presidential Decree no. 1586 to facilitate the attainment and maintenance of rational and orderly balance between socio-economic development and environmental protection. EIA is a planning and management tool that will help government, decision makers, the proponents and the affected community address the negative consequences or risks on the environment. The process assures implementation of environment-friendly projects. **Republic Act 11898 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022.**[5] The law requires large-scale companies to establish a mechanism for the recovery of their plastic packaging. Under the EPR, companies are obliged to have the responsibility for the proper and effective recovery, treatment, recycling or disposal of their products after they have been sold and used by consumers" to reduce the volume of plastic wastes generation and extend the life of plastics by adding value or purpose through upcycling or recycling. The EPR law will also help in advancing a circular economy that mitigates climate change and protects our life-supporting ecosystems by avoiding or minimizing pollution while maximizing the use of materials.	

[5] Republic Act No. 11898. Retrieved from https://legacy.senate.gov.ph/republic_acts/ra%2011898.pdf

NATURAL DISASTER	a. Could you share your views on the costs of natural disasters (in environmental and economic aspects)?	The Philippines has a bounty of minerals, cropland, timber, and coastal and marine resources. These natural resources make up an estimated 19% of the nation's wealth, contributing to the country's consistent GDP growth. However, rapid economic development is placing pressure on the country's already stressed natural resources, exacerbated by the impacts of global climate change. The implementation of **natural capital accounting** in the Philippines is timely, as the current administration emphasizes governance reforms that include transparent and science-based decision making while pursuing sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth.[6] Disasters have profound and far-reaching effects on economies, societies, and environments. They cause significant damage to infrastructure, hindering economic activity by disrupting roads, telecommunications, and power networks, while also destroying valuable assets like machinery and livestock. The resulting human impacts include property loss, homelessness, and community disruption, leading to fatalities, disabilities, health issues, and mental trauma. Moreover, these disasters can cause extensive environmental harm, from deforestation to reshaping landscapes. Their indirect and long-term consequences encompass reduced productivity, heightened resource competition, business closures, and loss of livelihoods.[7]	

[6] Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services. Retrieved from *https://www.wavespartnership.org/en/philippines#:~:text=The%20Philippines%20has%20a%20bounty,the%20country's%20consistent%20GDP%20growth.*

[7] Natural Disasters, Public Spending, and Creative Destruction: A Case Study Of The Philippines. Retrieved from *https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/408351/adbi-wp817.pdf*

	b. What are the government support policies to tackle natural disasters?	There is already an "Act Strengthening the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System, providing for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework and Institutionalizing the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan, Appropriating Funds therefore and for other purposes" or the **Republic Act no. 10121 s. 2010.** This Act provides for the development of policies and plans and the implementation of actions and measures pertaining to all aspects of disaster risk reduction and management, including good governance, risk assessment and early warning, knowledge building and awareness raising, reducing underlying risk factors, and preparedness for effective response and early recovery.[8] *National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP)* 2020 – 2030 - The plan establishes the linkage between disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), climate change adaptation (CCA), and human security by focusing on climate and disaster risks.[9]	
EL NIÑO	a. El Niño is expected to happen in 2023 – 2024, what is the government assessment on the impact of El Niño on the	During El Niño, the consistently low annual rainfall over river basins leads to a significant decrease in the water inflows in major reservoirs. Worsening decreases in inflow result in curtailment in the domestic and irrigation water supply, thus causing water rationing in residential areas and reduction in irrigated farmlands. The agricultural sector is affected by widespread water shortages induced by El Niño, which is also when crop	

[8] Republic Act No. 10121. Retrieved from *https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2010/05/27/republic-act-no-10121/*

[9] National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP) 2020 – 2030. Retrieved from *https://app.adpc.net/resources/national-disaster-risk-reduction-and-management-plan-ndrrmp-2020-to-2030%EF%BF%BC/#:~:text=Preparedness%20Partnership%20(APP)-,National%20Disaster%20Risk%20Reduction%20and%20Management,NDRRMP)%20%E2%80%93%202020%20to%202030%EF%BF%BC&text=The%20plan%20establishes%20the%20linkage,and%20disaster%20risks%20(English).*

	country's natural environment and the supply of natural resources in these two years?	production damage is highest, not only in upland and rainfed areas, but also in lowland irrigated areas. The high temperature and rapid evaporation of surface water during El Niño create unfavorable conditions for marine fishes. Production losses are caused by drying of fish ponds, shorter production cycles, stunted fish growth, and fish mortalities from stress, poor water quality and disease. El Niño-related drought events are also associated with indirect environmental effects. Due to the long dry spell that moves into the otherwise wet season, forest fire destruction has steadily increased in recent years.[10] The Executive Order No. 22 or the Creating The Water Resource Management Office in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources[11] aims to address El Niño. According to Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) El Niño may still persist until 2024. This weather phenomenon is not new for the Philippines, the last El Niño event in the country was recorded in 2018 until 2019. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. reiterates the goal behind the creation of the WRMO and the ongoing establishment of the Department of Water Management as soon as House Bills materialize. He says that these government offices are there to "precisely address this problem.[12]	

[10] Asian Disaster Preparedness Center. Retrieved from *http://www.adpc.net/irc06/2002/07-09/theme2.html#:~:text=An%20El%20Ni%C3%B1o%20event%20is,many%20parts%20of%20the%20country*

[11] Executive Order No. 22. Retrieved from *https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2023/04apr/20230427-EO-22-FRM.pdf*

[12] Newly created WRMO aims to address El Niño. Retrieved from *https://pia.gov.ph/news/2023/03/29/newly-created-wrmo-aims-to-address-el-nino*

	b. Does the Government have any preparation for mitigating the adverse impact?	The Philippine government is taking steps to ensure water security amidst the El Niño phenomenon by diversifying water sources, including recycling wastewater and building new infrastructure. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources aims to reduce its dependence on the Angat Dam in Bulacan, the primary water source for Metro Manila and nearby areas, as its water levels have dropped below the minimum operating level. The government's medium-term strategies to solve the capital region's water problem, such as the Kaliwa Dam project, set to be completed by the end of 2026. The WRMO, which is the newly-created office, is also helping plug leaks in government agencies that had water billions amounting to millions. The government—along with water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad—is also implementing short-term fixes such as tapping Laguna de Bay as a water source and treating wastewater.[13] The Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) has issued Bulletin No. 2 with instructions to conserve water to prevent a water crisis amid a looming El Niño phenomenon. Barangay officials, condominium, and subdivision managers are advised to encourage residents to reduce water-intensive activities like watering the lawn and washing vehicles. Residents should also be urged to collect rainwater for non-potable use and reuse wastewater for dishwashing and watering plants. Local government units in the National Capital Region (NCR) are directed to expedite pipe repairs for water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad. In its	

[13] DENR 'diversifying' water sources as El Niño looms. Retrieved from *https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2023/07/11/2280329/denr-diversifying-water-sources-el-nio-looms*

		second bulletin, the WRMO, along with the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage System (MWSS), will conduct spot inspections of government office buildings to ensure compliance with water conservation measures. The team will ensure that WRMO Bulletin Nos. 1 and 2 are posted in offices accordingly. These actions are part of efforts to prevent water shortages during the anticipated El Niño conditions, as per President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directives in Memorandum Circular No. 22.[14]	
CLIMATE CHANGE	a. What are climate change conditions in the Philippines?	As an archipelago in the Pacific, the Philippines experiences the effects of climate change through extreme weather events such as typhoons reaching the (highest) Category 5 intensity on the Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Scale or "supertyphoons". Costly typhoon seasons have become a national reality in the country. The typhoon seasons in recent decades (1980s to 2010s) have been tallying more deaths and damages. Even the Philippines' southern islands or Mindanao, once considered 'typhoon-free', are now more frequently visited by typhoons: two of the deadliest typhoons that visited the country in the 2010s – Sendong and Pablo – had devastated the region. Hence, according to the Global Climate Risk Index, the Philippines is among the top five countries that are most affected by climate change. A study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has estimated that by 2100, the average cost of climate change to the country would equal losing 6% of its gross domestic product (GDP) each year, which is more than twice the global average loss[15]	

[14] DENR-WRMO Expands Water Conservation Directive To Include All Residents Of NCR, Nearby Provinces. Retrieved from *https://www.denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases/5519-denr-wrmo-expands-water-conservation-directive-to-include-all-residents-of-ncr-nearby-provinces*

[15] Climate Change in the Philippine Context. Retrieved from *https://climatechange.denr.gov.ph/*

	b. What are the risks of climate change and natural disasters (including extreme weather conditions) affecting the country's environment and the supply of natural resources	Global and local climate change is changing. Current climate trends show that the Philippines using mid-range emissions scenario, the climate projections done by the PAGASA for 2020 and 2050 indicate that all areas of the Philippines will get warmer, with largest increase in temperatures, variability of precipitation, frequency and intensity of typhoons, sea level rise, and the risks of more droughts, floods, heat waves, and forest and grassland fires have impacts on the economy, environment and communities. [16]	
	c. Please share your views on environmental-related climate change adaptation strategies in the country	After adopting the Framework in April 2010 along with its guiding principles, the Philippines formulated the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) to outline the country's strategy for adaptation and mitigation from 2011 to 2028. The NCCAP takes a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change challenges. It emphasizes prioritizing public financing for adaptation efforts aimed at reducing the vulnerability and risks faced by marginalized and impoverished communities. Concurrently, the plan seeks to create a policy environment conducive to private sector involvement, thereby maximizing mitigation opportunities in pursuit of sustainable development. Aligned with the Framework, the overarching objective is to enhance the adaptive capacities of both women and men within communities. This involves increasing the resilience of vulnerable sectors and natural ecosystems to the impacts of climate change. Additionally, the plan strives to harness mitigation opportunities, taking a	

[16] National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), 2011-2028. Retrieved from *https://climate.emb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/NCCAP-1.pdf*

		gender-responsive and rights-based approach to ensure sustainable development. The NCCAP outlines the specific programs and strategies for adaptation and mitigation for 2011 to 2028. It is a comprehensive plan that provides key actions that: - enhances adaptive capacity and resilience of communities and natural ecosystems to climate change. - adopts the total economic valuation of natural resources while ensuring biodiversity conservation. - recognizes the competitive advantage of putting value on the direct use, indirect use, option to use and non-use of environment and natural resources, as a short to long-term sustainable development goal. [17]	
	d. Please share your views on environmental-related climate change mitigation strategies in the country	Currently there is an implementation of the National Climate Change Action Plan for 2011-2028, which aims to enhance resilience and stability of natural systems and communities and focuses on protection of ecosystems, rehabilitation and restoration of ecological services. The government is implementing wide array of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies which includes the following: 1. Implementation of the National REDD Plus Strategy; 2. Expansion of network of key biodiversity areas (KBAs) 3. Establishing ecosystem towns or ecotowns in protected areas and KBAs 4. Implementation of moratorium on polluting and extractive industries in PAs. KBAs and other environmentally critical areas 5. Increase knowledge and capacity for integrated ecosystem based management at the national, local and community levels.	

[17] National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), 2011-2028. Retrieved from *https://climate.emb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/NCCAP-1.pdf*

		6. Institutionalization of Natural Resource Accounting 7. Climate change resilient, eco-efficient and environment friendly industries and services developed, promoted and sustained 8. Sustainable and renewable energy and ecologically-efficient technologies adopted as major components of sustainable development. [18]	
	e. Could you share the latest policies on promoting renewable energy in the Philippines?	The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the Philippines has temporarily suspended the processing and approval of environmental compliance certificates (ECCs) for offshore wind energy and floating solar energy projects. This suspension is pending the creation of new guidelines for these renewable energy projects. The freeze order, signed by DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, has been in effect for four months. The order highlights concerns about the potential environmental impacts of these projects on coastal and marine ecosystems. The DENR is collaborating with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for technical assistance in crafting comprehensive guidelines that consider all possible impacts and in close coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE) and that Yulo-Loyzaga has been reporting to Malacañang to give the President updates on crafting the said guidelines. This move contrasts with a provision of Section 13 in Republic Act 11234 (Act Establishing the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop for the Purpose of Streamlining the Permitting Process of Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Projects), which establishes time frames for government agencies to process applications for renewable energy projects. The delay may affect significant investments in renewable energy projects,	

[18] National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), 2011-2028. Retrieved from *https://climate.emb.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/NCCAP-1.pdf*

		including offshore wind and floating solar installations, which President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has been advocating to increase the country's renewable energy share and reduce coal dominance in the current energy mix. Under his watch, Executive Order 21 dated April 19, 2023, established the policy and administrative framework for offshore wind development and cited that the Philippine Energy Plan for 2020-2040 targets to increase the RE contribution in the power generation mix from the current share of 22 percent, to 35 RE share by 2030 and 50 percent share by 2040.[19]	
	f. Could you share the latest situation of carbon trading/ pricing in the Philippines?	Currently the Philippines does not have any carbon pricing policy but there are initiatives in the legislative branch to pursue a carbon tax and a carbon credit system.[20] In the Forestry Sector, there is a Carbon Accounting and Verification System (CAVCS), which encourages private sector investment in projects that sequester greenhouse gases by providing verifiable carbon sequestration certificates. It is envisioned to open a greater space for investments into forestry projects and standardize related GHG monitoring and reporting procedures. [21]	
	g. Recent studies suggested that the preservation of wetlands is	The House panel approved a substitute bill for "National Wetlands Conservation Act" in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3460 and 8925. This Wetland Bill, if passed into law, is another milestone in addressing the policy	

[19] DENR freeze order to impact renewable energy projects. Retrieved from *https://faspselib.denr.gov.ph/sites/default/files//DENR%20freeze%20order%20to%20impact%20renewable%20energy%20projects.pdf*

[20] PH urged to roll out carbon pricing to cut emissions. Retrieved from *https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1200329*

[21] DAO 2021-43. Retrieved from *https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/phi208861.pdf*

	essential for climate change mitigation. Could you share the latest situation of preserving wetlands in the Philippines?	gaps for the effective management of our natural resources. This landmark policy shall consolidate the various wetland-related legal provisions dispersed in several laws, as there has been no single Philippine legislation that advances the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The proposed bills will address various national issues such as water security, food security, disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and resilience, and maintenance of ecosystem services thereby contributing to our community's health and economic well-being. The national wetland policy will also provide the necessary legal framework to promote the development of specific guidelines, plans, and programs for the protection and wise use of wetlands contributing to Philippine Sustainable Development Goals and to meet our international commitments to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, among others.[22]	
DATA REQUEST	**Please provide us with the following data**		
	a. Series on natural resource supply in the Philippines (monthly series or the highest frequency from 2000)	*Link:*	
	b. Series on pollution (air, water, waste, etc.) in the Philippines and NCR (monthly series or the highest frequency from 2000)	*Link:*	
	c. List of Green Projects, brief information and its status, if any	*Link:*	

[22] Philippine Wetlands. Retrieved from *https://bmb.gov.ph/protected-area-development-and-management/philippine-wetlands/*