

Supporting National Climate Contributions and Long-Term Strategies

A Strategic Narrative for Climate Change Mitigation



Global Climate Commitments and the Paris Agreement: The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement ushered in a new era of global climate action, urging countries to limit warming to ideally 1.5°C. A key mechanism of this commitment is the submission of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by all member states.



Philippines: A Biodiversity Hotspot Under Threat: Despite its rich biodiversity, the Philippines is highly vulnerable to climate impacts—from severe weather events to accelerating sea-level rise—putting both ecosystems and socio-economic stability at risk.



Pacific Islands and the Shared Burden of Climate Vulnerability: Like the Philippines, Pacific Island nations face profound climate risks due to their geography. Rapid urbanization in the Philippines further intensifies exposure to hazards and contributes to rising greenhouse gas emissions.



Human Pressures on Ecosystems and Urban Climate Risks: Anthropogenic activities—including deforestation driven by agriculture, infrastructure, and illegal logging, as well as overfishing—erode ecological integrity. Urban areas, responsible for 75% of GDP, contribute significantly to emissions due to poor construction standards and expanding urban populations. With more than half the population living in coastal zones, communities face heightened risks from typhoons, floods, and coral reef loss.

GIZ's Role in Global Climate Mitigation: GIZ is a leading partner in global climate mitigation, integrating economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It works with governments and institutions worldwide to design, strengthen, and implement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term low-emission strategies.

Across sectors—energy, transport, industry, agriculture, waste, and forestry—GIZ promotes integrated approaches, recognizing that climate action cannot succeed in silos. Its mitigation support includes expanding renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and developing carbon markets and emissions trading systems aligned with the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.

To reinforce transparency and accountability, GIZ helps countries establish robust measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) systems and advance financial reforms that redirect incentives and mobilize public and private climate finance. Capacity development is a central pillar: through training and knowledge exchange, GIZ strengthens institutions and empowers local actors to drive their own

Gaps and Challenges in Climate Mitigation



Insufficient Financing
Lack of adequate funding for mitigation initiatives



Limited Technical Capacity
Shortages in expertise to design and implement actions



Weak or Aging Infrastructure
Infrastructure not resilient to climate impacts



Inadequate Climate Data
Gaps or outdated information for decision-making



Policy Incoherence
Local and national policies not fully aligned



Low Public Awareness
Limited understanding of the urgency of action

climate actions. GIZ's global work is grounded in experience from over 120 partner countries and is enhanced through collaboration with international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector.



In the Philippines, GIZ has supported the Climate Change Commission since the passage of the Climate Change Act of 2009, offering technical and policy advice, promoting renewable energy, and helping embed climate resilience into national and sectoral plans under the National Climate Change Action Plan. Its contributions also align with national mechanisms like the People's Survival Fund, which enables local governments and NGOs to pursue resilience-focused projects.

In the Pacific, GIZ has played a key role in climate mitigation through the Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region (CCCPIR) program, working with 15 island nations to address climate risks across biodiversity, coastal protection, energy, and climate policy. Partnerships with regional institutions such as SPC and SPREP ensure harmonized strategies and effective knowledge sharing across the region.

What GIZ Is Doing Globally: The Pacific Islands face severe climate risks—from sea-level rise to extreme weather—despite contributing very little to global emissions. To address these challenges, GIZ supports

regional and national efforts to advance climate mitigation through sustainable energy transitions, ecosystem protection, and climate-resilient infrastructure. By strengthening regional cooperation and partnering with governments and institutions, GIZ helps build the technical capacity and systems needed for effective climate action. However, the scale of climate threats underscores the need for greater global support and collaboration.

GIZ in the Philippines – A strategic partner: For over 50 years, GIZ, wholly owned by the German government, has supported Philippine development through international expertise, local partnerships, and engineering know-how. GIZ plays a key role in the country's climate change mitigation efforts by focusing on capacity building, policy support, and fostering investments.

GIZ is well-positioned to help the Philippines and Pacific Islands overcome key climate mitigation challenges by strengthening financing, capacity, data, infrastructure, policy coherence, and public awareness. It supports countries in identifying and accessing domestic and international funding sources while helping design financial mechanisms tailored to regional needs. A core focus is capacity-building: GIZ provides technical assistance, training, and workshops that equip local stakeholders with the expertise needed to implement effective climate solutions.

Working closely with governments, GIZ also supports the development of sustainable, climate-resilient infrastructure. To improve decision-making, GIZ partners with universities, research institutions, and global organizations to ensure reliable climate data collection, updating, and analysis. It further helps align national and local climate policies with broader development plans to create a coherent, integrated strategy. Finally, GIZ strengthens public engagement through community outreach and educational initiatives, raising awareness of the urgency of climate action. By addressing these interconnected gaps, GIZ contributes significantly to enhancing climate resilience and supporting the Philippines and Pacific Island countries in advancing effective climate mitigation.

Project References

[Transformative Actions for Climate and Ecological Protection and Development \(TRANSCEND\)](#) (2023 – 2029)

Donor: International Climate Initiative BMWK

Country: Philippines **Lead Agencies:**

Conservation International Philippines (CI), Rare, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Clean Air Asia, International Council on Clean Transport, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, Climate Analytics, University of the Philippines Center for Women's and Gender, Studies, Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie gGmbH, Foundation for the Philippine Environment

TRANSCEND supports and aligns with national climate and biodiversity agenda plans such as the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (PBSAP). It brings together expertise from relevant organisations and political partners to tackle the climate change and biodiversity crises. It includes the following components: Biodiversity, Urban ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), Energy efficiency in micro, small, and medium enterprises, Transport, Governance, and Interface of the International Climate Initiative (IKI).

[Integrated Urban Climate Action for Low-Carbon & Resilient Cities \(Urban-Act\)](#) (2022 – 2026)

Donor: International Climate Initiative BMWK **Countries:** Philippines, China, India, Indonesia, Thailand **Lead Agency:** Department of the Interior and Local Government

Urban-Act works to help enable countries in the Asia-Pacific region to create better enabling conditions for the planning and implementation of evidence-based and inclusive urban climate action. It focuses on improving relevant regulations, procedures and services; providing technical advice and knowledge transfer to cities so that they can integrate climate change evidence into spatial and urban development plans and budgets; and facilitating regional advocacy through intergovernmental and city-to-city dialogue.

[Strengthening Disaster Resilience and Risk Mitigation through Ecosystem-based Planning and Adaptation \(E4DR\)](#) (2021-2027)

Donor: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) - International Climate Initiative (IKI) **Country:** Philippines **Lead Agency:** Department of Economy, Planning, and Development

E4DR aims to institutionalize sustainable disaster risk management in the Philippines by integrating ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and climate risk financing. It will train partners and communities to mainstream EbA, pilot biodiversity-focused measures, develop climate insurance products for SMEs, agriculture, infrastructure, and communities, and feed lessons learned into national and global frameworks.

[Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change II \(HMCCC\)](#) (2023 – 2027)

Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Countries: Global, Fiji (Pacific), Philippines, ECOWAS (West Africa) **Lead Agency:** Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (Fiji), Commission on Population and Development (Philippines), ECOWAS Commission (ECOWAS/West Africa)

HMCCC advises BMZ and supports pilot projects in West Africa, the Pacific, and the Philippines. Building on previous gender-responsive work and strategic knowledge, it focuses on policy advice and capacity building for regional and national stakeholders. It also addresses knowledge gaps, fosters communication among key actors, and shares insights internationally, with a strong emphasis on supporting vulnerable groups.

<u>Towards a South-South-South Collaboration on Climate Information Services (SSCIS)</u> (2019-2025) Donor: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) - International Climate Initiative (IKI) Country: Philippines Lead Agency: Climate Change Commission	SSCIS aims to help improve the availability of climate information and services by using infographics and maps to visualise the effects of rising temperatures on agriculture and health; charting the impacts of extreme weather conditions; producing hazard maps of areas and populations that are facing extreme events due to climate change; and simplifying studies and including socio-economic variables such as poverty levels, incomes, health and environmental status.
<u>Ecosystem-based Management of River Basins in the Philippines (E2RB)</u> (2019-2024) Donor: International Climate Initiative BMWK Countries: Philippines, Grenada, Costa Rica Lead Agency: Department of Environment and Natural Resources	E2RB enhances forest and wetland protection in river basins, reducing flood and landslide risks while improving groundwater recharge and water quality. It also boosts native tree density along forests and riverbanks, strengthening ecosystem services. Local authorities are trained to lead protection efforts. It also promotes adaptation through education, awareness campaigns, and a structured knowledge management plan, ensuring long-term sustainability of river basin management.
<u>Adaptation to Climate Change in Coastal Areas (ACCCoast)</u> (2011-2014) Donor: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) Country: Philippines Lead Agency: Department of Environment and Natural Resources	National and local adaptation strategies have strengthened coastal ecosystems and community resilience to climate change. The Project supported 16 initiatives—including coastal management, research, and education—resulting in 25 hectares of rehabilitated mangroves, management plans for 20 marine protected areas, and new conservation regulations. Philippine authorities also improved collaboration in mangrove protection.
<u>Promoting the Transition to Sustainable Transport in Asia (NDC Transport Initiative for Asia)</u> (2019-2025) Donor: International Climate Initiative (IKI) Countries: China, India, Viet Nam, Thailand, Philippines Lead Agency: China Ministry of Ecology and Environment, Department of Atmospheric Environment, India National Institute for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Viet Nam Ministry of Transport, Department of Science and Technology	The Programme promotes measures for compliance with the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in transport. Additionally, it supports long-term climate strategies and the attainment of the 2025 NDC milestone. As a regional initiative, the Programme uses events, media and publications to draw attention to the topic. With the Council for Decarbonising Transport in Asia and targeted activities in Thailand and the Philippines, it supports the development of long-term strategies for decarbonising transport in the region.
<u>Adaptation to Climate Change and Conservation of Biodiversity</u> (2008 – 2011) Donor: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) Country: Philippines Lead Agency: Department of Environment and Natural Resources	The Project supported the Philippine DENR and various partners in developing and implementing strategies to address climate change and biodiversity loss. It provided advisory services and training to aid climate adaptation, improved biodiversity conservation through protected area monitoring and mangrove rehabilitation, and promoted knowledge sharing and public awareness on environmental issues.

<u>Towards Climate-friendly Transport Technologies and Measures (TRANSfer II)</u> (2013-2018) Donor: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) within the scope of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) Countries: China, Colombia, India, Peru, Philippines, South Africa Lead Agency: Department of Environment and Natural Resources	TRANSfer assisted emerging economies and developing countries to develop and roll out Nationally Appropriate Mitigations Actions (NAMAS) for the transport sector. The TRANSfer project assisted the traffic ministries to select, design and implement NAMAs for the transport sector; promoted the learning process on transport NAMAs with a comprehensive set of measures: workshops and seminars, expert groups and networks, a manual on the development of transport NAMAs and a database containing information on transport NAMAs around the globe.
<u>Support to the Philippines in Shaping and Implementing the International Climate Regime (SupportCCC II)</u> (2015 – 2019) Donor: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) Country: Philippines Lead Agency: Philippine Climate Change Commission, Department of Energy, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board	SupportCCC II built on a previous GIZ and Climate Change Commission initiatives that strengthened institutions for implementing the National Climate Change Action Plan and promoted renewable energy and climate-resilient planning. It supported national agencies in coordinating climate policy aligned with international commitments, including the Philippines' leadership in the Climate Vulnerable Forum. At the local level, it helped government units develop climate-adaptive plans and access climate finance, such as the People's Survival Fund.
<u>The InsuResilience Global Partnership for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance</u> (2016 – 2019) Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Country: Global Lead Agencies: Global	The InsuResilience Global Partnership supported climate risk finance and insurance solutions worldwide. It helped expand existing insurance schemes and develop new ones. The Partnership supported 25 programmes in 78 countries through its implementing partners. About half of these programmes were operational and were expected to bring roughly half of the targeted 400 million people under protection in 2020.