## **CONTRIBUTION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

## **TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL THEMATIC REPORT**

## **ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

## **(Pursuant to HRC Resolution *47/24)***

In response to OHCHR’s Note Verbale dated 19 August 2020, the Government of the Philippines is pleased to provide its contribution to the UN Secretary-General’s report on the adverse impact of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights of people in vulnerable situations (HRC resolution 47/24).

The information was provided by the Philippines’ Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country’s environment and natural resources, specifically forest and grazing lands, mineral resources, including those in reservation and watershed areas, and lands of the public domain, as well as the licensing and regulation of all natural resources as may be provided for by law in order to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits derived therefrom for the welfare of the present and future generations of Filipinos.

Guided by the provided questionnaire, the DENR’s responses include information on the adverse effects of climate change, the mechanisms set in place to measure and monitor its impact, and the specific policies, initiatives and programs it complies with to mitigate these effects. Also provided are detailed initiatives on international and multilateral cooperation as well as shared best practices and supplementary information that may be useful to support climate change action as it relates to the human rights of people in vulnerable situations.

1. **Please describe the impacts of the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations. Where possible, please share specific examples and stories.**

* The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest findings made clear that we are running out of time to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C will be beyond reach.
* Ranking 3rd among the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, the observed changes in the Philippines include increased frequency of extreme typhoons and flooding causing thousands of casualties and millions of lives disrupted. This, in turn, threatens food security and drives the emergence of food-, water- and vector-borne diseases. Research predicts that rising global temperatures will continue to alter the timing, distribution, and severity of future outbreaks.
* This situation further exacerbates the pre-existing socio-economic conditions and inequalities in the country such as poverty, hunger, and inadequate access to health care particularly in our climate-vulnerable and densely populated communities.
* Below are some specific scenarios on the effects of climate change on the enjoyment of the human rights of Filipinos in vulnerable situations:
* The aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda in 2013 resulted in the emergence of an underground economy in the province. *Women and girls were sold for food and other supplies, or trafficked into forced labor and sex work by recruiters offering jobs and scholarships.* Kristine, a 13-year-old girl, was sold to men every night; some of the men were foreign-aid workers, who raped her, and even took graphic pictures and videos of her.
* Aside from human trafficking, due to the lack of opportunities and loss of livelihood, children share the burden of providing for their families. Jericho, a 16-year old boy from Basey, Eastern Samar was hired to do the heavy lifting as they clear coconut trees from a privately-owned land and sell them only to earn 100 to 200 pesos a day.
* For Rica, a 20-year-old student and a member of an indigenous group in Bataan which depended heavily on forest resources for basic needs like food, water and medicine, climate change impacts were felt with depletion of resources being made available.
* Aside from them, the farmers in the country are among those who bore the brunt of climate change the most. The climate crisis *worsened their plight and pushed them further into poverty.* Felix, a farmer, highlighted in his statement how ironic it is that the farmers who have been tirelessly creating the food we eat are also the ones who do not have food to eat and land to till at the end of the day.
* In Alabat Island, Quezon Province, residents have been *compelled to resettle their houses farther inland because the sea seems to have risen and eaten up the formerly vast shoreline.*

It was also observed by the residents that since it has become warmer in their communities, the number of fish being caught in the municipal waters has been declining. Farming, copra making, and backyard vegetable gardening have also been difficult, and recently, often unproductive. Some of their crops, coconuts, and other vegetables had low yields and were of almost unmarketable quality.

* In Verde Island Passage, it is projected that climate change will cause rising sea levels, higher ocean temperatures, and more acidic waters. This will result in the alteration of the frequency, intensity, and distribution of storms, floods, heatwaves, and the amount and distribution of rainfall, making its unique biodiversity at risk.

The loss of biodiversity, as a result, provides a direct impact on its local communities, since their livelihoods are dependent primarily on tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, which in turn, heavily relies on these threatened natural resources.

1. **Please describe any specific policy, legislation, practice or strategy that your Government has undertaken, in compliance with applicable international human rights law, to promote an approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as loss and damage that ensures the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations. Please also note and identify any relevant mechanisms for ensuring accountability for these commitments including their means of implementation.**

* **Republic Act No. RA 9729 Climate Change Act of 2009**
* The DENR, in support to its mandate under RA 9729, is currently working on developing its Climate Change Information and Management System.
* **Executive Order No. 24 - Establishment of the Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction Cluster**
* As chair of the CCAM-DRR Cluster, the DENR leads the implementation and monitoring of the PPAs under the CCAM-DRR Performance and Projects Roadmap. for 2018-2022.
* **Risk Resiliency Program**
* In an attempt to address the effects of the climate crisis, the Government of the Philippines, through the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), implemented the Risk Resiliency Program (RRP). It is a convergence program which aims to strengthen and scale-up province-based planning and budgeting of climate-resilient investments.
* **Executive Order No 120 (EO No 120) - Creation of the Task force Build, Back Better**
* Signed on 18 November 2020 by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, EO No. 120, creating the Build Back Better Task Force, ensures the post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery efforts of typhoon-hit areas in the country.
* The "Build Back Better Task Force" is a high-level institutional platform and a more permanent body that will streamline and expedite post-disaster efforts in a sustained and integrated manner, with a clear unity of command
* The efforts of the Task Force are focused on 6 Key Result Areas, namely:
* Better and Resilient Infrastructures
* Stronger Shelter and Resilient Settlement
* Improved Systems and Essential Services
* Restored Sustainable Livelihood
* Strengthened Governance thru Broad-based Citizen Input
* Intensified Watershed Management
* **DENR Administrative Order No. 2021-22 Mainstreaming, Cascading and Institutionalizing Climate Change Concerns in the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Priority Programs**
* Objectives of the DAO are the following:
* Adopt the identified climate change responsive indicators for the DENR priority programs and projects in the annual work and financial plans of the DENR Offices;
* Identify the corresponding targets and programs, activities and projects (PPAs) for the climate change responsive indicators;
* Define the responsibilities of the bureaus, regional offices and concerned offices in mainstreaming climate change in the DENR priority programs and projects; and
* Determine the needed actions or interventions to enhance and institutionalize mainstreaming of climate change in the DENR priority programs and projects, and such other programs as may be prioritized by the Department.
* **National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter**
* The government has the National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Reduction and Management of Marine Litter (NPOA-ML) developed to provide a blueprint to enhance the current efforts of the country in resource and waste management and to bring additional lens to marine litter issues and the control of additional leakage of waste into bodies of water. Measures have been clustered into programmatic cluster (consisting of six strategies) and enabling or cross-cutting cluster (consisting of four strategies) of actions, as enumerated below.
* Strategy 1: Establish science- and evidence-based baseline information on marine litter
* Strategy 2: Mainstream circular economy (CE) and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) initiatives
* Strategy 3: Enhance recovery and recycling coverage and markets
* Strategy 4: Prevent leakage from collected or disposed waste
* Strategy 5: Reduce sea-based sources of marine litter
* Strategy 6: Manage litter that is already existing in the marine/riverine environment
* **Republic Act No. 8749 or the Clean Air Act of 1999**
* Issuance of Euro 2 and Euro 4 Guideline Values in Air Quality Management
* Air quality monitoring
* Air quality monitoring, which is an integral part of an effective air quality management system, has always been one of the top priorities of the DENR.
* Air quality monitoring as a crucial step for taking corrective actions to reduce air pollution which, according to the World Health Organization, is the largest single environmental health risk, causing non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular and respiratory ailments, stroke and lung cancer.
* The Environmental Management Bureau, a line bureau of the DENR is maintaining a total of 75 air quality monitoring stations that are strategically located in 16 regions nationwide, 34 of those are capable of continuous online monitoring, while 41 are using manual method of sampling.
* These monitoring stations are capable of measuring air pollutants, particularly PM10 or particulate matter smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter and PM2.5, whose diameter is 2.5 micrometers or less.
* Fifteen (15) of these monitoring stations in eight regions are also capable of measuring gaseous air pollutants, such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and sulfur oxide.
* Phase out of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) in support of Montreal Protocol
* In 1991, the Philippines adopted the Montreal Protocol, a Multilateral Environmental Agreement that aims to phase out ODS such as HCFCs by replacing them with ozone-friendly alternatives to prevent the thinning of the ozone layer, curb the effects of climate change, and help boost energy efficiency in the cooling sector.
* HCFCs, which are used in refrigerators and air conditioners, big chillers and mobile chillers that preserve food and vaccines, are the last group of ODS which is still due for phase out by 2040.
* The Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase out Management Plan or HPMP Stage 2, which will run until 2022, targets to reduce the HCFC consumption by 50 percent this 2021 and is expected to prevent a minimum of 0.5 million carbon dioxide equivalent tons of emissions.
* By phasing out the use of these ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in the country, we have already contributed to the mitigation of climate change and truly meeting the country's our commitment to the Montreal Protocol.
* **Anti-smuggling initiatives in support of the Convention on Biodiversity**
* The Philippines signed on to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 12 June 1992 and became a Party on 8 October 1993. It was among the first thirty one (31) countries which put the Convention into force in 1993.
* Recognizing the threats of the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) to the country's biodiversity and economy, the Philippine government passed legislation, created inter-agency groups to combat the trade in illegal wildlife and wildlife parts, and is building capacity across the law enforcement chain.
* The 10-year national Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP) 2018-2028, which is aligned with the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, serves as the national road map to address wildlife crimes and a guide to prioritizing enforcement activities, allocating funds and resources, and evaluating impacts of enforcement.
* **DENR's Contribution to the Philippine's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**
* The Philippines communicated its first NDC on 15 April 2021 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
* The Philippines' NDC conveys the country's progressive climate change mitigation commitment and adaptation challenges and requirements, including addressing residual loss and damage, in pursuit of low carbon, sustainable, and climate and disaster-resilient development.
* The Philippines commits to a projected GHG emissions reduction and avoidance of 75%, of which 2.71% is unconditional and 72.29% is conditional, for the period 2020 to 2030 for the sectors of agriculture, wastes, industry, transport, and energy. This mitigation commitment is referenced against a projected business-as-usual cumulative economy-wide emission of 3,340.3 MtC02e for the same period.
* Below are the proposed to policies and measures under the Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) sector, solid waste sub-sector and wastewater sub-sector of the DENR to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions as part of the country's NDC

*DENR NDC Mitigation Policies and Measures (PAMs)*

**Industrial Processes and Products Use sector**

**Establishment of Destruction Facility for ODS and HFCs**

**Increase use of cullet in glass**

**Use of Low Global Warming Potential refrigerants by the BAC sector**

**Clinker Substitution in cement**

**Industrial Processes and Products Use sector**

**Methane Recovery from Sanitary Landfill (SLF) for Electricity**

**Use of eco-efficient Soil Cover**

**Composting**

**Digestion of Organic Solid Wastes**

**SLCP reduction measures**

**Methane Flaring in SLF**

**Solid waste sub-sector**

**Compliance to Mandamus on Manila Bay rehabilitation**

**Expansion of sewerage and septage treatment facilities**

**Waste water sub-sector**

* **Initiatives in the National Greening Program in support to the Paris Agreement**
* Article 4 of the Paris Agreement states that Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases including forests.
* As an initiative in halting the loss and degradation of forest ecosystems the Philippine government established the National Greening Program (NGP) to promote food security, environmental stability, and biodiversity conservation; and enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation.
* The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued new guidelines aimed at increasing private sector participation in the government's Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP).
* ENGP is the government'sflagship reforestation initiative under Executive Order (EO) 193 issued in 2015 committing that will rehabilitate all the remaining unproductive, denuded and degraded forestlands estimated at 7.1 million hectares from 2016 to 2028.
* **Other International Conventions**
* 1972 Stockholm Convention (UN Conference on the Human Environment)
* 1978 Kuwait Regional *Convention* for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution
* 1982 UN *Convention* on the Law of the Seas
* 1985 World Charter for Nature
* 1989 Basel Convention
* 1991 Espoo Convention
* 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
* 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity
* 1994 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
* 1998 Rotterdam Convention
* 1998 Aarhus Convention
* 2001 Stockholm Convention on POPs
* 2013 Minamata Convention
* 2015 The Paris Agreement

1. **Please share a summary of any relevant data that captures how the adverse effects of climate change have affected people in vulnerable situations, taking into account multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (i.e. discrimination based on a combination of multiple grounds, including disability, gender, race, colour, sex, language, religion, nationality and migration status).**

In terms of water security and resiliency, a study conducted by Deltares shows that water resources is another area where there has been underinvestment. This is despite the gap faced now for water, and the expected gaps that will be faced under climate change.

Analysis of the water gap across the 18 major river basins by Deltares showed that under the baseline scenario, the Philippines is currently already sufferinq from a water gap of 32%, implying that a substantial part of water demand cannot be met at the national level.

Compared to the base case, under low climate scenario, both water demand growth and climate change are in the extreme low bounds of plausible outcomes, resulting in a lower water gap (24%) in 2050.

Further, it is expected that under a high climate scenario characterized by high levels of warming and its consequences, the gap could increase to 54% if no measures are taken for adaptation in the water resources sector. Under this high scenario, which may be likely given current warming trends, the Philippines will need to increase investments in water resources by about ten times in order to maintain the water gap around 32%. Reducing the water gap below 32% will require even more resources.

1. **Please describe any mechanisms and tools that are in place to measure and monitor the impacts of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations.**

* **National Emissions Inventory**
* The DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) is required under RA 8749 to conduct an inventory of emissions once every three years. Emissions inventory estimates emissions coming from stationary, mobile and area sources
* **RRP Provincial Climate Risk Diagnostic (PCRD) Tool**
* As a component of the continued work of the Risk Resiliency Program (RRP) and in support of the program's goal to improve convergence climate budgeting and planning and to drive investment in new and better-designed climate resilience interventions, a Provincial Climate Risk Diagnostic (PCRD) tool is being developed. This initiative is a component of the World Bank and GoP partnership on Accelerating Climate Investment in the Philippines (ACIP).
* The PCRD tool will be used to support planning and decision making mainly at the provincial level, with the ability to support LGU-Ievel planning and decision making, cross-province planning, and climate risk and resilience tracking at the national level.
* The PCRD project will likewise involve the application of the tool in four selected Provinces, namely Southern Leyte, Bukidnon, Sultan Kudarat, and Zamboanga Del Norte. The provinces under this initiative will be provided technical assistance in applying the PCRD in developing their respective Provincial Investment Portfolio for Risk Resilience (IPRR).
* **DENR-MGB National Geohazard Assessment Program**
* Geohazard maps are the output of the DENR-MGB National Geohazard Assessment Program. Under this Program, the 1:10,000 scale landslide and flood susceptibility assessment of 1,634 cities and municipalities were completed in 2014. Printed copies of these maps were set to be distributed to all Local Government Units (LGUs) in 2016. Intensive IEC campaigns explaining to the local communities how to use these maps are being conducted by the MGB since 2015. Through the use of these maps, communities at risk can better prepare for natural hazards and avoid disaster. The maps are also very useful as reference for the preparation and updating of the Comprehensive Land Use Plans of the LGUs.
* **ERDB Vulnerability Assessment**
* The aim of vulnerability assessment is to provide the policy and decision-makers with science-based information on the magnitude and/or degree of vulnerability of a watershed to natural and anthropogenic hazards. It also analyzes and determines as to where and what interventions should be conducted as well as the strategies and methods to be applied. It is then a very important input to the formulation of an integrated watershed management plan.
* The goal is to ensure adequate protection from the environmental hazard, thus the process includes identification of hazard, assessment of vulnerability, and formulation of interventions to reduce possible damage or enhance the coping capacity of the system.

1. **Please identify and share examples of good practices and challenges in the promotion, protection, and fulfilment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations in the context of the adverse effects of climate change.**

* **Risk Resiliency Program (RRP)**
* In terms of the RRP Proposals enrolled under the RRP Program Convergence Budgeting, from 2019 10 2021, around Php 350.6 billion worth of proposals were already approved for implementation under the RRP.
* For 2022, the CCAM-DRR, through the DENR, recently submitted to the Department of Budget and Management for 2021 budget appropriation through the CCAM-DRR Cabinet Cluster a total of 126 PAPs with budgetary requirements of Php 521,599,304,451 ,000.00
* For 2022, the RRP will focus on ensuring water security and resiliency considering the gap being faced now by the country on water.
* The challenges in RRP include Ihe limited funding for the proposals of the priority climate-vulnerable provinces as well as the limited technical capacity of the technical staff at the local government level to develop their technically sound and bankable proposals. This is crucial considering that the implementation of Mandanas Ruling will already start next year, 2022.
* DENR has been continuously providing **capacity building** to its Regional Offices, concerned Local Government Units, and other participants on the following topics, among others:
* Applying the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Approach
* Using the Climate Change Responsiveness Rating

1. **Please include examples and good practices that highlight international and multilateral cooperation and approaches that are implemented through close consultation with and active involvement of people in vulnerable situations.**

In order to highlight the international or multilateral cooperation and approaches being implemented by the Department including in climate-vulnerable areas, the table below shows the synergies among DENR International Commitments, DENR Programs, and its alignment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

These DENR Programs, Projects, Activities (PPAs) are being implemented in accordance with the International Commitments or Multilateral Environmental Agreements which DENR are signatory to. Aside from operationalizing the mandates of the Department, these PPAs are also contributory to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Goals as well as other National Development Plans such as the Philippine Development Plan, NCCAP, and the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR Performance and Projects Roadmap among others.

Some of these also form part of the PPAs being enrolled by the DENR under the Cabinet Cluster's Risk Resiliency Program, which are being implemented in the identified priority climate-vulnerable areas in the country. These PPAs include but are not limited to the Enhanced National Greening Program and Responsible ENR Research and Development.

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| **DENR International Commitment or Multilateral Environmental Agreements** | **DENR Programs, Projects, Activities (PPAs)** | **UN Sustainable Development Goals  (2030 Agenda)** |
| Convention on Biological  Diversity (CBD), Cartagena  Protocol, Nagoya Protocol,  ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity | Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Rehabilitation; Responsible ENR Research and  Development; Protected Areas, Caves and Wetlands Development and Management Sub-Program | Goals 1, 2, 3, 6, 8,  9,11,12,14,15,  16,17 |
| Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna | Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation; Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Rehabilitation; Responsible ENR Research and Development | Goals 12,14,15,16, 17 |
|  | Promote climate and disaster-resilient structures and designs following established measures and standards; identify  technological and research priorities and capacity needs on CCAM & DRRM; Maximize access to CC and DRRM financing and risk transfer mechanisms; Promote business continuity planning; Strengthen institutional response to disasters; Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of CC and DRRM actions Chap 11 -Vulnerability: Roll out climate and disaster  vulnerability and risk assessment nationwide; Develop facilities for adaptation including risk transfer mechanism. |  |
| Convention on the  conservation of migratory species of wild animals | Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Rehabilitation; Responsible ENR Research and Development | Goals 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 |
| Convention on wetlands of  international importance  especially as Waterfowl Habitat  (Ramsar Convention) | Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation; Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Rehabilitation; Protected Areas, Caves and Wetlands Development and  Management; Responsible ENR Research and Development | Goals 2, 6, 12,13, 14, 15, 16, 17 |
| United Nations Framework  Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement, ASEAN WG on Climate Change | Climate change adaptation, resiliency, and mitigation; Improved Land Administration and Management; Environmental and Natural Resources Resiliency Program, Natural Resource Assessment, Responsible  ENR R&D, Water Resources  Vulnerability and Sustainability  Assessment | Goals 2, 9, 11, 12, 13,14,15,16,17 |
| Chemicals Conventions (Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, Vienna Convention, Montreal Protocol, SAICM, EANET, APEC  Chemical Dialogue, APMMN and others) | Intensified Environmental Protection (Clean Air and Water, and Solid Waste Management); Environmental Regulations and Pollution Control Program (ERPC); Environmental Pollution Research; Environmental Education and Partnership; Building; Environmental Impact Assessment; Water Resources  Management | Goals 3, 12, 14,15,16,17 |
| International Organizations,  e.g., UN Environment  Assembly, ASEAN Ministerial  Meeting on Environment and ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASEAN),  ASEAN Working Groups, CTI, PEMSEA, CCOP, BIMP-EAGA | Data Management Including Systems Development and Maintenance Conduct of Special Studies, Design and Development in Support of Forestry, Mining, Protected Areas and Environmental Management Operations | Goal 17 |
| UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, International  Hydrographic Organization | Hydrographic and Oceanographic Surveys and Nautical Charting; Topographic Base Mapping and Geodetic Surveys; Resource  Assessment and Mapping;  Geospatial Information  Management; Responsible  ENR R & D | Goal 14 |
| UN Forum on Forests ,  International Tropical Timber Organization (lTTO), APEC Meeting of Ministers  Responsible for Forestry,  APEC EGILAT, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization,  ASEAN Ministers on  Agriculture and Forestry,  ASEAN Senior Officials on  Forestry and Working Groups | * Enhanced National Greening Program * Intensified Forest Protection * Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Rehabilitation * Improved Land Administration and Management; * Responsible ENR R & D * Natural resource management arrangement/agreement and permit issuance * Operation against illegal ENR activities * Forest and Watershed Management Sub-Program * Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Including River Basin Management and Development * Forestland Management Project (FMP) - JICA - Integrated Natural Resources Environmental Management Project (INREMP) - ADS, IFAD, GEF &CCF | Goals 1, 2, 3, 5,6, 7,8,9,10,11 ,12, 13,14,15,16, 17(a) |
| APEC Mining Task Force, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Minerals, ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals and its Working Groups, CCOP | Mining Regulation Program; Mineral Investment Promotion; Mining Industry Development: Monitoring of Mining Companies’ Regulatory Compliance; Mine Rehabilitation; Mineral Resources Development Program; Geologic Survey and Exploration; Mineral Reservation; Geological Assessment for Risk Reduction and Resiliency Program; Groundwater Resource Assessment | Goals 1,6,7,8,9,10,12, 13,15,16 and Multiple Goals (b) |

1. **Please provide any additional information you believe would be useful to support climate action that promotes the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations.**

In the pursuit of addressing the climate crisis as we promote the full and effective enjoyment of the human rights of people in vulnerable situations, the DENR joins the Commission on Human Rights in advocating for the improved enforcement of environmental laws owards the protection of human rights of all Filipinos.

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a statement that the effective enforcement of environmental laws is evident with the impact on curbing environmental degradation in Boracay and, now, in Manila Bay. Aside from this, the DENR also pushes for the effective implementation of environmental laws on anti-illegal logging, illegal mining, poaching, and illegal trade of wildlife, as well as environmental pollution.

According to the United Nations, *"Climate change threatens the effective enjoyment of a range of human rights including those to life, water and sanitation, food, health, housing, self-determination, culture and development. States have a human rights obligation to prevent the foreseeable adverse effects of climate change and ensure that those affected by it, particularly those in vulnerable situations, have access to effective remedies and means of adaptation to enjoy lives of human dignity.*”

It is therefore imperative that as we deal with these multiple crises, we must rethink, re-evaluate our directions, our choices for the economy, for the environment, for humanity. We need to see clear signs that the pandemic and our societal response to it will lead to significant and permanent changes in the path of future global emissions.

Taking these crises as a motivation for encouraging co-benefit approaches between air pollution and health, climate, and other socio-economic issues will enable the restoration of the balance between natural systems and human systems.

The Government of the Philippines hopes that the above inputs contribute to a deeper appreciation of the topic to be addressed in upcoming UN Secretary General thematic report on climate change. *END*.

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