



PHOTO: USAID/Safe Water

PHILIPPINES

CLIMATE CHANGE COUNTRY PROFILE

The Philippines is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels, higher temperatures, and increased frequency of typhoons and extreme weather events can cause floods, landslides, and erosion that pollute water resources, damage infrastructure, destroy crops, and lead to loss of lives and livelihoods. In 2022, the World Risk Index ranked the Philippines as the country with the highest disaster risk.

The Philippines' rich but increasingly depleted natural resources provide critical protection against the impacts of climate change, offering shoreline protection, flood control, soil stability, and habitats for biodiversity. They also play a critical role in the Philippine economy. Without action, the World Bank estimates that annual economic damages from climate change in the Philippines could reach 13.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product. The country also faces a looming energy crisis, as its natural gas supply is rapidly being depleted. As global energy prices rise, the Philippines will need to increase its domestic clean energy infrastructure or face higher imported energy prices and more blackouts.

Government of the Philippines Climate Priorities

The Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution supports the country's national development objectives and priorities of sustainable industrial development, poverty eradication and inclusive growth, energy security, and social and climate justice, and the transformation of its socio-economic sectors towards a climate and disaster-resilient and low-carbon economy. The Philippines has committed to reduce emissions by 75 percent by 2030, one of the most ambitious targets in Southeast Asia. To accelerate its transition to a green economy, the country also aims to increase the share of renewable energy to 35 percent of the power generation mix by 2030 and 50 percent by 2040. The country is committed to working toward these goals while ensuring the rights of indigenous peoples and protecting the country's natural resources.

USAID'S Climate Change Program: Objectives and Results

USAID supports the Philippine government's development and climate priorities through a series of programs and partnerships supporting climate adaptation, renewable energy, and mitigation through sustainable landscapes.

Adaptation

USAID assistance in the Philippines improves natural resource management, promotes water and energy security, increases access to climate finance, and reduces vulnerability to natural disasters. USAID helps local governments and other partners to better understand, use, and disseminate climate information to build the resilience of Filipino communities.

Key Results

- Since 2021, USAID has helped integrate climate resilience into six local government plans, protecting 2.8 million people.
- Since 2019, USAID has helped over 400,000 people gain access to improved drinking water and over 77,000 people access basic sanitation services.
- Since 2018, USAID has helped protect 2.58 million hectares of oceans in the Philippines, ensuring a sustainable source of food and livelihood for millions of Filipinos.
- USAID is working with the Philippine government to evaluate how fish species and their habitat could be affected by ongoing and intensifying climate change, as well as develop prevention and adaptation measures against its impacts.
- Similarly, USAID and the World Agroforestry Center developed a [database of threatened tree species in the Philippines](#) and investigated the [effects of climate change on the distribution and habitat suitability trees](#). The results could be used to design adaptive actions that increase the resilience of threatened trees.

- Since 2021, USAID has placed more than 2.2 million hectares of biologically significant areas under improved management, increasing the resilience of key forest and marine ecosystems. USAID developed the Green Assessment and Green Recovery Planning Framework, which provide guidance in assessing and restoring biodiversity, ecosystems, and communities affected by natural disasters. After Super Typhoon Rai in 2021, these tools helped identify about 90,000 hectares of degraded forests for restoration in Palawan and Siargao and supported communities in developing business plans to generate financing for forest restoration.

Renewable Energy

USAID supports the deployment of advanced energy sector technology and works to improve the performance and resilience of energy utilities. In partnership with the Philippines' Department of Energy and Energy Regulatory Commission, USAID is working to improve the environment for private investment and competition in the energy sector.

Key Results

- To bring down the cost of electricity in the country and increase energy security, USAID mobilized \$579 million in investments for the Philippines' renewable energy development between 2014 and 2019. This resulted in an additional 242 megawatts of energy from renewable sources, enough to power over 300,000 Filipino households.
- Since 2022, USAID's support to the Philippine Department of Energy's Green Energy Auctions Program resulted in over 5.3 gigawatts of renewable energy projects—nearly a fifth of the country's power system—valued at more than \$6.6 billion in investments. This renewable energy is projected to avoid 69.7 million metric tons in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions over 15 years.

Natural Climate Solutions

Forests and other natural resources hold enormous potential for climate mitigation, but deforestation threatens this potential. USAID supports natural climate solutions through reforestation, improved rice production technology, and improved management of livestock and livestock waste.

Key Results

- USAID supported the Philippine government to integrate climate risk and vulnerability information, including resilience measures that benefited around 3.6 million people in 10 partner cities and municipalities, into its planning process.
- USAID collaborates with indigenous peoples' communities to craft targeted solutions to environmental challenges. In Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental, USAID and indigenous partners established a sustainable value chain for a 1,400-hectare giant bamboo plantation, with potential global export and dividends from the sale of carbon credits. In Zambales and Palawan, USAID trained 156 members of indigenous communities as forest guards in several areas with high carbon mitigation potential.

- In Davao Oriental, USAID worked with 11 indigenous peoples' organizations to assess the drivers of deforestation and develop forest protection plans for 89 percent of the province's total forest land area. USAID also supported the creation of a local consortium that spearheaded public awareness campaigns and dialogues to promote forest protection and biodiversity conservation.