

AFoCO REDD+ Fact Sheet Series

Philippines

Compiled in 2023

Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

ABBREVIATIONS

CI	Conservation International
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DSAFA	Divisoria Sur Agroforestry Farmers Association
EWWP	Enterprise Works Worldwide Philippines, Inc.
FMB	Forest Management Bureau
FRL	Forest Reference Level
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
LGU	Local Government Unit of Peñablanca
MRV	Measuring, Reporting and Verification
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring Systems
PEDAI	Palacian Economic Development Association Inc.
PNRPS	Philippine National REDD-Plus Strategy
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
STISFA	Sto. Nino Integrated Social Forestry Association
SUBEFO	Sangbay Upper Basin Ecological Farmers Organization
TMC	Toyota Motor Corporation
TWG	Technical Working Group
WRF	Warsaw REDD+ Framework

THE REPUBLIC OF PHILIPPINES

SUMMARY

Philippines' forest cover has slightly decreased from 24.5% in 2000 to 23.6% in 2010 and then increased again to 24.1% in 2020. The Philippines does not have any sectoral targets including forestry, but the country has an Adaptation Plan regarding forestry. The country considers the Cooperative Approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Concerning the Warsaw REDD+ Framework (WRF), the Philippines has only the Philippine National REDD-Plus Strategy (PNRPS), published in 2010. They have a few REDD+ projects and REDD+ readiness initiatives.

1. COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The Philippines is an archipelago comprised of 7,107 islands (1,000 of which are inhabitable), with a humid climate and a topography characterized by mountainous terrain bordered by narrow coastal plains. Considered one of the most biologically rich and diverse countries in the world, the country’s mineral, oil, gas, and geothermal potential are also significant. About 24.1% of the country is covered by forest, and the proportion of terrestrial key biodiversity areas that are covered by designated protected areas is 41.6% in 2020. The total population was 111,046,910 in 2021. The country has a GDP per capita of \$3,548.8 (2021), growing at 5.7% (2020). The Philippines is also considered to be among the world’s most disaster-prone countries. Commonly occurring hazards include floods, droughts, typhoons, landslides and mudslides, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. Recent decades have witnessed an increase in damaging extreme events, such as heavy rainfall and tropical cyclone activity, and this trend is expected to continue under a changing climate.¹

Table 1. General status of Philippines

Official name (ISO code)	Republic of the Philippines (PHL)
Capital	Manila
Population	111,046,910 (World Bank, 2021)
GDP per capita	USD 3,548.8 (World Bank, 2021)
GDP growth (annual)	5.7% (World Bank, 2021)
Climate	Tropical and maritime
Land Area	298,170 km ²
Forest Area	71,885.9 km ² (24.1% of land area) (World Bank, 2020)
Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity protected	41.6% (UN, 2020)

¹ GFDRR (2021) Vulnerability, Risk Reduction, and Adaptation to Climate Change: Philippines. URL: <https://www.gfdr.org/sites/default/files/publication/climate-change-country-profile-2011-philippines.pdf>



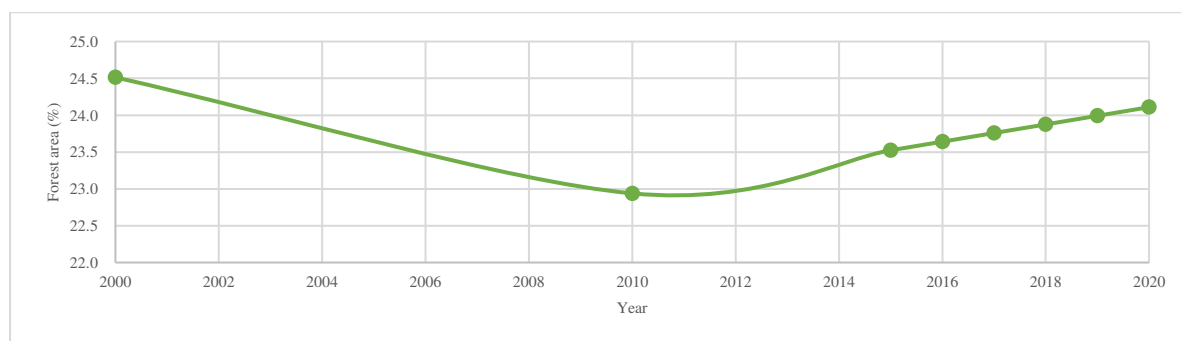
Figure 1. General Map of Philippines

Source: <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/philippines>

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

According to the SDG 15 Life on land, the proportion of land area covered by forest decreased from 24.5% in 2000 to 22.9 in 2010 and has recovered since 2010. In 2020, the forest area will be nearly as large as it was 20 years ago.

Figure 2. 15.1.1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%)

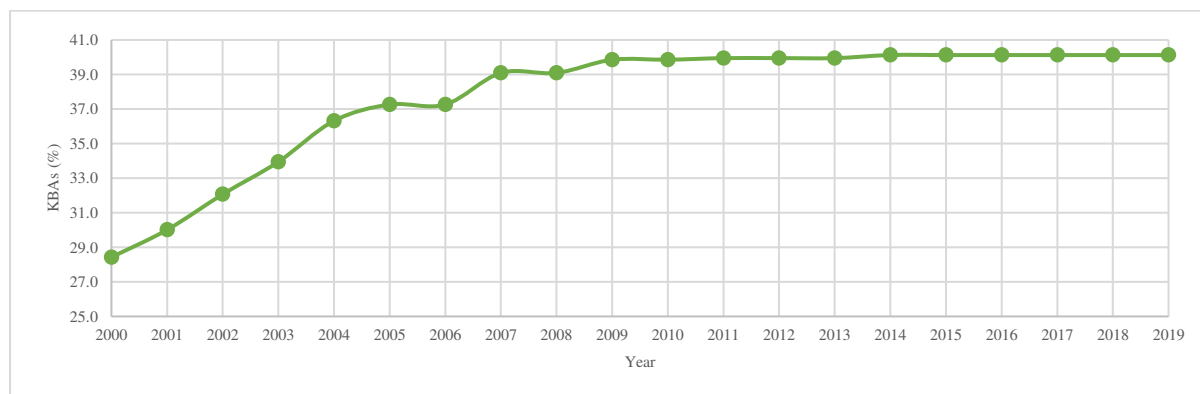


Year	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest area (%)	24.5	22.9	23.5	23.6	23.8	23.9	24.0	24.1

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

The average proportion of terrestrial key biodiversity areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas increased significantly from 28.4% in 2000 to 40.1 % in 2019.

Figure 3. 15.1.2. Average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)

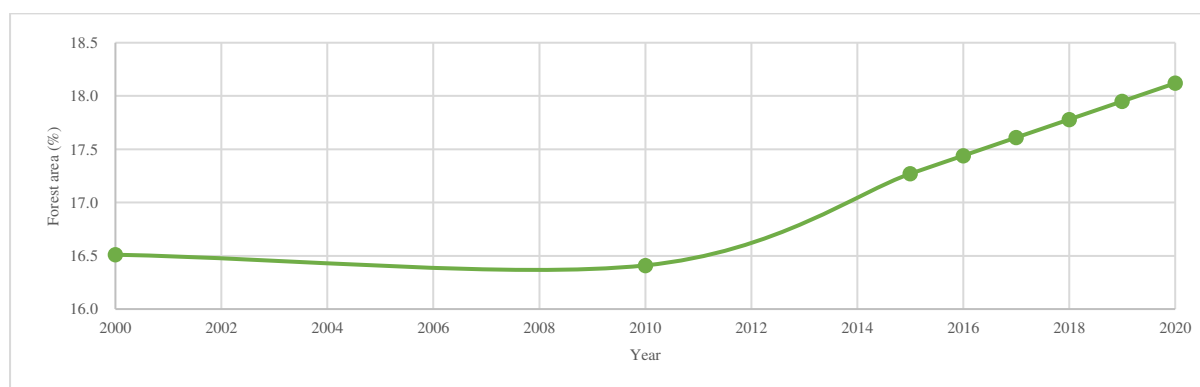


Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2014	2015	2019
KBAs (%)	28.4	30.0	32.1	33.9	36.3	37.3	37.3	39.1	39.1	39.9	40.1	40.1	40.1

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

The proportion of forest area under a long-term management plan increased from 16.5 % in 2000 to 18.1% in 2020.

Figure 4. 15.1.2. Proportion of forest area under a long-term management plan (%)



Year	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest area (%)	16.5	16.4	17.3	17.4	17.6	17.8	18.0	18.1

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

3. NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (2021)²

Forestry plays an important role in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of country's commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Philippines submitted its NDC in 2021, which conveys the country's progressive climate change mitigation commitment and adaptation challenges and requirements.

Table 2. Role of forests reported in NDCs

Mitigation		Adaptation
Unconditional	Conditional	
Y	Y	Y

* Y: reported/ N: unreported

3.1. Mitigation Targets

The Philippines commits to a projected GHG emissions reduction and avoidance of 75%, of which 2.71% is unconditional and 72.29% is conditional, representing the country's ambition for GHG mitigation for the period 2020 to 2030 for the sectors of agriculture, wastes, industry, transport, and energy. This commitment is referenced against a projected business-as-usual cumulative economy-wide emission of 3,340.3 MtCO₂e for the same period. However, there are no specific forest-based mitigation targets, but it does have forest-related plans, such as reforestation and Sustainable Forest Management.

Table 3. Forest-based mitigation Targets, Policies, Plans, and Actions in NDCs

	Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	SFM	SLM	Wetlands
Targets	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Policies	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Plans	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Actions	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

* Y: reported/ N: unreported

*SFM: Sustainable Forest Management

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

3.2. Adaptation Plan

²Philippines First Nationally Determined Contribution, (2021). pp. 1-5.

The National Climate Change Action Plan 2011 - 2028 established the seven thematic areas of government action to address climate change, namely food security, water sufficiency, ecological and environmental stability, human security, climate-smart industries and services, sustainable energy, and knowledge and capacity development, which are pursued coherently with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Philippines shall undertake adaptation measures across but not limited to, the sectors of agriculture, forestry, coastal and marine ecosystems and biodiversity, health, and human security, to preempt, reduce and address residual loss and damage.

Table 4. Forest-based Adaptation Commitments in NDCs

Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	SFM
N	Y	N	N	N

* Y: reported/ N: unreported

*SFM: Sustainable Forest Management

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

3.3. International market-based cooperation

The implementation of the mitigation commitments shall be undertaken through bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. In addition, the benefits of market and non-market mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement shall continue to be explored, consistent with national circumstances and sustainable development aspirations.

3.4. Relevance to Forestry Sector

Regarding Climate Change Adaptation, the Philippines shall pursue forest protection, forest restoration and reforestation, and access to results-based finance in forest conservation. The country shall also endeavor to undertake equitable adaptation strategies with mitigation co-benefits and ensure their contribution to the national pandemic recovery. For this purpose, the Philippines shall diligently access the means of implementation under the Paris Agreement.

4. UNFCCC WARSAW FRAMEWORK³

The Philippines has not yet submitted any of the four Warsaw Framework elements to the

³UN-REDD Programme Philippines Official Website, Website: <https://www.un-redd.org/partner-countries/asia-pacific/philippines>

UNFCCC. In 2017, progress on the National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS) continued, with UN-REDD programme support. In addition, the UN-REDD Programme strengthened capacities through a training event on accuracy assessment of land cover/ land use change in the Philippines and a training event on biomass and R statistical analysis using country field-inventory data.

Table 5. Submission of UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ elements

National Strategy / Action Plan	National Forest Monitoring System	Forest Reference Level / Forest Reference Emission Level	Safeguards Information System
N	N	Y	N

Source: UN REDD+ webplatform (<https://redd.unfccc.int>)

4.1. National REDD+ Strategy / Action Plan (2010)⁴

The Philippines embarked on a REDD+ Plus journey by adopting the PNRPS in 2010. The PNRPS presents a broad range of strategies and corresponding activities over a 10-year time horizon (2010-2020), and seeks to prepare forestlands managers throughout the country to assume responsibility in implementing REDD+ programs, research, projects and activities with the support of international, national and local agencies, NGOs and other support groups.

The PNRPS offers an overview of the forestry sector in the Philippines, a legal review of national policies in the context of REDD+, and a strategic outlook for REDD+ development. It then specifies REDD+ strategies and activities to facilitate REDD+ development over a 3-5 year Readiness Phase, and gradual scaling up to a 5 year Engagement Phase. These strategies are presented within 7 overlapping components: Enabling Policy; Governance; Resource Use, Allocation and Management; Research and Development; Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of emissions reductions and review procedures for non-carbon social and environmental impacts and benefits; Sustainable Financing, and Capacity Building and Communication.

4.2. Forest Reference (Emission) Levels

The Philippines submitted the Forest Reference in the framework of result-based payments in December 2022. The Technical Working Group (TWG) of Forest Management Bureau (FMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) finalized the

⁴The Philippines REDD-plus Strategy Team, (Year). The Philippine National REDD-plus Strategy. pp. 4-9.

development of its Forest Reference Level (FRL).

The FRL's main goal is to support the Philippines in its efforts to combat climate change, specifically by analyzing and assessing the role that REDD+ initiatives, policies, and strategies play in achieving sustainable forest management objectives.

The Philippine FRL area coverage has a total size of 30 million hectares and is divided into two categories: land that is in the public domain (which includes national parks, mineral lands, and forests), and land that is either alienable and disposable or used for agriculture. The whole country's territory, including all of the major islands, is included in the baseline assessment's coverage area.⁵

4.3. National Forest Monitoring System

Not available.

4.4. Safeguard Information System

Not available.

⁵FMB Technical Working Group (2022), Philippines Forest Reference Level under the UNFCCC REDD+ Framework. Pp1-158.

5. REDD+ PROJECTS / INITIATIVES

5.1. REDD+ Projects

Table 6. REDD+ Projects Lists⁶

Project name	Proponent	Partners	Project Period	Project area (ha)	Amount of emissions reductions and removals (tCO ₂ e)		Certification
					Annual	Total	
Philippines Penablanca Sustainable Reforestation Project (ARR)	Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC), Conservation International (CI)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Local Government Unit of Peñablanca (LGU)	2007-2013	2943	12097	362920	2009 First Issuance (CCB)
Forest Carbon Project in Quirino Province, Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor, Luzon, Philippines	Conservation International (CI)	Palacian Economic Development Association Inc (PEDAI), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Provincial Government of Quirino, Local Government Units	2007-2029	177	1808	41576	2015 First Issuance (CCB)

⁶International Database on REDD+ projects and programmes Website: [International Database on REDD+ projects \(reddprojectsdatabase.org\)](http://reddprojectsdatabase.org)

		of Maddela and Nagtipunan, Divisoria Sur Agroforestry Farmers Association (DSAFA), Sto. Nino Integrated Social Forestry Association (STISFA), Sangbay Upper Basin Ecological Farmers Organization (SUBEFO)					
Improved Management of Bagobuk CBFM	Enterprise Works Worldwide Philippines, Inc. (EWWP)	-	-	210	470954	9419085	2015 First Issuance (Plan vivo)
REDD+ Community Carbon Pool, Philippines	Flora and Fauna International (FFI)	-	-	164000	-	-	-

5.2. REDD+ Initiatives⁷

This initial national programme is one year undertaking which aims to develop the Philippines REDD readiness by putting in place the enabling environment. Specifically, it aims to achieve the over-all objective of is "to increase capacity of forestland, protected areas and ancestral domains managers & support groups to implement REDD+ projects and activities." It is part of a comprehensive process through which the Philippines will become REDD+ ready; additional funding will be secured from bilateral and multi-lateral funding sources, including through a Full UN-REDD Programme, should additional funds become available to the UN-REDD Programme.

Table 7. REDD+ Initiatives

Development Partner	Initiatives	Objectives	Period
UN-REDD (UNDP, UNEP, FAO)	⁸ UN – REDD Philippines Programme: Supporting Initial Readiness Process	The comparative advantage of the UN-REDD Programme is that it provides the enabling environment to consolidate lessons from demonstration sites and to harness and coordinate the resources of the various contributors to the PNRPS. Its outputs provide the platform for the full readiness phase of the PNRPS.	2011-2013
UN-REDD (FAO, UNDP)	1 st Targeted Support	Capacity built on REDD+ Safeguards information. Corruption risks addressed. Contribute to the initial REDD-Plus Strategy by supporting activities that will help identify and characterize corruption risks related to REDD-Plus and consequently identify mechanisms that will mitigate, if not totally eliminate, and then manage the identified corruption risks.	2012
UN-REDD (FAO)	2 nd Targeted Support	NFMS Action Plan that addresses the Philippines' needs for forest resources monitoring, including the monitoring of REDD+ policies and measures, and the reporting commitments at national as well as international level.	2015

⁷UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office Philippines, Website: <https://mptf.undp.org/project/00076668>

⁸Philippines' National Programmes Final Report, (2013).

<p>GIZ</p>	<p>⁹Preparation of a national REDD+ mechanism for greenhouse gas reduction and conservation of biodiversity in the Philippines</p>	<p>The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other relevant authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines use a national framework based on internationally recognized environmental and social standards, and implement corresponding measures. These activities help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserve biodiversity and improve living conditions.</p>	<p>2012-2017</p>
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⁹GIZ REDD+ Philippines Project Website: <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/18259.html>

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