



Knowledge transfer on environmental sustainability and climate adaptation from the Filipino diaspora

ACTION BASICS

<p>Beneficiary institution</p>	 <p>The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) was established in 1992 by the Philippine Republic Act 7611. Directly under the Office of the President, the Council is mandated with the governance, implementation and policy direction of the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan. The SEP is the State’s fundamental policy to protect, develop and conserve natural resources located in the islands of Palawan. This comprehensive framework serves to guide the public and private sectors in conservation and development planning and policy formulation and in regulating the entry of development projects, activities, and programs in Palawan.</p>
<p>Diaspora professionals</p>	<p>Two Filipino diaspora professionals based in Germany will be recruited for this action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Denise Margaret Matias is a specialist in education for sustainable development. She is currently a Professor at the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development in Germany and is working at the Biosphere Reserves Institute. She is also a research fellow at the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. • Julie Amoroso-Garbin is an Associate Programme Officer at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat. Based in Bonn, Germany, she specialises in national climate change adaptation planning and has profound experience in developing proposals for climate funding.
<p>Duration</p>	<p>10 months</p>
<p>Sustainable Development Goals</p>	  

MAIN FEATURES

<p>Context & needs</p>	<p>Composed of around 7,640 islands, the Philippines is one of the world’s 17 mega-biodiverse countries. However, it faces various threats such as overpopulation, resource mismanagement and catastrophic natural calamities which highlight its ecological vulnerability and calls for increased climate resiliency efforts. One of its three biosphere reserves, protected ecological model sites for testing conservation and sustainability approaches, is located in the province of Palawan. It is home to diverse terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, many endemic species, and two designated world heritage sites.</p> <p>To support Palawan in delivering the SEP, the PCSDS seeks technical assistance in the areas of education and climate finance. Firstly, PCSDS aims to modernise higher education curricula on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Palawan as, currently, university curricula in the province have not yet integrated an interdisciplinary ESD approach, one that is strongly recommended by both UNESCO and the Philippine Commission on Higher Education. In parallel, PCSDS aims at better tapping into funding available for climate adaptation. The staff of PCSDS and local government units (LGUs) of Palawan have limited know-how in accessing local and foreign climate grants. Enhancing their capacities in this area can lead to implementing adaptation projects tailored to the specific needs and priorities of their communities. With a long history of emigration, including significant highly-skilled migration outflows, this action will tap into the Filipino diaspora’s human capital to meet local development needs.</p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>General objective</p> <p>The action aims to leverage diaspora expertise to advance the agenda for sustainable development in Palawan by equipping local stakeholders with the tools and skills to enhance their knowledge on solutions for environmental sustainability and climate adaptation.</p> <p>Specific objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equip the PCSDS and the Palawan State University (PSU) with a novel and tailored higher education curriculum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). • Better position PCSDS and Local government units (LGUs) to receive funding in the area of climate adaptation by strengthening their fundraising capacities.



ACTION PLAN

DP4D Priority sectors



Digitalisation



Education



Entrepreneurship



Environment



Health

Types of diaspora expertise

- Conduct of assessments, research and/or evaluations**
 - **Assessment** of the current curricula of the PSU and existing ESD curricula relevant to Palawan's context
 - **Assessment** of capacities and needs of PCSDS and LGU staff on climate grant acquisition, as well as funding opportunities
- Organisation of knowledge transfer events**
 - **Training of trainers** on ESD curricula delivery for selected PSU teachers
 - **Pilot test of the curriculum** with students at the PSU
 - **Pilot test of the training programme** with LGU and PCSDS staff
- Development of strategic documents and/or training tools**
 - **Development of an ESD curriculum** adaptable to hybrid teaching formats
 - **Development of a training programme** for climate adaptation grant proposal writing
- Visibility and communication activities**
 - **Endorsement** of the curriculum to the PSU for integration in a general education course
- Facilitation of networking and partnerships**

Outputs

- **Needs assessment report** containing requirements and recommendations on the curriculum structure and content, as well as the ability of teachers to implement it
- **Needs assessment report** on skills and knowledge gaps of PCSDS and LGU staff, plus ongoing projects and available grants for climate change adaptation
- A new **ESD curriculum for Palawan with trainers' notes**
- **Training programme** on climate grant writing

Expected results

- **Creation** of a new innovative ESD curriculum for PSU which meets local and international standards, plus a first group of educators trained and equipped to deliver it
- **Increased capacity** for LGU and PCSDS staff in climate grant writing and acquisition to implement local environmental projects
- **Increased collaboration** between the Philippines and its diaspora on a decentralised level (local governments and academic institutions)

Find out more at www.diasporafordevelopment.eu

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Funded by the European Union



Implemented by ICMPD

