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Dear Mr. Trepelkov:

Greetings!

This has reference to the submission of the Voluntary National Report on Progress towards Implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI), and the Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs).

The Philippines is one of the 16 countries that pilot tested the reporting format in 2017. A series of consultation workshops were facilitated by the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), with the assistance of Mr. Tomasz Juszczak of the UNFF Secretariat, to gather initiatives from relevant national government agencies, civil society organizations and private sector towards sustainable forest management. The completed draft reporting format was officially submitted by the Forest Management Bureau in October 2017.

This year, FMB led the preparation of the Philippines' Voluntary National Report that will be presented to the United Nations Forum on Forests Session this upcoming May 2020. Three consultation meetings and workshops were conducted to solicit inputs from the technical divisions of FMB, relevant national government agencies, civil society organizations and private sector, to update the results of the 2017 pilot-testing.

Please find the attached voluntary national report of the Philippines using the adopted reporting format indicating the progress made by the country on the six global forest goals.

Thank you and warm regards!

Very truly yours,


NONITO M. YAMAYO, CESO IV
Director and UNFF focal point



Country:	Philippines
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*Detailed List of the Institutions Involved in the Preparation of Voluntary National Report to the United Nations Forum on Forests is attached as Annex A

Global Forest Goal 1 and Associated Targets¹

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Associated targets

1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide²

1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Questions on goal 1

1. (a) Since 2015,³ what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 1.1–1.4?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

In order to strengthen the forestry sector in the country, the Philippine Government issued various legislations and policies to enhance the country's efforts in rehabilitating denuded and degraded forestlands, improve forest protection and law enforcement, and promote adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

Sustainable Forest Management was mainstreamed into Philippine policies and programs through Executive Order No. 318⁴ signed in 2004. There is a pending bill in Congress on the proposed Sustainable Forest Management Act.

To protect the remaining natural forest of the land, Executive Order No. 23⁵, issued in February 2011, declared a moratorium on the harvesting of timber in all natural and residual forests in the country and created an anti-illegal logging task force. It was strengthened by the adoption of Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System as a

¹ Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

² Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

³ Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

⁴ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2004/06/09/executive-order-no-318-s-2004/>

⁵ <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2011/02/01/executive-order-no-23-s-2011/>

national strategy for forest and biodiversity protection through Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order No. 2018-21⁶.

In terms of reforestation, Executive Order No. 26⁷ was also issued in 2011 which launched the National Greening Program (NGP). The NGP targeted to rehabilitate 1.5 million hectares of denuded and degraded forestlands by planting 1.5 billion seedlings from 2011 – 2016. By the end of 2016, a total of 1.66 million hectares was reported planted with 1.02 Billion seedlings. In 2015, the President issued Executive Order No. 193⁸ which expanded the coverage of the National Greening Program to cover all the remaining denuded and degraded forestlands not covered by Executive Order No. 26 and extended the period of the program up to 2028.

In 2009, the Philippine Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9729⁹ or the *Climate Change Act of 2009* in order to ensure that national and subnational government policies, plans, programs, and projects are founded upon sound environmental considerations and the principle of sustainable development. It integrated the concept of climate change in various phases of policy formulation, development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other development tools and techniques by all agencies and instrumentalities of the government.

(ii) Institutional actions

The Philippines has various institutional actions that contributes to the targets of Global Forest Goal 1. One of these is the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 which was approved and adopted through Executive Order No. 05 issued in 2016. It is the first medium-term plan to be anchored on a national long-term vision (i.e. *Ambisyon 2040*). One of its goals is to increase forest cover along with the needed forest protection to prevent forest loss and forest degradation with a target of 1.2 million hectares from 2017-2022.¹⁰

Before the Philippine Development Plan was developed, the forestry sector already had its Philippine Master Plan for Forestry Development in 1990. This was revised in 2003 after the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) noted that although there were successes in the implementation of the Master Plan, there were still several major programs that did not progress. Following that, the Forest Management Bureau updated the Master Plan in 2013, taking into consideration the potential impacts of climate change to the forestry sector and was able to develop the Philippine Master Plan for Climate Resilient Forestry Development¹¹. It was officially adopted in 2019¹² and popularized versions of the Master Plan in various vernacular languages were published.

⁶ <https://server2.denr.gov.ph/uploads/rmdd/dao-2018-21.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2011/02/24/executive-order-no-26-s-2011/>

⁸ <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2015/11/12/executive-order-no-193-s-2015/>

⁹ <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2009/10/23/republic-act-no-9729/>

¹⁰ <http://pdp.neda.gov.ph/>

¹¹ http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/pdf/mp/PMPCRFD_2015_plus_Annexes.pdf

¹² <https://server2.denr.gov.ph/uploads/rmdd/dao-2019-06.pdf>

The National Forest Protection Program (2015-2019) is a forest protection and law enforcement approach which aims to effectively and efficiently protect the country's forest from further destruction and degradation by choosing varied menus of strategies and activities. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) field offices use these strategies and activities in preparing their respective Forest Protection and Law Enforcement Plan.

The Philippine National REDD-Plus Strategy (PNRPS) was developed in 2010 and updated in June 2017 to facilitate the country's participation in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+). REDD+ is an incentive system for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Additional REDD+ requirement, particularly the National Forest Monitoring System and the Forest Reference Emission Level, is being finalized by FMB for adoption and submission in 2020.

Executive Order No. 510¹³ mandates the River Basin Control Office under the DENR to rationalize various river basin projects, promote and advocate an integrated river basin management to ensure protection of the environment and people against flood and natural disasters. Executive Order 816¹⁴ declares the RBCO as the lead agency for the integrated planning, management, rehabilitation and development of country's river basins through the formulation and implementation of the Integrated River Basin Management and Development Master Plan.

Both the public and private sectors manage the country's forestlands. Some forestlands are under management agreements with other national government agencies, such as National Power Corporation and National Irrigation Administration, as well as military reservations. Local government units also manage portions of forestlands under their jurisdiction. Others are managed by the private sector and communities through forestry tenure instruments such as the Community-based Forest Management Agreement¹⁵, Integrated Forest Management Agreement¹⁶, Socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreement¹⁷, Forest Land Grazing Management Agreement¹⁸, Forest Land Use Agreement¹⁹, Forest Land Use Agreement for Tourism purposes²⁰, Special Land Use Permit²¹, and Protected Area Community-Based Resource Management Agreement²².

¹³ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2006/03mar/20060306-EO-0510-GMA.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2009/07jul/20090706-EO-0816-GMA.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/fmb-product-and-services/community-based-forest-management-agreement>

¹⁶ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/fmb-product-and-services/integrated-forest-management-agreement>

¹⁷ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/fmb-product-and-services/socialized-industrial-forest-management-agreement>

¹⁸ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/fmb-product-and-services/forest-land-grazing-management-agreement>

¹⁹ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/fmb-product-and-services/forest-land-use-agreement-forest-land-use-agreement-for-tourism>

²⁰ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/fmb-product-and-services/forest-land-use-agreement-forest-land-use-agreement-for-tourism>

²¹ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/fmb-product-and-services/special-land-use-permit-agreement>

²² http://policy.denr.gov.ph/2002/dao_2002-02.pdf and <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/phi93307.pdf>

Sub-national special projects consistent with national programs are also being implemented such as the Barangay StraTREEgic Forest Program, managed by the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), aims to facilitate the implementation of the Barangay Forest Program and the National Greening Program to achieve the 500,000 hectares target in Mindanao, the southernmost part of the Philippines, which aims to partner with 200 environmentally critical barangays that were hit by typhoons, perennially flooded, on critical watersheds and along coastlines.

(iii) Financial actions

During the implementation of the National Greening Program from 2015-2019, the Philippine Government allocated and spent approximately PhP 30,999,741,000 (approximately US\$619,994,820) in order to plant denuded and degraded forestlands nationwide. So far, the National Greening Program is the biggest State-funded forest rehabilitation program in the country. Another financial action undertaken by the Government, not only to sustainably manage the country's forests but also to provide sources of livelihood for forest dependent communities, is the Community-Based Forest Management – Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CBFM-CARP). It was given funding of PhP 150 Million per year since 2015. The provision of the support services under the Program Beneficiaries Development of CARP is aimed at agroforestry and rehabilitation efforts, livelihood, and enterprise development activities of the communities managing the forestlands²³.

The Forest Management Bureau is spearheading the implementation of foreign-assisted projects namely: Forestland Management Project (FMP) funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project (INREMP) funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Climate Change Fund (CCF); and Community Based Forest Management-related projects funded by ASEAN-Republic of Korea Forest Cooperation (AFoCo). Those communities in critical watersheds and river basins are assisted under the FMP and INREMP.

The country also receives other ODAs in the form of grants and loans primarily from foreign governments and development partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) of Germany, The World Bank, and International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Global Environmental Facility among others.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

The Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (<http://erdb.denr.gov.ph/>) is the principal research and development unit of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) focused on the five major ecosystems of the Philippines

²³ *Case Studies on the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) Farmer-Beneficiaries in Selected Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Areas and Public A&D Lands*. Department of Agrarian Reform. 2009.

which include forests, upland farms, grassland and degraded areas, coastal zone and freshwater, and urban areas. It conducts research on topics such as species-site suitability, rate of carbon sequestration of selected tree species, and growth increment of selected tree species. It currently has six (6) research centers strategically located all over the country catering to various research needs in the major ecosystem mentioned.

The Forest Management Bureau issues Technical Bulletins covering many of the technical aspects of sustainable forest management and other DENR policies. Since 2015, the Forest Management Bureau has already issued more than thirty technical bulletins on surveying, mapping, forest land use planning, timber inventory, delineation of protection and production forests, seedling production, forest landscape restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation, among others²⁴.

In support to the National Greening Program, the DENR operationalized mechanized and modernized forest nurseries equipped with modern facilities that would facilitate the seedling production. It employs up-to-date methods of seeding, germination, and propagation which ensure the production of high-quality planting materials.

Vulnerability assessment (VA) of priority watersheds with coastal areas in the Philippines is also conducted to come up with adaptation measures for inclusion in the management plan of selected watersheds and to ensure adequate protection from environmental hazards. Small Water Impounding Systems were established to provide sufficient water supply on established reforestation sites. Moreover, this also serves as readily accessible source of water to extinguish forest fires especially during dry season. Watershed monitoring stations and portable/handheld instruments were also established/procured to generate real time data and information relevant in the characterization of the watershed condition. The use of modern instruments will give accurate and precise data needed in the bio-physical characterization of the watersheds. It could also aid communities in disaster risk management.

Mangrove and Beach Forest Development Program of the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau is geared towards restoring the key ecological functions of mangrove ecosystems especially their ability to serve as barriers/breakers against waves wrought by super typhoons, storm surges, tsunamis and other climate induced event

The Philippines has a number of technical and scientific initiatives in monitoring and reporting carbon stock. The National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for the Forestry and Land Use Sector accounts for GHGs emitted and removed from the atmosphere over a specific timeframe, given the 2010 as base year. The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) is designed to provide information on forest health, biodiversity, socio-economic and environmental functions of forests and legal frameworks related thereto. In addition, the NFMS shall also be able to provide information to estimate forest-related GHG emissions and removals. Forest Reference

²⁴ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/technical-bulletin>

Emission Level (FREL) can be defined as the benchmark for assessing country's performance in implementing REDD+, expressed in tonnes per year, and established based on historic data and adjust for national circumstances.

The Bureau of Soils and Water Management of the Department of Agriculture initiated the development of Decision Support Tools on Sustainable Land Management (SLM) as a key to address abiotic stresses in areas vulnerable to climate change; increase capacity and awareness of local partners on SLM and other adaptation strategies; document available SLM best practices and success stories both indigenous and science-based knowledge; develop knowledge management and decision support using World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies tools and methodologies; and communicate and disseminate results to land users, soil and water conservation advocates and specialists, and policy and decision makers to facilitate broader adoption.

(b) How do the actions listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

All actions taken as discussed above contribute to the progress in implementing sustainable forest management in the country

(c) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 1 in your country?

- Extreme climatic events (typhoons, drought)
- Forest fire
- Population growth
- Land use conversion, deforestation
- Timber poaching/illegal logging

(d) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 1, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

The Philippine government has not announced any voluntary national contribution in relation to GFG1.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

Global Forest Goal 2 and Associated Targets¹

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Associated targets

- 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated
- 2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased
- 2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased
- 2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Questions on goal 2

2. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 2.1–2.5?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

- (i) Legislative and policy actions

The Philippines adopted the Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) as its national strategy in managing the country's forests and natural resources through Executive Order No. 263 in 1995. It identifies local forest communities, including indigenous peoples, to be represented by their Peoples Organizations and traditional tribunal councils as immediate stakeholders of the forestland resources in the protection and management of the forest ecosystem.²

Nine (9) years after the issuance of Executive Order No. 263, the Government promoted sustainable forest management in the Philippines through Executive Order No. 318³. The country realized that important socio-economic and environmental changes and policy reforms that directly affect the forestry sector have taken place since

¹ Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14 and 18, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

² http://ap.ftp.agnet.org/ap_db.php?id=280&print=1

³ <http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2004/06/09/executive-order-no-318-s-2004/>

the issuance of the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines in 1975, and unless and until otherwise directed by Congress, there is a need to provide guidance to national agencies and instrumentalities on how to best harmonize these policy reforms and make the forestry sector responsive to external changes and eventually attain sustainable forest management in the Philippines. Executive Order No. 318 provided for six guiding principles, and two of which are directly relevant to Global Forest Goal No. 2. These are community-based forest conservation and development and incentives for enhancing private investments, economic contribution and global competitiveness of forest-based industries.

(ii) Institutional actions

The Government always takes into consideration the participation of forest dependent communities in all its efforts and activities regarding forest management and development. It has encouraged the forest dependent communities to engage in forest-based enterprise in order to alleviate them from poverty and become partners in achieving sustainable forest management at the same time. One example is the National Greening Program (NGP), wherein the primary drivers of the program are forest dependent communities who are either engaged in the Community-Based Forest Management Program or are interested to do so. The Program was able to generate 4,736,195 jobs that employed 670,489 people as of October 2019.⁴

In Protected areas (PAs), community-based jobs were also generated in ecotourism and other-resource based industries. A total of 1,335 persons were employed across 15 terrestrial and marine PAs, based on 2015 data. These jobs include tour-guiding and provision of transport services, either on full-time or part time basis. Financial assistance through Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise mechanism is also being implemented to provide livelihood assistance to communities within protected areas.

The Forest Products Research and Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology has a number of initiatives to provide forest -based livelihood to upland communities such as wood charcoal briquetting under its Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program and project on processing and utilization of unproductive rubber wood.

(iii) Financial actions

The implementation of the Community-Based Forest Management-Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CBFM-CARP) since 2007, along with other programs and projects implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other stakeholders, has been contributing to the government's hunger mitigation and poverty reduction programs through agroforestry development. Eventually, financial grant for equipment outlay was made available to peoples organizations (POs) which have the potential to scale up, expand and/or stabilize their livelihood and/or enterprises. Funding from the CBFM-CARP also entails capacity development of partner POs, and is complemented by on-site monitoring and provision of technical assistance carried

⁴ <http://ngp.denr.gov.ph/index.php/accomplishment>

out by the field officer and the Forest Management Bureau. CBFM-CARP continually receives funding from Government up to present.

A number of development programs targeted to forest communities were also implemented through convergence initiatives of different national government agencies. *Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) Project* aims to provide livelihood support and assistance to former rebels through NGP, forest protection and other forestry-related activities and to ultimately improve the socio-economic condition and reinforce the governance in pursuing development plans of isolated, hard-to-reach, conflict-affected areas in various regions in the country. *Balik Probinsya Program* aims to relocate Informal Settler Families (ISFs) to nearby provinces, create new sustainable and productive communities through securing tenure and livelihood of existing forest occupants and informal settlers, and to provide safe and decent housing through the promotion of sustainable management of resources. *Sajahatra Bangsamoro Program* is a joint undertaking of the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that aims to uplift and develop the health, education, and livelihood of Bangsamoro communities.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

The Philippines worked in partnership with the World Bank regarding the latter's Program on Forests (PROFOR). The overall objective of the program is to strengthen the capacity of national forest programs and other forest-related processes to better address poverty alleviation, sustainable development and forest conservation needs. The program will generate and disseminate cutting-edge knowledge on critical sectoral and cross-sectoral issues related to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.⁵ PROFOR released technical report on "The Role of Forest in Reducing Poverty and Enhancing Climate Resilience". It also released manual on Ecosystem Services (ES) Accounting which will be used in enhancement of Forest Land Use Planning Process (incorporating ES modelling and valuation).

The DENR published a guidebook on forest-related enterprise development and disseminated the same among forest dependent communities engaged in the Community-Based Forest Management Program.

The Forest Products Research and Development Institute of the Department of Science and Technology conduct researches on the development of wood and non-wood forest products including technology transfer, provision of technical services and trainings. They maintain depository of technical information and researches (fprdi@dost.gov.ph). One of which is their project on "Processing and Utilization of Senile and Unproductive Rubberwood (*Hevea brasiliensis*) Trees for the Production of High Value Furniture, Mouldings and Joineries", the DOST-FPRDI recently published training manuals on rubberwood sawmilling, protection and preservation, lumber drying, and furniture making.

⁵ <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/107541468335688863/Program-on-Forests-PROFOR-program-of-work-and-financing>

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 2?

In recognition of the inherent right of indigenous peoples and indigenous cultural communities to self-governance and self-determination as well as their contribution in the conservation, management, and development of the country's environment and natural resources, the Government issued guidelines for the recognition, documentation, and registration of all sustainable traditional and indigenous forest resources management systems and practices of indigenous cultural communities or peoples in their ancestral lands.

The Energy Development Corporation (EDC), through the management of certain watersheds, empowers its surrounding communities by organizing them into associations and by building their capacities on alternative livelihoods, bookkeeping, enterprise management and facilitating values that nurture the environment to transform them into effective and active stewards of their watershed resource. EDC encourages low impact ecotourism enterprises within its focus watersheds to provide alternative livelihoods to the communities and at the same time increase their appreciation on the importance and value of taking care of their environment. EDC has successfully linked Baslay Farmers Association (BFA) to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) where they acquired Php1.2M worth of equipment (i.e. power pruner, coffee dehuller, coffee depulper, solar dryer, and moisture meter).

The Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP-*Philippines*), a collaborative network of NGOs and community -based organizations working for forest -based communities, has also assisted thirty nine (39) Community-Based Non-Timber Forest Products enterprises (CBNEs), four (4) local marketing centres in twelve (12) provinces and one (1) national marketing center using non-timber forest products such as forest honey, almaciga resin, food products (jams and jellies, wine, etc), fibers, traditional crafts, natural dyes, hand woven ecotextiles and others. These enterprise groups and marketing centers generated annual sales of PhP 10, 435,382.87 / USD 200,680.44.

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

All actions taken as discussed above contribute to the progress in implementing sustainable forest management in the country

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 2 in your country?

- Outdated basic policy on Forestry (PD 705). Proposed Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) bill has not yet been passed;
- Vulnerable to extreme weather events due to climate change;
- Increase in population drives forestland conversion into agriculture and settlement purposes;
- Reduced soil quality affects tree growth and productivity;
- Few researches and technology transfer on new and innovative forest products;
- Limited Value adding and market linkage;

- Limited infrastructure: farm to market road, common processing centers, etc.;
- Institutionalized framework for valuing forest resources not yet in place;
- Lack of institution providing crop insurance for forest tree species/forest plantations; and
- Limited/few financial institutions providing financial services to forest-based industries

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 2, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

The Philippine government has not announced any voluntary national contribution in relation to GFG2.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 2:

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets¹

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Associated targets

3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Questions on goal 3

3. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 3.1–3.3?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

In 1992, the Philippine Congress enacted the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992² which established a system of classification and administration of all designated protected areas to maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, to ensure sustainable use of resources found therein, and to maintain their natural conditions to the greatest extent possible. All areas included under the System shall be designated as *protected areas* which shall be of national significance. It was further expanded through the enactment of Republic Act No. 11038³ in 2018. As of 2019, there are 244 terrestrial and marine protected areas covering an approximate area of 7 million hectares.

Aside from identifying areas of the country to be designated as protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System, the Government, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) also delineated the production and protection areas within the country's forestlands. The Forest Management Bureau issued Technical Bulletin No. 5⁴ to provide guidance in the mapping and delineation of these production and protection areas.

¹ Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11, 12 and 16, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

² www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1992/06/01/republic-act-no-7586/

³ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2018/06jun/20180622-RA-11038-RRD.pdf>

⁴ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1G5mTNoDPOFTUxBZHfPnW5mcG8/view>

The Philippines also designates certain areas as critical habitats to protect the habitats and populations of threatened species of wild flora and fauna pursuant to Republic Act No. 9147⁵. As of 2019, there are 9 critical habitats declared through Presidential Proclamations or DENR Administrative Orders. The updated national list of threatened flora and fauna and their categories are covered by DENR Administrative Order Nos. 2017-11⁶ and 2019-09⁷, respectively. The National Invasive Species Strategy Action Plan 2014-2020 was also developed to identify invasive species and prioritize actions to address its threats.

The establishment of Forest certification system in the country is still in the process of development. There is already a proposal to institutionalize a system of forest certification in the country, however, its adoption is still pending.

(ii) Institutional actions

Within the production forests, the Government issues various tenure instruments or management arrangements to qualified applicants for them to be able to sustainably manage and benefit from specific forest management units (FMU). The management of the FMU subject of the tenure instrument shall be indicated in a long-term management plan which is coterminous with the duration of the tenure instrument or management arrangement.

At the local landscape level, the formulation and eventual implementation of forest land use plans aims to build consensus among the stakeholders such as Local Government Units, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other national government agencies, academe, and civil society organizations, among others. Likewise, it aims to identify the forest land areas that do not have appropriate management arrangements (open access areas), and develop recommendations on their optimum uses consistent with the existing scientific-based criteria.

The Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines and the Philippine Wood Producers Association with strong support from the Food and Agriculture Organization, Forest Management Bureau and the Export Marketing Bureau, initiated the development of the Due Diligence System (DDS) Guidebook. The DDS is a document that demonstrates legality in the sourcing of timber locally and internationally, for use of the Furniture and Furnishings industry. The said document intends to primarily address the timber regulations and other wood-related entry policies imposed by various countries.

Meantime that the legal framework to institutionalize the Forest certification system in the country is still pending, there is an Interim Governing Board composed of different stakeholders created to lead the different activities that will help facilitate the institutionalization of forest certification system in the country. Activities include

⁵ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2001/07jul/20010730-RA-09147-GMA.pdf>

⁶ <https://server2.denr.gov.ph/uploads/rmdd/dao-2017-11.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.bmb.gov.ph/index.php/e-library/laws-and-policies/denr-administrative-orders/dao-2017-2019>

capacity building of members, information, education campaign and implementing projects toward this end. This receives support from EU-FLEGT. The Bureau of Philippine Standards of the Department of Trade and Industry, assists in the development of standards by creating a technical committee on forest and forest products (TC 78).

(iii) Financial actions

The country's protected areas are funded through the Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF) which is being managed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) in a specific area. Another source of fund for the management and continuous protection of these areas is through inclusion in the General Appropriations Act issued by Congress annually which contains the budget allocations of the government. Other programs, projects and activities in protected areas are also funded through official development assistance and financial support from civic/private organizations.

Outside protected areas, the private sector can place their investments and develop areas for forest purposes. One example is the Integrated Forest Management Program (IFMP) of the government which allows private corporations or individuals to manage portions of forestlands and develop into tree plantations. Sustainable forest management is ensured by the government because it requires the investor to prepare a Comprehensive Development and Management Plan (CDMP) for twenty-five (25) years in order to monitor the activities it is going to undertake during the period of its tenure.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

The Philippines started formulating its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 1994 with the preparation of the Philippine Strategy for the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 1995, the country conducted an assessment of its biodiversity through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and as a result, the first NBSAP was developed and published in 1997. There were identified six strategic actions based on the comprehensive assessment of the status of the country's biodiversity, principal problems, threats, issues, and gaps confronting biodiversity conservation. The second revision was done in 2002 and to comply with the commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the third iteration was done and the Government published the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in 2015 which recognizes measurable targets for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. It also identifies the need for ecosystem approach in biodiversity management where appropriate implementation activities are adopted with local, national and regional conditions. This balance the values of conservation, sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

Species-site suitability assessment is conducted to determine appropriate forest tree species that is suitable to a given area. This addresses low survival and poor growth of plantations due to inappropriate species planted/species site incompatibility, and inadequate information on the requirements of forest tree species for planting

The DENR also created Biosafety Committee to review application/proposal for field trial, commercial propagation and direct use for food, feed or for processing of genetically-modified crops.

The Philippines also received funding from the International Timber Trade Organization (ITTO) to develop the National Forest Stock Monitoring System (NFSMS). It aims to track timber from harvesting, transport and secondary processing to ensure timber products sold in the market are from legal and sustainable sources. NFSMS has been pilot-tested in several provinces and awaiting institutionalization at the national level.

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 3?

The Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc., an organization of foresters in the country duly recognized by the Philippines' Professional Regulation Commission, spearheads the lobbying for the passage of the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Bill. They also conduct information and learning events to discuss the proposed SFM Bill with concerned stakeholders including forest-related issues and challenges in the Philippines.

The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) is also used in protected areas to examine six (6) elements of management: threats, context, planning, inputs (finance, staff), process, and outputs and outcomes. The comparison of METT results in 2013 and 2017 contribute to policy and decision-making at site and national levels.

The Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme assisted indigenous communities in the identification of Indigenous Community Conserved Areas within their ancestral domains: Dumagat Remontado in General Nakar with 2,704 hectares; Palawano of Brookes Point with 5000 hectares and Higaonon of Impasugong, Bukidnon with 10, 863 hectares.

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

All actions taken as discussed above contribute to the progress in implementing sustainable forest management in the country.

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 3 in your country?

- Increasing population which affects the demand for forest products
- Land conversion to non-forest use

- Finding balance between forest protection and development
- Limited forest protection officers managing forests and protected areas
- Weak market linkages for forest-based goods and services
- Lack of national forest certification system

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 3, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

The Philippines has not announced any voluntary contributions in relation to GFG3.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Global Forest Goal 4 and Associated Targets¹

Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

Associated targets

4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Questions on goal 4

4. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Legislative and policy actions that contribute to increasing financial allocation to support forest-based activities are done through annual budget planning and allocation as provided in General Appropriations Act (GAA). Other sources of funding come from the private sector through joint venture agreements, co-production, and production sharing as provided by the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Likewise, the country continues to avail development assistance through bilateral and multilateral agreements, focusing on sustainable natural resources management.

The Peoples Survival Fund (PSF) established through the passage of Republic Act 10174 in 2012 which intends to finance climate change adaptation projects proposed by local government units (LGUs) and accredited local community organizations. PSF also supplements the annual appropriations allocated by relevant government agencies and local government units for climate change-related programs and projects. Adaptation projects and activities funded include water resources management and land management, natural ecosystems and other environmental projects among others.

¹ Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

The Government allocates One Billion Pesos per year under the Peoples Survival Fund to finance Climate Change Adaptation activities which local government units and organized communities can avail.

A number of proposed policies to promote private sector investment in forestlands are being deliberated at the DENR. It includes:

- Forest Investment Portfolio Package in which preparation of investment plan in open access and untenured areas within forestlands complete with all necessary documentary requirements for the issuance of appropriate management arrangement shall be undertaken prior to bidding to interested private investors.
- Carbon Accounting, Verification and Certification System for Forest Carbon Projects (CAVCS) encourages investments in projects that sequester carbon by formally recognizing forest protection, reforestation and other forest restoration activities. It is envisioned to open opportunities for investments into forestry projects and standardize related greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring and reporting procedures.

The Philippines through the DENR drafted a Forestry Investment Roadmap outlining plans and proposal, in line with the Country's Master Plan for Climate Resilient Forestry Development, intended to attract new investments and to strengthen public-private partnerships. DENR continue to cultivate its positive and complementary partnerships with Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations both locally and internationally. These partnerships resulted in significant alliances, joint, and collaborative efforts in pursuing and advancing different forestry and environmental initiatives. They also resulted in stronger institutional arrangements including financing for the implementation forestry-related projects.

The ground demarcation of production forests is conducted to increase private sector participation in forest production activities. Production forests targeted for investments are delineated on the ground using concrete markers. It determines the metes and bounds of forest lands suited for production purposes such as timber and agroforestry production, grazing, and ecotourism, among others.

There are also financing and benefit-sharing mechanisms and structures like the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Fund (PTFCF); Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE) Fund; Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF); and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program that are examples of multi-stakeholder approach to finance projects.

Significant funding has been allocated in the national budget for forest management and conservation activities in support to the National Greening Program and forest protection efforts. It has been steadily increasing since 2011. Mechanisms, such as Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF), Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), are also in placed. Access to

financing through Official Development Assistance is done through the submission of project proposals related to natural resources management and conservation.

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) has also provided financing window through the Landbank of the Philippines for organized forest dependent communities awarded with Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) for the development of their CBFMA areas.

The Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) ushered the provision of credit facility for tenure holders in forestlands. The loan to be provided by the Bank shall be used for the establishment of tree plantations and processing plants of timber and non-timber forest products.

To ensure sustainable ecotourism in forests, the carrying capacity of ecotourism destinations are determined through the collaboration of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and academe. Carrying capacity manual for computing carrying capacity in ecotourism sites specifically in protected area was developed by DENR-ERDB.

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) is an innovative approach to nature conservation. It refers to a variety of schemes and arrangements where the users/beneficiaries of ecosystem services provide payments or rewards to a defined set of sellers/providers whose services provide or sustain the delivery of the said ecosystem services. Toolkits and policies are being developed by FMB in order to solicit funding from ecosystem services users that will then be used to finance conservation projects.

Forest-related information, particularly spatially-explicit data, are readily available through the initiatives of the National Mapping and Resources Information Authority (NAMRIA), the Philippines' central mapping agency, depository, and distribution facility for natural resources data. NAMRIA combines remote sensing, ground validation and geographic information system in generating natural resources data through its Land Cover Mapping and Coastal Resource Mapping and Assessment Project. The former was produced for the years 2010 and 2015. The Forest Management Bureau then used these land cover maps to analyze forest cover change. Most of the country's data on natural resources are consolidated and accessible through the Philippine Geoportal website: www.geoportal.gov.ph.

The Land Asset Accounts of the Philippines initiative of the Philippine Statistics Authority capacitates Regional Statistics Services Office on regional-level land accounting. This initiative accounts for the changes in tree-covered area of the Philippines in regional and national level. The accounting procedure is based on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework 2012 of the United Nations.

Technical aspects that conceptualize sustainable financing such as frameworks, guidelines, and mechanisms is being drafted in order to provide the knowledge and structure necessary to sustainably manage REDD+ financing .

Private sector and civil society organization funded rehabilitation activities are also being practiced and encouraged through partnership projects with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Some examples are the following:

- Grow-A-Million Tree Project in partnership with SM Foundation Incorporated aims to promote the significance of not only planting. but growing trees as well. This project seeks to provide jobs for peoples' organizations by involving them to help care, maintain and protect the trees in 10 regions.
- Convergence Project of Local Government Unit of Bangui, DENR and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation) wherein 2.2 hectares of eco-cultural development and 30 hectares of agroforestry plantation establishment were implemented.
- Non-Timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme established 360.5 hectares of native species in 2018 rainforestation sites using native species.
- BINHI is the flagship reforestation program of Energy Development Corporation. It consists of holistic approaches in restoring our degraded watersheds, which include scientific approach, socio-economic approach, and social mobilization approach. EDC and and its partner farmer associations utilize the science of forest succession to regenerate and revitalize denuded forests surrounding EDC project areas. After almost a decade, 6.4 million seedlings were planted and protected on the 127,608 hectares of forest lands managed by the company.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 4, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

The Philippines has not announced any voluntary contribution in relation to GFG4.

Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2

(c) Since 2015, has your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the sources:

Public domestic funding

Private domestic funding

- Public international funding, including official development assistance
- Private international funding
- Blended financing

Please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds in a maximum of 250 words:

- Sustainability of financing mechanisms
- Adoption and institutionalization of forest investment roadmap
- Buy-in of private investors in forest investments
- Social marketing to attract private investments
- Limited documentation of best practices on financing sustainable natural resources management
- Complicated bureaucratic procedures and documentary requirements
- Limited capacity of peoples organizations and other organized community organization to access financial services

Progress towards target 4.3

(d) Is your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management?

- Yes No

If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:

- Governments
- Intergovernmental organizations/processes
- Private sector
- Non-governmental organizations
- Other

Types of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- North-North
- Triangular
- Technical
- Financial
- Other (please specify):

Areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socioeconomic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Production of timber or non-timber products
- Other (please specify):

Progress towards target 4.4

(e) Since 2015, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

- Yes No

If yes, what is the time frame for these strategies (multiple answers possible, if there is more than one strategy)?

- 2–5 years
- 5–10 years
- 10–20 years
- More than 20 years

Strategies are Ambisyon 2040, Philippine Development Plan (6years), Philippine Master Plan for Climate Resilient Forestry Development (10 years), Philippine Investment Plan (3 years), General Appropriations Act (Annually)

Global Forest Goal 5 and Associated Targets¹

Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Associated targets

5.1 Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

Questions on goal 5

5. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

The Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 was approved and adopted through Executive Order No. 05 issued in 2016. It is the first medium-term plan to be anchored on a national long-term vision (i.e. *Ambisyon 2040*) and one of its goals is to increase forest cover along with the needed forest protection to prevent forest loss and forest degradation and rehabilitation of denuded and degraded forestland with a target of 1.2 million hectares from 2017-2022.²

The forestry sector already had its Philippine Master Plan for Forestry Development in 1990. This was revised in 2003 after the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) noted that although there were successes in the implementation of the Master Plan, there were still several major programs that did not progress. Following that, the Forest Management Bureau updated the Master Plan in 2013, taking into consideration the potential impacts of climate change to the forestry sector and was able to develop the Philippine Master Plan for climate Resilient Forestry Development³.

¹ Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

² <http://pdp.neda.gov.ph/>

³ http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/pdf/mp/PMPCRFD_2015_plus_Annexes.pdf

Forest law enforcement improved through Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order No. 2018-21 which adopted the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System⁴. The Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System integrated a science-based assessment and the use of innovative technology in the monitoring of forest status in the Philippines. It allows the communities and environment authorities to alleviate the status of natural forests and protect it from degradation and illegal forest activities.⁵ Technical Bulletin and Manuals were issued to guide field officers and volunteers in implementation.

The Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System use smartphones and web-based monitoring in recording and reporting threats. The National Forest Protection Program has also led to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles or drones in illegal logging surveillance.

The formulation of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) was implemented under the DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2008-05⁶ to attain and optimize the environmental, socio-cultural and economic benefits from all watershed programs and projects through holistic, participatory management and effective implementation of interventions to sustain their production of multiple goods and services for the present and future generations. Formulation of Watershed Characterization Report with Vulnerability Assessment is part of the formulation of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). Watershed Characterization is the process of describing the biophysical and socio-economic characteristics and features of a watershed to understand the various processes therein. On the other hand, Vulnerability Assessment is an analysis of the relationship between natural and anthropogenic hazards and recipient subject (watershed). It identifies the strength and weaknesses of the recipient subject in relation to the identified hazard. IWMP follows the Watershed Ecosystem Management Approach which considers not only the physical resources, e.g. soil, water, timber and non-timber resources, etc., but also the management of people living within or are affected in the area from the ridges to the reefs.

The formulation and implementation of Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) is a participatory and governance-oriented process of planning of forests and forests lands within the context of sustainable forest management. It is participatory for the reason that the plan itself is drafted by the different stakeholders and institutions (vertical and horizontal) wherein all the ideas, goals, and commitments are translated into one plan which is based on the context of SFM framework. Also, it is governance-oriented since there is a sharing of responsibilities between and among the concerned government agencies and instrumentalities in attaining the sustainable management of forests. Moreover, the FLUP is translated into policy as the City/Municipal Council pass

⁴ <https://server2.denr.gov.ph/uploads/rmdd/dao-2018-21.pdf>

⁵ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/lawin-forest-and-biodiversity-protection-system>

⁶ https://server2.denr.gov.ph/uploads/rmdd/dmc-2008-05_627.pdf

resolutions and ordinances adopting their corresponding plans. The FLUP is then incorporated to the municipality's comprehensive land use plan.

The National Convergence Initiative (NCI) is a strategy to develop and operationalize a common framework for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) that will facilitate the convergence of the resources of the different agencies such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and Department of Agrarian Reform, among others

The Energy Development Corporation (EDC), as a deputized resource manager of watersheds within the energy project areas, supports the participation of upland farmers, local government units, military, local police and the local DENR in working together to protect the watershed against illegal activities such as timber poaching, kaingin and wildlife hunting.

Implementation of National Forest Protection Program in order to complement the National Greening Program by strengthening forest protection. Through the National Forest Protection Program, the gains of the National Greening Program can be protected by strengthening and updating current forest protection practices in the country. The government has allotted around \$9.8 million to implement the National Forest Protection Program which covers the 6.8 million hectares of forest cover in the Philippines and 240 protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System. The Program also aims to minimize or as much as possible eradicate all illegal logging hotspots in the country through improved enforcement of forestry laws, rules and regulations.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 5, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Progress towards target 5.1

(c) In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

Yes No

If yes, please specify if integrated into:

National sustainable development plans and/or

Poverty reduction strategies

Progress towards target 5.2

(d) Since 2015, has your Government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the type of action:

- New legislation
- Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- Export controls
- Import controls
- Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships.
Please list below:

Progress towards target 5.3

(e) Are mechanisms in place to ensure cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies?

- Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

- National Convergence Initiatives among Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Department of The Interior and Local Government
- Multi-sector representation in governing bodies like Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), Watershed Management Council, National Anti - Environmental Crime Task Force (NAECTAF)

f) What types of mechanism are in place to involve stakeholders in forest/ sustainable forest management policy formulation, planning and implementation?

Please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

- Stakeholders consultation as essential part of policy and planning process (ie. public hearing for draft bills, administrative issuances, FLUP formulation)
- Public consultation in Environmental Impact Assessment of forestry -related projects and program assessments
- Multi-sector representation in governing bodies
- Engaging private sector through different management arrangements including issuance of tenure

Progress towards target 5.4

(g) Are mechanisms in place to involve the forest sector in cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies in charge of land use planning and development?

Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

- Multi-sector representation in governing bodies
- Membership of all government agencies in the Regional Development Council

Global Forest Goal 6 and Associated Targets¹

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

Associated targets

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

Questions on goal 6

6. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

The initiatives mentioned in this report are implemented not just by the Philippine government but also support from the private sector, civil society organizations, upland communities, and indigenous peoples. The plans and strategies in achieving sustainable forest management (i.e. Philippine Development Plan, Philippine Master Plan for Climate Resilient Forestry Development, Forest Land Use Plans, Integrated Watershed Management Plans, Philippine Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan) were crafted through collaboration of various stakeholders in the national government agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, upland communities, and indigenous peoples, among others. Its implementation entails the active participation and contribution of the aforementioned stakeholders.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 6, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

The Philippines has not announced any voluntary contribution in relation to GFG6.

¹ Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(c) Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes No

If yes, please specify which sets are used:

- National or subnational
 Regional or international²
 Other (please specify):

For which of the following purposes are they used? (Multiple answers possible)

- To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management
 To monitor and assess forest conditions and management
 To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management
 To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
 To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):

Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)

(d) Since 2015, have actions been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to communicate and promote a greater understanding and awareness of sustainable forest management?

Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

The Forest Management Bureau (FMB) spearheads various information education and communication (IEC) activities to promote forest conservation and widen the network of forestry champions to include students, academe, private sector, hobbyists (bikers and photographers) and local government units, among others. These activities are conducted throughout the year. Various events are conducted to reach out to more sectors and individuals:

- International Day of Forests Photo Contest (2016 & 2017)
- International Day of Forests Symposium on Sustainable Cities (2018)
- International Day of Forests Paydro Online Quiz Contest (2019)
- Bike Hike Plant in celebration of Philippine Forestry Service Anniversary and Arbor Day (2016, 2017 & 2019)

² For instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests.

- Intayon Agmula Tree Planting in celebration of Philippine Forestry Service Anniversary and Arbor Day (2018)
- ForeSTAR Parol Making Competition for High School Students (2017)
- ForeSTAR Banig Painting Competition for High School Students (2018)
- ForeSTAR Bamboo Belen Competition for College Students (2019)

Information materials were also published to better communicate sustainable forest management to the public. Foremost is the popularized version of the Philippine Master Plan for Climate Resilient Forestry Development dubbed as *Forest Tayo*. It was published in English and Filipino, the country’s official languages, and in Ilocano and Cebuano, two major languages in the norther and southern region of the Philippines, respectively. Since 2016, FMB has also published the yearly statistical handbook, *Philippine Forests at a Glance*, which provides summary data on significant information on Philippine forests to complement the more detailed *Philippine Forestry Statistics*.

The FMB also maintains an official website (forestry.dentr.gov.ph) that contains forestry related data such as copy of policy, relevant statistics, publications and up to date information on various forestry -related activities conducted by the Bureau.

Progress towards target 6.5

(e) Have actions been taken by your Government to involve major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

- Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Development and conservation activities in the Philippines that is geared towards sustainable forest management have always involved participation of various public and private stakeholders at the national and local level.

Other questions

7. (a) Since 2015, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

- Yes No

If yes, please indicate action taken with regard to the following:

- Women’s effective access to the control and use of forest resources
- Women’s effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels
- Women’s effective participation and representation in forest management institutions
- Other

Please provide a brief description:

- RA 9710 Magna Carta for Women - Recognition, protection, fulfillment and promotion of the rights of Filipino women, mandates all agencies to mainstream gender and development in the plans/programs/activities (e. g. issuance of land titles and stewardship contract in the name of both spouses)
- Gender was mainstreamed in the National Greening Program. The NGP guidelines was assessed using the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) project design matrix to determine the gender gaps. The assessment result was used to enhance the current guidelines of the program with gender perspective.
- It is also required under RA 9710 that five percent (5%) of existing budget of national agencies of the government be used in gender related programs, projects and activities. With regard to NGP, the conduct of HGDG assessment also help determined the percentage attribution of activities relating to gender and development.

(b) What action has been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests?

- Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)
- Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
- Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)
- Social media activities
- Other: Tree Planting

Please provide two to three examples and, if possible, a weblink or weblinks to relevant documentation:

The Forest Management Bureau has spearheaded the observance of International Day of Forests through the following activities:

- Photography Contest in 2016³ and 2017⁴
- Building Forests: A Symposium on Forests and Sustainable Cities in 2018⁵
- Paydro Live! Online Quiz Contest in 2019

Reports for the abovementioned activities were already submitted to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Success stories

8. Do you have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in your country? If so, please provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets and specifying which goals and targets are relevant. Please provide a maximum of three success stories.

³ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/fmb-celebrates-the-international-day-of-forests-2016>

⁴ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/harnessing-energy-from-forests-in-the-digital-age>

⁵ <http://forestry.denr.gov.ph/index.php/building-forests-making-our-cities-greener-healthier-and-happier-places-to-live>

For Global Forest Goal 3, the Philippines has successfully legislated 107 protected areas into the constitutional classification of National Parks. Unless modified through an act of Congress, these areas will be legally protected from commercial utilization and human settlements. A Protected Area Management Board is established in each national park to ensure its proper management and conservation.

For Global Forest Goal 4, the debt-for-nature swap financing mechanism between the Philippines and the United States of America is implemented through the Forest Foundation Philippines' Forest Landscape Grant Program and Focused Grants Program. It was able to finance a number of projects on landscape conservation. Further, the Bago City Government (Local Government Unit) passed an ordinance in January 2016, later affirmed by the Provincial Legislative Council, to collect an Environmental Protection Fee (EPF) from all of the city's water users in order to fund conservation of forest and biodiversity initiatives, forest protection works to ensure a sustained flow of water as well as alternative livelihood program of forest communities. An estimated 2-3 million pesos a year is expected to be collected annually using this payment for ecosystem scheme. This inspires other Local Government Units (LGUs) to implement a PES scheme in their jurisdiction, thus several forest projects are being implemented to assist LGUs implement PES scheme depending on local circumstances and forest situation. The FMB is also formulating PES toolkits to support and provide guidance to LGUs.

For Global Forest Goal 5, the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System earned the United States Global Development Lab's Digital Development (Digis) Award in 2017 aside from significantly improving forest monitoring and law enforcement in the Philippines. The Digis Awards recognize projects that embrace cutting-edge technologies and novel approaches that accelerate development impact.

Annex A. Institutions Involved in the Preparation of Voluntary National Report to the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Forest Management Bureau – lead agency
Email: fmb-director@mozcom.com
Address: Visayas Avenue Diliman Quezon City Philippines

2. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Agencies:
 - ❖ Biodiversity Management Bureau
Email: bmb@bmb.gov.ph
Address: Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, Diliman Quezon City, Philippines
 - ❖ Ecosystems Research Development Bureau
Email: erdbco@yahoo.com
Address: Los Baños Laguna Philippines
 - ❖ Foreign Assisted Special Project Service
Email: ppdfasps@gmail.com
Address: Visayas Avenue Diliman Quezon City Philippines
 - ❖ Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Email: central@mgb.gov.ph
Address: Vasra Diliman Quezon City Philippines
 - ❖ National Mapping Resource Information Authority
Email: oss@namria.gov.ph
Address: Lawton Ave., Fort Andres Bonifacio
Taguig City, Philippines
 - ❖ River Basin Control Office
Email: denr.rbco@gmail.com
Address: Visayas Avenue Diliman Quezon City Philippines

3. Other National Government Agencies
 - ❖ Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Soils and Water Management
Email: bswmclientcenter@yahoo.com
Address: Visayas Avenue Diliman Quezon City Philippines
 - ❖ Department of Trade and Industry:
 - Export Marketing Bureau
Email: embkpd@dti.gov.ph
Address: Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Buendia Ave, Makati, Metro Manila
Philippines
 - Bureau of Philippine Standards
Email: bps@dti.gov.ph
Address: 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati Philippines
 - ❖ Department of Science and Technology:
 - Forest Products Research and Development Institute
Email: fprdi@dost.gov.ph

Address: Los Baños Laguna Philippines

- Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development

Email: pcaarrd@pcaarrd.dost.gov.ph

Address: Jamboree Rd, Los Baños, Laguna Philippines

- Philippine Statistics Authority

Email: ons@psa.gov.ph

Address: East Avenue Quezon City Philippines

4. Non-Government Organizations

- ❖ Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation, Inc. also known as Forest Foundation Philippines

Email: info@forestfoundation.ph

Address: Makati, Metro Manila Philippines

- ❖ NTFP-EP Philippines

Email: info@ntfp.org

Address: Diliman Quezon City Philippines

5. Private Sector

- ❖ Energy Development Corporation

Email: pubrels@energy.com.ph

Address: Pasig City, Metro Manila Philippines

6. Wood Industry

- ❖ Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines

Email: cfip.info@gmail.com

Address: Le Gran Condominium, No. 45 Eisenhower Street, Barangay Greenhills 1504, 1503 Metro Manila Philippines