



Completion Report

Project Number: 46225-001
Technical Assistance Number: 8111
May 2016

Philippines: Climate Resilience and Green Growth in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape—Demonstrating the Eco-town Framework

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TA Number, Country, and Name: TA 8111-PHI: Climate Resilience and Green Growth in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape—Demonstrating the Eco-town Framework			Amount Approved: \$450,000	
			Revised Amount: Not applicable.	
Executing Agency: Asian Development Bank Implementing Agency: Climate Change Commission of the Philippines		Source of Funding: Climate Change Fund	Amount Undisbursed: \$58,747.18	Amount Utilized: \$391,252.82
TA Approval Date: 16 Jul 2012	TA Signing Date: 19 Aug 2012	Fielding of First Consultants: 19 Nov 2012	TA Completion Date Original: 30 Sep 2014 Actual: 30 Sep 2015 Account Closing Date Original: 30 Sep 2014 Actual: 18 May 2016	
Description				
<p>Philippines is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It is ranked highest in the world in vulnerability to tropical cyclones and third in exposure to floods and droughts. Climate change-induced losses are particularly high in urban and peri-urban areas largely due to increasing fragility of urban ecosystems and the low adaptive capacity of communities. Strengthening capacities to integrate climate change concerns into development planning at the local government unit (LGU) level is critical to the country's sustainable development. The need to develop ecologically stable and economically resilient urban areas or "eco-towns" has been recognized for long but the concept was not demonstrated. The capacity development technical assistance (CDTA) was aimed at strengthening LGU capacity to integrate climate change concerns into development plans and pursue strategies for green growth and climate resilience in the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL) to reap multiple benefits: environmental sustainability, job creation, and economic growth.</p>				
Expected Impact, Outcome, and Outputs				
<p>The TA impact was enhanced climate resilience and green growth in the UMRBPL. The TA outcome was improved capacity of LGUs and other stakeholders in the UMRBPL to mainstream climate resilient and green growth options in development programs, plans, and policies. The outputs included (i) collection of baseline information, and assessment of vulnerability to climate change; (ii) identification, analysis, and prioritization of locally appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures; (iii) selection of pilot demonstration areas and implementation of gender-equitable adaptation and mitigation measures; and, (iv) development of climate change knowledge products and strengthening of stakeholder capacity.</p>				
Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities				
<p>The CDTA engaged a consulting firm, using quality- and cost-based selection (QCBS 90:10) and simplified technical proposal, to provide six national consultants [team leader/climate change adaptation specialist, climate change mitigation specialist, natural resource management specialist, geographic information systems (GIS) remote sensing specialist, capacity building and gender mainstreaming specialist and multimedia specialist] for 64 person-months. The method of selection was suitable and efficient. The terms of reference (TOR) were relevant and adequate to guide the consultants. There was no deviation from the original TOR but the contract was extended by 12 months due to delays in delivering the TOR, especially with regard to demonstration of pilot activities. The overall performance of the consultants was satisfactory, having delivered quality outputs. Most of the capacity building activities were delivered on time. However, delays were experienced due to changes in the local leadership following the 2013 local elections, and due to limited number of qualified LGU partners and associated institutional complexities. Also delays in building consensus at LGU level in prioritizing climate change actions and selecting areas for demonstration activities led to an extension of TA completion date by one year. The savings in TA budget were mainly due to lower than anticipated costs in conducting pilot activities. All LGUs appreciated ADB support in enhancing awareness on climate change and strengthening their capacities in project implementation.</p>				
<p>The performance of ADB as the executing agency and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) as the implementing agency was satisfactory. ADB provided close supervision and technical guidance to the consulting team. CCC ensured institutional cooperation and adoption of the eco-town framework by the UMRBPL Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and five LGUs. CCC also encouraged academic and research institutions, nongovernment organizations, as well as multilateral and bilateral agencies to share good practices on green growth and climate resilience. The CDTA adopted a "bottom-up" approach by proactively involving all five LGUs and local communities in design and implementation of various training and pilot activities.</p>				
Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome				
<p>The CDTA achieved its outcome and outputs. All performance targets and indicators in the design and monitoring framework were achieved but delays were experienced, especially for output 3. The first output on assessment of vulnerability and collection of baseline data on greenhouse gas (GHG) increased awareness of PAMB and LGU officials on approaches for mapping out a road map for green growth and climate resilience. Under this output, five sectoral vulnerability assessment reports (water, forestry, agriculture, infrastructure, and health) using climate change projections for 2020 and 2050, and sectoral GHG inventories for each of the five LGUs were prepared. The CDTA was successful in improving access to climate change adaptation/disaster risk reduction baseline information and data, assessment and planning capacity for climate resilience of LGUs. However, there is a need to improve baseline GHG data collection and monitoring. Under this output, the LGU staff appreciated the training on natural resource cost accounting and valuation. The second output on identification and prioritization of climate actions enhanced understanding of LGU staff on a wide range of</p>				

opportunities for climate change mitigation (e.g., renewable energy, energy efficiency, reforestation, low carbon transport, sustainable waste management) and adaptation (e.g., water conservation, flood control, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity protection, climate proofing of infrastructure). The third output involved piloting of mitigation and adaptation activities in 11 sites, targeted at different stakeholder groups including policy makers, women, youth, and civil society organizations. The delivery of this third output was delayed, primarily due to institutional complexities and lack of qualified LGU staff to implement pilot activities. It is important to note, however, that the demonstration of the eco-town framework over an urban and peri-urban watershed area had no precedent in the Philippines, therefore, pilot activities took a longer 'learning and implementation' period. Under the fourth output, the CDTA prepared six knowledge products, including four guidance manuals on GHG inventory, GIS mapping and analysis, benefit cost analysis, and vulnerability assessment. The guidance manuals will be useful not only for the five LGUs in the project area but also others nationwide in assessing local vulnerabilities to impacts of climate change and in determining priority climate actions. The intermittent inputs of consulting team were however considered a disadvantage in the effective engagement of LGU staff. With modest resources, the outcome in terms of improved enabling environment to address climate change at LGU level was achieved satisfactorily. The PAMB approved the Eco-town Road Map in a resolution adopted in March 2015 and all LGUs integrated climate mitigation and adaptation measures in their local development plans. However, budgeting for priority mitigation and adaptation measures in local development plans needs to be pursued further.

Overall Assessment and Rating

The CDTA is assessed as successful, as it achieved its outcome and outputs. The TA (i) made a significant contribution to strengthening capacity and raising awareness of climate change issues among diverse stakeholders—national policymakers, PAMB and LGU staff, women and youth; (ii) provided many learning opportunities for national and LGU staff on ways to address climate change; and (iii) explored innovative LGU-specific approaches for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The CDTA was highly relevant at the time of its approval and continues to remain highly relevant now. The government's request for support in demonstrating the eco-town framework in other regions of the country confirms its high relevance. The CDTA was effective as it achieved all expected outputs. The CDTA was partially efficient, as delays in design and implementation of pilot activities in four provinces led to a 12-month delay in closing the CDTA. It is also testimony to the ground realities of the UMRBPL LGUs in terms of their limited ability to implement climate change actions. The CDTA was cost-efficient, as all outputs were achieved with significant savings of about \$59,000 (nearly 13% of the original budget). The sustainability of CDTA outcome was addressed by targeting young staff among LGUs and PAMB in training programs on climate change. The CDTA was successful in sustaining the commitment of both PAMB and LGU staff in implementing the initiatives identified in the UMRBPL eco-town roadmap beyond the project period.

Major Lessons

Capacity building of LGU staff on climate change cannot be a one-off exercise. LGU staff will need further support. The geographic scale and institutional complexities (i.e. working with PAMB, province and five individual LGUs) require more robust coordination and longer period to integrate and align the understanding, acceptance, decision and actions by key LGU staff and other stakeholders, including local communities. The limited technical capacity of LGU staff requires continuous engagement of the CDTA team. Also the training should be designed to fit needs and capacity of LGU staff by considering their mandates and tasks. Piloting climate actions in the context of other pressing needs in various LGUs remains a challenge. Full engagement of local stakeholders is needed to ensure not only understanding of the eco-town concept but 'ownership' of the strategy. There is also a need to develop 'simplified', 'LGU-friendly' and 'not too technical' modules. Finally, the issues such as lack of basic climate change data, technical knowhow, qualified local staff and other factors require that some of the processes, especially baseline studies, vulnerability assessments, and cost-benefit analysis of mitigation and adaptation measures, have to be adjusted to reflect ground realities.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

(i) Access to climate change data, especially future climate projections and satellite imagery, needs to be improved to formulate effective mitigation and adaptation measures; (ii) more effective use of participatory and multi-disciplinary approaches is critical for the success in capacity building efforts; (iii) more time should be allowed to ensure longer stakeholder engagement to design, implement and evaluate pilot activities on climate change; (iv) effective stakeholder consultations and capacity building at all steps of implementation of pilot activities is highly recommended; and (v) eco-town assessment and planning tools (e.g., payment for ecosystem services, natural resource accounting) must be simplified further to enable wider adoption and appreciation by LGU staff.

The CCC is planning a follow-on technical assistance to disseminate training modules developed in the CDTA to other LGUs in the country. UMRBPL PAMB plans to update its protected area management plan to integrate the findings and priority mitigation and adaptation measures identified in the CDTA with possible funding assistance from the USAID B+WISER project. Several ADB investments in the Philippines will mainstream climate change concerns in several sectors, as part of the new Country Partnership Strategy 2017–2021. The key follow-up action is to formulate strategic program for climate resilience (to be funded by Climate Investment Funds) in collaboration with the World Bank Group. Some of the projects included in the strategic program may be able to access the Green Climate Fund.