



# Philippines

## REDD+ Capacity Building Services Assessment

May 2012



UN-REDD  
PROGRAMME





# List of Acronyms

BMU	German Ministry of the Environment
CBC WG	Philippine REDD+ Capacity Building and Communication Working Group
CBFM	Community-Based Forest Management
C2P2	Community Carbon Pools Programme
CCC	Climate Change Commission
CI	Conservation International
CoDe REDD	Community Development through REDD, Communities Developing REDD, Conservation and Development through REDD
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ELAC	Environmental Legal Assistance Center
EU	European Union
FFI	Fauna & Flora International
FARMC	Fisheries and Resource Management Councils
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
FMB	Forest Management Bureau
FMU	Forest Management Unit
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
IDIS	Interface Development Interventions
IPRA	Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KEF	Kalahan Educational Foundation
MRV	Measurement Reporting and Verification
MRV WG	Measurement, Reporting, and Verification Working Group
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NFSCC	National Framework Strategy on Climate Change
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Area System
NTFP-EP	The Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme
NTFP-TF	Non-Timber Forest Products Task Force
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PFEC	Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern
PNRPS	Philippines National REDD-Plus Strategy
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (also known as The Center for People and Forests)

REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation and the role of conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stock
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
TEBTEBBA	Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Policy Research and Education
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WISE	Women's Initiatives for Society, Culture, and Environment

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## Key messages

- In the space of three years, capacity building and training efforts have transformed REDD+ from a little-known concept to one that is widely recognized, discussed and on the agenda of the Government of the Philippines.
- Alongside awareness raising at a national level, substantial progress has been made in capacity building for environmental and social safeguards – but key gaps remain.
- These gaps need to be filled; otherwise the Philippines may not be able to meet the objectives of its National REDD+ Strategy. Gaps include:
  - » Too few service providers with experience in both donor and private fund management for REDD+ capacity building, particularly at the provincial and sub-national level.
  - » Lack of REDD+ readiness capacity building support for natural resource industries provided among all but one of the nine short-listed service providers consulted. This is a cause for concern given that one of the proposed 'Strategies and Activities' of the Philippine National REDD+ Strategy is to 'intensify responsible establishment of plantations for production' (Section 8.3, p.40), stating that 'they can be established by the private sector, the State, and through community initiatives.'
  - » Too few organizations engaged in providing economic analysis of the relative costs and benefits of REDD+, which is required not just at a project level, but also at provincial and national levels. The Strategy calls for ecosystem benefits to be 'valued and priced' (p.52), but there are few capacity building service providers with the requisite environmental economic expertise needed to do this yet.
- Recommendations for addressing these gaps are provided in Section 9 of this report.

## 1. Why is this assessment needed?

Building capacity for implementing REDD+ is a key component of REDD+ readiness processes that have been underway for over three years. Backed by substantive funding from a large number of organizations, government agencies and individuals a multitude of organizations are conducting awareness raising and training activities in all REDD+ nations. The massive increase in capacity building activities during a rather short period begs the question of whether the organizations providing such services have the competencies to provide REDD+ capacity building, and whether they are meeting country needs in getting ready for REDD+.

Surprisingly, little is known about the competencies of these organizations which include government agencies, NGOs, community groups, academic institutions, think-tanks, consultancies, legal firms and media companies. To fill this knowledge gap, WISE (Women's Initiatives for Society, Culture, and Environment ) Women (The Philippines) and RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests, with financial and advisory support from the Global UN-REDD Programme through the United Nations Environment Programme, assessed the strengths and weaknesses and identified the gaps in the capacity building services being provided against the Philippines's REDD+ readiness needs. This report provides the results of the assessment as well as recommendations to inform the REDD+ capacity building process in the Philippines.

## 2. What are the objectives of this assessment?

The objectives of the assessment were to:

1. Identify and map the service providers involved in REDD+ capacity building in the Philippines (a total of 58 long-listed service providers were identified, see Annex 2).
2. Identify the main objectives, competencies, and type being offered by a shortlist of leading service providers, their target audiences and key achievements.<sup>1</sup> These are divided between the following nine main capacity building themes:
  - » Awareness raising and REDD+ knowledge dissemination
  - » REDD+ policies
  - » Benefit sharing
  - » Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)/ Information System (IS)
  - » Social safeguards
  - » Environmental safeguards
  - » Calculating the potential costs versus benefits of REDD+
  - » REDD+ fund management
  - » Developing the national REDD+ baseline
3. Identify the gaps in capacity building service provision between what is needed most and what is actually being delivered.
4. On the basis of these gaps, provide recommendations for strengthening the actions of:
  - » Capacity building service providers and programs in the Philippines
  - » National government agencies
  - » Donor agencies and the international community including UN-REDD

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<sup>1</sup> The quality of actual training delivered was not assessed as part of this study.

### 3. Background of REDD+ readiness activities in the Philippines

The Philippines Climate Change Act and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) were enacted and established in 2009. In 2010, the government adopted the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC), which is guiding the governance framework for REDD+ in the Philippines. Executive order No.881 places the responsibility for implementing REDD+ with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the coordination of REDD+ policies with the CCC.

However, further clarification is needed on the roles of different agencies in REDD+, role which are still being developed at the time of writing this report. The role of other key agencies such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and stakeholders like the government units where REDD+ projects will be located are yet to be determined.<sup>2</sup>

The Philippines is notable among the case study countries (Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam) in the degree to which it takes a multi-stakeholder approach to natural resource management. This is shown by the existence of multi-stakeholder bodies such as the Fisheries and Resource Management Councils (FARMC), Multi-sectoral Forest Protection Councils, Provincial Technical Working Groups on Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) and the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) under the NIPAS Act. Some observers have commented that these approaches could provide a useful model for managing the REDD+ process in the Philippines.<sup>3</sup>

In 2009, CoDe REDD Philippines was formed, composed of forest-based community and civil society organizations (CSO) that are involved in livelihood, conservation, and community development projects in forests. The group advocates for pro-community and pro-biodiversity/ecosystem service based REDD+ .<sup>4</sup> In 2009, CoDe REDD began to develop a multi-stakeholder REDD+ strategy together with the DENR-Forest Management Bureau (FMB), and other partners in order to facilitate REDD+ development. The result has been the Philippine National REDD+ Strategy (PNRPS) developed through multi-stakeholder consultation with the government, community groups, NGOs, and academia.<sup>5</sup>

The PNRPS outlines REDD+ strategies and the activities needed to facilitate REDD+ development over a 3-5 year 'Readiness Phase', which gradually scales up to a 5-year 'Engagement Phase.' A nested approach to REDD+ is taken with a plan to build on existing data sets, capacity, and forest programs and to develop sub-national REDD+ programs that can be scaled up within 3 to 5 years.

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2 UN-REDD Programme, (2010). National Programme Document – The Philippines. UN-REDD Programme 5th Policy Board Meeting

3 Ibid

4 CoDe REDD website, <http://ntfp.org/coderedd> (last accessed 16 December 2011)

5 The Philippine National REDD-plus Strategy Team, led by Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Forest Management Bureau and CoDe REDD-plus Philippines (2010). The Philippine National REDD-plus Strategy.

Figure 1: Anticipated timeline for The Philippine National REDD+ Strategy<sup>6</sup>



Figure 1 provides an overview of the anticipated timeline for The PNRPS .

The PNRPS proposes a governance approach to REDD+ that recognizes the need for national-level REDD+ oversight and management, but prioritizes the decentralization of natural resource management. Although the PNRPS recognizes that new institutional arrangements will be established for REDD+, the strategy seeks opportunities to strengthen and align existing structures rather than unnecessarily introduce new bodies and regulations.<sup>7</sup>

One of the seven components of the PNRPS is ‘Capacity Building and Communication.’ This component (p.8):

“recognizes the need to build capacity and awareness among a range of stakeholders, and that these will come with varied strengths, weaknesses and needs. It accordingly presents an iterative analysis framework through which to assess needs and a learning pedagogy to help address diverse needs. The PNRPS also proposes having a REDD+ communication plan and broad training initiatives that includes novel elements such as the establishment of a community of practitioners, teacher training program, a mentoring program, learning exchanges among sites, and use of social contracts to promote perpetual engagement. Both training and communication are expected to operate within the propose governance structure, while also linking into existing training and education institutions”.

The capacity building process as proposed within the PNRPS is ongoing. Sections 5 and 6 of this report will shed further light on the progress of these capacity building activities.

The capacity building process is complemented by REDD+ demonstration activities that provide the testing ground for how REDD+ may function using the nested approach. The following three ongoing demonstration sites are identified in the PNRPS:

1. Forest Policy and Piloting REDD measures through DENR with support from BMU/GIZ (Southern Leyte, Leyte Island).
2. Advancing Development of Victoria-Anepahan Communities and Ecosystems through REDD (ADVANCE REDD). The project is funded by European Union Delegation through the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) (Southern Palawan).
3. Community Carbon Pools Programme (C2P2) through Flora and Fauna International (FFI), NTFP-TF, Team Energy Foundation (Quezon in Luzon Island).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid



In addition, several organizations in the Philippines have begun the development of potential REDD+ pilot projects, including FFI, NTFP-EP, The Kalahan Education Foundation (KEF), Conservation International (CI), International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), and private project developers.

The Philippines is a UN-REDD partner country and held its National Programme Inception Workshop in October 2011. The Work Plan for the Programme is yet to be approved.<sup>8</sup> The objective of the Programme for the Philippines is to increase capacity of managers in forestland, protected areas and ancestral domains and support groups to implement REDD+ projects and activities. In order to meet this objective, the Philippines will pursue three outcomes:

1. REDD+ readiness support by an effective, inclusive, and participatory management process.
2. Systematic and structural approach to REDD+ readiness identified through concrete studies of options and inclusive consultation.
3. Capacity to establish reference baselines increased.<sup>9</sup>



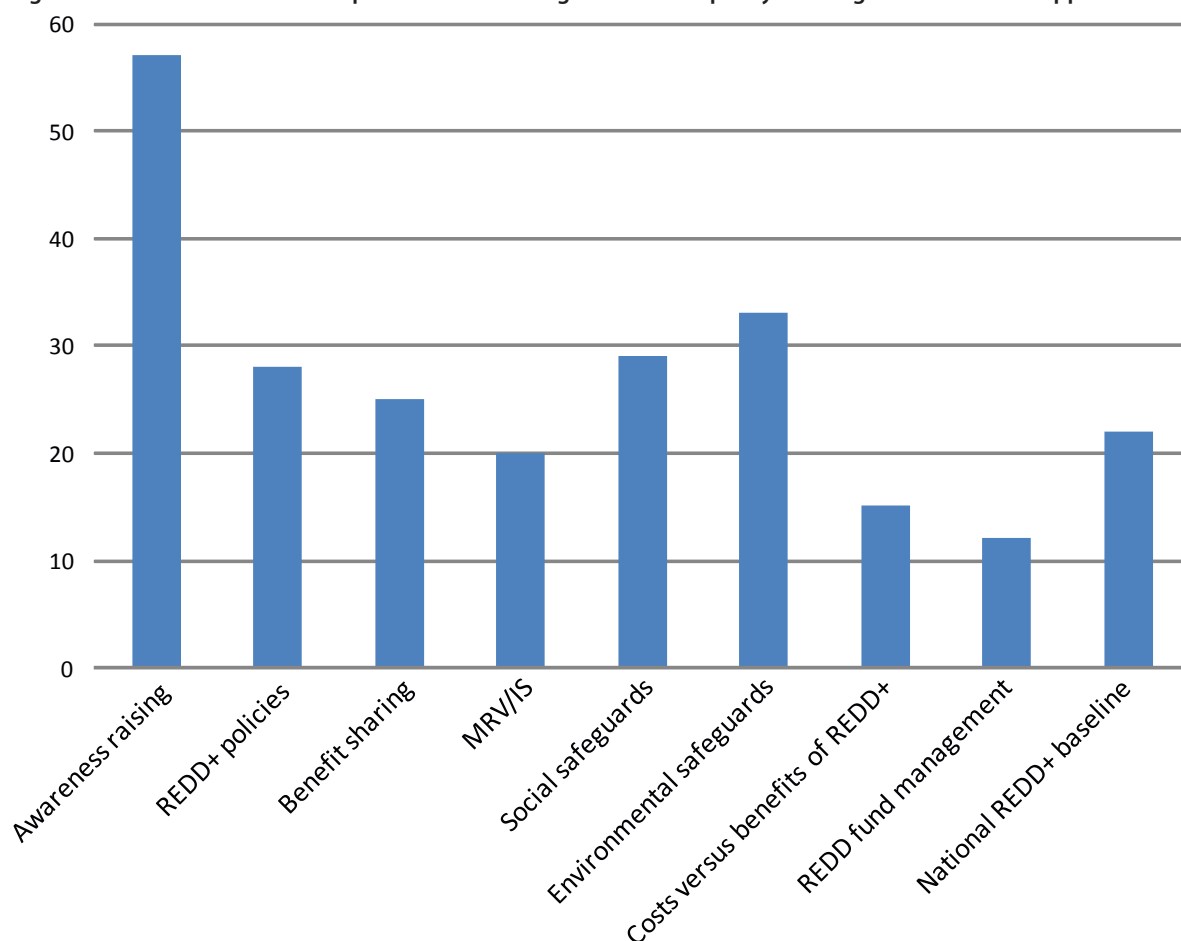
<sup>8</sup> Personal communication: Marlea Munez

<sup>9</sup> UN-REDD, (2011). The Philippines. Available online: <http://www.un-redd.org/AboutUNREDDProgramme/NationalProgrammes/Philippines/tabid/6897/Default.aspx> (Accessed 18th January 2012).

## 4. An overview of capacity building service providers in the Philippines

Figure 1 provides an overview of the number of service providers active under the main capacity building themes.

Figure 1: Total number of service providers addressing each main capacity building theme in the Philippines



General awareness raising receives much higher attention than any other capacity building theme. The difference between this and the next most popular category, environmental safeguards, is striking. This high emphasis on environmental safeguards may be due to the primary mandate of many organizations reviewed being ecosystem service and biodiversity conservation.

Social safeguards are not far behind environmental safeguards in the attention they receive. This may be due to a greater emphasis on community ownership of forest land and a strong NGO presence in national REDD+ planning. It may also be attributed to the influence of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) and the fact that both IPRA and FPIC are applied to government and private project developments on indigenous ancestral land.

Capacity building for MRV and the national REDD+ baseline receive less attention, though the reason for this is not immediately clear. Similarly to other study countries, the least attention is paid to capacity building for the national REDD+ baseline, perhaps unsurprising given that many service providers are still developing their technical REDD+ capacity. The low number of service providers engaged in REDD+ fund management can be explained by the lack of finance-focused consultancies or NGOs engaged in the REDD+ process to date. There has also not yet been concerted action to design a national REDD+ fund management system and most REDD+ financial management has occurred to date only at the individual project level.

## 5. The leading service providers

Participants in the country workshop agreed upon a shortlist of seven organizations that were most active in providing REDD+ capacity building services (see Annex 1). Individual consultations were then carried out with these organizations to gather more information on their activities. These consultations covered the length of time they have been operating in the country, number of staff, staff skills and experience, principal donors, and the key audience for capacity building.

**Years of operation in the Philippines** – The longest established service provider is the University of Philippines Los Baños, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, Forestry Development Center, established in 1981. The two large international service providers, FFI and CI, were both established in the country in 1991 with the two domestic NGO networks WISE and the NTFP-TF, being established more recently (2006 and 1998 respectively). The Ateneo School of Government was established in 2001, while Tebtebba started its operations in the Philippines in 1998.

**Organization size** – The average overall staff size of the shortlisted REDD+ capacity building service providers is 36 people. This ranges from 19 staff members in FFI to 63 staff members at the Ateneo School of Government.

**Staff skills and experience** – Table 1 summarizes the strengths and weakness of the leading service providers' skills and experience against the nine REDD+ capacity building themes. Please note that this summary is based on the skills and experience of the service provider group as a whole, and there may be some providers who have particular 'strengths' in areas identified as 'weaknesses' in the summary.

Table 1: Adequacy of skills and experience against the main capacity building themes

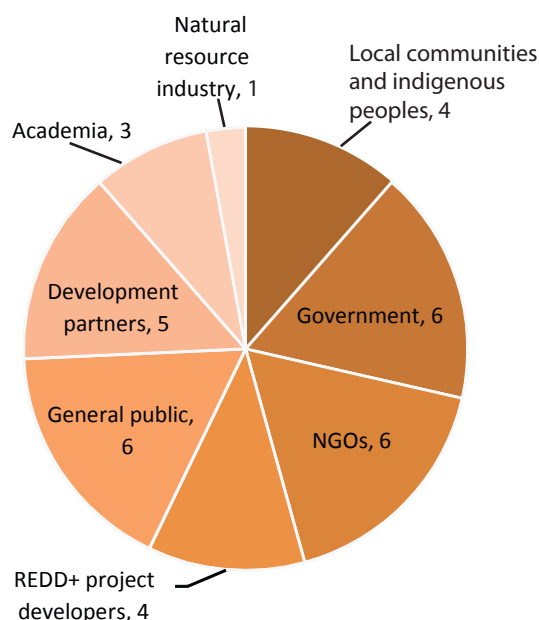
Capacity Building Theme	Strengths and weaknesses of service provider skills and experience	
	Strengths	Weaknesses
Awareness raising and REDD+ knowledge dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excellent networking skills</li> <li>▪ Experience in communicating complex subjects in a simple manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor facilitation skills, particularly for participatory-based training</li> <li>▪ Low ability to produce media-based information materials, e.g., radio programming</li> </ul>
REDD+ Policies and Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Understanding of international REDD+ negotiations</li> <li>▪ Experience in participatory and democratic policy making processes</li> <li>▪ Up to date understanding of national REDD+ policies and institutional structures</li> <li>▪ Ability to communicate national and international policy developments effectively at the local level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Little familiarity with the political economy of forest management and the linkages between other industrial sectors and REDD+</li> </ul>

Benefit sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong legal and human rights analytical skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weak knowledge of the process for forming REDD+ benefit sharing structures at a sub-national/national level</li> </ul>
Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)/ Information System (IS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spatial planning and remote sensing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weak technical forest management and inventory skills</li> <li>Insufficient capacity for data analysis of carbon stocks</li> </ul>
Social safeguards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of democratic governance</li> <li>Strong knowledge of Community Based Forest Management (CBFM)</li> <li>Awareness of land rights and broader human rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insufficient understanding of the concept of FPIC</li> <li>Lack of broad awareness of the relationship between gender and REDD+ (recognizing that a small number of service providers are leading institutions on this topic)</li> </ul>
Environmental safeguards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited 'Training of Trainer' skills for environmental safeguards</li> </ul>
Calculating the potential costs versus benefits of REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis of the social, environmental and 'co-benefits' of REDD+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low capacity for natural resource/environmental economic analysis</li> <li>Insufficient ability to analyze carbon markets and pricing</li> </ul>
REDD+ fund management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial management for small organizations and donor funded projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little experience in managing donor or private funds</li> <li>Low capacity for fund management design</li> </ul>



**Target audiences for capacity building** – Figure 2 shows that the shortlisted capacity building service providers appear to focus their attention on government, NGOs and the general public. Receiving slightly less capacity building services are development partners, REDD+ pilot project developers, indigenous peoples, and local communities. The natural resource industry only receives capacity building support from one service provider.

Figure 2: Target audiences for the shortlisted service providers



**REDD+ readiness events and publications provided since 2008** – The leading capacity building organizations reported hosting approximately 19 REDD+ readiness events (or event series) since 2008. This has ranged from national level government and NGO-focused training to local-level community training.

National and international REDD+ readiness events hosted include ‘Promoting Civil Society Engagement: Developing Mechanisms and Initiatives to Enhance Social Forestry and Climate Change Policy and Practice in the ASEAN Region’ organized by the NTFP-TF and a number of national consultative workshops co-facilitated by WISE. A good example of local-level capacity building has been Tebtebba’s training for local communities in ecosystem-based and human rights-based approaches to REDD+ in Tinoc, Ifuago and in Maco, Compostela Valley.

These events have been complemented with a broad selection of at least 21 supporting capacity building documents produced since 2008. Topics include the following<sup>10</sup>:

- Social safeguards – Tebtebba, REDD+ and indigenous peoples: Module on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples; Ateneo School of Government, (2011) REDD Lights: Who owns the Carbon in Forests and Trees?; WISE, REDD-Plus and implications to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
- REDD+ policymaking – NTFP-TF, Seeing REDD: Towards Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in the Philippines.
- REDD+ fund management – Ateneo School of Government, (2011) Building a governance framework for REDD+ financing.

<sup>10</sup> Year of publication shown where known

## 6. Coordination of REDD+ capacity building

The CCC coordinates, monitors and evaluates programs and action plans relating to climate change, as mentioned in Section 3 of this report. The Commission is tasked to coordinate REDD+ programs and actions plans, whilst the DENR oversees REDD+ implementation.

However, there is not yet a designated national REDD+ authority and a degree of coordination between REDD+ organizations has emerged through the development of the PNRPS. An online group has been established and is chaired by the FMB. Updates from individual organizations are posted on this online platform including coordination work. Apart from this, CoDe REDD Philippines has its own online group for internal coordination.

Each component of the PNRPS has a working group co-chaired by DENR-FMB and CoDe REDD which is tasked to lead the activities identified in the PNRPS. The PNRPS Capacity Building and Communication (CBC) working group is tasked with steering capacity building activities within the Strategy. However it is not yet clear how successful this working group has been in coordinating capacity building activities. The findings of this study would suggest that there is still work to do in coordinating and better distributing REDD+ capacity building activities in the country to fill in gaps (e.g. MRV, costs versus benefits of REDD+, REDD+ fund management) and to avoid overlaps (e.g. awareness raising).

## 7. Key strengths

Consultation with leading service providers revealed the following capacity building themes where service provision is highest and speeding up progress in getting ready for REDD+.

### 1. Awareness raising and knowledge dissemination

Among all countries reviewed (Cambodia, Indonesia, Viet Nam, and the Philippines), the Philippines showed the greatest number of organizations reporting engagement with REDD+ awareness raising activities. NGOs appear to have taken the lead in this process; for instance, WISE has co-organized seven workshops with NTFP-EP and BMU/GIZ since 2009 on REDD+ awareness activities including a series of workshops for the Communications and Media Plan for REDD+. This has been supported through the sharing of published and electronic awareness-raising materials on topics such as climate change and forestry, the Philippines National REDD+ Strategy, REDD+ and population, health and environment and REDD+, and implications of REDD+ for indigenous peoples and local communities.

The Ateneo School of Government has also published awareness raising documents on the financing of REDD+ entitled (e.g. 'Building a governance framework for REDD+ financing') and legal issues ('REDD lights: Who owns the Carbon in Forests and Trees?').

### 2. Environmental safeguards

One reason for there being a high number of organizations active in this capacity building theme is that environmental conservation organizations make up many of the service providers reviewed. Some providers are developing their own REDD+ pilot projects requiring them to carry out capacity building on environmental safeguards with community members, local NGOs and academia in the project area. For example, FFI delivered two forest carbon and biodiversity assessment training sessions during 2011 to community members, local NGOs, and collaborating academic institutions.

### Box 1: Case study service provider – CoDe REDD Philippines and WISE, the Philippines

Women's Initiatives for Society, Culture, and Environment (WISE) was founded in 2005 as a volunteer group, but legally classified as a national NGO. WISE became a core member and participant of the NGO Community-Based Forest Management Support Group/Consortium in 2006, which supports the development of community forestry in the Philippines. In 2009, WISE co-founded CoDe REDD Philippines, a network that aims to facilitate the responsible development and implementation of REDD+ in the country. The organization was also instrumental in developing the Philippine National REDD+ Strategy (PNRPS).

WISE provides education scholarships, health awareness and services, and promotes forest management by communities. WISE is directly involved in the Philippines REDD+ Capacity Building and Communication Working Group (CBC WG) and is also a member of the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification Working Group (MRV WG) sub group on the social/community aspects of REDD+.

WISE is currently analyzing the performance of domestic funding on CBFM as a starting point in lobbying for more sustained and predictable financing for REDD+. The organization is also engaging in REDD+ at a regional and international level through participation in drafting of policy papers, discussing critical topics in roundtable discussions and organizing other platforms for capacity building and communication.

Through CoDe REDD Philippines and in partnership with the Forest Management Bureau FMB of DENR, BMU/GIZ, EU, IUCN, Nature and Poverty, and SDC, WISE facilitated or contributed substantially to a number of REDD+ readiness events held in the country since 2009:

- National Consultative Workshop – “REDD: something to dread or the way ahead?”, co-organized with NTFP-EP, Kalahan Educational Foundation (KEF), AnthroWatch and Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern (PFEC), Quezon City, April 28 and 29, 2009
- Luzon Island Consultative Workshop, co-organized with the organizations identified above plus the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC)), Quezon City, May 27-28, 2009
- Visayas and Mindanao Islands Consultative Workshop – co-organized with NTFP, AnthroWatch, Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern (PFEC), and Interface Development Interventions (IDIS), Davao City, July 7-8, 2009
- Palawan Island Consultative Workshop, co-organized with NTFP, KEF, AnthroWatch, and Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern (PFEC), ELAC and Interface Development Interventions (IDIS), Puerto Princesa, August 10-11, 2009
- “Forest Communities, CSOs, REDD+ and Beyond,” Bangkok, October 7, 2009
- A series of Workshops for the Communications and Media Plan for REDD-Plus in the Philippines, October 2010 to March 2011
- “Basic Forest Mensuration and Intro to Carbon Accounting,” October 26-29 2010
- Orientation Training on Standards, Verification, and Certification (SVC), March 21-25 2011
- Forest Carbon Financing Workshop, March 29-30, 2011
- Setting Biodiversity MRV-Palawan case, with GIZ and FFI, March 31, 2011
- Facilitated: Regional Expert Workshop on Maximizing the Co-Benefits of REDD-Plus Actions, Subic Freeport Zone, GIZ, September 26-29
- Facilitated: Workshop on Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forest, August to November 2011
- REDD-Plus 101 Course, November 16-28, 2011
- National Consultative Workshop on REDD-Plus related Policy Studies, November 21-23, 2011



### 3. Social safeguards

The strong presence of civil society in the development of the Philippine National REDD+ Strategy, particularly CoDe REDD Philippines, may be a key factor in the high levels of attention paid to capacity building for social safeguards.

Another important factor may be the strong legal framework for safeguarding community rights over forests. Under Executive Order 263 issued in 1995, CBFM became the national strategy for the sustainable development of forestlands resources. In 1997, the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act recognized the rights of indigenous peoples to ancestral lands.<sup>11</sup> Under this legal framework it would not be surprising that social safeguards are prioritized in REDD+ capacity building in the country.





## 8. Key gaps

The assessment reveals numerous capacity-building themes in which service provision is lowest and potentially holding back REDD+ readiness progress.

### 1. REDD+ fund management

From a total of 59 organizations reviewed, 12 reported engagement in capacity building for REDD+ fund management. However the majority of these organizations only have this experience at the project level, as opposed to sub-national or national fund management systems and policies.

The PNRPS seeks to “Operationalize fund-management within the National Multi-stakeholder REDD+ Council, ensuring resources reach local managers” (p.17) and states that “There is a need to ensure financial transparency and accountability to both donors and forest managers in order to develop trust and gain confidence that REDD-plus can be viably implemented in the Philippines. Checks and balances, information-sharing and clear procedures are paramount.” (p.58).

The PNRPS also states that “REDD-plus in the Philippines should also explore diverse fund management arrangements, including direct links between carbon buyers and sellers. This may include direct payments to sub-national level initiatives. In the event of national-level payments, it should involve efficient fund disbursement to locally managed funds, including by the communities and local government responsible for Forest Management Units (FMUs)”(p.60).

To achieve these PNRPS goals a greater number of service providers with experience in both donor and private fund management are needed for REDD+ capacity building, particularly at the provincial and sub-national levels.

### 2. Calculating the potential costs versus benefits of REDD+

Fifteen service providers reported capacity building services for calculating the potential costs and benefits of REDD+. These organizations have focused on calculating the social, environmental and ‘co-benefits’ of REDD+ as described in Section 7.1 of the ‘Proposed Strategies and Activities’ of The Philippines National REDD Plus Strategy. This puts the Philippines in a strong position to ‘Establish a review process to measure social and environmental impacts and co-benefits’, which will focus on social parameters such as poverty alleviation and ecological parameters such as additional conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. There are fewer organizations engaged in providing economic analysis of the relative costs and benefits of REDD+, which is required not just at a project level, but also at provincial and national levels. The Strategy calls for ecosystem benefits to be ‘valued and priced’ (p.52) but there are few capacity building service providers with the requisite environmental economic expertise needed to do this yet.

### 3. Lack of capacity building services to natural resource industries

The outstanding gap in the REDD+ capacity building process is engagement with the natural resource industry, with just one of the short-listed organizations reporting engagement with the sector. One of the proposed ‘Strategies and Activities’ of the National REDD+ Strategy is to ‘Intensify responsible establishment of plantations for production’ (Section 8.3, p.40), which states that plantations ‘can be established by the private sector, the State and through community initiatives.’ It is also noted that ‘They should only be pursued outside of key biodiversity areas, should do no harm and must adhere to stringent social and environmental safeguards.’ To encourage the private sector to engage with ‘responsible establishment of plantations for production’ and implement the appropriate safeguards, it will be important to step up the level of REDD+ capacity building for the private sector.

## 9. Recommendations to address these gaps

The following actions for capacity building service providers, donors and governments are recommended to strengthen capacity building:

Capacity building gap	Recommended actions
<b>Insufficient attention to awareness raising in local languages</b>	<p><b>For capacity building service providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage actively with the television and radio media, as radio and television programming is an effective way of transmitting information in low literacy areas.</li> </ul> <p><b>For donors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase support to translate REDD+ awareness raising materials and terms from English and Filipino into local languages.</li> <li>Support the creation of simplified 'press friendly' information materials, design training for key journalists and engage the local media in capacity building.</li> </ul> <p><b>For governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make a concerted effort to ensure that public awareness raising materials are translated into local languages.</li> </ul>
<b>Lack of capacity building services to land use industries</b>	<p><b>For capacity building service providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage natural resource sector companies with a targeted REDD+ awareness campaign through industry roundtables, groups, and companies that already show leadership on REDD+.</li> <li>Provide technical assistance to industry to help companies take REDD+ into account in land-use planning, and encourage them to engage in the 'responsible' establishment of plantations. Such assistance could be provided through demonstrating potential REDD+ opportunities or the financial, social, and environmental risks companies may face if they continue operating in a business as usual fashion.</li> </ul> <p><b>For donors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the engagement of natural resource sector companies by capacity building service providers.</li> </ul> <p><b>For governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage natural resource sector companies to participate at a greater scale in national REDD+ planning processes.</li> </ul>

Capacity building gap	Recommended actions
<b>Inadequate support for REDD+ fund management</b>	<p><b>For capacity building service providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support to the DENR and the coordination of REDD+ policies with the CCC in reviewing arrangements used in other sectors for distributing funding from a national to provincial level. These mechanisms could follow existing donor trust fund models, or be in the form of revolving funds to allow for investment returns from carbon credit revenue.<sup>12</sup></li> <li>Provide further financial management capacity support for national and local NGOs who may be required to receive and manage private REDD+ finance from the voluntary carbon market (and possibly in the future from compliance markets).</li> </ul> <p><b>For donors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide funding support and guidance for capacity building services to support the government to review fund management structures.</li> <li>Provide funding for capacity building service providers to build financial management capacity among national and local NGOs.</li> </ul> <p><b>For governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a capacity building needs assessment within government to identify the areas where fund management capacity building is most needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Insufficient attention to calculating the costs and benefits of REDD</b>	<p><b>For capacity building service providers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take into consideration the 'wider benefits' of REDD+ in the design of training and capacity building services. This includes the potential institutional strengthening, reforms that can be made to the forestry sector, and the livelihood and ecosystem service benefits that well-designed REDD+ programs can provide.</li> </ul> <p><b>For donors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support capacity building activities to increase the socio-economic, environmental, economic and forest policy knowledge of national NGOs, government and the private sector. This can be carried out in specific pilot project areas and provinces or as part of a wider national program.</li> </ul> <p><b>For governments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invite service providers to provide capacity building support to the DENR and the CCC to design appropriate benefit-sharing mechanisms at a national and sub-national level.</li> </ul>

<sup>12</sup> See the Conservation Finance Alliance and PwC's 2010 report 'National REDD+ funding frameworks and achieving REDD+ readiness' for more information on REDD+ trust fund models.

# Annex 1

## List of stakeholders consulted during the assessment

1. Ateneo de Manila University – Ateneo School of Government
2. Conservation International – Philippines
3. Fauna & Flora International
4. Forestry Development Center
5. Non-Timber Forest Products – Task Force
6. Tebtebba-Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education
7. Women's Initiatives for Society, Culture, and Environment, Inc.





## Annex 2

# Long-list of training and capacity building service providers reviewed

1. AksyonKlima
2. AnthroWatch
3. ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
4. Asian Development Bank
5. Ateneo de Manila University – Ateneo School of Government
6. Ateneo de Manila University – Institute of Philippine Culture
7. Central Mindanao University
8. Conservation International – Philippines
9. De La Salle University – La Salle Institute of Governance
10. De La Salle University Social Development Center
11. Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
12. Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau
13. Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Forest Management Bureau
14. Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Human Resources Development Service
15. Department of Environment and Natural Resources – National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
16. Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau
17. Energy Development Corporation
18. Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative
19. Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Inc.
20. Environmental Science for Social Change
21. Fauna and Flora International
22. German Development Cooperation
23. Go Organic Mindanao
24. Greenpeace
25. Interface Development Interventions
26. International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
27. Japan International Cooperation Agency
28. Kalahan Educational Foundation, Inc.
29. Manila Observatory
30. Miriam College – Environmental Science Institute
31. National College of Public Administration and Governance
32. Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme
33. Non-Timber Forest Products – Task Force
34. Office of the President – Climate Change Commission
35. Office of the President – National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
36. Office of the President – National Economic and Development Authority

37. Philippine Council for Agriculture Forestry And Natural Resources and Development
38. Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern
39. Philippine Wood Producers Association
40. Resources, Environment and Economic Center for Studies, Inc.
41. Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc.
42. Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
43. Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority – Ecology Center
44. United Nations Development Programme Philippines (UNDP) with UN-REDD
45. United States Agency for International Development
46. University of the Philippines Diliman – Department of Geodetic Engineering
47. University of the Philippines Diliman – Institute for International Legal Studies
48. University of the Philippines Diliman – UP Training Center for Applied Geodesy and Photogrammetry
49. University of the Philippines Los Baños – College of Forestry and Natural Resources
50. University of the Philippines Los Baños – CFNR – Forestry Development Center
51. University of the Philippines Los Baños – School of Environmental Science and Management
52. University of the Philippines Los Baños – Training Center for Tropical Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability
53. University of the Philippines Mindanao
54. Upholding Life and Nature
55. Tebtebba-Indigenous Peoples’ Centre for Policy Research and Education
56. Visayas State University
57. Women’s Initiatives for Society, Culture, and Environment
58. ICRAF – The World Agroforestry Centre Philippines









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