



# PHILIPPINES

## Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlement

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# Philippines

## Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlements

Version 1: May 2024

The Philippines is an archipelagic country composed of over 7,000 islands with a total land area of approximately 300,000 square meters. The country's strategic location, along with the rich and distinct characteristics of its islands, make the Philippines a hotspot for biological diversity. However, these elements which provide the Philippines with ecological wealth are also responsible for making the country one of the most disaster-prone, and most environmentally threatened in the world. The country is also marked with frequent occurrence of typhoons, presence of active volcanoes, and a high seismological activity which all pose a risk not just to the well being and livelihood of its people, but also to the quality of the natural environment. Variations in rain levels and more intense typhoons cause flooding in various areas in the Philippines, bringing destruction to both life and property.

The Global Shelter Cluster (GSC), co-chaired by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), recognizes the environment as a cross-cutting issue for effective shelter and settlements response. The GSC has acknowledged that humanitarian operations can have substantial negative environmental impacts and is committed to increasing the understanding on environmental issues that operational teams face to minimise the impact of response activities and mitigate risk to shelter and settlements. The GSC received financial contributions from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and DG ECHO to enhance the capacity and quality of the humanitarian shelter and settlements response, and a part of this funding has been used to develop this Environmental Country Profile (ECP). Australian Red Cross has also provided financial and technical support, under a shared leadership agreement with IFRC for shelter cluster preparedness in Asia Pacific.

## Development and updating

A [technical working group](#) (TWiG) was established as part of the production of this profile to ensure that the process of drafting this resource drew on the extensive knowledge of Shelter

Cluster partners and Government counterparts working across the Philippines, to develop relevant and up-to-date country-specific guidance. The TWiG continues to provide a common platform for partners to contribute to the content of the profile and pilot in future responses. The Environmental Country Profile is a living document that can be revised and added to by the Shelter Cluster over time as new information becomes available. The profile should undergo a review and update process following each major response in the country or every five years (whichever comes first). The periodic update or after a major disaster will ensure that environmental and shelter and settlement related issues and practices are contextualized in the changing scenario.

## Structure of the Profile

Building off the 2018 Sphere Standards, the profile contains a checklist outlining key actions to be taken by the coordination team, program managers and field staff during each phase of the humanitarian program cycle, and annexes (see below) which provide further guidance on each of the actions. The structure is designed to be as operational as possible and allow users to easily access relevant information without having to read the entire document. The annexes can also be read as one country profile.

**Sphere Shelter and Settlement Standard 7: Environmental sustainability.**

“Shelter and settlement assistance minimises any negative programme impact on the natural environment.”

~ Sphere Handbook 2018

It is recommended that coordinators, program managers and field staff be familiar with the content of the whole profile. Given the role of shelter and settlements in promoting health, supporting family and community life, and providing dignity, security and access to livelihoods, and environment being a cross-cutting issue, this profile is also relevant to other sectors. Issues of livelihoods, WASH, food security and energy are referenced, but not presented in the same level of detail.

## Checklist and annexes

Below is a list of the checklist and annexes in the Environmental Country Profile with links to each of the documents.

| <b>Annex</b> | <b>Title and link</b>                                                                                    |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 00           | <a href="#">List of contents</a>                                                                         |
| 00           | <a href="#">Checklist</a>                                                                                |
| 01           | <a href="#">Background information</a>                                                                   |
| 02           | <a href="#">Country environment, hazard, conflict and housing context</a>                                |
| 03           | <a href="#">Key actors</a>                                                                               |
| 04           | <a href="#">Regulatory requirements and institutions</a>                                                 |
| 05           | <a href="#">Ecologically protected and sensitive areas</a>                                               |
| 06           | <a href="#">Hazards and maps</a>                                                                         |
| 07           | <a href="#">Guidance on rapid environmental impact assessment for shelter and settlement programming</a> |
| 08           | <a href="#">Environmental management and monitoring plan</a>                                             |
| 09           | <a href="#">Project management cycle and sustainable construction</a>                                    |
| 10           | <a href="#">Utilising GIS data for enhanced humanitarian shelter programming</a>                         |
| 11           | <a href="#">Environment, site selection and planning issues</a>                                          |
| 12           | <a href="#">Security of tenure and environment in the Philippines</a>                                    |
| 13           | <a href="#">Site decommissioning</a>                                                                     |
| 14           | <a href="#">Green building practices and most common building materials</a>                              |
| 15           | <a href="#">Green logistics and procurement</a>                                                          |
| 16           | <a href="#">Greening household items</a>                                                                 |
| 17           | <a href="#">Key considerations for energy and fuel in the Philippines</a>                                |
| 18           | <a href="#">Debris and waste management, recycling, reuse and repurposing</a>                            |
| 19           | <a href="#">Climate risk management and adaptation, nature-based solutions</a>                           |

For further information, inputs or to provide feedback please contact the Shelter Cluster Philippines: [coord1.philippines@sheltercluster.org](mailto:coord1.philippines@sheltercluster.org).



# Authors and Institutions

## AUTHORS

The Philippine Environmental Country Profile for Shelter and Settlement was developed by a Technical Working Group (TWiG) of the Shelter Cluster Philippines. The TWiG includes leads from the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and co-lead International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). A local, Philippine-based consultant was hired to lead the process, Agafer Creatives (Research Firm - Consultant) and was supported by Lionel Dosdos (Shelter Cluster Coordinator, Shelter Cluster Philippines), Robbie Dodds (Focal Point for Shelter Cluster Coordination in Asia Pacific), and Mandy George (Senior Environmental Advisor, Global Shelter Cluster).

## INSTITUTIONS

The following institutions were part of the TWiG: Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Australian Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross, Philippine Coconut Authority, Philippine Coconut Authority (Oil Palm & Other Special Concerns & Project Division), Catholic Relief Services, International Organization for Migration, Habitat for Humanity International, Habitat for Humanity Philippines, United Architects of the Philippines- Resilience Architects, United Architects of the Philippines- Diliman Chapter, Build Change, Shelterbox Operations Philippines / Rotary Club of Cebu, De La Salle University - Manila (Project No. 8739: SMART in House Construction), UN Habitat, People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network, Inc.

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