



COP28 CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT



An overview of the activities and engagements of Philippine civil society representatives at the 28th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC



COP28 Civil Society Report

This report is published on 8 October 2024 by **Aksyon Klima Pilipinas**, as an overview of the activities and engagements of Philippine civil society representatives at the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is intended as the first in a series of annual reports documenting the role of Philippine civil society in climate governance at the global climate negotiations.

Written by **John Leo Algo**

Layout and design by **John Leo Algo**

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CSO PROFILES AT COP28

A total of 124 known representatives from the Philippines affiliated with 46 different civil society and people's organizations and networks attended the Dubai climate negotiations¹. This is more than double the number of attendees in each of the past two years, which coincides with COP28 also being the global climate negotiations with the highest number of participants in history.

The majority of these are CSOs with known work at the national level, including Philippine branches of global non-government organizations. Some of the delegates were representing global or regional climate and environmental organizations and networks, with the regional work being focused within Southeast Asia. Three organizations known to be based at specific provinces or local areas also had recorded representation at COP28. The nature of these organizations and networks includes faith-based groups, academic institutions, farmers' associations, environmental law firms, youth groups and networks, think-tanks, indigenous peoples' organizations, advocacy/campaign groups, and foundations (**Table 1**).

In the past three UNFCCC COPs, only 11 non-government organizations were represented in all of them, while 12 individual CSO representatives appeared in each of these conferences.



¹ The data used for this analysis was sourced from the list of participants for COP26, COP27, and COP28, as listed in the UNFCCC website.

Table 1. List of civil society delegates from the Philippines at COP28.

Name of organization/affiliation	Number of attendees
350.org	1
Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP)	1
Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, Inc. (AFA)	8
Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU)	1
Ateneo de Naga University	2
Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino	1
Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines	1
<i>Catholic Relief Services</i>	1
Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED)**	8
Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines (CEC)**	2
Center for Sustainability Palawan	1
Duke University	1
Earth Savers Movement	1
Federation Internationale des Mouvements Catholiques d'Action Paroissial	1
Greenpeace Philippines**	1
Home of Sibuyan Island Peoples (BSI) ²	5
IBON International Foundation	3
ICCA Consortium	1
Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC)**	6
Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self Determination and Liberation	1
Institute of Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC)	3
Jubilee South Asia Pacific Movement ³	11
Life Haven	1
Makati Medical Center	1
<i>Manila Observatory (MO)* **</i>	9
Masungi Georeserve Foundation	2
My Shelter Foundation	2
Negrosanon Initiative for Climate and Environment (NICE)**	1
Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Program (NTFP-EP)**	5
Oceanus Conservation	2
Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Foundation, Inc.	3
Oxfam Pilipinas**	1
Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific	2
<i>Parabukas**</i>	7
Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ)	1
<i>Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation⁴ **</i>	5
Reboot Philippines**	2
<i>Rice Watch Action Network (R1)**</i>	2
Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung – Gessellschaftsanalye und Politische Bildung e.V. (RLS)	1
St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine	2
Tebtebba Foundation**	3
The Climate Reality Project Philippines	4
Tofu Creatives	2
<i>Wetlands International Philippines**</i>	2
<i>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines* **</i>	2
Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines (YACAP)	1

² Accredited organization for delegates of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas (AKP) Secretariat and Living Laudato Si' Philippines (LLS)

³ Also known as Asia People's Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD)

⁴ Also known as Forest Foundation Philippines (FFP)

Italicized means delegate/s with the Philippines's Party Overflow badge

Asterisk (*) means delegate/s that is/are part of the Philippine government delegation

Double asterisk (**) means active member of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas



CSO COORDINATION MEETINGS

As it has done in previous global climate negotiations, **Aksyon Klima Pilipinas (AKP)** led the coordination of all CSOs at COP28. It organized a total of four CSO coordination meetings to update the delegates on the latest developments across different workstreams, ongoing engagements with the PhilDel, developing joint positions to be lobbied to policymakers, and formulating strategies and activities as a response to urgent matters. These meetings all took place within the conference venue of Expo City Dubai on the following dates with corresponding agenda:

- **1 December 2023:** issues with inclusion and timely communications from the management of the COP28 Philippine Pavilion; CEED's presentation of its commissioned study on a pathway for a Philippine power sector aligned with 1.5°C
- **3 December 2023:** updates on engagements with the Philippine government delegation to address issues on transparency and inclusivity
- **5 December 2023:** processing the outcomes of the meeting with the Philippine government delegation on the same day; establishing a matrix to monitor the progress of COP28 and the Philippine government's positions and statements
- **8 December 2023:** processing the outcomes of the meeting with the Philippine government delegation on the same day; finalizing joint CSO statement on remaining key workstreams





MEETINGS WITH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT DELEGATION

At COP28, through the facilitation of FFP and the coordination of AKP with other CSO delegates, a total of four meetings were held with PhilDel representatives. These meetings all took place within the Philippine Pavilion inside Expo City Dubai on the following dates with corresponding agenda:

- **3 December 2023:** on the presentation of calls of CSO delegates on different workstreams at COP28 and identifying ways forward for better coordination between the PhilDel and the CSO delegates
 - The only PhilDel representative in this meeting was Usec. Analiza Teh of DENR.
- **5 December 2023:** on the PhilDel's specific positions on the agenda items at COP28, latest updates on the progress of the global climate negotiations, and identifying ways forward for better coordination between the PhilDel and the CSO delegates
 - Notable PhilDel representatives in this meeting are Sec. Robert Borje, Comm. Rachel Herrera, Comm. Albert dela Cruz, and Mr. Arnold Belder of CCC, and Usec. Analiza Teh of DENR.
- **8 December 2023:** on the PhilDel's specific positions on the agenda items at COP28, latest updates on the progress of the global climate negotiations, and identifying ways forward for better coordination between the PhilDel and the CSO delegates
 - The only PhilDel representative in this meeting was Mr. Jerome Ilagan of CCC.
- **10 December 2023:** on the PhilDel's position on the remaining key negotiating workstreams, most notably on the Global Stocktake, the fossil fuel phaseout issue, and the global goal on adaptation (including on agriculture)
 - Notable PhilDel representatives in this meeting are Usec. Analiza Teh of DENR, Mr. Albert Magalang of DENR, and Dir. Alicia Ilaga of DA.





In addition, a few CSO representatives attended a meeting with the PhilDel head, Sec. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga of DENR on 6 December 2023. For this engagement and in some of the aforementioned coordination meetings, one of the most significant issues addressed was the incident regarding the lack of coordination and communication from the management of the Philippine Pavilion to CSO groups that applied for side events.

The following were the main verbal agreements between the PhilDel and the CSO delegation coming from this series of meetings to improve coordination and collaborations, and avoid similar incidents from occurring in future engagements:

- Potential designation of a CSO liaison from the side of the PhilDel that would lead in coordinating during COPs and intersessionals with the corresponding facilitator from the CSO delegates;
- A post-COP28 CSO debriefing of the key outcomes and accomplishments of the PhilDel; and
- The creation of a CSO coordination mechanism that would address issues of inclusivity during the UNFCCC COPs and intersessionals and at specific workstreams and governance mechanisms at the national level.



BROAD POSITIONS AND STATEMENTS ON COP28 WORKSTREAMS

The Philippine CSO community was active in presenting its positions and statements on key COP28 workstreams, using the available spaces and platforms for engagement. Several groups participated in the 6th Multistakeholder Consultation of Civil Society Organizations held by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) on 17 November 2023 in Manila, submitting their inputs for the consideration of the PhilDel based on the following workstreams: mitigation and Article 6, adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance, the Global Stocktake (GST), and other workstreams.

A joint CSO statement⁵ was also issued by a few groups on-site in Dubai on 9 December 2023 to the PhilDel, as a response to an additional call for inputs. It focused on several workstreams regarded as critical in COP28 discussions that have yet to reach a decision by Parties by the aforementioned date. For three of these workstreams, the CSOs provided specific recommendations on which options the national government delegation should carry, based on available draft texts. These workstreams are the following⁶:

- *Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme referred to in decision 4/CMA.4;*
- *Adaptation Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation referred to in decision 7/CMA.3;*
- New collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG);
- Workstreams concerning the empowerment of vulnerable peoples in climate action, such as the Gender Action Plan (GAP), Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE), and Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP);
- First Global Stocktake (GST) under the Paris Agreement;
- *Work programme on just transition (JTWP) pathways referred to in the relevant paragraphs of decision 1/CMA.4;* and
- Technology transfer and development.

While the specific positions of the PhilDel for COP28 were never shared to CSOs during any of the consultations or coordination meetings, the broad *omnibus* (long-term) positions and calls were presented during some of these engagements (**Table 3**). Based on these positions, the CSO sector's positions on workstreams for COP28 mostly aligned with the *broad* known positions of PhilDel, most notably on adaptation and loss and damage. The biggest difference in the perspectives of the two sectors is on mitigation, especially on the issue of fossil fuels. While CSOs champion the call for a global phaseout of these fuels, the PhilDel did not issue any known strong call during COP28; this is aligned with the current plan of the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. to expand the natural gas industry in the Philippines. No known positions on other workstreams such as the LCIPP and ACE were also shared by PhilDel.

Even though the calls of the CSO community were mostly aligned with that of the PhilDel, there is no current way of proving that the sector's calls were integrated into the government's positions. Hence, some groups perceive this as a lack of transparency from the government, while also expressing a lack of confidence in future consultations for COPs and intersessionals related to a genuine "whole-of-society" approach. These concerns need to be addressed by the PhilDel in future engagements.

⁵ For a list of CSOs that signed this statement, please click the [link](#).

⁶ Italicized means positions the CSOs provided specific recommendations on which options the national government delegation should carry, as requested by PhilDel by 9 December 2023.

Table 2. Summary of broad positions of Philippine civil society organizations on COP28 workstreams.

Workstream	Positions
Mitigation and Article 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All mitigation pathways must be aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the findings of the IPCC, especially limiting global warming to “well below 2°C”, ideally at 1.5°C. Just energy transition should be further emphasized as a key part of the global negotiations on mitigation, and integrated into their eventual outputs. Renewable energy must be the predominant energy source globally and in the Philippines in the next few decades, coupled with phaseout of fossil fuel subsidies and significant reductions in fossil fuel use. Emissions avoidance may be advanced, but only if it is coupled with a strong national call for developed countries to urgently decarbonize and provide mitigation-related means of implementation to the country, and if this mechanism is made available only for developing countries.
Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippines, together with other developing nations, must continue to pressure developed countries to deliver on their promise to double adaptation finance (USD40 billion by 2025). The GGA must focus on setting the institutional arrangements, means of implementation, actions, and concrete, actionable targets to be associated with the framework, anchored on the following: nationally and/or locally-driven; accounting for the needs, concerns, and contexts of the most vulnerable peoples; direct-access funding and support mechanisms for adaptation and resilience-building from developed nations, banks, and other private funding institutions; and based on National Adaptation Plans through a “bottom-up” approach.
Loss and damage (L&D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties must determine the structure, operationalization, and guiding principles of the loss and damage funding facility (LDFF) and relevant funding arrangements for addressing L&D, with the following characteristics: new, additional, predictable, and adequate funding; based on “polluter pays” principle; increasing every year or five years; and grants-based. The Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD) should be positioned to efficiently mobilize and coordinate the provision of L&D-related technical assistance and capacity-building to developing nations.
Climate finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed nations must finally deliver on their collective pledge to mobilize a floor sum of USD100 billion per year for developing nations by the end of 2023. The new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance must be designed such that it adequately responds to the growing needs and concerns of the most vulnerable countries to the climate crisis. It must include adaptation, mitigation, and L&D in its scope, and should have the following characteristics: even split between mitigation and adaptation; higher target after every five years; easier accessibility of finance by developing countries, prioritizing grants-based mechanisms; and aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Global stocktake (GST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties must generate politically-relevant outcomes from the information collection and preparation and technical assessment phases of the GST, enabling the attainment of the goals of the Paris Agreement.
On other workstreams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties must sharpen the integration of gender across all aspects of climate action, aligned with the Gender Action Plan. Outcomes that enable the provision

	<p>of sufficient funding for the protection and empowerment of women, especially those part of the most vulnerable communities, must also occur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties must push for the establishment of a constituency for persons with disabilities under the UNFCCC. • A funding mechanism must be created to operationalize the Glasgow work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE). It would also strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and encourage youth participation that would enable more progress on ACE and other UNFCCC processes in the long-term. • Parties must strengthen the recognition of the importance and role of indigenous peoples (IPs) and environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) in climate action and support for reducing their vulnerabilities and implementing adaptation and mitigation solutions.
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Table 3. Known omnibus positions of the Philippine government delegation heading into COP28.

Workstream	Positions
Mitigation and Article 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions avoidance for use in cooperative mechanism of Article 6.2, 6.4, and 6.8 of Paris Agreement; eligibility of emissions avoidance to be finalized at COP28
Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus support to reduce vulnerabilities, increase resilience, build capacities • Best available science and indigenous knowledges in adaptation discussions, and role of IPCC • Use both quantitative and qualitative approaches in global goal on adaptation • Address data-related concerns to measure progress in adaptation, including on National Adaptation Plans
Loss and damage (L&D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment and operationalization of L&D funding arrangements, as aligned with G77+China • Predictable system for financial (L&D Fund) and technical support (operationalized Santiago Network) to address L&D is imperative
Climate finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed reference to “urgent adaptation needs” under mandate for Green Climate Fund • Establishment of L&D Fund • New collective quantified goal (NCQG) based on needs and priorities of developing countries • Climate finance must be predictable and accessible, with effective, efficient, streamlined, and simplified processes
Global stocktake (GST)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best available science and technology to guide entire process of GST • Agreed standard metrics to measure progress on climate action • Enhanced synergies and partnerships to advance delivery on means of implementation • Gaps analysis to be included • GST digital portal or platform • Conduct of hybrid GST events for universal participation
On other workstreams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent and efficient delivery of all means of implementation • Key roles of subnational and local governments and communities to advance climate actions; hence, need for capacity enhancement • Technology development and transfer and capacity-building as centerpiece of cooperation between developing and developed countries • Supported inclusion of “indigenous peoples” in Gender Action Plan • Introduced “best available science” in data disaggregation, discussed at SB58

CSO ACTIVITIES AT COP28



The Philippine civil society sector has earned a reputation at the eyes of the global community as one of the most active non-government delegations during COPs. With its highest total representation yet in Dubai, these groups participated in a wide range of activities for the duration of the global climate negotiations, from side events and exhibits to actions and meetings. This section features notable activities by Philippine CSOs at COP28⁷.

Aksyon Klima Pilipinas

As part of its role of overall coordination of CSO delegates at COP28, the AKP Secretariat organized a “COP28 CSO Calendar”, which was posted on its website for the duration of the negotiations. It contained a list of all the side events and exhibits that were hosted, co-organized, or participated in by Philippine sectoral representatives (see **Table 4** and **Table 5** for more details on these side events and exhibits), which were also communicated to PhilDel Secretariat and Philippine media personnel covering COP28.

The AKP Secretariat, through National Coordinator Mr. John Leo Algo, participated in seven side events for the duration of the Dubai climate talks, the most of any individual CSO representative from the Philippines. The following presents details about some of these engagements and way/s forward from each of them:

- Together with CEC, AKP also co-organized a side event on “Stocktaking stories of resilience of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) in the Philippines” on 3 December 2023, as part of their shared advocacy on protecting EHRDs in one of the world’s most dangerous nations for them. It featured an intervention by Mr. Ian Fry, then the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. Other speakers are representatives of Tebtebba, CEED, LLS, and CEC, each of which have notable work relevant to environmental human rights. After this meeting, AKP adopted the recommendation of Fry for the LCIPP to be more directly connected to the COP decision process as its call.
- AKP also presented its insights on just energy transition in the World Bank-hosted side event “Rebuilding momentum for a just transition” on 8 December 2023. This was part of ongoing engagements by the network with said institution on this critical workstream, including on the creation of the Just Coal Transition Platform and the creation of a report on the “nuts and bolts” of just transition in Southeast Asia.
- AKP was also a participant in the 8 December 2023 side event “Accelerating International Collaboration towards a Net-zero and Resilient ASEAN”, organized by the ASEAN Secretariat, Ministry on the Environment of Japan, and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). This served as the launch of the development of the ASEAN Climate Change Strategic Action Plan.

⁷ This is based on the information provided by those who corresponded to the call of AKP for documentation on their organization’s respective activities at COP28, as of 20 June 2024.



- With representatives from Reboot Philippines and NICE, AKP was also part of the panel in the National Youth Commission’s 8 December 2023 side event “Just Transition Youth Forum: JT as a Cornerstone to Philippine Youth Development” in the Philippine Pavilion. With this engagement, the network has renewed its engagements with the aforementioned government agency and strengthened its ties with the said CSOs, specifically on potential collaborations on youth-led climate work for 2024.
- As part of the commemoration of the 10th year anniversary of the landfall of super-typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) on the Philippines, AKP co-organized “The People’s Museum of Climate Justice” on 9 December 2023, together with Greenpeace Philippines and MO. It featured an intervention by Mr. Naderev Saño, former Philippine negotiator and Greenpeace Southeast Asia Executive Director, and speakers representing communities, the legal perspective, and the faith-based sector. The side event focused on the progress of recovery of communities from Haiyan, and initiatives and actions for addressing loss and damage. It also featured a “living museum” of photos and persons presenting artifacts, scenes, and stories of resilience from Haiyan, led by Greenpeace Philippines. It also served as the culmination of the network’s series of activities for the Haiyan anniversary commemoration.

While AKP as a network was active in different engagements at COP28, many of its members also participated in their own events, forums, and dialogues during the Dubai climate negotiations. The following presents an overview of the activities of some of the network’s members and other CSOs.



Living Laudato Si' Philippines



Leading to and during the Dubai climate negotiations, LLS was among the lead authors of the joint position paper by Catholic organizations and networks participating in COP28. In two joint submissions, it specifically contributed to calls on adaptation, mitigation, just transition, and climate change education, which are among the priority agenda issues for the Holy See delegation, and specific workstreams such as the Just Transition Work Programme, the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, and the Global Stocktake.

As part of its Haiyan 10th anniversary commemoration activities and its tradition at host cities of COPs, LLS also conducted a Holy Mass in honor of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception on 8 December 2023 at the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Dubai. This mass was held in memory of individuals and communities who suffered losses and damages due to the climate crisis. Bp. Gerardo Alminaza of the Diocese of San Carlos and Fr. Pedro Walpole of ESSC also joined the mass.

Rice Watch Action Network



For R1, regional cooperation among CSOs on the frontlines of the climate crisis must be strengthened with worsening impacts. In Dubai, it led the convening of members of the Asia Climate Change Consortium (ACCC), a network of South and Southeast Asian non-government groups on climate action. Through its role as the Secretariat, it facilitated the discussions of the members' progress in their respective and collective engagements at COP28 and ways forward for collaborations and support in the network's activities, from policy lobbying to capacity-building.

Throughout COP28, ACCC engaged in creative campaigning to communicate its main calls centered on climate justice and empowering the most vulnerable groups and sectors such as farmers, fisherfolk, and women. This included its signature "shirt campaign"; in Dubai, they gave shirts with the message "Make it right for Climate Peoples and Ecosystems" to different stakeholders, from negotiators to fellow civil society representatives to raise the point that when it comes to addressing loss and damage, false solutions, or just transition, no one must be left behind.

Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development



Photo credit: UNFCCC

CEED focused largely on its calls for fossil fuel phaseout, just energy transition, opposition to coal and gas financing, and limiting global warming to 1.5°C. It was involved in several events and press conferences, where it presented its findings and positions on these aspects of climate change mitigation in the Philippine and Southeast Asian context.

On 1 December 2023, CEED joined a group of 12 NGOs worldwide that published a set of guiding principles for financing coal retirement mechanisms⁸. Among these principles are the alignment of these mechanism with the 1.5°C target, protection of workers and communities dependent on or impacted by coal extraction and burning, and promotion of sustainable renewable energy and energy efficiency. During COP28, it also presented its publication “A 1.5°C future is possible: Getting fossil fuels out of the Philippine power sector”, including through a 3 December 2023 press conference on Southeast Asia fossil gas and renewable energy. It was also presented to PhilDel and other Philippine CSO delegates during the coordination meetings.

Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities



Photo credit: ICSC

ICSC actively participated in discussions and activities across various workstreams at COP28. Its side events covered the likes of the Global Stocktake (GST), adaptation and mitigation, climate finance, energy, loss and damage, and innovative actions. It participated in multiple side events, covering a wide range of topics from a bottom-up approach for NDC updating after the first GST to financing women’s livelihoods, from clean transitions in a market-based power sector to the role of civil society in the Global Shield.

During the conference, the organization also continued to provide support to the Vulnerable 20 (V20) Group of Finance Ministers, under the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF). It also served as the co-convenor of the Independent Global Stocktake Southeast Asia Hub, a civil society consortium that supported the GST processes under the UNFCCC. Aligned with its emphasis on science, evidence-based, and inclusive approaches to realizing the outcomes of the climate negotiations, ICSC is poised to continue working with a wide array of domestic partners, governments, private-sector institutions, and other stakeholders on enhancing climate solutions.

⁸ https://www.banktrack.org/article/cop28_backers_of_new_coal_phaseout_initiative_need_to_walk_the_talk

Parabukas



Photo credit: Parabukas

Parabukas has been providing technical support for members of the PhilDel in previous COPs, given its expertise in environmental and climate laws and policies. In Dubai, the firm co-hosted three side events at the Philippine Pavilion, covering the following themes: how science and lived experience present loss and damage as a critical issue for coastal and island communities; addressing climate-related threats and challenges posed to the country's agricultural system; sustainable and resilient agriculture and water management practices smallholder farmers

do to adapt to local impacts; and discussing the findings of Project SIGND, a climate vulnerability assessment of the Filipino d/Deaf community and resolving policy gaps and opportunities.

The group also monitored several workstreams throughout COP28, including on loss and damage. It assessed that the Loss and Damage Fund Board should uphold its mandate to invite active observers from civil society and indigenous peoples and local communities to participate in its meetings and proceedings. It also recommends the continuation of knowledge and capacity-building in documenting loss and damage on the ground, especially on the non-economic side, which would strengthen corresponding actions of Southeast Asian countries.

Manila Observatory



Photo credit: Manila Observatory

MO, a Jesuit research institution in the Philippines, has long been providing technical support for the PhilDel in previous COPs, especially on workstreams most relevant to themes such as climate science, loss and damage, and adaptation. Two of its Senior Research Fellows, Dr. Andrea Monica Ortiz and Dr. Rosa Perez, provided technical advisory for the PhilDel at COP28.

The institution held several side events in Dubai, including the "People's Museum of Climate Justice" event and a few others in

the Philippine Pavilion. Another example involves the launch of the findings of the Climate Justice Capacity Initiative (CJCI), held in Middlesex University in Dubai on 5 December 2023. This project aimed to provide lawyers with hands-on experience in environmental law and climate litigation. During the event, Atty. Antonio La Viña, MO's Associate Director for Climate Policy and International Relations, emphasized CJCI's role in bringing together individuals from different backgrounds and expertise and the importance of rule of law in safeguarding the environment for present and future generations.

Forest Foundation Philippines



Atty. Jose Andres Canivel, Executive Director of FFP, played a key role on the Philippine front during COP28. He is one of the few CSO representatives that was included as part of the PhilDel, while also co-facilitating the conduct of several coordination meetings between the PhilDel and CSO representatives throughout the conference that helped resolve some of the issues raised by said non-government sector on inclusivity in position-building.

FFP also conducted a side event at the Philippine Pavilion on 9 December 2023, a panel discussion on harnessing nature-based solutions through stories of climate change adaptation in the country, in partnership with the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau. Representatives from the government, business, and civil society sectors and community sectors, and speakers from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and a local community from Palawan shared their perspectives on this critical component of climate action.

Tebtebba



Photo credit: Tebtebba

At COP28, Tebtebba continued its advocacy on the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities in UNFCCC processes and enhanced support for their actions, from nature-based solutions to the protection of human rights. Through Ms. Grace Balawag of the group's Climate and Biodiversity Program, it is part of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) Facilitative Working Group, which facilitates said group's operations and its implementation of its three functions on knowledge, capacity for engagement, and climate change policies and actions.

Tebtebba also co-hosted or participated in side events and dialogues promoting best practices on climate action related to the indigenous peoples. On 1 December 2023, in a side event focusing on the role of indigenous knowledge and data in addressing impacts, Nicky Batang-ay from its Climate and Biodiversity Program emphasized the following points: the significance of timeless wisdom and modern approach; the dynamic role of indigenous data which aids in realizing indigenous rights and developing appropriate plans for community-based actions; and empowering indigenous peoples through capacity-building on data collection and management.

Asian Farmers Association on Sustainable Rural Development



Photo credit: AFA

With the importance of food security and agriculture in the climate negotiations growing, AFA champions sustainable agricultural practices and protecting the well-being of small-holder farmers across many parts of Asia. At a 2 December 2023 side event, Esther Penunia, AFA Secretary-General, joined a panel discussion on regenerative agricultural practices that empower local communities and foster economic independence

and environmental stewardship. She shared her group's work on helping farmers harness local value chains, achieve economic growth, and strengthen climate resilience.

AFA also participated in the COP28 UAE Presidency event "Farmers and Traditional Food Producers at the Heart of Food Systems Transformation" on 10 December 2023, with Penunia moderating the panel discussion on finance. This event brought together different groups of farmers, fisherfolks, other agricultural workers, and frontline communities for interacting with numerous agencies to support them in addressing the climate change impacts on their sector.

Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Program



Photo credit: NTFP-EP

For NTFP-EP, COP28 provided an opportunity for it and its partners representing indigenous youth, indigenous women, and civil society to meaningfully contribute to the climate action dialogues. Aligned with this objective, it co-organized or participated in five side events, tackling various themes including promoting indigenous peoples' rights, sustainable forest management, and youth participation.

These engagements highlighted the power of locally-led approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation, showcasing the critical role of Indigenous peoples and local communities in protecting forests and biodiversity. They also contributed to strengthening NTFP-EP's partnership and collaboration with different international and national organizations and networks, such as Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda IAP, UNDP Equator Prize, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, FFP, and DENR.

Center for Environmental Concerns – Philippines



CEC continued its advocacy for championing the protection of human rights and environmental defenders in the context of numerous workstreams in Dubai. Together with AKP, it organized the Philippine-based exhibit booth at COP28, featuring the struggles, triumphs, and solutions of frontline land and environmental defenders through multimedia material. This included the best practices of CEC as Secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders. This exhibit also complemented a 3 December 2023 side event also highlighting stories of resilience of environmental defenders, co-organized by the aforementioned groups.

Together with its partners such as Global Witness and EarthRights International, CEC also issued a joint NGO briefing for COP28 on land and environmental defenders, which had the following recommendations: civil space and meaningful participation of land and environmental defenders in climate policymaking; prioritization of indigenous and local defenders' land rights and tenure security; and human rights-based outcomes of the GST. Other notable engagements for CEC at COP28 include a side event on peoples-centric just energy transition.

Institute of Environmental Science for Social Change



Prior to COP28, ESSC organized the informal dialogue “COPePhan”, which gathered representatives from the CCC and several CSOs. It provided a space for sharing perspectives and stories on addressing climate issues, especially from the local level. It also launched the statement “Ecojesuit towards COP28: Committing to a South-North climate justice advocacy”, which gathered over 100 signatures from Jesuit Conferences and networking partners affirming the commitment to Laudato Si’, Laudate

Deum, and the Universal Apostolic Preference for the Care for the Common Home.

The organization also distributed its Ecojesuit COP28 brochure, while also launching a website to share COP28 event updates and climate stories and other voices. Its staff on-site in Dubai also met with representatives from other social networks and the scientific community from different countries where Jesuits and partners engage in ecological work, seeking to contribute to a strengthening of the South-North dialogue that comes from a context of faith and hope.

Oxfam Pilipinas

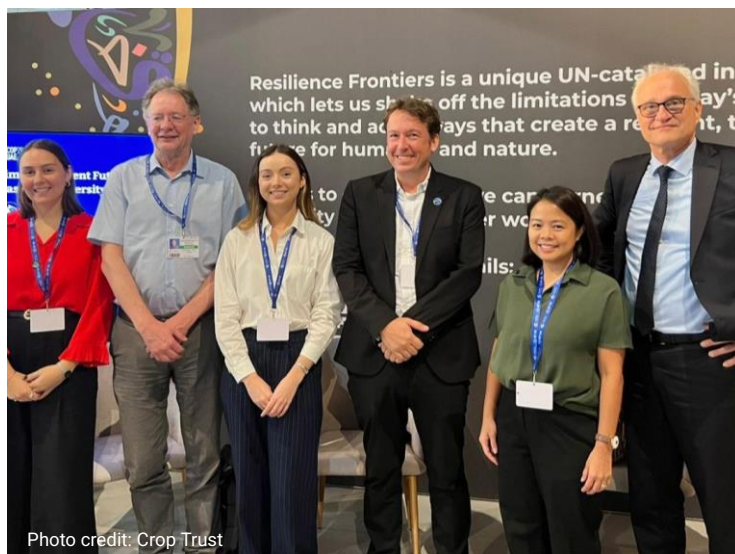


Represented by Cheng Pagulayan, Climate Justice Coordinator, Oxfam Pilipinas advocated for just transition, gender, and climate finance in the Dubai climate talks. As part of global and national networks such as Climate Action Network – International and AKP, they met with PhilDel negotiators and shared positions on protecting the language of human rights, equity, and climate justice in texts related to the Just Transition Work Programme.

They also participated in side events in the Philippine Pavilion, focusing on topics such as highlighting the gender lens on

climate finance and unlocking the potential of offshore wind power in the country. Citing the reports of Oxfam and its partners in Southeast Asia, they emphasized the importance of linking global positioning to locally-led climate actions, while upholding the principles of equity, human rights, and gender, social, and intergenerational justice.

World Wildlife Fund – Philippines



Through Atty. Angela Ibay, Head of Climate and Energy Program, WWF-PH has been providing technical advisory for the PhilDel in recent COPs on climate finance, mitigation, and just transition. This is also one of the means to bring the voice of civil society directly into discussions within the delegation.

The organization was also part of multiple side events at COP28. It participated in panel sessions covering topics such as accelerating action and financing for nature-based solutions (NBS), protecting and conserving the Coral Triangle, highlighting the links

between NBS and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. These engagements are pivotal for strengthening the narrative and strategies for ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, connecting climate issues with food security, financing, and other development themes, and enhancing multisectoral partnerships key to the implementation of the Philippines's National Adaptation Plan and the NDC Implementation Plan.

Reboot Philippines



Reboot PH, an NGO focused on renewable energy transition, also brought the youth lens into several engagements during the Dubai climate negotiations. It played a key role in pre-COP28 activities, including the conduct of the 2023 Local Conference of Youth. The outcomes of this, including a national youth statement, were communicated to the Philippine government delegation and during a side event held at the Philippine Pavilion, which tackled the interlinkages between just transition and youth development.

The group also voiced its support for strengthening gender responsiveness in different facets of climate action, such as on climate financing. Its representatives presented the work done by their partner women-led cooperatives, youth groups, and rural communities from different parts of the Philippines on best practices to ensure that the most vulnerable populations are not left behind in such transition, from policy discussions to program implementation.

Wetlands International Philippines



As a member of the Global Mangrove Alliance, the Philippine branch of the global NGO championed the conservation and restoration of mangroves during its activities in Dubai. The most notable of these involve a side event at the Philippine Pavilion, where it provided cases of mangroves being an anchor of local nature-based solutions that bring benefits to frontline communities and the natural environment.

Throughout the conference, it also met with organizations from different countries, enabling them to establish their respective national chapters to further build the momentum for mangrove conservation and restoration. Its staff also voiced its advocacy for funding actions addressing loss and damage, specifically a grants-based approach to providing support for the most vulnerable communities and ecosystems aligned with the principles of climate justice.



Photo credit: PMCIJ

Philippine Movement for Climate Justice

Represented by National Coordinator Ian Rivera, PMCIJ participated in side events and actions at COP28, with some occurring in the Civil Society Climate Justice Hub. During the conference, the group called for fossil fuel phase out, ecological protection, and upholding climate justice for the most vulnerable peoples. He also joined regional and global groups such as Asia Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development on calling for historical emitters to deliver climate finance, respective of principles such as polluter pays, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and equity.

PMCIJ also participated in the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice, working with other CSOs in the Philippines and in solidarity with other non-government groups worldwide. On 9 December 2023, simultaneous demonstrations were staged in 55 areas across the country, demanding for urgent climate action, especially limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The activists also endorsed the calls made by the global alliance COP28 Coalition, from climate finance for just transition to ending greenwashing and false solutions, and upholding climate accountability from the global level to the domestic scale.



Photo credit: PMCIJ



"I was greatly inspired, challenged and enriched by the clear, strong and uncompromising commitment of all those who campaigned to meet the 1.5°C limit for Our Common Home and affected most vulnerable communities! For the Catholic Church, it is vital for us to communicate, to not lose our prophetic voice and be able to "walk the talk". I hope to continue participating in strengthened, consistent, and ongoing engagements for us as CSOs with various Philippine government agencies like the DENR, DOE, and CCC."

Gerardo Alminaza, Bishop of the Diocese of San Carlos (faith)



"I was honored to receive capacity building from UNICEF and Young Negotiators Academy before going to COP and I also worked with the negotiations team of UNICEF in lobbying for pro-children and youth policies within the first GST, including the mandated expert dialogue on the impacts of climate change on children. My experience at COP and the work of my other Filipino youth colleagues shows the importance of our presence at platforms such as COP. We weren't only there to speak at side events but we actively engaged parties and negotiating bodies in ensuring that our future is safeguarded at the negotiations."

Joshua Villalobos, NICE (youth)



"During COP28, I closely monitored the negotiations on adaptation, gender, and ACE. Witnessing the negotiations in person made a significant difference in my understanding of the COP process and decisions. In the context of climate negotiations, I hope to see more concrete plans on how we can support vulnerable sectors like persons with disabilities. It would also be interesting to see how the Loss and Damage Fund discussions at the international level can also shape the ongoing deliberations of a climate accountability bill at the Philippine Congress in an attempt to establish domestic mechanisms to help alleviate loss and damage from climate change."

Angelika Pizarro, Parabukas (women)



"COP and the entire climate justice arena is a work in progress in terms of disability inclusion. COP 28 was a significant improvement in terms of accessibility, inclusion, and participation of persons with disabilities. I appreciated the nods, agreement, and interest of the Philippine government delegation and fellow CSO representatives during my sharing. But I also felt that parallel to this positive reception are more questions about how to do it. There is so much work to do for me and my organization in learning and immersing deeper in climate action. I look forward to the succeeding COPs."

Shiela May Aggarao, Life Haven (persons with disabilities)

PERSPECTIVES OF FIRST-TIME COP DELEGATES



ADVOCATES IN ACTION AT COP28

This is a gallery of photos that depict the passion of Philippine CSOs in fighting for climate action, as expressed in different ways that also speak to the creativity and desire of Filipinos for a greener future. All of these scenes took place inside the Expo City Dubai for the duration of the 2023 UN global climate negotiations.





This is a gallery of photos that depict Philippine CSO representatives engaging in dialogues with stakeholders from different sectors in the sidelines for the duration of the 2023 UN global climate negotiations.

ADVOCATES ON ACTION AT COP28



Table 4. List of side events hosted by or involving Philippine civil society groups at COP28.

Date	Time	Name of event	Venue	PH CSOs involved
2023/12/01	12:15-13:15	Indigenous Navigator: Indigenous knowledge and data to secure Indigenous Peoples' rights and manage the risks and in restoration of the impacts of climate change	Blue Zone (Indigenous Peoples Pavilion)	Tebtebba
2023/12/01	14:35-15:35	Gone but not forgotten: Economic and Non-Economic Loss and Damages for Indigenous Peoples (with Elatia Network and Nia Tero)	Blue Zone (Indigenous Peoples Pavilion)	Tebtebba
2023/12/01	16:55-17:55	Investing in Direct Financing for Indigenous Peoples' Climate Actions: Lessons Learned and Opportunities (with Kawari Fund and Elatia Network)	Blue Zone (Indigenous Peoples Pavilion)	Tebtebba
2023/12/01	18:30-20:00	Bottom-up Approach of Regional Non-State Actors Towards Updating NDCs in post-GST	Blue Zone (SE Room 8)	ICSC
2023/12/02	09:00-10:30	ASEAN Leadership in Dealing with Climate Change: An Introduction of ASEAN Climate Change Centre at COP 28	Blue Zone (Malaysian Pavilion)	MO, Parabukas
2023/12/02	09:00-10:30	Turning the Tide: The Philippine Journey to Climate Resilience - High-level Dialogue on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) of the Philippines	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	WWF PH
2023/12/02	11:30-13:30	Climate Vulnerable Forum High-Level Event and Press Conference	Blue Zone (Ghana CVF Pavilion)	ICSC
2023/12/02	15:30-16:30	People & Places: agroecology and regenerative approaches from the ground up	Blue Zone (Food and Agriculture Pavilion)	AFA
2023/12/03	09:00-10:30	A climate-smarter health system	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	Planetary and Global Health Program

2023/12/03	12:00-13:00	Stocktaking stories of resilience of environmental human rights defenders in the Philippines	Blue Zone (Climate Justice Civil Society Hub)	AKP, CEC, CEED, Tebtebba,
2023/12/03	12:00-13:00	Nature Resilience in the Climate Era: Innovative, holistic, and effective governance	Blue Zone (Resilience Hub)	Masungi
2023/12/03	13:00-13:30	Press conference on Southeast Asia fossil gas and renewable energy	Press Conference Room 2, Zone B6 – Building 77	CEED
2023/12/03	13:15-14:45	Gender-just climate policy and finance: from barriers to actionable solutions	Blue Zone (SE Room 7)	NTFP-EP
2023/12/03	16:30-17:30	In Our Climate Change Era: Challenging False Solutions	Blue Zone (Climate Justice Civil Society Hub)	Masungi
2023/12/04	11:00-12:30	The Changing Landscape of Climate Financing in Asia and the Pacific	Blue Zone (ADB Pavilion)	ICSC
2023/12/04	15:00-16:30	Catalyzing aligned, inclusive, and co-beneficial action for climate change and mental health	Blue Zone (SE Room 5)	Planetary and Global Health Program
2023/12/04	16:00-17:00	Climate Finance for Forests, Biodiversity & Food Security with IP&LCs: What can we do better?	Blue Zone (IUCN Pavilion)	NTFP-EP
2023/12/04	16:00-17:00	Reading the Signs: Inclusive Governance for the Resilience of the Deaf	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	Parabukas
2023/12/04	17:00-18:00	Making Finance Work for Women: Climate Finance Towards the Improvement of Women's Livelihood	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	ICSC, Oxfam Pilipinas
2023/12/05	10:40-11:55	What happens when a Wind Farm threatens a Biodiversity Haven?	Green Zone (Extreme Hangout Stage)	Masungi
2023/12/05	11:30-12:40	Developing Education and Capacity for Climate Law and Policy – European and Global Trends	Climate Law and Governance Day, Middlesex University	MO

2023/12/05	14:30-15:30	Opportunities and Challenges of Fossil to Clean Transition in a Market-Based Power Sector	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	ICSC
2023/12/05	15:00-15:45	Just Coal Transition session – Rebuilding Momentum for a Just Transition	Blue Zone (World Bank Pavilion)	AKP
2023/12/05	15:30-16:00	LNG Projects: Building a Bridge to Climate Chaos	Blue Zone (Press Conference 2)	CEED
2023/12/06	10:30-12:00	Rewrite COP: Rewriting Our Future with Arts and Science in Climate Policy Spaces	Blue Zone (Ghana Pavilion)	ICSC, TCRP
2023/12/06	15:00-16:30		Blue Zone (Sri Lanka Pavilion)	ICSC, TCRP
2023/12/08	09:00-10:00	Just Transition Youth Forum: JT as a Cornerstone to Philippine Youth Development	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	Reboot PH, AKP
2023/12/08	09:00-10:00	Holy Mass in honor of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception	St. Francis of Assisi (Jebel Ali Village)	AKP, LLS, Greenpeace PH
2023/12/08	09:00-10:30	Seminar on Belt and Road Green and Low-carbon Transition	Blue Zone (China Pavilion)	ICSC
2023/12/08	09:30-10:15	Putting people at the center of a just transition: How can we achieve a people-focused approach to the energy transition?	Blue Zone (Nordic Pavilion)	CEC
2023/12/08	10:00-11:00	Civil society perspectives (iGST) on the expected outcomes of the GST	Blue Zone (Regional Climate Foundations Pavillion)	ICSC
2023/12/08	10:00-11:00	Global Commons for Climate-Resilient Future Generations: the case of Biodiversity, with Croptrust	Blue Zone (Resilience Frontiers Pavilion)	WWF PH
2023/12/08	12:30-14:00	The Future of Energy in Southeast Asia: Unlocking the Potential of Wind Power	Blue Zone (Vietnam Pavilion)	ICSC
2023/12/08	13:00-14:15	Accelerating International Collaboration towards a Net-zero and Resilient ASEAN	Blue Zone (Japan Pavilion)	AKP

2023/12/08	14:30-16:00	Reflections of the ASEAN Chairmanship 2023 and Highlights of the ASEAN COP 28 Joint Statement on Climate Change	Blue Zone (Indonesian Pavilion)	MO, Parabukas
2023/12/08	15:30-16:30	Nature based solutions for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction: lessons from the field to global level	Blue Zone (WWF Pavilion)	WWF PH
2023/12/08	17:00-18:00	Civil society's role in the Global Shield against climate risk	Blue Zone (Ghana CVF Pavilion)	ICSC
2023/12/09	10:00-10:30	Diving into the nexus of the climate crisis and the plight of our oceans	Press Conference Room 2, Zone B6 – Building 77	CEED
2023/12/09	10:30-11:30	Harmonising Biodiversity and Climate Change Goals through Nature-based Solutions: Experiences from the ASEAN Region	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	FFP, NTFP-EP
2023/12/09	10:30-11:30	From activism to impact: youth climate activism in focus	Blue Zone (Climate Justice Civil Society Hub)	AKP
2023/12/09	11:30-13:00	The People's Museum of Climate Justice	Blue Room (SE Room 1)	AKP, Greenpeace PH, MO
2023/12/09	13:00-14:00	Harnessing Nature-based Solutions: Stories of Climate Adaptation in the Philippines	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	NTFP-EP
2023/12/09	14:30-15:30	Global Mangrove Alliance: Accelerating Action and Financing for Nature-Based Solutions	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	Wetlands PH, Global Mangroves Alliance PH, WWF PH
2023/12/09	16:00-17:00	Experiences of and Responses to Loss and Damage in Coastal and Island Communities	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	MO, Parabukas
2023/12/09	16:45-18:15	The Global Stocktake: Delivering ambitious systemic transformations for climate action	Blue Zone (SE Room 1)	ICSC

2023/12/09	18:30-19:30	Asia's Youth Assemble: Charting a Just Transition Path	Blue Zone (Climate Justice Civil Society Hub)	AKP
2023/12/10	09:00-10:00	Ensuring Food Security Amidst Climate Change: The Role of Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture Development and Water Management	Blue Zone (Philippine Pavilion)	Parabukas
2023/12/10	18:10-19:10	Indigenous People's Right-based, Bottom-up and Collaborative Solutions for Nature and Climate	Blue Zone (Indigenous Peoples Pavilion)	NTFP-EP

Table 5. List of known exhibits hosted by Philippine civil society organizations at COP28.

Start date	End date	Nature of exhibit	Venue	CSOs involved
2023/12/01	2023/12/03	The exhibit showcased the struggles, triumphs, and solutions of frontline land and environmental defenders acting as climate warriors via multimedia material from videos, posters, and publications.	Blue Zone (Booth 29)	CEC, LLS
2023/12/07	2023/12/07	The People's Museum of Climate Justice (continuation of namesake side event inside the COP28 venue)	Catholic Church in Dubai	AKP, GP, MO

***Aksyon Klima Pilipinas** is the Philippines's leading civil society network for climate action, advocating for urgent, inclusive, just, and effective policies and solutions at from the local to the global level through science-based, inclusive, and equitable decision-making processes anchored on upholding human rights and ecological and social justice.*

www.aksyonklima.org | secretariat@aksyonklima.org