



**TOGETHER**

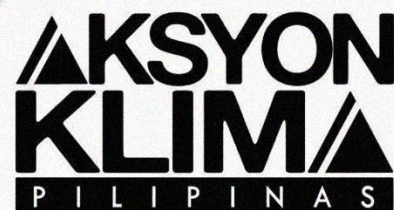


**TRANSITION**



Submission by Philippine civil society, peoples', and non-government organizations and networks of positions and recommendations for the development of the Just Transition Framework

4 July 2025



## **Background**

2025 is the most critical year for global and Philippine climate action, culminating in the conduct of the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The world faces the difficult challenge of urgently addressing multiple climate issues with relatively limited available finance and other resources.

Just transition is positioned to be the common thread that ties all other workstreams of climate action together – be it mitigation, adaptation, addressing loss and damage (L&D), or means of implementation. It is intended as a long-term process that aims to align climate goals with sustainable development targets, ensuring no one individual, community, or ecosystem is left behind. This places just transition as an inherently-significant part of the Philippines' pathway to development, based on its identified national objectives and goals.

Since October 2024, the Philippine government, supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has been embarking on a year-long development process of the country's Just Transition Framework (JTF), culminating in its intended launch at COP30. This is a welcomed process that can only be done through a peoples-centered, rights-based, "whole-of-society" approach.

We, as civil society groups and networks in the Philippines, remain committed to participating in the JTF development process. On 6 November 2024, a few weeks after the initial JTF consultation, we published our collective [position paper](#) on our calls for the JTF development, as endorsed by more than 40 labor groups, transport groups, civil society organizations, and people's organizations nationwide; this was also sent to several national government agencies.

Since that initial submission, we observed that other sectors such as agriculture and waste have been given more emphasis within the JTF development, along with the initially-identified priority sectors of energy, transport, industry, and labor. The synergies among these sectors and others for implementing just transition has also been highlighted by the Philippine government during UNFCCC SB62 in Bonn, Germany.

This paper contains the joint positions of Philippine non-government stakeholders, specifically the groups undersigned to this document, on our specific calls for the principles, priorities, and measures under the JTF.

Signed,

- Aksyon Klima Pilipinas (AKP)
- Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM)
- Bantay Kita – Publish What You Pay Philippines
- Caritas Philippines
- Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology (CREST)
- Coastal CORE
- Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines (DRRNetPhils)
- Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits, Inc. (ECOWEB)
- Ecoteneo – Ateneo de Davao University
- EcoWaste Coalition
- Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC)
- Green Convergence
- Greenpeace Philippines
- Haribon Foundation
- Health Care Without Harm - Southeast Asia (HCWH-SEA)
- Institute of Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC)
- Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (IDIS)
- Kaisahan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan (KAISAHAN)
- Life Haven Center for Independent Living
- Living Laudato Si' Philippines (LLS)
- Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center – Friends of the Earth Philippines (LRC)
- Manila Youth for Climate Action (MYCA)
- Miriam College – Environmental Studies Institute (ESI)
- Mother Earth Foundation
- Nationwide Organization of Visually-Impaired Empowered Ladies (NOVEL)
- Negrosanon Initiative for Climate and the Environment, Inc. (NICE)
- No Space 4 Waste
- NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR)
- Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP)
- Nuclear/Coal-Free Bataan Movement
- Oxfam Pilipinas
- Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA)
- Philippine Initiative for Conservation of the Environment and the People (PhilInCon)
- Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc. (PMPI)
- Reboot Philippines - Renewable Energy Transition Institute (Reboot PH)
- Rice Watch Action Network, Inc. (R1)
- River Above Asia Oceania Ecclesial Network (RAOEN)
- Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila – Ministry of Ecology
- Tebtebba Foundation
- World Vision Development Foundation
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines
- Young Bataeños for Environmental Advocacy Network (YoungBEAN)
- Youth for Better Baseco (YBB)
- Youth Parliamentarians of Manila (YPM)
- Youth for Climate Hope
- Youth Strike for Climate Philippines

## Guiding principles

We reiterate our previous call for the JTF to be developed, based on the following principles:

- **Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals.** Proposed commitments on just transition must also enable the attainment of sustainable development objectives, most notably on poverty eradication and inclusive growth, energy security, and social and climate justice, all of which are stated in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). These commitments must also contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Climate ambition.** The Philippines must aim for higher ambition in every succeeding iteration of its NDC, coupled with comprehensive policies and measures to attain its self-determined targets, including on just transition. It must also reflect this ambition in the implementation and updating of its National Adaptation Plan (NAP). These commitments must be aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement, especially the imperative to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures, upholding the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, equity, and justice.
- **Good governance.** Just transition is a cross-cutting issue that necessitates the effective horizontal and vertical coordination of national and local government units (LGUs), with urgent and efficient implementation of relevant laws and policies. Managing this transition must be grounded in ethical principles, avoid creating new injustices, worsening existing inequalities, or perpetuating them.
- **Green, decent, safe, and secure work.** The creation of green decent jobs with living wages, social protection for potential loss of livelihoods, skills development, and social dialogue must be at the heart of just transition.
- **Ecological integrity.** Ensuring ecological integrity is not an option, but a necessity for the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes just transition. Recognizing and respecting the rights of nature and its vital and natural processes<sup>1</sup> is imperative to enhancing the social fabric, reducing inequality, and increasing potential growth. It must be prioritized in every aspect of just transition, from planning to monitoring.
- **Intergenerational equity.** A genuine just transition recognizes and reduces long-term existing social and economic inequalities and ensures that the historically-marginalized and vulnerable groups and sectors (i.e., women, children and youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities) are not left behind, with their needs and concerns integrated into decisions and actions made and disenablers to their full participation removed.
- **Gender equality.** Women, girls, and other historically and traditionally marginalized sexualities, are more likely to bear a greater burden due to the climate crisis than men, exacerbated by systemic barriers to their participation. Everyone must be enabled to participate in and benefit from a just transition, regardless of gender identity or expression.
- **Inclusion.** All sectors of society must be meaningfully involved throughout decision-making processes, enabled through the provision of necessary support and accessibility. In a “whole-of-society” approach, every stakeholder is able to freely exercise their right to public participation in an accessible, safe, and secure manner, free from discrimination and prejudice<sup>2</sup>. The Philippine government's approach to the just transition should include genuine dialogues and consultations

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<sup>1</sup> This is acknowledged under Republic Act 11995 (“Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System Act”).

<sup>2</sup> All documents related to this must be open and publicly accessible online, without need of a prior request.

with stakeholders across the country to harmonize policies, strengthen institutional coherence, and establish the necessary trust for coordination and cooperation, accounting for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- **Indigenous Peoples Rights, Integrity and Right to Self-determination.** The unique circumstances of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge, cultures, and traditions must be accounted for in all relevant decision-making processes related to just transition, including any potential impacts on their way of life.
- **Rights-based.** There is no just transition without the protection of human rights, especially those of the most climate-vulnerable populations, internally displaced, and facing other threats to their security. Safeguards must be placed to ensure that individuals and communities can exercise their rights, as acknowledged under global and national legal frameworks, unimpeded and free from all threats.
- **Transparency and accountability.** The JTF process must be transparent about the development and measures for attaining its substantive targets, timelines, and objectives, with the understanding that a just transition can never justify a slower transition. Mechanisms must be created to hold government agencies, funding institutions, and other implementing actors accountable for their actions throughout its implementation.

### **Proposed goals**

We propose the following as the overall goal of the JTF: **the implementation of peoples-centric, equitable, just transition pathways towards a low-emissions, climate-resilient, sustainable, and regenerative economy and society that does not compromise ecological health, human rights, and the rights of nature.**

Aligned with this goal, we recommend the following sub-goals of the JTF:

- To achieve a quality of life for all Filipinos that adequately responds to their basic necessities and ensures their well-being, enables them to exercise self-determination in the context of pursuing development, and is respectful of their rights, identities, and values, all in pursuit of the common good;
- To pursue socioeconomic development that reduces inequality, promotes social justice, and prioritizes food security, water sufficiency, public health, biodiversity and ecosystems conservation, sufficient job creation, energy security, sustainable transport, fossil fuel phaseout, and decarbonization;
- To complement programs, projects, and activities in national plans and strategies on climate action, including on mitigation, adaptation, and L&D;
- To enhance social inclusion in planning and decision-making processes relevant to just transition across all levels of governance, especially for the most vulnerable groups and sectors<sup>3</sup>; and
- To accelerate the Philippines' attainment of the UN SDGs, especially on the themes of poverty eradication, decent work for all, climate action, and social inclusion.

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<sup>3</sup> RA 8425 ("Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act") refers to basic sectors as disadvantaged or marginalized groups, including farmers and landless rural workers, artisanal fisher folk, urban poor, Indigenous Peoples and cultural communities, workers in formal labor and migrant workers, workers in the informal sector, women, children, youth and students, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, victims of disasters and calamities, and small cooperatives. These are also regarded as among the most vulnerable groups and sectors to the climate crisis.

It is through these goals and sub-goals that we present the following specific asks about the JTF.

***What should be included in the JTF?***

The JTF must be aligned with ambitious national climate commitments, including in the NDC and NAP.

In our previous submission, we emphasized that the development of the JTF and the next Philippine NDC, while having their respective processes, are conceptually inseparable. This has been acknowledged under current Philippine policies, most notably the *current* NDC Implementation Plan where the five sectors (agriculture, waste, industrial processes and product use, transport, energy) are the same as five of the six current priority sectors under the JTF.

We call for the Philippine government to submit an ambitious updated NDC that is aligned with the imperative of accelerating mitigation, adaptation, and L&D solutions, respectful of the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, equity, and justice, and synergized with other national climate commitments, including the JTF.

We also reiterate our previous call for consideration into the methodology and timeline of JTF development:

- Setting of relevant milestones consistent with the shared pre-COP30 timeline of the NDC updating process and the JTF development;
- Identification of the social impacts into the JTF of all policies and measures to be included in the updated NDC;
- Examination of short and long-term mitigation strategies to minimize the impacts of all just transition programs and projects;
- Identification of strategies to maximize the social benefits of the implementation of the policies and measures to be included in the next NDC; and
- Establishment of mechanisms to enable participatory planning with all stakeholders across all levels of governance and implementation.

Adaptation and L&D must be as emphasized in the JTF as mitigation.

During the October 2024 consultation and the first round of the JTF Design Sprint, we observed a lack of emphasis on adaptation and L&D, relative to mitigation, as thematic considerations in the JTF development. We emphasize that adaptation is the country's anchor strategy against the climate crisis, on which its mitigation strategies are supposedly based, while L&D has been a reality for the most vulnerable groups and sectors to the climate crisis, that would significantly impact the execution of any JTF measure.

While long-term plans were mentioned as inputs into the development process during the first round of the JTF Design Sprint, the NAP and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) must be more highlighted in this process. Specifically, the implementation of the NCCAP since its inception in 2011 would provide invaluable inputs as to how the JTF will be implemented and cascaded to the local levels.

With the current lack of a national climate L&D plan, the implementation of relevant plans and policies, such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Plan, should also inform the JTF development process regarding climate and disaster resilience relevant to just transition. Additionally, a stronger focus on adaptation in just transition would also contribute to reduced economic and non-economic L&D, its impacts on communities and other significant costs to our broader economy, society, and environment.

The JTF must have clear strategies for finance and other means of implementation.

Among the many strategies being developed in 2025 is on the national climate finance strategy, currently being undertaken by the Department of Finance and the United Nations Development Programme, and the nation's Long-Term Strategy (LTS), with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). However, it remains unclear if either of these plans would be either finished or sufficiently developed to serve as inputs into either the NDC updating or the JTF development in time for their planned launch by COP30.

Nonetheless, issues with climate finance in the domestic context are hindering the implementation of other national plans. In the Philippines' Biennial Transparency Report submitted in 2025, it is reported that less than one percent of the intended USD72 billion for the *current* NDC implementation have been secured by the government. Meanwhile, there is a lack of clarity as to the cost of implementation or actual finance strategies for the NAP.

These shortcomings must not be repeated in the JTF. Just transition should be a primary basis for the formulation of the national climate financing strategy and its LTS. It must be factored into the government's bilateral and multilateral transactions for securing finance and other means of implementation, such as through the Climate Investment Funds and Green Climate Fund. The JTF must also include clear strategies for resource mobilization, provision of technology transfer and development, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, and costs of implementing measures.

Fossil fuel phaseout is inseparable from just transition, especially for the energy sector.

We reiterate from our previous paper that it is necessary for the Philippine government to acknowledge that decarbonization is inseparable any transition pathway in the context of addressing the climate crisis is not just without decarbonization.

We cite the lack of decarbonization pathways in national climate plans aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement of "well-below 2°C", especially aligned with 1.5°C, especially the *current* NDC and its implementation plan and the Philippine Energy Plan (2023-2050). Furthermore, despite the passage into law of RA 12120 ("Philippine Natural Gas Industry Development Act"), the government's argument of gas as a "transitional fuel" remains unsubstantiated through the lack of a set of concrete targets and timelines for an eventual phaseout of this fossil fuel. A plan to achieve this can be based on a study showing that a 1.5°C-aligned pathway is feasible for the Philippine power sector, with the share of gas in the energy mix to be phased out by 2040.

Aligned with the climate imperative, the JTF must emphasize fossil fuel phaseout as a main goal of the Framework, with just transition pathways that will be consistent with an ambitious updated NDC and aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement. This must also include concrete targets and timelines for decarbonization as part of said phaseout, prioritizing emissions reductions over avoidance, starting with a coal phaseout and with an accompanying immediate strict moratorium on both new fossil fuel power plants and the expansion of existing coal-fired power plants, and promoting energy efficiency and conservation policies and measures.

We cite the "Just Energy Transition (JET) Manifesto", a collective understanding by Philippine civil society organizations about just energy transition, as the basis of our specific calls for said transition in the country, namely the following:

- Prioritize the development of the country's untapped indigenous renewable energy (RE) resources, focusing on solar and wind;

- Aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement, pursuing efforts to be aligned with a 1.5°C-aligned transition pathway;
- Accounts for differing local circumstances and contexts and responds to energy and economic needs of all peoples in the Philippines, especially the most vulnerable groups and sectors;
- Respects, protects, and upholds the rights of nature, human rights, and their interlinkages;
- Allocation of sufficient and appropriate spaces, resources, and funding for the meaningful participation of Filipinos in every step of the decision-making processes for enabling JET;
- Reduction, if not avoidance, of risks for sectors and communities that would be most impacted by energy transition programs, projects, and activities;
- Equitable designation of responsibilities for each sector, corresponding to their resources, capacities, and local, cultural, and/or historical contexts;
- Ensure the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity and avoid the disruption of existing ecosystem services that benefit nearby local communities and indigenous peoples;
- Upholding transparency and accountability on all energy transition actions, especially for policymakers and businesses; and
- Alignment of JET into national and local climate, energy, and development laws, policies, and plans in the Philippines, covering the entire value chain.

The issue of energy transition minerals, must be directly addressed within the JTF.

Building on our previous submission, we reiterate that mining-affected communities must be among those directly consulted in the JTF development process, given the tension between the Philippines' pursuit of accelerated RE development, coupled with the government's support for expanding the mining sector, and the resulting environmental and social harm and human rights violations that keep occurring in many communities across the country.

Forestry, biodiversity, oceans, and other land use must also be included in the JTF.

The updated NDC is expected to include policies and measures for ocean, marine biodiversity, forestry and other land use, which will have implications on just transition in the Philippines in numerous aspects, such as on natural capital accounting, livelihoods, and indigenous and traditional cultures and practices. Ocean, marine biodiversity and forestry are also key components under the NAP and the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), the latter of which is being finalized, as of this writing. With this context, the JTF must include strategies that account for ocean, marine biodiversity, forests, and ecosystems protection and conservation, proper land use planning, and their impacts on different stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable groups and sectors.

Labor must remain at the core of Philippine just transition.

We support the emphasis on the labor sector as a focal theme of the potential JTF and the ongoing development process, as has been seen in previous engagements. In recognition of the key role the sector would play in implementing just transition in the Philippines, we present once more the unified Agenda for Equitable and Just Transition, as produced by the Workers for Just Transition network:

- A rapid, equitable, and just transition away from fossil fuels consistent with the goal of limiting global temperature rise to below 1.5°C and reaching global net zero by 2050, to stay within the ecological limits of the Earth.
- Accelerated development of democratic and efficient RE systems that address energy poverty and ensure everyone's right to energy as a public good.

- A transition to RE systems and more sustainable economies and industries that ensures living wages, social protection, security of tenure, freedom of association and collective bargaining, and occupational safety and health that are consistent with international labor standards.
- Essential services, social safety nets, and upskilling/reskilling programs for displaced and affected workers and communities and the expansion, strengthening, and enabling of collective bargaining to address just transitions at the industry and establishment levels.
- A strong, adequately funded and staffed public sector that can ensure quality public services, decent work, effective climate governance and sustainable development.
- Gender transformative strategies that dismantle patriarchal systems and sexual division of labor, promote equal employment opportunities, close the gender pay gap, eliminate gender-based discrimination and violence, recognize and redistribute care work, and ensure the full participation and leadership of women and people with diverse SOGIESC in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of just transition policies and programs.
- A sustainable industrial policy anchored on strong and dynamic industry tripartite councils that boosts domestic manufacturing with decent jobs, improves human resource development, promotes comprehensive just transition planning and research in key industries and sectors that puts workers and communities at the center, and ensures that future trade, investment, and bilateral labor agreements guarantee human and workers' rights and the protection of domestic industries from unbridled liberalization.
- Institution of stronger regulatory systems, including heavier penalties and sanctions for corporations that damage the planet and lives and livelihoods of people over the extraction, mining, and processing of transition minerals for RE and other extractives with robust democratic, transparency, financing, labor, gender, and environmental standards.
- Promotion of active, inclusive, accessible, and sustainable transportation systems including the establishment of people-centered mass public transportation and the reform of anti-worker and false climate solutions such as the current PUV Modernization Program.
- Implementation of genuine agrarian reform, strengthening of local food production by developing resilient domestic food systems, and promotion of genuine food sovereignty and a people-led agroecology to address staple food needs.
- Labor representation in the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and other policymaking bodies and the institutionalization of processes and mechanisms, such as a National Just Transition Commission, that ensures the involvement and agency of workers and all marginalized sectors in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of just transitions at local and national levels, through social dialogue among others.
- Stronger efforts by the Philippine government to call for the urgent delivery of adequate and non-debt creating climate finance and technology transfer from the Global North as part of reparations for their climate debt.
- Allocation of climate finance and domestic resources to:
  - Implementation of equitable and just transition policies and mechanisms such as those listed above;
  - Adaptation and resilience-building measures aimed to protect workers' livelihoods and provide resources and vital infrastructure and housing that can help workers and communities withstand the worsening climate impacts;
  - Programs and projects addressing economic and non-economic losses and damages brought by climate-related disasters.

### Localization must be emphasized in the JTF.

We have observed that while multistakeholder consultations have occurred in previous formulations of the current NDC and NAP, there were no known regional or local multistakeholder consultations or dialogues conducted that directly contributed to either national climate commitment.

With this context, Aksyon Klima Pilipinas (AKP) has been conducting focused group discussions and on-site consultations outside of Metro Manila on both the NDC updating and JTF development processes to ensure as inclusive of an approach to its position-building as possible (see **next page** for more details). We also welcome the recent statement of ADB about conducting regional consultations in Visayas and Mindanao, aligned with AKP's own efforts and the "whole-of-society" approach.

Nonetheless, these experiences have only strengthened our call from the previous submission for the Philippine government to institutionalize mechanisms for the localization of the JTF, while being mindful of the varying capacities of LGUs to participate in such transition. For example, just transition principles and measures may be integrated into Local Climate Change Action Plans, as institutionalized under RA 9729 ("Climate Change Act"). This would require a greater role for agencies such as the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and agencies corresponding to specific sectors (i.e., National Youth Commission, Philippine Commission on Women, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, National Council on Disability Affairs) in the entire JTF process. We also present the specific following recommendations for localization under the DILG:

- Encourage that just transition is discussed as part of the agenda items during the next mandated convening of the Barangay Assemblies, in accordance with Proclamation 599, Series of 2018;
- Issue a memorandum circular for all Local Development Councils to discuss and prepare for just transition during their 2025 meetings, and consider creating a Just Transition Committee for community discussions for this purpose; and
- Direct the National Youth Commission to mandate the discussion of just transition in 2025 by the Sangguniang Kabataan across the Philippines, as well as with their respective Katipunan ng Kabataan, in accordance with Sections 4, 5, and 6 of RA 10742.

Additionally, through Section 12 (c) of Republic Act 9418, the Volunteer Act of 2007, the Just Transition Technical Working Group, which must include representatives from civil society groups and trade and labor unions, should recommend the mandating of all national agencies and LGUs to encourage volunteerism for just transition plans, programs, and activities. This could be incorporated under the Green Brigade framework in accordance with Executive Order No. 52, Series of 1998. It is vital for regional disparities to also be addressed by implementing strategies, aimed at ensuring that the benefits of just transition are equitably distributed across different regions. This includes investing in infrastructure and development projects in areas heavily reliant on fossil fuels to support their transition to sustainable and resilient economies.

### ***Specific recommendations***

We present specific recommendations on needs, gaps, and measures for consideration to be included in the JTF of the following themes: energy; mining; agriculture; waste; transport; forestry, biodiversity, and land use; children and youth; and labor and livelihoods. These were produced based on the following:

- Outcomes of focused group discussions and consultations outside of Metro Manila on the JTF development, as conducted by Aksyon Klima Pilipinas and its partner-organizations (**Table 1**); and

- “Not Just A Transition”, the joint non-government stakeholders’ position paper on the JTF submitted on 6 November 2024, as a response to the outcomes of the October 2024 multistakeholder consultation.

The following statements, frameworks, and declarations from non-government actors on just transition were also used as bases for the development of these specific recommendations:

- [“A 1.5°C future is possible: Getting fossil fuels out of the Philippine power sector”](#) by CEED and Climate Analytics
- [“A Climate Justice Agenda for the Philippines”](#) by Greenpeace Philippines
- [“Agenda ng mga Mangingisda patungkol sa Floating Solar Project sa Laguna de Bay”](#), enabled by Reboot PH, LRC, and Oxfam Pilipinas
- [“All-Labor Agenda for Equitable and Just Transition”](#) by Workers for Just Transition
- [“Declaration of Indigenous Peoples’ Participants in the Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Just Transition”](#), a global declaration supported by representatives of Indigenous Peoples’ communities from the Philippines, including Tebtebba
- [“Just Energy Transition for Coastal Communities Framework”](#) by NFR
- [“Just Energy Transition in the Philippines: Principles and Proposals for Action”](#) by LRC
- [“JET Manifesto”](#), endorsed by multiple CSOs and NGOs, led by Aksyon Klima Pilipinas
- [“Just Transition in the Philippines”](#) by CEED
- [“Philippine Youth Statement on Climate Change 2024”](#), an output of the 2024 Local Conference of Youth led by the Youth for Just Transition Network
- [“Towards a Just Energy Transition: Implications for communities in lower- and middle-income countries”](#); endorsed by Oxfam Pilipinas
- [“Toward a Just Mineral Transition in the Philippines”](#) by LRC
- [WWF’s “Discussion Paper on Just Energy Transformation”](#)

**Table 1.** List of focused group discussions and consultations on just transition conducted by AKP and its partners.

Date	Location	Session
4 March 2025	Virtual	Focused group discussion with civil society and community representatives of mining-affected communities in Mindanao
11 April 2025	Pandan, Antique	Consultation with civil society and community representatives in Aklan and Antique, focusing on the issues of forestry, biodiversity, and energy
14 April 2025	Quezon City	Focused group discussion with civil society representatives in the health sector
30 April 2025	Baguio City	Consultation with civil society and community representatives in Baguio City and surrounding areas, focusing on the issues of energy, waste, and Indigenous Peoples
26 May 2025	Quezon City	Focused group discussion with civil society representatives involved in the forestry, land use, and biodiversity sectors
13 June 2025	Quezon City	Focused group discussion with civil society representatives involved in the agriculture sector

## On energy

<p>Challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing high electricity prices prevents many Filipinos from allocating their resources towards addressing other needs.</li> <li>• Communities near RE power plants still source their electricity from coal plants because of poor transmission and distribution networks and power procurement policies and practices that favor fossil fuels over RE.</li> <li>• Loss of ecosystem services due to environmental destruction (i.e., forest and biodiversity loss, pollution of rivers) brought by operations for extraction of energy transition minerals.</li> <li>• Loss of livelihoods, inhabitants' displacement, and forestry, biodiversity, and ecosystems decline could be caused by construction of RE plants (i.e., offshore wind on fisheries, solar farms needing large lands).</li> <li>• There is a lack of a strong local energy industry/manufacturing sector.</li> <li>• Many government policies and strategies lean towards greater involvement of the private sector without defined roles for other non-government stakeholders, creating a perceived lack of prioritization for needs and concerns of other non-government stakeholders.</li> <li>• There is a high barrier of access to benefit-sharing schemes for communities hosting utility-scale renewable energy projects.</li> <li>• There remains spread of misinformation and disinformation claiming lack of basis for decarbonization in the national/local levels.</li> <li>• Energy facilities are at risk to climate extremes (i.e., typhoons, droughts).</li> <li>• There is a lack of a phaseout plan for gas, including on restrictions on lifespan, capacity, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.</li> <li>• There is a lack of a mechanism for marine spatial planning, which would help guide development of offshore RE technologies and ensure avoidance of harm to marine and coastal life.</li> <li>• Women, girls and other marginalized groups and minorities are prone to multiple burdens (e.g. unpaid care and domestic work) and mental stress due to energy poverty and insecurity, exacerbated by climate impacts/disruptions.</li> </ul>
<p>Measures to mitigate challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of indigenous and distributed RE resources (i.e., solar, wind) must be prioritized, avoiding allotting said resources to false solutions in the context of climate action that could cause harm to communities and ecosystems (i.e., carbon capture and storage, ammonia, hydrogen).</li> <li>• Energy efficiency and conservation measures must be fully implemented, including RA 11285 ("Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act") and the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan.</li> <li>• Measures for enabling microgrid systems should be prioritized to electrify off-grid communities as these have lower environmental impact, coupled with enhancing financing and capital investments in aid of the implementation of RA 11646 ("Microgrid Systems Act").</li> <li>• Improving transmission and distribution networks would ensure local communities receive RE-sourced electricity from nearby facilities.</li> <li>• The enactment of the Alternative Minerals Management Bill would create a more suitable policy framework related to energy transition minerals in the Philippines.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive mechanisms must be provided for accessing benefit-sharing schemes in renewable energy generation, coupled with right-skilling initiatives to enable more sustainable use of accessed community benefits.</li> <li>• Setting strict environmental and social safeguards ensures the protection of the well-being of ecosystems and communities against potential impacts of energy transition minerals-related mining operations and large-scale RE projects.</li> <li>• The development of specific strategies would also strengthen local RE industries, depending on the energy source.</li> <li>• Guaranteed, safe, and localized spaces must be allotted for non-government stakeholders and community representatives, especially Indigenous Peoples and other highly-vulnerable groups, to participate in decision-making process on RE and mining projects near their respective areas.</li> <li>• Enhanced information, education, and communication strategies on promoting RE and energy efficiency must be implemented across different regions, LGUs, and the most vulnerable groups and sectors.</li> <li>• Proper implementation of strategies is necessary for climate-proofing and enhancing the resilience of energy infrastructures, including those specified in the NAP.</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities and benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accelerated RE investments lead to increased local employment in RE projects and economic diversification (i.e., green jobs).</li> <li>• Decentralized, RE-based systems, especially in small-island communities, would lead to increased energy self-sufficiency.</li> <li>• There would be increased opportunities for women and youth empowerment in participation in RE-based medium, small, and micro-enterprises (MSMEs) and within the overall RE landscape</li> <li>• There would be an increased recognition for the value of care work as increased energy access/ security (with energy as a resource) decreases disproportionate burdens to women, girls and other marginalized sectors.</li> </ul>
<p>Measures to maximize benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of the Green Jobs Act needs to be improved, including the development of a Green Jobs Assessment and Certification System (DENR<sup>4</sup>, TESDA<sup>5</sup>) and the rollout of Green Jobs Assessment and Certification System Technical Guidelines (CCC).</li> <li>• There should be a greater direct allocation of available public finance (i.e., use of the RE Trust Fund) to island communities and small-scale RE developers.</li> <li>• Capacity-building strategies must be implemented to enable more participation of the most vulnerable groups and sectors in RE-related initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p>Specific sub-groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities near RE power plants and other facilities</li> <li>• Communities near or involved in extraction of energy transition minerals</li> <li>• Communities near fossil fuel plants and other facilities</li> <li>• Workers in fossil fuel power plants and other facilities</li> </ul>
<p>Risks in just transition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Means of implementation for just energy transition from different sources (i.e., debts through loans) would create more burden that could be passed on to the most vulnerable groups and sectors.</li> <li>• As the Philippine government presents gas as a "transition fuel", there is no clear phaseout timeline for it that would give way to optimize RE development</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> DENR – Department of Environment and Natural Resources

<sup>5</sup> TESDA – Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The push for nuclear energy likely diverts resources away from RE development and could create financial risks through stranded assets.</li> <li>• The resulting increase in RE waste and its implications on circular economy must be addressed.</li> </ul>
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## On mining

Challenges and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mining Act of 1995 is outdated, making it unfit to respond to the current challenges associated with mining, especially in the context of energy transition minerals and driving the current export-oriented and profit-driven minerals management framework in the Philippines.</li> <li>• The push for more mining operations in the Philippines does not necessarily equate to a fair and equitable share of benefits with local communities and industries.</li> <li>• Government policies on mining have been pro-business, with few to no opportunities for engagement afforded for civil society groups and community-based organizations, especially those affected by mining operations.</li> <li>• There remains a lack of policy and facilities related to aspects of the circular economy pertaining to recycling energy transition minerals.</li> <li>• The growing demand for green technologies has fueled mining expansion, which in turn has contributed to the increase in the number of cases of gender-based violence, such as domestic abuse and sexual assault.</li> </ul>
Measures to mitigate challenges and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The passage of the Alternative Minerals Management Bill into law would aid in upholding environmental justice and indigenous peoples' rights, especially in the context of just energy transition and avoiding biodiversity loss.</li> <li>• The Philippine government must produce a supply chain study that answers the question of whether more minerals key to the development of RE technologies (i.e., nickel, copper) and other economic sectors need to be extracted to meet demand.</li> <li>• Mining-affected communities must be guaranteed safe, open, and meaningful participation in all just transition-relevant consultations and forums, while also receiving funding and logistical support to participate.</li> <li>• The extraction of critical minerals from the ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples must not only require their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, but also uphold their self-determined development, safeguard their spiritual and cultural relationship with the land, and ensure that such activities do not reproduce historical patterns of dispossession, exploitation, and ecological destruction.</li> <li>• As part of ensuring a peoples-centric just transition for the mining sector, we recommend the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Setting strict regulatory limits on the levels of heavy metals and other pollutants allowed in effluents and emissions from mining activities;</li> <li>○ Strengthening the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) requirements by adding a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis before the issuance of any exploration or mining permit, and requiring regular, independent environmental audits and public disclosure of results;</li> <li>○ Mining-affected communities and local industries must get a fair share of benefits from all operations of mining companies in their respective areas;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stronger accountability on mining companies, including penalties for violations and stronger law and policy enforcement, including restoration or rehabilitation of mined-out areas;</li> <li>○ Mandatory consent from local communities through public consultations and referenda before the issuance of any mining permit; and</li> <li>○ Mandating the publication of all mining impact assessments, permits, and compliance records online, accessible to all stakeholders</li> </ul>
Opportunities and benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased demand for RE and green technologies will result in the creation of new livelihood opportunities and economic activity in mining-affected areas.</li> <li>• Restoring mining sites into agricultural, forestry, or ecotourism areas can provide alternative livelihoods.</li> </ul>
Measures to maximize benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of the Green Jobs Act needs to be improved, including the development of a Green Jobs Assessment and Certification System (DENR, TESDA) and the rollout of Green Jobs Assessment and Certification System Technical Guidelines (CCC).</li> <li>• Existing policies must be revised to ensure environmental and social safeguards for mining-affected individuals and communities, including the conduct of risk and/or impact assessments and developing of community-based response mechanisms.</li> <li>• Capacity-building strategies must be implemented to enable more participation in just transition-relevant activities within communities affected by the mining of energy transition minerals.</li> </ul>
Specific sub-groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities affected by mining operations, especially on energy transition minerals</li> <li>• Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>• Local RE industries, including their workers</li> </ul>
Risks in just transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improper just transition implementation would result in job losses, lower revenues, and adverse economic impacts.</li> <li>• Sixty percent of potential areas for extracting energy transition minerals are in ancestral domains, which could result in conflicts of interest that would influence decision-making.</li> </ul>

## On agriculture

<p>Challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural lands and waters (i.e., farms, grazing lands, fishing spots) are threatened by large-scale energy projects (i.e., Kaliwa Dam with hydropower, offshore wind energy projects affecting fishing grounds).</li> <li>• Corn expansion in uplands and other farming areas may result in higher economic vulnerability due to high costs of fertilizers and seeds, costs in hauling, and ecological vulnerability (i.e., poor soil condition, landslides due to clearing, scant fish catch in the rivers).</li> <li>• Watersheds supporting irrigation systems are threatened by development aggression projects.</li> <li>• There is a current lack of capacity of small-scale farmers and fisherfolk communities to implement adaptation and mitigation strategies in the conduct of their respective livelihoods.</li> <li>• Many agricultural communities are vulnerable to climate change impacts (i.e., droughts, tropical cyclones, floods), which would hinder their participation in just transition programs.</li> <li>• Despite agricultural lands being covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, agricultural lands pursuant to recent Administrative Orders by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) may be expeditiously converted so long as they are identified as a priority project (i.e., large-scale RE projects).</li> <li>• Other socioeconomic issues that hinder the development of the Philippine agricultural sector and making it one of the poorest sectors in the country would limit the participation of said sector in just transition measures.</li> </ul>
<p>Measures to mitigate challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There must be a stricter and synergized implementation of RE-related and agricultural laws and policies to avoid harmful impacts of RE projects on agricultural communities, especially in areas for large-scale RE projects.</li> <li>• Reducing production costs for rice (i.e., fertilizers, transport, land use) would aid in removing the burden on farmers.</li> <li>• Access to climate-resilient technologies must be increased for small-scale farming and fisherfolk communities for higher yields.</li> <li>• Enhanced access to high-quality seeds that are also resistant to climate impacts (i.e., droughts) and other threats (i.e., pests), strengthened irrigation systems, and access to post-harvest facilities would aid in higher crop yields.</li> <li>• Protection and restoration of watersheds supporting irrigation systems must be improved, given the current threats from development aggression projects and their reliable cost-effectiveness in enhancing irrigation programs.</li> <li>• The Department of Agriculture (DA) must establish a program for the expansion of community-based seed banks, prioritizing support to local varieties instead of hybrid varieties that often require chemical inputs, accessibility for small-scale farmers, and enhancing soil health and ecosystems stability that is critical for just transition programs.</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities and benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved water and soil management would improve soil health and water conservation.</li> <li>• A more diverse of options for agricultural workers can enhance income and resilience to climate change impacts and other threats.</li> <li>• Existing good farming practices which promote biodiversity protection and environmental conservation may also be identified and documented for institutionalization and better support.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of agroecological practices would minimize the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, leading to less pollution, strengthened biodiversity protection, and lower health risks for workers.</li> </ul>
Measures to maximize benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A programmatic promotion of community-based and accessible soil clinics to enhance the understanding of farmers about soil health management techniques, in aid of establishing climate-resilient agricultural communities.</li> <li>Conduct of capacity-building sessions and provision of means of implementation for agroforestry and regenerative agricultural practices, targeting highly-vulnerable farming areas</li> <li>Investments in agriculture-related research and development, the outputs of which are then communicated to agricultural communities</li> </ul>
Specific sub-groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artisanal farming communities</li> <li>Fisherfolk communities</li> </ul>
Risks in just transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is currently a lack of clarity about effective land use planning and policy implementation, which affects agricultural lands.</li> <li>Existing agrarian reform policies that allow a quicker conversion process so long as a project is deemed a "Special Project Undertaking".</li> <li>The tentative ruling of the Supreme Court allowing commercial fishing within the 15-kilometer line from municipal waters would result in higher vulnerabilities (i.e., from loss of income) for fisherfolk communities.</li> <li>There is a current lack of sufficient domestic public finance for climate-relevant agricultural programs in the Philippines, aside from building and climate-proofing farm-to-market roads.</li> </ul>

## On waste

<p>Challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lack of integration of plastic pollution in current climate-related policies and programs, most notably in the Philippines's NDC.</li> <li>• There is lack of clarity about managing the waste associated with RE technologies at the end of its life cycle.</li> <li>• Informal waste workers are not strongly represented in waste-relevant decision-making processes and spaces for dialogues, while also lacking access to social benefits and safeguards accessible to formal waste workers.</li> <li>• Data collection and management on waste sector in the Philippines is inadequate and inaccessible to stakeholders.</li> <li>• Many waste workers, formal or informal, remain unfamiliar with the concept of just transition.</li> <li>• MSMEs lack sufficient resources for transitioning into circular economy-aligned models.</li> <li>• Informal waste workers are not included in baseline data, rendering them invisible in policy and decision-making spaces.</li> </ul>
<p>Measures to mitigate challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies to address plastic pollution must be integrated into just transition strategies, including through prioritizing reduction of plastics production, emphasizing the protection of workers' rights, and corporate accountability within the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework.</li> <li>• Strategies on managing waste generated from RE sources must be included.</li> <li>• Formal and informal waste sectoral representatives must have access to and are enabled to participate in spaces for dialogues with policymakers and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Enhanced data collection and management activities on the waste sector are necessary for an evidence-based approach on just transition.</li> <li>• Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building programs must be provided for waste sectoral workers to enable their participation in just transition programs.</li> <li>• Effective measures must be undertaken to facilitate the transition of workers in the informal economy to the formal economy by ensuring living wage, occupational safety and health, social security, maternity protection and other benefits, among others.</li> <li>• Incentives and programmatic support must be given to MSMEs to enable their just transition into circular models.</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities and benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper implementation of EPR schemes can generate more funding for other sectoral programs and policies, such as upskilling, community-led circular economy programs, implementation of Materials Recovery Facilities, and social protection programs.</li> <li>• Just transition for the waste sector can lead to formalization of informal waste sector workers, providing them with social security, access to healthcare, and other social services.</li> <li>• Synergies between addressing issues in waste and those in other sectors (i.e., agriculture, health) can produce co-benefits for achieving national and local targets on food security and community health, among others.</li> <li>• Greener jobs in the waste sector can provide fair wages and safe and secure working conditions.</li> </ul>

<p>Measures to maximize benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strict implementation of EPR Law must be coupled with policies for reducing plastics production and use in the Philippines, especially on single-use plastics.</li> <li>• A stronger implementation of RA 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act) and cooperation between the DENR and DILG would accelerate the integration of informal waste workers into formal waste management systems.</li> <li>• Implementation of more community-based programs and policies to reduce food waste, promote composting and urban gardening, and inform stakeholders about health co-benefits.</li> <li>• The Philippine government must improve its implementation of the Green Jobs Act in aid of upskilling and protecting the rights and well-being of waste sectoral workers.</li> </ul>
<p>Specific sub-groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal and informal waste workers</li> <li>• MSMEs</li> </ul>
<p>Risks in just transition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The lack of sufficient public finance for national and local waste programs must be addressed.</li> <li>• There is a risk of greenwashing that could hinder just transition efforts in the context of circular economy.</li> <li>• The capacities for accounting value-chain waste and sectoral GHG emissions must be improved.</li> <li>• A potential Global Plastics Treaty would influence national policies on plastic pollution and just transition.</li> <li>• There could be a potential mismatch between the demand for waste sector green jobs and the jobs generated.</li> </ul>

## On transport

<p>Challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport infrastructure in the Philippines is generally unfriendly to pedestrians and commuters (i.e., high footbridges, lack of adequate spaces for sidewalks, bicycle lanes not being respected by motorists, utter neglect of the accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities).</li> <li>• Current transport infrastructure is not suitable for responding to health emergencies, especially during rush hours in urban areas.</li> <li>• Transport sectoral workers, especially those in the informal sector, are not strongly represented in relevant decision-making processes and spaces for dialogues.</li> <li>• Data collection and management related to the transport sector in the Philippines is inadequate and inaccessible to stakeholders.</li> <li>• Many transport sector workers are unfamiliar with the concept of just transition, although they may be familiar in practice.</li> </ul>
<p>Measures to mitigate challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proper infrastructures and systems for public transport and active travel must be built that prioritize their accessibility, safety, and security, while also accounting for climate change impacts such as extreme heat.</li> <li>• Accessibility of green hospitals and public health facilities must also be integrated into transport sectoral strategies, aligned with the principles of universal health care for protecting the rights of all Filipinos.</li> <li>• Transport sector representatives (i.e., public utility vehicle drivers, industry workers) must have guaranteed access to and are enabled to participate in spaces for dialogues with policymakers and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• The needs and concerns of sectoral workers must be included in data collection and management activities needed for an evidence-based approach on just transition.</li> <li>• Training programs, incentives, and other forms of support must be provided for the transport workers' participation in just transition programs.</li> <li>• Effective measures must be undertaken to facilitate the transition of transport sectoral workers in the informal economy to the formal economy by ensuring living wage, occupational safety and health, social security, maternity protection and other benefits, among others.</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities and benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A just transition into the transport sector would promote active transport (i.e., bicycle lanes, walking), leading to cleaner air, improved public health, and safer roads, and reduced financial hardship particularly for persons with disabilities who are often forced to rely on private cars or specialized transport services due to the inaccessibility of mainstream transit systems</li> <li>• Climate-proofing and retrofitting inaccessible public transportation systems and infrastructure, including designing new ones with accessibility, would aid in reducing GHG emissions.</li> </ul>
<p>Measures to maximize benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of the Active Transport Master Plan must be aligned with the Philippines' national climate commitments (i.e., JTF, NDC, NAP).</li> <li>• Improved and expanded air quality monitoring systems would provide more accurate real-time data to enable more informed and timely responses from road users, commuters, cyclists, and pedestrians.</li> <li>• Targeted support for low-income individuals and households to access sustainable transport options (i.e., electric vehicles) would make them more accessible to said stakeholders.</li> </ul>

Specific sub-groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal and informal transport sectoral workers</li> <li>• Commuters and cyclists</li> <li>• Pedestrians</li> <li>• Road users</li> </ul>
Risks in just transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing privatization within the transport sector (i.e., jeepney modernization) threatens the rights and well-being of public vehicle drivers and operators.</li> <li>• Lack of proper funding for policymaking, implementing, and regulatory bureaus and units (i.e., Active Transport Office) can derail the implementation of just transition programs.</li> <li>• High initial costs may be incurred from procuring more sustainable transportation vehicles and infrastructure, leading to potential adverse economic impacts to be shouldered by consumers.</li> </ul>

## On forestry, biodiversity, and other land use

<p>Challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There remains a lack of a defining national law on land use in the Philippines, which hinders potential just transition actions.</li> <li>• There are flaws in the Philippines' current Environmental Impact Statement system, including inconsistent quality in terms of transparency and downplaying significant adverse impacts (i.e., on environmental impacts).</li> <li>• The needs and concerns of communities dependent on forests for their livelihoods and/or cultural identity are not always considered in planning and decision-making processes.</li> <li>• Non-inclusive land use planning or decision-making could lead to displacement of local communities, depriving them of their homes, livelihoods, and exercise of their rights.</li> <li>• Poor planning for RE projects without accounting for community inputs, risk assessments, and environmental and social safeguards would result in harm to forests, biodiversity, and ecosystems, especially those considered as key biodiversity areas, protected areas, and the like.</li> </ul>
<p>Measures to mitigate challenges and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A stronger implementation of land use planning policies and the enactment of the National Land Use Act, and the implementation of the Philippine Ecosystems and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act would help avoid the conduct of large-scale infrastructure projects that would result in biodiversity or forest loss.</li> <li>• A cost-benefit analysis must be mandated as part of the Environmental Impact Statement's screening process, including health impacts on local communities, effects on hydrological flows, land productivity, and other environmental factors that could indicate environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.</li> <li>• Ecosystems and biodiversity protection and avoiding the disruption of existing ecosystem services that benefit nearby local communities and indigenous peoples must be accounted for in all projects, especially those within protected areas, key biodiversity areas, and other areas of biodiversity significance.</li> <li>• Necessary environmental and social safeguards must be implemented throughout the project cycle across all projects that could affect forests and ecosystems, with respect to human rights and especially in areas of importance to biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>• The development of a blue economy framework should be reflected in just transition strategies, specifically actions that promote sustainable marine and coastal resource management, fostering job creation in the fishing, tourism, and conservation sectors.</li> <li>• The role of biodiversity and ecosystem services must be highlighted and strengthened in nature-based solutions for climate and disaster risk reduction and management and infrastructure planning across multiple levels of governance and implementation.</li> <li>• Culture-based solutions in managing the forests and water systems must be supported by prioritizing the health and education of the indigenous communities for their value as a people in managing and ensuring ecological integrity.</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities and benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-led forest initiatives integrated with just transition principles contribute to reducing GHG emissions, strengthening biodiversity and forestry protection, and greener livelihoods.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are existing policies supporting community-led environmental restoration and natural resource management, especially in watersheds and river basins, with co-benefits for disaster risk reduction.</li> <li>• Green jobs will be created that aid in forest conservation and associated ecosystem services (i.e., materials for green construction, biofuels).</li> <li>• Accounting for the interlinkages of forestry and biodiversity with agricultural just transition measures, and vice-versa, can strengthen adaptation and resilience of these sectors and areas, guided and enhanced with the stewardship of Indigenous Peoples.</li> </ul>
<p>Measures to maximize benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just transition strategies involving forestry and other land use must be aligned with the Philippines' targets under its Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the This should be synchronized with the roadmap to be determined under the National Blue Carbon Action Partnership.</li> <li>• Just transition strategies involving forestry and other land use must also account for the PENCAS Act for proper assessment of value of existing natural capital, to be incorporated into decision-making.</li> <li>• The implementation of policies supporting community-led environmental restoration and natural resource management, especially in watersheds and river basins, must be strengthened, especially at the local level.</li> </ul>
<p>Specific sub-groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>• Local communities near forests and blue carbon sites</li> </ul>
<p>Risks in just transition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Philippine government's push for more mining operations and infrastructure-building would result in potential clearing of forests for minerals extraction and quarrying, respectively, resulting in contrasting action plans.</li> <li>• Multiple burdens (e.g. unpaid care and domestic work) and mental/health-related stress to women, girls and other marginalized groups and minorities brought about by potential and actual environmental degradation from transition projects/ activities.</li> </ul>

## On children and youth

Challenges and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing the climate crisis or being affected by impacts (i.e., displacement) can result in physical and mental health issues for children and youth (i.e., anxiety, trauma).</li> <li>• Children and youth are not sufficiently included in the planning and decision-making processes related to climate action and just transition, with available opportunities prone to tokenism.</li> <li>• The technical aspects of the climate crisis as an issue may be a barrier for children and youth to understand it, including in the context of just transition.</li> <li>• There is a heightened risk of child labor associated with the increased demand for extractive activities, particularly in the mining of critical minerals essential for the transition to a low-carbon economy.</li> </ul>
Measures to mitigate challenges and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and youth-sensitive social protection mechanisms must be established through integrating child-focused indicators into livelihood transition programs and ensuring access to nutrition, education, and mental health support for children and youth in families affected by employment shifts.</li> <li>• Green jobs should be integrated into high school curriculum and modes of instruction, such as educational modules and strengthened partnerships with academic institutions, as part of overall stronger integration of climate and just transition into learning curricula.</li> <li>• Just transition must be integrated together with climate change into primary and secondary school curricula, with just transition providing another human dimension to viewing climate and development issues.</li> </ul>
Opportunities and benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and capacity-building related to just transition at relatively early ages can influence a long-term shift towards more widespread adoption of sustainability and just transition-aligned lifestyles and attitudes.</li> <li>• Skills development at relatively early ages makes access to available green jobs after schooling more seamless for future professionals.</li> </ul>
Measures to maximize benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conduct of digital and online communication strategies can raise more awareness and interests among children and youth about just transition, climate action, and sustainability.</li> <li>• The creation of children and youth-specific funding opportunities would encourage more youth-led initiatives aligned with just transition.</li> <li>• RA 11650 ("Inclusive Education Act"), along with other laws and policies that promote equitable access to quality education for marginalized, excluded, and vulnerable groups, must be fully implemented.</li> </ul>
Specific sub-groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children</li> <li>• Youth</li> </ul>
Risks in just transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequacies in the Philippines's education system would limit the impact of children and youth-specific just transition strategies.</li> </ul>

## On labor and livelihoods

Challenges and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities branded as "ecotourism" may be hiding unsustainable practices that promote economic and social injustices and environmental harm.</li> <li>• There is a potential mismatch between generated green jobs and current skills and knowledge of workers that would be affected by just transition programs (i.e., fossil fuels, mining).</li> <li>• Several national labor and employment laws and policies do not fully account for environmental and social standards (i.e., Occupational Safety and Health Standards under RA 11058, Labor Code).</li> <li>• There is a lack of awareness and capacity among the Filipino workforce about green and blue jobs, their benefits, and impacts on their livelihoods and lives.</li> </ul>
Measures to mitigate challenges and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecotourism activities must be reviewed to avoid masking ecologically-destructive practices and ensure fair share of benefits to communities.</li> <li>• Support must be provided for affected workers by providing targeted assistance to those in industries impacted by the transition. This support should include retraining programs, financial aid, and job placement and reemployment services. It is essential that these programs are designed to be accessible and effective, assisting workers in successfully navigating the transition to green jobs.</li> <li>• National employment policies should be amended with environmental and social standards to promote sustainability and ensure that new jobs contribute positively to ecological health.</li> <li>• Investments must be increased for capacity-building related to green and blue jobs, including in skills development programs aimed at transitioning workers from traditional industries to green and blue job sectors.</li> <li>• Mechanisms must be in place to guarantee that workplaces and job roles in the green economy are inclusive, accessible, and tailored to meet the diverse needs of persons with disabilities, women, and other marginalized groups and minorities.</li> </ul>
Opportunities and benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just transition is an avenue to understand the intersectionality of labor issues with other concerns, to be addressed in a participatory and inclusive manner.</li> <li>• There is an opportunity for the creation of equal economic opportunities for and further empowerment of women, youth, and other marginalized groups and minorities.</li> </ul>
Measures to maximize benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any multistakeholder just transition council must include at least one representative from the labor sector.</li> <li>• A database on issues related to labor and just transition (i.e., green jobs) must be created and made publicly-accessible.</li> </ul>
Specific sub-groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal workers</li> <li>• Informal workers</li> <li>• MSMEs</li> </ul>
Risks in just transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The emergence of artificial intelligence technologies threatens to undermine gains in livelihoods aligned with just transition (i.e., exacerbating mismatch between generated jobs and skillset of many workers).</li> </ul>