

EMB HOLDS CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON MAINSTREAMING ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION WITH DENR BUREAUS AND OFFICES



In line with the provisions of the Paris Agreement and in accordance with the recent Memorandum from the DENR Undersecretary for Environment and International Environmental Affairs that calls for the inclusion of the concept of an *Ecosystem-Based Adaptation* (EbA) to ensure the integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity of the country amidst climate change, the DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) through its Climate Change Division (CCD) recently held the first consultative meeting on mainstreaming EbA into the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

"Ecosystem-based adaptation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change." CBD 2009 .

The meeting was held last March 1, 2016 at the EMB Air Quality Management Training Center Building and gathered participants from 14 different DENR bureaus, and offices in order to incorporate ecosystem welfare in their developmental plans, goals, and projects.

"The inclusion of ensuring the integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity in the Paris Agreement is a breakthrough for our country. This undertaking recognizes the importance of an all-inclusive approach that should take into account ecosystems along with micro-ecosystems which should be integrated into the country's climate change adaptation strategies." said Mr. Albert Magalang, chief of the EMB Climate Change Division,

Mr. Magalang further elaborated that the strategic mainstreaming of EbA into the DENR's planning processes and policies will necessitate the application of methodological approaches and proven tools as being introduced thru the partnership with the GIZ-Support to CCC II Project.

An overview of EbA was presented by Ms. Dolores Nuevas, a senior advisor of GIZ – Support to CCC II Project in order to familiarize participants on this new mechanism. The presentation

showed the importance of EbA as a medium to have a holistic approach on ecosystems. The significance of EbA on real – life scenarios and its applicability on the grassroots level was also emphasized in the presentation. It was immediately followed by stocktaking exercise in order to identify potential entry points of EbA from the different offices.



Participants had a positive initial impression on mainstreaming EbA as one of the DENR’s commitment for the country’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). This was observed in the free – flow discussion that followed after the presentation. It was a common concern for participants to identify permanent representatives and alternates that would serve as focal persons for EbA-related activities in order to ensure continuity and

enhancement of technical skills among the working group. Enhancing and capacitating the

current Climate Proofing Group in order to be the technical working group for the EbA is another point of interest from the participants. In response to these concerns, an EbA orientation will be designed and scheduled in which technical inputs will aid DENR bureaus and offices to get well acquainted on the concept. Similarly, a retooling and enhancement workshop of Climate Proofing that could serve as an avenue for the introduction of EbA is also being drawn.



Participants expressed a great extent of confidence to be involved in future discussions on EbA. This signified a promising start for a paradigm shift from a site – specific approach to a “ridge-to-reef” coverage on ensuring the integrity of different ecosystems. ###