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FATHER SATURNINO URIOS UNIVERSITY  
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Biodiversity Informatics and Research Center  
"Fostering Biodiversity Researches in Cagayan"

## **Conversations on Conservation:**

A Roundtable discussion (RTD) with the private sector on natural climate solutions, the turn-out of the latest Conference of Parties (COP 27), climate smart agriculture, carbon markets and INSPIRE's private-sector engagement funding

December 6, 2022 | 1:30 to 3:30PM

### **Background**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighted that global GHG emissions from all sectors have continued to rise (IPCC AR6, 2022). It showed that emissions from land, land-use change and forestry which is predominantly deforestation continues, the same with emissions from fossil fuel consumption and industrial processes. It clearly revealed that the current trend in the global GHG emissions even with the Nationally Determined Contributions (announced prior to COP 26) would still lead global temperature to exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Despite the worrying scenario, the report also showed the wins against climate change. It indicated that even if GHG has been increasing from 2010-2019, the rate of its growth is slower compared to the previous decade 2000-2009. Emissions from global energy use has been reduced due to fuel switching from coal to gas, lesser expansion of coal, and increasing use of renewable energy. Low emissions technology has also become cheaper due to enabling policy packages. Digital technologies were also shown to significantly contribute to mitigation of climate change due to improved energy management. There has also been a consistent expansion of policies and laws that addresses climate mitigation since the last report (AR5) which led to avoidance of emissions that would otherwise have occurred. The annual financial flow for climate mitigation has increased by 60% between 2013 and 2020 and the markets for green bonds, ESG (environmental, social and governance) and sustainable finance products have expanded considerably. The report also specified that there is an increasing diversity of actors and approaches to climate mitigation including private sector support. The private sector plays a key role in the fight against climate change. This sector significantly influences a societies' development pathways including supporting green growth (Morgado and Lasfargues, 2017).

### **The Philippine Government and the Private Sector**

The Philippine government has stated its intentions to safeguard its citizens from the wrath of severe climate events. It has vowed to spare the victims of natural calamities, help them recover and lessen the impacts of climate change. A consultative meeting in September 2022 was initiated by the Climate Change Commission with the private sector, aimed to heighten their partnership and ramp-up initiatives related to climate investments.

Early this year, the Asian Development Bank released a \$250M policy-based loan to support the Philippines in its efforts on climate change adaptation and mitigation. The loan will specifically target



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policy reforms and will help the Philippines build the planning, financing, and institutional systems to scale up its climate actions.

World Bank Group's 2022 Philippines Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR 2022) outlined the severity of the effects of the changing climate to the nation's economy, the communities and the private sector. Climate change effects may lower the productivity of labor, land, and capital and will negatively affect the resource and production, particularly in agriculture. It underscored that the poor are the most vulnerable to it with their lower capacity to cope.

The CCDR emphasized the private sector's crucial role in meeting the growing demand for climate action. According to the report, private sector firms will likely have direct interest to a USD168 billion climate investment opportunity intended for greening the energy, agriculture, manufacturing, and transportation sectors and building climate-smart cities which could generate 3 million new direct jobs in the Philippines between 2020 and 2030. Some large corporations voluntarily invest in green activities, driven by high energy costs and increasing public attention to climate change and corporate sustainability.

## **The INSPIRE Project**

The Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems (INSPIRE) Project is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project awarded to the Gerry Roxas Foundation (GRF) for a five-year cooperative agreement implementation. It is a grant facility that supports various environmental efforts by civil society groups in the Philippines. INSPIRE seeks to 1) improve the way that natural resources and the areas from which these are derived are governed and 2) address the drivers of natural resources insecurity by addressing both the supply of and demand for natural resources through the reduction of environmental crimes and unsustainable environmental practices and the sustainable management of the natural resources sector. In consonance with the climate goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and maintain the global temperature increase below 1.5°C, INSPIRE also aims to contribute to halting deforestation and enhance sequestration of carbon by restoring degraded carbon sinks.

INSPIRE supports activities that seek to advance natural resource resilience and security through the increased participation and critical engagement of civil society organizations (CSO), media, indigenous peoples (IPs), academe, local communities, and the private sector in planning and governance decisions that impact habitats and have climate change repercussions. This goal will be achieved by implementing a suite of interventions geared towards: 1) improving the capacity of CSOs, IPs and local communities to participate in and demand good natural resource governance; 2) enhancing legal frameworks with stronger support for customary rights to land and water especially those within biologically significant areas that sequester carbon from the atmosphere, and the appropriate allocation of rights to natural resources; and 3) increasing transparency and accountability of various stakeholders, especially of the government, on how natural resources are managed, extracted and brought to market.



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## Objectives

In partnership with the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines and the Father Saturnino Urios University (FSUU) in their conduct of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Biodiversity Symposium at the FSUU Campus in Butuan City on December 6 to 9, 2022, a round-table discussion (RTD) with the private sector groups of Mindanao will also be hosted by INSPIRE in the afternoon of December 6 (1:30 to 3:30PM). The RTD aims to empower the participants with the recent developments on climate actions through nature-based approaches, update the private sector groups of on-going initiatives in Mindanao, in the Asia Pacific Region and globally as well as foster new and sustained partnerships. Topics in the RTD will revolved around locally-led nature-based solutions initiatives, updates on the recent conference of parties (COP27), climate-smart agricultural production, the growing carbon markets in Asia-pacific and the various commitments to keep the global temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius. It ultimately envisaged that through collaborations with the private sector, the academe, and the communities, fast and more ambitious actions will take effect in order to protect, manage and restore the environment to avoid the irreversible climate catastrophe.

Topics	Resource Speakers
<b>Talk - Sustainable Landscapes Code and Climate Strategy</b>	Randy Vinluan Office of Environment, USAID/Philippines
<b>INSPIRE Presentation</b>	Glen A. De Castro, Executive Director, Gerry Roxas Foundation
<b>Talk - INSPIRE and the opportunities with the Private Sector</b>	Patricia Pigao, Grants Specialist, INSPIRE
<b>Talk – Introduction of INSPIRE’s Natural Climate Solutions platform for the Philippines</b>	Edmund Leo Rico, Biodiversity and Sustainable Landscape Specialist, INSPIRE
<b>Talk - FSUU Climate Actions with the private sector</b>	Fr. John Christian U. Young, FSUU President
<b>Talk - Nature-based Climate Solutions</b>	Engr. Jose Don De Alban, Senior Researcher, Center for Nature-based Climate Solutions - National University Singapore
<b>Talk - Climate Smart Agriculture</b>	Jane Boles, Director for International Land-use, Ostrom Climate
<b>Talk - Emerging trends on the Carbon Markets in Asia Pacific (Ecosecurities)</b>	Audrey Palomar, Head of Nature-based Solutions Asia Pacific, Ecosecurities
<b>Plenary Q and A</b>	