

## Climate Change and the Law: Issues and Challenges in the Philippines

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The United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) was first adopted in 1992 as a means to address the world's prevailing problem on climate change, as well as the disasters and risks that came with it. Through a number of agreements and conferences — such as the Copenhagen Accord, the Durban Conferences, and the Bali Action Plan — the UNFCCC's vision for global environmental reformation has been laid out. Parties to the Convention have thus been provided with guidelines and policies for implementation, both of which serve as groundwork for affirmative action in the Parties' respective jurisdictions.

The Philippines has likewise done its part with the passage of relevant legislation as well as the formation of a framework strategy that provides both an inventory on our country's emissions and contributions to the factors that strongly affect the issues on climate change, as well as key result areas which are deemed to be of great importance on both the national and international levels. The passage of The Republic Act 9729 established the Climate Change Commission, while the Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council was created with the passage of Republic Act 10121. The People's Survival Fund was likewise formulated through Republic Act 10174, thereby providing much-needed allotment and funding for the implementation of the responsible government agencies of their respective duties and mandates.

This Article looks into the effectiveness and status of these implementations and strategies. The Author likewise focuses on two key strategies adopted by the Philippines: adaptation and mitigation, as well as the means formulated by government to implement such strategies. The Author addresses the stark reality that is the Philippine environment *vis-à-vis* the UNFCCC's vision and seeks to reconcile both, in order to ascertain

whether the steps currently being taken by the State as a Party to said Convention is beneficial to both the Filipino people and global society.