



## Highlighting Local and Community Action on Mangrove Conservation and Solid Waste Management

Collage (From Left to Right): Lisa K. Pagkalinawan, Hon. Alistair White, Hon. Mayor Alfredo Coro II, Dr. Sharon Taylor, Dr. Annadel Cabanban, Dr. Joey G. Escauso, and Mr. Juan Miguel Reboton;  
Mangrove Photo Credit: Janos Leo Gorlolan Andanan

### Collaborative Action Towards Resilience

In celebration of the World Mangrove Day, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Urban Sector Group through the Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF) co-organized a knowledge-sharing session with the Municipality of Del Carmen in the Philippines and [ADB RETA 9329](#) partner organizations, Oxfam, and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM). Over 82 participants attended the event which highlighted the importance of mangrove forests as a unique and vulnerable ecosystem and its significant contribution to the sustainable local economy and resilience to disasters and climate change in Del Carmen.

Alistair White of the British Embassy Manila opened the event by highlighting that environmental protection is a key pillar of climate resilience. Mangroves are not only uniquely beautiful ecosystems home to rich wildlife variety, but also play a crucial role in absorbing carbon and providing coastal defense against storm surges and flooding. The United Kingdom (UK) government, one of UCCRTF's financing partners, has been supporting seven biodiversity projects in the Philippines and established investments through the International Climate Fund and Blue Planet Funds. The UK Darwin Initiative was also shared as a project that supports mangrove protection.

The first segment discussed the importance and challenges of mangrove conservation by providing an in-depth presentation of its ecosystem including the flora and fauna representation as situated in Del Carmen. It was also shared how the ADB TA 9329 community-led project (CLP) has been pivotal in scaling up the local government's programs and priorities including their approach to mangrove conservation and solid waste management (SWM), including the construction of the first waste recycling center on the island.

The local chief executive of Del Carmen shared the importance of community engagement and participation to strengthen project ownership in mangrove protection and sustainable SWM. The Mayor presented the municipal experience on convergence and co-creation of innovative strategies and sustainable financing including community-centered behavior change campaigns. He also discussed the lessons and challenges of the island municipality on the links between mangrove forest protection, its booming

tourism industry, and the increasing volume of solid waste from its growing population.

The reactors shared the importance of knowledge exchange programs in improving the resilience of communities and prioritizing nature-based solutions instead of hard infrastructures in terms of coastline protection which entail the use of natural processes and materials. It was also stressed that the natural beauty of the mangrove ecosystem is a municipal capital, and the inefficient regulation of waste does not only contribute to its destruction but can cause public health hazards. In the open forum, topics discussed were before and after figures on SWM and policies involved, monitoring systems of waste processing and diversion, waste accumulated in the mangroves affecting the community, and how the city can provide incentives to increase the value of recyclables in order to attract more people to engage.

### Key takeaways:

- **The challenges of mangrove conservation and waste management need solutions at different scales**, especially in vulnerable communities. The partnership demonstrated by the CLP in Del Carmen is critical in ensuring the success of a resilience initiative that aims to address the threat of solid waste in mangrove ecosystem conservation.
- **The shared responsibility of the community in mangrove conservation serves as a lifeline of the municipality from fishing and other income-generating industries.** It is essential to involve the wider community and build leadership and ownership. From the perspective of the local government, the process of managing the protection and conservation of mangrove forests also depends on wider community engagement, which also applies to waste management. The key steps include investments in nature-based solutions and a science-based approach to governance.
- **Co-ownership of conservation initiatives can be achieved through convergence.** It entails the need for behaviour change communication through information and education campaigns. This leads to the co-creation of innovative strategies with communities to build a comprehensive approach to resilience to the diverse challenges on the island.



The community-led project's waste recycling center

### Event Details

#### Addressing the Twin Challenges of Mangrove Ecosystem Protection and Solid Waste Management: Insights from Del Carmen, Philippines

26 July 2022 | 10:00 – 11:30 AM (Manila)  
via Zoom

#### Moderator:

Lisa K. Pagkalinawan, Environment Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank

#### Speakers:

- Hon. Alistair White, Charge d' Affaires, British Embassy Manila
- Hon. Mayor Alfredo M. Coro II, Municipal Mayor, Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte, Philippines
- Dr. Sharon Taylor, Project Manager, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement

#### Reactors:

- Dr. Annadel S. Cabanban, Director, Wetlands International Philippines
- Dr. Joey G. Escauso, Director for Academics & Technology, Surigao del Norte State University, Philippines
- Mr. Juan Miguel Reboton, Development Management Officer, Climate Change Service, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines

Oxfam is implementing [ADB-RETA 9329](#) Promoting Urban Climate Change Resilience in Selected Asian Cities Subproject 3 (SP3): Pilot and Project Development Activities. The goal of the project is to contribute to climate change resilience by empowering vulnerable communities through community-led initiatives. The project is implemented with local partners in 8 pilot communities in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

### Further Information

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This Event Snapshot is published under [TA 9329](#): Promoting Urban Climate Change Resilience in Selected Asian Cities (UCCRTF Subproject 3)

### UCCRTF Financing Partners

