

Philippines Navigates Global Environmental Stage: ASEAN Diplomacy, Climate

Environmental Diplomacy · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. In preparation for COP31, what significant role is the Philippines playing in shaping ASEAN's collective stance on climate change?

- A) Leading the preparation of a joint ASEAN statement on climate change.**
- B) Hosting the ASEAN Climate Week 2026.
- C) Coordinating a regional fund for climate adaptation.
- D) Developing a unified ASEAN carbon emissions trading system.

2. The Philippines signed the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) treaty on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) in September 2023. What is the primary aim of this treaty?

- A) To regulate deep-sea mining and establish marine protected areas in international waters.
- B) To facilitate the sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources and promote technology transfer.
- C) To conserve and sustainably use marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.**
- D) To establish a global framework for combating illegal fishing activities.

3. What key environmental challenge did the Philippines and other ASEAN member states aim to address through initiatives like the Bangkok Declaration and the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris?

- A) Transboundary haze pollution
- B) Overfishing in shared economic zones
- C) Marine plastic pollution**
- D) Illegal logging and wildlife trafficking

4. The Philippines aims to significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2030 compared to a business-as-usual scenario. Which of the following is NOT listed as a key sector for emission reduction efforts under its NDC Implementation Plan?

- A) Agriculture
- B) Waste management
- C) Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU)
- D) Tourism and hospitality**

5. In November 2023, the Philippines and the U.S. established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance cooperation. Which of the following is a key area of collaboration outlined in this MOU?

- A) Joint space exploration initiatives
- B) Strengthening enforcement and compliance assurance for environmental laws**
- C) Development of renewable energy infrastructure
- D) Coordinated efforts in disaster relief operations

6. The Philippines is set to assume the chairmanship of ASEAN in 2026. What is a notable environmental initiative that the country is leading in preparation for this role?

- A) Developing a regional strategy for sustainable tourism
- B) Leading the preparation of a joint ASEAN statement on climate change for COP31**
- C) Establishing an ASEAN-wide ban on single-use plastics
- D) Creating a regional center for marine research

7. The Blue Economy Act, enacted in the Philippines in 2024, aims to revitalize the country's ocean economy. What are some of the key challenges it addresses?

- A) Overfishing and marine pollution**
- B) Illegal mining in territorial waters
- C) Deterioration of coral reefs due to invasive species
- D) Overdevelopment of coastal infrastructure

8. The Philippines has been actively pursuing international agreements to protect marine biodiversity. Which treaty, signed in September 2023 and ratified by the Philippines in September 2025, focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of marine life in areas beyond national jurisdiction?

- A) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- B) The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- C) The UNCLOS Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)**
- D) The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)

9. In May 2024, the Philippine government presented its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050 at COP28. What is the primary objective of this plan?

- A) To reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions
- B) To enhance the Philippines' resilience to the impacts of climate change**
- C) To develop new renewable energy sources
- D) To secure international climate finance

10. The Philippines, as part of ASEAN, faces challenges with marine plastic pollution. What is a characteristic of ASEAN's environmental initiatives in this area, according to research?

- A) They are primarily enforced through strict regional laws and penalties.
- B) They rely heavily on voluntary participation and flexible agreements, often lacking robust enforcement.**
- C) They focus solely on land-based waste management solutions.
- D) They are driven by a centralized ASEAN environmental agency with regulatory power.

11. The Philippines has been actively working to strengthen its legal framework for environmental protection. In February 2025, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) signed an agreement to enhance collaboration on what specific area?

- A) Environmental impact assessments for infrastructure projects
- B) Investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes**
- C) Developing sustainable agricultural practices
- D) Regulating the extraction of natural resources

12. The Philippines joined the World Economic Forum's Blue Carbon Action Partnership in December 2023. What is the main goal of this partnership?

- A) To promote sustainable fishing practices
- B) To accelerate the restoration of coastal ecosystems**
- C) To develop new technologies for ocean energy
- D) To combat marine invasive species

13. As of 2023, the Philippines is implementing the EPR Act (Republic Act No. 11898). What does this act require from large enterprises concerning plastic packaging waste?

- A) To immediately phase out all plastic packaging
- B) To establish EPR programs to recover a specified percentage of their plastic footprint**
- C) To exclusively use recycled plastic for packaging
- D) To fund research into biodegradable alternatives

14. A 2025 survey on ASEAN dialogue partners indicated that the Philippines is increasingly recognized for its role in maritime diplomacy and defending sovereignty. However, in which environmental area did the Philippines score significantly lower than regional leaders like Singapore?

- A) Marine biodiversity conservation
- B) Renewable energy transition**
- C) Combating illegal wildlife trade
- D) Water resource management

15. The Philippines is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and has submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The country has pledged a significant greenhouse gas emission reduction. Which of the following is NOT a sector targeted for substantial emission reduction by the Philippines?

- A) Energy
- B) Transport
- C) Industry

D) International trade