

UN-REDD Programme – Civil Society Representative Nomination Form

Please limit response length to two pages. Nominations must be submitted to csoselection@un-redd.org by Friday, 11 September 2009. Self-nominations are accepted.

1. Name of the candidate: Blas Troy R. Tabaranza, Jr.
2. Name of organization or network: Haribon Foundation
3. Title (if applicable): Chief Operating Officer
4. Country: Philippines
5. Language(s) spoken: English
6. Please describe the primary interests and functions of the organization and community/constituency that the candidate represents and what countries the organization is active in.

Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources or Haribon is a non-stock, non-profit organization working for the conservation of biodiversity in the Philippines. Its vision is to take the lead in caring for nature with the people, and for the people. Its mission as a membership organization underscores its commitment to the conservation of natural resources, through community empowerment and scientific excellence.

Haribon has been working for the past 37 years with local communities and local governments including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) other national government agencies (NGAs), civil society organizations (CSO) and recently with indigenous peoples in raising awareness, building their capacities in sustainable forest management, conducting research, advocating for forest friendly policies, implementing sustainable forest management practices and establishing sustainable livelihoods in Important Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) focusing on the conservation of biodiversity in the Philippines while ensuring gender equality and sustainability of its programs.

Haribon is also the Birdlife partner in the Philippines. Birdlife International is a global alliance of conservation organizations working to protect birds and their habitats. Mr. Tabaranza is currently a global council member of Birdlife, which is the highest governing body in the partnership.

7. Describe briefly the organization's experience gathering and representing the diverse viewpoints of a range of communities or organizations, and disseminating and coordinating information and communications among a network of communities or organizations.

In achieving its goal of biodiversity conservation, Haribon works with a wide and diverse group of stakeholders, from forest-dependent families, local communities, local governments, indigenous peoples, NGAs, to indirect stakeholders. It has organized and participated in various conferences, roundtable discussions and other fora to bring together a wide array of people to share and build on the experiences in forest conservation, management and protection and share local issues to a wider audience in order that viewpoints not often heard are presented. It has also launched a massive IEC campaign targeting the general public with the implementation of two projects in 2001 and 2005 with the main objective of building a constituency on biodiversity conservation. It participates in networking activities in the country involving climate change, forest restoration, marine ecosystems working mainly on policy advocacy and awareness raising. As a Birdlife partner, it actively coordinates with its Asian partners discussing regional issues and joint action and sharing strategies. It contributes articles to the wider Birdlife Partnership and publishes materials with national circulation that extends to an international audience by way of its website.

8. Describe briefly your organization's background and experience with multilateral agency programs, social and environmental issues related to forests, and the role of forests in response to climate change, including REDD.

Haribon implemented the first Debt-for-Nature Swap in Asia back in 1989 together with WWF. The project sites include St. Paul Subterranean River National Park, El Nido Marine Reserve, Mt. Pulag National Park, Tubbataha Reef National Park, Mt. Isarog, with some funds allocated for the wildlife trade campaign, and environmental education. It has been at the forefront of environmental campaigns in the country beginning with "Boto para sa Inang Bayan" (Vote for the Motherland) in 1987 which called for a ban on commercial logging in Palawan. This was repeated through a signature campaign to ban commercial logging and mining in all natural forests in the country recently in 2004 after the massive landslides took the lives of over 300 people and displaced more than 1000 in Southern Sierra Madre. It has been implementing several projects funded by the European Commission focusing on integrating forest conservation with local governance, where it highlights the importance of local governments in forest conservation. Its previous projects with multilateral and bilateral funding agencies were on awareness raising, illegal wildlife trade campaigns, bio-physical and socio-economic research that resulted in several publications, and capability-building. The main strategy employed in working with local communities is community organizing that helps empower them in managing their forests.

Its work over the years on forest conservation already incorporates sustainable approaches while ensuring broad stakeholder participation. As it attempts to explore various ways of addressing threats to biodiversity, it is then able to develop strategies consistent with climate mitigation and adaptation with its sight forever fixed in achieving its goal in conserving biodiversity.

It is a member of the Philippine Network on Climate Change (PNCC) which is a network of NGOs working to address climate issues in the country. PNCC is a member of the Climate Action Network Southeast Asia (CANSEA). Haribon provides the forest and biodiversity perspective to the network given its long and extensive experience in the conservation of forests as habitat to biodiversity. It is an active member of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) Working Group on Climate Change sub-committee on REDD and has been involved in the review of the REDD policies in the UNFCCC. Currently, Mr. Tabaranza is a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on REDD. The TWG on REDD is composed of experts coming from various fields with significant work on forests. The TWG provides inputs to the Philippine submissions to the UNFCCC.

9. Describe the financial, technical and/or advisory arrangements your organization has with the UN-REDD Programme, as well as the governments of the UN-REDD pilot countries, NGOs, or private sector organizations as they pertain to the UN-REDD process.

Not applicable. Haribon has not been involved in any activity under the UN-REDD Programme.

Please send completed form to csoselection@un-redd.org