

Abstract

Offshore wind energy development is being put forward as a solution to the Philippines' looming energy crisis. The challenge, however, is that the country lacks knowledge and expertise on offshore wind technology, as well as on mitigating its associated environmental and social risks. This study looks at the risks of developing offshore wind in the Philippines, particularly high-risk areas such as endangered and protected species, critical habitats, natural hazards, marine protected areas, fishing and fisheries, and uncertainty (e.g., with the regulatory framework).

Using a qualitative case study and stakeholder analysis of the Philippine offshore wind energy industry, selected stakeholders were analyzed based on several attributes (power, legitimacy, and urgency, motivations and interests, knowledge and competence, and conflicting, complementary, and cooperating relationships). These stakeholder attributes were further analyzed and interconnected, leading to several co-management recommendations for risk mitigation.

Data was collected through four methods: record analysis, observation, semi-structured interviews, and survey via personal interview. Among six stakeholders identified (government, project developers, development finance institutions, NGOs, academia, and local communities), only the government and project developers have a clear interest towards risk mitigation and are the most capable of leading stakeholder engagement initiatives. Other stakeholders are likely to participate if they are directly approached by others. Development finance institutions, NGOs, and academia seem to take on a complementary role in the stakeholder engagement process, whereas local communities seem to take on a conflicting role. Recommendations are provided for the decision-making processes of relevant government agencies and offshore wind developers.

Key words: Philippines; offshore wind energy; environmental and social risks; risk mitigation; stakeholders; stakeholder attributes; co-management strategies