Mid-term Review Report

Integrated Approach in Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines

UNDP PIMS ID: 5886 GEF Project ID: 9584

Country:	Philippines
Region:	Asia
GEF Focal Areas:	Biodiversity
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme
Executive:	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Implementation:	National Implementation Modality
Project Timeframe:	July 2021 – June 2027

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Disclaimer

The MTR views were discussed with UNDP, the Implementing Partner – Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR), Project Board members, local government partners and other key stakeholders. There was a debriefing held to present views and refine findings. UNDP, the Project Management Units (PMUs), and DENR provided comment on the draft report before finalization.

The views held within this report are those of the MTR team.

Acknowledgement

The MTR Team would like to acknowledge all UNDP and project staff and partners who supported this review of the project.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADSDPP	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development & Protection Plan
AWPB	Annual Workplan & Budget
BCA	Biodiversity Corridor Area (the two project sites are MBC and EMBC)
BDFAP	Biodiversity-friendly Agriculture Practices
BDFE	Biodiversity-friendly Enterprises
BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR)
BSAP	Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan
BSWM	Bureau of Soil & Water Management (DA – Implementing Outputs 3.2)
CAAC	Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee
CADC/T	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim / Title
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
CBFM	Community-based Forest Management
CCP	Cluster Conservation Plan (12 to be prepared across the two BCAs)
CLUP	Comprehensive Land Use Plan
CoP	Certificate of Precondition (Required from NCIP in order to work with IPs)
DA	Department of Agriculture (Project partner, with their designated BSWM)
DAO	Departmental Administrative Order (from DENR, unless otherwise stated)
DD	Private Sector Due Diligence (a UNDP formality for project collaboration)
DENR	Department of Environment & Natural Resources
DHSUD	Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development (Responsible for LGUs and their CLUPs)
EA	Executing Agency (~IP - DENR)
eBAMS	Electronic Biodiversity Assessment & Monitoring System
EMBC	Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (one of the two pilot BCAs)
eSEAMS	Electronic Socio-Economic Assessment & Monitoring System
FACE	UNDP Finance Advance & Expenditure Certificate
FASPS	Foreign-assisted & Special Projects Service (DENR)
FMB	Forest Management Bureau (Project partner - Implementing Outputs 3.1 and 3.3)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HCVA	High Conservation Value Area (a scheme which delineates land for conservation against land for production)
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude & Practices
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area (IUCN criteria for biodiversity conservation identification)
IA	GEF Implementing Agency (UNDP)
ICCA	Indigenous Community Conservation Area (a type of OECM)
ICD	Integrated Conservation & Development (one of the project's design approaches)
IEM	Integrated Ecosystem Management (framework to underpin project actions)
IFM	Industrial Forest Management (private entities recommended for forest certification)
ILC	Indigenous & Local Communities (includes Indigenous Peoples)
IP	Project Implementing Partner (DENR)
IP	Indigenous Peoples (project beneficiary groups)
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Classification of Threatened species)
JAO	Joint Administrative Order (e.g. between DENR and another department such as DA)
LCA	Local Conservation Area (a type of OECM)
LGU	municipal Local Government Unit (although maybe provincial or village (Barangay) level if stated)
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MBC	Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor (one of the two pilot BCAs)
METT	GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (for PAs and conservation institutions)
Mimaropa	Regional area of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan (overseeing region for Mindoro)
MoA/C /U	Memorandum of Agreement / Cooperation / Understanding
MTR	Mid-term Review (this mission / report)
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (responsible for CoP for working with IPs)
MGB	Mines & Geosciences Bureau (DENR)
NIM	National Implementation Modality
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Area System
NRM	Natural Resources Management
OECM	Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (a new IUCN type of PA being developed under the project)

PA	Protected Area(for biodiversity conservation)
PAMP/O	Protected Area Management Plan / Office
PPG	GEF Project Preparation Grant to prepare the prodoc
PIF	Project Identification Form (concept note application / approval)
PIMS	UNDP Project Information Management System (refers to project code number)
PIR	Project Implementation Report (UNDP reporting method to GEF)
PO	Peoples Organization
PRF	Project Results Framework (~logframe / Strategic Results Framework)
PSC	Project Steering Committee (a.k.a Project Board)
prodoc	Project Document
RDP/C	Regional Development Plan / Council
SALT	Sloping Land Agriculture Technologies (an approach to SLM)
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (for logframe indicators)
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme (GEF Implementing Agency, member of PSC)

Units m - million or meters; ha - hectare (100 m x 100 metres); 56 Philippine Peso~US$1

Executive Summary

The executive summary is a 16-page summary of the MTR report.

Project Title:	**Integrated Approach in the Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines**		
UNDP Project ID:	100687	**PIF Approval**	November 2017
TF ID:	9584	**CEO Endorsement**	April 2020
Country	Philippines	**Project Document (ProDoc) Signature**	July 2021
Region	Asia Pacific	**Project manager hired**	December 2021
Focal Area	Multi-Focal (Biodiversity, Land Degradation, SFM)	**Inception Workshop**	December 2021
Strategic Programs	BD-1 Program 2; BD-4 Program 9; LD-3 Program 4; SFM 1 & 2	**MTR**	July 2024
Trust Fund	GEF	**Closing Date**	July 2027
Modality	NIM		
Executing Agency / Implementing Partner	Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR)		
Other Partners / Responsible Parties	DENR - Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Soil & Water Management (BSWM) DENR – Forest Management Bureau (FMB) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Local Government Units (LGUs)		
Project Financing:	**at CEO endorsement (USD)**	**at MTR (USD)***	
[1] TF financing:	12,260,241	2,638,614	
[2] UNDP contribution:	1,500,000	50,000	
[3] Government:	55,820,865	14,291,081	
[4] Other partners:	5,380,142	9,982,120	
[5] Total cofinancing [2 + 3+ 4]:	62,701,007	24,323,201	
PROJECT TOTAL COSTS [1 + 5]	**74,961,248**	**26,961,815**	

*Expenditures and cofinancing contributions through to end June 2024

Project Description

Project Description

Two Biodiversity Corridor Areas (BCAs) were selected to represent distinct biodiversity characteristics and forest ecosystems, located in different biogeographic zones. Each site offers different sets of challenges for Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM), due to the degree of threat they are exposed to. A total of 16 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are located in the two BCAs, with an area of over 1 million ha.

Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor (MBC) is a biodiversity hotspot and a centre of endemism. Within MBC, there are two Protected Areas (PAs) and seven KBAs. Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC) is a stretch of lowland / mid-to-high elevation forest. Dinagat Island marks its northernmost boundary while Mt. Hamiguitan Range is at its southern tip. The BCA hosts a large proportion of the country's unique plants and animals.

Issues that the project was designed to address

- Loss of natural habitat from conversion of forest to agriculture, poor farming practice, incoherent agriculture and natural resources policies, and illegal settlement
- Expansion of settlements follows conversion of degraded forests into permanent settlements and agriculture. Underlying drivers are poverty, landlessness, and weak tenure security which discourage sustainable upland farming practices
- Deteriorating productivity of upland farming has caused Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities to shorten fallow periods, causing more forest areas to be cleared
- Mining claims and rights overlap with PA boundaries and ancestral domain (AD) lands including those

planned for conservation. Although mining is not allowed in National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) declared PAs, there is high likelihood that KBAs which are not yet established as PAs or similar will be converted to mining, in the absence of a BCA framework.

- Weak enforcement and management capacities, and limited funding, have resulted in PAs where boundaries have been encroached and converted into agriculture and settlements. Fragmentation of habitats has occurred, thereby failing to provide the essential protection for vulnerable species within PAs.

Project Location

The project is located within Mindoro BCA (Mimaropa Region) in the provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro; and in Eastern Mindanao BCA (Region 11 – Davao de Oro / del Norte & Davao Oriental; Region 13 - Caraga - Agusan del Norte / del Sur, Surigao del Norte / del Sur)

Project Management

The 6-year UNDP-GEF project is under National Implementation Modality (NIM), with the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) as the Executing Entity and designated Implementing Partner. The project is being steered by a Project Steering Committee (PSC), chaired by the DENR Under Secretary for Policy, Planning & International Affairs (representing ownership of the project). The Executive is supported by Senior Supplier (UNDP).

The project implementation team was formed according to standard UNDP and DENR procedures, to include a National Project Director, a National Project Management Unit (NPMU) with a National Project Manager (NPM), and two BCA coordination offices – MBC PMU and EMBC PMU, each with a PM. The project started in July 2021 and is in its 3rd year of implementation.

Purpose and Methodology

The overall approach and methodology of the evaluation followed the guidelines outlined in UNDP Guidance for Conducting Mid-term Reviews of UNDP-supported GEF-financed Projects (2014).

The MTR determined if the project's building blocks (technical, financial, management, legal) have been put in place and then, if together these are being catalysed sufficiently to ultimately make the project successful by June 2027. The MTR method was to utilise a 'multi-level mixed evaluation', which is useful when evaluating delivery of a new service or approach, being piloted through state institutions. The method allows for cross-referencing and is suitable for finding insights which are sensitive and informative.

The MTR was an evidence-based assessment and relied on feedback from persons who are involved in the design, implementation, and supervision of the project. The MTR team reviewed available documents, conducted a field mission and held interviews. The MTR was conducted over the period of June - August 2024, including preparatory activities, inception report, document provision, desk review, field mission with stakeholder consultation (July 2024), and completion of the MTR report.

Evaluation Ratings Summary

GEF UNDP projects of this type require the MTR to evaluate the implementation according to set parameters and ratings. The summary ratings of this evaluation are presented:[1]

Exhibit 2: MTR Ratings Summary Table

1. Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)	Rating	2. Implementing Agency (UNDP) & Executing Entity (DENR) Execution	Rating
Overall quality of M&E	**MS**	**Overall quality of Implementation / Execution**	**MS**
M&E Design at entry	MS	Quality of UNDP Implementation	MS
M&E Implementation	MS	Quality of Execution – DENR	MS
3. Assessment of Outcomes	**Rating**	**4. Sustainability**	**Rating**
Overall Project Outcome *(Objective)*	**MS**	**Overall Likelihood of Sustainability**	**MU**
Effectiveness of Outcome 1	S	Financial resources	MU
Effectiveness of Outcome 2	MS	Socio-economic	MU
Effectiveness of Outcome 3	MU	Institutional framework & governance	ML
Effectiveness of Outcome 4	S	Environmental	MU

[1] The GEF methodology for the ratings in presented in Annex 9

Efficiency	MU		
Relevance	relevant		

Ratings Highly Satisfactory (HS); Satisfactory (S); Moderately Satisfactory (MS); Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU); Highly Unsatisfactory (HU); For Sustainability: Likely (L); Moderately Likely (ML); Moderately Unlikely (MU); Unlikely (U)

A detailed summary of the project is presented below.

Exhibit 3: MTR Ratings and Achievement Summary Table

Project: UNDP GEF Integrated Approach in the Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors (GEF ID: 9464; PIMS ID: 5886)
Achievement Description & MTR Rating
Outcomes/ Results
Overall Project Objective Achievement - The overall grading is **Moderately Satisfactory** **Objective: Operationalizing integrated management of Biodiversity Corridor Areas (BCAs) to generate benefits including effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity, reduced deforestation / degradation and enhanced community livelihoods** (3 indicators) The overall grading is moderately satisfactory (MS). There were three indicators attached to the Overall Objective level which were rated as: satisfactory (1), moderately satisfactory (1), and moderately unsatisfactory (1). The project has created most of the legal building blocks to deliver the project (S graded indicator), however the time left to deliver full implementation is now severely limited with now only time for two more full annual plans / budgets (2025 and 2026), and engage with smallholder and subsistence farmers who work on seasonal calendars. The project design is primarily one of integrated conservation and development. At mid-term the projected development outcomes at the end of the project, are expected to be limited, thus in turn the expected conservation outcomes in terms of agreed guardianship of the forest by Indigenous & Local Communities (ILCs) / Indigeneous Peoples (IPs) is in jeopardy. <u>Area of landscapes (excluding PAs), under improved management to benefit biodiversity</u> (Indicator 1) The mid-term target was for BCA integrated frameworks to be agreed between stakeholders, including for the long-term management of conservation outcomes. The final target is for >200,000 ha designated and managed as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) primarily as Local Conservation Areas (LCAs) and Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs). As of mid-term 190,678 ha of potential OECMs have been identified. These include: EMBC – ICCAs (4) – 35,133 ha; LCAs (6) – 147,000 ha; and MBC – ICCAs (3) – 8,385 ha; and LCAs (1) – 160 ha. A number of project building blocks have been put in place. These include: a draft policy on an Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) framework; a number of DENR directives (Administrative Orders) drafted between DENR and other partners such as the Department of Agriculture (DA) and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); and a number of Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs) drafted between DENR and NCIP / IP communities. The main concern is the expected status of the LCAs by project end. Should they just be officially designated by municipal Local Government Units (LGUs), or should they also have management councils set-up, and be funded, and furthermore have a a set of management principles and / or management plans with community co-management arrangements in place. <u>Greenhouse gases mitigated by carbon sequestrated or emissions avoided in the agriculture / forestry sectors</u> (Indicator 2) The mid-term target was to develop a monitoring system for calculating carbon sequestrated. In December 2023, discussions were held with FAO on the use of their FAO EX-ACT tool for measuring carbon. The project also supported a consultancy service for the finalization of the DENR - FMB carbon accounting manual for forest projects. <u>Number of direct beneficiaries of GEF investment</u> (Indicator 3) The mid-term target was for 9,000 persons (~2,250 households) directly benefiting from sustainable Natural Resources Management (NRM) with improved alternative livelihoods / income (with 50% of the beneficiaries being women). According to the UNDP GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) 2024, the target is off-track at 15%. As the actual engagement of many ILCs has yet to take place, measurement of this indicator at mid-term was difficult to determine. The process of obtaining NCIP Certificates of Precondition (CoPs) has been slow, however the project finally appears to have created a work-around by first creating a draft MoAs with IPs, as a Free & Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) step, thus starting to demonstrate what the project / IP expect from each other.
Effectiveness – Outcome 1 Achievement - **Satisfactory** **Outcome 1 - Policy, coordination, regulatory & institutional framework for planning, management, compliance monitoring, enforcement and decision making for integrated management of BCAs** (3 indicators) The overall grading is Satisfactory (S). There were three indicators attached to the Outcome 1 level which were rated as: satisfactory (2), and moderately satisfactory (1). The two indicators rated as satisfactory were for the development of BCA policy, and for the development of an automated monitoring system for PAs. The other indicator was for capacity development, which was held back slightly by the indicator 'score' for NCIP.

Policy instruments in place and applied to integrate biodiversity into national & local planning policy / programs (Indicator 4)

A number of departmental directives (DENR Administrative Orders - DAOs) have been issued to facilitate implementation:

- Draft DAO on the Identification and Recognition of OECMs

- Draft DAO on IEM

- DAO 2022-04 - Biodiversity in mining and a Circular Guideline on a 5% Reference Ecosystem

- Draft Joint AO (DENR - Department of Housing Settlement & Urban Development - DHSUD) on the Adoption of a Manual for Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Conservation in Comprehensive Lands Use Plans (CLUPs) of LGUs

- DENR - DA JAO 2021-01 Biodiversity-friendly Agriculture Practices (BDFAPs)

- DAO 2021-13 (Biodiversity-friendly Enterprises - BDFEs)

The project is in the process of delivering a number of policy instruments. PIR 2024 indicated the target was on-track at 50% delivery. However, a distinction should be drawn between project-enabling directives by DENR, which are project-specific and timebound (e.g. the JAO with DA), compared to new policy or directives identified for more permanent change such as the DAO for creating OECMs, or the new National standard for BDFAPS (2023)

Institutional capacity for planning, implementation & monitoring biodiversity management planning in BCAs (Indicator 5)

This indicator was measured by UNDP's Capacity Development Scorecard. The mid-term target was for a five point increase which was achieved by DENR and DA, but not NCIP.

Network of PAs and OECMs with an automated biodiversity monitoring system for threat assessment (Indicator 6)

The mid-term target was for 11 PAs to have moved to automated biodiversity monitoring systems, with a system design for OECMs completed. The project has undertaken a review of existing monitoring systems, called eBAMS and eSEAMS concerning their suitability for monitoring OECMs. Pilot testing of eBAMS and eSEAMS in selected PAs, is on-going in collaboration with BMB. Monitoring equipment (computer tablets) has been delivered to PAs to facilitate automated monitoring.

Outputs

Output 1.1 - Functional governance & coordination mechanism at national level to facilitate the IEM of BCAs

At this stage, the main governance mechanism to facilitate IEM development actions is the issuance of DAOs and JAOs as official directives, however many remain in draft format. The main coordination mechanism is the follow-up by the PMUs to ensure that the directives are complied with, and to guide project implementation. In many cases, the implementation of the DAOs is being undertaken by sub-contractors, but in a number of cases they have yet to be hired or start field work.

This is the case for developing the IEM Framework. The project also now needs to facilitate delivery of the IEM approach chapter by chapter timewise (concept, principles, implementation strategy, consolidation of BCA models), so that other outputs can follow the strategy.

A JAO between DENR and DHSUD (who are responsible for the LGUs) has been drafted, but not yet signed, but also a sub-contractor not yet hired. Thus the update of all the targeted CLUPs may not be achieved. However other outputs should continue, such as with the identification of OECMs and the identification of 100,000 ha of forest land for Sustainable Forest Management / Community-based Forest Management (SFM / CBFM) in areas near to KBAs. A particular bottleneck in project delivery has been the slow progress towards obtaining NCIP CoPs to work with the IPs. This is despite a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between DENR and NCIP.

Output 1.2 – Policy instruments for improving biodiversity outcomes within the BCAs developed and adopted

See indicator 4. Additionally, the project appears to be covering too many peripheral activities, such as collaboration on the national plant conservation plan and updating a safety, heath & environment (SHE) manual.

Output 1.3 - Monitoring & enforcement strategy to measure biodiversity outcomes, threat reduction, and sustainable NRM

See Indicator 6. The output also requires obtaining NCIP CoPs and creating MoAs to work with IPs. This aspect of the project has been too slow, and now is at high risk of not delivering integrated conservation & development activities with the IPs in areas near KBAs / OECMs.

Effectiveness - Outcome 2 Achievement - **Moderately Satisfactory**

Outcome 2 - Improved site-level planning, regulatory, monitoring and implementation framework for demonstration of integrated ecosystem planning and management of pilot BCAs (4 indicators)

The overall grading is Moderately Satisfactory. There were four indicators attached to the Outcome 2 level which were rated as: satisfactory (1); moderately satisfactory (1); and moderately unsatisfactory (2). Outcome 2 is designed to create a planning and management framework for conservation within the two BCAs as a pilot. The key interventions are to: create an IEM Framework; to use the IEM Framework to develop six Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs) in each BCA; to identify OECM areas; and to incorporate IEM / biodiversity (including SFM and Sustainable Land Management - SLM) into LGU planning, principally through updating CLUPs (24 in total).

Protected area management effectiveness score (Indicator 7)

For the GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), the mid-term target was an increase by 10 points, which was achieved by a significant margin. The METT scorecard was not fully completed for all PAs by mid-term, with most METT scores calculated in 2021 and 2023.

Status of key species (Indicator 8)

Philippine Eagle numbers for EMBC were modelled to be 94 mature adults (47 nesting pairs)

Mainstreaming IEM objectives into sub-national plans (Indicator 9)

The onus is on LGUs being supported to update a substantial volume of local planning documentation. These include 45 plans in total. This is a significant and very ambitious undertaking for both the project (and its sub-contractors) and local government.

Furthermore for the CLUPs to be updated, the method is to train DHSUD (as the national office responsible for local government) to deliver training to 24 municipal LGUs to update their CLUPs. The time, effort and funding to update these land use plans is limited at both national and municipal LGU level, with such plans only usually updated once every 10 years. A sub-contractor is to support this work, but has yet to be engaged.

As the CLUPs primarily present tenured and unallocated land maps, it is somewhat difficult to see how new un-registered OECMs (such as new LCAs and ICCAs) are going to be drawn into these official maps. A JAO between DENR and DHSUD remains in draft format, and at present, there appears to be an informal agreement with DHSUD to work with a project sub-contractors.

The update of nine Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development & Protection Plans (ADSDPPs) has been sub-contracted out. In addition, the project has yet to obtain a NCIP CoP to work with IPs to update these ADSDPPs, even though it is a standard task that NCIP and LGUs should be undertaking anyway as they are the local official representatives for the IPs and their plans.

Area enhanced by the mainstreaming of SLM and SFM into local planning instruments (Indicator 10)

Concerning SFM, DENR has no formal agreement or MoA with FMB. Concerning SFM, the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) has produced a technical bulletin on Forest Land Use Planning (FLUP), which includes seven steps for LGUs to map and prepare comprehensive FLUPs for approval by DENR, to then be incorporated into CLUPs, and then thereafter for forest land to possibly be allocated to responsible parties.

Concerning SLM, The DA have indicated a US$12m contribution in-kind, plus GEF funding provides for SLM consultants and US$1.6m in cash. The ability of LGUs to update CLUPs is also questioned here, this time with 150,000 ha of agriculture land to undergo SLM to be included in the plans. The BSWM have field staff, but the active 'ear-marking' of such land seems some way off.

Outputs

Output 2.1 - Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) framework developed and adopted

DENR has produced a draft DAO - Guidelines for planning & implementing the IEM approach in priority landscapes (2023, updated April 2024), however the project has yet to engage a sub-contractor for the actual preparation of the framework.

The central tenet of this output is to create IEM zones (with relevant ENR policy ordinance and investment plans) so that they can be recognized in the muncipal land use plans (CLUPs). The IEM zones themselves should recognize landscapes in terms of tenure of PAs, forest land, AD land, and private land, but furthermore encompass the management of watersheds, wetlands, forests (including High Conservation Value Areas - HCVAs), KBAs, and ecosystem service areas.

The working method to achieve IEM zoning in terms of biodiversity conservation, is to additionally delineate OECM areas (LCAs, ICCAs, and private/public set-aside land, such as mining concessions having a reserved 5% ecosystem reference area)

In support of IEM, the project's Local Governance Specialist produced a technical report – 'Policy review for the Integration of IEM into Local Planning (June 2023)'. The report is useful and provides maps of KBAs, and their percent coverage within LGUs, and prioritises LGUs for project interventions.

Output 2.2 - Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs) created for areas of critical high biodiversity within the BCAs

The aim of this output is to develop 12 CCPs for the two BCAs. The CCPs are expected to guide actions for improved conservation and co-management within PAs, Ancestral Domains, and CBFM / private forest areas. For sustainability, the CCPs are also expected to guide the planning process of LGUs.

The project has sub-contracted four entities to prepare and deliver the 12 CCPs. The lead sub-contractor (CELPA) contract has no dates on any interim deliverables. Importantly, CELPA are also required as the lead agency to provide the CCP design template for the other sub-contractors who are also producing CCPs. The MTR considers the expectation of delivery in terms of quality and on-time as high risk. Another sub-contractor (GRIDs) has produced an inception report with a high clarity of strategic approach / methods, citing international best practice. Throughout both the CELPA and GRIDs contracts, there is a high emphasis on using a HCVA approach to assessment design and mapping, which is commendable.

The HCVA system protects high conservation values from land use change. The six categories are HCV 1 - Species diversity; HCV 2 - Landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and intact forest landscapes; HCV 3 - Ecosystems & habitats; HCV 4 - Ecosystem services; HCV 5 - Community needs; and HCV 6 - Cultural values.

Output 2.4 - Recognition of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) such as ICCAs and LCAs

A draft DAO on OECMs has been produced - 'Guidelines on the identification, selection, recognition and registration of OECMs' (draft 2023). OECMs are based on IUCN criteria. The project's three main conduits for recognising OECMs are LCAs, ICCAs, and mining concession 5% reference ecosystem areas.

There is an existing policy to define LCAs (usually managed by LGUs). The identification of ICCAs has undergone consultation with IPs. Prior to the project there have been a number of ICCAs recognised, thus a mechanism to create them exists.

A DENR DAO and Circular on mining has been produced - Guideline to DAO No. 2022-04 on enhancing biodiversity in Mining Operations (2024). In EMBC, reference ecosystem areas within mining concessions have been identified.

Output 2.5 - Local government to mainstream biodiversity conservation into local policy and planning

The project is expected to support 24 LGUs to update their CLUPs. A draft directive has been produced - JAO (DENR-DHSUD) on the Adoption of a Manual for Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Conservation in CLUPs of LGUs. It is expected that after demonstration of SLM and SFM (under Outputs 2.2 and 2.3), that there will be increased investment by the LGUs in their CLUPs covering 150,000 ha of degraded agriculture land and 100,000 ha of degraded forest land for restoration.

Effectiveness - Outcome 3 Achievement – **Moderately Unsatisfactory**

Outcome 3 - Sustainable use and management systems for land and forest resources that are compatible with IEM biodiversity corridor objectives (2 indicators)

The overall grading is Moderately Unsatisfactory. There were two indicators attached to the Outcome 3 level which were rated as: moderately satisfactory and unsatisfactory. The two indicators concern: the establishment of significant areas of land to go under SLM and SFM; and piloting forest certification. The reason for the 'U' rating for SLM and SFM is that both schemes are rather missing both target site locations (near KBAs) and also missing target beneficiaries, especially IPs.

Area of land restored (Indicator 11)

BSWM has produced a template MoU to work with farmers, but it is solely based on demonstration sites. There doesn't appear to be a strategy for implementing 15,000 ha of SLM, despite an allocated US$1.6m for BSWM and this output. BSWM twice cited a lack of funds to attain the target of 15,000 ha.

FMB has produced a comprehensive CBFM Framework, however it is not directly linked to the project target of 15,000 ha to come under SFM (Indicator 11), nor the target of 100,000 ha to come under SFM mainstreaming (Indicator 10)

Voluntary Forest Certification scheme piloted for ILC and private forests (Indicator 12)

The MTR considers this output as not only tangential to the project's core design, but also as a major time consuming task. If a a Forest Certification Scheme (FCS) could have been set-up before, it would have been. The MTR recommendation is to keep this output manageable, with the deliverable to be a 'case study in FCS design, with two plantation forest companies'. FCS is known to be too difficult and too expensive for smallholders, thus it is recommended not to attempt FCS with CBFM groups.

Outputs

Output 3.1 - Voluntary forest certification scheme piloted for local communities and private forests

See Indicator 12. FMB (DENR) is the lead organisation. Implementation has been sub-contracted to PALEC, with an initial contract of eight months from December 2023 (for both Outputs 3.1 and 3.3). PALEC has produced an Inception Report (January 2024), titled - Piloting of voluntary Forest Certification Scheme (FCS) and Implementation of SFM Approaches & Collaborative Management.

Output 3.2 - SLM applied to degraded agricultural lands through a suite of SLM technologies / practices and incentives

The project design indicated only 150 ha of demonstration sites (~1% of the target 15,000 ha to undergo SLM), which was extremely low. The BSWM implementation of demonstration sites covers ~500 ha, although this is still also very low at ~3%.

On a BCA level, in MBC, only 6 out of the 18 selected demonstration sites are IP-managed, with the majority being cooperatives, thus a key target group for biodiversity conservation has been missed somewhat. One of the reasons, apart from the added difficulty of working with IPs (NCIP CoP requirement, education level, remoteness), is that BSWM's own criteria for site selection is based on level of land degradation, and not working on slopes over 18%, thus these sites are not necessarily near KBAs.

Also missing from the template MoU to work with demonstration farmers, are the actual SLM measures. These include: contouring, terracing using grass species and hedgerows, bunding, conservation tillage, residue management / composting, relay & cover cropping, fallow management, agroforestry, and sloping agricultural land technology (SALT).

The MTR found no evidence of any strategy to physically expand the SLM implementation area using the GEF funds to reach the target of 15,000 ha. The project has yet to contract an NGO to deliver SLM for the 15,000 ha. Implementation of this output is far behind other parts of the project, and is at high risk of failing to have any impact.

Output 3.3 - SFM approaches and collaborative management to reduce fragmentation of biodiversity habitats

Two pages of the prodoc were dedicated to describing the approach to implement this key output. It included collaborating with CBFM groups, and to work directly with People's Organisations (POs) / forest communities to enhance CBFM activities,

in particular concerning Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) and agro-forestry. The principles for selection included: prioritize sites close to PAs and KBAs with stakeholder consultation on the interventions which are also expected to also provide income, as well as enhance habitat connectivity. The prodoc listed some of the SFM measures within CBFM areas, which included: agro-forestry, ANR, enrichment planting, direct seeding, scattered sapling planting, and under-storey management.

In the project design, the delivery mechanism expected is a community development funding scheme. The prodoc indicated $540,000 in grants for CBFM groups (180 grantees x $3,000). The allied logframe indicators are (No. 11) 15,000 ha of degraded forest land under restoration; and (No. 9) 100,000 ha of degraded forest land under local planning for restoration.

The target is to bring 15,000 ha of degraded forest land under improved SFM. To date, SFM areas validated and registered as Forest Management Units (FMUs) include: EMBC - 35,098 ha (of which 19,682 ha in eight CBFMs, and 15,416 ha in one commercial tree plantation); and MBC – 2,478 ha (of which all are in seven CBFMs) - All seven demonstrations are located mid-way between the mountains and coast, appearing to miss the project priority locations – near PAs, KBAs, or proposed LCAs.

FMB (DENR) is the lead organisation to deliver this output, however FMB indicated that the current team were only formally engaged by the project in mid-2023 – i.e. over two years from project start. Thus FMB's time to develop engagement with forest communities, create and deliver inputs (with $540,000 for CBFM), and make agreements on forest protection is now limited to plans in 2025 and 2026 only.

An added issue is that FMB has sub-contracted a company (PALEC) to identify sites / ILCs, but has yet to engage them to conduct implementation activities. Such activities are also hampered by the lack of a NCIP CoP to work with IPs. (and hence a reason why the initial selection of site location and beneficiary group has been somewhat wayward). Furthermore, the project delivery mechanism (funds / materials) to ILCs / IPs to engage in ANR / agro-forestry has yet to be designed.

Output 3.4 - Biodiversity-friendly enterprises promoted to lead to sustainable natural resource use

The project design is to identify and support BDFEs. Examples listed in the prodoc are for the primary processing of NTFPs (honey, bamboo, mushroom) in order to add value before sale to market and hence improve livelihoods and income. According to the prodoc, under this output $400,000 (250 grantee x $1,600), would be available for distribution for BDFE schemes.

Under sub-contract, a BDFE specialist has been hired for seven months in order to produce a database of BDFEs; and provide BDFE grant guidelines. For MBC, the initial work was considered insufficient, thus the project (NPMU) expect to hire a new consultant to prepare the BDFE long-list, with a deeper assessment in MBC by the end of 2024, and then hire a firm in 2025 to begin to implement the activities with the selected enterprise groups. Thus the project in MBC at least is some way from delivering grants for BDFEs, let alone having time to support these BDFEs and ensure that they are biodiversity-friendly. In parallel (which is indicative of the project's management), MBC PMU have their own list of BDFEs from the government CENRO office. EMBC have a BDFE consultant working with profiles provided to NPMU. However, the BDFE application, selection, and grant award process was unclear by the time of the MTR. A DAO 2012/13 is being developed to facilitate this.

Effectiveness - Outcome 4 Achievement – **Satisfactory**

The overall grading is Satisfactory. There were three indicators attached to the Outcome 4 which were rated as: satisfactory (2) and moderately satisfactory (1).

Level of awareness on IEM within the BCAs as indicated by KAP survey (Indicator 13)

KAP awareness survey results: EMBC - Caraga - 57%; Davao - 62%; MBC - 45%. A communications plan for national, EMBC and MBC was prepared based on the KAP survey. The mid-term target was 40% awareness of conservation threats for the KAP survey. The project attained this for the three areas surveyed.

Integrated management system to monitor biodiversity threats in place and effective (Indicator 14)

A sub-contractor has been engaged to lead the development of an knowledge management / information management system (KM/IMS) based on existing and new project biodiversity monitoring systems.

Good practice conservation and sustainable resource management approaches codified and disseminated (Indicator 15)

The project has prepared guidelines for the documentation of lessons learned, good practices, and innovations and is using WOCAT guidelines for SLM. The mid-term target was for ten good practices to be codified and disseminated, of which a number have been, including two SLM technologies documented using the WOCAT tool.

Efficiency

Efficiency Rating – Moderately Unsatisfactory

Whilst there is a large GEF budget, it is not being utilised effectively. To date, the project has had a very high emphasis on creating partnerships and involving too many government, agencies and NGO / other project stakeholders. There has also been a very high emphasis on orientation / training events at national, regional and provincial government level. The project has spent too much time on drawing up long-lists for municipal LGU-level interventions, which has expanded the PPG list of LGUs, and as a result, proposed activities have started to become too scattered, and away from project core areas, namely

KBAs and wildlife corridors between PAs. The project has also not managed to align or cluster the the main interventions – CLUPs, ADSDPPs, SFM, SLM and BDFEs to be directly associated with the ILCs / IPs near the KBAs.

The project *modus operandi* is to engage sub-contractors to implement field activities, but their engagement has been slow, and a number of these contracts with DENR lack definition of project targets. This is especially the case with work of DA BSWM with whom DENR has an MoA, but BSWM's own sub-contract only calls for 300 ha of demonstration SLM areas, when 15,000 ha need to be implemented.

Relevance

Relevance Rating – Relevant

The measures were required under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992), of which Philippines ratified in 1994. The project was designed to address Aichi Targets: 5 (loss of habitat), 7 (SLM / SFM), 11 (PA connectivity, e.g. via OECMs), 12 (IUCN Threatened Species conservation) and 14 (ecosystem services) in particular. The project was in-line with the National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP) and UN SDG 15 to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss. The project design remains highly relevant.

Ownership

The work of DENR to create the enabling conditions for project implementation has been strong but slow, but many DAOs remain late and in draft format. Whilst, the project has created regional and provincial support for the project, ILC's ownership of any interventions has yet to be realised, as agreements to work with ILCs it still at an early stage.

On a national level, the project's main vehicle is creating an IEM Framework, but the lack of progress on this is now hampering implementation on a BCA level. On a BCA level, the designation of OECMs is the main tool to create enhanced conservation measures, but such designation is some time away, thus ILC ownership is also some time away. Indeed, the project is now under severe time constraint, thus ILC / IP 'buy-in' may not happen on-the-ground, but rather be a paper exercise by project end, in mid-2027.

The primary issues are an excessive number of partners at national and regional level and extensive sensitization exercises for all these partners (workshops), which is negatively impacting on BCA identification of target ILCs and field implementation of interventions, which in most cases have yet to be designed. The project is top-heavy, and additionally is weighing down on the BCAs at ground level (both corridor PMUs, supporting LGUs and other line-agency partners, such as CENROs).

The project ownership is also dispersed across government line agencies, without sufficient Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) / NPMU control, which is resulting in dis-functional and tangential implementation, which is not clustered near project key conservation areas.

Implementation - Execution

Implementation – The overall rating is Moderately **Satisfactory**.

Project Implementation: According to the given five categories - coordination & operational matters, partnership arrangements & stakeholder engagement, finance & co-finance, M&E systems (see next), and adaptive management (work planning, reporting & communications). The overall quality of implementation / execution was rated as Moderately Satisfactory, with both the quality of UNDP Implementation and DENR / PMU Execution.

Coordination & Operational Management

Coordination & Operational Management by Implementing Agency (UNDP)

UNDP are the GEF Implementing Agency (IA). The project is being implemented following UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM), according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of the Philippines. A project initiation plan / GEF PPG was undertaken from January 2018 to April 2019, budgeted at $273,000, plus agency fees. A Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting was held in January 2019. The report indicated full NIM, whereby UNDP's executive role and associated costs were removed from the GEF budget.

Coordination & Operational Management by the Executing Agency / Implementing Partner (DENR / NPMU)

The project is under NIM, with the DENR as the Implementing Partner (IP), with fund provision controlled by the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), as the Project Focal Point, and DENR. The project is implemented by a National Project Management Unit (NPMU), under the direction of the DENR BMB Focal Point.

The project is supported by a Project Steering Committee (PSC), with the NPMU acting as the secretary. DENR designated a Under-secretary for DENR's Project Planning Bureau to chair the PSC meetings. The project was signed in July 2021, with the first PSC meeting held in January 2022. Further meetings were held in January, August and December 2022, July and December 2023.

Partnership Arrangements & Stakeholder Engagement

Supporting project partners include: DA – BSWM; and the DENR FMB. Key cooperation partners include NCIP and DHSUD. Provincial, municipal and village (barangay) government are also partners for project implementation. The provisional list of

24 municipal LGUs to receive project support was based on: need to update their land use plans; within a KBA; inclusion for SLM activities; and containing key species habitat.

Women's Empowerment

During design, the project was UNDP-rated as having 'gender equality as a significant objective' (UNDP Quantum Marker – GEN-2). The words 'gender' and 'women' were mentioned 93 and 56 times respectively in the prodoc. The original Gender Action plan (2018), was updated to cover 2023-27. It details gender indicators and targets (mainly through the disaggregation of data on women's participation), but not how or who will collate this information or how it will be reported.

Financial management & finance

The projects finances were presented in the draft PIR 2024 with: Cumulative delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc) at 21.5%, with 50% of project time elapsed; Cumulative disbursement as of 30th June (2024) at US$2,638,614. The PPG amount was $273,000; the GEF grant is $12,260,241; with co-financing projected at $62,701,007. UNDP co-financing spend at mid-term was estimated at $50,000 against $1,500,000 prodoc promised. The government and other donor in-kind co-financing spend was estimated at (all recurrent) $24.9m against a projected $61.2m at closure.

Fund release by UNDP is to DENR who replenish the BMB NPMU project account based on 80% spend of projected quarterly plan. Payments to FMB is directly from Foreign-assisted & Special Projects Service (FASPS, DENR). Project implementation and fund disbursement follow an annual workplan & budget (AWPB) system, within which quarterly workplans are prepared and co-signed by UNDP and the NPD. Fund use is controlled by UNDP and DENR.

UNDP claim that project activity and staff funding is based on a 'quarterly cash advance system' and not a re-imbursement system, however the first tranche payment by UNDP to the project was five months after project start. Also as an example of the timeframe to pay a project invoice, for the 'Q4 2023 Invoice', the UNDP Funding Authorization & Certificate of Expenditure (FACE) form was prepared 11th December 2023, however payment to BMB, the project PMUs and FMB was only received 7th March 2024 (~ 3 months or 13 weeks later), and for BSWM received 26th March (~3.5 months or 15 weeks later).

Payment under the UNDP / DENR financial management system, requires an 80% spend in advance before re-imbursement. This slow system, particularly in MBC is negatively impacting on MBC staff morale and implementation. This is likely to have a clear negative impact on expected results and outcome for the project, especially as staff are not being paid for three months each time. Bridge-financing has been requested by the NPMU to UNDP to solve this issue, but was rejected. In 2022, a HACT audit noted that unpaid staff salaries were included in a Q3 '80% reimbursement invoice' in order to clear the invoice, for UNDP fund release.

Adaptive management

<u>Work planning</u>

The project began in July 2021 and is expected to close in June 2027. An Inception Workshop was held in December 2021, which was attended by ~150 participants. There have been four annual workplans & budgets (AWPBs) produced covering 2021 (half year only), 2022, 2023 and 2024. AWPB 2024 was approved by DENR December 2023, and was submitted to UNDP in March 2024, with a budget of US$3.7m. At the time of the MTR, this is in the process of being revised down to US$2m. AWPB 2023 was signed by UNDP January 2023 with a budget of US$4.3m, but revised in December 2023 with a budget of US$2.3m and then again revised in January 2024 with a budget of US$1.4m

<u>Reporting</u>

Two UNDP GEF PIRs were produced: To end-June 2023 and end- June 2024. Pertinent information is presented in the relevant sections of this MTR report. E.g. gender, risk, disbursement, social & environmental standards. Annual Project Reports (APRs) were produced for 2021, 2022 and 2023. To note, PIR 2024 indicates overall rating of both the progress and IP (DENR) as Moderately Unsatisfactory, but with an overall risk rating as low. The MTR would suggest the risk level should be elevated.

Monitoring & Evaluation

M&E Systems – The M&E system design and the implementation of the M&E system was rated as **Moderately Satisfactory**

<u>M&E at Design Stage</u>

UNDP GEF projects have a particular M&E system that is report-based, centred around an annual PIR that runs mid to mid-year. The M&E system is based on a mixture UNDP's contractual compliance with GEF and its own systems, and checking the IP in terms of its contractual compliance of deliverables. The M&E plan in the prodoc was standard, with an added table of GEF core indicators completed for the PIF and CEO Endorsement stage.

<u>M&E Implementation</u>

The project presented a project performance plan, which was difficult to appreciate in the format as presented, especially as it was one long list of repeated logframe indicators with no progress or comment attached.

The most reliable M&E document was the draft PIR 2024 which provided cumulative project progress against indicators with added comment on % delivery and on / off-track grade. UNDP rated the project development objective progress and implementation performance as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU). Of note, UNDP stated 'there is an urgent need to accelerate implementation, including: Completion of NCIP CoP; Undertake HCVA / biodiversity assessment; Application of

IEM framework through the CCPs; Formulation of ADSDPPs; and Piloting of actual interventions for SFM, SLM, Biodiversity-friendly Enterprises (BDFEs), and Biodiversity-friendly Agricultural Practices (BDFAPs).'

Sustainability

Sustainability**:** According to the four GEF risk categories (financial, socio-economic, institutional & governance and environmental), present status, and towards the future is assessed.

Overall Rating: Moderately Unlikely

Financial Risks to Sustainability

The rating is 'Financial Sustainability is **Moderately Unlikely'**. There is a significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs should carry on. For example, the funding and management of OECMs (LCAs and ICCAs) has yet to realised. On a wider-scale, the project design, puts the financial sustainability onus on LGUs, which is somewhat of a burden, without clear support from central government in-cash funds for this pilot BCA initiative, its models, and lessons provided for example. Thus the financial sustainability is difficult to determine at mid-term. Government inputs (mostly in-kind) are not independently accounted for under GEF methods. The ability for local government to fund new LCAs and biodiversity-friendly plans (CLUPs) is also yet to be tested.

Socio-Economic Risks to Sustainability

The rating is 'Socio-economic Sustainability is **Moderately Unlikely'**. The rating is 'Socio-economic Sustainability is Moderately Unlikely'. There is a significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, such as ILC incomes not rising sufficiently, in order to make forest conservation attractive enough.

The sustainability of project interventions is expected, however the project has yet to implement any income generating activities or improve livelihoods in return for forest protection and biodiversity conservation. Moreover, the link between project support (including socio-economic benefits) and expected conservation benefits, is at present not central in agreements being made. Furthermore in a number of cases the selection of demonstration activities, is not near existing KBAs. This is partly because SLM selection to date has been based on land degradation and working with existing cooperatives, and for SFM, the selection of CBFM groups has been based existing groups and not IPs.

The time is takes to develop alternative livelihoods is often a few years, however despite the project duration being six years, there are only two full annual planning cycles left in 2025 and 2026, and the field implementation of such income generating activities has yet to start, and the mechanism to transfer funds yet to be designed or agreed. Thus the ICDP model is at risk of either not achieving ILC income gains, or not achieving permanent ILC support in forest protection, or both. One obvious risk here, is that without tangible IP income gains, and MoAs with explicit conservation requirements, then there will be a continuance in shifting agriculture.

Institutional & Governance Risks to Sustainability

The rating is 'Institutional & Governance Sustainability is **Moderately Likely**. There are moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained, OECMs in particular.

In order for the project to not be spread too thinly, and to be able to deliver implementation, it needs focus on its major lines in a realistic timeframe. These are the tangible conservation measures such as: the designation of OECMs, especially LCAs and ICCAs; and the creation of LCA Management Councils and Outline Management Plans, that include ILC co-management. They also include delivering a basket of activities to ILCs, IPs in particular, clustered near or adjacent to the LCAs, in order for conservation outcomes (ICDP approach), with management agreement on land use to rise above tenure certificates or claims. These tenure claims can be be resolved in the mid to longer term once biodiversity conservation is secure and under strong sustainable institutional co-management.

In some areas there is an overlap or conflict of PA and IP CADC/T boundaries. There is also a major overlap between KBAs (and proposed OECMs, such as LCAs) and CADC/T land. Whilst the project design, considered involving NCIP in FPIC, a grievance mechanism, and an Indigenous Peoples' Strategy, the MTR would suggest that the project aim is not to change land tenure, but rather to create management agreements for the high value biodiversity habitats and landscapes.

Environmental Risks to Sustainability

The rating is 'Environmental Sustainability is **Moderately Unlikely'**. There is a significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure. For example biodiversity conservation will remain unsustainable due to a lack of income generated for ILCs who are in part forest or shifting agriculture dependent, and unsustainable because project activities are so scattered that they will not create a critical mass for ILCs / IPs to improve conservation.

Outcome 2 is designed to create the protection of 200,000 ha of KBA land and in order to conserve biodiversity and make the use of ecosystem services sustainable. The expectation is for improved conservation and co-management within PAs, CADC/T areas, and CBFM areas, for example and for LGU support to create LCAs, and sustainably manage CADC/T areas.

The project design is clear in its expectation of clustering interventions for both forest restoration, SLM agriculture and BDFEs, in order to make a saturation effect and positive impact for conservation and sustainable livelihoods more likely and greater. At present, the paradigm shift towards conservation appears unlikely.

Impact

The impact of the project was not considered as significant at the mid-term stage.

Reduction in stress on ecological systems

The expected project impact by completion is failing. There is a lack of cohesion and management control over clustering key interventions, in terms of location, selection of ILC – IPs, design and delivery of such interventions. These four factors are paramount for tangible conservation outcomes.

At present the identification of OECMs is on-track, but the project needs to go much further in AWPB 2025 in delivering clustered ICD interventions according to project design. Without these interventions, the stress on ecological systems will not be stabilised.

Regulatory & policy change

For policy, building blocks are partly in place, but the expected management and coordination of key implementation partners – FMB, BSWM, and NCIP is not in place. Their inputs are needed for tangible positive conservation outcomes. It is difficult to see how DENR's BMB is likely to achieve such management control, without a much higher level of decision-making.

Catalytic Effect

Scaling-up & Replication

If OECMs are designated within the project timeframe, then they will serve as an example of biodiversity connectivity expansion within the two project BCAs for scaling-up to the other 18 BCAs in-country.

The SLM demonstrations at field level are very generic / simple, and are not suitable for scaling up with IPs. Bottom-up participatory collaboration with ILCs / IPs is needed in terms of defined SLM activities, grants and inputs with a contract and delivery mechanism.

Demonstration

The expected prodoc link between updated land use plans and expected LGU investment planning in conservation is tenuous, however if it can be achieved, it would be a clear demonstration. ADSDPPs where they exist, are out of date and lack defined positive conservation outcomes. There is an opportunity to encompass MoAs with project investment in return for forest protection responsibilities and ending shifting cultivation. If achieved, then updated ADSDPPs could become models.

The project linkage has to start with new designation of LCAs and / or ICCAs near to IP villages, and their clear and monitored agreement to stop forest degradation. As some ICCAs are present already, the project has the opportunity to create more and provide a model for their co-management. There has been insufficient project emphasis on this opportunity to date.

New technologies / Approaches

CCPs are new, but the overall approach to creating them and their value is somewhat unknown at present.

The empowerment of municipal LGUs to designate LCAs (under an OECM umbrella) is valuable, but without significant support to develop LCA management councils and management plans for these new LCAs, conservation improvements on the ground are likely to be limited. SFM through enhancing CBFM agreements to focus on biodiversity has a lot of potential, but the project is far from realising this.

The creation of mining concession areas to designate 5% reference ecosystem areas (in perpetuity) is new and if supported with national ordinance (DENR – MGB), then this is a significant new approach. The methods to monitor Philippine Eagle in EMBC are new and are applicable to monitoring ecosystem / habitat health by proxy.

Analysis & Conclusions

Project Approach and Design

The project objective is to create Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) of Biodiversity Corridor Areas (BCAs), within which there is effective conservation of biodiversity, reduced forest degradation and enhanced community livelihoods. In terms of a high-level concise understanding of the project design (to achieve its objectives), the creation of Local Conservation Areas (LCAs) are the primary tool to improve BCA conservation. LCA locations are to be based on KBAs, which are not already under PA management.

In terms of conservation project strategy, the project is an 'integrated conservation & development project' (ICDP), as well as a 'co-management project'. The ICDP aspect is to get community activities clustered in particular areas in order to make an impact with alternative / improved livelihoods for ILCs in return for agreement on the designation of LCAs or ICCAs, including with the agreement on no expansion of shifting cultivation areas. The co-management aspects are the training and support of ILC / IP community rangers to monitor and report on land conversion (shifting cultivation) and other illegal hunting issues, and to have representation on LCA Councils.

The project approach is to work with ILCs (IP communities in particular with CADC/T) in / near these proposed LCAs to make a basket of activities (SLM with farming equipment & materials; SFM with CBFM agreements where conservation benefit is added; and BDFEs to improve livelihoods for forest-based communities).

NPMU Project Management

There is a critical lack of management control by BMB Focal Point / NPMU over BSWM, and to a lesser extent over FMB, which is in part due to cross-sectoral implementation. It is worrying because of the lack of expected livelihood benefit of SLM and SFM interventions and the lack of a formal link with beneficiaries to biodiversity conservation / BCA outcomes.

The project is suffering from a lack of bottom-up participatory planning, with a high emphasis on top-down planning and centralised procurement of sub-contractors. The interventions urgently need to be agreed (and be participatory, which they are not at present). These mainly apply to SLM, SFM and BDFE to a lesser extent. The process to move from demonstration establishment to expansion to reach the target coverage is unclear. SLM and SFM are both only demonstration status so far.

In terms of project implementation, the governmental administrative set-up is cumbersome, with for example national government (DENR, DA, NCIP, DHSUD), regional government (EMBC – Regions 11 and 13; MBC – Region Mimaropa) and provincial government all involved besides municipal LGUs. The project design necessitates this in terms of creating a national IEM Framework and demonstrating BCA modelling on the ground with 12 CCPs covering seven provinces in EMBC and two provinces in MBC. However, this has meant that project time has mostly been spent at these higher government levels, and has yet to really cut through to working with LGUs in the identification of OECMs (LCAs and ICCAs) and associated adjacent target ILCs who ultimately need to become 'organised groups' (project beneficiaries) in return for taking much higher responsibility in the guardianship of 'their' forests (now to come under new collaborative management with a new designation as OECMs).

Design and Delivery of Interventions

The project is not just a planning project, but also a significant field implementation project. There are many preparatory activities, some of which were undertaken at the PPG phase and have taken three years to repeat. E.g. provisional lists of target communities (ILCs). The actual interventions designed to support ILCs / IPs in terms of an ICD approach are presently very limited / not explicit, and additionally lack a delivery mechanism (inputs and transfer of funds), apart from draft MoAs, which are over-arching but lack detail.

The prodoc was slightly weak in two key areas, namely in certain directed interventions (in SLM, SFM and BDFEs) and the delivery mechanism for these three outputs. At the project level, there is a lack of clustering these interventions, as well as the (draft) MoAs with ILCs / IPs lacking the actual project interventions. The design and implementation of these activities has not yet started. The project appears to be stalling on these points at present. Without livelihood benefits to ILCs and IPs in particular, the project will miss the chance to secure enhanced conservation outcomes which are paramount to BCA success and the overall project objective.

The key field aspects of the project are not fully appreciated / understood, in terms of target group, location, scale, possible activities (i.e. a sufficient basket of beneficial interventions for ILC / IPs and wildlife) to make any lasting positive outcome for conservation. The national level administration of the project (UNDP, DENR NPMU, NCIP, FASPs) is constraining the project realisation of needed field outcomes. For three years, the project focus has been dominated by the national level outputs (in Outcome 1), and a lack of facilitation in supporting MBC and EMBC PMUs to implement Outcome 2 and Outcome 3 in particular.

There is a siloed approach which is also not working. The BSWM and FMB selected target sites for SLM and SFM are wayward. LGUs need a much greater say in directing project funding to key OECM areas. There is a lack of methodology to do achieve this, apart from training. What actual benefits are local KBA area forest users going to receive? What is the mechanism? How within MoAs, will ILCs be able to receive funds and other inputs (equipment / materials)?

Sub-contract management

Sub-contract management is 'weak' and dispersed across the project, with issues such as: contract timelines lack interim deliverables, with many deliverables only due at the end of project. The BCAs need such (interim) deliverables within the next 12 months. There is a need for stronger contract management.

The project design is to implement field activities as a model to support Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs) and OECM designation, but at present the project is working sequentially waiting for the outputs on assessments and plans (e.g. for the IEM approach). The project management (logframe) design is sequential, but only when feasible, otherwise activities should be in parallel. A 'working in parallel method' is now needed, plus with interim deliverables under national contracts.

Financial Management

The reimbursement method of staff and activity costs is negatively impacting MBC staff morale and their ability to implement activities, especially liaison with project beneficiaries and partners in decision-making. This is likely to have a significant negative impact on expected results and the outcome for the project.

National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP, a project implementation partner)

NCIP only received the project's first request for a Certificate of Pre-condition (CoP) after almost three years (March 2024), and for MBC, a draft MoA to work with IPs was only sent to NCIP's legal office in June 2024.

IEM Framework (Output 2.1)

The status of the IEM Framework is at draft DAO stage, with a sub-contractor yet to be engaged. The IEM Framework is needed to support planning and designation of OECMs, for the preparation of CCPs and land use plans; and a Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) Roadmap (DENR contract). However further development of the framework in time to support these actions is unlikely, thus parallel implementation of other outputs is needed, with the framework now likely to be a review at the end of the project.

Cluster Conservation Plans (Output 2.2)

There isn't an interim deliverable within the leading CELPA sub-contract to produce a template for CCP design, which is needed by the other three contractors (GRIDs, Davao Oriental State University (DorSu), and Caraga State University (CarSU)). For example, DorSU are contracted to deliver their CCPs by the end of 2025, at the same time as CELPA. CELPA are also expected to deliver four CCPs themselves. The biodiversity assessments (by the four sub-contractors) are a precursor stage to creating CCPs [using a HCVA methodology], which are then needed for OECM identification. The sub-contracting for CCPs was late (CELPA signed in December 2023, for 18 months), thus together with a lack of of interim deliverables, this intervention is a high risk concerning delivery.

OECM – Local Conservation Areas (LCAs) Designation (Output 2.4)

The present model to create LCAs is partly based on a 'Training of Trainers' (cascade) approach for the project to train DHSUD, who in turn will train municipal LGUs to prepare LCAs. However, there is now insufficient time, with the training module still needed, and thereafter training to be delivered, and finally LCA designation. Thus DHSUD and LGUs need to be directly trained by the NPMU at the same time. Due to the key importance of this intervention, greater human and financial resources may need to be allocated in 2025, in order to achieve this primary aim of the project.

OECM – Mining concessions with a 5% Reference Ecosystem Area Designation (Output 2.4)

EMBC has been working with ~10 mining companies to permanently designate 5% of their concession land as 'Reference Ecosystem Areas'. This has effectively been achieved, with the official designation expected to come.

However, UNDP requires 'due diligence' to be undertaken for work with such private sector partners, which has yet to be completed. In order to not now negatively impact this conservation-friendly intervention (in case due diligence is not completed or favourable), it is recommended to not use GEF funds, but to utilize the co-financing funds from government and the mining companies themselves, who are already endorsed as project partners in the approved prodoc project design.

As the mining companies in EMBC have already created these Reference Ecosystem Areas, the project now only needs to get these areas described and designated as OECMs in an official document only (e.g. MoA between DENR and their Mines & Geosciences Bureau - MGB).

Sustainable Land Management (SLM implemented by DA – BSWM) (Output 3.2)

There are a number of issues with BSWM's implementation of Output 3.2 – SLM. These include: a claim that the project funds (with the SLM partnership agreement of US$1.6m) are insufficient to attain the target 15,000 ha to go under SLM actions; a lack of BSWM field capacity to attain the target; the lack of coordination with the BCA PMUs in terms of site selection (in locations adjacent to PAs, KBAs or projected OECMs) and beneficiary group selection (ILCs / IPs living near these OECM sites). For example, in MBC, the selection of OECMs is also urgently needed, as to date only six out of 18 SLM demonstration sites are with IPs, with the other 12 being with cooperative entities.

There is also little evidence of BSWM expansion of SLM beyond 500 ha, or the method to reach 15,000 ha. This is <5% of this indicator target area. Moreover, this is irrespective of a scaling-up approach to reach a target of 150,000 ha of SLM through local land use planning. This aspect of the project is failing. It needs to be listed as high risk.

In the project design, out of the US$1.6m allocated for this output for 15,000 ha of SLM, 9,000 ha are to be implemented by LGUs with agriculture officers for private tenured farmers. BSWM has now budgeted this at US$631,000. However for the other 6,000 ha of SLM, this was to be implemented by NCIP for IP CADC/T areas,

but BSWM has only budgeted US$35,000. This is a good example of the lack of cross-sectoral collaboration and weak project management.

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM implemented by Forest Management Bureau) (Output 3.3)

SFM is being implemented by FMB, who were only engaged after 2.5 years (end-2023), but there has never been any formal agreement between the project and FMB. In MBC, SFM demonstration sites are partly missing the target location / beneficiary group, and will have have little impact on conservation unless expanded to key sites, located near to where OECMs are to be designated. The method to expand to 15,000 ha is also not clear, nor is the scaling-up approach to reach 100,000 ha of SFM avoiding degradation. In MBC, so far, FMB and the sub-contractor has only identified existing CBFM sites nearer towards the coast, with private farmers/ cooperatives, and not IP CADC/T areas adjacent to proposed OECMs.

BDFE (Output 3.4)

The BDFE contract to implement activities is not on the horizon yet, with the BDFEs selection process still at an early stage. This also appears to be a top-down intervention at risk of being too late and / or having little or no impact. On a theme level, the project has also been focusing on ecotourism partners for this activity, when the benefits for conservation are often over-estimated.

Protected Area Management

To date, the PA and IP ranger patrol and monitoring system has been inadequately deployed, considering that a national system has been in operation since 2018, called the Lawin Forest & Biodiversity Protection System.

Forward Focus

The project is trying to become 'all things to all men' It should focus on a number of core objectives, based on the threats. These include: PA border control and monitoring; OECM (LCAs and ICCAs) designation by LGUs; Establishment of OECM boundary maps, and LCA / ICCA Management Councils with LCAs under co-management regulations; and to implement ICD activities with the ILC / IPs.

These include SLM / BDFAPs, SFM, and BDFEs as livelihood improvement (income-generating) activities clustered in ILC / IP areas (near KBAs), in return for forest conservation agreements with the ILCs / IPs, such as to cease shifting cultivation. This means that some IP CADC areas may need to be chosen. These actions should be prioritized without waiting for the IEM Framework or the CCPs, which are now both likely to arrive at the end of the project.

Lessons Learned

Lessons learned are usually distilled at project end. In the case of this MTR, the discussions are presented in the preceding Analysis and Conclusions section. Thus a select list is provided, in order to avoid too much repetition:

- Top-heavy administrative structure with too many national partners and stakeholders, which is making implementation slow for both national and BCA outputs, with field implementation with ILCs yet to start
- NCIP engagement and decision-making appears dis-functional, but in part is due to the project's lack of direction / understanding in what actual interventions with local beneficiaries it requires
- SLM and SFM are not sufficiently under project control in terms of meeting project objectives – livelihood benefit, conservation with ILCs in target areas near KBAs, or at the scale required.
- Both SLM / SFM are key for both, reaching IP beneficiary target numbers, and project critical mass to achieve reduced forest habitat degradation
- The lead sub-contractor for CCP design (CELPA) is not under sufficient management control
- The idea that sequential project implementation can continue, needs to be dispelled. BCA pilot site interventions now need to run parallel or ahead of national level outputs
- At present the different actions of the project are not harmonised or coordinated in terms of location clustering near KBAs / OECMs or in terms of target beneficiary who need to support conservation outcomes in return for project development activities (livelihood improvements)
- LCA designation with LCA Councils established in the KBAs is the primary project tool to strengthen wildlife / ecological connectivity within the BCAs
- Various sub-contracts, especially for site locations, are not aligned with the project's selection of ILC – IPs to work with and the signed / draft MoAs (between DENR, NCIP and the IPs) that have been prepared. Moreover, the MoAs with the IPs don't include any actual activities due to the late arrival of sub-contractors who are expected to design such interventions.

- The late payment of UNDP funding tranches has been hindering project implementation at BCA level, in terms of funds for field work (to the extent of losing local staff and low morale). This has been allied with the very slow procurement of sub-contractors, which the local PMUs are 'still waiting for' in many cases, to start field implementation.
- The amount of GEF funds is not an issue (21% spent with 50% project time elapsed), neither is the approval of quarterly workplans and budgets, thus there doesn't appear to be a reason why DENR can not advance funds to the PMUs. [UNDP are not going to change their FACE system, which requires proof of expenditure before payment]

Recommendations

Exhibit 4: Key Recommendations Table [with responsible entity]

The recommendations are listed [with the responsible party identified in brackets].

1. Planning - The AWPB 2025 needs to focus on delivery milestones by quarter, and not on numerous workshops. For example:
    a. Q1 identification of LCA and ICCA areas with adjacent ILCs to work with; submission to NCIP with clear MoAs with the ILCs / IPs for NCIP CoP approval. The AWPB should include allied budgeting for BCA PMU staff to travel and work in the field (expenses) in order to achieve agreement between the project, LGUs and ILCs / IPs for baskets of interventions.
    b. Q2 – DENR meetings with BSWM and FMB on alignment and delivery of their inputs with the project's conservation objectives and target locations; DENR meetings with NCIP to approve field interventions with ILCs / IPs
    c. Q3 – Delivery of MoA agreements for actual interventions with fund and input transfers to ILCs / IPs
    d. Q4 – Support for ILCs to implement activities

    [DENR, BMB Focal Point (and UNDP) in ensuring timely fund release, especially for field work to BCA PMUs; DENR (Project Director) in ensuring NCIP agreement / approval]
2. Fund transfer - Due to the UNDP re-imbursement payment system, the question is how can DENR facilitate implementation through to the BCA PMUs, which is needed if any tangible impact on biodiversity conservation is going to be achieved. The re-imbursement method is crushing the MBC project. A cash advance or Imprest (petty cash) is required - and is a significant issue if not resolved.
    a. Suggested DENR / BMB Focal Point with UNDP request to DENR Under Secretary to agree to an Imprest (To note all activities are already approved by DENR / UNDP in quarterly workplans, so the present system appears like a punitive action)

    [UNDP / DENR Under-secretary]
3. The local PMU staff need to get to the IPs, to discuss interventions, in order to deliver the project. It is recommended that the Mimaropa vehicle is transferred to Mindoro PMU for the next two years to aid field implementation.

    [DENR]
4. IEM Framework – The sub-contractor needs to be hired with interim deliverables which are chapter-based: Concept; Approach; and IEM plan outline to inform BCA activities

    [BMB Focal Point / NPMU]
5. SLM needs to be listed as high risk
    a. There is a need to agree SLM locations for the expansion to 15,000 ha, so that they are clustered with other project interventions.
    b. There is a need to understand that 6,000 ha out of the 15,000 ha should be implemented with NCIP in IP territory CADC/T areas which are in or adjacent to proposed OECMs
    c. The work in the IP areas should be undertaken

d. To re-direct a proportion of BSWM funds directly to LGUs establishing SLM areas and for LCA management plans in key locations. E.g. Sablayan in Mindoro – east & west side of watershed areas]

[DENR / NPMU with BSWM]

6. The work with IPs needs to be designed as a 'basket of interventions' (biodiversity-friendly forestry and agriculture)

   [BCA PMUs to oversee]

7. There is a need to expand the activity with LGUs to create LCAs / ICCAs, in terms of preparing boundary maps, creating LCA Management Councils, and delivering sets of co-management principles for the LCAs

   [BCA PMUs to oversee]

8. SFM sub-contract [PALEC] needs to be re-visited to ensure that the required target with (grant) activities is for 15,000 ha, and that target location and target beneficiaries are clear.

   [BMB Focal Point / NPMU with FMB]

9. The different actions of the project (IEM / OECMs, SLM, SFM and BDFEs) need to be harmonised so that they are clustered together in key locations near KBAs / OECMs, so that there is a critical mass for conservation outcomes to have a chance to have an impact. A schematic plan with key LGUs identified with their basket of interventions with ILCs / IPs is needed.

   [NPMU with BCA PMUs]

10. There is a need for MoU or MoA agreements with mining companies re. '5% Reference Ecosystems Areas', to make note of these areas' importance as as being OECMs. Legal recognition is also required.

    [DENR with MGB with EMBC PMU]

11. In MBC, the pre-selection of expected LGUs / LCA sites need to be approved by NPMU this year (in 2024) to put in AWPB 2025, if the project is going to be successful in MBC.

    a. In MBC, there are six key LCA locations in 5 LGUs. The project approach should be to target these areas as priorities for activities in 2025. The LGUs are: Sablayan x 2 (East & west sides of watershed), Victoria, Naujan, Baco, Bongabong

    [NPMU with MBC PMU]

12. There needs to be a definitive list of agreed LGUs for AWPB 2025, where the project is working, to ensure a clustering of interventions near to PAs, KBAs and OECMs in order to demonstrate the ICD and co-management approaches of the project

    [NPMU]

13. Bearing in mind, one of the major threats to biodiversity is insecure PA borders, the PA patrol and monitoring system should be significantly expanded (with funds) in terms of ranger training in digital monitoring with computer tablets and with ranger field equipment.

    [DENR]

Full report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The project

This document is the Mid-term Review (MTR) of the full-sized UNDP-supported, GEF-financed project titled 'Integrated Approach in Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines (PIMS #5886)'.

The project started in July 2021 and is in its 3rd year of implementation. The 6-year UNDP-GEF project is under National Implementation Modality (NIM), with the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) as the Executing Entity and designated Implementing Partner (IP). The project is implemented by a National Project

Management Unit (NPMU), led by a Project Manager (PM), appointed by DENR. UNDP and the DENR / NPMU are supported by a Project Steering Committee (PSC).

1.2. Purpose of the evaluation and report structure

Purpose & Structure

The objective of the MTR was to gain an independent analysis of the progress of the project at mid-term. The report focuses on assessing expected outcomes and project management. The MTR additionally considered accountability and transparency, and provided lessons-learned for the remaining time of project implementation. The report is in six sections - introduction, description, findings, sustainability, impact and conclusions / recommendations. The findings (Section 3) are additionally divided into strategy and design, implementation and management, and results.

1.3. Scope and Methodology

Approach

The overall approach and methodology of the evaluation followed the guidelines outlined in UNDP Guidance for Conducting Mid-term Reviews of UNDP-supported GEF-financed Projects (2014). The MTR was an evidence-based assessment and relied on feedback from persons who are involved in the design, implementation, and supervision of the project. The MTR team reviewed available documents **(Annex 7)**, conducted a field mission and held interviews. The international MTR consultant was the review team leader and responsible for quality assurance and consolidation of the findings, and provided the MTR report.

The MTR was conducted over the period of June - August 2024, including preparatory activities, inception report, document provision, desk review, field mission with stakeholder consultation (July 2024), and completion of the MTR report.

Methods

The MTR determined if the project's building blocks (technical, financial, management, legal) have been put in place and then, if together these are being catalysed sufficiently to ultimately make the project successful by June 2027. The MTR method was to utilise a 'multi-level mixed evaluation', which is useful when evaluating delivery of a new service or approach, being piloted through state institutions. The method allows for cross-referencing and is suitable for finding insights which are sensitive and informative. The rating scales are provided in **Annex 9.** Pro-forma questions on key themes such as those provided by the UNDP-GEF guideline were updated by the MTR (**Annex 12**).

Main partners and Stakeholder feedback

The MTR interacted with the NPMU and associated Biodiversity Corridor Area (BCA) PMUs in Eastern Mindanao and Mindoro, the UNDP Country Office as well as with the project focal point / executive (Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)'s Biodiversity Planning Knowledge & Management Division) and other stakeholders such as the Bureau of Soil & Water Management (BSWM) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), Protected Area (PA) staff, regional and Local Government Units (LGUs) and community leaders (including Indigenous People's – IP groups) and farmers. The MTR visited the project area to interact with local administrators, technical staff and beneficiaries. Gaining a representative view from local stakeholders was not limited, although gaining access to the PAs and higher altitude forests was not really possible for the mission. **Annex 6** provides a list of persons met and **Annex 10** is the mission schedule.

Ethics

The review was conducted in accordance with the UN Ethical Guidelines for Evaluators, and the reviewer signed the Evaluation Consultant Code of Conduct Agreement (**Annex 13**). In particular, the MTR team ensures the anonymity and confidentiality of individuals who were interviewed and surveyed. In respect to the UN Declaration of Human Rights, results are presented in a manner that clearly respects stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1. Development Context

GEF-6 Focal Area linkage

- BD-1 Program 2; BD-4 Program 9; LD-3 Program 4; SFM 1: Reduce pressures on forest resources and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services; SFM 2: Strengthen the enabling environment to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from LULUCF activities

Sector-wide linkage with the International Community – CBD and SDGs

- UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992) – Philippines ratified the CBD in 1994, which in Article 8, obliges member states to: Establish a system of PAs; Develop guidelines for the creation and management of PAs; Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings
- Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss. The project will also contribute to Goal 1 (End poverty)

CBD Aichi Targets (by 2020)

- Target 5 - the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced. Project relevance – Reduce habitat loss in 2.4 million ha of BCA
- Target 7 - areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity. Project relevance – 250,000 ha under SLM and SFM
- Target 11 - 17% of terrestrial and inland water, especially areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of PAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), and integrated into the wider landscapes. Project relevance - 200,000 ha of new PAs / OECMs
- Target 12 - the extinction of threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained. Project relevance - Populations of endangered species in the two BCAs remain stable or improved - Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*), Mindoro hornbill (*Penelopides mindorensis*), Philippine eagle (*Phitecopaga jifferyi*), Philippine Cockatoo (*Cacatua haematuropy*)
- Target 14 - ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities (ILCs), and the poor and vulnerable. Project relevance – Improved METT scores
- Target 15 - ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to CCM. Project relevance – carbon captured – 44.3 million tons CO_2 equivalent over 20 years
- Target 19 - knowledge, science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and applied. Project relevance – UNDP Capacity Scorecard

Project linkage to National / Provincial Planning (Policy & Regulatory)

- National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) law (1992) - Republic Act (RA) 7586 - providing for the establishment and management of national integrated PA system, defining its scope and coverage, and for other purposes
- National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP, draft 1994, 1997). In 2002, a review of the NBSAP was undertaken that identified 206 conservation priority areas and species conservation priorities, collectively known as the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities, which is considered the 2nd NBSAP revision and incorporates 6 strategies and immediate actions. This was reinforced in 2006 with 228 key biodiversity areas (KBAs) identified covering 10.6 m ha
- President Memo Order No. 289 (1995) – directed the integration of the NBSAP and Executive Order No. 578 (2006) establishing national policy on biodiversity and directing all concerned government agencies and LGUs to integrate and mainstream the protection and conservation of biodiversity into their policies, regulations, and planning process
- IPRA law (1997) - RA 8371 - to recognize, protect, and promote the rights of indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples, creating a National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and establishing a funding mechanism. 24pp
- National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation & Drought (2015-25) - examines the natural factors and existing framework relevant to SLM
- eNIPAS law (2018) - RA 11038 – Declares PAs and providing for their management, amending for this purpose RA No. 7586 / NIPAS Act of 1992

Linkage to donor-projects

- UNDP GEF SGP - models of community- based sustainable NRM and biodiversity conservation
- UNDP GEF project on Sustainable Land Management – provides lessons
- USAID B+WISER project - works in both BCAs strengthening PAs

2.2. Problems that the Project Sought to Address

Threats, Root causes, & Impacts (PIF)

- Loss of natural habitat from conversion of forest to agriculture, poor agriculture practice, disjointed agriculture and natural resources policies, illegal settlement, illegal logging, illegal mining operations (licenced and unlicenced), forest fire, and infrastructure development
- Expansion of settlements follows conversion of degraded forests into permanent settlements and agriculture. Underlying drivers are poverty, landlessness, and weak tenure security which discourage sustainable upland farming practices. Once agriculture has set in, unsustainable land use practices further erode the soil thus resulting in diminishing harvests, which leads to further land conversion from forest to agriculture in forest areas.
- Deteriorating productivity of upland farming has caused IP communities to shorten fallow periods, causing more forest areas to be cleared. As of 2014, IP communities claim an estimated 7.7 m ha of land (mainly within classified forest land); but only 4.4 m ha have certificates of ancestral domain titles (CADTs). Despite a high population in forest areas, >1m people have land tenure with government through the CBFM agreements, covering 1.6 million ha.
- Mining claims and rights overlap with PA boundaries and ancestral domain (AD) lands including those planned for conservation. The Philippines is a producer of gold, copper, nickel and chromite. Since the state upheld key provisions of the Mining Code in 2004, there has been an increase in mining. As of 2013, about 339 Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) within 602,012 ha have been issued (DENR - MGB 2013). Although mining is not allowed in NIPAS declared PAs, there is high likelihood that KBAs which are not yet established as PAs or similar will be converted to mining, in the absence of a national or corridor level land use framework. (source NBSAP)
- Weak enforcement and management capacities, and limited funding, have resulted in PAs where boundaries have been encroached and converted into agriculture and settlements.
- The lack of synergy between the DENR's National Greening Program and PA management has resulted in poor habitat restoration efforts, thus further transforming original habitats to other ecosystem types.

2.3. Description and Strategy

Background

Two Biodiversity Corridor Areas (BCAs) were selected to represent distinct biodiversity characteristics and forest ecosystems, located in different biogeographic zones. Each site offers a different sets of challenges for Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM), due to the degree of threat they are exposed to. A total of 16 KBAs are located in the two BCAs, with an area of over 1 million ha.

Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor (MBC) is a biodiversity hotspot and a centre of endemism. Within MBC, there are two PAs and seven KBAs[2]. Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC) is a stretch of lowland / mid - to high elevation forest. Dinagat Island marks its northern boundary while Mt. Hamiguitan Range is at its southern tip. EMBC covers Regions 11 and 13 (Caraga), in seven provinces, four cities and 88 municipalities. EMBC hosts a large proportion of the country's unique plants and animals. The eastern portion of Mindanao, where the corridor is located, holds one of the largest remaining areas of dipterocarp forest in the country.

Project BCAs - Characteristics

	Central Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor
Area	498,109 hectares	2 Million Hectares
Population	1.238 million	2.042 million
Forest Formations present	Tropical lowland evergreen rainforest, plus other forest types (still to be classified)	All 12 forest formations present (tropical lowland evergreen rainforest, tropical lower montane rainforest, tropical upper montane rainforest, tropical sub alpine forest, forests over limestone, forest over ultramafic rocks, beach forest, mangrove forest, peat swamp forest, freshwater swamp forest, tropical semi evergreen rainforest, and tropical moist deciduous forest[14]
Forest Cover	156,443 hectares (7,269 hectares old growth;	696,667 hectares

[2] There are 11 priority conservation sites within Mindoro as a whole, including marine areas (see **Annex 5** for list)

	149,125 hectares open forests; 10 hectares mangrove forests)	(177,777 hectares old growth; 508,089 hectares old growth forests; and 10,800 hectares mangrove forests)
Globally significant biodiversity	Tamaraw, Philippine warty pig, Philippine deer, Illin hairy-tailed cloud rat, Mindoro shrew, golden-crowned fruit bat	Philippine Eagle, Philippine Cockatoo, Philippine Crocodiles, Golden-crowned flying fox
Most significant threats	Conversion of forest lands to agriculture and other uses; illegal hunting of wildlife; excessive fuelwood gathering	Rapid population growth and increasing settlements in the uplands; illegal logging (the region is classified as a hotspot); forest conversion to agriculture; land use conversion and crop shifting; wildlife hunting and collection for food and trade; and irresponsible mining.
Cropland area (annual and perennial)	58,435 hectares	681,273 hectares

Source - PIF

Project Location

The project was located within Mindoro BCA (Mimaropa Region) in the provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro; and Eastern Mindanao BCA (Region 11 – Davao de Oro / del Norte & Davao Oriental; and Region 13 - Caraga - Agusan del Norte / del Sur, Surigao del Norte / del Sur). For maps - see **Annex 11.**

Project Timing & Milestones

The UNDP project assurance and oversight role is to ensure that project milestones are attained. Although such milestones were not explicitly listed, they include: supporting the PPG/ PIF and prodoc submissions; annual workplan approval; GEF fund disbursement; MTR / TE reviews with Management Responses; and project closure.

Comparative Advantage

UNDP has a comparative advantage of capacity building, provision of technical support in the design and implementation of the project. UNDP also has an advantage working with government especially in strengthening institutional, policy and legislative mechanisms, in undertaking risk assessments, in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into development planning and harnessing best practices across the thematic area.

2.4. Implementation Arrangements

Project Management Structure

The project is steered by a Project Steering Committee (PSC), chaired by the DENR Under-secretary (representing ownership of the project), as the Executive / Implementing Partner. The Executive is supported by Senior Supplier (UNDP). The project implementation team was formed according to standard UNDP and DENR procedures, to include a National Project Director, a NPMU with a National Project Manager, and two BCA coordination offices – MBC PMU and EMBC PMU, each with a Project Manager. The NPMU is based within the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in Manila. The project organisational structure was presented in the prodoc.

2.5 Key Partners & Stakeholders

The project prepared a stakeholder engagement plan. Key provincial government and other partners:

Beneficiary Representatives (prodoc)

- Civil Society Organization (CSO) representative, National Economic & Development Authority (NEDA), Indigenous People (IP) representatives, Private Sector representative, League of Provinces representative, Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) National Peoples Federation representative

Project Implementation Partners

- Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Soil & Water Management (BSWM) - Implement Output 3.2. as per a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between DENR and DA; Approaches for SLM incorporating biodiversity
- Forest Management Bureau FMB) – Implement Output 3.3 - 100,000 ha of land to go under SFM measures, and Output 3.1 - two forest certification sites to be piloted (Output 3.1)

Key Cooperation partners

- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) – Cooperation in project implementation via an MoA with DENR; Certificate of Pre-condition (CoP) issuance, conduct IP community consultations, and other IP-related activities in

Ancestral Domain lands

- Department of Human Settlement & Urban Development (DHSUD) - Responsible for LGUs and their land use plans

Other partners

- USAID - SIBOL - Partnership on the adoption of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVA) as a management tool in the identification and prioritization of BCAs, and in the application of automated monitoring tools (eBAMS and sSEAMS)
- Department of Trade & Industry - Provide technical assistance in BDFEs

MBC

- MBC Local Government Units (LGUs)
- D'Aboville Foundation - Partnership and collaboration in activities centered on the protection and conservation of Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) and IP communities of Mt. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP)
- Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation (MBCF) - Partnership and collaboration in activities centered in mainstreaming conservation and protection of Mindoro's biodiversity
- University of Santo Tomas (UST) - Project MATAPAT - Research group studying Mindoro's biodiversity and ecosystem that's willing to provide scientific data, expertise and assistance to the MBC PMU

EMBC

- NCIP Community Service Centers - conduct FPIC and assist the project with field work validation
- IPs/ICCs of CADT Holders No. 142, 090, 223, 134, 254, 048, 239, 006, 216, 219, 019, 007, and 076 - Provided resolutions of consent and accepted the project. Some have signed the MoAs to participate in the project; CADT 142 in Sitio Palibu, Rosario, Agusan del Sur; CADT 090 in Loreto; and CADT 223 in Trento. (Include identified project sites for the formulation of Ancestral Domain Strategic Development Protection Plans (ADSDPPs)
- Provincial LGU of Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur, and Surigao del Norte - Member of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC)
- Provincial LGU of Davao de Oro - CAAC Member; working with EMBC in the Local Conservation Areas (LCA) within the province and same for the Almaciga (BDFE)
- Provincial LGU of Davao Oriental - CAAC Member; working with EMBC for the updating of Provincial Environmental Code
- LGU of Maragusan & Cateel - Working with EMBC in the LCAs within the municipalities; initiatives of Almaciga Resin Tapping as BDFE within Maragusan
- Caraga State University (CarSU) and Davao Oriental State University (DorSU) – CAAC Member; engaged in the conduct of biodiversity assessments and formulation of cluster conservation plans (CCPs) for cluster 5 (DorSU) and cluster 1,3,4 (CarSU).
- Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) - CAAC member; Engaged in the establishment of Philippine Eagle and Mindanao Bleeding Heart Pigeon population baselines, monitoring methods in EMBC
- Mindanao Development Authority - CAAC Member; engaged in updating the EMBC Biodiversity & Ecotourism initiative

Provincial, municipal and village (barangay) government are key partners for project implementation.

A description of the set of MTR stakeholders – those who were responsible for implementation of the project and those associated with the project – is provided as **Annex 8**[3]. A list of those met during the MTR is also provided in **Annex 6.**

3. FINDINGS

3.1. Project Strategy

3.1.1 Barriers to Sustainable Natural Resource Use

Barrier 1 – Policies and regulations causing disjointed governance, planning, management, and financing within the BCAs

- There is an absence of a commonly agreed planning and management framework for all sectors to follow
- The DA promotes agriculture with limited consideration of biodiversity or ecosystems even when farms are located with within or adjacent to KBAs or PAs
- Between FMB and BMB, there is a need to reconcile definitions and approach to 'forest protection'; Programs that support production forest and CBFM require review to determine their compliance with SFM principles
- There isn't a spatial planning framework that considers sustainable development, with regard to biodiversity, ecosystem

[3] The number of stakeholders seemed large (especially at national level), with a number rather peripheral to the project's core needs

services, agriculture, and community livelihoods

- There is limited capacity to integrate biodiversity in BCA-level planning or to enforce adopted legal measures – four out of five threats are from ineffective compliance monitoring and enforcement of policy and law. LGUs have a crucial role in landscape-level actions because of their mandate to reflect land use policy and local investment. However current guidance to LGUs tends to be unclear and fragmented and acts as disincentive for LGU action

Barrier 2 - Poor implementation of programs that fail to address threats to biodiversity and natural resources exploitation

- There isn't an integrated planning framework within BCAs to take into account connectivity, habitat loss, ecosystem flows, fragmentation, and land conversion of forest to agriculture
- Existing BCAs are a mosaic of disjointed land management units with incompatible objectives. The BCAs consist of a number of KBAs and PAs, including other areas of high conservation value (HCV). However, management plans for these areas are prepared independently, without regard to connectivity of habitats.
- There is a governance gap pertaining to forest land. Often referred to as *de facto* open access areas, these are usually forest areas located between forest managed by DENR and LGUs and those under CBFM
- Neither DENR or DA is officially responsible for upland agriculture communities in areas classified as forest. Shifting agriculture by Indigenous & Local Communities / Indigenous Peoples (ILCs / IPs) is increasing
- NCIP lack capacity to develop effective programs that foster forest custodial roles by IPs while managing the impacts of shifting cultivation as part of their customary land use

Barrier 3 - Weak community-level methods to incentivize biodiversity conservation, promote sustainable natural resource utilization, or monitor compliance

- Land is managed under various tenure types including communal and private land. A system of incentives is needed to encourage tenure holders to contribute to biodiversity conservation, and improvement in ecosystem services
- CBFM Agreements and Industrial Forest Management (IFM) agreements need review concerning biodiversity conservation, habitat connectivity, and the link to the network of PAs areas and other conservation areas

Source Prodoc

3.1.2 Project Design, Objective & Approach

Summary of main expected outcomes:

- 200,000 hectares of BCAs under improved management practices through the establishment and improved management of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Efforts (OECMs) through Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs), Local Conservation Areas (LCAs) and privately-owned conservation estates
- At least 65,000 individuals, of which 30% are IPs (~15,000 households) directly benefit through sustainable natural resource management and livelihood improvement (15% rise in income) (50% of beneficiaries are women, of which 25% are IP women)
- At least four policies for improving biodiversity outcomes within the BCAs developed and adopted
- PAs (11) and OECMs (9 ICCAs and 4 LCAs) within two BCAs have moved to automated system of monitoring of threats to biodiversity
- Key species populations stable or increasing
- Sub-national plans fully integrate Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) within the two BCAs as follows: 3 rural development plans; 9 provincial plans; 9 ADSDPPs; and 24 LGU Comprehensive Land Use Plans
- 150,000 ha of agriculture land prioritized for avoiding degradation in local planning policy
- 100,000 ha of forest land prioritized for avoiding degradation in local planning policy
- 15,000 ha of degraded agriculture land restored under SLM production systems; and
- 15,000 ha under of disturbed forest land under improved SFM
- Forest certification system updated, based on lessons from 2 sites

3.1.3 Design Assumptions & Risks

There were 13 risks with mitigation measures, outlined in the risk section of the prodoc (p59), which were all rated as moderate, except for one at low risk. The UNDP Social & Environmental Screening template (prodoc Annex 17, from 2019) listed eight risks, all with moderate rating. Within the project / UNDP risk log, updated December 2023, there are 18 risks but without ratings. A select few are listed (in edited form) and commented on:

Risk with Mitigation	MTR comment

Project Risk & Mitigation Matrix (prodoc)	
Administrative failures, fragmented mapping, and an absence of a coherent management framework, have caused an overlap in ILC tenure and long-term business leases on public land - The project duration is 6 years to account for time for negotiations and settlement of resource use conflicts. The essence of the project is to minimize such conflict and ensure synergy by developing a common framework for BCA management that is based on sufficient information, a system of incentives, and mechanisms for resolving inconsistencies in natural resources use	The mitigation to provide incentives, indicates an Integrated Conservation & Development Project (ICDP). However the provision of such incentives, was yet to be determined by the time of the MTR. By MTR stage, the project was still working with 'provisional long-lists' of potential beneficiaries, but mainly without definition of the actual incentive, scale, or a clear delivery mechanism for the transfer of grants
The two BCAs have resource conflicts within PAs, land (with Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim / Tenure - CADC/T), ICCAs and proposed LCAs that could be exacerbated if the activities are not well implemented - At the PPG stage, a master list of clusters, administrative jurisdiction, coverage of PAs and ancestral domains was prepared to serve as a guide for the PMU so that conflicts are minimized (prodoc Annex 6) - A participatory framework for IEM, consensus building & planning (prodoc Annex 3) will be applied to ensure that ILC / IP concerns are addressed using Free & Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) procedures as defined by NCIP Administrative Order #1 - The project grievance redressal system (prodoc Section IV) provides a mechanism to address IP concerns and resolve conflict - An Indigenous Peoples' Strategy (prodoc Annex 16) prepared at the PPG stage, has mapped out existing resource conflicts in pilot ancestral domains	The MTR believes that only CADT land is being selected and not CADC land, which means that in many areas, land tenure / management issues concerning conservation will not be addressed by the project The project MoAs with the ILCs / IPs only contain general commitments on supporting the project ideals
The project could affect land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights / customary land rights, and/or resources of marginalized groups and IPs - The implementation of a participatory IEM planning processes (prodoc Annex 3) to ensure early consultations and feasibility studies, particularly related to CADC land, with consent based on FPIC before deciding on the location, and scope of project investments - MoAs will be agreed to between IPs and the project before investment activities are implemented	There is a need to understand that land use is usually regulated on a number of levels, such as the state being the land owner, with tenure issued for a set number of years or in perpetuity for example. Thereafter, there are often management agreements / regulations on the use of that land. Under the project, the aim is to improve the management of biodiversity conservation, on the land and not change tenure of the land.
UNDP / Project Risk Log	
Development interventions (e.g. SMEs, eco- tourism) have the potential to have adverse impacts within and adjacent to critical habitats - Setting limits on harvest of NTFPs based on monitoring protocols - agriculture / livelihood activities will take place outside the KBAs through appropriate zoning arrangements	No limits on forest use have been set so far
Lack of 'buy-in' from LGUs, local communities and mining companies - Engage in stakeholder consultation, foster open communication, address concerns and misconceptions, establish mutually beneficial partnerships	The 'buy-in' has been very good and extensive
Delayed engagement of private sector partners due to private sector 'due diligence' requirement - Clarify definition of private sector and streamline procedures by adopting the government internal process on private sector due diligence	This indicates a 'workaround' for engaging with mining companies. The project has successfully engaged with mining companies
PIF	
There will be resistance to not stop the over-exploitation of natural resources, and move towards biodiversity-friendly enterprises - The project will ensure there is adequate uptake by ILCs / IP farmers of practices to bring resource use to sustainable levels. This will include: technical assistance, incentives and pilot approaches to demonstrate the benefits of alternatives	The issue is that the project has yet to design any incentives, apart from for 30 farmers, who are not forest dependent

Note – the risk register of the PMU is updated every 6 months

3.1.4 Results Framework Indicators & Targets

The project objective was 'To operationalize an integrated ecosystem management of biodiversity corridor areas (BCAs) to generate multiple benefits including effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity, reduced deforestation and degradation and enhanced community livelihoods'.

The four component outcomes were:

1. Effective coordination & governance framework for IEM of the BCA system
2. Application of network design and management of BCAs to ensure continued stability and sustainability of their biological, ecosystem services and conservation values
3. Community-based sustainable use and management systems in the two pilot BCAs
4. Knowledge management, gender mainstreaming and monitoring and evaluation

Outputs under the four Outcome / Component structure:

1.1	Functional governance and coordination mechanism established at national level to facilitate integrated ecosystem planning & management of Biodiversity Corridor Areas (BCAs)
1.2	Policy instruments for improving biodiversity outcomes within the BCAs developed and adopted
1.3	Compliance monitoring and enforcement strategy developed and adopted to measure biodiversity outcomes, threat reduction, and sustainable natural resources management
2.1	Integrated ecosystem management (IEM) framework developed and adopted for two BCAs
2.2	Site-specific integrated Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs) designed through stakeholder and community consensus and decision-making for areas of critical high biodiversity within the BCAs
2.3	Improved management effectiveness of existing protected areas within the two BCAs
2.4	Recognition of a network of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) such as ICCAs and LCAs to accord improved protection and conservation within key biodiversity areas
2.5	Capacitating government, sector stakeholders, and ILCs including IPs to mainstream biodiversity conservation measures tested in the pilot BCAs into their policies, planning and monitoring systems
3.1	Voluntary forest certification system piloted for local communities and private forests
3.2	Sustainable land management (SLM) applied to degraded agriculture land through a suite of SLM technologies / practices and incentives
3.3	Fragmentation of biodiversity habitats reduced through sustainable forest management (SFM) approaches and collaborative management
3.4	Biodiversity-friendly enterprises (BDFEs) promoted to avoid biodiversity loss and lead to natural resources use sustainability
4.1	Knowledge Management & Communications, Gender Mainstreaming and M&E strategies developed and implemented
4.2	Information management system to integrate lessons from the BCAs
4.3	Knowledge management and project experience contributes to learning and facilitates replication and scaling up of integrated biodiversity management approaches elsewhere in the country

See **Annexes 1 and 2**

SMART Indicators

The result framework is mainly logical, practical and feasible within the project timeframe as originally designed, however there are one or two issues with the logframe, mainly in terms of the indicators not being so SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attributable, Realistic/Relative, Timebound). For example, for Outcome 3, there are only two indicators, with only one of which representing three key Outputs 3.2 – 3.4. Thus the indicators for this Outcome are not fully attributable, in terms of missing BDFEs, and not measurable in terms of defining the measurement of restoration works for SLM and SFM.

3.1.5 Gender Design

The project was classified as UN Gender Marker GEN 2, which expects a project to 'make a significant contribution to gender equality and/or the empowerment of women and girls'. i.e. gender equality was a significant objective. A gender analysis & action plan was prepared during the PPG phase (2018), and annexed in the prodoc. The UNDP Social & Environmental Screening template indicated 'Women (IP and rural women in particular) and other marginalized groups may not be fully involved in planning and implementation of project interventions and getting benefit from such initiatives, as leaders and/or groups may have more control on local decision-making'. The

gender plan discusses how rights, and interests of women will be addressed. Special investments are to be planned based on women's requirements.

3.2. Project Implementation

3.2.1 IA and EA Coordination & Operational Management

The project was implemented following UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM), according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of the Philippines. The overall quality of implementation / execution was rated as Moderately **Satisfactory,** with both the quality of UNDP Implementation and DENR / PMU Execution rated as Moderately Satisfactory. UNDP were the GEF Implementing Agency (IA). DENR were the Executive and Implementing Partner (IP). DENR designated their Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) to formally work with a National Project Management Unit (NPMU).

Coordination & Operational Management by Implementing Agency (UNDP)

Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) & Project Preparation Plan (PPG)

An LPAC meeting was held in January 2019. The report indicated full NIM, whereby UNDP's executive role and associated costs were removed from the GEF budget. A project initiation plan / GEF PPG was undertaken from January 2018 to April 2019, budgeted at $273,000, plus agency fees.

Coordination & Operational Management by the Executing Agency / Implementing Partner (DENR / NPMU)

The project is under NIM, with the DENR as the Implementing Partner, with fund provision controlled by DENR and their Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Biodiversity Planning & Knowledge Management Division (BPKMD), as the project focal point. The project is being implemented by a NPMU, under the direction of DENR's BMB focal point.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The project was supported by a PSC , with the NPMU acting as the secretary. The project was signed in July 2021, with the first PSC meeting held in January 2022. Further meetings were held in January 2022, August 2022, December 2022, July 2023, and December 2023.

PSC notes	MTR comment
- 1st meeting (January 2022) - Draft MoA between DENR and NCIP submitted to NCIP in November 2021 - Livelihood packages for IPs mentioned - PSC approved the 2022 AWPB - PSC Chair noted that funding for AWPB 2021 was only transferred by UNDP 31st December 2021	No advance of funds by UNDP. The first payment was only after five months
- 2nd meeting (August 2022) - BSWM indicated SLM activities will focus on highland areas, particularly agro-forest areas to enhance biodiversity - BMB recommended for UNDP-supported NIM, as opposed to full NIM - UNDP indicated the project was 'red flag' listed due to low disbursement rate, and slow progress - Revised AWPB for Q3-Q4 presented by the BMB Focal Point - DENR Under Secretary (and Chair of PSC) recommended downward planning of the budget of remaining P39 million for 2022, if no assurances that 80% spend will be achieved for liquidation (payment tranche) - Explained that there isn't a governing policy for BCAs - bourne out in the review of IEM policy / legal implications. However, similar models include the Watershed Management and River Basin Management Councils	One year into the project UNDP has listed the project as 'at risk'
- 3rd meeting (December 2022) - Seek GEF approval for UNDP-supported NIM - As of October 2022, only 51% of budget utilised - BMB Focal Point requested MBC to: identify strategies to expand the habitat of Tamaraw; identify support for the patrolling of Tamaraw habitat; and ensure no duplication of budget with the government DENR budget	GEF did not approve to change away from NIM
- 4th meeting (July 2023) - To review the draft DAO on Guidelines on IEM Approach (in August 2023)	The update of CLUPs remains

- Assistance of DENR required in the harmonization of IEM / biodiversity data for the CLUP, given that nearly all LGUs have yet to establish data collection	an issue
- 5th meeting (December 2023) - UNDP reported that GEF informally rejected UNDP-supported NIM - UNDP suggested reviewing the procurement process of FMB and BSWM - NPMU indicated that 7% of the 2024 budget will be allocated for direct intervention with the IPs, including the community validation for Certificate of Precondition (CoP)	The management control of a department outside DENR is an issue

PSC minutes were signed by DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning & International Affairs

Project Staffing

Implementing Partner & Project Executive - DENR, DENR Policy & Planning Service (Project Coordinator, Technical staff), National Project Director (BMB Director), Focal Division (BMB BPKMD)

NPMU Project Staffing - National PMU - National Project Manager, Operations Officer, Natural Resource Management Officer, Planning and M&E Officer, Communications Officer, Social and Environmental Safeguards Staff, Information Management Staff, Project Assistants (technical, GIS, finance, accounting, admin, driver)

DA – BSWM – PMU **-** Division Chief - Soil Conservation & Management Division, Project Focal: Supervising Agriculturist, Project Development Officer III, Project Development Officer II, Project Assistant III, Science Research Specialist I - EMBC (2), Science Research Specialist I - MBC (2)

DENR – FMB PMU - Project Lead: Chief, Forest Resources Management Division, Project Focal: Chief, Corporate and Industrial Forestry Section, Senior Forest Management Specialists, Technical Staff

EMBC PMU **-** Project Director RED DENR CARAGA) Focal/PMU Location (PENRO Agusan), Project Manager, Regional Landscape Planning and M&E Officer, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Finance / Admin Assistant, Project Support Staff (Admin, Finance, Driver), Focal Person for NCIP, BD Staff

MBC PMU **-** Project Director (RED DENR MIMAROPA), Focal/PMU Location (PENRO Occ. Mindoro), Project Manager, Regional Landscape Planning and M&E Officer, Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Finance / Admin Assistant, Project Support (Driver), Technical Staff - Community and Stakeholder Coordinator and GIS, Focal Person for NCIP, BD Staff

In addition, the project was supported by the PSC, development partners (e.g. UNDP, NCIP, DHSUD), and a Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC)

To note, the PIF indicated a different organisation structure, with the PMU sub-structure being split into three implementation teams: (1) Governance Framework for IEM; (2) PAs, SFM in the two BCAs; and (3) CBNRM Initiatives in the two BCAs (which included DA BSWM), with each being led by a PM, PAs Technical Officer, and a Community Liaison Officer respectively. This organisational structure would appear to be more tightly aligned towards the prodoc design key objectives and outputs.

Staff Recruitment and Changes

The prodoc was signed July 2021 with NPMU staff engaged September 2021, EMBC staff engaged January 2022, and MBC staff engaged in May 2022.

There were a number of significant changes in staffing for MBC. MBC staffing changes included: Project Manager (PM) 1 - April - September 2022 (6 months); PM 2 – October - December 2022 (Acting, 3 months); PM 3 – January 2023 – February 2024 (14 months); and PM 4 (same person as Acting) March 2024 – present (6 months to date).

This would indicate an issue with project management from the higher level in terms of recruitment, conditions and expectations. MBC PMU has also undergone significant staffing change below their PM level, again highlighting problems with project management from the national level, which included issues with late payment of salaries.

PMU Implementation and 'sub-contracting out'

The PMU was staffed nationally and locally with two BCA PMUs. However, in order to achieve a significant number of outputs within a limited timeframe, the NPMU has needed to contract out services to individual and company sub-contractors. With slow procurement procedures and sometimes a lack of bidders (due to national registration requirements), project progress has been hampered, particularly under Outcomes 2 and 3, which involve the field implementation of the project.

For example, project-wide sub-contracts:

- SFM with 15,000 ha under improved SFM, with 180 small grant projects expected – via FMB, but with the sub-contractor PALEC only engaged so far for beneficiary / site identification
- SLM with 15,000 ha under improved SLM, but 'so far' only 18 demonstration sites (~350 ha) – via BSWM, but with the sub-contractor yet to be engaged
- BDFE with 250 small grant projects expected – via BMB, but with a sub-contractor yet to be engaged

Sub-contractors undertaking biodiversity assessment, Cluster Conservation Plan (CCP) production, and ADSDPPs in the designated cluster areas (6 for each BCA) were only engaged at the end of 2023 or early in 2024:

Sub-contractor	EMBC Cluster #	MBC Cluster #
CELPA	2, 6	3, 6
GRIDs		1, 2, 4, 5
DorSu	5	
CarSu	1, 3, 4	

Furthermore, in addition to expecting the sub-contractors to deliver these targets, in the case of SFM and BDFE, the mechanism for delivery of small grants has yet to be designed or agreed. Also, in the case of SLM, the prodoc design provided a list of possible activities, but did not provide any direction on fund transfer to beneficiaries for this output.

In terms of using NIM government procurement methods, the BMB Focal Point requested to UNDP to change implementation modality to UNDP-supported NIM (to allow UNDP to contract consultants directly). This was rejected by GEF.

3.2.2 Institutional Mechanisms & Stakeholder Engagement

Project-level partnership arrangements are briefly described, especially those with state institutions, which are needed to build capacity and which are the backbone for delivering new policies and services. Selected only:

National-level Enabling Agreements

Agreement	MTR Review / Comment
National level	
Joint Administrative Order (DA – DENR) - Mainstreaming biodiversity-friendly agriculture practices (BDFAP) in / near PAs (2021-01, October 2021, pp10)	The JAO indicates the site selection – land tenured areas in PA multiple use zones / buffer zones; private farm land; farm land in ADs; and CBFM areas in forest land. Principles of BDFAPs – sustain integrity of ecosystems; promote biodiversity of species & ecological systems; and supportive of both biodiversity and CC Adaptation and Mitigation preventing soil & water degradation Strategy – Consultation with farmers to work with PA Management Boards (PAMPs) and CBFM organisations for approval and incorporation into PAM plans and ILC resource management plans; TA by DA – DENR in coordination with LGUs Technical considerations include – the farm system contributes to biological complexity of the agro-ecosystem and has a positive influence on biodiversity conservation, such as through the use of indigenous species BDFAP within PAs – not in strict protection zones (SPZs); agriculture within MUZs of the PA in accordance with the PAMP; no land conversion to agriculture in CADT / ICCA areas inside PAs in accordance with ADSDPP or community conservation plans; ILCs engaged in BDFAP in PAs to be organised into People's Organisations (POs) [according to DAO 2004-32]. The POs may enter into a PA community-based resource management agreement with DENR if the members have land tenure Support to BDFAP in PAs and forest land – Extension support for demonstration farms with DA – DENR TA to LGUs, who should allot funds in their annual investment plans
Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the DENR and DA, signed June 2022, pp5	Stipulates the responsibilities and deliverables of DA, specifically its BSWM for Output 3.2 of the project
DAO 2021-13 (May 2021) – Guidelines for the development of BDFEs in PAs and Conservation Areas	Includes the involvement of PAMOs, PENROs / CENROs with LGUs Selection of Barangay micro business enterprises, with assets <Pesos 3 million (excluding land value). Categories of BDFEs for agriculture include: farming diversification (inter / multi-cropping); traditional / indigenous crops; agroforestry including using sloping agriculture land technologies

providing incentives and mechanisms (pp36)	(SALT); and organic agriculture; growing raw materials for medicinal uses Categories of BDFEs for forestry include – forest product harvesting; ILC nurseries with endemic, indigenous or native trees; planting of such trees; and propagation of native / endemic flora
DENR Circular - Clarification & Supplemental Guideline to DAO No. 2022-04 on enhancing biodiversity in Mining Operations (2024, pp5)	<u>Establishment of the 5% Reference Ecosystem</u> Pursuant to the definition of Reference Ecosystem (RE) shall 'serve as basis for progressive rehabilitation', the established RE shall not be subjected to any enhancement activities. Interventions in REs shall be limited to its protection and sustainable sourcing of propagules for rehabilitation activities. Protection of REs should be non-intrusive and primarily focus on the prevention of human disturbance, and delineation of area (e.g. boundary stone marker). The RE must be a representation of the original state of the ecosystem pre-mine, or existing and undisturbed ecosystems of the identified mine areas. Follow-up to DAO 2022-04 - the enhancement of biodiversity conservation and protection in mining operations (March 2022, 13pp)
DENR – NCIP MoA (undated, pp8)	- NCIP responsibilities include: Share relevant information with the DENR including, but not limited to, listing or maps of areas covered by ancestral lands and domains in Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor and Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor, whether the areas already have approved Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) or Certificates of Land Title (CALT), or are under application for CADT or CALT, or have yet to be applied for, under a formal recognition; already have an approved Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans (ADSDPP); confirmed Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMR); and recognized Indigenous Peoples Structures (IPS) and their documentation; identify excluded areas such as sacred grounds, burial sites, identified international and local cultural heritage sites, critical areas identified or reserved by ICCs/IPs and other materials essential to the planning and implementation of activities under this MOA. Ensure that the implementation of this MOA adheres to Section 58 of RA 8371 and facilitate the validation process as defined in Part VI of the NCIP Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2012 in order to secure the free and prior informed consent of ICCs/IPs on BD Corridor activities. The NCIP shall ensure that the validation process and the FPIC of the concerned IPs are valid throughout the lifetime of the BD Corridor activities. - DENR responsibilities include: Provide necessary resources to enable DENR and NCIP national, regional, and provincial technical staff to participate in BD Corridor activities such as, but not limited to, the following: a. Social preparation stage for the Community Mapping and Planning Activities, that require the presence of NCIP personnel. b. Project identification and selection activities, particularly the provision of technical assistance support during project development workshops, and assistance to communities in the formulation of community plans and project proposals. c. Technical assistance for the recognition and strengthening of community organizations to ensure not only the subproject's sustainability but also the recognition of indigenous peoples structures.

For BCA-level agreements see **Annex 5**.

<u>Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC)</u>

In EMBC, the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) has been created and subsumed under the Regional Development Council as a BCA governance mechanism. In MBC, the CAAC secretariat is the MBC PMU. Example - MBC 2nd meeting in March 2024, with Chair Regional Executive Director (RED) DENR Mimaropa. Guest speakers included CELPA and GRIDs, and City government of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro

<u>Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with an IP – Example in EMBC</u>

- MoA agreement between DENR, NCIP & the AD Management Council for CADT 134 (signed, undated, pp17)
- DENR to seek technical expertise from NCIP update the ADSDPP, especially with IP-based social enterprises

The MoA describes the that the IP should support implementation of the project interventions, however these are

only outlined, such as 'support SLM'. In EMBC, 10 MoAs have been created. In MBC, the MoAs are at a draft stage.

Agreement DENR with USAID's SIBOL project

This is a partnership on the adoption of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs) as a planning and management tool in the identification and prioritization of BCAs, and in the application of automated monitoring tools (eBAMS and sSEAMS)

The list of key stakeholders is described in **Annex 8**.

3.2.3 Gender Analysis – Women's Empowerment

During design, the project was UNDP-rated as having 'gender equality as a significant objective' (UNDP Quantum Marker – GEN-2). The words 'gender' and 'women' were mentioned 93 and 56 times respectively in the prodoc. The original Gender Action plan (2018), was updated to cover 2023-27 (undated, pp17). It details gender indicators and targets (mainly through the disaggregation of data on women's participation), but not how or who would collate this information or how it would be reported.

3.2.4 Finance & Co-finance

UNDP Financial management and Finance

Cumulative Disbursements

Source: UNDP CO. Note – the start year has not been updated to reflect the start date (prodoc signature date) of the project in 2021; the graph is from Quantum, whereas the figures below are from the UNDP CO Q2 books and presented in the PIR 2024, hence the slight difference in spend figures.

Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc)	21.5%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year	16.9%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (*2024*)	$2,640,078

PPG Amount	$273,000
GEF Grant Amount	$12,260,241
Co-financing	$62,701,007

Source – Draft PIR to end June 2024

The prodoc was signed in July 2021 by DENR Secretary, agreed by NEDA, and agreed by UNDP. Fund release by UNDP is to DENR, who replenished the BMB NPMU project account based on 80% spend of a projected quarterly plan. Payments to EBMC and MBC PMU project accounts are also direct from DENR. Payments to FMB are direct from FASPS (DENR). Payment to BSWM is via BMB.

Project Financial Management

Project implementation and fund disbursement follows an annual workplan & budget (AWPB) system, within which the are quarterly workplans. Fund use is controlled by UNDP and DENR. UNDP claim that project activity

and staff funding is based on a 'quarterly cash advance system' and not a re-imbursement system, however the first tranche payment was five months in arrears in December 2021[4].

As an example of the timeframe to pay a project invoice: For the 'Q4 2023 Invoice', the UNDP Funding Authorization & Certificate of Expenditure (FACE) form was prepared 11th December 2023, however payment to BMB, the project PMUs and FMB was received 7th March 2024 (~ 3 months later, or 13 weeks), and for BSWM received 26th March (~3.5 months later or 15 weeks).

Also MBC PMU claimed that 'whilst we are in Q3 2024, the Q2 payment had yet to be received, and remained 'held up' at the DENR level, due to an overall 80% liquidation requirement (i.e. spend in advance before re-imbursement) on the previous quarter spend, which is both the UNDP and DENR financial management system being utilized. This slow system, particularly in MBC is negatively impacting on MBC staff morale and implementation. This is likely to have a clear negative impact on expected results and outcome for the project. It is difficult to understand how the project expects the BCA PMUs to execute activities an not pay staff for three months in arrears each quarter, as well as use the payment when it comes to fund the next three months of activities. EMBC PMU are only managing with this system due a large number of suppliers who accept payment three months in arrears. For MBC PMU with a much smaller supplier base, this is not possible.

An DENR advance or imprest is required and is a significant issue if not agreed. The project BMB Focal Point with UNDP need to request to the DENR Under Secretary to agree to an imprest, or other similar system to avoid further staff disillusionment and resignation. To note all activities are already approved by DENR / UNDP in quarterly workplans, so this appears to be somewhat of a punitive system[5].

Project spend by year against the prodoc plan

Year / US$	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total US$ to end June 2024
Prodoc	274,765	2,276,397	3,255,031	3,354,907	1,772,687	1,326,454	12,260,241
Total Disbursed	8,471	591,918	1,414,076	624,150	0	0	2,638,615
Balance	266,294	1,684,479	1,840,955	2,730,757	1,772,687	1,326,454	9,621,626
% remaining	3.1	26.0	43.4	18.6	0.0	0.0	21.5

Source - **Annex 4**

Based on the latest PIR (2024) or **Annex 4** figures provided by the PMU, the project spend is ~21.5% after 50% of project duration has elapsed. The breakdown of planned and actual expenditures by year and by component is provided in **Annex 4**.

Audits

In 2022 a HACT audit noted an issue in Q3 with the inclusion of unpaid staff salaries in the invoice, in order to clear the '80% pre-spend requirement of UNDP. Spot checks were undertaken in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Co-financing

Co-financing contributions, either as direct support funds (grant or in-kind) or as complementary funds (e.g. linking up with similar project in a nearby area), are not often formally accounted for under GEF methods, with only the GEF and any UNDP funds accounted / audited. With this level of oversight, the actual extent of co-financing is estimated by the PMU / government contributors .

UNDP co-financing spend at mid-term was estimated at $50,000 against $1,500,000 prodoc promised.

The government / other donor - in-kind / cash spend was estimated at:

Co-financing	At mid-term	At Endorsement / Closure - Expected
Government	$14,291,081	$55,820,865
Other	$9,982,120	$5,380,142
UNDP	$50,000	$1,500,000
Total	$24,323,201	$62,701,007

Letters of co-financing were provided. A breakdown of co-financing is provided as **Annex 3**.

Assets & Equipment

[4] Due to a delay in opening a project bank account which is required by the Treasury Bureau.

[5] Bridge-financing has been requested by the NPMU to UNDP to solve this issue, but was rejected.

The NPMU asset lists were presented for 2022 and 2023. The largest item was the NPMU office Nissan van at $32,600. Asset lists were also provided by BSWM, FMB, EMBC and MBC.

3.2.5 M&E Systems – Design & Implementation

The M&E system design and the implementation of the M&E system was rated as **Moderately Satisfactory**.

Design

UNDP GEF projects have a particular M&E system that is report-based, centred around an annual PIR that runs mid to mid-year. The M&E system is based on a mixture UNDP's contractual compliance with GEF and its own systems, and checking the Implementing Partner in terms of its contractual compliance of deliverables. The M&E plan in the prodoc (p80) was standard, with an added table of GEF core indicators completed for PIF and CEO Endorsement stage. The M&E tools also included the annual workplans with budgets (AWPBs), PIRs, and audits, MTR and Terminal Evaluation.

Implementation Analysis

The project presented a project performance plan (undated, pp94), which was difficult to appreciate in the format as presented, especially as it was one long list of repeated logframe indicators with no progress or comment attached.

The most reliable M&E document was the draft PIR 2024 which provided cumulative project progress against indicators with added comment on % delivery and on / off-track grade. UNDP rated the project development objective progress and implementation performance as Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU).

Of note, UNDP stated –

> 'There is an urgent need to accelerate project implementation, including: (i) completion of FPIC process; (ii) conduct of HCVA / biodiversity assessment; (iii) conduct of socio-economic assessment; (iii) application of IEM framework through the CCPs; (iv) formulation of ADSDPPs; and (v) pilot-testing of actual interventions for SFM, SLM, BDFEs, and BDFAPs

and concerning corrective measures to be undertaken as a result –

> - Sustained check-in meeting among UNDP CO, Project Team, DENR, including FASPS and BMB. This is to ensure that consensus is reached on key decision-making needed by DENR and BMB senior staff
> - Conduct of regular meetings with DENR senior staff, including Focal Point, the Office of the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning & International Affairs and FASPS
> - Given the needed acceleration, a harmonized catch-up plan among partners and firms engaged needs to be developed
> - Support to the project on actions necessary to move procurement. Most urgent are the ones to be engaged for the development of CLUPs, and BDFAPs
> - More stringent support to DENR and Project Team on monitoring of large contracts on: biodiversity assessment / CCPs / ADSDPP formulation; SFM; and SLM

Source both draft PIR 2024

For general M&E, it would be useful for UNDP to encourage a spreadsheet tracking system, that runs annually and cumulatively with all the project numbers - inputs and outputs. For example, indicators (and their baselines and targets) are often number-based, whereas reporting is primarily text-based, with a few numbers 'put-in', but often not dated. A spreadsheet of sub-contract timelines would be useful as well.

3.2.6 Adaptive Management (Work planning, Reporting & Communications)

Work planning

Project duration

The project began in July 2021 and is expected to close in June 2027

Inception Workshop

An Inception Workshop was held in December 2021, which was attended by 39 institutions (see **Annex 5**). The report was finalised after the event (pp160). Quotes from the report included:

- 'The DENR is looking at the convergence of the IEM approach that would consider the wide array of tenurial instruments and other mechanisms where key stakeholders could jointly plan, design and manage their landscapes as well as resources to improve agriculture production, biodiversity conservation and delivery of sustainable livelihoods'. (DENR Under-Secretary Policy, Planning & International Affairs / Chair of PSC)

Workplans & Budgets

There have been four annual workplans & budgets (AWPBs, 'workplans') produced covering 2021 (half year only),

2022, 2023 and 2024.

- AWPB 2024 was approved by DENR December 2023, and was submitted to UNDP in March 2024, with a budget of US$3.7m. This is being revised down to US$2m. Included Activity 3.2.5 – Incentive mechanisms for adoption of SLM - procurement of NGO to establish demonstration sites and incentive mechanism to 'mainstream SLM to LGUs' – US$219,535. However, at the time of the MTR, an NGO had yet to be hired
- AWPB 2023 signed by UNDP January 2023 with a budget of US$4.3m. Revised December 2023 with a budget of US$2.3m. Revised January 2024 with a budget of US$1.4m
- AWPB 2022 signed January 2022 with a budget of $0.98m. Revised November 2022 with a budget of $0.9m
- AWPB 2021, undated with a budget of $0.06m

Reporting

Project Implementation Reviews (UNDP GEF PIRs)

Two PIRs were assessed: To end-June 2023 and end- June 2024. Pertinent information is presented in the relevant sections of this MTR report. E.g. gender, risk, disbursement, social & environmental standards. Annual Project Reports (APRs) were produced for 2021, 2022 and 2023. To note, PIR 2024 indicates overall rating of both the project progress and the Implementing Partner (DENR) as Moderately Unsatisfactory, but with the overall risk rating as low. UNDP provided comments to improve implementation (see preceding section on M&E and **Annex 5**). The MTR view is:

MTR View
- The procurement of firms assumes that the delivery of services will be undertaken at sufficient quality and scale, in a very limited remaining timeframe (only two full years left – 2025 and 2026 to implement), which is now a high risk strategy - This is allied to 'awaiting NCIP CoP' to work with IP communities in particular. However, without the project outlining the engagement, tangible benefits for IPs, in return for agreements on conservation with the IP communities themselves, it is difficult for the NCIP to grant CoPs. Thus there is a 'Catch-22', or paradox here, which may derail effective and tangible field implementation [Accepting MoAs being drafted, but these don't clearly stipulate project inputs or expected conservation returns at present] - The suggested way forward, is to facilitate the two BCA PMUs to work in the field directly, with the LGUs / CENROs and local BSWM officers (including funding PMU staff field visits to Municipal LGU offices and Village LGUs (Barangays) to undertake selection of project communities near PAs / KBAs / LCAs / ICCAs. - For the NPMU to draft a generic 'project – LGU – community' MoA for project interventions with funding, technical support and agreed biodiversity conservation measures. The measures should include a basket of SLM, SFM and BDFE activities with IP ranger patrolling for example - Once the LGUs understand the project support, they can facilitate (as an official government agency) much more directly with the NCIP and IPs to set up the project CoP and MoA (with grant / materials agreement etc.) in each case. - Then the LGUs can directly administer the project MoAs, with the consultants providing the technical services (if and when, they arrive)

Communications & Visibility

The GEF and UNDP logos were present on project outputs, such as reports and awareness materials. The project has a visible presence. (see also Training & Awareness section)

3.3. Project Results

The MTR assessed the three levels of the project results framework - Objective, Outcome and Output. This was guided by the indicators and targets set at each level. Project success is also built upon achievement of the outputs, according to 'framework logic.' The Objective and Outcome levels include a rating according to UNDP GEF guidance as described in **Annex 9**. UNDP / NPMU were provided with two tables:

- Progress towards Objective and Outcomes (Indicator-based) which is described in **Annex 1**, and
- Progress towards Outputs which is described in **Annex 2**

According to MTR guidance, these tables were rated and commented on. Based on these results provided, a detailed analysis by the MTR follows in each case, firstly of the Objective, Outcomes with their Indicators, and then their corresponding Outputs.

3.3.1 Overall Result – Achievement of the Objective Indicators

Objective Level Indicators (Overall Result)

Operationalizing integrated management of biodiversity corridors to generate multiple benefits including effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity, reduced deforestation and degradation and enhanced community livelihoods (3 indicators)

The overall grading is moderately satisfactory (MS). There were three indicators attached to the Overall Objective level which were rated as: satisfactory (1), moderately satisfactory (1), and moderately unsatisfactory (1).

The project has created most of the legal building blocks to deliver the project (S rated indicator), however the time left to deliver full implementation is now severely limited with now only time for two more full annual plans / budgets (2025 and 2026), and engage with smallholder and subsistence farmers who work on seasonal calendars – only two left. The project design is primarily one of integrated conservation and development (ICD). At mid-term the projected development outcomes at the end of the project, are expected to be limited, thus in turn the expected conservation outcomes in terms of agreed guardianship of the forest by ILCs / IPs is in jeopardy. (see **Annex 1**)

Area of landscapes (excluding PAs), under improved management to benefit biodiversity (Indicator 1, GEF Core Indicator 4)

(Baseline – Biodiversity hot-spots in selected clusters under threat of further fragmentation; Mid-term (MT) Target - BCA integrated frameworks agreed, including long-term conservation outcomes with management planning; Target – >200,000 ha of BCAs under improved management practices through establishment and improved management of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Efforts (OECMs) through ICCAs, LCAs and private conservation estates)

MT Result against Indicator

Indicator	MT Target	MT Result	Final Target
Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (ex. PAs)	BCA integrated framework agreed with long-term conservation outcomes and management planning	190,678 ha of potential OECMs identified: EMBC – ICCAs (4) – 35,133 ha; LCAs (6) – 147,000 ha MBC – ICCAs (3) – 8,385 ha; LCAs (1) – 160 ha	200,000 ha of new OECMs

Analysis

The PIR 2024 indicated that the target is off-track at 30% delivery. The project has produced a draft DAO – 'Guidelines on the identification, selection, recognition and registration of OECMs'.

The main concern is the expected status of the Local Conservation Areas (LCAs) by project end. Should they just be officially designated by Municipal LGUs (or Provincial LGU when across administrative boundaries), or should they also have a working management council set-up, and furthermore should they have a a set of management principles and / or a management plan, including with community co-management arrangements.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions mitigated as measured by Carbon sequestrated or emissions avoided in the sectors of agriculture, forestry & other land uses (Indicator 2, GEF Core Indicator 6)

(Baseline – Carbon not measured; MT Target - Monitoring system for estimation of carbon sequestrated and/or avoided; Target - Total C benefits of 17. 5 million metric tons of CO_2 over 20-year period

MT Result against Indicator

- Discussion with FAO on capacity building on FAO EX-ACT tool ongoing (online orientation in December 2023; training to be pursued by Aug 2024 (jointly with FMB-FAO GEF Forest Landscape Project)
- Supported consultancy service for finalization DENR-FMB Carbon Accounting Manual for Forest Carbon Projects (FMB); BSWM tool limited to monitoring soil organic carbon
- Training on carbon accounting conducted in April and November 2023, and February 2024.

Analysis

The project has made an agreement to use the FAO carbon accounting tool. A forest carbon monitoring system in the forestry sector has been submitted.

Number of direct beneficiaries of GEF investment (Indicator 3; GEF Core Indicator 11)

(Baseline - No. of households participating in improved / alternative livelihoods and sustainable resource management will be

established; MT Target - >9,000 persons (~2,250 households) are directly benefiting from sustainable NRM and improved and alternative livelihoods and incomes (50% of beneficiaries are women); Target - >65,000 persons, with which 30% are IPs (~15,000 households) directly benefit through sustainable NRM and livelihood improvement approaches and increase of 15% in economic benefit (50% of beneficiaries are women, with which 25% are IP women)

MT Result against Indicator

Indicator	MT Target	MT Result	Final Target
Direct beneficiaries	9,000 persons	- For SLM: 30 farmer associations (30 farmer cooperators), of which 18 in MBC and 12 in EMBC - For SFM / forest certification: - 19,478 individuals (women=6,318) -2,897 individuals (women=1,094) - proposed priority 1 site in Caraga	65,000 persons

Tasks Undertaken

- A number of MoA with DENR, NCIP and IPs with CADT have been signed and forwarded to the NCIP Central Office for affirmation and issuance of Certificates of Precondition (CoPs)
- Draft list of People's Organisations (POs) identified for verification and implementation of SLM exemplars and SFM demonstrations (CBFM groups)
- Potential Biodiversity-friendly Enterprises (BDFEs) mapped and listed

Analysis

The process of obtaining CoPs is / has been arduous, however the project finally appears to have created a work-around by first creating a MoA (draft or otherwise) with IPs, as a Free & Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) step, thus demonstrating what the project / IP expect from each other, and thus allow the NCIP to judge more effectively the value of the project working with selected IPs. (The project had been waiting for over two years for NCIP to allow contact with the IPs, however without the project stating their aims, it has been difficult for NCIP to act.)

According to PIR 2024, the target is off-track at 15%, which the MTR concurs with. The project needs to focus on project interventions to support ILC / IP livelihoods. The project is focusing on IP CADT land only and not CADC land.

3.3.2 Effectiveness – Achievement of the Outcome Indicators and Outputs

Effectiveness – Outcome 1 at the Indicator and Output Level

Outcome 1 - Effective policy, coordination, regulatory and institutional framework for planning, management, compliance monitoring, enforcement and decision making for integrated management of BCAs (3 indicators)

The overall grading is Satisfactory (S). There were three indicators attached to the Outcome 1 level which were rated as: satisfactory (2), and moderately satisfactory (1). The two indicators rated as satisfactory were for the development of BCA policy, and for the development of an automated monitoring system for PAs. The other indicator was for capacity development, which was held back slightly by the score for NCIP. (see **Annex 1**)

Policy instruments developed and applied to integrate biodiversity outcomes into sector and national / local planning policy and programs (Indicator 4)

(Baseline – Current policies are limited to detection of presence or absence of listed species rather than looking at impacts on broader ecological principles and processes for the survival of species, maintenance of ecological services, and habitat connectivity; MT Target - Policies reviewed, gap assessed and draft policy instruments under review; Target - Four instruments for improving biodiversity outcomes within the BCAs developed and adopted)

Result against Indicator

A number of departmental directives (DENR Administrative Orders or DAOs) have been issued to facilitate project implementation:

- Draft DAO on the identification, recognition and registration of OECMs
- Draft DAO on IEM Approach in Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) Plans & Programs
- DAO 2022-04 - Biodiversity in mining; and a Circular - Supplemental Guideline on a 5% Reference Ecosystem
- Draft JAO (DENR-DHSUD) on the Adoption of a Manual for Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Conservation in

CLUPs of LGUs[6]

- DENR-DA JAO 2021-01 Biodiversity-friendly Agriculture Practices (BDFAPs);
- BDFE - DAO 2021-13

Other outputs include: a national standard code of practice for BDFAPS (No. 363, 2023), which is an SLM approach; a national standard on SFM products; and a forest carbon monitoring manual has been developed.

Analysis

The project is in the process of delivering a number of policy instruments. PIR 2024 indicated Target is on-track at 50% delivery. However, a distinction should be drawn between project-enabling directives, DENR or Joint Administrative Orders, which are project-specific and timebound (e.g. the JAO with DA), compared to new policy or directives identified for more permanent change (e.g. DAO for creating OECMs). After three years, too many of the DAOs remain in draft format.

Institutional capacity for planning, implementation & monitoring biodiversity management planning in BCAs measured by UNDP's Capacity Development Scorecard (Indicator 5)

(Baseline, target and Result in August 2023– see table)

Result against Indicator

Indicator (Capacity Scorecard) (%)	**Baseline (%)**	**MT Result**
DENR	47/74	60/78
DA	28/42	33/42
NCIP (2023)	16/39	18/39

Tasks Undertaken

- Capacity Development Plan prepared with recommended trainings
- Sub-contractor provision of training, aligned with capacity development strategic areas
- TNA conducted for LGUs

Analysis

The mid-term target was a five point increase which was achieved by DENR and DA, but not NCIP.

Network of PAs and OECMs within the BCAs have adopted an automated biodiversity monitoring system for biodiversity and threat assessment (Indicator 6)

(Baseline – Monitoring system in PAs is paper-based and inefficient to capture real-time monitoring of biodiversity and threats. No monitoring system exists in OECMs; MT - All 11 PAs within the two BCAs have moved to an automated biodiversity monitoring systems and design for OECMs completed; Target - All PAs (11) and OECMs (9 ICCAs and 4 LCAs) within two BCAs have moved to automated system of monitoring of biodiversity and threats

Result against Indicator

- Orientation of eBAMS and eSEAMS as a standard tool for the assessment and monitoring activities for PAs and OECMs in March 2023, and May 2024 in collaboration with USAID-SIBOL Project
- Collaboration with BMB on piloting of eBAMS and eSEAMS in selected PAs is ongoing
- Distributed tablets to PAs to facilitate automated monitoring

Analysis

The PIR 2024 reported that the indicator target is off track, with 15% delivery to date. The NPMU reported that the eSEAMS tool is ready for piloting, while the eBAMS tool is undergoing standardization of data and is expected to submit a case study to BMB by September 2024.

Outputs Relevant to Outcome 1

Output 1.1 - Functional governance & coordination mechanism at national level to facilitate IEM of BCAs

Results

- Ten (10) Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings and five (5) PSC meetings conducted to address technical concerns to respond to implementation challenges
- Meetings with DENR bureaus, regional offices, and central office services conducted to discuss: IEM, mining,

[6] With the project to focus on ENR-related data mapping in alignment with the DHSUD digitalization of land use plans

OECMs, monitoring platforms, co-financing, a manual on mainstreaming biodiversity into CLUPs, and carbon accounting

Analysis

At this stage, the main governance mechanism to facilitate IEM development actions within the BCAs is the issuance of DAOs and a Joint AOs as official directives put into place by DENR, however many remain in draft format. The main coordination mechanism is the follow-up by the PMUs to ensure that they are complied with and guide the sub-contractors. In many cases, the implementation of the DAOs requires the input of sub-contractors, but in a number of cases, they have yet to be hired, or start field work.

This is the case for developing the IEM Framework, with the sub-contractor yet to be hired. The project needs to facilitate delivery of the IEM approach chapter by chapter timewise (concept, principles, implementation strategy, consolidation of BCA models), so that other outputs can follow expectations in parallel.

A JAO between DENR and DHSUD (who are responsible for the LGUs and their CLUPs) has been drafted, but not yet signed, but also a sub-contractor not yet hired. Thus the update of 24 CLUPs may not be achieved. However other outputs should continue, such as with the identification of OECMs and the identification of 100,000 ha of forest land to be identified for SFM / CBFM in areas near to KBAs.

A particular bottleneck in project delivery has been the slow progress towards obtaining an NCIP Certificate of Pre-condition (CoP) to work with the IPs[7]. As an example, MBC is applying to work with IPs in 21 ADs, of which 18 to date have indicated a 'resolution of support'. In March – April 2024, MBC undertook IP consultation exercises to gain support for the project (~FPIC) and develop draft MoAs. In May 2024, MBC negotiated with sub-contractors and partner offices regarding their inputs and expected work with the IPs, resulting in further draft MoAs. In June 2024, MBC sent the NCIP Legal Affairs Office an example of an MoA with one of the IPs.

Output 1.2 – Policy instruments for improving biodiversity outcomes within the BCAs developed and adopted

Result

- DA-DENR JAO No. 2021-01 for mainstreaming BDFAP in / around PAs; and review; Update of the SLM (BDFAP) Training Manual
- Collaboration on the National Conference of Philippine Plant Conservation and finalization of the Philippine Plant Action Plan
- Rollout of the implementation of DAO 2022-04 - including updating of SHE manual to incorporate IEM/biodiversity indicators and monitoring metrics

Analysis

See indicator 4. Additionally, the project appears to be covering a number of peripheral activities, such as collaboration on the national plant conservation plan and updating a Safety, Heath & Environment (SHE) manual.

Output 1.3 - Compliance monitoring & enforcement strategy developed & adopted to measure progress towards measuring agreed biodiversity outcomes, threat reduction, and sustainable NRM

Result

Orientation training on biodiversity monitoring & information systems for PAs and OECMs has been undertaken:

- eBAMS and eSEAMS are biodiversity assessment and socio-economic monitoring systems which are being developed in collaboration with the USAID SIBOL project[8]
- Protected Area Information System (PAIS) and Caves Wetlands Information System (CWIS) are already developed by BMB as conservation data storage system systems

Analysis

See Indicator 6. As an example concerning working with IPs, the consultant inception report for 'Indigenous Peoples (IP) Policy and Practice' provides an extensive wish-list of data to be collected, but it does not explain clearly for what purpose or how this will be achieved. Thus it doesn't fit in with the project requirements to obtain a NCIP CoP or create MoAs to work with IPs, and that the MoAs should deliver integrated conservation and development activities (i.e. income generating activities in return for forest protection / ending shifting cultivation)

[7] The original 'Framework for IEM Consensus Building' concept (prodoc Annex 3), mentions NCIP 45 times in its 24 pages.

[8] eBAMS Electronic Biodiversity Assessment & Monitoring System; eSEAMS Electronic Socio-Economic Assessment & Monitoring System

with the IPs in areas near KBAs / OECMs.

Effectiveness - Outcome 2 Indicators and Outputs

Outcome 2 - Improved site-level planning, regulatory, monitoring and implementation framework for demonstration of integrated ecosystem planning and management of pilot BCAs (4 indicators)

Effectiveness - Outcome 2 Achievement - Moderately Satisfactory

The overall grading is Moderately Satisfactory. There were four indicators attached to the Outcome 2 level which were rated as: satisfactory (1); moderately satisfactory (1); and moderately unsatisfactory (2). Outcome 2 is designed to create a planning and management framework for conservation within the two BCAs. The key interventions were to: create an IEM Framework; to use the IEM Framework to develop six Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs) in each BCA; to identify OECM areas within the BCAs; and to incorporate IEM / biodiversity (including SFM and SLM) into LGU planning, principally through updating their CLUPs (24 in total).

PA management effectiveness score (METT Scorecard) (Indicator 7, GEF Core Indicator 1.2)

(GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) Baseline, Target & Result - see table for scores)

Result against Indicator

METT Scores for Management Effectiveness of terrestrial PAs (covering 0.3m ha) within the BCAs:

Indicator (METT Scorecard) (%)	**Baseline (%)**	**Mid-term Result**
PA 1: Mts. Iglit Baco NP	67	To be undertaken
PA 2: Mt. Calavite WS	67	To be undertaken
PA 3: Agusan Marsh WS	55	73 (2021)
PA 4: Alamio, Buayan, Caracan, Panikian River and Sipangpang Falls Watershed FR	15	Caracan Watershed 51 (2023)
PA 5: Aliwagwag Protected Landscape	26	66 (2023)
PA 6: Andanan Watershed FR	30	50 (2023)
PA 7: Cabadbaran Watershed	20	56 (2023)
PA 8: Mainit Hotspring Protected Landscape	42	52 (2023)
PA 9: Mati Protected Landscape	20	49 (2023)
PA 10: Mt. Hamiguitan Range WS	59	75 (2023)
PA 11: Surigao Watershed FR	17	63 (2023)
Tinuy-an Falls	unknown	69 (2021)

Analysis

The mid-term target was an increase by 10 points, which was achieved by a significant margin. The METT scorecard was not fully completed for all PAs by mid-term, with most METT scores calculated in 2021 and 2023. There have been various training events for PA staff capacity development.

Status of key species stable / increasing in MBC and EMBC for Philippine Eagle & forest-obligate species (Indicator 8)

(Baseline - Key species under threat from forest loss and degradation and illegal hunting;, Target and Result – see table)

Result against Indicator

Location	**Baseline**	**MT Target**	**MT Result**	**Final Target**
MBC	Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*)+ 500 (DENR 2018) Bleeding Heart pigeon (*Gallicolumba platanae*) - 50-249 mature adults (Birdlife 2018)	Baseline populations validated and monitoring protocols established	Baseline population data for Tamaraw established. Consultation with local / international partners working on Tamaraw to synchronize activities and establish monitoring protocols conducted Baseline population for the Mindoro Bleeding Heart Pigeon for validation by CENROs / PAs, and from consultants	Key species populations stable or increasing from baseline values
EMBC	Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) - 180-500 mature adults (Birdlife 2018)	-:-	Baseline population for Philippine Eagle in EMBC - 47 pairs ~ 94 adults in 2022 (PEF). Total population in country ~400 pairs (PEF webpage)	-:-

	Mindanao Bleeding Heart Pigeon (*Gallicolumba crinigera*) -1,000 - 2,499 mature adults (Birdlife 2018)			

Analysis

Philippine Eagle - The project (DENR Caraga) has engaged the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) to undertake a population survey and develop a monitoring protocol for the Philippine Eagle (IUCN Critically Endangered) and the Mindanao Bleeding Heart Pigeon. PEF estimate 47 pairs (2022) of Philippine Eagle in EMBC. The estimate is based on species distribution modelling across all of the Philippines, undertaken by the PEF.[9] EMBC has the most nesting pairs in the country, but only ~20% nest within the PAs.

The PEF is trying to identify the distribution of mature eagle pair ranges (lifespan of the eagle is 25-30 years), as each pair usually has a territory of ~7,000 ha (or ~9 km between pairs), and remain loyal to nesting sites. Immatures (which are not reproductively active until 8 years) disperse and use the whole EMBC, so they need safe passage between PAs and in the corridor. The eagle's prey is monkey, civit, lemur, eagle owl, hornbill, owl, and snake. Lack of prey is not a limiting factor in their survival.

There is a lack of governance in areas outside PAs, as indicated by one eagle shot dead in Davao de Oro in June 2024. Eagle hunting was traditionally a cultural activity, but also illegal hunting is due to retaliatory trapping, and recreation – marble gun shooting. The eagle has a single species action plan.

Mindanao Bleeding Heart Pigeon – The pigeon is a ground / mid-story species, and is a proxy indicator for a healthy forest floor. Forest floors are often cleared as the first step in land conversion to agriculture. The pigeon is illegally hunted (trapping and shooting). The pigeon has a single species action plan.

Sub-contract – Philippine Eagle Foundation (pp10) MoU, Pesos 11.6 m, from March 2024

1. Establish Population Baselines of Philippine Eagle and Mindanao Bleeding Heart Pigeon (MBH) in EMBC using appropriate tools and methods
   a. Generate latest population estimate;
   b. Conduct GPS and radio telemetry studies on range, habitat use and project outcomes;
   c. Conduct species distribution modelling;
2. Review existing BD monitoring tools, identify areas for enhancement and establish protocol to monitor population within EMBC;
3. Develop a user-friendly GIS generated maps and a GIS-based Decision Support System (GDSS) reflecting High Value Critical Areas (HVCA) status and trends to be used for cluster level consultation and planning;

PEF inception report was submitted May 2024, but not provided to the MTR.

In MBC, only baseline data from 2018 was provided for Tamaraw and the pigeon species. The Mindoro Bleeding Heart Pigeon is not being surveyed by the project.

Number of regional, provincial and local plans that mainstream objectives of IEM (Indicator 9)

(Baseline etc – see table)

Result against Indicator

Indicator	Baseline	MT Target	MT Result	Final Target
No. of Plans to be updated (RDPs, PPFPs, CLUPs, ADSDPPs)	Rural Development Plans (RDPs), provincial plans and LGU Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) have	Guidelines, regulations, frameworks and capacity building undertaken to facilitate IEM / biodiversity	See text below	IEM integrated into local plans in the two BCAs: RDPs – 3; PPFPs – 9; LGU CLUPs/CDPs – 24;

[9] The field survey method is different to that of Birdlife 2018. PEF survey method uses remote sensing (LIDAR), which identifies potential habitat for nesting (elevation, tree species type). Thereafter these sites are surveyed with 'trained spotters' who also use 'call feedback' within 100 ha polygons.

	limited detail on IEM / biodiversity	mainstreaming into local planning		ADSDPP – 9

Tasks Undertaken

- The status of RDPs and CLUPs has been assessed
- Meeting with NEDA Region 11, 13, and Mimaropa on mainstreaming IEM / biodiversity into RDPs conducted
- Priority municipal LGUs identified for assistance in updating CLUPs to integrate IEM / biodiversity
- Training of Trainers course discussed with DHSUD on mainstreaming IEM / biodiversity into CLUPs
- Community validation for issuance of NCIP CoP ongoing prior to conduct of assistance for ADSDPPs of the IPs – There are 13 CADTs in EMBC and 21 CADTs in MBC under consideration
- Work planning on a revised ADSDPP Manual conducted in EMBC – creating a manual for the Ancestral Domain Conservation Plan (ADCP)

Analysis

The onus is on LGUs being supported by sub-contractors to update a substantial volume of local planning documentation. These include 45 plans in total. This is a significant and very ambitious undertaking for both the project (and its sub-contractors) and local government.

Furthermore for the 24 CLUPs to be updated, the method is to train DHSUD (as the national office responsible for local government) to deliver training to 24 LGUs to update CLUPs. The time, effort and funding to update CLUPs is limited at both national and municipal (LGU) level, with such plans only usually updated once every 10 years. A sub-contractor is to support this work, but has yet to be engaged.

As the CLUPs primarily present tenured and unallocated land maps, it is somewhat difficult to see how new un-registered OECMs (such as new LCAs) are going to be drawn into these official maps. A JAO between DENR and DHSUD remains in draft format, and at present, there appears to be an informal agreement with DHSUD to work with a project sub-contractors.

The update of ADSDPPs (9) has been sub-contracted out (e.g. with GRIDs, however preparation of these plans are not really their primary task). In addition, the project has yet to obtain NCIP CoP to work with IPs to update ADSDPPs, when this really is a task that NCIP and LGUs should be undertaking, as they are the local official representatives for the IPs and their ADSDPP plans.

Area enhanced by the mainstreaming of SLM and SFM into local planning instruments (Indicator 10)

(Baseline etc – see table)

Result against Indicator

Indicator	Baseline	MT Target	MT Result	Final Target
(a) Area of degraded agricultural lands prioritized for avoiding degradation in relevant local planning instruments	Limited attention and prioritization of SLM and SFM activities in RDIPs, PPFPs and LGU CLUPs	Capacity building for LGU staff for mainstreaming completed, mainstreaming guidelines in place and CLUPs revision ongoing to incorporate conservation investments	See text below	150,000 ha of agriculture land prioritized for avoiding degradation in relevant local planning instruments
(b) Area of forest land prioritized for restoration in relevant local planning instruments	-"-	-"-	See text below	100,000 ha of forest land prioritized for avoiding degradation in relevant local planning instruments

Tasks Undertaken

- Review of guidelines for mainstreaming SLM and SFM into local plans conducted to inform capacity building for LGU staff; TNA for LGUs conducted
- For SLM, 11 preliminary capacity building activities conducted; consultation workshops to present Farm Development Plans and MoA for the 30 exemplars conducted
- Mapping of agriculture and forest land to be prioritized for inclusion in relevant plans completed
- SFM - Initial mapping conducted and potential sites for SFM identified for further shortlisting, and validation

EMBC – 242,601 ha; MBC – 59,047 ha; Sub-contract awarded

Analysis

Concerning SFM, the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) has produced a Technical Bulletin (No. 2, pp4) on Forest Land Use Planning (FLUP), which includes seven steps (with detailed tasks) for LGUs to map and prepare comprehensive FLUPs for approval by DENR, to then be incorporated into CLUPs, and then thereafter for forest land to possibly be allocated to responsible parties.

However, the capacity of LGUs to undertake this task is questioned. Secondly, CLUPs may only be updated over a cycle of 10 years in some cases. The project plans to update 24 LGU CLUPs, but this is an ambitious task to present 100,000 ha of forest land for restoration within the plans.

Concerning SLM, The DA have indicated a US$12m contribution in-kind, plus GEF funding provides for SLM consultants and $1.6 m in cash. The ability of LGUs to update CLUPs is also questioned here, this time with 150,000 ha of agriculture land to undergo SLM to be included in the plans. The BSWM have field staff, but the active 'ear-marking' of such land seems some way off. The project has yet to award a sub-contract for implementation of SLM.

Output 2.1 - Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) framework developed and adopted for two BCAs

Result

- Draft DAO - Guidelines for planning & implementing the IEM approach in priority landscapes (2023, pp9, updated April 2024) which sets out the method and expected governance structure
- The IEM model is being over-arched by a proposed ENR Framework for IEM in biophysical and ecosystems services in connected landscapes[10].
- Meetings with NEDA Regions on mainstreaming IEM / biodiversity into RDPs
- Priority municipal LGUs for updating CLUPs have been identified

Analysis

Whilst the project has drafted a directive and guideline for an IEM framework, the project has yet to engage a sub-contractor for the actual preparation of the framework.

The central tenet of this output is to create IEM zones (with relevant ENR policy ordinance and investment plans) so that they can be recognised in the CLUPs of the LGUs. The IEM zones themselves should recognise landscapes in terms of tenure of PAs, forest land, AD land, and private land, but furthermore encompass the management of river basins, watersheds, wetlands, forests (including HCVAs), KBAs, and ecosystem service areas.

The working method to achieve IEM zoning in terms of biodiversity conservation, is to additionally delineate OECM areas (LCAs, ICCAs, and private/public set-aside land, such as mining concession areas having a reserved 5% ecosystem reference area for perpetuity).

Apart from the main prodoc outlining the steps for developing an IEM Framework, it also produced in its Annex 3, the detailed understanding and approach titled 'Framework for IEM consensus-building, planning, & implementation (2019, pp24)'[11]

In support of IEM, the project's Local Governance Specialist produced a technical report – 'Policy review for the Integration of IEM into Local Planning (June 2023, pp63)'. The report is useful and provides maps of KBAs, and their percent coverage within LGUs, and prioritises LGUs for project interventions.

Output 2.2 - Site-specific integrated Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs) designed through stakeholder and community consensus and decision-making for areas of critical high biodiversity within the BCAs

The aim of this output is to develop 12 CCPs for the two BCAs and cascade the overall BCA vision and framework.

[10] The project has developed a set of ENR-IEM training modules for piloting the framework in EMBC and MBC, with training started in EMBC (with DENR field units, representatives from 18 LGUs in Davao and 13 LGUs in Butuan workshops)

[11] The prodoc (Annex 3 – Framework for IEM consensus-building, planning, & implementation. 2019, pp24) – indicates the strengthening of tribal (IP) governance and ADSDPP implementation. In particular: for the project to select / create theme-oriented IP Organisations (e.g. agriculture, forestry, NFTPs); to identify for these organisations, representation in local government (Barangay level); and in MBC, to select two IPs in Sablayan to transform them into IP barangays in order to access government funds.

MTR note - Whilst the last point in might be politically difficult, the inference is that IP Organisations should be registered in order to receive project / government funds, and that Sablayan in MBC is a key location for ILC forest management. This in turn would suggest institutional recognition and co-management responsibility for an OECM (e.g. ICCA or LCA) or a CBFM area in an CADC/T location.

The CCPs are expected to guide actions for improved conservation and co-management within PAs, Ancestral Domains, and CBFM / private forest areas. For sustainability, the CCPs are also expected to guide the planning process of LGUs to be able to provide support for biodiversity conservation.

Result

- Consultation workshops conducted with stakeholders in preparatory for the in-depth HCVA assessment
- Engagement of consultancy firms to conduct of biodiversity assessments and develop 12 CCPs

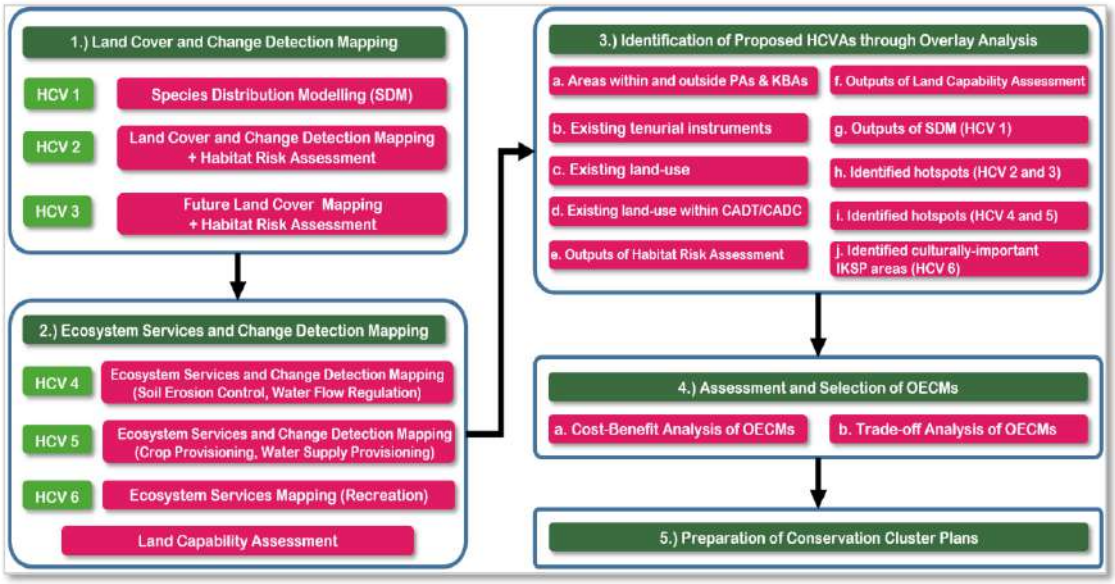
Analysis

The project has contracted four entities to prepare and deliver the 12 CCPs:

Sub-contracts	Detail
Centre for Law & Policy Advocacy (CELPA) Contract, signed August 2023 with BMB, pp8	Value Pesos 30m; 18 months from December 2023 to end date June 2025 (based on bid committee award date)[12]. Deliverables: A/ Biodiversity Assessment (using HCVA and IEM strategies) with baseline assessment standards for cluster mapping; **2 CCPs in each BCA**; carbon accounting; design of biodiversity threat monitoring tool; institutional / management approach to BCAs; technical assistance in the standards for OECMs. B/ maps with HCVAs, and land capability; control mapping system for DENR Regional offices of IVB Mindoro, XI Davao de Oro & Oriental, and for Caraga (Agusan Norte & Sur, Sugigao Norte and Sur) with tenure delineated. C/ Socio-economic assessment – review of POs / IPs capacity; develop partnerships with LGUs. D/ Management Plan formulation – provide technical assistance to stakeholders to develop CCPs, BCA plans; present management plan to DENR, LGUs Tranches (without any deliverable dates), including Inception Report (15%), Progress Report (10%), 3rd Tranche including Potential ICCA and LCA areas; potential HCV areas; forest fragmentation maps (20%), 4th Tranche – Maps of potential ICCAs, LCAs, and other OECM areas; maps of HCV areas; maps of forest fragmentation (20%); 5th Tranche – CCPs for both EMBC and MBC, Report leading to adoption of JAO of BCA Management Plans (RDC / Province / Municipal resolution (15%); 6th Tranche – CCPs for EMBC and MBC, Thematic maps (20%)
Geographic Innovations for Development Solutions (GRIDs) contract	Contract objective: Conduct biodiversity scanning, assessment and monitoring and socio-economic and cultural assessment; Review existing biodiversity monitoring tools and policies within the MBC; Generate thematic maps for the corridors and recommend high conservation value areas (HCVAs); Conduct indigenous knowledge systems & practices; documentation to produce updated ADSDPP to the ancestral domain within the assigned clusters; Identify potential sites for OECMs including the *de facto* managers based on the biodiversity assessments and modelling to be conducted; Develop and prepare CCPs incorporating the IEM approach. MBC Deliverables - Inception Report with sampling sites and strategies for biodiversity assessments under HCV 1-3; HCV Reports and maps (including risk maps and outputs of all modeling conducted) of Clusters 1,2,4 and 5, including identified areas potential as OECMs (i.e. ICCA, LCA, Critical Habitat); ADSDPPs and Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs) of **Clusters 1, 2, 4, and 5.** Inception Report (March 2024, pp64) Method framework uses the six classes of HCV areas to identify OECMs, and supports the preparation of CCPs
Caraga State University & DENR Regional Office XIII MoU (pp12)	Pesos 12.2m, February 2024 **EMBC – Clusters 1, 3 and 4** (similar to GRIDs contract) Length of contract and timetable for interim deliverables not apparent Inception Report (pp67) covering February 2024-July 2025 – high focus on biodiversity surveys and HCV Area class (1-6) delineation methods
Davao Oriental State University (DORSU) & DENR Regional Office XIII MoU (pp12)	Pesos 13.7m, February 2024 **EMBC Cluster 5**

[12] Date of original contract was August 2023, thus award was 4-5 months later

Example of stages to prepare a Cluster Conservation Plan utilizing the HCVA classification system



Source - GRIDs Inception Report

Analysis

The HCVA system protects high conservation values from land use change. The six categories are HCV 1 - Species Diversity; HCV 2 - Landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and intact forest landscapes; HCV 3 - Ecosystems & Habitats; HCV 4 - Ecosystem services; HCV 5 - Community needs; and HCV 6 - Cultural values.

The four contracts cover the production of 12 CCPs, bundled together with the update of selected ADSDPPs.

The CELPA contract has no dates on any interim deliverables. Importantly, CELPA are also required as the lead agency for production of CCPs to provide the CCP design template for the other sub-contractors who are also producing CCPs. The MTR considers the expectation of delivery in terms of quality and on-time as high risk.

GRIDs - Inception report includes a high clarity of strategic approach / methods, citing international best practice. Throughout both the CELPA and GRIDs contracts, there is a high emphasis on using a High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs) approach to conservation design and mapping.

Output 2.3 - Improved management effectiveness of the PAs within the two BCAs

Result

- Trainings for enhancing PAMOs personnel capacity to effectively manage the PAs conducted
  - Orientation on the use of eBAMS and eSEAMS as monitoring tool for PAs
  - Orientation and workshops conducted with regards to 'Sukat ng Kalikasan' tool (local version of HCVA)
- Participated in government efforts on restoration initiatives:
  - Attendance and presentation to PAMB meetings and PA conferences
  - Discussions on species population monitoring and conservation measures
  - Participation to the annual Tamaraw population monitoring (simultaneous multi vantage point count)
- Support to formulate a restoration plan for the cattle ranching areas inside Mount Iglit-Baco National Park

Analysis

See Indicator 7 for results of METT.

Output 2.4 - Recognition of a network of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) such as ICCAs and LCAs to provide protection and conservation within KBAs

Result

- Workshop on the identification of potential OECM sites (underpinned with land tenure) – on-going in EMBC (Caraga and Davao), and planned for MBC

- Potential OECMs identified – In EMBC – ~150,000 ha (85,000 ha in Davao and 65,000 ha in Caraga)[13]
- Coordination meetings with LGUs and watershed councils to discuss the concept and objectives of OECMs
- Draft guideline on OECM recognition and registration of an OECM
- Project guideline for developing LCAs

Potential OECMs in EMBC – Davao Region

Name and Cluster	Province	Area (ha)
1. Mt. Candalaga (Cluster 6)	Davao de Oro	~10,000
2. Mt. Pandadagsaan (Cluster 5)	Davao de Oro	~5,000
3. Mt. Kampalili (Cluster 6)	Davao de Oro/Davao Oriental	~16,000
4. Mt. Mayo (Cluster 6)	Davao Oriental	~4,000
5. Aliwagwag Protected Landscape (Cluster 5)	Davao Oriental	~30,000
6. Baganga Forestlands (Cluster 5)	Davao Oriental	~19,000
TOTAL		**~85,000**

Potential OECMs in EMBC – Caraga Region

Name and Cluster	Province	Area (ha)
1. Lake Mainit (Cluster 1)	Surigao and Agusan del Norte	~23,000
2. Mt. Hilong-hilong (Cluster 2)	Surigao and Agusan del Norte/Sur	~20,000
3. Magkono Triangle (Cluster 2) (Samilia CBFM)	Surigao del Sur	~10,000
4. Bega Watershed & Ugnop Cave Complex (Cluster 3)	Agusan del Sur	~4,000
5. Rosario and Bunawan Watersheds (Cluster 4)	Agusan del Sur	~5,000
6. Agusan Peatlands outside AMWS (Cluster 4)	Agusan del Sur	~3,000
TOTAL		**~65,000**

EMBC – Progress of Delivery of Output 2.4

EMBC has identified ~150,000 ha of potential OECMs in 12 areas. (The project target under Indicator 1 is 200,000 ha)

For EMBC, eight potential OECM (as ICCA or LCA) areas have been identified within the following AD areas (CADT – 134, 254, 006, 219, 209, 019, 076, and 007) (see **Annex 5**). However, they can only progress to being fully proposed and later designated once NCIP have provided a CoP for the project to work with these eight IPs. Furthermore the project has yet to draft MoAs for NCIP to indicate the project's proposal.

In EMBC, municipal LGUs are expected to make LCA agreements by the end of 2025. Davao de Oro has a Barangay-level LCA declared in a Watershed Protection Forest (WPF) [actually it has many more]. NPMU / EMBC PMU may look at this example for lessons learned in the wider implementation (scaling-up) by the project, bearing in mind the project LCA roll-out locations need to focus on wildlife corridor / KBA areas.

The question concerning OECMs from EMBC PMU was if there was a need to wait for the sub-contracted outputs for CCPs, or could EMBC go ahead and proceed to OECM designation, as a number of sites are projected to be declared. The MTR would suggest to follow all procedures for designation, but in principle, so that at the appropriate point official designation can be accomplished without delay.

For the ten mining companies that committed co-financing, their participation in the roll-out and orientation on DAO 2022-04 on 'Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation & Protection in Mining Operations' has enabled these companies to identify and strengthen biodiversity-related activities in their environmental protection programs. Pending review and approval of

[13] Mt. Hamiguitan - LCAs that expanded into PA are defunct; Mt. Kampalili - Inter-LGU alliance between Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental; Mt. Mayo - There is an ordinance already, but no management plan and management body

the UNDP private sector due diligence (DD), engagement with these mining companies will be directed through the DENR's Mines & Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB).

Mining / DENR – Issue over Hamiguitan NP (EMBC) – will mining licences be issued by DENR? This affects the UNDP-GEF project, as the area covers 3 LGUs / LCAs. Hamiguitan NP is a World Heritage Site with limited forest already. UNESCO could de-list the NP, if such licences are granted

Analysis

A draft DAO on OECMs has been produced - 'Guidelines on the identification, selection, recognition and registration of OECMs' (draft 2023, pp11). OECMs are based on IUCN criteria[14]. The project's three main conduits for recognising OECMs are LCAs, ICCAs, and mining concession 5% reference ecosystem areas. To note, the draft DAO doesn't mention these types of OECM specifically.

There is an existing policy to define LCAs (usually managed by LGUs). The identification of ICCAs has undergone consultation with IPs. Prior to the project, there have been 16 ICCAs identified, with a mechanism to create them[15].

A DAO on mining has been produced - DENR Circular - Clarification & Supplemental Guideline to DAO No. 2022-04 on enhancing biodiversity in Mining Operations (2024, pp5). In EMBC, reference ecosystem areas within mining concession land have been identified.

Together, under the project, these three types of conservation area will primarily make up the new listing of OECMs, as a demonstration within the two pilot BCAs.

Output 2.5 - Capacitating local government to mainstream biodiversity conservation measures in the BCAs into local policy, planning and monitoring systems

The provisional list of municipal Local Government Units (LGUs) to receive project support was based on: needed update of Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP); within a KBA; inclusion for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) activities; and containing key species habitat[16]:

MBC
Oriental Mindoro
Bongabong
Bansud
Occidental Mindoro
Rizal
Calintaan
Magsaysay
Abra de Ilog

EMBC	
Davao de Oro	**Agusan del Sur**
Pantukan	Trento
Monkayo	La Paz
Laak	Rosario
Davao Oriental	**Surigao del Norte**
Lupon	Claver
Many	Gigaquit
Boston	Placer
Agusan del Norte	**Surigao del Sur**
Santiago	Tagbina
Jabonga	Lianga
City of Cabadbaran	Madrid

The project is expected to support 24 LGUs to update their CLUPs. A draft directive has been produced - JAO (DENR-DHSUD) on the Adoption of a Manual for Mainstreaming of Biodiversity Conservation in CLUPs of LGUs.

It is expected that after demonstration of SLM and SFM (under Outputs 2.2 and 2.3), that there will be increased program investment by the LGUs in their CLUPs covering 150,000 ha of agriculture land for avoided degradation and 100,000 ha of degraded forest lands for restoration.

Result

- IEM / biodiversity inputs to local planning - workshop in EMBC with provincial LGUs as (April 2023)

Analysis

Whilst engaging with LGUs concerning SLM and SFM investment planning is part of the objective here, the update of CLUPs is to be sub-contracted out with DHSUD involvement.

[14] IUCN OECM - a geographically defined area other than a protected area which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in-situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.

[15] 16 ICCAs – desginated under previous UNDP GEF projects – 'New Conservation Areas in the Philippines' and 'Philippine Indigenous Community Conserved Areas Project'

[16] The project had not finalised this list by the time of the MTR. E.g. In MBC, the key LGU of Sablayan is missing from the list

Effectiveness - Outcome 3 Indicators and Outputs

Outcome 3 - Sustainable use and management systems for land and forest resources that are compatible with IEM corridor objectives (2 indicators)

The overall grading is **Moderately Unsatisfactory**. There were two indicators attached to the Outcome 3 level which were rated as: moderately satisfactory and unsatisfactory. (see **Annex 1**). The two indicators concern: the establishment of significant areas of land to go under SLM and SFM; and piloting forest certification. The two indicators don't fully represent the four outputs. The reason for the 'U' rating for SLM and SFM is that both schemes are rather missing both target site locations (near KBAs) and also missing target beneficiaries (ILCs / IPs).

Area of land restored (Indicator 11, GEF Core Indicator 3)

(Baseline – 0; Target – see table)

Result against Indicator

Indicator	Baseline	MT Target	MT Result	Final Target
(a) Area of degraded agricultural lands restored (SLM)	0	1,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands restored under SLM production systems	See text below	15,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands restored under SLM
(b) Area of forest land restored (SFM)	0	1,000 ha under of disturbed forest lands under improved SFM		15,000 ha under of disturbed forest lands under improved SFM

- SLM - 30 exemplar sites with a total area of 150 ha identified
- SLM - Site level consultation workshop with LGUs in MBC and EMBC to confirm the proposed SLM exemplar sites conducted; NGO for the creation of SLM exemplars is under procurement

Analysis

BSWM has produced a template MoU to work with farmers, but it is solely based on demonstration sites, with the area (ha) not mentioned, nor the total target of 15,000 ha to go under SLM. There doesn't appear to be a strategy for implementing 15,000 ha of SLM, despite an allocated US$1.6 m for BSWM and this output. BSWM twice cited a lack of funds to attain the target of 15,000 ha.

FMB has produced a comprehensive CBFM Framework, however it is not directly linked to the project target of 15,000 ha to come under SFM (Indicator 11), nor the target of 100,000 ha to come under SFM mainstreaming (Indicator 10)

Voluntary Forest certification system piloted with local communities and private forests (Indicator 12)

(Baseline - National criteria, indicators and governance for SFM not formalised; MT - Forest certification system piloted in 2 sites including one community managed forest and one privately managed forest; Target – Forest certification systems updated based on lessons from 2 sites including one CBFM forest and one private forest pilot and adopted by DENR and stakeholders)

Result against Indicator

- Conducted stock-taking of current policies related to a forest certification system / scheme (FCS)
- Stakeholder consultation on criteria & indicators for SFM effectiveness conducted
- Conducted round table discussions on piloting FCS and the criteria & indicator system
- EMBC – in Caraga region – pilot sites identified for: a private forest (Industrial Forest Management – IFM entity called Lumino; and a CBFM entity called Matilfamco

Analysis

FMB (DENR) is the lead organisation. Implementation has been sub-contracted to PALEC & Amigos Urban Environ Forestry Support Services, with an initial contract 8 months from December 2023 (for both Outputs 3.1 and 3.3) for Pesos 5m. PALEC has produced an Inception Report (January 2024, 45pp), titled - Piloting of voluntary Forest Certification System (FSC) and Implementation of SFM Approaches & Collaborative Management.

The report it indicates that a draft forest certification system (FCS) method already exists in-country[17], with a draft

[17] Based on UK FSC, European PEFC schemes, experience in Maylasia and Indonesia, and the model of the Philippine Forest Certification Council PFCC

DAO. NPMU provided the site prioritization method for PALEC for Output 3.1 and 3.3.

The MTR considers this output as not only tangential to the project's core design, but also as a major time consuming task. If a FCS could have been set-up before, it would have been. Thus the MTR recommendation is to keep this output manageable, with the deliverable to be a 'case study FSC design, with the two industrial forest companies'. FCS is known to be too difficult and too expensive for smallholders, thus it is recommended not to attempt FSC production forestry with CBFM groups.

Output 3.1 - Voluntary forest certification scheme piloted for local communities and private forests

Result & Analysis

See Indicator 12

Output 3.2 - SLM applied to degraded agricultural lands through a suite of SLM technologies / practices and incentives

BSWM (DA) is the lead organisation for implementing Output 3.2 and in delivering indicators No. 10, 11, and contributing to No. 3. The project design was to:

- Establish 30 SLM exemplars (18 in MBC and 12 in EMBC) covering 150 ha, with farmers / cooperatives to demonstrate the benefits of SLM measures (and biodiversity-friendly agriculture practices - BDFAP) to increase productivity / income by 15%
- To create incentive mechanisms via cash and in-kind inputs (farm inputs, small farm implements, materials, credit access, insurance schemes, social protection and / or direct payments), to stimulate adoption of SLM measures by 15,000 farmers, cultivating 15,000 ha of degraded agriculture land
- The project will then assist municipal LGUs and IPs to generate support and create partnerships with government programs, NGOs, and the business sector, to generate co-financing and mainstreaming of SLM
- To mainstream SLM policies in the municipal CLUPs (under Output 2.5 / Indicator 9), to create budget prioritization by the LGUs covering 150,000 ha of degraded agriculture land to undergo SLM

Prodoc – Annex 5 – SLM - Distribution of Targets (ha)

Responsible partner	**Target area (ha) per municipality / CADC/T area**	**Target number of municipalities / CADT areas by BCA**		**Total target No. of municipalities / CADT areas**	**Total target area (ha)**
		EMBC	**MBC**		
MLGU/MAO for private farm land	500	6	12	18	9,000
NCIP for CADC/T areas	500	6	6	12	6,000

Thus the prodoc design was to engage LGU, with local agriculture officers to develop 9,000 ha of SLM with private farmers and cooperatives; and to engage NCIP to develop 6,000 ha of SLM within IP CADC/T land.

Result

NGO recruitment, partners agreements and finalizing institutional arrangements for exemplars and upscaling

- Meeting conducted to discuss the engagement of an NGO for the incentive mechanism

Selection of SLM exemplars (demonstrations)

- Conducted 3 orientation workshops for the site validation of SLM exemplars
- Validated 61 sites (42 in MBC and 19 in EMB) for SLM exemplars
- Identified 30 SLM Exemplars (18 in MBC and 12 in EMBC) with a total area of 150 ha

Exemplars to trigger farmer adaptation and innovation in wider areas

- 20 capacity building exercises conducted (9 MBC and 11 EMBC)
- 545 Number of farmers trained on SLM

Design and implementation of SLM exemplars

- 30 SLM exemplars - plans and maps produced

Incentive mechanisms for wide-scale adoption of SLM & biodiversity-friendly agriculture practices (BDFAPs)

- 2 workshops facilitated with BMB for the BDFAP roll out
- 2 workshops on the organization of a regional Technical Working Group for DA DENR JAO on Mainstreaming of BDFAP

A/ Template MoU

The project has developed a Template MoU (for demonstration sites) – BSWM with DA Regional Field Office with Municipal LGU with Farmer-Cooperator (pp6):

- based on DENR Joint Admin Order (JAO) 2021-01 – Mainstreaming BDFAP in / around PAs
- based on DENR and DA MoA (June 2022) for the project implementation
- BSWM shall engage an NGO to provide services for the demonstration sites (Exemplars) – (planting materials, fertilizer, other materials for weeding, watering, fencing, and labour for layout, hole digging, and fertilizer application during the establishment of the SLM Exemplar sites based on the recommended farm development plan)

The draft NGO ToR – mentions the 15 demonstration sites[18]:

B/ BSWM Budget Plan

Recipient	Line Item	Y1-Y6 (US$)
DA	TA - DA research agenda	6,000
BSWM	SLM Specialist	30,300
BSWM	Documentor	3,500
BSWM	BSWM	500,000
BSWM MLGU	MLGU (SLM Exemplars)	631,000
BSWM NCIP	NCIP (SLM Exemplars)	35,000
BSWM	Academe	10,000
BSWM	NGO	365,000
BSWM NCIP	IKSP TA	18,750
Total (US$)		1,599,550

C/ BSWM presentation of results at mid-term

BD Corridor Funded =885

Sites validation of SLM = 210
Establishment of SLMEs= 150
Capacity Building of Farmers Organization=525 farmers * 1 hectare= 525

BSWM initiated Projects 2023 and 2024:

ABFS=400 hectares
MBC=200
Sites:
1.Calintaan.Occidental Mindoro
2.Socorro, Oriental Mindoro
EMBC=200
1.San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
2. Carmen, Surigao del Sur

Total hectares covered for the initiatives of restoring degraded land= 1285 hectares
Strategies:
1.Mapping (topographic, slope, present landuse, soil characterization)
2.Identify SLM
3. Orientation and Training of Farmers, Distribution of IEC on SLM
4.Farmer Initiatives (TYPE 2)

Analysis

A/ Template MoU

The Template MoU is solely based on demonstration sites, with the area (ha) not mentioned, nor the total target of 15,000 ha to go under SLM.

[18] Seven (7) Sites in Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC): Brgy. Carpenito, Tagbina, Surigao del Sur; Brgy. Maglambing, Tagbina, Surgao del Sur; Brgy. Calaitan, Bayugan, Agusan del Sur; Brgy. Cebolin, Trento, Agusan del Sur; Brgy. San Jose, Mainit, Surigao del Norte; Brgy. Cayawan, Manay, Davao Oriental; Brgy. Old Macopa, Manay, Davao Oriental; Eight (8) Sites in Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor (MBC): Brgy. Carmundo, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro; Brgy. Lisap, Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro; Sitio Mapajo, Brgy. Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro; Sitio Mayupang, Brgy. Rizal, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro; Sitio Maguyong, Brgy. Rizal, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro; Sitio Danupa, Brgy. Pitogo, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro; Sitio Tagbungan, Brgy. Tuban, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro; Sitio Pambuhan, Brgy. San Vicente, Abra de Ilog

There doesn't appear to be a strategy for implementing 15,000 ha of SLM (Indicator 11), despite an allocated US$1.6 m for BSWM and this output. BSWM twice cited a lack of funds to attain the target of 15,000 ha[19]. i.e. '$1.6m was insufficient'.

The project design indicated only 150 ha of demonstration sites (~1%), which was extremely low. The BSWM implementation of demonstration sites covers ~500 ha, although this is still extremely low at ~3% of the target area. Furthermore, this is irrespective of a scaling-up method to reach a target of 150,000 ha (Indicator 10) planned for SLM under LGU policy instruments and land use plans.

On a BCA level, in MBC, only 6 out of the 18 selected demonstration sites are IP-managed, with the majority being cooperatives, thus a key target group for biodiversity conservation is being missed somewhat. One of the reasons, apart from the added difficulty of working with IPs (NCIP CoP requirement, education level, remoteness), is that BSWM's own criteria for site selection is based on the level of land degradation, thus whilst the lowlands have been intensified, the mid-hills are most degraded (and being selected), but again, these sites are not necessarily near KBAs. Furthermore, BSWM has a directive that land with >18% slope should not be used for intensive agriculture, thus pilot SLM demonstrations have been selected in mid-hill areas, when is it the unsustainable upland farming systems which the project seeks to address, using SALT technologies for example as an approach to SLM.

Also missing from the template, are the actual SLM measures. These include: contouring, terracing using natural or planted grasses and hedgerows, trash bunds, conservation tillage, residue management, relay & cover cropping, improved fallow management, bio-intensive gardening, natural composting, hedgerow system, integrated pest management, multi-strata agroforestry, and sloping agricultural land technology (SALT). (As outlined in the prodoc Annex 5).

On an implementation level, the project has yet to contract an NGO to deliver SLM on a further 14,500 ha. There is only one bidder (NGO - Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement) stuck with the DENR Bids & Awards Committee. Single source selection is now probably required and possibly a direct contract with DENR BMB and not in-directly with BSWM.

The MTR found no evidence of any strategy to physically expand the SLM implementation area using the GEF funds to reach the target of 15,000 ha. Implementation of this output is far behind other parts of the project, and is at high risk of failing to have any impact.

To note, the prodoc (Annex 5) indicates that NCIP should deliver 6,000 ha of SLM within IP CADC/T land, however there isn't an agreement between DA BSWM and NCIP to undertake this. An agreement or mechanism to deliver the other 9,000 ha of SLM with the LGUs / Municipal Agriculture Officers is also absent.

B/ Budget Allocation

According to the budget plan, only $631,000 out of $1,600,000 is dedicated to the SLM field sites, and moreover, it appears this amount is additionally also only for the demonstration sites (prodoc 150 ha), or 1% of the target area of 15,000 ha.

C/ BSWM Results reported at Mid-term

Whilst, 150 ha of SLM demonstration (exemplar) sites have been established, 210 ha are agreed sites, yet to be implemented. For the figure, of 525 farmers trained, the MTR would question if 525 ha can be added as implementation figures. Furthermore, the added 400 ha are for non-GEF sites, which should perhaps be part of the scaling-up figure under Indicator 10. [Note the earlier quoted figure of ~500 ha of demonstration sites would equate to these 400 ha plus the 150 ha of project demonstration sites]. The mid-term target was 1,000 ha of SLM.

Output 3.3 - SFM approaches and collaborative management to reduce fragmentation of biodiversity habitats

Two pages of the prodoc were dedicated to describing the approach to implement this key output. This included participatory working with 'forest' communities, local government and the private sector to undertake forest rehabilitation in areas between KBAs in order to improve wildlife connectivity. It included collaborating with CBFM groups, and to work directly with People's Organisations (POs) / forest communities to enhance CBFM activities, in particular concerning Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) and agro-forestry. The principles for selection included: prioritize sites close to PAs and KBAs with stakeholder consultation on the interventions expected to also provide income to the ILCs, as well as enhance habitat connectivity.

[19] During meeting the MTR team, and during the Feedback Seminar at the end of the field mission

The prodoc listed some of the SFM measures within CBFM areas, which included: agro-forestry, ANR, enrichment planting, direct seeding, scattered sapling planting, and under-storey management.

The delivery mechanism to be adopted was a community development funding scheme[20]. The project was expected to work with existing community organisations (CBFMs, community cooperatives, and POs / IPs, as well as create new groups when necessary, and devise a benefit-sharing agreement with these ILCs.

The prodoc indicated $540,000 in grants for CBFM groups (180 grantees x $3,000). The allied logframe indicators are (No. 11 – Output 3.3) 15,000 ha of degraded forest land under restoration; and (No. 9 – Output 2.5) 100,000 ha of degraded forest land under local planning proposals (CLUPs) for restoration.

Result

- Review of policies related to SFM; SFM National Standard No. 2140 adopted
- Initial identification and validation of potential sites / beneficiaries for SFM (Peoples Organizations identified – 7 for each BCA)
- Identification and profiling of priority sites for SFM with areas validated (Priority 1): EMBC - 17,816 ha; and MBC - 1,077 ha

SFM Sub-contractor ToR (Output 3.1 and 3.3)

The ToR is for 'Piloting of Voluntary Forest Certification System (FCS) and Implementation of SFM Approaches and Collaborative Management' (pp9). Contract value Peso 25.4 million. PALEC contract with FMB - Notice to Proceed (December 2023) (pp6) for 36 months, with a focus on SFM strategies and identifying forest communities (including IPs) without mentioning the project target of 15,000 ha; and a focus on creating a DAO for the implementation of the FCS for the Philippines

- Inception Report (undated, pp20) – Workplan includes to select only one CBFM or community-based CADC/CADT site for SFM agreement and piloting

Analysis

FMB (DENR) is the lead organisation to deliver this output. The target is to bring 15,000 ha of degraded forest land under improved SFM. To date, SFM areas validated under site selection and registered as Forest Management Units (FMUs) include:

- EMBC - 35,098 ha (of which 19,682 ha in 8 CBFMs, and 15,416 ha in one IFM commercial tree plantation)
- MBC – 2,478 ha (of which all are in 7 CBFMs) - All seven demonstrations are located mid-way between the mountains and coast (See **Annex 5**), appearing to miss the project priority locations – near PAs, KBAs, or proposed LCAs.

The numbers reported by the NPMU compared with FMB also differ, indicating a lack of tracking by NPMU. One issue is that (for MBC in particular) a significant proportion of these areas, don't lie close to the PAs / KBAs, to enhance wildlife connectivity, which is a primary principle. Also for MBC, of the seven validated POs (such as cooperatives and farmers associations), only four are IPs.

Another issue as outlined by FMB, is that some PO CBFM areas are also IP tenured or claimed (CADC/T). The project to date has also mainly selected existing POs (farmers organisations), and not IPs in the project's priority locations, which is likely to significantly reduce the expected impact to reduce fragmentation near PAs / KBAs.

As a number of the CBFM demonstration sites selected, are not near key project areas, it will be important during scaling-up under local planning (Indicator 10 – to include 100,000 ha in local plans)[21], for NPMU to provide a more robust approach towards FMB / BCA PMUs in directing a much stronger site / community selection process, based on the project approach (in working with ILCs / IPs near KBAs and proposed OECMs)

FMB indicated that their current team as a formal and key project partner, were only engaged by the project in mid-2023 – i.e. two years from project start[22]. Thus FMB's time to develop engagement with forest communities, create and deliver inputs (with $540,000 for CBFM), and make agreements on forest protection is now limited to plans in 2025 and 2026 only. An added issue is that FMB has sub-contracted a company (PALEC) to identify sites

[20] prodoc Annex 4 indicates that a proportion of the funds granted could be utilized as community-managed revolving funds

[21] Target includes both EMBC and MBC, with implementation proportion expected to be ~2:1 respectively

[22] FMB clarification – 'due to the transfer and movement of the project lead and focal, activities for this component have been delayed. The current team handling the component were only engaged in May 2023'

/ ILCs, but has yet to engage them to conduct implementation activities. Such activities are also hampered by the lack of a NCIP CoP to work with IPs. (and hence a reason why the initial selection of site location and beneficiary group has been somewhat wayward). Furthermore, the project delivery mechanism (funds / materials) to ILCs to engage in ANR / agro-forestry has yet to be designed.

Lastly on the point of scaling-up to SFM 100,000 ha, the FMB has embarked on a major scheme to require all LGUs with identified forest land for restoration, to produce detailed forest management plans for each area. The skill, time and resources for this, do not exist at present. Whilst this is fine in principle, it needs reigning in to focus this aspect of the project on supporting Output 2.1 (and Indicator 9) which concerns updating selected CLUPs to identify 'connectivity' forests for inclusion, and Output 2.2, which concerns the preparation of Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs), using a HCVA approach. At present, FMB and their sub-contractor are working on a tangent to the project.

Virtually all SFM demonstration sites for EMBC were in Cluster 2 in the north east. For MBC, most mid / high priority sites are in Cluster 3, but they appear to miss the western side of Sablayan between the PA and proposed PA (expected to be a KBA / key corridor area). Thus in MBC, the SFM demonstration sites miss both the target location and target beneficiary, and will have have little positive impact on biodiversity conservation. Thus, there is a project divergence on expected site selection near KBAs[23].

Output 3.4 - Biodiversity-friendly enterprises promoted to avoid biodiversity loss and lead to natural resources use sustainability

The project design was to identify and support BDFEs. Examples listed in the prodoc are for the primary processing of NTFPs (honey, bamboo, mushroom) in order to add value before sale to market and hence improve Indigenous & Local Communities' (ILCs) livelihoods and income. According to the prodoc, under this output $400,000 (250 grantee x $1,600), would be available for distribution for BDFE schemes[24].

Result

- Peoples Organizations (POs) identification (long-list) in EMBC - Agusan del Sur and Agusan del Norte
- Value-chain mapping (with gender-responsivity) workshop conducted
- Ecotourism development in EMBC:
  - Collaboration with Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) in ecotourism development
  - Consultation workshop on sustainable ecotourism (July 2023)[25]
  - Ecotourism proposal-writing workshop for Caraga Region conducted (for Davao Region)

Analysis

The project has been conducting ecotourism development activities in EMBC, however it is debatable on the extent that ecotourism will support either ILCs or biodiversity.

Under sub-contract, a BDFE specialist has been hired for seven months in order to produce a database of BDFEs; and provided BDFE grant guidelines. To date the specialist has produced:

- Inception report (undated, pp6)
- Assessment of existing / potential BDFEs (undated, pp23) [however the list includes coastal and marine sites, which are outside the BCAs]

For MBC, the initial work was considered not sufficient, thus the project (BMB / NPMU) expect to hire a new consultant to prepare the BDFE long-list, with a deeper assessment in MBC by the end of 2024, and then hire a

[23] Under the PALEC sub-contract, the issue for the MTR, is that whilst tenured land is a pre-requisite for FCS sites (2 to be piloted), it should not be necessary for potential CBFM sites, where agreement on the management of forest land (without changing or disputing tenure) is important. Moreover, the project target areas for SFM are to be in, near or adjacent to KBAs, and are thus likely to be upper watershed areas. The PALEC report lists all the many LGUs across the BCAs, however in terms of priority LGUs for the project, these should be aligned with the 24 CLUPs and KBAs. This highlights one of the project issues in lack of coordinated focus with different arms of the project veering off on a tangent, which is likely to significantly reduce the overall conservation impact of the project. (see also Annex 5)

[24] This is excluding the consultant costs, and excluding a further $75,000 from unspecified co-finanicng funds for medium and small enterprise development (5 MSEs x $15,000)

[25] Including - Creation of TWG (under CAAC) to develop a plan for ecotourism development; Development of a BETC Ecotourism Management Plan & Investment Forum; and TIEZA welcomes collective program for vertical support with LGUs as main recipient from the 5% of annual gross travel tax collections

firm in 2025 to begin to implement the activities with the selected enterprise groups. Thus the project in MBC is at least is some way from delivering grants for BDFEs, let alone having time to support these BDFEs and ensure that they are biodiversity-friendly. In parallel (which is indicative of the project's management), MBC PMU has separate list of BDFEs from the government CENRO office.

EMBC have a BDFE consultant working with profiles provided to NPMU. However, the BDFE application, selection, and grant award process was unclear by the time of the MTR. A DAO 2012/13 is being developed to facilitate this[26].

Effectiveness - Outcome 4 Indicators and Outputs

Outcome 4 - Awareness & collaborative decision-making on IEM enhanced through effective knowledge management and gender mainstreaming (3 indicators)

Effectiveness - Outcome 4 Achievement - **Satisfactory**

The overall grading is Satisfactory. There were three indicators attached to the Outcome 4 which were rated as: satisfactory (2) and moderately satisfactory (1).

Level of awareness on IEM within the BCAs as indicated by KAP survey (Indicator 13)

(Baseline - Survey established in Year 1; MT Target - 40% community members, government and sector agency staff, and private sector (40% women) aware of conservation threats / adverse impacts of unplanned development and actions needed for BCA conservation; Target - 60% (of which 40% women) aware of conservation threats / adverse impacts of unplanned development and behaviour change for biodiversity outcomes

Result against Indicator

- KAP awareness survey: EMBC - Caraga - 57%; Davao - 62%; MBC - 45%
- A communications plan for national, EMBC and MBC groups was prepared based on the KAP survey and planning workshops

Analysis

The mid-term target was 40% awareness for the KAP survey. The project attained this for the three areas surveyed.

Integrated decision support system / integrated information management system to monitor biodiversity threats and outcomes in place and effective (Indicator 14)

(Baseline - All data in paper form with limited scope, quality, accessibility and use. Baseline to be established in Year 1; MT – management system created; Target – 100% increase in number of inter-sectoral users)

Result against Indicator

- A sub-contractor has been engaged to lead the development of an automated knowledge management / information management system based on existing and new project biodiversity monitoring systems

Analysis

The sub-contractor is currently reviewing the existing and new biodiversity conservation systems and will determine their use in the preparation of a knowledge management system. These systems are described under Output 1.3.

Good practice conservation and sustainable resource management approaches codified and disseminated nationally (Indicator 15)

(Baseline - Good practices in conservation not applied; MT - Ten good practices in conservation and sustainable resource management codified / applied; Target 30 good practices disseminated nationally)

Results against Indicator

The Project is using the FASPS guidelines for the documentation of lessons learned, good practices, innovations and success stories and the WOCAT guidelines for SLM[27]. Two SLM technologies have been documented using

[26] Not seen by the MTR

[27] World Overview of Conservation Approaches & Technologies (WOCAT) is a global network and online database that supports SLM and UNCCD.

the WOCAT tool. There are a number of project good practices documented so far[28]

Analysis

The project is using the FASPS guidelines for the documentation of lessons learned, good practices, innovations and success stories and the WOCAT guidelines for SLM. The mid-term target was for ten good practices to be codified and disseminated nationally, of which a number have been, including two SLM technologies documented using the WOCAT tool.

Output 4.1 - Knowledge Management & Communications, Gender Mainstreaming, and M&E strategies developed and implemented

Result

- KAP questionnaire with key informant interviews from LGUs and IP groups undertaken
- Workshop for the development of a communications plan (national and BCAs) based on KAP results
- Meeting with Davao Oriental province on the development of the EMBC section in Mt. Hamiguitan Museum

Analysis

See Indicator 13 for KAP results. M&E and gender are discussed under the relevant sections of this report.

Output 4.2 – Operational knowledge management system to integrate lessons from the BCAs

Result & Analysis

See Indicator 14

Output 4.3 - Knowledge management and project experience contributes to learning and facilitates replication and scaling-up outside the pilot BCAs

Result & Analysis

See Indicator 15

3.3.3 Training, Awareness & Knowledge Products

Many of the inputs in training, awareness and knowledge products were also directly described as outputs in main logframe design. From July 2021 until June 2024:

Training and awareness figures

No. of Days	Participants	of which Women	% Women
195	5,817	2,657	46%

The project has invested a significant amount of time in training. A full list of training events is presented in **Annex 5**.

3.3.4 Efficiency, Relevance and Ownership

Efficiency

Efficiency Rating – Moderately Unsatisfactory

Whilst there is a large GEF budget, it is not being utilised effectively. To date, the project has had a very high emphasis on creating partnerships and involving many government, agency and NGO / other project stakeholders, some of which are slightly peripheral to the project. There has also been a very high emphasis on orientation / training events at national, regional and provincial government level. This has meant the project has spent too much time on drawing up long-lists for municipal LGU-level interventions, which has expanded the PPG list of LGUs, and as a result, proposed activities have started to become too scattered, and away from project core areas, namely KBAs and wildlife corridors between PAs.

The project has also not managed to align or cluster the the main interventions – CLUPs, ADSDPPs, SFM, SLM and BDFEs to be directly associated with the KBAs. This is in part because the preparation of the IEM Framework has been too slow, and so some project actions now seem extra to the project design. For example, FMB expecting

[28] Floating Garden with Hyacinth as substrate for the compound used as medium for plant growth, Agusan Marsh (published in WOCAT, Feb. 27, 2024, for finalization / review); Rice-Fish culture locally known as Palay-Isdaan in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro (under review / finalization); EMBC Wall in the Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary Science Museum: "Living Canvass: The Biodiversity of Mt. Hamiguitan"

forest areas to have detailed management plans prepared by LGUs. The project design was more simple, in terms of selecting 15,000 ha of forest land near KBAs (and not selected as OECMs) to undergo improved forest management through support to CBFM groups.

There project *modus operandi* is to engage sub-contractors to implement field activities, but their engagement has been slow, and a number of these contracts with DENR lack definition of project targets. This is especially the case with work of DA BSWM with whom DENR has an arrangement, but the BSWM sub-contract only calls for 300 ha of demonstration SLM areas, with the remaining 14,700 ha missing.

Relevance

The measures were required under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1992), of which Philippines ratified in 1994. The project was designed to address Aichi Targets: 5 (loss of habitat), 7 (SLM / SFM), 11 (PA connectivity, e.g. via OECMs), 12 (IUCN Threatened Species conservation) and 14 (ecosystem services) in particular. The expected outcomes / outputs were directly linked to GEF-6 Focal Areas: Biodiversity - 1 Program 2; Biodiversity - 4 Program 9; Land Degradation - 3 Program 4; SFM – 1 & 2. The project also remained relevant to the Focal Areas.

The project was in-line with the NBSAP and UN SDG 15 to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, , and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss. The project design remained highly relevant. (See Section 2.1 Development Context). The relevance is considered as satisfactory.

Ownership

The endeavours of DENR to create the enabling conditions for project implementation has been strong but slow, but many DAOs remain late and in draft format.

Whilst, the project has created regional and provincial support for the project, ILC ownership of any interventions has yet to be realised, as agreements to work with ILCs it still at an early stage.

On a national level, the project's main vehicle is creating an IEM Framework, but the lack of progress on this is now hampering implementation on a BCA level. On a BCA level, the designation of OECMs is the main tool to create enhanced conservation measures, but such designation is some time away, thus ILC ownership is also some time away. Indeed, the project is now under severe time constraint, thus ILC 'buy-in' may not happen on-the-ground, but rather be a paper exercise by project end, in mid-2027.

The primary issues are an excessive number of partners at national and regional level and extensive sensitization exercises for all these partners (workshops), which is negatively impacting on BCA identification of target ILCs and field implementation of interventions, which in most cases have yet to be designed. The project is top-heavy, and additionally is weighing down on the BCAs at ground level (both corridor PMUs, supporting LGU and other line-agency partners, such as CENROs).

The project ownership is also dispersed across government line agencies, without sufficient BMB / NPMU control, which is resulting in dis-functional and tangential implementation, which is not clustered near project key conservation areas.

3.3.5 GEF Additionality

GEF 'additionality' considers the added value of the GEF funding, above what it would have been without the investment. The concept is one where GEF finances the increment or additional costs associated with transforming a project with national benefit into one with added global environmental benefit. Such 'incremental cost funding' is a fundamental operating principle of the GEF. This 'additionally' can be broken down into six categories, and whilst they are covered within the report, they are summarised here against the project's 'incremental design'

Additionality	Design Increment	Result at Mid-term / Expected End-term
Environmental (interventions / services to achieve the global environmental benefits (e.g. CO^2 reduction)	- To demonstrate participatory NRM, enterprise-based sustainable natural resource practices and sustainable livelihoods for ILCs. To strengthen biodiversity conservation, rehabilitate degraded agriculture / forest	- The expectation is to select KBA areas to be designated as OECMs (200,000 ha). Such OECMs have been identified in EMBC - To designate 5% reference ecosystem areas within mining concession land in EMBC, which has been achieved, albeit not yet fomalised legally - To create 6 Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs) in each BCA with improved conservation actions within, for PAs,

	land, and maintain the connectivity and ecosystem value of the BCAs - CCM through carbon sequestration	ADs, CBFM areas, private forest - To use the CCPs to identify with LGUs, the location of OECMs (ICCAs, LCAs)
Legal / Regulatory (environmental improvement through legal change)	- IEM Framework	- The IEM Framework is the over-arching approach to creating BCAs with enhanced biodiversity protection
Institutional / Governance (improvement via change in institutional behaviour or operational methods)	- CLUPs to incorporate IEM / biodiversity - RDPs to be endorsed by NEDA, which will identify new PAs to be included with NIPAS	- Recognition of OECMs on-the-ground is expected as the mainstay for wildlife habitat connectivity and ecosystem services
Financial (incremental cost which allows country benefits into global environmental benefits)	- SLM demonstrated on 15,000 ha, to be upscaled in planning documents to 150,000 ha - SFM demonstrated on 15,000 ha to be upscaled in planning documents to 100,000 ha	- These are the primary financial instruments to support ILCs to improve livelihoods in order to reduce pressure on the high conservation value areas of forest (not already protected) which are expected to be designated as OECMs
Socio-Economic (livelihoods & societal benefits)	- Update of ADSDPPs - Technical and funding incentives to improve livelihood and reduce dependence and damage of the forest resources	- The project is expected to provide the villagers with 'Livelihood Capital Assets'[29]. These should include: - Natural – Clearer guidance on natural resources / biodiversity protection, such as through ADSDPP plans - Human – Designation of new OECMs which additionally provide ecosystem services - Physical - Beneficiaries are expected to be provided equipment and tools to develop their SLM farming methods - Social – Enhanced co-management of OECMs with ILCs - Financial – Income-generating grants are to be provided for BDFEs and CBFM activities
Innovation (sustainable technologies, & overcoming bad practices)	- IEM Framework and OECM designation	- The innovation is to demonstrate ICD and co-management models for key forest / biodiversity areas

4. SUSTAINABILITY

The overall rating is that sustainability is **Moderately Unlikely**[30]

4.1. Financial Risks to Sustainability

The rating is 'Financial Sustainability is Moderately Unlikely'. There is a significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs should carry on. For example, the funding and management of OECMs (LCAs and ICCAs) has yet to realised.

On a wider-scale, the project design, puts the financial sustainability onus on LGUs, which is somewhat of a burden, without clear support, central government in-cash funds for this pilot BCA initiative, models, and lessons provided for example. Thus the financial sustainability is difficult to determine at mid-term. Government inputs (mostly in-kind) are not independently accounted for under GEF methods. The ability for local government to fund new LCAs and biodiversity-friendly land use plans is also yet to be tested.

The value of protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services is also not yet central to government financing, with economic development being more at the forefront. If the project can be successful in creating sustainable BCAs, then this may change government attitudes slightly. One of the mechanisms to ensure the conservation and value

[29] DfID – sustainable Livelihoods – 5 Capital Assets - www.glopp.ch/B7/en/multimedia/B7_1_pdf2.pdf

[30] Sustainability is considered to be the likelihood of continued benefits post GEF funding. Under GEF criteria each sustainability dimension is critical, i.e. the overall ranking cannot be higher than the lowest one.

of ecosystem services, is through the payment for them, however this was not part of the project design.

There appears to be no financial risk to the mining companies funding the 5% reference ecosystem areas, although if they are made permanent by a DAO, then concession agreements might possibly be under minor threat.

4.2 Socio-economic Risks to Sustainability

The rating is 'Socio-economic Sustainability is Moderately Unlikely'. There is a significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, such as ILC / IP incomes not rising sufficiently, in order to make forest conservation attractive enough.

The sustainability of project interventions is expected, however the project has yet to implement any income generating activities or improve livelihoods as a compensation for forest protection and biodiversity conservation. Moreover, the link between project support (including socio-economic benefits) and expected conservation benefits, is at present only peripheral and not central in agreements being made. Furthermore in a number of cases the selection of demonstration activities, is not near existing KBAs. This is partly because SLM selection to date has been based on land degradation and working with existing cooperatives, and for SFM, the selection of CBFM groups has been based existing groups and not IPs.

The time is takes to develop alternative livelihoods is often a few years, however despite the project duration being six years, there are only two full annual planning cycles left in 2025 and 2026, and the field implementation of such income generating activities has yet to start, and the mechanism to transfer funds yet to be designed or agreed. Thus the ICDP model is at risk of either not achieving ILC income gains, or not achieving permanent ILC support in forest protection or both. One obvious risk here, is that without tangible ILC / IP income gains, and MoAs with explicit conservation requirements, then there will be a continuance in shifting agriculture. In terms of project grants for ILC to generate income, the prodoc also mentions 'revolving funds' at a community-level.

4.3. Institutional & Governance Risks to Sustainability

The rating is 'Institutional & Governance Sustainability is Moderately Likely'. There are moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained, OECMs in particular.

The main institutional & governance risk to sustainability is that if the project doesn't deliver on its promised outcomes (with only two annual budgets left), then the government 'buy-in' at all levels is likely to be diminished.

The project is trying to do 'too much' because the prodoc design was somewhat over ambitious, and covered too broad a field for biodiversity conservation. E.g. creating a new forest certification scheme for private industrial forests, or moving into SLM agriculture with a totally separate department. Thus in order for the project to not be spread too thinly, and to be able to deliver implementation, then it needs focus on its major lines in a realistic timeframe. These are the tangible conservation measures such as: the designation of OECMs, especially LCAs and ICCAs; and the creation of LCA Management Councils and Outline Management Plans, that include ILC co-management. They also include delivering a basket of activities to ILCs, IPs in particular, clustered near or adjacent to the LCAs or ICCAs, in order for conservation outcomes (ICDP approach), with management agreement on land use to rise above tenure certificates or claims. These tenure claims can be be resolved in the mid to longer term once biodiversity conservation is secure and under strong sustainable institutional co-management.

In some areas there is an overlap or conflict of PA and IP CADC/T boundaries. There is also a major overlap between KBAs / proposed OECMs and CADC/T land. Whilst the project design, considered involving NCIP in FPIC, a grievance mechanism, and an Indigenous Peoples' Strategy, the MTR would suggest that the project aim is not to change land tenure, but rather to create management agreement for the KBA land.

In some cases land can be tenured as part of the project's conservation activities, such as for state forest land to become tenured to CBFM groups, or ICCAs groups, or unallocated land to become tenured with a conservation purpose in mind. In the case of LCAs, a number of these are already designated as government 'Watershed Protection Forest', but with CADC/T. Thus the project solution should be build on the existing designation as protection forest, and improve it as an designated LCA with added ILC co-management (through membership of new LCA Management Councils, and activities concerning the LCA management plan, such as ILC patrolling). This is then where sustainable funding becomes important.

4.3. Environmental Risks to Sustainability

The rating is 'Environmental Sustainability is Moderately Unlikely'. There is a significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure. For example biodiversity conservation will remain unsustainable due to a lack of income generated for ILCs who are in part forest or swidden agriculture dependent, and unsustainable because project activities are so scattered that they will not create a critical mass for ILCs to improve conservation.

Outcome 2 is designed to create BCA management for the protection of 200,000 ha of KBA land, conserve biodiversity and make the use of ecosystem services sustainable. The expectation is for improved conservation and co-management within PAs, CADC/T areas, and CBFM areas for example, and for LGU support to create LCAs, and sustainably managed CADC/T areas.

The project design is clear in its expectation of clustering interventions for both forest restoration, SLM agriculture and BDFEs, in order to make a saturation effect and positive impact for conservation and sustainable livelihoods more likely and greater[31]. At present, the project locations are somewhat scattered over many more LGUs than originally envisaged.

The expectation is for the project to develop BDFEs as financial vehicles to create income as a substitute for natural resources and biodiversity damage. For example to improve primary processing and marketing in value chains, such as for honey, bamboo, NTFPs, and for production crops such as tree fruits, banana and cacao. The development of eco-tourism is also an option, although the sustainability of this in terms of money to ILCs, especially IPs, and towards conservation needs to be ensured. In terms of marketing local agriculture or other handicraft products, there is the possibility to register intellectual property rights or green brand / logo names to add value.

The illegal commercial cattle grazing in Occidental Mindoro is a particular issue, and a threat to Tamaraw conservation. However, the management of PAs, is partly being improved through developing modern monitoring systems, such as the use of computer tablets by rangers.

5. IMPACT & CATALYTIC EFFECT

5.1. Impact

The impact of the project was not considered as significant at the mid-term stage.

Reduction in stress on ecological systems

- The expected project impact by completion is failing. There is a lack of cohesion and management control over clustering key interventions, in terms of location, selection of ILC – IPs, design and delivery of such interventions. These four factors are paramount for tangible conservation outcomes.
- At present the identification of OECMs is on-track, but the project needs to go much further in AWPB 2025 in delivering clustered ICD interventions according to project design. Without these interventions, the stress on ecological systems will not be stabilised

Policy and regulatory change at national / local level

- For policy, building blocks are partly in place, but the expected management and coordination of key implementation partners – FMB, BSWM, and NCIP is not in place. Their inputs are needed for tangible positive conservation outcomes / results
- It is difficult to see how DENR's BMB is likely to achieve such management control, without a much higher level of decision-making.

5.2. Catalytic Effect

Under this section, the following aspects of the project are presented: Theory of change; Scaling up & Replication; Demonstration; New Technologies / Approaches. The MTR has constructed a new simplified Theory of Change logic model to add to the prodoc model[32].

[31] Prodoc p70 – 'Project design ensures selectivity in the identification & development of on-the-ground demonstration investments for cost-effectiveness. Locating the mixes of management and restoration activities in selected high value biodiversity areas or clusters within the BCAs will help demonstrate tangible impacts on the ground rather than spreading activities widely in a scattered manner.'

[32] Only mandatory for GEF Terminal Evaluations, if absent from the prodoc, however the MTR considers the exercise useful

Theory of Change

Parameter	Pathway - Integrated Ecosystem Management of BCAs	Pathway – Community-based management in the BCAs
Concept	To create IEM with benefits for both wildlife and ILCs (via SLM, SFM and BDFE)	ICDP and co-management project design
Root causes & threats	Insecure and overlapping tenure / management of high value conservation land. Cross-departmental responsibility of differing categories and designations of land	Shifting cultivation; cattle grazing, land conversion to agriculture. Good practice in biodiversity conservation is not agreed or enforced.
Solution (Input to Output)	Cluster Conservation Plans to be developed	To improve livelihoods of ILCs, especially IPs, in return for agreements on forest conservation
Outcome required	OECMs (LCAs and ICCAs) to be officially designated	Co-management with ILCs, especially IPs of newly designated OECMs
Result	Expectation is that OECMs will be designated	Expectation is that OECMs will gain ILC / IP agreement, at least in terms of improved management for conservation, even if land tenure claims are not resolved
Impact	Expectation is that the two pilot BCAs become models for the other 18 BCAs in the Philippines	Expectation is that threatened wildlife species populations will be stabilised

At mid-term stage, scaling-up / replication, demonstration and new approaches are nascent and difficult to fully expand on, however potential good (and bad) examples are briefly listed.

Scaling-up and Replication

The PIF indicated 'a phased approach in influencing a change in practices, starting with farmers who are willing to engage as pilot teams, so the benefits can be better demonstrated. Once results are available, an exchange program will be drawn up, and participating partners trained on an effective communication strategy to impart learning.'

There are a few examples of potential scaling-up and replication:

- If OECMs are designated within the project timeframe, then they will serve as an example of biodiversity connectivity expansion within the two project BCAs for scaling-up to the other 18 BCAs in-country
- The SLM demonstrations at field level are very generic / simple, and are not suitable for scaling up with IPs. Bottom-up participatory collaboration with IPs is needed in terms of defined SLM activities, grants and inputs with a contract and delivery mechanism

Demonstration

- The expected prodoc link between updated CLUPs and expected LGU investment planning in conservation is tenuous, however if it can be achieved, it would be a clear demonstration
- ADSDPPs where they exist, are out of date and lack defined positive conservation outcomes. There is an opportunity to encompass project MoAs with investment in return for forest protection responsibilities and ending shifting cultivation. If achieved, then updated ADSDPPs could become models. The project linkage has to start with new designation of LCAs near to IP villages, and their clear and monitored agreement to stop forest degradation.
- ICCAs are present already. The project has the opportunity to create more and provide a model for their co-management. There has been insufficient project emphasis on this opportunity to date

New technologies / approaches

- CCPs are new, but the overall approach to creating them and their value is somewhat unknown at present
- The empowerment of municipal LGUs to designate LCAs (under an OECM umbrella) is valuable, but without significant support to develop LCA management councils and management plans for these new LCAs, conservation improvements on the ground are likely to be limited
- SFM through enhancing CBFM agreements to focus on biodiversity has a lot of potential, but the project is far from realising this
- The creation of mining concession areas to designate 5% reference ecosystem areas (in perpetuity) is new and if supported with national ordinance (DENR – MGB), then this is a significant new approach, with areas than can be added to the OECM estate.
- To define a national forest certification scheme with pilots is extremely ambitious. If the project can get these pilots certificated then this would be an achievement, but in reality, the sanctioning of industrial tree plantations near KBAs appears misguided. This project output is probably best limited as a case study on potential methods.
- The methods to monitor Philippine Eagle in EMBC are new and are applicable to monitoring ecosystem / habitat health by proxy.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Analysis & Conclusions

Project Approach and Design

The project objective is to create Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) of Biodiversity Corridor Areas (BCAs), within which there is effective conservation of biodiversity, reduced forest degradation and enhanced community livelihoods. In terms of a high-level concise understanding of the project design (to achieve its objectives), the creation of LCAs are the primary tool to improve BCA conservation. LCA locations are to be based on KBAs, which are not already under PA management.

In terms of conservation project strategy, the project is an 'integrated conservation & development project' (ICDP),

as well as a 'co-management project'. The ICDP aspect is to get community activities clustered in particular areas in order to make an impact with alternative / improved livelihoods for ILCs in return for agreement on the designation of LCAs, including with the agreement on no expansion of shifting cultivation areas. The co-management aspects are the training & support of ILC / IP community rangers to monitor and report on land conversion (shifting cultivation) and other illegal hunting issues, and to have representation on LCA Councils.

The project approach is to work with ILCs (IP communities in particular with CADC/T) in / near these proposal LCAs to make a basket of activities (SLM with farming equipment & materials; SFM with CBFM agreements where conservation benefit is added; and BDFEs to improve livelihoods for forest-based communities).

NPMU Project Management

There is a critical lack of management control by BMB Focal Point / NPMU over BSWM, and to a lesser extent over FMB, which is in part due to cross-sectoral implementation. It is worrying because of the lack of expected livelihood benefit of SLM and SFM interventions and the lack of a formal link with beneficiaries to biodiversity conservation / BCA outcomes.

The project is suffering from a lack of bottom-up participatory planning, with a high emphasis on top-down planning and centralised procurement of sub-contractors. The interventions urgently need to be agreed (and be participatory, which they are not at present). These mainly apply to SLM, SFM and BDFE to a lesser extent. The process to move from demonstration establishment to expansion to reach the target coverage is unclear. SLM and SFM are both only demonstration status so far.

In terms of project implementation, the governmental administrative set-up is cumbersome, with for example national government (DENR, DA, NCIP), regional government (EMBC – Regions 11 and 13; MBC – Region Mimaropa) and provincial government all involved besides municipal LGUs. The project design necessitates this in terms of creating a national IEM Framework and demonstrating BCA modelling on the ground with 12 CCPs covering seven provinces in EMBC and two provinces in MBC. However, this has meant that project time has mostly been spent at these higher government levels, and has yet to really cut through to working with LGUs in the identification of OECMs (LCAs and ICCAs) and associated adjacent target ILCs who ultimately need to become 'organised groups' (project beneficiaries) in return for taking much higher responsibility in the guardianship of 'their' forests (now to come under new collaborative management with new designation as LCAs in particular).

Design and Delivery of Interventions

The project is not just a planning project, but also a significant field implementation project. There are many preparatory activities, some of which were undertaken at the PPG phase and have taken three years to repeat. E.g. provisional lists of target communities (ILCs). The actual interventions designed to support ILCs / IPs in terms of an ICD approach are presently very limited / not explicit, and additionally lack a delivery mechanism (inputs and transfer of funds), apart from draft MoAs, which are over-arching but lack detail.

The prodoc was slightly weak in two key areas, namely in certain directed interventions (in SLM, SFM and BDFEs) and the delivery mechanism for these three outputs. At the project level, there is a lack of clustering these interventions, as well as the (draft) MoAs with ILCs / IPs lacking the actual project interventions. The design and implementation of these activities has not yet started. The project appears to be stalling on these points at present. Without livelihood benefits to ILCs and IPs in particular, the project will miss the chance to secure enhanced conservation outcomes which are paramount to BCA success and the overall project objective.

The key field aspects of the project are not fully appreciated / understood, in terms of target group, location, scale, possible activities (i.e. a sufficient basket of beneficial interventions for ILC / IPs and wildlife) to make any lasting positive outcome for conservation. The national level administration of the project (UNDP, DENR NPMU, NCIP, FASPs) is constraining the project realisation of needed field outcomes. For three years, the project focus has been dominated by the national level outputs (in Outcome 1), and a lack of facilitation in supporting MBC and EMBC PMUs to implement Outcome 2 and Outcome 3 in particular.

There is a siloed approach which is also not working. The BSWM and FMB selected target sites for SLM and SFM are wayward. LGUs need a much greater say in directing project funding to key LCA (& ICCA) areas. There is a lack of methodology to do achieve this, apart from training. What actual benefits are local KBA area forest users going to receive? What is the mechanism? How within MoAs, will ILCs be able to receive funds and other inputs (equipment / materials)?

Sub-contract management

Sub-contract management is 'weak' and dispersed across the project, with issues such as: contract timelines lack interim deliverables, with many deliverables only due at the end of project. The BCAs need such (interim) deliverables within the next 12 months. There is a need for stronger contract management, with at least a

spreadsheet with timing of contracts / deliverables, including peer review / approval time to begin with.

The project design is to implement field activities as a model to support Cluster Conservation Plans (CCPs) and OECM designation, but at present the project is working sequentially waiting for the outputs on assessments and plans (e.g. for the IEM approach). The project management (logframe) design is sequential, but only when feasible, otherwise activities should be in parallel. A 'working in parallel method' is now needed, plus with interim deliverables under national contracts.

Financial Management

The reimbursement method of staff and activity costs is negatively impacting MBC staff morale and their ability to implement activities, especially liaison with project beneficiaries and partners in decision-making. This is likely to have a significant negative impact on expected results and the outcome for the project.

National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP, a project implementation partner)

NCIP only received the project's first request for a Certificate of Pre-condition (CoP) after almost three years (March 2024), and for MBC, a draft MoA to work with IPs was only sent to NCIP's legal office in June 2024.

IEM Framework (Output 2.1)

The status of the IEM Framework is at draft DAO stage, with a sub-contractor yet to be engaged. The IEM Framework is needed to support planning and designation of OECMs – LCAs and ICCAs, for the preparation of CCPs and land use plans; and a Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) Roadmap (DENR contract). However further development of the framework in time to support these actions is unlikely, thus parallel implementation is needed, with the framework now likely to be a review at the end of the project.

Cluster Conservation Plans (Output 2.2)

There isn't an interim deliverable within the leading CELPA sub-contract to produce a template for CCP design, which is needed by the other three sub-contractors (GRIDs, Davao Oriental State University (DorSu), and Caraga State University (CarSU)). For example, DorSU are contracted to deliver their CCPs by the end of 2025, at the same time as CELPA. CELPA are also expected to deliver four CCPs themselves. The biodiversity assessments (by the four sub-contractors) are a precursor stage to creating CCPs [using a HCVA methodology], which are then needed for OECM identification and designation. The sub-contracting for CCPs was late (CELPA signed in December 2023, for 18 months), thus together with a lack of of interim deliverables, now makes this a high risk intervention.

OECM – Local Conservation Areas (LCAs) Designation (Output 2.4)

The present model to create LCAs is partly based on a 'Training of Trainers' (cascade) approach for the project to train DHSUD, who in turn will train municipal LGUs to prepare LCAs. However, there is now insufficient time, with the training module still needed, and thereafter training to be delivered, and finally LCA designation. Thus DHSUD and LGUs need to be directly trained by the NPMU at the same time. Due to the key importance of this intervention, greater human and financial resources may need to be allocated in 2025, in order to achieve this primary aim of the project.

OECM – Mining concessions with a 5% Reference Ecosystem Area Designation (Output 2.4)

EMBC has been working with ~10 mining companies to permanently designate 5% of their concession land as 'Reference Ecosystem Areas'. This has effectively been achieved, with the official designation expected to come.

However, UNDP requires 'due diligence' to be undertaken for work with such private sector partners, which has yet to be completed. In order to not now negatively impact this conservation-friendly intervention (in case due diligence is not completed or favourable), it is recommend to not use GEF funds, but to utilize the co-financing funds from government and the mining companies themselves, who are already endorsed as project partners in the approved prodoc project design.

As the mining companies in EMBC have already created these Reference Ecosystem Areas, the project now only needs to get these areas described and designated as OECMs in an official document only (e.g. DAO between DENR and their Mines & Geosciences Bureau - MGB).

Sustainable Land Management (SLM implemented by DA – BSWM) (Output 3.2)

There are a number of issues with BSWM's implementation of Output 3.2 – SLM. These include: a claim that the project funds (SLM contract is US$1.6m) are insufficient to attain the target 15,000 ha to go under SLM actions; a lack of BSWM field capacity to attain the target; the lack of coordination with the BCA PMUs in terms of site selection (in locations adjacent to PAs, KBAs or projected OECMs) and beneficiary group selection (ILCs, such as IPs living near these OECM sites). For example, in MBC, the selection of LCAs is also urgently needed, with to date only 6 out of 18 SLM demonstration sites are with IPs, whereas 12 out of the 18 demonstrations are with cooperative entities.

There is also little evidence of BSWM expansion of SLM beyond 500 ha, or the method to reach 15,000 ha. This is <5% of project target area. Moreover, this is irrespective of a scaling-up approach to reach a target of 150,000 ha of SLM through local planning (e.g. via CLUPs and funding to LGUs). This aspect of the project is failing. It needs to be listed as high risk.

In the project design, out of the US$1.6m allocated for this output for 15,000 ha of SLM, 9,000 ha are to be implemented by LGUs with agriculture officers for private tenured farmers. BSWM has now budgeted this at US$631,000. However for the other 6,000 ha of SLM, this was to be implemented by NCIP for IP CADC/T areas, but BSWM has only budgeted US$35,000. This is a good example of the lack of cross-sectoral collaboration and weak project management.

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM implemented by Forest Management Bureau) (Output 3.3)

SFM is being implemented by FMB, but the present team were only formally contracted after 2.5 years (end-2023). In MBC, SFM demonstration sites are partly missing the target location / beneficiary group, and will have have little impact on conservation unless expanded to key sites, located near to where OECMs are to be designated. The method to expand to 15,000 ha is also not clear, nor is the scaling-up approach to reach 100,000 ha of SFM avoiding degradation. In MBC, so far, FMB and the sub-contractor has only identified existing CBFM sites nearer towards the coast, with private farmers/ cooperatives, and not IP CADC/T areas in / adjacent to proposed OECMs.

BDFE (Output 3.4)

The BDFE contract to implement activities is not on the horizon yet, with the BDFEs selection process still at an early stage. This also appears to be a top-down intervention at risk of being too late and / or having little or no impact. On a theme level, the project has also been focusing on ecotourism partners for this activity, when the benefits for conservation are often over-estimated.

Protected Area Management

The PA and IP ranger patrol and monitoring system has been inadequately deployed, considering that a national system has been in operation since 2018, called the Lawin Forest & Biodiversity Protection System. The PA monitoring activities are insufficiently expanded in terms of field patrol, feedback methods and equipment. An alternative best practice model is the US NGO Wildlife Conservation Society SMART[33] patrol system.

Forward Focus

The project is trying to become 'all things to all men' It should focus on a number of core objectives, based on the threats. These include: PA border control and monitoring; OECM (LCA and ICCA) designation by LGUs; Establishment of OECM boundary maps, and LCA / ICCA Management Councils with LCAs under co-management regulations with ILCs / IPs; and to implement ICD activities with the ILC / IPs. These include SLM / BDFAPs, SFM, and BDFEs as livelihood improvement (income-generating) activities clustered in ILC / IP areas (near KBAs), in return for forest conservation agreements by the ILCs / IPs, such as to cease shifting cultivation. This means that some IP CADC areas may need to be chosen. These actions should be prioritized without waiting for the IEM Framework or the CCPs, which are now both likely to arrive at the end of the project.

6.2 Lessons Learned

Lessons learned are usually distilled at project end. In the case of this MTR, the discussions are presented in the preceding Analysis and Conclusions section. Thus a select list is provided, in order to avoid too much repetition:

- Top-heavy administrative structure with too many national partners and stakeholders, which is making implementation slow for both national and BCA outputs, with field implementation with ILCs yet to start
- NCIP engagement and decision-making appears dis-functional, but in part is due to the project's lack of direction / understanding in what actual interventions with local beneficiaries it requires
- SLM and SFM are not sufficiently under project control in terms of meeting project objectives – livelihood benefit, conservation with ILCs in target areas near KBAs, or at the scale required.
- Both SLM / SFM are key for both, reaching IP beneficiary target numbers, and project critical mass to achieve reduced forest habitat degradation
- The lead sub-contractor for CCP design (CELPA) is not under sufficient management control
- The idea that sequential project implementation can continue, needs to be dispelled. BCA pilot site interventions now need to run parallel or ahead of national (Outcome 1) outputs

[33] Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool

- At present the different actions of the project are not harmonised or coordinated in terms of location clustering near KBAs / OECMs or in terms of target beneficiary (ILC / IP) who need to support conservation outcomes in return for project development activities (livelihood improvements)
- LCA designation with LCA Councils established in the KBAs is the primary project tool to strengthen wildlife / ecological connectivity within the BCAs
- The various sub-contracts, especially for site locations, are not aligned with the project's selection of ILC – IPs to work with and the signed / draft MoAs (between DENR, NCIP and the IPs) that have been prepared. Moreover, the MoAs with the IPs don't include any actual activities due to the late arrival of sub-contractors who are expected to design such interventions.
- The project has been too slow and cautious, working in a top-down approach in engaging many national, regional and provincial government offices. This has been at the expense of not actually 'setting-up' expected interventions with the ILCs / IPs
- The late payment of UNDP funding tranches has been hindering project implementation at BCA level, in terms of funds for field work (to the extent of losing local staff and low morale). This has been allied with the very slow procurement of sub-contractors, which the local PMUs are 'still waiting for' in many cases, to start field implementation.
- The amount of GEF funds is not an issue (21% spent with 50% project time elapsed), neither is the approval of quarterly workplans and budgets, thus there doesn't appear to be a reason why DENR can not advance funds to the PMUs. [UNDP are not going to change their FACE system, which requires proof of expenditure before payment]

6.3 Recommendations

The recommendations are listed [with the responsible party identified in brackets].

1. Planning - The AWPB 2025 needs to focus on delivery milestones by quarter, and not on numerous workshops. For example:

    a. Q1 identification of LCA and ICCA areas with adjacent ILCs to work with; submission to NCIP with clear MoAs with the ILCs / IPs for NCIP CoP approval. The AWPB should include allied budgeting for BCA PMU staff to travel and work in the field (expenses) in order to achieve agreement between the project, LGUs and ILCs / IPs for baskets of interventions.

    b. Q2 – DENR meetings with BSWM and FMB on alignment and delivery of their inputs with the project's conservation objectives and target locations; DENR meetings with NCIP to approve field interventions with ILCs / IPs

    c. Q3 – Delivery of MoA agreements for actual interventions with fund and input transfers to ILCs / IPs

    d. Q4 – Support for ILCs to implement activities

    [DENR, BMB Focal Point (and UNDP) in ensuring timely fund release, especially for field work to BCA PMUs; DENR (Project Director) in ensuring NCIP agreement / approval]

2. Fund transfer - Due to the UNDP re-imbursement payment system, the question is how can DENR facilitate implementation through to the BCA PMUs, which is needed if any tangible impact on biodiversity conservation is going to be achieved. The re-imbursement method is crushing the MBC project. A cash advance or Imprest (petty cash) is required - and is a significant issue if not resolved.

    a. Suggested DENR / BMB Focal Point with UNDP request to DENR Under Secretary to agree to an Imprest (To note all activities are already approved by DENR / UNDP in quarterly workplans, so the present system appears like a punitive action)

    [UNDP / DENR Under-secretary]

3. The local PMU staff need to get to the IPs, to discuss interventions, in order to deliver the project. It is recommended that the Mimaropa vehicle is transferred to Mindoro PMU for the next two years to aid field implementation.
    [DENR]
4. IEM Framework – The sub-contractor needs to be hired with interim deliverables which are chapter-based: Concept; Approach; and IEM plan outline to inform BCA activities

[BMB Focal Point / NPMU]

5. SLM needs to be listed as high risk
   a. There is a need to agree SLM locations for the expansion to 15,000 ha, so that they are clustered with other project interventions.
   b. There is a need to understand that 6000 ha out of the 15,000 ha should be implemented with NCIP in IP (as the beneficiary) CADC/T areas which are in or adjacent to LCAs / ICCAs
   c. The work in the IP areas should be undertaken
   d. To re-direct a proportion of BSWM funds directly to LGUs establishing SLM areas and for LCA management plans in key locations. E.g. Sablayan in Mindoro – east & west side of watershed areas]

   [DENR / NPMU with BSWM]
6. The work with IPs needs to be designed as a 'basket of interventions' (biodiversity-friendly forestry and agriculture)

   [BCA PMUs to oversee]
7. There is a need to expand the activity with LGUs to create LCAs / ICCAs, in terms of preparing boundary maps, creating LCA Management Councils, and delivering sets of co-management principles for the LCAs

   [BCA PMUs to oversee]
8. SFM sub-contract [PALEC] needs to be re-visited to ensure that the required target with (grant) activities is for 15,000 ha, and that target location and target beneficiaries are clear.

   [BMB Focal Point / NPMU with FMB]
9. The different actions of the project (IEM / OECMs, SLM, SFM and BDFEs) need to be harmonised so that they are clustered together in key locations in or near KBAs / OECMs, so that there is a critical mass for conservation outcomes to have a chance to have an impact. A schematic plan with key LGUs identified with their basket of interventions with ILCs / IPs is needed.

   [NPMU with BCA PMUs]
10. There is a need for MoU or MoA agreements with mining companies re. '5% Reference Ecosystems Areas', to make note to these areas' importance as as being OECMs. Legal recognition is also required.

    [DENR with MGB with EMBC PMU]
11. In MBC, the pre-selection of expected LGUs / LCA sites need to be approved by NPMU this year (in 2024) to put in AWPB 2025, if the project is going to be successful in MBC.
    a. In MBC, there are six 6 key LCA locations in 5 LGUs. The project approach should be to target these areas as priorities for activities in 2025. The LGUs are: Sablayan x 2 (East & west sides of watershed), Victoria, Naujan, Baco, Bongabong

    [NPMU with MBC PMU]
12. There needs to be a definitive list of agreed LGUs for AWPB 2025, where the project is working, to ensure a clustering of interventions near to PAs, KBAs or OECMs in order to demonstrate the ICD and co-management approaches of the project

    [NPMU]
13. Bearing in mind, one of the major threats to biodiversity is insecure PA borders, the PA patrol and monitoring system should be significantly expanded (with funds) in terms of ranger training in digital monitoring with computer tablets and with ranger field equipment.

    [DENR]

6. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Delivery of Project Objective and Outcomes against Performance Indicators

Assessment Key:

Green: Completed / Achieved	**Yellow:** On target to be completed / achieved	**Red:** Not on target to be completed / achieved

Extracted from Prodoc SRF				IP to fill out this column with detail text on achievement	MTR team	MTR team fills out
Indicator	**Baseline**	**Mid-term target**	**End of Project target**	**2024 Mid-term Level & Assessment**	**Achievement Rating**	**Justification for Rating**
Objective: Operationalizing integrated management of biological corridors to generate multiple benefits including effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity, reduced deforestation and degradation and enhanced community livelihoods					**MS**	
Indicator 1: GEF Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding Protected Areas), including: - Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity;	Around 4-7% of forests within biodiversity hot-spots in selected clusters under threat of further fragmentation	Biological corridor integrated frameworks agreed among all stakeholders, including specific long-term conservation outcomes to be achieved management planning and management within the corridors	At least 200,000 hectares of biological corridors under improved management practices through establishment and improved management of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Efforts (OECMs) through ICCAs[1], LCAs	• Policy on Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) framework drafted • Proposed reactivation of the PCSD-CCMRD as the national level governance mechanism and platform to facilitate integrated ecosystem planning and management of biodiversity corridors; the IATWG recommended to study the PCSD-CCMRD or the DBCC-TWG on Environment as potential platforms.	S	The project has created most of the legal building blocks to deliver the project, however the time left to deliver full implementation is now severely limited with now only time for two more full annual plans / budgets (2025 and 2026),

[1] The PIF suggested that PA system be expanded through gazettal of new PAs/OECMs covering 200,000 ha of high biological significance within the corridors, but PPG consultations revealed that IPs were reluctant to convert their ancestral domains into PAs, but rather would prefer to enhance conservation outcomes in these areas through improved conservation-friendly management practices and improved protection afforded by the IP themselves. As such, the project would support efforts for recognition of ancestral domains as ICCAs, support LGU-based local conservation areas (LCAs) and conservation set-asides in extractive industry and agri-business estates. Agreements include the following: (i) registry for ICCAs; (ii) co-management agreements between LGU and DENR, and subsidiary co-management arrangements between LGUs and local communities; and (iii) MOUs between private estates and DENR for privately owned conservation areas.

			and privately-owned conservation estates,[1]	• EMBC and MBC Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) created and subsumed under the Regional Development Council (RDC) as corridor-level governance mechanism and platform • At least 190,678.41 has of potential OECMs identified and for validation: MBC – ICCAs (3) – 8,385.31 ha LCAs (1) – 160 ha EMBC – ICCAs (4) – 35,133.10 ha LCAs (6) – 147,000 ha • Ongoing tenurial analysis workshop (in EMBC)		and engage with smallholder and subsistence farmers who work on seasonal calendars.
Indicator 2: GEF Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent) as measured by: - Carbon sequestrated or emissions avoided in the sector of agriculture, forestry and other land uses	Limited efforts within project biodiversity corridors to assess carbon values	Monitoring systems for estimation of carbon sequestrated and/or avoided established	Total C benefits of 17,503,045 metric tons of CO_2 over 20-year period as follows: (a) C sequestrated in agriculture, forestry and other land uses of 5,396,078 metric tons of CO_2 over 20-year period and (b) avoided emissions of 12,106,967 metric tons of CO_2 over 20-year period	• RTD on carbon accounting conducted on April 26 and November 23, 2023, and February 29, 2024. • Supported Consultancy service for finalization DENR-FMB CAVCS Manual of Operations for Forest Carbon Projects (FMB/Greenpact); DA-BSWM tool limited to monitoring soil organic carbon • Discussion with FAO on capacity building on FAO EX-ACT tool ongoing online orientation done last 19 Dec. 2023 actual training to be pursued by Aug 2024 (jointly with FAO and FMB-FAO/GEF FLR Project) • Conducted levelling-off meeting with FLR Project (sister project of the BD Corridor last Mar 21) since both will use the FAO EX-ACT tool for carbon estimation	MS	A carbon measuring tool has been selected – FAO EX-ACT

[1] The 200,000 ha of new set-asides will be established following the mapping and be achieved through new management planning and participatory management agreements and developed and implementation of basic management and resource use plans

				• Forest and Carbon Project Monitoring Systems in the Forestry Sector submitted		

Indicator 3: GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefits of GEF investment	Baseline of households participating in improved and alternative livelihoods and sustainable resource management will be established through the community cluster conservation planning process in Year 1	At least 9,000 individuals (belonging 2,250 households) are directly benefiting from sustainable natural resources management and improved and alternative livelihoods and incomes (at least 50% of beneficiaries are women)	At least 65,000 individuals, with which 30% are indigenous peoples (belonging to 15,000 households) directly benefit through sustainable natural resource management and livelihood improvement approaches and increase of 15% in average economic benefit (at least 50% of beneficiaries are women, with which 25% are IP women)	• Initial inventory and mapping of existing and potential Biodiversity-friendly Enterprises (BDFEs), including ecotourism services, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and agricultural products, in corridor sites conducted
				• List of POs identified for verification and implementation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) exemplars, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and forest certification activities under finalization
				• For SLM: 30 farmer associations (30 farmer cooperators), for profiling (18 in MBC and 12 in EMBC)
				• For SFM and forest certification:
				  • 19,478 individuals (women=6,318)
				  • Recommended priority 1 site from CARAGA: 2,897individuals (women=1,094)
					MU	The project design is primarily one of integrated conservation and development. At mid-term the projected development outcomes at the end of the project, are expected to be limted, thus in turn the expected conservation outcomes in terms of agreed guardianship of the forest by ILCs / IPs is in jeopardy.

Outcome 1: Effective policy, coordination, regulatory and institutional framework for planning, management, compliance monitoring, enforcement and decision making for integrated management of biodiversity corridors developed					**S**	
Indicator 4: Number of policy instruments that are in place and applied to integrate biodiversity	Current policies are limited to detection of presence or absence of listed species rather than	Policies reviewed, gap assessed and draft policy instruments under review	At least four instruments (updated safeguard standards	Consultation workshop on the Harmonization of Policies and Development Planning across NGAs conducted last Sept. 28-29, 2022	S	The project has created most of the legal building blocks

outcomes in sector and national and local planning policy and programs	looking at impacts on broader ecological principles and processes for the survival of species, maintenance of ecological services, and habitat connectivity.		and guidelines)[1] for improving biodiversity outcomes within the biodiversity corridors developed and adopted	Existing policies were reviewed/supported including: • DENR-DA JAO 2021-01 (BDFAPs) and Philippine National Standard (PNS)/BAFS 363:2023 (BDFAPS-Code of Practice) • DENR AO 2021-13 (BDFE) • DAO 2022-04 (BD in mining) and Supplemental Guideline on 5% reference ecosystem • Draft DENR AO on OECMs • Draft DENR AO on IEM • DENR AO revising 2003-30 (PEISS) • National Standards on Sustainable Forest Management Products • CAVCS Manuals and Templates		to deliver the project
Indicator 5: Level of institutional capacities for planning, implementation and monitoring integrated biodiversity management planning in biodiversity corridors as measured by UNDP's capacity development scorecard for the following institutions: 1. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 2. Department of Agriculture (DA) 3. National Commission for Indigenous People (NCIP)	Limited institutional capacities for planning, implementation and monitoring of multiple use IBM planning and management in biological corridors as measured by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard baseline values as indicated below: DENR- 47/74 DA: 28/42 NCIP: 16/39	Average increase of institutional capacity as measured by a 5-point increase in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard baseline values	Average increase of institutional capacity as measured by 15-20 points in UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline values	• Training needs Assessment (TNA) conducted where the capacity scorecards of DENR, DA, and NCIP were validated - DENR: 48/78 - DA: 28/42 - NCIP: 18/39 • TNA was also conducted for LGUs • Capacity Development Plan prepared with recommended trainings • Assistance from partner firms and SUCs in identification and provision of trainings, aligned with the 5-capacity development strategic areas of support, discussed • Re-assessment of DA (33/42) and DENR (60/78) capacity scorecard conducted	MS	The mid-term result was held back slightly by the score for NCIP

[1] Specifically includes policies to incorporate biodiversity and gender considerations in biodiversity-friendly agriculture policy, extractive industries policy, biodiversity-friendly enterprise policy and local governance policy and improved guidelines (based on experiences from the ground) for integration of biodiversity safeguards

				last June 3 and June 20, respectively. For NCIP, to be scheduled.		
Indicator 6: Extent to which the network of protected areas and other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) within corridors have adopted automated biodiversity monitoring system for biodiversity and threat assessment	Monitoring system in protected areas paper-based and inefficient to capture real-time monitoring of biodiversity and threats. No monitoring system exists in OECMs	All eleven PAs within the two corridors have moved to automated biodiversity monitoring systems and design for OECMs completed	All protected areas (11) and OECMs (at least 9 ICCAs and 4 LCAs) within two biodiversity corridors have moved to automated system of monitoring of biodiversity and threats	• Conducted orientation of eBAMS and eSEAMS as a standard tool for the assessment and monitoring activities for PAs covered by the Project in March 2023 in collaboration with USAID-SIBOL Project • Collaboration with BMB on pilot testing of eBAMS and eSEAMS in selected PAs within corridor sites is ongoing. Reorientation of said systems including SNK, in tandem with USAID-SIBOL team, held in EMBC last May 13-17, 2024 • Review of eBAMS and eSEAMS as monitoring tool for OECMs ongoing • Purchased and distributed tablets to PAs to facilitate automated monitoring	S	The project is developing an automated monitoring system for PAs.
Outcome 2: Improved site-level planning, regulatory, monitoring and implementation framework for demonstration of integrated ecosystem planning and management of pilot biodiversity corridors					MS	
Indicator 7: (GEF Core Indicator 1.2): Management effectiveness of terrestrial protected areas within designated biological corridors supported by tenure security and	Baseline METT scores[1]: PA 1: Mts. Iglit Baco NP: 67 PA 2: Mt. Calavite WS: 67 PA 3: Agusan Marsh WS: 55 PA 4: Alamio, Buayan, Caracan, Panikian River	Average increase by at least 10 points in METT	Average increase by at least 20 points in METT from current PAs baselines covering 300,000 ha	• METT scores of all PAs validated • Initial assessment of gaps and identification of interventions to increase METT scores conducted • Various training for enhancing PAMOs personnel capacity to effectively manage the PA conducted	MU	The METT scorecard at mid-term was not completed

[1] These baseline METT scores will be validated in Year 1, in particular PAs 1, 2, 3 and 10 that have high baseline METT scores. All METT scores were developed through 2015-2017

improved resource access and sustainable use	and Sipangpang Falls Watershed FR: 15 PA 5: Aliwagwag Protected Landscape: 26 PA 6: Andanan Watershed FR: 30 PA 7: Cabadbaran Watershed: 20 PA 8: Mainit Hotspring Protected Landscape: 42 PA 9: Mati Protected Landscape: 20 PA 10: Mt. Hamiguitan Range WS: 59 PA 11: Surigao Watershed FR: 17					
Indicator 8: Status of status of key species remaining stable or increasing from the baseline: Central Mindoro: Forest obligate species such as Tamaraw (Bubalus mindorensis); and Mindoro Bleeding heart pigeon (Gallicolumba platanae) Eastern Mindanao: Forest obligate species such as Mindanao Bleeding heart pigeon (Gallicolumba crinigera) and Philippine eagle (Pithecophaga jefferyi)	Key species under continued threat from forest loss and degradation and poaching. Baselines[1] are: Mindoro: Tamaraw + 500 (DENR 2018): Mindoro Bleeding Heart pigeon -50-249 mature adults (Birdlife 2018) Mindanao Mindanao Bleeding Heart Pigeon -1,000-2,499 mature adults (Birdlife 2018); Philippine Eagle - 180-500 mature adults (Birdlife 2018)	Baseline populations validated and monitoring protocols established	Key species populations stable or increasing from baseline values	• Baseline population data for Tamaraw and Philippine Eagle established • Philippine Eagle Foundation, Inc. (PEFI) engaged by DENR CARAGA for the population survey and development of monitoring protocol of PH Eagle and Mindanao Bleeding Heart Pigeon • Consultation with local and international partners working on Tamaraw to synchronize activities and establish monitoring protocols conducted • Baseline population for the Mindoro Bleeding Heart Pigeon for validation by CENROs/PAs, and from Consultants	S	The project has engaged the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) to undertake a population survey and develop a monitoring protocol for the Philippine Eagle
Indicator 9: Number of regional, provincial and local plans that mainstream objectives of integrated	Indicator 9: RDIPs, PPFPs and LGU CLUPs have limited attention to mainstreaming ecosystem	Indicator 9: Guidelines, regulations and frameworks and capacity improvements being undertaken to	Indicator 9: Sub-national plans fully integrate IEM considerations within	• Status of R/PDPs, CLUPs/CDPs within corridor sites assessed	MS	Priority municipal LGUs identified for assistance in updating CLUPs to

[1] These numbers will be validated in Year 1 of the project

ecosystem management (IEM) within the biodiversity corridors: RDIPs, PPFPs, CLUPs/CDPs, ADSPPs	consideration into their planning systems	facilitate biodiversity and ecosystem mainstreaming into sub-national planning systems	the two biological corridors as follows: RDIPs – 3 PPFPs – 9, and LGU CLUPs/CDPs – 24 ADSDPP – 9	• Meetings with NEDA Regions 11, 13, and MIMAROPA on mainstreaming IEM and BD in RDPs conducted • Stakeholder consultations on mainstreaming BD in local plans, including gender considerations conducted • Priority municipal LGUs in EMBC and MBC for assistance in updating CLUPs to integrate BD and IEM consideration identified • Community validation for issuance of NCIP CP ongoing prior to conduct of assistance for ADSDPPs formulation or enhancement • Enhancement of Modules and conduct of pilot Trainers Training on Modules, including mainstreaming into LGU CLUPs in collaboration with DHSUD discussed		integrate IEM / biodiversity into the plansTraining of Trainers course discussed with DHSUD on mainstreaming IEM / biodiversity into CLUP The onus is on LGUs being supported by sub-contractors to update a substantial volume of local planning documentation. This is an ambitious undertaking for both the project and local government.
Indicator 10: Number of hectares impacted by the mainstreaming of SLM and SFM in relevant local planning instruments, measured by: (a) Area of degraded agricultural lands prioritized for avoiding degradation in relevant local planning instruments (b) Area of forest land prioritized for restoration in relevant local planning instruments	Limited attention and prioritization of SLM and SFM activities in RDIPs, PPFPs and LGU CLUPs	Capacity building for LGU staff for mainstreaming completed, mainstreaming guidelines in place and CLUPs revision ongoing to incorporate and prioritize conservation investments,	(a) At least 150,000 hectares of agricultural lands prioritized for avoiding degradation in relevant local planning instruments (b) At least 100,000 hectares of forest lands prioritized for avoiding degradation in relevant local planning instruments	• Review of guidelines for mainstreaming SLM and SFM in local plans conducted to inform capacity building for LGU staff • TNA for LGUs conducted • For SLM, 11 preliminary capacity building activities conducted; consultation workshops to present Farm Development Plans and MOA for the 30 exemplars were conducted • Mapping of agricultural lands and forestland to be prioritized for inclusion in relevant plans completed	MU	Review of guidelines for mainstreaming SLM and SFM into local plans conducted to inform capacity building for LGU staff; TNA for LGUs conducted However, the capacity of LGUs to undertake this task is limited
Outcome 3: Sustainable use and management systems for land and forest resources that are					**MU**	

compatible with integrated ecosystem management corridor objectives implemented						

Indicator 11: GEF Core Indicator 3: Area of lands restored, segregated by:
(a) Area of degraded agricultural lands restored
(b) Area of forest land restored
	Natural habitats under continued fragmentation due to agricultural expansion as result of declining productivity of existing agricultural lands and loss of livelihoods	At least:
		(a) 1,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands restored under SLM production systems; and
		(b) 1,000 ha under of disturbed forest lands under improved SFM
			At least the following targets[1] will be achieved:
			(a) 15,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands restored under SLM production systems; and
			(b) 15,000 ha under of disturbed forest lands under improved SFM
				• 30 exemplar sites with a total area of 150 ha identified for SLM
				• Site level consultation workshop with LGUs in MBC and EMBC to firm up the proposed SLM exemplar sites conducted
				• SFM Firm on board; while NGO for the establishment of SLM exemplars ongoing procurement
				• Initial mapping conducted and potential sites for SFM identified for further shortlisting, and validation
				  • EMBC – 242,601 ha
				  • MBC – 59,047 ha
					U	The reason for the 'U' rating for SLM and SFM is that both schemes are rather missing both target site locations (near KBAs) and also missing target beneficiaries (ILC / IPs).

Indicator 12: Number of Voluntary Forest certification system piloted with local communities and privately managed forests for encouraging sustainable forest management	National criteria and indicators and governance for sustainable forest management not finalized	Forest certification system piloted in 2 sites including one community managed forest and one privately managed forest	Forest certification systems updated based on lessons from 2 sites including one community managed forest and one privately managed forest pilot and adopted by DENR and stakeholders	Ongoing review of DAO on Forest Certification Systems • Proposed national standards approved by DTI-BPS • Multi-stakeholder consultation workshop on criteria & indicators for SFM effectiveness conducted SFM Firm on board / identified LUMINO (IFMA) and MATILFAMCO (CBFM) as pilot sites in CARAGA	MS	The question is more, does the project wish to spend siginifcant time on supporting industrial forest plantations?
Outcome 4: Awareness and collaborative decision-making on Integrated Ecosystem Management enhanced through effective knowledge management and gender mainstreamin					S	

[1] Refer Indicators 9 and 10 on additional SLM and SFM projections through increased program investments in CLUPs

Indicator 13: Level of awareness on IEM within the biodiversity corridors as indicated by KAP survey. [1]	Coordinated outreach on conservation threats lacking. Limited awareness of impact of unplanned development among general public. Baseline survey established in Year 1	At least 40% sampled community members, government and sector agency staff, private sector and other stakeholders (at least 40% women) aware of potential conservation threats and adverse impacts of unplanned developments and actions needed for corridor conservation	At least 60% (of which at least 40% women) of sampled community members, government and sector agency staff, private sector and other stakeholders aware of potential conservation threats and adverse impacts of unplanned developments and behavior change for biodiversity outcomes	• KAP survey completed
				Awareness level of biodiversity:
				  • 57% - Caraga
				  • 62% - Davao
				  • 45% - Mindoro
				• BMB KAP questionnaire for terrestrial ecosystems reviewed and technical inputs from the project provided
				• Consultation with DENR-RSCIG of Regions 11, 13, and MIMAROPA conducted
				• Communications Planning Workshops for the development of corridor communication plans conducted last May 2024.
				• National Communications Plan, EMBC Communications Plan and MBC Communications Plan prepared based on KAP survey results and communications planning workshops
					S	Mid-term target achieved

Indicator 14: Integrated decision support system/ integrated information management system to monitor biodiversity threats and outcomes in place and effectively used.	All data collection in paper form with limited scope, quality, accessibility and use. Baseline to be established in Year 1	Automated information management system established and operational	100 % increase in number of inter-sectoral users from baseline	• Scoping and review of information management systems conducted • KM/IMS Firm recently onboarded.	MS	Review of systems underway
Indicator 15: Number of good practice conservation and sustainable resource management approaches applicable to different actors codified, disseminated nationally and adapted	Limited number of good practices in conservation and sustainable resource management codified, disseminated and applied	At least ten good practices in conservation and sustainable resource management codified and applied	At least thirty good practices in conservation and sustainable resource management codified and disseminated nationally and adapted	Potential good practices were identified • Roles of IP in BD conservation and management • Convergence mechanisms with LGUs and other NGAs • Partnership towards BD Corridor governance	S	Use of Wocat tool good

[1] The Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) approach will collect reference qualitative and quantitative declarative information on misunderstanding and barriers to behavior change, using appropriate tools including survey questionnaires, Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews, among others.

				• Development of game model to demonstrate carbon market at local level • Guidelines for the documentation of emerging good practices at the corridor level provided		

Annex 2: Delivery of Outputs

Outputs	Achievements Reported by IP	MTR Comment
Project Objective:		
Component 1: Effective coordination and governance framework for integrated ecosystem management of Philippines biodiversity corridors system		
Output 1.1: **Functional governance and coordination mechanism established at national level to facilitate integrated ecosystem planning and management of Biodiversity Corridors**	● Ten (10) TWG meetings and five (5) NPB meetings conducted to address technical concerns to respond to implementation challenges ● Midyear and year-end assessments conducted ● Various meetings with DENR bureaus, regional offices, and central office services conducted to discuss the following: ○ IEM, mining, PEIASS, OECM, monitoring platforms, co-financing, manual on mainstreaming biodiversity into CLUPs, carbon accounting and monitoring, etc.	At this stage, the main governance mechanism to facilitate IEM development actions is the issuance of DAOs and JAOs as official directives, however many remain in draft format.
Output 1.2: **Policy instruments (biodiversity and community safeguard standards and guidelines) for improving biodiversity outcomes within the biodiversity corridors developed and adopted**	● Support and collaboration with BMB-WRD on the National Conference of Philippine Plan Conservation and finalization of the Philippine Plant Action Plan ● Support and collaboration with BMB-NPD and CMD on the rollout of BDFE and pilot to terrestrial PAs and other conservation areas ● Rollout, revision and levelling off for the implementation of DAO 2022-04 including updating of SHES Manual to incorporate IEM/BD indicators and monitoring metrics ● Support to the enhancement of BD indicators in PEIASS ● Support for the review and updating of BDFAP Training Manual and rollout of DA-DENR JAO 2021-01 mainstreaming BDFAP in and around PAs and promoting the same in wider agricultural landscape	See indicator table no. 4
Output 1.3: **Compliance monitoring and enforcement strategy developed and adopted to measure progress towards measuring agreed biodiversity outcomes, threat reduction, sustainable natural resources management, apprehension of violators and prosecutions**	● Conducted meetings to discuss the development of design for automated biodiversity monitoring system for OECM ● Participation to the orientation training on Biodiversity Monitoring and Information Systems for PAs and OECMs	See indicator table no. 6
Component 2: Application of network design and management of biological corridors to ensure continued stability and sustainability of their biological, ecosystem services and socio-economic conservation values		
Output 2.1: **Integrated ecosystem management framework developed and adopted for two biodiversity corridors**	● Meetings with NEDA Regions on mainstreaming IEM and BD in Regional Development Plans conducted ● Stakeholder consultation on mainstreaming BD in local plans, including gender considerations completed	The project has produced a draft DAO - Guidelines for planning & implementing the IEM approach in priority landscapes (2023,

Outputs	Achievements Reported by IP	MTR Comment
	● Priority municipal LGUs in EMBC and MBC for assistance in updating CLUPs to integrate BD and IEM consideration identified ● Regular CAAC meetings conducted to discuss and address implementation issues and challenges at the corridor level	pp9, updated April 2024) which sets out the method and expected goverance structure.
Output 2.2: **Site-specific integrated cluster conservation plans (CCPs) designed through stakeholder and community consensus and decision-making for areas of critical high biodiversity within the biodiversity corridors**	● Community validation for issuance of NCIP Certificate of Precondition (CP) ongoing prior to conduct of assistance for ADSDPPs formulation or enhancement of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) – 13 CADTs in EMBC and 21 CADTs in MBC ● Consultation workshops conducted with stakeholders in preparatory for the in-depth HCVA assessment ● Completed engagement of consultancy firms at the national and EMBC and MBC levels who are ongoing conduct of BD assessment across the clusters within the corridors and subsequent development of cluster and corridor conservation plans ● Levelling-off and Work Planning on the new/revised ADSDPP Manual conducted in EMBC – creating a manual for the Ancestral Domain Conservation Plan (ADCP)	The project has contracted four entities to prepare and deliver the 12 CCPs

Output 2.3: **Improved management effectiveness of existing protected areas within the two biological corridors**	● METT scores of PAs validated including METT baselining assessment for 4 PAs in EMBC conducted
	● Assessment of gaps and identification of interventions to increase METT scores conducted
	● Various trainings for enhancing PAMOs personnel capacity to effectively manage the PAs conducted
	  ○ Orientation on the use of eBAMS and eSEAMS as monitoring tool for PAs
	  ○ Orientation and workshops conducted with regards to “Sukat ng Kalikasan” tool (localize version of HCVA)
	  ○ Orientation on the use of information systems such as PAIS and CWIS
	  ○ Support to the updating of PA plans
	● Participated in government efforts on restoration activities/initiatives through the following:
	  ○ Attendance and presentation to PAMB meetings and PA conferences
	  ○ Discussions on species population monitoring and conservation measures
	  ○ Participation to the annual tamaraw population monitoring using Simultaneous Multi-Vintage Point Count Method
	● Supported the formulation of restoration plan for the ranching areas inside MIBNP
	● Established baseline population data for Philippine Eagle (47 pairs -range of 38-54) – Sutton et al 2022
		METT scores have not been updated

Outputs	Achievements Reported by IP	MTR Comment
	● Completed engagement of Philippine Eagle Foundation Inc. for the development of monitoring protocol of PH Eagle and Mindanao Bleeding Heart	
Output 2.4: **Recognition of a network of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) such as ICCAs, LCAs to accord improved protection and conservation within key biodiversity areas**	● Workshop on identification of potential OECM site conducted (through tenurial analysis) – ongoing in Caraga and Davao, for schedule in Mindoro ● Community validation for issuance of NCIP Certificate of Precondition (CP) ongoing prior to conduct of assistance for ADSDPPs formulation or enhancement of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) ● Participated in various coordination meetings with P/MLGUs and watershed councils to present and discuss the concept and objectives of OECMs ● Potential OECMs identified: o EMBC – around 150,000 ha (85,000 in Davao and 65,000 in Caraga)	OECM DAO (draft 2023, pp11) - A draft DAO – 'Guidelines on the identification, selection, recognition and registration of OECMs' has been produced EMBC has identified 150,000 ha as potential OECMs
Output 2.5: **Capacitating national and sub-national governments, sector stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples to mainstream biodiversity conservation measures tested in the pilot corridors into their policies, planning and monitoring systems**	● IEM/BD considerations presented to Provincial LGUs as input to local planning (consultation workshop in EMBC last April 20-21, 2023) ● Conducted coordination meetings for the updating of Davao Oriental Environment Code to include IEM and BD considerations	The aim of this output is for DENR, DA and NCIP to work with the staff of (24) LGUs that are located within the BCAs, in IEM planning and in the preparation of CCPs. Through the mainstreaming of IEM (including SLM and SFM) policy under Outcome 1, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in investment for SLM, SFM socio-economic development via the municipal LGU CLUPs. The project is a long way from delivering this Output
Component 3: Community-based sustainable use and management systems in the two pilot biodiversity corridors in the Philippines.		
Output 3.1: Voluntary forest certification system piloted for local communities and privately managed forests	● Conducted stocktaking of current policies related to forest certification ● Conducted initial identification and validation of potential sites and beneficiaries for forest certification o EMBC - 1 CBFM PO (MATILFAMCO) and 1 private (LUMINO) ● Conducted map shop for the identification and profiling of priority sites for the piloting of the Forest Certification System	See indicator 12

Outputs	Achievements Reported by IP	MTR Comment
	● Conducted round table discussions on PFCS and the criteria & indicator system	
Output 3.2: Sustainable land management applied to degraded agricultural lands through a suite of SLM technologies/practices and incentives	3.2.1 Setting up of NGO recruitment, partners meetings and workshops agreements and finalizing institutional arrangements for exemplars and upscaling; ● 1 initial meeting conducted with PRRM to discuss the engagement of an NGO for the incentive mechanism 3.2.2. Selection of SLM exemplars ● Conducted 3 orientation and consultation workshops for the site validation of SLMEs ● Validated 61 sites (42 in MBC and 19 in EMB) for SLMEs ● Identified 30 SLM Exemplars (18 in MBC and 12 in EMBC) with a total area of 150 hectares 3.2.3 The exemplars will serve as 'learning nodes' that trigger farmer adaptation and innovation in wider areas. ● 20 Capacity buildings conducted (9 MBC and 11 EMBC) ● 545 Number of farmers trained on SLM 3.2.4 Design and implementation of SLM exemplars: ● 30 SLMEs Plans and Maps produced 3.2.5 Incentive mechanisms and programming for wide-scale adoption of SLM and biodiversity-friendly agricultural systems: ● 2 Workshops facilitated with BMB for the BDFAP roll out ● 2 Workshops on the Orientation and Organization of Regional Technical Working Group for DA DENR JAO on Mainstreaming of BDFAP	The project design indicated only 150 ha of demonstration sites (~1% of the target 15,000 ha to undergo SLM), which was extremely low. The BSWM implementation of demonstration sites covers ~500 ha, although this is still also very low at ~3%.
Output 3.3: Fragmentation of biodiversity habitats reduced through SFM approaches and collaborative management	● Conducted stocktaking of current policies related to SFM ● Conducted initial identification and validation of potential sites and beneficiaries for SFM ○ EMBC - 7 peoples organizations identified ○ MBC -7 peoples organizations identified ● Conducted map shop for the identification and profiling of priority sites for the implementation of SFM approaches ○ EMBC - around 17,815.59 ha areas validated (priority 1) ○ MBC - around 1,077.35 ha areas validated (priority 1) ● Approved and adopted Philippine National Standards 2140 - Sustainable Forest Management Requirements	FMB (DENR) is the lead organisation to deliver this output, however FMB indicated that the current team were only formally engaged by the project in mid-2023 – i.e. over two years from project start. Thus FMB's time to develop engagement with forest communities, create and deliver inputs (with $540,000 for CBFM), and make agreements on forest protection is now limited to

Outputs	Achievements Reported by IP	MTR Comment
		plans in 2025 and 2026 only.

Output 3.4: Biodiversity-friendly livelihood and business enterprises promoted to avoid biodiversity loss and lead to natural resources use sustainability	● Supported and collaborated with Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) for the ecotourism development activities in EMBC (i.e., biodiversity ecotourism cluster or loop/circuit)
	● Gender-responsive Value Chain Mapping Workshop conducted
	● Consultation-workshop on sustainable ecotourism in EMBC conducted (last July 3-5, 2023)
	  ○ Creation of TWG under CAAC on the crafting of a plan with end goal of having a comprehensive program for ecotourism development in EMBC
	  ○ TIEZA welcomes collective programs for vertical support infrastructure with LGUs as main proponents from the 5% of annual gross travel tax collections
	  ○ Development of EMBC-BETC Ecotourism Management Plan
	  ○ Conduct of EMBC-BETC Investment Forum
	● Potential Peoples Organizations (POs) in Agusan del Sur and Agusan del Norte identified through rapid assessment conducted by EMBC (ongoing to other provinces)
	● Ecotourism Proposal Writing Workshop for Caraga Region conducted (for schedule in Davao Region)
		The project design was to identify and support BDFEs. Examples listed in the prodoc are for the primary processing of NTFPs (honey, bamboo, mushroom) in order to add value before sale to market and hence improve ILCs livelihoods and income. According to the prodoc, under this output $400,000 (250 grantee x $1,600), would be available for distribution for BDFE schemes.

Component 4: Knowledge management, gender mainstreaming and monitoring and evaluation		

Output 4.1: Knowledge Management and Communications, Gender Mainstreaming and Monitoring and Evaluation strategies developed and implemented	● Engaged KAP survey team and conducted KAP survey through the use of BMB KAP questionnaire for terrestrial ecosystems along with the conduct of FGDs and key informant interviews with selected respondents from LGUs and IP groups. Awareness level of biodiversity per province are the following:
	  ○ 57% for Caraga
	  ○ 62% for Davao
	  ○ 45% for Mindoro
	● Conducted planning workshops for the development of communications plans (national and corridor levels) based on KAP results.
	● Conducted consultation meetings with DENR-RSCIG of Regions 11, 13, and MIMAROPA as part of mainstreaming activity
	● Various IEC/CEPA materials developed:
	  ○ Project briefers / Tarpaulins / Shirts/Polo Shirts with BDCor prints / Workshop/events merch (for distribution or prizes) / Tote bags / Tumblers / Lanyards / Knowledge products (simple booklets, flyers)
	● Participated to various BD-related events of the government as part of popularization efforts of the project
		See indicator table

Outputs	Achievements Reported by IP	MTR Comment
	○ coordination meeting the PLGU Davao Oriental on the development of the EMBC section in Mt. Hamiguitan Museum ● Conducted gender analysis and developed gender action plan for the project ● Developed M&E/Project Monitoring Plan for roll out - initially presented with PMUs during regular meetings and assessment activities ● Conducted project coordination call as part of regular status reporting of the PMUs before the TWG and NPB meetings	
Output 4.2: Harmonized information management system to integrate lessons from the biological corridors and user friendly operational	● Engaged KM/IMS firm who will lead and facilitate the development of automated information systems ○ Currently ongoing of scoping and review of existing BD information management systems ● Supported and participated in the orientation-training on BD monitoring and information systems for PAs and OECMs (eBAMS and eSEAMS, and PAIS and CWIS), in collaboration with USAID SIBOL Project and BMB, respectively ● Purchased tablets and distributed to PMUs and PAs to assist in the automated monitoring and gathering of BD-related information	See indicator table
Output 4.3: Knowledge Management and project experiences contributes to learning and facilitates replication and scaling up of integrated biodiversity management approaches elsewhere in the country.	● The Project is using the FASPS guidelines for the documentation of lessons learned, good practices, innovations and success stories (LGIS) and the WOCAT guidelines for SLM ● The following are some of the written documentations already under the Project: ○ Floating Garden with Hyacinth as substrate for the compound used as medium for plant growth, Agusan Marsh (published in WOCAT, Feb. 27, 2024, for finalization and review) ○ Rice-Fish culture locally known as Palay-Isdaan in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro (under review and finalization) ○ EMBC Wall in the Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary Science Museum: "Living Canvass: The Biodiversity of Mt. Hamiguitan" ● 2 SLM technologies documented using the WOCAT tool	See indicator table

Annex 3: Co-financing Table

Sources of Cofinancing[1]	Name of Cofinancer	Description of Cofinancing	Type of Cofinancing[2]	Confirmed at CEO Endorsement (US$)	Amount Contributed at Stage of MTR (USD)	Expected Amount by Project Closure USD	New Investment or Recurrent Expenditure	Actual % of Expected Amount USD
	UNDP		Grant	$1,500,000	$50,000	unknown	New	1
UNDP & Partner Sub-Total				**$1,500,000**	**$50,000**			1
National Government			Grant/In-kind	$55,820,865	$14,291,081	unknown	Recurrent	20
Other			Grant/In-kind	$5,380,142	$9,982,120	unknown	unknown	256
Government / Other Sub-Total				**$61,201,007**	**$24,273,201**			41
Total				**$62,701,007**	**$24,323,201**			40

1. Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agencies, Foundation, GEF Partner Agency, Local/ National Government, Civil Society Organization, Multi-lateral agencies, Private Sector, Other
2. Type of Co-financing may include: Grant, Soft Loan, Hard Loan, Guarantee, In-Kind, Other
3. Government funding was not audited by the project
4. Excludes PPG

Source of Co Financing	Name Of Co Financier	Type of Co Financing	Investment Mobilized	Mobilized	Amount
Recipient Country Government	Department of Environment & Natural Resources	Grants	Investments mobilized	39,539,455	3,770,526
Recipient Country Government	Department of Environment & Natural Resources	In Kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,351,573	10,520,555
Recipient Country Government	Department of Agriculture	Grants	Investments mobilized	11,936,960	-
Recipient Country Government	Department of Agriculture	In Kind	Recurrent expenditures	356,404	-
Recipient Country Government	Department of Trade and Industry - PTTC	In Kind	Recurrent expenditures	166,609	-
Recipient Country Government	Province of Surigao del Norte	In Kind	Recurrent expenditures	99,822	-
Recipient Country Government	Province of Davao Oriental	Grants	Investments mobilized	348,581	-
Recipient Country Government	Province of Davao Oriental	In Kind	Recurrent expenditures	21,461	-
Private Sector	Agala Mining Ventures, Inc	Grants	Investments mobilized	189,324	963,874
Private Sector	Taganito Mining Corporation	Grants	Investments mobilized	565,000	985,546
Private Sector	Taganito HPAL Nickel Corporation	Grants	Investments mobilized	186,931	-
Private Sector	Philsaga Mining Corporation	Grants	Investments mobilized	849,282	1,479,934
Private Sector	Mindanao Mineral Processing & Refining Corporation	Grants	Investments mobilized	142,982	1,504,579
Private Sector	Marcventures Mining & Development Corporation	Grants	Investments mobilized	86,741	-
Private Sector	CTP Construction & Mining Corporation –Adlay Project	Grants	Investments mobilized	247,686	1,195,383
Private Sector	CTP Construction and Mining Corporation – Dahican Nickel Project	Grants	Investments mobilized	242,230	293,944
Private Sector	Platinum Group Metals Corporation	Grants	Investments mobilized	622,464	2,603,687
Private Sector	Greenstone Resources Corporation	Grants	Investments mobilized	23,000	-
Private Sector	Carrascal Nickel Corporation	Grants	Investments mobilized	19,231	955,172

CSO	Center for Conservation Innovations	Grants	Investments mobilized	1,000,000	-
CSO	Haribon Foundation	Grants	Investments mobilized	546,260	-
CSO	Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation	Grants	Investments mobilized	326,923	-
CSO	Philippine Eagle Foundation	Grants	Investments mobilized	19,231	-
CSO	Conservation International	Grants	Investments mobilized	312,857	-
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Program	Grants	Investments mobilized	1,500,000	50,000
TOTAL				**62,701,007**	**24,323,200.54**

Annex 4: Planned Budget and Expenditures at Mid-term

Outcome	2021 USD	2022 USD	2023 USD	2024 USD	2025USD	2026 USD	Total USD
Indicative Breakdown of Project Budget in Project Document:							
Outcome 1	$68,041	$311,406	$349,776	$269,678	$135,376	$149,376	**$1,283,653**
Outcome 2	$43,118	$1,349,496	$1,404,946	$1,319,946	$518,546	$538,830	**$5,174,882**
Outcome 3	$19,764	$367,650	$1,181,719	$1,522,426	$895,126	$339,810	**$4,326,495**
Outcome 4	$64,317	$7143,765	$224,035	$150,235	$109,623	$199,415	**$891,390**
Project Management	$79,525	$104,080	$94,555	$92,622	$114,016	$99,023	**$583,821**
Total	**$274,765**	**$2,276,397**	**$3,255,031**	**$3,353,707**	**$1,771,487**	**$1,326,454**	**$12,260,241**
Outcome							**Cumulative Totals at MTR (end June 2024)**
Annual Work Plan Budgets and Actual Expenditures Incurred through mid-term:							
Outcome 1:	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**			
Annual Work Plan	$5,577	$210,586	$370,765	$479,722			**$1,066,650**
Disbursed	$938	$153,409	$367,360	$73,132			**$594,839**
Balance (AWP-Disbursed)	$4,639	$57,177	$3,405	$406,590	$0	$0	**$471,811**
Outcome 2:							
Annual Work Plan	$3,465	$394,882	$613,162	$1,797,570			**$2,809,079**
Disbursed		$213,758	$601,041	$344,652			**$1,159,451**
Balance (AWP-Disbursed)	$3,465	$181,124	$12,121	$1,452,918	$0	$0	**$1,649,628**
Outcome 3:							
Annual Work Plan	$7,617	$64,812	$214,569	$873,027			**$1,160,025**
Disbursed	$1,564	$42,990	$197,396	$134,799			**$376,750**
Balance (AWP-Disbursed)	$6,053	$21,822	$17,173	$738,228	$0	$0	**$783,275**
Outcome 4:							
Annual Work Plan	$9,961	$111,514	$164,505	$442,641			**$728,621**
Disbursed	$1,933	$75,870	$156,913	$43,239			**$277,955**
Balance (AWP-Disbursed)	$8,028	$35,644	$7,592	$399,402	$0	$0	**$450,666**
PMC:							
Annual Work Plan	$31,797	$114,103	$100,543	$107,040			**$353,483**
Disbursed	$4,036	$105,890	$91,366	$28,328			**$229,620**
Balance (AWP-Disbursed)	$27,761	$8,213	$9,177	$78,712	$0	$0	**$123,863**
Grand Totals:							
Annual Work Plan	$58,417	$895,897	$1,463,544	$3,700,000	$0	$0	**$6,117,858**
Total Disbursed	$8,471	$591,918	$1,414,076	$624,150	$0	$0	**$2,638,614**
Balance (AWP-Disbursed)	**$49,946**	**$303,979**	**$49,468**	**$3,075,850**	**$0**	**$0**	**$3,479,244**

Annex 5: Brief review of Plans, Technical reports, Training materials, Misc.

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MBC Key Conservation Sites

Priority Site	PBCPP	MBCFI	Flagship Species
Naujan Lake National Park, Oriental Mindoro	✓ (Very High)	✓	Philippine Duck
Mt. Halcon, Oriental Mindoro	✓ (Extremely High Critical)	✓	–
Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro	✓ (Very High)	✓	Mindoro Hornbill
Mts. Iglit-Baco of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro and Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro	✓ (Extremely High Critical)	✓	–
Mt. Hinunduang, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro	✓ (Extremely High Critical)	✓	–
Mt. Malasimbo, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	✓ (Extremely High Critical)	✓	–
Mt. Siburan, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro	✓ (Extremely High Critical)	✓	–
Malpalon	✓ (Insufficient Data)	–	–
Bogbog, Bongabong, and Mt Hitding	✓ (Insufficient Data)	–	–
Lubang Island	✓ (Extremely High Critical)	–	–
South Mindoro Islands: Semirara Island Groups	✓ (Insufficient Data)	–	–
Apo Reef Natural Park, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro	–	✓	Napoleon Wrasse
Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro	–	✓	–
Ilin and Ambulong Islands	–	✓	Philippine Teak
Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro	–	✓	–

Source: Gatumbato (2009)
Note: MBCFI = Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.
PBCPP = Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priority Program

MBC Site Selection for key watersheds

Potential Site/s (local watershed, communal park, mineral areas in watersheds, ecotourism/ recreation sites, urban green spaces, etc.)	M/BLGU	Estimated Area (if data is available)	Importance/ Significance based on the agreed criteria (inside KBA, w/in BD cluster, w/ initial efforts/interventions, habitat for wildlife)	Ecosystem Services being enjoyed and facilities present	Who benefits
Mag-Asawang Tubig River Watershed	Calapan, Naujan, Sablayan, Victoria	43, 794.66 has	❑ Inside Mt. Halcon and Mt. Iglit Baco KBA complex ❑ Within BD cluster ❑ With identified headwaters	❑ Cultural (Mangyan-Alangan ICC) ❑ Provisioning (Food, fiber and water) ❑ Regulating (flood and landslide control)	Upstream and downstream communities
Puerto Galera – Eastern part	Puerta Galera, Pinagsabangan , San Teodoro		❑ Inside Puerto Galera KBA ❑ Within BD cluster ❑ With identified headwaters	❑ Cultural (Iraya-Mangyan ICC) ❑ Provisioning (Food, fiber and Water) ❑ Regulating (flood and landslide control) ❑ Tourism sites	Upstream and downstream communities
Pinamalayan	Pinamalayan		❑ Inside KBA ❑ Within BD cluster ❑ With identified headwaters	❑ Cultural (Tau-Buid Mangyan, Tadyawan ICCs) ❑ Provisioning (Food, fiber and Water) ❑ Regulating (flood and landslide control)	Upstream and downstream communities

MBC – SLM Site selection

SLM – only 6 out of 18 are IP based, the rest are cooperatives.

Municipality	Cooperator	Farmers Association
ABRA DE ILOG		
Sitio Pambuhan, Brgy. San Vicente, Abra de Ilog	Maria Gloria M. Constantino	Pambuhan Farmers Association
PALUAN		
Sitio Ulasan, Brgy. Harrison, Paluan	Ranzel Dueñas	Unlad Magsasaka Agriculture Cooperative
Sitio Hinugasan, Brgy. Harrison, Paluan	Orley G. Reyes	Cassava Planters Association (CADT) (IRAYA)
SABLAYAN		
Sitio Marabong, Brgy. Batong Buhay, Sablayan	Charlou G. Ormega	Marabong Community Resource Management Association
Sitio Colonia, Brgy. Malisbong, Sablayan	Tasyo Calas	Paysaringan Mangyan Alangan Pandurucan Association (CADT) (ALANGAN)
Sitio Zone 1, Brgy. Tuban, Sablayan	Andrea N. Camara	Tuban Farmers Cooperative
RIZAL		
Sitio Mapajo, Brgy. Manoot, Rizal	Edgar Kusangloob	Samahan ng Buhid Bangon ng Barangay Manoot Rizal (CADT)
Sitio Mayupang, Brgy. Rizal, Rizal	Hans Christian Guevara	Brgy. Rizal, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro Irrigators Association (BRROMIA)
Sitio Maguyong, Brgy. Rizal, Rizal	Jesus O. Valdez, Jr.	Brgy. Rizal, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro Irrigators Association (BRROMIA)
Sitio Danupa, Brgy. Pitogo, Rizal	Roderick Diaz	BPROM (Danupa Farmers Association)
BONGABONG		
Brgy. Carmundo, Bongabong	Mr. Osmando Macalalad	Carmundo Farmers Association
Brgy. Lisap, Bongabong	Marian Ganancial	Lisap Farmers Association
POLA		
Sitio Nagkakaisa, Brgy. Tiguihan, Pola	Mylen Fruelda	Saligang Tadyawan sa Pilan Farmers Association (CADT) (TADYAWAN)
Sitio Taybungan I, Brgy. Tagbakin, Pola	Nilo Garan	Taybungan Tagbakin Farmers Association
SAN TEODORO		
Sitio Nabag-ot, Brgy. Caagutayan, San Teodoro	Eduardo A. Aparato	San Teodoro Vegetable Association
VICTORIA		
Brgy. Bambanin, Victoria	Marlyn L. Calderon	Bambanin Upland Farmers Association
MANSALAY		
Sitio Kahusayan, Brgy. Maliwanag, Mansalay	Amulfo Ramos	Maliwanag Mansalay Irrigators Association
Sitio Galang, Brgy. Panaytayan, Mansalay	Manny U. Iray Nayhan Using Sonny Luzon Rohani Using	For Registration (CADT) (HANUNUO)

MBC Organisational Structure

In MBC for example, in terms of the organisational structure (coordination mechanism), the following exists:

EMBC Target IP locations – CADTs

Target CADTs in Caraga Region
CADT 048 (Surigao del Norte) – with mining operations; requires ADSDPP enhancement
CADT 223, Trento, Agusan del Sur– for IPS documentation and potential establishment of ICCA (with community resolution)
CADT 142, Novele, Rosario, Agusan del Sur – inside wetland, needs ADSDPP formulation support
CADT 090, Loreto, Agusan del Sur – wetland and receives no intervention yet (For Enhancement)
CADT 134 (Jabonga , Kitcharao and Santiago in Agusan del Norte)- For Enhancement
CADT 239- Bislig City, Surigao Del Sur (For Enhancement)
CADT 254 (MaMaSanSiSu, Surigao del Norte)
Target CADTs in Davao Oriental
CADT 209 of the Mandaya ICC-IP Bagangga- Municipality of Bagangga
CADT 04-03-0006 of the Mandaya ICC-IP Boston- Municipality of Boston
CADT of the Mandaya ICC-IP Cateel- Municipality of Cateel
Target CADTs in Davao de Oro
CADT of Mandaya Mansaka ICC (CADT No. R11-NEW-0204-019)- Municipality of Compostela, New Bataan, and Brgys. Bahi and Langgawisan of Maragusan all in Davao de Oro
CADT of the Mansaka ICC (CADT No. R11-PAN-0908-076)- Municipality of Maragusan
CADT of the Manobo, Mandaya, Mangguangan and Dibabawon ICCs of Monkayo (CADT No. R11-CADT-MON-0703-007)- Municipality of Monkayo

Inception Workshop

There were 39 attending institutions:

DENR

BMB
EMB Central Office
EMB MIMAROPA
EMB Region XI
ERDB
FASPS
FMB
KISS
LMB
MGB Central Office
MGB MIMAROPA
PPS
RBCO
RO for MIMAROPA
Region XI
Region XIII

CENRO
- Bislig
- Cantilan
- Talacogon

PENRO
- Agusan del Norte
- Agusan del Sur
- Davao del Norte
- Davao Oriental
- Occ. Mindoro
- Oriental Mindoro
- Surigao del Sur

Other Government

DA- BSWM	
DHSUD	
DILG-BLGD	
DTI-PTTC	
NCIP	Central Office MIMAROPA

NEDA

PCW

NGO / CSOs

CCIPH/ SIBOL
FPE
Haribon Foundation
ISEA
MBFCI

plus

LGU Occidental Mindoro

UNDP CO and UNDP Biofin project

SLM Target Distribution (prodoc Annex 5)

Table 4- Distribution of targets (ha)

Responsible partner	**Target area (ha) per municipality / CADC/T area**	**Target number of municipality / CADT area by corridor**		**Total target number of municipality / CADT area**	**Total target area (ha)**
		Eastern Mindanao	**Mindoro**		
MLGU/MAO for private agricultural lands	500	6	12	18	9,000
NCIP for CADC/T areas	500	6	6	12	6,000

EMBC – OECM locations

ANCESTRAL DOMAINS	ADSDPP Enhancement / Formulation	Capacitation Activities (SLM and SFM)	Deputization of ENRO	Other Capacitation Activities	BDFE Support	Potential for OECM (ICCA/ LCA)
1. CADT 134		/ (SLM and SFM)	/	/	/	/
2. CADT 142	/	/ (SLM)	/	/	/	
3. CADT 223		/ (SLM)		/	/	
4. CADT 090	/	/(SLM and SFM		/	/	
5. CADT 239		/ (SLM and SFM)		/	/	
6. CADT 048		/ (SLM and SFM)		/	/	
7. CADT 254		/ (SLM and SFM)	/	/	/	/
8. CADT 006	/	/	/	/	/	/
9. CADT 219	/	/	/	/	/	/
10. CADT 209	/	/	/	/	/	/
11. CADT 019	/	/	/	/	/	/
(1) New Bataan						
(2) Compostela						
(3) Maragusan						
12. CADT 076	/	/	/	/	/	/
13. CADT 007	/	/	/	/	/	/

EMBC – ILC MoA stage

CADT	**Location**	**Validation**	**Resolution of Consent**	**MOA Negotiation/ Validation**	**MOA Signing**	**RRT Review**	**Issuance of Certification**

		Activities					**Precondition**
048	Gigaquit, SDN	6/19/23					
142	Rosario, ADS	6/22/23					
223	Trento, ADS	6/23/23					
090	Loreto, ADS	6/27/23					
134	Kitcharao, AND	6/30/23					
239	Bislig, SDS	7/4/23					
254	MaMaSanSiSu, SDN	7/28/23					
006	Boston, DavOr	8/2/23		**July-August 2024**			
219	Cateel, DavOr	8/3/23		**July-August 2024**			
209	Baganga, DavOr	8/4/23		**July-August 2024**			
019	Maragusan, DavOro	8/15-16/23		**July-August 2024**			
076	Maragusan, DavOro	8/17/23		**July-August 2024**			
019	New Bataan, DavOro	8/22/23		**July-August 2024**			
007	Monkayo, DavOro	8/24/23		**July-August 2024**			
019	Compostela, DavOro	8/29/23		**July-August 2024**			

Enabling Agreements at BCA level

Agreement	**MTR Review / Comment**
MBC	
Memorandum of Cooperation – MIMAROPA DENR office and Oriental Mindoro Provincial Government (undated, pp7)	includes: supporting the designation of OECMs (ICCAS, LCAs); for IPs to mainstream IEM at pilot sites [a similar MoC exists for Occidental Mindoro]
Creation of a MIMAROPA DENR Management Team (January 2024, pp4) Regional Special Order No 9, 2024	designates PENRO and CENRO offices / officers and an advisory team to support project implementation in Mindoro. This brings DENR local government officers directly into the project sphere.
A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) is signed by DENR Mimaropa and Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro	covering the project. Signed by DENR Regional Executive Director and Provincial Governor on year 2023 (no actual date), 7 pages.
Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) is signed by DENR MIMAROPA and the Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro	covering the project. Signed by DENR Regional Executive Director and Provincial Governor on Dec 8, 2023, 9 pages, with attached Provincial Resolution 314, Sep 19, 2023.
Regional Development Council (RDC) Resolution No. 2023-082-1180 (June 2023, pp6)	It pertains to the creation of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) for the MBC project, with Terms of Reference attached
EMBC	
Regional Development Council (RDC) XI Resolution No. 79, series 2023	It pertains to the creation of the CAAC for the Davao Region as an Adhoc Committee under the EDC XI, subject to the EDC XI Recommendations, covering the implementation of Biodiversity Corridor Project. June 2023 by the RDC Co-Chairperson and Presiding Officer, 3 pages.
Provincial Resolution No. 17-877-03-2024	is approved which authorized the honorable governor of Mati Province, to enter into Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to form the CAAC in the EMBC, for the implementation of the project. March 2024, pp2
Provincial Resolution No. 1793-24 (April	Surigao del Sur Province, to enter into Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to

2024), pp4	form the CAAC in the EMBC, for implementation of the project
Protected Area Management Bureau (PAMB) Resolution No. 2023-003 (March 2023), pp2	Endorsement of the project to collaborate on activities covering the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Agusan del Sur
PAMB Resolution No. 20, series 2023	It pertains to the adoption of the project and collaborate on activities covering the Aliwagwag Protected Landscape. November 2023, 3pp
PAMB-AWFR Resolution No. 2023-09	It pertains to the adoption of the project and collaborate on activities covering the Andanan River Watershed Forest Reserve (AWFR). March 9, 2023, 2 pages
PAMB Resolution No. 2023-002	It pertains to the adoption of the project and collaborate on activities covering the Cabadbaran River Watershed Forest Reserve (CRWFR). January 26, 2023, 2 pages (excerpt).
PAMB Resolution No. 5-2023	It pertains to the adoption of the project and collaborate on activities covering the Mati Protected Landsape. Signed unanimously on March 29, 2023, 3pp
PAMB Resolution No. 2023-10	It pertains to the adoption of the project and collaborate on activities covering the Tinuy-an Falls Protected Landscape (TFPL). March 2023, 2pp

Identification options for SFM

The PALEC report (see Output 3.1) identified LGU with stakeholder group:

For MBC

Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor (MBC) clusters, LGUs, and potential partner institutions/groups

Cluster 1 *Calintaan, Rizal, Sablayan*	Three (3) LGUs led by Sablayan, two (2) ancestral tribes (including the Alangan and Tau Buhid)
Cluster 2 *Bongabong, Bulalacao, Mansalay, Calintaan, Magsaysay, Rizal, Sablayan, San Jose, Roxas*	local academic institutions in San Jose and relatively well-organized tribes (Hanunuo, Gubatnon, Ratagnon)
Cluster 3 *Baco, Bansud, Bongabong, Calapan City, Gloria, Mansalay, Calintaan, Sablayan, Santa Cruz, Naujan, Pinamalayan, San Teodoro, Victoria*	Tribal Governance System piloted by Sablayan; Tau Buhid and Tadyawan tribes can be engaged; Calapan City and Iglit-Baco PA can provide co-leadership
Cluster 4 *Abra de Ilog, Mamburao, Santa Cruz, Puerto Galera, San Teodoro*	Inter-LGU effort: Mamburao, Iraya tribe, private sector (Ayala Foundation); and the Alangan tribe
Cluster 5 *Bansud, Bongabong, Calapan City, Gloria, Naujan, Naujan Lake, Pinamalayan, Pola, Socorro, Victoria*	Naujan Protected Area Managemenr Board (PAMB) and Calapan City can provide co-leadership
Cluster 6 *Abra de Ilog and Paluan*	can collaborate with the Cavite & FB Harrison Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary Management

For EMBC

Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC) clusters, LGUs, and potential partner institutions/groups

Cluster 1 *Jabonga, Mainit Lake, Santiago, Tubay, Bacuag, Malimono, Placer, San Francisco, Sison, Surigao City, Tagana-An, Tubod*	Existing Inter LGU alliances (including for Lake Mainit) who adopted biodiversity in their long-term land use plans, support interventions for the Mamanwa and Manobo tribe can help drive sustainable process for management; PLGU of Surigao del Norte can initiate action
Cluster 2 *Sibagat, Butuan City, Cabadbaran City, Jabonga, Kitcharao, Las Nieves, Mainit Lake, Remedios T. Romualdez, Santiago, Tubay, Bayugan City, Prosperidad, Alegria, Bacuag, Claver, Gigaquit, Cantilan, Carmen, Carrascal, Cortes, Lanuza, Madrid, San Miguel, Tago, Tandag City*	Butuan and Cabadbaran Cities can help provide co-leadership together with PLGU of Agusan del Norte; Manobo and Mamanwa domains can be tapped
Cluster 3 *Talacogon, Bayugan City, Esperanza, Prosperidad, San Francisco, San Luis, Barobo, Bayabas, Cagwait, Lianga, Marihatag, San Agustin, San Miguel, Tago*	LGUs together with Manobo ancestral domains can work together to act on Mt. Diwata
Cluster 4 *San Josefa, Talacogon, Trento, Veruela, Bunawan, La Paz, Loreto, Rosario, San Francisco, San Luis, Barobo, Bislig City, Hinatuan, Tagbina*	Multi-sectoral efforts with Manobo tribes on the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary can ba a good starting point; PLGUs of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur, together with Bislig City, can help start cluster actions
Cluster 5 *Santa Josefa, Trento, Compostela, Laak, Monkayo, Montevista, New Bataan, Asuncion, Baganga, Boston, Caraga, Cateel, Bislig City, Lingig*	The model ECOTOWNS (disaster risk reduction models for climate change adaptation) in the Eastern seaboard can be potential starting points together with the PLGUs of COMVAL and Davao Oriental; six (6) IP tribes can be involved
Cluster 6 *Mabini, Maco, Maragusan, Mawab, Nabunturan, New Bataan, Pantukan, Banaybanay, Caraga, Governor Generoso, Lupon, Manay, Mati City, San Isidro, Tarragona*	LGUs such as Davao Oriental want to engage COMVAL province to adapt Ridge to Reef approach in their programs; ancestral domains of Mandaya and Mansaka IP can help; Mt. Hamiguitan PA can serve as model PA for the EMBC

UNDP Corrective Actions (PIR 2024)

To note, PIR 2024 indicates overall rating of both the progress and IP (DENR) as Moderately Unsatisfactory, but with the overall risk rating as low. UNDP CO comments to improve implementation were:

UNDP's Recommended Corrective Actions
High-level meetings with DENR Senior Management to ensure accountability, ownership and participation in decision-making processes. With the Project being the biggest DENR-UNDP Project supported by GEF, discussions with DENR Senior Management, including the Office of the Secretary, Office of the Focal Point (OFP) for GEF, Office of the Undersecretary of Planning, Policy and International Affairs, Foreign-Assisted & Special Projects Services (FASPS), Policy & Planning Services (PPS) and the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) serving as the project focal point will be sustained. With the project covering different sectors being managed by DENR, together with other agencies, including the DA - BSWM and the NCIP, it is deemed necessary that DENR and BMB sustain providing the leadership and the vision to accelerate Project interventions both at the national and local levels. At the BCA level, sustained support from the Regional Directors will benefit the Project, i.e., making them on top of the moving Project implementation activities as these require working with concerned regional NGAs
Increasing participation of BMB Project Facilitation Group. UNDP will collaboratively work with BMB in ensuring that the agreement with BMB and FASPS on tapping the BMB Project Facilitation Group will be implemented. This Group is tasked to provide oversight to all Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Projects of the Bureau, including providing directions on technical workstreams of the Project and providing quality assurance on Consultants' outputs.
Support to the IP and Project Team on sustaining collaboration with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. UNDP will continue to support the IP and the Project Team in completing the FPIC processes in both BCAs and in strengthening the programmed initiatives with NCIP, including conduct of relevant capacity-building activities. The completion of the FPIC process will allow the Project to accelerate the implementation of assessments and carrying-out of interventions within ancestral domains.
Support for strict monitoring of firms' outputs. UNDP will continue to strengthen oversight in ensuring that outputs of firms and Individual Consultants engaged are completed with good quality and in a timely manner, and follow through actions at the site level are implemented.
Conduct of regular alignment meetings among Individual Consultants, firms and academic institutions that are undertaking the different workstreams for the project. This will provide a platform for the PMU to identify synergies, consolidate strategies and approaches within corridors and provide a holistic and harmonized approach in carrying-out the different assessments and interventions assigned to them.
NPMU View (Project manager)
- Procurement of services (individual / firm consultants) which are necessary to support implementation of project activities and delivery of targets - IP community validations, signing of Memoranda of Agreement among DENR, NCIP and CADT holders, and issuance of NCIP Certificate of Precondition which will allow work on the ground with IP communities

<u>Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development & Protection Plan</u> (ADSDPP)

An example - Tao Buid Tribe ADSDPP (2013-18) - in local language (pp82)

- The plan is confirmed by the IP Tribe of Tao Buid in 2013 in Sitio Balangaong, Barangay Malpalon, Municipality of Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro. The plan concerns the tribe's protection of both the land (environment) and their IP and how their ancestral domain can be preserved, protected and conserved, while supporting and sustaining the welfare and well-being of their Tao Buid IP living in it.
- Includes a profile of the tribe, its ancestral domain, its culture, laws / practices, livelihood, and environmental protection measures, and its challenges and towards sustainability. It also contains a chapter on projects addressing their needs and how the government / others can support them

The plan, which was written over 10 years ago, requires updating in order to make it relevent to the project aim of improved biodiversity conservation aligned with project benefits from SLM, SFM and BDFE for example.

Training Data

Subject Title	Content focus	Men	Women	Total	No. of Days	Location	Date
National Level							
FMB Workshop 1	Strategic Planning Workshop on the Integrated Approach in Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines (BD Corridor Project)	11	17	28	3	Lima Park Hotel, Lima Technology Center, Malvar, Batangas	December 11-13, 2023
FMB Workshop 2	Roundtable Discussion on Voluntary Philippine Forest Certification System, and Criteria and Indicators for SFM Effectiveness	30	20	50	1	Privator Hotel, Quezon City	April 22, 2024
BSWM Workshop 1	Biodiversity Corridor GEF 6 Component 3.2 Workshop to Finalize Maps and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Technology Recommendation for Exemplar Sites	8	12	20	3	El Vistra Hotel, Angeles City, Pampanga	November 28-30, 2023
BSWM Workshop 2	Mapping and Data Processing Workshop for Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Sites (SLMES)	11	10	21	4	Philippine Carabao Center, City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	March 24-27, 2024
BSWM Training 1	Training on Drone Flying with Data and Map Processing	4	1	5	5	DA-BSWM, Quezon City	May 20-24, 2024
NPMU Workshop 1	Workshop on Harmonization and Consolidation of Thematic Maps	37	11	48	2	Luxent Hotel, Quezon City	October 20-21, 2022
NPMU Workshop 2	Orientation on DENR Administrative Order 2021-13 on Guidelines on the Development and Recognition of Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (BDFEs)	36	45	81	2	Microtel Commonwealth	August 4-5, 2022
NPMU Workshop 3	Consultation / Workshops on Policy Harmonization and Development Planning Across National Government Agencies	22	34	56	2	Luxent Hotel, Quezon City	September 28-29, 2022
NPMU Workshop 4	Stocktaking Workshop for the Establishment of a Harmonized, Integrated Information Management System (IMS)	16	19	35	1	BMB Training Center, Quezon City	July 8, 2024
NPMU Workshop 5	Workshop on Guidelines on IEM Approach in Multi-sectoral Plans and Programs	21	23	44	1	B Hotel, Quezon City	August 1, 2023
NPMU Workshop 6	Philippine Environmental Impact Assessment Statement System (PEIASS) Levelling-off Meeting and RTD				1	BMB Training Center, Quezon City	February 28, 2024
Regional Level							
Site Inception Report (Caraga Region)	On Site Project Inception	35	80	115	1.5	Balanghai Hotel, Butuan City	March 14-15, 2022
Site Inception Report (Davao Region)	On Site Project Inception	51	48	99	1.5	The Ritz Hotel At Garden Oases	March 17-18, 2022
Orientation on DENR Administrative	To provide assistance to the concerned DENR Regional and Field Offices in	30	25	55	1.5	Balanghai Hotel,	September

Order No. 2022-04: Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Protection in Mining Areas	the implementation of the DAO 2022-04, the first major policy involving mining operations and biodiversity conservation and protection.					Butuan City	6-7, 2022
Roundtable Discussion with Mining Companies on Biodiversity Conservation	To orient the mining companies on the DAO 2022-04: Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Protection in Mining Operations; identify activities and projects where mining companies can contribute to biodiversity conservation and integrate these to their AEPEPs, and validate previous commitments to the BD Corridor Project.	35	30	65	2	Hotel Oazis, Butuan City	September 8-9, 2022
Coordination Meeting with NCIP-Region XIII on BDCOr Project Related Activities	1. Level-off with the agreements reached during the NCIP-BDCor Project Dialogue and Planning Workshop last September 21-23, 2022; and 2. Discuss the possible arrangements or approaches moving forward on how to implement the activities on the ground in the next 5 years.	13	12	25	1	Grand Palace Hotel, Butuan City	November 11, 2022
EMBC Protected Area Conference	To discuss issues/concerns within concerned protected areas and identify areas for collaboration with the BDCor Project. Specifically, the conference aims to: 1. Introduce the BDCor Project to the proposed PA network in EMBC; 2. Discuss new policies and guideline related to protected area management; 3. Discuss issues/concerns in concerned protected areas in EMBC; 4. Identify gaps in the PA Management and Financial Plans; 5. Review METT Scores and stock take relevant information of PAs in EMBC; and 6. Identify areas for collaboration under the BDCor Project	52	26	78	3	The Ritz Hotel At Garden Oases	November 21-23, 2022
Harmonization and Consultation on DENR Plans and Programs re: DAO 2022-04 on Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Protection in Mining Operations	To level off at the DENR level re: DAO 2022-04 and discuss concerns raised during the orientation-workshop on DAO 2022-04.	47	33	80	2	The Ritz Hotel At Garden Oases	
Training Needs Assessment (Agusan del Sur)	Identify their training needs pertinent to: a.the LGUs mandates under the environmental laws, agriculture and fishery laws, and laws on indigenous peoples' rights in relation to the Local Government Code; practical implications of Mandanas ruling b. integrated ecosystem management as reflected in the CLUP and related plans such as Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and local investment programs. c.Gender Mainstreaming in biodiversity conservation/natural resource management programs, projects and activities of the LGUs in the context of localization under MCW 9710. 2. Identify the indicative schedule of trainings 3. Identify local networks that can sustain the training needs of various stakeholders.	11	21	32	1.5	Hotel Oazis, Butuan City	
Training Needs Assessment (Agusan del Norte)	Identify their training needs pertinent to: a. the LGUs mandates under the environmental laws, agriculture and fishery	11	12	23	1.5	Hotel Oazis, Butuan City	

Training Needs Assessment (Surigao del Sur)	laws, and laws on indigenous peoples' rights in relation to the Local Government Code; practical implications of Mandanas ruling b. integrated ecosystem management as reflected in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and related plans such as Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and local investment programs. c. Gender Mainstreaming in biodiversity conservation/natural resource management programs, projects and activities of the LGUs in the context of localization under MCW 9710. 2. Identify the indicative schedule of trainings 3. Identify local networks that can sustain the training needs of various stakeholders.	26	23	49	1.5	Balanghai Hotel, Butuan City	
Training Needs Assessment (Surigao del Norte)		15	16	31	1.5	Balanghai Hotel, Butuan City	
Training Needs Assessment (Davao de Oro)		19	23	42	1.5	The Ritz Hotel At Garden Oases	
Training Needs Assessment (Davao Oriental)		17	17	34	1.5	The Ritz Hotel At Garden Oases	
Training Needs Assessment (DENR Caraga Region)	1. Verify the Capacity Scorecard 2. Gender Mainstreaming in biodiversity conservation/natural resource management programs, projects and activities. 3. Identify their training needs	19	23	42	1.5	Balanghai Hotel, Butuan City	
Training Needs Assessment (DENR Davao Region)		11	16	27	1.5	The Ritz Hotel At Garden Oases	
First (1st) Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) Meeting	1. To convene the CAAC and define its membership and responsibilities 2. To consolidate inputs from participants on corridor data gathered so far	18	29	47	1	Hotel Oazis, Butuan City	September 9, 2022
2nd Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) Meeting	A.Proposed institutional arrangement mechanism/s 1. Present and make the participants understand the initial draft guidelines for the proposed institutional arrangement mechanism/s on IEM among agencies and stakeholders within the 2 corridors; and, 2. Generate inputs, comments, and suggestions from the participants for the enhancement of the draft guidelines. B. Proposed draft guidelines to support strengthening of LGUs and regional office programs of DENR, DA, NCIP, DILG and DSHUD, respectively 1. Present and make the participants understand the initial draft guidelines for the proposed institutional arrangement mechanism/s on IEM among agencies and stakeholders within the 2 corridors; and, 2. Generate inputs, comments, and suggestions from the participants for the enhancement of the draft guidelines.	17	23	40	1	Balanghai Hotel, Butuan City	November 29, 2022
Consultation and Workshop on the draft Guidelines for the proposed Institutional Arrangement Mechanism/s on Integrated Ecosystem Management and Draft Policy enhancements to support the strengthening of LGUs and Regional Programs	To enhance draft guidelines on the institutional arrangement for IEM in BD corridors through the inputs of the participants, primarily members of the CAAC.	17	23	40	1	Balanghai Hotel, Butuan City	November 28, 2022

PLANNING WORKSHOP WITH NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NCIP) OFFICES IN EMBC ON BDCOR PROJECT-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR CY 2023	To present BD Corridor to the identified IPs/ICCs within Davao Region. And to create a WFP to undertake FPIC and or on the CP of the BD Corridor Project	32	12	44	1.5	The Royale House Travel Inn and Dormitel, Tagum City	February 27-28, 2023
Orientation-Training on the Enhanced Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System (EBAMS) AND Enhanced Socio-economic Assessment and Monitoring System (ESAMS)	To orient and train participants on the features and use of eBAMS, eSEAMS as the tools and PAIS and CWIS as the database re: automation of monitoring tools and development of information system. To level-off with the participants particularly the DENR-KISS representatives, Regional CDD and ICT Focal persons on their role in the implementation and monitoring of the Systems.	32	30	62	4.5	Balanghai Hotel, Butuan City	March 6-11, 2023
Orientation- Training on Protected Area Information System (PAIS) and Caves and Wetlands Information System (CWIS)		30	31	61	3	The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City	March 13-16, 2023
Manangement Effectiveness Assessment-Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (MEA-METT) Score Validation Workshop For Protected Areas In Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	To verify most recent MEA-METT scores attained by the protected areas in EMBC in support to the identification of the management areas for improvement that will then serve as entry point of interventions by the Biodiversity Corridor Project;	26	27	53	1	The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City	March 24, 2023
Coordination-Workshop on Biodiversity Corridor Approach in Local Planning	The consultation aimed at to familiarize LGUs and regional government offices on the BD corridor approach and how it can be integrated into the local planning process. The specific objectives are: 1)Have a shared understanding of the BD corridor approach and related concepts 2)Validate the results of the LGU survey 3)Understand the local planning process and possible entry points for BD corridor	21	32	53	1	Heroben Hotel, Tagum City	April 20-21, 2023
3rd Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) Meeting	The Meeting discussed the following; Updates of the CAAC Meeting Ways Forward; IEM Workshop Results; Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Sites in EMBC; Biodiversity Ecotourism Cluster; BD Corridor Project Updates and revised 2023 WFP.	19	36	55	1	The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City	June 9, 2023
Validation Activity for Certification Precondition Application of BD Corridor in EMBC for CADT 048	To present the BD Corridor Project to the target CADTs in Caraga and Davao Region as part of the CP application of BD Corridor Project in the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor.	47	25	72	1	Evacuation Center, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte	June 19, 2023
"Validation Activity for Certification Precondition Application of BD	• To discuss the goals and objectives of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity	18	6	24	1	Barangay Hall, Novele, Rosario, Agusan del	June 22, 2023

Corridor in EMBC for CADT 142"	Corridor (EMBC) project					Sur	
"Validation Activity for Certification Precondition Application of BD Corridor in EMBC for CADT 223"	• To establish a common understanding of the project scope, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, and timeline • To agree on the strategies and action plan for the next steps of the project implementation particularly schedule for the MOA Signing.	35	21	56	1	Sta. Maria Tribal Hall, Trento, Agusan del Sur	June 23, 2023
"Validation Activity for Certification Precondition Application of BD Corridor in EMBC for CADT 090"		37	46	83	1	PNCCI, Brgy. Poblacion, Loreto, Agusan del Sur	June 27, 2023
"Validation Activity for Certification Precondition Application of BD Corridor in EMBC for CADT 134"		87	64	151	1	Eco Park, Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte	June 30, 2023
Consultation-Workshop on the Enhancement of Sustainable Ecotourism Activities and Biodiversity Conservation in EMBC	1) To identify pathways for collaboration on ecotourism and biodiversity conservation in EMBC; 2) To share knowledge on designing, implementing and managing biodiversity and ecotourism corridors; 3) To facilitate discussions and collaborations among stakeholders to identify opportunities and challenges for developing biodiversity and ecotourism corridors; and 4) To revisit and redevelop the actions plans and recommendations for policymakers and other stakeholders for the management of biodiversity and ecotourism corridors.	44	36	80	2.5	Waterfront Hotel, Davao City	July 3-5, 2023
MEA-METT Score Baselining Workshop in Four (4) Non-Legislated Protected Areas in Caraga Region (Surigao Watershed Forest Reserve)	To obtain MEA-METT baseline scores in the four (4) protected areas in EMBC and identify management areas for improvement that will then serve as entry point of interventions by the Biodiversity Corridor Project.	14	8	22	1	Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City	July 11, 2023
MEA-METT Score Baselining Workshop in Four (4) Non-Legislated Protected Areas in Caraga Region (Cabadbaran River Watershed Forest Reserve)		14	6	20	1	Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City	July 12, 2023
MEA-METT Score Baselining Workshop in Four (4) Non-Legislated Protected Areas in Caraga Region (Andanan River Watershed Forest Reserve)		17	12	29	1	Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City	July 13, 2024
MEA-METT Score Baselining Workshop in Four (4) Non-Legislated Protected Areas in Caraga Region (Alamio, Buayan, Carac-an, and		13	14	27	1	Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City	July 14, 2023

Panikian River and Sipangpang Falls Watershed Forest Reserve)							
Workshop on the Development of Additional Guidelines for the Implementation of DENR Administrative Order No.2022-04: Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Protection in Mining Operations	With the DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and Conservation and Development Division (CDD) Region 13 as leads, the objectives of this activity are to: 1) Identify activities and projects where mining companies can contribute to biodiversity conservation and integrate these into their AEPEPs for 2023, and 2) Validate previous commitments to the BD Corridor Project. To obtain MEA-METT baseline scores in the four (4) protected areas in EMBC and identify management areas for improvement that will then serve as entry point of interventions by the Biodiversity Corridor Project.	52	50	102	2	The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City	August 2023
Validation Activity for Certification Precondiction Application of BD Corridor in EMBC for CADT R11-NEW - 0204-019 (Brgy. Bahi and Langawisan)	To present the BD Corridor Project to the target CADTs in Caraga and Davao Region as part of the CP application of BD Corridor Project in the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor. • To discuss the goals and objectives of the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC) project • To establish a common understanding of the project scope, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, and timeline • To agree on the strategies and action plan for the next steps of the project implementation particularly schedule for the MOA Signing.	27	15	42	1	AGUSAN COLD SPRING RESORT, MARAGUSAN	August 16, 2023
Field Based Validation in CP Application of BD Corridor Project in CADT R11-PAN-0908-076		28	13	41	1		August 17, 2023
Field Based Validation in CP Application of BD Corridor Project in CADT R11-BAG-1016-209 (Baganga)		51	21	72	1	Bagangga	August 4, 2023
Field Based Validation in CP Application of BD Corridor Project in CADT R11-NEW-0204-019-(Compostela)		27	23	50	1	Compostela	August 29, 2023
Field Based Validation in CP Application of BD Corridor Project in CADT R11-MON-0703-007-(Monkayo)		25	22	47	1	Monkayo	August 24, 2023
Field Based Validation in CP Application of BD Corridor Project in CADT R11-BOS-04-03-0006 (Boston)		23	14	37	1	Tribal Hall, Boston	August 2, 2023
Field Based Validation in CP Application of BD Corridor Project in CADT R11-CAT-0717-216		32	23	55	1	Gymnasium, Cateel	August 3, 2023
Field Based Validation in CP Application of BD Corridor Project in CADT R11-NEW-0204-019-NEW		165	59	224	1	Yes Go Resort, New Bataan	August 22, 2023

BATAAN							
Gender Analysis and Learning Event (Davao Region)	• Explain the rationale for gender analysis and identify when to use gender analysis tools • Demonstrate the use of the Harmonized Gender and Development Guideline (HGDG) tools for Protected Areas. • Describe the 6 domains of gender analysis framework to collect and organize information pertaining to gender differences. • Prepare a set of questions for each of domain in the gender analysis framework. • Apply/practice the gender analysis questionnaire through FGD in a given protected area (terrestrial/coastal) with potential/with on-going BDFE. • Analyze and document the FGD results of the gender analysis.	7	30	37	2.5	The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City	August 29,2023-September 2, 2023
Gender Analysis and Learning Event (Caraga Region)		11	41	52	2.5	Grand Palace Hotel, Butuan City	September 25-29, 2023
Consultation-Workshop on the Identification of Potential Sites for the Declaration and Establishment of Local Conservation Areas (LCA) in Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC)	To determine the baselines on the initiatives currently being undertaken by the MLGUs on declaration and establishment of LCAs or OECMs and to identify of the potential LCA sites in EMBC.	58	59	117	5	The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center	August 23-25, 2023 September 13-15, 2023
Gender-Responsive Ecotourism Value Chain Mapping Workshop in Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental	1) Identify ecotourism actors, enablers and their relationships; 2) Validate available data and information on ecotourism as well as resource-based livelihood and business enterprises operated by CBOs, IPOs and LGUs in Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental; 3) Determine ecotourism development gaps, constraints and opportunities; 4) Expose/Immerse to some ecotourism sites; 5) Formulate ecotourism vision, strategies, and action plans for Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental provinces; and 6) Solicit commitments among ecotourism key stakeholders from the private and public sectors.	42	30	72	4	Adelina Hotel and Suites, Mati City, Davao Oriental	October 10-14, 2023
4th Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) Meeting	1.To report project progress and updating; 2. To consolidate inputs from participants on corridor data gathered so far; 3. To present the major accomplishments of the project and other undertakings; 4.To review and analyze the BETC workshop output; 5. To convene the propose ecotourism TWG that will serve as a platform for the continued coordination and discussion of the plans and developments for BETC-EMBC; 6. To identify the entry points of the BD Corridor Project in the implementation of the BETC Plan	22	34	56	1	Waterfront Hotel, Davao City	October 24, 2023
"MOA Negotiation Activity for BD	1. To present and discuss the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the	19	21	40	1	Campacam, Rosario,	November

Corridor Project in CADT 142 "	involved parties - DENR, BD Corridor Project, concerned Ancestral Domains, and NCIP Offices. 2. To establish a common understanding of the project scope, roles, and responsibilities of stakeholders, and the timeline for project implementation. 3. To negotiate and finalize the MOA. 4. To agree on strategies and an action plan for the next steps of the project, particularly scheduling the MOA Signing.					Agusan del Sur	28, 2023
Ecotourism Vertical Infrastructure Proposal Writeshop-Workshop with Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA)	1) Elevate the plans and development into project and program implementation specifically on the ecotourism loop infrastructure project proposal for funding; 2) Present and discuss the TIEZA infrastructure assistance set of process and guidelines for the selection of ecotourism infrastructure projects; and 3) Formulate ecotourism infrastructure projects proposal based on the outline and set of requirements provided by TIEZA.	25	34	59	2.5	The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City	December 3-5, 2023
Consultation-Workshop with the Mining Companies in Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor in the Implementation of DAO 2022-04: "Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Protection in Mining Operations"	To provide the mining companies the update as far as the clarifications raised on DAO 2022-04 as well as present the ongoing initiatives of the mining companies in EMBC on the establishment of 5% reference ecosystem, mainstreaming of biodiversity-friendly enterprises in SDMP, and other biodiversity considerations in the work program.	33	39	72	1.5	The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City	December 7-8, 2023
5th Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) Meeting	1. To report on BD Corridor project progress and provide updates. 2. To consolidate inputs from participants on corridor data gathered, including results from hired consulting firms. 3. To present the accomplishments in Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).	24	31	55	1	Almont Inland Hotel, Butuan City	February 27, 2024
"MOA Signing Activity for BD Corridor Project in CADT 142 "	1. To negotiate on the finalize the MOA. 2. To signed the MOA.	22	22	44	1	Campacam, Rosario, Agusan del Sur	March 21, 2024
"MOA Signing Activity for BD Corridor Project in CADT 223 "	1. To negotiate on the finalize the MOA. 2. To signed the MOA.	22	18	40	1	Sta. Maria Tribal Hall, Trento, Agusan del Sur	March 22, 2024
"MOA Negotiation Activity for BD Corridor Project in CADT 048 "	1. To present and discuss the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the involved parties - DENR, BD Corridor Project, concerned Ancestral Domains, and NCIP Offices. 2. To establish a common understanding of the project scope, roles, and responsibilities of stakeholders, and the timeline for project implementation. 3. To negotiate and finalize the MOA. 4. To agree on strategies and an action plan for the next steps of the project, particularly scheduling the MOA Signing.	37	62	99	1	IPS Building, Bad-as, Placer, Surigao del Norte	April 5, 2024
"MOA Negotiation Activity for BD Corridor Project in CADT 254 "		23	19	42	1	Legislative Building, Sison, Surigao del Norte	April 24, 2024
"MOA Negotiation Activity for BD Corridor Project in CADT 090 "		14	25	39	1	MG Food House, Poblacion, Loreto, Agusan del Sur	April 30, 2024
"MOA Negotiation Activity for BD		15	8	23	1	MATRICOSO Tribal	May 3,

Corridor Project in CADT 239"						Hall, Sitio Sote, Brgy. Burboanan, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur	2024
"LEVELLING-OFF WITH NCIP REGION 11 AND 13; DENR AND BD CORIDOR PROJECT ON THE NEW/REVISED ADSDPP"	To bring together NCIP Region XI and XIII to collaboratively level off and work plan the creation of a tailored training module for the new/revised ADSDPP Manual. This module will provide a standardized approach for NCIP staff in the EMBC region to facilitate its effective implementation	10	17	27	2	Grand Palace Hotel, Butuan City	May 6-8, 2024
LEVELLING-OFF MEETING WITH THE CONSULTANT FIRMS IN THE CRAFTING CLUSTER CONSERVATION PLANS IN EMBC	To level-off meeting with the consulting firms to provide progress and to refine strategies as far as the direction in the crafting of cluster conservation plans in EMBC.	9	5	14	1	The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City	May 8-9, 2024
"COMMUNICATION PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR EMBC (Caraga-leg)"	1. To present and validate the results of the KAP survey with the Corridor stakeholders to ensure inclusivity and ownership of the BD Corridor Communication Plan. 2. To develop the BD Corridor Communication Plans for the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor 3. To contribute to the development of the BCA National Communication Plan. 4. To build capacity of key Project implementers from DENR and other government agencies, IEC/CEPA officers, and the Corridor's various stakeholders at the regional level on communication planning	17	21	38	2	Grand Palace Hotel, Butuan City	May 13-15, 2024
"COMMUNICATION PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR EMBC (Davao-leg)"		17	13	30	2	Apo View Hotel Davao City	May 22-24, 2024
ORIENTATION ON SUKAT NG KALIKASAN AND REORIENTATION ON EBAMS AND ESEAMS FOR PAS & OECMS IN BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR PROJECT SITES	To capacitate the participants on the use of Sukat ng Kalikasan: HCVA and to train the participants on the features and use of eBAMS and eSEAMS using the Earth Ranger application.	21	39	60		The Ritz Hotel at Garden Oases, Davao City	May 13-17, 2024
CONDUCT ENHANCEMENT/RETOOLING OF ALL MULTIPARTITE MONITORING TEAMS (MMTs) & MINE REHABILITATION FUND COMMITTEE (MRFC) FOR BIODIVERSITY RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE MINING OPERATIONS IN THE EMBC IN CARAGA REGION	The two (2) days enhancement/retooling aimed at the following topics: 1.) Roles, Duties and Responsibilities of Multipartite Monitoring Teams (MMT); 2.) Compliance, Monitoring and Validation Report (CMVR); 3.) Social and Environmental Provisions of the Philippine Mining Act and Mine Mitigation and Rehabilitation; 4.) Mine Reclamation Corporation in their Mine Hazard Prevention/Reclamation Technology and Policy Exchange; 5.) Special Tree Cutting and Earthballing Permit (STCEP) Status and Compliance; 6.) Foreshore Lease Agreement and status; 7.) 5% Reference Ecosystem within mining tenements (DAO 2022-04) Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation & Protection in Mining Operations; 8.) Global Map of Environmental & Social Risk in Agro-commodity Production (GMAP); 9.) Hazardous Waste Management or Republic Act 6969 and Ecological Solid	28	23	51	1.5	Grand Palace Hotel, Butuan City	May 23-24, 2024

	Waste Management Act or Republic Act 9003; 10.) Multimedia presentations featuring best practices in mining operations that can be replicated by other mining companies recognized for their exemplary performance in mine safety, environmental protection and social development implementation, these mining companies received accolades from the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA)						
VALIDATION,RAPID ASSESSMENT AND PO PROFILING OF POTENTIAL BIODIVERSITY FRIENDLY ENTERPRISES (BDFEs) IN EMBC (Caraga Region)	The validation and rapid assessment of MSMEs within EMBC was conducted to come up with a list of eligible enterprises. Specifically, the activity aimed at the following: 1. Conduct orientation on the development of BDFEs and validate the initial list of MSMEs per province using DAO 2021-13 Annex A; 2. Conduct rapid assessment using DAO 2021-13 Annex B in order to come up with a list of eligible enterprises or POs; 3. Establish strategies for the conduct of PO profiling using DAO 2021-13 Annexes C, D & E.	13	17	30	1	Regional Training Center, DENR Butuan City	March 11, 2024
VALIDATION,RAPID ASSESSMENT AND PO PROFILING OF POTENTIAL BIODIVERSITY FRIENDLY ENTERPRISES (BDFEs) IN EMBC (Davao Region)	The validation and rapid assessment of MSMEs within EMBC was conducted to come up with a list of eligible enterprises. Specifically, the activity aimed at the following: 1. Conduct orientation on the development of BDFEs and validate the initial list of MSMEs per province using DAO 2021-13 Annex A; 2. Conduct rapid assessment using DAO 2021-13 Annex B in order to come up with a list of eligible enterprises or POs; 3. Establish strategies for the conduct of PO profiling using DAO 2021-13 Annexes C, D & E.	11	17	28	1	PENR Offices of Davao de Oro and Davao Oriental	May 13, 2024 and May 20, 2024
TENURIAL ANALYSIS WORKSHOP (MODULE 1) EASTERN MINDANAO BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR (EMBC) - DAVAO REGION	a) Module 1 – Identification and creation of policy-mandated protection and conservation area (PCA) maps and ecosystem services area (ESA) maps b) Module 2 – Determination of allowed and not allowed sub-land uses, sub-water uses and natural resource use in the PCAs and ESAs c) Module 3 – Overlaying of the existing tenures and political boundaries to determine who will be engaged with the strategies over the PCAs and ESAs	21	29	50	3	Apo View Hotel, Davao City	February 20-22, 2024
TENURIAL ANALYSIS WORKSHOP (MODULE 2) EASTERN MINDANAO BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR (EMBC) - DAVAO REGION		34	13	47	3.5	The Ritz Hotel and Garden Oases, Davao City	April 1-5, 2024
TENURIAL ANALYSIS WORKSHOP (MODULE 1) EASTERN MINDANAO BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR (EMBC) - CARAGA REGION		30	17	47	3.5	Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City	April 15-18, 2024
CONSULTATION-WORKSHOP ON THE CO-FINANCING COMMITMENT OF MINING COMPANIES TO BDCOR	To have a shared understanding on the GEF guidelines on co-financing, determine the status and update co-financing commitments and prepare the accomplishment report on co-financing commitments of the partner private	17	4	21	3.5	The Ritz Hotel and Garden Oases, Davao City	April 24-25, 2024

PROJECT	institutions.						
"MOA Negotiation Activity for BD Corridor Project in CADT 134 "	1. To present and discuss the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the involved parties - DENR, BD Corridor Project, concerned Ancestral Domains, and NCIP Offices. 2. To establish a common understanding of the project scope, roles, and responsibilities of stakeholders, and the timeline for project implementation. 3. To negotiate and finalize the MOA. 4. To agree on strategies and an action plan for the next steps of the project, particularly scheduling the MOA Signing.	37	30	67	1	Covered Court, Jabonga, Agusan del Norte	April 15, 2024
"Validation Activity for Certification Precondition Application of BD Corridor in EMBC for CADT 239"		68	49	117	1	Matricoso Tribal Hall, Sitio Sote, Brgy. Burboanan, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur	July 4, 2024
"Validation Activity for Certification Precondition Application of BD Corridor in EMBC for CADT 254"		38	47	85	1	San Francisco Municipal Gym, Surigao del Norte	July 27, 2024
"MOA Signing Activity for BD Corridor Project in CADT 134 "	1. To negotiate on the finalize the MOA. 2. To signed the MOA.	27	24	51	1	NCIP Santiago Community Service Center, Santiago, Agusan del Norte	April 29, 2024
Consultation Workshop 1	Orientation and Consultation Workshop on the Selection of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Sites for the implementation of the Biodiversity Corridor Project	19	16	35	1	Grand Palace Hotel, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte	May 2, 2023
Consultation Workshop 2	Orientation and Consultation Workshop on the Selection of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Sites for the implementation of the Biodiversity Corridor Project	17	18	35	1	Honey's Hotel and Restaurant, Mati City, Davao Oriental	May 5, 2023
BSWM Consultation Workshop 3	Orientation and Consultation Workshop on the Selection of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Sites for the implementation of the Biodiversity Corridor Project	38	27	65	1	Mindorinne Oriental Beach Resort, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	May 9, 2023
Participatory Training Workshop 1	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	20	9	29	1	Sitio Tuburan, Brgy. Carpenito, Tagbina, Surigao del Sur, EMBC	September 6, 2023
Participatory Training Workshop 2	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	15	5	20	1	Sitio Libuacan, Brgy. Maglambing, Tagbina, Surigao del Sur, EMBC	September 7, 2023
Participatory Training Workshop 3	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	12	13	25	1	Cebolin Agri-Tourism Complex, Brgy. Cebolin, Trento, Agusan del Sur, EMBC	September 12, 2023
Participatory Training Workshop 4	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	5	17	22	1	Brgy. Calaitan, Bayugan, Agusan del Sur, EMBC	September 13, 2023

Participatory Training Workshop 5	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	11	9	20	1	Brgy. Bonbon, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte, EMBC	September 14, 2024
Participatory Training Workshop 6	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	14	6	20	1	Brgy. Poniente, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte, EMBC	October 4, 2023
Participatory Training Workshop 7	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	7	14	21	1	Brgy. San Jose, Mainit, Surigao del Norte, EMBC	October 5, 2023
Participatory Training Workshop 8	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	13	7	20	1	Sitio Mayupang, Brgy. Rizal, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, MBC	October 24, 2023
Participatory Training Workshop 9	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	16	4	20	1	Sitio Maguyong, Brgy. Rizal, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, MBC	October 25, 2023
Participatory Training Workshop 10	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	9	11	20	1	Sitio Danupa, Brgy. Pitogo, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, MBC	October 26, 2023
Participatory Training Workshop 11	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	13	7	20	1	Sitio Marabong, Brgy. Batong-buhay, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, MBC	October 27, 2023
Consulation Workshop 4	Consultation Workshop to Present Farm Development Plans and Memorandum of Agreements to LGUs	10	12	22	2	Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte	February 20, 2024
Consulation Workshop 5	Consultation Workshop to Present Farm Development Plans and Memorandum of Agreements to LGUs	13	6	19	2	YKG Hotel, Mati City, Davao Oriental	February 22, 2024
Consulation Workshop 6	Consultation Workshop to Present Farm Development Plans and Memorandum of Agreements to LGUs	47	18	65	3	Tamaraw Beach Resort, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	February 27-29, 2024
Participatory Training Workshop 12	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	17	13	30	1	Sitio Zone 1A, Brgy. Tuban, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, MBC	April 16, 2024
Participatory Training Workshop 13	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	22	8	30	1	Sitio Bulakan, Brgy. Harrison, Paluan,	April 17, 2024

						Occidental Mindoro, MBC	
Participatory Training Workshop 14	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	17	13	30	1	Sitio Pambuhan, Brgy. San Vicente, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, MBC	April 18, 2024
Participatory Training Workshop 15	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	13	18	31	1	Brgy. Cayawan, Manay, Davao Oriental, EMBC	April 23, 2024
Participatory Training Workshop 16	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	22	11	33	1	Sitio Langgawisan, Brgy. Ompao, Tarragona, Davao Oriental, EMBC	April 25, 2024
Participatory Training Workshop 17	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	16	17	33	1	Sitio Taybungan 1, Brgy. Tagbakin, Pola, Oriental Mindoro, MBC	May 14, 2024
Participatory Training Workshop 18	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	15	13	28	1	Brgy. Mahanub, Gigaquit, Surigao del Norte, EMBC	May 14, 2024
Participatory Training Workshop 19	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	10	15	25	1	Sitio Centro II, Brgy. Bambanin, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro, MBC	May 15, 2024
Participatory Training Workshop 20	Participatory Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site Development Training Workshop	8	12	20	1	Brgy. San Isidro, Marihatag, Surigao del Sur, EMBC	May 15, 2024
Community Consultation Meeting on the Restoration Plan for Ranching Areas in Mts. Iglit Baco Natural Park	To collect insights from the tau-buid community for the creation of restoration plan on the ranching ares of Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP)	49	18	67	3	Complex, San Jose OccidentalMindoro, Sitio Bato-Singit, Barangay Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro	December 13-15, 2023
Community Consultation Meeting for the Delineation of Upper-Amnay Critical Habitat	To collect insights from the IP community and seek support from the community on delineating the Upper-Amnay Critical Habitat	19	15	34	1	Brgy. Pag-asa, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro	October 25, 2023
INTERNAL SPOT AUDIT	To conduct internal spot audit on the Mindoro Biodibersity Corridor Project Management Unit	7	3	10	3	DENR-PENRO GUEST HOUSE, BRGY.	August 29 - September

						PAYOMPON, MAMBURAO OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	1, 2023
CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT (IEM) APPROACH	To collaboratively develop strategies and practices for sustainable ecosystem management through stakeholder engagement and expert input.	19	36	55	1	MAHALTA RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER, CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO	JUNE 13-16, 2023
GENDER ANALYSIS LEARNING EVENT FOR BD CORRIDOR PARTNERS	To enhance the understanding and integration of gender analysis among BD Corridor partners through a comprehensive learning event.	19	21	40	5	MAGSAYSAY HILLSIDE RESORT	November 6-10, 2023
TAMARAW FIESTA 2023: A DALAW TURO INITIATIVE OF THE BD COR PROJECT FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BUBALUS MINDORENSIS ON THE 2023 TAMARAW MONTH CELEBRATION	To conduct communication, edcuation and public awareness regarding the Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) to the students of Occidental Mindoro natinal high School	46	35	81	1	OCCIDENTAL MINDORO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, MAMBURAO, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	OCTOBER 20, 2023
PROVINCE WIDE WORKSHOP OF THE INDIGENOUS POLITICAL STRUTURE(IPS) REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE IP MANDATORY REPRESENTATIVE (IPMR) GUIDELINES: A JOINT OF THEMINDORO BD CORRIDOR PROJECT AND NCIP OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	To conduct a province-wide workshop for Indigenous Political Structure (IPS) representatives to discuss guidelines for Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMR).	125	12	137	4	ADVENTURE CAMP BEACH RESORT, POBLACION, SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	MAY 29-June 1 2023
STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS POLITICAL STRUCTURE (IPS) OF THE BUHID(SADIK HABANAN) MANGYAN IN THE MBC	To fortify the indigenous political structure (IPS) of the Buhid (Sadik Habanan) Mangyan , aiming for enhanced self-governance and community empowerment.	80	24	104	2	LD IGNACIO ISLAND RESORT	June 23-24, 2023
STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE MINDORO BD CORRIDOR PROJECT AND IPS, IPOs AND IPMRs OF ORIENTAL MINDORO.	To enhance collaboration between the Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor Project and the Indigenous Peoples (IPs), Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs), and Indigenous Peoples' Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs) of Oriental Mindoro.	49	18	67	4	FILIPINANIANA HOTEL, CALAPAN ORIENTAL MINDORO	June 25-28, 2023
		Men	**Women**	**Total**	**Days**		
		3,160	**2,657**	**5,817**	**195**		

Annex 5a: Location Data & Geo-coordinates

Item	Region	District (Provinces)	Sub-district (Municipalities)	Village (Barangays)	Item Name	Area (ha)	Geo-coordinates	Date Established
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 13	Agusan del Sur	Bayugan	Calaitan	Brgy. Calaitan Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	8° 46' 40.908'' N, 125° 46' 51.168'' E	July 26, 2023
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 13	Agusan del Sur	Trento	Cebolin	Brgy. Cebolin Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	8° 3' 19.62'' N, 126° 6' 58.392'' E	July 27, 2023
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 11	Davao Oriental	Cateel	Aragon	Brgy. Aragon Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	7° 44' 42.936'' N, 126° 22' 47.748'' E	August 3, 2023
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 13	Surigao del Norte	Gigaquit	Mahanub	Brgy. Mahanub Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	8 ha	9° 31' 44.796'' N, 125° 40' 12.72'' E	August 15, 2023
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 13	Surigao del Sur	Marihatag	San Isidro	Brgy. San Isidro Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	8° 49' 3.792'' N, 126° 15' 46.404'' E	August 16, 2023
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 13	Surigao del Sur	Tagbina	Carpenito	Brgy. Carpenito Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	,8° 24' 55.116'' N, 126° 14' 21.66'' E	August 17, 2023
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 13	Surigao del Sur	Tagbina	Maglambing	Brgy. Maglambing Sustainable Land Management Exemplar SIte	6.5 ha	8° 25' 41.556'' N, 126° 12' 34.056'' E	August 17, 2023
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 11	Davao Oriental	Tarragona	Ompao	Brgy. Ompao Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	10 ha	7° 2' 59.0928'' N, 126° 20' 29.9112'' E	August 23, 2023
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 11	Davao Oriental	Manay	Cayawan	Brgy. Cayawan Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	7° 12' 3.9996'' N, 126° 29' 35.9988'' E	August 24, 2023
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor	Region 13	Surigao del Norte	Mainit	San Jose	Brgy. San Jose Sustainable Land Mangement Exemplar Site	5 ha	9° 32' 58.02'' N, 125° 31' 49.728'' E	September 5, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Bongabong	Carmundo	Brgy. Carmundo Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	12°43'51"N 121°25'23"E	July 18, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Bongabong	Lisap	Brgy. Lisap Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	12°41'36"N 121°20'53"E	July 19, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Sablayan	Tuban	Tuban Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	10 ha	12°48'54"N 120°50'51"E	July 25, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Sablayan	Batong Buhay	Batong Buhay Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5.39 ha	12°48'54"N 120°50'51"E	July 26, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Sablayan	Pag-asa	Pag-asa Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	12°56'07"N 120°53'53"E	July 27, 2023

Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Paluan	Harrison	Harrison Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	6 ha	13°26'38"N 120°26'15"E	August 10, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Rizal	Manoot	Manoot Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	12°34'35"N 121°06'11"E	August 15, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Rizal	Rizal	Rizal Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	12°34'35"N 121°06'11"E	August 16, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Rizal	Rizal	Rizal Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	8. 24 ha	12°31'56"N 121°02'58"E	August 16, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Occidental Mindoro	Rizal	Pitogo	Pitogo Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5.07 ha	12°30'21"N 121°04'57"E	August 16, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Oriental Mindoro	Pola	Tiguihan	Tiguihan Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	13°10'48"N 121°25'21"E	August 23, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Oriental Mindoro	Pola	Tagbakin	Tagbakin Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	13°11'06"N 121°23'04"E	August 24, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Oriental Mindoro	Victoria	Bambanin	Bambanin Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	7 ha	13°06'50"N 121°17'48"E	October 4, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Oriental Mindoro	Abra de Ilog	San Vicente	San Vicente Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	7.04 ha	13°22'38"N 120°39'35"E	October 10, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Oriental Mindoro	Mansalay	Maliwanag	Maliwanag Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	6 ha	12°35'39"N 121°26'53"E	October 12, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Oriental Mindoro	Mansalay	Panaytayan	Panaytayan Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	12°28'17"N 121°24'28"E	October 13, 2023
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor	Region 4 B	Oriental Mindoro	Paluan	Harrison	Harrison Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site	5 ha	13°26'38"N 120°26'15"E	February 14, 2024

Annex 6: List of Persons Interviewed

Field Mission - Entities met with locations

International Agency for GEF

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** Country Office

National Agencies

- **Department of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR)** Central Office
    - Policy, Planning & International Affairs, Office of the Undersecretary – Chair, National Project Board
        - Policy & Planning Services
    - Finance, Information Systems & Climate Change, Office of the Undersecretary
        - Foreign Assisted Special Projects Services (FASPS)
    - Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) – focal bureau
        - BMB Biodiversity Policy & Knowledge Management Division (BPKMD) – focal division
            - Biodiversity Corridor National Project Management Unit (NPMU)
        - BMB Wildlife Resources Division / National Park Division / Caves, Wetlands, & Ecosystems Division
    - Forest Management Bureau (FMB)
    - Mines & Geosciences Bureau (MGB) - Mine, Safety, Environment & Social Dev. Division
- **Department of Agriculture (DA)** Central Office
    - Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BSWM)

Other National Agencies

- **National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)***
- **Department of Human Settlement & Urban Development (DHSUD)**
    - Environmental, Land Use & Urban Planning Development Bureau
- **National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)**
    - Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Environment Office*

* Not met

Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC), Regions XI and XIII, Mindanao

- EMBC PMU
- DENR Region XIII Caraga Regional Office, Butuan City
- DENR-Region XIII Caraga EMBC Project Management Unit, Butuan City
- Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), Butuan City Satellite Office
- Caraga State University, Butuan City
- DENR-Region XIII CENRO, Cabadbaran City
- Cabadbaran River Watershed Forest Reserve, Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte
- Mainit Upland Agriculture Producer Association, Mainit, Surigao del Norte
- DENR-Region XIII Caraga, Mines & Geosciences Bureau (MGB), Mine Safety, Envir. & Social Dev. Division
- Platinum Group Metals Corporation (PGMC), Claver, Surigao del Norte
- CTP Construction & Mining Company, Carascal, Surigao del Norte
- Manobo Indigenous Peoples Community, Tinuy-an Falls Protected Landscape, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)-Region XIII, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur

Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC), Regions XI and XIII, Mindanao – cont.

- Aliwagwag Protected Landscape, Cateel, Davao Oriental
- LGU Municipal Environment & Natural Resources Office, Cateel, Davao Oriental
- Mainit Hotspring Protected Landscape, Mainit, Nabunturan, Davao de Oro
- Provincial Tourism Office, Davao de Oro
- PENRO, Davao de Oro DENR-Region XI Davao Regional Office
- PENRO, Davao Oriental
- Davao Oriental State University, Mati, Davao Oriental [BD Assessment]

Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary (MHRWS) Museum, San Isidro, Davao Oriental

Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor (MBC), Region 4B Mindoro Island

- MBC PMU
- DENR-Region 4B MIMAROPA Regional Office
- DENR-Region 4B Provincial Environment & Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Occidental Mindoro
- DENR-Region 4B Community Environment & Natural Resources Office (CENRO), San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- DENR-Region 4B CENRO, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro
- DENR-Region 4B PA Management Office (PAMO), Mt Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP), Occidental Mindoro

- DENR-Region 4B PAMO, Mt Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS), Occidental Mindoro
- DENR-Region 4B CENRO, Socorro, Oriental Mindoro
- DENR-Region 4B PAMO, Naujan Lake National Park, Oriental Mindoro
- Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) / D'Aboville Foundation, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- Paysarigan Mangyan IP Community-based Eco-tourism, Sitio Pandurucan, Brgy Pag-asa, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro
- Unlad Magsasaka Agriculture Cooperative, Sitio Bulakan, Brgy Harisson, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
- Cassava Planters Farmer Association, Sitio Hinugasan, Brgy Harisson, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
- Tau-Buid Indigenous People Community, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro
- Iraya-Mangyan Indigenous People Community, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Annex 7: List of Documents Reviewed

1. Project Identification Form (PIF) and GEF FA strategic program objectives
2. UNDP Initiation Plan and Implementing/Executing partner arrangements / contract
3. UNDP Project Document and Logframe revisions
4. CEO Endorsement Request
5. UNDP Environmental and Social Screening results
6. Project Inception Report
7. Project Implementation Reports (PIRs)
8. Annual Project Reports
9. Minutes of the Project Board Meetings and other meetings (i.e. Project Appraisal Committee meetings)
10. Atlas / Quantum Risk Register
11. Quarterly progress reports and work plans of the various implementation task teams
12. Annual Work Plans
13. M&E Data management system
14. Audit reports
15. Tracking Tools
16. Oversight mission reports by the project manager, RTA, and others
17. Monitoring reports prepared by the project
18. Financial and Administration guidelines used by Project Team
19. Co-financing realized, itemized according to template provided by MTR team
20. Financial expenditures, itemized according to template provided by MTR team
21. Project operational guidelines, manuals and systems
22. UNDP Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF/ICF) and Evaluation
23. UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) and Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP)
24. Project site location maps
25. Project activity maps with management actions and intervention
26. Technical consultancy reports
27. Training materials (PPTs etc.)
28. News and Awareness materials / Photo library / Video films about the projects

Annex 8: Stakeholder List

Stakeholders	Description and MTR Interest
National level	
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – Country Office	UNDP is GEF Agency for the project - responsible for oversight and monitoring project implementation and ensuring adherence to UNDP and GEF policies and procedures.
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)	Government agency as implementing partner for the Project
DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)	Focal bureau of DENR for implementing the Project
DENR-Forest Management Bureau (DENR-FMB)	DENR bureau that facilitates the implementation of Components 3.1 and 3.3 on Forest Certification and Sustainable Forest Management, respectively.
Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Soils and Water Management (DA-BSWM)	Another government agency/bureau which facilitates the implementation of Component 3.2 Sustainable Land Management of the Project
DENR Usec Policy, Planning, and International Affairs	Other government agencies and their bureaus/offices which are active members of the National Project Board (NPB), the decision-making body providing direction, guidance, and oversight for the effective implementation of the project.
DENR Usec for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change and GEF-Philippines Operational Focal Point	
DENR-Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS)	
DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB)	
National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)	
NEDA-Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Environment (ANRES)	
Department of Agriculture (DA)	
Department of Human Settlement & Urban Development (DHSUD)	
DHSUD Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning Development Bureau (ELUPDB)	
Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)	
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)	
Department of Tourism (DOT)	
Tourism Infrastructure & Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA)	
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)	
Civil Society Organization Representatives	Other agencies and their bureaus/offices which are active members of the National Project Board, the decision-making body providing direction, guidance, and oversight for the effective implementation of the project.
Indigenous Peoples (IP) representatives	
League of Provinces Representatives	
Community-based Forest Management (CBFM) National Peoples' Organization Federation Representatives	
UNDP DENR Policy and Planning Service DENR FASPS DENR BMB DENR FMB DENR MGB DENR ERDB	Active members of the Inter-agency Technical Working Group (TWG), which assist the NPB in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities on specific technical matters
National Economic Development Authority	
Department of Agriculture	
Department of Trade and Industry	
Department of Tourism	
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples	
Department of Human Settlements & Urban Development	
Department of Interior and Local Government	
Civil Society Organization Representative	
IP Representative	
Regional level	
MIMAROPA Region	MIMAROPA region is officially the Southwestern Tagalog

	region. The name constitutes the acronym of its constituent provinces, namely: Mindoro (divided into Occidental Mindoro & Oriental Mindoro), Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan. Calapan, Occidental Mindoro, is the designated regional center.
Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office (MIMAROPA)	Assist in the implementation of Component 3.2 by giving support among the activities of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Exemplar Site establishment; Assist in documentation of best Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices.
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – MIMAROPA Region	Coordinate the overall implementation of the BCA Project; Implement National DENR programs at the Regional, provincial and district level; Act as convener of the Biodiversity Corridor and cluster committees (together with PLGU concerned); and provide operational leadership of implementation at the corridor level.
Department of Agriculture – MIMAROPA Region	Serve as core member of corridor /cluster committee; Incorporate learning in DA strategic regional programs of work.; and guide LGU in implementing BD friendly agriculture
National Commissions on Indigenous Peoples – MIMAROPA Region	Serve as core member of corridor/ cluster advisory committee; and Facilitate interventions at Ancestral Domain Levels
National Economic and Development Authority - Mindoro	Active member of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee; Support in mainstreaming of BD Corridor Strategic Plans with Regional Development Investment Programs; and Regional Physical Framework Plans and Provincial Physical Framework Plans
National Government Agencies (Regional Offices) - Mindoro Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)	Active member of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee; and support BD Corridor project
Regional Development Council (RDC)-MIMAROPA	Acted on the resolution for the creation of the CAAC for MBC
Region XIII - Caraga	Caraga, officially the Caraga Administrative Region (CAR), is an administrative region in the Philippines occupying the northeastern section of Mindanao. This region is composed of five (5) provinces, namely: Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur; six (6) cities: Bayugan, Bislig, Butuan, Cabadbaran, Surigao, and Tandag; 67 municipalities and 1,311 barangays. Butuan, the most urbanized city in Caraga serves as the regional administrative center.
Region XI – Davao (Southern Mindanao)	This is the region in Southern Mindanao composed on five (5) provinces: Davao de Oro, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, and Davao Occidental. The largest city in the region is Davao City.
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)- Caraga Region	Coordinate the overall implementation of the BCA; Implement National DENR programs at the Regional, provincial and district level; Act as convener of the Biodiversity Corridor and cluster committees (together with PLGU concerned); and provide operational leadership of implementation at the corridor level.
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)- Davao Region	Assist in the overall implementation of the BD Corridor Project.
Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA)	Active member of the CAAC; and working together with EMBC for the Biodiversity Ecotourism Corridor/ Eco-tourism initiative
Department of Agriculture Davao & Caraga Region	Serve as core member of corridor /cluster committee; Incorporate learning in DA strategic regional programs of work.; and guide LGU in implementing BD friendly agriculture

National Commissions on Indigenous Peoples Caraga and Davao Region	Serve as core member of corridor/ cluster advisory committee; and Facilitate interventions at Ancestral Domain Levels
National Economic and Development Authority – Eastern Mindanao	Active member of the CAAC; Support in mainstreaming of BCA Strategic Plans with Regional Development Investment Programs; & Regional Physical Framework Plans & Provincial Physical Framework Plans
National Government Agencies (Regional Offices) – Eastern Mindanao DENR-Region XI Davao (Southern Mindanao) Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Depart't Human Settlements & Urban Development (DHSUD) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)-Region XI Davao	Active member of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee; and support BD Corridor project.
Province Level	
Provincial Governments of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro	Other supporting agencies
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-Occidental and Oriental Mindoro	Assist in the project implementation at the local level.
DENR- CENROs (Socorro, Roxas, Sablayan, San Jose)	Assist in the project implementation at the local level
PAMOs (MCWS, MIBNP and NLNP)	Assist in the project implementation at the local level
Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro – Provincial Environmental Natural Resources	MBC's partner for coordinating and implementing project programs and activities in their province
Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro – Provincial Environmental Natural Resources	MBC's partner for coordinating and implementing project programs and activities in their province
Provincial National Commissions on Indigenous Peoples – Oriental Mindoro	Headed in the conduct of Free Informed and Prior Consent (FPIC) in the province of Oriental Mindoro
Provincial National Commissions on Indigenous Peoples – Occidental Mindoro	Headed in the conduct of Free Informed and Prior Consent (FPIC) in the province of Occidental Mindoro
National Commission in Indigenous People (Oriental and Occidental Mindoro)	Assist in validating the SLM Exemplar Site area inside the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) boundaries.
Department of Agriculture- Regional Field Office XI and CARAGA	Assist in the implementation of Component 3.2 by giving support among the activities of SLM Exemplar Site establishment; Assist in documentation of best SLM practices. Serve as core member of corridor/ cluster advisory committee; and Facilitate interventions at Ancestral Domain Levels
DENR- Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs) - (Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Davao de Oro, and Davao Oriental)	Assist in the project implementation at the local level.
DENR- CENROs	Assist in the project implementation at the local level
DENR-Protected Area Management Offices (PAMOs)	Assist in the project implementation at the local level
Provincial Local Government Unit of Davao Oriental-Provincial Environmental Natural Resources	Active member of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee; Implement agreed upon priorities in respective areas; and working together with EMBC for the updating of Provincial Environmental Code
Provincial Local Government Unit of Davao de Oro-Provincial Environmental Natural Resources	Active member of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee; Implement agreed upon priorities in respective areas; and working together with EMBC in the Local Conservation Areas (LCA) within the province and same for the Almaciga (BDFE)
Provincial Local Government Unit of Davao de Oro-Provincial Tourism Office	Working closely in the piloting of ecotourism
Provincial National Commissions on Indigenous Peoples – Davao de Oro	Headed in the conduct of Free Informed and Prior Consent (FPIC) in the province of Davao de Oro

Provincial National Commissions on Indigenous Peoples – Agusan del Sur	Headed in the conduct of Free Informed and Prior Consent (FPIC) in the province of Agusan del Sur
Districts /Municipal/ Local Level	
Local Government Units (Bayugan, Cateel, Gigaquit, Mainit, Manay, Marihatag, Mainit, Tagbina, and Tarragona) specifically City/ Municipal Agriculture's Office, City/ Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office and City/ Municipal Planning and Development Office	Assist in different Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site activities on the ground such as determining the site, site validation, capacity building, site establishment, and monitoring and evaluation.
Local Government Unit (Abra de Ilog, Paluan, Sablayan, Rizal, Mansalay, Bongabong, Pola, Victoria) specifically City/ Municipal Agriculture's Office, City/ Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office and City/ Municipal Planning and Development Office	Assist in different Sustainable Land Management Exemplar Site activities on the ground such as determining the site, site validation, capacity building, site establishment, and monitoring and evaluation.
NCIP - Community Service Centers - MBC	Members in the conduct of FPIC and assist BD Project during the Field-based validation/s
Bansud MLGU	Member of MIBNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA; Working together in the creation of Bansud Watershed Management Council (WMC)
Paluan MLGU	Member of MCWS PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Pola MLGU	Member of NLNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Pinamalayan MLGU	Member of NLNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Socorro MLGU	Member of NLNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Naujan MLGU	Member of NLNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Sablayan MLGU	Member of MIBNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Rizal MLGU	Member of MIBNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Calintaan MLGU	Member of MIBNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
San Jose MLGU	Member of MIBNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Mansalay MLGU	Member of MIBNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Bongabong MLGU	Member of MIBNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Gloria MLGU	Member of MIBNP PAMB that works together for MBC's activities within the PA;
Local Government Unit of Maragusan	Working together with EMBC in the Local Conservation Areas (LCA) within the Municipality and same for the Almaciga (BDFE)
CADT 142 in Sitio Palibu, Rosario, Agusan del Sur; CADT 090 in Loreto; and CADT 223 in Trento.	Project sites of the BCA in the formulation of ADSDPP
NCIP - Community Service Centers - EMBC	Members in the conduct of FPIC and assist BD Project during the Field-based validation/s
Protected Areas and the Local Communities (to be identified)	Beneficiaries and target local communities
PA 1: Mts. Iglit Baco National Park PA 2: Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary PA 3: Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary PA 4: Alamio, Buayan, Caracan, Panikian River and Sipangpang Falls Watershed FR PA 5: Aliwagwag Protected Landscape PA 6: Andanan Watershed FR	

PA 7: Cabadbaran Watershed PA 8: Mainit Hotspring Protected Landscape PA 9: Mati Protected Landscape PA 10: Mt. Hamiguitan Range WS PA 11: Surigao Watershed FR PA 12: Tinuy-an Falls PA 13: Naujan LakePA 14: FB Harrison GRBS	
Local government units (LGUs) – municipalities involved and or affected (to be identified)	
Private Sector (Mining Companies)	
CTP Construction and Mining Company Carascal, Surigao del Sur	Beneficiaries and target local mining companies in EMBC
Platinum Group Metals Corporation (PGMC) Claver, Surigao del Norte	
Arc Nickel Resources Inc	
Greenstone Resources Corp	
Marcventures Mining and Devt Corp	
Kingking Mining Corp	
Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corp	
Philsaga Mining Corp	
Agata Mining Ventures Inc	
Taganito Mining Corp	
Taganito HPAL Nickel Corp	
Holcim, Hallmark Mining Corp	
Austral- Asia Like Mining Corp	
Apex Mining Co.	
Helix Mining and Devt Corp	
Academic Institutions	
Caraga State University (CSU)	Active member of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee; and engage in the conduct of biodiversity assessments and formulation of cluster conservation plans for cluster 1, 3, & 4.
Davao Oriental State University (DorSU)	Active member of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee; and engage in the conduct of biodiversity assessments and formulation of cluster conservation plans for cluster 5
Others	
Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP)	Assist in the project implementation at the local level
D'Aboville Foundation (DAF)	Assist in the project implementation at the local level; For membership confirmation on the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) in the next CAAC meeting
Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP)	Assist in the project implementation at the local level
Tau-buid Community MIBNP Station 1, Poypoy, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro	Assist in the project implementation at the local level
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI)	Assist in the project implementation at the local level; For membership confirmation on the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) in the next CAAC meeting
Mangyan Mission	For membership confirmation on the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) in the next CAAC meeting
Philippine Eagle Foundation Inc. (PEFI)	Active member of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee; and engage in the Establishment and Conduct of Philippine Eagle and Mindanao Bleeding Heart Pigeon Population Baselines, Monitoring Protocols in the EMBC "Integrated Approach in Management of Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines

Annex 9: Rating Scales

The following UNDP-GEF grading scales were applied in the evaluation

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Definition
Effectiveness - Objective	- The extent to which an objective has been achieved or how likely it is to be achieved.
Effectiveness - Outcomes	- Results include direct project outputs, short to medium-term outcomes
Relevance	- The extent to which the activity is suited to local and national development priorities and organizational policies, including changes over time. - The extent to which the project is in line with the GEF Operational Programs or the strategic priorities under which the project was funded. (Retrospectively, relevance often becomes a question as to whether the objectives of an intervention or its design are still appropriate given changed circumstances.)
Efficiency	- The extent to which results have been delivered with the least costly resources possible; also called cost effectiveness or efficacy.
Sustainability	- The likely ability of an intervention to continue to deliver benefits for an extended period of time after completion - Projects need to be environmentally, as well as financially and socially sustainable
Impact	- The positive and negative, foreseen and unforeseen changes to and effects produced by a development intervention. - Longer term impact including global environmental benefits, replication effects and other local effects.

Rating Scale for Outcomes (Overall, Effectiveness & Efficiency)

Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The project had no shortcomings in the achievement of its objectives in terms of effectiveness (outcomes), or efficiency. The project is expected or has achieved its global environmental objectives. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.
Satisfactory (S)	There were only minor shortcomings The project is expected or has achieved most of its global environmental objectives.
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	There were moderate shortcomings The project is expected or has achieved most of its relevant objectives but with moderate / significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. The project isn't going to achieve some of its key global environmental objectives
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	The project had significant shortcomings The project is expected to achieve its global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major global environmental objectives.
Unsatisfactory (U)	There were major shortcomings in the achievement of project objectives in terms of effectiveness, or efficiency The project is not expected to achieve most of its global environment objectives
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The project had severe shortcomings The project has failed to achieve any of its major environment objectives

Or Not Applicable (N/A); Unable to Assess (U/A)

Note

Overall Outcome: Achievement of the project objective will be rated HS to U.

Effectiveness: Each of the project's three outcomes will be rated HS to U. The colour coding of the individual indicator targets in **Annex 1** will partially help determine the grade. Each of the outcome indicators will also each be given a grade (in the justification column), however the final rating for each of the three outcomes will be due to appropriate weighting in terms of attaining project objectives. This means that professional judgement of the TE team will also be a key consideration.

Efficiency: An overall rating for cost-effectiveness will be provided

Rating Scale for Outcome (Relevance)

Relevant (R)	Not relevant (NR)

Rating Scale for Implementing Agency (IA) and Executing Agency (EA) Execution

Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The agency had no shortcomings in the achievement of their objectives in terms of quality of implementation or execution. Implementation of all five given management categories – IA or EA coordination & operational matters, partnership arrangements & stakeholder engagement, finance & co-finance, M&E systems, and adaptive management (work planning, reporting & communications, including update to project design) – has led to an efficient and effective project implementation. The agency can be presented as providing 'good practice'
Satisfactory (S)	The agency had only minor shortcomings in terms of the quality of implementation or execution. Implementation of most of the five management categories has led to an efficient and effective project implementation
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The agency had moderate shortcomings Implementation of some of the five management categories has led to a moderately efficient and effective project implementation
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	The agency had significant shortcomings Implementation of some of the five management categories has not led to efficient and effective project implementation
Unsatisfactory (U)	There agency had major shortcomings in the quality of implementation or execution Implementation of most of the five management categories had not led to efficient and effective project implementation
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The agency had severe shortcomings with poor management leading to inefficient and ineffective project implementation

Rating Scale for Monitoring & Evaluation

Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The M&E system – its design and implementation had no shortcomings in the support of achieving project objectives. The M&E system was highly effective and efficient and supported the achievement of major global environmental benefits. The M&E system and its implementation can be presented as 'good practice'.
Satisfactory (S)	The M&E system – its design and implementation had minor shortcomings in the support of achieving project objectives. The M&E system was effective and efficient and supported the achievement of most of the major global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The M&E system – its design and implementation had moderate shortcomings in the support of achieving project objectives. The M&E system supported the achievement of most of the major relevant objectives, but had significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	The M&E system – its design and implementation had major shortcomings in the support of achieving project objectives. The M&E system supported the achievement of most of the major environmental objectives, but with modest relevance
Unsatisfactory (U)	The M&E system – its design and implementation had major shortcomings and did not support the achievement of most project objectives. The M&E system was not effective or efficient
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The M&E system failed in its design and implementation in terms of being effective, efficient or supporting project environmental objectives or benefits.

Rating Scale for Sustainability

Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability with key Outcomes achieved by the project closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future
Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some Outcomes will be sustained
Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key Outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs should carry on
Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project Outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained

According to UNDP-GEF evaluation guidelines, all risk dimensions of sustainability are critical: i.e., the overall rating for sustainability is not higher than the lowest-rated dimension.

Ratings should take into account both the probability of a risk materializing and the anticipated magnitude of its effect on the continuance of project benefits.

Risk definitions:

a) Whether financial resources will be available to continue activities resulting in continued benefits
b) Whether sufficient stakeholder awareness and support is present for the continuation of activities providing benefit
c) Whether required systems for accountability / transparency & technical know-how are in place
d) Whether environmental risks are present that can undermine the future flow of the project benefits.

Rating Scale for Impact[1]

Significant (S)	**Minimal (M)**	**Negligible (N)**

Project Impact is rated as Significant; Minimal or Negligible, but also the positive or negative aspect of the impact will be stated.

Concerning impact, the TE will consider the extent of

a) Verifiable improvement in ecological status; and/or
b) Verifiable reductions in stress on ecological systems
c) Regulatory and policy changes at regional, national and/or local levels

Process indicators will be specified to demonstrate achievement of stress reduction and/or ecological improvement.

Part of the impact assessment, will concern catalytic effect. The TE will consider if the project exhibited

a) Scaling up (to regional and national levels)
b) Replication (outside of the project),
c) Demonstration, and/or
d) Production of a public good, such as new technologies /approaches)

[1] The rating scale for Impact has been discontinued under the 2020 guideline

Annex 10: Mission Itinerary

Time	Activity	Participants	Venue
Day 0: July 7, 2024 – Arrival of Consultant in Manila			
Day 1: July 8, 2024 (Monday)			
7:30am – 9:00am	Travel to DENR, BMB, Quezon City		
9:00am – 11:00am	Inception Briefing with DENR and PMUs (hybrid, face to face and online) – Presentation of Overall Status of BD Corridor Project	DENR FASPS DENR BMB DENR FMB DA BSWM PMUs	BMB Training Center, Quezon City
11:00am – 12:00pm	Interview with DENR BMB 1. **Asec. Marcial Amaro, Jr.**, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and OIC Director, BMB and National Project Director 2. **Asst. Dir. Armida Andres**, Assistant Director, BMB and Deputy Project Director 3. **Ms. Nancy Corpuz**, OIC Chief, BPKMD and Project Focal Division 4. **Ms. Rowena Bolinas**, BPKMD 5. **Ms. Izel Ibardolaza**, Accounting Unit	DENR BMB	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch Break		
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Interview with DENR Central Office 1. **Dir. Cheryl Loise Leal**, Policy and Planning Service and Chair, Inter-Agency Technical Working Group 2. **Dir. Al Orolfo**, Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service	DENR Central Office	DENR Central Office, Visayas Ave., Quezon City
2:30pm – 4:00pm	Interview with DA BSWM 1. **Dr. Gina Nilo, Director**, DA BSWM	DA-BSWM PMU	BSWM DO Conference Room, Quezon City
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Interview with DENR FMB 1. **Asst. Dir. Edna Nuestro**, OIC Assistant Director, FMB 2. **Mr. Eldie Quilloy**, Chief, Forest Resources Management Division	DENR FMB PMU	FMB Conference Room, Quezon City
Day 2: July G, 2024 (Tuesday)			
8:30am – 10:00am	Travel to Mandaluyong		
10:00am – 12:00pm	Interview with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) 1. **Representative, SMT** 2. **Representative, CAPT** 3. **Representative, RQT**	UNDP Staff NPMU	Luxent Hotel, Quezon City
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch Time Travel to Quezon City		
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Interview with Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) 1. **Dir. Mylene Rivera**, Director, Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning Development Bureau (ELUPDB)	DHSUD Staff NPMU	DHSUD Office, Kalayaan, Quezon City
2:30pm – 4:00pm	Interview with DENR BMB Divisions 1. **Ms. Meriden Maranan**, Division Chief and **Mr. Ryan Cuanan**, Chief, Community Management and Sustainable Financing Section - BMB-NPD	DENR BMB Staff NPMU	Bulwagang Ninoy, Aguila Hall, BMB, Quezon City
	2. **Ms. Juvy Ladisla,** OIC Division Chief and **Ms. Argean Guiaya**, OIC Chief Partnership and Engagement Section - BMB-CAWED 3. **Mr. Anson Tagtag**, Division Chief and **Ms. Mirasol Ocampo,** Chief, Wildlife Conservation Section - BMB-WRD		
Day 3: July 10, 2024 (Wednesday)			
4:55am	Flight to Butuan via Cebu Pacific		

6:30am – 6:45am	Breakfast in Inland Resort, Butuan City	EMBC-PMU NPMU	Inland Resort, Butuan City
8:30am – 9:00am	Travel to DENR Caraga Regional Office		
9:00am – 11:00am	Briefing with EMBC-PMU and Interview with DENR Caraga Executives 1. **Atty. Claudio Nistal, Jr.,** ARD for Management Services 2. **Ms. Nilda G. Ebron, Chief**, CDD 3. **Ms. Mary Kathleen Po**, Chief, PMD 4. **Ms. Josephine Araojo**, Project Focal Person and acting Project Manager, EMBC-PMU 5. **Mr. Nilo Calomot**, Project Team Leader – HCVA and Cluster Planning, Caraga State University 6. **Dir. Joan Barrera/Mr. Ireneo Piong, Jr.**, Mindanao Development Authority	DENR Region 13 CSU MinDA EMBC-PMU NPMU	DENR Caraga Regional Training Center, Ambago, Butuan City
11:00am – 12:00pm	Lunch Time		
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Travel to Cabadbaran City		
1:00pm – 2:00pm	Interview with Local Government Unit (LGU) and DENR 1. **Ms. Eva Milan/Ms. Mariza Collado**, City ENRO, LGU Cabadbaran 2. **Ms. Creslie Gallego**, CENRO Tubay/PAMO-CSNP	DENR CENRO/PAMO City ENRO of LGU Cabadbaran EMBC-PMU NPMU	Cabadbaran City
2:00pm – 4:00pm	Travel to Mainit, Surigao del Norte		
4:00pm – 5:00pm	Site Visit and Interview in SLM exemplar 1. **Ms. Lucia Elsisura**, President, Mainit Upland Agriculture Producer Association	Farmer cooperator EMBC-PMU NPMU	Mainit, Surigao del Norte
5:00pm - onwards	Travel to Claver, Surigao del Norte		
Day 4: July 11, 2024 (Thursday)			
7:00am – 8:00am	Travel to Field		
8:00am – 10:00am 10:00am – 12:00pm	Site Visit and Interview with MGB Caraga and Mining Companies 1. **Platinum Group Metals Corporation** 2. **CTP Construction and Mining Company** 3. **Representative/s, MGB Caraga**	Mining companies MGB Caraga Staff EMBC-PMU NPMU	Claver and Carascal, Surigao del Norte
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Lunch Time		
12:30pm – 3:30pm	Travel to Bislig City (TFPL)		
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Interview with DENR and Indigenous Peoples/Indigenous Cultural Communities 1. **For. Jocelyn Jandayan**, PASu/PAMO- TFPL 2. **Mr. Rodino "Datu Sayaw" Domogoy***, IP/ICC representative **to be confirmed*	PAMO IPs/ICCs EMBC-PMU NPMU	Bislig City
5:00pm - onwards	Travel to Hotel		
Day 5: July 12, 2024 (Friday)			
Time	**Activity**	**Participants**	**Venue**
5:00am – 8:00am	Travel to Aliwagwag Protected Landscape		
8:00am – 9:00am	Interview with DENR and Municipal LGU 1. **Ms. Lessa Vitor**, OIC MENRO Cateel	MENRO Cateel staff EMBC-PMU NPMU	Cateel, Davao Oriental
9:00am – 12:00pm	Travel to Nabunturan, Davao de Oro (Lunch along the way)		

12:00pm – 3:00pm	Site Visit and Interview with DENR and P/MLGUs in Mainit Hotsporing Protected Landscape 1. **Ms. Christine Dompor**, OIC, Provincial Tourism Office, Davao de Oro 2. **EnP. Marilyn Perlas**, OIC PENRO-LGU Davao de Oro	LGU Davao de Oro Staff EMBC-PMU NPMU	Nabunturan, Davao de Oro
3:00pm – 4:30pm	Travel to Mati City		
4:30pm – 6:00pm	Courtesy Call and Interview with DENR Region 11, LGU Davao Oriental, DOrSU 1. **Ma. Mercedez Dumagan** Regional Executive Director DENR Davao 2. **Victor T. Billones** ARED for Technical Services 3. **Engr. Maribel Alicer** ARED for Management Services 4. **Perla A. Guara** Chief, CDD 5. **Luningning M. Dalayon** Chief, PMD 6. **Marigelaine V. Arguillas** Project Focal Person, EMBC-PMU OECMs, BDFE and IEM 7. **EnP. Dolores Valdesco/EnP. Leogene Solamo** OIC, PENRO-LGU Davao Oriental 8. **Roy G. Ponce, Misael Clapano and Amy G. Ponce** Davao Oriental State University	DENR Region 11 DOrSU EMBC-PMU NPMU	Adelina Hotel, Mati City
Day 6: July 13, 2024 (Saturday)			
7:00am – 9:00am	Travel to Tarragona, Davao Oriental		
9:00am – 12:00pm	Site Visit to Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary Science (MHRWS) Museum		San Isidro, Davao Oriental
12:00pm – 2:45pm	Travel to Davao City (Lunch along the way)		
2:45pm – 6:00pm	Exit Meeting / Feedbacking with EMBC PMU	EMBC-PMU / NPMU	Davao City
Day 7: July 14, 2024 (Sunday)			
6:10am 11:50am	Flight to Manila via PAL		
Day 8: July 15, 2024 (Monday)			
9:00am – 10:00am	Interview with DENR BMB Biodiversity Policy and Knowledge Management Division (BPKMD) 1. **Nancy Corpuz,** OIC Chief 2. **Rowena Bolinas,** Chief Policy, Program, Planning, and Monitoring Section 3. **Darwin Tejerero**, Chief Knowledge and Information Management Section	DENR BMB BPKMD staff NPMU	DENR BMB BPKMD Conference Room
10:00am – 12:00pm	Travel to DENR MIMAROPA Office, Paranaque		
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch Time		DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office, 6th Floor, PITx, Paranaque
1:00pm – 2:30pm	Interview with DENR MIMAROPA 1. **RED Felix S. Mirasol, Jr.** Regional Executive Director, DENR MIMAROPA 2. **ARD Maximo C. Landrito,** ARD for Technical Services 3. **Maria Melissa Endangan**, Chief, CDD 4. **Jonas Paolo Saludo**, Chief, PMD	DENR MIMAROPA Staff NPMU	DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office, 6th Floor, PITx, Paranaque
2:30pm – 4:00pm	Travel to Hotel Manila		
Day G: July 16, 2024 (Tuesday)			
6:30am	Flight to San Jose, Occidental Mindoro via Cebu Pacific		

7:45am – 8:45am	Breakfast at Seasons Hotel and Convention Center		
8:45am – 10:30am	Travel to Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park		
10:30am – 12:00pm	Site Visit and Interview in MIBNP 1. **For. Ernesto Tañada** PENR Officer - Occidental Mindoro 2. **PASu Hector Aragones** PASu, MIBNP 3. **Punong Tribo Fausto Novelozo** Tau-buid community 4. **For. Efren Delos Reyes** CENROs - San Jose 5. **Neil Anthony Del Mundo** TCP Deputy Coordinator 6. **Emmanual Schuitz** DAF	DENR PENRO Occidental Mindoro Staff IP representative DENR CENRO San Jose Staff TCP Staff DAF Staff MBC-PMU NPMU	Station I of MIBNP, Poypoy, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch Time		Station I of MIBNP, Poypoy, Calintaan, Occidental Mindoro
1:00pm – 3:30pm	Travel to Sablayan		
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Site visit and Interview in So. Pandurucan, Brgy. Pag-asa, Sablayan SLM exemplar site 1. **Charlou Ormega** MENRO Rep 2. **Peter Gallinera** MAO Rep - Senior Agriculturist 3. **For. Anastacio A. Santos** CENROs - Sablayan	MENRO Sablayan Staff MAO Staff DENR CENRO Sablayan Staff MBC-PMU, NPMU	So. Pandurucan, Brgy. Pag-asa, Sablayan
4:30pm – 6:00pm	Travel to Mamburao (Maru's Food Lounge and Beachfront)		
Day 10: July 17, 2024 (Wednesday)			
6:00am – 7:00am	Travel to So. Bulakan, Brgy. Harisson, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro		
7:00am – 8:00am	Site Visit and Interview in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary with SLM exemplar site 1. **For. Arlene V. Francisco** PASu, MCWS 2. **Jethro Masangcay** Paluan MLGU (Supervising Agriculturist)/FA President	PAMO Farmer cooperator/MLGU MBC-PMU NPMU	So. Bulakan, Brgy. Harrison, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
8:00am – 9:00am	Travel to So. Hinugasan, Brgy. Harisson, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro		
9:00am – 10:00am	Site Visit and Interview in Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary with SLM exemplar site 1. **For. Arlene V. Francisco** PASu, MCWS 2. **Jethro Masangcay** Paluan MLGU (Supervising Agriculturist)/FA President 3. **Alex Reyes**, President, Cassava Planters Farmer Association/Iraya IP member	Farmer cooperator/MLGU IP member PAMO MBC-PMU NPMU	So. Hinugasan, Brgy. Harrison, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro
Time	**Activity**	**Participants**	**Venue**
10:00am – 1:00pm	Travel to Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro		
1:00pm	Lunch Time		
2:00pm – 3:30pm	Travel to Dao, Naujan		
3:30pm – 4:30pm	Site Visit and Interview at Dao Water Lily Association (Potential BDFE, water lily weaving industry) 1. **For. Ricardo Natividad** PASu, NLNP 2. **Raquel Umali** MAO (Naujan) / NLNP PAMB member 3. **Rochelle Martinez** Dao Water Lily Association	PAMO MAO/PAMB member PO member MBC-PMU NPMU	Brgy. Dao, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro
4:30pm – 6:00pm	Travel to Pola, Oriental Mindoro (Log House Restobar and Resort)		
Day 11: July 18, 2024 (Thursday)			
7:00am	Travel to Brgy. Tagbakin, Pola, Oriental Mindoro		

7:45am			
7:45am – 9:00am	Site Visit and Interview in SLM exemplar site 1. **Nilo Garan** President, Taybungan Tagbakin Farmers Association 2. **Ms. Seliena Fabula** OIC Municipal Agriculturist, MAO Pola 3. **For. Ricardo Natividad** PASu, NLNP	Farmer cooperator MAO staff PAMO MBC-PMU NPMU	So. Taybungan 1, Brgy. Tagbakin, Pola, Oriental Mindoro
9:00am – 9:45am	Travel to Socorro, Oriental Mindoro		
9:45am – 10:15am	Site Visit and Interview on BoardWalk within Naujan Lake National Park 1. **Engr. Allan Valle** PENR Officer - Oriental Mindoro 2. **For. Rodel Boyles** CENR Officer - Socorro 3. **For. Ricardo Natividad** PASu, NLNP	DENR PENRO Oriental Mindoro Staff DENR CENRO Socorro Staff PAMO MBC-PMU, NPMU	BoardWalk within Naujan Lake National Park, Socorro, Oriental Mindoro
10:15am - 12:00pm	Travel to Mansalay		
12:00pm	Lunch Time		
1:00pm – 3:30pm	Travel to San Jose, Occidental Mindoro (Seasons Hotel and Convention Center)		
Day 12: July 1G, 2024 (Friday)			
9:00am- 12:00pm	Exit Meeting/Feedbacking	MBC-PMU NPMU	Seasons Convention Center
Day 13: July 20, 2024 (Saturday)			
8:10am	Flight to Manila via Cebu Pacific		
Day 14: July 21, 2024 (Sunday) – Data Processing and Report Writing			
Day 15: July 22, 2024 (Monday)			
10:30am – 12:00pm	Interview with National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) 1. **Dir. Nieva Natural**, Director, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment Staff (ANRES)	NEDA Staff NPMU	NEDA Office, Mandaluyong
12:00pm	Lunch Time		BMB, Quezon City
1:15pm – 1:30pm	To DENR Central Office		
1:30pm – 2:15pm	Interview with DENR Central Office 1. **Usec. Jonas Leones**, Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs, Chair, National Project Board	Usec Leones NPMU	DENR Central Office, Visayas Ave., Quezon City
2:15pm – 2:30pm	To DENR MGB		
2:30pm – 4:00pm	Interview with DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)	DENR MGB Staff NPMU	DENR MGB Office, North
Time	**Activity**	**Participants**	**Venue**
	1. **Engr. Marcial Mateo**, Chief, Mine, Safety, Environment and Social Development Division		Ave., Quezon City
Day 16: July 23, 2024 (Tuesday)			
1:00pm – 3:00pm	Interview with the Project's National Project Manager 1. **Dr. Mary Jean Caleda**, BD Corridor Project	NPM	BMB-NPMU, Quezon City
Day 17: July 24, 2024 (Wednesday)			
9:00am – 11:30am	De-briefing with DENR and PMUs	DENR FASPS , BMB NPMU / DENR FMB-PMU DA BSWM-PMU EMBC / MBC	Tamaraw Hall, Bulwagang Ninoy, Quezon City
11:30am- 12:30pm – 1:00pm	Lunch Time Travel to UNDP Office		
1:00pm – 3:00pm	UNDP Wrap-up meetings with Program/Unit Manager	UNDP Staff	UNDP Office, Mandaluyong
Day 18: July 25, 2024 (Thursday) – End of Mission – International Consultant Fly Home			

Annex 11: Maps

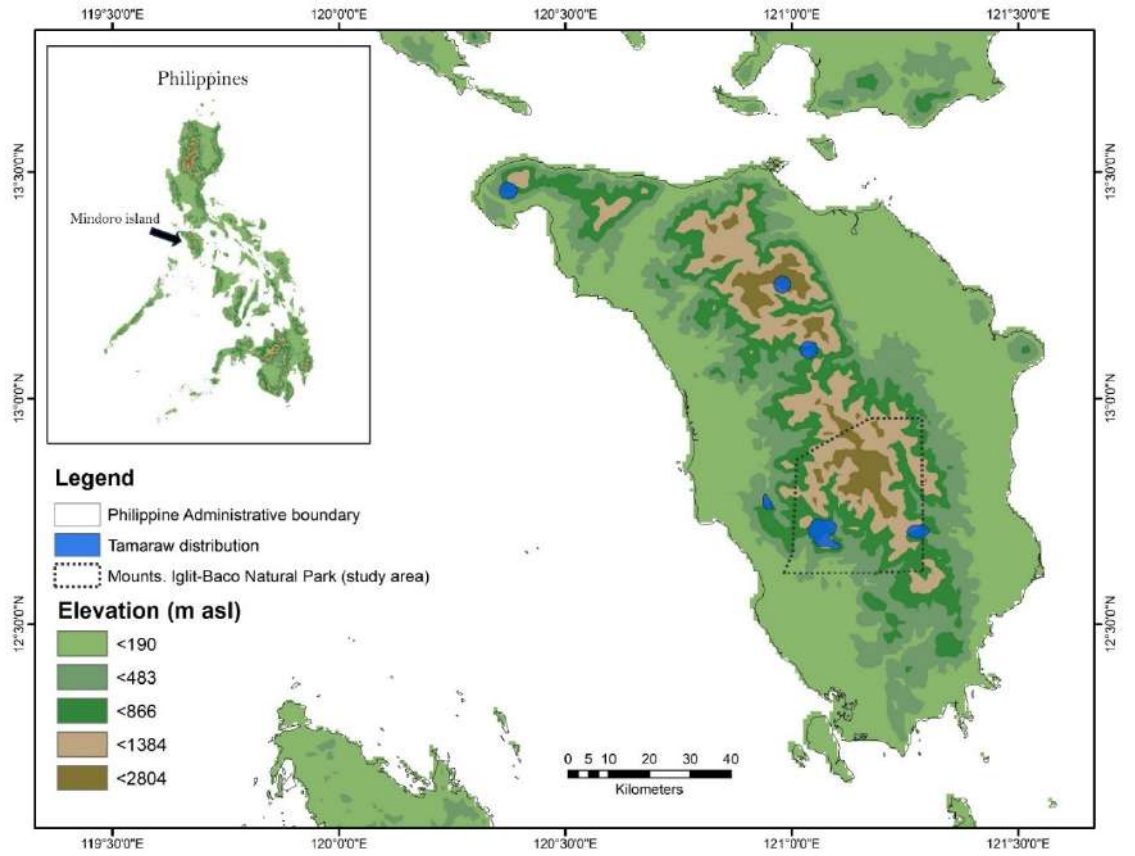
EMBC – Region XIII (Caraga)

EMBC Region 11

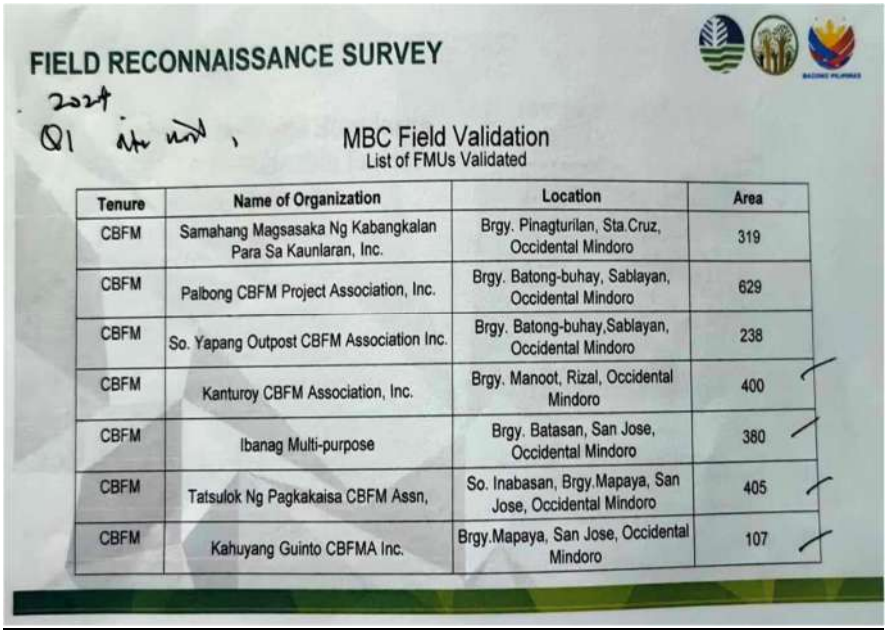
MBC – Occidental

MBC - Oriental

Tamaraw distribution map



MBC – location of CBFM Demonstration Sites

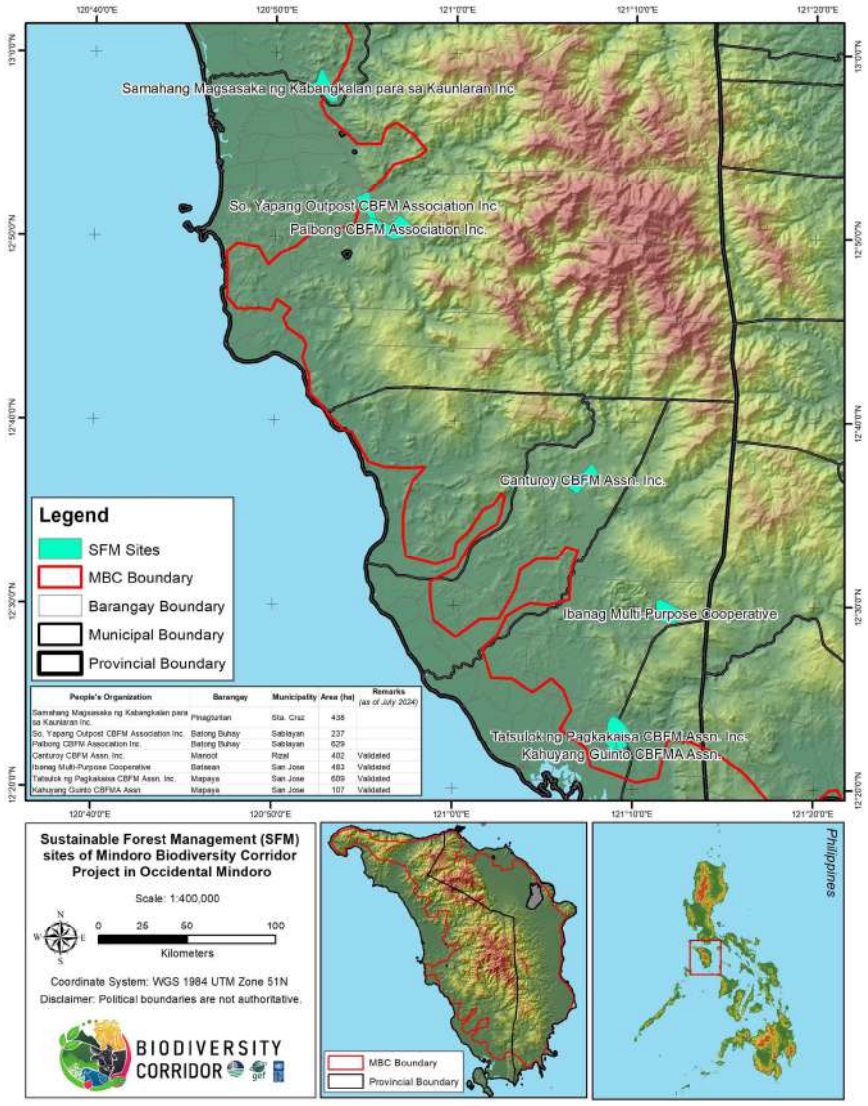


FIELD RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

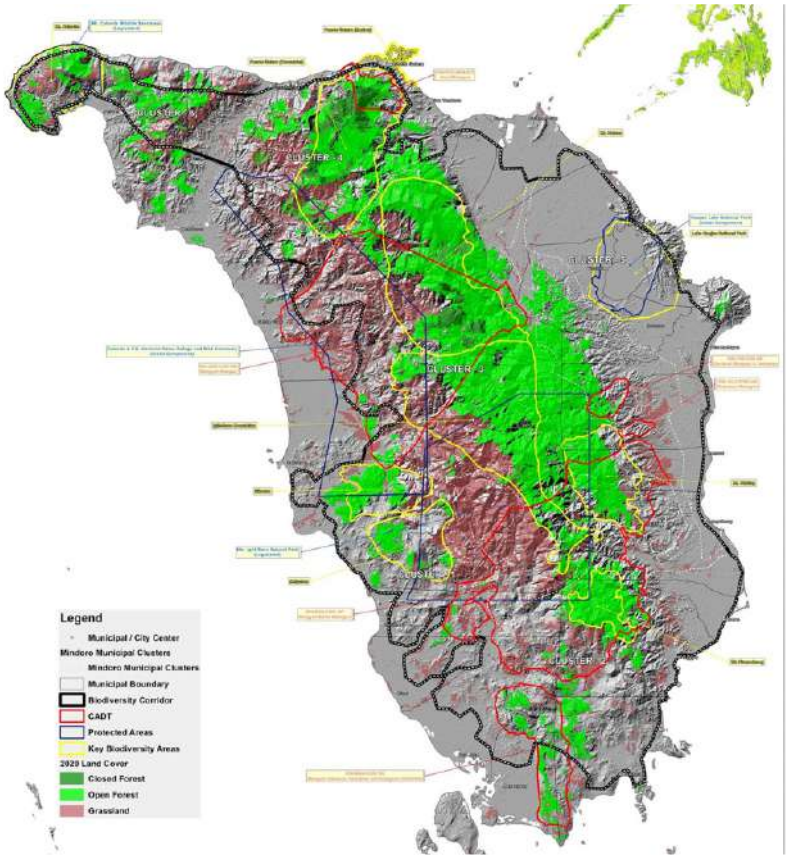
2024 Q1

MBC Field Validation
List of FMUs Validated

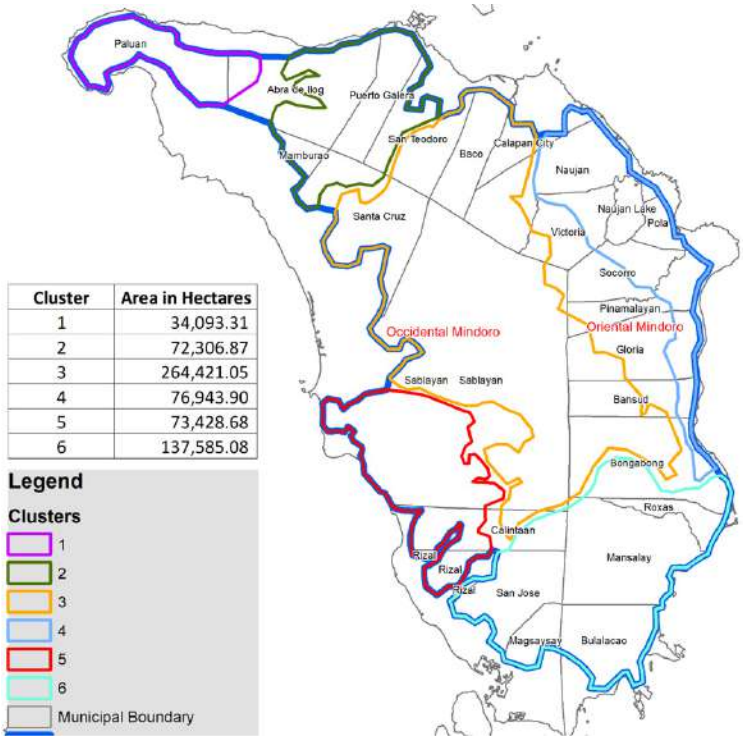
Tenure	Name of Organization	Location	Area
CBFM	Samahang Magsasaka Ng Kabangkalan Para Sa Kaunlaran, Inc.	Brgy. Pinagturilan, Sta.Cruz, Occidental Mindoro	319
CBFM	Palbong CBFM Project Association, Inc.	Brgy. Batong-buhay, Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro	629
CBFM	So. Yapang Outpost CBFM Association Inc.	Brgy. Batong-buhay,Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro	238
CBFM	Kanturoy CBFM Association, Inc.	Brgy. Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro	400
CBFM	Ibanag Multi-purpose	Brgy. Batasan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	380
CBFM	Tatsulok Ng Pagkakaisa CBFM Assn,	So. Inabasan, Brgy.Mapaya, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	405
CBFM	Kahuyang Guinto CBFMA Inc.	Brgy.Mapaya, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	107



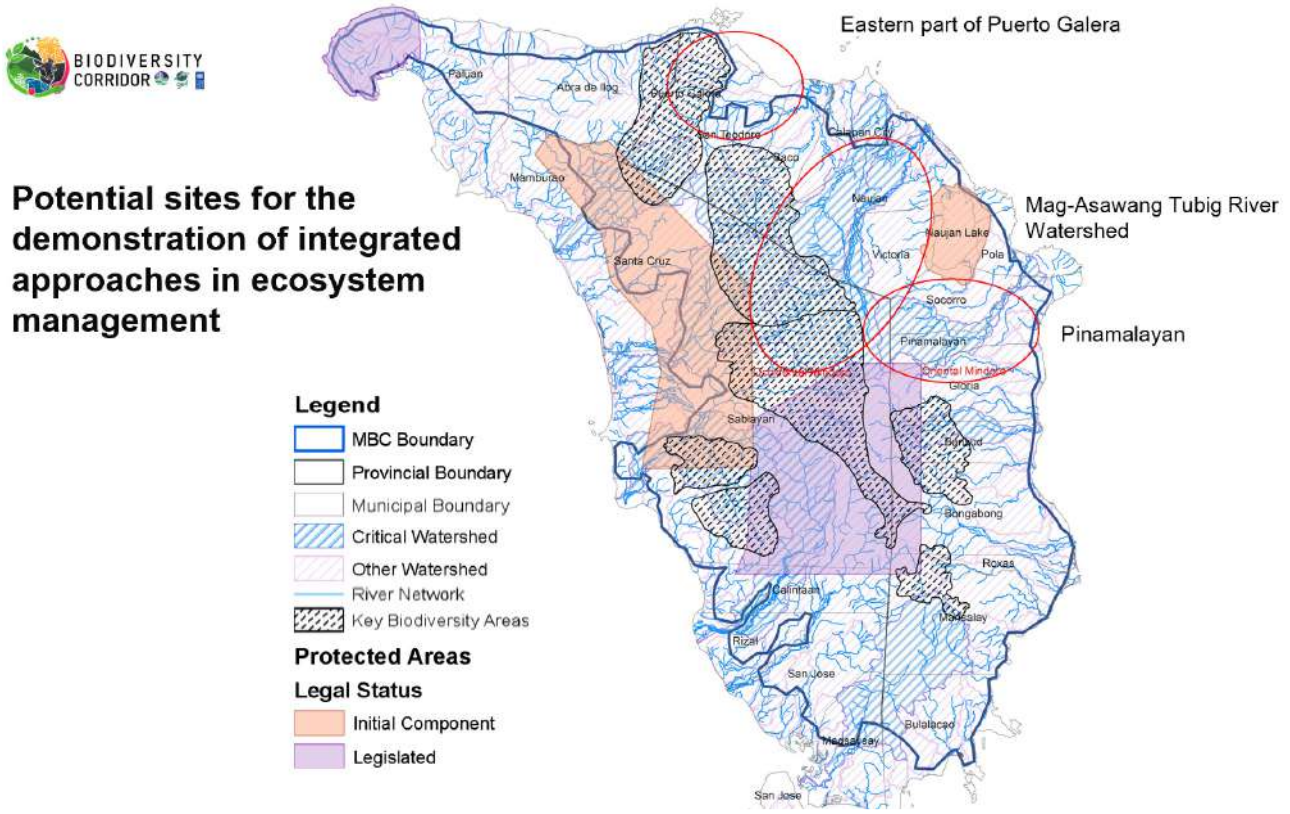
Mindoro KBAs



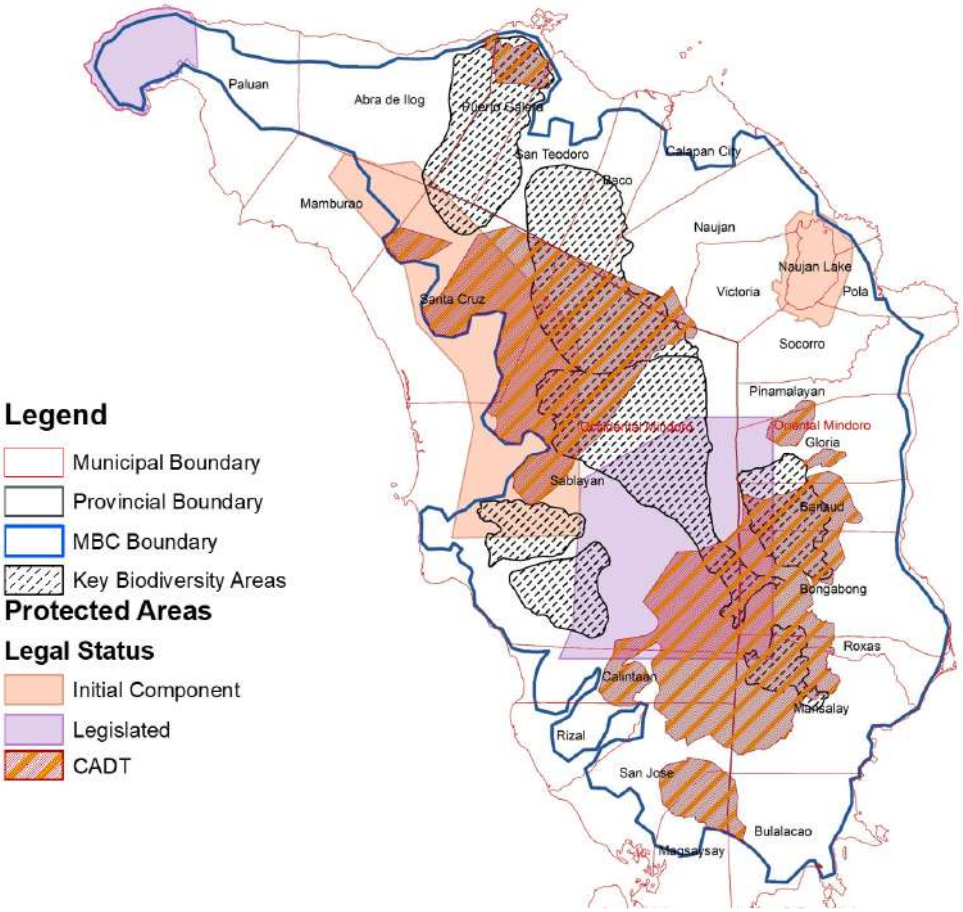
MBC Cluster Map



Mindoro KBAs mapped but to show Site Selecton for Three key IEM locations (for Outcome 1)



MBC KBAs

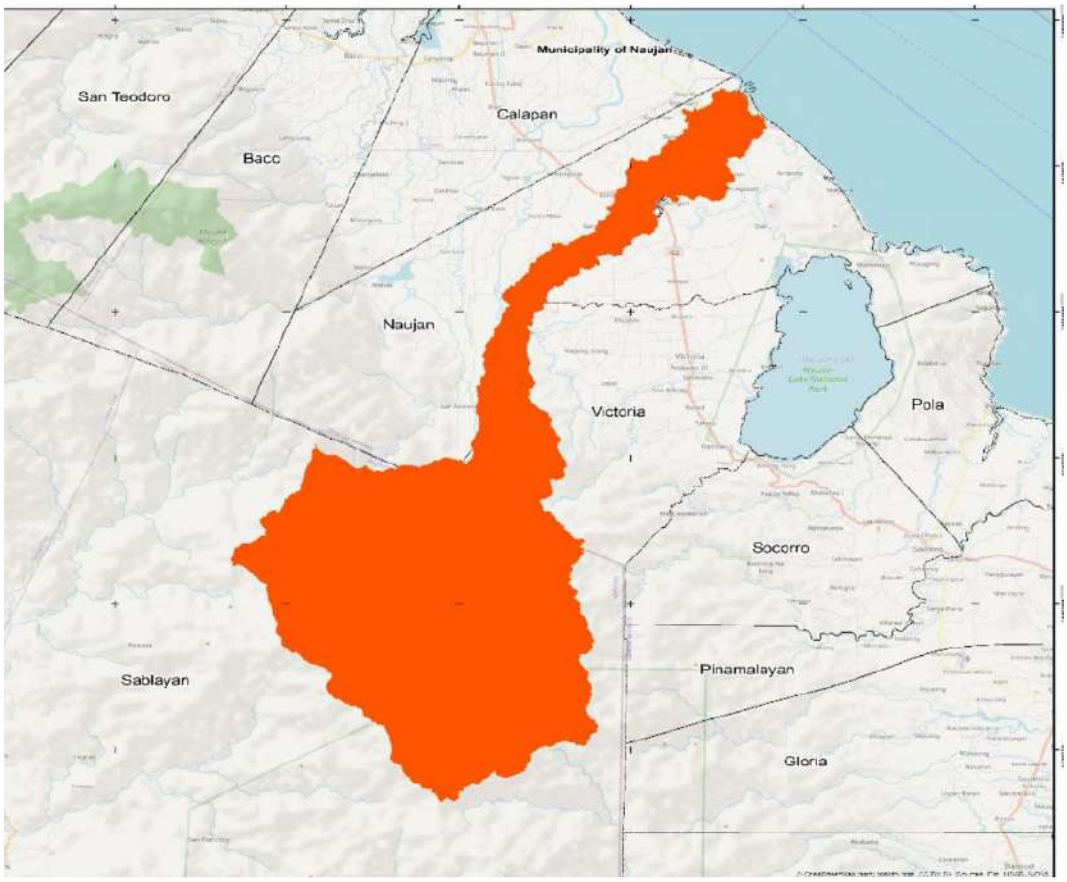


Mindoro SLM Demonstration Sites

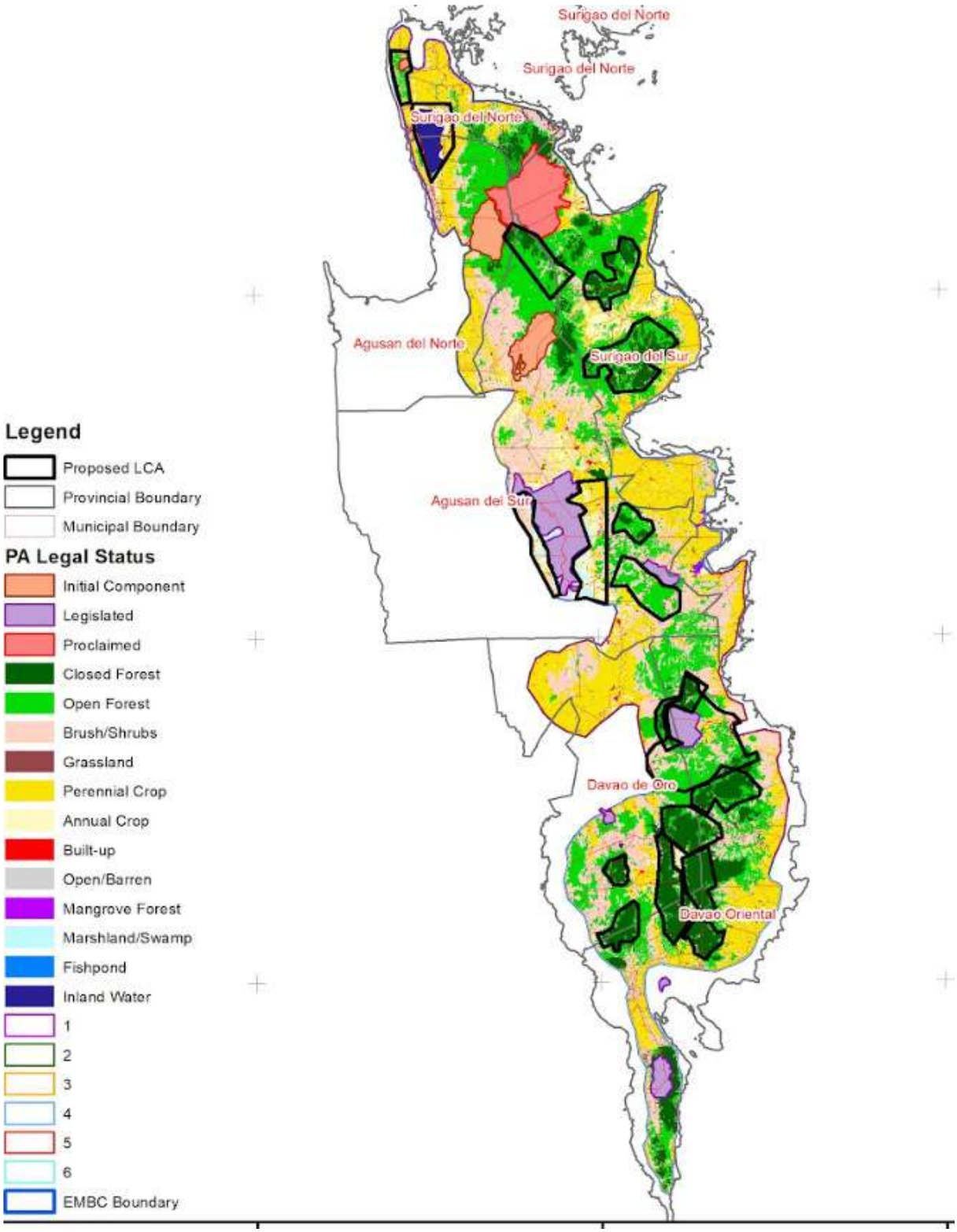
Mag-asawang Tubig Watershed - Oriental Mindoro, MIMAROPA - CONVERGENCE AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-28 (pp96)

This entire watershed spans approximately 43,534.24 hectares, extending from Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro to Victoria and Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. The largest portion is situated in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, covering 31,625.24 hectares. In terms of the number of barangays within the Mag-asawang Tubig Watershed, Naujan has 22, Victoria has four (4), and Sablayan has two (2) barangays.

Mag Asawang Tubig Watershed Map:


Municipality of Naujan
San Teodoro
Calapan
Bacc
Naujan
Victoria
Pola
Socorro
Pinamalayan
Sablayan
Gloria

EMBC LCAs


Surigao del Norte
Surigao del Norte
Surigao del Norte
Agusan del Norte
Surigao del Sur
Agusan del Sur
Davao de Oro
Davao Oriental
Legend
Proposed LCA
Provincial Boundary
Municipal Boundary
PA Legal Status
Initial Component
Legislated
Proclaimed
Closed Forest
Open Forest
Brush/Shrubs
Grassland
Perennial Crop
Annual Crop
Built-up
Open/Barren
Mangrove Forest
Marshland/Swamp
Fishpond
Inland Water
1
2
3
4
5
6
EMBC Boundary

Annex 12: Indicative MTR Evaluation Matrix

This questionnaire was used as a general aid during the field visit with the results described in section 3. (Note there is no further information to be presented in the blank boxes.)

Evaluation Question	Response / Finding	Conclusion/ Recommend
Relevance: How does the project relate to the main objectives of the GEF FA, and to the environment and development priorities at the local, regional and national levels?		
Effectiveness: To what extent have the expected outcomes and objectives of the project been achieved?		
Efficiency: Was the project implemented efficiently, in-line with international and national norms and standards?		
Sustainability: To what extent are there financial, institutional, social-economic, and/or environmental risks to sustaining long-term project results?		
Impact: Are there indications that the project has contributed to, or enabled progress toward, reduced environmental stress and / or improved ecological status		
Findings discussion – 3 areas - Project formulation, project implementation, and project results.		
Project Strategy		
Project Design Formulation		
To what extent is the project in line with national and local priorities?		
To what extent is the Project aligned to the main objectives of the GEF focal area?		
Have synergies with other projects and initiatives been incorporated in the design?		
Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?		
Decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?		
Have issues materialized due to incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document?		
Were the project's objectives and components clear, practicable and feasible within its time frame? Were the capacities of the executing institution(s) and its counterparts properly considered when the project was designed? Were the partnership arrangements properly identified and roles and responsibilities negotiated prior to project approval? Were counterpart resources (funding, staff, and facilities), enabling legislation, and adequate project management arrangements in place at project entry? Were the project assumptions and risks articulated in the PIF and project document?		
Results Framework:		
Are the project objective / outcomes clear, practicable, & feasible within its time frame?		
Were the project's logframe indicators and targets appropriate? How "SMART" were the midterm and end-of-project targets (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound)? Any amendments?		
Progress towards Results		
Progress towards Outcomes Analysis:		
Review the logframe indicators against delivery at end-of-project targets using the Results Matrix (see Annex).		
Compare and analyse the Tracking Tools (e.g. METT, PMAT, AMAT, Capacity Dev., Financial) at the Baseline, MTR and End.		
Which barriers hindered achievement of the project objective		
ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS		
As per logframe - Logical and robust, and have helped to determine activities and planned outputs.		
Externalities (i.e. effects of climate change, global economic crisis, etc.) which are relevant to the findings.		

Evaluation Question	Response / Finding	Conclusion/ Recommend
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management		
GEF Partner Agency / Implementing Entity – UNDP		
Has there been an appropriate focus on results?		
Has the UNDP support to the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and Project Team been adequate?		
Has the quality and timeliness of technical support to the Executing Agency/ Implementing Partner and Project Team been adequate?		
How has the responsiveness of the managing parties to significant implementation problems (if any) been?		
Has overall risk management been proactive, participatory, and effective?		
Are there salient issues regarding project duration, for instance to note project delays? And, how have they affected project outcomes and sustainability?		
Candor and realism in annual reporting		
Executing Agency/ Implementing Partner Execution		
Were the capacities of the executing institution(s) and its counterparts properly considered when the Project was designed?		
Were partnership arrangements properly identified and roles and responsibilities negotiated prior to Project approval?		
Were counterpart resources, enabling legislation, and adequate project management arrangements in place at Project entry?		
Have management inputs and processes, including budgeting and procurement been adequate?		
Has there been adequate mitigation and management of environmental and social risks as identified through the UNDP Environmental and Social screening procedure?		
Whether there was an appropriate focus on results and timeliness? Quality of risk management? Candor and realism in reporting?		
Government ownership or level of support if 'in cooperation with' the IP.		
Work Planning / PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION		
Effective partnerships arrangements established for implementation of the project with relevant stakeholders involved in the country/region, including the formation of a Project Board. Lessons from other relevant projects incorporated into project implementation.		
Feedback from M&E activities used for adaptive management.		
Has the project experienced delays in start-up and/or implementation? What were the causes of the delays? And, have the issues been resolved?		
Were work-planning processes results-based?		
Did the project team use the results framework/ logframe as an M&E and a management tool?		
Were there any changes to the logframe since project start, and have these changes been documented and approved by the project board?		
FINANCE & CO-FINANCE		
<u>Prodoc</u> Did the prodoc identify potential sources of co-financing as well as leveraged and associated financing? Prodoc include strong financial controls that allowed the project management to make informed decisions regarding the budget, allow for the timely flow of funds and for the payment of project deliverables Did the prodoc demonstrate due diligence in the management of funds, including periodic audits.		
Sufficient clarity in the reported co-financing to substantiate in-kind and cash co-financing from all listed sources. The reasons for differences in the level of expected and actual co-financing. The extent to which project components supported by external funders were integrated into the overall project.		

Evaluation Question	Response / Finding	Conclusion/ Recommend
Effect on project outcomes and/or sustainability from the extent of materialization of co-financing. Evidence of additional, leveraged resources that have been committed as a result of the project. (Leveraged resources can be financial or in-kind and may be from other donors, NGOs, foundations, governments, communities or the private sector)		
<u>Cost-effective factors</u> Compliance with the incremental cost criteria and securing co-funding and associated funding. Project completed the planned activities and met or exceeded the expected outcomes in terms of achievement of Global Environmental and Development Objectives according to schedule, and as cost-effective as initially planned. The project used either a benchmark approach or a comparison approach (did not exceed the costs levels of similar projects in similar contexts)?		
<u>Standard Finance questions</u> Have strong financial controls been established allow the project management to make informed decisions regarding the budget at any time, and allow for the timely flow of funds and the payment of satisfactory project deliverables?		
Are there variances between planned and actual expenditures? If yes, what are the reasons behind these variances?		
Has the project demonstrated due diligence in the management of funds, including annual audits?		
Have there been any changes made to the fund allocations as a result of budget revisions? Assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.		
Has pledged cofinancing materialized? If not, what are the reasons behind the cofinancing not materializing or falling short of targets?		
Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems		
The quality of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan's design and implementation: An M&E plan should include a baseline (including data, methodology, etc.), SMART indicators and data analysis systems, MTR, TE, and adequate funding for M&E activities.		
M&E plan at project start up, considering whether baseline conditions, methodology and roles and responsibilities are well articulated. Is the M&E plan appreciated? Is it articulated sufficiently to monitor results and track progress toward achieving objectives?		
Were sufficient resources allocated effectively to M&E?		
Were there changes to project implementation / M&E as a result of the MTR recommendations?		
Are the M&E systems appropriate to the project's specific context? - effectiveness of monitoring indicators from the project document for measuring progress and performance		
Do the monitoring tools provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Are they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective?		
To what extent has the Project Team been using inclusive, innovative, and participatory monitoring systems?		
To what extent have follow-up actions, and/or adaptive management measures, been taken in response to the PIRs? Check to see whether APR/PIR self-evaluation ratings were consistent with the MTR and TE findings. If not, were these discrepancies identified by the project steering committee and addressed?		
Compliance with the progress and financial reporting requirements/ schedule, including quality and timeliness of reports		
The value and effectiveness of the monitoring reports and evidence that these were discussed with stakeholders and project staff		
The extent to which development objectives are built into monitoring systems: How are perspectives of women and men involved and affected by the project monitored and assessed?		
How are relevant groups' (including women, indigenous peoples, children, elderly, disabled, and poor) involvement with the project and the impact on them monitored?		
Has there been adequate mitigation and management of environmental and social risks as identified through the UNDP Environmental and Social screening procedure?		
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT		
Are the interactions as per the prodoc? Stakeholder interactions include information dissemination, consultation, and active participation in the project.		

Evaluation Question	Response / Finding	Conclusion/ Recommend
Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?		
Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?		
Participation and public awareness: How has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives?		
Are there any limitations to stakeholder awareness of project outcomes or to stakeholder participation in project activities? Is there invested interest of stakeholders in the project's long-term success and sustainability?		
Reporting:		
How have adaptive management changes been reported by the Project Team and shared with the Project Board?		
How well have the Project Team and partners undertaken and fulfil GEF reporting requirements (i.e. how have they addressed poorly-rated PIRs?), and suggest trainings etc. if needed?		
How have PIRs been shared with the Project Board and other key stakeholders?		
How have lessons derived from the adaptive management process been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners, and incorporated into project implementation?		
Communication:		
Internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and long-term investment in the sustainability of project results?		
External project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)		
Are there possibilities for expansion of educational or awareness aspects of the project to solidify a communications program, with mention of proper funding for education and awareness activities? What aspects of the project might yield excellent communications material, if applicable?		
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT		
Changes in the environmental and development objectives of the project during implementation, why these changes were made and what was the approval process. Causes for adaptive management: a) original objectives were not sufficiently articulated; b) exogenous conditions changed, due to which a change in objectives was needed; c) project was restructured because original objectives were overambitious; d) project was restructured because of a lack of progress; e) Other (specify).		
How these changes were instigated and how these changes affected project results: - Did the project undergo significant changes as a result of recommendations from the MTR? Or as a result of other review procedures? Explain the process and implications. - If the changes were extensive, did they materially change the expected project outcomes? - Were the project changes articulated in writing and then considered and approved by the project steering committee?		
PROJECT RESULTS		
A 'result' is defined as a describable or measurable development change resulting from a cause-and-effect relationship. In GEF terms, results include direct project outputs, short- to medium-term outcomes, and longer-term impact including global environmental benefits, replication effects, and other local effects. Assess the results based management (RBM) chain, from inputs to activities, to outputs, outcomes and impacts.		
Assess the project results using indicators and relevant tracking tools		
BROADER ASPECTS OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
Country Ownership		

Evaluation Question	Response / Finding	Conclusion/ Recommend
Project concept had its origin within the national sectoral and development plans?		
Have Outcomes (or potential outcomes) from the project have been incorporated into the national sectoral and development plans? Has the government enacted legislation and/or developed policies and regulations in line with the project's objectives?		
Relevant country representatives (e.g., governmental official, civil society, etc.) were actively involved in project identification, planning and/or implementation, part of steering committee?		
Was an intergovernmental committee given responsibility to liaise with the project team, recognizing that more than one ministry should be involved?		
The recipient government has maintained financial commitment to the project?		
Mainstreaming (Broader Development and Gender)		
Whether broader development and gender issues had been taken into account in project design and implementation?		
In what way has the project contributed to greater consideration of gender aspects, (i.e. project team composition, gender-related aspects of environmental impacts, stakeholder outreach to women's groups, etc). If so, indicate how.		
Did the MTR recommend improvements to the logframe with SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits? - Were these taken up?		
1. Whether it is possible to identify and define positive or negative effects of the project on local populations (e.g. income generation/ job creation, improved natural resource management arrangements with local groups, improvement in policy frameworks for resource allocation and distribution, regeneration of natural resources for long term sustainability).		
2. If the project objectives conform to agreed priorities in the UNDP country programme document (CPD) and country programme action plan (CPAP).		
3. Whether there is evidence that the project outcomes have contributed to better preparations to cope with natural disasters.		
The mainstreaming assessment should take note of the points of convergence between UNDP environment-related and other development programming.		
Sustainability		
Risk Management		
Are the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Review/PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Management Module the most important? And, are the risk ratings applied appropriate and up to date? If not, explain why.		
Financial Risks to Sustainability (of the project outcomes)		
What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends? (This might include funding through government - in the form of direct subsidies, or tax incentives, it may involve support from other donors, and also the private sector. The analysis could also point to macroeconomic factors.)		
What opportunities for financial sustainability exist?		
What additional factors are needed to create an enabling environment for continued financing?		
Has there been the establishment of financial and economic instruments and mechanisms to ensure the ongoing flow of benefits once the GEF assistance ends (i.e. from the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and market transformations to promote the project's objectives)?		
Socio-Economic Risks to Sustainability:		
Are there social or political risks that may threaten the sustainability of project outcomes?		
What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow?		
Is there sufficient public/ stakeholder awareness in support of the project's long-term objectives?		
Have lessons learned been documented by the Project Team on a continual basis?		

Evaluation Question	Response / Finding	Conclusion/ Recommend
Are the project's successful aspects being transferred to appropriate parties, potential future beneficiaries, and others who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?		
Institutional Framework and Governance Risks to Sustainability:		
Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize project benefits?		
Has the project put in place frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes that will create mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer after the project's closure?		
How has the project developed appropriate institutional capacity (systems, structures, staff, expertise, etc.) that will be self-sufficient after the project closure date?		
How has the project identified and involved champions (i.e. individuals in government and civil society) who can promote sustainability of project outcomes?		
Has the project achieved stakeholders' (including government stakeholders') consensus regarding courses of action on project activities after the project's closure date?		
Does the project leadership have the ability to respond to future institutional and governance changes (i.e. foreseeable changes to local or national political leadership)? Can the project strategies effectively be incorporated/mainstreamed into future planning?		
Environmental Risks to Sustainability:		
Are there environmental factors that could undermine and reverse the project's outcomes and results, including factors that have been identified by project stakeholders? E.g. climate change risk to biodiversity		
Impact - Progress towards the achievement of impacts		
Verifiable improvements in ecological status (or via process indicators to show it is likely in the future)? Verifiable reductions in stress on ecological systems (via process indicators)? E.g. as a result of the project, there have been regulatory and policy changes at regional, national and/or local levels? (Use tracking tools and indications from baseline to target)		
Identify the mechanisms at work (i.e. the causal links to project outputs and outcomes);		
Assess the extent to which changes are taking place at scales commensurate to natural system boundaries; and		
Assess the likely permanence (long lasting nature) of the impacts.		
On the basis of the outcome and sustainability analyses, identify key missing elements as that are likely to obstruct further progress.		
<u>Theory of Change</u> – Identify project intended impacts – verify logic – analyse project outcome to impact pathway		
Based on the theory of change (building blocks, catalysts etc), has the progress towards impact has been significant, minimal or negligible.		
<u>Catalytic role</u>		
Scaling up - Approaches developed through the project are taken up on a regional / national scale, becoming widely accepted, and perhaps legally required		
Replication - Activities, demonstrations, and/or techniques are repeated within or outside the project, nationally or internationally		
Demonstration - Steps have been taken to catalyze the public good, for instance through the development of demonstration sites, successful information dissemination and training		
Producing a public good – (a) Development of new technologies and approaches. (b) No significant actions were taken to build on this achievement, so the catalytic effect is left to 'market forces'		

Annex 13: Signed UNEG Code of Conduct Agreement Form

Independence entails the ability to evaluate without undue influence or pressure by any party (including the hiring unit) and providing evaluators with free access to information on the evaluation subject. Independence provides legitimacy to and ensures an objective perspective on evaluations. An independent evaluation reduces the potential for conflicts of interest which might arise with self-reported ratings by those involved in the management of the project being evaluated. Independence is one of ten general principles for evaluations (together with internationally agreed principles, goals and targets: utility, credibility, impartiality, ethics, transparency, human rights and gender equality, national evaluation capacities, and professionalism).

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study imitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.
8. Must ensure that independence of judgement is maintained, and that evaluation findings and recommendations are independently presented.
9. Must confirm that they have not been involved in designing, executing or advising on the project being evaluated and did not carry out the project's Mid-Term Review.

Evaluation Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Evaluator: Mr R T Sobey

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed in UK on 1st August 2023

Signature: _____  _____

Annex 14: Signed MTR Final Report Clearance Form

MTR Report Reviewed and Cleared By:	
Commissioning Unit	
Name:	
Signature:	Date:
UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor	
Name:	
Signature:	Date:

Annex 15: Terms of Reference

As per presented on the UNDP ERC webpage