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**Mid-Term Review and Evaluation
Final Report**

**"Implementing the National Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing of
Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in the Philippines
(ABS Project)"**

UNDP PIMS #:	6275
GEF Project ID:	10079
Country:	Philippines
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GEF Focal Areas:	Biodiversity, Climate Change
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Executive Agency:	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
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MTR Timeframe:	August - November 2024

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACB	ASEAN Center for Biodiversity
ADSDPP	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASOF	ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry
BD	Biological Diversity
BS	Benefit Sharing
BU	Bioprospecting Undertaking
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBFM	Community Based Forest Management
CC	Climate Change
CEO ER	Chief Executive Officer Endorsement Request
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHIPI	Chamber of Herbal Industries of the Philippines Inc.
CNAs	Competent National Authorities
CO	Country Office
COA	Commission on Audit
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	Department of Agriculture
DA-BAFS	Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards
DA-BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
DA-BAI	Bureau of Animal Industry
DA-BPI	Bureau of Plant Industry
DA-FIDA	Fiber Industry Development Authority
DA-PCA	Philippine Coconut Authority
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR-BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau
DENR-ERDB	Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
DENR-FASPS	Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service
DENR-FMB	Forest Management Bureau
DEPED	Department of Education
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DOST-FPRDI	Forest Products Research and Development Institute
DOST-PCAARRD	Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research Development
DOST-PCHRD	Philippine Council for Health Research and Development
DRRM	Disaster Risk and Reduction Management
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
ENGP	Enhanced National Greening Program
ENIPAS	Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FORESPI	Forest and Natural Resources Research Society of the Philippines
FPE	Foundation for the Philippine Environment
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GR	Genetic Resources
GCSO	Gender and Cultural Sensitivity Orientations
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
ICC	International Criminal Court
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IKSP	Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPC/IPLC	Indigenous Peoples Community/ Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IPOPHL/IPOPhil	Intellectual Property Office Philippines
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights

IPCP	Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines
IPRA	Indigenous Peoples Rights Act
ISU	Isabela State University
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAO-CADT	Maporac Ayta Organization-Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
MAT	Mutually Agreed Terms
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MTA	Material Transfer Agreement
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGA	National Government Agency
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NGP	National Greening Program
NP	Nagoya Protocol
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
NTFP-EP	NTFP-Exchange Programme
NVSU	Nueva Vizcaya State University
OIC	Officer-in-Charge
OTS	Other Threatened Species
PAFID	Philippine Association for Intercultural Development
PAGASA	Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
PBSAP	Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System
PGR	Philippine Genetic Resources
PIA	Philippine Information Agency
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Report (GEF)
PITAHC	Philippine Institute for Traditional and Alternative Health Care
PLGU	Provincial Local Government Unit
PO	People's Organization
POPP	Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PWPA	Philippine Wood Producers Association
RDC	Regional Development Council
RDI	Research Development Institutions
SMTA	Standard Material Transfer Agreement
STARRDEC	Southern Tagalog Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium
SUC	State Universities and Colleges
R&D	Research and Development
S&T	Science and Technology
STAP	Scientific Technical Advisory Panel (GEF)
TAHC	Traditional and Alternative Health Care
TB	Technical Bulletin
TK	Traditional Knowledge
TKDL	Traditional Knowledge Digital Library
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDP/UNDP CO	United Nations Development Programme/UNDP Country Office
UP/UPM/UPLB	University of the Philippines/UP Manila/UP Los Banos
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UST	University of Santo Tomas
WRD	Wildlife Resources Division

Executive Summary

Project title: Implementing the National Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in the Philippines		
Country: Philippines	Implementing Partner (GEF Executing Entity): Department of Environment and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)	Execution Modality: National Implementation Modality (NIM) <i>with limited execution support</i>
Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD) Country Programme Outcome 2: Urbanization, economic growth, and climate change actions are converging for a resilient, equitable and sustainable development path for communities		
UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Category: Medium risk	UNDP Gender Marker: GEN 2	
Atlas Award ID: 00100511	Atlas Project/Output ID: 00103437	
UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number: 6275	GEF Project ID number: 10079	
LPAC meeting date: TBC		
Latest possible date to submit to GEF: May 2021		
Latest possible CEO endorsement date:		
Planned start date: 11 July 2021	Planned end date: 11 July 2027	
Expected date of Mid-Term Review: 12 July 2024	Expected date of Terminal evaluation: 11 April 2027	
Financing Plan		
GEF Trust Fund	USD 4,384,000	
(1) Total Budget administered by UNDP	USD 4,384,000	
(2) Co-Financiers that will deliver Project Results included in the Project Results Framework		
Department of Environment and Natural Resources	USD 5,464,599	
Department of Agriculture Region 5	USD 2,752,600	
Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development	USD 907,692	
Local Government Unit-Province of Albay	USD 1,000,000	
Local Government Unit-Province of Sorsogon	USD 1,000,000	
Academic and Research Institutions (Sorsogon State College and Central Luzon State University)	USD 6,527,247	
Industry - Phil Pili Industry Board USD 3,508,800	USD 3,508,800	
Industry – Pharmalytics	USD 134,232	
Industry – Herbanext Laboratories Inc.	USD 226,200	
UNDP	USD 110,417	
(3) Total confirmed co-financing	USD 21,631,787	
(4) Grand-Total Project Financing (1)+(2)	USD 26,015,787	

Project description

The project entitled “Implementing the national framework on access and benefit sharing (ABS) of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in the Philippines” aims to enhance the economic opportunities and biodiversity conservation for local communities and Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines. This initiative focuses on improvements in the enabling environment for cross agency work as well as showcasing the implementation of the ABS agreements in practice ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from biodiversity, aligning with national policies and frameworks regarding the conservation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

The project aims to strengthen the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) in the Philippines by strengthening the national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework, building national and local capacities and developing critical experience in ABS agreements. The project seeks to increase economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits through three main components:

Component 1: Strengthening the national framework for implementing ABS in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol: This component aims to: (1) update the current national ABS framework in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and (2) harmonize current policies on bioprospecting and scientific research and development on and commercialization of genetic resources and their associated traditional/indigenous knowledge.

Component 2: Awareness raising and capacity building for implementation of the national ABS framework: A nation-wide information dissemination, education and public awareness campaign on ABS and its related policies and procedures will be undertaken under this component.

Component 3: Demonstrating benefit-sharing agreements: Under this component, a key outcome is to facilitate the negotiation of at least one ABS agreement. The project will support the design and review of ABS agreements so that they are in line with the national ABS framework in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol.

Through the above components, the project seeks to increase economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits thereby contributing to the following impacts:

1. Increased wealth creation through safeguarding Philippines' biological resources and its genetic diversity from unfair exploitation;
2. Recognition, Respect, Protection and Promotion of Customary Law and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices System on access to genetic resources; and
3. Improved management and sustainable use of genetic resources and biodiversity.

Problems that the project sought to address

While the project focuses on several key components, including strengthening national policies, raising awareness, building capacity among stakeholders, and demonstrating effective benefit-sharing agreements, there are bureaucratic inefficiencies, hampering meaningful collaboration among various agencies, and robust development of a comprehensive understanding of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP), along with the desired creation of a more supportive environment for bioprospecting and sustainable resource management. The following threats and barriers to ABS implementation include: ***cumbersome and lengthy processing for PIC and FPIC, lengthy processing times and high costs for research agreements, fragmented knowledge and policies for Indigenous Knowledge and Benefit Sharing, and absence of clear policies for ABS.***

In addition to these barriers, several systemic issues contribute to the decline of genetic resources in the Philippines, as validated during the Mid-Term Review (MTR). These issues include:

- Lack of an effective genetic resources management system.
- Absence of a national data base, monitoring and tracking system for genetic plant and animal collections.
- Insufficient scientific knowledge about the medicinal and industrial uses of genetic resources.
- A declining number of scientists and researchers in the field.
- Limited employment opportunities for science graduates outside state universities.
- A shortage of research laboratories for studying genetic resources.
- Inadequate incentive packages for scientists and researchers.
- Insufficient incentives for Indigenous Peoples to protect biodiversity.
- Low budget allocations for genetic resources research and human resource development.

These interconnected problems collectively contribute to the decline of the country's genetic wealth, underscoring the urgent need for targeted project interventions to address these threats and barriers effectively.

Project Progress Summary

The project has made notable strides in advancing the goals of the Nagoya Protocol, specifically through strengthening the national framework for implementing ABS, capacity building, engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), landscape management, the revision of bioprospecting guidelines, and ensuring gender responsiveness, and environmental and social safeguards. With Component 1, the project has significantly contributed to the updating and harmonization of the current national ABS framework, policies on bioprospecting, and guidelines on scientific research and development on the access and benefit sharing of genetic resources. Furthermore, through Component 2 of the project, a substantial effort is exerted on awareness-raising and capacity building in implementing the national ABS framework done in Component 1. Nation-wide information dissemination, education and public awareness campaign on ABS and its related policies and procedures were carried out. In Component 3 of the project, ABS collaborative agreements were

facilitated and negotiated between key stakeholders such as the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and private sector in order to demonstrate access and benefit sharing of genetic resources such as Banaba leaves and Pili nuts based on the national ABS framework in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol.

However, the project is still a long way towards achieving long-term financial, environmental, institutional, and socio-economic sustainability. It must further enhance its current stakeholder engagement strategies, by exploring creative ways which resonate well among target groups, particularly among local communities, Indigenous groups, and the private sector, through tangible and genuine collaborative agreements to demonstrate realistic and equitable access and benefit sharing of genetic resources. Unlocking concrete co-financing commitments and grants from relevant stakeholders, who appreciate and understood the relevance and utility of the ABS framework in their institutional mandates, can substantially support financial sustainability. Strengthening coordination, leveraging resources with other programs of stakeholders, and prioritizing the involvement of women, youth, and vulnerable groups can also contribute to gender equality and social inclusion, further enhancing the project's impact and sustainability. Cultivating continued interest in ABS by promoting cross-sectoral synergies and establishing a sustainable knowledge hub, thereby continuing education, awareness-raising, and capacity building, will ensure the long-term impact of the project's outcomes.

Mid-term Review (MTR)

The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) is to provide an independent assessment of the project's progress towards its defined objectives and outcomes. The evaluation seeks to identify early signs of success or challenges, allowing for timely recommendations to improve project implementation. By evaluating the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project's interventions, the MTR aims to inform future actions and enhance stakeholder engagement.

The MTR employed a participatory and mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. Primary data was gathered through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and field observations, ensuring diverse stakeholder perspectives were included. The evaluation also involved extensive document reviews of project reports and national policy frameworks. Field missions facilitated immersive engagement with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and government agencies, enriching the evaluation process and providing valuable insights into the project's impact and areas for improvement.

Summary of Results

Relevance

The project demonstrates strong alignment with the Nagoya Protocol and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, addressing biodiversity conservation and the equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. It also reflects national priorities around economic growth and sustainable development, with a focus on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). The project supports the harmonization of sector policies and related ABS work and engages key stakeholders (see Annex 7 list of ABS Stakeholders), including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). Collaborative efforts, such as the potential establishment of a genetic resources database to complement initiatives like the DOST Tuklas Lunas program, highlight the project's alignment with national research and innovation goals. The project document has been criticized for being overly complex, with the regional and provincial departments highlighting the need for simplification to facilitate implementation. In this regard, the Theory of Change should be simplified, and clear roadmaps should be provided to explain the expected outcomes in simple terms for the project teams.

In terms of the implementation modality, this project operates under a National Implementation Modality (NIM) with limited execution support provided by UNDP CO in the form of direct payments. The extended execution support by UNDP is warranted for the project. The evaluation finds that UNDP's role of extending execution **support to the project is fully justified** and effectively executed. It is important to recognize that this support is essential for ensuring the project's success.

While the Philippines is classified as an upper-middle-income country, it continues to face implementation bottlenecks that warrant targeted support for NIM execution. These challenges were evident during the evaluation. UNDP should be commended for its efforts in addressing these gaps and for providing critical support to facilitate effective project implementation.

Effectiveness

The project has made substantial progress, surpassed key milestones and laid a solid foundation for the remaining implementation period (see Annex 8 for key results and targets). Its primary goal is to generate economic opportunities for local communities and Indigenous Peoples while fostering biodiversity conservation in the Philippines. The achievements are evaluated across its three key components.

Under Component 1, by MTR, the project demonstrated significant progress, supported by financial and performance analyses indicating balanced implementation and resource utilization. Component 1 has focused on strengthening the guidelines and enabling framework for Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). Significant progress has been made with the development of bioprospecting guidelines and the advancement of the NCIP Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines, which are under review to ensure alignment with gender-responsive practices and Indigenous Peoples' rights. The project works on advancing the Inter-agency Monitoring Framework for tracking ABS transactions is a key step in enhancing transparency and oversight. Furthermore, a beta version of an Integrated Knowledge Management Platform has been created to centralize information and improve monitoring. Although the distribution mechanism for monetary and non-monetary benefits is being piloted through ABS agreements, challenges related to delays in demonstration activities and engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) have impacted full implementation.

In Component 2, capacity-building activities have intensified, with US\$255,027.56 disbursed by Q3 of 2024, which accounts for 18.56% of the total US\$1,374,300 budget. The S-curve analysis indicates peak activity in the third and fourth quarters, driven by targeted training modules and assessments. A Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey has been completed, contributing to stakeholder engagement efforts. The remaining budget will focus on advanced training and module development in 2025. This component has successfully built capacity and raised awareness about ABS, engaging over 3,000 direct beneficiaries. Gender-specific targets were exceeded, with 1,641 females and 1,984 males participating in activities. The capacity of national government agencies to manage ABS has improved by 16%, and local government capacity in Region 3 has made substantial progress. However, Region 5 has faced challenges, with its capacity remaining stagnant. The Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan is under development and is expected to play a significant role in enhancing public understanding of ABS.

Component 3 has highlighted the project's capacity to implement ABS agreements with equitable benefit-sharing. Although demonstration projects started more slowly, recent months show positive momentum. By Q3 of 2024, 24.76% of the allocated budget had been disbursed (US\$409,333.07 of US\$1,652,940), with a steep rise in activities planned for 2025. Key projects such as the Strategic Roadmap for Banaba and the Conservation and Management Plan for Pili have entered full implementation, with ABS agreements already signed with partners like Herbanext Laboratories Inc., Leslie Pili Products, and J. Emmanuel Pastries. These agreements have already delivered initial results, including the development of Pili-based products and Banaba-based pharmaceutical products. The expansion of landscapes under improved management, with 14,700 hectares in Region 3 and 6,650 hectares in Region 5 benefiting from enhanced conservation, highlights the project's community engagement and focus on integrating biodiversity management into local practices. However, challenges persist. Many ABS agreements are concentrated at the early stages of the value chain, such as resource supply and contract growing, which limits the potential for broader benefits. Stakeholders have emphasized the need for enhanced legal support, capacity-building, and research and development to unlock the full potential of ABS. Non-monetary benefits in agreements like those with Herbanext Laboratories Inc. and Leslie Pili Products require stronger provisions and clearer implementation timelines.

To ensure continued effectiveness and sustainability, accelerating and deepening stakeholder engagement, particularly with IPLCs, expanding on the non-monetary benefits, strengthening links between project activities and long-term impacts, and addressing capacity gaps in Region 5 are recommended steps. These actions will further the project's goals of biodiversity conservation and equitable economic development.

Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

The project faces challenges due to the complexity of its subject matter and requires a targeted communication strategy to engage its diverse stakeholder groups. While the work on the ABS regulation and guidelines is clear, there is a need to better communicate its benefits to different stakeholders to get full engagement, such as:

1. Rural and Local Communities: Highlighting economic benefits like income generation and improved livelihoods.
2. NCIP: Promoting benefit-sharing mechanisms that uphold Indigenous rights and development.
3. Environmental and Conservation Stakeholders: Showcasing alignment with biodiversity conservation and sustainability goals.
4. Agriculture Department: Demonstrating how ABS supports sustainable agricultural practices, agro-biodiversity preservation, and research on crop resilience.

Efficiency

The project demonstrates sound financial management, although delays in procurement and financial processes have hindered the timely implementation of key activities. Changes to UNDP's management systems such as the migration to an online platform (Quantum) during 2023-2024 led to slow fund disbursement, which delayed the initiation of demonstration projects and other planned activities. Regional and provincial stakeholders have reported difficulty in understanding the project's complex documentation and expressed a need for a simplified version to clarify roles and expectations.

By Q3 of 2024, only **25.21% of the total budget had been disbursed** based on the PIR 2024, due to delays caused by slow government procurement processes. A slightly lower utilization rate at 25.13% is reported by the project as of Q3 of 2024. Additionally, co-financing contributions have fallen short of expectations, with only 22.73% of anticipated commitments received, further constraining the project's ability to meet its planned outcomes.

To address these challenges, the project must streamline procurement processes to minimize delays. This can be achieved by setting clear timelines, simplifying approval procedures, and involving local government units and private sector partners in planning and decision-making. A tiered system for procurement approvals could help prioritize high-impact items and speed up decision-making for critical purchases. Furthermore, a multi-year work plan with clear deliverables and approval timelines will help avoid delays in payments and disbursements.

The current procurement process, mainly limited to DENR-BMB and to an extent to UNDP CO in specifically undertaking audits, evaluations, and requests involving international travels, causes significant delays, especially with larger procurements. Streamlining these processes, and particularly when co-financing is done with and by LGUs and private sector partners, will help reduce bottlenecks, as there is a need to unlock co-financing counterparts of partners to achieve impact and greater benefits. Developing a multi-year work plan will guide efficient resource utilization and reduce dependence on smaller procurements that contribute to delays. Additionally, ensuring timely submission of consultant outputs and prompt review and approval will support smooth disbursements.

Recommendations for improvement include establishing an agreement on processes and workflows with partners, led by DENR-BMB and supported by UNDP, to expedite procurement, implementing a tiered procurement system, and involving LGUs and private sector partners early in the process. These steps will address delays, enhance efficiency, and contribute to the successful implementation of the project.

Orientation Toward Impact

Stakeholder interviews indicate that the project has clear pathways toward biodiversity conservation and the creation of ABS products. However, the original design, which focused on only two species—Banaba and Pili—has limited the potential for broader economic benefits, innovation, and scaling. While the project is piloting ABS with these two species, stakeholders expressed concern that this narrow focus may hinder its ability to scale across other species and provinces. There is, however, significant potential to extend the project's impact nationwide, with the support of an effective knowledge-sharing plan and hub. Expanding the scope of ABS demonstration projects could unlock greater impact, benefiting both biodiversity conservation and local economic development.

Stakeholders widely agreed that the project has the potential to extend its reach either in terms of sharing good practice and or doing research on other potential value chains to more provinces across the Philippines. These early successes in Central Luzon and Bicol are cited as valuable case studies that can be leveraged to scale the project to other regions through knowledge sharing. There was strong consensus that scaling efforts

should build on the lessons being learned in these pilot regions through a project-led knowledge hub during this project implementation.

Interviewees thus highlighted the importance of establishing a Knowledge Hub within the Project Management Unit (PMU) at DENR-BMB. This would facilitate the exchange of best practices, success stories, and lessons learned, improving coordination and ensuring effective knowledge transfer across provinces. The creation of this hub was seen as essential for supporting the expansion of ABS agreements and biodiversity conservation practices, helping to broaden the project's impact.

Sustainability

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the project, four key areas must be addressed: financial, environmental, institutional, and socio-economic sustainability.

1. Financial Sustainability

The project faces challenges in financial sustainability due to limited co-financing uptake (22.73%) and procurement delays. To address this, securing long-term commitments from private sector partners, government agencies, and international donors is essential. A small grants facility to support Indigenous and local communities in genetic resource value chains could enhance participation, particularly from women, youth, and vulnerable groups.

2. Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability depends on the project's ability to adapt to changing conditions. While progress has been made in biodiversity management, the absence of a comprehensive adaptive management plan limits responsiveness to emerging risks. An adaptive management plan should be developed to allow the project to adjust activities based on feedback and environmental changes. Aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies will reinforce the project's long-term environmental impact.

3. Institutional Sustainability

The project has established key institutional structures but faces challenges in coordination among stakeholders, particularly the NCIP, DOST, and local governments. Legal delays, such as those with bioprospecting agreements, and slow private sector adoption of ABS-compliant practices hinder progress. Strengthening coordination, particularly with the NCIP and government agencies, and streamlining the FPIC framework are critical for long-term institutional sustainability. Aligning with other government projects, such as the Biodiversity Corridor project, could maximize benefits.

4. Socio-economic Sustainability

The active participation of local communities, especially Indigenous groups, is essential for socio-economic sustainability. The project has shown strong commitment to gender inclusivity, with 54% of beneficiaries being women. However, delays in integrating social safeguards and stakeholder coordination hinder full engagement. To enhance socio-economic sustainability, the project should foster stronger cross-sectoral synergies, including collaboration with government agencies, the private sector, and academic institutions. Establishing a multi-stakeholder platform will ensure continuous monitoring and sharing of best practices, particularly in gender equality, human rights, and poverty alleviation.

Conclusion

To achieve long-term sustainability, the project must enhance stakeholder engagement, particularly among local communities, Indigenous groups, and the private sector. Financial sustainability can be supported by co-financing commitments and grants. Fostering cross-sectoral synergies and establishing a sustainable knowledge hub will ensure the long-term impact of the project's outcomes. Strengthening coordination with other programs and prioritizing the involvement of women, youth, and vulnerable groups will also contribute to gender equality and social inclusion, further enhancing the project's impact and sustainability.

Overall Financial and Progress Status

As of the MTR, the project has a cumulative financial delivery against the total approved grant in Prodoc of 20.1% (US\$ 881,158 spent against a grant of US\$ 4,384,000), based on PIR 2024. **As of Q3 of 2024, cumulative delivery and utilization against the expected delivery is at 25.21%**, with the project that is halfway of its implementation period. On the other hand, the reported **co-financing is pegged at 22.73%** as of this MTR.

Moving forward, efficient budget utilization and targeted adjustments will be critical in ensuring the project meets its overall objectives by the terminal review. In conclusion, the project’s financial and performance assessments confirm it slow and is not on track, with the majority of activities planned for completion in 2025 and onwards. The team endeavors to be well-positioned to continue its progress in the coming years, focusing on critical legal, capacity-building, and demonstration activities. There is an urgent need to review the slow procurement process and the inability to efficiently unlock co-financing from key partners, that hamper the project’s progress.

The following tables present the summary of the MTR ratings for the project as well as the achievement summary.

Table 1. MTR Ratings Summary

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

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)

Table 2. MTR Ratings and Achievement Summary

Project: Implementing the National Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in the Philippines (UNDP PIMS #6275; GEF Project ID: 10079)		
Measure	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress Towards Results	S	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
Objective Achievement	S	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
Outcome 1	S	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
Outcome 2	MS	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
Outcome 3	MS	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	MS	Implementation of some of the components - management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications - is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with most components requiring remedial action.
Sustainability	MU	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on.

Table 3. Concise summary of conclusions

In conclusion, the project demonstrates significant potential for sustainability, but key risks and corrections must be addressed to move the project toward results in the post MTR period and achieve its long-term objectives. Financial, socio-economic, institutional, and environmental risks are interconnected and require a comprehensive approach to mitigation.

Relevance: The project demonstrates strong alignment with national priorities and international frameworks, particularly in biodiversity management and sustainable resource utilization. By integrating Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) policies with existing national structures, the project supports government

initiatives and global commitments. This relevance is further reinforced through active engagement with indigenous communities and local stakeholders, ensuring that the project’s goals align with their needs and aspirations. To ensure relevance at the site level, the PMU can revisit plans for regional and provincial coordination work and community-based livelihood pilots linked to the ABS agreement. A project monitoring framework should be developed at provincial and community level to track the expected outcomes. This could involve showcasing the benefits of the ABS agreement to the communities involved in the negotiations. For agreements that are primarily based on research, the project should focus on showcasing livelihood opportunities linked to the benefits negotiated, such as training on small businesses or eco-tourism, to facilitate income generation and positive environmental practices.

Effectiveness: The effectiveness of the project is evident in its achievement of key milestones, such as the completion of normative guidelines with stakeholder buy-in, beneficiary engagement at the pilot levels, landscape management improvements, and the establishment of social safeguards related to agreements and benefit-sharing. However, challenges remain, particularly in finalizing bioprospecting guidelines and addressing intellectual property issues, which could hinder the project’s full potential.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation are essential to track progress and adjust strategies as needed. Additional resources are required to support the provincial departments involved in coordination down to the municipal level, especially when benefit-sharing agreements are impacting practices. This work is not only about setting up regulatory agreements between the private sector and government but also about providing sustainable benefits to communities that promote conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Efficiency: While the project has made commendable progress, there are inefficiencies related to government and UNDP procurement processes and financial management that need to be addressed. Only 25.21% of the total budget has been disbursed as of PIR 2024, indicating that optimizing resource allocation and streamlining procurement activities are critical for enhancing overall project efficiency. Implementing a comprehensive financial strategy will be vital in maximizing resource utilization and ensuring timely project execution.

Orientation Towards Impact: The project is moving toward achieving tangible impacts, particularly in enhancing a national framework for negotiating and implementing ABS agreement, showcasing community livelihoods and promoting sustainable practices. By demonstrating the economic benefits of biodiversity management and fostering local ownership, the project aims to empower communities to actively participate in ABS negotiations. This orientation towards impact underscores the importance of capacity-building initiatives and effective communication of project benefits.

Sustainability: Sustainability remains a key focus, with the project striving to establish lasting mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and resource management. Engaging political stakeholders and securing diverse funding sources are essential components of this sustainability strategy. Addressing financial, social, and governance risks will be critical in ensuring that the project's benefits endure beyond its implementation phase. In summary, the project exhibits strong relevance and effectiveness in addressing biodiversity and community engagement. However, it faces challenges related to implementation efficiency and sustainability that must be tackled to achieve its short term (end of project) and long-term goals.

Table 4. Summary of Recommendations

Stakeholder Re-engagement Strategy and Capacity Need Assessment

Engagement with Key Agencies: Develop a stakeholder re-engagement strategy that includes comprehensive capacity assessments with relevant organizations such as the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR). This will ensure that all stakeholders are aligned and adequately prepared for project implementation.

Project Extension and Technical Assistance

Project Extension: Given that the project is just beginning and has faced delays due to COVID-19, it is crucial to grant a project extension to allow for the completion of baselines and to achieve the set objectives, thereby, ensuring the much-needed sustainability trajectory, provided the associated Sustainability Plan is laid out very satisfactorily, with extensive stakeholder engagement.

Continuous Engagement: Implement ongoing technical assistance to ensure that project objectives remain aligned with evolving local and global biodiversity priorities. This should include real-time support for troubleshooting and adapting methodologies, as well as integrating knowledge products and consultancy into the guidelines and legal frameworks.

Scalability Focus: Design project components that can be scaled up or replicated in other regions. Ensure that lessons learned are documented and shared across stakeholders to maximize impact.

More Relevant Technical and Capacity Building Support

Key Technical Assistance and Strategic Monitoring Needs

The project requires targeted technical assistance to address the capacity needs of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), particularly in legal and technical aspects of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). Tailored legal expertise is essential to enhance the NCIP's ability to navigate and implement ABS mechanisms, negotiate equitable agreements, draft benefit-sharing provisions, and ensure alignment with national policies and international standards. This support will also strengthen the NCIP's role in safeguarding indigenous peoples' rights while facilitating their active and meaningful participation in the ABS process. Additionally, the project would benefit from establishing a knowledge hub and a comprehensive knowledge management plan to provide structured guidance and ensure efficient knowledge sharing for this component.

To further support the project's implementation, robust national technical oversight is critical. This includes the establishment of a Technical Committee or a similar body to provide expert guidance on ABS processes, ensure coherence across project activities, and uphold the quality of outputs. Such a committee would be tasked with evaluating the design and execution of project processes and products, offering strategic recommendations to refine approaches, address technical challenges, and align activities with overarching project goals.

Moreover, a dedicated technical oversight advisor could play a vital role in synthesizing lessons learned across components, identifying scaling opportunities, and ensuring the effective integration of pilot-level activities into national frameworks. This oversight mechanism would not only bridge gaps between project components but also help develop a cohesive, high-quality, and scalable model for ABS implementation. These inputs are essential to ensure the project's success and long-term sustainability.

Training Programs: Develop and implement comprehensive training programs for all key stakeholders, including government agencies and local communities, focusing on sustainable practices. Topics should include bio-trade, intellectual property, bioprospecting rights for Indigenous Peoples, and the legal frameworks surrounding Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS). The training should also address the research and inventory of Traditional Knowledge (TK), including the indigenous knowledge, systems and practices (IKSP).

Tailored Training Initiatives: Ensure that training programs are structured and tailored to meet the specific needs of key stakeholders, providing special capacity-building resources tailored to the identified needs of the NCIP. This may include workshops, study visits, online courses, and hands-on training sessions.

Knowledge Transfer: Establish a robust ABS knowledge-sharing platform and learning hub, separate from the BMB website, to facilitate the neutral exchange of learning, best practices, and success stories, fostering a community of practice among stakeholders engaged in ABS.

Pilot Projects for Demonstration and Coordination: Expand local-level pilot projects to include marine and aquatic resources, showcasing efforts related to promoting ABS such as the goals and endeavors of Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and other agencies and organizations. Design regional-level monitoring and evaluation support, including a simplified project document, to facilitate resource mobilization for sustaining activities. Develop pilot projects that demonstrate successful ABS practices and their economic benefits, serving as case studies for broader implementation. Ensure these mini projects are well-coordinated and monitored to maximize learning among local, regional, and national stakeholders.

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement, Coordination, and Knowledge Sharing

Multi-Stakeholder Knowledge Sharing Platform: Create a standalone multi-stakeholder knowledge-sharing platform, website, and hub coordination body that includes government agencies, local communities, NGOs,

and private sector partners. This will ensure coherent implementation of ABS policies and practices and document this as a critical case study for institutionalization and coordination efforts.

Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, Including the Targeted Growth of NCIP Capacities

Establish a Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Position: Create a dedicated position at the Project Management Unit (PMU) to strengthen the stakeholder engagement strategy and support partners in mobilizing resources for their work.

Targeted Funding Strategies: Develop innovative resource mobilization strategies to secure funding from diverse sources, including government grants, i.e., DOST, Environment Funds, international aid, private investments, and philanthropic contributions.

Engagement with Financial Institutions: Foster partnerships with financial institutions to promote innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds and impact investments, specifically tailored to support ABS initiatives.

Blended Financing Solutions for ABS Implementation and Scale-Up

Diversified Funding Models: Explore blended financing models that combine public and private investments to enhance financial sustainability for ABS projects, particularly focusing on the implementation of the ABS law currently in Congress. Development and facilitation of small grants to support micro-small businesses in the proliferation of value chain of genetic resources can increase the chances of sustainable economic productivity that demonstrates the ABS principles.

Investment Readiness: Enhance the investment readiness of local communities and organizations by providing training and resources on project development, financial management, and business planning, ensuring they can effectively attract and utilize funding.

Sustainability

To enhance the project's sustainability framework, it is recommended that the following actions be prioritized:

- Accelerate efforts to finalize the Access and Benefit-Sharing frameworks, including bioprospecting guidelines and clear intellectual property ownership policies.
- Highlight the economic and livelihood benefits derived from project activities by developing materials tailored for political audiences and document the livelihood models as good practices.
- Engage political stakeholders actively in project activities and provide regular updates during steering committee meetings to reinforce their support.
- Implement comprehensive financial strategies that diversify funding sources and improve resource management practices to ensure long-term financial sustainability.
- Foster capacity-building initiatives that enhance local skills and knowledge related to Access and Benefit-Sharing practices, enabling communities to effectively negotiate and benefit from their natural resources.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Project

The project aims to strengthen the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) in the Philippines by strengthening the national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework, building national and local capacities and developing critical experience in ABS agreements. The project seeks to increase economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits through three main components: **Component 1:** Strengthening the national framework for implementing ABS in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol: This component aims to: (1) update the current national ABS framework in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and (2) harmonize current policies on bioprospecting and scientific research and development and on commercialization of genetic resources and their associated traditional/indigenous knowledge. **Component 2:** Awareness raising and capacity building for implementation of the national ABS framework: A nation-wide information dissemination, education and public awareness campaign on ABS and its related policies and procedures are undertaken under this

component. **Component 3:** Demonstrating benefit-sharing agreements: Under this component, a key outcome is to facilitate the negotiation of at least one ABS agreement.

Through the above components, the project seeks to increase economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits thereby contributing to the following impacts:

1. Increased wealth creation through safeguarding Philippines' biological resources and its genetic diversity from unfair exploitation;
2. Recognition, Respect, Protection and Promotion of Customary Law and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices System on access to genetic resources; and
3. Improved management and sustainable use of genetic resources and biodiversity.

1.2. Purpose of the MTR and objectives

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) is an impartial and independent assessment aimed at critically evaluating the progress made towards achieving the project's objectives and outcomes as outlined in the Project Document (Prodoc). Its purpose is to identify early signs of success or failure and to recommend adjustments to ensure that the project stays on track to meet its intended results. The MTR reviewed the project's strategy and assessed risks to its sustainability, focusing on the Monitoring & Evaluation Plan to maintain an independent, rigorous review process. A management response to the MTR recommendations will be posted on the Evaluation Resource Center (ERC) within six weeks of the report's completion.

The primary objective of the MTR is to assess progress toward the project's goals and outcomes defined in the Project Document (Prodoc). This involves evaluating the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the project's interventions. The purpose of the MTR is to provide an independent evaluation that identifies early signs of success or challenges, enabling timely recommendations for improving project implementation. Specifically, the MTR aims to:

- **Assess Project Strategy:** Evaluate the alignment of the project strategy with national priorities and the effectiveness of its design in achieving objectives.
- **Evaluate Progress:** Analyze the extent of progress toward achieving planned results and the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- **Identify Risks:** Review risks to the project's sustainability and recommend strategies for mitigation.
- **Inform Future Actions:** Provide actionable recommendations to keep the project on track and adapt to changing circumstances.
- **Enhance Stakeholder Engagement:** Incorporate stakeholder perspectives into the evaluation process for a comprehensive understanding of the project's impact.

1.3. MTR Report structure

The MTR report follows the guidance for conducting MTRs of UNDP-supported, GEF-financed projects¹, which is composed of six (6) sections as follows: Executive Summary, Introduction, Project Description, Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations, and the Annexes.

1.4. Scope and Methodology

The Mid-Term Review (MTR) aimed to assess the project's effectiveness, relevance, and sustainability. The evaluation focused on review of all contributing activities conducted since inception in 2021 and identifying areas for corrective actions and enhancing the capacity of the project team and stakeholders to achieve intended outcomes. The scope included a focus on specific assessments and criteria as follows:

- **Relevance:** The alignment of the project with national and sectoral priorities, particularly regarding the National Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in the Philippines (ABS) and the needs of target beneficiaries.
- **Effectiveness:** The success of the implementation strategies in achieving objectives and results, measured against the Theory of Change and Results Framework.
- **Efficiency:** The effective use of project resources to achieve desired outcomes.
- **Sustainability:** The long-term viability and usefulness of the project's results.

¹ UNDP-GEF Directorate, 2014. Guidance for Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects. Project-level Monitoring. United Nations Development Programme.

- **ABS Implementation:** The design, implementation, and management of ABS mechanisms, along with recommendations for necessary changes to improve the project's approach during the remaining implementation period.

The methodology combined a **mixed-methods** framework with a strong emphasis on **participatory evaluation**. This approach included:

- **Focus on Corrective Actions:** The project's strategies are systematically analyzed, along with its implementation processes, and outcomes to identify gaps and areas needing improvement. By employing a traffic light system for visualizing progress, the specific aspects that required immediate corrective measures are highlighted.
- **Capacity Strengthening:** Throughout the evaluation, the project teams and stakeholders are actively engaged to foster capacity-building opportunities. Workshops and collaborative discussions were integral to our approach, enabling knowledge sharing and equipping participants with tools to enhance their effectiveness in implementing ABS agreements.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Purposeful sampling ensured that a broad range of stakeholders were involved, promoting inclusivity and capturing diverse perspectives. Engaging with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and government agencies allowed us to better understand the challenges and opportunities within the project context.
- **Adaptive Management:** The adopted methodology emphasized the importance of adaptive management practices. The project team is encouraged to reflect on these MTR findings and integrate lessons learned into their ongoing project activities, thereby enhancing responsiveness to emerging challenges.

This comprehensive approach facilitated a thorough evaluation that not only assessed current performance but also set the stage for continuous improvement and enhanced project outcomes.

Methodology Approach – Inclusive and Participatory

The first area of evaluation involved examining the project strategy to assess its relevance and alignment with national priorities. This included reviewing decision-making processes, gender considerations, and the effectiveness of incorporating lessons learned from similar projects. Additionally, the project's log frame indicators and targets were analyzed to ensure they were clear and aligned with broader development and gender goals.

The MTR evaluated progress by comparing current indicators with baseline data. Evaluators utilized a traffic light system to visually represent progress and highlight areas requiring improvement. This analysis not only identified successful project elements but also suggested strategies for expanding those benefits.

The review assessed the effectiveness of management, financial controls, stakeholder engagement, and gender balance in staffing and decision-making processes. The quality of execution by implementing partners and UNDP is evaluated, including the robustness of monitoring systems and co-financing arrangements. Furthermore, stakeholder participation and public awareness initiatives were examined to gauge community involvement. Finally, the MTR critically evaluated the sustainability of project outcomes. Evaluators validated risks identified in project documents and assessed the financial, socio-economic, and political sustainability of project benefits. This analysis included the determination of the likelihood of continued stakeholder support and the prospects for sustaining project benefits in the long term.

Methodology: A Mixed-Methods Approach

The MTR employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. This strategy facilitated a comprehensive and participatory evaluation that captured diverse stakeholder perspectives and enhanced the credibility of our findings. All data sources were meticulously documented to ensure transparency and traceability. Refer to Annexes 1-3 for the indicative MTR Evaluation Matrix, the MTR Tools and sample questionnaire, and the MTR Rating Scales and its elaboration.

Primary Data Sources

The primary data included 12 key informant interviews (KIIs) and 7 focus group discussions (FGDs). KIIs involved semi-structured interviews with stakeholders at national, provincial, and local levels (see Annexes 4, 5 and 7 for

the mission itinerary, list of persons interviewed, and the list of stakeholders, respectively). FGDs engaged local communities, project beneficiaries, and marginalized groups, allowing for a participatory approach that captured a wide range of experiences. Field observations during site visits provided direct insights into project activities, complemented by photographic evidence and field notes.

Secondary Data Sources

The team reviewed over 40 project documents compiled in a google drive archive that will remain with the project management post-MTR as a monitoring tool. The team reviewed updated national context and national policy frameworks relevant to biodiversity conservation. This extensive review of both primary and secondary sources ensured that the evaluation was well-supported by credible evidence.

Stakeholder Engagement

Purposeful sampling was crucial in selecting stakeholders for the MTR. Engaging a diverse range of stakeholders was vital for the review's success. Key interviews involved senior officials and experts from:

- **Competent National Authorities:** Agencies including: DENR-DA-NCIP-PCSD. Other agencies are not considered as CNAs.
- **Local Government Units (LGUs):** Targeting municipalities in Regions 3 and 5 for interviews and site visits, ensuring policies align with national objectives and community needs.
- **Communities:** Engaging local communities, particularly those collaborating with companies (private sector) to capture vital traditional knowledge for sustainable resource use.
- **Private Sector Companies involved in implementation:** Leslie Pili Products, Inc. and Herbanext Laboratories, Inc.

Field Missions: Immersive Engagement

The evaluation included three site field missions to immerse into the project implementation context. The first site was in Region 3 (Zambales) to visit the NCIP-Region 3 and the Maporac Ayta Organization (MAO-CADT) Indigenous Peoples Community, which harvests Banaba leaves from their ancestral lands to supply to companies for further processing into high-value products such as tea and herbal medicine. The second site was in Region 5 (Albay) to meet with the Albay Pili and Cacao Industry Association (APCIA), a local cooperative, which harvests Pili nuts to supply to companies for further processing into food products. The third site was in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, where the project's Design Thinking Workshop was held. During the visit, focused group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with the major stakeholders of the project such as representatives of DENR, NCIP, DA-BFAR, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), private sector representatives such as Leslie Pili Products and Herbanext Laboratories Inc.

The evaluation team began consultations in Manila, convening with the National Project Management Unit and senior officials from key agencies (see Annex 4 for the mission itinerary and Annex 5 for list of persons (institutions) interviewed). These discussions focused on project implementation, highlighting achievements and areas for improvement. The team visited municipalities in Zambales and Albay, consulting Indigenous Peoples, local farmers, community members and local cooperatives. These engagements helped the evaluators understand how traditional knowledge is integrated into resource management and the benefits derived from ABS frameworks within the context of the project. These interactions also deepened the understanding of the on-the-ground realities of the ABS agreements.

Throughout the field missions, the team organized workshops to foster dialogue among stakeholders, including local cooperatives, Indigenous organizations, and academic institutions. These collaborative discussions enriched the evaluators' understanding of the project's impact and generated valuable insights for improvement.

In summary, the MTR provided a thorough evaluation of the UNDP Philippines and DENR ABS Project, ensuring that it remains on track to contribute to sustainable development and global environmental benefits. The evaluation highlighted critical insights while acknowledging limitations, such as challenges related to data accessibility and variability in stakeholder engagement, emphasizing the importance of adaptability in the project's approach.

2. Project Description

2.1. Development context

The Philippines is recognized as the tenth richest country in biodiversity in the world and ranks fifth in the world in terms of terrestrial ecosystems with the highest rate of discovery.² The Philippines is home to an estimated 53,500+ species of plants and animals. Recent reviews have recognized 105 species of amphibians (79% endemic) and 264 reptiles (68% endemic), while recent summaries of birds have recognized 593 species (32% endemic). Mammal diversity is currently estimated at 175 native terrestrial mammals (65% endemic). Total country estimates include as many as 15,000+ plants (and their relatives) and 38,000+ animals (vertebrates and invertebrates). These numbers are considered conservative considering that recent studies have shown that terrestrial biodiversity of the Philippines is substantially underestimated. As such the Philippines is both a hotspot and a mega-diverse country which is among the top priority hotspots for global conversation.

The Philippines also has one of the highest rates of species discovery in the world (sixteen new species of mammals have been discovered in the last ten years alone).³ New species are being discovered at a remarkable rate and this pattern shows no sign of slowing. Current taxonomic estimates show that the Philippines has the highest level of endemism in the Indo-Malayan Realm on a per unit-area basis and the highest concentration of biodiversity on earth. This diversity of species and associated high degree of endemism is associated with a wealth of traditional knowledge from indigenous peoples and local communities, respectively, about the food, medicinal and other values of these genetic resources. Accessing this knowledge and subjecting it to scientific research and development and subsequent commercialization presents tremendous potential for wealth creation for indigenous peoples, local communities, scientists and the private sector.

The government of the Philippines takes its position as a mega-diverse country seriously and was one of the first countries to regulate access and benefit-sharing under Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through the national Executive Order 247 enacted in 1995. This order was amended by the Wildlife Act (Republic Act 9147) in 2001 which dispersed the authority to grant access to three national agencies – the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD). Other relevant acts include the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Republic Act 8371) enacted in 1997 to provide specific regulatory measures on access of genetic materials and associated indigenous knowledge and practices from Indigenous Peoples. Another law on cultural heritage (Republic Act 10066) deals with the protection of the cultural heritage of ethnolinguistic communities of the Philippines which applies to both indigenous peoples and local communities (non-indigenous groups).

The Nagoya Protocol (NP), to which the Philippines acceded in 2015, seeks to advance the implementation of the third objective of the CBD⁴ that concerns the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, by providing a strong basis for greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources.⁵ Figure 1 provides an overview of the current legislative and regulatory framework of the Philippines as it relates to the Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) protocol.⁶

Given the nature of ABS, its implementation requires collaborative work and a supporting mechanism across different agencies and offices, supported by an informed and engaged private sector, civil society and community provider groups. Collaborative mechanisms have set-up policy regimes but in practice the mechanisms have not been fully functional nor effective.

² Source: BMB, 2015

³ www.cepf.net (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund/Philippines-Species)

⁴ The Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force on 29 December 1993, to which the Philippines became a Party on 6 January 1994.

⁵ See Article 1, Objective, of the Nagoya Protocol

⁶ ABS Prodoc.

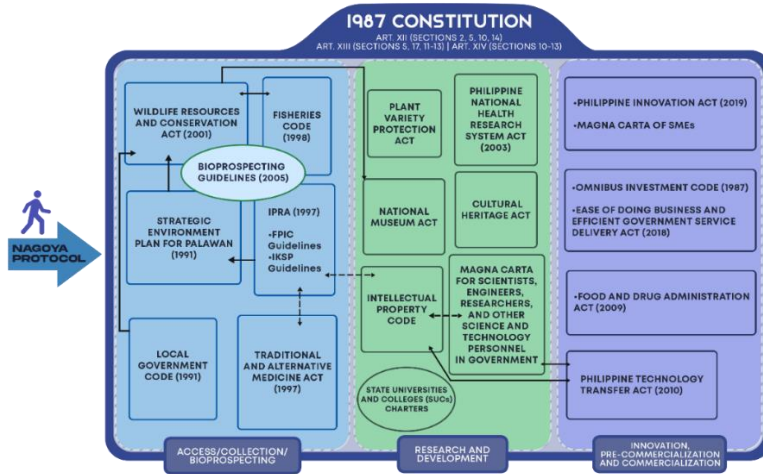


Figure 1. Updated Legal and Policy Framework on ABS (ref: Prodoc)

Development Context: The evaluation of the UNDP Philippines and DENR Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Project occurs amidst ongoing environmental and socio-economic challenges. Based on 2010 satellite imagery, the Philippines is estimated to have approximately 6.84 million hectares of forest cover, with open forests comprising around 4.6 million hectares. However, the overlap of mining claims with protected areas, ancestral domains, and conservation zones poses a substantial threat to biodiversity and ecological sustainability. Since the Supreme Court's endorsement of key Mining Code provisions in 2014, there has been a surge in mining investments in ecologically sensitive areas, further exacerbating risks to the country's rich biodiversity. Several critical threats to biodiversity have been identified as follows:

- **Short-Term Economic Incentives:** Local communities often perceive genetic resources as lacking economic value, leading to a preference for short-term economic activities that degrade biodiversity.
- **Overexploitation of Wild Species:** Excessive harvesting for subsistence and commercial purposes has led to declining populations of many medicinal plants and wildlife.
- **Erosion of Traditional Knowledge:** The rapid loss of Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKSPs) threatens the cultural heritage associated with biodiversity and sustainable practices.
- **Impact of Extractive Industries:** The expansion of extractive industries, agricultural plantations, and urban development has significantly altered forest ecosystems.
- **Climate Change Risks:** Climate change exacerbates these threats, altering weather patterns, increasing the frequency and intensity of typhoons, and leading to more severe flooding.

Since 2005, there has been limited progress in addressing these challenges. Despite the establishment of the National Policy (NP) on ABS and various related initiatives, the Philippines has yet to capitalize fully on its genetic resources. Global pharmaceutical sales are estimated at USD 300 billion annually, with genetic resources contributing USD 75 to 150 billion. A UNDP-commissioned study suggests that the bioprospecting value of endemic species in closed canopy forests could yield USD 39.8 million annually. Furthermore, the country incurs losses of approximately USD 8.1 million each year due to unpatented pharmaceutical products, highlighting the untapped economic potential of its biodiversity.

Investment in research and development (R&D) regarding these resources remains alarmingly low. The percentage of R&D expenditure to GDP decreased from 14% in 2002 to 11% in 2008, placing the Philippines last among ASEAN nations in terms of government procurement of advanced technology. This lack of investment stifles innovation and perpetuates reliance on foreign pharmaceuticals and industrial products, further contributing to the depletion of genetic resources.

Indigenous Peoples (IPs), numbering approximately 15.56 million (according to NCIP and based on 2020 Population Census), are particularly affected by the decline of genetic wealth. Many are economically disadvantaged, lacking sustainable livelihood options, which forces them into inappropriate activities that further jeopardize biodiversity. Institutional capacities to manage these challenges have not kept pace with

developments in ABS. Issues such as low awareness of patent systems and bureaucratic hurdles deter academic institutions from pursuing intellectual property rights such as patenting. Additionally, the protection of TK and IKSPs remains inadequate, putting traditional custodians of biodiversity at risk.

Overall, the Philippines continues to miss significant opportunities to benefit from its natural wealth. The Constitution mandates a sustained increase in goods and services for the populace, yet these goals remain unfulfilled. In alignment with national policies, the project seeks to demonstrate the practical application of the NP on ABS in a context rich in biodiversity and Indigenous knowledge. Building on decades of government initiatives, the project aims to establish a robust administrative framework that supports legislative measures currently under consideration, such as the Philippine Genetic Resources and Access and Benefit Sharing Bill.

The project aligns with the Philippine Development Plan 2016-2022, which is updated for years 2023-2028, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2028, contributing to the realization of several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to poverty alleviation, reduced inequalities, sustainable consumption and production, and the preservation of terrestrial ecosystems (life on land).

2.2. Problems that the project sought to address

The project aims to enhance the effective implementation of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework in alignment with the Nagoya Protocol. This initiative seeks to address the pressing threats and barriers currently impeding ABS implementation, thereby promoting equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources and traditional knowledge. The project focuses on several key components, including strengthening national policies, raising awareness, building capacity among stakeholders, and demonstrating effective benefit-sharing agreements. By addressing bureaucratic inefficiencies, fostering collaboration among various agencies, and developing a comprehensive understanding of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP), the project aims to create a more supportive environment for bioprospecting and sustainable resource management. However, there are several hurdles to be tackled rigorously before ABS can be fully beneficial.

Threats and Barriers to ABS Implementation: Despite the project's objectives, the implementation of ABS in the Philippines faces several significant threats and barriers that hinder progress in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol (NP). These challenges include:

Cumbersome and Lengthy Processing for PIC and FPIC: Bioprospecting is permitted only after securing prior informed consent (PIC) from local communities or Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for ancestral domains, certified by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). The issuance of a PIC/FPIC Certificate requires a sixty-day waiting period, during which researchers must bear all associated costs. Many prospective bio-prospectors find these requirements tedious and expensive, with the lengthy waiting period adversely affecting research timelines. Current guidelines classify bioprospecting as an "Extractive, Intrusive, Large-Scale" activity, necessitating a full PIC/FPIC process, which includes multiple community assemblies, a cash bond with the NCIP, and a Certificate Pre-condition (CP) issued after significant deliberation. This entire process can take approximately one year or more to complete.

Lengthy Processing Times and High Costs for Research Agreements: Obtaining formal research agreements is a lengthy process, taking at least five months from application to final approval, including the PIC/FPIC and negotiation stages. Researchers and scientists often perceive this timeline as detrimental to both their work and broader development goals. The fragmented institutional arrangements, involving multiple agencies without a centralized database, further complicate the process. Different agencies govern terrestrial and aquatic genetic resources, each with distinct regulations for research and commercialization. Additionally, when conducting bioprospecting activities in Palawan, co-signature from the Chairperson of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is required.

Fragmented Knowledge and Policies for Indigenous Knowledge and Benefit Sharing: Indigenous cultural communities and Indigenous Peoples (IPs), constituting about 18 percent of the Philippine population, possess a wealth of indigenous knowledge and practices related to land and natural resource use. However, the types and scale of traditional knowledge available, along with the processes for accessing it, remain largely undocumented. A comprehensive database for Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) is lacking.

Absence of Clear Policies for Benefit Sharing: There are no well-defined policies for measuring the adequacy of benefit sharing between parties at the commercialization stage. Although a policy exists stipulating royalty payments (i.e., 2% of global sales for commercialized products), it leaves significant room for discretion regarding what benefits communities hosting bioprospecting activities receive.

In addition to these barriers, several systemic issues contribute to the decline of genetic resources in the Philippines, as validated during the Mid-Term Review (MTR). These issues include:

- Lack of an effective genetic resources management system.
- Absence of a national data base, monitoring and tracking system for genetic plant and animal collections.
- Insufficient scientific knowledge about the medicinal and industrial uses of genetic resources.
- A declining number of scientists and researchers in the field.
- Limited employment opportunities for science graduates outside state universities.
- A shortage of research laboratories for studying genetic resources.
- Inadequate incentive packages for scientists and researchers.
- Insufficient incentives for Indigenous Peoples to protect biodiversity.
- Low budget allocations for genetic resources research and human resource development.

These interconnected problems collectively contribute to the decline of the country's genetic wealth, underscoring the urgent need for targeted project interventions to address these threats and barriers effectively.

2.3. Project description, strategy and theory of change (ToC)

As the project aims to strengthen the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) in the Philippines by strengthening the national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework, building national and local capacities and developing critical experience in ABS agreements (see Figure 2 on the original ToC), it seeks to increase economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits through three main components, as elaborated below:

Project Logic and Components

Project Objective: To strengthen the national framework for implementing Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol while demonstrating benefit-sharing agreements through research and development on local species like Banaba and Pili.

Component 1: Strengthening the national framework for implementing ABS in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol: This component aims to: (1) update the current national ABS framework in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and (2) harmonize current policies on bioprospecting and scientific research and development on and commercialization of genetic resources and their associated traditional/indigenous knowledge. The project will enhance multi-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration with regard to on-going research up until its potential for commercialization to promote ABS agreements. Institutional mechanisms that inform and cross-check with other agencies any research undertaking and link these with the private sector for possible uptake will be established. Additionally, support information system such as developing a database on research on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge/ indigenous knowledge will be undertaken under this component.

- **Output 1.1:** Harmonize existing laws, guidelines, and processes for ABS, streamlining Competent National Authority (CNA) functions and creating a benefit-sharing system for Banaba and Pili species.
- **Output 1.2:** Establish clear procedures for bioprospecting and R&D, integrating ABS measures into research grants and developing community protocol guidelines.
- **Output 1.3:** Develop a functional administrative, monitoring, and financing mechanism, including a digital platform and National ABS Clearing House.
- **Output 1.4:** Create a National ABS Roadmap to improve research efficiency for Banaba and Pili.

Component 2: Awareness raising and capacity building for implementation of the national ABS framework: A nation-wide information dissemination, education and public awareness campaign on ABS and its related policies and procedures will be undertaken under this component. The capacity building will include: strengthening capacities crafting and enforcing policies on ABS, strengthening national systems on intellectual property rights of researchers and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs); improving capacities of national government agencies and IPLCs to engage with private sector with regard to ABS; strengthening capacities in assessing research proposals; monitoring and tracking bioprospecting of Philippine genetic resources and its associated traditional knowledge (TKs) after permits have been issued; strengthening capacities of IPLCs in using provisions of the Indigenous Peoples Right Act (IPRA), Cultural Heritage Act, etc. to ensure the recognition of their rights over their genetic resources (GR) and associated Indigenous Knowledge System and Practices (IKSPs) and TKs, including rights to full, effective and meaningful participation in decision-making

processes; strengthening capacities of IPLCs in biodiversity conservation and protection of IKSPs/TKs associated with GRs so that they may sustainably enjoy its benefits; establishment of a model research and development practice that promotes ABS.

- **Output 2.1:** Implement awareness campaigns targeted at ABS stakeholders, conducting Target Group Analysis and developing a Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan.
- **Output 2.2:** Integrate training programs and capacity-building measures for ABS agency staff and stakeholders.
- **Output 2.3:** Document and disseminate best practices, making traditional knowledge accessible through museum displays and learning events.

Component 3: Demonstrating benefit-sharing agreements: Under this component, a key outcome is to facilitate the negotiation of at least one ABS agreement. The project will support the design and review of ABS agreements so that they are in line with the national ABS framework in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol. This component will also support community protocols of securing Prior Informed Consent and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (PIC/FPIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits for the use of the genetic resources and its associated traditional/indigenous knowledge. Further under this component, conservation strategies of specific resource covered by the ABS agreement will be planned. To this end, the project will develop at least 2 bio-products from local genetic resources of Pili tree (*Canarium ovatum* and *Canarium luzonicum*) in Region 5 (Albay) and Banaba (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) in Region 3 (Zambales).

- **Output 3.1:** Conduct R&D on Banaba and Pili species, developing a Regional ABS R&D Roadmap and securing FPIC and PIC from IPs and local communities.
- **Output 3.2:** Develop a Strategic Roadmap for ABS, encompassing research, infrastructure, technology, and policy.
- **Output 3.3:** Model ABS agreements through FPIC and PIC processes, facilitating workshops for negotiations.
- **Output 3.4:** Implement in-situ conservation measures to secure genetic resources, providing training on resource management and community development plans.

Theory of Change

1. Problem Statement: The implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the Philippines faces significant challenges due to a lack of harmonized policies, clear procedures, and effective mechanisms. Limited public awareness and understanding of ABS further exacerbate these issues, leading to weak implementation (see further Figure 2 on original Prodoc ToC).

Figure 5. Theory of Change

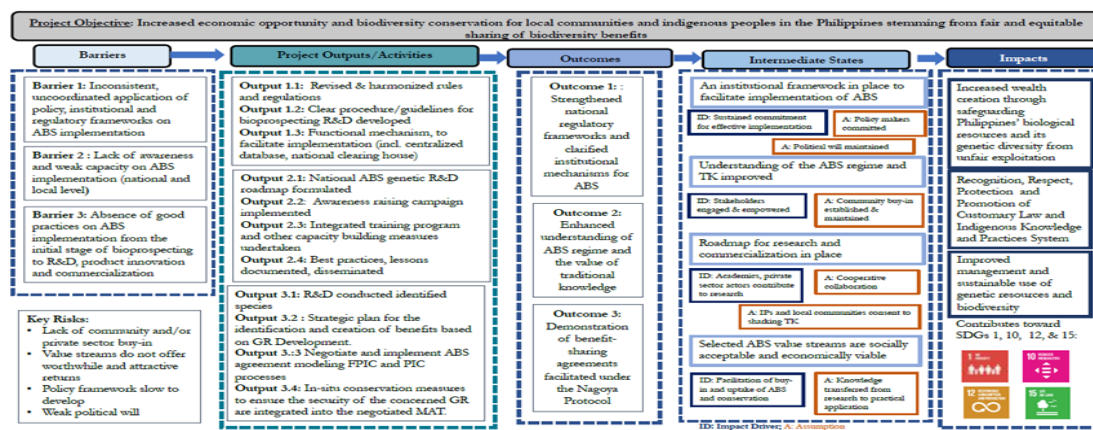


Figure 2. Original Prodoc Theory of Change

2. Inputs:

- Expertise in ABS policy development.
- Collaborative efforts among government agencies, research institutions, Indigenous Peoples (IPs), and Local Communities (LCs).
- Financial and technical support from UNDP and other partners.

- Resources for capacity building.

3. Activities:

- Policy and Institutional Strengthening (Component 1):
 - Harmonizing existing laws and guidelines.
 - Developing procedures for bioprospecting and research and development (R&D).
 - Establishing monitoring and financing mechanisms.
 - Creating a National ABS Roadmap.
- Awareness and Capacity Building (Component 2):
 - Conducting awareness campaigns targeting various ABS stakeholders.
 - Implementing integrated training programs for government staff and stakeholders.
 - Documenting and disseminating best practices and traditional knowledge.
- Demonstration of Benefit-Sharing (Component 3):
 - Conducting R&D on Banaba and Pili species.
 - Developing a Regional ABS R&D Roadmap.
 - Negotiating and implementing ABS agreements through Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC) processes.
 - Implementing in-situ conservation measures.

4. Outputs:

- Harmonized ABS policies and guidelines across government agencies.
- Clear procedures and protocols for bioprospecting and R&D.
- Functional administrative and monitoring systems for ABS implementation.
- Increased awareness and capacity among stakeholders.
- Documented best practices and accessible traditional knowledge.
- Established benefit-sharing agreements and conservation measures for genetic resources.

5. Outcomes:

Through the above components, the project seeks to increase economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits thereby contributing to the following impacts:

- Increased wealth creation through safeguarding Philippines' biological resources and its genetic diversity from unfair exploitation;
- Recognition, Respect, Protection and Promotion of Customary Law and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices System on access to genetic resources; and
- Improved management and sustainable use of genetic resources and biodiversity.

6. Long-Term Impact: Sustainable and equitable access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge will lead to improved biodiversity conservation and socio-economic benefits for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the Philippines.

Assumptions:

- Stakeholders (government, IPs, LCs, researchers) are willing and able to engage and collaborate effectively.
- Adequate resources (financial, technical, human) are available throughout the project duration.
- Policy and legal reforms are effectively implemented and enforced.

Risks:

- Resistance to policy changes or challenges in harmonizing existing laws.
- Insufficient capacity or interest from stakeholders to engage in ABS processes.
- Delays in implementation or unforeseen challenges in securing FPIC and PIC.

2.4. Project implementation arrangements

The project is implemented following UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM) with limited execution support in accordance with the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of the Philippines, as well as the Country Programme. The implementing partner for this project is the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB). As the accountable agency, DENR-BMB manages the project, ensuring effective monitoring and evaluation of interventions, achievement of outcomes, and appropriate use of UNDP resources. DENR-BMB executes the project according to government priorities, the project document, and UNDP guidelines.

Responsibilities of the Implementing Partner:

- **Project Management:** Responsible for planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. This includes providing necessary data for timely, evidence-based reporting.
- **Risk Management:** Implementing the risk management framework outlined in the project document.
- **Procurement:** Handling procurement of goods, services, and human resources.
- **Financial Oversight:** Overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- **Workplan Approval:** Approving the multiyear workplan and combined delivery reports.
- **Financial Reporting:** Signing financial reports, funding authorization, and certificates of expenditures.

Responsible Parties: For Regions 3 and 5, responsible partners—potentially including civil society organizations (CSOs) such as the APCIA and private sector such as Herbanext Laboratories Inc. and Leslie Pili Products, academic institutions and research consortia such as CLSU and SorSU—assist in project activities. Specific implementation tasks that include the sustainable agricultural production of genetic resources, post-harvest and processing of these materials into high-value products, the management of peoples and communities involved in the day-to-day operations, are documented in Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Agreements (MOAs) with each responsible partner.

Project Management Unit (PMU): The PMU, based in the Wildlife Resources Division of BMB, reports to the National Project Director (BMB Director). It consists of full-time staff who manage day-to-day operations, develop project-level annual workplans with responsible partners, and ensure effective implementation. The PMU includes a National Project Manager, Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Stakeholder Engagement and Gender Specialist, Enterprise Development Specialist, Communications Officer, and Administrative and Finance Specialist. The project outlines the following 12 staff positions:

1. Project Manager (1)
2. **Financial Auditor** (1, on an annual service contract)
3. Local Consultant Policy Specialist (1)
4. Nagoya Protocol and ABS Expert (1)
5. Stakeholder Engagement and Gender Specialist (1)
6. **Workshop Facilitator** (1, for multiple trainings)
7. **Documenter** (1, for multiple trainings)
8. Enterprise Development Specialist (1)
9. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist (1)
10. Project Chief Technical Advisor (1)
11. Planning and M&E Officer (1)
12. Communications Officer (1)

Project Board: The Project Board, also known as the Project Steering Committee, provides oversight and ensures the project achieves its desired results. It guides the National Project Manager on critical decisions and addresses project issues as they arise. Members include representatives from various government agencies, the private sector, and indigenous peoples’ communities, with the BMB serving as Chairperson (see Figure 3).

Stakeholder Engagement: A whole-of-government approach involves key stakeholders and target groups:

- **Competent National Authorities (CNAs):** Key government agencies involved in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol.
- **Other National Government Agencies (NGAs):** Collaborating agencies contributing to scientific and biodiversity research.
- **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs):** Primary beneficiaries, consulted for project planning and implementation.
- **Local Government Units (LGUs):** Engaged in policy-making to mainstream the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework.
- **Academic and Research Institutions:** Provide support in research, communication, and capacity-building.
- **Technical Working Group (TWG):** A national TWG assists the IP, Project Board, and PMU in decision-making and sharing lessons learned.

The site-level TWG in Regions 3 and 5 ensures coordination of site-specific interventions, involving regional DENR, DA, NCIP, and other local representatives.

UNDP Oversight: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for project implementation, overseeing compliance with standards and managing the project cycle. This includes the Project Assurance role, ensuring project milestones are met, and maintaining independent oversight.

UNDP Support Arrangement for Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner (IP) and the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFF) request UNDP to provide support services valued at **USD \$56,873.32** for the project's duration, a request that the GEF has approved. The details of these support services are outlined in the GEF execution support letter, signed by the GEF OFF, which is included in Annex 24b of the original project document. To ensure the required independence by the GEF and adhere to the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services are being delivered separately from GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services. This separation prevents any conflicts of interest, as different personnel handle project oversight and execution. UNDP provides limited project execution support services to process direct payments for goods and services procured by the IP. This is detailed in the correspondence from BMB-DENR to the GEF OFF the letter from the OFF to the GEF Secretariat and the signed Letter of Agreement (LOA) between UNDP and BMB-DENR requesting these support services. A strict firewall is maintained between project oversight and execution, as outlined in the GEF Audit Checklist.

2.5. Project timing and milestones

As per historical record, the project concept was approved on 13 June 2019 and the CEO Endorsement was dated 02 September 2020. The complete project document was signed on 08 November 2021, signaling the official start of the project. Project implementation started and launched on 01 December 2021. There were three (3) Project Board meetings held as of the preparation of the MTR Report. The first meeting was held on 27 September 2022, followed by the 2nd PB Meeting on 28 February 2023, and third meeting on 13 November 2023.

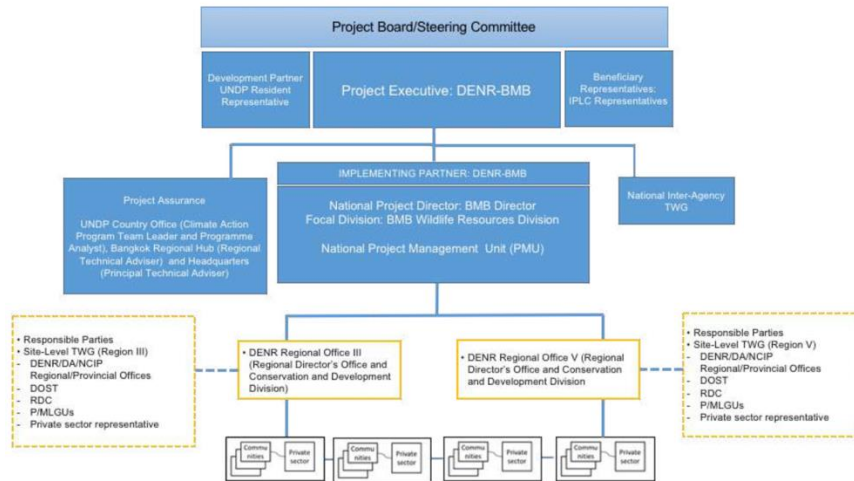


Figure 3. Organizational chart of the Project Steering Committee (ref: Prodoc)

2.6. Key Partners and Stakeholders

The success of the project relied on the active involvement of several key stakeholder groups (see Annex 7 for the list of stakeholders), each playing a critical role in ensuring effective implementation and sustainable outcomes. Based on the project document, the following stakeholders were involved.

Project stakeholders and target groups: A whole-of-government approach was facilitated during project implementation. Below were the key stakeholders and target groups of the project:

- **Competent National Authorities (CNAs):** The DENR, DA, NCIP, and DA-BFAR were significantly involved in setting up the national coordinating mechanisms and corresponding guidelines, procedures, and

tools. As catalytic agents ensuring the country's compliance with the Nagoya Protocol, the NCAs were the decision-makers on appropriate policy support, institutional arrangements, and procedures.

- **Other National Government Agencies (NGAs):** Compliance with the Nagoya Protocol entailed collaboration from other key government agencies, including DOST (PCAARRD, PCHRD, and FPRDI), DOH-PITAHC, DOH-FDA, National Museum, IPOPHIL, DTI, and NEDA. These agencies were involved in scientific and technological efforts, health research, biodiversity and genetic research, traditional and alternative healthcare research, the development and implementation of health standards, and the administration of policies related to intellectual property rights and market and product development, among others.
- **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs):** IPLCs were the primary target beneficiaries of this project. They were consulted on project planning and implementation activities. The project ensured the securing of FPICs from IPs and PICs from local communities.
- **LGUs:** Provincial and municipal/city LGUs were involved in policymaking and enhancing governance mechanisms to mainstream the ABS framework in local development and conservation planning processes.
- **Academic and Research Institutions:** These institutions provided support to the project on research, communication, education, public awareness, and capacity-building.

National Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (TWG): The national TWG, created during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, was sustained and expanded throughout the entire project implementation period. Members of the TWG included the DENR Central Office (Policy and Planning Service, Foreign Assisted and Special Project Service), Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Forest Management Bureau (FMB), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), Department of Agriculture (DA)-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), Forest Products Research Development Institute (FPRDI), Department of Health (DOH) – Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC), NCIP, Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHIL), National Museum of the Philippines, University of the Philippines – Manila, University of the Philippines – Diliman, and UNDP. Private sector representatives and technical experts were available as needed.

Site-Level TWG: Site-level TWGs in Regions 3 and 5 were formed to ensure that site-level approaches were well-coordinated following the project-wide interventions and strategies. Collaboration occurred among the Regional DENR, DA, NCIP, DA-BFAR, DOST, the Regional Development Council (RDC) of NEDA, key Provincial Local Government Units (PLGUs), municipal LGU representatives, and private sector representatives.

3. FINDINGS

3.1. Project Strategy

3.1.1. Project Theory of Change

The project concept, while grounded in several key strengths, also presents certain shortcomings that hinder its potential for achieving long-term, sustainable impacts. Overall, stakeholders agree the design per strategy and expected outcomes it is limited in its scope and clarity. The project's Theory of Change (ToC) is based on the premise that strengthening institutional capacities, harmonizing policies, and engaging stakeholders will lead to effective Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements, but this framework may not fully account for the complexities involved in achieving long-lasting change. Please see further Annex 12 for the suggested simplified and improved ToC.

The project design outlines clear strategic focus areas across its three components. **Component 1** is aimed at strengthening the national framework for implementing ABS in alignment with the Nagoya Protocol. This component specifically focuses on updating the current national ABS framework and harmonizing policies related to bioprospecting, scientific research, and the commercialization of genetic resources, including their associated traditional and indigenous knowledge. **Component 2** emphasizes awareness-raising and capacity building for the national ABS framework. This component includes a nationwide information dissemination

campaign, designed to enhance public understanding and support for ABS policies and procedures. **Component 3** focuses on demonstrating benefit-sharing agreements, with the objective of facilitating the negotiation of at least one ABS agreement. The component supports the design and review of ABS agreements, ensuring that they align with the national ABS framework and the Nagoya Protocol. This comprehensive focus on policy harmonization, capacity building, and demonstration activities aligns with national priorities on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

The design of the project at its essence solidifies and emphasizes capacity building for government institutions and stakeholders, aiming to support the propagation and implementation of ABS agreements. It includes a focus on engagement with key stakeholders such as Indigenous Peoples (IPs), Local Communities (LCs), national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), academic and research institutions, and technical working groups (TWGs). This inclusive approach is crucial for fostering local ownership and promoting the participation of IPs and LCs in the ABS process. The project also focuses on building the capacity of local stakeholders to implement ABS agreements, which is vital for institutional development in the context of biodiversity conservation.

In terms of the normative upstream guidelines work, the design aims to streamline sectoral policies to facilitate the application of ABS, which could lead to the negotiation of multiple ABS agreements and promote bioindustry development. The objective is to update the national ABS framework in line with the Nagoya Protocol and harmonize policies concerning bioprospecting, genetic resources, and traditional knowledge systems. Additionally, the project seeks to strengthen inter-agency collaboration, supporting research with commercialization potential. This goal is further supported by the development of a legal and policy framework that formalizes biodiversity management and creates sustainable economic growth opportunities.

The ToC has several notable strengths. It identifies key challenges, such as the lack of harmonized policies, unclear procedures, weak mechanisms, and limited public awareness, and provides a focused intervention to address these bottlenecks. The logical flow of inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes is clearly outlined, with a clear progression from strengthening policies to increased economic opportunities and biodiversity conservation. The inclusion of IPs and LCs in the ToC, with a focus on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC), aligns with international best practices and human rights frameworks. The alignment of the project's intended outcomes with biodiversity conservation and broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) further supports its long-term relevance.

However, the ToC or results framework (also see next section Log Frame analysis) has significant weaknesses and gaps that need to be addressed. Firstly, the design makes broad assumptions regarding stakeholder willingness, resource availability, and the efficiency of legal reforms. These assumptions oversimplify the complex realities of policy resistance and stakeholder disengagement, which are significant risks in the ABS process. Secondly, the ToC does not sufficiently address power dynamics, particularly the influence of powerful stakeholders such as the biotech lobby, whose resistance could impede the harmonization of laws and the implementation of ABS regulations. Thirdly, the ToC's approach to capacity-building lacks specificity in terms of measurable indicators of success. While the project lists activities for awareness-raising and capacity-building and uses capacity scorecards, it does not define clear and relevant metrics to assess the increased capacity of government staff, IPs, or LCs, making it difficult to evaluate progress. Fourthly, the reliance on demonstration projects, particularly related to the R&D of Banaba and Pili species, poses risks. Delays in research outcomes or failure to translate them into tangible benefits for communities could undermine the momentum needed to promote ABS adoption. Lastly, the ToC does not address gender or inclusion in a substantive way. The lack of a gender-sensitive approach could limit the equitable outcomes of the project, especially in a context where IPs and LCs have diverse needs.

The implementation of the project has highlighted several key challenges. The subject of ABS is highly complex, particularly due to the different stakeholders involved. While the legal framework and regulatory ownership are clearly defined under the Environment Department, the actual implementation of ABS agreements requires significant collaboration among various stakeholders. However, the project document lacks a clear narrative on

how activities and outcomes are connected, which is essential for guiding collaborative efforts. The absence of a fully developed ToC undermines the ability of implementers to link component activities with desired outcomes. While the project document is very detailed it is very complex and the design roadmaps are vague in detailing how exactly the inputs and targets across different components would contribute to broader impacts, such as biodiversity conservation and community empowerment. Furthermore, the project did not adequately address the role of provincial and municipal governments in coordinating and managing ABS agreements, nor did it specify the resources and actions required to scale up efforts. A stronger ToC would clarify the interdependencies between the components and how they contribute to the overarching goals of securing ABS agreements and improving local livelihoods. This lack of clarity also impacts the visibility and effectiveness of the learning outcomes from ABS agreements. Without a clear framework, it is difficult to assess the sustainability of these agreements or make necessary improvements to the guidelines. In general, the absence of a robust ToC limits the project's ability to demonstrate causal relationships between activities, outputs, and long-term impacts.

During the Mid-Term Review (MTR), the evaluation considered several factors to assess the realism of the framework in achieving institutional change, shifts in private sector behavior, and changes in community practices. The analysis of institutional change highlighted the strengths of capacity-building efforts, particularly with the government department interviewed. The creation of a national monitoring framework and bioprospecting guidelines signals progress toward more coherent governance, which can facilitate institutional change. However, as observed in the work on Component 1, particularly regarding guidelines and normative products, institutional change—specifically collaboration on these guidelines—is a slow process. The success of this framework will depend on continued support from high-level stakeholders and the sustainability of efforts beyond the project's duration. To illustrate this further, the collaboration between relevant government agencies (e.g., NCIP, DOST, PCSD) has been slow and discussions on pertinent matters are not clearly and relentlessly pursued (e.g., policies, measures, basic understanding about ABS and its relevance to each agency, national guidelines relating to ABS affecting regional and provincial stakeholders, cascades of implementers, roles of each agency, how to tap the agency's mandates and work-contributions towards institutionalizing and implementing ABS nationwide, etc.).

The private sector's behavior is harder to influence, and while the project includes indicators to engage the private sector, the limited scope of ABS products may not generate sufficient interest or incentives for businesses to align with biodiversity-friendly practices. Lastly, the framework's focus on community participation is positive, but behavioral change in communities often requires more than financial incentives. Deep-rooted cultural and traditional practices may not change quickly, and without strong local governance structures and consistent follow-up, benefits may not reach communities equitably. Here the project needs clear roadmaps for community pilots.

The broader assessment of change suggests that the institutional, private sector, and community changes are interconnected. For the framework to produce systemic changes, all actors must be aligned, which is challenging and requires constant monitoring and adaptive management. Sustainability remains a key challenge (see section on analysis of the project's Sustainability), as institutionalizing ABS agreements and frameworks beyond the project's lifetime requires ongoing commitment from national governments and private sector partnerships.

Several recommendations can strengthen the project's outcomes. First, PMU implementation strategies to address power imbalances, particularly the influence of powerful actors like the biotech lobby, should be incorporated. Developing advocacy campaigns or coalitions could counter resistance to ABS implementation. Second, clear and measurable indicators for success should be defined, particularly for knowledge management activities during implementation, policy awareness-raising and **targeted groups** of key stakeholder capacity-building activities (also see analysis on communication and complexity of the ABS concept). Third, risk management strategies should be strengthened by developing contingency plans for delays in FPIC and PIC processes, and by building capacity in conflict resolution and negotiation. Fourth, gender-sensitive approaches should be integrated into training programs, FPIC/PIC processes, and benefit-sharing agreements. Fifth, pilot policy implementation should begin early to refine approaches based on real-world challenges. Lastly,

communication strategies should be tailored for each stakeholder group to build trust and understanding of ABS concepts.

If these improvements are implemented, the Theory of Change could achieve stronger stakeholder buy-in, enhanced equity and inclusion in benefit-sharing processes, clearer pathways for monitoring success, and accelerated adoption of ABS agreements with reduced implementation risks. This refined approach would better position the project to meet its long-term goals of sustainable and equitable ABS implementation in the Philippines.

Key Findings on Project Strategy:

- **ABS Legislation and Compliance:** The project aims to address interconnected issues such as climate change, food safety, and biodiversity conservation through ABS legislation updates. This is crucial for ensuring the long-term success of ABS initiatives. Stakeholders emphasize the need for key demonstrations that showcase co-management arrangements, stimulate private sector involvement, and integrate local and Indigenous knowledge into the commercialization of genetic resources.
- **Integration of Broader Environmental Goals:** Stakeholders suggest that a comprehensive demonstration and knowledge sharing approach is needed to address broader environmental and socio-economic issues, including the showcasing of climate change and sustainable forestry. This alignment with national priorities will further support the bioindustry and contribute to the achievement of SDGs.
- **Intensified Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Application:** Effective engagement with stakeholders is a challenge, particularly when decision-makers delegate participation to lower-level staff. To improve engagement, communication strategies for ABS and what it means in practice should be tailored to each stakeholder group, as ABS has different implications for different sectors. Tailoring engagement to meet the specific needs of agencies such as DOST, NCIP, and the private sector will enhance the project's relevance and success.
- **Policy and Capacity Considerations for NCIP:** The NCIP is currently reviewing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) policies, which are essential for ensuring that Indigenous rights are respected. The project should support this review process and align and provide extra special capacity building support to NCIP with the provisions of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA). Expanding the project’s scope to include marine resources will also enhance its holistic approach to biodiversity conservation.
- **Role of DOST in Resource Innovation and Funding:** DOST’s limited engagement hinders the potential for innovative outcomes. Enhancing DOST’s involvement especially in community research and innovation as well as grants for academic institutions and MSMEs will be crucial for integrating scientific research and technology into the project, supporting sustainable economic growth and bioindustry development.
- **Revised Bioprospecting Guidelines:** Delays in revising bioprospecting guidelines, particularly due to political resistance from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and NCIP, have hindered progress. Addressing these political and procedural barriers through strategies such as steering committee enhancements will be crucial to advancing the project’s goals. The project should intensify engagement with these stakeholders to resolve these issues and facilitate the adoption of revised guidelines.

3.1.2. Results Framework/Logframe

The evaluation assessment of the results logic reveals several strengths and weaknesses linked to the strategy above that significantly impact the overall effectiveness of the project. The team did a SMART analysis of the project outputs and indicators

Table 5. Analysis of Project’s Logframe, Outputs, and Indicators based on the SMART Criteria (SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) toward outcome-level results)

Indicator	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of Project Target	SMART Criteria Assessment
Indicator 1: Direct project beneficiaries disaggregated	Female: 0 Male: 0	Female: 1,060 Male: 1,969	Female: 2,120 Male: 3,938	S: Specific; M: Measurable; A: Achievable; R: Relevant; T:

Indicator	Baseline	Midterm Target	End of Project Target	SMART Criteria Assessment
by gender (individual people, No.)				Time-bound by midterm and project end.
Indicator 2: Area of landscapes under improved management (hectares; excluding protected areas)	Region 3: 0 Hectares Region 5: 0 Hectares	Region 3: 15,000 Hectares Region 5: 2,500 Hectares	Region 3: 35,828 Hectares Region 5: 5,834 Hectares	S: Specific; M: Measurable; A: Achievable; R: Relevant to conservation; T: Defined targets for time-bound.
Indicator 3: Gender-responsive and culture-sensitive Bioprospecting rules and regulations updated and adopted	Uncoordinated ABS rules	Bioprospecting guidelines and FPIC/IKSP guidelines updated and harmonized	Bioprospecting guidelines and FPIC/IKSP guidelines adopted	S: Clear; M: Somewhat measurable; A: Achievable; R: Relevant to ABS compliance; T: Time-bound.
Indicator 4: ABS Agreements negotiated (No.)	No ABS Agreements	At least 1 draft ABS Agreement completed	At least 1 ABS Agreement successfully concluded	S: Specific; M: Measurable; A: Achievable, though ambitious; R: Relevant to biodiversity sharing; T: Defined.
Indicator 5: Mechanism for national implementation of ABS improved	No formal monitoring framework	5.1: Initial draft monitoring and tracking framework developed; 5.2: Draft ABS benefits mechanism	5.1: Framework in place; 5.2: Mechanism to channel ABS benefits institutionalized	S: Specific; M: Measurable through drafts; A: Ambitious but achievable; R: Relevant; T: Time-bound.
Indicator 6: Integrated knowledge management platform to capture ABS documentation	No central ABS knowledge platform	Beta version of the platform in place for testing	Platform institutionalized for ongoing and pipeline research	S: Specific; M: Clear platform development stages; A: Achievable; R: Relevant to knowledge sharing; T: Timely.
Indicator 7: Improved capacities of agencies for ABS implementation (increase in UNDP ABS scorecard)	National Gov: 44% Local Gov Region 5: 26% Local Gov Region 3: 39%	10% increase for all stakeholders	30% increase for all stakeholders	S: Specific; M: Clearly measurable; A: Achievable but requires effort; R: Highly relevant; T: Time-bound.
Indicator 8: Gender-responsive and culture-sensitive Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan	None	One CEPA developed and tested; initial KAP survey conducted	CEPA fully deployed; final KAP survey completed	S: Clear; M: Measurable through CEPA deployment; A: Achievable; R: Relevant; T: Well-defined timeline.
Indicator 9: Number of potential ABS products identified and tested	Pili (6): several non-ABS products; Banaba (3): several non-ABS products	At least 1 ABS product identified for Pili and Banaba	At least 1 ABS product tested for Pili and Banaba	S: Specific; M: Measurable through identified/testing process; A: Achievable; R: Relevant; T: Time-bound.
Indicator 10: Biodiversity management plan for in-situ conservation integrated into pilot agreement	No management plans	1 Draft management plan for Region 3; 1 Draft management plan for Region 5	1 Plan integrated into pilot agreement for Region 3; 1 Plan integrated into pilot agreement for Region 5	S: Specific; M: Clear draft process; A: Achievable; R: Relevant to biodiversity; T: Time-bound.
Indicator 11: Gender-smart and ABS compliant value chain mapped for identified genetic resources	Potential markets identified but not analyzed across the value chain	Draft value chains for Banaba and Pili mapped	Full value chain mapping for Banaba and Pili completed	S: Specific; M: Measurable; A: Achievable; R: Relevant; T: Time-bound.

Strengths:

The framework effectively identifies key areas of focus—policy work, capacity building, and demonstration activities—which support the government in addressing challenges related to ABS implementation. Its structured approach with clearly defined intent and output indicators aligns well with environmental sustainability goals, fostering collaboration among stakeholders. This contributes to the successful implementation of ABS as a win-win strategy for both conservation and sustainable development goals.

During the Mid-Term Review (MTR), discussions with the Project Management Unit (PMU) on tailored engagement strategies represented a positive step forward. However, further improvements are still required to fully engage Indigenous Peoples and private sector partners, both of which are crucial for long-term collaboration.

The assessment of the project's log frame indicators indicates that while many targets and indicators are generally SMART, further refinement is necessary to ensure they are fully achievable. For example, some targets—particularly those related to capacity building and ABS agreements—are underdeveloped and too easily met. Others may require additional effort to be fully realized within the project's timeline. Moreover, there is a need for stronger emphasis on key elements such as knowledge codification, the sharing of models, institutional coordination, and community livelihoods, with inclusive indicators that comprehensively address these dimensions.

The overall framework shows moderate potential to drive institutional, private sector, and community behavior changes, though certain limitations persist. Institutional change is likely to occur, particularly with strong government buy-in and capacity-building efforts. However, private sector change remains challenging, as the framework currently focuses on a narrow range of products and agreements. Community behavior change will largely depend on how well the benefits are distributed and the level of community engagement throughout the process. For the framework to be truly effective, sustained funding and support beyond the project's lifespan are necessary, as well as stronger private sector incentives for compliance. Continued local engagement and benefit-sharing mechanisms that reach grassroots communities will be essential to ensuring long-term success.

Weaknesses:

Several weaknesses were identified in the overall project design, including a lack of clarity in the roadmaps for connections between the three components and the roadmaps toward achieving results, particularly in the Theory of Change. Additionally, the narrative documentation of expected outcomes related to livelihoods and benefits for communities involved in ABS negotiations is insufficient. Gaps in provincial and community-level coordination, monitoring, and resource frameworks further complicate implementation. There is also a lack of clarity regarding how ABS implementation will lead to improvements in regulations, conservation, and livelihoods.

To address these issues, the project document should be simplified, and more effective coordination mechanisms should be established. It is also critical to create a knowledge-sharing hub to foster continuous learning across the project's different sites. The scope of demonstration activities, currently focused on only a few species and regions, is too limited. Expanding this scope to include multiple species and ecosystems would offer a more comprehensive demonstration of ABS principles.

The sustainability of the project's outcomes remains unclear. Without clearly defined sustainability goals and indicators, the project lacks direction for achieving long-term socio-economic and environmental impacts. The coordination mechanisms and communication strategies necessary to facilitate collaboration among stakeholders must be more clearly defined to avoid inefficiencies and ensure effective implementation.

Recommendations for Improvement:

To address the identified weaknesses, the Theory of Change linked to the Results Framework should be revisited to better outline the pathways toward the expected outcomes. This revision should include a clearer narrative on the causal relationships between inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes. Indicators should be designed to facilitate the scaling up of knowledge and good practices. A post-MTR design workshop could guide this exercise and future implementation, including the development of a post-MTR roadmap.

Stakeholder suggestions to expand the scope of demonstration activities to include additional species and ecosystems, as well as the establishment of a knowledge-sharing hub, would provide a more comprehensive view of ABS applications. Furthermore, it is essential to define sustainability goals and indicators within the project framework to ensure that long-term impacts are achieved. Clearer coordination mechanisms and communication strategies, with well-defined roles for each stakeholder, will enhance collaboration and improve project efficiency.

3.2. Progress Towards Results

The project has made exceptional progress towards meeting its targets, surpassing several key milestones, signaling a promising trajectory for the remaining period of implementation. The project's objectives of increasing economic opportunities and promoting biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines have been largely realized through targeted actions across various project

components. See also section on Results Discussion and Vetted Logframe Results Table in Annex 8). Below is a detailed analysis of progress by outcome and target indicators at the mid-term stage.

Direct Project Beneficiaries: The project aimed to reach a total of 3,029 direct beneficiaries, with targets of 1,060 females (35%) and 1,969 males (65%). At the Mid-Term Review (MTR), the project exceeded its targets for female beneficiaries, reaching 1,641 females, which is 155% of the goal. For male beneficiaries, 1,984 males were engaged, meeting the target at 101%. This outcome demonstrates a strong, gender-inclusive approach, with robust participation in awareness-raising and capacity-building activities on the Nagoya Protocol, fostering deeper understanding and commitment to biodiversity conservation and equitable benefit-sharing.

Area of Landscapes Under Improved Management: The project targeted improvements in the management of 15,000 hectares in Central Luzon (Region 3) and 2,500 hectares in Bicol (Region 5). At the MTR:

- Region 3 achieved 98% of its target, bringing the total hectares under improved management to 14,700. This outcome is attributed to successful collaboration with local communities, who were trained in sustainable agricultural practices, especially for species such as Banaba and Pili, which are crucial to both the local economy and biodiversity.
- Region 5 far surpassed its target, reaching 6,650 hectares, or 266% of the goal. This outcome was made possible through intensive community engagement, training, and the establishment of Biodiversity Composite Teams to support the creation and implementation of Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs).

Gender-Responsive Harmonized Rules and Regulations: The project has made substantial progress in developing and updating rules and regulations for implementing the Nagoya Protocol, ensuring that they are gender-responsive. Notably:

- The bioprospecting guidelines target was fully met, achieving 100% completion.
- Assisted the completion of the NCIP FPIC guidelines and their draft has been submitted for further consultation, incorporating critical feedback to ensure alignment with Indigenous Peoples' rights and gender equality.
- These guidelines will be instrumental in shaping future ABS agreements and ensuring a fair, equitable approach to biodiversity benefit-sharing across the Philippines.

ABS Agreements Negotiated: The project significantly exceeded its target of negotiating ABS agreements. By the MTR, four ABS agreements were signed, far surpassing the original goal of one draft agreement only. These include partnerships between private companies, indigenous organizations, and local communities such as Herbanext Laboratories Inc. and MAO-CADT, Leslie Pili Products with APCIA, and J. Emmanuel Pastries and Samahang Organisasyong Pang-Kalikasan (SOK), and San Ramon Mountaineers, Inc (SRMI). These agreements promote the sharing of biodiversity benefits, incorporating fair benefit-sharing provisions, including contract-growing, training on sustainable planting and harvesting practices, and knowledge transfer.

3.2.1. GEF tracking targets at MTR

CONSERVING & SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY

1. **Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial Protected Areas Created or Under Improved Management**
 - **Expected (MTR):** 6,048.5 hectares
 - **Achieved (MTR):** 6,048.5 hectares
2. **Indicator 1.2: Terrestrial Protected Areas Under Improved Management Effectiveness**
 - **Expected (MTR):** 6,048.5 hectares
 - **Achieved (MTR):** 6,048.5 hectares
3. **Core Indicator 4: Area of Landscapes Under Improved Practices**
 - **Expected (Endorsement):** 41,662.0 hectares
 - **Achieved (MTR):** 21,351.5 hectares
4. **Indicator 4.1: Area of Landscapes Under Improved Management to Benefit Biodiversity**
 - **Region 3 (Central Luzon)**
 - **Expected (Endorsement):** 35,828.0 hectares
 - **Achieved (MTR):** 14,682.5 hectares
 - **Region 5 (Bicol)**
 - **Expected (Endorsement):** 5,834.0 hectares
 - **Achieved (MTR):** 6,669.0 hectares

Table 6. MTR Achievement of the Core Indicator Targets

Core Indicator	Target	MTR Achievement	Missed by	Reason for Missing Target
Indicator 4 (Landscapes under Improved Practices)	41,662 hectares	21,351.5 hectares (51% of target)	20,310.5 hectares	Delays in landscape management implementation or challenges in reaching the full extent of areas under improved practices.
Indicator 11 (People Benefiting from GEF Investments)	6,058 people (2,120 female, 3,938 male)	3,184 people (1,408 female, 1,776 male)	2,874 people (1,934 male, 712 female)	Delays in community outreach, lower-than-expected participation, or implementation challenges affecting beneficiary reach.

3.2.2. Outcomes analysis (Effectiveness of Components)

Main Finding: The project has made substantial progress toward its normative goals, as indicated by its results framework (see details in Annex 8 Vetted Expected Results). With adjustments made during the Mid-Term Review (MTR), the targets are achievable, especially with additional technical and capacity-building support for the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the integration of lessons from demonstration projects into revised guidelines. However, to ensure long-term sustainability, there is a critical need for a strategic shift beyond immediate goals. Institutionalizing Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) monitoring and establishing effective legal frameworks are essential to ensure continued support and engagement beyond the project’s lifespan.

Component 1: ABS Legal and Normative Integration and Support

Progress and Achievements: Component 1 has made significant progress in strengthening the ABS legal framework. The development of Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) in Regions 3 and 5 highlights key advances, with Region 5 nearing completion and Region 3 at 98% completion. These efforts are integral to aligning ABS activities with national biodiversity goals.

Results:

- Outcome 1: Strengthening the National Framework for Implementing ABS
 - Indicator 5.1: Inter-agency Framework for Monitoring ABS Transactions: 100% achieved at the MTR, with a draft framework developed and integrated into the ABS Guidelines.
 - Indicator 5.2: Mechanism for Channeling ABS Benefits: 75% progress. A draft mechanism for monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing has been created and is being tested through ABS agreements.
 - Indicator 6: Integrated Knowledge Management Platform: A beta version developed to centralize ABS transaction information.

Challenges:

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Limited understanding of Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) among stakeholders, particularly Indigenous communities, hampers meaningful participation. To address this, tailored communication strategies are needed to convey the urgency and benefits of ABS effectively. Additionally, demonstrating commitment and co-ownership through co-financing is crucial. A key recommendation is to strengthen the commitment of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) by supporting co-financing efforts, particularly for projects involving Indigenous Peoples (IPs), Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs), and rural communities. These initiatives should prioritize community-led approaches.
- **Delayed NCIP Involvement:** NCIP's delayed participation and limited administrative capacity have hindered engagement. Framing ABS as a tool against biopiracy may help increase political will.
- **Slow Progress on GR and IK Inventories:** Ethnopharmacological studies and large-scale inventories remain incomplete. A research consortium involving DOST, research institutes, and private sector organizations could address this gap.

Policy and Legal Frameworks:

- **Progress:** Harmonization is a slow relations building process and it is moving. The ABS legal frameworks are in place and guidelines for roles for different sectors being drafted, aligning with international agreements like the Nagoya Protocol. However, delays due to procurement issues, limited institutional capacity, and excessive documentation have slowed progress.

- Stakeholder Concerns:
 - Exclusion from Early Consultations: NCIP and local NGOs are claiming they have been excluded from early consultations (evaluators think this may be the result of constant changes of institutional representatives during these meetings with no debriefing nor proper turn-overs), limiting the integration of critical perspectives on resource-sharing protocols.
 - Turnover and Lack of Continuity: New personnel were not involved in the PPG phase, creating challenges in continuity and technical aspects of guideline development.
 - Resistance from Biotech Lobby: The biotech lobby's resistance, particularly regarding Digital Sequence Information (DSI), has delayed ABS implementation.
- Proposed Actions:
 - Conduct one-on-one engagements to identify barriers and capacity support needs and gaps.
 - Strengthen NCIP participation with legal and financial resources.
 - Work with DOST to enhance collaboration with communities on innovation and value chain development.
 - Streamline ABS application guidelines.
 - Appoint dedicated personnel to ensure continuity in technical and cross-sectoral aspects.

Summary:

Component 1: Solid progress has been made, but improvements are needed to enhance multi-stakeholder engagement. This includes prioritizing one-on-one interactions with key groups and providing resources to support their capacity-building needs. Stronger utilization and increased membership of the steering committee, along with the separation of the technical group, are recommended to improve policy influence. Additionally, more effective framing of ABS as a tool to combat biopiracy and the completion of genetic resources (GR) and indigenous knowledge (IK) inventories are essential to support sustainable economic development.

Component 2: Knowledge Management and Capacity Building

Main Findings: Component 2 has successfully fostered knowledge management and capacity building. However, delays in engaging Indigenous communities and local stakeholders have slowed progress. The absence of baseline assessments during the project preparation phase delayed the initiation of workshops on social safeguards and community rights. As of the MTR, capacity-building efforts as well as the robust knowledge sharing platform are behind schedule, hampering the PMU's ability to build stakeholder management and local ownership.

Results:

- Outcome 2: Enhanced Understanding of the ABS Regime and Traditional Knowledge
 - National Government: Capacity increased by 16%, from 46% at baseline to 56% at MTR, according to the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Scorecard.
 - Local Government: There is a clear indication of lack of better understanding about ABS, in which the CEPA materials can further serve and address.
 - Region 3 showed a 16% increase in capacity, indicating effective training and awareness efforts.
 - Region 5 remained stagnant at 46%, suggesting the need for more targeted interventions.
 - CEPA Plan Development: While the CEPA plan wasn't finalized at MTR, the strategy to raise awareness about ABS is in place, informed by findings from the KAP survey.

Knowledge Management:

- Stakeholders have requested the broadening of the learning scope to include best practices from livelihoods and expanding focus from territorial to broader environmental issues like aquatic ecosystems and forestry-related climate challenges.
- Institutionalizing Collaborative Platforms: The project is demonstrating the potential for an ABS platform through collaboration but needs to institutionalize these platforms for long-term benefits.
- Coordination of ABS with Broader Environmental Concerns: Expanding focus to environmental issues such as aquatic ecosystems and forestry-related climate change challenges is crucial.

Recommendations:

1. Extend the Scope of Demonstration Cases: Include small businesses, aquatic ecosystems, and forestry-related climate issues for more enriched learning opportunities.
2. Create an Updated Knowledge-Sharing Platform: Enhance collaboration among government, public, and private sectors to disseminate best practices and lessons learned.
3. Strengthen Capacity-Building Initiatives: Involve public agencies in capacity-building efforts to improve inter-agency coordination and enhance understanding of ABS.

Summary:

Component 2 is progressing but needs enhanced stakeholder engagement, a broader learning scope, and more targeted capacity-building initiatives to ensure sustainable and comprehensive ABS practices.

Component 3: Demonstrations

Key Findings: Component 3 aims to showcase practical examples of ABS practices but has been limited by the project design and its narrow focus on sharing good practice related to only two species—Banaba and Pili. This limits the scope for innovation, scaling, and knowledge-sharing. The project’s current demonstration efforts should be expanded to other species and regions to maximize ABS principles and benefit stakeholders. The actual demonstrations need to start as soon as possible to validate claims for its accomplishments.

Outcome 3: ABS Agreements with Fair and Equitable Benefit-Sharing

By the MTR, the project exceeded its target for ABS agreements:

- Pili: ABS products like Pili pulp oil and kernel oil have been successfully traded prior to the project, and are identified to be included in the ABS Agreements signed by Region 5 private sector partners with local communities, which can contribute to 300% of the target in Region 5.
- Banaba: Anti-viral and anti-cough drugs derived from Banaba are in advanced clinical trials, which can contribute to 200% of the target.

Key Challenges:

- **Regional Implementation Delays:** Site selection and financial disbursements, particularly in Region 3, have caused delays. A more focused approach is needed to identify and resolve bottlenecks.
- **Coordination Weaknesses:** There is a need for stronger coordination, especially at the regional Technical Working Group (TWG) level, and practical support for communities involved in demonstration projects.
- **Legal and Financial Support Gaps:** More legal and financial support is required for communities during ABS negotiations to ensure fair participation.
- **Opportunities in Palawan:** Limiting the focus to Banaba and Pili has reduced flexibility. Partnering with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in Palawan could open new research and commercialization opportunities for other species.

Detailed Observations on ABS Agreements:

- **Herbanext Laboratories Inc., MAO-CADT, and NCIP:** The agreement lacks an effectivity date and only covers research on Banaba leaves. Capacity-building efforts are underway, but the community expects more benefits, such as job generation and greater involvement.
- **Leslie Pili Products and APCIA:** The agreement lacks an effectivity date and should focus more on product quality, processing, and innovation.
- **J. Emmanuel Pastries and SOK, Inc. / J. Emmanuel Pastries and SMRI:** These agreements primarily cover contract-growing of Pili, and the ABS spirit is not fully demonstrated. Further negotiations on product development and community participation are needed.
- **Leslie Pili Products and Pili Processors Association of Sorsogon (PPAS):** The agreement is not signed and lacks an effectivity date. There is an opportunity to explore additional non-monetary benefits.

Recommendations:

1. **Develop a Comprehensive Contingency Plan:** Address delays by integrating lessons from pilot cases into guidelines and ensuring timely execution.
2. **Enhance Stakeholder Engagement:** Strengthen ABS project implementation by focusing on models of good practices and value-added communication efforts, particularly with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to improve their understanding of ABS practices. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) are key stakeholders in this communication of ABS value-added effort.
3. **Expand Demonstration Efforts:** Include regions like Palawan and Sorsogon, focusing on aquatic and other special genetic resources.
4. **Increase Legal and Financial Support:** Provide more resources for negotiations and benefit-sharing arrangements.
5. **Implement Targeted Capacity-Building Initiatives:** Focus on empowering communities to engage in negotiations and maximize benefits from ABS practices.

Summary:

Component 3 has demonstrated progress in ABS agreements but requires broader species inclusion, regional expansion, and more legal and financial support to ensure fair and equitable benefit-sharing. Strengthening these aspects will enhance the sustainability and scalability of the project.

Overall Summary:

Components 1, 2, and 3 have made significant progress, but several key challenges remain, including stakeholder engagement, legal and financial support, and the need for broader species and regional focus. By addressing these gaps and expanding efforts to include other stakeholders and resources, the project can achieve its long-term goals and ensure sustainability in ABS practices.

3.2.3. Cross-cutting Issues

In the context of the ABS Philippines project, the analysis of social safeguards, human rights, poverty alleviation, promotion of micro-small businesses, and inclusion of indigenous groups reveals several key findings:

1. Social Safeguards and Content Value Chain

Poverty Reduction: The project aims to integrate local communities, including marginalized and indigenous groups, into the context of developing the value chain of genetic resources. However, challenges include limited access to markets, technology, and financial resources, which hinder full participation.

For example, the MAO-CADT indigenous community would be able to participate in the Banaba value chain by developing simple yet high-value products from Banaba leaves (e.g., tea, food or herbal products) and be able to market these by themselves through small grants in improving its production facilities, product packaging, and establishment of its micro-small business shops. In addition, the local communities who already benefit from growing and supplying Pili nuts, can further learn how to leverage the genetic resource for potentially high-value products derived from it, demonstrate other uses of Pili and its other parts not only the nuts, improve productivity by learning land and soil suitability for the crop, improve product quality, standards, branding, labelling, and marketing, thereby, increasing income, generating jobs, and contributing to economic productivity of the local community.

Equitable Benefit-Sharing: One standout issue is the need for a more robust framework ensuring that benefits from the utilization of genetic resources are shared equitably with local and indigenous communities. This includes addressing gaps in awareness and understanding of the ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) principles among stakeholders. In ABS agreements with local communities through its cooperatives, for instance, some non-monetary benefits can be negotiated with the private sector partners, such as training and capacity building, crop insurance to ameliorate impact of disasters and calamities, health benefits, provision of seed banks and nurseries for seedling propagation, well-informed decision making through land and soil suitability studies, improvement of post-harvest facilities, support for product quality assurance, certifications and testing, and exploring the benefits of digital marketing and e-commerce. Many of these benefits can also be in the form of small grants initially from the project, which can be expanded to include other sources such as government aid and private sector funding.

2. Human Rights and Indigenous Groups

Indigenous Rights: There is a strong emphasis on respecting the rights of indigenous peoples, especially in terms of their participation in decision-making processes. However, delays in capacity-building efforts and the slow implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) have impacted their ability to fully engage. In addition, human rights in general need to be emphasized especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups in local communities that have opportunities to develop their genetic resources into marketable products; they can be prioritized in developing their capacities to participate in the value chain activities such as in forming small businesses supported with small grants and provided with appropriate training according to their needs (e.g., financial literacy, product packaging, product quality, testing and certifications).

Cultural Preservation: Protection of indigenous cultural heritage remains a concern, especially where traditional knowledge is utilized. Ensuring that intellectual property rights are preserved and that communities maintain control over their resources is a key issue.

3. Inclusion and Gender Equality

Gender Disparities: While the project addresses gender equality as a cross-cutting issue, gender-based discrimination still exists. Women, especially from indigenous groups, often have limited decision-making power within their communities, affecting their participation in project activities. In addition, the youth, specifically the out-of-school youth, which is prevalent in many local and indigenous communities, can be afforded with opportunities to participate in developing the value chain of the genetic and natural resources.

Capacity Building: Gender-disaggregated data from monitoring reports show that training and engagement efforts are still skewed toward male participants, suggesting the need for targeted efforts to promote female participation in the value chain and decision-making roles. Small grants to support the development of products derived from genetic resources and the participation of women and youth in the establishment of small businesses towards promoting the value chain, should be afforded some consideration in the demonstration activities of the project.

Notable Gaps:

Delayed Implementation of Safeguards: There are concerns that the preparatory work on social safeguards and human rights assessments was delayed until after the inception period. This has caused a lag in effectively addressing these issues during the early stages of project implementation.

Under-represented Communities: Some indigenous groups remain underrepresented in consultations and benefit-sharing discussions, which could lead to inequalities in how benefits are distributed. Women and youth (especially out-of-school youth) must be considered in the conduct of demonstration cases of the project.

These findings highlight the importance of addressing social safeguards more comprehensively and ensuring active inclusion of indigenous groups and women throughout the project's implementation.

3.2.4. Remaining barriers to achieving the project objective

The Project is found to be still in its early stages of implementation. Several challenges have been identified that hinder its progress toward achieving its objectives. The following are identified as the **remaining barriers to achieving project objectives:**

Procurement delays continue to be a significant barrier to effective project execution. The slow pace of government procurement processes, along with the requirement for presidential authority, creates bottlenecks that affect the timely delivery of essential project components. This delay impacts the project's ability to respond effectively to needs as they arise.

Regulatory challenges, particularly those related to the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), have also affected site-level activities. Delays in obtaining necessary approvals from this agency limit the project's outreach and engagement with Indigenous communities. Additionally, some Indigenous Peoples (IP) are hesitant to commit to the project without clear demonstrations of potential benefits. Therefore, enhancing communication strategies to better outline these benefits is crucial.

The project's stakeholder engagement strategy needs significant improvement. While efforts to involve relevant stakeholders, particularly Indigenous Peoples, are ongoing, there is still a lack of meaningful participation. Building trust and demonstrating tangible benefits will be essential for fostering broader community involvement.

The MTR has indicated that the project document design and stated theory of change is insufficient to guide the project management and partners. While the project document addresses important aspects such as legal and negotiation frameworks for the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreement, the strategy does not fully consider the broader implications of implementing best practice case studies. Specifically, there is a missed opportunity to capture co-benefits related to environmental, social, and economic impacts, which are critical for achieving sustainable development.

The current Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework has limitations that hinder the project's ability to effectively demonstrate its impacts. Strengthening the implementation focus on knowledge facilitation, alongside developing a robust M&E system, will support more adaptive management and enhance project strategy demonstration. This approach will enable the project to respond to emerging challenges and make necessary adjustments as needed.

To address these challenges, several recommendations have been identified. First, there is a need to incorporate strategies that emphasize value chain development. Such strategies can elevate community participation beyond mere supplier roles, leading to deeper engagement and investment from local communities.

Second, enhancing the livelihoods component of the project is crucial. By transforming communities into active economic agents, the project can significantly enhance their capacity and resilience.

Integrating these strategies into the project redesign mission post-MTR will help ensure a more comprehensive approach that not only supports biodiversity conservation but also promotes inclusive economic development.

3.3. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

The Project operates under UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM) with limited execution support in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) as the implementing partner. This partnership ensures effective project management, monitoring, evaluation, and adherence to government priorities and UNDP guidelines. The project employs a structured approach involving a Project Management Unit (PMU) and a Project Board that includes representatives from various sectors, ensuring broad stakeholder engagement, particularly with Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Despite having a robust organizational framework, the project faces significant challenges, particularly in procurement processes and stakeholder engagement. These bottlenecks hinder timely project execution and effectiveness.

Findings. This project, along with another ongoing project on Biodiversity Corridor, marks the first time that National Implementation Modality (NIM) is being executed with limited execution support from UNDP. While learning is occurring, this approach may not sufficiently facilitate progress towards the desired results. There is need to accelerate the workplan and refine the procurement strategy to ensure the project's success. In terms of decision-making processes, the current framework is solid but requires more granular attention to critical bottlenecks. Enhanced involvement of decision-makers is essential to improve project outcomes and drive effective resolutions to challenges as they arise. Additionally, the integration of the Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Steering Committee presents a potential inefficiency due to overlapping membership.

Clear differentiation of roles between these groups is necessary to foster more effective collaboration and informed decision-making. Moreover, the project would benefit from adopting more adaptive management practices. These practices should respond to changing circumstances and prioritize achieving measurable outcomes. To facilitate this, a fleshed-out project document outlining specific strategies is needed. Finally, strengthening the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework is vital for demonstrating the project's impacts, especially for demonstration projects. This enhancement will aid in tracking progress and making necessary adjustments, ultimately contributing to the project's overall effectiveness. By addressing these findings, the project can better navigate its challenges, improve its effectiveness, and ultimately achieve its intended benefits for all stakeholders.

3.3.1. Management Arrangements

This project is being executed under National Implementation Modality (NIM) with limited execution support provided by UNDP CO in the form of direct payments. While learning is occurring, this approach may not sufficiently facilitate progress towards the desired results during the project period. Difficult challenges are experienced by the implementing agency which include slow government procurement processes, delays and inefficiency in resource utilization and output delivery, slow financial delivery, and low capacity and agility for adaptive management. There is an urgent need to accelerate the workplan, speed up project management processes, and refine the procurement strategy to ensure the project's success.

3.3.2. Work planning

The work planning for the project occurs annually and has been executed exceptionally well, aligning closely with the established targets. This is mainly attributed to an under-developed project design. Regardless, the evaluation commended the project team for their diligent efforts and effective planning processes.

However, to enhance project outcomes as it moves forward, it is recommended to implement a multi-year work plan extending until the project's conclusion. This approach will provide a structured framework to meet designated goals and reduce the focus on smaller procurements, which can often lead to delays and inefficiencies.

Additionally, it is crucial to address existing challenges in procurement and rectify deficiencies in the project design. This includes expanding the project's focus to encompass other cross-cutting areas within the knowledge

strategies and giving special attention to the Palawan region. A design that accommodates regional demonstration efforts will significantly enhance the project's impact and effectiveness.

3.3.3. Finance and co-finance (Efficiency)

The project has generally utilized resources and project management effectively; however, its strategies suffer from an under-developed project design, characterized by an overly simplistic Theory of Change that fails to address outcome-level institutional and broader environmental, economic, and social development goals which led to a focus on the normative upstream work and not on knowledge management and sharing of knowledge products tailored to the different stakeholders, i.e., economic analysis for NEDA, protection for environment division, NCIP benefits and legal and technical support to reinforce joint understanding of what this project is trying to achieve. Additionally, significant delays in procurement and financial management have hindered the timely achievement of project objectives. These inefficiencies highlight the need for adjustments to implementation modalities to enhance overall project efficiency and ensure that key activities are executed as planned.

Key Findings

- **Very low overall delivery:** The project appears to just start with PPG work only getting completed including safe guards and pilot project decisions. This may be due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Procurement and Financial Management Challenges: To date, **only 25.21% of the total project budget has been disbursed** as of 2024, based on the PIR 2024. This limited financial flow has considerably slowed progress in implementing essential activities, resulting in missed deadlines and reduced project orientation towards impact to date. The backlog in procurement processes further complicates timely execution, creating a cycle of delays that could undermine project objectives. Reasoning for this has been said to be slowness in UNDP payments to staff contracts and slow government procurement systems. On the other hand, the reported co-financing from key partners is at 22.73% only (see further discussion on the topic below). Furthermore, it is observed that financial status and performance are inconsistently reported. For instance, financial report from DENR-BMB ABS project worksheet reported a 45% utilization rate as of Sep 30, 2024, while the project team only reported a 25.13% utilization rate. The project also reported a disbursement of 43.08% of the total budget for 2024 (₱11,299,800), with the remaining 56.92% scheduled for 2025 (₱14,930,188.80). There is a need to consistently align these information and report them harmoniously to better manage information, resources and expected outputs more efficiently.
- **Management and Implementation Issues:** The project faces several management and implementation challenges that must be addressed to enhance its effectiveness. First and foremost, the project document is underdeveloped and lacks a clear theory of change, which hinders the project management and the partners in the regions the ability to articulate its goals and expected outcomes. To address these challenges, strengthening the current project steering committee is essential. Participation is often limited to technical representatives, which fails to capture the diverse perspectives necessary for comprehensive decision-making. Notably, there has been limited involvement from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Department of Science and Technology, both of which are key partners and the project cannot achieve its goals if missed – including as well the expected valuable insights and expertise.
- **Strengthening the Project Steering Committee:** The current steering committee can be enhanced. Participation is often limited to technical representatives, which does not adequately capture diverse agency perspectives (e.g., limited participation from the Department of Science and Technology, NCIP, NEDA).

Need for a Robust Steering Committee: Establish a strong steering committee with a defined agenda for higher level decision making, policy advocacy and also space for technical decision-makings amongst implementing partners to ensure effective governance and oversight. This project needs higher level policy makers involved and this is a key challenge for UNDP to work with the PMU and decide how to engage the higher levels. It could be a matter of policy notes to the higher-level decision makers in advance of meetings.
- **Technical Presentations:** Incorporate technical presentations into the steering committee meetings in order to provide essential information for the Underdeveloped Project Document. The project document is incomplete and lacks a clear policy discussion, facilitating the integration of relevant policy inputs into the project.
- **Partnership Strategy:** Develop a partnership strategy targeting key stakeholders involved in project implementation to ensure effective consultation and policy input.
- **Implementation Modality Adjustments:** The UNDP Country Office is currently exploring potential changes to the implementation modality to improve efficiency. A reevaluation of the existing approach is critical to address the identified bottlenecks and facilitate a smoother flow of resources.

Co-Financing situation at onset

The co-financing landscape for the project has garnered a commitment for significant support, totaling **\$21,631,787** from various sources. This collaborative effort showcases a multifaceted approach to addressing environmental challenges through coordinated investments from government agencies, academic institutions, and private sector partners.

The **Department of Environment and Natural Resources** leads with a substantial public investment of **\$5,464,599**. This funding is earmarked for programmatic support and joint activities, facilitating stakeholder engagement and providing essential inputs for demonstrations and pilots. However, the project faces potential risks due to necessary budget realignments prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. To mitigate these risks, ongoing collaboration will be essential to ensure the project aligns with broader sustainable development goals, demonstrating clear value at the local level.

Additional funding comes from the **Department of Agriculture Regional Office No. 5**, contributing **\$2,752,600** in grant support, while the **Department of Science and Technology** provides **\$907,692** to enhance agricultural and natural resources research.

Local government units in the provinces of Albay and Sorsogon have each pledged **\$1,000,000** in public investment, highlighting the importance of local engagement in project initiatives.

Academic and research institutions, particularly **Central Luzon State University** and **Sorsogon State College**, play a pivotal role, contributing **\$6,527,247** through grants focused on the discovery of novel compounds from indigenous species. This effort faces minimal risks, as these institutions are well-equipped with the necessary facilities and technical support.

The **Philippine Pili Industry Board** has committed **\$3,508,800** to establish a platform for knowledge sharing among stakeholders in the Pili industry. To avoid duplication of efforts, close engagement in work planning will be prioritized.

Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. contributes **\$226,200** for natural products research and commercialization, with a focus on compliance with national legislation and the Nagoya Protocol. Recognizing that private companies may view the return on investment as limited, the project aims to raise awareness about the benefits of utilizing traditional knowledge related to genetic resources.

Pharmalytics Corporation also adds to the funding through a grant of **\$134,232**. Additionally, the **United Nations Development Programme** contributes **\$110,417** in in-kind support, covering personnel costs and project implementation oversight, with no foreseeable risks as this funding is earmarked.

In summary, the diverse co-financing sources reflect a robust commitment to collaborative action in addressing environmental challenges, while proactive measures are in place to manage potential risks and ensure the project's alignment with broader development objectives.

Findings

Based on the analysis of the updated co-financing table (see Annex 9 for details), the project has received \$4,916,098.35 in actual contributions, which is only **22.73%** of the expected total co-financing of \$21,631,787 at the Mid-Term Review (MTR). The following constitutes a breakdown of key points and observations:

1. Recipient Government Contributions

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Public Investment:
 - Out of the expected \$3,439,864, the project has received \$1,383,797.06 (40.23%). This is a significant contribution but still under half of the expected amount. The **Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)** has not contributed any funds yet, despite an expected \$2,439,864.
- **PENRO Sorsogon** contributed \$287,580.74 out of the planned \$1,000,000, representing a 28.76% contribution so far.
- **DENR Region V** and **Forest Management Bureau** have provided unexpected contributions totaling \$1,096,216.32, which were not originally included in the CEO endorsement figures.
- In-Kind Contributions:

- The DENR has over-contributed in-kind, providing \$3,089,949.70, which is 152.61% of the expected \$2,024,735.
- Other regional in-kind contributions (from Region III, Region V, BMB) also exceeded expectations, with Region V surpassing its original commitment by providing \$1,168,389.40.

2. Under-performance of Certain Sources

- **Department of Agriculture Regional Office No. 5:** Expected to contribute \$2,752,600, but no contributions have been made so far.
- **Department of Science and Technology (DOST):** Expected to provide \$907,692 in grants, but no contributions have been received.
- **Local Government Units (Province of Albay):** No contributions, despite a \$1,000,000 expectation.

3. Others (Academic, Private Sector, and Other Entities)

- **Academic and Research Institutions** (Central Luzon State University and Sorsogon State College) have contributed only 3.7% (\$238,266.14) of the \$6,527,247 expected.
- **Philippine Pili Industry Board:** No contributions yet, either in grants or in-kind support.
- **Private Sector Contributions:**
 - **Herbanext Laboratories Inc.** has not contributed anything yet, despite expected grants and in-kind contributions.
 - **Pharmalytics Corporation** exceeded in-kind expectations, contributing \$169,085.45, which is 440.11% of the planned \$38,419. However, no grants have been received.
- **NCIP** contributions, whether cash or in-kind, has not been reported nor noted.

4. GEF Agency (UNDP) Contribution

UNDP has contributed \$35,000 out of the expected \$110,417 in-kind, meeting 32% of its expected contribution.

Key Observations:

- The project has received just over 22% of its total co-financing, with strong in-kind support from government agencies but significant shortfalls from expected public investments, academic institutions, and the private sector.
- Co-financing from government agencies like DENR, particularly in-kind contributions, have helped bridge some of the gaps, but critical financial shortfalls exist, especially from the Department of Agriculture, DOST, and the local government units.

Mid-term Co-Financing Analysis

Upon review of the actual co-financing contributions as of the Mid-Term Review (MTR), it becomes clear that there are notable differences from the planned commitments outlined at the start of the project. These differences reveal a mixture of financial shortfalls, unfulfilled commitments, and, in some cases, over-achievements, which collectively have had an impact on the project's implementation. Below is a detailed breakdown:

1. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

- **Planned Contributions:** Public Investment: \$3,439,864; In-kind: \$2,024,735.
- **Actual Contributions (MTR):** Public Investment: \$1,383,797.06 (40.23%); In-kind: \$3,089,949.70 (152.61%).
- **Analysis:** While public investment fell significantly short of the planned amount (only 40% of the target), the in-kind contributions from DENR far exceeded expectations. This in-kind support, such as research and the use of government resources, helped compensate for the financial gap caused by budget realignments due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensuring continued alignment with broader government sustainable development priorities will be essential for sustaining DENR's commitment.

2. Department of Agriculture Regional Office No. 5

- **Planned Contribution:** Grant: \$2,752,600.
- **Actual Contribution (MTR):** No contributions made.
- **Analysis:** The absence of any contributions from the Department of Agriculture represents a significant gap, potentially affecting agricultural components of the project. The lack of funds may be linked to post-pandemic budget constraints or delays in approval processes.

3. Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

- **Planned Contribution:** Grant: \$907,692.
- **Actual Contribution (MTR):** No contributions made.
- **Analysis:** DOST's lack of contribution poses a threat to the research and development objectives of the project, particularly in the area of agricultural and natural resources research. With stronger project

coordination, DOST's co-financing contribution in scientific research and development with academic and research institutions and private sector (e.g., Tuklas Lunas Program) can be leveraged to bolster project implementation. Coordination efforts need to be enhanced to ensure future contributions align with project timelines.

4. Local Government Units (LGUs) – Provinces of Albay and Sorsogon

- **Planned Contributions:** Public Investment: \$1,000,000 each.
- **Actual Contributions (MTR):** No contributions made.
- **Analysis:** The absence of contributions from local governments jeopardizes the project's ability to engage local stakeholders and deliver on-ground activities in the provinces of Albay and Sorsogon. This could be due to budget realignments in response to local development priorities or delays in co-financing approval.

5. **NCIP** – has no indicative nor reported contributions either in cash or in-kind, although, it is a key partner of the project, and is actively participating in many of its activities. Lack of or inefficient collaboration and coordination strategies need to be improved to ascertain its better understanding and appreciation of the project's objectives, thereby, strengthening and aligning its commitment and contributions to the project deliverables.

6. Academic and Research Institutions (Central Luzon State University and Sorsogon State College)

- **Planned Contribution:** Grant: \$6,527,247.
- **Actual Contribution (MTR):** Grant: \$238,266.14 (3.7%).
- **Analysis:** The significant underperformance in contributions from academic institutions could slow research progress, particularly related to discovering novel compounds from indigenous species. The lack of funding suggests that original projections may have been overestimated, or there may have been delays in formalizing agreements.

7. Philippine Pili Industry Board

- **Planned Contributions:** Grant: \$2,100,000; In-kind: \$1,408,800.
- **Actual Contributions (MTR):** No contributions made.
- **Analysis:** The gap in both financial and in-kind contributions from the Philippine Pili Industry Board may hinder efforts to promote the local industry. There is a need to clarify and solidify commitments by truly engaging them in mutually beneficial and meaningful collaboration. There is a potential risk of duplication of efforts without closer coordination, which should be addressed through stronger work planning and alignment.

8. Private Sector Contributions

- **Planned Contributions:** Herbanext Laboratories Inc.: Grant: \$174,000, In-kind: \$52,200; Pharmalytics Corporation: Grant: \$95,813, In-kind: \$38,419.
- **Actual Contributions (MTR):**
 - **Herbanext Laboratories Inc.:** No contributions made.
 - **Pharmalytics Corporation:** In-kind: \$169,085.45 (440.11%); No grant received.
- **Analysis:** The private sector engagement has been inconsistent. While Pharmalytics has provided substantial in-kind contributions such as funding for research and development of anti-viral and anti-cough medicine from Banaba (albeit with its 440.11% increase in co-financing that needs further elaboration), exceeding expectations, Herbanext Laboratories Inc.'s contribution has not been reflected at all. This could signal private sector caution in investing in research-based activities due to perceived risks or lack of clear commercial returns.

9. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- **Planned Contribution:** In-kind: \$110,417.
- **Actual Contribution (MTR):** In-kind: \$35,000 (32%).
- **Analysis:** The in-kind contributions from UNDP are below planned levels, though they indicate moderate engagement. Continued coordination with UNDP will be necessary to ensure that oversight and project implementation support remains aligned with project needs.

Conclusion and Recommendations on Co-financing

Key Insights and Risks:

- **Significant Shortfalls:** Major contributors like the Department of Agriculture, DOST, and local government units have not provided any of their planned contributions. This poses a risk to the project's capacity to meet its objectives, especially in research, development, and localized activities.

- **Strong In-Kind Contributions:** DENR and Pharmalytics have provided substantial in-kind support, which helps alleviate some of the financial gaps. However, this does not fully compensate for the lack of cash contributions from other key stakeholders.
- **Inconsistent Private Sector Engagement:** While Pharmalytics has exceeded expectations in in-kind contributions, other private sector partners like Herbanext Laboratories Inc. have not reported its contribution, signaling a need for greater efforts in building private sector confidence in the project's outcomes.
- **No indicated nor reported contributions from NCIP:** This should be considered as NCIP is recognized as a key partner in this project.

Mitigation Measures:

- **Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement:** Ensuring ongoing alignment with government priorities and providing visibility into project outcomes will be critical for sustaining co-financing from public sector partners.
- **Private Sector Sensitization:** There is a need to further engage private sector partners, particularly in showcasing the long-term benefits of the project, including its alignment with national regulations like the Nagoya Protocol.
- **Addressing Coordination Gaps:** Strengthening coordination between the project team and co-financiers can help avoid delays in contributions and ensure that risks related to funding gaps are mitigated.

Other further comments:

- To foster better governance and oversight, it is thus crucial to establish a robust steering committee with a well-defined agenda focused on policy and decision-making. Strategic partnerships should be pursued, particularly with the NCIP, to reduce barriers to the exploration and commercialization of resources on indigenous lands and to tap into the vast knowledge that exists there. The steering committee should guide the project's strategic direction while ensuring that diverse viewpoints are considered in discussions. Incorporating technical presentations into the committee's agenda is another vital step. These presentations will provide essential information for policy discussions, facilitating the integration of relevant policy inputs into the project's framework.
- Finally, developing a partnership strategy that targets key stakeholders involved in project implementation is necessary. This strategy will ensure effective consultation and input from all parties, ultimately leading to a more inclusive and successful project outcome.
- Adoption of a Hybrid Implementation and Oversight Modality: Implementing a hybrid approach that combines national oversight with technical advisory support could expedite decision-making processes. This model would allow for quicker responses to emerging challenges and facilitate more effective resource allocation.
- Establish a Special Technical Working Group: Creating a dedicated technical working group focused on addressing procurement bottlenecks is essential. This group should streamline financial processes and develop a multi-year work plan that aligns with project goals. The project under a National Implementation Modality (NIM) with limited execution support from UNDP CO could further enhance efficiency, in this case with streamlined procurement support from UNDP ensuring that processes are expedited and aligned with national priorities.

3.3.4. Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems

The monitoring system for the Access and Benefit Sharing Project (PIMS 6275) is robust, featuring several key components that ensure effective oversight and management. This includes a well-defined project management framework, regular reporting mechanisms, i.e., PIRs, Steering committee and technical working groups, quarterly reviews, UNDP visits, PMU, and established communication channels among stakeholders through officers on PMU staff. On November 9, 2023, a monitoring visit was conducted to assess the implementation status and challenges faced by the project, revealing critical insights into its effectiveness and areas requiring improvement. During that mission with validations by the MTR team, despite the strong PMU monitoring system, significant challenges persist, particularly with the project procurement (many small inputs – slow and long processes) and stakeholder engagement. The evaluation highlighted that while the project benefits from strong project management oversight, the cumulative delivery rate is only 25.21% against the total budget, with over 50% of the project duration elapsed. This performance is significantly below expectations. However, an adjusted delivery rate of 56% for the current year against an adjusted budget of USD 561,506 suggests that progress has been made despite the challenging environment.

Procurement delays have been identified as a major barrier to timely project execution. The need to secure presidential authority (earlier in the project) and the very slow pace of government procurement processes remain as an ongoing challenge that needs to be addressed. Furthermore, regulatory bottlenecks, particularly those associated with the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), have substantially hindered site-level activities, thereby limiting the project's outreach and overall effectiveness.

Additionally, the target landscape area has proven to be smaller than initially planned due to the hesitation of one of the Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities to commit without demonstrated benefits. This situation underscores the need for clearer communication regarding the potential gains from project involvement. To address these challenges, several strategic recommendations have been put forth. Firstly, exploring alternative partnerships, especially with the private sector and Indigenous Peoples, is crucial for leveraging additional resources and facilitating project delivery. Secondly, securing additional co-financing should be prioritized to ensure adequate funding for both ongoing and future activities.

It is imperative that the PMU adopt adaptive management practices in order to respond to the evolving circumstances and stakeholder needs including the slow decision-making processes and systems. This includes developing innovative ways to engage the stakeholder into inputting on documents and visiting project sites, a more fleshed-out project document focused on outcomes, which will provide a clearer roadmap for achieving the project's goals. Stronger monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms are essential for demonstrating the project's impact, particularly for demonstration projects. These enhanced M&E practices will enable the project team to track progress more effectively and adjust strategies as needed.

Updating the risk register with comprehensive mitigation strategies will enable proactive management of potential issues as they arise. Furthermore, developing a robust knowledge and communication strategy is essential for effectively disseminating information about project benefits, particularly to the Indigenous People community.

Strengthening engagement with relevant stakeholders, especially Indigenous Peoples, is another critical area that requires attention. Building trust and demonstrating tangible benefits will encourage broader community participation and commitment to the project.

The recommendations from the monitoring visit are pragmatic and directly address the core challenges identified. Implementing these strategies will necessitate coordinated efforts among project management, stakeholders, and government authorities. Establishing a centralized coordination body could enhance oversight and streamline processes across projects. Regular coordination meetings, including quarterly reports and annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs), will facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Additionally, providing training and technical assistance for project management units (PMUs) in procurement and financial management will empower them to tackle challenges more effectively. Creating a dedicated procurement support group can also expedite processes, addressing delays in a timely manner.

In conclusion, while the Access and Benefit Sharing Project benefits from a strong oversight and management framework characterized by a robust monitoring system, it must urgently address the persistent challenges in procurement and stakeholder engagement. By implementing the recommended strategies, including adopting adaptive management practices and enhancing the project documentation focused on outcomes, the project can enhance its effectiveness, ensuring that it meets its objectives and delivers meaningful benefits to all stakeholders involved.

3.3.5. Stakeholder engagement

Effective and tailored stakeholder engagement is pivotal to the relevance and overall success of the ABS project. The project's progress relies on active collaboration with key stakeholders, such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and local stakeholders in Palawan (PCSD). Insights gathered from these engagements during the mission have revealed both strengths and areas for improvement, essential for refining strategies and ensuring long-term sustainability.

At the heart of the project's governance are national government agencies (NGAs), such as the DENR, NCIP, and the DA. These agencies play a central role in shaping the project's policies and ensuring alignment with national strategies for environmental management and resource conservation, as well as international frameworks like the Nagoya Protocol. The DENR, as the lead agency, guides the overall project implementation. The NCIP safeguards Indigenous Peoples' rights, while the DA focuses on integrating ABS principles into agricultural practices. Their active involvement, highlighted during the Mid-Term Review (MTR), has been crucial in adapting the project strategy to align with evolving national policies. This ongoing support is key to addressing policy bottlenecks and promoting legislative and regulatory reforms related to ABS.

In addition to the national agencies, regional government offices also play a vital role in adapting policies to suit local needs. These include the DENR's regional offices, NCIP's regional offices, and other relevant agencies like the DOST and the local DA offices. During the MTR, feedback from these regional offices was critical in identifying challenges related to translating national policies into localized actions. It was clear that stronger coordination between national and regional offices is needed to ensure the project's objectives are effectively implemented across diverse geographic contexts.

Local Government Units (LGUs) are integral to the grassroots implementation of the project. Their connection to local populations allows them to facilitate community engagement and ensure that project activities are culturally appropriate. In areas like Pili, Sorsogon, and Bicol, LGUs play a key role in mobilizing resources and supporting community-driven initiatives. However, the MTR identified challenges in achieving consistent engagement from LGUs across municipalities. More effective leadership and coordination at the local level are necessary to overcome barriers to community engagement and improve the project's impact.

Indigenous Peoples (IPs) are crucial to the success of the ABS project. Communities such as the Maporac Ayta and Bucao Tribal communities contribute invaluable traditional knowledge and cultural perspectives that enhance biodiversity conservation efforts. Their involvement ensures that the project respects Indigenous rights and integrates traditional practices. The MTR acknowledged the need for stronger consultation and benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure IPs are fully engaged and adequately compensated for their contributions. This remains a priority for the project.

Local communities and cooperatives, like the San Ramon Mountaineers Inc. and the Pili Processors Association of Sorsogon, provide insights into the project's direct impact on livelihoods and community resilience. Their participation ensures that ABS agreements benefit local populations, as the MTR emphasized the importance of ensuring that the benefits are shared equitably and that project activities are responsive to local needs.

The private sector, through companies like Herbanext Laboratories Inc. and Leslie Pili Products, plays a significant role in the economic sustainability of ABS initiatives. These companies contribute to developing market-based solutions for sustainable genetic resource use. The MTR highlighted that while the private sector's involvement is critical for the project's financial viability, challenges remain in securing full buy-in. Companies have expressed concerns about regulatory frameworks and the lack of clear guidelines. Strengthening public-private partnerships and creating incentives for the private sector to engage more actively will be essential for the project's long-term success.

NGOs and academic institutions, such as the Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF), the University of the Philippines-Manila (UP Manila), and De La Salle University (DLSU), provide expertise, research, and capacity-building support. Their involvement helps the project stay adaptable, responsive to emerging challenges, and innovative. During the MTR, the expertise from these institutions helped refine the project's strategy, ensuring it remained flexible in addressing new circumstances.

In conclusion, the project's success is closely tied to the engagement and collaboration of a diverse group of stakeholders, from national and regional government agencies to local communities, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector, and academic institutions. While significant progress has been made, the MTR highlighted the need for continued efforts to strengthen coordination across all levels of government, enhance the participation of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and deepen private sector involvement. The long-term sustainability of the project will depend on maintaining strong partnerships and ensuring that all stakeholders are fully engaged and committed to its objectives.

Key findings and recommendations derived from the stakeholder engagement include:

1. **Intensified Stakeholder Engagement and Policy Application:** The current stakeholder engagement strategy has shown slow processes and inconsistencies, which have affected project outcomes. Increasing the PMU's commitment to supporting stakeholder participation and knowledge-sharing is essential. In particular, inactive stakeholders like DOST, which plays a key role in research and innovation, and NCIP, as a protector of lands and seas, must be more actively engaged. Their involvement is critical to enhancing the project's effectiveness.
2. **Insights from the Department of Agriculture (DA):** The DA's role in integrating agricultural practices with biodiversity conservation is crucial. Feedback from stakeholders indicates that the DA needs to collaborate more closely in developing policies that support ABS initiatives. Greater involvement of the DA in early project planning would help align agricultural policies with ABS objectives, promoting sustainable resource management in agricultural sectors.
3. **Perspectives from Palawan CNA – PCSD:** Stakeholders in Palawan emphasized the need for greater involvement in decision-making regarding natural resource management. Indigenous rights and local knowledge should be prioritized. The project should ensure that local frameworks reflect community priorities, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to biodiversity conservation.
4. **Policy and Capacity Considerations for NCIP – Bioprospecting and FPIC:** The NCIP is reviewing its policies related to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). Clarification of these policies is essential to establish a legal framework that respects Indigenous rights and intellectual property protections. Expanding the scope of FPIC policies to include marine resource management is also necessary for a comprehensive approach to biodiversity conservation.
5. **Insights from DENR:** The DENR's involvement is crucial for enforcing environmental regulations and promoting sustainable resource management. Stakeholders suggested that the DENR should support advocacy for ABS initiatives and provide capacity-building workshops for local communities to enhance their understanding of biodiversity laws and ABS mechanisms.
6. **Role of NEDA in Strategic Planning and Economic Integration:** NEDA plays a vital role in integrating economic considerations into biodiversity initiatives. Stakeholders recommended that NEDA incorporate biodiversity conservation into national development planning and ensure that economic growth strategies consider ecological sustainability.
7. **Role of DOST in Resource Innovation and Funding:** Limited engagement from DOST has hindered the project's innovative potential. Broader involvement from DOST is needed to leverage scientific research and technology transfer, helping address critical challenges in biodiversity management. Expanding DOST's participation in steering committees and technical working groups could enhance the project's innovative capacity.
8. **Private Sector Partnerships – Herbanext Laboratories Inc. and Leslie Pili Products:** Engagement with the private sector is essential for the success of ABS initiatives. Stakeholders from companies like Herbanext Laboratories Inc. emphasized the need for clear guidelines and incentives to encourage private sector participation in ABS agreements. A better understanding of Section 35 of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act would help harmonize the efforts of NCIP and the private sector, ensuring both sides collaborate effectively while respecting Indigenous rights.

3.3.6. Reporting

The project's monitoring activities include a combination of inception workshops, technical working group meetings, project board/steering committee meetings, and submission of various reports to stakeholders like GEF, UNDP, DENR-FASPS, and NEDA. These events reflect a timeline of collaborative discussions, progress evaluations, and the submission of key implementation reports. The documentation shows a consistent effort to engage regional and national stakeholders and monitor the project's progress through quarterly and annual reviews.

Table 7. Key monitoring activities

Activity	Dates
Pre-inception Meeting	May 31, 2022
National Inception Workshop	June 9-10, 2022
Site-level Inception Workshop (Region 3)	July 26, 2022
Site-level Inception Workshop (Region 5)	July 28, 2022
1st National Technical Working Group Meeting	September 6, 2022
1st Project Board/Steering Committee Meeting	September 27, 2022

Activity	Dates
1st Region 3 Site-level Technical Working Group Meeting	October 17, 2022
1st Region 5 Site-level Technical Working Group Meeting	November 7-11, 2022
1st Joint Technical Working Group Meeting	February 1-2, 2023
2nd Project Board/Steering Committee Meeting	February 28, 2023
2nd Region 3 Site-level Technical Working Group Meeting	May 19, 2023
2nd Region 5 Site-level Technical Working Group Meeting	May 26, 2023
2nd National Technical Working Group Meeting	July 4, 2023
3rd Region 3 Site-level Technical Working Group Meeting	July 19, 2023
2nd Joint Technical Working Group Meeting	October 18-20, 2023
3rd Project Board/Steering Committee Meeting	November 13, 2023
4th Region 3 Site-level Technical Working Group Meeting	May 16, 2024
3rd Region 5 Site-level Technical Working Group Meeting	May 23, 2024
3rd National Technical Working Group Meeting	May 30, 2024
Monitoring Reports	
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	July 2022 – June 2023
	July 2023 – June 2024
UNDP Quarterly Report (Q1-Q3)	2022
UNDP Semestral Report	2023
UNDP Annual Report	2022, 2023
UNDP CO Programme visits	2022, 2023
DENR-FASPS Project Manager’s Meetings	Q2 2022 - Q3 2024
NEDA Project Fact Sheet and ODA Report	2022, 2023

3.3.7. Communications & Knowledge Management

Main Finding: The communication and knowledge management (KM) strategy implemented within the ABS project has played a critical role in enhancing awareness and understanding of access and benefit-sharing (ABS) principles among stakeholders. While the strategy has successfully raised awareness about ABS principles among targeted groups, a gap in knowledge and application remains among broader stakeholder communities. Effective communication has facilitated initial engagement and led to the development of concrete products, such as an introductory ABS video and others (see Annex 10 for the list of communication products). However, ongoing efforts are essential to deepen understanding and encourage practical application of ABS concepts.

Sub-findings: There are some sub-findings which are deemed crucial for the project as follows:

Increased Awareness of ABS Principles. The project has effectively disseminated information about ABS principles through workshops, seminars, and outreach activities (see Annex 10 for the list). Participants in field locations reported a greater understanding of their rights and obligations concerning genetic resources, which is a positive step toward equitable benefit-sharing.

Engagement with Local Communities. Local communities are beginning to be actively engaged through tailored communication approaches, including culturally relevant materials and participatory activities. This engagement has fostered a sense of ownership over ABS processes and encouraged local participation in decision-making. This is further illustrated by the collaboration between Leslie Pili Products and APCIA in which both parties endeavor to express and mutually agree on common understanding of ABS and how each party can solidify its commitments through monetary and non-monetary benefits.

Need for Continuous Communication. Despite initial successes, there is a need for sustained communication and increased emphasis on knowledge management efforts. Many stakeholders expressed a desire for ongoing information-sharing platforms and regular updates on ABS developments. Continuous engagement will be essential for maintaining interest and commitment to ABS objectives.

While the project has made notable strides in its initial phase, the analysis indicates that a more structured, customized (based on target audience), and cohesive strategy is necessary to effectively engage stakeholders, convey essential messages, and facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices.

Current Communication Efforts

Strengths:

- **Engaging Visual Content:** The creation of an introductory video effectively showcases the project's objectives, highlighting its potential impact on biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods.
- **Initial Stakeholder Engagement:** Conducted workshops and community meetings have provided valuable platforms for local communities to express their concerns and share insights.
- **Diverse Communication Channels:** The starting utilization of various channels, including social media and community events, has aided in raising awareness about the project's goals.

Weaknesses:

- **Lack of Targeted Messaging:** Current communication efforts do not sufficiently tailor messages to specific stakeholder groups, limiting their effectiveness and resonance.
- **Inconsistent Branding:** The absence of a cohesive brand identity may lead to confusion about the project's objectives and values among stakeholders.
- **Limited Evaluation of Impact:** A lack of mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of current communication efforts hinders the ability to refine strategies and improve engagement.

Knowledge Management Analysis

Current State:

- **Initial Knowledge Sharing:** Some preliminary efforts have been made to document and share lessons learned from project activities, but these efforts are sporadic and not systematically organized.
- **Limited Stakeholder Involvement:** Knowledge sharing has not actively engaged all relevant stakeholders, particularly marginalized communities and local businesses, resulting in missed opportunities for collaboration and learning.

Strengths:

- **Existing Knowledge Products:** Preliminary reports and materials outlining project activities and objectives serve as a valuable starting point for knowledge sharing.
- **Engagement with Academia:** Partnerships with academic institutions provide a strong foundation for integrating research and local knowledge into project activities.

Weaknesses:

- **Absence of a Structured Framework:** The lack of a formal knowledge management framework inhibits systematic documentation, sharing, and utilization of knowledge.
- **Lack of Accessibility:** Knowledge products are not easily accessible to all stakeholders, limiting their use and overall impact.

Recommendations for Strategy Development in Communications and Knowledge Management

To enhance communication and knowledge management within the ABS Project, the following recommendations are proposed:

A. Develop a Comprehensive Communication Strategy

- **Targeted Messaging:** Create tailored messages for different stakeholder groups (e.g., local communities, government officials, private sector) that emphasize the economic, social, and environmental benefits of ABS.
- **Branding and Identity:** Establish a strong and consistent brand identity that reflects the project's goals and values, ensuring clear communication across all channels.
- **Engagement Platforms:** Utilize a mix of online and offline channels to engage stakeholders, including social media, community workshops, and partnerships with local organizations.

B. Establish a Robust Knowledge Management Framework

- **Structured Documentation Process:** Develop a formal process for documenting lessons learned, best practices, and project outcomes to ensure systematic knowledge sharing.
- **Stakeholder Involvement:** Actively involve all relevant stakeholders in the knowledge-sharing process, especially marginalized groups, to enhance collaboration and learning opportunities.
- **Accessibility of Knowledge Products:** Improve the accessibility of knowledge products by creating user-friendly platforms and resources that cater to diverse stakeholder needs.

C. Measurement and Evaluation

- **Impact Assessment:** Implement mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of communication efforts and knowledge management practices, allowing for ongoing refinement and adaptation.

- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish feedback loops with stakeholders to gather insights on the usefulness of communication materials and knowledge products, ensuring continuous improvement.

Concluding remarks on Communications and Knowledge Management

The ABS Project has laid a promising foundation for communication and knowledge management in its initial phase, yet the need for both a KM and a comprehensive strategy is clear. By implementing targeted communication efforts (see Tables 8-9 for some soundbites, communication & strategy examples), establishing a robust knowledge management framework, and continuously evaluating their impact, the project can significantly enhance stakeholder engagement and ensure the successful integration of ABS strategies into broader societal and economic contexts. These steps will not only support biodiversity conservation but also promote sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities across the Philippines.

Table 8. Soundbites and Communication Examples

Stakeholder Group	Soundbite	Communication Example
Local Communities	“Together, we can protect our biodiversity while creating jobs and boosting our economy!”	Host community workshops to discuss ABS benefits, using visuals and stories from local champions.
Government Officials	“A robust ABS policy not only conserves nature but also drives sustainable economic growth!”	Prepare tailored policy briefs focused on social and economic outcomes that highlight successful case studies and align Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) with national development goals. Provide data demonstrating the potential bio-economy gains from adopting the ABS approach, emphasizing its connection to expanding protected areas and promoting sustainable livelihoods through the management of genetic resources. Additionally, foster engagement with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to enhance community participation in these initiatives.
Private Sector Stakeholders	“Investing in our natural resources through ABS opens doors to new markets and opportunities!”	Organize industry roundtables featuring successful partnerships and economic impacts of ABS initiatives.
Academics/Researchers	“Join us in exploring the economic potential of biodiversity for sustainable community development!”	Facilitate collaborative research initiatives and seminars that focus on ABS and its economic implications.
Civil Society Organizations	“Together, we can advocate for policies that empower communities and protect our natural heritage!”	Launch joint advocacy campaigns that showcase the benefits of ABS for both people and the planet.
General Public	“Follow our journey in harnessing biodiversity to create sustainable livelihoods for all!”	Develop a social media campaign featuring project updates and community stories.

Table 9. Strategies for the Second Half of the ABS Project

Strategy	Action Steps
Sustain Communication Efforts	Develop a schedule for regular updates and feedback sessions with stakeholders.
Expand Outreach Activities	Enhance community engagement through more interactive and culturally relevant materials.
Establish Information-Sharing Platforms	Create online and offline platforms for stakeholders to share experiences and best practices related to ABS.

3.3.8. Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

Main Finding:

The evaluation project is still in its early stages of gathering baseline information for its pilot sites and conducting essential social consultations for the next steps—specifically for demonstration projects. The initial work involved a checklist approach using UNDP screening tools during the PPG stage, which flagged potential risks but lacked the depth of engagement and site-specific focus required for a thorough assessment. The focus of the project so

far has been on Component 1 and some activities in Component 3, particularly gathering baseline data, conducting social consultations, and collecting data for legal documentation and guidelines for the demonstration projects.

The project team has since hired a safeguard specialist to support community-level initiatives, helping communities negotiate benefit-sharing agreements and establishing livelihood showcase activities. This specialist is conducting workshops to engage communities effectively. These activities are crucial for establishing a comprehensive understanding of the current context, setting benchmarks for future assessments, and supporting demonstration and knowledge-sharing efforts.

Findings from Screening Based on SES Checklist:

1. **Human Rights.** No adverse impacts on human rights were identified, though potential inequitable impacts on marginalized groups and access to resources were flagged. There was no exclusion of marginalized groups from decision-making, and no risks related to duty-bearer or rights-holder capacity were noted.
2. **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.** No adverse impacts on gender equality were found, but there were acknowledged concerns regarding the potential reproduction of gender-based discriminations. Gender equality concerns raised by women's groups were incorporated into the project proposal and risk assessment.
3. **Environmental Sustainability.** No adverse impacts to habitats, ecosystems, or endangered species were identified. However, potential impacts on critical habitats and natural resources were acknowledged, particularly in relation to activities involving genetic resources and reforestation.
4. **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.** No significant greenhouse gas emissions or direct climate change impacts were anticipated. The project outcomes are noted as being sensitive to climate change impacts, which will be considered in planning and implementation.
5. **Cultural Heritage.** No adverse impacts on cultural heritage sites or structures were identified. Use of cultural heritage for commercial purposes was acknowledged, and the project will consider these aspects moving forward.
6. **Displacement and Resettlement.** No physical displacement, forced evictions, or economic displacement is anticipated. Potential impacts on land tenure and community property rights were identified, warranting further attention and mitigation planning.
7. **Indigenous People.** The presence of indigenous peoples in the project area was acknowledged. Potential impacts on indigenous rights, territories, and traditional livelihoods were identified, and considerations around cultural heritage and traditional knowledge are included in the project's approach.
8. **Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency.** No significant release of pollutants, waste generation, or hazardous chemical use was anticipated.

Key Findings and Gaps Identified:

The initial screening process, based on the UNDP checklist approach, highlighted several potential social and environmental risks, including inequitable impacts on marginalized groups, gender-based discrimination, environmental sustainability concerns, and issues related to indigenous rights and cultural heritage. However, this checklist-based approach did not involve detailed community consultations or provide tailored mitigation strategies. While the checklist flagged these issues, it lacked the depth and context needed to fully understand and address the complexities of the project sites.

1. **Initial Screening Process:** The checklist identified broad potential risks but did not provide an in-depth analysis or offer specific mitigation strategies. It flagged issues like marginalized group impacts and environmental concerns but did not explore their nuances in sufficient detail.
2. **Limited Site-Specific Engagement:** Despite recognizing potential impacts on indigenous groups, gender equality, and critical habitats, the project did not conduct comprehensive consultations at the sites during the design phase. This raised concerns about the depth of understanding of the socio-cultural and environmental dynamics of the areas. These consultations are now being addressed in the MTR phase.
3. **Delayed Preparatory Work:** Important preparatory work, such as setting up community engagement protocols and capacity-building activities, was delayed until after the inception phase. This delayed the project's ability to fully implement social safeguards and take action to mitigate risks identified during the design stage.
4. **Flexibility in Adaptation:** The project initially adhered rigidly to pre-selected species and sites for the demonstration projects. While species selection was based on technical and market-driven criteria, there was

limited flexibility to adapt based on community feedback or evolving risks. This lack of flexibility prevented adjustments in species selection and site choice despite emerging concerns.

5. **Insufficient Focus on Social Safeguard Mitigation:** While the project recognized risks related to marginalized groups, gender equality, and indigenous rights, concrete mitigation strategies were not fully developed at the design stage. The focus was primarily on technical aspects, with less emphasis on implementing robust social safeguard measures to address the risks identified.

Conclusion: The project recognized several social and environmental risks early on but faced challenges in fully addressing them during the design and inception phases due to delays in community engagement, limited depth in the screening process, and rigidity in species and site selection. Moving forward, addressing these gaps—through thorough community consultations, increased flexibility in project components, and developing tailored mitigation measures—will be critical to ensuring that the project achieves inclusive, equitable, and sustainable outcomes.

The ongoing baseline data collection and social consultations are vital for adapting the project's approach to the needs and challenges of the affected communities. This baseline work will serve as a foundation for tracking progress and adjusting strategies as the project advances.

3.4. Orientation towards Impact

According to stakeholders, the project has made significant progress by mid-term, exceeding several key targets. Several stakeholders also highlighted that key indicator, such as landscapes under improved management, have achieved 51% of the mid-term target.

They praised the project's focus on gender-responsive monitoring, capacity building, and community engagement, which have been key to its success. While challenges remain, particularly in certain local government regions, stakeholders believe that the project is well-positioned to build on its strong foundation and continue making progress in the next phase. Interviewees emphasized that the upcoming period should focus on addressing gaps in coordination and financing for the provincial and community level implementation teams, building local capacity, finalizing policy frameworks, and expanding ABS agreements across more regions. Additionally, the continued development of the Knowledge Hub was seen as critical to enhancing learning and ensuring the scaling of ABS agreements to other parts of the country.

Stakeholders noted that Banaba and Pili were chosen for ABS product development, with one product identified for each species. However, many interviewees pointed out that the current focus has been primarily on negotiating ABS agreements, rather than developing a comprehensive value chain for multiple species. Testing the ABS community models is still in the early stages, which limits the project's ability to showcase best practices yet. Nevertheless, stakeholders identified opportunities to collect data from ABS practices that are engaged with more common species, which could demonstrate both the economic and conservation benefits of ABS for learning purposes. Concerns were raised, particularly in region 5, that focusing solely on two species may limit the project's broader impact. Stakeholders believe that this could affect the ability to demonstrate biodiversity benefits and engage local communities in developing value chains and small businesses.

While the project is initially focused on two species, stakeholders pointed out that the models under development in the pilot sites should be more structured and be monitored - documented for scaling. It can also include research and or projects involving more species, and through follow-up programs or future projects. Expanding the scope of ABS demonstration projects was viewed as a key step toward enhancing the project's impact. Stakeholders also emphasized that knowledge-sharing efforts during implementing might not only be limited to genetic resources, but should also include common species and shared through a knowledge sharing approach. This would begin to showcase both tangible and intangible benefits to other provinces and communities, further strengthening the knowledge-sharing hub and demonstrating the full potential of ABS to meet both economic and conservation goals.

Expanding the learning on the ABS models under development in pilot sites was seen by stakeholders as a way to improve biodiversity outcomes and increase the project's scope and relevance to local communities, whose livelihoods depend on a variety of natural resources. Stakeholders suggested that successful practices and lessons learned from the ABS pilot species and regions should be documented and shared, providing valuable insights for scaling the model to other species and ecosystems.

Interviewees also recommended exploring new regions, such as Palawan, to develop marine ABS products and tap into untapped genetic resources. This would diversify the project's impact and broaden its scope. Furthermore, stakeholders suggested offering small grants to support value chain development at project sites, which would help local and indigenous communities establish micro and small businesses that can support genetic resource value chains.

3.5. Sustainability

3.5.1. Financial risks to sustainability

The project faces significant financial risks that threaten its long-term sustainability. Securing diverse funding sources is critical as the project has yet to successfully unlock and convert substantial co-financing commitments to actual contributions, and current challenges in procurement and financial management have impeded progress. To date, only 25.21% of the total budget has been disbursed, indicating a pressing need for more efficient financial practices. Developing a comprehensive financial strategy that incorporates multiple funding mechanisms is essential for maintaining momentum and achieving the project's objectives. Without proactive measures to address these financial constraints, the sustainability of the project may be at risk.

3.5.2. Socio-economic risks to sustainability

The project holds considerable potential for enhancing local livelihoods through Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) practices. However, socio-economic risks must be addressed to realize this potential fully (see further the report on the summarized assessment of the screening done at the project design stage and the UNDP ESMF report). . The project's ability to demonstrate the economic benefits of sustainable resource management is vital for fostering community buy-in and support. Initiatives focused on capacity building and livelihood support are necessary to empower local communities, enabling them to engage effectively in ABS negotiations. Additionally, ensuring equitable sharing of benefits derived from natural resources is crucial for sustaining community engagement and support. If these socio-economic considerations are overlooked, the project may struggle to achieve its long-term goals.

3.5.3. Institutional framework and governance risks to sustainability

The effectiveness of the institutional framework and governance structures plays a critical role in the project's sustainability. Currently, delays in finalizing bioprospecting guidelines and unresolved intellectual property (IP) issues pose governance risks that may hinder the project's ability to achieve desired outcomes. The integration of Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) policies with national frameworks is essential for ensuring a supportive governance environment. However, without timely establishment of legal frameworks and clear policies, the project may struggle to establish the necessary institutional arrangements. Strengthening the governance framework and enhancing stakeholder collaboration will be essential for mitigating these risks.

3.5.4. Environmental risks to sustainability

Environmental risks also pose significant challenges to the project's sustainability. While the integration of ABS policies offers potential benefits for biodiversity management, the project must navigate several environmental challenges based on the MTR and the summarized assessment of the risk screening done at the project design stage and the UNDP ESMF report. In addition, delays in finalizing legal frameworks may limit the project's ability to implement effective bioprospecting strategies, ultimately affecting its capacity to deliver tangible environmental benefits. The project's focus on developing Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) is a positive step, but it requires timely execution to ensure that these plans can effectively safeguard biodiversity and deliver ongoing benefits to stakeholders. Addressing environmental risks will be crucial to ensuring the project can fulfill its conservation objectives.

To enhance the project's sustainability framework, it is recommended that the following actions be prioritized:

- Accelerate efforts to finalize the Access and Benefit-Sharing frameworks, including bioprospecting guidelines and clear intellectual property ownership policies.
- Highlight the economic and livelihood benefits derived from project activities by developing materials tailored for political audiences.
- Engage political stakeholders actively in project activities and provide regular updates during steering committee meetings to reinforce their support.

- Implement comprehensive financial strategies that diversify funding sources and improve resource management practices to ensure long-term financial sustainability.
- Foster capacity-building initiatives that enhance local skills and knowledge related to Access and Benefit-Sharing practices, enabling communities to effectively negotiate and benefit from their natural resources.
- By addressing these recommendations, the project can strengthen its sustainability framework and ensure lasting impacts on biodiversity conservation and economic development.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1. Conclusions

In conclusion, the project demonstrates significant potential for sustainability, but key risks and corrections must be addressed to achieve its long-term objectives. Financial, socio-economic, institutional, and environmental risks are interconnected and require a comprehensive approach to mitigation.

Relevance:

The project demonstrates strong alignment with national priorities and international frameworks, particularly in biodiversity management and sustainable resource utilization. By integrating Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) policies with existing national structures, the project supports government initiatives and global commitments. This relevance is further reinforced through active engagement with indigenous communities and local stakeholders, ensuring that the project's goals align with their needs and aspirations.

To ensure relevance at the site level, the project should revisit plans for community-based livelihood pilots linked to the ABS agreement. A project monitoring framework should be developed to track the expected outcomes. This could involve showcasing the benefits of the ABS agreement to the communities involved in the negotiations. For agreements that are primarily based on research, the project should focus on generating livelihood opportunities linked to the benefits, such as training on small businesses or eco-tourism, to facilitate income generation and positive environmental practices.

Effectiveness: The effectiveness of the project is evident in its achievement of key milestones, such as the completion of useful guidelines with stakeholder buy-in, beneficiary engagement at the normative and pilot levels, landscape management improvements, and the establishment of social safeguards related to agreements and benefit-sharing. However, challenges remain, particularly in finalizing bioprospecting guidelines and addressing intellectual property issues, which could hinder the project's full potential.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation are essential to track progress and adjust strategies as needed. Additional resources are required to support the provincial departments involved in coordination down to the municipal level, especially when benefit-sharing agreements are impacting practices. This work is not only about setting up regulatory agreements between the private sector and government but also about providing sustainable benefits to communities that promote conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Efficiency: While the project has made commendable progress, there are inefficiencies related to government and UNDP procurement processes and financial management that need to be addressed. Only about 45% of the total budget has been disbursed, indicating that optimizing resource allocation and streamlining procurement activities are critical for enhancing overall project efficiency. Implementing a comprehensive financial strategy will be vital in maximizing resource utilization and ensuring timely project execution.

Orientation Towards Impact: The project is oriented toward achieving tangible impacts, particularly in enhancing a national framework for implementing ABS agreement, good showcase community livelihoods and promoting sustainable practices. By demonstrating the economic benefits of biodiversity management and fostering local ownership, the project aims to empower communities to actively participate in ABS negotiations. This orientation towards impact underscores the importance of capacity-building initiatives and effective communication of project benefits.

Sustainability: Sustainability remains a key focus, with the project striving to establish lasting mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and resource management. Engaging political stakeholders and securing diverse

funding sources are essential components of this sustainability strategy. Addressing financial, social, and governance risks will be critical in ensuring that the project's benefits endure beyond its implementation phase. In summary, the project exhibits strong relevance and effectiveness in addressing biodiversity and community engagement. However, it faces challenges related to efficiency and sustainability that must be tackled to achieve its long-term goals. By focusing on enhancing operational efficiency, addressing existing barriers, and ensuring ongoing stakeholder engagement, the project can solidify its impact and promote lasting benefits for both biodiversity and local communities.

4.2. Recommendations

The following recommendations are put forward which are Corrective Actions for the Design, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation of the project.

4.2.1. Stakeholder Reengagement Strategy and Capacity Need Assessment

Engagement with Key Agencies: Develop a stakeholder re-engagement strategy that includes comprehensive capacity assessments with relevant organizations such as the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), and the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR). This will ensure that all stakeholders are aligned and adequately prepared for project implementation.

4.2.2. Project Extension and Technical Assistance

Project Extension: Given that the project is just beginning and has faced delays due to COVID-19, it is crucial to grant a project extension to allow for the completion of baselines and to achieve the set objectives, thereby, ensuring the much-needed sustainability trajectory, provided that the associated Sustainability Plan is laid out very satisfactorily with extensive stakeholder engagement.

Continuous Engagement: Implement ongoing technical assistance to ensure that project objectives remain aligned with evolving local and global biodiversity priorities. This should include real-time support for troubleshooting and adapting methodologies, as well as integrating knowledge products and consultancy into the guidelines and legal frameworks.

Scalability Focus: Design project components that can be scaled up or replicated in other regions. Ensure that lessons learned are documented and shared across stakeholders to maximize impact.

4.2.3. More Relevant Technical and Capacity Building Support

Training Programs: Develop and implement comprehensive training programs for all key stakeholders, including government agencies and local communities, focusing on sustainable practices. Topics should include biotrade, intellectual property, bioprospecting rights for Indigenous Peoples, and the legal frameworks surrounding Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS). The training should also address the research and inventory of Traditional Knowledge (TK), including the indigenous knowledge, systems and practices (IKSP).

Tailored Training Initiatives: Ensure that training programs are structured and tailored to meet the specific needs of key stakeholders, providing special capacity-building resources tailored to the identified needs of the NCIP. This may include workshops, study visits, online courses, and hands-on training sessions.

Knowledge Transfer: Establish a robust ABS knowledge-sharing platform, separate from the BMB website, to facilitate the neutral exchange of learning, best practices, and success stories, fostering a community of practice among stakeholders engaged in ABS.

Pilot Projects for Demonstration and Coordination: Expand local-level pilot projects to include marine and aquatic resources, showcasing efforts by the Climate and Biodiversity Protection Agency and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD). Design regional-level monitoring and evaluation support, including a simplified project document, to facilitate resource mobilization for sustaining activities. Develop pilot projects that demonstrate successful ABS practices and their economic benefits, serving as case studies for broader implementation. Ensure these mini projects are well-coordinated and monitored to maximize learning among local, regional, and national stakeholders.

4.2.4. Multi-Stakeholder Engagement, Coordination, and Knowledge Sharing

Multi-Stakeholder Knowledge Sharing Platform: Create a standalone multi-stakeholder knowledge-sharing platform, website, and coordination body that includes government agencies, local communities, NGOs, and private sector partners. This will ensure coherent implementation of ABS policies and practices and document this as a critical case study for institutionalization and coordination efforts.

4.2.5. Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, Including for Growing NCIP Capacities

Establish a Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Position: Create a dedicated position at the Project Management Unit (PMU) to strengthen the stakeholder engagement strategy and support partners in mobilizing resources for their work.

Targeted Funding Strategies: Develop innovative resource mobilization strategies to secure funding from diverse sources, including government grants, international aid, private investments, and philanthropic contributions.

Engagement with Financial Institutions: Foster partnerships with financial institutions to promote innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds and impact investments, specifically tailored to support ABS initiatives.

4.2.6. Blended Financing Solutions for ABS Implementation and Scale-Up

Diversified Funding Models: Explore blended financing models that combine public and private investments to enhance financial sustainability for ABS projects, particularly focusing on the implementation of the ABS law currently in Congress. Development and facilitation of small grants to support micro-small businesses in the proliferation of value chain of genetic resources can increase the chances of sustainable economic productivity that demonstrates the ABS principles.

Investment Readiness: Enhance the investment readiness of local communities and organizations by providing training and resources on project development, financial management, and business planning, ensuring they can effectively attract and utilize funding.

Annexes

Annex 1. Indicative MTR Evaluation Matrix

Below is the evaluation matrix for the Mid Term Evaluation of the project titled "Mainstreaming Natural Resources Management and Biodiversity Conservation Objectives into Socio-economic Development Planning and Management of Biosphere Reserves in Philippines" (BR Project). This matrix outlines key evaluation questions, sub-questions, methods, sources, and indicators aligned with the OECD-DAC criteria.

Table A1.1. Indicative MTR Evaluation Matrix

Relevance

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
Does the project's objective align with the priorities of the local government and local communities?	• Level of coherence between project objectives and local priorities	• Local government plans, Local development strategies	• Field visit interviews, Desk review
	• Degree of stakeholder satisfaction with project relevance	• Community feedback, Project surveys	• Interviews, Surveys
Does the project's objective fit within national environment and development priorities?	• Degree of alignment with national policy documents (e.g., National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan)	• National policy documents, Government officials	• Desk review, National level interviews
	• Level of endorsement from national ministries	• Ministries of Environment and Development	• Interviews with key officials
Did the project concept originate from local or national stakeholders?	• Extent of stakeholder involvement in project design	• Project documents, Meeting minutes	• Desk review, Stakeholder interviews
	• Number of consultations with stakeholders during project development	• Stakeholder reports, Community organization inputs	• Interviews, Desk review
Does the project objective fit GEF strategic priorities?	• Alignment of project objectives with GEF strategic priorities	• GEF strategic documents	• Desk review
	• Relevance of project indicators to GEF focal areas	• GEF project guidelines	• Desk review
Was the project linked with and in-line with UNDP priorities and strategies for the country?	• Coherence with UNDAF and CPD priorities	• UNDP strategic documents	• Desk review
	• Engagement of UNDP country office in project planning	• UNDP country office reports	• Interviews with UNDP staff
Does the project's objective support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity?	• Degree of alignment with CBD goals and targets	• CBD documents, National Biodiversity Strategy	• Desk review
	• Contribution to other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	• MEA documents, National reports	• Desk review

Efficiency

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
Is the project cost-effective?	• Financial delivery rate compared to expectations	• Financial reports, Audit reports	• Desk review, Project staff interviews
	• Management costs as a percentage of total costs	• Project budgets, Expenditure reports	• Desk review

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
Are expenditures in line with international standards and norms?	• Comparison of project costs to similar donor-funded projects	• Financial benchmarks, Norms from donor agencies	• Desk review
	• External audit or evaluation reports comparing costs to norms	• Audit reports	• Desk review
Is the project implementation approach efficient for delivering the planned project results?	• Quality of coordination mechanisms, implementation structure	• Project reports, Coordination meeting minutes	• Interviews, Desk review
	• Human resource adequacy and stakeholder engagement	• HR reports, Stakeholder feedback	• Interviews, Surveys
Is the project implementation delayed? If so, has that affected cost-effectiveness?	• Timeliness of project milestones	• Project timelines, Progress reports	• Desk review
	• Assessment of cost overruns or savings due to delays	• Financial reports, Project staff	• Interviews, Desk review
What is the contribution of cash and in-kind co-financing to project implementation?	• Amount of cash and in-kind co-financing compared to planned contributions	• Co-financing agreements, Project financial records	• Desk review
	• Stakeholder views on the adequacy of co-financing	• Stakeholder feedback	• Interviews, Surveys
To what extent is the project leveraging additional resources?	• Total amount of additional resources mobilized	• Project financial reports, Partner organization reports	• Desk review, Interviews

Effectiveness

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
Are the project objectives likely to be met? To what extent are they likely to be met?	• Progress toward achieving project targets	• Project monitoring reports, Project staff	• Desk review, Field visit interviews
	• Stakeholder perceptions of the likelihood of achieving objectives	• Stakeholder feedback	• Interviews, Surveys
What are the key factors contributing to project success or underachievement?	• Identification of critical success factors	• Project documents, Lessons learned reports	• Interviews, Desk review
	• Assessment of barriers and challenges	• Risk management plans, Stakeholder feedback	• Interviews, Surveys
What are the key risks and barriers that remain to achieve the project objective and generate Global Environmental Benefits?	• Documentation of remaining risks	• Project risk management reports, Stakeholder inputs	• Interviews, Desk review
	• Effectiveness of risk mitigation measures	• Project staff reports, Monitoring and evaluation reports	• Desk review, Interviews
Are the key assumptions and impact drivers relevant to the achievement of Global Environmental Benefits likely to be met?	• Assessment of the validity of key assumptions and drivers	• Project design documents, Evaluation reports	• Desk review, Interviews

Sustainability

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
To what extent are project results likely to be dependent on continued financial support?	• Analysis of financial sustainability post-GEF assistance	• Financial sustainability plans, Project staff	• Desk review, Interviews
	• Likelihood of securing follow-up funding	• Stakeholder interviews, Donor feedback	• Interviews, Desk review
Do relevant stakeholders have or are likely to achieve an	• Stakeholder ownership and commitment levels	• Stakeholder feedback, Community engagement reports	• Field visit interviews, Desk review

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
adequate level of "ownership" of results?	• Presence of exit strategies and stakeholder buy-in	• Project exit strategies, Stakeholder plans	• Desk review, Interviews
Do relevant stakeholders have the necessary technical capacity to ensure that project benefits are maintained?	• Capacity-building measures and outcomes	• Capacity assessment reports, Training materials	• Desk review, Field visit interviews
To what extent are the project results dependent on socio-political factors?	• Analysis of socio-political risks and mitigation measures	• Risk management plans, Socio-political analyses	• Desk review, Interviews
To what extent are the project results dependent on issues relating to institutional frameworks and governance?	• Evaluation of institutional and governance-related risks	• Governance assessment reports, Institutional analysis	• Desk review, Interviews

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
How did the project contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment?	• Achievement of gender-specific indicators in the results framework	• Gender action plan, Project monitoring reports	• Desk review, Interviews, Field visits
	• Stakeholder feedback on gender equality and women's empowerment outcomes	• Stakeholder surveys, Community feedback	• Surveys, Interviews
In what ways did the project's gender results advance or contribute to the project's biodiversity outcomes?	• Linkages between gender actions and biodiversity outcomes	• Project reports, Gender action plans	• Desk review, Interviews

Additionality

Evaluation Questions	Indicators	Sources	Data Collection Method
To what extent does the project provide added value compared to other initiatives or interventions in the region?	• Comparative analysis of project contributions against similar initiatives	• Comparative reports, Stakeholder feedback	• Desk review, Interviews, Field visits
Has the project leveraged resources or partnerships that would not have been mobilized otherwise?	• Amount of resources or partnerships mobilized	• Project documents, Partnership agreements	• Desk review, Interviews
Did the project address gaps or needs that were not being met by other projects or stakeholders?	• Identification of specific gaps or needs addressed	• Needs assessment reports, Stakeholder inputs	• Desk review, Interviews

Annex 2. MTR Tools, Surveys, and Example Questionnaire or Interview Guide used for Data Collection

TOOL 1 – QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Instructions:

Please answer the questions under each main heading, using the sub-questions as guides. Provide specific examples and evidence (e.g., statistics, dates, actual events, policies) to illustrate your answers.

Deadline:

Please submit your responses to shodge1@gmail.com by [insert due date].

1. PROJECT DESIGN, LOGIC, AND STRATEGIES

Formulation and Priorities

- How did the project align with national, regional, and international priorities?
- Which specific directives, policies, or laws did the project support? Have there been any changes in these priorities since the project began?
- How relevant was the project to key international and national policies (e.g., SDGs, climate change, DRR, biodiversity)?

Design Process

- Were you involved in the project design? If so, describe the process. Was there a participatory inception meeting?
- How has the policy context evolved since the project's inception?
- What were the main national drivers for developing this project?
- How might the design have been made more relevant given the political context?

Strategy and Logic

- Do you think this project's rationale and logical framework is effective?
- Does the project have a clear theory of change? How well was it aligned with national and sub-regional issues?
- Were the expected results clear to all stakeholders? How well did the outputs link to the expected outcomes?
- Were there any lessons learned regarding the project's design and logic?

2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

Capacity Building

- Describe the approach to capacity building.
- How is adaptive management being used in this project?
- What role does the Project Steering Committee (PSC) play in guiding this project? Are there any obvious members missing? How would you improve it? Does it meet often enough, too much or just right? Why?
- Provide details about training, knowledge sharing, and policy advocacy efforts.

Management and Oversight

- Describe the project's management and oversight arrangements.
- How was staffing and procurement handled?
- What was UNDP's role in oversight and implementation?
- How often did UNDP representatives visit or interact with the project?
- Did the project have a partnership strategy? How effective was it?

Work Planning and Procurement

- Describe the work planning and budgeting process.
- How did the government procurement process work in this project?

Finance and Co-financing

- How were project finances monitored?
- Did you track co-financing? Provide details of expenditure per year.

Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

- Describe the project's monitoring and evaluation system.
- What were the main lessons learned from the monitoring and evaluation processes?

Gender Mainstreaming

- Did the project have a gender results and monitoring plan?
- What were the gender-related outcomes of the project?

Other Influencing Factors

- Were there any unintended consequences or unexpected results?
- What were the key factors influencing project implementation?
- How did management use adaptive strategies?

3. PROJECT RESULTS

Achievement of Goals and Outcomes

- Did the project achieve its expected outcomes? Why or why not?
- What were the most difficult and easiest national and regional outcomes to achieve, and why?
- What were the project's greatest results at the sub-regional and national levels?
- How did inter-sectoral collaboration contribute to project activities?

Sustainability

- What is the likelihood of this project's sustainability? Consider economic, political, environmental, and social factors.

Impact Level Results

- What were the main achievements and impact-level results of the project?
-

4. LESSONS LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS

Lessons Learned

- Reflect on the key lessons learned in the following areas:
 - Design
 - Management and Implementation
 - Finance
 - Results

Next Steps

- What are your recommendations for future projects? What should be the next steps?
-

Thank you for your time and insights!

Please ensure that your responses are comprehensive and include evidence where possible.

Tool 2 - National Focal Point Interview Questionnaire

Country:

Date/Time:

Name of Respondent:

Interviewer:

Section 1: Project Benefits and Results

1. **Alignment with National Priorities:**
 - Was the project design aligned with your country's national sector development priorities and plans?
 2. **Involvement in Project Design:**
 - Were you consulted during the project design phase? If so, how?
 3. **Observed Benefits:**
 - What benefits have you observed from the project activities implemented in your country so far?
 4. **Capacity Building:**
 - How has the project contributed to building the capacity of your country to sustain the project activities after its conclusion?
-

Section 2: Project Achievability

5. **Success in Delivering Results:**
 - How successful do you think the project has been in delivering results to date?
 6. **Unforeseen Delays:**
 - Were there any unexpected delays during the project startup? If so, what were they?
 7. **Achievability of Project Results:**
 - Do you believe the project results are achievable within the remaining timeframe?
 8. **Suggestions for Improvement:**
 - Can you suggest any improvements that could make project delivery more effective?
 9. **Barriers to Success:**
 - What barriers have you identified that could hinder the achievement of the project's outcomes and objectives?
 10. **Contribution of Local Partners:**
 - To what extent has the involvement of local partners contributed to the success of site-specific projects?
-

Section 3: Project Management Arrangements

11. **Communication with PIU:**
 - Has communication between the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and your country been clear, effective, and timely?

12. **Feedback to PIU:**
 - Do you provide feedback to the PIU when you receive communications from them? How is this managed?
13. **Awareness of PIU Contacts:**
 - Are you aware of the key PIU contacts for project management communications?
14. **Annual Project Implementation Reviews:**
 - Does the PIU share the annual Project Implementation Reviews with you, and do you have an opportunity to provide feedback?
15. **Suggestions for Improved Communication:**
 - How well do you think the PIU has communicated the project to your country and local partners? Can you suggest any ways to improve this communication?

Section 4: Sustainability

16. **Post-Project Expectations:**
 - What does your country expect to happen at the end of the current project to sustain its results?
17. **Importance of Continuation:**
 - How important is it to your country that the program continues after its scheduled end date?
18. **Role of PIU in Sustainability:**
 - How relevant is the PIU to the continuation of project results after the project ends?
19. **National Efforts for Sustainability:**
 - What actions can your country take to ensure that project results continue after the project concludes?
20. **Ensuring PIU Continuation:**
 - What could your country do to ensure the continuation of the PIU after the project's end date?

Tool 3 - Non-Governmental or CSO Partner Interview Questionnaire

Non-Country Partner:

Date/Time:

Name of Respondent:

Interviewer:

Section 1: Project Benefits and Results

1. **Familiarity with the Project:**
 - How familiar are you with the project?
2. **Involvement in Project Design:**
 - Were you consulted during the design phase of the project?
3. **Observed Benefits:**
 - What benefits have you observed from the project activities implemented so far?

Section 2: Project Achievability

4. **Success in Delivering Results:**
 - How successful do you think the project has been in delivering results to date?
5. **Unforeseen Delays:**
 - Were there any unexpected delays during the project startup? If so, what were they?
6. **Suggestions for Improvement:**
 - Can you suggest any improvements that could make project delivery more effective?

Section 3: Project Management Arrangements

7. **Communication with PIU:**
 - Has communication between your organization and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) been clear, effective, and timely?
8. **Feedback to PIU:**
 - Do you provide feedback to the PIU when you receive communications from them? How is this managed?
9. **Suggestions for Improved Communication:**
 - How well do you think the PIU has communicated the project to countries and local partners? Can you suggest any ways to improve this communication?

Section 4: Sustainability

10. **Post-Project Expectations:**
 - What does your organization expect to happen at the end of the project to sustain its results?
11. **Role of PIU in Sustainability:**
 - How relevant is the PIU to the continuation of project results after the project ends?
12. **Future Relationship with PIU:**

- How do you see your organization's relationship with the PIU continuing after the project concludes?

Tool 4 – Local Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire

Country/Project Site:

Date/Time:

Name of Respondent:

Interviewer:

Section 1: Local Benefits and Results

- 1. Knowledge of the Project:**
 - How would you rate your knowledge about the project? (High/Medium/Low)
- 2. Importance of the Project:**
 - How important do you think this project is, and why? (Very/Moderately/Less)
- 3. Involvement in Project Design:**
 - Were you consulted during the design of the project?
- 4. Observed Benefits:**
 - What benefits have you seen from the project activities implemented so far?
- 5. Gender Participation:**
 - Is equal representation and participation of women and men in project activities encouraged? Please elaborate.

Section 2: Progress Towards Results

- 6. Success in Delivering Results:**
 - How successful has the project been at delivering results in your area? (Excellent/Good/Poor)
- 7. Delays and Problems:**
 - Were there any delays during the project startup? Have you experienced any other problems?
- 8. Achievability of Results:**
 - How achievable do you think the project results are in your area within the remaining project time? (High/Medium/Low)
- 9. Suggestions for Improvement:**
 - What improvements could be made to make project delivery more effective?

Section 3: Project Management Arrangements

- 10. Rating of Project Management:**
 - How do you rate the PIU's project management, communication, efficiency, and general administration? (Excellent/Adequate/Poor) Please elaborate.
- 11. Information on Project Progress:**
 - Have you been kept informed about the progress of the project? (Yes/No)
- 12. Communication with Local Partners:**
 - How well do you think the PIU has communicated the project to local partners?
- 13. Suggestions for Communication Improvement:**
 - Can you suggest any ways to improve communication?

Section 4: Sustainability

- 14. Capacity Development:**
 - How has the project helped to develop the capacity to continue project activities after the project ends?
- 15. Importance of Program Continuation:**
 - How important is it to you that the program continues after September 2019? (For higher-level interviewees)
- 16. Plans to Continue Activities:**
 - Do you plan to continue with the activities after the program finishes in September 2019? (Yes/No)
- 17. Role of PIU in Sustainability:**
 - How important is the PIU to the continuation of project results after September 2019?
- 18. Assessment of Project Success:**
 - How successful has the project been at delivering results in your area? (Excellent/Good/Poor)

Section 5: General Feedback

- 19. Major Strengths:**
 - Please list 1 or 2 major strengths of the project.
- 20. Major Weaknesses:**
 - Please list any major weaknesses.
- 21. Lessons Learned:**
 - What are the key lessons learned so far?

22. **Message for the Midterm MTR):**

- What message would you like conveyed in MTR report?

Tool 5 - Government Stakeholder Questionnaire

Part 1: Relevance

1. **Alignment with Local Priorities**

- How well do you think the project objectives align with the local government's priorities?
 - Very Well
 - Somewhat Well
 - Neutral
 - Not Well
 - Not at All
- **Comments:** *(Please provide specific examples or suggestions for improvement.)*

2. **Stakeholder Involvement**

- Were you or your department involved in the initial planning and design of the project?
 - Yes
 - No
- If yes, how would you rate the level of involvement?
 - Excellent
 - Good
 - Fair
 - Poor
 - Very Poor
- **Comments:** *(Any suggestions for improving stakeholder involvement in future projects?)*

3. **Alignment with National Priorities**

- How well do you believe the project objectives align with national environmental and development goals?
 - Very Well
 - Somewhat Well
 - Neutral
 - Not Well
 - Not at All
- **Comments:** *(Please provide any examples of alignment or misalignment with national priorities.)*

4. **Support for National Policy**

- Do you feel the project supports the implementation of key national policies (e.g., biodiversity, climate change)?
 - Strongly Supportive
 - Moderately Supportive
 - Neutral
 - Weakly Supportive
 - Not Supportive
- **Comments:** *(How could the project better support national policy objectives?)*

Part 2: Effectiveness

1. **Progress Toward Objectives**

- In your opinion, how well is the project progressing toward its main objectives?
 - Very Well
 - Somewhat Well
 - Neutral
 - Not Well
 - Not at All
- **Comments:** *(Please share any success stories or areas where progress could be improved.)*

2. **Key Success Factors**

- What do you think are the key factors contributing to the success of the project so far?
 - Strong Leadership
 - Adequate Resources
 - Good Coordination
 - Community Support
 - Other: _____

- **Comments:** *(Please elaborate on any factors you selected.)*
- 3. **Challenges and Barriers**
 - What challenges or barriers have affected the project's effectiveness? (Select all that apply)
 - Insufficient Funding
 - Lack of Coordination
 - Political Challenges
 - Technical Issues
 - Community Resistance
 - Other: _____
 - **Comments:** *(How do you think these challenges could be addressed?)*
- 4. **Risk Management**
 - How effective has the project been in managing risks and unexpected challenges?
 - Very Effective
 - Somewhat Effective
 - Neutral
 - Not Effective
 - Not at All Effective
 - **Comments:** *(Please share any examples of effective risk management or areas needing improvement.)*
- 5. **Project Sustainability**
 - Do you believe that the results achieved so far are likely to be sustainable after the project ends?
 - Highly Likely
 - Likely
 - Neutral
 - Unlikely
 - Highly Unlikely
 - **Comments:** *(What measures could improve the sustainability of project outcomes?)*

Part 3: General Feedback

1. **What aspects of the project do you think are working particularly well?**
2. **What improvements would you recommend to enhance the effectiveness of the project?**
3. **Any additional comments or suggestions?**

Thank you for your time and valuable input!

Annex 3. MTR Rating Scales and its Elaboration

The evaluators will rate project performance on **outcomes, sustainability, implementation, execution, M&E design, and M&E implementation**. The rated dimensions are described here along with a description of the level of performance for a specific rating. In most instances, actual performance may not fully correspond to any of the rating descriptions.

Project Outcomes

The **project outcome rating** will be based on the extent to which the expected outcomes were achieved (**effectiveness**), and the extent to which the project was **relevant, coherent, and efficient**. Although the evaluators will consider performance on these four criteria, the overall rating need not be a simple average of the criteria because a criterion may be more or less important depending on the type of project and its operational context. **A six-point rating scale is used to assess outcome**. The top three ratings comprise the satisfactory range and the bottom three (excluding unable to assess) the unsatisfactory range.

- **Highly satisfactory.** The outcomes exceed targets and are highly relevant, coherent, and cost-effective.
- **Satisfactory.** The level of outcomes achieved meets targets. The outcomes are relevant, coherent, and cost-effective.
- **Moderately satisfactory.** The level of outcomes achieved was generally close to the targets. The majority of the targets were met or almost met, but some were not. The outcomes are generally relevant, coherent, and cost-effective.
- **Moderately unsatisfactory.** Overall, the level of outcomes achieved is lower than the targets, although some outcomes were substantially achieved. The outcomes are generally relevant but not sufficient given the costs or, alternatively, are generally cost-effective but not adequately relevant and coherent.
- **Unsatisfactory.** The expected outcomes were not achieved, or achievement was substantially lower than expected, and/or the achieved outcomes are not relevant or coherent. Alternatively, the outcome was cost-ineffective compared to alternatives.
- **Highly unsatisfactory.** A negligible level of outcomes was achieved and/or the project had substantial negative consequences that outweigh its benefits.
- **Unable to assess.** The available information does not allow assessment of the level of outcome achievement.

Table A3.1: Rating Status MTR Assessment Criteria

Ratings for Progress Towards Results

Rating	Description
6 - Highly Satisfactory (HS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve or exceed all its end-of-project targets, without major shortcomings. Progress can be presented as “good practice”.
5 - Satisfactory (S)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets, with only minor shortcomings.
4 - Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve most of its end-of-project targets but with significant shortcomings.
3 - Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	The objective/outcome is expected to achieve its end-of-project targets with major shortcomings.
2 - Unsatisfactory (U)	The objective/outcome is expected not to achieve most of its end-of-project targets.
1 - Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	The objective/outcome has failed to achieve its midterm targets and is not expected to achieve any of its end-of-project targets.

Ratings for Project Implementation & Adaptive Management

Rating	Description
6 - Highly Satisfactory (HS)	Implementation of all seven components – management arrangements, work planning, finance and co-finance, project-level monitoring and evaluation systems, stakeholder engagement, reporting, and communications – is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management. The project can be presented as “good practice”.
5 - Satisfactory (S)	Implementation of most of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with only a few components requiring remedial action.
4 - Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	Implementation of some of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, but some components require remedial action.
3 - Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	Implementation of some of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management, with most components requiring remedial action.
2 - Unsatisfactory (U)	Implementation of most of the seven components is not leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.

1 - Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	Implementation of none of the seven components is leading to efficient and effective project implementation and adaptive management.
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Ratings for Sustainability

Rating	Description
4 - Likely (L)	Negligible risks to sustainability, with key outcomes on track to be achieved by the project's closure and expected to continue into the foreseeable future.
3 - Moderately Likely (ML)	Moderate risks, but expectations that at least some outcomes will be sustained due to the progress towards results on outcomes at the Midterm Review.
2 - Moderately Unlikely (MU)	Significant risk that key outcomes will not carry on after project closure, although some outputs and activities should carry on.
1 - Unlikely (U)	Severe risks that project outcomes as well as key outputs will not be sustained.

Evaluation Ratings:			
1. Monitoring and Evaluation	Rating	2. IA& EA Execution	Rating
M&E design at entry		Quality of ADB Implementation	
M&E Plan Implementation		Quality of Execution - Executing Agency	
Overall quality of M&E		Overall quality of Implementation / Execution	
3. Assessment of Outcomes	Rating	4. Sustainability	Rating
Relevance		Financial resources:	
Effectiveness		Socio-political:	
Efficiency		Institutional framework and governance:	
Overall Project Outcome Rating		Environmental:	
		Overall likelihood of sustainability:	

<p><i>Ratings for Outcomes, Effectiveness, Efficiency, M&E, I&E Execution</i></p> <p>6: Highly Satisfactory (HS): no shortcomings 5: Satisfactory (S): minor shortcomings 4: Moderately Satisfactory (MS) 3. Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): significant shortcomings 2. Unsatisfactory (U): major problems 1. Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): severe problems</p> <p><i>Additional ratings where relevant:</i> Not Applicable (N/A) Unable to Assess (U/A)</p>	<p><i>Sustainability ratings:</i></p> <p>4. Likely (L): negligible risks to sustainability 3. Moderately Likely (ML): moderate risks 2. Moderately Unlikely (MU): significant risks 1. Unlikely (U): severe risks</p>	<p><i>Relevance ratings</i></p> <p>2. Relevant (R) 1. Not relevant (NR)</p> <p><i>Ratings:</i> 3. Significant (S) 2. Minimal (M) 1. Negligible (N)</p>
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Annex 4. MTR Mission Itinerary

Time	Activity	Pax/ Responsible Persons	Location
September 13-15, 2024	Consultants fly-in		
September 16, 2024 (Monday)			
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN	Entry Meeting for Mid-term Review and BMB/WRD interview	ABS Project Management Unit (PMU), Assistant Secretary for Biodiversity and concurrent BMB Director Marcial Amaro, Jr., BMB Officer in Charge Assistant Director (OIC AD) Armida Andres, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) Chief Anson Tagtag, WRD-Wildlife Regulation Section Chief Nermalie Lita, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service (DENR-FASPS) representatives	BMB Bulwagan Ninoy
1:00 PM - 3:45 PM	Meeting with DENR-FASPS	ABS National Project Manager (NPM) and Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (PMEO), FASPS Director & Representatives	BMB Bulwagan Ninoy/DENR-FASPS
3:45-4:30 PM	Travel to UNDP CO		
4:30-5:30 PM	Interview with UNDP CO	Floradema Eleazar, UNDP Climate Action Programme Team Leader Theresa Espino Yap, UNDP Climate Action Programme Analyst	UNDP Country Office
September 17, 2024 (Tuesday)			
7:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Travel to San Fernando		
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Meeting with DENR Region 3	ABS PMEO and Enterprise Development Specialist (EDS) Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Office of the Regional Executive Director 3 Representatives	DENR 3, Pampanga
12:00 NN - 2:00 PM	Lunch & Travel to MAO-CADT		
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Meeting with MAO-CADT	ABS PMEO and EDS/ESS, Representatives, Maporac Ayta Organization-Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (MAO-CADT)	MAO-CADT, Zambales
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Travel to Manila		
September 18, 2024 (Wednesday)			
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Meeting with DA Planning and Policy Service	Department of Agriculture (DA)-Planning and Policy Research Service Officer (PRS), ABS PMEO and CommsO	DA Central Office
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Meeting with DOST Office	ABS PMEO and Communications Officer (CommsO), DOST-PCAARRD, PCIEERD, OSecDC, PCHRD, NRCP Representatives,	Manila (Zoom)
3:00 PM- 4:00 PM	Meeting with NCIP Region 3	NCIP Regin 3 Provincial Director, ABS MEO, ESS	Manila (Zoom)
September 19, 2024 (Thursday)			
11:40 AM - 1:05 PM	Travel to Puerto Princesa		
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Travel to Hotel		
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	FGD w/ participants of Design Thinking Workshop part 2	ABS PMEO, Policy Specialist, Targeted Participants, PCSD	Puerto Princesa, Palawan
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Interview with Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD)	ABS PMU Representatives, NCIP, DA-BFAR Representatives, Private Sector representatives (Leslie Pili Products, Herbanext Laboratories, Inc.)	Puerto Princesa, Palawan
September 20, 2024 (Friday)			
6:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Flight from Palawan to Daraga via Manila		

Time	Activity	Pax/ Responsible Persons	Location
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Meeting with DENR Region 5 and LGU Albay	ABS PMEO and Stakeholder Engagement and Gender Specialist (SEGS), DENR Office of the Regional Executive Director 5 Representatives	DENR 3, Legazpi City, Albay
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Travel to Sorsogon		
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Meeting with SorSU	ABS PMEO and SEGS, SorSU Representatives,	Sorsogon City, Sorsogon
6:00 PM	Travel to Albay		
September 21, 2024 (Saturday)			
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Meeting w/ APCIA	ABS PMEO and SEGS, APCIA Representatives	Camalig City, Albay
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Travel to Daraga Airport		
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Fly back to Manila		
September 23, 2024 (Monday)			
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Meeting with DENR-BMB Division	ABS PMEO, CommsO, BMB Chief, Wildlife Resources Division Chief, representatives	DENR Central Office, Quezon City
10:3 AM – 12:00 NN	Meeting with ABS PMU	ABS Project Management Unit	
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Meeting with NCIP Central Office	ABS NPM and PS NCIP Central Office Representatives	NCIP Central Office/BMB
September 24, 2024 (Tuesday)			
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN	MTR Evaluation work	Preparation of Exit Meeting Report & Presentation by MTR team	Manila
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Meeting with UP-Manila	ABS PMEO, UP-Manila representatives	Zoom
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Meeting with NCIP LAO	ABS PMEO, NCIP Legal and Administrative Office	
September 25, 2024 (Wednesday)			
9:00 AM - 12:00 NN	MTR Evaluation work	Preparation of Exit Meeting Report & Presentation by MTR team	Manila
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Exit Meeting	ABS PMU representatives, BMB Director, BMB AD, Chief WRD, Chief WRS, WRD Representatives, DENR-FASPS, UNDP CO representatives	BMB Bulwagan Ninoy
September 26, 2024 (Thursday)	Consultants Fly-out		

Annex 5. List of persons interviewed

Institutions and Entities met during field missions

International Agency for GEF

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office

National Government Agencies

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Central Office
 - Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Services (FASPS)
 - Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
 - Wildlife Resource Division
 - ABS Project Management Unit (PMU)
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 3 - Regional Office
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 5 - Regional Office
- Department of Agriculture (DA) Central Office – Planning and Policy Research Service Office
- Department of Agriculture (DA) – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
- Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Central Office
 - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Development Cooperation
 - Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD)
 - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development
 - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, Emerging Technologies Research and Development
- National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Central Office
 - Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Staff (ANRES)

Other Government Agencies

- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Central Office
 - Office on Socio-Economic Services and Special Concerns (OSESSC)
 - Legal Affairs Office (LAO)
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Region 3 – Regional Office
- National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP)
- Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

Indigenous Peoples' Community

- Maporac Ayta Organization-Certificate of Ancestral Domain (MAO-CADT), Region 3

Local Community

- Albay Pili and Cacao Industry Association (APCIA)

Private Sector

- Herbanext Laboratories, Inc.
- Leslie Pili Products

Academic Institutions

- Sorsogon State University
 - Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension and Training
- University of the Philippines – Manila
 - Institute of Herbal Medicine

Annex 6. List of documents reviewed

#	Items (electronic versions preferred, as made available in Google drive)
0	Project Information Table
1	Project Identification Form (PIF)
2	UNDP Initiation Plan
3	Final UNDP-GEF Project Document with all annexes
4	CEO Endorsement Request
5	UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and associated management plans (if any)
6	Inception Workshop Report
7	Mid-Term Review report and management response to MTR recommendations (to be made available)
8	All Project Implementation Reports (PIRs and APRs)
9	Progress reports (quarterly, semi-annual or annual, with associated workplans and financial reports)
10	Oversight mission reports
11	Minutes of Project Board Meetings and of other meetings (i.e. Project Appraisal Committee meetings)
12	GEF Tracking Tools (from CEO Endorsement, midterm stages)
13	GEF/LDCF/SCCF Core Indicators (from PIF, CEO Endorsement, midterm stages); for GEF-6 and GEF-7 projects only
14	Financial data, including actual expenditures by project outcome, including management costs, and including documentation of any significant budget revisions
15	Co-financing data with expected and actual contributions broken down by type of co-financing, source, and whether the contribution is considered as investment mobilized or recurring expenditures
16	Audit reports
17	Electronic copies of project outputs (booklets, manuals, technical reports, articles, etc.)
18	Sample of project communications materials
19	Summary list of formal meetings, workshops, etc. held, with date, location, topic, and number of participants
20	Any relevant socio-economic monitoring data, such as average incomes / employment levels of stakeholders in the target area, change in revenue related to project activities
21	List of contracts and procurement items over ~US\$5,000 (i.e., organizations or companies contracted for project outputs, etc., except in cases of confidential information)
22	List of related projects/initiatives contributing to project objectives approved/started after GEF project approval (i.e. any leveraged or “catalytic” results)
23	Data on relevant project website activity – e.g., number of unique visitors per month, number of page views, etc. over relevant time period, if available
24	UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD)
25	List/map of project sites, highlighting suggested visits
26	List and contact details for project staff, key project stakeholders, including Project Board members, RTA, Project Team members, and other partners to be consulted
27	Project deliverables that provide documentary evidence of achievement towards project outcomes; Project Operational Guidelines, Manuals, and Systems
28	Additional documents, as required, e.g., MTR Mission Working Itinerary

Annex 7. List of Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Description	Role(s)
National Government Agencies (NGAs)	Examples: DENR (CNA, BMB, FASPS, FMB), NCIP (CNA, Central Office), PCSD, DA	These agencies are critical in the implementation and coordination of the project at the national level, providing policy direction, overseeing environmental and resource management, and ensuring alignment with national strategies.
Regional Government Agencies	Examples: DENR Regional Offices, NCIP Regional Offices, DA, DOST, DOH, DTI	These agencies are involved in the regional implementation and monitoring of the project, ensuring that national policies are effectively adapted and executed at the regional level. They also handle specific regional challenges and needs, contributing to the overall success of the project in diverse geographic contexts.
Local Government Units (LGUs)	Examples: Provincial and Municipal LGUs (e.g., Bataan, Pampanga, Albay).	LGUs are key players in local coordination and implementation. They work closely with local communities to ensure that project objectives are met at the grassroots level, dealing with practical challenges and ensuring local ownership and sustainability.
Indigenous Peoples (IPs)	Examples: Maporac Ayta Organization, Bucao Tribal Council, Porac Ayta, etc.	Indigenous Peoples are crucial stakeholders as they bring unique cultural and traditional perspectives to the project. Their involvement ensures that the project respects and integrates indigenous knowledge and practices, particularly in areas of biodiversity conservation and resource management.
Local Communities and Cooperatives	Examples: San Ramon Upland Farmers Association, Pili Processors Association, Albay Pili and Cacao Industry Association, etc.	These groups represent the local beneficiaries of the project. Their participation is vital for assessing the direct impacts of the project on livelihoods, food security, and community resilience.
Private Sector	Examples: Herbanext Laboratories, Leslie Pili Products, PhilPILI, J Emmanuel Pastries, etc.	The private sector's involvement, particularly through Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements, provides insights into how the project fosters public-private partnerships and economic opportunities linked to biodiversity and sustainable practices.
NGOs and Academic Institutions	Examples: Integrated Rural Development Foundation, UP Manila, DLSU, SorSU, CLSU, etc.	These organizations play a significant role in cross-sectoral collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. Their involvement helps ensure that the project incorporates innovative approaches and lessons learned, contributing to its long-term sustainability.

Annex 8. Progress Towards Results Matrix

Project Results Framework: Achievement of Outcomes Against End-of-Project targets

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm Target	EOP Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
<p>Project Objective: Increased economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits</p>	<p>Indicator 1: Direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people, No.) 1.1 Female (35%) 1.2 Male (65%)</p>	1.1 0 1.2 0	1.1 1,060 1.2 1,969	1.1 2,120 1.2 3,938		S	<p>Accomplishment at MTR: 155% (Female: 1,641) and 101% (Male: 1,984). Direct Project Beneficiaries under this Indicator are those that have participated and benefited from the Project's Capacity Building Activities and awareness raising on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing at the national, regional, and local levels.</p>
	<p>Indicator 2: Area of landscapes under improved management (hectares; excluding protected areas) 2.1 Hectares Region 3 (Central Luzon) 2.2 Hectares Region 5 (Bicol)</p>	2.1 0 2.2 0	2.1 15,000 has 2.2 2,500 has	2.1 35,828 has 2.2 5,834 has		S	<p>Accomplishment at MTR: 98% of target in Region 3; 266% of target in Region 5. The Project is still conducting its site-selection process to cover the remaining Ha for Region 3 and is looking to partner with the communities who are already trade partners of one of its Private Sector Partner (Businesspeople, Inc.).</p> <p>For improved practices, trainings relevant to improving management of landscapes were conducted in Regions 3 and 5 specifically on the planting, harvesting, and propagation protocols of Banaba and Pili. Biodiversity Composite Teams have been formalized in Regions 3 and 5 that will lead the development of the Biodiversity Management Plans, and will lead in the implementation of the plans once approved and incorporated in partner agencies, LGUs, and community plans. These BMPs will serve as basis for activities toward improved practices of the areas of landscapes covered.</p>
	<p>Indicator 3: Gender-responsive harmonized rules and regulations in place for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol 3.1 Bioprospecting guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations 3.2. NCIP FPIC guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations</p>	Rules and regulations for ABS exist but are uncoordinated, inconsistent, and not followed	3.1 Bioprospecting guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations updated and harmonized 3.2. NCIP FPIC guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations updated and harmonized	3.1 Bioprospecting guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations adopted 3.2. NCIP FPIC guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations adopted		S	<p>Accomplishment at MTR: 100% (3.1) and 75% (3.2). Updated and harmonized draft ABS Guidelines has been drafted, following National, Island-wide Consultations and Consultations with CNAs, incorporating SESA principles.</p> <p>Final draft ABS Guidelines will enter adoption process after a final round of comments.</p> <p>The Project has provided comments to the NCIP-led revision of the FPIC and IKSP Guidelines, specifically on the operationalization of Sec. 35 of IPRA that will facilitate issuance of FPIC for Bioprospecting.</p> <p>Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and GAD focal persons of some agencies have provided gender input into the policy.</p>
	<p>Indicator 4: ABS Agreements negotiated (No.)</p>	No ABS Agreements have been concluded and approved in compliance with	At least 1 draft agreement completed	At least 1 ABS Agreement successfully concluded		S	<p>Accomplishment at MTR: 4 ABS Agreements have been signed, as follows: Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. and MAO-CADT, Leslie Pili Products and APCIA, J. Emmanuel Pastries and SOK, J. Emmanuel Pastries and SRMI, 2 ABS Agreements drafted and for signing, J. Emmanuel Pastries and NVAC, Leslie Pili Products and PPAS, ABS</p>

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm Target	EOP Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
		Nagoya Protocol					Agreement between Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. and MAO-CADT has been implemented. MAO-CADT provided leaves for testing the corosolic acid content of Banaba within their Ancestral Domain. In return Herbanext Inc. shared the results of the study and provided training on Banaba planting, harvesting, and propagation protocols. A participatory compliance monitoring was also conducted.
Outcome 1. Strengthening the national framework for implementing ABS in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol	Indicator 5: Mechanism for national implementation of ABS improved 5.1 Inter-agency framework for monitoring and tracking the use of GR and ABS transactions developed (No.) 5.2 Mechanism to channel ABS monetary and non-monetary benefits to local communities and IPs and support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (No.)	No formal monitoring and tracking framework exist	5.1: 1 initial draft framework for monitoring and tracking GR developed 5.2: 1 draft mechanism to channel ABS monetary benefits to local communities developed and tested	5.1: 1 inter-agency framework for monitoring and tracking GR in place 5.2: 1 mechanism to channel ABS monetary benefits to local communities established and institutionalized		S	Accomplishment at MTR: 100% (5.1), 75% (5.2). The framework for the monitoring and tracking of GRs has been drafted and reflected in the draft ABS Guidelines, specifically on Sections 7.2.b, Section 9.5, Section 10, Section 11.10, and Section 14. A menu for benefit-sharing options has been drafted and included in the draft ABS Guidelines The benefit-sharing mechanism is currently being pilot-tested through the ABS Agreement signed bet. Leslie Pili Products and APCA. The ABS Agreements bet. J. Emmanuel and SOK, SRMI, and NVAC also include benefit-sharing provisions and the implementation will also be closely monitored by the Project.
	Indicator 6: Integrated knowledge management platform to capture ABS documentation including cataloging of TK (No.)	No single place to find centralized and curated information on genetic resources/ABS	1 Beta version of Integrated knowledge management platform for ABS in place for trial and fine-tuning	1 integrated knowledge management platform established and institutionalized for on-going and pipeline researches, traditional knowledge of IPLCs, and access permits		S	Accomplishment at MTR: 1 beta version of the knowledge platform The KM platform will include a permitting system for Bioprospecting and Gratuitous Permits, monitoring and tracking of said permits and ABS Agreements, and a National ABS Clearinghouse mechanism. A Design Thinking Workshop was conducted together with CNAs where the initial alpha version of the KM platform was presented for discussion and refinements. Beta version was initially presented during the Boot Camp for COP 16 and will be presented to Project stakeholders including CNAs, Private Sector, and R&D institutions during the Design Thinking Workshop part 2
Outcome 2. Enhanced understanding of the ABS regime and the value of traditional knowledge associated with genetic and biological resources for	Indicator 7: Improved capacities of relevant agencies and stakeholders for ABS implementation as measured by an increase in UNDP ABS capacity development scorecard 7.1 National government 7.2 Local government Region 5 7.3 Local government Region 3	Limited capacity of relevant agencies for ABS implementation as shown by UNDP ABS capacity development score of 7.1 46% (1.4/3) 7.2: 46% (1.4/3)	10% increase in agency capacity 7.1 56% 7.2: 56% 7.3 30%	At least 30% increase in agency capacity as measured by UNDP ABS scorecard 7.1 76% 7.2: 76% 7.3 50%			Accomplishment at MTR: +16% (National government), 0% (Local government in Region 5), +16% (Local government in Region 3). The UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard was already developed and implemented prior to Project Implementation. Agencies included in the mid-term scores are consistent with the agencies included in the baseline scores for reliability. But additional agencies were also assessed during the mid-term and will be assessed again during EOP. Capacity assessment for Region 5 stakeholders to be conducted on September 30, 2024.

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm Target	EOP Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating	
improved policy making and on the ground conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits		7.3: 20% (0.6/3)					Ongoing trainings for IPLCs and relevant stakeholders in the implementation of ABS principles and framework.	
	Indicator 8: Gender-responsive Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan (No.) 8.1 CEPA 8.2 Change in knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of target groups	8.1 None 8.2 None	8.1 One CEPA developed and tested 8.2 One KAP carried out and initial survey results	8.1 One CEPA fully deployed 8.2 One Final KAP survey results assessed			MS	Accomplishment at MTR: 0% for CEPA Plan, 100% for change in KAP of target groups. All stakeholder groups relevant to ABS implementation (CNAs, NGAs, R&D institutions, Academe, Private Sector, IP/LCs, LGUs) were included in the data gathering for the KAP Assessment. Results suggest that there is low awareness of ABS among the stakeholders. A CEPA Plan will be developed by next year that will detail strategies to increase awareness and participation in ABS among ABS stakeholders.
Outcome 3. At least one ABS Agreement negotiated and finalized that demonstrate PIC and MAT and with clear provision on fair and equitable benefit sharing	Indicator 9: Number of potential ABS products identified and tested for potential commercial application (No.) 9.1: Pili (<i>Canarium ovatum</i> and <i>Canarium luzonicum</i>) 9.2: Banaba (<i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i>)	Several products identified but not through ABS processes: 9.1 Pili (6): cooking oil, animal feeds, biofuel, industrial component (in thinner, paints, sealant, waterproofing), essential oils, cosmetic, medicinal ointment 9.2 Banaba (3): herbal teas, supplements, anti-dengue drug in clinical study	9.1 At least 1 ABS product identified Pili 9.2 At least 1 ABS product identified Banaba	9.1 At least 1 ABS product tested for potential commercial application Pili 9.2 At least 1 ABS product tested for potential commercial application Banaba		S	Accomplishment at MTR: 200% for Banaba in Region 3 and 300% for Pili in Region 5. For Banaba, an anti-viral drug and an anti-cough drug were identified as potential ABS products that are currently in advanced stages of clinical trials. The Project will be supporting Pharmalytics Corp. in the development of the anti-cough medicine. ABS Products identified for Pili are the Pili pulp oil, Pili kernel oil, and elemi oil. These are already being produced and traded in Region 5 and are the products included in the ABS Agreements signed by Region 5 private sector partners with LCs. The Project is looking to support further R&D for these products, looking into their safety, efficacy, and properties, among others.	
	Indicator 10: Biodiversity management plan for in-situ conservation and management of biological resources integrated into pilot agreement (No.) 10.1 Region 3 10.2 Region 5	10.1 No such plan in place under ABS 10.2 No such plan in place under ABS	10.1 Region 3: 1 Draft management plan for in-situ conservation developed 10.2 Region 5: 1 Draft management plan of in-situ conservation developed	10.1 Region 3: 1 Management plan for in-situ conservation integrated into pilot agreement 10.2 Region 5: 1 Management plan for in-situ conservation integrated into pilot agreement			MS	Accomplishment at MTR: 100% in Region 3 and 25% in Region 5. Biodiversity Composite Teams have been formalized in Regions 3 and 5 that will lead the development of the Biodiversity Management Plans, and will lead in the implementation of the plans once approved and incorporated in partner agencies, LGUs, and community plans. An initial draft Biodiversity Management Plan has been drafted for Region 3 using available secondary data and initial primary data gathered. Biodiversity Resource Assessment in the Project Sites will be conducted to gather primary data to enhance the draft BMP before finalization. For Region 5, a firm has been procured to lead the drafting of the Biodiversity Management Plan for Pili. The Biodiversity Management Plans will be an important part in ensuring conservation of the GRs as it is further developed and utilized
	Indicator 11: Gender-smart and ABS compliant value chain	11.1 Several potential markets identified but not	11.1: 1 Draft value chain Banaba	11.1: 1 Value chain Banaba mapped with			MS	Accomplishment at MTR: 100% for Region 3 and 75% for Region 5.

Project Strategy	Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm Target	EOP Target	Midterm Level & Assessment	Achievement Rating	Justification for Rating
	for identified genetic resources mapped (No) 11.1 Region 3 11.2: Region 5	analyzed across the entire value chain 11.2 Several potential markets identified but not analyzed across the entire value chain	mapped with strategic development road map 11.2: 1 Draft value chain Pili mapped with strategic development road map	strategic development road map 11.2: 1 Value chain Pili mapped with strategic development road map			<p>The Strategic Roadmap for Banaba is a five-year roadmap that aims to build Banaba into a globally competitive industry mainly through 5 strategic pillars identified - (1) Institutional support and enabling environment, (2) Inclusive development, (3) Research and development, (4) Business development, and (5) Preservation and conservation.</p> <p>The roadmap was developed through interviews and discussions with selected key stakeholders within the Banaba value chain.</p> <p>For Pili, there are already available Roadmaps on Pili in Bicol region. The Project is working with Sorsogon State University to harmonize the existing roadmaps and enhance the scope of the Roadmap to include the entire Bicol Region.</p> <p>Gender-smart value chain maps are integrated as part of the strategic roadmaps. Gender analysis is one of the output of the value chain of Banaba.</p>

Project Results Framework: with indicative level at 1st PIR – self reported

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
Objective: Increased economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the Philippines stemming from fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits					
Indicator 1: Direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people, No.) 1.1Female (35%) 1.2Male (65%)	1.10 1.20	1.1 1,060 1.2 1,969	1.12,120 1.23,938	<p>Target is on track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●1.1: 37% delivery ●1.2: 17% delivery <p>●As of 30 June 2023, the project was able to directly involve a total of 1,452 project beneficiaries since May 2022. Of these beneficiaries, 786 (54% of total involved project beneficiaries) individuals are female and 666 (46% of total involved project beneficiaries) individuals are male. These 1,452 project beneficiaries were involved in capacity-building activities and awareness raising on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing in various activities such as meetings, workshops, seminars, orientation, and consultations at the national, regional, and local levels.</p>	<p>1.1 100% delivery of MTR target 1.2 90% delivery of MTR target</p> <p>As of June 30, 2024, the project directly involved 3,184 project beneficiaries since May 2022. Of these beneficiaries, a total of 1,408 are women and 1,776 are men.</p> <p>Direct Project Beneficiaries under this indicator are those that have participated and benefited from the Project's capacity building activities, and awareness raising on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing in various activities such as meetings, workshops, seminars, orientation, and consultations at the national, regional, and local levels.</p>
Indicator 2: Area of landscapes under improved management (hectares; excluding protected areas) 2.1 Hectares Region 3 (Central Luzon) 2.2 Hectares Region 5 (Bicol)	2.1: 0 2.2: 0	2.1: 15,000 Hectares 2.2: 2,500 Hectares	2.1: 35,828 Hectares 2.2: 5,834 Hectares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Target is on track ●15% delivery ●Target specific Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in Regions 3 (total of 20,758 hectares) and 5 (total of 6,669 hectares) to be provided interventions by the Project were approved by the Site-Technical Working Groups (TWG) in Regions 3 and 5 and have been presented and approved by the national Technical Working Group (TWG). ●The identified project sites were subjected to a Project Board/Steering Committee-approved site selection criteria that the ABS Project Management Unit (PMU) used in evaluating 	<p>2.1: 14,682.49 hectares (98% of MTR target) 2.2: 6,669 hectares (100% of MTR target)</p> <p>A Biodiversity Composite Team has been convened in Regions 3 (Regional Special Order 2023-389) and 5 (as convened in September 2023) to facilitate the development of the Management Plans in project sites of IPLC partners for Banaba and Pili, respectively, as well as their integration with the local development plans of the concerned local government unit</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
<p>GEF Core Indicator 4 (Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity)</p>				<p>potential project sites as pre-identified during the Project Preparation Grant phase (2019-2020) in Region 3 and recommendations of key stakeholders such as Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, and Philippine Pili Industry Board in Region 5. Site selection criteria included the following: (i) Community supports and accepts the Project and is willing to issue Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for local communities and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for Indigenous Peoples (IPs); (ii) Opportunity for greater local stakeholder inclusion in the value chain; (iii) Concerned species is abundant and indigenous in the area while considering the possible effect on conservation status by identified economic utilization; (iv) Utilization of plant/tree has existing Indigenous Knowledge, Systems and Practices or Traditional Knowledge (IKSP/TKs), trade and other forms of accessibility ad use in the market; (v) Availability of research and product development pointing to its potential increase in market value; and (vi) Community has the legal capacity to enter into an agreement with researchers and private institutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Ongoing coordination with the Site-TWGs as well as Project Partner communities on the formation of the Biodiversity Composite Team for Region 3 and for Region 5, which will lead the development of the Biodiversity Management Plans for Banaba and Pili, respectively. By forming Biodiversity Composite Teams (BCT) in Region 3 for Banaba and in Region 5 for Pili, the BCT will provide technical guidance and support on the development of Biodiversity Management Plans for Banaba and Pili. The Plan will contain strategic activities that will serve as a menu of options for the local communities including local government units to implement activities directly contributing to improved practices in the areas. The National TWG-approved project sites will be the primary areas for consideration of the Biodiversity Management Plans. The formation of the BCT in the regions have been discussed during the Site TWG meetings in 2023 during the Joint TWG in February and Site TWG meetings in April for Region 3 and in May for Region 5. ●There are ongoing discussions with potential private sector partners that can support potential partner communities by entering into agreements to possibly implement any of the strategies of the biodiversity management plan in the community areas. 	<p>Site Selection. To date, Sites in Region 3 with Indigenous Peoples (Ayta Magbukun in Morong, Bataan, Maporac Ayta in Cabangan, Zambales, and Bucao Ayta in Botolan, Zambales) totals to 14,682.49 hectares. Some of the issues encountered which have contributed to the underachievement of 15,000 ha in Region 3 are as follows:</p> <p>a) Porac Ayta Community in Porac, Pampanga with 18,000 hectares, has not provided interest to partner with the project. Nevertheless, as an effort to raise awareness and capacity on ABS, the community has been continuously invited to attend activities under Component 2; and</p> <p>b) Ancestral Domain of Ayta Magbukun in Morong, Bataan overlaps with a Protected area, the Bataan National Park. Hence, from 12,301 hectares only 6,252.49 hectares can be included under this indicator,</p> <p>In order to achieve the indicator, the project also conducted its site selection process in San Marcelino, Zambales, one of the IP communities that has an existing partnership with Businesspeople Inc., a private sector partner of the project that trades Banaba leaves for export to Japan and China. Other IP communities in Zambales (San Felipe, and Botolan) that also have existing partnerships with Businesspeople, Inc., will also be explored. Meanwhile, sites in Region 5, are still the same with a total of 6,669 hectares.</p> <p>Improved management of Landscape. Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) for both Regions 3 and 5 are under development (see Indicator 10) With the Biodiversity Composite Team in Region 3 leading the development for the region, while for Region 5, the consultancy firm that will develop the plan has been selected awaiting for the awarding of contract. While BMPs are under development, the strategy of the project is to conduct parallel management activities based on the captured needs of the IPLCs during the conduct of consultations and social and environmental assessments. Said activities can either be funded by the project, partner government agencies, academic institutions, or private sector. To date, for Region 3, with the ABS Agreement of Maporac Ayta Community with Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. on the research of Banaba leaves sourced from the community's land, a seminar on nursery propagation and harvesting protocol of Banaba was conducted on 25 March 2024. As an action plan, the Ayta community were provided with a nursery propagation starter kit to which they set up in their land. Meanwhile, for Region 5, no activity has been conducted yet. Nevertheless, the project has planned various strategies to meet this indicator. Strategies towards achievement of improved management of Landscape: Finalization of sites by 3rd to 4th Quarter of 2024. Focusing on communities with established relationship with Private sector partners in the Banaba industry and/or Local Government Units with confirmed resource assessment of Banaba in their communities that are already into trading; Development of BMPs by 2025 taking into consideration the captured needs of the IPLCs; Discussions with Private sector partners that can support potential partner communities by entering into agreements to possibly implement any of the strategies of the biodiversity management plan in the community areas; and</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
					<p>Conducting priority training of IPLCs relevant to improving management of landscapes such as nursery propagation and harvesting protocols. For Region 5, in partnership with academic institutions and Department of Agriculture Region 5, training with provision of nursery propagation starter kits for establishment and trees to be planted will be conducted in July to August 2024. Meanwhile for Region 3, the training conducted and establishment of nursery propagation with Maporac Ayta in Cabangan, Zambales will also be replicated in other partner Ayta communities. Initial discussions were made with Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU) to lead in the training on nursery establishment following their successful experience in the establishment of (Banaba) nursery and planting materials in their previous project.</p>
<p>Indicator 3: Gender-responsive and culture-sensitive Bioprospecting rules and regulations updated and adopted for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and IPRA</p> <p>3.1 Bioprospecting guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations</p> <p>3.2. NCIP FPIC and IKSP guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations</p>	<p>Rules and regulations for ABS exist but are uncoordinated, inconsistent, and not followed</p>	<p>3.1 Bioprospecting guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations updated and harmonized</p> <p>3.2. NCIP FPIC guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations updated and harmonized</p>	<p>3.1 Bioprospecting guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations adopted</p> <p>3.2. NCIP FPIC guidelines and relevant supporting rules and regulations adopted</p>	<p>Target is on track</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●25% delivery ●The draft revised Bioprospecting guidelines has undergone review and enhancement through the Luzon-, Visayas-, and Mindanao-wide online and face-to-face consultations. The consultations involved mainly participants from the CNAs, and their regional counterparts, academe, other relevant government agencies (e.g. Commission on Higher Education or CHED, Department of Science and Technology or DOST, Philippine Commission on Women or PCW), and Indigenous Peoples (IPs). ●The updates and harmonization in the revised guidelines were the addition of defined terms that include digital sequence information, among others, joint evaluation protocol of agrobiodiversity resources that will look into chemical, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, and industrial uses, one-window application for access and tracking, monitoring and tracking of genetic resources, formation of an inter-agency committee to establish mechanisms for monitoring and tracking, and evaluating the implementation of the guideline, and funding of competent national authorities for monitoring and tracking mechanism, among others. ●Some of the main concerns/ comments identified and included in the revised guidelines are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider the 2023 Global Biodiversity Framework ○ Firm up definition of terms, especially for ABS specific definition of terms such as digital sequence information, traditional knowledge, benefit-sharing, etc. ○ Inclusion of monitoring and evaluation of the benefit sharing scheme ○ Firm up scope of agencies in ABS, especially for DA and DENR (this is also covered in the Joint Evaluation Protocol) ○ Inclusion of other strategies for the benefit sharing mechanism (e.g. tribal trust fund, payment for ecosystem services, etc.) ●An international expert on Nagoya Protocol and ABS has been engaged to provide more guidance to the drafting of the revised 	<p>3.1: 100% delivery of MTR target 3.2: 75% delivery of MTR target</p> <p>Bioprospecting Guidelines After the island-wide consultations of the guidelines conducted last year, the guidelines were also reviewed/ vetted by the BMB Technical Review Committee (TRC), the policy review body within BMB. Following the BMB TRC review, the draft guidelines were presented to the Competent National Authorities (CNAs) to discuss the final comments/ inputs of the CNAs to the draft guidelines. Given the depth of the discussions during the consultations, it was agreed that CNAs will be given until May 31, 2024 to provide further comments/ inputs from their respective agencies, after which the draft guidelines will be transmitted to the DENR- Policy Technical Working Group for vetting and approval. The draft revised guidelines are for updating based on latest comments from CNAs, then for endorsement to DENR PTWG. As of date, the Project is still awaiting comments from the CNAs on this.</p> <p>DA and DENR still has to understand the scope of their joint mandates over some genetic resources which is already provided in the (this is also covered in the Joint Evaluation Protocol which is now an Annex in the revised Bioprospecting Guidelines)</p> <p>Aligned with Target 13 Goal C of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, especially the identified headline indicator and coherence with other related ABS policy frameworks arising from other current and emerging international ABS instruments.</p> <p>Gender-responsiveness and culture-sensitivity. Relevant agencies such as Philippine Commission on Women and NCIP were actively engaged in the consultation process. GAD focal points of the different partner agencies were also involved in the review of the draft revised bioprospecting guidelines to align this with the agency GAD activities. The Project has conducted two (2) Social and Environmental Safeguards Assessment Workshops (National and Region 5) to look at possible issues and concerns relevant to gender and cultural sensitivities. The guidelines</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
				<p>guidelines, more specifically, on drawing from international experiences on ABS and how they can be used to improve the revised guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The draft will be subjected to a review by the BMB-Technical Review Committee in July 2023. After which, the draft revised guidelines will be transmitted to Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and Palawan Council for Sustainable Development for their respective internal reviews and adoption. ●NCIP is conducting the initial review and revisions of the FPIC, and IKSP guidelines internally; the Project is coordinating with NCIP on the Project's role in the process. ●A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be signed between DENR and NCIP specific for the scope of the Project. The NCIP Commission en banc has approved the MOA which is envisioned to facilitate and fast track Project implementation 	<p>have included gender mainstreaming and cultural sensitivity in Sections 2, 7, and 11.</p> <p>A Social and Environmental Safeguards Strategic Assessment Workshop on the draft guidelines was also conducted at the National-level with Project Technical Working Group members, and in Region 5 with Region 5 Site-level TWG members of the Project to assess the guidelines for potential social and environmental impacts, with particular focus on the gender and cultural dimensions, and brainstorm management or mitigation measures to address the identified potential impacts. The same will be conducted in Region 3 with the Region 3 Site-level TWG members. A report on the SESA will be available once the conduct of the assessment in Region 3 is done.</p> <p>FPIC and IKSP Guidelines</p> <p>NCIP is leading the updating of the FPIC and IKSP Guidelines. Regarding the process, initial review and revisions to both guidelines were conducted internally within NCIP.</p> <p>The resulting updated guidelines were shared to the Project (as well as other stakeholders) for comments and inputs.</p> <p>The Project is coordinating with NCIP on the Project's role in the process and forwarded to NCIP its suggested refinements to the draft FPIC Guidelines via one full chapter on operationalizing sec. 35 IPRA; another proposed textual amendments were also provided by the Project via BPKMD of BMB, for recalibration of ambition to the draft revised IKSP Guidelines to enable it to fully implement secs. 32 and 34 of IPRA.</p> <p>The Project will support a final consultation workshop in Q3 or Q4 2024, resulting in the finalization of the draft guidelines for the approval and signature of NCIP.</p>
<p>Indicator 4: ABS Agreements negotiated (No.)</p>	<p>No ABS Agreements have been concluded and approved in compliance with Nagoya Protocol</p>	<p>At least 1 draft agreement completed</p>	<p>At least 1 ABS Agreement successfully concluded</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Target is on track ●20% delivery ●Ongoing discussions among select IPLCs, academic and research institutions and potential private sector partners on common RnD and commercial interests to enter into ABS agreements ●Potential private sector partners and IPLCs who are targeted to enter into ABS Agreements have been approved by the Site-TWGs in Region 3 and 5 and endorsed to the national TWG. There were no concerns mentioned by the private sector representatives to enter into agreement with the local communities. ●Private Sector Due Diligence (PSDD) assessment has been completed for Herbanext, Pharmalytics, and PhilPILI. No major issues/ concerns were identified. Specifically, Herbanext is a pioneer and leader in the production of spray-dried herbal extracts and has shifted from the traditional use of powdered herbs to the use of more potent herbal extracts. Pharmalytics, on the other hand, is a contract research organization in the country and has been working on the first anti-dengue medicine. PhilPili 	<p>3 ABS Agreements successfully concluded. 100% delivery of MTR target.</p> <p>Leslie Pili Products with Albay Pili and Cacao Industry Association (APCIA) J. Emmanuel Pastries with SOK, SRMI.</p> <p>ABS Agreements drafted and for full signing Leslie Pili Products with and Pili Processors Association of Sorsogon (PPAS) J. Emmanuel and Naga View Adventist College (NVAC) Herbanext Laboratories, Inc., Maporac Ayta in Cabangan, Zambales, and NCIP 3</p> <p>ABS Agreement between Maporac Ayta in Cabangan, Zambales and Herbanext Laboratories, Inc.</p> <p>A developmental ABS Agreement between Maporac Ayta in Cabangan, Zambales (community partner), Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. (private sector), and NCIP Region 3 was ceremonially signed by the three parties last August 16, 2023 for the conduct of basic research, particularly on characterization and chemical analysis of Banaba from the community of Maporac Ayta in Cabangan, Zambales. Aside from sharing the results of the research to the community, the Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. shall also provide capacity-</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
				<p>consists of Pili community groups involved in Pili harvesting and processing of Pili-related products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Second batch of PSDD for potential private sector partners (Businesspeople Inc. for Banaba; Leslie Pili Products and J. Emmanuel Pastries for Pili) is ongoing. A third batch of PSDD may be conducted if the private sector agrees on partnership (Socio-Economic Development Program Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SEDP-MPC) and Save Our Soil Foundation/Nature Wonders (Pili Ani) for and Pili). 	<p>building and training to the community as part of its benefit sharing commitment.</p> <p>Currently, the formal signing of the ABS Agreement is still awaiting the signature of NCIP and issuance of the Certification Precondition (CP) from NCIP pending the signing of the MOA between DENR and NCIP for the implementation of the ABS Project.</p> <p>Prior to the signing of the ABS Agreement, two FPIC consultations were held on August 3 and 8, 2023, with support from NCIP Region 3 and DENR Region 3 where Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. presented the company's profile, the provisions of the proposed ABS Agreement particularly on the details of the research including the benefits, and other potential partnerships. The draft MOA or Developmental ABS Agreement was scrutinized by the IP community. A Community Protocol Resolution based on Sec. 35 of IPRA was also simultaneously edited, finalized, and signed based on feedback from the community of Maporac Ayta in Cabangan, Zambales.</p> <p>As part of the implementation of the ABS Agreement, Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. collected Banaba leaves and soil samples for analysis from the ancestral domain of Maporac Ayta in Cabangan, Zambales on 23-27 October 2023. Before proceeding with activity, the company, with the assistance of the ABS Project, secured a Gratuitous Permit (GP) from DENR Region 3 to ensure compliance with existing rules and regulations.</p> <p>In compliance with the benefit-sharing provisions under the ABS Agreement and following the collection and analysis of Banaba leaves from the community of Maporac Ayta in Cabangan, Zambales in 2023, Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. shared and presented the results of the analysis to the community last March 25, 2024. Stakeholders from DTI and Foundation for Philippine Environment (FPE) were present as well to discuss possible next steps in the partnership, such as establishment of a nursery, provision of capacity-building programs, and building of a small drying facility in the community. On the same day, the community was also trained on Banaba propagation and harvesting protocols following industry standards.</p> <p>ABS Agreement between Leslie Pili Products and Albay Pili and Cacao Industry Association (APCIA)</p> <p>The Project also facilitated the signing of an ABS Agreement between Leslie Pili Products and APCIA on the trade of various Pili products, such as Pili pulp oil, Pili kernel oil, raw Pili resin, Pili pomace, etc. Monetary benefits in the form of incentives will be provided by Leslie Pili products upon exceeding the minimum quantity to be delivered for the different products. Non-monetary benefits will also be provided such as capacity building relevant to conservation and management of Pili, facilitation of PhilHealth insurance as well as crop insurance (PCIC), and access to employment for APCIA members. The ceremonial signing of the ABS Agreement was officially held on 22 May 2024 with participation of various stakeholders from the Bicol region.</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
					<p>Leslie Pili Products conducted a PIC consultation with APCIA members to secure their consent last August 25, 2023, and the Project facilitated a series of negotiations between the two parties to finalize the terms of their agreement. The Project is also supporting Leslie Pili Products to secure an ABS Agreement with an international partner interested in importing various Pili products to the USA.</p> <p>ABS Agreement between Leslie Pili Products and Pili Processors Association of Sorsogon (PPAS) The Project facilitated the drafting of the ABS Agreement between Leslie Pili Products and PPAS covering monetary and non-monetary benefits such as capacity-building, crop and health insurance. The PIC consultation with the members of the PPAS organization was conducted last August 24, 2023 wherein Leslie Pili Products presented their company profile, intention to enter into an ABS agreement with PPAS, and the details of the agreement. PPAS signified their consent or interest to partner with Leslie Pili Products. The Project is helping the two parties negotiate until the ABS Agreement is signed.</p> <p>ABS Agreements between J. Emmanuel Pastries - the House of Pili and Samahang Organisasyong pang-Kalikasan Inc. (SOK), Naga View Adventist College (NVAC), and San Ramon Mountaineers Inc. (SRMI) Three ABS Agreements were also entered into between J. Emmanuel Pastries - House of Pili and SOK, NVAC, and SRMI (one agreement between J. Emmanuel and each cooperative/ organization) for the contract growing of Pili trees. J. Emmanuel will provide seedlings to be planted by the three organizations, which will then be purchased by J. Emmanuel once these are ready for harvest. The agreements are part of J. Emmanuel's PiliPinas program, an ongoing contract growing initiative. Recognizing that J. Emmanuel already provides benefit sharing to its partners, the Project has formalized these arrangements by facilitating the signing ABS agreements (22 May 2024), supporting the conduct of PIC consultations with its partners (17-18 April 2024), and supporting negotiations of benefit sharing provisions. J. Emmanuel agreed to provide capacity building, technical assistance, and possible job opportunities, among others as part of its benefit sharing commitments. Private Sector Partnerships due Dlligence. Second batch of PSDD for private sector partners (Businesspeople Inc. for Banaba; Leslie Pili Products and J. Emmanuel Pastries for Pili) was completed and approved in September 2023. A third batch of PSDD is ongoing with Region 5 private sector partners (Socio-Economic Development Program Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SEDP-MPC) and Green Pasture Place) that may enter into ABS Agreements relevant to provision of capacity buildings and Pili production, trading, and processing. It is expected to be completed and approved by August 2024.</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
					The Save Our Soil Foundation/Nature Wonders (Pili Ani) has declined partnership due to internal organizational issues. Another batch of PSSD may be conducted should there be additional private sector partners.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Outcome 1. Strengthening the national framework for implementing ABS in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
<p>Indicator 5: Mechanism for national implementation of ABS improved</p> <p>5.1 Inter-agency framework for monitoring and tracking the use of GR and ABS transactions developed (No.)</p> <p>5.2 Mechanism to channel ABS monetary and non-monetary benefits to local communities and IPs and support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (No.)</p>	No formal monitoring and tracking framework exist	<p>5.1: 1 initial draft framework for monitoring and tracking GR developed</p> <p>5.2: 1 draft mechanism to channel ABS monetary benefits to local communities developed and tested</p>	<p>5.1: 1 inter-agency framework for monitoring and tracking GR in place</p> <p>5.2: 1 mechanism to channel ABS monetary benefits to local communities established and institutionalized</p>	<p>●Target is on track</p> <p>●25% delivery; 1 initial draft framework for monitoring and tracking GR developed and reflected in the draft revised IRR Bioprospecting Guidelines (Sec 7.2.b; 9.5; 10; 11.10; and 14)</p> <p>●Framework for monitoring and tracking GR is included in the draft revised JAO Bioprospecting Guidelines, specifically, in sections 7: Institutional arrangements of an ABS Inter-Agency Committee which will compose of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society Organization representative, Indigenous Peoples' representative, and business sector representative. The monitoring function of this Committee is to further enhance the tracking and monitoring mechanisms with relevant agencies to trace the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge from the collection, publication, research, product development, and commercialization; 9.5: Tracking and monitoring of application to provide a mechanism for tracking the status activities undertaken as against the granted Gratuitous Permit, Memorandum of Agreement or Bioprospecting Undertaking, facilitate submission of reportorial requirements and provide for a common platform for competent national authorities and other stakeholders concerned to get updated on the status of a project, a tracking and monitoring button will be included in the single-window; 10: Monitoring and Reporting of All Covered Activities through ABS Functional Mechanism. The Mechanism aims to promote transparency and an interactive platform for providers and users. The platform will provide an integrated database for research management purposes as a way of tracking and monitoring research such that inclusion of the research in the database can be a form of incentive. The Mechanism will include a dashboard to show a repository of research outputs of applications that went through the single window as a basis for tracking and monitoring at what stage of research and development, product development and innovation, pre-commercialization and commercialization of the application at a given time, including any relevant intellectual</p>	<p>5.1: 100% delivery of MTR Target</p> <p>5.2: 75% delivery of MTR Target</p> <p>Framework for Monitoring and Tracking GR</p> <p>The framework for the monitoring and tracking of GRs has been drafted and reflected in the draft revised Bioprospecting Guidelines, specifically on Sections 7.2.b, Section 9.5, Section 10, Section 11.10, and Section 14. Together with the Bioprospecting guidelines, the relevant sections on monitoring and tracking of GRs have been presented and scrutinized by the CNAs and other stakeholders, including IPLCs.</p> <p>Mechanism to channel ABS monetary and non-monetary benefits to IP/LCs</p> <p>A menu for benefit-sharing options has been drafted and was included as an Annex to the draft Bioprospecting Guidelines. This has also been presented and reviewed by all relevant stakeholders during the consultations for the draft Guidelines. The menu is based on the Annex of the Nagoya Protocol on monetary and non-monetary benefits, and additional items were included based on consultations with IPLC partners.</p> <p>Pilot-testing of the benefit sharing mechanism with local communities is currently ongoing, through the ABS Agreement signed by Leslie Pili Products and APCIA. Further discussions with APCIA indicate that once the contract is implemented, they will include an item in their books of accounts to indicate what these benefits may be and it will be the cooperative's mechanism for delivering benefits to its members in the usual manner that will come into play once these benefits are generated.</p> <p>The ABS Agreements between J. Emmanuel and NVAC, SOK, and SRMI also include benefit sharing provisions. The Project will also monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these benefit sharing mechanisms as part of its pilot-testing.</p> <p>The Project hired a Sustainable Financing Expert to develop and design a financing framework compliant with the Nagoya Protocol that would enhance the access and benefit sharing mechanism by identifying and bringing all critical relevant financing stakeholders and current users of biological and genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Currently, the Consultant has an ongoing interview with the key stakeholders and the result will be shared to the different stakeholders by 3rd quarter of 2024 for validation and finalization. A financing forum will be conducted by the 3rd quarter to present the final financing mechanism on ABS.</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
				<p>property rights applied for or granted, as available; 11.10: Monitoring and Evaluation of benefit-sharing schemes where competent national authorities shall establish quarterly monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the benefit-sharing schemes being implemented; and 14: Funding where the competent national authorities shall allocate Php 2 million pesos from their regular appropriations for the effective operation of the various mechanisms, particularly the tracking and monitoring mechanisms. The added value of the tracking and monitoring framework in the guidelines are the establishment of an ABS Functional Mechanism which promotes transparency and an interactive platform for providers and users, on the status of applications of permits, requirements, progress of research and development, benefit-sharing scheme, and inclusion of funds by relevant agencies for implementation of monitoring and tracking mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●An initial consultation on the outline for the ABS procedural manual was conducted with representatives of De La Salle University, Ako and Bukas, SEARICE, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Anti-Red Tape Authority, Philippine Commission for Women, Commission on Higher Education, Panlipi, Department of Information and Communication Technology, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and PhilPILI. The manual will serve as a supporting document to the JAO Bioprospecting Guidelines and will contain the detailed procedures of the inter-agency framework on monitoring and tracking GRs. The participants suggested to continue the development of the procedural manual once the draft revised bioprospecting guidelines is on its final stage so that the manual will be very much aligned. ●Consultations with IPLCs on mechanisms to channel monetary benefits were discussed in February 2023. A menu of options for benefit-sharing mechanisms has been drafted for further consultations and assessments with stakeholders. ●Initial consultations on the National ABS Roadmap were already conducted with UP Diliman and Manila, FPRDI, ERDB, PCAARRD, R3 and R5 consortia, CLSU, SorSU, Pharmalytics, among others. Discussions were mainly focused on Banaba and Pili RnD, but discussions on scope and general timelines of the National Roadmap were also floated. Given that the Project will also be drafting Banaba and Pili roadmaps, the National Roadmap will be developed afterwards, to be able to incorporate lessons learned and best practices in the development. 	
Indicator 6: Integrated knowledge management platform to capture ABS	No single place to find centralized and	1 Beta version of Integrated knowledge	1 integrated knowledge management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Target is on track ●0% delivery 	50% delivery of MTR target

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
documentation including cataloging of TK (No.)	curated information on genetic resources/ABS	management platform for ABS in place for trial and fine-tuning	platform established and institutionalized for on-going and pipeline researches, traditional knowledge of IPLCs, and access permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Procurement is ongoing for an IT Specialist who is expected to be onboarded by Q4, 2023 ●Several meetings and consultations with BMB and BIOFIN were conducted resulting to an agreement on the general vision (and functionalities) for how the knowledge management platform should be designed and developed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One of the main concerns is where the site will be hosted. 2 main suggestions were raised (i) is to incorporate this with the MnE Investment Platform for the PBSAP targets being developed by BIOFIN (this system will already include the ABS thematic area in the PBSAP), and (ii) is incorporating this with the KM system being developed by DENR Central Office. This will be discussed further once IT specialist is onboarded 	<p>The IT consulting firm who will lead the development of the knowledge management platform was procured last Q2 2024 and has already signed their contract.</p> <p>Inception meeting between Consulting Firm (IT ERA Technology Solutions) and BMB WRD and BPKMD representatives done last 7 June and items for further discussion on the Design Thinking Workshop this July 2-3 are identified;</p> <p>Given the initial discussions with the IT Firm prior to their engagement, a pre-alpha version of ABS clearinghouse has been prepared by the firm and was presented during the inception workshop. This is for further discussion and improvement in the upcoming Design Thinking Workshop with CNAs.</p>
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Outcome 2. Awareness raising and capacity building for implementation of national ABS framework					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
Indicator 7: Improved capacities of relevant agencies and stakeholders for ABS implementation as measured by an increase in UNDP ABS capacity development scorecard 7.1 National government 7.2 Local government Region 5 7.3 Local government Region 3	Limited capacity of relevant agencies for ABS implementation as shown by UNDP ABS capacity development score of 7.1 44% 7.2: 26% 7.3: 39%	10% increase in agency capacity 7.1 54% 7.2: 36% 7.3 49%	At least 30% increase in agency capacity as measured by UNDP ABS scorecard 7.1 74% 7.2: 56% 7.3 69%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Target is on track ●0% delivery ●Consultant to conduct the Training Needs Assessment and develop the ABS Capacity Building Plan has been engaged. ●An orientation seminar was conducted for project stakeholders. Specific topics discussed included: ABS and Nagoya Protocol, IKSP and Cultural Sensitivity, FPIC, PIC, and Mainstreaming Gender in the ABS Project. 	70% delivery of MTR Target The Project is yet to conduct the UNDP ABS Capacity Development Scorecard to assess the improvement in capacities of relevant stakeholders but has started preparatory work for its conduct some time in Q3 2024. However, the Project has made significant strides in developing the capacities of stakeholders with regard to ABS implementation, primarily through conduct of capacity building activities, and continuous awareness raising of ABS terms, processes, and implementation in all Project activities involving stakeholders to continually instill ABS concept and practices, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. The Project conducted the Training on Negotiation on Benefit Sharing and Development of Gender Responsive ABS Agreement Compliant to the Nagoya Protocol on November 21-24 in Region 3 and November 28-30 in Region 5. The training's purpose is to capacitate stakeholders in negotiating terms and conditions of an ABS Agreement and development of an ABS Agreement. Key stakeholders involved in the training are the IPLCs, Local Government Units, regional offices of DENR and private sector partners. The Project also initiated the Biodiversity Assessment Training on April 24-26, 2024 to the members of the Biodiversity Composite Team with the aims to capacitate the member agencies, LGUs and IP communities on assessing the Banaba genetic resource through species specific and landscape approach to develop a biodiversity management plan. Ongoing procurement of consulting firm that will conduct the comprehensive Training Needs Analysis for different stakeholders following failure of bidding due to withdrawal of 2 shortlisted firms. The TNA will serve as a guide in

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
					preparing the different training modules of the project that will address the lack of capacity of the ABS agencies and stakeholders in implementing the ABS framework.
Indicator 8: Gender-responsive and culture-sensitive Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) plan (No.) 8.1 CEPA 8.2 Change in knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of target groups	8.1 None 8.2 None	8.1 One CEPA developed and tested 8.2 One KAP carried out and initial survey results	8.1 One CEPA fully deployed 8.2 One Final KAP survey results assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Target is on track ●15% delivery ●Procurement for a KAP Consulting firm is ongoing which is expected to be contracted in Q3, 2023. ●The Project has developed a communications plan as interim to the development of the CEPA Plan (which will be developed after the KAP Assessment) with the following main objectives: (i) To move key stakeholders into supporting the national ABS framework based on the Nagoya Protocol affecting societal and legislative changes on ABS policies; (ii) To increase the overall reach and engagement of all stakeholders; (iii) To increase the capacity of key stakeholders to come up with benefit-sharing agreements under the Nagoya Protocol; and (iv) To secure public support for ABS Project's initiatives through positive impact and value stories. ●Over-all, the communications plan will target CNAs, other relevant government agencies, LGUs, Academe, IP/LCs, NGOs and CSOs, and Private Sector partners. ●Ongoing implementation of the communications plan are the following: (i) Publishing of gender stories of Pili farmers; (ii) Continuous posting in DENR-BMB FB Pages; (iii) Continuous publishing of news articles and contributions to DENR publications; (iv) Development of Project Brochures; and (v) Procurement of Social Media Specialist ongoing. 	8.1: 0% delivery of MTR Target 8.2: 75% delivery of MTR Target Following the procurement of the KAP Assessment firm last December 2023, preparatory work for the KAP Assessment began in January 2024, with the inception report of the KAP firm and the development of the KAP Assessment Tools (interviews and FGDs). Separate questionnaires were developed targeting specific stakeholder groups (IPLCs, NGAs/RGAs, Academe, Private Sector). Afterwards, interviews and FGDs with ABS stakeholders were conducted from March - May 2024. Initial draft report of the KAP Assessment is available and is currently ongoing enhancement to be presented to relevant stakeholders who participated in the KAP Assessment. The project has integrated a gender framework into the KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices) tools to enhance gender responsiveness. This approach ensures that the results of the KAP survey will capture specific gender issues and concerns, facilitating targeted awareness-raising activities for different genders
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Outcome 3. Demonstrating benefit-sharing agreements					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
Indicator 9: Number of potential ABS products identified and tested for potential commercial application (No.) 9.1: Pili (Canarium ovatum and Canarium luzonicum) 9.2: Banaba (Lagerstroemia speciosa)	Several products identified but not through ABS processes: 9.1 Pili (6): cooking oil, animal feeds, biofuel, industrial component (in thinner, paints, sealant, waterproofing), essential oils, cosmetic, medicinal ointment	9.1 At least 1 ABS product identified Pili 9.2 At least 1 ABS product identified Banaba	9.1 At least 1 ABS product tested for potential commercial application Pili 9.2 At least 1 ABS product tested for potential commercial application Banaba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Target is on track ●20% delivery ●Meetings with potential private company partners provided initial products that can undergo ABS processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Banaba: anti-viral medication; Herbanext currently has ongoing operation in production of pharmaceutical raw materials and are interested in entering into ABS agreement with MAO CADT to test the viability of the Banaba variety in MAO CADT for production. ○ Banaba: Pharmalytics is currently in the 3rd phase of its clinical trial for the anti-dengue drug. The project can provide support to the clinical trial, but needs to strategize on how to provide 	9.1: 100% delivery of MTR Target 9.2: 100% delivery of MTR Target ABS Product identified for Banaba The Project is looking to support Pharmalytics Corp. in the development of anti-cough medicine, through a negotiated procurement contract. Pharmalytics Corp. recently submitted the complete requirements for a negotiated procurement process. These will be endorsed to the BAC Secretariat for processing. In addition to this, the Project also identified anti-dengue/ anti-viral drug as a possible ABS Product, currently in the third phase of clinical trials with Pharmalytics Corp.

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	9.2 Banaba (3): herbal teas, supplements, anti-dengue drug in clinical study			<p>monetary support given the limitations of the Project's arrangement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pili: Currently, many cooperatives and associations are already processing Pili pulp oil. Initial discussions with Leslie's indicates that they are interested in entering into ABS Agreement with partner communities for the processing of Pili pulp oil ○ Other products for Pili include Kernel Oil, which J. Emmanuel has shown interest in pursuing an ABS Agreement together with partner sites on the Kernel oil. ● Further development of these products and others will be further fleshed out in the RnD Roadmap for Banaba and Pili. ● Product for testing will be officially identified in the MOA w/ Private Sector partner and will be subjected to application of Gratuitous Permit/Bioprospecting Undertaking, Free/Prior Informed Consent, and Mutually Agreed Terms with research entities/indigenous peoples and local communities by Q3 and Q4. ● One of the key RnD outputs to be supported by the Project is the valuation studies of Pili and Banaba. 	<p>Herbanext Laboratories Inc. is also producing herbal and pharmaceutical raw materials derived from Banaba, in addition to production of Banaba tea and supplements (capsules).</p> <p>ABS Products identified for Pili</p> <p>Most private sector and cooperative/ association partners of the Project are currently processing Pili pulp oil. Most cooperatives/ associations processing Pili kernel for food, also process Pili pulp oil, since this is derived from the Pili pulp which is usually thrown away in the processing of Pili nuts.</p> <p>Some cooperatives/ associations also process elemi oil. This is derived from the Pili resin/ sap and later processed into elemi oil. Given that the Pili species <i>Canarium luzonicum</i> has more abundant resin compared to <i>Canarium ovatum</i>, not all cooperatives are into processing of elemi oil since <i>Canarium ovatum</i> is more abundant in Bicol region, and is primarily used for food products (Pili nuts).</p> <p>Kernel oil is also processed by cooperatives and private sector partners in the region. This is derived from the Pili nut which is then processed into kernel oil.</p> <p>The ABS Agreement between Leslie Pili Products and APCIA includes the trading of processed Pili pulp oil, kernel oil, and raw resin for elemi oil.</p> <p>J. Emmanuel also intends to utilize the Pili nuts from its ABS Agreements with NVAC, SOK, and SRMI for food and non-food products including Pili pulp oil, kernel oil, and elemi oil.</p>
<p>Indicator 10: Biodiversity management plan for in-situ conservation and management of biological resources integrated into pilot agreement (No.)</p> <p>10.1 Region 3 10.2 Region 5</p>	<p>10.1 No such plan in place under ABS 10.2 No such plan in place under ABS</p>	<p>10.1 Region 3: 1 Draft management plan for in-situ conservation developed 10.2 Region 5: 1 Draft management plan of in-situ conservation developed</p>	<p>10.1 Region 3: 1 Management plan for in-situ conservation integrated into pilot agreement 10.2 Region 5: 1 Management plan for in-situ conservation integrated into pilot agreement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target is on track ● 0% delivery ● Formation of the Biodiversity Composite Teams in Regions 3 and 5 to develop the Biodiversity Management Plans is in process. The team will include DENR Regional Office, concerned Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Offices (PENROs), concerned Provincial Local Government Units (PLGUs), academe, and IPLC partners. The team will lead in the drafting of the plans. 	<p>10.1: - 50% delivery of MTR Target 10.2: - 25% delivery of MTR Target</p> <p>Draft Biodiversity Management Plan for Region 3</p> <p>The Project has convened multiple biodiversity composite team meetings to facilitate the implementation and conduct of the biodiversity resource assessment, which will be the management plan's main input. Secondary data such as CLUP, FLUP, ADSDPP, among others, were also collected from various offices. Data gathered from these sources, including those collected during the assessment, were used to draft the biodiversity management plan for Banaba.</p> <p>A biodiversity assessment training was conducted on 24-26 April 2024 together with partner agencies and IP partners in Region 3 who will be providing support to the conduct of the biodiversity resource assessment scheduled in 2025 once firm is procured for the conduct of the biodiversity resource assessment and development of the Biodiversity Management Plan.</p> <p>The biodiversity assessment will provide primary data incorporated into the draft biodiversity management plan.</p> <p>Draft Biodiversity Management Plan for Region 5 Ongoing procurement of a firm to develop the biodiversity management plan. Currently this is already for awarding of the contract.</p>
Indicator 11: Gender-smart and ABS compliant	11.1 Several potential markets identified but	11.1: 1 Draft value chain	11.1: 1 Value chain Banaba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Target is on track ● 15% delivery 	<p>11.1: 75% delivery of MTR Target 11.2: 75% delivery of MTR Target</p>

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at Jun 30, 2023 (1 st PIR)	Cumulative progress since project start as of Jun 30, 2024
<p>value chain for identified genetic resources mapped (No)</p> <p>11.1 Region 3 11.2: Region 5</p>	<p>not analyzed across the entire value chain</p> <p>11.2 Several potential markets identified but not analyzed across the entire value chain</p>	<p>Banaba mapped with strategic development road map</p> <p>11.2: 1 Draft value chain Pili mapped with strategic development road map</p>	<p>mapped with strategic development road map</p> <p>11.2: 1 Value chain Pili mapped with strategic development road map</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●A draft MOA with Sorsogon State University to support the development of the Pili Strategic Development Roadmap for signing by Q3 2023 has been drafted and discussed with Parties. Sorsogon State University will lead in the drafting of the Strategic Development Roadmap ●Central Luzon State University signified interest in supporting the development of the Strategic Development Roadmap for Banaba. The University agreed to sign a MOA to formalize the partnership by Q3. ●Procurement of a firm to lead in the development of the strategic development roadmap for Banaba is ongoing 	<p>Region 3 - Banaba roadmap</p> <p>A regional Banaba strategic roadmap with value chain maps has been drafted.</p> <p>The roadmap with value chain has a comprehensive gender framework in the report and tools used. This framework aims to enhance gender responsiveness throughout the project. The integration of the gender framework into the value chain and strategic development roadmap ensures that gender-specific challenges and opportunities are identified and addressed. This holistic approach promotes gender equity and inclusiveness in the project's outcomes, ultimately leading to more sustainable and equitable development.</p> <p>A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been signed between DENR Region 5 and the Sorsogon State University with the objective that both parties will be supporting in the drafting of the Pili Strategic Development Roadmap. A technical writer/documenter was hired to consolidate the workshop results for the Pili strategic roadmap and value chain drafting. Validation workshops are to be scheduled in Q3.</p>
<p>The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:</p>	<p>On track</p>				

Annex 9. Co-financing Table

Co-financing Table. (Note: This table is completed by the MTR Team with support from the Project Team.)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement (US\$)	Actual Amount Contributed at stage of Midterm Review (US\$)	Actual % of Expected Amount
Recipient Government	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Public Investment	3,439,864	1,383,797.06	40.23%
	Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau	Public Investment	2,439,864	0	
	PENRO Sorsogon	Public Investment	1,000,000	287,580.74	
	Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region V	Public Investment	0	1,038,202.68	
	Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Forest Management Bureau	Public Investment	0	58,013.64	
Recipient Government	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	In Kind	2,024,735	3,089,949.70	152.61%
	Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau	In-kind	488,733	410,742.93	
	Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region III	In-kind	496,678	606,605.37	
	Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region V	In-kind	1,039,324.00	1,168,389.40	
	Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau	In-kind	0	904,212	
Recipient Government	Department of Agriculture Regional Office No. 5	Public Investment	2,752,600	0	0%
Recipient Government	Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development	Grants	907,692	0	0%
Recipient Government	Local Government Units (Province of Albay)	Public Investment	1,000,000	0	0%
Others	Academic and Research Institutions (Central Luzon State University and Sorsogon State College)	Grants	6,527,247	238,266.14	3.7%
Others	Philippine Pili Industry Board	Grants	2,100,000	0	0%
Others	Philippine Pili Industry Board	In Kind	1,408,800	0	0%
Private Sector	Herbanext Laboratories, Inc.	Grants	174,000	0	0%
Private Sector	Herbanext Laboratories, Inc.	In Kind	52,200	0	0%
Private Sector	Pharmalytics Corporation	Grants	95,813	0	0%
Private Sector	Pharmalytics Corporation	In Kind	38,419	169,085.45	440.11%
GEF Agency	UNDP	In Kind	110,417	35,000	32%
TOTAL			21,631,787	4,916,098.35	22.73%

Annex 10. List of Communication and Knowledge Management Products

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
ABS Project Brochure	Brochure	8 June 2022	Workshop participants	
Litsea/Litsara ® case on ABS	Video	8 June 2022	Workshop participants	
DENR-BMB and UNDP Conducted a National Inception Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing Workshop	Press release	21 June 2022	DENR-BMB website visitors	https://bmb.gov.ph/index.php/resources/news-and-events/232-denr-bmb-and-undp-conducted-a-national-inception-workshop-for-the-access-and-benefit-sharing-project
	Article	27 June 2022	DENR-FASPS website visitors	https://fasps.denr.gov.ph/index.php/public-relations/project-stories/biodiversity/169-denr-undp-conduct-access-and-benefit-sharing-project-national-inception-workshop
	Article	28 June 2022	UNDP website visitors	https://www.undp.org/philippines/press-releases/denr-and-undp-conducted-national-inception-workshop-access-and-benefit-sharing-project?fbclid=IwAR3RXQfTB9hkFz9PJb8teFH3wJJ4vL-mQAG3I4JW9wlvIKY5jnaXuFRw
	Social media post	22 June 2022	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid024wbfV9Q1UG51WTRd34vWb4MoqVBCXtoaYeSDRQyUVPPEqxiJsT7bRyWJYumEsDTLl
	Social media post	June 16, 2022	UNDP Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid02geAbTbWzAxv7cggT8hvBP9RZsxmCzrudMjkzNrwyTeoEGo1QrHgvr8NfmpiqpK4Wl
Region 3 Site-Level Inception Workshop (Media Coverage)	News Article	July 26, 2022	PIA Region 3 website visitors	https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/07/26/denr-undp-unite-for-benefit-sharing-of-cl-genetic-resources
	Press Release	July 27, 2022	DENR Central Luzon website visitors	https://r3.denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases
	Social media post	July 28, 2022	Ang Pahayagan Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=451051400366066&set=a.373402984797575
	News Article	July 27, 2022	Sunstar/Pampanga website visitors	https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1936019/pampanga/ocal-news/workshop-on-sharing-genetic-resources-set-in-lubao

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
	News Article	July 30, 2022	Centro News Online website visitors	https://centronewsonline.com/denr-undp-palalakin-anq-benefit-sharing-ng-genetic-resources-ng-Pilipinas/
	News Article	July 31, 2022	The Manila Times website visitors	https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/07/31/news/regions/saving-ph-endemic-flora-advances/1852889
Region 5 Site-Level Inception Workshop (Media Coverage)	AM Radio and Facebook Live	July 27, 2022	DZGBNews Online Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/dzgbnewsonline
	FM Radio and Facebook Live	August 1, 2022	89.1 Bicol Idol FM Legazpi Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/bicolidol891/videos/863938214993792 Note discussion starts at 24:24 and 37:00 onwards
Government Moves Forward in Strengthening Access and Benefit Sharing of Philippine Genetic Resources - 1st NTWG	Feature Article	22 September 2022	DENR-BMB website visitors	https://bmb.gov.ph/index.php/resources/news-and-events/262-benefit-sharing-of-philippine-genetic-resources
	News Article	28 September 2022	DENR-FASPS website visitors	https://fasps.denr.gov.ph/index.php/public-relations/project-stories/biodiversity/185-government-moves-to-strengthen-philippine-genetic-resources-access-benefit-sharing
	Social media post	23 September 2022	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02i6kVkbLVv8n5GR4ybXFhJsqRuKN6ng76dv2DSZGsKU68dZTGeicegWZvMCKpD3ql
ABS Project GRM and Help Desk	Flyer (English and Filipino)	17 October 2022	Meeting participants	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-JG9M_vjihVbStFpmiPhxBzK0MWiW-dw/view
ABS Project Brochure	Brochure (English and Filipino)	17 October 2022	Meeting participants	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LA3WoSRtv2IQkleG3GNsJetWS736lyD2/view?usp=sharing
1st PB/SC Meeting	Feature Article	18 October 2022	DENR-BMB website visitors	https://bmb.gov.ph/index.php/resources/news-and-events/265-abs-full-implementation
	Feature Article	26 October 2022	DENR-FASPS website visitors	https://fasps.denr.gov.ph/index.php/public-relations/project-stories/biodiversity/194-abs-project-implementation-in-full-swing

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
	Feature Article	19 October 2022	UNDP website visitors	https://www.undp.org/philippines/blog/denr-undp-access-and-benefit-sharing-project-advances-full-implementation
	Social media post	19 October 2022	UNDP Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/photos/a.174649359257047/5586337191421543/?type=3&theater
	LinkedIn post	19 October 2022	UNDP LinkedIn visitors	https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpph_the-project-boardsteering-committee-of-the-activity-6988317599654690816-9KiC/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
ABS Project meets stakeholders for Banaba, Pili R&D roadmaps	Social media post	26 October 2022	DENR-FASPS website visitors	https://fasps.denr.gov.ph/index.php/public-relations/project-stories/biodiversity/195-abs-project-meets-stakeholders-for-Banaba-Pili-r-d-roadmaps
	Website post	26 October 2022	DENR-FASPS website visitors	https://fasps.denr.gov.ph/index.php/public-relations/project-stories/biodiversity/195-abs-project-meets-stakeholders-for-Banaba-Pili-r-d-roadmaps
	Social media post	2 November 2022	DENR-FASPS Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02NRrtJqgcehWfMqtjBsaZ9FaKQBq2rrDU4E4cQDBZ1M4VsYUYm7YdtV4AzU5eH1ZI
Celebration of IPRA and Nagoya Protocol	Social media post	29 October 2022	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02NRrtJqgcehWfMqtjBsaZ9FaKQBq2rrDU4E4cQDBZ1M4VsYUYm7YdtV4AzU5eH1ZI

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
Consultation Meeting for the Development of Roadmap in Region 3 and 5	Social media post	21 November 2022	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid0Pfe68GY9kg2MENXAPNiUmAAR5mHXDD8v6KfLbNzCBLzb1tKauzZQ5k8JEyKBczrCl
	Social media post	22 November 2022	DENR-FASPS Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/DENRFASPSOfficial/posts/pfbid02HspP6cBukDXSvxQQubzGeHFBGU57cNV6f2QXipQQBJE7WLFRAfE5QYJ2zsTohZwYl
ABS Project Stakeholders Convened to Revise Regulations on Access and Benefit Sharing of Philippine Genetic R	Website post	13 December 2022	DENR-BMB website visitors	https://bmb.gov.ph/index.php/resources/news-and-events/269-abs-revise-reg?fbclid=IwAR2yFKkqHanxihDD9Vg8NuS9o6pZWRJDwczewgNu3OeYcwlbk63FJFAom04
	Social media post	15 December 2022	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid0eiEEjasRRkaJPGW3M16wFhiyypNW4juVz3HY38iioWZ7WwAYJV46jzEgseilT3CLl
	Website post	20 December 2022	UNDP Facebook visitors	https://www.undp.org/philippines/blog/abs-project-stakeholders-convened-revise-regulations-access-and-benefit-sharing-philippine-genetic-resources
	LinkedIn post	20 December 2022	UNDP LinkedIn visitors	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7010865989487652864/
ABS Logo Design Contest	Social media post (video)	13 January 2023	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=5859207204117856
	Social media post (info cards)	20 January 2023	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02pHcuSUHnymQM4bo6ruXRijatrR2b2aEsgZeSLL7PHMDWc42w6Jr9sq2dvT3u1wafI
	Social media post (info cards)	23 January 2023	DENR-FASPS Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/DENRFASPSOfficial/posts/pfbid02G1eeDn21doTzRAHDoUR7djAeLGPXvc78wzvFZPBb7m6QmyXGBSdbqGx9qWg7DtAal

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
	Social media post (countdown posts)	1 February 2023	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	20 days left - https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/videos/437689301833795/
		6 February 2023		15 days left - https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/videos/1359550438179981/
		10 February 2023		10 days left - https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/videos/466130008925228/
		15 February 2023		5 days left - https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/videos/4362932207164429/
	Social media post (social media voting of top 5 winners)	24 February 2023		https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02om3LFixu2wmyppferj7u8gEQGIlj9QU1W5JFkGHb2kShpG9GVBsX2XQKZYnPXnQI
	Social media post - FB Live	3 March 2023		https://www.facebook.com/watch/live?ref=watch_permalink&v=227830289620118
Is Access and Benefit Sharing a Sustainable Cure to Biodiversity Loss?	Article	10 March 2023	UNDP website visitors	https://www.undp.org/philippines/blog/access-and-benefit-sharing-sustainable-cure-biodiversity-loss
	Social media post	14 March 2023	UNDP Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid024qVF Cwfbm2wsthxdabza2qWfDWyfbwDLwUEX4L4YMGtq1kygiyRw4w9YNHV44osWI
	Contribution to Biodiversity Sentinel No. 6 Issue	April 2023	Biodiversity Sentinel readers	Physical copies E-copies will be provided once available
Stakeholders Confirm Support for the ABS Project's 2023 Plans	Article	15 March 2023	DENR-BMB website visitors	https://www.bmb.gov.ph/index.php/resources/news-and-events/292-stakeholders-confirm-support-for-the-abs-project-s-2023-plans?fbclid=IwAR2mheHFxo7dgzFOG994N--9XW6x4CUoAFNyXspBPGILALxLYO7J3gv_LPw

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
	Article	17 March 2023	UNDP website visitors	https://www.undp.org/philippines/news/stakeholders-confirm-support-2023-abs-project-plans
	Social media posts	23 March 2023	UNDP Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter visitors	Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid0Sg7B5ULnap4ogvEGs8gkppYHkK7pSTVltYHghDmheyGkq59qCFsPRXCW6v1MEiJyI LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7044490789833363456/ Twitter - https://twitter.com/UNDPPH/status/1638725067784978432
	Social media post	24 March 2023	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid0SpqtGT5f1eK68RxxTg22dQtDZsVvMU9LuxqKoyFJVi5K1hgaRJFqoRiE3BJ6CS48I
Women in the Pili Industry	Social media post (info card)	16 March 2023	UNDP Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid02gfRnTsNL1VzeM2qiJ4zWuqALZB1UwSnYawQ173hxn3wMM6Ftv5eXZ7VAQgRMeXxBI
	Article	16 March 2023	UNDP website visitors	https://www.undp.org/philippines/stories/women-Pili-industry?fbclid=IwAR2C10rzaTYW6gtBEMAsPy9WCa7t5BJu2FHKH8mBZG7A_F9GpJEJEipphM
	Social media posts	17 March 2023	UNDP Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter visitors	Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid02LVfFXyty96n2Awu4MMV8yWa6ev4JbxtHqRpVKbGMz3kTwyV8VmiZ6i7vkZvekrBI Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/p/Cp4BGSYP7U3/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7042338675183009792/ Twitter - https://twitter.com/UNDPPH/status/1636573029433217024
	Social media post	28 March 2023	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02eCahC1pDYM22fU7JaLkNHOR6eRRURXTq49YzTS8k1LC2HUeCE1jCWFwZzj82JpdFI
	Article (Cross-posted on the GEF Newsroom)	30 March 2023	GEF website visitors	https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/feature-stories/search?country=&topic=2205&agency=&title=Women+leaders+in+the+Pili+farming
ABS Project Briefer (Filipino)	Hand-out/brochure	24 March 2023	IPs in Porac, Pampanga	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-1zeAKL6BhtVDoOfthLElospQEKCMh6J/view?usp=sharing

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
Species Spotlight featuring Pili	Contribution to Biodiversity Sentinel No. 6 Issue	April 2023	Biodiversity Sentinel readers	Physical copies E-copies will be provided once available
Radio CLSU	Online interview	5 May 2023	Radyo CLSU listeners and online viewers	https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-IOS_GK0T-GK1C&mibextid=2Rb1fB&ref=watch_permalink&v=202080185964507
Partnerships for Equity Empowering Indigenous Peoples through Access and Benefit Sharing	Social media post	23 May 2023	UNDP Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid02oZcSnNeXH2DWTtUEPkSErWS8Zk8BAJeYws76xdVjn1221pvN5DUxeWWYUtgmrFlEi
	Article/Photo-story	23 May 2023	UNDP website visitors	https://undp-ph.shorthandstories.com/partnerships-for-equity/?fbclid=IwAR37-mtRaSORGCd5_tuULmTWLZKbBSt3AvNnYhWHPqQrT8rE0Ne5q9E3DU
	Social media post	31 May 2023	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02ZzRexnA7RqLsCAhGoR8zAzbiteP71RS9yHbZS8m69dvrX2W1GfGPvjitHEsgJJQtI
YOUTH AT THE FOREFRONT: Indigenous Voices Championing Self-Determination in Zambales	Social media post	9 August 2023	UNDP Facebook visitor	https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid0JxsKZwNuwFGuA2UX5GpyRifRkoQkrgR6vWU1qPYGVSMVfzc bhjgtVfMUjgTKfRqfi
	Article/Photo-story	9 August 2023	UNDP PH Exposure website visitors	https://undpph.exposure.co/youth-at-the-forefront/?fbclid=IwAR29iDiByBLBtcliMIMbGMtJhhBhq6Bwb13rzFII16gwI3QwkdZIHOKjfk
Pioneering Partnership: MAO-CADT and Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. MOA Signing	Social media post	24 August 2023	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid0hjsdyQeoVdVQ7FsVYHG7RC67PZL8s1S7R5sxNZSVyUuZbRAuRFh45hD2SGcnER5nI
	Social media post	25 August 2023	UNDP Facebook visitors	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1B0qDDkqpKDN2xCIELhGFJ2E3YxApKNAP/edit
SorSuenos Towards Access And Benefit Sharing: On Forth Biodiversity And Conservation	Social media post	24 August 2023	The Artificer visitors (Official Student Publication of SSU)	https://www.facebook.com/TheArtificerSorSU/posts/pfbid02d9WXH7bRcPe9XYuisDDEnQov4UWCFP8iJRKi3EA22Fhi59hUkYwiSjewF8DmuoHl
Youth Forum on ABS	Social media post	25 August 2023	DENR-BMB Facebook visitors	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid035xsxK3FTmh8fbzBXkRNj5ww2gAA4fkeFKaav7A6NdMpeqTbUKNq3CdtYHvusU5QCj

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
Maporac Ayta Community and Herbanext Laboratories, Inc. at the Forefront of Pioneering Access and Benefit Sharing in the Philippines	Feature article	3 October 2023	UNDP website visitors	https://www.undp.org/philippines/press-releases/maporac-ayta-community-and-herbanext-laboratories-inc-forefront-pioneering-access-and-benefit-sharing-philippines?fbclid=IwAR3Y2ckv1irK-lrEsctmmtBKKg9WghqXwmQ01iHpMmGKm_mvDtA3HLZrDwk
	Social media post	3 October 2023	UNDP Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter visitors	<p>Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid02cZFFEETwMTLVsqKfrUu1CQMBHmWVMcnd8nXbjJgTajXMRPqVosFcsiNwsnHm7Bd9l</p> <p>Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/p/Cx7O5UOPogF/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA%3D%3D</p> <p>Twitter - https://twitter.com/UNDPPH/status/1709085392379781330?s=20</p> <p>LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7114848219674644480/</p>
Video Highlights - MOA Signing of MAO-CADT Inc. and Herbanext Inc.	Social media post	6 December 2023	UNDP Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter (X), and Youtube visitors	<p>Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/videos/1072867860409238/</p> <p>Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0gPH8MuGc0/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=ODhhZWM5NmlwOQ==</p> <p>Twitter (X) - https://x.com/UNDPPH/status/1732307220782833870?s=20</p> <p>LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/undpph_%3F%3F%3F%3F%3F-in-a-historic-move-the-maporac-activity-7138072696390647809-H2F?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop</p> <p>Youtube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-dUN5Z9DxU&t=10s</p>
	Social media post	January 2024		
Opportunity Alert for a firm to conduct TNA and develop Training Modules	Social media post	January 26, 2024	DENR-BMB Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02RwneDGypT2LdfHNyQWYzudvsVqTi9BZdAtHPv1KtSjRCszPn2pXE4yd6podhfh9l

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
<p>Involving the youth, the GEF-UNDP-DENR-BMB ABS Project collaborated with the CLSU - Institute for Climate Change and Environmental Management (ICCEM) to host an interactive Youth Forum on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) at CLSU, celebrating its 27th anniversary!</p>	<p>Social media post</p>	<p>March 15, 2024</p>	<p>DENR-BMB Facebook</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid032VPZ666k1Hk2e3RcyJsqBuCDDUzDQGo4KSRT9ptFfAFtVAQZgvAEzi7H2fBiBw2ol</p>
<p>Opportunity Alert for a firm to Develop the Conservation and Management Plan for Pili</p>	<p>Social media post</p>	<p>March 18, 2024</p>	<p>DENR-BMB Facebook</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02yAXMcvbeff3ogLR3cg2uTRHVtAXiFgJR2txozBPb5eRcM3moGQwNsd36RjuZecbl</p>
<p>The DENR-BMB convenes the 4th Wildlife Law Enforcement Summit, a concerted effort to combat the illegal wildlife trade and enhance the country's strategic enforcement plans.</p>	<p>Social media post</p>	<p>March 20, 2024</p>	<p>DENR-BMB Facebook</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02LQCPo63A6HZepKNHbdENcHnM4mXDiA3LZHsBWunJKYSweWCSWkrYJu1X2tXiTr3l</p>
<p>ABS Agreement Signing in Region 5 and MOA Signing between DENR Region 5 and Sorsogon State University</p>	<p>Social media post</p>	<p>May 23, 2024</p>	<p>DENR-BMB Facebook</p>	<p>https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/posts/pfbid02ARR4ZavBhS43wQTYVxYub21U4ZLUo24QF1V1f6WyuU89Gd8BmwnKsuYTrPj4WbY1l</p>
	<p>Social media post</p>	<p>May 23, 2024</p>	<p>UNDP Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter (X)</p>	<p>Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid06AGdq46Tg6cjUMGMDn4h8iksCXBhxPrDcirgbhqF2Fstp21MMNdyCph11d7ivwhql</p> <p>Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/p/C7VaeNRvVZo/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA%3D%3D</p> <p>Twitter (X) - https://x.com/UNDPPH/status/1793833916434182192</p> <p>LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7199598317348036609/</p>

IEC/Knowledge Product Produced in 2022	Type	Date Published/ Produced	Target audience	Links (if available)
ICCEM in Action Program - Role of Youth on Biodiversity Conservation and ABS Project	Social media post	May 30, 2024	CLSU Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1406852536688655
3rd National Protected Area Conference	Social media post	June 26, 2024	UNDP Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter (X), and Youtube visitors	<p>Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/undp.ph/posts/pfbid02vzmxiztsvV35Zmbkuvkad3WBUJMAPTgeAHv2571xS9GSGT XhpJmgDbNi24gir1aJl</p> <p>Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/p/C8qvTFxv7aj/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA%3D%3D&img_index=1</p> <p>Twitter (X) - https://x.com/UNDPPH/status/1805844054758084930</p> <p>LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7211606839946280960/</p>
3rd National Protected Area Conference Video Highlights - Produced by the ABS Project	Social media post	July 21, 2024	DENR-BMB Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/denrbiodiversity/videos/8383037945042517
DENR-UNDP Access and Benefit-Sharing Project Animated Video	DENR-BMB YouTube	July 22, 2024	DENR-BMB YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obeSZJiqi3o&t=25s
Access and Benefit-Sharing MOA Signing Strengthens Conservation and Farmer Livelihoods in Bicol	DENR-BMB YouTube	September 6, 2024	DENR-BMB YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lptWvEW5AbE

Annex 11. Signed UNEG Code of Conduct Agreement Form

Evaluators/Consultants:

Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 limitations, findings and recommendations.

Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.

TE Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: Stephanie Hodge

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): Self

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at *New York (Place)* on *August 19 2024 (Date)*

Signature: _____ Shodge _____

Annex 12. Reconstructed Theory of Change

This table outlines the causal relationships and simplifies the analysis for PMU.

Category	If	Then
Inputs to Activities	Expertise in ABS policy development and collaboration among stakeholders are mobilized	Policy and institutional strengthening activities will have a solid foundation.
	Financial and technical support from UNDP and partners is sufficient	Resources for capacity-building, awareness campaigns, and demonstration projects will be provided.
Activities to Outputs	Policy and Institutional Strengthening (Component 1)	
	Harmonizing laws and developing procedures for bioprospecting and R&D are prioritized	Clear and functional administrative systems for ABS will emerge.
	A National ABS Roadmap is created	Stakeholders have a clear guide to align their actions with ABS objectives.
	Awareness and Capacity Building (Component 2)	
	Awareness campaigns target government staff, IPs, LCs, and researchers effectively	Stakeholders understand ABS processes, increasing willingness to participate.
	Training programs integrate ABS guidelines and traditional knowledge	Government and community capacities are strengthened, enabling smoother implementation of ABS agreements.
	Demonstration of Benefit-Sharing (Component 3)	
	R&D on Banaba and Pili species leads to successful ABS agreements	These serve as replicable models for benefit-sharing in other regions.
	FPIC and PIC processes are conducted effectively	ABS agreements are legitimized and widely accepted.
	In-situ conservation measures are implemented alongside benefit-sharing	Genetic resources are protected while providing economic benefits to communities.
Outputs to Outcomes	Harmonized policies and clear procedures for ABS are established	Stakeholders have the confidence and clarity to negotiate and finalize ABS agreements.
	Increased awareness and capacity result from campaigns and training	Stakeholders actively engage in ABS processes.
	Documented best practices and traditional knowledge are accessible	Future ABS agreements are guided, strengthening IPs' and LCs' negotiating positions.
	Functional monitoring and administrative systems are in place	Compliance with ABS guidelines improves, reducing delays and inefficiencies.
Outcomes to Long-Term Impact	Economic opportunities for IPs and LCs increase through equitable benefit-sharing agreements	Communities have stronger incentives to conserve biodiversity and genetic resources.
	Customary laws and traditional knowledge systems are recognized and protected	IPs and LCs feel empowered to engage in ABS processes while preserving their cultural heritage.
	Sustainable management and use of genetic resources are ensured	Biodiversity conservation contributes to national and global sustainability goals.

Category	If	Then
Risk-Based Scenarios	Stakeholders resist policy changes (e.g., biotech lobby)	Delays in policy harmonization and ABS implementation occur, requiring targeted engagement strategies.
	Financial or technical resources are insufficient	Capacity-building and demonstration activities fail, limiting project impact.
	IPs and LCs lack capacity to negotiate ABS agreements	Benefit-sharing outcomes may be inequitable, undermining community trust and participation.
	FPIC and PIC processes are delayed due to logistical or cultural barriers	ABS agreements and conservation activities stall, reducing project momentum.
Opportunities for Mitigation	Stakeholder engagement addresses power dynamics (e.g., biotech lobby resistance)	Policy harmonization and implementation proceed more smoothly.
	Gender-sensitive, inclusive approaches are integrated into capacity-building activities	Marginalized groups, including women, have equal opportunities to participate in ABS processes.
	Demonstration projects are scaled based on lessons learned	Effective models for national-level ABS implementation are established.

Annex 13. Signed MTR Final Report Clearance Form

Annex 14. MTR Terms of Reference (excluding ToR Annexes)

Annexed in a separate file: MTR ToR (pdf file)

Annex 15. MTR Audit Trail

Annexed in a separate file: Audit Trail from received comments on draft MTR Report

Annex 16. Relevant MTR Tracking Tools

Annex in a separate file: Relevant midterm tracking tools (METT, FSC, Capacity Scorecard, others)