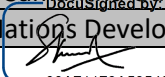


**Simplified Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting**  
**PIMS 6499: Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) Marine Wildlife (MW) on Southern Mindanao, Philippines**

Date of the LPAC	Start time	End time	Held at
26 August 2022	10:00am	12:00 pm	Zoom:

<b>Name of LPAC Chairperson:</b>	
Functional Title:	Dr. Selva Ramachandran (Resident Representative) Through Samantha Gunasakera (former Operations Manager)
Institution:	United Nations Development Programme
Signature:	 20-Oct-2022 00A71179A59543C...

<b>Name of LPAC Co-Chair:</b>	
Functional Title:	
Institution:	
Signature:	

<b>Have all LPAC participants received the PRODOC for appraisal prior to the meeting and in a timely manner?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Remarks:	Upon confirmation of attendance to the LPAC meeting, participants were furnished copy of the PRODOC and its Annexes, including the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) and the Quality Assurance Report.

<b>Country:</b>	PHILIPPINES		
<b>Project Title (full):</b>	Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) Marine Wildlife (MW) on Southern Mindanao, Philippines		
<b>Date of submission to the GEF</b>	December 3, 2021	<b>Date of approval by the GEF:</b>	October 3, 2022
<b>Remarks on approval process, if applicable</b>			
<b>Name and contact of Environment Focal Point at the UNDP Office:</b>	Floradema C. Eleazar, EnP Team Leader Climate Action Programme Team floradema.eleazar@undp.org 63 9176570410, +63 9175502874		

<b>Country Programme Document (CPD) Outcome (s):</b>	Country Programme Outcome 2: Urbanization, economic growth, and climate change actions are converging for a resilient, equitable and sustainable development path for communities
<b>UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome</b>	Outcome 2. Accelerate structural transformation for sustainable development
<b>Expected CPD Output (s):</b>	2.3 Partnerships strengthened and economic models introduced to reduce biodiversity degradation from unsustainable practices and climate impact  Indicators 2.3.1 Area of UNDP-assisted protected areas with high biodiversity effectively managed (IRRF 1.4.1.2)  2.3.4 Value of financing generated for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

<b>Programme Period:</b>	2019-2023	Total resources required (total project funds)	USD 17,481,045
<b>Atlas Award ID:</b>	00128606	<b>Total allocated resources (UNDP managed funds)</b>	USD
<b>Project ID/Output ID</b>	00122553	UNDP (Non-TRAC)	
<b>PIMS #</b>	6499	GEF	USD 2,639,726
<b>Project Start date:</b>	2023 January	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing</b>	
<b>Proposed Management Arrangements</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NIM <input type="checkbox"/> DEX	o Government	USD 11,305,188
		o CSO	USD 473,221
		o Private Sector	USD
		o UNDP	USD 79,500
		o Academe	USD 2,983,410

<b>Executing Entity/Implementing Partner</b>	Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau
<b>Implementing Entity/Responsible Partners:</b>	To be determined

<b>1) Decisions of the LPAC</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Project was reviewed and appraised in terms of the following:
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	• <u>Relevance</u> . Whether or not there is a consensus on the problem being addressed and the results the project intends to produce; and whether the proposed project is a priority for Government and UNDP;
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	• <u>Feasibility</u> . Whether or not the project strategy will present a credible approach towards intended results;
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	• <u>Commitment</u> . Whether there is evidence that all concerned parties are committed to implementation of the project and whether the selected implementing partner is the best choice for the work to be done;
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	• <u>Accountability</u> . Whether or not the proposed management and implementation arrangements clearly articulate accountabilities and roles and responsibilities;
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	• <u>Cost effectiveness</u> . Whether the project/annual work plan is designed to be cost effective and whether it promises to yield good value for money;
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	• <u>Sustainability</u> . Whether the project results will be sustained with the capacity to be developed;
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• <u>Environmental and Social Impacts</u> . Whether or not any potential environmental and/or social impacts and opportunities have been adequately addressed
<b>Remarks on the above</b>	Please see LPAC Report attached to this Minutes of the Meeting.	
<b>Decisions of the LPAC</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>General endorsement of the Project's strategy:</b> - Objective, Outputs and Activities (see proposal) - Logframe indicators (see Strategic Results Framework) - Management Arrangements (see PRODOC Section I, Part III)

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Specific endorsement of the project's budget (see PRODOC TBW)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Specific endorsement of the proposed project staff complement (see PRODOC Section IV, Part II) and the project's organigramme (if included)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Endorsement of the TOR for key project staff (PRODOC Section IV, Part III)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Endorsement of the proposed strategy for stakeholder engagement (see PRODOC Section I, Part I)
<b>Remarks on the above</b>	Please see LPAC Report attached to this Minutes of the Meeting.	

<b>2) Engagement of Implementing Entity/Responsible Partners</b>		
Will the project engage entities other than the National Executing Entity/Implementing Partner?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If YES, which and for what purpose?	<input type="checkbox"/> Government department <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academia / centre of excellence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others, i.e., subject matter experts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGO Provide technical assistance and capacity building
	<input type="checkbox"/> Government department <input type="checkbox"/> Academia / centre of excellence <input type="checkbox"/> Others, i.e., Private Sectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGO An RP specifically involved in Coastal Resources Management with experiences on ETP Marine Wildlife will be engaged to provide technical assistance to DENR and LGUs.
Is the pre-selection of these partners in line with UNDP procedures and has this been fully endorsed by the LPAC?		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Remarks	The actual selection of Responsible Partners will be undertaken during Project implementation.	

<b>3) General and Specific Recommendations of the LPAC</b>
Below are key highlights and recommendations discussed during the LPAC meeting.
<p>3.1 On relevance,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project is consistent with the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), which is part of the Philippines' commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Project contributes to other national (e.g. Chapter 20 of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), local and sectoral plans and programs related to biodiversity conservation.</li> <li>○ All of the presented Project activities are aligned with the two (2) conservation action plans, including the Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan (MTCAP) and Dugong Conservation Action Plan (DCAP).</li> <li>○ ETP MW Project's key activities are part of or could be linked to the CMEMP components (e.g., enhancement of MPA under NIPAS and the establishment of MPAN, Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises (BDFE), enhancement of knowledge management systems).</li> <li>○ Introduction of BDFEs to improve livelihood opportunities of the communities in support to conservation efforts in the project area is very much aligned with one of the 8-point agenda of the current administration, specifically, on creating green jobs in the blue economy sector.</li> </ul> <p>3.2 On feasibility,</p>

- The targets of the Project are realistic. The activities are logical and will contribute to the realization of the project outputs and outcomes, e.g., strengthening policies, systems and capacities of concerned agencies and institutions as well as further strengthening of the areas under management, including financing of MPAs, which will consequently improve the management of our marine wildlife especially in Southern Mindanao.

### 3.3. On environmental and social impacts,

- The efforts that would emanate from the stakeholder engagement would benefit the community in terms of livelihood or income generating activities as well as in strengthening and safeguarding the three (3) individual MPAs from the impact of climate change and disaster especially in the areas of Don Marcelino where there are ancestral waters.
- Given that the Project received a moderate risk rating, it has been clarified that the ESMF would be implemented.
- All projects that would be implemented within an Ancestral Domain (AD) automatically should comply with the FPIC process. Moreover, if the Project involves the participation of the IPs during Project conceptualization, then the validation process is also required.

### 3.3 On commitment,

- Submission of the letter is a measure of commitment by these different organizations and agencies that are instrumental to the successful implementation of the project. For BMB, the CMEMP is aligned with the targets and deliverables of this project.
- Strong participation of Project partners at the national, regional, and local levels, which include CSOs, academe, private sector, and other key stakeholders during the series of consultations, workshops, and focus group discussions beginning from the project conceptualization to full project preparation stages is clear evidence of their commitment to the project

### 3.5 On Cost-Effectiveness,

- The Project is cost effective. The Project is able to indicate the projected expenditures which are very detailed.

### 3.6 On gender inclusion,

- The Project has conducted a participatory gender analysis and developed a Gender Action Plan (GAP) that would provide guidance to Project implementors in terms of mainstreaming gender considerations in the Project as well as in developing gender strategies and actions across components and priority sectors.

### 3.7 On sustainability and accountability,

- Project structure is clearly articulated (i.e. composition) and the roles and responsibilities of DENR-BMB as the implementing partner are very clear and delineated properly.
- Levels of accountabilities are well-defined and delineated in the Project Document, both at the national and field levels
- A Technical Working Group (TWG) will also be created, which will provide assistance and recommendations to the implementing partner and the project board (e.g. to make sure that outputs will be delivered and other threats issues will be addressed including the coming up of sustainability plan and other strategies to replicate or scale up the project output).
- Project would come up with improved policies, enhanced interagency coordination for both national, regional and field level particularly on establishing MPA and MPAN with focus on ETP MW

#### 4) List of participants in the LPAC

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION		REPRESENTATIVE/S	SEX
DA	BFAR Region XI	- Ms. Rose Loquere	F
DENR	BMB	- Ms. Armida Andres - Dr. Rizza Araceli Salinas - Jhorace Tupas	- F - F - F



	FASPS	- Dir. Al Orolfo - Ms. Elma Eleria - Ms. Maridel Villalon - Mr. Conrad Bravante	- M - F - F - M
	Region XI	- Mr. Orlando Ang - Mr. Gil Bigcas - Ms. Perla Guarra	- M - M - F
DILG	BLGD	- Ms. Angela Mamuyac	- M
MWWP		- Ms. Mo Maguyon - Mr. AA Yaptinchay	- F - M
NCIP		- Ms. Katherine Gullunan - Ms. Carol Dulnuan - Ms. Christy Andalencio - Caroline Sayson	- F - F - F - F
NEDA		- Ms. Jane Dela Rosa - Mr. Angelo Banda	- F - M
UNDP		- Ms. Samantha Gunasekera - Ms. Floradema Eleazar - Ms. Ma. Theresa Espino-Yap - Ms. Clariza Ablaza - Bishni Chettri	- F - F - F - F - M
PPG Team, Independent Consultant		- Atty. Edna Maguigad - Ms. Sef Carandang - Mr. Zandro Racoma - Mr. Romeo Trono	- F - F - M - M

**Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) Marine Wildlife (MW) on Southern Mindanao, Philippines**

**Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting Report  
26 August 2022, 10-12nn, via Zoom**

**A. Background**

- 1) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Biodiversity Management Bureau's (BMB) Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) aims to improve effectiveness of management of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems, thereby increasing their ability to provide ecological goods and services to improve the quality of life of the coastal population. In line with its mandates, the DENR-BMB, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Services, took the lead in the development of the Project Document for the project entitled "*Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) Marine Wildlife (MW) on Southern Mindanao, Philippines*", which was submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- 2) The Project aims to specifically contribute to marine turtle and dugong conservation efforts in the southern Mindanao region through: (i) building the systemic, institutional and individual capacities of the national, regional and local institutions and organizations responsible for the conservation of marine turtles and dugong in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); (ii) strengthening the ecological representativeness and management effectiveness of three (3) individual MPAs with important populations of marine turtles and dugongs in Mayo Bay, Pujada Bay and Malita-Don Marcelino; (iii) promoting environmentally-friendly income generating activities, and rolling-out of feasible funding mechanisms, in these three MPAs; (iv) promoting livelihood development, increasing involvement, and raising awareness in targeted coastal communities around these three MPAs; and (v) locally linking individual MPAs with marine turtle and dugong populations into two provincial-level Marine Protected Area Networks (MPANs).
- 3) Following the Project's recent GEF CEO Endorsement, the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) was convened to review the design of the project in terms of UNDP Quality Standards for Programming, including relevance, feasibility, sustainability and overall quality assurance. Based on a thorough analysis of the project, this committee provided recommendations to the UNDP regarding its approval.
- 4) The conduct of the LPAC Meeting is a requirement prior to the issuance of the Delegation of Authority (DOA) and signing of the ProDoc and its Annexes by the UNDP Resident Representative and the Government of the Philippines (GPH). To note, prior to the LPAC meeting, a pre-LPAC meeting was held to orient the LPAC members and participants on the process and discussion points.

Refer to Annex 1 for Activity Design

**B. Opening Remarks and Preliminaries**

- 5) Ms. Clariza Ablaza of the UNDP welcomed and introduced the participants. A total of 29 representatives (i.e. 10 males and 19 females) from various National Government Agencies (NGAs) and organizations were present. The Implementing Partner, DENR-BMB was represented by the Chief of the Coastal and Marine Division (CMD), i.e., Ms. Armida

Andres. Moreover, officials from the DENR - Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS) and DENR Region XI Office were in attendance. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) of the Department of Interior and Local Governance (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) - Region XI, Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines (MWWP), as well as members of the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Team were also present.

- 6) LPAC members were UNDP Resident Representative who also acted as the Chair, BMB, DA-BFAR, DENR-FASPS, NEDA and NCIP. The rest of the participants were invited as Resource Persons whose inputs were meaningful to the review of the project design.

Refer to Annex 2 for the list of participants and the group photo.

- 7) On behalf of Dr. Selva Ramachandran, Resident Representative of the UNDP Philippines and designated chair for the LPAC Meeting, Ms. Samantha Gunasakera, UNDP's OIC and Operations Manager, provided the Opening Remarks. Expressing excitement for being part of the LPAC Meeting, Ms. Gunasakera acknowledged the hard work that everyone has been doing to ensure the eventual implementation of the Project. Briefly stating the Project's objective and the "long partnership" with BMB, Ms. Gunasakera remarked that collaborative work is important in improving the protection of coastal and marine resources. The significance of looking into ways on how to take the Project forward such as showcasing governance mechanisms, partnership building, as well as improving investments from stakeholders were also highlighted.
- 8) As part of her Opening Remarks, Ms. Gunasakera emphasized the Project's focus on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) especially on SDG 14, i.e., Life Below Water. The importance of ensuring that no one is left behind was also highlighted. Moreover, Ms. Gunasakera reminded everyone on the value of good communication and to not just focus on knowledge sharing but also on sorting out any issues and misunderstanding. Lastly, she expressed hope that through the LPAC Meeting, the need for the Project would be validated and during the discussion, additional areas for improvement would be identified.

### **C. Presentation**

- 9) Ms. Theresa Espino-Yap presented the agenda of the LPAC meeting as well as the project design. During her presentation, Ms. Espino-Yap also provided an overview of the Project's development and timeline of activities, Project Rationale, Project Concept, objectives, components and target sites, as well as the governance and management arrangement. After the presentation, participants were provided opportunities to raise clarifications and give their feedback.
- 10) Other highlights of the presentation were:
  - The ETP MW Project is one of the smallest GEF Projects (in terms of budget) that would be implemented in the coming years.
  - The issuance of the Special Presidential Authority (SPA) by the Office of the President (OP) is important. It is only after its issuance that it would be possible to proceed with the signing of the ProDoc and the Project launch.
  - Both DENR-BMB and DA-BFAR play significant roles in conserving and protecting marine megafauna species, which are mentioned in key national policies (i.e. RA 9147 as well as RA 10654, which is an amendment of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (RA 8550).

- In the overall landscape of the ETP MW, the roles of the LGUs are very significant.
- Although 228 KBAs have been identified in the Philippines, only 11 out of the 77 truly marine KBAs are under NIPAS. Hence, the project would like to contribute in increasing representation of marine KBA under effective management.
- On Component 2, Ms. Espino-Yap stated that towards the end of the PPG Phase, they were able to secure the engagement and commitment of Jose Abad Santos (JAS) and Sarangani municipalities. She noted that the Davao Occidental province has specifically expressed intent to include these two (2) other LGUs in the Project's initiatives. However, because of the project budget, she clarified that the interventions for JAS and Sarangani LGUs would mostly cover capacity building programs that would be undertaken by the project.
- The potential social and environmental risks of the project were looked into during the PPG Stage through the Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP) and the Project was given a 'moderate risk' rating. Specifically, because the Project would affect the ancestral water claims of the IP communities in the Don Marcelino LGU. However, Ms. Espino-Yap remarked that measures that could mitigate the potential social and environmental risk during project implementation were also looked into, including the development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) whose implementation will be led by BMB.
- Key points raised during stakeholder consultations which have been addressed and integrated in the ProDoc, are as follows:
  - The former DA Secretary expressed BFAR's commitment and participation during project implementation (i.e. links with improved FMA management strategies; co-financing)
  - The LGU of Sta. Maria expressed that it would be able to firm up its participation in the Project after they have already dealt with the pandemic issues and concerns within their area of jurisdiction. Further talks with Sta. Maria LGU would be conducted. On the other hand, during the PPG Phase, the commitment of Don Marcelino, JAS and Sarangani were confirmed.
  - The Project agrees with the NCIP provincial offices that more thorough IP consultations would be undertaken during initial project implementation period specifically in the Don Marcelino LGU.
  - In response to the provincial and municipal LGUs' apprehension on co-financing with the implementation of the Mandanas ruling, UNDP clarified that the co-financing commitment would only represent attribution from existing budget allocation for coastal management related activities.

Refer to Annex 3 for a copy of the presentation material.

#### **D. Highlights of the Discussion**

11) Following the Presentation about the Project Design, Ms. Gunasakera invited the participants to share their insights as well as ask questions. Below were highlights of the discussions concerning the project design.

##### **12) On the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Process**

- Director Al Orolfo of DENR-FASPS, requested for clarification if FPIC would be secured for areas within ancestral claims.
- Ms. Espino-Yap responded that as indicated in the ProDoc as well as based on UNDP's discussion with NCIP officials (i.e. FAPIRO, Region XI and provincial offices), the Project would be complying with the FPIC policy. However, she stated that the identification of the extent of ancestral domains where the Project would operate was not undertaken during the PPG phase. Hence, the specific details and requirements

are yet to be looked into so further discussions with the NCIP and the IP communities would be conducted.

- Ms. Espino-Yap added that a community validation process that is aligned with the FPIC policy would also be undertaken.
- Mr. Zandro Racoma, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist during the PPG Phase, stated that as far as the PPG assessment results are concerned, it is only Don Marcelino LGU that has ancestral waters. Also, he clarified that the requirement of the NCIP for FPIC would be secured by the Project, but this would be further verified prior to commencement of activities and proper coordination would be undertaken with NCIP regional offices

13) Ms. Floradema Eleazar of the UNDP expressed appreciation for the responses. She then stated the importance of going through the different dimensions of the LPAC and to make sure to cover all the GEF requirements as well as to gather inputs from different stakeholders.

14) Ms. Eleazar invited the NGAs and organizations to provide their insights and comments on the LPAC areas. The DENR-FASPS also submitted to UNDP a copy of the feedback they presented.

15) On Relevance

15.1 Ms. Armida Andres and Dr. Rizza Araceli Salinas of DENR-BMB remarked that Ms. Espino-Yap adequately presented the nature and extent of the problem being faced by the country's marine wildlife, which was also the reason why BMB came up with the conservation action plans dedicated to the two (2) threatened species, specifically, the Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan (MTCAP) and the Dugong Conservation Action Plan (DCAP).

- Ms. Andres confirmed that the Project is consistent with the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), which is part of the Philippines' commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Project contributes to other national (e.g. Chapter 20 of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), local and sectoral plans and programs related to biodiversity conservation.
- Furthermore, Dr. Salinas stated that the revised version of the MTCAP And DCAP is due for review by the BMB Technical Review Committee (TRC). All of the presented Project activities are aligned with the two (2) conservation action plans. Ms. Andres added that a main portfolio of DENR, at present, is the Coastal and Marine Environmental Management Plan (CMEMP). She then stated that all of ETP MW Project's key activities are part of or could be linked to the CMEMP components (e.g., enhancement of MPA under NIPAS and the establishment of MPAN, Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises (BDFE), enhancement of knowledge management systems). Lastly, Ms. Andres stated that the Project's strong component on capacity building is very relevant. She then suggested itemizing all the activities that would be supported under this project in order to better see how it aligns with current programs that are part of the government priorities.

15.2 Mr. Romeo Trono shared that he has been involved with sea turtle and dugong conservation for the past 30 years and believes that the Project is extremely relevant.

- Sharing some of his experiences, Mr. Trono stated that he has been seeing some positive trends on the population of marine turtles compared to how it was 20 years ago. However, he stressed that it is important to implement serious conservation initiatives to sustain these positive trends. Other positive signs and results of successful conservation efforts on marine turtles cited included: (i) sightings of several species of turtles recorded almost every weekend in diving destinations all over the

- country; (ii) In support of the significance of enabling conditions, Mr. Trono stated that long term sustainable management of MPAs have been proven to be effective. Specific examples provided were the Baguan and Turtle Islands managed by BMB for four (4) decades that resulted to unprecedented increase of 700% increase in nesting incidents. From annual records of only 2,000 green turtle nests in a 1.2 km nesting beach during the early 1980s to 16,000 nests and up to 1.6M eggs per year between 2012 and 2014; (iii) Dahican beach has a nesting spot where three (3) different species of sea turtles could be encountered including the critically endangered hawksbill turtle.
- On the other hand, Mr. Trono emphasized that dugong requires more serious attention and current sightings of these mammals in their natural habitat is extremely rare. Moreover, the few sightings are often carcasses stranded in beaches or tangled in nets. Moreover, Mr. Trono shared the following:
    - A report from China declaring dugongs as now functionally extinct.
    - Results from a study conducted during the mid-80s until early-90s, where there are already several sites in Philippines where dugongs are locally, functionally or ecologically extinct. Due to their low population, they are no longer able to perform their ecological functions in the ecosystems that they occupy (e.g. seagrass meadows).
    - Many areas like Zambales where there were dugong sightings during the early 1900s, no longer report recent sightings. This is the same trend for Mindoro Province, Samar Province, Cagayan de Oro City, and Iligan City.
    - Increasing dugong population is a very challenging task mostly because of their low reproductivity rate and high mortality rate. In particular, female dugongs reach sexual maturity at 9 or 11 years. Moreover, only one calf is born every 3-5 years.
  - Mr. Trono further reiterated that Mayo Bay is a critical habitat for dugong. Mr. Trono stated that the Project would also serve priority concerns under international agreements where the Philippines is a signatory, e.g. UNEP Convention on Migratory Species and the implementation of the Indian Ocean South East Asia Conservation Management Plan for Marine Turtle.

15.3 Ms. Gunasakera expressed her appreciation of Mr. Trono. She then acknowledged the vast amount of information that could be shared given the subject.

15.4 DENR-FASPS Dir. Orolfo and Mr. Conrad Bravante stated that in terms of relevance, the introduction of BDFEs to improve livelihood opportunities of the communities in support to conservation efforts in the project area is very much aligned with one of the 8-point agenda of the current administration, specifically, on creating green jobs in the blue economy sector.

## 16) On Feasibility

16.1 Ms. Jane dela Rosa of NEDA The presented outputs and outcomes are realistic. The activities are logical and will contribute to the realization of the project outputs and outcomes, e.g., strengthening policies, systems and capacities of concerned agencies and institutions as well as further strengthening of the areas under management, including financing of MPAs, which will consequently improve the management of our marine wildlife especially in Southern Mindanao.

- The Project activities and outputs across the different components are found to be responsive to the enumerated threats and barriers. These threats and barriers are important to be acknowledged and addressed, which is critical to strengthen MPAs as well as to ensure that they will provide the critical goods and services that are crucial for the coastal communities in the Project sites.

- Overall, the Project activities complement the ongoing programs of the DENR such as the CMEMP and other BDFE efforts of the BMB. The Project activities also complement the efforts of DA-BFAR as well as other relevant agencies. It is then important to further strengthen the ongoing collaborations that are already in place and optimize gains and benefits from the Project. Lastly, activities and delivery of outputs can be executed within the set time frame and budget allocation

16.2 Dir. Orolfo of DENR FASPS highlighted that the project would contribute to marine turtle and dugong conservation efforts in the Southern Mindanao Region through the following strategies:

- **Building institutional capacities of the national, regional and local government partners and other partner institutions and organizations** responsible for the conservation of marine turtles and dugong in MPAs;
  - **Strengthening the management effectiveness of three (3) individual MPAs** with populations of marine turtles and dugongs in Mayo Bay and Pujada Bay of Davao Oriental, and Malita-Don Marcelino of Davao Occidental;
  - **Promoting livelihood development and environmentally-friendly income generating activities, funding mechanisms, and awareness raising** in these three MPAs; and
  - **Locally linking individual MPAs with marine turtle and dugong populations into two provincial-level MPANs.**
- The above strategies are deemed feasible in view of the following:
    - Established partnership with DA-BFAR, concerned LGUs, and academic institutions (Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology, Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine Aquatic School of Technology, and University of the Philippines Mindanao).
    - Presence of related programs and projects which have contributed important baseline knowledge and lessons that were used as reference in project design, including major programs and policies of both DENR (e.g. Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program) and DA-BFAR (e.g. Fishery Management Areas and Ecosystem Approach to Fishery Management).
  - Further, the adoption of the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) on *Guidelines on the Establishment and Management of Marine Protected Area Networks* lays down the basis, criteria, and processes for the establishment and management of MPAs in the Philippines. MPAN is seen to enhance project feasibility and ensure attainment of the following project results:
    - Improvement of the three (3) MPAs in terms of marine turtle nesting, reduced dugong mortalities, and the maintenance of the ecological integrity of dugong and turtle habitats.
    - The linking of the three (3) MPAs into provincial and regional MPANs will further improve the capacities of the individual MPAs in the network to conserve dugong and marine turtle populations more effectively in each MPA; and
    - Further expansion and improved management of MPAs conserving marine turtle and dugong populations in the Philippines.
  - The Project could also create green jobs through the activities that would be implemented. The seagrass ecosystem will also be protected and the promotion of livelihood will also be more sustainable in the LGU-level.

## 17) On Environmental and Social Impacts



- 17.1 Ms. Andres of BMB stated that although the Project received a moderate risk rating, it has been clarified that the ESMF would be implemented. Therefore, the DENR-BMB expressed that they are comfortable that the issues would be addressed accordingly.
- 17.2 Ms. Andalencio of NCIP-Foreign Assisted Projects and International Relations Unit (FAPIRU) expressed support to Ms. Andres' statement. The NCIP representative stated the importance of joint forces among the national, regional and local institutions both from the public and private sector to ensure the protection of MPAs and resources. The efforts that would emanate from this collaborative engagement would benefit the community in terms of livelihood or income generating activities as well as in strengthening and safeguarding the three (3) individual MPAs from the impact of climate change and disaster especially in the areas of Don Marcelino where there are ancestral waters.
- 17.3 In response to the earlier question on FPIC, Ms. Andalencio clarified that all projects that would be implemented within an Ancestral Domain (AD) automatically should comply with the FPIC process. Moreover, if the Project involves the participation of the IPs during Project conceptualization, then the validation process is also required.

18) On Commitment

- 18.1 Ms. Andres of BMB stated that their expression of commitment as well as the allocation for co-funding is reflected in the letter of endorsement. Ms. Andres remarked that this could also be true for other agencies and institutions that submitted their endorsement letter. She added that the submission of the letter is also a measure of commitment by these different organizations and agencies that are instrumental to the successful implementation of the project. For BMB, the CMEMP is aligned with the targets and deliverables of this project.
- 18.2 Dir. Orolfo of DENR-FASPS highlighted that the strong participation of Project partners at the national, regional, and local levels, which include CSOs, academe, private sector, and other key stakeholders during the series of consultations, workshops, and focus group discussions beginning from the project conceptualization to full project preparation stages is clear evidence of their commitment to the project. The partnerships and collaboration established between and among the project partners are critical for sound project design and implementation, which could strengthen as well the sustainability of benefits from project interventions. He further added that the said commitment is also reflected by the co-financing contribution committed by project partners (DENR-BMB, DENR-XI, DTI-XI, DOT-XI, DILG-XI, DSWD, LGUs-XI, Academic Institutions, Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines, and UNDP). Notwithstanding GEF's policy on co-financing, this form of commitment is evidence of project acceptance and ownership that will contribute to the effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the project. He confirmed that the selected implementation partners are certainly the appropriate groups/agencies for the project as the scope of project activities sits well in their respective mandates.

19) On Accountability

- 19.1 Ms. Eleazar clarified that accountability pertains to the project management and implementation arrangements. Specifically, on whether they are suitable to ensure accountability and if the communication lines are clear.

Ms. Dela Rosa of NEDA described that the project structure is clearly articulated (i.e. composition) and the roles and responsibilities of DENR-BMB as the implementing partner are very clear and delineated properly. The project would also be able to bring in together other stakeholders (e.g. CSOs, private sector) through participatory planning,

decision making, and knowledge sharing. Also, it has been mentioned that a project board will be created to engage the stakeholders at the national and subnational levels. Mandates are also clear in the ProDoc particularly on the roles in terms of consensus decision making, overall overseeing project implementation, coordination and risk management.

- 19.2 She pointed-out that similar with other GEF supported projects, a Technical Working Group (TWG) will also be created, which will provide assistance and recommendations to the implementing partner and the project board (e.g. to make sure that outputs will be delivered and other threats issues will be addressed including the coming up of sustainability plan and other strategies to replicate or scale up the project output).
- 19.3 Dir. Orolfo of DENR-FASPS indicated that the levels of accountabilities are well-defined and delineated in the Project Document, both at the national and field levels. For instance, the UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project and as oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. Similarly, the responsibilities of the executing partners, DENR-BMB, as well as the target responsible partners' roles and accountabilities were clearly defined in the project document.
- 19.4 The different management structures, such as the Project Board (PB)/National Steering Committee (NSC) as well as the Technical Working Group (TWG) that will be established, including the respective composition and responsibilities, were clearly defined in the ProDoc:

*The PB will be composed of DENR Central Office represented by the USec for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs, DENR-BMB, DA-BFAR, NCIP, DOT, Regional and Provincial Offices of DENR and DA-BFAR, Provincial Governments of Davao Oriental and Occidental.*

*The PB/NSC is responsible to provide consensus decision-making, oversee project execution, guidance on risk management, and coordination between various government partner agencies and donors.*

*On the other hand, the NTWG is responsible to provide assistance and recommendation to the Implementing Partner and Project Board (PB) in terms of policy and study support, coordinating mechanisms to improve project management, and delivery of project outputs outlined in the ProDoc.*

- 19.5 Dir. Orolfo provided guidance that in order to formalize the accountabilities of the management structures, a Special Order (S.O) will be issued by the DENR Secretary. In support to this S.O. it is suggested that the full details of the operations of the PB/NTWG and other management structures, should be articulated in the Project Operations Manual, which is recommended also to be developed and be readily available before the full Implementation of the project. The Operations Manual should also include fiduciary requirements/arrangements on Finance, Human Resources, including procurement of goods and services, as well as project audit.
- 19.6 Ms. Gunasakera expressed support to Dir. Orolfo's statement on the importance of the Operations Manual. Ms. Eleazar remarked that it is best practice to document these procedures so everyone in the project as well as the stakeholders would be aware of the standards and be able to apply them in all transactions.

## 20) On Cost Effectiveness

- 20.1 Ms. Dela Rosa of NEDA confirmed that the item costs for each component of the project are detailed and clearly indicated in the work plan. There is also sufficient assurance that the budget allocation for each item followed a rigorous process as required by GEF (e.g. allocated budget for consultancy, travels, supplies, training), which would result to a good value for money and is critical to reach the target outputs and desired objectives of the project.
- 20.2 Dir. Orolfo suggested conducting an annual review of budget allocation in order to be able to know if there are some areas that need to be fixed along the way.
- 20.3 Ms. Gunasakera stated that, based on her observations, when doing budget allocation and costing, the local procurement norm tends to only stay within the Philippines, which is based on the assumption that the needed resources and technical people are always available and could be sourced locally. She then suggested to also look more broadly and provide a buffer in case these resources could not be availed internally and must be sourced outside the country.

21) On Gender and Inclusion

- 21.1 Ms. Angela Mamuyac of DILG-BLGD stated that the project team has conducted participatory gender analysis, which was utilized in developing the project's implementation strategies, components and outcomes to ensure that women and the vulnerable sectors will be fully benefiting from the project. Also, the project's livelihood plan seem to incentivize sustainable production and consumption for women and men community members that would enable them to become better stewards of the environment. The Project could also contribute to improving youth awareness on marine conservation actions and in ensuring that both women and men are able to access and share in the necessary knowledge.
- 21.2 The DILG-BLGD also took note of the PRF to include gender disaggregated targets and indicators. Overall, we deemed that inclusion of gender concerns and ensuring gender equality is integrated in all aspects of the project.

22) On Sustainability

- 22.1 Ms. Andres of DENR-BMB indicated that it is very important for the project to come up with a sustainability plan for the interventions that would be introduced. Ms. Andres expressed her hope that the Project would come up with improved policies, enhanced interagency coordination for both national, regional and field level particularly on establishing MPA and MPAN with focus on ETP MW. Moreover, she mentioned that it would be important for interventions to be fully captured in the sustainability plan that would be developed by the Project, and all capacity building initiatives from all aspects (i.e. policy, coordination, establishment of MPAN) would be fully accounted for. Ms. Andres remarked that being able to do so would also be helpful in replicating efforts in other sites.

**E. Endorsement of ProDoc and Annexes**

- 23) Ms. Eleazar expressed appreciation for all the insights that were shared and remarked that a lot has been covered during the discussion, which is a confirmation that the Project is indeed good to go. Ms. Eleazar then asked the plenary if it would be alright to proceed with the recommendation for endorsement.
- 24) Ms. Eleazar requested for the plenary's motion on whether to approve or disapprove the project. Dir. Orolfo responded and recommended the endorsement of the ProDoc and

Annexes which was seconded by Ms. Dela Rosa. No objections from other LPAC members were made.

#### **F. Next Steps**

25) Ms. Espino-Yap briefly discussed the next steps for the project. Specifically,

- UNDP will prepare the LPAC proceedings by September 2, 2022 and will forward them to the LPAC members
- Further comments, insights, suggestions and recommendations for the LPAC Areas as well as the Project Quality Assurance Report could be submitted to UNDP until September 9, 2022
- UNDP will reshare the Quality Assurance report, which is one (1) document that LPAC members should look at. Ms. Espino-Yap clarified that it was already shared by Ms. Ablaza but no comments were received.
- UNDP will prepare a summary of all comments, insights and feedback that they would receive. The summary would be shared with the LPAC members and would be submitted to the Bangkok Regional Hub in order to secure the delegation of authority

#### **G. Closing Message**

26) Ms. Andres delivered the Closing Message. Citing the comment of GEF that the ETP MW Project is one of the transformative proposals that were submitted to GEF-7, Ms. Andres stated the importance of looking back at key learnings from GEF4 and GEF5 Projects such as the need to define clearly the roles of the stakeholders, identify data gaps, and to ensure sustainable mechanisms from day 1. Referring to a statement by a DA Undersecretary who remarked that coastal and marine are shared resources, Ms. Andres expressed hope that everyone would be able to cooperate and coordinate in sustainably managing the ecosystems. Lastly, she expressed gratitude to all the representatives for attending the meeting and stated that she looks forward to its implementation. Prior to closing the Zoom Meeting Room, Ms. Ablaza facilitated the taking of the group photo.

#### **H. Adjournment**

27) The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.



## Annex 1

### UNDP Philippines

#### Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting

For Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant endangered, threatened and protected marine wildlife in southern Mindanao

26 August 2022, 10-11:30 a.m.

Zoom and UNDP Conference Room

### INTRODUCTION

This Guidance outlines the purpose and composition of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC). It also provides a checklist for review of Project Documents and outlines the requirement for LPAC recommendation. Recording of minutes of the LPAC meetings, and its approval by the chairperson of the meeting, is mandatory.

### PURPOSE

The LPAC is established to review the design of a project for relevance, feasibility, sustainability and overall quality assurance. Based on a thorough analysis the project under review, this committee provides recommendation to the UNDP on its approval or rejection.

### COMPOSITION/MEMBERS

Below are agencies which will be invited to the LPAC meeting.

LPAC		Roles
Chair	Dr. Selva Ramachandran, UNDP Resident Representative	



Members	DENR-BMB, DENR-FASPS/OFP, NEDA, DA-BFAR, NCIP	To recommend approval or rejection (validation) of the Project
Resource Person	PPG Team, DENR Region 11, NCIP 11, MWWP, DILG CO and 11, DA-BFAR 11	To provide inputs in relation to LPAC checklist.

Note: These agencies have been consulted during the preparation of the Project Document (ProDoc). The latter has also been shared with these agencies.

## PROCESS

The final draft of Project Document will be circulated to the participants at least five working days prior to the meeting. The concerned Programme Analyst is responsible for producing a brief presentation covering key areas of the project and highlighting the issues related to the checklist. The LPAC meeting minutes are circulated to the participants after approval of the chairperson.

## DOCUMENTS TO BE SHARED WITH LPAC MEMBERS

The following documents should be shared at least five (5) working days before the scheduled LPAC:

1. Project Document
2. Project QA (Design) Assessment printed from the Corporate Planning System
3. Social and Environmental Screening
4. Gender assessment, if any. It is recommended that a gender assessment is conducted to inform the design of new projects.
5. LPAC checklist template (See page 3)

## United Nations Development Programme



### AGENDA (1 hour and 30 mins)

Duration	Activity	Person Responsible
5 mins	Opening message	Chair
5 mins	Introduction of Participants	UNDP
20 mins	Brief presentation covering key areas of the project	Programme Analyst
20 mins	Summary of points raised during stakeholder consultations	Programme Analyst
35 mins	Open discussion	LPAC Chair to facilitate
5 mins	Recommendation of the LPAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve</li> <li>- Approve with qualifications</li> <li>- Disapprove</li> </ul>	LPAC members
5 mins	Closing message	BMB



## United Nations Development Programme



### CHECKLIST

The LPAC reviews final draft of the project document based on the following checklist:

No.	Question	Comments
1.	<b>Relevance</b> Whether or not there is a consensus on the problem being addressed and the results the project intends to produce; and whether the proposed project is a priority for Government and UNDP	
2.	<b>Feasibility</b> Whether or not the project strategy will present a credible approach towards intended results	
3.	<b>Environmental and Social Impacts</b> Whether or not any potential environmental and/or social impacts and opportunities have been adequately assessed, addressed, and included in the project risk log	
4.	<b>Commitment</b> Whether there is evidence that all concerned parties are committed to implementation of the project and whether the selected implementing partner is the best choice for the work to be done	
5.	<b>Accountability</b> Whether or not the proposed management and implementation arrangements clearly articulate accountabilities and roles and responsibilities	

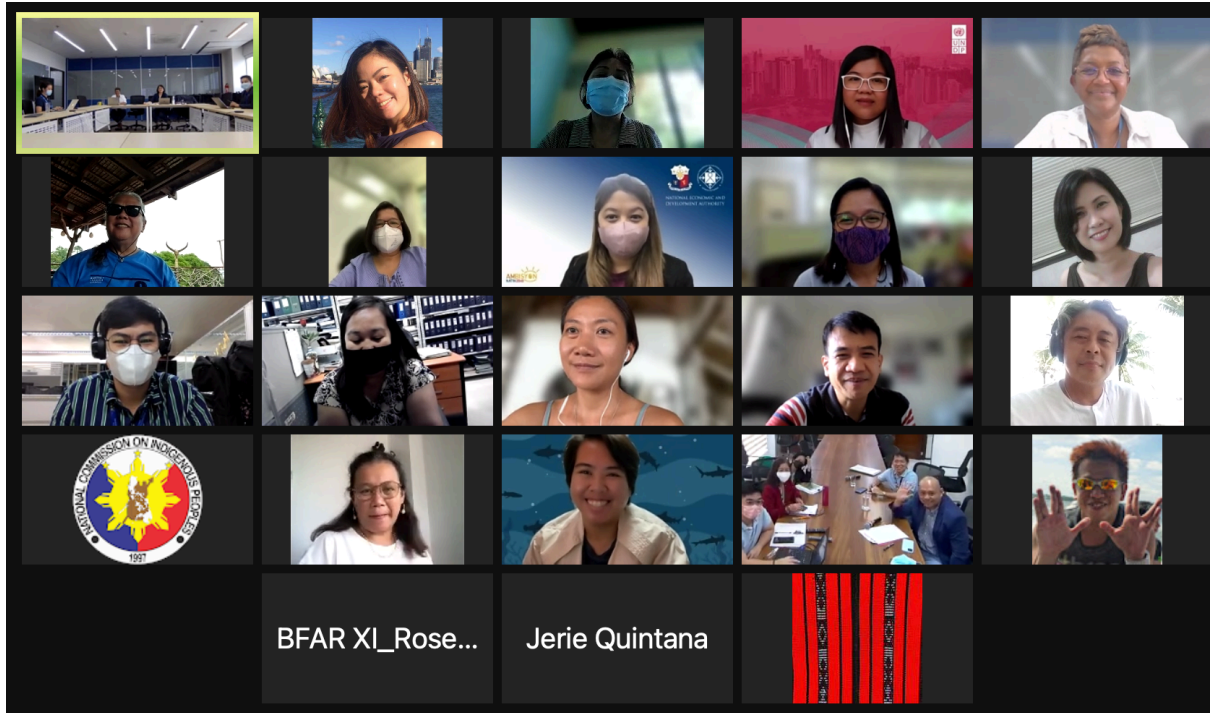
**United Nations Development Programme**

6.	<b>Cost Effectiveness</b> Whether the project multi-year work plan is designed to be cost effective and whether it promises to yield good value for money	
7.	<b>Gender and Inclusion</b> Whether or not the gender equality aspects are thoroughly considered by the project developer. Whether or not all relevant stakeholders consulted and are the interventions catering to their needs	
8.	<b>Sustainability</b> Whether the project results will be sustained with the capacity to be developed	

**Annex 2.****Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) Marine Wildlife (MW) on Southern Mindanao, Philippines****Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting Report  
26 August 2022****Participants of the LPAC Meeting**

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION		REPRESENTATIVE/S	SEX
DA	BFAR Region XI	- Ms. Rose Loquere	F
DENR	BMB	- Ms. Armida Andres	- F
		- Dr. Rizza Araceli Salinas	- F
		- Jhorace Tupas	- F
	FASPS	- Dir. Al Orolfo	- M
		- Ms. Elma Eleria	- F
		- Ms. Maridel Villalon	- F
		- Mr. Conrad Bravante	- M
	Region XI	- Mr. Orlando Ang	- M
		- Mr. Gil Bigcas	- M
		- Ms. Perla Guarra	- F
DILG	BLGD	- Ms. Angela Mamuyac	- M
MWWP		- Ms. Mo Maguyon	- F
		- Mr. AA Yaptinchay	- M
NCIP		- Ms. Katherine Gullunan	- F
		- Ms. Carol Dulnuan	- F
		- Ms. Christy Andalencio	- F
		- Caroline Sayson	- F
NEDA		- Ms. Jane Dela Rosa	- F
		- Mr. Angelo Banda	- M
UNDP		- Ms. Samantha Gunasekera	- F
		- Ms. Floradema Eleazar	- F
		- Ms. Ma. Theresa Espino-Yap	- F
		- Ms. Clariza Ablaza	- F
		- Bishni Chettri	- M
PPG Team, Independent Consultant		- Atty. Edna Maguigad	- F
		- Ms. Sef Carandang	- F
		- Mr. Zandro Racoma	- M
		- Mr. Romeo Trono	- M

### Participants of the LPAC Meeting Group Photo



## United Nations Development Programme

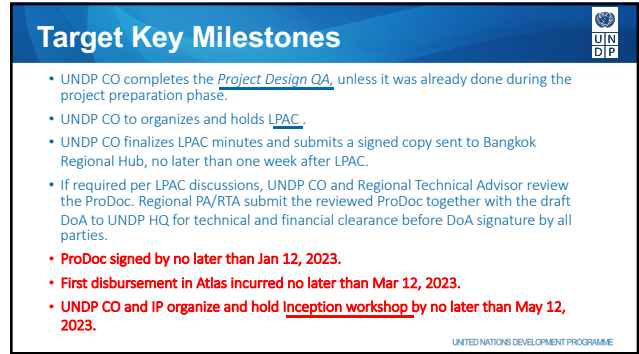
Annex 3: Presentation Material



**Pre- Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting**  
*For Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant endangered, threatened and protected marine wildlife in southern Mindanao*

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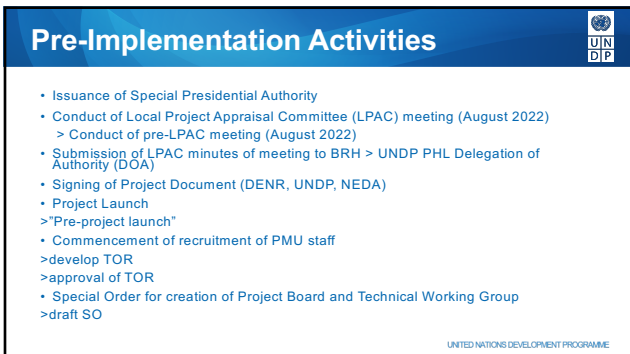


**Target Key Milestones**

- UNDP CO completes the Project Design QA, unless it was already done during the project preparation phase.
- UNDP CO to organizes and holds LPAC.
- UNDP CO finalizes LPAC minutes and submits a signed copy sent to Bangkok Regional Hub, no later than one week after LPAC.
- If required per LPAC discussions, UNDP CO and Regional Technical Advisor review the ProDoc. Regional PA/RTA submit the reviewed ProDoc together with the draft DoA to UNDP HQ for technical and financial clearance before DoA signature by all parties.
- **ProDoc signed by no later than Jan 12, 2023.**
- **First disbursement in Atlas incurred no later than Mar 12, 2023.**
- **UNDP CO and IP organize and hold Inception workshop by no later than May 12, 2023.**

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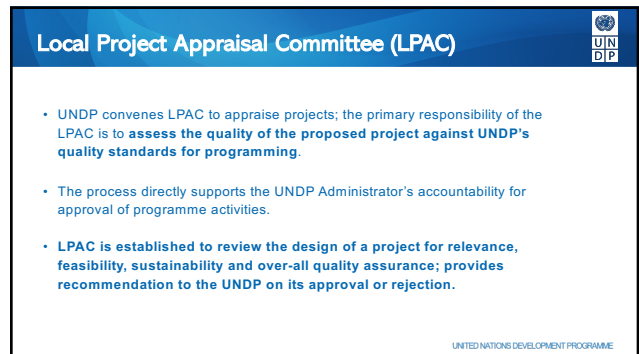


**Pre-Implementation Activities**

- Issuance of Special Presidential Authority
- Conduct of Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting (August 2022)  
 > Conduct of pre-LPAC meeting (August 2022)
- Submission of LPAC minutes of meeting to BRH > UNDP PHL Delegation of Authority (DOA)
- Signing of Project Document (DENR, UNDP, NEDA)
- Project Launch  
 > "Pre-project launch"
- Commencement of recruitment of PMU staff  
 > develop TOR  
 > approval of TOR
- Special Order for creation of Project Board and Technical Working Group  
 > draft SO

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**Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC)**

- UNDP convenes LPAC to appraise projects; the primary responsibility of the LPAC is to **assess the quality of the proposed project against UNDP's quality standards for programming.**
- The process directly supports the UNDP Administrator's accountability for approval of programme activities.
- **LPAC is established to review the design of a project for relevance, feasibility, sustainability and over-all quality assurance; provides recommendation to the UNDP on its approval or rejection.**

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### LPAC Members

LPAC		Roles
Chair	Dr. Selva Ramachandran, UNDP Resident Representative	
Members	BMB, DA-BFAR, DENR-FASPS/OFP, NEDA, NCIP	To recommend approval or rejection (validation) of the Project

Other agencies: Resource Persons (PPG Team, DENR Region 11, NCIP 11, MWWP, BFAR 11, DLG CO and XI)

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### AGENDA

Opening message	LPAC Chair
Brief presentation covering key areas of the project	Climate Action
Summary of points raised during stakeholder consultations	Climate Action
Open discussion	LPAC Chair to facilitate
Recommendation of the LPAC	LPAC members
- Approve	
- Approve with qualifications	
- Disapprove	
Closing message	Representatives of the Implementing Partner or main Government Partner

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### LPAC Checklist

LPAC Areas	Guide Questions	Agency responsible
<b>Relevance</b> <i>Whether or not there is a consensus on the problem being addressed and the results the project intends to produce; and whether the proposed project is a priority for Government and UNDP</i>	Is the problem real? Are the proposed solutions apt? Will this project serve a priority concern of the Government? Will this project serve a priority concern of UNDP? Will the project serve priority concerns under international documents whereof the Philippines is a Party?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMB</li> <li>MWWP as RP</li> <li>PPG Team member</li> </ul>

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### LPAC Checklist

LPAC Areas	Guide Questions	Responsible
<b>Feasibility</b> <i>Whether or not the project strategy will present a credible approach towards intended results</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the targets realistic?</li> <li>Will the project strategy get its intended result within the time frame and the budget?</li> <li>Are these the best strategies at hand?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DENR FASP</li> <li>NEDA</li> </ul>

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LPAC Checklist		
LPAC Areas	Guide Questions	Agency
<p><b>Environmental and Social Impacts</b> Whether or not any potential environmental and/or social impacts and opportunities have been adequately addressed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the possible positive social impacts of this project?</li> <li>• How can these positive social impacts be harnessed?</li> <li>• What are the possible negative social impacts of this project?</li> <li>• How can these negative social impacts be managed or avoided?</li> <li>• What are the possible positive environmental impacts of this project?</li> <li>• How can these positive environmental impacts be harnessed?</li> <li>• What are the possible negative environmental impacts of this project?</li> <li>• How can these negative environmental impacts be managed or avoided?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCIP</li> <li>• BMB</li> </ul>

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LPAC Checklist		
LPAC Areas	Guide Questions	Agency
<p><b>Commitment</b> Whether there is evidence that all concerned parties are committed to implementation of the project and whether the selected implementing partner is the best choice for the work to be done</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we measure the commitment of the parties to project implementation? What soft and hard technologies should be used to do this?</li> <li>• Who is the implementing partner? How was it chosen?</li> <li>• Does the selection process ensure that the implementing partner is the best choice for the work to be done?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DENR XI</li> <li>• FASPS</li> <li>• BMB</li> </ul>

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LPAC Checklist		
LPAC Areas	Guide Questions	Agency
<p><b>Accountability</b> Whether or not the proposed management and implementation arrangements clearly articulate accountabilities and roles and responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are accountability/communication lines clear and logical?</li> <li>• How can/may the gaps, if any, be closed?</li> <li>• Are all concerned sectoral groups represented?</li> <li>• Will it give voice to the voiceless?</li> <li>• Will it optimize learning?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEDA</li> <li>• FASPS</li> </ul>


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LPAC Checklist		
LPAC Areas	Guide Questions	Agency
<p><b>Cost Effectiveness</b> Whether the project/annual work plan is designed to be cost effective and whether it promises to yield good value for money</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the project cost-effective?</li> <li>• Will the plan likely to result in good value for money?</li> <li>• Are the targets likely to add value to the intents of the project?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEDA</li> <li>• BFAR</li> </ul>


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LPAC Checklist			
LPAC Areas	Guide Questions	Agency	
<p><i>Gender and Inclusion</i></p> <p>Whether or not the gender equality aspects are thoroughly considered by the project developer. Whether or not all relevant stakeholders consulted and are the relevant interventions catering to their needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are gender mainstreaming strategies appropriate and feasible?</li> </ul>	DILG	

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LPAC Checklist			
LPAC Areas	Guide Questions	Agency	
<p><i>Sustainability</i></p> <p>Whether the project results will be sustained with the capacity to be developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the foreseen results of this project?</li> <li>What capacities will/can be developed through this project?</li> <li>Will the capacities to be built lead or likely to lead to the sustainability of the project results?</li> <li>In what sense or under what conditions will these capacities lead to sustainability?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMB</li> <li>DENR XI</li> <li>DILG</li> </ul>	

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## Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting

Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant **Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) marine wildlife** in Southern Mindanao, Philippines  
 August 26, 2022


1




## Agenda

Opening message	LPAC Chair
Brief presentation covering key areas of the project	Climate Action
Summary of points raised during stakeholder consultations	Climate Action
Open discussion	LPAC Chair to facilitate
Recommendation of the LPAC	LPAC members
- Approve	
- Approve with qualifications	
- Disapprove	
Closing message	Representatives of the Implementing Partner or main Government Partner

2



## Project Information



Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant **Endangered, Threatened, and Protected (ETP) marine wildlife** in Southern Mindanao, Philippines

### ETP Marine Wildlife Project

Timeline: 2022-2027

Country:	Philippines	Project Duration (Months)	60
GEF Agency:	UNDP	Project Cost:	
Project:	BIRB	Project Preparation:	100,000
Executing Entity:		Project Implementation:	2,639,726
GEF Fiscal Area:	Biodiversity	Total:	3,000,000
Co-Financing:	14,841,319		

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## Where We Are

- GEF CEO Endorsement (12 July 2022)
- Pre-LPAC Meeting
- LPAC Meeting
- Delegation of Authority (DOA) to CO
- Issuance of SPA
- Signing of Project Document
- Project Launch

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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### ETP Marine Wildlife

TAXA	COMMON NAME	CITES Appendices	CMS Instruments	IUCN Red List Status (Global)	Red List Status (Philippines)
<b>CLASS MAMMALIA: ORDER CETARTIA (14 species)</b>					
Wholphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Dolphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS BIRDS: ORDER TESTUDINATA (2 species)</b>					
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS MAMMALIA: ORDER CETARTIA (14 species)</b>					
Wholphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Dolphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS BIRDS: ORDER TESTUDINATA (2 species)</b>					
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS MAMMALIA: ORDER CETARTIA (14 species)</b>					
Wholphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Dolphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS BIRDS: ORDER TESTUDINATA (2 species)</b>					
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS MAMMALIA: ORDER CETARTIA (14 species)</b>					
Wholphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Dolphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS BIRDS: ORDER TESTUDINATA (2 species)</b>					
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS MAMMALIA: ORDER CETARTIA (14 species)</b>					
Wholphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Dolphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS BIRDS: ORDER TESTUDINATA (2 species)</b>					
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS MAMMALIA: ORDER CETARTIA (14 species)</b>					
Wholphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Dolphin (1 species)					CR (ENR)
<b>CLASS BIRDS: ORDER TESTUDINATA (2 species)</b>					
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)
Sea Turtle (1 species)					CR (ENR)

RA 9147  
RA 8550

DENR  
LGUs  
DA

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### Where are they?

**Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)** - sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity.

KBAs are identified by national constituencies using globally standardized criteria and quantitative thresholds which can be applied to species and ecosystems in **terrestrial, inland water, and marine** environments.

Globally: 15,000 KBAs

**Philippines: 228 KBAs**

- Known habitat of 855 globally important species of plants, corals, mollusks, elasmobranchs, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals in the country

**GOAL: Inclusion of KBAs in the country's protected area system.**

**Status of Marine KBA (as of 2012):**

- 123 MKBAs: 77 truly marine KBAs
- only 11 are protected (under NIPAS)
- 66 marine KBAs in the Philippines NOT protected

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### Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) in the World's Oceans

**Mayo Bay to Pujada Bay cIMMA**

**Summary:** The neighboring bay of Pujada and Mayo Bay are located on the Pacific coast of the southern Philippine island of Mindanao. It is part of the Philippine Sea, and are separated by the Zamboanga Peninsula. Pujada Bay is known for its rich coral and seagrass beds, a coral reef and northwestern side called Bantay Bay. Seagrass beds and seagrass beds are the bay, including Cymodocea, Sargassum, Caulerpa, and other species. The bay is home to six genera of hard and soft corals, the most abundant of which belong to the genus Montipora. Another abundance is also common opportunity for fisheries of mangrove, primarily mangrove growth and mangrove production, including their species. Many other values species of this grasses are also recovered from this area. The sea grasses and seagrass of the area have been studied for a number of years and there are opportunities for mangrove activity.

**Region:** Northwest Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Seas

**Criteria:** Unconcerned - Pending Assessment

**Species:** Dugong dignus

**Status:** Unconcerned - Pending Assessment

**Conservation:** Conservation of IMMA is a collaborative pending their conversion to IUCN status after being declared as IMMA.

Mayo Bay to Pujada Bay cIMMA  
(Ref: <https://www.marineconservation.org/en/asia/>)

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### Locally-Managed MPAs (under RA 8550) (Marine/Fish Sanctuaries/Refuges)


**Map displaying the polygons and point locations of LMMAs available in the Philippine MPA Database (PhilCatalina et al., 2010).**

**Map displaying the polygons and point locations of MPA available in the Philippine MPA Database for southern Mindanao, Philippines. (Image captured: 0 Dec 2020)**

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### Rationale

#### THREATS



- Habitat Loss and Degradation
- Poaching of ETP marine wildlife
- Illegal, Destructive and Unsustainable Fishing

#### BARRIERS

- Lack of, or weak, enabling conditions of MPAs and MPA Networks for ETP-MW conservation & management
- Ineffective, reactionary, and intermittent or sporadic actions for ETP-MW conservation and insufficient geographic coverage of MPAs and MPANs for ETP-MW conservation & management
- Weak interventions designed to achieve behavioural change among stakeholders as well as a lack of knowledge management systems on MPAs and MPANs for ETP-MW conservation & management

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### Project Design

Gender and environment and social safeguards

Co-financing

**Objective:**  
Strengthen management effectiveness and address underrepresentation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) designed to conserve **Endangered, Threatened, & Protected (ETP) marine wildlife** and sustain ecosystem services for human well-being.

**Component 1:**  
Strengthen the enabling conditions for the establishment and effective management of a network of MPAs that conserve ETP marine wildlife

**Enabling Conditions**

- Institutional Arrangements/Partnerships
- Policy support, enhancement and/or development
- Capacity Development (NRA), (Competency Based)

**Component 2:**  
Conservation of ETP MW and priority habitats within targeted Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

**Conservation Actions**

- MMA Identification and/or Expansion
- MMA/MPA Planning & Implementation
- Sustainable Financing (MPAs and Networks)
- Enhancement (e.g. Connectivity/Network)
- Livelihood/BOTE (Biodiversity Friendly, Empowered, Ecosystem-based, Resilient, Responsible tourism products and services)

**Component 3:**  
Achieving impacts through changed behaviour and knowledge management

**Sustainable Impacts**

- ICCCEPA, ETP MW conservation & mgmt
- Strong knowledge/production/management/implementation of multi-stakeholder activities
- Project M&E (Monitoring & Evaluation, social and environmental safeguards)

**MANDATORY GEF INDICATORS**

- #2: Area (Percentage of established/expanded MPAs)
- #11: Number of staff/beneficiaries/management by gender as a percent of GEF investment

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### ETP MW Project Sites

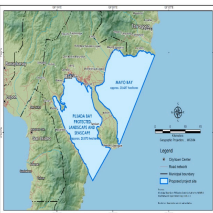


Figure 1: Map showing Mayao Bay (Project Site 1: 20,437 ha) and Pujada Bay (Project Site 2: 20,873 ha) in the Province of Davao Oriental, Southern Mindanao, Philippines.

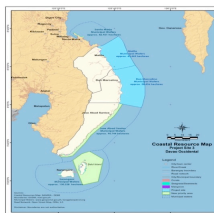


Figure 2: Map showing Malita, Don Marcelino, Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani (Project Site 3: 155,493 ha) in the Province of Davao Occidental, Southern Mindanao, Philippines.

- Target MPAs created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use: 196,803 has
- Operationalization of MTCAP and DCAP
- Davao Oriental MPAN
- Davao Occidental MPAN
- Improved FMA management

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### Component 1: Enabling conditions

OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS
<b>Outcome 1.1</b> Improved <b>institutional capacities and decision-support tools</b> provide the framework for the planning, establishment, management, financing and monitoring of a network of MPAs that will more effectively conserve ETP MW	<p><b>Output 1.1.1</b> <b>National oversight for, and inter-agency coordination in the conservation of ETP MW is enhanced</b></p> <p><b>Output 1.1.2</b> <b>Policies, guidelines, and plans that enable the conservation of ETP MW in MPAs are improved</b></p> <p><b>Output 1.1.3:</b> <b>Training resources are developed and the training of targeted MPA personnel is undertaken</b></p>

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Component 2: Conservation Actions	
OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS
<p><b>Outcome 2.1</b> Increased <b>geographic coverage</b>, and improved <b>management effectiveness</b>, of MPAs that conserve ETP marine wildlife in southern Mindanao</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1.1</b> <i>The expansion and management of MPAs in the municipal waters of <b>Pujada Bay</b> and <b>Mayo Bay</b> in <b>Davao Oriental Province</b> is enhanced to conserve ETP MW</i></p> <p><b>Output 2.1.2</b> <i>A new MPA is established in the municipal waters of <b>Malita</b> and <b>Don Marcelino</b> in <b>Davao Occidental Province</b> to conserve ETP MW and its management capacity is developed</i></p> <p><b>Output 2.1.3</b> <i>Individual MPAs that conserve ETP MW in southern Mindanao are linked into <b>provincial MPA networks</b> to help improve their management capacities</i></p>

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Outcome 2.1 Increased geographic coverage and improved management effectiveness of MPAs		
ACTIVITIES		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consultative, strategic planning, and policy development workshops</li> <li>2. Baseline studies (physical features, biodiversity, socio-political context, economic sectors, threats profiles, vulnerability assessments, etc.)</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Site 1- Mayo Bay,</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. MSEA identification: Mayo Bay</li> <li>4. LCA - Mayo Bay promulgation</li> <li>5. Support existing marine/fish sanctuaries/refuges                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish Dahican beach marine turtle sanctuary</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Develop Medium-term General Management Plan (GMP)</li> <li>7. Creation of Joint management council<sup>1</sup> to oversee the implementation of the GMP</li> <li>8. Installation of permanent marker or anchoring buoys</li> <li>9. Procurement of key equipment (for coastal law enforcement, baseline studies, habitat monitoring)</li> <li>10. Develop/implement local user fee systems</li> </ol>	<p><b>Site 2- Pujada Bay-Pl-S,</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Already an MPA (under review)</li> <li>5. Support existing marine/fish sanctuaries/refuges</li> <li>6. Support to the implementation of certain components of the PBPLS PAMP 2020-2030</li> <li>7. Technical support to PAMG</li> <li>8. Technical support to Zoning</li> <li>9. Procurement of key equipment (for coastal law enforcement, baseline studies, habitat monitoring)</li> <li>10. Develop/implement local user fee systems</li> </ol>	<p><b>Site 3- Malita - Don Marcelino,</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. MSEA expansion: Malita - Don Marcelino</li> <li>4. LCA- Malita Bay-Don Marcelino designation/promulgation</li> <li>5. Support existing marine/fish sanctuaries/refuges</li> <li>6. Develop Medium-term General Management Plan (GMP)</li> <li>7. Creation of Joint management council<sup>1</sup> to oversee the implementation of the GMP</li> <li>8. Installation of permanent marker or anchoring buoys</li> <li>9. Procurement of key equipment (for coastal law enforcement, baseline studies, habitat monitoring)</li> <li>10. Develop/implement local user fee systems</li> </ol>
<p>#11: Implement various livelihood development opportunities in selected communities directly impacted by the restrictions on marine resource use in the MPAs.</p>		

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Component 2: Conservation Actions	
OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS
<p><b>Outcome 2.2</b> BDFEs enhance livelihood opportunities in support of community-based ETP MW conservation efforts in and around targeted individual MPAs in southern Mindanao</p>	<p><b>Output 2.2.1</b> <i>Increased opportunities for stakeholders living within or adjacent to the to the project sites to engage in sustainable livelihood activities</i></p>

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Component 3: Sustainable Impacts		
OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Outcome 3.1</b> Improved knowledge, awareness and the replication of good practices contributes to further improvements in the conservation of marine habitats and ETP-MW in MPAs in southern Mindanao</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1.1</b> <i>A targeted awareness-raising and educational campaign to conserve dugong and marine turtle populations in MPAs is implemented</i></p> <p><b>Output 3.1.2</b> <i>A repository of knowledge on ETP-MW is developed, maintained and widely disseminated</i></p> <p><b>Output 3.1.3</b> <i>A project-based monitoring, reporting and evaluation program is established</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Awareness raising tools and materials (print and web-based) on reducing threats to dugong and marine turtles and their habitats in project sites, i.e., destructive fishing practices, disturbance from tourism</li> <li>2. Marine turtle and dugong educational toolkits for local schools and youth organizations, field guides for Bantay Dagat</li> <li>3. Promotion of citizen science, i.e., WISALERT, Pawikan Watch PH</li> <li>4. Activities will be aligned to educational awareness-raising objectives of DQAP and MITAP and CMEAP National Communications Plan</li> </ol> <p><b>Potential metrics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of awareness-raising materials developed</li> <li>• # of awareness-raising events conducted</li> <li>• # of people reached</li> <li>• # of people trained</li> <li>• # of people participating in citizen science</li> <li>• # of people participating in WISALERT</li> <li>• # of people participating in Pawikan Watch PH</li> <li>• # of people participating in Bantay Dagat</li> <li>• # of people participating in DQAP</li> <li>• # of people participating in MITAP</li> <li>• # of people participating in CMEAP</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See <a href="#">Project Results Framework</a></li> </ul>

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### Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP)




**Risk Rating: Moderate**

The project's implementation will affect:

- Ancestral water claims of B'laan and Manobo in Don Marcelino. Impacts on IPs will also be assessed prior to project implementation as B'laan and Manobo, and B'laanand Sangil are also present in Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani, respectively.


**NEW RISK CATEGORY: SUBSTANTIAL**

- Projects with more varied/complex potential adverse social and environmental risks and impacts than Moderate Risk projects but which are more limited in scope and of lesser magnitude than those of High Risk projects (e.g., broader, geographically smaller footprint, less risk of cumulative impacts)
- Scoping, fit for purpose Environmental and Social Impact Assessment & Plan (ESIA & ESMP) needed to analyze the risks and interventions of potential risks and impacts.
- For Substantial Risk projects that promote proposed policy reforms a scoping Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) may be required.



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### Identified Moderate Risks Based on SESP



- Inadequate management and treatment of thermal, industrial, and household wastewater compromises the ecological integrity of dugong and marine turtle populations and their habitats in MPAs
- Fishing communities, indigenous people and other local user groups that may be impacted by the establishment and management of MPAs are not adequately consulted and/or face restrictions on the harvesting of marine resources
- National, provincial, and local government institutions do not commit adequate political commitment and financial and human resources to support the implementation of project activities
- The project is subject to delays in and disruptions to implementation because of COVID-19 related health/safety issues, quarantine actions, travel restrictions, or logistical concerns (such as supply-chain interruptions)
- Extreme climatic stresses (e.g., rising seawater temperatures, abnormal rise in sea levels, more destructive typhoons) lead to destruction of habitats and disruption of migration patterns of ETP MW
- Dishonest practices and/or abuse of human rights by enforcement staff in MPAs undermines their credibility with local fishing communities and other users

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### Risks and Management Measures

- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
- Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF)
- Gender Action Plan
- Livelihood Action Framework
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan



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### Roles and Responsibilities on ESMF Implementation



The roles and responsibilities of project management in the implementation of this ESMF is with **Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau.**

- Ensuring that the required assessment reports and ESMP are developed, disclosed for public consultation and approved, and management measures are adopted and integrated during project implementation;
- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Reporting, fairly and accurately, on project progress against agreed work plans
- Ensuring all requirements of UNDP's SES and national regulatory/policy frameworks and relevant international standards have been addressed (e.g. mitigation of identified adverse social and environmental impacts);
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources required to ensure compliance with this ESMF.

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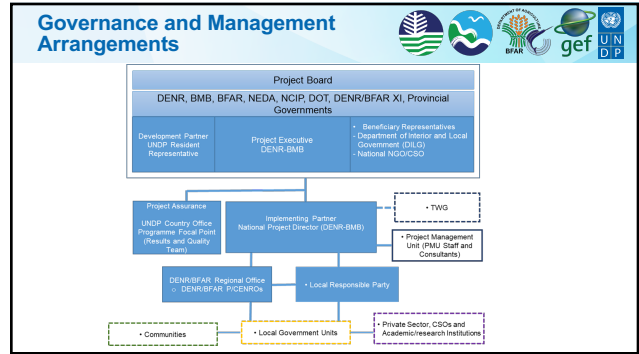




**Key Gender Mainstreaming Actions**

- Collection, monitoring and reporting of gender-disaggregated data for all project beneficiaries, including indigenous peoples
- Use of gender sensitive and use gender-fair language in ETP MW training modules and information, education, and communication materials
- Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes that affect the management of marine protected areas and ETP MW conservation
- Provision of gender-specific and appropriate technical assistance for biodiversity-friendly livelihood and enterprise development, based on an assessment of gender roles along relevant value chains such as agri-fisheries and ecotourism.

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**Key Points Raised During Stakeholder Consultations**

- BFAR's participation during Project implementation; links with improved FMA management; co-financing
- Target area of MPAs with improved management; participation of Don Marcelino, JAS and Sarangani, Davao Occidental
- More thorough IP consultations to be undertaken during initial Project implementation period
- Non-participation of Santa Maria LGU
- Co-financing from Provincial and municipal LGUs

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