



# Technical Assistance Consultant's Report

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Project Number: TA-9461 REG  
15 January 2022

## Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific:

Component 3 (Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines)

### **Final Terminal Evaluation Report**

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For the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Asian Development Bank

This consultant's report does not necessarily reflect the views of ADB or the Government concerned, and ADB and the Government cannot be held liable for its contents.

**Asian Development Bank**



## Project Summary

<b>Fund Sources</b>	Global Environment Facility (GEF)-6
<b>Amount (Grant and Counterpart)</b>	GEF Grant: \$1,834,862 DENR Co-finance: \$575,757 ADB Co-finance: \$900,000
<b>Duration</b>	3 years Date Approved: 5/19/17 Official Start Date: 10/2/18 End date: 12/31/21
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>Executing Agency</b>	DENR-BMB
<b>Sector</b>	Biodiversity
<b>Regions</b>	NCR, Region 7, Region 13 (CARAGA)
<b>Project Sites</b>	NCR, Region 7, Region 13
<b>Status</b>	Completed



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## ACRONYMS

ACB	ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
ADB	Asian Development Bank
APR	Annual Progress Report
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BAI	Bureau of Animal Industry
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau
BMU	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety
BOC	Bureau of Customs
BPI	Bureau of Plant Industry
BPP	Biodiversity Partnerships Project
BPKMD	Biodiversity Planning and Knowledge Management Division
BWLE	Basic Wildlife Law Enforcement
CAAP	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
CAWED	Caves, Wetlands and Other Ecosystems Division
CDB	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Communication, Education, Public Awareness
CEPMIS	CITES Electronic Permitting and Management Information System
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
CPA	Cebu Ports Authority
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	Department of Agriculture
DAO	Department Administrative Order
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DMF	Design and Monitoring Framework
DOF	Department of Finance
DOJ	Department of Justice
eCITES PH	Electronic CITES Philippines
EA	Executing Agency
ELEMIS	Environmental Law Enforcement Management Information System
ENIPAS	Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources
ENRA	Environment and Natural Resources Academy
EPU	Entry Processing Unit
FASPS	Foreign-Assisted Special Projects Service
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GWP	Global Wildlife Program
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HELICS	Helsinki Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Conservation Science
HQ	Headquarters
HRDS	Human Resource Development Service
IA	Implementing Agency

ICC	Indigenous Cultural Community
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUUF	Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade
JAO	Joint Administrative Order
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
KI	Key Informant
KIMS	Knowledge Information Management Section
KISS	Knowledge Information Systems Service
LGU	Local Government Unit
MC	Memorandum Circular
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MENRO	Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MG	Maritime Group
MTE	Mid-Term Evaluation
NCR	National Capital Region
NCRPO	National Capital Region Police Office
NEDA	National Economic Development Authority
NGA	National Government Agency
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NOL	No Objection Letter
NPS	National Prosecution Service
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
OIC	Officer-in-Charge
OSETC	Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime
PA	Protected Areas
PAI	Project Administration Instructions
PBSAP	Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
PCR	Project Completion Report
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PEDO	Police Environmental Desk Officer
PH	Philippines
PHP	Philippine Pesos
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PIP	Post-Implementation Review <sup>1</sup>
PMO	Project Management Office
PMU	Project Management Unit
PNP	Philippine National Police
POGI	Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife
PortMATE	Port Monitoring and Anti-Trafficking Evaluation
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PSR	Project Status Report

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.acronymfinder.com/Post-Implementation-Review-\(PIP\).html](https://www.acronymfinder.com/Post-Implementation-Review-(PIP).html)

PRODOC	Project Document
RA	Republic Act
RED	Regional Executive Director
SBN	Senate Bill Number
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIBOL	Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes
SO	Special Order
TA	Technical Assistance
TBD	To Be Determined
TE	Terminal Evaluation
TER	Terminal Evaluation Report
TCR	Technical Assistance Completion Report
TOC	Theory of Change
TOR	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biodiversity
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office of Drug and Crime
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
WB	World Bank
WildLEAP	Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan
WRC	Wildlife Rescue Center
WRD	Wildlife Resources Division
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

## PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND FINANCIAL DATA

### I. Project Identification

<b>GEF Project ID:</b>	9845
<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b>	50159-001
<b>Countries:</b>	Philippines
<b>Project Title:</b>	Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines
<b>GEF Agency (or Agencies):</b>	ADB

### II. Dates

Milestone	Expected Date*	Actual Date
CEO endorsement/approval		09/11/17
Agency approval date		12/31/17
Implementation start		10/02/18
Midterm evaluation	N/A	N/A
Project completion	06/30/2021	12/31/20
Terminal evaluation completion		
Project closing		

\* Expected dates as per the expectations at the point of CEO endorsement/approval.

### III. Project Framework

Project component	Activity type	GEF financing (in \$)		Cofinancing (in \$)	
		Approved	Actual	Promised	Actual
1. Component 1	TA		382,171.00		
2. Component 2	TA		473,517.00		
3. Component 3	TA		795,688.00		
6. Project Management			183,486.00		
DENR				575,757.00	688,248.46
ADB				750,000.00	TBD
Total			1,834,862.00		

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Table 1. Summary of Evaluation Ratings*

Component	Evaluation Ratings <sup>2</sup>					
	HS	S	MS	MU	U	HU
• Project Design		●				
• M&E Design at Entry			●			
• M&E Plan Implementation			●			
• Quality of Implementation		●				
• Quality of Execution			●			
• Overall Project Outcome			●			
• Effectiveness			●			
• Efficiency			●			
	<b>R</b>	<b>NR</b>				
• Relevance	●					
	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>			
• Impact		●				
Sustainability	<b>L</b>	<b>ML</b>	<b>MU</b>	<b>U</b>		
• Financial Risks	●					
• Sociopolitical Risks	●					
• Institutional Framework and Governance Risks	●					
• Environmental Risks	●					
<b>OVERALL PROJECT RATING</b>			●			

Recognizing the threats of illegal wildlife trade (IWT) to Philippine biodiversity and economic development, the Philippine government has passed legislation protecting wildlife, created inter-agency groups to combat illegal wildlife trade, organized capacity-building activities across the law enforcement chain, and initiated awareness campaigns.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) launched the Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines Project, or IWT Project, in October 2018. The IWT Project is a 3-year GEF-6-funded project executed by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) with the ADB as the GEF Implementing Agency.

The expected result is improved institutional effectiveness to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines to reduce wildlife poaching, trafficking and demand by reforming and

<sup>2</sup> 6: HS=highly satisfactory; 5: S=satisfactory; 4: MS=moderately satisfactory; 3: MU=moderately unsatisfactory; 2: U=unsatisfactory; 1: HU=highly unsatisfactory; UA=unable to assess; for Relevance: 2: R = relevant; 1: NR = Not relevant; for Sustainability: 4: L=likely; 3: ML=moderately likely; 2: MU=moderately unlikely; 1: U=unlikely; for Impact: 3: S = Significant; 2: M = Minimal; 1: N = Negligible

mainstreaming policy, legal, and regulatory instruments (Component 1), enabling institutional capacity development in tactical operations addressing wildlife crime (Component 2) and reducing demand for IWT, products, and derivatives (Component 3).

The expected outcomes are (1) strengthened legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crimes; (2) increased sharing of information and knowledge to facilitate multi-agency coordination and support adoption of enforcement tools and knowledge; (3) initiated long-term capacity building program for wildlife crime law enforcement; and (4) implemented demand reduction measures for identified priority species.

The project was approved on 11 September 2017 and 31 December 2017, but officially started only on 02 October 2018 due to the delayed approval/issuance of No Objection Letter (NOL) by the Department of Finance (DOF) to the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The original completion date of 31 December 2020 was later revised to a completion date of 31 December 2021.

The Terminal Evaluation (TE) assesses project performance in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. The evaluation focuses on (i) project implementation performance; (ii) results of implementation, including attainment of intended outcomes and higher-level project objectives; and (iii) lessons learned about project design, implementation, and management. The TE determines the degree of achievement and/or likelihood of outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the Project, including their sustainability. The TE was carried out by an independent Evaluation Specialist. The Project Management Unit (PMU) provided support and assistance.

The TE followed a systematic, logical approach, to arrive at an evidence based, unbiased and informed determination about the performance of the project. The evaluation employed several parallel data-gathering processes. These included review of project documents, evaluation missions, and stakeholder interviews and group discussions.

This TE Report (TER) is structured in three levels. The first level is the introductory section which includes the background and context, the purpose of evaluation, the methodology, and the structure of the report (Chapter 1). The second level covers the description of the project and its development context (Chapter 2) and the evaluation findings for each stage of the project life

cycle (Chapter 3). The third level summarizes the main findings and analysis of the TE including the conclusions (Chapter 4), lessons learned (Chapter 5), and recommendations (Chapter 6).

## **EVALUATION FINDINGS**

### **1. Results Framework**

The Project design proposes a realistic and balanced approach to combat IWT. The interventions are designed to address both the supply and demand side of the problem. The Project does not introduce a new approach. It builds on the existing systems and initiatives of past projects such as the USAID Protect Wildlife Project, which supported the DENR in formulating the Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP).

The BMB developed the WildLEAP with support from various partners. These included the USAID-Protect Wildlife Project, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Philippines, the Tanggol Kalikasan, and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The Project did introduce some innovations like the introduction and implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework as well as the use of Machine Learning technology, among other tools to aid in wildlife law enforcement.

Nevertheless, the project did not have sufficient time to test whether these innovations would contribute to a more effective wildlife law enforcement. The Project stakeholders have yet to use the outputs to determine if these will contribute to achieving the desired results. The ICCWC indicators certainly contributed to establishing the baselines for future law enforcement actions.

### **2. Assumptions and Risks**

In terms of assumptions and risks, the design was careful to acknowledge that achieving policy reform and harmonization will require work which goes beyond the life of the Project. The Project targeted the Senate Bill to reach Second Reading. It did not target the enactment of the Bill in recognition of the risk of it not being enacted within the Project implementation period. To

mitigate this, the Project adopted a parallel action to amend the IRR of RA 9147 as a second fallback position. For its other interventions, the Project equally applied mitigating actions to address the risks.

### **3. Management Arrangement**

The management arrangement for the project is excellent. The DENR regional and field personnel participated in the various capacity building activities conducted by the Project. The DENR Regional Office coordinated their participation. The project consultants at the PMU and the BMB staff provided support and assistance. This arrangement bodes well for the mainstreaming and sustainability of the project interventions beyond the life of the project. It affords strong impetus for the DENR regional and field personnel to own the project.

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Technical Working Group (TWG) provided a forum for stakeholders at the national, regional and local level. These bodies allowed large participation of different institutions involved directly and indirectly with the Project.

### **4. Planned Stakeholder's Participation**

From the time of conceptualization, the Project has already envisioned wide stakeholders' participation as key to its successful implementation. For this purpose, the Project has conducted a series of national and regional multi-stakeholder trainings, surveys, among others, to highlight broad-based participation.

### **5. Lessons from and Projects Linkages with Other Projects Within the Sector**

The Project built on the initiatives of other projects. It collaborated with the BMB in building on initiatives that were not completed by the "Partnerships for Biodiversity Conservation: Mainstreaming in Local Agricultural Landscapes/Biodiversity Partnerships Project (BPP). These included the eCITES and the Joint DA-DENR-DILG Administrative Order. The Project facilitated the approval of the JAO developed by the BPP and the USAID Protect Wildlife Project. The specific outputs of the IWT Project in relation to the eCITES PH are the eCITES PH Masterplan and the User Manual. It actually developed its own electronic permitting system (eCITES PH) because the one developed by the BPP was already obsolete. For the capacity



development and training activities, the Project coordinated with the USAID Protect Wildlife Project. The Wildlife Resources Division facilitated coordination between the two projects.

The Project supported, enhanced, and built on existing initiatives of the Philippine government for maximum impact and sustainability. From the start, the Project has collaborated with its partners, e.g. USAID Protect Wildlife, US-DOI ITAP and Philippines Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation (PBC) Project 3 for capacity building and awareness raising. The project supported the adoption and implementation of the WildLEAP, the first Wildlife Law Enforcement Plan of the Philippines. The project also supported the introduction and implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework in lieu of the ELEMIS (which the DENR has already rolled out on its own) and the CITES e-permitting system to facilitate knowledge exchange and sharing of information among government agencies to encourage transparency and accountability. The Project also hosted one meeting with partner agencies to check if their activities are not duplicating with other partners.

The Project also collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme-Biodiversity Finance Initiative (UNDP-BIOFIN) for CEPA advocacy, and the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL) project of the USAID on IWT Discussion Series.

## **6. Replication Approach**

The project design had a replication and scaling up dimension of the training and other capacity building activities. The Project also supported the strengthening of the capacities of DENR at the regional and local levels on wildlife law enforcement. This can be easily replicated in the rest of the regions outside the project sites.

## **7. Project Implementation**

The Project has experienced several delays in its implementation due to circumstances that were beyond its control. These include the delays in the procurement of firms tasked to carry out the components of the Project; delays in the approval of the Special Order formally constituting the different Project structures; changes in project management; and, adjustments to Project schedules in consideration of the 2019 National Mid-Term elections, and the COVID-19 pandemic. All of these factors have affected the Project's physical and financial delivery.

## **8. Adaptive Management**

The delays in the implementation required some adjustments in timing at the activity level and adaptive management to keep the progress of the Project on track for some outputs and outcomes. These adaptive strategies include migrating some activities online mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, and reducing the number of target participants, among others. In some instances, the migration to online or virtual platforms provided opportunities for the Project to allow more participants since the cost of travel and accommodation was not an issue anymore.

The PSC meetings served as the venue for monitoring progress of activities, formulating corrective actions, and deciding on measures proposed by the PMU. The PSC provided guidance and oversight functions in the implementation of the Project. It also provided guidance and advice on Project activities, strategies and approaches to ensure harmonization with other projects of the DENR.

The DENR-FASPS also conducted quarterly monitoring of progress in project implementation. They summarized their analysis in the Project Status Report which is submitted to the BMB for additional guidance. In addition, the Project also Prepared and submitted Annual PIR.

## **9. Project Finance**

As of November 2021, the Project has obligated USD 1.62 million or 88% of its total funding amounting to USD1.83 million. Based on the report presented during the final meeting of the PSC on 18 November 2021, USD 1.32 million or 72% has been disbursed. The majority of the remaining obligated funds are based on existing contracts and shall be disbursed within the year 2021 upon completion of consultants' and partners' deliverables. However, the PMU estimates that a total of USD 270,374 or 15% of the grant amount will no longer be utilized as of November 2021.

## **10. M&E Design at entry is rated as Moderately Satisfactory**

The M&E plan was put together using the template for GEF-financed Projects, contains sufficient details, and funds were allocated. In the Project Document (ProDoc), the Project budgeting

process provided allocation for M&E activities (e.g. measurement of means of verification and field validation).

### **11. M&E Plan Implementation is rated as Moderately Satisfactory**

The Project has followed the different milestones and M&E tools established in the ProDoc i.e. Design Monitoring Framework, Annual Workplan and Budget, M&E Plan. The M&E plan was put together using the template for GEF-financed Projects, contains sufficient details and funds were allocated. In the ProDoc, the Project budgeting process provided allocation for M&E activities (e.g. measurement of means of verification and field validation).

The PMU revised the DMF to fit into the ADB format. However, the revised version includes indicators and means of verification that needed further clarifications to allow the Project Management to effectively manage implementation of activities, while focusing on the Project outcome indicators. As a result, the monitoring was more focused on the outputs rather than the outcomes and impact

### **12. The overall quality of Implementation is rated Satisfactory (S)**

The ADB has been involved in activities related to the project's identification, concept preparation, appraisal, preparation of detailed proposal, approval and start-up, oversight, supervision, completion, and evaluation. These are all well documented. The Evaluator is of the opinion that delivered effectively on these counts, including the management of the risks identified.

The ADB has provided and accommodated adequate support needed for Project implementation. The agency processed at least 3 changes in scope of the project to accommodate requests that were not included in the original procurement plan.

The failed biddings due to lack of preparation from the consultant(s) during project implementation resulted in delays and inability to complete some activities. There was feedback about the flexibility of ADB's financial management policies that some project stakeholders feel need to be addressed to improve project implementation in the future.

### **13. The overall quality of Execution is Moderately Satisfactory (MS)**

The DENR as Executing Partner performed on their commitments. The Project produced two major policy outputs, and drafted the proposed amendments to RA 9147 and the proposed amendments to the IRR of RA 9147. In terms of co-financing, the DENR exceeded the amount it committed, and it was able to develop a strong sense of project ownership among its personnel that is a boon for sustainability.

The DENR-BMB effectively discharged its role and responsibilities, and performed on their commitments. The Project produced two major policy outputs, and drafted the proposed amendments to RA 9147 and the proposed amendments to the IRR of RA 9147.

In addition, the DENR mobilized its regional and field personnel to support the project, and in the process developed a strong sense of ownership. As the lead agency, the DENR mobilized support and participation from its partner agencies in the wildlife law enforcement chain.

While the Project has produced almost all the major expected outputs, delays prevented the DENR-BMB from having a number of these outputs be used by the different Project stakeholders to help achieve the Project outcomes, or even initiate progress towards the outcome within the period of implementation.

The underutilization of Project funds is also a major shortcoming. Some stakeholders expressed worries that the 15% of the GEF grant that the Project failed to utilize would reflect badly on the ability of the DENR to manage its GEF project portfolio.

### **14. Overall quality of Project Outcome: Moderately Satisfactory**

***Project Outcome: Improved institutional effectiveness to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines.***

The IWT Project design identified four (4) outcome indicators to measure the progress of achievement, with each of the indicators having corresponding outputs and a set of activities. These are (1) Outcome 1.1 Strengthened legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crime; (2) Outcome 1.2 Increased sharing of information to facilitate

multiagency coordination and support adoption of enforcement tools and methods; (3) Outcome 3. Long-term capacity building program for wildlife crime law enforcement; and (4) Outcome 4. Demand reduction measures implemented for identified priority species.

## **15. Assessment of Project Outputs**

The project achieved almost all the expected outputs at the three operational component levels. As of December 2021, the PMU has reported that with an elapsed time of 100% (elapsed time counted from the official start date of 02 October 2018); 39 of 39 months), the Project has an overall cumulative accomplishment of 96.87% against the cumulative target of 100%. The slippage includes the eCITES PH rollout, Project Completion Report for the DENR-FASPS, and Terminal Evaluation Report.

Also, the Senate Bill amending RA 9147 did not reach Second Reading; (2) the local resolutions supporting the amendments to RA 9147 were replaced by Statements of Support; and (3) the DENR-BMB deferred the eCITES roll out to 2022.

## **16. Relevance is rated as: Relevant**

The Project is relevant to the areas of intervention and to its main priority – Illegal Wildlife Trade. It is also relevant to its working approach, which takes into account the local and national stakeholders.

## **17. Effectiveness is rated as: Moderately Satisfactory**

Effectiveness refers to the progress in the fulfilment of the activities planned, in relation to its percentage of progress towards the fulfilment of the different milestones and key processes. The Project achieved almost all the expected outputs at the three operational components level. Of the 27 output indicators, 25 were completed. (92.6%).

## **18. Efficiency is rated as: Satisfactory**

Efficiency is concerned with the processes in the delivery and production of the project outputs compared with the resources allocated. As of 31 December 2021, the Project reported that out of

the 100% cumulative target, the physical accomplishment was 96.87 percent. With an elapsed time of 100% (39 of 39 months counted from 02 October 2018), the one-point slippage is indicating efficiency.<sup>3</sup>

## **19. Impact**

The impact of the Project cannot be fully assessed because the indicator ‘Conservation status of marine turtles and parrots in the Philippines improved’ cannot be quantitatively measured. It can only be assumed and implied that with the Project interventions like the economic valuation study, the CEPA materials produced, and results of the pre-campaign and post-campaign consumer research will contribute to the improvement of the conservation of the taxonomic groups. But the contribution or improvement cannot be measured or determined.

## **20. Mainstreaming**

Mainstreaming is not a challenge because the Project does not actually propose to pilot a relatively new approach, but simply built on the existing law enforcement and wildlife trade management systems.

But in the context of this Project, mainstreaming is not limited to “piloting a relatively new approach” but mainstreaming project activities into the regular work of the DENR and beneficiaries, including the use of tools and innovations. An example of this is mainstreaming the eTraining Course into the DENR Environment and Natural Resources Academy (ENRA).

## **21. Sustainability**

The probability that the Project benefits will be sustained is rated as Likely (L) based on the analysis of each of the four risk categories. The sustainability rating assigned for each category is Likely (L). Thus, the overall probability that the project benefits will be sustained, is also rated as Likely (L).

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<sup>3</sup> 2021 1227 S-curve Coding Sheet IWT Project\_updatedDec27

**22. Financial resources: Likelihood that benefits will continue to be delivered after project closure: Likely**

The most critical barrier to sustainability is financial resources. In the case of the IWT Project, there is little or no risk to sustainability. Financial sustainability for wildlife law enforcement and combatting IWT is certain. Despite the perceived limitations, RA 9147 ensures funding for this purpose. Law enforcement is an inherent function of governance and allocation of resources for this purpose is mandated.

**23. Socio-Political Risks: Likelihood that benefits will continue to be delivered after project closure: Likely**

There is little or no risk that the social and political conditions in the country will turn for the worse in the near future. The forthcoming national elections are expected to be generally peaceful and usher in a smooth transition and transfer of power as have been observed since 2004. In spite of the political noise, and the long-running insurgency, the Philippines has a stable political situation. The chances of sliding into a destabilized political situation are low. There is also an increasing awareness about environmental issues, and there is wide support for improving governance and management from across the general populace. But the reported killings of environmental defenders mostly due to conflicts on land rights and resource use also presents some risks.

**24. Institutional Framework and Governance Risks: Likelihood that benefits will continue to be delivered after project closure: Likely**

The Project addressed institutional risks through legal and policy reform and activities such as training, knowledge and awareness-raising. The approval of the proposed amendments to RA 9147 is considered the most fundamental element for sustainability. The Bill has already been approved in the House of Representatives and is currently under deliberation in the Philippine Senate. There is political support and interest to approve the Bill, however, there is no clear indication about when it will be passed.

## **25. Environmental Risks: Likelihood that benefits will continue to be delivered after project closure: Likely**

The project carried out a suite of activities designed to help combat the risks from IWT. It can only be sustainable if the government addresses with equal priority the protection of habitats and other wildlife resources under the expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System. As some stakeholders stated, the animals rescued from IWT eventually have to be released back to their habitats in the wild or to be repatriated.

## **26. GEF Global Environment Benefits**

The IWT Project contributed to the GEF Global Environmental Benefits on Corporate Scorecard Result No. 6 - Enhance capacity of countries to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks. The Project supported the development and sectoral planning frameworks to integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least one (1) country (the Philippines).

## **27. Gender and Stakeholder Participation**

The Project does not have a specific Gender Action Plan. However, part of the Design and Monitoring Framework (DMF) covers capacity building activities and the multi-stakeholders consultations on the revisions to the Act and IRR, wherein a certain percentage of female participation is required.

## **28. CONCLUSION**

- The Project is highly relevant for the country; it is aligned with the government's objective to strengthen the conservation, protection and management of biological diversity in the Philippines. Improving institutional effectiveness in combating environmental crime complements the efforts on protecting Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) through the established National Integrated Protected Areas System. Habitat destruction and illegal wild trade are identified as the major drivers of biodiversity loss in the country.



- The Project effectively delivered almost all of its major outputs except for its target of having the bill proposing amendments to RA 9147 reaching Second Reading at the Senate, and the rollout of the eCITES PH. But delays in Project execution primarily due to late start of the project resulting from the government delay in giving the NOL, delayed engagement of consultants, the 2019 elections, and Covid-19 pandemic, there was not enough time for the Project to assess how the stakeholders used these outputs to progress towards the desired results. To cite as examples, there is not enough indication that the submission of the National Assessment Report on Wildlife Law Enforcement, and the documentation on the workshop on the ICCWC Indicator Framework has resulted to an increased sharing of information among the project stakeholders, especially among agencies in the regions like the Cebu Ports Authority and the LGUs. Another example is the development of the eCITES Philippines electronic permitting system (former CEPMIS) which the Project supported. Despite training DENR personnel and permittees on its use, the system is having some technical issues which the DENR-BMB is still trying to resolved. It is expected to be fully functional and rolled out beyond the Project implementation in 2022. For awareness raising to reduce demand, the DENR regional and field offices, including the other agencies in the law enforcement chain, are actually requesting for copies of the CEPA materials the Project produced so these can be distributed and used in their areas of jurisdictions.
- The studies and technical inputs supported by IWT Project resources produced the proposed revised Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act and the proposed Revised IRR of RA 9147. These outputs offer a way forward for future advocacy action even beyond the project implementation period, to keep pursuing legal and policy reforms for combating IWT and other organized environmental crimes.
- The Project (i) contributed to strengthening legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crime and (ii) increased sharing of information and knowledge to facilitate multi-agency coordination and support the adoption of enforcement tools and methods. The Project successfully facilitated the finalization and approval of the DA-DENR-DILG JAO No. 2020-01 and DENR AO No. 2020-13, these policy issuances offer a roadmap and clarify the roles of concerned agencies involved in wildlife law enforcement., and adopting the WildLEAP 2018-2028 as the national roadmap in addressing wildlife crimes, respectively. The major contribution of the Project to the JAO was to have it reviewed at the DENR-PTWG level and signed by concerned Secretaries. This was basically an output of the

BPP which the Project was asked to assist until the DAO issuance. The same with the WildLEAP, where the major contribution of the Project was to conduct a costing workshop and cost the implementation of WildLEAP before it was reviewed at the DENR-PTWG level then signed by the Secretary. The Project also successfully introduced the use of tools like the ICCWC Indicator Framework and the PortMATE. This highlights the strategy of the project in establishing partnerships and collaboration to build on the initiatives and accomplishments of past projects and interventions, while also introducing its own innovations and tools. These policy issuances offer a roadmap and clarify the roles of concerned agencies involved in wildlife law enforcement.

- The Project offers important lessons learned, and opportunities for replication and scaling up for wildlife law enforcement across the country. Demand reduction is an equally important task in dealing with IWT, when the buying stops, the poaching and killing may decrease. The CEPA campaign, training, and other capacity building activities can be easily replicated and scaled up to other regions outside the project sites.
- The economic valuation study provides a useful template for similar studies to cover more species/taxonomic groups. The economic valuation study for the priority taxa (marine turtles and blue-nape parrots) provided quantitative baselines for the awareness campaign.
- In terms of sustainability, the adoption of the WildLEAP as the national roadmap ensures guidance in fund sourcing, resource allocation, prioritization of enforcement activities and is expected to vastly improve the capability to address IWT in the country. The initiatives undertaken during project implementation can be sustained and replicated to eventually achieve the desired outcomes and impact.
- Project implementation demonstrated adaptive capacities in taking critical decisions that affected implementation in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic restriction on movement. The adjustments allowed the Project to get back on track to achieve most of its intended outputs.
- The Evaluator was unable to measure the Project Impact indicator: “conservation status of marine turtles and parrots in the Philippines improved.” There is no specific unit offered to

measure the improvement in the conservation status. It has to be evaluated using either the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List criteria or the BMB National List to show change in conservation status, or even any other measure. But whatever is chosen eventually, should have been clearly stated in the DMF. The project was perceived as contributing in developing the enabling conditions for improving the conservation status of these species. The outcomes, like the indicator: “improved institutional effectiveness to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines.” Again, the indicators do not really measure improvement. Although implicitly, the enactment and issuance of better policies will certainly improve effectiveness, it does not provide an exact measure of progress. In the same vein, increased awareness on IWT might contribute to combating environmental crime through demand reduction, but it does not precisely offer an accurate measure of institutional effectiveness.

- The DMF was weak, lacks clarity, and organization to provide specific and narrowly defined quantitative indicators to measure outcomes and impact. It is obvious that there were attempts to make a good design, but some indicators are not even properly sequenced or numbered. A case in point, while the 2017 output indicators were numbered, the revised 2020 output indicators are not numbered. The construction of some indicators shows some confusion between outputs and outcomes. This being the case, monitoring was mostly focused on the output levels and less on how these outputs were used to achieve progress towards the desired results and impact.
- While the Implementing Agency (ADB) did not require the preparation and submission of a Project Completion Report (PCR), it is not a good practice for the Executing Agency (DENR) to do away with this requirement and in its stead accept the TER as a substitute (as manifested in an unsigned and undated memorandum purportedly in response to the request of the Project Manager). Although it must be pointed out clearly here that such is the prerogative of the EA, the PCR and the TER are entirely different reports. The PCR is written from the point of view of the Executing Agency, how it looks at its own performance in executing the Project. The TER is an independent report written from the perspective of external evaluators, assessing the implementation of the Project as a whole, including the performances of the IA and EA, and the other relevant stakeholders. While elements of the PCR of the EA may coincide and become an integral part of the TER, or vice versa, it is disconcerting to suggest for it to replace the PCR. This obvious request from the PMU to do away with the required PCR and instead

pass on the responsibility to the TE consultant should not be tolerated and allowed in future projects. To do so and insist that the TER be written to hew closely to a PCR is tantamount to impinging on the independence of the TER. While DENR Memorandum Circular (MC) 199-35 allows substitution and acceptance should a donor agency require a project to submit a similar report, the TER is entirely different and not similar to a PCR or any project terminal report. It is an independent third-party evaluation report required by the donor agency precisely to provide check and balance. The DENR requirement for the PMU to prepare and submit a PCR is not a mere duplication of the TER that is prepared by external evaluators as required by the GEF. These reports serve different purposes to provide a better and more informed appreciation of project implementation and execution.

- The disappointments resulting from disagreements and misunderstandings over the non-procurement of equipment should have been resolved at the PMU level and its counterparts in the ADB. Project management is not merely managing contracts and activities, it involves managing people and relationships. The PMU serves as a bridge between the Implementing Agency and the Executing Agency to facilitate partnership for a successful project implementation and execution.
- The amount of underutilized funds (15% of the GEF Grant) was a major shortcoming of the Project. According to the DENR-FASPS, this was primarily due to the Covid-19 pandemic which caused cancellations and modifications to training and field activities, as well as the cancellation of purchase of equipment intended for field offices due to procurement policy issues with the ADB. The underutilization of project funds might reflect badly on the DENR's ability to manage its GEF portfolio.

## **29. LESSONS LEARNED**

- The DENR Convergence Meeting enabled the DENR representatives in the project sites to fully understand and own the Project. The meeting allowed them to level-off on the project objectives, outputs, and activities. The strong ownership among the DENR personnel (from top to bottom) facilitated implementation of the project, particularly at the regional level. This bodes well for sustainability and replication.

- The multi-stakeholder engagement in the national and regional planning and validation workshops, and other consultations/workshops were also critical in ensuring ownership of the Project. The engagement of multi-stakeholders across different levels of governance and sectors who serve as both partners and beneficiaries in the delivery of project activities is extremely valuable.
- Projects aiming at changing, modifying or introducing policies that involves two or more National Government Agencies (e.g. DENR, DOJ, DILG, etc.) should be very conservative about targets and outputs. Decision making processes do not necessarily match the timing of GEF-funded Projects. A Project such as the IWT-Project may be able to feed, facilitate technical assistance and accompany decision making processes, however the final outcome and the timing to achieve a concrete result are out of the hands of the PMU or ADB HQ.
- Project partners should be proactive in terms of adjusting planning to existing budget and changing environment. If no Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) takes place, there should be at least a workshop to evaluate progress and start planning the exit strategy with all involved implementation partners. Leaving the exit strategy too close to the final evaluation leaves limited space and time for acquiring the necessary commitments and arrangements to ensure sustainability.
- Supporting the provision of technical inputs for the proposed bill on the Revised Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act in the legislature, including lobbying, helps mainstream the concerns of wildlife law enforcement. The project succeeded in promoting dialogue among various stakeholders through the convening of consultations that include National Government Agencies (NGA e.g. DENR, DILG, DOJ, etc.), Indigenous Peoples (IP) leaders, and Civil Society Organizations (CSO)/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). The discussions provided clarifications on concerns of government representatives, NGOs/CSOs, Indigenous Peoples/Indigenous Cultural Communities (IP/ICC) members on details of proposed legislations.
- The underutilization of Project funds could be attributed to poor planning and management. The Project Management could have come up with other alternative activities and interventions to fully utilize the remaining grant amount. The procurement issues should have been settled at the level of the Project Manager, and should not have been escalated and

elevated. Personal dynamics should not be allowed to get in between the Implementing Agency and the Executing Agency, and prevent them from working out a way forward. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to ensure good relationships with her counterparts and other project stakeholders to ensure successful execution of the Project.

### 30. RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations	Responsible
1. The Project has produced many valuable outputs. It would be motivating to have a follow up action to see how the project stakeholders will employ and use those outputs to eventually achieve progress in the outcome and impact on combating environmental crimes and improving the conservation status of wildlife and wildlife resources.	GEF, ADB, DENR-BMB
2. Design of new projects should be careful to assess capacity gaps of NGAs, NGOs and other project stakeholders to balance ambition with implementation risks and assumptions. New projects should consider appropriate budgets to further strengthen partner capacities at all levels, as well as to overcome technology and accessibility constrains.	GEF, ADB, DENR-BMB
3. It is important to maintain the momentum and awareness generated by the Project. The sustainability plan should present the Project experiences with high potential for replication and scaling up. This should be considered in the follow through actions and discussions under the WildLEAP roadmap for donors and key agencies to consider for achieving concrete follow up commitments.	GEF, ADB, DENR-BMB
4. The project produced documentations, assessments reports, and CEPA materials, which should be used to inform and guide future actions for wildlife law enforcement. This includes lessons learned that should be distilled into knowledge products to be made available to project partners and relevant stakeholder groups.	DENR-BMB
5. The Project did not have a specific gender objective, although gender mainstreaming was encouraged, it was not sufficiently reflected in Project design; during implementation, guidelines and gender capacity related activities should be transferred to the stakeholders and other partners. Gender objective should go beyond the usual disaggregated data and required ratio of participation.	DENR-BMB
6. The Project exit strategy should be anchored on the WildLEAP for long-term planning exercise involving a larger constituency, proposing strategic targets, implementation costs and concrete commitments to move the process forward. The DENR-BMB should take the lead after the Project ends, to follow up on key	DENR-BMB

<b>General recommendations</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
decision-making processes such as the bill amending RA 9147 and the draft Revised IRR of RA 9147.	
7. An advocacy campaign should be implemented for the enactment of the proposed bill for the revised Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act in Congress and continue provision of technical support for finalizing the draft amended IRR of RA 9147. Assuming these will be politically approved, there should be a period to generate capacities, teams and institutional structures for supporting implementation.	DENR-BMB
8. The stakeholders in the regions are recommending that BWLE training should be conducted at least once a year for the DENR and other agencies in the law enforcement chain. This training will serve as refresher course for the old timers and capacity building activity for new recruits.	DENR-BMB
9. The CEPA materials should immediately be distributed to the project sites and the partner agencies so these could be used for further awareness raising in their respective jurisdictions. The Cebu Ports Authority (CPA) has actually requested for this, especially the video infographics which they can play and loop in the terminals of the various seaports and airports.	DENR-BMB
10. For future projects, it is not a good practice to do away with the Project Completion Report (PCR) even if the donor and implementing agency do not require it. It is a well-established policy and administrative regulation of the DENR. The PCR is a record of what a project has accomplished and learned from the point of view of those that were directly involved in the execution of the project. The EA should ensure that such is prepared for every project.	DENR-BMB

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and Context

The Philippines is one of 17 mega-diverse countries, which hosts several thousands of species of plants and animals, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. However, habitat loss, pollution, invasive alien species, climate change and overexploitation of natural resources, including illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts, put at risk the country's biodiversity.<sup>4</sup>

Each year, the country loses natural resources valued at over US\$1 billion from environmental crimes. Due to illegal wildlife trade (IWT) specifically, the country suffers from annual economic losses of about US\$230 million per year, mainly through foregone tourism revenues.<sup>5</sup>

Recognizing the threats of IWT to Philippine biodiversity and economic development, the Philippine government has passed legislation protecting wildlife, created inter-agency groups to combat illegal wildlife trade, organized capacity-building activities across the law enforcement chain, and initiated awareness campaigns.

Cognizant of these challenges, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) launched the Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines Project, or IWT Project, in October 2018.

The IWT Project is a 3-year GEF-6-funded project executed by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) with the ADB as the GEF Implementing Agency. It is also a component of a Regional Knowledge Support Technical Assistance (TA) of ADB-TA 9641 on Protecting and Investing in Natural Capital in Asia and the Pacific and is a child project under the GEF-financed and World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program (GWP).

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ph>

<sup>5</sup> <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/397091492631974323/Philippines-GWP-National-Project-Profile-vF.pdf>



## **1.2 Purpose of Evaluation**

The Terminal Evaluation (TE) assesses project performance in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability. The evaluation focuses on (i) project implementation performance; (ii) results of implementation, including attainment of intended outcomes and higher-level project objectives; and (iii) lessons learned about project design, implementation, and management. The TE determines the degree of achievement and/or likelihood of outcomes and impacts (actual and potential) stemming from the Project, including their sustainability.

Based on the findings and lessons learned, the evaluation provides recommendations for strategies, approaches, and activities that could help to improve future efforts for combating environmental organized crime in the Philippines through (i) reforming and mainstreaming policy, legal and regulatory instruments; (ii) enabling institutional capacity development in tactical operations addressing wildlife crime; and (iii) reducing demand for illegally traded wildlife, products and derivatives.

The TE was carried out by an independent Evaluation Specialist. The Project Management Unit (PMU) provided support and assistance.

## **1.3 Scope and Methodology**

The TE focused on the results and how they were obtained. The evaluation examined the achievements in its fulfillment of the Project's Theory of Change (TOC) based on the DMF. It identified the good practices and lessons learned in the design and implementation of the project.

The TE was conducted using a combination of primary and secondary data gathering methods through field work, observations, interviews, and through the review of documents.

This TE was carried out according to the evaluation guidelines presented in several ADB and GEF guidance documents. The evaluation assessed the overall performance of the "Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines" or the IWT Project.

The TE followed a systematic, logical approach, to arrive at an evidence based, unbiased and informed determination about the performance of the project. The evaluation employed several parallel data-gathering processes. These included:

**Review of project documents:** The extensive documentation that had been compiled over the course of the project implementation was reviewed. This included project status reports, progress reports, monitoring reports, and financial reports, as well as various other resource materials and publications that were produced under the project. Other related reference documents, as well as internet sources, were also reviewed. The list of documents reviewed for this TE is attached as Annex 1.

**Evaluation mission:** The TE consultant conducted evaluation missions from the period 27 October – 27 November 2021. While in the field, the evaluation specialist conducted several interviews and observations with Project stakeholders. The list of project sites visited is attached as Annex 2.

**Stakeholder interviews and group discussions:** A series of meetings were held, both with individuals and groups, to discuss stakeholders' views and tap their knowledge about the project. In cases where personal meetings were not possible, information was obtained through other communications, primarily e-mail and online virtual meeting via Zoom or Google Meet. Persons consulted included stakeholders at all levels, from Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers to high-level government personnel at both local and national level. A listing of the persons consulted is presented in Annex 3.

#### **1.4 Structure of the Evaluation Report**

This TER is structured in three levels. The first level is the introductory section which includes the background and context, the purpose of evaluation, the methodology, and the structure of the report (Chapter 1). The second level covers the description of the project and its development context (Chapter 2) and the evaluation findings for each stage of the project life cycle (Chapter 3). The third level summarizes the main findings and analysis of the TE including the conclusions (Chapter 4), lessons learned (Chapter 5), and recommendations which could be applied in improving future projects or carrying forward initiatives that would further strengthen objectives that are closely aligned with the project objective (Chapter 6).

## **2 THE PROJECT AND ITS DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT**

### **2.1 Expected Results**

The expected result is improved institutional effectiveness to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines to reduce wildlife poaching, trafficking and demand. The Project focuses on the amendment of policies related to wildlife management and conservation, capacity building, and demand reduction measures to combat wildlife crime including IWT.

The Project seeks to do this by reforming and mainstreaming policy, legal, and regulatory instruments (Component 1), enabling institutional capacity development in tactical operations addressing wildlife crime (Component 2) and reducing demand for IWT, products, and derivatives (Component 3).

The expected outcomes are (1) strengthened legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crime; (2) increased sharing of information and knowledge to facilitate multi-agency coordination and support adoption of enforcement tools and knowledge; (3) initiated long-term capacity building program for wildlife crime law enforcement; and (4) implemented demand reduction measures for identified priority species.

### **2.2 Project Start and Duration**

The project was approved on 11 September 2017, but officially started only on 02 October 2018 due to the delayed approval/issuance of No Objection Letter (NOL) by the Department of Finance (DOF) to the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The original completion date of 31 December 2020, was later revised to a completion date of 31 December 2021.

The approved funding for the project was USD 3,310,619 consisting of USD1,834,862 from the GEF; USD 900,000 from the ADB Co-Financing; and USD 575,757 co-financing from the government of the Philippines.

### 2.3 Problems that the Project Sought to Address

The World Bank's Global Wildlife Program (GWP) reported that the value of IWT is estimated at \$7.8-10 billion per year, making wildlife crime the fourth most lucrative illegal business after narcotics, human trafficking, and arms (2016).<sup>6</sup> In the Philippines, the value of Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) is estimated to be PHP 50B/year (Manila, 2016), roughly equivalent to USD 1 billion.<sup>7</sup> The country suffers from annual economic losses of about US\$ 230 million per year specifically due to illegal wildlife trade (IWT), mainly through foregone tourism revenues.<sup>8</sup>

Recognizing the threats of IWT to Philippine biodiversity and economic development, the Philippine government has initiated various counter-actions, but despite these national efforts, the situation shows that wildlife crimes continue and enforcement is facing numerous challenges.

The DENR-BMB identified seven major challenges and gaps in combating wildlife crimes:

- Constant monitoring of priority areas in terms of wildlife poaching, illegal trade, and/or trade routes;
- Wildlife trade through the internet, making it difficult to determine if traders are legitimate or not, as those involved can use proxy names and accounts;
- Inadequate resources to track and crack down on well-organized wildlife crime syndicates, as groups of local illegal traders with foreign partners exist in the Philippines;
- Policy gaps, especially in terms of appropriate and severe penalties as deterrent; and
- Providing incentives to informants

The Department of Justice (DOJ) identified other challenges from the perspective of the judiciary:

- Institutional indifference to treat environmental offenses as serious crimes;
- Weak capacity-building programs;
- Political interference; and
- Insufficient technical efficiency to gather the necessary evidence to prosecute these types of crimes.

The other challenges hindering effective enforcement are:

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<sup>6</sup> <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/601221479359840227-120022016/original/GWPBrochureWEB.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/490006/addressing-illegal-wildlife-trade-philippines.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/397091492631974323/Philippines-GWP-National-Project-Profile-vF.pdf>

- Alleged political pressure from foreign governments when violations are committed by foreign nationals, resulting in dismissal of cases;
- Spiritual and cultural beliefs of indigenous peoples (IP); and
- Poverty and a lack of alternative livelihoods

Illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is reaching crisis levels. IWT is defined as the trade in wildlife or wildlife parts, derivatives, or by-products that violates either international legal frameworks or the national legislation of affected countries, thereby encompassing both domestic laws and CITES regulations. It comprises wild species of fauna and flora, excluding illegal fishing. IWT encompasses the entire illegal supply chain of wildlife crime, thereby including activities such as illegally killing or poaching, transporting, smuggling, exchanging, selling, purchasing, and possessing, fauna and flora. It also further includes the various forms of money laundering, corruption, and marketing of illicit goods necessary for these transactions to occur.<sup>9</sup>

In order to make meaningful inroads, efforts must be made at all levels. The Project aimed to create enabling conditions for a more cohesive, effective, and sustainable approach. These include enhancing current efforts in creating the opportunities for, and strengthening decision making processes for committing to, developing and implementing legislation and strategic planning. It also seeks to build awareness and capacity for combatting IWT.

## **2.4 Immediate and Development Objectives of the Project**

The Project aims to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines through legal and institutional reform, capacity building in the law enforcement chain, and demand reduction measures. The expected result is improved institutional effectiveness to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines. The expected impact is reduced poaching, wildlife trafficking and demand.

## **2.5 Baseline Indicators Established**

The Project revised its DMF. Subsequently, there have been changes in the indicators and the corresponding baseline data. This evaluation used the indicators and baselines presented in the 2020 Revised DMF using the ADB format (Table 1). For purposes of highlighting the slight

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/reg-50159-001-tacr-7>

variations between the ADB-DMF and the PSR Summary of Major Outputs of the DENR FASPS, the common outputs/indicators presented in both documents are in bold print. There are additional indicators in the DMF that are not included in the PSR, which are in regular font.

*Table 2. Baseline Indicators for the IWT Project*

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>
Conservation status of marine turtles and parrots in the Philippines improved	No baseline indicated
Level reached by the Senate bill amending the Wildlife Act of 2001	No Senate bill filed
Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Wildlife Act of 2001 drafted	0
Percent increase in the capacity scores from baseline year (2019) to end-of-project	
Percent increase in general illegal wildlife trade awareness from baseline data gathered from consumer research by end-of-project	47% - Generic 35% - RA 9147
Percent increase in illegal wildlife trade awareness for target taxonomic groups from baseline data gathered from consumer research by end-of-project	Marine Turtles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCR – 39%</li> <li>• Region 7 – 38%</li> </ul> Parrots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCR – 26%</li> <li>• Region 7 – 30%</li> <li>Region 13 (generic) – 31%</li> </ul>
<b>Proceedings of national stakeholder consultations on the amendments to RA 9147 submitted</b>	0
(Number) Participants per consultation	0
Percentage of women participants per consultation	0
<b>Local ordinances in support of the implementation of the current Wildlife Act drafted</b>	0
<b>Local resolutions in support of the amendments of the Wildlife Act drafted</b>	0
<b>Joint inter-agency resolution against wildlife crimes signed</b>	0
<b>Department Administrative Order (DAO) to adopt Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP) signed</b>	0
<b>DA-DENR-DILG Joint Administrative Order (JAO) on the permitting system for wildlife transport and trade drafted</b>	0
<b>National Assessment Report on Wildlife Law Enforcement Response Effectiveness Using ICCWC Indicator Framework submitted</b>	0
<b>eCITES Philippines electronic permitting system (former CEPMIS) developed</b>	0
DENR personnel and permittees trained on the use of eCITES PH	0
Percentage of women trained on the use of eCITES PH	0
Percentage increase in permits processed by the eCITES PH	0
<b>eCITES PH Master Plan developed</b>	0
<b>Assessment Report on Port Monitoring and Anti-Trafficking of Wildlife submitted</b>	0
<b>Assessment Report on scientific and technological innovations for IWT monitoring and law enforcement submitted</b>	0
<b>Assessment Report on Wildlife Rescue Centers (WRCs) submitted</b>	0

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>
<b>Capacity Gaps and Training Needs Assessment (CTNA) Report on Wildlife Crime Law Enforcement submitted</b>	0
<b>Capacity Building Plan developed</b>	0
<b>(Key IWT Capacity Development) Modules developed and delivered</b>	0
<b>Training Documentation Reports submitted</b>	0
Personnel trained in all project sites	
Training participants interviewed to evaluate knowledge and skills acquired	0
Trainers who are graduates of the DENR Training of Trainers	0
People surveyed during pre-campaign consumer research studies	0
Percentage of women surveyed	0
People reached collectively through the marketing collaterals	0
<b>Economic valuation study for one taxonomic group and one species submitted</b>	0
<b>Sustainable Livelihood Feasibility Survey Report submitted</b>	0
<b>Pre-Campaign Consumer Research Reports submitted</b>	0
<b>Post-Campaign Consumer Research Report submitted</b>	0
<b>CEPA Strategy and Plan developed</b>	0
<b>Audience-segmented CEPA Materials developed and disseminated</b>	0
<b>Knowledge products (e.g. publications, policy papers, reports etc.) excluding audience-segmented materials developed and disseminated</b>	0

## 2.6 Main Stakeholders

The Project is implemented by the DENR, through the BMB, as the Executing Agency. The DENR-BMB is accountable for the achievement of the Project objective and outcomes, according to the approved work plan. The DENR has mobilized its field offices in the NCR, Region 7, and Region 13 to support Project implementation.

The DENR works in close cooperation with the DA, DILG, DOJ, and law enforcement agencies such as the BOC, NBI, PNP, PPA, among others. The Project also engaged and continues to engage with relevant national law enforcement agencies under the National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee- Sub-Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (NALECC-SCENR).

The international partners include the GEF-financed and World Bank (WB)-led Global Wildlife Program (GWP), and the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC).

## 2.7 Project Theory of Change

The Project Theory of Change (TOC) is aligned with the GWP. The TOC of the GWP is summarized by a series of interdependent interventions along the value chain from sources to transit to demand. The GWP looks at IWT as a dynamic and complex process and the strategies to address it need to reflect this complexity.

The GWP aims to (i) protect habitats where wildlife thrive and promoted sustainable and resilient landscapes ensure that protected areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM) are created, or are under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; (ii) increase community stewardship of wildlife, stimulate community-level entrepreneurship and livelihoods; and promote private sector investments to scale-up nature-based tourism and other wildlife-based economies so that the benefits of living with wildlife exceeds the costs for the communities; (iii) strengthen policies and legal frameworks and increase institutional capacities to reduce poaching and trafficking and address weak governance systems; (iv) reduce demand for illegal wildlife products in parallel with other efforts to build capacity to regulate legal trade; and (v) improve coordination and knowledge sharing across all projects to enhance project delivery. These series of interventions should, in the long term, result in effective governance of resources and healthy wildlife populations.<sup>10</sup>

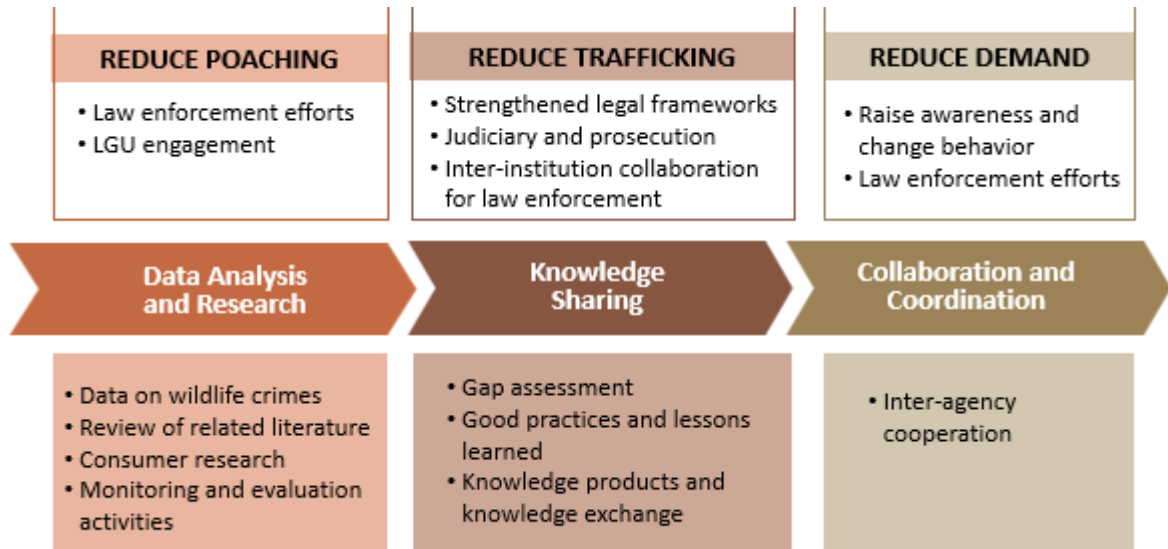
The Theory of Change for the IWT-Project is presented in Figure 1:

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<sup>10</sup> [https://publicpartnershipdata.azureedge.net/gef/GEFDocuments/38e705d5-2553-e911-a83b-000d3a375888/Roadmap/PFD\\_10200\\_PFD\\_Wildlife\\_PFD.pdf](https://publicpartnershipdata.azureedge.net/gef/GEFDocuments/38e705d5-2553-e911-a83b-000d3a375888/Roadmap/PFD_10200_PFD_Wildlife_PFD.pdf)



Figure 1. Project Theory of Change for IWT-Project



### **3 EVALUATION FINDINGS**

#### **3.1 Project Design**

##### **3.1.1 Results Framework**

The Project design proposes a realistic and balanced approach to combat IWT. The interventions are designed to address both the supply and demand side of the problem. On the supply side, the project adopts stricter law enforcement and prosecution of wildlife crimes by strengthening the legal and policy framework and building the institutional capacities of the law enforcement agencies.

On the demand side, the Project intervenes to reduce demand for wildlife, wild products and derivatives by embarking on a massive campaign to stop IWT. The Project produced audience-segmented Communication, Education, Public Awareness (CEPA) materials for this purpose. The campaign is premised on the assumption that if the demand or buying stops, the poaching and killing may decrease.

The Project does not introduce a new approach. It builds on the existing systems and initiatives of past projects such as the USAID Protect Wildlife project, which supported the DENR in formulating the Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP). This 10-year action plan (2018-2028) is aligned with the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), serves as the national road map to address wildlife crimes, and is a guide to prioritizing enforcement activities, allocating funds and resources, and evaluating impacts of enforcement.

The BMB developed the WildLEAP with support from various partners. These included the USAID-Protect Wildlife Project, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Philippines, the Tanggol Kalikasan, and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape Project commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH;

The Project added value by supporting and introducing innovations to build institutional capacities. This include supporting the development and trial run of the Electronic CITES Philippines (eCITES PH) and the implementation of the International Consortium on Combatting

Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) Indicator Framework assessment for combating wildlife and forest crime. This framework allowed the Philippines to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the preventive and criminal justice responses in the country and the establishment of a baseline to measure progress in the future. The results of the implementation of the ICCWC toolkit will provide a solid evidence-base to identify strengths and weaknesses in the national response to these crimes.

The Project design is aligned with the Philippine Development Plan (2017-2022) strategic actions under Subsector Outcome 1: Biodiversity and functioning of ecosystem services sustained (*Strengthen law enforcement against illegal trade of wildlife species*). It is also consistent with the strategic actions outlined in the Philippine Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (2015-2028). The Project conforms closely to the GEF's Operational Strategy, objectives and eligible activities under the Biodiversity Focal Area (FA) Strategy. More specifically, it supports directly Strategic Objective 2: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species.

Considering that the Project proposed a holistic approach to combating environmental organized crime, the DMF is balanced, mobilizing support at the local and central levels. It targets barriers and capacity constraints at the systemic level, while aiming at achieving implementation at the site level.

The DMF could have been presented with more clarity. It was revised and there appears to be a mix-up in some outcome and output indicators. For instance, in the original and revised DMF, the 'outputs' presented are actually 'outcomes' (results): (1) 'Strengthened legal frameworks; (2) Increased sharing of information; (3) Initiated long-term capacity building; and (4) Reduced demand. The DENR-FASPS correctly classified them as outcomes in the PSR.

At the outputs level, the indicators are straightforward and clear such as study reports, draft documents, and knowledge products, among other deliverables. The original ProDoc (2015) listed 17 deliverables. In 2019, at the Project inception planning workshop, 20 deliverables were listed. In the revised ProDoc in 2020, there were 27 deliverables. Undoubtedly, when these outputs are used by the project stakeholders, this will immensely contribute to the achievement of the Project outcomes and impact.

But some indicators could have been presented in more specific and measurable terms (e.g. '*participants per consultation*' is better presented as 'number of participants per consultation). Another example is indicator '*people reached collectively through the marketing collaterals.*' The term *people* is used when referring to a collective group or indeterminate number, and *persons* serves better when referring to individuals (or a number of individuals).

As presented in the revised DMF, the impact indicator is 'Conservation status of marine turtles and parrots in the Philippines improved.' It is not clear how this improvement will be measured and determined in the absence of narrowly defined indicators that will exactly describe what needs to be measured, one that can be aligned with specific numeric or ranked value to show improvement over time.

However, Cecilia Fischer of ADB clarified that the Project is not expected to directly contribute to this impact indicator as it goes beyond its scope and limits. She said that the conservation status shall be assessed using the IUCN Red List criteria. This being the case, the same should have been made clear in the DMF. On the other hand, the IWT Project Manager said that this will be measured using the BMB National List. In any case, whatever criteria will be used, should have been indicated clearly in the DMF.

For the Project outcome, the indicators presented do not actually measure improved institutional effectiveness. Although it is implied that better legislation and implementing rules, increased capacity, and increased awareness on IWT could contribute to improving the effectiveness of institutions in combating environmental organized crimes in the Philippines, more specific and measurable indicators would be required to measure such improvement.

The project results framework is an excellent way to monitor and evaluate project implementation in a most constructive way. It is intended as a roadmap to guide the implementation of the project; to correct weaknesses as they are detected; and to properly monitor and evaluate project performance. The framework draws out the clearest possible articulation of what the project hopes to achieve, and how to measure progress overtime. In this case, the DMF needed more clarity.

The review and revision of the project framework should have been undertaken in a manner that the changes reflected better articulations of indicators or measures by which project performance was to be assessed.

### **3.1.2 Assumptions and Risks**

In terms of assumptions and risks, the design was careful to acknowledge that achieving policy reform and harmonization will require work which goes beyond the life of the Project. The Project targeted the Senate Bill to reach Second Reading in recognition of the risk of the Bill not being enacted. It did not target the enactment of the Bill. To mitigate this, the Project adopted a parallel action to amend the IRR of RA 9147 as a second fallback position. For its other interventions, the Project equally applied mitigating actions to address the risks.

Instead of amending legislation and supplementary guidelines, the project included drafting local ordinances in project sites (city and provincial levels) in support of the amended Wildlife Act. It also added new outputs - a joint department resolution recognizing wildlife crime as a serious transnational crime, and the adoption of the WildLEAP through a memorandum circular.

To ensure that the capacity development toolkits will be utilized and maximized by the identified key institutions and agencies in the law enforcement chain, the number of projects were reduced and the target groups for training were limited to those involved in intelligence gathering and case building; and the prosecutors and judiciary.

The most relevant assumption is that the CEPA campaign will lead to changes in behavior that will be reflected in the post-campaign study. Consumer behavior (i.e. intent to purchase) will change based on the increased understanding of direct and indirect costs of IWT and the value of wildlife. The results from other studies, e.g. Economic Valuation, were integrated into the CEPA materials.

The risk identified included limited collaboration across agencies, lack of personnel and inadequate equipment to fully implement the electronic permitting process, and difficulties to attend the training due to conflicting activities, such as enforcement operations.

### **3.1.3 Management Arrangement**

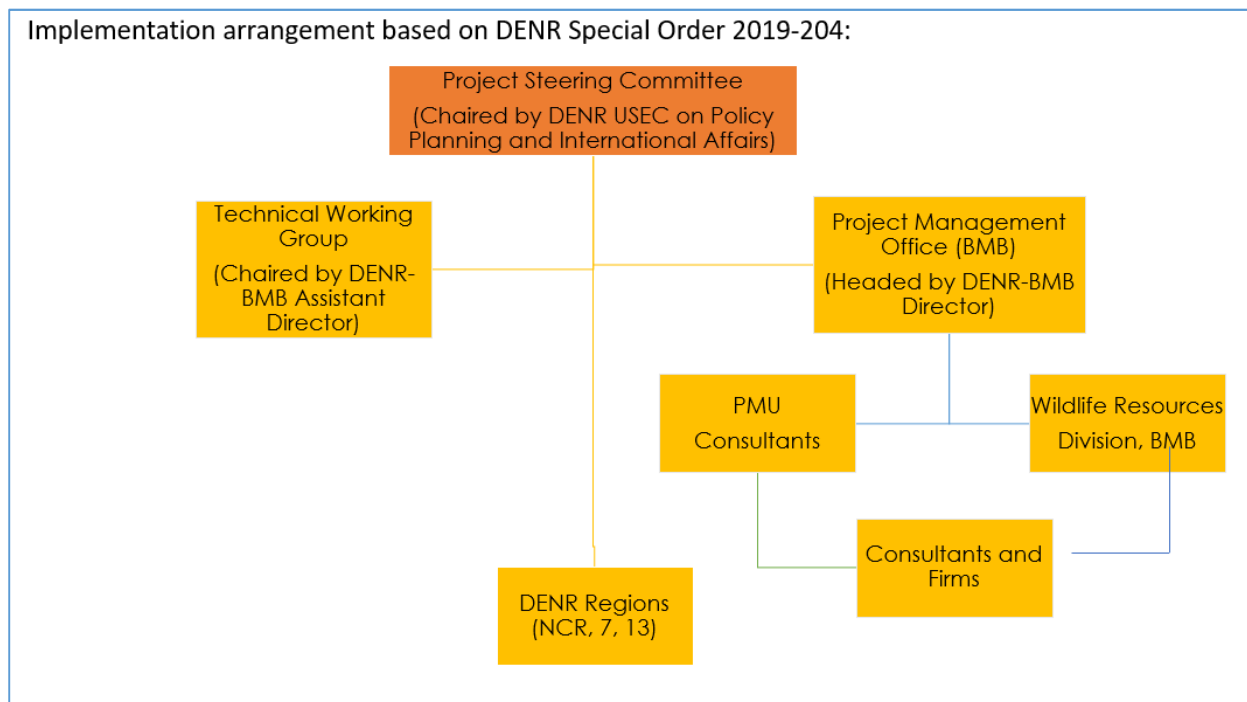
DENR Special Order (SO) 2019-204 issued on 19 March 2019 formally established the PSC, TWG, and Project Management Office (PMO), and lists the members of each group, and outlines their roles and responsibilities (see Figure 2).

The management arrangement for the project is excellent. The DENR regional and field personnel participated in the various capacity building activities conducted by the Project. The DENR Regional Office coordinated their participation. The project consultants at the PMU and the BMB provided support and assistance. This arrangement bodes well for the mainstreaming and sustainability of the project interventions beyond the life of the project. It affords strong impetus for the DENR regional and field personnel to own the project.

This arrangement overcomes the challenge of the BMB being a staff bureau. As a staff bureau, the BMB is not in the direct chain of command of the DENR management and operations. It only provides technical support to the Office of the Secretary. The Bureau has very limited interactions and working relationships with the DENR regional and field offices which are directly under the Office of the DENR Secretary.

The National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act as amended by the Expanded NIPAS (ENIPAS) Act provided some functions to the BMB that enabled them to directly interact with DENR regional and field offices in the management and administration of Protected Areas (PA).

*Figure 2. Project Management Structure*



The participation of the DENR Regional Directors (RED) in the Project Steering Committee (PSC) ensured that the Project was directly implemented in their jurisdictions. It is an advantage that other foreign-assisted projects might consider. The participation of the REDs in the PSC and the Enforcement Division Chiefs in the TWG provided an opportunity for the project to directly interact with the regional and field offices of the DENR.

#### **3.1.4 ADB Comparative Advantage**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. It assists its members and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.

By blending ADB's financial resources for sustainable development with GEF grant resources for the global environment, the ADB-GEF partnership provides substantial opportunities for inclusive economic growth with local and global environmental benefits. This is achieved through support for enabling activities, testing of innovations, and investments to scale-up and mainstream environmentally sustainable approaches, technologies and infrastructure. The ADB has a long history of collaboration and partnership with the GEF in supporting innovative and transformational programs for biodiversity conservation.

#### **3.1.5 Planned Stakeholder's Participation**

From the time of conceptualization, the Project has already envisioned wide stakeholders' participation as key to its successful implementation. For this purpose, the Project has conducted a series of national and regional multi-stakeholder trainings, surveys, among others, to highlight broad-based participation

In Section A.3 (Stakeholder) of the ProDoc (page 39), it was reported that the Project was designed in close consultation with the DENR-BMB, World Wild Fund for Nature (WWF)-Philippines, the Ateneo de Manila University School of Government (ASoG), Tanggol Kalikasan, Wildlife Conservation Society, UNDP and other stakeholders. But during project implementation, only Tanggol Kalikasan had actual participation. Table 3. Role of Project Stakeholders presents

the identified stakeholders and their planned participation in the Project, as well as the status of their involvement.

The PSC and the TWG provided a forum for stakeholders at the national, regional and local level. These bodies allowed large participation of different institutions involved directly and indirectly with the Project.

The performance of the DENR as the lead national agency was good. The participation of other key national agencies like the BOC, DOJ, PNP, PPA and other law enforcement agencies were good as well. This is due to the fact that, even before the Project, these agencies already had prior collaboration and partnerships.

The DENR regularly convened the PSC and the TWG with all members represented by the principal or designated alternate representative. The DENR-BMB assigned the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) to oversee the PMU and coordinate the participation of other units within DENR during the implementation phase. The active participation of the members of the PSC facilitated decision making for measures to improve Project implementation. In the many PSC meetings, the principal national agency representatives delegated participation in the meetings to their alternate representative.

At the regional level, the Project worked with the Enforcement Division (ED) and the Conservation and Development Division (CDD) at the DENR Regional Offices. The DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) also participated in the Project.

The project succeeded in engaging Local Government Units (LGU) at the provincial and municipal level for manifesting support in amending RA 9147. Changes in Local Chief Executives affected the sustained participation of LGUs, but the project reached out to the newly elected officials to seek their support through orientation meetings and consultations. Table 3 presents the updated role of Project stakeholders.

*Table 3. Role of Project Stakeholders*



Organization	Role in IWT-Project As Planned	Status
<b>National and Subnational Government</b>		
DENR BMB Wildlife Resources Division Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife (POGI)	As the government agency that has jurisdiction over all terrestrial animals, as well as marine turtles, tortoises, dugongs, and nationally protected areas, the DENR-BMB serves as the overall executing agency of the project that will set the strategic direction and lead implementation. Under the DENR-BMB, the WRD and POGI have regulatory and enforcement functions.	DENR Special Order 2019-204 was signed on 19 March 2019. The Special Order formally established the PSC, TWG, and PMO, and lists the members of each group, and outlines their roles and responsibilities.
Philippine Congress (House of Representatives and Senate)	The Philippine Congress will be a partner in reforming the Wildlife Act. The proposed amendments will be submitted to the House of Representatives and Senate, then harmonized based on the outcomes of the committee hearings.	The 18 <sup>th</sup> Congress opened session on 01 July 2019 following the national and local elections held on 13 May 2019.  The Experts' Meeting and Luzon-wide Stakeholder Review of the proposed Revisions to the Wildlife Act in August 2019 included the potential sponsors or advocates of the bill in the Senate and House.
DENR Regional, Provincial, and City/Municipal Offices	Selected employees in the regional, provincial, and local offices whose work is relevant to wildlife law enforcement and information systems will be participants in the capacity-building activities related to the ICCWC Indicator Framework (replacing ELEMIS), CITES e-permitting systems, and law enforcement.	Courtesy calls and consultations were conducted with select DENR staff from the Project sites.  An assessment of CEPMIS and its potential integration with the Philippine National Single Window System was undertaken, including the technical workflow to identify responsibilities of the administrative users of the CEPMIS. The corresponding capacity-building strategies were implemented based on the results of the assessment. CEPMIS was renamed eCITES PH.  The capacity-building activities related to the ICCWC Indicator Framework was deferred to 2022.

Organization	Role in IWT-Project As Planned	Status
DENR-Knowledge and Information Systems Service (KISS)	Personnel from the DENR-Knowledge and Information Systems Service will lead the ELEMIS training in Metro Manila, Cebu Province, and Butuan City.	Training on ELEMIS was replaced by the Training on the ICCWC Indicator Framework;  Personnel from the DENR-Knowledge Information Systems Service (KISS) were invited to the National Inception and Planning Workshop on February 2019.
Department of Justice (DOJ)	The DOJ has existing training programs and materials that will be used to train prosecutors on environmental laws, with special focus on the Wildlife Act and the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases.	DOJ representatives were invited to all major events of the Project since its launch during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wildlife Law Enforcement Summit in November 2018. DOJ is also included in the capacity gap and training needs assessment.
PNP-PEDO	PEDOs in Metro Manila, Cebu Province, and Butuan City will be recipients of capacity-building activities under Component 2.	Meetings were conducted with the PNP Regional Offices in Region 7 and Region 13 for the involvement of PEDOs and other PNP officials and staff. However, the PEDOs were non-existent in these offices so the Project just dealt with other PNP officials and staff to participate in the Project activities.
Bureau of Customs (BOC) – Entry Processing Unit (EPU)	Members of the BOC-EPU will be engaged during activities related to “Ports of Excellence” work under Component 2.	Project is completed. BOC was engaged, but ports of excellence program under UNDP was suspended.
Port personnel in the Cebu Port Authority (CPA), and Port of Nasipit, Lipata and Surigao Ports in Region 13, and Manila Harbor in NCR	The port personnel in the CPA and Port of Nasipit of Butuan City will be subject to assessment activities under Component 2 (particularly under the purview of the UNDP GEF project on Port MATE).	The assessment of the ports in Cebu, Nasipit, Lipata, and Surigao using PortMATE was completed.  Ports personnel of CPA were invited to all major events of the Project since its launch during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wildlife Law Enforcement Summit in November 2019.
<b>International Agencies / Organizations</b>		

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Role in IWT-Project As Planned</b>	<b>Status</b>
Asian Development Bank	<p>The ADB will provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General oversight (financial), such as management of procurement processes</li> <li>• General oversight (technical), such as coordination and review of outputs from consultants under the Project, liaising with partners in the region, and production of relevant outputs on combating IWT under the TA</li> <li>• Linkages with other relevant programs and projects including GWP, ADB technical assistance and investments</li> </ul>	<p>The ADB provided adequate financial and technical general oversight (financial) in such areas as management of procurement processes and coordination and review of outputs from consultants under the Project. The ADB liaised with partners in the region, and made sure that production of relevant outputs on combating IWT under the TA are achieved. It also provided linkages with other relevant programs and projects including GWP, ADB technical assistance and investments.</p>
World Bank – Global Wildlife Program	<p>The GWP seeks to address the IWT across 32 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, which includes the Philippines. The GWP will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange and coordination, and support on-the-ground actions. This project will learn from similar projects implemented in other countries and contribute to the objectives of the GWP.</p>	<p>As a child project under the GWP, the IWT-Project attends the annual Conference of the GWP, and participates in quarterly coordination calls and virtual knowledge events.</p>
CITES Secretariat	<p>Personnel from the CITES Secretariat will be invited to be resource speakers and trainers during the CITES e-permitting systems training.</p>	<p>Coordination with the CITES Secretariat for the implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework started with the official request from the Philippine CITES Management Authority. A similar request was also made for assistance in the formulation of the e-CITES Master Plan and implementation of e-CITES. The CITES Secretariat participated in kick-off call for the Masterplan.</p>
UNDP	<p>The PortMATE tool will be one of the frameworks used to assess the capacity of Cebu port and the Nasipit Port for combatting wildlife trafficking.</p>	<p>The Project completed the assessment of seven (7) seaports using the PortMATE Tool. These ports are the Port of Manila (North, South and Manila International Container Terminal); the ports of Lipata</p>

Organization	Role in IWT-Project As Planned	Status
		(Surigao City, Surigao del Norte) and Nasipit (Agusan del Norte), and the Cebu Domestic and International Sea ports (Cebu City).
UNODC/ICCWC	The ICCWC Indicator Framework will be used as part of research, assessments, and monitoring and evaluation framework of the project. Collaboration with UNODC technical experts for capacity development and training under Component 2 will be sought – via the national office in Manila and through specialists based in Viet Nam.	<p>The Project coordinated with the CITES Secretariat for the implementation of the ICCWC Toolkit and Indicator Framework with an official request from the CITES Management Authority. The CITES Secretariat has assigned a focal person from the UNODC and the CITES Management Authority has also assigned its focal person.</p> <p>The ICCWC Assessment Workshop was successfully conducted on 16-17 October 2019 with the participation of UNODC, which is one of the five organizations that developed the ICCWC Framework.</p>
USAID-Protect Wildlife (PW)	USAID-Protect Wildlife (“USAID-Protect”) is a 5-year Technical Assistance Grant to (i) reduce threats to biodiversity; (ii) reduce poaching and use of illegally harvested wildlife and wildlife products; and (iii) improve relevant ecosystem goods and services that redound to increased wildlife conservation and human well-being. USAID-Protect has five strategic approaches (SA) for implementation: (1) Behavior change targeting decision makers and on-site resource managers; (2) Intensifying public and private sector financing; (3) Building capacities of LGUs, CSOs, and Communities; (4) Linking universities’ research and development with conservation; and (5) Building capacities of national and local wildlife enforcement agencies. This GEF project is in line with SA 1, 3, and 5, and activities will be	<p>Meetings with USAID-Protect Wildlife were conducted to address complementation and harmonization and to avoid overlaps in outputs and activities. The USAID-Protect Wildlife (PW) was invited to major events of the project since its launch, and was invited to co-sponsor some events of the project (e.g. Visayas and Luzon-wide Stakeholder Review of the proposed Revisions to the Wildlife Act).</p> <p>The IWT Project chose marine turtles and blue-naped parrots as the flagship species/taxonomic group for valuation studies and demand reduction measures.</p>

Organization	Role in IWT-Project As Planned	Status
	<p>coordinated with USAID-Protect to complement efforts and eliminate redundancies. For USAID-Protect's first year, the project will be focusing on Palawan, including Tubbataha Reef, and the Sulu Archipelago southwest of Zamboanga City. Field level coordination between the GEF project and USAID may be carried out in Butuan-General Santos City corridor, and Zambales-Metro Manila corridor. The GEF project will be complemented by the USAID PROTECT in areas related to policy / regulatory concerns (Component 1), as well as capacity development under Component 2. Demand reduction work under Component 3 will be coordinated between the two projects (for example, PROTECT Wildlife may focus on marine species or issue-based themes; whereas the GEF project will likely be concerned with ivory and one terrestrial species (under the Wildlife Act). The coordinating mechanism between the two projects will be the office of the Chief, WRD of the DENR-BMB. A dedicated GEF Project Manager will ensure coordination at the day-to-day operational level.</p>	
<b>Non-Governmental Organizations / Civil Society Organizations (Philippine-based)</b>		
<p>Indigenous Peoples (IP) Groups</p>	<p>The project will engage members of IP groups to provide inputs to the amendment of the Wildlife Act. For the creation of local legislation, the project will work with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples office in Cebu to identify IP groups in Cebu, and IP groups in or around Butuan City. Caraga, the administrative region Butuan City is under, is home to five major ethnic tribes, namely the Manobo, Higaonon, Mamanwa, Banwaon and Mandaya (PIA, 2012).</p>	<p>A representative from the NCIP attended the Regional Launch and Planning/ Validation Workshop in Region 13 and the Mindanao-wide Stakeholder Review of the proposed Revisions to the Wildlife Act.</p>

Organization	Role in IWT-Project As Planned	Status
Tanggol Kalikasan and other CSOs	Capacity-building activities will engage local CSOs in project sites and leverage / build on the existing training programs and materials of the Environmental Law Assistance Center as well as Tanggol Kalikasan through coordinating linkages with the US Department of Interior (DOI) International Technical Assistance Program Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation III.	Tanggol Kalikasan was engaged to help deliver Component 2 of the project.

### 3.1.6 Lessons from and Linkages with Other Projects Within the Sector

With regard to lessons from other Projects and linkages with other interventions, the Project collaborated with the “Partnerships for Biodiversity Conservation: Mainstreaming in Local Agricultural Landscapes/Biodiversity Partnerships Project” (BPP), which was supported by the UNDP/GEF. This project developed the pilot system for a CITES Implementation Framework through various stakeholder consultations. This proposed CITES Electronic Permitting and Management Information System (CEPMIS) is aligned with the technical requirements of the CITES ePermitting tool kit, and has been designed for permit applicants, permit processors and approving officials only. The CEPMIS has some bandwidth and interoperability constraints. Unfortunately, the system was not fully utilized because of software update problems and lack of required functionalities.

The Project decided to support the enhancement of the CEPMIS and renamed it eCITES PH for the issuance of permits for the exportation, importation, and re-exportation of CITES-listed terrestrial wildlife species, including its by-products and derivatives. The system aims to facilitate a paperless transaction in the processing of CITES permits to ensure legal, sustainable and traceable trade.

For the capacity development and training activities, the Project coordinated with the USAID Protect Wildlife Project. The Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) facilitated coordination between the two projects.

The Project supported, enhanced, and built on existing initiatives of the Philippine government for maximum impact and sustainability. From the start, the Project collaborated with its partners,

e.g. USAID-Protect Wildlife, US-DOI ITAP and PBC Project, and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), through harmonization meetings and convergence initiatives that address complementation and harmonization of project activities and avoid duplication and overlaps.

The project supported the adoption and implementation of WildLEAP, the first Wildlife Law Enforcement Plan of the Philippines. The project also supported the development of the CITES e-permitting system to transform the manual processing of permits into a more efficient electronic process. This also facilitates knowledge exchange and sharing of information among government agencies to encourage transparency and accountability.

### **3.1.7 Replication Approach**

The project design had a replication and scaling up dimension of the training and other capacity building activities. The Project also supported the strengthening of the capacities of DENR at the regional and local levels on wildlife law enforcement. This can be easily replicated in other regions outside the project sites.

The draft IRR and proposed amendments to RA 9147 need important inputs from the other regions outside the project sites. On the local level, ordinances supporting either the new law or the revised IRRs can be replicated in these regions. This is important because once the new law and revised IRR are approved, the whole country will benefit from this new policy and rules.

The Project supported the strengthening of the capacities of DENR and other wildlife law enforcement agencies such as the Bureau of Customs (BOC), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) at the regional level. These agencies are able to enforce the stipulations under RA 9147 in the Philippines. In addition, the Project contributed to improving the synergy between the DENR and the other law enforcement agencies to combat environmental crime more efficiently at the field level.

The project succeeded in initiating improvements in the inter-agency coordination on wildlife law enforcement with the issuance of JAOs and the adoption of the WildLEAP as the national roadmap.

### **3.2 Project Implementation**

The Project experienced several delays in its implementation due to circumstances that were beyond its control. These include the delays in the procurement of firms tasked to carry out the components of the Project; delays in the approval of the Special Order formally constituting the different Project structures; changes in the DENR-BMB management which, although outside the Project, has had some impacts on it; and, adjustments to Project schedules in consideration of the 2019 National Mid-Term elections. All of these factors have affected the Project's physical and financial delivery.

In terms of Project Operations and Management, a PMO was established, composed of individuals with strong backgrounds in management, institutional development, planning, monitoring and evaluation, and administration and finance. The Project Officer and Admin Assistant were hired in September and October 2018, respectively. Likewise, another project assistant was engaged in July 2019.

The Project was launched in 22 November 2018 at the Stotsenberg Hotel, Clark, Pampanga. Two hundred eight (208) participants from different National Government Agencies (NGA), Local Government Unit (LGU), Civil Society Organizations (CSO), development partners, and media participated in the activity. The National Inception Workshop and 1<sup>st</sup> Organizational Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Technical Working Group (TWG), and Project Management Office (PMO) was held on 21-22 February 2019 at Mercure Hotel, Ortigas.

The DENR Special Order No. 2019-204 creating the PSC, TWG and PMO for the Implementation of the ADB/GEF-DENR IWT-Project Entitled "Combatting Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines" was signed on March 19, 2019.

The Project completed major national and regional orientations and consultations with key stakeholders after its launch. It was also able to touch-base with NGAs vital for the Project's success such as the Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime (OSETC), DENR regional offices, Department of Finance (DOF), and port personnel. The Project completed the procurement of the firms and engagement of several specialists for policy, IT, and wildlife trafficking.



The Project was run similar to a direct implementation modality. The work activities completed under the various outputs were arranged through contracts with service providers or individual consultants, and mostly based upon competitive bidding by the ADB.

The existing inter-agency partnerships among DENR, DILG, DOJ, BFAR, NBI and PNP at the national and regional level allowed for the timely implementation of Project activities at the local/site level.

### **3.2.1 Adaptive Management**

In its first full year of implementation, the Project made significant progress towards laying out the foundations and strategies needed to successfully implement the Project.

However, a number of issues posed challenges to implementing the Project. These include:

- 2019 Midterm Elections - The schedule of the midterm election in May 2019 prevented the Project team to conduct preparatory activities with the LGUs on the site. Specific outputs affected include the passage of local legislation in support of the Wildlife Act and preparatory activities in support of amendments to the Act itself. Given the situation, the team made the necessary adjustments by identifying and working closely with local heads of offices such as the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO), and other permanent officials. The goal was to have these officials on board so they were able to provide advice to the elected council members once they assumed their legislative function by July 2019. Regional launches and stakeholder reviews in project sites were also scheduled after elections.
- Delays in procurement of firms – Several delays in the procurement of firms tasked to undertake the different components of the Project were encountered. This was mainly due to the mismatch between the advertised firm requirements vs actual firm capacity and credentials in the country at that particular time. To ensure continuity, the ADB HQ, PMU (which is mostly ADB), and the BMB decided to procure individual specialists to jumpstart the activities originally designed to be undertaken by firms.

- Delays in the formal approval of DENR Special Order – As early as November 2018, the Project already drafted and transmitted the draft Special Order to the DENR Central Office for the formal constitution of the PSC, TWG and PMU. However, the said document was only signed in March 2019. Consequently, the conduct of the National Inception and Planning Workshop and 1<sup>st</sup> Organizational Meeting of the PSC, TWG and PMU was also delayed.
- Changes in project management – Internal changes in the DENR-BMB management such as the reassignment and replacement of BMB Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez and DENR Region 7 Regional Executive Director Gilbert Gonzales, and the retirement of BMB Chief of Wildlife Resources Division Josefina de Leon presented some challenges in managing the Project. These have slightly contributed to the delay in project implementation, however, this has been mitigated through the regular involvement of middle managers and technical staff of relevant Divisions of the DENR.

The Project also encountered implementation issues due to delays brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing lockdown restrictions. This was a challenge as all capacity building activities, port assessments, stakeholder consultations, and data gathering were initially designed to be conducted face-to-face. The Project was able to redesign these activities and conducted them online, through Zoom, and was able to catch-up with most of the delays. The Project has completed all activities as scheduled by the end of year 2021, despite the pandemic.

The PSC meetings served as the venue for monitoring progress of activities, formulate corrective actions and deciding on measures proposed by the PMU. The PSC provided guidance and oversight functions in the implementation of the Project. It also provided guidance and advice on Project activities, strategies and approaches to ensure harmonization with other projects of the DENR.

The PSC reviewed the Project's deliverables and outputs, and provided direction to ensure that outputs will contribute to the attainment of the objectives and desired outcomes of the Project. Meetings were conducted at least twice a year or as deemed necessary to discuss implementation

status and define solutions to any implementation issues and concerns; and, assess the overall performance of the Project.

The TWG provided technical assistance to the PSC and assisted in the (i) review of activity designs; (ii) implementation of project activities; and, (iii) in the evaluation of project outputs.

These frequent meetings were the main decision-making mechanisms used for adaptive management and were fed by M&E sources to assess the status of different outcomes and outputs. It was reported that the participation was consistently good, and issues were openly and constructively discussed.

The PSC has participated in the project implementation reviews (PIRs) and annual progress reports (APRs). These reports were sufficiently detailed, with input provided by key implementation stakeholders.

The DENR-FASPS also conducted quarterly monitoring of progress in project implementation. They summarized their analysis in the Project Status Report which is submitted to the BMB for additional guidance. In addition, the Project also Prepared and submitted Annual PIR.

### 3.2.2 Partnership Arrangements

The institutional arrangement and coordination for project implementation is described in Table 4 below.

*Table 4. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination*

<b>Roles</b>	<b>Departments / Agencies</b>	<b>Description of Roles / Responsibilities</b>
GEF Agency	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	General oversight (financial), such as management of procurement processes
		General oversight (technical), such as coordination and review of outputs from consultants under the Project, liaising with partners in the region, and production of relevant outputs on combating IWT under the TA
		Linkages with other relevant programs and projects including GWP, ADB technical assistance and investments
GEF Executing Partner	Department of Environment and Natural	Coordination with Philippine GEF National Steering Committee

<b>Roles</b>	<b>Departments / Agencies</b>	<b>Description of Roles / Responsibilities</b>
	Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)	Facilitate project cycle Chair Project Management Committee Host GEF PMU
Project Management Committee	Chair: DENR Secretary: BMB and PMU Members: ADB, DENR-BMB, DENR-FASPS, DENR Policy and Planning	Meets: Annually Main roles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validate annual work plan</li> <li>• Validate major outputs</li> <li>• Recommends changes to project framework</li> <li>• Helps coordination with Protect Wildlife and other projects</li> </ul>
Project Management Unit	ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead technical execution of project</li> <li>• Prepare quarterly work plans and budgets</li> <li>• Guide contractor performance</li> <li>• Advise on project operations</li> <li>• Establish and implement project operational, administrative and financial management systems and processes</li> <li>• Monitor contract performance</li> <li>• Recommend payments to contractors</li> <li>• Prepare technical and financial reports</li> <li>• Prepare required GEF monitoring and tracking tools and reports</li> <li>• Act as Secretariat for PMC and various other project meetings</li> <li>• Regular liaison and coordination with project partners/stakeholders</li> </ul>

### 3.2.3 Project Finance

The first GEF grant disbursement was on 22 September 2018 after the Project Management Officer was contracted to manage the overall project implementation. The Project experienced some delays in mobilizing consultants due to changes in procurement packages as a result of failure of shortlisted firms to meet the minimum requirement for a biodata technical proposal. The procurement was re-arranged in smaller and more focused packages and re-advertised for selection. The delayed implementation of project activities also affected the utilization of GEF funds.

As of November 2021, the Project has obligated USD 1.62 million or 88% of its total funding amounting to USD1.83 million. Based on the report presented during the final meeting of the PSC on 18 November 2021, USD 1.32 million or 72% has been disbursed. The majority of the remaining obligated funds are based on existing contracts and shall be disbursed within the year 2021 upon completion of consultants' and partners' deliverables. However, the PMU estimates that a total of USD 270,374 or 15% of the grant amount will no longer be utilized as of November 2021. Table 5 presents the amount that will no longer be utilized.<sup>11</sup>

*Table 5. Projected Unutilized Funds*

<b>Items</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>	<b>Details of Unspent Funds</b>
Contracts of Firms and Consultants	117,205	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air travel and communication costs for consultants</li> <li>• Study and survey costs (NIRAS)</li> <li>• Equipment costs (Tanggol Kalikasan)</li> <li>• Training/Seminar costs for TK, NIRAS, Atty. Perez, HELICS, and PMU</li> </ul>
Support Activities	153,169	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WRC field validation</li> <li>• eCITEs PH rollout</li> <li>• Training on Risk Management, and Machine Learning (migrated to virtual set-up)</li> </ul>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>270,374</b>	<b>(15% of GEF Grant)</b>

The above were caused by the pandemic, which resulted in modifications to training and field activities.

As for co-financing, the Project has accounted a total of USD 688,248.46 (PHP 34.41 million) as of 31 December 2021 or 120% of the USD 575,757 (PHP 28.79 million) committed by the DENR-BMB. This amount came from the expenses incurred from payment of salaries of staff who participated in the Project, Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), support to events, and cash grants provided from 2018 to 2021 amounting to USD 12,400 (a ratio 1:42 cash to in-kind cofinancing).

### **3.2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Overall Quality of Monitoring & Evaluation is rated as: Moderately Satisfactory**

<sup>11</sup> From the DENRFASPS PSR as of September 2021 and Annex F - Overall Project Accomplishments – presented 5th PSC on 18 November 2021

**M&E Design at entry is rated as Moderately Satisfactory**

The M&E plan was put together using the template for GEF-financed Projects, and sufficient details and funds were allocated. In the ProDoc, the Project budgeting process provided allocation for M&E activities (e.g. measurement of means of verification and field validation).

**M&E Plan Implementation is rated as Moderately Satisfactory**

The Project followed the different milestones and monitoring and evaluation tools established in the PRODOC i.e. Design Monitoring Framework, Annual Workplan and Budget, and M&E Plan. The Project executed several processes such as the Inception Workshop, annual preparation of the APRs), Quarterly Progress Reports, Quarterly Progress Reports for DENR FASPS, Annual Report for the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Official Development Assistance (ODA) Portfolio Reviews, the PIR reports. The Project also conducted regular meetings of the IWT PSC. The project submitted regular quarterly reports to the DENR FASPS that specified reporting of results as well as the overall project performance comparing financial utilization rate with the physical accomplishment rate.

The PMU revised the DMF to fit into the ADB format. However, the revised version includes indicators and means of verification that needed further clarifications to allow the Project Management to effectively manage implementation of activities, while focusing on the Project outcome indicators. As a result, the monitoring was more focused on the outputs rather than the outcomes and impact.

The IWT PSC meetings served as the venue for monitoring progress of activities, formulating corrective actions and deciding on measures proposed by the PMU.

At the regional level, the Project convened the TWG composed of DENR Regional and Field Offices, BMB personnel and the consultants. The TWG provided technical assistance to the PSC. It assisted in the: a) review of activity designs; b) implementation of project activities; and, c) evaluation of project outputs.

Convening the IWT PSC meetings with the principal agency representatives in attendance was a challenge. The regular meetings were attended by alternate representatives that deferred decisions on key recommendations during the meeting to their principal.

The inception workshop was conducted on December 2018, three months after Project approval, while the DENR-BMB was in the process of procuring the Project team. The workshop served as the venue for Project stakeholders to revisit, review and agree on the Project's results framework.

The Project Annual Workplan and Budget were prepared later, from 9 – 11 August 2019 with the Project team on-board. The M&E reports prepared by the Project allowed Project management to identify issues that needed closer supervision and propose recommendations. The IWT PSC was informed on the overall progress of Project activities and outputs and made decisions on the proposed measures referred to it by the PMU.

Overall, the M&E established and provided good documentation of activities and outputs, but not of outcomes. The M&E of the project satisfied the reporting requirement of the ADB, GEF, DENR BMB, FASPS, NEDA and other partners including regional offices involved in activities in the Project sites.

One limitation of the M&E was on the assessment of indicators of outcomes and impact on improvement and management effectiveness. The preliminary results of improved capacities to date indicates positive outcomes of the training activities conducted. Interviews with the stakeholders who participated in the training expressed positive views about its relevance and usefulness.

The Project designed a monitoring tool for determining co-financing by partners. The template allows the computation of counterpart contributions (staff time and equivalent cost, use of facilities, supplies, equipment, and transportation) including actual budget support to Project activities. The Project M&E was effective in providing Project management and updated information necessary for making key decisions that allowed the implementation of its catch-up plan.

The project regularly assessed the risks during project implementation, providing quarterly updates on the Risk Log and indicating management response or actions to counter the risk. The

PMU provided the PSC updates on issues affecting the performance of the project that called for mitigation, including the Covid-19 pandemic.

Seven (7) risk factors were identified during project design, but these were not rated. The risks are (1) Limited collaboration across agencies; (2) Influential and vested interests stall progress for legal reform; (3) Low priority for wildlife crime among law enforcement agencies; (4) Change in political leadership; (5) Economic development priorities overshadow natural resource management, and initiatives may put pressure on local livelihoods and alternative sources of income; (6) Physical security; and (7) Obstruction of wildlife law enforcement officers or operations. The project implemented mitigating factors for all the risks almost equally.

The PSC used the M&E information provided by the PMU. The reports of the service providers and the project partners at the national and field level were analyzed and consolidated to provide an updated status on project activities incorporating proposed measures for action by the PSC. The restrictions in movements due to the pandemic prevented the PMU from doing actual regular site validation and consultations were limited to virtual online meetings and communications.

### **3.2.5 Quality of Implementation**

**The overall quality of implementation is rated Satisfactory (S): There were some shortcomings, but the quality of implementation/execution more or less meets the expectations.**

The ADB has been involved in activities related to the project's identification, concept preparation, appraisal, preparation of detailed proposal, approval and start-up, oversight, supervision, completion, and evaluation. These are all well documented. The Evaluator is of the opinion that delivered effectively on these counts, including the management of the risks identified.

The ADB has provided and accommodated adequate support needed for Project implementation. The agency processed at least 3 changes in scope of the project to accommodate requests that were not included in the original procurement plan. These included the following:



- Support for an additional consultant for eCITES PH
- Hiring of an additional Project Assistant and the “M&E Specialist”
- Support for WCS evaluation (2 consultants)
- Support for the IRRs preparation
- Support for the Livelihood Study
- Support for development of “Wild Alert” – flora section
- Support to an elevated number of events, including project documenters, MCs, visual artists, etc.
- Support to the machine learning study and national consultant for the dashboard (ADB-initiated)
- Support for the creation of the eLearning (ADB-initiated)
- Purchase of the IBM system and training

The procurement of additional activities/consultant/resources was always done timely and following the requests of the DENR-BMB. The ADB has assigned enough personnel and project assistants almost dedicated to process the claims, VOs, and contract administration of the Project.

The failed biddings due to lack of preparation from the consultant(s) during project implementation resulted in delays and inability to complete some activities. There was feedback on the flexibility of ADB’s financial management policies, which some project stakeholders felt the need to be addressed to improve project implementation in the future. However, there is strong reason to believe that this observation is due more to the lack of understanding of the stakeholders on the intricacies of financial management and policies of ADB as a banking institution. For future projects and partnership, it will be useful for all the stakeholders to be fully aware about the financial management system and requirements of the particular GEF agency.

There is also an urgent need to review the procurement process for consultants. The IWT Project is a three-year project. The information obtained about the hiring of project personnel, revealed that the consultants comprising the PMU were given short term (3-month contracts) rather than the common practice of hiring on a co-terminus arrangement with the project. Apparently, the reason given is that if such an arrangement is implemented, the amount will exceed certain levels of approving authority, which may cause some difficulties in financial management. While it is understandable, the short-term contracts impact on project implementation. Rather than focusing

on the tasks ahead, the consultants had to spend considerable amounts of time renewing their contracts, time which could have been devoted to project activities that needed urgent attention.

### 3.2.6 Quality of Execution

**The quality of execution is Moderately Satisfactory (MS): There were some short comings and quality of implementation / execution more or less meets expectations.**

The DENR, through the BMB, as the Executing Agency (EA) was involved in the management and administration of the project's day-to-day activities under the overall oversight and supervision of the ADB as GEF agency. The DENR-BMB was responsible for the appropriate use of funds, and procurement and contracting of goods and services to the ADB. For this purpose, the DENR created a Project Management Office (PMO) under the supervision of the DENR-BMB, through the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD). The PMO was headed by a Project Manager.

The DENR-BMB effectively discharged its role and responsibilities, and performed on their commitments. The Project produced two major policy outputs, and drafted the proposed amendments to RA 9147 and the proposed amendments to the IRR of RA 9147. In terms of co-financing, the DENR exceeded the amount they committed, and they were able to develop strong sense of project ownership that is a boon for sustainability. The Project has accounted a total of USD 673,566.11 (PHP 33.68 million) as of 30 November 2021 or 117% of the USD 575,757 (PHP 28.79 million) committed by the DENR-BMB.

In addition, the DENR mobilized its regional and field personnel to support the project, and in the process developed a strong sense of ownership. As the lead agency, the DENR mobilized support and participation from its partner agencies in the wildlife law enforcement chain.

Unfortunately, while the Project has produced almost all the major expected outputs, delays prevented the DENR-BMB from having a number of these outputs be used by the different Project stakeholders to help achieve the Project outcomes, or even initiate progress towards the outcome within the period of implementation.

The underutilization of Project funds is also a major shortcoming. Some stakeholders expressed worries that the 15% of the GEF grant that the Project failed to utilize would reflect badly on the DENR ability to manage its GEF project portfolio. They averred that the PMU should have made the necessary adjustments to make use of these funds, and worked out solutions with their counterparts in the ADB. The extent and quality of fund utilization are indicative of poor planning and management.

### 3.3 Project Results

#### 3.3.1 Overall results (achievement of objectives)

**Overall quality of Project outcomes: Moderately Satisfactory**

*Project Outcome: Improved institutional effectiveness to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines.*

The IWT Project has 3 components, which should have equaled the outcomes. But as presented in the revised DMF, the first component is divided between 1.1 and 1.2. This increased the total number of outcomes to four (4), with each of the outcome having corresponding outputs and set of activities.

The DENR in their PSR correctly refer to these as outcomes. In the revised DMF, these are called Output Statements, which is rather confusing since these are not actually outputs but statement of the desired results. The outcomes and outputs are discussed and rated in this section. A summary assessment is provided in Table 6.

*Table 6. Assessment of Project Outcomes*

Outcomes	Achievement
Outcome 1.1 Strengthened legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft bill entitled “Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2021” which was endorsed by the DENR was sponsored in the Senate by Senators Cynthia Villar (Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and Climate Change (CC)) and Juan Miguel Zubiri (principal author of Republic Act 9147) on 07 July 2020. These were numbered and indexed as Senate Bill 2078 and Senate</li> </ul>

Outcomes	Achievement
	<p>Bill 2079, filed by Senators Villar and Zubiri, respectively on 02 March 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These bills were read on First Reading on 03 March 2021 and referred to the Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources and Climate Change and Finance and Sustainable Development Goals, Innovations and Futures Thinking.</li> <li>• On 15 December 2021, the committees submitted Committee Report No. 402, recommending that it be consolidated and substituted by SBN-2465 known as the “Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2021.”</li> <li>• Parallel action on amending the current Joint DA-DENR-PCSD IRR of RA 9147 was done in case the submitted bill will not be passed since the legislative process is not within the control of the Project.</li> <li>• The proposed amendments to the current IRR underwent extensive national multi-stakeholder consultations and revisions from 2020 to 2021. The proposed amendments are currently being enhanced based on the recommendation of the DENR- Policy Technical Working Group (PTWG) and will be sent out to the DA and the PCSD for vetting once finalized.</li> <li>• Initial meetings were held separately with the LGUs in the National Capital Region (Cities of Makati and Manila) and Region 13 (Cabadbaran City) in December 2020, and formal communications with Surigao Del Norte and Dinagat Provinces were made to discuss possible support in the crafting of local Ordinances relevant to the implementation of RA 9147 and resolutions in support of its amendment. However, engaging LGUs has been challenging due to their current focus on COVID-19 response. Hence, it was decided with DENR-BMB that a Draft Local Ordinance Template will be delivered instead.</li> </ul>

Outcomes	Achievement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DAO 2020-13 adopting the WildLEAP2018-2028 as the National Roadmap in Addressing Wildlife Crime was signed on 13 October 2020, published in the Daily Tribune on 08 January 2021, submitted to the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR), and took effect thereafter.</li> <li>• The DA-DENR-DILG JAO 2020-01 on Defining the Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies concerned in the Local Trade and Transport of Wildlife under the Jurisdiction of the DENR was signed by the Department Secretaries on 17 November 2020, published in the Daily Tribune on 18 December 2020, submitted to the ONAR, and took effect thereafter.</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 1.2 Increased sharing of information to facilitate multiagency coordination and support adoption of enforcement tools and methods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The eCITES PH electronic permit system continued to be enhanced, and preparations made for a trial period for selected users (permittees) and administrators (DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) and BMB as CITES Management Authority) in the National Capital Region. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Landbank LinkBiz Portal and DENR-BMB was signed on 19 February 2021 to fully automate CITES permit electronic payment.</li> <li>• Consultation-workshops for the development of an eCITES Masterplan were conducted over three sessions from February 23-24, March 24-25, and April 13-15, 2021, participated in by all Philippine CITES Management Authorities (DENR-BMB, DA-BFAR, and PCSD).<sup>12</sup> The Masterplan will serve as a roadmap to automate eCITES implementation from ePermit, eControl, eExchange, to eReport, and will include the objectives, time frame, and indicative budget per segment. The Masterplan is currently being finalized based on the results of the workshops.</li> </ul>

<sup>12</sup> There are three Philippine CITES Management Authorities - DENR-BMB, DA-BFAR, and PCSD (and BARMM also in the future), but the main designated corresponding partner for eCITES PH is the DENR-BMB

Outcomes	Achievement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of seven seaports (four domestic and three international) were assessed using the Port Monitoring and Anti-Trafficking Evaluation (PortMATE) Tool which was recalibrated to address the local context and use in domestic seaports. Three ports were assessed in the NCR (Manila International Container Terminal (MICT), Manila North Harbor and Manila South Harbor), two ports in Region 7 (Cebu Domestic Port and Cebu International Port), and two ports in Region 13 (Lipata Port and Nasipit Port). The Project has submitted the final Port Assessment Reports. The seaport assessments were supported by the PPA and Cebu Ports Authority through a MOU with the DENR.</li> <li>• Five DENR-established Wildlife Rescue Centers (WRCs) in the Project sites, the National Wildlife Research and Rescue Center (NWRRC) in the NCR; Regional WRCs in Cebu City, Ayungon in Negros Oriental, and Talibon in Bohol (Region 7), and the Regional WRC in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte (Region 13), were assessed using the ACB-developed WRC Assessment Framework and Methodology. A final report was submitted.</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 3. Long-term capacity building program for wildlife crime law enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five Basic Wildlife Law Enforcement (BWLE) Trainings, three Webinars on Wildlife Laws for LGUs, a Webinar on Wildlife Law for Industry Players, and two Seminars on the Prosecution of Wildlife Cases were conducted online, via Zoom. Subject-matter experts from DENR-BMB, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), PNP, BOC, DOJ, Tanggol Kalikasan and DENR Regions were invited to serve as trainers for the capacity building activities. Twenty (16.7%) of these trainers were graduates of DENR-BMB's Training of Trainers Program. Modules on Introduction to Controlled Delivery, Introduction to Protocol on Safety Inspection of Wildlife, Introduction to Anti-Money Laundering (with IWT as predicate offense), and the Prosecution of Wildlife Cases were developed, and pilot tested during the</li> </ul>

Outcomes	Achievement
	<p>BWLE Trainings and in the Seminar on the Prosecution of Wildlife Cases. The final modules for Controlled Delivery, Protocol on Safety Inspection of Wildlife and Anti-Money Laundering (in relation of wildlife crimes) were submitted to DENR-Human Resource Development Service (HRDS). A Webinar on the Prosecution of Wildlife Cases for the Prosecutors and Legal Counsels of the DENR and DA-BFAR was also completed. A copy of this copy of the training module was also submitted for accreditation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BWLE Training Course was converted into a self-paced e-Learning Course to allow potential participants, including interested law enforcement officers, to take the course entirely online, at their own pace, space, and time, while still achieving the learning outcome. The e-Learning BWLE Course, consisting of seven modules with a total of 18 topics, was uploaded on the ADB e-Learn platform. It was also integrated into the DENR-ENR Academy as a specialized course.</li> </ul>
<p>Outcome 4. Demand reduction measures implemented for identified priority species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Report on the Economic Valuation of Marine Turtles and Blue-nape Parrots was presented and distributed to various experts and stakeholders for review, comments, and inputs on the content of the report and assumptions regarding the calculations of the values. The Report shows that a single marine turtle has a use value of up to PHP 4,797,419 (=USD 95,948) over the course of its lifetime, while a single blue-nape parrot has a use value of PHP 185,981 (=USD 3,720) over the course of its lifetime.</li> <li>• Due to COVID-19, the Project opted to continue the conduct of the pre-campaign consumer surveys in Region 7 and Region 13 through phone interviews instead of face-to face surveys as initially started. A nationwide pre-campaign consumer survey was likewise conducted to complement the localized surveys. The results of the pre-</li> </ul>

Outcomes	Achievement
	<p>campaign consumer report were presented to DENR-BMB and the respective DENR Regional Offices and was thereafter finalized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data gathering for the Sustainable Livelihood Study in Cabadbaran-Santiago Watershed Forest Reserve was conducted in January 2021. The report on the livelihood study was already submitted. A journal article titled: “Investing on Sustainable Rural Livelihood: Will This Curb the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Caraga Region, Philippines” was likewise prepared and is for submission to credible journals.</li> <li>• Three CEPA Strategies and Plans were developed for each of the three Project sites (NCR, Region 7, and Region 13), based on the results of the pre-campaign consumer research. The CEPA Strategies and Plans include the goals and objectives of the campaign, an analysis of the consumer segments and profile of target audience, CEPA campaign framework, messages by segmented audience, and communications channels, among others.</li> <li>• The #StopIllegalWildlifeTrade CEPA campaign ran from March 2020 until June 2021, with the campaign duration having been extended by several months to account for operational slowdowns caused by the nationwide COVID-19 lockdowns. For the reporting period, the Project produced and disseminated eight social media posts (which were also boosted on Facebook), two IWT Teleradyo Guesting, support to World Wildlife Day 2021, a short video on the amendments to RA 9147, four press releases, and an IWT Calendar 2021 (in English and Visayan).</li> </ul>

### Assessment of Project Outputs

The project achieved almost all the expected outputs at the three operational components level. The PMU reported that as of December 2021, out of the 27 output indicators, 25 were completed.



The report cited as reasons for the delays the late start of the Project by more than a year, delayed engagement of consultants, the 2019 elections, the restrictions on movement and travels due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the LGUs' shifted focus towards the pandemic response.

<b>Expected Output</b>	<b>Primary Targets</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>Component 1: Reforming and mainstreaming policy, legal, and regulatory concerns</b>			
<i>Outcome 1.1 Strengthened legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crimes</i>			
Output 1.1.1 Proceedings of national stakeholder consultations on the amendments to RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on review of national and international policies</li> <li>• Draft bill amending RA 9147 submitted to the Senate</li> <li>• Awareness raising campaign with members of the Senate</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This output is achieved. The Project prepared and submitted the proceedings of the national stakeholders' consultations on the amendments to RA 9147 in March 2021.</li> <li>• The draft bill was also submitted to the Senate.</li> <li>• The Project launched a Campaign and Advocacy Plan to highlight the need to amend the 20-year-old RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001) and solicit support for enactment of a new legislation amending the current law.</li> </ul>
Output 1.1.2 Local ordinances in support of the implementation of the current Wildlife Act and local resolutions in support of its amendment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six (6) draft local ordinances supporting the implementation of RA 9147</li> <li>• Six (6) draft resolutions in support of amending RA 9147</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issuance of local ordinances were hindered by the shift of LGUs' focus on the pandemic.</li> <li>• Issuance of local resolutions supporting the amendment to the Wildlife Act was delayed due to the delayed filing of the Senate bill.</li> <li>• The project revised its targets in 2021 as follows:</li> </ul>

Expected Output	Primary Targets	Status	Remarks
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statement of support (already signed by 30 signatories from 18 LGUs)</li> <li>- Draft template for local ordinance prepared</li> </ul>
Output 1.1.3 Joint inter-agency resolution against wildlife crimes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint department resolution signed</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NALECC-SCENR Joint Resolution No. 3 s. 2021: A Resolution Against Wildlife Crimes was signed on 16 July 2021</li> </ul>
Output 1.1.4 Department Administrative Order (DAO) to adopt Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAO adopting WildLEAP signed</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAO 2020-13 was signed on 13 October 2020</li> </ul>
Output 1.1.5 Joint Administrative Order (JAO) on the permitting system for wildlife transport and trade Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint DA-DENR-DILG Administrative Order drafted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DA-DENR-DILG JAO No. 2020-01 was signed on 17 November 2020.</li> </ul>
<i>Outcome 1.2 Increased sharing of information to facilitate multiagency coordination and support adoption of enforcement tools and methods</i>			
Output 1.2.1 National Assessment Report on Wildlife Law Enforcement Response Effectiveness Using ICCWC Indicator Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of national assessment using the ICCWC Indicator Framework</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This exercise was carried out through an evaluation workshop, which was jointly organized by the IWT-Project and the DENR-BMB on behalf of DENR and UNODC in Manila on 16-17 October 2019.</li> </ul>
Output 1.2.2 eCITES Philippines electronic permitting system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eCITES Philippines developed</li> <li>• Pilot-testing and rollout reports submitted</li> </ul>	Incomplete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project supported the development of the eCITES Philippines Electronic Permit System (formerly CEPMIS).</li> </ul>
Output 1.2.3 Data input in eCITES Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User and other system reports generated</li> </ul>	Incomplete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trial run is ongoing. Rollout will be conducted by BMB in 2022.</li> </ul>

Expected Output	Primary Targets	Status	Remarks
Output 1.2.4 eCITES Philippines Master Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final eCITES PH Master Plan submitted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project produced and submitted the Masterplan for the Development of eCITES Philippines.</li> </ul>
Output 1.2.5 Assessment Report on Port Monitoring and Anti-Trafficking of Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on assessment of ports in Project sites submitted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project assessed seven (7) seaports using PortMATE</li> </ul>
Output 1.2.6 Assessment Report on scientific and technological innovations for IWT monitoring and law enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on IWT in the digital age seminar submitted</li> <li>Development of Analytics Dashboard is ongoing</li> <li>Report on research on use of machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) submitted</li> <li>Report on training on use of AI submitted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Analytics Dashboard is ongoing.</li> <li>Workshop on Machine Learning in Digital Media was conducted.</li> </ul>
Output 1.2.7 Assessment Report on Wildlife Rescue Centers (WRCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literature review on WRC polices, manuals and other related literature submitted</li> <li>Joint WRC assessment and recommendations report submitted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project completed the assessment of five (5) WRCs. These are the National Wildlife Research and Rescue Center (BMB, Quezon City), the WRCs in Region 7 (Cebu City; Ayungon, Negros Oriental; and Talibon, Bohol), and the WRC in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte (Caraga Region).</li> </ul>
<i>Outcome 2.1 Long-term capacity building program for wildlife crime law enforcement</i>			
Output 2.1.1 Capacity Gaps and Training Needs Assessment (CTNA) on Wildlife Crime Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on inventory of training, curriculum, and modules on WLE submitted</li> <li>CTNA Reported Submitted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report on the inventory of trainings, curricula, and modules on WLE was submitted in May 2020.</li> <li>The CTNA Report was submitted in May 2020.</li> </ul>

<b>Expected Output</b>	<b>Primary Targets</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Output 2.1.2 Capacity Building plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity Building Plan submitted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project submitted the capacity building plans for NCR, Region 7, and Region 13 in May 2020. This plan contains the basis, objectives and details of the recommended trainings that were conducted in the project sites.</li> </ul>
Output 2.1.3 Key IWT capacity development modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 modules developed and submitted</li> <li>BWLE converted into self-paced modules submitted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project developed the Five (5) key IWT capacity development modules, including seven (7) modules and 18 topics for a self-paced e-Learning Course on BWLE, which was uploaded on the ADB eLearn portal. The e-Learning BWLE Course, consisting of seven modules with a total of 18 topics, was uploaded on the ADB e-Learn platform. It was also integrated into the DENR-ENR Academy as a specialized course.</li> </ul>
Output 2.1.4 Training documentation reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 documentation reports submitted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project has submitted all the training documentation reports.</li> </ul>
<i>Outcome 3.1. Demand reduction measures implemented for identified priority species</i>			
Output 3.1.1 Economic valuation study for one taxonomic group and one species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic valuation studies for marine turtles and parrots submitted and presented to stakeholders.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Report on the Economic Valuation of Marine Turtles and Blue-nape Parrots was presented and distributed to various experts and stakeholders for review, comments, and inputs on the content of the report and assumptions regarding the calculations of value.</li> </ul>

<b>Expected Output</b>	<b>Primary Targets</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Output 3.1.2 Sustainable Livelihood Feasibility Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on feasibility study submitted and presented to stakeholders</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The feasibility study report was submitted and presented to the stakeholders. The draft report is undergoing enhancement.</li> </ul>
Output 3.1.3 Pre- and Post-Campaign Consumer Research Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre- and Post-Campaign Report submitted and presented to stakeholders.</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-campaign nationwide telephone surveys and household surveys were conducted in Metro Manila, Cebu and the Caraga region to identify the baseline data on demand.</li> </ul>
Output 3.1.4 CEPA Plan and Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEPA Plan and Strategy submitted</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project developed three (3) CEPA Strategies and Plans for the NCR, Region 7, and Region 13.</li> </ul>
Output 3.1.5 Audience-segmented CEPA Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eight (8) CEPA Materials deployed</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project produced and disseminated audience-segmented CEPA materials. These materials were designed for acceptor, rejecter, non-committal, and non-aware audience segments while generating concrete IWT leads.</li> </ul>
Output 3.1.6 Knowledge products (e.g. policy papers, journals, and publications)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy paper developed</li> <li>Scholarly article submitted to reputable journal</li> </ul>	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional knowledge products are being developed</li> </ul>

**Expected Outcome 1. Strengthened legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crime**

***Output 1.1.1 Proceedings of national stakeholder consultations on the amendments to RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act)***

This output is achieved. The Project prepared and submitted the proceedings (Documentation

Report) on the national stakeholders' consultations on the amendments to RA 9147 in March 2021.

To push for the amendment of RA 9147, the Project conducted a number of consultations. In 2019, the Project organized four consultations/workshops to review and propose revisions to RA 9147. Various stakeholders representing national and local government agencies, civil society organizations, academic and scientific institutions, private sector, and experts' groups participated in these activities. The Project conducted three island-wide stakeholders' consultations in Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao.

The output of the consultations was the draft bill with the short title "Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act." After further review by the DENR, the draft bill was endorsed to Senator Cynthia Villar and Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri for consideration and sponsorship.

While efforts were underway to amend the RA 9147, the then Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Assistant Secretary for Climate Change and concurrent BMB Director Ricardo Calderon directed the Project to conduct a parallel review and revision of the IRR of RA 9147. The draft Revised IRR was also subjected to a series of consultations and revisions within the DENR-BMB and the DENR between August to December 2020.

To further consolidate and clarify the results of the previous consultations, the Project conducted a national stakeholders' consultation on 26-29 January 2020 via Zoom. The objective was to present the proposed revisions based on substantive suggestions and comments from the BMB WRD and the Technical Review Committee) and from other offices in the DENR. The consultation provided another opportunity for the other stakeholders to give their comments and suggestions. A total of 168 participants (80 females and 88 male) representing NGAs, LGUs, and CSOs participated in the activity.

The Project launched a Campaign and Advocacy Plan to highlight the need to amend the 20-year-old RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001) and solicit support for enactment of a new legislation amending the current law.

The Project produced a draft bill seeking to amend RA 9147 and submitted it to the Senate of the Philippines. The draft Senate Bill was endorsed by the PSC Chairperson and DENR USEC for

Policy, Planning and International Affairs, Juan Miguel Cuna, to Senators Cynthia Villar (Chairperson of the Senate Committee on ENR and CC) and Juan Miguel Zubiri (principal author of Republic Act 9147) on 07 July 2020 for sponsorship. Thereafter, Senate Bill 2078 and Senate Bill 2079 on the “Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2021” were filed in Senate by Senators Villar and Zubiri, respectively on 02 March 2021, as part of the celebration of World Wildlife Day 2021.

The two versions of the bill on this subject are currently under consideration in the Senate. The project conducted awareness raising campaigns with members of the Senate to support the passage of the bill. The Senate Committee on ENR has begun conducting public hearings on the proposed legislation. The first public hearing was conducted online on 30 June 2021.

Senate approval of the bill on Second Reading may no longer be possible within the project implementation period, which is closing on 31 December 2021. The Senate is saddled with a lot of other concerns and the forthcoming 2022 national election is shifting its focus and priorities.

***Output 1.1.2 Local ordinances in support of the implementation of the current Wildlife Act and local resolutions in support of its amendment.***

This output is achieved. The end-of-project targets for this output are six (6) draft local ordinances in support of the implementation of RA 9147 and six (6) draft local resolutions expressing support for amending RA 9147. However, the Covid-19 pandemic shifted the focus and priorities of the LGUs towards the emergency response.

To facilitate and expedite the process, the Project, in consultation with the relevant authorities in the DENR and BMB, revised its targets in 2021 as follows: (i) Statement of support (already signed by 30 signatories from 18 LGUs); and (ii) Draft template for local ordinance prepared (the draft ordinances and resolutions were submitted to the respective LGUs in the project sites for their consideration and action.

The Project held separate meetings with the LGUs of Makati and Manila (NCR) and Cabadbaran City (Caraga Region) in December 2020. The Project also formally communicated and discussed with the provincial governments of Surigao Del Norte Province and Dinagat Province, the

possible support in the crafting of local ordinances relevant to the implementation of RA 9147 and resolutions expressing support for its amendment. The Project provided the concerned LGUs with copies of the draft ordinance and resolution.

### ***Output 1.1.3 Joint inter-agency resolution against wildlife crimes***

This output is achieved. The Joint Inter-Agency Resolution Against Wildlife Crimes was formally adopted and signed by members of the NALECC-SCENR, the Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime (OSETC), and the Philippine Center on Transnational Crime (PCTC) on 16 July 2021 during the 4th National Environmental Law Enforcement Summit on July 16, 2021.

The joint inter-agency resolution declares that syndicated large-scale IWT is a serious transnational crime. It also declares support to amend RA 9147, and lauds the Philippine Congress for including violations of Section 27(c), (e), (f), (g) and (i), of RA 9147 in the list of predicate crimes for the offense of money laundering.

### ***Output 1.1.4 Department Administrative Order (DAO) to adopt Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan (WildLEAP)***

This output is achieved. The DENR has issued DAO No. 2020-13 on 13 October 2020, officially adopting the WildLEAP 2018-2028 as the National Roadmap in Addressing Wildlife Crimes. The order took effect on 08 January 2021.

As the Philippine's roadmap for a strengthened, sustained and well-coordinated program for enforcing wildlife laws, the WildLEAP adopts strategies for Improving Governance, Curbing Corruption, Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation. These strategies include policy development, networking & coordination, capacity building, and CEPA.

### ***Output 1.1.5 Joint Administrative Order (JAO) on the permitting system for wildlife transport and trade Department***



This output is achieved. The DA-DENR-DILG JAO No. 2020-01 (Defining the Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies Concerned in the Local Trade and Transport of Wildlife under the Jurisdiction of the DENR) was signed on 17 November 2020, and took effect on 14 January 2021.

This JAO aims to ensure that the procedures of these agencies' regulations on local trade and transport of wildlife, particularly in the issuance of required separate and distinct permits, are well-coordinated.

**Expected Outcome 2. Increased sharing of information to facilitate multiagency coordination and support adoption of enforcement tools and methods**

***Output 1.2.1 National Assessment Report on Wildlife Law Enforcement Response Effectiveness Using ICCWC Indicator Framework***

This output was achieved. The Project submitted this report on the outcome of the national self-assessment workshop on the implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime in the Philippines. The results of the implementation of the ICCWC tool are expected to provide a solid evidence-base to identify strengths and weaknesses in the national response to these crimes.

This report summarizes the results of the Indicator Framework assessment workshop undertaken by the Republic of the Philippines on 16 and 17 October 2019 in Manila. This exercise was carried out through an evaluation workshop, which was jointly organized by the IWT-Project and the DENR-BMB on behalf of DENR and UNODC in Manila on 16 and 17 October 2019, and was attended by government institutions and CSOs. The results of the workshop provide a standardized baseline for the actions and support to the government of the Republic of the Philippines and ADB by the ICCWC and other partners, and can serve as a monitoring tool to objectively assess national progress over time.<sup>13</sup>

An orientation and consultation workshop on the Indicator Framework was conducted in October 2019 in partnership with UNODC. Overall, Outcome 3 on the use of intelligence-led approaches to investigate wildlife crime scored the lowest with participants providing an average score of

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<sup>13</sup> Implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. Report of the national self-assessment workshop. Manila, Republic of the Philippines. 16-17 October 2019

“0”, followed by Outcome 7 (appropriate penalization of wildlife crime offenders) and Outcome 8 (holistic approach to combat wildlife crime) both of which scored 1 out of a maximum score of 3. The use of the ICCWC Forest and Wildlife Crime Analytic Toolkit, which is a separate tool, was recommended for deferment to 2022 since the Philippines has already formulated the WildLEAP, which serves the same purpose. In 2022, a mid-term review of the implementation of WildLEAP is expected to be done.<sup>14</sup>

### ***Output 1.2.2 eCITES Philippines electronic permitting system***

This output was partially achieved. The Project supported the development of the eCITES Philippines Electronic Permit System (formerly CEPMIS). The Pilot-testing and rollout reports were submitted to the DENR. The trial run is ongoing and the BMB expects to roll-out the system in 2022.

The BMB initiated the full automation of application and issuance of CITES Permits as CITES Management Authority for Terrestrial Wildlife. The Bureau created a TWG for the development of an eCITES system (BMB Special Order 2019-298). The same order mandated the Project to provide technical and technological assistance to the enhancement of eCITES and Secretariat support to the TWG, including all the expenses for the development of the system.

eCITES is a system to simplify and automate business processes and to establish collaboration of relevant stakeholders through exchange of electronic information for an improved implementation of the CITES Convention. It comprises ePermit, eControl, eReport, and eExchange. The objective of eCITES is to improve and automate all business processes related to 1) CITES permit issuance; 2) exchange of information; 3) control of the wildlife trade; 4) reporting by a member state to the CITES system.

The Project expects that in its final phase of implementation, the eCITES Philippines will have the following features: 1) Automated permit request and issuance; 2) Electronic payments of fees; 3) Electronic information exchange and workflow between government agencies (CMAs and customs) to strengthen controls; 4) Implementation of modern risk management methods based on past compliance of traders; 5) Exchange of trusted and up-to-date permit information between

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<sup>14</sup> [https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/50159/50159-001-tacr-en\\_5.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/50159/50159-001-tacr-en_5.pdf)

authorities in the exporting and importing country; and 6) Automated generation of data for annual trade reports and other relevant reports.

### ***Output 1.2.3 Data input in eCITES Philippines***

This output was completed. The enhanced eCITES Philippines was pilot-tested in the DENR-BMB and the DENR-NCR beginning in July 2021. The initial results showed a 20% increase in permits processed by eCITES PH. The project also reported that 30% of those trained on the use of eCITES PH in the DENR and BMB are women. The pilot run of the system was until 15 December 2021.

To expand the capacity of the system, the Project recommends more training, additional equipment, improved systems, and additional staff to manage the system.

### ***Output 1.2.4 eCITES Philippines Masterplan***

This output is achieved. The Project produced the Masterplan for the Development of eCITES Philippines. This Masterplan was developed through a series of consultations mainly attended by the 1) three CITES Management Authority (CMA), namely DENR-BMB, DA-BFAR, and PCSD; 2) National Museum as a CITES Scientific Authority; 3) Bureau of Customs; and 4) Department of Finance. The CITES Secretariat and the ADB also provided technical inputs in some of these consultations. This document contains the legal bases, the developmental framework, and the set of activities, with corresponding cost estimates leading to the completion and full operationalization of eCITES.

### ***Output 1.2.5 Assessment Report on Port Monitoring and Anti-Trafficking of Wildlife***

This output is achieved. The Project completed the assessment of seven (7) seaports using the **PortMATE Tool**. These ports are the Port of Manila (North, South and Manila International Container Terminal); the ports of Lipata (Surigao City, Surigao del Norte) and Nasipit (Agusan del Norte), and the Cebu Domestic and International Sea ports (Cebu City).

The Project assessed the port monitoring and tracking systems in place in the ports. The port assessment was accompanied by capacity building on the assessment tool so that eventually, the

Government of the Philippines, through its appropriate agencies, can replicate the same in all ports of the country.

The assessment used the PortMATE tool. The tool has nine (9) categories, namely: Category 1: Electronic Permitting System for Domestic Port; Category 2: Intelligence; Category 3: Risk Profiling System; Category 4: Container/Cargo/Passenger Scanning; Category 5: Container/Cargo/Baggage Inspection; Category 6: Investigation and Prosecution; Category 7: Inter-Agency and International Collaboration; Category 8: Employee Integrity and Anti-Corruption; and Category 9: Supply Chain Security.

The port assessment revealed that aside from the usual shortage and limitations in equipment, the officers at the ports are not trained enough to do automated risk profiling including wildlife trafficking. The equipment and K9 dogs in the port are not capable to detect wildlife and the x-ray operators, dog handlers and law enforcement officers lack the capacity to analyze and detect wildlife images, investigate using forensic sampling, controlled delivery and prosecute cases. The lack of electronic permitting/clearance and risk profiling systems is also a problem. There are no regular inter-agency activities conducted for the purpose of combatting wildlife crime. Coordination is mostly done on a case to case basis.

#### ***Output 1.2.6 Assessment Report on scientific and technological innovations for IWT monitoring and law enforcement***

This output is in progress but behind schedule. The Project is collaborating with the University of Helsinki Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Conservation Science (HELICS) and a national Consultant to develop a research framework to mine, filter, and identify relevant data on wildlife trade on digital platforms; and develop an interactive Analytics Dashboard with customized search functions to allow DENR-BMB and other users to interact with the data in simple, user-friendly ways.

The Project embarked on this activity to respond to recent trends showing that IWT is moving to online platforms that include social media, e-commerce sites, country-specific platforms (e.g. WeChat), and the dark web.

Human investigators manually scouring the internet are often only able to detect a fraction of illegal products offered, simply because of the constraints of physical time and personnel, and the volume of information on the web. The Project takes advantage of the recent innovations in machine learning that have shown great potential in gathering intelligence and tracking crimes on a large scale.

Machine learning is an application of AI that uses data to teach computers to look for patterns and make better decisions, e.g. in identifying wildlife trade violations. It allows mining and analysis of huge amounts of data found in social media, online news, e-commerce websites, dark web, etc. in a cost and time-efficient manner.

The Project believes that the system can provide vital insights and leads (e.g. on transshipment routes and sales patterns) that can inform policy, capacity building, demand reduction, and enforcement efforts. It can also be used to identify the individuals involved in illegal value chains, thus providing crucial information and evidence to law enforcement agencies, who can act on this intelligence to confiscate the items/animals and apprehend the violators.

#### ***Output 1.2.7 Assessment Report on Wildlife Rescue Centers (WRCs)***

This output is completed. The Project completed the assessment of five (5) WRCs. These are the National Wildlife Research and Rescue Center (BMB, Quezon City), the WRCs in Region 7 (Cebu City; Ayungon, Negros Oriental; and Talibon, Bohol), and the WRC in Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte (Caraga Region). The assessment was conducted using the Assessment Framework and Methodology developed by the ACB. This assessment framework evaluates the management policies, veterinary protocols, and facilities of the WRCs across five (5) categories and 21 sub-themes.

The Project proposed to replicate the activity to do a comprehensive assessment of WRCs in the Philippines to inform management decision in finding opportunities for building the capacities of WRCs in supporting biodiversity conservation, enforcement against wildlife crimes, and demand reduction.

**Expected Outcome 3. Long-term capacity building program for wildlife crime law enforcement**

### ***Output 2.1.1 Capacity Gaps and Training Needs Assessment (CTNA) on Wildlife Crime Law Enforcement***

The CTNA was conducted with the concerned law enforcement agencies operating in the three (3) sites (NCR, Region 7, and Region 13, to identify appropriate training needs. The CTNA was conducted on 12 December 2019, 13 December 2019, and 23 January 2020, in Region 13, Region 7 and NCR, respectively. It was conducted in two manners: manually and through an online questionnaire. Respondents who were unable to access their emails or had no email addresses, opted to answer the questionnaire manually. The others opted to answer online through the link sent to their email addresses. Responses gathered through the manual survey were incorporated in the online survey. The mechanics on how to answer the questionnaire were also explained. Before filling in, TK discussed each topic to guide the respondents in answering the questionnaire. A focus group discussion was conducted afterwards.

Aside from said schedules, the TNA questionnaires were also distributed to the law enforcement officers of the DENR and partner agencies during the Round Table Discussion on Forensics in the Cocoon Hotel, Quezon City, on 3 December 2019. The questionnaires were filled in during said activity and collected afterwards.

The results of this assessment were used as baseline for the Capacity Building Plan and Training Evaluation. The key recommendations from the report include conduct of BWLE Trainings for DENR and its partner law enforcement agencies; conduct of training on wildlife laws for LGUs; conduct of a seminar on the prosecution of wildlife cases; and conduct of a seminar on wildlife laws for the members of the industry operating in seaports and airports in the NCR.

The results of the CTNA helped TK in determining the capacity and training gaps of DENR and partner agencies. Based on the results, respondents from DENR fully understand substantive laws rather than procedural laws. On the contrary, the results revealed that PNP, NBI and PNP-CIDG fully understand the procedural laws rather than substantive laws while the LGUs, DOJ-NPS and the remaining partner agencies do not or only partially understand both substantive and procedural laws. In connection with this, TK recommended the conduct of different trainings to address these capacity and training gaps.

### ***Output 2.1.2 Capacity Building plan***

The Project completed and submitted the capacity building plans for NCR, Region 7, and Region 13. These plans contain the basis, objectives and details of the recommended trainings that will be conducted in the project sites.

TK is engaged to deliver the capacity building component of the project. As part of this component, TK conducted CTNAs, involving the wildlife law enforcement officers and personnel assigned in the respective enforcement divisions of the DENR and those assigned in environmental or enforcement divisions of partner agencies which include the PNP, PNP Maritime Group (MG), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), DA-BFAR, BOC, PPA, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Cebu Ports Authority (CPA), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), DOJ-National Prosecution Service (NPS), and the LGUs.

### ***Output 2.1.3 Key IWT capacity development modules***

The Project developed the following key IWT capacity development modules:

1. Introduction to Controlled Delivery
2. Introduction to Safety Inspection Protocol
3. Introduction to Anti-Money Laundering (with IWT as a predicate offense)
4. Prosecution of Wildlife Crimes (Level 2)
5. e-Learning Course on BWLE (Seven (7) modules and 18 topics of self-paced e-Learning course on the ADB eLearn portal and DENR-ENR Academy.)

### ***Output 2.1.4 Training documentation reports***

The Project submitted ten (10) Training Documentation Reports on the following trainings:

- 1) 5 BWLE Trainings (Region 7, 13, and NCR)
- 2) 3 Webinars on Wildlife Laws for LGUs (Region 7, 13, and NCR)
- 3) 2 Webinars on Prosecution of Wildlife Cases (in collaboration with DOJ)
- 4) 1 Webinar on Wildlife Laws for Industry Players

The Project trained a total of 676 (58% male, 42% female) law enforcement and support personnel from the DENR and partner agencies. This includes the 150 personnel who were trained in all the project sites.

In a further development, the DENR-HRDS approved the BWLE Training Course (Webinar type and e-Course) developed under the Project for inclusion as a specialized course in the DENR-ENR Academy.

#### **Expected Outcome 4. Demand reduction measures implemented for identified priority species**

##### ***Output 3.1.1 Economic valuation study for one taxonomic group and one species***

The report on the economic valuation study for marine turtles and blue-nape parrots was submitted and presented to stakeholders. It was presented and distributed to various experts and stakeholders for review, comments, and inputs on the content of the report and assumptions regarding the calculations of value. The report shows that a single marine turtle has a use value of up to PHP 4,797,419 (USD 95,298) over the course of its lifetime, while a single blue-nape parrot has a use value of PHP 185,981 (USD 3,694) over the course of its lifetime.

##### ***Output 3.1.2 Sustainable Livelihood Feasibility Survey***

The feasibility study report was submitted and presented to the stakeholders. The data gathering for the Sustainable Livelihood Study in Cabadbaran-Santiago Watershed Forest Reserve was conducted in January 2021. The Report has been drafted and is currently being enhanced. A journal article titled: “Investing on Sustainable Rural Livelihood: Will This Curb the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Caraga Region, Philippines” was likewise prepared and is for submission to credible journals.

##### ***Output 3.1.3 Pre- and Post-Campaign Consumer Research Study***

The Project submitted the pre- and post-campaign reports and these were presented to stakeholders.



Pre-campaign nationwide telephone surveys and household surveys were conducted in Metro Manila, Cebu and the Caraga region to identify the baseline data on demand. The results from these research activities were used as inputs into the consumer research and demand reduction initiatives of the DENR and the Project, which aimed to determine the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of household-level decision makers of wildlife species and products, however, focused on two pre-determined taxonomic groups of traded wildlife: marine turtles and parrots.

The results were used in the audience-segmented CEPA campaign for demand reduction or the IWT Ad campaign. Four weeks after the IWT Ad campaign was launched, post-campaign consumer demand studies were conducted simultaneously in the same local study sites and in key urban cities and municipalities nationwide. The field work for these consumer studies was conducted from May to June 2021. The results of these studies evaluated the impact of the CEPA campaign in generating awareness for IWT and the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, with the ultimate goal to reduce consumer demand of the identified taxonomic groups.

Based on the success indicators developed for the outcomes of the CEPA Campaign in building awareness for IWT, results of the post-campaign studies showed a clear impact of the IWT ad campaign in generating awareness in all local study sites, most significantly among parrot consumers in Metro Manila, where awareness in the post campaign study exceeded the target 20% increase from the pre-campaign level.

Among marine turtle consumers, the result did not meet the target, which registered at 47%, which is lower than the 59% target. However, it is on an upward trend as it is directionally higher than the pre-campaign level of 39%. The impact of the IWT ad campaign is moderate but on an uptrend in Cebu among parrot consumers. It registered at 41%, higher (although not significantly) than its pre-campaign level of 30%. However, among turtle consumers, awareness remained almost the same as the pre-campaign study at 39% compared to the pre-campaign awareness of 38%.

Meanwhile, in the Caraga Region study, the impact of the IWT ad campaign is on a favorable, upward direction, as knowledge of any regulation on wildlife purchase and protection as well as of the actual name of the law i.e., RA 9147 among both consumer groups are higher than the pre-campaign levels and only marginally lower versus that the targets. Among parrot consumers, post-campaign awareness of any regulation on wildlife purchase and protection registered 44%

compared to its pre-campaign levels of 31%, while among turtle consumers, it reached 40% post-campaign awareness versus 31% in the pre-campaign study. On the awareness of RA 9147, there were 44% who claimed to be aware of the actual law – only 5% points below the awareness target of 49% in the area.

While the IWT ad campaign did not achieve its targets on raising awareness via the nationwide study at the national level, it however achieved the target for the awareness of the ad campaign, with a high rate of related recall. Level of recall on the topic about prohibited trading of wildlife was high, however, it did not achieve the target level, let alone the target level of recall for prohibited consumption and the call to action to stop consumption. The IWT ad campaign generated a slightly better recall on these campaign messages compared with the pre-campaign level. The study revealed that the respondents were aware that there is a law in place for reporting or returning wildlife animals. A few respondents know about the topic on a law/bill on wildlife protection, debunking traditional beliefs surrounding turtle consumption, and economic value of the assessed wildlife were specifically also remembered about the IWT ad campaign.

The positive results of the local studies not reflected in the nationwide study point to the limitation of the IWT ad campaign in terms of reach, especially in covering areas outside NCR, among 45 years old and above, and respondents from the lowest income (D) homes. Television (particularly, free-to-air, non-cable) and social media, specifically Facebook, were the two top awareness sources of IWT ad campaign. Particularly for television, awareness from this channel cuts across age groups, except among the 34 years old and below. For this age group, they are noted to be equally engaged in both Facebook and television when sourcing information about wildlife.

YouTube and radio are also viable sources of awareness, which can be used for more targeted communications to reach the 35 years and below and the aged 45 years old and up, respectively. Other sources of awareness for the IWT campaign included online news sites and word-of-mouth from friends, co-workers, colleagues (slightly more among 34 years old and below). Print media, particularly newspaper was slightly less preferred by males, while calendars/ pamphlets/ leaflets were least likely to be sources of awareness among 35-44 years old. Among the local consumer surveys, the Metro Manila study demonstrated the effectiveness of the IWT ad campaign in bringing higher awareness for IWT and the law, eliciting the highest in terms of total awareness of ad campaign, with the notable increase versus pre-campaign level being significant.

In the Metro Manila study, 43% of respondents had heard or seen ads, messages, or materials on the topic of stopping the purchase and/or consumption of wildlife, a significant increase versus pre-campaign level of 31%. It is also in the said study where mentions of a law/bill on wildlife protection or the actual name of the law ‘Wildlife Protection and Conservation Act (RA 9147)’ were evidently high. In the Cebu and Caraga Region surveys, total awareness of the IWT ad campaign remained low at 16% and 13%, respectively. Due to the low levels of awareness for the IWT ad campaign, the study was unable to perform a full evaluation of the IWT Ad campaign in these areas.

The nationwide study measured the impact of the IWT ad campaign’s ‘call-to-action’ in terms of consumer conversion, meaning consumers indeed taking action after being exposed to the ad messages. In the nationwide study, conversion registered substantially high with 57% claiming to have taken action upon seeing or hearing about the IWT ad campaign. In the Metro Manila study, however, consumer conversion is significantly lower at 32% compared to the nationwide study.

On the specific activities undertaken by consumers in the nationwide study after being exposed to the IWT ad campaign, these appear to be varied with 27% engaging in informative ‘word-of-mouth,’ and about 15-20% commenting or sharing the IWT ad campaign posts on social media or on Facebook. Meanwhile, there are only 4-9% who engaged in activities related to the IWT ad campaign’s main ‘call-to-actions’ of not selling animals and reporting to authorities those who engage in wildlife purchase. This scenario indicates the probability of consumers obtaining mixed call-to-action signals from the various elements respondents have recalled of the IWT ad campaign’s copy or messages.

The results of the post-campaign studies highlighted the importance of ensuring clear, easy to understand ad campaign messages. Based on the results of the nationwide study’s campaign diagnostics, moderate message comprehension about the IWT ad campaign was observed, where the message is clear and ‘very easy to understand’ to only 55% of those aware of parrots and marine turtles. The same holds true in Metro Manila where 52% found the IWT ad campaign very easy to understand.

While performing well in terms of relevance or on how well the message of the IWT ad campaign resonates with the target consumers, the IWT ad campaign in the nationwide study performed

moderately satisfactory on excitement and its ability to provide ‘new news’ about wildlife protection. In the Metro Manila study, it performed even slightly below par vs the nationwide study on the three key measures of relevance, ‘new news’ and excitement.

#### ***Output 3.1.4 CEPA Plan and Strategy***

The Project developed three (3) CEPA Strategies and Plans for the NCR, Region 7, and Region 13, each. The plans are based on the results of the pre-campaign consumer research. The CEPA Strategies and Plans include the goals and objectives of the campaign, an analysis of the consumer segments and profile of target audience, CEPA campaign framework, messages by segmented audience, and communications channels, among others.

#### ***Output 3.1.5 Audience-segmented CEPA Materials***

The project produced and disseminated audience-segmented CEPA materials. These materials were designed for acceptor, rejecter, non-committal, and non-aware audience segments while generating concrete IWT leads.

The CEPA materials were produced to (i) spotlight the species to increase awareness; (ii) debunk traditional beliefs; (iii) show sustainable alternatives; and (iv) influence policy to highlight economic value. The production of CEPA materials (e.g. posters, IWT video) is a continuing activity to reach more audience and sustain the CEPA campaign even beyond the project implementation.

The #StopIllegalWildlifeTrade CEPA campaign ran from March 2020 until June 2021, with the campaign duration having been extended by several months to account for operational slowdowns caused by the nationwide COVID-19 lockdowns.

The Project produced and disseminated eight social media posts (which were also boosted in Facebook), two IWT Teleradyo Guesting, support to World Wildlife Day 2021, a short video on the amendments to RA 9147, four press releases, and an IWT Calendar 2021 (in English and Visayan).

In total, the Project produced and accomplished the following:

- Fourteen (14) social media cards
- Four (4) teleradyo guesting
- One (1) IWT calendar (English and Visayan)
- One (1) promotional video on RA 9147
- Five (5) press releases (print, broadcast, and online) on several environmental events
- Seventy-six (76) public relations exposures via traditional media and social media posts, media seeding, and events
- 50,870,325 persons reached collectively (Based on total universe of readers)

***Output 3.1.6 Knowledge products (e.g. policy papers, journals, and publications)***

The Project developed and disseminated additional materials. These include the following:

- News articles disseminated through DENR websites and ADB Today;
- Video on repatriation of wildlife from the Philippines to Indonesia;
- Knowledge Series; Promotional Videos (WildALERT for Flora, eCITES PH, Machine Learning);
- Posters;
- Users and Administrator's Manuals; and
- IWT Philippines Documentary.

**Assessment of the Other Project Indicators in the Revised DMF**

The revised DMF of the Project presents additional indicators that are not included in the PSR of the DENR-FASPS. According to the PMU, as the Project implementation progressed, BMB management has given them instructions to include some additional indicators in the DMF. They merely inserted these recommended additional indicators. They could have revised and updated the DMF to better present the additional indicators, and clearly distinguish the outputs from the outcomes to have a more logical presentation of the Project design. The additional indicators are presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Baseline, Target, and Findings

Indicator	Baseline	EOP Target	TE Findings
<b>1.1 Strengthened legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crimes</b>			
<i>Participants per consultation</i>	0	150 (50 per consultation for each island group- Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)	Luzon: <b>85</b> pax (46F, 39M) Visayas: <b>99</b> pax (36F, 63M) Mindanao: <b>113</b> pax (38F, 75M)
<i>Percentage of women participants per consultation</i>	0	30%	Luzon: 54% Visayas: 36% Mindanao: 34%
<b>Output 1.2 Increased sharing of information and knowledge to facilitate multi-agency coordination and support adoption of enforcement tools and methods</b>			
<i>DENR personnel and permittees trained on the use of eCITES PH</i>	0	90 (10 = from BMB: 48 = 3 per Region from the 16 regions WTMU Permittees)	Behind Target. So far, 26 persons have been trained (18 DENR BMB & NCR personnel and 8 permittees) on use of eCITESPH (75% female).  The system is still in the development and trial run. User training will continue during the rollout. This may no longer be done within the Project implementation period.
<i>Percentage of women trained on the use of eCITES PH</i>	0	30%	75% of the 26 persons trained (18 DENR BMB & NCR personnel and 8 permittees) on use of eCITES PH are women.
<i>Percentage increase in permits processed by the eCITES PH</i>	0	20% (or 230 target online permits)	If 230 permits represent the 20% target increase, it means the 58 eCITES permits that have been processed thus far is only 5% of this target increase.
<b>Output 2. Long-term capacity building program for wildlife crime law enforcement initiated</b>			
<i>Personnel trained in all project sites</i>	0	150 (50 per site)	676 personnel trained in all project sites (58% male, 42% female)

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>EOP Target</b>	<b>TE Findings</b>
<i>Training participants interviewed to evaluate knowledge and skills acquired</i>	0	20%	48% of the trainees or 325 trainees were evaluated
<i>Trainers who are graduates of the DENR Training of Trainers</i>	0	10% (or 12 trainers)  (Note: There are 124 ToT graduates from the Project sites)	20 trainers are graduates of the DENR Training of Trainers (ToT)
<b><i>Output 3. Demand reduction measures implemented for identified priority species, with at least two species to represent endemic and transshipped species</i></b>			
<i>People surveyed during pre-campaign consumer research studies</i>	0	500	1,121 respondents
<i>Percentage of women surveyed</i>	0	50%	72.26% female
<i>People reached collectively through the marketing collaterals</i>	0	500,000	Social Media posts reached 85,000 individuals while generating at least 4,700 reactions, including 877 shares
<i>Pre-Campaign Consumer Research Reports</i>	0	1	Achieved. Pre-campaign report submitted and presented to stakeholders.
<i>Post-Campaign Consumer Research Report</i>	0	1	Achieved. Post-campaign report submitted and presented to stakeholders.

### 3.3.2 Relevance

#### **Relevance is rated as: Relevant**

The Project is relevant to the areas of intervention and to its main priority – IWT. It is also relevant to its working approach, which takes into account the local and national levels.

The Project is highly relevant, as it contributed to strengthening the capacity of the DENR and the other law enforcement agencies like the DOJ, NBI, BOC, PNP, and port personnel in combatting IWT in the Philippines. The project provided technical assistance and material support in bridging the major challenges and gaps in combatting wildlife crimes identified by the DENR-

BMB and the DOJ to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks, as well as the capacities needed to for effective law enforcement, and prosecution of environmental crimes.

The project facilitated the issuance of several guidelines and procedures for addressing wildlife crimes. These include DENR-DAO 2020-13 (Adopting the WildLEAP 2018-2028 as the National Roadmap in Addressing Wildlife Crimes) signed on 13 October 2020; and the DA-DENR-DILG JAO 2020-01 signed on 17 November 2020.

The Project responded to national priorities to reduce IWT to achieve Aichi Targets, specifically Target 12 (the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained). As mentioned in the ProDoc, the Philippines, as many other countries worldwide, face serious difficulties in combatting IWT, as it is reaching crisis levels. The baseline situation shows that national efforts are being made, but illegal wildlife crime continues and enforcers face numerous challenges.

The Project is therefore relevant from a global perspective. The Philippines engaged and continues to engage with the GWP by participating in GWP Webinars, trainings, and annual conferences, as well as with the other GWP child projects in Asia to learn and share good practices. The Project also collaborated with UNODC in the conduct of the Training Course on Wildlife Online Investigation (13-17 April 2020); Virtual Training on Financial Investigation of Wildlife and Forestry Crimes (6-8 April 2021); and the Risk Profiling and Management to Enhance Interception of Illegal Wildlife Trade (12-14 October 2021).

The Project is relevant to medium-term development priorities of the country, as it contributes to the strategies of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP 2017 – 2022) under Chapter 20: Ensuring Ecological Integrity, Clean and Healthy Environment with specific strategies on biodiversity and functioning of ecosystem services sustained: (1) Scale up adoption of innovative technologies for enforcement and monitoring of wildlife and habitat integrity; and (2) Strengthen law enforcement and intensify the use of technological innovations for improved surveillance activities to combat illegal wildlife trade, and deter illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing (IUUF).

The Project contributes to PBSAP 2015-2028 targets. The PBSAP builds on the achievements made in fulfilling the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) obligations, particularly the commitment to implement the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 These include



Target 1 (Maintain or improve conservation status of threatened species), Target 10 (Reduce, control, and manage key threats to biodiversity), Target 17 (Biodiversity conservation policies in place), and Target 18 (Increase awareness on biodiversity). It also contributes to the WildLEAP 2018-2028 and the Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan for the Philippines (2020-2030).

As the main objective of the Project is to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines, it is also linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). It mostly contributes to SDG 14, SDG 15, and SDG 17

The Project contributes to the fulfillment of the commitments of the Philippines, as a signatory country, under CITES to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.

### **3.3.3 Effectiveness**

#### **Effectiveness is rated as: Moderately Satisfactory**

Assuming for the sake of argument, that the proposed bill amending RA 9147 reaches Second Reading in the Philippine Senate, and the draft of the Revised IRR of the RA 9147 is issued by the DENR, these will most certainly contribute to improved institutional effectiveness. But it is not clear how such improvement will be measured. Indicators are an essential part of quantifying the impact and conducting effective monitoring and evaluation.

The capacity building indicators (% increase in capacity scores of the DENR and law enforcement agencies) and the indicators for demand reduction and CEPA (% increase in awareness) are the closest data that provide a measure of the Project outcome. This data implicitly presents a reading of the improved capacity of the concerned agencies but fall short of giving a full measurement of their effectiveness to combat environmental organized crime.

The Covid-19 pandemic also prevented the Project from making a full assessment of the progress of the Project outcomes and impact. In terms of the likely or achieved short- and medium-term effects of the Project interventions' outputs such as the Ad campaign for raising awareness on IWT, the pre- and post-campaign survey provided a glimpse of the possible long-term impact of the CEPA materials produced.

The restrictions in movement generally also slowed down economic activities, probably including IWT, and it is difficult to attribute decreases of environmental crime during the pandemic clearly to the Project.

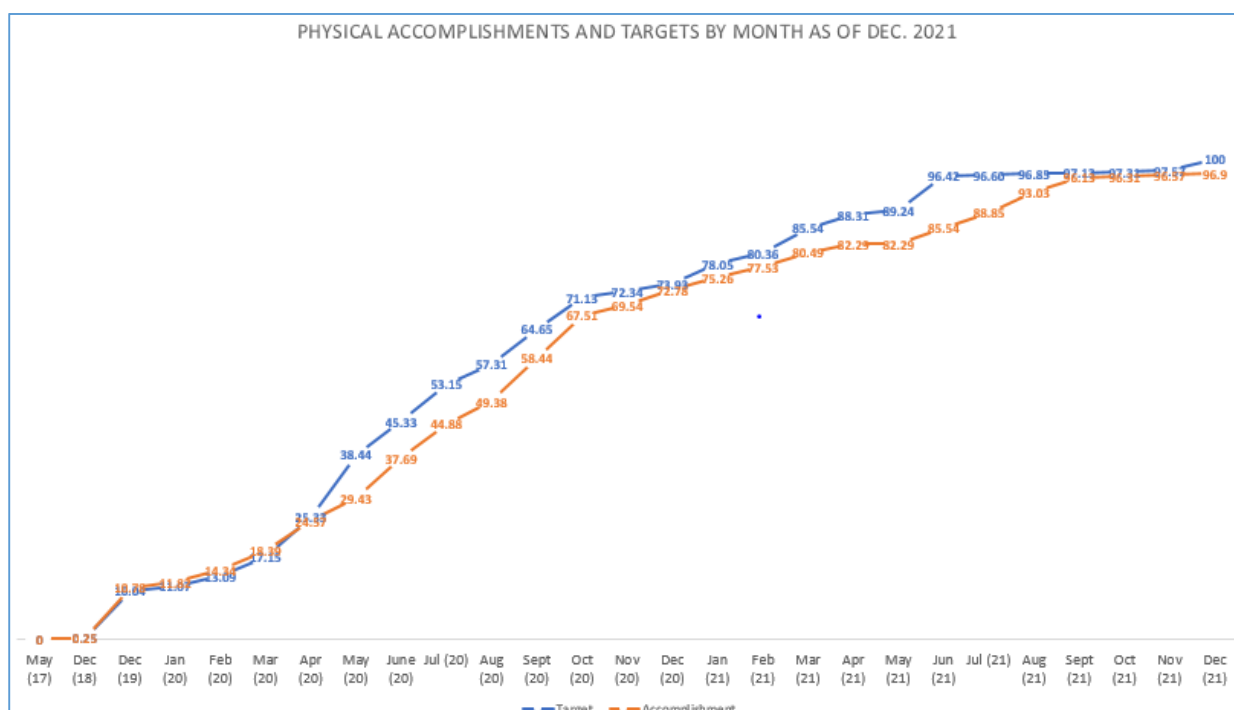
### 3.3.4 Efficiency

**Efficiency is rated as: Satisfactory (S): Level of outcomes achieved was as expected and/or there were no or minor short comings.**

Efficiency is concerned with the processes in the delivery and production of the project outputs compared with the resources allocated.

As of 31 December 2021, the PMU has reported that that with an elapsed time of 100% (elapsed time counted from the official start date of 02 October 2018); 39 of 39 months), the Project has an overall cumulative accomplishment of 96.87% against the cumulative target of 100%. Figure 3 shows the comparison between the targets and physical accomplishments. The narrow gap between the lines and the slippage is indicative of efficiency.

Figure 3. Physical Accomplishments and Targets (as of December 2021)



It is fair to conclude that in terms of outputs, such as assessment studies, drafting of proposed legislation and ordinances, among others, the Project has satisfactory performance. This is because by design, the delivery and production of these outputs were outsourced to individual consultants and firms. Outsourcing is actually a good practice for projects of this nature. If only the procurement of these services were done on time, the Project would have had ample time to see through some of the recommendations and measure the initial impact and outcomes of some of the interventions such as the capacity building activities, instead of merely reporting the number of training and participants. It must be noted here that the delayed procurement is mainly due to lack of preparation from the consultant(s).

Table 8 presents an efficient use of resources and good absorption capacity. The funds are almost close to being fully obligated reflecting the Project's achievements of the outputs.

*Table 8. Fund Disbursements*

	Revised Alloc.	Obligated (Disbursed + Committed)		Allocated For Support Activities
		Total Disbursed	Total Committed	
<b>Component 1</b>	\$ 382,171.00	\$ 351,196.92	\$ 31,774.48	\$ (800.40)
<b>Component 2</b>	\$ 473,517.00	\$ 356,197.56	\$ 83,809.81	\$ 33,509.63
<b>Component 3</b>	\$ 795,688.00	\$ 516,462.57	\$ 143,198.20	\$ 136,027.23
<b>PM</b>	\$ 183,486.00	\$ 100,697.57	\$ 39,523.81	\$ 43,264.62
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 1,834,862.00	\$ 1,324,554.62	\$ 298,306.30	\$ 212,001.08
<b>TOTAL PHP</b>	₱ 89,908,238.00	₱ 64,903,176.38	₱ 14,617,008.70	₱ 10,388,052.92

The Project was also able to leverage co-financing funds from the DENR Central Office worth USD 9,400.00 which was used for the participation of DENR personnel in regional and national-level Project activities. Part of the amount was also used to hire another Project Assistant.

### 3.3.5 Impact

It is often too early to assess the long-term impacts of a project at the point of project completion. But it may be feasible to assess and report on progress toward these impacts. The TE process is precisely about looking for available evidence to measure progress towards the impact, and the extent to which the key assumptions of the project's theory of change hold.

In the case of the IWT Project, the restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 pandemic prevented the project from determining the actual impact on IWT of the various interventions such as the training and other capability building activities.

It must be noted that the significant progress the Project made in delivering the major outputs increased the probability that the desired project impact will be realized in the future. In the context of the project theory of change, it is more likely that the improved conservation status of identified, project target and non-target species will be achieved because the project set up the necessary enabling conditions for improved institutional effectiveness to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines.

It must be pointed out, though, that the impact indicator presented in both the ProDoc (2017) and the Revised DMF (2020) does not include any specific unit of measure to determine how much improvement in the conservation status is targeted. It simply stated ‘improved conservation status.’ Notwithstanding this, with the multiple accomplishments under the Project in terms of the outputs delivered, there is strong reason to believe that the project impact will be achieved eventually. Then again, there must be a unit of measure to determine the level of achievement.

### **3.3.6 Mainstreaming**

Mainstreaming is not a challenge because the Project does not actually propose to pilot a relatively new approach but simply build on the existing law enforcement and wildlife trade management systems.

But in the context of this Project, mainstreaming is not limited to “piloting a relatively new approach” but mainstreaming project activities into the regular work of the DENR and beneficiaries, including the use of tools and innovations. An example of this is mainstreaming the eTraining Course into the DENR Environment and Natural Resources Academy (ENRA).

The Project supports innovations such as the digitalization of permit issuance (e.g. eCITES PH), and the adoption of the WildLEAP as the national roadmap. The project supported mainstreaming the CITES e-permitting system through a series of capacity-building activities that trained employees of the DENR in the pilot regions and field offices on the basic elements and functionalities of the systems. The BMB targets rollout of the systems by 2022 to the rest of the

DENR regional and field offices and link it with the NBI and the BFAR. It is expected that once these systems are rolled out and fully operational, it will increase sharing of information and knowledge to facilitate multi-agency coordination, and support adoption of enforcement tools and methods.

The introduction and implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework for combating wildlife and forest crime is another significant accomplishment of the Project. The ICCWC Indicator Framework enabled the Philippines to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the preventive and criminal justice responses in the country and the establishment of a baseline to measure progress in the future. The results of the implementation of the ICCWC tool will provide a solid evidence-based monitoring tool to objectively assess national progress over time in combatting IWT.

### **3.4 Sustainability**

The probability that the Project benefits will be sustained is rated as Likely (L) based on the analysis of each of the four risk categories discussed below in this section. The sustainability rating assigned for each is Likely (L). Thus, the overall probability that the project benefits will be sustained, is also rated as Likely (L).

The Project is relevant and addresses key needs in combatting environmental crime. The numerous outputs produced are interconnected, mutually supportive and synergistic, thus strengthening the chances for success.

Stakeholders in the regional and field offices of the DENR and other partner agencies appreciate the Project for the training and capacity building activities that allowed them to stay up to date with recent developments in law enforcement against IWT. The results of the assessments, which identified training needs and capacity gaps, provide a blueprint for future action to sustain the capacity building initiatives of the Project.

The adoption of the WildLEAP as the country's roadmap for a strengthened, sustained, and well-coordinated program on wildlife law enforcement is another boon for sustainability.

One of the key legacies of the Project is the implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime complementary to the WildLEAP. The comprehensive assessment of the preventive and criminal justice responses in the country established a baseline to measure progress in the future. This is fundamental for long term and strategic planning, providing a solid evidence-base to identify strengths and weaknesses in the national response to these crimes.

The PortMATE tool, the CEPA campaign, the economic valuation, and the WRC assessment provided additional baselines that need to be built on by subsequent projects combating IWT, to ensure that the identified gaps are indeed addressed and solutions developed and implemented.

### **3.4.1 Financial risks**

**Financial resources: Likelihood that benefits will continue to be delivered after project closure: Likely**

The most critical barrier to sustainability is financial resources. In the case of IWT Project, there is little or no risks to financial sustainability. Financial sustainability for wildlife law enforcement and combatting IWT is certain. Despite the perceived limitations, RA 9147 ensures funding for this purpose. Law enforcement is an inherent function of governance for which the allocation of resources is mandated.

The interventions that the Project implemented were simply designed to contribute to improving institutional effectiveness and building capacities. These are expected to translate to a higher probability that benefits derived from this Project would be sustained.

A good example is the development of the eCITES Philippines Permitting System. Once operational, this system will pay for itself, and generate more resources for regulating wildlife trade. The results of the comprehensive assessment of wildlife crimes using the ICCWC Indicator Framework provides the Philippine government with sufficient data to make a more rational allocation of resources to combatting organized environmental crime.

### 3.4.2 Sociopolitical Risks

**Socio-Political Risks: Likelihood that benefits will continue to be delivered after project closure: Likely**

There is little or no risk that the social and political conditions in the country will turn for the worse in the near future. The forthcoming national elections are expected to be generally peaceful and usher in a smooth transition and transfer of power as have been observed since 2004. In spite of the political noise, and the long-running insurgency, the Philippines has a stable political situation. The chances of sliding into a destabilized political situation are low. There is also an increasing awareness about environmental issues, and there is wide support for improving governance and management from across the general populace. But the reported killings of environmental defenders mostly due to conflicts on land rights and resource use also presents some risks.

### 3.4.3 Institutional framework and governance risks

**Institutional Framework and Governance Risks: Likelihood that benefits will continue to be delivered after project closure: Likely**

The Project addressed institutional risks through legal and policy reform and activities such as training, knowledge and awareness-raising. The approval of the proposed amendments to RA 9147 is considered as the most fundamental element for sustainability. The Bill has already been approved in the House of Representatives and is currently under deliberation in the Philippine Senate. There is political support and interest to approve the Bill, however, there is no clear indication about when it will happen.

It is important to take note that the Bill was originally discussed prior to the Project, it received input and technical assistance during Project implementation and would surely need further support for its final approval.

While the Project was unable to have the amendments of the RA 9147 and its IRR passed within the project lifetime, the signing and approval of the DA-DENR-DILG JAO No. 2020-01 and DENR AO No. 2020-13 addresses key concerns on the legal and policy framework for the national efforts to combat wildlife crime.

Among others, these are encouraging signs that the Project helped to catalyze an overall trend toward improvement of institutional capacity on combatting organized environmental crime.

#### **3.4.4 Environmental risks**

##### **Environmental Risks: Likelihood that benefits will continue to be delivered after project closure: Likely**

The Project worked with national agencies for addressing gaps in combating IWT. The studies and technical inputs supported by the IWT-project produced the draft bill on the Revised Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act and the draft Revised IRR of RA 9147. These outputs may not be realized by the end of Project implementation and would need continuous advocacy until they could be realized.

The IWT Project successfully produced DA-DENR-DILG JAO No. 2020-01, and the DENR AO No. 2020-13. These administrative orders are actual issuances of the official directives to implement improved policies on addressing IWT.

The project carried out a suite of activities designed to help combat the risks from IWT. It can only be sustainable if the government addresses with equal priority the protection of habitats and other wildlife resources under the ENIPAS. Furthermore, as some stakeholders stated, the animals rescued from IWT eventually have to be released back to their habitats in the wild or repatriated.

Habitat loss is the primary associated environmental risk that could have a negative impact on the sustainability of the Project. Along with IWT, the DENR-BMB identified habitat loss as the main threat to wildlife resources in the country. But pollution is making things worse, and it is increasingly impacting the survival of some species.

The Project interventions were limited to improving law enforcement under RA 9147 to combat IWT. Habitat loss is addressed through the ENIPAS.

### **3.5 GEF Global Environment Benefits**

GEF investments are predicated on the delivery of global environmental benefits in biodiversity, climate change mitigation, international waters, land degradation and forests, and chemicals and



waste. The environmental benefits resulting from GEF's biodiversity financing include conservation of globally significant biodiversity; sustainable use of the components of globally significant biodiversity; and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources.<sup>15</sup>

As discussed in the PIF, the global environmental benefits anticipated under this GEF project would include (i) conservation of globally significant biodiversity, and (ii) sustainable use of the components of globally significant biodiversity. Table 9 presents the project targets in relation to the progress in programming against the replenishment for the projects per the Corporate Scorecard Results Framework in the GEF-6 Programming Directions.

The IWT Project contributes to the GEF Global Environmental Benefits on Corporate Scorecard Result No. 6 - Enhance capacity of countries to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA), and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks. The Project supports the development and sectoral planning frameworks to integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least one (1) country (the Philippines).

*Table 9. Corporate Scorecard Results Framework Targets*

<b>Corporate Scorecard Results</b>	<b>Replenishment Targets</b>	<b>Project Targets</b>
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	hectares
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	hectares
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	Number of freshwater basins
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	Percent of fisheries, by volume
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	metric tons

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/results>

<b>Corporate Scorecard Results</b>	<b>Replenishment Targets</b>	<b>Project Targets</b>
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	metric tons
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	metric tons
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	ODP tons
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries: 1
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries: 0

### 3.6 Gender and Stakeholder Participation

The Project does not have a specific Gender Action Plan. However, part of the Design and Monitoring Framework (DMF) covers capacity building activities and the multi-stakeholders consultations on the revisions to the Act and IRR, wherein a certain percentage of female participation is required.

1. Strengthened legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crime
  - Regional stakeholder reviews are conducted in all three major island groups of the Philippines, with at least 30 participants per consultation, 30% of whom are women.
2. Increased sharing of information and knowledge to facilitate multi-agency coordination and support adoption of enforcement tools and methods
  - At least 30 personnel per project site are trained on the use of ICCWC, 30% of whom are women
  - At least 30 personnel are trained per project site on the use of CITES e-permitting system, 30% of whom are women, 10% female trainers

3. Long-term capacity building program for wildlife crime law enforcement developed and initiated
  - At least 30 personnel are trained per project site, at least 10% of participants from DENR, NBI and PNP are female and at least 20% of prosecutors and judges are female, at least 30% of trainers are female
  
4. Demand reduction measures implemented for identified priority species, with at least two species to represent endemic and transshipped species
  - At least 500 people surveyed during consumer research studies, 50% of which are women

#### 4 CONCLUSION

- The Project is highly relevant for the country; it is aligned with the government's objective to strengthen the conservation, protection and management of biological diversity in the Philippines. Improving institutional effectiveness in combating environmental crime complements the efforts on protecting Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) through the established National Protected Areas System. Habitat destruction and illegal wild trade are identified as the major drivers of biodiversity loss in the country.
- The Project effectively delivered almost all of its major outputs except for its target of having the bill proposing amendments to RA 9147 reaching Second Reading at the Senate. But delays in Project execution primarily due to late start of the project resulting from the government delay in giving the NOL, delayed engagement of consultants, the 2019 elections, and Covid-19 pandemic, there was not enough time for the Project to assess how the stakeholders used these outputs to progress towards the desired results. To cite as examples, there is not enough indication that the submission of the National Assessment Report on Wildlife Law Enforcement, and the documentation on the workshop on the ICCWC Indicator Framework has resulted to an increased sharing of information among the project stakeholders, especially among agencies in the regions like the Cebu Ports Authority and the LGUs. Another example is the development of the eCITES Philippines electronic permitting system (former CEPMIS) which the Project supported. Despite training DENR personnel and permittees on its use, the system is having some technical issues which the DENR-BMB is still trying to resolved. It is expected to be fully functional and rolled out beyond the Project implementation in 2022. For awareness raising to reduce demand, the DENR regional and field offices, including the other agencies in the law enforcement chain, are actually requesting for copies of the CEPA materials the Project produced so these can be distributed and used in their areas of jurisdictions.
- The studies and technical inputs supported by IWT-Project resources produced the proposed Revised Wildlife Conservation and Protections Act and the proposed Revised IRR of RA 9147. These outputs offer a way forward for future advocacy action even beyond the project implementation period keep pursuing legal and policy reforms for combatting IWT and other organized environmental crimes.

- The Project (i) contributed to strengthening legal frameworks to address key concerns in national efforts to combat wildlife crime and (ii) increased sharing of information and knowledge to facilitate multi-agency coordination and support the adoption of enforcement tools and methods. The Project successfully facilitated the finalization and approval of the DA-DENR-DILG JAO No. 2020-01 and DENR AO No. 2020-13, these policy issuances offer a roadmap and clarify the roles of concerned agencies involved in wildlife law enforcement., and adopting the WildLEAP 2018-2028 as the national roadmap in addressing wildlife crimes, respectively. The major contribution of the Project to the JAO was to have it reviewed at the DENR-PTWG level and signed by concerned Secretaries. This was basically an output of the BPP which the Project was asked to assist until the DAO issuance. The same with the WildLEAP, where the major contribution of the Project was to conduct a costing workshop and cost the implementation of WildLEAP before it was reviewed at the DENR-PTWG level then signed by the Secretary. The Project also successfully introduced the use of tools like the ICCWC Frameworks Indicators and the PortMATE. This highlights the strategy of the project in establishing partnerships and collaboration to build on the initiatives and accomplishments of past projects and interventions, while also introducing its own innovations and tools. These policy issuances offer a roadmap and clarify the roles of concerned agencies involved in wildlife law enforcement.
- The Project offers important lessons learned, replication and scaling up opportunities for wildlife law enforcement across the country. Demand reduction is an equally important task in dealing with IWT, when the buying stops, the poaching and killing can too. The CEPA campaign, training, and other capacity building activities can be easily replicated and scaled up to the other regions outside the project sites.
- The economic valuation study provides a useful template for similar studies to cover more species and other taxonomic groups. The economic valuation study for the priority taxa/species (marine turtles and blue-nape parrots) could have provided quantitative baselines for the Project impact indicator and not merely for the awareness campaign.
- In terms of sustainability, the adoption of the WildLEAP as the national roadmap ensures guidance in fund sourcing, resource allocation, prioritization of enforcement activities and

expected to vastly improve the capability to address IWT in the country. The initiatives undertaken during project implementation can be sustained and replicated to eventually achieve the desired outcomes and impact.

- Project implementation demonstrated adaptive capacities in taking critical decisions that affected implementation in 2020 and 2021 due to the covid-19 pandemic restriction on movement. The adjustments allowed the Project to get back on track to achieve most of its intended outputs.
- The Evaluator was unable to measure the Project Impact indicator: “conservation status of marine turtles and parrots in the Philippines improved.” There is no specific unit offered to measure the improvement in the conservation status. It has to be evaluated using either the IUCN Red List criteria or the BMB National List to show change in conservation status, or even any other measure, but whatever is chosen eventually, should have been clearly stated in the DMF. The project was perceived as contributing in developing the enabling conditions for improving the conservation status of these species. The outcomes, like the indicator: “improved institutional effectiveness to combat environmental organized crime in the Philippines.” Again, the indicators do not really measure improvement. Although implicitly, the enactment and issuance of better policies will certainly improve effectiveness, it does not provide an exact measure of progress. In the same vein, increased awareness on IWT might contribute to combating environmental crime through demand reduction, but it does not precisely offer an accurate measure of institutional effectiveness.
- The DMF was weak, lacks clarity, and organization to provide specific and narrowly defined quantitative indicators to measure outcomes and impact. It is obvious that there were attempts to make a good design, but some indicators are not even properly sequenced or numbered. For instance, while the 2017 output indicators were numbered, the revised 2020 output indicators are not numbered. The construction and phrasing of some indicators shows some confusions between outputs and outcomes. This being the case, monitoring was mostly focused on the outputs level and less on how these outputs were used to achieve progress towards the desired results and impact.
- While the Implementing Agency (ADB) did not require the preparation and submission of a Project Completion Report (PCR), it is not a good practice for the Executing Agency (DENR)

to do away with this requirement and in its stead accept the TER as a substitute (as manifested in an unsigned and undated memorandum purportedly in response to the request of the Project Manager). Although it must be pointed out clearly here that such is the prerogative of the EA, the PCR and the TER are entirely different reports. The PCR is written from the point of view of the Executing Agency, how it looks at its own performance in executing the Project. The TER is an independent report written from the perspective of external evaluators, assessing the implementation of the Project as a whole, including the performances of the IA and EA, and the other relevant stakeholders. While elements of the PCR of the EA may coincide and become an integral part of the TER, or vice versa, it is disconcerting to suggest for it to replace the PCR. This obvious request from the PMU to do away with the required PCR and instead pass on the responsibility to the TE consultant should not be tolerated and allowed in future projects. To do so and insist that the TER be written to hew closely to a PCR is tantamount to impinging on the independence of the TER. While DENR Memorandum Circular (MC) 199-35 allows substitution and acceptance should a donor agency require a project to submit a similar report, the TER is entirely different and not similar to a PCR or any project terminal report. It is an independent third-party evaluation report required by the donor agency precisely to provide check and balance. The DENR requirement for the PMU to prepare and submit a PCR is not a mere duplication of the TER that is prepared by external evaluators as required by the GEF. These reports serve different purposes to provide a better and more informed appreciation of project implementation and execution.

- The disappointments resulting from disagreements and misunderstandings over the non-procurement of equipment should have been resolved at the PMU level and its counterparts in the ADB. Project management is not merely managing contracts and activities, it involves managing people and relationships. The PMU serves as a bridge between the Implementing Agency and the Executing Agency to facilitate partnership for a successful project implementation and execution.
- The amount of underutilized funds (15% of the GEF Grant) was a major shortcoming of the Project. According to the DENR-FASPS, this was primarily due to the Covid-19 pandemic which caused cancellations and modifications to training and field activities, as well as the cancellation of purchase of equipment intended for field offices due to procurement policy issues with the ADB. The underutilization of project funds might reflect badly on the DENR's ability to manage its GEF portfolio.

## 5 LESSONS LEARNED

- The DENR Convergence Meeting enabled the DENR representatives in the project sites to fully understand and own the Project. The meeting allowed them to level-off on the project objectives, outputs, and activities. The strong sense of ownership among the DENR personnel (from top to bottom) facilitated implementation of the project, particularly at the regional level. This bodes well for sustainability and replication.
- The multi-stakeholder engagement in the national and regional planning and validation workshops, and other consultations/workshops are also critical to ensuring ownership of the Project. The engagement of multi-stakeholders across different levels of governance and sectors who serve as both partners and beneficiaries in the delivery of project activities was extremely valuable.
- Projects aiming at changing, modifying or introducing policies that involves two or more NGAs (e.g. DENR, DOJ, DILG, etc.) should be very conservative about targets and outputs. Decision making processes does not necessarily match the timing of GEF-funded Projects. A Project such as IWT may be able to facilitate technical assistance and accompany decision making processes, however the final outcome and the timing to achieve a concrete result are out of the hands of the PMU or ADB.
- Project partners should be proactive in terms of adjusting planning to existing budget and changing environment. If no Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) takes place, there should be at least a workshop to evaluate progress and start planning the exit strategy with all involved implementation partners. Leaving the exit strategy too close to the final evaluation leaves limited space and time for acquiring the necessary commitments and arrangements to ensure sustainability.
- Supporting the provision of technical inputs for the proposed bill on the Revised Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act in the legislature, including lobbying, helps mainstream the concerns of wildlife law enforcement. The project succeeded in promoting dialogue among various stakeholders through the convening of consultations that include government agencies (DENR, DILG, DOJ, etc.), IP leaders, CSOs, and NGOs. The discussions provided



clarifications on concerns of government representatives, NGOs/CSOs, IPs/ICs members on details of proposed legislations

- The underutilization of Project funds could be attributed to poor planning and management. The Project Management could have come up with other alternative activities and interventions to fully utilize the remaining grant amount. The procurement issues should have been settled at the level of the Project Manager, and should not have been escalated and elevated. Personal dynamics should not be allowed to get in between the Implementing Agency and the Executing Agency, and prevent them from working out a way forward. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to ensure good relationships with her counterparts and other project stakeholders to ensure successful execution of the Project.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

<b>General recommendations</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
1. The Project has produced so many valuable outputs. It would be motivating to have follow-up actions to see how the project stakeholders will employ and use those outputs to eventually achieve progress in the outcome and impact on combatting environmental crimes and improving the conservation status of wildlife and wildlife resources. It created and established so many baselines that laid down a stable foundation for subsequent counter-IWT projects to build and follow on.	GEF, ADB, DENR-BMB
2. Design of new projects should be careful to assess capacity gaps of NGAs, NGOs and other project stakeholders to balance ambition with implementation risks and assumptions. New projects should consider appropriate budgets to further strengthen partner's capacities at all levels, as well as to overcome technology and accessibility constrains.	GEF, ADB, DENR-BMB
3. It is important to maintain the momentum and awareness generated by the Project. The sustainability plan should present the Project experiences with high potential for replication and scaling up. This should be considered in the follow through actions and discussions under the WildLEAP roadmap for donors and key agencies to consider for achieving concrete follow up commitments.	GEF, ADB, DENR-BMB
4. The project produced documentations, assessments reports, and CEPA materials, these should be used to inform and guide future actions for wildlife law enforcement. This include lessons learned that should be distilled into knowledge products to be made available to project partners and relevant stakeholder groups	DENR-BMB
5. The Project did not have a specific gender objective, although gender mainstreaming was encouraged, it was not sufficiently reflected in Project design; during implementation, guidelines and gender capacity related activities should be transferred to the stakeholders and other partners. A gender objective should go beyond the usual disaggregated data and required ratio of participation.	DENR-BMB
6. The Project exit strategy should be anchored on the WildLEAP for long-term planning exercise involving a larger constituency, proposing strategic targets, implementation costs and concrete commitments to move the process forward. The DENR-BMB should take the lead after the Project ends, to follow up on key decision-making processes such as the bill amending RA 9147 and the draft Revised IRR of RA 9147.	DENR-BMB,
7. An advocacy campaign should be implemented for the enactment of the proposed bill for the Revised Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act in Congress and continue provision of technical support for finalizing the draft amended IRR of RA 9147.	DENR BMB

<b>General recommendations</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Assuming these will be politically approved, there should be a period to generate capacities, teams and institutional structures for supporting implementation.	
8. The stakeholders in the regions are recommending that BWLE training should be conducted at least once a year for the DENR and other agencies in the law enforcement chain. This training will serve as refresher course for the old timers and capacity building activity for new recruits..	DENR-BMB
9. The CEPA materials should immediately be distributed to the project sites and the partner agencies so these could be used for further awareness raising in their respective jurisdictions. The Cebu Ports Authority (CPA) has actually requested for this, especially the video infographics which they can play and loop in the terminals of the various seaports and airports.	DENR-BMB
10. For future projects, it is not a good practice to do away with the Project Completion Report (PCR) even if the donor and implementing agency do not require it. It is a well-established policy and administrative regulation of the DENR. The PCR is a record of what a project has accomplished and learned from the point of view of those that were directly involved in the execution of the project. The EA should ensure that such is prepared for every project.	DENR-BMB

## 7 REFERENCES

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3. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ph>
4. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/490006/addressing-illegal-wildlife-trade-philippines.pdf>
5. <https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/397091492631974323/Philippines-GWP-National-Project-Profile-vF.pdf>
6. <https://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/documents/reports/gef-guidelines-te-fsp-2017.pdf>
7. [http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/documents/GEF/TE\\_GuidanceforUNDP-supportedGEF-financedProjects.pdf](http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guideline/documents/GEF/TE_GuidanceforUNDP-supportedGEF-financedProjects.pdf)
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9. <https://www.thegef.org/results>
10. <https://www.thegef.org/news/revising-stakeholder-engagement-gef>
11. <https://www.adb.org/projects/documents/reg-50159-001-tacr->
12. <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/601221479359840227120022016/original/GWPBrochureWEB.pdf>
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14. Global Environment Facility Evaluation Office. Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluations. Evaluation Document No. 3. 2008
15. Jose Galindo and David. UNDP Terminal Evaluation Report. 2019.
16. Asian Development Bank. Independent Evaluation. Technical Assistance Completion Report Validation Guidelines. February 2020.
17. DENR Memorandum Circular No. 1994-35. Guidelines in the Preparation of Project Completion/Termination Report (PCR/PTR) for Foreign-Assisted Projects. 30 September 1994.
18. ADB's Project Administration Instructions (PAI No. 6.08, revised February 2011)
19. Guidance for GEF-6 projects on submitting GWP Tracking Tool

20. FAO. 2020. Final evaluation of the project “Adaptive management and monitoring of the Maghreb’s oases systems.” Project Evaluation Series, 07/2020. Rome.
21. James T. Berdach. Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase 2) Terminal Evaluation Report (TER) for Global Environment Facility. 16 June 2019.
22. DENR Special Order No. 2019-204. Creation of PSC, TWG, and PMO for the implementation of the ADB/GEF-DENR Illegal Wildlife Trade Project. 19 March 2019.

**ANNEXES***Annex 1. List of Documents Reviewed*

1. ID9658\_-\_Philippines\_MSP\_Council\_Document.pdf
2. 2019 ADB GEF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR) – Final
3. 2020 PIR - GEFID9658\_2020\_ADB\_PHI\_Combating Wildlife Crime - Approved, 15Sep20
4. 2021 PIR - GEFID9658\_2021\_PIR\_ADB\_PHI\_CombatingEnviCrime
5. ADB FY19 co-financing template for MTR and TE - for merge
6. IWT - GOP Counterpart Funding
7. Memo from FASPS\_PSR of Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines as of 16 Sept 2021
8. A - DMF - Original from ProDoc (13 July 2017)
9. B - DMF - Revised Using ADB Format (2020)
10. Justification for change of indicator (not updated)
11. DENR-FASPS Project Status Report (as of September 2021)
12. 3-SO-2019-204-Creating-PSC-TWG-and-PMU-for-IWT-project
13. 6 Annex F - Updates on Project Implementation
14. 2021 0916 Project Implementation Updates Final
15. b Explanatory Note
16. Briefing for BMB Director DT Saikol
17. c Background and Salient Features
18. IWT-Project-2019-Annual-Report-as-of-03.25.20-final-2
19. DENR Special Order
20. No Objection Letter
21. Project Extension Package
22. Report on the Economic Valuation and the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife
23. A Report on Key Capacity and Training Gaps in Illegal Wildlife Trade Across Law Enforcement Agencies in the Philippines
24. Implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. Report of the national self-assessment workshop. Manila, Republic of the Philippines. 16-17 October 2019

25. Tanggol Kalikasan. A Report on Key Capacity and Training Gaps in Illegal Wildlife Trade Across Law Enforcement Agencies in the Philippines. TA No. 9461. DENR-ADB/GEF Project: Combatting Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines. May 2020.
26. Tanggol Kalikasan. An Inventory Report of Trainings, Curricula, and Modules on Wildlife Law Enforcement. TA No. 9461. DENR-ADB/GEF Project: Combatting Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines. May 2020.
27. Tanggol Kalikasan. Capacity Building Plan. TA No. 9461. DENR-ADB/GEF Project: Combatting Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines. May 2020.
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29. Tanggol Kalikasan. Documentation Report on the Basic Wildlife Law Enforcement Training. TA No. 9461. DENR-ADB/GEF Project: Combatting Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines. November 2020.
30. Tanggol Kalikasan. A Report on Key Capacity and Training Gaps in Illegal Wildlife Trade Across Law Enforcement Agencies in the Philippines. TA No. 9461. DENR-ADB/GEF Project: Combatting Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines. May 2020.
31. Tanggol Kalikasan. An Inventory Report of Trainings, Curricula, and Modules on Wildlife Law Enforcement. TA No. 9461. DENR-ADB/GEF Project: Combatting Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines. May 2020.
32. Tanggol Kalikasan. Capacity Building Plan. TA No. 9461. DENR-ADB/GEF Project: Combatting Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines. May 2020.
33. Consolidated module on law enforcement training for wildlife, fisheries, forestry and environment.DOCX Mar 6, 2012
34. 2021 1227 S-curve Coding Sheet IWT Project\_updatedDec27
35. 2021 0103 IWT Project Co-financing\_DENR FASPS\_Q42021
36. 2022 0109 GWP\_Philippines\_Tracking\_Tool\_V3\_revised\_ej
37. SBN 2078 and SBN 2079
38. DAO-2020-13 Adopting WildLEAP.pdf
39. Signed JAO-2020-01 (DA-DENR-DILG).pdf
40. Final ICCWC Indicator Framework Report.pdf
41. 2021 0701 Meeting on eCITES PH system.docx
42. 2021 0813 Agreement and Next Steps from eCITES Meeting.docx
43. 2021 0903 Post Transition.docx
44. Final Report – S&T Innovations and Wildlife Traffic Research.pdf

45. HELICS\_Final\_Report\_Complete.docx
46. 2021 1018 SLS Final Report – Final.docx
47. Pre-Campaign Consumer Research – Final.docx
48. Consolidated Post-Campaign Consumer Demand Report Final.pdf
49. Economic Valuation Report – Final
50. NCR - CEPA Plan and Strategy (FINAL)
51. Region 7 - CEPA Plan and Strategy (FINAL)
52. Region 13 - CEPA Plan and Strategy (FINAL)
53. 2021 1006 NIRAS FINAL REPORT
54. Post-Training Evaluation Report (as of 23 Sept 2021)
55. TK final report (10228021)



*Annex 2. List of Project Sites and Agencies Visited*

1. DENR-BMB  
Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center,  
North Avenue, Quezon City
2. DENR-FASPS  
Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
3. DENR Caraga Region  
Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte
4. DENR-CENRO Nasipit  
Nasipit, Agusan del Norte
5. Port of Nasipit  
Nasipit, Agusan del Norte
6. City Environmental Protection and Management Department  
City Government of Cabadbaran  
Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte
7. DENR-NCR Enforcement Division  
North Avenue, Quezon City
8. DENR Region 7  
Lahug, Cebu City
9. Cebu Wildlife Rescue Center  
Lahug, Cebu City
10. Cebu Ports Authority  
Cebu City

*Annex 3. List of Persons Consulted/Interviewed*

1. Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change/GEF Focal Person
2. Datu Tungko M. Saikol, Director, DENR-BMB
3. Ms. Amelita DJ Ortiz, Assistant Director, DENR-BMB
4. Atty. Thess Tenazas, Chief, Wildlife Resources Division, DENR-BMB
5. Director Wilfredo J. Obien, DENR-FASPS
6. For. Nonito M. Tamayo, Regional Executive Director, DENR Caraga
7. Mr. Conrad Bravante, Chief, Project Preparation Division, DENR-FASPS
8. Ms. Jeslina B. Gorospe, DENR-FASPS
9. Mr. Eddie Abugan, Jr., Chief, Project monitoring Division, DENR-FASPS
10. Ms. Michelle Yu, DENR-FASPS
11. Ms. Nancy Corpuz, BPKMD, DENR-BMB
12. Dr. Mary Jean Caleda, Project Management Office, IWT Project
13. Ms. Sheena Crystal Dawn Rubin, Project Management Office, IWT Project
14. Mr. Lodigario Rigor, Project Management Office, IWT Project
15. Mr. Earl Justin Tiu, Project Management Office, IWT Project
16. Mr. Modesto U. Lagumbay, Jr., Chief, Enforcement Division, DENR Caraga
17. Ms. Jewel DJ Padullon, Enforcement Division, DENR Caraga
18. Ms. Ghay Ortega, Enforcement Division, DENR Caraga
19. Ms. Jane Diaz, Conservation and Development Division, DENR Caraga
20. Dr. Raquel Balanay, Caraga State University
21. Ms. Eva Milan, EPMD, Cabadbaran City LGU
22. CENRO Leo Oconer, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte
23. Ms. Ruby Sharon T. Dador, Nasipit WEO, Agusan del Norte
24. Ms. Susan Bajao, Nasipit Port WEO, Agusan del Norte
25. Mr. Rey Nino Auron, Nasipit Port WEO, Agusan del Norte
26. Mr. Darwin R. Tejerero, Chief, KIMS, DENR-BMB
27. Mr. Orly T. Cariazo, Chief Enforcement Division, DENR-NCR
28. Ms. Maricar Puno-Sanchez, Chief, Surveillance and Intelligence Section, DENR-NCR
29. Mr. Paquito D. Melicor, Jr., Regional Executive Director, DENR Region 7
30. For. Jimmy A. Panebio, Chief, Enforcement Division, DENR Region 7
31. Mr. Alvin Bayocot, EMS II, Enforcement Division, DENR Region 7
32. Mr. Arnold Jogan, Senior EMS, Enforcement Division, DENR Region 7
33. Mr. Rainer A. Manlegro, Enforcement Division, DENR Region 7
34. Mr. Carlo Babiera, Conservation and Development Division, DENR Region 7
35. Ms. Jacint Maris J. Latorre, Cebu Ports Authority
36. Ms. Leah G. Eleccion, Cebu Ports Authority
37. Mr. Felix Angelo E. Quianzon, Cebu Ports Authority
38. Mr. Archie M. Gunitaran, Cebu Ports Authority
39. Ms. Ronalyn B. Daño, Cebu Ports Authority
40. Ms. Nermalie M. Lita, Chief, Wildlife Regulation Section, DENR-BMB
41. Ms. Lorilie Salvador, Wildlife Resources Division, DENR-BMB
42. Mr. Francesco Ricciardi, Asian Development Bank
43. Ms. Cecilia Fischer, Asian Development Bank

44. Ms. Maria Rosario Catalina Dupaya Narciso, Asian Development Bank
45. Mr. Arunkumar Samuel Abraham, Asian Development Bank

*Annex 4. Matrix of Field Work Mission Activities Conducted*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Participants</b>
27 October 2021	Meeting with PMU via Zoom	1. Mary Jean A. Caleda 2. Sheena Crystal Dawn A. Rubi 3. Lodigario Rigor 4. Earl Justine Tiu
28 October 2021	Meeting with PMU via Zoom	1. Mary Jean A. Caleda 2. Sheena Crystal Dawn A. Rubi 3. Lodigario Rigor 4. Earl Justine Tiu
03 November 2021	Face-to-Face Interview with BMB Assistant Director Amelita DJ Ortiz	AD Amelita DJ Ortiz
03 November 2021	Face-to-Face Courtesy call and meeting with DENR-FASPS	1. Director Wifredo J. Obien 2. Conrad A. Bravante, Jr. 3. Jeslina B. Gorospe
08 November 2021	Face-to-Face Meeting with DENR-FASPS-PMD	1. Eddie Abugan, Jr. 2. Michelle Yu
19 November 2021	Courtesy call with DENR Caraga Regional Executive Director via phone call	RED Nonito M. Tamayo
24 November 2021	Face-to-Face Courtesy call with DENR Caraga Enforcement Division	Modesto Lagumbay, Jr.
24 November 2021	Face-to-Face Group Meeting/Discussion with DENR Caraga Staff	1. Ms. Jewel DJ Padullon (Enforcement Division DENR Caraga) 2. Ms. Ghay Ortega (Enforcement Division, DENR Caraga) 3. Ms. Jane Diaz (Conservation and Development Division, DENR Caraga)
24 November 2021	Face-to-Face Meeting with the Chief of the Environmental Protection and Management Division (EPMD) of the LGU of Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte	Ms. Eva Milan
25 November 2021	Face-to-Face Courtesy call and meeting with CENRO Nasipit, Agusan del Norte	CENRO Leo Oconer

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Participants</b>
25 November 2021	Face-to-Face Meeting/Discussion with Nasipit Port Personnel, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte	WEO Rey Niño Auron WEO Susan Bajao
25 November 2021	Interview via SMS with Nasipit WEO, Agusan del Norte	WEO Ruby Sharon T. Dador
26 November 2021	Meeting with Dr. Raquel Balanay of Caraga State University via GoogleMeet. Butuan City	Dr. Raquel Balanay
01 December 2021	Face-to-Face meeting and interview with DENR NCR Enforcement Division	Ms. Maricar Puno-Sanchez, (Chief, Surveillance and Intelligence Section)
01 December 2021	Face-to-Face courtesy call and meeting with the Chief of the DENR NCR Enforcement Division	1. Mr. Orly T. Cariazo (Chief Enforcement Division) 2. Ms. Maricar Puno-Sanchez (Chief, Surveillance and Intelligence Section)
01 December 2021	Face-to-face interview meeting with DENR-BMB BPKMD-Knowledge and Information Management Section Chief (KIMS)	Mr. Darwin R. Tejerero (Chief, KIMS)
02 December 2021	Face-to-Face meeting with DENR Region 7 staff	1. Rainier A. Manlegro (Enforcement Division) 2. Carlo Babiera (Conservation and Development Division)
02 December 2021	Face-to-Face courtesy call and meeting with the Chief of the Enforcement Division of DENR Region 7	1. For. Jimmy A. Panebio, (Chief, Enforcement Division) 2. Mr. Alvin Bayocot, EMS II 3. Mr. Arnold Jogan, Senior EMS 4. Mr. Rainer A. Manlegro, Biologist
02 December 2021	Face-to-face meeting with personnel of the Cebu Ports Authority (CPA)	1. Ms. Jacint Maris J. Latorre 2. Ms. Leah G. Eleccion 3. Mr. Felix Angelo E. Quianzon 4. Mr. Archie M. Guinitaran 5. Ms. Ronalyn B. Daño
03 December 2021	Face-to-Face courtesy call and meeting with the	1. RED Paquito D. Melicor, Jr.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Participants</b>
	Regional Executive Director of DENR Region 7	2. For. Jimmy A. Panebio, (Chief, Enforcement Division) 3. Rainier Manlegro
08 December 2021	Meeting with ADB Project Management Team via Zoom	1. Mr. Francesco Ricciardi 2. Ms. Cecilia Fischer 3. Ms. Maria Rosario Catalina Dupaya Narciso
10 December 2021	Face-to-Face meeting with the Chief of the Wildlife Resources Division, BMB	Atty. Thess Tenazas
16 December 2021	Meeting with ADB-GEF consultants via Zoom	1. Mr. Arunkumar Samuel Abraham 2. Ms. Maria Rosario Catalina Dupaya Narciso
17 December 2021	Face-to-Face meeting with DENR-FASPS PMD staff	Ms. Michelle Yu.
22 December 2021	Face-to-face meeting with WRD staff, DENR-BMB	1. Ms. Nermalie M. Lita 2. Lorilie Salvador
05 January 2022	Courtesy call and meeting the GEF Focal Person via Zoom	1. Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh 2. Eddie Abugan, Jr. 3. Michelle Yu