DECENTRALIZED PROJECT EVALUATIONS

Terminal Evaluation of the "Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agro-biodiversity in Traditional Agro-ecosystems of the Philippines" Project

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Table of Contents

Appendices

Figures and Tables

Figures

Tables

Boxes

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
BH	Budget Holder
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CoP	Conference of Parties
DA	Department of Agriculture
DA-BAR	Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research
DA-BPI	Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Plant Industry
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EM	Evaluation Manager
EA	Execution Agreement
ET	Evaluation Team
ETL	Evaluation Team Leader
ESS	Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO-CO	FAO County Office
FAO-GEF CU	FAO-GEF Coordination Unit
FAO-RAP	FAO – Regional Asia Pacific
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FLO	Funding Liaison Officer
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
FPMIS	Field Project Management Information System
GEBs	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICC/IP	Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous People
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGUs	Local Government Units
LIAHS	Locally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites
LOA	Letter of Agreement
LTO	Lead technical officer
LTU	Lead technical unit
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MR	Management Response
MTA	Material Transfer Agreement
MTR	Mid-term Review
NCCA	National Commission for Culture and the Arts
NIAHS	Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

FAO-OED	FAO Office of Evaluation
OCB	Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment
OPIM	Operational Partner Implementation Modality
PC	Programme Committee
PGRFA	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
PhilRice	Philippine Rice Research Institute
SO	FAO Strategic Objective
SSI	Semi Structured Interviews
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary:

Introduction

1. This terminal evaluation of the project "Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agro-biodiversity in Traditional Agro-ecosystems in the Philippines" responds to accountability needs by providing a comprehensive and systematic account of the project's performance by assessing its design, implementation, and achievement of objectives. In addition, the terminal evaluation facilitates the synthesis of lessons for similar thematic projects for GEF. Specifically, this terminal evaluation assessed the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, factors affecting performance and cross-cutting issues related to equity, gender and social inclusion, and risk related Environmental and Social Safeguards.

2. The scope of the evaluation includes the full five-year period of the project since 2016- December 2021, inclusive of the first budget neutral extension. The evaluation covers all aspects of the project components in all the three pilot municipalities in the two Provinces of Ifugao and South Cotabato in the Philippines.

3. The terminal evaluation was conducted in accordance with the guidance, rules and procedures established by FAO and GEF. It adhered to the United Nations Evaluation Group Norms & Standards, GEF evaluation policy and formats, and was in line with the FAO OED Manual and its methodological guidelines and practices. It was in line with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) principles of independence, impartiality, transparency, disclosure, ethics, partnership, competencies/capacities, credibility and utility.

4. The evaluation used a mix method for data gathering, collation, analysis and triangulation; combining a diverse source of information and tools. For quantitative data gathering, extensive desk review was conducted. The qualitative data gathering included Virtual (through internet and / or phone), semi-structured Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with a representation of the stakeholders. Virtual Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with farmer leaders and farmer beneficiaries from Hungduan and Hingyon, Ifugao and Lake Sebu, and South Cotabato were conducted. The evaluation also involved individual story telling regarding the **Most Significant Change** for the beneficiaries.

5. The policy analysis employed **Outcome Harvesting** and included: outcome description, significance of the outcome, the project's contribution to achievements. The **technical aspects of *in- situ* and *ex- situ* conservation and utilization,** including prospects for scaling up was analysed based on the assumptions of the project's Theory of Change (ToC), including capacity building.

6. Stakeholder engagement was analysed by **stakeholder mapping** and their roles in the project, along with inter-linkages amongst stakeholders. The evaluation adopted a consultative and transparent approach with internal and external stakeholders throughout the process and followed a participatory and inclusive process ensuring appropriate gender representation (around 75% women participants), and representation of the diverse farming and indigenous peoples.

Main Findings

Relevance: Satisfactory

7. The project's objective regarding the dynamic conservation and use of critical agrobiodiversity is highly relevant and aligned with the global, national and local level policies and priorities. The project's objective and design are aligned with the GEF's Biodiversity Strategy, particularly relating to the conservation and sustainable use through farmer management and adaptation of plant genetic resources that meet the needs of rural communities, including indigenous peoples and local communities, especially women. However, the changes in project design in the course of implementation were based on untested assumptions and weak diagnosis**.** As such, the technical design and expected results may not be fully relevant and appropriate in meeting the agrobiodiversity needs of men and women farmers and indigenous communities.

Effectiveness: Moderately Satisfactory

8. The project has made impressive headways towards achieving its policy objectives. The project has significantly contributed to addressing the fragmentation of institutional structures that are crucial to the formulation and implementation of agrobiodiversity policies and laws in the Philippines. The project has made progress in contributing towards the planning and governance mechanisms. However, the project has made limited contributions to enhance and expand the dynamic conservation practices for agrobiodiversity in the three pilot communities. The community seed banks, demonstration farms and farm machinery had so far demonstrated limited functionality and limited uptake from the farmers. Likewise, the volume and sales of agrobiodiversity products have been very small and have not yet indicated financial viability. The enterprises had limited correlation to agrobiodiversity conservation; and did not show any link to promote market-based incentives for the sustainability of agrobiodiversity and ecosystem conservation practices. The project has contributed to increased awareness and knowledge among policy-makers but the public and consumer agrobiodiversity awareness have been minimal.

Efficiency: Moderately Unsatisfactory

9. While the activities and spending are on track, the project management lacks coherence in ensuring the correlation of the quality, timeliness and cost-effectiveness of the activities and outputs. The management had been largely driven by compliance in the reporting and procurement requirements, which are important, but the project has not been responsive to some fundamental issues that affected the project's efficiency and effectiveness. The project management had not followed sensible steps to ensure that procured infrastructures and farm equipment are actually fit for purpose. Cost effectiveness is highly questionable given the committed budget of USD 13,701,955 with only 2,000 target beneficiaries. Aside from the achievements in policy and institutional formation, the objectives and added value of the pilot activities were not sufficiently planned and did not materialise: There were no intended activities and outputs to analyse and model the proof-of-concept on the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.

Sustainability: Moderately Likely

10. There are very good prospects of sustaining the project's results at the policy level given the institutional arrangements. The GEF's institutional and governance additionality lies in the convening of the key stakeholders pertaining to agriculture, environment and culture from the global, national, provincial and local levels. However, the lack of operational and financial viability of the enterprises, the lack of utility and clear objectives of the Community Seed Banks, the demonstration farms, and their continuous operation and maintenance, pose significant risk to the sustainability of the infrastructures, the interventions and the pilots as a whole. Given the technical weakness of the project, GEF's global environmental additionality has yet to be established.

Factors affecting performance: Moderately Unsatisfactory

11. There have been major gaps at systems level from the project design, implementation, execution and monitoring. FAO executed and supervised a highly technical and complex project without the fundamental technical and social expertise and had missed opportunities for adaptive management. For a complex and technical agrobiodiversity project, FAO did not leverage its institutional expertise on agrobiodiversity management.

12. Overall, the **monitoring and evaluation system** regularly kept track of the activities, levels of spending and some outputs. Project monitoring has major incoherence with project plans and results delivery. In terms of quality of the monitoring implementation, there are significant gaps in the supervision and technical backstopping provided by FAO at systems level. The weak technical performance of the project seemed to have gone unnoticed. There was no critical reflection based on monitoring data, that could have led to adaptation or change in project activities.

13. In terms of the **Quality of Implementation**, there have been major gaps from FAO Philippines and FAO RAP on oversight and supervision. It is unclear how some changes in the project design and implementation had been duly communicated and approved. It was unclear who has oversight and there seems to be no reference on quality standards to ensure good technical performance and results.

14. In terms of the **Quality of Execution**, the activities related to contracts and procurements, approval and start-up were executed relatively well. Despite the challenges and limitations of COVID-19, the project adapted reasonably well.

15. As of October 2021, the **co-financing** delivered 47.65% of what was committed, mostly in kind, as part of regular programming and budget allocations of partner national government agencies and local government units. The co-financing, estimated to be almost USD 5.5M is so far double that of the GEF grant at USD 2.1M. This is an indication of the leveraging power of FAO and the project, as well as the commitment to support to agrobiodiversity work by the Philippines government. Nevertheless, about 50 % of the co-financing has not materialised as government agencies had to prioritize the COVID-19 pandemic response.

16. Largely, the **project partnership and stakeholder engagement** has been satisfactory in establishing the multi-institutional partnership and the collaboration with key stakeholders, including Civil Society

Organisations and the private seed industry. The project engaged diverse institutional actors at national and local levels. In these processes, the key institutional actors were also motivated to support enabling policies. The project contributed to the integration and synergy of key policy frameworks and laws that fall under the agriculture sector, environment and natural resources sector, indigenous peoples, cultural heritage and local governance.

17. The project's **knowledge management** has been moderately unsatisfactory. First, the project does not have a system in place and does not keep track of fundamental project data, which not only informs performance but are also prerequisites for the development of knowledge products and eventually, evidence if the proposed TOC works. Second, the three main components of the project lack coherence for the proper functioning of knowledge management. The policy component was not substantially informed by the on the ground experiences from the technical component. In addition, the communications produced inadequate knowledge products such as technical reports, policy briefs and published articles that could have provided the project a much-needed technical peer review and as solid basis for public awareness raising. **Third,** despite considerable budget allocation on capacity building, including module developments, the delivered outputs merely reflected training outlines (with the exception of the school curriculum for formal education). These are inadequate as reference training materials and cannot be used for successive trainings by the project stakeholders; nor does this contribute to public goods for similar GEF and FAO undertaking. **Fourth**, there has been minimal reflection and analysis on the project's technical progress and on how the pilots need major re-shaping to form substantive and scalable models that respond to the project's core objectives. As such, there are not many knowledge products that would serve as guides for scaling up. **Fifth**, except for a few publications, the project does not have a system to capture, test, share and act on lessons learned. **Sixth**, there is no link and mutual reinforcements between knowledge management and communications. **Seventh**, FAO did not leverage its technical expertise and considerable knowledge products on agrobiodiversity to guide the project's knowledge management.

Gender and Cross Cutting Issues: Moderately Unsatisfactory

18. To a considerable extent, the project took **gender and social inclusion**, including indigenous peoples, into account in the design and implementation of the project. The target beneficiaries are all from the indigenous groups and are largely women. The indigenous peoples and the women are well re-represented in the participant selection and in the leadership. The youth are actively engaged in the project through the inclusion of agrobiodiversity awareness in the school curricula. The achievements in improving self-confidence and self-worth of the women are important steps towards defining a transformative agenda that would address gender and social inclusion in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Deeper analysis reveals that there were still limitations in social inclusivity, such as limited number of indigenous peoples engaged by the project, absence of gender analysis to inform gender appropriate interventions, limited inclusion of indigenous knowledge and practices in field interventions. The project had major gaps in the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) compliance relating to the collective rights of the indigenous people to their plant materials and underlying indigenous knowledge.

19. There has been a systemic weakness in the assessment, monitoring and addressing risks associated with the **Environment and Social Safeguards**. The original 2015 ESS was wrongly categorised as low risk. When the 2019 MTR raised the (ESS 2) risk from low to medium, the Project Management and Coordinating Unit, Budget Holder, Lead Technical Officer and Funding Liaison Officer did not appear to acknowledge or understand the risk. They have not taken steps to address the ESS. Since then, and at the time of the evaluation, in the view of the evaluators, the risk has escalated. The high ESS risk concerns the: (i) lack of provisions for the project to externally collect, store, characterize and register samples of plant genetic resources of indigenous and endemic varieties of crops grown by indigenous peoples and the associated traditional knowledge; (ii) lack of provisions for access and benefit for the indigenous communities; (iii) possible violation of the Free Prior Informed Consent - Memorandum of Agreement; and (iv) possible non-compliance of the project's legal and moral obligations under international agreements such as the CBD, ITPGRFA, UNDRIP and the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act.

20. In terms of **progress towards achieving the project's development objective(s)** the project's policy outcomes are moderately satisfactory. The policy work was impressive with good prospects of governmental approval. The technical and communications outcomes have major weaknesses. The policy, technical and communications components have weak linkages to provide for a proof of concept for the ToC and towards achieving impact. In terms of progress to impact, the project has gained substantial ground in the institutional formation and the policy engagements towards the establishments of Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites (NIAHS) and Locally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites (LIAHS). However, the project needs evidence-based models and credible tools to advocate for policy change and to implement agrobiodiversity conservation and use. The meagre results from the field/technical interventions greatly restrict the progress to impact.

21. **The overall progress on implementation is moderately satisfactory.** The project produced well-crafted policy proposals. The project reported completion of 92% of its outputs with mixed results, particularly on the quality of the technical and communications outputs and outcomes. While the activities and spending are on track, the project management lacks coherence in ensuring the correlation of the quality, timeliness and cost-effectiveness of the activities and outputs.

22. **The overall likelihood of risk to sustainability is moderately likely**. The policy component is likely sustainable but the weak technical component is a risk, including inadequate measures to safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples over their plant genetic resources. The ESS is unsatisfactory.

Conclusion

23. **Conclusion 1 (Relevance):** The project's multi-institutional and multiple level approach to conserve globally important agrobiodiversity within protected areas and agricultural heritage sites, remains highly relevant and innovative. The project design to address the institutional fragmentation in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use, enabled the effective policy engagement of stakeholders from national, regional and local levels. On the other hand, the project was gravely challenged by the complexities of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use, which required technical and social rigour in the project design and adaptation.

24. **Conclusion 2 (Effectiveness):** The project played a catalytic role by enabling and contributing to the multi-institutional and multi-level agrobiodiversity policy processes, laws, and outcomes delivering significantly on GEF's institutional and governance additionality. In contrast, there were meagre results from the ground level pilot interventions. Hence, the promising institutional prospects of scaling up is restricted by the lack of scalable technical outputs and knowledge products (e.g., tools, models, training modules) that could demonstrate and convince further commitments and investments beyond the project areas. In this regard, the GEF's global environmental benefits has been limited.

25. **Conclusion 3 (Effectiveness):** The project did not appropriately consider the changed duality of the indigenous peoples' traditional production systems, within which part of their livelihood strategy includes both the traditional and modern varieties. The project's conservation and use tactic was restricted to storing and planting varieties, but the more strategic aspects were not integrated. These included (i) conservating the genes through varietal improvement and adaptation to climate change; (ii) supporting the small-holder farming systems with their multiple rationale and complex agrobiodiversity management; and within which the plant genes evolve; and (iii) the tie up of the policy and technical work to strengthen the systems that maintain and create diversity for climate resilient food and agriculture.

26. **Conclusion 4 (Effectiveness):** The project achieved considerable headway in raising awareness on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use amongst policy makers from national to local levels; and in schools at provincial levels. In contrast, very little was achieved raising the awareness of the public and consumers on the importance of agrobiodiversity and why the need for their conservation and sustainable use.

27. **Conclusion 5 (Effectiveness):** FAO did not leverage its technical expertise on agrobiodiversity management. Therefore, the technical quality of the project design and implementation, and its outputs and outcomes were substantially affected and its prospects for scaling up is restricted. Moreover, the innovative concept of the project that linked agrobiodiversity conservation at genetics, farm to landscape levels had not been utilized towards the global environmental additionality for GEF.

28. **Conclusion 6 (Efficiency)**: The project management is mainly driven by compliance in reporting and procurement. A system is lacking to ensure that activities and outputs are fit for purpose and are of quality, timely and cost-effective. The project team lacked the crucial guidance and support of expert(s) in the technical and social aspects of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. This is a major and systemic omission for a complex and large-scale agrobiodiversity project with indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples.

29. **Conclusion 7 (Sustainability)**. Overall, the prospects of sustaining the project results are mixed. On one hand, there are very good prospects of sustaining the project's results at the *policy and institutional* levels, some prospects at the *financial* front, and at the *cultural and social* aspects. However, the lack of financial viability of the enterprises; the lack of utility of the Community Seed Banks and the demonstration farms and the inevitable maintenance these require, are a significant risk to the sustainability of these infrastructures and the pilots as a whole. While there is a strong

sense of ownership and commitment from the project beneficiaries, specifically from the indigenous women, the number of beneficiaries has been very small.

30. **Conclusion 8 (Factors Affecting Performance).** The project's performance was greatly enhanced by its' **partnership and stakeholder engagement,** which generated reasonable **co-financing** and significant policy expertise and political will. The convening power of FAO facilitated the multi-institutional collaboration on the policy work and institutional formation. However, there has been systemic gaps in the factors affecting performance such as weak monitoring and knowledge management.

31. **Conclusion 9 (Cross-cutting issues).** The project has taken **gender and social inclusion** by deliberately facilitating participation and leadership of indigenous peoples, particularly women. The project is gender and age inclusive with target women and youth beneficiaries from indigenous groups. The achievements in improving self-confidence and self-worth of the women are important steps towards defining a transformative agenda that could address gender and social inclusion in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. More could have been achieved if the project's agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use objective was systematically informed by women's needs and trait preferences and the leveraging of indigenous peoples' knowledge. Women's profile and vulnerability assessments have not been carried out to specifically tailor the project's interventions

32. **Conclusion 10 (Environment and Social Safeguards).** The project did not mitigate the increased ESS risk as highlighted by the MTR. There was inadequacy in safeguarding the rights of indigenous peoples' for special measures to control, develop and protect their seeds, derivatives and associated indigenous knowledge. The project may have impinged on the FPIC-MOA with indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples for the ex-situ collection, storage, characterisation and registration of samples of indigenous and endemic varieties.

Recommendation

33. **Recommendation 1 Top Priority (ESS Risk)** : To address the project's unsatisfactory performance in addressing the increased risk associated with the environmental and social safeguards and possible major gaps in the FPIC-MOA, the evaluation recommends the following top priority recommendation. The FAO Country Office as the budget holder, and the Project Management Coordinating Unit, should immediately undertake a consultation process with the indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples of Hungduan and Hingyon Ifugao, and Lake Sebu, South Cotabato to formulate equitable actions with the necessary provisions within three months. The project should develop a plan with timetable and allocate budget and should include measures for cease and disclosure, address and redress, coordination and support.

34. **Recommendation 2 (Quality delivery of Knowledge products)**. A substantial budget has been allocated to knowledge products (which could be used as tools to help sustain the project results and serve as potential public goods). The evaluation recommends that committed knowledge products be delivered as finished products to the project stakeholders, particularly the indigenous communities and local government units, by the end of the project closure. This relates particularly to training materials and policy briefs.

35. **Recommendation 3 (Exit Strategy: policy work).** To ensure that the achievements in policy and institutional formation are sustained and enabled to further get through the various policy approval processes, the evaluation recommends that FAO CO and PMCU develop, in coordination with the Office of the Under Secretary of Operations of the Department of Agriculture, by the end of the project, an exit strategy that includes: (i) mapping out the succeeding policy processes for the approval and implementation of the seed act and the LIAHS and NIAHS, and agree on a course of action; (ii) make provisions to ensure that the policy progress of the project are reported to and reflected in the Philippine government compliance to the Philippine Plan to the CBD; (iii) laisse with and support the Philippine National Focal Point to the link and report the achievements of the project as part of the government's compliance to the ITPGRFA.

36. **Recommendation 4 (Exit Strategy: pilot activities).** Considering the challenges on the functionality and sustainability of the community seed banks, demonstration farms, farm equipment and the agrobiodiversity enterprises; and recognizing that the project has already officially turned over the community seed banks to the local government units, the evaluation recommends, before the end of the project period, an exit strategy that includes: (i) The PMCU to communicate clearly to the NCIP, ICC/IP and the LGUs and the communities that the project is definitely ending on June 2022. Discuss and document lessons learned; including sharing the results of the evaluation to the communities and across communities; (ii) the PMCU have a consultative dialogue with the 17 pilot communities and the respective NCIP, ICC/Ips and LGUs on the assessments of the viability, functionality and maintenance of the community seed banks, demonstration farms, farm equipment and the agrobiodiversity enterprises to assess what should be maintained and changes needed; (iii) For the livelihoods enterprise, facilitate linkages with the existing social enterprises or related LGU projects to gather continued support to the involved community members; as appropriate.

37. **Recommendation 5 (FAO and FAO GEF Coordination Unit)** Considering that the systems weakness has been a major factor that negatively affected the project performance, the evaluation recommends that for GEF projects on agrobiodiversity, FAO conduct a systems review focused on ensuring the delivery of coherent project design, provision of technical competence, project overview and supervision, compliance to quality standards, responsive MEL, and outcome delivery for GEF projects. Along with improvements in future projects, this would also further advance FAO's added value in the technical and institutional innovation related to agrobiodiversity management in coherence with FAO's Strategic Framework and responsive to GEF's policy and objectives.

GEF Rating table

Table 1. Global Environment Facility (GEF) criteria, rating and summary comments

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating[1]	Summary comments[2]
A. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE		
A1. Overall strategic relevance	Satisfactory	The project objective and design were highly innovative and addressed the institutional fragmentation of agrobiodiversity conservation and use. The project did not pursue its landscape approach and therefore missed opportunities for a more integrated and holistic approach.
A1.1. Alignment with GEF and FAO strategic priorities	Moderately Satisfactory	The project is fully aligned with GEF and FAO strategic priorities. Climate change as a major threat to agricultural biodiversity and food systems was not adequately addressed.
A1.2. Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	Moderately Satisfactory	The project is highly relevant to global and national priorities as well as the needs of the beneficiaries. The number and limit of target beneficiaries were disproportionately low compared to the budget. The design did not include deliberate outreach to the wider community members.
A1.3. Complementarity with existing interventions	Satisfactory	The project complements existing interventions. Knowledge sharing with existing interventions was inadequate.
B. EFFECTIVENESS		
B1. Overall assessment of project results	Moderately satisfactory	The policy and institutional results were good. There were major weaknesses in the technical/community interventions and challenges in communications.
B1.1 Delivery of project outputs	Moderately Satisfactory	The project produced well-crafted policy proposals. The project reported completion of 92% of its outputs with mix results particularly, on the quality of the technical and communications outputs and results.
B1.2 Progress towards outcomes[3] and project objectives	Moderately Satisfactory	The project's policy outcomes were impressive with good prospects of governmental approval. The technical and communications outcomes have major weaknesses. The policy, technical and communications components have weak linkages to provide for a proof of concept for the TOC and towards achieving impact.
- Outcome 1	Satisfactory	Good policy processes, institutional engagements and outcomes were achieved. There were shortcomings in

[1] See rating scheme at the end of the document (Appendix 2)
[2] Include reference to the relevant sections in the report.
[3] Assessment and ratings by individual outcomes may be undertaken if there is added value.

		articulating and realizing indigenous peoples' rights to representation and for them to co-create policies that align with their customary laws and practices.
- Outcome 2	Moderately Unsatisfactory	The project had good progress on mainstreaming agrobiodiversity in government planning and with budget allocations. The outcome of technical and livelihood interventions is meagre to model and mainstream a dynamic approach to agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use in traditional ecosystems.
- Outcome 3	Moderately Satisfactory	The outcome on the communications and outreach were promising for the policy makers and education of students. Consumer and public awareness were weak and knowledge products for mainstreaming were few and of mix qualities.
- Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes	Moderately Satisfactory	The conditions for scaling up the policy component is good, with areas for improvement, whereas, the technical component is weak.
B1.3 Likelihood of impact	Moderately Satisfactory	The project gained substantial ground in the institutional formation and the policy engagements towards the establishment of national and local agricultural heritage sites. The project needs evidence-based models and credible tools to advocate for policy changes, and implement agrobiodiversity conservation and use in traditional ecosystems. The meagre results of the actual field implementation of agrobiodiversity conservation and use with indigenous peoples in their communities (specifically community seed banks, demonstration farms, farmers' field schools, trainings, farm production support, and enterprises) substantially restricted the progress to impact.
C. EFFICIENCY		
C1. Efficiency[4]	Moderately Unsatisfactory	FAO as the budget holder provided reasonably efficient operational, administrative and financial management support, considering the number of stakeholders and institutions involved in the project. There were delays in procurement and mismatch between actual community needs and the support provided. Cost effectiveness is questionable, in large part because the logical chronology of activities is problematic.
D. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
D1. Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	Moderately Likely	The policy component is likely sustainable but the weak technical component is a risk, including inadequate

[4] Includes cost efficiency and timeliness.

		measures to safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples over their plant genetic resources.
D1.1. Financial risks	Moderately Likely	The government units have allocated budget for key project activities coupled with some supportive policy instruments. The impending change in government due to upcoming Philippine elections in May 2022, may alter commitments. This is beyond the control of the project
D1.2. Socio-political risks	Unlikely	There was inadequacy in safeguarding the rights of indigenous peoples for special measures to control, develop and protect their plant genetic resources, seeds, derivatives and associated indigenous knowledge.
D1.3. Institutional and governance risks	Moderately likely	There is good ownership of the project. Future projects building from this project would need to expand its beneficiaries to avoid the potential risk for elite capture.
D1.4. Environmental risks	Unlikely	There was inadequate results and measures in place to ensure indigenous peoples' conservation and sustainable use of their plant genetic resources in their ancestral domains.
D2. Catalysis and replication	Moderately Unlikely	The policy work, with the institutional formation, can progress to approval and implementation through time. The technical work produced limited viable products for sustainability.
E. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE		
E1. Project design and readiness[5]	Moderately Unsatisfactory	The project design did not provide for the technical feasibility of the community seedbanks and other field level interventions, within the broader seed systems and conservation needs of communities. Financial feasibility and a business model for the enterprises were lacking. The project did not have the necessary agrobiodiversity expertise, while communications expertise was not resourced and leveraged well.
E2. Quality of project implementation	Moderately Unsatisfactory	There have been major gaps from FAO Philippines as the Executing Agency on oversight and supervision. The strategic overview and guidance for project direction, especially the technical component had been weak.
E2.1 Quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF, etc.)	Moderately Unsatisfactory	The project supervision and oversight were lacking in reference to quality standards. It is unclear if key changes or omissions in the project plan have been duly approved. FAO did not leverage its technical expertise (on agrobiodiversity, indigenous peoples) to ensure quality implementation.
E2.2 Project oversight (PSC, project working group, etc.)	Moderately Unsatisfactory	The technical weaknesses of the project and the ESS risks have been missed and not addressed

[5] This refers to factors affecting the project's ability to start as expected, such as the presence of sufficient capacity among executing partners at project launch.

E3. Quality of project execution For DEX projects: Project Management Unit/BH; For OPIM projects: Executing Agency	Moderately Satisfactory	The activities related to contracts and procurements, approval and start-up were compliant. Despite the challenges and limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project adapted reasonably well.
E4. Financial management and co-financing	Moderately Satisfactory	Financial management are relatively on track. The co-financing has only been above 47% as of November 2021 due to the need for the government to re-allocate funding for the pandemic response and changes in leadership and priorities in the different agencies
E5. Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement	Satisfactory	The project's institutional formation and the project coordinating committees from national to provincial to local level, were catalytic in successfully achieving policy objectives and building strong sense of ownership amongst all stakeholders from national right through local levels. There were gaps with the engagement with indigenous peoples (see ESS) but the evaluation also recognizes that the project revived farmers groups and contributed to building their agency.
E6. Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products	Moderately Unsatisfactory	There is no system in place to identity, develop, use and share knowledge products. The outputs have been low and the quality has been mixed. Knowledge management is weak.
E7. Overall quality of M&E	Moderately Unsatisfactory	The monitoring is driven by compliance rather than results. Major technical weaknesses of the project, whilst flagged in the technical working group, had not been picked up and addressed by the PSC, PMCU and LTO.
E7.1 M&E design	Moderately Unsatisfactory	The indicators are largely activity based with little correlation to quality
E7.2 M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources)	Moderately Unsatisfactory	The system regularly kept track of the activities, levels of spending and some outputs. The monitoring of implementation has major incoherence with project plans and results delivery
E8. Overall assessment of factors affecting performance	Moderately Unsatisfactory	There has been major oversight at systems level. The consistently low technical performance of the project had not been flagged and not addressed. Approvals of reports have been provided with no regards to the lack of technical data. FAO implemented and executed a highly technical project without the fundamental technical expertise and did not pay due attention to identifying and acting on ESS risks.

F. CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS		
F1. Gender and other equity dimensions	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Indigenous peoples, especially women, were actively engaged as participants and leaders of the project. The training materials and project monitoring did not include gender analysis. The project had major gaps in the FPIC compliance relating to the collective rights of the indigenous people to their plant materials and underlying indigenous knowledge
F2. Human rights issues/Indigenous Peoples	Moderately Unsatisfactory	The indigenous peoples were actively engaged in the project as members and leaders. Some of the project activities might be risking the collective rights of the indigenous people to their plant materials and underlying indigenous knowledge
F2. Environmental and social safeguards	Unsatisfactory	The original ESS risks were wrongly classified as low. The MTR raised this to medium. The evaluation noted that this has not been attended to and flags that the actual risk has risen to high. The project had major gaps in the FPIC compliance relating to the collective rights of the indigenous people to their plant materials and underlying indigenous knowledge
Overall project rating	**Moderately Satisfactory**	

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of the evaluation

38. The GEF Monitoring and Evaluation Policy (2010) specifies that each full-sized GEF project[6] will be evaluated at the end of implementation. This terminal evaluation responds to accountability needs by providing a comprehensive and systematic account of the project's performance by assessing its design, implementation, and achievement of objectives. The GEF's additionality are assessed for its contribution to global environmental benefit and in the institutions and governance. In addition, the terminal evaluation facilitates the synthesis of lessons for similar thematic projects for GEF. Specifically, this terminal evaluation assessed the project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, factors affecting performance and cross-cutting issues related to equity, gender and social inclusion, and risk related Environmental and Social Safeguards.

2.2 Intended users

39. The Primary intended users of the project evaluation include FAO, FAO-GEF coordination unit, staff and other stakeholders who would be expected to consider the findings and outcomes of the evaluation and use these to account for the investment and shape future initiatives in this sector. The table below (Table 2) also sets out some secondary users with potential interest in using the evaluation's findings.

40. The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), as the lead coordinating agency is an important user the evaluation. Secondary users include: the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI); the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice); the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENRBMB), and the Local Government Units of Ifugao and South Cotabato (at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels). Another key audience for the Evaluation findings and recommendations are the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples (ICC/IP) of 17 barangays that are directly involved in the project. For the ICC/IPs, the evaluation summary needs to be translated into local languages and discussed accordingly.

Table 2. Intended evaluation users and their interest in evaluation results

Primary Users		Interest in evaluation findings
FAO including FAO GEF Coordination Unit	Budget Holder Project Management and Coordinating Unit Lead Technical Officer Funding Liaison Officer Other Members of the Project Task Force	Provision of insights and learning for future projects Use in responding to the information needs and interests of policy makers and other actors with a decision-making role.

[6] A GEF Project Financing of more than two million US dollars

	Other Members of GEF Coordination Unit Project Design Team	Program improvement and organization development, making use of valuable information for managers or others responsible for program operations and design of future initiatives Supporting accountability for GEF funds
	OED	Evaluation methodology and design of future evaluations
Secondary Users		**Interest in evaluation findings**
GEF	Secretariat Evaluation Office	Provision of insight and learning for future project evaluations and investments
Government	Government departments, agencies, local government units,	Provision of insight and learning for future investments, decisions on scale-ups and policy development
Partner organizations	Partners active in this sector	Provision of insight and learning for future design of initiatives, advocacy work
Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples	Partner communities active in this sector	Provision of insight and learning for future initiatives
Other donors	Donors active in this sector	Provision of insight and learning for possible future investments
Academia, networks, and sectoral experts	Institutional and individual experts	Provision of insight and learning for wider research, advocacy work

2.3 Scope and objectives of the evaluation

The *scope* of the evaluation includes:

- the full five-year period of the project since 2016- December 2021, inclusive of the first budget neutral extension
- all aspects of the project components
- geographic focus on progress in all the three pilot municipalities in the two Provinces of Ifugao and South Cotabato
- engagement with a sample of informants drawn from the key stakeholder groups as set out in Table 2.

The specific evaluation objectives are:

- to examine the extent the project achieved its stated objectives and outcomes;
- to provide an assessment of the project's performance, cross-cutting dimensions, and the implementation of planned project activities and planned outputs against actual results;
- to determine the likelihood of progress in agricultural biodiversity being sustained due to contributions from the project's interventions;
- to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the project;

- to understand the critical enablers for progress and the barriers to progress for the project components and activities; and
- to synthesize lessons learned that may help sustain the interventions of the project when it gets completed, and assist the design and implementation of future FAO and FAO-GEF agricultural biodiversity related initiatives

Table 3. Evaluation questions by GEF criteria

GEF Criteria	Evaluation Questions
Relevance	To what extent has the project's objectives and intervention design been consistent with the Philippine government's, local communities and indigenous peoples' priorities and policies; to the GEF's strategic priorities and objectives, FAO's strategic programmes, and adds value to the dynamic conservation and use of critical agrobiodiversity, including global environmental benefits?
Effectiveness - Achievement of project results	To what extent has the project's objectives been achieved and were there any unintended results? How have the results demonstrated the project's contribution to the dynamic conservation and use of critical agrobiodiversity?
Efficiency, project implementation and execution	To what extent has the project been successful in using available resources (funds, personnel, expertise, equipment, etc.) to deliver results in the timeliest and least costly way possible?
Sustainability	What are the prospects for sustaining the results beyond the projects' closure? In particular, what systems are in place to environmentally, institutionally, financially, politically, culturally and socially sustain key activities? What is the prospect for scaling-up the activities?
Factors affecting performance:	What are the factors that facilitated and hindered the effectiveness of the project, including: monitoring and evaluation, quality of implementation, quality of execution, financial management and mobilization of co-financing, project partnership and stakeholder engagement, knowledge management, communications, public awareness and progress to impact?
Cross Cutting Issues	To what extent have equity, gender and social inclusion, including Indigenous Peoples (IP) been taken in account in the design and implementation of the project? To what extent has the project taken environmental and social concerns into consideration in its design and implementation (is the project in line with its Environmental and Social Safeguards plan?
Additionality	What can be concluded on the added-value of project interventions compared to comparable alternatives?

Please see Appendix 9 for the full evaluation matrix, covering evaluation questions and sub-questions, indicators, and information sources.

2.4 Methodology

41. The terminal evaluation was conducted in accordance with the guidance, rules and procedures established by FAO and GEF. It adhered to the United Nations Evaluation Group Norms & Standards, GEF evaluation policy and formats, and was in line with the FAO OED Manual and its methodological guidelines and practices. It was in line with the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) principles

of independence, impartiality, transparency, disclosure, ethics, partnership, competencies/capacities, credibility and utility.

42. As an **independent evaluation,** the evaluation team is independent from any organizations that have been involved in designing, executing or advising any aspect of the project that is the subject of this evaluation. The evaluation team was composed of the Team leader and Team member, with the combined expertise in gender and socially inclusive agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use at the local, national and international level, including with farmers and indigenous peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Their combined expertise includes the related policy and legislative experience, stakeholder engagements, capacity development, community organizing, enterprise development, knowledge management, advocacy, public and consumer awareness raising, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). In addition, the evaluation team has the combined expertise in multi-stakeholder agrobiodiversity programme management, research, methodological development, and scaling out (See Annex 12). The Team Leader has led the evaluation of large scale and complex programmes on agrobiodiversity, agricultural research for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction, and agrarian reform. The evaluation team was supported by an evaluation manager from FAO's OED.

43. The evaluation adopted a consultative and transparent approach with internal and external stakeholders throughout the process and followed a participatory and inclusive process ensuring appropriate gender representation, and representation of the diverse farming and indigenous peoples.

Table 4. Stakeholder group and their role in the project and interest in the terminal evaluation

Stakeholder Group	Role in the project	Assumed involvement/ interest in the evaluation
The Project Task Force (PTF): including the Lead Technical Officer (LTO), Funding Liaison Officer (FLO); FAO Budget Holder (BH Project Monitoring and Coordination Unit (PMCU)	Project team responsible for project monitoring; provide technical backstopping and support BH is overall manager for the project and accountable for its performance, with the responsibility for project management, implementation, administration and oversight including project technical oversight. reporting, monitoring and knowledge management	LTO and FLO provides supervision and supports the BH in implementing the evaluation. BH is responsible for initiating the evaluation, approving the ToR, ensuring support for the evaluation team, and leading the management response process.
FAO- GEF Coordination Unit	Project funder with responsibility for project monitoring and knowledge management[7]	Provides inputs to the evaluation, receives evaluation briefings, approves the

[7] Please note that FLO is also part of this Unit

Stakeholder Group	Role in the project	Assumed involvement/ interest in the evaluation
		management response to the evaluation and ensures the follow-up to the recommendations Also provides guidance on latest GEF policy related to evaluations and submits the final report to the GEF Secretariat and GEF evaluation office. Feeds in lessons learned from evaluations into annual reporting
Department of Agriculture (DA-BAR, DA-BPI, DA-ATI, DA programs)	Lead coordinating agency; implements and provide staff time to project activities (e.g., input to policy, training)	Provides feedback to the evaluation, receive evaluation briefings, coordinates the formulation of the management response to the evaluation; approves the management response to the evaluation; how project materials are used in compliance reporting to international instrument (ITPGRFA, CBD)
Other national government agencies (DENR, DAR, NCIP, NCAA, DILG, DepEd, PhilRice)	Provides technical and policy guidance and input to project activities Dep ED – provincial level only	Provides feedback about project implementation especially component 1 and 2 and synergy of agricultural biodiversity with national programmes and agency mandate; how project materials are used in compliance reporting to international instrument (ITPGRFA, CBD)
Local government units	Provides operational support via staff time, training, use of facilities, project funding counterpart, policy formulation; conduits for agrobiodiversity knowledge of farmers'	Provides feedback about project implementation and synergy of agricultural biodiversity with local government plans and programs including contribution to local landscape and agricultural ecosystem
Indigenous peoples, farmers and local communities	Project beneficiaries and participate in local level project governance and shares technical inputs	Provides feedback about project implementation; consult on relevance of project results to their culture, livelihood, landscape, agricultural

Stakeholder Group	Role in the project	Assumed involvement/ interest in the evaluation
		ecosystem, climate and pandemic response
Academe	Conducts research, documentation and training on agricultural biodiversity management	Provides feedback about project implementation especially component 2; provide inputs on complementarity or project in their program
Civil Society Organisations	Part of project implementation; conduit for farmers agricultural biodiversity management	Provides feedback about project implementation especially component 2 and 3; provide inputs on how to ensure project results are relevant to farmers and seek complementarity in their programs
Wholesalers/Retailers/Consumers	End-users and/or market outlets of farmers' agricultural biodiversity	Provides feedback about project implementation especially component 3; provide inputs on how project results fared in the market

44. The evaluation employed a mix method for data gathering, collation, analysis and triangulation, combining a diverse source of information and tools. These included:

- Virtual (through internet and / or phone) semi-structured interviews (SSI) were conducted with key stakeholders using Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). The Key informants were selected to represent the various stakeholder groups in project implementation. Policy and legal experts, who were not part of the project, were interviewed for views on counter-factual and to help validate information and data interpretation.
- Virtual Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with farmer leaders and farmer beneficiaries from Hungduan and Hingyon, Ifugao and Lake Sebu, and South Cotabato were set up with the support from the project team. At least five community leaders/chieftains/ leaders of peoples' organizations from each of the three pilot municipalities, and representing different indigenous peoples, were invited. Of the 13 leaders who came from different barangays, organizations and indigenous peoples, 75% were women. All of them are leaders of the peoples' organizations established or strengthened by the project. For the FGD of farmer beneficiaries, 3-5 farmers were invited ensuring gender balance, from different indigenous groups and with young and old farmers. All 14 participants were women, coming from a diversity of indigenous groups.

- For storytelling within the **Most Significant Change** process, at least 5 project beneficiary representatives ensuring gender, age, 'success-challenging cases' per indigenous group were invited. The evaluators/project team noted that the project worked mostly with the Tuwalis in

Ifugao and with the T'boli and Ubo indigenous peoples in South Cotabato. Of the 21 farmer beneficiaries/indigenous peoples who sent their stories, 80% of the respondents were women. Some of the FGD respondents were also the storytellers from the Most Significant Change Exercise.

45. For data collation and analysis:

- For qualitative data gathering, the evaluation team conducted extensive desk review, virtual semi-structured interviews and storytelling using simple, self-video, audio recording or written story by men, women and youth directly from the indigenous cultural communities.

- For quantitative data gathering, project scoping and market studies, design, inception, progress and financial reports, policy outputs, Mid-term Review and project tools (e.g., MEL framework, Farmer Field School curriculum), and other relevant project documents were reviewed. The evaluation was dependent on the availability and quality of quantitative data including gender disaggregated quantitative data from the project.

- For policy outputs and outcomes, the evaluation collated and analysed the specific text input/proposal of the project and compared this with the original official and revised policy text as published in government websites. Developments in policy processes were also noted. In addition, the evaluation reviewed the project's activities and stakeholder engagement, including consultation processes leading to the policy outcomes. The analysis employed **Outcome Harvesting**[8] and included: outcome description, significance of the outcome, the project's contribution to achievements, and comments from evaluators.

- For the specific agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use, the evaluation was dependent on the availability and quality of technical data and information of the project. The evaluation assessed the rationale, objectives, outputs and outcomes of the technical interventions such as the community seed banks, demonstration farms, enterprises and capacity development. The **technical aspects of *in- situ* and *ex- situ* conservation and utilization,** including prospects for scaling up was analysed based on the assumptions of the project's Theory of Change (ToC), including capacity building.

- Stakeholder engagement was analysed by **stakeholder mapping** and their roles in the project, along with inter-linkages amongst stakeholders. This was used to provide insights into governance structures for the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.

- The perspectives of the beneficiaries were sampled and analysed at group and individual levels focusing on the **most significant change** pertaining to their environmental, institutional and livelihoods perspectives. An important selection criterion for the respondents was at least 50% women participation and at least 70% from indigenous peoples. Data analysis was disaggregated accordingly.

[8] Please see Better Evaluation description on this.
https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/plan/approach/outcome_harvesting#:~:text=Outcome%20Harvesting%20is%20an%20evaluation%20approach%20in%20which,of%20cause%20and%20effect%20are%20not%20fully%20understood.

- For the lessons learned, the evaluation team used the evidence from the findings and identified lessons based on the following criteria: (i) concisely captured context from which it was derived; (ii) potentially applicable to different context; (iii) considered a clear application domain; and (iv) guides action (UNFCCC, 2015).

- The data and findings were rigorously triangulated through comparison of secondary project documents and primary source based on the interviews, comparison of the multiple perspectives of stakeholders from national to local levels and some counter-factual based on the perception of agrobiodiversity policy and legal experts who are not engaged in the project. The various methodology was also used to triangulate and validate key data and findings.

- The first virtual presentation was made to discuss and comment on the initial evaluation findings to the PMCU and FAO Philippines Office. The second virtual presentation was conducted to discuss the ESS risks to the PMCU, FAO Philippine Office, FAO Regional Asia Pacific, GEF coordination Unit, OED, Secretariat of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit. The full draft report was circulated for comments to all these stakeholders, including the LTO and FLO.

  Please see Appendix 8 for the evaluation matrix and details of what data sources contributed to each question and sub question.

2.5 Limitations

46. Field visits and face to face interviews were not feasible due to uncertainty of Covid-19 cases and site-specific lockdown policies. For field visits, the evaluators needed to factor isolation and testing days to ensure best practice for field visit (e.g., isolation and tests prior and after field visits; ensuring less than 4 hours inside a closed vehicle; less than 6 hours of field exposure etc), Vaccination status and ensuring compliance to health protocols in areas of visit were likewise considered. After weighing the practical constraints, face to face field visits were ruled out. The evaluators instead invested substantial time in preparing and undertaking community interviews online, with the able technical and logistical support of the FAO Country Office, especially the PMCU.

47. As the evaluators were not physically present in the offices and communities, the evaluators were not able to observe, pick up on nuances (and sensitivities), and engage people spontaneously. The communications were sometimes hindered by poor connectivity.

48. The evaluators were dependent on the project team to supply electronic versions of documents for review. After the evaluators had to repeatedly request the project team and respondents for documents, a number of the documents came late or lacked sufficient data. The evaluation used project reports that were provided up to 04 February 2022. Project reports after this period could no longer be verified by the evaluators and therefore not considered.

49. There were no opportunities to physically validate findings at project sites and observe the community seed bank, the crops, the seeds and the interaction of farmers among each other. The evaluators had to rely on the observations of other stakeholders, the project reports including photographs, the evaluation team's technical experience and knowledge of the sites, and discussions with indigenous peoples to mitigate the limitation.

50. The number of farmer participants for the virtual FGDs were limited as part of compliance to health protocols and lockdown policies in various communities, as of December 2021. While there were clear criteria set for sampling, farmers' availability, vaccination status, and personal circumstances related to their and their family's health, limited participation to a few select individuals. Likewise, there could be bias towards better off beneficiaries who had more access to communications or had been able to articulate themselves more fully virtually, and in Filipino. The combination of FGDs/KII and individual story telling off-set some of these risks.

51. The timing of the evaluation was near the Christmas holidays and upcoming national and local elections, which meant tight scheduling to ensure availabity of all the respondents. Therefore, support and timely arrangemements made by the FAO Philippines office, in particular the PMCU and the government partners, proved crucial.

52. To further mitigate the above limitations, the evaluators repatedly triangulated the findings from the project documents with the various stakeholders and crossed-referenced these using a number of evaluation tools.

3. Background and context of the project

Box 1 Basic project information

- GEF Project ID Number: 5549
- Recipient country: Philippines
- Implementing Agency: FAO
- Executing Agency: FAO
- Date of project start and expected end: 01 May 2016 – 31 December 2021
- Date of Mid-Term Evaluation: September 2019

Box 2 .The Project's Executive Summary:

"The project will conserve globally important agrobiodiversity (of rice, mungbean, taro, yam, banana, Manila hemp and others) in traditional agroecosystems. It will have an agroecosystem and landscape perspective, maintaining the provision of ecosystem services on which ABD (agrobiodiversity) conservation depends, and addressing threats originating in the broader landscape. It will help ensure favourable policy conditions; consolidate community-based governance; strengthen technical and organizational capacities at individual and community levels; promote market-based incentives for ABD conservation; and create conditions for further nationwide replication[9]".

53. Maintaining 5% of the world's flora, including more than 9,000 endemic plant species, the Philippines is recognized as one of the world's megadiverse countries and a designated global biodiversity hotspot. The country is home to more than 52,177 described species of plants, animals and microorganisms, of which more than half are found nowhere else in the world. The Philippines forms part of one of the six areas identified worldwide by GEF as priority genetic reserve locations for wild relatives of agricultural crops.[10] Most notably, it is home to more than 5,500 traditional rice varieties and four of their wild relatives. In addition, the country has a broad spectrum of indigenous and endemic species of vegetable and fruit crops including indigenous varieties of eggplants and cucurbits, mungbean, winged bean and soybeans, taro and yam, as well as indigenous varieties of banana among many others.[11] The indigenous fibre crop abaca is another prominent example of Philippine wealth of agrobiodiversity.

[9] PRODOC PHI062

[10] GEF6 Programming Directions, Annex VI.

[11] The Country Report on the state of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, 2007) provides a detailed breakdown agricultural species and varieties.

54. This project supports the Government of the Philippines to conserve globally important agrobiodiversity in traditional agro-ecosystems in the country through promotion of dynamic conservation practices with the intention of upscaling results and approaches on a wider scale. The objective of the project is "to enhance, expand and sustain the dynamic conservation practices that sustain globally significant agricultural biodiversity in traditional agro-ecosystems of the Philippines".

55. The project was designed to consist of three interlinked and mutually reinforcing components:

- Mainstreaming agrobiodiversity considerations into policy and legal frameworks, development strategies and institutional structures; the intended result is a favourable enabling environment for the implementation of management and conservation strategies at ground level;
- Pilot activities to enhance and expand dynamic conservation practices for agrobiodiversity in three pilot communities; the intended results are the direct on-site benefits for agricultural biodiversity conservation in prioritised pilot sites through the creation of capacities among farmers, local authorities and others, as well as generating experiences with potential for informing policy makers and being scaled up;
- Dissemination of information, awareness raising and preparation for scaling-up; the focus is on the knowledge management, combining the experiences and knowledge generated in the pilot sites with that resulting from other experiences and/or available in the literature, in order to raise awareness among key actors and to inform the policy work under Component 1 in an iterative manner. This awareness raising is also intended to contribute to the feasibility of market-based approaches to agricultural biodiversity conservation proposed under Component 2.

56. The project ran for 5.5 years (from 01 July 2016 to 31 December 2021), inclusive of a budget neutral extension. The total budget is USD 13,701,955 with USD 2,182,631 financed by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and USD 11,519,324 in pledged co-financing from the Philippine government. The project is managed by FAO Philippines office, with the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) acting as the Lead Coordinating Agency for the project, and has several collaborating institutions, including Local Government Units (LGUs) in Ifugao and South Cotabato.

57. The project management and coordinating unit (PMCU) has 11 consultants for project coordination, training, part time communications, municipal and provincial coordination, enterprise development, administration and finance, including policy and legal expertise. The PMCU is supported by technical staff from the country office and the regional office, including support for monitoring and evaluation, communications, administration and finance at country level. Those involved in the project have agriculture and project management related expertise. There is no agricultural biodiversity conservation and sustainable use expertise, or an expert on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the project team.

58. The project has 17 pilot sites across three municipalities in two provinces: Hungduan and Hingyon in the province of Ifugao located on the island of Luzon, and Lake Sebu in South Cotabato province on the southern part of the island of Mindanao. Hungduan, Hingyon and Lake Sebu are ancestral domains of indigenous peoples and cultural heritage sites. In addition, Lake Sebu is part of a protected area. Farmer partners involved in the project are mostly indigenous peoples. The project is focused on rice, mungbean, taro, abaca, yam, banana and eggplant.

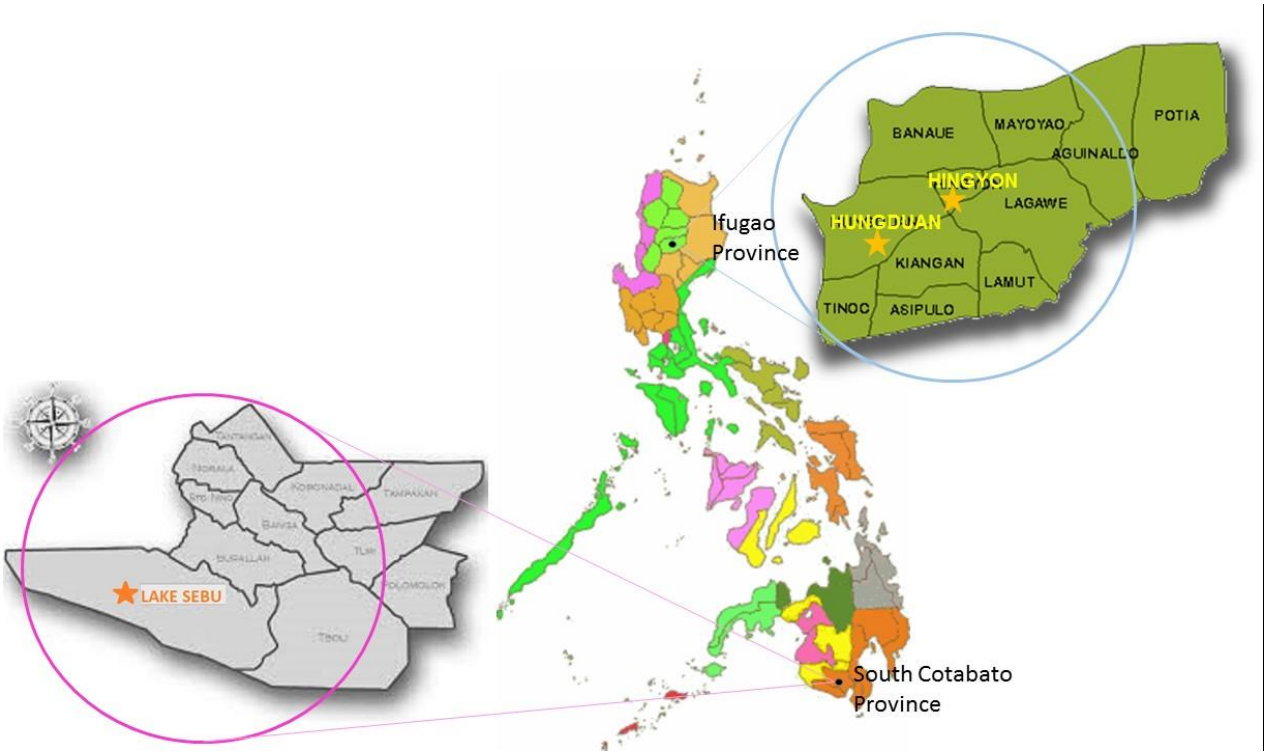

Figure 1. Project sites in HIngyon, Ifugao, Hungduan, Ifugao, And Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

59. In terms of change of context, the Philippines elections have often ushered in major changes in politically appointed leaderships. In 2019, the Philippines held midterm elections for all local government positions at municipal and provincial level, congressional representatives and half of senatorial seats. For example, in the course of project implementation. the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) changed twice while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) changed Secretary thrice. This change in leadership at national and local levels could have shifted interests and support to the project and accounted for a number of delays in the project implementation. This is beyond the control of the project.

60. The Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the project was conducted in May 2019, nearly 3 years into the originally 4-year project. The MTR's overall assessment of the project was **Satisfactory**, concluding. *"The project suffered significant delays early in implementation and other challenges, although the project has delivered some important results by the MTR point, particularly on Component 2, e.g., construction of all 17 of the CSBs, project activities to support adding value to agricultural biodiversity crops and their commercialisation, with important capacity building, especially for local communities including indigenous peoples' groups. The other components (1 and 3) have delivered some results, e.g., inclusion of indigenous and traditional agricultural biodiversity in amendment to the Seed Act, but are likely to deliver much more in coming 12-18 months. Overall, the MTR feels that the project team is doing a good job delivering a complex challenging project with a small GEF budget*". A summary of the FAO's Management Response to the MTR recommendations, and the corresponding assessment of

how the agreed actions have been implemented by the project, as assessed by the evaluators, are found in Appendix 5.

3.1 Theory of Change

61. Whilst the project design provided diverse and extensive analysis on the drivers of agricultural biodiversity loss, the intervention logic singled out that ***"The principal underlying barrier to the effective conservation of agricultural biodiversity in the Philippines is the inadequate appreciation of the full socio-economic and cultural value of traditional varieties.*** *Benefits derived from agricultural biodiversity include superior nutritional value, cultural significance, and higher resilience against shocks like pests, invasive alien species, and extreme weather events"*[12]. The project prioritized traditional rice varieties and assumed that the farmers will conserve traditional rice varieties if they value them through deriving (higher) income through their marketing. The project further assumes that by increasing rice production, through improved agronomy and through increasing the number of traditional rice varieties planted by the farmers, they will sell more rice and therefore, value and conserve the traditional rice varieties. The project's ToC is centred around these assumptions and the corresponding interventions of removing the barrier of inadequate appreciation of agrobiodiversity. For component 1, the project's assumption is that by creating awareness amongst policy makers this will lead to favourable policy for the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity. Hence, the project activities and outputs focused on building an enabling policy environment and legal frameworks to promote traditional varieties, and adopting a coordinated approach amongst key institutions from national to local levels. For component 2, the project assumes that creating capacity for the community-based conservation of agrobiodiversity amongst farmers, and creating market opportunities for traditional varieties, this would also lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity. Hence, the project activities and outputs centred on community genebanks, farmer training on conservation, seeds management and processing, and packaging of agrobiodiversity for the market. For component 3, the project assumes that consumer awareness on the superior nutritional value of agricultural biodiversity will lead to consumer support, willingness to pay (WTP) and scaling up of agrobiodiversity conservation and use. Hence, the project activities and outputs focus on information dissemination.

62. The project interventions are projected to lead to the removal of barriers to the conservation of agricultural biodiversity, and thus lead to "the dynamic conservation practices that sustain globally significant agricultural biodiversity in traditional agro-ecosystems of the Philippines".

63. In terms of GEF's institutional and governance additionality, the ToC postulates that a solid basis in terms of knowledge and research, combined with an initial momentum at the political level, already exists amongst the key governmental institutions on environment (DENR), agriculture (DA-BAR) and cultural heritage (National Commission on Indigenous Peoples or NCIP). GEF's funding will be used to leverage for the enhancement of agrobiodiversity conservation. By channelling and adjusting highly fragmented mechanisms that are already in place, the investment of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in the pilot sites will illustrate approaches to turn the underappreciated value of agrobiodiversity into economic profits for local farmers.

[12] PRODOC PHI062

64. In terms of GEF's global environmental additionality, the project postulates that by creating awareness, capacity and market incentives for traditional varieties, this will incrementally contribute to the conservation of agrobiodiversity. This would lead to the benefits derived from agrobiodiversity including superior nutritional value, cultural significance, and higher resilience against shocks like pests, invasive alien species, and extreme weather events. In addition, GEF's support is aligned with two legally binding international agreements to which the Philippines is a signatory country: the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Evaluation Team's initial observations on the Theory of Change

65. From the evaluator's analysis, the project's ToC has a few technical blind spots with regards to the agrobiodiversity approach of the project. Firstly, whilst the conservation of traditional varieties is very important; the farmers need to adapt their (traditional and modern) plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) to rapidly changing environmental and market conditions. These changes cannot be ignored. For instance, it is increasingly documented that around the world, farmers and indigenous peoples, including from the Philippines, are combining early maturing cultivars to manage climate variability such as erratic rainfall and insect population dynamics. In this regard, the project's conservation approach, without adaptation and improvements through e.g., crop breeding, may be rather limited. Hence, the project's central hypothesis that agrobiodiversity conservation is primarily an issue of a lack of recognition on the value of agricultural biodiversity needs to be balanced with a scientific perspective. Secondly, the project assumes, without varietal testing, that traditional varieties and landraces[13] remain resilient to the increasingly virulent pests and diseases, and extreme climate shocks such as droughts. Thirdly, the project does not sufficiently factor in land use issues and simply assumes that the limitations of the traditional varieties and landraces are on the demand side, but does not address the supply side. For example, the temporal increase in production of traditional rice varieties is highly limited given the photoperiod sensitivity[14] of traditional rice varieties. This means that planting can only be for one cropping season annually, unlike modern varieties that can have at 2-3 growing seasons. Thereby, while the production of traditional rice varieties can be improved, the significant increase in production would require spatial expansion of land use, which may not be feasible; nor desirable.

66. Lastly, the ToC lacks a perspective on addressing peoples' vulnerabilities to shocks (e.g., climate change impacts to which the Philippine is one of the most vulnerable countries globally), trends (e.g., market supply and demand) and seasonality (e.g., agricultural calendar, lean and season of plenty, labour demand). The evaluation will further consider how a more comprehensive approach to agrobiodiversity management would include: (i) not only agrobiodiversity conservation through storage and continued planting but also through varietal improvement in the context of dynamic

[13] "Farmers' varieties/landraces are often genetically and phenotypically heterogeneous and adapted to the environmental conditions of the area of cultivation and are associated with traditional farming systems. Farmers' varieties/landraces have often developed their characteristics through adaptation to local agro-environments and repeated *in situ* grower selection in traditional farming systems" (CGRFA, 2019). my783en.pdf (fao.org)

[14] Photoperiod sensitivity is defined as the developmental responses of plants to the relative lengths of light and dark periods and confers on many plant species the ability to adapt to a range of growing season periods by means of adjusting flowering time. Traditional rice varieties follow the natural occurring length of lights and dark period and therefore have longer period of maturity as compared to modern varieties.

food systems and needs of indigenous peoples; (ii) a more holistic support to farmers/indigenous peoples agrobiodiversity management that looks at use and management of both traditional and modern crops and varieties for food security and livelihood; and (iii) integrated agrobiodiversity management to include community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and response to climate impacts.

4. Key findings by evaluation questions

4.1 Relevance

Evaluation Question 1 (Relevance): To what extent has the project's objectives and design been consistent with the Philippine government's and local priorities; to the GEF's strategic priorities and objectives, FAO's strategic programmes, and adds value to the dynamic conservation and use of critical agrobiodiversity, including global environmental benefits? Overall Rating: **Satisfactory**

Finding 1: The project's objective regarding the dynamic conservation and use of critical agrobiodiversity is highly relevant and aligned with the global, national and local level policies and priorities. Specifically, (i) the project is consistent to two complementary and legally binding international obligations, to which the Philippines is a Contracting Party. In addition, the project correspondingly aligns with GEF's biodiversity strategy; (ii) at the **national level**, the project's objective supports the Philippine government's National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2015-2028; (iii) for the **local level** implementation of this Action Plan, the project is supportive to the local government units, local communities and indigenous peoples and (iv) for **FAO**, the project is aligned with Philippine Country Strategy of FAO in its support to the Philippine Development Plan. In addition, the project supports and/or complements a number of FAO global programmes and initiatives that are of relevance to the project.

67. At the global level, the project is aligned with the UN's **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),** "Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011–2020", particularly Target 13 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets[15]: *"By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity."*

68. The project is also aligned with the UN FAO's **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)**; specifically: Article 5.1 …*"…Contracting Parties where appropriate, promote an integrated approach to the exploration, **conservation and sustainable use** of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture";* Articles 6.1 "*The Contracting Parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*"; Article 6.2.f "*supporting, as appropriate, the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to… agricultural development in order to reduce crop vulnerability and genetic*

[15] The CBD (2011). "Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets" Available at**:** The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (cbd.int)

erosion… and promote increased world food production compatible with sustainable development". Article 9 states on **Farmers' Rights**, specifically Article 9.1 *"The Contracting Parties recognize the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world"*; and Article 9.2 *"…each Contracting Party should, as appropriate, and subject to its national legislation, take measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights, including: a) protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*[16]*."*

69. In compliance with Article 6 of the CBD, the Philippine government has formulated the **National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2015-2028**[17]; as the principal instrument for implementing CBD in the country. Anchored on the Philippine Development Plan, the vision for the national biodiversity strategic action plan is that *"By 2028, biodiversity is restored and rehabilitated, valued, effectively managed and secured, maintaining ecosystem services to sustain healthy, resilient Filipino communities and delivering benefits to all."* The plan emphasized the importance of agrobiodiversity in protecting and promoting the use of traditional crop varieties as well as enhancing people's livelihoods. Within this strategic action plan, the Philippine government has committed to the establishment of at least 10 nationally recognized agricultural heritage systems. The corresponding policies and programmes to support and recognize communities practicing heritage agriculture are to be formulated and mainstreamed into the plans of the Local Government Units.

70. The project's objective is aligned with the **GEF's 2018-2022 Biodiversity Strategy**[18], as agreed in the CBD CoP 13. This is in particular relating to the conservation and sustainable use through farmer management and adaptation of plant genetic resources that meet the needs of rural communities, (including indigenous peoples and local communities, especially women), who often depend on agricultural biodiversity for their livelihoods through its contribution to food security and nutrition. GEF supports the mainstreaming of (agro)biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes. In addition, the GEF's strategy supports the capacity development and the development of policy and institutional framework for the conservation and sustainable use of (agro) biodiversity; also, in alignment to the ITPGRFA. In this regard, the objectives of the project respond to the GEF's institutional and governance additionality, including global environmental benefits.

71. The project's objective is aligned with the **FAO Philippines country strategy**[19] related to the improvement in agricultural productivity within ecological limits and increasing agricultural-based enterprises focusing on the intensification of value chains and equitable use of natural resources (e.g., agrobiodiversity). Globally, the project supports and/or complements a number of existing FAO programmes and initiatives of relevance to the project including the: (i) implementation of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) initiative; (ii) implementation of the Second

[16] International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2001. *Texts of The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome, FAO. Available at: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i0510e.pdf
[17] https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ph/ph-nbsap-v3-en.pdf
[18] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF_Biodiversity_Strategy_2018_v2.pdf
[19] FAO (2018). "FAO Country Programming Framework. Philippines 2018-2024" Available at: . The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (cbd.int)

Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; (iii) contribution to State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture; (iv) Climate Smart Agriculture; (v) FAO policy on indigenous and tribal peoples; (vi) Zero Hunger Challenge; (vii) Regional initiatives on Rice.

Finding 2: **The project design is conceptually highly innovative, relevant, and potentially adds value to the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity**. Using Local and Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems[20] as a basis, the project aimed to conserve globally important agrobiodiversity in traditional agro-ecosystems. Hence, potentially inter-linking agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use from plant genetics, farm level and to landscape levels.

72. The project's proposed interventions were designed to *"critically complement, adjust and improve ongoing government programmes and consolidate fragmented efforts related to agricultural biodiversity into a coherent and strategic approach to agricultural biodiversity conservation*". The project aims to provide a proof of concept on how to dynamically conserve and use agrobiodiversity within the perimeters of protected and biodiversity rich agro-ecosystems. Lake Sebu and Ifugao are major biodiversity hotspots and Ifugao is a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Site (GIAHS). They are outstanding examples as to why the Philippines is recognized as one of the world's megadiverse countries, including a diversity of agricultural species and varieties that are relevant to food and agriculture, and recognized as of major global importance. The project aims to conserve and use critically important agrobiodiversity such as rice, mungbean, taro, yam, banana, Manila hemp (abaca) through an agroecosystem and landscape perspective, maintaining the provision of ecosystem services on which agrobiodiversity conservation depends, and addressing threats originating in the broader landscape. The project aimed to integrate favourable policy conditions; consolidate community-based governance; strengthen technical and organizational capacities at individual and community levels; promote market-based incentives for agrobiodiversity conservation; and create conditions for further nationwide replication. Such a unique model is highly relevant not only to the Philippines but also globally, particularly for the Contracting Parties of the CBD and the ITPGRFA.

73. The policy component of the project is well designed with the inclusion of a systematic analysis of relevant policies and laws in the Philippines related to agriculture, environment, education, culture, and indigenous peoples. This provides different pathways for possible mainstreaming and uptake for policy support to agricultural biodiversity conservation. In addition, during implementation, multi-stakeholder consultations at national and local levels were conducted to identify policy gaps to correspondingly formulate policy options and tools for the discussion and approval of the project stakeholders and government departments.

74. The project is designed to generate awareness, develop capacities and improve the market incentives for traditional varieties. Outreach or targeted knowledge products and knowledge sharing schemes to other indigenous cultural communities were not included in the design, except via existing

[20] Anchoring on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS), the project pushed for the creation of Locally and Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (LIAHS, NIAHS) - these are remarkable land use systems and landscapes which are rich in nationally and locally significant biological diversity, traditional knowledge, invaluable cultures sustainably managed by farmers, herders, fisherfolk, and forest people in ways that contribute to their livelihoods, food security and sustainable development. The Ifugao rice terraces is a recognized GIAHS. See https://www.fao.org/giahs/en/

knowledge sharing initiatives of partner agencies. For example, the inclusion of agrobiodiversity and indigenous farming knowledge in education curriculum of indigenous peoples is an additional content to an already existing indigenous curriculum.

75. The project design directly targeted only 1,000 small holders and indigenous peoples, and indirectly 4,000 beneficiaries for knowledge sharing programmes of partners that are implementing complementary projects in the areas. For a project with a budget of over USD 13.7 million, the target beneficiary numbers is disproportionately small.

76. The project identified climate change and variability as barriers to agricultural biodiversity conservation but these were not factored in project design, which focused instead on maintenance of diverse traditional varieties, in contrast to depending on a limited range of high yielding varieties. The project missed scoping for crop improvement of traditional varieties, as part of conservation of traditional varieties (genetics and preferred traits) and as a climate resilience strategy. The project also missed the potential of leveraging agrobiodiversity for community-based disaster risks reduction and management.

Finding 3: **The changes in project design in the course of implementation were based on untested assumptions and weak diagnosis.** Some of the project interventions have not necessarily addressed the drivers of biodiversity loss. As such, the technical design and expected results may not be fully relevant and appropriate in meeting the agrobiodiversity needs of men and women farmers and indigenous communities.

77. A major change in the project design is the omission of the landscape approach in the conservation and sustainable use of the project's crop focus. Originally the project intended to have a *"landscape perspective, maintaining the provision of ecosystem services on which agrobiodiversity conservation depends, and addressing threats originating in the broader landscape*[21]*"*. As a proof of concept on the dynamic conservation and use of agrobiodiversity within e.g., NIAS, the project did not include a process to systematically analyse the project's results for developing, improving, sustaining and scaling up models for the dynamic conservation and use of agrobiodiversity at landscape levels. The Mid-Term Review concluded that the landscape approach was dropped and should be addressed in the remainder of the project. However, the project had remained silent and had not provided any explanation nor action. As indicated by the GEF-FLO, the GEF coordination unit did not receive a written request from the project and GEF did not provide written approval for the project to omit the landscape approach.

78. Since the project did not include the landscape approach, as it had originally planned, some critical drivers of biodiversity loss such as habitat loss and climate change were not addressed and/or incorporated in areas related to the integrated forest and water basin community management with farmlands, and with indigenous natural resource management and indigenous peoples' agri-food systems. The conservation and sustainable use approach of the project was not fully informed by the complex agrobiodiversity management of the diversity of small holder farmers and indigenous peoples.

[21] PRODOC PHI062

79. Another major change in design was from community-based systems for production and management of planting materials (community genebank)[22] to the prescribed 17 community seed banks. In the design phase, the nature of the community genebank were meant to be dependent on farmers'/communities' decision in each location. The original project idea is to complement the DA community seed banks, which were linked to local seed systems and with the national genebank. The project's community genebank was originally planned to include seed maintenance, such as planting small quantities of seeds to ensure that samples are of quality and can made available for exchange. There were options for Hingyon to build on a network of farmers with mapping out the varieties planted within their communities. The shift in design from user demand genebank to 17 project-prescribed seedbanks was not guided by a systematic baseline to diagnose the state of crop genetic erosion and associated loss of indigenous knowledge systems, nor by an analysis of the local and indigenous seed systems and any indication of seed shortage of the selected crops in the project areas. In addition, the establishment of the community seed banks were not guided by the formation of evidence as to the priority needs, crop and varietal trait preferences and traditional knowledge on seed selection and storage by the men and women indigenous peoples. The 17 community seed banks were a major component of the project design but did not have clear and measurable agricultural biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives.

80. The project's marketing design was only informed by a broad scoping study. Specific business feasibility studies had not been conducted to assess the supply and demand side and return on investment (ROI). This is a deviation from the initial project design that proposed for detailed market valuation analyses for specific traditional varieties, products and labels, including types of products, certification schemes that were intended to result in high return on investment[23].

81. In an effort to be relevant locally, the project supported practices and policies which were not aligned to the agricultural biodiversity conservation objective of the project. For example, the project supported synchronous farming for efficient water use and pest population management. However, synchronous farming does not take into full consideration the risks associated with increasingly erratic weather patterns and severe natural disasters. Under these erratic weather patterns, the use of a diversity of crops and crop varieties with different stages of maturity may offer better climate adaptation and resilience strategies for the communities.

4.2 Effectiveness

Evaluation Question 2 (Effectiveness): To what extent has the project's objectives been achieved and were there any unintended results? How have the results demonstrated the project's contribution to the dynamic conservation and use of critical agrobiodiversity?

Overall Rating: **Moderately Satisfactory**

[22] PRODOC PHI062
[23] PRODOC. PHI062

Finding 4. (Component 1): The project has made impressive headways towards achieving its policy objectives. The project has significantly contributed to addressing the fragmentation of institutional structures that are crucial to the formulation and implementation of agrobiodiversity policies and laws in the Philippines. The project was able to bring the various key institutional actors at national and local levels through an experiential and awareness raising process of working towards agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and in the process, also motivating key institutional actors to support enabling policies.

The overall rating for Component 1 is **Satisfactory.**

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened policy and legal framework defining a national approach to agrobiodiversity and guiding the design and implementation of corresponding activities at national and local level:

82. The project developed and steered processes for cross-cutting and intersectional policies (see Outcome Harvesting Table in Appendix 10). This is a considerable achievement, given that at national level, there is no overarching policy framework to align the project. Agrobiodiversity relates to the mandates of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Even within the DA, there is no focal agency that provides oversight and direction for national agrobiodiversity work. The project strategically identified and anchored its approach on key policy frameworks and then explored potential headways within existing plans and policies. For example, under the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2015-2028[24], the Philippine's commitment to the CBD, (result Number 15) indicates setting up of at least 10 nationally recognized agricultural heritage systems (NIAHS). The project pushed for a Joint Memorandum Circular of DA, DENR, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), NCIP on the rules and regulations for joint confirmation, declaration and recognition of NIAHS. This is an important policy instrument that can be used by local government units, local communities, indigenous peoples and other relevant actors to leverage support from government agencies for community initiatives on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use by having the landscape/system declared as nationally important agricultural heritage systems. The project further worked to operationalize this commitment by setting up the 3 pilot municipalities as NIAHS. In particular, this included supporting the drafting of ordinances and necessary documentation for submission and deliberation in the local councils for the local recognition as Locally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites (LIAHS).

83. Aside from NIAHS, the project led and supported the development of progressive policies that highlighted the importance of farmers and indigenous peoples' agricultural biodiversity and associated knowledge systems. Over a two-year period, the project convened different stakeholders to agree on proposed amendments to the Philippine Republic Act 7308 or the "National Seed Industry Development Act". This has resulted to the inclusion and equal recognition for the informal/farmer seed systems in seed industry development.

84. The project made progress towards mainstreaming agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use by exploring intersectional policies straddling in the domains of agriculture, environment, indigenous peoples and culture. This is exemplified by the Joint Memorandum Order on the Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Agrobiodiversity within the National Convergence

[24] https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ph/ph-nbsap-v3-en.pdf

Initiative (NCI) Framework. This mainstreamed agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use within the existing policy framework of the National Convergence Initiative – the government's response to the fragmented delivery of rural development services. Specifically, the project proposed traditional agroecosystems to be equally prioritized as convergence areas25; and that the components of NCI address the concerns and challenges of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

85. At the local level, aside from local resolutions directly supporting the project and its implementation in the different barangays and municipalities of Hungduan and Hingyon in Ifugao and Lake Sebu in South Cotabato, the project was able to mainstream agricultural biodiversity in the local executive and legislative agenda of South Cotabato 2020-2022, thereby providing the local government with a pathway to focus and undertake agricultural development in the uplands by working with farmers and indigenous communities and their agricultural biodiversity.

86. Without diminishing the policy accomplishments of the project, evidence from the outcome harvesting, FGDs and SSIs point to a disconnect between policy work (component 1) and the community-based work on agrobiodiversity (component 2), especially in synthesising and harnessing the community experiences to inform policy. This has resulted to some gaps and/or areas of concern, especially as some of the policies are still pending approval. One of the most significant changes brought by the project, as articulated by communities, is the communities' sense of identity and recognition accorded to them by government agencies. However, the SIDA amendment did not make specific mention of indigenous people's contribution and the need for their representation and participation in the policy and programme co-creation.

87. The project's support for the DA circular on registration of traditional varieties has yet to ensure that indigenous peoples and their agrobiodiversity are protected against potential misappropriation. There is no provision for clear Material Transfer Agreement (MTA)[26] and Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)[27] mechanisms for farmers and indigenous peoples. The project's support to the DA registration is without provisions for the indigenous peoples to develop their own form of varietal registry system[28] that is aligned with their customary laws and practices. This could be biased against the

[25] The Convergence areas are identified by the different Departments using the ridge to reef approach. The four Departments undertake joint planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a jointly crafted convergence area development plan (see Outcome Harvesting Table).

[26] Material Transfer Agreements are legal instruments that define terms for the transfer of tangible biological materials between or among two or more parties. MTAs are bailments that transfer possession but not title: the party who transfers the materials retains full ownership; the party who receives the materials holds them in trust. Transfer is governed by contract, ideally specifying the term of the transfer, how the materials may and may not be used, and other related issues, such as confidentiality. In addition, an MTA may contain licensing provisions for the transfer of embedded intellectual property (IP) rights (patent rights). Source: http://www.iphandbook.org/handbook/ch07/p03/

[27] Access and benefit-sharing (ABS) refers to the way in which genetic resources (in this case seeds) may be accessed, and how the benefits that result from their use are shared between the people or countries using the resources (users) and the people or countries that provide them (providers). https://www.cbd.int/abs/infokit/revised/web/all-files-en.pdf

[28] A community registry system of locally bred varieties is an option for farmers/indigenous peoples under the Plant Variety Protection Act of the Philippines (see Sec 72 https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2002/06/07/republic-act-no-9168/) . Likewise under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, indigenous peoples have the right for special measures to control, develop and protect their sciences, technologies and cultural manifestations, including human and other genetic resources, seeds, including derivatives of these resources, traditional medicines and health practices, vital medicinal plants, animals and

indigenous peoples and may lead to infringement of indigenous peoples rights under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

Outcome 1.2: Enhanced institutional coordination and capacity to effectively address cross-sectoral issues of agrobiodiversity:

88. The project's institutional formation – the project coordinating committees (PCC) from national, provincial to local level - were catalytic in the successful achievement of its policy objectives. While the PCCs were designed to guide project direction and address concerns, they also created a policy space where the different institutions can discuss supporting a common agenda (i.e., the project). This included exploring enabling policies and mainstreaming agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use within existing organizational policies, plans and programmes. The project was able to convene the various institutional actors to cooperate on agrobiodiversity conservation. This was articulated by the various actors interviewed in the SSIs. They highlighted the project's contribution in strengthening institutional relationships between and amongst agencies. Some acknowledged that agrobiodiversity was not on their radar prior to the project, but is now incorporated in their local plans and programmes in agriculture and even in tourism. The various institutional actors in the PCCs were able to identify the policy spaces where agrobiodiversity can be incorporated into their respective institutional agendas.

89. The project also stirred interest and conversations among the members of its PCC who are also in parallel initiatives such as the DA-DENR Joint Administrative Order 2021-01 "Mainstreaming Biodiversity Friendly Agricultural Practices in and Around Protected Areas and Promoting the Same in Wider Agricultural Landscapes". While this is not a direct output of the project and the project has no direct influence on the formulation, the project monitored the development of the Joint Administrative Order as some project sites are located within protected areas and the institutions involved also had exposure from the project.

Finding 5: (Component 2). The project has made progress in contributing towards the planning and governance mechanisms. The most tangible results are the local resolutions in support of the project and the sense of ownership and commitment amongst the stakeholders. The project has made limited contributions to enhance and expand the dynamic conservation practices for agrobiodiversity in three pilot communities. As discussed in the later findings sections, the community seed banks, demonstration farms and farm machinery had so far demonstrated limited functionality and limited uptake from the farmers. Likewise, the volume and sales of agrobiodiversity products have so far been very small and have not yet indicated financial viability, whilst the marketing links to agrobiodiversity awareness have been minimal.

The overall rating for component 2 is **Moderately Unsatisfactory.**

minerals, indigenous knowledge systems and practices, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literature, designs, and visual and performing arts (see Section 34 https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1997/10/29/republic-act-no-8371/).

Outcome 2.1: Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity is supported by planning and governance mechanisms:

Finding 6: With regards to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity being supported by planning and governance mechanisms, **municipal resolutions supporting the project had been issued, followed by the issuance of Executive Orders creating the Municipal Coordinating Councils and Technical Working Groups for the eventual establishment of LIAHS**. The project organized and/or revived more than 10 peoples' organizations, farmers associations and women's groups within and across communities.

90. From FGDs with farmer leaders and from about 10% of the 21 farmer respondents to the Most Significant Change exercise, management and leadership of organizations was identified as one of the most significant changes brought by the project. At the local level, all the 17-pilot barangays issued resolutions to support the project activities. In addition, the LGUs allocated co-financing (in kind and services) from other projects that potentially complement the project such as the distribution of farm tools, vegetable seeds and support to organic farming. The LGUs cautioned that the formalities are important prerequisites, but these do not a guarantee sustained implementation. The coming election in May 2022 could trigger change in elected officials and local leadership.

91. The formal resolutions are important milestones, which also demonstrate the ownership and commitments of the local government officials. The ownership and commitment were also expressed in the FGDs and KIIs of the evaluation. Moreover, the project contributed to the establishment of leadership skills and confidence amongst the indigenous men and women.

92. In addition, the project's compliance to Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) right at the start of the project was good practice. This helped facilitate ownership and commitment amongst the indigenous communities. Although NCIP monitored FPIC implementation, the evaluation noted significant gaps in the provisions contained in the FPIC and in the implementation as discussed in the ESS risk section. Aside from the formal certificate and administrative report, the project did not document the process and thematic content of the FPIC proceedings and subsequent monitoring. Hence, valuable lessons were not captured, which could have been part of the global environmental additionality of the project.

<u>Outcome 2.2:</u> Traditional varieties are maintained in community gene banks:

Finding 7: Whilst the Mid Term Review assessed the establishment of the 17 Community Seed Banks (CSBs) in 2018 as a major achievement of the project, **the evaluation finds that for the actual implementation, the community seed banks had not been fully functional and are under-utilised.** With regards to the traditional varieties being maintained in community seed/genebank, the rationale for the prescription, design, and actual utilization of the seed/community genebank have indicated limited results.

93. The evaluation questions the project's assessment that *"The threat of losing the Traditional Rice Varieties (TRVs) has been addressed through the completion, turn-over and utilization of 17 CSBs for the storage of seeds and availability during planting, seed exchanges among farmers, and as genetic*

materials stored in small quantities both through in-situ and ex-situ conservation[29]". This claim is not supported by evidence. The claim seems technically flawed in addressing the drivers of agrobiodiversity loss and the corresponding needs of the indigenous peoples; nor have the CSBs leveraged the available indigenous knowledge for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). The following paragraphs set out the problems associated with the community seed banks:

Finding 8: Key diagnostic activities, which should inform the rationale and design of the CSBs, were not prioritised and are only being done towards the end of the project implementation. Without a proper diagnosis, it is not possible to define the solid rationale, objectives and operations of the seedbank. The project document originally planned for 3 Community Seed Banks and 3 seed stores[30] but in year 2, this was quickly expanded to prescribing one Community Seed Bank for each of the 17 barangays of the project.

94. *Firstly*, the project did not conduct a participatory baseline study on e.g., the farmers' PGRFA management, particularly for rice-based farming systems within the landscapes of Ifugao and Lake Sebu. A baseline study could also had enabled more farmers, outside the project's narrow range of the 1000 direct beneficiaries, to provide inputs. Hence, adding more rigour to the study as well as improving inclusivity. *Secondly,* the farmers' profiles are yet to be completed at the time of this terminal evaluation; peoples' vulnerability assessments have not been conducted; gender analysis and women's PGRFA knowledge and trait preferences have not been established. *Thirdly*, there is no systematic diagnosis and community consultations with regards to the needs and priorities of the indigenous communities for the conservation and sustainable use of TRVs and the broader agrobiodiversity. Also, the mutual complementarities between the CSBs and the very important and continuing indigenous practice of household seed storage were not explored. So far, there are no assessments of people's seed systems and seed security, nor has there been an indication of rice seed shortages. CSBs cannot exist in a vacuum and needs to be link with seed systems.

95. The project conducted four cell analysis[31] to rapidly assess the amount and distribution of crop diversity within farming communities and this took into account richness and evenness aspects of inter- or intra specific diversity. The results of the four-cell analysis were not used to analyse the underlying criteria and rationale of farmers' trait preferences and decision making in their PGRFA management. If the four-cell analysis had been used, it could have helped to concretize the farmers' objectives for the agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

[29] Project Implementation Report 1 July-25 October 2021.

[30] Prodoc PHI062

[31] Four-cell analysis is a participatory tool to facilitate systematic analysis of farmers logic of extent and distribution of local crop diversity; and to identify common, unique and rare plant genetic resources so that the community and professionals can develop diversified livelihood options and conservation plans. Source: https://www.bioversityinternational.org/fileadmin/user_upload/online_library/publications/pdfs/On-farm_management_of_agricultural_biodivesity_in_Nepal_Good_Practices_revised_edition_2012_1222_.pdf

Finding 9: The project's rationale in relation to the purpose[32] of conservation and use of traditional varieties remains unclear. This is being manifested in the lack of focus in the operations of the Community Seed Banks, a key component of the project's on-farm agrobiodiversity conservation strategy.

96. The evaluation's FGDs confirmed that all the indigenous communities preferred traditional rice varieties and these remain highly valued for consumption and are widely planted in the farmers' fields. In the case of abaca, banana, yam and tubers, these are still widely available in the farmers' fields or in the wild. So far, traditional varieties, which farmers may still prefer but they no longer plant, were sourced from other villages. Hence, the need to conserve such varieties in the community seedbanks are unclear. The FGDs also confirmed that there are no pronounced seed shortages; nor any major constraints in the farmers' continuing traditional practice of seed exchanges. Hence, the need for a seed bank, including the established nursery around the seed bank for roots crops and abaca, are also not clear. The project has not established the farmers' perspectives as to why a number of traditional varieties disappeared through their lack of use[33]. This information could be additionally useful to define the objectives and intervention for conservation and use.

97. The Mid-Term Review (MTR) recommended to separate the genebank and the seedbank functions but did not review the rationale, objectives, design and alternatives to community seedbanks. The MTR also did not assess if the community seedbanks are the best pathway to improve and strengthen the existing agricultural biodiversity specific to the project area. The MTR stated that the establishment of the 17 community seed banks was a considerable achievement, and also pointed to the low amount of seeds that are stock in the community seed banks.

98. The project referred to the Free Prior Inform Consent Memorandum of Agreement (FPIC-MOA) with the 3 provinces as basis for the establishment of the 17 community seed banks. There is no supporting technical basis for the establishment of all 17 community seed banks. **First,** each of the three FPIC-MOA stated the establishment and/or repair of "one community seed bank, if deemed necessary". The project's interpretation of one community seedbank for each of the 17 villages, rather than one community seedbank for each of the 3 municipalities, is technically unfounded. There was no technical study to inform decision. **Second,** it is unclear how the project established the "if deemed necessary" clause considering the lack of technical assessment and diagnosis. **Third**, considering the highly demanding operations and maintenance of the community seed bank, it would have been more prudent to pilot a few rather than scale out to 17 all at once. **Fourth**, during KIIs the project team and partners rationalised the difficult terrain and travel distances between the villages as a basis for establishing all 17 seedbanks. This is technically unsound as traditional rice is only grown once a year, and considering that only a small quantity of seeds is needed per hectare. **Fifth**, in the absence of a baseline study, farmers' profile, vulnerability assessments and gender

[32]According to the "CSB Management Training" power point the purpose of the community seedbanks are: Storage of good planting materials/seeds for the next cropping season; Easy access of farmers for seeds/planting material; Facility for conservation and sustainable use of traditional agricultural biodiversity crops; Serves as buffer stock in case of calamity; Provide starter seeds for recovered traditional rice varieties (TRVs) and for those farmers who have no access and cannot afford to buy quality seeds.

[33] For example, from the four cell analysis of traditional rice varieties in Lake Sebu, varieties under threat were those with specific uses or limited use value. However, what those specific uses and limited use value were, were not identified and analysed.

analysis and the systematic consultations with the wider communities, even if the beneficiaries' requested for their own seedbank, as reported by the project, the corresponding project response should be based on technical merits.

99. The projects states that the Community Seed Banks serves as a buffer during calamities. The evaluation finds that the volume of the seed stocks is also low and there are no activities to ensure seed quality and seed multiplication. The PMCU replied[34] that all the seed banks are fully functional despite that the lack of consistent data on which varieties are kept in which Community Seed Bank. There is no information on basic activities relating to the characterisation of the collection, quality control such as seed moisture content, rate of germination, who borrows which varieties and why, etc. Since seeds are experience goods[35] that are so vital to farmers' livelihoods, basic standards in the activities and record keeping for quality control are important. As experience goods, farmers can only ascertain the quality of the seeds once the seeds have been planted and grown. By which time, if the seeds are of bad quality, the livelihoods of the farmers are ruined.

100. A fundamental concern of the evaluation, which was also similarly raised by the MTR, was the lack of clarity of the project's target and well-defined outcomes on conservation and sustainable use with regards to the Community Seed Banks. There were deliberations during TWG meetings[3637] on ownership of the Community Seed Bank, their added value for the communities, and whether what is needed is a genebank (storage for safekeeping of crop and varietal diversity) or seedbank (storage and multiplication of diversity of seed supply). The TWG also noted the absence of the Community Seed Banks reporting.

101. The project did not consider alternative interventions that may be low maintenance, simpler operations, yet potentially effective such as community bio-registers[38] and improved technical support for households and community seed networks and seed exchange. This finding is in light of factors noted above: the diversity of traditional rice varieties is still widely grown in the areas; the proliferation of abaca, banana and root crops on farm and in the wild. In fact, that there are no reported pronounced seed shortages. Furthermore, the Community Seed Bank should have been designed to complement, not replace, the existing indigenous knowledge and practices of household seed selection and storage, and farmer to farmer seed exchange.

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[34] Evaluation Comments Matrix: 24th January 2022. Philippines team feedback on the debrief presentation Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agro-biodiversity in Traditional Agro-ecosystems of the Philippines (GCP/PHI/062/GFF - GEF ID 5549)

[35]This refers to goods and services that are difficult to assess in advance or prior to experiencing the results

[36] 2nd Technical Working Group Minutes of Meeting. 29 July 2019. Sulu Hotel, Quezon City

[37] 3rd Technical Working Group Minutes of Meeting. 29 January 2020. Verjandel Hotel, Quezon City

[38] In general, the community seed registry or community bio-registry is a community curated listing, mapping, registry of crops and varieties in their communities. It can contain characteristics of the varieties, their availability and which household keeps them, every season. The registry serves as reference for the community to know which household has what variety and therefore facilitate seed exchanges. The community also gets a gauge of what seeds are no longer planted, and they can be intentional in sourcing and planting these seeds in the community. Community seed registry is also a tool to protect the farmers seeds from mis-appropriation by placing knowledge in the public domain. The community seed registry recognizes farmers as the developers of the varieties and upholds the principle that seeds should be freely and widely accessed and exchanged. See for an example https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/farmers-rights/inventory-on-frs/news-detail/en/c/810087/

102. In terms of **community participation**, contrary to the global good practices of intensive community participation in the establishment of Community Seed Banks, all the evaluation's FGDs and KIIs confirmed that the various indigenous peoples in the pilot areas felt that they were not adequately consulted on the design, with a few having made minimal labour contribution to the construction of the Community Seed Banks. Local government units or private individuals contributed with land allocation. In compliance with FAO's procurement, the project provided uniform specifications for all the 17 Community Seed Banks. FAO awarded the design and construction of all the 17 Community Seed Banks to one consulting organization: The Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation. The Foundation is highly experienced in environmental work and social enterprises, especially with indigenous peoples, but not in agrobiodiversity conservation or in community seed banks. As widely expressed in the evaluation's FDGs, the uniform specification of all the 17 Community Seed Banks did not leave adequate space for the diverse indigenous peoples to adapt the design according to their needs. For instance, the participants of the FDGs pointed to the lack of smoking facility to prevent insect infestation.

103. The evaluation's FGDs showed that the perceived lack of community participation in the Community Seed Banks construction resulted in a mix sense of ownership amongst the local leaders, the officers and members of the Community Seed Banks. They all found the construction cost expensive. Despite local consultations on the Community Seed Banks, many felt that their local knowledge on preventing rat and insect infestations were not fully considered in the design. In both Ifugao and Lake Sebu, at least two Community Seed Banks were non-functional and empty of seeds due to severe rat infestation at the time of the evaluation. The project stated that the problems had been addressed and the Community Seed Banks are functional based on a December 2019 Back to Office Report. This contradicts the more recent FGDs and KII of the evaluation in December 2021.

Finding 10: In terms of implementation, the low membership, low stock and usage of seeds, low number of rice varieties and the farmers' concern for the reliability and quality of seeds in the community seed bank put into question the viability of the 17 Community Seed Banks.

104. The combined evaluation's FGDs, KIIs and project reports indicated that the seeds deposit and borrowing were low since the establishment of the Community Seed Banks in 2018. There are only 521 members for all the 17 Community Seed Banks, although the CSBs are open to non-members. The number of the traditional rice varieties in each of the Community Seed Banks were only from 5 to 10 varieties. For instance, for 2021, only 138 farmers borrowed seeds in the Community Seed Banks in Lake Sebu; whilst in Ifugao the utilization was negligible with only 7 farmers borrowing seeds from the Community Seed Banks. During the FGDs, the farmers stated that for the quality assurance of their most important livelihoods resource, the indigenous peoples and the farmers prefer to use their own seeds securely kept within their households and those exchanged with other trusted farmers. As seeds are experience goods (see paragraph 61), the farmers' trust in the quality and reliability of seeds are of vital importance for the proper functioning of community seed banks.

105. As noted above, key information and basic data management for the proper functioning of the Community Seed Banks are missing. Moreover, the materials in the Community Seed Banks have not been characterised by the farmers so it is hard to understand what are the conservation and use management agenda of the farmers and indigenous communities. In addition, despite the well-established and recognised indigenous knowledge on plant folk taxonomy and ethnobotany, so far,

the characterisation of the Traditional Rice Varieties is being done by researchers at PhilRice with the assistance of local technicians. Despite the fact that the project is ending, the farmers are yet to be involved in the characterisation; neither have they been able to apply their traditional knowledge. So far, the researcher partners have been using Bioversity International's descriptors lists[39] to characterise the traditional rice varieties. The use of conventional scientific knowledge should be highly useful for the project, but this should complement and not replace traditional and indigenous knowledge.

106. On a positive indication, the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) (September 2021) stated that for Lake Sebu South Cotabato, high numbers of traditional rice varieties have been restored in the pilot areas. For example, in one pilot area, as much as 100 traditional varieties have reportedly been restored. The evaluation cannot confirm nor assess the significance of this achievement given the lack of baseline data and technical reporting on identifying which traditional rice varieties these are, their traits, land areas covered by the restored varieties and what varieties they replaced, if any etc.

107. In terms of the **link between in-situ and ex-situ conservation**, the project kept small quantities of 165 traditional rice varieties as duplicates for safe keeping in the national genebank. However, beyond safe keeping, the project reported that the characterization of these traditional rice varieties is nearly 70% completed by PhilRice[40]. The characterisation includes nutritional analysis. Furthermore, the project endorsed submissions for the **registration** to the Bureau of Plant Industry of the characterised cultivars (13 rice, 1 abaca, 1 maize, 2 banana). However, the collection, storage, characterisation and registration of indigenous and endemic varieties of crops grown by indigenous peoples and the associated traditional knowledge need to follow technical and legal protocols, and be subject to access and benefit sharing mechanisms and be in compliance with the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) provisions. See the Environment and Social Safeguard (See ESS, Finding 32).

108. The Community Seed Banks are used for **multiple secondary purposes** such as serving as a meeting place for the local communities, as a place to store the various farm tools that were distributed by the project, display the products for sale, or as a potential point of interest for eco-tourism. Whist it is good for the CSBs to be multi-functional, the primary purpose of a CSB, as a key agrobiodiversity strategy should take precedence.

109. In addition, the project collaborated with the DA's Philippine Fibre Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) for the technical support for the establishment of 3 **micropropagation chambers** in Lake Sebu including the establishment of the 0.5 ha abaca nursery with two traditional varieties of abaca. The evaluation was not able to find data, nor reporting regarding the rationale under which abaca varieties are being micro-propagated, capacities to operate and maintain the micro-propagation chambers and actual outputs and uptake of the abaca seedlings. The project did mention that certain species of abaca are at the risk of extinction but did not provide details. If the

[39] A derived standard for the uniform documentation (data description, collection and record-keeping) and protocols to facilitate the international data management, exchange and use of plant resources. Available at: Descriptors (bioversityinternational.org)
[40] Project report October 2021

project was intending to address extinction, this would require a vastly different technical approach and expertise that are beyond the scope of the project.

110. Whilst the project had a clear rationale for their crop selection and focus, in the course implementation, the project did not report on activities and results with regards to the conservation and use of taro, yams, banana, eggplant and mungbeans.

Finding 11: **The project established 15 demonstration farms with 86 farmer co-operators. In most cases, the demonstration farms also host the Community Seed Banks. The rationale for and results of the demonstration farms are unclear, and the investment and maintenance costs need to be considered in this. The low harvest, the lack of data on varietal performance and the lack of learning objectives for the farmers also indicate the lack of clarity and quality of what is actually being demonstrated by the project.**

111. The harvest for the demonstration farms is intended to supply the seeds for the Community Seed Banks[41]. In Lake Sebu the demonstration farms showcased 54 traditional rice varieties, whilst in Ifugao, the Hungduan demo farms showcased 26, and 21 in Hingyon. There are some data on which traditional rice varieties were being demonstrated, but no available data on which traits are being demonstrated to whom, and why. There are also no data available to the evaluators on varietal performance and if these are being monitored and assessed by the farmers and the project.

112. The evaluation's KIIs and FGDs indicated that so far, the rice harvest from the demonstration farm had been low and the reasons are unclear. Some farmers in the evaluation's FDGs questioned the usefulness of the demonstration farms; while some acknowledged its potential added value for education and tourism. A few farmers complained that whilst farmers donated their seeds, they do not benefit from the harvest.

113. In addition, demonstration farms are usually limited by one type of agro-ecology and cannot represent the diversity of agro-ecologies within which the diversity of traditional rice are grown. It is unclear if the project considered alternatives. Some well-established good practices can include volunteer farmers, representing diverse agro-ecologies and practices, to allocate a small plot of their farms to each grow one or two varieties for testing and demonstration. This can potentially cover more diversity in agro-ecologies, customary practices and production systems. Furthermore, creating a community (bio)register of these decentralized alternative models are potentially low in investment and maintenance costs; and the farmers demonstrating the varieties get to harvest the fruits of their own labour. Generally, farmers tend to have more trust with the farmers that they know.

Finding 12: The project distributed farm tools and machineries (12 micro-tillers, 17 brush-cutters, 17 micro-mills, 10 twinning machines and small farm tools) in Ifugao, plus 10 carabaos[42] for Lake Sebu. Given that traditional rice farming is labour extensive, the labour-saving devices potentially make sense. However, there are no data available to the evaluators; nor monitoring reports to indicate the

[41] 2 December 2021 email from Tamara Palis Dura:*" their main functionality remains low. During the field visits in South Cotabato, few rice seeds were seen to be stocked in the CSBs due to the very low harvests from the demonstration farms. In the case of Ifugao, there are no/limited rice stocks in the CSBs, as first harvests will only be delivered later in 2019".*

[42] *Bubalus bubalis carabanesis* is a sub-specie of a domesticated swamp buffalo that is native to the Philippines. Carabaos are used as draught animal in traditional agriculture, especially in land preparation for rice. Carabaos are also highly valued for their milk and meat, and part of the country's popular culture.

testing, use and performance of these farm tools, machineries and carabaos. In the evaluation's FGDs and KIIS, the farmers unanimously provided critical feedback.

114. The evaluation's FGDs raised the following: (i) the brush cutters were assessed favourably by the women farmers; (ii) there were great delays in the procurement and delivery of the farm machines and hence, the cropping seasons were missed; (iii) when the machines finally arrived most of them were not suited to the environment and the users. The micro-tillers were too heavy and sunk in the rice paddies. The micro-tillers were too heavy for the women to operate. In addition, the micro-mills were suited for the size of the modern rice grains but not for the traditional varieties. In addition, (iv) the access to the 10 carabaos were limited and some of the location of the carabaos were unknown to the farmers. The project's procurement document showed that the machineries were based on the technical specification from the communities and were tested by the supplier prior to the delivery to ensure that the machines work. However, farmers in the FGDs stated that the farm machineries were not tested by the communities themselves, prior to the distribution to the communities. This represents a fundamental project error whereby farmers, especially the women, should directly test and evaluate farm equipment prior to distribution.

Outcome 2.3: Enhanced and expanded knowledge among local level decision makers and community members on the application of dynamic agrobiodiversity conservation practices and their relation to cultural heritage:

Finding 13: The project has provided numerous training sessions, information sessions and mentoring to 118 LGU policy makers, planners and extension personnel on agrobiodiversity management options. The project also exceeded the target of providing numerous trainings to 2,513 farmers. The farmers in the FGDs assessed the training favourably. However, the evaluation cannot substantially verify if such capacity building activities resulted to the expansion and enhancement of knowledge on the application of agrobiodiversity conservation practices and their relation to cultural heritage for the following reasons:

115. There are no baseline and farmers' profile with which to base a relative measurement. Whilst the project regularly reported on the number of training activities, number of people trained and indicated the topics of the training, there are no specific and measurable targets on the "expansion and enhancement of knowledge on the application of agrobiodiversity conservation practices and their relation to cultural heritage." There is also no system of available evaluation and follow up on the actual results of the training. For example, the project reported on a high women's participation from 50-100%, but there was no indication of results.

116. Responding to the MTR recommendation, a Training Need Analysis (TNA) was conducted for all 17 projects sites on enterprise development. Despite highly diverse areas, diverse indigenous peoples and diverse cropping systems, the TNA results were almost the same for all the projects areas. There were no analysis and further details except for the training topics, (i) marketing; (ii) production; (iii) finance; and (iv) organizational management. A major omission is the link to agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

117. The evaluators reviewed about 30 training materials made available to the evaluators:

- Including training materials for the Farmer Field School (FFS), the training materials, reflected very basic training outlines, general objectives and a list of topics with very little or no description of the content. The Farmer Field School on traditional rice varieties included topics such as seeds management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), production processes from land preparation to harvesting, Agro Ecosystems Analysis (AESA), nutrient management, organic agriculture, entrepreneurial skills, and only a mention of the concept and principles of agrobiodiversity. There is a training outline on the management of community seed banks. Most training materials have no clear articulation of the link to agricultural biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. For example, 17 topics in enterprise development mentioned the methods to produce rice cookies, ginger and tomato candies, taro and banana chips and a general outline of developing business plans. The training outline on "Climate Smart Farm Business School" included topics such as climate change in agriculture, Agro-Ecosystems Analysis (AESA), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), crop production management, vegetable production, ruminants, free range native chickens, irrigation, rodent management, market survey, harvest management, and mushroom production. While a number of topics appear relevant e.g. IPM, Community Seed Bank management, a number of the topics seem randomly provided, perhaps as part of the co-financing for the project, and appear to have little direct relevance to the project e.g., mushroom cultivation, ruminants, free range chicken.

- The training outlines were likely based on pre-existing materials that are usually conducted by the DA, DOST and other agencies, with seemingly little adaptation for an agrobiodiversity project. For instance, agricultural heritage sites, indigenous knowledge systems in agrobiodiversity management seem to have very little coverage. The context of indigenous peoples' agri-food systems, and gender analysis were not covered; and likely did not reflect the process and content of the training. The content is dominated by crop production rather than agrobiodiversity conservation and use.

- The outline did not include the pedagogical approach of the training to solicit and integrate the knowledge and experiences of the indigenous communities on e.g., seed selection and storage; indigenous knowledge and agrobiodiversity as part of climate adaptation. The outlines seem to suggest a conventional training approach based on an expert providing knowledge to the trainees; rather than a participatory, experiential, adult education facilitation. The evaluator's assessment is that the FFS outlines do not conform with FAO's FFS good guidance document[43]

- The training approach did not include a training of trainers and hence likely to limit the potential for scaling out and building local capacity for local trainers to conduct the training themselves. Neither do these outlines provide a reliable reference material for the participants.

[4343] FAO 2016. Farmer Field School Good Guidance Document: Home | Global Farmer Field School Platform | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (fao.org)

<u>Outcome 2.4:</u> Improved opportunities for local communities to derive economic, livelihood and food security benefits from agrobiodiversity conservation, resulting in increased sustainability of agrobiodiversity and ecosystem conservation practices:

Finding 14: **The financial viabilities of the agrobiodiversity enterprises are yet to be demonstrated since the implementation in 2018. The added value of these enterprises has not been established as the activities and results had limited correlation to agrobiodiversity conservation; and neither did the enterprise showed any link to promote market-based incentives for the sustainability of agrobiodiversity and ecosystem conservation practices.** Given the low production and the lack of agrobiodiversity linkages, the project was not able to establish the consumers' "Willingness to Pay"[44] benchmark.

118. A total of 612 indigenous women-farmers from the 17 pilot barangays have been involved in community-enterprises through capacity building activities and marketing, and use of producer's labels. The project has facilitated the participation to 1 international, 8 national, 5 provincial and 7 municipal levels trade fairs and exhibits. From the evaluation's Most Significant Change exercise, 76% of the respondents indicated their appreciation of the enterprise activities. This includes training on food processing, packaging, marketing, entrepreneurship to setting up of processing centres. One of the respondents said that the enterprise helped in supporting some of the financial needs of the family. The appreciation to the enterprise activities were also reiterated in the community FGDs.

119. It is unclear how the Project Implementation Report (PIR) stated that incomes have been raised despite the fact that baseline income data are not yet available. The only reported income was from the trade fairs, totalling USD 9,676, and from the sales of taro and banana chips, ginger and tomato candies, tea etc. at USD 296. So far, there are no available financial report on investment cost, volume of productions and sale, and profits or loses. There is also no available report on the source of capital investments from the projects and from the communities. It is also not clear how the reported income of USD 9,969 was used as additional capital for the enterprises and if this income only benefited the 612 indigenous women. The lack of fundamental data puts into question the financial viability of the enterprises; it is not possible to tell if breaking even is being achieved. There is also no analysis on any possible market distortion and its effect on the local financial landscape of the project's highly subsidised operations.

120. The FGDs indicated that the labels for the agrobiodiversity products came very late 2020 and hence, a missed opportunity to "trademark" the products. Furthermore, a review of the samples of the labelled products showed very little information to promote agrobiodiversity awareness (see Component 3 Finding 13, Paragraph 47).

121. The enterprises activities give the impression that these activities do not have a clear agrobiodiversity agenda and its' messaging is missing in the enterprises. There is no innovation in

- [44] According to a project's scoping study, most consumers are willing to pay for Eco labelled products (around 26% of respondents were willing to pay a price premium of >21% for Eco labelled products) but the willingness varies depending on the level of price premium. These include products certified to conserve agro-biodiversity, indigenous varieties including rice, cultural heritage (e.g. handwoven products from abaca), certified organic rice, etc. Source: PRODOC PHI062

the processing of cookies, candies and chips as these are applicable for both traditional and modern varieties. For example, the project took on the candy processing of hybrid tomatoes because, by chance, they saw a glut of unsold and unused harvest. Whilst the candy processing could generally be a sound enterprise, there is no link to the project's objectives and focus on traditional varieties. Given the meagre progress in the enterprise activities and the lack of tangible link to agrobiodiversity conservation, the evaluation questions the cost-effectiveness of the project's standalone enterprises rather than the alternatives of e.g., the project directly collaborating with the many pre-existing and well-established social enterprises and cooperatives in the areas. The project did not consider the alternative of linking its beneficiaries and the agrobiodiversity messaging with these social enterprises and cooperatives.

Finding 15: The interventions on the enterprises for traditional rice variety were based on untested assumptions and produced negligible results. The production and sale of rice cookies had been mentioned as very low; whilst the sales of rice grains totalled to only 200 kilos in 2018. At the start of the project in 2016, 62% of the farmers interviewed stated that their traditional rice varieties are largely allocated to home consumption[45]. They sell about 38% of their produce. As stated in the ToC section, the evaluators question the project's assumptions. Below are the findings from the evaluation's FGDs and KIIs:

122. The FGDs showed that the indigenous peoples continue to utilise a rich agrobiodiversity for their food consumption, dietary diversity and livelihoods. Aside from field crops, vegetables and fruits from their farms and home gardens, they also gather plants in the wild. As part of their livelihood strategy, most of the indigenous peoples cultivate both traditional and modern varieties of rice. Farmers continue to highly value their traditional rice varieties and continue to cultivate a diversity of traditional rice varieties. They value their traditional rice varieties for the vastly superior taste, texture, colours and aroma, and as part of cultural identities. They also associated hunger and deprivation when they run out of supply of traditional varieties for consumption. The traditional rice varieties also generally command a higher market premium. In fact, for the project, the farmers are only willing to make rice cookies from the grains of the traditional rice varieties that were broken during the milling. The MTR had questioned the project's assumption on the loss of some traditional rice varieties being due to the lack of awareness and appreciation by the indigenous peoples or if these are more a result of social and market changes.

123. The indigenous peoples and local leaders in the FGDs stated that yields of traditional rice varieties are not necessarily low, but instead that the main limitation with traditional rice varieties is that most of these can only be planted once a year (due to photoperiod sensitivity). Whilst the land for rice production cannot be increased, the time to grow rice can be doubled. To increase their production and improve their income, they also plant modern varieties with a shorter growing season and can be planted twice a year. The indigenous people also cited climate change as a problem. There were times that it was simply not possible to grow traditional rice varieties due to severe water shortages (The short roots of the traditional rice varieties tend to make them highly sensitive to drought). They also mentioned increased pest and diseases of the traditional rice varieties.

[45] Enterprise Scoping Study of the project in PRODOC PHI062

124. Based on the above observations, the evaluators are of the opinion that the project missed the more holistic perspectives of the indigenous peoples' agrobiodiversity management. For instance, the duality of the rice-based economies of many local and indigenous communities is that rice is grown for multiple purposes and as part of their livelihoods strategy. They often grow both traditional and modern varieties. The landscape approach, and the entirety of people's agrobiodiversity management, would have tied in the NIAHs with the agrobiodiversity conservation and use. The project's choice to increase production for marketing ignored the biological nature of the traditional rice varieties and the local land use systems. The project's conservation tactic leaned on storage in community seedbanks rather than on a more dynamic conservation through a mix of on-farm conservation, varietal rehabilitation and improvement.

Finding 16 (Component 3). The project has made contributions to increase awareness and knowledge among policy-makers. Substantial progress has been made with regards to increasing awareness by integrating agrobiodiversity appreciation in school curriculum. There is limited progress in consumer and public awareness. Potential for scaling up is likewise limited with lack of materials (e.g., training modules), compilation and dissemination of information of field experiences to inform policy makers and other stakeholders.

The overall rating for Component 3 is **Moderately Satisfactory.**

<u>Outcome 3.1:</u> Increased knowledge and awareness among policy-makers and practitioners about the full socio-economic value of agrobiodiversity.

Finding 17. Increased awareness of policy makers is manifested by the policy proposals, resolutions, ordinances and funding commitments by the national, municipal and local governments; including the support for eco-tourism.

125. In the absence of reliable indicators to measure increase in awareness and knowledge amongst policy makers, the evaluators extrapolated that the project has made substantial contribution by the combination of: (i) the project's achievement of target activities on workshops and seminars; (ii) engagement of stakeholders in the national policy formulations (see Findings in Component 1); (iii) the passing of resolutions, ordinances and funding commitments at municipal and local levels (See Finding 5); (iv) support to the agrobiodiversity conservation provided by the provincial tourism authority and the (v) sense of ownership and commitments expressed by the local leaders in the evaluations' FGDs and KIIs. However, this extrapolation comes with a caveat as the evaluators have not been able to access the content or any report of the information workshops/seminars.

126. Awareness raising through integration of agricultural biodiversity in school curricula have been tested and implemented in the two project provinces. The topics includes agricultural heritage sites, agrobiodiversity appreciation and indigenous knowledge. Indigenous peoples have been taking crucial leadership roles in this educational activity. In addition, the project also links agrobiodiversity conservation to the potential economic benefits of farm-based, eco-tourism. This is well-received by the municipal and provincial authorities.

127. Women beneficiaries from indigenous communities recognized that their knowledge and awareness were improved by the project. Women have a strong presence in the market trainings

provided by the project. Thirty-eight (38) percent of the community respondents to the evaluation's Most Significant Change exercise stated that the trainings and seminars enriched their knowledge and learning. Women farmers from T'boli indigenous peoples of Lake Sebu said that the project enabled them to sell their farm products, which used to be an activity they shied away from. Other significant changes mentioned were improved resource management (9.5%), especially finding value in farm resources, which normally they would disregard and are prone to wastage.

Finding 18. Limited progress has been made on public and consumer awareness. The project has a disjointed communications objective and strategy, resulting in mixed messaging that were not matched for target audience and ambition. Resourcing and support for a key project component is limited to a part time communications expert.

128. The FAO website's page for the project is a top search result for 'agrobiodiversity Philippines', while the project's designated website[46] hosted by the DA-BAR, was visited by more than 150,000 visitors from September 2018 to November 2021 with 14% as returning visitors. Almost 90% of website visitors come from the Philippines and the rest from US, India, Canada and Singapore. With 83% bounce rate, most visitors leave the site without visiting a second page. They spend an average of 3 minutes on the page, which indicates that the visitors do read the content. Some of the links in the sites are still empty despite the fact that the project is already ending. There was no synergy with other websites of partner institutions to optimize audience reach and engagement. The FAO website has no link to the DA-BAR website. The DENR's Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)[47] site for agrobiodiversity, which also performs well in search engines, has no link that directs traffic to the main DA-BAR's project website. In this regard, the project was not able to execute what it envisioned for a website with summarized information and recommendations with direct link to the sites of participating private sector actors, particularly retailers, and also the sites of key government institutions and Civil Society Organizations as part of its marketing tool and consumer awareness[48].

129. The project's communications plan states that the objective is to strengthen advocacy and support for agrobiodiversity conservation among stakeholders through information dissemination and increased visibility. For policy makers, the face-to-face workshops, PCC meetings, etc. served as the main communication and awareness raising channel. Other than a brief on NIAHS, the project did not produce any information and policy guidance documents as part of communications plan to re-enforce its policy objectives, and for awareness raising.

130. There is confusion in promoting the project versus raising awareness on agricultural biodiversity. The project developed a number of public facing communication materials such as road markers, product labels etc. Most are in English and promotes the project rather than inform about agrobiodiversity. For example, the product labels mention that the product is an heirloom variety but lacks the story connecting to agrobiodiversity and its importance. The product labels were more

[46] http://oldcompendium.bar.gov.ph/agrobiodiversity-project/
[47] https://bmb.gov.ph/index.php/34-padm/agrobiodiversity-conservation-program
[48] PRODOC PHI062

about the project and promoting the different institutions rather than the conservation of agricultural biodiversity by indigenous peoples.

131. An example of mixed message and missed target audience is the merchandizing module on traditional varieties. The 46 page module is a good compilation of recipes/products made from traditional/heirloom crops from the project sites. This material has potential as marketing collaterals for consumer awareness to showcase the nutritional, cultural and ecological value of traditional varieties. The project intends this to be distributed to development partners, LGUs, project staff and national government agency partners as target end users of the module instead of directly targeting consumers.

132. Over-all, as implemented, the project's consumer awareness campaign on the value of traditional variety had weak planning with limited activities and results. A corresponding campaign plan has not been made, which should have included baseline, objectives, profiles of the target consumers, methods and ways of measuring success. Except for the participation to trade fairs and exhibits, reaching out to consumers and raising their awareness has been very limited. As discussed in Paragraph 39, the limited progress in the enterprise development inevitably hinders consumer awareness. In addition, information about the enterprise products have been inadequate. The information on the nutritional value has yet to be made despite the project nearing its termination. The labels indicated that the product was produced by indigenous peoples from traditional varieties of a specific locality and labelled "Proudly ABD" and as a project of FAO, DA-BAR and GEF. The public would not know what "ABD" is, and why be proud of ABD. Thus, the label comes out more of a project promotion rather than increasing consumer awareness about agrobiodiversity. This is an indication of the absence of a consumer awareness campaign plan and a clear communications strategy aligned with the enterprise component.

133. The evaluators noted the statements from the project stakeholders in the MTR that the definition of agrobiodiversity is too technical or academic to communicate. However, there are functional definitions, which farmers and consumers can easily relate to. This includes: the diversity of traits of plants and plant varieties that are responsible for crop height, colour, pest resistance, taste; the diversity of food crops and varieties provides energy, good health etc; the abundance of diverse plants helps keep watersheds; which in turn provides water for the plants to grow. In addition, many people in the Philippines directly feel the effect of climate change and can likely correlate the link to agrobiodiversity loss. There are also good agrobiodiversity materials from FAO[49], which the project could have referred to. So far, the project had minimal public communications output and outreach to try things out and test with different audiences to ascertain what would work for information dissemination, awareness raising and ultimately scaling up. While public outreach and testing for different audiences are not identified as project outputs or targets, testing messages for different audiences/consumers is a pre-requisite for development and execution of impactful consumer awareness campaigns, which is one of the project's intended outputs.

<u>Outcome 3.2:</u> Conditions created for further replication and scaling up of agricultural biodiversity promotion in other parts of core provinces and regions

[49] For example: FAO (2018). Agrobiodiversity - a training manual for farmer groups in East Africa (fao.org)

Finding 19: The prospects for scaling up lies in the project's remarkable achievements in bringing different institutions together and establish a model for institutional formation that permeates from national to local and across agencies. Alongside a successful institutional formation, scaling up entails establishing tools and evidences from the technical and enterprise component; which so far has not been adequate.

134. At the policy level, there are good prospects for scaling up and scaling out the project. The fragmentation and/or lack of coordination between e.g., the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with regards to agrobiodiversity is a known challenge not only for the Philippines but also for many countries world-wide. Therefore, the knowledge products and lessons from the project are potentially of global significance as well. The evaluation's stakeholder's analysis (see Table 4) showed that FAO, though the project, has convened an impressive array of the key governmental institutions necessary for the implementation of the conservation and use of agrobiodiversity. At the horizontal level, the project has convened and facilitated the cooperation amongst the key governmental institutions on environment (DENR), agriculture (DA-BAR) and cultural heritage (National Commission on Indigenous Peoples or NCIP). In addition, various Departments of Agriculture have also been providing technical and policy support including: DA-BAR, Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI), Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Training Institute (DA-ATI), Department of Agriculture – Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Policy Division (DA-Policy). At the vertical level, the project has linked and coordinated with a rich array of stakeholders from the national, provincial levels (academes) and local levels primarily through the LGUs, who provided operational support via staff time, training, use of facilities, project funding counterpart, policy formulation; and conduits to the indigenous communities, and the communities themselves. This has resulted to a strong sense of ownership and commitment amongst the stakeholders.

135. The project's institutional formation, vertically and horizontally, brought together different agencies that normally do not work together. Across sectors, this is a formidable scaffolding that advanced policy changes supportive of agrobiodiversity. The institutional formation can be a model for similar projects to fast-track policies and programmes on agrobiodiversity. The formation entails management/coordination costs as different agencies also bring in their agenda and activities to leverage project support and vice versa. The downside is having to manage multiple 'nice to have' activities versus impactful activities delivering on the project objectives. The policy work, as indicated in the findings of Outcome 1, provides a potentially sustainable framework and policy tools to advance and leverage support for agricultural biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The work with schools fosters inter-generational engagement and knowledge continuity on the importance and value of agricultural biodiversity and indigenous systems. On its own, it is a good building block to scale up the project. The support of the local government and the Department of Tourism on the eco-tourism value of indigenous peoples' agricultural biodiversity provides potential for project scaling up. The policy work, the work with schools and link with eco-tourism potentially broadens the reach of agricultural biodiversity beyond the usual food and agriculture circle/audience.

136. Another scaling up potential pertains to mindset and behavioural changes. In particular, the new found confidence of beneficiaries, which helped built their agency to market and lobby various

institutions for support. From the Most Significant Change exercise, behavioural and attitude change, in particular, improved self-confidence and self-worth was identified by 24% of the respondents as a significant change brought by the project. A number (19%) mentioned the project fostered and helped build their identity with other groups and they felt recognised by the government agencies. They said that the project provided opportunities to showcase their culture and to show how they adapt to changing times and modernize. They also value being part of an organization and improving their organizational management (9.5%); solidarity, teamwork and sense of community (4%). These findings were confirmed in the evaluation's FGDs.

137. As discussed in the Findings of Component 2 the technical results and field evidences on actual agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use were lacking. The planned knowledge sharing programme with 4,000 beneficiaries was not implemented. There are no practical tools (e.g., FFS modules), technical reports, synthesis of experiences, which can be used to inform and guide the scaling up.

138. Beyond the target sites, there was limited exploration of partnerships at a wider level and on a longer time scale, in part because of weaknesses in communications. The communications plan was not informed by research about the project's target audience (e.g., profile, value and motivation of selected segment of consumers) to serve as basis (and baseline) in designing the communications (and marketing) strategy, target behavioural change and tailor messages.

Finding 20. **In terms of progress towards achieving the project's development objective(s) the project's policy outcomes were impressive with good prospects of governmental approval. The technical and communications outcomes have major weaknesses**. The policy, technical and communications components have weak linkages to provide for a proof of concept for the TOC and towards achieving impact. In terms of progress to impact the project has gained substantial ground in the institutional formation and the policy engagements towards the establishments of NIAHS and LIAHS. Once LIAHS resolutions are signed in the 3 pilot municipalities, these will serve as instruments which can be used by indigenous peoples, local communities and even LGUs to leverage support for initiatives on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use as part of agricultural heritage systems. In addition, the LIAHS declarations operationalize the realization of NIAHS as part of the Philippine government's commitment to realizing its obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity as formulated in the Philippine Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan. The 3 pilot LIAHS have potential to inspire similar initiatives to fulfil the PBSAP commitments. The approach to start with LIAHS is a good strategic move by the project to propel the development of NIAHS, at the same time it provides some sort of safety net – even if no NIAHS policy is crafted by having multiple LIAHS the project contributes to operationalizing PBSAP commitments. However, the project needs evidence-based models and credible tools to advocate for policy change and to implement agrobiodiversity conservation and use. The meagre results from the field/technical interventions greatly restrict the progress to impact. Overall Rating is Moderately Satisfactory.

4.3 Efficiency

Evaluation Question 3 (Efficiency): To what extent has the project been successful in using available resources (funds, personnel, expertise, equipment, etc.) to deliver results in the timeliest and least costly way possible

The project's level of efficiency and cost effectiveness has been **Moderately Unsatisfactory**.

Finding 21: While the activities and spending are on track, the project management lacks coherence in ensuring the correlation of the quality, timeliness and cost-effectiveness of the activities and outputs. The management had been largely driven by compliance in the reporting and procurement requirements, which are important, but the project has not been responsive to some fundamental issues that affected the project's efficiency and effectiveness.

139. The project management had not followed sensible steps to ensure that procured infrastructures and farm equipment are actually fit for purpose. Therefore, the project management had not been able to adapt and improve the efficiency of project implementation. In terms of personnel, the project staff are highly committed. However, the project team lacked the crucial guidance and support of expert(s) in the technical and social aspects of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. For a USD 13.7 million agrobiodiversity project, not having the agrobiodiversity expertise within the team and at supervisory level is a major omission. This omission has been systemic from the project inception, implementation and monitoring and largely explains the gaps in the project's technical performance.

140. Overall, the project spending is relatively on track at 90% after a budget neutral extension. FAO as the budget holder provided reasonably efficient operational, administrative and financial management support. FAO provided backstopping support but the competent technical expertise on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use is missing. FAO ensured that the project implementation adheres to the GEF policies. FAO provided oversight and monitoring support, which had major shortcomings given the lack of competent technical and social expertise in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The evaluation's KIIs consistently expressed that the project's implementation was heavily directed by the PMCU's reporting compliance and had been limited in responding and adjusting to the challenges in the implementation (see Q2 on effectiveness and section on Monitoring).

141. The construction of all the 17 CSBs were on time and took place in early 2018 and thereafter, formally turned over to the respective LGUs. To simplify the compliance to FAO's procurement, the project provided uniform specifications for all the 17 Community Seed Banks. However, the uniform specification of all the 17 Community Seed Banks did not leave adequate space for the diverse indigenous peoples to adapt the design according to their needs and traditional practices of seeds storage (See Question 2 on the Effectiveness of the community seed banks).

142. However, there were considerable delays in staff recruitment. As the MTR pointed out, some delays were outside the control of the project. At the course of the project implementation, there

were further delays with crucial project activities such as the procurement of farm equipment and machineries, and in the delivery of labels for the enterprise products.

143. The lockdown due to the Covid 19 pandemic significantly restricted operations and impacted timelines during the fifth and supposedly last year of project implementation (See paragraph 128).

144. Recognising the challenges, the more decisive factor relating to the timeliness of the project, is the lack of logical chronological order of crucial diagnostic activities, which should have taken place at the beginning rather than the end of the project. The diagnostics activities should have informed the project's prognosis and implementation, and guided the project's monitoring and adaptive management. For example, the farmers' profile and baseline incomes are yet to be completed and the farmers have yet to characterise their traditional rice varieties to define the conservation and sustainable use agenda of the project. There are no plans in sight for the rest of the project's focus crops. The analysis of the nutritional content of the traditional varieties are yet to be completed and disseminated.

145. Cost effectiveness is highly questionable given the committed budget of USD 13,701,955 with 2000 target beneficiaries. Even though the project exceeded its capacity building targets to 3,664 farmers, this is still way below standards, even for a pilot[50]. Aside from the achievements in policy and institutional formation, the objectives and added value of the pilot activities were not sufficiently planned for and did not materialise: (i) there were no intended activities and outputs to analyse and model the proof-of-concept on the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity; no proof-of-concept to link heritage sites and protected territories to agrobiodiversity; no proof-of-concept to promote market-based incentives for agrobiodiversity conservation; (ii) there were limited knowledge products (e.g. tools, evidence, publications) developed to enable the scale up of the project; (iii) neither was a scale up pathway developed that is technically replicable and adaptable without the large grant injection; (iv) The heavy investment on capacity building is not likely to be self-sustaining given the lack of Trainer's training, and usable and adaptable training materials; and lastly and crucially (v) the project's budget and operations were disproportional for a pilot. The evaluations' FGDs and KII with the members and leaders of the indigenous communities stated that "the budget seemed to be very big compared to what were delivered".

146. The project's policy component of the project benefited from the senior expert consultant, who worked effectively with key governmental institutions. For the project's technical component, whilst there is considerable expertise amongst the partner institutions, key technical and social expertise in agrobiodiversity conservation and use is missing at FAO staff level for the leadership and

[50] As compared with similar size budget of conservation and use projects and programmes, see for example, the evaluation of the third cycle of the Benefit Sharing Fund of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb8605en). For 9.7 million USD, the programme enabled the formation of 270 partnerships to implement 20 projects in 43 participating countries. The multi-stakeholders and multi-country collaboration and capacity building delivered a huge number of PGRFA materials directly accessed by about 26,000 households of small-holder farmers and indigenous peoples. About 80 Community Seed Banks were supported. 20,706 varieties were characterised and/or tested for the development and adaptation in multiple locations around the world. 298 new varieties were selected and developed, and 5933 accessions were planned for inclusion into the Multi- Lateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing.

decision making needed for the strategic technical overview, re-direction and adaptive management of the project. From the diagnosis, design and right through the implementation and monitoring, the evaluation is of the opinion that the limited project results, particularly for Component 2 , were for a large part due to the severe technical weakness of the project and its lack of key technical competence in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. For a complex, highly technical and operational project, the lack of agrobiodiversity expertise at the core staff function is a major and systemic omission. The LTO team's expertise included food safety and rice plant protection (See Monitoring Section).

147. Communications is a key project component and a strategic area of intervention to bring about increased awareness of policy makers and consumers on agrobiodiversity. As such, compared to other FAO projects, this project has a designated communications person. Contrary to the management response to the MTR to put emphasis on communications, the investment in communications staffing was limited to 5-10 days/month to deliver 15% of total project expenditure (as of Dec 2021). There also seems to be an absence of systems for oversight and quality control and evaluation of communication outputs and results. For instance, there are no systems in place to check the quality and effectiveness of the knowledge products, the communications plan and outputs; including the communications link and support for Components 1 and 2. There is a lack of monitoring to indicate effectiveness and efficiency of the communication products and communication platforms in disseminating information. There also appears to be an absence of appreciation on the role of communications in supporting and re-enforcing policy gains and mainstreaming agrobiodiversity to wider audience. Communications related work appears to have been not seen as a priority, or seemingly an after-thought.

4.4 Sustainability

Evaluation Question 4 (Sustainability): What are the prospects for sustaining the results beyond the projects' closure? In particular, what systems are in place to environmentally, institutionally, financially, politically, culturally and socially sustain key activities? What is the prospect for scaling-up the activities?

Overall Rating: **Moderately Likely**

Finding 22. **There are very good prospects of sustaining the project's results at the policy level given the *institutional* arrangements described in Question 2: Effectiveness Component 1. There are also some promising prospects on the *financial* front, given the commitments made by the local government. However, the lack of operational and financial viability of the enterprises, the lack of utility and clear objectives of the Community Seed Banks, the demonstration farms, and their continuous operation and maintenance, alongside unclear community interventions, pose significant risk to the sustainability of the infrastructures, the interventions and the pilots as a whole.**

148. The *political* prospects are uncertain, given the national and local elections in May 2022, which is clearly beyond the scope of influence of the project. The *cultural and social* prospects are dependent on two interrelated factors. On one hand, there is a strong sense of ownership and

commitment from the project beneficiaries, specifically from the indigenous women. On the hand, the number of beneficiaries has been very narrow, even for a pilot project. To sustain the project results, the possible risks of elite capture could have been avoided by deliberately expanding the number of beneficiaries who can access the resources and services of the project.

149. The project has drafted an exit plan; which is also intended as a sustainability plan. The positive step is that the Office of the Under Secretary of Operations of the Department of Agriculture has agreed to be the institutional host of the project after the project closes. However, this is not without risks given that the Philippine national election which highly likely will lead to changes in key government officials and priorities. Aside from this, the draft exit plan is composed of a number of turnover of activities and outputs to the respective government institutions. There is no analysis of the quality of what will be turned over and if these are viable products that could be turned over. For example, the Extension Modules Development will be linked to the Farmer Field School. However, as stated in Question 2: Results Component 2, so far, the training modules are mere training outlines and the project have not reported on the quantity and quality of the Farmer Field Schools. The Community Seed Banks have already been legally turned over to the respective Bureau of Plant Industry, Local Government Unit -Office of the Municipal Agriculturist. However, given the concerns raised under "Effectiveness, Outcome 2", it is unclear if these are viable products for turnover and if there are sufficient local capacities and sufficient need to actually operate and maintain the community seedbanks of indigenous peoples. In addition, given the ESS risks (Finding 32), the project's planned turnover of the characterization of the Traditional Rice Varieties and the respective data base to the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Bureau of Plant Industry and the University of the Philippines, are possibly not covered by the project's FPIC-MOA.

150. It is not possible to draw up a sensible scale up pathway for the project, unless the fundamental technical weaknesses are addressed. The eventual implementation of the policy component needs to be informed by the technical component; whilst the policy component needs to support the technical component. The pathway would also be dependent on the project's analysis and modelling of how to dynamically conserve and use agrobiodiversity that tangibly and equitably benefit indigenous peoples. The modelling should be evidence based, technically and socially robust on agrobiodiversity, and include a reflection on the processes and lessons learned from the project.

151. The results on the policy, planning and governance have demonstrated the catalytic role of the project in addressing the institutional fragmentation in the conservation and use of agrobiodiversity. **The GEF's institutional and governance additionality lies in the convening of the key stakeholders pertaining to agriculture, environment and culture from the global, national, provincial and local levels. FAO did not leverage its technical expertise in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use alongside this institutional and governance model**. The minimal results of the community seed banks and the enterprises did not demonstrate the project's added value to agrobiodiversity conservation and use. Given the technical weakness of the project, GEF's global environmental additionality has yet to be established.

4.5 Factors affecting performance

Evaluation Question 5 (Factors affecting performance): What is the prospect for scaling-up the activities? What are the factors that facilitated and hindered the effectiveness of the project, including monitoring and evaluation quality of implementation, quality of execution, financial management and mobilization of co-financing, project partnership and stakeholder engagement, knowledge management, communications, public awareness and progress to impact?

Overall Rating: **Moderately Unsatisfactory**

Finding 23 (Factors affecting performance). There have been major gaps at systems level from the project design, implementation, execution and monitoring. FAO executed and supervised a highly technical and complex project without the fundamental technical and social expertise and had missed opportunities for adaptive management. The project design did not provide for the technical feasibility of major project components such as of the community seedbanks and did not include a financial feasibility and an operational business model for the enterprises. For a complex and technical agrobiodiversity project, the project did not have the necessary agrobiodiversity expertise from project implementation and execution. The internal project execution from the PMCU to the PTF, LTO and FLO were largely driven by reporting compliance rather than results. There has been major oversight at systems level. The consistently low technical performance of the project had not been flagged by the PMCU, nor spotted at the FAO supervision level, and was not addressed. Approvals of reports have been provided despite the consistent lack of vital technical data.

Finding 24 (Monitoring and Evaluation System): Overall, the monitoring and evaluation system regularly kept track of the activities, levels of spending and some outputs. Project monitoring has major incoherence with project plans and results delivery. In terms of quality of the monitoring implementation, there are significant gaps in the supervision and technical backstopping provided by FAO at systems level. The weak technical performance of the project seemed to have gone unnoticed given a monitoring and evaluation system is in place. There do not appear to have been actions taken as a result of the ESS risk raised by Mid Term Review. There was no critical reflection based on monitoring data, that could have led to adaptation or change in project activities, which is the fundamental function of monitoring and evaluation. The Monitoring and Evaluation System is **Moderately Unsatisfactory**.

152. The project has made use of its monitoring and evaluation systems largely through the bi-annual reports using GEF's template for the Project Implementation Report (PIR), the Project Progress Report (PPR) and project visits. From FAO, the PIR and PRR are reviewed and signed by the project coordinator from the PMCU, LTO and FLO. The PIR and the PPR are useful instruments to progressively track the implementation of the project, matching the activities through a cumulative percentage and are rated accordingly. However, the monitoring is largely activity based, except for the policy and ordinances, publications and the number of the varieties of rice. The documents are voluminous and could be tedious to write and read, with each report averaging to about 100 pages, excluding Annexes.

153. The indicators are consistently monitored on the PIR and PRR with activities, outputs; and outcome indicators. The indicators for the outcome and output tables are actually activities with no link to quality. For example, the number of women training participants were reported but there are

no details as to the quality, technical and financial results of the training to the women. There were, however, useful information on the perception of women's improved self-confidence.

154. The planned activities are general and are not always easy to track how the accomplished activities are actually related to the objectives and plan. For example, the reported training on goat rearing and the distribution of goats do not show the correlation to the project's objectives and plan. There was very meagre reporting, and no mention on important crop focus of the project such as banana, eggplants and mungbeans.

155. The reports do not have a coherent logic in the chronology of activities as indicated in Question 3: Efficiency. It is highly problematic that diagnostic activities for year 1 are only to be conducted in year 5 and will likely only be completed in year 6, after 2 consecutive budget neutral extensions of the project.

156. The project's reported activities and the correlation to the vital technical data from the field implementation are not available to the evaluators; nor to the Technical Working Group. As indicated in Question 2: Effectiveness, Component 2, there were meagre data on the utilization of the Community Seed Banks and demonstration farms; no data on enterprise business operations, and use of farm machineries. None of these problems were included in the PRR and PIR reports.

157. The financial report is generally according to the levels of expenditure but the implementation of the monitoring did not track specific expenditure to actual delivery of outputs and had no reference to basic quality control. For example, the PPR 2020 reported that the project in collaboration with DA-ATI has allocated USD 79,911 for the development of the Farmer Field School (FFS) modules on agrobiodiversity crops; and that the FFS training has been rolled out. The FFS modules reviewed by the evaluation team are only a training outline and not a module.

158. The tracking of the target beneficiaries has been weak in terms of specifying the diversity of indigenous peoples, the number of trainings per individual, their feedback to the projects, etc. The direct target beneficiaries are very low at 2,000. The project did not consider the extent of its direct and indirect beneficiaries such as students, the households of the direct beneficiaries (if there is indeed significant contribution from the enterprise for family income), other farmers who are sources of materials for processing, potential beneficiaries of the policy and legal work and others. There is also no measure on audience reach, an indication of return on investment for the communication materials developed.

4.5.1 Quality of Implementation

Finding 25: Quality of Implementation. There have been major gaps from FAO Philippines as the Executing Agency on oversight and supervision. It is unclear how some changes in the project design and implementation had been duly communicated and approved. It was unclear who has oversight on quality standards and there seems to be no reference on quality standards to ensure good technical performance and results. Taking on the final responsibility to address problems and redirect the project did not happen. The Quality of Implementation is **Moderately Unsatisfactory.**

159. The project Lead Technical Officer (LTO) and the Funding Liaison Officer (FLO) are both based in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), Bangkok. The LTO reviewed and provided technical assistance to the project team, reviewed reports and knowledge products, monitored the technical implementation and overall concurrence with expectations of donors, beneficiaries and government agencies. The LTO, however, is not an agrobiodiversity expert. The FLO provided monitoring support and oversight. The support included reviewing and approving progress reports, annual project implementation reports, financial reports and budget revisions. The LTO and FLO did not seem to raise any issues, nor flagged concerns throughout the course of the project implementation and monitoring. Or if they did, there was no documentation shared to the evaluators and no follow through. The role of the LTO and FLO are advisory, with the Project Steering Committee as the deciding body and the PMCU as operational body. At the same time, it is not clear if the PMCU proactively reached out to the LTO and FLO for added support. Overall, the Budget Holder has the final responsibility to address critical problems as these occurred.

160. In the course of the project implementation, there has been staff changes specifically for the Budget Holder (BH), Lead Technical Officer (LTO). Whilst turnover of staff occurs in organisations, a systematic hand over, orientation and taking on full responsibilities of incoming staff may not have been adequate.

161. There were changes in the project plans and the due process of notice, approval, documentation and reporting are unclear. Firstly, some of the project plans were dropped. The landscape approach has been dropped, which is an important aspect of the project's work in protected and heritage sites. In addition, with regards to the other crop focus of the project, there were no activities or reference to the conservation and sustainable use of the eggplant and mungbeans. Other than the mention of planting around the community seedbanks, there were no reports on banana, taro and yams other than they were turned into chips for the enterprises. There was no report on the conservation and use of abaca and the rationale and results of the three micro propagation chambers. Secondly, other activities, which were not part of the original plan, were included but it is unclear how these activities related to project's objectives. These activities include the processing of hybrid tomatoes into candies, the distribution of goats, etc. Whilst changes in the project are expected and even important, these changes need due diligence in the assessment, approval, documentation and reporting.

162. The project reporting, supervision and oversight seemed not to have a referenced quality standards. For example, the numerous training materials for the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) did not seem to refer to FAO's FFS guideline or on the gender and social inclusion. When the project reported that they have addressed the threat to agrobiodiversity through having samples in *in situ* and *ex situ* collection, these do not measure up to the guidelines of e.g., the FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), or to those of the Benefit Sharing Fund of the ITPGRFA, or to the numerous guidelines set by GEF.

163. There were major gaps in check and balances between the PMCU, BH, LTO and FLO. Outside of the PMCU, at the corporate level of the FAO Philippines, the annual reports for the past 4 years have included the project's progress. Whilst there are other FAO projects within the same project areas, including GEF funded projects, the FAO country report did not include any linkages to these other projects; e.g., how they complement each other and do they have the same beneficiaries? In

addition, with a heavy workload of simultaneously monitoring about 60 projects, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist for FAO Philippines can only monitor at the basic level of compliance and integration to the FAO Philippines Annual Reporting.

164. Overall, the execution and use of the monitoring and supervision system is generally restricted to the enumeration of activities. In addition to the MTR, there were monitoring and supervision visits from the PMCU, LTO and FLO. However, the evaluators did not have access to the monitoring and supervision reports and could not assess the value of these visits. Amongst the PMCU, FAO Philippines and FAO Region Asia Pacific, there were no indication of monitoring the quality and technical rigour of the project's performance to provide coherence and strategic overview, raise concerns over major gaps in data and performance, and re-direct and adapt as necessary. Hence, the necessary check and balance for quality assurance had significant gaps.

4.5.2 Quality of Execution

Finding 26 (Quality of Execution): The activities related to contracts and procurements, approval and start-up were executed relatively well. Despite the challenges and limitations of COVID-19, the project adapted reasonably well. The quality of execution had been **Moderately Satisfactory**

Finding 27: In terms risks analysis to ensure adaptative management, **one of the project's identified risks is climate change and the resulting increased environmental hazards**. Ifugao has been affected by flooding, but from the evaluation's KIIs and FGDS, it appears that the communities were not impacted. Therefore, the value of Community Seed Banks as part of community response was not yet tested. On challenges posed by the COVID-19, considerable difficulties were experienced by the project team and the project adjusted its mode of operations and project implementation reasonably well**.**

165. The first wave of COVID-19 hit the Philippines in March 2020, which is at the fifth extended year of an originally planned 4-year project. The project adjusted by remote, virtual zoom meetings and telephone calls. Local community meetings were limited in terms of frequency and participants. In terms of duty of care to staff, partners and beneficiaries, FAO Philippines activated a health and safety protocol and also observed the community quarantine guidelines, consistent with the policy of the Philippine government and, as guided by FAO HQ and with the support of FAO Asia Pacific Regional Office.

166. There is no doubt that COVID-19 caused considerable difficulties to the project implementation, especially given the remote distances of the project areas and the erratic quality of internet connectivity. COVID-19 hit during the fifth and supposedly last year of project implementation. The pandemic seemed to have hit the project harder because of earlier inefficiencies of operation and monitoring. The evaluators do not share the opinion of the PMCU that the low stock and utilization of the Community Seed Banks, low performance of the demonstration farms, low production of the enterprises and low levels of outputs in knowledge products and communication can be attributed to the pandemic. The weak technical and communication performance were consistent in the first four years of project operations, prior to the

pandemic. If the activities had been fully operational on the ground, then there would have been less barriers to project completion, as the field operations could have functioned autonomously relatively well with remote monitoring and check-ins. The lock down could have caused less disruptions between the project areas and the project staff at FAO Philippines office in Manila.

4.5.3 Financial management and mobilization of expected co-financing

Finding 28: As of October 2021, the co-financing delivered is at 47.65% of what was committed (see co-financing table Appendix 3)**. The co-financing came, mostly in kind, as part of regular programming and budget allocations of partner national government agencies and local government units.** The co-financing, estimated to be almost USD 5.5M is so far double that of the GEF grant at USD 2.1M. This is an indication of the leveraging power of FAO and the project, as well as the commitment to support to agrobiodiversity work by the Philippines government, particularly the DA and DENR. Nevertheless, about 50 % of the co-financing has not materialised yet as government agencies had to prioritize the COVID-19 pandemic response. There is unofficial commitment from DA-BPI for post project support for the community seedbanks and demonstration farms, as well as commitment from schools to continue with the module testing and development. The co-financing that materialized was a result of the good institutional arrangement and expressed commitment of the various partner agencies. There were resolutions and commitment documents to support the co-financing by the different institutions. The financial management and mobilization of expected co-financing had been **Moderately Satisfactory**.

4.5.4 Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement (including the degree of ownership of project results by stakeholders)

Finding 29: To a large extent, the project partnership and stakeholder engagement has been satisfactory in establishing the multi-institutional partnership and the collaboration with key stakeholders, including Civil Society Organisations and the private seed industry (see table 4 on stakeholder mapping). As discussed in Finding 19, the project was able to bring different key institutional actors at national and local levels. In these processes, the key institutional actors were also motivated to support enabling policies. The project contributed to the integration and synergy of key policy frameworks and laws that fall under the agriculture sector, environment and natural resources sector, indigenous peoples, cultural heritage and local governance. The evaluation's counter-factual interviews with agrobiodiversity experts and actors confirmed the inclusive policy consultations at national levels. The project's institutional formation - the project coordinating committees from national to provincial to local level – were catalytic in the successful achievement of its policy objectives and the strong sense of ownerships amongst all stakeholders from national right through to local levels. There were gaps in engaging indigenous peoples (see ESS) but the evaluation recognizes that the project also helped stimulated and revived the indigenous peoples' organizations, their leadership potentials and built agency to enable indigenous peoples to engage. **Project partnership and stakeholder engagement has been Satisfactory.**

4.5.5 Knowledge management, communication and public awareness

Finding 30: **The project's knowledge management has been moderately unsatisfactory. First**, the project does not have a system in place and does not keep track of fundamental project data, which not only informs performance but are also prerequisites for the development of knowledge products and eventually, evidence if the proposed TOC works. **Second**, the three main components of the project lack coherence for the proper functioning of knowledge management. Whilst the different components were designed to inform each other, the actual links were minimal. Component 1 was strong and was based on sound expertise but were not substantially informed by the on the ground experiences from Component 2, Component 3 produced inadequate knowledge products[51] such as technical reports, policy briefs and published articles[52] that could have provided the project a much-needed technical peer review and as solid basis for public awareness raising. **Third,** despite considerable budget allocation on capacity building, including module developments, the delivered outputs merely reflect training outlines (with the exception of the school curriculum for formal education). These are inadequate as reference training materials and cannot be used for successive trainings by the project stakeholders; nor does this contribute to public goods for similar GEF and FAO undertaking. **Fourth**, there have been minimal reflection and analysis on the project's technical progress and how the pilots need major re-shaping to form substantive and scalable models that respond to the project's core objectives. As such, there are not much knowledge products that would serve as guides for scaling up. **Fifth**, except for a few publications, the project does not have a system to capture, test, share and act on lessons learned. **Sixth**, there is no link and mutual reinforcements between knowledge management and communications. **Seventh**, FAO did not leverage its technical expertise and considerable knowledge products on agrobiodiversity to guide the knowledge management, including knowledge production from the project.

4.6 Gender and Cross cutting issues

Evaluation Question 6 (Cross Cutting): To what extent have equity, gender and social inclusion, including Indigenous Peoples (IP) been taken in account in the design and implementation of the project? To what extent has the project taken environmental and social concerns into consideration in its design and implementation (is the project in line with its Environmental and Social Safeguards plan?

Overall Rating: **Moderately Unsatisfactory**

[51] In January 2021 presentation of preliminary evaluation results to FAO Task force, evaluators were provided with communication materials intended for 'wider public' by the project which were 5 press coverages related to agrobiodiversity, articles/community stories in the FAO newsletter and a project video explainer. It is not clear who are the specific target audience of the materials. On more technical reports, evaluators were initially provided with only 1 policy brief - JMC Brief V4, with no clear distribution record; inclusion of some project experiences in case studies and publication for international audience such as Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Food Systems and Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change publications by FAO. There were also some infographics, product and bag labels, and popularized studies in the form of presentations, as well as draft reports.

[52] Such as FAO 2021, The White/Whipala paper on indigenous food systems, Page 107-108, https://www.fao.org/3/cb4932en/cb4932en.pdf

Finding 31: **To a considerable extent, the project's ability to take gender and social inclusion**, **including indigenous peoples, into account in the design and implementation of the project has been moderately satisfactory.** The target beneficiaries are all from the indigenous groups and are largely women. The indigenous peoples and the women are well re-represented in the participant selection and in the leadership. The youth are actively engaged in the project through the inclusion of agrobiodiversity awareness in the school curricula. The achievements in improving self-confidence and self-worth of the women are important steps towards defining a transformative agenda that would address gender and social inclusion in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Deeper analysis reveals that there were still limitations in social inclusivity such limited number of indigenous peoples engaged by the project, absence of gender analysis to inform gender appropriate interventions, limited inclusion of indigenous knowledge and practices in field interventions to support the further development of indigenous knowledge, lack of attribution of knowledge products and lack of participation.

167. The Most Significant Change exercise indicated behavioural and attitudinal change. In particular, they felt that the engagement in the project improved their self- confidence and self-worth. The project fostered and helped build their identity with other groups and they felt recognised by the government agencies. For instance, the project provided opportunities to showcase their culture and to show how they adapt to changing times and modernize. Other mentioned significant changes were on improved resource management, especially finding value in farm resources, which normally they would disregard and are prone to wastage. They also value being part of an organization and improving their organizational management. The actual number of participation though, has been very limited to only about 2,000 direct beneficiaries. Hence, only a limited number of indigenous communities are able to avail of the goods and services provided by the project.

168. Specifically on gender, the project consistently used gender disaggregated data to monitor the number of women participants. However, the lack of farmers' profile and vulnerability assessment also means that women's profile and vulnerability assessments have not been made to specifically tailor the project's interventions. The project did not conduct gender analysis. Gender issues are also missing in the training materials. Moreover, the project's agrobiodiversity conservation and use objective are not systematically informed by women's needs and trait preferences.

169. To a limited extent, the project has been able to tap and leverage the indigenous knowledge on agrobiodiversity conservation and use**.** The project has documented and has been respectful of the local customs with regarding to the corresponding rituals in traditional crop production. Nonetheless, the project's outputs in terms of the Community Seed Bank management have not adequately leveraged indigenous knowledge on seed selection and seed storage. The Community Seed Banks also did not take into account the household traditional practices of seed storage, which should complement and not be replaced by Community Seed Banks. A major concern of the evaluation is the indigenous peoples' (encyclopaedic) knowledge on folk taxonomy and ethno-botany have not been prioritised in the characterization of the collected traditional rice varieties. Instead, the researchers of the partner institutions are characterizing the traditional rice varieties based on the Bioversity International descriptors. Whist scientific knowledge is highly useful for the project, this should complement, and is of secondary priority to indigenous knowledge.

170. Most communication materials and knowledge products produced by the project acknowledge the different institutions well. For example, FAO, GEF, DA-BAR logos are prominent in the cover or first pages of presentations and publications. There were no publication or presentation that explicitly acknowledged indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples as equal knowledge holders of knowledge products produced by the project. They are not on the front pages, as authors or publishers. The FPIC-MOA with indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples of HIngyon and Hungduan have provisions for joint rights on all works and materials, while that of Lake Sebu has provisions requiring DA-BAR to provide communities with a copy of final and approved version of the project output., In the Lake Sebu (FPIC)-MOA Monitoring Committee report, dated September 2021, the project has not complied with this provision[53]

171. At the field level, there is a high level of ownership and participation amongst the indigenous communities and their leaders. In evaluation FGDs, it was raised that communication and coordination with the PMCU can be sporadic and a number of activities were given at short notice. Participants also cited that they were only involved with the technical activities (Component 2) but that they were not consulted nor engaged in policy issues (Component 1). The lack of indigenous peoples' participation in policy issues that directly concern them and their territories and agrobiodiversity is an important omission, and better involvement could have strengthened the links of Component 2 technical activities with Component 1 policy activities.

Finding 32: (**ESS)There has been a systemic weakness in the assessment, monitoring and addressing risks associated with the Environment and Social Safeguards. The original 2015 ESS was wrongly categorised as low risk. When the 2019 MTR raised the (ESS 2) risk from low to medium, the Project Management and Coordinating Unit, Budget Holder, Lead Technical Officer and Funding Liaison Officer did not appear to acknowledge or understand the risk. They had not taken steps to address it. Since then, and at the time of the evaluation, in the view of the evaluators, the risk has escalated to high.** The high ESS risk concerns the: (i) lack of provisions for the project to externally collect, store, characterize and register samples of plant genetic resources (PGRFA) of indigenous and endemic varieties of crops grown by indigenous peoples and the associated traditional knowledge; (ii) lack of provisions for access and benefit for the indigenous communities; (iii) possible violation of the Free Prior Informed Consent - Memorandum of Agreement (FPIC-MOA); and (iv) possible non-compliance of the project's legal and moral obligations under international agreements such as the CBD, ITPGRFA, UNDRIP and the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act[54]. The ESS is **Unsatisfactory.**

172. The November 2015 ESS wrongly assessed that with regards to biodiversity, the project has the access and benefit (ABS) measures in place. In 2015, the project had not conducted the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and there were no Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) measures. In addition, The ESS wrongly assessed that no indigenous peoples were involved when in fact, almost all the

[53] NCIP XII. 2021. MOA Monitoring Committee Report Re: Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agro-biodiversity in Traditional Agro-ecosytems of the Philippines (Rice Plus Project) of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research located at barangays Klubi, Lamcade, Lamfugon, Luhib and Tasiman, all in the Municiplaity of Lake Sebu, Province of South Cotabato.

[54] https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1997/10/29/republic-act-no-8371/

project's beneficiaries are indigenous peoples and that the project areas are protected and heritage sites, subject to the territorial rights of indigenous communities.

173. In 2019, the Mid Term Review noted that the project collected and externally stored samples of indigenous and endemic varieties of crops grown by indigenous peoples and the associated traditional knowledge. The MTR pointed out the need to clarify whether a separate legal agreement was needed beyond the FPIC; and referred to the concerns raised by the indigenous communities on the lack of access and benefit sharing mechanisms. The MTR raised the ESS from low to medium. FAO Country Office, including FAO-GEF had not acknowledged and acted on these risks.

174. In 2019[55] and 2020[56] agrobiodiversity experts in the Technical Working Group repeatedly raised serious concerns that (i) indigenous communities should only be assisted to collect their own rice samples; (ii) stored duplicates in the genebank of PhilRice are solely for safekeeping and "should be left untouched"; and that (iii) "the farmers can sue if the varieties they stored with PhilRice were used by anyone else without their permission". The PMCU, PTF, FAO Country Office had not acknowledged and acted on this risk mentioning that this was not in the MTR's list of priority recommendations for management response. The evaluation does not see this as a valid point considering that the ESS is a significant part of the project management within FAO and FAO GEF coordinating unit.

175. Based on the minutes of the TWG meeting and as confirmed by the evaluation's KII, the Technical Working Group assumed that a "*Blackbox agreement*" has been made between the indigenous communities and PhilRice. *A black box arrangement* in gene banking essentially entails that seeds from an original collection - which is in this case are the seeds of the traditional rice varieties of the indigenous communities of Ifugao and Lake Sebu - are duplicated for safe keeping in a host genebank (i.e., PhilRice). The Blackbox arrangement implies that the seeds and related data cannot be accessed by the host genebank.

176. Despite this the project has not addressed the ESS risk associated with the *ex-situ* **collection** and **storage** of rice samples. The project further advanced the use of the rice samples to **characterization** and **registration** and added further crops. The project reported that the characterization of the 165 traditional rice varieties is nearly 70% completed by PhilRice[57]. It is unclear how the characterisation conducted by PhilRice would be compatible with the reported Blackbox arrangement.

177. Furthermore, the project endorsed submissions for the **registration** to the Bureau of Plant Industry of the characterised cultivars (13 rice, 1 abaca, 1 maize, 2 banana). The project had not indicated under whose names and under what conditions will these be registered. The BPI registration of traditional crop varieties require duplication of samples in the genebank, and it is not clear whether the Blackbox arrangement already serves as duplicates. It is also not clear as to who grants access to the duplicate accessions in the absence of a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) between source communities/indigenous peoples and the genebank. In addition, the

[55] 2nd Technical Working Group Minutes of Meeting. 29 July 2019.
[56] 3rd Technical Working Group Minutes of Meeting. 29 January 2020.

[57] Project Report October 2021

characterisation of the abaca and banana had not been reported earlier. The inclusion for maize for registration was a surprise for the evaluation team as it is not a crop that is covered by the project.

178. When the above issues were raised, PMCU responded that the ex-situ collection, storage, characterization, registration, access and benefit are covered under the FPIC Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Preconditions for the 3 municipal sites. The evaluators had access to full FPIC MOA documents only on 31 January 2022.

179. The evaluators' analysis of the FPIC Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Preconditions for the 3 municipal sites are as follows:

The FPIC MOA contained provisions for the following:

- The collection and storage of the traditional rice and other crop varieties are for the use of the Community Seed Banks. This explicitly implies that all the plant materials remain within the communities.
- The research of the project is to be use solely as policy inputs
- Any other activity outside the FPIC-MOA contract will require a new FPIC agreement. The current FPIC-MOA is non-transferable and any waiver must be in writing
- The **access** provision was solely for the Department of Agriculture (DA)- Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) and partners and are limited to the project activities and research outputs
- The **benefits** to the community only referred to e.g., farm equipment, community seed bank, trainings, but nothing about benefit arising from the access and use of the traditional plant varieties of the indigenous peoples.
- That communities (Hingyon and Hungduan) and DA-BAR have joint rights to all works and materials resulting from the research, whether or not the same is published or communicated in any medium. Lake Sebu has provisions requiring DA-BAR to provide communities with a copy of final and approved version of the project output.

The FPIC MOA did not contain provisions, nor reference for:

- The collection, storage, characterization and registration of plant genetic resources (PGRFA) for the *ex-situ* activities.
- Any form of the Material Transfer Agreement as specified by e.g., ITPGRFA
- Access and Benefit Sharing mechanism as defined by the Convention of Biological Diversity and the ITPGRFA and as defined by the Global Environmental Fund.
- Furthermore, the project stated that the PRODOC mentioned the *ex-situ* activities. However, the text of the FPIC-MOA did not refer to this, nor was the PRODOC of the project attached to the FPIC-MOA. It is also doubtful that the 171 paged English document could constitute as a basis of duly informing the indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples.

180. The project may have not fully complied to key provisions of the FPIC-MOA, which in principle was set to protect community rights – to seeds, to knowledge, to their ancestral domains,

etc. This may be in violation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act,[58]. Within the Technical Working Group, possible FPIC shortfalls were discussed, but was not acted upon. In the 5th Technical Working Group Meeting notes, a representative from PhilRice asked if FPIC will be negatively affected if molecular analysis of collected varieties will be undertaken to which FAO technical officer responded that the project allows for molecular analysis. This advice was provided (and possibly decision undertaken) without consulting NCIP, and did not abide with social inclusion.

[58] https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/1997/10/29/republic-act-no-8371/

5. Conclusions and recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

Conclusion 1 (Relevance): The project's multi-institutional and multiple level approach to conserve globally important agrobiodiversity within protected areas and agricultural heritage sites, remains highly relevant and innovative. This is not only relevant for the Philippines but potentially to all the Contracting Parties of the CBD and the ITPGRFA. The project design to address the institutional fragmentation in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use, enabled the effective policy engagement amongst the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment, and other stakeholders from national, regional and local levels. On the other hand, the project was gravely challenged by the complexities of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use, which required technical and social rigour in the project design and adaptation.

Conclusion 2 (Effectiveness): The project played a catalytic role by enabling and contributing to the multi-institutional and multi-level agrobiodiversity policy processes, laws, and outcomes delivering significantly on GEF's institutional and governance additionality. In contrast, there were meagre results from the ground level pilot interventions. Hence, the promising institutional prospects of scaling up is restricted by the lack of scalable technical outputs and knowledge products (e.g., tools, models, training modules) that could demonstrate and convince further commitments and investments beyond the project areas. In this regard, the GEF's global environmental benefits has been limited.

Conclusion 3 (Effectiveness): The project did not appropriately consider the changed duality of the indigenous peoples' traditional production systems, within which part of their livelihood strategy includes both the traditional and modern varieties. The project's conservation and use tactic was restricted to storing and panting varieties, but had not integrated the more strategic aspects of: (i) conservating the genes through varietal improvement and adaptation to climate change; (ii) supporting the small-holder farming systems with their multiple rationale and complex agrobiodiversity management; and within which the plant genes evolve; and (iii) the tie up of the policy and technical work to strengthen the systems that maintain and create diversity for climate resilient food and agriculture.

181. The project's tactic for agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use was narrowly anchored on increasing the project's assumed ***perceived value*** of traditional rice varieties through: (a) increase production, (b) increase marketing and (c) expand seeds storage. This ignored the photo-period sensitivity of traditional rice varieties that limits these to only one growing season. Hence, (a) increasing production is limited without expanding the land for production. The latter option is likely not feasible, nor desirable. Neither would (b) increasing marketing alone would result to conservation as the production of marketable traditional varieties might wipe out the other less marketable varieties. In addition, the project's conservation strategy mainly leaned on (c) expanding seed storage in the community seed banks and in national gene bank, with limited results so far.

182. Contrary to the project's assumption, the high preference of the indigenous peoples to consume rather than sell their traditional varieties seems to be the ***ultimate proof of value*** of the superior quality of the traditional varieties. The indigenous peoples value their traditional rice so much that their sense of hunger and deprivation is associated with running out of supply for consumption. At the same time, the indigenous peoples grow modern varieties for the opportunity of having two cropping seasons and therefore, increased production for marketing. The project's

assumption runs contradictory to the indigenous peoples' apparent logic of choice to "eat quality, sell quantity".

183. The project did not consider alternatives or complementary activities that could potentially broaden the concept and practice of dynamic conservation and sustainable use like, traits re-generation, varietal enhancement, or even participatory plant breeding. Support to crop improvement of traditional cultivars have had limited attention from conventional research. The project had not used a systems approach that *not only maintain but also* ***further generate value*** by improving and creating agrobiodiversity for climate resilient food and agriculture.

Conclusion 4 (Effectiveness): The project achieved considerable headway in raising awareness on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use amongst policy makers from national to local levels; and in schools at provincial levels. This was evidenced by the development and passing of supportive policies and a number of re-alignments of existing government programmes to support agrobiodiversity. The development and uptake of agrobiodiversity awareness in school curricula with indigenous people taking leadership role serve as a good model to engage the youth. In contrast, very little was achieved raising the awareness of the public and consumers on the importance of agrobiodiversity and why the need for their conservation and sustainable use.

Conclusion 5 (Effectiveness): FAO did not leverage its technical expertise on agrobiodiversity management; despite FAO's numerous programmes and flagship publications on the topic; and despite FAO hosting the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Neither did FAO leverage its technical expertise in research, data management, analysis and modelling. As a consequence, the technical quality of the project design and implementation, and its outputs and outcomes were substantially affected and its prospects for scaling up is restricted. Moreover, the innovative concept of the project that linked agrobiodiversity conservation at genetics, farm to landscape levels had not been utilized towards the global environmental additionality for GEF.

Conclusion 6 (Efficiency): The planning and monitoring are primarily activity based. It is not guided by a result framework and a systems perspective that connects and adapt project management to the project objectives. The project management is mainly driven by compliance in reporting and procurement. A system is lacking to ensure that activities and outputs are fit for purpose and are of quality, timely and cost-effective. In terms of personnel, the project staff and consultants, in particular those in the PMCU are hardworking and highly committed. However, they lacked the crucial guidance and support of expert(s) in the technical and social aspects of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. This is a major and systemic omission for a complex and large-scale agrobiodiversity project with indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples.

184. The "efficiency" in having uniformed specification for the procurement of all the 17 Community Seed Banks were inappropriate to the highly diverse agro-ecologies, farming systems, needs and preferences of the diverse indigenous peoples of the project sites.

185. Except for the good-quality delivery in the policy component, the project's cost effectiveness is highly questionable. Firstly, the scale of operation and budget are disproportional for the pilot activities. Secondly, the budget of USD 13,701,955 is disproportionate to the very low target beneficiaries (2000 people) and the low delivery of knowledge products from the pilot undertakings.

For instance: (i) there were no intended activities and outputs to analyse and model the proof-of-concept on the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity on the ground; and no proof-of-concept to link heritage sites and protected territories to agrobiodiversity and no scale up pathway developed, apart from the policy pathway; (ii) there were limited knowledge products (e.g., tools, evidence, learning modules, publications) developed to enable knowledge sharing and the scale up.

186. Whilst there is considerable expertise amongst the partner institutions, key technical and social expertise in agrobiodiversity conservation and use was missing at the FAO project team for the strategic technical overview, re-direction and adaptive management of the project. From the diagnosis, design and right through the implementation and monitoring, a large part of limited results was due to the technical weakness of the project and its lack of key technical expertise in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Conclusion 7 (Sustainability). Overall, the prospects of sustaining the project results are mixed. On one hand, there are very good prospects of sustaining the project's results at the *policy and institutional* levels, some prospects at the *financial* front, and at the *cultural and social* aspects. However, the lack of financial viability of the enterprises; the lack of utility of the Community Seed Banks and the demonstration farms and the inevitable maintenance these require, are a significant risk to the sustainability of these infrastructures and the pilots as a whole. While there is a strong sense of ownership and commitment from the project beneficiaries, specifically from the indigenous women, the number of beneficiaries has been very narrow. To sustain the project results and avoid possible risks of elite capture, deliberately expanding the number of beneficiaries who can access the resources and services of the project would have helped.

Conclusion 8 (Factors Affecting Performance). The project's performance was greatly enhanced by its' **partnership and stakeholder engagement,** which generated reasonable **co-financing** and significant policy expertise and political will. The convening power of FAO facilitated the multi-institutional collaboration on the policy work and institutional formation. However, there has been a systemic gaps in the factors affecting performance such as weak monitoring and knowledge management.

Conclusion 9 (Cross-cutting issues). The project has taken **gender and social inclusion** by deliberately facilitating participation and leadership of indigenous peoples, particularly women. The project is gender and age inclusive with target women and youth beneficiaries from indigenous groups. The achievements in improving self-confidence and self-worth of the women are important steps towards defining a transformative agenda that could address gender and social inclusion in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. More could have been achieved if the project's agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use objective was systematically informed by women's needs and trait preferences and the leveraging of indigenous peoples' knowledge. Women's profile and vulnerability assessments have not been made to specifically tailor the project's interventions. For example, gender issues are missing in the training materials.

Conclusion 8 (Environment and Social Safeguards). The project did not mitigate the increased ESS risk as highlighted by the MTR. Furthermore, the project advanced to not only external PGRFA collection and storage but also to characterisation and process of registration, including plans for molecular analysis. There was inadequacy in safeguarding the rights of indigenous peoples' for special measures to control, develop and protect their seeds, derivatives and associated indigenous knowledge. The project may have impinged

on the FPIC-MOA with indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples for the ex-situ collection, storage, characterisation and registration of samples of indigenous and endemic varieties grown by indigenous peoples and the associated traditional knowledge, including according equal rights to all works, materials and output from the project. In doing so, the project may not be fulfilling its legal and moral obligations under international agreements such as the CBD, ITPGRFA, UNDRIP and the respective law of the Philippine government (e.g., Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997). This poses a potential reputational risk to GEF, FAO and the various departments of the Philippines government.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the project's findings and conclusions, the evaluation has developed a number of recommendations. These are organized according to: **Firstly**, addressing the project's risk on environmental and social safeguards. **Secondly**, delivery of committed essential knowledge products, which could be use as tools to help sustain the project results; and as potential public goods. **Thirdly**, development of an exit strategy. **Fourthly**, given that this is a terminal evaluation, a set of recommendation is provided to FAO and GEF for future similar projects, and at systems levels to ensure the leveraging of institutional expertise in the context of One FAO. The timeframe for the first three sets of recommendations should take place immediately and within the project's second budget neural extension ending in June 2022. Feasibilities and adjustments may have to be made considering the Philippines national elections on May 2022 and uncertainties brought by the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.

5.2.1 Recommendations to FAO

Recommendation 1 Top Priority (ESS Risk) : Considering that the project and its partners, as a third party, have collected and stored samples of traditional varieties of the indigenous peoples, and is nearing the completion of characterization and is in the process of registration of some of these varieties; considering the international and national policies and laws and the indigenous peoples' governing structures that protect the rights of indigenous peoples to their agrobiodiversity and indigenous knowledge, and their rights for access and benefit, including equal rights to all works, materials and project outputs; and considering that the project and its partners have not explicitly addressed such provision under the Free Prior Informed Consent – Memorandum of Agreement or any form of material transfer agreement (for seeds); **the evaluation recommends as top priority that the FAO Country Office as the budget holder, and the Project Management Coordinating Unit, immediately undertake a consultation process with the indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples of Hungduan and Hingyon Ifugao, and Lake Sebu, South Cotabato to formulate equitable actions with the necessary provisions within three months. The project should develop a plan with timetable and allocate budget and should include**:

1.A. Cease and disclosure measures:

1.A.1. Cease all activities on the characterization and registration of the collected and stored samples, including if any, planned molecular analysis of samples

1.A.2. Disclose a full list to relevant stakeholders, specifically to, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), the ICC/IPs who signed the FPIC, the LGUs and the indigenous peoples, of the specific rice cultivars and other crops varieties collected and stored by the project and project partners. The list should specify, the name of the farmer from which the sample was collected, which samples have already been collected by previous projects (e.g., IRRI's) and which samples are unique collection from the project

1.A.3. Disclose a full list of which samples of cultivars are being characterized (including molecular analysis if this has commenced) and by whom

1.A.4. Disclose a full list of which samples of cultivars are in the process of registration and by whom, all the documentation on the application for registration

1.A.5. Ensure that the stored samples in the genebank are sealed in a physical black box, with keys in safekeeping by the communities, and ensure mechanisms for regular visits by community to check viability of collections and reporting mechanism by the genebank on the status of the black box.

1.A.6. Disclose a full list and provide summary in indigenous peoples' language of all works, materials and outputs of the project published or communicated in any medium

1.B. Assess and redress measures

1.B.1. Conduct participatory stakeholder consultations centred on indigenous peoples and the Local Government Units to take stock on the gaps that has occurred and lessons learned. Furthermore, agree on objectives, steps, participation, governance, principles of engagement, outputs and criteria to measure the achievements of objectives

1.B.2. Agree and document equitable provisions for the material transfer agreement/black box agreement and access and benefit sharing, protection of indigenous knowledge; in line with the UN Declaration Rights of Indigenous Peoples, CBD, ITPGRFA, and IPRA. This should include provisions for the plant materials and data regarding the collection, storage, characterization and registration that protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

1.B.3. Agree on how to acknowledge the equal rights of indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples on all works, materials and outputs of the project

1.B.4. Ensure that any agreements are addressed to and respects the collective rights of the respective indigenous communities.

1.B.5. Design a communication plan to document and communicate the results particularly targeted to the wider indigenous communities of Ifugao and Lake Sebu.

1.C. Coordination and support measures

1.C.1. At FAO, strengthen coordination and engagement with the secretariat of the ITPGRFA to ensure organisational support in addressing these risks

1.C.2. In the Philippines, strengthen coordination and engagement with the Treaty's National Focal Point from the Philippine Government to ensure a shared understanding of the issues arising and commitment for their resolution

1.C.3. Appoint a global honest broker to oversee the whole procedure, preferably with/from the secretariat of the ITPGRFA preferably before project closure

1.C.4. At local levels, with approval of the indigenous people, appoint an honest broker to support indigenous communities from Ifugao and Lake Sebu, preferably before project closure

1.C.5. Provide the basic training and support to enable the indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples to engage in this process

1.C.6. Document the entire process and draw up lessons as the whole exercise will be a significant best practice contribution

Recommendation 2 (Quality delivery of Knowledge products). Considering that substantial budget has been allocated to knowledge products, which could be used as tools to help sustain the project results; and as potential public goods, **the evaluation recommends that committed knowledge products, particularly training materials and policy briefs be delivered as finished products to the project stakeholders, particularly the indigenous communities and local government units by the end of the project closure.**

2.1 The training materials should include an adult learning participatory approach that solicits and integrates indigenous knowledge, proportional focus on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use and gender and social inclusion. The materials should conform to the FAO FFS guidelines

2.2. The production of knowledge products should include a system of peer review both for the technical content and communications aspects.

2.3. Encourage the Philippine government to document lessons learned on the innovative institutional formation of the project that involved the various governmental departments of Agriculture, Environment, Indigenous Peoples, Culture and Education and Tourism. This could be formulated as an official submission to the next Governing Body of the ITPGRFA regarding the implementation of Articles on conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources and realization of Farmers Rights.

2.4. More importantly, ensure that indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples have joint rights to all works, materials and outputs resulting from the project/research, whether or not these are published or communicated in any medium. (Please refer to ESS recommendations)

Recommendation 3 (Exit Strategy: policy work). To ensure that the achievements in policy and institutional formation are sustained and enabled to further get through the various policy approval processes, **the evaluation recommends that FAO CO and PMCU develop, by the end of the project, an exit strategy that includes**:

3.1. The PMCU and the Office of the Under Secretary of Operations of the Department of Agriculture map out the succeeding policy processes for the approval and implementation of the seed act and the LIAHS and NIAHS, and agree on a course of action.

3.2. For the PMCU and the Office of the Under Secretary of Operations of the Department of Agriculture to make provisions to ensure that the policy progress of the project are reported to and reflected in the Philippine government compliance to the Philippine Plan to the CBD

3.3. For the PMCU and the Office of the Under Secretary of Operations of the Department of Agriculture, laisse with and support the Philippine National Focal Point to the link and report the achievements of the project as part of the government's compliance to the ITPGRFA

Recommendation 4 (Exit Strategy: pilot activities). Considering the challenges on the functionality and sustainability of the community seed banks, demonstration farms, farm equipment and the agrobiodiversity enterprises; and recognizing that the project has already officially turned over the community seed banks to the local government units, **the evaluation recommends, before the end of the project period, an exit strategy that includes:**

4.1. The PMCU to communicate clearly to the NCIP, ICC/IP and the LGUs and the communities that the project is definitely ending on June 2022. Discuss and document lessons learned; including sharing the results of the evaluation to the communities and across communities.
4.2. The PMCU have a consultative dialogue with the 17 pilot communities and the respective NCIP, ICC/Ips and LGUs on the assessments of the viability, functionality and maintenance of the community seed banks, demonstration farms, farm equipment and the agrobiodiversity enterprises to assess what should be maintained and changes that needs to be done. Discuss the rationale and feasibility of the operations and maintenance of all the 15 remaining CSB; how the CSBs could be linked with one another and if it's more realistic to reduce the number of the CSBs. For the two community seed banks that have been emptied, discuss the needs and prospects of the infrastructure to continue as a seedbank or agree on re-purposing; as appropriate. For the remaining CSBs, explore how these can be part of the local climate adaptation plans by seeking technical assistance on utilizing agrobiodiversity as part of the community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR).
4.3. For the livelihoods enterprise, facilitate linkages with the existing social enterprises or related LGU projects to gather continued support to the involved community members; as appropriate.

Recommendations to FAO and FAO GEF Coordination Unit

Recommendation 5: Considering that the systems weakness has been a major factor that negatively affected the project performance, **the evaluation recommends that for GEF projects on agrobiodiversity, FAO conduct a systems review focused on ensuring the delivery of coherent project design, provision of technical competence, project overview and supervision, compliance to quality standards, responsive MEL, and outcome delivery for GEF projects.** Along with improvements in future projects, this would also further advance FAO's added value in the technical and institutional innovation related to agrobiodiversity management in coherence with FAO's Strategic Framework and responsive to GEF's policy and objectives.

5.1.FAO should also ensure that it is fit for purpose to execute technically complex agrobiodiversity projects through ensuring that FAO has a high calibre technical and social agrobiodiversity expertise at implementation level and can link field level technical data to guide project implementation and provide a strategic overview towards the achievement of project outcomes.

5.2. FAO and the GEF Coordination Unit should ensure that every agrobiodiversity project can comply with complex technical and legal requirements. For instance, the Secretariat of the International Treaty carries out regular basis capacity building and training to FAO Member representatives and national partners on compliance to the International Treaty and the harmonious implementation of the Treaty and the CBD's Nagoya Protocol. Key FAO staff at regional and national offices, who execute GEF projects should avail of such training. FAO also has policy guidelines on indigenous peoples in accordance with UNDRIP that can provide guidance to project staff. Likewise, the FAO has an Indigenous Peoples Unit, whose expertise can be tapped to support project design and implementation.

5.2. 1 That FAO's oversight and supervision are driven by evidence, results framework and systems perspective in agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use

5.2.2 That FAO's management responsibilities and roles, decision making and accountabilities are clearly understood and implemented with due attention paid to staff turnover

5.2.3 That quality standards are adhered to and monitored in the delivery of project outputs and the project's value for money

5.2.4 That the GEF's global environmental benefit is linked to the knowledge management of the project by planning and peer reviewing the knowledge products in the form of PGRFA, models, tools, concepts. Good practice and lessons.

5.2.5 That especially large-scale projects should have a well-defined and periodically reviewed knowledge management and communication strategies.

5.2.6 That the project's planed interventions such as the community seedbanks, demonstration farms and livelihoods enterprises are based on and adjusted to sound technical, social and financial feasibilities.

5.2.7 Encourage a culture change of failing forwards whereby mistakes and risks are part of dynamism of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Mistakes and risks should be openly discussed and addressed at all levels from the PMCU, BH, LTO, FLO. Mistakes and risks are opportunities for learning and development of good practices.

5.2.8 Encourage a culture change whereby compliance is seen as an important means to an end of a results driven management.

5.2.9 Avoid the assessment of projects whereby the involvement of Indigenous Peoples is rated as a risk. Working with indigenous is not a risk but an opportunity and a privilege. Therefore, working with Indigenous Peoples should be categorized as needing extra diligence throughout the project cycle.

5.2.10 Under One FAO, ensure that FAO consistently strengthen and leverages its technical expertise by enabling the engagement of the respective programmes/departments e.g., ITPGRFA, FAO's FFS, IPs and between HQ, Regional and Country Offices. The different Units and offices should

systematically discuss coordination, leveraging, peer review, addressing gaps and advancing technical and social innovations on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use

6. Lessons learned

6.1 Case 1 Context: Many, if not most, of the indigenous communities world-wide are increasingly engaged in the market economies. This is certainly the case for Ifugao and Lake Sebu. Ifugao province, for instance, is a major player in the hybrid vegetable and corn production and marketing for the Philippines. Project interventions on the conservation and sustainable use of traditional agrobiodiversity therefore needs to deal with the duality of traditional and modern production systems.

6.1.2 Good Practices: To adapt to rapidly changing environmental and market demand, indigenous communities combine the use of traditional and modern varieties for their dual farming systems. For example, they tend to annually plant a diversity of traditional rice varieties largely for home consumption; whilst they bi-annually plant modern crops and varieties largely for the market.

6.1.3 Lessons Learned

- In cases of severe drought, farmers reluctantly abandon their traditional rice production. For project interventions, baseline information is important to understand farmers' profile and vulnerabilities and their context specific decision-making rationale as to why they abandon and keep specific crops and crop varieties.
- Agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use need to be informed by the duality of the production systems of local farmers and indigenous communities whereby they use a diversity of agrobiodiversity, often both traditional and modern varieties, to adapt to vast and rapidly changing environments and markets.
- With climate change, traditional cultivars and landraces are facing increasing biotic and abiotic stresses so that their conservation and sustainable use should not be confined to storage and maintenance of varietal traits but should also consider crop improvements through e.g., enhancement and breeding.

6.2 Case 2 Context: Seeds are vital part of the farmers' natural and social capital for their livelihoods, food and nutrition security. Project interventions on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use need to build from and complement the diversity of peoples' seed security strategies.

6.2.1 Good Practices

- Like many farmers and indigenous communities world-wide, the indigenous communities of Ifugao and Lake Sebu employ various seed security strategies for their traditional rice varieties: (i) they apply local knowledge in seed selection from standing crops on-farms; (ii) they apply indigenous techniques for storage of seeds at household levels; and (iii) as the need and/or interest arises, they also source, exchange or provide as gifts seeds with other famers. They also share corresponding knowledge on seed traits, seed management and agronomic practices amongst other farmers, families, relatives, friends and through generations from (grand)parents to children.
- Seed fairs can provide good venues for wider groups of farmers to exchange seeds and knowledge. Seed fairs can also serve as vehicles for public awareness arising on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use

6.2.2 Lessons Learned

- Project interventions on the conservations and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity such as community seed bank and seed fairs should be designed to complement, not replace, existing farmers' seed strategies and use of local knowledge. Community seeds banks and other interventions could add value to the seed strategies of the farmers, by increasing and complementing the diversity of reliable sources of seeds and corresponding knowledge.
- Seeds is an experience good, whereby farmers will definitively know the performance of the seeds, once the seeds have been planted and grown. Hence, bad performing seeds can be devastating for the livelihood of the farmers. Therefore, mutual trust in the quality of the seed material, reliability of knowledge and social relations are important component of farmers' livelihoods. In the case of the community seed banks, farmers are more likely to consistently deposit/share and/or borrow seeds if they are consistently assured of the quality, quantity and timeliness of the seeds in the community seedbanks. The quality, quantity and timeliness of the seeds in the community seedbanks can be assured by including: (i) demand-led objectives; (i) community governance, (iii) adequate technical support and linkages; and (iv) continuous technical practices such as farmer-led seed characterization, seed management, good record keeping, etc.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1, GEF Evaluation Criteria Rating Table

The table below should be completed by the Evaluation Team, as part of the Terminal Evaluation process. See Appendix 2 for guidance on the rating schemes under each area of analysis.

GEF criteria/sub-criteria	Rating[59]	Summary comments[60]
A. STRATEGIC RELEVANCE		
A1. Overall strategic relevance	HS▪HU	.
A1.1. Alignment with GEF and FAO strategic priorities	HS▪HU	
A1.2. Relevance to national, regional and global priorities and beneficiary needs	HS▪HU	
A1.3. Complementarity with existing interventions	HS▪HU	
B. EFFECTIVENESS		
B1. Overall assessment of project results	HS▪HU	
B1.1 Delivery of project outputs	HS▪HU	
B1.2 Progress towards outcomes[61] and project objectives	HS▪HU	
- Outcome 1	HS▪HU	
- Outcome 2	HS▪HU	
- Outcome 3	HS▪HU	
- Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes	HS▪HU	
B1.3 Likelihood of impact	HS▪HU	
C. EFFICIENCY		
C1. Efficiency[62]	HS▪HU	
D. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT OUTCOMES		
D1. Overall likelihood of risks to sustainability	L▪HU	
D1.1. Financial risks	L▪HU	
D1.2. Socio-political risks	L▪HU	
D1.3. Institutional and governance risks	L▪HU	
D1.4. Environmental risks	L▪HU	

[59] See rating scheme at the end of the document.

[60] Include reference to the relevant sections in the report.

[61] Assessment and ratings by individual outcomes may be undertaken if there is added value.

[62] Includes cost efficiency and timeliness.

D2. Catalysis and replication	HS▪HU	
E. FACTORS AFFECTING PERFORMANCE		
E1. Project design and readiness[63]	HS▪HU	
E2. **Quality of project implementation**	HS▪HU	
E2.1 Quality of project implementation by FAO (BH, LTO, PTF, etc.)	HS▪HU	
E2.1 Project oversight (PSC, project working group, etc.)	HS▪HU	
E3. **Quality of project execution** For DEX projects: Project Management Unit/BH; For OPIM projects: Executing Agency	HS▪HU	
E4. Financial management and co-financing	HS▪HU	
E5. Project partnerships and stakeholder engagement	HS▪HU	
E6. Communication, knowledge management and knowledge products	HS▪HU	
E7. **Overall quality of M&E**	HS▪HU	
E7.1 M&E design	HS▪HU	
E7.2 M&E plan implementation (including financial and human resources)	HS▪HU	
E8. Overall assessment of factors affecting performance	HS▪HU	
F. CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS		
F1. Gender and other equity dimensions	HS▪HU	
F2. Human rights issues/Indigenous Peoples	HS▪HU	
F2. Environmental and social safeguards	HS▪HU	
Overall project rating	**HS▪HU**	

[63] This refers to factors affecting the project's ability to start as expected, such as the presence of sufficient capacity among executing partners at project launch.

Appendix 2. Rating Scheme[64]

PROJECT RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

Project outcomes are rated based on the extent to which project objectives were achieved. A six-point rating scale is used to assess overall outcomes:

Rating	***Description***
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	*"Level of outcomes achieved clearly exceeds expectations and/or there were no short comings."*
Satisfactory (S)	*"Level of outcomes achieved was as expected and/or there were no or minor short comings."*
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	*"Level of outcomes achieved more or less as expected and/or there were moderate short comings."*
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	*"Level of outcomes achieved somewhat lower than expected and/or there were significant shortcomings."*
Unsatisfactory (U)	*"Level of outcomes achieved substantially lower than expected and/or there were major short comings."*
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	*"Only a negligible level of outcomes achieved and/or there were severe short comings."*
Unable to Assess (UA)	*The available information does not allow an assessment of the level of outcome achievements.*

During project implementation, the results framework of some projects may have been modified. In cases where modifications in the project impact, outcomes and outputs have not scaled down their overall scope, the evaluator should assess outcome achievements based on the revised results framework. In instances where the scope of the project objectives and outcomes has been scaled down, the magnitude of and necessity for downscaling is taken into account and despite achievement of results as per the revised results framework, where appropriate, a lower outcome effectiveness rating may be given.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND EXECUTION

Quality of implementation and of execution will be rated separately. Quality of implementation pertains to the role and responsibilities discharged by the GEF Agencies that have direct access to GEF resources. Quality of Execution pertains to the roles and responsibilities discharged by the country or regional counterparts that received GEF funds from the GEF Agencies and executed the funded activities on ground. The performance will be rated on a six-point scale:

Rating	***Description***
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	*There were no shortcomings and quality of **implementation** or **execution** exceeded expectations.*
Satisfactory (S)	*There were no or minor shortcomings and quality of **implementation** or **execution** meets expectations.*
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	*There were some shortcomings and quality of **implementation** or **execution** more or less meets expectations.*

[64] See instructions provided in Annex 2: Rating Scales in the "Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluations for Full-sized Project", April 2017.

Rating	***Description***
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	*There were significant shortcomings and quality of **implementation** or **execution** somewhat lower than expected.*
Unsatisfactory (U)	*There were major shortcomings and quality of implementation substantially lower than expected.*
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	*There were severe shortcomings in quality of **implementation** or **execution**.*
Unable to Assess (UA)	*The available information does not allow an assessment of the quality of **implementation** or **execution**.*

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Quality of project M&E will be assessed in terms of:

- Design
- Implementation

SUSTAINABILITY

The sustainability will be assessed taking into account the risks related to financial, socio-political, institutional, and environmental sustainability of project outcomes. The evaluator may also take other risks into account that may affect sustainability. The overall sustainability will be assessed using a four-point scale:

Rating	***Description***
Likely (L)	*There is little or no risk to sustainability.*
Moderately Likely (ML)	*There are moderate risks to sustainability.*
Moderately Unlikely (MU)	*There are significant risks to sustainability.*
Unlikely (U)	*There are severe risks to sustainability.*
Unable to Assess (UA)	*Unable to assess the expected incidence and magnitude of risks to sustainability.*

Appendix 3. GEF Co-financing Table[65]

Sources of Co-financing[1]	**Name of Co-financer**	**Type of Co-financing**	**Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval USD**	**Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2020 USD**	**Actual Amount Materialized at 30 Nov 2021 (@Php48 per USD)**	**Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm** (confirmed by the review/evaluation team) USD	**Expected total disbursement by the end of the project USD**	**Contributed to Component __ of the Project**
National Gov't.	DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research	In-kind	2,172,214	1, 063,098.00	1,407,789	1,055,879	764,425	Components 1,2,3
	DA-Agricultural Training Institute	In-kind	90,910	17,364.00	69,277.75	11,364	21,632.25	Component 2
	DA-Bureau of Soil and Water Management	In-kind	88,335	200.00	200.00	For verification	88,135.00 – for confirmation	Component 2
	DA-Bureau of Plant Industry	In-kind	113,636	41,600.00	41,600.00	40,000	32,036 for confirmation (Already allocated Php5,000,000 for CY2021 for CSB mainstreaming and ABD sustainability)	Component 2
	DA-PhilRice	In-kind	1,136,364	1,500.00	7,764.87	For verification	5,000.00 for confirmation	Component 2
	DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau	In-kind	27,838	23,278.18	23,590.68	1,495	4,247.32 (for updating)	Component 1

[65] Source: PMCU email to evaluation dated 16 Deember 2021

	DENR Cordillera Administrative Region	In-kind	3,794,369	3,593,742.00	3,593,742.00	3,593,742 (for validation)	For confirmation	Component 2
	DENR Region 12	In-kind	16,205	13,364.00	13,857.00	13,364	2,841 for confirmation	Component 2
	National Council for Indigenous People	In-kind	2,272	640.00	2, 311.58	2,272 For verification	0 Already exceeded the commitment	Component 1
Local Government	South Cotabato Provincial Government	In-kind	1,014,270	51,614.00	101,242	49,214	40,000.00 for confirmation	Component 2
	Lake Sebu Municipality	In-kind	94,887	13,116.00	57, 518	9,788	37,369 for confirmation	Component 2
	Hingyon Municipality	In-kind	1,118,862	15,587.00	23,539	4,817	2,000.00 for confirmation	Component 2
	Ifugao Provincial Government	In-kind	815,682	26,334	33,301	23,934	40,000.00 for confirmation	Component 2
	Hungduan Municipality	In-kind	475,680	16,397	24, 351	13,177	4,000.00 for confirmation	Component 2
International Organization	World Agricultural Heritage Foundation		100,000	100, 000	100, 000	100,000	0 (Commitment already utilized 100%)	Component 2
	FAO		457,800	To be verified	To be verified	To be verified	To be verified	Components 1,2,3
GRAND TOTAL			**11,519,324**	**4,977,834.18 (43.21%)**	**5.500.083.88 (47.74%)**			

Appendix 4. Result Matrix

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	End of Project Target	Achievements and Ratings	Justification for Rating
Project Objective/ Impact To enhance, expand and sustain the dynamic conservation practices that sustain globally significant agro-biodiversity in traditional agroecosystems of the Philippines	Numbers of traditional varieties grown in target barangays (as a measure of their conservation status)	Traditional ABD varieties in target municipalities: • **Hungduan:** 24 rice, 1 sweet potato, 3 taro, 1 yam • **Hingyon:** 17 rice, 5 taro, 5 sweet potato, 0 yam • **Lake Sebu:** 20 rice, 9 taro, 1 sweet potato, 5 yam	Numbers per barangay maintained at baseline levels over 300ha of traditional agroecosystems in 17 target barangays	MU	There has been no baseline for comparison. There was no analysis of importance of these additional varieties, their performance within the dynamic farmers' seed systems, etc. The community seed banks, the cornerstone of the conservation approach to achieve and maintain the numerical targets were under-utilized and has not been fully functional. Other interventions were not nuanced to support and protect the indigenous peoples. The interventions were similar across municipalities regardless of indigenous group, which gives a semblance of being top-down. As such, evaluation is not confident that there was indeed expansion and sustainability of agrobiodiversity within the context of traditional agroecosystems in the Philippines.
	Numbers of additional traditional varieties grown in target barangays	N/A	An average of 5 additional traditional varieties grown in each of the 17 target barangays		
Outcome 1.1: Strengthened policy and legal framework defining a national approach to ABD and guiding the design and	Numbers of target policy instruments (see Output 1.1.1) embedded in programmes with	Target policies exist but are not implemented due to lack of corresponding instruments	4 target policy instruments (see Output 1.1.1) are embedded in programmes with corresponding budget assignment	S	The project developed and steered processes for cross-cutting and intersectional policies. This is a considerable achievement, given that at national level,

implementation of corresponding activities at national and local level	corresponding budget assignment				there is no overarching policy framework to align the project. Local resolutions directly supporting the project including mainstream agricultural biodiversity in the local executive and legislative agenda of South Cotabato were developed. Policies though still need further articulation of indigenous peoples' rights both in process (indigenous peoples as co-creators of policies related to them) and articulation in policy content.
Output 1.1.1: Key policy instruments favouring ABD conservation developed at national and local level	Numbers of policy instruments developed favouring ABD conservation	At least 5 policy provisions that potentially promote ABD conservation exist but lack instruments to permit their implementation	Policy instruments (e.g., administrative orders, joint memorandum circulars) developed for: • 1 key agriculture sector policy • 1 key environment sector policy • 1 key culture-related policy • 1 key indigenous people related policy		
	Numbers and nature of recommendations generated to guide policy development		Recommendations generated through studies to guide policy development for: • Customized crop loans and insurance for ABD production • Facilitating organic agriculture certification in remote upland areas • Incorporating ABD and biodiversity friendly agriculture into protocols for agricultural land use as envisioned by the NBSAP • Integrating the role of ABD-in and enhancing benefits from eco agri based tourism development at the local levels		
Output 1.1.2: Specific guidelines supporting the piloting of approaches to ABD management and conservation in the target areas	Coverage of special orders and MOAs to guide the piloting of approaches to ABD management in the target areas	No instruments have been formulated yet	Special orders (SOs) and memoranda of agreement (MOA) exist to guide the piloting of approaches to ABD management and conservation in the target areas		

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td><u>Outcome 1.2:</u> Enhanced institutional coordination and capacity to effectively address cross-sectoral issues of agro-biodiversity.</td><td>Number and type of instruments into which inter-disciplinary ABD considerations are incorporated</td><td>Recognition of the value of ABD is limited only to certain special research programs of government; DA recognizes importance of ABD and is proposing to consolidate programmes on the issue</td><td>Interdisciplinary integration and coordination regarding ABD reflected in:
• Plans of local multisectoral councils of 3 MLGUs and 2 PLGUs
• At least 1 PA Area Plan per target region (DENR)
• At least 1 Ancestral Domain Area Development Plan (NCIP)
Specific support programme of DA to Indigenous Peoples (IP)</td><td>S</td><td>The project's institutional formation - the project coordinating committees (PCC) from national, provincial to local level - were catalytic in the successful achievement of its policy objectives. the project contributed in strengthening institutional relationships between and amongst agencies to address agrobiodiversity concerns.</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>Output 1.2.1:</u>
Strengthened capacities and mechanisms for addressing interdisciplinary aspects of ABD conservation</td><td>Number of existing inter-institutional coordination mechanisms in the agendas of which ABD issues and good management practices and needs are taken up</td><td>Ecosystems management including general BD conservation is considered in inter-institutional coordination mechanisms (e.g., PDC RDCs, regional NCI) but ABD is not yet included in the discourse</td><td>Inter-institutional coordination regarding ABD included in agendas of existing coordination mechanisms:
• 5 LDCs/AFCs (3 MLGU and 2 PLGU)
• 3 Municipal Development Councils (MDCs)
• 2 Provincial Development Councils (PDCs)
• 2 Regional Development Councils (RDCs)
• National Convergence Initiative (NCI)

Bilateral agreements between DA/DENR,
and DA/NCIP incorporate ABD concerns</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Numbers of staff trained in inter-disciplinary issues related to on-farm ABD conservation and related</td><td>Forestry/conservation professionals are principally focused on BD conservation in PAs

Agricultural professionals are principally focused on ex situ</td><td>Numbers of staff:<table><tr><th>Institution</th><th>National</th><th>Target regions</th></tr><tr><td>DENR</td><td>5</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>DA</td><td>5</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>P/MLGUs</td><td>0</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>Others</td><td>9</td><td>29</td></tr></table></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

	ecosystem management:	conservation of ABD rather than on-farm approaches	19 | 82		
Outcome 2.1: Conservation and sustainable use of ABD is supported by planning and governance mechanisms	Numbers of types of plans and programmes into which ABD concerns are embedded	Planning frameworks are currently inadequate for supporting ABD conservation	ABD concerns embedded in Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), Executive Legislative Agendas (ELAs) and thematic programmes for agricultural, natural resource management and tourism in 3 MLGUs and 2 PLGUs	MS	Municipal resolutions supporting the project have been issued, followed by the issuance of Executive Orders creating the Municipal Coordinating Councils and Technical Working Groups for the eventual establishment of LIAHS. The project organized and/or revived more than 10 peoples' organizations, farmers associations and women's groups within and across communities. However, the weak technical intervention (e.g., prominence of seed bank as a structure rather than as needed element of indigenous peoples' seed system for their conservation work; TRV registration of local government rather than the indigenous peoples' themselves) is not the best model to be formalized and enforced.
	Numbers of MLGUs and communities in which formalized provisions for enforcement are in place	Governance frameworks are currently inadequate for supporting ABD conservation	Formalized provisions for enforcement in place in 3 MLGUs and 9 communities (as models for the 17 target barangays), specifically addressing threats affecting ABD		
Output 2.1.1: Local Government (LGU) plans and programmes in pilot municipalities providing for ABD conservation	Numbers of target MLGUs in which agriculture development plans, ordinances and programmes are included	Current LGU strategic plans in Ifugao are concerned with the rice terraces (location of ABD) but silent on ABD conservation itself. Ifugao Agriculture staff are very familiar with traditional varieties and practices. LGU strategic plans for all sites plan to convert gradually to organic agriculture.	• ABD conservation and sustainable use are included in agriculture development plans, ordinances and programmes in all three target MLGUs. • ABD conservation and sustainable use are reflected in the updating process for land use and socioeconomic plans in all three MLGUs • Provincial level principles and safeguards developed to guide and harmonize agency interventions in the high ABD target areas (including for R&D in Ifugao)		
Output 2.1.2: Community level planning and	Numbers of target barangays in which	Community traditional norms in pilot municipalities encourage	Plans and customary norms cover all 17 target barangays:		

governance frameworks in pilot communities incorporating ABD considerations	plans and customary norms are in place incorporating consideration of ABD.	maintenance of small plots of traditional varieties; in Ifugao women's roles include maintenance of seed selection practices. Leaders are aware of threats to ABD, but no proactive plans exist for their long-term conservation	• Providing for or enhancing the incorporation of ABD considerations into agricultural and forest management and tourism • Regulating the commercialization of ABD by individuals in IP communities		
Outcome 2.2: Traditional varieties are maintained in community gene banks	Numbers of ABD varieties/ farmer selections maintained in gene banks, supported by ex situ collections	Some individual initiatives (e.g., private museum in Lake Sebu municipality) hold a very limited number of varieties without adequate storage conditions. One seed bank exists in Hingyon. Some varieties are included in *ex situ* collections in universities.	All traditional ABD varieties/farmer selections present in the 3 target municipalities are maintained in gene banks, and supported by *ex situ* collections	U	Whilst the Mid Term Review assessed the establishment of the 17 Community Seed Banks (CSBs) in 2018 as a major achievement of the project, the evaluation finds that for the actual implementation the community seed banks had not been fully functional and are seriously under-utilised. With regards to the traditional varieties being maintained in community seed/genebank, the rationale for the prescription, design, and actual utilization of the seed/community genebank have indicated limited results. Key diagnostic activities, which should inform the rationale and design of the CSBs, were not prioritised and are only being done towards the end of the project implementation. Without a proper diagnosis, it is not possible to define the solid
Output 2.2.1: Community-based gene management systems and networks supported by *ex situ* collections	Numbers of pilot municipalities in which community gene banks and seed stores have been established.	There are community seedbanks in CAR established as emergency seed supply in times of disaster but these are only for a few varieties (both HYVs and TRV)	One community gene bank and one seed store established in each pilot municipality, supported by agreements, rules and procedures for their management and backed up by e*x situ* collections		

					rationale, objectives and operations of the seedbank. The project's rationale in relation to the purpose of conservation and use of traditional varieties remains unclear. In terms of implementation, the low membership, low stock and usage of seeds, low number of rice varieties and the farmers' concern for the reliability and quality of seeds in the community seed bank puts into question the viability of the 17 Community Seed Banks.
Outcome 2.3: Enhanced and expanded knowledge among local level decision makers and community members on the application of dynamic ABD conservation practices and their relation to cultural heritage	Numbers of LGU policy makers, planners and extension personnel in the core LGUs aware of the value of ABD and specific management options to ensure their conservation and sustainable use	LGU members especially, agricultural extension and NRM staff, are typically aware of general environmental issues but not of the full importance of, or management options for, biodiversity (including ABD). *Baseline values of knowledge will be detailed through KP studies in Year 1*	21 LGU policy makers, planners and extension personnel in the core LGUs aware of the value of ABD and specific management options to ensure their conservation and sustainable use	MU	The project has provided numerous trainings, information sessions and mentoring to 118 LGU policy makers, planners and extension personnel on agrobiodiversity management options. The project also exceeded the target of providing numerous trainings to 2,513 farmers. The farmers in the FGDs assessed the training favourably. However, the evaluation cannot substantially verify if such capacity building activities resulted to the expansion and enhancement of knowledge on the application of
	Levels of knowledge among target farmers on how to adapt traditional management to changing circumstances	Farmers have retained traditional knowledge of traditional varieties and management practices, but lack knowledge of management options that would permit them to adapt to changing circumstances. *Baseline values of knowledge will be detailed through KP studies in Year 1.*	KP surveys show enhanced knowledge among 1,000 farmers in 17 target barangays of how to adapt traditional management systems to changing circumstances		

Output 2.3.1: ABD resources, agroecosystems and their management practices mapped, characterized and documented in the pilot areas	Numbers of barangays covered by participatory inventories and analyses of ABD resources, agroecosystems and their management practices	No systematic mapping or characterization of ABD done to date	17 target barangays covered by participatory inventories and analyses of ABD resources, agroecosystems and their management practices		agrobiodiversity conservation practices and their relation to cultural heritage. There are no baseline and farmers' profile with which to base a relative measurement. Whilst the project regularly reported on the number of training activities, number of people trained and indicated the topics of the training, there are no specific and measurable targets on the "expansion and enhancement of knowledge on the application of agrobiodiversity conservation practices and their relation to cultural heritage. Responding to the MTR recommendation, a Training Need Analysis (TNA) was conducted for all 17 projects sites on enterprise development. Despite highly diverse areas, diverse indigenous peoples and diverse cropping systems, the TNA results were almost the same for all the projects areas. There were also no extension and communication modules on agrobiodiversity developed for LGUs and facilitators for
Output 2.3.2: Knowledge sharing on ABD management and conservation practices for farmers in pilot and neighbouring communities	Numbers of MLGUs where extension/ communication guid es/mod-ules have been developed	Knowledge holders in the pilot barangays have maintained some knowledge on ABD conservation and sustainable use systems however knowledge sharing is minimal due to declining interest of younger farmers. Farmer based extension modules are being developed by a few NGOS (SEARICE and MASIPAG) and the University of the Philippines. The DA CHARM project has piloted an extension module on heirloom rice	Extension and communication guides/modul es in ABD conservation and sustainable use developed for LGU agricultural extension facilitators as well as farmer facilitators in 3 MLGUs		
	Numbers of farmers involved in knowledge sharing on management and conservation practices for target ABD varieties	Farmers in selected towns in CAR have been trained on improved cultural practices for one TRV	1,000 farmers in 17 core barangays have been involved in knowledge sharing on management and conservation practices for target ABD varieties		
Output 2.3.3: Inclusion of ABD issues in primary, secondary and tertiary education and IKSP programmes in the pilot provinces	Numbers of secondary and tertiary students receiving classes on ABD	Students in pilot schools participate in special training on heritage arts (song, dance, weaving etc.) but not on ABD concerns	450 secondary students (50 in each of 3-year levels in 3 municipalities) and 120 tertiary students (30 in 2 classes in 2 colleges/universities) are receiving classes on ABD		
	Numbers of ethno-linguistic groups having authored IKSP documents	Sporadic documentation of ABD resources initiated by individuals in pilot provinces but are not yet	Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) documents authored by 2 ethno- linguistic groups include ABD		

		part of formal documentation of IKSP			different indigenous groups. There are secondary students receiving classes on agrobiodiversity. The modules were of good quality and the development and testing were led by indigenous peoples
<u>Outcome 2.4:</u> Improved opportunities for local communities to derive economic, livelihood and food security benefits from agro-biodiversity conservation, resulting in increased sustainability of agro-biodiversity and ecosystem conservation practices	Numbers of farmers applying producer labels based on ABD considerations, and quantity of rice labelled	• No farmers are currently third party certified. • A few ABD varieties in Ifugao were certified by a PLGU-initiated system but this was not sustained. First party producer labels are only applied by a limited number of farmers, only in Ifugao.	350 farmers (covering 238ha), in all 17 barangays, apply producer labels based on ABD considerations to a total of 55t of rice per year	MU	The financial viabilities of the agrobiodiversity enterprises are yet to be demonstrated since the implementation in 2018. The added value of these enterprises has not been established as the activities and results had limited correlation to agrobiodiversity conservation; and neither did the enterprise showed any link to increased sustainability of agrobiodiversity and ecosystem conservation practices. The production and sale of rice cookies had been mentioned as very low; whilst the sales of rice grains totalled to only 200 kilos in 2018. Given the low production and the lack of agrobiodiversity linkages, the project was not able to establish the consumers' "Willingness to Pay" benchmark. Further, the

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>interventions on the enterprises for traditional rice variety were based on untested assumptions and produced negligible results.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Levels of income from sale of traditional varieties</td><td>Average per farm annual production and sale of traditional rice varieties in the 17 target barangays (kg/farmer/year and US$/farmer/year):
<table><tr><td></td><td>Produced</td><td>Sold</td><td>Net inco</td></tr><tr><td>Hunguan</td><td>492</td><td>182</td><td>135</td></tr><tr><td>Hingyon</td><td>450</td><td>99</td><td>93</td></tr><tr><td>Lake Sebu</td><td>1381</td><td>732</td><td>243</td></tr></table></td><td>A total of 350 farmers in 17 have increased their income from sale of traditional varieties by 10%</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Quantities of traditional rice varieties that farmers consume or use for social obligations, rather than selling, relative to baseline levels</td><td>Quantities of farm-produced traditional rice varieties retained for home use (consumption or social obligations)
<table><tr><td>Municipality</td><td>Kg/house-hold/y</td></tr><tr><td>Hungduan</td><td>310</td></tr><tr><td>Hingyon</td><td>351</td></tr><tr><td>Lake Sebu</td><td>649</td></tr></table></td><td>Farmers maintain the quantities of traditional rice varieties that they consume or use for social obligations, rather than selling, at least baseline levels</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Output 2.4.1: Access to tools, equipment and facilities for improving productivity and sustainability, and reducing post-harvest losses</td><td>Numbers of target barangays with access to tools, equipment and facilities required for improving productivity and sustainability, and reducing post-harvest losses</td><td>Target technologies and baseline to be determined at project start</td><td>All 17 target barangays have access to tools, equipment and facilities required for improving productivity and sustainability, and for reducing post-harvest losses, subject to and in line with their identification of needs at project start.</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Output 2.4.2: Recognition of distinctive ABD and cultural importance of target sites and products</td><td>Numbers of target municipalities including NIAHS recognised sites</td><td>• Hungduan is already designated as a GIAHS site
• No sites are yet designated as NIAHS (two of the target sites are included in a compendium of 75 initial</td><td>1 target municipality includes NIAHS-recognized sites
•</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

		NIAHS candidate sites covering 5 regions)	
	Numbers of target barangays with community registries of traditional varieties under the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA)	• None	6 target barangays (2 per municipality) with community registries of traditional varieties under the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) covering around 2,000ha of traditional farming area
,	Numbers of traditional varieties in target barangays registered with National Seed Industry Council	• None	3 traditional varieties are registered with National Seed Industry Council •
	Area covered by GI certification	•	Active heirloom rice production areas, covering 5,000ha in 3 municipalities in Ifugao, are covered by GI certification (which includes requirements for NIAHS designation and traditional varieties), covering around 20 varieties in each province
	Area covered by organic certification (OA) in target municipalities	• Ifugao has received a national award for good practice in promoting organic agriculture production/certification	
Output 2.4.3: Detailed market analyses conducted to assess the specific marketability of indigenous varieties as a premium market product (building on general analysis under 3.1.1)	Number of traditional varieties for which market studies carried out	Enterprise development plans have been done for rice in Hungduan and Hingyon (none for Lake Sebu), but did not cover evaluation of specific market outlets	Market studies carried out for 3 traditional varieties per municipality (9 total)
Output 2.4.4: Capacity development for business planning, product	Number of producer groups with business and marketing plans	Some producer groups in Hungduan and Hingyon have	17 producer groups in the three target municipalities, covering 350 farmers, have

development and marketing, to increase farmers' abilities to seize commercial opportunities from target ABD species/varieties	to maximize opportunities for product development and revenue creation from target ABD varieties	business and marketing plans but none for Lake Sebu	developed business and marketing plans to maximize opportunities for product development and revenue creation from target ABD varieties		
	Numbers of people to who have received training on business development and management, and enterprise development support	At least 75 farmers were trained under the 5 farmer business schools conducted in Hungduan and Hingyon Ifugao under CHARMP2 In Lake Sebu, at least 50 tinalak weavers received enterprise development support in terms of product designs and development but none for farmers producing traditional rice varieties	Training on business development and management, and enterprise development support provided in the three target municipalities to: • 350 farmers • 4 NGO staff members 10 LGU agriculture technicians		
	Numbers of new products developed from traditional varieties in target municipalities	At least 3 new products developed from root crops and traditional rice varieties in Hungduan and Hingyon. New products developed through processing and improved packaging materials. Some new designs and products have been developed for tinalak but none for traditional rice varieties in Lake Sebu	3 new products developed from traditional varieties in each of the 3 target municipalities		
Outcome 3.1: Increased knowledge and awareness among policy-makers and practitioners about the full socio-economic value of agro-biodiversity.	Numbers of policy makers aware of ABD and practices that conserve them	Less than 15 policy makers and planners at national level and less than 20 local officials countrywide are aware of the value of ABD	Policy makers and planners aware of the value of ABD and practices that conserve them: • 50 from at least 15 national agencies 50 local officials in 32 LGUs	MS	Increased awareness of policy makers is manifested by the policy proposals, resolutions, ordinances and funding commitments by the national, municipal and local governments;
Output 3.1.1 Information on the full value of ABD	Numbers of policy makers and planners	Only limited information campaigns carried out to date on	100 policy makers and planners from 15 national agencies and		

<table>
<tr><td>and management options compiled and disseminated among policy-makers based on pilot results and existing national level information (including other initiatives)</td><td>who have received information on ABD and management options</td><td>ABD and management options, mostly by SUCs and NGOs</td><td>120 local officials in 35 LGUs have received information on ABD and management options through information and policy guidance documents, compendia and websites, symposia and congresses and NISM</td></tr>
<tr><td>Output 3.1.2: Consumer awareness campaign implemented showcasing the nutritional, cultural, ecological value of traditional varieties</td><td>Percentage of consumers willing to pay higher levels of price premia for Eco labelled products promoting ABD conservation</td><td>Numbers of consumers willing to pay different levels of price premiums for Eco labelled products promoting ABD conservation:<table><tr><th>Price premium (%)</th><th>% of consu</th></tr><tr><td><10</td><td>35</td></tr><tr><td>10-20</td><td>39</td></tr><tr><td>21-40</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>>40</td><td>10</td></tr></table></td><td>Increased numbers of consumers are willing to pay higher levels of price premia for Eco labelled products promoting ABD conservation:<table><tr><th>Price premium (%)</th><th>% of consume</th></tr><tr><td><10</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>10-20</td><td>44</td></tr><tr><td>21-40</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>>40</td><td>15</td></tr></table></td></tr>
</table>

including the support for eco-tourism.

Limited progress has been made on public and consumer awareness. The project has a disjointed communications objective and strategy, resulting in mixed messaging that were not matched for target audience. Resourcing and support for a key project component is limited to a part time communications expert. Other than a brief on NIAHS, the project did not produce any information and policy guidance documents as part of communications plan to re-enforce its policy objectives, and for awareness raising.

There is confusion in promoting the project versus raising awareness on agricultural biodiversity. The project developed a number of public facing communication materials Most are in English and promotes the project rather than inform about agrobiodiversity. Over-all, as implemented, the project's consumer awareness campaign on the value of traditional variety had weak planning with

				limited activities and results. A corresponding campaign plan has not been made, which should have included baseline, objectives, profiles of the target consumers, methods and ways of measuring success. Except for the participation to trade fairs and exhibits, reaching out to consumers and raising their awareness has been very limited. The limited progress in the enterprise development inevitably hinders consumer awareness.
Outcome 3.2: Conditions created for further replication and scaling up of ABD promotion in other parts of core provinces and regions	Numbers of farmers covered by commitments and action plans developed by regional organizations, LGUs and other organizations	Commitments on outreach cannot be established until project start.	Commitments and action plans developed by at least 4 regional organizations and at least 12 LGUs and other organizations covering communities in provinces and regions with high ABD, with a target population of up to 4,000 farmers	The prospects for scaling up lies in the project's remarkable achievements in bringing different institutions together and establish a model for institutional formation that permeates from national to local and across agencies. Alongside a successful institutional formation, scaling up entails establishing tools and evidences from the technical component; which so far has not been adequate. At the policy level, there are good prospects for scaling up and scaling out. The institutional formation that vertically and horizontally
Output 3.2.1: ABD considerations included into knowledge sharing programmes in target areas for upscaling (other parts of core provinces and regions, and elsewhere)	Numbers of farmers covered by knowledge sharing programmes into which ABD considerations have been incorporated.	At least one pilot Farmer Field School for improved practices of one traditional rice variety in CAR, by the DA CHARM Project	ABD considerations have been incorporated into knowledge sharing programmes covering 4,000 farmers in other parts of core provinces and regions and elsewhere	
Output 3.2.2: Partnerships with private sector established to facilitate the introduction of agro-biodiversity products into larger markets	Numbers of private sector actors with which partnerships have been established creating increased market	At least 4 private sector groups (Rice Terraces Farmers' Cooperative, Echosi Foundation Rice Inc, COWHED and LASIWWAI) are providing marketing and	Partnerships with 2 additional private sector actors creating increased market opportunities for ABD products nationwide	

	opportunities for ABD products nationwide	quality control assistance to farmers in the target areas			brought together different agencies that normally do not work together, across sectors, is a formidable scaffolding that advanced policy changes supportive of agrobiodiversity. Another scaling up potential pertains to mindset and behavioural changes. In particular, the new found confidence of beneficiaries, which helped built their agency to market and lobby various institutions for support. The technical results and field evidences on actual agrobiodiversity conservation were lacking. Beyond the target sites, there was limited exploration of partnerships at a wider level on a longer time scale, in part because of weaknesses in communications. The communications plan was not informed by research about the project's target audience (e.g., profile, value and motivation of selected segment of consumers) to serve as basis (and baseline) in designing the communications (and marketing) strategy, target
Output 3.2.3: Arrangements for outreach collaboration with actors in other municipalities, provinces and regions (NGOs/Government)	Number of target regions in which regional level outreach workshops have been held	None exist	Regional level outreach workshops held in the 2 target regions, with participation of actors from other regions in the country with high upscaling potential		

					behavioural change and tailor messages.

Appendix 5 Evaluation Comments to the **Mid-Term Project Evaluation of October 2019**

Midterm Evaluation Recommendations	Project Response	Actions to be taken	Responsible Agency	Timeframe	Terminal Evaluation Comments
Recommendation 1 (to PMCU, Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR), Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) DENR-BMB, and local government units (LGUs). (Within 12 months) A more coherent approach and additional support needs to be given to mainstreaming indigenous agrobiodiversity (ABD) conservation and associated farming practices into policy and programmes at both national and LGU levels.	**Accepted**	This is included in the project workplan and will be implemented in coordination with the National Agrobiodiversity Policy Consultants Planned Activities: a. Another set of meetings with national government stakeholders such as DA-BAR, DA-ATI, DENR-BMB, NCCA, NCIP, DILG, and DA-Office of Undersecretary for Operations) are scheduled for project updating consultation and policy direction setting. b. Mentoring activities on ABD mainstreaming and policy formulation for Ifugao and South Cotabato are scheduled to further assist LGUs within the pilot communities. c. National-level Stakeholders' Policy Workshop which will be participated by project partners from national government agencies, local government units, academe and the farming communities.	PMCU, DA-BAR, DA-BPI, DENR-BMB, LGUs and partner agencies	Oct 2019 -Dec 2020 1st week to 3rd week of Nov 2019 Nov 12-15, 2019 for Ifugao Nov 25-28, 2019 for South Cotabato	Project was able to mainstream agricultural biodiversity conservation in national and local policies and frameworks by working with policy experts, tapping the institutional formation of the project and convening multi-stakeholder policy dialogues. The participation of indigenous peoples in all aspects of policy work and their articulation of their unique agrobiodiversity work was still limited. This can be gleaned in part from the project's support to policies that likely infringed on indigenous peoples rights and violates FPIC provisions – for example the support to nationally register indigenous varieties, under the name of local authorities, with samples bought by the national genebank, with no protection mechanisms for the community, no benefit sharing mechanisms and no outright recognition of the community/indigenous peoples as owners. This may be a violation of the Indigenous People's Rights Act and FPIC provisions.

Recommendation 2 (to PMCU, FAO Philippines (FAOPH), Local farming communities particularly direct beneficiaries of project, DA-BAR, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST). (Within 12 months). Despite successes to date, the project should invest more time and resources into the ABD enterprise development element (Component 2), specifically support for more effective processing, labelling, packaging and marketing of ABD products produced through traditional farming methods.	**Accepted**	This is included in the project workplan, particularly in Component 2. Practical capacity building/enhancement activities on ABD product processing, food safety, enhanced labelling and packaging, food quality control, financial planning, and marketing of ABD products produced, particularly in Ifugao and South Cotabato, are set to be conducted in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). PMCU will review its workplan and will consider DENR's Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise (BDFE)/Biodiversity Friendly Agricultural Practices, especially within the protected areas. Particular attention will be paid to ensuring that women and the youth are continuously able to participate in and benefit from such initiatives in an equitable manner, recognising their key roles. Training of Trainors for LGUs will be taken into account as part of sustaining capacity enhancement interventions to support local enterprises. A new Provincial Coordinator for Ifugao and an Admin and Finance Officer at the PMCU have already been recruited.	PMCU, FAOPH, DA-BAR, DA-AMAS, Farmer organizations DOST DTI	Oct 2019-Dec 2020	Project invested in supporting communities in enterprise development particularly by organizing trainings, leveraging support for facilities and marketing of products. Indigenous women farmers acknowledged this strong support of the project to their livelihood. Basic data on feasibility of the enterprise and its actual economic contribution and translation to improved agrobiodiversity conservation were missing. Product labels come across as project promotion than agricultural agrobiodiversity promotion. The connection of the enterprise to improved agrobiodiversity conservation was not visible from the interventions and was not supported by data.
Recommendation 3 (to PMCU, DA-BAR and Department of Agriculture – Agriculture	**Accepted**	New Training Needs Assessment (TNA) intended for farmers and municipal and provincial stakeholders	PMCU, DA-BAR, ATI, LGUs,	Oct-Dec 2019	Training Needs Analysis (TNA) was conducted for all 17 projects sites on enterprise development. Despite highly diverse areas, diverse indigenous peoples

Training Institute (DA-ATI), LGUs and local farming communities, in next 12-15 months). To address continuing capacity needs, the project should undertake a new Training Needs Analysis, to ensure sufficient capacity is built in key areas before the end of the project or identified for follow-up		is planned to be rolled-out by the project on November to December 2019. As of now, TNA template has already been drafted and forwarded to partner Municipal and Provincial Agriculturist for enhancement and translation into local dialect			and diverse cropping systems, the TNA results were almost the same for all the projects areas. There were also no extension and communication modules on agrobiodiversity developed for LGUs and facilitators for different indigenous groups.
Recommendation 4 (to PMCU, PhilRice, provincial authorities, farmer organisations, in next 6 months). The function of Community Seed banks (CSBs) as a gene bank (holding small quantities of a large number of ABD varieties) and as storage for seeds to be used by the community in the next growing season (large amount of a limited number of ABD varieties) needs to be separated. Instead, the gene bank function would be better addressed through being fully held *ex situ*.	**partially accepted**	Based on consultations, we were informed that some farmers want to maintain small quantities of seeds in their seedbanks including seeds of other crops not only rice. As such, some of the seedbanks will also function as genebank. But PMCU will continue to identify genebank near the project sites that can be accessed by the farmers for *ex situ* conservation (with consent from the LGUs and communities).	PMCU, MLGUs, DA-BAR, DA-RFOs, PhilRice, Farmer-organisations	Oct 2019 – March 2020	The combined seedbank and genebank function of Community Seed Banks was not verified with actual field visit. From documents and data presented, there were no explicit differentiation on genebanking and seed banking function and their value in the community. The *ex-situ* arrangement with PhilRice did not include measures to ensure community rights over seeds. There were no agreements signed by PhilRice and communities (e.g., Blackbox agreement or standard material transfer agreement). Evaluators were provided with a list of varieties purchased by PhilRice (informal receipt) from the indigenous peoples.
Recommendation5 (to PMCU, FAOPH, Project Steering Committee (PSC), within next 12 months). The project needs to develop a sustainability and exit plan that identifies potential follow-up activities, transfer of roles and responsibilities from the PMCU/FAOPH to partners,	**Accepted**	As indicated in the Work Plan, the project will endeavour to sustain and replicate project gains in partnership with local and national stakeholders. All current and future project initiatives and good practices, including lessons' learned, shall be documented and considered in the development of sustainability and exit plan.	PMCU, including policy consultants, FAOPH, PSC concerned partner agencies,	October 2019-Dec 2020	The project drafted an exit plan, intended as sustainability plan. The Department of Agriculture Office of Undersecretary for Operations has agreed to be the institutional host of the project after the project closes. The forthcoming Philippine elections may affect the agreement if there are changes in key government officials and priorities. Aside from this, the draft exit plan is composed of a number of turnover

including a relevant 'institutional home' for ABD concerns, and financing as needed to ensure continuation of project results and benefits		The identified institutional home for ABD is the Office of the Undersecretary for Operations of the Department of Agriculture and has been agreed during the July 2019 PSC meeting. At the end of the project implementation, the office will take-over the follow-up activities and integrate these into their regular workplans. A Sustainability and Exit plan will be prepared by the PMCU, in coordination with FAOPH.			of activities and outputs to the respective government institutions. There is no analysis of the quality of what will be turned over and if these are viable products that could be turned over The Community Seed Banks have already been legally turned over to the respective Bureau of Plant Industry, Local Government Unit - Office of the Municipal Agriculturist.
Recommendation6 (to PMCU, FAOPH, within next 6 months). The PMCU needs increase staffing capacity and review travel arrangements to be able to operate more efficiently and effectively. PMCU staff should also be offered opportunities for technical training to improve PMCU capacity in specific areas	**Accepted**	As reflected in the earlier section, the Admin and Finance Assistant has already been hired, while the current Senior Enterprise Development Specialist, based in the PMCU, will be dedicating extending increased support to Ifugao. Staff training on ABD, including communications , is being explored, including online trainings. The PMCU has also participated in some of the technical workshops being organized by the country office. The PMCU will seek to increase efficiencies in travel arrangements by combing relevant missions in similar locations and timeframe. A year-end Project Assessment and Planning Workshop in December 2019 and in 2020 is also being planned in order to better address the matter	PMCU, FAOPH, DA-BAR	Nov 2019-April 2020	PMCU increased staffing capacity with hiring of part time communications person, Admin and Finance Assistant and by re-programming existing staff assignments. There were still challenges with work load as exemplified by the case of the programme and training specialist, performing M&E functions on top of the regular workload. The part time communications person, while an improvement compared to other projects, capacity/staff time was still lacking in relation to ambition.

Recommendation7 (to PMCU, FAOPH, within next 3 months and results submitted to the July 2019 PSC meeting). Partner co-financing commitments needs to be reconfirmed with a clear explanation of how each partner's contribution links to the project	**partially accepted**	PMCU shall exert efforts on the attainment of the partners co-financing commitments but, as discussed during the 5th PSC meeting, the total funds originally committed by each partner to the project might not be fully provided, considering the changes in leaderships of different partner agencies. Commitments to the project of former agency heads (when the project was being formulated), may not be honoured or fully provided by the current agency heads, aside from issues of budgetary constraints of the partner agencies. At any rate, during the PSC, majority of the government partners have committed to complement the activities of the project, to the extent possible, through in-kind contribution and attribution of relevant projects and initiatives.	PMCU, FAOPH, PSC, Partner agencies	Nov 2019 – Jan 2020	Less than 50% of co-financing commitments was realized, in part due to re-alignment of government funds for Covid-19 pandemic response. Nonetheless, the co-financing leveraged by the project was significant.
Recommendation8 (to PMCU, FAOPH, project partners, within 6 months). A partnership strategy should be developed to improve the effectiveness and management of the project's activities and relationships with partners. Individual partner agreements should also be set out in a series of formal project partner MoUs documents	**Accepted**	The formulation of a partnership strategy is included in the workplan Re-confirmation of co-financing with partner local government units and collaborating national government agencies has already started. Letter of commitment will follow once their proposed co-financing allocation would be approved by their respective principals. MoUs are now being drafted as well	PMCU, FAOPH, Partner agencies	Nov 2019 – April 2020	Partner agreements were developed and support of different agencies on particular elements of the project were undertaken and agreed even after project closes. Less than 50% of co-financing, a translation of the partnership, materialized.

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Recommendation9 (to PMCU, FAOPH and their communication officers). Greater emphasis needs to be given to project communication by the PMCU, including improved use of social media, with the identification of 'good 'stories', and a regular newsletter. The project should create simple advocacy and awareness-raising materials on ABD conservation, with key messages to circulate to different target groups at the national and local levels (to support Components 1 and 2 activities).	**Accepted**	An enhanced communications plan has been prepared to include this recommendation. The project brief has been developed and is being updated regularly. Additionally, PMCU regularly submits inputs for the FAOPH newsletter every quarter, and actively submits case stories to HQ and RAP, upon request.	PMCU, FAOPH	Nov 2019 – Dec 2020	There were attempts to improve communications work with PMCU providing regular contributions to FAO Philippines newsletter and submitted case studies too. There is an FAO website's page for the project and a project designated website hosted by the DA-BAR. However, some of the links in the sites are still empty despite that the project is already ending. There was no synergy with other websites of partner institutions to optimize audience reach and engagement. For policy makers, the face- to- face workshops, PCC meetings etc. served as the main communication and awareness raising channel. Other than a brief on NIAHS, the project did not produce any information and policy guidance documents as part of communications plan to re-enforce its policy objectives. There is confusion in promoting the project versus raising awareness on agricultural biodiversity.
Recommendation10 (to PMCU and FAOPH, within next 3 months). The project's log frame should be revised with some of the outputs reassigned, outcomes reworded, and the current set of indicators reduced to produce a more effective and coherent results framework and monitoring system.	**Accepted**	On-going revision of the log frame in consultation with the implementing partner DA-BAR and other national and local government partners.	PMCU, FAOPH, DA-BAR	Oct-Dec 2019	Log frame was revised but still activity based and did not to capture the correlation and synergy of components. There was also no assessment of the quality of outputs as a key reference document, the project team focused on complying with what was set in the log frame at the expense of looking at the quality of implementation and entirety of the project.
Recommendation 11 (to FAOPH, FAO Rome and FAO RAP, PMCU and members of the PSC, within 2 months with decision taken at July 2019 PSC meeting).	**Accepted**	PSC approved the no-cost extension (NCE) up to June 2021 during the PSC meeting held last July 2019. Relatedly, the proposed NCE has likewise been agreed by the members of the Project Task Force (PTF) during the skype PTF meeting last 09 October 2019. FAOPH	FAOPH, FAO Rome, FAO RAP, PMCU	Oct 2019	With Covid-19, project was further extended to 2022.

A 12-month no-cost extension (NCE) up to the end of June 2021 is recommended to complete key elements of the project to give an effective operational period of almost four years for the project.		is processing the NCE in the system, in coordination with the FLO.			

Appendix 6. List of people interviewed

	First Name	Last Name	Designation/Representation	Organization/Location
1	Sameer	Kharki	Funding Liaison Officer	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
2	Mary Jane	Dela Cruz	Technical Officer	Secretariat, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, Rome, Italy
3	Mariana	Estrada Avila	Indigenous Women and Programme Support	Indigenous Peoples Unit, FAO, Rome, Italy
4	Nigel	Varty	Team Leader Midterm Evaluation	Consultant
5	Yon	Fernandez Larrinoa	Head	Indigenous Peoples Unit, FAO, Rome, Italy
6	Alvaro	Toledo	Interim Deputy Secretary	Secretariat, International Treaty on Plant Genetics Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, Rome, Italy
7	Tobias	Kiene	Technical Officer	Secretariat, International Treaty on Plant Genetics Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, Rome, Italy
8	Jeffrey	Griffin	Senior Coordinator	FAO-GEF Unit, FAO, Rome, Italy
9	Genevieve	Braun	Programme Officer	FAO-GEF Unit, FAO, Rome, Italy
10	Aaron	Becker	GEF Regional Focal Point	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
11	Angela	Joehl Cadena	GEF Programming Specialist	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
12	Pierre	Ferrand	Agricultural Officer (Agroecology)	Plant Production and Protection, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand

	First Name	Last Name	Designation/Representation	Organization/Location
13	Bo	Zhou	Lead Technical Officer/Agricultural Officer	Plant Production and Protection, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
14	Sridhar	Dharmapuri	Lead Technical Officer/Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer/Module Leader	Food System, Nutrition and Healthy Diets Module, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
15	Katti	Tanninen	FAO Representative	FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
16	Tamara	Palis Duran	Assistant FAO Representative (Programme)	FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
17	Edcelle	Evangelio	Procurement Officer	FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
18	Fidel	Rodriguez	Project Backstopping Officer	FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
19	Rafael	Umbrero	Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
20	Glenn	Aquino	Administration and Finance	FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
21	Jasmine	Magtibay	Backstopping Officer, Normative Group Leader	FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
22	Virginia	Agcopra	National Project Coordinator	Project Management and Coordinating Unit, FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
23	Kathleen	Ramilo	Senior Enterprise Development Specialist	Project Management and Coordinating Unit, FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
24	Jack	Agonia	Administration and Finance	Project Management and Coordinating Unit, FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines

	First Name	Last Name	Designation/Representation	Organization/Location
25	Marlon	Makilan	Programme and Training Specialist	Project Management and Coordinating Unit, FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
26	Melanie	Sison	Communication Specialist	Project Management and Coordinating Unit, FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
27	Richard	Gadit	Provincial Coordinator, Ifugao	Project Management and Coordinating Unit, FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
28	Marjun	Pinyuhan	Community Facilitator, Hungduan, Ifugao	Project Management and Coordinating Unit, FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
29	Deo	Tomas	Community Facilitator, Hingyon, Ifugao	Project Management and Coordinating Unit, FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
30	Arnold	Dacula	Enterprise Development Specialist, Lake Sebu	Project Management and Coordinating Unit, FAO Country Office – Philippines, Manila, Philippines
31	Joell	Lales	Officer in Charge-Assistant Bureau Director	Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Agriculture, Quezon City, Philippines
32	Maylen	Cunanan	Agriculturist II Project Liaison	Bureau of Agricultural Research, Department of Agriculture, Quezon City, Philippines
33	Amparo	Ampil	Chief of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries Policy Division	Department of Agriculture, Quezon City, Philippines
34	Ian Jomari	Panaga	Development Management Officer	Policy Research Service, Department of Agriculture, Quezon City Philippines
35	Xavier	Caguiat	Senior Science Research Specialist	Philippine Rice Research Institute, Munoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines

	First Name	Last Name	Designation/Representation	Organization/Location
36	Teresita	Borromeo	Professor	University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines
37	Juvy	Ladisla	Chief, Partnership and Engagement Section	Caves, Wetlands and other Ecosystems Division, Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Quezon City, Philippines
38	Ares Erwin	Baron	Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist	Foreign Assisted Special Projects, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Quezon City, Philippines
39	Justina	Navarette	Former Provincial Agriculture Officer	Provincial Agriculture Office, South Cotabato, Philippines
40	Lebert	Ulo	Agriculturist	Provincial Agriculture Office, South Cotabato, Philippines
41	Kenelynn	Arino	Special Project Staff Designate	Provincial Planning and Development Office, South Cotabato, Philippines
42	Jennifer	Tupaz	Municipal Tourism Officer	Municipal Tourism Office, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
43	Zaldy	Artacho	Municipal Agriculture Officer	Municipal Agriculture Office, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
44	Reden	Ulo	Dean	Sta Cruz Mission School Inc, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato Philippines
45	Catherine	Buenaventura	Supervising Agriculturist	Provincial Agriculture Environment and Natural Resources Office, Ifugao, Philippines
46	Giselle	Kalaw-Luglug	Team Member Free Prior Informed Consent Facilitation	National Council for Indigenous Peoples, Ifugao, Philippines
47	Jacqueline	Lunag	Chief and Supervisor, School Governance	Division Office, Department of Education, Ifugao, Philippines

	First Name	Last Name	Designation/Representation	Organization/Location
48	Jun Rey	Samillano	Agriculturist	Agriculture Training Institute Region XII, Department of Agrciulture, South Cotabato, Philippines
49	Myla	Inohabian	Staff	Hungduan Employees Multipurpose Cooperative, Hungduan, Ifugao, Philippines
50	Jonathan	Wacoy	Municipal Agriculture Officer	Municipal Agriculture Office, Hungduan, Ifugao, Philippines
51	Alfonso	Cayong	Agriculturist, OIC	Municipal Agriculture Office, Hungduan, Ifugao, Philippines
52	Araceli	Ngatiyon	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Anao Timpuyug Organization, Hingyon, Ifugao, Philippines
53	Editha	Nagulman	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Poblacion Farmers Association, Hingyon, Ifugao, Philippines
54	Agapita	Yogyog	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Poblacion Farmers Assiocation Hingyon, Ifugao, Philippines
55	Haydee	Ogayan	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Bitu SEA-K Organization (Self-Employment Sa Kaunlaran), HIngyon, Ifugao
56	Brigida	Dagumay	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Hingyon, Ifugao, Philippines
57	Conchita	Calingayan	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Dackitan Farmers Organization/CSB Custodian, Hungduan, Ifugao, Philippines
58	Helen	Palatic	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Hungduan Heirloom Rice Producer Organization, Hungduan, Ifugao, Philippines

	First Name	Last Name	Designation/Representation	Organization/Location
59	Pacita	Ibat	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Bokiawan Women's Organization, Bokiawan, Hungduan, Ifugao, Philippines
60	Teresa	LImmangya	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Nungulunan RIC and Farmers Organization, Hungduan, Ifugao, Philippines
61	Chita	Sulan	T'boli Indigenous Peoples; Organization Leader	Lake Sebu Indigenous Women and Farmers Association, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
62	Remmy	Lagana	T'boli Indigenous Peoples Organization Leader	Lamcade Farmers Association, Lamcade, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
63	Nonito	Malingay	Ubo Indigenous Peoples Organization Leader	Elomet Indigenous Peoples Farmers Association, Luhib, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
64	Daniel	Balicuscos	Ubo Indigenous Peoples (Datu/Leader) Organization Leader	Kun K'wit Atul Ubo (KUNKAU) Inc Lamfugon, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
65	Elisa	Bidang	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples Organization Member	Baang Women's Organization- Rural Improvement Club (RIC), Hungduan, Ifugao, Philippines
66	Conchita	Eballar	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples Organization Member	Cababuyan South Farmers Organization, Hingyon, Ifugao, Philippines
67	Gloria	Binwek	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples Organization Member	Cababuyan South Farmers Organization, Hingyon, Ifugao, Philippines
68	Anita	Gulgulway	Tuwali Indigenous Peoples Organization Member	AMK Organization, Hingyon, Ifugao, Philippines

	First Name	Last Name	Designation/Representation	Organization/Location
69	Jenny	Cabansal	Indigenous Peoples Organization Member	Lake Sebu Indigenous Women and Farmers Association, Klubi, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
70	Imelda	Sugan	Ubo Indigenous Peoples Organization Member	Lake Sebu Indigenous Women and Farmers Association, Lamfugon, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
72	Ivy	Nunal	Indigenous Peoples Organization Member	Lake Sebu Indigenous Women and Farmers Association. Klubi, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
73	Nimfa	Tamonggal	T'boli Indigenous Peoples Organization Leader	Lake Sebu Indigenous Women and Farmers Association, Lamcade, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
74	Merlinda	Go	Ilongga Organization Member	Lake Sebu Indigenous Women and Farmers Association Luhib, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato Philippines
75	Candelaria	Dumale	Ilongga Organization Member/Farmer	Lake Sebu Indigenous Women and Farmers Association, Luhib, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
76	Christina	Cente	T'boli Indigneous Peoples Farmer	Klubi, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
77	Edwin	Tadulan	Ubo, Indigenous Peoples Farmer	Lamfugon, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
78	Nadia Rose	Tuan	T'boli Indigenous Peoples Farmer	Klubi, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
79	Rolly	Banday	T'boli, Indigenous Peoples Farmer	Luhib, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
80	Florabel	Banday	Indigenous Peoples Youth Representative of Ubo and T'boli Indigenous Peoples	Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, Philippines
81	Normita	Ignacio	Executive Director	SEARICE, Quezon City, Philippines

	First Name	Last Name	Designation/Representation	Organization/Location
82	Elpidio	Peria	Access Benefit Sharing, Agrobiodiversity Legal Expert	Consultant, General Santos City, South Cotabato , Philippines
83	Joy Angelica	Santos-Doctor	Indigenous Peoples Rights, Agrobiodiversity Legal Expert	Consultant, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines

Appendix 7. List of documents consulted

The List of Documents Consulted should be written as in a real publication; therefore, internal documents as project documents should not to be included in this list. If reference is made to any internal document, include reference in text by inserting a footnote. See sample list below.

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Appendix 8. Evaluation Matrix

Evaluation Question 1 (Relevance): To what extent has the project's objectives and design been consistent with the Philippine government's and local priorities and policies; to the GEF's strategic priorities and objectives, FAO's strategic programmes, and adds value to the dynamic conservation and use of critical agro-biodiversity, including global environmental benefits?		
Evaluation sub-questions	Indicators	Source of information / data collection tools
1.1 How has the project aligned to international, national and local priorities and policies related to the conservation and use of critical agrobiodiversity? 1.2 How aligned is the project to GEF's and FAO's objectives, priorities and programmes? 1.3 How is the project design addressing the drivers of ADB loss and adds value to the dynamic conservation and use of ADB? 1.4 To what extent is the project's design and expected results relevant and appropriate in meeting the needs of the men and women farmers and indigenous communities? 1.5 How well has the project adapted to remain relevant within any changing policy or institutional contexts?	-Coherence to legally binding ADB related international agreements to which the Philippines is a signatory country, namely the CBD and ITPGRFA -Coherence to national and local ADB and other related policies, priorities and plans _Coherence to GEF's and FAO's objectives and programmes _Analysis of the project's identified barriers to the ADB conservation and use and the technical soundness and added value of the project's intervention design -Analysis on extent that the project has remained relevant to any significant policy or institutional changes -Identified institutional and environmental additionality of GEF -Identified gaps addressed by the project and its added value as perceived by the consulted implementers and the men and women beneficiaries (farmers and indigenous communities)	– CBD and ITPGRFA articles and policies – GEF documents: policies and strategies – FAO strategy documents and country plans – Project documents design and progress reports – National agriculture, environment and development, cultural policies and plans e.g., NBSAP, national agriculture policies, national agricultural biodiversity policies – Local policies, programs and plans – Project and national needs assessment – Farmers' profiles – Project's ToC – FPIUC reports – Interviews with local communities/indigenous peoples; key policy makers and experts – MTR and project's response
Evaluation Question 2 (Effectiveness): To what extent has the project's objectives been achieved and were there any unintended results? How have the results demonstrated the project's contribution to the dynamic conservation and use of critical agro-biodiversity?		
Evaluation sub-questions	Indicators	Source of information
2.1 To what extent have the project objectives and outcomes been achieved and were there any changes in plans and unintended results? 2.2 To what extent can the attainment of results be attributed to the project? 2.3 Added value: How have the results demonstrated the catalytic role of the project's contribution to the dynamic	-Component 1 - evidence of change in policy/legal/regulatory framework text and legislation; change in policy, practice of key stakeholders -Component 2 – evidence of enhance capacity of local stakeholders for the dynamic conservation practices for agricultural biodiversity (incorporation of agricultural biodiversity concerns in the local plans and governance framework;	- Project's input to and changes in current policies, and legislations - Capacity building needs analysis and results - gender and socially inclusive learning curriculum. E.g., FFS modules - national and local government reports and other non-government reports (e.g., NDRRMC and DA crop/livelihood damage reports during disasters) - news reports and other social media posts -indicator targets in the project's Results Framework and MEL - Project progress reports, especially PIR and FAO PPRs - Project's ToC

conservation and use of critical agro-biodiversity, including global environmental benefits?	enhanced management of community-based agricultural biodiversity; enhanced knowledge on the application of agricultural biodiversity; improved opportunities for local communities to benefit from agricultural biodiversity; gender disaggregated number of trainees and trainings held) -Component 3 – Identified use and reach of project's knowledge products and processes – awareness raising activities and evidence of uptake (e.g., shift in narratives/stories of stakeholders; promotion by non-project actors) -conditions created for scaling up and further adaptation of agricultural biodiversity in other areas -Degree to which the project met relevant milestones and indicator targets set out in the project's Results Framework and MEL - evidence of environmental stress reduction (e.g., evidence of resilience during extreme weather events) and environmental status change (reflecting Global Environmental Benefits)	-agricultural biodiversity baseline, including 4 square analyses _ Annual Workplan and budget- -Storytelling - Outcome harvesting - FGDs, and KII - collate the criteria used in the selection of the crop varieties and compare this to gender differentiated crop trait and preferences with actual crop agronomic and market results. The technical prospects of *in- situ* and *ex- situ* conservation and utilization, including prospects for scaling up - MTR and project's response
Evaluation Question 3 (Efficiency): To what extent has the project been successful in using available resources (funds, personnel, expertise, equipment, etc.) to deliver results in the timeliest and least costly way possible		
Evaluation Sub-questions	Indicators	Source of information
3.1 Has the project activities and outputs been implemented in a timely and cost-effective manner? 3.2 How has the project made optimal use of available funds, personnel, expertise and resources? 3.3 To what extent has management been able to adapt to any changing conditions to improve the efficiency of project implementation? 3.4 How well has the project managed to cope with Covid-19 impact on timescales and delivery	-Level of discrepancies in planned and actual activities, outputs and expenses -Examples of how the project pooled and leveraged resources and expertise amongst the project stakeholders - Cost associated with the delivery mechanism and management structure compared to alternatives -Consistency with FAO Philippines COVID-19 business continuity plan	-project timeline - project budget -financial and progress reports -Procurement plans -SSI - news and social media scanning (e.g., reach of social media posts compared to cost) - MTR and project's response -FAO COVID-19 business continuity plan and duty of care

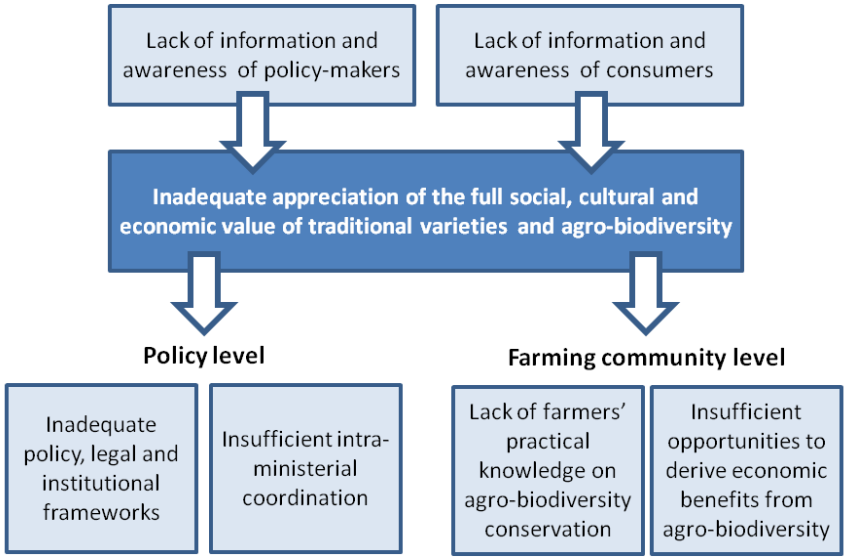
Evaluation Question 4 (Sustainability): What are the prospects for sustaining the results beyond the projects' closure? In particular, what systems are in place to environmentally, institutionally, financially, politically, culturally and socially sustain key activities? What is the prospect for scaling-up the activities?		
Evaluation Sub-questions	Indicators	Source of information
4.1 What are the environmental, institutional, financial, political, cultural and social factors that would facilitate or hinder the sustainability of the project after the project closure? 4.2 What are the pathways for scaling up the project activities?	-Project's exit strategy / Sustainability plan -Project's risk identification and mitigation - Level of ownership, commitment and synergies of stakeholders involve to continue the project, and any commitments on investments made -Assessment of political dynamics and how local executive priorities and commitments are affected (including consideration of upcoming election if relevant) - Level of knowledge, skills attained by project stakeholders to continue with the project -Mainstreaming of project activities into the national and local plans and activities -Technical soundness of the ADB conservation and use - -Feasible plans for scaling	- Exit strategy document -Perception and commitment of stakeholders -Scale up pathways - storytelling - FGDs, KII - MTR and project's response
Evaluation Question 5 (Factors Affecting Performance): What are the factors that facilitated and hindered the effectiveness of the project, including: monitoring and evaluation, quality of implementation, quality of execution, financial management and mobilization of co-financing, project partnership and stakeholder engagement, knowledge management, communications and public awareness.		
Evaluation Sub-questions	Indicators	Source of information
5.1 How has the project designed, implemented and made use of its monitoring and evaluation system? 5.2 What is the quality of project implementation and execution? 5.3 How did the co-financing of the project materialise? 5.4 To what extent has the project been successful in establishing partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders? 5.5 What are the mechanisms in place to promote the generation and sharing of knowledge and lessons learned? 5.6 What are the contribution of	-MEL system and adaptive management; including SMART indicators- -role and responsibilities discharged by the GEF Agencies that have direct access to GEF resources. -Quality of Execution pertains to the roles and responsibilities discharged by the country or regional counterparts that received GEF funds from the GEF Agencies and executed the funded activities on ground. -Specified co-financing report -active engagement of stakeholders in project design, implementation of project activities and decision-making; -consultations with and between	– MEL strategy and data – Stakeholder mapping – FGDs, KII – Project progress and financial reports – -Minute of Meetings – FAO staff and project team – Project focal points in the implementing agencies – Key stakeholders and beneficiaries from the national, provincial and municipal levels – MTR and project's response

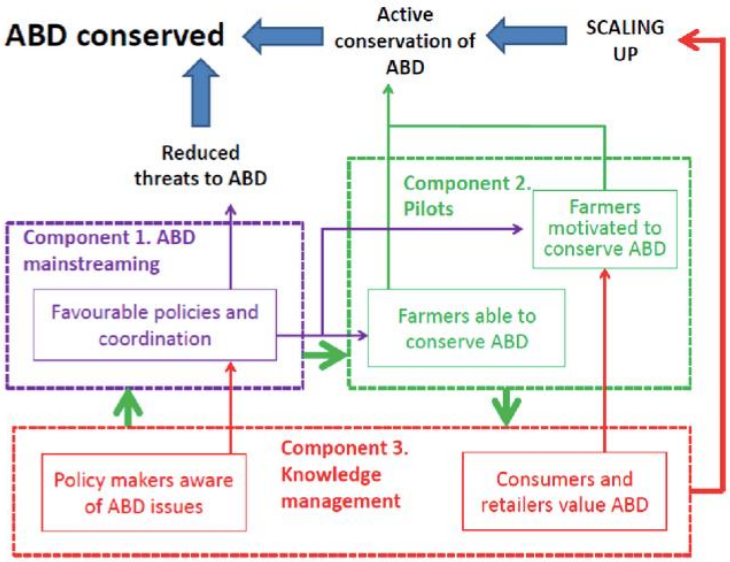
the project in communicating and raising awareness on the importance ad added value of the agricultural biodiversity conservation and use? 1.7. To what extent may any discernible progress towards long-term impact be attributed to the project (including programming and policy areas)? 1.8. How well did the project use risk analysis to ensure adaptive management, including the challenges presented by Covid-19	stakeholders; -dissemination of project-related information to and between stakeholders. - Knowledge products and processes -Communication strategy -Project's milestones towards long term impact	

Evaluation Question 6 (Cross Cutting): To what extent have equity, gender and social inclusion, including Indigenous Peoples (IP) been taken in account in the design and implementation of the project? To what extent has the project taken environmental and social concerns into consideration in its design and implementation (is the project in line with its Environmental and Social Safeguards plan.

Evaluation Sub-questions	Indicators	Source of information
6.1 How were gender and social inclusion (marginalized people, youth, indigenous peoples) incorporated in all aspects of project design and interventions, including participants selection and leadership 6.2 What was the level and quality of participation of the farmers and indigenous communities in the conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity? 6.3 How have the project outputs and outcomes contributed to equity issues for gender and social inclusion	_-project document includes a clear and adequate analysis of relevant gender and IP concerns -project clearly identify and address concerns with respect to IP rights and involvement with agricultural biodiversity pilot sites in the Philippines -Gender indigenous peoples sensitive project indicators:(1) responsive to the needs and vulnerabilities; (2) incorporation of local knowledge in project design and implementation; (3) consent to the project; (4) participation, governance and leadership roles; (5) indicators as part of MEL -Crop trait preferences differentiated between men, women and youth	– FPIC report – -Project gender analysis and vulnerability assessments – MELK – Project progress reports – -gender disaggregated project data – FGD – KII – -gender sensitive training modules, e.g., FFS curriculum – Agricultural biodiversity analysis, 4 square method report – Storytelling – Outcome harvesting – FGDs, and KII – collate the criteria used in the selection of the crop varieties and compare this to gender differentiated crop trait and preferences with actual crop agronomic and market results. The technical prospects of *in- situ* and *ex- situ* conservation and utilization, including prospects for scaling up – MTR and project's response

Appendix 9. Theory of Change – The project's analysis of the barriers to agricultural biodiversity conservation and proposed barrier removal strategy





Appendix 10. Evaluation's Outcome Harvesting: Project outcome in mainstreaming agricultural biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use in policies and legal frameworks

Policies/Legal Frameworks	Status	Outcome description	Outcome significance	Project Contribution	Evaluator's additional observations
Republic Act 7308: Seed Industry Development Act (SIDA)	House Committee on Food and Agriculture created a Technical Working Group to harmonize other proposals as part of preparations for Second Reading	The proposed amendments to SIDA mandates the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) as the line bureau for the a) conservation development and sustainable use of plant genetic materials (b) ensuring quality planting materials are available to stakeholders; (c) generating technologies along the line of varietal development, culture and management, agricultural mechanization, crop protection and etc.; (d) crop pest management; (e) seed certification; (f) plant quarantine;(g) biosafety; (h) ensuring food safety; and (i) variety registration. The proposed amendments facilitate the Integration and complementation of the formal and informal seed sectors to enhance their mutual development. The formal seed system has the capital, resources and technology whereas the farmer seed system is the major source of germplasm for breeding. An inclusive policy framework will be beneficial to	Recognition and support to informal seed systems, including that of indigenous seed systems – for research, development and mass production Support to realization of Farmers' Rights to seeds	Convened a series of multi-stakeholder consultations and other processes to push the amendments to SIDA; proposed amendments to support farmers' agrobiodiversity conservation work	Since the project worked directly with indigenous peoples (IPs), the proposed amendments could have included the representation for IPs in the seed council and in the technical working group as holders of indigenous knowledge and unique seed systems. Also, ensure at least mention of IP rights, as these set of internationally recognized rights are distinct from Farmers Rights. In addition, if possible, to distinctly include IP seed systems to distinguish it from farmers seed systems. Although part of informal seed systems, IP seed systems are part of identity of IPs. By supporting and articulating IP rights and systems, the project not only aligns with what has been achieved on the ground but also takes measures to avoid IPs to be dis-enfranchised from participation/availing benefits from the law. The best approach is for the project to ensure IP participation in policy development in order for them to articulate their perspectives better.

Policies/Legal Frameworks	Status	Outcome description	Outcome significance	Project Contribution	Evaluator's additional observations
		the development of the seed industry and the agriculture sector as a whole.			
Joint Memorandum Circular on the Rules and Regulations Governing the Declaration (recognition) of Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System (NIAHS) as Intangible Cultural Property under the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 and Providing Appropriate Mechanisms for their Dynamic Conservation	Under review by Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment and Natural Resources prior to joint meeting to harmonize comments for signature by Secretaries	This policy instrument aims to recognize and register nationally important agriculture heritage system/s (NIAHS), and provide the process for its recognition; to promote and encourage the dynamic conservation and sustainable management of recognized NIAHS through appropriate policies, plans and programs of the government; to provide incentives and benefits to host communities and LGUs of recognized NIAHS as may be allowed under existing laws.	This policy instrument can be used by local government units, local communities, indigenous peoples and other relevant actors to support community initiatives on agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use by having the landscape/system declared as nationally important agricultural heritage system	Developed and drafted the Memo and lobbied for the policy to be approved Project working towards setting up the 3 municipalities as NIAHS by first having the local recognition LIAHS; Project supported the documentation of important agricultural heritage system in the 3 municipalities to be submitted to the local council for deliberation and development of ordinances (project	There could have been a clearer synergy of what was modelled by the project on the ground with LIAHS and NIAHS framework. The community praxis along with the policy framework could have serve as toolkit for other communities and actors and to inspire similar actions necessary for scaling up

Policies/Legal Frameworks	Status	Outcome description	Outcome significance	Project Contribution	Evaluator's additional observations
and Sustainable Use				developed template for ordinances)	
Joint Memorandum Order on the Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Agrobiodiversity within the National Convergence Initiative Framework	As of November 2021, National Secretariat of NCI will circulate the document to the Department Legislative and Liaison Offices of Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) before signing by the Secretaries	To address agrobiodiversity concerns within the NCI framework through, among others, the promotion of the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of ABD in convergence areas[66], in order to achieve the over-all objective of sustainable rural development and poverty reduction;	Mainstreamed agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use within existing policy framework of the National Convergence Initiative – the government's response to the fragmented approach to rural development. Specifically, included traditional agroecosystems as criteria for prioritization of convergence areas; also the 4 components of NCI implementation	Developed and lobbied the policy for approval	Not clear on the level of participation of indigenous peoples in policy development and in lobbying work to enable stronger ownership and synergy with what the communities are doing on the ground

[66] Convergence areas are identified based on set criteria by the different Departments (DA, DENR, DAR, DILG). Applying the ridge to reef approach, the 4 Departments undertake joint planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a jointly crafted convergence area development plans.

Policies/Legal Frameworks	Status	Outcome description	Outcome significance	Project Contribution	Evaluator's additional observations
DA-DENR Joint Administrative Order 2021-01 Mainstreaming Biodiversity Friendly Agricultural Practices In and Around Protected Areas and Promoting the Same in Wider Agricultural Landscapes	Approved/Signed December 2021	This Order aims to ensure judicious use of country's natural resources for sustainability and to conserve genetic diversity of biological resources used for food and agriculture; to initiate/strengthen the institutionalization of BDFAP in multiple use and buffer zones of protected areas, and tenured areas within key biodiversity areas through the mainstreaming of its use by occupant-tiller/farmers and tenured migrants; to provide the framework as basis for the future formulation of standards on BDFAP and relevant certification and recognition systems; to provide framework for covering the wider agricultural landscapes including those covered by Ancestral domains and private agricultural lands.	Provides a policy framework for agricultural biodiversity conservation, sustainable use (farming) in and around protected areas as part of comprehensive and integrated take on biodiversity conservation within Protected areas and wider agricultural landscapes	This is not a direct output of the project and the project has no direct influence on the formulation. This is an example of potential synergy with DA and DENR developing a good starting framework for agrobiodiversity within protected areas. The energy/stir from the project may have indirectly contributed to the continued push to have a JAO as some project sites are located within protected areas. The project monitored progress of this JAO as elements can be useful to further mainstream/instit	This is a good starting initiative to build an over-arching policy framework for agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use and to identify the lead agency with responsibility to ensure that we maintain our agrobiodiversity.

Policies/Legal Frameworks	Status	Outcome description	Outcome significance	Project Contribution	Evaluator's additional observations
				utionalize agrobiodiversity	
Department of Agriculture Circular No. 17, Series of 2020 on the Registration of Traditional Varieties for Conservation and Sustainable Use (https://nsic.buplant.da.gov.ph/dc.php)	Approved and in effect since December 2020	The circular provides criteria, requirements, procedures, and guidelines for the registration of traditional crop varieties in order to come up with an inventory of traditional varieties. The registration and inventory provide an option to protect these resources from misappropriation and unfair monopolization in accordance with Section 72 of Philippine Plant Variety Protection Act 2002[67]. Moreover, the Circular intends to provide a list of rare species, varieties, lines and strains of plants restricted for exportation as mandated under Section 15b of the Seed Industry Development Act 1992[68]	Traditional varieties held by farmers and registered under this circular are restricted for exports unless for scientific uses and that listed varieties for bioprospecting shall require sharing of benefits with the community where it came from	Facilitated signing of the circular; Organized consultations and supported development of guidelines; In parallel, project is undertaking development/research on farmers' descriptors list	The project's support and direction towards a centralized registration excluded support for farmers/indigenous peoples to develop their own registry system. This is a biased position and infringes on the rights of indigenous peoples. In addition, the DA circular requires submission of seeds to national genebanks, for duplication, without clear material transfer agreement as to who owns the seeds, who can access and how benefits deriving from its use will be shared. This is a loophole that may potentially risk disenfranchising communities from sharing/getting benefits. To avoid the potential risk of infringing on indigenous peoples rights, it is recommended for the project to initiate review/discussion with the communities if they want to have their varieties registered nationally or set-up their own community registry. Likewise, if they

[67] SECTION 72. Farming Communities and Bona Fide Farmers' Organizations. – Farming communities and bona fide farmers' organizations are encouraged to build an inventory of locally-bred varieties as an option to protect these resources from misappropriation and unfair monopolization (Source: https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2002/06/07/republic-act-no-9168/)

[68] The following acts are prohibited: Exportation of rare species, varieties, lines and strains of plants from the country except for scientific or international exchange purposes which shall be determined by the Council; and (Source: http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/phi2345.pdf)

Policies/Legal Frameworks	Status	Outcome description	Outcome significance	Project Contribution	Evaluator's additional observations
					opt for a national registration, ensure a clear material transfer agreement with the national genebank prior to registration
Municipal and barangay resolutions supporting the project	In effect	2019 and 2020 Barangay Resolutions from all 17 pilot communities with Php15,000/annum allocation for the project for Barangay Lamcade 2018 and 2019 Municipal Resolutions Including resolutions creating municipal coordinating committees for the project	Policy tool which the local government units and the project stakeholders can use to leverage support for the project Provides an institutional cover to the project and is a form of mainstreaming agrobiodiversity work within local governments	Developed and facilitated the approval of the resolutions	As the resolutions are about supporting the project, the resolutions may no longer be in effect once the project ends. The resolutions therefore does not guarantee continuity of activities/actions after the project ends. Therefore, having resolutions may not be a real measure of success in mainstreaming agricultural biodiversity as it may be time bound.
Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans	In effect				This is reported as part of accomplishment but the documents for review are not available
Allah Valley Protected Landscape Management Plan 2018-2022	In effect	Lake Sebu as part of Allah Valley Protected Area with a Management Plan has passed a municipal resolution supporting the project implementation and has allocated funds amounting to P3 M or USD 62 500 for 2020-2022 for the ABD Development/ Implementation Plan	There was no specific mention of agrobiodiversity work within AVPLM Plan	To check	This was mentioned in the 4th PIR as an accomplishment where agrobiodiversity is integrated in the plans of local multi-sectoral councils. However, AVPLMP was crafted in 2017, before the project has field operations.

Policies/Legal Frameworks	Status	Outcome description	Outcome significance	Project Contribution	Evaluator's additional observations
Executive and Legislative Agenda of South Cotabato CY 2020-2022	In effect	The project helped point to the issue of decreasing agrobiodiversity in upland and the absence of training to support agricultural production, which resulted in the development of executive and legislative agenda (resolutions) supporting the project with appropriated funding amounting to Php25M from the provincial LGU spread over 3 years	Provided local government with pathway to focus and undertake agricultural development in the uplands by working on the agrobiodiversity of the farmers. This is good outcome that shows the success of the project in mainstreaming agrobiodiversity in provincial executive and legislative agenda for 2020-2022 and how FAO was able to leverage support, even after project duration. This is an example of how the project's institutional formation brought about concrete commitments	Direct involvement of provincial agriculture office and provincial planning office in project development and implementation enabled mainstreaming of agrobiodiversity and support to agrobiodiversity via executive and legislative agenda	As the project draws to a close, it will be a lasting impact if the project is again able to include ABD in the next executive and legislative agenda.

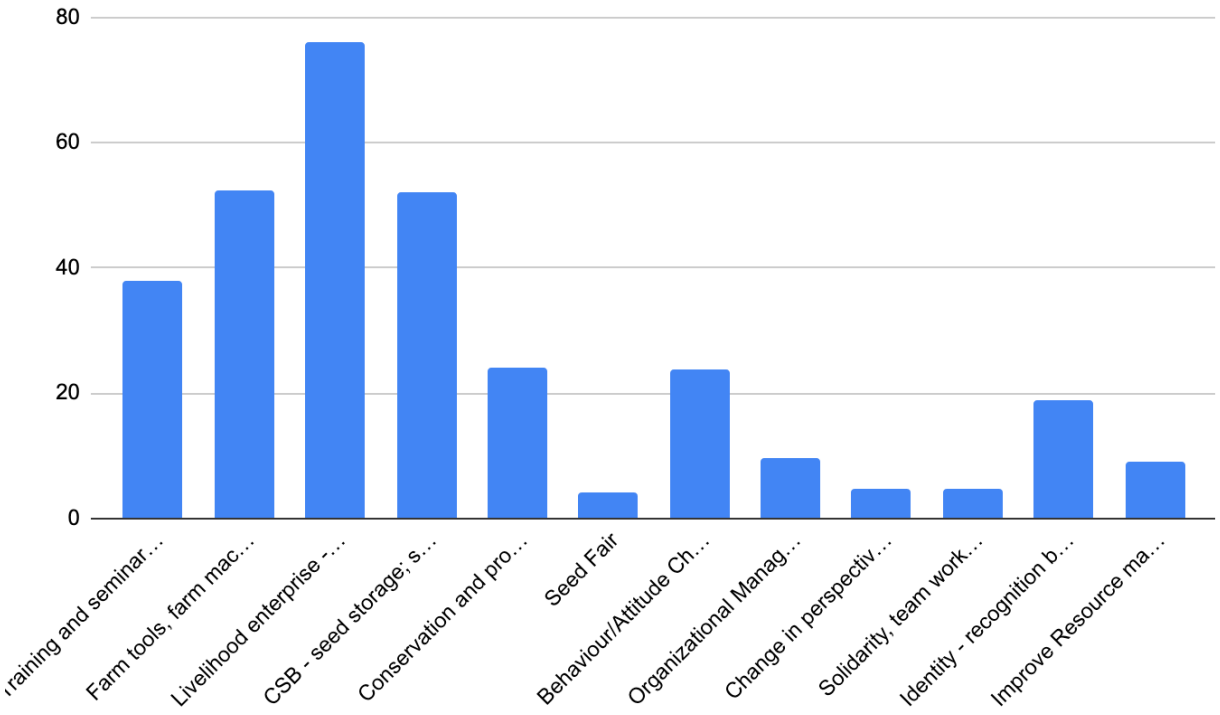
Source: Compilation and analysis by the Evaluation Team

Appendix 11. Summary of Most Significant Change and Areas for Improvement identified by indigenous peoples of Hungduan and Hingyon, Ifugao and Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

Appendix 11 Table1. Most significant change identified by indigenous peoples per municipality

Most Significant Change	Hungduan (Total: 5 pax)*	Hingyon (Total: 5pax)*	Lake Sebu (Total: 11pax)*	% of Total pax
Training and seminars - enriched knowledge and learnings of IPs on agriculture, trade/markets	1		7	38
Farm tools, farm machineries, carabao	3	5	3	52.3
Livelihood enterprise - training on food processing, entrepreneurship; presence of processing centers	4	5	7	76
CSB - seed storage; storage for tools, tables, chairs, meeting place	5	5	1	52
Conservation and promotion of TRVS, demo-farms			5	23.8
Seed Fair	1			4.7
Behaviour/Attitude Change - build self confidence to face people; to sell products; self dignity			5	23.8
Organizational Management and being part of organization			2	9.5
Change in perspective - awareness on ABD conservation, its link and importance to IP; broaden insights on tradition, environment			1	4.7
Solidarity, team work and community			1	4.7
Identity - recognition by other groups and agencies; showcase culture and arts; can move with time/face changes; linkages with other groups			4	19
Improve Resource management - use of local resources which could have been wasted for enterprise		1	1	9

*Respondents in Hingyon and Hungduan, Ifugao were Tuwali indigenous peoples and were all women, while respondents from Lake Sebu, South Cotabao were from Ubod and T'boli indigenous peoples with 1 Ilonggo, 7 respondents of the total 11 respondends were women. There were no significant gender differentiation in responses, except for women acknowledging more the enterprises support, while the men emphasized the seedbanks and demo farms. Source: Evaluation's Focus Group Discussions



Appendix 11 Graph 1. Most Significant Change identified by x% of indigenous peoples in Hungduan and Hingyon, Ifugao and Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. Source: Evaluation's Focus Group Discussions.

Appendix 11 Table.2. Suggested areas for improvement by indigenous peoples of Hungduan and Hingyon, Ifugao and Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

What to improve	Hungduan (Total: 5 pax)*	Hingyon (Total: 5pax)*	Lake Sebu (Total: 11pax)*	% Total
More trainings and seminars - training of trainers, training centers established	1		3	19
Business assistance - direct market options	2			9
More tools, equipment, materials for processing and farming - e.g. tram lines, water pump; sealer. Micromill, thresher	1	1	5	33.3

Transpo budget; support to local facilitators	2		1	14
Complete trainings first to better identify tools needed - needs assessment prior to distribution	1			4.7
CSB construction by community not by a third party; bigger CSB, more concrete tomake it last	1		1	9
Direct budget download	1			4.7
TRV enhancement and production		1		4.7
Repair and restoration of rice fields - address pests and diseases of rice		2		9
Irrigation canals		1		4.7
greenhouses		1		4.7
Farm to market roads		1		4.7
Fund for office building		1		4.7
Carabao - additional; more animal dispersal		1	3	19
Starting capital, seed fund for the organization/project (for demo-farm, CSB)			5	23.8
Faster procurement			1	4.7
Not just theory in trainings			1	4.7
Scholarships for IP students			2	9
Local (IP) facilitators; more facilitators/staff for better supervision			3	14
Planting of own materials with proper planning and scheduling			1	4.7
Expansion to other areas/groups/farmers			4	19

*Respondents in Hingyon and Hungduan, Ifugao were Tuwali indigenous peoples and were all women, while respondents from Lake Sebu, South Cotabao were from Ubod and T'boli indigenous peoples with 1 Ilonggo, 7 respondents of the total 11 respondents were women. There were no significant gender differentiated response, except for men generally requesting for more tools and expansion to other groups.

Source: Evaluation's Focus Group Discussions.

Appendix 12. Short bios of the evaluation team

Gigi Manicad (Team Leader) holds an MA Agriculture and Rural Development from the Institute of Social Studies of the Erasmus University, the Netherlands, and a BSc on Development Communication in Agriculture from the University of the Philippines . She has over 30 years of field and policy work in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe on international cooperation on biodiversity management, food and nutrition security, and climate change. She led the development, multi-stakeholder partnership, resource mobilization and the management of large-scale global programmes. including benchmarking and evaluation. Since 2020 she works as an independent consultant leading programme strategies and evaluation for e.g., the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; UN FAO. Prior to that she was: Programme Leader of Oxfam's Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security; Researcher/Editor for the Biotechnology Development Monitor of the University of Amsterdam; Research Fellow on Knowledge, Innovation Systems and Capacity Building for International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) at the Consultative Group of International Agriculture Research (CGIAR); Senior Policy Adviser for the Netherlands Directorate General for International Cooperation; Senior Consultant on biotechnology policy for the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO). On individual capacity she was a member of the Advisory Group of European Union's Framework Programme on Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Biotechnology; Co-Chair of Expert Panel of the Benefit Sharing Fund for International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Expert consultant for IFAD; member of the expert panel for Access to Seeds Index; and is in the Treaty's roster of expert mediator for third party disputes.

Wilhelmina 'Ditdit' Pelegrina (Team Member) holds an MSc (Environmental Science) from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia and a BSc Agriculture (cum laude) from the University of the Philippines Los Banos. She has more than 25 years of campaigning, policy lobby and on-the ground experiences in building and scaling up community initiatives for agricultural biodiversity conservation and management. She worked extensively with communities, indigenous peoples, civil society organizations and government agencies in Lao PDR, Vietnam, Bhutan, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. In particular, organizing farmer groups and taking community experiences to affect changes in policies, practices and narratives from local to national to international level. She co-developed with the FAO-IPM and Vietnam IPM/Plant Protection team the use of Farmers Field Schools approach for participatory plant breeding and on-farm agrobiodiversity biodiversity conservation. She coordinated an international project on on-farm agricultural biodiversity conservation implemented in Asia, Africa and Latin America and have engaged in international fora, to advance Farmers' Rights such as the governing body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Committee on World Food Security, the Convention on Biological Diversity to name a few. She was the former Interim Country Director of Greenpeace Philippines; Executive Director of SEARICE; member of the International Advisory Council of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and was a research associate, under the guidance of National Scientist Ramon C. Barba, at the Institute of Plant Breeding, University of the Philippines Los Banos. She is currently on 2 months sabbatical from Greenpeace Southeast Asia.