

MID-TERM REVIEW

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Integrated Approach in the Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors (IA-Biological Corridors)

Country

Philippines

GEF ID

9584

Implementing Agency

UNDP

Executing Entity

Multilateral

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

Objective

Operationalise integrated management of biological corridors to generate multiple benefits including effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity, reduced deforestation and degradation and enhanced livelihoods.

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

4/16/2020

Agency Approval

7/19/2021

Implementation Start

7/19/2021

First Disbursement

12/7/2021

Expected MTR

7/19/2024

MTR Submission

3/25/2025

Actual MTR

11/27/2024

Expected Completion

7/19/2027

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main MTR Findings

The overall grading is moderately satisfactory (MS). There were three indicators attached to the Overall Objective level which were rated as: satisfactory (1), moderately satisfactory (1), and moderately unsatisfactory (1). The project has created most of the legal building blocks to deliver the project (S graded indicator), however the time left to deliver full implementation is now severely limited with now only time for two more full annual plans / budgets (2025 and 2026), and engage with smallholder and subsistence farmers who work on seasonal calendars. The project design is primarily one of integrated conservation and development. At mid-term the projected development outcomes at the end of the project, are expected to be limited, thus in turn the expected conservation outcomes in terms of agreed guardianship of the forest by Indigenous & Local Communities (ILCs) / Indigenous Peoples (IPs) is in jeopardy.

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

The mid-term target was for BCA integrated frameworks to be agreed between stakeholders, including for the long-term management of conservation outcomes. The final target is for >200,000 ha designated and managed as Other Effective Areabased Conservation Measures (OECMs) primarily as Local Conservation Areas (LCAs) and Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs). As of mid-term 190,678 ha of potential OECMs have been identified. These include: EMBC – ICCAs (4) – 35,133 ha; LCAs (6) – 147,000 ha; and MBC – ICCAs (3) – 8,385 ha; and LCAs (1) – 160 ha.

A number of project building blocks have been put in place. These include: a draft policy on an Integrated Ecosystem Management (IEM) framework; a number of DENR directives (Administrative Orders) drafted between DENR and other partners such as the Department of Agriculture (DA) and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); and a number of Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs) drafted between DENR and NCIP / IP communities.

The main concern is the expected status of the LCAs by project end. Should they just be officially designated by municipal Local Government Units (LGUs), or should they also have management councils set-up, and be funded, and furthermore have a set of management principles and / or management plans with community co-management arrangements in place.

Greenhouse gases mitigated by carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the agriculture / forestry sectors (Indicator 2)

The mid-term target was to develop a monitoring system for calculating carbon sequestered. In December 2023, discussions were held with FAO on the use of their FAO EX-ACT tool for measuring carbon. The project also supported a consultancy service for the finalization of the DENR - FMB carbon accounting manual for forest projects.

Number of direct beneficiaries of GEF investment (Indicator 3)

The mid-term target was for 9,000 persons (~2,250 households) directly benefiting from sustainable Natural Resources Management (NRM) with improved alternative livelihoods / income (with 50% of the beneficiaries being women). According to the UNDP GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR) 2024, the target is off-track at 15%. As the actual engagement of many ILCs has yet to take place, measurement of this indicator at mid-term was difficult to determine.

The process of obtaining NCIP Certificates of Precondition (CoPs) has been slow, however the project finally appears to have created a work-around by first creating a draft MoAs with IPs, as a Free & Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) step, thus starting to demonstrate what the project / IP expect from each other.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

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

National-level Enabling Agreements

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

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

For BCA-level agreements see Annex 5.

Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC)

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

Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with an IP – Example in EMBC

- MoA agreement between DENR, NCIP & the AD Management Council for CADT 134 (signed, undated, pp17)

- DENR to seek technical expertise from NCIP update the ADSDPP, especially with IP-based social enterprises

The MoA describes the that the IP should support implementation of the project interventions, however these are only outlined, such as ‘support SLM’. In EMBC, 10 MoAs have been created. In MBC, the MoAs are at a draft stage.

Agreement DENR with USAID’s SIBOL project

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

The list of key stakeholders is described in Annex 8.

C. Gender Equality

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

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

D. Knowledge Management

- KAP survey completed Awareness level of biodiversity:
 - 57% - Caraga • 62% - Davao • 45% - Mindoro
- BMB KAP questionnaire for terrestrial ecosystems reviewed and technical inputs from the project provided
- Consultation with DENR-RSCIG of Regions 11, 13, and MIMAROPA conducted
- Communications Planning Workshops for the development of corridor communication plans conducted last May 2024.

- National Communications Plan, EMBC Communications Plan and MBC Communications Plan prepared based on KAP survey results and communications planning workshops

- Scoping and review of information management systems conducted

- KM/IMS Firm recently onboarded.

Potential good practices were identified

- Roles of IP in BD conservation and management

- Convergence mechanisms with LGUs and other NGAs

- Partnership towards BD Corridor governance

- Development of game model to demonstrate carbon market at local level

- Guidelines for the documentation of emerging good practices at the corridor level provided

III. Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	300648	282610.9	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	300648	282610.9	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
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Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary	145492	Habitat/Species Management Area		40,752.00	40,940.90		55.00	67.00	
Alamio, Buyaan, Caracan, Panikian Rivers and Sipangpan Falls Watershed Forest Reserve	555583095	Protected Landscape/Seascape		5,784.00	43,601.00		15.00	51.00	
Aliwagwag Protected Landscape	555583080	Protected Landscape/Seascape		11,570.00	10,261.10		26.00	58.00	
Andanan River Watershed Forest Reserve	306540	Protected Landscape/Seascape		15,097.00	17,717.00		30.00	53.00	
Cabadbaran Watershed Forest Reserve	306541	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		15,776.00	16,025.00		20.00	52.00	
Expansion of existing PAs above				65,000.00					
Mainit Hot Spring Protected Landscape	7232	Protected Landscape/Seascape		8,098.00	1,374.00		42.00	69.00	
Mati Protected Landscape	306531	Protected Landscape/Seascape		1,067.00	884.50		20.00	38.00	
Mount Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary	14729	Habitat/Species Management Area		14,707.00	18,172.70		67.00	65.00	

Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary	555583083	Habitat/Species Management Area		15,830.00	7,137.40		59.00	71.00	
Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park	1337	Habitat/Species Management Area		106,000.00	106,655.60		67.00	55.00	
Naujan Lake National Park		National Park			14,568.00			56.00	
Surigao Watershed Forest Reserve	306539	Protected Landscape/Seascape		967.00	951.90		17.00	61.00	
Tinuy-an Falls Protected Landscape		Protected Landscape/Seascape			4,321.80			47.00	

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	30000	14583.6	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland		15,000.00	180.00	

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	15,000.00	14,403.60	

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	200000	190678.4	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	200,000.00	190,678.40	

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	0	7271000	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	10232000	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)		7,271,000	0	
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)		10,232,000	0	

Anticipated start year of accounting		2020		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		32,500	7,412	
Male		32,500	14,963	
Total	0	65,000	22,375	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Grant	Investment mobilized		3770526
Recipient Country Government	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures		10520555
Private Sector	Agala Mining Ventures, Inc	Grant	Investment mobilized		963874
Private Sector	Taganito Mining Corporation	Grant	Investment mobilized		985546

Private Sector	Philsaga Mining Corporation	Grant	Investment mobilized		1479934
Private Sector	Mindanao Mineral Processing & Refining Corporation	Grant	Investment mobilized		1504579
Private Sector	CTP Construction and Mining Corporation –Adlay Project	Grant	Investment mobilized		1195383
Private Sector	CTP Construction and Mining Corporation – Dahican Nickel Project	Grant	Investment mobilized		293944
Private Sector	Platinum Group Metals Corporation	Grant	Investment mobilized		2603687
Private Sector	Carrascal Nickel Corporation	Grant	Investment mobilized		955172
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized		50000
Total Co-financing				0.00	24,323,200.00

Comments

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

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
		Medium/Moderate	

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

There were 13 risks with mitigation measures, outlined in the risk section of the prodoc (p59), which were all rated as moderate, except for one at low risk. The UNDP Social & Environmental Screening template (prodoc Annex 17, from 2019) listed eight risks, all with moderate rating. Within the project / UNDP risk log, updated December 2023, there are 18 risks but without ratings. [See pages 27-28]

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category

M and E Document

Title

MTR Philippines (GEF 9584 / UNDP 5886)