Strengthening and Sustaining the Coastal Resource and Fisheries Management in the Leyte Gulf

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10738

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
☐ CBIT
☐ NGI

Project Title
Strengthening and Sustaining the Coastal Resource and Fisheries Management in the Leyte Gulf

Countries
Philippines

Agency(ies)
CI

Other Executing Partner(s)
Rare

Executing Partner Type
CSO

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Taxonomy

International Waters, Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Community-based adaptation, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Seascapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Biomes, Mangrove, Seagrasses, Coral Reefs, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Local Communities, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Knowledge Generation, Innovation

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date
11/10/2020

Expected Implementation Start
5/25/2021

Expected Completion Date
2/27/2025

Duration
45 In Months

Agency Fee($)
162,438.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	933,693.00	2,761,613.00
BD-2-7	Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate	GET	871,169.00	913,744.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**1,804,862.00**	**3,675,357.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

The overall objective of the project is to improve the management of coastal fisheries and conserve globally significant biodiversity in the Leyte Gulf, through a combination of local government led marine spatial planning, community mobilization leading to lasting behavior change, policy reform, and capacity development

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1: Mobilizing Gulf-wide stakeholder support and capacity to ensure integration of coastal biodiversity and fisheries management at multiple levels of governance	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 1.1:** Gender-responsive gulf-wide conservation and fisheries management strategies are aligned with the relevant regional and provincial fisheries management plans, policies and management structures. **Target 1.1.1:** One (1) Gulf-wide MPA network map and at least eight (8) local community-based coastal fisheries management plans are aligned with the regional Fisheries Management Area policy framework and management plan **Target 1.1.2:** Eight (8) non-focal municipalities adopt selected strategies promoted by the Gulf-wide campaign. **Outcome 1.2:** Stakeholders at all levels are engaged and supportive of sustainable and gender responsive fisheries management and the need for MPAs. **Target 1.2.1:** Twenty (20) relevant activities related to planning, technical assistance provision and monitoring of municipal coastal resource and fisheries are assigned to appropriate units and staff of target municipal, provincial LGUs and DENR and BFAR offices. **Target 1.2.2:** At least one hundred (100) community	**Output 1.1.1:** A gender responsive gulf-wide awareness and engagement campaign to promote biodiversity and targeted coastal fisheries management approaches is developed and implemented, directed at key stakeholders, decision-makers, influencers and resource-users. **Output 1.2.1:** Local municipalities, provincial governments and regional offices of the DENR and the BFAR are engaged to prioritize coastal and marine areas threatened by overfishing.	GET	343,155.00	747,139.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2: Creating effective networks of locally-managed fully protected MPAs and improving the regulation of coastal fishing in surrounding waters through Managed Access	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 2.1:** Increased area of MPAs. - **Target 2.1.1:** An additional 1,080 hectares of MPAs will be declared through either expansion or creation of new areas. **Outcome 2.2:** Increased coverage of legally declared managed-access areas[1] that promote sustainable use of fishing resources. **Target 2.2.1:** 450,000 hectares of municipal waters (64 percent of total waters in Leyte Gulf) legally declared as managed access areas that promote sustainable use of fishing resources. **Outcome 2.3:** Improved management effectiveness of existing MPAs and effective management of managed access areas. **Target 2.3.1:** At least 15 percent increase in average METT scores of 64,268 ha of existing MPAs by end of project. **Target 2.3.2:** At least 15 percent increase in average FISHMark scores by end of project **Outcome 2.4:** Increased number of fishers	**Output 2.1.1:** Gulf-wide protected area network strategy map is developed through a gender-inclusive participatory process and adopted by provincial and local governments and communities. **Output 2.1.2:** Using Gulf-wide map and model, municipal waters are zoned through a gender-inclusive participatory process so that communities can agree on new areas for no-take. **Output 2.1.3:** Process to register the Guiuan-Salcedo Key Biodiversity Area KBA 137 in the WDKBA facilitated in alignment and collaboration with DENR. **Output 2.2.1:** Gender-responsive municipal management plans to set regulations on access and sustainable use of fishery resources	GET	750,370.00	714,756.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3: Stengthening financial resilience of fisher households to support sustainable behaviors and MPA protection activities	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 3.1:** Increased household financial resilience increases household contribution to fisheries management activities **Taget 3.1.1:** 20 percent increase in average household savings in focal municipalities **Target 3.1.2:** 20 percent increase in average household contribution to MPA protection activities in focal municipalities	**Output 3.1.1:** Focal municipalities implement financial and market inclusion strategies which take into account gender considerations to increase financial resilience of fishing households and improve the decision-making influence and status of women. **Outputs 3.1.2:** Local savings clubs set-up and functioning to support household resilience and conservation behaviors. **Output 3.1.3:** Core leaders (both women and men) are trained and capacitated with basic financial education as well as in fisheries management concepts and approaches.	GET	238,899.00	747,139.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 4: Enhancing knowledge sharing and cooperation laterally through adjacent communities and LGUs and vertically through different layers of governance	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 4.1:** Increased learning and collaboration across municipalities through establishment and strengthening of inter-LGU conservation and fisheries Alliances - **Target 4.1.1:** At least two inter-LGU alliances will have agreed to and implemented at least 3 joint action plans or policies over the life of the project. - **Target 4.1.2:** Thirty percent increase in average time and budget contributions of targeted LGUs to inter-LGU alliance/activities	**Output 4.1.1:** Partnership Alliance and networks for biodiversity conservation are established or renewed **Output 4.1.2.:** Gender responsive joint regulatory instruments within inter-LGU alliances are developed. **Output 4.1.3** Time and budget contributions of LGUs to inter-LGU activities is baselined, disaggregated by sex, and monitored over the life of the project.	GET	220,772.00	797,138.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation plan inform adaptive management	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 5.1:** Monitoring and evaluation in place and used to facilitate adaptive management **Target:** 100 percent of required reports of evaluations completed	**Output 5.1.1:** Monitoring and evaluation plan developed and executed **Output 5.1.2:** Final report on monitoring and evaluation submitted	GET	88,543.00	15,655.00
			Sub Total ($)		1,641,739.00	3,021,827.00

Project Management Cost (PMC)

	GET		163,123.00		653,530.00	
	Sub Total($)		**163,123.00**		**653,530.00**	
	Total Project Cost($)		**1,804,862.00**		**3,675,357.00**	

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	CI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Rare	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	541,564.00
Civil Society Organization	Rare	Grant	Investment mobilized	127,621.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Agriculture ? Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	97,150.00
Recipient Country Government	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,859,022.00

			Total Co-Financing($)	**3,675,357.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

1. During the project inception stage, Rare will sign Memorandum?s of Agreeent (MOA) with the targeted Local Government Units (lgus) as implementing partners. Based on past experience, commitments for co-funding are then able to be secured in-line with the MOA. With past partner lgus that Rare has worked with, counterpart funding usually ranges from $4,000-30,000, in the form of staff time and budgets allocated to law enforcement, MPA infrastructure (such as guardhouses), etc. 2. Grant funding has a specific scope of work which will contribute to this project and therefore are identified as Investment Mobilized. Rare works closely with the Philippines? National Government in delivering its coastal resource management programs. In the Philippines, since 2017, Rare has assisted the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in implementing its flagship national program on coastal and marine ecosystem management by capacitating Protected Area Superintendents in integrated coastal management and behavior adoption strategies. Rare also works closely with the national and regional offices of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture in addressing national issues on illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUUF), overfishing, and proper management of municipal waters through capacity-building and policy support. These two government agencies, among others, recognize the critical role of community-based coastal resource management and are open to adopting and replicating Rare?s program approaches as a model for managing coastal resources, as evident in their co-financing commitments.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
CI	GET	Philippines	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,804,862	162,438
				Total Grant Resources($)	**1,804,862.00**	**162,438.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

☐

PPG Amount ($)

30,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

2,700

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
CI	GET	Philippines	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	30,000	2,700
				Total Project Costs($)	**30,000.00**	**2,700.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	65,348.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	1,080.00	0.00	0.00

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)
Akula National Park Leyte Gulf LGUs - TBD	**125689**	**Select**Others		1,080.00		

Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	64,268.00	0.00	0.00

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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park LGU Abuyog	**125689**	**Select**Others		55.00					☐
Akula National Park LGU Balangiga	**125689**	**Select**Others		4.00					☐
Akula National Park LGU Dulag	**125689**	**Select**Others		42.00					☐
Akula National Park LGU Giporlos	**125689**	**Select**Others		31.00					☐
Akula National Park LGU Guiuan	**125689** 555583082	**Select**Others		60,448.00			60.00		☐
Akula National Park LGU Lawaan	**125689**	**Select**Others		140.00					☐
Akula National Park LGU Marabut	**125689**	**Select**Others		165.00					☐

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)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park LGU Mercedes	**125689**	**Select**Others		2,238.00					☐
Akula National Park LGU Quinapondan	**125689**	**Select**Others		36.00					☐
Akula National Park LGU Salcedo	**125689**	**Select**Others		1,109.00					☐

Indicator 5 Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	450,000.00		

Indicator 5.1 Number of fisheries that meet national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations

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

Type/name of the third-party certification

Indicator 5.2 Number of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) with reduced pollutions and hypoxia

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)

Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (achieved at MTR)	Number (achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

LME at PIF	LME at CEO Endorsement	LME at MTR	LME at TE

Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided

Metric Tons (expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		14,495		
Male		21,742		
Total	0	36237	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1.   As part of the Coral Triangle, the Philippines is at the heart of the global epicenter of marine biodiversity. The area?s coastal waters are known to contain a wider range of coral species, reef fish, seagrass, and mangroves than anywhere else in the world. Most of the islands of the Philippines are oceanic and have never been linked to any other landmass, creating very high levels of endemism. Six marine biogeographic regions can be found in the country including: Northeast Philippines, Southeast Philippines, Northwest Philippines or the South China Sea Basin, Visayan Sea Basin, Celebes Sea Basin and the Sulu Sea Basin. Furthermore, the Philippine archipelago is composed of seven (7) faunal regions, 13 biogeographic regions, and ten (10) Endemic Bird Areas[1][1]. The Philippines is also one of the 18 mega-biodiverse countries of the world and due to its high level of endemism and threatened species, has also been considered one of the planet?s 36 biodiversity hotspots.[2][2]

2.   Located along the typhoon belt in the Pacific, an average of 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year. In addition, the country is situated within the Ring of Fire making it vulnerable to frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that can both cause tsunamis.[3][3] This makes the country prone to natural disasters, which are exacerbated by the impacts of a changing climate. In recent years, extreme weather events have increased in frequency, intensity and unpredictability. For example, in 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Super Typhoon Yolanda) with the equivalent of Category-5 hurricane strength winds, devastated the coastal municipalities along Leyte Gulf.

3.   In the Philippines, 70 percent of the country?s 1,525 municalities (including ten cities) are coastal, with more than 80 percent of the population (~106 milion in 2018[4][4]) living within the coastal zone[5][5] ? defined as up to one kilometer inland from shore at high tide[6][6]. Many of those living in coastal areas derive their livelihoods, nutrition, or both from fish caught in coastal waters. An estimated 85 percent of the country?s registered fishers (approximately 1.9 million people) are small-scale, working within municipal waters that extend out 15 km from shore. Here critical coral reef habitats and biodiversity are most prevalent, with 80 percent of Philippine coral reefs found within municipal waters. Small scale fishers are responsible for nearly half of the country?s fish catch.[7][7] With current harvest rates estimated at 30 percent higher than the maximum sustainable yield[8][8], all target reef fish species and coastal small pelagic species are showing signs of overfishing. If these trends continue, they will likely lead to stock collapses, throwing ecosystem integrity and function further out of balance, threatening reef health, food security, livelihoods, and climate resilience for already vulnerable coastal towns and villages.[9][9]

The Project Site - Leyte Gulf

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4.   Leyte Gulf is found east of Leyte Island and south of Samar islands in the Eastern Visayas Region of the Philippines. Separated by the Surigao Strait from the island of Mindanao to the south, Dinagat Island partly encloses it to the southeast. As part of the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) and the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion, Leyte Gulf is approximately 130 km from north to south and 60 km from east to west, roughly covering 780,000 hectares. According to the 2015 census, the combined population of Leyte Gulf is 898,192[10][10] ? including the urban center of Tacloban City (242,089). According to the 2015 Philippine Statistical Authority report on gender ratio at live birth (age group 15-19) in Region VIII Eastern Visayas, 50.6 percent are male while 49.4 percent are female.

5.   Twenty five (25) municipalities (Abuyog, Anahawan, Balangiga, Basey, Dulag, Giporlos, Guiuan, Hinunangan, Hinudayan, Javier, Lawaan, Liloan, MacArthur, Marabut, Mayorga, Mercedes, Palo, Quinapondan, Salcedo, Saint Bernard, San Juan, Silago, Tacloban, Tanauan, Tolosa) line the Leyte Gulf coast. These municipalities belong to four (4) provinces (Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Leyte and Southern Leyte).

6.   Recognized as one of the most important coral reef ecosystems in the region, the Leyte Gulf ecosystem provides the main source of food, income, and livelihoods for thousands of coastal fishers and their families along the Gulf. Leyte Gulf, with 650,180 hectares of municipal waters, supports 10,981 registered small scale fishers[11][11] and supplies essential protein for more than 800,000 people.

7.   According to the IUCN Red List Database, there are 254 animal species in Leyte Gulf that are listed as vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. This includes 168 species of hard coral, 45 species of sharks and rays, and 22 species of bony fishes and seahorses, and 5 endangered species of turtle, including the Hawksbill and the green sea turtle which are found within the Guiuan-Salcedo KBA. As noted above, this project will cover areas within the Guiuan-Salcedo KBA (KBA 137) as well as areas adjacent to it. Given the high connectivity of habitats within and outside of the KBA boundaries, protecting and conserving areas adjacent to the KBA will strengthen the overall health of the ecosystem and directly benefit the KBA.

8.   Despite its ecosystem richness and importance, people living in the municipalities along Leyte Gulf still live below the poverty line. The province of Eastern Samar, for example, has a poverty incidence of 40.9 percent versus the national average of 21.9 percent in 2018. As of 2018, Region VIII Eastern Visayas still stands as the third poorest region in the country.

9.   The Leyte Gulf Reef (LGR) ecosystem services are also facing imminent threats. The LGR ecosystems are in a degraded state, dominated by few and small-medium herbivores and carnivores.[12][12] Any additional reduction in live coral cover caused by climate-related or human-induced disturbances will result in a massive decline in biomass and further decrease in the reef?s productivity. It is therefore critical to implement effective biodiversity recovery and management plans to sustain the LGR?s productivity.

Figure 1: Map of the Leyte Gulf

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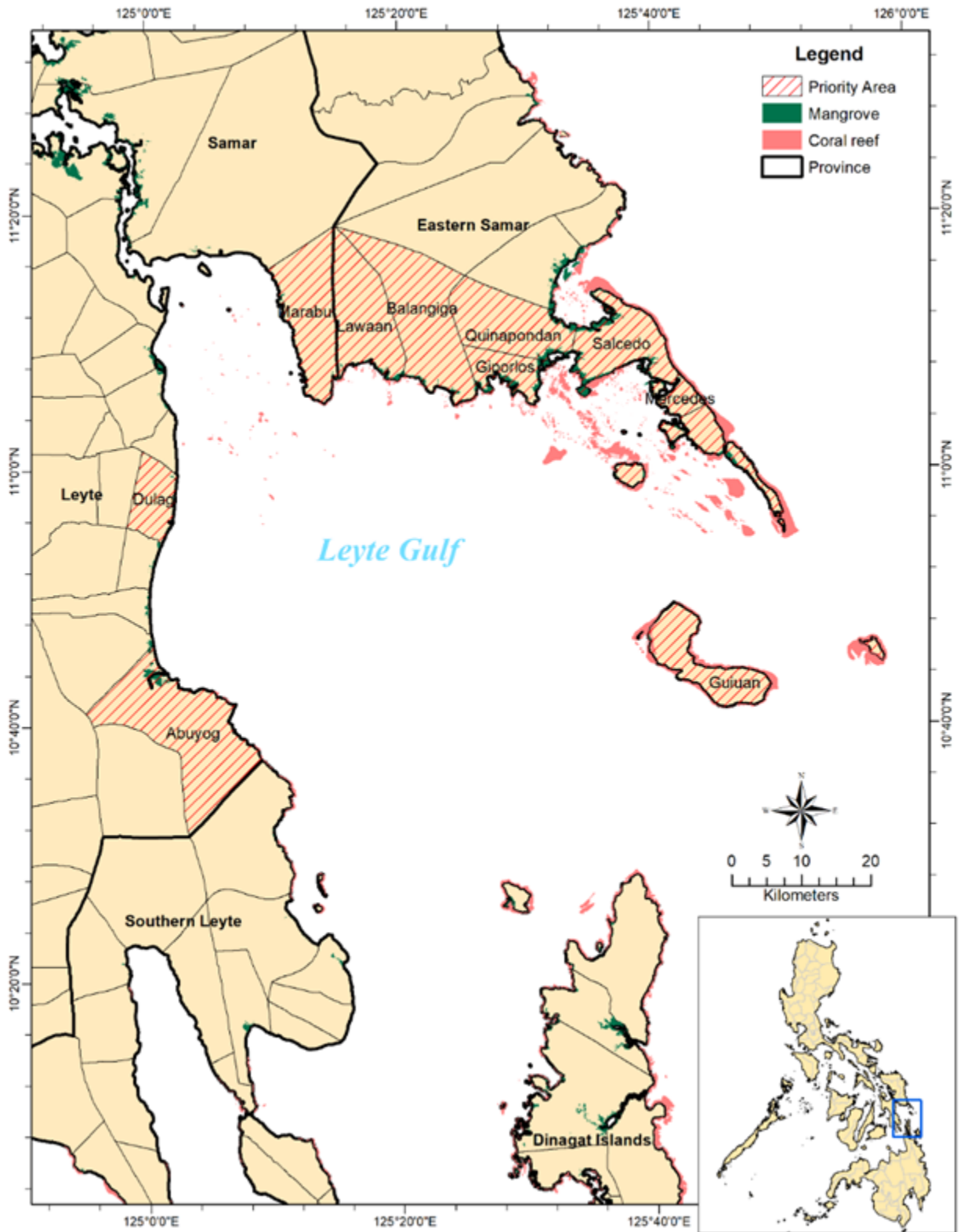
10.   The Leyte Gulf, is an important ecosystem in terms of fisheries and coastal resources within the Philippines. The livelihoods and food security of the region?s municipalities are at imminent risk with a recent study[13][13] finding that the Leyte Gulf Reef (LGR) ecosystem is in a degraded state and the reduction in coral cover will result in a decline in the biomass of key fisheries.

11.   Moreover, Leyte Gulf is a critical part of the wider seascape with modelled larval connectivity of coral reef species showing that the Leyte Gulf is a source to other regions and islands. Figure 2 shows the larval source strength of each reef. From this map, it can be seen that most of the larvae along Leyte Gulf are seen in the northeastern area of the Leyte Gulf, or the province of Eastern Samar. Figure 3 illustrates the ecological connections across each reef, where it reveals that larval dispersal in Leyte Gulf reaches as far as Surigao Strait and down to the island of Palau.

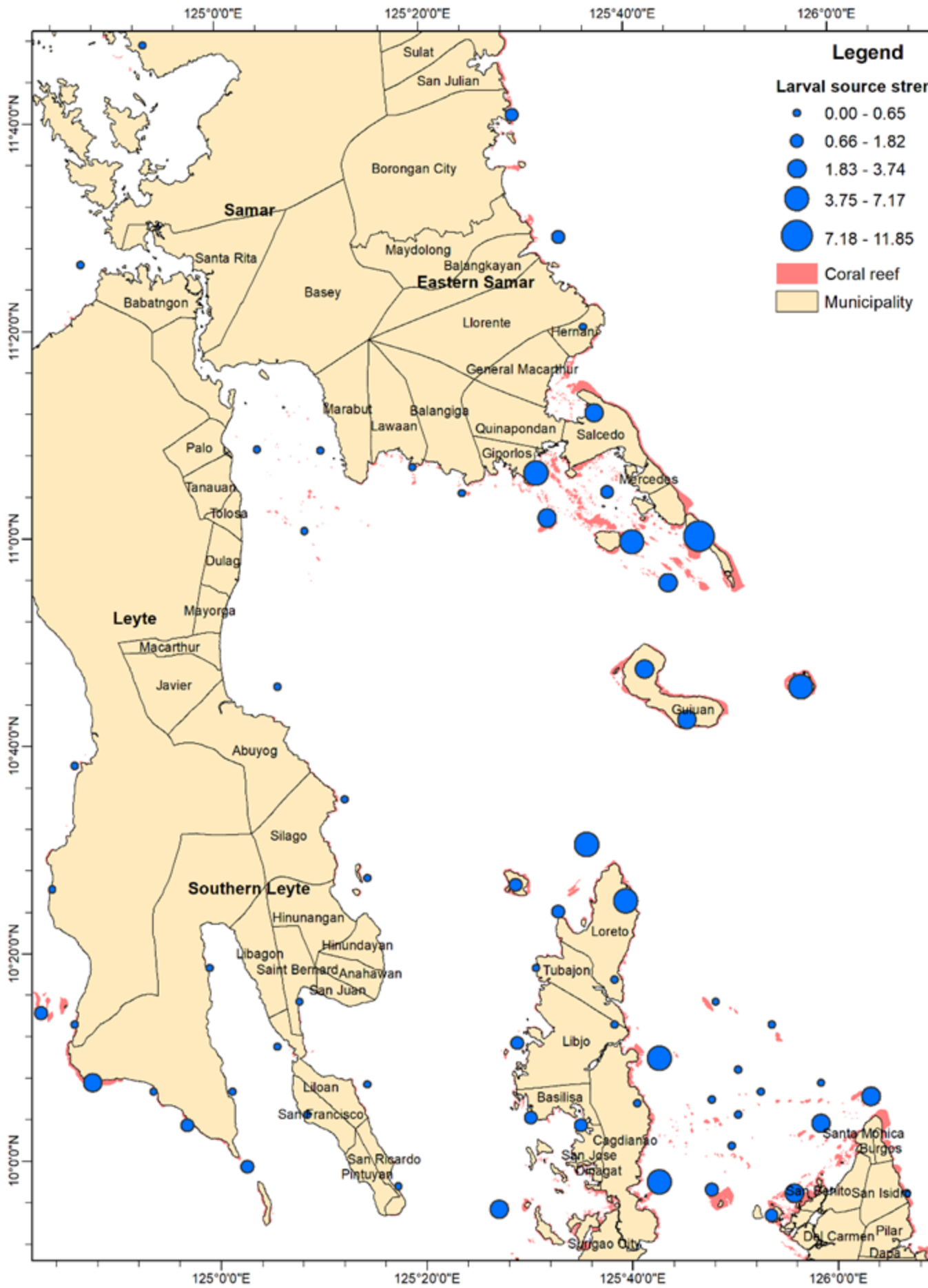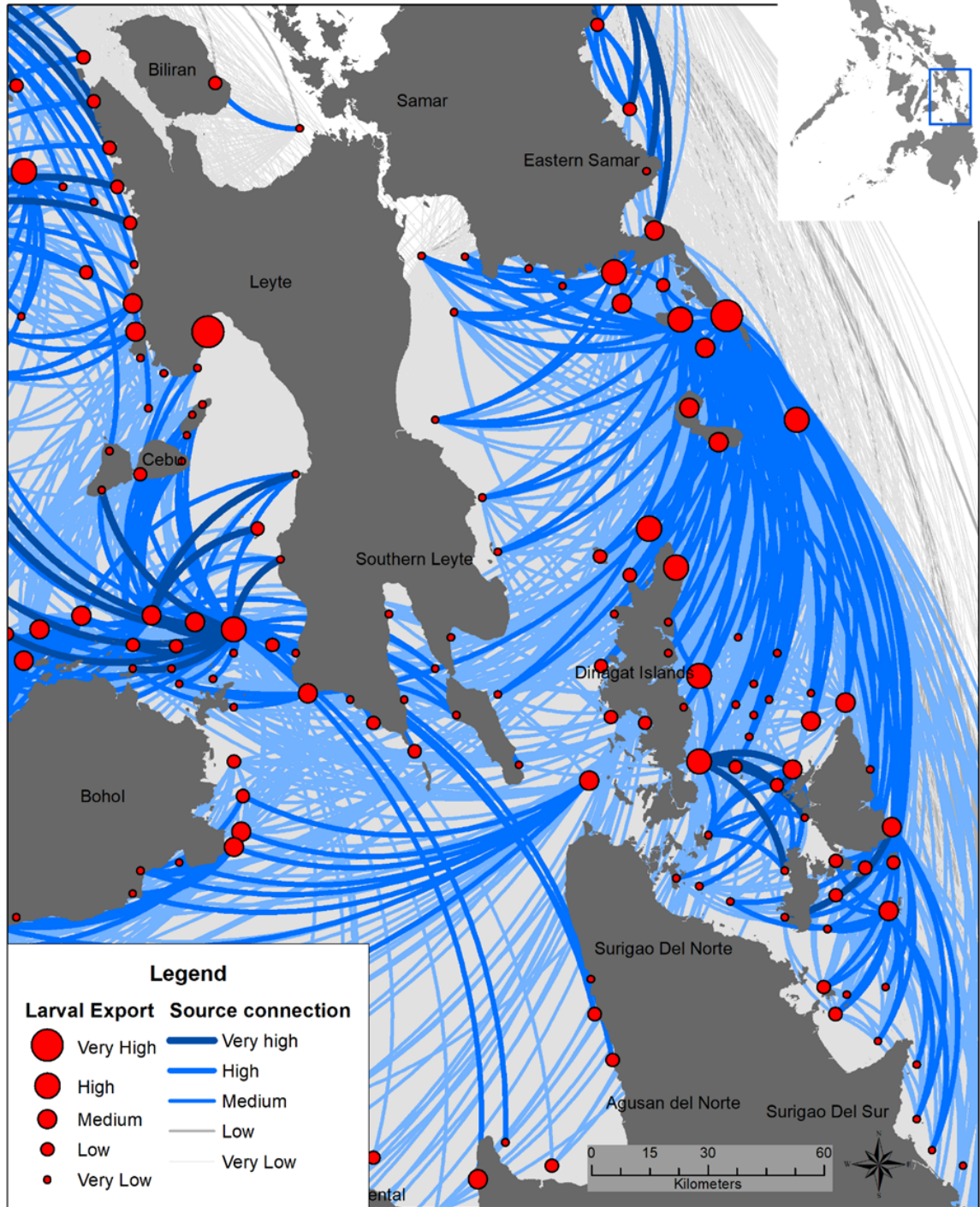Figure 2: Predicted larval source strength for coral reefs across the wider Leyte Gulf region[14][14]

Figure 3: Connectivity Patterns of Coral Reefs Within and Beyond the Leyte Gulf Seascape[15][15]

Larval Dispersal Map
Leyte Gulf

Legend

Larval Export

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low

Source connection

- Very high
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low

Global Environmental Problems

12.   If not sustainably managed, coastal fisheries can have chronic and cumulative impacts that degrade critically important coastal ecosystems because of the proximity of these fishing activities to some of the world?s most biodiverse and fragile habitats, like coral reefs. Coastal overfishing and destructive practices that damage reef structures present the greatest near-term threat to the integrity of these natural assets and bio-infrastructure.[16][16] As a result, not only are fish stocks in decline and trophic levels out of balance, but because of the tight feed back loop between the ecological function of fish and coral reef system health, declining fish populations is a significant driver of ongoing coral reef degradation.

13.   Any declines in species diversity and abundance as well as reductions in the number of grazers which eat algae that compete for corals for space[17][17] will negatively impact ecosystem health. Coastal ecosystem health is closely linked to the condition of the fish assemblages they support. Intact, unexploited ecosystems support abundant fish populations, which help maintain ecological balance and diversity. Conversely, degraded and damaged habitats only support depauperate fish populations. Destructive fishing practices accelerate the depletion process and contribute to decreasing reef structural complexity?reducing the physical defense that coral reefs provide to the coast - and increasing climate-related risks to coastal communities. These issues present a complex socio-ecological problem and are especially critical for coastal communities dependent on healthy, intact ecosystems for achieving sustainable, low carbon, climate-resilient development.

14.   Coral reefs possess some of the highest levels of biodiversity and provide valuable ecosystem goods and services (e.g., protecting coastlines from storms and erosion; providing critical habitat, spawning and nursery grounds for economically important food fish species; and providing jobs and income to local economies from fishing, recreation, and tourism). Coral reefs are essential habitat that support coral reef fisheries, and yet more than 60 percent of the world?s coral reefs are under immediate and direct threat from human activities including overfishing.[18][18] Approximately 2.25 million hectares ? equal to more than nine (9) percent of the world?s total coral reefs ? are found within the Philippines, making it the third-largest reef area in the world.[19][19] However, almost all reefs within the Philippines are currently threatened by local activities, and two-thirds are rated in the high or very high threat categories.[20][20]

15.   The global environmental problems as mentioned above are also evident in Leyte Gulf. In a study[21][21] conducted in 2014, it was observed that fish catch has been declining in the study period of 11 years (2001- 2011).

Root Causes

16.   According to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and International Coral Reef Initiative, about 19 percent of the world?s coral reefs have already effectively been destroyed by human activities (including overfishing) and climate change,[22]22 and in the Philippines as much as 75 percent of reefs have been degraded by human activities.[23]23 As carbon emissions continue to rise, changing climate conditions lead to rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification and coral bleaching, and increasing frequency and intensity of tropical storms, all of which threaten to severely damage or cause extinction of coral reefs. Among the recommendations cited to avoid permanent damage to coral reefs is to better control destructive human practices, such as unsustainable fishing, to improve the resilience of coral reefs to resist and recover from climate-related pressures. A lack of clarity and tenure contributes to fishers racing to capture as much of a declining resource as possible. The result has been a dramatic reduction in fish biomass and coral ecosystem integrity across the region. Additionally, social and legal tolerance for overfishing and destructive fishing practices in and around MPAs prevails. Rapid population growth, poor coastal planning and weak governance have subjected Philippine ecosystems and society to extraordinary pressures over the last 30 years.

17.   In the Leyte Gulf, overfishing[24]24 was highlighted as one of the major factors of fish decline. This is evident from declining catch rates, increasing fishing effort and exploitation rates, changes or shifts in species catch composition, leveling off of marine landings despite increasing effort, and the concentration of fishing effort within a small area. Studies by the Department of Agriculture ? Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) in the region show that catch rates in the Leyte Gulf had been steadily declining even prior to Typhoon Haiyan. The majority of fish stocks were also observed to be experiencing recruitment overfishing as the fish caught were juvenile, or caught before they were able to grow and reproduce. Following the supertyphoon, a study of six Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and local government units (LGUs) within the Leyte Gulf found that hard coral cover had been reduced from 26 percent to 13 percent cover; and that approximately 30 percent of the mangrove forests had been destroyed. A post-Haiyan study in selected areas of Leyte Gulf showed that fish stocks declined from 18 metric tons/km2 to only 7 metric tons/km2 of reef fish[25]25.

Barriers

18.   Assessments conducted under the Project Preparation Grant, as well as past studies, demonstrate that most of the municipalities in Leyte Gulf face similar significant problems. A number of past coastal and marine programs have identified these problems as the most critical barriers to address, and have produced tools and resources for local governments and resource managers, such as the MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) and the LGU Coastal Resource

Management Guide. Rare?s approach to working with local governments will build on many of these earlier resources.

Weak governance

19.   Weak governance (e.g. inconsistent, conflicting, obsolete or poorly communicated policies; lack of leadership, motivation, expertise, skills, and funding within management agencies; and unempowered local communities excluded from or opting out of decision-making) has caused a significant gap between the existing and required capacity for effective coastal fisheries management. Chronic fishing pressure stems, in large part, from an unregulated environment. Most small-scale fisheries have weak to non-existent governance frameworks that do not limit access rights, harvest amounts, nor effectively prevent destructive practices. In this open-access environment, small scale fishers compete with each other as well as industrial boats that encroach on their coastal waters to access diminishing fish stocks. Under these conditions, there is little incentive to fish sustainably and a strong driver form overexploitation. Nesting effective fisheries management in a good governance system, one that promotes participation, inclusion, equity, accountability, and transparency, is therefore central to a long-term solution.

Insufficient capacity for effective management and coordination

20.   Local municipal governments play a critical role in addressing these challenges, as the Philippines? Local Government Code has devolved authority to manage municipal waters to local government units. However, many municipalities in the Philippines and their constituent communities still lack the management tools, resources and capacity to manage their fisheries sustainably.

21.   Commonly, small-scale fisheries are multi-species fisheries; communities target hundreds of different fish and invertebrate species using a range of fishing techniques across a variety of shallow water ecosystems. It is difficult to effectively manage these multi-species fisheries using traditional single-species fisheries management ? building population models based on species biology, estimating fishing mortality, establishing maximum sustainable yields, and using this information to set (and enforce) a total allowable catch. Trying to simultaneously employ these mechanisms for hundreds of species, sustaining the required level of scientific expertise and analytical ability at scale and through time, and doing so in the context of the financial and technical limitations of the developing tropics, has proven largely infeasible.

Fisheries management and resource protection are not always well-prioritized by decision-makers

22.   Since small-scale fisheries have been traditionally disaggregated and unreported, their impact on local economy and livelihoods is often undervalued. The lack of clarity around jurisdiction over resources between local governments and different government agencies has also contributed to reduced accountability; it is not uncommon to hear local governments waiting on action from the national agencies, or vice versa. This has led to limited resources being allocated for coastal and fisheries resource management at the local level. In many LGUs, there is no dedicated staff, and agriculture or environment offices are stretched by multiple responsibilities.

Poor compliance with environmental regulations by fishers and other stakeholders

23.   The success of management interventions depend on the cooperation and compliance of users in an area. Unsustainable behaviors are driven by multiple factors, including a lack of awareness and understanding of the benefits of conservation, a misalignment of incentives, perceived absence of the rule of law, individual attitudes and beliefs, and social norms within a community.

Economic pressures on fishing households

24.   Fishing is an unpredictable occupation and small-scale fishers are often considered the most economically vulnerable people with one of the highest poverty rates. Fishers are vulnerable to both short term uncertainty ? will they catch fish that day ? as well as long term uncertainty ? will they be affected by external events that will set them back, such as storm damage, injury or boat or gear loss. Declining fish populations not only threaten fishers? income, increasing near term uncertainty, but also present increasing challenges for local food security. Fishing households are further stressed by a range of forces worsening the problems of overfishing including ecosystem changes, such as habitat loss, pollution and climate change, and socioeconomic conditions that increase vulnerability.[26]26

25.   Through a survey conducted by Rare in September 2019 of nearly 700 Filipino fishing community members, respondents reported bad weather, poor catch, and illness or accidents among the most frequent or impactful risks to their livelihoods. When asked about the resources to which they had access when they need to make up for lost income, the most common responses were borrowing from neighbors or friends and savings groups. Almost none reported access to insurance or financial services.

26.   With no other available options, many fishers often enter into debt relationships with local fish buyers or money lenders with little transparency on rates of interest or repayment terms. Fishers secure these informal loans against future catches with the understanding that loans will be repaid out of the catch they sell to the same buyer, who is often also subject to the same climate-related shocks and poor catch as the fishers. In order to repay their loans, provide food for their families and generate income for their households, fishers are motivated to catch as many fish as possible to fulfill these short-term needs. For fishing communities around the world and inthe Philippines, this inability to plan for the future acts as a barrier to sustainability and is an ultimate driver for overfishing. The negative feedback loop between overfishing and habitat degradation results in diminishing returns even in the face of increased fishing effort. This exacerbates the poverty trap, producing negative economic, social and environmental consequences.

The Baseline Scenario and Any Associated Baseline Projects

27.   National and provincial governments are playing an active role in supporting coastal resource efforts in Region VIII Eastern Visayas that includes the Leyte Gulf. DA-BFAR recently declared 12 major fishing grounds throughout the country as fisheries management areas (FMAs), which seek to provide a science-based and participatory framework to address overfishing and illegal fishing. Region VIII, through the leadership of DA-BFAR Regional Fisheries Office is currently setting up its Fisheries Management Board and Scientific Advisory Group that will provide evidence-based recommendations on policies, programs, and appropriate management measures for a more sustainable fisheries management. According to interviews with the BFAR-Region 8 leadership, they have been able to make good progress in reducing the incidence of illegal commercial bottom trawl fishing in Leyte Gulf. The introduction of FMAs as a management approach creates an excellent opportunity for coordinated action across multiple local governments across a bioregion, and this project will support the BFAR in aligning local and regional goals, policy and actions.

28.   In an effort to intensify measures to lessen poverty incidence in fishing communities and rally the protection and conservation of biodiversity resources, the DA-BFAR also implemented the Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project, which is ending in 2020. This project has been able to generate updated biophysical resource assessments and assist selected people?s organizations in establishing business enterprises. The BFAR plans to continue these enterprise development programs beyond the current scope of the FishCORAL project, and sees this Project as a means of ensuring that the enterprises are linked to sustainable resource management at the municipal level.

29.   The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is also implementing a 12-year program ? Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) ? which is aimed at achieving sustainable and effective management of coastal and marine biodiversity by addressing the long-term problems of its degradation and improving the lives of its communities. The Guiuan Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape (GIPLS), a nationally declared protected area in the northeastern part of Leyte Gulf, is included in CMEMP?s list of focal sites. This project will enable GIPLS to strengthen its policy and implementation coordination between the its Protected Area Management Board and local and provincial governments, as well as showcase its best practices as a model for its neighboring locally managed protected areas.

Baseline Status

30.   The information below represents baseline conditions of Leyte Gulf?s biodiversity and fisheries from data as gathered from primary and secondary data sources. Under the Project Preparation Grant, Rare conducted baseline assessments, participatory multi-stakeholder focus group discussions, interviews and consultations with different government agencies at the national, provincial, and local level, academic institutions, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as gathered secondary data to understand the landscape of municipalities

in Leyte Gulf. Other baseline data were previously collected by Rare under the program of the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) of the Department of Agriculture, a GEF-funded project, to support the formulation of the Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Resource Management (ICFRM) Plans of the municipalities of Guiuan, Lawaan, Mercedes, Quinapondan, and Salcedo. The project target sites cover ten coastal municipalities in three provinces with an aggregate population of 260,340 in 321 barangays (villages) of which 145 are coastal and majority (254) are rural.

Table 1: Population and Barangay Distribution per Municipality/City in Leyte Gulf

Fishing Ground/ Province/ Municipality	Income Classification	Municipal Population (PSA 2015)	No. of Barangays	No. of Coastal Barangays	Urban Barangays	Rural Barangays
Leyte Gulf		**898,192**	**687**	**145**	**75**	**474**
Target LGUs		**260,340**	**321**	**145**	**67**	**254**
Eastern Samar		136,507	189	92	55	134
Balangiga	4	14,085	13		7	6
Giporlos	5	13,308	18	14	0	18
Guiuan	2	52,991	60	44	18	42
Lawaan	5	12,742	16	16	10	6
Mercedes	5	6,070	16	9	0	16
Quinapondan	5	14,779	25	9	7	18
Salcedo	5	22,532	41		13	28
Leyte		106,871	108	30	12	96
Abuyog	1	59,571	63	22	1	62
Dulag	3	47,300	45	8	11	34
Samar		16,962	24	23	0	24
Marabut	5	16,962	24	23	0	24
Other LGUs		**507,371**	**366**			**220**
Leyte		451,891	315			169
Javier	4	25,379	28			28
MacArthur	5	21,211	31			31
Mayorga	5	17,161	16			16
Palo	3	70,052	33			29
Tacloban City	1	242,089	138			
Tanauan	2	55,021	54			52
Tolosa	5	20,978	15			13
Samar		55,480	51			51
Basey	1	55,480	51			51
Silago-Cabalian Bay		**130,481**	**158**			**154**
Southern Leyte		130,481	158			154
Anahawan	5	8,211	14			14
Hinunangan	3	29,976	40			39
Hinundayan	5	12,285	17			17
Liloan	4	23,981	24			24
Saint Bernard	4	28,395	30			30
San Juan	5	14,858	18			18

Silago	4	127,75	15			12

31.   Building on work conducted under the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP), an assessment of Coastal Fisheries and Resource Management (CFRM) practices of selected local governments in the target sites was conducted under the Project Preparation Grant, utilizing Rare?s Fisheries Management Assessment Rating Kit (FishMARK), a self- evaluating toolkit that assesses the performance of a municipality in fisheries management using a set of verifiable indicators. The results of these assessments, as well as the data from previous management effectiveness assessments, highlight the challenges these municipalities face in managing their MPAs and fisheries resources.

Table 2: FishMARK Results of Ten Target Sites

Site	Management Profiling & Planning	Legislation & Regulation	Institutional Development & Partnerships	Law Enforcement	M&E	Total Points	Level Achieved
Eastern Samar							
Balangiga	3	8	15	10	9	45	1
Giporlos	6	10	13	8	1	38	1
Guiuan	6	14	21	8	2	51	1
Lawaan	5	7	15	9	3	39	1
Mercedes	5	11	17	0	2	35	0
Quinapondan	1	3	8	3	0	15	0
Salcedo	5	11	17	7	5	45	1
Leyte							
Abuyog	6	17	23	10	11	67	2
Dulag	8	15	17	5	10	55	2
Samar							
Marabut	7	14	16	10	11	58	2

*Note: Total Allowed Points (TAP) for Each Focal Management Program
- Fisheries Management Profiling and Planning = 12
- Fisheries Legislation and Regulation = 24
- Institutional Development and Partnerships for Fisheries = 24
- Fisheries Law Enforcement = 12
- Fisheries M&E = 15
Total Possible Points: 87

32.   Table 2 above breaks down the actual points scored by the LGUs for each focal fisheries management program, as well as the total number of points with the corresponding management level achieved.

33.	The target sites for this project are at different levels of management effectiveness. The municipalities of Abuyog in Leyte Province and Marabut in Samar Province have the highest total points which can be attributed to their long history of implementing CFRM programs centered towards biodiversity conservation and protection, while the municipality of Guiuan in Eastern Samar stands out among its other neighboring municipalities with its more advanced coastal resource management initiatives.

34.	All LGUs surveyed have updated fisheries profiles and management plans prepared over the past ten years and have plans of incorporating these into their Local Development Plans. While most of the LGUs assessed have fisheries regulations in-place in the form of municipal ordinances, they admitted the need to update them based on the current status of their fisheries and emerging priorities within their plans. The LGUs, together with the provincial government of Leyte also expressed their interest in reactivating or reconvening the inter-LGU bay management councils to help strengthen their collective management and enforcement efforts. To this end, there are two inter-LGU alliances for coastal and fisheries resource management: the A7 Alliance, composed of the Eastern Samar LGUs of Leyte Gulf; and the Alliance of Local Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Development Council (ALFARMDC), composed of LGUs from Marabut, Samar to Abuyog, Leyte.

35.	While the Local Government Code states that cities and municipalities have jurisdiction over their municipal waters, or 15 kms from shore, the delineation of boundaries between adjacent municipalities is still not complete for all ten of the LGUs. Some municipalities have received the technical description of their respective municipal waters from the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) and have incorporated it in their Comprehensive Land Use Plan, awaiting approval from the Provincial Land Use Committee. However, some LGUs have yet to act on delineating their municipal waters. Not all LGUs have likewise undertaken zonation of their coastal areas as a whole.

36.	None of the LGUs have done any work around measuring the implementation or impact of their plans at the community level. Household surveys and other assessments would enable them to understand whether their plans are gaining traction in terms of behavior changes among fishers.

37.	Given the similarities in biodiversity, habitats, and ecosystem among the targeted project sites, the following paragraphs provide a deep dive illustration of the baseline scenario of one of the municipalities along the Leyte Gulf, the municipality of Guiuan.

38.	One of the most studied of the Gulf?s municipalities is Guiuan, located along the northwestern rim of the Gulf, within the Province of Eastern Samar. The municipality hosts eight declared MPAs (Bagonbanua, Pearl Island, Maybay Reef, Burunayan, Entraban, Puno Point and the two sanctuaries, Manapag Reef Fish Sanctuary, and the Lupakon-Bilang Bilang Marine Fish Sanctuary endorsed for rehabilitation) in addition to the Guiuan Marine Protected Landscape and Seascape (GMPSL). The GMPSL, part of the National Integrated Protected Areas System is considered one of

the areas of national significance by DENR?s Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB). Given Guiuan?s peninsular shape and network of islands and islets, including Suluan in the Pacific and Homonhon by the mouth of the Gulf, it contains the largest municipal waters (313,897 hectares[27][27]) in Eastern Samar.

39.   The Participatory Rural Appraisal ? Resource and Social Assessment (RA-RSA) conducted by Rare in 2016 as supported through the PRDP-GEF, found that the Manapag Reef Fish Sanctuary in Tubabao Island had about 50 percent live hard coral (LHC) cover, which Resource and Environmental Economics Studies (REECS) classified as in good condition. Outside the reef, LHC cover decreases to 40 percent, indicating fair condition. Nationally declared Lupakon and Bilang-bilang (L&B) Marine Reserve in Humonhon Island had an average LHC of 49 percent and 16 percent cover of live soft corals within the reef. The reefs outside the MPA also indicated good condition at 44 percent LHC cover. Good coral cover even in reefs that are not strictly protected suggests that the reefs in the L&B Marine Reserve do not have as many violations as other reefs.

40.   The Guiuan Strategic Plan for Coastal Resource Management (2013-2017) reported that coral reefs within Guiuan municipal waters are under threat from coral bleaching, damage caused by abalone collection, as well as damage caused by fishing boats anchoring. The primary threats to seagrass include dredging (locally known as sudsod) and destructive fishing practices like dragging nets across the sea floor. When Typhoon Haiyan struck in 2013, much of the seagrass habitats of Guiuan were damaged, largely due to sedimentation and siltation from the storm surge and land runoff. The majority of seagrass bed areas are disturbed. Although relatively healthy, these beds occupy bays and coves near human settlements and are therefore impacted by human activity including sedimentation and nutrient pollution. Likewise, surveys of local mangroves as conducted by community members in 2011, showed evidence of negative human impacts including harvesting wood for firewood and charcoal making fencing, and building materials for fish pens.

41.   The municipality of Guiuan, like the rest of the municipalities in Leyte Gulf, is bearing the brunt of the impacts of extreme weather events, which are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change. Although various efforts have been put in place, including combined interventions by the government, civil society, and local communities, more work is needed to make these efforts sustainable in addressing the various, evolving and interrelated threats to the Gulf?s ecosystem.

Table 3: Baseline Projects

Project Name	Years (Start-End)	Budget (USD)	Donor(s)	Objectives/Brief description of how it is linked to this GEF project

Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP)	2014-2021	USD 671,590,000	The Project is funded by the GEF, World Bank, Philippines? National Government, and the participating LGUs.	The project aims to establish a modern, value chain-oriented and climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries sector. Likewise, the project aims to strengthen good governance, transparency and accountability mechanisms and intends to operationalize a local-level convergence platform among relevant national line agencies and other stakeholders (e.g. the private sector, civil society and academe) to synergize programs and projects. Rare partnered with PRDP-GEF in 2017 and supported the development of an Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Resource Management Plan cum Sustainability Plan for twenty-one (21) municipalities in the country. The municipalities of Guiuan, Mercedes, Lawaan, Salcedo, and Quinapondan in Eastern Samar were part of the target sites. Some of the baseline data presented in this document were from the data gathered during this engagement.
FishCORAL Project of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR)	2016-2020	USD 35,429,000	The Project is funded by the DA-BFAR, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (UN-IFAD), and the participating LGUs.	Although this project is ending this 2020 and has depleted most of its budget, particularly on establishing business enterprises, the Bureau plans to continue this work beyond the project cycle and acknowledges our project as a complementary intervention. The regional DA-BFAR has integrated enterprise development activities from the project into its annual workplan, and is ready to provide this assistance to municipalities participating in the proposed GEF project. The regional office plots out their budget on an annual basis ? note, the budget is still pending as the project has been developed.

Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)	2017-2028	USD 8,000,000	The Project is funded by the DENR, and the participating LGUs.	CMEMP is a comprehensive, long-term program of the DENR that helps support the attainment of the Philippine coastal and marine biodiversity long- term vision through integrated coastal management, protection management and law enforcement, valuation of ecosystem services, and behavior change strategies. CMEMP will allow the regional DENR office to provide additional technical assistance to locally managed MPAs as well as the Guiuan Marine Protected Seascape and Landscape, which can be aligned to with the proposed GEF project workplan.
The Strengthening Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas in the Philippines (SMARTSeas PH Project)	2014 ? 2019 (extended to June 2020)	USD 33,994,090	The Project is funded by the GEF, DENR. DA-BFAR, participating LGUs, UNDP and NGO partners.	The project focused on establishing and strengthening MPAs and MPANs to reduce the rapid degradation of marine and coastal habitats. The project is about to close, but it leaves several regulatory and capacity building resources that have been shared with the DENR. Rare?s participation in this project as a Responsible Partner in the Tanon Strait Protected Seascape and enabled it to test and refine models for working closely with regional and provincial partners to co-deliver training, coaching and monitoring to local governments.

| The Meloy Fund: A Fund for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia | 2017 - 2027 | USD 22,100,000 (investment capital) | In addition to a number of private investors, the GEF is the Fund?s anchor investor ? providing USD 6,000,000 investment capital.

The Fund also secured USD 1,000,000in grant funding in support of a Technical Assistance Facility which will further support the development of business capacities and Environmental and Social Impact monitoring and reporting for Meloy Fund investees. | The Meloy Fund is an investment vehicle that seeks to incentivize the rapid adoption of sustainable fisheries behaviors by investing in fishing and seafood-related enterprises in Indonesia and the Philippines. The investment objective of the Fund is to generate measurable social and environmental outcomes and provide reasonable financial returns for investors by making debt and equity investments in fishing and seafood-related enterprises at different stages of growth that have operations in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Through the Fund?s investments, it aims to incentivize the sustainable management of important fishery resources. As such, the overall objective of this non-grant pilot project is to improve the conservation of coral reef ecosystems by providing financial incentives to fishing communities in the Philippines and Indonesia to adopt sustainable fishing behaviors and rights-based management regimes through capital investments in commercially viable enterprises.

Rare will work with the Meloy Fund to explore investment opportunities in the region that are aligned with the project?s biodiversity and fisheries goals. |

The Business-as-Usual Scenario

42.   Fisheries laws in the Philippines have evolved to grant municipalities more authority to manage their marine resources. Current laws give local Mayors wide-reaching jurisdiction to create and enforce fisheries ordinances. Local government units have the control to set up fishing activities occurring within their municipal waters by establishing locally-managed MPAs, limiting access to marine resources, prescribing zones for different uses, and collecting taxes or fees associated with different purposes. There are approximately 1,600 MPAs throughout the country, yet only 339 are legislated and actively managed, while the rest are considered ?paper parks.? Reasons for this ineffectiveness center around shortages in funding, lack of community support, as well as weak governance and management.

43.   If the municipalities in Leyte Gulf remain business-as-usual and no immediate intervention occurs (e.g. through the support of the GEF), given its current degraded state, coastal ecosystems and the services they provide could functionally collapse.

44.   Despite the presence of national and regional programs, local municipal governance of coastal waters, which are the most critical in terms in addressing local threats to bioversity and to build sustainable livelihoods for small-scale fishers, remains weak. Locally-managed MPAs need to be expanded and enforced in order to protect important habitats and allow fish populations to recover, and fishing needs to be regulated at sustainable levels. In addition, the introduction of Fishery Management Areas, while well-intentioned, could lead to confusion and paralysis of local governments. Without support in aligning stakeholder goals, policies and implementation mechanisms, a tendency among various government units to wait on each other, or worse, blame each other for inaction or wrong decisions, could emerge. This could prove to be disastrous for the Leyte Gulf region, as overexploitation of resources and habitat loss continues unabated; continuous reduction in coral cover will result in a further decline in fish biomass, presenting a clear danger to the employment and food security of the communities that depend on them.

The Proposed Alternative Scenario and Brief Description of the Project Components and Expected

Outcomes

45.   Through the support of GEF, this project will work at two levels. First, it will implement a Gulf-wide awareness and engagement campaign to ensure multi-stakeholder support and integration of community-based coastal fisheries management into relevant policies and plans at the provincial and regional level. Second, based on the initial assessments of habitat cover and larval source strength shown in Figure 2 above, more in-depth community-based management interventions will be implemented at ten target municipalities along the Gulf to establish fully protected reserves, designed to sustain fisheries and protect essential fish habitat.

46.   The ten coastal municipalities include Abuyog, Balangiga, Dulag, Giporlos, Guiuan, Lawaan, Marabut, Mercedes, Salcedo and Quinapondan. These ten municipalities were chosen based on the initial assessments of habitat cover and larval source strength as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, the strong ecological connectivity patterns between Guiuan to Salcedo KBA to its neighboring municipalities as evident in Figure 4, the existence of a governance network, their level of management effectiveness as a result of the FishMARK assessment shown in Table 2, and their social readiness.Working closely with the regional agencies and provincial governments, the project will ensure that these municipalities can serve as bright spots for replication in other areas of the Gulf.

47.   The size of their municipal waters was also considered, leading to the inclusion of Abuyog and Dulag, which have waters adjacent to the other eight municipalities at the 15 km mark. Including

them in the pool of focal sites will allow the project to cover more of the Gulf even though we are not working in all LGUs (see maps showing KBA and municipal waters).

48.   The project will target to expand the total hectares of protected areas within and around the Guiuan-Salcedo KBA. Using reserve strategy maps developed based on habitats and larval connectivity as a starting point, the project will work with the communities to encourage expansion to at least 20 percent of all critical habitats, while balancing community needs and priorities.

Figure 4: Municipal Waters, Marine Key Biodiversity Area and Marine Protected Areas of Ten Target Municipalities[28]28
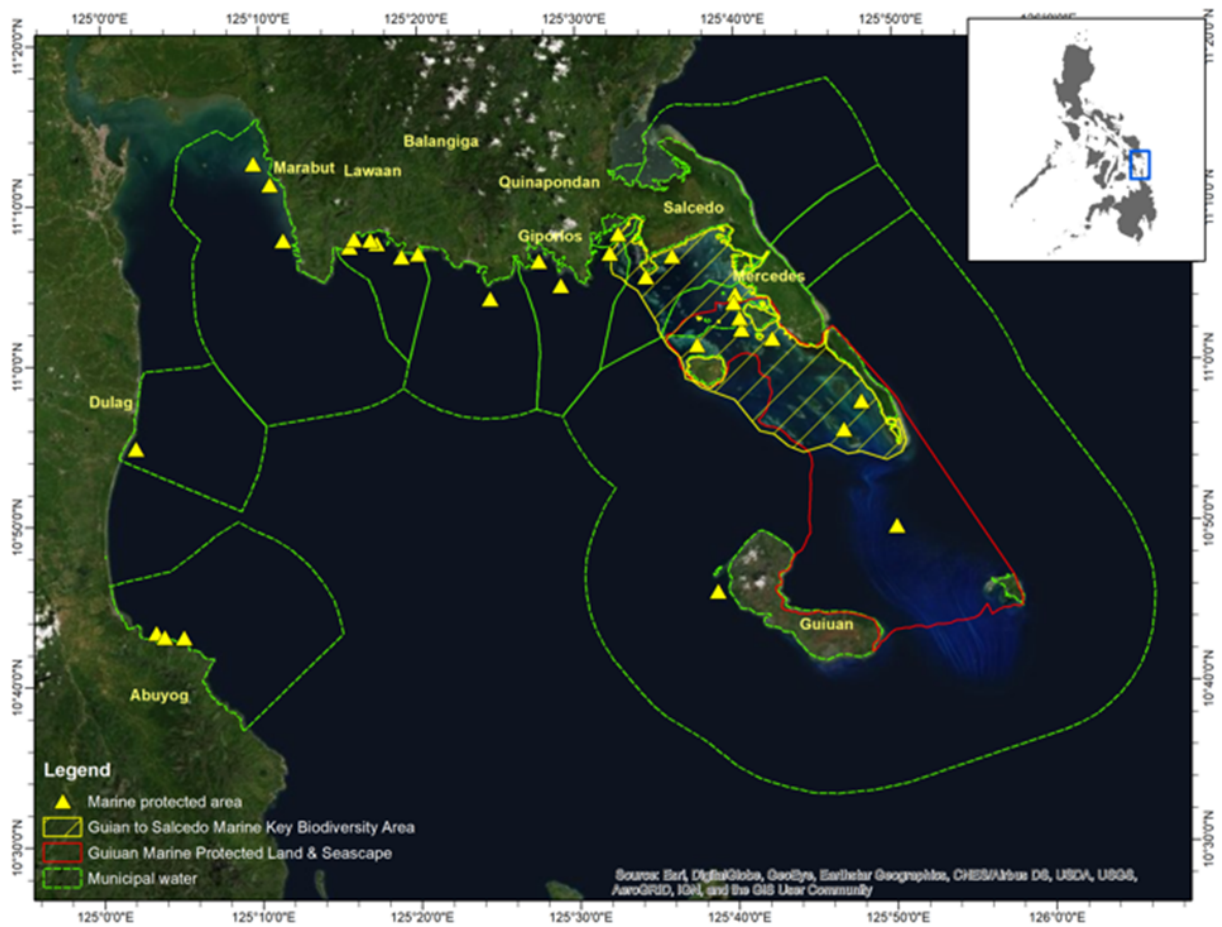
49.   **The overall objective of the project** is to improve the management of coastal fisheries and conserve globally significant biodiversity in the Leyte Gulf, through a combination of local government led marine spatial planning, community mobilization leading to lasting behavior change, policy reform, and capacity development.

50.   Please see the Project?s Theory of Change in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Project Theory of Change
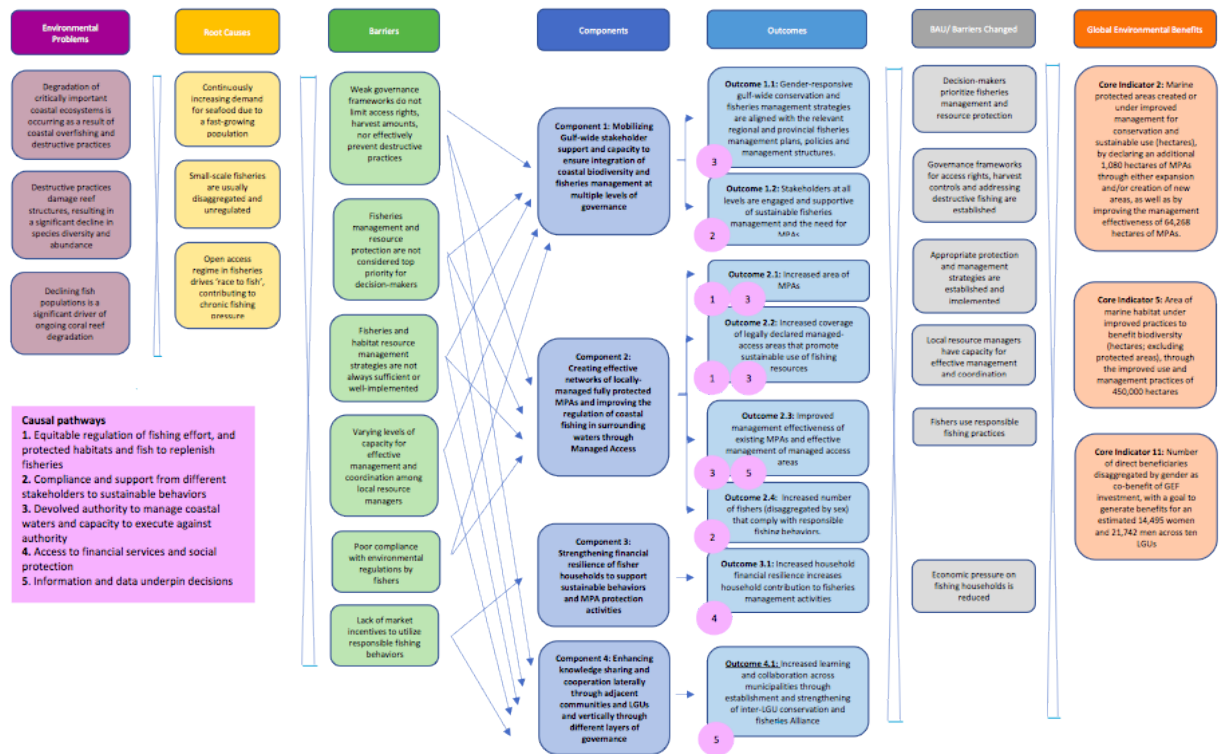
Assumptions:
? Overlapping jurisdiction and responsibilities among local governments and national agencies different areas of the Leyte Gulf
? Staffing and resources in most local governments meet minimum standards (at least 1 staff member with salary, etc.)
? No extraordinary vested interests within the province and region (such as commercial fishing operations supported by political leaders)
? There is strong buy-in from key stakeholders for the proposed approach

The project's overall objective is to improve the management of coastal fisheries and conserve globally significant biodiversity in the Leyte Gulf through a combination of local government-led marine spatial planning, community mobilization leading to lasting behavior change, and policy reform, and capacity development. This is not an easy task, given the serious global environmental problems that the Gulf is currently facing. Current financing of MPA management is insufficient, considering the threats of land-based and marine-based human activities that cause irreversible damage to coral reef resources. Although various efforts have been put in place, including combined interventions by the government, civil society, and local communities, only a few have proven sustainable in addressing the various and interrelated barriers to the Gulf's ecosystem. A clear pathway to community-based management for sustainable coastal fisheries is necessary to address these problems.

The project offers the opportunity to play a catalytic role in the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries in one of the world's most important marine biodiversity areas. Through GEF's incremental support, this project will improve the incentives and capacities needed for the sustainable management of coastal fisheries and shift current unsustainable practices to more sustainable fisheries practices that

will generate significant global environmental benefits. When fishers and the communities they belong to work with their LGUs to co-manage their coastal resources, there is equitable regulation of fishing efforts, communities can execute against authorities, are engaged and compliant with sustainable behaviors, and households are provided with access to financial services and social protection; this will lead to a more abundant marine life and healthier coastal habitats.

51.   The project will work with stakeholders at various levels of governance, including the DA-BFAR, the DENR regional offices, the provincial governments of Eastern Samar, Samar, Leyte, and Southern Leyte, as well as at least ten municipalities, with the objective of improving the management of coastal fisheries and conserve globally-significant biodiversity in Leyte Gulf. This will be done through local government-led marine spatial planning, policy reform and capacity development, alongside deep stakeholder and community mobilization, leading to lasting behavior change with constituent coastal communities.

52.   Given the time required for fisheries recovery, the positive socioeconomic and ecological impacts of improved management practices tend to lag behind the immediate costs incurred by fishers ? e.g. through fish catch restrictions. This lag period presents a behavioral challenge, as communities are likely to return to unsustainable practices if they fail to see immediate positive returns. By driving new social norms and ultimately long-term sustainable changes in behavior, social marketing campaigns are believed to help increase perceptions related to the benefits of improved management, long before the ecological and socioeconomic benefits are fully realized.[29][29]

53.   An assessment[30][30] conducted of Rare?s small-scale fisheries management program (implemented across 41 sites in Brazil, Indonesia, and the Philippines from 2014 to 2017), found that behavior change campaigns play a critical role in building and sustaining positive perceptions and behavior change in small-scale fisheries management interventions.[31][31] The assessment showed that despite the occurrence of short-term neutral or negative changes, communities increased their support for program interventions and shifts toward sustainable fishing behaviors. Further, results suggest that communities developed new social norms and fishind more sustainably prior to the materialization of longer-term ecological and socioeconomic benefits of improved fisheries management practices.[32][32] Furthermore, a meta-analysis of 84 conservation oriented social marketing campaigns, as conducted by Rare and various local partners, showed that social-norms and behaviors were positively changed following the implementation of the campaigns.[33][33] Campaigns that aim to increase knowledge,

while also increasing interpersonal communication, can positively influence local attitudes, which in turn can lead to positive changes in targeted behaviors.[34]³⁴

54.   In-water surveys conducted by the University of the Philippines Marine Education and Research Foundation (UP-MERF) at 20 pilot sites in the Philippines, showed significant increases in biomass both inside and outside marine reserves designated and enforced as no-take zones. Knowledge and attitude among coastal fishers on the benefits of marine sanctuaries also improved, as well as their active participation in reporting fish catch and managing their resources.

55.   Under this proposed alternative scenario, the project will harness and align local and national government efforts around shared goals and cooperation mechanisms to protect and manage coastal resources across a broad ecological scale. This is particularly important since there is currently no Gulf-wide conservation and engagement intervention in Leyte Gulf. At the same time, the project will support selected LGUs in setting up effective community-based management systems that can deliver fisheries and conservation outcomes and serve as a model for replication by other municipalities in the Gulf. In addition, the project will work in close collaboration with regional offices from both DENR and BFAR, which have mandates to support the entire region. Training that they will receive through the project will help them to replicate approaches in other municipalities within the region.

56.   Rare?s co-delivery and capacity building approach where we train and capacitate our partners at municipal, provincial and regional government offices, academic institutions, and other CSOs and NGOs ensures that they can adopt and then scale and replicate these strategies with other LGUs. Working particularly with regional government offices of DENR and BFAR, which has the mandates to support the entire region, and institutionalizing training and capacity building at different levels of governance and with various stakeholders would ensure scalability and replicability of the project. Furthermore, the strong focus on integrating behavioral insights into project delivery creates multiple interconnected opportunities to build and sustain lasting change.

57.   This is currently being demonstrated in one of Rare?s partner sites at Tanon Strait Protected Seascapes under the UNDP-GEF SMARTSEAS project wherein we pulled in three provincial governments, two regional government offices, 22 municipalities, and one state university to co-deliver a seascape-wide awareness campaign and coordinated management and enforcement strategies.

58.   Rare?s participatory approach involves working in close partnership with provincial government and regional agency staff to ensure there is co-ownership of the resulting campaign and fisheries management programs when they are rolled out to the municipalities. In other areas that Rare has worked in the past, local stakeholders were able to design a unifying brand and communications strategy that tied together efforts by different provincial and municipal governments, CSO?s and

academic partners. Once partners are clear on the key goals and messages, they are able to incorporate them into their own programs and calendars, magnifying the impact of each partner?s efforts.

59.   Success of project interventions will be measured by:

  a)   MPAs[35][35] newly created (in hectares).

  b)   Existing MPAs under improved management effectiveness (in hectares);

  c)   Legally declared manage-access areas that ensure responsible fishing and regulate total fishing effort (in hectares);

  d)   Status of hard coral cover in selected sites (average percent of live coral cover); and

  e)   Abundance of reef fish indicator species in selected sites (number of individuals).

60.   To accomplish the targets, the project will include four components:

  - Component 1: Mobilizing Gulf-wide stakeholder support and capacity to ensure integration of coastal biodiversity and fisheries management at multiple levels of governance.

  - Component 2: Creating effective networks of locally-managed fully protected MPAs and improving the regulation of coastal fishing in surrounding waters through Managed Access.

  - Component 3: Strengthening financial resilience of fisher households to support sustainable behaviors and MPA protection activities.

  - Component 4: Enhancing knowledge sharing and cooperation laterally through adjacent communities and LGUs and vertically through different layers of governance.

- Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation plan informs adaptive management. s

PROJECT COMPONENT 1: *Mobilizing Gulf-wide stakeholder support and capacity to ensure integration of coastal biodiversity and fisheries management at multiple levels of governance.*

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61.   This Component will be achieved through the following Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicative Activities.

62.   **Outcome 1.1:** Gender-responsive gulf-wide conservation and fisheries management strategies are aligned with the relevant regional and provincial fisheries management plans, policies and management structures.

63.   This will be demonstrated through the number of gender-responsive, gulf-wide MPA network maps and coastal resource management strategies that are incorporated into relevant regional fishery management and development plans and policies such as the FMA Management Plan, Provincial Development Plan, etc.; and later in the project, the number of additional (non-focal) LGUs within the Gulf that seek to emulate focal municipalities and adopt coastal resource management strategies. This is important given that there are no regional plans that incorporate local and Gulf-wide biodiversity and community-based coastal fisheries management plans and programs in the region. Project targets include the alignment of one Gulf-wide MPA network map and at least eight local community-based coastal fisheries management plans with the regional Fisheries Management Area policy framework and management plan; as well as the adoption of selected strategies, as promoted through the Gulf-wide campaign, by eight non-focal municipalities.

64.   **Output 1.1.1:** A gender responsive, gulf-wide awareness and engagement campaign to promote coastal biodiversity and fisheries management, targeting key stakeholders, decision-makers and influencers.

65.   The gender-responsive gulf-wide conservation and fisheries management strategies will be promoted through the gulf-wide awareness campaign to increase adoption of the selected strategies and required changes in behavior. This sub-national campaign will help increase the awareness and engagements of the rest of the coastal municipalities in Leyte Gulf and unify and aggregate municipal campaigns in the ten target municipalities to accelerate the adoption of community-based fisheries and resource management in the whole Gulf. The campaign will help align the many different stakeholders in the Gulf---from the regional government agencies, the provincial governments, and the multiple municipal governments---towards shared goals of biodiversity conservation and community based coastal fisheries management. This will make it easier to facilitate their participation and support for broader fisheries management area plans (as part of the sub-national FMA 8), as well as encourage similar approaches to be included in local coastal resource and fisheries management plans.

66.   The campaign will be developed in collaboration various stakeholders who will formulate a communications and engagement plan that addresses various concerns and interests, to build constituency for sustainable coastal resource management. Using various media, events and materials, such as billboards, radio programs, videos, songs, discussion forums and community celebrations that promote an agreed-upon set of messages, it will target local leaders, influencers and communities and rally everyone to support programs, policies and activities that will lead to protection and conservation of marine resources. This campaign will not only set the stage for the deeper work to be done by the ten focal municipalities, it will also encourage other LGUs in Leyte Gulf to support conservation and

management programs led by the national government, even if they are not directly included in this Project.

67.	To this end, Gulf-wide working groups which represent the interests of provincial governments, regional agencies of the Deptartment of Environment and Deptartment of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries, as well as other stakeholders will be established. These working groups will conduct formative research, stakeholder analysis and planning to support the development of the Gulf-wide communications and engagement campaign, which promotes biodiversity and targeted coastal fisheries management approaches. In addition, relevant platforms, such as the meetings of the regional Fishery Management Area Management Board, which will include representatives from all the LGUs in the area, will be engaged through the campaign to present the MPA network map and local coastal fisheries management plans to regional and provincial fisheries management bodies.

68.	**Outcome 1.2:** Stakeholders at all levels are engaged and supportive of sustainable and gender responsive fisheries management and the need for MPAs.

69.	This will be measured by the number of multi-year workplans of municipal, provincial and regional partner offices that include additional conservation and coastal fisheries management activities; and the number of community members representing different stakeholder groups that participate in conservation and coastal fisheries management activities. Project targets include the assignment of 20 relevant activities related to planning, technical assistance provision, and monitoring of municipal coastal resource and fisheries to appropriate units and staff of target municipal, provincial LGUs and DENR and BFAR offices; as well as the participation of at least 100 community members (40 women, 60 men) per focal municipality in conservation and coastal fisheries management and community campaigns.

70.	**Output 1.2.1:** Local municipalities, provincial governments and regional offices of the DENR and the DA-BFAR are engaged and prioritize coastal and marine areas threatened by overfishing.

71.	To do this, the project will implement a process which supports the development of Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) which prioritize coastal biodiversity and fisheries management, as signed by municipal LGUs, provincial governments and regional agencies. In addition, multi-stakeholder working groups will be established and receive training on MPA and fisheries management, as well as how to conduct formative research, communications planning, and community engagement. In addition, they will be coached and mentored to produce a Gulf-wide communications and engagement campaign.

72.	**Indicative Activities** to achieve the aforementioned Outcomes and Outputs under Component 1 include: A comprehensive kick-off to launch the project and announce the participation

of provincial, regional and municipal partners, followed by a deep dive training into the key components of the project; a series of research activities and workshops to gather inputs and develop a Gulf-wide communications plan; meetings and partnership engagement activites to include involve other stakeholders like the media and academe, and the production and rollout of campaign materials and activities such as billboards, radio programs and community events.

PROJECT COMPONENT 2: *Creating effective networks of locally-managed fully protected MPAs and improving the regulation of coastal fishing in surrounding waters through Managed Access.*

73.   This Component will be achieved through the following Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicative Activities.

74.   **Outcome 2.1:** Increased areas of locally-managed MPAs that protect biodiversity and replenish important coastal fisheries.

75.   This will be demonstrated through the drafting of municipal ordinances designating expanded protected and managed access areas. The project aims to establish an additional 1,080 hectares of MPAs through expansion or creation of new areas.

76.   **Output 2.1.1:** Gulf-wide protected area network strategy map through the implementation of a gender-inclusive participatory process with provincial and local governments and communities.

77.   The map will identify priority areas for conservation, fisheries replenishment, and sustainable use, as well as the proposed design for MPA placement based on scientific (habitat, species, oceanographic and climate) data as well as other local level assessments. Using priority species and habitats as input, this process will factor in larval dispersal models and fisheries life history to generate a proposed network of marine reserves, which, if protected properly and the surrounding areas are managed sustainably, can balance both conservation and production needs of the community. Once the Gulf-wide map and model is developed, it will presented to regional and provincial stakeholders. In addition, municipal level habitat assessments and community perception data will be presented to community members.

78.   **Output 2.1.2:** Using the Gulf-wide map and model, municipal waters will be zoned through the implmentation of a gender-inclusive participatory process so that the targeted communities can agree on new areas for no-take.

79.   The Gulf-wide map will be used to inform the development of municipal zoning plans within the 10 focal municipalities, with the aim to have at least 8 municipal ordinances declaring new or expanded MPAs aligned with the Gulf-wide MPA strategy map endorsed for adoption by the end of the project.

80. **Output 2.1.3:** Process to register the Guiuan-Salcedo Key Biodiversity Area KBA 137 in the WDKBA facilitated in alignment and collaboration with DENR.

81. In-line with the guidance and process provided through the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Partnership (http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/working-with-kbas/proposing-updating), the project, in collaboration with DENR, will facilitate the formal registration of KBA 137 within the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas. As required, the Project will work with the GEF Secretariat to support/advance the registration process.

82. **Outcome 2.2:** Increased coverage of legally-declared managed access areas[36][36] that promote sustainable use of fishing resources.

83. This outcome will be measured by the number of hectares of legally declared managed access areas that promote sustainable use of fishing resources. To this end, the project aims to improve the use and management of 450,000 hectares of marine habitat outside protected areas through the establishment of legally declared managed access areas within municipal waters (64 percent of total waters in Leyte Gulf).

84. **Output 2.2.1:** Gender-responsive municipal management plans to set regulations on access and sustainable use of fishery resources developed and adopted.

85. **Output 2.2.2:** Local municipalities have established or enhanced regulatory codes that are gender-responsive to governing their municipal waters and MPAs in partnership with the community.

86. The aforementioned municipal plans will be developed through a series of participatory workshops and consultations with local fishers and leaders and then codified into ordinances and management plans to be submitted to the municipal councils for adoption. Through networks of well-managed local fisheries areas within the waters around the fully protected areas, benefits will accrue back to local communities (e.g. improved fish production) and will serve as an incentive to continue to protect the reserves and practice responsible fishing which beneftts both the fishers and marine biodiversity.

87. **Outcome 2.3:** Improved management effectiveness of existing MPAs and effective management of managed access areas.

88. The project will also work to improve the effectiveness of management of the MPAs by legally establishing or enhancing (if already existing) management bodies that have the capacity and processes needed to collect and use information towards effective and adaptive management of

protected areas, as well as the managed access areas around them. This will be measured by increases in METT scores for existing protected areas as well as increases in Fisheries Management Rating Kit (FISHMark) scores for targeted municipalities. Project targets include at least 15 percent increases in average METT scores and FISHMark scores by the end of the project.

89.   This outcome will be achieved through a comprehensive partnership between the 10 focal municipalites, wherein each one commits to the outcomes of the project and works with Rare to establish a working group that is trained and ultimately becomes legally recognized as a formal management body. This group will be trained on topics such as MPA design and management, fisheries management, data for decision-making, community engagement and behaviour adoption, as well as financial and market inclusion.

90.   **Output 2.3.1:** Gender-inclusive legal and functional management bodies are strengthened/established and have capacity and processes needed to collect and use sex-disaggregated information for effective and adaptive management of the protected area.

91.   Ten municipal technical working groups formed to lead work on coastal biodiversity, fisheries profiling, zoning and community engagement. The project aims to have eight legal instruments establishing management bodies fully adopted by the end the project.

92.   **Output 2.3.2:** Habitat profiles, MPA maps and other resource and fisheries assessments take into account male and female fisher use/access and are collected and presented to stakeholders and used as inputs into planning and management activities.

93.   LGU-level ecological and community perception surveys will provide quality assessments of critical habitat.

94.   **Output 2.3.3:** Digital data collection systems to collect, analyze and disseminate catch information (sex disaggregated when relevant) through local government and community groups are in place.

95.   The project will aim to have eight municipalities set up a systems for digital catch data monitoring and will train users. The collected catch information will then be fed back to fishers and management bodies to support decision making. The information they will have access to and trained to use will include fisheries production data to be collected through a mobile app, OurFish. The OurFish mobile app is a digital catch-reporting tool for fish buyers. Using simple interfaces and cloud computing, this app records transaction data on the amount and value of fish species purchased from local fishers by community fish buyers. Data is automatically collated, analysed and interpreted so that production statistics can be delivered back to Leyte Gulf stakeholders through cell phones, tablets or internet connected computers. By gathering market Information of fish catch, when used by enough

fish buyers, the extent of fisheries production and changes in catch assemblage in proportion and value of different species, can provide invaluable information for monitoring change in the fishery through time.

96.   **Output 2.3.4:** Gender inclusive management bodies at the municipal level are reviewing MEAT and fisheries management assessments annually, taking into account gender considerations, and using them as inputs to management planning.

97.   Ten municipal coastal resource and fisheries management bodies that are conducting METT and FISHMark assessments annually and using results to inform management plans. Members will include representatives from fishers? associations, the local legislative council, and the MFARMCs. The goal is for these multi-stakeholder management bodies to have the authority and capacity to co-manage MPA and managed access areas together with the LGU. As part of the management planning process for the locally managed MPAs, the LGUs and communities will develop financial sustainability plans and determine appropriate funding sources whether from allocations from government, user fees, and contributions from community members, as part of Outcome 3.1 (see below).

98.   Management effectiveness as an indicator for Output 2.3.4 will be measured as baseline and at the end of the project through the METT, in accordance with GEF guidelines. However, local governments in the Philippines are more familiar with the locally developed MEAT, which is also the basis of several incentive programs. Aside from the METT assessment, Rare will also support partners in conducting MEAT assessments for MPAs, along with its own FishMARK tool for measuring fisheries management in LGUs, on an annual basis, which partners can continue to administer themselves as part of their adaptive management planning cycle. The results of all these assessments will be shared with the partners, allowing them a more multi-faceted perspective.

99.   **Outcome 2.4:** Increased number of fishers (disaggregated by sex) that comply with responsible fishing behaviors.

100.   The MPA and managed access networks will only be effective if the number of fishers complying with sustainable behaviors (e.g. registered/ licensed, fish outside no-take zones, use legal gear, and participate in management) is increased through the strategic use of behaviour adoption approaches. Using household surveys, as well as enforcement and attendance records, this will be measured through the percentage of fishers that comply with responsible fishing behaviors (registration, no intrusions into no-take zones, use of right gear, participate in management) by the end of the project.

98.   **Output 2.4.1:** Municipalities have implemented gender-responsive behavior adoption campaigns around responsible fishing behaviors.

99.   Using Rare?s proven approaches to community engagement and behavior change, the project will train municipal staff to conduct quantitative baseline assessments and formative research, gather insights and use behavioral levers and strategies appropriately to build buy-in and motivate fishers toward sustainable fishing practices. Activities will include interactive games where fishers learn the consequences of open access-fishing, pledge events that use social influences to encourage compliance, and the use of marker buoys and boat color-coding to ensure observability of behaviors. In other sites that Rare has worked in the past, post-surveys have registered improved knowledge, attitudes and practices around MPAs and fishing behaviors.

100.   **Indicative Activities** to achieve the aforementioned Outcomes and Outputs under Component 2 include: Following the Gulf-wide kick-off of the project, and in parallel to the Gulf-wide campaign, teams from the 10 focal municipalities, with support from Rare, will implement a workplan aligned against three-year roadmap, with training phases (virtual and face-to-face) followed by field implementation. This roadmap will take them through 6 phases: 1) Setting up systems (establishing working groups in the LGU and community), 2) Profiling and Baselining (gathering biophysical, fisheries and socio-economic data and enabling feedback loops with the community), 3) Community Engagement (orientations, education and listening sessions, plus community-level behavior change campaigns), 4) Setting up Systems (finalizing designs for reserves and managed access areas), 5) Enabling Success (training management bodies and finalizing policy) and 6) Making it Last (integration into local development plans and budgets).

PROJECT COMPONENT 3: *Strengthening financial resilience of fisher households to support sustainable behaviors and MPA protection activities.*

101.   This Component will be achieved through the following Outcomes, Outputs, and Indicative Activities.

102.   **Outcome 3.1:** Increased household financial resilience increases household contribution to fisheries management activities.

103.   This will be measured through an increase in the savings or assets of fisher households as a result of their participation in savings clubs and small enterprises, as well as an increase in their financial or temporal contributions to MPA protection activities. The project will target to achieve a 20 percent increase in average household savings in focal municipalities, as well as a 20 percent increase in the average household contribution to MPA protection activities in focal municipalities. The project will do this by applying Rare?s proven financial and market inclusion approach, wherein focal municipalities formulate a financial inclusion strategy based on community profiling data, and local leaders, usually women, are trained to form Savings Clubs and when they are ready, Conservation Enterprises.

104.   **Output 3.1.1:** Focal municipalities implement financial and market inclusion strategies which take into account gender considerations to increase financial resilience of fishing households and improve the decision-making influence and status of women.

105.   Through the support of the project, ten LGU-level financial inclusion strategic plans will be developed for implementation. Surveys and other qualitative research will be conducted in order to profile the status of the fishing communities in terms of their financial resilience. This will enable the team to determine the appropriate mix of strategies suited to their context. For example, in areas where incomes are very low and there is little access to formal financial services, the set of savings clubs, combined with financial education strategies (eg household financial diaries or goal-setting) would be the most appropriate approach. In more advanced areas, they may actually be ready for social protection products like life insurance or medical insurance provided by the LGU.

106.   **Output 3.1.2:** Local savings clubs set-up and functioning to support household resilience and conservation behaviors.

107.   Savings Clubs are village savings and loan associations that support members to save towards household financial goals, as well as providing a social fund to members to cover unforeseen emergencies. The project will work to establish 25 savings clubs within the focal municipalities. Membership and participation in these Savings Clubs has been shown to build household financial assets, improve financial literacy and build overall household resilience.

108.   **Output 3.1.3:** Core leaders (both women and men) are trained and capacitated with basic financial education as well as in fisheries management concepts and approaches.

109.   Under this project component, the project will train and capacitate 100 core leaders (40 women, 60 men) with basic financial education as well as in fisheries management concepts and approaches. Savings not only cushion fishing households from crises and shocks and enables them to sustain positive behaviors, but regular club meetings also serve as a venue for education on fisheries management and conservation.

110.   In the more advanced Rare sites, these meetings have become venues to build support for the adopted managed access areas, particularly for discussion around rules and regulations (right gear, right place, right time, and user-rights). As members complete several saving cycles, they begin to recognize they do have the resources to start contributing to projects that will benefit the community, such as MPA protection or shared value-adding facilities, such as fish drying equipment.

111.   **Indicative Activities** to achieve the aforementioned Outcomes and Outputs under Component 3 include: Household surveys, in-depth interviews and focus groups, orientations on savings clubs, training of trainers on savings club organizing, financial edication sessions and provision

of simple tools to support practice for fishing households, regular meetings of savings clubs, share-out sessions and celebrations every nine months.

PROJECT COMPONENT 4: *Enhancing knowledge sharing and cooperation laterally through adjacent communities and LGUs and vertically through different layers of governance*

112.   **Outcome 4.1:** Increased learning and collaboration across municipalities through establishment and strengthening of inter-LGU conservation and fisheries Alliances

113.   This Outcome will be measured the number of joint action plans or policies undertaken by inter-LGU alliances, and the increase in financial and temporal contributions of LGUs to inter-LGU alliance/activities. The project will aim to have at least two inter-LGU alliances agree to and implemented at least 3 joint action plans or policies over the life of the project. In addition, the project will target a 30 percent increase in average time and budget contributions of targeted LGUs to inter-LGU alliance/activities.

114.   The project will build from three existing alliances within the Gulf, which had been organized in the past but with the exception of one, have not been very active in recent years. The alliances include the aforementioned A7 and ALFARMDC, as well as the Pacific Alliance of LGUs for Marine Development Council (PALMDEVC). Rare will convene the LGUs and work with them to re-organize and conduct strategic and operations planning to identify priority issues and areas for cooperation. Agreements will be formalized into MOA?s and corresponding budget allocations. Discussions regarding MPA budget allocations will take place when the annual management planning is discussed. The aim to integrate funding for MPAs in the management plans and annual budgets of the partner LGUs. Locally-managed MPAs usually fall under the jurisdiction of local governments and are co-managed by the community. In LGUs where stakeholders see the importance of MPAs, targeted budget allocations are often made. This project will build support among the community and local decision makers to ensure funding for the MPAs are included in the annual investment plans. These alliances will also be venues for sharing of lessons not just among the LGUs, but with regional and provincial offices, so that best practices can be replicated in other areas of Leyte Gulf. Rare will work with a strong local foundation in the area, the Guiuan Development Foundation, in mobilizing the LGUs and strengthening and renewing municipal alliances along the Gulf.

115.   Rare?s refined approach is to leverage community-based management model using a unified Gulf-wide campaign to connect networks of local governments with existing sub-national level governance structures, such as provinces, states, alliances, and Fisheries Management Areas. In this way, the project can scale its impact, increasing its value and reach to more municipalities and communities, encourage wider adoption, and create an enabling environment for future private and public investments. In Tanon Strait, significant traction of a bottom-up meets top-down approach were observed where LGUs formed alliances and became an inspiration or jump-off point for neighboring LGUs. With a total of 42 municipalities, Tanon Strait currently has seven clusters where these LGUs

can easily align their plans and share resources. In the long term, the program?s deliberate strategy is to target the alliance network among seascapes.

116.　　**Output 4.1.1:** Partnership Alliance and networks for biodiversity conservation are established or renewed.

117.　　The project will support the conduct of two assessments of existing inter-LGU alliances to determine status, gaps and opportunities and will work to have two new or renewed partnerships formalized by the end of the project period. These would result in MOAs signed jointly by the mayors of the participating LGUs, signaling a new level of cooperation and coordination.

118.　　**Output 4.1.2:** Gender responsive joint regulatory instruments within inter-LGU alliances are developed.

119.　　To this end, two joint strategic and operational planning and other capacity building activities will be conducted among partner municipalities, and two policies or guidance instruments governing alliance operations will be developed. These would result in a joint workplan or regulatory guidelines, covering areas of shared interest like enforcement, reciprocal use, harmonization of fishing rules and regulations, and sometimes, even agreements on shared budgets and resources (eg shared patrol boats, etc.)

120.　　**Output 4.1.3:** Time and budget contributions of LGUs to inter-LGU activities is baselined, disaggregated by sex, and monitored over the life of the project.

121.　　In support of Outcome 4.1, the project will target to have 12 annual LGU reports on staff and budget contributions submitted.

122.　　**Indicative Activities** to achieve the aforementioned Outcomes and Outputs under Component 4 include: Organizational development assessments consisting of interviews and focus groups, joint planning workshops, writing of manual of operations, launch events and joint social marketing activities.

COMPONENT 5: *Monitoring and Evaluation plan informs adaptive management*

123.　　**Outcome 5.1:** Monitoring and evaluation in place and used to facilitate adaptive management.

124.　　The project has developed a monitoring and evaluation plan aligned with the GEF and CI?s policies on monitoring and evaluation. During the implementation phase, CI, Rare and project

stakeholders will utilized the M&E plan to inform adaptive management of the project. Key monitoring products include the quarterly financial and technical reports, annual work plan, annual budget and annual Project Implementation Report. Since this is a medium-sized project, a mid-term review will not be conducted.

125.   **Output 5.1.1:** Monitoring and evaluation plan developed and executed.

126.   The monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed (Section 9 of the 1-step document). After CEO approval, the Executing Agency will update and present at the project inception workshop.

127.   **Output 5.1.2:** Final report on monitoring and evaluation submitted.

128.   The project will prepare a final report that summarizes the how the M&E plan was implemented.

Alignment with GEF Focal Area Strategies

129.   The goal of the GEF-7 biodiversity focal area strategy is ?to maintain globally significant biodiversity in landscapes and seascapes?. To help achieve this goal, this project will contribute to the following two focal area objectives as identified in the Convention on Biological Diversity?s (CBD) Conference of Parties (COP) 13 Guidance to the GEF:

-    BD 1.1: Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes; and

-    BD 2.7: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species.

130.   The objective of this project is to improve the management of coastal fisheries and conserve globally-significant biodiversity in Leyte Gulf. Expected outcomes as aligned with the GEF-7 biodiversity focal area strategy include, marine habitat under improved management (excluding protected areas); and marine habitat under improved conservation and sustainable use (million hectares).

131.   To remove the barriers described in previous sections and improve the production of global environmental benefits, the financial resources of the GEF will be invested in an incremental way to the aforementioned baseline initiatives.

Incremental or Additional Cost Reasoning and Expected Contributions from the Baseline

132.   Under the baseline, business as usual scenario, the livelihoods and food security of the Leyte Gulf?s municipalities and coastal communities are at imminent risk. Its ecosystem is in a degraded state and the reduction in coral cover will result in a decline in the biomass of many functional groups including key fisheries. Even with government agencies playing an active role in supporting coastal resource efforts in the Leyte Gulf, many municipalities and their constituent communities still lack the management tools, resources and capacity to manage their fisheries sustainably. The social and legal tolerance for overfishing and destructive fishing practices in and around MPAs further exacerbates this issue. The lack of clarity and tenure contributes to small scale fishers racing to capture as much of a declining resource as possible. The result has been a dramatic reduction in fish biomass and coral ecosystem integrity across the region.

133.   Small scale fisheries have historically been undervalued, marginalized and deprioritized compared with other sectors of the productive economy. Consequently, small scale fisheries are often undermanaged and poorly resourced, resulting in severe overfishing, systemic ecosystem degradation and chronic societal issues across coastal communities. Transformational change can reverse overfishing and ecosystem degradation, as well as preventing a humanitarian crisis in food supply and a downward cycle of poverty worsened by diminishing returns.

134.   The incremental cost reasoning of the GEF funding focuses on strengthening shared goals and cooperation mechanisms to protect and manage coastal resources across a broad ecological scale, while supporting LGUs in setting up effective community-based management systems that can deliver fisheries and conservation outcomes, and serve as a model for replication by other municipalities in the Gulf.

135.   This project will build on Rare's past collaboration with PRDP (GEF ID 5281) on the formation of Integrated Coastal Resources and Fisheries Management Plans cum Sustainability Plan (ICRFM-SP) at select sites, by strengthening MPAs and establishing managed access areas. The initial partnership with PRDP covering only four of the ten target sites was on building the municipalities? technical capacity in the formulation of management plans. This project will continue the foundational work established by implementing some strategies specified on those ICFRM-SP plans.

136.   The alternative proposed through the GEF?s support will:

- ensure that Gulf-wide conservation and fisheries management strategies are aligned with relevant regional and provincial fisheries management plans, policies and management structures;

- ensure that stakeholders at all levels are engaged and supportive of sustainable fisheries management and the need for MPAs;

- increase the areas of locally-managed MPAs that protect biodiversity and replenish important coastal fisheries;

- increase coverage of legally-declared managed access areas that promote sustainable use of fishing resources;

- through the use of science-based models, guide communities in balancing conservation and fisheries production goals, increasing likelihood of compliance with sustainable practices

- improve the management effectiveness of MPAs;

- increase the number of fishers complying with sustainable behaviors through the strategic use of behaviour adoption approaches;

- improve household financial resilience and increase household contributions to fisheries management activities; and

- increase learning and collaboration across municipalities through the establishment or strengthening of inter-LGU conservation and fisheries alliances.

137.   On a global scale, increasing the sustainability of small scale fisheries within the Leyte Gulf will deliver on global development targets by improving food security, sustaining livelihoods and alleviating poverty, reducing impacts on critical marine habitats, and improving social and ecological resilience to climate change.

138.   To help achieve this, the Government of the Philippines has confirmed USD 2,956,171.61 of co-financing, including USD 97,150 from DA-BFAR, specifically Eastern Vinyasas Region VIII, and USD 2,859,021.61 from DENR. An additional USD 669,493 in co-financing has been committed by Rare.

Global Environmental Benefits

139.   The proposed project will generate global environmental benefits that will be measured through four of the GEF?s Core Indicators as aligned with the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area. Specifically, the project will generate benefits under Core Indicator 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares), by declaring an additional 1,080 hectares of MPAs through either expansion and/or creation of new areas, as well as by improving the management effectiveness of 64,268 hectares of MPAs.

140.   Further, the project will generate benefits under Core Indicator 5: Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectares; excluding protected areas), through the improved use and management practices of 450,000 hectares.

141.   Lastly, the project will also yield co-benefits that can be monitored under Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment, with a goal to generate benefits for an estimated 14,495 women and 21,742 men across the ten LGUs.

142.   The project is also closely aligned with the CBD?s programs of work for marine and coastal biodiversity. To this end, the project will contribute to the achievement of the following Aichi Biodiversity Targets, 1, 6, 10, 11 and 14. The project activities will also produce global environmental benefits that play a role in achieving the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 14: Life Below Water; and SDG 17: Partnerships.

Innovation, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling-Up

Innovation:
143.   Community engagement and behavior change are the core of our work at Rare. Building off its long history of inspiring behavior change in communities, Rare established the Center for Behavior and the Environment, which brings the latest thinking on psychology, behavioral economics, and neuroscience to the field of conservation. We use Behavior-Centered Design, an approach that draws on behavioral and social science applied with a user- centered method in order to create breakthrough solutions to today?s biggest environment and sustainability challenges. This new intervention goes beyond more common methods like information, rules, and material incentives by utilizing behavioral levers like emotional appeals, social incentives, and choice architecture. This behavior-centered design process, which the project will adopt in developing Gulf-wide and municipal-wide campaigns, will help communities identify the appropriate interventions that can shift how resource users work together to restore their oceans and fisheries and build resilience to climate change.

144.   Additionally, implementing community-led solutions and participatory approaches that empower communities to understand and manage their own resources can lead to longer-term behavior changes towards community self-regulation and compliance among fishers and their families. By creating a stronger emotional and cultural connection between people and their environment to inspire change, we can reduce human-related threats to critical ecosystems and increase people's capacity to adapt to climate change.

145.   The creation of community-led managed access + reserves (MA+R), and further expansion of MPAs provides an incentive for communities to actively participate in the protection and co-management of resources because they benefit directly from any improvement in their environment and the benefits are equitably shared.

146.   On-site generation of digital catch reporting data using the Our Fish app technology will not only support digital recording of fish catch volume and value, but also facilitate the collation and distribution of analyzed and interpreted data to fishers, fish buyers, management councils and government agencies.

147.   The introduction of financial inclusion schemes such as Savings Clubs, or village savings and loan associations, will increase and sustain household financial resilience of the communities in Leyte Gulf. Financial resilience reduces extraction pressure and could potentially increase value of fish catch through the investment of community earnings into post harvest technology or facilities or conservation enterprises.

Sustainability:

148.   Since local governments are the primary implementers of the project, and regional offices of the national government agencies, together with provincial governments are co-delivery partners, the project will work with them to establish mechanisms for sustainability.   Aside from the core training and capacity-building focus of the project, we will also work with the LGUs and partners to incorporate project activities into their annual workplans and budgets. Management bodies are also established at each municipality, and one of their committees would be focused on community engagement. To support MPA financial sustainability, the project will also ensure that discussions on MPA budget allocations are raised as the project supports annual management planning.

Potential for Scaling Up:

149   The combination of capacity building of various levels of institutions, governments, and community organizations, lasting and robust community engagement and mobilization, coupled with a science-based approach to coastal fisheries management, contribute to the strong pillars of the project?s sustainability. This multi-level approach to partnership and training focuses on building the capacities of our partners to sustain the change, long after Rare?s intervention ends. In this way, the project can scale its impact, increasing its value and reach to more municipalities and communities and encourage wider adoption. We have demonstrated this in other areas we have worked in, for example in the Tanon Strait Protected Seascape, the largest national protected area in the country, under the UNDP-GEF SMARTSEAS proect, which cover 42 local government units. Rare worked with selected municipalities to create ?bright spots? and establish networks and alliances of neighboring LGUs, which then became the inspiration for others to follow suit. This is also evident in Rare?s past experience of building LGU alliance with BATMAn in Negros, LIPASECU in Antique, and SIPLAS in Siargao.

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[6] Managing Philippine coasts and seas: understanding the challenge. Extracted and adapted from the *Philippine Coastal Management Guidebook Series No. 1: Coastal Management Orientation and Overview*, published in 2001 by DENR, DA-BFAR and DILG through the Coastal Resource

Management Project of DENR and USAID. Downloaded from
http://oneocean.org/flash/the_philippine_seas.html

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[14] Larval Dispersal Model developed by Rare

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http://www.icriforum.org/caribbeanreport.

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[19] Burke L., Reytar K., Spalding M., Perry A. *Reefs at Risk Revisited in the Coral Triangle*. World Resources Institute (2012): pg. 36.

[20] *Idib*. pg. 39.

[21] Status of Leyte Gulf Fisheries CY 2001-2011. Miriam C. Francisco, Nancy A. Dayap, Lea A. Tumabiene,*, Ruben A. Francisco, Sr., Mizpah Jay Candole, Jaye Hanne De Veyra, Elmer Bautista. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office No. 08 Maharlika Highway, Brgy. Diit, Tacloban City.

[22] Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network and International Coral Reef Initiative. *Climate change and coral reefs: Consequences of Inaction*.
http://www.icriforum.org/sites/default/files/GCRMN_Climate_Change.pdf.

[23] Managing Philippine coasts and seas: understanding the challenge. Extracted and adapted from the *Philippine Coastal Management Guidebook Series No. 1: Coastal Management Orientation and Overview*, published in 2001 by DENR, DA-BFAR and DILG through the Coastal Resource Management Project of DENR and USAID. http://oneocean.org/flash/the_philippine_seas.html

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[32] *Ibid.*

[33] Green KM, Crawford BA, Williamson KA, DeWan AA. 2019. A metaanalysis of social marketing campaigns to improve global conservation outcomes. Social Marketing Quarterly 25:69?87.

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[35] Under this project, Marine Protected Areas specificallly include categories 1, 4 and 6 as per IUCN?s protected area categories https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PAG-021.pdf

[36] A Managed Access Area can be considered as an ?Other Effective Conservation Meaure? or OECM. An OECM is a geographically defined area, other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ

conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio?economic, and other locally relevant values.

[37] Bindoy, Ayungon, Tayasan, Manjuyod

[38] The Libertad-Pandan-Sebaste-Culasi (LIPASECU) Bay - Wide Management Council

[39] Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

1.   Leyte Gulf geographic coordinates:

-     Latitude: 10?44'5.76"N

-     Longitude: 125?18'9.92"E

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

N/A

2. Stakeholders
Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

1.   The Stakeholder Engagement Plan can be found in <u>Annex J</u>.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Stakeholder Name	Method of Engagement	Location and Frequency	Resources Required	Budget

BFAR Region 8	Workshop, Discussion	Tacloban/ Leyte Gulf (3x/year)	Presentations, brochures, Project micro site in BFAR R8 website, Profiles	Transportation - $640 Meals and lodging - $2,880
BFAR Central Office (Planning, FRMD, FishCoral PMO)	Consultation, workshop	Manila and Tacloban (2x/year)	Presentations, project handouts. Policy and local coordination personnel	Transportation - $40 Meals and lodging - $300
DENR Region 8	Consultations, Discussion	Tacloban/ Leyte Gulf (3x/year)	Presentations, brochures, Profiles	Transportation - $640 Meals and lodging - $2,880
NEDA Region 8	Workshop, Discussion	Tacloban/ Leyte Gulf (1x/year)	Presentations, brochures, project profiles, reports	Transportation - $640 Meals and lodging - $2,880
LGU ? Project Sites	Workshop, Consultations-Meetings	Leyte Gulf (Quarterly)	Presentations, Project Reports	Transportation - $11,440 Meals and lodging - $74,760
Provincial Governments	Consultations / Meetings	Tacloban, Borongan, Catbalogan (2x/year)	Presentations, Project Reports	Transportation - $640 Meals and lodging - $2,880
Barangay Officials	Workshops/ Meetings	Per municipality (2x/yr)	Presentations, Reports, Workplans	Transportation - $5,050 Meals and lodging - $13,200
FARMCs	Workshops/ Meetings	Per municipality (3x/yr)	Presentations, Reports, Workplans	Transportation - $5,050 Meals and lodging - $14,700
Fisherfolk	Workshop/ Meetings	Per municipality (4x/yr)	Presentations, Reports, Workplans	Transportation - $12,900 Meals and lodging - $22,000

Regional Development Council/ NEDA Region 8	Meeting	Tacloban 2x/yr	Presentations, Reports	Transportation - $600 Meals and lodging - $2,580
The Meloy Fund	Meetings, phone calls, emails	Ongoing	None	N/A

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Table 4: Summary of Stakeholder Engagement During Project Execution

Stakeholder	Means of consultation/ Involvement during project execution	The means and timing of engagement	The means of information dissemination
National Government Agencies ? including the Department of Agriculture ? Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ? Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)	DA-BFAR and DENR-BMB will be engaged from the beginning of the project?s implementation to ensure they prioritize coastal and marine areas threatened by overfishing. The office of the DENR also acts as the secretariat of the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI). Both departments will help to ensure alignment of project goals to national policies and regional plans/targets.	As part of the Project Steering Committee and as co-delivery partners, DA-BFAR and DENR-BMB will both participate in project activities throughout the project?s implementation. The relationships will be formalized through MOA?s.	Through participation in project activities including meetings, workshops, training etc. Members of Project Steering Committee.

Local Government Units (LGUs)	The project will support selected LGUs in setting up effective community-based management systems that can deliver fisheries and conservation outcomes and serve as a model for replication by other municipalities in the Gulf. The project will also convene the LGUs and work with them to re-organize and conduct strategic and operations planning to identify priority issues and areas for cooperation.	The LGUs will participate in project activities throughout the project?s implementation. The relationship will be formalized through MOAs authorized by the municipal councils.	Through participation in project activities including meetings, workshops, training etc. Members of Project Steering Committee
Provincial Governments of Eastern Samar, Samar, Leyte, and Southern Leyte	Will ensure that Gulf-wide conservation and fisheries management strategies are aligned with relevant regional and provincial fisheries management plans, policies and management structures. The relevant offices within the provincial governments will help facilitate inter-LGU coordination on fisheries management, and will support training and follow-through activities.	As co-delivery partners, the provincial governments will participate in project activities throughout the project?s implementation. The relationship will be formalized through MOA?s.	Through participation in project activities including meetings, workshops, training etc.
Local Communities	Will participate in campaign, capacity building (e.g. financial inclusion), and fisheries management activities.	The targeted local communities will participate in various project activities throughout the project?s implementation.	Through participation in project activities including meetings, workshops, training etc.
The Meloy Fund	The Rare team will continue to provide input into the Fund?s pipeline development and due diligence processes.	Throughout project implementation, Rare will work with the Meloy Fund to explore potential investment opportunities in the region that are aligned with the project?s biodiversity and fisheries goals.	Through meetings, phone calls, joint site visits (ass required) etc.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

The Gender Analysis/Assessment identifies the entry points and constraints for introducing gender
considerations, the engagement of stakeholders,
and establishes understanding of the technical capacity and political commitment for effective
planning, budgeting, implementation and
monitoring and evaluation of the project. For this project, the gender analysis helped to ensure that
there are no skewed gender roles and
responsibilities in project implementation. The GMP has a detailed section on Gender
Analysis/Assessment. Findings during the assessment
include:

   a. Fishing activities are mostly dominated by male fishers. Offshore fishing are largely
       done by male fishers. Majority of municipal fishing operators are men. They are
       often the decision-makers in the groups that manage coastal resources. Fishers?
       cooperatives are often male-dominated. In seeking loans, banks and credit institutions
       often recognize the men as borrowers. Most of the technical assistance and training
       for fishers are designed to target men.
   b. Fishing is largely dominated by male fishers and women are often remain nearer
       their households. Because of this, women have little involvement with fish capture
       and primarly tasked to take care of the household. Female municipal fishers are
       mostly involved in shell and fry gathering/ gleaning and other near-shore fishing
       activities. They also help out in maintaininig and installing stationary gears or in
       hauling nets and lines. Female fishers do participate in groups managing coastal
       resources and are often assigned to financial and record-keeping tasks or community-
       organizing.
   c. Both men and women are involved in pre-post harvest, marketing and distribution
       activities. Men have been observed to be involved in marketing activities mainly in
       dealing with intermediaries and if transactions involve high-commerical value fish
       varieties.
   d. Women are involved in pre-post harvest, marketing and distribution activities.
       Among these activities are net mending, sorting of fish, fish vending, trading and
       market retailing (usually of the inexpensive fish varieties) and processing and
       preservation. Fish processing and and preservation are largely in the arena of women.
   e. The MFARMC assists in the preparation and implementation of the municipal
       fisheries development plan. It recommends enactment of municipal fishery
       ordinances to the sangguniang bayan/sangguniang panlungsod through the
       Committee on Fisheries, and advise the sangguniang bayan/panlungsod on fishery
       matters through its Committee on Fisheries, if such has been organized.

2.   Gender Action Plan:

Project Outputs	Activities	Target	Resources Required	Budget

Output 1.1.1: A gender responsive gulf-wide awareness and engagement campaign to promote biodiversity and targeted coastal fisheries management approaches is developed and implemented, directed at key stakeholders, decision-makers, influencers and resource-users.	? Establish gender-inclusive working groups and conduct of formative research, stakeholder analysis and planning to produce a gender-responsive Gulf-wide communications and engagement campaign. ? Design and implement a gender-responsive Gulf-wide communications and engagement campaign (promoting biodiversity, gender-inclusion and targeted coastal fisheries management approaches). ? Engage relevant gender-inclusive platforms through the campaign to present MPA network map and gender-responsive local coastal fisheries management plans to regional and provincial fisheries management bodies.	? One gender-inclusive Gulf-wide working group composed of representatives from provincial governments, regional agencies of the Dept. of Environment and Dept. of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and other stakeholders. This working group is expected to conduct formative research, stakeholder analysis and planning to produce a gender-responsive Gulf-wide communications and engagement campaign. ? One gender-responsive Gulf-wide communications and engagement campaign promoting biodiversity, and sustainable coastal fisheries management will also be designed and implemented. ? 400 women and 600 men who participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations).	? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by sex) ? Promotional Materials ? Presentations ? Photo/ Video documentation ? Artists ? Graphic/ Mascot ? Writer/ Communications staff ? Program Staff	Staff time and workshop costs in conducting gender-inclusive workshops on coastal fisheries management. $102,691.54

| Output 1.2.1: Local municipalities, provincial governments and regional offices of the DENR and the BFAR are engaged to prioritize coastal and marine areas threatened by overfishing. | ? Establish and sign MOAs with municipal LGUs, provincial governments and regional agencies, taking into account gender considerations in their various plans and activities
? Train and mobilize, both women and men, provincial and municipal staff and community leaders to implement coastal fisheries and conservation programs, taking into account gender considerations in their various plans and activities
? Train and mobilize, both female and male, community members in conservation, coastal fisheries management, and financial resilience approaches, taking into account gender considerations in their various plans and activities. | ? 18 MOAs signed with municipal LGUs, provincial governments and regional agencies.150 provincial and municipal staff and community leaders (75 women and 75 men) trained to implement coastal fisheries and conservation programs.
? 400 women and 600 men trained and mobilized in conservation coastal fisheries management and financial resilience approaches | ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender
? Promotional Materials
? Presentations
? Photo/ Video documentation
? Artists ? Graphic/ Mascot
? Writer/ Communications staff
? Program Staff | Staff time and workshop costs in conducting gender-inclusive workshops on coastal fisheries management.

$108,451.06 |

Output 2.1.1: Gulf-wide protected area network strategy map is developed (through a gender-inclusive participatory process) and adopted by provincial and local governments and communities.	? Collect information on habitats, larval patterns, oceanographic and climate impacts. ? Conduct local level assessments. ? Develop and present Gulf-wide map and model to gender-inclusive regional and provincial stakeholders ? Present, through a gender-inclusive participatory process, municipal level habitat assessments and community perception data to community members.	? Ten local level assessments are conducted with information on habitats, larval patterns, oceanographic and climate impacts are collected. Local level assessments are conducted. ? One Gulf-wide map and model is developed and presented, through a gender-inclusive participatory process, to regional and provincial stakeholders; and municipal level habitat assessments and community perception data are presented to community members.	? Social media materials ? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Trainers/ Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, and social marketing materials production in MA+R trainings and workshops $53,921.23

Output 2.1.2: Using Gulf-wide map and model, municipal waters are zoned through a gender-inclusive participatory process so that communities can agree on new areas for no-take.	? Develop, through a gender-inclusive participatory process, gender-responsive municipal zoning plans. ? Conduct a gender-inclusive participatory process so that communities can agree on new areas for no-take and sustainable use and support the zoning of municipal waters using the Gulf-wide map and model. ? Support endorsement and adoption of gender-responsive municipal ordinances declaring new or expanded MPAs aligned with the Gulf-wide MPA strategy map.	? Ten gender-responsive municipal zoning plans developed. ? Eight gender-responsive municipal ordinances declaring new or expanded MPAs aligned with the Gulf-wide MPA strategy map endorsed for adoption.	? Social media materials ? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Trainers/ Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, and social marketing materials production in MA+R trainings and workshops. $53,921.23
Output 2.2.1: Gender-responsive municipal management plans to set regulations on access and sustainable use of fishery resources and are developed and adopted.	? Develop gender-responsive municipal zoning plans designating managed fishing areas and other uses for adoption. ? Develop gender-responsive management plans with regulations and strategies for sustainable access and use, developed for adoption.	? Ten gender-responsive municipal zoning plans designating managed fishing areas and other uses developed and adopted. ? Ten gender-responsive management plans with regulations and strategies for sustainable access and use, developed and adopted.	? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Trainers/ Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, and production in MA+R trainings and workshops. $53,921.23

Output 2.2.2: Local municipalities have established or enhanced regulatory codes that are gender-responsive to govern their municipal waters and MPAs in partnership with the community..	? Support the establishment or enhancement of gender-responsive regulatory codes governing municipal waters and MPAs in partnership with the community.	? Ten local municipalities that have established or enhanced gender-reponsive regulatory codes governing their municipal waters and MPAs in partnership with the community.	? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Trainers/ Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, and production in MA+R trainings and workshops. $53,921.23
Output 2.3.1: Gender-inclusive legal and functional management bodies are strengthened/established and have capacity and processes needed to collect and use sex-disaggregated information for effective and adaptive management of the protected area.	? Form gender-inclusive municipal technical working groups to lead work on coastal biodiversity and fisheries profiling, zoning and community engagement. ? Support adoption of legal instuments establishing gender-inclusive management bodies. ? Promote a more equitable distribution of tasks and responsibilities when action planning or within working committees.	? Ten gender-inclusive municipal technical working groups formed to lead work on coastal biodiversity and fisheries profiling, zoning and community engagement. ? Eight legal instuments establishing gender-inclusive management bodies adopted.	? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer (policy writer consultants) ? Trainers/ Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, and production in MA+R, policy formulation trainings and workshops. $30,539.82
Output 2.3.2: Habitat profiles, MPA maps and other resource and fisheries assessments, take into account male and female fisher use/access, and are collected and presented to stakeholders and used as inputs to planning and management activities.	? Conduct gender-inclusive LGU-level ecological and community perception surveys to provide quality assessment of critical habitat.	? Ten gender-inclusive LGU-level ecological and community perception surveys conducted to provide quality assessment of critical habitat.	? Presentations ? Survey contractors ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Survey Writer consultants ? Trainers/ Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, and production in management body, baselining, survey trainings and workshops; survey & baselining costs. $30,539.82

Output 2.3.3: Digital data collection systems to collect, analyze and disseminate atch information disaggregated by sex of users ? traders and fishers) through local government and community groups are in place.	? Help set up a gender-inclusive system at municipal level for digital catch data monitoring and train users. ? Support municipalities with collection of catch information and ensure it is fed back to fishers and management bodies ? Additional *optional* gender mainstreaming strategies/activities: - Partner with local academic institutions for the deployment of female and male on-the-job training (OJT) students/interns in Coastal Resources Management Offices. - Encourage the use of ICT among women and men for behavior adoption and enforcement efforts (hotlines, social media), catch monitoring (OurFish).	? Eight municipalities set up a gender-inclusive system for digital catch data monitoring and have trained users. ? Eight municipalities are collecting catch information and feeding it back to fishers and management bodies.	? ICT/ Social Media ? Trainer ? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Program staff ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Photo/ video documentation ? ICT Equipment (phones, projectors, internet connection, laptops)	Staff time, workshop costs, and materials production in ICT-related activities. $30,539.82

Output 2.3.4: Gender inclusive management bodies at the municipal level are reviewing METT and fisheries management assessments annually, taking into account gender considerations, and using them as inputs to management planning.	? Ensure municipal coastal resource and fisheries management bodies are conducting, through a gender-inclusive participatory process, METT and FISHMark assessments annually and using results to inform management plans. ? Support municipal coastal resource and fisheries management bodies to develop enhanced, gender-responsive management, enforcement and monitoring plans.	? Ten municipal coastal resource and fisheries management bodies are conducting METT and FISHMark assessments annually and using results to inform management plans. ? Eight municipal coastal resource and fisheries management bodies have an enhanced, gender-responsive management, enforcement and monitoring plans	? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Photo/ Video documentation ? Artists ? Graphic/ Mascot ? Writer/ Communications staff ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, and social marketing materials production in conducting behaviour adoption workshops and trainings; assessment costs.

$30,539.82 |
| **Output 2.4.1:** Municipalities have implemented gender-responsive behavior adoption campaigns around responsible fishing behaviors | ? Support municipalities to conduct gender-inclusive quantitative baseline and formative research to inform behavior adoption campaigns. ? Train municipalities to implement gender-responsive behavior adoption campaigns on responsible fishing behaviors. | ? Ten municipalities have conducted gender-inclusive quantitative baseline and gender-responsive formative research to inform behavior adoption campaigns. ? Ten municipalities have been trained and have implemented gender-responsive behavior adoption campaigns around responsible fishing behaviors. | ? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Photo/ Video documentation ? Artists ? Graphic/ Mascot ? Writer/ Communications staff ? Program staff | Staff time, workshop costs, and social marketing materials production in conducting behaviour adoption workshops and trainings.

$99,614.28 |

Output 3.1.1: Focal municipalities implement financial and market inclusion strategies which take into account gender considerations to increase financial resilience of fishing households and improve the decision-making influence and status of women.	? Conduct, through a gender-inclusive participatory process, profiling and baselining activities in each focal municipality. ? Develop gender-responsive strategic plans developed in each focal municipality. ? Develop gender-responsive project management and financial management skills of Savings Club members	? Ten profiling and baselining activities conducted and gender-responsive strategic plans developed in each focal municipality.	? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Trainers/ ? Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, tools and materials production in conducting savings clubs and conservation enterprise trainings and workshops; profiling & baselining activtites costs. $11,675.78
Output 3.1.2: Local savings clubs made up of women and men are set up and functioning to support household resilience and conservation behaviors.	? Establish gender-inclusive functioning local savings clubs to support household resilience and support conservation behaviors. ? Additional *optional* gender mainstreaming strategies/activities: - Encourage women (and the children) to plan and make their savings decisions considering future and sustainable benefits	? Twenty-five gender-inclusive local savings clubs set-up and functioning to support household resilience and support conservation behaviors.	? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Photo/ Video documentation ? Trainers/ ? Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, tools and materials production in conducting savings clubs and conservation enterprise trainings and workshops. $11,675.78

Output 3.1.3: Core leaders (both women and men) are trained and capacitated on basic financial education and basic concepts of fisheries management	? Train and capacitate core leaders, both women and men, on basic financial education and basic concepts of fisheries management. ? Additional *optional* gender mainstreaming strategies/activities: - Encourage more women to be take on leadership positions. - Provide affirmative capacity building/coaching support to women leaders. - Encourage women to join and actively participate in Savings Clubs as officers and members.	? 75 women and 75 men (150 total) core leaders trained and capacitated.	? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Photo/ Video documentation ? Trainers/ ? Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time, workshop costs, tools and materials production in conducting savings clubs and conservation enterprise trainings and workshops. $11,675.78
Output 4.1.1: Partnership Alliance and networks for biodiversity conservation are established or renewed	? Conduct engagement with and assessment of existing inter-LGU alliances to determine status, gaps and opportunities, taking into account gender-considerations ? Formalize key partnerships.	? Two engagement and assessment activities with existing inter-LGU alliances to determine status, gaps and opportunities conducted, taking into account gender-considerations. ? Two MOAs are renewed or formalized	? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Photo/ Video documentation ? Trainers/Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time and workshop costs in partnership activities. $5,266.67

Output 4.1.2: Gender-responsive joint regulatory instruments within inter-LGU alliances are developed.	? Conduct gender-inclusive joint strategic and operational planning and other capacity building activities among partner municipalities. ? Develop gender-responsive policies or operational guidance governing alliance operations.	? Two gender-inclusive Joint strategic and operational planning and other capacity building activities conducted among partner municipalities.	? Presentations ? Policy writer ? Writer/ ? Communications staff ? Researcher ? Program staff	Staff time and workshop costs in policy formulations. $5,266.67
Output 4.1.3: Time and budget contributions of LGUs to inter-LGU activities is baselined, disaggregated by sex, and monitored over the life of the project.	? Develop and submit sex disaggregated annual reporting of staff and budget contributions.	? Twelve sex disaggregated annual reports and budget contributions submitted	? Presentations ? Promotional Materials ? Attendance sheets (disaggregated by gender) ? Graphic Artist ? Writer ? Photo/ Video documentation ? Trainers/ ? Facilitators ? Program staff	Staff time and workshop costs in partnership activities/ reporting. $5,266.67

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[1] Philippine Statistics Authority, Census of Agriculture and Fisheries. 2012.

[2] Siason, I.M. *Women in Fisheries in the Philippines*, Retrieved at on http://pubs.iclarm.net/Pubs/Wif/wifasia/N4-06-Siason.pdf 11 May, 2020

[3] Ibid.

[4] FISHMark refers to Fisheries Management Assessment Rating Kit, which monitors management performance of Philippine municipal waters.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Will the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on private sector engagement in the project, if any

1.   One area that the private sector can be engaged is in data collection for small-scale fisheries. OurFish mobile app has built-in incentives for fish buyers: it replaces the paper logs they typically use to record transactions, making it easier to maintain business records. The app allows buyers to keep a history of transactions with individual fishers, which often include not just buying fish but also loaning resources for fuel or ice. The data captured in OurFish can be fed back to local government and community groups to inform fisheries management decisions, as well as integrated into subnational or national government systems, providing a clearer picture of the socioeconomic importance of coastal fisheries.

2.   This project will help to create the needed enabling environment (e.g. fisheries laws in place and functional and communities are engaged and inspired) for the private sector to thrive. At the same time, through BFAR Region 8?s programs on biodiversity enterprise-driven activities ? such as mariculture and seaweed production ? it can help to attract small investors to capitalize and advance these initiatives. Furthermore, the project will also work with the GEF-supported Meloy Fund to identify potential opportunities for investment and collaboration within targeted project sites.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Table 5: Indicative Project Risks

Safeguard categorization: the project has been rated as Category C. See safeguard screening and plans in the attached annexes.

Risks	Rating (high, substantial, moderate, low)	Risk Mitigation Measures
Climate change risk	Moderate	Although the eastern seaboard of the Philippines is prone to extreme weather events and is affected by other impacts of climate change, the project approach will help to mitigate the impacts on targeted coastal communities and ecosystems by strengthening their resilience. The climate risks of increased frequency of extreme weather events such as typhoons, sea-level rise, changes in sea surface temperature and acidification threatens the ecological and social systems upon which the people and fisheries sector are dependent upon. The Philippines Climate Change Commission and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council prioritizes actions for mainstreaming adaptation and disaster risk management to improve community resilience to the hazards presented by climate change. The government is establishing a multi-hazard and impact-based forecasting and early warning system in four pilot areas in the country to assist local government units in implementing appropriate early responses to hazard alerts; Palo in the province of Leyte is included as potential pilot area. Low income, rural communities are particularly vulnerable to shocks because they lack the financial resilience to protect their assets and livelihoods when unexpected circumstances arise. These households struggle to address short term income reductions (e.g., poor fishing conditions, now exacerbated by climate-induced changes in weather patterns), unexpected events (such as ill health or natural disasters), or cover large expenses (e.g., repairing damage or loss of a boat or fishing gear). The project will increase resilience and enhance livelihoods of vulnerable communities and improve the resilience of important ecosystems by supporting sustainable behaviors and MPA protection activities (Components 1 and 2) and through the formation of savings clubs (Component 3). Further, the project will conduct a regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) for the Leyte Gulf during the implementation of the project components.

Political risk	Low	The project will ensure participation and involvement of a broad spectrum of government officials at the national, provincial, and local level from planning to execution in order to ensure ownership and political support. The Memorandum of Agreements are between the project and the municipality, and not the Mayor, to keep the partnerships intact despite elections.
Stakeholders Engagement risk	Low	The project will address the clamor of some municipal Mayors in Leyte Gulf for comprehensive coastal fisheries and resource management support. These local executives approached Rare in the past for technical help, but given the lack of funds, Rare had to decline. With this assistance from the GEF, we can now address the pressing needs of these communities.
Livelihoods risk	Low	Given that the targeted communities are relatively marginalized in terms of economic opportunities, fishers may not be able to build sufficient savings to absorb job loss or other shocks. A key piece of Rare?s strategy is to build financial resilience support fishing communities in establishing and monitoring savings clubs following the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) methodology.

COVID 19 risk	Moderate	During the PPG period, COVID-19 has become a significant emergent risk to the communities in which the project will work.
		Small scale fishers, considered the poorest sector in the society, were severely affected by the impacts of COVID-19, particularly on imposed lockdowns that prohibited them from fishing, thus, hampered their only source of livelihood. With the collapse in the trade of high-value species connected to national and international markets, fishers and traders had to adjust quickly to catch and sell species for the domestic supply through local markets. This places unknown new pressures on existing coral reef and coastal systems as more fishers target similar species.
		This project will help build on the existing efforts for coastal fishing reform ?prioritizing access to and use of coastal fisheries for local communities; ecosystem protection - to establish fully protected reserves to replenish and sustain local fisheries and protect critical habitat; and economic recovery through building household financial resilience that would put COVID recovery on the path of green recovery.
		The health and safety of employees, their families, and the communities that Rare works with are of paramount importance. Rare has always been supportive of telecommuting, and for staff whose nature of work and home conditions permit, work-from-home arrangements may continue for as long as the threat of the virus infection is present. The headquarters office in Arlington, USA will remain closed through at least February 2021, and the Philippines Cebu office will only be opened 21 days after Cebu is declared to be under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ), and there are no fresh spikes of cases in the city. Since March, Rare has also paused all in-situ field work and travel.
		As part of its post-COVID strategy plan, Rare is working on new global and local guidelines and protocols in conducting group meetings with emphasis on social distancing, proper hygiene and sanitation. While there is a need to continue to operate with great caution, Rare is finalizing criteria for the resumption of field work and local travel, with great considerations on business impact of not traveling (e.g. is in-person attendance a requirement?), COVID-19 conditions in home and destination locations, safety precautions at the meeting, workshop, and in-person convening, etc. A global and local review process is being established to allow for select resumption of mission critical work, while also balancing local conditions and staff and community safety.

Stronger preference for short term relief vs. longer term benefits	Low	While it is true that working with fishers comes with the risk that crises and shocks will always make it difficult for them to hold out for the longer-term benefits of a sustainably managed fishery, Rare?s experience in using behavior adoption strategies have shown that it is not impossible. Rare has seen that if fishers have a sense of agency, and of having been part of the decisions made around how their resources are managed, they are more willing to make sacrifices in the short-term and find other ways to cope. This is also why Rare?s approach includes building financial resilience through savings clubs, so that fisher households develop other coping mechanisms that can help them through the shift to more sustainable practices.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Project Execution Arrangements and Partners

1.   CI is the GEF Implementing Agency for this project. Rare will act as the Executing Agency for the project. The project will be conducted over a forty-eight month period in close collaboration with the Government of the Philippines (DENR-BMB and DA-BFAR). A Project Steering Committee will be established, composed of Rare, DENR-BMB, DA-BFAR, the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP), and the ten focal LGUs in Leyte Gulf.

Executing Agency

2.   Rare, the lead project Executing Agency, will work with all key stakeholders to ensure the successful execution and achievements of the project?s objectives and deliverables, as indicated in the Project Document. Rare will also be responsible in establishing the Project Management Unit (PMU) under its organization.

3.   During the PPG process, Rare engaged targeted LGUs as well as the Guiuan Development Foundation (GDFI) and has selected them as our main partners in co-delivering the project?s goals and objectives. To this end, Rare will manage subgrants to the municipalities of Abuyog, Balangiga, Dulag, Giporlos, Guiuan, Lawaan, Marabut, Mercedes, Salcedo and Quinapondan, which they will use to support their implementation of on-the ground activities (*no government salaries will be paid with subgrants). These municipalities have been identified as subgrantees as they will be the focal municipalities that Rare will closely work with. The local non-profit organization, GDFI, was also selected as a subgrantee to provide technical support towards building the Alliances within the Gulf. Being one of the key

organizations that helped build the current Alliance in the region, GDFI has the expertise and influence in moving the project objectives and building new relationships.

Project Management Unit (PMU)

4.   The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be led by the Senior Site Implementation Officer, located within Rare Philippines? Cebu office, who will be in-charge of the overall technical delivery and the management of the project. He/she will be supported by two positions which will provide ongoing capacity building and overall compliance monitoring for the project: a Finance and Administrative Officer and a Compliance Officer. As needed, the PMU will also leverage the expertise of Rare staff and in-house consultants to provide technical advice on designing and implementing behavior adoption strategies, building capacities of project teams and partner communities, supporting policy work, and recording and accounting of records, which are not part of the PMU. Staff are those positions that will provide inputs on a rolling basis, while the in-house consultants will have specific deliverables.

Project Steering Committee

5.   The Project Steering Committee will be established to convene key project stakeholders to provide updates on the development and implementation of the project, gather inputs to project work plans and any key project outputs, and collaborate on efforts to facilitate successful project execution, as appropriate. Members of the Project Steering Committee will be representatives from the DENR-BMB national office, DENR Region VIII, DA-BFAR Region VIII, the GEF OFP, LGUs in Leyte Gulf, and other local non government organizations (NGOs) as seen fit. These government agencies and institutions will play a critical role in the co-delivering the goals and objectives of this Project.

GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP)

6.   Housed at the office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the GEF Operational Focal Point will ensure that all projects of the Philippines portfolio is in accordance with the national priorities, including the priorities identified in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 and Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and commitments to other relevant global environmental conventions.

CI-GEF Project Agency

7.   The CI-GEF Agency will provide project assurance, including supporting project implementation by maintaining oversight of all technical and financial management aspects, and providing other assistance upon request of the Executing Agency. The CI-GEF Project Agency will also monitor the project?s implementation and achievement of the project outputs, ensure the proper use of GEF funds, and review and approve any changes in budgets or workplans. The CI-GEF Project Agency will arbitrate and ensure resolution of any execution conflicts.

Project Execution Organizational Chart
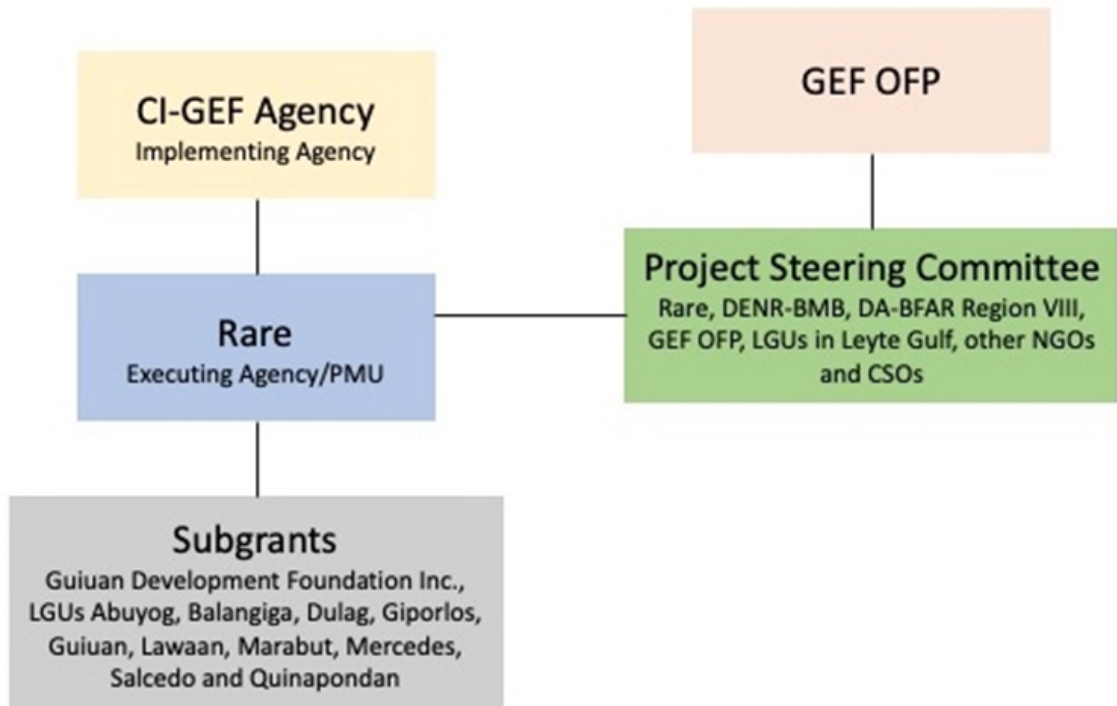
Coordination with Relevant GEF-Financed Projects and Other Initiatives

Table 6: Coordination with Relevant GEF-Financed Projects and Other Initiatives

Initiative	Coordination

Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP) (GEF ID 5281).	Rare partnered with PRDP-GEF in 2017 and supported the development of an Integrated Coastal and Fisheries Resource Management Plan cum Sustainability Plan in twenty-one (21) of its partner municipalities. The municipalities of Guiuan, Mercedes, Lawaan, Salcedo, and Quinapondan in Eastern Samar were part of the target sites and some of the baseline data presented in this document were from the data gathered during this engagement. The PRDP team in Region VIII are working on setting up other livelihoods for farmers and fisherfolks in the region, and this project can explore opportunities for collaboration, if appropriate. This project will build on Rare's past work on the formation of ICRFM-SP plans at select sites, by strengthening MPAs and establishing managed access areas. The initial partnership with PRDP covered four of the ten target sites and built the municipalities? technical capacity in the formulation of management plans. This project will continue the foundational work established by implementing some strategies specified on those ICFRM-SP plans.
FishCORAL Project of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR)	The DA-BFAR conducted biophysical assessments of the municipalities in Leyte Gulf and plans to continue its work on enterprise development programs beyond the scope of its FishCORAL project. The project can work with DA-BFAR in interpreting and integrating the results of the biophysical assessments into the local governements? management plans, and build on its initial work on enterprise development. The FishCORAL program of DA-BFAR in Region VIII, ending this 2020, has already depleted its budget on establishing business enterprises. The Bureau plans to continue this work beyond the project cycle and acknowledges our project as a complementary intervention. The regional office plots out their budget on an annual basis. As such, it has not been included in DA-BFAR?s co-financing.
Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)	The DENR, through CMEMP, recognized the importance of behavior change in addressing the country?s environmental issues, and partnered with Rare in building the capacity of all NIPAS in developing and implementing their own behavior change campaigns. Since 2017, Rare is training DENR staff and protected area superintendents in social marketing strategies, communications planning, and community engagements, among others, and will expand its intervention to all NIPAS areas in the coming years.
The Meloy Fund : A Fund for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia (GEF ID 9370)	As aforementioned, the Rare team will continue to provide input into the Fund?s pipeline development and due diligence processes. Rare will continue to work with the Meloy Fund to explore potential opportunities for investment that are aligned with the project?s biodiversity and fisheries goals and georgraphic focus.
Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant Endangered, Threatened, and Protected marine wildlife in southern Mindanao, Philippines (GEF ID 10536)	The project aims to strengthen the management effectiveness and address underrepresentation of Marine Conservation Areas (MCAs) designed to conserve Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) marine wildlife, and sustain ecosystem services for human well-being. Rare will seek to identify any relevant lessons learned and/or potential synergies during project implementation.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Coral Reef Insurance in Asia and the Pacific (GEF ID 10431)	The project aims to improve the climate resilience of coastal businesses, communities, and livelihoods in the Asia Pacific region through the implementation of an innovative PPP model for coral reef insurance. This project builds on learning gained with the Nature Conservancy and other partners through insuring Mexico?s Mesoamerican reef, and presents high innovation and impact potential by adapting and expanding this model to three countries in Asia and the Pacific, including one SIDS. It also provides strong potential for replication and scale-up insurance models for coral reefs and other natural assets more broadly. Rare will seek to identify any relevant lessons learned and/or potential synergies during project implementation.
Guiuan Development Foundation Inc. (GDFI)	GDFI, a local non-profit organization based in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, works on community empowerment, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation capacity building, and coastal resource conservation. Learnings and key strategies in this project will be shared to GDFI to further strengthen the biodiversity conservation in the municipalities in Leyte Gulf, and help reinforce inter-LGU alliances, particularly the A7 Alliance.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

1. Sustainable small-scale fisheries deliver on global development targets by improving food security, sustaining livelihoods and alleviating poverty, reducing impacts on critical marine habitats, and improving social and ecological resilience to climate change. Rare works with partners in highlighting bright spots for coastal fisheries management both at the national and international stage to inspire others to adopt our approach.

2. Philippines National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) - The NBSAP outlines two strategic actions that will be directly addressed by the proposed project: ?Enhancing and Strengthening the Protected Area System? and ?Developing a National Constituency for Biodiversity and Conservation in the Philippines?.

3. Philippine Development Plan (PDP) - The project will significantly contribute to three focus areas in the PDP - i) pursuit of inclusive growth, ii) the establishment of a competitive and sustainable agriculture and fisheries sector, and iii) the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of the environment and natural resources (PDP, 2011-2016).

4.   United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) - The project will particularly focus on linking its activities to specific SDG targets including: SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 2: Zero Hunger; SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 14: Life Below Water; and SDG 17: Partnerships.

5.   FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Small Scale Fisheries (VGSFF) - Specifically contribute to the governance and tenure, participatory approach, and human rights and dignity of fishers.

6.   Furthermore, it should be noted that the GEF?s biodiversity focal area strategy also aligns with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP, 2017 ? 2022) Chapter 20?s vision of ensuring ecological integrity, and a clean, healthy environment for the Philippines. The project will also significantly contribute to three focus areas of the previous PDP (2011-2016) - i) pursuit of inclusive growth, ii) the establishment of a competitive and sustainable agriculture and fisheries sector, and iii) the conservation, protection and rehabilitation of the environment and natural resources. In addition, the Philippine National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBSAP) outlined two strategic actions that the project will directly address: ?Enhancing and Strengthening the Protected Area System? and ?Developing a National Constituency for Biodiversity and Conservation in the Philippines.?

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

1.   Rare is a learning organization that systematically tests innovations, identifies what works, collects evidence, and shares findings. Through this process, Rare?s Fish Forever program develops new tools, builds technical capacity and refines approaches to teach and inspire individuals and organizations to boost program adoption. Key lessons and best practices from 41 well-documented pilot sites across 260 communities[1] demonstrate inspiring biological, political, and socioeconomic outcomes for coastal fisheries reform: that communities, empowered with clear rights and effective local management, could stabilize and recover their fish populations in fully-protected reserves and surrounding fishing areas. These lessons are some of the critical considerations in the development of this project concept.

2.   Moreover, one key insight from Rare?s past programs is the need to design reserve networks across larger seascapes (rather than municipality by municipality), allowing networks to balance retention and spillover across coastal fishing grounds. Leyte Gulf, being a sink and source of larval dispersal spanning across regions and islands, is one key geographic area vital for protection.

3.   Rare is building from its core competency as a capacity building and training organization to train groups of practitioners from local governments, NGOs, CSOs, and other implementing partners, in using pre-designed campaign tools and social marketing materials. With this project, Rare and its partners

will work on a Gulf-wide awareness and engagement campaign targeting multi-stakeholder support and integration of community-based coastal fisheries management at all levels of governance ? from the local, regional, provincial, up to the national level.

4.   The campaigns will amplify key messages, such as building pride in the fisheries sector, to create the enabling conditions for implementing Managed Access Areas with local governments across coastal communities. These new behavior change campaigns are adapted from Rare?s extensive experience running Fish Forever campaigns in the Philippines over the past ten years.

5.   Strategic communications will also play a critical role in securing territorial seas for coastal communities. Over the course of this project, Rare will deliver impactful communications support for the project?s overall goals and objectives. The successes, challenges and lessons learned from this project will be shared by the PMU with co-executing partners, the Project Steering Committee, the CI-GEF Project Agency team and other relevant stakeholders through planned meetings, workshops, and other Gulf-wide Alliance events.

6.   Rare will conduct quarterly meetings with site partners and other relevant key stakeholders to document insights and harness lessons learned during project implementation. Twice within the project cycle, Rare will also convene a Gulf-wide Learning Exchange Summit to discuss and share best practices among partner municipalities that other neighboring areas can replicate. Knowledge outputs, such as learning tools and materials, will be shared with all participants after every training event to encourage continuous learning.

7. Rare will conduct quarterly meetings with site partners and other relevant key stakeholders to document insights and harness lessons learned during project implementation. Twice within the project cycle, Rare will also convene a Gulf-wide Learning Exchange Summit to discuss and share best practices among partner municipalities that other neighboring areas can replicate. Knowledge outputs, such as learning tools and materials, will be shared with all participants after every training event to encourage continuous learning. As included in the submitted budget, the amount allocated for these knowledge management activities is $46,850, (approximately 3% of the total project budget).

8.   To ensure that the strategies remain in the hands of the communities that Rare works with, a site implementation team in each municipality is formed, composed of local government staff, and environmental or fisheries leaders. Rare will train them in facilitation and community engagement techniques so that they help lead fishing communities through a process of change.

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[1] ?Stemming the Tide of Coastal Overifishing. Fish Forever Program Results 2012-2017?. July 2018. https://rare.org/stemming-the-tide-of-coastal-overfishing/

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

1.   Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with established Conservation International and GEF procedures by the project team and the CI-GEF Project Agency. The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized at the project inception workshop, including a review of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

A. <u>Monitoring and Evaluation Roles and Responsibilities</u>

2.   The Project Management Unit on the ground will be responsible for initiating and organizing key monitoring and evaluation tasks. This includes the project inception workshop and report, quarterly progress reporting, annual progress and implementation reporting, documentation of lessons learned, and support for and cooperation with the independent external evaluation exercises.

3.   The project Executing Agency is responsible for ensuring the monitoring and evaluation activities are carried out in a timely and comprehensive manner, and for initiating key monitoring and evaluation activities, such as the independent evaluation exercises.

4.   Key project executing partners are responsible for providing any and all required information and data necessary for timely and comprehensive project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary and appropriate.

5.   The Project Steering Committee plays a key oversight role for the project, with regular meetings to receive updates on project implementation progress and approve annual workplans. The Project Steering Committee also provides continuous ad-hoc oversight and feedback on project activities, responding to inquiries or requests for approval from the Project Management Unit or Executing Agency.

6.   The CI-GEF Project Agency plays an overall assurance, backstopping, and oversight role with respect to monitoring and evaluation activities.

7.   The CI General Consel?s Office and the Grants Management Unit are responsible for contracting and oversight of the planned independent external evaluation exercises at and the end of the project.

B. <u>Monitoring and Evaluation Components and Activities</u>

The Project M&E Plan includes the following components (see M&E Table 8 for details):

a. Inception workshop

Project inception workshop will be held within the first three months of project start with the project stakeholders. An overarching objective of the inception workshop is to assist the project team in understanding and taking ownership of the project?s objectives and outcomes. The inception workshop will be used to detail the roles, support services and complementary responsibilities of the CI-GEF Project Agency and the Executing Agency.

b. Inception workshop Report

The Executing Agency should produce an inception report documenting all changes and decisions made during the inception workshop to the project planned activities, budget, results framework, and any other key aspects of the project. The inception report should be produced within one month of the inception workshop, as it will serve as a key input to the timely planning and execution of project start-up and activities.

c. Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes, and Outputs)

A Project Results Monitoring Plan will be developed by the Project Agency, which will include objective, outcome and output indicators, metrics to be collected for each indicator, methodology for data collection and analysis, baseline information, location of data gathering, frequency of data collection, responsible parties, and indicative resources needed to complete the plan. Appendix IV provides the Project Results Monitoring Plan table that will help complete this M&E component.

In addition to the objective, outcome, and output indicators, the Project Results Monitoring Plan table will also include all indicators identified in the Safeguard Plans prepared for the project, thus they will be consistently and timely monitored.

The monitoring of these indicators throughout the life of the project will be necessary to assess if the project has successfully achieved its expected results.

Baseline Establishment: in the case that all necessary baseline data has not been collected during the PPG phase, it will be collected and documented by the relevant project partners *within the first year* of project implementation.

d. GEF Core Indicators

The relevant GEF Core Indicators will also be completed i) prior to project start-up, ii) prior to mid-term review, and iii) at the time of the terminal evaluation.

e. Project Steering Committee Meetings

Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings will be held annually, semi-annually, or quarterly, as appropriate. Meetings shall be held to review and approve project annual budget and work plans, discuss implementation issues and identify solutions, and to increase coordination and communication between key project partners. The meetings held by the PSC will be monitored and results adequately reported.

f. CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions

The CI-GEF PA will conduct annual visits to the project country and potentially to project field sites based on the agreed schedule in the project's Inception Report/Annual Work Plan to assess first hand project progress. Oversight visits will most likely be conducted to coincide with the timing of PSC meetings. Other members of the PSC may also join field visits. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the CI-GEF PA staff participating in the oversight mission, and will be circulated to the project team and PSC members within one month of the visit.

g. Quarterly Progress Reporting

The Executing Agency will submit quarterly progress reports to the CI-GEF Project Agency, including a budget follow-up and requests for disbursement to cover expected quarterly expenditures.

h. Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)

The Executing Agency will prepare an annual PIR to monitor progress made since project start and in

particular for the reporting period (July 1st to June 30th). The PIR will summarize the annual project result and progress. A summary of the report will be shared with the Project Steering Committee.

i.   Final Project Report
The Executing Agency will draft a final report at the end of the project.

j.   Independent Terminal Evaluation
An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place within six months after project completion and will be undertaken in accordance with CI and GEF guidance. The terminal evaluation will focus on the delivery of the project?s results as initially planned (and as corrected after the mid-term evaluation, if any such correction took place). The Executing Agency in collaboration with the PSC will provide a formal management answer to the findings and recommendations of the terminal evaluation.

k.   Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation
Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. There will be a two-way flow of information between this project and other projects of a similar focus.

Project Management Costs (PMCs): The following deliverable is included under the PMC.

l.   Financial Statements Audit
Annual Financial reports submitted by the executing Agency will be audited annually by external auditors appointed by the Executing Agency.

The Terms of References for the evaluations will be drafted by the CI-GEF PA in accordance with GEF requirements. The procurement and contracting for the independent evaluations will handled by CI?s General Counsel?s Office. The funding for the evaluations will come from the project budget, as indicated at project approval.

Table 7: Project M&E Plan Summary

Type of M&E	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)
Inception workshop and Report	Within three months of signing of CI Grant Agreement for GEF Projects	? Project Team ? Executing Agency ? CI-GEF PA	4,556
Inception workshop Report	Within one month of inception workshop	? Project Team ? CI-GEF PA	1,102

Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes and Outputs)	Annually (data on indicators will be gathered according to monitoring plan schedule shown on Appendix IV)	? Project Team ? CI-GEF PA	8,272
GEF-7 Core Indicators	i) Project development phase; ii) prior to project mid-term evaluation; and iii) project completion	? Project Team ? Executing Agency ? CI-GEF PA	6,529
Project Steering Committee Meetings	Annually	? Project Team ? Executing Agency ? CI-GEF PA	1,451
CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions	Approximately annual visits	? CI-GEF PA	3,331
Quarterly Progress Reporting	Quarterly	? Project Team ? Executing Agency	20,195
Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)	Annually for year ending June 30	? Project Team ? Executing Agency ? CI-GEF PA	10,205
Project Completion Report	Upon project operational closure	? Project Team ? Executing Agency	6,342
Independent Terminal Evaluation	CI Evaluation Office Project Team CI-GEF PA	? Evaluation field mission within three months prior to project completion.	16,335
Lessons Learned and Knowledge Generation	Project Team Executing Agency CI-GEF PA	? At least annually	10,418
Summary M&E			**88,736**

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

1.   The project will provide new opportunities to improve the social and economic resilience of the local fishing households by increasing participation, inclusion, equity, accountability, and transparency

through improved community-based management coupled with behavioral insight approaches, and financial inclusion.

2.   Under the third component of this project, Rare will help strengthen the financial resilience of fisher households to support sustainable behaviors and MPA protection activities through the formation of savings clubs. These are low-cost mechanisms that contribute to change financial behaviors within fisher households and expand fishers? planning horizons. As individuals save money and build financial identity, they begin investing in their families, homes, education, and businesses and start developing positive attitudes toward long-term resource management.

3.   Based on the results of past Rare initiatives with similar interventions, strong evidence infers that the program can effectively change attitudes and shift behaviors, including key behaviors which focus on protecting no-take reserves. Under this project, Rare will be also be using household surveys to measure financial capacity, household assets, fishing dependence and value retention at baseline and at the end of the project. Rare expects to see improvements in these metrics, as a result of the beneficiaries? increased participation and training in both sustainable management and financial resilience.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Low		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

The project has been rated as Category C. The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Access Restrictions Framework	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	
SAFEGUARD SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARDS COMPLIANCE PLANS	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Objective:	To improve the management of coastal fisheries and conserve globally significant biodiversity in the Leyte Gulf, through a combination of local government led marine spatial planning, community mobilization leading to lasting behavior change, policy reform, and capacity development.
Indicator(s):	a) MPAs newly created (in hectares) (Target: 1,080 hectares) b) Existing MPAs under improved management effectiveness (in hectares) (Target: 64,268 hectares); and c) Legally declared manage-access areas that ensure responsible fishing and regulate total fishing effort (in hectares) (Target: 450,000 hectares) d) Status of hard coral cover in selected sites (Average % of live coral cover) (Target: maintained or increased from baseline) e) Abundance of reef fish indicator species in selected sites (Number of individuals) (Target: maintained or increased from baseline)

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline	End of Project Target	Expected Outputs and Indicators
Component 1: Mobilizing Gulf-wide stakeholder support and capacity to ensure integration of coastal biodiversity and fisheries management at multiple levels of governance			

Outcome 1.1: **Gender-responsive gulf-wide conservation and fisheries management strategies are aligned with the relevant regional and provincial fisheries management plans, policies and management structures.** **Outcome Indicator 1.1.1:** Number of gender-responsive gulf-wide MPA network maps and coastal resource management strategies that are incorporated into relevant regional fishery management and development plans and policies. **Outcome Indicator 1.1.2:** Number of additional municipalities within the Gulf that emulate focal municipalities and start implementing biodiversity conservation and fisheries management approaches.	**1.1.1:** Currently, there are no regional plans that incorporate local and Gulf-wide biodiversity and community-based coastal fisheries management plans, or they are not specific. **1.1.2:** Baseline assessment of current strategies will be conducted at start of project.	**1.1.1:** One (1) Gulf-wide MPA network map and at least eight (8) local community-based coastal fisheries management plans are aligned with the regional Fisheries Management Area policy framework and management plan **1.1.2:** Eight (8) non-focal municipalities adopt selected strategies promoted by the Gulf-wide campaign.	**Output 1.1.1:** A gender responsive gulf-wide awareness and engagement campaign to promote biodiversity and targeted coastal fisheries management approaches is developed and implemented, directed at key stakeholders, decision-makers, influencers and resource-users. **Output Indicator 1.1.1.1:** Number of Gulf-wide working groups in place which represent the interests of provincial governments, regional agencies of the Dept. of Environment and Dept. of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and other stakeholders. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 1 **Output Indicator 1.1.1.2:** Number of working groups that have conducted formative research, stakeholder analysis and planning to produce a Gulf-wide communications and engagement campaign. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 1 **Output Indicator 1.1.1.3:** Number of Gulf-wide communications and engagement campaigns (promoting biodiversity and targeted coastal fisheries management approaches) designed and implemented. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 1 **Output Indicator 1.1.1.4:** Number of relevant platforms engaged by the campaign to present MPA network map and local coastal fisheries management plans to regional and provincial

Outcome 1.2: <u>**Outcome 1.2:**</u> **Stakeholders at all levels are engaged and supportive of sustainable and gender responsive fisheries management and the need for MPAs.** **Outcome Indicator 1.2.1:** Number of multi-year workplans of municipal, provincial and regional partner offices that include additional conservation and coastal fisheries management activities. **Outcome Indicator 1.2.2:** Number of community members representing different stakeholder groups that participate in conservation and coastal fisheries management activities.	**1.2.1:** Current efforts by focal municipalities and the provincial governments and regional agencies will be identified at the start of the project. **1.2.2:** Attendance records, membership lists etc. will be baselined at the start of the project.	**1.2.1:** Twenty (20) relevant activities related to planning, technical assistance provision and monitoring of municipal coastal resource and fisheries are assigned to appropriate units and staff of target municipal, provincial LGUs and DENR and BFAR offices. **1.2.2:** At least one hundred (100) community members (40 women, 60 men) per focal municipality will have participated in conservation and coastal fisheries management and financial resilience activities.	**Output 1.2.1:** Local municipalities, provincial governments and regional offices of the DENR and the BFAR are engaged to prioritize coastal and marine areas threatened by overfishing. **Output Indicator 1.2.1.2:** Number of MOAs signed with municipal LGUs, provincial governments and regional agencies. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 18 **Output Indicator 1.2.1.3.1:** Number of provincial and municipal staff and community leaders trained to implement coastal fisheries and conservation programs. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 150 (75 women, 75 men) **Output Indicator 1.2.1.3:** Number of community members trained and mobilized in conservation coastal fisheries management and financial resilience approaches. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 1,00 (400 women, 600 men)
Component 2: Creating effective networks of locally-managed fully protected MPAs and improving the regulation of coastal fishing in surrounding waters through Managed Access			

Outcome 2.1:
Increased area of MPAs.
 	
Outcome Indicator 2.1.1: Number of hectares of new MPAs declared.
 	
-
	2.1.1: Existing MPAs in the identified focal areas 64,268 hectares	**2.1.1:** An additional 1,080 hectares of MPAs will be declared through either expansion or creation of new areas.	**Output 2.1.1:** Gulf-wide protected area network strategy map is developed through a gender-inclusive participatory process and adopted by provincial and local governments and communities.
			
			Output Indicator 2.1.1.1: Information on habitats, larval patterns, oceanographic and climate impacts are collected. Local level assessments are conducted.
			
			    ? Baseline: 0
			
			    ? Target: 10
			
			Output Indicator 2.1.1.2: Gulf-wide map and model is developed and presented to regional and provincial stakeholders; and municipal level habitat assessments and community perception data are presented to community members.
			
			    ? Baseline: 0
			
			    ? Target: 1
			
			Output 2.1.2 Using Gulf-wide map and model, municipal waters are zoned through a gender-inclusive participatory process so that communities can agree on new areas for no-take.
			
			Output Indicator 2.1.2.1: Number of municipal zoning plans developed.
			
			    ? Baseline: 0
			
			    ? Target: 10
			
			Output Indicator 2.1.2.2: Number of municipal ordinances declaring new or expanded MPAs aligned with the Gulf-wide MPA strategy map endorsed for adoption.
			    ? Baseline: 0
			
			Target: 8

Outcome 2.2: **Increased coverage of legally declared managed-access areas**[1] **that promote sustainable use of fishing resources.** **Outcome Indicator 2.2.1:** Number of hectares of legally declared managed access areas that promote sustainable use of fishing resources. -	**2.2.1:** There are currently no managed access areas legally declared in Leyte Gulf.	**2.2.1:** 450,000 hectares of municipal waters (64 percent of total waters in Leyte Gulf) legally declared as managed access areas that promote sustainable use of fishing resources.	**Output 2.2.1:** Gender-responsive municipal management plans to set regulations on access and sustainable use of fishery resources developed and adopted. **Output Indicator 2.2.1.1:** Number of municipal plans designating managed fishing areas and other uses developed and adopted. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 10 **Output Indicator 2.2.1.2:** Number of management plans with regulations and strategies for sustainable access and use, developed and adopted. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 10 **Output 2.2.2:** Local municipalities have established or enhanced regulatory codes that are gender-responsive to governing their municipal waters and MPAs in partnership with the community. **Output Indicator 2.2.2.1:** Number of local municipalities that have established or enhanced regulatory codes governing their municipal waters and MPAs in partnership with the community. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 10

Outcome 2.3: **Improved management effectiveness of existing MPAs and effective management of managed access areas.** **Outcome Indicator 2.3.1:** Increased METT score of existing protected areas **Outcome Indicator 2.3.2** Increased score on Fisheries Management Rating Kit (FISHMark)[2] for municipalities	**2.3.1:** Average METT score in existing MPAs (covering 64,268 hectares) **2.3.2:** Average FISHMark score across 10 municipalities	**2.3.1:** At least 15 percent increase in average METT scores of 64,268 ha of existing MPAs by end of project. **2.3.2:** At least 15 percent increase in average FISHMark scores by end of project	**Output 2.3.1:** Gender-inclusive legal and functional management bodies are strengthened/established and have capacity for effective and adaptive management of the protected area. **Output Indicator 2.3.1.1:** Number of municipal technical working groups formed to lead work on coastal biodiversity and fisheries profiling, zoning and community engagement ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 10 **Output Indicator 2.3.1.2** Number of legal instruments establishing management bodies adopted ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 8 **Output 2.3.2:** Habitat profiles, MPA maps and other resource and fisheries assessments take into account male and female fisher use/access and are collected and presented to stakeholders and used as inputs into planning and management activities. **Output Indicator 2.3.2.1** LGU-level ecological and community perception surveys conducted to provide quality assessment of critical habitat ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 10 **Output 2.3.3:** Digital data collection systems to collect, analyze and disseminate catch information (sex disaggregated when relevant) through local government and community groups are in place.

Outcome 2.4: **Increased number of fishers (disaggregated by sex) that comply with responsible fishing behaviors.** **Outcome Indicator 2.4.1:** Percentage of fishers that comply with responsible fishing behaviors (registration, no intrusions into no-take zones, use of right gear, participate in management).	**2.4.1:** To be measured at start of project (based on household surveys, enforcement and attendance records).	**2.4.1:** Statistically significant[4] increase by end of project.	**Output 2.4.1:** Municipalities have implemented gender-responsive behavior adoption campaigns around responsible fishing behaviors. **Output Indicator 2.4.1.1:** Number of municipalities that have conducted quantitative baseline and formative research to inform behavior adoption campaigns. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 10 **Output Indicator 2.4.1.2:** Number of municipalities that have been trained and have implemented behavior adoption campaigns around responsible fishing behaviors. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 10
Component 3: Strengthening financial resilience of fisher households to support sustainable behaviors and MPA protection activities			

Outcome 3.1: <u>**Increased household financial resilience increases household contribution to fisheries management activities**</u> **Outcome Indicator 3.1.1:** Savings of fisher households increase as a result of participation in savings clubs and small household enterprises. **Outcome Indicator 3.1.2:** Financial or temporal contribution of fisher households to MPA protection activities increases.	**3.1.1:** Average household savings in focal municipalities ? to be measured at start of project. **3.1.2** Average household contribution to conservation activities in focal municipalities ? to be measured at the start of the project.	**3.1.1:** 20 percent increase in average household savings in focal municipalities **3.1.2:** 20 percent increase in average household contribution to MPA protection activities in focal municipalities	**Output 3.1.1:** Focal municipalities implement financial and market inclusion strategies which take into account gender considerations to increase financial resilience of fishing households and improve the decision-making influence and status of women. **Output Indicator 3.1.1.1:** Number of LGU-level financial inclusion strategic plans developed ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 10 **Outputs 3.1.2:** Local savings clubs set-up and functioning to support household resilience and conservation behaviors. **Output Indicator 3.1.2.1:** Number of local savings clubs set-up and functioning to support household resilience and support conservation behaviors. ? Baseline 0 ? Target: 25 **Output 3.1.3:** Core leaders (both women and men) are trained and capacitated with basic financial education as well as in fisheries management concepts and approaches. **Output Indicator 3.1.3.1:** Number of core leaders trained and capacitated. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 100 (40 women, 60 men)

Component 4: Enhancing knowledge sharing and cooperation laterally through adjacent communities and LGUs and vertically through different layers of governance

Outcome 4.1: **Increased learning and collaboration across municipalities through establishment and strengthening of inter-LGU conservation and fisheries Alliances** **Outcome Indicator 4.1.1:** Number of joint action plans or policies undertaken by inter-LGU alliances.	**4.1.1:** There are 3 existing inter-LGU alliances or networks along the Gulf, but they are not meeting regularly and have no clearly defined joint action plan (TBC)	**4.1.1:** At least two inter-LGU alliances will have agreed to and implemented at least 3 joint action plans or policies over the life of the project.	**Output 4.1.1:** Partnership Alliance and networks for biodiversity conservation are established or renewed **Output Indicator 4.1.1.1:** Number of assessments of existing inter-LGU alliances to determine status, gaps and opportunities conducted ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 2
Outcome Indicator 4.1.2: Financial and temporal contribution of LGUs to inter-LGU alliance/activities	**4.1.2:** Amount of time or budget contribution by LGUs to inter-LGU alliance/activities	**4.1.2:** Thirty percent increase in average time and budget contributions of targeted LGUs to inter-LGU alliance/activities.	**Output Indicator 4.1.1.2:** Number of new or renewed of partnerships that are formalized ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 2 **Output 4.1.2:** Gender responsive joint regulatory instruments within inter-LGU alliances are developed. **Output Indicator 4.1.2.1:** Number of joint strategic and operational planning and other capacity building activities conducted among partner municipalities. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 2 **Output Indicator 4.1.2.2:** Number of policies or guidance instruments governing alliance operations developed ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 2 **Output 4.1.3:** Time and budget contributions of LGUs to inter-LGU activities is baselined, disaggregated by sex, and monitored over the life of the project. **Output Indicator 4.1.3.1:**

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Inform Adaptive Management			
Outcome 5.1: Monitoring and evaluation in place and used to facilitate adaptive management		**5.1.1:** 100 percent of required reports of evaluations completed	**Output 5.1.1:** Monitoring and evaluation plan developed and executed **Output Indicator 5.1.1.1:** Number of plans developed and executed. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 1 **Output 5.1.2:** Final report on monitoring and evaluation submitted. **Output Indicator 5.1.2.1:** Number of reports submitted. ? Baseline: 0 ? Target: 1

[1] A Managed Access Area can be considered as an ?Other Effective Conservation Meaure? or OECM. An OECM is a geographically defined area, other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio?economic, and other locally relevant values.

[2] FISHMark is a Rare-developed tool to assess how well LGUs are managing their entire municipal waters. Since municipal waters cover the entire area of jurisdiction for a municipality, they are a good proxy for the managed access areas that will be delineated and regulated after the waters are zoned. It also frames coastal resource management in the language and systems of local/municipal governance.

[3] FISHMark refers to Fisheries Management Assessment Rating Kit, which monitors management performance of Philippine municipal waters.

[4] Actual numbers vary depending on baseline figures at each site. Rare measures increase from baseline and targets statistically significant increases in the metrics when averaged across all sites.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).
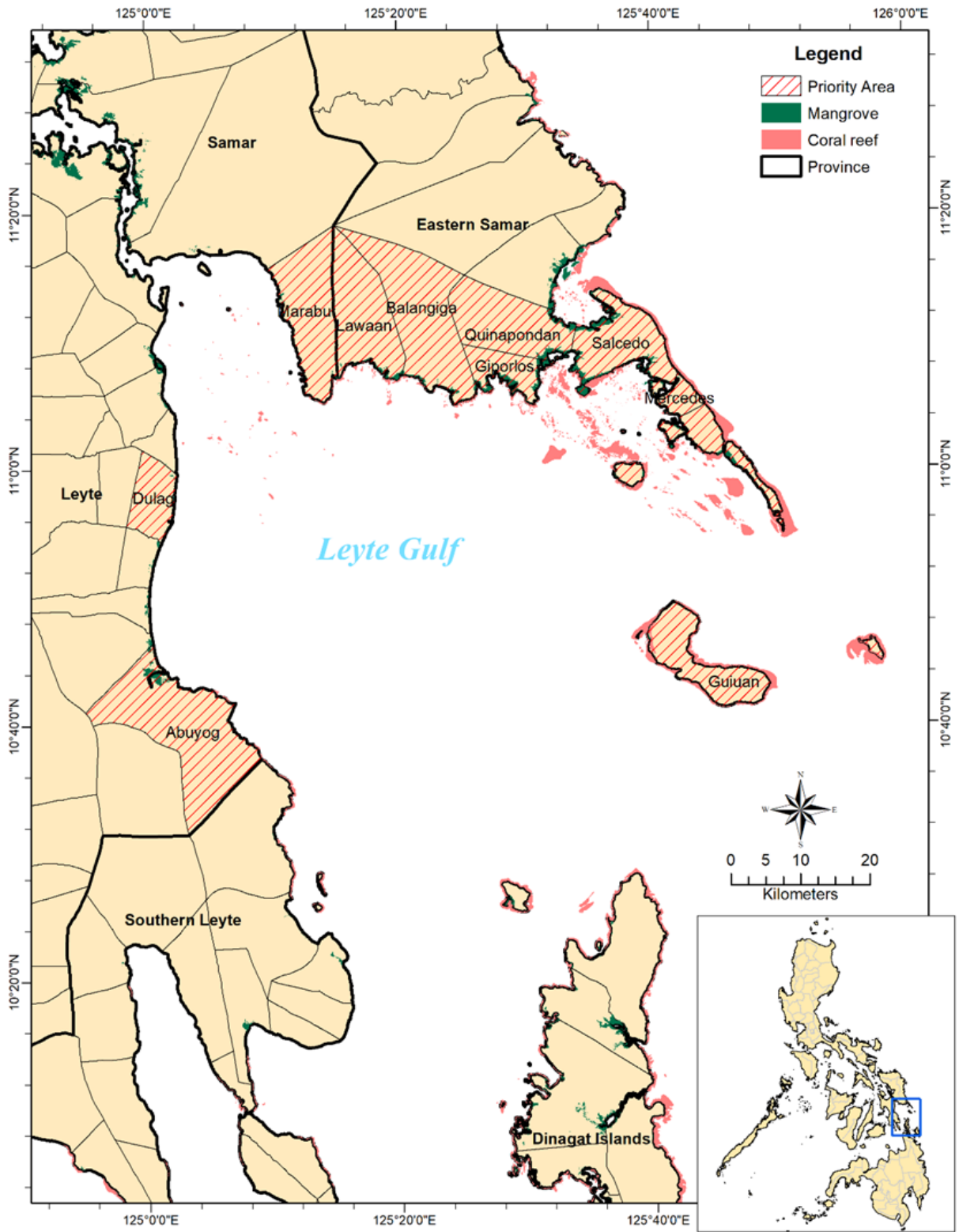
N/A

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	*GETF Amount ($)*		
	Budgeted Amount	*Amount Spent Todate*	*Amount Committed*
GEF-1 MSP Development	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total	30,000	30,000	30,000

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Legend
- Priority Area
- Mangrove
- Coral reef
- Province

Samar

Eastern Samar

Marabut

Balangiga

Lawaan

Quinapondan

Giporlos

Salcedo

Mercedes

Leyte

Dulag

Leyte Gulf

Guiuan

Abuyog

Southern Leyte

Dinagat Islands

N
W E
S

0 5 10   20
Kilometers

Leyte Gulf geographic coordinates:
Latitude:10?44'5.76"N

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).