

# Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant Endangered, Threatened, and Protected marine wildlife in southern Mindanao, Philippines

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10536

**Countries**

Philippines

**Project Name**

Protecting priority coastal and marine ecosystems to conserve globally significant Endangered, Threatened, and Protected marine wildlife in southern Mindanao, Philippines

**Agencies**

UNDP

**Date received by PM**

11/2/2021

**Review completed by PM**

5/13/2022

**Program Manager**

Jurgis Sapijanskas

**Focal Area**

Biodiversity

**Project Type**

FSP

## PIF ☐ CEO Endorsement ☐

### Part I ? Project Information

#### Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

#### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 4/8/2022 - Cleared, thank you.

JS 3/10/2022 - Thank you for the revisions and responses throughout this review sheet

1- The expected start date (3/1/2022) is already past. Please revise it to a realistic future date, taking into account the 4-week review period by the GEF council, and correct the expected completion date accordingly.

JS 11/12/21 - With an expected project start on 3/1/2022, the completion date should be 2/28/2027 and not 3/31/2027. Please correct.

The rest is cleared.

## Agency Response

Agency Response 04/01/2022

Please note that during the February 2022 resubmission, the expected implementation start and completion dates had already been adjusted to 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2027 respectively. This has been double checked for this resubmission both in the document package and in the portal.

UNDP 02/24/2022

Thanks for pointing this out. The completion date has been revised in UNDP ProDoc (See signature page) and GEF CEO ER (See PART 1).

### **Project description summary**

**2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?**

### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

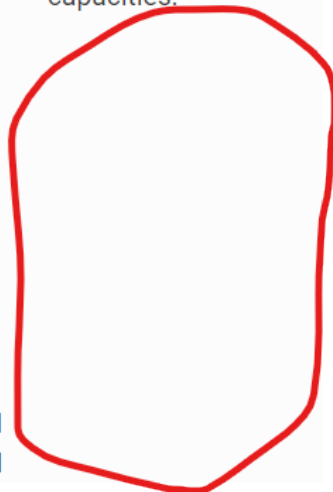
JS 6/1/2022- All cleared.

JS 5/20/2022- Output 2.2.1 is missing from table B in the portal, please correct.

individual project-supported MPAs (as measured by the GEF-7 METT) (from a baseline of PBPLS = 68%; MB LCA = N/A; and M-DM LCA = N/A to an EOP target of PBPLS = >72%; MB LCA = >45%; and M-DM LCA = >40%)

2.1.3 Individual MPAs that conserve ETP MW in southern Mindanao are linked into provincial MPA networks to help improve their management capacities.

(iii) The extent (in ha) of intact coral reef, sea grass, mangrove and nesting beach habitats designated as strictly protected



JS 4/8/2022 -

1- While outcome 2.2 and the numbering of outputs under 2.1 and 2.2 have been modified in the attached ProDoc, the portal entry has not been updated and still shows:

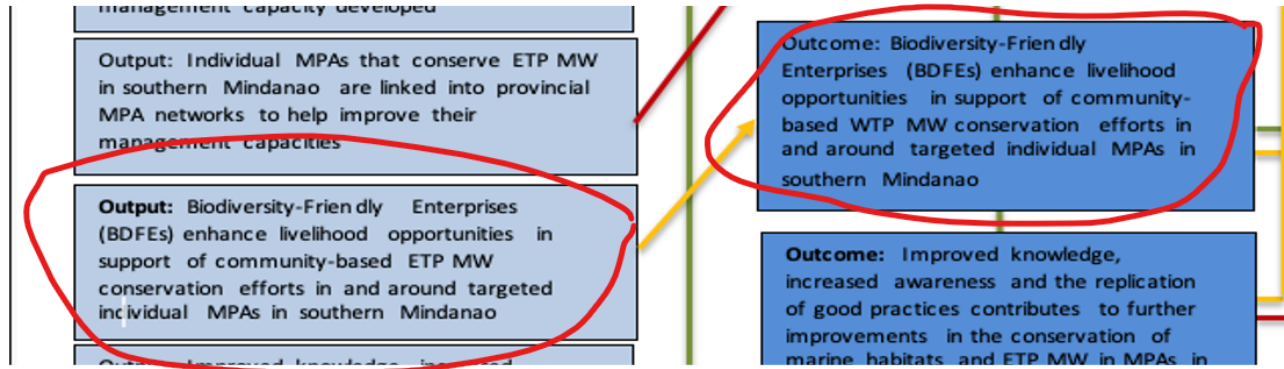
*2.2 Improved inter-agency cooperation, and realising economies of scale, through the provincial networking of MPAs enhances the management effectiveness, livelihood for affected communities, and financial sustainability of individual MPAs in southern Mindanao*

2.2.1 Individual MPAs that conserve ETP MW in southern Mindanao are linked into provincial MPA networks to help improve their management capacities.

2.2.2: Increased opportunities for stakeholders living within or adjacent to the project sites to engage in sustainable livelihood activities

Please correct the portal entry.

2- The output and outcome related to livelihoods are now identical in the updated ToC diagram. Please correct this typo :



JS 3/10/2022

1-Cleared for financial sustainability, thank you. However, the outcome in which livelihood has been incorporated (2.2 *Improved inter-agency cooperation, and realising economies of scale, through the provincial networking of MPAs enhances the management effectiveness, livelihood for affected communities, and financial sustainability of individual MPAs in southern Mindanao*) implies that it is only through improved inter-agency cooperation and economies of scale that the project intends to have an impact on livelihoods, when the project will have a more direct livelihood interventions, as planned in the approved PIF. Moreover, 2.2 overlaps with 2.1, which already contains financial sustainability and enhanced management effectiveness of MPAs. Please thus revise 2.2. Please consider focusing 2.2 on the livelihood outcomes only, as what pertains to economies of scale, improved inter-agency cooperation and current output 2.2.1 can fall under 2.1 without any change to the formulation of 2.1.

2- The Theory of change diagram and table B are still not fully aligned. In particular, livelihood is not shown in outcomes. Please revise, incorporating the changes made on 2.2 as requested above.

3 and 4-Cleared.

JS 11/12/21

1-We note substantial modifications to table B compared to PIF stage with a very limited amount of explanation provided for the changes in the outputs and no justification for the reduction from 9 to 4 outcomes.

While we welcome a good part of the streamlining done during PPG, some of the modifications appear problematic. Some elements of the projects planned in the approved PIF seem to have disappeared altogether with no justification provided. Others

are still part of the project but have been reduced to sub-activities that are hardly described in the ProDoc. In particular, financial sustainability of MPAs (former outcome 2.2 *Sustainable MCA and MWPAN financing options identified and implemented*) and livelihood interventions (former outcome 2.4 *Local livelihoods sustained at MPA sites through biodiversity-friendly enterprises*) were outcomes that should have benefited from careful designing during PPG with extensive description of the corresponding outputs and activities at this CEO endorsement stage. Yet, they are not to be found in any outcome or output in table B and are restricted to very few lines in the ProDoc. Likewise, the reduction of the number and size of MPA created, the change from the creation of one inter-provincial MPA network to two smaller provincial networks, the reduction of the scope of the CEPA campaign (outcome 3.1), all point to an overall reduction in ambition with no change in the funding request and insufficient justification provided.

Please provide in the portal entry thorough justifications for all the changes made.

Please see detailed comments on the alternative scenario and address them in table B as appropriate. In particular, the project's work on MPA/MPAN financial sustainability and on alternative livelihoods, which were critical elements of the PIF, should appear explicitly in the log-frame and the Theory of change, with detailed description of the underlying approach, activities and deliverables in the ProDoc.

2- We also note that the outputs and outcomes of table B are not entirely consistent with the Theory of change diagram provided as Figure 1 in the ProDoc. For instance, the ToC diagram has 5 outcomes when there are only 4 outcomes in table B. The ToC diagram has outputs on "Management effectiveness and financial sustainability of individual MPAs [...]" and "Conservation-friendly sustainable livelihood opportunities [...]" but financial sustainability or livelihoods are not mentioned in any output in table B. Please make sure the logframe, the description of the alternative scenario and the ToC are fully consistent in the resubmission.

3- We note the change of scope of outcome 3.1 and that it is now considered that this "small, very focused project has not been explicitly designed to deliver behaviour change per se". If there is indeed no longer any ambition to generate behavior change from this component, please rename component 3 ("Achieving impacts through *changed behaviour* and knowledge management") accordingly and justify the changes made in the dedicated matrix in the portal entry.

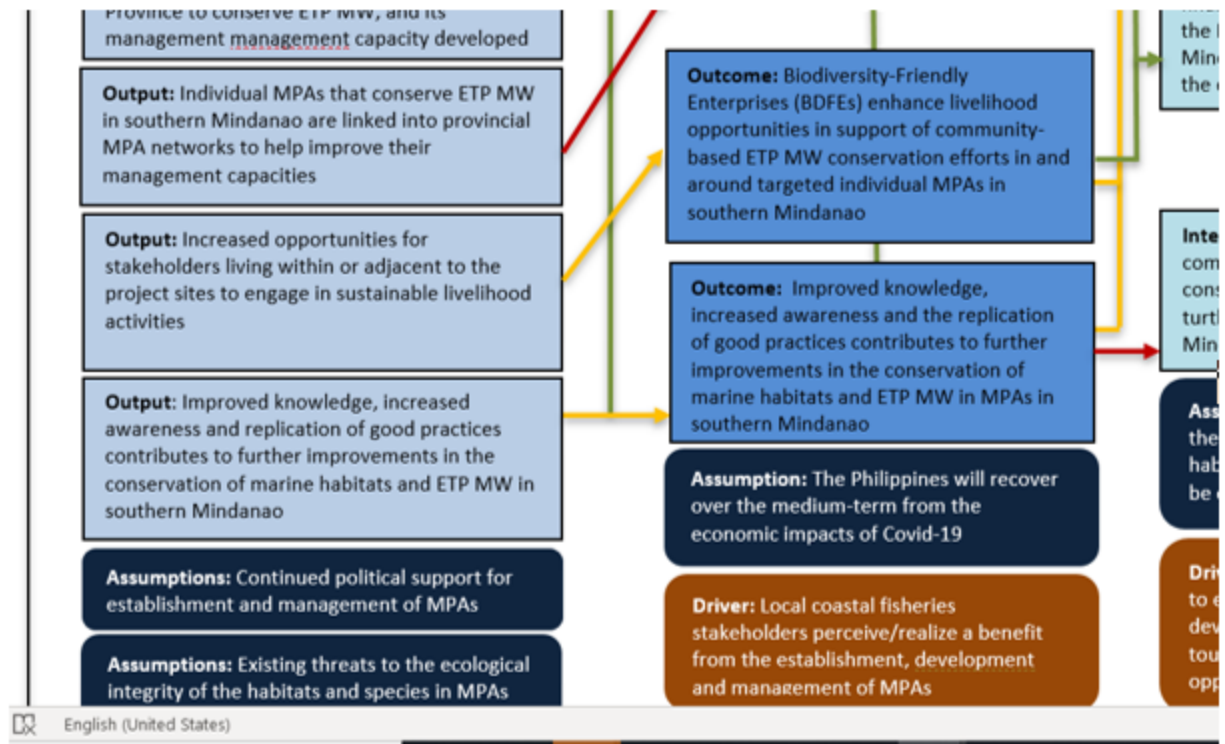
4- There is currently no proportionality between the GEF-funded and the co-funded part of PMC: 4.7% of total GEF project financing is devoted to PMC, while 2.5% of total co-financing is devoted to PMC. As per Policy, please either reduce GEF funding allocated to PMC and/or increase co-finance allocated to PMC to ensure proportionality between the two.

Agency Response  
 Agency Response  
 UNDP 04/27/2022

1. The portal entry is now corrected, as captured below

|  |    |   |  |
|--|----|---|--|
| 2. Conservation of ETP MW and priority habitats within targeted MPAs   | TA | <i>2.1. Increased geographic coverage, and improved management effectiveness, and enhanced financial sustainability of MPAs that conserve ETP MW in southern Mindanao</i><br><br>Indicated by:<br><br>(i) Extent (in ha) of MPAs created or under improved management effectiveness (from a <u>baseline</u> of 28,873 ha to an <u>EOP target</u> of 196,803 ha) ✓<br><br>(ii) Management effectiveness of individual project-supported MPAs (as measured by the | 2.1.1 The expansion and management of MPAs in the municipal waters of Pujada Bay and Mayo Bay in Davao Oriental Province is enhanced to conserve ETP MW.<br><br>2.1.2. A new MPA is established in the municipal waters of Malita and Don Marcelino in Davao Occidental Province to conserve ETP MW and its management capacity is developed<br><br>2.1.3 Individual MPAs that conserve ETP MW in southern Mindanao are linked into provincial MPA networks to help improve their management capacities. |
| <i>2.2 Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises (BDFE) enhance livelihood opportunities in support of community based</i> |    | <i>2.2.1: Increased opportunities for stakeholders living within or adjacent to the project sites to</i>  |  |

2. TOC is now revised in the ProDoc (pg. 19), per the screenshot below.



Agency Response 04/01/2022

- 1- Thanks for the suggestion. Outcome 2.2 now reads ?Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises (BDFE) enhance livelihood opportunities in support of community based ETP MW conservation efforts, in and around targeted individual MPAs in southern Mindanao? , with only one output -former output 2.2.2- currently numbered as 2.2.1. Former output 2.2.1 now falls under Outcome 2.1. as output 2.1.3. (See table B of the CER and sections IV, V, VI and XI and annexes 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the ProDoc for the details of these changes)
- 2- The TOC and Table B have been adjusted to reflect the reworded Outcome 2.2.

UNDP 02/24/2022

Thanks for your comments, the PPG phase has focused on identifying gaps and opportunities and then built on those to design a project that is both ambitious and implementable with the aim of ensuring sustainability of the project expected outcomes and development objective. Please note that all necessary modifications are now properly documented in Part II, section ?3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project? of the CER (see page 10 to 20). In addition to the above, please find responses to each one of your comments below.

1

#### -Financial Sustainability

The integration of financial sustainability into the design of the alternative scenario is described in the ?Alternative Scenario and Theory of Change? in Part III *Strategy* of the UNDP PRODOC. The characteristics of the ?project (or change) objective? includes [?] *The costs of establishing and managing this representative network of MPAs are*



*supplemented through the implementation of a suite of innovative sustainable financing mechanisms. The immediate outcomes leading to the project objective includes [?] The promotion of environmentally friendly income generating activities, and the roll-out of feasible funding mechanisms, in these MPAs contributes to offsetting the costs of their management. The primary drivers that will contribute to achieving the alternative scenario includes [?] mechanisms are in place to ensure that the income derived from the use of MPAs and MPANs contributes to subsidizing the management costs of these MPAs.*

Furthermore, the integration of financial sustainability into the outputs and activities is captured in Part IV Results and Partnerships (?Expected results?) of the UNDP PRODOC. The specific project activities that will contribute to improving the financial sustainability are included under Output 1.1.3 (development of training module/s in financing options for the conservation of ETP MW in MPAs; hosting training-of-trainer courses for prospective trainers to present these financing training modules to MPA managers and practitioners; packaging of presentations and supplementary materials on financing modules; presenting financing training modules to MPA managers and practitioners; specialized training to selected senior decision-making executives and managers on sustainable financing), Output 2.1.1 (assessment of the financial needs for MB LCA; preparation of a budget and financial plan - as part of the GMP - for the MB LCA; support the development, implementation and administration of a range of local user-fee systems for PBPLS and MB LCA), Output 2.1.2 (assessment of the financial needs for M-DM LCA; preparation of a budget and financial plan - as part of the GMP - for the M-DM LCA; support the development, implementation and administration of a range of local user-fee systems for M-DM LCA), Output 2.2.1 (establishment of an independent Trust Fund for each provincial MPAN; assessing the of alternative income-generating activities for the provincial MPANs; piloting the implementation of one viable financing instrument), Output 3.1.1 (exploring mechanisms for the involvement of businesses, communities and individuals to support (operational and/or financial) turtle and dugong conservation efforts in the MPAs to help offset/supplement the MPA management costs) and Output 3.1.2 (sharing lessons learnt on sustainable financing mechanisms for MPAs and MPANs to guide future scaling up of viable financing instruments).

Please note that adequate provision has been made in the budget (see Part IX *Total Budget and Work Plan* of the UNDP PRODOC) for the implementation of these activities.

While the comment on the need for a more detailed description of the sustainable financing activities is legitimate, the primary reasons that these are not yet fully detailed in the project documentation are: (i) COVID-19 travel restrictions seriously constrained opportunities to visit the sites, consult local organizations and assess the feasibility and viability of alternative financing mechanisms; and (ii) four of the five MPAs, and both MPANs, have yet to be established, key stakeholders ? notably the fishing communities - have not yet been consulted, the current baseline state is not sufficiently well documented and no management plans have been prepared. The preparation team and project partners, thus, felt it premature to dictate the most suitable income generating activities to be supported, and the level and type of support, at this stage. Having said

that, more detail on indicative activities and efforts to improve financial sustainability has been added to the CER and ProDoc.

#### **- Livelihoods**

We likewise confirm that livelihood interventions for affected persons remain a key aspect of the project design, and it was in no way reduced in importance.

Livelihood interventions are indicated under Alternative Scenario and Theory of Change as one of the intermediate outcomes leading to the project objectives: The promotion of **livelihood development opportunities**, active **involvement of local coastal communities** and raising of **awareness** further contributes to an increase in community support for these MPAs. In addition to this, output 2.2.2 "Increased opportunities for stakeholders living within or adjacent to the project sites to engage in sustainable livelihood opportunities" (formerly output 2.4.1) has been included in the TOC and Section IV. Results and Partnerships of the ProDoc and in Table B of the CER, where livelihood interventions will be developed and implemented around project supported MPAs, through the development and phased implementation of a process framework around project-supported MPAs, once the provincial MPANs have been established and their governance mechanisms are in place, in order to contribute to improving the socio-economic conditions of local communities dependent on marine resources of LCA for their livelihoods. This will be done, through a systematic mapping of available and planned incentives, support services and relevant investments for fisherfolk communities to improve their capacity to identify, access, combine and/or sequence support services, funds and incentives provided by different Government agencies and cooperation agents (i.e., NGOs, CSOs, bilateral cooperation agencies, etc.) to complement the GEF investment. Budget was allocated under Section IX (Total Budget and Work Plan), Component 2, to this effect.

A Process Framework will be prepared on Year 1 to guide the implementation of the project-supported livelihood development activities under Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1 and 2.2.2. During the project implementation stage, the project will identify the selected livelihood development beneficiaries focusing on coastal communities affected by the MPA establishment and management processes to guide targeted livelihood development support to these disadvantaged individuals or groups. It was estimated during the PPG stage that approximately 140 individuals, 55 of which are women, will directly benefit from livelihood development supported in the project supported MPAs (Outcome 2.2, Indicator 8).

2- Thanks for pointing this out, Figure 1 (Project Theory of Change Diagram) in the ProDoc has been revised to be consistent with Table B of CEO ER. Also, table B of the CEO ER has been revised to elevate financial sustainability to the Outcome level.

-  
3 Please note that CEPA campaign as described under Outcome 3.1 in the ProDoc aims to contribute towards changed knowledge, attitudes and behavior of *targeted* stakeholders such as local fishing communities, tourism operators and recreational users about the ecological and economic importance of conserving dugong, marine turtles and their coastal and marine habitats in MPAs. These are directly related to three identified local threats to the dugong and marine turtle populations in the project-targeted MPAs: (i) disturbance, injury or death of marine turtles and dugong from destructive fishing

practices and discarded fishing gear; (ii) poaching of marine turtles and turtle eggs for trade or consumption; and (iii) disturbance, injury or death of marine turtles and dugong from tourism and recreational use. Language has been added to emphasize the targeted nature of these interventions under output 3.1.1.

4- Thanks for highlighting this. Co-financing devoted to PMC was recomputed to reflect 5%. Please refer to Table B of CEO ER for details.

UNDP 25/5/2022

Output 2.2.1 is now added to the Table B

**2.1.3 Individual  
MPAs that conserve  
ETP MW in southern  
Mindanao are linked  
into provincial MPA  
networks to help  
improve their  
management  
capacities.**



**2.2.1: Increased  
opportunities for  
stakeholders living  
within or adjacent to  
the project sites to  
engage in  
sustainable  
livelihood activities**

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 5/2/2022- Cleared.

JS 4/8/2022

A-Cleared.

B- Thank you for the clarification. Please provide an email from the co-financier (province of Davao Oriental) confirming the timeframe over which co-funding will be provided.

JS 3/10/2022

1-5 - cleared. However:

A- While an annex 14B has been uploaded with new commitment letters, these do not include DILG, Don Marcelino, MWWP or Mati 's. We found a revised Annex 14A embedded as a link in the ProDoc. Please upload 14A as a separate file in the next submission.

B- The co-financing letters from the province of Davao Oriental does not specify at all the timeframe over which co-funding will be provided, please correct. An email from the co-funder confirming the timeframe would be acceptable.

JS 11/12/21 - Co-financing decreased from \$16.1 million at PIF stage, including \$14 million of investment mobilized, to \$14.9 million, including \$11 million of investment mobilized, in this submission. While we note with appreciation the increase in the co-funding secured from LGUs, we also note that there is no co-financing from the private sector or from the Department of Agriculture / Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources when it was anticipated that they would provide \$3 and \$3.3 million of co-finance, respectively.

1- We note that the consequences of the COVID pandemic prevented the project from securing private sector co-financing. However, please explain why the DA is no longer co-financing when the project highlights the role of DA for ETPMW and the need for better collaboration between DA and DENR.

2- To align with the co-financing letter provided, please correct the table C in the portal entry for the in-kind co-financing provided by DENR Office XI to \$459,377, and for the in-kind co-financing provided by DOT Office XI to \$1789.

3- The co-financing letters from DILG and the municipality of Don Marcelino do not provide the time frame over which the co-financing will be provided. Please provide new letters or emails from the co-financiers that clarify the time frame over which the co-financing will be provided.

4- The co-financing letter from MWWP reports co-financing for 2021 ("This will be earmarked from the agency's active projects for the years 2021 and 2022") when the project won't start before 2022. Further, the letter does not provide the breakdown of the type of co-funding (grant / in-kind / loan, etc.) . Please provide an adequate co-financing letter. Please also clarify why MWWP is not reported as CSO in table C.

5- The co-financing letter from the municipality of Mati reports co-financing for 2021 ("This will be earmarked from the agency's CY 2021 budget") when the project won't start before 2022. Further, the letter does not provide the breakdown of the type of co-funding (grant / in-kind / loan, etc.) . Please provide an adequate co-financing letter.

## Agency Response

### Agency Response UNDP 04/27/2022

B) The confirmation letter from Davao Oriental province (Annex 14C) submitted in the portal, confirms the commitment period from 2022 to 2027.

Annex 14 C-Davao Oriental letter

Project Document

FSP CEO Endorsement document

Public

4/27/2022 4:13 AM

### UNDP 04/01/2022

A. Kindly refer to Annex 14A for signed co-financing letters and Annex 14B for Project commitment letters (without co-financing resources pledged). Also, please note that letters from DILG, Don Marcelino, MWWP and Mati are included in Annex 14A.  
B. Last March 31, 2022, a face to face meeting was held among Governor Nelson Dayanghirang of Davao Oriental Provincial Government, Mr. Wilfredo Gawka of the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAgrO) Mr. Pablito Ofrencio of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office (PENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Mr. Gil Bigcas and Mr Ariel Pliego of the Conservation and Development Division (CDD) of DENR Region XI Office, Ms. Lea

Avilla of the Coastal and Marine Division (CMD) of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), and Maria Theresa Espino-Yap and Clariza Ablaza of the Climate Action Programme Team of UNDP Country Office to discuss the concerns raised on their co-financing. Below were the key points discussed:

? Ms. Espino-Yap provided a brief background of the project design and co-financing guidelines of GEF. She explained that the original co-financing resources committed by the Provincial Government of Davao Oriental included resource attribution to their programs concerning water quality monitoring, coastal livelihood interventions for fishers and staff time of personnel from PAgrO and PENRO which will be involved during Project implementation. Ms. Espino-Yap also added that GEF was confirming of the years for which co-financing will be provided. She indicated that in the original computation of co-financing resources, the total amount of Davao Oriental's co-financing was equally divided among the no. of years of Project implementation.

? Mr. Ofrencio of DENR-PENRO also clarified that there would be no actual cash or fund to be transferred to the Project but would just be composed of financial attribution or counterpart funding.

? Mr. Gawka of PAgrO also explained to Governor Dayanghirang that the Provincial Government's Coastal Resource Management (CRM) program activities have already been devolved even before the implementation of the Mandanas ruling. The latter, he added, will not affect the resource allocation sufficiency allocated for CRM activities.

? Governor Dayanghirang, in response to the explanations provided to him, confirmed that they would not withdraw the original co-financing commitment he signed and that he was in agreement that their co-financing resources would be for the whole Project implementation period, i.e., 2022 to 2027. He also mentioned his appreciation of the assistance that the Project would be able to provide to Davao Oriental Province.

UNDP 02/24/2022

1- Discussions with target private sector partners, including the Don Antonio O. Florendo Sr., Foundation (AOF) and Globe were undertaken. However, AOF expressed that they would not be able to commit co-financing due to decreased resources accruing to the organization since the pandemic started. They indicated their support for the Project during the implementation period and expressed willingness to partner with the Project once implementation activities commence. Refer to email from AOF on this (Refer to Annex 14B). Globe, on the other hand, has a different mechanism on providing resources to partners or projects. They do not use co-financing letters, instead they request that a specific project proposal be submitted to them for their consideration of funding.

On the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), a letter of commitment on Project support has been provided by DA-BFAR (Refer to Annex 14B). While no specific amount of co-financing resources has been indicated in the letter, DA-BFAR specified that the funds that will be needed by DA-BFAR personnel to implement the Project will be charged under their Aquatic Wildlife Management Fund.

Finally, please note that we also included the letter from Davao Occidental Provincial Local Government Unit (PLGU) as well as letters from the Municipalities of Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani in the new Annex 14B (formal commitment letters with no co-financing figures at this stage). While the Davao Occidental PLGU has expressed its support to the Project, it is not ready to commit co-financing resources for 2022 and beyond. Discussions with the Davao Occidental PLGU pointed out that they would like to wait for the Mandanas Transition Plan first before committing co-financing resources for 2022 and beyond. Mandanas Transition Plan will cover the amount of resources that

will be downloaded to LGUs through increased annual budget allocation. Thus, co-financing resources from the Davao Occidental PLGU has been removed from computation of co-financing commitments.

2- Entries to Table C in the portal, CER and ProDoc have been adjusted to reflect the correct in-kind co-financing figures from DENR and DOT.

3- DILG and Don Marcelino revised the Annexes of the co-financing letters to reflect the period covered by their support (Refer to revised Annex 14A).

4- MWWP has provided a revised co-financing letter which is now tagged as CSO in Table C of CEO ER (Refer to revised Annex 14A).

5- Signed co-financing letter, with a total committed amount of USD39,462.91 from Mati City LGU added to relevant co-financing tables in the ProDoc and CEO ER (Refer to revised Annex 14A).

#### **GEF Resource Availability**

**5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 11/12/21 - Cleared.

#### **Agency Response**

#### **Project Preparation Grant**

**6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/4/2021 - Cleared.

JS 11/12/21 - Not, the portal entry is not readable. Please correct.

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

|  | GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$) |
|--|----------------------------|
|--|----------------------------|

## Agency Response

UNDP 02/24/2022

1-The portal entry has been revised to correct this issue.

## Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E?

Do they remain realistic?

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 5/2/2022- Cleared.

JS 4/8/2022 -

3- Thank you but the WDPA ID and the baseline METT score for the Pujabay Bay

Protected Landscape and Seascape is still missing in the portal under core indicator 2.2.

Please correct:

| 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) |
|---|---------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pujada Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape |         | Protected Landscape/Seascape | 20,873.00                    | 20,873.00                                |                              |                             |  |                              |                             |

JS 3/10/2022



3- The portal entry does not show any WDPA ID or baseline METT score. Please correct and please also remove MPAs that are to be created from subindicator 2.2, they should only appear under subindicator 2.1:

| Protected Area                              | WDPA ID | UCN Category                 | (Expected at PIF) ⓘ | Endorsement ⓘ | at MTR ⓘ | (Achieved at TE) ⓘ | CEO Endorsement | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Jose Abad Santos LCA                        |         | Protected Landscape/Seascape |                     | 0.00          |          |                    |                 |                   |                  |
| Other existing MPAs in all project sites    |         | Protected Landscape/Seascape |                     |               |          |                    |                 |                   |                  |
| Pujada Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape |         | Protected Landscape/Seascape | 20,873.00           | 20,873.00     |          |                    |                 |                   |                  |
| Sarangani LCA                               |         | Protected Landscape/Seascape |                     | 0.00          |          |                    |                 |                   |                  |

The rest is cleared. We in particular welcome the new development with the Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani LGUs, and congratulate the team for their successful efforts since last submission.

JS 11/12/21 - There has been a reduction on core indicator 2.1, from 166,619 ha at PIF stage to 122,318 ha, while the number of beneficiaries increased.

1- We note that the 26% reduction on core indicator 2.1 is explained by the fact that one of the 4 municipalities targeted for MPA creation, the Santa Maria municipality, is no longer interested in creating a locally managed MPA. Given it is not a negligible downscaling of the target, please clarify which other options have been investigated to make the best use of the full grant approved at PIF stage. In a response in the PIF review sheet, the agency had mentioned that PPG would consider adding other sites as suggested during stakeholder workshops, such as parts of the waters surrounding the Mati Peninsula. Have these leads been investigated ? Were consultations carried out with the municipality of Jose Abad Santos, the municipal waters of which are adjacent to Don Marcelino's ?

2- Please explain under table F the methodology / assumptions used to calculate the number of beneficiaries.

3- Please provide, in the portal entry, the WDPA IDs and baseline METT score for the MPA reported under 2.2. We note the METT spreadsheet provided as annex 13 which states the METT score is 54% and not the 68% as reported in the core indicator worksheet (annex 15). Please correct.

#### Agency Response

Agency Response  
UNDP 04/27/2022

Kindly note that, according to our records, the WDPA ID and the baseline METT score for the Pujabay Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape had already been included in the portal entry. However, we are happy to make sure it is properly reflected in the portal again, as captured below.

| 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) |
|---|----------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Pujada Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape | ✓ 305911 | Protected Landscape/Seascape | 20,873.00                  | 20,873.00                              |                            | ✓ 68.00                   |  |

Agency Response  
UNDP 04/01/2022

3. Please note that the only MPA prioritized for this project with an WDPA ID assigned to it is Pujada Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape (WDPA ID 305911). This is reflected in the METT worksheet (Annex 13 of the ProDoc) and in the GEF portal entry.

MPAS to be created have been removed from sub-indicator 2.2 and now only appear under sub-indicator 2.1 (See Annex 15 of the ProDoc).

UNDP 02/24/2022

1- Please note that, after additional consultations with the Municipalities of Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani, core indicator 2.1 has increased from 166,619 ha at PIF to 175,930 ha at Endorsement, exceeding the original target in 9,311 ha. Below you will find further details on the reason for these changes in targets and project landscapes.

Also, please note that corresponding adjustments have been made in the CER (i.e., Tables B and F, Proposed Alternative Scenario, Annex A PRF, and Annex F GEF Core Indicators) and in the UNDP ProDoc (Sections III Strategy, V PRF, IX Budget; Annex 3 Maps, Annex 5 SESP, Annex 6 Risk Register; Annex 8 Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Annex 9 ESMF, Annex 10 IPPF, and Annex 15 GEF Core Indicators).

During PPG, Santa Maria LGU expressed putting on hold commitment on participation in the Project due to COVID-related concerns. This was communicated to UNDP CO and Implementing Partner months after the conduct of the National Validation Workshop (Refer to new Annex 14B). Please note that during the commencement of Project implementation, the Implementing Partner will further engage the Santa Maria LGU in ongoing discussions around the incorporation of their municipal waters into the proposed LCA..

Santa Maria LGU decision triggered a series of meetings to discuss the participation of Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani municipalities in the project. These meetings were conducted last January 14 and 24, and February 2 and 3, 2022 with the participation of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), the Conservation and Development Division (CDD) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region XI, the Municipal Planning and Development Officer (MPDO) of the Provincial Local Government of Davao Occidental, the Municipal Planning and Development Officers (MPDOs) and Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Officers (MENROs) of the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani (see the updated ProDoc Annex 9 Stakeholder Engagement Plan for details).

Key agreements during the meetings held are listed below.

- ? The Provincial Government of Davao Occidental committed to support inclusion of Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani LGUs in the Provincial Marine Protected Area Network (MPAN). It was agreed that the Project would be able to support the two municipalities on capacity-building activities while the other resource requirements would be shouldered by the Provincial and municipal governments as co-financing.

- ? Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani LGUs expressed their willingness to be participate in the Project as this will help them in advancing their MPA related activities. Commitment letters signed by their respective Local Chief Executives (LCEs) have been provided by the two LGUs (see Annex 14B). The two LGUs expressed the LGUs' willingness and capacities to provide annual budget allocation for the activities related with establishing and strengthening their MPAs. Given the increase in their annual budget they expect due to the roll-out of the Mandanas ruling, the two LGUs expressed certainty of not encountering challenges to provide resources for MPA-related costs. It should be noted, though, that the upcoming May 2022 election that might result in leadership change is one Project risk that needs to be factored in. The MENROs of the two LGUs, however, indicated that this is something that their Offices will be willing to work on with the newly elected LCEs.

- ? As such, the two municipalities agreed on including portions of their municipal waters to be targeted as Local Conservation Area (LCA) which will

be part of the Provincial MPAN and will be indicated as targets under Mandatory Indicator 2 (MPAs created or under the improved management for conservation and sustainable use).

2 - The assumptions used to estimate the number of direct project beneficiaries include human resource/staff figures provided by partner national government agencies and LGUs, official country databases such as FishR (Fishers Registration), and population estimates. These are captured in an Excel sheet and included in the ProDoc as a new annex (Refer to new ProDoc Annex 23).

3 -The WDPa ID for PBPLS is 305911 (IUCN Category V). The baseline METT score for PBPLS has been revised in the Project Results Framework and included in the portal entry.

## **Part II ? Project Justification**

**1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/12/21 - Cleared.

Agency Response

**2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/12/21 - Cleared.

Agency Response

**3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

JS 4/8/2022 - Cleared.

JS 3/10/2022

1- Cleared for financial sustainability, thank you. However, on livelihoods:

1a. Please see comment on outcome 2.2 in the comment box related to table B.

1b. Please correct the typo in the ProDoc p6 2.2.2 from "suitable livelihoods" to "sustainable livelihoods".

1c. While we note the explanation provided and welcome the participative the approach taken, please provide in the ProDoc the high-level criteria that will be used to ensure that activities supported under 2.2.2 produce biodiversity benefits and does not generate unintended effects.

The rest is cleared.

JS 11/12/21

1- MPA/MPAN financial sustainability and livelihood interventions have been downscaled from outcome-level elements of the project to sub-activities hardly described in the PRODOC. Please revise the log-frame, ToC, and PRODOC so that:

- the project work on MPA/MPAN financial sustainability and on livelihoods appear explicitly in the log-frame and ToC and changes compared to PIF are justified in the dedicated matrix of the portal entry.

- the ProDoC describes in detail what the project will do in relation to these, i.e. project's approach(es) and concrete activities and deliverables to ensure (i) MPA financial sustainability, and (ii) that livelihood interventions do generate both livelihoods and BD benefits, and are designed to prevent to the extent possible unintended effects.

On financial sustainability (2.1.1;2.1.2; 2.2.1), some potential financial sources are mentioned (a local user fee systems, a yet-to-be-identified viable financing instrument to be piloted in MPANs, facilitation of the development of environmentally friendly business enterprises) but the baseline assessment, concrete project interventions and actual deliverables are hardly described. The PIF also included the followings that have been deleted with no justification:

*- "In addition, studies on ecosystem services, such as Total Economic Valuation, will be conducted, and the project will explore the potential for Payments for Ecological Services (PES) schemes",*

*- "the project will provide technical assistance to the LGUs in the formulation of their respective Eco-tourism Development Plans".*

On livelihoods, we note that it is proposed to develop a "Process Framework" (2.2.1), which is presented as a new UNDP directive, during project implementation. Please clarify the nature and extent of this "new directive". In any case, it should not preclude presenting in details how the livelihood interventions will be designed, rolled out, and assessed in practice (e.g. through which partner? Was/will an economic analysis be carried out? How will links to the delivery of BD benefits be ensured ? Will it involve small

grants and what is the associated budget? How will it build on the baseline programs DENR-BMB Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise Framework and DA-BFAR Livelihood Development Programme? Etc.). The PRODOC should notably reflect the lessons learnt from the SMART SEAS project, the Terminal evaluation of which identified the following necessary conditions for the success of BD friendly enterprises in MPA seascapes of the Philippines:

- (i) Preparation of a robust, realistic plan including market study and financial projections, entailing the support of an accompanying organization already present on the ground, like the project's responsible partners, with links to both communities and government organizations.
- (ii) A grant mechanism to catalyze the ventures' launching and sustain them through the first three years of implementation.

2- The PIF was to create a single MPA network joining all LCAs/MPAs of the project sites when this submission proposes two smaller MPA networks (2.2.1), one in each province, with no justification for this change. The small size of the two networks proposed seems to limit their relevance for species travelling long distance, such as Dugong and marine Turtles. The generation of economies of scale also appears doubtful in small networks given the significant fixed costs of adding a new coordination layer. If the two networks are kept separate, please justify the change, clarify the exact scale of the two proposed networks and provide evidence that they will be viable and relevant for the targeted species.

With respect to the MPA network, the following activity present in the approved PIF is not present in the submission with no justification for this deletion :

*- "The project will facilitate a **participatory network-wide marine spatial planning** to establish zoning mechanisms that will be designed to address threats to ETP MW and priority habitats."*

Please explain and / or revise.

3- The portal entry and ProDoc state that the project will contribute to the "future long-term objective" described in this section only by *"testing and demonstrating the feasibility of: (i) Strengthening the ecological representativeness and management effectiveness [...]; and (ii) Locally linking these individual marine protected areas into a marine protected area network [...]."*

According to the approved PIF, the project was also to work on other dimensions of the "future long-term objective", including MPA financing (outcome 2.2 of the PIF) and livelihoods (outcome 2.4 of the PIF). Please explain why it is not highlighted here or correct.

4- This section of the portal entry and corresponding section of the ProDoc mention the following intermediate outcomes :

- *The promotion of environmentally-friendly income generating activities, and the roll-out of feasible funding mechanisms, in these MPAs contributes to offsetting the costs of their management;*
- *The promotion of livelihood development opportunities, active involvement of local coastal communities and raising of awareness further contributes to an increase in community support for these MPAs;*

but they are not reflected in table B in this submission. Besides, a total of 6 outcomes that were present at PIF stage have disappeared in this submission with no explanation provided.

Please correct.

5- In the table showing proposed project activities per project site, several activities planned at PIF stage are not present, including the establishment of an MPA on top of a LCA in Mayo Bay and designation or expansion of KBAs in all sites. Please explain or correct.

6- Comments on the following outputs and underlying activities:

6a- output 1.1.1 Please clarify the scale at which the different activities of the ProDoc's para 75 will be carried out (e.g., national, local).

6b. output 1.1.2: under the PIF-stage outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3, it was planned to:

*-review Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUPs) of all project sites*

*-develop standardized and coherent criteria and methodologies for designing MCAs with an ETP MW perspective*

*- establish a MCA & MPAN database as a publicly accessible and functional national online platform that will include information on MCAs, such as extent, purpose, legal status, Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) / Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) results et*

*- provide technical assistance to DENR and relevant LGUs to ensure that the latest data/information available on local and national MPAs and LCAs in the project sites will be reported to the WDPa, and data on MKBAs in the project sites will be reported to the WDKBA.*

*- carry out Participatory Coastal Resource Assessments (PCRA) in project sites to inform vulnerability assessments covering all threats (not just climate change as seems to be proposed here).*

All these activities seem to have disappeared in this submission with no justification. Please explain and/or revise.

6c- output 1.1.3: We note that "opportunities" to institutionalize the project-developed training remain to be "explored and developed", when the PIF had seemingly more precise plans (it notably intended to develop modules for the "PA academy" set up by the USAID Protect Wildlife Project) and PIF-stage 2.2.3 (*Lessons learned are scaled up and can be replicated throughout the Philippines*) made clear that the institutionalization of this training was a critical part of the project's up-scaling strategy. Please develop a clear strategy with concrete activities that would lead to the institutionalization and up-scaling of the training.

Please also clarify why it was decided to externalize training on MPA finance instead of internalizing it like the training on the other topics. Please also clarify why training providers on MPAs finance have not been identified during PPG.

PIF-stage 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 were also supposed to develop the followings:

- competency standards for relevant government agencies, particularly the DENR-BMB and DA-BFAR,*
- trainings on the preparation and implementation of localized plans for the MTCAP and DCAP*

but this seems to have disappeared in the submission. Please clarify or correct.

-6d: output 3.1.1: We note the downsizing of this output because of "resource constraints". However, please clarify what are these resources constraints since the GEF funding request remains the same and some significant project activities have been scale-back compared to PIF stage (e.g. 40,000+ha of MPA creation in Santa Maria, national knowledge management platform), thus freeing corresponding budget.

If the resource constraints are justified, please clarify why it has been decided to downscale the scope of this output rather than concentrating a full CEPA campaign in part of the project sites to better use other sites as controls, thereby properly assess the impact of that type of CEPA campaign.

PIF-stage 3.1.1 included *"A post-CEPA campaign study to assess changes in awareness and behavioral change with regard to coastal and marine resource use practices and patterns"*, when this submission includes "(vii) *Maintain a regular evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of the awareness-raising activities for the different audiences and revise the awareness-raising approaches, as needed.*" Please clarify how cost-effectiveness of awareness-raising activities will be assessed and if it also includes a post-campaign study that would also assess behavior change, or justify why it was deleted compared to PIF stage.

7- We note the list of specific recommendations provided in section VI of annex 21.2 (Policy Assessment on National and Policy and Institutional Environment for Endangered Threatened Protected Marine Wildlife in Marine Protected Areas ). Please



clarify which recommendations will be acted upon by the project and justify why the others, if any, are considered beyond the scope of the project.

## Agency Response

### Agency Response

UNDP 04/01/2022

1a. Outcome 2.2 has been reworded as suggested.

1b. Thanks for pointing this out, the typo has been corrected.

1c. Text has been added to explain the nature of BDFEs and how these activities will produce biodiversity benefits. Please refer to paragraphs 110 and 111 of the ProDoc and the hyperlinks to the Implementing Partner's guidelines on BDFEs. Also, please note that safeguards around livelihood activities are documented in the SESP (Annex 5), SEP (Annex 8), ESMF (Annex 9), IPPF (annex 10) and Gender Action Plan (Annex 11) of UNDP's ProDoc.

UNDP 02/24/2022

1-

#### **- Financial sustainability**

? Table B has been revised to elevate financial sustainability to the Outcome level.

? The TOC diagram in Part III *Strategy* of the UNDP PRODOC has been revised to reduce the number of outcomes to four but retain explicit reference to livelihoods and financial sustainability of MPAs.

? Please refer to the responses to comment 1 under Project Description section above on the integration of financial sustainability and livelihood development in the project design.

? The studies on TEV would only be undertaken as an integral part of supporting the introduction of a PES scheme. However, as indicated above, the feasibility and viability of a PES scheme to finance the costs of managing MPAs, and conserving ETP MW within these MPAs, has not yet been fully determined. If, as part of the process of assessing alternative financing mechanisms for individual MPAs and provincial MPANs demonstrates that a specific PES mechanism is viable, then sufficient funding has been allocated in the budgets for the relevant outputs to further develop and pilot the implementation of the PES mechanism.

? The "eco-tourism" development plans of the partner LGUs are currently all under development, or have already been prepared, and so the need for technical support has fallen away. There is now however an opportunity to align the development and implementation of the management plans for the MPAs with these ecotourism plans.

#### **-Livelihoods**

? Kindly refer to responses to comment 1 under Project Description section above.

? Additionally, underpinning the principle of the Process Framework is exactly the intent NOT to technocratically pre-define the nature of project support to beneficiaries, rather that they participate in that decision instead of having it thrust on them. An economic analysis will not be carried out ? the intent of the project is to ensure that as much of the funding reaches the beneficiaries as possible. The link between the funding for this project and other complementary initiatives is described in the PRODOC but the intent is that this funding supplements/complements/leverages social support grant/funding from other sources rather than act as a standalone source. Provision has explicitly been made for a locally based NGO/CBO to administer this fund -which does not have to be necessarily in a grant format, as in the case of SMARTSEAS- (see new output 2.2.2, project budget and budget note #14). Spending limited resources on plans, market studies, financial projections, etc. undermines the value of the support to individuals, who largely need small amounts to catalyze the start-up of a small/micro-enterprise.

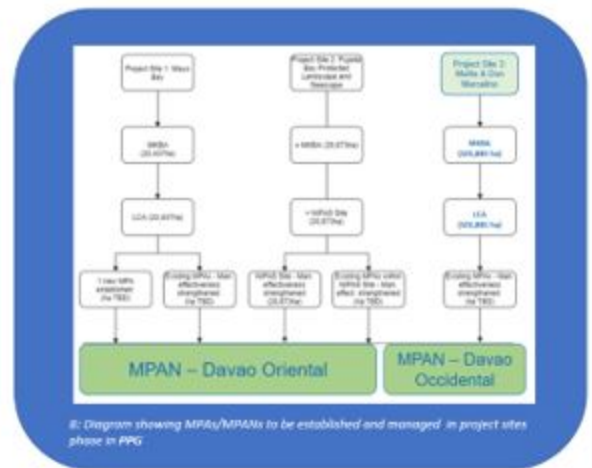
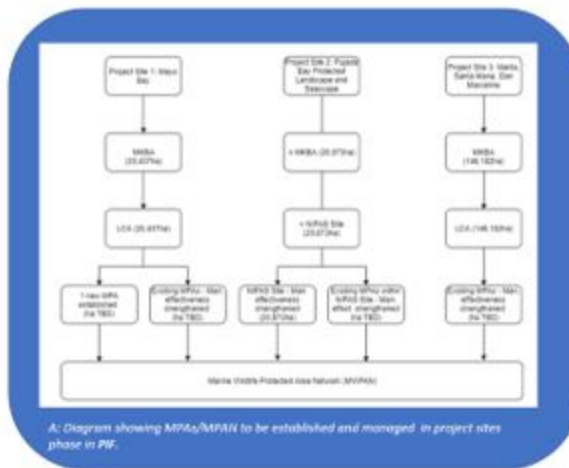
? The types of livelihood activities will follow the Biodiversity Management Bureau's Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises (BDFEs) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' (BFAR) Livelihood Development Program (LDP) frameworks, which are anchored on sustainable development principles. These include fisheries-related enterprises and/or eco-tourism products and services that support and promote marine species and habitat conservation and management. The choice for types of mitigation measures for affected persons, which include livelihood activities will be developed under the Process Framework. The lessons learnt from SMART SEAS project to ensure success of BD friendly enterprises in MPA seascapes of the Philippines will be duly incorporated in the development of Process Framework.

2 - MPA networks are focused on governance, thus are largely political and jurisdictional. There is no reduction in the size of the MPAN but rather there is an increase in the number of governance units at the MPA network level that is deemed more efficient and cost-effective by partners and stakeholders (see Diagram below).

# PIF

vs

# PPG



# PIF

vs.

# PPG





? The local governments have influence over their respective geopolitical boundaries only. Only coastal municipal and city LGUs would have ?municipal? waters (i.e., 0-5km from shoreline) thus the mandate to protect and manage these remains with the municipality/city. For Davao Oriental, the project will provide support to one city and 1 municipality, i.e., City of Mati and Municipality of Tarragona, which will be managing 2 MPAs (i.e., Mayo Bay and PBLs) collectively covering an area of 41,310 hectares which will be within the governance of respective MPA management bodies; municipal waters beyond MPA boundaries although under the responsibilities of LGUs, will be under joint MPAN monitoring and patrol (particularly against IUUs), thus, increasing the an effective area of operation to about 209,382 hectares (see slide below). Similarly, in Davao Occidental, project support is targeted for municipalities of Malita and Don Marcelino only with the proposed MPA to cover the municipal waters of both (estimated area = 101,881 hectares). However, the PLGU - Davao Occidental has plans for establishing a provincial MPA and enforcement network that will bring all five municipalities composing it, to include the three other municipalities (i.e., Sta Maria, Jose Abad Santos, and Sarangani), in various capacity-building of the project and project partners thus potentially increasing the effective area of operation to about

365,774 hectares (calculating for the municipal waters of the three other component LGUs of the province). As mentioned earlier, the two municipalities, i.e., Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani, have expressed their willingness to be part of Project implementation and include portion of their municipal waters as targets under GEF Core Indicator 2. This type of network is aligned with the DA-BFAR's target of establishing a provincial level Bantay Dagat network focused on enforcement (see map of proposed area for networking in figure below).

### Outcome 2.2.1

#### Networking of Individual MPAs that conserve ETP MW






Proposed area for the networking of MPAs conserving ETP MW in Davao Oriental (e.g., Bantay Dagat Network)

#### ACTIVITIES

1. MOU between the project-supported MPAs
  - Davao Oriental MPAN: Mayo Bay LCA and PBPLS (or LGU Mati and LGU Tarragona)
  - Davao Occidental MPAN: Malita-Don Marcelino LCA for Davao Occidental) and any other MPAs within each province
  - Constitute provincial MPAN 'management board' and 'technical secretariat'
2. Prepare provincial MPAN Management Plan
3. Develop inter-agency enforcement (intelligence-gathering, information sharing, patrolling, detection, apprehension, prosecution, reporting) procedures and protocols for each MPAN
4. Facilitate the development of a Bantay Dagat Network for each provincial MPAN
5. Facilitate the development of MPAN funds and financial management system



Proposed area for the networking of MPAs conserving ETP MW in Davao Occidental (e.g., Bantay Dagat Network)

? Partnership with Fisheries Management Area (FMA-2) Management Body has been proposed by DA-BFAR, through participation of the two provincial MPANs in FMA-2. When fully functional, the two provincial MPANs can potentially scale up policies relevant to dugong and marine turtle conservation that will be developed by the project at the provincial MPAN level to the level of FMA-2 (i.e., FMA-2 area is equivalent to 30M hectares).

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AREA 2

|                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Area                 | 30,009,800.00 Hectares              |
| Regional Composition | 8, 11, 13 (Caraga)                  |
| Designated BFAR Lead | BFAR Region 11                      |
| Regional Offices     | BFAR Regions 8, 11, and 13 (Caraga) |



## ETP MW Project Sites in FMA

### Region XI (Davao Region)

Project Site 1:  
Mayo Bay (20,437 ha)

Project Site 2:  
Pujada Bay (20,873 ha)

Project Site 3:  
Malita-Don Marcelino  
(101,881 ha)

Total area (MPAs): 143,191 ha

### RA 8550 (Fisheries Code) as amended by RA 10654

- adoption of precautionary principle, consistent with ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management - Sec. 2. f
- power of BFAR to enforce all laws, formulate and enforce all rules and regulations governing the conservation and management of fishery resources - Sec. 65
- recognize the authority and jurisdiction of cities and municipalities over the municipal waters and management of contiguous fishery resources such as bays which straddle several municipalities/cities or provinces in an integrated manner - Sec. 16
- prescribe reference points and harvest control rules in all fishing grounds or fishery management areas, with concurrence of LGUs, special agencies & with FARMCS - Sec. 8 & IRR
- BFAR to assist LGUs in developing their technical capability in developing and protecting fisheries resources and implement rules to conserve straddling fish stocks - Sec. 65 g&h
- protect rights of subsistence fisherfolks, with priority to municipal fisherfolk - Sec. 2.d

### FAO 263, s.201

- establishment of fisheries management areas for the conservation and management of fisheries in municipal waters
- establish FMAs and provide a participatory and transparent governance framework and to sustainably manage fisheries
- defines FMA as a bay, gulf, or other fishery area which may be delineated for fishery resource management purposes. (Sec. 2.01)
- provides that for purposes of fisheries management, FMAs in Philippine waters are established on considerations of stocks, boundary/range/ distribution of fisheries as well as administrative divisions, and undertaken through consultation based on stocks and fisheries distribution. (Sec. 4.01)

FMA is similar to CRM or CMA, but broadened to include even coastal waters. It is also synonymous with the concept of MPA promoted by DENR, as it includes coastal resources and users from the reef.

Cooperation and coordination across authorities via a-vis re: etc.

- On participatory network-wide marine spatial planning, participatory assessment, planning, implementation, M&E, please note that these are central to project success and remain a priority in the current project design. See details below.

3 - Please refer to the responses to the comment 1 under Project Description section above on the integration of financial sustainability and livelihood development in the project design.

4 - Please refer to the responses to comment 1 under Project Description section above on the integration of financial sustainability and livelihood development in the project design. In addition, the stakeholder communication and engagement processes undertaken during the PPG phase indicated substantial confusion with the complex structuring of the project design at the PIF stage. The IP requested rationalizing and simplifying the log frame structure to better align it with the spatial distribution of the MPAs (notably in respect of Component 2) and the MPANs.

5- As mentioned in the response to comment 1, all changes from PIF stage to CER stage are now documented in detail in the CER.

To further clarify:

Output 1.1.1 provides for the development of guidelines on the identification of marine KBAs. It must be noted that marine KBAs do not however have formal protection status. They do provide the scientific basis for the establishment of new MPAs. Output 2.1.1 thus provides for conducting scientific baseline studies and identifying the optimal boundaries for designating a marine KBA in Mayo Bay. Output 2.1.2 also provides for conducting scientific baseline studies and identifying the optimal boundaries for



designating a marine KBA of the municipal waters of Malita and Don Marcelino LGUs. It must be further noted that ? until the baseline studies for these areas has been concluded ? it is premature to state that they will or will not meet the criteria for formal designation as marine KBAs. If they do meet marine KBA criteria, Output 3.1.2 then provides for the uploading of the marine KBA information for these sites to the relevant national and international knowledge management portals.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that MPAs in the Philippines are of two types:

1) Locally Managed MPA (LMMPA), established by Local Government Units in accordance with the Local Government Code (RA 7160) and/or the Fisheries Code (RA 8550, as amended by RA 10654). LMMPAs are designated under local or municipal-level ordinances and may be managed by communities together with local governments in a variety of community-based and co-management schemes. A marine-based Local Conservation Area (LCA) is a type of LMMPA. The project will establish two new marine-based LCAs in the municipal waters of MB and M-DM LGUs. A marine-based Indigenous Community Conserved Area (ICCA) is also a type of LMMPA. LMMPAs also include fish refuges and sanctuaries, designated areas where fishing or other damaging activities is prohibited and human access may be restricted, in accordance with the Fisheries Code. The project-targeted sites already include two community-managed marine sanctuaries in Mayo Bay, six community-managed marine sanctuaries in Pujada Bay and seven community-managed marine sanctuaries in Malita-Don Marcelino municipal waters. These marine sanctuary areas will be *de facto* the no-take zones of the proposed LCAs, and the management of these areas will be supported by the project. We assume that the reference to ?MPAs? in this comment relates to these marine sanctuaries. While the project has committed not to support the establishment of additional no-take zones (or marine sanctuaries) within the LCAs and PBPLS because of the prospective loss of fishery livelihoods, the consultative use zoning process undertaken in Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.1 may identify prospective areas that would require stricter controls on access and use. But the outcomes of these consultations are, at this early stage, difficult to anticipate at this point in time.

2) NIPAS MPA established and managed in accordance with the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act (RA 7586, as amended by RA 11038). The PBPLS is a NIPAS MPA.

6.

6a - The localization of the MTCAP and DCAP is included. Paragraph 78 of the ProDoc specifically points out that the work under Outputs 1.1.2 includes ? (ii) implementation of the *Marine Turtle Action Plan* (MTCAP) and *Dugong Conservation Action Plan* (DCAP)? and such implementation at the site level involves the ?localization? of both plans. Before localization, the project supports institutional building at the national level (BMB, BFAR individually and then synergizing with each other). Once national capacities are improved and focal persons are trained, localization will be initiated (Para. 80 v11. Assist DENR-BMB to integrate key elements of the DCAP and MTCAP into their regional and local work plans and budgets). A local work plan will be developed to be led by the Regional office of DENR in coordination with the BFAR, DOT and DILG, this work plan will guide the provincial offices of DENR and BFAR and the LGUs on implementing MTCAP and DCAP activity. The training and support to the localization of the MTCAP and DCAP are described under Output 1.1.3. The project supports three levels- from national, regional and local ( provincial up to the municipal level).

6b:

? On the review Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUPs) of all project sites,

- The CLUP is a planning document prepared by LGUs to rationalize the allocation and proper use of land resources. It projects public and private land uses in accordance with the future spatial organization of economic and social activities. CLUP review follows a different and longer planning track (i.e., 10 years) which the project may not be able to deliver within the project timeline (i.e., 5 years).
- The project, however, will be able to help establish MPAs/MPANs and develop zoning plans by facilitating consultative meetings and capacity development activities for local policy-makers. These zoning plans will directly support CLUP implementation.
- Land use planning and zoning of the municipal waters and foreshore areas (part of the CLUP process) are overarching processes under which the project interventions were developed. These were identified as the most effective tools to minimize, if not eliminate, the threats to ETP-MW (coastal and beach development and unsustainable tourism).
- Project activities under Output 1.1.2: ProDoc Paragraph. 80 v. Develop guidelines on the use of fishing gear (i.e., management of ALDFG) and type of fishing practices that are allowed in the different categories of use zoning in MPAs with ETP MW (e.g., tourism/recreational use zone, multiple use zone); development of General Management Plans for the expansion and management of MPAs in the municipal waters of Pujada Bay and Mayo Bay (Output 2.1.1); A new MPA is established in the municipal waters of Malita and Don Marcelino in Davao (Output 2.1.2:) are activities falling under CLUP implementation, and project outputs will inform next reiteration of the CLUP.

? On developing standardized and coherent criteria and methodologies for designing MCAs with an ETP MW perspective,

- During PPG consultations, project stakeholders informed the team that the term ?MCA? for marine conservation area is no longer applied. In the PIF, MCAs refer to the following: marine protected areas (or MPAs with local or national legislation) and marine key biodiversity areas (designated and not necessarily protected). In the ProDoc, the terminologies for MPAs and MKBAs are now distinct, including activities referring to criteria and methodologies for their establishment (i.e. for MKBAs, see Output 1.1.2 (ix), Output 2.1.2 (i)a,d, and paragraph 100 (i)a,d).
- The Project will also look into lessons learned and propose revisions/amendments, if any, to the Joint Administrative Order on establishment of MPANs.

? On establishment of MCA & MPAN database as a publicly accessible and functional national online platform [?], please note that these activities have not been removed as noted below, rather they have evolved to address the need for improvement and integration of existing databases rather than creating a new one.

- Activities related to MPA/MPAN Database are shown in the ProDoc, paragraphs # 83 (iii), (Output 1.1.2), #117 (ii) and identified as one of the sub-indicators for Outcome 1.1, Indicator 6.

- Additionally, it was found that there are sufficient existing databases and knowledge management platforms to build on.

? On providing technical assistance to DENR and relevant LGUs to ensure that the latest data/information available on local and national MPAs and LCAs in the project sites will be reported to the WDPA [?],

- Please note that the text on this area of work was inadvertently deleted but has now been added back again. Currently, MPA/MPAN Databases are stated as project deliverables (see relevant paragraphs mentioned above). WDPA and WDKBA have been added in these paragraphs (3.1.2):

- # 83 (iii): a GIS specialist to support the updating of the ECA registry, the incorporation of MPAs into nautical navigation maps and systems and the inclusion of ETP MW data into the national and international MPA database (e.g., Philippine MPA Database : World Database on Protected Areas);

- #117 (ii): Format project data for uploading into relevant global/regional, national, provincial and local databases and knowledge platforms (e.g. WDPA, WDKBA, national database of the CMEMP, national MPA database, national ECA database, marine mammals stranding database, data platform for the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority database, BIOFin Knowledge Platform, BFAR Online Information System, DENR Knowledge and Information Systems Service, Philippine Clearing House Mechanism, Coral Triangle Atlas).

? On carrying-out Participatory Coastal Resource Assessments (PCRA) [?],

- The PCRA process in the Philippines is central to national and local governance, supported by law (e.g., local government code; the fisheries code as amended) and practice (e.g., creation of people's organizations), thus it is not highlighted as a project's contribution. The whole project's success hinged on local participation (See ProDoc, Annex 8 Stakeholder Engagement Plan; the section on stakeholder engagement and south-south cooperation (i.e., participatory M&E) paragraph# 144 onwards).

- On ?vulnerability assessments covering all threats[...]? , see activities in relevant paragraphs: #87(ii)d, #93(i)c, #100(i)c. please note that this has also been costed in Budget Notes.

6c - The Environment and Natural Resources Academy (ENRA) and Protected Area Academy (as described in ProDoc Annex 21 B CEPA/KM Assessment Report) are opportunities for scaling up, replicating and institutionalizing project-developed training. However, as of the writing of the ProDoc, these are still in the pipeline. Thus, these opportunities will be revisited during project inception.

? Training modules developed under the project are planned to help address capacity building gaps in the Dugong Conservation Action Plan (DCAP) and the Marine Turtle Conservation Action Plan (MTCAP), these action plans are platforms for institutionalizing the project-developed training. These capacity building activities will be undertaken by the BMB in the coming years for the national roll out of the Action Plans. Furthermore, training modules will be further institutionalized because they are tailor-fit to support the implementation of new policies that will be piloted at the sites but scaled up for national implementation (e.g., the JMC on Wildlife Interaction Guidelines and BMB Technical Bulletin of Nesting Sites).

? While the strategic intent of the project is to internalize all training activities, wherever practicable, the PPG team was unable to identify suitable professional internal training courses on the sustainable financing of MPAs. Hence the formulation of the activity as *?Identify prospective training providers and facilitate access to ??*. We confirm that, if suitable internal training courses on MPA financing are identified during the project implementation phase, the project will prioritize the use of these institutionally delivered courses.

? During the PPG stage, the most pressing issue identified was availability of personnel on ETP-MW. There is absence of ETP-MW focal offices within key agencies responsible for ETP-MW conservation. There is a dedicated person at the BMB also



responsible for multiple tasks. The situation is more challenging at the local level. The project will offer certified courses on ETP-MW that can be used by government personnel for specialization. This can be upscaled at a later stage and used as a reference for developing competency standards for relevant government agencies, particularly the DENR-BMB and DA-BFAR.

6d ? Reference to resource constraints has been removed.

The CEPA campaign (as described in Outcome 3.1) is focused on *target* stakeholders (not the general community) in order to achieve more impactful results in terms of more sustainable practices and behavior that will reduce the identified threats to ETP MW and their habitats. Instead of a post-campaign study, it was determined that a regular evaluation of the effectiveness (both in terms of approach and cost) of the CEPA campaign would be more strategic so that the project implementation team can make adjustments along the way.

7 ? Kindly note that the purpose of the assessment was to identify, discuss and prioritize areas of weaknesses or gaps, not to list all the activities that the project should address. Recommendations from the comprehensive assessment are meant to contextualize the understanding of bigger issues. Having said that, and to respond to this comment, the project will work on:

? Addressing all specific recommendations except the following: BMB dedicated unit of ETP,-MW, Departmental convergence (Secretary level) on ETP-MW; direct support to the BMB-BFAR Convergence Plan; and issues on foreshore leases. These actions are important but not a priority at this time as informed by the DENR-BMB.

? To be more specific: Recommendations 91 a-b ( map of LCA, MPAs including of feeding grounds and nesting beaches); Para 90a,90b,90c on support policy areas and actions to support the roll out of the DOT DA DILG DENR JMC No. 1 2020 Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of Marine Wildlife Interactions in the Philippines; Para 89a-89i DENR-BMB issuing technical bulletins as part of enabling policy support for ETP-MW conservation in MPANs ; Para 88a-88d on how to maximize the powers of the local autonomy of the LGUs and their devolved legislation powers under the Fisheries Code to support ETP-MW in MPANs; Para. 86 to include the key habitats of ETP MW, including updating of information, maps of critical habitats, KBAs, NIPAs, and ECA sites in the EMB maps The project will facilitate submission of LGUs to the BMB of an updated list and maps to the EMB and Para. 87 on updating, mapping, and integration of information of new and expanded MKBAs and the ETPMW MPAs in the National MPA/MPAN and ECA database.

**4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/12/21 - Cleared.

Agency Response

**5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/10/2022- Cleared.

JS 11/12/21 - The section is adequate overall but specific components of the GEF increment will have to be revisited once comments on the alternative scenario and core indicators have been addressed.

## Agency Response

UNDP 02/24/2022

Please note that table 2 under 'Incremental cost-reasoning and contributions from the baseline' in Part III (Strategy) of the UNDP ProDoc [and](#) Point 5) 'Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and co-financing' under Part II (Project Justification) of the CER have now been updated to include the revisions made in response to the GEFSEC comments.

### **6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 4/8/2022 - Cleared.

JS 3/10/2022- Please update this section and align with the rest of the documents. The global environmental benefits have not been updated:

Delivery of global environmental benefits will be achieved through (i) the establishment of at least 122,218 ha of new marine areas; (ii) an improvement in the management effectiveness of at least 143,191 ha of marine protected areas; (iii) the design management and enforcement of 2,187 ha of strictly protected no-take sanctuaries which will conserve at least 301 ha of ha

JS 11/12/21 - The section is adequate overall but specifics will have to be revisited once comments on the alternative scenario and core indicators have been addressed.

## Agency Response

Agency Response

UNDP 04/01/2022

Thanks for pointing this out. These figures have been revised in the CER to align with the rest of the document package.

UNDP 02/24/2022

The 'Contributions to Global Environmental Benefits' in Part III (Strategy) of the UNDP ProDoc [and](#) Point 6) 'Global Environmental Benefits (GEFTF)' under Part II (Project

Justification) of the GEF CER have now been updated to include the revisions made in response to the GEFSEC comments.

**7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/10/2022 - Cleared.

JS 11/12/21 - Please clarify to what part of the project the following corresponds in both paragraphs related to innovation and scaling-up: " (viii) integrating climate adaptation and mitigation measures into the management plans of MPAs and the development of provincial networks for MPAs with ETP MW." We failed to locate in the ProDoc section IV any output or activity that would correspond to it.

Agency Response

UNDP 02/24/2022

Thanks for pointing this out, to avoid confusion and manage expectations, this point has been removed from the corresponding sections of the CER and UNDP ProDoc. To clarify further, please note that while Output 1.1.2 has the activity *Conduct a vulnerability assessment on the impacts of different climate change scenarios on marine turtle and dugong populations in MPAs in Region XI, with practical recommendations on mitigation measures*, this does not necessarily translate into climate proofing MPAs and MPANs.

**Project Map and Coordinates**

**Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/12/21 - Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

**Child Project**

**If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

NA

## Agency Response

### Stakeholders

**Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?**

**Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 4/8/2022 - Cleared.

JS 3/10/2022 -

1,3,4 - Cleared.

**2. Please remove the remaining reference to the Aquatic Wildlife Fund in the stakeholder table:**

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Department of Agriculture (DA) – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) | BFAR shares a common mandate with BMB to manage coastal, marine and inland freshwater environments. BFAR is responsible for the development, conservation, management, protection and utilization of fisheries and aquatic resources. BFAR assists LGUs in developing their technical capability in the development, management, regulation conservation and protection of fishery resources, including the establishment of fish sanctuaries at the site level, training and accreditation of fish wardens, and implementation of fisheries management measures such as fishers' registration (FishR), commercial fishing vessel and gear registration (BoatR), fish processing technologies, among others. | The project will strengthen institutional and individual capacities for effective implementation of their mandates, through TOT and workshops from ETP MW/MKBA/MPAN/ specialists to be hired by the project. The project will partner with BFAR in developing ETP MW field guide for use in training of BFAR staff and field personnel/ AWEOS. Project will also provide technical assistance to BFAR in the policy review of the <b>Aquatic Wildlife Fund</b> along with other potential funding sources to support ETP MW and/or MPAN conservation and management, with focus on enforcement. | BFAR will be a co-implementing partner at the national level, as member to the Inter-agency Task Team, providing oversight to project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. BFAR will provide policy and technical support, and co-financing under its ongoing programs and projects that are aligned with project objectives to include: Aquatic Wildlife Management, Fisheries Management, Coastal Resource Management, and Fisheries Management Areas. |
|---|--|---|--|

5 Thank you for the clarification but the portal entry has not been updated in full. Please correct:

|                                  |  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Provincial, Municipal, City LGUs | The LGUs of Mati and Tarragona in the province of Davao Oriental, and the LGUs of <b>Malita, Don Marcelino, Sarangani and Jose Abad Santos</b> in the province of Davao Occidental have political jurisdictions on MPAs/MPANs established in project sites. Under the Local Government Code, the coastal municipalities and cities are mandated to manage their municipal/city waters with the provincial LGUs providing policy and others forms of support to LGUs. | The project will work with LGUs in the designation of new LCAs/MPAs, establishment of a new marine sanctuary in Mayo Bay and strengthening of existing marine sanctuaries in the five LGUs. | The LGUs of Mati and Malita, and <b>probably also</b> of Tarragona and Don Marcelino, will help to design project activities relevant to the establishment, expansion and management of MPAs, deciding on the location of the MCAs in the project sites, and in the promulgation of regulations to reduce or eliminate destructive and illegal fishing within their respective municipal waters. |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|

6- We note the additions related to NGOs to table 7 in the ProDoc. However, these additions are not reflected in the portal entry. Please correct.

We also failed to find any update related to NGO in tables 4 and 5 of the revised SEP that was uploaded as annex 8. The annex does reflect other changes related e.g. to the addition of Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani LGUs, but not to NGOs. Please correct.

JS 11/12/21 - We note the stakeholder engagement plan provided as Annex 9, which notably provides a synthesis of the consultations carried out during PPG.

1- The SEP mentions LCA creation in Santa Maria. Please correct:

25. For Component 2, capacity building activities include targeted support to the management planning, governance, enforcement and sustainable financing of new local conservation area (LCA) and marine sanctuary in Mayo Bay and the existing marine component of the Pujada Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape (PBPLS) in Pujada Bay (Output 2.1.1); and targeted support to building the management planning, governance, enforcement and sustainable financing capacities of a new Local Conservation Area (LCA) covering the municipal waters of Santa Maria, Malita and Don Marcelino (Output 2.1.2).

26. For Component 3, relevant stakeholders will be capacitated on marine conservation Communication Education and Public Awareness for the regional network of FTP MW MCAs (Output

2- Please clarify to what part of the project the "policy review of the Aquatic Wildlife Fund" mentioned in the portal entry corresponds, and make sure the Aquatic Wildlife Fund is described in the baseline and its review is part of the described project activities.

3- This section mentions co-financing by BFAR when none is reported in table C. Please correct.

4- Please confirm that GEF funds will not be used to finance FAD purchase or installation.

5- Please clarify why the participation of Tarragona and Don Marcelino is referred to as probable and not certain:

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| nc<br>an<br>ci<br>P<br>ca<br>s a<br>pa<br>lin | The project will work with LGUs in the designation of new LCAs/MPAs, establishment of a new marine sanctuary in Mayo Bay and strengthening of existing marine sanctuaries in the five LGUs. | The LGUs of Mati and Malita, and <u>probably</u> also of Tarragona and Don Marcelino, will help to design project activities relevant to the establishment, expansion and management of MPAs, deciding on the location of the MCAs in the project sites, and in the promulgation of regulations to reduce or eliminate destructive and illegal fishing within their respective municipal waters. |
|---|---|--|

6- Please provide a mapping and analysis of relevant NGO stakeholders, which are absent from the SEP's Table 4 and 5 (*Stakeholder Analysis, Stakeholder Engagement during Project Implementation*) when the project plans to contract marine local NGOs.

## Agency Response

Agency Response  
UNDP 04/01/2022

2. References to the Aquatic Wildlife Fund have been removed from the CER (pg. 27), ProDoc (pg.56) and SEP (Annex 8).

5. This has been adjusted in the CER, ProDoc and in the GEF portal entry.

6. NGOs are duly mentioned in the CER, ProDoc and in the GEF portal entry. Also, please Refer to revised Tables 4 and 5 of SEP. Details on NGOs as Responsible Partners have been provided in the said tables.

UNDP 02/24/2024

1-The mention of Santa Maria has been removed from paragraph 25 of the SEP. Also, reference is now made to the municipalities of Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani.

2 - The mention of the Aquatic Wildlife Fund has been removed as there was no further mention / agreement on the type of assistance the project will extend to the Fund. Below is the revised statement.

*The project will strengthen institutional and individual capacities for effective implementation of their mandates, through TOT and workshops from ETP MW/MKBA/MPAN/ specialists to be hired by the project. The project will partner with BFAR in developing ETPMW field guide for use in training of BFAR staff and field personnel/ AWEOS.*

3- On the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), a letter of commitment on Project support has been provided by DA-BFAR (Refer to Annex 14B). While no specific amount of co-financing resources has been indicated in the letter, DA-BFAR specified that the funds that will be needed by DA-BFAR personnel to implement the Project will be charged under their Aquatic Wildlife Management Fund. They will be a co-implementing partner at the national and local levels as member to the Inter-agency Task Team, providing oversight to project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. BFAR will provide policy and technical support under its ongoing programs and projects that are aligned with project objectives.

4 - No funding will support FAD. As mentioned in the Process Framework to be developed, livelihood activities will only follow BDFE and LDP frameworks, which excludes FAD.

5 ? Please note this was an editorial mistake. The statement has been revised to

*The LGUs of Mati and Malita, Tarragona and Don Marcelino, will help to design project activities relevant to the establishment, expansion and management of MPAs,*

*deciding on the location of the MCAs in the project sites, and in the promulgation of regulations to reduce or eliminate destructive and illegal fishing within their respective municipal waters.*

6 - Tables 4 and 5 of the SEP have been updated to include mapping and analysis of relevant NGO stakeholders. Also, Table 6: Summary of stakeholder engagement in the ProDoc was also updated to reflect changes based on above comments.

## **Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/10/2022 - Cleared.

JS 11/12/21 - We note the detailed Gender analysis and comprehensive Gender action plan provided in annex 11.

1- The Gender Analysis and Action Plan is annex 11, not 9 as stated in the portal entry. Please correct the typo.

2- Please confirm that all the Gender Actions will be carried out and all the Gender Targets of Annex 11 will be measured.

## **Agency Response**

UNDP 02/24/2022

1- The portal entry has been adjusted to include the correct annex number.

2 - We confirm that all gender actions and targets will be carried out and measured by a Gender Specialist. This has been budgeted for with adequate level of effort (LOE) to perform his/her role.

## **Private Sector Engagement**

**If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/10/2022 - Cleared.

JS 11/12/21 - Please clarify in the portal entry to what extent the listed partnership have been secured and why corresponding co-financing is not reported under table C.

#### Agency Response

UNDP 02/24/2022

Please refer to responses above - item 4.1 under Co-financing section

#### Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

#### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 5/2/2022- Cleared.

JS 4/8/2022

2- Thank you for the modification in annex 6. However, the portal entry has not been updated accordingly:

While coastal tourism remains a significant opportunity to generate income to offset the costs of managing MPAs in the project sites, the project will assist LGUs to explore and develop a more diverse range of income-generating opportunities in Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3, and 2.2.1 in order to reduce their dependence on nature-based and coastal tourism – which has been severely impacted by the pandemic – and to diversify income streams.

Please correct, aligning with annex 6.

JS 3/4/2021

1- Cleared.

2- Thank you, but it is not clear how the project interventions would reduce dependence on nature-based and coastal tourism, e.g. anticipated livelihood interventions include activities to nature-related tourism. Please consider removing reference to dependence on nature-based and coastal tourism.

JS 11/12/21 - We note the annexed COVID-19 analysis and action framework, and climate risk screening.



1- The first row of the risk registry mentions project support to LGU to finalize Coastal Resource Management (CRM) Plans under output 1.1.2 when we fail to see any mention of CRM plans under this or any other output in the ProDoc. Please correct.

2- As a response to COVID, the risk registry states that "the project will assist LGUs to explore and develop a more diverse range of income-generating opportunities in Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.2.1 in order to reduce their dependence on nature-based and coastal tourism". However, we fail to locate the corresponding project intervention in the ProDoc. Please explain or correct.

#### Agency Response

Agency Response

UNDP 04/27/2022

Kindly note that we had ensured all portal entries reflected the changes to the Project Document and CER package resulting from the previous round of comments. We have now double checked, and the portal entry aligns with Annex 6.

### 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that may be achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <div><div><div><div></div></div><div><b>B</b></div><div><u>U</u></div><div></div><div>Roboto</div><div><b>A</b></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div></div> |  |  |   |
|  |  |  | While coastal tourism remains a significant opportunity to generate income to offset the costs of managing MPAs in the project, the project will assist LGUs to explore and develop a more diverse range of income-generating opportunities through Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 to reduce vulnerabilities by diversifying income streams and strengthen support mechanisms concerning nature-based solutions and coastal tourism which have been affected by COVID-19. |

Agency Response

UNDP 04/01/2022

Please refer to revised statement under Risk 4 of the UNDP Risk Register (Annex 6), related to the need to diversify income streams and strengthen support mechanisms concerning nature-based solutions and coastal tourism which have been affected by COVID-19.

UNDP 02/24/2022

1 ? This has been corrected as requested. All references to project support to finalize LGU CRM plans have been removed from the risk registry.

2 - Please refer to the responses to comment 1 under Project Description section above on the integration of financial sustainability and livelihood development in the project design.

#### **Coordination**

**Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 5/12/2022

Cleared, thank you.

We note the letter request provided by the OFP for execution services from the IA. Given that these execution services are limited to direct payments requested by the national EA, the reasonable associated costs (\$38,749.35), and the measures put in place to ensure independent oversight, the PM recommends an exception be granted for the IA to provide these execution services.

JS 5/2/2022

Thank you for the LOA. However, Annex 14A contains only the co-financing letters. It does not contain the letter from the OFP requesting execution services, which is embedded as as Annex 2A of the ProDoc. Please upload Annex 2A as a separate file:



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100  
Tel. Nos. (632) 8929-66-26 to 29 • (632) 8929-62-52  
8929-66-20 • 8929-66-33 to 35 • 8929-70-41 to 43

**MR. CLAUDE GASCON**  
Manager of Programs  
GEF Secretariat-Programs Unit  
Global Environment Facility  
Washington D.C., USA

OCT 01 2021

**SUBJECT: GEF CHECKLIST REQUIREMENT FOR THE PROJECT  
“PROTECTING PRIORITY COASTAL AND MARINE  
ECOSYSTEMS TO CONSERVE GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT  
ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND PROTECTED MARINE  
WILDLIFE IN SOUTHERN MINDANAO, PHILIPPINES”**

Dear **Mr. Gascon**:

JS 4/8/2022-

1a We were not able to find separate files corresponding to the letter from the OFP requesting execution services and the signed LOA. Please clarify where they have been uploaded, or upload them as separate files in the portal with the next submission.

The rest is cleared, thank you.

JS 3/10/2022-

1-Execution role

1a- We note the letter from the OFP requesting execution services and the signed LOA are provided as links embedded in Annex 2A and 2C of the ProDoc. Please provide these documents as separate documents in the portal. Currently, only a draft OFP letter is provided as a separate document (annex 14.2) and it is not signed.

1b- We note paras 182 and following of the ProDoc. However, the portal entry still does not include any reference to UNDP's execution role. Please correct and confirm in the portal entry that it would be limited to direct payments, at the request of the government-led PMU, for goods and services procured by government through their own mechanisms and processes. Please also explain in detail there how UNDP would keep separate its project implementation and execution duties.

## 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.**

*Section VII Governance* of the UNDP PRODOC details the governance and implementation arrangements for the project. These may be summarized as follows:

UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is responsible for delivering GEF project cycle management services comprising project approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight, and project completion and evaluation. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance role of the Steering Committee.

The project will be implemented following UNDP's national implementation modality (NIM), according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA, 21 July 1977) between UNDP and the Government of the Philippines and the UNDP Country Programme Document for Philippines (CPD, 2019-2023).

The Implementing Partner for this project is the Department of Natural and Environment Resources: Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB). The

2- Thank you but what is expected is a list of the GEF projects with which the project will coordinate, steps that have been undertaken during PPG to coordinate with them and further plans to coordinate during implementations. Two of the 3 GEF projects that were listed in this section of the PIF are still under implementation and should be added here. Please also consider adding GEF ID 10738 - Strengthening and Sustaining the Coastal Resource and Fisheries Management in the Leyte Gulf - CI/Rare.

JS 11/12/21

1- A letter from the EA, provided as annex 14, mentions assistance of the IA on the provision of execution services (restricted to directed payments). However, this is not reflected in the institutional arrangements described in this section of the portal entry and there is no supporting letter signed by the OFP. Please clarify whether the IA intends to seek an exception to the separation of IA and EA functions. If so, please confirm in the portal entry that UNDP's execution role would be limited to direct payments, at the request of the government-led PMU, for goods and services procured by government through their own mechanisms and processes. Please also explain in detail how UNDP would keep separate its project implementation and execution duties, that is:

(a) A satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Agency; and

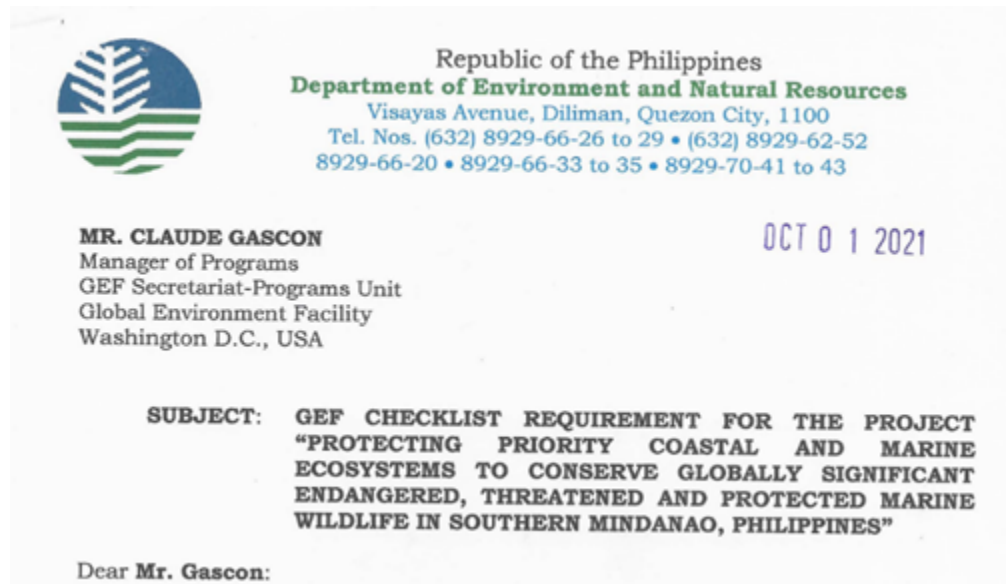
(b) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and accountability within the GEF Agency between the project implementation and execution functions.

2- Please elaborate on planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Agency Response

UNDP 05/09/2022

Apologies for this; the signed OFP letter requesting execution services is now uploaded in the portal.



Agency Response

UNDP 04/27/2022

The signed OFP letter was uploaded in the portal on 7 April 2022, as captured below.  
For the signed LOA, our apologies for the missing file, it is now uploaded in the portal.

| Document Title ▾             | Category ▾       | Prefix ▾                     | Classification ▾ | Date              |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Annex 14 A Signed OFP letter | Project Document | FSP CEO Endorsement document | Public           | 4/7/2022 5:27 AM  |
| Document Title ▾             | Category ▾       | Prefix ▾                     | Classification ▾ | Modified Date     |
| Signed LOA                   | Project Document | FSP CEO Endorsement document | Public           | 4/27/2022 3:27 AM |

Agency Response  
UNDP 04/01/2022

1a. The signed LOA and OFP letters are now uploaded as separate documents in the portal.

1b. Details on UNDP's execution role are now included in the portal entry. This entry fully aligns with the information provided in the GEF Checklist (Annex 22).

2. Please note that Table 3 (Summary of Key Partnerships in the Implementation of Project Outputs and Activities) of the ProDoc includes the ongoing GEF Projects indicated in the PIF. To note, the SMARTSEAS PH Project is not included in this Table anymore since the Project already ended in 2021. In different sections of the ProDoc, however, it is indicated the Project will take-off from the gains of the SMARTSEAS PH Project.

UNDP 02/24/2022

1- The request for UNDP to provide execution support services has been expressed in writing by the Implementing Partner and the OFP. Please refer to Annex 2B, there is indeed a letter from OFP on endorsement of Implementing Partner's request for CO support to the Implementing Partner through direct payments. Also, please refer to Annex 22 (GEF Audit Checklist) of UNDP ProDoc, for a description on how UNDP has in place a clear firewall between its distinct implementation and execution roles. Furthermore, regarding comments (a) and (b), please note that the Operations and Finance Teams, together with the Global Shared Services Unit (GSSU) will execute the direct payment transactions. The Finance Team will review the supporting documents that will trigger processing of direct payment requests. These functions are completely separate and distinct from project oversight/assurance functions which will be performed by the Senior Management, Climate Action Programme Team and the Results and Quality Team. For details (i.e., names of and functional titles of UNDP staff with distinct implementing and executing responsibilities) please refer to Annex 22 of the ProDoc.

2 - On "planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives",

At the national level, DENR-Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Services (FASPS) is mandated to provide coordination and supervision for all foreign-assisted projects. The PMU will work under the guidance of DENR-FASPS and the IA (DENR-BMB with DENR-Region 11) to ensure collaboration and synergy with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives. Text to this effect has been added under Section VII, paragraph 176 of the ProDoc.

#### **Consistency with National Priorities**

**Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/12/21 - Cleared.

Agency Response  
Knowledge Management

**Is the proposed ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
JS 11/12/21 - Cleared.

Agency Response  
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

**Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
JS 3/10/2022 - Cleared, thank you.

JS 11/12/21 - We note the project is rated as medium/moderate risk overall, and note the detailed SESP (annex 6), ESMF (annex 10) and plans to develop an Indigenous Peoples Plan and a "Process framework", i.e. a participatory framework focused on the potential impacts of access restrictions.

1- Please clarify why the following assessments were not carried out during PPG: "i) number, types and operational extent of fishing gears, boats, fishing practices, and ecotourism development interventions (Risk 2); ii) users or user groups that might be affected (Risk 5); and iii) Project?s impact on IP?s human rights, Cultural Heritage and / or traditional livelihoods (Risk 6)."

Agency Response  
UNDP 02/24/2022

1 - We would like to confirm that assessments related to fishing boats, fishing gears, fishing practices and ecotourism development interventions (Risk 2); users or user groups that might potentially be affected (Risk 5) and project?s impacts on IP?s human rights, cultural heritage and / or traditional livelihoods (Risk 6), were carried out during the PPG phase, although these assessments were confined to online consultations as a consequence of travel restrictions brought by COVID pandemic. As stated in the ESMF,



the assessments done during PPG indicate that the above instances will require further targeted studies to assess the significance of the impacts, and corresponding management measures will need to be further developed. See further details below.

i) For Risk 2, fishing boats, gears and practices were assessed through consultations with BFAR, the local government units (LGUs), peoples organizations, and indigenous peoples. As stated in the SESP for Risk 2, provisions of fishing boats and fishing gears are some of the livelihood enhancements traditionally provided by BFAR and LGUs to municipal fishers and/or fisherfolk organizations. Based on these consultations, it was also assessed that certain fishing gears (i.e., ?pukot? or nets, ?lambaklad? or ?Otoshi-ami? nets) and payaos were detrimental to both dugong and turtles. Specifically, with regard to assessment of impact of the project on indigenous peoples, the Indigenous Peoples (IP) Planning Framework describes the profile of different IP groups including their livelihoods and occupations. Fishing gears, boats and fishing practices were assessed for IP groups with available data from ADSDPPs, and from interviews with IP groups themselves. With regard to ecotourism development interventions, assessments were limited to online meetings with the Department of Tourism, both at the national and regional levels, and with LGUs.

ii) For Risk 5, potential users and user groups that might be affected were assessed in the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (section 3). At the local levels, these users, who include local fishermen's associations, fisherfolk groups, and other POs involved in the establishment, management and decision- making process of MPAs were assessed as to their fishing practices and extent of potential impacts of the project.

iii) Project's impacts on IP's human rights, cultural heritage and/or traditional livelihoods were assessed based on available plans (ADSDPPs) and interviews with IP groups during PPG phase. The assessment was limited with restrictions to travel onsite because of COVID-19 pandemic. To fully assess the project's impacts on IPs, further targeted assessment, including culturally appropriate consultations through Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process will be carried out early in project implementation prior to Project activities to secure Certificate of Precondition from NCIP.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/10/2022 - Cleared.

JS 11/12/21 - - Please address comments on the Results framework as necessary in the monitoring plan.

Agency Response

UNDP 02/24/2021

The Project Results Framework and the Monitoring Plan have been revised accordingly.

## Benefits

**Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/10/2022 - Cleared.

JS 11/12/21 - Yes but, as already commented on, what the project actually intends to do in terms of livelihood interventions is hardly described, so that most of many of the activities mentioned here (e.g. provisioning of seed capital, equipment, assist on access to micro-finance) are not in the project description. Please correct.

## Agency Response

UNDP 02/24/2022

Please refer to the responses to comment 1 under Project Description section above on the integration of financial sustainability and livelihood development in the project design.

In addition to the response provided above, please note that in terms of livelihood interventions, the project will enable direct employment and livelihood development opportunities to at least 140 individuals (of whom at least 55 are women) from marginalized coastal fisher communities, whose opportunities for upliftment and prosperity are otherwise limited. The types of livelihood activities will follow the Biodiversity Management Bureau's Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises (BDFEs) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Livelihood Development Program (LDP) frameworks, which are anchored on sustainable development principles. These include fisheries-related enterprises and/or eco-tourism products and services that support and promote marine species and habitat conservation and management. The choice for types of mitigation measures for affected persons, which include livelihood activities, will be developed under the Process Framework to be developed under output 2.2.2.

## Annexes

**Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 6/1/2022 - All cleared.

5/20/2022 -

A. Budget: Please charge office supplies to PMC instead of project components

| Expenditure Category | Detailed Description   | Component (USD\$) |             |             |           |     |     | Total (USD\$) | Responsible Entity<br>(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency[1]) |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----|-----|---------------|---|
|                      |  | Component 1       | Component 2 | Component 3 | Sub-Total | MBE | PMC |               |   |
| Expenditure Category | Detailed Description   | Component 1       | Component 2 | Component 3 | Sub-Total | MBE | PMC | Total (USD\$) |   |
| Office Supplies      | Pro rata costs of office supplies (paper, printer ink, etc.) for PFAO (Component 1) +USD 975 | 975               |             |             | 975       |     |     | 975           | DENR  |
| Office Supplies      | Pro rata costs of office supplies (paper, printer ink, etc.) for PFAO, USD 975               |                   | 975         |             | 975       |     |     | 975           | DENR  |

B. Budget: For contractual services- Individual, please separate each position in one line/row per position, showing a clear budget allocation of each position for all related project components.

We note the email from the EA stating that their co-financing is already earmarked and cannot cover further PMC items. We also note the adequate terms of reference provided for staff charged across components.

JS 5/2/2022

1c1: Thank you but Annex 14B only contains commitment letters related to participation to the project or to future co-financing. It does not contain any exchange with the EA/IP that would justify that all co-finance is already earmarked/unable to cover the project management costs (PMU staff or equipment) that are currently cross-charged to components.

As noted previously, some PMU staff (Technical coordinator, SESO, gender specialist, Project financial and administration Officer) carrying out general project management duties and some equipment linked to overall project management (e.g. landline and cell phone costs for PMU, laptops and other equipment for PMU, office supplies for PMU staff) are charged to components and not to PMC. Per Guidelines, the costs associated with the project's execution have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC. In exceptional cases, when GEF-funded PMC is already at the 5% limit and co-finance cannot cover these project management costs, project's staff and equipment could be charged to the project's components with clear Terms of Reference (for staff) or link (for service or equipment) describing unique outputs linked to the respective component. Adequate terms of reference have been provided for staff but, no clear link for the goods and services (( landline, cell phone, IT equipment and office supplies for PFAO for a total of \$7,950) and no justification has been provided that all co-finance is already earmarked/unable to cover these costs.

Please:

- provide the justification requested above, which as we understand, was included in an email exchange with the EA/IP.

- charge to PMC the landline/cell phone, and the office furniture costs for PFAO

- remove the duplicative \$2,000 line on IT equipment for PFOA when \$5,000 is already charged for the Technical coordinator and PFAO.

|    |                     |   |  |  |  |       |       |        |  |
|----|---------------------|---|--|--|--|-------|-------|--------|--|
| 11 | Furniture/Equipment | Pro rata costs of procuring laptops, software licenses, portable hard drive, router, printer, network and ISP service for PFAO. Total USD 2,000   |  |  |  | 2,000 | 2,000 |        |  |
| 12 | Furniture/Equipment | Landline and cell phone costs (cell phone contracts and phone calls) for Technical Coordinator. Total USD 10,701  |  |  |  |       |       | 10,701 |  |
| 13 | Furniture/Equipment | Pro rata costs of procuring laptops, software licenses, portable hard drive, router, printer, network and ISP service for Technical Coordinator, Project Assistant and Financial Manager. Total USD 5,000 |  |  |  |       |       | 5,000  |  |

2- Thank you for the LOA. However, Annex 14A contains only the co-financing letters. It does not contain the letter from the OFP requesting execution services, which is embedded as as Annex 2A of the ProDoc. Please upload Annex 2A as a separate file.

JS 4/8/2022

1c1: Thank you. Please upload in the portal the email exchange with the IP mentioned in the response. We failed to locate it with this submission.

2- We failed to locate the separate files corresponding to the OFP letter and LOA related to the provision of execution services. Please indicate where they have been uploaded or correct.

A- The budget in the portal entry (Annex E) is not readable. The font size is too small. Please correct.

The rest is cleared.

JS 3/10/2022

1a- Cleared for what pertains to budget.

1b - Cleared, purchase of boats is well justified. Plans to further engage with LGUs on ring-fencing resources for procurement of patrol boats are welcomed.

1c - We note that some PMU staff (Technical coordinator, SESO, gender specialist, Project financial and administration Officer) carrying out general project management duties and some equipment linked to overall project management (e.g. landline and cell phone costs for PMU, laptops and other equipment for PMU, office supplies for PMU staff) are charged to components and not to PMC. Per Guidelines, the costs associated with the project's execution have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC. In exceptional cases, the project's staff and equipment could be charged to the project's components with clear Terms of Reference describing unique outputs linked to the respective component. However, for this project, the co-financing portion allocated to PMC is \$742,066 out of 14.8 million of co-financing, including \$11 million (74%) of investment mobilized.

-1c1 As GEF-funded PMC is already at the 5% limit, please cover the PMU staff and equipment costs from co-financed PMC or thoroughly justify that all co-finance is

already earmarked/unable to cover these costs. If all co-finance is already earmarked/unable to cover these costs please provide adequate ToRs. Current ToRs (annex 7) confirm that the PFAO only performs general project management duties, links the SESO only to 3.1.3 when it is also charged under components 1 and 2, and do not link the gender officer to any component when it is charged across all components.

-1c2: Please remove the \$5,000 dedicated to office furniture.

-1c3: Please provide the budget under the GEF template format as a separate excel file with the next submission.

2- Please see comment on institutional arrangement / coordination above and corresponding ask to upload letters as separate files in the portal.

JS 11/12/21

#### 1- Budget

1a - The budget includes \$38,750 of UNDP execution services. Please see question above on institutional arrangements.

1b - We note the planned purchase of boats, which indeed seems necessary for MPA management. Please however clarify the number, total cost and justify the corresponding need for GEF funds instead of co-finance to cover these costs.

1c. We note that some PMU staff (the PFAO) is charged on components and not PMC when the ToR provided in annex 8 show no link with unique project outputs and rather general project management duties, there is no proportionality between GEF-funded and co-financed PMC (more co-funding should be allocated to PMC). Please revise, noting that project staff can be charged to components only when PMC is exhausted, and in that case, clear Terms of Reference describing unique outputs linked to the respective components are required.

2. We note the UNDP audit checklist includes UNDP execution services for this project through direct payment of procured goods and services procured by the EA and mentions a corresponding LOA. Please provide the LOA and a letter of support from the OFP. The only signed document attached is not signed by the OFP.

#### Agency Response

Agency Response  
UNDP 05/09/2022

1. The email exchange with the Implementing Partner on PMC co-financing (annexed to the re-submission, Annex 14D), already earmarks other costs and items to

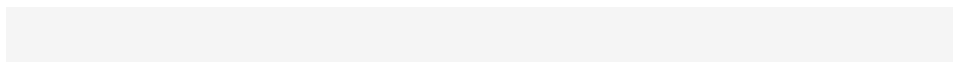
be covered thus, at this time it is not possible to include PM salaries or equipment under the IP PMC co-financing.

| Document Title ▾                             | Category ▾       | Prefix ▾                     | Classification ▾ | Issued Date   |
|--|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Annex 14D_Email from Biodiversity Mgmt Burea | Project Document | FSP CEO Endorsement document | Public           | 5/9/2022 5 AM |

As requested, clarifications and further justification are provided. For details, please see the revised budget and budget notes of UNDP Project Document. Specifically:

- o For Budget Note 5: Reference to PFAO has been removed. Pro rata landline and cell phone costs added to rectify wrong budget line originally used (from Budget Note 6). USD4,000 added to this budget line to facilitate more effective communication among national and local stakeholders. Thus, new total is USD 38,000 from USD 34,000
- o Budget Note 6: Pro rata landline and cell phone costs USD 4,000 were removed to tag it as Comms Cost. Thus, new total is USD 22,000 from USD 26,000
- o Budget Note 7: Reference to PFAO has been removed as this will not only be used by PFAO, but by BMB and BFAR to undertake capacity-building activities under Component 1
- o Budget Note 8: Reference to PFAO has been removed and total amount for this budget line has been consolidated for procurement of IT related equipment in support of the development, implementation and monitoring of ETP MW species conservation plans to be led by DENR-BMB and DA-BFAR staff
- o Budget Notes 15 and 16: Reference to PFAO has been removed
- o Budget Note 17: USD2,000 originally indicated for PFAO has been distributed to IT equipment under the Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2.
- o Budget Note 27: Pro rata costs of office supplies (paper, printer ink, etc.) amounting to USD 975 moved to budget line on supplies (Budget Note 28).
- o Budget Note 28: Procurement of laptops, software licenses, etc. replaced by printing costs.
- o Budget Note 29: New text added to clarify that the budget indicated is for CEPA related activities.

2. Apologies for this, the signed OFP letter is now uploaded in the portal.



Agency Response

UNDP 04/27/2022

1c1: The correspondence with the IP was uploaded on Apr. 7, per the screenshot below

|                                     |                  |                              |        |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Annex 14 B Other commitment letters | Project Document | FSP CEO Endorsement document | Public | 4/7/2022 5:58 AM |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--------|------------------|

2 : GEF OFP responses were uploaded on Apr. 7, per screenshot below. The signed LOA is now available in the portal

| Document Title               | Category         | Prefix                       | Classification |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Annex 14 A Signed OFP letter | Project Document | FSP CEO Endorsement document | Public         |

| Document Title | Category         | Prefix                       | Classification |
|----------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Signed LOA     | Project Document | FSP CEO Endorsement document | Public         |

3- As requested, the budget in the portal entry (Annex E) has been re-uploaded. However, the portal limits the font size. After several attempts we included a file that we consider to be readable using the Zoom-in function.

| Expenditure Category | Detailed Description   | Component (USDeq.) |             |             |           | M&E | PMC | Total (USDeq.) | Responsible Entity<br>(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)(1) |
|----------------------|--|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----|-----|----------------|---|
|                      |  | Component 1        | Component 2 | Component 3 | Sub-Total |     |     |                |   |
| Furniture/Equipment  | Procurement, maintenance and running costs of equipment (8 drones, 2 digital cameras, 8 GPS units, tags and tag applicators and 6 x 50/US4 equipment) to monitor dugong and marine turtle populations (Output 1.1.1) = USD 34,000  | 34,000             |             |             | 34,000    |     |     | 34,000         | DENR  |
| Furniture/Equipment  | Procurement of equipment (e.g., laptops, printer, scanner, etc.) and networking (fiber optic line installation and rental) for DENR-BMB and DA-BFAR staff supporting the development, implementation, and monitoring of ETP MW species conservation plans (Output 1.1.2)=USD 28,000. Pro rata costs of procuring laptops, software licenses, portable hard drive, router, printer, network and ISP service for PFAO=USD 2,000.   | 28,000             |             |             | 28,000    |     |     | 28,000         | DENR  |
| Furniture/Equipment  | Procurement of communications equipment (e.g., VHF radios, base station, and repeaters) for at least 40 barangay and fish Wardens deployed in Mayo Bay and Pujada Bay (Output 2.1.1), USD 30,000. Procurement of communications equipment (e.g., VHF radios, base station, and repeaters) for at least 40 barangay and fish Wardens deployed in the M-OM LCA (Output 2.1.2) USD 30,000. Pro rata landline and cell phone costs (cell phone contracts and phone calls) for PFAO, USD 4,000. Total USD 64,000. |                    | 64,000      |             | 64,000    |     |     | 64,000         | DENR  |

UNDP 04/27/2022

1c1. This is noted. Please note that Co-financing PMCs allotted by government agency partners will cover costs related with office space, utilities, vehicle use and staff time of



agencies who will be involved during Project implementation, this amounts to the co-financing portion allocated to PMC (see e-mail exchange with the IP attesting to this). In addition to the above, TORs of the Project Finance and Administrative Officer (PFAO), Social and Environmental Standard Officer (SESO) and Gender Officer in Annex 7 of the ProDoc have been revised to highlight their technical inputs to the Project Components.

1c2. Budget for office furniture (72200) in Component 1 has been re-aligned to budget for workshops (75700). Section VIII (Financial Planning and Management) has been revised to reflect this.

1c3. The budget in GEF template format has been uploaded to the GEF portal as a separate excel file.

2. signed letters have been uploaded as separate files as requested.

UNDP 12/03/2021

1a - Please see responses above on OFP letter requesting for CO support to the Implementing Partner (attached as Annexes 2A, B and C of the ProDoc)

1b - The project plans to procure 4-6 small patrol boats for three MPAs (maximum of 2 per MPA) with outboard engines, trailers, and safety equipment. The project will adopt the 'Lessons Learnt' (in procuring boats for community use) prepared by the RFLP (see <https://www.fao.org/3/ar466e/ar466e.pdf>) in the process of identifying 'fit for purpose' boats for the project. The cost is estimated at USD 15-20,000 per fully equipped patrol boat. LGUs will, with the support of DENR-BMB and DA-BFAR, provide funding to the Bantay Dagat volunteers (insurance, health coverage, hazard allowance, subsistence allowance, training, and access to loans) and their operational patrol costs (boat and engine storage, running costs and maintenance) under the framework of the proposed 'Bantay Dagat Welfare and Incentives Act'. The responsible institutions do not currently have the resources available to procure patrol boats for patrolling Bantay Dagat but will be able to budget for the future running costs, maintenance, and storage of these boats. However, with the roll-out of Mandanas Transition Plan by 2022, when LGUs will be receiving additional resources, the Implementing Partner and the Project Management Unit will engage with the LGUs on ring-fencing resources for procurement of patrol boats as part of improving its coastal resource management activities.

1c - The PMC is currently 5% of the total costs of the components and not 5% of the total value of the GEF grant. The TOR for the PFAO in Annex 7 of the PRODOC have been revised to reflect the roles and responsibilities of the PFAO at the component and output level.

2 - Refer to signed LOA (Annex 2C) of the ProDoc.

UNDP response 05/25/2022

A. Addressed. We have moved supplies budget from technical components to the PMC.

B. GEF TBWP has been updated to separate each contractual service position in one single line, showing the allocation in relevant components. Also, as requested, the budget line on supplies was added to PMC.

## Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 4/8/2022 - Cleared.

JS 3/10/2022

A- Indicator 8 is supposed to be related to outcome 2.2 but was included under outcome 2.1. Please correct.

The rest is cleared.

JS 11/12/21 -

1- The baseline for core indicator 2 in the RF should be 0 ha. Please correct.

2- According to annex 13 the baseline METT score for PBPLS is 68 in absolute terms but 54% in relative term, not 68%. Please correct.

3- Total annual MPA income from all sources (indicator 10) targets are in the \$5,000 to 8,000 range for the end of project, which is an adequate order of magnitude and clearly insufficient to sustain their management. The terminal evaluation of the SMART SEAS project estimated funding needs for MPAs in the Philippines at \$8 per ha and per year for MPAs bigger than 250ha, which would yield needs in the order of \$170,000 to \$820,000 for the MPAs targeted here.

Please correct.

4- Please clarify why the following indicators envisaged at PIF stage have not been retained :

*- At least 60% reduction of dugong mortalities and at least 55% of Marine turtle nests protected (in all project sites)*

*- Increased compliance with relevant national and local marine wildlife, fishery, and tourism regulations as measured through post- Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) campaign study*

Agency Response

Agency Response  
UNDP 04/01/2022

A- Changes in Outcome 2.2 resulted in the relocation of indicators 8 (currently under Outcome 2.2), 9 and 10 (currently under Outcome 2.1).

UNDP 12/03/2021

1- This has been adjusted in the Project Results Framework.

2- This has been corrected in the Project Results Framework.

2 ? During PPG it was not possible to source any reliable HR, CAPEX and OPEX expenditure data for the PBPLS. Thus, the projected income estimates for this indicator had been adjusted at the last minute to exclude the allocated government funding for the direct and indirect HR costs of MPA-supporting staff in the responsible public institutions and the *Bantay Dagat*, as well as the value of government investments in complementary initiatives which overlap the areas targeted for MPA establishment. The targets for the indicator were then premised only on the projected self-generated revenues for each MPA, but the indicator description was (erroneously) not adjusted accordingly.

However, on the assumption that the annual HR budgets for MPA-supporting staff and complementary government initiatives overlapping with the MPA footprint can be reliably extrapolated from the public accounts during the project implementation phase, we have now retained the indicator as formulated and revised the EOP target for this indicator to a conservative estimate of USD 167,000 for PBPLS (@USD 8/ha for an established MPA), USD 82,000 for MB LCA (@USD 4/ha for a small newly established, but intensively utilized, MPA) and USD 204,000 M-DM LCA (@USD 2/ha for a large, newly established MPA) to address this comment. The EOP income projections (on a cost/ha basis) for the project-supported were initially derived from the basic management cost requirements estimated for well-established MPAs (in this case, PBPLS) and for newly established MPAs (in this case MB LCA and M-DM CLA) provided by Binet *et. al.* in *Sustainable Financing of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean: a financial analysis* (2015). These requirements were then moderated against the conservative estimates of the projected income streams in each of these MPAs as a result of project support.

The EOP targets may however need to be reviewed at the MTR once more reliable financial data becomes available from the responsible public institutions.

4 - Baseline data on a) dugong population size, and b) number of marine turtle nests in the Philippines, particularly in the project sites does not exist. For dugong, anecdotal reports of large herds of about 50-100 individuals date back to 1600s to 1980s (Aquino *et al.* 2012) but evidence for these are not available and thus cannot be corroborated. There has been no systematic assessment done to determine dugong populations nor marine turtle nesting sites, particularly in project sites. Population declines were largely based on perception (e.g., intermittent sightings) and not on empirical data (i.e., regular surveys). Thus, the utility of this indicator is rather low. The threat status of dugongs in the Philippines was largely correlated with habitat quality and extent (i.e., for dugong,

an inference to a 30-50% decline of seagrass habitats made Philippine populations as Critically Endangered, see Aquino et al. 2012). This status and criteria have been accepted by the Philippine Red List Committee or PRLC (see Gonzales et al 2018) and thus is now deemed applicable to this project as well. For marine turtles, the indicator % of marine turtle nests is still applicable but then again, baseline numbers were established only in one site (i.e., Dahican Beach). Number of marine turtles' nests in other sites still needs to be established. Marine turtles have high site fidelity in terms of nesting. However, the number of nests, nesters, and nesting events vary per year for reasons that are still unknown and thus outside of project control and impact. Since turtle nests are essentially in foreshore areas, and within the management of the LGUs and DENR, the project is now expanding the indicator to be a % of nesting beach areas protected, which is more inclusive. Once this baseline is established, it is possible to use number of nests and % nests protected as sub-indicators. Additional sub-indicators have been identified (i.e. reproductive parameters: number and size of nesters; clutch size; hatching success; emergence success; among others) which are already established by DENR under its Pawikan Conservation Project in Turtle Islands (Trono 1991). Since dugong and marine turtles utilized the various habitats in their respective life cycles, the project is targeting % of intact habitats protected (to include reef areas and mangroves also).

#### **GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 11/12/21 - Cleared.

#### **Agency Response**

#### **Council comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/10/2022 - Cleared

JS 11/12/21 -

1- The response to Canada and STAP mention a project support to the FMA2 zoning and management plan. However, the only mention of FMA in the description of the outputs and activities is a project support to the pilot development "*of an alliance of scientific and research institutions for Region XI (Davao Region) that could provide technical and professional backstopping support to the provincial and local governments and the field offices of DENR-BMB, DA-BFAR and the FMA Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) in in the planning and managing MPAs and MPA networks, and conserving ETP MW.*" The project support thus seems very indirect and is not in line with the response provided. Please explain more precisely what support the project will provide to the FMA2 zoning and management plan and/or revise the description of activities in the ProDoc.

2. The responses to Canada and STAP on livelihoods are not satisfactory. As already commented on, the project livelihood interventions have disappeared from the log-frame and are hardly described in the ProDoc. Please correct. Please be notably more specific

on how the project will build on the baseline programs ( DENR-BMB Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise Framework, DA-BFAR Livelihood Development Programme, the lessons learnt from the viable community-based business ventures based on ecosystem services from MPAs the SMART SEAS project managed to develop) and explain the project's approach to ensure that alternative livelihood interventions do contribute to both BD benefits and enhanced livelihoods while limiting the risk for unintended effects.

## Agency Response

UNDP 02/24/2022

1 - Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) were established by DA-BFAR in January 2019 (under Fisheries Administrative Order or FAO 263 - 2019), with technical support from USAID FishRight project, to focus on an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. FMAs are spatial delineation of Philippine waters as a means of managing fisheries at an appropriate scale. FMA-2 is composed of three regions, Region 11 (Davao Region) designated as lead; Region 8 (Eastern Visayas), Region 13 (Caraga). The project area, spatially situated in Region 11, will form an integral part of the larger FMA-2 which will create its own management body to be led by BFAR and co-led by a representative of the LGU and composed of representatives from the key stakeholders within the FMA. The chair of the management bodies of MPAs and MPANs that will be created under this project will be part of the FMA Management Board to ensure coordination and cooperation. The FMA-2 management board will be responsible for developing the equivalent of a MSP for the FMA. The FMA zoning and management plan will, in turn, guide the local management actions of the LGUs, BFAR, DENR-BMB and other stakeholders within the FMA. These management actions may include inter alia: regulation of fishing effort; seasonal closures; species-specific regulations; gear-specific regulations; pollution control measures; establishment and networking of protected areas; and fish catch/ habitat monitoring. This project is designed to support some of these management actions under the umbrella FMA management plan. It is envisaged that, in the project implementation phase, the provincial, municipal and city LGUs and the PAMB that are responsible for the management of the targeted MPAs will - with project support - interface regularly with the FMA, through their representation on the management board of FMA 2 and will participate in the ongoing development of the FMA management plan (including the spatial use zoning within the FMA).

Refer to paragraph 33 of the ProDoc on clarifying the linkage of the FMAs with the Project.

2 - Livelihood interventions for affected communities now appear explicitly in the log-frame, ToC and ProDoc. Kindly refer to related responses to the development of Livelihood Development Plan and Process Framework to comment 1 under the Project Description Summary section. The responses to Canada and STAP have been revised accordingly in the corresponding section of the CER.

**STAP comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/10/2022 - Cleared

JS 11/12/21 - See comment box above.

Agency Response

UNDP 02/24/2022

[See responses above.](#)

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**Status of PPG utilization**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 3/10/2022 - Cleared.

JS 11/12/21 - Not, the portal entry is not readable. Please correct.

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

|  | GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$) |
|--|----------------------------|
|--|----------------------------|

Agency Response

[UNDP 02/24/2022](#)

[Expenditure data has been uploaded to the portal again.](#)

**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 11/12/21 - Cleared.

Agency Response

**Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

NA

Agency Response

**Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

## GEFSEC DECISION

## RECOMMENDATION

**Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 6/1/2022 - The project is recommended for endorsement.

JS 5/20/2022 - Not at this stage. Please address the remaining comments on Table B and Annexes/Budget above and resubmit.

JS 5/2/2022 - Not at this stage. Please address the few remaining comments above and resubmit.

JS 4/8/2022 - Not at this stage. Please address the few remaining comments above and resubmit.

JS 3/10/2022 - Not at this stage. Please address the comments above and resubmit.

JS 11/12/21 - Not at this stage. Please address the comments above and resubmit.

## Review Dates

|   | Secretariat Comment at<br>CEO Endorsement | Response to<br>Secretariat<br>comments |
|---|---|--|
| <b>First Review</b>                         | <b>11/12/2021</b>                         |  |
| <b>Additional Review<br/>(as necessary)</b> | <b>3/10/2022</b>                          |  |
| <b>Additional Review<br/>(as necessary)</b> | <b>4/8/2022</b>                           |  |
| <b>Additional Review<br/>(as necessary)</b> | <b>5/2/2022</b>                           |  |
| <b>Additional Review<br/>(as necessary)</b> | <b>5/12/2022</b>                          |  |

## CEO Recommendation



## **Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**