

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Community-based coastal & marine conservation**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4389 |
| GEF ID | 4810 |
| Title | Strengthening the Marine Protected Area System to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas |
| Country(ies) | Philippines, Philippines |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| The project addresses the objectives of the Biodiversity (BD) focal area, and will support Strategic Objective BD-1: Improving the sustainability of protected area systems. Within BD-1 the project focuses on both primary Outcomes, namely Outcome 1.1 on improving management effectiveness of existing and new PAs and Outcome 1.2 on increasing revenue for PA systems to meet total expenditures required for management. The project will contribute to Outcome 1.1 by bringing at least 441,268.2ha of important marine ecosystems under protection in new PAs, and by strengthening management of marine PA (MPA) networks in six important marine regions. It will contribute to Outcome 1.2 by increasing and diversifying the sources of financial support for MPA management. The overall level of funding available for MPA management will increase by at least 50% in target sites, generated from a diverse range of sources to improve sustainability. By the end of the project approximately 50% of financial resources supporting the targeted MPAs are expected to derive from sources other than national government fiscal transfers.  The project was identified as the first priority under the biodiversity component of the GEF National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (GEF NPFE), as documented in the Philippines NPFD submitted to the GEF in August 2011. The GEF NPFE was a highly participatory exercise which included extensive consultations with academia, civil society and conservation NGOs as well as across Government. The draft prioritization document was presented and discussed at a national workshop prior to submission, and also benefitted from inputs by GEF Secretariat representatives at that meeting.  The project is also fully consistent with the countryÔÇÖs priorities and policies on biodiversity conservation. It contributes to the 2011-2016 Philippines Development Plan by enhancing coastal and marine resource management under the national integrated coastal management (ICM) program. The policy-level actions being proposed will support Presidential Executive Order EO 533 (Adopting Integrated Coastal Management as a National Strategy to Ensure the Sustainable Development of the CountryÔÇÖs Coastal and Marine Environment and Resources and Establishing Supporting Mechanisms for Its Implementation).  The project also contributes to the PhilippinesÔÇÖ National Plan of Action for the Coral Triangle Initiative (under Executive Order 797), specifically in achieving the goals and targets on Marine Protected Areas, Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management. It will designate priority CTI seascapes for sustainable management and help to integrate coastal and marine use plans into the comprehensive land use plans of Local Government Units (LGUs). The project is also consistent with national laws such as the Fisheries Code of 1998 (Republic Act 855), the Local Government Code of the Philippines, the (Republic Act 7160) and the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act (Republic Act 9147) which will provide the framework for fisheries management, local governance and the conservation of wildlife resources, respectively. It also supports Republic Act 9729 (the Philippine Climate Change Act of 2009), by strengthening marine PA systemsÔÇÖ capacity to respond to climate variability and climate-induced risk.  The project is also part of the PhilippinesÔÇÖ efforts to support the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Programme of Work on Protected Areas. It will support targets 6, 10, 11 and 19 of the Aichi Targets , and Goal 1.1, 1.4, 2.2 and 3.1 of the PoWPA . |

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| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

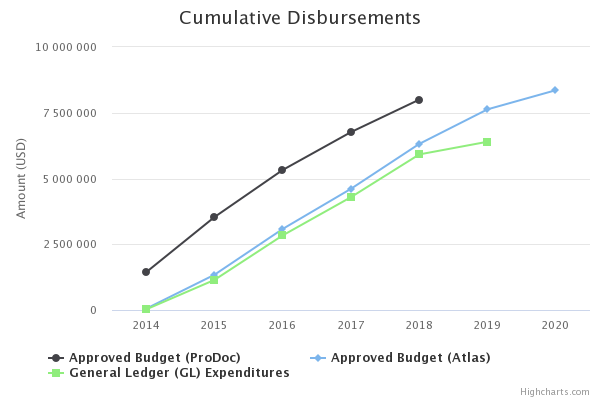
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **Strengthening the Conservation, Protection and Management of Key Marine Biodiversity Areas in the Philippines** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of Marine Key Biodiversity Areas in the Philippines included in the PA System (IUCN Categories I – VI) | 53/123 MKBAs | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 66 out of the 123 MKBAs in Philippines are included in the PA System (IUCN Categories I – VI) | On track. The locations of the additional 13 MKBAs have been included within the polygon of various MPA Networks, a form of a PA system recognized under the PA Master Plan of the Philippines. The legal instruments supporting the various MPA Networks are in varying stages with a view to be completed by 2nd quarter in 2019..  Currently, the Project needs to work double time to improve the contents and substance of the signed resolutions and depart from intentions to establish MPANs towards mechanisms to realize and institutionalize management of MPANs specifically in the VIP, Davao Gulf, Lanuza Bay and Southern Palawan. For TSPS, its current status as NIPAS is sufficient. This is a key challenge for the Project right now. The DENR-BMB has initiated important steps to carry this out and sustain the gains of the project through its flagship project entitled “Coastal and Marine Environment Management Program” and implement across the archipelago.    The project also continues to expand existing MPAs to improve coverage to include adjacent MKBAs under enhanced MPA management plans that cover the 13 target MKBAs in addition to being included inside polygons of MPANs.    Updated management plans of adjacent MPAs include the 6 MKBAs at the VIP, 1 in Southern Palawan, 2 each in Tañon Strait Protected Seascape, Davao Gulf and Lanuza Bay MKBAs.    These management plans are targeted to be legalized in 2018 through a local resolution or ordinance.    In addition to the local initiatives, the project is also undertaking the development of a policy instrument (Department Order) that will recognize non-NIPAS protected areas as part of an expanded PA System, to “include in the PA System” locally-established MPAs. | Achieved.  The inclusion of the additional 13 MKBAs in the PA System (IUCN Categories I-VI) took effect when the locations of each of these 13 mKBAs were included inside polygons of MPANs and MPAs and further strengthened when these MPANs and MPAs were recognized under the PA System as OECMs in the Expanded NIPAS law RA 11038 amending the NIPAS law RA 7586 in 2018. These 13 MKBAs are:    6 in Verde Island Passage (Lobo to San Juan, Tingloy, Balayan Bay, Western Calatagan, Lubang Island, and Puerto Galera covered under the Verde Island Marine Protected Area Network and Law Enforcement Network (VIP-MPAN and LEN) MOA signed by DENR Secretary, PNP-Maritime, Philippine Coast Guard, DA-BFAR, DOT, LCEs);    2 in Southern Palawan (Rasa Island, legislated as NIPAS under the Expanded NIPAS Law RA 11038 and that at Brooke's Point covered under Maasin Fish Sanctuary)    2 in Tañon Strait Protected Seascape (Moalboal and Bais Bay covered under the TSPS covered under the NIPAS Law RA 7586)    2 in Davao Gulf (Davao Gulf and Talicud Island covered under the Davao Gulf Marine Protected Area Network MOA signed by all members of the Davao Integrated Development Program comprising of 4 provincial governors, 6 city mayors and Regional Directors of DA, NEDA, DPWH and DILG )    1 in Lanuza Bay (Carrascal Bay covered in the Lanuza Bay Marine Protected Area Network MOA under the Lanuza Bay Development Alliance signed by all 7 mayors of the coastal municipalities of Lanuza Bay)  The management plans of individual MPAs adjacent to the location of an mKBAs were updated and/or approved to include those mKBAs. Updated management plans of adjacent MPAs include the 6 MKBAs at the VIP, 1 in Southern Palawan, 2 each in Tañon Strait Protected Seascape, Davao Gulf and Lanuza Bay MKBAs.  The additional 13 MKBAs have been enclosed within the polygon of various MPA Networks, a form of a PA system recognized under the PA Master Plan of the Philippines.  Currently, the Project needs to work double time to improve the contents and substance of the signed resolutions and to detail and define the mechanisms to institutionalize the management of MPANs specifically that in the VIP, Davao Gulf, Lanuza Bay and Southern Palawan. The current status of TSPS as NIPAS is sufficient.  The key challenge for the Project right now is the mainstreaming of the gains and momentum of the project in the regular programs of the DENR. The DENR-BMB has initiated important steps to carry this out through its flagship project entitled “Coastal and Marine Environment Management Program” and implement across the archipelago. Under a sustainability plan currently being crafted, the Regional Offices of DENR, the PENROs and the CENROs will take important roles in sustaining the gains. A set of convergence activities will also be implemented between BMB and BFAR in the management of MPANs and MPAs.  The legislation on expanded NIPAS areas has been enacted last year and the project worked hard to include a provision to include and recognize as part of the National Protected Area those locally managed MPAs and ICCAs. In addition, the project joined in the crafting of the IRR to the newly enacted law. The recognition of locally managed MPAs and ICCAs is reiterated, however, it was not feasible to include them into the PA system because of a totally different internal mechanisms and process (e.g. requiring LGU based MPAs to create PAMBs) Nevertheless, the recognized PAs outside of the PA System enjoy the same essential benefits and protection in law. |
| Mean density of large predatory fish (Serrabidae, Lutjanidae, Lehrinidae and Garangidae as a group) | Siganidae  Acanthuridae  Serranidae  \* REVISED INDICATOR PER IW\*\* | *(not set or not applicable)* | 5 per cent increase in fish biomass and fish abundance, in MKBAs, particularly in the 5 sites of the Project from baseline | On track. The levels of fish biomass of indicator groups of fish will be assessed in the 2nd quarter of 2019.    The project has identified potential local experts to perform the assessment and determination of fish biomass of indicator groups. Previously there was difficulty of finding locals who are skilled and experts in fish biomass assessment. The project offered training for those locals who are interested. The locals who joined the trainings came from local organizations, local academic institutions and personnel of DENR Regional offices. The project considers this important to produce more local expertise. These groups will conduct the assessment of fish biomass in 2019. | On track.    In 2016, the project has identified at least 3 commercially important species of fish for each pilot site. These species vary by site and belong to Siganidae (rabbitfishes), Acanthuridae (surgeonfishes), and Serranidae (groupers).    While in 2017, the project has completed the conduct a resource assessment in all five (5) project sites. Initial baseline levels of key indicators have been obtained and were validated.    For the 2018 reporting period, the project has identified potential local experts to perform the assessment and determination of fish biomass of indicator groups.    The project is currently in the process of engaging a Reef Fish Specialist. The technical consultant will conduct a biophysical assessment and monitoring to measure the 5% increase in fish biomass as measure of MPA management effectiveness. The assessment will focus in at least 30 MPAs.    In addition to this, the Project will engage the services of a Coral Reef Specialist to conduct monitoring in select MPAs across the 5 project sites to assess the status and condition of benthic community (e.g., corals, algae, soft corals, sponge, invertebrates, abiotic components). It is important to assess the status of the benthic community to be able to correlate improvement in the status of reef-associated fish diversity and abundance.    The hiring of consultants was delayed because there are only few qualified experts who have the minimum technical requirements needed in the conduct of resource assessment. This problem was compounded by the unavailability of the Reef Fish and Coral Reef Specialists to undertake the assessment in the middle part of 2019. |
| Level of water pollution levels in Verde Island Passage, Lanuza Bay, Davao Gulf, Southern Palawan and Tanon Strait Protected Seascape. | Baselines to be established in Year 169 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Reduction in pollution level against the baseline levels. Targets to be agreed in Year 1. | On track. Data gathering has yet to commence. The Terms of Reference for the sediment yield modeler and oceanography consultant were already prepared. The PMU have discussed this work with consultants to be hired and they will be responsible for the collection of necessary data to run soil and water assessment tool (SWAT) and calculate sediment yield, develop sediment yield model VIP (Batangas, Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Romblon and Marinduque), Lanuza Bay (Surigao), and Davao Gulf (Davao Region), and prepare and finalize sediment yield spatial maps and time-series plot (duration based on available climatological data) of sediment yields for every site of interest. An important component of this activity is to identify strategies to reduce sediment run off to prevent burial of coral reefs and seagrass beds. | On track.    Sedimentation is a major factor of coral mortality. A soil and water model for Verde Island Passage, Davao Gulf, and Lanuza Bay was conducted by the project to determine levels of sedimentation across project sites. The study aimed to collect baseline information on sedimentation level and develop a Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model.  The first part of the study provides the hydrologic characteristics of the surrounding watersheds with rivers and streams emptying into each study site while the second part discussed the result of the model. The 3rd part provided the recommendations for management.  The study showed that land-use, slope and precipitation are three major factors that favor sedimentation (erosion). Sedimentation rate was highest in Lanuza because of active mining industry and exacerbated by heavy precipitation during wet season, while low at the VIP and Davao Gulf because there is no drastic change in land-use despite heavy precipitation during wet season. Based from the study, the recommendations revolved around land use, mangrove rehabilitation and protection, and capacity building.  The project intends to revisit ICM plans of DENR as well as inform other relevant agencies such as DA, DPWH on important recommendations to reduce sedimentation with a view of crafting policy to address this problem.  Appeal to EMB, MGB of DENR and DOF to impose strict compliance of mitigating measures to the mining industry that are effective and functional in reducing threats to other industries in the coastal areas. |
| Dolphin sightings (Risso’s Dolphin (Grampus griseus), Spinner dolphin (Stenalla longirostris), Pantropical spotted dolphin (Stenella attenuata), Fraser’s dolphin (Lagenodelphis hosei), Common bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truneatus)) | Baselines to be established in Year 1    Lanuza Bay:  1. Green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas)  2. Hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata)  3. Whale shark ( Rhincodon typus)  Davao Gulf:  1. Green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas)  2. Hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata)  3. Dugong dugon  4. Spinner dolphin (Stenella longirostris)  5. Gray’s spinner dolphin (S.I. longirostris)  6. Short-finned pilot whales (Globicephala macrorhynchus)  TSPS  1. Dwarf Sperm whale (Kogia sima)  2. Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)  3. Short-finned pilot whales (Globicephala macrorhynchus)  VIP  1. Green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas)  2. Hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata)  3. Dwarf Sperm whale (Kogia sima)  4. Bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus)  5. Spinner dolphin (Stenella longirostris)  \* REVISED INDICATOR PER IW\*\* | *(not set or not applicable)* | No net decrease in dolphin sightings | On track.    The project has started to collect secondary data or proxy information for baselines of sightings of large marine vertebrates. In addition, the PMU has started discussions with the Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute (LAMAVE) and other local experts to develop monitoring and reporting protocol designed for the locals. The PMU will train a number of locals to continue monitoring and reporting beyond project life and will report to Regional DENR Offices. A concern on this activity is the readiness of DENR Regional staff to allocate effort to receive and organize data. PMU is in dialogue with DENR Regional Offices on the creation of this function under their offices. | On track.    From 2015 to 2018, the project has started to collect secondary data or proxy information for baselines of sightings of large marine vertebrates. In addition, the PMU has started discussions with the Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute (LAMAVE) and other local experts to develop monitoring and reporting protocol designed for the locals.    Based from what have been done from previous years, a training and actual survey of cetaceans, elasmobranch and sea turtles was conducted in May 2019    In order to increase capacity on the basic understanding and knowledge on large marine vertebrates, a training on the taxonomy, biology and basic data collection procedures was conducted. The participants were able to gain knowledge and understanding on the taxonomy and basic biology of marine mammals as well as data collection/sampling method on marine mammal survey. In addition, lectures on other large marine vertebrates such as sharks, rays and sea turtles were also included.    As part of the effort to update the status of marine biodiversity and their threats, a cetacean vessel survey was conducted to gather additional information on the diversity of cetaceans and continuing threats in the area. The vessel survey was a very good avenue for the selected participants to have hands-on training on the taxonomic identification of marine mammals, estimating group size and proper conduct of appropriate survey methods.    Cetacean sightings in Davao Gulf from 11 in 2016 to 19 in 2018. As for TSPS, only sightings have been recorded from the recent survey. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Increased Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and MPA Networks (MPANs)** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Coverage of IUCN Category V Protected Landscape PAs in the 5 target sites | 518,221 ha (Tanon Strait Protected Seascape) | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 959,489.2 hectares | On track. Of the target 959,489.2 ha to be covered under IUCN Category V, there is an estimated 1,147,238 hectares that is being protected by the local MPAN managers. The breakdown of the area covered are shown below:    Verde Island Passage: 1,000,000 hectares  Davao Gulf: 0 hectares  Lanuza Bay: 147,238 hectares  Southern Palawan: 0 hectares    The Project is working towards formally establishing MPA networks (MPANs) in each of its sites while strengthening the NIPAS PA Tañon Strait Protected Seascape.    With project support, formal commitments have been drafted and discussed for the establishment of MPANs in three of the project sites (Verde Island Passage, Davao Gulf and Lanuza Bay). Moreover, the project is still working on the formal commitment for the establishment of an MPA network to span Southeastern Palawan including detailed mechanisms for different responsible offices to push creation of the MPAN.    VIP – An estimated one (1) Million hectares of marine waters were covered in the VIP MPAN. Scaling up to the VIP network required the development of each provincial MPA networks. The formalization of each of the provincial MPA and law enforcement networks went through iterative consultations. Inputs from local stakeholders and constituents through these iterative consultations were critical to finalize the formation of the provincial and VIP-wide MPA networks, including the VIP Strategic Management Plan.    Lanuza Bay – All the 7 Mayors of the 7 coastal municipalities of Lanuza Bay have signed and adopted the five-year (2016-2020) Lanuza Bay Environmental Management Plan (LBEMP). This plan includes baywide directions and strategies identified during the Coastal and Fisheries Resource Management Planning Workshop of the seven municipalities conducted through the assistance of the project, the Office of the Executive Director of the Lanuza Bay Development Alliance and Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources. The plan provides a menu of strategies as a guide to the member-LGUs in managing their coastal and marine environment including the establishment of a MPA Network in the bay.    Southern Palawan - The project has also facilitated the expansion and consolidation of some fish sanctuaries in Southern Palawan. Specifically, at least 2 MPAs (e.g. San Antonio MPA in Bataraza, Narra MPAs, etc.) have been legally established, consolidated (creation of an MPA encompassing several old core zones) or expanded (buffer zone established around core zone) during the lifetime of the project while others are undergoing consultations (the consolidated Brooke’s Point MPA). Work on establishing a network in the area is also in progress.    The eagerness and interest of LGUs in pushing for their MPAN provides PMU the momentum to pursue aggressively the planned MPANs. However, negotiations on the substance and form of legal instruments in the creation of the MPAN are taking time. PMU will be devoting time and resources to follow through on this. | Achieved.  Legal instruments declaring and supporting the establishment and management of MPANs in three (3) project sites were already approved. These legal instruments are enumerated above. The estimated area covered by the following legal instruments are as follows:  Verde Island Passage Marine Protected Area Network and Law Enforcement Network (VIP MPAN and LEN): 1,000,000 hectares  Davao Gulf Marine Protected Area Network (DG MPAN): 5,000 hectares  Lanuza Bay Marine Protected Area Network (LB MPAN): 147,238 hectares  In support to this, the project is finalizing the approval of the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) between and among the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The JMC will provide consistent policy guidelines on the establishment and management of marine protected area networks (MPANs) inside and outside of NIPAS.  Southern Palawan: Initial discussion on the development of Southern Palawan Law Enforcement Network was also conducted. The establishment of a Law Enforcement Network was appealing to the LGUs of Southern Palawan because it presents an opportunity for LGUs to save on costs of management, share the burden of patrolling coastal waters, effect a uniform regulation, share good practices and provide an effective management and protection of marine protected areas in Southern Palawan.  Specifically, its aims to achieve the following:  1. Present some mechanisms in the establishment of fishery law enforcement network  2. Discuss options how to harmonize existing local policies as far as fisheries law enforcement network  3. Discuss steps to be undertaken in the creation of fisheries law enforcement network.  With the joint effort of the partner LGUs led by their Sangguniang Bayan Member along with the members of the project Technical Working Group (TWG), the team in Southern Palawan has developed a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that agree to render inter-LGU cooperation in promoting conservation, and restoration of the marine key biodiversity areas in Southern Palawan through the establishment of a Marine Protected Areas Law Enforcement Network.  Lastly, a consultation meeting with the tribal leaders living within the coastal community of Brooke’s Point, Palawan was conducted last September 4, 2018. The consultation meeting held at Maasin Shore in Brooke’s Point, Palawan. was an LGU initiative of the Office of the Municipal Agriculture’s Office (OMA) of Brooke’s Point together with Sangguniang Bayan (SB) Member/Indigenous People Mandatory Representative (IPMR) Hon. Victor Colili. One of the highlights of the meeting was the discussion on the use of “Tubli”, an organic form of rotenone (flavonoid) derived from a Derris tree and used as organic poison to catch fish by the IP community. The tribal leaders said that they will agree with the establishment of the MPAs so long as they will be allowed to use such method of fishing. However, the national laws prohibit the use of any form noxious substances, such as “Tubli”. At the end of the consultation, SB Colili proposed that he will send a letter to the Regional Director of the NCIP requesting for the issuance of the certification that the consent of the IPs had been obtained for the establishment of the MPAs in Brooke’s Point Palawan or recommend that another validation will be conducted to be led by Engr. Rafael Abaa composing new set of members of the NCIP validation team. |
| METT Scores in each of Lanuza Bay, Tanon Strait Protected Seascape, Southern Palawan, VIP and Davao Gulf target sites | Lanuza Bay– 44%  TSPS – 40%  Southern Palawan – 40%  VIP 29%  Davao Bay – 48%  \* REVISED INDICATOR PER IW\*\* | *(not set or not applicable)* | Lanuza Bay– 58%  TSPS – 50%  Southern Palawan – 50%  VIP 39%  Davao Bay - 58% | Achieved for 3 of 5 and on track with the other two sites. The 3 sites where EOP METT Scores have been achieved were TSPS, Southern Palawan and VIP. The two other sites whose METT Scores are on track are Lanuza Bay and Davao Gulf.    Lanuza Bay– 53% (from 44%) –  TSPS – 58% (from 40%)  Southern Palawan – 50% (from 40%)  VIP - 76% (from 29%)  Davao Bay - 25% (from 48%)    Two of the five project sites have undertaken METT scoring for this reporting period and these were VIP and TSPS. Both recorded positive increases in METT scores.    TSPS recorded a modest increase of 18% from its baseline METT Score while that of VIP had a 47% increment.    TSPS – Scores in all of the six components of METT (context, planning, inputs, processes, outputs, and outcomes) improved since 2017 baseline scores. The improvements can be attributed to a functional Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and improved coastal resource management through the conduct of series of capacity building workshops, trainings, social marketing, and behavior change campaign.      VIP: METT scores increased from 30 (29% in 2013) to 43 (42% in 2016) to 78 (76% in 2017). Huge increases in scores for 2017 were due to the development and finalization of the VIP Strategic Management Plan; activation of the VIP Interim Secretariat, and; M&E capacity of the Secretariat relative to their Strategic Management Plan.    A constraint on this activity is the conduct of METT scoring as it is important to utilize the same person and the same group. The PMU has initiated to convene key participants to undergo training on how to conduct METT Scoring to reduce bias and obtain reliable results. The training will include discussions on the importance of METT scoring to emphasize the usefulness of this exercise (i.e. determination of weaknesses and strengths in their organization). | Achieved.    All of the five (5) project sites have achieved and exceeded their target increases in METT scores (ranged from 8 to 44 % points) from the baseline data.  Lanuza Bay– 80% (from 44%; EOP target 58%)  TSPS – 58% (from 40%; EOP target 50%)  Southern Palawan – 58% (from 40%; EOP target 50%)  VIP - 83% (from 29%; EOP target 39%)  Davao Gulf - 71% (from 48%; EOP target 58%)  LB: The METT scores for the Lanuza Bay MPA Network (MPAN) has consistently hit the target scores for the mid-term and end-term assessment. The positive results and achievement of the METT scores targets was the updating of the LBDA covenant and the MPAN management plan through the project as well as the updating of the CFARM ordinance that were facilitated by the project. The reactivation of the Provincial Coastal Law Enforcement Coordinating Council (PCLECC) provided a big boost in terms of coastal law enforcement.  While it was identified at the start of the project that the project management office of the Lanuza Bay Development Alliance (LBDA) will be the focal contact point for the MPAN, the project also decided to include a crucial member. This was the Provincial Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Office (PFARO) of the provincial government of Surigao del Sur. Aside from being the focal point for fisheries management and existing relationships (e.g.Percentage Scores (%) support for livelihoods, deputation for fish wardens, etc.) the office was also actively engaging the project. They were also keen on providing more support to local governments actively engaged in coastal resource management. The improvement of all METT indicators is attributed to the Project efforts.    Similarly, the same can be said for the achievement of EOP targets for VIP, TSPS, Southern Palawan and Davao Gulf. |
| METT Scores in each of the selected 95 MPAs targeted by Management Plan development and implementation | Batangas Carerahan Fish Sanctuary and Reserve 38  Batangas Nalayag Point Fish Refuge and Sanctuary 68  Batangas Pulong Bato Fishery Refuge and Sanctuary 68  Batangas Sinisian Marine Protected Area 38  Batangas Sawang/Olo-Olo Fish Sanctuary 64  Batangas Malabrigo Fishery Refuge and Sanctuary 62  Batangas Biga Fishery Sanctuary 43  Batangas Punta Fuego Sanctuary 37  Batangas Hugom Marine Sanctuary 63  Oriental Mindoro Ranzo Fish Sanctuary 54  Romblon Yabawon Fish Sanctuary 60  Palawan Sto. Niño Fish Sanctuary 14  Palawan Gosong Fish Sanctuary 13  Palawan Sapah and Sarimburawan Fish Sanctuary 22  Palawan Maasin Fish Sanctuary 24  Negros Oriental Bolisong Marine Protected Area 32  Negros Oriental Bala-as Marine Protected Area 32  Negros Oriental Campuyo Marine Protected Area 33  Negros Occidental Sagahan Marine Protected Area 28  Cebu Ginatilan Marine Sanctuary 59  Cebu Colase Fish Sanctuary 54  Davao City Punta Dumalag Marine Protected Area 45  Davao City Agdao Centro Fish Sanctuary (Davao City) 33  Davao City Lasang-Bunawan Marine Protected Area (Davao City) 34  Davao City Vicente Hizon Sr. Marine Protected Area (Davao City) 61  Davao de Sur Bato Marine Protected Area 57  Davao del Norte Cogon Fish Sanctuary 60  Davao del Norte Dapia Marine Sanctuary 58  Davao del Norte Linosutan Coral Garden Marine Protected Area 60  Davao del Norte Dadatan and Mansud Coral Garden Marine Protected Area 60  Davao del Norte Camudmud Marine Protected Area 60  Davao del Norte Cagangohan Fish Santuary 35  Davao del Norte Liboganon Fish Sanctuary (Tagum City) 40  Compostela Valley Mabini Protected Landscape and Sescape (NIPAS) 50  Davao Oriental Lupon Fish Sanctuary 62  Surigao del Sur Adlay Marine Protected Area 59  Surigao del Sur Carrascal Marine Protected Area 59  Surigao del Sur General Island Marine Protected Area 55  Surigao del Sur Ayoke Marine Protected Area 54  Surigao del Sur San Pedro Marine Protected Area 12  Surigao del Sur Poblacion Fish Sanctuary 63  Surigao del Sur Tag-anongan Fish Sanctuary 63  Surigao del Sur Mabahin Fish Sanctuary 65  Surigao del Sur Tigao Fish Sanctuary 65  Surigao del Sur Balibadon Fish Sanctuary 65  Surigao del Sur Buenavista Marine Protected Area 47  Surigao del Sur Mabua Marine Protected Area 48  \* REVISED INDICATOR PER IW\*\* | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 25% increase in management effectiveness scores using METT of 95 MPAs | On track on most MPAs. A total of 119 MPAs have METT baseline data. Of the 119 MPAs, 85 sample MPAs were re-scored and showed 8.48% increase from the baseline scores as against the target 25%.    Below are the updated METT scores of all MPAs:    VIP    • Carenahan Fish Sanctuary – 38 to 72  • Nalayag Point Fish Refuge and Sanctuary, Pulong Bato Fishery Refuge and Sanctuary and Pagkilatan Fishery Reserve - 68 to 49  • San Pablo de Bauan MPA – 80 to 82  • Kayreyna MPA and Binubusan MPA – 76 to 88  • Sawang/Olo-Olo Fish Sanctuary, Malabrigo Fishery Refuge and Sanctuary, and Biga Fishery Sanctuary 71 to 96  • Fuego Point MPA, Taytayen/Etayo Marine Reserve, Cutad Marine Reserve, and Pinagdakutan /Santelmo Marine Sanctuary 42 to 69  • Batalang Bato Marine Sanctuary 61 to 58  • Hugom MPA 58 to 76  • Catmon MPA 69 to 75  • Ticalan MPA 69 to 76  • Abung MPA 69 to 76  • PutingBuhangin MPA 69 to 76  • Calubcub 1st MPA 69 to 76  • Laiya Ibabao MPA 69 to 75  • Laiya Aplaya MPA 69 to 76  • Imelda MPA 69 to 76  • Twin Rocks Marine Sanctuary, Cathedral Rock Marine Sanctuary, Arthur's Rock Marine Sanctuary, Barangay Ligaya Marine Protected Area/Batong Buhay Marine Sanctuary 88 to 91  • Calatagan MPA and Mangrove Areas 75  • Sinisian East/Mataas na Bayan MPA 40 to 43  • Bacawan Fish Sanctuary, Saint Peter the Rock Marine Protected Area, Saint John the Baptist Fish Sanctuary, Song of the Sea Fish Sanctuary, Kingfisher Marine Reserve and Stella Mariz FS 65  • Punta Ilag Fish Sanctuary and Tamauyan Fish Sanctuary 57  • Tujod Fish Sanctuary 59 to 67  • Masaguing Fish Sanctuary 59 to 75  • Puerto Galera Marine Protected Area 71 to 79  • Silonay Mangrove Conservation Area 30 to 84  • Mangansag-Ilijan-Allegria FS 44 to 56  • Tacasan FS 47 to 61  • Mangrove Reserve 34 to 60  • Poblacion Cove 34 to 61  • Masadya FS 25 to 41  • Mainit FS 52  • Tabon Bird 30  • Yabawon FS 52  • Apias Fish Sanctuary 75  • Paluan-Mahabang Buhangin Marine Protected Area 23  • Looc - Lubang No Take Zone and CFG 39  • Boac Community Marine Reserve 17 to 35  • Integrated Community Marine Protected Area 90 to 61  • Gasan Community Marine Reserve (Gasan) 36 to 62  • Mogpog Community Marine Reserve 1 to 50  • Marine Turtle Preservation Area 25 to 60  • Sta. Cruz Community Marine Reserve 41  • Torrijos Community Marine Reserve 68      Lanuza Bay    • Adlay MPA (Adlay, Carrascal) 59 to 52  • Ayoke MPA (Cantilan) 54 to 94  • Balibadon Fish Sanctuary (Cortes) 65  • Buenavista MPA (Tandag City) 47 to 47  • Burgos Bird and Fish Sanctuary (Cortes) 75 to 99  • Capandan Marine Sanctuary (Cortes) 75 to 79  • Carrascal MPA (Caglayag, Carrascal) 59 to 52  • General Island MPA (Cantilan) 55 to 87  • Lanuza Marine Park and Sanctuary (Lanuza) 77 to 86  • Mabahin Fish Sanctuary (Cortes) 65 to 50  • Mabua Marine Protected Area (Tandag City) 47 to 43  • Poblacion Fish Sanctuary (Cortes) 63 to 89  • San Pedro MPA (Cantilan) 12 to 69  • Tag-anongan Fish Sanctuary (Cortes) 63 to 71  • Tigao Fish Sanctuary (Cortes) 65 to 77  • Uba Fish Sanctuary (Cortes) 75 to 82      TSPS      • Sta. Felomena Marine Sanctuary 47  • Saavedra Fish Sanctuary 87 to 55  • Kantabogon Marine Sanctuary 63 to 66  • Ginatilan Marine Sanctuary 64 to 71  • Colase Fish Sanctuary 64 to 53  • Pasil Marine Sanctuary 69 to 70  • Zaragosa Island Fish Sanctuary 29 to 30  • Capinahan Marine Sanctuary 69 to 74  • Tandayag Marine Sanctuary 77 to 90  • San Jose Marine Protected Area 57 to 68  • Guiwanon Marine Sanctuary 53 to 30  • Maño (Biasong) Marine Sanctuary 57 to 61  • Calatrava Reef Complex (Tinangisan Island) 56 to 68  • Malusay Marine Sanctuary 74  • San Jose Marine Sanctuary 76  • Sagahan Marine Protected Area 63  • Marikaban Marine Sanctuary 54 to 46    Davao Gulf    • Cogon MPA (IGACOS) 60 to 61  • Camudmud MPA (IGACOS) 60 to 25  • Linosutan (IGACOS) 60 to 51  • Dapia and Dugong Sanctuary (IGACOS) 59 to 42  • Sanipaan Marine Park (IGACOS) 70 to 76  • Dadatan Coral Garden/Mansud Wall (IGACOS) 60 to 39  • Punta Dumalag (Davao City) 45 to 87  • Hizon Fish Sanctuary (Davao City) 61 to 70  • Agdao Centro Fish Sanctuary (Davao City) 33 to 38  • Lasang-Bunawan MPA (Davao City) 34 to 62  • Lupon Fish Sanctuary (Lupon) 62 to 77  • Libuganon MPA (Tagum City) 40 to 66  • Caganguhan Fish Sanctuary (Panabo) 35 to 63  • Punta Biao Fish Sanctuary 63 to 43  • Mabini Protected Landscape and Sescape (Mabini) 50 to 74  • Saint Vincent MPA (Maco) 47 to 42  • Bato Fish Sanctuary 57 to 65  • Tuban-Tagabuli MPA 61 to 53  • Tinaytay and Burias Reef 61 to 38      Southern Palawan    • Mantaquin Bay (NARRA) 35 to 45  • Gosong Reef MPA (Aborlan) 43 to 47  • Lolo Bay MPA (NARRA) 40 to 50  • Maasin MPA (Brooke's Point) 35 to 39  • Sofronio Española MPA 35 to 41  • San Antonio MPA (Bataraza) 48 to 53  • Relief-Separation MPA 35 to 46    The increase in METT can be attributed to continued provision of various assistance through the conduct of capacity building, conduct of business and financial workshops and provision of policy support. The project has prioritized the areas that need to be addressed based from the 2016 METT scores. | On track.  The positive results of the METT scoring of MPAs can be attributed to the continued support by the local governments to the management bodies which was consistently facilitated by the Project. These include enforcement, which is a very big contribution to the perception of the MPA management bodies to attribute high scores, support to livelihood activities and general management (e.g. marker buoys, repair of infrastructure, fish warden benefits). The project was heavily engaged in capacity building through participatory management planning and feedback session on the biophysical status of the MPA, among others.  Below are the updated METT scores of all MPAs:    VIP  • Carenahan Fish Sanctuary 38 to 76  • Nalayag Point Fish Refuge and Sanctuary, Pulong Bato Fishery Refuge and Sanctuary and Pagkilatan Fishery Reserve 68 to 49  • San Pablo de Bauan MPA 80 to 91  • Kayreyna MPA and Binubusan MPA 76 to 94  • Sawang/Olo-Olo Fish Sanctuary, Malabrigo Fishery Refuge and Sanctuary, and Biga Fishery Sanctuary 71 to 98  • Fuego Point MPA, Taytayen/Etayo Marine Reserve, Cutad Marine Reserve, and Pinagdakutan /Santelmo Marine Sanctuary 42 to 73  • Batalang Bato Marine Sanctuary 61 to 71  • Hugom MPA 58 to 83  • Catmon MPA 69 to 83  • Ticalan MPA 69 to 83  • Abung MPA 69 to 83  • PutingBuhangin MPA 69 to 83  • Calubcub 1st MPA 69 to 83  • Laiya Ibabao MPA 69 to 83  • Laiya Aplaya MPA 69 to 83  • Imelda MPA 69 to 83  • Twin Rocks Marine Sanctuary, Cathedral Rock Marine Sanctuary, Arthur's Rock Marine Sanctuary, Barangay Ligaya Marine Protected Area/Batong Buhay Marine Sanctuary 88 to 88  • Calatagan MPA and Mangrove Areas 75  • Sinisian East/Mataas na Bayan MPA 40 to 43  • Bacawan Fish Sanctuary, Saint Peter the Rock Marine Protected Area, Saint John the Baptist Fish Sanctuary, Song of the Sea Fish Sanctuary, Kingfisher Marine Reserve and Stella Mariz FS 65  • Punta Ilag Fish Sanctuary and Tamauyan Fish Sanctuary 57 to 80  • Tujod Fish Sanctuary 59 to 80  • Masaguing Fish Sanctuary 59 to 79  • Puerto Galera Marine Protected Area 71 to 79  • Silonay Mangrove Conservation Area 30 to 84  • Mangansag-Ilijan-Allegria FS 44 to 56  • Tacasan FS 47 to 61  • Mangrove Reserve 34 to 67  • Poblacion Cove 34 to 67  • Masadya FS 25 to 49  • Mainit FS 52 to 42  • Tabon Bird 30  • Yabawon FS 52 to 41  • Apias Fish Sanctuary 75  • Paluan-Mahabang Buhangin Marine Protected Area 23  • Looc - Lubang No Take Zone and CFG 39 to 60  • Boac Community Marine Reserve 17 to 35  • Integrated Community Marine Protected Area 90 to 61  • Gasan Community Marine Reserve (Gasan) 36 to 62  • Mogpog Community Marine Reserve 1 to 50  • Marine Turtle Preservation Area 25 to 60  • Sta. 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Felomena Marine Sanctuary 47  • Saavedra Fish Sanctuary 87 to 55  • Kantabogon Marine Sanctuary 63 to 66  • Ginatilan Marine Sanctuary 64 to 71  • Colase Fish Sanctuary 64 to 53  • Pasil Marine Sanctuary 69 to 70  • Zaragosa Island Fish Sanctuary 29 to 30  • Capinahan Marine Sanctuary 69 to 74  • Tandayag Marine Sanctuary 77 to 90  • San Jose Marine Protected Area 57 to 68  • Guiwanon Marine Sanctuary 53 to 30  • Maño (Biasong) Marine Sanctuary 57 to 82  • Calatrava Reef Complex (Tinangisan Island) 56 to 68  • Malusay Marine Sanctuary 74  • San Jose Marine Sanctuary 76 to 73  • Sagahan Marine Protected Area 63  • Marikaban Marine Sanctuary 54 to 46    Davao Gulf    • Cogon MPA (IGACOS) 60 to 75  • Camudmud MPA (IGACOS) 60 to 63  • Linosutan (IGACOS) 60 to 72  • Dapia and Dugong Sanctuary (IGACOS) 59 to 68  • Sanipaan Marine Park (IGACOS) 70 to 90  • Dadatan Coral Garden/Mansud Wall (IGACOS) 60 to 67  • Punta Dumalag (Davao City) 45 to 77  • Hizon Fish Sanctuary (Davao City) 61 to 70  • Agdao Centro Fish Sanctuary (Davao City) 33 to 38  • Lasang-Bunawan MPA (Davao City) 34 to 62  • Lupon Fish Sanctuary (Lupon) 62 to 85  • Libuganon MPA (Tagum City) 40 to 79  • Caganguhan Fish Sanctuary (Panabo) 35 to 63  • Punta Biao Fish Sanctuary 63 to 68  • Mabini Protected Landscape and Sescape (Mabini) 50 to 79  • Saint Vincent MPA (Maco) 47 to 42  • Bato Fish Sanctuary 57 to 84  • Tuban-Tagabuli MPA 61 to 72  • Tinaytay and Burias Reef 61 to 38      Southern Palawan    • Mantaquin Bay (NARRA) 35 to 50  • Gosong Reef MPA (Aborlan) 43 to 56  • Lolo Bay MPA (NARRA) 40 to 52  • Maasin MPA (Brooke's Point) 35 to 60  • Sofronio Española MPA 35 to 51  • San Antonio MPA (Bataraza) 48 to 61  • Relief-Separation MPA 35 to 52 |
| Number of gender and IP sensitive MPA/MPAN management plan formulated and implemented | Zero. There are draft management plans that have not been approved and implemented in 4 of the proposed project sites (VIP, Tanon, Davao Gulf and Lanuza Bay) | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least four MPA networks with gender and IP sensitive management plans developed and jointly implemented | On track. Out of the 5 MPA Networks supported by the project, 3, namely, Tanon Strait, Lanuza Bay, and Verde Island Passage have legally established management bodies, while the other 2, Tañon Strait and Lanuza Bay have adopted signed management plans, and are now implementing its management plan. VIP has developed a draft management plan yet to be approved and/ or implemented.    Lanuza Bay – 1  TSPS – 1  Southern Palawan – 0  VIP – 1  Davao Bay – 0      VIP: The five provinces of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) already have their respective provincial MPA networks, which facilitated the establishment of the VIP-wide MPA Network together with four national agencies. An interim Secretariat was formed that was deeply involved in the iterative development of the VIP Strategic Management Plan. The Plan harmonized provincial and agency activities into a cohesive and comprehensive land-sea conservation and management, and the coordinated activities served to amplify the impacts at the scale of the VIP that has about 1 million hectares of marine waters. For example, the need to increase MPA coverage to contribute to delivering biodiversity (Aichi) targets, and addressing marine debris in the area with the intent to showcase successes and influence national policy development.    Gender issues have always been discussed during the management planning process no issues were raised. It is clear to the stakeholders that women are not prevented and even encouraged to participate and be part of the decision-making processes.    MPA structures for the VIP have been redesigned to be modular to improve resilience against effects of climate change.    Lanuza Bay – the MPAN Planning Workshop was attended by different stakeholders of Lanuza Bay. NEDA and DENR regional Offices are represented. Provincial Offices of BFAR, DENR / Cenro and PG ENRO was also present. LGUs and POs were also present and participated in the activity. The connectivity study of Lanuza Bay was presented to the group to mind set them in the baywide situation of Lanuza Bay. Draft MPAN plan was formulated. LBDA was mobilized to facilitate the conduct of the activity especially in the formulation of the MPAN organizational structure and its relationship to the LBDA structure. Ecological component of the MPAN was not well considered in the planning. It is then important that the next round of MPAN planning or in the refinement of the MPAN plan, the ecological component like the management regimes be considered.    TSPS –The completion of the Coastal zoning and Fisheries Resource Management Planning (CFRM) workshops in TSPS is a historic accomplishment. Declared as a protected seascape 19 years ago, this is the first initiative towards a strait-wide delineation of multiple-use and strict protection zones for all the 42 Local Government Units (LGUs) that surround it, in line with the GMP. The write-shops and mapping activities are on-going, and the project hopes to bring this to fruition through passage of CRFM ordinances. | On track.    The three MPAN management plans of Verde Island Passage, Tañon Strait Protected Seascape, and Lanuza Bay are being implemented by their respective management bodies.    VIP: The Verde Island Passage (VIP) Marine Protected Area Network (MPAN) and Law Enforcement Network (LEN) Strategic Management Plan was developed based on the series of consultations with various stakeholders. VIP Strategic Management Plan was formally adopted by the VIP Management Board through a resolution. The Plan contains climate resilience objectives for all thematic areas.    TSPS: The Protected Area Office is the main implementor of the TSPS General Management Plan. Said plan was reinforced by the development of the 2019 Annual Work and Financial Plan which was presented to the members of the Site Management Units and to the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in Tanon Strait last November 23, 2018. The 2019 Annual Work and Financial Plan incorporated some major targets of the SMARTSeas Project which include the capability building for PAO staff on biophysical survey, inventory of the coastal resources and the initial assessment of the General Management Plan for implementation and the monitoring for Large Marine Vertebrates (LMV).    Lanuza Bay: The Lanuza Bay Environmental Management Plan 2015-2020 was already approved and being implemented by the partner local government units. The plan was already adopted and ratified by Lanuza Bay Development Alliance through a resolution.    In terms of MPA management plans, a total of six (6) MPA plans have been endorsed by the FARMCs to the Sangguniang Bayan for approval in TSPS. Out of the 6, there were 2 CFRM plans that have been endorsed by the FARMCs for SB and Municipal Development Council approval.    VIP: 50 MPAs under 25 Management Plans have been developed and are being implemented, including those within the marine KBAs of Batangas (Balayan and Lobo-San Juan), since 2016. Monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the management plans were conducted to ensure that they are being implemented. General weakness in the implementation of the plans is the low budget allocated to MPAs, resulting to a more direct management by an LGU office, such as the MAO and MENRO.      TSPS: A total of six (6) MPA plans that are gender and IP sensitive have been endorsed by the FARMCs to the Sangguniang Bayan for approval. Out of the 6, there were 2 CFRM plans that have been endorsed by the FARMCs for SB and Municipal Development Council approval.    The plans openly encourage participation of women and IP (although there are no IP identified in TSPS) particularly in decision-making. For example, the management plans of MPAs in TSPS calls for at least 20% women to be elected officers. In addition, all activities target 40% women participation.  The same can be said on the management plans for VIP, Lanuza Bay, Davao Gulf and Southern Palawan. The participation of women and IP groups (although we only have Brookes Point as the only municipality with IP in the entire Project) is highly encouraged. In Tingloy, Batangas the President of the PO and Bantay Dagat is a woman. |
| Average increase in technical and management capacity scores in the 5 target MPA networks | Capacity scorecard – Tanon and Lanuza: 18 out 45; VIP: 19; Southern Palawan: 14, Average of 17.5 out of 45 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 20% average increase in capacity score cards of the 5 target MPA networks by 2016 and 35% average increase by 2018 | Achieved in all sites and continue to improve further. An average increase of 38% in capacity score cards of the 5 project sites as of reporting period as against the target of 35% by the end of 2018.    Lanuza Bay – 25  TSPS – 27  Southern Palawan – 17  VIP – 36  Davao Bay – 21    Capacity development activities included trainings on fisheries and coastal law enforcement, monitoring and evaluation, facilitation of participation in congresses and symposia and provision of guidelines and support to the formulation of management plans, as well as the facilitation of memoranda of agreement or understanding among stakeholders.      VIP: Capacity scores increased from 19 (2013) to 26 (2016) to 36 (2017). Most increases were scores for Capacity for Engagement and Capacity to Monitor and Evaluate, all due to the activation of the VIP Interim Secretariat.    Lanuza Bay– Business Expenses Savings Training was conducted with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Surigao Del Sur office.  Five focused-group discussions were made between the MPA management bodies and UP-MSI, which was tasked to develop competency standards for MPA management. The FGDs gathered information on the competency of the organizations to effectively and efficiently manage the marine protected area.    A fish catch monitoring of anchovies was conducted to support policy development. The objectives include determination of fish catch composition of the surit fishing gear, development of policy for surit fishery regulations. This will end at the end of the year. Another schedule/funding will be allotted from the fish catch monitoring from January to September from the 2018 funds.    TSPS – Various capacity building provided to PAO staff now allow them to replicate small-scale support to non-SMARTSeas sites in TSPS. However, their contractual/Job Order status continue to affect morale and contribute to high attrition rate. With every resignation, new staff hired need to be trained/kept up to speed. The DENR Region VII need to enhance their organizational and administrative support to PAO.    Davao Gulf - Conducted a training workshop on gender-responsive MPA management to the stakeholders of Digos City (Punta Biao Fish Sanctuary) and Sta Cruz MPAs (Tuban-Tagabuli MPA and Bato MPA). A total of 38 participants (25 males and 13 females) attended the said activity, highlighting various gender issues, defined gender roles and using the proper gender lens towards gender-responsiveness in MPA management. | Achieved.    Achieved in all sites last 2018.  Lanuza Bay from a baseline of 18 to a capacity score of 25 in 2018 reflecting a 38% increase, exceeding target of 35%.  TSPS –from a baseline of 18 to 27 in 2018 or an increase of 50%  Southern Palawan- from 14 to 26 or an increase of 86%!  VIP –from 19 to 36 or an 89% increase.  Davao Gulf from 21 to 32 or a -52 increase%  Across all project sites, the average increase in capacity scorecards was 63%. The increase is attributed to the intervention of the project in providing trainings on fisheries and coastal law enforcement, workshops in planning specific monitoring and evaluation using appropriate metric indicators, actively encouraging members to attend and participate in relevant symposia, and provision of guidelines and support in development and formulation of management plans and memoranda of understanding between and amongst stakeholders of the MPAN. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Improved Financial Sustainability of MPAs and MPANs** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Financial resources for conservation and management of MPAs in five project sites | Funding Gap present.  Baseline to be established in Year 2 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 25 MPAs (5 MPAs in each site) have income from various sources that covers the recurrent costs as defined by financing plans | On track. The MPA costing tool developed by the project was utilized during the exercise with the LGUs. They were able to determine the costs need from establishment to maintenance up to five years. The tool also showed the funds needed to be raised (i.e. MPA business plan), total funds needed for five years and the funds available from the LGU. The LGU indicated that this will be a great help to them. They can use this as a tool to show the Sangguniang Bayan to leverage additional funds from other sources.    More importantly, the PMU has started to explore potential Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises (BDFEs) specific to each of the MPAs. The PMU will engage a development officer to help establish the appropriate BDFEs for the 5 MPA sites in all of the project sites. | Achieved.    Benchmark management costs of MPAs have been established. MPAs were profiled to see how financial and business plans can be developed to support management of their areas.    5-ha MPA = PhP 423,727.57/ha  5-50 ha MPA = PhP 60,000/ha  50 – 250 ha MPA = PhP 20,639.86/ha  More than 250 ha MPA = PhP 2,636.30/ha    These plans included the set up of Biodiversity Friendly Enterprises that will benefit the POs and will also provide a portion of net earnings to the management of their MPAs. Currently, the plans indicate10% of net earnings will be earmarked for MPA management costs. |
| Percentage of MPA funding coming from sources other than government budgets | All funding disaggregated into local government, central government | *(not set or not applicable)* | 50% of income from sources other than government budgets by 2018 | On track.    VIP: Start-up capital in terms of equipment and materials were provided to 4 MPAs to operationalize their BDFEs.    Southern Palawan – biodiversity friendly enterprises and tourism activities were identified as other financial resources. Business plans were already developed and implementation will commence in the 2nd half of 2018.    TSPS: Completed three business planning and project preparation workshops in the selected sites. Follow-up activities include coaching and mentoring to finalize the plan, and business matching with potential funders. Business planning toolkit is being prepared.    DG: Business plans from the 19 MPAs for finalization and refinement. Selection of the MPAs to be supported to be done based on criteria to be identified.    LB: The conduct of the 1st TWG Meeting of Lanuza Bay for Clustered Tourism Management Planning was a kick-off start of the major activities to be done for the operationalization of the ecotourism in LBDA-member LGUs. | On track.  The Project was able to leverage paint materials with a total sum of PHP 10M from Boysen Philippines, Inc. The company provided each participating municipality with paints of their nominated color to paint their fishing boats (artisanal fishers only) in order to distinguish their boats by color codes. This scheme is an important management strategy to reduce fishing effort and will provide easy identification boats at distances.  A major effort of the project is the development of several and various types of biodiversity friendly enterprise (BDFE) for the People’s Organization (PO) who manages the MPA. This entails detailed social preparation to ensure the PO is ready and equipped to take on and sustain a BDFE. The PO pledge to plow back to MPA management (conservation of natural resource) 10% of their net incomes. The development of these BDFEs is currently under various stages. A few have started their production while specific experts conduct trainings and workshops for their nominated BDFE for the vast majority. In addition, the Project will follow through on investor’s forum to attract funders; market matching of products of BDFEs and pursue fair trade practices for these BDFEs.  The other source of funding the project is seriously considering is the CSRs of big companies and private donors. Currently, there is a big donor with a track record of adopting MPAs in Ecuador and Panama who has initiated discussions adopting MPAs in Lanunza Bay. Similarly, a local group of companies is exploring the possibility of supporting livelihoods for POs. The project is studying these opportunities.  Current development per site is as follows:  VIP: Business plans for 6 MPAs have been developed and implemented. The 6 MPAs are under BDFE assistance and have been generating revenues that average about P9K a month (mostly running for 6 months yet) At the moment, much of the earnings go to members of POs because the allowance they receive on patrol duty for their MPAs have run out. The earnings from their BDFE currently provide for their sustenance as they continue to perform nightly duties guarding their MPAs.  Under PMU, business plans for South Palawan, TSPS and Lanuza Bay have been drafted and validated.  In South Palawan, initial harvest of fattened mangrove crabs have been successful. These crabs were fed with discarded entrails of fish from markets. A municipal ordinance has been passed to collect all entrails to feed crabs of POs in Brookes Point. This is a case of zero waste economy.  Our assisted POs in South Palawan have been provided training on a biodiversity friendly way of culturing seaweeds. They are just awaiting release of seed capita from a Low Value Grant to be able to produce the minimum volume to access a good market with fair trade practices. The project is assisting this PO.  In TSPS, the project trained two POs in catering service. After the training these two POs were engaged by the LGU during the nutrition month, which earned them a modest income. This also coincided with their culminating activity on food catering service and GMP.  In Lanuza Bay, the PO trained by the project on bangus and siganid polyculture just completed their 2nd harvest schedule. Their first production cycle grossed PhP 272,000.00. The other POs trained for catering grossed PhP 12,000.00 for one catering service.  For Davao Gulf, business plans have been formulated and validated. They are scheduled for training in August and September 2019 and is expected to complete first production cycle by December 2019. |
| Number of MPAs with participatory multi-stakeholder systems in place to oversee utilization of MPA funds and revenues include women and IPs where appropriate | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 30 participating MPAs have participatory multi stakeholder systems including women and IPs where appropriate with oversight functions on disbursement / resource allocation by 2018 | On track.  Almost all MPA plans include a standard composition for the management board, who will be controlling the MPA finances, headed normally by a barangay official and composed of representatives from fisherfolk organizations, and barangay officials. Women are present in the organizational charts of the MPAs Indigenous groups are acknowledged in LB, and SP.    VIP - Members of management bodies for 25 MPAs participated in the Organizational Development training last 19-20 September 2017. Out of the 27 participants, 16 were women (59%). The OD focused on financial responsibility and project development.    Lanuza Bay: Installation of financial system – At least 3 POs managing the MPAs in Cortes were coached in financial installation. To date, 3 books of account installed; cash flow, cash receipts book & cash disbursements book. Financial forms to use in support of cash disbursements were introduced.    The trainings and workshops SMARTSeas provide these groups are well received and more women are empowered. | On track.  The current approved management plans of MPAs assisted by the project provide at least 20% of officers are women. Reports from respective RPs indicate this is consistently observed.  For the 32 POs (total for all 5 sites) with organized BDFEs, majority of the BDFE members of the are women and 2 POs have an all women group (Kalipunan ng Kababaehan ng Marinduque and Nagkahi-usa Kababayhan sa Uba). Each PO will elect a new set of officers who will run the enterprise.  VIP: 12 LGUs with 9 POs went through an Organizational Development training where women were primarily invited F16:M11). These group handled 26 MPAs.  Southern Palawan has 6 POs  Lanuza Bay has 4 POs  TSPS has 4 POs    The newly crafted organization structure to focus mainly on the BDFE followed the concepts of inclusivity and equity; all interested and able members of the PO and the community are encouraged to join the BDFE.  It should be noted that male members are engaged in conservation activities (mosty as bantay dagat members), thus, most enterprises are women-led. |
| Number of sustainable financing plans implemented in participating MPAs | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | At least 25 MPAs in five sites have sustainable financing plans being implemented as part of their management plans | On track.    The project has completed the conduct of local business and financial planning workshops. The business strategies that will be pursued by the project are development biodiversity friendly enterprises and ecotourism activities (diving, snorkelling, boat rental and catering).    Lanuza Bay– The local governments of Madrid and Carmen have presented their tourism master plan with the project. The project assisted both Carmen and Madrid in the creation of a municipal technical working group and an inventory of potential tourism sites that could be developed. Both local governments initially identified separately a portion of their mangrove area for a mangrove walk and part of it established as a marine protected area, also assisted by the project.    TSPS – Over 70 participants were trained on business planning and project proposal preparation in three separate site level workshops. The design includes appreciation of biodiversity-friendly business concept and business ideas using the BPP assessment tool matrix prescribed by the PMU.      Southern Palawan – the project conducted a rapid appraisal activity in the four municipalities of Southern Palawan, Aborlan, NARRA, Sofronio Espanola, and Brooke’s Point, to check whether these areas possess the qualities of an ecotourism site that will promote financial sustainability in the area. Aborlan is interested in developing an ecotourism spot in a particular mangrove area; NARRA wishes to venture into aquasilviculture through mud crab fattening and culture; Sofronio Espanola has strategic ecotourism position in terms of the linkages of ecotourism spots as they have good diving sites which are close to a hot spring and they have also suggested some alternative livelihood options for the community which include mat weaving and mud crab fattening; Brooke’s Point expressed interest in the development and conversion of their mangrove areas into an ecotourism spot.    VIP – The MPA financial management plans for 15 established MPAs were developed. With the financial planning of the prioritized MPAs, biodiversity-friendly enterprises for 4 MPAs were started and startup capital (equipment and materials) were provided by the project as grants in the following sites:  • Mabini – 2 MPAs  • Tingloy – 1 MPA  • Calapan – 1 MPA    Davao Bay – Business plans from the 19 MPAs for finalization and refinement. Selection of the MPAs to be supported to be done based on criteria to be identified. Refinement of financing plans being undertaken.    A key challenge is always trying to be creative to determine types of sustaining financial plans. | On track.    TSPS: Partner LGUs in BATMAN has already completed their business plans on ecotourism circuit, and presented these to funders during a business matching forum hosted by PMU. Inputs from funding agencies indicate that it will be a challenge to secure funding at the network level in view of administrative and process limitations, including lack of a single entity to engage with. It was suggested that each LGUs seek funds per municipality and start small and just converge later.    Southern Palawan: Other activities were also accomplished like site survey and validation on the selected location for the establishment of Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise (BDFE) in NARRA and Brooke’s Point, Palawan. The people’s organization (POs) of selected municipalities agreed to venture in mangrove crab culture and fattening as their BDFE. For Malatgao, NARRA, there is already an existing mangrove crab culture and fattening being managed by MAPBAHIELA (Malatgao Aplaya Bagong Lipunan Highwat El Salvador Association Inc.). For Barangay Maasin, Brooke’s Point, Palawan, there is no existing mangrove crab culture and fattening in the nearby area. The proposed area for the venture has Nypha trees (a mangrove associate) and near an abandoned fishpond that can be managed by Samahan ng mga Mangingisda ng Bgy. Maasin.    Based on the gathered information, mangrove crab culture and fattening which produce food and an alternative source of income without sacrificing the environment can be supported through BDFE under SMARTSeas for both sites. As their sites are part o Marine Protected Areas which is the main concerned of the project. In addition, their sites are suitable for mangrove crab and fattening and the POs of each sites showed willingness and keenness to manage lucrative project as their primary or alternative source of income.  VIP: A total 15 MPAs in Batangas, Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro are implementing their financial plans. These MPAs are Mabini MPA, Tingloy MPA, Binubusan (Lian) MPA, Kayreyna (Lian) MPA, Lemery MPA, Bauan MPA, Balayan MPA, Abra de Ilog MPA, Paluan Fish Sanctuary, Silonay Mangrove Protected Area, Naujan MPA, and Bansud MPA. The financial plans outline the activities to be conducted in order to achieve the target output of the management plans including the funding requirement. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Established Enabling Policy Framework for Marine Biodiversity Conservation.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Presence of a comprehensive MPA and MPAN Policy Framework that is also gender- and IP- sensitive and inclusive \*\* REVISED INDICATOR PER IW\*\* | Policy and regulatory review to be conducted in Year 1 of among other the following documents:  • Fisheries Code  • NIPAS Act  • Wildlife Act  • LGC  • Other relevant statutes  • EO 578  • MOA Lanuza Bay  • EO 1234  • Davao Gulf Management Council | *(not set or not applicable)* | A comprehensive MPA and MPAN Policy Framework in place incorporating gender equality and IP rights developed and effectively implemented addressing at least 50% of the policy recommendations identified through the policy review | On track.  The project’s scientific connectivity studies, clarified the bases and defined potential interactions between and within individual MPA units forming a MPA network. The scientific team also identified the need and estimated the increase of no-take zones required for sustainability given the current fishing pressure.    The project is in its completion on the development of a technical bulletin (TB). The TB aims to provide guidelines in designing and scaling up locally established and managed MPAs into MPA networks and re-designing existing networks based on scientific standards and ecosystem-based approach in order to effectively contribute to achieving biodiversity conservation, sustainable fisheries and climate resilience under the general framework of sustainable development, equitably providing benefits to local communities and contributing to national, regional and global economies. A key message the PMU keep on repeating to management bodies, LGU leadership and Regional DENR Offices is the reduction of threats on the marine resources to allow it to recover better and improve its chance to sustain needs in the future. | On track.  A meeting between key representatives of the DA, DENR, and DILG was held last January 23, 2019. One of the agreements reached was to formulate a policy framework for Marine Protected Area Networks, develop and draft a Joint Memorandum Circular (DENR-DA-DILG) on the adoption of such policy framework, and further explore ways to strengthen coordination, complementation and cooperation between the three (3) agencies on the conservation of biodiversity.  As a way forward, a workshop/write-shop to develop the policy framework for MPANs and draft the Joint Memorandum Circular to adopt the policy framework was proposed. To date, the project has conducted two (2) consultations in 2019. The objective of the consultation is to solicit inputs, suggestions and recommendations on the JMC between and among DA, DENR, and DILG. The proposed JMC will ensure that the strategy to manage MPANs by DENR inside NIPAS, by BFAR in areas outside NIPAS and all LGUs regardless of area will be consistent and similar. DILG supervises the LGUs.  The consultations provided for what each agency can share in any category of MPAN. For example, DA BFAR leads on law enforcement, DENR in conservation and mitigation measures, while DILG promises to supervise LGUs to translate technical assistance from DENR and DA BFAR.  In support to this undertaking, the project led the formation of a technical working group (TWG) from key bureaus and agencies of DA, DENR, and DILG who will actively participate in the series of policy dialogues.  The participation of select members of the TWG from DENR, DA and DILG is important to cover all aspects of the governance, ecological and socio-economic issues of the policy framework on MPANs as well as the draft of the JMC. |
| Number of policies for MPAs and MPANs management that incorporate scientifically-based ecological conservation criteria (species abundance and distribution, threats and pressures, larval transmission and dispersal, climate change stresses, etc | • Close seasons during breeding season of particular fish species  • Lubang Island declared as climate resilient MPA after a thorough multi disciplinary climate change vulnerability assessment  • Unified fishery odinance in Lanuza Bay | *(not set or not applicable)* | All policies for MPAs and MPANs management incorporate scientifically-based ecological conservation criteria (species abundance and distribution, threats and pressures, larval transmission and dispersal, climate change stresses, etc | On track.  For the reporting period, the project has continuously focused its efforts in addressing the policy gaps identified during the local policy review.    These policy recommendations are being piloted like the Managed Access Area + Sanctuary (MAAS) in Tañon Strait Protected Seascape. The project also completed the IPAF Process Review and presented the results to DENR Region VII, PAO, PMU, BMB, and PAMB ExCom. Based on the IPAF Process Review results, PAMB ExCom passed a resolution creating a committee to produce an Operations Manual for PAMB and directed the PAO to incorporate recommendations from the IPAF process review, creation of PAMB Execom sub-committees (e.g. committees on audit; program; SAPA/MOA review, and their terms of reference/roles and responsibilities)    VIP - A workshop-writeshop was conducted to pilot the ordinance template intended to strengthen the MPAs. More than 30 MPAs were represented in the first iteration of the workshop.    With support from the project at the national level, these ordinances may also be used/adopted in other non-SMARTSeas sites.    Southern Palawan – regarding the partnership with indigenous people, the project has initiated securing consent and approval from local IPs regarding on the establishment of MPA. It was agreed that a site validation must be conducted first before local partners will enter into a memorandum of agreement.    Lanuza Bay – the project has initiated the institutionalization of the Coastal and Fisheries Resources Management Program (CFRMP) in LBDA organizational structure and adoption of Lanuza Bay Environmental Management Plan (Coastal Component). Moreover, the project lobbied the establishment of Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) and designation of Officers in each LGU within LBDA.    The local policy studies are useful in the local context for ensuring local implementation is in line with national policies as well as are useful for informing policy at the national level (e.g. roles for local MPAs within a NIPAS PA, legal forms for an inter-LGU management of an MPAN). | Achieved.    The output of the national and local policy reviews undertaken from 2016 to 2018 were already incorporated in the draft JMC. In addition to this, local ordinances were already enhanced to include the recommendations from the local policy review. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 79.98% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 79.98% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 6,398,076 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 160,600 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 8,000,000 |
| Co-financing | 25,833,490 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 7, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Feb 19, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Aug 6, 2014 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Jan 31, 2015 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 1, 2018 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | May 1, 2018 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Jul 31, 2020 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Aug 5, 2019 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Jan 31, 2021 |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2018-12-06 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Not applicable. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The May 2018 Project Board meeting approved the 12 month no cost extension of the Project following the necessary actions to be undertaken indicated in the management responses to the results of the Medium-Term Evaluation Report. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Following the recommendation of the MTR , the project was granted an 18 month extension.  The revised expected date of Terminal Evaluation (TE) is July 2020 and the revised date of project closure is January 2021. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | I rate the performance of the project from June 2018 to June 2919 as satisfactory based on the following key achievements through concerted efforts of all project partners. These are:    1. The formal establishment of 3 Marine Protected Area Networks, namely, the Verde Island Passage Marine Protected Area Network and Law Enforcement Network (VIP MPAN LEN), the Lanuza Bay Marine Protected Area Network, and the Davao Gulf Marine Protected Area Network, through signed various legal instruments was completed this period. This in effect covered at least an additional 1 M hectares of protected area within which the 13 additional mKBAs are enclosed. The Project is working on the strengthening of the management bodies of these MPANs and works to finalize a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) between and amongst DENR, DILG and DA-BFAR on MPAN establishment and sustaining management of these MPANs. The JMC will detail the contribution of each national agency in each of the 5 categories of MPAN to improve effective management.    2. The project has provided social preparation in the form of the trainings and capacitation for members of the People’s organization who manage an MPA for the appropriate type of biodiversity friendly enterprise (BDFEs) in their respective areas. The 25 BDFEs are in various stages of completion with 3 completing their first cycle of production within this reporting period. We expect all remaining BDFEs to complete its first production cycle before the year ends and should show sustainability by next year. These BDFEs provide the members of the Peoples Organization with a consistent source of additional income. This is a way of easing pressure on the marine resources and provides additional income, as they are volunteers in the management of their MPAs. An important agreement is that the People’s Organization will allocate a portion of their net earnings to help manage their MPAs.    3. The project has embarked on crafting a Joint Circular Memorandum between and amongst DENR, DILG and DA-BFAR on the establishment and management of MPA Networks. Under this JMC, each national agency will detail their contribution towards the successful and effective management of the MPANs.    4. The project has also began planning and writing a sustainability plan. All gains and momentum of the project will be mainstreamed in the regular programs of the DENR through the flagship program on marine and coastal areas, the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP), under the Biodiversity Management Bureau. Currently, multiple consultations with Regional, Provincial and Community DENR offices are happening to seek buy in and strengthen the acceptance of the project.    I believe that the project is on track and will achieve its end-of-project targets. More importantly, the project is positioned to make a strong case for sustaining their gains and momentum beyond project life through the regular programs of DENR and will be directly funded by the GOP. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The SMARTSEAS is strong on delivering the conservation targets of the Project. Its success in building on and contributing to the drafting of the ENIPAS is commendable.  The Project, however, needs to be more strategic and opportunistic on ensuring that the delivery of expected outputs under Outcome 2 (Improved Financial Sustainability of MPAs and MPANs) is achieved. Given the remaining life of the Project, a robust catch-up plan for this specific outcome needs to be developed by the Project Team and Implementing Partner.  The Project needs to undertake a more conscious effort towards establishing sustainability measures. The Project’s over-all design has a big potential to influence BMB’s Coastal and Marine Environmental Management Program (CMEMP) by increasing participation of BMB and local DENR’s Offices in pilot-testing inter-LGU alliances, M and E procedures and systems, marine conservation financing and enactment of transformational policies. However, to date, the Project is yet to increase buy-in of concerned stakeholders at the national and local levels in order to establish accountability centers post-Project implementation. Considering the Project’s remaining period and resources, the development of the Project’s Exit Strategy and Sustainability Plan (ESSP) is critical to setting-up mechanisms that will facilitate sustainability of Project’s gains, ownership of the governance and policies established by the Project and scaling-up of socio-economic benefits for the communities. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | Based from the latest report submitted by the project, it is very likely it will achieve its targets by mid-2020.    The project was able to establish new MPANs in three (3) designated priority areas, the establishment of which are covered by various binding legal instruments; improved management effectiveness in at least 95 existing MPAs through effective implementation of MPA management plans, institutionalized MPA and MPAN management structures in Southern Palawan, Verde Island Passage, Lanuza Bay, Davao Gulf and increased capacity in MPA Management.    In terms of financial sustainability, the project was able to determine the varying costs of managing different sizes of MPAs; implemented a total of 16 BDFEs and working on 9 more, leveraged at least, PhP 10 M worth of support from private sector, NGAs, and other conservation groups through in-kind donation, technical, assistance, and direct/monetary support/counterparting.    For the policy efforts, the project conducted institutional dialogues between DENR, DA-BFAR, and DILG to finalize coordination mechanism and drafting of Joint Memorandum Circular for MPAN establishment and management.    In summary, I feel confident the project can achieved all its target outcomes provided they put extra effort in the implementation of BDFEs, completion of the JMC and crafting a meaningful sustainability plan for the Department to mainstream their gains and momentum. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | To date, the Project is nearing its completion and has achieved most of its targets. More importantly, it is on track and has substantially contributed to the completion of the remaining deliverables relative to what is expected based on the end-of-project targets. Barring project risks, I am confident this project will complete all promised deliverables within the approved project extension period.    Under Outcome 1, the project has an additional 1 million hectares under protection through various legal instruments. This is an estimate of the aggregate area covering the three established MPA Networks. The MPAN Management Bodies are being finalized and implemented at the network level (province/inter-province-wide). In addition to these, the project is continuously providing capacity building to DENR and BFAR staff as well as MPA and MPAN management bodies to further strengthen and improve effective management of these protected areas.    For Outcome 2, the project had assisted MPA and MPAN management bodies in developing and implementing their respective financial and business plans. One of the strategies of the project is to identify, develop and implement biodiversity friendly enterprises that will provide additional income to contribute in defraying costs of management of MPAs. We expect the enterprises to provide their first cycle of production before the year ends and hopefully demonstrate sustainability within next year.    For Outcome 3, the project conducted series of workshops and consultations with representatives from DENR, DA-BFAR and DILG to craft a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) provide policy guidelines on the establishment and management of marine protected area networks. In this JMC, each agency will detail their roles and contribution to each category of MPANs.    To improve the sustainability mechanism of the project, I have instructed the project management unit to include and update the DENR field offices (regional, provincial, and community offices) in their study sites of their activities. This initiative will enhance buy-in of DENR field offices in sustaining the gains and momentum of project efforts started at the site level. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Moderately Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This is the fourth PIR for the GEF-5 FS project ‘Strengthening the Marine Protected Area System to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas’. The overall Project Objective is the strengthened conservation, protection and management of Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBAs) in the Philippines. The Project will greatly expand the area of marine and coastal biodiversity under protection “by bringing at least 441,268.2 ha of important marine ecosystems under protection in new PAs” (or from approximately 21% to 37% MPA cover) through establishing Marine Protected Area Networks (MPANs) in a comprehensive, adequate, representative and resilient sample of marine biodiversity. This is expected to be achieved through 3 interrelated components: a) Outcome 1, increased management effectiveness of MPAs and MPANs; b) Outcome 2, improved financial sustainability of MPAs and MPANs; and, c) Outcome 3, established enabling policy framework for marine biodiversity conservation. If successful, this is expected result in the inclusion of 13 additional MKBAs, up to 325,722 hectares; three conservation results: a) a 5% increase in fish biomass; b) an unquantified reduction in water pollution levels; and c) no net decrease in sightings of large marine vertebrates across the 5 project sites, namely Verde Island Passage (VIP), South(east)ern Palawan (SP), Tañon Strait (TS), Lanuza Bay (LB) and Davao Gulf (DG) and targets the inclusion of 13 MKBAs into the protected area system. Project team indicates ‘on-track’ for all these indicators.    Over the past four years, the project has made continuous progress towards the achievement of the project objective despite several delays at project start-up including difficulties in hiring of qualified PM and PMU staff. However, over the years the project has applied good adaptive management to address challenges and shortcomings (i.e. difficulties in finding qualified experts to undertake biomass and fish abundance assessments and challenges to adopt sound and cost-effective methodologies to monitor marine biodiversity and their threats, among others) and is on track to achieve its development objective, particularly now that an 18-month extension has been granted to the project in early 2019 and the fact that the inclusion of the additional 13 MKBAs in the PA System and the creation of 3 Marine Protected Area Networks covering at least an additional 1 M hectares of marine protected area has been achieved [surpassing the end of project target for Objective level indicator 1] and that the other 3 objective level indicators are on track and are expected to be achieved by project closure. No critical risks are reported for this period and in general risk management is adequate. The project reached an overall financial delivery rate of 79.98% [it is worth noting that financial delivery for 2018 was 95.14%], this is a positive indicator of sound planning and delivery practices that has been sustained over the last 2 periods. The RTA considers that the Implementation Progress (IP) rating for this period is Satisfactory (S).    The project has made satisfactory progress towards outcomes despite some shortcomings particularly for outcome 2. Some of the key milestones achieved during this period include: for Outcome 1, the Coverage of IUCN Category V Protected Landscape PAs in the 5 target sites has been achieved and has in fact exceeded the end of project target by an estimated 192,700 ha, additional efforts are being done to support the establishment of a Law Enforcement Network in Southern Palawan; the average increase in technical and management capacity scores in the 5 target MPA networks has also been achieved with an average increase in capacity scorecards of 63% across all project sites; METT scores in each of Lanuza Bay, Tanon Strait Protected Seascape, Southern Palawan, VIP and Davao Gulf target sites have achieved the end of project targets; METT Scores in each of the 95 selected MPAs targeted by Management Plan development and implementation have shown positive trends in general and are considered to be on track, this can be reasonably attributed to the project’s efforts of support towards institutional strengthening (i.e. enforcement, management, infrastructure repairs and maintenance, etc.), livelihoods support, training and other capacity building measures; gender and IP resiliency provisions are mentioned and encouraged in management plans from all 5 sites.    Outcome 2 focuses on implementing measures to improve Financial Sustainability of MPAs and MPANs. Indicator No. 1, which relates to securing financial resources for conservation and management of MPAs in five project sites is reported as achieved. However, it is not clear if the financial and business plans supported by the project are being implemented and if so, the question remains as to the level of success they are achieving in terms of covering the recurrent costs of MPAs. The reporting of this indicator can benefit from using the same language of the indicator and end of project target; the same applies for indicator 2, despite the fact that there is positive indication that biodiversity friendly enterprises supported by the project are committed to contribute to the financial sustainability of MPAs, no systematic data is provided for the percentage non-governmental derived financial resources, thus it is difficult to assess the progress towards the achievement of this output; MPAs have participatory systems in place, organizational development training with emphasis on the concepts of inclusivity and equity were carried out during this period, the PMU highlights that most enterprises supported by the project are women-led.    The policy framework for Marine Protected Area Networks to be achieved through outcome 3 shows positive progress through the renovated commitment of DA, DENR, and DILG to develop and adopt such framework. However, as experience demonstrates, policy development and subsequent endorsement by government usually takes longer than expected, this needs to be considered and managed if this output is expected to be achieved by the end of the project; the indicator on the incorporation of scientifically based ecological conservation criteria in policies is reported as achieved. Nonetheless, considering that the work on the policy framework for MPANs has recently started, continued efforts ensure this particularly policy is based on scientific evidence are pivotal.    Considering the progress made towards the development objectives of the project and the shortcomings of outcome 2 identified above, the project is granted a DO rating of (MS) Moderately Satisfactory.    Recommendations  a) Update the progress on MTR MRs. Particularly, revisit the recommendation about financial sustainability of the current MPA system (i.e. LGUs budget allocations specific for MPAs, co-financing commitments, etc.);  b) Intensify KM and systematization efforts to document the wealth of technical/scientific knowledge, lessons learnt and good practices generated by the project;  c) Continue the good adaptive management approach the project has followed to date;  d) Prepare for the TE well in advance, draft a project’s exit/sustainability strategy before TE;  e) Consider using cost-effective global communications and KM platforms available through UNDP and partners such Exposure and Panorama. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN2:** gender equality as significant objective |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| Not applicable |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| The project incorporated gender during MPA management planning and CFRM workshops. Gender issues have always been discussed during the management planning process and no issues were raised. It is clear to the stakeholders that women are not prevented and even encouraged to participate and be part of the decision-making processes.    At the PAMB level, the composition of SMUs and Execom are still male dominated. However, the chairpersons of the Executive Committee and the SMU for Negros Occidental are both women. In most partner LGUs, women occupy positions in the management bodies. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| Apart from the women participation in governance reported last year, which remained intact, the formalized VIP-wide MPA network and law enforcement network especially had gender balance or equality. The VIP Interim Secretariat has 14 voting members with a 1:1 male-female ratio. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **SESP:** [PIMS 4389 Philippines ESSP Annex G.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4389/213282/1718223/1659449/PIMS%204389%20Philippines%20ESSP%20Annex%20G.pdf)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| Not Applicable |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Below are some field stories from the five project sites:    Tañon Strait Protected Seascape    Virgilio Aviso, 69, started fishing when he was 15 years old. Raising a family of five, he took on sideline job as a driver during the days when fish catch was not enough to provide food on their table. Being one of the thousand artisanal fishers in Tañon Strait, the largest catch he could remember in his life was 10 kilograms of round scad.  Fast forward today, Mang Virgilio is now a role model fisher in Amlan, Negros Oriental. He is one of the pioneer members of Tandayag Fisherfolks Association and has been leading the group doing volunteer work on marine conservation for 8 years now.    During the 21st Anniversary of Tañon Strait Protected Seascape on May 27, SMARTSeas PH partner Rare Philippines recognized seven role model fishers in Amlan, Negros Oriental.  &quot;The ProFi Award is something that money can't buy. I volunteer as Bantay Dagat even if I don't receive honorarium because we have to protect the source of our livelihood, and so the future generation can also benefit from it,&quot; said Virgilio Aviso.    Verde Island Passage    The Samahan ng mga Mangingisda ng San Teodoro in Mabini, Batangas opened their upcycling facility and biodiversity-friendly enterprise last February 2019. Members of the association weave and sell bags, slippers, and purses from plastic packaging and sachet to earn alternative income and prevent further plastic leaks in the ocean. The area is in the famous dive spots in Anilao Mabini, Batangas where marine plastic is one of the main concerns among resorts and local community.    Another partner people’s organization in the area, the Samahan ng Mangingisda ng Barangay Bagalangit, also launched their VCO-based products including therapeutic oil and soap.  Both fisherfolk associations are now actively joining bazaars and selling their products to several corporate partners and groups where their members earn additional income as part of the financial sustainability thrust of the Project for people’s organization co-managing marine protected areas in the site. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| Website: www.beta.smartseas.ph  Facebook: www.facebook.com/SMARTSeasPH    Through the SMARTSeas PH, the following social media pages of #CleanSeasPilipinas were also established:  Facebook: www.facebook.com/CleanSeasPilipinas  Twitter: @cleanseasph  Instagram: @cleanseaspilipinas    Published press releases about/that mentioned or acknowledged the Project:    Title: SMARTSeas PH Project aims to arrest marine resource degradation    https://www.bworldonline.com/smartseas-ph-project-aims-to-arrest-marine-resource-degradation/    Title: Editorial: Save the seas  https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1768385    Title: Marine ecosystem experts mull creation of ‘One Davao Gulf Network’  http://davaotoday.com/main/environment/marine-ecosystem-experts-mull-creation-of-one-davao-gulf-network/    Title: 17 Sightings Recorded in Recent SMARTSeas PH Survey in Davao Gulf  https://wwf.org.ph/what-we-do/food/davaogulf/17-sightings-recorded-in-smartseas-ph-survey-in-davao-gulf/ |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

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| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [4389\_GEFID 4810\_Philippines\_CEO Endorsement\_2ndResubmission.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4389/213282/1659161/1659463/4389_GEFID%204810_Philippines_CEO%20Endorsement_2ndResubmission.docx) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| Aside from the local responsible partners, the group worked with other CSOs and conservation projects in the sites including Oceana Philippines, SEA Institute, and WWF Philippines in Southern Palawan.    In terms of working with Indigenous Peoples, the Project is working with the Palaw-an group in Brooke’s Point, Palawan in managing their marine protected area and the established biodiversity-friendly enterprise.    For the private partnership, the Project received support from Pacific Paints (BOYSEN) Philippines, Inc. by means of paints donation for partner local government units who are implementing color-coding scheme for their law enforcement network. Three sites received the paints with a total worth of PhP 10M. This includes Southern Palawan, Tañon Strait Protected Seascape, and Davao Gulf.    The Project indirectly worked with the GEF Small Grants Programme 5 in the Philippines when it launched the CleanSeas Pilipinas campaign in country. The SGP5 in the Philippines helped the Project promote the campaign in its events and activities as well as among its partners.    In summary, the Project was able to leverage resources from several partnerships and stakeholder engagements including the paint donation from BOYSEN which helped at least 13 local government units comply with their color-coding scheme.    With other civil society organizations and conservation groups, the Project continues to engage them in capacity building (and vice versa), campaigning, and influencing key leaders; complementing efforts in common areas where the Project and these CSOs work.    On IP engagement, it remains a challenge to come up with a consensus from four tribes in Brooke’s Point, Palawan who have ancestral claim in a portion of the declared marine protected area since not all tribe leaders are amenable to co-management of the coastal and marine resources. The Project is continuing its dialogue with the IP groups, the local government unit of Brooke’s Point, and the National Commission on Indigenous People. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.