



Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary
Photo credit: PA AMWS

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BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR PROJECT



Integrated Approach in Management of Major
Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines



Mt. Hamiguitan
Photo credit: PA MHRWS



PROJECT BRIEF

Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor



Aliwagwag Falls
Photo by Alan Ipanag

THE CHALLENGE

With more than 7,100 islands, the Philippines rank as the world's second-largest archipelagic country. Its total land area of around 300,000km² is home to more than 1,130 terrestrial wildlife species, with almost half of it are endemic to the country (44% of birds, 64% of land mammals, 65% of reptiles and 77% of amphibians). In terms of flora, the Philippines also serves one of the world's primary ecological hubs as it currently maintains five percent of the world's plant species, with more than half of the 10,000 to 15,000 species of vascular and non-vascular plants can be only found in the country. However, the Philippines ranks among the top ten countries globally with the most number of species threatened with extinction due to various threats. Key threats to natural resources management and biodiversity of the country are: loss and degradation of natural habitat; unsustainable resource use practices; pollution; invasive alien species; and climate change. These are compounded by the following barriers:

- Policies, regulations and approaches that breed disjointed governance, planning, management, and financing of activities within the biodiversity corridors;
- Fragmented implementation of key programs that fails to effectively address threats to Biodiversity corridor connectivity and natural resources decline; and
- Weak community level mechanisms to incentivize conservation of biodiversity, promote sustainable natural resource utilization, and monitor compliance.



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Photo credit: PA MHRWS

The “**Integrated Approach in Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines**” or **BD Corridor Project** is a development cooperation between the Government of the Philippines and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded through a grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as the implementing partner.

The project aims to operationalize the integrated management of biodiversity corridors to generate multiple benefits including effective conservation of globally threatened species and high conservation value forests, reduce deforestation and degradation and enhance local biodiversity-friendly livelihoods. It covers two biodiversity corridors as its pilot sites, namely, Mindoro and Eastern Mindanao.

Fund Source	GEF (Project ID 9584)
Duration	July 2021 to June 2027
GEF Executing Agency (Implementing Partner)	Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Implementing Agency	United Nations Development Programme
Management Arrangement	National Implementation Modality
Sector	Biodiversity

PROJECT COMPONENTS

COMPONENT 1

Effective coordination and governance framework for integrated ecosystem management in the Philippines biodiversity corridor system.

- ❖ Output 1.1: Functional governance & coordination mechanism established at national level to facilitate integrated ecosystem planning & mgt. of Biodiversity Corridors.
- ❖ Output 1.2: Policy instruments (biodiversity & community safeguard standards & guidelines) for improving biodiversity outcomes within the biodiversity corridors developed & adopted.
- ❖ Output 1.3: Compliance monitoring & enforcement strategy developed & adopted to measure progress towards measuring agreed biodiversity outcomes, threat reduction, sustainable natural resources management, apprehension of violators & prosecutions.

COMPONENT 2

Application of integrated network design and management of biodiversity corridors to ensure continued stability and sustainability of their biological, ecosystem services and socio-economic conservation values.

- ❖ Output 2.1: Integrated ecosystem mgt. framework developed & adopted for two biodiversity corridors.
- ❖ Output 2.2: Site-specific integrated cluster conservation plans (CCPs) designed through stakeholder & community consensus and decision-making for areas of critical high biodiversity w/n the biodiversity corridors.
- ❖ Output 2.3: Improved management effectiveness of existing protected areas within the two biological corridors.
- ❖ Output 2.4: Recognition of a network of OECM such as ICCAs, LCAs to accord improved protection and conservation within key biodiversity areas.
- ❖ Output 2.5: Capacitating national & sub-national govt., sector stakeholders, local communities & indigenous peoples to mainstream biodiversity conservation measures tested in the pilot corridors into their policies, planning and monitoring systems.



COMPONENT 3

Community-based sustainable use and management systems in the two pilot biodiversity corridor systems in the Philippines.

- ❖ Output 3.1: Voluntary forest certification system piloted for local communities and privately managed forests.
- ❖ Output 3.2: Sustainable land management applied to degraded agricultural lands through a suite of SLM technologies/practices and incentives.
- ❖ Output 3.3: Fragmentation of biodiversity habitats reduced through SFM approaches and collaborative management.
- ❖ Output 3.4: Biodiversity-friendly livelihood and business enterprises promoted to avoid biodiversity loss and lead to natural resources use sustainability.

COMPONENT 4

Knowledge management, gender mainstreaming, learning, monitoring, and evaluation Community-based sustainable use and management systems in the two pilot biodiversity corridor systems in the Philippines.

- ❖ Output 4.1: Knowledge Management and Communications, Gender Mainstreaming and Monitoring and Evaluation strategies developed and implemented.
- ❖ Output 4.2: Harmonized information management system to integrate lessons from the biological corridors and user friendly operational.
- ❖ Output 4.3: Knowledge Management and project experiences contributes to learning and facilitates replication and scaling up of integrated biodiversity management approaches elsewhere in the country.



Governance and Management Arrangements

Pursuant to DENR Special Order 2021-87, a National Project Board (NPB), Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (IATWG) and Corridor Alliance Advisory Committees (CAACs) were created to provide oversight and guidance, and National and Corridor Project Management Units were established to help implement the Project. The NPB, IATWG and CAAC comprise of representatives from various government agencies and representatives from civil society organizations, private sector and local communities.



Carac-an Watershed Forest Reserved
Photo credit: CENRO Cantilan

- Clusters:** 6
Regions: 2
Cities: 7
Municipalities: 68
Provinces: 6
Region XI
1. Davao de Oro
2. Davao Oriental
Region XIII
4. Surigao del Norte
5. Surigao del Sur
6. Agusan del Norte
7. Agusan del Sur



PROJECT SITES

The BD Corridor Project in the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor (EMBC) spans two regions, Caraga and Davao, and covers six provinces, seven cities, 68 municipalities, ten Protected Areas (PA) and nine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA).

