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FOUNDATION



RESTORING THE RESOURCES FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY OF  
WEST PHILIPPINES SEA

# RESTORE-WPS



## BACKGROUND

The project covers the West Philippine Sea area. Identified as one of the priority seascapes, the WPS accounts for roughly one third of Philippine waters and hosts a wealth of the country's coastal and marine resources: from coral reefs, to fisheries resources, to energy (oil) and mineral resources, among others. It is of critical importance given its rich biodiversity resources that significantly contribute to food security and livelihood of coastal communities.

WPS and the communities surrounding it have been affected by global, regional and local issues. One of the issues concerns the maritime disputes with China. The latter has been very aggressive in occupying islands and claiming sovereignty over a certain portion in the South China Sea. An international tribunal issued a ruling in July 2016 that rejected China's claim over the West Philippine Sea. Even so, reports have shown increasing Chinese maritime presence in the area, including the construction of artificial islands.

Other issues include extreme weather conditions, Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing (IUUF), unsustainable fishing practices, and marine pollution among others. Also, increasing cumulative pressures, such as resource extraction in the WPS without any holistic management interventions to address the impacts could result in reduction in ecosystem services it provides. All of these contribute to threatening the food security and the livelihood of the coastal communities in the WPS.



# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project is to provide sustainable fishing resources and livelihood for the communities in the WPS, thereby, creating an impact in addressing food security in the Philippines. Specifically, the proposal aims to:

- Reduce pressure on the fisheries due to IUUF and poaching;
- Reduce fishing effort in critical habitats.

## STRATEGIC APPROACHES

### STRATEGY 1

Solidifying partnership, mobilizing stakeholders, and policy development and advocacy.

- Establishing a platform for information, coordination, knowledge sharing, and coming together of state and non-state organizations for WPS
- Policy development and advocacy
- Network building among media, science, CSOs, and resource manager

### STRATEGY 2

Capacity-building and strengthening of both state and non-state actors

- Conduct of Training Needs Assessment
- Module development
- Pilot trainings
- Presentation of modules to concerned government agencies for their adoption and implementation

### STRATEGY 3

Science-based research and development decision support system

- Development of research agenda and its presentation to concerned government agencies for funding and implementation
- Establishment of a platform/knowledge hub and access to conservation and climate science
- Support the conduct of the bi-annual national scientific conference on wps
- Conduct of seminars, trainings and workshops

### STRATEGY 4

Livelihood diversification and enterprise support

- Conduct of assessment and gap analysis on livelihood interventions and policies on projects
- Conduct of survey and lessons learned on the livelihood projects
- Provide recommendations for policy enhancements on livelihood support
- Facilitate the uptake of the policy framework
- Pilot test the L&E policy framework on an existing livelihood project



## CONTACT INFORMATION-RESTORE-WPS

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