



## GEF-SGP OP5 in the Philippines

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# Role of Local Communities and IPs



Experience	Barriers
Local communities and IPs depend directly on natural resources for food, medicine, clothing and shelter, hence they have greater stake of conserving and managing them	Inadequate organizational capacity of local communities and IPs to form and manage community-based PA
Encouraging local stewardship has been proven to be effective in protecting larger areas	Organizational knowledge, experience and market barriers constrain adoption of sustainable land-use practices
Communities can be effective at enforcing locally determined regulations	Limited capacity-building opportunities available to local rural communities

# Strategic Solution and Objective

- ***Solution.*** Support local people's organizations, NGOs and CBOs in designing and implementing projects to contribute to global biodiversity conservation using the landscape approach and modelling and implementation of best practices
- ***Objective.*** Global environmental benefits secured through community-based biodiversity conservation initiatives and actions in selected priority sites in the Philippines





# Expected Outcomes

**Outcome 1:** Effective models for community-based governance of protected areas are demonstrated

**Outcome 2:** Community-managed landscapes and seascapes explicitly integrate biodiversity conservation objectives

**Outcome 3:** Alternative biodiversity friendly agriculture, fisheries and forestry products produced and marketed by 30 communities

**Outcome 4:** Increased capacity of GEF-SGP stakeholders to diagnose and understand the complex and dynamic nature of global environmental problems and to develop local solutions

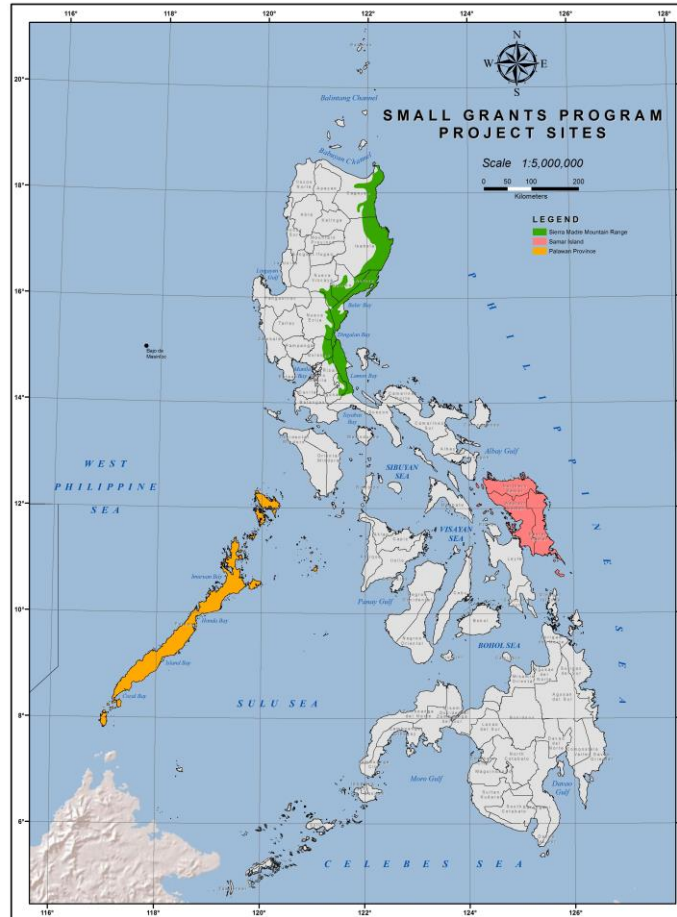
**Outcome 5:** Enhanced capacities of GEF-GEF-SGP grantees to monitor and evaluate their projects and environmental trends



# Landscapes & Seascapes

## Palawan

- Calamianes Group of Islands
- Roxas, Palawan
- Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
- Victoria-Anepaan Mountain Range
- San Mariano Bay



## Sierra Madre

- Isabela
- Aurora
- Central Sierra Madre
  - N. Vizcaya
  - Quirino
- Southern Luzon
  - Quezon
  - Rizal

## Samar Island

- Eastern Samar
- Northern Samar

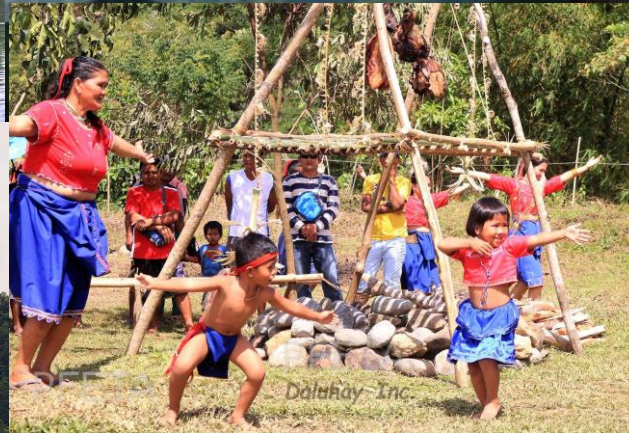


# The Landscape(s) and key environmental and socio-economic challenges





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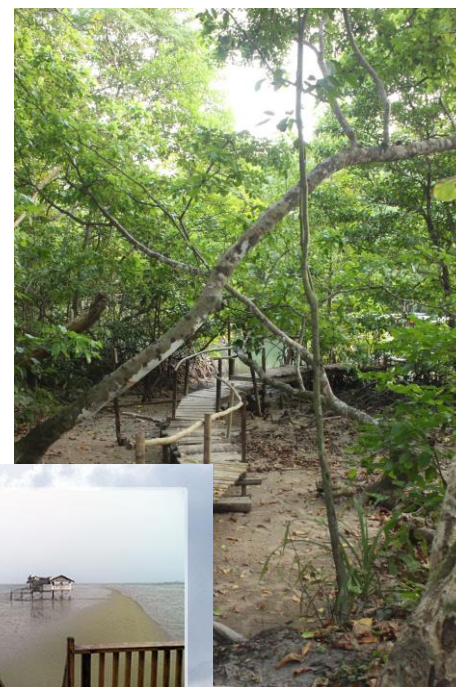
- **Environmental challenges**
  - Extreme weather events
  - Overlapping and conflicting land uses
  - Illegal and unsustainable resource utilization practices
  - Resource degradation
  - Development priorities that are inconsistent with sustainable development
  - Lack of or inadequate protection of biodiversity important areas
- **Social and economic challenges**
  - Overlapping claims and tenure
  - Lack of access to resources and livelihood opportunities
  - Lack of or inadequate capacity of communities to participate in governance and to assert their rights
  - Inadequate capacity of communities to engage or compete in the market



## Protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services

Outcomes 2 and 3 target **community-managed landscapes and seascapes that explicitly integrate biodiversity conservation objectives, coupled with alternative biodiversity friendly agriculture, fisheries and forestry economic activities** being pursued by communities

- Conduct of participatory processes
  - Use of **integrated area management checklist** was prepared as a tool to gather data and involve local governments, academia and other stakeholders
  - Participatory **resource mapping and planning**
  - Participatory **resource assessments and monitoring activities**







## Achievements and results from protecting biodiversity and ecosystems

- By March 2018, SGP-5 in the Philippines has started or strengthened the management of an aggregate of **150,934 ha of community protected areas**, and has established a total of **965,136 ha of production land/seascapes**, and working with 138 community groups (66 farmer, 37 fisher, 27 IP, 7 women groups)
- **104 communities that produce biodiversity-friendly forestry, agro-forestry, agriculture, fisheries and ecotourism products and services**, some of them are already mainstreamed in the market; mostly benefitting women and IPs
- **4 site-based hubs** that exercise networking roles, engendering synergy among CSOs during and beyond the implementation of their SGP projects, forging partnerships with national government agencies, local governments, academia, the private sector and other funding institutions
- **Conferences** as platforms for knowledge exchange (the **First National Biodiversity Congress** in 2017, **8 site-based/hub level conferences** in 2016 and 2017)



# Lessons learned

- Interconnectedness of ecosystems
- Community benefits (esp. economic) is best connected to biodiversity conservation
  - Best way to explain and involve communities is by connecting biodiversity to the gut
  - Livelihood/enterprise interventions are most effective for local communities and local governments alike, but nexus between livelihood activities and biodiversity conservation should be understood at the onset
- Local networks have enabled stronger CSO presence in local governmental decision-making, including development planning and budgeting

# Lessons learned

- Partnerships with stakeholders help a lot:
  - Government has a lot of resources (policy and funds) that can be used to support biodiversity conservation-related agenda (e.g., budget, PBSAP, PDP, BDFE)
  - With local governments, in expanding the coverage of production land/seascapes, and in financing conservation and protection actions
  - With local academic institutions, more technology support (soft and hard) to projects at the most cost-efficient manner
  - With other funding institutions, more possibilities for continuity of initiatives
  - With other GEF-UNDP projects, expanding the advocacies and sources and support for projects