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PROTECT WILDLIFE

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT 2

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CONTENTS

- PREFACE..... iii**
- ABBREVIATIONS..... v**

- 1 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS THIS QUARTER..... 1**
 - 1.1 Activity Overview.....Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 - 1.2 Summary of Accomplishments as of December 31, 2016 3**
- 2 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS..... 5**
 - 2.1 Manila 5**
 - 2.2 Palawan 9**
 - 2.3 Zamboanga City-Tawi-Tawi..... 14**
- 3 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION..... 19**
- 4 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES 21**
- 5 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER..... 22**
- 6 PAST AND PROJECTED EXPENDITURES 29**
- ANNEXES..... 30**

PREFACE

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Mission to the Philippines, has contracted DAI Global, LLC (DAI) as the implementing partner for the Protect Wildlife activity under Contract No. AID-492-TO-16-00002. The effective date of the contract is June 17, 2016 to December 11, 2020. DAI partners with four organizations—Orient Integrated Development Consultants, Inc.; Rare, Inc.; Conservation International Foundation; and Tanggol Kalikasan, Inc.—in implementing the activity.

The Contract requires DAI to submit Quarterly Progress Reports to USAID within 30 days from the close of each operating quarter. Quarterly Progress Reports include information about the task order and a summary of progress of activities in relation to the requirements of the task order, indicating any problems encountered and proposing remedial actions as appropriate. Each report articulates progress toward outcomes and highlights key achievements and problem areas that require senior management intervention.

Protect Wildlife Quarterly Progress Report objectives consist of five sections. The first is an overview of the activity and a summary of progress during the preceding quarter. The second section provides detailed updates on activities undertaken in Manila, Palawan and Zamboanga City-Tawi-Tawi for each of Contract Line Item No. (CLIN) 0001 composed of various Sub-CLINs. There are no activities under CLIN 002 yet. The third section lists the different issues and challenges encountered during the implementation period, while the fourth section outlines the plans for the succeeding quarter. The last section provides details on expenditures for the quarter and projected spending for the next.

This second quarterly report covers the period of October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. It provides a summary of accomplishments based on planned activities set out in the July-September 2016 Quarterly Progress Report. The report also outlines the planned activities for January 2, 2017 to March 30, 2017.

ABBREVIATIONS

ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
C4C	Campaigning for Conservation
CENRO	Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
CSO	civil society organization
DA-BFAR	Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
DAO	DENR Administrative Order
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR-BMB	DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau
DENR-FASPS	DENR Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOJ	Department of Justice
ECOFISH	Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries
ELAC	Environmental Legal Assistance Center
ENR	environment and natural resources
FLUP	Forest Land Use Plan
GDA	Global Development Alliance
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPH	Government of the Philippines
HEI	higher education institution
IPO	indigenous people's organization
IUU	illegal, unreported, and unregulated
KAP	knowledge, attitudes, and practices
LRMU	land and resource management unit
MEL	monitoring, evaluation and learning
MMPL	Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NIPAS	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OCENR	Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources
PAMB	Protected Area Management Board
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PCSDS	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff
PENRO	Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
PES	payment for environmental services
PNP	Philippine National Police
PO	people's organization
RDE	research, development and extension
SA	Strategic Approach
US DOI	United States Department of Interior
USG	United States Government
ZCWD	Zamboanga City Water District

I ACTIVITY OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRESS THIS QUARTER

The Protect Wildlife activity, a technical assistance grant by the United States Government to the Government of the Philippines, supports initiatives to align conservation policy with on-the-ground wildlife management actions and enforcement from June 17, 2016 to December 11, 2020. Protect Wildlife’s long-term vision is to contribute toward biodiversity conservation in the Philippines. The activity aims to help reduce threats to biodiversity, reduce poaching and use of illegally harvested wildlife and wildlife products, and improve ecosystem goods and services for human well-being. It will also link wildlife habitat management and enforcement with local, regional and national development processes.

Protect Wildlife fits within the USAID Biodiversity Policy (USAID 2015) that *“builds upon the Agency’s long history of conserving a global biological heritage for current and future generations and reflects a deep understanding of the role that healthy natural systems play in achieving the Agency’s human-development goals”*. The activity is the first USAID/Philippines initiative to combat wildlife trafficking and directly implement the US Government’s newly signed Eliminate, Neutralize and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016. Protect Wildlife supports the Philippines’ current policies and programs on biodiversity conservation and reduction of wildlife trafficking under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act and the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

I.1 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

As a megadiverse country, the Philippines claims to be the “center of the center” of nearshore marine diversity, including corals and reef fishes. It is home to about 1,100 terrestrial vertebrates and 5 percent of the world’s flora, a significant proportion of which is endemic. However, much of these biodiversity assets continue to be under various threats. Wildlife habitats and species are under risk and pressures from both natural and human interventions, such as land conversion for agriculture and settlements; illegal, unregulated and unreported harvesting; and destructive mining and quarrying. Local stakeholders barely know the value of biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services they provide. Economic incentives, financial support and capacities are few to manage wildlife habitats and regulate uses in highly diverse areas.

Protect Wildlife seeks to improve local capacities; incentivize communities and local government units (LGUs); leverage financing support; and deepen knowledge, attitudes and behaviors for the effective management, regulation and enforcement of wildlife habitats in relation to other appropriate land and resource uses in biologically significant areas in Palawan, Zamboanga City-Tawi-Tawi and two additional sites. Protect Wildlife will also address wildlife trafficking outside habitats, especially in transit points such as ports, markets and other transaction hotspots.

Protect Wildlife has the following five strategic approaches (SAs):

Strategic Approach 1: Improve attitudes and behavior toward biodiversity and its conservation in target areas, with these five-year targets:

- 100 people trained to lead behavior change campaigns
- 25 behavior change campaigns implemented
- 300,000 people reached by behavior change campaigns

Strategic Approach 2: Intensify private and public sector involvement in conserving and financing biodiversity initiatives, with these five-year targets:

- US\$500,000 revenues generated from the sale of ecosystem services in targeted sites
- 100 payments for ecosystem services (PES) or tourism initiatives
- US\$5 million in Global Development Alliance (GDA) investments in Protect Wildlife anti-poaching and trafficking efforts

Strategic Approach 3: Improve biodiversity conservation competencies of local government units and civil society organizations that include on-site land and resource management units, with these five-year targets:

- 200 LGU staff trained in participatory planning for integrated conservation and development
- 2,500 community members trained in planning and implementation of integrated conservation and development
- 200 LGU staff trained, certified and formally deputized as Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) by government agencies

Strategic Approach 4: Enhance capacities of universities to advance biodiversity conservation education, research, monitoring and innovation, with these five-year targets:

- 25 university-supported research initiatives implemented at Protect Wildlife sites
- 10 universities developing conservation curricula with support from Protect Wildlife

Strategic Approach 5: Enhance competencies of national and local government agencies in enforcing biodiversity conservation-related laws and policies, with these five-year targets:

- 1,000 government staff trained in combating wildlife and environmental crime
- 50 new or revised laws and regulations adopted to combat wildlife crimes
- 1,000 confiscations, seizures and arrests resulting from capacity building provided by Protect Wildlife.

In Year 1, Protect Wildlife's geographic scope includes threatened wildlife habitats in terrestrial and marine/coastal areas in Palawan, such as the Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape, Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Ursula Island Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary, and mangroves and marine protected areas (MPAs) in southern Palawan; and in Zamboanga City-Tawi-Tawi, such as the Pasonanca Natural Park, Santa Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape, several watersheds, mangroves, MPAs and turtle nesting sites. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and USAID will identify two more sites in Year 2.

Protect Wildlife implements activities through its field offices in Puerto Princesa City in Palawan and Zamboanga City. The Manila office maintains the national advisors and specialists who work with national-level agencies and provide technical support to activities in the sites. Protect Wildlife's principal counterpart is the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in close coordination with the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). At the local level, Protect Wildlife works directly with the DENR Regional Offices, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs) and provincial, city and municipal LGUs, as well as the local offices of national government agencies entrusted with natural resources management. In Palawan, Protect Wildlife coordinates with the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS). At various levels, Protect Wildlife works with non-government and civil society

organizations (CSOs), higher educational institutions (HEIs) and land and resource managers, such as ancestral domain and tenure holders and fisherfolk and coastal community organizations.

I.2 SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

The highlights of the Protect Wildlife quarterly report show overall progress in activity implementation. Protect Wildlife was able to complete and submit to USAID all the deliverables as of December 31, 2016. Except for the Gender Action Plan and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan, all the submitted deliverables were accepted and approved by USAID within the quarter. The Manila and Palawan staff finally transferred to their respective offices in December 2016.

Since the start of Protect Wildlife, a total of 44 technical and support staff have been recruited to work in Manila, Puerto Princesa City and Zamboanga City-Tawi-Tawi offices. The activity, however, continues to search for candidates for the positions of Biodiversity Financing Advisor and University Engagement Specialist.

In collaboration with DENR-BMB, DENR field units and PCSDS in Palawan, the activity finalized the focal target sites in southern Palawan, Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi. A total of 31 (see Annex A) institutions and organizations (LGUs, HEIs, CSOs, local water district and barangays) submitted their respective letters of intent to participate, partner or collaborate in the planning and implementation of Protect Wildlife activities to conserve biodiversity, reduce poaching and illegal harvesting of wildlife species and improve the supply of ecosystem goods and services.

As shown in Table 1, the rollout of activities is intentionally designed to accomplish contract deliverables and outputs.

TABLE 1: CONTRACT DELIVERABLES: INDICATORS AND ANNUAL TARGETS

Indicators	Targets		Progress as of December 2016	
	Life-of-Activity	Year 1		
SA 1				
	Preparatory Activities			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing procurement of providers to do the baseline knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) study. 4 firms submitted proposals. 3 firms shortlisted and asked to present their technical and financial proposals.
1.1	People trained to lead behavior change campaigns	100	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 LGUs who expressed their commitment are potential sources of participants for Campaigning for Conservation (C4C) training; first C4C training scheduled on April 2017.
1.2	Behavior change campaigns implemented	25	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities in Palawan, Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi were identified as possible targets of behavior change campaigns; an institutional campaign will be planned with PCSDS.
1.3	People reached by behavior change campaigns	300,000	4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet started.
SA 2				
2.1	Revenue generated from the sale of ecosystem services in target sites	US\$500,000	US\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted initial assessment of LGUs with existing and prospective ecosystem services for possible PES interventions.
2.2	Payment for ecosystem services (PES) or tourism	100	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulted LGUs, water utilities and other water users for the development of PES schemes.

	initiatives supported in target sites			
2.3	Global Development Alliance (GDA) investments in Protect Wildlife anti-poaching and trafficking efforts	US\$5 million	US\$0.05 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified possible areas for GDAs but have yet to identify foundations and private sector to enter into GDA with Protect Wildlife. Explored GDA partnership with Lutheran Foundation for establishment of a livelihood support fund for communities in southern Palawan.
SA 3				
3.1	LGU staff trained in participatory planning for integrated conservation and development	200	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 LGUs sent Letters of Interest (LOIs) to the DENR. Conducted LGU and site assessments and discussions with DENR-CENROs in southern Palawan and Zamboanga City to identify entry points for participatory conservation planning and management.
3.2	Community members trained in planning and implementation of integrated conservation and development	2,500	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted initial consultations with ancestral domain and community tenure holders in southern Palawan and coastal communities to assess resource use, livelihoods and participation in natural resource management.
3.3	LGU staff trained, certified and formally deputized as Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEOs) by government agencies	200	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71 LGU staff participated in 2 deputation trainings for WEOs for southern Palawan LGUs.
3.4	Community members trained and certified as WEOs by government agencies	500	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 community members participated in deputation training for WEOs for southern Palawan. The training is a requirement for WEO certification.
SA 4				
4.1	University-supported research initiatives implemented in target sites	25	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 HEIs in Palawan, Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi sent LOIs for partnership on research, development and extension (RDE) activities.
4.2	Universities developing conservation curricula with support from Protect Wildlife	10	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet started.
SA 5				
5.1	Government staff trained in combating wildlife and environmental crime	1,000	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 provincial and city prosecutors trained on wildlife enforcement and other environmental laws.
5.2	New or revised laws and regulations adopted to combat wildlife crimes	50	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing inventory and review of local ordinances, PCSD resolutions and national-level implementing rules and regulations to determine policy gaps.
5.3	Confiscations, seizures and arrests resulting from capacity-building provided by Protect Wildlife	1,000	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data on confiscations and violations collected via violations assessment workshops.

2 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

2.1 MANILA

The Manila Protect Wildlife team continued to coordinate, facilitate and provide technical direction to activity implementation in Manila and support for activities carried out in Palawan and Zamboanga City-Tawi-Tawi. Highlights of technical activities in the Manila office are the following:

1. Submitted the draft/ revised versions of the following contract deliverables for USAID approval:
 - Theory of Change
 - Activity Work Plan for Year 1
 - Quarterly Progress Report 1 (July-September 2016)
 - Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan
 - Gender Action Plan
 - Branding Implementation and Marking Plans
 - Communication Plan

Except for the MEL Plan, Gender Action Plan and Communication Plan, the deliverables were accepted and approved by USAID as of December 31, 2016.

2. Initial consultations with the staff of DENR-BMB and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS) helped the team draft a DENR Special Order for Protect Wildlife implementation. The draft order was based on similar DENR Special Orders for donor-funded projects, such as those for the United Nations Development Programme and the USAID Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (B+WISER) activity.
3. The Chief of Party (COP) attended the USAID Implementing Partners Meeting on October 5, 2016. He presented a brief overview of Protect Wildlife, being a new activity, to implementing partners.
4. The COP attended the USAID Partners' Meeting with Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) on December 8, 2016 in Davao City. The meeting focused on presentations and discussions of USAID-supported activities in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao.
5. Manila and field-based staff met to review implementation progress and agree on a detailed and coordinated schedule of activities for the rest of Year 1.
6. The COP and the Zamboanga team briefed DENR Region 9 in Pagadian City and DENR-Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in Cotabato City on Protect Wildlife implementation arrangements and the Year 1 work plan. The DENR Region 9 Director and DENR-ARMM Secretary agreed to issue a regional special order for the joint implementation of activities in their respective areas of responsibility. The COP also briefly met with the Officer in Charge of DENR Region 4B during the Palawan Environmental Summit to discuss Protect Wildlife implementation.

7. The Manila team met with the PCSDS Executive Director and key staff to map out partnership arrangements and wildlife law enforcement in Palawan. PCSDS formalized its support for collaborative implementation of Protect Wildlife in Palawan through a letter of commitment to the DENR.

2.1.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH 1: IMPROVE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR TOWARD BIODIVERSITY AND ITS CONSERVATION IN TARGET AREAS

1. Finalized the Scope of Work and completed the initial bidding process for the formative research on knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) with respect to biodiversity conservation and wildlife law enforcement. The survey will provide information about the current level of knowledge, attitudes and practices of target audiences and reveal perceptions, motivations and misunderstandings that may prove to be barriers to behavior change. A total of six research firms were invited to submit proposals: Taylor, Nelson, Sofres Philippines, Nielsen, Ipsos, Organic Intelligence, Social Weather Station and Pulse Asia. Of the six firms, four submitted proposals, three of which were subsequently shortlisted and requested to present their respective proposal to the Protect Wildlife team.
2. Refined the schedules and logistic requirements for the conduct of Campaigning for Conservation (C4C) trainings in southern Palawan and Zamboanga City.

2.1.2 STRATEGIC APPROACH 2: INTENSIFY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVING AND FINANCING BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

1. Met with the Country Manager and Senior Director for Asia and Middle East of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) on December 16, 2016 for potential GDA financing in southern Palawan that will focus on livelihoods/enterprises of coastal and upland communities. LWR is considering the provision of microfinancing support to complement Protect Wildlife technical assistance to target communities.

2.1.3 STRATEGIC APPROACH 3: IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION COMPETENCIES OF LGUS AND CSOS THAT INCLUDE ON-SITE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS

1. Led the consolidated assessment of the management of Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) in southern Palawan, and land/resource use and conservation plans of the five LGUs and the domain and tenure holders that cover parts of the protected area. The Manila team prepared the assessment design, interview and focus group discussion (FGD) questions, and provided overall direction in summarizing and analyzing assessment results. The initial analysis and proposed entry points were presented during the Protect Wildlife quarterly meeting in December 2016.

2.1.4 STRATEGIC APPROACH 4: ENHANCE CAPACITIES OF UNIVERSITIES TO ADVANCE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EDUCATION, RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INNOVATION

1. Led the assessments of potential HEIs in Palawan and Zamboanga City with the Protect Wildlife field staff.
2. Met Dr. Annette Meñez and Dr. Porfirio Aliño of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute to discuss the possibility of their engagement for the pilot commercialization of small-scale production of high value marine products (sea cucumber, abalone) in southern Palawan and other

activity sites. Protect Wildlife will draft a Terms of Reference for the short-term engagement of Dr. Meñez to do the initial assessment and give recommendations on how to move with the approach.

2.1.5 STRATEGIC APPROACH 5: ENHANCE COMPETENCIES OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN ENFORCING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

1. Lectured on Wildlife Enforcement Protocols for Airports and Seaports during the Orientation Seminar on National and International Policies on Ivory and Wildlife Trade in Davao City on November 21, 2016. The seminar updated participants from the Office of Transportation Security, Airport Police, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), DA-BFAR and DENR on new techniques in addressing wildlife smuggling at Philippine ports of entry and exit.
2. Collaborated with DENR-BMB on the design, conduct and facilitation of the first Wildlife Law Enforcement Summit and National Stakeholders' Consultation Workshop on the Wildlife Law Enforcement Action Plan held on November 22 to 24, 2016 in Davao City. Protect Wildlife partly financed the national summit, which had over 150 participants from various national law enforcement agencies, including the DENR, DA-BFAR, PCSDS, PCG, PPA, Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Customs, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency, Philippine Navy and civil society organizations. The summit provided a venue to update enforcement groups on new developments in wildlife law enforcement in the country and to share best practices and accomplishments. It also allowed Protect Wildlife and DENR-BMB to identify policy gaps and determine policies for review, drafting or enhancement.
3. Participated in a FGD with the USAID Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) activity and Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC) for the revision of Mending Nets, a handbook on the enforcement and prosecution of fisheries cases. Mending Nets serves as a bible for fisheries law enforcement by LGUs and national law enforcement agencies.
4. Met with USAID and ECOFISH staff to determine areas for collaboration as ECOFISH winds down its activities in 2017. ECOFISH and Protect Wildlife will continue to discuss how Protect Wildlife can continue DALOY 3456, an intelligence and enforcement-planning tool for fisheries law enforcement; and what technical assistance it can provide to DA-BFAR in protecting fisheries habitats and addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
5. In partnership with the United States Department of Interior's (DOI) Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation Phase 3, provided funding support and program inputs to the seminar on wildlife and other environmental laws for prosecutors of the Department of Justice (DOJ). Thirty-two provincial, city and assistant provincial prosecutors (9 females, 23 males) from Luzon participated in the seminar held in Naga City.

2.1.6 CROSSCUTTING COMPONENTS

Gender Analysis

1. As part of the assessment of priority conservation areas, carried out gender analysis in four upland communities within MMPL and in two representative coastal communities in Zamboanga City. Those held in Palawan were attended by men and women of the Palaw-an indigenous people (IP) while the participants in Zamboanga City consisted of Muslim and Badjao men and women. The FGDs defined the productive and organizational roles of men and women in their communities and identified barriers to their participation in development and resource management activities. Gender challenges and barriers identified in the gender analyses and opportunities for gender integration in each SA were presented to the team during in December 2016.

2. Refined the Gender Action Plan to incorporate information and insights from the gender analyses. The action plan was resubmitted to USAID.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

1. Continued to refine and improve the initial draft of the MEL plan based on the results of the site assessments, the LOIs that were received, further discussions among the team, and the comments and suggestions from USAID. A behavior change outcome has been added to the USAID standard indicators. The Performance Indicator Reference Sheets (PIRS) of outcome and output indicators are being revised to provide a clearer definition of the indicators and the methods for data collection, analysis and presentation.
2. Starting in November 2016, submitted weekly reports on important activities and events during the week and planned for the following week, for submission to USAID and DAI home office.

Mapping and Spatial Analysis

1. Quality-checked existing spatial data to identify gaps and other datasets necessary to perform spatial analysis for integrated conservation planning and management of landscapes. Geographic information system (GIS) specialists in Palawan and Zamboanga City were provided a working guide that set data and mapping standards and defined the level of detail that is needed and how the analysis will be done.
2. Provided map layers used to generate basic statistics on MMPL, LGU and domain and tenured areas that were needed for the integrated baseline assessment in Palawan. Also provided base maps for SA 5 violations assessment workshops and demonstrated a process for mapping data on threats to wildlife.
3. Reviewed the 2014 MMPL Zoning Management guidelines to test how it affects the MMPL zoning scheme primarily based on the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) zoning criteria and how it compares with the zoning prescriptions under the NIPAS Law. Using existing thematic maps on Palawan, map overlay analysis was done to show land use changes that no longer conform to ECAN zones. Thus, it was proposed to PCSDS that a joint mapping exercise for MMPL be undertaken to guide enforcement and management actions within the protected area.
4. Attended the final presentation by a specialist of Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite at University of the Philippines Diliman through the USAID-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) project. The tools and technology could be useful to LGUs for monitoring the effectiveness of enforcement activities, such as patrolling of 15-kilometer municipal waters and imposing seasonal fishery closures.

Communications

1. Protect Wildlife staff were briefed on the Branding Implementation and Marking Plan and the standards on applying the USAID logo, fonts, color palettes and marking guidelines as indicated in the new USAID Graphics Standards Manual and Partner Co-Branding Guide.
2. Produced ready-to-use templates for event signages, presentation slides and certificates. These were rolled out for Protect Wildlife's initial activities, such as violations assessments, action planning workshops with partners, and training of wildlife enforcement officers.

3. Finalized and produced the Protect Wildlife one-sheet briefier, which will continue to be provided to partners during meetings and activities.
4. Submitted the revised communication plan, including an action plan for Year 1 and a social media component, for USAID review and acceptance.
5. To keep USAID and partners abreast of Protect Wildlife’s recent activities, prepared short news articles or photos stories that were submitted to USAID for possible publication in USAID/Philippines’ Manila Environment Office Weekly Update email newsletter and their Facebook page. For the quarter, ten photo stories were submitted, three of which were published in the email newsletter and two posted on USAID/Philippines’ Facebook page, as listed below:
 - USAID eyes improved management of Zamboanga City’s protected islands (on USAID/Philippines Manila Environment Office Weekly Update and Facebook)
 - Philippines rallies partners for improved wildlife law enforcement (on USAID/Philippines Manila Environment Office Weekly Update and Facebook)
 - Local stakeholders map out resource use and conservation challenges in Palawan (on USAID/Philippines Manila Environment Office Weekly Update)

2.2 PALAWAN

The Palawan Protect Wildlife team, in collaboration with the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and PCSDS, facilitated the submission of LOIs of 12 public and private organizations interested to be partners in the implementation of the activity. These include PCSDS; five municipal LGUs in southern Palawan—Bataraza, Brooke’s Point, Quezon, Rizal and Sofronio Española—that encompass the MMPL; Tubbataha Management Office; Western Philippines University; and four CSOs—ELAC, Institute for the Development of Ecological and Educational Alternatives (IDEAS), Augustinian Missionaries of the Philippines-Indigenous Peoples Mission (AMP-IPM) and Nagkakaisang Tribu ng Palawan (NATRIPAL). Refer to Annex A.

PCSDS specifically expressed its support for joint activities in planning and implementation of behavior change campaigns, conduct of resource valuation studies, design of PES and PES-like schemes, enterprise mapping, enforcement and natural resource management planning with ECAN as the framework.

On November 17, 2016, Protect Wildlife was presented at the Palawan Provincial Environment Summit, where the objectives and technical assistance strategies of the activity were outlined to a broader base of stakeholders.

2.2.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH I: IMPROVE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR TOWARD BIODIVERSITY AND ITS CONSERVATION IN TARGET AREAS

1. Proposed to the PCSDS Executive Director and communications team to jointly develop a communication plan and a province-wide thematic campaign that will utilize the findings of the PCSDS 2016 Palawan-wide KAP study. This could become the umbrella campaign on which C4C trainees can anchor their mini-campaigns. The planned communication strategy workshop with PCSDS during the quarter, however, did not push through due to delays in encoding and analysis of PCSDS KAP data. The activity is rescheduled to early 2017.
2. Completed a pre-KAP assessment in southern Palawan through FGDs with LGU staff and members of people’s organizations (POs) and indigenous people’s organizations (IPOs). Highlights of the assessment are:

- Southern Palawan LGUs, POs and IPOs have a high level of knowledge of the importance of conservation and biodiversity, which could be due to Palawan being known as an ecological icon and the strong connection of the livelihoods of IPs to nature.
- Awareness of conservation laws among LGUs is higher than average but the quality of knowledge (e.g., details of the laws) is medium.
- IPs have a high level of awareness of conservation laws in the context of what is allowed and what is not but they are unable to articulate exact laws or regulations. The quality of knowledge on laws and status of important species is more on the practical side than legal.
- LGUs tended to display negative perceptions towards IPs, which may affect how they will engage this audience in their campaigns. These negative perceptions seem to arise from the perception that the greatest threats in the MMPL area are illegal collection of wildlife species (in which some IPs are reportedly involved) and the continued practice of kaingin or swidden farming.
- Species for conservation include the myna, parrot, bearcat, pangolin and almaciga.
- Stakeholders expressed a common desire for conservation and better enforcement. For communities, the main barrier is their poverty. LGUs expressed frustration in not being able to achieve conservation targets because of gaps in management and lack of resources.
- All five LGUs expressed interest to participate in the 10-day C4C training.
- Existing communication collaterals have limited reach and effectiveness. Gender concerns should be considered in education and training programs and information campaigns.

2.2.2 STRATEGIC APPROACH 2: INTENSIFY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVING AND FINANCING BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

1. Gathered water-related data, including spatial data, for initial analysis of opportunities for establishing PES schemes in southern Palawan and identifying priority areas for resource valuation studies. Among PES opportunities being considered are the ongoing level-3 municipal-wide waterworks projects in all five LGUs and ecotourism linked to the campaign to promote 4Fs (forest, falls, fauna and flora) in southern Palawan. Initial assessments revealed that most users of major ecosystem goods and services, particularly of water sourced from MMPL, do not pay anything or are not charged the right value for the services availed.
2. Assessed current livelihoods of upland communities and challenges and problems related to financing, marketing and infrastructure support. Common livelihoods among these communities include gathering of non-timber forest products such as almaciga resin, honey, fruits such as wild durian, bamboo, rattan and vines; agriculture (rice, corn, coconuts, banana, peanuts and livestock); and handicrafts such as basket and sawali weaving. Women's livelihoods are natural extensions of their reproductive work, such as basket weaving; selling food, fish, shells and vegetables; and tending sari-sari stores. Indigenous women and men have limited access to markets, market information and credit. Prices of goods are determined mainly by traders who advance loans for production and provide transport to bring their produce from their farms to markets.
3. Identified institutional sources of financial support for livelihoods and enterprises in southern Palawan, including:
 - Microfinance organizations in Palawan, such as CARD, ICCO Cooperation, Asa Philippines, Tulay sa Pag-unlad Inc., Ecumenical Church Loan Fund, Peace and Equity Foundation and the Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation;

- Non-government organizations (NGOs), which include IDEAS, Augustinian Missionaries of the Philippines, Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation and Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme Philippines; and
- Municipal LGUs and the Provincial Government of Palawan.

While IPOs are formally organized, their weak organizational capacity limits their access to institutional credit unless they are provided assistance by local NGOs.

2.2.3 STRATEGIC APPROACH 3: IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION COMPETENCIES OF LGUS AND CSOS THAT INCLUDE ON-SITE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS

1. Conducted a consolidated assessment with the other SA teams to establish the baseline situation in MMPL, the five LGUs and domain and tenured areas. Using a jointly developed assessment design and tools, the SA teams reviewed documents and organized guided discussions and interviews with staff of DENR-CENROs, the MMPL Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) office and LGUs, and with domain and tenure holders. Annex B presents in detail the results of the assessment. Findings that are most relevant to SA 3 are:
 - The MMPL management plan was updated and approved in 2016. However, it does not provide a clear zoning plan. According to LGUs and POs/IPOs, actual land uses within MMPL and in domain and tenured areas are now different from the zoning regime established using the 2005 ECAN map, thus creating confusion in enforcement and on-site investment. This presents an opportunity for Protect Wildlife to work with PCSDS in updating the ECAN map for MMPL and make it more enforceable.
 - The following provide opportunities to introduce integrated natural resource management and biodiversity conservation to LGUs and domain and tenure holders:
 - three LGUs are to update their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs);
 - two LGUs, which have the biggest forestlands in southern Palawan (i.e., Rizal and Brooke's Point) have no forest land use plans (FLUPs);
 - there exists conservation areas outside MMPL; and
 - only three IPOs have current ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plans (ADSDPP).

TABLE 2: PROFILE OF MMPL LGUS AND STATUS OF CLUPs AND FLUPs

LGU	Income Class	Area (ha) within MMPL	Status of CLUP	Forestlands (% of LGU Area)	Status of FLUP
Rizal	1st	59,563 ha	Under review of Provincial Land Use Committee	109,128 ha (85%)	None
Quezon	1st	13,711 ha	Due for updating	13,666 ha (14%)	Only 4 of 14 barangays completed;
Sofronio Española	2nd	7,465 ha	Due for updating	7,458 ha (15%)	None
Bataraza	1st	8,083 ha	Due for updating	8,051 ha (12%)	FLUP 2009-2018 under review
Brooke's Point	1st	32,041 ha	Approved in 2015; with zoning ordinance	31,239 ha (50%)	None

- The DENR budget remains as the main financing source for MMPL and it is deemed inadequate to implement the MMPL management plan. LGUs report that they contribute to MMPL through their own environmental protection and livelihood programs (with funding amounting

to P300,000 to P1.5 million) and through annual contributions (ranging from P300,000 to P500,000) to the Southern Palawan Planning Council. It is unclear how much of LGU funding actually support the implementation of the MMPL Management Plan.

2. Consolidated available geospatial datasets on southern Palawan from DENR (mining tenements), PCSDS (ECAN map), National Irrigation Administration (irrigation systems and service areas), NCIP (applications and awarded Certificates of Ancestral Domain), and LGUs (land uses, locally established MPAs). Thematic maps are needed for the delineation or zoning of conservation areas within MMPL and LGUs, threat and vulnerability analysis, forest land use planning, and management planning of important watersheds and of ancestral domain and tenured areas.
3. With SA 5 as lead, conducted two training activities for WEOs last November 2016, with a total of 81 participants from the five municipalities: 71 LGU staff (10 females, 61 males) and 10 community members (3 females, 7 males). The deputation of trained LGU staff and the certification of trained community members have been discussed with PCSDS. The training included a participatory violations assessment for southern Palawan, which generated maps that show location of wildlife habitats and violation hotspots.
4. Presented the Year 1 work plan to the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP), which proposes assistance to the TRNP Management Office in setting up a governance and management system and financing mechanism that will be sustainable. The team has started gathering of relevant policies and institutional studies on TRNP.

2.2.4 STRATEGIC APPROACH 4: ENHANCE CAPACITIES OF UNIVERSITIES TO ADVANCE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EDUCATION, RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INNOVATION

1. Presented Protect Wildlife and its innovative research, development and extension (RDE) strategy to key officials and staff of Palawan State University, Western Philippines University and Palawan Polytechnic College. While all three HEIs expressed willingness to participate, only Western Philippines University has submitted an LOI.
2. Initiated the assessment of current capacities of the three institutions in terms of existing research staff, facilities and equipment and RDE activities and publications related to biodiversity protection and conservation. Initial results showed the following:
 - Most of studies undertaken are species or animal group based, e.g., terrestrial, aquatic, and marine mammals, reptiles and amphibians, birds, fishes and corals. Sources of funding for these studies vary.
 - Absence of long-term and comprehensive studies on biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats; studies are mostly short-term, one-time assessments and monitoring.
 - Limited studies on socioeconomic drivers of changes in biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change, and ecosystems connectivity.
 - The WPU has current initiatives that are potential entry points for Protect Wildlife: studies on abalone, indigenous wildlife plant species.
 - Research staff capacities vary among the three HEIs; a small core of good researchers exist in Western Philippines University and Palawan State University.
 - Research collaboration and networking among them is limited; most of completed and ongoing studies are conducted by or in collaboration with off-site researchers.
3. The following research areas were identified for possible Protect Wildlife support:

- Strengthening the Palawan Knowledge Platform to improve access and sharing of scientific information and knowledge products among HEIs, LGUs, government agencies and CSOs;
- Regular conduct of research symposium in Palawan;
- Long-term research on connectedness of ecosystems and impacts of climate change on both species and habitats;
- Piloting and commercialization of mature technologies (abalone) to expand and diversify livelihoods/enterprises of coastal and upland communities;
- Documentation of indigenous knowledge and practices that support sustainable biodiversity conservation and development in ancestral domains;
- Research on value chains of Palawan products from conservation areas, i.e. agroforestry, palms, almaciga, honey and vines; and
- Ecotourism impacts and mitigation measures.

2.2.5 STRATEGIC APPROACH 5: ENHANCE COMPETENCIES OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN ENFORCING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

1. Consulted the PCSDS to determine points of collaboration in developing a wildlife enforcement system for Palawan and in training and deputizing WEOs. Likewise consulted the PNP Provincial Office, Maritime Group Special Operations Unit, Provincial Fisheries Office, PENRO and the Philippine Coast Guard District office on their participation in wildlife law enforcement and their training needs. Most expressed keen interest in learning wildlife forensics, wildlife identification, and wildlife and evidence handling.
2. Conducted with PCSDS a two-day participatory assessment of wildlife and environmental law enforcement in Palawan (excluding the Calamianes Islands where a similar activity is programmed for January 2017). The activity was attended by 80 participants from 14 LGUs, 10 CSOs and 6 enforcement agencies. It generated important data on existing land and resource uses, existing LGU policies and ordinances, fisheries practices, wildlife habitats, and trends in wildlife trafficking, confiscations and apprehensions. Wildlife violation assessment maps are currently being produced based on these information. Refer to Annex C for a more detailed report on this activity. Below are some highlights:
 - The most heavily harvested and trafficked wildlife in Palawan include several species of birds, pangolins, wild cats, marine turtles, and endemic fresh water tortoises. The continuing smuggling of timber to Malaysia also poses a threat to Palawan's biodiversity.
 - Although Palawan-based law enforcement agencies have experienced major apprehensions of illegally trafficked wildlife, they score their skills as low to fair, recognizing shortcomings in skills for enforcement, logistics, case filing, and establishment of systems and protocols.
 - There is need to improve capacities for wildlife law enforcement and craft enforcement plans to address wildlife trafficking in poaching and transshipment hotspots. There is also need to upgrade skills of enforcers especially on forensics and wildlife identification.

2.3 ZAMBOANGA CITY-TAWI-TAWI

Zamboanga City

The Zamboanga City-Tawi-Tawi team confirmed with DENR Region 9 and the City of Zamboanga the specific sites and areas for Protect Wildlife interventions. These are:

1. Pasonanca Natural Park (17,493 hectares);
2. Santa Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape (3,318 hectares);
3. Critical watersheds, such as Ayala Watershed (2,144 hectares) and Manicahan Watershed (4,035 hectares); and
4. Mangroves and coral areas in the coastal barangays of Mampang and Talon-Talon.

Protect Wildlife will work with DENR Region 9 and Zamboanga City in preparing a FLUP that will complement the City's CLUP. The team also worked with DENR Region 9 in drafting the DENR Region 9 Special Order for the joint implementation of activities in Zamboanga City. The Special Order provides for the participation of the PENRO based in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay and CENRO based in Zamboanga City. The team also discussed with Zamboanga City how the partnership for Protect Wildlife implementation would be operationalized.

Tawi-Tawi

The LGUs and partners in Tawi-Tawi expressed their support to Protect Wildlife's assistance to improve the management, restoration, protection, and conservation of the following sites:

1. Bud (Peak) Bongao through the Bud Bongao Management Council;
2. Lapid-lapid Strait in Bongao;
3. Malum Watershed in Panglima Sugala; and
4. Critical mangrove areas in Languyan and the island municipalities of Sitangkay and Sibutu, including the Turtle Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

The team worked with the DENR and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) of the ARMM, including their respective provincial offices and municipal/community offices based in Tawi-Tawi. The team also helped draft a DENR-ARMM Special Order for the joint implementation of Protect Wildlife activities in the province.

In total, 17 LGUs (province, city, municipalities and barangays), HEIs, CSOs and a local water district submitted their letter of intent to participate or collaborate with DENR and Protect Wildlife (Refer to Annex A).

2.3.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH I: IMPROVE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR TOWARD BIODIVERSITY AND ITS CONSERVATION IN TARGET AREAS

1. Conducted a Zamboanga City pre-KAP assessment with the Zamboanga Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR), DENR, HEIs and other partners. The team observed and gathered initial impressions related to the KAP objectives. The draft Zamboanga City Biodiversity Management Plan also provided some baseline information on knowledge, attitudes and practices of key stakeholders in the target sites. Top findings are the following:
 - Generally, people of Zamboanga City "lack appreciation for the value of biodiversity." Many technical experts are unable to effectively to translate technical conservation/biodiversity concepts into compelling, actionable communication messages for the communities.
 - There is medium to high level of awareness on important species and their status even among those who do not directly interact with nature. This awareness may be driven by their

understanding of the value of wildlife species that are being traded in Zamboanga City, being an established wildlife trafficking route.

- As expected, those directly involved in enforcement are most aware and knowledgeable about conservation laws. Overall awareness of others—LGU officials and the academe—is rather low. A KAP survey should be given a clear indication of the level of awareness and knowledge of target audiences in the area.
 - Per the violations assessment and the Biodiversity Management Plan analysis, the most serious threats to conservation are encroachment on municipal waters, practice of IUU fishing, settlement build-up in watershed and mangrove areas, and illegal harvesting of wildlife species.
 - The Biodiversity Management Plan includes an information, education and communication (IEC) plan that utilizes mostly print media, which is the usual approach to raising awareness on biodiversity conservation and environment and natural resources regulations.
2. After the site validation visit of the Protect Wildlife Project team in September 2016, the Tawi-Tawi Site Coordinator met the key officials of interested LGUs, HEIs and CSOs. He organized on-site orientation, awareness and Protect Wildlife briefing sessions with the LGUs of Panglima Sugala, Bongao and Sibutu; and with the Officer-in-Charge Chancellor of Mindanao State University-Tawi-Tawi, Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College and several foundations. The team was able to generate local environmental concerns and interests, which could be the starting points for Protect Wildlife assistance. These include restoration of mangroves and watersheds, sanctuary protection and rehabilitation, environmentally sound CLUPs, blue crab and seaweed production, MPA management and support.

2.3.2 STRATEGIC APPROACH 2: INTENSIFY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVING AND FINANCING BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

1. In Zamboanga City, consulted the City Agriculture Office, City Tourism Office, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Zamboanga City Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation Inc. on current livelihoods and community enterprise programs for communities within and near conservation areas. Opportunities were explored for supporting capacities and financing of mariculture/aquaculture (especially seaweed farming, fish cage culture, etc.), agroforestry and diversified upland farming, and ecotourism. Also met with Micro-entrepreneurs Multi-purpose Cooperative, a microfinance organization based in Zamboanga City, to learn about their current portfolio and current programs for community livelihoods.
2. In Tawi-Tawi, discussed with civil society organizations such as Tawi-Tawi Alliance of Civil Society Organizations, Tawi-Tawi Family Life Foundation Inc., and Tarbilang Foundation Inc. on their support to alternative livelihoods/enterprises of fisherfolk.
3. Held discussions with the Zamboanga City Water District to clarify the PES-like scheme that is currently in place for the management of the Pasonanca watershed and to solicit suggested improvements to its formal agreement with the City LGU, DENR and PAMB, including transparency in the utilization of its contribution.

2.3.3 STRATEGIC APPROACH 3: IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION COMPETENCIES OF LGUS AND CSOS THAT INCLUDE ON-SITE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS

1. Represented Protect Wildlife in the consultations and public hearing organized by the city LGU on the updated CLUP, Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Development Plan of Zamboanga City. The FLUP that will be prepared with Protect Wildlife assistance will be complementing the city's CLUP.
2. Prepared thematic maps for the updating of the management plans of Pasonanca Natural Park and Great and Little Santa Cruz Islands. Initiated also the compilation of geospatial datasets that will be used in the forest land use planning activity in Zamboanga City. A similar data and map gathering activity was started in Tawi-Tawi focusing on identified conservation areas and coastal habitats.
3. Conducted a gender analysis in selected coastal barangays in Zamboanga City. The FGDs were attended by both male and female community members, consisting of a mix of Tausugs, Badjaos and Sama Bangingi. Barangays Talon-Talon and Mampang are temporary relocation sites of those displaced during the Zamboanga siege. The planned conservation of the mangrove areas will have to consider the presence and potential resource management roles of these communities.
4. Organized a joint consultation workshop last December 13, 2016 with DENR Region 9, OCENR and other partners to prepare the initial action plan for a landscape approach to conservation planning in Zamboanga City. The findings and recommendations from the site assessments done in Pasonanca Natural Park, Sta. Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape and coastal habitats (see Annex B) were presented as well as those from the wildlife and ENR law violations assessment, gender analysis, and consultations with HEIs. The action plan produced in the workshop will be reviewed and further refined by a DENR-Zamboanga City-Protect Wildlife technical working group that will be formally formed in early 2017.
5. Consulted and elicited the support of the Provincial Government of Tawi-Tawi in encouraging the local officials of Bongao, Panglima Sugala, Languyan, Sitangkay and Sibutu to collaborate in conserving and protecting biodiversity and habitat areas in their respective territorial jurisdictions. The LGUs expressed their interest to participate in preparing, legitimizing, and implementing plans to improve and restore mangroves habitats and MPAs. These LGUs are also willing to collaborate in wildlife law enforcement.

2.3.4 STRATEGIC APPROACH 4: ENHANCE CAPACITIES OF UNIVERSITIES TO ADVANCE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EDUCATION, RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INNOVATION

1. Held consultations with key officers of four HEIs in Zamboanga City and three HEIs in Tawi-Tawi:
 - Western Mindanao State University,
 - Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology,
 - Universidad de Zamboanga,
 - Ateneo de Zamboanga University,
 - Mindanao State University-Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography,
 - Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College, and
 - Mahaardikaan Institute of Technology.

All the seven HEIs sent letters of intent to DENR Region 9/DENR-ARMM.

2. The Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnerships Advisor led the assessment of the capacities of Zamboanga City HEIs with focus on the following:
 - RDE activities on watershed and forest management, environmental management, marine research and development
 - scale of research and development activities
 - profile of researchers and faculty members
 - publications
 - networks and partners on RDE
 - curricular programs, and
 - laboratory facilities.

Initial assessment findings are the following:

- Western Mindanao State University, Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology, Universidad de Zamboanga and Ateneo de Zamboanga University have competent and well-trained researchers and faculty members. Only a small core of researchers however are available on site and they have a limited network with outside research institutions,
 - The strengths of the HEIs vary. Collectively, they have expertise in community development, environment and biology, peace and development education, disaster risk reduction, marine science, and freshwater ecology. One HEI has new laboratory facilities.
 - Most have done researches in Sta. Cruz Island, Tawi-Tawi Islands, and Pasonanca National Park. Focus of research are studies on specific species, fisheries/aquaculture, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, mangroves and watersheds. Research is highly dependent on external funding, as these HEIs do not have a sustainable source of fund for research.
3. The key research gaps are:
 - Ecosystems research, ecosystems dynamics, inter-connectedness of ecosystems within a landscape;
 - Longitudinal research – time-series empirical databases on changes in species, ecosystems functions and services and habitats dues to changes in natural environment and human activities;
 - Innovative ecosystems management technologies including simulation studies and decision support tools;
 - Goods and services of ecosystems that support community livelihoods and enterprises, LGU policy needs and increasing ENR-linked revenues, behavior change campaigns, and local conservation efforts.

2.3.5 STRATEGIC APPROACH 5: ENHANCE COMPETENCIES OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN ENFORCING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

1. Facilitated the Participatory Assessment of Wildlife Law Violations Workshop held in Zamboanga City. The assessment was a joint activity of the OCENR, the lead of the Anti-illegal Wildlife Trafficking Task Force, and the DENR and was attended by 50 participants coming from various enforcement agencies. It covered the six watersheds of Zamboanga City, including the Pasonanca Watershed. Initial results of the assessment highlighted Zamboanga City as a transshipment hub for endangered wildlife such as birds from Palawan and Malaysia. Key violations include harvesting of sea turtle eggs from nesting sites, illegal logging/poaching and encroachment in the watersheds, and land conversions in mangrove areas.

The guided survey rated the law enforcement skills of members of the Zamboanga City task force on wildlife trafficking and the law enforcement personnel for the city's protected areas as poor. There is thus a need to assist law enforcement agencies in the city to develop enforcement systems, from patrolling to the filing of cases with the Office of the Prosecutor. Annex C provides a summary of the violation assessment.

2. Conducted a field validation of the violations assessment. The validation confirmed the transport of illegally cut timber from critical watersheds, heavy charcoal making, illegal gold mining activities and the encroachment/illegal occupation in the buffer zone of the Pasonanca Natural Park and within the Manicahan watershed. A sea-borne monitoring validated the encroachment into municipal waters of commercial fishing vessels that are operating trawls, ring nets, and purse seiners and the continued use of banned fishing gears. Cyanide and dynamite fishing activities were also detected along with shark fishing.
3. In partnership with the United States DOI, assisted the Zamboanga City OCENR in crafting its Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan. A technical working group composed of the OCENR, the City's Planning and Development Office, DENR PENRO and the academe was formed for this task. The plan will be incorporated into the City's CLUP and Environmental Plan.
4. In Tawi-Tawi, organized an orientation on wildlife trafficking for the proposed members of the Provincial Wildlife Trafficking Task Force. The task force is chaired by the Provincial Governor and has as members the DENR-ARMM (PENRO and two CENROs), PCG, PNP Maritime, PNP Province, BFAR, DAF, DTI, NCIP, academe, and NGOs/CSOs.

3 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

The COP, DCOP, Finance and Administrative Director and the Field Managers continued to lead, coordinate and manage the day-to-day operations and implementation activities of Protect Wildlife. The DAI Global, LLC also continued to provide administrative, finance, and technical guidance on implementation through periodic skype meetings. This section provides a summary of the results of key actions.

1. Completed the hiring of Biodiversity Conservation Advisor, Resource Economist, and site-based technical, logistics and finance staff. However, the activity continues to recruit candidates for Conservation Financing Advisor and University Engagement Specialist. A summary of Protect Wildlife staffing to date is shown in Table 3. By the end of 2016, 44 technical and support staff have been hired in Manila and its field offices.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE STAFF BY LOCATION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016

Categories	Total	Staff Type		Location		
		Technical	Support	Manila	Palawan	Zamboanga
No. of staff on board	32	20	12	20	5	7
No. of staff resigned within the quarter	-1		-1	-1		
No. of staff for USAID approval	1	1		1		
No. of staff for recruitment	12	5	7	7	3	2
Total Long-Term Technical Assistance Staff	44	26	18	27	8	9

Note: Staff for recruitment includes four drivers.

2. The Manila-based staff moved to its permanent office location in Orient Square on December 13, 2016 while the Puerto Princesa staff moved in on December 1, 2016. The configuration of computer equipment, phones, server, and networking is ongoing and expected to be completed in January 2017.
3. The Tawi-Tawi Site Coordinator identified a possible office space and an agreement between Protect Wildlife and the owner of the building has been drafted.
4. The Protect Wildlife offices in Manila and Puerto Princesa City were not able to complete their registration because the transfers occurred almost at the close of year 2016.
5. The opening of Protect Wildlife's bank account was deferred to January 2017, awaiting the release of the amended Securities and Exchange Commission certificate for the change of company name and resident agent.

6. The Protect Wildlife management postponed the procurement of new vehicles in 2017 because of the donation of four (4) donated used vehicles from the ENGAGE activity. The donated assets are summarized below:

- Four vehicles - two (2) Toyota Hi-Lux and two (2) Ford Everest.
- Conference and satellite phones and
- Mobile cabinet and a safe for the Zamboanga office.

These vehicles will be for Zamboanga City, Puerto Princesa City and Manila.

7. DAI continued to engage several intermittent home office (HO) and locally hired staff to assist in setting up the logistical, IT, organizational, and financial requirements of Protect Wildlife. The following staff provided support and assistance from October to December 2016:

- Tanja Lumba – setup of Technical and Administrative Management Information System (TAMIS)
- Erik Bjers – IT support and procurement review, recruitment of IT Manager
- Ces Hipos – IT support

8. On procurement, Table 4 provides a summary of mid-range procurement that were executed. Most of the procurement were for workshop activities and the shipment of the vehicles from Davao City to Zamboanga City and Palawan.

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF MID-RANGE PROCUREMENTS FROM OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2016

Procured Goods and Services	Date of Activity	Amount Spent (US\$)
Violations Assessment for Palawan Mainland and Selected Island Municipalities	December 2016	US\$8,189
Wildlife Law Enforcement Summit and WildLEAP Consultation	December 2016	US\$7,126
DOJ Prosecutors Training	December 2016	US\$6,693
Training for Wildlife Enforcement Officers of MMPL (Brooke's Point)	November 2016	US\$3,568
Participatory Assessment Workshop	November 2016	US\$1,265
Vehicle Shipment	December 2016	US\$4,026
Participatory Assessment Workshop	November 2016	US\$2,016
Office equipment	December 2016	US\$2,501

3.2 SECURITY

The Protect Wildlife Security Director who is based in Zamboanga City continued to monitor and assess security related issues and challenges in the Zamboanga-Tawi-Tawi area, Region 9 and ARMM, Mindanao Island, and at the national level. Annex D has the details and listings of incidents in the Protect Wildlife target sites for the quarter. It also provides a brief analysis of how the incidents and lawlessness could threaten or limit activities in Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi.

4 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The implementation of Protect Wildlife faces several issues and challenges. Protect Wildlife has to innovative, creative, and timely in responding to the issues and challenges.

1. In target sites – MMPL, mangrove areas in Zamboanga City, Tawi-Tawi coastal communities – poverty appears to be a major challenge to respond to especially with a typical technical assistance activity like Protect Wildlife. Communities are hungry. Strengthening enforcement on illegal harvesting, poaching or encroachments in core zones will simply limit their sources of income for their day-to-day survival. The activity will continue to explore/leverage resources from the public and private partners to gradually direct their support to these marginalized communities. Planning and capacity building will not provide an instant solution. There is a need to clearly link and communicate the value of conservation and enforcement efforts with the sustainability of economically valuable ecosystems goods and services that communities enjoy.
2. Some HEIs prefer a more formal/legal partnership (e.g., memorandum of agreement) with Protect Wildlife rather than an LOI. The activity will explore these implementation arrangements with some HEIs. Eventually, as a demand driven project, Protect Wildlife will only partner with institutions and communities that are willing to jointly plan and carry out common objectives to conserve biodiversity and reduce wildlife trafficking.
3. As expressed by the BMB Director, the major challenge in wildlife law enforcement is improving DENR, LGU and LRMU on-site capacities to protect, conserve, and manage designated conservation areas within their respective jurisdictions. This will help ensure that habitats are not lost, wildlife species are not poached or illegally harvested for the increasing market demand for exotic wildlife species. This challenge requires Protect Wildlife to support a more coordinated and integrated approach for the strengthening of governance bodies and management units. This means providing assistance to put in place effective habitat management systems in combination with functional and sustainable on-site (in conservation areas) and off-site (transshipment points) enforcement systems.
4. As shown in the security assessment and incidents in Zamboanga-Tawi-Tawi area (Annex D), lawlessness, especially kidnapping, continues to threaten/reduce the effectiveness of project implementation. Protect Wildlife will consider security issues when visiting the project sites in Zamboanga, Tawi-Tawi and eventually in Balabac, Palawan.

5 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

5.1 MANILA

1. Organize and prepare for the Protect Wildlife launching on March 3, 2017 in Quezon City. This will coincide with the second day of DENR's World Wildlife Day celebration. The launch will be programmed to last two hours (9-11 AM). The USAID Mission Director and DENR Secretary plan to jointly launch the activity.
2. Meet with DA-BFAR and NCIP to discuss Protect Wildlife and how their enforcement programs against IUU fishing and wildlife trafficking can be supported.
3. Upon selection of the two additional sites of Protect Wildlife by DENR and USAID, organize an FGD with DENR field units and concerned LGUs.
4. Facilitate agreement and issuance of the DENR Special Order for Protect Wildlife implementation.
5. Finalize and submit to USAID the revised version of the Protect Wildlife Communication Plan and MEL Plan.

5.1.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH 1: IMPROVE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR TOWARD BIODIVERSITY AND ITS CONSERVATION IN TARGET AREAS

1. Coordinate the Protect Wildlife launching on March 3, 2017.
2. Award the KAP survey to the winning bidder.
3. Work with the Palawan Protect Wildlife office for the mobilization of the KAP survey team,
4. Finalize the design of the C4C training and prepare for implementation in April 2017.

5.1.2 STRATEGIC APPROACH 2: INTENSIFY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVING AND FINANCING BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

1. Prepare training designs, modules and materials for the of conduct resource valuation and PES establishment in Palawan and Zamboanga City sites
2. Finalize MOA between LWR and Protect Wildlife in support of the community livelihoods/enterprises in southern Palawan
3. Continue to explore possible partnership with foundations and the private sector for livelihood/enterprise and investment ventures in target sites.
4. Draft MOAs and ordinances in support of PES and other PES-like mechanisms.

5.1.3 STRATEGIC APPROACH 3: IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION COMPETENCIES OF LGUS AND CSOS THAT INCLUDE ON-SITE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS

1. Prepare the overall orientation design for the integrated landscape approach to ecosystems management as the context of supporting LGUs and DENR in preparing FLUPs, protected area management plans, and tenure/domain plans, PES and other livelihood/enterprise plans.

2. Prepare the series of training designs, modules, and materials for the conduct of FLUP, improving protected area management plans, facilitating tenure issuances, ecotourism plans, and improving/preparing LRMU plans.
3. Prepare template ordinances, resolutions, MOAs/MOUs, and other instruments that are needed to improve the governance and management of conservation/habitat areas, zoning regimes, and enforcement systems.

5.1.4 STRATEGIC APPROACH 4: ENHANCE CAPACITIES OF UNIVERSITIES TO ADVANCE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EDUCATION, RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INNOVATION

1. Facilitate the development of a common RDE agenda for participating HEIs in each site. This will serve as basis for preparing research proposals and conduct of scientific fora in each focal site.
2. Support several priority HEIs research proposal for implementation in latter part of Year 1 and in Year 2.
3. Explore relevant linkages and networks to improve/enrich the innovative capacities of HEIs.

5.1.5 STRATEGIC APPROACH 5: ENHANCE COMPETENCIES OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN ENFORCING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

1. Work with the BMB Wildlife Regulation Division in reviewing, drafting and/or finalizing relevant policies and guidelines to improve wildlife conservation and enforcement in the Philippines.
2. Start the process of developing and establishing sustainable off-site wildlife law enforcement systems in target sites.
3. In collaboration with DENR, BFAR, and PCSDS, design and conduct wildlife law violation assessments in Northern Palawan,
4. Provide technical assistance to the DENR Lawyers National Conference on the Wildlife Act and other biodiversity-related laws.
5. Meet with national enforcement agencies in Manila (PNP, PCG, BOC, PPA, OTS, etc.) to lay down plans and schedules for improving capacities and support for enforcement on wildlife trafficking.
6. Coordinate with other projects that support wildlife law enforcement for complementation and collaborative activities such as those under US DOI, NOAA and ADB.

5.1.6 CROSSCUTTING COMPONENTS

Gender Analysis

1. Develop guidelines on gender mainstreaming activities for key activities of the SAs, starting with training. Assist SA teams adopt these in their activities for the quarter.
2. Establish and maintain a sex-disaggregated database that is based on the Gender Plan and the MEL Plan.
3. Start the design of training and workshop modules on gender and development for DENR, PCSDS, NCIP, LGUs, and LRMUs.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

1. Submit the revised MEL Plan to USAID
2. Organize and establish baseline information on the output and outcome indicators. Prepare data gathering tools and instruments.
3. Develop the Protect Wildlife database and a database management system that is linked to the TAMIS of DAI. Work closely with SA and site teams in tracking and entry of key project data into the database and generate summaries and reports.

Mapping and Spatial Analysis

1. Develop a complete guide and protocol for mapping and spatial analysis for conservation planning and management at different management levels. Update guides and training modules on mapping that have been developed for FLUP, and PA and tenure level management plans.
2. Provide training on mapping and spatial analysis to members of TWGs for FLUP and protected area management plan updating.
3. Quality control of maps and spatial analysis produced by site-based GIS specialists to support SA activities.
4. Coordinate with FASPO and BMB in seeking official access to maps that are important to conservation planning, e.g., shapefiles of ECAN and other maps of PCSDS, hazard maps of MGB, updated NAMRIA maps and relevant data/maps from PAGASA.
5. Direct and supervise the systematic compilation of geospatial data for Tawi-Tawi from ECOFISH and WWF.

Communications

1. Provide communication support to the official launch of Protect Wildlife on March 3, 2016.
2. Set up the integrated communication support to Protect Wildlife using both traditional media coverage and social media content and messages to introduce Protect Wildlife to partners, the media and the public as a USAID-funded activity for biodiversity and wildlife conservation.
3. Assist the different SAs in preparing required collaterals and training materials.

5.2 PALAWAN

5.2.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH 1: IMPROVE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR TOWARD BIODIVERSITY AND ITS CONSERVATION IN TARGET AREAS

1. In collaboration with PCSDS, develop a communications campaign that will address conservation awareness and knowledge gaps identified in the PCSDS KAP and in the initial assessment of MMPL, particularly those of LGU decision-makers, PAMB members, and key Protect Wildlife partners.
2. Screen participants to the C4C training, identify appropriate venue, and finalize all preparation for C4C launch in April 2017.

5.2.2 STRATEGIC APPROACH 2: INTENSIFY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVING AND FINANCING BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

1. Carry out exploratory discussions with water utilities, plantation managers, operators of tourism facilities, PAMBs and LGUs in MMPL area as basis for crafting agreements and action plan for establishing PES and other mechanisms.
2. Conduct a training-orientation for LGUs, DENR, MMPL PAMB, PCSDS and water users on resource valuation and the establishment of PES systems.
3. Initiate the formal establishment of PES and PES-like schemes for water use. The key steps and processes are the following:
 - Conduct cost and revenue analysis and projections on two LGU-run water utilities and one RWSA.
 - Conduct water resource valuation and identify the recharge area and communities to benefit from PES within the territorial jurisdiction of the LGUs concerned
 - Explore options with PAMB on the use of PES (e.g. LGU to allocate annual budget and to implement activities to support the sustainable development, protection and biodiversity conservation of the protected area within the geographic boundary of the LGU)

- Meet with the LGUs to discuss income sharing, institutional arrangements and implementation mechanism
 - Draft MOA and LGU ordinance in support of the PES.
4. Conduct a livelihood/enterprise mapping exercise to identify entry points for adding and/or creating values for existing and potential ENR-based livelihood activities and enterprises by communities in and near MMPL and other target sites in southern Palawan.
 5. Assess the capacities and portfolios of rural banks and microfinance institutions in Palawan with focus on Southern Palawan and MMPL area.

5.2.3 STRATEGIC APPROACH 3: IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION COMPETENCIES OF LGUS AND CSOS THAT INCLUDE ON-SITE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS

1. Finalize and present results of the consolidated baseline assessment to MMPL stakeholders.
2. Work with PCSDS, DENR, PASu, LGUs, tenure holders and communities to:
 - define, harmonize and map the zones in MMPL pursuant to its land use and zoning guidelines
 - generate agreements on activities that will be allowed and prohibited in zones and sub-zones (including regulations for allowed activities) of protect areas
 - formulate and issue and adopt corresponding policies on the foregoing
3. Provide training and technical assistance in the preparation of Forest Land Use Plans (FLUP) initially to Rizal, Quezon and Brooke's Point LGUs. Tenure holders/communities will be involved in these activities.
4. Review current management policies and arrangements for Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park and identify measures that will further strengthen and sustain protected area management effectiveness. This will entail discussions at the national, regional, provincial, and protected area levels. This will specifically look at funding and staffing concerns and possible management options for a resource with biodiversity value of international significance.
5. Coordinate with PCSDS in the certification or deputation of trained WEOs from southern Palawan.
6. Conduct orientation training on updated harmonized gender guidelines for implementing partners.

5.2.4 STRATEGIC APPROACH 4: ENHANCE CAPACITIES OF UNIVERSITIES TO ADVANCE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EDUCATION, RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INNOVATION

1. Facilitate the development of a RDE agenda for southern Palawan that considers the interest and capacities of HEIs and the research support needs of LGUs, CSOs, PAMBs and DENR/BFAR. The client-responsive RDE agenda for Palawan may be presented to PCSDS and the Palawan research network for endorsement.
2. On-site assessment and detailed design of priority research activities that will be undertaken in southern Palawan.
3. Start the pilot commercialization of mature technologies that will directly or indirectly improve livelihoods/enterprises of communities, conservation, and reduction of wildlife poaching and trafficking.

5.2.5 STRATEGIC APPROACH 5: ENHANCE COMPETENCIES OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN ENFORCING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

1. Discuss the southern Palawan violation assessment report with key stakeholders as basis for action and leveraging support. Undertake field validation to determine the incidence of illegal activities in MMPL and southern Palawan.

2. Conduct participatory assessment for wildlife law enforcement in four Palawan municipalities comprising the Calamianes islands. Finalize Palawan (provincial) violations assessment report for presentation and discussion with PCSDS and concerned agencies.
3. In collaboration with PCSDS and DENR, facilitate a Palawan Wildlife Law Enforcement Workshop to determine capacity building needs of PCSDS and law enforcement partners in Palawan. Develop a plan with protocols, structures and operations plans for wildlife law enforcement. Schedule training of staff from Wildlife Investigation, Environmental Crime Scene Investigation, and Wildlife Identification, and of DOJ and environmental law enforcers on filing of cases.

5.3 ZAMBOANGA CITY-TAWI-TAWI

5.3.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH 1: IMPROVE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOR TOWARD BIODIVERSITY AND ITS CONSERVATION IN TARGET AREAS

1. Customize the design of the C4C training for participants from Zamboanga City and Tawi-tawi. Identify participants and possible venue for the training. DENR/BMB will be invited to participate in this training.

5.3.2 STRATEGIC APPROACH 2: INTENSIFY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN CONSERVING AND FINANCING BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

1. Facilitate the issuance of a resolution by the Pasonanca Natural Park PAMB in support of the PES scheme that will be established or developed from the existing mechanism and agreement with the Zamboanga City Water District.
2. Conduct resource valuation studies on selected natural assets and services together with value chain analysis of selected environment and natural resources-linked products in Zamboanga City such as water and ecotourism services.
3. Initiate PES and PES-like schemes and start providing support for the following key steps and processes:
 - Conduct cost and revenue analysis and projections for the Zamboanga City Water District and Greater Sta. Cruz Island in Zamboanga City and present to the local stakeholders.
 - Conduct water resource valuation and identify the recharge area within the Pasonanca Natural Park and communities that can benefit from PES.
 - Explore options with PAEMB and the City on use of tourism revenues for conservation activities.
 - Meet with the City to discuss the income sharing, institutional arrangement and implementation mechanism
 - Draft MOA and ordinance to support PES.

5.3.3 STRATEGIC APPROACH 3: IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION COMPETENCIES OF LGUS AND CSOS THAT INCLUDE ON-SITE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS

1. Facilitate the issuance of DENR Region 9 and DENR-ARMM Special Orders for Protect Wildlife implementation in Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi province, respectively. The Special Order for Zamboanga City will be for the creation of technical working groups for FLUP and PA management planning and implementation processes. That for Tawi-Tawi will create and assign members of

technical working groups that will be trained and work closely with Protect Wildlife staff to develop plans for managing, regulating, and enforcing conservation-oriented land and resource uses in their watersheds, forests, mangroves, and coastal waters.

2. Coordinate and facilitate the process of PA management planning. The target is to complete the updating of the management plans of Pasonanca Natural Park and Santa Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape by June 2017.
3. Initiate training of technical working groups on the preparation of Zamboanga City's FLUP. Complete mapping and profiling activities leading to agreements on production and protection areas in forestlands.
4. Assess and evaluate possible Protect Wildlife support for the Turtle Islands in coordination with MinDA, province of Tawi-Tawi, Region 9 DENR, and ARMM
5. Conduct a gender analysis in coastal and upland communities in Zamboanga City and priority coastal communities with MPAs in Tawi-Tawi.

5.3.4 STRATEGIC APPROACH 4: ENHANCE CAPACITIES OF UNIVERSITIES TO ADVANCE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION EDUCATION, RESEARCH, MONITORING AND INNOVATION

1. Organize the presentation and discussion of the SA4 assessment with HEIs, OCENR and DENR.
2. Consult with LGUs and other stakeholders to generate a client-responsive RDE for Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi.

5.3.5 STRATEGIC APPROACH 5: ENHANCE COMPETENCIES OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN ENFORCING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION-RELATED LAWS AND POLICIES

1. Organize and conduct the Tawi-tawi Participatory Assessment on Wildlife Law Enforcement
2. Conduct training for OCENR, DENR, and BFAR on wildlife law enforcement.
3. Organize a writeshop in Zamboanga City for the development of enforcement protocols.

5.4 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

5.4.1 MANAGEMENT

1. Visit field offices and assess internal operations, as well as coordination with Manila-based technical teams and support staff and local partners.
2. Evaluate performance of probationary staff in Manila and in the field offices.
3. Continue to advertise and recruit a Biodiversity Financing Advisor and University Engagement Specialist.
4. Finalize the recruitment of additional project personnel: Science, Research, Technology and Partnerships Advisor, Balabac/Southern Palawan Coordinator, Tawi-Tawi Research and Admin Assistant, and drivers for three offices. Also, recruit the replacement of HR/Office Manager.
5. Draft TORs for SITAs on the piloting and commercialization of small-scale aquaculture/mariculture of coastal species (sea cucumber, abalone, seaweeds), forest land use planning, microfinance, enterprise/livelihood mapping and assessment.
6. Draft TOR for the possible engagement of resource institutions to partner with HEIs in the conduct of priority research activities in target sites.
7. Development of the work plan module of the TAMIS.

5.4.2 OPERATIONS

1. Customize the field operations manual for Protect Wildlife.
2. Conduct program-wide procurement training on January 30 to February 2 in Manila.
3. Train protect staff on various TAMIS modules, i.e. travel, procurement, human resources, and inventory management.
4. Complete registration of Manila and Puerto Princesa offices.
5. Install financial accounting system and train finance personnel.
6. Complete the servicing of two Ford Everest in Davao prior to their shipment to Manila and Palawan.
7. Finalize and execute the MOA for the Tawi-Tawi satellite office.
8. Upon approval, execute the following planned purchases as shown in Table 5.

TABLE 5: PROJECTED PURCHASES FOR JANUARY-MARCH 2017

Planned Procurement	Date of Activity
Healthcare insurance for activity staff	January 2017
Life insurance for activity staff	January 2017
C4C materials	January 2017
Wildlife Law Enforcement for Palawan	January 2017
Presentation of MMPL Assessment Results, Joint Action Planning and RDE Agenda Setting	February 2017
Zamboanga City Wildlife Trafficking TF Training	March 2017
Pawikan Anti-trafficking Workshop	January 2017
Field Assessment in MMPL	February 2017
DENR Enforcement Staff Training on ELE	March 2017

6 PAST AND PROJECTED EXPENDITURES

Table 6 provides a summary of Protect Wildlife’s actual expenditures as of December 31, 2016 and projected expenditures based on planned activities for January to March 2017. The highlights are the following:

- Actual activity expenditures were at US\$1,079,032 or 23% of the approved Year 1 budget, consisting mostly of start-up costs, including those for Palawan and Zamboanga, home office technical and administrative support, and staff salaries. Also included are initial field activities such as assessments, enforcement workshops and related staff travels.
- Total labor cost and indirect expense was 28% of the total cost, amounting to US\$304,499.
- Fixed fee billed for the quarter amounted to \$14,963 or 1% of total cost.
- Total other direct costs amounted to US\$759,570 broken down as follows:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% to ODC</u>
Total Other Direct Costs		
ICA Labor	US\$21,390	3%
Other direct costs	US\$242,913	32%
Procurement	US\$139,604	18%
Subcontract labor, ODC	US\$154,249	20%
Travel, Trans PD	US\$96,225	13%
Labor G&A	US\$33,404	4%
Non-Labor G&A	US\$71,785.	9%

The projected expenditures for the next quarter will be 15 percent of the Year 1 Approved Budget.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND PROJECTED EXPENDITURES FOR JANUARY-MARCH 2017

Cost Elements	Sub-CLIN Budget (Year 1)	Expenditures as of December 31, 2016 ¹	Projected Expenditures for January – March 2017
CLIN 0001.03 SA 1 - Subtotal	US\$1,024,868	US\$237,387	US\$161,315
CLIN 0001.02 SA 2 - Subtotal	US\$1,024,868	US\$237,387	US\$161,315
CLIN 0001.01 SA 3 - Subtotal	US\$838,529	US\$194,226	US\$131,985
CLIN 0001.04 SA 4 - Subtotal	US\$698,774	US\$161,855	US\$109,988
CLIN 0001.05 SA 5 - Subtotal	US\$1,071,453	US\$248,177	US\$168,647
Total CLIN 0001	US\$4,658,692	US\$1,079,032	US\$733,250

* Sub-CLIN Budget Year 1 is from the approved Year 1 work plan.

¹ Allocation of actual expenditures was based on the budget percentage per CLIN. A system to track actual expenditures per CLIN will still be developed in February 2017 as part of the training of the finance and accounting staff.

ANNEX A

List of LGUs, Institutions and Organizations with Letter of Interest Submitted to the DENR

PALAWAN

Partners		Date of LOI
Sub-National Agency		
1	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS)	22 November 2016
LGUs		
2	Municipal Government of Brooke's Point	18 October 2016
3	Municipal Government of Quezon	19 October 2016
4	Municipal Government of Rizal	19 October 2016
5	Municipal Government of Sofronio Espanola	21 October 2016
6	Municipal Government of Bataraza	24 October 2016
PA Management Organization		
7	Tubbataha Management Office	23 November 2016
CSOs/NGOs		
8	Augustinian Missionaries of the Philippines – Indigenous Peoples Mission	20 October 2016
9	Institute for the Development of Educational and Ecological Alternatives (IDEAS)	24 October 2016
10	Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC)	24 October 2016
11	<i>Nagkakaisang Tribu ng Palawan (NATRIPAL)</i>	28 November 2016
Higher Educational Institution (HEI):		
12	Western Philippines University (WPU)	08 November 2016

ZAMBOANGA CITY

Partners		Date of LOI
LGUs		
1	City Government of Zamboanga	November 3, 2016
2	Barangay Mampang	November 11, 2016
3	Barangay Talon-talon	December 6, 2016
4	Barangay Sta. Barbara	December 6, 2016
CSO/NGO		
5	Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance (ZABIDA)	October 24, 2016
Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs):		
6	Western Mindanao State University (WMSU)	November 14, 2016
7	Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST)	November 14, 2016
8	Universidad de Zamboanga (UDZ)	November 15, 2016
9	Ateneo de Zamboanga University (ADZU)	December 9, 2016
Water District		
10	Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD)	November 14, 2016

TAWI-TAWI

	Partners	Date of LOI
	LGUs	
1	Province of Tawi-Tawi	October 31, 2016
2	Municipality of Bongao	October 24, 2016
3	Municipality of Panglima Sugala	November 3, 2016
4	Municipality of Sibutu	November 21, 2016
	CSOs/NGOs	
5	Tawi-tawi Marine Research Development Foundation, Inc. (TMRDFI)	December 2, 2016
6	Tarbilang Foundation Inc. (TI)	December 12, 2016
	Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)	
7	MSU Tawi-tawi College of Technology and Oceanography (MSUTCSO)	November 14, 2016
8	Tawi-tawi Regional Agricultural College (TRAC)	November 17, 2016
9	Mahadikaan Institute of Technology (MIT)	December 12, 2016

ANNEX B

Consolidated Assessment Report on Southern Palawan and Zamboanga City-Tawi-Tawi Sites

I. Introduction

The Protect Wildlife Team conducted an assessment of priority biologically significant areas in Palawan and Zamboanga City during the quarter (October-December 2016) as the initial step towards the field implementation of Protect Wildlife. The assessment was to establish the pre-project situation in the priority sites that will serve as basis for developing and prioritizing specific interventions under each Strategic Approach (SA). It was also to help define the baseline data that will be gathered for Protect Wildlife's performance indicators.

For Palawan, the assessment covered three levels, as follows:

1. Protected Area (PA) Level: Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL)
2. Local Government Unit (LGU) Level: Five LGUs in MMPL
3. Community Level: Five Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim/Title (CADC/CADT) holders and One Community Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) holder

For Zamboanga City, the assessment covered the Pasonanca Natural Park, the Great and Little Sta. Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape, and the mangrove areas in the east coast of Zamboanga City.

II. Process and Tools

Palawan

In Palawan, the assessment covered four major themes, namely: 1) governance of the MMPL, 2) behavior change needs and initiatives; 3) conservation financing and livelihoods development initiatives and opportunities; and 4) on-site resource management. Gender concerns were integrated into all themes. Considering the detailed assessment requirements for enforcement, a separate assessment was conducted for enforcement practices and issues. .

A questionnaire was designed by the Protect Wildlife team to guide the collection of information on the different themes. On the governance of MMPL, the team adopted as framework the key characteristics that describe effective and sustainable natural resource management (NRM). The questions that were crafted focused on: (a) legal basis of MMPL as a management unit, (b) status of the MMPL management plan, (c) functionality of the PAMB and PASu office, (d) sustainability of financing arrangements, (e) status of on-the-ground management activities, and (f) M&E arrangements. For the LGU level assessment, the questions were on the following: (a) participation of the LGUs in the management of the PA; (b) management of other conservation areas within their respective territories, and (c) integration of biodiversity conservation in LGU land use and development plans. For the community level, the questionnaire covered: (a) people's organization/indigenous people's organization (PO/IPO) management of the entire domain/tenured area, including resource uses and livelihoods; and (b) PO/IPO participation in the management of the PA.

The Protect Wildlife team, composed of the Deputy Chief of Party, SA 1, 2, and 3 teams, Gender Specialist, MEL Specialist and the Palawan team, conducted the field assessment within November 14-18, 2016. Separate FGDs were held with key staff of each of the five LGUs, and selected members of each PO/IPO.

Some interviews were also held with some CSOs who are assisting IPOs. The final meeting was with the PASu and staff of DENR CENRO Quezon and CENRO Brooke's Point.

Zamboanga

In Zamboanga, the assessment involved site visits to the two protected areas and key informant interviews. The assessment for Zamboanga City was conducted by technical staff from Manila and the field office during the first and second weeks of December 2016.

III. Key Findings

Palawan

A. MMPL level

MMPL was formally proclaimed as a PA by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1815, which was signed on June 23, 2009. It consists of 120,457 hectares that includes portions of five municipalities, namely: Rizal, Quezon, Sofronio Española, Bataraza, and Brooke's Point.

MMPL is administered by a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) with a Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) as chief operating officer. The Management Plan of MMPL was updated and approved in 2016. The funds for the operation of MMPL mainly come from the budget of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The five LGUs allocate and release funds annually (between Php300,000 to Php500,000) to the common fund of the South Palawan Planning Council (SPPC) which is partly used to pay for allowances of enforcers and for tree planting activities in Southern Palawan. While the LGUs do not contribute directly to the PA budget, they also allocate budgets annually (amount to Php300,000 to Php1.5M) for their own environmental protection programs and for livelihood support.

In terms of funds, internally generated revenues are minimal. In this connection, the fee collection system for MMPL needs improvement. With regard to funds from external sources, the same comes primarily from Conservation International (CI). In October 2016, CI disbursed an initial capital to the MMPL endowment fund amounting to US\$ 1 Million. The fund will be used for the implementation of approved management activities of MMPL.

One of the main issues identified with regard to management is the establishment of management zones in MMPL, particularly the conflicts between the zones established and the actual use. Based on information generated during the assessment, there are several areas where the actual land use is different from the zoning regime thereby causing confusion and conflicts. An example of this are zones that are classified as core zones (which are for strict protection) but are actually built-up areas already. This issue negatively affects the management of the PA and the natural resources therein.

In terms of resources, among the most important resources in MMPL are water (for domestic and agricultural uses), the forest, non-timber forest products (almaciga resin, rattan, honey, wild fruits, tiger grass), wildlife (both flora and fauna), and other resources that are used for food and medicine by indigenous communities. Among the important wildlife species in MMPL are the Philippine cockatoo, talking mynah, blue-naped parrot, and pangolin. The importance of these resources was reiterated by the LGUs and communities. There are also scenic spots and potential eco-tourism areas in MMPL. Economic opportunities that can be developed are handicraft-making, agro-forestry, fruit processing, and ecotourism. The PAMB has an existing policy allowing the use of non-timber forest products (NTFP).

The main issue on resource use remains to be the illegal activities such as wildlife poaching, illegal gathering of NTFPs and illegal logging. In many of these illegal activities, indigenous peoples (IPs) are "used" by non-

IPs who finance the activities. However, there are also community members who serve as informants on illegal activities. Another issue is the conversion of forests to agri-industrial plantations, which results in the destruction or loss of habitats of the wildlife population.

Existing microfinance services, private companies and NGOs that can support livelihood/enterprise development initiatives were identified. Water-related data were gathered and analyzed as preliminary basis for identifying opportunities for establishing payments for ecosystem services (PES) in MMPL. All LGUs in Southern Palawan have on-going municipal wide waterworks projects (level III). All LGUs except Quezon have identified waterfalls as an eco-tourism attraction. Southern Palawan is promoting the 4Fs (forest, falls, fauna, flora). Almost all users are not paying anything for the use/extraction of ecosystem services and goods. However, there are groups such as Brookes Point Waterworks Association and some visitors to MMPL that set aside funds for tree planting activities in MMPL.

With regard to gender concerns, there is a lower rate of participation of women (relative to men) in local decision-making processes and resource management activities. An example is the PAMB of MMPL, which consists of various levels of government representatives, local and civil society organizations or groups and the private sector. The PAMB is made up of 80 percent men and 20 percent women. The disparity is due in part to the fact that elected government officials are mostly men, especially at the barangay level. The role of women in MMPL is not visible, although there is a women's group helped by IDEAS (NGO) in Sowangon, Quezon or micro credit group in Campong Ulay, Rizal. Their activities are extensions of their reproductive work, which are micro economic activities such as selling food, tending sari-sari stores, vending vegetables, basket weaving, etc. These activities have not been examined and documented if these directly contribute to the outcomes or outputs of MMPL.

B. LGU level

The following table shows the profile of the 5 LGUs in MMPL in terms of area within MMPL, existence of comprehensive land use plan (CLUP), forest land (FL) area, and existence of forest land use plan. The areas shown are in hectares.

TABLE 1: PROFILE OF MMPL LGUS AND STATUS OF CLUPs AND FLUPs

LGU	Income Class	Area (ha) within MMPL	Status of CLUP	Forestlands (% of LGU Area)	Status of FLUP
Rizal	1st	59,563 ha	Under review of Provincial Land Use Committee	109,128 ha (85%)	None
Quezon	1st	13,711 ha	Due for updating	13,666 ha (14%)	Only 4 of 14 barangays completed
Sofronio Española	2nd	7,465 ha	Due for updating	7,458 ha (15%)	None
Bataraza	1st	8,083 ha	Due for updating	8,051 ha (12%)	FLUP 2009-2018 under review
Brooke's Point	1st	32,041 ha	Approved in 2015; with zoning ordinance	31,239 ha (50%)	None

The above data shows that Rizal has the biggest area within MMPL followed by Brooke's Point. With regard to the CLUP, it is only Rizal and Brooke's Point that have updated CLUPs. The CLUP of Rizal was updated in 2015-16 and is with the Provincial Land Use Committee for approval while that of Brooke's Point was approved in 2015 and is supported by a zoning ordinance. In terms of forestlands, Rizal also has the biggest area followed by Brooke's Point, but both do not have FLUPs.

The LGUs participate in the management of MMPL through their membership in the PAMB. They also implement conservation and management activities in their respective areas including those within MMPL. These activities include employment of environmental law enforcers, tree planting, and providing livelihood activities for communities. However, these are more of independent activities of the LGUs rather than activities connected to the implementation of the MMPL Annual Work Plan. In this regard, the participation of the LGUs in and contribution to the implementation of the MMPL Management Plan is low.

Insofar as water use is concerned, all five LGUs in MMPL use their water for domestic use and agriculture. The water systems are LGU managed with Bataraza and Brooke’s Point also having barangay-managed water systems. There are also waterfalls, scenic spots and other potential ecotourism sites in the LGUs.

The issues with regard to use of forest products are illegal activities such as wildlife poaching, illegal gathering of NTFPs and illegal cutting of trees. Another issue is the conflict between the established zones and the actual use of the areas in MMPL (discussed above).

The presence of other conservation areas outside MMPL but within the LGUs was also confirmed during the assessment. These conservation areas are mostly marine protected areas (MPAs), mangroves, nesting sites and other habitats.

TABLE 2: OTHER CONSERVATION AREAS OUTSIDE MMPL

Rizal	Quezon	Sofronio Española	Bataraza	Brooke’s Point
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangroves (with monkeys and crocodiles) • MPAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPAs • Mangroves • Lake • Tabon Cave (under National Museum) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of existing fish sanctuary (219 has) into MPA (4,862.76 has) • Sambalon Lake • Cave • Hot spring in Aboabo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPA (70 has) • Ursula Island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPA establishment in progress (11,000 has) • mangroves and pawikan nesting sites • bats, monkeys and white-breasted sea eagle habitats • saltwater crocodile habitat

In terms of knowledge and awareness, it was observed that southern Palawan LGUs displayed a high level of knowledge of the importance of conservation and biodiversity. The participants in the assessment also expressed a strong connectedness to nature, which may be due to their understanding of how their daily lifeways were supported by the environment. Awareness of conservation laws among LGU employees is higher than average due to their exposure to the topic, however the quality of knowledge—details of the laws, for example—is medium. When it comes to the status of important species, the LGUs demonstrated higher than average awareness, however the quality of knowledge was basic. It is important to note that the LGUs displayed highly negative perceptions towards IPs. The negative perceptions seem to arise from a lack of understanding of the IP culture and their expectation for this group to operate and value in the same way they do.

C. Community Level

The community level assessment focused on areas covered by tenure instruments and thereby recognized as LRMUs. The assessment covered two CADC holders in Brooke’s Point (Aribungos and Amas), 1 CADC holder in Quezon (Sowangan), 1 CADC holder in Rizal (Campong Ulay), and 1 CBFMA holder in Bataraza. (The list of CADCs, CADTs and CBFMAs with their corresponding areas are contained in Annex 1) In addition to the important resources that can be found inside the tenured areas, these areas also serve as habitats of wildlife.

The main issue with regard to wildlife is poaching, with birds (mynah and parrots) and pangolin being collected the most for the wildlife trade. In these cases, IPs are contracted by traders to collect the wildlife. The IPs engage in these activities due to lack of income sources. Wild pigs are also hunted but for local consumption.

Another issue raised is the entry of migrants in the ancestral domain areas. According to the tenure holders, traditional farming practices of the IPs will not destroy the habitats. It is the expansion of agriculture areas by the migrants and the IPs that cause destruction of habitats.

The issue on zoning discussed above was also raised. The zones established in MMPL are in conflict with the zones established by the IP communities for their ancestral domains and the actual use of the areas.

In terms of management plans, the three CADC holders in MMPL have updated ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plans (ADSDPP) while the ADSDPP of the rest need to be updated. With regard to the CBFMA holder, their community resource management framework (CRMF) also needs to be updated.

With regard to the management of MMPL, the two CADC holders from Brooke's Point participated in the preparation of the MMPL Management Plan through participation in workshops and consultations. They also contribute to the protection of MMPL through enforcement/patrolling activities and by reporting illegal activities that they observe. The CADC holders from Quezon and Rizal and the CBFMA holder had minimal participation in the management of MMPL.

On knowledge and awareness, there is a high level of awareness among IPs of conservation laws in the context of what is allowed and what is not, but they are unable to articulate exact laws and regulations. Their quality of knowledge is more practical. When it comes to the status of important species, awareness is high and experiential, while the quality of knowledge is first hand and more practical than technical. Overall, the communities have expressed a desire for conservation and better enforcement. For communities, however, the main barrier in acting on this desire is stomach issues ("We care but we're hungry").

With regard to gender concerns, women are under-represented in conservation planning and management, and in enforcement committees or groups. There is also limited participation of women in meetings, training, and information campaigns. Usually information is disseminated by the "panglima" (tribal elder/leader) who contacts the head of household, the husband. Meetings or consultations are held during times when women are busy with their household chores. Also, most of the women in the tenured areas have low literacy skills and lack the self-confidence in discussing in large groups, especially about technical topics.

IP Women and men have limited access to market information and rely on traders who advance loans for production who dictate the price of goods. In Amas, Brooke's point, the traders "diwans" (non-IPs) extend credit to some IPs who give their kaingin areas as collaterals. This has led to "diwans" occupying kaingin plots near the almaciga areas of some IPs.

The Protect Wildlife team was also able to obtain information on mining activities in MMPL. According to information gathered, there are on-going mining activities in Sofronio Española and existing mining claims in Brooke's Point, both inside and outside MMPL, which are covered by Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs). The MPSAs were granted prior to the proclamation of MMPL as a protected area. (The list of MPSAs is contained in Annex 2)

II. Zamboanga City

A. Pasonanca Natural Park

Pasonanca Natural Park (Pasonanca NP) was formally proclaimed as a PA by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 132, which was signed on July 5, 1999. It consists of 17,414 hectares with 12,107 hectares comprising the strict protection zone (SPZ) and 5,307 hectares comprising the buffer zones.

The Management Plan (2011-2015) of Pasonanca NP has lapsed and is due for updating. It is administered by the PAMB with a PASu as the chief operating officer. According to the PASu, their budget and staffing are insufficient. The funds for Pasonanca NP come from two main sources, namely the DENR budget and the Zamboanga City Water District (ZCWD). The bulk of the funds for protection and conservation activities comes from ZCWD. The presence of the ZCWD is a very big help and has positive impact on the functions of the PASu specially in protecting the PA.

Pasonanca NP serves as a habitat of birds, mammals and reptiles. Among the birds that can be found inside Pasonanca NP are the Zamboanga Bulbul (*hypsipetes rufularis*), Philippine Hawk Eagle, Philippine Falconet, Crested Serpent Eagle, Rufous Hornbill, Mindanao Tardive Hornbill, Wreathed Hornbill, Mindanao Broadbill, Blue-naped Parrot, Blue crowned Racquet-Tail Parrot, Philippine Leafbird, and White-eared Tailorbird. Reports have it, that a Philippine Eagle was sighted in the area. Among the mammals that are occasionally seen in thickly wooded portions of the forest are wild pigs, wild cats, deer, monkeys, tarsier and Mindanao flying lemur. Among the reptiles present are the king cobra, coral snake, Mindanao pit viper, Boiga, Philippine cobra, Philippine sailfin lizard, and water monitor lizard. The specific locations of the habitats of these species have not been pinpointed but they are inside the strict protection zone (SPZ).

Pasonanca NP is the principal source of water for the entire Zamboanga City. Seventy percent (70%) of the water supply of ZCWD comes from Pasonanca NP while thirty percent (30%) comes from other watersheds and from groundwater. Water sourced from Pasonanca NP is mostly for domestic use. The excess from domestic demand (during rainy season) is used for agriculture and aquaculture. There are no resource users inside the SPZ. There are users in the multiple use zone (MUZ) particularly in the recreational zone which was created by the PAMB. There are proposed areas for eco-tourism, birdwatching, and picnics. There are also resource users in the Buffer Zone whose activities include agriculture and kaingin.

ZCWD plays a big role in the management and protection of Pasonanca NP. As a brief background, Zamboanga City was using and managing Pasonanca Watershed as its water source since 1911. Upon its creation in 1974, ZCWD took over from the City Government pursuant to PD 198 (Water District Law). All facilities of the City Government including the Pasonanca Watershed as its source of water were turned-over by the City to ZCWD pursuant to PD 198. ZCWD is a member of the PAMB. It regularly attends PAMB meetings and actively participates in decision-making and policy-making processes. The roles and functions of ZCWD in the management of Pasonanca NP include protection (main role of ZCWD), implementation of the management plan in collaboration with the DENR, conduct research activities and resource inventory. ZCWD actively participated in the formulation of the Pasonanca NP Management Plan.

The biggest concern for Pasonanca NP is the increasing population in the buffer zone. During the summer months when water supply is low and there is very little or no water for the farms of communities in the buffer zone, there are members of the community who enter the SPZ and do wildlife poaching, illegal cutting of trees and gold panning.

Another concern relates to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on the development and management of Pasonanca NP. The MOA was executed among the DENR, ZCWD, Zamboanga City, and the PAMB in 2003. The MOA contains the commitments, functions and responsibilities of the Parties in the management and development of Pasonanca NP. However, it is only ZCWD that is mainly implementing the MOA. According to ZCWD, there is a need to operationalize the MOA to get the other parties to actively participate in its implementation. There is also a need to come up with the details of implementation since the MOA contains general terms.

With regard to the financing aspect, the Business Plan of Pasonanca NP is still a draft and could not yet be implemented. In addition, the Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF) sub-account for Pasonanca NP has not yet been opened. In terms of user fees, an entrance fee of 5 pesos for entry into the Pasonanca NP is the only fee being collected by the PASu at present. These are mostly collected from students who go on educational/field trips and from those who go to Pasonanca NP for activities like picnics and bird-watching. Thus, opportunities for establishing payments for ecosystem services (PES) in Pasonanca NP need to be identified.

B. Great and Little Santa Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape

Great and Little Sta. Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape (Sta. Cruz Islands PLS) was formally proclaimed as a PA by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 271 which was signed on April 23, 2000. It has a total area of 3,425 hectares with 1,548 hectares comprising the buffer zone. The Great Sta. Cruz Island has a land area of 251.93 hectares while the Little Sta. Cruz Island has a land area of 21.6 hectares.

Presidential Proclamation No. 271 placed the Sta. Cruz Islands PLS under the management jurisdiction of the Department of Tourism (DOT) through the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA), which later became the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA). On June 17, 2011, a MOA on the Sta. Cruz Islands PLS was executed among the Department of Tourism (DOT), the TIEZA, Zamboanga City, DENR 9, and the Protected Area and Eco-Tourism Management Board (PAEMB) of the Sta. Cruz Islands PLS. The MOA provides for the turnover and transfer of the functions of the TIEZA to Zamboanga City to develop, operate, manage, maintain, protect and preserve Sta. Cruz Islands PLS and also states the responsibilities of the Parties to the MOA. The MOA also provides for the renaming of the PAMB of Sta. Cruz Islands PLS to PAEMB, which is co-chaired by the Mayor of Zamboanga City and the Regional Director of DENR-IX.

On June 13, 2013, City Ordinance Number 2013-168 was enacted. The Ordinance operationalizes Sta. Cruz Islands PLS for eco-tourism. Among the provisions of the Ordinance are the following:

- Creation of a Protected Area Management Unit (PAMU) under the Office of the Mayor
- Imposing fees, rent, and other charges
- Registration and accreditation of ferries/pump boats
- Prohibited acts
- Penalty clause
- Administrative fines
- Provision that the budget for Sta. Cruz Islands PLS shall be included in the Appropriations Budget of the City

The Management and Development Plan (2011-2014) of Sta. Cruz Islands PLS has lapsed and needs updating. With regard to funding source, the funds for the operation of Sta. Cruz Islands PLS come from the budget allocated by Zamboanga City. In line with this, opportunities for establishing payments for ecosystem services (PES) in Sta. Cruz Islands PLS will be identified.

C. LGU Level.

The information gathered at the LGU level covered the CLUP, forestlands, FLUP and other relevant data on Zamboanga City. These are as follows:

TABLE 3: ZAMBOANGA CITY

	Description
CLUP	Preparation on-going
% Forest Lands	85,071 ha (57.69% of total LGU area)
% Alienable and Disposable Lands	62,395 ha (42.31% of total LGU area)
FLUP	None but with co-management agreements for two watersheds
Water Uses	Domestic, agriculture, aquaculture
Water Management	Zamboanga City Water District for Pasonanca Natural Park
Other Conservation Areas	Watersheds (alternative water sources), mangroves

In the absence of the FLUP, forestlands that can be developed for production and those that are for protection are not well defined. Co-management areas however were established in the past but no management was put into place. There is need to revisit the delineation and profiling of watersheds, and the mangrove and other conservation areas.

On knowledge and awareness, certain assumptions were made based on initial observations. These are as follows:

- On a city-wide scale, there is medium to low level of awareness and knowledge of conservation/biodiversity's importance. This may be attributed to the area being more urban, and therefore, the community-at-large is experientially more detached from nature and its value.
- From the participants of the joint action planning activity with Zamboanga City LGU, it was observed that there is medium to high level of awareness of important species and their status – even among the participants who do not directly interact with nature. The assumption is that this awareness is driven by people's understanding the value of the species for trading purposes as Zamboanga is an established wildlife trafficking route.
- Those who have direct interaction with conservation laws are more aware and knowledgeable. Yet, overall, awareness among those involved in the planning – LGU officials and the academe – can be considered low.

The knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) research to be conducted will give a clearer indication of the level of awareness and knowledge of target audiences in the area.

An assessment of gender concerns was also conducted in the coastal barangays of Mampang and Talon-Talon in Zamboanga City. It was found that organized seaweed farmers are mostly men as roles of women in seaweed farming are not recognized. During the focus group discussion with men and women, the activity profile however revealed that women have important roles such as sorting seaweed planting materials, planting and tying, harvesting, drying and selling the dried seaweeds. In addition, women's roles in fisheries are not duly recognized. Although women are and have always been present in aquaculture and the fishing industries, their participation, in most instances, is neither socially acknowledged nor economically remunerated.

Women have limited access to finance, technology, social rights and privileges, formal education and capacity building opportunities. Since most of the women in the coastal areas of Zamboanga City have low literacy skills and low self-confidence in discussing technical skills, when such opportunities arise, women tend to shy away from such activities. Thus, women are left behind in terms of learning new technologies.

IV. Steps Taken as a Result of the Assessment

The information generated during the assessment was used by the Protect Wildlife team to identify and design the specific interventions necessary to achieve the outputs and outcomes of Protect Wildlife in the priority sites. The proposed entry points for Year 1 are shown in the following tables:

TABLE 4: PROPOSED ENTRY POINTS FOR SOUTHERN PALAWAN

LRMU	ACTIVITIES
MMPL	<p>A. Work with PCSD, DENR, PASu, LGUs, Tenure Holders and Communities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define, harmonize and map the zones in MMPL pursuant to the Land-Use and Zoning Guidelines in MMPL (to include pilot testing of the guidelines) 2. Generate agreements on activities that will be allowed and prohibited in the zones (including regulations for allowed activities) 3. Formulate and issue corresponding policies on the foregoing <p>B. Work with LGUs for the formulation and issuance of corresponding Resolutions adopting the zones and activities</p> <p>C. Behavior change activities</p> <p>D. Conservation financing activities</p> <p>E. Enforcement Activities</p>
Tubbataha Reef	<p>A. Institutional Review re: mandates, organizational structure, funding (one of the objectives is the institutionalization of the PASu)</p> <p>B. Training on Behavior Change</p> <p>C. Training on Enforcement</p>
LGUs	<p>Provide technical assistance in the preparation of FLUP to the following priority LGUs: 1) Rizal; 2) Quezon; and 3) Brooke's Point.</p> <p>Target outputs of the FLUP process by the end of year 1 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements on production and protection areas in forest lands • Delineation (mapping) and profiling of other conservation areas • Delineation and profiling of water production areas • Delineation and profiling of mangrove areas • Recommendations for closing open-access areas • Recommendations for supporting tenure holders <p>Tenure Holders/Communities will be involved in the activities</p>

TABLE 5: PROPOSED ENTRY POINTS FOR ZAMBOANGA CITY

LRMU	ACTIVITIES
Pasonanca Natural Park	<p>A. Update the Management Plan</p> <p>B. Operationalize the MOA among DENR, ZCWD, ZC-LGU, PAMB</p> <p>C. Establish PES-like System</p> <p>D. Behavior Change activities</p> <p>E. Behavior Change activities</p>
Sta. Cruz Islands PLS	<p>A. Update the Management and Development Plan</p> <p>B. Prepare Manual of Operations</p>
City LGU	<p>Provide technical assistance in the preparation of FLUP.</p> <p>Target outputs of the FLUP process by the end of year 1 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreements on production and protection areas in forest lands • Delineation (mapping) and profiling of other conservation areas • Delineation and profiling of water production areas • Delineation and profiling of mangrove areas • Recommendations for closing open-access areas • Recommendations for supporting tenure holders <p>Tenure Holders/Communities will be involved in the activities</p>

ANNEX 1: CADC/CADT/CBFMA IN THE FIVE MMPL LGUS

CADT/CADC/CALC Areas (in hectares)

	Brooke's Point		Rizal		Quezon	
	Within MMPL	Outside MMPL	Within MMPL	Outside MMPL	Within MMPL	Outside MMPL
CADT/CADC/CALC						
Sowangan CADC (Sowangan)					9,512.75	8,591.19
Samahan ng mga Palawano sa Amas	700.7					
R04-RIZ-0709-129 (Brgy. Latud, Taburi & Panalingaan)			4112.38	65,545.79		
Aribungos-Mainit CADC	3,292.38	163.80				
Amas, Mainit, Imulnod, Aribungos CADC	13,093.04	944.03				
Palaw'an ng Barangay Maasin (Maasin, Calasaguen)	1,979.26	1,651.98				
Brgy. Punta Baja & Campung-Ulay, Rizal			15,081			

CBFMA Areas (in hectares)

	Bataraza		Rizal	
	Within MMPL	Outside MMPL	Within MMPL	Outside MMPL
CBFMA				
Bonobono, Malihud, Bulalacao CBFM Association, Inc	1,932.82	159.32		
Samahang Katutubong Nagmamahal sa Kalikasan			1,315.38	

ANNEX 2. MPSA AREAS WITHIN MMPL LGUS (IN HECTARES)

	Brooke's Point		Sofronio Española	
	Within MMPL	Outside MMPL	Within MMPL	Outside MMPL
MPSA				
(MPSA-017-93IV) CELESTIAL NICKEL MINING EXPL. CORP	1,396.72	1,563.34		
(MPSA-221-2005IV) MACROASIA CORP	422.02			
(MPSA-220-2005-IV) MACROASIA CORP	713.08	366.75		
(MPSA-285-2009IVB) LEBACH MINING CORP.	8.28	2,984.19		
(MPSA-229-2007-IVB) CITINICKEL MINES & DEV. CORP.			103.08	1,308.75

ANNEX C

Summary of the Assessment on Wildlife Gathering and Trafficking in Southern Palawan and Zamboanga City

I. Introduction

One of the key results areas of Protect Wildlife is to enhance the competencies of national and local government agencies in enforcing biodiversity conservation-related laws and policies. In order to establish a baseline of the current situation of wildlife law enforcement, the Project will conduct participatory assessments of wildlife law enforcement in the priority sites of Palawan and the Sulu Archipelago.

The violations assessment will provide Protect Wildlife with critical data from which it can base its strategic program interventions on environment and wildlife law enforcement under Strategic Approaches 3 and 5. To have an overview of the entire wildlife law enforcement situation, this activity uses the environmental law enforcement continuum as its main platform for study.

II. Methodology and Outcomes

The assessments were done via mapping workshops where the participants were made to locate wildlife habitats, land and marine resource uses; areas where wildlife is illegally gathered, consolidated, and transported; and areas where illegal fishing practices occur.

The participants were then grouped either by area, or by agency, where they were made to address issues on enforcement such as gaps in policies, capacities and logistics, and identify common violations and actors. Participants were also made to analyze local enforcement capacities through a guided assessment workshop. For the guided assessment, the participants rated local law enforcement agencies and systems with the following scores: Very Low (1), Low (2), Medium (3), High (4), Very High (5). The results presented in this report are the average scores.

As of this writing, the project has conducted Assessments in the Palawan mainland and nearby island municipalities, excluding the Calamianes Group of Islands (composed of the municipalities of Busuanga, Coron, Culion and Linapacan), and Zamboanga City. The participatory assessments for the Calamianes Group and Tawi-Tawi will be conducted in January 2017.

The results presented in this report are preliminary, top line reports. The amount of data is still being analyzed and will be consolidated with the results of the reports from the upcoming Assessments set for January 2017.

III. Mainland Palawan

For Palawan, about 80 participants from the Palawan mainland and outlying island municipalities attended the Assessment. Representatives from the LGUs, civil society, national government law enforcement agencies covering El Nido in the north, to Bataraza in the south, and the island municipalities of Dumaran, Magsaysay, and Balabac participated in the two-day workshop. The assessment was done with the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) as they are taking the lead in wildlife law enforcement in the Province. The initial results of the Assessment showed that among the most heavily harvested and trafficked wildlife in Palawan included several species of birds, pangolins, wild cats, marine turtles, and endemic fresh water turtles. Smuggling of timber to Malaysia was also highlighted as an ongoing threat to the biodiversity

of the Province. Other issues raised during the workshops includes policy gaps and challenges in the implementation of wildlife, fisheries and forestry laws.

Protect Wildlife staff conducted a field validation after the Assessment by visiting seaports to determine the incidence of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in Puerto Princesa. Interviews conducted showed that fishers from Puerto Princesa would freely fish in municipal waters belonging to other municipalities. Project staff also documented possible violations of the PCSD’s closed season for grouper (*lapu-lapu*) fisheries in one barangay where fish traders were readying groupers for transport.

For the guided assessments, participants from various law enforcement groups in Palawan filled up a guided survey form. While Palawan-based law enforcement agencies have more experience than other parts of the country in terms of wildlife law enforcement with major apprehensions of illegally trafficked wildlife being reported during the workshops, they did score themselves in the low to fair range, recognizing their shortcomings in terms of skills for enforcement, logistics, case filing, and establishment of systems and protocols. Below are the results of the guided assessment:

TABLE 1: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE SKILLS SURVEY ON WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES BASED IN PALAWAN

A. Intelligence and Investigation	Weighted Average	B. Enforcement Patrols	Weighted Average
Specialized intelligence & investigation	2.74	Skilled & knowledgeable enforcement staff	2.55
Comprehensive intelligence gathering	2.33	Experienced & competent patrol leaders	2.80
Efficient data management & analysis	2.63	Suitable & sufficient equipment/ supplies	2.13
Robust evidence handling & management	2.73	Appropriate terms & conditions of service	2.59
Competent case development & case filing	2.57	Supported & incentivized patrol staff	2.19
Forensic capability	1.50		
Weighted average	2.416	Weighted Average	2.452
C. Law Enforcement Management			
Competent & effective leadership	2.86	Management systems & infrastructure	2.40
Proactive & dynamic patrol strategies	2.74	Clear & consistent standard procedures	2.72
Collection & use of patrol data	2.35	Weighted Average	2.616

Scoring system: Very Low (1), Low (2), Medium (3), High (4), Very High (5).

TABLE 2: PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF EXISTING CAPACITIES ON PARTICIPATORY AND INTER-AGENCY ACTIVITIES ON IUUF AND WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN PALAWAN

Operational Aspects	Staff/Body	Training/ Skills of Staff	Resources/ Logistics	Institutional Arrangement
Crime prevention	2.25	1	1	3
Search & surveillance	3.25	3	1	3
Arrest/ apprehension	4	1	1	3
Seizure & confiscation	4	1	1	3
Prosecution/ case build up	2.25	1	1	1

Scoring system: Very Low (1), Low (2), Medium (3), High (4), Very High (5).

The PCSDS Enforcement Division has identified a need to develop enforcement and operations protocol for wildlife law enforcement, the development of an enforcement training program and module for its WEOs, and skills development such as wildlife forensics trainings.

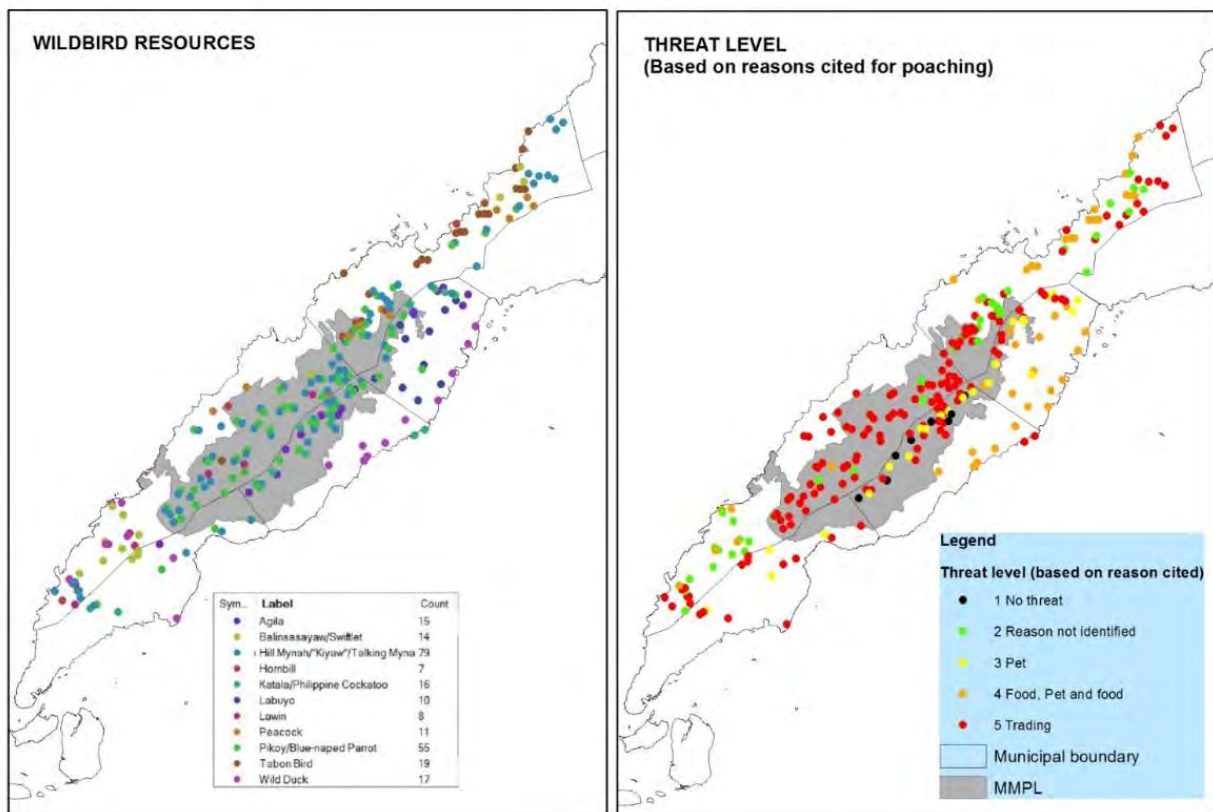
The Project has met with the PCSDS to collaborate on a systemized capacity building program focusing on developing an enforcement protocol and operations plan for the Province, and to upgrade the skills of its enforcers especially on forensics and wildlife identification

IV. Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL)

Data for the MMPL was obtained in workshops held during the trainings for wildlife law enforcers (WEOs) in November 2016 covering all five LGUs comprising the protected landscape.

Results of the mapping workshop show that the western side of the MMP has the highest intensity of gathering of wildlife species, with the municipality of Rizal bearing the brunt of poaching activities. While Rizal has the biggest forest cover in the MMPL, law enforcement remains weak due to its inaccessibility compared to the other LGUs in the area. The main cause of wildlife poaching remains to be the commercial trade in threatened species, far outweighing local consumption of wildlife as a reason for the continued hunting of wildlife resources. Wild birds are some of the most heavily trafficked animals being taken from the area.

FIGURE 1: HABITATS AND WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING TRENDS IN MMPL



Main consolidation sites for illegally gathered wildlife remain to be Quezon for birds, and Bataraza for marine turtles. Wildlife are then transported to mainland Luzon via sea using small cargo vessels or large bancas.

Zamboanga City

For Zamboanga City, the Project's point of contact is the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR), which is also taking the leadership role of the Zamboanga City Anti-illegal Wildlife Trafficking Task Force.

The Assessment covering Zamboanga City was participated in by about 50 people from the City LGU composed of members from the Offices of the City Agriculturist, Veterinarian, Tourism, and Planning; representatives from national government agencies such as the DENR, BFAR, PNP, Coast Guard, Task Force Zamboanga, and other law

enforcement groups operating in the City; the academe; and civil society. Aside from the City, other areas covered by the Assessment included the 6 watersheds of Zamboanga City, including the Pasonanca Watershed; and, the Great and Little Sta. Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape which is an important habitat for endangered sea turtles.

Research data and the results of the Assessment showed that fisheries a major livelihood for the City's residents. The City is also the home port of a substantial number of commercial fishing vessels, including those whose gears should have been phased out for being classified as destructive. Data also shows that there are over 100 legal and illegal ports throughout the City.

Initial results of the Assessment in Zamboanga City indicates that it is a transshipment hub for endangered wildlife such as birds from Palawan and Malaysia; sea turtle eggs are still being gathered from nesting sites; while the watersheds are being threatened with illegal logging and encroachment.

Local law enforcement skills rated poorly across the board for the members of the Zamboanga City task force on wildlife trafficking, law enforcement personnel for the Sta. Cruz Protected Landscape, and for the guards tasked to protect Pasonanca Watershed. The results of the guided survey shows that there is a need to assist law enforcement agencies in the city in developing systems related to wildlife law enforcement, from patrol strategies to the filing of cases with the Office of the Prosecutor.

General information on resource users and challenges to fisheries law enforcement:

1. Registered fisher folk (BFAR data): 19,024 individuals
2. Registered fishing vessels (BFAR data): 873 boats with 21 modified Danish seine vessels (*hulbot-hulbot*) and 16 bag net vessels (*basing*) and trawls
3. Identified points/ potential wildlife trafficking entries: 106 ports distributed in different barangays
4. Institutional arrangement: Unorganized *Bantay-dagat*; weak inter-agency collaboration

TABLE 4: PRELIMINARY RESULTS ON SKILLS SURVEY ON WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT IN ZAMBOANGA CITY

A. Intelligence and Investigation	Weighted Average	B. Enforcement Patrols	Weighted Average
Specialized intelligence & investigation	2.10	Skilled & knowledgeable enforcement staff	1.90
Comprehensive intelligence gathering	1.48	Experienced & competent patrol leaders	1.90
Efficient data management & analysis	1.82	Suitable & sufficient equipment/ supplies	2.14
Robust evidence handling & management	1.08	Appropriate terms & conditions of service	2.15
Competent case development & case filing	1.82	Supported & incentivized patrol staff	2.15
Forensic capability	1.54		
Weighted average	1.643	Weighted Average	1.950
C. Law Enforcement Management			
Competent & effective leadership	2.44	Management systems & infrastructure	2.09
Proactive & dynamic patrol strategies	2.13	Clear & consistent standard procedures	2.50
Collection & use of patrol data	2.06	Weighted Average	2.245

Scoring system: Very Low (1), Low (2), Medium (3), High (4), Very High (5).

TABLE 5: PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF EXISTING CAPACITIES ON PARTICIPATORY AND INTER-AGENCY ACTIVITIES ON IUUF AND WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS IN ZAMBOANGA CITY

Operational Aspects	Staff/Body	Training/ Skills of Staff	Resources/ Logistics	Institutional Arrangement
Crime prevention	2.64	3.07	2.43	3.67
Surveillance	2.43	2.79	2.76	2.43
Search	2.31	2.46	2.79	2.57
Arrest/ apprehension	2.36	2.86	2.71	2.36
Seizure & confiscation	2.36	2.64	2.57	2.43
Prosecution/ case build up	2.0	2.14	2.64	2.29

Scoring system: Very Low (1), Low (2), Medium (3), High (4), Very High (5).

TABLE 6: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF EXISTING CAPACITIES ON PARTICIPATORY AND INTER-AGENCY ACTIVITIES ON WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT IN PASONANCA AND OTHER WATERSHEDS

Pasonanca watershed	Staff/Body	Training/ Skills of Staff	Resources/ Logistics	Institutional Arrangement
Crime prevention	2	2.5	2	3
Search/ Surveillance	2	2	2	3
Arrest/ apprehension	4	3	3	3
Seizure & confiscation	3	2	3	3
Prosecution/ case build up	2	2	1	3

Other watersheds	Staff/Body	Training/ Skills of Staff	Resources/ Logistics	Institutional Arrangement
Crime prevention	2	2	1	3
Search/ Surveillance	2	2	1	2
Arrest/ apprehension	2/ 4	2/ 4	1	3
Seizure & confiscation	2/ 4	2/ 4	1/ 4	3
Prosecution/ case build up	2	2	1	3

Scoring system: Very Low (1), Low (2), Medium (3), High (4), Very High (5).

TABLE 7: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF EXISTING CAPACITIES ON PARTICIPATORY AND INTER-AGENCY ACTIVITIES ON WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OF GROUPS ASSIGNED TO THE STA. CRUZ PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE

	Staff/Body	Training/ Skills of Staff	Resources/ Logistics
Crime prevention	1	1	3
Search/ Surveillance	3.5	2.5	3
Arrest/ apprehension	3.5	2.5	3
Seizure & confiscation	3.5	1.5	3
Prosecution/ case build up	1	1	1

Scoring system: Very Low (1), Low (2), Medium (3), High (4), Very High (5).

General Information on Policy Needs and Gaps:

- Protected Areas and Watersheds: enforcement authority of private security guards and other volunteers, co-management agreements
- Coastal areas/mangroves: regulation on vessels passing through the PA, entering lagoon, use of motorized vessels
- IUUF and Wildlife Trafficking: Inter-agency cooperation through existing MOU, updated ordinances on fisheries and *Bantay Dagat/Gubat* operations

Field validations for compliance assessment were conducted both in the watersheds of Zamboanga City and in its municipal waters.

In the Pasonanca watershed, the transport of illegally cut timber taken from the watersheds and heavy charcoal making in the area were documented. Other activities that were detected included illegal gold mining and encroachment/illegal occupation in the buffer zone of the Pasonanca watershed and within the Manicahan watershed.

As to the marine habitats, a sea-borne monitoring was conducted in partnership with the Philippine Navy. Documented during the validation were the encroachment in the City's municipal waters of fishing vessels using banned fishing gears such Danish seine, and the operation of commercial fishing vessels operating as trawls, ring nets, and purse seiners. Encroachment in seasonally closed areas for sardine fisheries by commercial fishing vessels using superlights were also observed from 6:00 PM to midnight on December 1, 2016. For municipal fisheries, cyanide and dynamite fishing activities were also detected, along with shark fishing. Protect field teams also monitored the collection of marine turtle eggs during engagements with the communities.

The following maps show the route taken during the field validation of the City's marine areas and the areas where the commercial fishing vessels using superlights were operating:

FIGURE 3: ROUTE OF MONITORING VESSEL DURING COASTAL MONITORING ACTIVITY FOR IUU FISHING IN THE MUNICIPAL WATERS OF ZAMBOANGA CITY AND A CLOSED AREA FOR SARDINE FISHERIES

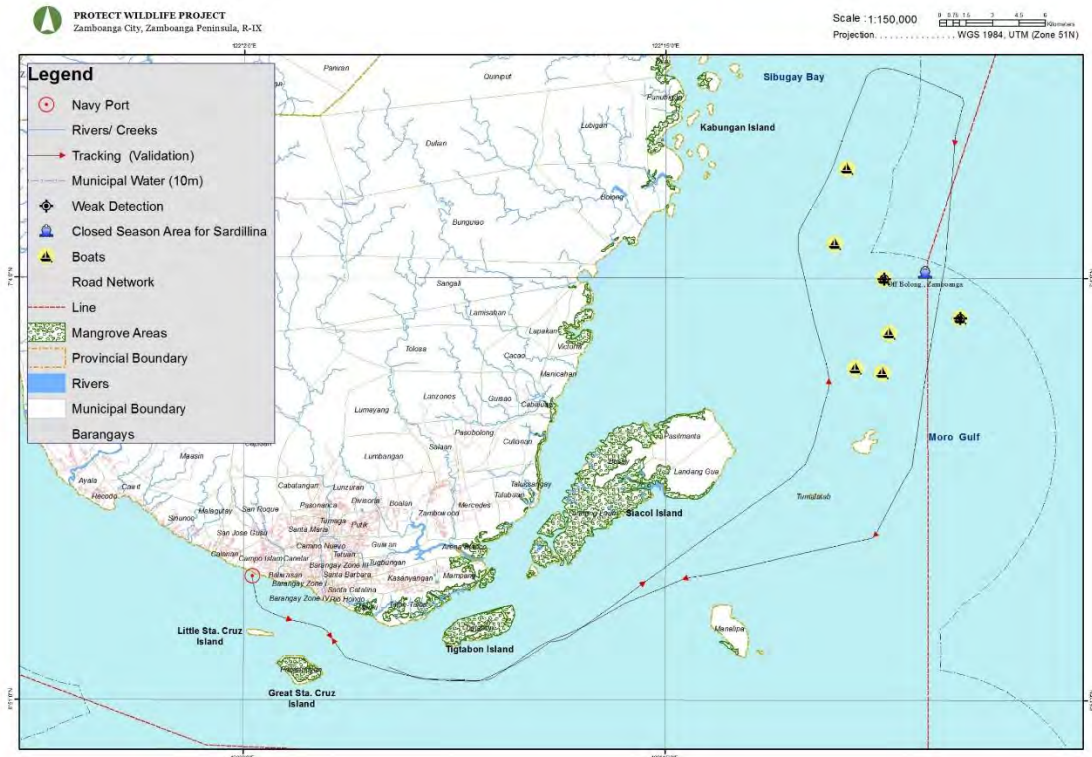
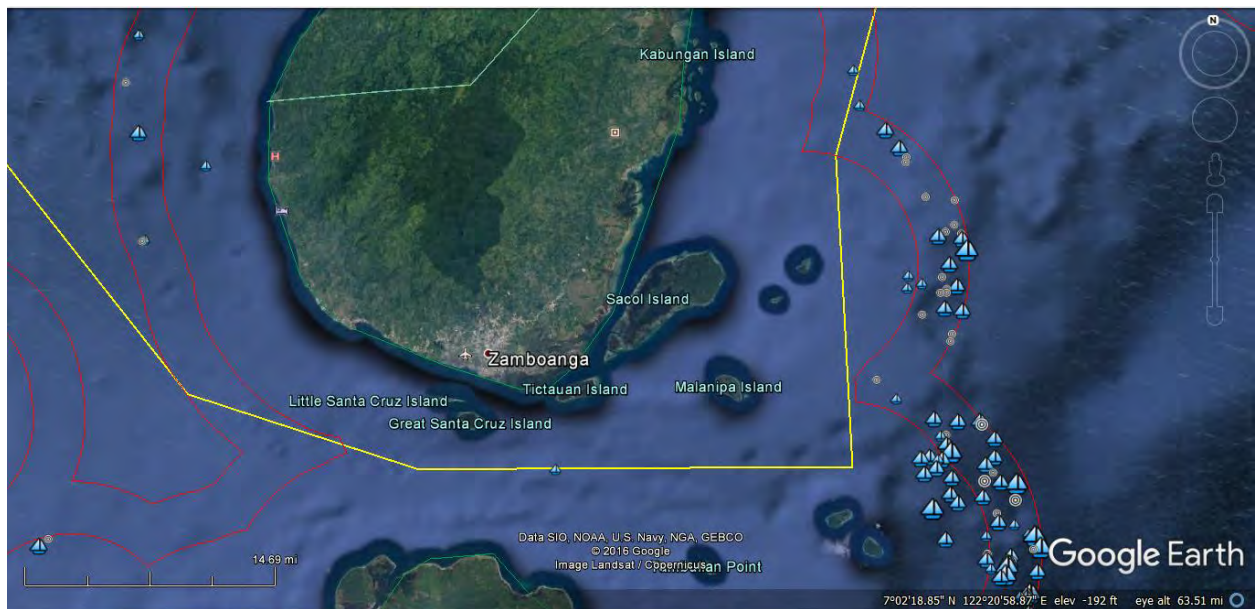


FIGURE 4: COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS DOCUMENTED USING DURING THE MONITORING ACTIVITY JUXTAPOSED WITH VISIBLE INFRARED IMAGING RADIOMETER SUITE (VIIRS) DATA OF DECEMBER 1 – 12, 2016



The use of superlight and other lights for fishing work in two stages. The lights are switched on to attract the fish for aggregation prior to the nets being cast to capture them. However, instead of the superlight vessels deploying their nets within the closed area (yellow line), they instead slowly move out of the area bringing with them the schools of fish that they were able to gather. It can be assumed that it was outside of the closed area where they deployed their nets to haul in the fish. VIIRS data also corroborated the operation of commercial fishing vessels Zamboanga City's municipal waters, indicating a need for stronger fisheries law enforcement in the area.

ANNEX D

Summary of Security Incidents in Zamboanga City and Tawi-Tawi

I. Assessment

For the final quarter of 2016, a total of fourteen (19) events were recorded associated to terrorism/kidnapping (15), crime and other related incidents (4).

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) have tightened security measures ever since President Rodrigo Duterte has instructed both leadership to intensify operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). Prior to the annual festival celebration of Zamboanga City, the extremist group has always tried to launch bombing activities but was consistently foiled by intelligence operatives. Several of their members under their Urban Terrorist Group (UTG) have gone as far as Cagayan de Oro City to create havoc. Both military and police successfully thwarted an installed IED at a popular shopping center in the city last October.

The ASG together with the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and Maute Group have joined forces in sharing the same ISIS ideology. Some of their trained and experienced followers have been positively identified in key cities in the country. Intelligence agencies have been monitoring them round the clock as they are expected to install improvised explosive devices (IED) once an opportunity arises. The bombing incidents in Cotabato City and Hilongos, Leyte were credited to these groups.

The number of arrests in recent months has showed that these terror groups do really mean business. The continuous rise in abduction cases could be a sign of either depleting funds or increasing financial support to its members tasked to implement terror acts in the country.

Authorities have increased their presence at sea due to escalation of reported piracy operations allegedly by the ASG. Most cases are extortion related.

While the extremist groups continue to mobilize their followers in sowing terror in other parts of the country, the PNP's record show that the continuous decline of crime in Zamboanga City is attributed to the government's war on drugs.

With the present situation, all project staff should coordinate with the Director of Security at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the commencement of the business travel to these areas. Moreso, tightened security measures should be applied when visiting these areas.

II. Incidents Related to Terrorism, Kidnapping

October 4, 2016

Zamboanga City Police Office (ZCPO) intelligence operatives apprehended three (3) members of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Zamboanga City. Caught in their possession were several explosives and bomb-making components. Allegedly, the said suspects were deployed in the city to create havoc during the annual festival celebration. Likewise, they are also tasked to abduct a Chinese businessman from Barangay Pasonanca.

October 8, 2016

Combined team from the police regional office 9 have captured another two (2) members of the ASG at Barangay Sta. Barbara, Zamboanga City. High explosive materials were taken from their possession. Aside from bombing activities, the suspects were involved in high profile kidnapping in the early 2000s.

October 11, 2016

A high ranking member of the ASG based in Basilan was arrested by police forces in Zamboanga City. The suspect is responsible in finance and logistics tasking. Prior to his capture, he has procured bomb-making components in the city.

October 18, 2016

A captured Abu Sayyaf bandit was killed in Tawi Tawi by one of his police escorts while in transit.

October 18, 2016

Lurking ASG members around the vicinity of Barangay Masaggaw, Panglima Sugala, Tawi Tawi had an encounter with the military troops in the area.

October 21, 2016

A Korean cargo ship sailing off Bongao town in Tawi Tawi was hijacked by members of the ASG. Its Korean ship captain and Filipino crew were held captive.

November 5, 2016

Two (2) Indonesian sailors were kidnapped by the ASG near Taganak Island in Tawi Tawi.

November 6, 2016

Two (2) German nationals were abducted by the ASG in Tanjung Pisut, Tawi Tawi. Allegedly, the female companion was shot to death when she was able to grab one of the bandit's firearms.

November 22, 2016

A Japanese cargo ship was attacked by the ASG at sea in between the islands of Sulu and Tawi Tawi.

November 24, 2016

Two (2) ASG members were sighted at the Island of Tong Mataha, Barangay Buenavista, Zamboanga City. They were monitored to have established temporary residence in this place. Likewise, this duo was believed to be core members of the ASG's assassination team wherein they killed a government asset in Barangay Muti, Zamboanga City.

November 28, 2016

Two (2) ASG members were killed during a shootout with joint elements from the military and police along the coastal water at Barangay Bolong, Zamboanga City. The said suspects were conducting extortion activities to the fishermen when the law enforcers chanced upon them.

November 28, 2016

Presence of Basilan-based ASG members under the AJIJUL Group were confirmed at Barangays Muti and Limaong in Zamboanga City. Information gathered states that they were instructed to conduct kidnapping of prominent individuals in Zamboanga City.

November 30, 2016

Intelligence operatives have still monitored that the Zamboanga-based ASG members have been continuously conducting extortion activities to fishermen in Barangays Bolong and Limaong, Zamboanga City. Allegedly, they forcibly demand collection every 27th and 30th of the month – P1,000 for small fishing vessels and P2,000 for large haul boats. There are more than 100 fishing boats operating in the said areas.

December 5, 2016

Provincial buses plying the route from Zamboanga City to Zamboanga Sibugay have allegedly been extorted by ASG group under AJIJUL. These were also seconded by small businessmen in the said areas. An identified member responsible in the collection is said to have resided in Barangay Tictapul, Zamboanga City.

December 14, 2016

Eleven (11) fully-armed members of the ASG were monitored to have arrived at Sitio Niyog Niyog, Barangay Muti, Zamboanga City. Intelligence units are still validating information about planned offensives by the ASG.

December 26, 2016

An ASG leader who is believed to be involved in the Samal kidnapping was arrested in Zamboanga City while seeking medical treatment in a private hospital.

III. Crime and other related incidents

October 21, 2016

A father and his son were shot by an unidentified man at Barangay Lapakan, Zamboanga City. Both sustained minor injuries. Motive is still to be determined.

October 22, 2016

A police officer was wounded when an assailant shot him at Barangay Zone 1. Said incident could be related to the war on drugs.

October 25, 2016

A police woman was killed by motorcycle riding gunmen at Barangay Vitali, Zamboanga City.

November 1, 2016

Two (2) separate violent incidents were noted by the city police. First, two young women in their mid-20s were brutally killed while another two boys who were still minors were found floating on a river with gunshot wounds in the head. Police investigators are still conducting further investigation.

November 13, 2016

A man was fatally shot by an unidentified gunman outside a known fast-food chain at Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City.

IV. Intelligence information on the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)

Planned abduction

- On October 18, 2016, an ASG group led by Abraham amid is waiting for an opportune time to conduct kidnapping activities at Barangay Poblacion, Sitangkai, Tawi Tawi. Primary target is a well-known businessman in the said area.

Planned bombing

- ASG leader Marjan Ajijul and his team were monitored on November 12, 2016 in Barangay Muti, Zamboanga City. Primary target areas for bombing are cellsites of Globe and Smart/PLDT.