



BIODIVERSITY
CORRIDOR

Integrated Approach in the Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors (BD Corridor Project) in the Philippines



Photo sourced from the Biodiversity Management Bureau - Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects website (<https://faps.bmb.gov.ph/faps/bd-corridor/>)

Project Summary

Objective: The Integrated Approach in the Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors (BD Corridor Project) in the Philippines is a coordinated, multi-sectoral strategy that conserves connected ecosystems across landscapes and seascapes while integrating biodiversity protection with governance, livelihoods, and sustainable development.

Approach: Implement an integrated management framework that enhances biodiversity conservation, reduces habitat degradation, supports sustainable livelihoods, and strengthens institutional capacity within priority biodiversity corridors.

Impact: Continual roll-outs of capacity-building, sustainable land management demonstration sites, governance mechanisms, and Protected Area enhancement workshops have led to improved management effectiveness. Measurable progress has been reported in both Mindoro and Eastern Mindanao corridors, underscoring adaptive implementation.

A Systemic Approach to Conservation

The Philippines is among the world's most biodiverse yet most threatened countries. It is home to numerous endemic species and extensive areas of "high conservation value" forests and ecosystems, all of which face increasing pressure from deforestation, land conversion, pollution, invasive species, and climate change. The resulting decline in habitat connectivity and ecosystem function undermines species survival and the ecosystem services that communities depend on.

These challenges necessitate a systems-based approach that transcends isolated protected areas and instead integrates ecological connectivity, sustainable land use, effective governance, and community livelihoods.

The BD Corridor Project is a Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project executed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). It is further supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and key national partners, including third-party grant managers like Forest Foundation Philippines.

It is managed through a full National Implementation Modality (NIM) arrangement. Under a NIM, the DENR has full responsibility for the management of the project in adherence to the Project Document (ProDoc) signed by the DENR, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and UNDP. The Project is implemented over a six-year period, from July 2021 to June 2027.

The Role of Forest Foundation Philippines

Forest Foundation Philippines supports the BD Corridor Project by:



Advancing forest landscape conservation within priority corridors (especially in Mindanao).



Acting as an institutional partner and grantmaker to facilitate Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) grants and enable complementary conservation work.



Strengthening multi-stakeholder linkages between government, NGOs, and forest communities.



Bringing technical and financial resources to help achieve integrated corridor outcomes.

The Foundation's involvement aligns with its broader mandate to protect and sustainably manage Philippine forests and forest-dependent communities, through grantmaking, technical support, and partnership facilitation.

Enabling Impactful Changes Through SFM Grants

The BD Corridor Project is primarily implemented by the DENR with UNDP and GEF funding. Forest Foundation Philippines acts as the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) manager, supporting the facilitation of microgrants and providing co-financing that will help catalyze complementary initiatives that align with the corridor and landscape objectives. Through its technical expertise in forest conservation and community-based approaches, the Foundation supports strategic interventions that reinforce the overall goal of the project.

The Foundation's geographic scope under the BD Corridor Project covers Mindoro and Eastern Mindanao Corridor landscapes. Within these areas, the SFM Grant Mechanism is designed to empower local and indigenous communities as stewards of forestlands within the country's major biodiversity corridors. It also operationalizes the biodiversity corridor approach and pilot initiatives that demonstrate how conservation goals can be met alongside socio-economic development.

Aligned with the BD Corridor integrated management approach and Foundation's Results Framework 2023–2027, these grants enhance ecosystem services, community resilience, and adaptive capacity—goals that support the corridor project's integrated conservation and sustainable forest management priorities.

Through these targeted contributions, the Foundation also helps expand the project's capacity to conserve biodiversity, sustain critical forest functions, and support local livelihoods within some of the Philippines' most ecologically important landscapes.

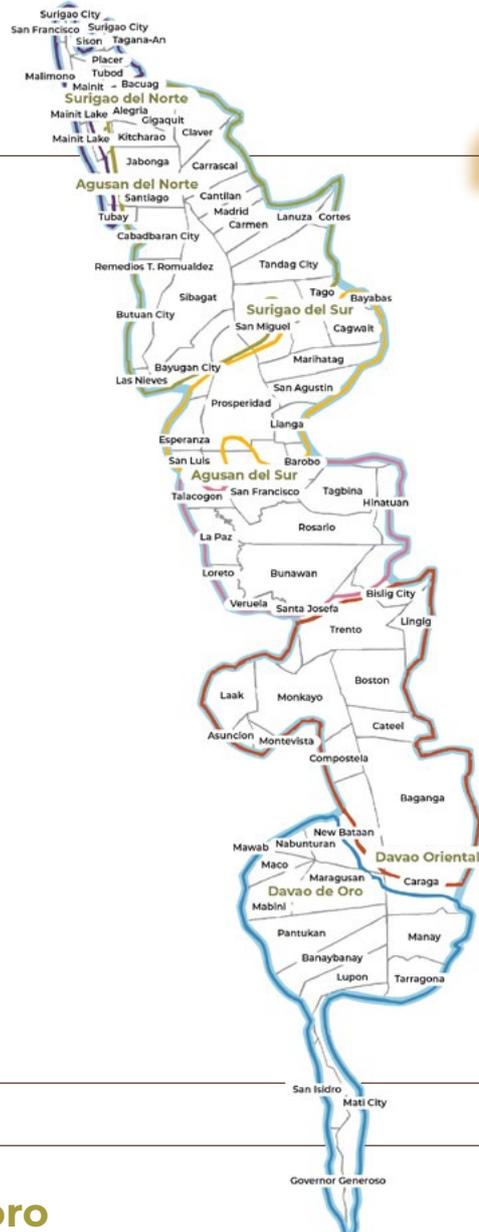


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BD Corridor Project Areas

Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor

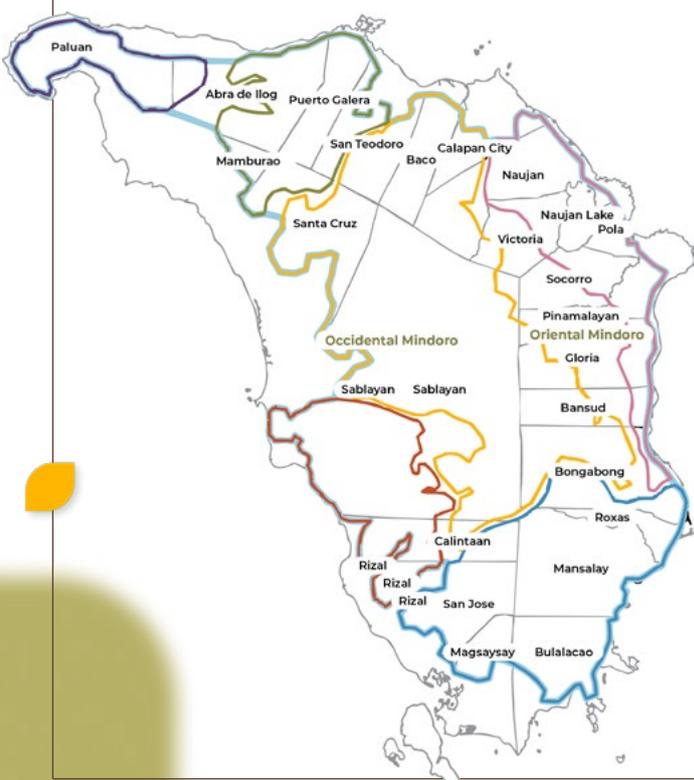
Spanning parts of Regions XI and XIII in Eastern Mindanao, the Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor connects a range of forest landscapes and ecosystems with rich biological diversity and numerous key biodiversity areas (KBAs). The project contributes to improved ecological connectivity, protects threatened species and high conservation value forests, and mainstreams integrated biodiversity planning across local governments and stakeholders.



Legends	Cluster	Area in Hectares
Municipal Boundary		
Eastern Mindanao Biodiversity Corridor		
	1	57,118.56
	2	401,003.02
	3	188,841.68
	4	238,428.30
	5	382,566.11
	6	306,860.69

Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor

The Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor covers significant terrestrial and coastal ecosystems on Mindoro Island. The area is notable for its high levels of endemism, critical habitats, and vulnerability to land degradation and deforestation. The project here focuses on integrating conservation of KBAs (including protected areas, watersheds, and forests) with sustainable land management practices and community-based livelihood initiatives.



Legends	Cluster	Area in Hectares
Municipal Boundary		
Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor		
	1	34,093.31
	2	72,306.87
	3	264,421.05
	4	76,943.90
	5	73,428.68
	6	137,585.08

BD Corridor Project Key Strategies



LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY

Manage corridors as interconnected ecosystems to maintain genetic flow, population viability, and ecosystem function across jurisdictions.



POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

Develop and adopt policy instruments that align biodiversity outcomes with broader development planning.



INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE

Build functional governance platforms for cross-sector planning, monitoring, enforcement, and decision-making at national and corridor levels.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Enhance the technical capacity of national and local stakeholders, the management of protected areas, and communities to plan, implement, and monitor corridor-level conservation.



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Establish sites to demonstrate best practices in soil conservation, agroecological farming, and biodiversity-friendly agriculture that support both ecosystem health and community welfare.



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