Country Results Report

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) Programme in the PHILIPPINES

REPORTING PERIOD: January to December 2025

2025 ANNUAL REPORT









BIOFIN COUNTRY PROGRAMME

https://www.biofin.org/index.php/philippines

BIOFIN COUNTRY PROGRAMME PROFILE

Country: Philippines

Geographic coverage: Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park, Sibalom Natural Park, Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, DENR Regions 2, 3, 4A, 6, 7, 9

Programme period: June 2018 – December 2030

Budget: USD 4,465,967.15 (as of September 16, 2025)

Alignment with UNDP country programme strategic outcomes: 2: Urbanisation, economic growth, and climate change actions are converging for a resilient, equitable, and sustainable development path for communities

The Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) programme team in the Philippines would like to thank our partners – namely, the Governments of Germany, Canada, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and the European Union (EU) – for their support in making the implementation of BIOFIN in the Philippines possible.

This report is collaboratively authored by members of the programme team, with support from the BIOFIN global programme management team.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS **2**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY **4**

A. COUNTRY FACTSHEET: THE COUNTRY'S BIODIVERSITY FINANCE PROFILE AND THE PROGRAMMING APPROACH **15**

A.1. Biodiversity finance profile 15

A.2. National implementation context 17

B. OVERVIEW OF KEY RESULTS **19**

OUTPUT 1: Effective advocacy and partnership strategy in place and OUTPUT 2: Knowledge management infrastructure in place to generate and share knowledge on biodiversity finance 19

OUTPUT 3: Implementation of Finance Solutions 25

Finance Solution 1: Improved biodiversity expenditure reporting at the DENR 25

Finance Solution 2: Improved biodiversity expenditure reporting for other government agencies 28

Finance Solution 3: Report on environmental trust funds: Alignment with PBSAP 31

Finance Solution 4: Budgets for DENR regional biodiversity programs 32

Finance Solution 5: Resources mobilized from individual donors for biodiversity programs and projects (Crowdfunding) 33

Finance Solution 6: Funds mobilized from gaming applications and peripherals 35

Finance Solution 7: Increased LGU budgets for biodiversity conservation 39

Finance Solution 8: Access and synergy with national government agencies (NGAs) 42

Finance Solution 9: Proposed environmental fee system for LGUs (Tourism Ecological Fee) 42

Finance Solution 10: Programs submitted for Energy Regulation ER 1-94 42

Finance Solution 11: Development and roll-out of biodiversity indicators for the "Seal of Good Local Governance" 43

Finance Solution 12: Investment program for protected areas 48

Finance Solution 13: "Year of the Protected Areas" (YoPA) campaign 51

Finance Solution 14: Report on private sector investments in biodiversity 55

Finance Solution 15: Use of digital platforms for protected areas 56

Finance Solution 16: Harness public-private partnership collaboration in the protected areas sector through policy development 58

Finance Solution 17: Development of a financial product for the Development Bank of the Philippines . 60

Finance Solution 18: Related Studies 61

Finance Solution 19: Development of and advocacy for policies supporting finance solutions 64

Finance Solution 21: Gender..... 67

Finance Solution 22: Realignment of Harmful Subsidies..... 70

B.2. [IKI-TNFD): Implementation of activities under the “Enabling and Scaling up Nature-related Financial Disclosures.” ***(Finance Solution 20)*** 75

C. SOCIAL INCLUSION STORIES 81

D. LESSONS LEARNED AND ADAPTIVE MEASURES 81

E. RISKS..... 84

E.1. Programmatic risks (risks *to* the programme)..... 85

E.2. Social and environmental risks (*of* the programme) 93

LIST OF ANNEXES AND RELATED NOTES 93

Annex 1: Indicator Tracking Table (in Excel) 93

Executive summary

Progress toward targeted results

BIOFIN PH is implementing 22 finance solutions, including conducting studies and supporting policies on nature financing. Since 2018, these diverse and innovative finance solutions have been actively engaging both public and private sectors.

In fact, further review showed that the finance solutions support five key investment needs across three priority programs of the **Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015-2028.** As of 2025, the total finance results have reached PHP36.347B (USD 662M), representing not just mobilized, but also tagged, catalyzed, and leveraged public and private funds specifically for biodiversity conservation.

Most of the finance solutions primarily contribute to two key priority programs. Five finance solutions have generated PHP 6.65B (USD121M) for **Optimizing Potential of Protected Areas for Ecotourism**, and seven finance solutions contributed PHP29.67B (USD541M) for **Improving Resilience, Reducing Vulnerabilities**, and one finance solution amounting to PHP29.51M (USD596K) for **Biodiversity and Water Management**. Some finance results come from solutions related to tracking biodiversity spending. These have led to important initiatives: working with the Department of Agriculture (DA) on subsidies and agrobiodiversity, with the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) on marine litter, and with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on nature-based solutions for flood control projects. Finally, the finance solution on private sector engagement spans a wide range of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and investments, from awareness campaigns to tree planting activities. (*see table on the next page*).

The midterm updating of the PBSAP, which commenced in 2023, presents a valuable opportunity for BIOFIN PH (Phase 2), now in its seventh year and extended to 2030, to assess the progress of its finance solutions and deepen the continuity of project gains toward full institutionalization through the Exit Strategy and Sustainability Plan (ESSP). BIOFIN PH, which began alongside the third iteration of the PBSAP, also leads the preparation of the Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP) for the PBSAP's fourth iteration.

BIOFIN PH Finance Results and the PBSAP Priority Programs

Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2028 Priority Programs		Finance Solution	Finance Results (in PhP) Cumulative	Finance Results (in USD) Cumulative
Banking on Biodiversity: A Program on Genetic Research and Wealth Generation in Protected Areas	Research on genetic resources			
	Establishment and maintenance of gene banks			
	Site-based conservation of genetic materials (community level)			
	Implementation of heritage agriculture and propagation of indigenous varieties			
	Improvement of value chain support			
	Implementation of policy on access and benefit-sharing			
			0.00	**0.00**
Optimizing Potential of Protected Areas for Ecotourism	Cave survey assessment and research			
	Preparation of cave management plans			
	Development of ecotourism program	Year of the Protected Areas	1,215,340,807.02	21,388,397.51
	Development of biodiversity and conservation program	Crowdfunding (Together for Tamaraws)	1,601,302.00	32,327.33
		Crowdfunding (Production of Suwag o Suko)	2,707,999.00	52,411.53
		Crowdfunding (Special events)	119,900.00	2,320.59
		Animal Town	1,361,658.00	23,809.13
		Non-fungible tokens	476,000.00	8,350.29
		Investment Program for Protected Areas	5,428,677,787.46	99,886,022.09
	Financing for livelihoods			
	Infrastructure and communications			
			6,650,285,453.48	**121,393,638.47**
Biodiversity and Water Management	Rehabilitation and restoration of inland wetlands and peatlands			
	36 wastewater management facilities			
	Baseline data collection shift to sustainable aquaculture			
	Watershed protection and plantation management	Crowdfunding	29,505,000.00	596,844.34
	Urban waterways rehabilitation			
			29,505,000.00	**596,844.34**
Celebrating Urban Biodiversity	Technical assistance on setting up urban biodiversity models			
	Technical assistance on development of a city biodiversity index			
			0.00	**0.00**
Improving Resilience, Reducing Vulnerabilities	PhP43 billion restoration costs for 56,000 hectares of coral			
	PhP57 billion for reforestation	Energy Regulation 1-94	53,456.18	937.76
	Development, piloting and roll out of green sanitation			
	Vulnerability assessment			
	Rehabilitation of areas with Invasive Alien Species (IAS) infestations and ward off future IAS entry			
	Mainstreaming to local and national plans	Improved biodiversity reporting for national government agencies	20,311,868,576.00	371,795,659.74
		Improved biodiversity reporting for trust funds	335,464,863.03	6,534,504.96
		Mainstreaming biodiversity in the Department of Environment	8,200,902,750.00	147,465,048.43
		Mainstreaming biodiversity in local government units	615,577,590.33	11,321,286.81
		Access to and Synergy with national government agencies	1,815,992.70	32,617.74
		Private Sector	202,103,760.00	3,852,793.91
			29,667,786,988.24	**541,002,849.35**
Total			**36,347,577,441.72**	**662,993,332.16**

The Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), through its annual Philippine Development Report (PDR), which reviews the country's progress, challenges, and strategies in implementing the Philippine Development Plan, has recognized BIOFIN PH's contributions for two consecutive years (i.e. in *Chapter 4 Paving the Way Towards Sustainable Progress Through Institutional Transformation and Climate Action* in 2023 and in *Chapter 5 Protecting the Integrity of the Environment toward a Climate Resilient Nation* in 2024). These acknowledgements highlight BIOFIN PH's contribution to strengthening biodiversity policies,

financing, and outcomes at both national and subnational levels, engaging actors from both the public and private sectors. The PDP 2023-2028 under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. emphasizes the need for greater collaboration between local and national governments to drive economic, social, institutional, and environmental transformations.

At the November 2025 BIOFIN PH Project Board Meeting, the Department of Finance (DOF) encouraged BIOFIN PH to play a more active role in the *Green Force*, the Inter-Agency TWG on Sustainable Finance. The DOF highlighted that BIOFIN PH supports the country's Sustainable Finance Roadmap and Guiding Principles launched in 2021, which, while primarily climate-focused, outlines key strategies for mainstreaming sustainable finance in the Philippines across sectors.

These contributions clearly demonstrate BIOFIN methodology's four finance results for biodiversity outcomes: mobilize resources, realign resources, deliver better, and avoid future costs. Summary of the key results for this reporting period, the challenges and risks, and potential breakthroughs and outcomes are provided below:

Biodiversity-positive finance policies and processes further institutionalized

| Mobilize Resources | Realign Resources | Deliver Better | Avoid Future Costs |

BIOFIN PH is driving stronger **private sector** involvement in biodiversity conservation by advancing finance solutions and shaping policies that open clearer pathways for this sector's participation. The project is working with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to craft policy issuances that define how companies can meaningfully contribute, whether through **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-aligned engagements or through formal **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** arrangements in protected areas. These policies are poised to institutionalize responsible private sector investments in conservation, including long-term stewardship, habitat management, and biodiversity-positive projects. At the same time, BIOFIN PH has initiated foundational work on a **national policy framework for biodiversity credits,** supports the revision of the DENR's **forest carbon credit policy** to unlock future market opportunities, and explores the feasibility of **insurance mechanisms for marine protected areas (MPAs) in the country**.

Alongside private sector policy reforms, BIOFIN PH continues to advance **public sector** readiness across national and sub-national levels to drive biodiversity finance and action. In 2026, BIOFIN PH will lead the **finance pillar of the Blue Carbon Development Partners Working Group** and explore collaboration with the DENR Policy and Planning Service on its **environment and natural resources (ENR) investment programming**. To deepen public support for protected areas, DENR- Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and BIOFIN PH will continue to advocate for the issuance of a **Presidential Proclamation declaring the Month of Protected Areas,** in collaboration with the Department of Tourism (DoT) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Efforts to integrate **protected area**

finance planning into the DENR's **Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) guidelines** will also move forward, ensuring stronger alignment between national policies and field implementation. Lastly, the ongoing development of the **policy and toolkit for the Environmental Management Governance Area of the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG)**, will strengthen institutional collaboration across the DENR central office, its field offices, the DILG, and the country's 82 provinces, 149 cities, and 14,93 municipalities, the key implementers of ground-level environmental governance.

Emerging finance solutions with positive uptake and follow-through actions in 2026

Nature-related Financial Disclosures

| Mobilize Resources | Realign Resources | Deliver Better | Avoid Future Costs |

In 2025, BIOFIN PH, together with consultant Mr. Edgardo Tongson, implemented a series of capacity-building activities to support the introduction and practical application of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) in the Philippine context. The activities focused on adapting TNFD tools to local regulatory, financial, and corporate realities and testing their relevance with volunteer institutions.

Two major capacity-building activities were conducted in February and July 2025, engaging over 75 participants from government, financial institutions, corporates, auditors, non-governmental organizations, and training institutions. The February introductory training, "TNFD 101: Aligning Business with Nature," introduced the TNFD framework and practical tools such as ENCORE and geospatial risk-mapping platforms. The July workshop deepened hands-on application and strengthened participants' ability to articulate the business case for TNFD adoption.

These activities resulted in follow-on engagements with interested institutions, including KPMG, Ayala Corporation, BDO Unibank, Deloitte, Nomura Research Institute, and the University of Asia and the Pacific. Customized sessions were subsequently delivered for Deloitte clients and BDO Unibank, with additional trainings and case study development planned for 2026, including engagements with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. While TNFD remains voluntary in the Philippines, these efforts have strengthened early adoption, improved understanding of nature-related risks and dependencies, and supported alignment with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Fourth Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP).

Harmful subsidies

| Mobilize Resources | Realign Resources | Deliver Better | Avoid Future Costs |

Building on the 2023 study that identified agricultural subsidies with unintended environmental footprints in the Department of Agriculture's (DA) **rice, corn, and high-value crops** programs, BIOFIN PH re-engaged the DA in 2024–2025 to identify viable policy entry points aligned with

Joint Administrative Order (JAO) 2021-01 on **Biodiversity-Friendly Agricultural Practices (BDFAP),** the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) updating, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) target on subsidy reform. The study was presented in key national meetings in early 2025, strengthening institutional backing for next steps.

This work now progresses into a practical pilot on the northeastern part of mainland Luzon - Region 2 Cagayan Valley, the country's top corn producer, focusing on **yellow corn farming** across the 16,000-hectare **Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape (PPLS).** Here, heavy reliance on glyphosate is degrading ecosystems, prompting the Regional Development Council (RDC) to issue Resolution 02-05 (2022), calling for urgent measures to address these environmental risks region-wide.



Anchored on JAO 2021-01 and the 2023 BDFAP Code of Practice (Philippine National Standards—PNS/BAFS 362:2023), the pilot is being developed with the joint DA–Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Regional BDFAP Technical Working Group (TWG), one of the pioneering joint regional TWGs. During the October scoping mission, BIOFIN PH engaged the Region 2 BDFAP TWG and Cagayan State University to explore research and advocacy partnerships on the impacts of chemical herbicides and fertilizers on river systems and ecosystems. By December 2025, BIOFIN PH secured both PPLS Technical Working Committee clearance and Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) approval.

In 2026, BIOFIN PH will identify a pilot barangay, assess existing biodiversity-friendly practices, and design targeted **training and awareness programs**. The initiative will also examine opportunities for **localized policies** promoting BDFAP adoption and draw on UK guidance on incentive schemes that reward farmers for sustainable agricultural practices.

Nature-based solutions for flood control projects

| Mobilize Resources | Realign Resources | Deliver Better | Avoid Future Costs |

In 2025, the **Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)** had a budget of PhP1.08 trillion (USD16 billion), with nearly a quarter for flood control projects, critical given the country's 20 annual typhoons and frequent flooding and landslides.

BIOFIN PH is working with the DPWH on **integrating nature-based solutions (NbS**) into their **flood control projects** by developing a manual of procedures.

Terms of Reference (TORs) for an NbS specialist and an economist have been prepared and reviewed, and complementation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is anticipated. The current circumstances of corruption issues within the DPWH have delayed the finalization of the TORs.

To ensure the manual reflects national priorities and local realities, a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders and experts on NbS is planned for 2026.

Capacities of key actors strengthened

Protected Area Finance Plan (PAFP) Module

| Deliver Better |

One hundred (100) individuals (M-58 F-42) from over 95 protected areas across the country have been trained in protected area finance planning, now renamed as Protected Area Sustainable Financing (PA SusFin), since the module was introduced in 2024 under the Protected Area Management Specialized Course of the Environment and Natural Resources Academy (ENRA) of the DENR. This includes 65 participants from March and August rollout.

On the institutional side, the delivery of the PA SusFin training is gradually transitioning to the BMB – National Parks Division (BMB-NPD). The second run in March was led by BMB-NPD, with BIOFIN PH serving as shadow facilitators, while the third run in August was fully led by BMB, with BIOFIN PH providing remote support.



Local Governments for Biodiversity through the Seal of Good Local Governance

| Mobilize Resources | Realign Resources | Deliver Better | Avoid Future Costs |

The inclusion of biodiversity-relevant parameters in the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), specifically under its Environmental Management (EM) Governance Area, aims to encourage local government units (LGUs) to implement biodiversity-related programs and projects. This is expected to lead to dedicated budget allocations and more effective implementation of biodiversity initiatives.



After two postponements in 2024, the SGLG-EM Governance Area Learning Event for Negros Island was successfully held in January 2025. The event was designed to inform, prepare, and equip LGUs to understand and comply with the newly introduced biodiversity indicators. It also served as a platform for in-depth, collaborative discussions among LGUs, the DILG, and the DENR.

More than 200 participants from 40 LGUs across Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental attended the two-part learning event. Attendees included representatives from provincial, city, and municipal governments, as well as DENR's regional, provincial, and community offices.

The event underscored the need for capacity-building, data-driven strategies, and stronger coordination between national and local agencies. Outcomes highlighted the importance of sustained training, enhanced collaboration, and adequate resources to help LGUs meet the EM standards under the SGLG. Key recommendations included strengthening LGU institutional capacity, improving monitoring and evaluation systems, and ensuring financial support for local environmental efforts.

On the institutional side, a Technical Working Group at BMB, established in 2022 to support this finance solution (similar to *Animal Town's*), remains in place. However, challenges persist in ensuring the group's sustained, active participation and engagement.

Capacitating civil society in finance planning

Mobilize Resources | Realign Resources | Deliver Better | Avoid Future Costs |





Key environmental civil society organizations in the country that are active members of the BIOFIN PH Board underwent capacity building on finance planning. The Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc., the country's first and oldest environmental organization, applied the BIOFIN methodology to strengthen its strategic planning; while the Forest Foundation Philippines, one of the main environmental trust funds in the country, updated its biodiversity expenditure tagging using the new Global Biodiversity Expenditure (GLOBE) Taxonomy.

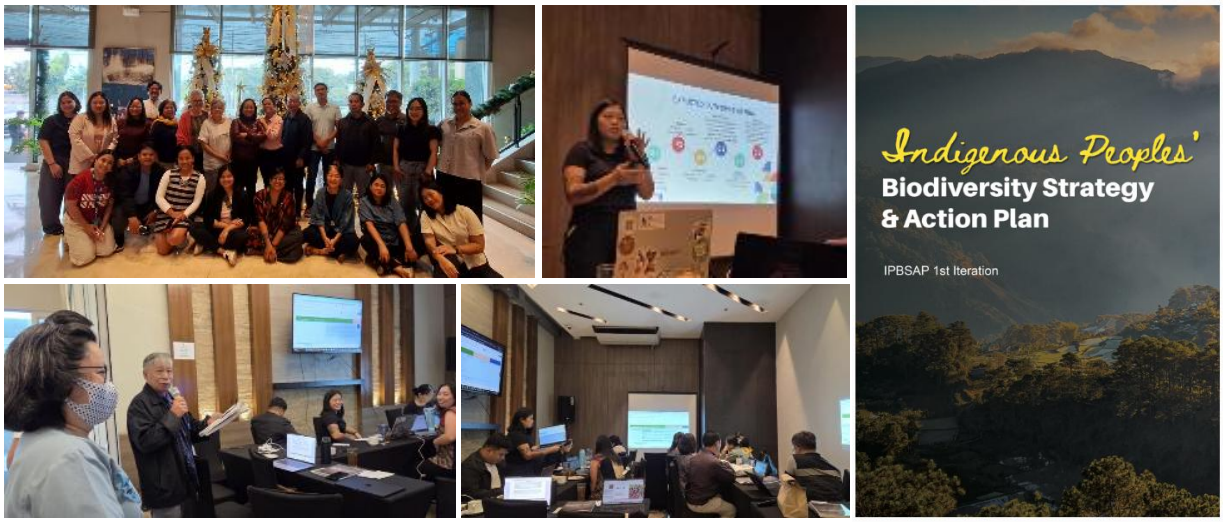
Costing the Philippine Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IPBSAP)

| Mobilize Resources | Realign Resources | Deliver Better | Avoid Future Costs |

BIOFIN PH supported the costing of the first Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IPBSAP), completed in August 2024, as a complement and contribution to the broader Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP). The IPBSAP is a landmark national framework that recognizes the role of over 17 million Indigenous Peoples across 110 ethnolinguistic groups of the Philippines in advancing the country's biodiversity goals.

While aligned with the thematic structure of the 3rd iteration of the PBSAP, the IPBSAP is a pioneering document grounded in Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, values, rights, and stewardship of their ancestral territories, consistent with the principles of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA).

In December 2025, BIOFIN PH, together with the Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Coalition (IPBC), conducted a capacity-building workshop on IPBSAP costing. The activity empowered Indigenous Peoples to identify and articulate their biodiversity finance needs, reinforcing that effective costing is driven by implementers and communities with direct, on-the-ground experience. This initiative represents an important first step toward the development of an Indigenous-led IPBSAP Finance Plan.



National programs on the blue and green environment

| Mobilize Resources | Realign Resources | Deliver Better | Avoid Future Costs |

BIOFIN PH supported the **City Biodiversity Index (CBI)** training-workshop on August 26 to 28, 2025, in partnership with the Caves, Wetlands and Other Ecosystems Division (CAWED) of the DENR–BMB. Participants included DENR regional and field offices and local government units from 14 regions, along with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development – Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning and Development Bureau (DHSUD–ELUPDB), the Department of Finance – Bureau of Local Government Finance (DOF–BLGF), and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP). The CBI has 28 indicators that help cities assess native biodiversity, ecosystem services, and governance. It supports BMB and BIOFIN PH's work on the Seal of Good Local Governance **(SGLG) indicator for public parks and green spaces.**

In 2026, BIOFIN PH will support two main programs of the BMB: the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) under the Coastal and Marine Division (CMD) through the development of its **Blue Finance Roadmap (30x30 Coastal and Marine Sector Strategy),** and the Protected Area Development and Management (PADAM) Program under the National Parks Division (NPD) through the development of the **finance plan for the amended Protected Area Master Plan**. Both are anchored in the Philippine BSAP.

Financial technology

"Animal Town" mobile game application for biodiversity

| Mobilize Resources | Deliver Better |

As of December 2025, the Animal Town game app has reached 22,514 users globally and generated USD 560.02 (approximately PHP 33,029.97) since its soft launch in 2023, followed by national and global launches in 2024. Early performance indicators are promising, with the

game's Long-Term Value (LTV) increasing fivefold from USD 0.01 in 2024 to USD 0.05 in 2025, surpassing its Cost Per Install (CPI) of USD 0.04, which is an important milestone toward achieving a positive Return on Ad Spend (ROAS). While mobile games typically require several years to achieve stable revenue, Animal Town's trajectory after just one year indicates strong growth potential.

This progress is attributed to major game enhancements introduced in early 2025, including new conservation-themed characters, in-app boosters, rewards, and promotional offers that improved player retention and monetization. Visibility was further strengthened through institutional partnerships and public engagement efforts, including placements on Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1, generating an estimated media value of PHP 520,000 and reaching approximately 200,000 daily viewers.

Governance mechanisms for revenue management were institutionalized in 2024 through an approved operations manual developed by Forest Foundation Philippines and the DENR-BMB Technical Working Group. To demonstrate the grant cycle model from the app's revenues, Forest Foundation piloted a PHP 808,641 grant supporting Indigenous-led agroforestry and abaca production in Mt. Balatukan Range National Park, delivering tangible conservation and livelihood outcomes.



Despite missed opportunities to leverage a UNDP Google Search Ads grant due to technical constraints, Animal Town remains in its early growth phase. Looking ahead, BIOFIN PH plans to engage a fund manager in 2026 to oversee revenue management and will continue targeted marketing and partnership efforts. While the BIOFIN PH Board has advised scaling down the initiative in favor of other finance solutions, the app's early results demonstrate its potential as an innovative biodiversity finance mechanism.

Challenges and risks

BIOFIN PH has identified several risks affecting project implementation. A key concern is the recent **change in leadership** at both the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and the DENR Central Office, with the retirement of the Director and with new appointees as Assistant Director and Secretary, respectively. These transitions may bring shifts in priorities or levels of

commitment, posing a risk to the continuity and momentum of all finance solutions. Additionally, the **restricted donor timeline and delayed fund release** in the previous year, resulting in adjusted activities for 2025, also continue to limit implementation flexibility. With an **accelerated rollout and newly onboarded staff still adapting**, the project management team must remain agile and responsive to sustain progress and deliver results. To match this pace, **faster operational support is being sought from BIOFIN Global and the UNDP Country Office** to help expedite processes and strengthen implementation efficiency. Despite the setbacks, the project management team applied adaptive management strategies and delivered key results, bringing meaningful gains in the implementation of finance solutions.

Institutionalization of the BIOFIN Process

Looking ahead, new and additional funding for the Philippines is enabling the scale-up, expansion, and continuity of the finance solutions. This ensures that the gains are not only maintained but also institutionalized in line with the BIOFIN methodology. In 2024, BIOFIN PH self-rated its institutionalization at Category 3 (Advanced Level), meeting 5 of 6 criteria: staffing, policy support, funding, multisectoral arrangements, and capacity. This progress is attributed to active technical working groups, government budget support, and enabling policy issuances. The **Exit Strategy and Sustainability Plan (ESSP),** developed in 2023 and implemented in 2024 ahead of the initially anticipated 2026 project closure, strengthens the foundation for long-term sustainability. It outlines a transition framework for handing over project management to government and key stakeholders, reinforcing partnerships with national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), the private sector, and civil society to ensure institutionalization of biodiversity finance initiatives.

A. Country factsheet: the country's biodiversity finance profile and the programming approach

A.1. Biodiversity finance profile

The Philippines is a biodiversity powerhouse, containing some of the world's most unique and varied assemblages of species. The country has 228 recognized key biodiversity areas, which are home to 855 globally important species of plants, corals, mollusks, elasmobranchs, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. It is also one of the most important centers of amphibian and reptile diversity in Southeast Asia, and the discoveries keep on coming. From 2005 to 2012, 151 new species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and plants were discovered in the Philippines. (PBSAP 2015 – 2028)

The benefits and services that biodiversity provides cannot be overemphasized. The country's population of more than 100 million – projected to reach 125 million by 2030 – depends on this biodiversity in a variety of ways, many of which we have not even been able to fully calculate or appreciate. (PBSAP 2015-2028) (See Figure 1)

Many years of exploitation as well as continued pressures have severely degraded the integrity of the county's biodiversity and natural ecosystems, compromising the ability of these resources to deliver the benefits that support the well-being of all Filipinos, from those living in the remotest uplands to those doing the daily commute in the urban areas. (PBSAP 2015-2028). The vision, goals, and twenty targets of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) defines the



Figure 1: The 20 national conservation targets under the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2028

scope and magnitude of financing requirements based on the BIOFIN workbook on Financial Needs Assessment.

The FNA states that PhP24B is needed annually to implement the PBSAP. However, based on the public biodiversity expenditure review, only PhP5B is available. A mix of finance solutions that will target increased funding from the national government; empower local government units; involve the citizenry; and engage the private sector are currently being implemented.

The Philippine Development Plan (2023-2028) remains anchored on the government's 2040 vision that "the Philippines shall be a prosperous, predominantly middle-class society where no one is poor. Our peoples will enjoy long and healthy lives, are smart and innovative and will live in a high-trust society." It also considers the country's international commitments such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Plan recognizes that the environment is a foundation for sustainable development and dedicates a chapter on accelerating climate action and strengthening disaster resilience. It lists targets to achieve outcomes on climate and disaster risk resilience of communities and institutions, ecosystem resilience and a transition to a low carbon economy.

As a commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the DENR led the preparation of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2028), a process that involved various stakeholders such as the private sector, NGOs, local government units, and academe. All relevant targets are reflected in the DENR's annual workplans, while partnerships with other government agencies are fostered for targets that require convergence. Moreover, several biodiversity targets are also integrated into the Philippine Development Plan in cognizance of their significance in achieving the national vision. In 2024, the country updated its Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP), now in its fourth iteration, to align with the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. BIOFIN PH is leading the preparation of the PBSAP Biodiversity Finance Plan for 2025–2040, ensuring alignment with national gender commitments and KMGBF Target 23. In parallel, BIOFIN PH provides strategic technical assistance in costing the first iteration of the Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which was completed in August 2024.costing the first iteration of the Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which was completed in August 2024.

A robust and vigilant community of environmental NGOs is present in the Philippines. They are partners of the government in implementing biodiversity conservation projects and in policy advocacy. BIOFIN PH is no exception. Several finance solutions are implemented jointly with them.

Based on a BIOFIN PH scoping study on private sector investments in biodiversity, it affirms that private companies have been more aware and conscious about reducing and eliminating their adverse impacts on the environment in general and on biodiversity in particular. Most of

them have disclosed which of their business operations and initiatives are in line with UN SDGs 13 (Climate Change), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land).

At the helm of the DENR was Dr. Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, former chief of the Manila Observatory—a scientific research institution focused on atmospheric and earth science—who has long championed a science-based approach to sustainable development and poverty reduction. In line with President Marcos Jr.'s directive on May 22, 2025, she tendered her courtesy resignation along with all cabinet members following the midterm elections. Subsequently, her resignation was accepted, and former Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla was appointed as the new DENR Secretary on May 23, 2025, marking a leadership transition aimed at "recalibrating priorities" within the administration

A.2. National implementation context

The choice of the mix of finance solutions is based on the following basic principles:

1. Whole of government approach towards investing in biodiversity
2. Addressing the direct drivers of biodiversity loss and implementing conservation and restoration activities requires site-based implementation of the PBSAP, including mainstreaming targets into local development and investment plans
3. Broader view of the finance landscape where the range of finance solutions leverage finance, fiscal and economic tools and policies to improve the outcome of biodiversity objectives in the country
4. Innovating with the private sector
5. Adequate and responsive institutional arrangements

The sub-sections below outline the country programme's progress related to its targeted results. Progress towards the targeted results is described according to the key result areas of the BIOFIN ToC, which is shown below in Figure 2.

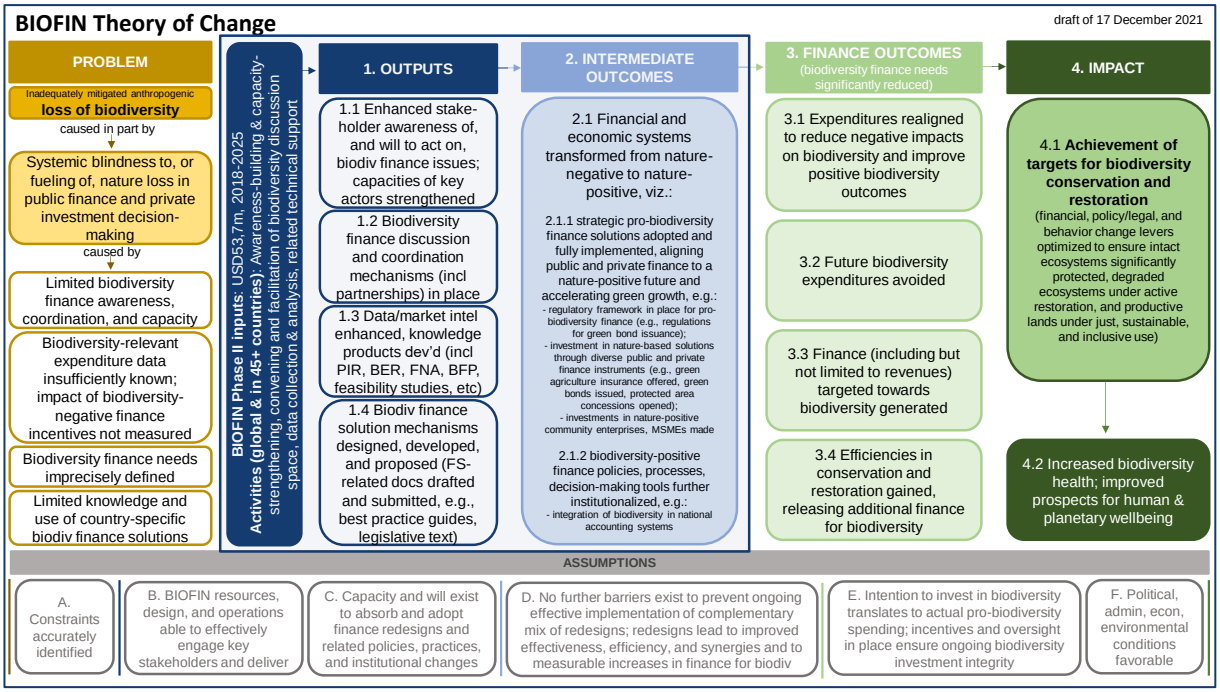


Figure 2: The BIOFIN theory of change

B. Overview of key results

OUTPUT 1: Effective advocacy and partnership strategy in place and OUTPUT 2: Knowledge management infrastructure in place to generate and share knowledge on biodiversity finance

The project seeks to draw high level engagement among decision makers, practitioners, private sector and partners through events such as conferences, meetings (including Board and TWG meetings), workshops, capacity development activities, webinars and related awareness and learning activities. With the easing of pandemic restrictions, face-to-face activities have been organized.

For Output 1, the project has exceeded its target number of stakeholders with increased basic knowledge of BIOFIN finance solutions and was able to provide direct support to individuals through BIOFIN's capacity-building trainings.

BIOFIN PH also participated in various activities to increase awareness on BIOFIN. (See Figure 3 on the next page)

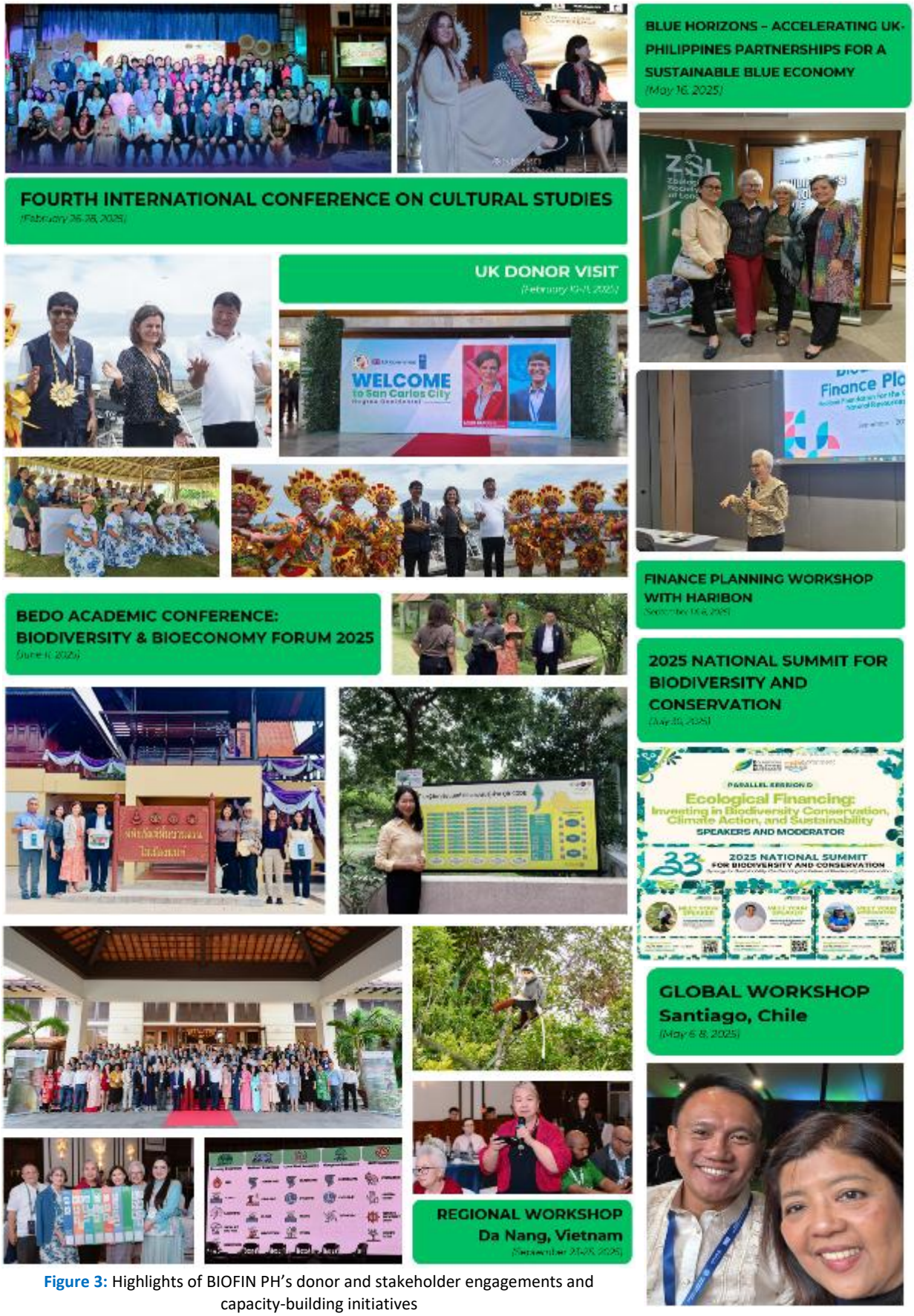


Figure 3: Highlights of BIOFIN PH's donor and stakeholder engagements and capacity-building initiatives

BIOFIN PH also held its midyear and year-end TWG and project board meetings.



Figure 4: Midyear and Year-end Assessments and Reporting | 28-30 May and 20-24 Oct 2025 | Clark City, Pampanga and Sibalom, Antique



Figure 5: BIOFIN PH 25th (L) and 26th (R) Project Board Meetings | 27 June and 14 November 2025 | Quezon City

For Output 2, the project anchors on the BIOFIN global, UNDP Philippines, and BMB's communications plan and activities to ensure alignment of the project's Communication, Education & Public Awareness (CEPA) activities. The project utilizes traditional (radio, TV, broadsheets) and online media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and websites of BIOFIN, UNDP Philippines and BMB) to reach a wider audience. Regular contribution to newsletters (IKI, DENR-FASPS), development of infographics, posters, technical briefs, social media cards and other knowledge products are done to disseminate project results.

With the implementation of the Exit Strategy and Sustainability Plan (ESSP), BIOFIN PH social media accounts were officially endorsed to the BMB on June 13, 2025. The Communications Officer in charge of these outputs has also transitioned to a new position.

Nevertheless, BIOFIN PH continued its CEPA efforts through targeted and strategic content production. In 2025, the project produced 7 CEPA materials, in the form of technical briefs, a video, an advertisement, and institutional merchandise, which were disseminated through online platforms, partner channels, and institutional networks. Cumulatively, the number of CEPA materials developed reached a total of 499 materials.

As of end-2025, BIOFIN PH maintained 10,012 social media followers across its social media platforms with no net increase. Visibility is maintained among existing audiences and extended reach through partner channels.

Articles and feature stories were also produced throughout the year and integrated into earned media monitoring. In 2025, BIOFIN PH secured 25 media pick-ups, with an estimated value of USD 32,383.86* (PHP 1,910,000.00), comprising PHP 1,290,000 in the first semester and PHP 620,000 in the second semester. These placements across websites, newsletters, news channels, and broadsheets amplified BIOFIN PH's finance solutions and reinforced project visibility.

Beyond content production and media engagement, the project also participated in 12 CEPA activities organized and co-organized with the BMB.

**UN exchange rate 58.98 (ao December 15, 2025)*



Figure 6: BIOFIN PH's CEPA support and participation

Meanwhile, the implementation of the ESSP developed in 2023 continues. A Sustainability Plan workshop with the BMB is eyed to be conducted in Q2 or Q3 of 2026 as advised by the BIOFIN PH TWG (initially targeted to be conducted in September 2025).

OUTPUT 3: Implementation of Finance Solutions

Finance Solution 1: Improved biodiversity expenditure reporting at the DENR

The finance solution will promote an improved system for attribution of biodiversity expenditures that will reflect a better understanding of biodiversity within the Philippine government's main environment management agency and will result in accurate reporting and better planning and programming. This finance solution was completed through a series of consultations with relevant national government agencies, bureaus and offices within the DENR and NGOs using the GLOBE taxonomy developed by the Global team.

The M&E platform for tracking PBSAP implementation and financing was turned over to BMB in 2023, and the project continues to monitor it under the ESSP. In 2024, BMB committed to making the platform functional with support from another UNDP project. However, BMB confirmed in December 2025 that the platform can no longer be used, as its design does not align with the updated KM-GBF targets and indicators. They also encountered technical issues, including source code that hindered setup. As background, the developer's contract extension and warranty ended in October 2023, while BMB procured the server in the first quarter of 2024. BMB reached out to the developer only in July 2024 for support, and the company responded in September 2024 stating that the request would require a new contract.

To optimize the platform, BIOFIN PH has been coordinating with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) for possible complementation with the National Integrated Climate Change Database Information and Exchange System (NICCDIES), the CCC's primary platform for consolidating and monitoring climate-related data. The CCC, through several policies, is mandated to tag climate change expenditures to inform planning, policy, and investment decisions. Since 2023, BIOFIN PH has been working with the CCC to integrate biodiversity expenditures into the climate expenditure tagging typologies. Progress has been slow due to unclear guidance and frequent turnover of focal points. The CCC reaffirmed its commitment in November 2024, although complementation work remains pending, dependent on the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) update targeted for 2026. This year, both the TWG and the Board advised BIOFIN PH to coordinate with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) instead, as no significant developments have been made.

Nonetheless, the complementation work is now no longer feasible, as BMB has reported that the M&E platform can no longer be used.

Meanwhile, anchoring on the BIOFIN methodology, BIOFIN PH is assisting the BMB on the mid-term updating of the PBSAP that will consider progress in the PBSAP implementation, the new Philippine Development Plan (2023-2028) and commitments to the Global Biodiversity Framework. BIOFIN PH is leading the preparation of the Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP).

In August 2024, BIOFIN PH organized the *PBSAP 2025-2040 Program Prioritization and Portfolio Development Workshop,* which identified the following priority programs:

1. Increase effectively conserved and managed conservation sites (30x30)
2. Reduce extinction risk, maintain and restore species and genetic diversities
3. Minimize and regulate the impacts of climate change and other hazards
4. Sustainably manage agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry
5. Improve benefit flows from sustainable use of production areas across conservation areas
6. Institutionalize synergistic collaboration for whole of government approach to biodiversity conservation, anchored on Section 43 of GAA 2024

To finalize the FNA, the BMB must complete the list of actions, targets, and indicators of the PBSAP. Nevertheless, it is foreseen that investments in the PBSAP will be front-loaded. This will entail an effective platform to pursue private sector collaboration, partnerships with civil society and non-government organizations, and strategic ODA, with more grants towards nature-based solutions.

The immediate completion of the BFP, initially targeted by Q1 of 2025, will also depend on the FNA. Succeeding work includes evaluating the identified finance solutions, determining their feasibility, and formulating their specific investment/business cases.

In addition to the broader PBSAP, BIOFIN PH provided strategic technical assistance in the costing of the first iteration of the Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IPBSAP), completed in August 2024. The Philippines is home to over 17 million indigenous peoples, who make up 110 ethnolinguistic groups.

While aligned with the thematic structure of the 3rd iteration of the PBSAP, the IPBSAP stands as a groundbreaking and first-of-its-kind document. It articulates the contribution of Indigenous peoples in the context of the Philippines to the national biodiversity agenda by providing a roadmap rooted in their traditional knowledge systems, values, rights, and interrelationships with their territories and resources. This reflects their collective commitment and is grounded in the principles of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA).

In December 2025, BIOFIN PH, in partnership with the Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Coalition (IPBC), held a capacity-building workshop on costing the IPBSAP to enable the country's Indigenous peoples to lead in defining their biodiversity finance needs. Participants initially felt unsure, noting that they do not hold finance roles. As the workshop progressed, they realized that costing relies more on the implementers and communities who are best suited to identify on-the-ground needs. This activity is a first step toward developing their IPBSAP Finance Plan.

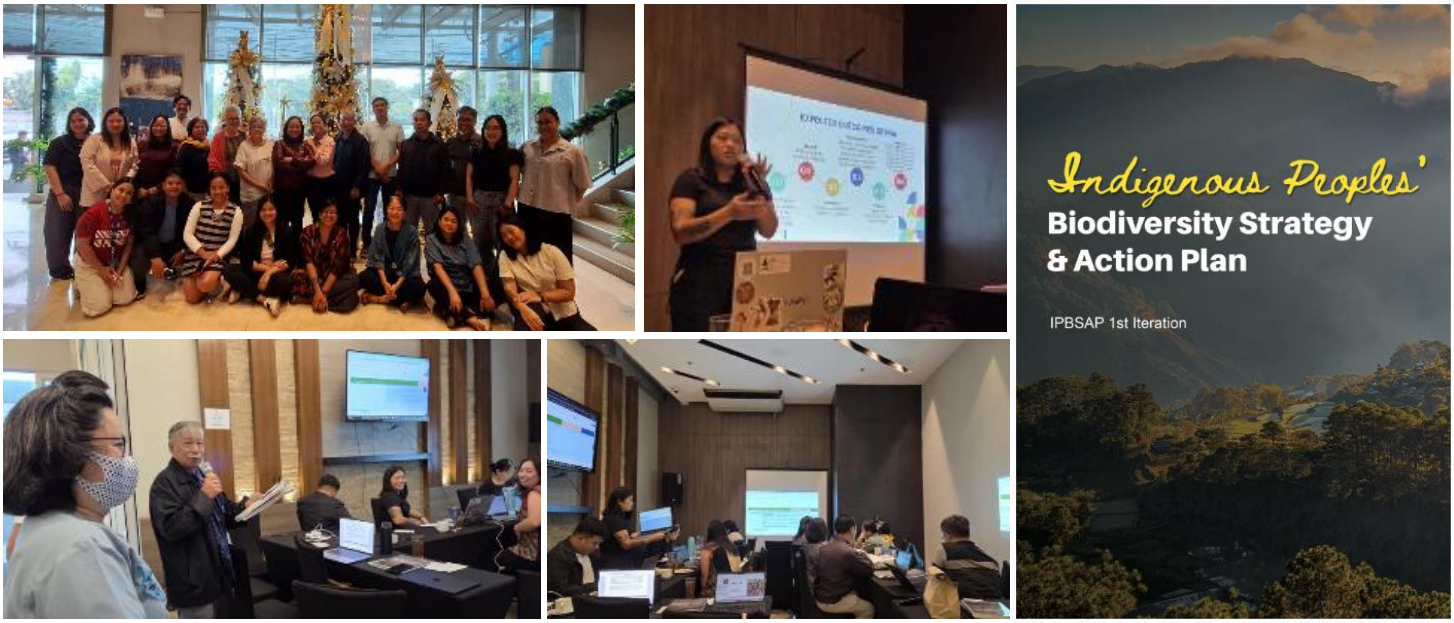


Figure 7: IPBSAP Costing Workshop | 9-10 December 2025 | Quezon City

Finance Solution 2: Improved biodiversity expenditure reporting for other government agencies

The finance solution shall result in increased expenditures on biodiversity by aligning the PBSAP to the work programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) through the development of citizen science marine litter modules targeting conditional cash transfer beneficiaries residing within coastal areas, particularly around Manila Bay.

The finance solution also looks at complementation between the DENR and the Department of Agriculture (DA) on agrobiodiversity conservation through their Joint Administrative Order 2021-01 on biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices.

In 2025, nearly a quarter of the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) budget of P1.08 trillion was earmarked for flood control projects. The Philippines, situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, experiences an average of 20 typhoons annually, leading to frequent flooding and landslides, even in urban areas. (https://tribune.net.ph/2025/02/16/flood-control-projects) According to the Asian Development Bank, nature-based solutions such as restoring wetlands, developing water retention areas, removing obstacles and reviving old channels can complement conventional infrastructure to improve flood protection and create additional environmental and social benefits. BIOFIN PH will work with the DPWH to integrate nature-based solutions into flood control projects.

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

Discussions on this important collaboration have been ongoing with the DSWD since 2018. The citizen science marine litter modules aim to be integrated in the family development sessions attended by beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), a conditional cash transfer program implemented by the Department, and have been completed. However, the major challenge is the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DENR and the DSWD, which has been pending since the change in administration in 2022. The MOA provides for the DENR to allocate funding for the finalization of the modules, train facilitators, use the training materials for the first phase of national implementation, and develop an M&E framework for environmental and behavioral indicators. On the other hand, DSWD shall identify a pool of trainers, coordinate with its field offices for implementation, and coordinate with DENR to ensure that the modules are updated regularly.

In November 2024, BIOFIN PH was informed of the organizational changes within the Department and the current review of the family development sessions where the modules will be used. This means more delays in this finance solution. As recommended by the DSWD, all partnerships go through the Partnership Building and Resource Mobilization Management Office.

In 2025, with the renewed partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the work on integrating citizen science marine litter modules in the Family

Development Sessions for beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) will continue.

Efforts to formalize this collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding will be pursued in 2026.

Department of Agriculture (DA)

Cognizant of DA-DENR JAO 2021-01 (Mainstreaming Biodiversity-friendly Agricultural Practices [BDFAP] in and Around Protected Areas and Promoting the same in Wider Agricultural Landscapes) as the best opportunity to strengthen convergence between and among agrobiodiversity programs within the DENR and DA, BIOFIN PH's study estimated potential harmful subsidies in the rice, corn, and high value crops programs in selected regions of the Department of Agriculture (DA) at PhP471M or USD8.5M. The results of the study were presented to key officials to identify mutually acceptable entry points for further work on subsidies anchoring on the Joint DA-DENR Administrative Order (JAO 2021-01) on biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, in line with the PBSAP updating and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) target on subsidies. ***(see Section on Finance Solution 20 for more details)***

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)

In 2025, the budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was PhP1.08 trillion (USD16B) with nearly a quarter of the budget earmarked for flood control projects. The Philippines, situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, experiences an average of 20 typhoons annually, leading to frequent flooding and landslides, even in urban areas.

BIOFIN PH's collaboration with DPWH focuses on integrating nature-based solutions into their flood control projects by developing a manual of procedures. Two Terms of Reference (TORs), one for an NbS specialist and another for an economist, were prepared and presented in an initial meeting with DPWH. The current circumstances of corruption issues within the DPWH have delayed the finalization of the TORs. Steady follow-through has helped move the process forward. Comments from the DPWH have now been received, while complementation work with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on NbS is foreseen.

To ensure that the manual reflects current national priorities and contextual realities, a roundtable discussion on nature-based solutions to gather insights from key stakeholders and experts will be organized in 2026.



Figure 8: Initial Meeting with the DPWH | 9 July 2025 | Manila City

Finance Solution 3: Report on environmental trust funds: Alignment with PBSAP

Like the two abovementioned finance solutions, this solution seeks alignment of programs and projects to the PBSAP of the 2 major trust funds in the country. The expenditure review shows that there are 54 multi-year programs/projects that are currently being supported by these trust funds totaling PhP105.7M.

In line with the updated PBSAP, the tagging work continued with the Forest Foundation Philippines this year, and with the Foundation for the Philippine Environment in 2026.



Figure 9: Biodiversity Expenditure Tagging with Forest Foundation of the Philippines | 31 July 2025 | Makati City

Finance Solution 4: Budgets for DENR regional biodiversity programs

The finance solution seeks increased financing for biodiversity programs at the DENR regional level and builds on the regional targeting workshops facilitated by the Biodiversity Management Bureau previously. Regional biodiversity strategy and action plans (BSAP) with proposed finance solutions were developed for selected regional offices.

This has been completed.

Finance Solution 5: Resources mobilized from individual donors for biodiversity programs and projects (Crowdfunding)

Crowdfunding is a method of collecting many small contributions usually by means of an online funding platform to finance or capitalize a project. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a crowdfunding campaign called "Together for Tamaraws" was conducted in 2020 which raised 6 months' salaries and food packs of 33 furloughed wardens and ranger to enable them to continue protecting the critically endangered tamaraw (Bubalus mindorensis).

Also included in this finance solution is BIOFIN PH's alliance with GCash, a leading mobile wallet in the Philippines. In 2019, BIOFIN PH provided technical inputs on forest restoration when GCash developed GForest, a gamified app for forest restoration. BIOFIN PH continues to identify NGO and corporate partners for GForest.

No further crowdfunding activity will be conducted by the project. A knowledge product (video on crowdfunding) is being produced. This is part of the project's exit work.



Figure 10: Shoot of the crowdfunding video |19 September 2025 | Quezon City

BIOFIN PH has an ongoing collaboration with GCash, the Philippines' largest mobile wallet, with an estimated 94 million users.

Since 2019, BIOFIN PH has raised awareness by conducting lectures for GCash employees and media, facilitated the GForest partnership with World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) resulting in planting more than 200,000 native trees in Ipo Watershed, and more recently introduced Zoological Society of London (ZSL) as an NGO partner for GForest. Building on these achievements, BIOFIN PH will continue to pursue a Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) with GCash to further harness the platform as a powerful tool for biodiversity awareness.

This year, a new GCash focal has reconnected with the project, and the process of signing an MOU between GCash and UNDP has been revived. With the onboarding of the Partnerships Specialist, BIOFIN PH is developing a detailed work plan with GCash to guide collaborative efforts for 2026 onwards.

Finance Solution 6: Funds mobilized from gaming applications and peripherals

The objective is to test if mobile gaming apps can be a stable source of funds for biodiversity. The finance solution will be a percentage of sales for the mobile application or its peripherals that will be earmarked for biodiversity conservation activities.

As of December 2025, “Animal Town” has attracted 22,514 users globally and has generated USD560.02[1] (PHP33,029.97) since its soft launch in 2023, followed by its national and global launches in March and July 2024, respectively. In mobile gaming, success hinges on ensuring that a player's Long-Term Value (LTV) exceeds the Cost Per Install (CPI)—the cost of acquiring and retaining a user. This balance is critical to achieving a positive Return on Ad Spend (ROAS), where game earnings surpass advertising costs. “Animal Town” is showing promising progress on this front. Its LTV has grown significantly from USD 0.01 in 2024 to USD 0.05 in 2025, outpacing its CPI of USD 0.04.



Figure 11: Animal Town Statistics (e.g. revenues from purchases and ads, distribution of players globally, LTV, CPI) as of December 15, 2025

This upward trend indicates the game is moving firmly in the right direction, with strong potential for profitability as it continues to scale and mature. While mobile games often take up to five years to reach stable revenue performance, “Animal Town’s” early results after just one year are highly encouraging. This positive trajectory is largely attributed to major game improvements rolled out in early 2025. These included the addition of star villagers—representing government priority species for conservation—as well as new boosters, log-in rewards, and “wild offers,” all designed to increase in-app purchases and enhance player

[1] USD exchange rate 58.98 (UNORE ao December 15, 2025)

retention. The game has also gained broader visibility, with its official poster now displayed at the National Museum, where it will remain on view until next year.



Figure 9: Animal Town Ratings in Mac App Store (L) and Google Playstore (R)



Figure 12: Animal Town improvements

To strengthen promotion of the game, Forest Foundation Philippines, as a Responsible Party, and BIOFIN PH have developed social media content for posting. This year, BIOFIN PH also pursued broader institutional collaboration with public sector agencies to expand outreach for "Animal Town." Planned efforts included partnering with BMB's Youth Core Group, which incorporated the app into their youth engagement activities; integrating the app into the DENR Central Office sportsfest; engaging the Union of Local Authorities Philippines (ULAP) to disseminate the app to reach their local government members; and coordinating with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to place ads across the country's major train systems. Regular engagement events were also conducted to boost visibility and user activity.

As a result of these efforts, “Animal Town” was featured on digital screens along the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 from October to November. The ad placement media value is estimated at PHP 520,000 based on current market rates, with at least 200,000 unique daily views based on the line’s ridership.

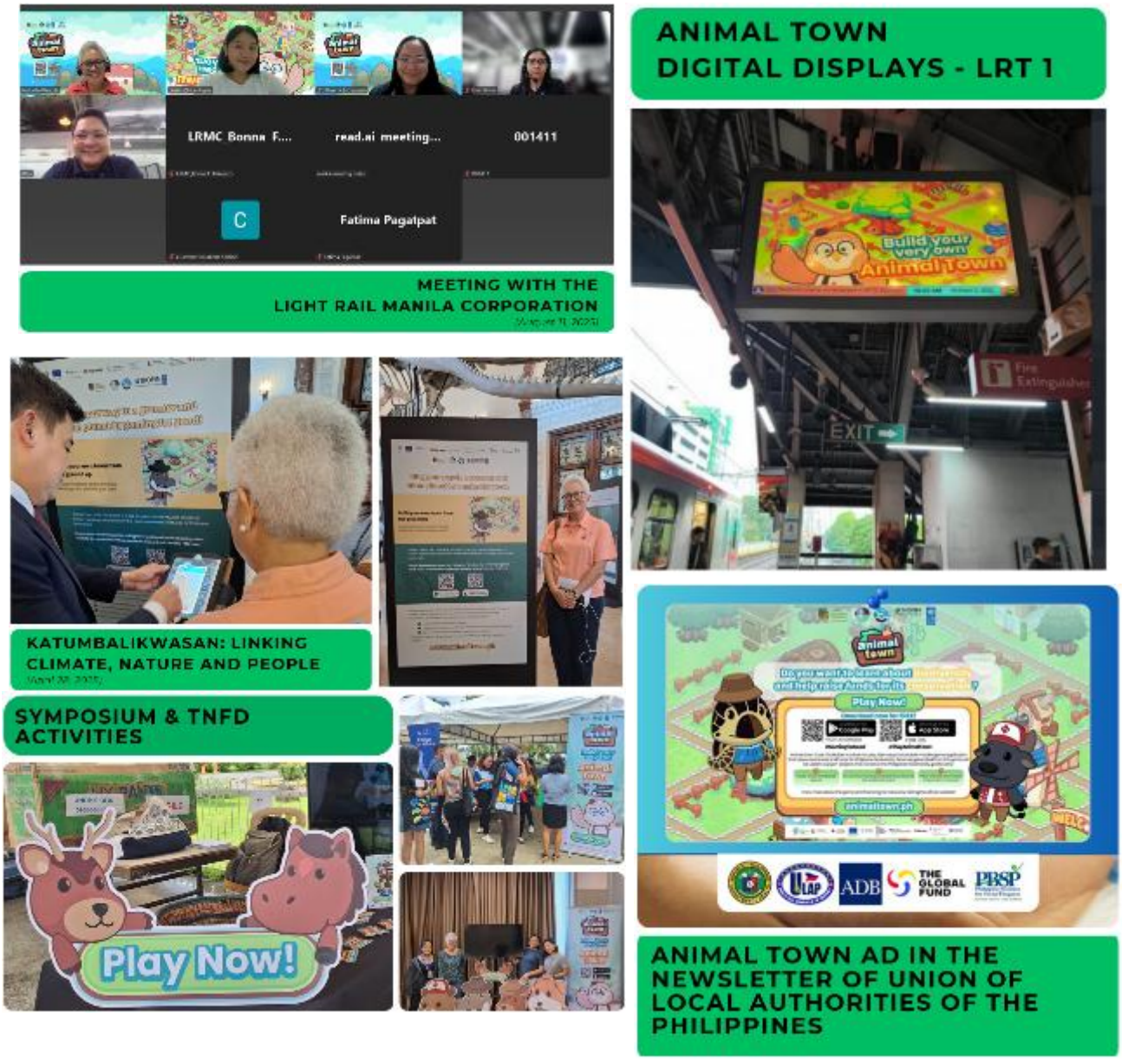


Figure 13: Animal Town promotions and meetings

In September 2024, the operations manual for revenue management was approved by the BMB Director. It was prepared by the Forest Foundation and the “Animal Town” Technical Working Group in DENR-BMB which was established in 2023. Proceeds will support BMB’s conservation priorities and maintenance of the mobile app. To simulate the grant cycle provision of the operations manual, Forest Foundation Philippines – BIOFIN’s NGO partner

responsible for managing the app and its revenue – graciously provided a PhP808,641.00 (USD14, 319.83) grant to the Balatahan Higaonon Tribal Council Inc., an Indigenous peoples organization (IPO) of Mt. Balatukan Range National Park, for abaca production and agroforestry within the multiple-use zone of the protected area. An area of 20 hectares was identified and mapped for the project, and as of this reporting period, 5,555 healthy abaca suckers (from mature, high-yielding plants within the community and neighboring areas) were planted, comprising 70% of the target suckers to be planted. Moreover, a nursery was established for 6,111 coffee seedlings. Capacity-building activities were conducted for IPO members, with 29 participants trained in plant disease control and management while 18 participants trained in basic bookkeeping and financial management.

The opportunity to utilize UNDP's Google Search Ads grant worth USD45K to promote the game app was not realized. To maximize the grant, UNDP BERA's Digital Governance Specialist recommended creating a landing page on the UNDP website to promote the app and direct traffic to the Country Office site. Despite multiple follow-ups to the UNDP Country Office since September 2024, it was only in 2025 that the Country Office clarified its Content Management System (CMS) was incompatible with the proposed landing page. BIOFIN PH later inquired with Digital Governance Specialist Dzenan Buzadzic about the possibility of still using or renewing the grant despite delays, but no feedback was received.

As the app remains in its infancy stage, having been officially launched in 2024 and still in the process of building its user base, BIOFIN PH will seek a fund manager in 2026 to oversee and manage revenues generated from the game, following the completion of Forest Foundation Philippines' contract. BIOFIN PH will remain strategic and opportunistic in its marketing efforts, pursuing partnerships and visibility opportunities to grow user engagement and sustain revenue generation. Despite the ongoing efforts, the BIOFIN PH Board has advised scaling down efforts related to the app and shifting focus toward other finance solutions.

Finance Solution 7: Increased LGU budgets for biodiversity conservation

This finance solution seeks to work directly with local governments to implement a broad suite of finance mechanisms including local budgets, market-based mechanisms, and transfers from the national government. It will also take advantage of the implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia decision which will effectively allocate more resources to LGUs through the devolution of selected national government functions. The finance solution seeks to continue this trend of budgeting for biodiversity conservation by doing budget advocacy between and among the relevant provincial offices and local committees.

Through a Responsible Party Agreement, BIOFIN PH partnered with the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation (PhilBio) to implement Finance Solutions 7 – 10 in the provinces of Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental. No results/activity to report as of this reporting period. The signing of the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Negros Island provinces in July and September 2023 led to strengthened implementation of their finance solutions. Biodiversity conservation activities and programs in Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental showed a total of USD7,869,401.23 (PHP443,185,362.00) in two years.

The table below shows the total local funds allotted for biodiversity conservation of both provinces as shown in their 2023 and 2024 Annual Investment Plans.

. **Table 1:** Total local government funds for biodiversity conservation as shown in the provinces' 2023 and 2024 [2]Annual Investment Plans

Province	2023 (USD)	2024 (USD)	Total (USD)
Negros Oriental	339,544.61	365,293.94	704,838.55
Negros Occidental	3,725,154.92	3,439,407.76	7,164,562.68
TOTAL	**4,064,699.52**	**3,804,701.71**	**7,869,401.23**

Both provinces' lead biodiversity offices: Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) for Negros Oriental and Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) for Negros Occidental received a total of USD704K and USD7.1M in two years, respectively. The tables on the next pages show the programs and their allocations under both offices.

[2] Exchange rates (2023 = USD55.675; 2024 = USD57.004)

Table 2: Negros Oriental's Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) and its Programs and Budget (USD)

Negros Oriental (ENRD) - Programs	2023	2024	Total
Coastal Resources Management	16,118.55	24,810.68	40,929.23
Forest Resources Management	22,799.21	31,871.45	54,670.66
Waste Management	65,316.57	91,144.27	156,460.84
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Program	16,784.91	22,315.63	39,100.54
Integrated Water Resource and Watershed Management Program	19,685.32	21,345.87	41,031.19
Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Management Program	42,277.86	41,815.31	84,093.17
Human Resource Management and Population Outreach Program	8,046.70	0.00	8,046.70
Skills Training and Livelihood Development for Marginalized Farmers and Fisherfolks	9,568.03	0.00	9,568.03
Administration and Management of ENRD Programs	75,963.36	65,155.43	141,118.79
Mineral Resources Utilization and Management Program	16,104.89	44,029.89	60,134.79
Capital Outlay	46,879.21	22,805.42	69,684.63
TOTAL	**339,544.61**	**365,293.94**	**704,838.55**

Table 3: Negros Occidental's Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) and its Programs and Budget (USD)

Negros Occidental (PEMO) - Programs	2023	2024	Total
Operation of PEMO	969,914.68	963,265.74	1,933,180.42
Procurement of IT equipment,office equipment, furnitures	89,806.92	87,713.14	177,520.06
Continuing Environmental Awareness and Advocacy Program	26,942.07	26,313.94	53,256.02
Support to Upland Ecosystem Management Program	179,613.83	263,139.43	442,753.26
Operation of Provincial Mining Regulatory Board on resource regulation	10,920.52	12,455.27	23,375.79
Major River Assessment	89,806.92	87,713.14	177,520.06
Coastal Wetlands Rehabilitation and Conservation Program	269,420.75	175,426.29	444,847.03
Continuing Support to Bgy Kapitolyo Solid Waste Management	26,942.07	70,170.51	97,112.59
Pana-ad Greening Program	21,553.66	26,313.94	47,867.60
Integrated South-Western KBAs Conservation Management and Development Program	359,227.66	350,852.57	710,080.23
Support to the Operation of Clustered Sanitary Landfill	179,613.83	263,139.43	442,753.26
Gender and Development Approach on Natural Resources Management	109,564.44	70,170.51	179,734.95
Operation and Strengthening of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Council	1,616.52	1,578.84	3,195.36
Strengthening of Mining Regulation and Enforcement Operation	35,922.77	17,542.63	53,465.39
Provincial Nursery and Arboratum	21,553.66	21,051.15	42,604.81
Support to 7th Ramsar Wetlands Management Project	89,806.92	87,713.14	177,520.06
Provision of Livelihood Opportunities to Upland and Coastal Women	89,806.92	0.00	89,806.92
Support to Watershed Management and Development Program	359,227.66	87,713.14	446,940.80
Support to Farm-Tourism Sites	359,227.66	52,627.89	411,855.55
Establishment of Tree Parks and Greenbelts - Urban Forest Management	39,515.04	38,593.78	78,108.83
Support to Provincial Solid Waste Management Board	1,796.14	8,771.31	10,567.45
Support to Integrated Social Forestry Program	89,806.92	175,426.29	265,233.20
Support to LGUs' Post Harvest Processing Center	46,699.60	52,627.89	99,327.48
Support to RA 9003 Soldi Waste Management	220,925.01	263,139.43	484,064.44
Support to Monitoring and Project Implementation Program: Vehicle Procurement	35,922.77	35,085.26	71,008.02
Support to Task Force Lawed Operation		61,399.20	61,399.20
Support to Establishment of Local Conservation Areas (LCAs)		10,525.58	10,525.58
Inventory of Water Sources		6,139.92	6,139.92
Integrated Program for Women in Environment and Natural Resources Management and Development		87,713.14	87,713.14
Support to Ilog Hilabangan River Basin		8,771.31	8,771.31
Environment Week and Other Thematic Celebrations		26,313.94	26,313.94
TOTAL	**3,725,154.92**	**3,439,407.76**	**7,164,562.68**

Meanwhile, the private sector contributed to biodiversity activities in both provinces, which align to regional and national conservation priorities. The table below shows the total private sector funds for local biodiversity conservation mobilized for both provinces – USD1,994,844.05 (PHP 111,145,195.00).

Table 4: Total private sector funds mobilized for local biodiversity conservation (USD)

Biodiversity-related Event/Activity	Source	Province Supported	2023	2024	Total
Provincial Wildlife Quiz 2023	Energy Development Corporation (EDC)	Both	1,077.68		1,077.68
	SEARICE and NOMAD Outdoors	Both	179.61		179.61
Forest Conservation	Friends of Environment in Negros Oriental FENOr)	Negros Oriental	2,882.80		2,882.80
	Forest Foundation Philippines	Both	628,648.41		628,648.41
Biodiversity Research	EDC	Negros Occidental	20,057.39	19,788.09	39,845.47
	Silliman University	Negros Occidental	21,553.66	21,051.15	42,604.81
	PhilBio	Negros Occidental		21,051.15	21,051.15
Wetlands Assessment	Siit Arboretum, FENOr, and ENRD	Negros Oriental	1,257.30		1,257.30
		TOTAL	**675,656.85**	**61,890.39**	**737,547.24**

The contract of PhilBio was completed in 2024. Hence, there are no activities reported for Q1 2025. Nevertheless, a Donor's Visit was held in February. The tangible results of one of these finance solutions were notably highlighted during a visit by the UK Ambassador Laure Beaufils to San Carlos City. In connection with this significant event, an opinion editorial discussing these achievements was recently released online by the UNDP Country Office.



Figure 13: UK Donor Visit | February 10-11, 2025 | San Carlos City, Negros Oriental

This year, BIOFIN PH has started implementing a key finance solution focused on gender, specifically within the province of Negros Occidental. **(see FS 20 for more details).**

Finance Solution 8: Access and synergy with national government agencies (NGAs)

The finance solution will align priority provincial programs and/or projects on biodiversity conservation with national government agency programs that can finance these.

No results/activity to report as of this reporting period.

Finance Solution 9: Proposed environmental fee system for LGUs (Tourism Ecological Fee)

The finance solution is a tax that will be imposed on non-Negros tourists for every night of stay. The funds collected will be allocated for the implementation of biodiversity conservation activities in both Negros provinces. The province of Negros Oriental was chosen by the Department of Tourism as a Tourism Development Area and has identified sustainable tourism as one of its priorities. As one of the most visited destinations in the country, the economic benefits of tourism are directly attributed to nature. The proposed Tourism Ecological Fee complements its Environment Code and will mobilize resources to conserve biodiversity to sustain its ecotourism activities.

No results/activity to report as of this reporting period.

Finance Solution 10: Programs submitted for Energy Regulation ER 1-94

The trust fund created under Energy Regulation (ER) 1-94, as amended, requires the generation company and/or energy resource developer to set aside one centavo per kilowatt hour (P0.01/kWh) of the total electricity sales as financial benefits to host communities. The P0.01/kWh is monitored through trust accounts established specific for EF (Electrification Fund), DLF (Development and Livelihood Fund) and RWMHEEF (Reforestation, Watershed Management, Health and/or Environmental Enhancement Fund) in the name of Department of Energy (DOE) and the generation company. ER 1-94 is one of the finance solutions being considered by the provinces of Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental. The finance solution is to identify projects eligible for support from the financial benefits of the trust fund.

No results/activity to report as of this reporting period.

Finance Solution 11: Development and roll-out of biodiversity indicators for the "Seal of Good Local Governance"

By virtue of RA 11292 or the SGLG Act, the Seal is an institutionalized award, incentive, honor and recognition-based program that aims to boost LGUs' commitment to continuously progress and improve their performance along 10 governance areas. One of these governance areas is Environmental Management of which there is only 1 indicator – solid waste management. A cash incentive of PhP7M or USD125,000 is given to winning cities and PhP5M or USD89,000 to winning municipalities. There are 81 provinces, 145 cities and 1,489 municipalities in the Philippines. The finance solution aims to include biodiversity relevant parameters in the assessment system – thereby providing an incentive to LGUs to include such programs resulting in a budgetary allocation for biodiversity programs and their efficient implementation.

The inclusion of biodiversity-relevant parameters in the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) in 2023, specifically under its Environmental Management (EM) Governance Area, aims to encourage local government units (LGUs) to implement biodiversity-related programs and projects. This is expected to lead to dedicated budget allocations and more effective implementation of biodiversity initiatives.

At present, the SGLG is under reprogramming, halting the assessment for 2025. This, however, presents an opportunity for DENR to further refine and strengthen biodiversity indicators.

Three (3) biodiversity indicators have been submitted in the 2023-2025 SGLG of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Two of these have already been rolled out:

1. **Wetlands and Water Management**: *Initiatives contributing to biodiversity conservation and enhancement focusing on inland wetlands and water bodies;*
2. **Parks and Green Spaces Development**: *Establishment or Maintenance of Public Parks and Green Spaces*

*T*he third indicator

3. **Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection**: *Strengthened enforcement of RA 9147 Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act by promoting public awareness and building capacities for implementation*, is still under consideration.

After two postponements in 2024, the SGLG-EM Governance Area Learning Event for Negros Island was successfully held in January 2025. The event was designed to inform, prepare, and equip LGUs to understand and comply with the newly introduced biodiversity indicators. It also served as a platform for in-depth, collaborative discussions among LGUs, the DILG, and the DENR.

More than 200 participants from 40 LGUs across Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental attended the two-part learning event. Attendees included representatives from provincial, city, and municipal governments, as well as DENR's regional, provincial, and community offices.

The event underscored the need for capacity-building, data-driven strategies, and stronger coordination between national and local agencies. Outcomes highlighted the importance of sustained training, enhanced collaboration, and adequate resources to help LGUs meet the EM standards under the SGLG. Key recommendations included strengthening LGU institutional capacity, improving monitoring and evaluation systems, and ensuring financial support for local environmental efforts.



Figure 14: SGLG Negros Oriental

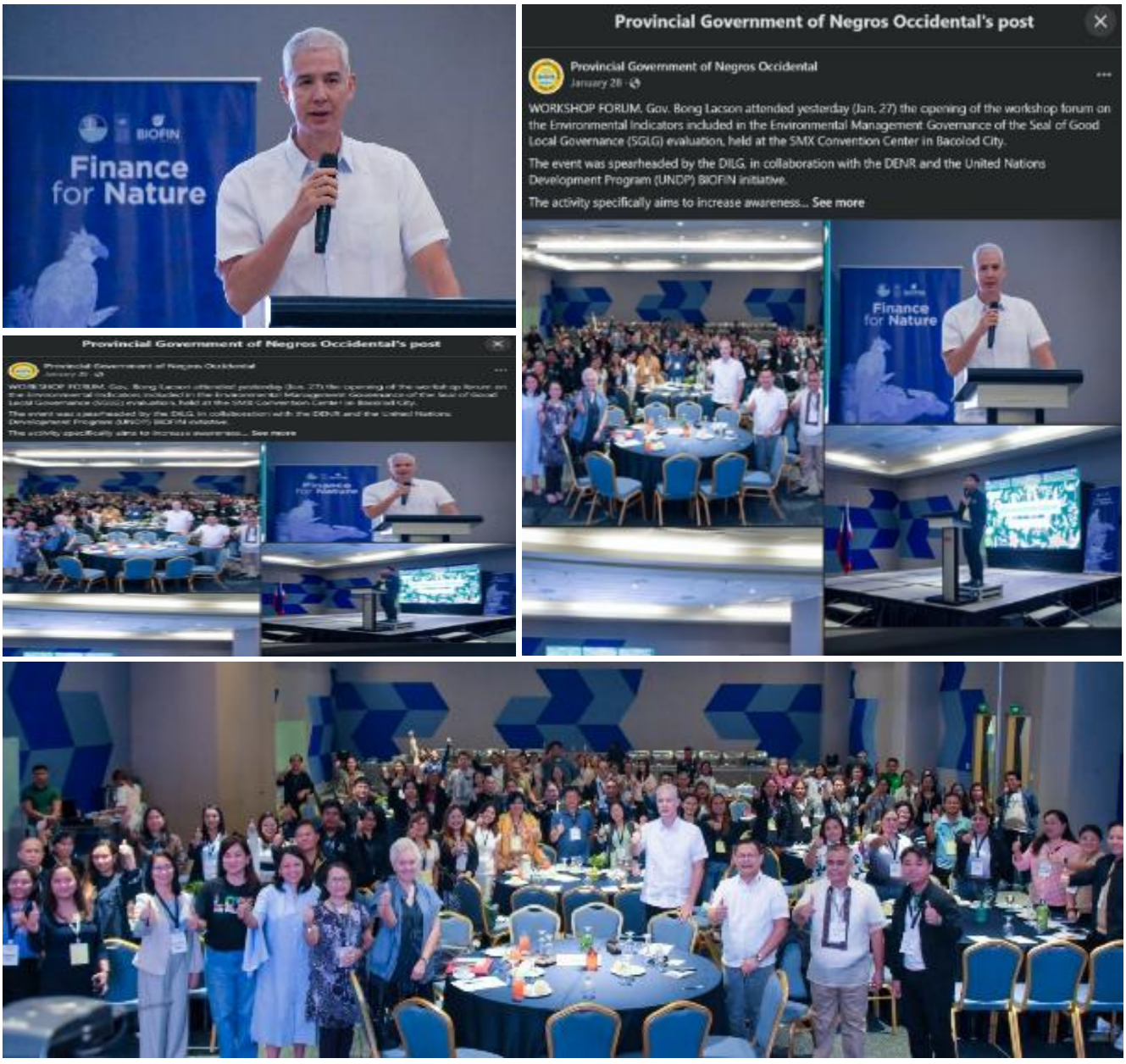


Figure 15: SGLG Negros Occidental

Following the event, BIOFIN PH and the BMB worked on the development of a toolkit on biodiversity-related EM indicators, along with a policy to institutionalize DENR's role in the SGLG process. A video on toolkit will also be produced in 2026. These efforts aim to improve structural coordination and strengthen collaboration between DENR central and field offices and the LGUs, which serve as key implementers of ground-level environmental governance.

BIOFIN PH will continue to provide technical assistance to the BMB in its roll out and continued enhancement. A tracking system on LGU investments will also be developed with BMB, DILG, and the Department of Finance (DOF).



Figure 16: BMB SGLG TWG meeting

In December, DENR Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, International Affairs, and Climate Change Noralene Uy, who heads the Environmental Management Governance Area TWG and represents the DENR to the Council of Good Local Governance (CGLG), the decision-making body for the SGLG composed of 10 national government agencies, expressed support and approval to BIOFIN PH's proposed toolkit and policy to institutionalize DENR support in SGLG implementation. The initiatives were subsequently presented to the CGLG as it discussed the transition of SGLG indicators to a triennial assessment from 2026 to 2028.

On the institutional side, a Technical Working Group at BMB, established in 2022 to support this finance solution (similar to *Animal Town's*), remains in place. However, challenges persist in ensuring the group's sustained, active participation and engagement.

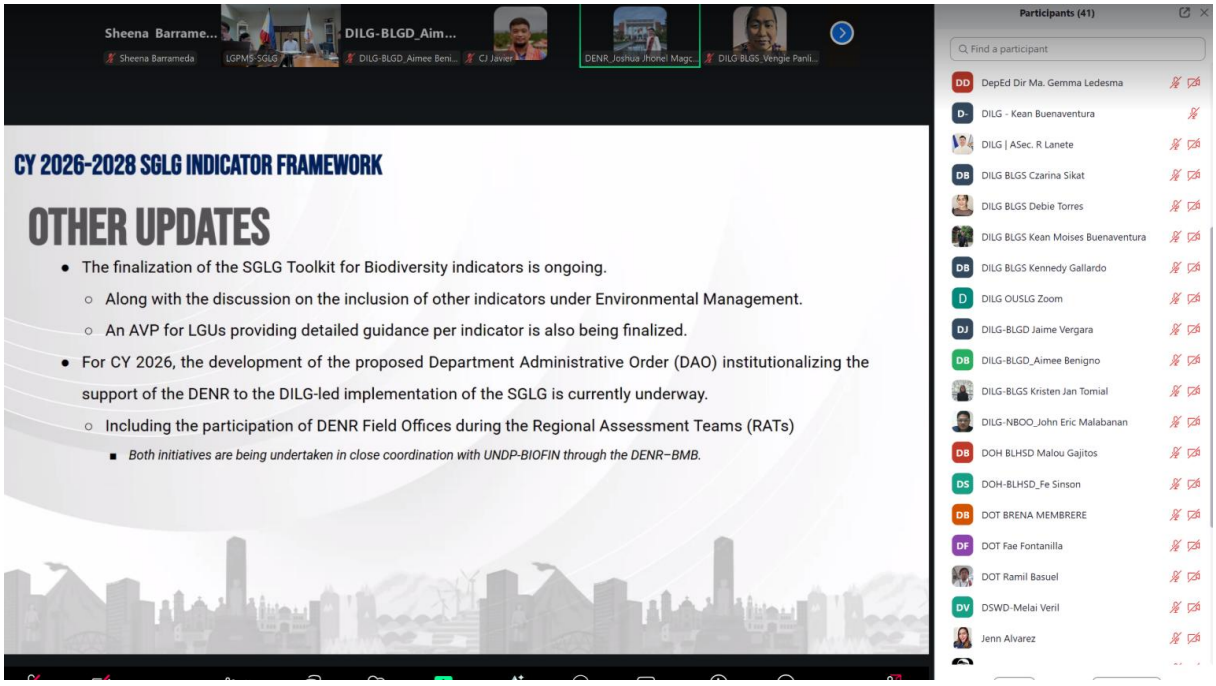


Figure 17: 15th Council of Good Local Governance Meeting | 10 December 2025

BIOFIN PH supported the **City Biodiversity Index (CBI)** training-workshop on August 26 to 28, 2025, in partnership with the Caves, Wetlands and Other Ecosystems Division (CAWED) of the DENR–BMB. 85 participants (M-33, F-52) included DENR regional and field offices and local government units from 14 regions, along with the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development – Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning and Development Bureau (DHSUD–ELUPDB), the Department of Finance – Bureau of Local Government Finance (DOF–BLGF), and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP). The CBI has 28 indicators that help cities assess native biodiversity, ecosystem services, and governance. It supports BMB and BIOFIN PH's work on the Seal of Good Local Governance **(SGLG) indicator for public parks and green spaces.**



Figure 18: Training on City Biodiversity Index (CBI) for the Enhanced Biodiversity and Green Spaces in Urban Areas | 26-28 August 2025 | Manila City

Finance Solution 12: Investment program for protected areas

BIOFIN PH supported the 2018 passage of the RA 11038 or Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) law, ensuring government funding for all 117 legislated protected areas and the formulation of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (DENR AO 2019-05). With its enactment, the 2019 national budget for PAs pegged at PhP1.469B increased to PhP2B in 2020. An additional PhP500M (USD8.9M) was provided by the national government due to a Congressional Manifesto addressed to the House Speaker to support increased budgetary support for PAs which was signed by almost 100 representatives whose jurisdictions cover PAs. BIOFIN PH closely coordinated with the Office of Cong. Josephine Ramirez-Sato, principal author of RA 11038, in having this manifesto signed. With the pandemic, budget in 2021 dropped to PhP1.5B but was restored to PhP2.5B in 2022. The budget supports the Protected Area Management Offices and their operations which include protection measures, support to communities in the development and implementation of their BDFEs (mainly ecotourism), awareness raising, research and park infrastructure.

BIOFIN PH works with protected areas at the system or macro level through monitoring of budgets within the GAA and at the site level through assistance to PAs in preparing their finance plans and implementing finance solutions. The 2026 national government allocation (i.e. National Expenditure Program) for PAs is PHP 2,256,414,000[3] or USD38M compared to in 2025 budget of PHP2,450,976,000 or USD43M.

The capacity building on finance planning - Protected Areas Finance Plans (PAFP) - for Protected Areas managers and frontliners which commenced in 2019 continues. One hundred (100) individuals (M-58 F-42) from over 95 protected areas across the country have been trained in protected area finance planning, now renamed as Protected Area Sustainable Financing (PA SusFin), since the module was introduced in 2024 under the Protected Area Management Specialized Course of the Environment and Natural Resources Academy (ENRA) of the DENR. This includes 65 participants from March and August rollout.

On the institutional side, the delivery of the PA SusFin training is gradually transitioning to the BMB – National Parks Division (BMB-NPD). The second run in March was led by BMB-NPD,

---

[3] 500,000,000 (2019) result of a congressional resolution initiated by BIOFIN PH, reflected in the 2020 GAA
1,469,278,000 (2019) p.743 (https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/GAA/GAA2019/VolumeI/DENR/DENR.pdf);
2,031,820,000 (2020) p.816 (https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/GAA/GAA2020/VolumeI/DENR/DENR.pdf);
1,523,700,000 (2021) p.837 (https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/GAA/GAA2021/VolumeI/DENR/DENR.pdf);
2,511,326,000 (2022) p.833 (https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/GAA/GAA2022/VolumeI/DENR/DENR.pdf);
1,858,481,000 (2023) p.842 (https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/GAA/GAA2023/VolumeI/DENR/DENR.pdf)
3,184,670,000 (2024) p.849 (https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/GAA/GAA2024/VolumeI/DENR/DENR.pdf)
2,450,976,000 (2025) p. 859 (https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/GAA/GAA2025/VolumeIA/DENR/A.pdf)
2,256,414,000 (2026) p. 47 (https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/NEP2026/DENR/DENR.pdf)

**UN exchange rate 58.98 (ao December 15, 2025)*

with BIOFIN PH serving as shadow facilitators, while the third run in August was fully led by BMB, with BIOFIN PH providing remote support.

Additionally, BMB, together with BIOFIN PH, is working to integrate PA SusFin into its updated guidelines on protected area management planning, ensuring alignment between training content and national policy implementation.



Figure 19: ENRA 2nd run | March 2025

In 2026, BIOFIN PH will support two main programs of the BMB: the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) under the Coastal and Marine Division (CMD) through the development of its Blue Finance Roadmap (30x30 Coastal and Marine Sector Strategy), and the Protected Area Development and Management (PADAM) Program under the National Parks Division (NPD) through the development of the finance plan for the amended Protected Area Master Plan. Both are anchored in the Philippine BSAP.

Finance Solution 13: "Year of the Protected Areas" (YoPA) campaign

This finance solution is closely partnered with the finance solution on developing an investment program for protected areas (PA). This solution is an information campaign seeking to increase awareness on the value of protected areas, instill an appreciation among the new generation of Filipinos on the beauty and heritage therein, and result to increased visitation rates. Revenues will support the protected areas system's management goals.

Since the YoPA Campaign's completion in 2023, BIOFIN PH continues to monitor the number of visitors and the amount of income protected areas earn from these visits. Data from the BMB-DENR as of December 2024 shows that a total of 4,381,123 visitors toured protected areas, translating to an income of USD 6,318,226.34[4] (Php 365,465,166.35).

In 2022, a Presidential Proclamation to declare the year as the "Year of the Protected Areas" and June as the Month of Protected Areas was not signed by then-President Rodrigo Duterte. Following consultations with BMB in 2023, the proposed policy was updated to declare April as the National Month of Protected Areas, with the aim of institutionalizing the celebration across all national agencies and LGUs. The initiative will be led by the DENR, in collaboration with the DILG and the Department of Tourism (DOT), therefore expanding the support network for PAs.

BIOFIN PH and BMB have recently renewed partnerships with both DILG and DOT and are actively pursuing endorsement of the updated policy under the new administration. Both agencies have expressed a strong willingness to collaborate with BMB on this initiative, which will be aligned with the newly approved National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) 2024–2028.



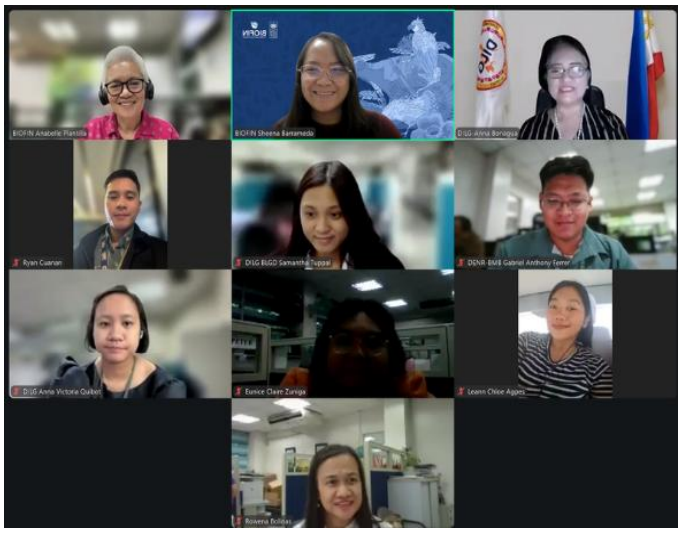


Figure 20: DOT Meeting, June 20 | DILG Meeting, June 23

[4] Dec 2024 exchange rate used – PHP57.843

Following the renewal of these partnerships, the NPD and BIOFIN PH undertook initial work planning and presented to DOT and DILG a proposed set of activities for the MOPA. As part of this process, three protected areas were identified as possible pilot sites for this initiative: Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park, Samar Island Natural Park, and Sibalom Natura Park.

Moving into 2026, BIOFIN PH will support the private sector-related activities for MOPA and continue to pursue the issuance of the Presidential Proclamation to institutionalize the celebration.

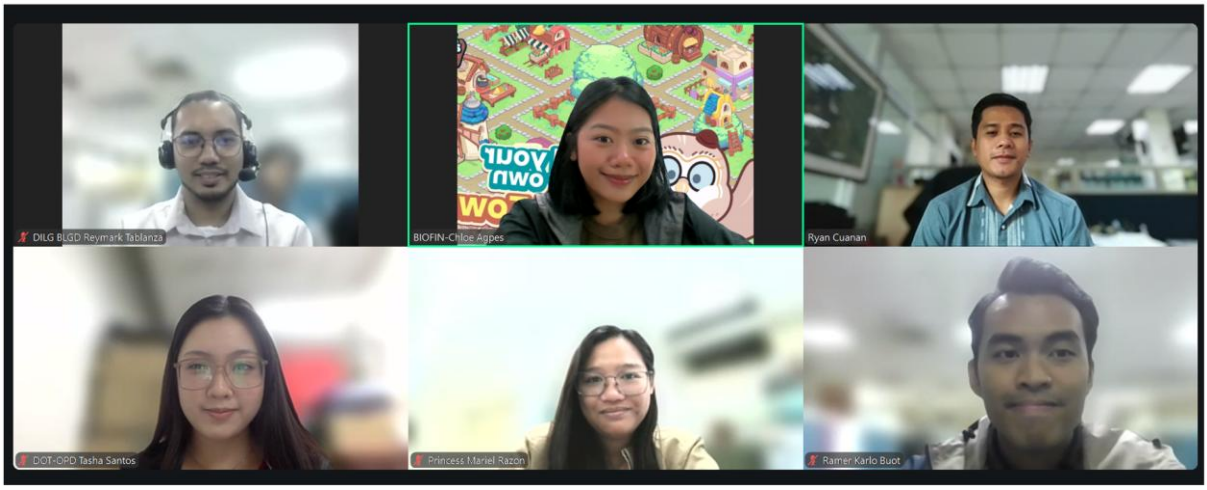


Figure 21: DOT Meeting | 13 October 2025

Still under this FS is the development of tourism products for a protected area. BIOFIN has been assisting the Sibalom Natural Park (SNP) in the development of its ecotourism products together with its partner people's organization – the Imparayan Bantay Gubat Association (IBGA) since 2022. The SNP spans 6,778.44 hectares covering 18 barangays and municipalities and serves as home to five (5) flagship species.

Five (5) ecotourism products were launched on May 10, 2024 upon completion of a series of workshops on ecotourism provided by BIOFIN PH to the SNP peoples' organization. These include:

- A Walk in the Woods
- A Glimpse of the Forest
- Forest Feast for the Senses
- Flower Power Trek (with rafflesia viewing)
- Rainbow River Tour (with river trekking)

The products offer varying combinations of site access, tour guiding services, and meals, with corresponding fees.

The series of workshops was conducted from 2022 to 2024 for IBGA include:

1. Orientation on Ecotourism Development

2. Interpretative Planning
3. Biodiversity-friendly products development, tour packaging and costing, and service design workshops
4. Script development and mock tours
5. Five-year visioning and ecotourism management planning
6. Food safety and handling training
7. Food preparation and menu development training
8. Beverage preparation training
9. Financial management and bookkeeping training
10. Filipino Brand of Service Excellence and Housekeeping Training
11. Branding
12. Development of a marketing plan

In April 2024, BIOFIN PH also facilitated a benchmarking visit for IBGA members to Bojo River in Aloguinsan, Cebu, a globally recognized, award-winning sustainable ecotourism destination, managed by the Bojo Aloguinsan Ecotourism Association (BAETAS) which further inspired IBGA to implement their ecotourism products.

In 2025, the ecotourism products were refined by the SNP Management Office and the IBGA and are currently pending approval of the SNP Management Board. To track performance and outcomes, a monitoring tool was jointly developed with BMB and SNP Management Office.

Since May 2024, the SNP reported a total of USD 1,498.89 ecotourism income (USD 736.60 in May-Dec 2024 and USD 761.99 in Jan-Oct 2025), while the overall SNP income increased its Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF) from USD 656.67 (PHP36,560) in 2023 to USD 770.65 (PHP 43,930) in 2024 and USD 847.22 (PHP 50,130) in 2025. SNP also saw an increase in its visitors from 2,905 in 2023 to 4,297 in 2024 and 2,365 in Q1 2025. [5] At present, IBGA, with 76 members (22-F, 54-M), reported an average income of PHP300-PHP15,000 per week. [6]The IBGA members shared that the trainings improved their personal competencies and enabled the organization to diversify services, including catering, when weather conditions restrict ecotourism operations.

Building on the success of these trainings, development of an ecotourism module has begun this year. The module will be rolled out in 2026 for use by the Bureau, protected area managers and staff, and community organizations. Additionally, the consultant will serve as a resource person for the Specialized Protected Area Management Course of the DENR Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Academy.

[5] SNP has yet to provide Q2-Q4 visitors data for 2025
[6] IBGA has yet to provide the actual data. Monitoring tool has yet to be used by IBGA.

These initiatives support the National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) 2024–2028, in which BMB serves as the lead agency in coordination with the Department of Tourism.



Figure 22: BIOFIN PH TWG at Simbalom Natural Park with the Imparayan Bantay Gubat Association (IBGA) / Oct 2025

Finance Solution 14: Report on private sector investments in biodiversity

The private sector is seen as a major partner in biodiversity conservation. One mechanism is through corporate social responsibility which is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives ("Triple-Bottom-Line-Approach"), while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders.

The private sector is seen as a major partner in biodiversity conservation. One mechanism is through corporate social responsibility, where companies integrate social and environmental concerns into their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders.

To strengthen private sector collaboration, BIOFIN PH conducted a roundtable discussion this year with the private sector to gauge their receptiveness to a proposed policy on CSR and explore how businesses can further contribute to biodiversity outcomes.

A Partnerships Specialist has been onboarded to coordinate all initiatives with the private sector across BIOFIN PH's finance solutions, ensuring stronger engagement and more strategic collaboration moving forward.

By 2026, BIOFIN PH will meet with potential partners such as the Department of Tourism, Jollibee, The Moment Group, The Bistro Group, FooDee Global Concepts, and Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines /Philippine Restaurant Owners Association to explore sustainable consumption initiatives and identify PBSAP projects suitable for Corporate Social Responsibility or CSR investments.

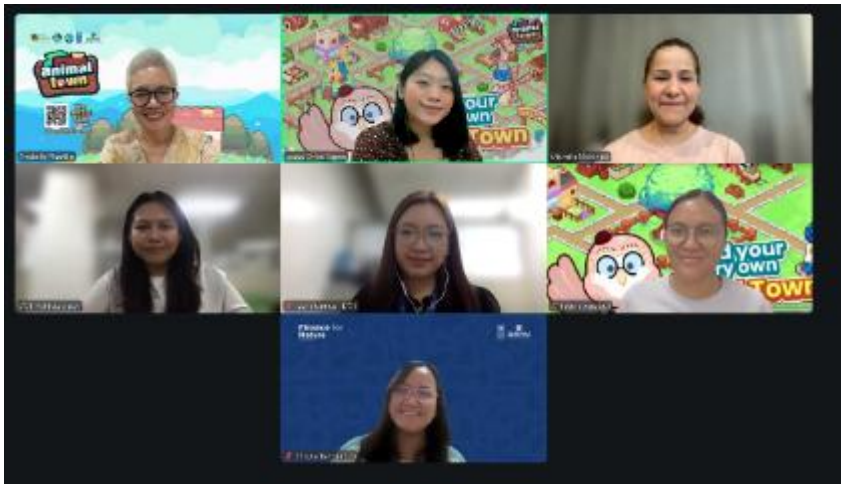


Figure 23: Meeting with DOT

Finance Solution 15: Use of digital platforms for protected areas

This finance solution seeks to leverage a digital platform developed by UBX, the fintech arm of UnionBank of the Philippines, for market access of biodiversity-friendly enterprises (BDFEs) and protected areas to mobilize resources for biodiversity conservation.

Since 2022, BIOFIN PH's invitation to host the platform has been declined by several NGOs and partners, as follows:

- Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (2022)
- Foundation for the Philippine Environment (2022)
- Philippine Business for Social Progress (2022)
- Community Crafts Association of the Philippines)2023)
- Forest Foundation of the Philippines (2023)
- Business for Sustainable Development (2024)
- The Good Store (2025)
- Samdhana Institute (2025)

By late 2025, the digital platform was decommissioned. Moving forward, BIOFIN PH plans to re-engage with UBX to explore new partnership opportunities.

Meanwhile, work on fundraising through non-fungible tokens (NFTs) continues via the "Art for Nature" campaign, featuring photographs from Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park by National Geographic Explorer Noel Guevarra. The initiative generated ₱476,000 in revenue in 2024, but sustaining NFT-based finance solutions remains challenging, suggesting the market may not yet be ready for digital fundraising in this space.

These efforts will now be overseen by the newly onboarded Partnerships Specialist, who will manage all private-sector finance solutions.



Figure 24: Art for Nature Manila House event in December 2024

Finance Solution 16: Harness public-private partnership collaboration in the protected areas sector through policy development

Public-private partnership (PPP) is a contractual arrangement between the government and the private partner for the provision of a public asset or service. The role of the private partner is to finance, design, construct, operate, and/or maintain government facilities. It embodies optimal risk allocation between the parties – minimizing cost while realizing project developmental objectives. Thus, the project is to be structured in such a way that the private partner gets a reasonable rate of return on its investment. This finance solution seeks to tap investments by the private sector in specific protected areas using the PPP modality. Private sector investments in protected areas (PAs) under NIPAS has been suggested to help bridge the biodiversity financing gap, and PPP modalities in protected areas is being explored as an option alongside the special use agreement in protected areas (SAPA). The passage of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) will increase both the public and private investments to PAs.

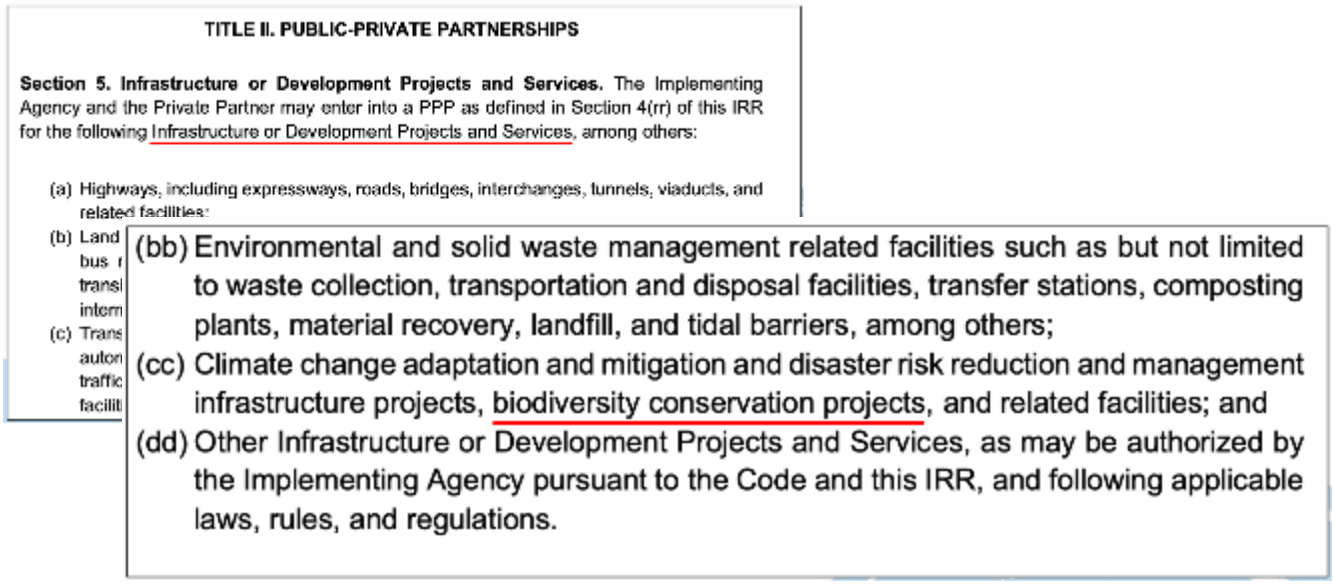
Since 2019, BIOFIN PH, in partnership with BMB, has worked with the PPP Center to explore the use of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) modalities in protected areas, alongside the Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas (SAPA) under the RA 11038 Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 2018. In August 2021, a MOA was signed between BMB and the PPP Center to formalize the partnership.

From 2022 to 2024, several sessions with BMB's Technical Review Committee proposed that the PPP guidelines take the form of a DENR Administrative Order, rather than a Joint Administrative Order with the PPP Center. However, development was deferred pending the new PPP Code and its IRR, which took effect in April 2024. Discussions resumed in May 2024, and BIOFIN PH was advised to coordinate with Atty. Ignatius Loyola A. Rodriguez, DENR representative to the PPP Governing Board, before further revision and endorsement to DENR's Policy TWG. Subsequent meetings in September and November 2024 led to the latest version of the guidelines, which has been officially endorsed for approval. Comments on the guidelines for PPPs in conservation tourism within protected areas were received, and a roundtable discussion with the private sector was held in June 2025 and re-alignment meeting with concerned offices in July 2025. *(See FS 19 for details.)*



Figure 25: Meetings on Policies with PPPC (top), DEPDev, BMB | June and July 2025

As a result of BIOFIN PH's work with the PPP Center, the new PPP now identifies biodiversity conservation projects as among the infrastructure or development projects and services, expanding allowable PPP projects.



TITLE II. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Section 5. Infrastructure or Development Projects and Services. The Implementing Agency and the Private Partner may enter into a PPP as defined in Section 4(rr) of this IRR for the following Infrastructure or Development Projects and Services, among others:

(a) Highways, including expressways, roads, bridges, interchanges, tunnels, viaducts, and related facilities;

(b) Land bus r transi intern

(c) Trans auton traffic facilit

(bb) Environmental and solid waste management related facilities such as but not limited to waste collection, transportation and disposal facilities, transfer stations, composting plants, material recovery, landfill, and tidal barriers, among others;

(cc) Climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction and management infrastructure projects, biodiversity conservation projects, and related facilities; and

(dd) Other Infrastructure or Development Projects and Services, as may be authorized by the Implementing Agency pursuant to the Code and this IRR, and following applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Figure 26: Sec 5.cc of PPP Code

By late 2025, the proposed PPP policy however, is put on hold, pending the DENR's policy direction on how it will align with the SAPA. In October, the BIOFIN PH TWG recommended that BMB include the PPP policy in ongoing consultations, such as those for the ENIPAS and Protected Area Masterplan, hosted by BMB.

Finance Solution 17: Development of a financial product for the Development Bank of the Philippines

In 2021, BIOFIN PH completed a scoping study entitled "Nature-positive Impact Investing for Nature-based Solutions and Nature-based Enterprises" for the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). The DBP is a state-owned development bank with the primary objective of providing banking services principally to cater to the medium and long-term needs of agricultural and industrial enterprises with emphasis on small and medium-scale industries. Currently, the BMB has a database of more than 320 peoples organizations (PO) with BDFEs across the country. Given that government support is limited and the possibility of scaling up these enterprises, assistance from financial institutions may be needed to expand these enterprises. Given this information and considering the varying levels of capacity of these POs, the BIOFIN PH conferred with DBP with the latter requesting that financial options be developed for their reforestation projects. **(COMPLETED IN 2022)**

Finance Solution 18: Related Studies

Several studies are ongoing, the results of which may lead to the formulation of new finance solutions or support current finance solutions. (Table 3)

Table 5: Status of BIOFIN PH Studies

Study	Status
The Philippine Mining Industry: Leveraging Resources to Improve the Outcome of Biodiversity Objectives in the Country	Completed (reported in 2022)
Agricultural Practices and Agricultural Programs as Applied in Ecologically Sensitive Hilly Lands: Environmental Footprints, Drivers, and Strategic Recommendations **(SEE FS 20)**	Completed (2023)
Development of a shared language for SDGs 14 and 15	Completed (reported in 2022)
Is the Philippines Ready for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures? An assessment of global trends, reporting frameworks, institutions, and state of practice. **(SEE SECTION B.2.)**	Completed (2023)
Biodiversity Credits	Ongoing (2025)
Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Insurance	Completed (2025)

Biodiversity Credits

A biodiversity credit is a certificate that represents a measured and evidence-based unit of positive biodiversity outcome that is durable and additional to what would have otherwise occurred.

A total of 46 (M-20, F-26) participants from the national government counterparts, non-government organizations, and academe partners of BIOFIN PH, Indonesia, and Thailand attended the Biodiversity Credits Workshop in Jambi, Indonesia on February 17-19, 2025. The workshop aimed to assess and demonstrate how biodiversity credits can be implemented in the three countries. The workshop touched on the fundamental concepts, principles, and implementation protocols of biodiversity credits with guidance from various resource persons. In a meeting among the three countries after the workshop, the development of ASEAN standards for BD credits was discussed.

BIOFIN PH is undertaking a policy study on biodiversity credits, targeted for completion by 2026. The study aims to provide guidance for the development of a potential national policy

on biodiversity credits, as no existing framework currently exists. In parallel, BIOFIN PH is also assisting DENR in developing its policy on carbon credits.



Figure 27: Biodiversity Credits Workshop | Jambi, Indonesia | February 17-19, 2025

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Insurance

In 2024, BIOFIN PH engaged a consultant to conduct a vulnerability/risk assessment for marine protected areas (MPAs). This is in support of BIOFN Global's partnership with the Insurance and Risk Finance Facility (IRFF) on working to develop insurance and risk transfer solutions to help manage biodiversity-related hazards to people, wildlife, assets, and habitats.

The assessment focuses on the Mantalip Marine Reserve, located within the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape (TSPS) in Bindoy, Negros Oriental, a partner local government unit of BIOFIN PH.

The study is substantially complete, with a limited set of additional secondary data currently being coordinated to complete validation and strengthen analysis. These data cover key areas such as tourism, fisheries and livelihoods, and disaster risk recovery.

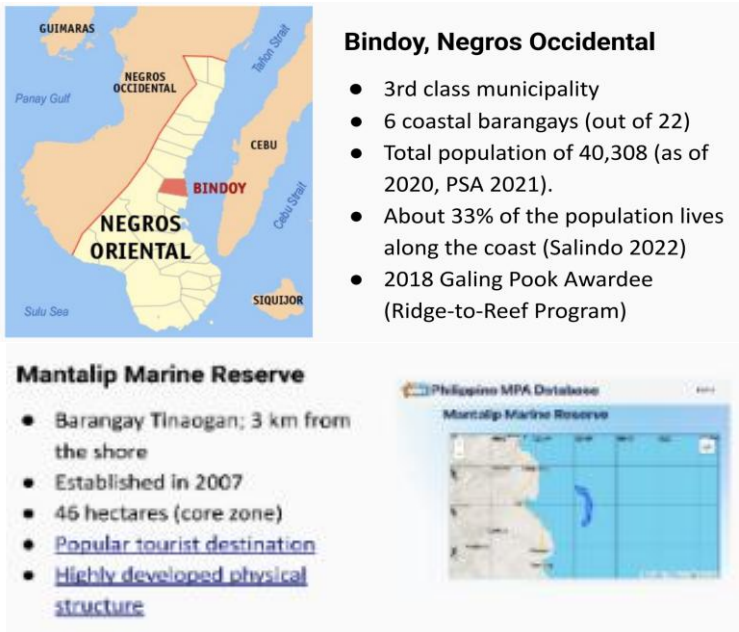


Figure 26: Profile of LGU and MPA

Despite these remaining data inputs, the core analysis and findings have been completed. The findings of the assessment were presented to the Philippine insurance industry through a consultation attended by members of the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association (PIRA), including 1 Cooperative Insurance System of the Philippines (CISP), Malayan Insurance Company, Inc., and PIRA. A separate discussion with the Insurance Commission (IC) will be scheduled. The discussions provide a platform to discuss the feasibility of an MPA insurance product and to gather initial industry perspectives.



Figure 27: Presentation to Philippine Insurers and Reinsurance Association (PIRA) | 16 December 2025 | Quezon City

Finance Solution 19: Development of and advocacy for policies supporting finance solutions

Policies have a big role in unlocking financing for biodiversity. Several finance solutions that are being implemented by BIOFIN PH are borne out of policies such as ER 1-94, General Appropriations Act and several DENR policies. BIOFIN PH has been opportunistic in supporting several policies which have been approved such as the ENIPAS IRR and the BMB TB 2021-05 (Guide in the Formulation of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan) and will continue to provide technical support and advocacy to bring these proposed policy initiatives into fruition.

1. ***Department Administrative Order (DAO) on the Guidelines on the Engagement of Private Sector Business Organizations in the Implementation of DENR Biodiversity Conservation Programs (2021-present)***

This policy is being developed for the BMB's not-for-profit rules of engagement with the private sector with focus on corporate social responsibility (CSR), Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) initiatives, philanthropy, volunteerism, sponsorships, donations in kind or cash, technical assistance/partnerships, etc.

Deliberation by the DENR Policy Technical Working Group (PTWG) of the policy was conducted in February 2025, after it was bumped off seven times in 2024. The main directive by the PTWG is to vet the policy with private sector stakeholders. This was then conducted by the BIOFIN PH on June 11, 2025. 71 representatives from the private sector attended. These participants represent 9 business groups, 7 financial institutions, and 4 corporate foundations. Government partners from 9 agencies also attended. The policy on PPP was also included in the vetting process.



Figure 28: Private Sector Roundtable |June 11, 2025 | Quezon City

The proposed policy was resubmitted in September 2025. In November and December, it was forwarded to the BMB Technical Review Committee for review and approval, with the aim of presenting it to the DENR Policy TWG in Q1 2026.

2. ***DENR Administrative Order 2022-04 Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation and Protection in Mining Operations (2023-present)***

The policy's objective is to provide adequate measures for responsible mining towards ensuring biodiversity conservation and protection including progressive and final rehabilitation of mined-out areas. This policy mandates mining companies to include biodiversity measures in the Environmental Work Program (EWP), Environmental Protection and Enhancement Plan (EPEP), and Social Development and Management Program (SDMP)or any related and relevant plans of all existing mining applications and approved mining tenements.

In collaboration with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the DENR, BIOFIN PH will start tagging expenditures of mining companies for their EPEP, EWP, and SDMP. This exercise will effectively capture the mining sector's contribution to biodiversity conservation and encourage their further support.

This upholds BIOFIN PH's support to the formulation of Department Administrative Order 2022-04 on integrating biodiversity conservation in mining operations. This will also provide information on private sector, particularly the mining industry, contribution to biodiversity conservation.

BIOFIN PH had a courtesy call with the new MGB in July 2025.



Figure 29: Courtesy Call Meeting with DENR-MGB |July 11, 2025 | Quezon City

3. ***House Bill 8299 or An Act to Institutionalize the Tamaraw Conservation Program, creating its Administrative and Implementation Mechanism, Providing Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes (2018-2025)***

A welcome result of BIOFIN PH's assistance to this policy is the issuance of **DENR Administrative Order 2025-01 Strengthening the Tamaraw Conservation Program and Providing the Implementation Mechanism Thereof** which provides comprehensive conservation and management strategies with support from stakeholders, enhances institutional coordination and support mechanisms for Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) and whole of government and whole of society support for the implementation of the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP).

BIOFIN PH was one of the supporters of TCMAP formulation in 2018. Further, the policy provides that funding for the effective implementation of the TCMAP and Tamaraw Conservation Program Office, which includes 35 tamaraw rangers, shall be included in the DENR MIMAROPA budget. It can be recalled that in 2020, BIOFIN PH launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise 6 months' salaries for the 33 furloughed ranger and wardens because of the closure of Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park due to COVID-19.

4. ***DENR Administrative Order on Forest Carbon Credits (2025)***

In line with the policy work on Biodiversity Credits, BIOFIN PH is also assisting the DENR in the amendment of its proposed DENR Administrative Order on Forest Carbon Credits, with the working title *"Guidelines and Framework Governing the Establishment, Registration, and Monitoring of Voluntary Forest Carbon Credit Projects in Forest Lands, NIPAS Protected Areas, and Ancestral Lands/Domains."*

5. ***DENR Administrative Order on Protected Area Management Planning (2026)***

In 2026, BIOFIN PH will support the amendment of the Department Administrative Order on Protected Area Management Planning (PAMP) process, to embed and institutionalize financing components, building on the Protected Area Finance Plan (PAFP) module introduced in the DENR Environment and Natural Resources Academy's Specialized Protected Area Management Course in 2024, to strengthen both theory and practice.

Finance Solution 21: Gender

In 1995, the Gender and Development (GAD) budget policy was institutionalized in the General Appropriations Act which mandates all departments, bureaus, offices and agencies to set aside 5% of their total budget for gender and development concerns. To optimize the GAD budget, the finance solution will integrate gender responsive programs and projects including nature-based solutions into the biodiversity conservation priorities of Negros Occidental province. Since 2019, BIOFIN has been working with the province of Negros Occidental in the implementation of several finance solutions for biodiversity conservation. In 2023, the UNDP signed a MOA with both provinces to further strengthen the partnership.

The Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Specialist has been onboarded to work with Negros Occidental on a finance solution that will look at local government budget allocations for gender-responsive programs and projects, capacity building and private sector engagement.

In 1995, the Gender and Development (GAD) budget policy was institutionalized in the General Appropriations Act which mandates all departments, bureaus, offices and agencies to set aside 5% of their total budget for gender and development concerns. To optimize the GAD budget of Negros Occidental province, BIOFIN PH will integrate, as appropriate, biodiversity conservation priorities in current gender programs and projects and at the same time, assist the provincial GAD Focal Point in developing gender-responsive programs.

Negros Occidental's total 2025 GAD budget is PhP310.2 (USD5.2M) million largely directed to education, health, and social protection while only 3% or PhP9.5 million (USD161k) supported environmental and biodiversity initiatives indicating minimal gender-environment integration. Using this baseline, BIOFIN PH targets an increase from 3% to 5% in 2027, with advocacy and foundational work and capacity building slated in 2026. An initial analysis of the 2025 GAD program indicates potential entry points for biodiversity conservation in the areas of health, capacity building and livelihoods. The Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO), Provincial Gender and Development Focal Point System (PGADFPS) action officer, and Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) acknowledged the insights from the analysis of the GAD Program. They noted the observations regarding the relatively limited investment in biodiversity related programs.

According to them the feedback is important as it highlighted the need to strengthen the nexus of gender and biodiversity in their planning and budgeting, with other sectors: the Office of the Provincial Agriculture, the Technology and Livelihood Center's that have biodiversity related activities e.g. organic farming, herbs for health and food, non-timber forest products, oyster farming where their partners are men and women farmers, fisherfolks, Indigenous Peoples.

They recognized the identified gaps in gender-responsive biodiversity conservation, and green livelihood initiatives. The recommendation to integrate sex-, age-, Indigenous Peoples-, and disability-disaggregated data, GEDSI participation in governance, and gendered finance mechanisms was well taken as align with the commitment to national laws such as RA 9729

(Climate Change Act), RA 10121 (Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act), RA 9710 (Magna Carta of Women), the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, and the international biodiversity and climate obligations.

The feedback will serve as a guide in refining the strategies to ensure that future GAD Fund allocations not only advance gender equality and development but also contribute meaningfully to climate resilience, biodiversity, and inclusive governance."

To further build capacity of the PGADFPS and the PEMO in developing gender-responsive plans and programs, BIOFIN PH developed a gender analysis tool (to determine practical and strategic needs) that was rolled out to 3 people's organizations – the Tambara Forest Settlers Association (TESA-ISF) in Talisay, Negros Occidental and the Luguay Talaba Growers Association and the Asosasyon Sang Mananagat sa Barangay Nayon from the coastal community in San Enrique, Negros Occidental.

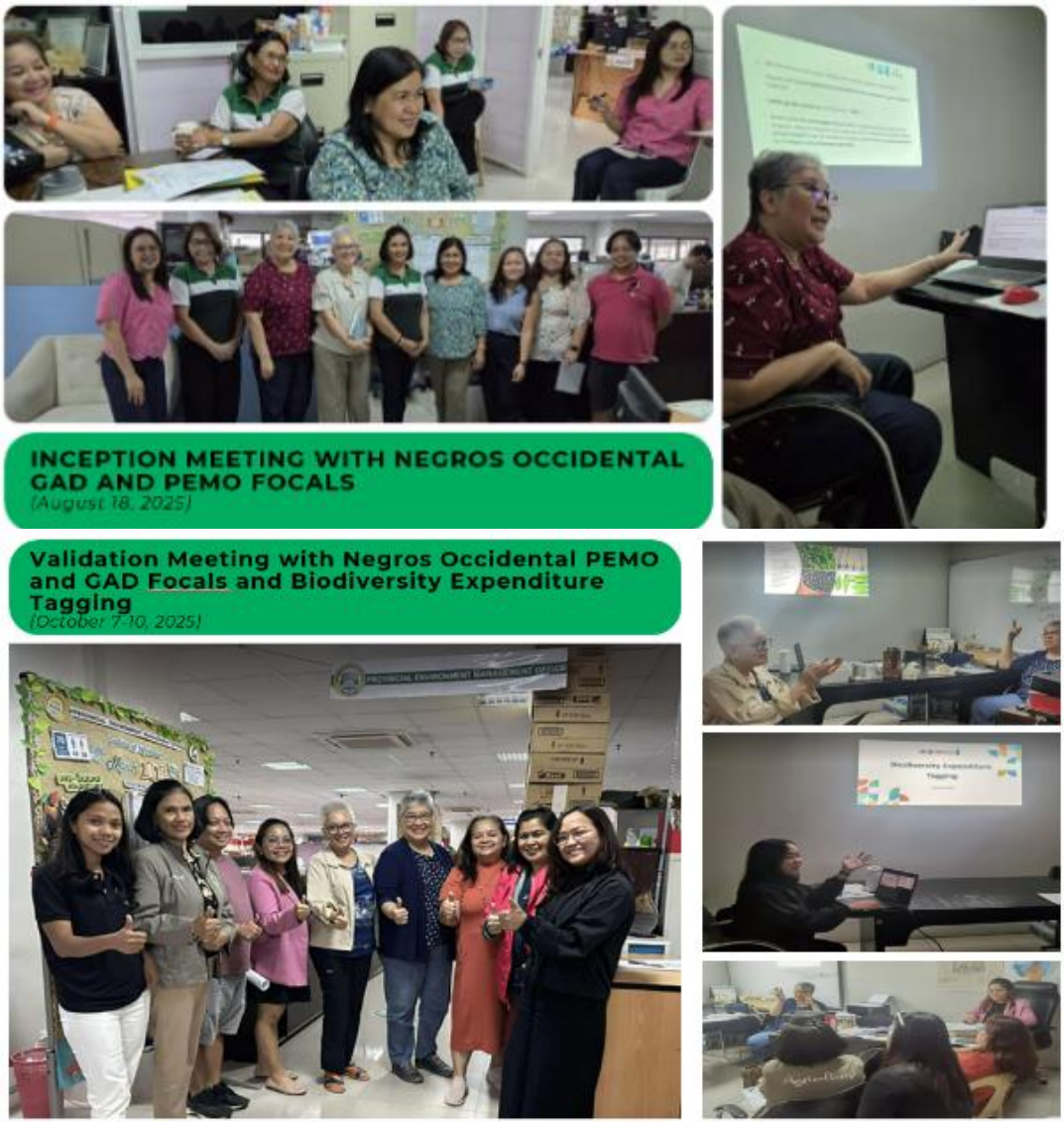
The PGADFPS action officer and the PEMO expressed appreciation for the gender analysis tool developed and demonstrated by BIOFIN. It was their first time to do a gender analysis which added to their capacity to design and implement gender-responsive plans and programs. Its rollout to the three sites, has provided practical insights into both strategic and everyday needs of the men and women PO partners.

Results will guide the PGADFPS action officer and the PEMO in identifying gaps and opportunities in environment and natural resources programs and help PEMO use its gender budget strategically with other POs and beneficiaries to implement inclusive and gender-responsive biodiversity activities.

Moreover, BIOFIN PH will further closely coordinate with the PPDO to integrate gender-biodiversity nexus in local planning processes of its 13 cities and 19 municipalities through their Environment and Natural Resources Offices (ENRO).

A capacity building program to mainstream gender and biodiversity in local plans is slated in January 2026 for the province covering the 31 LGUs of the six districts followed. Local planners, GAD focal persons, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) officers, including the Provincial GAD TWG, will be the target participants. BIOFIN PH also proposed to roll out the ecotourism module to tourism officers across the province.

At the national level, BIOFIN PH will ensure that the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan will respond to national targets on gender and aligned to KM-GBF Target 23.





Tambara Forest Settlers Association | **Luguay Talaba Growers Association** | Asosasyon Sang Mananagat Sa Barangay Nayon | **ENROs**

Figure 30: Series of Activities and Meeting with the Negros Occidental Province

Finance Solution 22: Realignment of Harmful Subsidies

In 2023, BIOFIN PH completed a study entitled "Agricultural Practices and Agricultural Programs as Applied in Ecologically Sensitive Hilly Lands: Environmental Footprints, Drivers, and Strategic Recommendations" with the BMB and the Department of Agriculture (DA). study estimated potential harmful subsidies in the rice, corn, and high value crops programs in selected regions of the Department of Agriculture (DA) at PhP471M or USD8.5M. The results of the study were presented to key officials to identify mutually acceptable entry points for further work on subsidies anchoring on the Joint DA-DENR Administrative Order (JAO 2021-01) on biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, in line with the PBSAP updating and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) target on subsidies.

Study on repurposing subsidies with unintended environmental footprints in agriculture (completed in 2023)

Subsidies with unintended environmental footprints in the rice, corn, and high value crops programs in the agriculture department were determined. Discussions involving the key officials of the Department of Agriculture (DA) recommenced in April 2024 and in the first quarter of 2025. The work on re-purposing of subsidies, meanwhile, requires advocacy work with the commodity programs (rice, corn, high value crops, etc.) as advised by the DA. The results of the 2023 study were presented to key officials to identify mutually acceptable entry points for further work on subsidies anchoring on the JAO 2021-01 on biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, in line with the PBSAP updating and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) target on subsidies.

Early this year, BIOFIN PH supported and attended the following significant meetings in which the 2023 study was presented:

- Preparatory Workshop for the CY 2025 Training Series on Biodiversity-Friendly Agricultural Practices (BDFAP) and Ways Forward on BDFAP and PBSAP-KMGBF Agriculture Targets on February 20-21, 2025. A total of 28 (M-12, F-16) TWG participants attended.

- 1st BDFAP National Oversight Committee on March 13, 2025. (upon TWG's advice, the 2023 study was again presented to this high-level meeting).

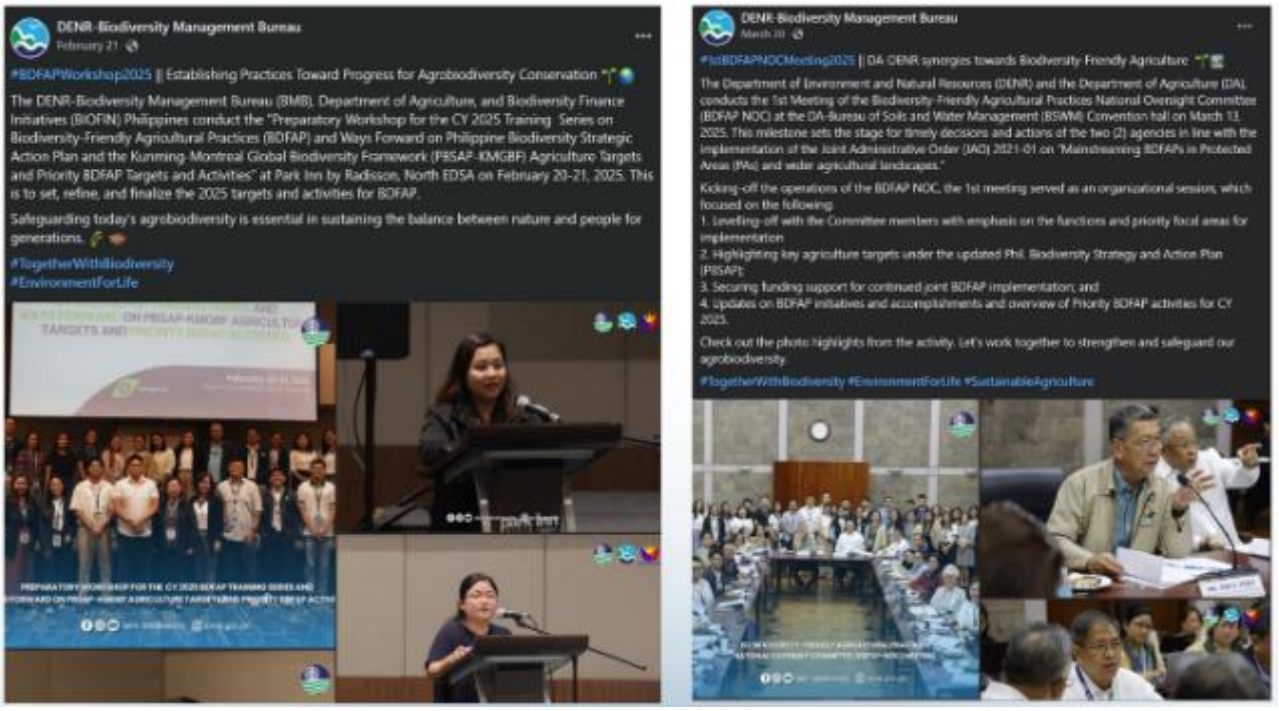


Figure 31: BMB workshops in Q1 2025 where the 2023 BIOFIN PH study was presented

The study has evolved into a finance solution focused on yellow corn production, a major livelihood across 16,000 hectares within the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape (PPLS). Yellow corn, used mainly for livestock feed is commonly cultivated with glyphosate, a hazardous herbicide that poses significant environmental risks. In response, the Regional Development Council (RDC) of Region 2 Cagayan Valley, the country's top corn-producing region, issued Resolution No. 02-05, series of 2022, calling for measures to address these environmental concerns. The resolution underscores the urgent need to shift toward more sustainable farming inputs and to revisit subsidy allocation systems to further incentivize biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices (BDFAP), while eliminating support for unsustainable practices with unintended ecological consequences.

This initiative will be anchored on JAO 2021-01 and aligned with the Philippine National Standards on the *BDFAP Code of Practice (PNS/BAFS 362:2023)* and in close coordination with the Regional Technical Working Group on BDFAP, co-led by DENR and DA. The region is one of the first to operationalize a joint DA-DENR BDFAP Regional TWG.

During the October scoping mission, BIOFIN PH met with the Region 2 BDFAP TWG and the President of Cagayan State University to present the study and explore collaboration on research and advocacy focused on the environmental impacts of chemical herbicides and fertilizers on river systems and surrounding ecosystems.



Figure 32: Scoping Mission to Penablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape | 1-3 October 2025 | Tuguegarao City

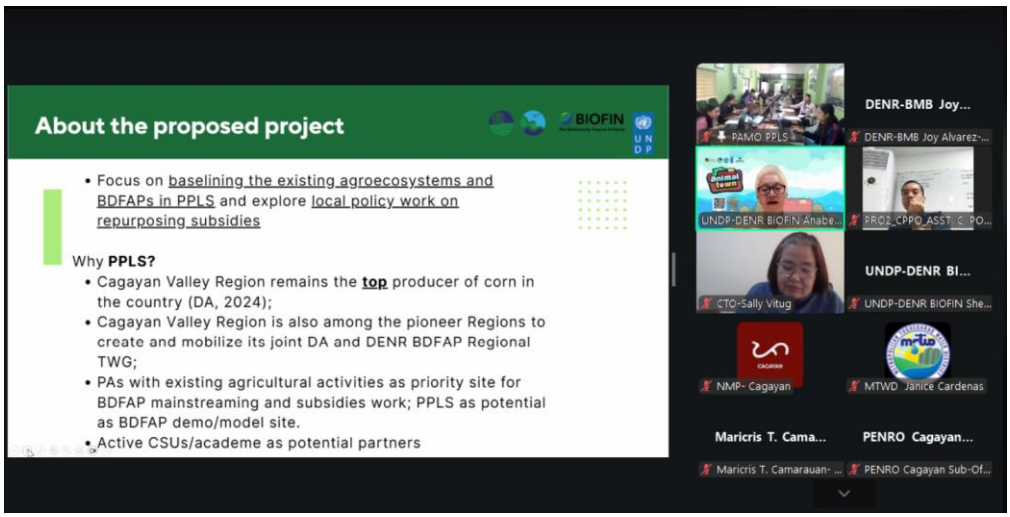
Meeting with BDFAP RTWG chaired by DENR RED Bambalan and attended by DENR-BMB, DENR ARD, DENR CDD, PENRO, CENRO, PASus of Northern Sierra Madre NP & Peñablanca Protected Landscape & Seascape, DepDev, DA-BFAR, DA-ATI, FPAMB workshops in Q1 2025 where the 2023 BIOFIN PH study was presented



Figure 33: Scoping Mission to Penablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape | 1-3 October 2025 | Tuguegarao City

Meeting with Cagayan State University President Dr. Arthur Ibañez, AVP Theresa Dimalanta and Engr James Cabildo

Following the mission, BIOFIN PH secured endorsement from the PPLS Technical Working Committee on December 11, 2025, and full approval from the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) on December 15, 2025.



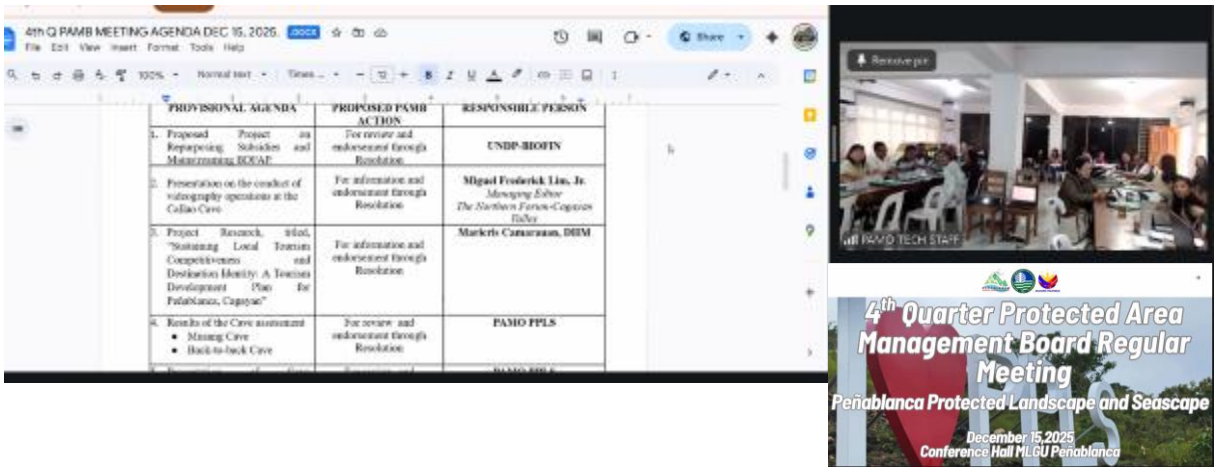


Figure 34: Presentations to PPLS TWC (above) and PAMB (below) | 11 and 15 December 2025

In 2026, BIOFIN PH will identify a pilot barangay and assess existing BDFAP practices to inform the design of targeted training programs and awareness materials. The project will also explore formulating a localized policy to promote wider adoption of biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. In addition, guidance from the UK government on incentive schemes for farmers adopting good agricultural practices will be sought to inform future policy development.

BIOFIN PH also served as resource person during the DENR Region 2's Protected Areas and Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM)-People's Organizations (POs) Summit on November 5, 2025, held in Tuguegarao City. Over 700 participants (M-414, F-335 joined the summit



Figure 35: BIOFIN PH at the PAs and CBFM-POs Summit | 5 November 2025 |Tuguegarao City

To support further work on subsidies, UNDP Philippines, in partnership with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), sought BIOFIN PH's support for a rapid appraisal of sites in the Ifugao Rice Terraces (Kiangan, Tinoc, and Mayaoyao municipalities) in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) last October for a proposed GEF project, "Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation in Ancestral Domains Management in the Philippines." The appraisal highlighted the negative impacts of current subsidies on rice terrace management and the urgent need for biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, as intensive vegetable farming with pesticides threatens the terraces' survival.

BIOFIN PH has also signified its participation in BIOFIN Global's Capstone Project that will develop a survey on perceptions on subsidies from December 2025 to May 2026.

B.2. [IKI-TNFD): Implementation of activities under the "Enabling and Scaling up Nature-related Financial Disclosures." ***(Finance Solution 20)***

Is the Philippines Ready for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures? An assessment of global trends, reporting frameworks, institutions, and state of practice.

The 2023 study reports that the Philippine Financial System holds substantial assets amounting to 125% of the GDP, where a large part (94%) is held by banks. Regardless of size, bank portfolios are exposed to climate and nature risks. A materiality assessment of lending to bank-relevant sectors shows 33% of outstanding loans depend on nature and are vulnerable to nature-related risks. These are in the sectors of agriculture, real estate, construction/infrastructure, water and power. The finance sector is unfamiliar with concepts like "biodiversity," "ecosystem services" and "nature" as they relate to financial risks, much less how risk disclosure on these topics could inform investment decisions. Sustainability reporting is regulatory driven as shown by a high 90-95% compliance rate; however, despite this, a study found little disclosure on material topics. This points to the need for a policy mandating reporting on material indicators. This study was developed into a Technical Brief which was uploaded to the BIOFIN website in April 2024.

The study put forth the following recommendations:

a. Develop a risk classification framework from sectoral data and/or geo-spatially derived measurements
b. For the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue mandatory reporting policy for sector-specific indicators regardless of materiality findings
c. To organize a TFND pilot to "test-drive" the Locate-Evaluate-Assess-Prepare (LEAP) framework and explore innovative natural capital accounting approaches.
d. Mandate the use of mapping portals across sectors to standardize and enhance comparability in risk measurement
e. Extend Sustainability Reporting to MSMEs
f. Invest in data
g. Push for the adoption of science-based Target Network Guidelines in EIA for restoration activities
h. Engage the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards Council
i. Leverage spatial finance to support climate and nature-based risk disclosure

This year, BIOFIN PH, together with consultant Mr. Edgardo Tongson, who worked on the study, led a series of capacity-building activities on TNFD. These activities focused on adapting TNFD resources to the Philippine milieu and testing their application with volunteer companies and institutions.

The capacity-building activities engaged a wide range of stakeholders, including:

Governments and regulators

- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Department of Finance
- Department of Interior and Local Government
- Department of Economy, Planning, and Development
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Financial institutions, Investors, and Capital Markets

- BDO Unibank, Inc.
- Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company
- Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation

Non-financial institutions (corporates, auditors, NGOs)

- Ayala Corporation
- Klima 1.5
- SM Investments
- Deloitte
- SGV & Co.
- KPMG Philippines
- Business for Sustainable Development
- Nomura Research Institute
- Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc.
- Energy Development Corporation
- Forest Foundation Philippines
- Foundation for the Philippine Environment
- Lopez Group Foundation, Inc.
- Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association
- Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc.

Training Institutions

- University of Asia and the Pacific
- AIM Scientific Research Foundation, Inc.

Two major capacity-building activities were conducted in February and July of this year.

In February 7, 2025, BIOFIN PH conducted a one-day training titled “TNFD 101: Aligning Business with Nature”, targeting participants from the private sector, government agencies,

and training institutions. A total of fifty-two (52) participants (M-19, F-33) from the power, finance, government, and other sectors attended. The session focused on introducing the TNFD framework and tools that can facilitate their reporting, including the use of ENCORE to generate high-level insights on nature-related risks and dependencies, followed by practical exercises using mapping portals (Project NOAH, Global Forest Watch, Hazard Hunter, etc.) to contextualize risks based on geographic location. Participants discussed barriers to TNFD adoption and identified future training topics. Regulators emphasized the importance of policy integration and interoperability between TNFD and other sustainability reporting standards, while training institutions expressed interest in developing TNFD-related courses.

Building on the February activity, a two-day advanced capacity-building workshop was conducted on July 24-25, 2025. It was participated in by 25 representatives (M-8, F-17) from corporates, financial institutions, training institutions, auditors, and the government. This activity deepened practical application of TNFD tools and frameworks and further tested their relevance to Philippine regulatory, financial, and corporate contexts. Participants also participated in a role-playing exercise where they had to make a 30-second elevator pitch to their respective Board of Directors to adopt the TNFD. The July training also leveraged lessons from Mr. Tongson's participation in the regional TNFD Train-the-Trainer event held in Singapore in May 2025, and introduced the participants to the newly launched TNFD training portal.



Figure 36: TNFD 101: Aligning Business wit Nature |February 7, 2025 | Quezon City (top) and TNFD Train-the-Trainer | May 6-8, 2025 | Singapore (bottom)



Figure 37: Nature Counts: Building Capacity for Financial Disclosures on Biodiversity Risks | July 24-25, 2025 | Makati City

As a direct outcome of the July 2025 training, one-on-one discussions with interested institutions, including KPMG, Ayala Corporation, BDO Unibank, University of Asia and the Pacific, Deloitte, and Nomura Research Institute, were held to explore organization-specific applications of TNFD.

These engagements subsequently led to customized sessions, including:

- Introductory session on TNFD for Deloitte clients (19 participants) – November 26, 2025
- Session on TNFD in the context of blue bonds and water management reporting with BDO Unibank's offices from Sustainability, Treasury, Trust, Facilities, Investments, and the Institutional Banking Group (IBG). A total of 10 participants (M-3, F-7) attended. – December 11, 2025

In addition, BIOFIN PH has been requested to conduct further customized trainings in 2026 for the University of Asia and the Pacific and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). Case study development with a possible focus on land-use change driven by demographics and exploring spatial finance is also in the pipeline for next year.

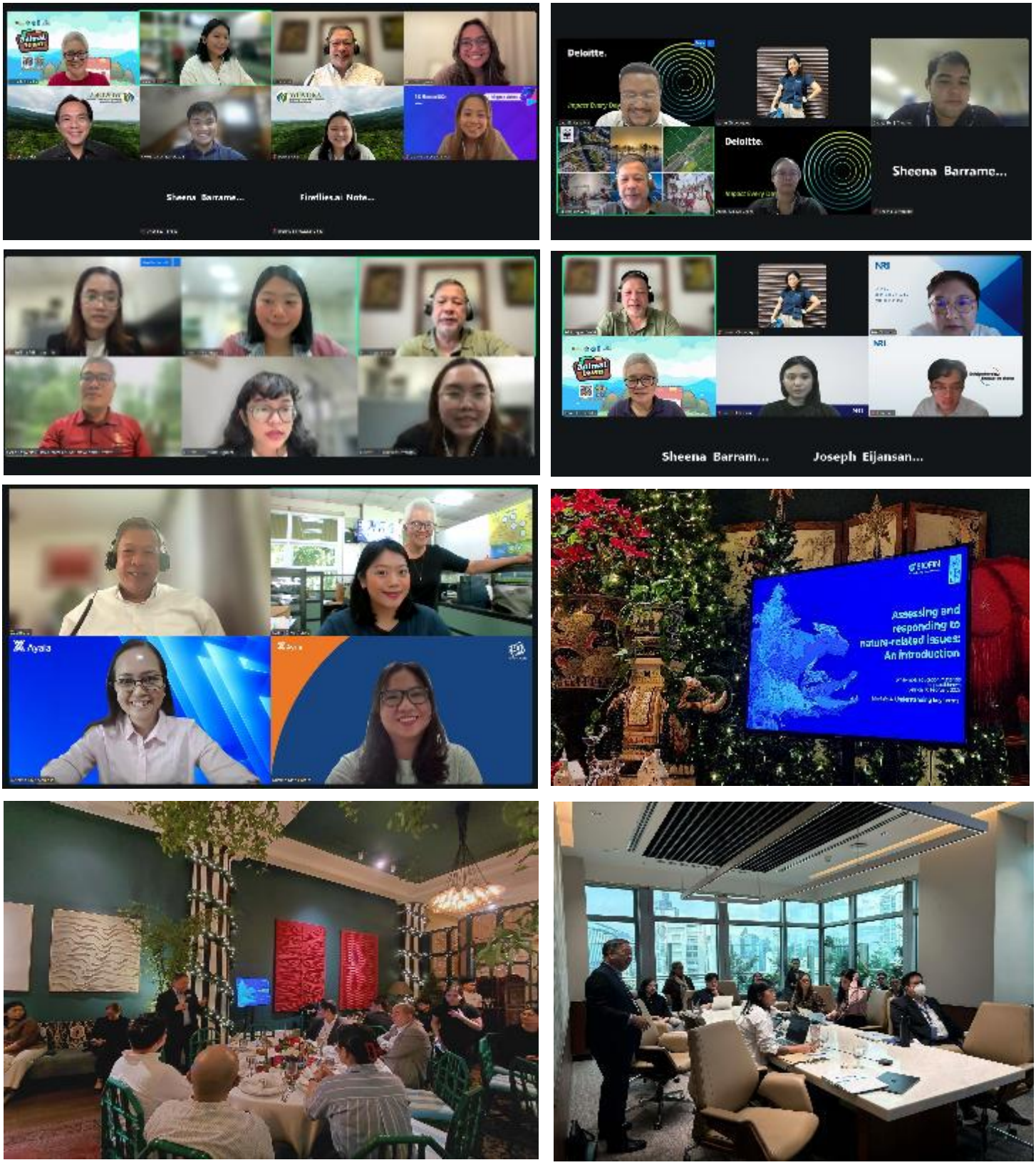


Figure 38: 1-on-1 meetings with KPMG, Deloitte, UA&P, Nomura, Ayala | Customized sessions with BDO and Deloitte clients

Nature-related financial disclosures help drive nature-positive outcomes by making businesses and financial institutions measure and report their impacts and dependencies on ecosystems. This transparency reduces harmful practices such as deforestation and pollution, redirects capital toward ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions, and strengthens corporate governance and risk management related to biodiversity. By generating better data and encouraging collaboration with local communities and Indigenous Peoples, these disclosures support more informed conservation planning and accelerate progress toward the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and adopted by the 4th iteration of the PBSAP. In the Philippines, TNFD remains voluntary.

C. Social inclusion stories

The Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Specialist has now been onboarded to work with Negros Occidental on a finance solution that will look at local government budget allocations for gender-responsive programs and projects, capacity building and private sector engagement.

D. Lessons learned and adaptive measures

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

This year, a primary challenge has been the PMU's ability to apply agile and adaptive management in the face of significant demands. We experienced an accelerated implementation of finance solutions in Q1 of 2025, alongside the demanding task of organizing and conducting multiple, overlapping activities in quick succession:

- **January:** A two-week long activity on the SGLG Environmental Management Governance Area in the Negros Island
- **February:** Involved TNFD capacity building activity, and preparatory meeting towards the first National TWG Meeting on BDFAP, participation to the Biodiversity Credits learning activity, the DENR Private Sector Policy Technical Working Group (PTWG), the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) project development, and the Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies (FICCS). Numerous interviews for new staff hires and hosting the UK Ambassador to Negros Occidental also transpired.
- **March:** Focused on convening the Animal Town and SGLG Technical Working Groups, participating in the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDBD), attending the first National TWG Meeting on BDFAP , meetings with the DENR-FASPS for reporting, quarterly submission of requirements, providing technical assistance during the Environment and Natural Resources Academy (ENRA), and attending a training program in Nepal.

Compounding this was the integration of newly onboarded project staff who are still adapting to their roles. Furthermore, the capacity, receptiveness, and turnaround time of our partners did not consistently match the pace of this accelerated implementation. This extended to the operational support received from BIOFIN Global and the UNDP Country Office, highlighting a need for improved synchronization.

COHESION AND RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

Maintaining strong cohesion and effective relationship management is critical. Good relationship management, characterized by constant communication and feedback from key stakeholders, proved essential for ensuring transparent communication and developing trust. When stakeholders understand the project's relevance to them and their institutions, and recognize their specific contributions, they tend to remain engaged.

However, aligning all stakeholders behind the overall goal can sometimes be challenging, occasionally necessitating "backdoor diplomacy" and informal consultations to keep them onboard. BIOFIN PH continues to nurture strong relationships with diverse partners, including the private sector (GCash, UnionBank, Unit 256), government and LGU partners (BMB, DSWD, DILG, DOT, PPP Center, Negros Oriental and Occidental), and NGOs (Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc., Forest Foundation Philippines), which are important for implementing our finance solutions. In addition, collaboration with other UNDP projects, such as the Biodiversity Corridor (*DAO 2022-04, PBSAP updating, PAFP preparation, biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices*), the Access and Benefit Sharing Project (*biodiversity finance policy, PBSAP updating*), the Accelerating Green Climate Finance Project *(PPP guidelines and TNFD)*, and the SGP-7 *(PBSAP updating)*, has been ongoing and a valuable part of our work.

SUSTAINABILITY

A major step in sustainability and institutionalization is the successful inclusion of the Protected Area Finance Planning modules into the Protected Area Management Specialized Courses of the DENR's Environment and Natural Resources Academy, which began rolling out last quarter. The same modules were used to build capacity for ten (10) protected areas under another UNDP project, the Biodiversity Corridor Project. Crucially, the finance planning anchored on the BIOFIN methodology will soon be formally enshrined within the BMB's updated DAO on Protected Area Management, ensuring its continued application.

Policy development represents another fundamental sustainability mechanism. We are actively working on key policy instruments currently under review by the BMB:

a. Proposed DAO on Guidelines for the Engagement of Private Sector Business Organizations in the Implementation of DENR Biodiversity Conservation Programs; and

b. Draft Guidelines on Public-Private Partnerships in Protected Areas

A significant breakthrough has been BIOFIN PH's success in advocating for the inclusion of three crucial biodiversity indicators within the Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) program. These indicators cover: 1) biodiversity conservation programs for inland wetlands and other water bodies, 2)

establishment of green public spaces, and 3) strengthened illegal wildlife trade law enforcement. The first two have already been implemented this year, with the third indicator profiled and endorsed to the DILG. Their integration into the SGLG is a powerful incentive, designed to encourage local government units to directly allocate resources towards these conservation goals.

To ensure initiatives are sustained and institutionalized as we transition, BIOFIN PH's exit strategy is being actively implemented, notably through the creation of dedicated Technical Working Groups (TWGs) for specific finance solutions, including biodiversity expenditure review, the Animal Town mobile game application, and the SGLG.

LEADERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP

Key stakeholders that need to be strategically engaged must be identified, the stakeholder network strengthened, and continuously engaged to ensure clear communication of objectives to achieve a shared vision. This was done in Phase 1 and continued in Phase 2.

The Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Marcial Amaro, Jr. and senior management provided full support, actively participating and contributing to all related activities, which has greatly facilitated project implementation. Similarly, the Project Board and Technical Working Group have provided excellent guidance and support. Decisions in project implementation are transparent and collegial. The commitment from the provincial governments of Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental to biodiversity financing, along with the DA's full support for dialogue on subsidies and the DILG's sustained assistance on the SGLG, are recognized.

However, despite these strong partnerships, the project faced notable challenges in consistent high-level engagement. A recurring issue has been the Project Board Chair's historical pattern of agreeing to attend critical Board meetings only to cancel at the last minute. This creates significant disruptions, as key decisions depend on their presence and approval, leading to delays in endorsement and loss of momentum.

E. Risks

The project encountered significant risks during its implementation, which presented considerable challenges to maintaining momentum and achieving targets.

Financial Risks

Funds were downloaded in October of last year, which created an immediate and compelling need to accelerate activities within a narrow window. With UNDP's books closing early in December and considering the inherent difficulties of implementing and organizing activities during the final months of the year, the late disbursement meant there was a tight schedule to fully utilize the funds under optimal conditions. This directly links to the rigid deadlines imposed by donors for fund utilization. Failure to meet these deadlines could lead to unspent funds and create a perception of the project's performance.

Operational Risks

Our activities rely on a network of diverse partners, including national and sub-national agencies and offices, NGOs, and other stakeholders. These partners may possess differing levels of technical expertise, administrative capabilities, or human resources to effectively implement and/or absorb their assigned tasks and components.

Receptiveness and turnaround time of partners are also significant risks in operations. This includes responsiveness and efficiency in providing necessary data, approving documents, attending crucial meetings, or implementing agreed-upon actions. Slow turnaround can create bottlenecks and significantly delay the progress of the activities.

Reputational Risks

Failure to disburse payments to vendors, consultants, and other partners on time was a significant concern. Such delays, even if brief, can erode trust, damage the Project's credibility, and complicate future collaborations.

Organizational risks

Internally, organizational risks emerged as the project evolved and during transitions. Two long-standing team members transitioned to other roles, which meant a loss of individual capacity and institutional knowledge. This was compounded by the learning curve for new team members joining the PMU. Integrating new personnel while simultaneously managing an accelerated implementation schedule meant existing and new members had to absorb additional responsibilities in addition to the needed rapid onboarding.

E.1. Programmatic risks (risks *to* the programme)

For this year, the major risk encountered was the transition of BIOFIN to the Nature Hub which affected budget releases from BIOFIN Global. (See Table 2)

Table 6: Risk Register for BIOFIN Philippines

#	Issue Log	Cause	Date Identified	Status (Dead, Reducing, No Change, Increasing)	Likelihood 5 – Almost Certain; 4 – Likely; 3 – Possible; 2 – Unlikely; 1 – Rare	Impact 5 – Extreme; 4 – Major; 3 – Moderate; 2 – Minor; 1 - Insignificant	Countermeasures/Management Response (What actions have been taken/will be taken to counter this risk)
1.	**[Finance solution: Improved financial reporting for biodiversity expenditures]** Non-inclusion of biodiversity expenditures in the current climate change expenditure tagging system	Non-inclusion of biodiversity expenditures in the current climate change expenditure tagging system. The challenge is the absence of clear direction from the CCC on how to proceed, which may be due to the quick turnover of focal points.	October 2023	No Change	4	4	Since 2023, coordination with the Climate Change Commission has been ongoing for the inclusion of biodiversity expenditures in the current climate change expenditure tagging typologies. During the BIOFN PH's 24th Project Board Meeting in November 2024, the CCC re-affirmed its commitment to continuing the work on this. During the TWG meeting this May, the CCC then informed the body that the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) for the Philippines will be updated next year. Therefore, no significant developments are expected for this finance solution this year.
2.	**[Finance solution: YoPA]**	Month of the PAs may not be institutionalized.	July 2023	No change	4	4	Upon consultation with the DENR-BMB, the proposed policy was updated to declare April as National Month of the PAs. BIOFIN PH and BMB have recently

#	Issue Log	Cause	Date Identified	Status (Dead, Reducing, No Change, Increasing)	Likelihood 5 – Almost Certain; 4 – Likely; 3 – Possible; 2 – Unlikely; 1 – Rare	Impact 5 – Extreme; 4 – Major; 3 – Moderate; 2 – Minor; 1 - Insignificant	Countermeasures/Management Response (What actions have been taken/will be taken to counter this risk)
	Non-signature by the President of the proposed Presidential Proclamation for the month of the PAs because of delayed signature by DENR Secretary of Memo for the President & letters to DOT & DILG	BIOFIN will not be able to deliver this result.					renewed partnerships with both DILG and DOT and are actively pursuing endorsement of the updated policy under the new administration. Both agencies have expressed a strong willingness to collaborate with BMB on this initiative, which will be aligned with the newly approved National Ecotourism Strategy and Action. Plan (NESAP) 2024–2028
3.	**[Finance Solution: Private Sector Digital Platform for BDFEs and PAs]** NGO to manage the online platform offered by UBX	Platform for BDFEs may not materialize if there is no available NGO capable of managing it	March 2022	No Change	4	4	BIOFIN will continue to search for an NGO that is willing to manage the platform. BIOFIN met with The Good Store which signified interest in the platform while an alignment meeting with the new focal person of UBX was held.
4.	**[Finance solution: Funds mobilized from gaming**	Finance solution may not generate the target revenue	June 2024	No Change	4	4	Additional resources have been allocated by BIOFIN to enable the game app developer to introduce strategic improvements to the game app to

#	Issue Log	Cause	Date Identified	Status (Dead, Reducing, No Change, Increasing)	Likelihood 5 – Almost Certain; 4 – Likely; 3 – Possible; 2 – Unlikely; 1 – Rare	Impact 5 – Extreme; 4 – Major; 3 – Moderate; 2 – Minor; 1 - Insignificant	Countermeasures/Management Response (What actions have been taken/will be taken to counter this risk)
	applications and peripherals] Low number of Animal Town mobile game app downloads						encourage in-app purchases and to increase retention. "Animal Town" is showing promising progress. Numbers show *upward trend and indicate the game is moving firmly in the right direction, with strong potential for profitability as it continues to scale and mature*. While mobile games often take up to five years to reach stable revenue performance, *"Animal Town's" early results after just one year are highly encouraging*. This positive trajectory is largely attributed to major game improvements rolled out in early 2025.
8.	**[Finance Solution: Private sector – digital platforms - NFTs]** Low sales of "Art for Nature" collection	Proceeds cannot be immediately directed to the beneficiary Protected Areas and species	June 2024	No Change	3	4	BIOFIN has identified possible promotional activities to increase reach of the art collection.

#	Issue Log	Cause	Date Identified	Status (Dead, Reducing, No Change, Increasing)	Likelihood 5 – Almost Certain; 4 – Likely; 3 – Possible; 2 – Unlikely; 1 – Rare	Impact 5 – Extreme; 4 – Major; 3 – Moderate; 2 – Minor; 1 - Insignificant	Countermeasures/Management Response (What actions have been taken/will be taken to counter this risk)
9.	**[ALL FINANCE SOLUTIONS]** BIOFIN Global's allocation of funding to BIOFIN countries	Given the issue on BIOFIN Global's funding allocation to BIOFIN countries, which arose in January, limited budget has been allocated to the Philippines due to BIOFIN's transition from Nature Climate and Energy to the Nature Hub within UNDP HQ, thus, the need to revisit the setup of BIOFIN operations globally. While the BIOFIN PMU has been consistent on following up with BIOFIN Global and has sought the assistance of the UNDP PH for possible lending of funds, this issue has significantly affected the delivery of the BIOFIN PH's 2024 workplan.	January 2024	Dead	5	5	BIOFIN has been keen on following up with BIOFIN Global and has sought the assistance of the UNDPPH for possible lending of funds. BIOFIN Global has issued guidance to countries to close the project and open a new account due to the transition. Major activities must be conducted in Q1 of 2025.
10.	**[Finance solution: Subsidies].** Lukewarm acceptance of subsidies report by DA senior official	This may hold back progress in the implementation of succeeding related activities.	February 2025	No Change	4	4	The same study was presented to senior DA officials in the first quarter of 2024, however, one senior official who welcomed the recommendations of the report resigned. BIOFIN PH continues to provide support to BMB in the dialogue with DA on biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices which is an entry point to work on subsidies.
11.	**[Finance solution:**	The PBSAP costing and BFP was targeted to be completed by October in time for the CBD CoP 16. An initial PBSAP costing	Q2 2024	No Change	4	4	BIOFIN PH continues to follow up with BMB on the updated PBSAP targets.

#	Issue Log	Cause	Date Identified	Status (Dead, Reducing, No Change, Increasing)	Likelihood 5 – Almost Certain; 4 – Likely; 3 – Possible; 2 – Unlikely; 1 – Rare	Impact 5 – Extreme; 4 – Major; 3 – Moderate; 2 – Minor; 1 - Insignificant	Countermeasures/Management Response (What actions have been taken/will be taken to counter this risk)
	Development of Biodiversity Finance Plan (BFP)]. Delay in receipt of updated PBSAP targets	was submitted to the BMB in time for the CoP. The delay in the receipt of the updated PBSAP targets resulted in the contract extension of consultant and pending submission of the finance needs assessment and BFP.					
12.	**[Finance Solution: Animal Town]** Non-utilization of the $45K UNDP google ads credit grant to promote Animal Town due to the absence of a landing page under the country office website	The opportunity to utilize UNDP's Google Search Ads grant worth USD45K to promote the game app was not realized. This may have helped increase the number of downloads and game revenues. To maximize the grant, UNDP BERA's Digital Governance Specialist recommended creating a landing page on the UNDP website to promote the app and direct traffic to the Country Office site. Despite multiple follow-ups to the UNDP Country Office since September 2024, it was only in 2025 that the Country Office clarified their Content Management System (CMS) was incompatible with the proposed landing page.	September 2024	No Change	4	4	BIOFIN reached out to the UNDP Digital Governance Specialist Dzenan Buzadzic whether the grant can still be utilized or renewed despite the delay incurred. No feedback or response was received.
13.	**[Administrative]** Delays in payment	This may jeopardize future events with Manila House.	January 2025	Dead	4	4	Payment was eventually processed in last week of February 2025 with BIOFIN PH

#	Issue Log	Cause	Date Identified	Status (Dead, Reducing, No Change, Increasing)	Likelihood 5 – Almost Certain; 4 – Likely; 3 – Possible; 2 – Unlikely; 1 – Rare	Impact 5 – Extreme; 4 – Major; 3 – Moderate; 2 – Minor; 1 - Insignificant	Countermeasures/Management Response (What actions have been taken/will be taken to counter this risk)
	processing of Manila House event						continuously following this up with concerned units in the Country Office.
14.	**[Administrative]** Delays in payment processing of Graphic Layout Artist	This may jeopardize future delivery of outputs by the Graphic Layout Artist	February 2025	Dead	4	4	Payment was eventually processed in last week of February 2025 with BIOFIN PH continuously following this up with concerned units in the Country Office.
15.	**[Administrative]** February 2025 deadline to spend UK2 funds which were received towards the end of October 2024	Activities on biodiversity credits, nature-related financial disclosures, and development of ecotourism module were limited due to the need to accelerate spending.	October 2024	Dead	5	5	BIOFIN PH organized weekly activities for the first 2 months of 2025 to comply with the deadline.
16.	**[Administrative]** Absence of a finance and administrative assistant	The PMU had to individually address all finance and administrative concerns which added to their current workload.	Q1 2025	Dead	5	5	By the second quarter, BIOFIN PH was able to onboard an administrative and finance assistant.
17.	**[Administrative and CEPA]** Absence of a communications officer	The communications officer transitioned to a new position. The PMU had to take on the tasks of the communications officer which added to their current workload. Social media posts and followers decrease.	June 2025	No Change	5	5	PMU takes on the tasks by the communications officer. Social media of BIOFIN PH has been turned over to BMB as part of the ESSP.

#	Issue Log	Cause	Date Identified	Status (Dead, Reducing, No Change, Increasing)	Likelihood 5 – Almost Certain; 4 – Likely; 3 – Possible; 2 – Unlikely; 1 – Rare	Impact 5 – Extreme; 4 – Major; 3 – Moderate; 2 – Minor; 1 - Insignificant	Countermeasures/Management Response (What actions have been taken/will be taken to counter this risk)
18	**[Administrative]** Additional Funds from UK3 Deadline: July 31, 2026	The UK3 funds were approved in September 2025; therefore, these funds cannot be utilized within the current year as doing so would exceed the approved 2025 budget. Consequently, the activities have been scheduled for implementation in 2026. Given this situation, we are concerned that we may not be able to fully utilize 100% of the funds.	3rd Quarter of 2025	Increasing	5	4	PMU to accelerate the implementation on the 1st Quarter of 2026. We are seeking the Global Team's support on the possibility of extending the deadline, or alternatively, allowing the utilization of all committed funds beyond the current deadline.

E.2. Social and environmental risks (*of* the programme)

The BIOFIN country programme does not generate additional social and environmental risks. Indeed, the programme works to mitigate existing risks by integrating UNDP's programming principles for strengthening social and environmental sustainability (SESP), and the programme is directly aligned with Standard 1 of the project-level standards therein, viz., Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management.

List of annexes and related notes

The following annexes are included in this report:

Annex 1: Indicator Tracking Table (in Excel)

The Indicator Tracking Table provides an up-to-date snapshot (subject to the availability of related data) of progress made towards the BIOFIN country programme's M&E indicator targets.


BIOFIN
The Biodiversity Finance Initiative