

# **The 6<sup>th</sup> National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Tracking Progress in Implementing the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015-2028**

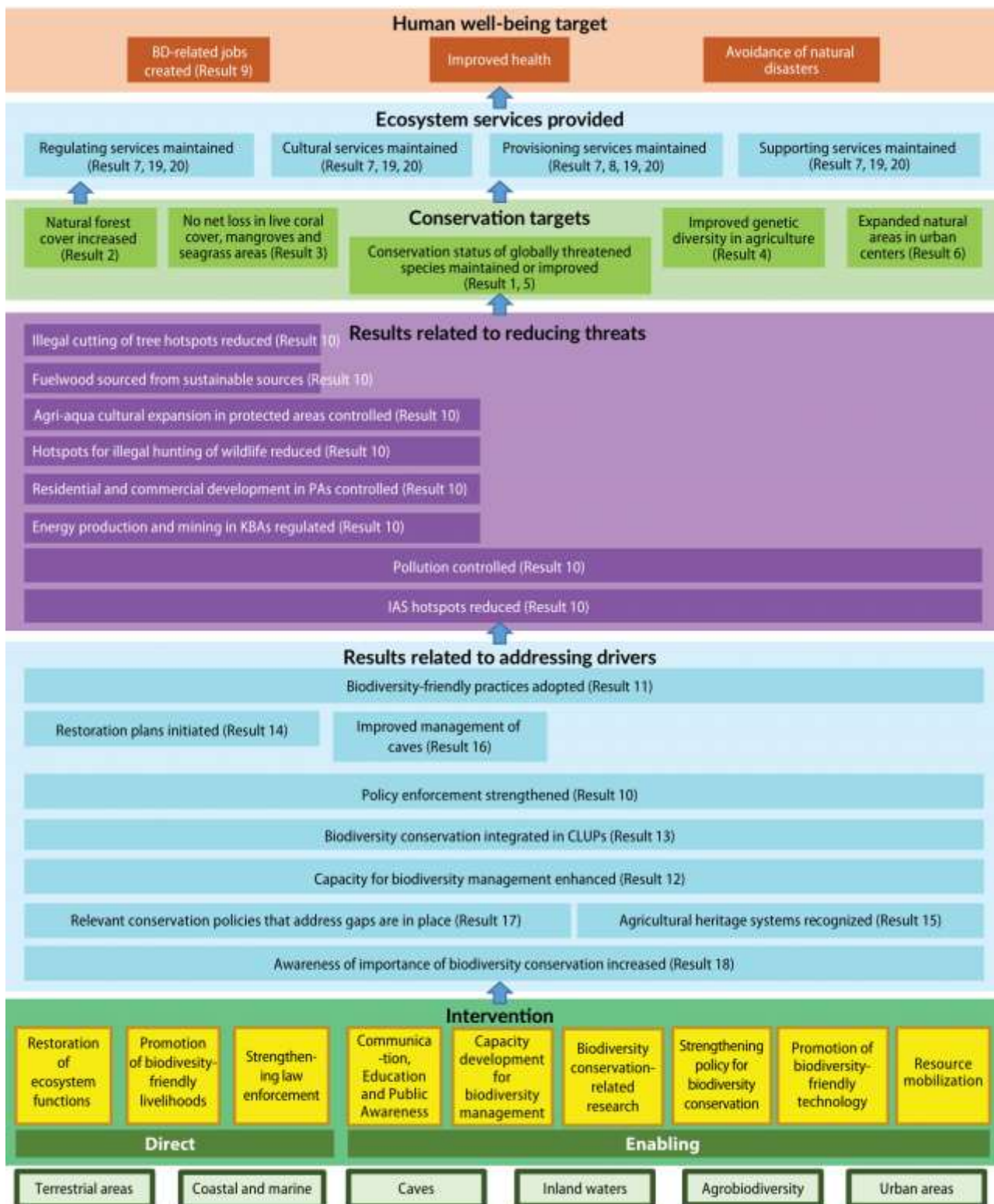
## **INTRODUCTION**

The PBSAP is the country's roadmap to conserve its biodiversity and achieve its vision - "By 2028, biodiversity is restored and rehabilitated, valued, effectively managed, secured, maintaining ecosystem services to sustain healthy, resilient Filipino communities and delivering benefits to all." It has nine strategic priorities -three direct interventions and 6 indirect interventions- with 113 actions translated into 20 national targets with respective indicators that conform to the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The interventions are meant to deliver key results to achieve the 20 national targets and contribute to the overall human well-being (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). (2016). *Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2028): Bringing Resilience to Filipino Communities*. C. Cabrido (Ed.). Quezon City, Philippines: BMB-DENR, United Nations Development Programme – Global Environment Facility, Foundation for the Philippine Environment.



**Figure 1.** PBSAP 2015-2028 Framework

In formulating the PBSAP, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) as the National Technical Focal Point for the Convention on Biological Diversity, conducted several multi-stakeholder national and regional consultation-workshops from 2013 to 2014. More than 800 individuals participated, representing nearly 200 organizations from national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), academe and research, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector.

In June 2016, the DENR issued Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2016- 12 adopting the PBSAP. Said DAO authorized the BMB to coordinate the implementation and mainstreaming of the PBSAP into the plans and programs of concerned national government agencies (NGAs) and local government units (LGUs), including government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs), and state universities and colleges (SUCs). This was reinforced in November 2016 with the issuance of Department Memorandum Circular (DMC) 2016-745 integrating biodiversity conservation in the planning, implementation and monitoring of all development projects and tenurial instruments issued by the DENR.

The PBSAP contributes to achieving national targets and international commitments. It integrates the Philippines' obligations under the CBD into the national development and sectoral planning frameworks, and contributes to achieving the current administration's 10-point agenda. It likewise contributes significantly to achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABT) and Sustainable Development Goals (Figure 2).<sup>2</sup>

The PBSAP Targets (Conservation) 1-6 contribute to addressing ABT 5,11,12,13 and 14; PBSAP Targets (Ecosystem Services) 7-8 contribute to addressing ABT 6,14; PBSAP Target (Human well-being) 9 contributes to addressing ABT 14,16; PBSAP Targets (Reducing Threats) 10 contributes to addressing ABT 5-10; and, PBSAP Targets (Addressing Drivers) 11-20 contribute to addressing ABT 1-4, 14,15,16 and 18.

At present, the DENR-BMB, in close coordination with the DENR Regional Offices, is leading discussion on localizing the PBSAP at the regional and provincial levels. This move is expected to ensure that the PBSAP is mainstreamed horizontally (across sectors) and vertically (across levels of governance).

Resources have been mobilized to support the mainstreaming and implementation of the PBSAP. Using 2008 to 2013 budget data of 60 government agencies from the Department of Budget and Management, the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) determined that the average government expenditure for biodiversity, including Official Development Assistance, is PhP5 billion/year. This estimate also includes local government spending but data from the private sector is incomplete. BIOFIN will update the expenditure review in 2019 to include private sector spending.

Since 2017, the General Appropriations Acts of the Philippines have specifically provided for the protection of biodiversity and mandated all agencies of the government to ensure that the protection of biological diversity is integrated and mainstreamed into their development

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

programs and projects. These Acts directed the Department of Education to integrate biodiversity and its conservation in its curriculum, and the Commission on Higher Education, along with the State Universities and Colleges, to set aside an amount from its research and outreach budgets for biodiversity baselining, inventories and monitoring in protected areas and identified key biodiversity areas.<sup>3</sup> Moreover, it directed the DENR, in coordination with the Climate Change Commission, to identify equally important natural ecosystems (e.g. lakes, rivers, peatlands and other wetlands pygmy forests, coastal habitats, deep sea corals) that function to store carbon, dissipate storm surges, absorb sea level rise, buffer strong typhoons winds, and act as natural gene pool for developing climate-resilient crops, and other food sources, as well as care for climate-related emerging diseases.<sup>4</sup>

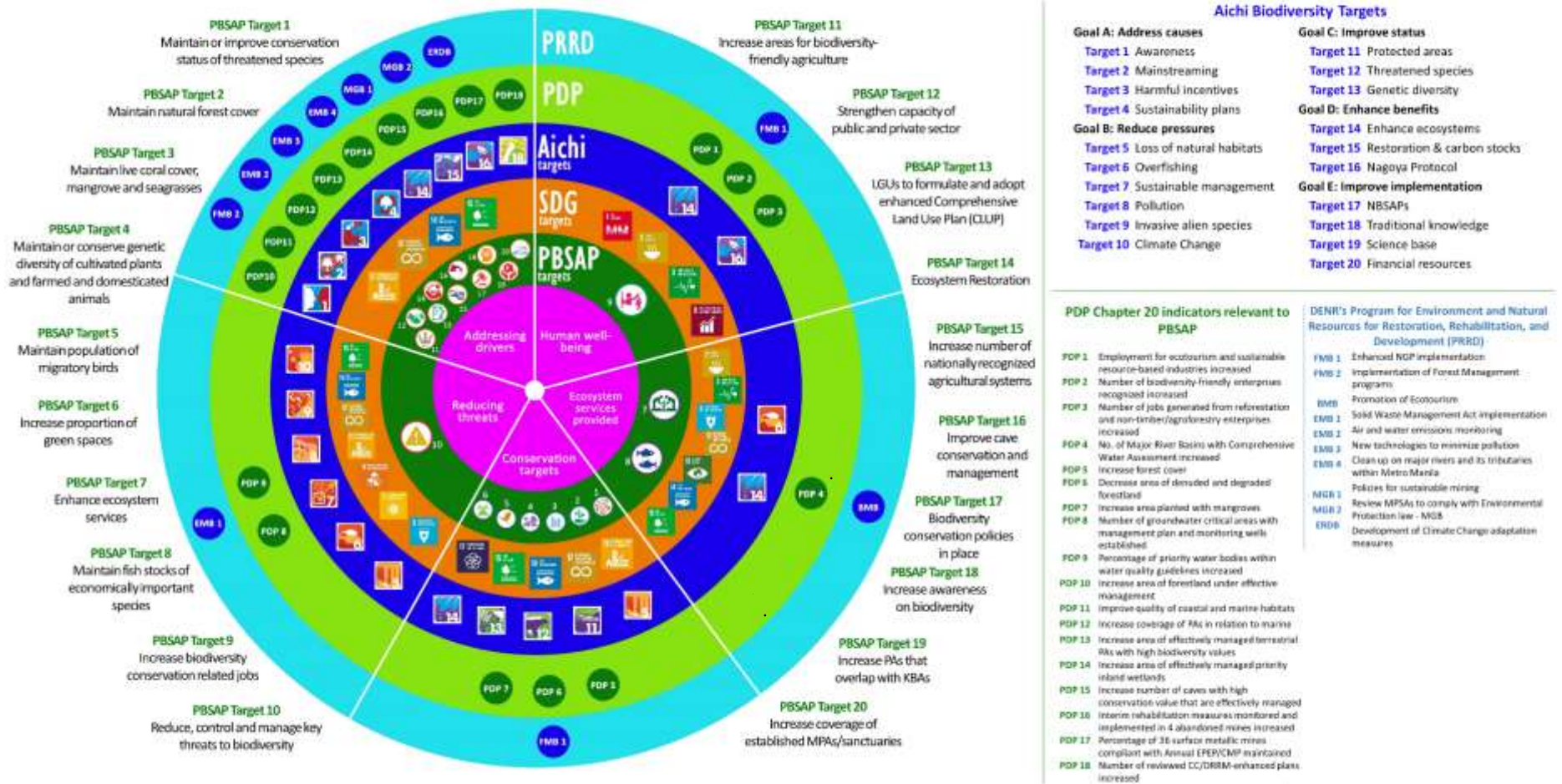
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<sup>3</sup>Section 38 (Protection of Biodiversity) in the General Appropriations Act of 2017 or Republic Act 10924 and Section 40 (Protection of Biodiversity) in the General Appropriations Act of 2018 or Republic Act 10964.

<sup>4</sup> Section 40 (Protection of Biodiversity) in the General Appropriations Act of 2018 or Republic Act 10964.

# The PBSAP Wheel

The Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015-2028 contributes to achieving national targets and international commitments



**Figure 2.** Convergence of the PBSAP with Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Sustainable Development Goals, and President Rodrigo Duterte's 10-point Agenda.

The Philippines' 6th National Report (6NR) to the CBD reports on progress made from 2014 to 2017 in achieving the PBSAP 20 targets and related indicators (Table 1). The targets are grouped in alignment with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of: 1) addressing drivers of biodiversity loss; 2) reducing biodiversity threats; 3) improving biodiversity status; and, 4) enhancing ecosystem services, all contributing towards the overarching goal of improving human well-being.

**Table 1.** PBSAP Targets and Indicators.

PBSAP Target Results		Indicators	
<i>Conservation targets</i>			
1	By 2028, the conservation status of nationally and globally threatened species in the country from 2016 levels is maintained or improved.	1	Number of critically endangered (CR), endangered (EN), vulnerable (V) species whose status have not been upgraded in the Philippines List of Threatened Species (per DAO 14-2004, FAO 233-2010, DAO 01-2007, and RA 9147 [2001])
2	By 2028, there will be no net loss in natural forest cover	2	Area of land covered in natural forests (closed, open and mixed forests based on National Mapping Resource and Information Authority land cover classification)
3	By 2028, there will be no net loss in presence and area distribution of live coral cover, mangrove and seagrasses.	3	Presence and area distribution of live corals, mangroves and seagrasses and their condition
4	By 2028, over 50% of genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and wild relatives will be conserved or maintained.	4	Genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and wild relatives
5	By 2028, the population of migratory bird species identified in selected inland and coastal wetlands along the East-Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) will be maintained.	5	Population of migratory bird species recorded and analyzed during population counts in key inland and coastal wetland sites in the Philippines along the EAAF
6	By 2028, there will be a 5% increase in the proportion of terrestrial natural areas in the five largest cities.	6a	Proportion of natural areas in Philippine cities
		6b	Proportion of cities that have adopted the City Biodiversity Index
<i>Ecosystem services provided</i>			
7	By 2028, as result of improved conservation, ecosystem services provided by key biodiversity areas will be enhanced.	7a	Amount of estimated carbon stocks in forest areas in the Philippines
		7b	Number of irrigation systems and water systems for domestic use that are sourced from KBAs and volume and quality of water from these sources
		7c	Number of sites in KBAs that serve as ecotourism destinations
		7d	Number of IP communities with identified sacred places and/or ICCAs within KBAs

	<b>PBSAP Target Results</b>		<b>Indicators</b>
8	By 2028, fish stocks of economically important species will be maintained.	8	Abundance and biomass of fish species recorded in national stock assessments and other local stock assessment initiatives
<b><i>Human wellbeing target</i></b>			
9	By 2028, there will be an annual increase of at least 5% in biodiversity conservation related jobs (ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem restoration)	9	Number of people employed in biodiversity conservation-related jobs annually
<b><i>Results related to reducing threats to biodiversity</i></b>			
10	By 2028, the key threats to biodiversity will be reduced, controlled or managed.	10a	Number of IAS hotspots
		10b	Number of coastal and fresh surface water systems in KBAs that pass the minimum criteria for water quality under the provisions of DAOs 34 and 35
		10c	Number of agricultural, including fisheries, expansion hotspots in KBAs
		10d	Number of energy production and mining hotspots in KBAs
		10e	Number of fuelwood collection hotspots that source raw materials from sustainable sources
		10f	Number of illegal cutting of trees hotspots
		10g	Number of illegal logging hotspots
		10h	Number of hotspots for hunting and poaching of wildlife
		10i	Number of hotspots of illegal fishing practices
		10j	Number of hotspots for residential and commercial development in KBAs
<b><i>Results related to addressing drivers of threats</i></b>			
11	By 2028, there will be a 10% increase in agricultural areas devoted to all types of biodiversity-friendly agriculture.	11	Number and area of farms practicing biodiversity-friendly agriculture in the Philippines
12	By 2028, capacity for biodiversity conservation of public and private sector groups in terrestrial and marine PAs/KBAs will be strengthened.	12a	Proportion of PA management structures with high management effectiveness assessment scores
		12b	Number of private companies, POs/NGOs, communities involved in biodiversity conservation
13	By 2028, 50% of LGUs will have formulated and adopted the enhanced CLUP using revised HLURB framework.	13	Number of LGUs with enhanced CLUPs based on revised HLURB framework
14	By 2028, 1 million hectares of degraded ecosystems will be restored and/or will be under various stages of restoration	14	Number of hectares of degraded ecosystems placed under restoration programs
15	By 2028, there will be at least 10 nationally recognized agricultural heritage systems.	15	Number of nationally recognized agricultural heritage sites

PBSAP Target Results		Indicators	
16	By 2028, there will be improved conservation management of caves	16a	Number of caves with functional conservation/management partnerships or engagements
		16b	Number of caves that have been officially classified
17	By 2020, relevant biodiversity conservation policies to address existing gaps are in place	17	Number of RA, EO, IRR, DAO, MC, local ordinances, policy review/studies enforced or implemented
18	By 2028, there will be a 10% annual increase from the 2015 baseline in the number of schools, POs, media organizations, LGU, private companies, policy makers, government offices that are aware and supportive of biodiversity, its importance, threats and benefits of protecting it	18	Number of stakeholder groups that are aware of biodiversity, its importance and benefits and threats to it.
19	By 2028, there will be a 10% increase in total area from 2015 levels of terrestrial including inland wetlands PAs managed through NIPAS and other conservation measures (indigenous community conserved areas, local conservation areas, critical habitats) that overlap with KBAs.	19	Proportion of total area of terrestrial PAs in relation to KBAs
20	By 2028, there will be a 20% increase from 2015 levels in the coverage of established MPAs/sanctuaries across various aquatic habitats.	20	Proportion of area established MPAs/sanctuaries against total area of aquatic habitats.

In preparing the 6<sup>th</sup> National Report, the DENR-BMB as the National Technical Focal Point for the CBD, conducted several multi-stakeholder consultation-workshops in 2018, nationwide. About 940 individuals participated, representing nearly 226 organizations from NGAs, LGUs, academic and research institutions, CSOs, Indigenous Peoples communities, and the private sector. There were more male (505) than female (437) participants who contributed to the reporting process. Some women's groups also participated in the consultations.

Small group meetings were also organized as side events during the consultation-workshops to discuss specific focus areas such as indigenous people's issues, Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Sites, biodiversity conservation-related jobs, payment for ecosystems services, and biodiversity research initiatives in Mindanao. Additional data were also sought directly from official sources of data, mainly from NGAs, from project reports and journal publications, and from national reports to the multilateral environmental conventions to which the Philippines is a member-party.



Some women's groups, and women champions of biodiversity conservation also participated in the consultations.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau. 2018. Igniting Passion, Finding Fulfillment: Inspiring Stories of Women in Biodiversity.