



REPUBLICA NG PILIPINAS
Republic of the Philippines



*Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
2015-2028
Bringing Resilience to Filipino Communities
Abridged Edition*

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Acknowledgements

The Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015-2028 2015–2028 is a result of extensive and participatory consultations from February 2013 to March 2015. This process was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of the Philippines.

The Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources would like to express its deepest gratitude to the organizations and individuals who are behind the successful formulation of the updated PBSAP 2015-2028:

Members of the PBSAP Project Board/National Steering Committee and Technical Working Group; ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB); BirdLife International; Haribon Foundation, Inc.; GIZ through the Protected Area Management Enhancement in the Philippines (PAME) Project; UNDP through the Biodiversity Partnership Programme (BPP); FishBase Information and Research Group, Inc. (FIN) and USAID through the Philippines Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (B+WISER) Program

The core group of individuals who worked through the 34-month process of formulating the plan utilizing accurate and up-to-date information from a vast and diverse pool of sources to ensure a quality and robust plan. These people are:

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The publication of this abridged version of the PBSAP was made possible by the Foundation for the Philippine Environment.

Published by:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center
Diliman, 1100 Quezon City

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1899 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20006, United States

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Suggested citation: 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 (Abridged) C. Cabrido, & R. B. De Alban (ed.). Quezon City, Philippines: BMB-DENR, United Nations Development Programme – Global Environment Facility, Foundation for the Philippine Environment.

Design: VJ Graphic Arts, Larmina A. Naptong

Cover Photographs: (from top to bottom, left to right)
Filipino kids playing - Jonathan Hodder
Rice field - Ronet Santos
Fish vendor - Jonathan Hodder
Tubbataha Reef - Yvette Lee
Little Golden-mantled Flying Fox - Don Geoff Tabaranza
Mangrove forest in Sinian River - Beverly Cabatuan
Manila Bay - Jonathan Hodder
Rafflesia speciosa - Danilo Tandang
Dipterocarp forest - Ronet Santos

ISBN 978-621-95016-5-1

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Printed in the Philippines

Table of Contents

Foreword	9
Working Together, Weaving the Living Web	10
Philippine Biodiversity	12
Ecosystems: Nature’s Gifts that Keep on Giving	14
Fragile Ecosystems, Heavy Burdens	16
Linked to International Goals, Grounded on Local Needs	18
The PBSAP at a Glance	20
PBSAP Framework	21
PBSAP Targets and Indicators	22
Summary of PBSAP 2015–2028 Implementation Cost	25
Implementing the PBSAP: A Comprehensive Approach	26
On the Ground: Local Efforts Key to PBSAP Success	28
PBSAP 2015–2028 Vision	31

Foreword

This publication presents the highlights of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015–2028, the country’s roadmap for conserving and managing biodiversity resources and integrating biodiversity objectives into national development and sectoral planning frameworks. It is the third and latest update of the Philippines’ biodiversity strategy and action plan, which was first developed in 1997 as part of the country’s commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The government recognizes that genuine inclusive and sustainable growth cannot be attained without pursuing biodiversity conservation. As such, the PBSAP directly feeds into the Philippine Development Plan goals, the President’s 10-point Agenda, and other national development plans.

The PBSAP was formulated with the participation of more than 800 individuals representing nearly 200 agencies and organizations from the government, private sector, media and academe, including non-government agencies and people’s organizations both at the local and international levels. This process ensured that the PBSAP was developed with a comprehensive understanding of the country’s priority needs. It contains specific targets and indicators, financing needs and strategies, monitoring mechanisms, and institutional arrangements or responsibilities—key ingredients to successful plan implementation.

Anchored within the goals of the Philippine Development Plan, the PBSAP works towards the vision that by 2028, the Philippines’ biodiversity is restored and rehabilitated, valued, effectively managed and secured, maintaining ecosystem services to sustain healthy, resilient Filipino communities and delivering benefits to all women and men.

Working Together, Weaving the Living Web

The Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015–2028

The Philippines is gifted with natural resources that are in many ways among the most remarkable in the world. Our forests, caves, rivers, lakes, fields, and oceans are teeming with life, with the biodiversity that makes it possible for us to enjoy numerous benefits—ranging from the obvious (water, food, energy) to the less apparent but equally essential (disaster control, climate regulation, air quality regulation).

Many years of exploitation as well as continued pressures have severely degraded the integrity of the country'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 centers.

However, the Philippines and the rest of the world are increasingly becoming aware of the importance of safeguarding biodiversity. Humanity has had a severe impact on the world and must learn to live in harmony with the natural environment in order to ensure its own survival.

The inextricable link between biodiversity and human well-being is the heart of the aspirations of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015–2028, which sets out the country's goals, plans, and programs for conserving the Philippines' remarkable biodiversity and ensuring that these natural resources continue to sustain and support Filipinos. This publication provides an overview of the PBSAP.



Photo credits: Noel Jessie Aquino

Philippine Biodiversity

The Philippines is a biodiversity powerhouse, containing some of the world's most unique and varied assemblage of species. The country has 228 recognized key biodiversity areas (KBA), which are home to 855 globally important species of plants, corals, molluscs, 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.

The benefits and services that biodiversity provides cannot be overemphasized. The country's population of 100 million—projected to reach 125 million by 2030—depend on this biodiversity in a variety of ways, many of which we have not even been able to fully calculate or appreciate.

Philippine Ecosystem and Biodiversity Values

Ecosystem Service	PhP Billion
Timber & fuelwood production	1.1
Water provision	50.9
Ecotourism	157.0
Carbon offset	453.0
Flood prevention	41.0
Soil erosion	10.0
Fishery production	111.0
Crop production	1,416.0
Coral reef	62.1
Mangrove	7.4
Total:	2,309.5

Source: Compiled by the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN)



Ecosystems: Nature's Gifts that Keep on Giving

Forests

- 6.84 million hectares (ha) total forest cover as of 2010—about 23% of total land area
- A 2005 study determined that the country has lost an average of about 150,000 ha of forest cover per year over the past 100 years
- The National Greening Program seeks to cover 1,700,000 hectares by 2016

PhP 114.228 billion – value of external trade in all forest goods in 2012

Philippine tropical forests provide ecosystem services estimated to have a total value of about PhP15,115/ha

Healthy forests help regulate water supply. Our groundwater deposits can supply up to 470 billion cubic meters to the country per year, 17 times what is actually being used.

Forestry sector employs at least 49,000 people

Coastal and Marine

- Along with five other countries in the Coral Triangle, Philippine waters host the world's richest coral and reef fish diversity
- 1 square kilometer of healthy coral reefs can yield up to 30 tons of fish and earn \$29,400–\$113,000 tourism revenue per year

Philippine reefs contribute approximately \$1.35 billion to the national economy per year

Philippine seas are home to (# of species):

marine turtles	5	reef associated fishes	1,755
marine mammals	28	seaweeds	1,062
cartilaginous fishes	168	algae	820
mollusks	648		

Mangrove forests protect coastal communities and shelter juvenile fish and other marine life. Appreciation for their importance is on the rise—mangrove reforestation efforts helped bring about increase in mangrove cover from 0.247 million ha in 2003 to 0.311 million ha in 2012

Inland Waters/Wetlands

These inland waters/wetlands are home to 316 fish species, 121 of which are found only in the Philippines

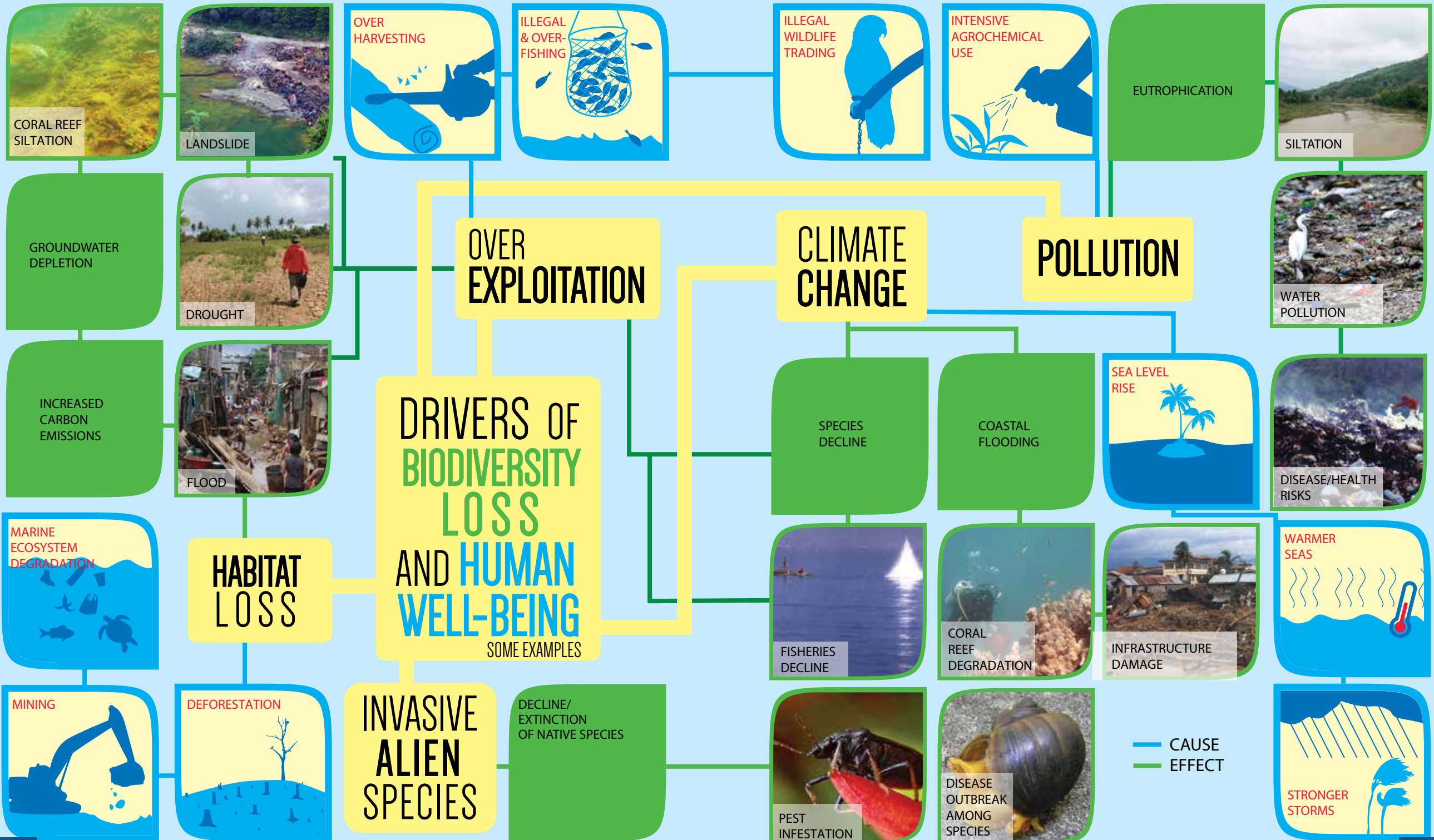
More than 13 million people live in the basin of Laguna Lake, enjoying benefits like food source; livelihood opportunities; and water for domestic use, irrigation, and power generation.

Lake Lanao is the country's second biggest freshwater lake (next to Laguna Lake). Through the Agus hydropower plants, the lake helps supply 55%–65% of Mindanao's power needs.

- 216 lakes
- 421 principal rivers
- 22 marshes

Fragile Ecosystems, Heavy Brudens

The PBSAP formulation process involved an extensive series of consultations and analysis to identify and trace the linkages of the various biodiversity threats facing the country. As a result, the PBSAP identified the five main pressures of biodiversity loss in the Philippines, which in turn lead to harmful consequences affecting human lives, livelihoods, and overall well-being.



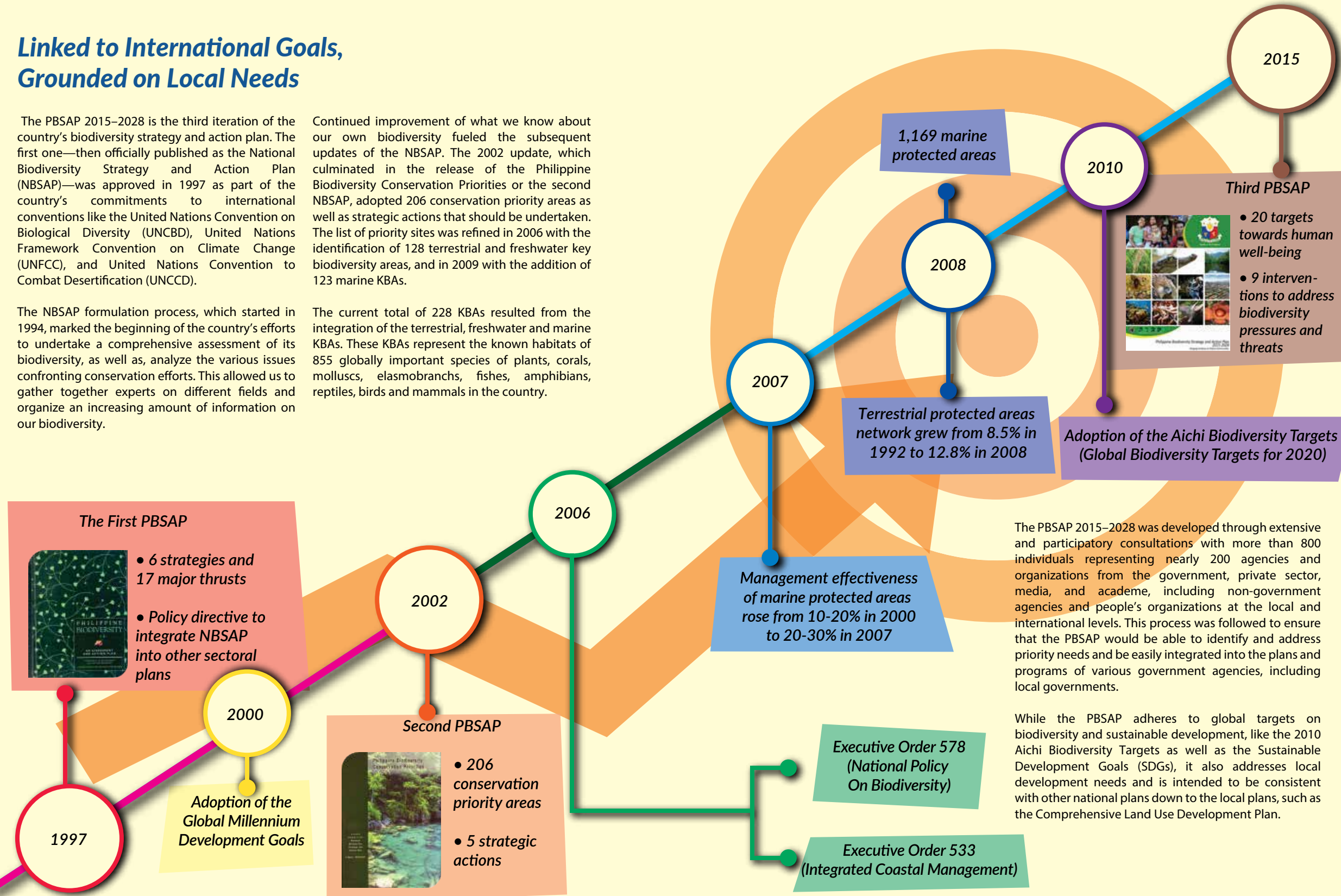
Linked to International Goals, Grounded on Local Needs

The PBSAP 2015–2028 is the third iteration of the country's biodiversity strategy and action plan. The first one—then officially published as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)—was approved in 1997 as part of the country's commitments to international conventions like the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The NBSAP formulation process, which started in 1994, marked the beginning of the country's efforts to undertake a comprehensive assessment of its biodiversity, as well as, analyze the various issues confronting conservation efforts. This allowed us to gather together experts on different fields and organize an increasing amount of information on our biodiversity.

Continued improvement of what we know about our own biodiversity fueled the subsequent updates of the NBSAP. The 2002 update, which culminated in the release of the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities or the second NBSAP, adopted 206 conservation priority areas as well as strategic actions that should be undertaken. The list of priority sites was refined in 2006 with the identification of 128 terrestrial and freshwater key biodiversity areas, and in 2009 with the addition of 123 marine KBAs.

The current total of 228 KBAs resulted from the integration of the terrestrial, freshwater and marine KBAs. These KBAs represent the known habitats of 855 globally important species of plants, corals, molluscs, elasmobranchs, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals in the country.



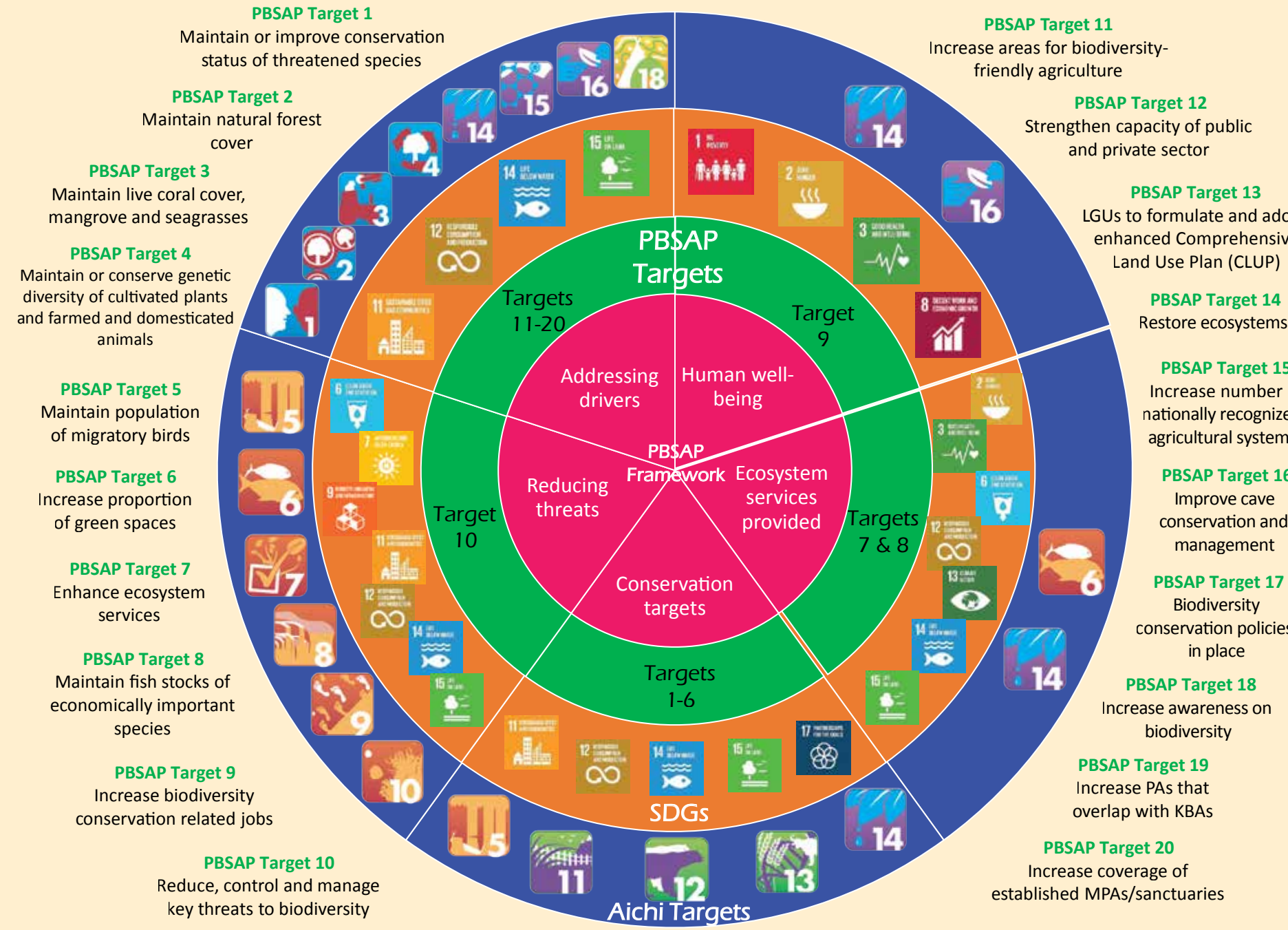
The PBSAP at a Glance

The PBSAP targets will be pursued through a combination of direct interventions, which will result in concrete physical changes in the KBAs, and enabling interventions, which will support or amplify the direct intervention efforts.



The PBSAP identified 20 targets to address drivers of biodiversity loss, reduce biodiversity threats, improve biodiversity status, and enhance ecosystem services, all towards the overarching goal of improving human well-being.

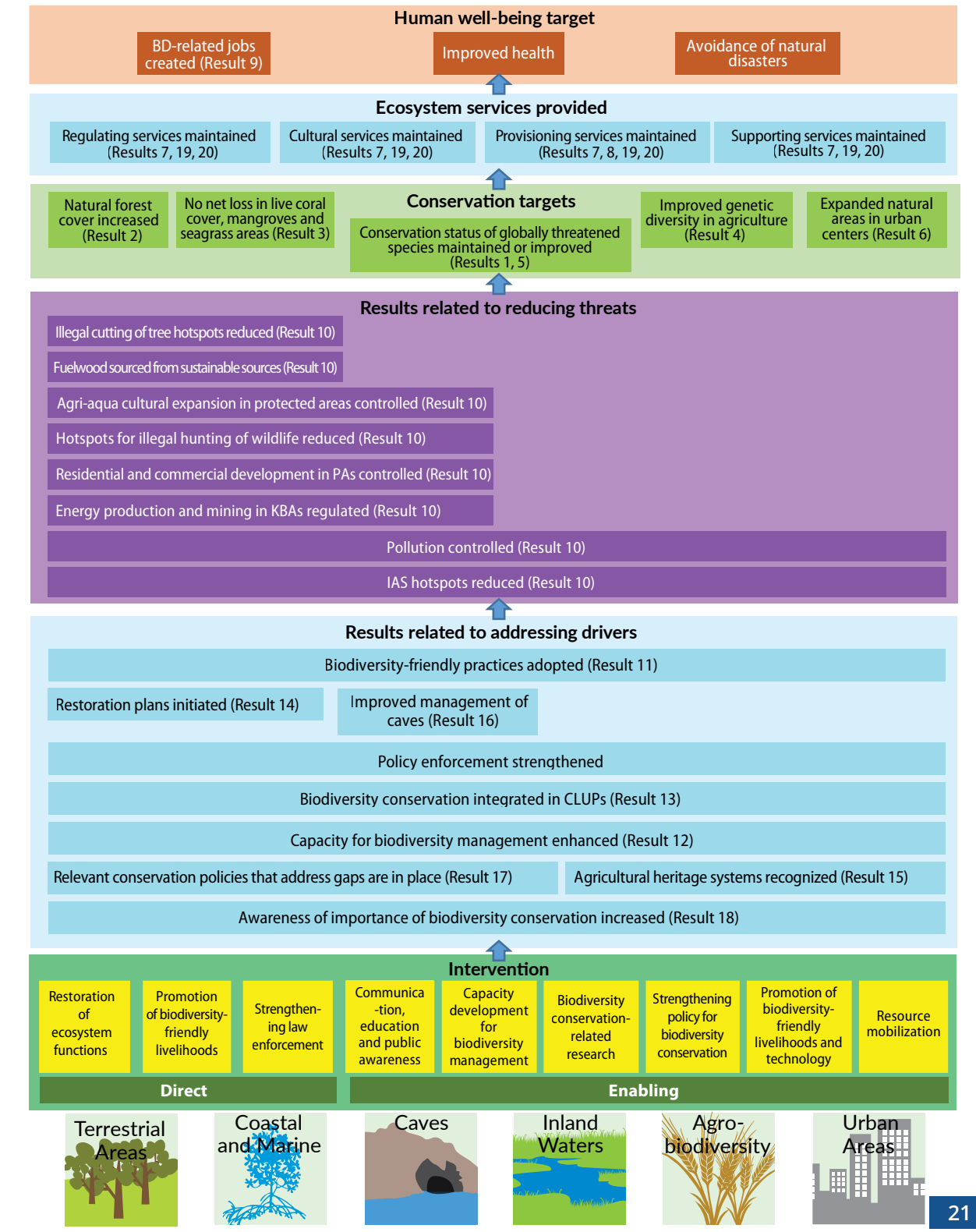
As shown in this figure, the PBSAP targets (green layer) contribute to the several SDGs adopted by the United Nations (orange layer), and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (blue layer), showing that biodiversity has an impact on development goals.



- Goal A: Address causes**
 - Target 1 Awareness
 - Target 2 Mainstreaming
 - Target 3 Harmful incentives
 - Target 4 Sustainability plans
- Goal B: Reduce pressures**
 - Target 5 Loss of natural habitats
 - Target 6 Overfishing
 - Target 7 Sustainable management
 - Target 8 Pollution
 - Target 9 Invasive alien species
 - Target 10 Climate change
- Goal C: Improve status**
 - Target 11 Protected areas
 - Target 12 Threatened species
 - Target 13 Genetic diversity
- Goal D: Enhance benefits**
 - Target 14 Ecosystems services
 - Target 15 Restoration & carbon stocks
 - Target 16 Nagoya Protocol
- Goal E: Improve implementation**
 - Target 17 NBSAPs
 - Target 18 Traditional knowledge
 - Target 19 Science base
 - Target 20 Financial resources

PBSAP framework

The illustration shows how the interventions are expected to deliver key results to achieve the 20 PBSAP targets and contribute to the overall human well-being goal.



Pages 20-21 show the PBSAP framework, illustrating how the interventions are expected to deliver key results to achieve the 20 PBSAP targets and contribute to the overall human well-being goal.