



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



## Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

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# Replicating a successful model to develop a network of Indigenous Marine Managed Areas

C3 Philippines, Inc.



## Darwin Initiative Project Information

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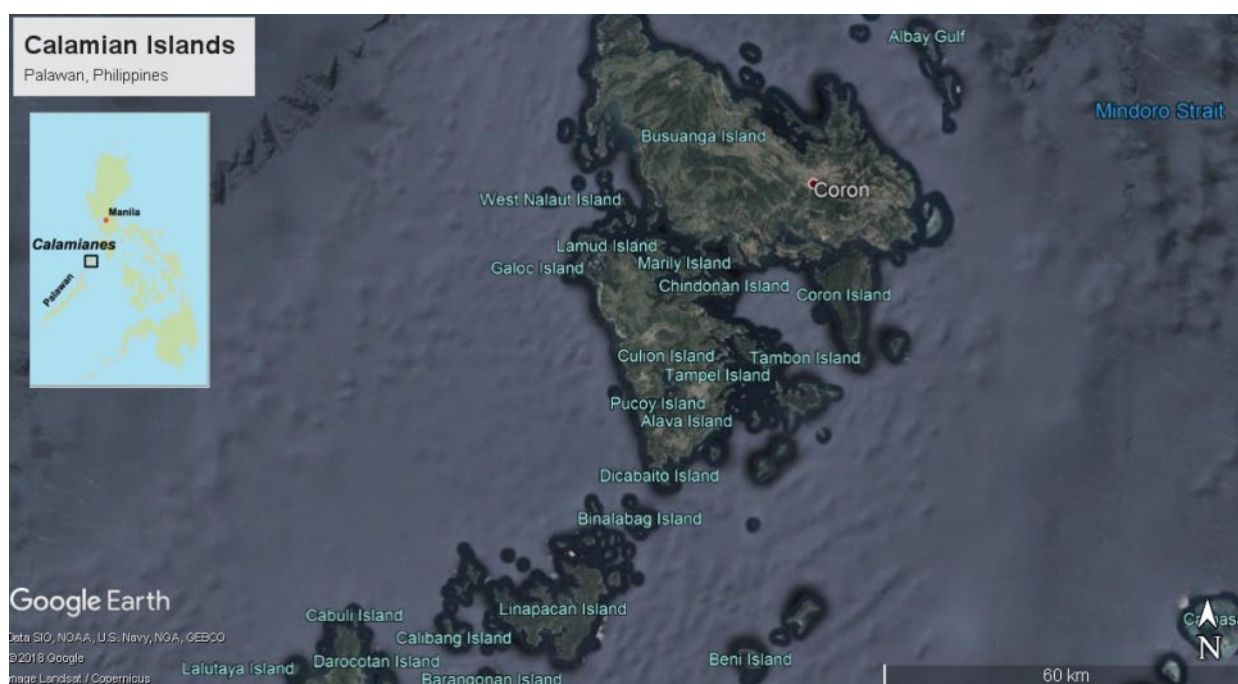
## List of Acronyms

ADSDPP	Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Protection Plan
BHC	British High Commission
BLGU	Barangay Local Government Unit
BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau
CADT	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Ties
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
CHFP	Cultural Heritage Framework Programme
DENR	Department of the Environment and Natural Resources
FPIC	Free and Prior Consent
ICC	Indigenous Cultural Communities
IMMA	Indigenous Marine Managed Area
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IP	Indigenous People
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAO	Municipal Agriculture Officer
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous People
OMA	Office of the Municipal Agriculture
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
PCSDS	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff
PO	People's Organization
SDM	Simultaneous Dugong Monitoring

## 1. Project summary

The Philippines are a global centre of marine biodiversity which is under increasing threat, most notably from overfishing, destructive fishing practices, and degradation of critical marine ecosystems. The Calamianes Islands (Figure 1-1) are the home of numerous red-listed marine species as well as the last remaining members of the Tagbanua tribe and are thus not only a centre of biodiversity but a centre of biocultural diversity. This project aims to finalise the establishment of six legally-recognized Indigenous Marine Managed Areas in the Calamianes with the following project goals:

1. Sociocultural research conducted into traditional knowledge of Tagbanua and implications for marine resource management at six target IMMA sites
2. Capacity building and legal support delivered to six barangays that have proposed marine managed areas
3. Coordinated marketing plans developed for traditional crafts to improve incomes of communities involved in six marine areas



**Figure 1-1 The Calamian Islands, Palawan, Philippines**

In addition, the Philippines hosts the 3rd largest expanse of coral reef in the world and most Filipinos live on the coast. Highly productive reef fisheries constitute 10% of the total fish production in the Philippines and as much as 70% of the total harvest on small islands. 50% of the population is reliant on fish for their primary source of protein. However, fisheries resources are declining rapidly creating food security issues including, increasing levels of child malnutrition and a significant loss in biocultural heritage diversity such as traditional ecological knowledge; an essential resource for effective and sustainable resource management.

The Calamianes are a case in point, where formerly large stocks that sustained local fisheries are now in a severely depleted state. Fishers must travel further and spend more time at sea than they did previously, with a diminishing rate of return on capital and labour. Many fishers continue to fish, not because of the profitability of fishing so much as the absence of non-fishing alternatives. The Calamian islands are also a biodiversity hotspot, hosting threatened and evolutionary distinct species such as the critically-endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the endangered whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), vulnerable Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) Sea Cow (*Dugong dugon*) and unique coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass. Destructive fishing activities (cyanide, dynamite) continue, even in some parts where the Tagbanua exercise tribal jurisdiction over their ancestral domain.

Thus detection and reporting of illegal fishing activities and enforcement of regulations by communities themselves has been noted as an essential component of effective resource management. Engaging Tagbanua tribes and improving the management of their ancestral areas has shown great promise for their sustainable management.

The project is designed to address several biodiversity challenges in the Calamian Islands, including overfishing, habitat degradation, and loss of blue carbon sinks. These challenges are relevant for both the local communities and the global community, as they impact the ecological balance of the area, threaten the livelihoods of local fisherfolk, and contribute to the loss of important marine biodiversity. By addressing these challenges, the project aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the Philippines' rich marine biodiversity.

The project is also intended to address human development and well-being challenges, particularly poverty reduction, by diversifying the livelihoods of local communities that are currently highly dependent on fishing. Through the promotion of sustainable tourism and the development of alternative livelihoods, the project seeks to enhance economic opportunities and promote community resilience, particularly in the face of increasingly intense weather events and ecological changes linked to climate change.

The identification of these problems was informed by consultations with local stakeholders, scientific research, and a thorough assessment of the existing threats to marine biodiversity and the well-being of local communities in the Calamianes Islands. By working closely with local communities and incorporating their perspectives and priorities, the project aims to ensure that its interventions are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people who depend on the area's natural resources for their livelihoods and well-being.

This report provides useful information describing the initial works done concerning securing the necessary permission and consent of the Indigenous Communities in Calamian Island, and collaborative engagements with other key implementers such as the local government units including the barangay councils where the partner IMMAs are located.

## **2. Project stakeholders/ partners**

The Tagbanua are one of the indigenous groups in the Calamianes who have a strong connection to the environment and are important stakeholders in the project. Their involvement is crucial to ensure that their rights, knowledge and perspectives are respected and integrated into the project design and implementation. The project team is working closely with Tagbanua leaders and communities to build trust and promote their active participation in decision-making processes, particularly about natural resource management and cultural heritage preservation. The project is also supporting the Tagbanua in their efforts to sustainably manage their ancestral domain and improve their livelihoods through ecotourism and other sustainable enterprises.

The project involves various stakeholders, each with their own roles and responsibilities. The local government units of Busuanga, Coron, and Culion, in collaboration with the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) local office in Coron and Roxas, the Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs) from the partner IMMAs, and the Calamianes Association of Tourism Enterprises (CATE), are responsible for overseeing the project's implementation and ensuring compliance with local regulations.

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) provides technical support to the project, particularly in monitoring and evaluating its environmental impact. The Community-based organizations (CBOs) and People's Organizations (POs) are actively involved in the project, providing feedback on community needs and concerns, and participating in project activities.

The academic institutions, such as the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) and University of Edinburgh contribute to the project by providing training, conducting research and providing scientific data that inform the project's design and implementation.



The project also works closely with local fishermen and their organizations to promote sustainable fishing practices and reduce the impact of overfishing. Finally, the tourists and visitors to the Calamianes Islands are also considered stakeholders as they play a critical role in supporting the project's ecotourism activities and helping to create sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

The local coordinating office of NCIP in northern Palawan has been closely guiding C3 Philippines, particularly in selecting the IMMAs and the FPIC process, while the MAOs of Coron and Busuanga have expressed their support to the Project including possible collaboration on the livelihood projects for the communities.

### 3. Project progress

#### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

##### 1. Sociocultural research conducted into traditional knowledge of Tagbanua and implications for marine resource management at six target IMMA sites

In June 2022, the project started its field implementation. A series of courtesy meetings were conducted with local partners, including the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Calamianes Office in Coron. During the meeting, the Project Lead presented the project scope and objectives to the NCIP and discussed the requirements for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). The NCIP representative assured the team that they would help facilitate the request for FPIC, and schedules were planned.

From July to August 2022, the team conducted seven community meetings in Cheey, Buenavista, and Decabobo in Busuanga and Coron, which were recommended by the NCIP. During these meetings, the team presented the project objectives and solicited support and the issuance of pre-condition/FPIC for the project. The meetings were attended by tribal elders, including the tribal elders' chief, and men and women of the indigenous tribes of Tagbanuas.

Gathering and consolidating secondary data and documents were also conducted, including the baseline data and information of the community and their Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development Protection Plans (ADSDPPs). The secondary data will be used as a reference in coaching and guiding the partners in updating their respective ADSDPPs, particularly the section for ancestral water management and protection.

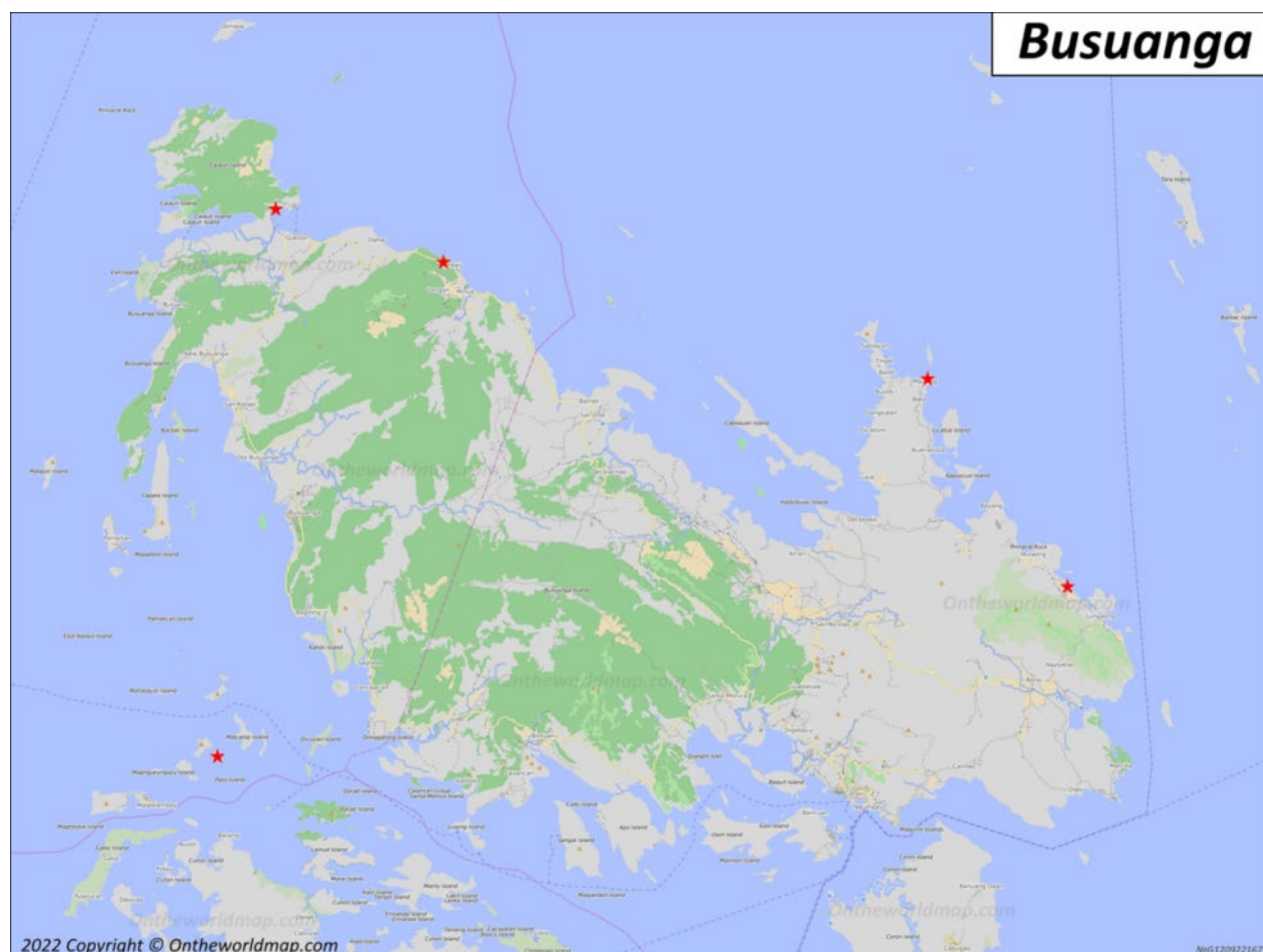
By December 2022, three out of the six target Indigenous Peoples' communities in Coron and Busuanga gave their pre-condition consent, namely Barangay Calawit, Cheey, and Turda (Table 3-1). Before the year ended, Barangay Malawig gave their pre-conditioned consent, dated December 26, 2022, and in February 13, 2023, the IP elders of Sitio Depelengged, Barangay Concepcion in Busuanga issued their support and gave their pre-conditioned consent for a collaborative partnership. This progress indicates the successful engagement of the project team with local partners and the community, leading to the development of trust and support for the project.

**Table 3-1 Status of the Pre-conditioned consent for the Darwin Project**

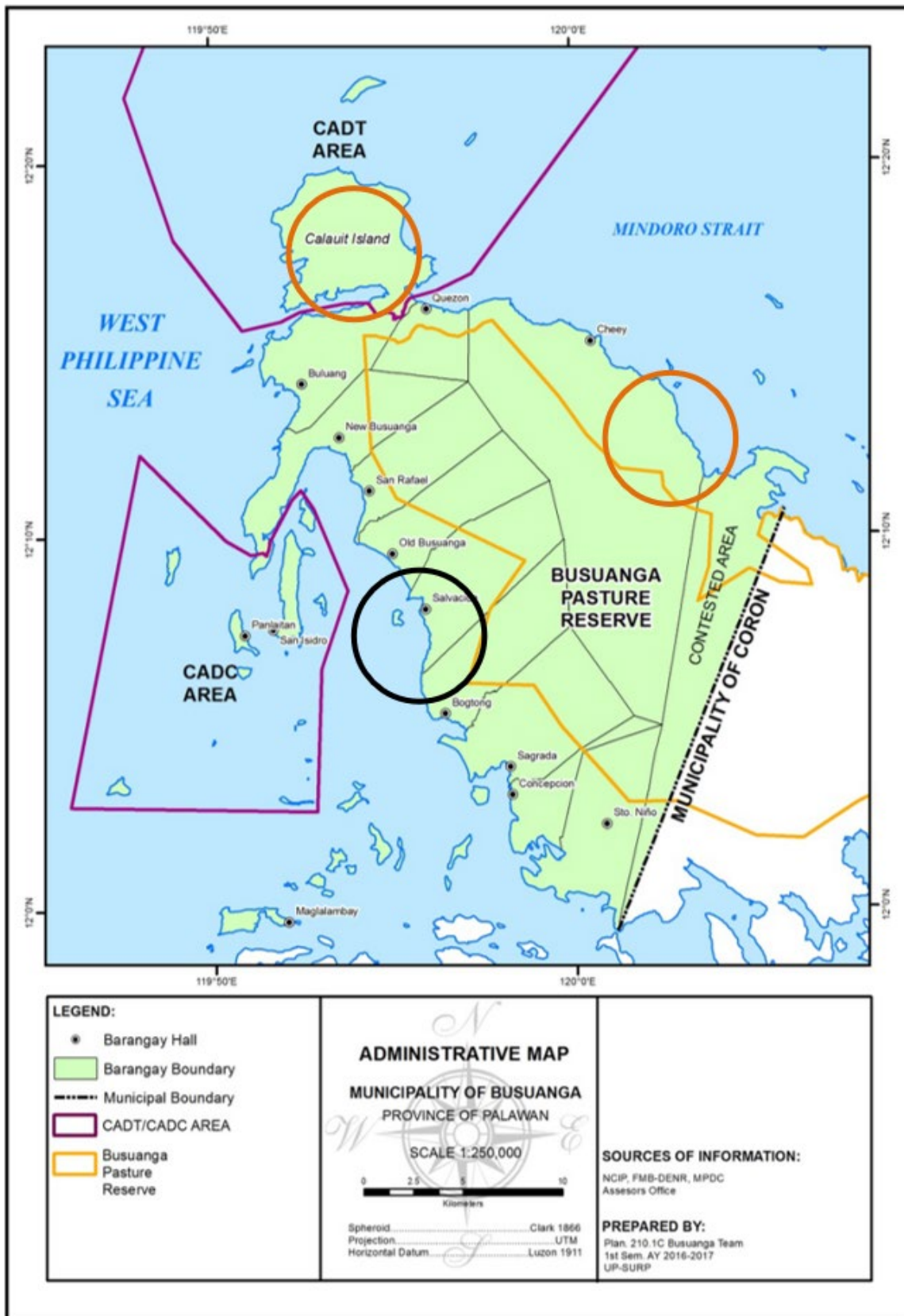
<b>IMMA Location</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Talakdas, Sitio Lakdayan, Barangay Cheey, Municipality of Busuanga	Secured and issued by the Maneg-erekelen (tribal elders), IPS and IPO last 17 July 2022
2. Sitio Calawit, Barangay Buluang, Municipality of Busuanga	Secured and issued by the Maneg-erekelen (tribal elders), IPS and IPO last 19 October 2022
3. Sitio Depelengged, Barangay Concepcion, Municipality of	Secured and issued by the Maneg-erekelen (tribal elders), IPS and IPO last 13 February

Busuanga	2023
4. Barangay Turda, Municipality of Coron	Secured and issued by the Maneg-erekelen (tribal elders), IPS and IPO last 22 October 2022
5. Barangay Malawig, Municipality of Coron	Secured and issued by the Maneg-erekelen (tribal elders), last 26 December 2022
6. Brgy. Decabobo in the Municipality of Coron	Brgy. Decabobo is subject to be revisited and check for its readiness. Last December 2022, as advised by their elder and the Barangay Chairman they requested to put on hold the plan for a courtesy visit as there's an outstanding social issue to be resolved within the IP council
7. Sitio Balisungan, Brgy. Tagumpay	Sitio Balisungan was recently recommended by the NCIP as potential substitute site will be visited this 3rd week of May 2023.

There were three IP communities in Busuanga and two from the municipality of Coron who expressed their support to the Project and gave their pre-conditioned consent to support their intentions for a collaborative partnership with C3 Philippines through the Darwin Project (Figure 3-1, Figure 3-2).



**Figure 3-1 Map showing the five (5) IP communities that expressed their support for a collaborative undertaking to safeguard and sustainably managed their indigenous marine-managed area, (clockwise from top left) Calauit, Chewy, Malawig, Turda and Sitio Depelengged**



**Figure 3-2 Administrative Map of the Municipality of Busuanga showing the existing CAGTA and CAGCA areas awarded by the NCIP**

C3 Philippines is working closely with the partner IPs and the NCIP for the completion of all the necessary documents in compliance with the new FPIC Guidelines. Once all the necessary documents are secured, the pre-condition consent application for FPIC will be filed to NCIP for the official issuance of the FPIC certificate. C3 has started working on this and targets to submit all the necessary documents in the first quarter of year 2.

Since the implementation of project and activities involving sociocultural heritage is a very sensitive issue especially in the indigenous group as they have their cultural practices and beliefs that are still being strictly observed and protected by the government, C3 Philippines together with the Edinburgh University expert Dr Georgia Holly conducted an eight-day immersive training entitled “Training on sociocultural research methods to assess opportunities to integrate Tagbanua biocultural heritage into marine resource management last February 2023 (Figure 3-3). This was undertaken to provide the appropriate skill sets, approaches and methods to C3 technical staff.



**Figure 3-3 Dr. Holly and C3 Technical Team undergoing theoretical and actual immersion in the field.**

The main objective of the training was to build a deeper understanding of the importance of cultural heritage for environmental management, the roles it can play, and how to utilize cultural heritage data in environmental planning. The training also provided practical approaches, methods and ethics in conducting sociocultural research in the IP communities. Furthermore, the training includes actual field data collection as the practicum. The trainees used the free-listing method focusing on the cultural practices and resource use of the Tagbanua community in Lakdayan, Barangay Cheey, Municipality of Busuanga, Palawan. Specifically, seven key questions were prepared and used during the community consultation:

- What are the traditional practices related to how the IPs use their ancestral waters?
- What are the current/ modern marine practices different from the traditional practices of the IPs?
- What are the sacred areas that the IPs can recall based on their elders stories?
- What are the sacred areas they have in the present time?
- What are the traditional knowledge and beliefs they know about their marine waters that have been passed down through generations?
- What spiritual beliefs do they have about their marine waters in the past? And
- What are the current spiritual beliefs they have about their marine waters?

The collected raw data was transferred and encoded. Once all the areas are completed, the data analysis and report generation will immediately be carried out.

## **2. Capacity building and legal support delivered to six barangays that have proposed marine managed areas**

At present, the Project focuses on awareness-raising through presentations on basic marine ecology and a briefing on MPA establishment process. This was done alongside the data gathering on the traditional practices and uses of the IPs in their surrounding coastal and marine areas.

Once we have finished gathering all the information from the partner IMMAs, we will formulate a layman presentation on the establishment of marine protected areas incorporating the information gathered from the series of workshops, this information will be focusing on the traditional resource use practices, conservation methods and customary laws.

The capacity building and legal support are planned to commence this 2nd Quarter.

## **3. Coordinated marketing plans developed for traditional crafts to improve incomes of communities involved in six marine areas**

The activities for this outcome are due to commence in the coming year, the team are currently evaluating key online marketing outlets in the Philippines initially and potentially globally including existing platforms and potential shipping options.

### **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

#### **1. Sociocultural research conducted into traditional knowledge of Tagbanua and implications for marine resource management at six target IMMA sites**

*1.1 Increased scientific knowledge on the integration of traditional indigenous knowledge into marine resource management (at least 1 peer-reviewed publication and comprehensive, publically-available technical report by EoP)*

Our first peer-reviewed paper is already in preparation and will provide a comprehensive understanding of the cultural and social beliefs of the Tagbanua community in relation to their ancestral waters. The paper will document the marine folklore and beliefs that are still being observed by the community and how it affects their resource management and conservation practices.

The methodology used for the paper involves a free-listing method that focuses on the cultural practices and resource use of the Tagbanua community in Lakdayan, Barangay Cheey, Municipality of Busuanga, Palawan. Seven key questions were prepared and used during the community consultation to ensure that the paper covers all important aspects related to the Tagbanua community's relationship with their marine environment.

A more comprehensive technical report will also be completed as soon as the other sites are finished. The technical report will provide a comprehensive analysis of the findings from all the sites and will be a valuable resource for researchers and policymakers interested in coastal and marine resource management and conservation in the Philippines. With the completion of the technical report and paper, the project team is optimistic that the findings will be widely shared and used to inform policies and decision-making related to coastal and marine resource management and conservation in the Philippines and internationally.

*1.2 Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and Bureau for Aquatic Resources fully aware of traditional management issues associated with IMMAs*

On December 7, 2022, C3 Philippines conducted a courtesy visit to the PCSDS District Management Officer, Ms. Christina Rodriguez, to discuss the Darwin Project and seek her assistance regarding the IP areas in the Calamianes Island, including updated CADT areas.

Although Ms. Rodriguez indicated that their office has also requested an updated map from NCIP, she expressed willingness to assist in any way possible. On the same day, the team also visited the office of the Municipal Agriculturist, Mr. Geronimo Gevela, to present the project and request their support and assistance (Figure 3-4). The visit was productive and the team received positive feedback and cooperation from Mr. Gevela.



**Figure 3-4 Courtesy call and dialogue with Coron LGU-MAO Ms. Geronimo Gevela and C3 technical staff**

On 03 and 06 February 2023, two separate meetings were conducted with the Busuanga Municipal Government, one with the Vice Mayor and his councilmen, and a short courtesy visit with the Municipal Agriculturist Ms. Ma. Theresa T. Rabe. The meeting consisted of a project presentation and a discussion on planned activities focusing on the assistance to the IPs on their IMMAs (Figure 3-5, Figure 3-6). The meeting was successful and received a positive response and support from the concerned government office.



**Figure 3-5 Courtesy call meeting with Vice Mayor Hon. Elvin Edonga and Municipal Councilors**



**Figure 3-6 Courtesy visit and dialogue with Busuanga LGU-MAO Ms. Ma. Theresa Rabe**

### ***1.3 Legislation ensuring that indigenous issues must be incorporated into any marine resource management intervention in ancestral areas***

During our consultative meetings with the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Municipal Agricultural Officers (MAOs) in Busuanga and Coron, we were able to engage them in securing their consent for the Project, as well as to determine the status of the indigenous marine managed areas. Through these meetings, we identified a notable common issue - the IPs were not properly involved and represented during the planning and establishment of locally-managed marine protected areas (MPAs) and development of MPA management plans declared under the local government, as well as other development projects from both the government and private sectors such as tourism projects, pearl farming, and other social services projects. In some cases, IPs were only treated as participants and attendees during awareness-raising consultations, with little integration of traditional ecological practices and social beliefs in the operation and management plans. For instance, the MPA in Barangay Turda, the Barangay declared their entire marine areas as an MPA, including the sacred areas of the IPs (Figure 3-7). However, the IPs claimed that they were not properly represented during the planning, establishment, and development of the management plan for the MPA.

Despite these challenges, our project has received substantial institutional support and response from various local, national, and international donors, NGOs, and concerned Civil Society groups, all of whom have a vested interest in land and sea preservation and conservation. However, it is worth noting that some organizations failed to secure the fundamental instrument of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) from the IPs, resulting in some social issues and delays. Despite this, we remain optimistic about the project's potential to create lasting positive change in the region. As we continue to engage with stakeholders and work towards building strong partnerships, we are confident that we will be able to overcome these challenges and ensure the project's sustainable benefits post-implementation. Our open-access plan is an integral part of this effort, and we are committed to promoting the dissemination and sharing of project information and data with all relevant parties.



Figure 3-7 Marine Protected Area of Barangay Turda, Coron Palawan

## 2. Capacity building and legal support delivered to six barangays who have proposed marine managed areas

### 2.1 Six Barangay Councils able to use their knowledge of marine ecology, cultural and socioeconomic issues related to MPAs to develop useful management measures by EOP

On February 4, 2023, the project team conducted a presentation in Sitio Lakdayan, Barangay Cheey, Municipality of Busuanga. The presentation included an introduction to the establishment of a Marine Protected Area, which was an essential component in the project's resource management and conservation efforts. The team emphasized the importance of sustainable management of their coastal and marine areas, and how their traditional and historical knowledge played a significant role in achieving this goal. The event was a success, with a total of 32 participants, including the Apong Dakulo and the Maneg-Erekelen. Among the participants, 25 were women and 7 were men, all of whom directly depend on the marine resources in their barangay for sustenance and livelihood. The majority of the women are engaged in gleaning for family consumption, while the men are mostly engaged in hook and line fishing and netting. The team is optimistic that this presentation will encourage the community to actively participate in the project's efforts towards sustainable resource management and conservation.

### 2.2 At least 600 fisherfolk (at least 50% women) able to understand the reasoning and importance of marine resource management regulations with hands-on experience of the success of existing IMMAs in the region.

C3 Philippines has been actively conducting invitational meetings to present the Project to various members of the tribal community (Figure 3-8). These meetings included an initial presentation on basic ecology, the importance of sociocultural heritage, and traditional marine resource use and conservation methods. All of this information is intended to prepare the communities, particularly those who engage in fishing and gleaning activities, for the establishment or reactivation of the marine protected area and the control measures that will be implemented.

During each discussion, C3 Philippines provided an interactive demonstration of the spill-over effect from MPAs, which helped participants understand how MPAs work. To give them a better picture of the MPA, a demonstration was carried out using an empty glass to represent the habitat and colored water to represent the marine resources. This was done to demonstrate the



spill-over and immigration and migration of fish in a core zone. Furthermore, a short introduction on MPA zoning was also presented. These interactive demonstrations helped the participants to visualize the benefits of MPAs and how they can play a significant role in the conservation of marine resources.



**Figure 3-8 Sitio Lakdayan, Barangay Cheey, Municipality of Busuanga**

*2.3 Six Barangay councils have access to the required legal support to develop legal instruments for the gazetting of 6 IMMAs.*

To be developed early in year 2.

**3. Coordinated marketing plans developed for traditional crafts to improve incomes of communities involved in six marine areas**

*3.1 120 women trained in the production of quality handicrafts*

To be developed early in year 2. Some initial discussions have been conducted (Figure 3-9).

*3.2 Handicrafts on sale and generating significant income for indigenous women*

To be developed early in year 2.

*3.3 Strong online presence (>20 visitors day-1 by EOP) to promote marketing throughout the Philippines and overseas*

*To be developed early in year 2.*



Figure 3-9 Indigenous people traditional crafts in Barangay Malawig, Coron Palawan

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

The incorporation of traditional knowledge into marine management plans is critical for the sustainable management of Tagbanua ancestral waters in six targeted sites. This is reflected in policy indicator 0.1, which explicitly outlines the implications of traditional knowledge in every marine management plan. A comprehensive consultation process and courtesy meetings were held with the Tagbanua communities in Busuanga and Coron Municipality, as well as with local partners to secure their consent and support for the project. The involvement of indigenous peoples (IPs) was identified as a common issue during the planning and establishment of locally-managed marine protected areas (MPAs), as well as other development projects. Thus, the project seeks to increase the involvement of IPs in the planning and implementation of such projects, while integrating traditional ecological practices and social beliefs.

The project aims to increase the number of legally-gazetted indigenous managed marine areas from 19 to 25 by 2024, as stated in policy indicator 0.2. The Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) of Busuanga and Coron have expressed their support for the project through a resolution endorsing C3 Philippines and Darwin Initiative project to the National Commission of Indigenous People (NCIP).

Socioeconomic indicators, such as livelihood diversity, are also important in measuring the success of the project. Policy indicator 0.3 aims to increase the livelihood diversity of women in the target communities from 1 to >1.2 household-1 by EOP. The FishRight project implemented by C3 Philippines has capacitated fishermen's wives in financial literacy, and the Community-managed Savings and Credit Association (COMSCA) has provided additional income opportunities. Additionally, the project has facilitated the identification of traditional crafts as livelihood opportunities for the communities.

The biodiversity indicators in policy indicators 0.4-0.6 aim to preserve and enhance the marine ecosystem in the targeted sites. Policy indicator 0.4 seeks to achieve no net loss of live coral cover, mangroves, and seagrasses by EOP. The monitoring of habitat surveys in corals, mangroves, seagrasses, and important economic marine species is done regularly through C3 Philippines, in partnership with FishRight, IKI-CMS, and others. This survey includes Drove surveys, Simultaneous Dugong Monitoring (SDM), Dugong sightings, Community marine mammal stranding and response, Seagrass Survey using seagrasswatch method, mangrove rehabilitation and fish surveys. Policy indicator 0.5 aims to increase the biomass of economically important fish stocks by 5% and reduce the use of destructive fishing gears from

30.2 mt/km<sup>2</sup> to 31.7 mt/km<sup>2</sup> by EOP. Policy indicator 0.6 aims to increase the sightings of endangered species such as dugongs and sea turtles by 10% from baseline to EOP, while recording 10% fewer deaths.

Overall, the project's focus on traditional ecological knowledge, community involvement, and sustainable development, in addition to the use of various indicators, positions it to achieve its targets and make a positive impact on the Tagbanua communities and their ancestral waters.

### **3.4 Monitoring of assumptions**

The project assumptions remain valid and hold true. The Tagbanua community maintains their receptiveness towards conservation researchers and marine resource management initiatives. The Barangay councils continue to show enthusiasm for the establishment of marine managed areas, and the traditional crafts produced by the community remain of a sufficient standard to compete in the open market. The project sites have not been impacted by severe weather events such as typhoons, and the Tagbanua-C3 partnership remains strong. Additionally, the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources have demonstrated their ability to effectively act on policy recommendations and integrate them into wider management programs, while political will remains high for inclusion of Indigenous rights in protected area management. Finally, the Barangay councils continue to offer their support and provide adequate facilities for meetings, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources continues to support the project. The growth of sustainable domestic tourism in the Calamianes region, which is currently recovering rapidly from the Covid pandemic, and the sustained online demand for the Tagbanua's handicrafts also provide additional positive indicators for the project's success.

### **3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction**

#### ***Impact***

#### ***Marine resources managed sustainably to support food security in the Philippines while preserving local indigenous customs and traditions***

The needs of indigenous communities in the management of marine resources have been discussed in detail with relevant stakeholders and a clear action plan for the project has been forged. This is the first time that indigenous communities needs have been systematically included in Marine Protected Area development in the Philippines.

## **4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements**

**CBD:** The Calamianes host three of the Philippines Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). In particular, the project will directly contribute to the following targets in the Philippines NBSAP: No. 3 By 2028, there will be no net loss in presence and area distribution of live coral cover, mangrove and seagrasses. No. 8 By 2028, fish stocks of economically important species will be maintained. No. 9 By 2028, there will be an annual increase of at least 5% in biodiversity conservation related jobs (ecotourism, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem restoration). No. 12 By 2028, capacity for biodiversity conservation of public and private sector groups in terrestrial and marine PAs/KBAs will be strengthened. No. 20 By 2028, there will be a 20% increase from 2015 levels in the coverage of established MPAs/sanctuaries across various aquatic habitats.

**Nagoya Protocol:** the proposed project will empower indigenous Tagbanua in the control of their marine biodiversity genetic resources and the associated traditional knowledge through the development of legally-recognized management and access plans for their ancestral waters.

**CMS:** the proposed IMMA sites harbour numerous CMS-relevant species including sea turtles, whale sharks, dugongs and various cetaceans. Since 2011, C3 PHILIPPINES has been working closely with the CMS dugong memorandum of understanding to develop dugong conservation activities in the Philippines.

SDGs: the proposed project directly supports goal 14 (Life below water) by focussing on the marine environment and addressing threats such as overfishing, habitat degradation and loss of blue carbon sinks. The proposed project also indirectly supports goal 1 (No poverty) by diversifying livelihoods in communities that are currently highly dependent on a single unsustainable livelihood (fishing).

The Philippines have also ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2006) and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1985), both of which promote engaging with and protecting local communities and their intangible and biocultural heritage for the sustainable development of the region.

The Ocean Decade's Cultural Heritage Framework Programme (CHFP): CHFP is the first, UN-level, global platform bringing maritime heritage together with ocean science and policy stakeholders. This translates into activities such as showcasing integration of heritage and ocean science; facilitating co-design; managing data and knowledge; developing capacity; enabling greater diversity and representation; encouraging ocean literacy, public engagement, and outreach; and evaluating impact. C3's partnership with CHFP will bring the results of the project to a multidisciplinary ocean audience whereby the methods and lessons learnt can be shared and replicated internationally.

## **5. Project support to poverty reduction**

The proposed Darwin Project aims to address the biocultural gap in conservation efforts on Busuanga island, Philippines, by conducting sociocultural research into traditional knowledge of Tagbanua and providing capacity building and legal support to six barangays proposing marine managed areas. The expected beneficiaries of the project are the Tagbanua communities living in the six target IMMAs, who rely on marine resources for their livelihoods and cultural practices.

The project is expected to have direct poverty impacts through increased household income for Tagbanua women involved in traditional crafts, who will receive training in quality control and have access to a larger market. Additionally, fisherfolk from the target communities will be trained to monitor the IMMA, report infractions, and record evidence on their mobile phones, which may improve their personal security and income.

While some poverty impacts are direct, others are indirect, such as improved ecosystem services and increased awareness about the value of wildlife, which may contribute to poverty alleviation in the long term. The project also emphasizes the importance of including traditional knowledge and indigenous rights when designing management interventions, which may lead to more sustainable and equitable resource management in the future.

Notable achievements this year include conducting sociocultural research into traditional knowledge of Tagbanua and developing policy recommendations for inclusion in each IMMA management plan. Additionally, capacity building and legal support have been delivered to six barangays proposing marine managed areas, and plans have been developed to improve the incomes of communities involved in traditional crafts through marketing and quality control training.

## **6. Gender equality and social inclusion**

Reducing gender inequality is our priority and the benefits of the project are targeted at embedding the roles of women in the sustainable development of each site. Our work in the development of the IMMA at Calauit <https://news.mongabay.com/2020/10/on-a-philippine-island-indigenous-women-get-their-say-on-marine-conservation/>, was lauded nationally for its approach that broke through established Filipino gender roles, particularly when considering indigenous peoples such as the Tagbanua. We will look to build on these successes by ensuring that women and their contribution along the whole value-chain of marine resource use

is explicitly considered. In particular, our previous work has highlighted the contributions of women to coastal fisheries, and recognition of this among the tribal elders. It is well known that engaging women and other vulnerable groups, such as the youth, is essential for effective management of marine resources. It is clear that traditional methods of gender quotas in high level management can encourage the nominal inclusion of vulnerable groups in society. Rather, by creating resilience and self-reliance through empowering and extending the roles of women from the ground up, we can change the narrative of vulnerability.

Our Darwin Project is committed to promoting equality between individuals of different gender and social characteristics. Our project recognizes the importance of involving all members of the community, including women, men, and indigenous peoples, in decision-making processes related to marine resource management. We have taken proactive measures to ensure that all participants have equal opportunities to participate in project activities and have their voices heard (Figure 6-1).

In terms of engaging participants in a meaningful way, our project has emphasized the importance of intensive awareness and training programs for stakeholders so that they fully appreciate their roles and responsibilities. We have supported IP organizations to ensure their legitimacy as partners and active participation. We have also developed formal enforcement plans in partnership with communities and have included key strategies and policies into wider municipal management frameworks and policies. These efforts have helped to ensure that all participants are engaged in a meaningful way and that their input is valued in the decision-making process.



**Figure 6-1 Project activities showing active participation of women**

In terms of evidence, our logframe includes indicators related to gender equity, including the percentage of men and women trained in marine ecology and the percentage of women who are earning an income through traditional crafts. We will monitor and evaluate these indicators throughout the project to ensure that we are making progress in promoting gender equity.

Additionally, we will collect qualitative feedback from participants to ensure that they feel engaged in a meaningful way and that their input is valued.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board <sup>1</sup> .	4 women out of 7 project implementation
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women <sup>2</sup> .	100 %

**7. Monitoring and evaluation**

During the first year of the project, we have implemented various systems and processes internally to monitor and evaluate the project's progress. We recognized that a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework is critical for assessing the project's impact and making informed decisions to achieve the project's outcomes. We measure the indicators through various methods, such as surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, and observation.

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<sup>1</sup> A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

<sup>2</sup> Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

## **Policy Indicators**

### ***0.1 Explicit section on implications of traditional knowledge incorporated into every marine management plan for Tagbanua ancestral waters at 6 target sites by EOP***

A series of consultations and courtesy meetings was done with the communities in Busuanga and Coron Municipality, and with local partners in support of project implementation and approval of consent of the tribal leaders. The project managed to secure 5 consent issued by the Maneg-erekelen (tribal elders), IPs and IPO. Through these, the project identified common issue that the IPs was not properly involved and represented during the planning and establishment of locally-managed marine protected areas (MPAs) and development of MPA management plans declared under the local government, as well as other development projects with little integration of traditional ecological practices and social beliefs in the operation and management plans. The project was in on-going collaboration with IPs, IPO and stakeholders in the implementation that aims to incorporate traditional knowledge of Tagbanuas in the making of locally managed protected areas.

### ***0.2 Increase in number of legally-gazetted indigenous managed marine areas from 19 to 25 by 2024***

Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) of Busuanga and Coron show their support to the project in means of resolution endorsing C3 Philippines and Darwin Initiative project to the National Commission of Indigenous People (NCIP)

## **Socioeconomic Indicators**

### ***0.3 Increase in livelihood diversity, particularly of women in target communities from 1 to >1.2 household<sup>1</sup> by EOP***

Continued support and community intervention of other NGOs and stakeholders in IP communities. FishRight project implemented by C3 Philippines was able to help women (fishermen's wives) to capacitate in financial literacy and additional extra income when it comes to Community-managed Savings and Credit Association (COMSCA). Starting March 2023 - C3 Philippines, with the Darwin Initiative project, recently facilitated the identification of traditional crafts as a livelihood of the communities.

## **Biodiversity Indicators**

### ***0.4 No net loss of live coral cover, mangrove and seagrasses by EOP***

### ***0.5 5% Increase in biomass of economically important fish stocks and reduction in use of destructive fishing gears at target sites from 30.2mt/km<sup>2</sup> to 31.7 mt/km<sup>2</sup> by EOP***

### ***0.6 10% Increase in sightings of endangered species such as dugongs (from 190 to 209 by EOP) and sea turtles and 10% fewer recorded deaths from baseline to EOP***

### ***0.5 5% Increase in biomass of economically important fish stocks and reduction in use of destructive fishing gears at target sites from baseline by EOP***

Through C3 Philippines in partnership with FishRight, IKI-CMS, and others the habitat surveys in corals, mangrove, seagrass and important and economic marine species are regularly monitored in our communities. This survey includes, Drove surveys, Simultaneous Dugong Monitoring (SDM), Dugong sightings, Community marine mammal stranding and response, Seagrass Survey using Seagrasswatch method, mangrove rehabilitation and fish surveys (Figure 7-1).



**Figure 7-1 Preparing to monitor biodiversity indicators**

Monitoring and Evaluation is a key component of the proposed project and so we have a full time member of staff assigned exclusively to monitoring and evaluation (Shalom Pareja) who follow the progress of the project against the logframe and budget. Regular coordination between the Finance Manager, and Programme Manager ensure alignment of the implementation progress against project expenditure. Regular Budget : Actual analyses are conducted every fortnight by the Finance Manager and adjustments made as required. An annual external audit is conducted at the project and organisational levels and results are fed back to the Board of Directors as well as project staff, with any recommendations integrated into the following year's planning.

As part of C3 Philippines' policy, staff are subject to quarterly performance reviews to ensure that everyone is delivering on their respective roles and responsibilities. Staff training and capacity building is also logged every quarter to ensure investment in individuals in terms of professional and academic training opportunities.

Pre-and post-event evaluation is regularly conducted to ascertain the impact of actions and where required feedback is taken on from stakeholders in how improvements can be made in planning and implementation. Attendance numbers, gender tracking and meeting logs are all recorded on Drive and accessible to all project staff to ensure that targets are met and documentation is efficient to compile quarterly.

Monitoring of external project communications is also conducted to track the impact on wider audiences at the national and international levels.

Quarterly analysis of socio-cultural and ecological data is conducted to track changes in indicators throughout the lifetime of the project and implement mediation measures in a timely and effective manner.

## **8. Lessons learnt**

During the first year of the project, we have identified several lessons learned that we believe will be valuable for the continuous improvement of our project. Firstly, we found that our communication and collaboration with our partners and stakeholders were effective in achieving our project goals. We established clear lines of communication and worked collaboratively to resolve any issues that arose.



During the implementation of the project some challenges in securing the FPIC permit from the partner communities considering the limitation on communications, transportation and community schedules with their tradition with regards to fiesta, foundations, and other celebrations. The elders who are living on the far and remote side of the communities are sometimes difficult to reach and invite to community meetings to attain the proper quorum required to pass resolutions and agreements.

In terms of recommendations, we would advise others undertaking similar projects to invest significant time and resources into stakeholder engagement and communication. It is crucial to establish clear expectations and lines of communication from the outset, to ensure that everyone is aligned and working towards the same goals.

Furthermore, we recommend that other projects take a more agile and adaptive approach, allowing for flexibility and responsiveness to changing circumstances. This includes regularly revisiting and updating project plans and timelines, as well as continuously monitoring and evaluating project progress.

To build this learning into the project and plans, we have established a regular review process to reflect on lessons learned and make any necessary adjustments. We will also document our findings and recommendations, to ensure that they are accessible to future project teams and stakeholders. Overall, we believe that by taking a proactive approach to learning and improvement, we can achieve better outcomes for our project and the communities we serve.

## **9. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

NA

## **10. Risk Management**

Over the last 12 months of implementing the C3 Philippines project, we have successfully mitigated risks related to operating and managing the project, including identifying, accessing, and controlling potential threats and uncertainties. This was achieved through actions taken from the project design based on the identified risks listed in the risk register.

However, some new risks have emerged related to communication and scheduling activities with community partners. We have addressed these risks by seeking support from other stakeholders involved in the project.

## **11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

The main issue that we have faced is the lengthy process involved in obtaining FPIC from the indigenous communities that we are working with, which was often delayed because the relevant indigenous councils only met infrequently and so opportunities to present the project were limited. However, as noted in Table 3-1 we now have full consent from 5 / 6 of the communities and although the remaining community (Decabobo) has decided to focus on obtaining their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Ties (CADT), we will continue to work closely with them to include them in as many project activities as possible. The National Council for Indigenous Peoples has recommended that we work in a different community (Tagumpay) and so we are currently instigating contact to involve them early in year 2.

## **12. Sustainability and legacy**

The project has gained significant visibility within the Philippines, particularly in the Calamianes islands. Throughout the year, C3 Philippines has been working closely with local government units, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to promote the project and its objectives. This has included regular meetings with officials, participation in conferences and events, and dissemination of project materials through social media and other channels. As a result, there has been increasing interest and capacity-building among local stakeholders, including improved knowledge and awareness of biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and ecotourism.

To promote open access to project information, C3 Philippines has developed a website dedicated to the project that provides regular updates on progress, activities, and results. The website also includes a blog, photo gallery, and downloadable resources, such as reports, brochures, and manuals. Additionally, the project team has organized several public events, such as community workshops and training sessions, to engage stakeholders and provide opportunities for feedback and participation.

The sustainable benefits post-project remain valid, and the project team is committed to ensuring their continuation beyond the project period. To this end, the team is working closely with local partners to develop and implement long-term sustainability plans that aim to strengthen the capacity of local stakeholders, enhance community-based management of natural resources, and promote sustainable livelihoods. These plans include the establishment of community-led conservation initiatives, such as marine protected areas, and the development of sustainable tourism activities that generate income for local communities while promoting environmental conservation.

To ensure a sustained legacy, the project team is working with local partners to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan that will track progress towards project outcomes and inform future interventions. The plan includes the establishment of baseline data, regular monitoring of project activities, and evaluation of project impacts on ecological, social, and economic indicators. Additionally, the team is working to promote knowledge-sharing and capacity-building among local stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability of project outcomes. This includes the development of training programs and capacity-building initiatives that aim to enhance the knowledge and skills of local stakeholders in biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and ecotourism. Discuss the profile of the project within the country/ies and what efforts have been made during the year to promote the work.

Furthermore, C3 Philippines have been exploring to various incentive systems to support the capacity-building programs and community empowerment through training workshops, collaborative partnerships with various existing CSOs within its project site to avoid overlapping of interventions and to maximize support to the community partners, and most importantly, C3 Philippines is among the few site-based NGO in Palawan and is committed to the delivery of its commitment to its partners.

C3 Philippines' new project funded by USAID - Gerry Roxas Foundation focusing on supply chain and sustainable markets will support IP partner communities in ensuring the market for their fish catch. The project will also support the protection efforts of the IP communities in their ancestral water through training and other capacity-building activities such as community watch and reporting of illegal activities in their areas.

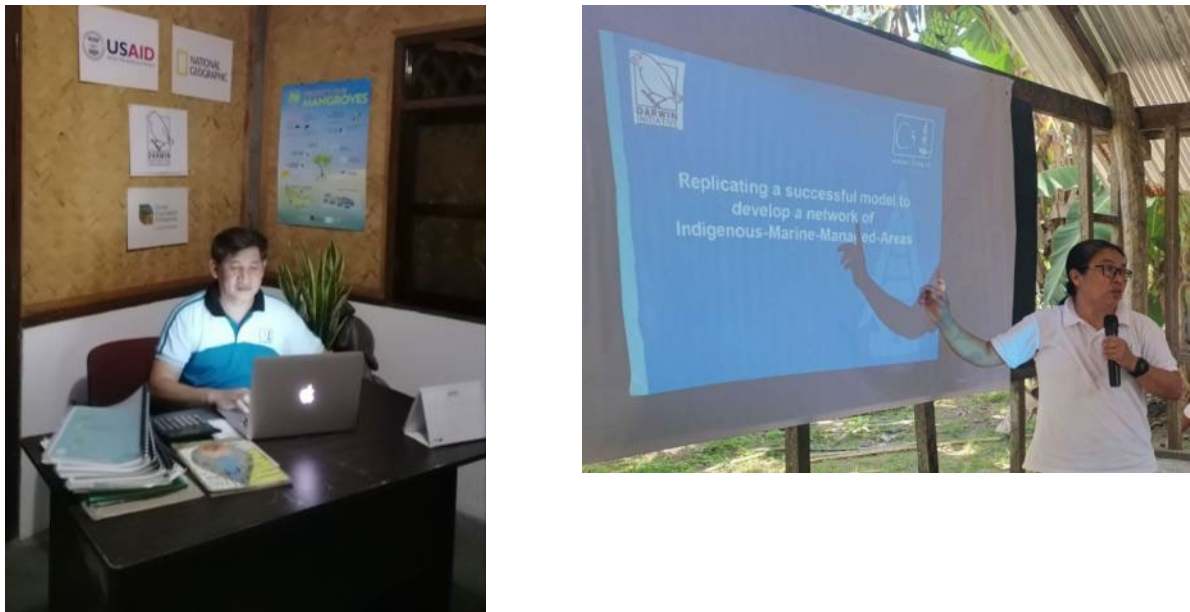
Further partnerships with the University of Edinburgh are aiming to collaborate on follow-up funding to to introduce heritage equity into the management of indigenous-managed-marine-protected-areas (IMMAs) in the Philippines, to protect and conserve two disappearing entities: the communities of the Tagbanua Tribe, and the WWII Japanese Shipwrecks within their ancestral waters. This project would build upon the work done within this project to add further alternative livelihoods to the Tagbanua peoples; document the history and heritage of the WWII wrecks from the viewpoint of the Tagbanua peoples, and to understand and conserve the unique ecosystems existing as part of these biocultural niches.

The increasing expression of interest for a collaborative partnership not only from the community but from the local government units. At present, C3 has been invited by several local government units in the mainland to help with their coastal resource management plan and MPA management plan.

### **13. Darwin Initiative identity**

During the past year, the project made efforts to publicize the Darwin Initiative by using its logo on project materials such as reports, presentations, and posters. The project also mentioned

the funding source in its outreach and communication activities, including social media posts, website, and press releases. In addition, the project participated in events and workshops organized by the Darwin Initiative and other conservation organizations to showcase its work and promote funding opportunities (Figure 13-1).



**Figure 13-1 Darwin logo visibility (i) at the project office and (ii) at a community presentation**

The project also highlighted the UK's commitment to biodiversity conservation through its support for the Darwin Initiative. The Darwin Initiative funding was recognized as a distinct project with a clear identity, and the project team ensured that the Darwin Initiative's branding guidelines were followed. There is some level of understanding of the Darwin Initiative within the host country, particularly among conservation organizations, government agencies, and academic institutions. However, the initiative may not be widely known among the general public.

The project has social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook, and has linked back to the Darwin Initiative/Biodiversity Challenge Funds and its social media channels in its posts. The project team has found social media to be an effective way to reach a wider audience and engage with stakeholders.

The environmental project filmmaker 'Blue Quest' will visit the project May 16-18 2023 to make a film about the project's successes and publicise the project internationally at various film festivals. The Darwin Initiative will be credited appropriately throughout.

#### **14. Safeguarding**

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes
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Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes <i>Shalom Joy L. Pareja</i> [REDACTED]
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy, and Child Protection Policy (18 February to 4 March 2023)
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 100% Planned: 100%
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. NA	
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.  <b>C3 PHILIPPINES Schedules for safeguarding training in 2022.</b> January - February Week 1-2: Introduction to Safeguarding Week 3-4: Child Protection Policies and Procedures  March - April Week 1-2: Recognizing and Responding to Abuse Week 3-4 Reporting and Responding to concerns  May-June Week 1-2: Preventing Abuse and Maintaining Safe Environments Week 3-4: Code of Conduct and Ethical Procedure  July-August Week 1-2: Safeguarding in Specific complex (e.g., sports, education, health) Week 3-4: Case Management and Support for Survivors  September - October Week 1-2: Review of Safeguarding Policies and Procedures Week 3-4: Safeguarding Training for new staff  November-December Week 1-2: Safeguarding training for Volunteers and Partners Week 3-4: Evaluation and Monitoring of Safeguarding policies.  The schedule includes a mix of theoretical and practical training, covering a range of topics related to safeguarding. It is also includes ongoing review and evaluation to ensure that policies and practices are up to date and effective.	

## 15. Project expenditure

Table 15-1 Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				All budget lines spent as expected
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
<b>TOTAL</b>	£84,822	£84,822	0	

Table 15-2 Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

## 16. Outstanding achievements

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

### Strengthening Financial Literacy and Economic Sustainability among Women and Indigenous Communities

During the first year of the Darwin Initiative project, C3 Philippines has made remarkable strides in promoting financial literacy and economic sustainability among women and indigenous communities in the Calamiane Islands. One of their most significant achievements is the implementation of a Community-managed Savings and Credit Association (COMSCA), which aims to increase resilience and improve livelihoods among households engaged in the fisheries, ensuring that women and other marginalized groups benefit and participate as equals.

An assessment conducted back in 2020 revealed several issues and problems faced by the communities, including strained relationships between husbands and wives due to declining fish catch, women's limited participation in decision-making, and a lack of awareness of policies that promote women's participation in fisheries management. Additionally, the majority of the members of the local development council were men, reflecting a belief that men have more knowledge and skills than women.

Traditionally, Busuanga women have performed both reproductive and productive work in household and fisheries management, dedicating their time to taking care of their families, fishing with their husbands, and participating in the post-harvest value chain. However, they often face obstacles that prevent them from fully participating in the decision-making process and accessing financial resources.


To address these challenges, C3 Philippines introduced the COMSCA financial scheme, starting on Calawit Island in 2020 and expanding to three additional coastal communities, primarily made up of women and wives of fisherfolk. COMSCA allows a group of people living in rural areas to manage their own savings and credit system, promoting financial independence and economic sustainability.

The success of the COMSCA initiative is due in part to the regular and transparent financial reports, the responsible performance of all officers, the trust of the members in the process, the discipline of each member, and the weekly activities conducted with perfect attendance. Through this program, C3 Philippines has enabled women and other marginalized groups to actively participate in decision-making processes and access financial resources, promoting their economic independence and sustainability.

C3 Philippines' outstanding achievement in strengthening financial literacy and economic sustainability among women and indigenous communities in the Calamiane Islands is a model for other organizations working in similar communities. It demonstrates the importance of addressing gender and economic disparities in fisheries management, promoting financial literacy and independence, and empowering marginalized groups to participate fully in decision-making processes.

**Table 16-1 Image, Video or Graphic Information:**

<b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption, country and credit</b>	<b>Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
Image		Traditional Crafts livelihood Identification in Barangay Turada, Coron Palawan, C3 Philippines, Busuanga, Palawan	Facebook and Twitter @c3update	Yes
Image		Community Resource Mapping and Sociocultural Research, C3 Philippines, Busuanga, Palawan	Facebook and Twitter @c3update	Yes
Image		Community Consultation in NTCQ, Calawit Island, Busuanga, Palawan - C3 Philippines and	Facebook and Twitter @c3update	Yes

		University of Edinburgh		
Image		COMSCA updating meeting in Calawit Island, Busuanga, Palawan - C3 Philippines	Facebook and Twitter @c3update	Yes

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Marine resources managed sustainably to support food security in the Philippines while preserving local indigenous customs and traditions</p>		<p>The needs of indigenous communities in the management of marine resources have been discussed in detail with relevant stakeholders and a clear action plan for the project has been forged.</p>	
<p><b>Outcome</b> Effective indigenous marine managed areas in the Calamianes increased to 380ha</p>	<p><b>POLICY INDICATORS</b></p> <p>0.1 Explicit section on implications of traditional knowledge incorporated into every marine management plan for Tagbanua ancestral waters at 6 target sites by EOP</p> <p>0.2 Increase in number of legally-gazetted indigenous managed marine areas from 19 to 25 by 2024</p> <p><b>SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS</b></p> <p>0.3 Increase in livelihood diversity, particularly of women in target communities from 1 to &gt;1.2 household<sup>-1</sup> by EOP</p> <p><b>BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS</b></p> <p>0.4 No net loss of live coral cover, mangrove and seagrasses by EOP</p> <p>0.5 5% Increase in biomass of economically important fish stocks and reduction in use of destructive fishing gears at target sites from 30.2mt/km<sup>2</sup> to <sup>†</sup>31.7 mt/km<sup>2</sup> by EOP</p> <p>0.6 10% Increase in sightings of endangered species such as dugongs (from 190 to 209 by EOP) and sea turtles and 10% fewer recorded deaths from baseline to EOP</p>	<p>0.1 A comprehensive consultation process and courtesy meetings were held with Tagbanua communities and local partners to secure their consent and support for the project.</p> <p>0.2 The Barangay Local Government Units of Busuanga and Coron have expressed their support for the project through a resolution endorsing C3 Philippines and Darwin Initiative project to the National Commission of Indigenous People.</p> <p>0.3 Community-managed Savings and Credit Association have provided additional income opportunities for the communities, while traditional crafts have been identified as livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>0.4 Regular habitat surveys and monitoring are conducted by C3 Philippines, FishRight, IKI-CMS, and others to assess the status of corals, mangroves, seagrasses, and important economic marine species.</p> <p>0.5 The project implements various measures such as the promotion of sustainable fishing practices and responsible value chains to achieve this goal.</p> <p>0.6 The project involves monitoring and protection measures for endangered species in the target areas.</p>	<p>0.1 Completion and publication of sociocultural research to allow the findings to be integrated into management</p> <p>0.2 Cooperation with Indigenous communities and the NCIP to develop their IMMAs</p> <p>0.3 Strong focus on traditional crafts marketing and sales</p> <p>0.4 – 0.6 Continue surveys to monitor biodiversity indicators and ensure sufficient progress is being made</p>



<p><b>Output 1.</b> Sociocultural research conducted into traditional knowledge of Tagbanua and implications for marine resource management at six target IMMA sites</p>	<p>1.1 Increased scientific knowledge on the integration of traditional indigenous knowledge into marine resource management (at least 1 peer reviewed publication and comprehensive, publically-available technical report by EoP)</p> <p>1.2 Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and Bureau for Aquatic Resources fully aware of traditional management issues associated with IMMAs through training of at least 10 staff (50% women by EOP)</p> <p>1.3 Legislation ensuring that indigenous issues must be incorporated into any marine resource management intervention in ancestral areas</p>	<p>Peer reviewed paper currently in prep in collaboration with University of California Santa Cruz</p> <p>Initial meetings completed to provide information on the aims of the project and plan for collaboration throughout all stages of the project instigated</p> <p>To be completed in year 2</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 .Sociocultural surveys to assess opportunities to integrate Tagbanua biocultural heritage into marine resource management</p>	<p>FPIC obtained for 5/6 communities</p> <p>Team trained in sociocultural research approaches and methods</p> <p>Data collected at 1/6 communities</p>		<p>Obtain FPIC for one more community</p> <p>Follow-up online training and discussion (May 2023)</p> <p>Collect data for the remaining communities (May-July 2023)</p>
<p>Activity 1.2, 1.2 Workshop with decision makers to present findings and suggestions for inclusion in management plans</p>	<p>Initial introductory meetings conducted</p>		<p>Follow up meetings to present data from sociocultural surveys (August 2023)</p>
<p>Activity 1.3 Follow-up sociocultural surveys to assess level of integration into management interventions</p>			<p>Planned for Y3</p>
<p>Activity 1.4 Workshop with policy-makers to present project successes and initiate process of including indigenous issues into marine resource management</p>			<p>Planned for Y3</p>
<p><b>Output 2.</b> Capacity building and legal support delivered to six barangays who have proposed marine managed areas</p>	<p>2.1 Six Barangay Councils able to use their knowledge of marine ecology, cultural and socioeconomic issues related to MPAs to develop useful management measures by EOP with at least 60 individuals (30 by end of Y1) including 60% women with an in-depth knowledge of local marine ecology, cultural and socioeconomic issues</p> <p>2.2 At least 600 fisherfolk (300 by end of Y1; at least 50% women) able to understand the reasoning and importance of marine resource management regulations with hands-on experience of the success of existing IMMAs in the region.</p>	<p>Initial capacity building of Barangay councils has been conducted with over 30 individuals present at workshops</p> <p>Wider community has received some awareness raising activities with at least 100 fisherfolk able to understand the reasoning and importance of marine resource management regulations</p>	

	2.3 Six Barangay councils have access to the required legal support to develop legal instruments for the gazetting of 6 IMMAs by EOP.	Planned for Y2	
Activity 2.1 Training provided to Local Government Units (LGUs) in marine ecology and conservation		Initial training conducted	Further training planned in May-July 2023
Activity 2.2. Wide-reaching public awareness-raising programmes and exchange visits conducted focussing on key environmental issues in target Barangays		One awareness and training event conducted	Further events planned in May-July 2023
Activity 2.3 Legal training provided to LGUs in relating to the establishment of Indigenous Marine Managed Areas			To be started in Y2
Activity 2.4 Development of IMMA management plans			To be started in Y2
<b>Output 3.</b> Coordinated marketing plans developed for traditional crafts to improve incomes of communities involved in marine areas	<p>3.1 120 women trained in the production of quality handicrafts by EOP</p> <p>3.2 Handicrafts on sale and generating significant income for indigenous women with a comprehensive marketing plan and sales records, generating at least \$7,500 per annum</p> <p>3.3 Strong online presence (&gt;20 visitors day<sup>-1</sup> by EOP) to promote marketing throughout the Philippines and overseas</p>	<p>Planned for Y2</p> <p>Women becoming more financially literate in target Barangays</p> <p>Planned for Y2</p>	
Activity 3.1 Livelihood training workshops in target Baranagays		Continuation of financial literacy training activities	Planned for September 2023
Activity 3.2 Development of marketing programme in collaboration with Calamianes Association of Tourism Establishments		Initial meetings conducted	Further development throughout Y2
Activity 3.3 Online marketing programme put in place alongside logistics to support online sale of handicrafts.		Initial research conducted	Further development throughout Y2

## Annex 2: Project's full current logframe

Project Summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Marine resources managed sustainably to support food security in the Philippines while preserving local indigenous customs and traditions</p>			
<p>Outcome: Effective indigenous marine managed areas in the Calamianes increased to 380ha</p>	<p><b>POLICY INDICATORS</b> 0.1 Explicit section on implications of traditional knowledge incorporated into every marine management plan for Tagbanua ancestral waters at 6 target sites by EOP</p> <p>0.2 Increase in number of legally-gazetted indigenous managed marine areas from 19 to 25 by 2024</p> <p><b>SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS</b> 0.3 Increase in livelihood diversity, particularly of women in target communities from 1 to &gt;1.2 household<sup>-1</sup> by EOP</p> <p><b>BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS</b> 0.4 No net loss of live coral cover, mangrove and seagrasses by EOP</p> <p>0.5 5% Increase in biomass of economically important fish stocks and reduction in use of destructive fishing gears at target sites from 30.2mt/km<sup>2</sup> to <sup>†</sup> 31.7 mt/km<sup>2</sup> by EOP</p> <p>0.6 10% Increase in sightings of endangered species such as dugongs (from 190 to 209 by EOP) and sea turtles and 10% fewer recorded deaths from baseline to EOP</p>	<p>0.1 Finalized IMMA management plans submitted to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and National Council for Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>0.2 Legal documentation as submitted and approved by barangay councils, GIS database submitted to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development</p> <p>0.3 Socioeconomic surveys of target sites (baseline provided through FishRight Project and our own historical data)</p> <p>0.4 Habitat (coral, mangrove, seagrass) surveys of target sites (through Forest Foundation Philippines project)</p> <p>0.5 Underwater surveys of coral reef fish biomass, landing site surveys and gear surveys (Through FishRight project)</p> <p>0.6 Annual simultaneous community dugong observation surveys (since the 1980s with University of the Philippines)</p> <p>Drone surveys for dugong and sea turtles (since 2019 with Griffiths University, Australia)</p> <p>Community marine mammal and sea turtle</p>	<p>Tagbanua maintain their openness to conservation researchers and marine resource management</p> <p>Barangay councils maintain enthusiasm for marine managed area establishment</p> <p>Traditional crafts are of sufficient quality to compete on the open market</p> <p>Severe weather events such as typhoons do not disrupt the project sites</p>

		stranding reporting system (since 2010)	
<p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>1. Sociocultural research conducted into traditional knowledge of Tagbanua and implications for marine resource management at six target IMMA sites</p>	<p>1.1 Increased scientific knowledge on the integration of traditional indigenous knowledge into marine resource management (at least 1 peer reviewed publication and comprehensive, publically-available technical report by EoP)</p> <p>1.2 Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and Bureau for Aquatic Resources fully aware of traditional management issues associated with IMMAs through training of at least 10 staff (50% women by EOP)</p> <p>1.3 Legislation ensuring that indigenous issues must be incorporated into any marine resource management intervention in ancestral areas</p>	<p>1.1 Dataset, interview transcripts, open access peer-reviewed paper, technical report</p> <p>1.2 Policy brief presented to PCSD and BFAR for potential replication at other sites in the Philippines, workshop participants evaluation report</p> <p>1.3 Workshop reports, legal documents</p>	<p>Tagbanua relationship with C3 continues to be strong</p> <p>Palawan Council for Sustainable Development / Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources can effectively act on policy recommendations and integrate them into wider management programmes</p> <p>Political will remains high for inclusion of Indigenous rights in protected area management</p>
<p>2. Capacity building and legal support delivered to six barangays who have proposed marine managed areas</p>	<p>2.1 Six Barangay Councils able to use their knowledge of marine ecology, cultural and socioeconomic issues related to MPAs to develop useful management measures by EOP with at least 60 individuals (30 by end of Y1) including 60% women with an in-depth knowledge of local marine ecology, cultural and socioeconomic issues</p> <p>2.2 At least 600 fisherfolk (300 by end of Y1; at least 50% women) able to understand the reasoning and importance of marine resource management regulations with hands-on experience of the success of existing IMMAs in the region.</p> <p>2.3 Six Barangay councils have access to the required legal support to develop legal instruments for the gazetting of 6 IMMAs by EOP.</p>	<p>2.1 - 2.2 -2.3 Workshop minutes and attendance lists, evaluation surveys, photographs, training materials</p> <p>2.2 Awareness event documentation and pre- and post-event evaluation surveys</p> <p>2.3 Finalized legal documentation for IMMAs signed off at national government level</p> <p>2.3 Frequency of reported infractions in managed areas</p>	<p>Barangay support continues and they are able to provide adequate facilities for meetings</p> <p>Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources continue to support the project</p>

<p>3. Coordinated marketing plans developed for traditional crafts to improve incomes of communities involved in six marine areas</p>	<p>3.2 120 women trained in the production of quality handicrafts by EOP</p> <p>Handicrafts on sale and generating significant income for indigenous women with a comprehensive marketing plan and sales records, generating at least \$7,500 per annum</p> <p>3.3 Strong online presence (&gt;20 visitors day<sup>-1</sup> by EOP) to promote marketing throughout the Philippines and overseas</p>	<p>3.1 Workshop minutes and attendance lists, photographs, training materials</p> <p>3.2 Marketing plan</p> <p>3.2 Sales accounts</p> <p>3.2 Photographs of items on sale</p> <p>3.3 Website tracking reports</p>	<p>Domestic tourism in the Calamianes continues to grow sustainably (currently recovering rapidly from Covid pandemic)</p> <p>Online demand for handicrafts is sustained</p>
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**Activities** (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

**Output 1** Sociocultural research conducted into traditional knowledge of Tagbanua and implications for marine resource management at six target IMMA sites

1.1 Sociocultural surveys to assess opportunities to integrate Tagbanua biocultural heritage into marine resource management

1.2 Workshop with decision makers to present findings and suggestions for inclusion in management plans

1.3 Follow-up sociocultural surveys to assess level of integration into management interventions

1.4 Workshop with policy-makers to present project successes and initiate process of including indigenous issues into marine resource management policy

**Output 2** Capacity building and legal support delivered to six barangays who have proposed Indigenous Marine Managed Areas

2.1 Training provided to Local Government Units (LGUs) in marine ecology and conservation

2.2 Wide-reaching public awareness-raising programmes and exchange visits conducted focussing on key environmental issues in target Barangays

2.3 Legal training provided to LGUs in relating to the establishment of Indigenous Marine Managed Areas

2.4 Development of IMMA management plans

**Output 3** Coordinated marketing plans developed for traditional crafts to improve incomes of communities involved in six marine areas

3.1 Livelihood training workshops in target Baranagays

3.2 Development of marketing programme in collaboration with Calamianes Association of Tourism Establishments

3.3 Online marketing programme put in place alongside logistics to support online sale of handicrafts.

## Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 0-1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-B01	0.1 Explicit section on implications of traditional knowledge incorporated into every marine management plan for Tagbanua ancestral waters at 6 target sites by EOP	Number of new/improved habitat management plans available and endorsed	Target sites	NA	0	0	6	0	6
DI-D01	0.2 Increase in number of legally-gazetted indigenous managed marine areas from 19 to 25 by 2024	Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices	Number	NA	19	19	25	19	25
DI-D16	0.3 Increase in livelihood diversity, particularly of women in target communities from 1 to >1.2 household <sup>-1</sup> by EOP	Number of households reporting improved livelihoods.	Livelihoods per household	NA	1	1	1.2	1	1.2
DI-E01	0.4 No net loss of live coral cover, mangrove and seagrasses by EOP	Ecosystem Degradation Avoided (ha)	% cover loss	Coral , mangrove, seagrass	0	0	0	0	0
DI-D04	0.5 5% Increase in biomass of economically important fish stocks and reduction in use of destructive fishing gears at target sites from 30.2mt/km <sup>2</sup> to <b>31.7</b> mt/km <sup>2</sup> by EOP	Stabilised/ improved species population (relative abundance/ distribution) within the project area.	mt/km <sup>2</sup>	NA	30.2	30.2	31.7	30.2	31.7
DI-E03	0.6 10% Increase in sightings of endangered species such as dugongs (from 190 to 209 by EOP) and sea turtles and 10% fewer recorded deaths from baseline to EOP	Status of Threatened Species	Number of sightings	Dugongs, sea turtles	190	200	209	190	209

**Table 0-2 Publications**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Type</b> (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	<b>Detail</b> (authors, year)	<b>Gender of Lead Author</b>	<b>Nationality of Lead Author</b>	<b>Publishers</b> (name, city)	<b>Available from</b> (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Replicating a successful model to develop a network of Indigenous-Marine-Managed-Areas: Integrating cultural heritage into MPA management in the Calamiane Islands	Academic Article	(preliminary) Holly, G.; Poonian, C; Ramilo, R.; Gallaron, C.	Female	Scottish	Target Journal: People and Nature, British Ecological Society	in-preparation
Culture, Nature, and Community in the Indigenous Populations of the Philippines: Neo-colonialism and Conservation	Blog Post	Holly, G.	Female	Scottish	Edinburgh Marine Archaeology	<a href="https://edmarinearch.com/2023/02/06/c3projectblog1/">https://edmarinearch.com/2023/02/06/c3projectblog1/</a>
Indigenous management of marine resources	Darwin Newsletter Article	Ramilo, R and Holly, G	Male	Filipino	Darwin Initiative	<a href="https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/assets/uploads/FINAL-Darwin-Newsletter-March-2023-A-Watershed-Moment_compressed.pdf">https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/assets/uploads/FINAL-Darwin-Newsletter-March-2023-A-Watershed-Moment_compressed.pdf</a>
Darwin Project Activities: Teaching, Consent, and Marine Cultural Heritage Mapping	Blog Post	Holly, G.	Female	Scottish	Edinburgh Marine Archaeology	<a href="https://edmarinearch.com/2023/02/09/c3projectblog2/">https://edmarinearch.com/2023/02/09/c3projectblog2/</a>
Heritage Threats:	Blog Post	Holly, G.	Female	Scottish	Edinburgh Marine	<a href="https://edmarinearch.com/">https://edmarinearch.com/</a>

<b>Title</b>	<b>Type</b> (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	<b>Detail</b> (authors, year)	<b>Gender of Lead Author</b>	<b>Nationality of Lead Author</b>	<b>Publishers</b> (name, city)	<b>Available from</b> (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)
Pearl Farming in the Philippines					Archaeology	2023/02/11/c3projectblog3 /
Darwin Project Activities: Priorities, Threats, and Marine Cultural Heritage Knowledge Gaps	Blog Post	Holly, G.	Female	Scottish	Edinburgh Marine Archaeology	<a href="https://edmarinearch.com/2023/02/17/c3projectblog4/">https://edmarinearch.com/2023/02/17/c3projectblog4 /</a>



## Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	X
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	NA
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	