

The CEPF Niche for Investment

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and Conservation International (CI) use "conservation outcomes" as the scientific underpinning for focusing conservation investment geographically and thematically. These targets comprise the effective conservation of a set of species, sites, and broader-scale corridors that is essential for preventing biodiversity loss. Identifying these targets ensures that conservation action focuses on the species at the greatest risk of extinction, and on the sites and corridors that are most important for their protection. The targets also provide a baseline against which the success of investments can be measured. This map depicts the geographic targets for achieving conservation outcomes in the Philippines Biodiversity Hotspot.

In 2004, Conservation International, in collaboration with the Harbin Foundation, initiated a two-year process to identify these data-driven conservation targets for the Philippines. This work builds upon and refines the results of a number of earlier priority setting exercises, including the 17 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) identified in 2001 by the Harbin Foundation and BirdLife International, and the 170 terrestrial conservation priority areas (CPAs) identified in 2002 through the Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priority-setting Program (PBSCP), which involved a consortium of experts from universities, NGOs, and the government.

Conservation targets at the species level are those that are globally threatened with extinction, meeting the criteria of Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List. According to the 2004 Red List, there are 491 threatened species in the Philippines, of which 209 are vertebrate species.

Targets at the site level are termed Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and are sites of global biodiversity conservation significance that are actually or potentially manageable for conservation. KBAs are identified based on the presence of species for which site-scale conservation is deemed necessary to avoid extinctions in the short and medium term: globally threatened species, restricted-range species and globally significant congregations of species. A total of 128 KBAs were identified for threatened and endemic amphibians, mammals, birds, reptiles, and freshwater fish, using confirmed locality data for each target species. KBA boundaries were delineated based on information on the habitat requirements of species, along with data on land management units (protected area boundaries). In addition, 61 sites were identified as Candidate KBAs, or research priorities; if additional data or surveys confirm the presence of target species within these sites, they too will become priorities for conservation action (KBAs).

Targets at the landscape level are termed "biodiversity conservation corridors" and aim to ensure the persistence of threatened species and Key Biodiversity Areas. Terrestrial corridors comprise a matrix of land types required to conserve broad-scale ecological processes and to meet the needs of area-demanding species (those that are wide-ranging, migratory, or found in low densities). In the Philippines, 17 biodiversity conservation corridors were identified, primarily to maintain connectivity among KBAs in areas of intact forest habitat. Some corridors also account for the needs of the wide-ranging Philippine Eagle *Pithecophaga jefferyi*. These 17 corridors were adapted from those identified during the PBSCP process (see above), and will be refined as more data become available.

Donors, governments, and nongovernmental organizations must safeguard biodiversity in the Philippines through a range of conservation activities. A few globally threatened species will require species-specific action, such as disease mitigation or controlling invasive species. Most investment, however, will need to be at the site level, to safeguard the habitats in which threatened species are found. Safeguarding a KBA may involve declaring a new protected area, expanding or strengthening management in an existing protected area, initiating community-based conservation and resource management, promoting ecotourism, or a number of other initiatives. At the landscape level, conservation will include fostering land uses that maintain key ecosystem processes and that are compatible with the needs of area-demanding species (for instance, agroforestry). CEPF's niche for investment in the Philippines has been to provide incremental support to conservation within existing protected areas and to generate momentum for biodiversity conservation around protected areas, with the goal of enhancing habitat connectivity and enabling greater civil society participation in conservation efforts. Specific strategic directions and investment priorities identified by CEPF can be found in the Philippines Ecosystem Profile (<http://www.cepf.net>).

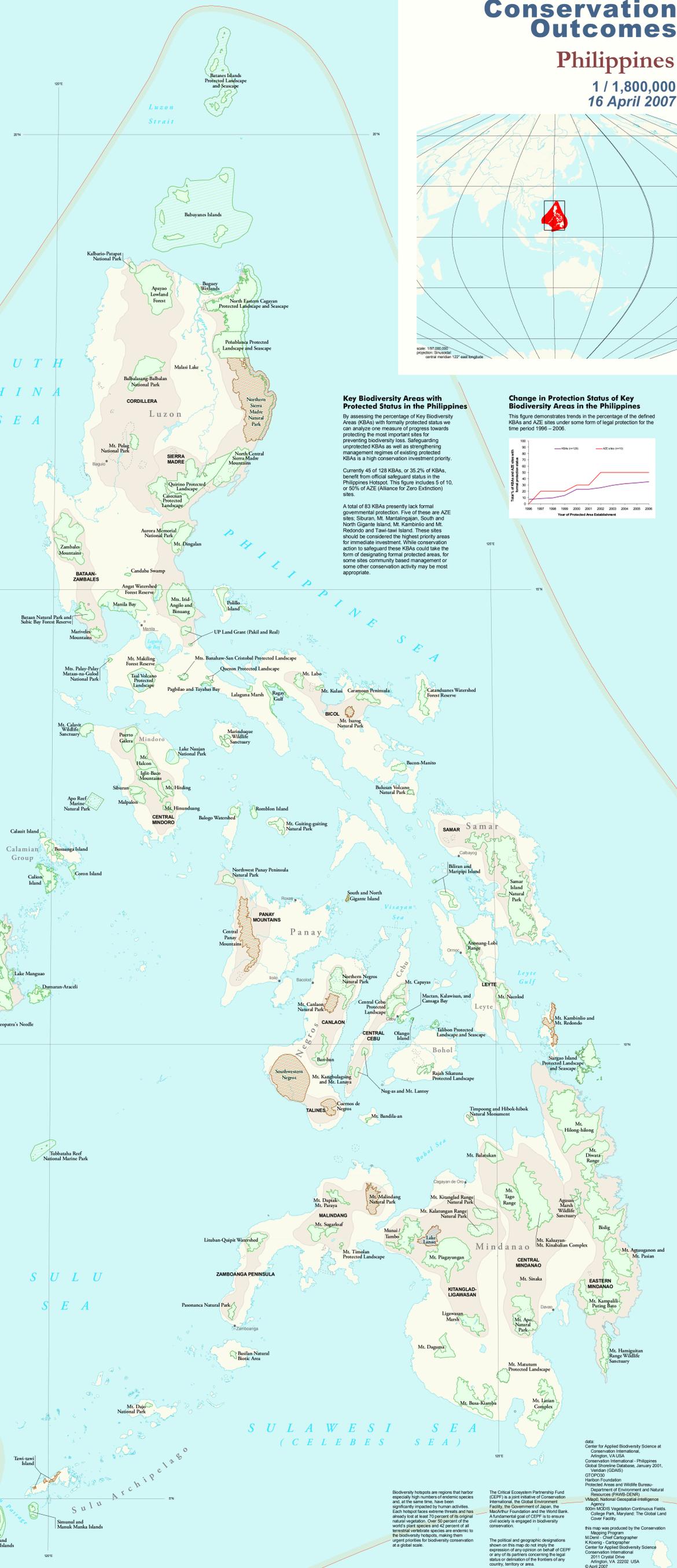
Since resources for biodiversity conservation are limited, there is a need to further prioritize among these targets. At the species level, prioritization should identify the most highly threatened species requiring urgent species-specific conservation action. However, since much investment is at the site level, KBAs must also be prioritized. CI uses a prioritization method based on irreplaceability and vulnerability, thus using the same considerations as in identifying site-scale targets in the first place. Therefore, we prioritize sites that contain highly threatened species with very small global ranges; among these sites, KBAs that also face site-based threats become higher priorities. At the very top of the list are the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites (highlighted on the map in red). The Alliance for Zero Extinction, a joint initiative of biodiversity conservation organizations around the world, aims to prevent imminent extinctions by identifying and safeguarding sites that represent the last refuges of highly threatened species. An AZE site is a discrete area containing 85 percent or more of the global population of one or more species listed as Critically Endangered or Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

With more than 20,000 endemic species, the Philippines is a "megadiversity" country, one of 17 nations that together hold two thirds of earth's biological diversity. It is also one of the most threatened of the 34 biodiversity hotspots, with less than six percent of original forest cover remaining intact. Thus, resources must urgently be directed towards conserving the globally threatened species, KBAs, and biodiversity conservation corridors in the Philippines.

For more information, please refer to www.cepf.net, www.conservation.org, www.harbin.org.ph, www.birdlife.org, www.iucn.org, www.biodiversity.org, www.redlist.org, www.azextinction.org, and www.azextinction.org.

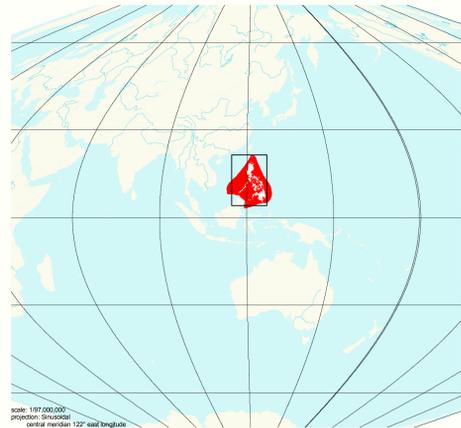
- Roster of Key Biodiversity Areas**
 * Dinosaur Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) site.
1. Batanes Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape
 2. Babuyan Islands
 3. Kalbaro-Patapat National Park
 4. Agulayan Lowland Forest
 5. Balabacang-Balabac National Park
 6. Mt. Putag National Park
 7. Bugay Wetlands
 8. North Eastern Cagayan Protected Landscape and Seascape
 9. Peralabian Protected Landscape and Seascape
 10. Northern Sierra Madre National Park
 11. Malai Lake
 12. North Central Sierra Madre Mountains
 13. Quirino Protected Landscape
 14. Casacnan Protected Landscape
 15. Aurora Memorial National Park
 16. Mt. Dingalan
 17. Angat Watershed Forest Reserve
 18. Mrs. Irid-Angulo and Binang
 19. UP Land Grant (Paki and Real)
 20. Palilo Island
 21. Zambales Mountains
 22. Candaba Swamp
 23. Bataan National Park and Subic Bay Forest Reserve
 24. Mariveles Mountains
 25. Manila Bay
 26. Mrs. Pelay-Patay Mataas-na-Gulod National Park
 27. Taal Volcano Protected Landscape
 28. Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve
 29. Mrs. Banahaw-San Cristobal Protected Landscape
 30. Quezon Protected Landscape
 31. Pagbilao and Tayabas Bay
 32. Laguna Marsh
 33. Ragay Gulf
 34. Mt. Labo
 35. Mt. Kinabuan
 36. Mt. Izaog National Park
 37. Caramoran Peninsula
 38. Catarman Watershed Forest Reserve
 39. Bacon-Manito
 40. Bulusan Volcano National Park
 41. Marinduque Wildlife Sanctuary
 42. Mt. Caltubo
 43. Puerto Galera
 44. Mt. Hailon
 45. Lake Naujan National Park
 46. Iggil-Baco Mountains
 47. Siburan
 48. Malapalao
 49. Mt. Hinunduang
 50. Apo Reef Marine National Park
 51. Calat Island
 52. Butang Island
 53. Cutaon Island
 54. Coron Island
 55. El Nido Managed Resource Protected Area
 56. Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape
 57. San Vicente-Taytay-Roxas Forests
 58. Dumarang-Araceli
 59. San Vicente-Taytay-Roxas Forests
 60. Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
 61. Cincapilla Islands
 62. Victoria and Anapahang Ranges
 63. Mt. Mantalingajon
 64. Reserve Wildlife Sanctuary
 65. Urisula Island
 66. Balabac Island
 67. Tubatuba Reef National Marine Park
 68. Mt. Quijing-Quiting National Park
 69. Rombon Island
 70. Balogo Watershed
 71. Northwest Panay Peninsula National Park
 72. Central Panay Mountains
 73. South and North Gigante Island
 74. Southern Negros National Park
 75. Northern Negros National Park

- Roster of biodiversity conservation corridors**
76. Mt. Carraon National Park
 77. Ban-Ian
 78. Southwest Negros
 79. Caramoran Peninsula
 80. Mt. Kinabuan
 81. Mt. Capayan
 82. Central Cebu Protected Landscape
 83. Maclean, Kallawisan and Cansaga Bay
 84. Canga Island
 85. Nag-as and Mt. Lamtoy
 86. Mt. Kunguhangang and Mt. Lanaya
 87. Samar Island National Park
 88. Biliran and Mariposa Island
 89. Anonang-Lobo Range
 90. Mt. Nacotol
 91. Talibon Protected Landscape and Seascape
 92. Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape
 93. Mt. Kambirilo and Mt. Redondo
 94. Sargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape
 95. Mt. Hlong-Hlong
 96. Mt. Divala Range
 97. Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary
 98. Balig
 99. Mt. Agtungan and Mt. Pasian
 100. Mt. Kampil-Puring Bato
 101. Mt. Hangulan Range Wildlife Sanctuary
 102. Timpoong and Hibok-hibok Natural Monument
 103. Mt. Balatukan
 104. Mt. Kallaway-Mt. Kinabalian Complex
 105. Mt. Tago Range
 106. Mt. Kintalang Range National Park
 107. Mt. Kasitlungan Range National Park
 108. Manal/Tambo
 109. Lake Lanao
 110. Mt. Plogayangan
 111. Mt. Sinak
 112. Mt. Apo National Park
 113. Laguna Marsh
 114. Mt. Dagupan
 115. Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape
 116. Mt. Marikina
 117. Mt. Laitan Complex
 118. Mt. Matinding Natural Park
 119. Mt. Dapak-Mt. Paraya
 120. Mt. Sugarloaf
 121. Mt. Timolin Protected Landscape
 122. Luban-Quip Watershed
 123. Patagonia National Park
 124. Basilan National Biotic Area
 125. Mt. Dapo National Park
 126. Iwas-Iwas Island
 127. Sinuna and Manuk Manka Islands
 128. Sibutu and Tunduno Islands



Conservation Outcomes Philippines

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 16 April 2007



Key Biodiversity Areas with Protected Status in the Philippines

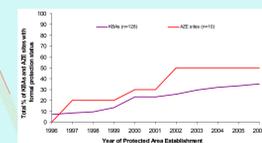
By assessing the percentage of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) with formally protected status we can analyze one measure of progress towards protecting the most important sites for preventing biodiversity loss. Safeguarding unprotected KBAs as well as strengthening management regimes of existing protected KBAs is a high conservation investment priority.

Currently 45 of 128 KBAs, or 35.2% of KBAs, benefit from official safeguard status in the Philippines Hotspot. This figure includes 5 of or 50% of AZE (Alliance for Zero Extinction) sites.

A total of 83 KBAs presently lack formal governmental protection. Five of these are AZE sites: Siburan, Mt. Mantalingajon, South and North Gigante Island, Mt. Kambirilo and Mt. Redondo, and Taw-law Island. These sites should be considered the highest priority areas for immediate investment. While conservation action to safeguard these KBAs could take the form of designating formal protected areas, for some sites community based management or some other conservation activity may be most appropriate.

Change in Protection Status of Key Biodiversity Areas in the Philippines

This figure demonstrates trends in the percentage of the defined KBAs and AZE sites under some form of legal protection for the time period 1996 - 2006.



Biodiversity hotspots are regions that harbor especially high numbers of endemic species and, at the same time, have been significantly impacted by human activities. Each hotspot faces extreme threats and has already lost at least 70 percent of its original natural vegetation. Over 50 percent of the world's plant species and 42 percent of all terrestrial vertebrate species are endemic to the biodiversity hotspots, making them an urgent priority for biodiversity conservation at a global scale.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A fundamental goal of CEPF is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

This map was produced by the Conservation Outcomes and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Conservation International, Philippines Global Strategy Database, January 2007, Harbin Foundation (CI/CEPF), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA), National Vegetation Continuous Fields, Conservation International, 2011 Crystal Ball, Arlington, VA, 22202, USA © April 2007