

Green and Resilient Cities Project

Philippines



IMPLEMENTING AGENCY

United Nations Development Programme



EXECUTING ENTITY

DENR – Biodiversity Management Bureau



TIMELINE

6 years



Project sites

Baguio City

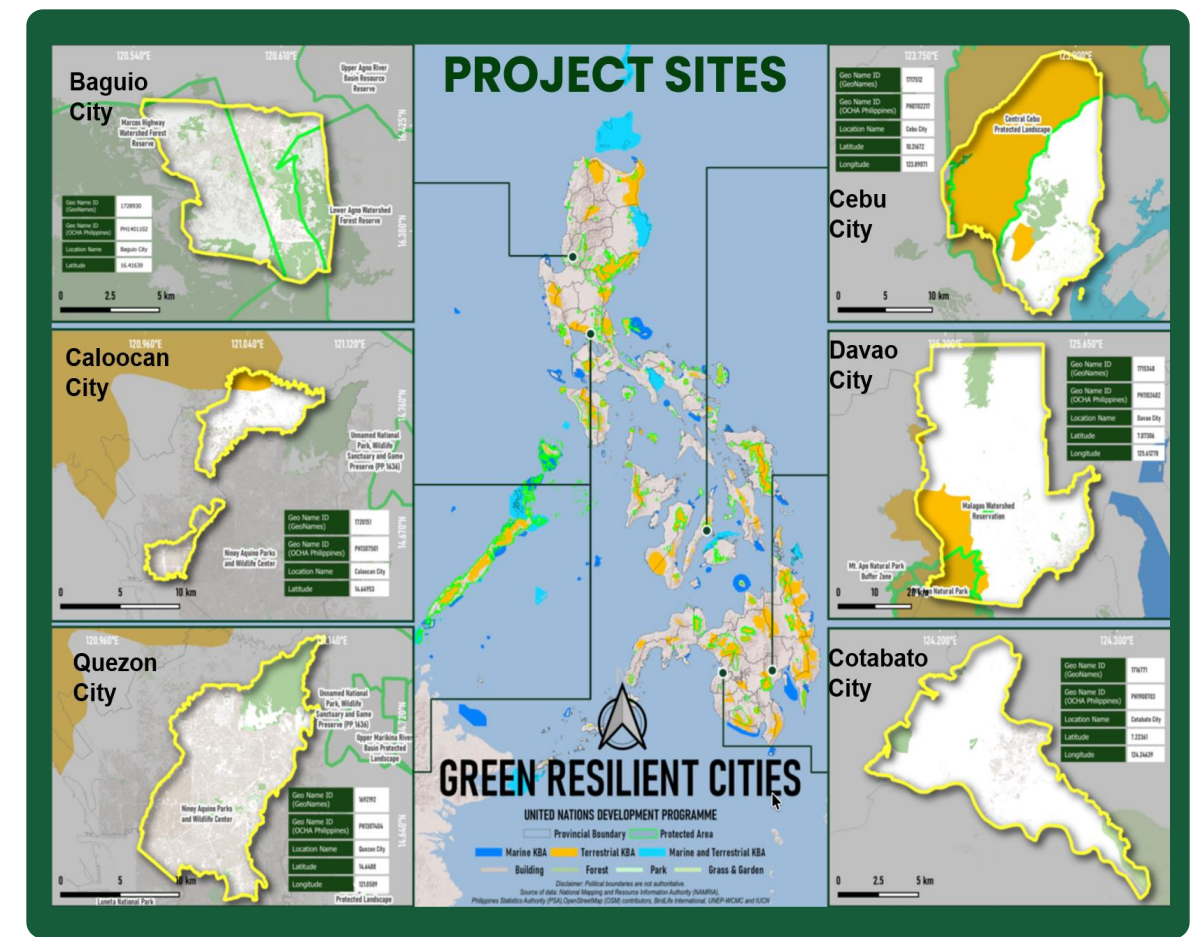
Caloocan City

Cebu City

Cotabato City

Davao City

Quezon City





Project Overview



TOTAL GEF FINANCING

USD **13,333,332**



GEF PROJECT GRANT

USD **11,932,415**



CO-FINANCING COMMITMENT

USD **32,516,429**

OBJECTIVE

Significant improvement in the integrated climate-resilient, low-carbon, and nature-positive urban development of cities.



COMPONENT 1

Policy/regulatory framework and institutional coordination and cooperation mechanisms to catalyze a shift towards integrated urban development planning supported by low-carbon, climate-resilient and nature-positive (LCCRNP) solutions



COMPONENT 2

Financial mechanisms and pilot financial instruments to support the implementation of bankable LCCRNP technologies and practices



COMPONENT 3

Demonstration of technically feasible and cost-effective pilot LCCRNP investments to support integrated sustainable urban development



COMPONENT 4

Capacity building on the design of projects optimizing resource use and energy efficient infrastructures, behavioral change of stakeholders towards supporting integrated sustainable urban development, and information sharing with the SCIP participating countries

GRC Key Messages



Plan Better. Govern Better. Conserve Better.

By strengthening policies, coordination, and integrated planning, cities for greener, biodiverse, and more resilient cities



Finance Nature. Invest in Resilience.

By mobilizing investments that deliver environmental, social, and economic benefits for biodiversity-friendly urban development



Demonstrate. Innovate. Replicate.

By showing that nature-positive urban development works



Empower Cities. Build Partnerships.

By strengthening local capacities to sustain integrated urban development for long-term biodiversity conservation and climate action

Implementation Status



Approval and Effectiveness

20 May 2026

Approval of the Special Presidential Authority for the Project

15 July 2026

Signing of the Project Document



Technical Studies / Consultations

Ongoing dialogues with the Cities for the finalization of the LCCRNP pilot investments



Activities Started / Completed / Key Milestone



25–26 AUGUST 2026

Project Launch and National Inception Workshop



ONGOING

Coordination with the City stakeholders for the Site-level Inception Workshops



FINALIZATION

Special Order (i.e., legal instrument) for the institutionalization of the Project Board and National IATWG

Immediate Priorities (next 6-12 months)

1

October–December 2026

- Operationalization of the GRC Project Management Unit (PMU)
- Institutionalization of Governance Structure

2

December 2026

- Convening of the National Project Board and National and City-level IATWGs

3

January 2027 onwards

- Conduct of the Feasibility Studies for the Pilot Investments (Component 3)
- Conduct of baseline assessment for GHG, green spaces, biodiversity
- Preparation Operations Manual
- MOA approval with the city LGUs



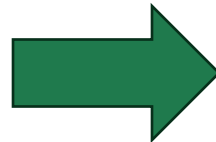
Key Challenges

Challenge	Support Needed from GPSC & Partners
Institutional coordination Six cities with different LGU capacities, resources, and experience	Governance and coordination models from other SCIP cities; peer exchange between city counterparts; templates and tools for city-level coordination
Technical capacity Baseline assessments and pilot feasibility studies ahead; limited experience with multi-functional green-blue designs	Expert advice on methods and design; trainers’ training for city staff; and toolkits the cities can reuse after the project
Policy / regulatory Integrating LCCRNP solutions into city plans and local policies; aligning national and local policies	Good practices from other SCIP countries on mainstreaming nature-positive approaches in urban planning; technical input on local ordinances and guidelines

Where GPSC & Partners Can Add Value

Select up to 3 areas and specify the support needed

- ☐ Technical assistance
- ☒ Peer-to-peer learning
- ☐ Knowledge products / toolkits
- ☒ Training / capacity building
- ☐ Expert advisory support
- ☐ South-South exchange
- ☒ Financing / private sector engagement
- ☐ Monitoring & evaluation
- ☐ Communications & visibility
- ☐ Other: _____



Peer-to-peer learning

Philippines needs experiential learning with multi-functional structures and designs

(City-to-city exchanges and site visits to SCIP cities with working multi-functional green-blue infrastructure)



Training / capacity building

Training on integrated LCCRNP planning, nature-based solutions design, and preparing bankable project proposals, including trainers' training so cities can sustain it



Financing / private sector engagement

Sustainable financing models and private sector partnerships to make pilots bankable and replicable in other cities