



## **Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture (GEF ID: 10573)**

### **Executive Summary: Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Philippines)**

This document represents the executive summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the Philippines portion of the WWF GEF project, 'Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture' (GEF ID: 10573). This executive summary, along with the executive summary of the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework, is available in English and Filipino.

The full text is available in English on the websites of SEAFDEC, BFAR, and the WWF GEF Agency. Hard copies of the translated executive summaries of the ESMF and SEP will be placed in appropriate public locations and at SEAFDEC and BFAR.

#### **1. Introduction**

This section introduces the project sites, goals, and components. The project's social, economic, and environmental benefits are also highlighted in this section. This section also includes information about the project's risk categorization as well as a list that describes institutional arrangements.

The project 'Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture' will work at the global, regional, and national levels to strengthen and develop seaweed value chains. The project will be implemented in the coastal and marine ecosystems of Viet Nam and Philippines, where seaweed farming is growing as a lucrative business in coastal provinces as it provides livelihood resilience for communities, ecosystem services for biodiversity enhancement and generates revenues for emerging countries in order to alleviate poverty.

Centered on converting the intrinsic value of macroalgae into tangible benefits for society, the 'Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture' Project (hereinafter: Seaweed Project) seeks to *create new sustainable seaweed value chains that will deliver ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits*. The ecosystem services include the assimilation of excess nutrients from coastal waters, with associated environmental benefits that include mitigation of ocean eutrophication and acidification as well as improvement of habitat for marine life. Social and economic benefits include the diversification of livelihood options, improved household and community revenues and opportunities for equitable participation of women and men in the improved or new livelihood opportunities along the value chain.

The Seaweed Project was approved by the GEF Council on December 11, 2020. The project was endorsed by the GEF CEO on July 12, 2022. The project will be financed through a \$6,000,000 GEF grant and \$9,525,629 in co-financing.

WWF is the GEF Implementing Agency. Hence, the WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework, as detailed in the Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP) apply to the

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project and require the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Process Framework (PF).

**The principles and procedures of the ESMF apply only to project activities that are funded through GEF.**

In general, the anticipated adverse environmental and social impacts on the population that resides within project affected areas are site-specific, reversible and can be readily mitigated. Thus, the Seaweed Project is classified as a **“Category B” project** under the WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Categorization.

The institutional arrangement for the project includes WWF as the GEF Agency, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) as the Lead Regional Executing Agency (its Secretariat in Bangkok, Thailand will host the Project Management Unit), the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Philippines and Directorate of Fisheries (D-fish) of Viet Nam as the project executing partners in the Philippines and Viet Nam, respectively, and a Project Steering Committee.

## 2. Regulations and Requirements

WWF-US, as the GEF Project Agency, is responsible for oversight. The Lead Executing Agency is the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, and the Philippines National Executing Agency is the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). As a recipient of finances from GEF, the Executing Agency must abide by WWF-US’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework, including the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, as detailed in the Environmental and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures document. Should it still be applicable, the project will follow government-mandated restrictions and adhere to public health agency guidelines and precautions to protect personnel from infection and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus throughout the life of the project.

## 3. Project Stakeholders

This section details the project stakeholders including national government entities, sub-national government administrations, NGOs, multilateral organizations, community-based organizations, local communities, the private sector, and academia. Each identified stakeholder and their effects on the project are described in their respective category.

## 4. Summary of any previous stakeholder engagement activities

This section describes previous consultations with local stakeholders.

## 5. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to ensure appropriate and consistent involvement of project stakeholders in every stage of the project implementation, supporting effective communication and working relationships. The PH National Project Management Unit (N-PMU) within the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) will ensure that the views and inputs of stakeholders are taken into consideration throughout project implementation.

Stakeholder Type	Name	Interests (stake) in the project	Frequency of Engagement/ Project Years	Engagement During Project Implementation
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<b>Central Government</b>	DENR – FASPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination for foreign-funded projects</li> <li>• Serve as project advisor</li> <li>• Assist in monitoring and evaluating project outcomes</li> </ul>	Years 1,2,3,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link and coordinate with the DENR regional/local offices and stakeholders</li> <li>• Co-finance project-related activities, especially those concerning biodiversity conservation</li> <li>• Assist DENR regional offices and other local project partners involved in seaweed livelihood on labor and community development</li> <li>• Assist in monitoring and evaluation of project's progress and performance by checking reports produced by the project team</li> </ul>
	NFRDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and development</li> <li>• Provide technical support for seaweed farmers and other actors in the seaweed industry trainings and capacity building activities</li> </ul>	Years 1,2,3,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance and support for seaweed value chain development</li> <li>• Assist in training and capacity building for adoption of new technology and value chains</li> <li>• Contribute to development of knowledge products (i.e., toolkits, training materials)</li> </ul>
	DA-BAFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue policies on seaweed quality</li> <li>• Provision of information and technical support on seaweed quality</li> </ul>	Year 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical support on seaweed standards</li> <li>• Provide materials for trainings and capacity building concerning seaweed quality</li> <li>• Conduct capacity-building activities, trainings, etc.</li> </ul>
	NSTDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy formulation</li> <li>• Provide financial and technical support for seaweed farmers and other actors in the seaweed industry</li> </ul>	Years 1,2,3,4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical support for seedstock propagation</li> <li>• Take part in project monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Provide technical expertise on phycolloid analysis</li> <li>• Provide trainings for seaweed food processing</li> </ul>
	DTI-EMB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing information</li> <li>• Product promotion</li> <li>• Support implementation of policies/guidelines</li> </ul>	Years 3 and 4 Half yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide market information and establish linkage with prospective markets</li> <li>• Product matching (i.e., match product with prospective markets)</li> <li>• Contribute during monitoring and evaluation stage</li> </ul>
	DTI-BOI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry and investments</li> </ul>	Years 3 and 4 Half-yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure high-level support for the project</li> </ul>

		<p>promotion through provision of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formulate and support implementation of policies concerning product development and marketing</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-fund certain activities pertinent to the mandate of the Bureau</li> <li>• Promote product development</li> </ul>
<b>Provincial and Municipal governments</b>	PENRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy formulation and support</li> <li>• Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation</li> </ul>	Years 1,2,3,4 Half yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance and support for seaweed value chain development</li> <li>• Monitor project impacts, particularly in terms of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation</li> </ul>
	CENRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy formulation and support</li> <li>• Environmental protection and biodiversity conservation (works together with municipal and provincial environment and natural resources offices)</li> </ul>	Years 1,2,3,4 Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance and support for seaweed value chain development</li> <li>• Monitor project impacts, particularly in terms of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation</li> </ul>
	PCSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy, knowledge sharing, and advocacy (environmental, biodiversity, zonation, and resource use)</li> <li>• Regulation and technical support (Zoning)</li> </ul>	Yrs 1 to 4 Half yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical support for zoning-related activities</li> <li>• Ensure that the project area is in consonance with the local resource use map, zoning, and ECAN</li> </ul>
	MAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy formulation and support for fishers and seaweed farmers</li> </ul>	Yrs 1-4 Half yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide policy and technical support concerning management of coastal and marine resources within the jurisdiction of the municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ designation of project site</li> <li>○ contribute to development of plans, activities, policies, and strategies concerning seaweed farming, introduction of new technology, capacity building for seaweed farmers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o assist in overseeing, monitoring and evaluating project outcomes</li> </ul>
	FARMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides collective platform for seaweed farmers (and fishers)</li> </ul>	Yrs 1,2,3,4 Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide policy support for seaweed farmers</li> <li>• Liaise seaweed farmers with local government and other governmental bodies</li> </ul>
<b>CBOs</b>	NPFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides collective platform for seaweed farmers (and fishers) in northern Palawan</li> <li>• Marketing support for seaweed farmers</li> </ul>	Yrs 1 to 4 Continuing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary project coordinators (i.e., project recipients) and beneficiary in Roxas, Palawan</li> <li>• Provide manpower for project implementation in Roxas, Palawan</li> </ul>
	ABSFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides collective platform for seaweed farmers (and fishers) in Buenavista, Zamboanga City</li> <li>• Marketing support for seaweed farmers</li> </ul>	Yrs 1 to 4 Continuing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary project coordinators (i.e., project recipients) and beneficiary in Zamboanga City</li> <li>• Provide manpower for project implementation in Zamboanga City</li> </ul>
<b>Communities, including marginalized groups (i.e., IPs, women)</b>	Communities and marginalized groups in Green Island, Roxas, Palawan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority of households in Green Island engage in seaweed farming</li> <li>• Resources (i.e., coastal and marine area) are shared by all households, including marginalized groups such as the IPs (i.e., Cuyunon) and women</li> <li>• Majority of members of NPFC are from the municipality of Roxas, particularly in Green Island</li> <li>• Green island is a major seaweed production area in the municipality of Roxas</li> </ul>	Yrs 1 to 4 Continuing	<p>The community in Green Island will be consulted and engaged throughout the project cycle, particularly for components 2 and 3. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Series of consultation meetings will be conducted in Year 1 concerning (a) project background and activities; (b) approval of the location of pilot seaweed farm site; (c) seaweed carrageenan roadmap and PNS; (d) formulation of farm plan and farming technology (Activities under Output 2.1.1)</li> <li>• Communities will also participate in feasibility studies for adoption of new seaweed value chains and when these initiatives are finalized and implemented (Output 3.1.2)</li> <li>• Recruitment and selection of co-operators and farm workers and trainings on operation of farm and cooperative management (Output 3.1.1)</li> <li>• Environmental and Social Management Framework and Gender Action Plan stipulates specific activities to ensure</li> </ul>

				that marginalized groups (i.e., women, IPs) are involved throughout the project cycle.
	Communities and marginalized groups in Buenavista, Zamboanga City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities are involved in seaweed farming</li> <li>The Aplaya Buenavista Seaweed Farmers' Association (ABSFA) is composed of multiple IP groups (i.e., Yakan, Subanon, Kalibugan, Tausug, Banguingui, and Sinama-Bajau)</li> <li>BFAR IX has been engaged with ABSFA and communities in their various activities</li> </ul>	Yrs 1 to 4 Continuing	<p>The community in Buenavista, Zamboanga City will be consulted and engaged throughout the project cycle. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Series of consultation meetings will be conducted in Year 1 concerning (a) project background and activities; (b) location of pilot seaweed farm site; (c) seaweed carrageenan roadmap and PNS; and (d) selection of co-operators and farm workers</li> <li>Series of trainings for conversion of organization (i.e., ABSFA) into a cooperative as stated under Output 3.2.2</li> <li>Environmental and Social Management Framework and Gender Action Plan stipulates specific activities to ensure that marginalized groups (i.e., women, IPs) are involved throughout the project cycle.</li> </ul>
Private Sector	Brabender GMBH & Co. KG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research and development</li> <li>Support new value chain initiative</li> </ul>	Yrs 1-4 Continuing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Measurement equipment to determine seaweed quality prior extrusion processing</li> <li>Processing equipment to convert raw dry seaweed into seaweed compound granules</li> <li>Provide training and consulting to seaweed farmer cooperative to enable local seaweed processing</li> <li>Project collaboration in biorefinery pilot project including hardware (pilot scale plant) and training of operators.</li> </ul>
	Coast4C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support livelihood development of seaweed farmers through provision of technical support for farming and marketing</li> <li>Monitoring of negative environmental and</li> </ul>	Yrs 1-4 Continuing	<p>Coast4C is a project partner, and will be receiving funds under the project. Coast4C will undertake the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct community-based activities such as building social infrastructure, financial inclusion, spatial planning and integration into marine protected areas, building</li> </ul>

		<p>social impacts of seaweed farming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support product development</li> <li>• Development of technical and non-technical innovation</li> <li>• Building social and political acceptability</li> <li>• Conducts capacity building activities and trainings to seaweed farmers and seaweed-farming communities</li> </ul>		<p>community-level infrastructure, and facilitate/support marine protected areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to project design (i.e., farming technology)</li> <li>• Provide technical support to test implementation/operations of approaches to increase quality and yield</li> <li>• Contribute to monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes (i.e., formulation of toolkits)</li> </ul>
	Shemberg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carrageenan production and marketing</li> <li>• Product development and marketing (e.g., Export of processed seaweed products)</li> </ul>	Yrs 2-4 Half yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisor on carrageenan production and marketing</li> <li>• Provide marketing support to farmers</li> <li>• Communicate and coordinate with stakeholders</li> <li>• Benchmark practices from successful sustainability programs</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate through supplier audits</li> </ul>
	MCPI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carrageenan production and marketing</li> <li>• Product development and marketing (e.g., Export of processed seaweed products)</li> <li>• Support engagement with seaweed farmers and traders</li> </ul>	Yrs 2-4 Half yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisor on carrageenan production and marketing</li> <li>• Provide marketing support to farmers</li> <li>• Communicate and coordinate with stakeholders</li> <li>• Benchmark practices from successful sustainability programs</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate through supplier audits</li> </ul>
<b>Academia</b>	Palawan State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and development on seaweeds</li> <li>• Technical assistance or support to seaweed farmers</li> <li>• Provision of facilities of R&amp;D and other project-related activities</li> <li>• Development and provision of good quality propagules</li> </ul>	Yrs 1 to 4 Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to project planning and implementation (i.e., production of propagules, establishment of seaweed farms for pilot testing)</li> <li>• Allocation of facilities for project-related activities</li> <li>• Contribute to project monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Assist BFAR in sourcing out and assessing propagules to be used in project sites</li> </ul>

	UP MSI/MERF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and development on seaweeds</li> <li>• Development and provision of good quality propagules</li> </ul>	Yrs 1-4 Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide background data on seaweed biology and updates in current and on-going research studies</li> <li>• Recommend areas for research and design experiments</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluation project outcomes</li> <li>• Could provide good quality propagules, if needed</li> </ul>
	University of San Carlos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and development on seaweeds</li> <li>• Technical support for farmers and other stakeholders</li> </ul>	Yrs 1-4 Yearly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to project planning and implementation (i.e., production of propagules, establishment of seaweed farms for pilot testing</li> <li>• Contribute to project monitoring and evaluation</li> </ul>
<b>Intergovernmental organization</b>	SEAFDEC/AQD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and development on seaweeds</li> <li>• Development and provision of good quality propagules</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical support/input on seaweed farming techniques, tissue culture, etc.</li> <li>• Assist in biological/ socioeconomic research</li> <li>• Assist in monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes</li> <li>• Could provide tissue culture of <i>K. alvarezii</i> to augment seedling requirements, if needed</li> </ul>

## 6. Regulations and Responsibilities

The WWF GEF Project Agency is responsible for oversight. The lead Executing Agency (SEAFDEC) and the Philippines national Executing Agency (BFAR) are jointly responsible for executing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and overall compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement. A Project Manager will be recruited to the Project Management Unit at SEAFDEC to ensure overall execution of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.

In the Philippines, BFAR will be responsible for overseeing stakeholder engagement with communities and local partners. BFAR will recruit a Safeguards and Gender Specialist who will be responsible for implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Action Plan and will report to the BFAR PMU Project Manager.

## 7. Grievances Mechanism

The project will have a direct and tangible effect on local communities and individuals residing within or in the vicinity of project sites. There is thus a need for an efficient and effective Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that collects and responds to stakeholders' inquiries, suggestions, concerns, and complaints. The GRM shall constitute an integral part of the project and assist BFAR in identifying

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and addressing the needs of local communities. The GRM should be constituted as a permanent and accessible institutional arrangement for addressing any grievances arising from the implementation of project activities.

It is in the interest of the project to ensure that all grievances or conflicts that are related to project activities are appropriately resolved at the lowest appropriate level, without escalation to higher authorities or the initiation of court procedures. Project affected communities will therefore be encouraged to approach the project's GRM if they feel it is the appropriate level to safely address their grievance.

The GRM will operate based on the following principles:

1. **Fairness:** Grievances are assessed impartially and handled transparently.
2. **Objectiveness and independence:** The GRM operates independently of all interested parties in order to guarantee fair, objective, and impartial treatment to each case.
3. **Simplicity and accessibility:** Procedures to file grievances and seek action are simple enough that project beneficiaries can easily understand them and in a language that is accessible to everyone within a given community, especially those who are most vulnerable.
4. **Responsiveness and efficiency:** The GRM is designed to be responsive to the needs of all complainants. Accordingly, officials handling grievances must be trained to take effective action upon, and respond quickly to, grievances and suggestions.
5. **Speed and proportionality:** All grievances, simple or complex, are addressed and resolved as quickly as possible. The action taken on the grievance or suggestion is swift, decisive, and constructive.
6. **Participation and inclusiveness:** A wide range of affected people—communities and vulnerable groups—are encouraged to bring grievances and comments to the attention of the project implementers. Special attention is given to ensure that poor people and marginalized groups, including those with special needs, are able to access the GRM.
7. **Accountability and closing the feedback loop:** All grievances are recorded and monitored, and no grievance remains unresolved. Complainants are always notified and get explanations regarding the results of their complaint. An appeal option shall always be available.

Complaints may include, but not be limited to, the following issues:

- (i) Allegations of fraud, malpractices or corruption by staff or other stakeholders as part of any project or activity financed or implemented by the project;
- (ii) Environmental and/or social damages/harms caused by projects financed or implemented (including those in progress) by the project;
- (iii) Complaints and grievances by permanent or temporary workers engaged in project activities.

Complaints could relate to pollution prevention and resource efficiency; negative impacts on public health, environment or culture; destruction of natural habitats; disproportionate impact on marginalized and vulnerable groups; discrimination or harassment; violation of applicable laws and regulations; destruction of physical and cultural heritage; or any other issues which adversely impact communities or individuals in project areas. The grievance redress mechanism will be implemented in a culturally sensitive manner and facilitate access to vulnerable populations.

The GRM will be administered by the BFAR PMU and reported to the SEAFDEC PMU. The project's GRM will operate in close coordination with the existing GRM at BFAR, which is managed by the Department of Legislation & Inspection.

The Safeguards/Gender/M&E Specialist at BFAR will collaborate with the Department of Legislation & Inspection, so that all inquiries or complaints related to the project will be properly and timely collected and processed. The GRM will operate according to the following guidelines.

- (1) Submitting complaints:** Project affected people, workers, or interested stakeholders can submit grievances, complaints, questions, or suggestions to the BFAR PMU through a variety of communication channels, including phone, regular mail, email, text messaging/SMS, or in-person, by visiting the BFAR offices. It should be possible to submit complaints to both WWF and BFAR in order to ensure that project affected people have sufficient opportunities to lodge their complaints to impartial and neutral authorities of their choice.
- (2) Processing complaints:** All grievances submitted to BFAR shall be registered and considered. A tracking registration number should be provided to all complainants. To facilitate investigation, complaints will be categorized into four types: (a) comments, suggestions, or queries; (b) complaints relating to nonperformance of project obligations and safeguards-related complaints; (c) complaints referring to violations of law and/or corruption while implementing project activities; (d) complaints against authorities, officials or community members involved in project management; and (e) any complaints/issues not falling in the above categories. Complaints submitted to BFAR will be handled by the Department of Legislation & Inspection in line with its operational procedures in coordination with the Safeguards/Gender/M&E Specialist.
- (3) Acknowledging the receipt of complaints:** Once a grievance is submitted, the Safeguards/Gender/M&E Specialist at BFAR shall acknowledge its receipt, brief the complainant on the grievance resolution process, provide the contact details of the person in charge of handling the grievance, and provide a registration number that would enable the complainant to track the status of the complaint.
- (4) Investigating complaints:**
  - a. For complaints submitted to BFAR, the Department of Legislation & Inspection will assign the complaint for the investigation of relevant authorities, while notifying the project's Safeguards/Gender/M&E Specialist.  
  
A written response to all grievances shall be provided to the complainant within 10 working days, in line with the operational procedures of the Department of Legislation & Inspection. Grievances that cannot be resolved by grievance receiving authorities/office at their level should be referred to a higher level for verification and further investigation.
- (5) Appeal:** In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the response provided by the GRM, the following appeal process is suggested: Appeals on complaints that were first lodged to BFAR can be submitted to WWF. In both cases, appeals should be submitted within 10 days from the date of the original decision. In the event that the parties are unsatisfied with the appeal decision, the parties can submit their grievances to the Court of Law for further adjudication.
- (6) Monitoring and evaluation:** the Safeguards/Gender/M&E Specialist at BFAR shall submit a report with full information on the grievances that were submitted to BFAR to SEAFDEC. The report shall contain a description of the grievances and their investigation status. Summarized GRM reports shall constitute part of the regular project progress reporting, and shall be submitted by SEAFDEC to the PSC and WWF GEF Agency.

Information about channels available for grievance redress shall be widely communicated in all project affected communities and to all relevant stakeholders. The contact details (name, phone

number, mail and email address, etc.) of BFAR and WWF GRMs shall be disseminated as part of all public hearings and consultations, in the local media, in all public areas in affected communities, and on large billboards in the vicinity of project activity sites.

The GRM seeks complement, rather than substitute, the judicial system and other dispute resolution mechanisms. All complainants may therefore file their grievance in local courts or approach mediators or arbitrators, in accordance with the legislation of The Philippines.

In addition to the project-specific GRM, a complainant can submit a grievance to the WWF GEF Agency. A grievance can be filed with the Project Complaints Officer (PCO), a WWF staff member fully independent from the Project Team, who is responsible for the WWF Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at:

Email: [SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org](mailto:SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org)

Mailing address:

Project Complaints Officer  
Safeguards Complaints,  
World Wildlife Fund  
1250 24th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online through an independent third-party platform at <https://report.whistleb.com/vi/wwf>.

Alternatively, complaints may be submitted to the GEF's Conflict Resolution Commissioner, which can be reached at:

Mr. Peter Lallas, GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner

E-mail: [plallas@thegef.org](mailto:plallas@thegef.org)

Mailing address: Mr. Peter Lallas  
Global Environment Facility  
The World Bank Group, MSN N8-800  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20433-002

## **8. Monitoring and Reporting**

Progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be monitored and reported on throughout implementation. The following comprises the monitoring and reporting activities to be undertaken with respect to stakeholder engagement by the SEAFDEC PMU at the regional level and by the National PMU in Viet Nam:

- The SEP will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary at an annual Reflection Workshop. The review will ensure that the list of project stakeholders and methods of engagement remain appropriate.
- Activities related to stakeholder engagement will be documented and reported by the PMU every 6 months in a Project Progress Report (as part of regular reporting). The project Results Framework and Annual Work Plan and Budget will track beneficiaries of the project and activities related to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Stakeholder Engagement will be evaluated by independent consultants recruited for the project midterm and terminal evaluation.

The WWF GEF Agency will undertake annual supervision missions to ensure compliance, and report on progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan annually to the GEF through Project Implementation Reports.