

Eels – A flagship species for freshwater conservation in the Philippines.



Conservation Programmes

LIVING CONSERVATION

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Background



- Anguillid eels are globally declining due to a range of threats, including legal and illegal exploitation.
- Eel fisheries in the Philippines occur primarily in the Cagayan River (Luzon).
- The 4th Philippine National Report (4NR) to the CBD states “*inland waters/ wetlands are the most threatened ecosystem type*” and conservation initiatives are wanting
- As eels inhabit many FW habitats, mitigating against threats to them will benefit the ecosystem, the inland wetlands

Overall objective



“Conservation of eels measurably improves freshwater biodiversity in the Cagayan River as a result of ecologically sustainable, community-led management, and equitable national and international trade”.



121°00'00" E

122°00'00" E

18°30'00" N

18°30'00" N

17°30'00" N

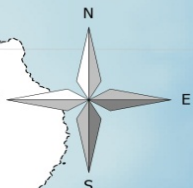
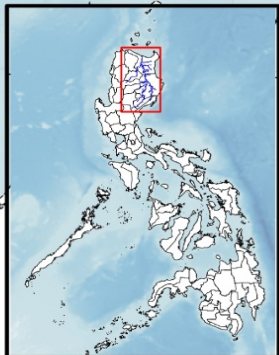
17°30'00" N

16°30'00" N

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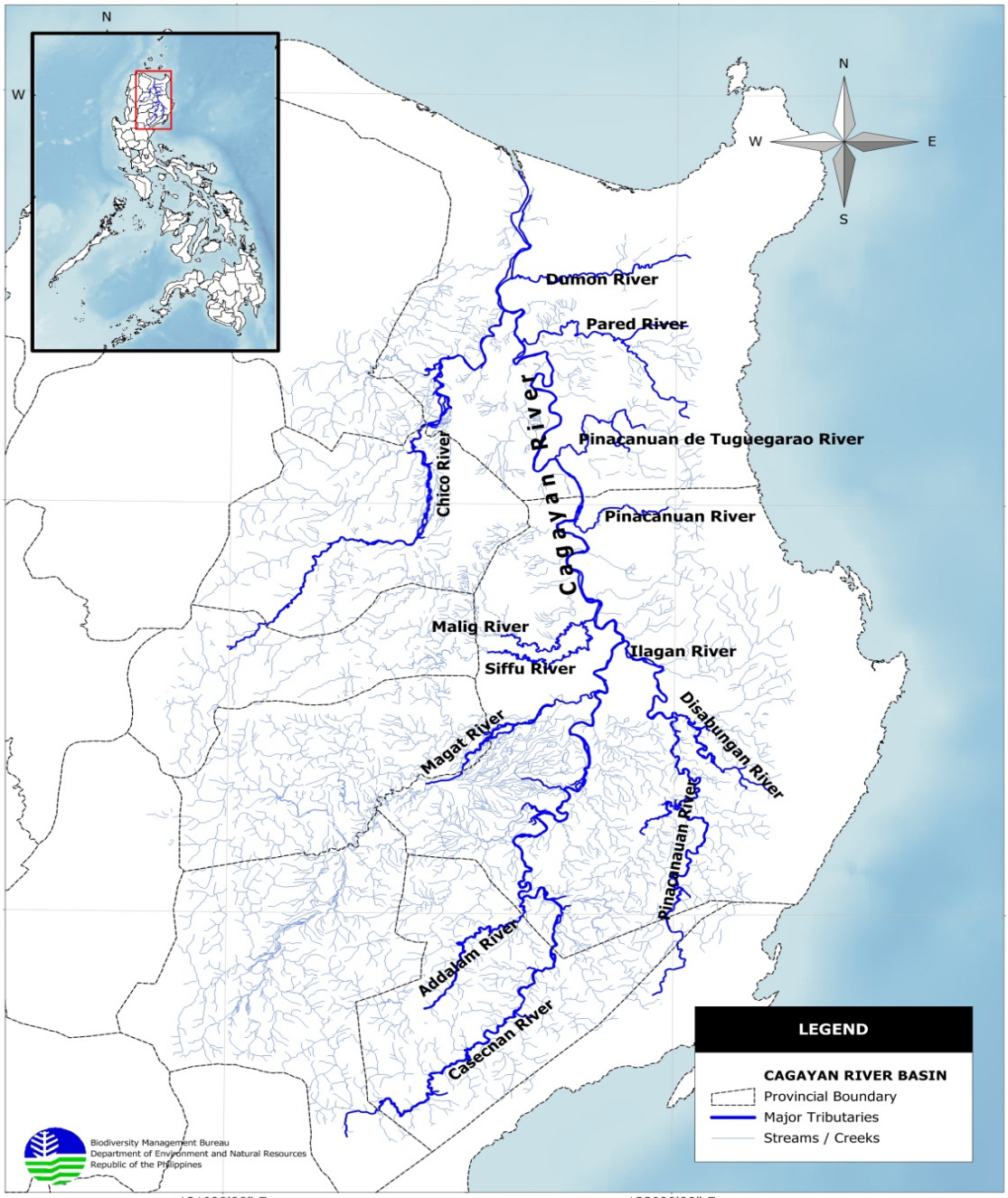
121°00'00" E

122°00'00" E



CAGAYAN RIVER BASIN

Rivers and Tributaries





CAGAYAN RIVER BASIN

Protected Areas

Magapit Protected Landscape

Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape

Northern Sierra Madre NP

Project Outputs



- Amendment of existing policy/ies to ensure that any trade is sustainable and CITES commitments are met.
- **Developed sustainable eel management plan for the Cagayan River Basin through participatory process**
- People's Organisations are managing eel fisheries and data collection done at the community level.
- **Initiated freshwater biodiversity monitoring in the Cagayan River Basin and key threats mitigated**
- Successful pilot farming project and long-term feasibility study for eel culture farming completed.

Progress to date (3 year project, newly implemented)



- Project team has been organized and based in Aparri, Northern Luzon.
- **Concerned Local Government Units engagement commenced for their active involvement**
- Ongoing development of Community survey questionnaire for pilot rollout in December 2014
- **Trade report of Anguillid eels in the Philippines c/o TRAFFIC completed** (*Slipping Away: International Aguilla Eel Trade and the Role of the Philippines*)



Thank You