# Philippine Civil Maritime Security Program (PCMSP) Mid Term Review

The Philippine Civil Maritime Security Program (PCMSP) an AUD 9 million investment over four-years [2021-2024]. The program supports strengthened maritime governance arrangements, institutional capacity building, promotion of discussion and analysis of maritime issues, a coral reef restoration project and a countering marine plastics project.

PCMSP aims to strengthen and support civil maritime agencies in the Philippines by focusing on three pillars: interagency coordination, maritime resource management, and maritime awareness. The program works with a wide range of partners and stakeholders. It supports the highly regarded Law of the Sea short course by the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS). It also funds scholars from the Philippine Government in maritime-related studies through the Australia Awards program. It is supporting the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to engage with coastal communities on a coral reef restoration governance project. The program is also supporting research into maritime governance arrangements and institutional capacity building among Philippine civil maritime agencies.

An independent program review of PCMSP was commissioned from February to June 2023 to assess PCMSP’s progress in delivering its intended outcomes. The midterm review documented achievements and successes of PCMSP, and identified recommendations to improve gaps and weak points in programming and operations.

## Summary of Management Response

The criteria used in the Mid Term Review are directly aligned with existing DFAT monitoring and evaluation tools and standards. The review recommendations relate to longer term approaches to the delivery and governance of the program. While most of the recommendations will require strategic planning and can be operationalised through the recalibration of PCMSP program management and annual work planning processes, some recommendations are already being addressed and implemented by DFAT, and the partners.

DFAT welcomes the mid term review findings and agree in part with majority of the recommendations proposed in the report. In response to these recommendations, DFAT agrees and agrees in part to:

* Convene the Program Coordinating Committee (PCC)
* Consider standardising reporting structure
* Recommend partners to undergo GEDSI orientations
* Improve community understanding of the link of geopolitics to livelihoods

## DFAT Management Response to the Mid Term Review Recommendations

| **Recommendation** | **Response** | **Explanation** | **Actions** | **Timeframe** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Recommendation 1:*  *Convene the Program Coordinating Committee (PCC).* | **Agree** | The midterm review advised that the PCC could provide an opportunity for our delivery partners and government stakeholders to meet and exchange insights. The PCC could likewise be a platform for the partner organisations to determine their role within the overarching framework and desired outcomes of the PCMSP. | DFAT will convene the PCC by the end of 2023 | November 2023 |
| *Recommendation 2:*  *Standardise reporting structure* | **Agree in part** | DFAT acknowledges that standardising partner reporting structures makes for easy identification across the board of the types of further interventions that are needed to achieve the end-of-program outcomes.  However, noting that agreements were signed in different months, reporting periods for the projects were different | DFAT will discuss with partners opportunities to standardise reporting structure |  |
| *Recommendation 3:*  *Project proponents to undergo GEDSI orientations* | **Agree in part** | DFAT acknowledges that the program should seek to better integrate gender analysis and planning and strengthen its evidence of results from targeting gender outcomes and mainstreaming gender.  However, gender equality is not a primary objective of the investment, and the activities within PCMSP were not designed primarily to address gender equality. The two largest activities are implemented by partners with organisational expertise in gender – ACIAR and TAF.  The review assessed the investment as being ‘less than adequate’ on gender equality but appeared to base this assessment on the potential for gender integration, rather than the activity designs. Recommendations provided by the review are not specific or realistic given the investment’s budget allocation and remaining implementation period.  Nevertheless, the next phase of the PCMSP investment will need to comply with DFAT’s new gender equality requirements, and there is great potential to deliver gender equality outcomes in a maritime investment. | DFAT will work with the partners in implementing the review recommendations to address identified shortcomings of the program, including in monitoring and evaluation and gender equality.  DFAT will contract as part of the design team for the successor investment a GEDSI specialist to conduct a GEDSI analysis.    The GEDSI analysis will:   * Seek to understand gender roles in reef use and management; * Identify opportunities for women to equally benefit from investment activities, for example by membership of the Bantay Dagat; * Engage with people with disabilities to understand how they interact with the marine environment, and identify opportunities for their participation in the investment; and * Provide recommendations to inform the next phase of the investment. |  |
| *Recommendation 4:*  *Improve community understanding of the link of geopolitics to livelihoods* | **Agree in part** | DFAT acknowledges that linking civil maritime security with broader regional challenges can be helpful in some instances. | DFAT will disseminate relevant PCMSP products to other deliver partners to maximise the value of research and monitoring and evaluation findings.  DFAT will raise this recommendation with implementing partners to identify ways forward. |  |