

Commitment 2	
Thematic Area: Anti-Corruption	
ANTI-CORRUPTION: Advancing Infrastructure Implementation Transparency by Reinforcing Citizen Participation	
June 2026 – April 2028	
Lead Implementing Agency/Actor	Department of the Interior and Local Government XII, Office of the Provincial Governor – Bids and Awards Division
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	South Cotabato, a province with an area of 3,935.95 sq. km and over 1 million inhabitants, has multiple GIDA areas whose infrastructure needs abound. There are already convergence programs (focused on the sitio/purok level) aimed to address this but there are still sentiments from other communities that their needs are not being met, mainly caused by the lack of public participation in implementation. At the same time, there is a demand for the government to be even more transparent in their procurement process. There are already observers from the civil society during the procurement process but perhaps there are still areas for improvement, especially since the following problems still persist: 1. Infrastructure projects not finished on time 2. Materials used are subpar 3. Public participation is still limited 4. There is no public interest in participating
What the current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan?	There are anti-corruption policies in place, especially in procurement, but there are still citizens with the sentiment that the government needs to be more transparent in certain processes, such as in procurement and budgeting; there are communities whose needs in terms of infrastructure are not addressed.
What is the commitment?	The commitment will be focusing on making infrastructure procurement/contracting and implementation more open by increasing public participation during the process by heavily involving civil society in more ways: a. Opening up to more bidders by raising awareness on the negotiated procurement/community-based procurement provisions in the Republic Act 12009 or the New Government Procurement Act b. Possibly increasing the CSO observers, and making their reports more visible c. Involving the community in monitoring and evaluation of infrastructure projects by operationalizing the Barangay Project Monitoring and Evaluation Committees (BPMEC)
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	By directing more eyes on infrastructure implementation from bidding up to evaluation, this ensures that the right infrastructure project is built by the right contractor using the right materials at the right speed, effectively addressing all the issues identified.
What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?	In the long run, the improved quality of infrastructure projects will increase rural-urban integration, support economic growth and improve access of the poor to basic socio-economic services such as health, education and livelihood development. Hence, this commitment impacts the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As for the outcome, the relevant SDGs include 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), 10 (Reduce Inequalities), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 16 (Peace, and Justice, and Strong Institutions), and goal number 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
Primary Policy Area	<i>Open Contracting, Public Procurement</i>

Primary Sector	<i>Public Services (general)</i>
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Transparency – processes such as project identification, procurement, and project implementation are demystified by involving more civil society members in the respective councils Accountability – as mentioned, involving more eyes on these processes will make the government and the contractors more accountable Public Participation – increasing civil society participation is crucial to the success of the project
Additional information	

Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable	Responsibility	Source of Fund	Start Date	End Date
BPMEC Operationalization - Province-wide seminars attended by prospective BPMEC members - Development of criteria for selecting pilot barangays - Training selected pilot barangays - Executive Order on the composition and responsibilities of the BPMEC	OPPDC, DILG	DILG	June 2026	September 2027
Strengthening Participation in Procurement IEC/Workshops on Negotiated Procurement - Increasing number of observers - Posting of observers' reports - Increased participation of CSOs in the monitoring during the implementation - ProZorro case study	OPG-BAD, OPCDO OPIO,	OPG-BAD	June 2026	September 2027

Commitment 4	
Thematic Area: Climate & Environment	
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT: Raising Awareness on Biodiversity Conservation and Disaster Reduction by Mobilizing Communities	
June 2026 to April 2028	
Lead Implementing Agency/Actor	Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	The Philippines is one of the world's eighteen (18) mega-diverse countries, hosting 5% of the planet's plant species and ranking fifth globally in overall biodiversity resources. The country also exhibits a remarkable level of species endemism, with at least 25 plant genera and 49% of its terrestrial fauna found exclusively within its borders. Notably, it ranks fourth worldwide in bird species endemism. With more than 700 vulnerable species, the Philippines is recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot and one of the most critical areas for conservation. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Philippines has approximately 7.2 million hectares of forest ecosystems, which account for around 24% of its total land area—South Cotabato's natural resources are an integral part of this forest cover. Surveys conducted in MMPL from 2013 to 2016 confirmed the presence of 324 species of vascular plants, 185 species of bryophytes, 13 species of amphibians, 13 species of reptiles, 15 species of bats, and 81 species of birds. These surveys in six sampling sites representing different elevations (lowland, montane, mossy forest) and disturbance regimes (disturbed and undisturbed) revealed high levels of biological diversity and endemism. However, there is still incomplete knowledge about MMPL's biodiversity as the past surveys did not cover other groups of wildlife species. The critically endangered species such as <i>Shorea astylosa</i> (Yakal), <i>Phapitreron amethystinus</i> (Amethyst Brown Dove), and <i>Loriculus philippensis</i> (Philippine Hanging Parrot) can be found in MMPL. A subspecies of Snowy-browed Flycatcher (<i>Ficedula hyperythra matutumensis</i>) was recently discovered in the protected area and cannot be found elsewhere. Further, AVPL is also home of significant wildlife species which include: Philippine Eagle (<i>Pithecopaga jefferyi</i>), Tanguile (<i>Shorea polysperma</i>), Apitong (<i>Dipterocarpus grandifloras</i>), Philippine Tarsier (<i>Tarsius syrichta</i>), Philippine Monkey (<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>), Brahminy Kite (<i>Haliastur indus</i>), Pitcher Plant (<i>Nepenthes sp.</i>), Mindanao Blue Fantail (<i>Rhipidura superciliaris</i>), and Nabol (<i>Bischofia javanica</i>) which is widely distributed in the area (Source: MMPL/AVPL Protected Area Management Plan). With its abundant natural resources, there is an urgent need to protect and conserve these areas to sustain their essential ecological functions. However, protected areas (PAs) are increasingly threatened by unsustainable activities driven by rapid economic development. The province, characterized as an agro-industrial hub, relies heavily on both small- and large-scale agricultural industries. As the economy grows, population increases follow, placing mounting pressure on upland areas—particularly those targeted for agro-industrial expansion. Additionally, the complex nature of climate change and hazard data, as well as data gathered from the environment, makes it difficult to involve the public in disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation initiatives.

What the current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan?	The Philippines, being a diverse archipelago with a biodiverse environment from ridge to reef located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, a lot of data is being gathered on the environment and hazards, and there are also a lot of plans being prepared such as local resource management and disaster risk reduction plans. Unfortunately, sometimes, data collected by local government units (LGUs) who prepare these plans in an effort to comply with multiple international commitments and national policies and issuances are not communicated to the public in a way that will make sense to them or will benefit them. Of course there are many factors leading to this, most important of which are the highly technical nature of the data and the limited capacity and resources to utilize the information.
What is the commitment?	The establishment of a biodiversity corridor in the Province of South Cotabato is a crucial step in protecting and conserving its natural resources. This corridor is a strategically designated strip of land that reconnects fragmented forest areas to stabilize wildlife populations—both flora and fauna—and enhance ecological coherence. It aids the movement of the wildlife between the disconnected areas to its natural habitat – the forest. It facilitates wildlife migration, reproduction, and population growth, which in turn contributes to increased vegetation and forest cover. The project aims to raise awareness and understanding of biodiversity conservation, improving biodiversity indicators through habitat restoration, enhancing community resilience to environmental challenges, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. These efforts are focused within the Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape (MMPL) and the Allah Valley Protected Landscape (AVPL), both designated as protected areas under Republic Act No. 11038, also known as the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System (E-NIPAS). The corridor will cover approximately 6,424.84 hectares in the MMPL—spanning the municipalities of Polomolok, Tupi, and Tampakan—and 2,746.41 hectares in the AVPL, covering the municipalities of Surallah, Lake Sebu, and Tboli. Series of workshops, seminars, and educational campaigns through BCC and CineMatutum (short films/infomercial) are conducted which aimed to ignite a flame of awareness and action in the local communities. These activities are important for the stakeholders to learn about the richness of their natural surroundings and the pressing need for conservation that requires their active participation. The project also integrates economic opportunities aligned with conservation goals. These include the cultivation of rattan, k'nalom/loco (natural dye plants), Arabica coffee, bamboo, and abaca. These resources support local industries such as production of 'alamid coffee' (coffee droppings from civet cat), souvenir production and the traditional T'nalak weaving. By linking livelihoods with environmental protection, the initiative not only sustains local economies but also strengthens community commitment to preserving their natural heritage. In the same vein of involving the community to raise awareness, at the local government unit level, conducting focused group discussions (FGD) involving the proper stakeholders will be done. This way, both the government and the civil society will have a hand in identifying which data usually gathered for development plans should be the focus of this commitment (e.g., critical infrastructure, lifeline utilities, natural resource-

	based production areas, population, urban use, etc.). This will be included in the AIP and Annual Budget proposals. Once substantial financing will be secured, a training with PSA will be organized to prepare publication materials on the data, and the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) will be partnered with in training the community, especially the youth sector, to gather the relevant data and upload it onto OpenStreetMap. Other ways to communicate the data gathered to the community will also be explored.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	The Biodiversity Corridor project will help address the pressing issue of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss in the identified areas of the Province. Considering the objectives of the project, it will restore and protect the province's natural ecosystems, which are currently under threat from unsustainable land use practices, deforestation, soil erosion, and the declining state of biodiversity. By focusing on ecological rehabilitation, the project directly tackles the root causes of environmental degradation. Restoring degraded areas contributes to the conservation of native species and their habitats, improves ecosystem services (such as clean water, fertile soil, and carbon sequestration), and enhances the resilience of natural systems against the impacts of climate change. These benefits extend beyond environmental gains—they also help secure the livelihoods of local communities who depend on natural resources for food, water, and income. Hence, by engaging the upland communities as active partners—and not merely as beneficiaries—represents a paradigm shift from top-down conservation models to one rooted in community stewardship. This project stands as a significant reformative action because it provides a multifaceted, community-driven solution to the critical issue of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. It moves beyond short-term solutions and instead lays the groundwork for long-term sustainability by rehabilitating natural ecosystems and empowering the immediate communities that depend on them. By doing so, it not only protects the province's natural heritage but also contributes to building a more inclusive, resilient, and environmentally responsible society. Additionally, involving the public in multiple steps of the disaster and climate mitigation planning (e.g., deciding what data to gather, data gathering proper, plan communication, etc.), awareness will be raised on climate change and hazard risks in the community level.
What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?	This Biodiversity Corridor initiative is a locally funded and priority project of the Provincial Government of South Cotabato, aligned with its mandate to protect and conserve natural resources within its jurisdiction. As a Local Government Unit (LGU), it is mandated under the Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) to promote health and safety and uphold the people's right to a balanced and healthful ecology. The project also supports the province's commitment to the National Greening Program (NGP) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which aims to rehabilitate 1.5 million hectares of degraded timberland across the country. Through this initiative, the province contributes to national goals by fostering environmental stability, conserving biodiversity, enhancing climate change mitigation and adaptation, and providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for upland

	communities. In addition, the project supports the Philippines' commitment to its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. It is envisioned to serve as a carbon sink to help offset the greenhouse gas emissions of the province. As a whole, this commitment impacts the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As for the outcome, the relevant SDGs include 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
Primary Policy Area	Open Data, Right to Information
Primary Sector	Environment & Climate
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Transparency and Participation: The project recognizes the participation of various stakeholders both in planning and decision-making processes. Each stakeholders plays a vital role in the implementation. People's Organizations (POs) served as the primary sources of planting materials, while their members acted as direct partners in the execution of project activities.
Additional information	Beyond environmental conservation, the Biodiversity Corridor project also emphasizes the importance of sustainable development. It aims to support upland communities by promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities that are compatible with environmental goals. This includes integrating these areas into the Carbon Emission Trading (CET) initiative, offering both ecological benefits and economic incentives to local stakeholders.

Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable	Responsibility	Source of Fund	Start Date	End Date
Rehabilitation of 59 hectares (with 24 beneficiaries) using native species such as <i>Tuai (Bischofia javanica)</i> , Dipterocarpaceae species (lauan, bagtikan), 51 hectares (with 15 beneficiaries) for rattan enrichment planting, 5 hectares (with 6 schools) for YES-O adopted sites, 6 hectares for dye plant (Loco and/or knalom – with 6 beneficiaries), and 25 hectares (with 34 beneficiaries) for coffee plantations dedicated to Alamid coffee production	OPENRO	OPENRO	June 2026	March 2028
Mapping and Inventory of the Allah Valley Protected Landscape (AVPL) and Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape (MMPL)	OPENRO	OPENRO	June 2026	March 2028
IEC on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Risks Strengthened advocacy initiatives through Behavioral Change Campaigns (BCC) and	OPENRO	OPENRO	June 2026	March 2028

Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable	Responsibility	Source of Fund	Start Date	End Date
Cinematutum - Since 2019, it successfully facilitated a series of BCC sessions with partner communities and Cinematutum with schools and other stakeholders.				
Provision of Sustainable Livelihoods Linked to Biodiversity Conservation Recognizing the importance of sustaining the participation of upland communities in biodiversity conservation efforts, the project has integrated sustainable livelihood schemes through labor-based activities and the maintenance of planted indigenous tree species, rattan, and dye plants. This approach not only provides income opportunities but also fosters a sense of ownership and accountability within communities over their respective areas of responsibility (AOR).	OPENRO	OPENRO	June 2026	March 2028

Commitment 4	
Thematic Area: Digital Governance	
DIGITAL GOVERNANCE: Relaunching the Integrated Provincial Online Database (IPOD) to Provide Reliable Information on Government Plans and Programs	
June 2026 - March 2028	
Lead Implementing Agency/Actor	Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	South Cotabato, being a diverse population situated in all kinds of environments, limited access to digital tools is inevitable. Digital information is not as accessible since you often need to look at multiple sources to get the whole picture. There has been a movement across platforms globally to harmonize legitimate news and information sources but there is still a lack of awareness and skills in navigating digital platform, exacerbated by the disparity in technology and internet connectivity across the digital and physical landscapes.
What the current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan?	Data can indeed be easily requested with the aid of the Freedom on Information (FOI) Ordinance, but it can still be improved in terms of efficiency by removing the need to request in the first place.
What is the commitment?	One way to remove the need to request data or documents via the FOI portal is to make the data available online. The modular relaunching of the IPOD on the South Cotabato website can achieve this, and is one step towards limiting the confusion about where to get reliable information and how to access government services. A mechanism where users of the portal can interact with the data will also be included so they can filter data by sector, year, etc. and download them. Users will also be allowed to leave feedback on the posted data and documents. An IEC on its features will also be rolled out to make sure that the public not only knows of its existence—they should also be informed on how to use it.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	With a singular source of reliable data and news upon the launching of the IPOD, more citizens will be kept informed on updates on both issues and other non-confidential government documents, such as development plans.
What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?	In the long run, the improved access to good services and quality data will increase rural-urban integration, support economic growth and improve access of the poor to basic socio-economic services such as health, education and livelihood development. Hence, this commitment impacts the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As for the outcome, the relevant SDGs include 10

	(Reduce Inequalities), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (16), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
Primary Policy Area	Digital Governance
Primary Sector	Public Services (general)
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Transparency – publishing data and info on an easily accessible website akin to a one-stop-shop for data Accountability – the embedded feedback mechanism in the IPOD gives the public an avenue to raise concerns Public Participation – the community with easier access to data and services, can provide feedback on the services they have availed
Additional information	

Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable	Responsibility	Source of Fund	Start Date	End Date
AIP and Budget proposal - Finalizing the plan and submitting it for funding	OPG-ITD, OPIO		June 2026	April 2027
Relaunching of IPOD a. Local Development and Testing - Finalizing what content to be uploaded, starting with the existing development plans and the Statistical Yearbook - Designing the user interface - Development b. Local Launching - The portal can be accessed by those connected to the Local Access Network of the Provincial Government c. Uploading to the cloud and going online - Official Launch - Roll out of IEC on how to use the portal d. Integration of other portals - LTS - Procurement Portal - Assessors - Health/e-Konsulta	OPG-ITD, OPIO, OPPDC (for the plans and the yearbook), OSP (LTS), OPG-BAD (Procurement Portal), etc.	OPPDC	June 2026	March 2028

Commitment 5	
Thematic Area: Public Participation	
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Empowering Communities in Crafting Impactful Legislation	
June 2026 to April 2028	
Lead Implementing Agency/Actor	Provincial Cooperative Development Officer, Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Commitment Description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Although South Cotabato fosters its supportive CSO community, there are still improvements to be made in terms of their involvement in planning, budgeting, legislation, and other government processes that should be as participative as can be. The existing commitment on Open Legislation has also metaphorically opened the doors to what goes on behind the weekly Sanggunian sessions by livestreaming weekly Sangguniang Panlalawigan sessions, but citizens are only allowed to view and comment. But their comments, though noted, are not necessarily taken up during the sessions. For senate and congressional hearings, i.e., legislative bodies on the national scale, not only plenary hearings, but also committee hearings are made available to the viewing public. This is also another way to make legislation even more transparent.
What is the current state of the policy issue at the beginning of an action plan?	Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are represented well in local special bodies such as the Provincial Development Council, whose composition is almost 50% CSOs (compared to the required 25%), and yet there are instances where their involvement in the preparation of provincial plans is limited. This was the case for the Executive Legislative Agenda 2022-2025, and the Annual Budget, among others, where the plans were only presented to them, i.e., they were not involved in as many stages of the preparation as possible. Outside of the province, other Philippine Local Government Units (LGUs) also comply with the provisions of the law regarding the participation of CSO's in government programs on a surface level, such as the new Department of the Interior and Local Government Memorandum Circular 2025-060 on the representation of CSOs in Local Special Bodies.
What is the commitment?	Aside from the reintegrating of the Legislative Tracking System (LTS) into the IPOD as part of the commitment on Digital Governance, livestreaming committee meetings will be institutionalized via an ordinance issued by the SP. The current livestreaming as part of the Open Legislation commitment will also be improved by integrating mechanisms where the comments of the public will be processed by assigned personnel in real-time and brought up during the sessions themselves. Livestreaming of Committee meetings, as opposed to only SP sessions, will be strongly considered in the revamping.

	At the provincial level and for LGU partners Banga and Sto. Niño, there will also be capacity building and a series of workshops with the sole goal of coming up with at least one (1) proposed legislation that will emanate from the participants, which will be composed of various sectors of civil society. In tandem with this, they will also be trained so they can meaningfully participate in future plan and budget formulation activities, in tandem with the CSO Academy.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	Capacitating members of the civil society sector to be able to participate meaningfully in said processes directly responds to the identified demand of civil society to participate in major government processes. Additionally, enriching the current livestreaming process also fulfills the issue of citizen participation in legislation.
What long-term goal as identified in your Open Government Strategic Vision does this commitment relate to?	In the long run, directly empowering the grassroots by not only listening to them, but also enabling them to meaningfully participate in legislation and other government processes will increase rural-urban integration, and support economic growth. Hence, this commitment impacts the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As for the outcome, the relevant SDGs include 10 (Reduce Inequalities), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
Primary Policy Area	Civic Space, Legislative Openness
Primary Sector	Legislature
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	Livestreaming SP sessions down to the committee level and including the community in planning and budgeting is one way to make government processes more transparent. Including more eyes on the legislation process makes legislators more accountable. And lastly, directly involving the civil society in legislation is a huge step in allowing the public to participate.
Additional information	

Milestone Activity with a Verifiable Deliverable	Responsibility	Source of Fund	Start Date	End Date
AIP and Budget proposal - Finalizing the plan and submitting it for funding	OPG-ITD, OPIO		June 2026	October 2026
Community-proposed Legislation <u>a. Training/Capacity Building</u> - Furnish all LGU's copies of the provincial ordinance no FS. S. 2022 - CSOs and Peoples' Councils to pass resolution to the P/MCDO to fund trainings - Lobbying funding from DILG - Requesting LGU officials to have conduct benchmarking activities	OSP, OPCDO, P/C/MLGU	OPCDO	September 2027	March 2028

with LGUs who also promote CSO participation <u>b. Meetings and Workshops</u> - Training of CSOs on government processes with CSO Academy - Workshops and Writeshops on the Community-based Legislation - Seminars for elected officials on CSO participation in government programs <u>c. Institutionalization</u> - Passing of relevant resolutions and ordinances				
Relaunching of the Improved LTS <u>a. Institutionalization of Livestreaming of _____ Committee _____ Meetings</u> <u>b. Development of New Way of Processing Public Comments During the Livestreams</u>	OSP, OPG-ITD		September 2027	March 2028