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USAID Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes

Newsletter #4 (July-September 2022)

USAID meets with park rangers, community reps from PPSRNP



On September 21, USAID Philippines Deputy Mission Director Rebekah Eubanks met with Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP) Superintendent Elizabeth Maclang, PPSRNP park rangers and members of community-managed savings and credit associations established by SIBOL. The park rangers—recipients of SIBOL’s law enforcement capacity building programs, shared details about their work which included going after illegal loggers and poachers within the national park. The community members, on the other hand, shared how SIBOL was able to help them improve the management of their finances without them resorting to predatory lending companies. They added that they were able to start an environmental fund through their savings group which they intend to use on conservation activities within the national park.





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SIBOL supports DENR in tackling rise of online IWT



SIBOL on September 15 joined the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Environmental Law Enforcement Protection Service in conducting the Regional Discussion on Wildlife Trafficking in Region 3 in San Fernando City, Pampanga. The activity taught DENR field personnel on surveillance and case building against perpetrators. Enforcement chiefs in the region also identified gaps and issues in environmental law enforcement, and agreed on the need for an urgent response to violators who use advanced technology to avoid getting caught. Illegal wildlife activities in Central Luzon rose sharply over the last two years, with environmental law enforcers arresting a total of 38 illegal wildlife traffickers, seizing more than 6,000 wildlife individuals and over P16 million worth of timber and non-timber products.

USAID holds roundtable discussion with Palawan-based conservation CSOs



USAID Philippines Deputy Mission Director Rebekah Eubanks led a discussion with civil society organizations working on conservation in Palawan. The groups shared their challenges in funding, increasing their membership and working with the local government. USAID invited the organizations to submit grant proposals under its Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems project, which can provide support to their various work areas.





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SIBOL signs MoU with PRMSU

The President Ramon Magsaysay State University signed an agreement with SIBOL for the promotion and use of economic valuation and natural capital accounts principles, tools and knowledge. Under the memorandum of understanding, the parties will work on establishing natural capital accounts for the Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape. This is line with SIBOL's goal of addressing socio-economic drivers of threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services by advancing natural resource valuation.



SIBOL conducts biodiversity assessment in Siargao



On September 29-30, 2022, SIBOL conducted a biodiversity assessment at Sitio Lobo, Dapa, Siargao Island. The project engaged field assistants, researchers, and 15 training participants from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to collect data on various fauna and flora species. SIBOL documented lizards, frogs, snakes, birds, trees, plants and even a rarely photographed tarsier in the area. The Activity also analyzed the collected data to determine species distribution, habitat conditions and threats to the wildlife, among others.





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ABOUT SIBOL

Launched in 2020, the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL) is a P1.1-billion natural resources management and biodiversity conservation project of the United States Agency for International Development in partnership with RTI International. SIBOL works closely with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development. The Center for Conservation Innovations, Forest Foundation Philippines, Zoological Society of London, and the Resources, Environment and Economics Center for Studies, comprise the consortium partnering with RTI.

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