



# SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY, OCEANS AND LANDSCAPES

Newsletter #9 (October-December 2023)

## SIBOL Joins DENR in COP 28 Side Event in Dubai

SIBOL on December 9 joined the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in leading a side event on post-disaster adaptation and resilience planning of island ecosystems at the Philippine Pavilion during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (COP 28).

SIBOL Ecosystems Integration Specialist Dr. Neil Aldrin Mallari led a presentation titled “The Green Assessment and Recovery Framework: Re-imagining Climate Adaptation and Resilience of Island Ecosystems in the Philippines,” which detailed how SIBOL developed a post-disaster assessment framework and recovery plan for areas hit by Super Typhoon Odette in December 2021. Meanwhile, SIBOL Natural Resources Management Specialist Rina Rosales delivered a video presentation on “Sukat ng Kalikasan: Counting What Counts” which discussed the Natural Capital Accounting Framework—a systematic way to measure and report on stocks and flows of natural capital which SIBOL is pioneering in key biodiversity areas in the country. #





## Green Recovery Investment Packages for Palawan Developed

SIBOL developed green recovery investment packages to incentivize Palawan's business community to participate in the province's post-disaster recovery.

The packages include a forest restoration package, a protected area rehabilitation package and a support to community value chains package. They intend to provide a standard set of investment areas in which private sector partners may support Green Recovery initiatives, including identification of sites, incentives and identified local implementing partners.

The packages are a set of incentives that include provision of certificates of donation, DENR National Greening Program recognition, marketing privileges and opportunities for employee engagement for companies that will invest in Palawan's recovery after Super Typhoon Odette in December 2021. Other opportunities for corporate partners include integration with existing corporate social responsibility projects, carbon offset and access to carbon markets.

SIBOL intends to hold a series of roadshow events in Palawan to gather industry members and the local government to market the packages and secure commitments from the business community. #

SIBOL continued its work of supporting community-managed savings and credit associations (CoMSCA) in Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape as they move towards the creation of more groups in the future.

After the federation in January 2023 of 48 CoMSCA groups into the MOBPLS Environmental Savers Association, SIBOL trained the groups' leaders in organizational management, leadership, meeting facilitation and documentation. The federation itself was able to establish late last year a new CoMSCA group, speaking to the federation's capacity to establish groups on its own after SIBOL ceases operations.

Members, meanwhile, were taught skills on how to set up biodiversity friendly enterprises: fish deboning, drying and smoking, production of mussel sardines, kropek, empanada and mussel cubes, and using post-harvest food technology to create products from fish and other seafood products. #

## SIBOL Ramps Up CoMSCA Activities in Masinloc



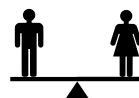
## SIBOL Accomplishments for October-December 2023



**2,138** hectares added to biologically significant areas under improved natural resources management



**2,008** more people with improved economic benefits from sustainable natural resources management or biological conservation



**7** more legal instruments drafted, proposed, or adopted designed to promote gender equality or non-discrimination



**585** more people trained in sustainable natural resources management and biodiversity conservation



**259** more people trained in sustainable landscapes



**\$28,670** worth of additional investments mobilized for sustainable landscapes



**431,599** more people reached by communication materials



**502** more people who apply improved natural resources management, safeguards or sustainable practices

## **SIBOL Talks Resilience, Recovery in Int'l Biosphere Conference**

In November, SIBOL supported the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development in organizing the 2023 International Conference on Biosphere and Sustainability in Puerto Princesa City.

SIBOL Enforcement Specialist Glenn Forbes led a plenary discussion on increasing the resilience of communities to climate change while Ecosystems Integration Specialist Dr. Neil Aldrin Mallari discussed the implementation of the green assessment framework that was used in northern Palawan after being struck by Super Typhoon Odette in 2021. SIBOL Chief of Party Kathy Wachala also delivered opening remarks.

The international conference served as a knowledge-sharing platform for best management practices in biosphere reserves. #



# IN PHOTOS: 2023 International Conference on Biosphere and Sustainability



## SIBOL Supports Updating of Nat'l Forest Landscape Restoration Plan



SIBOL, along with the Food and Agriculture Organization, supported in October the DENR's Forest Management Bureau in conducting a workshop to update the Philippine National Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Action Plan.

The workshop reviewed the 2016 FLR Action Plan, incorporating lessons learned from its 2016-2018 implementation. It also addressed key aspects, including setting the vision, mission, goals and objectives, identifying strategies, and prioritizing aligned activities. The workshop focused on refining the FLR Action Plan to address current environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices.

Dr. Wilfredo Carandang from the Food and Agriculture Organization served as the National FLR expert, facilitating discussions among representatives from various government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector. #



## SIBOL Holds Youth Summit in Celebration of 27th SIPLAS Anniversary

SIBOL, in cooperation with DENR Caraga and Tambayoyong Changemakers Coalition hosted in October the 'Youth Splash in SIPLAS Eco-Challenge,' engaging 52 participants aged 18-30. The event, held during the 27th anniversary week of the Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape (SIPLAS), aimed to raise environmental awareness through games and discussions, highlighting threats like poor waste management and illegal activities.

Participants identified issues affecting biodiversity and community livelihoods, marking a crucial step in cultivating a network of environmentally conscious youth champions in SIPLAS. #

## PPC, PCSD Sign MOA to Manage CNCH



The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) and the City Government of Puerto Princesa signed in October a memorandum of agreement to manage the Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat. Under the agreement that SIBOL helped draft and finalize, the city government and PCSD commit to protecting the 41,350-hectare critical habitat that has served as a haven for biodiversity and indigenous people in Palawan. #

## SIPLAS Tour Guides Trained in Environmentally Friendly Tourism



SIBOL, along with Socorro and SIPLAS PAMO, organized a three-day training for 27 Sohoton Community Tour Guides last November to teach local guides about tour etiquette, environmental laws and the importance of Sohoton Cove's wildlife to the island's tourism industry. After the training, guides practiced a scripted ecotour emphasizing the importance of conservation and following environmental rules and regulations.

The training is in line with SIBOL's goal of promoting a community-based sustainable blue tourism that focuses on minimizing the negative impacts of tourism to the environment. #





## KEY EVENTS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

- World Wetlands Day - February 2
- PBSAP Consultation Workshop - February 6-8
- International Day of Women and Girls in Science - February 11
- Green Recovery Plan Roadshow (Palawan) - February 15
- World Pangolin Day - February 18
- World Wildlife Day - March 3
- International Women's Day - March 8
- International Day of Forests - March 21



## CONTACT

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## ABOUT



Launched in 2020, the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL) is a P1.35-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.