



SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY, OCEANS AND LANDSCAPES

Newsletter #10 (January-March 2024)

For the 3rd Time, SIBOL Gets Recognized in Palawan for Environmental Work



The City Government of Puerto Princesa on March 3 recognized SIBOL for its outstanding contribution to environmental protection, following the project's extensive work on assisting the city and the province in rehabilitating its damaged ecosystems.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Lucilo Bayron presented the award to SIBOL's Jocelyn Caseres, site team lead for Palawan, during the celebration of the city's 152nd founding anniversary.

This is the third time that a local government unit recognized SIBOL for its environmental work, following the Gawad Kalikasan (Nature Award) given by the Puerto Princesa City Government and the Gawad Parangal Para sa Kalikasan (Award for Nature) received from the Municipality of Quezon, Palawan in 2022. SIBOL works at the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat and the Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape.



SIBOL Supports PBSAP Northern Luzon Consultation



In February, approximately 170 government representatives from Northern Luzon joined the SIBOL-supported regional consultation to update the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The project works with the government to reach the target of protecting and conserving at least 22 percent of terrestrial and inland waters by 2030. SIBOL continues to support initiatives to reverse biodiversity loss in the Philippines, including the updating of the country's main action plan.



Masinloc Celebrates International Day of Action for Rivers

To celebrate the International Day of Action for Rivers in March, SIBOL joined the Protected Area Management Office of Masinloc and Oyon Bay in a cleanup drive in Bagsit River of Palauig, Zambales. As a main source of food and water, rivers are the lifeline of forests, biodiversity and communities. But threats like pollution, dams, and agricultural runoffs degrade rivers. SIBOL works with local partners to protect vital ecosystems such as rivers from degradation.

PPSRNP Commits Over P15M for Green Recovery Plan



The Protected Area Management Board of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park allocated over P15 million from their annual budget to support SIBOL's initiative to restore almost 10,000 hectares of damaged forests and mangroves in the protected area. This is a huge step towards the green recovery of Palawan's ecosystems and post-disaster resilience of wildlife and local communities.



Women Leaders in Masinloc Join DENR's Women's Forum

In March, SIBOL joined the DENR-BMB and its partners at the 2024 Women's Forum that recognized the role of women in promoting biodiversity conservation in the Philippines. Women leaders of USAID-established community-managed savings and credit associations (CoMSCA) in Masinloc, Zambales participated in the discussion on amplifying women's influence in environmental governance and harnessing women's strength through community finance initiatives.

At the SIBOL booth, the women leaders of Masinloc CoMSCAs feature some of the biodiversity-friendly products such as bottled mussels, banana chips and tamarind jam that they were able to produce through the savings they had from joining CoMSCAs.

SIBOL Holds Green Recovery Roadshow in Palawan

SIBOL launched the green recovery investment packages in Palawan, with businesses and local partners committing to the restoration of disaster-damaged forests and mangroves in the province. By investing in these packages, companies commit to specific restoration activities in exchange for business incentives. SIBOL will hold a series of roadshows to gather major industry players and solicit additional funding for the post-disaster recovery of ecosystems.



SIBOL celebrates World Wildlife Day in Palawan

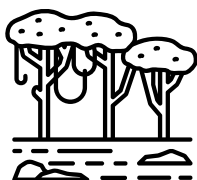


SIBOL, in collaboration with Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), celebrated World Wildlife Day on March 3 emphasizing the role of digital innovations in conservation. PCSD highlighted the SIBOL-supported SUMBONG, an online app for reporting environmental violations, to help curb the decline of wildlife in the region. Several activities were also featured such as reel-making contests, discussions on environmental conservation, and awarding of certificates to wildlife savers.

SIBOL Key Accomplishments for January-March 2024



\$341,098 additional investments mobilized for sustainable landscapes



213,904 hectares added to biologically significant areas under improved natural resources management



\$119,750 additional investments mobilized for biodiversity conservation



912 more people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resources management or biological conservation



707 more people trained in sustainable natural resources management and biodiversity conservation



1,223,806 more people reached by IEC materials



8 more laws, policies, regulations or standards addressing sustainable landscapes



161 more people trained in sustainable landscapes



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

KEY NATIONAL EVENTS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

- FishSHIELDS pilot rollout - April 1-5
- PBSAP Southern Luzon Consultation - April 16-19
- Earth Day - April 22
- Month of the Ocean - May
- DENR-SIBOL joint celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity (Sukat ng Kalikasan launch and Biodiversity Crisis Escape Room opening) - May 22
- Philippine Environment Month - June
- PBSAP National Consultation - June 4-6
- Biodiversity Crisis Escape Room (Subic) - June 15-16
- Biodiversity Crisis Escape Room (Palawan) - June 28-30
- 3rd National Protected Area Conference - June 25-27

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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.