



Project Highlight

BioChamps



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ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER

BioChamps is a series of meaningful initiatives that gathered Indigenous youth from the Tagbanua and Palaw'an communities of Palawan.

It is a youth engagement platform under the Sustainable and Inclusive Landscape Governance program (SILG) of Forest Foundation Philippines, together with Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC), Institute for the Development of Educational and Ecological Alternatives, Inc. (IDEAS), and Non-Timber Forest Products – Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP).

The camps and capacity development activities provided a space for them to celebrate their heritage, deepen their connection with their ancestral lands, strengthen their individual and organizational capacities, and embrace their role as stewards of the forest.

This document gathers **lessons learned in co-developing, organizing, and facilitating** these youth engagements.



About Youth Engagement

A Youth Engagement platform is a **collective learning space** where young people explore themes like conservation, leadership, and governance through interactive and community-based activities. It strengthens knowledge, skills, and solidarity while grounding discussions in lived experiences.

Designing a Youth Engagement Activity



Assemble the Team

Form a core group to lead planning and implementation. Clarify roles and build on each other's strengths.



Identify Theme & Objectives

Co-create with youth leaders to ensure relevance through a Training Needs Assessment (TNA). Define clear objectives: what problem to address, what output to create, or what action to sustain after camp.



Create the Program

Mix lectures, group work, games, energizers, arts, and field visits. Balance learning with fun, reflection, and application.



Pro tip!

Use the **Kaya Cards** to spark ideas and guide you in designing sessions that are engaging, inclusive, and aligned with your objectives.



Choose Dates & Venue

Consider school schedules. Retreat houses or spaces with both indoor/outdoor options are ideal. Secure equipment (mics, speakers, projectors) and announce details at least a month in advance.



Select Participants

Ensure diversity (gender, background, community). Always secure parental consent with clear details of the camp. Create a participant list with contacts and set up a group chat for coordination.



Invite Resource Persons

Choose engaging speakers who understand youth. Share participant profiles so they can adapt their delivery. Strive for gender balance.

Preparing for a Youth Engagement Activity

Camp Kits

program guide, notebooks, pens, colored pencils, camp merchandise (if any)

Emergency Kit

first aid, basic meds, flashlights

Faci Materials

metacards, markers, tape,
scissors, cords

Logistics

transportation and venue
arrangements, reimbursements,
packing reminders

Implementing a Youth Engagement Activity

Field Trips

Coordinate sites and
transpo, assign buddies,
travel kits

Emergencies

First aid and emergency
kits, medicine (esp. for
anti-dizziness) and
contingency plans

Registration

Welcome booth, IDs,
attendance, camp kits

Photo Sharing

Invite participants to
share their own photos
and stories

Energizers

Games, songs,
movement breaks

Team Huddles

Quick organizer check-ins

Daily Recaps

Creative sharing through
drawings, skits, raps

Documentation

Photos and videos,
consent forms, workshop
outputs, handouts and
written documentation
of important discussion

Tinig ng Kabataan

Sabi nga ni Rizal tayo[ng kabataan] yung pag-asa ng bayan. Nasa henerasyon po tayo na tayo mismo yung may magagawa para sa ating kalikasan.



Florei

Tagbanua Youth Leader
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To learn more about this project,
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bit.ly/BioChampsStories

