

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

and

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

I. Purpose

The United States Agency for International Development (hereinafter referred to as "USAID") and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as "DENR") have a common interest in meaningfully conserving biodiversity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector in the Philippines.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is to establish cooperation between USAID and DENR (each a "Participant" and collectively, "Participants") pursuant to the Development Objective Agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines for Enhanced Ecosystem and Community Resilience signed on February 3, 2021 by National Economic and Development Authority Acting Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua and USAID/Philippines Mission Director Lawrence Hardy II.

The MOU also seeks to further the goals set forth below, and to outline the understandings and intentions with regard to these shared goals. The Participants seek to share their respective strengths, experiences, technologies, methodologies, and resources (including human, in-kind, and monetary) in order to achieve these goals.

The Participants share the following goals:

- Improve the governance of natural resources;
- Sustainably manage the natural resource sector; and
- Reduce environmental crime and unsustainable environmental practices.

The Participants intend to focus joint activities around the following:

- Baseline assessments of the status and condition of biodiversity and natural resources in the target sites;
- Capacity building activities such as training, conferences and workshops;
- Analysis and development of national- and local-level biodiversity- and natural resources-related policies;
- Environmental law enforcement;
- Development and/or enhancement of tools for the protection of biodiversity, wildlife and other natural resources and the management of protected areas and forest lands;
- Annual work planning and pause-and-reflect sessions to monitor and evaluate the progress in project implementation; and
- Production and dissemination of knowledge materials.
- "Parties are jointly committed to the above objectives. Details of Project Implementation, specific outputs, and activities shall be laid down in a joint operational plan"

The Participants enter into this MOU while maintaining their own separate and unique missions and mandates, and their own accountabilities. This MOU is not a treaty and does not give rise to rights or obligations under international law. Unless specifically provided otherwise, the cooperation between the Participants as outlined in this MOU shall not be construed as a legal form of partnership or other type of legal entity or personality. Each

Participant shall accept full and sole responsibility for any and all expenses incurred by it relating to this MOU. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as superseding or interfering in any way with any agreements or contracts entered into among the Participants, either prior to or subsequent to the signing of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as an exclusive working relationship. The Participants specifically acknowledge that this MOU is not an obligation of funds, nor does it constitute a legally binding commitment by any Participant or create any rights in any third party.

II. Partner Roles, Responsibilities and Notices

1. USAID

USAID Background

USAID is an independent federal government agency of the United States of America that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. USAID supports international development and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting economic growth, agriculture and trade, global health, democracy and conflict mitigation and management; and humanitarian assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Eurasia.

USAID is providing technical assistance to the Government of the Philippines through a five-year (July 2020 - June 2025) project called Philippines Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes ("SIBOL"), which is being implemented in close collaboration with the DENR. SIBOL is implemented by a consortium of organizations led by RTI International, which counts the Center for Conservation Innovations Philippines, the Forest Foundation Philippines, the Resources, Environment and Economics Center for Studies and the Zoological Society of London as members.

SIBOL seeks to improve natural resource governance, stimulate public and private sector investments in natural resource management, and reduce environmental crime, leading to greater ecosystem stability and inclusive green growth in line with the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2028, the National Protected Area System Master Plan, the Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Program, the enhanced National Greening Program, the National Framework Strategy for Climate Change 2010-2022 and the National Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2028. In addition, SIBOL will strengthen the country's natural resource policy framework, improve interagency collaboration and promote environmental and social safeguards. SIBOL will achieve these results by improving economic incentives in conservation, strengthening conservation science and enhancing science-based environmental law enforcement. In addition to the national level, SIBOL will be implemented in the following sites of high biological significance: 1) Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape, Palawan; 2) Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat, Palawan; 3) Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape, Zambales; and 4) Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, Surigao del Norte.

USAID Role

In support of the goals of this MOU, USAID, through the SIBOL project and subject to the availability of funds, expects to:

- Provide international and national long- and short-term experts, as may be needed, to support the implementation of the SIBOL project.
- Establish a basic office set-up in Manila and target sites, including office space, furnishing, equipment and vehicles.
- Provide training courses and other learning programs as well as facilitate workshops and conferences in direct support of SIBOL's objectives and as agreed to by the DENR and USAID.

- Conduct biodiversity surveys, ecosystem services valuation, political economy analyses, high conservation value area mapping, local resource management planning, natural capital accounting, capacity building for environmental law enforcement and other technical activities, as may be needed, at the target sites in coordination with the DENR.
- Support new and existing biodiversity-friendly enterprises and a certification system for biodiversity-friendly commodities.
- Develop and/or enhance tools and policies for the protection of biodiversity, wildlife and other natural resources and the management of protected areas and forest lands.
- Produce information materials and other knowledge-based resources based on SIBOL's activities for public distribution.
- Share quarterly progress reports, as well as annual reports and the project completion report, and project datasets to DENR.

All notices to USAID should be sent to the following USAID Point of Contact:

Randy John Vinluan
 Project Management Specialist (Sustainable Landscapes), Environment Office
 U.S Agency for International Development
 Annex 2 Building, U.S Embassy
 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita
 Manila, Philippines
 Tel. No.: 5301-4826
 Email: rvinluan@usaid.gov

2. DENR

DENR Background

DENR is the Government of the Philippines' primary agency responsible for the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources. DENR envisions a nation enjoying and sustaining its natural resources and a clean and healthy environment. Its principal mission is to mobilize the citizenry in protecting, conserving, and managing the environment and natural resources for the present and future generations.

DENR Role

In support of the goals of this MOU, the DENR expects to:

- Designate one (1) staff member in each of the following offices: Biodiversity Management Bureau, Environmental Protection and Enforcement Task Force, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service, Forest Management Bureau, DENR Region III, DENR Region IV-B and DENR Region XIII, as Project Focal Persons. The project focal persons will be responsible for project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and assign, as may be needed, additional staff members to collaborate in the technical implementation. The DENR shall make them available in time for project activities, monitoring, and evaluation tasks, training courses and workshops, and travel to seminars, conferences and meetings, including all documents required for their participation, as agreed upon.
- Coordinate all activities in support of the project's goals with the local government units concerned.
- Make available all information and documents necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives of SIBOL, as permissible by existing laws and DENR guidelines, in cooperation with other government agencies and partners at the national and local level.

- Participate in periodic meetings and roundtable discussions to review progress, resolve operational concerns, and exchange lessons learned.

All notices to DENR shall be sent to the DENR Point of Contact:

Edilberto DC. Leonardo

Undersecretary for Special Concerns and OIC-Director
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 8924-6031 to 35
Email: director@bmb.gov.ph

III. Implementation

1. Governance structure

The Participants will establish a Project Steering Committee (PSC) whose function is to provide advice to ensure the effective implementation of the SIBOL project. The PSC will have members from USAID and DENR, while the SIBOL project team will serve as the Secretariat. Details of the PSC structure, composition, functions and frequency of meetings will be outlined in a DENR Special Order.

A project management committee may be established at the site-level to provide advice at the regional and local levels.

2. Communications

The Participants intend to collaborate in the development of outreach and education materials regarding the programs for external audiences. Where relevant, branding should be accomplished in accordance with the Participants' respective legal, policy, and procedural requirements.

The Participants intend to respect each other's confidentiality policies, with the mutual understanding that the Participants intend to publicize the cooperation and its objectives without disclosing any confidential or proprietary information of the other Participant.

All communication is a joint undertaking by both parties and should have a clearance/concurrence by the respective parties prior to release of documents

3. Reporting and Evaluation

(a) Reporting

USAID, through SIBOL, intends to submit to DENR, through the DENR Point of Contact, a copy of the quarterly reports, annual reports, short-term consultants' report, and the project completion report.

(b) Evaluation

The Participants will jointly evaluate the status of SIBOL during implementation. This may be accomplished through an annual pause-and-reflect workshop. The DENR shall ensure the participation of the relevant stakeholders in the evaluation. USAID may engage third-party evaluation of the project. To this end, USAID, in consultation with DENR, may hire experts or appraisers for the independent evaluation of the SIBOL project.

IV. Effective Date, Duration, Amendments, and Termination

This MOU becomes effective on the date of the last signature of all the Participants and is expected to continue until June 30, 2025. However, the Participants may decide, in writing, to extend this period. In addition, this MOU may be modified or amended if all Participants agree in writing.

Any Participant may terminate this MOU at any time but should endeavor to provide at least 30 days' written notice to the other Participants. Termination shall be effective upon expiry of the notice period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Participants, each acting through their duly authorized representatives, have caused this MOU to be signed, in duplicate, in their names and delivered as of this __ day of ____ 2021.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By: Lawrence Hardy II
(Signature)

Name: **LAWRENCE HARDY II**
Title: Mission Director
Date: _____

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

By: [Signature]
(Signature)

Name: **ROY A. CIMATU**
Title: Secretary
Date: JUN 04 2021



SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF:

JOHN EDGAR
Chief Environment Office
USAID Philippines

[Signature]

ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES
Undersecretary
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

[Signature]

EDILBERTO DC. LEONARDO
Undersecretary
Special Concerns and OIC-Director
Biodiversity Management Bureau

[Signature]
MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR., CESO III
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Planning, FASPS and Director, FMB
in concurrent capacity

[Handwritten mark]