ACTIVITY DESIGN	
Activity Name	**Training of Trainors and Pilot-Testing of the EarthRanger in Support to the Standardization and Enhancement of Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring Tools Phase 2**
Date and Venue	14-21 May 2023 Province of Zambales
Background/ Rationale	The Implementing Rules and Regulations of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, as amended by the Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018, provides that sound resources assessment shall be used as one of the bases for the review and updating of protected area management plans. At present, Protected Area Management Offices use the Biodiversity Monitoring System (BMS) adopted in 2000, and the Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System (BAMS) adopted in 2016 in the assessment and monitoring of biological resources within protected areas. The BAMS provides baseline information on the biodiversity of various ecosystems in protected areas, which are monitored in the long-term (3-year interval). The BMS, on the other hand, aims to identify the trends in biodiversity resources and their uses at a shorter interval (at least twice a year). In October to December 2021, the SIBOL Project initiated the standardization of the assessment and monitoring tools used by the Biodiversity Management Bureau and Forest Management Bureau, with the goal of developing an automated and interoperable system to improve the currently used tools. The output will serve as basis for policy recommendation to rationalize the tools used in biodiversity resources assessment and monitoring, prevent duplication of efforts and resources allocation, and aid in protection and law enforcement. Phase I activities focused on the identification of data points being captured by the various assessment and monitoring systems across thematic areas. For BMB, the assessment and monitoring tools reviewed were the Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System, Biodiversity Monitoring System, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Priority Species Monitoring Program, and Asian Waterbird Census. For FMB, the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System was reviewed. Analysis of the results revealed the similarities and differences of data captured by each assessment and monitoring tool, challenges and gaps in the applicability of the tools in the field, and possible solutions to address these gaps. Based on the results of the Phase I activities, Phase II will focus on using an automated data capturing tool (EarthRanger) to collect the core datasets

	common in each existing assessment and monitoring tool, and on field testing the tool in selected pilot sites to further improve its system and utility. To operationalize the Phase II activities, the BMB and the SIBOL Project intend to conduct a Training of Trainors and Pilot Testing of the automated data capturing tool on 14-21 May 2023 in Region 3. The conduct of the Training will also serve as input to the proposed establishment of the Protected Area Academy which is also being undertaken by the BMB through the SIBOL Project.

Objectives	The Training of Trainors and Pilot Testing aims to:
	
	1. Capacitate DENR and Protected Area Management Office Personnel on:
	   a. use of standardized data capture using up-to-date conservation technology;
	   b. managing captured data in EarthRanger; and
	2. Field test the automated data capture technology and the standardized data model in selected pilot sites.
	3. Gather feedback which will serve as input to the proposed establishment of a Protected Area Academy.

Expected outputs	1. Data model for capturing data of interest; 2. Capacitated DENR and PAMO personnel; 3. Feedback on the use of automated data capture tool; and 4. Proceedings of the Workshop

Participants	1. BMB technical personnel from NPD, BPKMD, CAWED, CMD and WRD
	2. Protected Area Superintendent or Assistant PASu, 2 Technical Staff, and 1 PA Ranger from:
	   a. Masinloc and Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seacape
	   b. Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape
	   c. Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
	   d. Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape
	   e. Bataan National Park
	3. Facilitators from SIBOL-Strategic Approach 1

Mechanics	The first part of the Training of Trainors will be held in a classroom style setting. Personnel from the SIBOL Project will facilitate the training. At the start of the Training, a pre-evaluation survey will be conducted to gauge the participants' knowledge on biodiversity assessment and monitoring. A recapitulation on the use of BAMS and BMS will be presented, followed by the introduction of the EarthRanger to the participants. This will be followed by the Workshop on the

| | setting up of the EarthRanger Mobile Application, simulated data capture, and data visualization.

A practicum will be held on Day 4 and Day 5 at the Masinloc and Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape and adjacent forests. Feedback on user experience of the tool will be gathered. A monitoring plan on the field testing of the tool at each site will also be developed. These will be used as basis for the improvement of the system prior to its further testing in other protected areas and subsequent adoption. |
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