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**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO : The Regional Executive Directors  
DENR Regions III, MIMAROPA and XIII

FROM : The Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO THE SECOND PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC) MEETING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY, OCEANS AND LANDSCAPES (SIBOL) PROJECT ON 30 AUGUST 2023 IN A VENUE IN METRO MANILA**

The Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) Project, being implemented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the DENR, is now in the last quarter of its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of implementation.

The SIBOL is a five-year project with Research Triangle International (RTI) as the lead USAID Implementing Partner from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2025. The project works with the Philippine government through the DENR to achieve its goals of improving natural resource security and governance, sustainably managing natural resources, and reducing environmental crime, leading to greater ecosystem stability and inclusive green growth.

Through the SIBOL Project, protected area development and management programs and other related activities are being supported particularly in the priority sites, namely: 1) Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape, 2) Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape, 3) Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and the 4) Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat, and 5) Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape. Along with the Project's primary objective to support biodiversity conservation in protected areas under the NIPAS, the Project has already implemented relevant activities and interventions including the development of various national and site-level policies. Areas for complementation within the DENR and other concerned national government agencies have also been identified for the sustainability of the Project. In this regard, pursuant to the DENR Special Order No. 2021-664 and DENR SO No. 2022-783, the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (ITWG) was convened last 21 July 2023 to discuss the accomplishments of the Project including the various issues and concerns encountered during the Project's implementation. One of the agreements during the said meeting is to convene the Project Steering Committee (PSC) to present the different milestones of the project and the proposed Work Plan for Year Four.

In view of the above and as members of the PSC, may we request your presence in the second PSC Meeting on **30 August 2023, Wednesday, 9:00 AM-onwards in a venue to be determined in Metro Manila**. The following agenda items are proposed for discussion during the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSC Meeting:

1. Review of Minutes and Matters Arising from the previous PSC Meeting;
2. Updates from the SIBOL Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG);
3. Presentation of the SIBOL Project's Accomplishments for FY 2023;
4. Overview of Sukat ng Kalikasan and SIBOL Workplan for FY 2024;
5. Presentation of SIBOL Policy Targets;
6. Review and endorsement of SIBOL replication sites;
7. Endorsement and Approval of SIBOL Workplan for FY 2024; and
8. Other Matters.

The Project's National Project Coordinating Unit, through Ms. Alexa Jeanne Lasch thru email ([alasch@ph-sibol.org](mailto:alasch@ph-sibol.org)) from the USAID SIBOL Project and Ms. Frances Brillo thru email ([frances.brillo@bmb.gov.ph/8925-8947](mailto:frances.brillo@bmb.gov.ph/8925-8947)) of the Bureau's National Parks Division will be coordinating with your Office regarding the details of the said meeting.

For information and consideration.

**ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES**