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**2nd USAID SIBOL ITWG Meeting
September 13, 2022
Novotel Manila, Araneta Center, Cubao
Documentation**

Background and Purpose:

Pursuant to Special Order No. 2021-664, the Project Steering Committee (PSC), Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (ITWG), National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU), and Regional Project Management Committee (RPMC) were created to ensure the successful implementation of the SIBOL Project. In lieu of this, SIBOL conducted the second ITWG Meeting held at Novotel Manila, Araneta Center, Cubao last September 13, 2022. The following are the objectives of the meeting:

- Report the progress, accomplishments, challenges, and milestones of SIBOL for FY 2022
- Present the proposed workplan and immediate activities of SIBOL for FY 2023
- Finalize the agenda for the first PSC meeting
- Other matters (i.e., Next Steps)

The succeeding sections detail the discussions which transpired, and the resolution/next steps proposed by the ITWG members.

Abbreviations and Acronym

BMB	Biodiversity Management Bureau
DAO	Department Administrative Order
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
FASPS	Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service
HCV	High Conservation Value
KISS	Knowledge and Information Systems Service
ITWG	Inter-Agency Technical Working Group
MOBPLS	Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NPCU	National Project Coordination Unit
NPD	National Parks Division
PCSD	Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
ZSL	Zoological Society of London
MMPL	Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape
PA	Protected Area
PAMO	Protected Area Management Office
PPSRNP	Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park
PSC	Project Steering Committee





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RED Regional Executive Director
RPMC Regional Project Management Committee
SIPLAS Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape

Attendees:

ITWG Members	RTI SIBOL /USAID
<p><u>DENR-BMB</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amelita Ortiz 2. Meriden Maranan 3. Ryan Cuanan 4. Rachelle Malijan 5. Frances Antonette Brillo 6. Princess Mariel Razon 7. Ramon Lorenzo Reyes 8. Siara Jeanne Nulada 9. Juvy Ladisla <p><u>DENR-FMB</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Kenneth Tabliga 11. Cathy Pauig 12. Jhun Barit <p><u>DA-BFAR</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Sandra Victoria Arcamo 14. Ma. Bernadette Lintag <p><u>PSA</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Daryll Christian Ubana <p><u>NEDA</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Mary Jane Dela Rosa 17. Joy Bongcac <p><u>DOT</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Kenneth Lorenz Ruedas <p><u>NCIP</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Crispin Bermejo <p><u>PCSD</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Levita Lagrada (via Zoom) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grace Tena 2. Ernesto Guiang 3. Marlito Guidote 4. Jose Canivel 5. Desiree Donceras 6. Wulmar Cerio 7. Lorelie Astrera 8. Aiza Buncag 9. Wilman Pollisco 10. Glenn Forbes 11. Anchovy Barros 12. James Jimenez 13. Joy Caseres 14. Felix Mendoza 15. Jovan Cerda 16. Cristina Flores 17. Jennica Masigan 18. Christine Ruba 19. Rudy Aragon 20. Aldrin Mallari 21. Kimberly Salamatina 22. Rina Rosales 23. Joji Shiraishi 24. Blue Motus 25. Josie Cabrera 26. Alexa Jeanne Lasch 27. Mark Ryan De Vera 28. Elenio Yap (via Zoom)





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DENR-FASPS

- 21. Al Orolfo
- 22. Conrado Bravante, Jr.
- 23. Eddie Abugan, Jr.
- 24. Israel Helios Inocencio
- 25. Carina Manlapaz

DENR-PPS

- 26. Llarina Mojica
- 27. Joseph Luke Crisostomo
- 28. Ma. Leanna Manubag

DENR-KISS

- 29. Susan Villar
- 30. Daryl Ansano
- 31. Kathleen Ann Dimalanta

DENR-ELEPS

- 32. Joey De Chavez
- 33. Chris Angelo Pagulayan

PPC City ENRO

- 34. Zorina Arellano

PASu

- 35. Quinnee Vallejos (MOBPLS)
- 36. Elizabeth Maclang (PPSRNP)
- 37. Celsa Espadero (SIPLAS)
- 38. Renato Gonzaga (MMPL)





Documentation

Time	Agenda	Resource Person	Discussion	Details/Remarks
8:00-9:20	Arrival and Registration			
9:20-9:25	Prayer and National Anthem			
9:25-9:40	Call to Order Introduction of ITWG Members and Participants			
9:40-10:15	Approval of the Provisional Agenda for the 2 nd ITWG Meeting	Facilitated by ITWG Chair, Ms. Amelita Ortiz, BMB Assistant Director		
	Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting	Mr. Ryan Cuanan, BMB-NPD	<p>Orientation on the SIBOL Project¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation/involvement of NCIP particularly for MMPL Endorsement of the project at the LGU level Scaling up and sustainability of the project activities/programs and output after five years Inventory of laws and policies and addressing conflicting/contradicting laws and policies <p>Orientation on the DENR Special Order No. 2021-664</p>	<p>Ms. Grace Tena (USAID): No item in the agenda where SIBOL can provide updates on the action points taken concerning discussions on 1st ITWG Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples: status of addition of members for ITWG <p>Dr. Ernie Guiang (SIBOL): After modification approval from USAID, will provide indicative workplan/summary of modification</p> <p>ITWG Chair (BMB): In future meetings, proceed with agenda, highlights of previous meeting, and status of the matters raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed on by participant from DENR-KISS <p>Dr. Ernie on Status of Matters raised in 1st ITWG Meeting</p>

¹ Refer to document on [Highlight of 1st ITWG Meeting](#)





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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibilities of the ITWG on the review of the work plan and alignment of the activities with the project's outcomes Inclusion of various agencies as members of the Committees and Working Groups Clarification on the composition of NPCU and staff complementation of SIBOL Flow of communications <p>Schedule of the next ITWG Meeting and Planning for the convening of the 1st PSC Meeting</p>	<p>Copy of endorsement of project to LGU in Mt. Mantalingahan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sent to LGU according to Ms. Joy <u>Discussion Point 2.3</u> (Scaling up and sustainability of the project activities/programs and outputs after 5 years) Will be included in the upcoming workplan. <p>Indicative workplan changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As suggested by USAID, SIBOL will include the changes in next work plan <p><u>Discussion Point 3.2</u> (Inclusion of various agencies as members to the Committees and Working Groups)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already endorsed For the inclusion of Academe, already started. In Masinloc, in progress re MOU with the institutions. <p><u>RPMC Meeting for Palawan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Joy Caseres (SIBOL): Done with the meeting and courtesy call with Gov. Socrates. RPMC Meeting is dependent on the schedule of RED. <p><u>Discussion Point 3.3</u> (Clarification on the composition of NPCU and staff complementation of SIBOL Project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIBOL assigned one staff, Alexa Lasch, in DENR. <p><u>Flow of Communications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send to SIBOL email. Provide identification as well.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITWG Chair: All members should provide all their official email addresses. <p><u>Clarification on 3.2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEDA: What is the intent on including NEDA in ITWG? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan Cuanan (BMB): It is to organize SIBOL Project implementation at the regional level, thus, inclusion of NEDA Regional has also been recommended.
	Review and Approval of the Provisional Agenda	ITWG Chair		No concerns were raised and the agenda was approved.
10:20-12:15	<p>Agenda I: Presentation of SIBOL Project Progress and Annual Report for FY 2022²</p> <p>and Open Forum</p>	Dr. Ernie Guiang, Chief of Party, USAID SIBOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation on SIBOL Project Implementation Mechanisms SIBOL Sites SIBOL Results Framework SIBOL's Theory of Change Project Accomplishments Major accomplishments on Results 1-3 Highlights of SIBOL's Year 3 Work Plan Key Outputs for FY 2023 Key Targets FY 2023 	<p>On Coastal and Marine Assessment</p> <p>Clarification: Coastal and marine assessment are to be conducted in Palawan. Is it included in Year 3 Work Plan?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESG: SIBOL will adopt Training of Trainers (ToT) approach in green assessment, which includes coastal and marine assessment. Funding for replication sites will come from gov't partners. <p>On NCA Valuation</p> <p>DENR: What is SIBOL's role in NCA Valuation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIBOL will provide seed money and clear guidelines, hopefully for adoption of DENR.

² Please see [link](#) for the detailed presentation





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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AUUF will be included in policy-level changes <p>Meanwhile, DENR-KISS added the following suggestions of the mechanism on NCA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SIBOL should increase coordination with PSA, BFAR, NEDA.• Re NCA Roadmap, management should determine logistics, financial, and capacity-building concerns.• <i>ESG (SIBOL)</i>: Part of project commitment is how the frameworks can be implemented/developed in SIBOL sites. <p>On PA Legislation</p> <p><i>BMB-NPD</i>: There are 7 additional PAs, and 5 more proposed legislation of PAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NPD will be needing the assistance of SIBOL.• NPD also needs assistance on revisiting SAPA to improve policy on settlement of occupants in PAs.• Another is assistance on institutionalization of PA Academy and development of modules. <p>Capacitating DENR for Science-Based Decision-Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building of DENR in terms of science-based decision making.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For SIBOL, HCVA can be formalized through a DAO.○ Ms. Grace Tena (USAID): For DENR buy-in on HCV, SIBOL is already pilot testing it within
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				<p>PAs. BD Corridor can do this outside of PAs and hopefully, be accepted by government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Grace (USAID): What is DENR proposal to SIBOL in ensuring government buy-in on HCVA?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Training, policy-level support, and funding of policy can help in this according to Dr. Ernie Guiang. In other words, capacity building and financing. There is a need to close the gap between these two factors.○ NPD: We should influence and update existing guidelines in the planning system (DAO or Technical Bulletin).○ Ms. Grace: There is an opportunity for SIBOL in DENR due to change in management. Develop program of instructions for capacity building and scaling up as suggested by DENR. SIBOL can take advantage of that.○ ITWG Chair: BMB is targeting national policies that will concern HCV and other SIBOL initiatives. <p>PA Bill</p> <p>PASu Beth (PPSRNP): Raised about struggles on policy, particularly the PA Bill. There is need to finalize management zone post-Odetta scenario. What data will also be used in forest classification? There is discrepancy (i.e., open</p>
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				<p>forest vs closed forest). How will these concerns be resolved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ESG: Work on data such as species distribution.• Updating of Management Plan and Survey Map (MMPL PAMO) <p>APASu Quinnee (MOBPLS): Request for SIBOL assistance in pushing the items to Masinloc PAMO.</p> <p>DENR KISS: Forest Cover data is yearly (from NAMRIA), which Palawan can use as baseline since these data are updated over time, not real-time.</p> <p>Livelihood Concerns</p> <p>PASu Beth (PPSRNP): For unutilized funds, can these be redirected to the livelihood component (i.e., BDFE) of communities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Rina (SA 2 SIBOL): What SIBOL needs to look at is NCA. PES schemes are economic instruments with the value based on the ecosystem services. The ES will be the basis of the NCA valuation.• Livelihood: SIBOL is focusing on big ticket BDFEs (i.e., fiber glass making, cave museum) in Palawan to help in livelihood concerns of communities.• FFP is also helping communities in SIBOL sites to alleviate their livelihood concerns.• Ms. Grace (USAID): SIBOL can find a way to respond immediately on the
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				<p>livelihood concerns. Probably work on economic incentives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PASu Beth is asking for immediate funding for livelihood concerns for IPs. For example, in log clearing, there is no money to fund cash-for-work programs.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ESG: SIBOL can provide seed capital. <p>Wood Recovery Permit PPC ENRO: DENR policy on use of debris for Pabahay Programs still require permits. Thus, families in Palawan (CNCH) still can't recover debris.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>DENR FMB</i>: Temporary lifting of wood recovery permit (WRP) but only until June 1. There are still requests for extension. Follow up in LGU so request can reach main management office.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ FMB also drafted revisions for the new guidelines of WRP. <p>FPKMD concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detailed activity report on project accomplishments especially on carbon sequestration.• Enhancement of monitoring tools-LAWIN and Earth Ranger.• National rollout of training designs.• Certification and accreditation for forest controllers.• Timeline for provision.
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				<p>SIBOL asked FMB and other members of ITWG to email concerns and SIBOL will respond a week after.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on September 20, 2022 • SIBOL response on or before September 27, 2022. If no response from SIBOL, suggestions are assumed accepted.
12:15-1:45	Group Photo and Lunch			
		ITWG Chair		<p>NPCU/SIBOL to consolidate all inputs and send to ITWG members re workplan changes/new activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week after SIBOL response to comments from ITWG members.
1:50-2:05		Mar Guidote	Schedule of Activities (tentative)	<p>RPMC Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week of Sept 21 for Palawan and MOBPLS • Sept 27 (SIPLAS) <p>PSC Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideally after BMB Summit • October 12/19/26, 2022 <p>3rd ITWG Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 5-9, 2022
2:05-2:15		Mar Guidote	Next Steps	See Table I below for the detailed next steps
2:15-2:25	Closing Remarks	<p>Ms. Grace Tena, AOR, USAID</p> <p>Mr. Al Orolfo, Director, DENR FASPS</p>		

Table I Issues/Concerns and Next Steps

Based on the raised concerns of the ITWG members, here are the agreed next steps of resolution.





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Issues and Concerns	Next Steps
Coastal and Marine Assessment	SIBOL Project will adopt the Training of Trainers approach in green assessment which includes coastal and marine; updating of methods ongoing with BMB-CMD
Land Use Agreement	SIBOL will revisit SAPA and improve policy on settlements
Review of the SIBOL workplan	Suggested development of modules (in addition to the action plans)
Proposed policies with SIBOL assistance	Institutionalization of PA Academy
	Requested SIBOL assistance in pushing items or activities to MOBPLS PAMO
	Suggested NAMRIA data as baseline for the forest classification
NCA Valuation	SIBOL should increase coordination with PSA, BFAR and NEDA
	Re NCA roadmap, DENR should determine logistics, financial, and capacity building concerns
Livelihood Concerns	Provide economic incentives to communities, specifically to the IPs (e.g. seed capital to be provided to the affected IPs as starter)
	SIBOL to focus on big ticket BDFEs





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Issues and Concerns	Next Steps
Science-based decision making	Formalize HCVA through a DAO
	BD Corridor project can pilot test the HCV framework outside of PAs
	Influence and update existing guidelines in the planning system (DAO or Technical Bulletin)
	SIBOL will develop program of instructions for capacity building as suggested by DENR
	BMB will target national policies concerning HCV and other SIBOL initiatives
Wood Recovery Permit	Follow up to DENR CENRO re City ENRO WRP request so it could reach the DENR Central for approval of extension of permits

