



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

RTI
INTERNATIONAL

Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes Project
14F SyCipLaw Center #105 Paseo de Roxas, Legazpi Village, Makati City, Philippines

Nov. 6, 2023

MR. FELIX S. MIRASOL, JR.

Regional Executive Director
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
MIMAROPA

Attention:

MR. FELIZARDO B. CAYATOC

Provl. Environment and Natural Resources Officer
DENR - Palawan

Dear Sir,

Greetings!

While much humanitarian support and relief were provided in the immediate aftermath of Super Typhoon Odette, which struck the Philippines in December 2021, a subsequent technical assessment led by USAID's Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL) Project revealed the extent of damage to habitats, including ecosystem services and biodiversity in the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park (PPSRNP), Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat (CNCH) in Puerto Princesa City, and key biodiversity areas in the municipalities of Roxas and San Vicente, Palawan, revealed the massive destruction to Palawan's landscape, including damage to the forest cover in the aforementioned areas of up to 60% and half of the total mangrove area destroyed, among others.

The results of SIBOL's Green Assessment in these sites are now the bases of government efforts, including the Palawan provincial government, as well as the respective local governments of the city of Puerto Princesa and the municipalities of Roxas and San Vicente in Palawan, to undertake the massive rehabilitation of the forests and coastal areas in PPSRNP, CNCH, and key biodiversity areas in Roxas and San Vicente. This ambitious 5-10 year restoration plan, estimated to cost around Php1.5 Billion, will require the support of all local stakeholders, including the private sector.

We are pleased, therefore, to announce our upcoming event, **"Engaging the Private Sector in Post-Odette Green Recovery efforts in Palawan: Palawan Roadshow," Nov. 17, 2023, Fersal Hotel, Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City**, in conjunction with the Subaraw Biodiversity Festival 2023. This event will be in collaboration with the various chambers of commerce and industry in Palawan and shall be an opportunity to share this common concern with Palawan's dynamic business community. This activity will be a precursor to a Green Recovery Investment Forum to be held in Manila come December 2023, where we hope to show a united effort by Palawan stakeholders to solicit the support of the greater business community for Palawan's Green Recovery.


We are pleased to invite you to grace this event and respectfully request for a message of support from our esteemed partner, DENR.



Please see attached draft program and event brief for your reference. For confirmation or further inquiry, your staff may contact the undersigned at e-mail address icaseres@ph-sibol.org or mobile number 09189179539.

Thank you very much!

Signed:


KATHY J. WACHALA
Chief of Party
SIBOL

