DOI International Technical Assistance Program Partnership for Biodiversity Phase III (PBC3)

DOI-ITAP’s Partnership for Biodiversity (PBC) program has been providing technical support and capacity building activities for improved environmental law enforcement (ELE) and biodiversity conservation to the Philippines since 2004 (now in its 3rd phase), authorized by a Participating Agency Program Agreement (PAPA) with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Under this program DOI-ITAP has supported the Government of the Republic of the Philippines’ efforts to conserve biodiversity in the Philippines by increasing the capacity of local and national environmental law enforcement bodies to address environmental crimes. DOI-ITAP works in conjunction with a local Environmental NGO, Tangol Kalikasan (TK), to implement the PBC program’s various objectives, which are as follows:

- Strengthening environmental law enforcement
- Promoting sustainable natural resource management plans
- Streamlining export and import inspections
- Improving technical capacity of wildlife forensics lab
- Developing a superior class of green prosecutors and judges

Current Activities under PBC3

- **Law Enforcement:**
  - Support for the establishment of an evidence room at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) training center.
  - Facilitate participation of mid-level enforcement officers to leadership training at NCLELA.
  - Development of a module and training program for a specialized undercover wildlife enforcement unit.
  - Facilitate completion and provide expert review of the forestry law enforcement protocol.

- **Judicial Reform:**
  - Environmental law and procedure training for judges.
  - Provide support for orientations of the untrained prosecutors.
  - Development of a cross-section training for prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officers.

- **Wildlife Crime Forensics and Data Management:**
  - GPH Officials orientation visit to the National Forensics Laboratory of the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Ashland Oregon.
  - Facilitate Filipino wildlife forensic scientists’ membership in the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science in Edinburgh, Scotland.
  - Establish Environmental Law Enforcement Management Information System (ELEMIS) system.

- **Land Management Planning:**
  - Biodiversity Management Plan in Zamboanga City
  - Ecosystems Valuation modules and training leading to a national policy in support to law enforcement
Selected Accomplishments

Highlights of DOI-ITAP’s Partnership for Biodiversity Phase III program include:

**ELEMIS Software System:** Incorporation of evidence submittal and tracking software into the national wildlife forensics laboratory will be critical to meeting international standards and guidelines. This activity will develop and distribute evidence submittal and tracking software that links with the ELEMIS case management system.

**Wildlife Forensics:** DOI-ITAP supported the development of an ongoing peer-to-peer exchange on wildlife forensics, beginning with a visit to the FWS Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in May 2014. It is expected that this will pave the way for an enhanced wildlife forensics program in the Philippines.

**Law Enforcement:** DOI-ITAP supports the Philippine National Police, DENR, Philippine Coast Guard, DA-BFAR, and other relevant entities in mainstreaming environmental law enforcement and in improving mechanisms for inter-agency collaboration to conserve and protect biological diversity at the national and local levels.

**Zamboanga City Biodiversity Management Plan:** DOI-ITAP provides advice and assistance to Zamboanga City’s research-driven policy formulation for the protection of upland and coastal ecosystems, wildlife, and biodiversity.

**Public Awareness Campaigns:** DOI-ITAP supported the development of a standard communication plan on environmental law enforcement piloting wildlife law enforcement.

**Government and Nongovernment Partners under the PBC3 program:**

- Tanggol Kalikasan
- Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
- Philippine National Police
- University of the Philippines Institute of Biology
- Western Mindanao State University
- Ateneo de Zamboanga University
- Zamboanga City Government

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