

PRE-RFA CONFERENCE

The United States Agency for International Development in the Philippines (USAID/Philippines) is developing a new project design to be implemented by an assistance award (grant or cooperative agreement) that would increase local university involvement in marine conservation efforts in the Philippines. More specifically, the local university project is being designed to enhance existing collaborative networks among Philippine universities, allowing them to become regional leaders in coastal and marine management. This project is expected to contribute to achieving USAID/Philippines' Country Development Cooperation Strategy "Development Objective 3: Environmental Resilience Improved," particularly "Intermediate Result (IR) 1.3: Natural Resources and Environmental Services Improved."

It is also planned to contribute to the priority goals and actions laid out in the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016), particularly Chapter 4 (Competitive and Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries), and Chapter 10 (Protection, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Environment and Natural Resources). USAID estimates a five year assistance award funded at up to \$9M to implement the project.

In order to create a project design that best represents the needs for marine conservation in the Philippines and the local universities working in the coastal and marine sectors, USAID invites Philippine universities to a one-day consultation on April 3, 2014, at the Charles Parsons Ballroom, Chancery Building, U.S. Embassy Compound, 8:00AM – 3:00PM. During the consultation, USAID/Philippines will present the results of its market survey and facilitate a discussion on the following key areas:

- Priority research to support coastal and marine management in the Philippines
- Roles of Philippine universities in coastal and marine resource management
- Capacities and resources of Philippine universities
- Known universities with interest or experience
- USAID grant and cooperative agreement implementing mechanisms
- Recipient cost-sharing

In order to attend the consultation, each interested attendee must register their name, title and affiliated organization via email to rvasquez@usaid.gov no later than March 26, 2014.