



USAID | PHILIPPINES
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REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

THIS IS A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ONLY. This is not a Request for Application, or an indication that USAID will create a funding opportunity for the items contained herein. The RFI is an attempt to reach out to the market in an effort to determine the scope of industry capabilities and interest and will be treated as information only. Responses to this notice are not applications and cannot be accepted by the Government to form an agreement. Responses to this RFI are strictly voluntary and USAID will not pay respondents for information provided. Responses to this RFI will not be returned and respondents will not be notified of the result of the review. If a Funding Opportunity is issued, it will be announced on Grants.gov website www.grants.gov at a later date, and all interested parties must respond to that announcement separately from any response to this announcement. This RFI does not restrict the Government's assistance approach on a future funding opportunity. The anticipated RFA will only be open to local entities in accordance with ADS303.3.6.6.

INSTRUCTIONS

Responses (comments, suggestions, and enhancements) to this RFI are due by **30th April 2014 1800hrs (Philippines time)**. Responders shall provide one (1) electronic copy of their response, in Microsoft Word or PDF formats only. Please e-mail responses to manila-roaa-rfa@usaid.gov with a copy to abcastillo@usaid.gov. Please reference the e-mail with the subject title “**Response to RFI.**”

USAID/Philippines is contemplating an activity to strengthen the institutional capacity of Philippine universities and colleges to impact and sustain marine conservation. This planned activity will align with the goals of the Ecosystems Improved for Sustainable Fisheries (ECOFISH) project in improving the management of important coastal and marine resources and associated ecosystems that support livelihoods and economies. It will contribute to the conservation of biological diversity, enhancement of ecosystem productivity and restoration of fisheries profitability in eight (8) marine key biodiversity areas (MKBAs) using ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management (EAFM) as a cornerstone of improved social, economic and environmental benefits. This activity will contribute to achieving Objective 3: Environmental Resilience Improved, particularly Intermediate Result 3.2 Natural and Environmental Resource Management Improved of the U.S. Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) for the Philippines (2011-2016). The activity will also directly support USAID's new Biodiversity Policy and will work towards achieving a vision of conserving biodiversity for sustainable long-term development. Under this new Policy, all activities funded with biodiversity funds must meet the following criteria:

- Activities must have an explicit biodiversity objective and stated Theory of Change;
- Activities must be based on an analysis of drivers and threats to biodiversity loss and the corresponding Theory of Change;
- Site-based activities must have the intent to positively impact biodiversity in biologically significant areas; and,
- Activities must monitor indicators associated with the stated Theory of Change for biodiversity conservation.

USAID/Philippines has developed a draft Theory of Change for this Philippine University project for marine conservation (see Diagram 1) using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (<http://www.conservationmeasures.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/CMP-OS-V3-0-Final.pdf>).

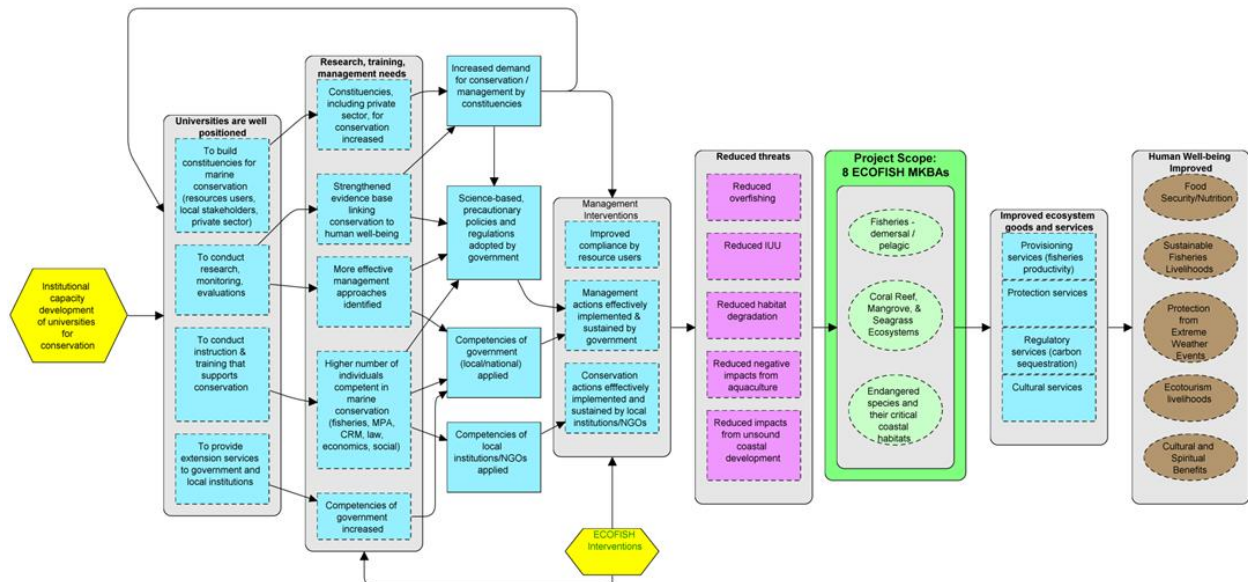


Diagram 1: Philippine University Project Theory of Change

USAID/Philippines would like to solicit responses on the following questions:

1. USAID/Philippines may require use of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation and the use of Miradi software for program design, monitoring and adaptive management under the award (See the link above). What is the experience of your organization with the use of Open Standards? With the use of Miradi software?
2. What is your experience with the use of Theories of Change in program design? Can your organization clearly understand the expected results for the Philippine University project from the Theory of Change shown in Diagram 1?
3. Would your organization be interested in serving as the management unit for a consortium of universities under the award, providing financial oversight, managerial coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and administration of a small grants fund?
4. To serve as the managerial unit, what would your organization need in terms of financial resources to meet these responsibilities?
5. What type of management structure would your organization need to establish to manage the consortium to ensure flexibility, responsiveness, transparency and equity among the partners?