



Republic of the Philippines  
**Benguet State University**  
**BOKOD CAMPUS**  
Ambangeg, Daklan, Bokod, Benguet

Project Title:	<b>Completion of BSU-Bokod Biodiversity Research Center</b>
Project Location:	Ambangeg, Daklan, Bokod, Benguet
Proponent:	Benguet State University Bokod Campus
Project Beneficiaries:	Male & Female Students, Faculty, and personnel of BSU Bokod Campus (with diverse gender classification: sex, age, SOGIE, ethnicity, special ability and disability etc.)
Source of Fund/Initiatives:	General Appropriations Act (GAA) – Capital Outlay
Amount of Project:	Php 4, 000,000.00

## **I. Project Rationale**

The Philippines is considered as a mega-diversity country due to its geographical isolation, diverse habitat and high rates of endemism. It hosts more than 52,177 described species of which more than half is found nowhere else in the world (Philippine Biodiversity Conservation Priorities: A second iteration of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2002). The rich biodiversity provides food, water, energy sources, pharmaceuticals, biomass fuels, carbon sequestration and climate regulation, crop pollination, cultural and spiritual inspiration and ecotourism value to the inhabitants. However, due to overexploitation, deforestation, land degradation, climate change and pollution, the country is one of the world's biodiversity hotspot. The Convention on Biological Diversity stated that loss in biodiversity greatly affect men and women in developing countries since it is vital for their survival and the survival of their families. It is also a part of their belief system and their cultural and spiritual values. Biodiversity conservation is therefore necessary. To enhance biodiversity conservation, it should include gender-differentiated biodiversity practices and knowledge of women and men. Empowering women and vulnerable groups to participate as equals in information sharing and generation, education and training, technology transfer, organizational development, financial assistance and policy development, biodiversity conservation efforts become more effective and efficient.

The Biodiversity Research Center Bokod Campus begun its construction on October 2021. It was constructed as an implementation of the initial proposal which recognizes the importance of biodiversity conservation. An initial discussion of this proposal was conducted between the Research and Extension Committee (REXECOM) and the BSU-Bokod campus management last March 15, 2018. It is a fulfilment of the University Goals to develop relevant and gender sensitive research and extension programs for institutional development, sustainable communities, climate resilience, industry innovation, and partnership. Goal II of the current VMGO states "Advance Technology and Facility by shaping the University become responsive to modern needs" is further supported through the goal's objective; thus, "to upgrade facilities and enable researchers/ extensionists to conduct activities using specialized facilities".

The center is where researches related to biodiversity will be conducted. It will give an employment opportunity to qualified men and women. It is where students can conduct their research as well.

Bokod Campus has no Research and Science Laboratory buildings that meet the standards. Previous experiments were done in classrooms with no fixtures necessary for an effective research and experimentation. Hence, the imperative need to establish a standard biodiversity center that is compliant to the Green Building Code of the Philippines which “seeks to improve the efficiency of building performance by adopting measures that promote resource management efficiency and site sustainability while minimizing the negative impact of buildings on human health and the environment”. This involves collaborative and coordinated planning from technical professionals, contractors, developers to address the effects of climate change by ensuring that buildings are planned, constructed, maintained to the required efficiency level; where resources are used to equitably meet the developmental and environmental needs of the intergenerations.

The proposed BSU-Bokod Biodiversity Research Center is aimed at promoting Biodiversity Conservation by integrating GAD in it. The Gender-Responsive Toolkit on Ecotourism Planning and Management was reviewed as a basis in crafting of this proposal. Gender responsive features will be accommodated such as construction of ramps, more female comfort rooms considering that there are more female population in the campus,

Recognizing the importance of Biodiversity conservation, the Benguet State University BOKOD CAMPUS started the construction of the Biodiversity Facility in 2021. It is a two-storey building that accommodated 3 Laboratory rooms, 3 Comfort rooms for Women, 3 Comfort rooms for Men, and 2 offices on the first floor. It intends to serve female and male students who themselves conduct researches in their own courses, and female and male employees, many of whom are actively engaged in research.

With the ongoing construction however, the second floor is still void of its fixtures and features owing to the shortage of fund. It is only 50% done and needs more fund to construct culture and gender responsive features that are necessary of a research center. Without these, the penultimate purpose of giving quality teaching and learning

As of August 2022, BSU-Bokod campus has 52 employees (male-27, female-25). The campus has 480 enrolees (male-228, female- 252) based on the enrolment data for 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2022-2023. The campus is located at the heart of the municipality of Bokod which is composed of 10 barangays.

## II. Project Description

The technical description of the buildings will be designed by the Physical Plant Office.

The Building is a 2 Storey Laboratory Building for students, employees and other stakeholder of Bokod Campus. the second storey will accommodate the following:

- Tiling of the floor
- Wall plastering
- Ceiling construction
- painting
- Construction of 1 male and 1 female Comfort Rooms
- Ramp

Electrical wirings, lightings  
Dining Area  
Meeting hall  
Male and female quarter  
Biodiversity information center

The Biodiversity Information Center will contain the database system of project. The Center will include an office, lounge for visitors, a mini library or reading room, comfort rooms. The mini library will contain the database system of the Center that include a GIS spatial database on land use maps, water systems, access roads, foot trails, nurseries, hedgerows, terraces, and accounting of the germplasm of related flora and that are inherent in the park as well as those which were introduced. Policies and strategies on biodiversity conservation will also be acquired, organized and be made part of the library. Researches on Biodiversity will also form part of the data base.

Ecotourism services will be put up at the center for recreational purposes. Amenities such as foot trails for trekking, pond for fish viewing, picnic grove, view decks, and other physical structures will be constructed. Space will be allotted for the produce of the different organizations in the area like women's group, weavers, and other interested stakeholders.

The Cordillera Heritage Center will also be established as an added destination for visitors and tourists. The center will showcase relevant Cordillera artifacts, fashion and other clothing materials and art works. Space will be allotted to the different organizations in the area like women's group, weavers, and other stakeholders.

### III. Objectives

The continuing construction of the BSU-Bokod Biodiversity Research Center aims to provide facility for research in the promotion of biodiversity conservation as part of the research mandate of the University, as well as improve higher education research to promote economic productivity and innovation.

Specifically:

1. Provide accessible facility for the faculty, staff and students with diverse gender characteristics in the Bokod campus for the promotion of biodiversity conservation;
2. Increase the access of faculty, staff and students to the research services of the University;
3. Promote participation and partnerships to ensure knowledge sharing with the faculty, staff and students in the university
4. Raise awareness and encourage research and extension activities on biodiversity

### IV. Project Implementation Mechanism, Monitoring and Evaluation

#### *Feasibility Study*

A Consultation on the proposed Construction of Biodiversity Research Center was held last February 14, 2020 at BSU Campus, Ambangeg, Bokod, Benguet. Where 64 female and 32 male students, faculty and stakeholders of the Campus attended the session. Arch. Hazeline N. Tibangay presented architectural plans, floor plan, sizes of the laboratory rooms and compliance with the accessibility law where there will be a personnel lift to be provided.

The activity concluded positively highlighting some additional features to be incorporated and revised accordingly.

Socio-profiling will also be done to generate sex-disaggregated data and gender-related information to be a basis of the plans.

### *Planning*

This process involves the preparation of the vision, goals, objectives, strategies, programs and projects including the identification of existing facilities that can be used and new facilities to be developed in the area. This should involve stakeholders such as, but not limited to, LGUs, other women's group, indigenous cultural communities; and the private sector. The community will be also consulted in their involvement in possible guided Biodiversity tours and products from the community especially those produced by the indigenous people and women's group will be included in the merchandise shop. This will be the bases of the technical plans and designs.

The technical design and building plan, including technical description plans and designs, program of works and detailed estimates of the infrastructure project will be made and prepared by the BSU-Physical Plant Office headed by Architect Hazel N. Tibangay with the consultations and verification to the management and faculty of the BSU Bokod Campus. This will include the plans and design, program of works, detailed estimates of the infrastructure project. However, the community (indigenous people and women's organization) will be consulted on the interior designs of the sheds, picnic grove, etc.

This project shall be considered GAD-responsive project as it concerns the access to quality education as well as safety and security of the beneficiaries.

### *Implementation*

The project is proposed through the 2022 provision of General Appropriations Act (GAA) capital outlay for the University. When approved, it will be through bidding process to be administered by the University Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) following the provisions of the Republic Act 9184, known as Government Procurement Reform Act.

Technical description of the project plan will be provided by the Physical Plant Office (PPO) and other certified experts. These offices shall be in-charge in the detailed plan and necessary specifications related to the project with appropriate budget estimate through consultation with end-user/building in-charge. Detailed work plan and specific timelines will be identified as part of the technical plan which will be the basis of contractors during the bidding process.

Upon approval of the GAA, the procurement process will be conducted through RA 9184. The men and women personnel under Budget Committee, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), BAC Technical Working Group and other offices in the administration and finance will provide support in achievement of this project.

The target implementation period of the project will be 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022. It will be bid-out so different contractor shall join the procurement process until its award to the most responsive bidder-contractor. The completion date of the project will be determined based on the technical specifications provided in the detailed plan.

#### V. Monitoring and Evaluation

The project shall be contracted with the scheduled monitoring and implementation which shall be done by the Monitoring and Inspection Team for Infrastructure Project (MITIP) with the possible participation of BSU-GAD Focal Point System as this is a considered Gender-responsive project. Periodic monitoring reports (to be determined in the detailed technical plan) will be submitted by the MITIP to the management for review and approval of recommendations. Final evaluation shall be conducted by MITIP after its completion as well as the Commission on Audit (COA) prior to its turn-over to the University.

As for the hiring of the staff, the HRMO will make sure that the BSU Equal Employment Opportunity Policy will be followed. The researches conducted will be monitored during Annual Agency In-House of the University.

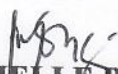
#### Reference:

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