



08 June 2021

HON. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH

Undersecretary
Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue,
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Dear Usec Ana,

Isang makakalikasang araw mula sa Blue finance!

Amid the pandemic, I have the pleasure to share with you some key developments in our initiatives in the sustainable financing and effective management front in the Philippines.

1. All four LGUs, namely Calapan City, Baco, San Teodoro and Puerto Galera have signed a co-management agreement of locally-managed MPAs with Blue Alliance for the Or. Mindoro MPA Network, Inc., a local non-profit special purpose entity composed of PO representatives from the 4 partner sites and Blue finance.
2. Blue finance through Blue Alliance has partnered with UNDP BIOFIN for the training needs assessment and mentoring of our PO SMARTSeas partners in Or. Mindoro to become social enterprises.
3. BA Annual Workplan including Enforcement Plan has been prepared and will be presented to the BA Stakeholders Advisory Committee (SAC) in Or. Mindoro this June. Activities include Community Development & Engagement, Biodiversity Conservation & Science, Sustainable Revenues from eco-tourism, blue carbon and crab farming, Management & Infrastructure. BA will support also the process led by LGUs to update the management plans and zonations of the different MPAs.
4. The BA Stakeholders Advisory Committee is composed of the following:
 - a. *A representative of The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Region 4B RED)*
 - b. *A representative of The Department of Tourism (MIMAROPA)*
 - c. *A representative of The Provincial Local Government Unit of Oriental Mindoro;*
 - d. *A representative of the Verde Island Passage MPA Network*
 - e. *A representative of the Operator (Blue Alliance);*
 - f. *A representative of the Municipal Local Government Unit of Baco;*
 - g. *A representative of the City Local Government Unit of Calapan;*
 - h. *A representative of the Municipal Local Government Unit of Puerto Galera;*
 - i. *A representative of the Municipal Local Government Unit of San Teodoro;*
 - j. *A representative of Mindoro State University for Agriculture and Technology*
 - k. *A representative of the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines*
 - l. *A representative of Conservation International Philippines Foundation, Inc.*
5. A partnership between BA and the PNP Maritime 4B is being worked on and a draft MOA has been submitted to PNP for their consideration and approval.
6. Blue finance has facilitated the approval of funding from the Global Fund for Coral Reefs for the Blue Alliance early stage costs and investments. The grant will also explore other sites in the VIP, Calamianes Group of Islands and Tañon Strait. This is in partnership with CI Philippines, Rare Philippines, UNDP and Blue You. (https://undp-biodiversity.exposure.co/unimaginable-beauty?more=true&fbclid=IwAR0pOAbfRaRk1pPH0D5Nr3g5EljwG0JIYWxbchEzFGeibr_vxk3NiE54_Zc)
7. Blue finance has also facilitated the approval of funding from the IUCN-BNFCC for BA's activities, initial investments and blue carbon project.



Blue finance

https://digital.iucn.org/marine/nature-based-solutions-and-business-working-for-planet-and-people/?fbclid=IwAR0ihisNCtA9zChEIUnFla3NG7lZV3r48xRt4vUT_dF9rL0LA9TLAOL3mmY

8. Blue finance is discussing with the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) for possible partnership in Palawan. In this regard, a draft MOA has been submitted to PCSD.
 - a. Blue finance is partnering with Community-Centered Conservation (C3) in Calamianes Group of Islands.
9. Discussions are also on-going with Lubang-Looc island in Occidental Mindoro.

Once the date for the first SAC Meeting has been finalized, we will be sending you an invitation to grace the occasion. Rest assured we will be updating you regularly on key developments on our initiatives in the country.

Looking forward to a long-term partnership with DENR!

Very truly yours,

ALAIN M. MAULION
Country Manager, Blue finance
Executive Director, Blue Alliance