

DENR Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Pre-Implementation Status Report
As of March 2021

I. PROFILE
Project Title: Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro
Fund Source/s: DENR (II.d. Conduct of Special Studies, Design and Development in Support of Biodiversity, Forestry, Mining and Environmental Management Operations)
Total Project Cost: PhP 2,000,000.00
Signing Date: 2021 (approval of project)
Duration: Two (2) years
Effectivity Date:
Closing Date:
Implementing Agency: DENR Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) in supervision of PENRO Occidental Mindoro and DENR- IV-B (MIMAROPA) Regional Office
Sector: Biodiversity
Regions: IV-B
Beneficiaries: DENR Region IV-B (MIMAROPA), concerned PENROs, CENROs, PASU, LGUs, NGOs, Academe and other institutions in Mindoro in planning and aligning their programs and initiatives for the conservations of the Tamaraw.
<p>Description:</p> <p>The Tamaraw, a critically endangered mammal found only in the island of Mindoro and the proposed National Land Mammal, continues to face challenges and threats that contribute to its general population decline over the last century. The Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP) is the result of Population Habitat and Viability Assessment Workshop conducted in December 2018 by the DENR Tamaraw Conservation Program, funded by BMB-Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and facilitated by BMB-Biodiversity Finance Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group and Conservation Planning Specialist Group.</p> <p>The Population Habitat and Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop in 2018 has identified many issues and concerns that lead to the crafting of the 10-year TCMAP. This proposal aims to answer some primary issues and concerns on meta-population component.</p> <p>Per TCMAP, there are many gaps on the knowledge of the population dynamics of the Tamaraw. This issue is caused by information gaps on the possible locations and habitat range of Tamaraws across Mindoro. As a result, the remaining population of the Tamaraw cannot be estimated for the whole island of Mindoro but limited only to its core habitat within Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP). Furthermore, the only method of counting being used since year 2000 within 2,200 hectares Tamaraw core habitat in MIBNP is the Intensive Concentration Count (ICC) or Simultaneous Multi-vantage Point Count (SMVPC) where “controlled burning” is the preparatory activity to conduct the ICC/SMPVC to improve visibility of Tamaraw and enhance sprouts of cogon and talahib grasses which are main forage for said animal. With this method, there are major disadvantages like burning risks other forms of life, reduces fertility of the soil, hamper diversity and prevent forest succession. Finally, ICC/MPV is suitable only in a grassland ecosystem while Tamaraws have been recorded in scrublands and forest ecosystems.</p>

In order to address the aforesaid issues, this project covers two (2) major parts:

- a) Island-wide identification and mapping of the Tamaraw locations and habitats; and
- b) Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat type.

Mindoro Island (provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro) covering twenty-two (22) municipalities. The 22 municipalities were identified based on land classification map and actual land cover per Google earth view. The target sites also include unexplored areas (outside of Tamaraw core habitat) of Mts. Iglit-Baco natural Park, and other known habitats of Tamaraw.

Objective:

Specifically, the Project aims to:

1. Establish information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraws in Mindoro by early 2020; and
2. Develop alternative counting methodology/ies to estimate Tamaraw population suitable to a range of habitat types developed.

The following are the overall expected Outputs:

1. Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro established
2. Tamaraw population in the Island of Mindoro estimated
3. Appropriate methodology/ies for Tamaraw population count suitable to a range of habitat types developed

Components:

Component	Expected Outputs
1.Establishment of information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraws in Mindoro	1.0. Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro
	1.1. Key Informant interview (KII) report(s)/community consultation report(s)
	1.2. Rapid habitat assessment report(s) submitted with baseline information on Tamaraw population estimates
	1.3. Technical report and documentation report
	1.4. Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro
2.Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat types (e.g. scrubland, forest, grassland)	2.0. Appropriate count method identified
	2.1. Report on the workshop conducted
	2.2. Report on the consultation
	2.3. Technical Report/ Process documentation on the initial testing of the method
3. Project Monitoring and Supervision/ Project Management	3.1. Quarterly progress reports
	3.2. Preparation of Final Technical Report
	3.3. Project Completion Report

II. Pre-Implementation Status

A. Status of the Submission of Work and Financial Plan

Last March 23, 2021, FASPS has received the revised WFP and BED Forms based on the comments of the Projects Screening Group (PSG) for Special Projects during the virtual meeting held on January 12, 2021. Based on the review of the revised WFP and BED Forms, the proponent should revise the WFP.

III. NEXT STEPS AND WAY FORWARD

Issue/Concern	Actions taken/to be taken
For the FY 2022 Physical and Financial Plan Section B.1. (Preparation and submission of protocol on Tamaraw Survey.), the unit cost for the preparation/submission of the survey report is PhP 5,000 and they targeted only one (1) submission of the survey report for the 4 th Quarter but the financial target reflected as PhP 10,000.	The proponent to review the unit cost and targeted no. of activities reflected in the draft WFP and BED Forms.
FASPS would like to know if the targeted activities were all achieved during 1 st Quarter 2021.	The proponent to adjust the timeline if the targeted activities were not achieved.
The Other MOOE (50299000-00) in BED Form 200 has a big amount.	The proponent to include the breakdown of the Other MOOE (50299000-00) in BED Form 200.

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