



May 4, 2021

**MA. LOURDES G. FERRER, CESO III**

Regional Executive Director  
DENR MIMAROPA

Attention:

**CARMEN RAMINA S. TUBAL**

Chief – Wildlife Resource Permitting Section

Dear Director Ferrer,

A conservation day to you!

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization which focuses on the conservation of environment, biodiversity and natural resources in Mindoro Island, Philippines. The organization continues to promote greater awareness and concern for Mindoro's environment through improved information campaigns, capacity building, empowering communities and enjoining them in the formulation and implementation of responsive policies for effective resource management and conservation.

For the past few years, MBCFI has been involved in the conservation of the critically endangered Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*). One of our involvements include a partnership with Chester Zoo where I was recently accepted as one of the six awardees for the Chester Zoo William Oliver Philippine Champion Award 2019 with a proposed study entitled Dietary Analysis of Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) in Mindoro Island, Philippines. This study aims to conduct a dietary analysis using fecal samples from the Tamaraw to identify a vegetation diet list through metabarcoding. This study will be conducted in both Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP), Mindoro Occidental and Mt. Gimparay, Mindoro Oriental.

In addition, a biophysical profile survey will also be conducted in Mt. Gimparay to provide a comprehensive species lists and biodiversity data of the site to support conservation efforts in area, generate a biodiversity profile of the site which will serve as baseline for comparison with subsequent monitoring surveys and establish biodiversity monitoring plots for subsequent regular monitoring surveys.

MBCFI has presented the research proposal to the MIBNP-PAMB and approval for the endorsement was obtained from the body last November 2019. Please see the attached Resolution No. 2019-08, series of 2019 from the MIBNP-PAMB including an endorsement from DENR-Tamaraw Conservation Program.




Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) granted an endorsement for both the GP, which recognizes the project outcomes to achieve the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP) 2019 – 2028's Goals 1, 8 & 10. These include mobilizing the species' all-natural areas of Mindoro that are suitable, strengthening law enforcement and wildlife crime prevention, and conducting a comprehensive socio-environmental assessment of the region to assist the integration of conservation objectives with the ongoing socio-economic dynamic of the Alangan Tribe. The TCMAP has been endorsed by IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group and DENR.

MBCFI was granted with a Gratuitous Permit (GP) from your office last year to conduct the collection of specimens for the study. However, surveys were not conducted in 2020 due to the pandemic and also, the GP will be expiring on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July this 2021, we are hoping that we will be able to conduct the survey in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this year. With that, we kindly request for an extension on our GP which includes the collection of fecal and flora samples in both MIBNP and Mt. Gimparay for the dietary analysis (1), and the collection fauna (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects) and flora in Mt. Gimparay for the biophysical profile survey (2).

Attached herewith are the research project overview and the GP initially granted for your reference. For any queries or clarifications, please feel free to contact us through this email ([elyza\\_p\\_tan@mbcfi.org.ph](mailto:elyza_p_tan@mbcfi.org.ph)) or through these numbers (043) 441-0359 or (639) 17-129-7072. We look forward to your favorable response. Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

  
**ELYZA HAZEL TAN**  
Project Development and Resource Officer  
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.

Noted by:

  
**GRACE C. DIAMANTE**  
Executive Director  
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.