



MAY 07 2021

**MR. MICHAEL F. ADRIAN**

Secretary to the Sanggunian  
Office of the Sangguniang Bayan  
Municipality of Banton  
Banton Municipal Hall, Banton, Romblon  
Email: [municipalityofbanton@gmail.com](mailto:municipalityofbanton@gmail.com)

Dear **Mr. Adrian**,

This pertains to your letter dated 20 February 2021 addressed to Secretary Roy Cimatu forwarding the Banton, Romblon Municipal Resolution No. 32 S-2021, which seeks for the immediate and effective solution to mitigate the overpopulation of monkeys in Banton, Romblon.

The DENR addresses issues of human/community-wildlife conflicts with the most humane approached possible. The last resort for such conflict is the removal of the wildlife from its habitat. It may be recalled that a team composed of staff from this Bureau, PENRO Romblon and your municipality conducted a population assessment of long-tailed macaques in Banton Island in 2017 precisely because of reported incidents of human/community-wildlife conflicts in the area. As BMB's intervention, we recommended the proper land use of the island to consider delineation of forest area of wildlife habitat and agricultural area. When such delineation is achieved this can serve as management unit where macaque avoidance measures can possibly be implemented. Moreover, pending any intervention on the control of macaque population, the following measures were also recommended which can be undertaken at the level of farm owners: a) Put clearance between the forest edge and the plantations so the macaques would be more hesitant to cross from the forest to the plantations; b) Planting of native fruit-bearing trees in the forest to restore wild food resource for macaques; c) Use of agricultural crops that macaques do not forage; and, d) Avoidance measures such as having dogs in the plantations, loud noises, and flushing of coconut trees to remove access of the macaques to the trees. These avoidance measures should be done simultaneously by all farm owners in the community to deter all macaques in the area. Monitoring by the Local Government Unit (LGU) is imperative to ensure that all owners conform to the program.

In addition to the information you have provided in the Resolution, the results of the separate assessment conducted by the LGU have confirmed that the large number of macaques in the island are causing substantial economic loss to the municipality especially coconut production which is the major source of income of the island. Based also on your report, it appears all other available measures had already been exhausted to resolve the human-macaque conflict in your area but failed, and now the community is looking at the removal of macaques through hunting and killing as the last resort.

Considering the welfare of both humans and wildlife, we understand the immediate need to remove a considerable portion of the macaque population in the area. However, this Office cannot consider your appeal to allow hunting and killing of macaques in the area for a period of three (3) years. As stated in Section 27 (*Illegal Acts*) of Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001), the killing of any wildlife is prohibited except for some instances. The killing of wildlife to mitigate overpopulation is not included in these exceptions.

As an alternative solution and anchored on DAO No. 2004-55<sup>1</sup> and Section 17 of JAO No. 1 Series of 2004<sup>2</sup>, this Office proposes the inclusion of Banton Island as a **priority area for the collection of parental stocks of captive-breed long-tailed macaques** used in the international trade of the species. The international trade of long-tailed macaques is governed by the Convention on the International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) to which the Philippines is a member. Under the Convention, long tailed-macaque is listed under CITES Appendix II which means that the international trade of the species is strictly regulated but not prohibited. In the case of the Philippines, the trade of macaques, which is non-threatened species based on DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09<sup>3</sup>, is limited to captive-bred individuals only in accordance with Republic Act 9147. Wildlife Farm Permittees who are allowed to captive-breed macaques for trade shall collect long-tailed macaques in your area. The number of individuals to be collected will be determined by this Office based on health and population assessment.

You may contact the Wildlife Resources Division of this Bureau through e-mail address [wrd@bmb.gov.ph](mailto:wrd@bmb.gov.ph) or telephone number (02) 8925-8946 for further information or clarification on the above concerns.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
**AMELITA D. ORTIZ**  
Assistant Director



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU



**BMB202105181**

cc: PENRO Romblon ([penroromblon@denr.gov.ph](mailto:penroromblon@denr.gov.ph))  
DENR MIMAROPA ([mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph](mailto:mimaroparegion@denr.gov.ph))  
Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment ([officeofuseccuna@denr.gov.ph](mailto:officeofuseccuna@denr.gov.ph))

<sup>1</sup> DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-55 "DENR Streamlining/Procedural Guidelines Pursuant to the Joint DENR-DA-PCSD Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9147 Otherwise Known as "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act"

<sup>2</sup> Joint DENR-DA-PCSD Administrative Order No. 01 Series of 2004 "Joint Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9147: "An Act Providing for the Conservation and Protection of Wildlife Resources and their Habitats, Appropriating Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes"

<sup>3</sup> DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09 "Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and Their Categories"