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**MEMORANDUM**

**18 APR 2022**

**FOR : LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV**  
Regional Executive Director, DENR R-4B

**FROM : THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service

**SUBJECT : PROJECT STATUS REPORT OF THE PROJECT TITLED,  
“RESEARCH ON THE META-POPULATION OF TAMARAW IN  
MINDORO” AS OF CY 2022 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER**

We would like to provide you a copy of the Project Status Report (PSR) of the DENR-FASPS funded Special Project titled, “Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro” as of CY 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. This PSR is based on the Project Managers’ meeting conducted by FASPS with the Project last March 10, 2022.

As of March 2022, the project has a physical accomplishment of 25.03% as against its target of 42.14%, or a slippage of 17.11%. The slippage can be attributed to the delays in the: a) conduct of the community consultation/key informant interviews; b) rapid habitat assessment/verification survey; and c) the field trials of the appropriate counting methods. These activities were not conducted due to delays in the issuance of project funds to PENRO Occidental and Oriental Mindoro and difficulty in the conduct of consultation/verification survey with IP Communities in Mindoro within their ancestral domain in the first two quarters.

For the financial status, Php705,381.15 or 35.27% was obligated from the total fund allotment of Php2,000,000. Of the total fund released amounting to Php890,000, 13.04% or Php116,045.60 was disbursed. Low utilization of funds accounts for the pending activities as mentioned above. With this, the Project Team needs to immediately submit a catch-up plan and the revised CY 2022 Work and Financial Plan (WFP) including the necessary BED Forms.

In this regard, kindly submit the following **on or before April 30, 2022**: a) Progress Report as of March 2022; b) latest disbursement report or SAOBD of the project; c) Revised CY 2022 WFP; and d) catch-up plan of the Project.

For your information and consideration.

  
**MARIA SABRINA R. CRUZ**

cc: **Atty. Jonas R. Leones**  
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs  
**Marcial C. Amaro, Jr., CESO III**  
Assistant Secretary, Policy, Planning and FASPS  
**Marilyn R. Limpiada**  
Chief, Planning and Management Division

DENR Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service  
Pre-Implementation Status Report  
As of March 2022

<b>I. PROFILE</b>
Project Title: <b>Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro</b>
Fund Source/s: DENR (Il.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-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><b>Description:</b></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:**

Components	Expected Outputs	Updates/Status
1.Establishment of information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraws in Mindoro	1.0. Initial Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	<b>Completed</b>  Developed an Initial map of likely habitat based on conducted Key Informant Interview and Literature.
	1.1. Key Informant interview (KII) report(s)/community consultation report(s)	<b>Behind Schedule</b>  Out of the thirteen targeted municipalities to be surveyed as of March 2022, only eleven (11) municipalities were surveyed. The Project to submit a catch-up plan to cover all the delays in the conduct of KII in the remaining municipalities in Mindoro.
	1.2. Rapid habitat assessment report(s) submitted with baseline information on Tamaraw population estimates	<b>Behind Schedule</b>  Out of the thirteen targeted municipalities to be surveyed as of March 2022, only three (3)

		municipalities were surveyed. The Project to submit a catch-up plan to cover all the delays in the conduct of Rapid habitat assessment/verification survey for the remaining municipalities in Mindoro.
	1.3. Technical report and documentation report	<b>Behind Schedule</b>  One (1) Technical report/ documentation report was initially submitted to PENRO Mindoro.
	1.4. Final Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	<b><i>To be delivered on 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022</i></b>
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	<b><i>To be delivered on 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022</i></b>
	2.1. Report on the workshop conducted	<b><i>To be delivered on 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022</i></b>
	2.2. Report on the consultation	<b><i>To be delivered on 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022</i></b>
	2.3. Technical Report/ Process documentation on the initial testing of the method	<b><i>To be delivered on 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022</i></b>
3. Project Monitoring and Supervision/ Project Management	3.1. Quarterly progress reports	On schedule
	3.2. Preparation of Final Technical Report	<b><i>To be delivered on 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022</i></b>
	3.3. Project Completion Report	<b><i>To be delivered on 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022</i></b>

## II. Project Status

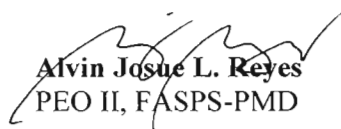
With an elapsed time of 29.16%, the project has a physical accomplishment of 25.03% as against the target of 42.14% or a slippage of 17.11%. The slippage can be attributed to the delays in the: a) conduct of the community consultation/key informant interviews; b) rapid habitat assessment/verification survey; and c) the field trials of the appropriate counting methods. These activities were not conducted due to delays in the issuance of project funds to PENRO Occidental and Oriental Mindoro and difficulty in the conduct of consultation/verification survey with IP Communities in Mindoro within their ancestral domain in the first two quarters.

As of the reporting period, the following are the major activities conducted by the Project: a) preparation of initial map of likely habitats; b) community consultations/key informant interviews in 3 municipalities of Occidental Mindoro; c) submission of community consultation report for the nine (9) municipalities in Occidental Mindoro ; and d) submission of the technical report in verification survey in Sta. Cruz and Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.


For the financial status, Php705,381.15 or 35.27% was obligated from the total fund allotment of Php2,000,000. Of the total fund released amounting to Php890,000, 13.04% or Php116,045.60 was disbursed. Low utilization of funds accounts for the pending activities as mentioned above. With this, the Project Team needs to immediately submit a catch-up plan and the revised CY 2022 Work and Financial Plan (WFP) including the necessary BED Forms.

<b>III. Issues and Concerns</b>	
<b>Issue/Concern</b>	<b>Actions taken/to be taken</b>
Delayed conduct of community consultation, key informant interview, and rapid habitat assessment in some municipalities.	The Project Team to submit a catch-up plan for the activities that were not completed in CY 2021.  The project to provide updates on the consultation to be conducted with NCIP, tribal leader and community in early 2022.
Development of the counting methods in determining the tamaraw populations	As agreed during PM's meeting, all the data gathered, analyzed, and methodologies tested until 2022 will be included in the Final Report. Copy of the final process document report will be submitted once the methodologies are fully developed and accepted.
Lack of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) for the project implementation.	The Project Team already applied for the FPIC to National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. Further, Work Order was already issued.
Gaps in Research activities identified.	Partner NGOs (Mindoro State University and MBCFi, University of Santo Tomas, and D' Aboville Foundation) made commitment to take on the gaps identified.
Delays in the issuance of funds.	The Project Team to submit a catch-up plan and draft revised CY 2022 WFP for the activities that were not implemented this year.

Prepared by:

  
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PEO II, FASPS-PMD

Noted by:

  
**Eddie B. Abugan, Jr.**  
Chief, FASPS-PMD