

Minutes of the 90th TPAMB Meeting
Canvas Boutique Hotel, Puerto Princesa City
02 September 2022

1. Call to Order. PENRO Felizardo B. Cayatoc presided over the meeting. Upon determination of a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 3:09PM.

Present:

1. PENRO Felizardo B. Cayatoc, DENR	Presiding Officer
2. Mr. Niño Rey Estoya, PCSD	Member
3. Ms. Maria Teresa Villena, Office of the Gov	Member
4. Hon. Edgardo Salvame, 1 st District	Member
5. Atty. Alyzza Mae Ora, 3 rd District	Member
6. Hon. Sergio S. Tapalla, LGU-Cagayancillo	Member
7. Mr. Clark Matthew L. Caspe, SP ENR Committee	Member
8. Col. Rey M Bes PAF (GSC), Western Command	Member
9. Mr. Marco Angelo J. Ancheta, PCSSD, DOT	Member
10. Mr. Mario C. Basaya, BFAR	Member
11. Dr. Roger Dolorosa, Western Philippines University	Member
12. Dr. Ronald A. Ona, Palawan State University	Member
13. Ms. Katherine Custodio, WWF-Phils	Member
14. Atty. Michaela Bundac, Saguda Palawan	Member
15. Ptr. Jehu Cayaon, Tambuli ta mga Kagayanen	Member

Absent:

1. Hon. Jose CH. Alvarez, 2 nd District	Member
2. SB Jerry Buncag, ENR Comm, Cagayancillo	Member
3. Capt. Alan M Javier PN (GSC), NFW	Member
4. CG Commo Rommel A Supangan, CGD-Pal	Member
5. Mr. Enrique A. Nunez, CI-Phils	Member
6. Hon. Juan E. Alvarez, Committee on Appropriations	Member

Guest:

1. Ms. Glenda Cadigal, PCSD
2. Mr. Zanie Seracapio, 1st District
3. Capt. Boyd P Amorado PN (GSC)
4. Ms. Ma. Elena Basaya
5. MS. Marivel Dygico
6. Ms. Tin Barrameda, PCSSD-DOT
7. LCDR RRC Daclan PN, NFW
8. CG CDR Laurince Ivan Felizarte, CGD-Pal
9. Ms. Sef Carandang, UNDP
10. Mr. William Baylon III, DENR-FASPS
11. Mr. Chris Tapnio, UNDP
12. Ms. Alyssa Carreon, UNDP
13. Ms. Moonyeen Alava, UNDP
14. Ms. Marlyn Santiago, ACB
15. Atty. Adelina Benavente-Villena
16. Ms. Glory Ann Laurel, OU7 WESCOM
17. Ms. Mary Joan Pecson, WWF
18. Mr. Marlon L. Javier, Committee on Appropriations

2. Review of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting/Matters Arising Out of the Minutes. The minutes of the 89th TPAMB meeting was approved. The highlights of the previous meeting and actions taken were as follows:

Highlights/Major Concerns	Action Taken
Admin Order banning unlicensed divers in TRNP	To be discussed this meeting, Agenda # 5
Amendment of AO No. 1, s 2017, Rule 14.2	Amendments communicated to dive operators for implementation in 2023
Tourism Progress Report	Ad hoc committee to formulate Tubbataha Communications Plan formed to be headed by PCSSD
DENR grant	Balance of fund allocation to be used for water quality study and fuel for enforcement
Carrying capacity study	Ongoing
MOU with de La Salle University on Research	Signed
Cagayancillo Distribution of Notebooks from DENR	890 notebooks with pens, 887 tumblers, 1,260 stickers distributed to Cagayancillo students, teachers, and employees
Fund Raising for Ranger Station	Plan to be finalized

3. Agenda

ASEAN ENMAPS Project Briefing. Ms. Sef Carandang presented the project, Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in ASEAN (ASEAN EMPAN), a regional project involving three countries, including the Philippines. The project objective is to develop and improve the management of the networks of marine protected areas and of marine corridors.

Tubbataha is one of their proposed beneficiaries of the project in the Philippines. The project is still in the design phase and will start in 2024. The GEF-7 Management effectiveness Tracking tool (METT), a requirement of the donor, was accomplished with TMO.

The Board unanimously approved the inclusion of TRNP in the project, authorizing the Executive Committee to oversee the project and update the Board members on any developments.

3.1 TMO Mid-Year Report. The Report was rendered through a video presentation.

Mr. Niño Rey Estoya, PCSD, inquired why the accomplishment of the physical targets (84%) in Conservation Awareness program does not match the financial outlay (51%). Mr. Estoya said that this reflects bad planning. The PASu explained that TMO solicits funds from external sources, therefore saving funds already allocated for certain activities. She added that this has been the practice of TMO to buffer against the absence of funding because it does not get a regular budget from the government.

TMO was instructed to add a remarks column to the report indicating the reason or justification for any savings to resolve the confusion.

The new members of the TPAMB need to be apprised of the operations of the TMO. The PASu said that the briefing material on TRNP will be resent to the new TPAMB members.

3.2 New Signatories to TRNP Trust Fund Account and Landbank Account. The PASu recalled that signatories to the TRNP Trust Fund accounts are the DENR and PCSD as co-chair of the Board, and Saguda Palawan, Inc, representing the NGO sector. The PASu proposed a change in signatories to the TRNP accounts because Saguda Palawan has a new representative, Atty. Michaela Bundac. Further, Atty. Matta of PCSD, another TPAMB signatory, will be on study leave for a period of one year starting in October, and will therefore have to be replaced. Mr. Estoya said that since the PCSD had not yet appointed an OIC, PCSD cannot assign a signatory from the office. It was agreed that a signatory from the PCSD will be appointed during the next TPAMB meeting, after the appointment of an OIC for PCSD.

The PASu proposed that the Landbank of the Philippines (LBP) dollar account be closed and the funds, amounting to around US\$72,000.00, deposited to the TRNP Trust Fund account with the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). She added that the COA agreed to overlook this second TRNP account some years ago because the exchange rate was very low when she audited TMO. As the exchange rate has increased, the funds can now be withdrawn and consolidated into the TRNP Trust Fund account, in compliance with COA rules. If the Board agrees to close the Landbank dollar account, the PASu recommended that new signatories be assigned because the former signatories are no longer available. The new signatories will be able to transact the closure of the account.

The Board unanimously approved the closure of the Landbank account and assigned PENRO Cayatoc, DENR and PASu Songco as the new signatories of the Landbank account and the transfer the funds to the DBP TRNP Trust Fund account.

3.3 TPAMB Resolution on Policy on the Use of TRNP Logo. The Board deferred the ratification of Executive Committee Resolution 22-140: Policy on the Use of the TRNP Logo by a Third Party' because the document was not sent to the members ahead of time. The matter will be taken up during the TPAMB meeting in November.

3.4 Administrative Order No. 5, s. of 2022 (Uncertified Divers). The Board approved Administrative Order No. 5 subject to revisions. In Section 5, the sentence: 'Likewise, marine park rangers are prohibited from assisting in such scuba diving activities.' should be removed. In Section 7, insert the specific violation under 'Particulars' and remove 'warning/citation' as penalty for First Offense.

3.5 ASEAN Meeting c/o ACB. ACB will conduct the Workshop on Meeting New Marine Protected and Conserved Area Targets as part of the Global Biodiversity Framework in Southeast Asia. The said meeting will be held in Palawan in November 21, 2022 and ACB requests the assistance of TMO in the preparations for the international event. The TPAMB instructed TMO to provide assistance.

3.6 Research on Waves and Tides in TRNP. Ms. Retchie Alaba, TMO Research Officer, presented the proposal of Dr. Olivia Cabrera entitled: Wave and Tidally Driven Flow Dynamics in Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park. Dr. Cabrera's research is funded under the 2022-APEC-Australia Women in Research Fellowship. The study aims to develop a model of water dynamics in TRNP to determine the impacts of waves and tides on coral composition. It will also shed light on the development of Bird Islet during the northeast and southwest monsoons. Ms. Alaba said that part of Dr. Cabrera's research is to deploy wave gauges and current profilers and collect sediment samples in three locations in TRNP.

The Board unanimously approved the research project and endorse the same to PCSD.

4. Other Matters.

4.1 Admin matters re: Honoraria of Members. The PASu informed the Board that the honoraria of members will be delayed because COA requires that the expense for honoraria be liquidated five days after its release. The minutes of meeting and any resolutions issued are requirements for liquidation. Since these documents cannot always be prepared and signed within five days, the release of honoraria, done promptly after the meetings in the past, may be delayed. The members agreed.

4.2 EAAFP Project. The Staff of TMO won in the Youth Think Tank competition and received ₱150,000 in funding from EAAFP. The funds were used to raise awareness about seabirds of the Philippines and TRNP through a webinar. The audience of the webinar were students from different universities in Palawan and other provinces, bird watchers, etc.

4.3 PASu Travel. A group of avid local divers invited PASu Songco to a dive trip to Nusa Peninda, Indonesia on September 5-13, 2022. The dive site is known for the sunfish (mola mola) and manta rays. It is one of the favored destinations of Filipino and foreign divers in Southeast Asia and one of the competitors of Tubbataha as a scuba diving destination in the region. They will defray the cost of the dives of the PASu as exposure to other famous dive sites would be a learning experience useful to Tubbataha. The PASu informed the Board that she will defray the cost of airfare to Indonesia and accommodations and requested authority to officially join the trip. The Board unanimously approved her request.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm

After the meeting, the Presiding Chairman presented Atty. Adelina Benaventa-Villena with a Plaque of Appreciation for her two decades of service and support to the TPAMB. Atty. Villena also signed a Volunteer Agreement with TMO. Refreshments were served after the awarding ceremony.

Prepared by:


ANGELIQUE M. SONGCO
Secretary

Attested by:


PENRO FELIZARDO CAYATOC
Presiding Officer