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FEB 04 2022

MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT : **PROJECT STATUS REPORT OF THE PROJECT ENTITLED
"RESEARCH ON THE META-POPULATION OF TAMARAW IN
MINDORO" AS OF CY 2021 4TH QUARTER**

We would like to provide you a copy of the Project Status Report (PSR) of the DENR-FASPS funded Special Project entitled, "Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro" as of CY 2021 4th Quarter. This PSR is based on the Project Managers' meeting conducted by FASPS with the Project last December 9, 2021.

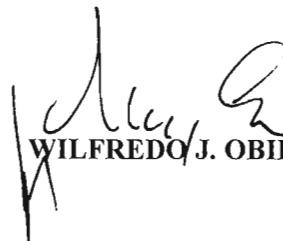
As of December 2021, the project was able to achieved 10.94% physical accomplishment as against its target of 44.5% or a slippage of 33.56%. The slippage can be attributed to the delays in the conduct of the community consultation/key informant interviews and rapid habitat assessment/verification survey. These activities were not conducted due to the following reasons: a) delayed start of project implementation; b) some of the IP Communities in Sta. Cruz, Mindoro refused the conduct of verification survey within their ancestral domain as the matter is yet to be discussed among the members of the tribe; and c) inaccessibility of some municipalities to be assessed in 3rd and 4th Quarter 2021 due to bad weather condition in Mindoro which greatly affects the implementation of project activities.

For the financial status, PhP705,381.15 or 79.26% was obligated from the total fund allotment of PhP890,000.00 accordingly. Of the total funds released amounting to PhP551,000.00, **21.06% or PhP116,045.60** was disbursed. Low utilization of funds accounts for the pending activities as mentioned above. As agreed during the PM's meeting, the Project Team will prepare the revise CY 2022 Work and Financial Plan (WFP) once the obligated amount is fully utilized. FASPS, on the other hand, will issue the remaining Notice of Transfer of Allocation by 1st Quarter 2022 corresponding to the obligated amount.

In this regard, we would like to request updates on the status of the project's physical accomplishment and utilization of the obligated amount in CY 2021. Kindly submit the Progress Report as of December 2021 following the attached FASPS Tracking Forms, latest disbursement report or SAOBD of the project, Due and Demandables Accounts Payable for FY 2021 as well as the Revised CY 2022 WFP and catch-up plan of the Project **on or before February 20, 2022.**

For your information and appropriate action.

cc: **Marilyn R. Limpiada**
Chief, Planning and Management Division


WILFREDO J. OBIEN

Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
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DENR Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Pre-Implementation Status Report
As of December 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-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</p>

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.

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
2.Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat types (e.g. scrubland, forest, grassland)	1.4. Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro
	2.0. Appropriate count method identified
	2.1. Report on the workshop conducted
	2.2. Report on the consultation
3. Project Monitoring and Supervision/ Project Management	2.3. Technical Report/ Process documentation on the initial testing of the method
	3.1. Quarterly progress reports
	3.2. Preparation of Final Technical Report
	3.3. Project Completion Report

II. Project Status

The slippage of 33.56% on the physical accomplishment can be attributed to the delays in the conduct of the community consultation/key informant interviews and rapid habitat assessment/verification survey. These activities were not conducted due to the following reasons: a) some of the IP Communities in Sta. Cruz, Mindoro refused the conduct of verification survey within their ancestral domain as the matter is yet to be discussed among the members of the tribe; b) inaccessibility of municipalities to be assessed in 3rd and 4th Quarter 2021 due to the weather condition in Mindoro which greatly affects the implementation of project activities; and c) delays in the start of the implementation.

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 6 municipalities of Occidental Mindoro; c) process documentation report/technical report; and d) technical consultation with D'Aboville Foundation which discussed some of the possible methods being tested for estimating Tamaraw abundance.

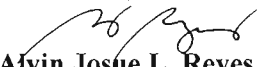
For the financial status, PhP705,381.15 or 79.26% was obligated from the total fund allotment of PhP890,000.00. Also, the total funds released to the project is already PhP551,000.00 which equivalent to 27.55% of the total project cost. Further, PhP116,045.60 has been disbursed or 21.06% out of the total cash released. Hence, the majority of the low utilization of funds accounts for the delays in the conduct of community consultation/key informant interviews and rapid habitat assessment/verification survey. As agreed during the PM's meeting, the Project Team will prepare the revised CY 2022 Work and Financial Plan (WFP) once the obligated amount is fully utilized. Moreover, FASPS to issue the remaining Notice of Transfer of Allocation by 1st Quarter 2022 corresponding to obligated amount.

III. Issues and Concerns


Issue/Concern	Actions taken/to be taken
<i>Delayed conduct of community consultations, key informant interview and rapid habitat assessment in some municipalities</i> As reported by the Project Team, the targeted assessment in 9 municipalities during the 3rd and 4th Quarter 2021 was not completed due to: a) late start of project implementation; b) some of the IP Communities in Sta. Cruz, Mindoro refused the conduct of verification survey within their ancestral domain as the matter is yet to be discussed among the members of the tribe; and c) inaccessibility of the area because of bad weather condition in Mindoro during the said period.	The Project Team will submit to FASPS a catch-up plan for the activities that were not completed in CY 2021. The Project will be requested to provide updates on the consultation to be conducted with NCIP, tribal leader and the community in early 2022.
<i>Estimated time to develop methodologies for determining the tamaraw populations</i> As reported, the development of methodology(ies) for estimating Tamaraw populations may take more than 2 years or beyond the duration of the project as series of testing are needed to establish a precise data sets for calibration and/or comparison with the sets of existing data/baseline gathered over the years from the traditional counting method. 1 to 2	As agreed during the PM's meeting, all the data gathered, analyzed and methodology(ies) tested until 2022 will be included in the terminal report. Copy of the final process document report will be submitted once the methodology(ies) is fully developed and accepted.

III. Issues and Concerns	
Issue/Concern	Actions taken/to be taken
testing/field trials can be conducted in a year (wet and dry) which will be replicated in succeeding years.	

Prepared by:


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Noted by:


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