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January 31, 2022

Lormelyn E. Claudio

Director
MIMAROPA Regional Office
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

Dear **RED Claudio**:

Greetings!

Conservation International Philippines (CIP) has been a long-term partner of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on biodiversity and climate change issues. In 2021, CIP provided then MIMAROPA RED Maria Lourdes G. Ferrer a presentation of a proposed project on Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) for the Mount Mantalingahan Protected Landscape (MMPL) in Palawan as part of its efforts to help the Philippines address the impacts of our changing climate and how CIP can contribute to the country's REDD+ programs. We have also made presentations with the DENR's Forest Management Bureau (FMB), the MMPL Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), as well as the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), local governments, civil society, and ancestral domain communities from mid-2020 until December of 2021.

We are pleased to inform you that our *Community, Conservation, and Natural Climate Solutions Initiative (CCNSCI)* is now ready to be rolled out in the MMPL. The project is a forest conservation program that seeks to restore degraded areas of the MMPL, provide a stronger protection framework for the landscape, improve protected area and ancestral domain governance, and pursue sustainable carbon financing. The CCNSCI will be working with the DENR, LGUs, the PCSD and the indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in the area, covering the entire landscape, from the upland forests down to the mangrove areas along the coast. As of August 2021, we have received the endorsement of the MMPL-PAMB and the approval of the PCSD for the CCNSCI, and we are in the process of securing our free and prior informed consent with the ancestral domain communities in our targeted priority sites.

As part of the continuing project development for the CCNSCI, we are requesting to meet with your good Office, as well as the relevant Divisions of the BMB such as the National Parks Division (NPD), the Coastal and Marine Division (CMD), and the Biodiversity Policy and Knowledge Management Division (BPKMD) to provide them with an in-depth technical presentation on the CCNSCI's goals and request for crucial feedback on our program. We hope that you and the technical staff are available for a 2½-hour meeting at your convenience from February 8 – 11, 2022, either virtually or in person.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our CCNSCI program lead **Atty. Edna Maguigad** at **0920 9774727** or via email at **emaguigad@conservation.org**.

We anticipate your favorable response to our request.

Very truly yours,



Enrique A. Nuñez, Jr.
Country Executive Director