

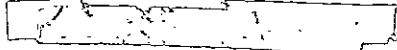


Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Document Action Tracking System
Document Routing Slip

Document No: BMB-NPD-2022-000015

Print Date: Friday, March 04, 2022

Sender:



Address:

Biodiversity Management Bureau
QUEZON AVENUE, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

Subject

MEMO DTD 03/04/2022 ISSUES CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF MTS. IGLIT-BACO NP

Addressee(s):

DENR Region IV-B (DENR R4B)

CC Addressee(s):

Date/Time Received: 03/04/2022 10:12:00 AM

ROUTING AND ACTION INFORMATION				
FROM	DATE/TIME RECEIVED	FOR/TO	DATE/TIME RELEASED	ACCEPTANCE REMARKS/ACTION REQUIRED/TAKEN REMARKS/STATUS
	03/04/2022 10:10:36 AM	BMB-NPD		Date: 03/04/2022 04:47:08 PM To: From: Abalos, Michelle P. Message: For AD/D initial/signature
BMB-NPD		BMB-OAD	03/04/2022 04:47:35 PM	for signature

BMB-OAD 02-07-2022 BMB-00 3/8/22

for barcoding



MAR 08 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA
DENR by the Bay Building
Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila

FROM : The Assistant Director

SUBJECT : **ISSUES CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT
EFFECTIVENESS OF MTS. IGLIT-BACO NATURAL PARK**

We would like to bring to your attention some issues concerning the management effectiveness of Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) under the leadership of Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) Diosdado Torrado.

This Bureau, in partnership with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and with support from the European Union (EU), is implementing the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas (BCAMP) Project from 2017 until 2022 with a one-year extension until June 2023. BCAMP has national and site level activities with MIBNP as one of the Project's pilot sites. The finalization and popularization of MIBNP's Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) and the development of a relocation plan for illegal ranching activities inside the Park are just two of the identified priority activities of MIBNP supported by BCAMP.

The lockdowns and restrictions brought by the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly hampered the implementation of some BCAMP activities including site-level implementation in MIBNP. But more importantly, this Office has observed and experienced suboptimal performance of PASu Torrado that compounded the delays brought by the pandemic.

On March 8, 2021, an online meeting was held to discuss the draft revised management plan of MIBNP. Representatives from this Bureau, MIMAROPA Region's Conservation and Development Division, and the MIBNP PAMO participated in the online meeting. The meeting served as a venue to clarify the management planning process undertaken and the considerations in identifying management zones.

Following the online meeting, this Office provided comments on the draft revised management plan through a memorandum dated March 26, 2021. After several follow-ups, the Bureau only received an advanced copy of the draft revised

management plan last March 1, 2022. We have yet to receive an official response from MIBNP addressing this Office's comments.

In regards to the development of a relocation plan for illegal ranching activities inside MIBNP, there were no remarkable developments until after your Office issued a directive dated 11 October 2021, stating that assessments on proposed relocation sites be conducted first prior to holding further consultation meetings with the affected ranchers.

It is worth noting that MIBNP, together with Mt. Apo Natural Park, is one of the first national parks in the Philippines to be declared as an ASEAN Heritage Park. The ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme is a flagship programme of the ASEAN. AHPs are considered the "best-of-the-best" protected areas in the ASEAN region. A park has to meet the following criteria to be considered as an AHP: (1) ecological completeness; (2) representativeness; (3) naturalness; (4) high conservation importance; (5) legally gazetted; and (6) must have a duly approved management plan. Being an AHP, MIBNP has to meet and sustain AHP standards. The delay in the finalization of MIBNP's management plan is putting MIBNP's AHP status in question.

In addition, PASu Torrado's subpar management is jeopardizing the completion of the above-mentioned activities along with other identified priority activities under MIBNP's BCAMP Work and Financial Plan. As mentioned earlier, the BCAMP Project's termination date is June 2023. This Office aims to fully implement all BCAMP-supported activities for MIBNP expected for completion by December 2022. As such, we would like to seek your assistance and support to provide some intervention regarding the above-mentioned issues.

For your information.


AMELITA D. ORTIZ

