

**Minutes of the 93<sup>rd</sup> TPAMB Meeting**

26 May 2023

Zoom Meeting ID: 886 4227 9781

**1. Call to Order.** Mr. Marco Angelo Ancheta, PCSSD Executive Director, presided over the meeting. Upon determining the presence of a quorum, he called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

**Present:**

1.	Mr. Marco Angelo Ancheta, PCSSD	Presiding Officer
2.	Ms. Marivel Dygico, WWF-Phils	Member
3.	Dr. Roger Dolorosa, Western Philippines University	Member
4.	Dr. Ramon Docto, Palawan State University	Member
5.	Ptr. Jehu Cayaon, Tambuli ta mga Kagayanen	Member
6.	Mr. Zanie Seracarpio, 1 <sup>st</sup> District	Member
7.	Atty. Allyzza Mae Ora, 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Member
8.	Mr. Marlon Javier, Committee on Appropriations	Member
9.	Ms. Ma. Elizabeth Sabando, PGP	Member
10.	Ms. Rhodora Ubani, DENR	Member
11.	LTC. Isagani G Nato, WesCom	Member
12.	Mr. Jerry Buncag, ENR Com- Cagayancillo	Member
13.	Ms. Jeanne Tabangay, CI- Phil	Member
14.	Hon. Sergio Tapalla, LGU-Cagayancillo	Member
15.	Ms. Angelica Querubin, Saguda Palawan	Member
16.	Mr. Elena Basaya, BFAR	Member
17.	Ms. Levita Lagrada, PCSDs	Member
18.	Mr. Clark Caspe, SP ENR Committee	Member

**Absent:**

1.	Capt. Dennis Rem C Labay, CGD-Pal	Member
2.	Hon. Jose CH. Alvarez, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Member
3.	Commo. Alan M Javier PN, NFW	Member

**Guest:**

1.	Capt. Elmer Toriado PN
2.	Ms. Erika Korosi, CI
3.	Mr. Erickson Tabangay
4.	Dr. Ronald Ona, Palawan State University
5.	Ms. Cristy Barrameda, PCSSD
6.	Atty. Joanna Sarah Diva, PCSDs

**2. Review of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting/Matters Arising Out of the Minutes.** The minutes of the 92<sup>nd</sup> TPAMB meeting held on 28 February 2023 was approved. The highlights of the previous meeting and actions taken were reported as follows:

HIGHLIGHTS/MAJOR CONCERNS	ACTIONS TAKEN
Turtle Study with NOAA	Approved
e-DNA Project with UNESCO	Samples collected and sent to UNESCO France Hq
Closure of TPAMB Landbank Dollar Account	Funds transferred to DBP TRNP Trust Fund Account
TMO Administrative Matters	Updating plantilla based on new issuances
UNDP ENMAPS Project	Approved, awaiting start of project
Inspection Trip, 16-19 June 2023	Moved to 17-20 June, invites to be sent in early June

3. Agenda

**3.1. CI-Philippines’ Proposal on Nature Credits.** Ms. Jeanne Tabangay of CI-Phils introduced Ms. Erika Korosi of the Conservation Finance Division of Conservation International. CI is inviting the TPAMB to participate in a program to pilot and build readiness for potential nature credits. Nature credits are intended to provide a new avenue to finance biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, and resilience using lessons learned from the carbon markets. CI’s nature credits strategy includes pilot development and demonstration utilizing a variety of nature market approaches. It intends to work with a small number of pilot projects for the purposes of testing and refining crediting approaches.

The nature credit pilot opportunity will include a two-month Preparation phase (May-July ‘23), Crediting Readiness (July ‘23-Dec ‘24), Piloting (July-Dec ’23), and Crediting (2024). The goal is to work towards crediting, however, there are currently a number of uncertainties (such as the conditions under which credits will be issued) that will impact the likelihood of this phase.

The key focus of a pilot is to build readiness for crediting while providing feedback on emerging crediting standards and methodologies. Participation in the piloting process would position Tubbataha as one of the early movers on the pathway toward credit issuance and provide Tubbataha with an enhanced biodiversity baseline and monitoring protocol. Further, can be a source of support to review and enhance other management aspects, strengthen the capability of Tubbataha personnel, and provide an opportunity to input into the design of crediting approaches and methodologies based on the experiences of Tubbataha.

Asked about other pilot sites in the Philippines, Ms. Korosi responded that Tubbataha is the only pilot site in the country. The other pilot sites are located elsewhere in the world and are mostly terrestrial areas. She said they chose Tubbataha because of its good practice and the systems in place that are favorable to the project.

The Board unanimously approved a Resolution in the participation of Tubbataha as a pilot site for exploring funding through nature credits.

**3.2. Interim Tourism Report.** Jon Andrew Cabiles, Communications and Tourism Officer of TMO, reported that 15 dive boats are operating this year. As of 25 May 2023, the Conservation Fee collection was PhP14M, 25% lower than collections in 2019 for the same period. The number of trips is also 30% lower and so is the number of visitors, which is 29% lower than in 2019.

**3.3 Incidents in TRNP.** Mr. Cabiles reported the incidents that took place in Tubbataha since the beginning of the season:

9 March 2023	Death of guest of M/Y Infiniti (DOA, heart attack)
27 March 2023	Grounding of M/Y Resolute
28 March 2023	Grounding of M/Y Stella Maris
March-April 2023	Violation of M/Y Almaroon of permitting system (4 cases)
30 April 2023	Sinking of MG/Y Dream Keeper

**3.4. Update on Ranger Station Construction.** The PASu reported that the contractor of Phase 2 of the ranger station, Mamsar Construction, started work on the project on 23 May 2023. The project is being undertaken by the Provincial Government of Palawan.

**3.5. Malampaya Grant.** The Malampaya Foundation, Inc., provided a grant of PhP850,000.00 through the Friend of Tubbataha, Inc., for information and education, enforcement, and ranger supplies. The project will end on 31 December 2023.

#### **4. Other Matters:**

**4.1. Request of Manager of Dream Keeper.** The email of the Manager of MG/Y Dream Keeper was provided to the members of the Board. Ms. Zhaoxi Li requested a refund of the Conservation and Vessel Entry Fees paid for the guests and the vessel amounting to Sixty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (PhP65,750.00) on humanitarian grounds. After deliberating on the matter, stating that the incident is unprecedented and unusual and that the crew lost its Seaman's Book and other documents that would enable them to find work, affecting many families, the Board approved the refund on grounds that there are no legal impediments to the matter. The TMO was instructed to inquire with the COA regarding the validity of such a transaction. Should there be legal issues, the matter is to be discussed by ExeCom for its final resolution.

**4.2. Waiver of Fees of Natividad Bernardino.** The PASu requested the Board to waive the fees of Ms. Natividad Bernardino, former Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau and now in the Office of the Undersecretary for Legal and Administration of DENR. The Board unanimously approved the request.

**4.3. TAB Meeting.** The PASu requested a meeting of the Tubbataha Adjudication Board in the coming week to discuss the grounding incidents mentioned earlier in the meeting. Invitations will be sent immediately.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Prepared by:

  
**ANGELIQUE M. SONGCO**  
Secretary

Attested by:

  
**MARCO ANGELO J. ANCHETA**  
Presiding Officer