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11 APR 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DENR Region 4-B

ATTENTION : OIC PENRO
PENRO, Occidental Mindoro

FROM : The DIRECTOR
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service

SUBJECT : PROJECT STATUS REPORT (PSR) AS OF FY 2023 1ST
QUARTER OF THE SPECIAL PROJECT ENTITLED
"RESEARCH ON THE META-POPULATION OF TAMARAW
IN MINDORO"

We would like to provide you with a copy of the Project Status Report (PSR) as of 31 March 2023 of the FASPS-funded Special Project entitled "Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro" as a result of the 1Q-2023 Project Managers (PM's) meeting held in 14 March 2023. Likewise, this PSR is based on the series of coordination conducted by FASPS with the Project Coordinator in March 2023.

Physical Progress:

With an elapsed time of 71%, the Project has a physical accomplishment of 72.8% as against the target of 100% or a slippage of 27.2%. The slippage consists of delays in the conduct of 17 out of the 22 target rapid habitat assessment/verification surveys.

As of this reporting period, the Project has undertaken a major activity through the conduct of verification surveys in the Municipality of Paluan and Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro; and Gloria, Bansud, Socorro in Oriental Mindoro.

Financial Performance:

The total project cost is ₱2,000,000. Of the ₱1,675,000 total cash released (NTA) to PENRO Occ. Mindoro, R4B, ₱1,007,021 has so far been utilized under the Project at a 60.12% rate.

Ways Forward:

For the coming 2nd Quarter of FY 2023, the Project will conduct verification surveys in remaining municipalities and undertake improvement of counting methods identified.

For your information and consideration/signature.



ALO. OROLFO, Ph.D.

cc: Office of the USEC for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Policy, Planning and FASPS
Office of the PENR Officer – PENRO Occidental Mindoro
Chief, Planning and Management Division
Chief - Project Monitoring Division - FASPS

I. PROFILE
Project Title: Research on the Metapopulation 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: August 2021
Closing Date: August 2023
Implementing Agency: DENR-PENRO Occidental Mindoro and DENR – IV – (MIMAROPA) Regional Office
Sector: Biodiversity
Regions: IV-B
Benefeciaries: DENR Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)
<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 the 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 cause by the 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 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 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 sprout of cogon and talahib grasses which are main forage for said animal. With this method,</p>

there are major disadvantages like burning risk other forms of like, 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 ecosystem.

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 Tamaraw 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	Expected Outputs	Updates/Status
1. Establishment of information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraw in Mindoro	1.0. Initial Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	Completed
	1.1. Key Informant interview (KII) report(s)/community consultation report(s)	Completed
	1.2 Rapid habitat assessment report(s) submitted with baseline information on Tamaraw population estimates	On-schedule
	1.3. Technical report and documentation report	On-schedule, however, capturing only the


		activities so far conducted
	1.4. Final Island-wide spatial map of tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	2023 final output
2. Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat types (e.g. scrubland, forest, grassland)	2.0. Appropriate count method identified	On schedule 2 nd fieldwork report will be delivered on 2 nd quarter 2023
	2.1. Report on the workshop conducted	Completed
	2.2. Report on the consultation	Completed
	2.3. Technical Report/ Process documentation on the initial testing of the method	Completed
3. Project Monitoring and Supervision/ Project Management	3.1. Quarterly progress reports	On schedule
	3.2. Preparation of Final Technical Report	<i>Requested to be delivered on 4th Quarter 2023</i>
	3.3 Project Completion Report	<i>Requested to be delivered on 4th Quarter 2023</i>
Project Status		
<p>With an elapsed time of 71 %, the project has a physical accomplishment of 72.8% as against the target of 100% or a slippage of 27.2%. The slippage consists of the delays in conduct of 17 out of the 22 target rapid habitat assessment/verification survey.</p> <p>As of the reporting period, the following were the major activities conducted by the project: a) conducted verification survey in the Municipality of Paluan and Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro; and Gloria, Bansud, Socorro in Oriental Mindoro</p> <p>For the 2nd Quarter of 2023, the following are planned activities: a) conduct of verification survey in remaining municipalities; b) improvement of counting methods identified.</p>		

Financial Status						
BUDGET UTILIZATION	Allotment (SAA Downloaded) (a)	Cash Released (NTA Downloaded) (b)	Obligated (c)	Disbursed (d)	% Obligation based on Allotment (c/a)	% Utilization based on Cash Released (d/b)
CUMULATIVE	2,000,000	1,675,000	1,807,900	1,007,021	90.4%	60.12%
Issues and Concerns						
Lack of Free and Prior Consent (FPIC) for the project implementation			Upon coordination of TCP and NCIP Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, community consultation was scheduled.			
Gaps in Research activities identified			Partner NGOs (Mindoro State University and MBCFi, University of Santo Tomas and D' Aboville Foundation) made commitment to take on the gaps identified			
Negative presence of the Tamaraw in some municipalities based on the conducted Key Informant Interviews			The Project team was advised to conduct verification survey in the municipalities with negative presence of Tamaraw based on KII, however, with sightings in past 1-2 year.			

PREPARED BY:


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NOTED BY:


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