

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Directors
DENR Regions 3, MIMAROPA, and 13

FROM : The Director
In concurrent capacity as Assistant Secretary for Policy,
Planning, and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION OF SELECTED
PROTECTED AREA PERSONNEL TO THE TRAINING OF
TRAINORS AND PILOT-TESTING OF THE EARTHRANGER
IN SUPPORT TO THE STANDARDIZATION AND
ENHANCEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT AND
MONITORING TOOLS PHASE 2 ON 14-21 MAY 2023 IN THE
PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES**

This refers to the ongoing standardization and enhancement of biodiversity assessment and monitoring tools being implemented by the Biodiversity Management Bureau through the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) Project. The standardization and enhancement supports the provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act, as amended, that sound resources assessment shall be used as one of the bases for the review and updating of protected area management plans.

In October to December 2021, the SIBOL Project initiated the standardization of the assessment and monitoring tools used by the BMB and Forest Management Bureau, with the goal of developing an automated and interoperable system to improve the currently used tools. The output will serve as basis for policy recommendation to rationalize the tools used in biodiversity resources assessment and monitoring, prevent duplication of efforts and resources allocation, and aid in protection and law enforcement.

Phase I activities focused on the identification of data points being captured by the various assessment and monitoring systems across thematic areas. For BMB, the assessment and monitoring tools reviewed were the Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring System, Biodiversity Monitoring System, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Priority Species Monitoring Program, and Asian Waterbird Census. For FMB, the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System was reviewed. Analysis of the results revealed the similarities and differences of data captured by each assessment and monitoring tool, challenges and gaps in the applicability of the tools in the field, and possible solutions

to address these gaps. Based on the results of the Phase I activities, Phase II will focus on using an automated data capturing tool (EarthRanger) to collect the core datasets common in each existing assessment and monitoring tool, and on field testing the tool in selected pilot sites to further improve its system and utility.

To operationalize the Phase II activities, the BMB and the SIBOL Project intend to conduct a Training of Trainors and Pilot Testing of the automated data capturing tool (EarthRanger) on 14-21 May 2023 in the Province of Zambales. The conduct of the Training will also serve as input to the proposed establishment of the Protected Area Academy which is also being undertaken by the BMB through the SIBOL Project.

In this regard, may we request the participation of the following protected area personnel to the said Training of Trainors:

Region	Protected Area	Participants
3	Masinloc and Oyon Bay Protected Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Area Superintendent or Assistant Protected Area Superintendent 2 Technical Staff with background in geospatial analysis 1 Protected Area Ranger
	Bataan Natural Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Area Superintendent or Assistant Protected Area Superintendent 2 Technical Staff with background in geospatial analysis 1 Protected Area Ranger
MIMAROPA	Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Area Superintendent or Assistant Protected Area Superintendent 2 Technical Staff with background in geospatial analysis 1 Protected Area Ranger
	Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Area Superintendent or Assistant Protected Area Superintendent 2 Technical Staff with background in geospatial analysis 1 Protected Area Ranger
13	Siargao Island Protected Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Area Superintendent or Assistant Protected Area Superintendent 2 Technical Staff with background in geospatial analysis 1 Protected Area Ranger

We will also highly appreciate it if the Regional Executive Director of DENR Region 3 and/or the PENR Officer of Zambales can welcome the participants during the opening program of the Training on 15 May 2023.

The above protected areas, with the exception of Bataan Natural Park, are implementation sites of the SIBOL Project and are expected to continue pilot-testing the automated data capture system as part of project implementation. The conduct of the Training will also serve as input to the proposed establishment of the Protected Area Academy which is also being undertaken by the BMB through the SIBOL Project.

Attached is the Activity Design and Program of Activities for the Training of Trainers, along with the draft Special Order.

For consideration.

MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR.