



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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ACTIVITY ADVISORY

PILOT ACTIVITY TO THE GREEN ASSESSMENT - RAPID APPRAISAL AND GROUND TRUTHING SURVEY (STAGE 1 & 2)

3rd-4th Quarter of FY 2023
All DENR Regional Offices

RATIONALE

The “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010” or Republic Act 10121 mandates the national and local government agencies to provide maximum care, assistance and services to individuals and families affected by disaster, implement emergency rehabilitation projects to lessen the impact of disaster, and facilitate resumption of normal social and economic activities. In addition, the NEDA Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery Planning Guide (RRPG) puts forth that the assessment of the effects of a disaster should include both socio-economic assessment and physical assessment. The physical assessment should provide a description of changes in the physical structure and landscape of affected areas brought about by the impact of the hazard, particularly the damage to infrastructure and alterations to the topography and environment, highlighting key landmarks that were affected.

The Green Assessment Framework (GAF), developed by the USAID Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL), is a biodiversity and ecosystem-based analysis for post-disaster needs assessment, evaluating the present status of biodiversity, ecosystems and communities that are recently affected by natural disasters, and provides a sound basis for green reconstruction and resilience planning.

Through the support of the USAID SIBOL Project, National Training Workshops were conducted which started last 2022. As of date, we were able to train 80 representatives for the Stage 1: Rapid Appraisal, 70 representatives for Stage 2: Aerial Ground Truthing, and we are expecting to train more for the Stage 2: Rapid Biodiversity Assessment.

For FY 2023, we were able to allocate funds for piloting the activity in all regions. A total of Php 165,000 was downloaded to all Regional Offices to cover budgetary requirements in support of the application of GAF through Memo dated 1 June 2023 from the Financial Management Service of the DENR Central Office. Said fund aims to provide a “seed money” to cover the conduct of Aerial Ground Truthing and Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (RBA) activities - both under Stage 2.

The pilot activity aims to further strengthen learned knowledge from training workshops and transform it to field experience during its conduct. Results of the pilot activity will serve as concrete outputs on the applicability of the tool for the DENR Regional Offices, which will strengthen and promote the adoption of the tool within the department. Its incorporation to the Post-Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) process overseen by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council/Office of Civil Defense is also being envisioned.

CONDUCT OF ACTIVITY

During the planning and conduct of the activity, kindly use the provided modules as a guide. We understand that recommended equipment and software may not be available at your current inventories and Regional Offices are met with budgetary constraints for the purchase of the same. As

such, we are requesting your respective teams to proceed conducting the activity using the already available resources following the green assessment framework and its stages in order to optimize the budget provided.

Stage	Component	Expected Outputs
Stage 1: Rapid Appraisal	Use of Geographical Informations Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) for pre- and post-land cover analysis and generation of Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) maps	NDVI Maps and reference points for ground validation A. Pre-extreme events Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Map B. Post-extreme events Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Map C. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index Change Map
Stage 2: Ground Truthing using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)	Use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for ground truthing surveys and develop orthomosaic images	Flight plan for drones, flight log, orthomosaic images, initial image interpretation A. Flight logs B. Flight Mission Tracker
Stage 2: Rapid Biodiversity Assessment	Use of curated biodiversity data gathered on flora and fauna; Use of community resource mapping and focus group discussions to determine potential impact of extreme events on high conservation values	Biodiversity field data A. Summary of rare, threatened and endemic species observed B. Georeferenced species data C. Encoded biodiversity datasheets D. Encoded habitat datasheets E. Community Resource Mapping Photo Documentation

FORMAT

The output expected from the Regional Offices will be in the form of a **Status Report**, following closely the attached template, which shall include supporting documents and files such as maps, plans, images, logs, among others. Sections of the Report shall also include the project design, equipment and software used for the desk work and field activities, issues and countermeasures, as well as key takeaways. Further details and specifications can be found in the attachment for further perusal and compliance.

For the ground validation surveys, a minimum of 3 reference points per land cover class with an area of not less than one (1) hectare shall be assessed. The captured images will then be processed using an image stitching software.

FEEDBACK PLATFORM

For various concerns regarding the methodology and techniques during the pilot activity, an online monitoring scheme will be utilized with support from the USAID SIBOL project. Coaching and mentoring will be done through the Viber messaging application. The Climate Change Service will be

creating Viber Groups per region upon the accomplishment of this form: https://bit.ly/Viber_Groups.

SUBMISSION OF OUTPUTS

All documents and files collected and used during the conduct of the pilot activity shall be submitted through this link https://bit.ly/GA_Pilot_Act_Outputs. The report and all attachments should be uploaded in the provided link. There is no need to attach all files in the status report. Please be reminded to upload and organize files only in your designated folders. The status report shall also be uploaded in the region's file folder following this naming convention: *Region_SR_*AOI. All outputs including the status report should be submitted on or before Friday, December 01, 2023.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

You may access previous workshop presentations on stage 1 & 2 training workshops through this link: https://bit.ly/GA_Workshop_Presentations. For training modules, kindly access them here: https://bit.ly/GA_Modules. Please do not forget to register for the Rapid Biodiversity Biodiversity Workshop happening this September.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND QUERIES

For further queries or additional information, you may contact the DENR Climate Change Service through landline at 8928-1194 or e-mail at ccs@denr.gov.ph.