



December 11, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
Taytay, Palawan

FROM : The Protected Area Superintendent
El Nido Managed Resource Protected Area (ENMRPA)

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR THE LIFTING OF MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING AND ANY IMPROVEMENTS OF EXISTING STRUCTURES WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF EL NIDO**

This pertains to the instruction from the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office and Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) regarding the above subject.

Enumerated herein are the updates on the actions taken by the Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) in compliance to the six (6) conditionalities cited from the recommendation of the Biodiversity Management Bureau, to wit:

| Measures/ Conditionalities | Updates on September 27, 2023 | Updates as of December 11, 2023 |
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| a. The PAMO and PAMB to update the Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) including the management zones based on the results of the carrying capacity study and in consideration on the designation of Strict Protection Zone | <p>The PAMP of ENMRPA was approved and endorsed by the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) during the enbanc meeting last November 10, 2020. It was submitted to the regional office for review and comments have reached this Office for some revision. The PAMP is set for review next year as proposed in the Work and Financial Plan (WFP) for CY 2024. The updated ECAN Zoning which was adopted by the PAMB will also be one of the bases in the updating ENMRPA management zones.</p> <p>Terrestrial zoning of ENMRPA in the existing PAMP was based from the 2005 ECAN zoning while marine zoning is the result of the workshops during the management plan preparation, thus also adopted in the PAMP.</p> | <p>The PAMO has proposed target on the Updating of PAMP for CY 2024 and the drafting of PA Modified Boundary is still on-going with consideration on the designation of management zone (SPZ and MUZ).</p> |



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ENMRPA,
El Nido, Palawan

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| b. The PAMB and PAMO to translate the carrying capacity study recommendations into various management strategies through the updates PA Management Plan to be adopted by the PAMB through a Resolution | On February 23, 2023, the PAMB passed a Resolution No. 005, series of 2023 amending certain provisions of PAMB Resolution No. 2017-051, to adopt some recommendations from the Carrying Capacity Study of 2019 particularly number of tourists that can enter big and small lagoon from 720 and 360 guests to 1,500 and 600 per day respectively. | As is |
| c. The PAMB and PAMO and concerned LGU to rehabilitate areas susceptible to erosion | During the monitoring of ENMRPA PAMO in the projects of Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), installation of slope protection and stabilization in the identified potential landslide prone areas has already been introduced as mitigating measures and rehabilitation of areas susceptible to erosion. | Based on the FY 2023 Annual Infrastructure Program of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the construction of flood mitigation structure at Sitio Lamoro, Barangay Pasadena and construction of slope protection structure at El Nido National High School, Barangay Corong-Corong, El Nido, Palawan are included in their target (<i>Annex A</i>). |
| d. The PAMO to coordinate with EMB for the establishment of permanent water quality monitoring stations | A total of 48 sampling sites were established under Water Quality Monitoring Areas (WQMA) being subjected for monthly monitoring by the DENR-EMB with assistance from ENMRPA PAMO. Monthly reports are regularly submitted to the DENR Regional Office through channel. | Based on the report of EMB on water quality monitoring of 48 stations on CY 2022, there is a significant improvement on water quality result compared to pandemic time (<i>Annex B</i>). The PAMO has no data on the analysis of CY 2023 water quality monitoring, only the data of the conducted monthly monitoring (<i>Annex B1</i>). Attached also are the maps of 48 sampling sites (<i>Annex C-C6</i>) |
| e. The PAMB in collaboration with the LGU of El Nido to impose measures addressing the various issues on water quality and land uses. | The Local and Provincial Government Unit established a centralized Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Sitio Batbat, Bgy. Villa Libertad, El Nido, Palawan with five (5) cluster tanks constructed at Bgy. Corong-corong (2), Bgy. Maligaya (2) and public market (1). The LGU also passed Ordinance No. 020 Series of 2022 entitled "As Ordinance Revising Ordinance No. 018 Series of 2017 Otherwise known as "An Ordinance establishing the El Nido Water and Sanitation System | The Local and Provincial Government Unit established a centralized Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Sitio Batbat, Bgy. Villa Libertad, El Nido, Palawan with one (1) main tank and nine (9) cluster tanks constructed at Bgy. Masagana (1 main tank and 2 cluster tanks), Barangay Maligaya (1 cluster tank), Bgy. Corong-corong (3 cluster tanks) and Bgy. Buena Suerte (3 cluster tanks). As of to date, only cluster tanks in Barangay Corong-Corong are not operational. |

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| | <p>management in the Municipality of El Nido, Palawan, Prescribing the Water Consumption and Sewage Disposal Fees, Rules and Regulations and Providing Funds Thereof”.</p> <p>Ordinance No. 001 series of 2022 clearly stated in its Article IV, Mandatory Treatment of Sewage Discharge Section 8, Mandatory Installation of Sewage Treatment Facility; Section 9 Installation of Sewage Disposal System. The latter also states that installation of such is a requirement for the connection to the El Nido STP.</p> <p>Based on the report, only 56 commercial establishments and 1 household were found connected to the STP as of September 2022.</p> <p>Installation of “No Swimming Signages” along the coast of Bacuit bay were undertaken by the CENRO, PAMO and LGU.</p> <p>Issuance of Notice to Vacate (NTV) to establishments within easement areas was also undertaken copy furnished the LGU.</p> <p>Regular coastal and estero clean-up are being conducted by the PAMO in collaboration with the LGU and other concerned agencies and partners.</p> <p>Under the Green Economy Model (GEM) project, inventory of households and commercial establishments with or without waste water treatment facilities were conducted to determine the number of establishments that might be a contributory factor to the increasing coliform counts of the bay.</p> <p>Executive Order No. 23-012 dated February 3, 2023 was issued by</p> | <p>Based on the report, only 191 commercial establishments and 5 households were found connected to the STP as of November 2023 (<i>Annex D</i>).</p> <p>Continuous monitoring along the beach area where the “No Swimming signage” installed are being undertaken (<i>Annex E</i>).</p> <p>Conducted clearing of settlements along easement of 1.5 meters and the affected individuals were advised to self-demolish otherwise the rehabilitation task force will take action. The LGU will issue NOV to comply within 30 days grace period (<i>Annex E</i>).</p> |
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| | <p>the Municipal Mayor entitled "An Order Creating Task Force for the Implementation of Rehabilitation for Waste Water Parameters of the Municipality of El Nido and Providing Appropriation Thereof."</p> <p>Executive Order No. 23-015 dated February 3, 2023 was issued by the Municipal Mayor entitled "An Order Updating the Task Force for the Implementation of Rehabilitation for Waste Water Parameters of the Municipality of El Nido and Providing Appropriation Thereof."</p> <p>Executive Order No. 23-031 an Order Restructuring the El Nido Rehabilitation Task Force of the Municipality of El Nido, Palawan</p> | <p>To cater the needs of the guests on Island tour, an on-going construction of public toilet at Shimizu Island, Barangay Bebeladan, El Nido, Palawan was initiated through ETDF funding. The construction is about 70% completed (<i>Annex F</i>)</p> <p>Closure of contaminated drinking water source once sufficient alternative potable water supply is available (<i>Annex E</i>).</p> <p>LGU request on the inventory of tenurial instruments for island beaches in El Nido was already forwarded to the Regional Office. The PAMO already submitted list on the status of islands in El Nido thru channel (<i>Annex E</i>).</p> <p>The LGU has allocated funds for settlement site/area and relocation compensation for illegal occupants along easement (<i>Annex E</i>).</p> <p>The MGB and EMB had already inspected the proposed new sanitary landfill in Barangay New Ibajay, El Nido, Palawan. There are 2 sites identified in the area and based on the result of assessment, the proposed Sanitary Landfill Site 1 has conditionally</p> |
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| | | <p>passed the criteria for landfill use. However, the proposed SLF Site 2 located in the same barangay is found to be unsuitable for landfilling. The result of the assessment was furnished to the LGU on September 18, 2023 by the Regional Director of MGB (<i>Annex G</i>).</p> <p>Continuous implementation of RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and conduct of IEC with enjoinderment of BLGUs in solid waste management. Implementation of the single use plastic ordinance and procurement of additional equipment for the sanitary landfill operation (<i>Annex E</i>).</p> |
| f. The DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office and PAMB to monitor the implementation of the above-mentioned measures and submit a quarterly report to the BMB | Reports on monitoring and meetings attended by the ENMRPA PAMO as well as the minutes of the meeting conducted by the ENRMPA PAMB were all submitted thru channel. | Reports on monitoring and meetings attended by the ENMRPA PAMO as well as the minutes of the meeting conducted by the ENRMPA PAMB were all submitted thru channel. |

The Sangguniang Bayan of El Nido requested for the lifting of moratorium per Resolution No. 20-211 on their regular session dated August 17, 2020 and Executive Order No. 22-040 dated August 26, 2022, Lifting of Moratorium in the Issuance of Barangay Clearances, Certifications, and Endorsements for Project Proposals within the Municipality of El Nido, was issued by the Municipal Mayor. The resolution of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), Resolution No. 029 Series of 2020, A Resolution earnestly Requesting the DENR Regional Executive Director to Lift the Moratorium on the Issuance of All Permits for the Construction of New Buildings and Any Improvements on Existing Structures Relative to the Implementation of Rehabilitation Program in the Municipality of El Nido, Palawan, was submitted to the Regional Office and returned to this Office with comments "*The Regional Executive Director cannot approve the Resolution since lifting of the moratorium should be done by the DENR Secretary*".

Annexes were sent via Official email addresses of CENR Office Taytay, PENR Office Palawan and MIMAROPA Regional Office copy furnished PAMBC email address.

For your information and further instruction.


MILDRED A. SUZA