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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BDFE Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises

BHERT Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams

CAO Certificate of Authority to Operate

CEPA Communication, Education and Public Awareness

CSOs Civil Society Organizations

DENR Department of Environment and Natural Resources

DILG Department of Interior and Local Government

DOH Department of Health
DOT Department of Tourism

E-NIPAS Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System

ETWG Ecotourism Technical Working Group

GAA General Appropriations Act

IEC Information, Education and Communication

IPAF Integrated Protected Area Fund

LEDIPO Local Economic Development and Investment Promotions Officer/Office

LGU Local Government Unit

MOA Memorandum of Agreement

MPA Marine Protected Area

NEDA National Economic Development Authority

NES National Ecotourism Strategy

NESC National Ecotourism Steering Committee
NESAP National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan

NGOs Non-governmental Organizations
NTDP National Tourism Development Plan

PA Protected Area

PAMB Protected Area Management Board

POs People's Organizations

REC Regional Ecotourism Council
TDAs Tourism Development Areas
TEZ Tourism Enterprise Zone

TIEZA Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority

TREs Tourism Related Enterprises

TRRP Tourism Response and Recovery Plan



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NATIONAL ECOTOURISM STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2013-2022 REVIEW REPORT



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Through Executive Order (EO) 111 dated 17 June 1999, which mandates the formulation of an integrated management plan on ecotourism, the country's Ecotourism Strategy (NES) was launched in April 2002 to strengthen partnership between the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to protect and preserve the country's natural and cultural resources while generating livelihood for local people. EO 111 created a National Ecotourism Development Council (NEDC), composed of the Secretaries of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources, Interior and Local Government, Trade and Industry, Finance, Education, the Secretary-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and representatives from the private sector and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Under the NEDC, a National Ecotourism Steering Committee (NESC) and Regional Ecotourism Committees (RECs) were established to implement programs and activities approved by NEDC. EO111 also called for an Ecotourism Technical Working Group (ETWG) to provide technical and administrative support to the NEDC and the National Ecotourism Steering Committee (NESC).

The NES was supported by a National Ecotourism Program and Action Plan, which was approved in 2001 and was implemented in 2002-2012. Furthermore, the Tourism Law (Republic Act or RA 9593), the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), and the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) 2016-2022, has identified Ecotourism as a niche tourism product projected to deliver strong growth with increased visitor length of stay and promotion of sustainable tourism practices. In view of this, this was updated into a National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) 2013-2022 complemented by an updated National Ecotourism Program and Action Plan covering three implementation periods: short-term (2013–2016), medium-term (2013–2018) and long-term (2013–2022).

In view of the ongoing challenges brought about by Covid 19 pandemic, particularly its adverse impact on tourism industry, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has developed the Tourism Response and Recovery Plan (TRRP), a set of protocols, programs and activities that will aid the revival of the tourism industry and empowerment of workers and businesses. The TRRP is crafted with the help of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, local government units, national agencies and the Tourism Congress of the Philippines. Under the plan, the DOT would focus on "sustained business operations, appropriate infrastructure policy, and enhanced marketing and market and product development." Such action plans would be augmented through convergence with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in increasing air connectivity and a more efficient road network to help stimulate domestic tourism.



In response to this latest development, the NESAP needs to be reviewed and updated if necessary to be at par with the challenges and innovations required in the New Normal and to be aligned with the TRRP.

1.2 Objectives of the Project

The COVID-19 pandemic has set the need to review the NESAP to assess if the strategies, programs projects and activities will still address the emerging requirements of the new normal from travel patterns, travel behaviours and even interventions in ecotourism. This is a final assessment taking into account the new requirements brought about by the pandemic.

The NESAP review aims to:

- 1. assess plans targets and strategies for the remaining 2020-2022;
- 2. rationalize and integrate the ecotourism programs with DOT domestic tourism and product development thrust, as well as, with the DENR programs.
- 3. to recommend programs and strategies on ecotourism development and enhancement under the new normal for the remaining years 2021-2022

1.3 Scope and Limitations

In view of the fact that the ongoing response and protocols in addressing the corona virus pandemic is ever changing depending on the latest development in medical sciences, vaccine development, and other related factors, the Review of the NESAP would be limited on the currently prevailing norms and protocols in the new normal. Much of the strategies and recommendations to be presented on this report would be drawn from existing guidelines and measures set by the IATF for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and other concerned agencies relative to tourism industry. In particular note for instance, the principles and concept of computing for the carrying capacity of a tourism destination at a given time, would be highly dependent on the prevailing policies and guidelines being implemented under certain quarantine protocols.



2. METHODOLOGY

The methodological framework describes the entire review process in a nutshell. This includes the following steps:

NESAP Review Framework

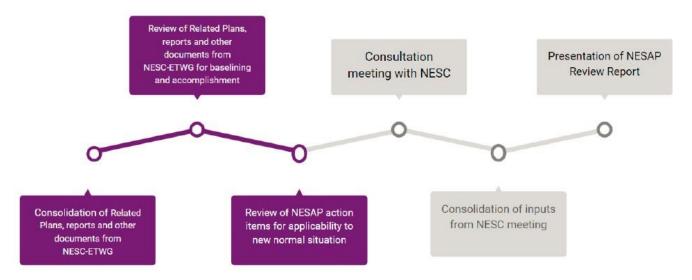


Figure 1.NESAP Review Framework

Consolidation of Related Plans, Reports and other Documents from NESC-ETWG requires the concerted efforts of members of National Ecotourism Steering Committee (NESC) and Ecotourism Technical Working Group (ETWG) in providing related documents to ensure comprehensive review of the plan.

Review of Related Plans, reports and other documents from NESC-ETWG for baselining and accomplishment provides a solid background for the reviewer to understand the intricacies of the study area. Members of the NESC-ETWG for the purpose of this review will be based on the EO111 Bodies as expound in the Order, thus: the NEDC, the NESC, the REC and the ETWG. EO 111 called for an Ecotourism Technical Working Group (ETWG) to provide technical and administrative support to the NEDC and the NESC. All of the grouping are referred to and collectively known as EO 111 Bodies.

Review of NESAP action items for applicability to new normal situation offers recommendation on how the plan should be updated.

The report will then be presented on a **Consultation meeting with the NESC** to solicit their comments and suggestions. Adopting the institutional arrangements (see Figure 2 below) under the



NES, the consultation meeting shall involve the EO 111 Bodies, particularly the National Ecotourism Program Office and the RECs/RETWGs.

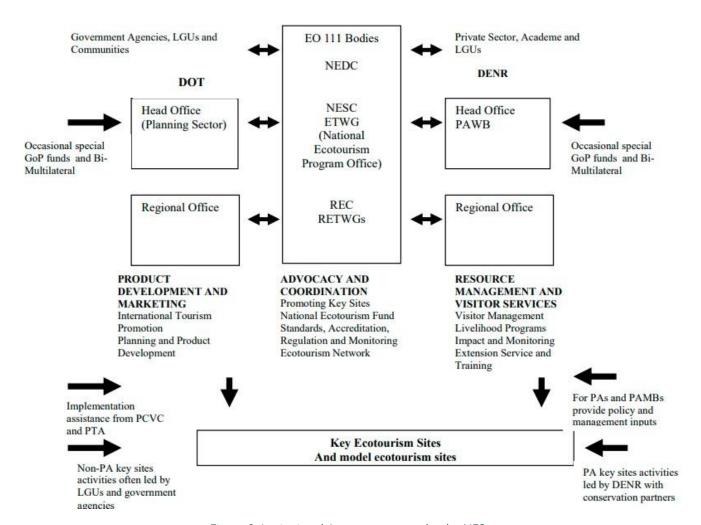


Figure 2. Institutional Arrangements under the NES

Table 1. Institutional Roles in Ecotourism and basis for Review Committee for NESAP Review

Agencies	NES Roles/NESAP Review Roles	Tourism Role in the Local Government Code of 1991
Department of Tourism (DOT)		The national government shall ensure that decentralization
Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA)	An attached agency to the DOT and serves as its implementing arm for physical development. The PTA has set aside a special fund for environmental projects related to ecotourism.	contributes to the continuing improvement of the performance of local government units and the quality of community life (LGC 1991 Ch. 1 Section 3k, m).
The Philippine	Attached to DOT and is responsible for	National agencies and offices with
Convention and Visitors	international tourism marketing and	project implementation functions
Corporation (PCVC)	promotion.	shall coordinate with one another



		T
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)	Mandated by EO 192 to conserve, manage and develop the Philippines' environment and natural resources including its territorial waters and lands of public domain. The DENR oversees bureaus that ensure the sustainable management of natural areas.	and with the local government units concerned in the discharge of these functions. They shall ensure the participation of local government units both in the planning and implementation of
Department of Education	to raise awareness of the need for environmental protection and cultural heritage protection, and to foster social cohesion and national unity among Filipinos.	said national projects (LGC 1991 Ch. 3 Section 1b. It shall be the duty of every national agency or government-owned or -controlled corporation authorizing or
Department of Finance	to develop an incentive program for ecotourism to stimulate local communities and the private sector.	involved in the planning and implementation of any project or program that may cause pollution,
Department of Trade and Industry	to foster the development of indigenous products that can be promoted and marketed internationally.	climatic change, depletion of non- renewable resources, loss of crop land, rangeland, or forest cover,
National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP)	To help ensure the needs of local people are incorporated in ecotourism planning.	and extinction of animal or plant species, to consult with the local government units,
National Commission for Culture and the Art s (NCCA)	To support conservation of the cultural heritage resource base of ecotourism	nongovernmental organizations, and other sectors concerned and explain the goals and objectives of
National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)	To provide the policy and enabling climate for ecotourism to develop in consonance with PA 21.	the project or program, its impact upon the people and the community in terms of
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)	To ensure that LGUs play a key role in developing ecotourism programs.	environmental or ecological balance, and the measures that will be undertaken to prevent or minimize the adverse effects thereof (LGC 1991 Ch 3 Sec 26).

Consolidation of inputs from the NESC meeting will then be conducted to show comprehensive review and foster engagement of stakeholders.

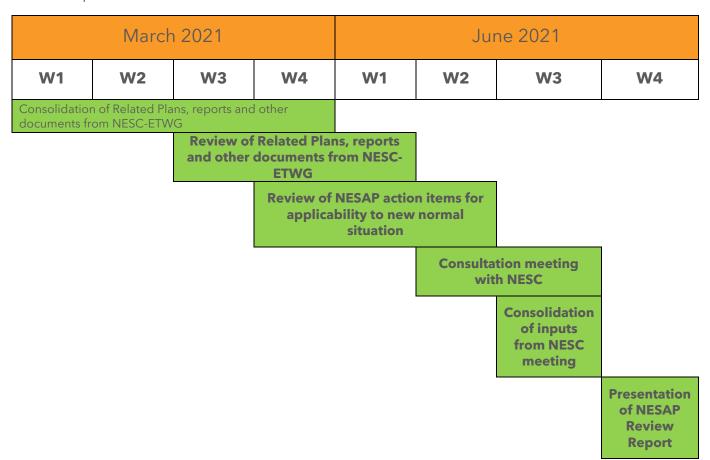
The reviewer will then make a **Presentation of NESAP Review Report** in another NESC meeting for finalization.



Timeline of Activities

Here is the timeline of NESAP review activities:

Table 2. Proposed Timeline of Activities of NESAP Review





3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Assess plan's targets and strategies for the remaining 2020-2022

NESAP 2013-2022 Framework

The NESAP aims to catapult the Philippines as a globally competitive ecotourism destination with its wealth of natural beauty and cultural richness, conscious of the need to conserve, enhance, sustain and develop these assets and ensure equitable sharing of benefits among its people.



Figure 3.NESAP 2013-2022 Strategic Framework

The expected outcome of the NESAP is for the country to have an environmentally and socially responsible ecotourism development that safeguards the integrity and diversity of its natural resources, provides education and enjoyment to visitors and delivers larger and more widely distributed income and employment opportunities to the local communities and their constituents, especially the women, youth, indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable groups.



Therefore, the target outputs for each strategy are:

STRATEGY 1. DEVELOPING AND MARKETING DIVERSIFIED AND COMPETITIVE ECOTOURISM PRODUCTS

• Target 1.1: To diversify and build viable high quality ecotourism products

STRATEGY 2. CREATING CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ECOTOURISM INVESTMENTS

- Target 2.1: To establish a sustainable investment framework
- Target 2.2: To develop confidence of the business sector on ecotourism investment
- Target 2.3: To contribute to financial sustainability of PAs
- Target 2.4: To encourage creative and innovative community-based enterprises

STRATEGY 3. MAXIMIZING ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE HOST COMMUNITIES

- Target 3.1: To provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to local stakeholders
- Target 3.2: To optimize the economic value of PAs and other natural areas

STRATEGY 4. PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING OF A CULTURE OF ECOTOURISM

- Target 4.1:To foster environmental awareness among host communities, LGUs, business sector and visitors
- •Target 4.2: To integrate ecotourism into local tourism plans and programs

STRATEGY 5. STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

- Target 5.1:To establish capability building program for ecotourism services, local planning, product development and management
- Target 5.2: To improve management of data and information
- Target 5.3: To provide a policy environment conducive to ecotourism development

STRATEGY 6. DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

- Target 6.1: To engage community and other stakeholders in ecotourism
- Target 6.2:To provide equitable access to opportunities in ecotourism across sectors of the community

STRATEGY 7. ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

• Target 7.1:To mobilize fund to sustain ecotourism development



STRATEGY 8. MONITORING OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

- Target 8.1:To establish a monitoring and evaluation system for ecotourism policies and programs
- Target 8.2: To monitor visitor impact of ecotourism activities on biodiversity

Each strategy has identified action programs to achieve each target. These are:

- Strategy 1: Ecotourism Standards and Accreditation, Product Development and Marketing
- Strategy 2: Investment Promotion
- Strategy 3: Economic/Enterprise Development
- Strategy 4: Education and Advocacy
- Strategy 5: Support Program
- Strategy 6: Partnership and Linkages
- Strategy 7: Sustainable Financing
- Strategy 8: Monitoring and Evaluation



	NESAP LOGICAL FRAMEWORK			
Impact	The Philippines as a globally competitive ecotourism destination with its wealth of no of the need to conserve, enhance, sustain and develop these assets and ensure equit			
Intended Outcomes	Environmentally and socially responsible ecotourism development that safeguard resources, provides education and enjoyment to visitors and delivers larger and more opportunities to the local communities and their constituents, especially the wor vulnerable groups.	widely distributed income and employment		
	TARGET OUTPUTS	ACTION PROGRAMS		
1.1 To dive	sify and build viable high quality ecotourism products	Ecotourism Standards and Accreditation		
2.1 To estal	olish a sustainable investment framework	Product Development		
2.2 To deve	lop confidence of the business sector on ecotourism investment	Marketing		
2.3 To cont	ribute to financial sustainability of Pas	Investment Promotion		
2.4 To enco	urage creative and innovative community-based enterprises	investment Promotion		
3.1 To prov	ide sustainable livelihood opportunities to local stakeholders	Economic/Enterprise Development		
3.2 To optimize the economic value of PAs and other natural areas Economic/Enterprise Development of PAs and other natural areas				
4.1 To foste visitors	er environmental awareness among host communities, LGUs, business sector and	Education and Advocacy		
4.2 To integ	rate ecotourism into local tourism plans and programs			
	olish capability building program for ecotourism services, local planning, product nent and management			
5.2 To impr	ove management of data and information	Support Program		
5.3 To prov	ide a policy environment conducive to ecotourism development			
6.1 To enga	ge community and other stakeholders in ecotourism	- m- Williams		
6.2 To prov community	ide equitable access to opportunities in ecotourism across sectors of the	Partnership and Linkages		
7.1 To mob	ilize fund to sustain ecotourism development	Sustainable Financing		
8.1 To estal	olish a monitoring and evaluation system for ecotourism policies and programs	Monitoring and Evaluation		
8.2 To mon	tor visitor impact of ecotourism activities on biodiversity	World and Evaluation		

Figure 4. NESAP 2013-2022 Logical Framework

For each of the strategies, several target outputs are stipulated with corresponding action programs. Figure 4 illustrates this framework via color coding, i.e. sky blue shading for Strategy 1: Ecotourism Standards and Accreditation, Product Development and Marketing, target output: To diversify and build viable high quality ecotourism products with corresponding action programs such as Ecotourism Standards and Accreditation, Product Development, and Marketing.



Using the logical framework, this is the matrix for assessing the accomplishment of each action programs:

	Documents to be reviewed/ Key Performance Indicator	Baseline (2012/3)	Review/Target (2020)	From DOT	DOT Office/ Attached Bureau/ Agency	From DENR	From NED/A	From DILG	From other Agencies	Agency
	marketing diversified and competitive ecotourism produ- build viable high quality ecotourism products within the									
objective. To diversity und	Revised accreditation standards for ecotourism formulated and published	IDAS		✓	OTSR		×	×		
	Number of orientations conducted			✓	OTSR	V	×	×	×	
Ecotourism Standards and Accreditation	Number of accredited ecotourism lodge, ecotour operators and ecoguides	8	š	✓	OTSR		×	×	×	
	Number of accredited ecotourism lodge, ecotour operators and ecoguides found to be compliant with standards			☑	OTSR	☑	×			
	Guidebook /guidelines adopted and disseminated			V			×	V	×	LGU
	Sites prioritized and developed (i.e. ecotourism sites' amenities and services developed)			☑	TIEZA	☑	×	☑	✓	DPWH, DOH
Product Development	Infrastructure/ facilities established and maintained			✓	TIEZA	✓	\boxtimes	✓	✓	DPWH, DOH
	Carrying capacity for ecotourism Site development plan Zoning plan			☑	TIEZA	✓	☑	 ✓	☑	REC, LGU, DOH
	Marketing strategic plan prepared			☑	TPB	×	×	✓	✓	LGU, DTI
Madratina	Ecotourism destination brand established			✓	TPB	\boxtimes	\boxtimes	×	\boxtimes	
Marketing	website established; multimedia			✓	TPB	×	×	×	×	
	Ecotourism products endorsed and promoted			✓	TPB	V	X	X	X	

		7 7 2	Terrary .		7 22			
	Guidelines re TEZ designation in PAs Guidelines on incentive for ecotourism investments	V	TIEZA	₹	X	×		
nvestment Promotion	developed	✓	TIEZA		×		×	
	PPP projects initiated	✓	TIEZA	Ø	×	☑	×	LGU
	Ecotourism sites managed under PPP		TIEZA		×	Ø	×	LGU
	One-stop-shops established	Ø	TIEZA	130	[3]	[3]	×	
					-			REC, LGU, DTI, DOLE,
Objective 1. To provide	economic benefits to the host communities sustainable livelihood opportunities to the local stakeholders through ecoto the economic value of protected areas and other natural areas	ourism						
	Ecotourism Business Plans developed			☑	☑	☑	☑	DBP, DSWD other Financir Institutions
		34				S 25		200600000000000000000000000000000000000
								REC, LGU, DTI, DOLE,
	Ecotourism enterprise developed in partnership with				☑			DBP, DSWD
	LGUs/private sector			1.00	155	6 H		other Financin
Economic/ enterprise	5	4				3 3		Institutions
development								REC, LGU, DTI, DOLE.
	No. of households provided with ecotourism-related			☑	☑	Ø	☑	DBP, DSWD
	livelihood							other Financin
								Institutions
			2.7			8 8		REC, LGU,
		a a		77222	450	5255	2200	DTI, DOLE,
	Increase in income of households			2	Z	Ø	2	



Education and Advocacy	Communication plan for ecotourism developed and implemented	Z	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	LGU, Academe, Media, CSO
	Advocacy plan formulated and implemented	 ✓	Ø	×	Ø	Ø	LGU, Academe, Media, CSO
	IEC materials produced and disseminated	✓	Ø	×	Ø	Ø	LGU, Academe, Media, CSO
	National and local tourism plans incorporating NES		✓	×	Ø	×	LGU
	(ETWG) and stakeholders capacitated Training Needs Assessment	<u> </u>		×	×		73
	Implementors, REC, Ecotourism Technical Working Group	2					
			- D	M	[V]	N N	100
Jupport Program	Baseline information (both primary and secondary)	2	Ø	×	×	×	R.
Support Program	Database on ecotourism	2		×	×		
				[3]	[X]	138	
	Number of visitors /ecotourists recorded	Ø	[V]				
		Z Z	Z	☑		×	NESC, NED REC, LGU
Strategy 5. Developing an Objective 1. To engage co	Number of visitors /ecotourists recorded Policies formulated d strengthening partnership mmunity and other stakeholders in ecotourism uitable access to ecotourism opportunities			Ø			REC, LGU
Strategy 5. Developing an Objective 1. To engage co	Number of visitors /ecotourists recorded Policies formulated d strengthening partnership mmunity and other stakeholders in ecotourism tuitable access to ecotourism opportunities Resolutions issued			2	×	Ø	NESC, NED
Strategy 6. Developing an Objective 1. To engage co Objective 2. To provide ed	Number of visitors /ecotourists recorded Policies formulated d strengthening partnership mmunity and other stakeholders in ecotourism uitable access to ecotourism opportunities			Ø			NESC, NED REC, PAME NESC, NED
Strategy 5. Developing an Objective 1. To engage co	Number of visitors /ecotourists recorded Policies formulated d strengthening partnership mmunity and other stakeholders in ecotourism tuitable access to ecotourism opportunities Resolutions issued			2	×	Ø	

	Documents to be reviewed/ Key Performance Indicator	Baseline (2012/3)	Review/Target (2020)	From DOT	DOT Office/ Attached Bureau/ Agency	From DENR	From NEDA	From DILG	From other Agencies	Agency
	chanisms for sustainable financing									
bjective . To mobilize fund	d to sustain ecotourism development									
	Projects endorsed to and/or approved by funding sources e.g. TIEZA, IPAF			✓	TIEZA	✓			✓	NESC, NEDC REC, PAMB
	Guidelines on the mechanism for the utilization of 5% of travel tax				TIEZA	☑	\boxtimes	×		NESC, NEDO REC, PAMB
ustainable financing	Guidelines developed		2000000	V	TIEZA	✓	×	V	✓	NESC, NEDO REC, PAMB, LGU
	Funding assistance accessed			✓	TIEZA		×	×	V	NESC, NEDO REC, PAMB
	Fees and charges for ecotourism			✓	TIEZA	✓	×	×	✓	REC, PAMB
	monitoring and evaluation system for ecotourism policie tor impact of ecotourism activities on biodiversity	es and programs b	ased on the NES							DEO
	Monitoring and Evaluation tools and standards developed					☑	✓	×	×	REC
	Status report of ecotourism program implementation			V		✓	✓	\boxtimes	×	REC
Monitoring & Evaluation	Mid-term report on NES implementation			✓		✓	✓	×	×	REC
wontoning & Evaluation	Monitoring report on socio-economic status of beneficiaries			V		✓	☑	×	×	REC
	Biodiversity monitoring system report (water quality, habitat, wildlife)			×					×	

Using this tool, NESC-ETWG members DOT (including attached agencies), DENR (including attached bureaus), NEDA, DILG and other agencies have shared their inputs on the accomplishment of the plan.



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
Strategy 1. De	veloping and marketing dive	rsified and competitiv	e ecotourism products				
Objective: To o	diversify and build viable high q	uality ecotourism proc	ducts within the TDAs				
Product	Guidebook /guidelines		2 volumes of		Guidebook	DENR-BMB	
Development	adopted and disseminated		Guidebook to		printed/e-copy		
			Protected Areas of				
			the Philippines				
			were produced				
			and disseminated.				
			Volume 1 covered				
			15 PAs while				
			volume 2 covered				
			16 Pas Developed				
			a Public Advisory				
			for caving in times				
			of COVID-19				
	Sites prioritized and		79 protected areas		Ecotourism	DENR-BMB	
	developed (i.e. ecotourism		with ecotourism		Development/		
	sites' amenities and services		program were		Management/		
	developed)		developed		Business Plan		
	Infrastructure/ facilities		Ecotourism		Accomplishment	DENR-BMB	
	established and maintained		facilities within 131		Report		
			protected areas				
			relevant to				
			ecotourism are				
			being maintained				
			such as view				
			decks, monitoring				
			stations,				
			boardwalks,				
			information				



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
			centers and				
			ecolodges				
	•Carrying capacity for		5 PAs with carrying		Accomplishment	DENR-BMB	
	ecotourism		capacity reports;		Report		
	•Site development plan		43 PAs with				
	•Zoning plan		Ecotourism				
			Management				
			Plan/site				
			development plan				
			19 PAs with zoning				
			plan				
	Number of prepared	Two (2) ecotourism	Thirty-seven (37)			DOT-OTDPRIM	
	ecotourism plans	plans	ecotourism plans				
			within tourism				
			development				
			areas				
	Number of ecotourism	Thirty-two (32)	Eighty-three (83)			DOT-OTDPRIM	
	products developed or	products	products				
	enhanced in TDAs	developed or	developed or				
		enhanced in TDAs	enhanced in TDAs				
Marketing	Marketing strategic plan		Ecotourism			DENR-BMB	
	prepared		products of 61				
			protected areas				
			and the BDFE				
			products of the				
			122 POs are being				
			endorsed and				
			promoted through				
			IEC and				
			promotional				
			materials such as				
			signages,				



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
			brochures, leaflets, AVPs, websites, social media and through conduct of activities such as the Year of the PA Campaign, PA Talk,	J			
	Marketing Strategic Plan prepared	None	press conferences and webinars None			ТРВ	
	Ecotourism destination brand established	None	None			ТРВ	
	Number of ecotourism products promoted and marketed for domestics and international markets	Twenty-seven (27) ecotourism products promoted and marketed for domestic and international markets	Thirty-seven (37) ecotourism products promoted and marketed for domestic and international markets			DOT-OTDPRIM	
			Promoted ecotourism sites through TPB initiative projects (media and travel trade famtrips): • Masungi Georeserve		Printed & e- copies of accomplished promotion	ТРВ	



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
			 Batad, Ifugao Siargao Island Batanes Palaui Island Lake Sebu Apo Island, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park Mt. Hamigitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary Bakhawan 	Target			
			Eco Park, Kalibo, Aklan Minalungao National Park Penablanca Protected Landscape Paranas Ecotrail and Birding				
			Site Mt. Hibok- Hibok, Camiguin Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon				



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
			Promoting ecotourism in the local level through "Public- Private Partnership for the People Initiatives for Local Governments" (LGU P4)		LGU P4	DILG	
Ecotourism						DOT-OTSR	
Standard & Accreditation	Number of formulated/revised and published accreditation standards for ecotourism entities and front liners	One (1) ecotourism standard	One (1) ecotourism standard				
	Number of accredited ecotourism entities and front liners compliant with standards	Fourteen (14) compliantentities and front liners	Twenty-eight (28) compliantentities and front liners			DOT-OTSR	
	Formulated / Revised accreditation standards for ecotourism formulated and published	Ecotourism standards (None) Two (2) Health and SafetyGuideline	One (1) initial draft ecotourism standards by yearend			DOT-OTSR	
	Number of orientations conducted	One (1) Orientation on Health and	One (1) Orientation on Health and			DOT-OTSR	



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
		Safety Guidelines for Tourist Attraction (2020)	Safety Guidelines for Tourist Attraction (1st Qtr 2021)				
	Number of accredited ecotourism lodge, ecotour operators and ecoguides	Forty - Four (44) ecolodges, ecotour facility and operators One Hundred Thirteen (113) Community Guide (ecoguides)	N/A			DOT-OTSR	
	Number of accredited ecotourism lodge, ecotour operators and ecoguides foundto be compliant with standards	same as above	N/A			DOT-OTSR	
Strategy 2. Cr	eating conducive environmen	t for ecotourism invest	ments				
	establish a sustainable investm						
	develop confidence of the bus						
-	contribute to financial sustaina						
Investment	encourage creative and innova Number of policies	One (1) policy	Four (4) policies		Accomplishment	DENR-BMB	
Promotion	developed or amended for	developed or	developed in		Report	DEINIC DIVID	
	ecotourism investments	amended	relation to				
			ecotourism				
			investments				
			Strengthening		LEDIPO Report	DILG	
			the role of				
			Local				

NATIONAL ECOTOURISM STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2013-2022 REVIEW REPORT



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
				Target			
			Economic				
			Development				
			and				
			Investment				
			Promotions				
			Officer				
			(LEDIPO)				
			programs to				
			encourage				
			more				
			investors.				
	Number of one-stop shops	None	One (1) one-stop-		Accomplishment	DOT-OTDPRIM	
	established for ecotourism		shop		Report		
	investments		established				
	Number of identified and	None	One (1)		Accomplishment	DOT-OTDPRIM	
	promoted ecotourism sites		ecotourism site		Report		
	for joint-venture with private		identified and				
	sector		promoted				
			ecotourism site for				
			joint-venture with				
			private sector				
			(Bataan NP)				
Strategy 3. Max	kimizing economic benefits to th	ne host communities					
Objective 1. To	provide sustainable livelihood	opportunities to the loca	al stakeholders throug	h ecotour	ism		
Objective 2. To	o optimize the economic value o	f protected areas and ot	her natural areas				
Economic/	Number of households		1,775 individuals		Accomplishment	DENR-BMB	
enterprise	provided with ecotourism-		employed related		Report		
development	related livelihood		to ecotourism				
			Impact				
			Assessment				
			Reports and Socio-				



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
		1118 households	economic Monitoring System Reports as of CY 2019 10% of the host community households benefitted (to be determined by DOT & DENR-		Accomplishment Report	DOT-OTDPRIM	
	Number of ecotourism enterprises developed in the identified ecotourism sites	Fifty-five (55) enterprises developed	BMB) Technical assistance was provided to the 122 People's organization who are implementing the Biodiversity- Friendly Enterprises (BDFE). Out of the 122, 32 POs received financial assistance amounting to Php 37.775 M		Accomplishment Report	DENR-BMB	
			Thirty-seven (37) enterprises developed		Accomplishment Report	DOT-OTDPRIM	
	Ecotourism Business Plans developed		26 PAs with Ecotourism Business Plans		Accomplishment Report	DENR-BMB	



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
			developed				
	Ecotourism enterprise						
	developed in partnership with LGUs/private sector						
	No. of households provided with ecotourism-related livelihood						No figures can be presented because income of households is not being reported to the agency, but based on the narrative interviews with the beneficiaries, their income and ways of life improved through ecotourism
	Increase in income of						
	households						
	omoting and developing a cu						
-	o foster environmental awarenes	_	_	t, business	sector and visitors		
-	integrate ecotourism into loca	tourism plans and prog	ırams		I	ı	
Education	Communication plan for						
and Advocacy	ecotourism developed and implemented						
AUVULALV	Implemented						



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
	and implemented		Communication Plan 2020-2022 adopted. The plan promoted the branding of the Bureau and conservation of PAs in general. It highlights priority audience such as the DENR Management, LGUs (partnership) and youth (future). Its goal is the same with ecotourism: promotion of conservation of	ruiget	CEPA Communication Plan 2020-2022		
	Number of formulated and implemented communication and advocacy plans IEC materials produced and disseminated	None IEC and promotional materials such as signages, brochures and leaflets are being	Diodiversity One (1) IEC and promotional materials such as signages, brochures, leaflets,		Communication Plan/Advocacy Plan Printed and e- copies of IEC materials	DOT-OTDPRIM DENR-BMB	
		used by the protected areas to promote ecotourism	AVPs were produced and disseminated				



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
	Types of IEC materials developed	sites Six (6) types of materials developed	All forms of media		Printed & e-copy of IEC Materials	DOT-OTDPRIM	
	National and local tourism plans incorporating NES	None	Thirty-seven (37) local plans		Tourism Development & Master Plans	DOT-OTDPRIM	

Strategy 5. Strengthening institutional capacity

Objective 1. To establish capability building program for ecotourism services (e.g. tour guiding, catering, etc.), local ecotourism planning, product development and management

Objective 2. To improve management of data and information for easy access by stakeholders

Objective 3. To provide a policy environment conducive to ecotourism development

Ecotourism	Types of training programs	Three (3) types of	Three (3) types of		DOT-OTDPRIM
Programs	developed	training programs	training programs		
			developed		
	Types of programs for	Three (3) types for	Three (3) types of		DOT-OTDPRIM
	capacity building	capacity building	training programs		
	implemented		implemented		
Ecotourism	Number of ecotourism	5 policies related to	87 policies/PAMB	Memorandum	DENR-BMB
Policy	policies developed and	ecotourism	resolutions related	Orders,	
	issued	formulated	to ecotourism	Executive	
			formulated/issued	Orders,	
			Two (2) policies	Circulars on	
			related to the	policies	
			implementation of		
			the BDFE		
		10 ecotourism	5 ecotourism		DOT-OTDPRIM
		policies	policies		
			formulated		
Ecotourism	Database on ecotourism	None	Online database		DENR-BMB
Database			on PAs and local		
			ecotourism		



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
			database being developed and maintained by DENR-BMB				
			One (1) database developed and organized			DOT-OTDPRIM	
	Number of visitors/ecotourists recorded		15,739,054 PA Visitors recorded in 2014-2020			DENR-BMB	
Objective 1. To	eveloping and strengthening poor or one of the community and other to provide equitable access to educate the community and other to provide equitable access to educate the community and the community are community and the community and the community and the community are community and the community and the community are community and the community and the community and the community are community and the community are community and the community and the community are community and the community and the community and the community and the community are community and the community are community and the community and the community are community are community and the community are community are community are community and the community are community are community are community and the community are c	stakeholders in ecotour	ism				
Partnerships & Linkages	Resolutions issued		74 PAMB Resolutions related to ecotourism issued in protected areas		PAMB Resolutions	DENR-BMB	
	Convergence programs initiated		11 convergence programs initiated between DENR and LGUs/private institutions		Accomplishment Report	DENR-BMB	
	Memorandum of agreement/understanding signed/approved		99 MOAs between PAMB and LGUs/private institutions		MOAs & PAMB Resolutions	DENR-BMB	

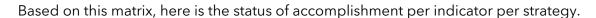


Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of Verification	Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
			related to				
			ecotourism were				
			forged				
	Number of organizations	To be determined by	108 organizations		MOAs/MOUs	DOT-OTDPRIM	
	engaged through	DOT through RECs	engaged				
	ecotourism activities (e.g.						
	POs, NGOs, CSOs,						
	Academe, et al.)						
Strategy 7. Est	tablishing mechanisms for sus	tainable financing					
Objective. To r	mobilize fund to sustain ecotour	ism development					
Sustainable	Guidelines developed						
financing							
	Number of funding	4 funding sources	General Fund			DENR, DOT	
	sources accessed		(GAA), IPAF,				
			Foreign Assisted				
			Projects and				
			Private Institutions				
	Projects endorsed to and/or		31 PA funded			DENR-BMB	
	approved by funding		ecotourism				
	sources e.g., TIEZA, IPAF		projects				
			through IPAF				
	Funding assistance		General Fund			DENR-BMB	
	accessed		(GAA), IPAF,				
			Foreign Assisted				
			Projects and				
			Private Institutions				
	Fees and charges for	DENR AO 1993-	DENR AO 1993-97			DENR-BMB	
	ecotourism	97 and	and				
		corresponding	corresponding				
		PAMB resolutions	PAMB resolutions				
		regarding the rates of	regarding the				
		fees for entrance and	rates of fees for				



Strategy & Objectives	Indicator	Baseline (Year)	2020 Accomplishment	End of Plan Target	Means of	f Lead/Responsible Agency	Remarks
					Verification		
		other activities for	entrance and				
		some	other activities for				
		protected areas	some protected				
		issued	areas				
			issued				
Strategy 8. Me	onitoring outcomes and impac	ts	ı	1	ı	ı	1
Objective 1. To	o establish a monitoring and eva	luation system for ecoto	urism policies and pro	grams ba	sed on the NES		
Objective 2. To	o monitor visitor impact of ecoto	urism activities on biodiv	versity				
	Ecotourism monitoring and	One (1) ecotourism	One (1)		BMS Report	DENR-BMB	
	evaluation system	monitoring system	monitoring and				
	developed		evaluation system				
			enhanced and				
			established				
	Monitoring and Evaluation		BMB Technical		BMB Technical	DENR-BMB	
	tools and standards		Bulletin No. 2014-		Bulletin No.		
	developed		03: Prescribed		2014-03:		
			Tools for Impact				
			Monitoring of				
			Ecotourism				
			Activities				
	Status report of ecotourism		Two (2) national		Accomplishment	DENR-BMB	
	program implementation		reports submitted		Report		
			and 88 annual				
			accomplishments				
			reports received				





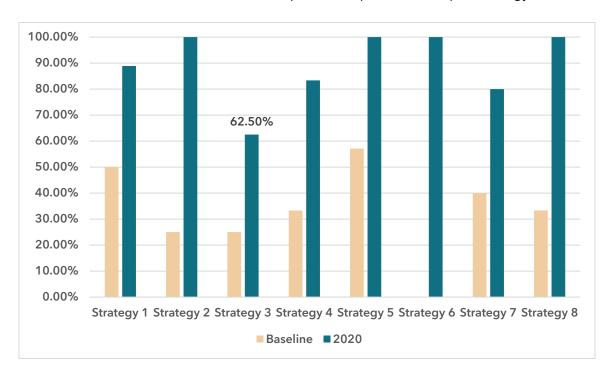


Figure 5: Accomplishment per Strategy (baseline vs. 2020)

One can find that Strategies 2, 5, 6, and 8 have 100% accomplishment, while Strategy 3 (Maximizing economic benefits to the host communities) has the least accomplishment at 62.5%. Note, however, that this matrix focuses on the output of each indicator.



The DENR has steadily increased its budget in funding ecotourism sites as illustrated in the following chart:

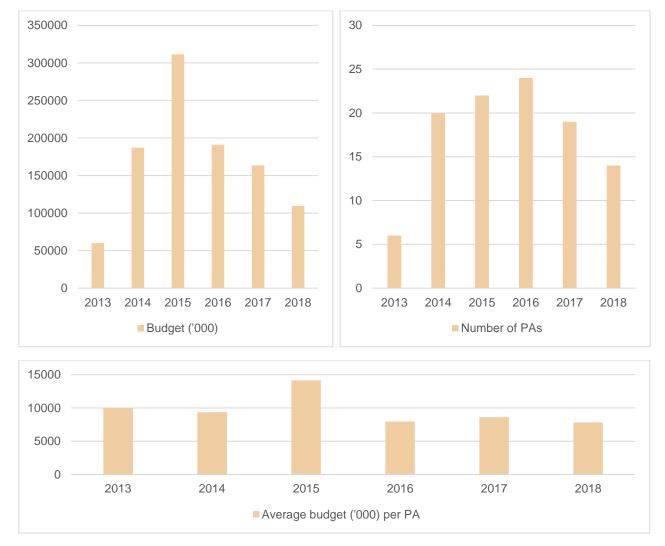


Figure 6: Yearly funding for ecotourism (2013-2018) Source: (DENR-BMB, 2019)



A further look at the outcomes of these accomplishments can be illustrated in the following case studies.

Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park, Negros Oriental

Seeding up the funds for people's organization in managing a protected area while gearing up for ecotourism economic activities.

Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Farmer's Association Inc. (BTLFAI) is an organized PO in Balinsasayaw Twin Lakes Natural Park. It was organized by ENRD on February 27, 2007 with SEC registration number CN200725470 that started with 127 family members.

A field validation and interview were conducted in April of 2015 to ascertain the experiences, challenges, and winnings of this people's organization.

Livelihood opportunities for the BTLFAI were Boating, Restaurant operations, Nursery, Tent rentals, Cottage rentals, Catering, and Fernery. Most of these were established from 2010 with different funding sources such as EDC and National Greening Program Projects, PO BAYANIHAN, donations, and PO earnings. A comparative statement of revenue from 2010 to 2014 shows an upward trend as follows.

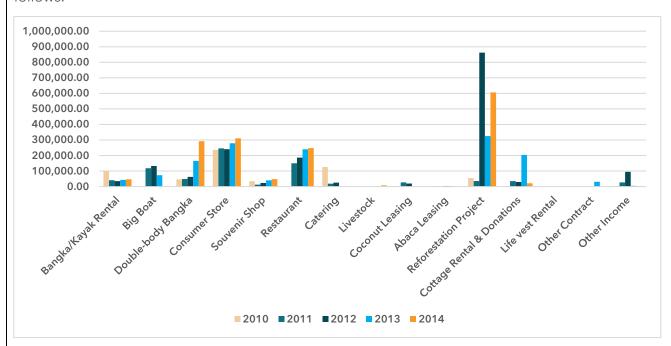


Figure 7: Comparative Statement of Revenue from the Year 2010 to 2014 Source: (CENRO, 2015)



Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park, Negros Oriental

Seeding up the funds for people's organization in managing a protected area while gearing up for ecotourism economic activities.

Although it can be found that most of its revenue came from the reforestation project, which was funded by the DENR, it can also be shown that the organization was able to develop other incomegenerating opportunities as illustrated in the graph. Best practices were also displayed in terms of cooperation, teamwork, and volunteering efforts; incentives, rewards and recognitions; absenteeism policy and governed penalties; espousing role model; regular meetings; and capacity-building trainings for its members. This reinforces what the **government** does in **financially supporting organizations in the conservation and protection** of the protected areas, while these organizations then **utilize revenues from these government projects for further income generating activities such as tourism**.

Sibalom Natural Park, Antique

Developing the ecotourism potential by investing in ecotourism support facilities

Sibalom Natural Park (SNP) is an approximately 5,511.47 hectare protected area in Sibalom, Antique. Home to several flora and fauna, SNP hosts *Rafflesia speciosa*, popularly known as one of the biggest flowers in the world and recently described, the third species of the Genus Rafflesia found in the Philippines and the 19th known to the world.



Figure 8: Rafflesia speciosa Source: (Retdar, 2015)

Considering not only its flora and fauna but also its geologic features, the Sibalom Natural Park took out its ecotourism potential to the next level by funding and developing supporting facilities. From its entrance/exit gate, concrete foot trails with handrails, livelihood center, PASu Office which also doubles as an information center, hanging bridge, gazebo, bunk house, communal toilet, viewing deck,

shed houses/resting areas, and wooden canopy walk, it can be illustrated the investments poured out to support ecotourism in the site.



Sibalom Natural Park, Antique

Developing the ecotourism potential by investing in ecotourism support facilities

2018 infrastructure developments

Source: (Sibalom Natural Park PAMO, 2020)







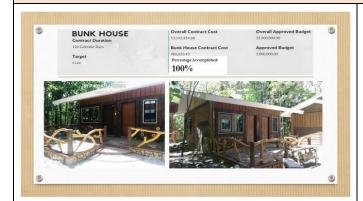








Developing the ecotourism potential by investing in ecotourism support facilities









2019 infrastructure developments

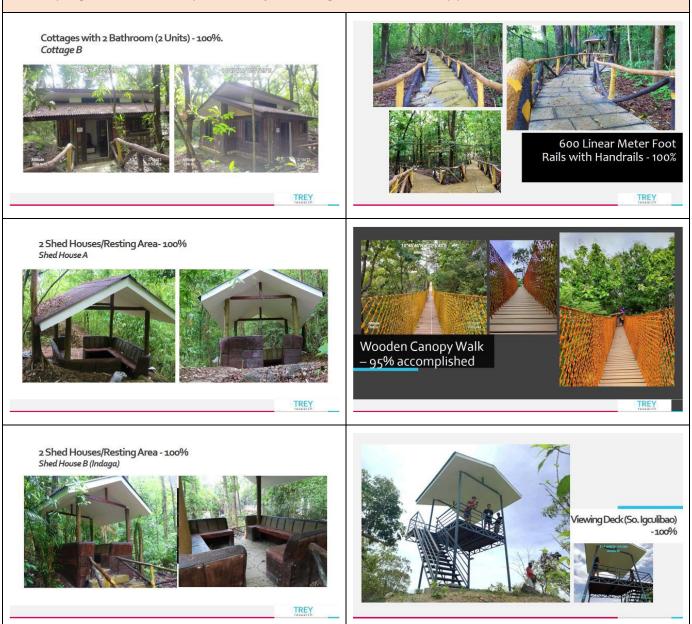
Source: (Sibalom Natural Park PAMO, 2020)







Developing the ecotourism potential by investing in ecotourism support facilities



Apart from hard infrastructures, they also invested in developing tour packages - There were four existing tour packages in the site - and set up their online presence thru their facebook page.



Developing the ecotourism potential by investing in ecotourism support facilities

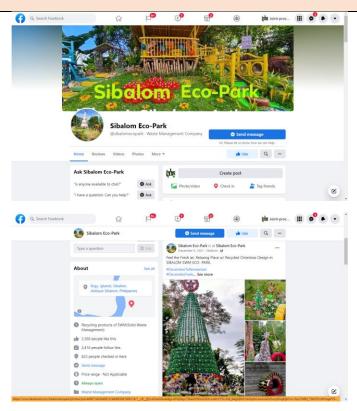


Figure 9: A screen capture of SNP Facebook page

They also design the ecotourism attractions depending on season which can be shown here in their photo collection last December 2021.



Developing the ecotourism potential by investing in ecotourism support facilities

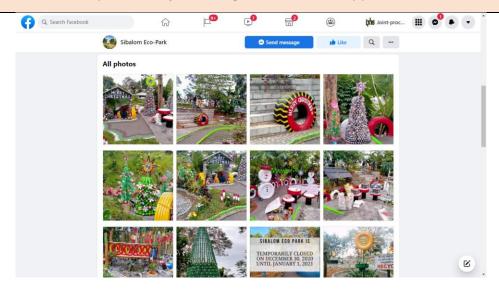


Figure 10: Christmas photo collection of SNP in their Facebook page

This shows that Sibalom Natural Park has bolstered up its ecotourism potential by developing its hard and soft infrastructures.



3.2 Rationalize and integrate the ecotourism programs with DOT domestic tourism and product development thrust, as well as, with the DENR programs.

HARMONIZING NATIONAL ECOTOURISM STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NESAP) WITH THE TOURISM RESPONSE AND RECOVERY (TRRP) FRAMEWORK AND THE REFORMULATED NATIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NTDP)

The immediate response and urgent threats posed by the COVID-19 includes saving lives and protecting the health and tourism frontliners (e.g. shelter, food, public health, and safety), damage assessment, and re-allocation of resources. Business recovery begins during this phase by setting up centers/mechanisms to facilitate re-entry into the economy by tourism enterprises. Access to financial resources at the national and community levels, and technical assistance to enable business continuity are provided to both businesses and workers.

The NTDP 2016-2022 has been updated already and reformulated for 2021-2022 timeline given the uncertainties of the pandemic situation. The Vision, Values and Goals of the NTDP have been considered still relevant. Three changes were introduced in the Reformulated National Tourism Development Plan (RNTDP) 2021-2022, namely the addition of:

- (1) the value of safety in competitive tourism,
- (2) resilience and emphasis on the TouRIST program as anchor for local tourism development; and
- (3) strategy of strengthening governance and destination management capacities of LGUs in light of the increased devolution by 2022.

The strategic actions related to building or accelerating tourism infrastructure for resilient destinations identified under the Tourism Response and Recovery Plan (TRRP) in 2020 have already been integrated in the RNTDP 2021-2022. An updated TRRP 2021-2022 that builds on the values of the national plan will focus on job and income recovery, and preparing the industry for the aftermath of the pandemic aligned to the RNTDP 2021-2022. The TRRP framework identifies five (6) thematic outcomes which the program impact will result in mitigating the effects of COVID-19 to the industry particularly the business, workforce and vulnerable groups. The six thematic outcomes are:

appropriate infrastructure;



- secured livelihood and adequate social services;
- sustained business operations;
- enhanced marketing and product development;
- timely and efficient institutional support;
- effective strategic communications.

The succeeding table illustrates the harmonization of National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP) with the Updated Tourism Response and Recovery Plan (UTRRP) and the Reformulated National Tourism Development Plan (RNTDP). NESAP and UTRRP have the same end period, 2022 while the TRRP focuses on the response and recovery strategies to address the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. The RNTDP, while considering the changes due to the pandemic, is until 2028. The proposed updates cover strategies and covered targets in relation to NESAP.

The Reformulated National Tourism Development Plan maintains its vision:

"Develop a globally competitive, environmentally sustainable and socially responsible tourism industry that promotes inclusive growth through employment generation and equitable distribution of income thereby contributing to building a foundation for a hightrust society."

The RNTDP recognizes the capacity constraints. And with the emergence of the highly transmissible COVID-19 variants, the scenario-based projects were calibrated to account for the quarantine requirements. Nonetheless, there are other rooms that can be utilized for market segments in low risk destinations.

Table 3: Scenario-based projections of the Philippine tourism industry by 2022

2022, By 2022, under mild By 2022. under By under severe harsh/medium scenario: scenario: scenario: 68 million domestic trips 54.10 million domestic trips 38 million domestic trips contributing PHP 2.0 trillion; contributing PHP 1.6 trillion contributing PHP 1,112 Billion 3.6 million international 1.9 million international tourists contributing tourists contributing PHP 85 0.75 million international 164 Billion; Billion; tourists contributing PHP 34 Billion; 5.3 million employment 4.9 million employment 4.80 million employment



The table below illustrates the clustering of themes, strategies, and targets of the three plans to harmonize. Note the color assigned for each cell which signify similarity and congruence.

Table 4: Harmonizing NESAP with UTRRP and RNTDP

UTRRP (2021-2022)		NTDP (2021-2028)		NESAP (2013-2022)	
Strategic Outcome 1: Protection of tourism jobs and safety of workers, visitors and communities secured.		Strategic Direction 1 : Promote Fun, Safe, and Competitive Tourism		STRATEGY 1. DEVELOPING AND MARKETING DIVERSIFIED AND COMPETITIVE ECOTOURISM PRODUCTS	
	1.1 Provide and increase utilization of financial assistance and social protection programs for workers under but not limited to existing national recovery initiatives (e.g. National Employment Recovery Strategy or NERS)		1.1 Accelerate Green and Safe Travel Infrastructure and Facilitation Initiatives		• Target 1.1: To diversify and build viable high quality ecotourism products
	1.2 Nurture culture of safety in workplace and communities		1.2 Diversify Product And Provide Safe and High-Quality Experience	STRATEGY 2. CREATING CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ECOTOURISM INVESTMENTS	
Strategic Outcome 2: Support the recovery of tourism enterprises.			1.3 Protect Livelihood and Enable Innovative Financing and Investments		· Target 2.1: To establish a sustainable investment framework
	2.1: Increase access to financing and economic opportunities by tourism enterprises		1.4 Foster Upskilling of Human Resources and Improve Service Standard		· Target 2.2: To develop confidence of the business sector on ecotourism



UTRRP (2021-2022)		NTDP (2021-2028)		NESAP (2013-2022	2)
					investment
	2.2. Foster up-skilling/retooling of workers, enterprises, LGUs to transition to better normal environment and strengthen migration to digital transformation and e-commerce applications.		1.5 Design and Implement Innovative Marketing and Promotions Programs		· Target 2.3: To contribute to financial sustainability of PAs
Strategic Outcome 3: Rebuild confidence and grow demand in the domestic and key foreign markets			1.6 Embrace Tourism Quality Initiatives		Target 2.4: To encourage creative and innovative community-based enterprises
	3.1 Invest in travel facilitation initiatives	Strategic Direction 2: Resilient, Inclusive, & Sustainable Tourism		STRATEGY 3. MAXIMIZING ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE HOST COMMUNITIES	
	3.2 Increase visitations through high quality experiential products		2.1 Upgrade MSMEs In the Tourism Value Chain		• Target 3.1: To provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to local stakeholders
	3.3. Intensify marketing initiatives to enterprises and destinations as the situation and vaccination programs evolve.		2.2. Ensure Safe Access to Opportunities and Tourism Experience for All		• Target 3.2: To optimize the economic value of PAs and other natural areas
			2.3. Build and Strengthen Capacities of Destinations for Conservation and Climate Smart	STRATEGY 4. PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING OF A CULTURE OF ECOTOURISM	• Target 4.1: To foster environmental awareness among host communities,



UTRRP (2021-2022)	NTDP (2021-2	NTDP (2021-2028)		NESAP (2013-2022)	
		Investments		LGUs, business sector and visitors	
		2.4 Formulate Measures to Address Tourism Risks and Crisis		• Target 4.2: To integrate ecotourism into local tourism plans and programs	
	Strategic Direction 3: Strengthen Governance and Destination Management		STRATEGY 5. STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY		
		3.1 Upgrade the Destination Tourism Information Infrastructure		• Target 5.1: To establish capability building program for ecotourism services, local planning, product development and management	
		3.2 Develop and Strengthen Capacities for Local Planning and Implementation		• Target 5.2: To improve management of data and information	
				• Target 5.3: To provide a policy environment conducive to ecotourism development	
			STRATEGY 6. DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS		
				• Target 6.1: To engage community and other	



UTRRP (2021-2022)		NTDP (2021-2028)		NESAP (2013-2022)	
					stakeholders in ecotourism
					• Target 6.2: To provide equitable access to opportunities in ecotourism across sectors of the community
				STRATEGY 7. ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE FINANCING	
					• Target 7.1: To mobilize fund to sustain ecotourism development
				STRATEGY 8. MONITORING OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS	
					• Target 8.1: To establish a monitoring and evaluation system for ecotourism policies and programs
					• Target 8.2: To monitor visitor impact of ecotourism activities on biodiversity
				STRATEGY 9	
				Visitor & Site Management including Disaster Risk Reduction and Management for Resiliency	
				RNTDP	2.4 Formulate Measures to Address



UTRRP (2021-2022)	NTDP (2021-2028)	NESAP (2013	NESAP (2013-2022)	
			Tourism Risks and Crisis	
		RNTDP	2.2. Ensure Safe Access to Opportunities and Tourism Experience for All	
		UTRRP	1.2 Nurture culture of safety in workplace and communities	
		RNTDP	1.1 Accelerate Green and Safe Travel Infrastructure and Facilitation Initiatives	

Table 5: Color scheme vis-a-vis Theme/Concept

Color	Theme/Concept
	Culture of Safety
	Financing/Investment/Livelihood
	Human Resource Development
	Development and Management of Tourism Information System
	Quality Tourism Products
	Marketing and Promotions
	Safe Access/Minimizing Risks



3.3 Threats, issues, and concerns in ecotourism sites

Some case studies are highlighted to illustrate the threats, issues, and concerns in ecotourism sites.

Sibalom Natural Park, Sibalom, Antique

According to the Sibalom Natural Park Management Plan (2018-2017), the SNP as a watershed, home to unique flora and fauna and as key driver for sustainable development through ecotourism is faced by the following threats, issues, and concerns:

Source: (PENRO Negros Oriental, 2019)

- Inadequacy of water supply during summertime in Bugsukan Falls (Brgy. Luna)
- Natural calamities (landslides due to heavy rainfall and earthquake). Frequent landslide observed along Marasunsun Falls (Bululacao); Sangkwelan and Igtas Falls, and Bungsod (Igpanolong)
- Flood prone area due to high soil erosion potential. Soil erosion along Butuan River, Mt. Igmatindug (Cabladan) has been noted by the community. Most often the hot and dry spell causes the waterways and crops and grasslands to dry up. Heavy rainfall is also extremely experienced. This caused landslides and soil erosion that eventually damaged agricultural crops and silted waterways.
- The cool bodies of water in SNP are among the tourist potentials. Priority sites that were identified are: Kipot Falls, Camping Grounds, Langoyan Pool, Indaga Creek, Butak Falls, Paco Lake, Bato Sumpit Falls, Kipot Pool, Padlusan Falls, and Marasunson Falls. The pressing
 - concern is to ensure that these sites have enough water supply even during summertime.
- Unsustainable agricultural practices, heavy use of synthetic fertilizer and chemicals for

- Damage to fragile habitat of Rafflesia speciosa locally-known as "Uroy". The habitat of Rafflesia speciosa is concentrated in the upper slopes of Mt. Poras and its adjoining forest. These sites need to be restricted to prevent the disturbance of the host plant and the Rafflesia as well. Viewing decks will be needed to protect the habitat and at the same time maximize the attraction of the specie to the visitors. During flowering months, the Rafflesia plant should be viewed from a distance using binoculars to prevent disturbance and destruction on the buds of the flowering plants. The sites should be properly marked and protected.
- Clumping was observed in some tree species like Neonauclea formica ((Elm.) (Merr.). It is seen as possible effect of the alteration of the natural habitat of Mt. Poras. If left unchecked, clumping can lead to the further displacement of wildlife that depends on native trees.
- The low biodiversity coupled with high endemism presents a unique problem in conservation biology and would require proper management solutions.
- Excavation and diggings in "Patyo ka Ati" (Ati burial ground)
- Pine tree chipping



Sibalom Natural Park, Sibalom, Antique

- rice farming. Introduction of high-yielding varieties (HYVs) that requires more use of insecticides and pesticides in the farms. The chemical run-off poses danger to the quality of water in the
- The widening of exotic trees towards the mid elevation of Mt. Poras. If this is left uncheck, endemic species that feed from the indigenous trees will be lost. Invasive alien species such as mahogany in reforestation areas has reduced presence of indigenous and endemic species.

SNP and can endanger aquatic life.

- In Sitio Apong, the habitat for wild pigs needs rehabilitation by planting of additional native trees that are already growing in the area.
- Mt. Banagon and Mt. Poras were identified as bird sanctuary. A total of 76 bird species were identified, 28 of which were endemic to the Philippines and 41 are dependent on the forest for their survival.
- SNP is primarily composed of cultivated land with brushland/grassland. To sustain the recovery of the forest cover would require more reforestation of the land. However, there is a need to ensure that the reforested areas are not the naturally grassland areas, which are habitat of some wildlife.

- Wastes generated by irresponsible tourists
- Uncontrolled entrances and exits to SNP which leads to unregulated visits
- Climate change and global warming, which results to extreme weather condition and leads to extreme flooding and disaster
- Undetermined legitimate forest occupants. It was reportedly 750 in the early 2000.
 Currently, there are 210 who had enlisted themselves in the inventory being conducted.
- The mixing of A&D lands with forest areas
- Proximity of settlements to what is known as habitat area, particularly in Brgy. Cabladan
- The perceived harmful effect of "pamuhag" in collecting wild honey. Wild honeybee is what visitors usually buy in Brgy. Igpanolong. There is also high demand of wild honey in the market. While the extraction of timber and non-timber products is a minor source of forest edge community and the forest occupants themselves, it has a potential to supplement their income. However, there is a need to regulate extraction activities within the SNP.

Balinsasayaw Twin Lake Natural Park, Negros Oriental

In the Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Farmer's Association Inc. (BTLFAI) Livelihood Activities Report (CENRO, 2015), they noted the following challenges:

- Maintaining sustainable environment (resource & wildlife)
- Rules, regulations, Policies, and limitations
- Proper Management and order in every activity done
- Requisition of new kayaks and additional life vest for the recreational income activities

This was seconded by the assessment of challenges stated in the Ecotourism Management Plan of the protected area (PENRO Negros Oriental, 2015) that threats to the wildlife of the BTLNP are habitat modification and destruction, collection and harvesting, hunting, and pet and zoo trade.



3.4. Addressing impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

IMPACT OF COVID-19 TO TOURISM-RELATED ENTERPRISES

To fully understand the impact of COVID-19 to the tourism industry, select regions such as DOT MIMAROPA and Davao Region conducted an online assessment survey to tourism related enterprises (TREs). This is adapted from International Labor Organization's Conducting enterprise surveys during the Covid-19 crisis.

The survey was able to solicit response from one hundred one (101) TREs in MIMAROPA region composed of Hotels, Resorts, Apartments, Mabuhay Accommodations, Restaurants, Travel and Tour Agency, Travel Agency, and Tour Guides while it was able to solicit response from two hundred thirty nine (239) TREs in Davao region composed of Hotels, Resorts, Apartments, Mabuhay Accommodations, Restaurants, Travel and Tour Agency, Travel Agency, Tour Guides, Tourist Land Transport Operator, Tourist Water Transport Operator, Farm Tourism Site, Spa, MICE Organizer, Sports & Recreational Center, Adventure & Ecotourism Facility/Dive Shop, Tourist Shop/Specialty Shop, and Tourism Training Center.

Tourism Business Impact

Majority of TREs have 50% to 100% business disruption. This impact extends to revenues, orders and workforce.

TREs experience major difficulties in three areas:

- Shortage of supplies/input materials,
- Shipping of finished goods and
- Shortage of cash flow.

Furthermore, they experienced shortage of workers due to restricted movement following community quarantine.

Occupational Safety and Health Challenge

TREs noted that their employees did not contract the virus as of the time of the survey facilitation. Nevertheless, they have implemented actions to protect their employees from being infected. Support on Business Development Service



Majority of TREs noted the following priority support needs on business development:

Table 6: Priority Support Needs on Business Development

MIMAROPA	DAVAO Region
 Advice with business continuity planning Advice on how to prevent infections while maintaining business operations 	 Advice on how to prevent infections while maintaining business operations Advice with business continuity planning
 Business advice on diversification of products and sales channels and Legal advice on application of labor regulations during crisis. 	 Business advice on diversification of products and sales channels and Online business management training

Government Support

Majority of TREs noted the following priority support needs from the government:

Table 7: Priority Government Support Needs

MIMAROPA	DAVAO Region		
 Deferring payments of utilities, social security contributions, loans or taxes 	 Deferring payments of utilities, social security contributions, loans or taxes 		
Access to cash / short-term finance	Access to cash / short-term finance		
 Price controls of critical goods and More clarity on official measures to contain the crisis 	 Extension of social protection for workers and Price controls of critical goods and Supplies of PPEs such as masks, thermometers, etc. 		

Details of the survey can be found in these links:

MIMAROPA: https://sites.google.com/view/mimaropa-naturally/impact-of-covid-19-to-mimaropa-tourism-related-establishments





Figure 11: Impact of COVID-19 to MIMAROPA Tourism-Related Establishments

DAVAO: https://sites.google.com/view/from-islands-to-highlands/impact-of-covid-19-to-davao-tourism-related-establishments



Figure 12: Impact of COVID-19 to Davao Region Tourism-Related Establishments

INSIGHTS ON THE FILIPINO TRAVELERS' SENTIMENTS ON THE NEW NORMAL

The Department of Tourism, in collaboration with Guide to the Philippines and AIM - Dr. Andrew L. Tan Center for Tourism, launched the Philippine Travel Survey as our way of offering support to the tourism and hospitality industry. We are sharing what we have discovered about Filipino travellers' behavior, sentiments, and expectations on domestic travel's new normal based on 12,732 respondents across 81 provinces in the Philippines.





- Domestic leisure travel will lead the recovery of Philippine tourism;
- Majority of travellers expect a reduction of their income and travel budget;
- Health and safety remain the primary concern of travellers;
- Travelers prefer reduced-contact activities once leisure travel restrictions are lifted;
- Travelers prefer online and digital channels for convenience and reduced contact; and
- Travelers plan to travel close to home.

INSIGHTS ON THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 IN PROTECTED AREAS

Two protected areas were studied to assess the impacts of COVID-19, namely, Mount Pulag National Park and Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park. Here is the tabulation of both positive and negative impacts of the pandemic to both sites:

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic to Ecotourism in Mt. Pulag National Park

Source: (Albas, 2021)

Positive Impacts

- Vegetation in the ecotourism sites regenerated (trails, camp sites, mountain lakes, summit); serenity enhanced.
- Increased observation time of Park
 Management Staff of the Protected Area and

Negative Impacts

- The pandemic momentarily triggered increase in land conversion for highland vegetables.
- The closure of the park has lessened the visibility of the ecoguides, trekkers as partners



- more introspection.
- Enhanced partnership with IP, LGUs, PNP, MTO and other stakeholders.
- MIATFs included Ecotourism in their agenda (Protocols per ecotourism site).
- More synchronized partnerships with IP LGUs, POs, guides, and other agencies.
 - o Review of entry protocol and policies
 - Review of Quality Control for the renewal of permits of homestays, guides, porters, drivers, organizations, transportation requisites
- The Park Management has more opportunities for repairs, rehabilitation, and preparations for the new normal.
 - Repair of Ranger Stations, Protected Area Management
 Office
 - Rehabilitation of mountain lakes/marshland
- Construction of facilities, checkpoints, lakeside decks and tables.
- Preparations on possible contingencies.
- Indigenous People have adapted online marketing, barters, selling.
- Expanded farming options (i.e. cactus, Blower production) apart from vegetable farming;
- Increase in diversity of livelihood has compensated some of the losses in the vegetable industry.
- Online micro-enterprises increased onsite.
- The ICCs, IP, LGUs, Homestays, guide, porters, service provider realized the importance of ecotourism, its multiplier effects, and the link of production to ecotourism as manifested during the new normal.
- Increased partnership with IP MIATF/IP LGUs to deal with pandemic and synchronized alert systems and partnerships. Inter-agency meetings/ reviews of policies under the new normal.
- More accountabilities being inferred to LGUs

- for monitoring
- Biodiversity Conservation and forest destruction.
- The Stoppage of ecotourism, guides, porters, drivers, and other service providers lessened the avenue for convergence partnerships in enforcing Environmental Laws.
- The pandemic helped in accelerating environmental violations.
- From March 2020 to present, the revenue collection declined tremendously.
- Retrenchment and reduction of Park workers.
- Loss of opportunities for travel including livelihood.
- Vegetable farmers took significant loss and are forced to adapt to the new normal.
- People are having a hard time adapting to the new normal. (Health and safety protocols, online transactions)
- Some did not renew permits but are willing to join in the ecotourism.
- Some have fears of accommodating visitors
- Encouragement of income generation to balance economy which contributed to land use changes, vegetable farming among others.
- The death of the Chief Executive and IPMR
 has affected the enforcement of
 Environmental laws; Some took advantage of
 the transition.
- Paradigm shift has destroyed interpersonal closeness.



- as to MIATF Responsibilities and Environmental Accountability under RA 11038/ENIPAS.
- Paradigm shifting from interpersonal to online communications.

Green Recovery from the Impacts of Pandemic in Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park (BTLNP)

Source: (Tagra, 2021)

Positive Impacts

- Increase in flora and fauna composition, notably the threatened species. High presence of insect species is recorded during the night walk monitoring, indicative of a healthy environment.
- Assessment and determination of the present land uses within the protected area
- Enhanced linkage and networking with communities through meetings and focus group discussions
- Convergence with other national government agencies (NGAs) and stakeholders
- Negros Oriental Provincial Tourism Offices provides TA in establishing linkages and engaging social media influences (PTV4, vloggers, etc.)
- Negros Oriental provincial government pledged and committed P5.5M allocation for the protection and development of BTLNP
- Negros Oriental provincial government pledged and committed P5.5M allocation for the protection and development of BTLNP
- The chance for communities, especially displaced workers to be trained on other alternative livelihood activities

Negative Impacts

- PAMB Resolution 2020-03 "Approving the elimination of abaca plantation inside the protected area by the end of December 2020"
- Fatal drowning incident of a local resident
- Decline in tourist influx resulting to decrease in income and loss of employment opportunities in the area

Action Plan in the recovery of BTLNP:

- Building the capability to the people
- Enhance their capability in managing the resources



Green Recovery from the Impacts of Pandemic in Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park (BTLNP)

Source: (Tagra, 2021)

- Survey and assessment of the existing land use
- Issuance of the Certificate of Recognition to qualified occupants (IRR of RA 7586)
- Strong linkages and convergence with LGUs, NGAs, NGOs, and the Academe
 - Available frontline services
 - Technologies
 - Undertaking Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA)
- Strengthen and encourage active participation of the barangay officials
 - Pass resolution applicable to enhance resource development and determine payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme to increase revenue and other allowable permits and fees.
- Develop more tourism destination packages for the visitors/guests
- Amendment of policies



4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Recommendations in the assessment of plan's targets and strategies for the remaining 2020-2022

There should be a database accessible to NESC where they can input the inventory, reports, data and other information relevant to ecotourism for further monitoring and evaluation, for the purpose of this review, a google drive folder is provided for ease of access and collaboration:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KRlgLsKkJtUwq8e04lzt_cKA2RLXp8Bm:

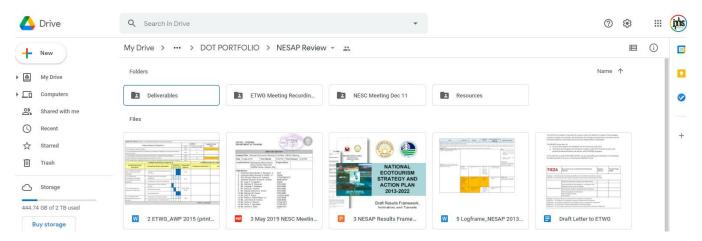


Figure 13: Google drive folder for NESAP

- Finalizing the ecotourism statistical framework to facilitate more effective M&E of the new NESAP
- Ensuring/gaining commitment from the identified responsible agencies for the indicators to ensure accountability and foster more effective monitoring of accomplishments and assessment of progress towards the attainment of the intended outcomes of the NESAP.
- Financing for ecotourism development should be reinforced (e.g. portion of travel tax from TIEZA)
- Apart from protected areas under E-NIPAS, there are other ecotourism sites developed that should be included in the inventory (e.g. caves, wetlands, LGU-managed MPAs (marine protected areas) and other sites. Furthermore, there should be a defined scope



- and implementing direction and governance for ecotourism sites whether they be under the E-NIPAS or LGU-managed and how the different governing agencies converge.
- There should be a mechanism to encourage site managers to adhere to ecotourism best practices. It could be in the form of award, seal or accreditation
- Mainstream management of emerging infectious diseases in the action plan as part of the strategy-visitor & site management including disaster risk reduction and management

4.2 Recommendations on rationalizing and integrating the ecotourism programs with DOT domestic tourism and product development thrust, as well as, with the DENR programs.

Based on the monitoring and evaluation tool, here are the areas to rationalize:

- 1. Orientation Program on Ecotourism Standards and Accreditation
- 2. Accreditation System of ecolodge, ecotour operators and ecoguides
- 3. Guidelines re TEZ designation in PAs
- 4. Guidelines on incentives for ecotourism investments
- 5. Guidelines on PPP projects in ecotourism sites
- 6. Harmonize statistical data gathering and analysis on the number of households provided with ecotourism-related livelihood
- 7. Ecotourism enterprise developed in partnership with LGUs/private sector
- 8. Mechanism to monitor and promote the incorporation of NES to national and local tourism plans
- 9. Capacity Development Program for Implementors, REC, Ecotourism Technical Working Group (ETWG) and stakeholders
- 10. Training Needs Assessment
- 11. Central Database for baseline information (both primary and secondary)
- 12. Partnership and Linkages Program
- 13. Guidelines on the mechanism for the utilization of 5% of travel tax

Furthermore, of the themes/concepts harmonized, areas to be highlighted are the 'Culture of Safety' and 'Safe Access/Minimizing Risks'. Although this applies in the planning period 2021-2022, it would be prudent to consider this in the new NESAP since the issues on pandemics and other crises should



be included in the planning endeavor. It is recommended to include another strategy in the new NESAP. We call this strategy, 'Visitor & Site Management including Disaster Risk Reduction and Management for Resiliency'.

For this strategy, action programs from the UTRRP and RNTDP were highlighted. These are:

Table 8: PPAs lifted from UTRRP and RNTDP to be included in the propsed new strategy 'Visitor and SIte Management including Disaster Risk Reduction and Management'

UTRRP	1.2 Nurture culture of safety in workplace and communities
RNTDP	1.1 Accelerate Green and Safe Travel Infrastructure and Facilitation Initiatives
RNTDP	2.4 Formulate Measures to Address Tourism Risks and Crisis
RNTDP	2.2. Ensure Safe Access to Opportunities and Tourism Experience for All

For the other strategies, it is also best to harmonize the programs and projects lifted from the UTRRP and RNTDP using the theme/concept referenced.

4.3. Recalibrating programs to address impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

MAINSTREAM MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE ACTION PLAN AS PART OF THE STRATEGY-VISITOR & SITE MANAGEMENT INCLUDING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed a challenge to ecotourism development. In the site level, site managers have experienced challenges in managing their sites and visitors. In fact, site managers are looking for practical ways in ensuring safe and secure stay of visitors in their sites as they gradually reopen. Local policies in each community should also be taken into consideration as well as the capacity of its government and health services in ensuring the safety of the tourists and communities alike.

Visitor & Site Management Framework

This proposal explores the potential of reassessing the concept of visitor and site management of ecotourism sites in light of the new normal. Furthermore, it looks into the criteria in prioritizing which sites to reopen, the practical use of computing for the physical carrying capacity and total daily visits, identifying choke points, points of interest, activity design, and route management of sites to ensure physical distancing of tourists, which is one of the most effective strategies in minimizing the risk of transmission of emerging communicable diseases. Scenario building is also used as a tool to aid site



managers in formulating strategies in a) minimizing the risk of transmission of emerging communicable diseases in their site and b) developing emergency protocols when the transmission actually happens in the site. Lastly, this information will then be used to formulate their local policies and guidelines for a safe and secure tourism experience.



Figure 14. Visitor & Site Management Framework

A sample outline of the Visitor and Site Management Framework can be found in Annex A.

4.4. Recommendations on programs, projects, and activities to be highlighted in the new NESAP in relation to each strategy

Strategy 1. Developing and marketing diversified and competitive ecotourism products

Strengthen Online Presence

Online promotion of ecotourism projects in websites and social media.

Online booking and payment scheme in ecotourism sites.

Guidelines should be in place to facilitate ease of booking and efficient visitor management. Certain best practices that could be benchmarked are the booking systems from Baguio and Boracay.

Accreditation and Incentives.

This will facilitate Protected Area Superintendents (PASu's) to do their best in ecotourism development and management as part of their monitoring and evaluation program. The DOT should reinforce information dissemination on the guidelines and requirements for accreditation and incentive schemes.



Strategy 2. Creating conducive environment for ecotourism investments

Sustainable/Blended Financing Scheme

Leverage sustainable/blended financing to ecotourism developments

Resolution with NESC to utilize the share of ecotourism in TIEZA

Strategy 3. Maximizing economic benefits to the host communities

Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (BDFE)

Establish biodiversity-friendly enterprises in ecotourism sites;

Protected Area Community-Based Resource Management Agreement

An agreement entered into by and between the DENR and organized tenured migrant communities or interested indigenous people s in protected areas and buffer zones which has a term of twenty-five (25) years and renewable for another twenty-five (25) years.

Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas (SAPA)

A binding instrument between the DENR through the PAMB as the first party, and a second party, such as:

- Tenured migrants
- Indigenous People (IP)
- Government Official/Employee
- Individual Applicant
- Corporation
- Cooperative

Strategy 4. Promoting and developing a culture of ecotourism

Climate Proofing

Promote climate change resiliency by climate-proofing ecotourism sites.

Protected Area Academy

Develop guidelines and capacity building programs (under MOA with PPP Center)

Strategy 5. Strengthening institutional capacity

Natural Accounting.



The DENR is continuously implementing its natural accounting. This should also be included in the ecotourism accounts.

Strategy 6. Developing and strengthening partnership

Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

There is a need to revisit the requirements for PPP in ecotourism sites. In capacitating field offices (Protected Area Management Office/Community Environment and Natural Resources Office), there should be various finance solutions that could be tapped through PPP. One example is the Bioframe project with the BMB where certain capacity building collaboration is in place. Furthermore, there should be guidelines in setting up investment forum where site managers present their investment portfolio and proposals for possible PPP.

Strategy 7. Establishing mechanisms for sustainable financing

Accessing the 5% allocation for ecotourism development from the Travel Tax.

The National Ecotourism Steering Committee (NESC) could recommend certain ecotourism sites to be funded by TIEZA. This is in line with the RA9593 where 5% of the total travel tax collected shall be allocated for ecotourism development. With the Mandanas Law imminent, ecotourism sites recommended by the NESC will be the priority. Note, however, that at present, there were still no guidelines in accessing this fund from TIEZA. The agency follows its general guidelines on a first-come-first serve basis and priority are those in least developed areas.

Strategy 8. Monitoring outcomes and impacts

Carrying Capacity Assessment

Conduct carrying capacity assessments to determine ecological limits towards sustainable use and management of natural resources for ecotourism

Impact Assessment of Ecotourism Sites

A sample outline is annexed (Annex B) adapted from the CBFM-CARP Impact Assessment tool.



Note that these proposals are aligned with the existing strategies of NESAP. Further review of the strategies is recommended to either combine strategies or include new strategies.

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ANNEXES

A.Steps in Visitor & Site Management Tool for Policy and Implementing Guidelines

1 Prioritizing which sites to Reopen

Using Likert scale, site managers need to reassess their level of preparedness in five (5) criteria:

- Readiness of local policies to ensure strict compliance to health protocols
- Readiness of referral hospitals & BHERT
- Readiness of Infrastructures to accommodate tourists/visitors
- Readiness of staff (in terms of training)
- Readiness of site (in terms of contingency/emergency plan) in case of outbreak

If they have reached a total of 15 points, they are prepared to open. Areas of concerns that need further interventions are criteria with 2 or lower scores.

SITE REOPENING PRORITIZATION		
Municipality	Padada	
SITE NAME:	Mt. Crocodile (Piape Hill)	

CRITERIA FOR REOPENING	Score
Readiness of local policies to ensure strict compliance to health protocols	2
Readiness of referral hospitals & BHERT	2
Readiness of Infrastructures to accommodate tourists/visitors	2
Readiness of staff (in terms of training)	1
Readiness of site (in terms of contingency/emergency plan) in case of outbreak	2
TOTAL	9

Please tick the item which describes the level of preparedness of your site in each aspect.

1 = Least Prepared

2 = Somewhat Prepared

3 = Prepared

4 = Highly Prepared

5 = Most Prepared



Note: If you have reached a total of 15 points, you are prepared to reopen. Look out for criteria with low score. These are areas of concern.

Figure 15. Sample Site Reopening Prioritization Matrix in Mt. Crocodile (Piape Hill), Padada

2 Mapping

Using mapping tools such as ArcGIS, QGIS, Google Earth, Google MyMap or any other mapping tool they are comfortable and proficient in using, site managers should identify the following basic components:

- Routes
- Points of Interest
- Areas of Tourism Activities
- Choke Points (where overcrowding usually happens)

They can include other layers such as hazard maps, land use maps and other vectors that will facilitate comprehensive understanding of the situation of the ecotourism site.



Figure 16. Sample Map in Jovellar Underground River



3 Compute for Physical Carrying Capacity

Using Bullon Formula (1985), site managers need to compute for carrying capacity, rotation coefficent and total daily visit:

- Carrying Capacity = area used by tourists/average individual standard
- Rotation Coefficient = no. of daily hours area is open to tourist/average time of visit
- Total Daily Visit = carrying capacity x rotation coefficient

The average individual standard used is based on Visitor Carrying Capacity Guidelines used by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks.

The lower limit is the limit on how many visitors can accommodate at a time. The average individual standard is 4.65 square meter which is even bigger than the minimum health standard provided by the WHO and DOH. The upper limit, on the other hand is the limit on how many visitors they can accommodate if they are restricting. The average individual standard in 18.58 square meters. Site managers can use this if they are not yet confident to open given their low score in reopening criteria. This can be used for slow, gradual reopening scheme.

Computed Daily Carrying Capacity of Site

Area Requirement Limits	Area used by tourists (in sqm)	Average Individual Standards* (in sqm)	Carrying Capacity
Lower Limit	2700	4.65	580.645161
Upper Limit	2700	18.58	145.371546

Note: All fonts in red are provided by the Site Managers based on their local situation.

Figure 17. Sample Carrying Capacity Computation

Computing for rotation coefficient gives out the number of batches an ecotourism site can accommodate in a day. It shows the average shortest and longest times visitors stay in the site.

Computing for rotation coefficient

Area Requirement Limits	No of daily hours area is open to tourists	Average (shortest) time of visit	Average (longest) time of visit	Average time of Visit
-------------------------	--	--	---------------------------------	--------------------------

^{*}Visitor Carrying Capacity Guidelines used by the Florida department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks



Lower Limit	12	2	3	2.5
Upper Limit	10	1.5	2	1.75

Figure 18. Sample Rotation Coefficient Computation

Multiplying carrying capacity with rotation coefficient gives the total daily visit in the site. It is safe to use the Total Daily Visit (longest time), lower limit when considering the gradual reopening of ecotourism sites. If the site manager is still not confident that they have the capacity to manage this number, they can use the upper limit.

Computed Total Daily Visit

Area Requirement Limits Rotation Coefficient (shortest time) in hours		Rotation Coefficient (longest time) in hours	Total Daily Visit (shortest time)	Total Daily Visit (longest time)	
Lower Limit	6.66667	5	3870.967742	2903.225806	
Upper Limit	6	4	871.9052745	581.270183	

Figure 19. Sample Total Daily Visit Computation

Further from quantifying the total daily visits, site managers can qualify it by assessing their frequency of tourist visits (based on peak season data) on an average time interval vis-a-vis its carrying capacity. It can be further qualified adapting Briones' (2009) criteria in carrying capacity per area of concern based on experiences and observations.

Frequency of Tourist in Relation to Carrying Capacity

3-Hour Stay Interval	Frequency of Tourist's Visit (Peak Season)	Is Carrying Capacity Observed?
6:00 - 9:00	40	yes
9:01 - 12:00	100	yes
12:01 - 15:00	100	yes
15:01 - 18:00	50	yes

Figure 20. Sample Frequency of tourism visit in relation to carrying capacity matrix



Indicators*	Rating	Interpretation	Remarks		
Are you experiencing					
Overcrowding	5	Strongly Agree	Yes, particularly during peak season		
lack of space (for movement, baggage, etc.)	3	Agree	It is an open area, but still there is lack of space for movement for guests		
nature disruption	3	Agree	Due to the number of visitors, the usual single track has widened		
pollution (land, water and air)	2	Moderately Disagree			
difficulty in disposing trashes	3	Agree	There are waste bins, but due to the number of guests, bins are overflowing with trashes		
Is there a need for					
regulating & monitoring tourist arrivals?	5	Strongly Agree	The LGU has not yet set the carrying capacity of the tourist site		
area development (health infrastructures, landscapes, rest stops, trails, etc.)	3	Agree	At the moment, there is no health infra in the area		
environmental & health policy awareness (signage, etc.)	3	Agree	There are no signages related to environmental and health policy		
solid waste management & monitoring	3	Agree	While there are trash bins along the way, there are also stores in the area which do not practice waste segregation		
additional environmental protection policy	5	Strongly Agree			
TOTAL:	35				

Figure 21. Sample Carrying Capacity Analysis based on Experiences & Observation (Adapted from Briones, 2009)

4 Scenario Building

Adapting Moriarty et. al. (2007) Scenario Building, site managers could use this tool in formulating strategies in

- minimizing the risk of transmission of emerging communicable diseases in their site and
- developing emergency protocols when the transmission actually happens in the site.

Here are the steps:

Step 1 Brainstorming

Identify all internal and external factors that will affect achieving the vision. Separate internal factors from external factors

Step 2 Classifying

The factors in the upper-right quadrant which are labelled as the most important and most uncertain factors are used to differentiate between possible futures described by the narrative scenario. A



reduction of these key factors to two or three factors helps to keep the number of possible scenarios low.

Step 3 Identifying (different futures)

The results have to be combined in order to come with the main storylines of different scenarios. The less uncertain or less important factors in the other three quadrants can be used to develop a "background story" that is shared by all the scenarios. Another discussion should be started which includes the classification of the scenarios as high or low probability.

Step 4 Writing (narrative scenarios)

Write down a series of narrative scenarios in which the factors from quadrant one of the chart provide a common background story to a set of diverging possible futures described by those factors in quadrant two. Depending on the length and detail of the scenarios being developed, factors from quadrants three and four can be included or left out of the write-up.

Internal Factors	External Factors
1. Skills and capacities of workforce	Occurrence of infectious and emerging diseases
2. Availability of facilities	2. Community quarantine status
3. Readiness of support groups	Access to e-communication and internet connectivity
4. Knowledge of the community on the minimum public health standards	4. LGU policies and guidelines

	Q1: Most Important and Less Uncertain	Q2: More Important and More Uncertain			
	Availability of facilities	Occurrence of infectious and emerging diseases			
la ava a sin a	Readiness of support groups	Knowledge of the community on the minimum			
Increasing Importance	LGU policies and guidelines	public health standards			
importance	Q3: Less Important and Less	Q4: Less Important and More Uncertain			
	Uncertain	24: Less important and more oncertain			
	Access to e-communication and	Skills and capacities of workforce			
	internet connectivity	Community quarantine status			
	Increasing	Uncertainty of Happening			

Main Story Line	Background Story	High/Low Probability
Readiness of support groups to respond to Occurrence of infectious and emerging diseases	While trainings and orientations on emergency responses are being provided at the barangay level, their skills and promptness	High Probability



to act during emergency	
situations are still uncertain. Most	
of the time, they are still	
dependent on their municipal or	
provincial DRRMOs. BHERTS,	
together with different support	
groups such as healthcare	
workers, uniformed personnel,	
government agencies and others	
were oriented to respond to	
Covid-19 outbreak. However, no	
one (or very limited) is really	
trained or skilled enough to	
handle the situation as this is all	
new to everyone.	

Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
One of the guests in the group of	Two companions of the guest who	
5 tourists had a fever a day after	had a fever went to a cafeteria	
their arrival. The guess shows	near the hospital while waiting for	The family of the cafeteria server
signs of body malaise and	the result of the medical	was monitored by BHERTs. The
persistent coughing. The tour	examination. A server assisted	LGU issued Executive Orders to
guide reported the case to the	them with their orders. A week	establish containment zones and
local tourism office. The tourism	after the server experienced	prepared the local quarantine
office coordinated and sought the	severe headache, high fever and	facility.
assistance of the DRRMO to bring	difficulty of breathing. She was	
the guest to the nearest hospital.	rush to a hospital in the city.	

Figure 22. Sample Scenario Building Sample Scenario Building (Adapted from Moriarty et. al., 2007)

5 Strategy Formulation

After the different scenarios have been written down, strategies are developed to meet the vision. Sometimes it is necessary to refine the vision since visions, being desired states, tend to be unrealistic. There is often a broad nature of scenarios, so that multiple strategies can lead to the vision.

Scenario 1 Strategy	Scenario 2 Strategy	Scenario 3 Strategy					
1. Inform the LGUs and ac	1. Inform the LGUs and activate the BHERTS within the tourist destination and location						
accommodation of the touri	accommodation of the tourists						
2. Follow the standard protoco	2. Follow the standard protocols in managing infectious diseases						
3. Prepare a set of policies and	3. Prepare a set of policies and guidelines for the tourists and the community						
Emergency Protocol: Guest is Emergency Protocol: The Emergency Protocol: The family of							
symptomatic a day after the arrival cafeteria server manifested the tour guide and the cafeteria							



1.	Temporary	close	the	symptoms a week after interaction			server	tested pos	sitive to C	ovid 19	
	destination		for	with th	e gues	ts		1.	Perform	contact	tracing
	disinfection			1.	Temp	orary clos	sure of the		and swak	testing	
5.	Quarantine a	all emplo	oyees		estab	lishment		2.	Establish	containm	nent and
	on duty inclu	iding the	e tour	2.	2. Quarantine all employees			buffer zones			
	guide			3.	Perfo	rm conta	ct tracing	3.	Issue	policies	and
6.	Perform co	ntact tr	acing		and	conduct	of swab		guideline	es for the	affected
	procedures				testin	g			commun	ities	
7.	Coordinate	with	LGU	4.	Estab	lish critical	zones				
	BHERT										

Figure 23. Sample Strategy Formulation per Scenario

6 Crafting Policies and Guidelines

All these information from site prioritization assessment, mapping, carrying capacity analysis, scenario building and strategy formulation can then be used as basis in the crafting of local policies and guidelines of ecotourism sites. Note that policies are mandatory, formalized statements that apply to a specific area or task while guidelines are general, non-mandatory recommendations.

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Figure 24. Sample Table of Policies & Guidelines



B. Impact Assessment of Ecotourism adapted from the CBFM-CARP Impact Assessment Outline

1. BACKGROUND OF ECOTOURISM SITE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1	.1	Project	Background
-			

- 1.2 Objectives of the Study
- 1.3 Scope and Delimitation of the Study

2 ECOTOURISM PROFILE AND PROJECT INFORMATION

- 2.1 Identifying Information
- 2.2 Brief description of the Ecotourism site
- 2.3 Project Objectives
- 2.4 Project Work Plan and Milestones

3 SOCIO-CULTURAL FEATURES

- 3.1 Demographics
- 3.2 Social Services

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Key Informant Interviews
- 4.2 Statistical Analysis
- 4.3 Field Observations

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

- 5.1 Social Impact
- 5.2 Economic Impact
- 5.3 Environmental Impact

6 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- 6.1 Organizational Capacity of the Peoples Organization
- 6.2 Continuity of Project Implementation



- 6.3 Sense of Ownership of the Project
- 6.4 Feasibility study on Ecotourism Investments
- 6.5 Limitations in Implementation and Monitoring
- 6.6 Issues and Challenges Identified during socio-economic survey and Regular Monitoring

7 GOOD AND INDIGENOUS PRACTICES

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 ON People's Organization as Partner in ecotourism Projects
- 8.2 On the assessment timeline
- 8.3 On the survey tool
- 8.4 On the ecotourism program implementation

