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17 JUL 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The **REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
DENR Region 4-B

ATTENTION : **OIC-PENR Officer**
PENRO, Occidental Mindoro

FROM : The **DIRECTOR**
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service

SUBJECT : **PROJECT STATUS REPORT (PSR) AS OF 2nd QUARTER OF FY 2023 OF THE SPECIAL PROJECT ENTITLED "RESEARCH ON THE META-POPULATION OF TAMARAW IN MINDORO"**

As a result of the 2nd Quarter, Project Manager's Meeting held on June 13, 2023, we would like to provide you a copy of the Project Status Report (PSR) as of 30 June 2023 of the FASPs-funded Special Project entitled "Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro".

Likewise, this PSR is based on the series of coordination conducted by FASPS with the Project Coordinator in June 2023.

On the Physical Progress:

With an elapsed time of 93%, the Project has a physical accomplishment of 81.45% as against the target of 100% or a slippage of 18.55%. The slippage were due to the delayed conduct of field trial of improvement of identified alternative counting methodology of tamaraws, and process documentation report on activities conducted.

As of this reporting period, the Project has undertaken a major activity such as the conduct of verification surveys in the Municipality of Paluan and Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, respectively.

On the Financial Performance:

The total project cost for the 2-years of implementation is ₱2,000,000.00. Out of this amount ₱1,675,000 has already been downloaded and ₱1,994,000 is obligated. Out of this amount ₱1,086,111.19 was already disbursed or 64.84% utilization rate.

Ways Forward:

Considering that the project will be completing in August 2023, it is imperative to finalized all the outputs such as:

- a) Finalization of Technical Report;
- b) Finalization of Project completion Report; and
- c) FASPS to facilitate the downloading of the remaining NTA amounting to ₱325,000.00.

For your information and reference.


AL O. OROLFO, Ph.D.

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

I. PROFILE
Project Title: Research on the Metapopulation of Tamaraw in Mindoro
Fund Source/s: DENR (II. D. Conduct of Special Studies, Design and Development in Support of Biodiversity, Forestry, Mining and Environmental Management operations)
Total Project Cost: PhP 2,000,000.00
Signing Date: 2021 (approval of project)
Duration: Two (2) years
Effectivity Date: August 2021
Closing Date: August 2023
Implementing Agency: DENR-PENRO Occidental Mindoro and DENR IV – (MIMAROPA) Regional Office
Sector: Biodiversity
Regions: IV-B
Benefeciaries: DENR Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)
<p>Description:</p> <p>The Tamaraw, a critically endangered mammal found only in the island of Mindoro and the proposed National Land Mammal, continues to face challenges and threats that contribute to its general population decline over the last century. The Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP) is the result of Population Habitat and Viability Assessment Workshop conducted in December 2018 by the DENR Tamaraw Conservation Program, funded by the BMB-Biodiversity Finance Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group and Conservation Planning Specialist Group.</p> <p>The Population Habitat and Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop in 2018 has identified many issues and concerns that lead to the crafting of the 10-year TCMAP. This proposal aims to answer some primary issues and concerns on meta-population component.</p> <p>Per TCMAP, there are many gaps on the knowledge of the population dynamics of the Tamaraw. This issue is caused by the information gaps on the possible locations and habitat range of Tamaraws across Mindoro. As a result, the remaining population of the Tamaraw cannot be estimated in the island of Mindoro but limited only to its core habitat within Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP). Furthermore, the only method of counting being used since 2000 within 2,200 hectares Tamaraw core habitat in MIBNP is the Intensive Concentration Count (ICC) or Simultaneous Multi-vantage Point Count (SMVPC) where "controlled burning" is the preparatory activity to conduct the ICC/SMPVC to improve visibility of Tamaraw and enhance sprout of cogon and talahib grasses which are the main forage for said animal. With this method, there are major disadvantages like burning risk other forms of life, reduces soil fertility, hamper diversity and prevent forest succession. Finally, ICC/MPV is</p>

suitable only in a grassland ecosystem while Tamaraws have been recorded in scrublands and forest ecosystem.

To address the identified issues, this project covers two (2) major parts:

- a) Island-wide identification and mapping of the Tamaraw locations and habitats; and
- b) Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat type.

Mindoro Island (Provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro) covering twenty-two (22) municipalities. The 22 municipalities were identified based on land classification map and actual land cover per Google earth view. The target sites also include unexplored areas (outside of Tamaraw core habitat) of Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park, and other known habitats of Tamaraw.

Objective

Specifically, the project aims to:

- 1. Establish information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraw in Mindoro by early 2020; and
- 2. Develop alternative counting methodology/ies to estimate Tamaraw population suitable habitat types.

The following are the overall expected Outputs:

- 1. Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro established
- 2. Tamaraw population in the Island of Mindoro estimated
- 3. Appropriate methodology/ies for Tamaraw population count suitable to a range of habitat types developed

Components	Expected Outputs	Updates/Status
1. Establishment of information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraw in Mindoro	1.0. Initial Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	Completed
	1.1. Key Informant interview (KII) report(s)/community consultation report(s)	Completed
	1.2 Rapid habitat assessment report(s) submitted with baseline information on Tamaraw population estimates	On-going,
	1.3. Technical report and documentation report	On-going,
	1.4. Final Island-wide spatial map of tamaraw	2023 final output

	distribution and habitats in Mindoro	
2. Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat types (e.g. scrubland, forest, grassland)	2.0. Appropriate count method identified	On-going,
	2.1. Report on the workshop conducted	Completed
	2.2. Report on the consultation	Completed
	2.3. Technical Report/ Process documentation on the initial testing of the method	Completed
3. Project Monitoring and Supervision/ Project Management	3.1. Quarterly progress reports	On-going,
	3.2. Preparation of Final Technical Report	<i>Requested to be delivered on 4th Quarter 2023</i>
	3.3 Project Completion Report	<i>Requested to be delivered on 4th Quarter 2023</i>
Project Status		
<p>With an elapsed time of 93%, the Project has a physical accomplishment of 81.45% as against the target of 100% or a slippage of 18.55%. The slippage consists of delays in the conduct of field trial of improvement of identified alternative counting methodology of tamaraws, and process documentation report on activities conducted.</p> <p>As of 2nd quarter, the Project has undertaken a major activity through the conduct of verification surveys in the Municipality of Paluan and Sablayan in Occidental Mindoro; and Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro</p> <p>The following are plan activities for the 3rd Quarter of 2023: a) conduct of additional verification survey in municipalities positively identified by key informant; b) start for the preparation and submission of technical report on the identified methodology for tamaraw population survey; c) consolidation and coalition of all reports, and preparation of terminal report.</p>		

Financial Status

BUDGET UTILIZATION	Allotment (SAA Downloaded) (a)	Cash Released (NTA Downloaded) (b)	Obligated (c)	Disbursed (d)	% Obligation based on Allotment (c/a)	% Utilization based on Cash Released (d/b)
CUMULATIVE	2,000,000	1,675,000	1,994,000	1,086,111	99.7%	64.84%

Reported Issue/Concern	Updates/ Actions taken/to be taken / Recommendations
Late approval of WFP for continuing funds for 2022	The Regional Office to facilitate the approval of the Con't WFP for FY 2022.
The project was not able to conduct some scheduled activities for 2 nd Quarter of FY 2023.	Verification survey of Tamaraws in additional sites identified by locals are still on-going.

PREPARED BY:

NOTED BY:



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