



[From DENR BMB || Google Drive - PASA KIG Proposed NIPAS MPAs] July 2023

1 message

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Cc: Coastal and Marine Division <cmd@bmb.gov.ph>, Armida Andres <armida.andres@bmb.gov.ph>, Jhorace Engay-Tupas <jhorace.tupas@bmb.gov.ph>

Dear RED Mirasol, AD Landrito, CDD and CRFMS of DENR MIMAROPA,

Greetings! This is Joaquin Silvestre from the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau, WPS and Philippine Rise Focal and Action Officer for MIMAROPA.

As requested po (c/o Ma'am Celle Sawit), sharing with you copies of the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) for 2 proposed NIPAS MPAs in the Kalayaan Island Group, Municipality of Kalayaan, Palawan:

- Eastern Kalayaan Protected Landscape and Seascape (EKPLS)
- Pag-asa Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape (PIPLS)

Google Drive

[DENR PASA KIG Documents - WPS References, Expedition Reports and Plans 2017-2021 - Google Drive](#)

The Google Drive also contains various references and reports that supported the completion of the PASA.

Updates on the Status of the Proposal

The results of the PASA have already been presented to Secretary Loyzaga in a small meeting, to which we were instructed to explore other possible designs of MPAs in the Kalayaan Island Group in consultation with experts (UP MSI, etc), focusing on their ecological and biodiversity values, since the current designs of EKPLS and PIPLS are from the previous Administration (Pres Duterte, National Security Adviser Esperon, Sec. Cimat, etc.).

The BMB will try to convene the meeting or workshop to discuss other possible configurations of MPAs in the West Philippine Sea within Q3 or early Q4.

For now, the outstanding instruction of the Secretary is to **treat the information on the proposed MPAs as confidential** until more discussions with experts can be made. For now, BMB only provides information on the habitats and biodiversity of the West Philippine Sea, and on the value of declaring Marine Protected Areas, *without* disclosing our plans to declare or explore new designs of our MPAs.

On House Bill of Cong. Hagedorn on declaring the KIG-Scarborough Shoal as NIPAS MPAs

While this has already been approved at the House Committee on Natural Resources-level, there has been no instruction yet on whether or not to support the proposed House Bill, but we have been instructed to keep participating in any future discussions and keep providing technical assistance.

For your reference and information po, thank you very much!

Please feel free to contact me via email or mobile for further queries.

Warm regards,

Joaquin Silvestre

Project Evaluation Officer

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