

# **B**IRD'S **N**EST **R**ESOURCES **C**ORPORATION

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## **River Restoration Project through Dredging Activity Cluster of Alag and Longos Rivers**

**Public Scoping Documentation Report  
June 2023**

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

BNRC	Bird's Nest Resources Corporation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOTR	Department of Transportation
DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
ECC	Environmental Compliance Certificate
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
LGU	Local Government Unit
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MPA	Marine Protected Area
PEISS	Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System

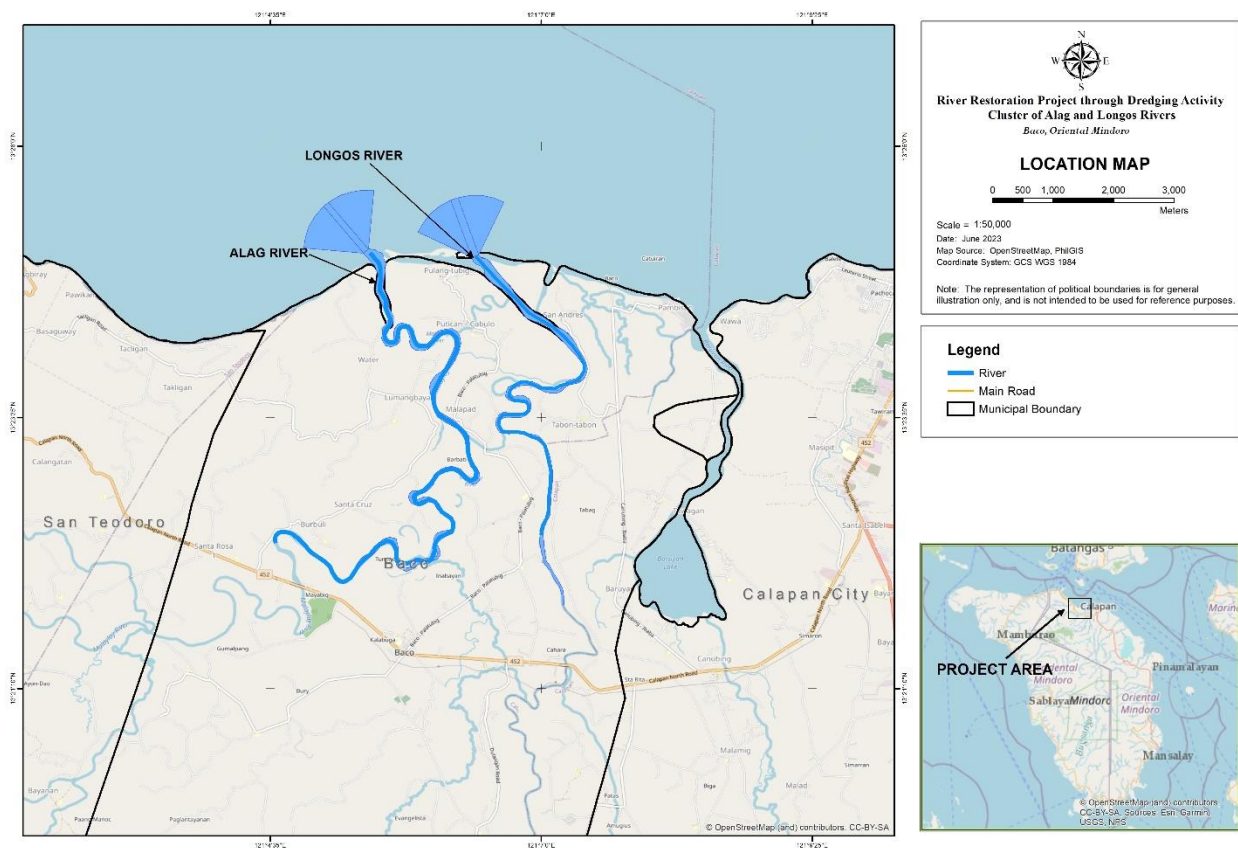
## PROJECT FACT SHEET

Project	Alag and Longos River Restoration Project																																			
Project Location	Municipality of Baco, Province of Oriental Mindoro  Covered Barangays:  Water Pulang-Tubig Putican-Cabulo San Andres Tabon-Tabon Malapad Lumang-Bayan Catwiran I Catwiran II Burbuli Poblacion Alag Santa Rosa																																			
Nature of the Project	River Restoration Project through Dredging Activity Cluster of Alag and Longos Rivers Project																																			
Project Size/Scale	<table><tr><th>Zone</th><th>Position</th><th>Length (m)</th><th>Width (m)</th><th>Design Depth (m)</th><th>Volume (cu m)</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Delta, Alag River</td><td>1,000</td><td>60</td><td>2-12</td><td>2,170,000</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Alag River</td><td>10,000</td><td>60</td><td>2-9</td><td>6,650,00</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Delta, Longos River</td><td>1,000</td><td>100</td><td>2-12</td><td>2,650,000</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Longos River</td><td>10,000</td><td>100</td><td>2-9</td><td>4,731,000</td></tr></table>						Zone	Position	Length (m)	Width (m)	Design Depth (m)	Volume (cu m)	1	Delta, Alag River	1,000	60	2-12	2,170,000	2	Alag River	10,000	60	2-9	6,650,00	3	Delta, Longos River	1,000	100	2-12	2,650,000	4	Longos River	10,000	100	2-9	4,731,000
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Project Cost	~ Php 16.2 million																																			
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Proponent	Bird’s Nest Resources Corporation																																			
Address	Room 402 BENCOM Building, 146 West Avenue, Barangay Phil-Am, Quezon City																																			
Representative	Mr. Alfredo R. Tolentino, Jr. Chairperson and President 8529-6868/ 0916-688-8317																																			

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Background

The Bird's Nest Resources Corporation (BNRC) intends to conduct dredging activities for the proposed Alag and Longos Rivers Restoration Project located in the Municipality of Baco, Province of Oriental Mindoro. The proposed project aims to restore the rivers in the cluster of the Alag River (Barangay Water, Baco, Oriental Mindoro) and the Longos River (Barangay San Andres, Baco, Oriental Mindoro). The proposed project seeks to protect and properly manage the use of dredged materials in heavily silted river channels in order to increase water flow, ensure the integrity of various protective dikes and infrastructures, and thereby reduce risks to lives and properties. Furthermore, large-scale dredging and desilting operations based on a comprehensive dredging plan must be carried out to restore the natural state and water flow of heavily silted river channels and improve their hydraulic capacity, thereby eliminating flooding.



## **2 PUBLIC SCOPING**

### **2.1 Objectives of the Public Scoping**

The public scoping was undertaken as part of the overall goal to conduct continuous and strengthened stakeholder engagement in the host community and in preparing the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report of the project. In adherence to the conduct of public participation under the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System (PEISS) for proposed river restoration projects through dredging activities pursuant to Section 5.4 of DENR-DPWH-DILG-DOTR Joint Memorandum Circular 2019-01, the proponent conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) among local government unit (LGU) key personnel and community leaders. Specifically, the public scoping was undertaken to:

- Present project information, including its rationale, location, process or technology, proponent, and consultants, estimated budget, and indicative timeframe;
- Discuss the process and activities required in the conduct of the EIA;
- Gather the perceptions and initial issues and concerns of stakeholders on relevant issues and concerns affecting their sector; and
- Solicit recommendations and possible alternatives for the identified problems (if any).

All inputs in the activity will be considered in the entire EIA process and will then be integrated into the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

### **2.2 Information Dissemination**

Official invitation letters addressed to the thirteen (13) Punong Barangays and LGU-Baco were sent on May 31, 2023 to the respective offices. The invitation letter contains the objectives, schedule, and target participants of the proposed activity. Enumerated below are the specific sectors invited for the activity:

- Sangguniang Barangay Member- Committee Environment and Agriculture
- Sangguniang Barangay Member- Committee on Employment and Livelihood
- Fisherfolk/Farmer Associations
- Industries/Entities dependent on the river as primary source of income
- Active Civil Society Organization (CSO)
- Senior Citizen Sector
- Youth Sector
- PWD Sector

Follow-ups for the finalization of the schedule and venue, as well as the confirmation of attendees, were conducted through continuous coordination with the focal person provided by each barangay.

### **2.3 Attendance and Schedule of Public Scoping**

Two rounds of FGD were held at Baco Municipal Hall on June 2, 2023. The morning consultations with LGU representatives were led by the Municipal Mayor of Baco, Hon. Allan A. Roldan. The FGDs for the thirteen (13) barangays which are scheduled on the following days, have been adjusted on the same day as advised by Hon. Roldan. For such an activity, the LGU convened all Punong barangays and various representatives. The LGU's urgent request to conduct FGD with the barangays is consistent with their favorable feedback on the proposal and their eagerness to start the project as soon as possible.

**Table 2-1: Attendance and Schedule of Conducted FGDs**

Date	Time	Venue	Total Number of Attendees		
			Male	Female	Total
02 June 2023	9:00 - 11:30 AM	Mayor's Office, LGU-Baco	7	8	15
	2:00 – 4:00 PM		20	7	27

## 2.4 Program

The entire program was facilitated by BNRC in both the morning and afternoon sessions. The presence of participants or representatives from various offices and sectors was initially acknowledged during the activities. The proponent expressed appreciation towards everyone who took the time to participate in the public scoping. Mr. Brando Bulosan, BNRC's Environmental Planner, then gave the activity's agenda and a technical description of the project. Ms. Anne Elizabeth Papa explained the EIA process in the morning, while Mr. Mark Anthony Abrenica (virtual) discussed the PEISS and relevant activities that will be undertaken for the EIA. The assigned presenters utilized visual presentations to facilitate the sharing of information among all the attendees.

## 2.5 Open Forum

After each presentation, participants were given the chance to raise their questions and clarifications on the presented subjects. Summarized in Table 2-2 and Table 2-3 are the issues, concerns, and responses made during the morning and afternoon sessions, respectively.

**Table 2-2: Summary of Issues and Concerns during the FGD with LGU-Baco (AM)**

Module/Aspect	Issues and Concerns	Responses
<b>Project Description</b>	<p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan (Mayor, LGU-Baco)</b></p> <p>We want this project to be accomplished as soon as possible. You should be able to finish this project within 5–6 months prior to the start of the LGU's flood control project in 2024. Failure to do so may have an impact on the Flood Control Project's timeline and overall implementation. Securing the necessary permits from the DENR should be done immediately.</p>	<p><b>Ar. Brando Bulosan (BNRC)</b></p> <p>Dredging is an immediate action that the citizens of Baco must take, especially now that the rainy season has started. We are all aware that conducting an EIA and obtaining an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the DENR is a time-consuming process. Thus, a special resolution or a special permit from the Provincial Government must be secured in order to expedite the process.</p>
	<p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan (Mayor, LGU-Baco)</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Ahba Santos (BNRC)</b></p>

	<p>We should meet with the barangay captains to come to an agreement on this project and expedite the process. The affected barangays, through the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC), should have a resolution, which will be discussed in the SB. This will be requested by the ABC, and the proponent, together with SB, should be present during the said meeting. We can do this once you provide us with the necessary documentation. Disseminate the information to the concerned barangays and request a meeting.</p> <p>To reiterate, we want to fast-track this project in order to avoid delays in the completion of our 2024 flood control project. Your project should be accomplished this year, so there will not be any delays in our project.</p>	<p>We have presented you with our schedule of barangay meetings. Will there be a special consultation with the Liga ng mga Barangay?</p> <p>It will take time for us to obtain the appropriate permits from the National Agency, but the need for dredging activities is urgent, and we are considering the situation of the affected barangays.</p>
	<p><b>Ms. Aliza Papa (BNRC)</b> (Presenting the EIA process)</p> <p>By December of this year, the ECC would have been secured from the DENR.</p>	<p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan</b> (Mayor, LGU-Baco)</p> <p>The ECC should be secured as soon as possible. By July, you should have started dredging and be finished by October.</p>
	<p><b>Ms. Lynnette Lyzelle S. Ferrer (BNRC)</b></p> <p>Based on the suggested schedule, the EIA process should start immediately. As planned, we will conduct the consultations with the thirteen (13) barangays by tomorrow.</p>	<p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan</b> (Mayor, LGU-Baco)</p> <p>Instead of meeting with them individually (per barangay), I propose that we gather all of them here this afternoon.</p> <p>Our flood control project shouldn't be delayed any longer since the funds will be returned to the national treasury. At the LGU level, we will prepare all necessary documents. If you receive permission from the provincial government and the required permits or clearances from DENR, then no objection from the LGU is assured. Simply prepare the documentation you require, or we will need to inspect it at the local government level. Guidelines must be followed in order to expedite</p>

		<p>the project and prevent permit revocation.</p> <p>You should begin dredging as soon as possible so that the ground is firm by the time we undertake the flood control project. ECC would be simple to secure; all we ask is that you do it quickly. All we need to know is how far your dredging activities will be from our infrastructure project.</p>
Water	<p><b>LGU Personnel (1)</b></p> <p>You will be obtaining two (2) permits: offshore and inland. San Andres is a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Longos with a fish sanctuary.</p> <p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan</b> <b>(Mayor, LGU-Baco)</b></p> <p>Sedimentation/siltation would have an apparent impact on fishes, particularly in our sanctuary.</p>	<p><b>Lynnette Lyzelle S. Ferrer (BNRC)</b></p> <p>Our freshwater and marine ecology consultants will propose mitigation methods for the perceived impacts during the preparation of the EIS.</p>
Project Description	<p><b>LGU Personnel (2)</b></p> <p>Is there a standard for the depth and width for the dredging activities?</p> <p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan</b> <b>(Mayor, LGU-Baco)</b></p> <p>What is the distance of the stationing? Please check the area.</p>	<p><b>Engr. Sherwin Maiso (BNRC)</b></p> <p>The standard distance between two locations is 50 meters.</p> <p>The project would start about 10 meters from the riverbank. The project ought to focus on the middle of the lakes because that is where the largest amount of sand is found. There would be a 10-meter buffer zone.</p>
	<p><b>LGU Personnel (3)</b></p> <p>How many hectares or volume?</p>	<p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan</b> <b>(Mayor, LGU-Baco)</b></p> <p>There should be an actual study of the project site. The project engineer should be overseeing the project site constantly.</p>
	<p><b>LGU Personnel (4)</b></p> <p>You are about to secure an ECC. The ECC requires a zoning certificate. The payment would be 720 pesos per hectare. We will require you to pay such amount for both inland and foreshore.</p>	<p><b>Engr. Sherwin Maiso (BNRC)</b></p> <p>This is well noted.</p>

	Please include the kml and shape files in your submission. If these are submitted, there will be no complaints from our end.	
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Table 2-3: Summary of Issues and Concerns during the FGD with the Covered Barangays (PM)

Module/Aspect	Issues and Concerns	Responses
<b>Project Description; People; Water</b>	<p><b>Hon. Arlene Pereña (SB, LGU-Baco)</b></p> <p>Could you please tell us about your previous projects?</p> <p>It is important to highlight that proper disposal of sediments is a crucial aspect of dredging projects. Previously, our experience with other companies was that sediments were simply stockpiled in our barangays.</p> <p>After the contract signing, what mitigating measures will be implemented to address any potential impacts? We need assurance that after the dredging, mitigating measures will be in place for safety purposes.</p>	<p><b>Ar. Brando Bulosan (BNRC)</b></p> <p>We have already partnered with an international company. We hope for a strong commitment and that the project will be executed according to plan. We do due diligence, and it is essential to ensure that all parties involved are dedicated to the successful completion of the project.</p> <p>It is worth exploring the possibility of providing assistance to affected residents. This could be discussed further with the relevant authorities and stakeholders to determine the feasibility and appropriate measures to support the affected community during the project's implementation. There is a law stating that the government authorities, from the governor down to the barangay officials, would receive 50% of the project's profits.</p> <p>Mitigating measures are vital to minimizing any negative impacts that may arise during and after the project. These measures can include regular monitoring of environmental parameters, implementing erosion and sediment control measures, ensuring proper waste management practices, and restoring affected areas to the natural course of water flow. A comprehensive environmental management plan would be developed and followed to address any potential environmental concerns and ensure sustainable outcomes. Remember, these responses are not the final decision, as we will be sampling on our</p>

		own as well, aside from the DPWH, DILG, DENR, and DENR-EMB proposals. It's important to consult with experts from the municipality and relevant authorities to tailor the approach and measures based on the specific project requirements and local regulations, which is why we are having these meetings.
Project Description	<p><b>Hon. Victor Valenzuela (SB, LGU-Baco)</b></p> <p>Will there be a memorandum of agreement (MOA) in place for this project?</p> <p>It is important that aggregates be handled properly. We must verify that they are managed in accordance with the terms of the MOA, as a previous company simply stockpiled their dredged materials in our municipality.</p> <p>We need to emphasize that there should be no stockpiling of aggregates without a designated end-use. This will help prevent unnecessary environmental impacts and ensure that the project proceeds smoothly.</p>	<p><b>Ar. Brando Bulosan (BNRC)</b></p> <p>Yes, Councilor Valenzuela, a memorandum of agreement outlining the responsibilities, commitments, and guidelines for the project, particularly for the community, is recommended. This MOA ensures that all parties involved are aligned and aware of their obligations.</p> <p>Absolutely, Councilor Valenzuela. The MOA should explicitly state the proper handling and management of aggregates. It is important that the agreed-upon terms and conditions are developed by the joint project proposal of DPWH, DILG, DENR, and DENR-EMB.</p> <p>That is correct, Councilor Valenzuela. The MOA should include provisions that the aggregates have a designated end-use in place, which is in Manila Bay.</p>
	<p><b>Hon. Jay A. Nasito (SB, LGU-Baco)</b></p> <p>Expedite this dredging project as the communities expect it to be the solution to the flooding in the area.</p>	<p><b>BNRC</b></p> <p>This is well noted.</p>
	<p><b>Hon. Severina Jimenez (SB, LGU-Baco)</b></p> <p>Be sure to finish the project, unlike the previous ones.</p>	
Water	<p><b>Hon. Danilo Salome (PB, Barangay Malapad)</b></p> <p>Will the natural flow of the river be affected?</p>	<p><b>Ar. Brando Bulosan (BNRC)</b></p> <p>No. The natural course of the water will remain the same. It is only the sand that will be extracted.</p>
	<p><b>Hon. Armando A. Perez (PB, Barangay Catwiran I)</b></p>	<p><b>Ar. Brando Bulosan (BNRC)</b></p>

	<p>Will all the sand be extracted? If the sand is extracted, will the floods be reduced?</p>	<p><b>No.</b> There will be no change in the natural topography of the river.</p> <p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan</b> (Mayor, LGU-Baco)</p> <p>No. This dredging will just help. We must wait for one to two months for the LGU's flood control project.</p>
	<p><b>Hon. Victoriano Zulueta</b> (PB, Barangay San Andres)</p> <p>Will the dredging include the mouth of the river? What if there is an island formed in the river mouth? Will that be dredged?</p> <p>If others have doubt, I have fear. What will happen after two (2) years of dredging operations? That is my fear.</p>	<p><b>Ar. Brando Bulosan (BNRC)</b></p> <p>Yes, if that is declared hazardous, it will be extracted. A collection of sand formed is not a natural island; therefore, it should be extracted for the safe navigational lane.</p> <p>Thank you, Kap. Based on our research, you have a sunken town here. Please do not know that we are not just into quarrying. Also, you mentioned that there are fault lines to consider. Kindly give us information so we can have it integrated into our study.</p>
	<p><b>Hon. Maynard Cueto</b> (PB, Barangay Pulang-Tubig)</p> <p>We are enclosed by the Alag and Longos Rivers. What will happen to our barangay if there is flooding? What will happen to us?</p> <p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan</b> (Mayor, LGU-Baco)</p> <p>His area is estuarine. The barangay is being protected by that island in the riverbed. What will be the depth of your boring test?</p>	<p><b>Ar. Brando Bulosan (BNRC)</b></p> <p>We will find out where the hardest sand is. Only the top sand will be dredged.</p>
	<p><b>Hon. Marietta Castillo</b> (PB, Barangay Putican-Cabulo)</p> <p>The natural course of the river has changed. An island is formed in the center of the river. What will happen to those living there</p>	<p><b>Ar. Brando Bulosan (BNRC)</b></p> <p>We will avoid them if they have a title.</p>
	<p><b>Hon. Maynard Cueto</b> (PB, Barangay Pulang-Tubig)</p> <p>What will happen to us with the amount of water that the flood may bring? We need a protective dike.</p>	<p><b>Hon. Allan Roldan</b> (Mayor, LGU-Baco)</p> <p>We need to fast-track this dredging activity to prevent flooding. We should prepare a resolution immediately.</p>

### **3 ANNEXES**

**Annex 1- Received Invitation Letters**

**Annex 2- Attendance Sheets**

**Annex 3- Presentation Material**

**Annex 4- Photo documentation**