

**DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM**  
**OFFICE: DOT MIMAROPA REGION**



Meeting Report					
Subject/Title: <b>MIMAROPA Regional Tourism Committee (MRTC) 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr. Meeting</b>					
Date	<b>December 13, 2022</b>	Time Started	<b>1:00 pm</b>	Time Finished	<b>4:00 pm</b>
Location/ Venue	<b>Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Application</b>				
Attendees:					
Members					
1. ATTY. BEVIENNE G. MALATEO – DOT / MRTC CHAIRPERSON					
2. MS. ANNA CENA – DBM					
3. MS. JULLIE KAYE F. DIAMANTE – DOLE					
4. MR. JOEMER M. SAMONG - NCIP					
5. MR. ALLAN G. ACOSTA – DOST					
6. MS. HEZA LEIGH PADUA - DENR					
7. MR. ALFRED LOPEZ - DA					
8. MS. DHON STEPHERSON CALDA – ORIENTAL MINDORO PROVINCE					
9. MS. ARLYN A. SALAZAR - CALAPAN					
10. MS. LUCILLE B. HERNANDEZ – OCCIDENTAL MINDORO					
11. MS. MARIBEL C. BUÑI – PALAWAN					
12. MR. DEMETRIO ALVOR JR. – PUERTO PRINCESA CITY					
Secretariat					
1. MS. GLADYS A. QUESEA					
2. MS. YOLANDA B. CABIGAO					
3. MS. ABIGAIL V. CRUZ					
<b>48% of MRTC member agencies were present during the meeting. (12 out of 25)</b>					
Summary of Points Discussed					
Opening Statement	Atty. Bevienne G. Malateo, Regional Director of DOT MIMAROPA, acknowledged and greeted the attendees for the fourth quarter meeting. RD Malateo discussed briefly the highlights of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter meeting of MRTC last December 13, 2022.  The following are the MRTC Meeting Agenda:  1. Results/status of the Carrying Capacity Study in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro – Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), DENR 2. Updates on the Forest Land Use Agreement for Tourism (FLAgT) approved and pending applications and documentary requirements for FLAgT and Reclamation per DENR Administrative Order – Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division, DENR 3. Expansion of the MIMAROPA Venture – DOST 4. Halal Redi Tourism Project of – DOST				

	5. Updates on the Peace Village project of DOT MIMAROPA – DOT MIMAROPA
Approval of the Highlights of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter MRTC Meeting	The Highlights of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter MRTC Meeting were approved.
Results/status of the Carrying Capacity Study in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro – Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), DENR	<p>Ms. Heza Leigh C. Padua of the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) of DENR discussed the Project Results of the Carrying Capacity Assessment in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro implemented last August 2020 to December 2021.</p> <p>Ms. Padua briefly presented the rationale of the study such as Puerto Galera being one of the top tourist destinations in the Philippines known for its numerous scuba diving spots and white beaches. The municipality also has some of the most diverse coral reef diving in Asia. Situated in the coral triangle. In terms of tourism development, Puerto Galera has been rapidly transforming its coastal area into a highly commodified tourist destination which could cause irreversible environmental, social, and cultural problems.</p> <p>Ms. Padua noted that the results of the 2018 study of the Carrying Capacity (CarCap) in Boracay island served as the basis for policy measures to conserve and protect the islands of Puerto Galera relative to their carrying capacity. In line with this, DENR is now taking a proactive approach before environmental problems on ecological sites become unmanageable.</p> <p>She noted the Top 5 Priority Ecotourism Sites or the 5 GEMS + 1 identified by former DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. El Nido and Coron, Palawan</li> <li>2. Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro</li> <li>3. Panglao, Bohol</li> <li>4. Siargao, Surigao del Norte</li> <li>5. Baguio City</li> </ol> <p>The identification of the 5 GEMS + 1 aims to address the problems and current status on carrying capacity, water and air pollution, and solid waste management vis-a-vis the existing biophysical resources, policies, governance, stakeholder's participation, and compliances.</p> <p>Ms. Padua emphasized that although tourism has improved tourism in Puerto Galera, it has negatively impacted the marine environment, thus decreasing the ecological integrity of coastal areas and the quality of recreational experiences available to tourists. A study on the Carrying Capacity in Puerto Galera will help identify and establish the thresholds and limitations as a basis for planning and development towards a more sustainable tourism and ecosystem management.</p> <p>The following aspects are to be considered during the CarCap study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of structures, infrastructures, and facilities;</li> <li>2. Number of the population who may be allowed to occult and/or use permissible areas;</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Number of tourists that may be allowed in identified areas</p> <p>There are a total of three (3) phases in the Methodology of the CarCap study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordination and Secondary data gathering</li> <li>2. Fieldwork and primary data gathering</li> <li>3. Report Writing</li> </ol> <p>The ERDB selected seven (7) barangays in Puerto Galera to conduct the CarCap study. The said sites are frequently visited for tourism activities and are vulnerable to geo-hazards such as tsunami, and landslides :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Brgy. San Isidro</li> <li>2. Brgy. Aninuan</li> <li>3. Brgy. San Antonio</li> <li>4. Brgy. Sto. Nino</li> <li>5. Brgy. Poblacion</li> <li>6. Brgy. Sabang</li> <li>7. Brgy. Palangan</li> </ol> <p>The ERDB focused on four (4) Major Ecotourism Activities in the area for the CarCap study which includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Swimming</li> <li>2. Diving</li> <li>3. Beach Activity</li> <li>4. Snorkeling</li> </ol> <p>Concurrently, ERDB identified limiting factors per area of interest. These factors are for the computation of the Real Carrying Capacity (RCC) or the maximum permissible number of visits to a specific site:</p> <p>A. Swimming &amp; Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gale warning</li> <li>- Intense Sunlight</li> <li>- Heavy Downpour</li> <li>- Strong Sea Current</li> <li>- Water-sports activity (Kayaking)</li> </ul> <p>B. Snorkeling &amp; Diving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gale Warning</li> <li>- Reef Health</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Ms. Padua defined Physical Carrying Capacity as “the estimated number of structures that can be built in a particular area divided by the standard area requirement”.</p> <p>In presenting the CarCap results, Ms. Padua noted that the average number of visitors per year in Puerto Galera was at 205, 870 from the years 2011 to 2017. This was based on the environmental user’s fee coming from outside Mindoro.</p> <p>The following is the summary of the Tourism Carrying Capacity</p>
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	<p>Study within the seven (7) barangays selected based on the RCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Carrying Capacity per day - 21, 910</li> <li>• Computed Annual Carrying Capacity - 2,665,716</li> <li>• Tourist Arrivals in 2019 (Based from the environmental user's fee and includes only tourists from outside Mindoro) - 313,618</li> <li>• Difference in number of tourist arrivals - 2,352,098</li> </ul> <p>It was therefore concluded that the tourism Carrying Capacity has not yet exceeded Puerto Galera. For Residential, Accommodation and Commercial Establishments, Ms. Padua noted the following results based from the 2019 data of the Municipal Licensing Office:</p> <p>Residential Establishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The computed Real Carrying Capacity - 1,117 units</li> <li>• Number of Existing Residential Units - 4,693 units</li> </ul> <p>Accommodation Establishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The computed Real Carrying Capacity - 257 units</li> <li>• Number of Existing Accommodation Units - 294</li> </ul> <p>Commercial Establishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computed Real Carrying Capacity - 716 units</li> <li>• Number of Existing Commercial Establishments - 1,031 units</li> </ul> <p>It is therefore concluded that the Carrying Capacity of Residential, Accommodation and Commercial Establishments has been exceeded. The result of the population carrying capacity also showed an exceedance in the number of local populace (residents and workers). This has created an increasing demand for public services such as potable water, electricity, solid and liquid waste management, sewerage, transportation and may even create an ecological imbalance.</p> <p>ERDB has identified nine (9) recommendations for the Local Government of Puerto Galera and the Province of Oriental Mindoro:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and Promote other less popular tourism sites to diffuse the concentration of tourists over a greater area.</li> <li>2. Promotional Strategies for the low-earning months. This is a way to prevent congestion or overcrowding, especially in the beach and swimming areas;</li> <li>3. Continuous implementation of the Tourist Registration App to determine the accurate tourist data arrival and improve tourist arrival statistics;</li> <li>4. Systemize traffic scheme in each tourism site to prevent overcrowding of tourists and boats (as entry and exit</li> </ol>
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	<p>points are abundant in the municipality);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Strengthening of the IEC of the Municipal and Tourism Code, RA 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009 and its implementing Rules and Regulations to arriving tourists for them to be knowledgeable on their responsibilities as a tourist;</li> <li>6. Urban Development shall adopt sustainable development principles in urban planning and national building code;</li> <li>7. Further strengthen implementation of Easement Rules set by DENR;</li> <li>8. Strict implementation of proper residential and commercial zoning as stipulated in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan;</li> <li>9. Establish firewalls and fire hydrants in dense areas such as in Poblacion, Sabang, and San Isidro to prevent further untoward accidents.</li> </ol> <p>Mr. Dhon Calda, Provincial Tourism Officer of Oriental Mindoro, asked the next steps of the ERDB upon the completion of the CarCap study. Ms. Padua answered that the results were presented to the Local Government of Puerto Galera and the LGU plans to conduct a re-study which shall include all barangays in the municipality.</p> <p>Mr. Calda raised that the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) of Puerto Galera is currently under review from the Provincial Board Land Use Committee (PLUC) as some reclassifications need to be considered.</p> <p>Mr. Calda noted that the number of tourist arrivals may not be accurate as not all establishments are compliant in encoding guest arrivals. This affects the results of CarCap study.</p> <p>Ms. Padua agreed that the data of tourist arrivals were not accurate, and this is one of the challenges faced during the study. Ms. Yolanda Cabigao recommended the conduct of a re-study as local tourists were not included.</p> <p>Mr. Calda advised ERDB to include the Provincial Government during the conduct of such study, as the LGU can provide assistance and information.</p> <p>Ms. Cabigao asked if the ERDB regularly conducts a CarCap study and if the study has a specific duration. Ms. Padua answered that the LGU may request and ERDB can provide technical assistance. The CarCap does not have a specific duration.</p> <p>Mr. Allan Acosta of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) asked the LGU's existing procedure for monitoring tourist traffic. Mr. Calda answered that since the start of the pandemic, the municipality of Puerto Galera requires tourists to register through their online application prior to entry. The province however, faced challenges as some tourists would</p>
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	<p>declare themselves as government officials or Authorized Persons Outside Residence (APOR) to be exempted from the rules of entry.</p> <p>As of this date, the province's basis for tourist arrivals is through the TourLISTA web-based application developed by DOT MIMAROPA in partnership with DOST. However, not all tourist establishments in the region are providing encoding guest arrivals.</p> <p>Mr. Acosta suggested the development of a more systematized application for all provinces in MIMAROPA, and for use in all tourist arrival registration. Ms. Cabigao answered that the DOT considers the TourLISTA application as the basis in seeking accurate tourist arrival data. The use of the application was also rolled-out to tourism establishments in all provinces of MIMAROPA. Data driven from the application may be used in future CarCap studies. Director Malateo suggested arranging a meeting with DOST MIMAROPA for the expansion of the application.</p> <p>Director Malateo also informed that the LGUs are being creative through developing their own applications for tourist entry registration. Director Malateo emphasized the need to focus on the enhancement of the TourLISTA system, as the application is running and has already been rolled-out to all provinces in the region. She also suggested consulting the LGU's concerns and needs in relation to the app and include this as a pending matter of the MRTC Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Calda asked Ms. Padua if the ERDB was able to classify tourists in White beach in Sabang, as some foreigners in the area are considered residents. This may suggest the high result of the CarCap study. Ms. Padua assured that the tourists were carefully classified, as the implementation of the study was strict and took place during the pandemic. The ERDB also based their data from KIIS and secondary data from the LGU.</p> <p>Director Malateo clarified if the maximum 20,400 tourists Carrying Capacity in Puerto Galera derived from the study can serve as basis while the CLUP of the municipality is being reviewed. Ms. Padua noted that the number is indeed the basis as this is the prevailing date from the 2015-2020 CLUP and tourist arrivals. Director Malateo added that the determination of our tourism statistics is very crucial in sustaining our tourism destinations. DOT shall explore further the policies and orders being reviewed and to consider the study conducted by ERDB.</p>
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<p>Updates on the Forest Land use Agreement for Tourism (FLAgT) approved and pending applications and documentary requirements for FLAgT and Reclamation per DENR Administrative Order</p>	<p>Ms. Carmen Esteban from the Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division of DENR presented the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the Use of Forest Lands for Tourism Purposes. Ms. Esteban mentioned that the basis of DENR for tourism projects is the DENR Memorandum Order No. 2024-28.</p> <p>The following are the requirements for the approval of the FLAgT for Tourism Purposes per the DENR Memorandum Order No. 2011-02 s. of 2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism Development Plan (TDP) prepared by the LGU and duly approved by DOT;</li> <li>• All FLAgT applications received by the DENR regional offices prior to the issuance of this Memorandum shall be returned to their respective applicants within fifteen (15) days from the issuance of this order.</li> <li>• Applicants endorsed to the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) and the Office of the Secretary (OSEC) prior to the issuance of this Memorandum, shall be returned to the Regional Offices within 15 days from the issuance of this order.</li> <li>• The applicants shall also be required by the Regional Office to submit a Comprehensive Development and Management Plan (CDMP) prior to endorsement of their applications to the FMB and OSEC.</li> </ul> <p>All existing and newly approved FLAgT holders shall be required to submit a CDMP within six (6) months and a TDP within one (1) year from effectivity of this Memorandum Order. Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in automatic cancellation of the FLAgT.</p> <p>Ms. Esteban then briefly presented the FLAgT Process flow and documentary requirements emphasizing the importance of securing an NCIP clearance and a Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) clearance within Palawan.</p> <p>Ms. Esteban noted that the total number of the approved and existing FLAgT within the region is 31, with the Province of Palawan being the highest contributor. Ms. Esteban noted that some of the reasons why FLAgT requests are not approved are due to lacking requirements and responses.</p> <p>The DENR Memorandum 2018-20 covers the applications for reclamation over portions of foreshore and submerged areas that are found suitable and available for reclamation and issuance of special patents; and protected areas shall not be subjected to reclamation. She also defined Area Clearance as a document issued by the DENR Secretary declaring an area suitable for reclamation.</p> <p>Ms. Esteban listed the following qualified applicants for reclamation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA);</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cities, provinces, and other government units that are authorized under the law to undertake reclamation projects;</li> <li>• Other government entities or instrumentalities authorized by law to conduct reclamation activities.</li> </ul> <p>All reclamation requests will be reviewed by the Regional Composite Team which includes the Assistant Regional Director for technical services.</p> <p>The following are the requirements upon requesting for reclamation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project Description which includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sketch Plan</li> <li>- Indicative Site Development Plan</li> <li>- Description of the Reclamation Site</li> <li>- Valid Source of fill materials</li> <li>- Reclamation Methodology</li> <li>- Estimated cost of reclamation and land development including supporting data</li> <li>- Proposed funding/financing of the project</li> <li>- Proposed project timetable</li> <li>- Prevailing market value certified by the local assessor and the BIR zonal valuation</li> <li>- Other documents, data and information pertinent to the proposed reclamation</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Certification on the status of the area and the land classification of the adjacent land by CENRO / implementing PENRO</li> <li>3. Geotagged photos showing the panoramic view of the land and adjoining areas, including existing landmarks and identifying features</li> <li>4. Sanggunian Resolution authorizing the application for reclamation in case of LGU or Board of Directors' Resolution in case of Government corporation.</li> <li>5. Clearances from the PRA, PPA, DOT, BFAR, DOE, concerned LGU, DPWH, and others whenever necessary</li> <li>6. Geohazard Identification Report (GIR)</li> </ol> <p>Ms. Esteban stressed that no reclamation project shall be allowed unless an Area Clearance is secured from the DENR. Such clearance shall be effective for five (5) years, and reclamation projects must be implemented or must commence within the period. Otherwise, the permittee must secure an extension of the clearance subject to validation and necessary supporting documents. Any unauthorized reclamation and application for issuance of Proclamation and Special Patent over reclaimed lands in violation of national and/or local laws</p>
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	<p>and regulations shall not be processed and the land shall be forfeited in favor of the state and may be disposed of.</p> <p>Ms. Gladys Quesea from DOT MIMAROPA asked what is the usual time frame of the process from application to the approval of the FLAgT request. Ms. Esteban answered that the process takes a maximum of six (6) months however, is on a case-to-case basis.</p> <p>Ms. Quesea asked if the applicant is required to present the structure to be established within the reclamation area upon approval of the FLAgT. Ms. Esteban answered that this shall be included in the CDP, which the DENR carefully reviews and evaluates. Ms. Esteban added that the ERDB is part of the Review and Technical Committee.</p> <p>Director Malateo requested for LGU Taytay, Palawan to submit the list of pending FLAgT applications to DENR.</p> <p>Director Malateo also recommended tourism stakeholders and LGUs request for updates of pending concerns with regards to the FLAgT and reclamation status directly to DENR PENRO, copy furnish DOT MIMAROPA regional office.</p>
Expansion of the MIMAROPA Venture	<p>Ms. Nestle Alibayan of DOST presented the Expansion of the MIMAROPA Ventures. She introduced MIMAROPA Ventures as an e-commerce platform transformed to an all-in-one information hub where DOST MIMAROPA provided assistance highlighting the products and facilities of MSMEs as a tourism attraction and experience for intended customers.</p> <p>New features of the website includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular release of content about MSMEs in various formats;</li> <li>• Tourism-related section; and</li> <li>• Sections about training, webinars, and other educational materials offered by DOST MIMAROPA.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Alibayan added that the modified version of the website now includes a Tourism Page containing tourist spots, hotel suggestions, and sample itineraries, to add engagements from consumers. This shall also encourage consumers to visit the province's tourism attractions. As agreed, DOT shall provide tourism related information and materials such as : tourist attractions, hotel recommendations, and photos and videos for the enhancement of the tourism page.</p> <p>After the presentation of Ms. Alibayan, Mr. Calda shared the existing mobile application and website for the Province of Oriental Mindoro both for online booking and pasalubong shopping. He suggested DOT access the app and website to gather data needed from the province for the development of MIMAROPA Ventures.</p>

	<p>Director Malateo asked if it would be possible to link the MIMAROPA Ventures app with Tourism Promotions Board (TPB)'s Philippine Travel app, as both applications have similar conceptions. Mr. Acosta answered that this is indeed possible with the coordination with the developer of the Philippine Travel App.</p>
Halal Redi Tourism Project of DOST	<p>Ms. Patricia Galang from DOST presented the Halal Redi Tourism Project of DOST. The project is under the Halal Research Ecosystem for Development and Innovation (REDI) Program in support of the Philippine Tourism Industry.</p> <p>The following are the Halal REDI Project Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and Deployment of Training Modules on Halal Tourism.</li> <li>• Development and Deployment of Halal Assurance Systems (HAS) and Halal Certification of selected Tourism Establishments and Enterprises</li> <li>• Establishment of a Halal-certified research and training demonstration facility.</li> </ul> <p>In accordance to the success of the implementation of the projects, the DOST proposes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designation of a tourism officer as coordinator of the project;</li> <li>• Identification and recommendation of tourism establishments to be provided with assistance on Halal;</li> <li>• Preparation of a masterlist of Muslim-friendly establishments;</li> <li>• Development of promotional materials for joint/coordinated events.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Galang presented the activities initiated by DOST MIMAROPA in relation to Halal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Halal Webinar Series for MSMEs;</li> <li>• Halal Assurance System (HAS) Manual Writeshops;</li> <li>• Initial Halal Assessment</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Cabigao asked if there are Halal Certified establishments in the MIMAROPA region. Ms. Galang answered that the DOST only has information on Halal certified food manufacturers, however, it does not have data for establishments.</p> <p>Mr. Demetrio Alvior, City Tourism Officer of Puerto Princesa asked if DOST provides financial assistance for Halal projects such as slaughter house construction. Ms. Galang answered that DOST can only provide assistance through training.</p> <p>Ms. Cabigao asked if there is an available list of up-coming training centered on Halal from DOST. Ms. Galang answered that announcements on up-coming training are posted through the Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs). The</p>

	DOST is also willing to tie up with DOT for the conduct of Halal Tourism training.
Updates on the Peace Village project of DOT MIMAROPA	<p>Mr. Marc Ramiro Ortiz Luis, of DOT MIMAROPA, briefly discussed the updates of the Peace Village Development Project of the regional office. Mr. Ortiz Luis mentioned that the main goal of this initiative is to promote productivity and resiliency among communities regardless of how diverse their culture and norms are.</p> <p>The planning and development of peace villages will greatly help the tourism industry and other industries in promoting inclusive growth, peace and order, safety and security and will add to the promotion of diverse cultures of the Filipino communities in the region.</p> <p>Mr. Ortiz Luis also narrated the key objectives of the project which includes the strengthening of cultural identities through tourism developments, promotion of gender-sensitive community by GAD initiatives and women empowerment, safety and security initiatives among communities, preservation of cultural identities and local livelihood, enhancement of equitable distribution of income through the identification of potential or existing local products for development, and boosting of tourism attractions and activities through peace village (Cultural Tourism).</p> <p>Mr. Ortiz Luis also mentioned that the regional office has initiated a pre-assessment in the provinces of Occidental Mindoro (Mangyan Communities), Oriental Mindoro (Hanunuo Mangyan), and Palawan (Palaw'an Tribe) last August and September 2022. The tribes mentioned were upon the recommendations of the Provincial Government Offices.</p> <p>The regional office also conducted a tourism rapid assessment and Gap/Needs Analysis in the communities of Brooke's Point in Palawan, San Jose and Magsaysay in Occidental Mindoro, and Bulalacao and Mansalay in Oriental Mindoro.</p> <p>The office also invited Regional Line Agencies (RLAs) on a site validation for identification of interventions based on respective mandates and projects last December 09 - 11, 2022 in the provinces of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro.</p> <p>The following are the General Assessment and Findings from the site validations conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of the communities identified are located within the proximity of a tourism attraction. Most of these attractions are nature-based tourism sites such as waterfalls, rivers, and mountainous surroundings;</li> <li>• There are communities which can only be reached through trekking and crossing of streams, some of which would take a 15 to 20-min trek;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the communities were already assisted by other National Government Agencies such as the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Agriculture (DA);</li> <li>• Infrastructure development is one of the major projects that communities look forward to the government. Some of these infrastructures are road network from the main road leading to their respective barangay;</li> <li>• Availability of basic services such as sources of water and power, hospitals, and schools were also some of the major concerns of several communities. These concerns were raised by communities who walk 2-3 hours just to reach schools and hospitals; and</li> <li>• Proper waste management is a concern to the communities particularly on consistent waste collection and disposal.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Maribel Buni, Provincial Tourism Officer of Palawan, and one of the participants during the Peace Village assessment with RLAs in Mindoro, informed the members of a concern raised in Buyayao island in Bulalacao wherein the boat association is having difficulties in securing a permit from MARINA, as they are required to have a boat made of fiberglass, which is financially challenging for the association. Ms. Buni added that this needs to be addressed, as the boat will continue operating without a permit.</p> <p>Mr. Calda answered that the Oriental Mindoro LGU had already requested MARINA for an exemption with regard to the concern raised by Ms. Buni. He added that both residents and tourists are using the boats as a means of transportation to and from Buyayao Island.</p> <p>Director Malateo asked Mr. Ortiz-Luis about the next steps after the Peace Village assessment and the provision of a copy of observations from the RLAs. Mr. Ortiz-Luis answered that the DOT shall provide further recommendations. All programs identified by the RLAs are also based on the LGU level. DOT shall also endorse these for the approval of the director concerned. Director Malateo added that the DOT shall come up with plans and programs which will be supported by various RLAs for the development of the community engagement areas in Mindoro Island.</p> <p>Mr. Calda asked if the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) was invited to attend the assessment as one of the major problems in the development of tourism areas is acceptability and prior consent from the Mangyan community</p>
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	<p>involved. He stressed that one of the challenges faced by the tourism office for most of their projects includes the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) requirement and approval from the concerned community. Mr. Ortiz-Luis answered that the NCIP was not able to provide a representative during the assessment.</p> <p>Director Malateo encouraged the tourism offices to present the respective Programs, Activities, and Projects (PAPs) such that inputs from RLAs would be set in place. Upon implementation, this will then reduce the risks in future projects. The director suggested inviting the NCIP at the next MRTC meeting to present and guide the members on the process of developing tourism areas occupied by Indigenous Peoples (IPs).</p> <p>In relation to Peace Village Developments, Mr. Ortiz-Luis added that DOT will be implementing capacity developments in Brooke's Point, Palawan in 2023.</p>
<b>Next Steps/Remarks</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DOT MIMAROPA to partner with DOST MIMAROPA with regards to the expansion and enhancement of the TourLISTA system on the coverage and monitoring of entry in tourist attractions.</li> <li>2. DOT MIMAROPA to provide tourism-related information for posting on the MIMAROPA Ventures website.</li> <li>3. Request NCIP to present the process in tourism-related programs and activities in areas on ancestral domains in the next MRTC meeting</li> <li>4. DENR to submit the status of tourism sites to be followed up under FLAgT application status.</li> <li>5. Creation of an organized group of MIMAROPA Tourism Officers</li> </ol>	

Prepared by: MRTC Secretariat