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LIVING LAKES BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE PROJECT

The Wetlands BioBlitz: Training of Trainers (ToT) Training Design (Short Version)

Organizer: Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc.

Partners: Department of Environment – Region 3; University of the Philippines, Los Baños; Biodiversity Management Bureau; Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau; Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau-Watershed and Water Resources Research, Development, and Extension Center (ERDB-WWRRDEC); Local Government of Candaba, Pampanga; BLGU of Paligui; Macagatal Irrigators Association

Date: 20 – 23 March 2023

Venue: Bendix Hotel, San Fernando, Pampanga and Paligui Wetlands, Candaba, Pampanga

Background and Rationale:

The Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands is one of the 12 organizations across 10 countries that will implement national level initiatives under the umbrella project “Living Lakes, Biodiversity and Climate Project”. This 5-year project is funded by the Germany’s Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection under the International Climate Initiative (IKI) with the Global Nature Fund, an NGO based in Germany as the Lead Organization.

The main objective of the project is to ensure that the conservation and restoration of wetlands and the protection of related biodiversity are improved in the long term. The project will work on 10 critical landscapes developing nature-based solutions and fostering training and capacity building alongside local partners. In the Philippines, Frontrunner Initiatives (FI) will be conducted into two project sites: Paligui Wetlands in Candaba, Pampanga and Pangil River Eco-Park in the Laguna de Bay Region, there will be capacity-building activities as well.

One of the capacity-building activities that will be conducted for this year is the “Wetlands BioBlitz”. The Wetland BioBlitz is a 3-day activity initially implemented with the pilot rivers in Laguna de Bay Region. This activity is usually spearheaded by the Youth participants with the guidance of scientists and other experts. The context of the Wetland BioBlitz is to gather various stakeholders and sectors in the community, to work together in an informal and fun way to create a profile of the variety of living and non-living attributes of the ecosystem in a wetland area. It provides an opportunity for participants to learn together and share their expertise and enthusiasm for nature, particularly wetlands. This is a great and fun way of breaking down barriers to engagement with science and raising awareness on the role of biological and

physico-chemical recording in wetland ecosystems. It also gives the local community an opportunity to contribute to a genuine scientific survey.

This Training of Trainers (ToT) for Wetlands BioBlitz will hopefully ensure that a pool of trainers is equipped and available to replicate this proven citizen science activity to gather baseline data in various wetlands in the country, initiate monitoring activities, and plan for conservation and restoration projects.

Expected Participants

The expected participants for this ToT for Wetlands BioBlitz are 25 individuals from the following:

- Wetland Site Managers
- Academic Institutions
- DENR – CDD involved in wetland management and conservation
- LGU/CENRO or department concerned with wetland conservation
- NGOs or POs involved in wetland conservation

Tentative Schedule and Venue

- March 20, 2023 (arrival at Bendix Hotel at Clark, Pampanga)
- March 21-23 Training Proper (Bendix Hotel, San Fernando, Pampanga; Paligui Wetlands)
- March 23, 2023 (Ground Breaking Ceremony for Wetland Centre at Paligui, Candaba, Pampanga; Closing Ceremonies of Wetlands BioBlitz ToT)

Provisional Program

Day 0 – Monday, March 20, 2023 Arrival

Time	Activity
2:00 PM	Arrival at Clark, Pampanga of ToT participants Check-in
6:00 PM	Dinner/Socials

Day 1 – Tuesday, March 21, 2023 Opening and Learning Session

Time	Activity
Morning Session	
8:00 – 8:30	Registration

8:30 – 9:00	Opening Program Prayer Philippine National Anthem Welcoming Remarks Introduction of Participants
9:00 – 09:30	Presentation: The Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project
09:30 – 12:00	Learning Session
	- Wetlands 101
	- Ecological Profile of Paligui Wetlands
	- Introduction to Wetlands BioBlitz (What is Citizen Science?)
	- Group Interaction: Sharing among Participants and Resource Persons
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch Break
Afternoon Session	
1:00 – 4:00	Workshop: Methods and Tools - Flora (including trees and aquatic flora) - Fauna (Avifauna, Macrofauna, Invertebrates and Entomology, Aquatic fauna) - Hydrology - Water Quality - Wetland Information Sheet and RAWES
4:00 – 5:00	Group Briefing for the Field Work
	End of Day 1 Session
6:00	Dinner

Day 2 – Wednesday, March 22, 2023 Field Work, Data Processing and Action Planning

Time	Activity
5:30	Breakfast
6:00	Travel from Clark to Paligui Wetlands
Morning Activity	
7:00 – 10:00	Field Work
10:00 – 10:30	Travel to Candaba Municipal Hall Morning Snacks
10:30 – 12:00	Data processing

12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
Afternoon Session	
1:00 – 3:00	Data Processing, Consolidation and Action Planning
3:00 – 3:15	PM Break/Snacks
3:15 – 4:30	Presentation of Outputs/Course Evaluation
4:30	Travel back to Hotel End of Day 2
7:00	Dinner

Day 3 – Thursday, March 23, 2023 Ground Breaking and Closing Ceremonies

Time	Activity
6:00 AM	Breakfast
6:30 – 8:00	Travel to Paligui Wetlands
8:30 – 9:30	Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Paligui Wetland Center at Paligui Wetlands (See separate program)
11:00 – 12:00	Closing Program for the Wetlands BioBlitz Training of Trainers
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch /Homeward Bound
	End of Day 3