

10 March 2023

**Ms. Lormelyn E. Claudio, CESO IV**  
Regional Executive Director  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources – MIMAROPA

Dear Director Claudio:

Greetings from the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc.!

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. Aside from Frontrunner Initiatives in the two project sites (Paligui Wetlands in Candaba, Pampanga and Pangil River Eco-Park in the Laguna de Bay Region) , there will be a series of capacity-building activities as well.

One of the capacity building activities that will be conducted for this year is the **“Wetland BioBlitz Training of Trainers (ToT).”** The Wetlands BioBlitz is a 3-day activity which was initially pilot-tested in Laguna de Bay spearheaded by the Youth participants with the guidance of scientists and other experts, to characterize and assess wetlands employing citizen-science and at the same time, increasing the awareness and capacity of local communities to take action for their conservation and wise use. The SCPW adopted the BioBlitz concept for wetlands and added dimensions for characterizing wetlands including geographical, climate-related and ecosystem services as indicated in the Ramsar Information Sheet or the locally adopted Wetland Information Sheet and called it the “Wetland BioBlitz.” It also uses the Ramsar Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services or RAWES. 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.

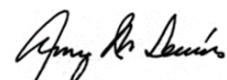
In this regard, we would like to invite a representative from your esteemed office to participate in the said training on **20-23 March, 2023** at Bendix Hotel, San Fernando Pampanga. The SCPW will shoulder transportation, accommodation and meals during the training.

Attached to this letter is the Training Design with the Provisional Program for your perusal. This Training of Trainers (ToT) for Wetlands BioBlitz also aims to 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.

We hope that this invitation merits your kind acceptance. We will appreciate if confirmation can be made by Wednesday, 15 March 2023. Should you have concerns and clarifications, you may email us at [post@wetlands.ph](mailto:post@wetlands.ph) copy to [darryestorba@wetlands.ph](mailto:darryestorba@wetlands.ph) or contact Darry Estorba at (0951) 398-6179.

Thank you and we look forward to having a participant to this ToT from your office.

Very truly yours,



**AMY M. LECCIONES**  
Vice-President and Executive Director