



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
MIMAROPA Region
Bgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
E-mail: penropalawan@denr.gov.ph
Telfax No. (048) 433-5638 / (048) 433-5638

May 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA
1515 DENR By the Bay Bldg., Roxas Boulevard,
Barangay 668, Ermita Manila

THRU : The OIC, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services

FROM : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer


SUBJECT : **ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT
REPORT FOR THE SUNKEN INCIDENT OF M/Y DREAM
KEEPER WITHIN THE TUBBATAHA REEFS NATURAL PARK
(TRNP)**

This pertains to the sunken incident involving M/Y Dream Keeper on April 30, 2023 within the vicinities of the marine waters of Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP).

Please be informed that this office has already instructed the Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) to conduct an Environment and Biodiversity Assessment for the environmental damages relative to the said incident through memorandum dated May 3, 2023.

Further, the TMO responded through letter on the same date, informing this office that the Coast Guard District Palawan is still conducting search and rescue operations in the vicinity of the park and accordingly, the M/Y Dream Keeper sank more than 3 nautical miles east of the North Atoll in waters with depth of at least 1000 meters, hence it is not possible to conduct biodiversity assessment in the area.

For information and further instruction.


FELIZARDO B. CAYATOC

Cc: PENRO CDS



R4B PENRO Palawan <penropalawan@denr.gov.ph>

ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park <tubbataha88@gmail.com>
To: R4B PENRO Palawan <penropalawan@denr.gov.ph>

Wed, May 3, 2023 at 4:08 PM

Dear PENRO Cayatoc,

PASu Angelique is currently in Tubbataha for the annual fish and benthos monitoring. Please allow me to respond to your letter on her behalf. Kindly see attached files.

Maraming salamat po!

Sincerely,

Retch Alaba



TUBBATAHA MANAGEMENT OFFICE
Manalo Ext. Brgy. Milagrosa,
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan 5300
Telephone: (048) 716-1631
Mobile: 0998-552-1174 / 0917-553-0909
Email: tmo@tubbatahareefs.org
Website: tubbatahareefs.org
Facebook: @OfficialTubbataha
Instagram: @tubbatahareefs

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3 attachments



MY Dream Keeper.jpg
302K

Letter to PENRO.pdf
109K

Incident Report, MY Dream Keeper.docx
20K

Letter from PENRO



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
MIMAROPA Region
Bgy. Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
E-mail: penropalawan@denr.gov.ph
Telfax No. (048) 433-5638/ (048) 434-8791

May 3, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO : The PASu
Tubbataha Reef Natural Park (TRNP)
Manalo Ext. Brgy. Milagrosa,
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

FROM : The Provincial Environment and
Natural Resources Officer

SUBJECT : **ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT
REPORT**

This has reference to the instruction of the DENR-MIMAROPA Regional Office to submit an environment and biodiversity assessment report to include environmental damages relative to the recent incident relative to the sunken M/Y Dream Keeper within the vicinity of the marine waters of Tubbataha Reef Natural Park (TRNP), Palawan.

In view hereof, you are hereby instructed to submit the required report in addition to your incident report to the undersigned. Submit the follow-up report to this office today, May 3, 2023, for us to forward the same to the Regional Office. Likewise, include pictures and a map of the area.

For information and immediate compliance.


FELIZARDO B. CAYATOC



Tubbataha Management Office Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park & World Heritage Site



03 May 2023



FELIZARDO B. CAYATOC
PENRO, DENR-Palawan
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

Dear PENRO Cayatoc,



We write in response to your letter dated 03 May 2023 requesting for an environment and biodiversity assessment report in relation to the incident involving M/Y Dream Keeper on 30 April 2023. We attach here the incident report sent by PASu Angelique Songco to the members of the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board on 1 May.



Coast Guard District Palawan is still conducting search and rescue operations in the vicinity of the park. M/Y Dream Keeper sank more than 3 nautical miles east of the North Atoll in waters with depths of at least 1000 meters. Therefore, it will not be possible to conduct a biodiversity assessment in the area. We attach here the map of the location of M/Y Dream Keeper when it sank, for your reference.



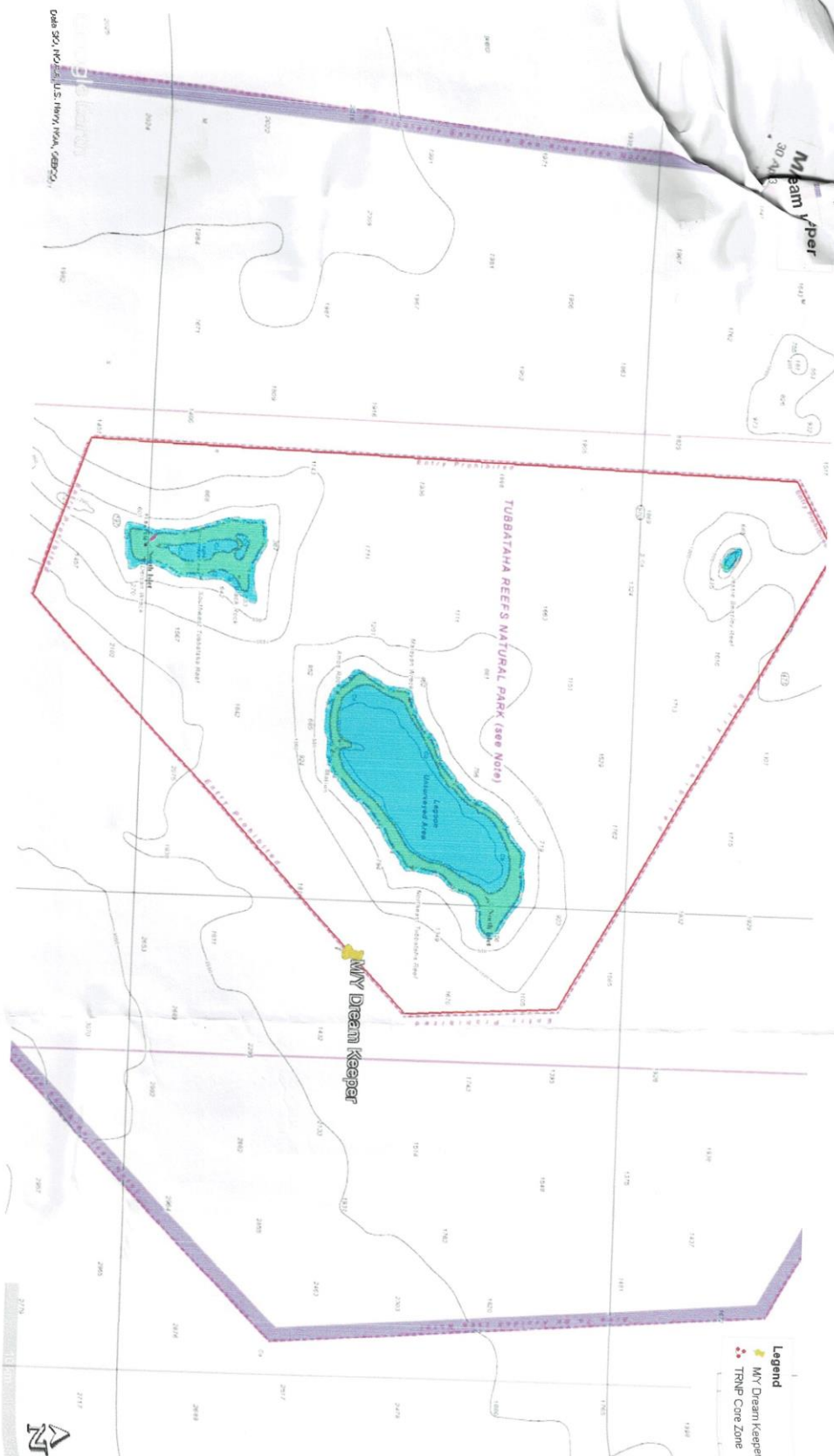
Rest assured that we will keep your office abreast with the updates regarding the incident. Thank you for your understanding.

Very sincerely yours,

MARIA RETCHIE P. ALABA
Assistant PASu

Manalo Extension, Bgy. Milagrosa, Puerto Princesa City, 5300 Palawan

Telefax: (048) 716-1631 / +639985521174/+639175530909 Email: tmo@tubbatahareefs.org



INCIDENT REPORT

M/Y DREAM KEEPER

On or about 3:20 a.m. on 30 APR 23, PO2 Pamilaran PN received a call from M/Y Discovery Palawan through marine band radio informing the station that M/Y Dream Keeper was in distress at the vicinity of the waters off Tubbataha or at coordinates Lat 08° 51.36 N Long 120° 01.58 E. Accordingly, M/Y Discovery Palawan, which was 4nm away from M/Y Dream Keeper, proceeded to the location of M/Y Dream Keeper at 3:30 a.m. M/Y Discovery Palawan was in the area at 4:15, (08°52.731" N, 120°014.451" E) found out that M/Y Dream Keeper had already sunk, and immediately started search and rescue operations. They found the passengers all wearing life vests and one rubber boat of the M/Y Dream Keeper with some of the survivors. They allegedly successfully rescued (15) fifteen crew members, eleven (11) guests, and two (2) divemasters, namely:

1. Boat Captain Eron James R De Villa, 39 years old
2. Chief Mate Officer Rhennor A Santos, 48 years old
3. 2ND Chief Mate Officer Ernie R Rovira, 37 years old
4. Chief Engineer Abel A Dela Torre, 43 years old
5. 2ND Chief Engineer Fabian C Guiritan, 56 years old
6. Able Seaman James Ray Besana, 39 years old
7. Able Seaman Bong Bong R Catillo, 43 years old
8. Able Seaman Erecmel E Magbanua, 30 years old
9. Oiler Regie B Antonio, 35 years old
10. Coms. Man Ponciano M Atienza, 55 years old
11. Chef Jimmy F Ballesteros, 27 years old
12. Assistant Cook Warren T Fabito, 39 years old
13. Steward Ma Cecilia F Lugatiman, 30 years old
14. Steward Mary Ann S Muña, 33 years old
15. Steward James Labasano, 23 years old
16. Passengers Ying Zhu, 24 years old
17. Xianhe Lin, 40 years old
18. Bo Gao, 33 years old
19. Keisha April Cunanan, 28 years old
20. Syvert Lloyd Tan, 34 years old
21. Patrick Rene Varon, 50 years old
22. Philip John Talo, 34 years old
23. Ivonne Herrero, 41 years old
24. Danilo Jamiito Jr., 34 years old
25. Judelyn Picardal, 50 years old
26. Ricky Juezan, 30 years old
27. Divemaster Chrisper Maranan, 30 years old
28. Divemaster Zhaoxi Li, 40 years old

By 4:50 a.m., all 28 people were rescued but the search for four (4) other passengers continued.

1. Boat Owner Denke 'Jackie' Yang, 36 years old
2. Passenger Nino Anthony Labrador, 36 years old
3. Passenger Marianne Paz Labrador, 36 years old
4. Dive Master Timmy Jean Bejoc, 32 years old

At 6:46 a.m., the team of Tubbataha marine park rangers composed of PCG, TMO, and LGU personnel proceeded to the incident area north of the North Atoll onboard the patrol boat to conduct search and rescue operations (SAR). Aside from Discovery Palawan, where the survivors were boarded, the other dive boats in the area assisted in SARS operations. These are namely:

Almaroon Intrepid, Solitude-I, Palau Sports, M/Y Monsy, Stella Mariz, Philippine Siren, Resolute, Atlantis Azores, Zamerdius, and Navorca.

Debris was found in the general area of the incident, e.g., freezer, pieces of furniture, life raft, fins, etc., but the four missing individuals were not found.

At 2:00 p.m., 30 April 2023, BRP Melchora Aquino (MRRV-9702) arrived at Tubbataha at coordinates 08° 51.35'N 120° 01.59'E. By 3:30 p.m., MRRV-9702 coordinated the transfer of the 28 survivors from Discovery Palawan to their vessel. With the survivors on board, MRRV-9702 continued to conduct SAR operations. At 6:00 a.m., 1 May 2023, MRRV-9702 conducted SAR at South Atoll and sailed back to Puerto Princesa with the survivors at 7:30 a.m. and is expected to arrive Puerto Princesa at 5 p.m. today.

PN and PCG marine park rangers continuously sent dispatches to their mother units providing updates and seeking instructions. TMO coordinated with the boat manager of M/Y Dream Keeper regarding further SAR operations. A request was sent to the Western Command for airborne SAR operations. At around 6:00 p.m., a US-P8 aircraft conducted airborne SAR for more than 3 hours.

A US aircraft, P8-436, was sighted at around 8:00 a.m., 1 May 2023 conducting SAR around Tubbataha.