



ADVANCE COPY

26 October 2023

Dear Undersecretary Leones,

Subject: HACT Assurance Activities for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)–Integrated Approach in Management of Biodiversity Corridor in the Philippines (BD Corridor Project) and Implementing the National Framework on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge in the Philippines (ABS Project)–Programme Output Verification

As part of the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), we will be conducting a programme output verification assurance activity for the BD Corridor and ABS Projects. For this year, the UNDP Country Office Team will be joined by our Regional Technical Adviser, Ms. Solene de Loze, from our Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP). The objectives of this activity are to:

- Monitor progress of project implementation compared to Annual Work Plan, funds disbursed, and quarterly progress reports
- Identify operational, financial and programmatic challenges constraints in implementation; and
- Establish remedial plan of action in collaboration with the Partner to resolve the challenges and constraints. This is taking into consideration that the two Projects are scheduled to undergo their Mid-Term Evaluation in 2024.

Relative to this, we would kindly request for your permission to visit your office, and meet with you and relevant division/s, including the concerned DENR Regional Offices, Bureaus, Policy and Planning Service (PPS), Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Services (FASPS), and BD Corridor and ABS Project Teams. Kindly note that we have also included discussions on the Endangered, Threatened and Protected Marine Wildlife (ETP MW) Project to kick-start implementation of this new Project.

We have attached here the itinerary for this year's programme output verification exercise.

Attorney Jonas Leones

Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

cc: Mr. Marcial Amaro, Jr., Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
Ms. Armida Andres, Assistant Director, BMB
Mr. Al Orolfo, Director, DENR Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service
Mr. Arleigh Adorable, Director, DENR Forest Management Bureau
Dr. Gina Nilo, Director, DA Bureau of Soils and Water Management
Dr. Jean Caleda, Project Manager, BD Corridor Project
Ms. Nancy Corpuz, Chief, Biodiversity Policy and Knowledge Management Division, BMB
For. Felix Mirasol, Jr., Regional Executive Director, DENR IV-B

Mr. Nonito Tamayo, Regional Executive Director, DENR 13
Mr. Anson Tagtag, Division Chief, Wildlife Resources Division, BMB
Mr. Anthony Foronda, Project Manager, ABS Project

Should you have any questions or clarifications, you may contact Ms. Maria Theresa Espino-Yap, Programme Analyst of the Climate Action Programme Team, at maria.theresa.espino-yap@undp.org.

Thank you and we look forward to your usual cooperation and support on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Selva Ramachandran
Resident Representative