

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
MIMAROPA Region

THRU : The ARD for Technical Services

FROM : The In-charge, Office of the PENR Officer
Oriental Mindoro

SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON DEAD GREEN SEA TURTLE**
(*Chelonia mydas*) IN BARANGAY LAZARETO, CALAPAN CITY,
ORIENTAL MINDORO

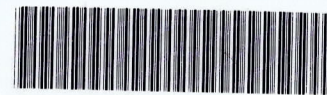
Submitted is the report of CENRO Socorro regarding dead Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in Barangay Lazareto, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

Based on the report, the turtle was found floating in municipal waters of Barangay Lazareto, Calapan City. According to the bantay dagat, the marine turtle was dead long time because the carcass was already emitting a foul smell. In addition, marine turtle died naturally as there are no traces of predation or disease. However, it is possible that marine turtle have complications from eating plastics and/ or other internal problems. No reported real cause of death of the said species because of the absence of the necropsy report.

Attached is the report with photo-documentation

For information and record.


TSD CHIEF ALMA E. GIBE



DENRPENRO2208000011

PENRO Tracking No.: 2208000106
TSD-CDS:mlt



July 26, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
THRU : The In-Charge, PENRO Oriental Mindoro
FROM : The CENR Officer
SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON DEAD GREEN SEA TURTLE (*Chelonia mydas*) IN BARANGAY LAZARETO, CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO**

DENR-MIMAROPA REGION	
PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE	
ORIENTAL MINDORO	
PENRO TRACKING NO.	
RECEIVED BY:	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE:	AUG 03 2022
TIME:	

Respectfully submitting the report on dead Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in Barangay Lazareto, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. The validation and interview were conducted on July 22, 2022 in response to the news reported on Facebook.

Based on the interview, one (1) dead Green sea turtle was found floating on June 07, 2022 around 10:00 AM in the municipal waters of Barangay Lazareto, Calapan City. The dead marine turtle was retrieved by *Bantay Dagat* namely, Marion Cepillo, Rodmar Evora and Roberto Evora together with the Blue Alliance Enforcers during their monitoring and patrolling activities. The length of the carapace measures about 102 cm. The turtle is considered to be in the adult stage.

A necropsy was not done because the carcass was already emitting a foul smell, indicative that the marine turtle has been dead for a long time. The corpse was buried immediately by *Bantay Dagat* to avoid possible health risk to responding authorities and nearby communities.

The *Bantay Dagat* presumed that the marine turtle died naturally as there are no traces of predation or disease. However, they noticed the damaged left hind flipper of the marine turtle. Despite the claim, it is possible that the marine turtle have complications from eating plastics and/ or other internal health problems. The real cause of death cannot be pinpointed because of the absence of necropsy report.

The possible issues/ concerns regarding marine turtles were identified during the interview. As per the *Bantay Dagat*, there were no incident of killing and poaching of marine turtles in their barangay. However, there are counts of illegal fishing activities such as the use of net (*Pukot/ Bayakos*) and spearfishing in the no-take Marine Protected Area (MPA) that risk the survival of marine creatures. In response to the said threats, the FMO has partnered with Maritime Police Station and deployed several *Bantay Dagat* to effectively manage the MPAs in Calapan City.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
Community Environment and Natural Resources Office

The CENRO Socorro personnel shared the importance of coordination with Barangay LGU and DENR as they have the jurisdiction regarding the matter. Moreover, they can assist and/ or collaborate with the activities of Fisheries Management Office (FMO).

Attached are the geo-tagged photos of the report.

For information and record.


RODEL M. BOYLES



July 26, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The CENR Officer

THRU : The DMO IV

The Forester III/ Chief, CDS

FROM : The Forester I/ Coastal and Wildlife Focal/ Planning Officer

SUBJECT : **REPORT ON DEAD GREEN SEA TURTLE (*Chelonia mydas*) IN BARANGAY LAZARETO, CALAPAN CITY, ORIENTAL MINDORO**

Respectfully submitting the report on dead Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) in Barangay Lazareto, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. The validation and interview were conducted on July 22, 2022 in response to the news reported on Facebook. The activity is part of *Protection and Conservation of Wildlife: Conservation of Threatened Species* under *Wildlife Resources Conservation Sub-Program* for CY 2022.

One (1) dead Green sea turtle was found floating in the municipal waters of Barangay Lazareto, Calapan City. The species was retrieved by *Bantay Dagat* personnel and Blue Alliance Enforcers during their regular patrolling. The length of the carapace measures about 102 cm. The turtle is considered to be in the adult stage.

The news originally came from Mr. Clark Ross T. Bautista of Fisheries Management Office (FMO) on June 07, 2022 through his Facebook account, Ligalig Mountaineers. The incident was later featured in the Facebook page of Youth for Mindoro on June 09, 2022 and Tamaraw Vision Network, Inc. Newsline Channel 10 on June 11, 2022. The report received dismal reaction from hundreds of netizens.

The undersigned, together with Forest Technical II Charity A. Linatoc and Forest Technical I Joey Albert L. San Diego, first conducted courtesy call and coordinated with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Barangay Lazareto during the activity. The key informants interviewed include Barangay Councilors Erlinda Jasa and Maricris A. Cebu.

According to them, no reports were relayed to the barangay regarding the matter. Nevertheless, the Barangay LGU shall be informed on the events occurred within their area of jurisdiction.

The team also conversed with Ms. Marilou De Leon, the President of people's organization (PO) named, *Kabuhayan at Kalikasan para sa Mamamayan ng Barangay Lazareto* (KAKAMBAL) and chairperson of Harka Piloto Fish Sanctuary. According to Ms. De Leon, no information were also given to the people's organization (PO).



With the absence of information, the team were directed to the *Bantay Dagat* Office. From there, the team interviewed *Bantay Dagat* Renato B. Dolores regarding the incident.

According to Mr. Dolores, the dead animal was found by several *Bantay Dagat* namely, Marion Cepillo, Rodmar Evora and Roberto Evora during their monitoring and patrolling activities on June 07, 2022 around 10 AM. The team retrieved the deceased body and buried it immediately.

The Evoras later joined the discussion and confirmed the incident report. According to them, a necropsy was not done to the dead body. The carcass was already emitting a foul smell, indicative that the marine turtle has been dead for a long time. Further, it was in the stage of decomposition. The corpse was buried immediately to avoid possible health risk to responding authorities and nearby communities.

When the key informants were asked for the cause of death, they said the incident might be a natural death as there were no trace of possible predation or disease. However, they noticed the damaged left hind flipper of the marine turtle.

Despite the claim, the team raised the possibility of complications from eating plastics and/ or other internal health problems. The real cause of death cannot be pinpointed because of the absence of necropsy report.

The possible issues/ concerns regarding marine turtles were identified during the interview. As per the *Bantay Dagat*, there were no incident of killing and poaching of marine turtles in the Barangay. However, there are counts of illegal fishing activities such as the use of net (*Pukot/ Bayakos*) and spearfishing in the no-take Marine Protected Area (MPA) that risk the survival of marine creatures. In response to the said threats, the FMO has partnered with Maritime Police Station and deployed several *Bantay Dagat* to effectively manage the MPAs in Calapan City.

Mr. Dolores added that the Barangay has no concern, as exemplified by the proliferation of solid waste to the coastal area. Likewise, there were no *Barangay Tanod* assisting. This is the reason why the *Bantay Dagat* only reported the incident to their office – FMO.

The team shared the importance of proper coordination with the Barangay LGU. They shall be informed verbally and/ or through written report. Likewise, they still have the jurisdiction on the place. More so, they can augment to the necessary man-power of the FMO such as in the enforcement operation. The team also reminded the *Bantay Dagat* to inform the DENR in future marine turtle occurrences.



The news report and photos can be accessed in the following links:

- a. Ligalig Mountaineers. (2022, June 07). Sad wednesday morning. Retrieved from [https://www.facebook.com/ligaligmountaineer/posts/pfbid0zRM2mpDCrQBKkGXij6XBfP62pPL5T7gJK7eVWsvvtFk32bs5WhBF1NBvNL9heV4xl](https://www.facebook.com/ligaligmountaineer/posts/pfbid0zRM2mpDCrQBKkGXij6XBfP62pPL5T7gJK7eVWsvvtFk32bs5WhBF1NBvNL9heV4xl;);
- b. Tamaraw Vision Network, Inc. Newsline Channel 10. (2022, June 11). Isang patay na green sea turtle ang natagpuang palutang lutang sa karagatan ng lungsod ng Calapan. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/NewslineChannel10/videos/958531698159105/>; and
- c. Youth for Mindoro. (2022, June 09). Pawikan, natagpuang patay sa dagat sa Calapan City. Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/youth4mindoro/posts/pfbid02coir6Ai6fiQeETVatnyDpaCvgBHk4i168UTwS72AnGEAJ3eu76aPUQeofXWqCzSql>.

Attached are the geo-tagged photos of the report.

For information and record.


MACKALEY P. MARTINEZ

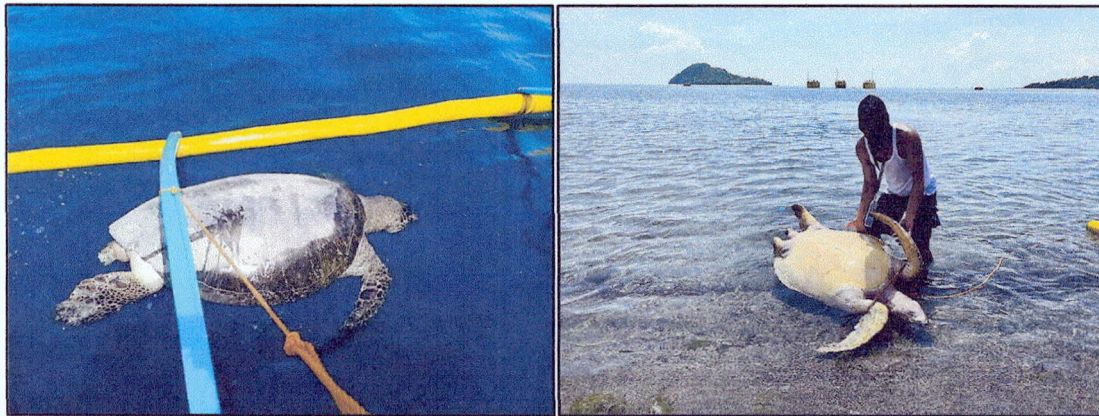


Figure 1. Retrieval of dead Green sea turtle (Photo courtesy of Mr. Bautista).



Figure 2. Disposal of dead Green sea turtle (Photo courtesy of Mr. Bautista).



Figure 3. Coordination and interview with the officials of Barangay Lazareto and President of KAKAMBAL.



Figure 4. Coordination and interview with the *Bantay Dagat*.



Figure 5. Burial site of dead marine turtle.