



December 9, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR : The Regional Executive Director**  
**DENR MIMAROPA Region**

**THRU : The Assistant Regional Director**  
**for Technical Services**

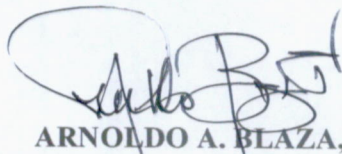
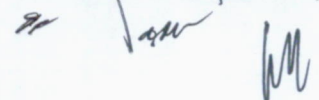
**FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer**  
**Odiongan, Romblon**

**SUBJECT : TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LGUs ON COASTAL AND**  
**MARINE RELATED CONCERNS FOR THE FOURTH**  
**QUARTER, C.Y. 2022**

Respectfully submitting is the report on Technical Assistance to LGUs on coastal and marine related concerns for the Fourth Quarter, C.Y. 2022 under WFP 2022 - Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Rehabilitation Sub-Program.

Through this Office, we provided technical assistance to the Municipal LGUs of Banton and Ferrol, Romblon in Mainstreaming ICM to their respective CLUPs, resolving some Environmental and Fishery related issues especially on their established and proposed MPAs, conducting Beach Forest Tree Planting and Coastal Clean-up, and removing Crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS).

For information and record.

  
**ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.**  




## **REPORT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LGUs ON COASTAL AND MARINE RELATED CONCERNS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER, C.Y. 2022**

The report pertains to the implementation of Work and Financial Plan 2022 on Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Rehabilitation Sub-Program under Technical Assistance Component – TA to LGUs on coastal and marine related concerns.

For this quarter, we provided technical assistance on Mainstreaming of ICM to CLUP of Banton, assisted in resolving some environmental and fishery related issues that confront their established Mainit Fish Sanctuary located in Barangay Mainit and the proposed Sibay Marine Sanctuary located in Barangay Sibay, and conducted Coastal Clean-up with Beach Forest Tree Planting in the Municipality of Banton, Romblon on November 22-23, 2022.

Also, the same activities were conducted in the Municipality of Ferrol, Romblon like Mainstreaming of ICM to CLUP, assisted in resolving some environmental and fishery related issues at Bunsoran MPA, conducted coastal clean-up and removed Crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) on December 6-9, 2022.

### **DESCRIPTION AND RATIONALE**

All Coastal and Marine Areas of the Philippines covering all, but not limited to the NIPAS Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Locally-Managed Marine Protected Areas (LMMPAs), Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBAs) and adjacent municipal waters are covered under the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program or CMEMP with duration from 2017-2028.

CMEMP is a national program which aims to comprehensively manage, address and effectively reduce the drivers and threats of degradation of the coastal and marine ecosystems in order to achieve and promote sustainability of ecosystem services, food security and climate change resiliency for the benefit of the present and future generations.

The protection and management anchored on the following approaches: (a) Integrated Coastal Management; (b) Partnership Building; (c) Ecotourism/Sustainable Tourism; (d) Protection, Management, and Law Enforcement; (e) Communication, Education, and Public Awareness; and (f) Valuation of Ecosystems Services.

In addition, the Technical Component of CMEMP covers the sharing or transfer of technical capacity of the DENR personnel to the Local Government Units (LGUs). Types of technical assistance that may be provided to LGUs are the following: conduct of Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment (PCRA); MPA establishment; MPA support e.g. marker buoys, mooring bouys; and MPA support to maintenance and protection e.g. Crown-of-thorns removal, Coral Bleaching Monitoring, support to environmental events, citizen science, social marketing among others.

The island Municipality of Banton, Romblon is one of the priorities in terms of protection, conservation and management of coastal and marine ecosystems because of its valuable contribution to the globally known center of the center of marine shorefish biodiversity along with other island municipalities under Maghali MPAN and LEN. This island municipality





managed two established Fish Sanctuaries located in Barangays Mainit and Yabawon while the other proposed Marine Sanctuary and MPA were located in Barangay Sibay and Togong respectively.

Likewise, the Municipal LGU of Ferrol, Romblon had established and managed two MPAs namely in Bunsoran and Tubigon and this coastal municipality possessed marine wildlife, coral reefs, mangroves, sea grass, various fish species, estuaries, and white sands.

All of these were considered Locally-Managed Marine Protected Areas (LMMPAs) and confronted with growing pressures. With this, the provision of Technical Assistance (TA) is a must in order to sustain its operation and management. The concerned NGAs as well as the LGUs and communities are at the forefront of its conservation.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES**

- 1.) That on November 22, 2022, we facilitated the conduct of Mainstreaming ICM to CLUP of Banton, Romblon led by Engr. Ronie E. Alpajaro of DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office. Engr. Alpajaro shared his knowledge and expertise on the topic “Mainstreaming of ICM to CLUP.” This highlighted ICM definitions, principles that form the foundation of ICM practice, delineating the ICM operational boundary, ICM Framework for sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment. He discussed also the ICM Program Development and Implementation Cycle that Mirrors the 12-steps, the Preparatory Activities like Inventory of the Status of ICMP, CLUP and CDP of the identified LGUs, ground truthing of the maps, etc. and environment and natural resources.
- 2.) That the same resource person discussed important matters on profiling of the LGUs, ENR Profile Checklist (Geography, Geology, etc.), DHSUDs and DILG issued Memoranda to mainstream, signed BMB Technical Bulletin on the 10 sections/steps, Section 5 ICM Mainstreaming into the CLUP (12 steps CLUP guidelines by the DHSUD), and Annex 3. Monitoring Tool-Inception Phase Year 1;
- 3.) That after his presentation, open forum followed that discussed the compliance of LGU partners to mainstream ICM to CLUP and suggested to resort on outsourcing if the LGU has limited technical and financial resources;
- 4.) That on November 23, 2022, we proceeded and conducted Coastal Clean-Up and Beach Forest Tree Planting at Sitios Proper and Cambonga in Barangay Togong, Banton respectively. About seven (7) sacks of wastes (mostly non-biodegradable) were collected along the beach and about one-hundred (100) Narra seedlings were planted at Sitio Cambonga and the above activities were attended by forty-one (41) participants from various partners and LGUs;
- 5.) That on November 24, 2022, around 8:30 A.M., we coordinated with the Municipal LGU Officials of Banton, Romblon namely OIC/SBM Hon. Joemilito F. Ferrancol about the provision of TA on their established and proposed Locally-Managed Marine Protected Areas (LMMPAs) located in Barangays Mainit and Sibay, Banton, Romblon;
- 6.) That after this coordination, we proceeded in Barangay Sibay, Banton and met Punong Barangay Lauro F. Festin to discuss priority issues pertaining to their proposed sanctuary;





- 7.) That the priority issue to be resolved pertained to the provision of technical/financial assistance in increasing the utility of existing resources such as citizen science on coral reef monitoring while addressing environmental and fishery-related issues namely overfishing in the areas surrounding the proposed marine sanctuary, the intrusion of commercial fishing vessels due to weak monitoring and enforcement structures, beach litter and debris from other places, lack of sustainable livelihood among the coastal municipalities, pebble picking/quarrying, and limited funds to compensate the required number of Bantay Dagat/Fishery Wardens;
- 8.) That we requested a meeting with the concerned coastal communities within the proposed Sibay Marine Sanctuary and provided them relevant information on the ecological benefits/services by establishing marine protected area and their shared responsibility in protecting and conserving it;
- 9.) That after this, we proceeded in Barangay Mainit and met Punong Barangay Arfie Jaream M. Fabra and discussed with him the provision of technical assistance needed on Mainit Fish Sanctuary. Based on the result, the priority issues were the need of regular assessment of marine habitats, enforcement and boundaries, and monitoring the marine environment;
- 10.) That the possible technical assistance agreed to provide in the future is strengthening the Mainit Fish Sanctuary systems, synchronizing conservation with fisheries management policies, adapting newer models/technologies, and creating a network of local MPAs;
- 11.) That on December 6-9, 2022, the same activities above were conducted in the Municipality of Ferrol, Romblon like coastal clean-up and removal of Crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS), Mainstreaming of ICM to CLUP, and assisted in resolving some environmental and fishery related issues at Bunsoran MPA;
- 12.) That on December 6, 2022, we coordinated with Mayor Christian Ll. Gervacio of Ferrol, Romblon and other concerned key officials particularly the Municipal Agriculturist Elena C. Tibio, Municipal Administrator/Tourism Officer Arturo M. Muroz, and Pnnong Barangay Ernie A. Falo of Bunsoran on the concerned subject matter;
- 13.) That on December 7, 2022, we proceeded and led the conduct of coastal clean-up and followed the removal of Crown-of-thorns starfish at Bunsoran MPA. The clean-up drive was participated by the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist Personnel Bryan G. Gabayno, Julius S. Castillon, Jason A. Agoilo and Aldren V. Manio and Barangay LGU of Bunsoran headed by Punong Barangay Ernie A. Falo and volunteers;
- 14.) That most of the collected wastes during clean-up were biodegradable followed by some plastic wastes presumed from other places. About 6 sacks of plastic wastes were collected along the beach of Sitio Binucot in Bunsoran MPA;
- 15.) That after this, we conducted the removal of COTS within the Bunsoran MPA with Bantay Dagat Volunteers and collected about one COTS after a number of hours of search within the coral reef area. According to the MAO Personnel, about 1,300 pieces of COTS were removed in three collection sites namely in Tubigon, Kulasi and Bunsoran MPA last October 29 and November 3, 2022;





16.) That on December 9, 2022, about 9:30 A.M., we facilitated the conduct of online meeting for the Mainstreaming of ICM to CLUP of Ferrol being led by DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office Personnel and attended by the concerned Municipal LGU of Ferrol led by Mayor Christian Ll. Gervacio, Vice Mayor Joenan S. Sarmiento and other key officials;

17.) That Engr. Ronie E. Alpajaro of DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office served as resource person on the main topic "Mainstreaming of ICM to CLUP of Ferrol, Romblon." Important features, processes and steps on the said mainstreaming were shared and discussed thoroughly; and

18.) That after the presentation and open forum, it was agreed that the LGU will consolidate and submit ICM related reports/initiatives/policies/plans to the DENR as a reference in the conduct of mainstreaming. Then, it was unanimously agreed to call a series of meetings in order to mainstream ICM to their newly adopted CLUP.

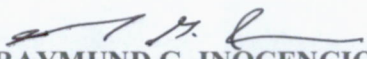
### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The effectiveness and efficiency of Technical Assistance (TA) on coastal and marine related concerns as provided to the Municipal LGUs of Banton and Ferrol, Romblon still depends on the availability of local resources and funding support from the national level as well as the involvement of coastal communities.

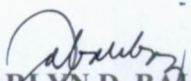
Furthermore, in terms of the management of MPAs in these two coastal municipalities, it is recommended to fully mainstream ICM to their CLUPs and adopt enabling mechanism on the level of protection necessary to sustain the services/benefits provided by the coastal/marine ecosystems. Lastly, networking with other LGUs and key partners will surely improve its present management.

For information, reference and record.

Prepared and submitted:

  
**RAYMUND G. INOCENCIO**  
ECOMS II

Reviewed:

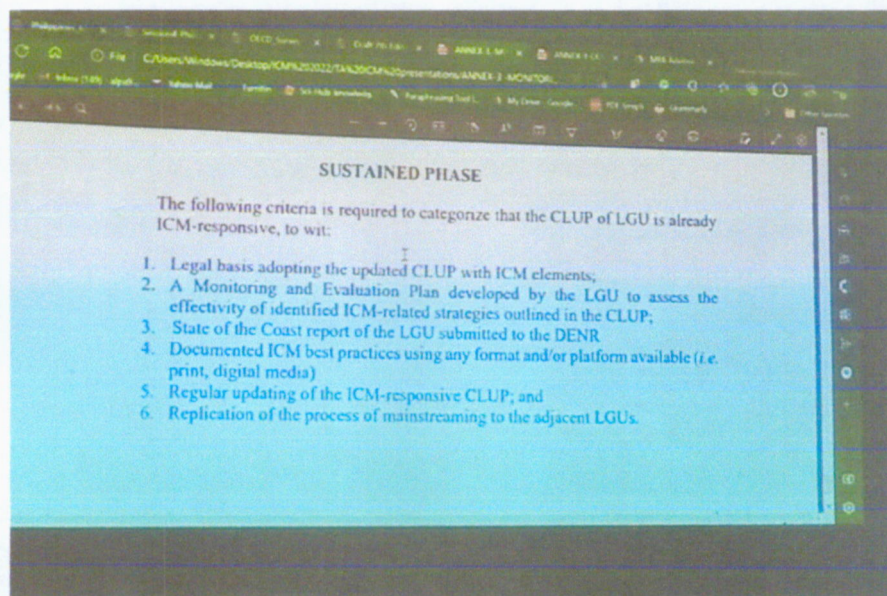
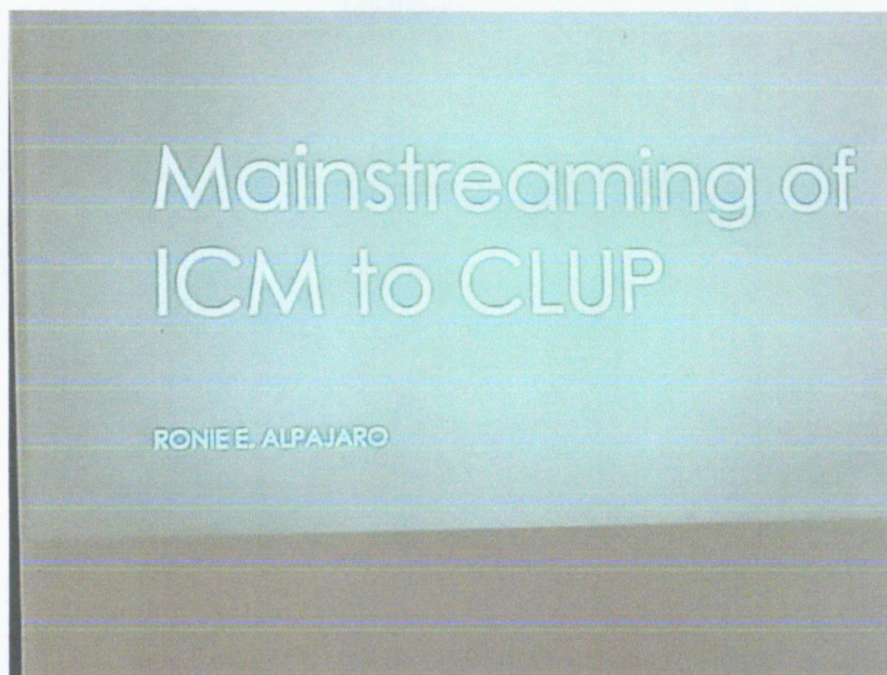
  
**ARLYN D. BALIBAG**  
Chief, CDS





## PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Banton, Romblon\*November 22, 2022



Engr. Ronie E. Alpajaro of DENR MIMAROPA Region shared his knowledge and expertise on this topic before the VIP Maghali participants





### PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Banton, Romblon\*November 23, 2022



Coastal Clean-up at So. Proper & Cambonga, Brgy. Togong, Banton



Beach Forest Tree Planting at Sitio Cambonga, Brgy. Togong, Banton





### PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Banton, Romblon\*November 24, 2022



Coordination with Municipal LGUs of Banton, Romblon



Proposed 8.96 Hectares Sibay Marine Sanctuary





### PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Banton, Romblon\*November 24, 2022



Beach area of the proposed Sibay Marine Sanctuary



Improper disposal method for beach litter and debris  
along the beach area of the proposed sanctuary





### PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Banton, Romblon\*November 24, 2022



Conducted CEPA with the concerned coastal residents  
along the proposed Sibay Marine Sanctuary



Open Forum on the proposed Sibay Marine Sanctuary  
with the concerned coastal residents in Barangay Sibay, Banton





### PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Banton, Romblon\*November 24, 2022



Mangrove Plantation adjacent to the established Mainit Fish Sanctuary  
in Barangay Mainit, Banton



DENR-PENRO Personnel and other Key Partners visited the  
location of the established 8 hectares Mainit Fish Sanctuary





### PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Ferrol, Romblon\*December 6, 2022



Coordination meeting with Mayor Christian Ll. Gervacio of Ferrol, Romblon



Coordination meeting at the Municipal Agriculture Office in Ferrol, Romblon





### PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Ferrol, Romblon\*December 7, 2022



Volunteers during the conduct of Coastal Clean-Up at Bunsoran MPA



Volunteers' collected non-biodegradable wastes along the beach of Bunsoran MPA





### PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Ferrol, Romblon\*December 7, 2022



Volunteers prepared before the Removal of COTS within the Bunsoran MPA



Volunteers posed after the removal of COTS at Bunsoran MPA





### PHOTO DOCUMENTATIONS

Technical Assistance to LGUs on Coastal and  
Marine Related Concerns, 4th Quarter, C.Y. 2022  
Ferrol, Romblon\*December 9, 2022



Chief CDS Arlyn D. Balibag briefly explained the rationale and objectives of the meeting on “Mainstreaming ICM to CLUP of Ferrol, Romblon”



Online Meeting being led by DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office with the active participation of Municipal LGU of Ferrol, Romblon