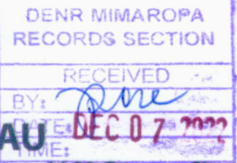


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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR Region IV-B

FROM : The OIC Director

SUBJECT : AFTER ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE CONDUCTED
PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT IN
MARINDUQUE PROVINCE ON SEPTEMBER 27-30, 2022

DATE : NOV 23 2022

Respectfully forwarding the after-activity report of the BMB-VIP PASA Team on the conducted Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) in Marinduque Province on September 27-30, 2022. The highlights of the activities are the following:

5. PASA team briefing and orientation: the team was oriented on the processes of the conduct of PASA and introduced the data gathering tool (Kobocollect Tool) for key informant interviews;
6. Orientation to the Local Chief Executives and other stakeholders on VIP: presented the proposed establishment of VIP under NIPAS Act and consolidated the queries, issues, and concerns raised during the open forum;
7. Key Informant Interview: a total of 76 key informants were interviewed from the six Municipalities of Marinduque; and
8. PASA team roadmapping and debriefing: the PASA Team drafted work and financial plans (WFPs) and discussed the way forwards for the PASA activities of VIP.

As such, the agreed next steps are as follows:

- PENRO Marinduque to continue the conduct of key informant interviews and consolidate the collected information from the KI;
- PENR Offices shall submit the Work and Financial Plan (WFP) for VIP PASA Activities (4th quarter of 2022 and 1st quarter of 2023) on or before October 12, 2022. Activities indicated in the WFP shall be conducted accordingly;
- VIP PASA team shall develop a Filipino version of the KII questionnaire and consent form; and



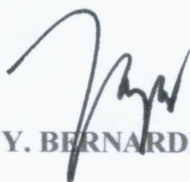
UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

- Conduct orientation for all the members of VIP PASA Team on the conduct of the PASA, formulation of the KII questionnaire, and mobilization of funds. The orientation will be held in November 2022 at BMB Training Center. PASA Team should confirm who has the available funds for transportation and per diem.

In view of the preceding, the undersigned personnel would like to recommend prioritizing the conduct of the aforesaid next steps. Additionally, we further recommend the inclusion of PASA activities in your WFPs for C.Y. 2023.

Should you have any concerns and/or issues with the dates proposed, you may contact **Ms. Alita D. Sangalang or Mr. Pablo G. delos Reyes, Jr.** of the Coastal and Marine Division of this Bureau through these telephone numbers (02) 8925 8948/ (02) 8924 6031 loc 207 or through this email at cmd@bmb.gov.ph.

For information and further instruction/s.



NATIVIDAD Y. BERNARDINO



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU



BMB202204968

**After Activity Report on the Conducted
Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA)
in Marinduque Province
September 27 to October 1, 2022**

Background

In 2005, the Verde Island Passage (VIP) was declared as "The Center of the Center for Marine Shorefish Biodiversity, globally by Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Springer. Yet, it has no national recognition as among the marine protected areas under RA 7586 NIPAS as amended by RA 11038 also known as the "Expanded National Protected Area System (ENIPAS). The operation and management of the VIP are under the Marine Protected Area Network and Law Enforcement Network through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Through a series of online meetings with the officers and technical staff of DENR Regions MIMAROPA and CALABARZON and some Legal Officers of DENR as well as from the provinces concerned, it was agreed that it is about time to declare the VIP under the NIPAS principally using as basis Executive Order 578 " Establishing The National Policy On Biological Diversity, Prescribing Its Implementation Throughout The Country, Particularly In The Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecosystem And The Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor".

The significance of VIP under the proposed establishment under the NIPAS was presented to the Batangas Marine Protected Area Network and Batangas Bantay Dagat Network (BMPAN and BBDN), the Networks posed no objection to the establishment of VIP under NIPAS as long as the networks will be recognized as an entity in conserving the coastal habitats of the Batangas Province and will have a representative to the proposed Verde Island Passage Protected Seascape Management Board (VIPPS MB). They were assured that the Network will still be the partner of the proposed VIPPS MB in the conservation of the natural resources of Batangas and will have representation on the management board of VIPPS.

In order to initiate the processes of establishment of VIP under the NIPAS, the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) needs to be done. Since the proposed protected area will cover around 1.3 Million hectares which is three times the size of Tanon Strait, the biggest NIPAS MPA in the country, the conduct of PASA will be pilot tested in Marinduque with the participation of other provinces encompassed by the VIP.

The objectives of the PASA Activities are as follows:

1. The Local Chief Executives in Marinduque Province were briefed and oriented regarding the ecological significance and importance of VIP, and the proposed establishment of the same as a Marine Protected Area under NIPAS;
2. Conducted Key Informant Interviews (KII) for the stakeholders in the province; and
3. Drafted roadmap of PASA Activities for VIP.

Actual Activities Conducted

Originally, the PASA activities in Marinduque were scheduled on September 26-30, 2022. However, due to the unfortunate circumstances brought on by Typhoon Karding, the PASA Team was not able to conduct the activities at the scheduled time. Nevertheless, the PASA activities proceeded based on programmed activities but with minor adjustments.

Day 1: Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) Team Briefing and Orientation *September 27, 2022*

Upon arrival in PENRO Marinduque, the Team conducted a courtesy call with PENR Officer Imelda M. Diaz. The purposes of the visit such as the LGU orientation, key informant interview, and roadmapping were discussed.

Thereafter, the team together with the PASA Team Members from DENR MIMAROPA and PENRO Marinduque proceeded to the activity proper.

- **Presentation on PASA Processes** - by Ms. Babylyn Cacao, NPD

Ms. Cacao briefly presented an overview of the protected area establishment process and detailed procedures on the conduct of PASA including the requirements and timeline provided in RA 11038. She also put emphasis on the completion of PASA Forms (Form 1, 2, and 3) as the main output of the PASA.

Below are the topics discussed during the open forum related to the presentation, to wit:

- Why is resource reserve not included in the list of PA categories presented?
 - It was one of the categories but was removed from the presentation since it is mostly not applicable to the Philippine setting.
- What can most likely be the category of VIP?
 - Natural Park - relatively large area sustaining ecological process.
 - Protected Landscape and Seascape - with socio-economic importance.
- What if the recommendation of the regions is different? What will be the assessment?
 - The Regional NIPAS Review Committees should convene and arrive at an appropriate category that both regions are amenable.
 - That is why it is important to have roadmapping. It is possible to conduct a writeshop as a way forward to come up with a common recommendation.
- **Key Informant Interview Orientation** - by Mr. Abhay Charan P. Tuñacao

The discussion was focused on PASA Form 2 or the Key Informant Interview. A software application called Kobocollect Tool was introduced to the PASA Team and was used for the interview.

Following are the discussions raised during the orientation, to wit:

- Will all of the invited pax be interviewed?
 - Yes. In case some key informants will not attend, they will be included in the next steps by PENRO Marinduque. There should be 100% representation of the identified stakeholders.
- What if the phone storage is full already?
 - Troubleshooting on the phone storage has not been checked yet. Nonetheless, the interviewer may use pen and paper for the KII.
- What does “economic development” mean?
 - All economic activities, not limited to infrastructure
- What will be the category?
 - Category will depend on the result of analysis and rating that the PASA team will recommend based on existing information gathered
- What does “dominant species of wild flora” mean?
 - The answer should be the “perception” of the interviewee and not what is “perceived” as the correct answer of the interviewer
- The form should be translated into Tagalog. Our participants have different educational backgrounds.

Day 2: Orientation for the Local Chief Executive

September 28, 2022

Welcoming Remarks

- PENR Officer Imelda M. Diaz

- PENRO Diaz welcomed all the representatives from the Local Government Units (LGUs) and other relevant institutions as well as the PASA Team. She highlighted the crucial role and participation of the stakeholders in the establishment of VIP as MPA.

Inspirational Message

- Ms. Armida P. Andres, Chief of Coastal and Marine Division

- The global recognition of VIP as the “center of the center for marine shore fish of the world” was highlighted by Ms. Andres in her message. Likewise, the importance of consulting relevant stakeholders during the orientation and KII for inclusive process of protected area establishment was also emphasized.

Significance of VIP in relation to its establishment under ENIPAS

- Mr. Pablo delos Reyes, Jr., Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist

- Mr. delos Reyes presented the significance of VIP in terms of economic and ecological benefits. VIP as the source and sink of fish larvae was also highlighted. Furthermore, the coverage and current situation of the passage were also discussed.

Background on the Proposed Establishment of VIP as a Protected Area

- Ms. Alita D. Sangalang

- Ms. Sangalang presented the background and the previous and current efforts of DENR in relation to VIP. Additionally, salient features of the draft VIP Protected Seascape bill were also presented.

Overview of Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape

- EnP. Allan D. Marcilla, MSDS, Department Head-City ENRO, General Santos City

- EnP. Marcilla introduced Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS) to the LGUs of Marinduque. His presentation covers the best practices in SBPS, the roles and functions of LGUs as PAMB members, and the advantages of NIPAS MPAs to LGUs. EnP. Marcilla further discussed how they are able to solicit financial support from SBPS through the Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF) in the form of programs and projects.

Open Forum

Hereunder are the topics discussed during the open forum, as follows:

- Designation of Protected Area Superintendent (PASu)
 - Will depend on what will be agreed upon by the provinces
 - One option is there will only be one PASu but the management can be assigned by the subPAMB (per province)
 - In some cases, if the NIPAS area is large, there can be Assistant PASus designated per province
- No authority addressing the threats within the VIP? How about the LGUs?
 - LGUs role is recognized but we have to treat VIP as a whole, and needs a consolidator of the efforts.
- Why focus on the collection of fees, why not explore the impacts of the development projects?
 - Users fee is a way to regulate the activities within the VIP
 - To generate income to sustain the activities of the network
- Current picture at the grassroots level is the lack of funds and manpower to implement/manage MPAs. The establishment of VIP as a NIPAS may help in augmenting funds and manpower to implement the individual MPAs
- Strengthen efforts on marine litter and solid waste management
 - Requesting DENR to conduct capacity building in crafting the solid waste management plan. Start small, bottom-up approach.
 - Sharing of experience: Collection of clean plastics only, a collector with salary (janitorial services)
- Recommend seeking the support of NEDA through RDCs to support the passage of the bill and lobby funding support.

Day 2 and 3: Key Informant Interview (KII)

September 28-29, 2022

Using the application Kobocollect, key informants in Marinduque were interviewed. The Key Informant is composed of representatives from various sectors such as LGUs, Civil Service Organizations, Youth Sector, Academe, etc from the six (6) Municipalities of Marinduque.

As can be seen in Table 1, a total of 76 individuals were interviewed during the KII. Barangay LGUs have the highest number of participants representing a total of 60 key informants.

Table 1. Total number of Key Informant Interviewed

Municipality	Aca	BLGU	MLGU	NGO	OGA	PG	PO	YS	Total
Boac	1	9	1		4	2			17
Buenavista		4	1	1					6
Gasán		12			1		1	1	15
Mogpog		9	1		1				11
Sta. Cruz		12				1			13
Torrijos		14							14
Total	1	60	3	1	6	3	1	1	76

**Aca - Academe; BLGU - Barangay LGU; MLGU - Municipal LGU; NGO - Non- Government Organization; OGA - Other Government Agencies; PG - Provincial Government; PO - People's Organization; YS - Youth Sector*

Open Forum

- Sta. Cruz is near Quezon; Quezon is not included in the VIP. What if there are activities in Quezon that are contradictory to that of the VIP's? Most of the commercial fishing vessels are coming from Quezon.
 - This issue will be brought up to the regional and national technical level to be able to determine the final boundary of the VIP.
 - Once VIP is established as a protected area, there are prohibited acts and enough basis for us to penalize violators.
- Can we still have "baklad" fish cages?
 - There will be a designated area or multiple-use zone within the PA and "baklad" shall be subject to the approval of PAMB, with strict compliance with the guidelines.
- Underwater cable of PLDT telecommunication from Romblon to Marinduque
 - Before these activities are allowed, there should be an EIA to be done to determine the impact and to recommend mitigating measures not to disturb and destruct coastal resources.
- Is mining allowed? Accordingly, mining within protected areas is not allowed. What if mining is in the upland which is not PA, there is a provision on the draft bill for

prohibited acts that can include the prohibition of dumping of waste from mining.

- No mining operation is allowed within the PA.
- If mining is in the upland, a buffer zone may be established. The drivers from the upland to the coastal areas will be addressed through the ICM Bill.
- Establishment of VIP has pros and cons for Marinduque. The whole Marinduque is included in the PA? What is the difference between enacting a law as a NIPAS and individual MPAs? What is the role of the DILG in the KII?
 - Only the coast and water area of Marinduque is included in the proposed VIP PA
 - Pros: Harmonize efforts from the LGUs and other relevant agencies, additional funding under IPAF that can be used for the conservation and protection of VIP, and provide additional conservation measures.
 - Cons: Challenge in the implementation but the PAMB resolution can be adopted by each municipality.
 - The role of DILG in the KII, DILG is very important since municipal/ barangay LGU is under the jurisdiction of DILG.
- Include/invite commercial vessels during the public consultation. Include use of compressor as part of illegal fishing.
 - Duly noted

Day 5: Debriefing and Roadmapping

September 30, 2022

On the last day of the event, blended roadmapping was performed by the PENR Offices (Batangas, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, and Marinduque). Thereafter, a debriefing was conducted on what transpired during the event. Likewise, future activities and ways forwards were also discussed.

Links to the output of the roadmapping are as follows:

- Template 1: Identification of PASA Activities
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19vrAzQFNmjz0raQxfgdwqo-N3QqHjR1OhpAakbiV1R0/edit#gid=1063348678>
- Template 2: Budget Allocation
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BosvRMG8VHh8mAoFKh4WQObCPT4f_1pet01EiDO9Q4I/edit#gid=1320861875

Open Forum

- Does PASA have a standard map scale or it will be jurisdictional?
 - Maps for the VIP PASA report were suggested to be on a municipal scale or jurisdictional.
- Data requirements for PASA:
 - Limited thematic maps: use what is available;
 - Can use secondary data. Secondary information from the last 10 years reckoned

from the time of actual PASA should be used; and

- Use geotag photos if available.
- Submission of both hard and soft copies of the PASA report (with processed PASA forms) will be submitted to the regional office
- Regional offices will harmonize the report of the provinces

Ways Forward/Next Steps

Based on the discussions during the workshop, the participating DENR Offices agreed the following ways forward, to wit:

- PENRO Marinduque to continue the conduct of key informant interviews. Likewise, collected key informant information shall be consolidated;
- PENR Offices shall submit the Work and Financial Plan (WFP) for VIP PASA Activities (4th quarter of 2022 and 1st quarter of 2023) on or before October 12, 2022. Activities indicated in the WFP shall be conducted accordingly;
- Development of a Filipino version of the KII questionnaire and consent form; and
- Conduct orientation for all the members of the VIP PASA Team on the conduct of the PASA, formulation of the KII questionnaire, and mobilization of funds. Tentatively, the orientation will be held in November 2022 at BMB Training Center. PASA Team should confirm who has the available funds for transportation and per diem.

Recommendations:

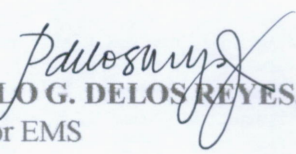
In view of the foregoing, the undersigned personnel would like to recommend prioritizing the conduct of the aforesaid next steps. Additionally, the following are hereby recommended by the same:

1. Include in the presentation the frequently asked questions (FAQs) related on the establishment of VIP under the NIPAS Act for the LGU and KII orientations;
2. BMB to assist the Regional Offices with the completion of the PASA. Assign a person-in-charge per province to oversee the PASA activities, the same shall attend to all queries and concerns of the assigned province;
3. Look for sources of funds for the conduct of PASA for the last quarter of 2022; and
4. Inclusion of PASA activities in the WFP for C.Y. 2023 of the involved DENR Field Offices.

For information and further instruction/s.


Prepared and submitted by:

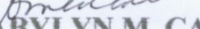

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GIS Specialist


ABHAY CHARAN P. TUÑACAO
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PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



Figure 1. Group photo of VIP PASA Team (face-to-face and online)



Figure 2. A. (left) PENRO Imelda Diaz delivers her welcome remarks; B. (right) Ms. Armida P. Andres delivers an inspirational message.

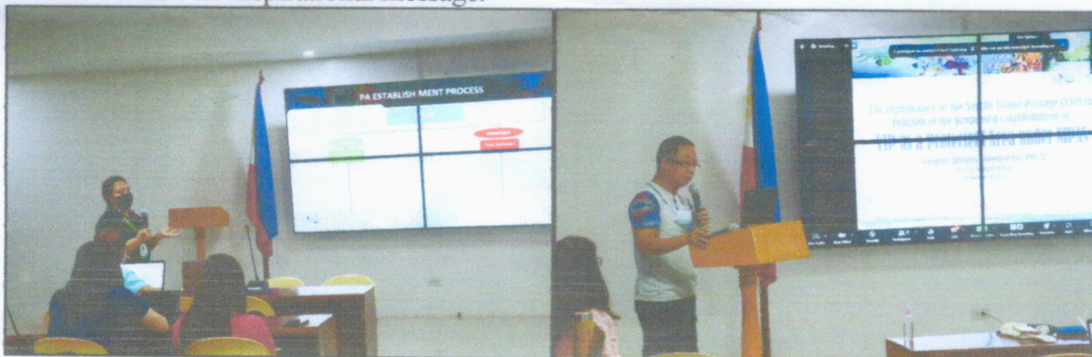


Figure 3. Ms. Babylyn Cacao (left) and Mr. Pablo delos Reyes (right) during their presentations.



Figure 4. Ms. Alita Sangalang (left) and EnP. Allan Marcilla (right) during their presentations.



Figure 5. Photos during the open forum



Figure 6. Photos during the Key Informant Interview .