



Crocodylus Porosus Philippines, Inc.

Pag-asa Farms, Kapalong, Davao

E-mail: philippinecroc@gmail.com Website: www.philippinecrocodile.com.ph

28 June 2022

DIR. LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV

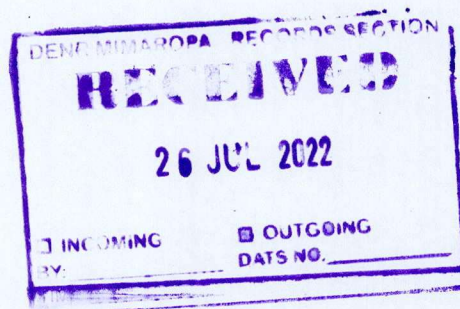
Regional Director

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Regional Office, Region IV-B

1515 Roxas Boulevard,

Ermita, Manila



Dear **Dir. Claudio,**

The *Crocodylus Porosus Philippines, Inc. (CPPI)* is a non-profit, non-government organization working for the conservation, research, and sustainable management of the two crocodile species in the Philippines – the Indo-Pacific Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and the endemic Philippine Crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*). We are also an active member of the National Crocodile Conservation Committee – Technical Working Group headed by the DENR- Biodiversity Management Bureau.

Our organization will be implementing the project – **“Establishment of a Critical Habitat for the Future Reintroduction of Philippine Crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) in the Municipality of San Teodoro, Mindoro Island, Philippines”**. This project is in support with DENR’s Crocodile Conservation Action Plan 2023-2032 to repopulate the Critically Endangered Philippine Crocodile in the wild. As part of the initial phase of the project, a Rapid Biodiversity and Habitat Suitability Assessment will be conducted by the 3rd quarter of this year. This assessment aims to comply with the documentation process based on DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2007-02 on laying out the guidelines for the establishment of a Critical Habitat under Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act).

In line with this, **may we request your good office for a Gratuitous Permit** for the collection of voucher specimens and tissue samples from representative wildlife species. We have attached a research proposal and signed Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for your reference.

Thank you very much for your untiring support in species conservation and management.

Sincerely yours,


RAINIER I. MANALO, M.Sc.

Program Director

Establishment of a Critical Habitat for the future reintroduction of Philippine Crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) in the Municipality of San Teodoro, Mindoro Island, Philippines

Rationale

The Critically Endangered Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) is endemic in the Philippines with only estimated 92-137 mature individuals in the wild (van Weerd *et al.* 2016). Its cryptic nature makes it the rarest crocodile species. The species was described from the skull holotype obtained from the island of Mindoro (Schmidt 1935), thus where its specific epithet was derived from. However, the species is perceived to be extinct on the island (Ross and Datuin 1981).

Recovery of the species' population in the wild is considered a conservation priority for *C. mindorensis*. The Philippine government established a captive breeding program for the species which could be a stock source for future release programs (Manalo *et al.* 2018). Some of the captive stocks have also been loaned out to international zoos as part of the government's captive breeding loan program (Banks 2005). Among the recipients are several European Zoos, including Cologne Zoo in Germany.

In December 2020, two Philippine crocodiles which were progenies of the loaned individuals to Cologne Zoo were repatriated to the Philippines (Manalo *et al.* 2020). Along with several more individuals that would be expected to arrive in the country, these Philippine crocodiles will be raised in semi-wild conditions and their progenies would be the source of individuals for future release programs.

The Municipality of San Teodoro in the island of Mindoro features riparian systems that are most likely suitable habitats for a Philippine crocodile population. Repopulating the island of Mindoro where the species was originally described would result in a greater awareness of the public on the species' conservation needs. In compliance with Republic Act 9147 or Wildlife Resources and Conservation Act, we propose the establishment of a Critical Habitat in the Municipality of San Teodoro as a home for the Critically Endangered Philippine Crocodile on Mindoro, where the species was extirpated decades ago.

Objectives

The main objective of the project is to be able to establish a Critical Habitat for Philippine Crocodiles in the upstream habitats of the Municipality of San Teodoro, Mindoro Island following DENR Memorandum Circular 2007-02 "Guidelines on the Establishment and Management of Critical Habitat". Specifically, this project will address the following:

- To identify areas in the municipality of San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro for the establishment of Critical Habitat;
- To determine the suitability of habitat for the Philippine Crocodile; and
- To provide a new release site for the future release of Philippine Crocodile back to its type locality.

Methods

The project involves two phases and will be conducted in the Municipality of San Teodoro in the island of Mindoro. The activities indicated for each phase are structured to provide the necessary data for the establishment of a Critical Habitat as indicated in DENR Memorandum Circular 2007-02. Support and approval from local stakeholders will also be secured. Upon the approval of the concerned authorities, future reintroduction of juvenile Philippine Crocodiles will be conducted as part of the flagship species conservation action in cooperation with Cologne Zoological Garden.

Phase 1: Rapid biodiversity and habitat suitability assessment

- Identification / validation of the presence of threatened species;
- Population estimates of key species for conservation concerns and habitat assessment.

Phase 2: Community consultation and process documentation

- Community consultation;
- Review and recommendation; and
- Declaration of Critical Habitat.

TARGET ACTIVITIES	MONITORING INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
Phase 1: Rapid biodiversity and habitat suitability assessment		
Coordinate with local authorities for the conduct of the activity.	Presentation of project proposal to the DENR Regional Office IV-B and Local Government Unit of San Teodoro	Minutes of meeting, Letter of Approval to Proceed, Gratuitous Permit
Conduct of a rapid biodiversity and habitat suitability assessment.	No. of submitted field reports and related publications	Biophysical survey report, published articles
Phase 2: Community consultation and process documentation		
Conduct of SWOT analysis with local communities and concerned stakeholders.	SWOT analysis result in table format	Attendance
Conduct of public education and community participation to the impact communities of the project site.	No. of visited barangays and schools	Attendance
Obtain prior approval of stakeholders for the establishment of the Critical Habitat for document review.	Presentation of rapid biodiversity and habitat suitability assessment results to the	Minutes of meeting, Resolution to establish the Critical Habitat

TARGET ACTIVITIES	MONITORING INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
	Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Local Government Unit, and concerned stakeholders.	
Declaration of Critical Habitat by the DENR.	Department Administrative Order declaring the area as Critical Habitat	Approved DENR Department Administrative Order

Project Timeline

This project will be conducted for 18 months but subject to the actual approval and release of necessary permits and travel restrictions as a result of the on-going pandemic. The conduct of a rapid biodiversity and habitat suitability assessment will be conducted on the 2nd quarter of year 1. This will be followed by community and stakeholders consultation from the 3rd quarter to 4th quarter of year 1. Then, a final consultation and review will be held for the presentation of results and document review on the 1st quarter of year 2, before its declaration on the 2nd quarter.

ACTIVITIES	Year 1				Year 2	
	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR	3 RD QTR	4 TH QTR	1 ST QTR	2 ND QTR
Phase 1						
Coordinate with local authorities for the conduct of the activity						
Conduct of a rapid biodiversity and habitat assessment						
Phase 2						
Conduct of SWOT analysis with local communities and concerned stakeholders						
Conduct of public education and community participation to the impact communities of the project site						
Obtain prior approval of stakeholders for the establishment of the Critical Habitat for document review						
Declaration of Critical Habitat by the DENR						

PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the undersigned has reviewed the project proposal Rapid Biodiversity and Habitat Suitability Assessment in Riparian Habitats, Municipality of San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro and understood the implications of the proposed project activity on the study area(s) and its vicinities. Further, I certify that I have consulted my respective constituents/members and that they interpose no objections whatsoever to the project activity.

This PIC Certificate is issued to support the application of the Crocodylus Porosus Philippines, Inc., c/o Rainier Manalo – Program Director for utilization of resources to be undertaken in Municipality of San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro.

Done this 9th day of March, 2022 at San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro.

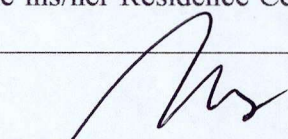

HON. SALVADOR R. PY

Municipal Mayor

===== JUN 28 2022 =====

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____ at _____
City of Makati. Affiant exhibiting to me his/her Residence Certificate
No. _____ issued on _____ at _____

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Book No. 277
Series of 2022


ATTY. JOHN DOMINGO A. PONCE, JR.
NOTARY PUBLIC
APPOINTMENT No. M-068 / MAKATI CITY
UNTIL December 31, 2023
PTR No. 8853517 / 01-03-2022 / MAKATI CITY
~~IBP No. 171184 / 12-22-2021 / RIZAL~~
MCLE COMPLIANCE No. VI-0027026 / 05-28-2019
ROLL NO. 1452 / 106000
Unit G-14 Makati Executive Tower 3
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pio del Pilar,
Makati City, Metro Manila