



September 23, 2022

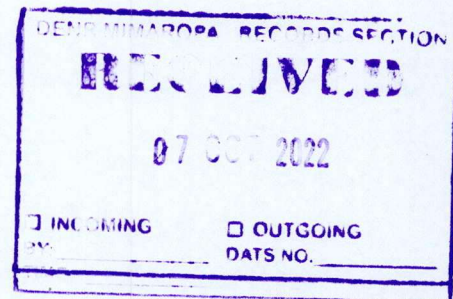
MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR MIMAROPA Region
1515 L & S Building, Roxas Boulevard,
Ermita, Manila

THRU : The Assistant Regional Director
for Technical Services

FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer
Odiongan, Romblon

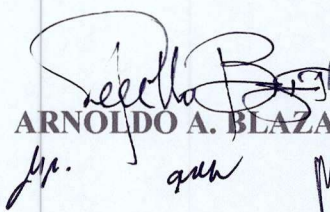
SUBJECT : **THIRD QUARTER REPORT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO
LGUs ON COASTAL AND MARINE RELATED CONCERNS**



Respectfully submitting is the Third Quarter CY-2022 Report on the Technical Assistance to LGUs on coastal and marine related concerns under WFP 2022 - Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Rehabilitation Sub-Program.

This Office have provided technical assistance to LGU Ferrol, Romblon and facilitated to resolve the issue on resource use conflict within easement zone utilized for tourism purposes at So. Binucot Bunsoran, Ferrol, Romblon.

For information and record.


ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.
Mr. Mr. Mr.



THIRD QUARTER REPORT ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LGUs ON COASTAL AND MARINE RELATED CONCERNS

This 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, this Office facilitated to resolve the issue on resource use conflict within easement zone utilized for tourism purposes at So. Binucot Bunsoran, Ferrol, Romblon.

DESCRIPTION AND RATIONALE

The Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (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.

Under the CMEMP, protection and management shall be 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.

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, etc.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES

For the third quarter CY-2022, this Office have provided technical assistance to LGU Ferrol, Romblon and facilitated to resolve the issue on resource use conflict within easement zone utilized for tourism purposes at So. Binucot, Bunsoran, Ferrol, Romblon.

On a letter dated July 4, 2022, Municipal Mayor Christian Ll. Gervacio of Ferrol, Romblon requested for assistance from this Office to apply for Foreshore Lease Agreement (FLA) in their foreshore areas at So. Binucot, Bunsoran, Ferrol, Romblon where the fish sanctuary, marine protected area, and marine turtle hatchery were located.

In response, this Office explained in a letter dated July 6, 2022 that since the said area is a declared conservation area, there is no need for the application of FLA since it is already a



Marine Protected Area with the main purpose of conservation and protection of marine resources. In addition, this Office offered technical assistance in a form of dialogue/consultation in order to develop a strategy for the sustainable protection, conservation, and management of the Bunsoran Marine Protected Area.

That on September 23, 2022, this Office led by Chief Technical Services Division (TSD) Malvin R. Rocero with Chief Conservation and Development Section (CDS) Arlyn D. Balibag and Chief Regulation and Permitting Section (RPS) Allan T. Sendiong conducted a dialogue/meeting with LGU Ferrol, Romblon.

The team first conducted site inspection at Sitio Binucot, Bunsoran, Ferrol, Romblon. The constructed cottages were still there despite the previous agreement to self-demolish/vacate the area. Meanwhile, there was a newly installed signage featuring the details of Bunsoran Marine Protected Area including its establishment and presence of unique marine resources. It also included strict prohibitions on fishing, anchoring, littering, stepping and touching of corals.

Then, the team interviewed the Bantay-Dagat on duty regarding the issue and asked whether there were marine turtle eggs in the hatchery. The Bantay-dagat answered that the hatchery was empty at the present and stated their observation that ever since the additional cottages were built with the installation of additional lights as well *karaoke* machines at night, there were no marine turtles nested in the area. Thus, the team entertained the possibility to move the pawikan hatchery at another location where it can be undisturbed and out-of-the-bounds of the private property.

The team also interviewed the caretaker of the titled property and Barangay Kagawad Ariel A. Andres. Kagawad Andres located the boundaries of the private property and shared the schedule of the arrival of the landowner on October 8, 2022.

Afterwards, the team proceeded to the municipal hall of Ferrol, Romblon to have a dialogue/meeting with the LGU. It was attended by Municipal Mayor Christian Ll. Gervacio, MAO Elena Tibio, MPDC Nolie Muyargas, and Municipal Administrator Arturo Muros.

Upon brief discussion of the underlying issues, Chief CDS Arlyn D. Balibag requested for the Bunsoran MPA Management Plan and map in order to verify the zoning and boundaries of the area. Chief RPS Allan T. Sendiong stated that upon verification of the land property of Osorio family, the said area is within the bounds of the property including the islet possibly because it was connected to the adjacent lands during the old times. He also emphasized that a titled property is a titled property thus, we cannot revoke what the title indicates. It was also taken into account that the cottages were only made of temporary lightweight materials instead of permanent structures.

The zoning map of Bunsoran MPA was verified based on the Bunsoran MPA Management Plan and the Integrated Coastal Resources Management Plan of Ferrol. The Bunsoran MPA is managed in six different zones. All zones focus on conservation and eco-tourism. These zones



are the buffer zone, no-fishing take zone, sea turtle conservation zone (Pawikan Zone), fish sanctuary zone, mangrove conservation zone and boat landing zone.

The buffer zone is managed as a hook and line fishing area and a tourism zone. The no-fishing zone is a no fishing and/or collection area and is managed for preservation, conservation and tourism. Within the no-fishing zone there is a sea turtle conservation zone, fish sanctuary zone, mangrove conservation zone, navigational lanes and a boat landing zone. A sea turtle hatchery is located within the sea turtle zone in order to protect nests and hatchlings. A guardhouse is located in this area to help facilitate law enforcement within the MPA. Entry and tourism activities are strictly prohibited within the fish sanctuary zone.

Tourism activities will be permitted within all zones in the no-fishing zone, except for the fish sanctuary. Since the construction of additional cottages brought about an influx of tourists in the area, TSD Chief Malvin Rocero suggested that the pawikan hatchery be moved into a less disturbed place and outside the bounds of the titled property. It was also suggested that marker buoys should be installed to locate the boundaries of the MPA in order to regulate tourism activities and to implement the collection of user's fee from visitors to be used for maintenance and other operational expenses.


It was agreed that there should be another dialogue/meeting with the concerned individuals specifically with the landowner to discuss the recommendations for finalization.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

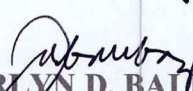
Based on the conducted site inspection, review and verification of zoning maps and management plan of Bunsoran MPA, and discussion with the LGU, this Office have arrived with the following recommendations: (1) transfer of pawikan hatchery to a less disturbed location; (2) installation of marker buoys; (3) collection of user's fee; and (4) final dialogue with the landowner to reconcile strategies for the sustainable management, protection and conservation of Bunsoran MPA.

For information, reference and record.

Prepared:

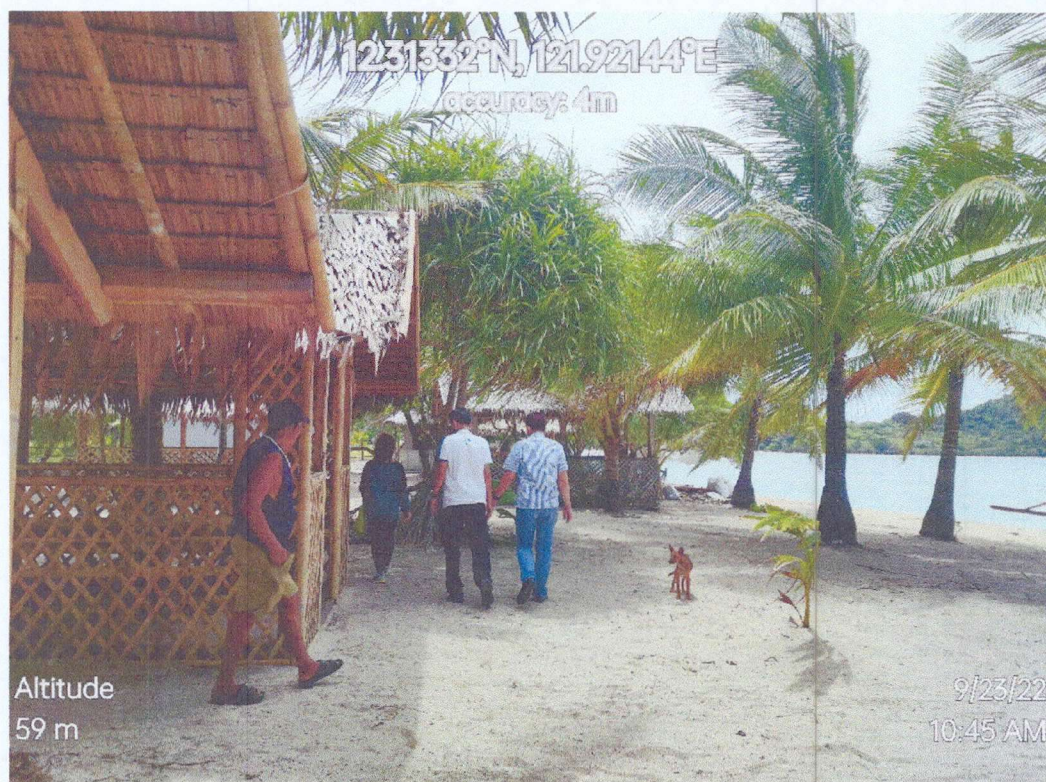

MARIELLE V. MAGALLANES
Forester I

Reviewed:


ARLYN D. BALIBAG
Chief, CDS



PHOTODOCUMENTATION



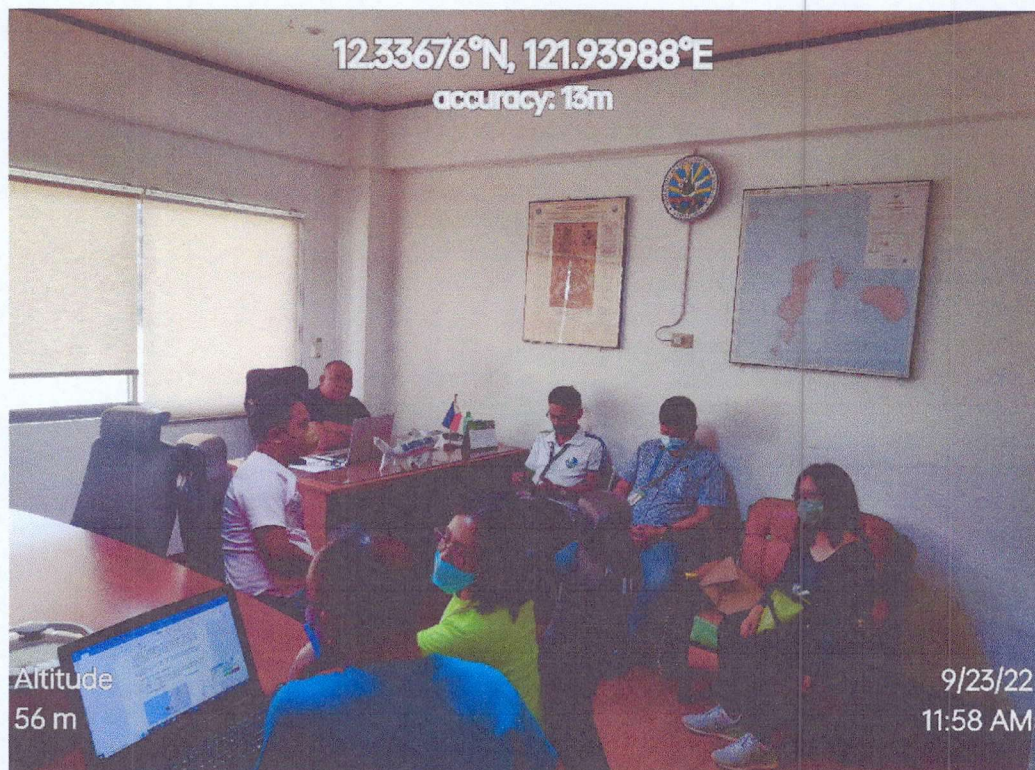
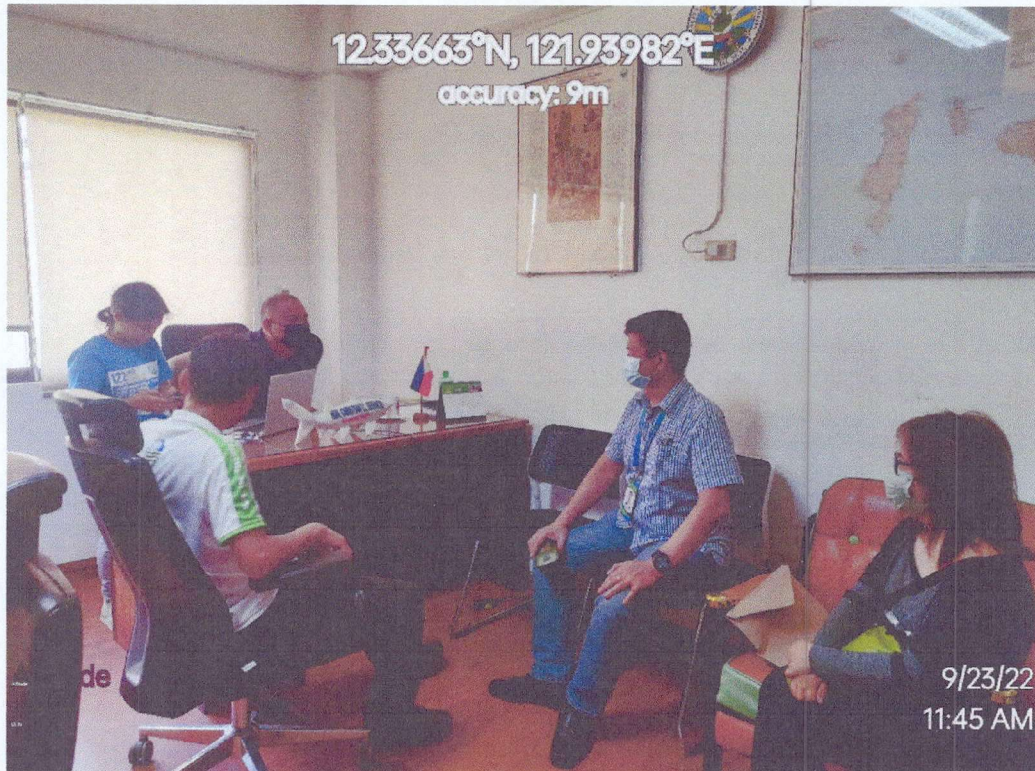
Conduct of site inspection at So. Binucot, Bunsoran, Ferrol, Romblon



Interview with Bantay Dagat



Installed signage featuring Bunsoran Marine Protected Area



Dialogue/meeting with LGU Ferrol



Review and verification of maps and zoning



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Romblon
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Municipality of Ferrol

Poblacion, Ferrol, Romblon

Email Add: lgu_ferrol@yahoo.com

July 4, 2022

ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.
PENR Officer
DENR, Odiongan, Romblon



Sir:

Greetings!

The Local Government Unit of Ferrol, Romblon would like to inform your good office that the foreshore areas in Binucot, Bunsoran, Ferrol, Romblon are declared conservation areas where Marine Turtle Hatchery, Marine Protected Area and Fish Sanctuary are located

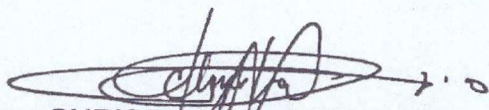
In view of this, the Local Government Unit of Ferrol, Romblon would like to apply for **FORESHORE LEASE AGREEMENT** on the aforementioned conservation areas to effectively and efficiently manage and protect our marine environment and its wild marine life.

In furtherance, we would like to request your assistance and action on this matter as not to disrupt our marine life conservation and protection projects.

Hope and pray for your utmost support on this advocacy.

Thank you and mabuhay!

Very truly yours,


CHRISTIAN L. GERVACIO
Municipal Mayor



05
File
July 6, 2022

HON. CHRISTIAN LL. GERVACIO
Municipal Mayor
Ferrol, Romblon

Dear Mayor Gervacio,

Greetings in conservation!

This pertains to your letter dated July 4, 2022 requesting this Office for assistance in the application of Foreshore Lease Agreement (FLA) for the foreshore areas at So. Binucot, Bunsoran, Ferrol, Romblon.

The Foreshore Lease Agreement (FLA) is an agreement executed by and between the DENR and applicant to occupy, develop, utilize, and manage the foreshore lands mainly for tourism and other purposes. However, it is stipulated in your letter that the said area is a declared conservation area where the Marine Turtle Hatchery, Marine Protected Area (MPA), and Fish Sanctuary are located. Therefore, there is no need for the application of FLA since it is already a Marine Protected Area with the main purpose of conservation and protection of marine resources.

In this connection, rest assured that this Office will provide technical assistance for the protection, conservation, and management of the Bunsoran Marine Protected Area. Further, we would like to schedule a consultation/workshop on the development of a strategic management plan for Bunsoran MPA including the mainstreaming of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Plan to the municipality's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

Thank you very much for your usual support and cooperation in the protection and conservation of our natural resources.

Very truly yours,

"For and in the absence of the OIC-PENR Officer"


THELMO S. HERNANDEZ
Chief, Management Services Division

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