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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU

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OCT 10 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Directors
DENR – Regions I to XIII, CAR, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA and NCR

FROM : The OIC, Director

SUBJECT : **CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON THE DRAFT POLICIES PERTAINING TO SPECIAL USE AGREEMENT IN PROTECTED AREAS (SAPA) AND UPDATING OF THE NATIONAL ECOTOURISM STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (NESAP)**

To support the implementation of the NIPAS Act, as amended, various policies are being developed and updated by the Biodiversity Management Bureau. Based on the discussions during the High-Level Policy Consultation on Biodiversity Conservation held in August 2022, the following draft policies are being prioritized for consultations:

1. Revised Rules and Regulations Governing Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas (SAPA);
2. Guidelines on the Provisional Agreement for Special Uses in Protected Areas; and
3. Guidelines on the Issuance of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Co-management, Development, Resource Use, Research and other Activities in Protected Areas.

Further, please be informed also that the National Ecotourism Strategy and Action Plan (NESAP 2013-2022) is already due for updating.

In view of the above and in line with the Secretary's thrusts and direction to promote convergence among key stakeholders, policy coherence and to ensure the readiness of the policy prior to submission to the Office of the Secretary, we are pleased to inform you that the Bureau will be holding a series of Consultation Workshops on the proposed policies which aim to:

1. Gather inputs, comments and recommendations on the draft policies on special uses and Ecotourism Program strategies;
2. Identify issues, gaps and concerns from the implementation of the existing policies relative to SAPA and NESAP and address them in the updating and revision of both policies; and
3. Recommend innovative strategies and approaches that may be applicable to special uses and ecotourism.

The said Consultation Workshop will be participated in by the Protected Area Superintendents (PASus) of the legislated Protected Areas and your respective Chief (or representative) of the Conservation and Development Division in clusters on the following dates and venues: