



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV**
Regional Executive Director, DENR R-4B

FROM : **THE DIRECTOR**
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service

SUBJECT : **PROJECT STATUS REPORT OF THE PROJECT TITLED, "RESEARCH ON THE META-POPULATION OF TAMARAW IN MINDORO" AS OF CY 2022 3rd QUARTER**

We would like to provide you a copy of the Project Status Report (PSR) of the DENR-FASPS funded Special Project titled, "Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro" as of CY 2022 3rd Quarter. This PSR is based on the Project Manager's meeting conducted by FASPS with the Project last September 16, 2022.

With an elapsed time of 56%, the project has a physical accomplishment of 58% as against the target of 64.36% or a slippage of 6.36% based on project completion schedule of December 31, 2022. The slippage consists of the delays in the following activities: a) conduct of the 21 out of the 22 target community consultation/key informant interviews; b) conduct of the 13 out of the 22 target rapid habitat assessment/verification survey; and c) conduct of the field trials for the appropriate counting methods identified. Also, delay in the release of project funds to PENRO Occidental and Oriental Mindoro due to late submission of disbursement report hinders further the procurement of the project supplies.

For the financial status, PhP1,633,047.50 or 81.65% was obligated from the total fund allotment of PhP2,000,000.00, and PhP1,007,021.19 or 90.72% was disbursed out of the NTA released of PhP1,110,000.00. Low utilization of funds accounts for the pending activities as mentioned above.

As of the reporting period, the following were the major activities conducted by the Project: a) community consultations/key informant interviews in 5 municipalities of Occidental Mindoro; and b) conduct of the field trials for the appropriate counting methods identified.

For the 4th Quarter CY 2022, the following are the planned activities: a) community consultations/key informant interviews in the remaining municipalities of Oriental Mindoro; c) conduct of the verification survey in 4 municipalities, namely Victoria, Bongabong, and Naujan of Oriental Mindoro and Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.

Also, we are requesting the Region's assistance/monitoring on the compliance/resolution of the reported issues and concerns started in the report.

For your information and consideration.



AL O. OROLFO, Ph.D.

cc: **Atty. Jonas R. Leones**
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Marcial C. Amaro, Jr., CESO II
Assistant Secretary, Policy, Planning and FASPS
Marilyn R. Limpiada
Chief, Planning and Management Division

DENR Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Quarterly Project Status Report
As of September 2022

I. PROFILE
Project Title: Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro
Fund Source/s: DENR (II.d. Conduct of Special Studies, Design and Development in Support of Biodiversity, Forestry, Mining and Environmental Management Operations)
Total Project Cost: PhP 2,000,000.00
Signing Date: 2021 (approval of project)
Duration: Two (2) years
Effectivity Date: August 2021
Closing Date: August 2023
Implementing Agency: DENR-PENRO Occidental Mindoro and DENR- IV-B (MIMAROPA) Regional Office
Sector: Biodiversity
Regions: IV-B
Beneficiaries: DENR Region IV-B (MIMAROPA), concerned PENROs, CENROs, PASU, LGUs, NGOs, Academe and other institutions in Mindoro in planning and aligning their programs and initiatives for the conservations of the Tamaraw.
<p>Description:</p> <p>The Tamaraw, a critically endangered mammal found only in the island of Mindoro and the proposed National Land Mammal, continues to face challenges and threats that contribute to its general population decline over the last century. The Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP) is the result of Population Habitat and Viability Assessment Workshop conducted in December 2018 by the DENR Tamaraw Conservation Program, funded by BMB-Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and facilitated by BMB-Biodiversity Finance Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group and Conservation Planning Specialist Group.</p> <p>The Population Habitat and Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop in 2018 has identified many issues and concerns that lead to the crafting of the 10-year TCMAP. This proposal aims to answer some primary issues and concerns on meta-population component.</p> <p>Per TCMAP, there are many gaps on the knowledge of the population dynamics of the Tamaraw. This issue is caused by information gaps on the possible locations and habitat range of Tamaraws across Mindoro. As a result, the remaining population of the Tamaraw cannot be estimated for the whole island of Mindoro but limited only to its core habitat within Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP). Furthermore, the only method of counting being used since year 2000 within 2,200 hectares Tamaraw core habitat in MIBNP is the Intensive Concentration Count (ICC) or Simultaneous Multi-vantage Point Count (SMVPC) where “controlled burning” is the preparatory activity to conduct the ICC/SMPVC to improve visibility of Tamaraw and enhance sprouts of cogon and talahib grasses which are main forage for said animal. With this method, there are major disadvantages like burning risks other forms of life, reduces fertility of the soil, hamper diversity</p>

and prevent forest succession. Finally, ICC/MPV is suitable only in a grassland ecosystem while Tamaraws have been recorded in scrublands and forest ecosystems.

In order to address the aforesaid issues, this project covers two (2) major parts:

- a) Island-wide identification and mapping of the Tamaraw locations and habitats; and
- b) Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat type.

Mindoro Island (provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro) covering twenty-two (22) municipalities. The 22 municipalities were identified based on land classification map and actual land cover per Google earth view. The target sites also include unexplored areas (outside of Tamaraw core habitat) of Mts. Iglit-Baco natural Park, and other known habitats of Tamaraw.

Objective:

Specifically, the Project aims to:

1. Establish information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraws in Mindoro by early 2020; and
2. Develop alternative counting methodology/ies to estimate Tamaraw population suitable to a range of habitat types developed.

The following are the overall expected Outputs:

1. Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro established
2. Tamaraw population in the Island of Mindoro estimated
3. Appropriate methodology/ies for Tamaraw population count suitable to a range of habitat types developed

Components	Expected Outputs	Updates/Status
1.Establishment of information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraws in Mindoro	1.0. Initial Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	Completed.
	1.1. Key Informant interview (KII) report(s)/community consultation report(s)	Behind Schedule Out of the twenty-two (22) targeted municipalities to be surveyed as of September 2022, twenty-one (21) municipalities were surveyed. By 4 th Quarter, an additional 1 LGU (Baco/San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro) is to be included in the survey.
	1.2. Rapid habitat assessment report(s) submitted with baseline information on Tamaraw population estimates	Behind Schedule Out of the twenty-two targeted municipalities to be surveyed as of September 2022, only thirteen (13) municipalities were surveyed. The Project

		submitted a catch-up plan to cover all the delays in the conduct of rapid habitat assessment/verification survey for the remaining municipalities in Mindoro.
	1.3. Technical report and documentation report	Ongoing activity, on Schedule One (1) technical report/ documentation report was initially submitted to PENRO Mindoro capturing activities so far conducted. Succeeding technical report is scheduled to be submitted by 4 th Quarter.
	1.4. Final Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	<i>Requested to be delivered on 1st Quarter 2023 as final output.</i>
2. Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat types (e.g. scrubland, forest, grassland)	2.0. Appropriate count method identified	On Schedule First fieldwork (dung transect method) conducted last July to August, 2022. Corresponding report TCP submitted to PENRO Occidental Mindoro last September 28, 2022. Second fieldwork scheduled to be conducted by 1 st Quarter of 2023
	2.1. Report on the workshop conducted	Completed.
	2.2. Report on the consultation	Completed.
	2.3. Technical Report/ Process documentation on the initial testing of the method	Ongoing activity, on Schedule.
3. Project Monitoring and Supervision/ Project Management	3.1. Quarterly progress reports	On schedule.
	3.2. Preparation of Final Technical Report	<i>Requested to be delivered on 4th Quarter 2023</i>
	3.3. Project Completion Report	<i>Requested to be delivered on 4th Quarter 2023</i>

II. Project Status

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habitat assessment/verification survey; and c) conduct of the field trials for the appropriate counting methods identified. Also, delay in the release of project funds to PENRO Occidental and Oriental Mindoro due to late submission of disbursement report hinders further the procurement of the project supplies.

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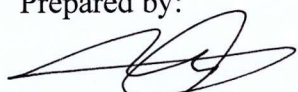
As of the reporting period, the following were the major activities conducted by the Project: a) community consultations/key informant interviews in 5 municipalities of Occidental Mindoro; and b) conduct of the field trials for the appropriate counting methods identified.

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III. Issues and Concerns

Lack of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) for the project implementation.	Upon coordination of TCP with NCIP Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, community consultations are scheduled to be conducted by the NCIP by 4 th Quarter of CY2022
Gaps in Research activities identified.	Partner NGOs (Mindoro State University and MBCFi, University of Santo Tomas and D' Aboville Foundation) made commitment to take on the gaps identified.
Initial Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	TCP to further explore conduct of workshop on suitability mapping.
Delays in the project implementation due to the delays in the downloading of funds and difficulty in the procurement of the supplies because of the sub-contracting system.	The Project Team to submit a catch-up plan and draft revised CY 2022 WFP for the activities that were not implemented this year.
Negative presence of the Tamaraw in some municipalities based on the conducted Key Informant Interviews.	The Project Team was advised to conduct verification survey in the municipalities with negative presence of the Tamaraw.

Prepared by:


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Noted by:


Eddie B. Abugan, Jr.
Chief, FASPS-PMD