



Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Natural Resources Development Corporation
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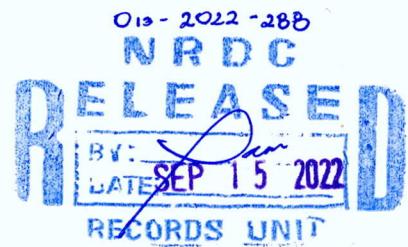
MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Director
Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center
Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

FROM : The Officer-In-Charge
Natural Resources Development Corporation (NRDC)

SUBJECT : **NRDC REPRESENTATIVES AS TEAM MEMBERS TO EVALUATE
AND ASSESS THE OPERATION OF THE PALAWAN WILDLIFE
AND RESCUE CENTER (PWRCC)**

DATE : **SEP 15 2022**

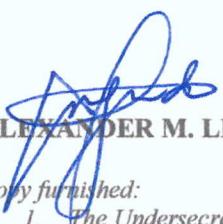


This refers to the Memorandum of the Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change dated September 6, 2022 (Annex 1), requesting the BMB Director to form a team composed of representatives from BMB, PENRO Palawan and NRDC to evaluate and assess the operations of the PWRCC.

In view of the above, NRDC is submitting the following personnel as the Representatives to the said activity:

1. Forester Alexander M. Linde
OIC, Administrative Division
(02) 8521-9455 or amlind_24@yahoo.com.ph
2. Mr. Lorenzo Jr J. Dela Cruz
Admin. Assistant
(02) 8521-9455 and ldelacruz.nrdc@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.


ALEXANDER M. LINDE

Copy furnished:

1. *The Undersecretary
Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change and
Supervising Undersecretary for NRDC
2nd Floor, DENR Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City*
2. *The Regional Executive Director
DENR Region IV-B MIMAROPA
3rd Floor, DENR By the Bay Building, Roxas Blvd. Ermita, Manila*
3. *The PENRO Palawan
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan*

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MEMORANDUM

TO : The Director
Biodiversity Management Bureau

The PENRO Palawan

The Officer-in-Charge
Natural Resources Development Corporation

FROM : The Undersecretary
Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change

SUBJECT : **CREATION OF A TEAM TO EVALUATE/ASSESS THE OPERATION OF THE PALAWAN WILDLIFE RESCUE AND CONSERVATION CENTER (PWRCC)**

DATE : 06 September 2022

REFERENCE:

1. Memorandum dated 29 July 2022 of OIC, Director Natividad Y. Bernardino of the Biodiversity Management Bureau, submitting the findings and recommendations relative to the monitoring and assessment conducted at the Palawan Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Center (PWRCC).
2. Memorandum dated 04 August 2022 of Ms. Gina Varilla, OIC, Project Manager, PWRCC, submitting her clarification on the issues and concerns observed by the BMB Team.
3. Memorandum dated 01 September 2022 of Officer-In-Charge Alexander M. Linde submitting NRDC's recommending for the conduct of a Fact-Finding activity regarding the matter.

In connection to the above documents, the Director of the BMB is requested to form a team composed of representatives from said Offices to evaluate and assess the operations of the PWRCC. The team shall submit to the undersigned within one (1) month from the receipt of this memorandum, a report on the evaluation and assessment conducted.

For your immediate appropriate action.

Analiza Rebuelta-Teh
ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH

Cc: The Regional Executive Director
DENR-Region IVB

SUBJECT: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO THE MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED AT THE PALAWAN WILDLIFE RESCUE AND CONSERVATION CENTER (PWRCC)

BMB FINDINGS	BMB RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENTS OF PWRCC PROJECT MANAGER
<p>1. The crocodiles and other wildlife at the PWRCC are receiving irregular feeding and insufficient food.</p> <p>The PWRCC heavily relied/ depended on donations and solicitations (being done by PWRCC staff) of condemned meat.</p> <p>PWRCC has not purchased any animal food/feeds since the 1st quarter of 2022 and solely depended on donations/solicitations of condemned meat.</p>	<p>A weekly food requirement table (identified by the Head of the Crocodile and Wildlife Sections) should be issued as basis for procuring the amount of food products. Further, it must be ensured that the quantity of food delivered per week at the Center is within the optimal amount needed by the wildlife. This is to avoid wildlife casualties resulting from malnourishment. Upon delivery, all procured products should undergo inspection and acceptance and proper recording.</p>	<p>The total donations received from various donor from September to December 2021 was 7.688 tons of condemned meat or an equal to an average of 1.9 tons of feeds per month.</p> <p>Bananas, dog food and concentrate seed mix were purchased as alternative food nutrients. Admittedly, PWRCC did not purchase animal food in the 1st qtr of 2022 due to the reason that it was still utilizing the feed allotment for the later part of 2021 and PENRO-BAC Secretariat has not found any eligible bidder by that time.</p>
<p>2. High crocodile and other wildlife mortality. From October 2021 to March 2022, crocodile mortality in the Center was recorded to have a total of 91 individual crocodiles comprising of 57 hatchlings, 15 juveniles, 7 sub-adults and 12 breeders.</p> <p>Most of the hatchlings were in poor body condition, runts, emaciated and were reported to have died due to starvation and a generally weakened immune system based on the necropsy reports of the Veterinarian at the Center.</p> <p>From January to May 2022, crocodile mortality at the Center was recorded to have 109 individuals.</p> <p>It should be taken into consideration that if the</p>	<p>In cases where bidders are yet to be awarded, the PWRCC is highly recommended to procure animal food/feeds following the government procurement process. Do not rely on donations, because donations may not provide enough food for all crocodiles and other animals at the Center.</p>	<p>Mortality has significantly lessened in CY 2021 with a total of 97 and from January to July 2022 a total of 148.</p>

<p>animals do not meet their optimal food requirement, they become at risk for diseases (due to weakened immune system and they can exhibit erratic behaviour, especially in crocodiles. The unsustainable maintenance was found to have already detrimentally affected the wildlife in the Center.</p>		
<p>3. For 2021, no accomplishment report was submitted by the PWRCC relative to the implementation of activities in the WFP for the downloaded funds such as repair of crocodile breeding pens, repair and maintenance of submersible pumps, elevated water tanks, etc.)</p>	<p>The Center must have a record of all transactions. Logbook and/or database are essential in record keeping of data such as donations (whether in kind or monetary), purchases, inventories and sales of PWRCC.</p>	<p>The funds transferred from the CO and BMB was spent according to its purpose.</p> <p>Crocodile and wildlife feeds were purchased and the repair of one (1) breeding pen was accomplished in November.</p> <p>Currently ongoing is the repair of another two (2) breeding pen and repair of elevated water tank cannot be pursued due to lack of bidder due to very low budget for repair.</p> <p>Repair and maintenance of electrical transformer and submersible pump were found out to be erroneously classified. Items are not for repair but for replacement of units. It should be categorized as Capital Outlay instead of MOOE.</p>
<p>4. Per Accounting of PENRO Palawan, the PWRCC has a continuing budget from 2021 accrued from the downloaded funds from the Central Office amounting to P1,062,042.50. The said fund is intended for the procurement and purchase of animal feeds for the wildlife at the Center. Hence, the Center has sufficient fund for animal foods/feeds since 2021 but</p>	<p>The NRDC is encouraged to provide or include in its annual budgetary request the necessary funds to sustain the operations and maintain the Center. Should there be additional expenses and costs that are not covered by the Center's WFP, NRDC should coordinate with the PENRO and the BMB regarding the Center's status, updates and submission of reportorial requirements.</p>	

<p>was not utilized by the Center.</p>		
<p>5. The current management of the Center had allegedly created a divide among its personnel with its bias treatment of selected employees.</p>	<p>The management is highly encouraged to further capacitate employees and personnel through the conduct of training specifically in wildlife restraint, handling and retrieval. All employees and personnel of PWRCC must comply and abide by the code of conduct and ethical standards in rendering their services. Everyone must avoid engaging in fraudulent and inappropriate acts, especially using the Center's name.</p> <p>Indispensable personnel such as animal keepers be given priority in reporting for work since the rescue center needs to be manned by them at all times.</p> <p>Replace the current PWRCC Project Director. The PWRCC Project Director must be technical personnel, has a promising background in wildlife conservation and with good managerial and leadership skills.</p> <p>The PWRCC Project Manager reportedly used derogatory words on multiple occasions and during assemble meetings.</p>	<p>Regarding training and seminars for capacity building for employees, these activities were already coordinated with the City Tourism Office (for IEC staff) since January and to the Crocodylus Porocus Phils. Inc. for animal keepers). The City Tourism Office has already committed to include the IEC Staff in their training activities in the 4th quarter of this year. The CCPI also committed to conduct refresher training courses.</p> <p>It is vehemently denied that there is a divide among the Personnel. The undersigned was and is never biased of her treatment to all.</p> <p>Being a Human Resource Management Officer by plantilla, the undersigned is very compliant with the provisions of RS 6713.</p>

NRDC recommendation:

1. Conduct a joint Fact-Finding activity with representatives from NRDC, BMB and DENR-MIMAROPA thru PENRO Palawan;
2. Submit CSW for endorsement to the DENR Internal Audit Service for investigation.