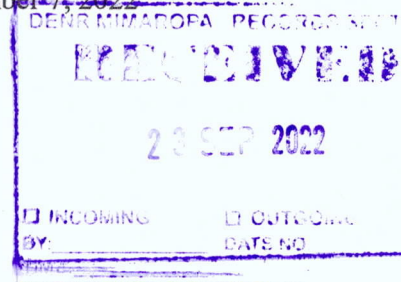




September 7, 2022



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
MIMAROPA Region

THRU : The Assistant Regional Director
for Technical Services

FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer
Odiongan, Romblon

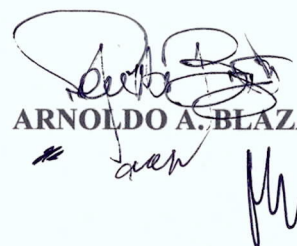
SUBJECT : 3RD QUARTER, C.Y. 2022 MONITORING OF PRIORITY
THREATENED SPECIES ON MARINE TURTLES IN THE
PROVINCE OF ROMBLON

Respectfully submitting is the 3rd Quarter, C.Y. 2022 Monitoring of Priority Threatened Species on Marine Turtles in the Province of Romblon.

Based on the results, this Office monitored eighteen (18) marine turtle nesting sites found in ten (10) coastal municipalities. About one hundred thirteen (113) critically endangered Hawksbill turtle hatchlings successfully released in Sitio Guiob, Barangay Binongaan, San Agustin, Romblon. Furthermore, there were two (2) adult Green turtles rescued and released in the Municipalities of San Agustin and San Jose. However, one (1) adult Green turtle found washed ashore dead in Barangay Batiano, Odiongan, Romblon.

Further, result of this monitoring serves as basis in sustaining marine turtle joint conservation efforts with concerned LGUs, CSOs, academe, communities and other key stakeholders to pursue conservation and management projects in particular conduct of Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) and forge MOU/MOA with this Office.

For information and record.


ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.



September 6, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The OIC, PENR Officer
Odiongan, Romblon

THRU : The Chief, Technical Services Division
Odiongan, Romblon

FROM : The Undersigned

SUBJECT : 3RD QUARTER, C.Y. 2022 MONITORING OF PRIORITY
THREATENED SPECIES ON MARINE TURTLES IN THE
PROVINCE OF ROMBLON

This pertains to the 3rd Quarter, C.Y. 2022 Monitoring of Priority Threatened Species on Marine Turtles in the Province of Romblon funded under WFP 2022.

The quarterly report covers the number of marine turtles rescued, tagged and released; and the number of nesting sites monitored/or managed.

BRIEF BACKGROUND

MIMAROPA Region identified as one of the regions with the most number of confirmed nesting beaches in the country. This is because of its unique geographical location and characteristics. For instance, the Province of Romblon recorded three of the five species of marine turtles nested namely Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and Olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). The Leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) found foraging in Tablas Island, Romblon.

All of these marine turtle species now threatened globally and locally caused by climate change, by-catch, plastic debris, poaching activities and habitat degradation like beach quarrying, encroachment of foreshore areas and now, construction of seawalls/protection walls. The conservation and protection of this species is utmost concern.

Accordingly, marine turtles are listed as endangered in Appendix I of the CITES and Endangered in IUCN. The Hawksbill and Leatherback turtles listed as “Critically Endangered” in DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2019-09 dated July 12, 2019. The Green, Olive ridley and Loggerhead remained as “Endangered” species in the same DAO. In the previous year, Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) issued Technical Bulletin No. 2020-05 with the subject “Guidelines on the Protection of Marine Turtle Nesting Habitats served valuable reference in the field.

Moreover, to conserve marine turtle species, both the species and habitat be sustainably managed. With this, identification and management of nesting beaches is very crucial. Hence,



this Office carried out its mandate to continuously monitor and protect the marine turtles and nesting beaches in the Province of Romblon through partnership with LGUs, CSOs, academe, private sector, communities and other stakeholders.

LEGAL BASES

Below are the several laws, issuances, local ordinance and government programs that support marine turtle conservation:

- 1.) Executive Order No. 708 dated July 27, 1981- Pawikan Conservation Project (PCP);
- 2.) Republic Act 9147 of 2001 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act);
- 3.) Republic Act 8550 of 1998 (Phil. Fisheries Code) as amended by R.A. 10654 of 2015;
- 4.) Philippine Animal Welfare Act of 1998 as amended in 2012;
- 5.) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;
- 6.) Convention on Migratory Species (CMS);
- 7.) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- 8.) Convention on Wetlands;
- 9.) Programs: Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI); and Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME);
- 10.) BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2020-05 Re: Guidelines on the Protection of Marine Turtle Nesting Habitats;
- 11.) DAO 2016-12 Re: Adopting the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan;
- 12.) DAO 2019-09 Re: Updated National List of Threatened Species; and
- 13.) Municipal Ordinance No. 2014-06 of Odiongan, Romblon “An Ordinance Declaring all the Coastal Barangays of Odiongan as Pawikan Nesting Sites and Establishing the Pawikan Multi-Purpose Hall in Barangay Budiong for the Protection and Conservation of Endangered and/or Threatened Species Living in the Aquatic Environment of the Municipality of Odiongan and Prescribing its Functions, Appropriating Funds and Providing Penalty in Violation Thereof.”

METHODOLOGY

Monitoring of priority threatened species on marine turtles primarily selected based on the reports and field visits, validation, assessment or interview with the concerned fisher folks and various personnel's of Municipal Agriculture Office in the province. The method applied is gathering of primary data on the number of marine turtles rescued, tagged and released;



and the number of nesting sites monitored/or managed in consideration of its habitat conditions and underlying threats.

SITUATION IN THE AREA

For effective and efficient conduct of monitoring of various coastal areas, this Office collaborated with the concerned Municipal LGU's and coastal communities/fisher folks for the assistance in the conduct of monitoring of priority threatened species on marine turtles.

Below are the highlights of the field activities conducted:

**Table: Monitoring of Priority Threatened Species on Marine Turtles
(3rd Quarter, C.Y. 2022)**

Municipality	Barangay	Island	Coordinates	Species	Updates
Romblon	Sablayan	Romblon Is.	N 12°5'59" E 122°0'49"	Hawksbill turtle	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threat/s: beach erosion and presence of debris.
	Agnaga		N 12°5'59" E 122°0'49"	Hawksbill turtle	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threat/s: beach erosion and presence of debris.
	Agpanabat		N 12°5'59" E 122°0'49"	Hawksbill turtle	- observed nesting per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threat: presence of debris.



Sta. Fe	Agmanic	Tablas Is.	N 12°5'59" E 122°0'49"	Hawksbill turtle	- observed nesting, foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threat/s: presence of debris.
	Tabugon		N 12°7'38" E 122°1'22"	Adult Green turtle	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; - observed tourism dev't. activity.
Looc	Buenavista	Tablas Is.	N 12°16'44" E 121°57'25"	Hawksbill turtles	- observed foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion & presence of debris.
Odiongan	Budiong	Tablas Is.	N 12°24'06" E 121°58'28"	Olive ridley turtles	- observed foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion, presence of debris and encroachment of nesting area.



San Andres	Calunacon	Tablas Is.	N 12°32'33" E 122°0'37"	Olive ridley and Green turtles	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion and presence of debris.
	Agpudlos		N 12°33'23" E 122°0'8"	Olive ridley and Green turtles	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks.
Calatrava	San Roque	Tablas Is.	N 12°36'15" E 122°1'21"	Hawksbill and Green turtles	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks.
Alcantara	Calagonsao	Tablas Is.	N 12°21'5" E 122°5'42"	Hawksbill turtle	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion, encroachment of some residential houses, beach quarrying and presence of debris.
	Tugdan		N 12°18'39" E 122°5'11"	Olive ridley turtles	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks.
San Agustin	Lusong	Tablas Island	N 12°30'47" E 122°7'04"	Olive ridley turtles	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threat: beach erosion.



	Binonga-an		N 12°31'53" E 122°7'36"	Hawksbill turtles	- observed foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion and presence of debris.
Sta. Maria	Paroyhog	Tablas Is.	N 12°24'47" E 122°6'18"	Green turtle	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks;
	Concepcion Norte		N 12°22'57" E 122°5'44"	Green turtle/Olive ridley turtle	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion, encroachment of some residential houses and presence of debris.
	Concepcion Sur		N 12°23'48" E 122°5'52"	Green turtle/Olive ridley turtle	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion, encroachment of some residential houses and presence of debris.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the conduct of the 3rd Quarter Monitoring of Priority Threatened Species on Marine Turtles in the Province of Romblon, this Office monitored eighteen (18) marine turtle nesting sites found in ten (10) coastal municipalities. About one hundred thirteen (113) critically endangered Hawksbill turtle hatchlings successfully released in Sitio Guiob, Barangay Binongaan, San Agustin, Romblon. Furthermore, there were two (2) adult Green turtles rescued and released in the Municipalities of San Agustin and San Jose. However, one (1) adult Green turtle found washed ashore dead in Barangay Batiano, Odiongan, Romblon.

Accordingly, observed threats were beach erosion, presence of marine debris, and encroachment of some residential houses/resorts/tourism related activities to the marine turtle nesting beaches.

Lastly, Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) on marine turtle conservation, protection and management conducted in various coastal municipalities.

CONCLUSION AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Marine turtles found in these coastal municipalities indicated healthy coastal and marine ecosystems despite of the observed common threats/disturbances.

The identification and implementation of appropriate measures at the local level as well as commitment of its key stakeholder's/fisher folks are crucial in the conservation of these threatened species and its habitat.

AGENCIES INVOLVED

Agencies involved are DENR- Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB); DENR-Implementing PENRO of Romblon; DA- Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); and PLGU of Romblon; and the concerned M/BLGU's in the province.

RECOMMENDATION

Given the above findings and or/ observations, it is highly recommended that this Office shall closely coordinate with the concerned Municipal LGU's and key agencies for the appropriate identification, prioritization and implementation of various interventions prescribed under BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2020-05 with the subject "Guidelines on the Protection of Marine Turtle Nesting Habitats."

Lastly, intensify the monitoring of marine turtle nesting sites, address the common threats/disturbances, and facilitate the conduct Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) towards the protection, conservation and management of this threatened marine turtle species.



ATTACHMENTS

Please see attached Photo-documentations and Map.


ACTION REQUESTED

For information and record.

Prepared & submitted:


RAYMUND G. INOCENCIO
ECOMS II

Reviewed:


ARLYN D. BALIBAG
Chief, CDS



PHOTODOCUMENTATIONS

Marine Turtle Standing Report



Rescued and Released of one (1) Green Sea Turtle in Brgy. Poblacion,
San Agustin, Romblon on July 31, 2022 led by Municipal Agriculture Office



Rescued and Released of one (1) Green Sea Turtle at
San Jose, Romblon with Tag No. PH0030M on August 5, 2022
led by Municipal Agriculture Office with Bantay Dagat Members



Washed ashore dead Green Sea Turtle found at coastal area of
Barangay Batiano, Odiongan, Romblon on August 25, 2022
(Documented by For. Vannesa R. Gadon-DENR PENRO Romblon)



Egg shells of marine turtle in its natural nest



Rescued and Released of disoriented 113 Critically Endangered
Hawksbill Turtle Hatchlings at So. Guiob, Barangay Binongaan,
San Agustin, Romblon on August 27, 2022 led by concerned fisherfolks

(NOTE: During validation/field visit, we advised already the concerned fisherfolks to refrain from placing the hatchlings in a container with water prior to its release.)



3rd Quarter, C.Y. 2022 Monitoring of Marine Turtle Nesting Sites

Municipality of Sta. Maria

Barangay Concepcion Norte



Barangay Concepcion Sur





Barangay Paroyhog



Municipality of Sta. Fe

Barangay Tabugon





Barangay Agmanic



Municipality of Romblon

Barangay Sablayan





Barangay Agnaga



Barangay Agpanabat





Municipality of Odiongan

Barangay Budiong



Municipality of Looc

Barangay Buenavista





Municipality of Alcantara

Barangay Tugdan



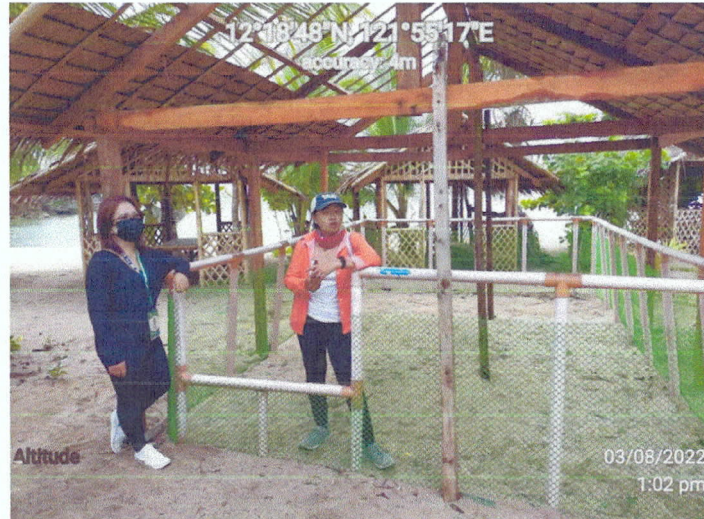
Barangay Calagonsao





Municipality of Ferrol

Barangay Bunsoran



Municipality of San Agustin

Barangay Binongaon





Barangay Lusong



Municipality of Calatrava

Barangay of San Roque





Municipality of San Andres

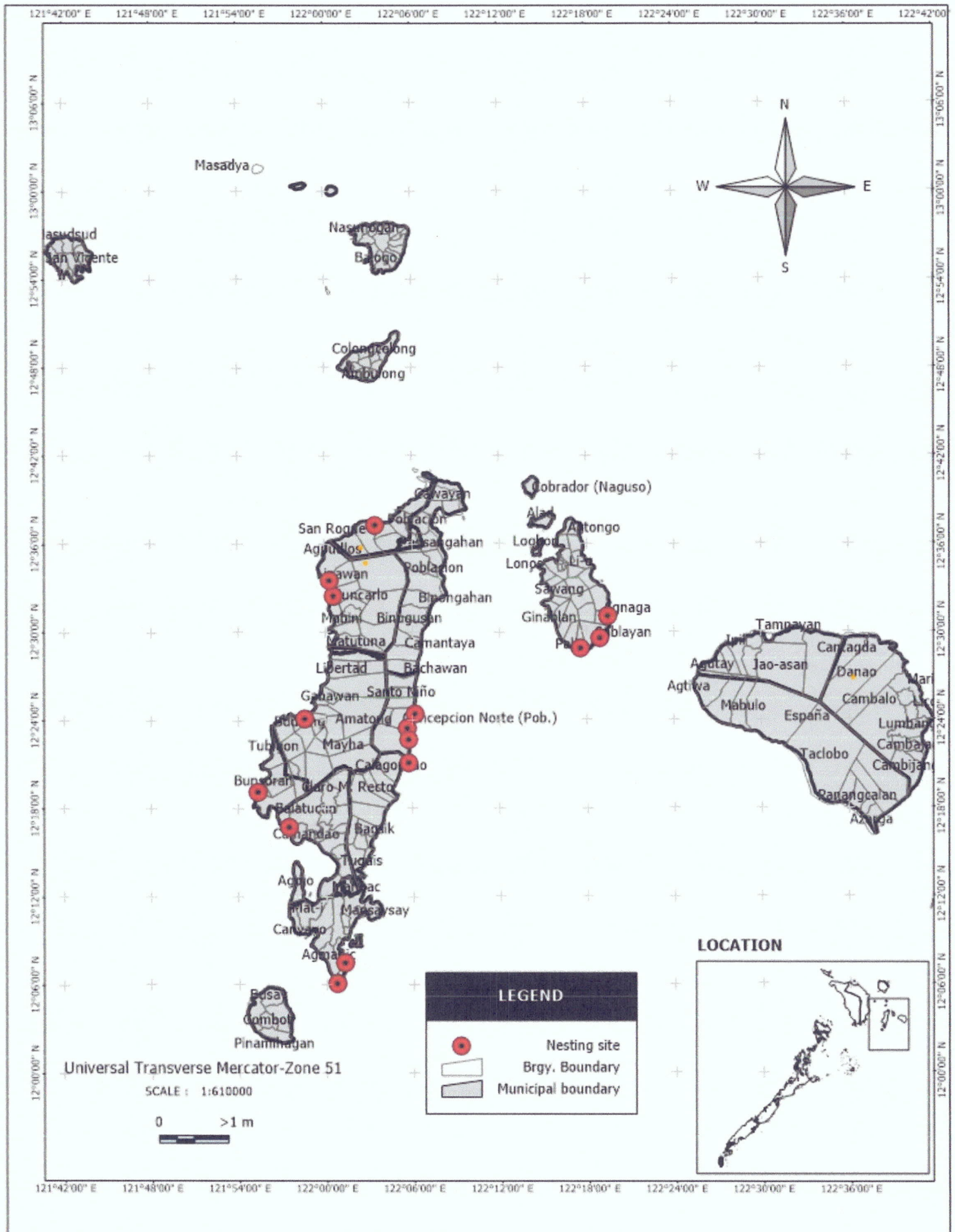
Barangay Calunacon



Barangay Agpudlos



3st Quarter, C.Y. 2022- Monitoring of Marine Turtle Nesting Sites



3rd Quarter, C.Y. 2022- Monitoring of Marine Turtle Nesting Sites

