



April 14, 2023

**LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV**

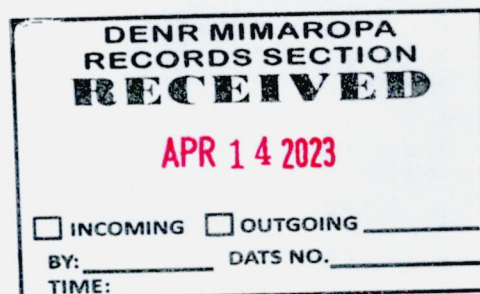
Regional Executive Director  
DENR MIMAROPA

Attention:

**CARMEN RAMINA S. TUBAL**

Chief – Wildlife Resource Permitting Section

Dear Director Claudio,



A conservation day to you!

Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (MBCFI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization that conserves the environment, biodiversity, and natural resources in Mindoro Island, Philippines. The organization continues to promote greater awareness and concern for Mindoro's environment through improved information campaigns, capacity building, empowering communities, and enjoining them in formulating and implementing responsive policies for effective resource management and conservation.

For the past few years, MBCFI has been involved in conserving the critically endangered Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*). One of our involvements includes a partnership with Chester Zoo. I was recently accepted as one of the six awardees for the Chester Zoo William Oliver Philippine Champion Award 2019 with a proposed study entitled Dietary Analysis of Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) in Mindoro Island, Philippines. This study aims to conduct a dietary analysis using fecal samples from the Tamaraw to identify a vegetation diet list through metabarcoding. This study will be conducted in both Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP), Mindoro Occidental and Mt. Gimparay, Mindoro Oriental.

In addition, a biophysical profile survey will also be conducted in Mt. Gimparay to provide a comprehensive species lists and biodiversity data of the site to support conservation efforts in the area, and generate a biodiversity profile of the site, which will serve as a baseline for comparison with subsequent monitoring surveys and establish biodiversity monitoring plots for subsequent regular monitoring surveys.

MBCFI has presented the research proposal to the MIBNP-PAMB, and approval for the endorsement was obtained from the body last November 2019. Please see the attached Resolution No. 2019-08, series of 2019 from the MIBNP-PAMB, including an endorsement from DENR-Tamaraw Conservation Program.

Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) granted an endorsement for both the GP, which recognizes the project outcomes to achieve the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP) 2019 – 2028's Goals 1, 8 & 10. These include mobilizing the species' all-natural areas of Mindoro



**Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc.**

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that are suitable, strengthening law enforcement and wildlife crime prevention, and conducting a comprehensive socio-environmental assessment of the region to assist the integration of conservation objectives with the ongoing socio-economic dynamic of the Alangan Tribe. The TCMAP has been endorsed by IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group and DENR.


MBCFI was granted a Gratuitous Permit (GP) by your office last 2020 to conduct the collection of specimens for the study. However, surveys were not conducted due to the onset of the pandemic and strict local protocols. An extension of the GP validity was requested and issued until the June 2023. Alongside the GP, our organization needs to go through Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) applications with the communities on the selected project sites to obtain the Certificate of Precondition, given that the study will be conducted within their ancestral domain. Strict local health protocols and the election season have delayed our FPIC Applications to collect the specimen within the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022.

In March 2023, we were able to conduct the survey in Mt. Gimparay for both the dietary analysis of the Tamaraw and biophysical. This April, while the season is still dry, we hope to cover the area of MIBNP for the dietary analysis. We hope to conduct the same survey in both MIBNP and Mt. Gimparay at the last quarter of 2023 covering the wet season. In view of the validity of the GP that we have which will expire in June of 2023, we are humbly requesting for another extension on our GP, hopefully with a validity of one year which includes the following:

- Collection of fecal and flora samples in both MIBNP and Mt. Gimparay for the dietary analysis (1); and
- Collection fauna (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects) and flora in Mt. Gimparay for the biophysical profile survey (2).

Attached are the research project overview and the GP initially granted for your reference. For any queries or clarifications, don't hesitate to get in touch with us through this email ([elyza\\_p\\_tan@mbcfi.org.ph](mailto:elyza_p_tan@mbcfi.org.ph)) or these numbers (639) 17-129-7072. We look forward to your favorable response. Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

  
**ELYZA HAZEL TAN**  
Project Development and Resource Officer  
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.

Noted by:

  
**GRACE C. DIAMANTE**  
Executive Director  
Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation Foundation, Inc.