



OUTGOING
Received by: <i>[Signature]</i>
Date: <i>3/13/23</i>

March 13, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Regional Executive Director**
1515 L&S Bldg., Roxas Blvd
Ermita, Manila

THRU : **The Assistant Regional Director**
for Management Services

FROM : **The OIC, PENR Officer**
Odiongan, Romblon

SUBJECT : **PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT
(PASA) ORIENTATION/CONSULTATION MEETING
FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF VERDE
ISLAND PASSAGE (VIP) UNDER THE NIPAS IN THE
PROVINCE OF ROMBLON**

DENR MIMAROPA RECORDS SECTION RECEIVED	
APR 25 2023	
<input type="checkbox"/> INCOMING	<input type="checkbox"/> OUTGOING
BY: _____	DATS NO. _____
TIME: _____	

The undersigned is submitting the report apropos to the PASA Orientation/Consultation Meeting for the proposed establishment of VIP under the NIPAS in the Province of Romblon dated February 21-22, 2023.

Please refer to the enclosed highlights of the above-cited activity, photo documentation and attendance sheet as a Means of Verification (MoV) in support to the observance of this important event.

For information and record.

[Signature]
ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.
[Signature]



March 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The In-Charge, PENRO Romblon
Odiongan, Romblon

THRU : The Chief, Technical Services Division
Odiongan, Romblon

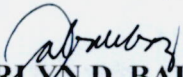
FROM : Chief, Conservation and Development Section

SUBJECT : PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT
(PASA) ORIENTATION/CONSULTATION MEETING FOR THE
PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE
(VIP) UNDER THE NIPAS IN THE PROVINCE OF ROMBLON

The undersigned is submitting the report apropos to the PASA Orientation/Consultation Meeting for the proposed establishment of VIP under the NIPAS in the Province of Romblon dated February 21-22, 2023.

Please refer to the enclosed highlights of the above-cited activity, photo documentation and attendance sheet as a Means of Verification (MoV) in support to the observance of this important event.

For information and record.


ARLYN D. BALIBAG



HIGHLIGHTS ON THE PASA ORIENTATION/CONSULTATION MEETING

Background and Rationale

Pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11038, all areas in the Philippines with proclamation as bird and wildlife sanctuary, wilderness area, strict nature reserve, including watershed, among others, are considered as “initial components” of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) and shall undertake Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA).

Before, the Verde Island Passage (VIP) has no national recognition until such time that the officers, technical staffs, and legal officers of DENR Regions MIMAROPA and CALABARZON conducted virtual meetings to legally declare VIP under the NIPAS using the Executive Order 578 as its basis.

The government established the Verde Island Passage (VIP) into Protected Area (PA) because of different human activities that threatened our coastal and marine areas. There are different processes and activities necessary in suitability assessment for protected areas. All the proposed areas for the establishment of PA shall undergo Protected Area Suitability Assessment PASA for rapid screening and evaluation. It also supports the modification of boundaries or disestablishment of existing protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).

In line with the DENR Memorandum Circular No. 17, Series of 1992, Section 4, the different activities for the conduct of PASA shall consist of the gathering, compilation and analysis of relevant information on the biophysical, socio-cultural and economic characteristics as well as other environment features of proposed protected area. As such, it shall involve secondary data collection, on-site observation and key informant interviews.

Thereby, as a result of putting a great deal of effort and strong collaboration of the DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Regional Office and Conservation and Development Section (CDS) of DENR-Romblon, a Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) Orientation/Consultation meeting intended for the Verde Island Passage (VIP) under the NIPAS was undertaken in the province of Romblon with the support and cooperation extended by the Local Government Officials, other government agencies and other sectors of society as stakeholders of Tres Islas (Concepcion, Corcuera, Banton) and Calatrava. The three northern islands of the province of Romblon and the most remote municipalities are the Tres Islas, potentially needs protection from all kinds of unmanaged and harmful human activities.

Goals and Objectives/s

The activity aims to serve as the basis to determine the suitability for the proposed establishment of VIP as protected area and inclusion in the NIPAS.

Specifically, its objectives are:

- To enhance awareness for all concerned stakeholders regarding overview and background of the proposed inclusion of VIP under RA 7586 amended by RA 11038.



- To conduct Key Informant Interview (KII).
- To acquire knowledge on how to fill-out the PASA Form with relevant information needed to determine the suitability for establishment as protected area.
- To draft and finalize the road map of the PASA Team.

Methodology

The system of methods/schemes done in carrying out the activity were initial coordination with the officials of LGU's, other government agencies and other sectors of society as stakeholders; a concise and apparent lecture/dialogue with the participants; distribution of PASA Forms, and the conduct of Key Informant Interviews (KII).

Results and Discussions

With reference to the mentioned schemes in the conduct of the activity, many participated even they have to run across inclement weather. The participants of Concepcion joined in via zoom due to the canceled scheduled trips of pump boats.

The program started by an invocation and followed by the singing of National Anthem through video presentation. Afterwards, Sir Malvin R. Rocero, the Chief-TSD, expressed his sincere appreciation and warm words of welcome to all the attendees who have traveled from afar just to be present in the said activity.

One of the major activities implemented were anchored on the initiatives and background on the proposed inclusion of VIP based on the ENIPAS or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 (RA 11038) which amends the NIPAS Act of 1992 (RA 7586). This was discussed on the first day of orientation by Ms. Alita Sangalang, the Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist, BMB-Coastal and Marine Division and Focal Person of VIP. Along with her dialogue were the Protected Area (PA) establishment process, management zoning, management plan, creation and composition of the Verde Island Passage Protected Seascape Management Board, powers and functions of the VIPPS PAMB, Protected Area Management Office (PAMO), role of the DENR, Integrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), special uses within the protected areas, and the prohibited acts within the PRMRR. She further demonstrated and displayed the map showing the proposed boundary of the VIP. Afterwards, Ms. Fatima Grate, one of the representatives of the Regional Office gave information and instructions with regards to proper filling out the PASA Forms and actual conduct of KII.

Before the program ended, an open forum encouraged everyone to have an active dialogue and awareness about different issues in relation to the tackled discussions. The speakers properly addressed the participants' raised questions and ended up giving everyone lots of takeaways from the said orientation/consultation meeting.

Eventually, Ms. Arlyn D. Balibag, the Chief-CDS, delivered the closing remarks by thanking all the participants for having an impressive spirit of cooperation throughout the activity. She likewise put an emphasis on trusting the DENR on animating all the endeavors in the interest of all the stakeholders involved. One of the aspects that she mentioned as most valuable was



the effective coordination and commitments made by the participants to continue supporting DENR's program by assuring that they will likewise do their part as stakeholders.

Facilitators/Participants

There are sixty-six (66) participants from LGUs of Banton, Corcuera, Concepcion, Calatrava, PG-ENRO, PCG, PNP Maritime, Romblon PPO, and other stakeholders who attended the meeting facilitated by DENR-BMB, Regional Office, PENRO PASA Team and concerned personnel of Conservation and Development Section.

Duration and Venue

The duration of the activity is two days and was held at Harbour Chateau, Odiongan, Romblon on February 21-22, 2023.

Attachments

Affixed into this report are photo documentations and attendance sheets.

Prepared by:

LORABEL B. URETA
Land Management Inspector

Reviewed by:

ARLYN D. BALIBAG
Chief, Conservation and Development
Section

Recommending Approval:

MALVIN R. ROCERO
Chief, TSD

Approved:

ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.
OIC, PENR Officer



GEOTAGGED PHOTOS DURING THE CONDUCT OF PASA ORIENTATON



Chief, TSD Malvin R. Rocero on delivering his welcome remarks



Ms. Alita Sangalang, the Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist, BMB-Coastal and Marine Division and Focal Person of VIP



Ms. Fatima Grate, one of the representatives of the Regional Office giving information and instructions with regards to proper filling out the PASA Forms and actual conduct of KII



RAISING OF QUESTIONS BY THE PARTICIPANTS





Ms. Arlyn D. Balibag, the Chief-CDS, delivering her closing remarks