



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
DENR-Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)
1515 L&S Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Manila

FROM : The Director
In concurrent capacity as Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning
and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects

SUBJECT : SUBMISSION OF CONSOLIDATED REPORTS ON CAVE
ASSESSMENT AND INITIAL CLASSIFICATION WITHIN
MIMAROPA REGION CY 2022

APR 19 2023

DENR MIMAROPA
RECORDS SECTION
RECEIVED

APR 25 2023

☐ INCOMING ☐ OUTGOING
BY: _____ DATE NO. _____

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Memoranda submitting the assessment reports of Labao Cave and Camarines Cave 2 in the province of Marinduque, Cansubong Cave in Occidental Mindoro, Akliyang Cave in Oriental Mindoro, Trangkal Cave and Loho Cave in Romblon.

The following are our comments and recommendations on your submissions:

1. General comments

- a. Based on our records, Labao Cave, Camarines Cave 2, and Cansubong Cave are not yet classified nor are included as Class II caves in DMC 2018-09, (Additional List of Classified Caves), as otherwise mentioned in the report;
- b. Please submit the following for the inclusion of all the aforementioned caves in the subsequent issuance of DMC on Additional List of Classified Caves:
 - i. Cave maps following the specifications provided under BMB Technical Bulletin 2021-01 (Standards on the Production and Layout of Cave Maps). This shall include the Technical Description of the cave map recorded using Annex D of the said guideline; and
 - ii. The Provincial Cave Committee Resolution endorsing the caves' classification.
- c. Kindly refer to DAO 2017-11 (Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Plants and their Categories) and DAO 2019-09 (Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and their Categories) for



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the conservation status of flora and fauna within the cave and its vicinities;

- d. Since Labao Cave, Camarines Cave 2, and Cansubong Cave are being recommended for guided tourism, kindly refer to BMB TB 2017-01 (Guidelines on Safeguarding Caves Utilized for Ecotourism), in the development of the management plan for the caves. Also identify in the management plan the zones for tourism activities as well as the identified hazards and recorded threatened species present therein;
- e. Since all caves except Trangkal Cave are within a private land, partnership with the concerned local government unit and the private landowners is recommended for the management of the caves. For guidance, please refer to PAWB TB 2013-05 (DENR-LGU-Landowner Memorandum of Agreement Template), and PAWB TB 2013-06 (DENR-LGU Memorandum of Agreement Template); and
- f. Submit all necessary GIS shapefiles (.shp, .shx, .dbf, and .dbf) of the cave maps as a compressed folder file (.zip format) as well as high-resolution photos of the caves, preferably in JPG format with 300 dpi resolution and 5 MB size for use in relevant information, education, and communication activities.

2. Labao Cave

It was noted that Labao Cave was named after its claimant/s, which is not in accordance with BMB TB 2018-07 (Guidelines Governing the Naming of Caves). We recommend the renaming of the cave following the said Technical Bulletin.

3. Camarines Cave 2

- a. Specify the name of the claimant of the area where the Camarines Cave 2 is situated; and
- b. Small pools are mentioned in Section II Item 5 (Cave Hazards) of the report. Hydrological features should be indicated in Item 4 (Hydrology).

4. Cansubong Cave

- a. Clarify if the assessed cave is Cansubong Cave 1, 2, or 3; and
- b. Note that treasure hunting is prohibited in cave sites within 500 meters from the cave opening per Section 8.7 of National Museum Order No. 2011-83 (Guidelines Governing the Issuance of Permits for Treasure Hunting).

5. Akliyang Cave

- a. Provide the following:
 - i. Conservation status of the listed flora and fauna;
 - ii. Type (e.g. river, lake) of the body of water inside the cave and the name of the river outside the cave; and
 - iii. Information on Section V (Threats, Problems, and Possible Solutions) and Section VI (Potential Use of Cave).
- b. As shown in the photo-documentation, not all cave assessors were wearing helmets, closed footwear, and coverall. Kindly note that the caving team should always wear proper protective equipment as safety measures; and
- c. Reconsider the classification of Akliyang Cave from Class II to Class I^C on account of the hazards present within the cave and the identified intended use of the cave that is limited to scientific research only.

6. Trangkal Cave

- a. Reflect the mentioned extraction of guano, collection of bird's nests, and vandalism in the table under Item 7.2 (Past Uses and Activities); and
- b. On Section IV (Archaeological Features), verify the presence of shells at station 3 since no ecofacts was initially indicated.

We would appreciate receiving the revised or updated documents for the abovementioned caves through email: cawed@bmb.gov.ph.

For consideration.


MARCIAL C. AMARO JR., CESO II

Cc: The Undersecretary for Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment
The OIC Assistant Secretary for Field Operations – Western Mindanao



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