



OUTGOING

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Date: 2/16/23

January 30, 2023

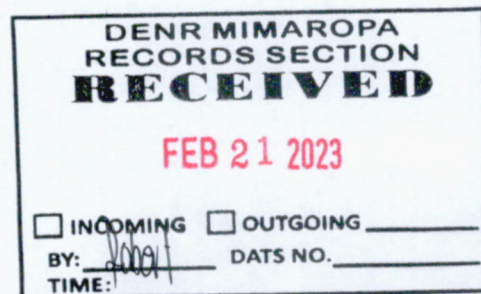
MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
MIMAROPA Region

THRU : The Assistant Regional Director
for Technical Services

FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer
Odiongan, Romblon

SUBJECT : 1ST QUARTER, C.Y. 2023 MONITORING OF PRIORITY
THREATENED SPECIES FOR MARINE TURTLES IN THE
PROVINCE OF ROMBLON



Respectfully submitting is the 1st Quarter, C.Y. 2023 Monitoring of Priority Threatened Species for Marine Turtles in the Province of Romblon.

Based on the results, this Office monitored seventeen (17) active marine turtle nesting sites located in ten (10) coastal municipalities and released four hundred ninety six (496) marine turtle hatchlings in San Agustin, Sta. Maria and Odiongan, Romblon.

Furthermore, it serves as a basis in sustaining coastal and marine biodiversity conservation efforts with the regular conduct of Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) to the concerned key stakeholders like LGUs, CSOs, academe, and the communities.

For information and record.

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



January 30, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The OIC, PENR Officer
Odiongan, Romblon

THRU : The Chief, Technical Services Division
Odiongan, Romblon

FROM : The Undersigned

SUBJECT : 1ST QUARTER, C.Y. 2023 MONITORING OF PRIORITY
THREATENED SPECIES FOR MARINE TURTLES IN THE
PROVINCE OF ROMBLON

This pertains to the 1st Quarter, C.Y. 2023 Monitoring of Priority Threatened Species for Marine Turtles in the Province of Romblon funded under WFP 2023.

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 and reclamations. The conservation and protection of their nesting areas is one of the utmost concerns.

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 for Marine Turtles
(1st Quarter, C.Y. 2023)**

Municipality	Barangay	Island	Coordinates	Species	Updates
Sta. Fe	Agmanic	Tablas Is.	N 12°7'30" E 122°1'26"	Hawksbill turtle	- observed foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threat/s: Hunting of eggs and presence of debris.
Looc	Buenavista	Tablas Is.	N 12°16'45" E 121°57'17"	Hawksbill turtles	- observed foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion & presence of debris.



Odiongan	Budiong	Tablas Is.	N 12°24'5" E 121°58'24"	Olive ridley turtles and Green Turtles	- observed foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion & presence of debris.
	Gabawan	Tablas Is.	N 12°26'15" E 121°59'57"	Olive ridley turtles	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -released 35 Olive ridley marine turtle hatchlings on January 23, 2023. -observed threats: beach erosion, encroachment of nesting sites, and presence of debris
	Tumingad		N 12°26'31" E 122°0'17"	Olive ridley turtles	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks;



					-observed threats: beach erosion and presence of debris
	Libertad		N 12°26'56" E 122°0'22"	Green and Hawksbill turtles	- observed foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion and presence of debris
	Panique		N 12°28'44" E 122°0'35"	Olive ridley turtles	- observed foraging, nesting and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion and presence of debris
San Andres	Calunacon	Tablas Is.	N 12°32'31" E 122°0'34"	Olive ridley and Green turtles	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion and presence of debris.
	Agpudlos		N 12°33'24" E 122°0'9"	Olive ridley and Green turtles	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks.



Calatrava	San Roque	Tablas Is.	N 12°37'11" E 122°3'39"	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 quarrying and presence of debris.
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 and quarrying.
	Binonga-an		N 12°31'52" E 122°7'35"(Pina muntunan) N 12°32'11" E 122°8'13" (Bonbon)	Hawksbill turtles	- observed foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion and quarrying
	Concepcion Norte	Tablas Is.	N 12°23'12" E 122°5'33"	Green turtle	- observed foraging per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion, and presence of debris.



Ferrol	Bunsoran	Tablas Is.	N 12°18'48" E 122°55'17"	Hawksbill turtle	- observed foraging and breeding per interview with fisherfolks; -observed threats: beach erosion, tourism activities, and presence of debris.
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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results, this Office monitored seventeen (17) active marine turtle nesting sites located in ten (10) coastal municipalities and released about four hundred ninety six (496) marine turtle hatchlings in Sta. Maria, Odiongan and San Agustin, Romblon in the month of January 2023.

On January 23, 2023, about 35 Olive ridley marine turtle hatchlings released in Sitio Daisy, Barangay Tumingad, Odiongan. On January 2, 2023, about 150 Olive Ridley hatchlings was released by the locals on Barangay Tugdan, Alcantra; on January 5, 2023 about 100 Green Sea turtle hatchlings was released on Camp Noah Beach Resort Barangay Agpudlos, San Andres; on November 5, 2022 about 135 Green turtle hatchlings released in Barangay Paroyhog, Sta. Maria; and on November 19, 2022 about 111 Hawksbill turtle hatchlings released in Barangay Binongaan, San Agustin.

Accordingly, observed threats were beach erosion and quarrying, 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

The presence of threatened marine turtles found in various coastal municipalities is a strong indication of a healthy coastal and marine ecosystem despite of the observed common threats/disturbances.

The identification and implementation of sustainable measures like CEPA and livelihood support 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

Based on 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 including livelihood support to fisher folks, 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.

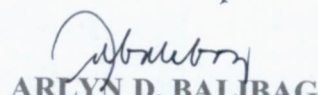
ACTION REQUESTED

For information and record.

Prepared & submitted:


JANICE F. FORCADAS
ECOMS I

Reviewed:


ARLYN D. BALIBAG
Chief, CDS



PHOTODOCUMENTATIONS
Monitoring of Marine Turtle Nesting Sites
1st Qtr., C.Y. 2023

Municipality of Sta. Maria, Romblon
January 4, 2023



Concepcion Norte, Sta. Maria



Paroyhog, Sta. Maria



Municipality of San Agustin, Romblon
January 4-6, 2023



Sitio Centro, Lusong, San Agustin



So. Pinamutunan, Binonga-an, San Agustin



Sitio Bonbon, Binonga-an, San Agustin

Municipality of Odiongan, Romblon
January 6, 2023



So. Tabing Bundok, Panique, Odiongan



So. Pantay-pantay, Libertad, Odiongan



So. Sta. Ana, Tumingad, Odiongan



So. Bangar, Gabawan, Odiongan

1st Quarter, C.Y. 2023- Monitoring of Marine Turtle Nesting Sites Romblon Province

