

MEMORANDUM

FOR : LORMELYN E. CLAUDIO, CESO IV
Regional Executive Director, DENR R-4B

FROM : THE DIRECTOR
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service

SUBJECT : PROJECT STATUS REPORT OF THE PROJECT TITLED, "RESEARCH ON THE META-POPULATION OF TAMARAW IN MINDORO" AS OF CY 2022 4th QUARTER

We would like to provide you a copy of the Project Status Report (PSR) of the DENR-FASPS funded Special Project titled, "Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro" as of CY 2022 4th Quarter. This PSR is based on the series of coordination conducted by FASPS with the Project coordinator last December, 2022.

With an elapsed time of 67%, the project has a physical accomplishment of 62.67% as against the target of 64.36% or a slippage of 1.69% as of December 31, 2022. The slippage consists of the delays in the following activities: a) conduct of the 17 out of the 22 target rapid habitat assessment/verification survey; and b) conduct of the field trials for the appropriate counting methods identified.

For the financial status, PhP1,633,047.50 or 81.65% was obligated from the total fund allotment of PhP2,000,000.00, and PhP1,007,021.19 or 60% was disbursed out of the NTA released of PhP1,675,000.00. Low utilization of funds accounts for the pending activities as mentioned above.

As of the reporting period, the following were the major activities conducted by the project: a) community consultations/key informant interview in one (1) remaining municipality in Oriental Mindoro; and b) rapid habitat assessment/ verification survey.

For the 1st Quarter of 2023, the following are planned activities: a) conduct of verification survey in remaining municipalities; and b) identification of enhanced/appropriate counting methods for Tamaraw population count.

In this regard, we are requesting the Region to provide the needed assistance/monitoring on the compliance/resolution of the issues and concerns stated in the attached PSR.

For your information and consideration.


AL O. OROLFO, Ph.D. 

cc: **Atty. Jonas R. Leones**
Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Marcial C. Amaro, Jr., CESO II
Assistant Secretary, Policy, Planning and FASPS
Marilyn R. Limpiada
Chief, Planning and Management Division

DENR Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Quarterly Project Status Report
As of December 2022

I. PROFILE
Project Title: Research on the Meta-population of Tamaraw in Mindoro
Fund Source/s: DENR (II.d. Conduct of Special Studies, Design and Development in Support of Biodiversity, Forestry, Mining and Environmental Management Operations)
Total Project Cost: PhP 2,000,000.00
Project Approval Date: December 2, 2020
Signing Date: August, 2021 (approval of WFP)
Duration: Two (2) years
Closing Date: August, 2023
Implementing Agency: DENR-PENRO Occidental Mindoro and DENR- IV-B (MIMAROPA) Regional Office
Sector: Biodiversity
Regions: IV-B
Beneficiaries: DENR Region IV-B (MIMAROPA), concerned PENROs, CENROs, PASU, LGUs, NGOs, Academe and other institutions in Mindoro in planning and aligning their programs and initiatives for the conservations of the Tamaraw.
<p>Description:</p> <p>The Tamaraw, a critically endangered mammal found only in the island of Mindoro and the proposed National Land Mammal, continues to face challenges and threats that contribute to its general population decline over the last century. The Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP) is the result of Population Habitat and Viability Assessment Workshop conducted in December 2018 by the DENR Tamaraw Conservation Program, funded by BMB-Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and facilitated by BMB-Biodiversity Finance Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group and Conservation Planning Specialist Group.</p> <p>The Population Habitat and Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop in 2018 has identified many issues and concerns that lead to the crafting of the 10-year TCMAP. This proposal aims to answer some primary issues and concerns on meta-population component.</p> <p>Per TCMAP, there are many gaps on the knowledge of the population dynamics of the Tamaraw. This issue is caused by information gaps on the possible locations and habitat range of Tamaraws across Mindoro. As a result, the remaining population of the Tamaraw cannot be estimated for the whole island of Mindoro but limited only to its core habitat within Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP).</p>

Furthermore, the only method of counting being used since year 2000 within 2,200 hectares Tamaraw core habitat in MIBNP is the Intensive Concentration Count (ICC) or Simultaneous Multi-vantage Point Count (SMVPC) where “controlled burning” is the preparatory activity to conduct the ICC/SMPVC to improve visibility of Tamaraw and enhance sprouts of cogon and talahib grasses which are main forage for said animal. With this method, there are major disadvantages like burning risks other forms of life, reduces fertility of the soil, hamper diversity and prevent forest succession. Finally, ICC/MPV is suitable only in a grassland ecosystem while Tamaraws have been recorded in scrublands and forest ecosystems.

In order to address the aforementioned issues, this project covers two (2) major parts:

- a) Island-wide identification and mapping of the Tamaraw locations and habitats; and
- b) Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat type.

It covers Mindoro Island (provinces of Occidental and Oriental Mindoro) consisting twenty-two (22) municipalities. The 22 municipalities were identified based on land classification map and actual land cover per Google earth view. The target sites also include unexplored areas (outside of Tamaraw core habitat) of Mts. Iglit-Baco natural Park, and other known habitats of Tamaraw.

Objective:

Specifically, the Project aims to:

1. Establish information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraws in Mindoro by early 2020; and
2. Develop alternative counting methodology/ies to estimate Tamaraw population suitable to a range of habitat types developed.

The following are the overall expected Outputs:

1. Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro established.
2. Tamaraw population in the Island of Mindoro estimated.
3. Appropriate methodology/ies for Tamaraw population count suitable to a range of habitat types developed.

Components	Expected Outputs	Updates/Status
1.Establishment of information on the island-wide habitats, distribution and estimated populations of Tamaraws in Mindoro	1.0. Initial Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	Completed.
	1.1. Key Informant interview (KII) report(s)/community consultation report(s)	Completed.
	1.2. Rapid habitat assessment report(s) submitted with baseline information on Tamaraw population estimates	On Schedule

	1.3. Technical report and documentation report	On Schedule. Capturing only the activities so far conducted.
	1.4. Final Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	<i>To be delivered on CY2023 as final output.</i>
2. Meta-population monitoring thru identification of appropriate count methods suitable to a range of habitat types (e.g. scrubland, forest, grassland)	2.0. Appropriate count method identified	On Schedule 2 nd fieldwork report to be delivered by 2 nd Quarter of 2023
	2.1. Report on the workshop conducted	Completed.
	2.2. Report on the consultation	Completed.
	2.3. Technical Report/ Process documentation on the initial testing of the method	Completed.
3. Project Monitoring and Supervision/ Project Management	3.1. Quarterly progress reports	On schedule.
	3.2. Preparation of Final Technical Report	<i>To be delivered on 3rd Quarter 2023</i>
	3.3. Project Completion Report	<i>To be delivered on 3rd Quarter 2023</i>

II. Project Status

With an elapsed time of 67%, the project has a physical accomplishment of 62.67% as against the target of 64.36% or a slippage of 1.69% as of December 31, 2022. The slippage consists of the delays in the following activities: a) conduct of the 17 out of the 22 target rapid habitat assessment/verification survey; and b) conduct of the field trials for the appropriate counting methods identified.

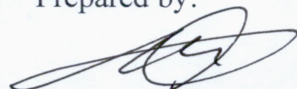
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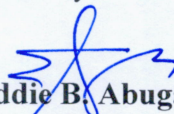
III. Issues and Concerns	Actions to be Taken
Lack of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) for the project implementation.	Upon coordination of Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP) with NCIP Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, community consultations are scheduled to be conducted by the NCIP by 4 th Quarter of CY2022. The Project to continue seeking FPIC.
Gaps in Research activities identified.	Partner NGOs (Mindoro State University and MBCFi, University of Santo Tomas and D' Aboville Foundation) made a commitment to take on the gaps identified.
Initial Island-wide spatial map of Tamaraw distribution and habitats in Mindoro	TCP to further explore conduct of workshop on suitability mapping.
Negative presence of the Tamaraw in some municipalities based on the conducted Key Informant Interviews.	The Project Team has been continuously conducting verification survey since 3Q CY2022 until February, 2023 in the municipalities with negative presence of the Tamaraw.

Prepared by:



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Noted by:



Eddie B. Abugan, Jr.
Chief, FASPS-PMD



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Subject: MEMO DTD 01/17/2023 RE:Project Status Report of the Project Titled,"Research on the Meta-Population of Tamaraw in Mindoro" As of
CY 2022 4th Quarter

Addressee(s): FASPS - Office of the Director (DENRCO - FASPS OD)

CC Addressee(s):

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