

Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources MIMAROPA Region

DENR WIMAROPA RECORDS SECTION

PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

# **MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** 

The Regional Executive Director

**DENR MIMAROPA Region** 

1515 DENR By the Bay Building, Roxas Boulevard,

Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

**THRU** 

The ARD for Technical Services

**FROM** 

The OIC, PENR Officer

**SUBJECT** 

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT ON PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PA\$A) OF VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE (VIP) WITHIN THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

OF CENRO SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

Forwarded is the memorandum dated June 14, 2023 of CENRO Sablayan regarding Accomplishment Report on Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) of Verde Island The following activities were conducted such as (1) Coordination and Orientation Meetings, (2) Key Informant Interview (KII) and (3) Secondary Data gathering to the LGUs within the Verde Island Passage in Occidental Mindoro.

Based on the data and information gathered, the Verde Island Passage has a great benefits in the livelihood and sustainable life support thru ecosystem services to the stakeholders. As a result of the PASA activities and analysis, the VIP falls to the Protected Area category of Protected Landscape and/or Seascape because of its salient features of harmonious interaction of human and nature due to its naturalness and socio-economic importance.

As of this date, a total of Php 139,000.00 were obligated and Php 83,000.00 were disbursed or 41% of the total allotment which is Php 201,000.00. Also, we communicated to CENRO Sablayan to submit the following lacking documents such as proof of public notification, minutes, Infrustracture map, Watershed/drainage map, climatic map, maritime route map, coastal resources map (coral reef, sea grass and mangrove areas), Locally Managed Marine Protected Area (LMMPA), etc. and records of attendance of public consultation conducted as Means of Verification for the conduct of the aforementioned activity. Provided in the said PASA report is the link for MOVs for your evaluation and reference.

For information, evaluation and record.

TSD-CDS6/20/2023 Copy furnished

1. Planning Section

2. File



Republic of the Philippines

# **Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

MIMAROPA Region

Community Environment and Natural Resources Office

JUN 1 4 2023

**MEMORANDUM** 

FOR :

The Regional Executive Director

1515 DENR By the Bay Building, Roxas Blvd

Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

THRU

OIC, PENR Officer

FROM

The CENR Officer

SUBJECT:

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT ON PROTECTED AREA

SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA)

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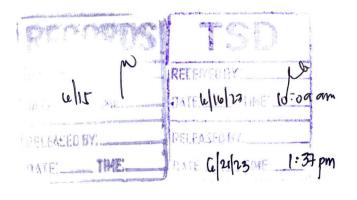
VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE (VIP) WITHIN THE AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF CENRO SABLAYAN,

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

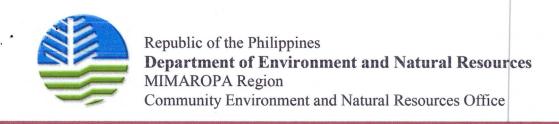
Respectfully forwarded is the draft copy of Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) Report of Verde Island Passage (VIP). Part of the activities undertaken were as follows: (1) Coordination and Orientation Meetings, (2) Key Informant Interview and (3) Secondary Data gathering from the LGUs of Abra De Ilog, Paluan, Looc and Lubang, Occidental Mindoro.

For your information, evaluation and record.

FOR. ANASTACIO A. SANTOS, MPA







MAY 26, 2023

#### **MEMORANDUM**

**FOR** 

The CENR Officer

THRU

The DMO IV / Deputy CENRO

FROM

The Chief, Conservation and Development Section

SUBJECT:

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT ON PROTECTED AREA

SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) OF VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE WITHIN OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

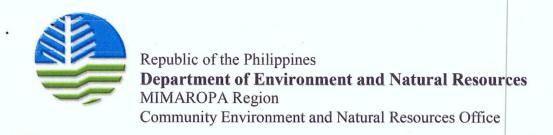
Respectfully submitted is the accomplishment report re; abovementioned subject within the area of responsibility of CENRO- Sablayan.

The Conservation and Development Section spearhead the conduct of field work to conduct the activities and process of Protected Area Suitability Assessment such as (1) Coordination and Orientation Meetings, (2) Key Informant Interview and (3) Secondary Data gathering to the LGUs within the Verde Island Passage in Occidental Mindoro.

Attached herewith is the accomplishment report and photo documentations of the activities conducted.

For your information and further instruction.

HEROLD S. CASTRO



TITLE: ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT ON PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT OF VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE WITHIN OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The Verde Island Passage in the Philippines is one of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Increasingly central to economic activities such as fishing and shipping, its success is also intensifying pressure on its oceans' ability to provide.

The Verde Island Passage provides food, livelihoods and other benefits to over 2 million people. Recognized as the center of global shore-fish biodiversity, it's also home to charismatic species such as whale sharks, sea turtles, nudibranchs and an impressive array of corals. These waters continue to yield new species to science, further underscoring its global biological significance.<sup>1</sup>

The Verde Island Passage is a strait that separates the islands of Luzon and Mindoro in the Philippines, connecting the South China Sea with the Tayabas Bay and the Sibuyan Sea beyond. Traditionally, the sea lane has been one of the busiest in the Philippines because it acts as a corridor from the Port of Manila to the Visayas and Mindanao in the south. [1] A network the surrounding of ferry routes cross the passage and connect Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro and Romblon.<sup>[1]</sup> The of Batangas, Marinduque, Occidental million hectare passage is extremely rich in marine biodiversity and has been called "Center of the Center of Marine Shorefish Biodiversity" with various conservation groups and local government units pushing for its nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A team of marine conservationists declared in 2006 that the Philippines is the Center of Marine Biodiversity in the world and Verde Island Passage as the "Center of the Center of Marine Shorefish Biodiversity".

Many threatened species which include sea turtles like hawksbills, olive ridleys, and green turtles; humphead wrasses, giant groupers and giant clams are present in the Verde Island Passage.-However, there are no enforcement of ordinances and over-fishing is common. A short-lived 'park fee' scheme for the Verde Island drop-off dive site was soon dropped when it was discovered that the revenue was being used to buy better fishing gear and hence removing fish at a higher rate. Several species such as the humphead wrass have low catches frequently reporting 0 catches. It was particularly noted the rare red fin wrasse (*Cirrhilabrus rubripinnis*) thrives in Verde Island. <sup>2</sup>

#### II. STATEMENT OF POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Among the laws that apply to the management of natural resources, the following are particularly relevant to the Verde Island Passage:

• RA No. 11038 (Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018)

An act Declaring Protected Areas and Providing for their Management, Amending for this Purpose RA 7586, Otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992", and and for Other Purposes" or known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 2018" (June 22, 2018)

DAO 2019-15 (IRR of RA 7586, as amended by RA 11038) Rule 1.2 states that;

This Order applies to the (4.) Areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the Secretary for inclusion into the System.

• Executive Order No. 578 of 2006

Establishing national policy on biological diversity prescribing its implementation throughout the country, particularly in the Sulu Sulawesi Marine Ecosystem and the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor.

#### III. OBJECTIVES

In the implementation of RA No. 11038 (Expanded NIPAS Act of 2018) or An act declaring protected areas and providing for their management, amending for this purpose RA 7586, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992", and and for other purposes" or known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 2018" (June 22, 2018), the Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA) aims to determine and recommend the appropriate category and management interventions for the Verde Island Passage.

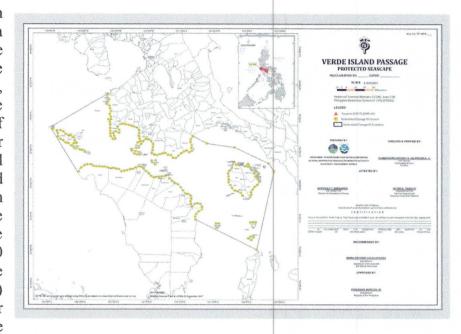
# IV. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

As the standard means of determining the proposed area to be considered as initial component of the NIPAS Act (RA 7586) as amended by RA 11038, the Protected Area Suitability Assessment provide appropriate procedural guidelines for its category based in the BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2016-04. The PASA involves gathering of secondary data, on-site observation and key informant interviews that will suffice the bio-physical, demographic and socio-economic data of the study site.

The fundamental constraint in the conduct of the PASA is the budget allocated for the activity. It limits the PASA Team's ability to conduct KII in the island municipalities of Looc and Lubang, Occidental Mindoro, within the Verde Island Passage, because transportation and allowances for a 15-man team is limited, expensive, and inconvenient transportation due to its route distance necessitate a large budget allocation.

#### V. AREA PROFILE

Four (4) out of ten (10)municipalities Occidental Mindoro are included in the VIP. These are Abra de Ilog, Paluan, Looc and Lubang, which are all in the northern part of Mindoro Island. These four municipalities have a total population of 79, 981 and more than a half of which (45, 529) are from the coastal barangays facing the VIP. To date, there are 20 locally managed Marine Protected Areas (LMMPAs) distributed across the four municipalities that



included in the VIP MPAN. The 13 LMMPAs in Looc and Lubang formed a Looc – Lubang MPAN which is the lone MPAN in the four municipalities.

# 1. Biophysical Profile

# a. Municipality of Abra de Ilog

Abra de Ilog is one of the eleven (11) municipalities of Occidental Mindoro. It is situated at the south western section of Verde Island passage and covers a total area of 70,082 hectares. The name Abra de Ilog was derived from the Spanish word "abre" which means "to open" and the Tagalog word ilog which means "river." Hence it can be translated literally as the opening of rivers due to the numerous rivers and creek that traverse the municipality. The municipality of Abra de ilog was made a barrio of the Municipality of Mamburao in 1902 by virtue of Republic Act 1280, to reduce the then 15 municipalities to 8. However, in 1910 Abra de Ilog regained its status as a municipality.

About 80% of the municipality's total land area is forestland while only 20% is alienable and disposable (A&D) lands. With very limited lands for agriculture and other commercial uses, the proper management of its forestland is urgently necessary if the municipality wants to expand its economic development. These forestlands play important role in the development of Abra de Ilog because of the various ecosystem services they provide to local constituents of the municipality. These areas are the head water of rivers and creeks that are tapped to irrigate rice lands and used for domestic purposes. Around 1,256 hectares of irrigated rice lands depend on these rivers and creeks for irrigation, benefitting lowland farmers. It is also estimated that around 703 fisher folks in the four coastal barangays of the municipality of Abra de Ilog depend on fishing to support their families. The livelihood of these fisher folks are at risk if the coral reefs and sea grasses that serve as habitats of marine species are destroyed due to increased siltation as a result of accelerated erosion from cultivated and denuded forestlands.

# b. Municipality of Paluan

The Municipality of Paluan is located in the northern tip of the province of Occidental Mindoro between 13.45° N latitude and 120.13° E longitude. It lies along the northeastern shore of Paluan Bay, between Pantocomi Point and Camias Point, which is approximately seven miles southeast of Cape Calavite and bound to the east by the Municipality of Abra de Ilog. The municipality is 31 kilometers from the Municipality of Mamburao, the provincial capital, and 175 kilometers away from a southwest direction in reference to Metropolitan Manila. The locality is accessible using both water and land transportation modalities.

Paluan encompasses a total area of 56,540 hectares distributed to its 12 barangays, making the municipality the 3rd largest in the province. Of its total area, 48,001.59 hectares (84.90%; based on GIS Map Projection) are forestlands while the remaining 8,541.08 hectares (15.11%) are classified as either agricultural or alienable and disposable lands. These areas lie in between rolling to steep mountain ranges and towered over by Mt. Calavite. At least 32 sub-watersheds divide the area and are major sources for domestic water and irrigation purposes. Aside from water resources, the watersheds also provide eco-tourism; climate change regulation through forest-sequestered carbon; source of medicinal plants used for ethnobotanical remedies; and other intangible benefits with recreational, cultural, and spiritual values enjoyed by all residents, including the Iraya-Mangyan Tribe.

# c. Municipality of Looc

The Municipality of Looc is part of the Lubang Islands group, which located on the northern most part of the Province of Occidental Mindoro. Looc comprises nine (9) Barangays with a total land area of 13, 271 square kilometer (MIT-Mapping Team). The municipality is composed of three (3) islands namely Golo Island, Ambil Island and mainland which covers almost half of Lubang Island.

Looc has five types of rocks, namely: Basement Complex (pre-Jurrasic type), Cretaceous, Paleogene, Neogene, Pliocene – Pleistocene and Recent. The area has a rolling terrain with slope ranging from 0 percent to over 18 percent. Coastal areas are generally flat with topography becoming rugged and rolling to hilly as it gets to the highland. Eight types of soils comprise the municipality of Looc, Almodian Silty Loam, Tilik Silty Loam, Beach Sand, San Miguel Silty Loam, Tilik Gravelly Silty Loam, Quinga Silty Loam, Hydrosol and San Manuel Silty Loam. During overlaying of hazard maps and household component, it was found out that around 1,502 households are prone to flooding, 1,900 households to storm surge and 1463 households are prone to tsunami. Barangay Burol is the only barangay not prone to these hazards.

Looc has a total land area of 13, 277 hectares. Of this, 59.38% comprises alienable and disposable land (A&D) while timberland comprises 40.62% percent of the entire municipal territory. 2,516 hectares are classified forest areas which are mostly found at the main island. It comprises 18.96% of total land area of the municipality. The unclassified forest area which is found mostly in Ambil Island. It is about 2874 hectares or 21.66% of the total land area of the municipality. Looc comprises of nine (9) Barangays: Kanluran, Guitna, Bonbon, Agkawayan, Ambil, Balikyas, Burol, Bulacan and Talaotao. Ambil is the largest barangay with a total area of 2,921 hectares or 22.01 percent of the total land area of Looc. The island barangay Talaotao is the smallest with a total land area of 956 hectares or 7.20 percent of the total municipal land area. The municipality is composed of three (3)

islands, namely Golo Island, Ambil Island and the mainland which covers almost half of Lubang Island.

Crop production and fishing are the two dominant economic activities in the municipality. Generally the male population is involved in farming activities during daytime and fishing during night time. Aside from crop production salt making is another important source of income during months of January to May. Business establishments and personal services are very minimal.

Municipality of Looc is endowed with rich natural resources. Beaches with fine white sand are abundant in the area. Looc is situated within the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor, considered to be the center of the center of marine shore biodiversity, in a study done by Dr. Kent Carpenter, IUCN Global Marine Species Assessment Coordinator and Victor Springer of the Smithsonian Institute.

# d. Municipality of Lubang

Four islands – Ambil, Cabra, Lubang and Golo and other islets constitute the municipalities of Lubang and Looc. The Municipality of Lubang occupies the north eastern part of Lubang including the island of Cabra. The municipality has an area of approximately 12, 168 hectares comprising 15 mainlands Barangay and one (1) island barangay, Cabra Island. It is the smallest municipality in the province, which constitutes 1.93 percent of the total provincial territory.

The forests of Lubang house diverse flora and fauna as well. There are endemic species which need priority conservation and preservation strategies. There is a new discovery done by California Academy of Sciences of a very rare species of forest mice (*Apomys lubangensis*: Heany, et al 2014). This discovery promotes biodiversity conservation efforts in support to tourism potential.

Forest areas constitute 4,863.65 hectares or 36.75 percent situated southeast of Lubang (Sorville, Tilik and Vigo). Within the forest areas is the Military reserve occupying 326.43 hectares which was declared under Presidential Proclamation 474. The hunting reservation covers the whole timberland of the municipality, while grassland/pasture land primarily found in Binakas, Vigo, Maliig and Maligaya currently use for cattle production. These areas comprise 3,881.36 hectares or 31.88 percent. Inland fishpond accounted to 95.18 hectares or .78 percent while inland Mangroves 33.74 hectares or 0.28 percent. This serves as a protection buffer which may reduced the impacts of storm surge. This likewise serves as the breeding ground for fish production.

The economic structure of Lubang is largely agriculture-based. Lubang's major economic sector is agriculture and being such the Municipality invested in an organic fertilizer factory. The intention was to eventually convert all, if not a big portion of the agriculturally productive farms of the island to organic or natural farms. Fishing however is secondary and most of the fishers are farmers by day. Minimal number of people engages in pure and sophisticated fishing method. Livestock and poultry production plays also vital role in the agricultural productivity. Another is Mariculture Coral Farming in the Philippines which is the first in the Philippines.

#### VI. METHODOLOGIES

# a. Coordination and Orientation Meetings with LGUs

The CENRO Sablayan, with help from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Occidental PENRO Mindoro. organized a coordination and orientation meeting with stakeholders from fisherfolks, sectors and members barangay, members of Sangguniang Panglalawigan, and Local Government Units (LGUs). The aforementioned action took occurred in Abra De Ilog on January 31, 2023; at the office of Provincial Governor Hon Eduardo B. Gadiano on February 7, 2023; in the municipality of Lubang on March 15, 2023; and in the municipality of Looc on April 19, 2023. The program served as a place for discussions regarding the Verde Island Passage, government initiatives, and the proposed status of the VIP as Protected Seascape.

















# b. Key Informant Interview (KII)

Key informant interviews (KII) are qualitative in-depth interviews with community members who know what is going on. The goal of key informant interviews is to gather information from a diverse group of persons who have firsthand experience of the community, such as community leaders, professionals, or residents. With their specific experience and understanding, these community experts can provide insight into the nature of problems and make ideas for remedies.



The KII conducts the interview using the random sample process. The thirty (30) randomly selected respondents are stakeholders from the fishing industry, sectors, and members of the barangay and municipality.





# c. Secondary Data Gathering

Through ongoing collaboration, the PASA Team sought secondary data from each municipality's Municipal Planning and Development Office. The aforementioned offices forwarded us electronic versions of the Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP), Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), and/or Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan (CLWUP) for current and/or future reference.

#### VII. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

# a. Key Informant Interview (KII)

The VIP- PASA Team completed the interview with a total of nine hundred twenty four (924) respondents from the thirty one (31) identified barangays of the municipalities of Occidental Mindoro encompassing the Verde Island Passage. The table below shows the barangays where the KII was conducted, to wit:

Municipalities	Name of Barangay			
Abra de Ilog	Wawa			
	Udalo			
Abra de flog	Sta. Maria			
	Lumangbayan			
Paluan	Mananao			
1 atuan	Harrison			
	Ambil			
	Agkawayan			
	Bonbon			
	Kanluran			
Looc	Bulacan			
	Balikyas			
	Guitna			
	Burol			
	Talaotao			
	Maliig			
	Ninikat ng Pag-asa			
	Banaag ng Pag-asa			
	Araw at Bituin			
	Maguinhawa			
	Tangal			
Lubona	Tilik			
Lubang	Vigo			
	Sorville			
	Binakas			
	Cabra			
	Maligaya			
	Tagbak			
	Paraiso			

#### i. Natural Features

The principal geological elements in the proposed protected area include rock formations, coral reefs, and beaches, according to the analysis in the KII results to the mentioned respondents. The bulk of these elements were used and recognized by communities as fishing areas in the study site responses. The coast of Abra de Ilog is frequently used for pebble picking for personal and business uses.

Paluan lies along the Verde Island Passage Marine Corridor. A total of 121,500.0650 hectares comprise its water territory. Mananao, Paluan, recognizes that this region of the sea was used by vessels as a route.

However, according to 799 of respondents or equivalent to the 86.5%, the majority of the recognized risks to these natural features are illicit and uncontrolled fishing such as dynamite fishing and pollution caused by inappropriate disposal of domestic trash that ends up in the ocean.

# ii. Biological Features

In terms of biological aspects elicited thru KII, the common valued flora identified by respondents in the survey sites included seagrasses, mangroves on the coast, and orchids and forest trees such as Narra and Dau in terrestrial areas adjacent to VIP.

The responders also listed wild pigs, palm civets or musang, junglefowl, bats, marine turtles, and sharks as common species in both the forest and sea areas of the study sites. Coastal Clean up is important in the preservation of their coastal area for the sea turtle and MPA.

Coastal Clean up is useful in the protection of their coastal area for the sea turtle and MPA, according to 659 out of 924 respondents (71.32%), the majority of whom are from the municipalities of Looc and Lubang. It was then followed by the execution of environmental regulations and ordinances passed by their individual LGUs to protect and conserve selected Marine Protected Areas in the area.

#### iii. Socio-Cultural and Economic Features

The 90% or 834 respondents live in the LGU's coastal villages, with the exception of the Barangays Sorville in Lubang, Occidental Mindoro, which are located in the upper section of the municipality and have a primary source of income from farming.

#### ABRA DE ILOG

Important marine biodiversity resources are also present in the coastal barangays which serve as habitats of marine life. The fisheries profile of the municipality indicates that mangroves (15 hectares) and coral reefs are still present in the area. These are mostly found in barangay Wawa and Udalo. A marine sanctuary has been established also in barangay Wawa with an area of 34 hectares through Municipal Ordinance No. 108-2008 to further improve coral cover and increase fisheries resources.

Among the fish species abundant in the coastal areas of Abra de Ilog are the following;

-Galunggong/Pulang Buntot

- Kalapato/maliputo

- Salay salay

- Talakitok

-Dalagang Bukid /Buglaw

-Dilis

-Tamban/Manamsi/Tunsoy

-Tanigue /Tulingan/Yellow Fin/Gulyasan

-Mabilog /Matambaka

- Dulong

-Bisugo

-Tingin

-Sagis

-Manitis

-Malapunti

- Maya-maya

-Amalet

- Lapu-lapu

In Abra de Ilog, there are Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC) who manage and regulate the fishing activities in their municipal jurisdiction. The table below shows the list of the registered and active fisherfolks organization and their chairpersons, to wit:

Name of Association	Chairman	Date Organized	Address	Remarks
M-FARMC	Jesus Marasigan	2014	Brgy Wawa	
Samahan ng Mangingisda ng Barangay Udalo	Roden Madigal Cp # 09079937641	February 2015	Brgy. Udalo	88 members
Urilan Matabang Amasona Fishermen Association (UMAFA)	Jimmy M. Ylagan Cp #09463021809	February 2015	Brgy.Lumangbayan	Application to DOLE Registration on process/ 39 members
Iba Fishermen Association	Marlon Ramirez Cp #09161322196	January 29, 2014	Brgy.Sta.Maria	39 members
Balagnan Minority Fishermen Association	Conrado T. Gauran	January 2014	Brgy.Sta Maria	28 members
Kabilang-Ilog Wawa Fishermen Association	Rubirosa F.Alota	February 8, 2014	Brgy. Wawa	46 members

#### **PALUAN**

Only the majority of respondents in Mananao, Paluan, Occidental Mindoro recognized threats to their livelihood from the proposed protected area, which could limit or prevent them from fishing and other livelihood-related activities. The shoreline of Paluan is approximately 60 kilometer extending from Barangay Tubili from southwest and Barangay Mananao to the northeast. The length of the shoreline covers coastal communities composed of 10 out of the 12 barangays in the municipality. Paluan Bay is a rich fishing ground for schools of migratory fish species and other marine resources. Common fish species caught are tuna, blue marlin, and malasugui. Mahabang Buhangin Reef is located in front of Barangay Tubili where a beach resort can be found. The reef structure has many canals and generally sloping that makes it conducive to support many fish communities. However, on top of the reef and below are plagued by the invasive sea urchins or known as "crown of thorns". With this, only about 57.7% of the reef categorized as 'good'. On the other hand, Tambo Reef, located in Sitio Tambo, Barangay Mananao, has 52.76% covered by

'good' live corals. Aside from live corals, lobsters and moray eel can be found within the reef area while manta rays can be found in its deeper areas of the reef. Another reef area in Paluan, Lumangbayan, has good live coral cover of about 54.80%. Live corals can also be found in Sitio Igsuso and in Barangay Marikit, both with areas greater than 30 hectares each.

Table 66. Existing Fishing Grounds and Aquaculture Production, 2017.

Fishing Barangay Grounds Barangay		Prod	luction Post-Harvest Facilities			Product Mc (MT)			
	Volume (MT)	Value (Php. 000)	Туре	Number	Capacity	Status	Local (MT)	Export/ Other Market	
Marine									
Casa	So. Igsuso, Brgy. Tubili	5,016.0	401,280.0	Truck, Van	5	5 tons	0	501.6	4,514.4
Casa	So. Malugao, Brgy. Mapalad	352.0	28,160.0	Truck, Van	2	5 tons	NO	70.4	281.6
Tuna	So. Igsuso, Brgy. Tubili	179,297.0	32,014.2	Truck, Van	5	5 tons	0	1,792.0	177,505.0
Lambaklad	So. Pula, Brgy. Harrison	480.0	38,400.0	Truck, Van	.1	5 tons	0	96.0	384.0
Fish Cages	So. Pamutusin,, Brgy. Harrison	12.5	1,125.0	Truck, Van	1	5 tons	0	4.0	8.5
Inland									
Fishpond	So. Pamutusin, Brgy, Harrison	12.0	1,080.0	Truck, Van	1	5 tons	0	12.0	
Fishpond	So. Malugao, Brgy. Mapalad	8.0	960.0	Truck, Van	1	5 tons	0	8.0	
	Total	185,177.5	503,019.20					2,484.0	182,693.50

(Source: Office of the Municipal Agriculturist, 2018) Notes: Status - Operational (O); Not Operational (NO); Needs Repair (NR)

#### LUBANG

The economic structure of Lubang is largely agriculture-based. Lubang's major economic sector is agriculture and being such the Municipality invested in an organic fertilizer factory. The intention was to eventually convert all, if not a big portion of the agriculturally productive farms of the island to organic or natural farms. Fishing however is secondary and most of the fishers are farmers by day. Minimal number of people engages in pure and sophisticated fishing method. Livestock and poultry production plays also vital role in the agricultural productivity. Another is Mariculture Coral Farming in the Philippines which is the first in the Philippines.

- The top three major rice producers are Vigo, Tilik and Tangal.
- Maliig and Maligaya are known vegetable suppliers in the locality
- Garlic, peanuts and onions are the high value commercial crops in Lubang.
- Tagbac and Tangal are known for HVCC especially garlic.
- Binakas and Tilik produce cashew
- Cabra is top peanut producers during wet season
- Tilik, Binakas and Vigo is engaged in Mango production

With regards to livestock and poultry, Binakas is known supplier of native chicken while Cabra Island is engaged in livestock production including Tangal. Tangal is also producing dairy products processed into pastillas and milk jam or "bubo."

#### LOOC

Crop production and fishing are the two dominant economic activities in the municipality of Looc. Generally the male population is involved in farming activities during daytime and fishing during night time. Aside from crop production salt making is another important source of income during months of January to May. Business establishments and personal services are very minimal.

iv. Economic Development Features (may be applicable only to KI from local government units and other local offices of other national government agencies, academe and other relevant institutions).

The majority of respondents from local government units contacted by KII indicated that the strengthening of the fisherfolks organization, agriculture, and agri-tourism are all part of the LGU's plans and activities. These are intended to relieve pressure on fishing demand by providing alternate sources of livelihood programs and/or projects.

# b. Secondary Data Gathering

Through ongoing collaboration and coordination, secondary data from each municipality's Municipal Planning and Development Office of Abra de Ilog, Paluan, Looc and Lubang. The table below available to each municipality useful to the PASA, to wit;

Secondary Data Availble				
Forest Land Use Plan				
Forest Land Use Plan				
Comprehensive Land Use Plan				
Forest Land Use Plan				
Comprehensive Land Use Plan				
Forest Land Use Plan				

The aforementioned offices forwarded us electronic versions of the Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP), Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), and/or Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan (CLWUP) for current and/or future reference that can be accessed thru the google drive link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W6AIEUVSTpRc9Emmw3N5QqK5h0X1sdJJ

#### VIII. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the data and information gathered, the Verde Island Passage has a great benefits in the livelihood and sustainable life support thru ecosystem services to the stakeholders. As the result of the PASA activities and analysis, the Verde Island Passage falls to the Protected Area category of Protected Landscape and/or Seascape because of its salient features of harmonious interaction of human and nature due to its naturalness and socio-economic importance, thus recommended and proposed the study site as Verde Island Passage Protected Seascape (VIPPS).

### IX. REFERENCES

- 1 https://www.conservation.org/philippines/projects/verde-island-passage
- 2 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verde Island Passage

FLUP, Abra de Ilog

FLUP of Paluan

FLUP of Looc

FLUP of Lubang

#### PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA) (SUMMARY SHEET)

Name of Proposed Protected Area: Verde Island Passage Protected Seascape

Date of Assessment:

May 2023

Criteria	Parameters	Weight (%)	Actual Rating (%)	Remarks
IRREPLACEABILITY: presence of restricted range and congregatory species		30	0	
VULNERABILITY: Presence of globally threatened species		10		
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Value of area in terms of recreational, educational, traditional use, heritage, and other sustainable uses	Ecosystem services: 1. Ecotourism/ recreational value (4%); 2. Water (4%); 3. Carbon (4%); 4. Heritage/ traditional (4%); and 5. Hazard mitigation (4%)	20	20	The strait is the backbone of the local economy, thriving upon coastal tourism, fisheries, and as a shipping route to the international ports of Batangas, Manila and Subic Bay from the provinces of Mindoro, Marinduque and Romblon
NATURALNESS: Intact natural cover such as forest, mangroves, seagrass beds and corals	% of area coverage; condition	10	10	The Verde Island Passage in the Philippines is one of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Increasingly central to economic activities such as fishing and shipping, its success is also intensifying pressure on its oceans' ability to provide. Recognised as the center of global shore-fish biodiversity, it's also home to charismatic species such as whale sharks, sea turtles, nudibranchs and an impressive array of corals.
UNIQUENESS: Presence of important cultural, geological and aesthetic features that support biodiversity		10	0	
ABUNDANCE: High concentration of species of flora and fauna in the site		20	0	
Note:		100		

Irreplaceability: Full or 0 Vulnerability: Full or 0

Socio Economic Importance: Percentage

Naturalness: Percentage Uniqueness: Full or 0 Abundance: Full or 0

Remarks: The Verde Island Passage falls to the category of Protected Landscape and/or Seascape because of its salient features of harmonious interaction of human and nature

Accomplished by:

MARLON C. 900 EZ Forest Tegnnician I

APRIL D. AMORES - CASTRO Forester I

JEREMY RUSSEL A. SARACANLAO
Forest Technician II

VERNAMETTE A FULGENCIO Forest Technician II

HEROLD S. CASTRO ECOMS / CDS, Chief

Reviewed by:

Attested by:

FOR. ANASTACIO CENR Officer

ISAIAS A GUIMOD DMO IV / Deputy CENRO

# III. Photo Documentation

a. Coordination and Orientation Meetings





















# b. Key Informant Interviews









#### ii. Paluan









# iii. Looc









# iv. Lubang









# HON. LEODY F. TARRIELA

Representative Lone District of Occidental Mindoro Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro

#### Dear Congressman Tarriela,

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act), the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

The VIP, covering the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque and Romblon in MIMAROPA Region and the province of Batandas in CALABARZON Region, was established as Marine Corridor per Executive Order No. 578 signed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on November 8, 2006, as it is dubbed as the "Center of the Center of Marine Shore Fish Biodiversity" globally and as the source and sink of fish and coral larvae in the Philippines (Carpenter and Springer, 2005; Villanov, C.L., et al., 2016). Hence, this area plays a vital role in the ecological balance of the country as well as its economy, particularly the fishery sector.

In this connection, the DENR MIMAROPA Region will be conducting the **Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA)** in Occidental Mindoro, particularly under the jurisdiction of Municipalities of Looc, Lubang, Abra de Ilog, and Paluan.

Relative thereto, may we respectfully request for an audience with you or your representative at your most convenient time for the conduct of orientation/consultation. This is in preparation to the conduct of Public Consultation and Key Informant Interview (KII) activities.

For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

OIC, PEAR Officer

CONG. LEODY TARRIELA

RECEIVED:

DISTRICT OFFICE MAMBURAO

1966-410-9512

HON, EDUARDO B. GADIANO

Provincial Governor Province of Occidental Mindoro Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro

Secretary for inclusion into the System.

Dear Governor Gadiano.

BY:\_\_\_\_ This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act), the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR

DATE: TIME: Governor's Office

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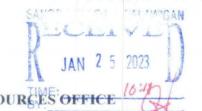
Relative thereto, may we respectfully request for an audience with you or your representative at your most convenient time for the conduct of orientation/consultation together with the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (PPDC), Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PGENRO) and Provincial Agriculturist (PA). This is in preparation to the conduct of Public Consultation and Key Informant Interview (KII) activities.

For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

ERNESTO E. TAÑADA OIC, PENR Officer



# HON, MA. ANTONIETTA G. VILLAROZA

Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Chairperson-Committee on Environment Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon. Villaroza.

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 2019-05 or the Im

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In this connection, the DENR MIMAROPA Region will be conducting the **Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA)** in Occidental Mindoro, particularly under the jurisdiction of Municipalities of Looc, Lubang, Abra de Ilog, and Paluan.

Relative thereto, may we invite you or your representative to attend the orientation/consultation meeting on February 7, 2023 at Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro (venue will be coordinated once finalized). This is in preparation to the conduct of Public Consultation and Key Informant Interview (KII) activities.

For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

ERNESTO E. TAÑADA OIC, PENR Officer ₽ HON. MARIA GLORIA MONTENEGRO- CONSTANTINO Municipal Mayor Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Mayor Montenegro- Constantino,

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act), the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours.

OIC, PENR Officer

HON, DEOMIDES ZOLETA Sangguniang Bayan Member

Chairperson for Environment Committee

Abra de Ilog. Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon, Zoleta

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act), the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours.

ERNESTO E. TAÑADA OIC, PENR Officer

### HON. ANGELBERT MANALO

Sangguniang Bayan Member Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon. Manalo,

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act), the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

ERNESTO E. TAÑADA OIC, PENR Officer HON. GARY BARCKLEY VENTURANZA SK Federation President Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon. Venturanza,

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Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

OIC, PENR Officer

HON. CARLITO SUDOL Barangay Captain Brgy. Lumangbayan, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon. Obrador.

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act), the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

ERNESTO E. TANADA

OIC, PENR Officer

Brgy Payompon, Mamburao Occidental Mindoro E-mail: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph

HON. MENANDRO AGITO

Barangay Captain Brgy. Sta. Maria, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon. Agito,

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act), the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

OIC, PENR Officer

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HON. OFELIA SILAN

Barangay Captain Brgy. Udalo, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon. Silan,

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the **Verde Island Passage (VIP)** as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the *Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS)*. Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the *Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act)*, the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

ERNESTO E. TAŇADA OIC, PENR Officer

Ald

#### HON. RENATO MARASIGAN

Barangay Captain Brgy. Wawa, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon. Marasigan,

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the **Verde Island Passage (VIP)** as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the *Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS)*. Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the *Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act)*, the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

R.D. Marayear

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours.

ERNESTO E. TAÑADA OIC, PENR Officer HON. MICHAEL O. DIAZ Municipal Mayor Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Mayor Diaz.

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act), the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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In this connection, the DENR MIMAROPA Region will be conducting the **Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA)** in Occidental Mindoro, particularly under the jurisdiction of Municipalities of Looc, Lubang, Abra de Ilog, and Paluan.

Relative thereto, may we respectfully invite you or your representative to attend the orientation/consultation meeting on January 25, 2023 at Paluan, Occidental Mindoro. together with the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC), Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO) and Municipal Agriculturist (MA). This is in preparation to the conduct of Public Consultation and Key Informant Interview (KII) activities.

For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

OIC, PENR Officer

Received by

BON ANDRIA

2:06 pm

01-18-2023

Brgy.Payompon, Mamburao Occidental Mindoro E-mail: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph

#### HON, RYAN PARISAN

Sangguniang Bayan Member Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon. Parisan.

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the **Verde Island Passage (VIP)** as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the *Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS)*. Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the *Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act)*, the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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In this connection, the DENR MIMAROPA Region will be conducting the **Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA)** in Occidental Mindoro, particularly under the jurisdiction of Municipalities of Looc, Lubang, Abra de Ilog, and Paluan.

Relative thereto, may we invite you or your representative to attend the orientation/consultation meeting on January 25, 2023 at Paluan, Occidental Mindoro. This is in preparation to the conduct of Public Consultation and Key Informant Interview (KII) activities.

For coordination and other concerns, kindly contact Mr. Alvin E. Sanico on his cell phone number +639173011615 or email us at: penroocc.mindoro@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards.

Very truly yours,

OIC. PENR Officer

Received by

01-18 20/23, 206 pm

HON. GLAZZLE ANN VILANDRIA SK Federation President Paluan. Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon, Vilandria.

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the **Verde Island Passage (VIP)** as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the *Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS)*. Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the *Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act)*, the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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OIC, PENR Officer



#### HON. ELORDE A. MARASIGAN

Sangguniang Bayan Member Chairperson for Environment Committee Paluan, Occidental Mindoro

Dear Hon. Marasigan,

This pertains to the initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regarding the proposed establishment of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as a Protected Area under the Republic Act No. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS). Per Rule 1.2.4 of the DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-05 or the Implementing Rules and Regulation of RA No. 7586 (NIPAS Act) as amended by RA 11038 (ENIPAS Act), the ENIPAS Act applies to areas covered by Presidential Proclamation or Executive Order and recommended by the DENR Secretary for inclusion into the System.

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JOHN 2013