



February 21, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer

DENR MIMAROPA RECORDS SECTION RECEIVED	
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BY: _____	DATE NO. _____
TIME: _____	

**SUBJECT : EXPLANATION RE ILLEGAL TREE CUTTING OF ALTAI
PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION (APMC) IN SIBUYAN
ISLAND, ROMBLON**

This refers to your memorandum regarding the above subject dated February 13, 2023. In connection with the re-inventory of trees within the 20-hectare area of operation of the APMC, the Inspection Team failed to enter the APMC's area of operation located in Sitio Bato, Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon despite several attempts. Attached is the report on the re-inventory of trees within the 20-hectare including parcels 1, 2, and 3 as to why the Inspection Team was not able to enter the subject area.

Respectively, this office immediately issued a Special Order dated February 7, 2023, for a team to conduct rapid assessment/investigation on potentially damaged seagrass and other marine resources. On February 8, 2023, the team conducted the assessment/investigation. Results of the assessment/investigation revealed that rocks and pebbles, rocks with algae, and sand were existent in the surrounding area of the causeway. There were no sea grasses and corals found at the alleged damaged area particularly at the vicinity of the causeway. Attached is the assessment/investigation report of the team.

Furthermore, this office has recently forwarded a reiteration letter dated February 16, 2023, addressed to the president of APMC to allow the Inspection Team to conduct the said re-inventory. Please be informed that the team cannot easily pass through the area since they are not permitted to enter the premises. There are also APMC security guards positioned both at the entrance going the 20-ha site and entrance going to the causeway project.

Hereunder are the reasons why this office has not noticed the illegal cutting of trees undertaken at the APMC's 20-hectare site, to wit:

- 1) The location where the removal and/or clearing of trees is undertaken is not visible from the road.
- 2) Personnel of Sibuyan Sub-station were on different travel purposes. Selected personnel were on travel to conduct patrolling operation of alleged illegal small-scale mining activities within the protected area of MGGNP at Sitio Hangan and Sitio Banilad, Brgy. Mabini, San Fernando, Romblon covering January 2023. While other personnel are on travel to conduct BAMS in Brgy. Danao, Cajidiocan, Romblon.

For your information and utmost consideration.

ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.



February 21, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director

THRU : The Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services

FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer

SUBJECT : **REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT/INVESTIGATION ON THE ALLEGED DAMAGE/DESTRUCTION OF SEA GRASS AND OTHER MARINE RESOURCES**

This refers to the Joint Order issued on February 6, 2023, in which this office is ordered to conduct investigation on the potentially damaged sea grass and other marine resources. A team was then created through a PENRO Special Order No. 23-20 dated February 7, 2023, to conduct the rapid assessment of possible damage to sea grass and other marine resources.

Results of the assessment/investigation showed that rocks and pebbles, rocks with algae and sand were existent in the surrounding area of the causeway project. There were no seagrasses and corals found at the assessed area.

Moreover, this office recommends seeking technical assistance from expert divers (preferably Marine Biologist) from the office of BMB and ERDB to further assess the alleged damage/destruction of sea grass and other marine resources.

Attached is the report of the assessment team.

For your information.


ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.



February 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The OIC, PENR Officer
Odiongan, Romblon

THRU : The Chief, Technical Services Division

FROM : The Assessment/Investigation Team

SUBJECT : REPORT ON THE RAPID ASSESSMENT/INVESTIGATION ON
THE ALLEGED DAMAGE/DESTRUCTION OF SEA GRASS
AND OTHER MARINE RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the **Joint Order** issued by the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director Lormelyn E. Claudio, Regional Director of Mines and Geosciences Bureau Engr. Glenn C. Noble, and Regional Director of Environmental Management Bureau Joe Amil M. Salino dated February 6, 2023, an Assessment Team was created thru PENRO Special Order No. dated February 7, 2023.

The team conducted investigation/assessment on the potentially damaged sea grass and other marine resources incurred during the construction of the causeway project by the ALTAI Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC).

ACTIONS TAKEN

On February 8, 2023, the team coordinated with the Municipal Mayor of San Fernando, Hon. Nanette B. Tansingco regarding the said assessment. The team provided details on the assessment to be undertaken. With the assistance of Mayor Tansingco, she provided the team with logistics such as diving gear (snorkel and booties) and motorboat from the MDRRMC office and Bantay Gubat respectively.

The team also coordinated with Barangay España, San Fernando thru Kagawad Jun Rey Romero. A coordination was also done with the Philippine Coast Guard – Magdiwang and Cajidiocan Substation led by PO1 Paul Anthony T Marceño and with San Fernando Municipal Police Station thru Police Corporal Reman M Real.



METHODS AND RESULTS OF THE ASSESSMENT/INVESTIGATION

Initially, the team conducted ocular observation of the surrounding area of the constructed causeway located at Sitio Bato, Barangay España, San Fernando, Romblon. The shoreline extending towards Northwest is consists of loose particles of rocks and gravel. Moreover, the shoreline extending towards Southeast of the causeway project also consists of loose particles of rocks and gravel.

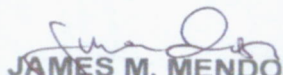
The team then marked coordinates of the extent of potentially damaged area. The team were able to mark four waypoints covering the extent of the possible damaged site. The team performed skin diving to assess the area. An underwater photo documentation was carried out to support the conduct of possible damage assessment of the sea grass and other marine resources (*please see attached photos*).


Results of the assessment/investigation revealed that rocks, rocks with algae and sand were existent in the surrounding area of the causeway. There were no sea grass and corals found at the alleged damaged area particularly at the vicinity of the causeway.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the foregoing result, the team further recommends the following actions to be taken:

1. PENRO Romblon and LGU San Fernando shall closely monitor the activities (i.e., arrival and departure of vessels/barge) of APMC at the constructed causeway project to ensure that no damage will be sustained at the area.
2. Seek technical assistance from expert divers (preferably Marine Biologists) from the office of ERDB and BMB to further assess the alleged damage/destruction of sea grass and other marine resources.
3. Harmonization of all policies of each collaborating National Government Agencies (NGAs) and Local Government Units (LGUs).


JAMES M. MENDOZA
Forester II/Team Leader


SHEILLA JANE M. FORLALES
Forester II/Member


ERNIE L. FORCADAS
FT I



PHOTO DOCUMENTATION



Figure 1. Assessment Team coordinates with Municipal Mayor Nanette Tansingco of San Ferrnado, Romblon



Figure 2. Coordination with Kagawad Jun Rey Romero of Brgy. Espana and Philippine Coast Guard - Magdiwang and Cajidiocan Substation headed by PO1 Marceño.



Figure 3. Ocular observation of the surrounding area together with San Fernando MPS and PCG-Magdiwang and Cajidiocan Substation and Kgd Romero



Figure 4. View of the causeway, LCT type vessel and shoreline extending towards northwest of the causeway



Figure 5. Shoreline extending towards southeast of the causeway



Figure 6. The team conducts assessment of possible damage to sea grass and other marine resources



Figure 7. Rocks and pebbles



Figure 8. The actual conduct of assessment at the area



Figure 9. The assessment team composed of Team Leader, For. James Mendoza (center) and members, For. Sheilla Jane Forlales (last) and FT I Ernie Forcadas (front)



UNDERWATER PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

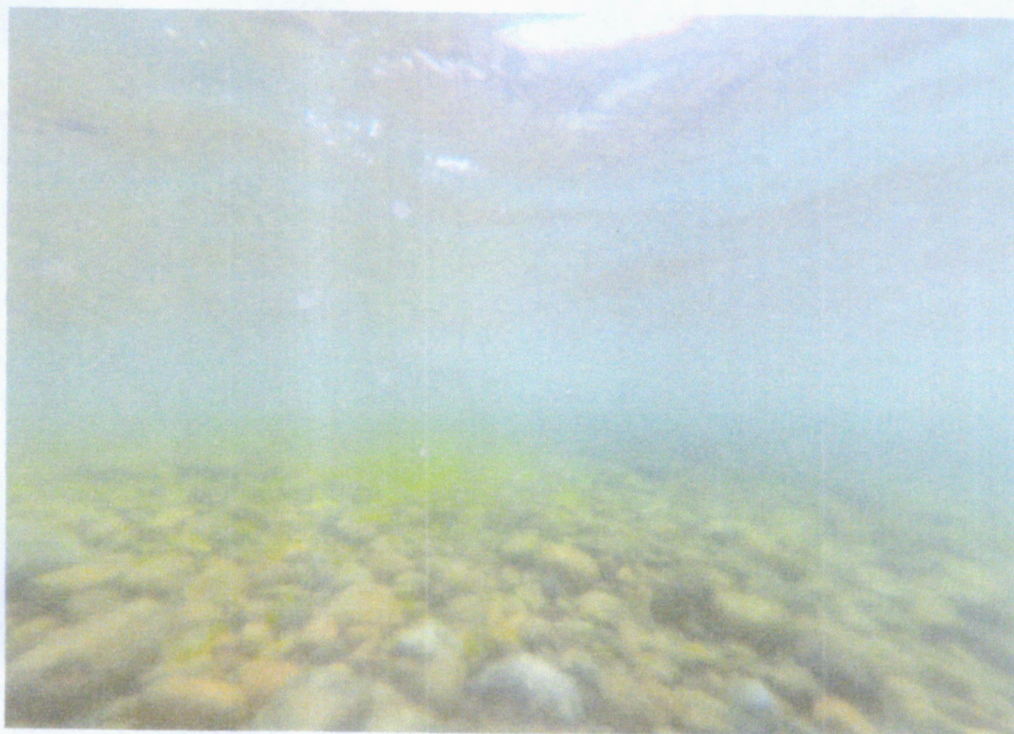


Figure 10. Rocks and rubbles

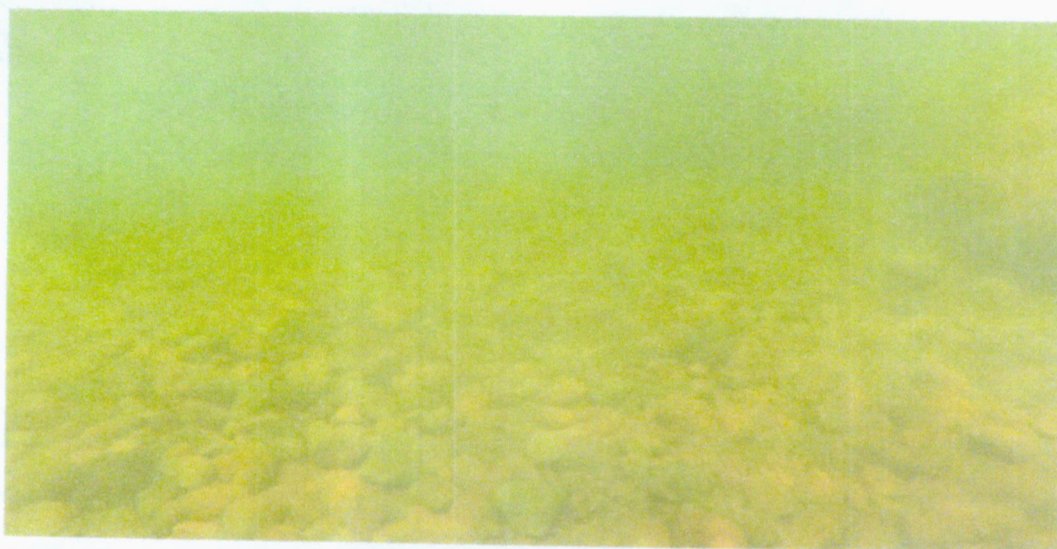


Figure 11. Rocks and pebbles



February 16, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
1515 DENR by the Bay Building, Roxas Boulevard,
Barangay 668, Ermita, Manila

THRU : The Assistant Regional Director
for Technical Services

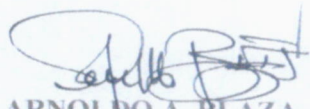
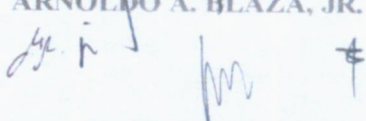
FROM : The OIC, PENR Officer
Odiongan, Romblon

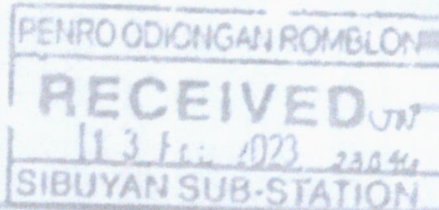
SUBJECT : REPORT ON THE RE-INVENTORY OF TREES WITHIN THE
TWENTY (20) HECTARES AREA, PARCEL 1 AND 2 PROPOSED
ROAD, AND PARCEL 3 ROAD GOING TO PROPOSED PORT
OF ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING CORPORATION AT SITIO
BATO, BRGY. ESPAÑA, SAN FERNANDO, ROMBLON

Respectfully submitting the memorandum dated February 10, 2023 from Sibuyan Sub-Station personnel on the re-inventory of trees within the 20-hectare area of Altai Philippines Mining Corporation (APMC) at Brgy. España, San Fernando, Romblon.

Unfortunately, up to this date, the team was not given the consent to enter the said area by the APMC main office to conduct the re-inventory.

For information and further instructions.


ARNOLDO A. BLAZA, JR.




February 10, 2023

MEMORANDUM

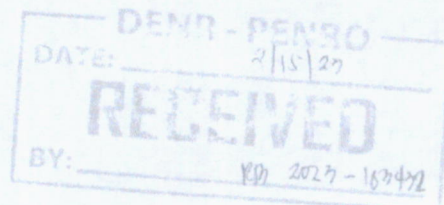
FOR : THE OIC PENRO OFFICER
DENR, Odiongan, Romblon

THRU : Chief TSD PENRO Romblon

: OIC Sibuyan Sub-Station &
PASu, MGGNP

FROM : ROLLY F. MORALES, et.al

SUBJECT : REPORT ON THE RE-INVENTORY OF TREES WITHIN THE
TWENTY (20) HECTARES AREAS, PARCEL 1 and 2
PROPOSED ROAD, AND PARCEL 3 ROAD GOING TO
PROPOSED PORT OF ALTAI PHILIPPINES MINING
CORPORATION (APMC) AT SITIO BATO, BRGY. RSPAN, SAN FERNANDO, ROMBLON



REFERENCE:

In compliance to the PENRO Special Order No. 23-19, Series of 2023, the team headed by Forester I Rolly F. Morales, went to So. Bato, Brgy. Espana, San Fernando to conduct re-inventory of trees.

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES:

The following activities had been observed:

1. We coordinated first with the Brgy. Official of Brgy. Espana, San Fernando, Romblon regarding the conduct of re-inventory in the area February 08, 2023.
2. The team then proceeded to the office of Altai Philippines Mining Corporation to coordinate on the re-inventory. Upon arrival, Mr. Marvin Roy and Mr. Jaime C. Yap, representatives of APMC advised the team to make a request letter with corresponding Special Order to be forwarded to their main office for the re-inventory. Thus, the team relayed this message to PENR Office, and was able to provide a request letter with copy of PENRO Special Order for APMC's information. They, however, informed that they are not authorized to receive the documents and it should be directed to the main office and will wait for further instructions.

3. That on the following day, February 09, 2023 the team went back to the area and coordinated with the representatives of APMC if the team is allowed to conduct tree re-inventory. However, the representatives informed them that there is still no instruction from their main office and they are also waiting for a memorandum allowing the team to conduct tree re-inventory.
4. That on February 10, 2023, the team went back again in the area expressing the same intent of conducting tree re-inventory but was again denied as the representatives stated that they cannot allow the activity without the consent of the main office.

For your information and records.


ROLLY F. MORALES


DALVIN F. FESARIT


LUDWIN RUADO

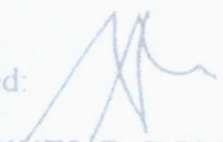

HENRY CARBONILLA


ERNIE FORCADAS


RAMER MANALON


ROLANDO GALICIA

Noted:


MANUEL B. ROMERO
OIC Sibuyan Sub-Station &
PASu, MGGNP

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office
Odiongan, Romblon

Coordination to the Brgy. Official of Brgy. España.



Coordinated at APMC area serve letter request to enter the area of 20 hectares for re-inventory



51 P 450516 1367105

accuracy: 6m

Altitude
73 m

2/9/23
9:55 AM

51 P 450516 1367106

accuracy: 11m

Back
Pack
5

