



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Environment and Natural Resources**  
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office  
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan  
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Telfax No. (048) 433-5638

Red

May 4, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

FOR : The Regional Executive Director  
DENR MIMAROPA Region  
1515 DENR By the Bay Building,  
Roxas Blvd., Bgy. 668, Ermita, Manila

THRU : The ARD for Technical Services

FROM : The PENR Officer  
Puerto Princesa City

SUBJECT : **RESULT OF BIODIVERSITY-FRIENDLY ENTERPRISE (BDFE) ORIENTATION AMONG MEMBERS OF CATABAN FISHERFOLK ASSOCIATION**

Respectfully forwarded is the memorandum dated April 17, 2023 of CENRO Taytay, Palawan with attached report from CDS staff regarding the above-cited subject.

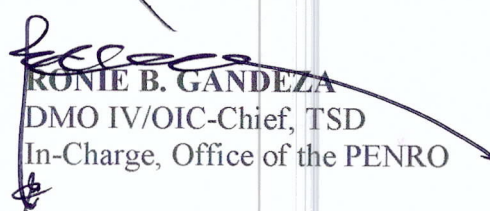
Per report, the conduct of orientation is in response with the request of Cataban Fisherfolk Association to utilize and have access on the mangrove areas of Bgy. Cataban. During the orientation, personnel from CDS-Taytay discussed Mangrove Ecosystem and Ecology and the DENR Administrative Order No. 2021-13 "Guidelines for the Development and Recognition of BDFE's in Protected Areas under NIPAS and other conserved areas".

Further, during the visit, it was found out that the association is already operating, they are already receiving tourists, mostly those who came from Kuyawyaw Falls. Three glamping huts are already established and a certain amount of fees are being collected. Thus, the association was advised to submit an application to the PAMB of ENTMRPA since they are within the protected area.



The CENRO concerned concurs with the recommendations of its CDS staff and will take actions on their recommendations.

For information and record.

"For the PENRO"

  
**RONIE B. GANDEZA**  
DMO IV/OIC-Chief, TSD  
In-Charge, Office of the PENRO



DENR-PALAWAN  
PENRO-RECORDS  
**RELEASED**  
By:   
Date: 04 MAY 2023 



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

**COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE**

By the National Highway, Poblacion, Taytay, Palawan 5312

Mobile: 0926-505-9335 TM 0912-171-3889 TNT

Email: cenrotaytay@denr.gov.ph

**DENR CENRO  
PALAWAN RECORDS  
RECEIVED**

April 17, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

BY: [Signature]  
DATE: 14-26-2023 CN 233825

**FOR :** The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer- Palawan  
Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City

**FROM :** The Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer

**SUBJECT :** **RESULT OF THE BIODIVERSITY-FRIENDLY ENTERPRISES  
(BDFE) ORIENTATION AMONG MEMBERS OF CATABAN  
FISHERFOLK ASSOCIATION**

Respectfully forwarded is the Memorandum dated April 13, 2023 of ECOMS II Ana Liza D. Marasigan and Forest Technician II Lucila G. Candejeja concerning the above subject.

Per report, the orientation is in response with the request among members of Cataban Fisherfolk Association to utilize and access the mangrove areas in Sitio Lalaog for eco-tourism purposes which falls within the jurisdiction of ENMRPA.

The Office will take action on the recommendations of the reporters.

Thank you.

**CONRADO M. CORPUZ**

Cc: PAMO-ENTMRPA

**DENR CENRO  
TAYTAY, PALAWAN  
RELEASED**

BY: [Signature]  
DATE: APR 14 2023 1490



April 13, 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The OIC-Community Environment and  
Natural Resources Officer

THROUGH : The Chief,  
Conservation and Development Section (CDS)

FROM : Ecosystem Management Specialist II  
Forest Technician II

SUBJECT : **RESULT OF THE BIODIVERSITY FRIENDLY ENTERPRISE  
(BDFE) ORIENTATION AMONG MEMBERS OF CATABAN  
FISHERFOLK ASSOCIATION**

DENR CENRO  
TAYTAY, PALAWAN  
RECEIVED  
BY: *SD*  
DATE: *4-13-23* *CH* *2431*

This pertains to the conducted orientation on biodiversity friendly enterprise (BDFE) orientation among members of Cataban Fisherfolk Association held yesterday, April 12, 2023, in Bgy. Cataban, Taytay, Palawan. The activity is in response to their request to the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of El Nido Managed Resource Protected Area (ENMRPA) to utilize and access the mangrove areas in Sitio Lalaog of the said barangay for eco-tourism purposes.

Please be informed that during the orientation, topics discussed were the Mangrove Ecosystem and Ecology and the DENR Administrative Order 2021-13 or the Guidelines for the Development and Recognition of BDFE in Protected Areas under National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) and conservation areas, providing for incentives and supporting mechanisms. The association were informed about the processes and permits that they need to secure prior to their operation and the legality/endorsement from the PAMB-ENMPRA.

Accordingly, the association is planning to provide services with low impact such as river cruising, firefly watching, cultural activities of Aetas Indigenous People within the area, crab catching and boat paddling. On the other hand, they also aiming to establish glamping areas (movable and temporary) and floating structures within the river which are all identified to have low to medium impact in the environment. At present, three (3) glamping huts were already established in the area and they are already bringing tourists from Kuyawyaw falls tour to the area with certain fees being collected. A fee of one thousand two hundred (Php1,200.00) pesos for tour with river cruising and boat paddling and an overnight accommodation fee of one thousand pesos plus (Php1,000.00+) are set and agreed to be

collected by the association once they are permitted by the PAMB to operate. The fee of Php1,200 is apportioned for the following breakdown:

Share of the DENR	- Php 100.00
Share of Tourism Office of LGU of Taytay for the environment	- Php 250.00
Share of the Barangay	- Php 50.00
Share of boatman/paddle man	- Php 300.00
Payment for boat hiring	- Php 300.00
Commission	- Php 100.00
Share of the Association	- Php 100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Php 1,200.00</b>

The above sharing was set during their meeting without the involvement of the DENR. The share of the DENR stated above is only according to the association's decision without consulting the PAMB first. Hence, the undersigned commented and provided information based on their observation from the site visit conducted on the same day and based on the dialogue/meeting with the members. Hereunder are the following observation and suggestions for the association to comply:

1. The area is already operational and collection of fees is already in placed without the permission/approval of the PAMB. Since the area falls within protected area, the undersigned suggested to secure barangay certification certifying that they are the actual occupant of the area and said certification would serve as an attachment to their request to this Office for a lot verification to identify what is the actual land classification of the area;
2. Since the area is adjacent to the mangrove area and river, the association was also informed of the easement guidelines that they need to observe if they are planning to develop the area once the PAMB grant their request;
3. BDFE guidelines were discussed for them to identify what are the enterprises allowed within the area and they should go through the process upon recognition by the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB);
4. The group was also advised that Php1,200 collection fee is too much. The said proposal should consult and subject for PAMB's approval of ENMRPA. They area also informed of the guidelines on Intergrated Protected Area Fund (IPAF) collection set by the DENR to be considered on their proposal;
5. Establishment of floating structures is also subject for PAMB's approval in lieu of the easement policies;
6. Minimal clearing and burning of naturally grown bamboo within the riverbanks was also observed during the site visit. The group was advised that bamboo is a natural sediment stabilizer and they don't need to cut or burn them for the purposes of viewing the mangrove or fireflies properly. Burning and/or clearing operation without the consent of the DENR and/or the PAMB are against the law;


7. PAMB clearance is necessary prior to their operation may it be for tour, accommodation and any services they are planning to offer. They are also advised to settle with the PAMB-Project Development Committee (PAMB-PDC) of ENMRPA for the evaluation of the project; and
8. As the association is not yet registered, they are also advised to get registered with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

In view of the above findings, the undersigned recommends the following:

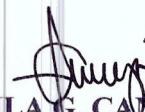
1. Said application should go through the process of PAMB-ENMRPA evaluation to evaluate whether said project is in accordance with the Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP);
2. Since the project is a community-managed, offers eco-tourism services within mangrove area with low impact on its major activities and support socio-cultural aspects, this can also be considered as potential candidate for the Philippine East ASEAN Growth Area (P-EAGA) project; and
3. Land classification and easement of the area should also be identified prior to its development if warranted.

Attached are the photo-documentation and attendance of the said activity.

For information and further instruction.

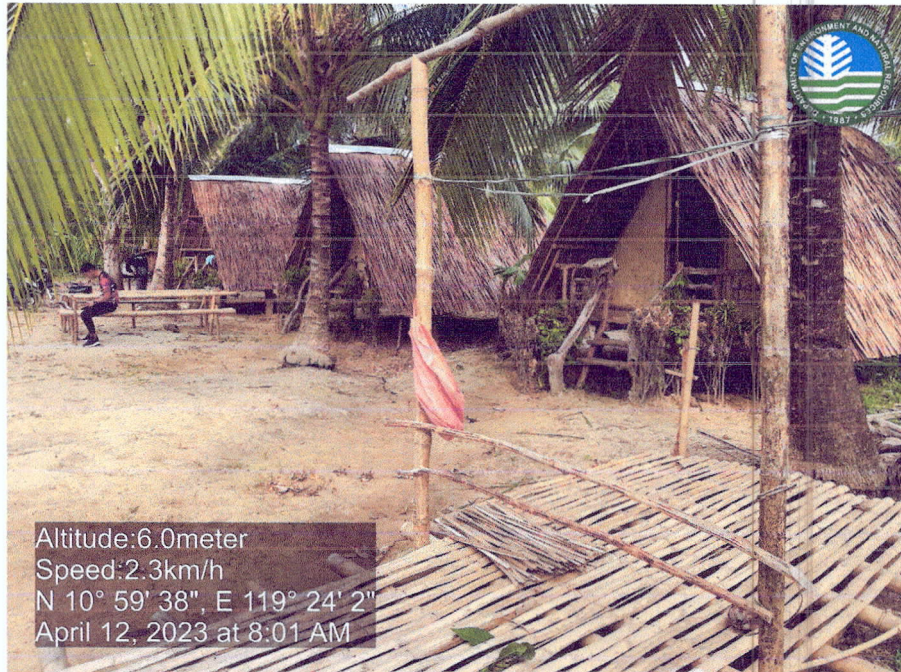


**ANA LIZA D. MARASIGAN**  
ECOMS II



**LUCILA G. CANDELEJA**  
Forest Technician II

## PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION



The 3 glamping huts established in the proposed area within Sitio Lalaog, Bgy. Cataban



Burnt out bamboo within the riverbanks

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the above pictures are true and taken during the conducted site visit on the proposed project of Cataban Fisherfolk Association in Bgy. Cataban, Taytay, Palawan.

*Rosario*  
**ANA LIZA D. MARASIGAN**  
ECOMS II

*Lucila S. Candeleja*  
**LUCILA S. CANDELEJA**  
Forest Technician II



Meeting with Mr. Jimmy Obrean, Association President, within the proposed area



Discussion on BDFE guidelines



Discussion on mangrove ecosystem

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the above pictures are true and taken during the conducted orientation on BDFE among members of Cataban Fisherfolk Association in Bgy. Cataban, Taytay, Palawan.

*Analiza*  
**ANA LIZA D. MARASIGAN**  
 ECOMS II

*Lucila*  
**LUCILA G. CANDELEJA**  
 Forest Technician II