

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 929-6626 to 29; 929-6633 to 35
929-7041 to 43; 929-6252; 929-1669
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Assistant Secretary**
Policy, Planning, and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects
and Chairman, E2RB PMC

The Executive Director
National Water Resources Board

The Directors
Forest Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Climate Change Service
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service

The Regional Executive Directors
DENR Regions VI, VII, XI, and XIII

FROM : **The Executive Director**
River Basin Control Office

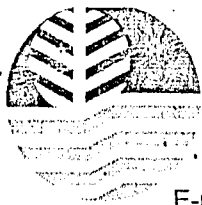
SUBJECT : **MINUTES OF THE 1ST SEMESTER PROJECT MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE (PMC) MEETING FOR ECOSYSTEM-BASED
MANAGEMENT AND APPLICATION OF ECOSYSTEM VALUES
IN TWO RIVER BASINS IN THE PHILIPPINES (E2RB) PROJECT**

DATE : **MAY 23, 2022.**

The River Basin Control Office (RBCO) would like to furnish you with a copy of the minutes of the 1st Semester Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting for Ecosystem-based Management and Application of Ecosystem Values in Two River Basins in the Philippines (E2RB) Project conducted last March 9-10, 2022 in Lanang, Davao City. This report was prepared by the Tagum-Libuganon River Basin Regional PMO.

For your information and record.


NELSON V. GOROSPE



MEMORANDUM

TIME: _____ SIG: _____

MAY 05 2022

FOR : THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR FIELD OPERATIONS-
 MINDANAO
 DENR Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

ATT'N: THE DIRECTOR
 River Basin Control Office

THRU : THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FIELD
 OPERATIONS-EASTERN MINDANAO
 DENR Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

FROM : THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 DENR-XI, Lanang, Davao City

SUBJECT : MINUTES OF THE 1ST SEMESTER PROJECT
 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PMC) MEETING FOR
 ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT AND
 APPLICATION OF ECOSYSTEM VALUES IN TWO RIVER
 BASINS IN THE PHILIPPINES (E2RB) PROJECT

DENR - XI
 Records Unit
 22-0024
RELEASED
 By: *PA 15-86*
 Date: MAY 05 2022
 Time: 9:31 AM

Respectfully submitted herewith is the Minutes for the 1st semester Project Management Committee (PMC) Meeting for Ecosystem-Based Management And Application Of Ecosystem Values In Two River Basins In The Philippines (E2RB) Project, conducted last March 8-10, 2022 at Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City.

For information and approval.

BAGANI FIDEL A. EVASCO



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Office of the Regional Executive Director
Regional Office XI, Km. 7 Lanang, Davao City 8000, Philippines
Telephone Nos. (082) 233-6088/234-5599; Fax No. (082) 234-0811
Email: r11@denr.gov.ph/oredenrxi@yahoo.com.ph Website: r11.denr.gov.ph

**MINUTES OF THE 1ST SEMESTER PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (PMC)
MEETING FOR ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT AND APPLICATION OF
ECOSYSTEM VALUES IN TWO RIVER BASINS IN THE PHILIPPINES (E2RB)
PROJECT**

**March 8-10, 2022
Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City**

I. Attendance

On-site Attendee:

1. Asec. Marcial Amaro	-	Chairman, E2RB Project Mgt. Committee
2. Dr. Klaus Schmitt	-	GIZ Principal Advisor
3. Marion Antonette Daclan	-	GIZ Senior Adviser
4. Mari Trix Estomata	-	GIZ GIS Specialist
5. Rogelio A. Abalus	-	GIZ-E2RB Sr. Adviser
6. Nelson Gorospe	-	RBCO
7. Edward Dominic Valencia	-	RBCO
8. Loraine Quiñones	-	RBCO
9. Carlo Garcia	-	RBCO
10. Danilo Lorilla	-	Region VI
11. Paquito Melicor	-	RED VII
12. For. Ambrocio Wenceslao	-	Region VII
13. Bagani Fidel A. Evasco	-	RED XI
14. Nonito Tamayo	-	RED XIII
15. Amelda A. Vera Cruz	-	PENRO Davao del Norte
16. Alma Millana	-	PENRO Davao del Norte
17. Rey Ponpon	-	PENRO Davao del Norte
18. Marcelino Barquin	-	Regional Office R-XI
19. Ronald Amacio	-	Regional Office R-XI
20. Sherlyn Vasquez	-	CENRO Loreto
21. Juan Miguel Reboton	-	Climate Change Commission
22. Jessa Joy Tuyugon	-	National Water Resources Bureau
23. Ayson Tagtag	-	Biodiversity Management Bureau
24. Randy Nuñez	-	FASPS

Virtual Attendee (Google Meet):

1. Director Seville David	-	NWRB
2. Aldrin Maranan	-	EMB

II. Agenda

1. Proposed "No-cost extension"
2. Presentation of 2021 Accomplishment Report and 2022 Work and Financial Plan
3. Issues and Concerns affecting implementation including the Covid-19 pandemic
4. Ratification of Project Operations Agreement

Preliminaries

The invocation was led by Mr. Edward Valencia followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem. Ms. Lorraine Anne Quiñones of the RBCO acknowledged the participants who attended the meeting physically and virtually.

Thereafter, RED Bagani Fidel A. Evasco welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation of the E2RB project being implemented in Region XI. He thanked all attendees and hoped that everyone will have a productive discussion.

USec. Jonas R. Leones, though was not able to attend the on-site meeting prepared a pre-recorded video message emphasizing the crucial role of the DENR in addressing and mitigating the effects of climate change that have devastated economies and people's lives, which can be achieved by engaging the community in every environmental restoration strategies/projects developed. He hoped everyone to have a fruitful discussion in order to come up with precise directions for the implementation of Ecosystem values in the two river basins in the Philippines.

Approval of the Agenda

ASec. Marcial C. Amaro Jr., Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects and also the Chairman of the E2RB Project Management Committee (PMC) presided and presented the agenda of the meeting.

Matters arising from PMC Organizational Meeting on October 13-14, 2021

Mr. Edward Valencia of the RBCO presented the highlights of the previous PMC meeting held at Lubao, Pampanga last October 13-14 2022. Herein are the issues, concerns and actions taken as follows:

ISSUES	REMARKS/UPDATES
Presentation of Project Updates as of September 2021 and Remaining Activities for CY 2021 vis-a-vis FY 2021 Annual Work Plan of E2RB	
1. On date of project start	For DENR- June 10, 2021, when the Implementation Agreement (IA) was signed. For GIZ- March 1, 2019 including preparatory activities
Presentation of Project Updates as of September 2021 and Remaining Activities for CY 2021 vis-a-vis FY 2021 Annual Work Plan of E2RB	
1. On reconciliation of templates for Quarterly Accomplishment Report.	Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS) templates was used by CPMO and RBCO. GIZ accomplishments was included.
E2RB Overall Operations Plans (2019-2023)	
Synchronization of annual project operations plan (POP) to the overall plan	Project Implementation Plan (PIP) is already finalized where there is synchronization of CPMO, RPMO and GIZ activities
Presentation of the Project Monitoring Tool (PMIT)	
Project Implementation Plan (PIP) is already finalized where there is synchronization of CPMO, RPMO and GIZ activities	Last February 17-18, 2022 Orientation-Workshop on the NEDA Official Development Assistance (ODA) Portfolio Review was conducted RBCO already submitted the ODA forms of the project to FASPS.

Draft Project Orientation Agreement (POA)	
Frequency of PMC Meetings	Twice a year or as may deemed necessary by the Committee
Amendments to the RPMC/RPMO composition.	On January 31, 2022 Special Order No. 2022-51 "Amendment to S.O. No. 2021-412 Creating Implementing Units to Execute The E2RB Project in the Field Level" has been issued. Changes on this was reflected on the Project Operations Agreement (POA).
Inclusion of After Project Life Sustainability and Knowledge Management will be sub-part.	It has been included in the latest version of POA
On creation of the Technical Team to support E2RB project	Special Order 22-30 was created where representatives from different bureaus from BMB, EMB, FMB, NWRB, CCS, and FASPS which functions to: (1) provide technical expertise in the review of project proposal submitted for local subsidy and financial agreement (2) provide guidance in the project proposal submitted should be within the framework of E2RB interventions/activities (3) act as technical arm of the Project Management Committee (PMC) through Central Project Management Committee (CPMO).
Local Subsidy, Financial Agreement, Grant Agreement and Template	
On the review of the Local Subsidy, Financial Agreements and Grant Agreements	Proposed joint review for RPMO/RPMC/CPMO to fast-track the process.
FY 2022 Draft WFP for E2RB Project	
Templates for FY 2022 WFP for the project.	FASPS provided the templates for the E2RB Work and Financial Plan (WFP)
Inclusion of additional EbA measures.	DENR and GIZ will jointly identify other EbA activities that may be supported by the project.

After the presentation, ASec. Amaro suggested that in order to expedite the review and approval of LS project proposals, the best strategy would be the conduct of a joint PMC-RPMC review, which was acknowledged by the PMC.

Meanwhile, Forester Danilo Lorilla of DENR Region VI, commented that the issues he raised during the last PMC meeting concerning the Ilog Hilabangan River Basin E2RB Project was not reflected in the presentation of Mr. Valencia, that includes their request for additional funding/ support and the request for a detailed distribution of project cost.

ASec. Amaro requested the RBCO if they can provide the needed funding support. Likewise, Dr. Klaus responded that he is working on the No-Cost extension which he discussed later.

Forester Danilo Lorilla moved for the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting which was duly seconded by PENR Officer Amelda R. Vera Cruz of Davao del Norte.

Agenda No. 1 : Proposed “No-cost extension”

Dr. Klaus Schmitt, E2RB Principal Advisor explained that the E2RB Project will be extended until May 2024 without changes on the overall budget. He reiterated the reasons of delays including the pandemic and other institutional regulations. But as the COVID 19 restrictions eases, rapid developments in the E2RB project were observed. To date, 1.8 million EU was already spent out of the 4.6 million total budget.

Dr. Schmitt was optimistic that the E2RB targets will be achieved in the given timeframe, even with the delay of the upcoming 2022 election.

Thus, he encouraged everyone to speed up in providing sound proposals in order to proceed with the approval and preparation of contracts that may take time due to the administrative procedures.

PENR Officer Amelda R. Vera Cruz asked when will be the schedule for the initial review of the project proposals submitted by LGUs including Loreto, Agusan del Sur and Davao de Oro. She suggested that proponents should submit short term and doable proposals considering the nearing termination of the E2RB Project.

Dr. Schmitt suggested some doable Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) activities such as : (1) Protection and Sustainable Management of Forest, (2) Protection of Forest and Wetlands, (3) High Quality and Sustainable Water Supply, (4) Protection of People from Flooding and Landslides, (5) Biodiversity Survey (6) Clean drinking water, (7) Sustainable Water Supply, (8) Protection of People from Flooding and Landslides.

PENRO Vera Cruz queried if *hard infrastructures* are allowed under the E2RB project though it is not aligned with the E2RB framework - projects such as small water impounding projects (*SWIS*) or other means of rehabilitating the river banks, as it is one of the concerns of some LGU partners in the Tagum-Libuganon River Basin (TLRB).

ASec. Amaro explained that these types of projects may be allowed as long as the LGU/ proponent allocate regular funds (*counterpart funding*) and not entirely dependent to the GIZ funding. Moreover, the proposed project must conform with the Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) of that river basin.

PENR Officer Vera Cruz added that based on the approved TLRB Master Plan one of the approaches identified to rehabilitate the riverbanks was the use hard infrastructures. She shared the recurring flooding at Tuganay River, Carmen Davao del Norte especially during heavy rains would require such intervention. In contrast, Dr. Schmitt thru an illustration, explained that dikes, revetment and other hard infrastructure does not entirely address the problem of flooding. Relative thereto, projects that are not aligned with Ecosystem-based Adaptations (EbAs) cannot be approved since one solution does not fix all underlying problems. He highlighted that proponents should focus more on Ecosystem-based Adaptation strategy.

Agenda No. 2 : Presentation of 2021 Accomplishment Report and 2022 Work and Financial Plan

Ms. Loraine Quiñones presented the accomplishments of the **River Basin Control Office (RBCO)** for the year 2021 which includes 1.) conduct of various workshops and seminars related to E2RB, 2.) Monitoring of E2RB Regional activities/ implementation, 3.) Hiring of E2RB Technical & Admin Staff for the Central Project Management Office (CPMO), 4.) Attendance and support to regional activities/ meetings in the implementation of E2RB Project and others.

Ms. Marion Daclan announced that the **GIZ had accomplished 60%** of E2RB key activities on the year 2021. This includes 1.) baselines studies in TLRB and IHRB, 2.) Production of baseline maps, 3.) Technical Session on EbA measures, 4.) Development of guidelines for LS proposals, 5.) attended meetings with the DENR- FMB, 6.) conduct of various workshops and online sessions on Kaka-EbAng Usapan 7.) production EbA informative videos and others. Likewise, she presented some key activities that was already accomplished in their CY 2022 Annual Work Plan including:

- Strengthen inter-agency cooperation on the implementation of EO 816 of 2009
 - Coordination with NGOs/LGUs to implement EbA measures in the river basins using LS contracts
 - Private sector engagement for the piloting of financial instruments for ecosystems protection (e.g. PES, CSR, etc)
 - Identify appropriate ecosystem valuation tools and policies for river basin management (collaboration with DENR FMB)
 - Finalise and implement knowledge management and communication activities (KMC Plan)
- Systematic Implementation of EbA measures

With regards to the **E2RB Project of Ilog Hilabangan River Basin** For. Danilo Lorilla and For. Ambrocio Wenceslao presented the highlight accomplishment that includes: 1.) Posting of Job Hiring for Support Staff, 2.) Conduct RPMC Meeting, 3.) Participation to various meetings and workshops and the National River Basin Summit 2022, and 4.) Monitoring of damages that was caused by Bagyong Odette.

For the **Tagum-Libuganon River Basin (TLRB) E2RB Project**, PENRO Amelda Vera Cruz highlighted the following accomplishment:

- Conduct of Technical review of baseline map
- Conduct of ground validation of baseline maps jointly with GIZ
- Conduct of Technical review of baseline reports
- Conduct of E2RB project orientation with LGU and other government bodies
- Conduct of Review of TOR and records design, studies
- Conduct of RPMC Meetings
- Conduct of RPMO Meetings

She disclosed that TLRB received an initial amount of Php158,000 for the operationalization of CY 2022 first quarter targets. She assumed that the Work and Financial Plan (WFP) was approved but she has not received the copy yet. She suggested that Regions XIII and Region XI should discuss issues that needs to be addressed and further included in the PAPs for 2022.

Agenda No. 3 : Issues and Concerns affecting implementation including the Covid-19 pandemic

It was explained that aside from the Covid19 pandemic, numerous issues affected the implementation of E2RB project including the delay in acquiring of Implementation Agreement and/ or SPA.

Agenda No. 4 : Ratification of Project Operations Agreement (POA)

With regards to Special-Order No. 2022-51 as amended by S.O. No. 2021-412 "Creating Implementing Units to Execute the E2RB Project in the Field Level", PENR Officer Vera Cruz inquired if the PENRO is authorized to write/ sign communication letters (e.g., Notice of Meetings, invitation letters) though she is not a member of the RPMO.

ASec. Amaro responded that in the case of TLRB, the PENR Officer was not included in the RPMO due to the heavy workload that Officer is entailed to. Nevertheless, as the head of Office, she can directly engage/ intervene in the E2RB project upon her own discretion. And with regards to signing of notices/ letters, the PENR Officer could do so in behalf of the RED, depending on the urgency of said meeting.

Dr. Schmitt and ASec. Amaro explained that the participation of the stakeholders is very important because of knowledge and expertise they can contribute to the Body. The issuance of Special Orders from each Department is therefore critical to enjoin those key Officials in each meeting scheduled.

On another issue, Forester Danilo Lorilla suggested that the RBCO and FASPS should allocate funds for monitoring and validation of established LS projects in CY 2022. The validation report will be the basis for the full payment of the project.

ASec Amaro, was amenable to this suggestion and requested the RBCO to consider allocating PMS funds on this regard.

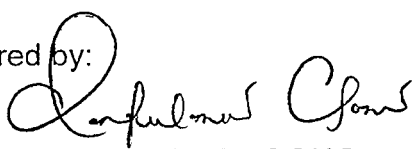
RED Nonito Tamayo, moved for the adoption of Special-Order No. 2022-51 which was duly seconded by PENRO Rita Fe C. Gunn of Davao de Oro.

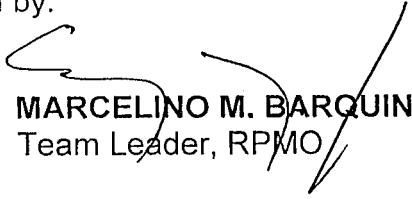
ASec. Amaro inquired the RBCO when would be the deadline for the submission of the Revised Work Plan. It was agreed that the deadline would be on March 18, 2022. He added that they will constantly communicate in terms of setting of deadline and providing additional instruction related to the implementation of E2RB.

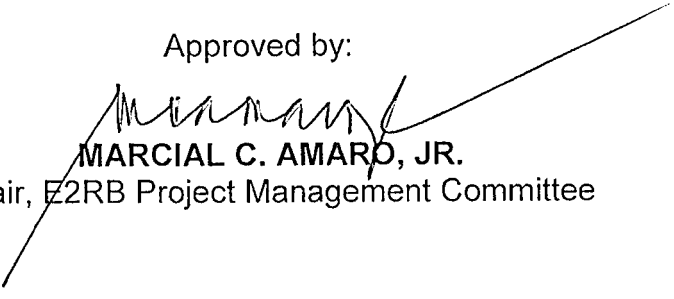
PENRO Vera Cruz was concerned that based on the guidelines, the LS proposals will undergo a long and arduous process of review. She asked if the GIZ Head Office had already imposed a deadline for the submission and LS project proposals.

Dr. Schmitt clarified that the process usually takes 45 days or two months which includes the review and the signing of contracts. ASec. Amaro therefore reiterated the need to a joint review to expedite the review process.

There being no items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Prepared by:

DANFULMAE D. GONO
Project Support Staff

Noted by:

MARCELINO M. BARQUIN, JR.
Team Leader, RPMO

Approved by:

MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR.
Chair, E2RB Project Management Committee