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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **THE DIRECTORS**
Forest Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Land Management Bureau

THE SERVICE DIRECTORS
Policy and Planning Service
Knowledge and Information Systems Service
Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service
Human Resource Development Service

THE ADMINISTRATOR
National Mapping Resource and Information Authority

THE GENERAL MANAGER
Laguna Lake Development Authority

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
National Water Resources Board

FROM : **THE DIRECTOR**
Climate Change Service

SUBJECT : **INITIAL CONSULTATION MEETING REGARDING THE GREEN ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK**

DATE : 08 November 2022

This refers to the preparations for the possible adoption of the Green Assessment Framework as a regular program of the Department.

Initially, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscapes (SIBOL) project, conducted the Green Assessment to identify the changes in ecosystems after Typhoon Odette (which struck last December 2021), to widen data capture in identified hotspots, and generate bases for recommendations to strengthen reconstruction efforts and reduce risks from future disasters.

The Green Assessment Framework consists of four (4) stages, namely the 1) Rapid Appraisal, 2) Ground Validation Surveys, 3) Analysis and Interpretation, and 4) Green Resilience Planning. The Department would like to utilize the tools and techniques under the Framework for resilience planning and explore its potential as a regular program.

With this, may we invite you and your two (2) technical staff for a consultation meeting on Nov 28, 2022, Monday at 1:30 via Zoom Teleconference to discuss the following:

1. Provide background and updates on the Green Assessment Framework;
2. Facilitate sharing on existing or similar initiatives and explore harmonization of efforts;
3. Discuss possible adoption of the Green Assessment Framework;
4. Identify next steps.

Zoom registration details are as follows: tinyurl.com/GAConsultation

Should you have queries and concerns, CCS key staff Raquel Ortega (rscortega@denr.gov.ph) and JM Reboton (jmnreboton@denr.gov.ph) can be contacted through 02-8928-1194.

Further details on the Green Assessment Framework are attached for your reference.

Thank you for your usual support and cooperation.



ELENIDA DR. BASUG

Green Assessment Framework

BACKGROUND

- In January 2022, the USAID SIBOL¹ launched the green assessment in Palawan in response to the devastation brought by typhoon Odette in December 2021. The results of the assessment will be used as a basis to develop reconstruction and rehabilitation of green ecosystems to ensure recovery and reduce risks from similar disasters in the future.
- The framework consists of four stages. **Stage 1** is conducting rapid appraisals by identifying any changes in forest surface cover and ecosystem assets. **Stage 2** employs both centralized streams of data gathering on defined damage hotspots in order to widen the coverage of data capture. **Stage 3** will analyze and visualize the information gathered from Stages 1 and 2 to enable assessment of the extent of damage and changes in land use. Finally, **Stage 4** aims, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, to formulate management recommendations and plans for restoration and rehabilitation, and resilience planning.
- On March 15, 2022, an initial meeting was held with Undersecretary Analiza Rebueta-Teh and Dir Elenida Basug of Climate Change Service (CCS) with representatives from USAID SIBOL to discuss the green assessment and its role in post disaster assessment. The DENR recognized its use in the environmental sector as a tool for ecosystem assessment not only for reconstruction but also for planning future activities/measures.
- Upon consultation with the then Secretary and Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) Chairperson, Roy A. Cimatu, it was recommended to explore the possibility to adopt the framework to DENR regular programs. The CCS as secretariat to the Task Force Build Back Better was instructed to coordinate with USAID SIBOL.
- In June 2022, CCS, Forest Management Bureau, Biodiversity Management Bureau, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, DENR Regions 6, 7, 8, 10, and 13 were invited to join training and assessments to be oriented on the Framework. Representatives from the Regional Offices mentioned were able to attend.
- On August 10, 2022, with the appointment of Secretary Maria-Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, the CCS included in its briefing the adoption for the green assessment framework. The Secretary instructed the service to continue exploring options for its adoption. After the meeting, coordination through

¹ Philippine Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) is a 5-year project launched by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that will support the management of the country's natural resources and combat environmental crimes. The Research Triangle Institute International serves as its lead implementer.

emails and meetings were done to identify points for collaboration under the green assessment and other projects.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- On September 07, 2022, a meeting with CCS and USAID SIBOL representatives was conducted to finalize green assessment related assistance. It was agreed that USAID SIBOL can provide the resources for capacity building to conduct the green assessment for DENR.
- On October 17-21, 2022, Stage 1: Rapid Appraisal Training for the Visayas-Mindanao Cluster was conducted in Cebu City. On November 14-18, 2022, the training for the Luzon Cluster will be held in Clark, Pampanga.

NEXT STEPS

Internal discussions with concerned Offices on:

- Adoption and mainstreaming of the green assessment framework in the Department
- Harmonization of schedule of activities (meetings, workshops/trainings, pilot testings, etc.)