



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02) 8920-0689 / 8925-8275 / 0917-885-3367 / 0917-868-3367
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

MEMORANDUM

TO : The Assistant Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Land Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
The Chief, Policy and Program Division,
National Water Resources Board
Representative, River Basin Control Office
Representative, Legal Affairs Service
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Field
Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Field
Operations – Mindanao

FROM : The OIC Director
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1ST TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING ON THE CODIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (ENR) LAWS (PHASE 1) HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 2023, 9:00 AM VIA ZOOM**

DATE : **01 MAR 2023**

This refers to the 1st TWG Meeting on the Codification of ENR Laws (Phase 1), held on February 23, 2023, 9:00 AM via Zoom and in-person. The meeting was presided over by the undersigned, and participated in by all the members of the TWG, with the exception of EMB and RBCO.

Attendees:

Office	Representative
BMB	Assistant Director Armida P. Andres Ms. Criselda Castor
EMB	None
ERDB	Mr. Eugene Parañaque
FMB	For. Kenneth Tabliga For. Diane Lanugan
LMB	For. Lovella Luzette B. Galindon

	Engr. Jewel Templonuevo
MGB	Ms. Cristina Pornillos Ms. Jade Lorenzo
NWRB	Engr. Snoofey Cabag-iran
RBCO	None
LAS	Atty. Geraldine Ramos
OUFOLVE	Ms. Ma. Cristina Francisco
OUFOM	For. Maureen Reyes Mr. Jeruz Pahilanga
PPS	Mr. Manuel D. Gerochi, PPS Technical Consultant PSD Secretariat

Discussions:

- Atty. Ramos sought clarification on the intent of the Codification project; whether it will be vertical or horizontal codification; and if the objective is for the Department to submit a single bill. In reply, Mr. Gerochi explained that the codification will involve the fundamental laws of the sectors and coming up with a code, hence, the implementation in two (2) phases. He mentioned past experiences regarding submission of codes (e.g., Land Code) in Congress which were not passed. Hence, the strategy identified is to amend portions of the sectoral laws and put all these together into a single code. To attain this objective, the sectoral laws will have to be harmonized internally.
- On the query of Atty. Ramos as to how the different sectoral laws will be merged into a single code, Mr. Gerochi stated that this can be done by identifying thematic areas. The undersigned noted that if the code will be structured according to thematic areas (e.g., conservation) and not by sectoral focus, all sectors will have to be involved. On the query of the undersigned regarding the implication of the amendment of the same portion of the code, Mr. Gerochi explained that amending a code is the same as amending a law; the amended portion of the law becomes a component of the code. If a law is amended, the code will have to be re-issued.
- Atty. Ramos asked whether the Legal Affairs Service (LAS) may submit its position on the intent of the Codification project and on the roles and responsibilities of the TWG. Mr. Gerochi informed that the Director of LAS has been consulted in the past regarding the project. The undersigned stated that the LAS plays a critical role in the project and assured that the inputs of said office are welcome. Additionally, it was stressed that the role of the TWG is to provide guidance to the consulting firm so that the output is aligned with the DENR's goals and not consultant-driven.
- With regard to function no. 1 of the TWG, i.e., identify areas of reform and complementation among the different ENR laws, Atty. Ramos wished to be clarified whether the leg-work will be done by the TWG. The PSD Secretariat responded that said function ensures that it is the TWG that will provide direction as to how conflicting areas/provisions will be addressed/approached, and this is not an area for the consulting firm to decide upon. Mr.

Gerochi stated that the consulting firm will provide external ideas and experience, and stressed that the project will be a group work between the TWG and the consulting firm. Atty. Ramos manifested that the leg-work should be handled by the consulting firm to be procured. Relatedly, she suggested that the said function of the TWG as indicated in Special Order No. 2023-33 be revised. For. Tabliga expressed agreement with the observation and point raised by Atty. Ramos. The undersigned stated that the Special Order may be revised anytime, and stressed that the TWG will provide guidance to the consulting firm and make sure that the outputs of the latter will be informed by the needs of the sectors.

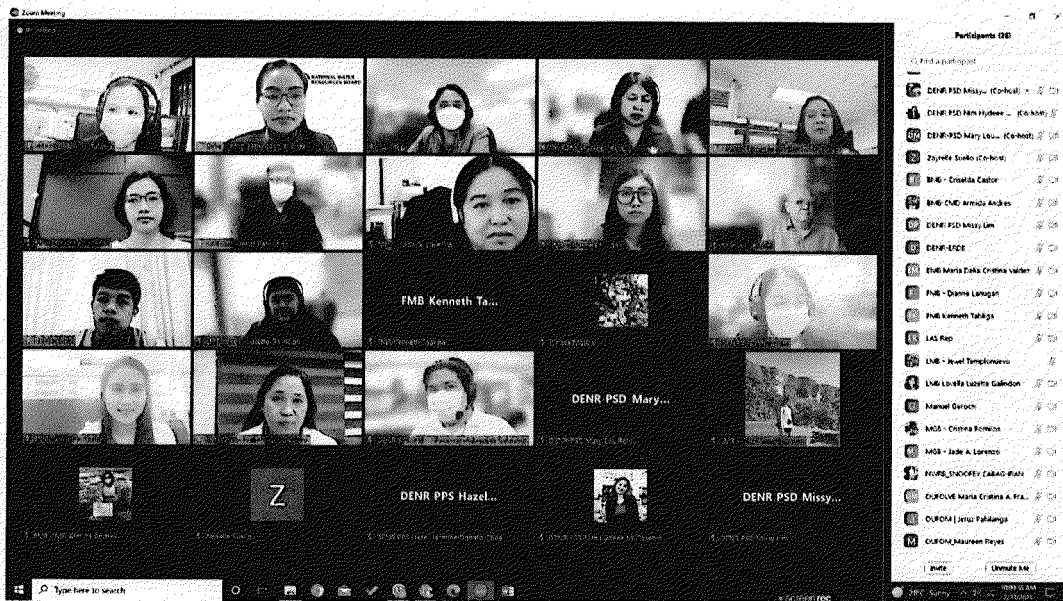
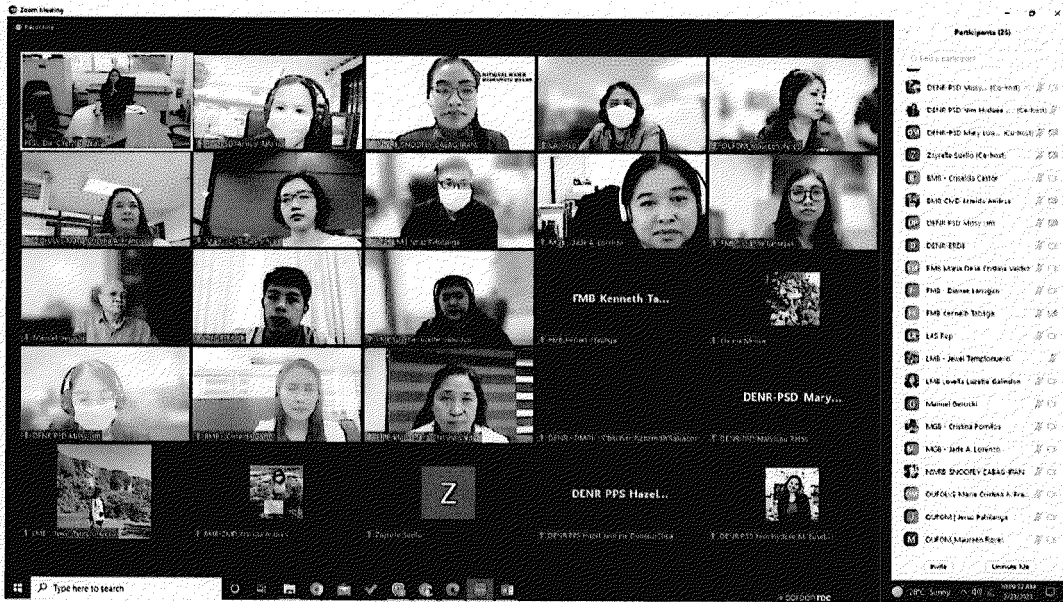
- On the pre-identified sectoral laws indicated in the scope and coverage, it was discussed that the coverage may be expanded. The importance of the project was emphasized as it is in support of the Secretary's direction to harmonize the ENR laws and to address overlaps.

Way Forward:

1. Bureaus/sectors to create their Sub-TWGs and submit the names of the members to the PSD Secretariat
2. Conduct of regular TWG meetings (monthly)
3. Bureaus/sectors to prepare documents regarding the review of sectoral laws and proposed legislative measures by the consulting firm

For information.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL





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