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AUG 08 2023

MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO : **ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH, CESO I**
Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and
Climate Change

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I
Undersecretary for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas, and
Environment

JOSELIN MARCUS E. FRAGADA, CESO III
Undersecretary for Field Operations, Mindanao

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Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Foreign-Assisted and
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(BMB) in concurrent capacity

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Director, Policy and Planning Service

AL O. OROLFO
Director, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service

NELSON V. GOROSPE
Executive Director, River Basin Control Office and
Project Manager, E2RB

THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
DENR Regions 6, 7, 11, 13

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**
Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Chairperson, One DENR-GIZ NSC

SUBJECT : **ONE DENR-GIZ NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (NSC)
MEETING**

We would like to thank you and your representatives for attending the One DENR-GIZ National Steering Committee meeting held last 14 June 2023 at the 5th floor Conference Room, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects, DENR, Visayas Ave., Quezon City. Below were the agreements reached during the said NSC meeting:

Issues/Concerns	Agreements	Responsible Office
1. Amendment of Special Order to change "Green Sector Coordinator" to "Green Cluster Coordinator" as the Co-Chair and to include other members and the frequency of meetings	FASPS-PMD to draft the DENR Special Order to amend the representation of the GIZ in the One DENR-GIZ NSC from the Green Sector Coordinator to Green Cluster Coordinator as well as the inclusion of additional DENR representatives (i.e. LMB, EMB) and representatives from other Departments (i.e. DA).	FASPS-PMD
2. DENR to provide the list of high-level nominees of the DENR for the delegation visit to Germany in September 2023 to discuss EbA, water, and coastal protection under climate change scenarios (E2RB Project)	GIZ to provide FASPS with the list of invitees to facilitate the needed documents for the study tour.	GIZ (E2RB)
3. DENR concurrence on the donation of equipment to LGUs procured through Local Subsidy contracts (E2RB Project)	FASPS to follow up on the status of the letter of concurrence from the Legal Affairs Service.	FASPS-PMD
4. Signing of the Note Verbale (SOMACORE Project)	The project can proceed with the preparatory activities and do parallel works depending on the respective Terms of Reference and commitments while waiting for the signing of the Note Verbale.	
5. On the proposal of GIZ for the Philippines to be part of the Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance (COPA). (C4 II Project)	GIZ is drafting a letter addressed to the DENR Secretary relative to the invitation to join the COPA. This is a requirement for the NDC since DENR has included a waste and destruction facility and to be able to access funding to conduct ODS bank inventory, waste refrigerants, and waste RAC equipment.	GIZ
6. TRANSCEND and C4 II Projects	DENR CCS in coordination with the CCC will provide FASPS with a copy of the project documents.	CCS

Kindly take note of the agreements reached needing actions from your respective offices. Attached is the detailed Minutes of Discussions indicating the major points and concerns raised by the NSC members, for your reference.

For your information and appropriate action.



ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

I. Participants

DENR Central Office

1. Assistant Secretary Marcial C. Amaro, Jr., PPFASPS and Director, BMB, in concurrent capacity
2. Dir. Al O. Orolfo, FASPS
3. Exec. Dir. Nelson V. Gorospe, RBCO
4. Mr. Eddie B. Abugan, Jr., PMD-FASPS
5. Mr. Conrado Bravante, Jr., PPD-FASPS
6. Ms. Jeslina B. Gorospe, PMED-FASPS
7. Ms. Maybell Mangubos, PAMD-FASPS
8. Ms. Vizminda Osorio, OUFLVE
9. Mr. Jeruz Pahilanga, OUFOM
10. Mr. Andrew Noprada, OUFISCC
11. Mr. Joshua Jhonel Magcamit, PPS-PPD
12. Ms. Marjorie M. Manipol, PPS-PMED
13. Mr. Rolando O. Abad, Jr., CCS
14. Staff, PMD and PPD, FASPS

GIZ

15. Mr. Immanuel Gebhardt, Country Director
16. Dr. Bjoern Surborg, Climate Cluster Coordinator
17. Ms. Nicole Kranz, Climate Cluster Coordinator
18. Ms. Christina Rentzmann, ROLMIN Project
19. Ms. Erlinda Dolatre, RLGGM Project
20. Dr. Klaus Schmitt, E2RB Project
21. Ms. Marion Daclan, E2RB Project
22. Ms. Ronja Schmidt, SOMACORE Project
23. Ms. Rhodora Sumaray, ProCoast and 3RProMar Projects
24. Ms. Hyacinth Magat, Rethinking Plastics Project
25. Ms. Melissa Cruz
26. Mr. Jimmy Loro
27. Mr. Rene Freytag

Land Management Bureau (LMB)

28. AD Romeo P. Versoza
29. Ms. Jo Aleen Nicole T. Ortega

Forest Management Bureau (FMB)

30. Ms. Kenneth R. Tabliga, FPPKMD
31. Ms. Mary Edestin Henson

Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)

32. Ms. Marle Joe A. Cristobal
33. Ms. Leila Dane Vega

Online Participants

DENR Region VI

34. Mr. John Carlo Legada

DENR Region VII

35. RED Paquito Melicor, Jr.

36. ARD Charlie Fabre

DENR Region XI

37. ARD TS Victor Billones

DENR Region XIII

38. ARD TS Melissa Ocampo

National Convergence Initiative (NCI)

39. Representative from the NCI-Sustainable Rural Development

National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)

40. Ms. Dahlielyn D. Dait-Cawed, NCIP-FAPIRO

41. Ms. Christy Andalecio, NCIP-FAPIRO

II. Agenda of the Meeting

- a) Matters arising from the previous meeting
- b) Presentation of the consolidated DENR-GIZ Program/Project achievements including pipeline projects and issues and concerns
- c) Other Matters
 - i. Ongoing and Completed Projects not included in the FASPS Portfolio
 - ii. Proposed Terminal Evaluation of Projects
 - iii. Project Effectivity
- d) Agreements and Next Steps

III. Date and Venue

June 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 nn

5th floor Conference Room, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects

DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

IV. Highlights of Discussion

1. Call to Order and Presentation of the Agenda

Assistant Secretary Marcial C. Amaro, Jr. presided over this NSC meeting in place of Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones. He formally opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and acknowledged the attendance of the NSC members and other participants. In his opening statement, he recognized the importance of the NSC meeting as a venue for updating and

discussing the issues and concerns of the projects that are being implemented in the DENR with GIZ intervention, funding support, and assistance.

The GIZ Country Director for the Philippines, Mr. Immanuel Gebhardt delivered the opening message. He mentioned how the GIZ portfolio has evolved over time; initially, it was more focused on all forms of development, but it is now focused more on a much stronger "green" development orientation, particularly in the areas of peace and development, climate change, disaster risk management, biodiversity, and marine conservation.

The provisional agenda was presented by Asec. Amaro and was approved by the body.

2. Summary of Agreements and Actions Taken from the Previous NSC Meeting

For. Eddie Abugan, Jr. reported the summary of agreements reached and action taken from the previous NSC meeting held last June 15, 2022, which include the following:

- Concerns in the Special Presidential Authority (SPA)/Implementation Agreement (IA) of the following projects:
 - Rethinking Plastics – the project ended in October 2022. There was no IA concluded due to the absence of SPA.
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle to Protect the Marine and Coastal Environment (3RProMar) Project – per coordination with DOF, the project is still subject to the MC 16 series of 11 July 2017. The request for SPA was already signed by Secretary Loyzaga last 29 May 2023 and was subsequently endorsed to NEDA, DOF, and DFA last 8 June 2023.
- Proposed inter-agency discussions to strengthen the implementation of EO 510 and EO 816 at the national level (E2RB concern) – a Legal Consultant was hired to study the EOs pertaining to the function of RBCO. The Consultant reported the results during the 1st Semester Project Management Committee meeting on May 10-12, 2023 in Agusan Del Sur. The final output of the Consultant has already been submitted to GIZ and will be officially endorsed to the DENR, particularly the River Basin Control Office (RBCO).
- Request for strong commitment from the RLGM implementing partners; the need for functional regional implementing structures (Regions 10, 11, and 13) – a number of meetings were held to strengthen commitments from the RLGM implementing partners as well as in DENR Regions 10, 11, and 13.
- Need to convene the Philippine National Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) Coordinating Committee to discuss the Philippines' renewal of its commitment to the CTI on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (SOMACORE Project) – the Philippine National CTI Coordinating Committee was convened last July 2022. The overview of the SOMACORE Project was presented during the meeting. However, the concern about the Philippines' renewal of commitment to the CTI was not raised/discussed.
- Amendment of Special Order to change "Green Sector Coordinator" to "Green Cluster Coordinator" as the Co-Chair and to include other members and the

frequency of meetings – the DENR Special Order to amend the representation of the GIZ in the One DENR-GIZ NSC from the Green Sector Coordinator to Green Cluster Coordinator as well as the inclusion of additional DENR representatives (i.e. LMB, EMB) and representatives from other Departments (i.e. DA) is still a work in progress.

- Desynchronized effectivity of project implementation due to the late issuance of the SPA from the Office of the President and signing of the IA (FASPS to discuss with oversight agencies the process of streamlining the issuance of SPA) – the issue of delays in SPA issuance has been raised in several meetings with oversight agencies like NEDA and DOF, as well as SENR. Moreover, as mentioned by DOF during the Philippines-German Climate Dialogue on April 18, 2023, agencies can work in parallel on project endorsement and signing of Exchange of Notes to expedite the process of the issuance of SPA. A Joint Declaration between DOF and the Federal Republic of Germany was signed during the said dialogue, stating the cooperation of both parties in facilitating the issuance of SPA.
- Hand-over of equipment bought as part of Local Subsidy (LS) Contracts (e.g. GPS units, measuring devices, etc.) to the concerned LGUs by the end of the project (E2RB concern) – FASPS has endorsed the letter of concurrence of DENR to the OUPPIA on November 2022 on the handing-over of equipment bought through the LS Contract by the E2RB Project. OUPPIA referred it to the Legal Affairs Service (LAS) for review. In April 2023, the LAS requested a copy of the IA and the LS Contract specimen. To date, the letter is still with the LAS for further review.

3. Presentation of the consolidated DENR-GIZ Program/Project achievements including pipeline projects and issues and concerns

A brief introduction to the presentation, including an outline of the Philippines' portfolio, was given by Dr. Bjoern Surborg, GIZ Cluster Coordinator for Climate Change.

- The four clusters of the GIZ Portfolio include (1) Peace Building and Conflict Transformation; (2) Environment, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management; (3) Biodiversity and Marine Protection; and (4) GIZ International Services.
- The GIZ Project Coordinators reported the achievements, and impacts, including the issues and concerns for their respective projects. These projects are:
 - Responsible Land Governance Management (RLGM)
 - Promotion of the Rule of Law in Mindanao (ROLMIN)
 - Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Two River Basins (E2RB)
 - Rethinking Plastics
 - Solutions for Marine and Coastal Resilience in the Coral Triangle (SOMACORE)
 - Transformative Actions for Climate Change and Ecological Protection and Development (TRANSCEND)
 - Cool Contributions Fighting Climate Change Phase 2 (C4 II)
 - Sustainable Use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN (SUPA)

- The presentation was followed by an open forum that centered on the following issues and concerns:
 - Absence of SPA/IA for the Rethinking Plastics; 3RProMar but got IA with ASEAN; and C4 II
 - DENR to provide the list of high-level nominees of the DENR for the delegation visit to Germany in September 2023 to discuss EbA, water, and coastal protection under climate change scenarios (E2RB Project)
 - DENR concurrence on the donation of equipment to LGUs procured through LS contracts (E2RB Project)
 - The signing of the Note Verbale (SOMACORE Project)
 - DENR to appoint a signatory for the deed of acceptance and donation to finalize the hand-over of the vehicle and request DFA authority to donate

- Dir. Al Orolfo of the Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service would like to be clarified on the approval process of the LS proposals submitted by the different river basin stakeholders such as the LGUs, NGOs, private sector, and academe. Ms. Marion Daclan, GIZ Senior Adviser for the E2RB Project, explained the step-by-step process for the approval of the LS proposals, as agreed by the Project Management Committee (PMC). The proposal development started with capacity building and then the solicitation of proposals from the different river basin stakeholders. This was facilitated by the Regional Project Management Office (RPMO). For the Ilog-Hilabangan River Basin, the RPMO is located in CENRO Kabankalan also chaired by Regions VI and VII. For the Tagum-Libuganon River Basin, the RPMO is located in PENRO Tagum headed by PENRO Davao del Norte. Through the RPMO, there is close coordination with the LGUs, NGOs, and academes who are interested to implement the EbA within the river basin. This process started in 2021 and the initial proposals were received in 2022. The proposals were reviewed by the RPMO. Once the comments from the RPMO were addressed, the proposals will then be reviewed by the Regional Project Management Committee (RPMC) for another round of review and feedback. Once approved by the RPMC, the proposals will be endorsed to the Central Project Management Committee (CPMO), composed of GIZ together with RBCO. The proponents will present their proposals before the E2RB Technical Team composed of FASPS, FMB, BMB, EMB, NWRB, and CCS. After receiving comments from the technical team, the proponents are now required to update their proposals while also completing the requirements on commercial and legal eligibility which is a GIZ requirement. This year, the project has received 14 proposals, nine (9) from the TLRB and five (5) from IHRB. The project is targeting for these proposals to be finalized and approved by June 2023.

- Dir. Orolfo also asked about the criteria used to identify the two (2) replication sites of the E2RB Project in Luzon, particularly in Abra River Basin and Apayao-Abulug River Basin. RBCO Executive Director Nelson Gorospe mentioned that the RBCO has proposed two (2) replication sites. It was the decision of the PMC that instead of one (1) river basin as a replication site for the E2RB Project. The main consideration is that the Abra River Basin still has an intact pine forest which is a good area for EbA, specifically for the conservation of the pine forest. On the other

hand, the Apayao-Abulug River Basin, still has a concentration of Dipterocarpaceae forest.

- On the request of GIZ for FASPS to get the commitment of the DFA for the CTI, FASPS is going to submit a request for the DFA's commitment to the SOMACORE Project, especially for the CTI components.
- For the TRANSCEND and C4 II Projects, the DENR Climate Change Service (CCS) in coordination with the Climate Change Commission (CCC), will provide the FASPS with relative project documents such as the project briefer.
- On the facilitation of securing the SPA for the ROLMIN Project and SOMACORE Project, the NSC has agreed that it is okay for the projects to slowly move forward while waiting for the SPA. For. Conrado Bravante, Jr. reiterated that parallel works can be done while waiting for the Exchange of Notes and the Note Verbale. SOMACORE is requested to provide FASPS with project documents as well as the draft IA to facilitate the process of securing the SPA.
- On the submission of the Project Completion Report (PCR) of the ProCoast Project, For. Abugan mentioned that FASPS has not yet received the PCR of the project. GIZ shared that the PCR is still being finalized and will provide FASPS with a copy once done.
- For. Bravante suggested that for the next NSC meeting, it may be better to come up with a summary of all the achievements vis-à-vis the contribution of the different projects to the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) or in the sectoral roadmaps of the Philippines to have a better appreciation of the impacts of what was completed so far and use this as the basis in analyzing if there are still some gaps in the roadmaps.
- On the inclusion of the European Union (EU) Green Economy Program in the portfolio of projects presented by GIZ. According to For. Bravante, DENR will be implementing the EU Green Economy Program in the Philippines and GIZ is one of the technical partners. Dr. Surborg confirmed that GIZ is one of the designated implementing agencies of the program together with the DENR. At the moment, the EU is negotiating its financing agreement with NEDA and DOF. However, Dr. Surborg mentioned that GIZ doesn't have an official mandate yet which is why the program is not yet included in the reporting for the NSC meeting. For. Bravante also shared that the program is being processed in NEDA and the financing agreement is expected to be signed by September 2023.

4. Other Matters

a. Ongoing and Completed Projects not included in the FASPS Portfolio

This is to inform the NSC that some of the projects presented were not included in the FASPS Portfolio. For. Abugan emphasized that FASPS should get the relevant project documents for any ongoing or completed projects. GIZ has consented to give FASPS a copy of the documents.

b. Proposed Terminal Evaluation of Projects

A terminal evaluation of the E2RB Project has been suggested by Regional Executive Director Livino Duran of DENR Region VI. Hence, For. Abugan suggested conducting a terminal evaluation of the other ongoing GIZ projects after completion.

DENR and GIZ to explore possible adoption with the GIZ projects on the appropriate mechanism or system to address this concern. In view of the sharing of GIZ, not all projects are subject to terminal reports and there are varied formats or requirements by various commissions which are providing funding support for the projects.

c. Project Effectivity

It was already mentioned throughout the meeting that preparatory activities and parallel works can be done while waiting for the SPA or the signing of the Note Verbale.

5. Next Steps

Issues/Concerns	Agreements	Responsible Office
1. Amendment of Special Order to change "Green Sector Coordinator" to "Green Cluster Coordinator" as the Co-Chair and to include other members and the frequency of meetings	FASPS-PMD to draft the DENR Special Order to amend the representation of the GIZ in the One DENR-GIZ NSC from the Green Sector Coordinator to Green Cluster Coordinator as well as the inclusion of additional DENR representatives (i.e. LMB, EMB) and representatives from other Departments (i.e. DA).	FASPS-PMD
2. DENR to provide the list of high-level nominees of the DENR for the delegation visit to Germany in September 2023 to discuss EbA, water, and coastal protection under climate change scenarios (E2RB Project)	GIZ to provide FASPS with the list of invitees to facilitate the needed documents for the study tour.	GIZ (E2RB)
3. DENR concurrence on the donation of equipment to LGUs procured through Local Subsidy contracts (E2RB Project)	FASPS to follow up on the status of the letter of concurrence from the Legal Affairs Service.	FASPS-PMD
4. Signing of the Note Verbale (SOMACORE Project)	The project can proceed with the preparatory activities and do parallel works depending on the	

	respective Terms of Reference and commitments while waiting for the signing of the Note Verbale.	
5. On the proposal of GIZ for the Philippines to be part of the Climate and Ozone Protection Alliance (COPA). (C4 II Project)	GIZ is drafting a letter addressed to the DENR Secretary relative to the invitation to join the COPA. This is a requirement for the NDC since DENR has included a waste and destruction facility and to be able to access funding to conduct ODS bank inventory, waste refrigerants, and waste RAC equipment.	GIZ
6. TRANSCEND and C4 II Projects	DENR CCS in coordination with the CCC will provide FASPS with a copy of the project documents.	CCS

6. Closing Message

Dr. Bjoern Surborg expressed his gratitude for convening the NSC meeting and has managed to constructively discuss the issues and concerns of the GIZ projects with the DENR. He also mentioned that the GIZ Country Director, Mr. Gebhardt, will be representing the GIZ as Co-Chair to the One DENR-GIZ NSC. Mr. Gebhardt will be representing all the clusters of the GIZ Portfolio. He also mentioned that he enjoyed working with DENR for the past six (6) years. Dr. Surborg will be leaving the Philippines for Laos PDR.

Prepared by:

DENR and GIZ Secretariat