



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



URGENT
MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO : **The Undersecretary**
Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change

The Undersecretary
Integrated Environmental Science, and
Supervising Undersecretary for Water Resources Management Office

All Bureau Directors

The Director
Policy and Planning Service
Climate Change Service

The Executive Director
River Basin Control Office

FROM : **The Undersecretary**
Policy, Planning, and International Affairs

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK AND UPDATES ON THE
RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHED DURING THE 4TH PHILIPPINE
ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT AND THE STATE OF NATURE
ASSESSMENT (GREEN SONA) 2023**

DATE : **MAR 20 2024**

This refers to the attached Memorandum dated 13 March 2024 from Atty. Juan Miguel T. Cuna, Undersecretary for Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas, and Environment, forwarding to this Office the letter dated 28 February 2024 addressed to President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., from Ms. Victoria Segovia, President of Green Convergence, presenting the Resolutions that were established during the 4th Philippine Environment Summit, “Caring for Earth: Scaling up Solutions to the Climate Emergency” held last 21 to 23 February 2023 in Tagaytay City, and the State of Nature Assessment 2023, “From Ridge to Reef” held last 30 to 31 August 2023 in General Santos, South Cotabato.

In view thereof, we respectfully request your Office for feedback and updates on the relevant resolutions from each of the aforesated events. Inputs may be submitted and directly coordinated with the **Policy and Planning Service (PPS)** for their proper review, evaluation, and consolidation on or before 12 April 2024.

For your information and appropriate action.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

Cc Office of the Secretary

MEMO NO. - 2024- 272

Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
www.denr.gov.ph



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

FOR : THE UNDERSECRETARY
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

FROM : THE UNDERSECRETARY
Field Operations and Supervising Undersecretary EMB & MGB-
Luzon and Visayas

SUBJECT : ENDORSEMENT OF RESOLUTIONS ESTABLISHED DURING
THE 4TH PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT HELD IN
TAGAYTAY CITY AND THE STATE OF NATURE
ASSESSMENT (GREEN SONA) 2023 HELD IN GENERAL
SANTOS

DATE : MAR 13 2024

Referred to your Office is the letter dated 06 March 2024 from Deputy Executive Secretary Naealla Bainto Aguinaldo endorsing the copy of Resolutions of Green Convergence established during the 4th Philippine Environment Summit and the State of Nature Assessment held in General Santos City.

For consideration.


ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I

c.c.

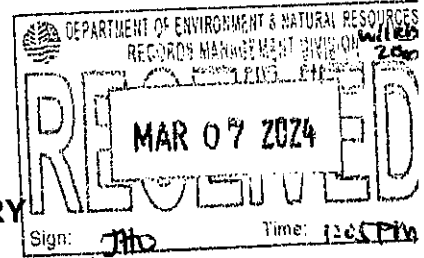
Ms. Victoria Segovia
President, Green Convergence

Deputy Executive Secretary Naealla Bainto Aguinaldo
Office of the President
Malacanang, Manila

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**Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang**

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**



06 MAR 2024

SECRETARY MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Diliman, Quezon City

Dear Secretary Loyzaga:

We respectfully refer for appropriate action, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations, the attached letter dated 28 February 2024 from Ms. Victoria Segovia, President of Green Convergence, presenting the Resolutions that were established during: (i) the 4th Philippine Environment Summit held in Tagaytay City; and (ii) the State of Nature Assessment (Green SONA) 2023 held in General Santos City. Also attached is the Souvenir Program Magazine of the said summit.

May we likewise mention that the purpose of this letter is only to forward a copy of the correspondence and should not, in any way, be construed as intervening in the recipient's independent evaluation and action on the matter, in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

Advice of the action taken sent directly to the letter-sender, with a copy furnished this Office, will be very much appreciated.

For the Secretary's consideration.

Very truly yours,


NAEALLA BAINTO AGUINALDO
Deputy Executive Secretary

Copy furnished:

MS. VICTORIA SEGOVIA
President, Green Convergence
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

022924-MRO-104732



GREEN CONVERGENCE

For safe food, healthy environment and sustainable economy

February 28, 2024

HON. FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.
President
Philippines

Office of the President

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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022924-MRO-104732

Dear President Marcos,

We are pleased to submit a hard copies of the **4th Philippine Environment Summit, "Caring for Earth: Scaling up Solutions to the Climate Emergency,"** held last February 21 to 23, 2023 at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, and the **State of Nature Assessment 2023, "From Ridge to Reef,"** held last August 30 to 31, 2023, at the auditorium of Notre Dame of Dadiangas University, General Santos, South Cotabato. The event was well-attended and successful.

We are also attaching a copy of the Resolutions. We hope the Resolutions can contribute to our country's effort to attain an ecological sustainable development. We would appreciate any feedback and updates on the resolutions.

Thank you in anticipation of your valuable response and action on the Resolutions.

Respectfully yours,

VICTORIA SEGOVIA
President
Green Convergence

Attachments:

Summit Resolutions, Summit Documentation, Summit Souvenir Program
Green SONA 2023 Resolutions, Green SONA Documentation

Environmental Studies Institute, Miriam College, Loyala Heights, Quezon City

Green Convergence Philippines

greenconphil

greenconphil

greenconvergencephil@gmail.com

(02) 580-5400 loc 1253 or (02) 899-0675

www.greenconvergencephil.com



GREEN CONVERGENCE

For safe food, healthy environment and sustainable economy

February 28, 2024

HON. FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.
President
Philippines

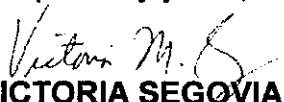
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VICTORIA SEGOVIA
President
Green Convergence

Attachments:

Summit Resolutions, Summit Documentation, Summit Souvenir Program
Green SONA 2023 Resolutions, Green SONA Documentation



February 28, 2024

Received from **Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Economy** the following:

- a. 4th Philippine Environment Summit
 1. Summit Resolutions
 2. Summit Documentation
 3. Summit Souvenir Program
- b. State of Nature Assessment 2023
 1. Green SONA 2023 Resolutions
 2. Green SONA Documentation

By:

Signature over Printed Name
Contact No. _____

GC file

STATE OF NATURE ASSESSMENT (GREEN SONA) 2023

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, reinforcing healthy environment and the right to live in a safe and harmonious environment is a basic human right;

WHEREAS, the impending ill-effects of the climate risks have already manifested due to unsustainable practices;

WHEREAS, excessive extraction of natural resources and minerals endangers people's lives, welfare, livelihood, and reserve for the future generation;

WHEREAS, uncertainties in the institutional and local recovery, rehabilitation, restoration, and rewilding programs of mined-out areas exist; inconsistencies in the comprehensive plans for watersheds, proper zoning of landfills and waste management;

WHEREAS, General Santos (GenSan) City strongly calls for responsible mining and make extractive industries accountable to compensate for their activities where the Philippines may benefit economically without degrading the environment and without compromising the health and safety of its people, thus preserving the environment for the benefit of the next generation;

WHEREAS, Tampakan, being one of the biggest gold-copper mining site in the world, and other mining sites in the country, that are abundant in mineral resources, allow open-pit mining method that has been proven detrimental to the community not just for the local dwellers but also for the entire region;

WHEREAS, heavy metal poisoning and contamination have affected many ecosystems of the region, and some waterways have been declared biologically dead;

WHEREAS, the Philippines has 300,000 square kilometers (30 million hectares) of land area, which had 70 percent forest cover just over a century ago, hosts an extremely rich and diverse array of plant and animal species that has put the country among the top mega-diversity countries in the world;

WHEREAS, General Santos is also an area of high biodiversity value. It has complex and diverse terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems or so-called ridge-to-reef ecosystems, which serve as natural habitats for endemic flora and fauna and are vulnerable to drought, ground shaking, typhoons, flooding, flash floods, storm surge, sea level rise, soil liquefaction, soil erosion, rain-induced landslides due to climate change risks;

WHEREAS, Sarangani Bay is a protected seascape with biodiverse ecosystems of coral reefs, seagrass, mangrove forests, and many unique and endangered wildlife species and is threatened by plastic pollution and contamination due to improper waste disposal;

WHEREAS, all concerns and issues be implemented and enacted pertaining to the holistic development of the country, but not limited to the following:

**WE, THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2023 STATE OF NATURE ASSESSMENT
WITH THE THEME, "FROM RIDGE TO REEF"
HELD AT THE NOTRE DAME OF DADIANGAS UNIVERSITY, GENERAL SANTOS
CITY
ON AUGUST 30-31, 2023**

CALL ON THE GOVERNMENT TO:

- Enact a new Executive Order (EO) that is responsive to the demands of the climate emergency;
- Ensure and strengthen the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system and biodiversity impact assessment;
- Scale up installation of rain harvesting measures such as infiltration canal and wells;
- Support the creation of the Department of Water Resources to have a single agency that is accountable for the management of water resources;
- Increase investments in Water Resources Management (WRM) and utilize surface water resources;
- Promote and implement the Mt. Latian Local Conservation Action Plan (LCAP);
- Establish the Mindanao River Basin Council to harmonize efforts and programs for the Mindanao river system;
- Develop a Bay Management Program for the country;
- Implement and enforce laws on marine protected areas;
- Impose the use of sewage treatment plants (STP);
- Establish watersheds, wetlands, and coastal ecosystems management;
- Strengthen conservation efforts of Mt. Matutum Protected Area, Glan River Watershed, Lun Masla River Watershed, and Buayan River Basin in Sarangani;
- Support and bring to a closer end the identified flood management projects to rehabilitate the Ambal-Simuay River, Rio Grande de Mindanao, Allah River and Pulangi River;
- Devise a National Industrialization Plan for mining and other extractive industry;
- Re-impose the ban or moratorium on open-pit mining;
- Repeal Philippine Mining Act and legislate Alternative Minerals Management Bill (AMMB);
- Stop Tampakan Mining.

- Enforce on mining companies and mining groups to implement its greening program sustainably;
- Create long-term rehabilitation programs for contaminated water bodies due to mining and unhealthy solid waste management practices;
- Strictly implement the Ecological Solid Waste Management or RA 9003;
- Give incentives for waste avoidance and waste reduction, not just encouragement;
- Support and replicate nationwide successful waste diversion programs initiated by NGOs;
- Give subsidies to farmers who buy organic fertilizers produced from organic waste. In that way, the waste diversion strategy is supported through an economic incentive;
- Support banning of single-use plastics and promote alternatives;
- Integrate natural resource valuation of development in making a cost-benefit analysis for development plans taking account of the area's biogeographic/geological character;
- In planning development programs and measurements, use the well-being economy approach as opposed to GDP.
- Promote multi-sectoral and inclusive planning and development consultations where experts and local people are involved in the study and in the assessment;
- Enforce laws on human rights, transparency and accountability among government offices and public officials;
- Craft more strategic and inclusive information, education, and communication (IECs) campaigns on biodiversity and environmental education;
- Challenge engineering students to think of ways to incorporate the concept of natural cycles in their designs;
- Enact the Rights of Nature Bill;
- Promote bamboo and bamboo industry;
- Push for inclusive, science-based, ecosystem-based policies.

FOR OUR PART AS MEMBERS OF CIVIL SOCIETY WE RESOLVE TO:

- Support the creation of a water agency or the Department of Water Management;
- Support the creation of a Provincial Climate Change Office or Climate Change Officer position;
- Actively participate in meaningful dialogues and public consultations conducted by government agencies and other concerned groups;
- Intensify information dissemination on waste avoidance, reduction and segregation at source;
- Avoid and reduce our waste, not to buy non-essentials, and to bring our own containers/eco-bags, and to avoid single-use plastics;
- Mobilize youth and other concerned groups as change agents and community movers to promote ecological justice;

- Protect the remaining forests and participate in forest restoration activities;
- Adopt and campaign for behavioral change for sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyle;
- Reinforce science-based carbon offsetting activities for a nationwide climate neutrality campaign;
- Lobby for laws pertaining to climate emergency;
- Educate the public on the importance of circular economy, carbon neutrality, pollution reduction, environmental education, marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

4th Philippine Environment Summit
Theme: Caring for Earth: Scaling up Solutions to the Climate Emergency
Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City
February 21 - 23, 2023

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS we are experiencing a triple planetary crisis namely: climate change, biodiversity loss and plastic pollution. (UNEP,2021). These crises are interconnected fueling a climate emergency;

WHEREAS the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shows that global temperature is constantly rising; sea ice and ice sheets continuously decreasing; glaciers are relentlessly melting; and sea level is dangerously rising. The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres called the report a *Code Red for humanity*;

WHEREAS the exponential deterioration of global climate systems and the environment will make it impossible to solve other problems such as poverty, inequality, disease, food production, freshwater scarcity, mass migration, social displacement, mass extinction and biodiversity loss among others;

WHEREAS it is urgent to take aggressive actions to reduce and achieve NET ZERO emissions by 2050 to cap temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius, while limiting increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

WHEREAS the Philippines, due to its topography and geographical location, is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and thus incurring continued losses and damages;

WHEREAS the country's vulnerability to climate change impacts is directly related to its exposure that is being driven by an unsustainable development trajectory characterized by inequities in wealth distribution, social protection and by disregard for the ways by which our ecosystems support our communities.

WHEREAS the Philippines has national laws, as well as legal, financial, and policy frameworks, with accompanying instruments and institutional arrangements on adaptation and mitigation, foremost of which is the Climate Change Act of 2009;

WHEREAS civil society groups have long been engaged in various climate action initiatives yet cannot catch up with the intensification of climate change impacts, thus the need to scale up solutions to the climate crisis.

WHEREFORE we, the participants of the 4th Philippine Environment Summit with the theme, "Caring for Earth: Scaling up Solutions to the Climate Emergency" held

from February 21 to 23, 2023 in Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City, call on the government to:

ADOPT new paradigms and social constructs regarding development by reimagining our relationship with the planet and with one another;

BE STEADFAST in its commitment to sustainable development, poverty eradication and inclusive growth towards a climate and disaster-resilient and low carbon economy;

SCALE UP its actions in reducing the country's vulnerability to climate change;

- Develop a comprehensive, integrated, and well-studied national decarbonization and adaptation plan of our own, backed by constant feedback from what science is telling us.
- Adopt the 5 cornerstones of adaptation: 1. Reduce Carbon Intensity of Electricity; 2. Scale Up Energy Efficiency Efforts; 3. Electrify Everything; 4. Carbon-Neutral Fuels For Hard-To-Reach Sectors; 5. Deploy carbon capture use & storage (CCUS);
- Include nature-based solutions and peatland management in the curriculum.
- Intensify Research Fund for the Youth;
- Link climate to justice. Support the issue of loss and damage in global discussions where wealthier countries render financial commitments of support for the poor and marginalized who are hit the hardest by increasing climate hazards;

UPHOLD the importance of meaningful participation of women, local communities, civil society, faith-based organizations in collaboration with local government units in the implementation of climate actions;

RECOGNIZE the private sector as the country's main engine of economic growth and transformation, and promote its full engagement in climate change adaptation and mitigation;

STOP the construction of Kaliwa dam and other projects like mining that threaten ecological integrity and displace the indigenous peoples from their ancestral land;

REALIZE its nationally determined contribution, that is, the GHG emissions reduction and avoidance of 75%, representing the country's ambition for GHG mitigation for the period 2020 to 2030 for the sectors of agriculture, wastes, industry, transport, and energy;

- For government agencies related to climate change (e.g., Climate Change Commission, DENR, DOE) to give regular updates on the current status of our Nationally Determined Contributions;
- Practice regular submission of GHG Inventory to the respective agencies per year;
- Submit updates to the UNFCCC Secretariat to ensure that the Philippines is still an active participant to the Paris Agreement;

INTENSIFY local government initiatives in establishing technology-infused but nature-based climate-resilient cities and communities;

- For DENR and LGUs to require rainwater catchment facilities in the checklist provided when applying for building permits;
- For LGUs to install treatment plants across the country especially in the urban areas to ensure that water is treated;
- For LGUs and National government agencies to ensure segregation of waste at source and processing of the same using current environment-friendly technologies;

SUSTAIN the full implementation of Renewable Energy Act and **HARNESS** the full capacity of renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal;

- For DBP and Landbank to provide soft loans to multi-purpose cooperatives to use the fund for RE loan to its member;
- Democratize and include incentives for small developers to develop RE systems as part of the Climate program of LGUs where communities are empowered to manage and sustain their RE system with support from LGUs;

INTENSIFY efforts to ensure food security from our marine resources.

- For LGUs to uphold the Philippine Constitution Art XIII, Section 7: The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland & offshore;
- For BFAR to step up the establishment of a national alliance to protect our waters, and to push for the implementation of the National Sardine Plan;
- Organize and Encourage participation in coral protection activities during Coral Triangle Day celebrated every June 9 of the year;

ACCELERATE the transition into a green economy that ensures the benefits of a climate and disaster-resilient and low carbon development to its people.

For our part in the civil society, who care for and act to protect all life forms on Earth, hereby resolve to:

COMMIT to help our country achieve carbon neutrality by 2050;

TAKE AGGRESSIVE ACTION NOW in addressing the complex ecological issues and challenges to reverse the impacts of climate change;

STRENGTHEN collaboration among ourselves including industry and development partners within the framework of a whole system approach in the local, national and regional levels;

BUILD the resilience and adaptive capacities of local communities amidst the escalating climate crisis;

ACCELERATE nature-based solutions propelled by local communities, led by women and the indigenous peoples, with multi-sectoral support;

RE-AFFIRM the importance of meaningful leadership and participation of the youth in the fight to reverse the climate crisis, conserve biodiversity, and pursue sustainable development;

COMMIT TO SUPPORT the capacity development of youth and provide the necessary support and platform to actualize their invaluable role as future environmental leaders;

REPLICATE the best practices of local communities in mobilizing human resources in disaster risk reduction management and climate change action initiatives;

POPULARIZE and **MAKE ACCESSIBLE** the carbon footprint calculator of Ako ang Bukas and other quantification methods to enjoin carbon offsetting in the personal and institutional levels;

EXPAND and **INTENSIFY** community-based reforestation and afforestation projects in all regions in the country by engaging multi-stakeholder participation;

STRENGTHEN the implementation of the National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008 to include climate change education and action by building the capacity of teachers and trainers, and providing scholarships and research funds to students in environment-related programs;

And in partnership with the government and private sectors, **COLLABORATE** for a comprehensive, integrated and well-studied national decarbonization and adaptation plan.