



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



MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO : **All Undersecretaries**

The Bureau Directors
BMB, FMB, LMB, EMB, MGB

The Service Directors
CCS, FASPS

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

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR VETTING OF INPUTS AND FINAL REVIEW
OF THE DENR SUBMISSION FOR THE SONA 2024**

DATE : **APR 30 2024**

Furnishing you herewith a copy of the Draft DENR Inputs to SONA 2024 for your review/updating; particularly the Section of the Report relevant to your sector. May we inform you that the accomplishments should cover the period July 2022 to March 31, 2024.

We would also like to request for accomplishments that aim to bring services closer to the people such as "ENR Permits on Wheels", etc. that can be tagged under the "Bagong Pilipinas" branding.

Should you find it already in order, may we request you to affix your initials on the report. However, you may also include additional information related to the accomplishments mentioned in the Draft Report. Said Draft Report can be accessed through <https://bit.ly/3xTueyt>. We will appreciate receiving the Report with your initials not later than 2 May 2024.

For your consideration and preferential attention, please.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

MEMO NO. 2024 - 382

DENR Inputs to SONA 2024

Outline

- I. SAFEGUARDING THE INTEGRITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT**
 - A. Ensuring Water Security through Sustainable Management of Water Resources**
 - B. Development of Blue and Green Economies**
 - C. Reduction of Carbon Footprint and Transition to Renewable Energy through Low Carbon Pathways**
 - D. Enhancing Waste Management and Adopting Circular Economy**
 - E. Employing Innovative Science and Technology in Environmental and Natural Resources Management**
- II. ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION AND STRENGTHENING DISASTER RESILIENCY**
 - A. Mobilizing Climate Finance and Investments on Nature**
 - B. Hazard Management through Local and International Collaboration**
 - C. Engagement of Local Governments in Multi-stakeholder ENR Governance**

Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Protecting the Environment

SAFEGUARDING THE INTEGRITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Ensuring Water Security through Sustainable Management of Water Resources

Sustainable management of water resources, access to safe water and sanitation, and advancements on the distribution and management of water resources at all levels and across all sectors can be achieved through an integrated water resources management

The DENR is strengthening water governance through integrated water resources management (IWRM) by consolidating all agencies with water-related functions under the Water Resource Management Office (WRMO). WRMO is co-handling with DPWH and DILG the technical management of nationally funded water supply projects worth Php 14.6 billion. Moreover, some of the Php 276 billion worth of DPWH flood control projects will be repurposed to address multiple needs such as dams, water impoundment for irrigation, power generation, and domestic water use. To address the potential impact of climate change and extreme weather events such as shortage of water supply in the country due to El Niño. The conservation program, in coordination with the two Metro Manila concessionaires, is currently working with the top six government agencies that use the most water to reduce their consumption. As of to date, monitoring of DPWH barangay water supply projects in 11 provinces have been conducted and a water database has been established including data from NIA, NWRB, and LWUA. Geo-resistivity survey has been conducted in eight (8) deep well sites in two (2) regions in Luzon to determine the possible depths and thicknesses of aquifers to locate the preferred site for deep well for subsequent drilling operations.¹

Development of Blue and Green Economies

In achieving long-term environmental sustainability, economic prosperity, and social well-being at local, national, and global levels, development of blue and green economies is essential.

This Administration remains committed to safeguarding and preserving the health of our ecosystems as part of our efforts to achieve SDGs 14 and 15, which focus on conserving marine life and terrestrial biodiversity. On preserving and conserving protected areas, there are 248 nationally managed Protected Areas in the Philippines and this administration remains steadfast in its commitment to the diligent and continued responsible management of roughly 4.6 million ha of land and 3.1 million ha of sea within the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS).²

While we continue to protect and rehabilitate our forests, managing our coastal and marine ecosystems is equally important. Thus, we have so far assessed the status of 76,796.02 ha of corals, 55,592.43 ha of seagrass beds, and 104,801.36 ha of

¹ Water Resources Management Office (2023). DENR Water Resources Management Office Report as of December 2023. Quezon City: DENR

² Biodiversity Management Bureau. (2023). DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Report as of December 2023. Quezon City: BMB

mangroves.³ This will guarantee the uninterrupted provision of ecosystem services such as fishery yields, coastal defense, carbon storage, and responsible tourism. Moreover, the DENR will also establish six (6) marine stations nationwide to enhance ocean science, resource management and development strategies which also can strengthen support and ease the aggressive actions in the West Philippine Sea (WPS). The establishment of marine stations advances scientific knowledge, promotes environmental stewardship, and fosters sustainable development in coastal and marine regions as well as identifying the essential collaborative networks for addressing pressing marine issues and ensuring the long-term health of marine ecosystems.

On the other hand, under the National Greening Program (NGP), we sustained efforts to restore and regenerate 7.1 million ha of the remaining classified forestlands in need of critical rehabilitation.⁴



Ecotourism and green jobs have more than doubled in the last five years, promoting practices, products and services that enhance biodiversity. As of December 2023, a total income of approximately Php 312 million was generated from management of Protected Areas.⁵ Regulations for Mainstreaming Biodiversity-Friendly Agricultural Practices have already been rolled out nationwide with 161 People's Organizations (POs) being provided with technical assistance to enhance their Biodiversity-Friendly Enterprises (BDFEs), and out of this, 44 POs attained strengthened level of enhancement.

Additionally, over 11,000 seedlings of mangrove, indigenous, bamboo, ornamental, beach forest and exotic species were planted covering 11.1 ha within school vicinity, road/river/creeks side and local government unit-conserved areas in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao under the "*PagbaBAGo: A Million Learners and Trees*" Program of the Office of the Vice President (OVP) with a vision for environmental sustainability and in consonance with the greening program of the government. In addition to this, 5,412 seedlings of fruit-bearing, mangrove, indigenous species were also turned over to the OVP satellite offices and DepEd schools nationwide.

³ Biodiversity Management Bureau. (2023). *DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Report as of December 2023*. Quezon City: BMB

⁴ DENR Annual Report as of December CY 2023. Quezon City: DENR

⁵ Biodiversity Management Bureau. (2023). *DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Report as of December 2023*. Quezon City: BMB

These programs will ensure the continuous flow of ecosystem services including fisheries production, coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and sustainable tourism, among others, and will significantly contribute in the delivery of the Philippine commitments locally and internationally.

Reduction of Carbon Footprint and Transition to Renewable Energy through Low Carbon Pathways

By accelerating the transition to renewable energy sources and reducing carbon footprint through low-carbon pathways, intensifying efforts to mitigate climate change, enhance energy security, promote economic development, and conserve natural resources, we can build a more sustainable and resilient ecosystem.

On the reduction of carbon footprint, the DENR has already conducted the stakeholders consultation workshop on the refinement of the manuals and templates for the Operationalization of DENR Administrative Order No. 2021-43 on Carbon Accounting, Verification and Certification System (CAVCS) for Forest Carbon Projects. This was developed to enhance forest carbon stocks and/or reduce emissions from forests in preparation for the development of carbon markets, with greater participation from private sector, government agencies, and upland organizations.

To establish adaptation priorities at the national level, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) serves as the comprehensive guide in drawing insights from climate analytics, adaptation needs, and crucial enablers effective implementation of the assessment of physical, social, and economic dimensions of the 8 key sectors for adaptation actions including Agriculture and Fisheries and Food Security; Water Resources; Health; Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Cultural Heritage, Population Displacement, and Mitigation; Land Use and Human Settlements; Livelihoods and Industries; and Energy, Transport, and Communications. Pursuant to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Nationally Determined Contributions Implementation Plan (NDCIP) serves as the blueprint for the Philippines' NDC outlining a comprehensive roadmap and actions across sectors of energy, transportation, agriculture, waste and industry. For the DENR, NDC sectors focus on wastes and Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU). The Philippines commits to a projected greenhouse reduction and avoidance of 75% for 2020-2030 of which 2.71% is unconditional and 72.29% is conditional.

In accelerating transition to renewable energy, the country recognizes the role of critical minerals development which is essential to achieving decarbonization targets and promoting a just transition towards a green economy. The Philippines is recognized as the fifth most mineralized country in the world with estimated untapped reserves of approximately USD 900 billion.⁶

The DENR has identified nine million ha as highly mineralized areas⁷. We are a major producer of gold, nickel⁸, copper and cobalt, and non-metallic minerals, which are essential for construction and infrastructure development. As of December 2023, the total production value of mining was Php 315 billion, which include large scale metallic

⁶ Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Government of Australia. *Mining to the Philippines Trends and Opportunities*. Available at <https://www.austrade.gov.au/australian/export/export-markets/countries/philippines/industries/mining>

⁷ DENR. (2023). *DENR to Strengthen Mining Sector for PH Economic Growth*. Press Release on 9 November 2023. Available at

<https://www.denr.gov.ph/index.php/news-events/press-releases/4604-denr-to-strengthen-mining-sector-for-ph-economic-growth>

⁸ Ernst and Young. (2022). *Top 10 business risks and opportunities for mining and metals in 2023*. Available at https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_gl/topics/mining-metals/ey-top-10-business-risks-and-opportunities-for-mining-and-metals-in-2023.pdf.

mining, non-metallic mining, and gold sold to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.⁹

With the global advancing to a low carbon economy through critical minerals development, its extraction and utilization are crucial for achieving decarbonization goals and promoting a just transition towards a green economy. Conducted monitoring of the 8 existing Mineral Reservations and exploration of 11 areas for establishment of new mineral reservations under the National Mineral Reservation Program.¹⁰ Moreover, 1,238 line-kms of the Philippine Rise were explored as part of the Offshore Exploration of the Philippine Rise and Celebes Sea, and for CY 2024, the priority offshore areas for exploration were also identified.¹¹

The DENR also advances the formalization of small-scale mining in the country by recognizing their vital role in the industry. Review of laws that cover small-scale mining, with the goal of modernizing industry standards and increased protection for small-scale miners, will be undertaken. These underscore the agency's dedication to responsible, inclusive, and globally competitive mining practices, all while ensuring the welfare and protection of small-scale miners.

Enhancing Waste Management and Adopting Circular Economy

With strong economic growth and increased consumer demand, the Philippines generates an enormous amount of plastic waste that puts ecosystems and development at risk. By taking proactive measures to address waste generation in the country, we can protect the environment, safeguard human health, and promote sustainable development for future generations.

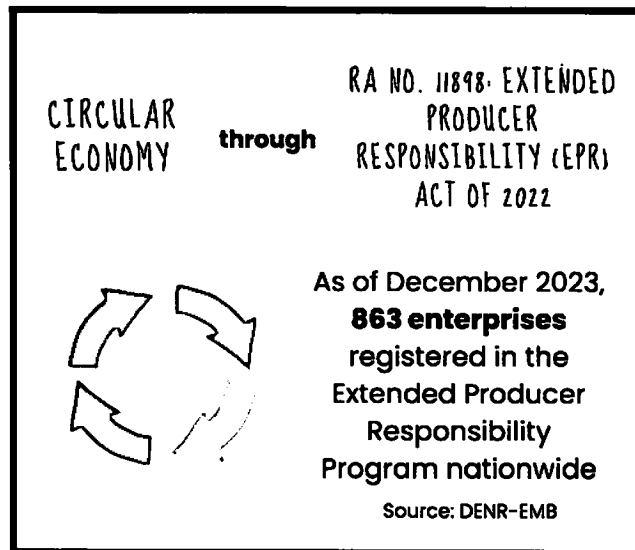
Following the passing of RA No. 11898, referred to as the "Extended Producer Responsibility on Plastic Packaging Waste" or EPR, and the issuance of guidelines by the DENR, both large enterprises and MSMEs are required to execute waste recovery programs as a step towards adopting a circular economy. These duties involve actions such as diverting, transporting, and appropriately managing recovered waste, along with engaging in clean-up activities in coastal and public regions. To meet these requirements, enterprises must set up diversion or disposal facilities and cooperate with local authorities, communities, and informal waste management sectors.

The EPR law requires obliged enterprises to divert 20% of plastic waste they produce in 2022 by the end of 2023 and further to 80% by 2028. These initiatives promote sustainable consumption and production through effective waste management and support the development of green jobs and industries thereby reducing emissions and increasing efficient use of natural resources.

⁹ DENR. (2023). *Mining Industry Statistics CY 2020 to Q1 CY 2023*. Quezon City: Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

¹⁰ Mines and Geosciences Bureau. (2023). *DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau Report as of December 2023*. Quezon City: BMB

¹¹ Western Zambales; Southern Palawan (Rizal-Quezon); Western Palawan (Aborlan-Puerto Princesa); Eastern Palawan (Aborlan-Puerto Princesa); Camarines Norte; Camarines Sur-Catanduanes; Masbate-Northern Cebu-Northeastern Panay; Iloilo-Guimaras-Western Negros Occidental; Biliran-Southwestern Samar; Eastern Leyte-Southern Samar; Homonhon Island; and Dinagat Island-Surigao del Norte



In addition, the DENR is collaborating with other partners, including the GEF, UNIDO, and EU to implement a circular economy approach with the Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution Integrated Program. The DENR's collaboration with the World Bank includes ongoing studies on municipal solid waste plans, recycling systems, plastic circularity opportunities and strategies to combat plastic waste crisis. Other initiatives include Green Economy Program of the Philippines (GEPP); Enhancement of Marine Litter Management in Manila Bay; Promoting Resource Efficiency and Circularity to Reduce Plastic Pollution for Asia and Pacific; Regional projects which aim to reduce plastic pollution and restore coastal and marine ecosystems' health; and Reducing Marine Plastics in the East Asian Sea region initiative.

The Philippines, through the DENR, joined and signed a partnership agreement with World Economic Forum (WEF) for the Blue Carbon Action Partnership (BCAP), taking another step to solidify the government's pursuit of a green and blue socio-economic agenda. This is among the agreements during the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) conducted last December 2023 which aims to strengthen coastal ecosystems, boost blue carbon conservation and mitigate climate change. The establishment of the National Blue Carbon Action Partnership (NBCAP) will facilitate the inclusive, whole-of-society approach to developing a shared ambition for blue carbon, community resilience and inclusive development.

Employing Innovative Science and Technology in Environmental and Natural Resource Management

To recognize the significance of nature in human well-being and economic prosperity, it is essential to systematically map and quantify our valued natural resources and the ecosystem services they offer.

Enhancing air quality monitoring through access to advanced air quality monitoring techniques including satellite data, ground-based observations, and atmospheric modeling tools is key in addressing air pollution and improving air quality in the country. The Airborne and Satellite Investigation of Asian Air Quality (ASIA-AQ) Project led by the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), was joined

by 5 engineers and air quality specialists from the DENR-EMB to board the scientific research flights to learn and observe so we can build technical capacity and expertise on air quality monitoring and improve monitoring capabilities that will result in accurate and comprehensive assessment of air pollution that will help local government executives implement interventions to address air pollution hotspots as well as strengthen air quality regulations, implement effective emission control measures, and develop sustainable strategies in air quality monitoring. This project is an international collaborative research initiative with South Korea's National Institute of Environmental Research (NIER), University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Thailand's Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA), and the Philippines' DENR, Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), Manila Observatory and the University of the Philippines.

Under the National Natural Resources Geospatial Database (NNRGD), the Geospatial Database Office (GDO) catalogs all our natural resources including land, forests, water and minerals using satellite images and drones to survey natural and man-made changes within our islands. The NNRGD serves as a critical decision support tool to monitor compliance, enforce rules and regulations, and conduct research on the use of our natural assets. As of December 2023, GDO has uploaded over 1,500 maps and prepared 20 use cases which focus on innovations and improvement in ENR monitoring towards efficiency in NGP plantations, forest cover, river basins, mineralized areas and active mining sites, protected area buffers, mangrove areas, and the location of all permitted industries.¹²

ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION AND STRENGTHENING DISASTER RESILIENCY

Mobilizing Climate Finance and Investments on Nature

The Philippines is among the countries highly at risk to the impacts of climate change and multiple hazards because of development choices in the past that have increased exposure and vulnerability of people, critical infrastructure, and ecosystems.

To complement our efforts to fund climate action, the DENR and other government agencies are actively engaging our international partners and accessing international climate financing. Under these collaborations, the DENR has mobilized an estimated amount of USD 549.65 million (Php 30.55 billion) to support the implementation of 48 projects and commitments.¹³ These projects cover intersecting goals on forestry, land management, biodiversity, environment and climate change. In addition, an amount of USD 52.76 million or Php 2.6 billion funding support was allocated to the Philippines under the eighth funding replenishment cycle of the Global Environment Facility.¹⁴

A total of 22 out of 24 (92%) of the climate-vulnerable provinces (CVPs) and four (100%) of the major urban centers have developed the Investment Portfolio for Risk Resilience (IPRRs). Of which 14 CVPs and 4 major urban centers have likewise developed a Resilience Roadmap (RRMs), representing 40.2 million of the country's

¹² DENR. (2023). *Geospatial Database Office Accomplishment Report as of December 2023*. Quezon City: DENR

¹³ DENR. (2023). *Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service Monitoring Report as of December 2023*. Quezon City: DENR

¹⁴ DENR. (2023). *Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service Monitoring Report as of December 2023*. Quezon City: DENR

population.¹⁵ These roadmaps recommend specific and contextualized resilience measures to address climate and disaster vulnerabilities and enable effective risk management at the local level. These roadmaps recommend specific and contextualized resilience measures to address climate and disaster vulnerabilities and enable effective risk management at the local level.¹⁶ The country has also adopted 42 climate-responsive indicators per DENR Administrative Order 2021-22 or the Guidelines on Mainstreaming, Cascading and Institutionalizing Climate Change concerns in the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Priority Programs.¹⁷

Hazard Management through Local and International Collaboration

The country is enhancing its ability to change its risk perspective by adopting a comprehensive approach that covers all potential hazards.

In the sinking of the MT Princess Empress off Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, the Department played an active role in responding to environmental disasters such as the oil spill incident on February 28, 2023. As of December 2023, as a result of the response and recovery operations, the oil siphoning by the Singapore Dynamic Support Vessel (DSV) Fire Opal has been completed.¹⁸ To address future incidents harming our natural resources and the environment, a protocol entitled “Comprehensive Guide for Controlling Oil Spills Along Coastal Area” was developed by the GDO in collaboration with DENR BMB, ecologist Jean Bigotte and a mangrove scientist, Dr. Sadaba. This protocol was made in response to the oil spill incident involving the vessel MT Princess Empress which sank off the coast of Oriental Mindoro in February 2023 and past oil spill accidents in the country. This includes the major sections such as Oil Spill Prevention, Spill Boom Methodology, and Oil Spill Monitoring in Mangroves.¹⁹

Recalling the incidents of landslides in the country, the DENR has also partnered with local executives to integrate the use of hazard maps in decision-making to avert disasters and safeguard lives and livelihoods. In the onset of various calamities due to El Niño and La Niña phenomena, collaborative efforts with key national and local agencies is essential to enhance the preparedness and resilience of affected communities as well as recognizing data-driven indicators for early warning and action which includes the PAGASA record of unusually high rainfall in the country. The timely sharing and processing of information between DENR and PhilSA can aid LGUs in conducting thorough disaster risk reduction measures. The DENR is also in close coordination with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in order to gather hazard maps and advisories for proactive disaster preparedness in alignment with the agency’s disaster risk reduction and management program.

The DENR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the five-year, USD 15 million (Php 836.5 million) Climate Resilient Cities (CRC) project with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement a project aimed at enhancing the adaptive capacity of key cities in the Philippines to adapt, mitigate, and endure the impacts of climate change through knowledge-enhancement and improving

¹⁵ Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Siquijor, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Cotabato, Sulu, Mountain Province, Kalinga, Ifugao, Apayao, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Western Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Dinagat Islands), including the four major urban centers (Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo, Metro Davao, and Metro Manila)

¹⁶ DENR (2023). Risk Resiliency Roadmap Investment Portfolios. Quezon City: DENR

¹⁷ DENR (2023). Risk Resiliency Roadmap Investment Portfolios. Quezon City: DENR

¹⁸ Philippine Coast Guard (2023). Situational Report as of 16 June 2023. Manila City: PCG

¹⁹ DENR. (2023). Geospatial Database Office Annual Report as of December 2023. Quezon City: DENR

access to climate change financing.²⁰

Historically, perennial forest fires in the Cordilleras have been linked to natural occurrences and human activities, specifically the expansion of agricultural areas and irresponsible ecotourism. In the recent massive forest fire incident in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the DENR urges the public to remain vigilant against forest fires, particularly with the onset of the El Niño phenomenon. According to the data from the Bureau of Fire (BFP), it showed that there is an increase in the number of forest fires recorded in CAR from 41 in CY 2022 to 100 in CY 2023 and grass fires from 22 in CY 2022 to 62 in CY 2023.²¹

The DENR-CAR Regional Office and MGB-CAR signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) last March 2024 with representatives of the Benguet Corporation, Itogon-Suyoc Resources Inc., Philex Mining Corporation, and the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corporation last March 2024 in order to coordinate efforts in the prevention and suppression of forest fires, provide information and education campaigns about forest fires (causes, effects, and prevention), and capacitate technical personnel/staff in forest fire management.

Currently, a training on Forest and Grassland Fire Management that includes the participation of the US Forest Service (USFS), BFP, and Forest Fire Management Expert from the academe will be conducted in May 2024. Moreover, enhancing forest fire management in the area involves acquiring personal protective gear for firefighting teams, obtaining fire fighting equipment, and providing training related to forest fire prevention and response, including preparation of ground-level data and incorporation of satellite imagery for more effective analysis in collaboration with PhilSa. Additionally, installation of Information Bulletin Boards to inform the public about air quality conditions resulting from smoke from forest fires affecting nearby communities.

The country was also able to achieve significant milestones by playing a key role in operationalizing the Loss and Damage Fund and the Santiago Network during the UNFCCC COP28. The Loss and Damage Fund aims to provide financial assistance to vulnerable countries dealing with the devastating effects of climate change while the Santiago Network connects vulnerable developing nations with the technical assistance and resources necessary to comprehensively address climate risks, minimizing and addressing loss and damage.

Engagement of Local Governments in Multi-stakeholder ENR Governance

Integrated approaches enable and empower local governments to attain resilience amid intricacy and unpredictability.

In a bid to revitalize the country's salt industry, the Philippine Salt Industry Development Act (RA 11985) which took effect on April 1, 2024. The DENR together with NAMRIA and BFAR were mandated to map and identify public lands, including portions of municipal waters, as suitable salt production areas. This integrated approach is necessary to secure food, health, nutrition, and water essential to energy security. The identified provinces suitable for salt production and declared as priority areas will be mapped out

²⁰ Batangas, Borongan, Cotabato, Iloilo, Legazpi, and Zamboanga

²¹ Philippine Information Agency (2024). DENR calls on public to be vigilant vs. forest fires. Published on January 24, 2024. <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2024/01/24/denr-calls-on-public-to-be-vigilant-vs-forest-fires>

within 60 days from effectivity of the Act. These are Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Zambales, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Marinduque, Quezon Province, Misamis Oriental and Antique. The remaining public lands located in other regions shall also be subsequently mapped out, identified and designated as potential salt production areas within six months.

Adopting a comprehensive risk management approach to multi-stakeholder-ENR governance, Project TRANSFORM (Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilient and Sustainable Communities) was launched with partner LGUs including Leyte (Ormoc City) Bataan (Limay, Mariveles, and Orion), Rizal (Antipolo, Bara, Tanay, San Matero, and Rodriguez), and Surigao del Norte (Malimono, San Francisco, and Burgos), including the Siargao Islands. Resource networks provide LGUs with access to technical and financial assistance for ecosystem conservation and protection and development of resource-based enterprises enhancing community resilience. Project TRANSFORM is a replicable whole of government and whole of society partnership for environment and natural resource management, climate and disaster resilience and socio-economic development. Acknowledging the crucial role of barangays as the primary safeguard in disaster preparedness, the DENR, alongside the Department of National Defense-Office of Civil Defense (DND-OCD), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Resilience Council (NRC), led the initiative called "*Barangayan Para sa Kalikasan at Bayang Matatag*." The objective of this event was to elevate the engagement of barangay authorities in crafting tailored, inventive, and effective strategies for risk reduction, management, and resilience enhancement. The Barangay leaders who participated in the forum include those from the provinces - pilot sites of the DENR's Project TRANSFORM. The forum also aligns with the Philippines' preparations for hosting the 2024 APMCDRR.

To advance nexus governance as part of the Philippines' global commitments, we are continuously and actively participating in various international activities to strengthen our partnerships with international bodies. These include the 4th UK-Philippines Climate Change and Environment Dialogue Joint Statement last March 2024; 28th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28) from November 30–December 12, 2023; 12th Annual International Government Communication Forum (IGCF 2023); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction in July 2023; US-ASEAN Business Council Delegation in July 2023; High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in May 2023; and 2023 UN Water Conference in March 2023. The DENR led the delegation to host the 2024 APMCDRR on October 14 to 17, 2024 in Manila. This Conference will bring together around 3,000 delegates from the Asia-Pacific region to accelerate the implementation of the SFDRR and strengthen cooperation on DRR in Asia-Pacific.

(Draft as of April 2024)

Conforme/concurred by: