



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



MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO: Director, Legal Affairs Service (Vice-Chairperson, PTWG)
Assistant Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau
Assistant Director, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Assistant Director, Environmental Management Bureau
Assistant Director, Forest Management Bureau
Assistant Director, Land Management Bureau
Assistant Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Representative, Office of the Head Executive Assistant/Office of the Undersecretary and Chief of Staff
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, and Legislative Affairs
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations (FO) - Luzon, Visayas and Environment
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for FO - Mindanao
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
Representative, Legal Affairs Service
Representative, Climate Change Service
Representative, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Representative, Knowledge and Information Systems Service
Representative, Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service
Representative, Internal Audit Service
Representative, Geospatial Database Office

FROM: **The OIC Director**
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT: **HIGHLIGHTS AND AGREEMENTS DURING THE PTWG MEETING
2024-02 HELD ON 11 APRIL 2024**

DATE: **03 MAY 2024**

We are furnishing herewith the highlights along with the agreements during the PTWG Meeting No. 2024-02, particularly on the draft DENR Administrative Order which
MEMO NO. 2024 - 387

pertains to the Strengthening the Tamaraw Conservation Program and Providing the Implementation Mechanism Thereof, that the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) shall undertake for submission on or before 10 May 2024.

Please be advised that the revised DAO will be re-circulated for concurrence of the body prior endorsement to the Secretary.

For your information.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL



POLICY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING No. 2024-02
SUMMARY OF AGREEMENTS
April 11, 2024 (1:22PM - 5:10PM)
6TH Floor OULA Conference Room

Attendees:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dir. Cheryl Loise T. Leal - PPS2. Dir. Norlito Eneran - LAS3. For. Adeluisa Siapno - OASLA4. Ms. Lolita S. Presbitero - OULA5. Mr. Loyd Francis Sorreja - OUFOLVE6. For. Jeruz Mari Y. Pahilanga - OUFOM7. Atty. Angelique Pearl Miranda - OUSCLA8. Mr. Jeremy O. Rola - OUPPIA9. Mr. Karl Eugene Kaig - OASPPFASP10. Mr. Mervin Murillo - FASPS11. Ms. Cecille G. Francisco - BMB12. Mr. Anson M. Tagtag - BMB13. For. Manny Lie Racelis - FMB14. For. Dianne Lanugan - FMB15. Ms. Karla Mangundayao - DENR MIMAROPA16. Ms. Michaela T. Rongavilla - DENR MIMAROPA17. Mr. Antonio Bautista - KISS ISD18. Ms. Maria Theresa Legaspi – CCS19. Atty. Joseph Bautista – SCIS-SCRMD20. Ms. Claire R. Aryteros – ODIAS	<p><i>Via Zoom</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">21. Asst. Dir. Butch Marquez, ERDB22. Mr. Paul Cuadra, ERDB23. Ms. Nermalie Lita, BMB24. For. Teodorico Marquez, Jr., MGB25. Ms. Kate Ola , EMB26. Ms. Lovella Luzette Galindon, LMB <p><i>Secretariat / Sectoral Focal (PPS-PSD)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. For. Llarina S. Mojica2. Ms. Alyssa V. Calisay3. For. Jezreelyn L. Milar4. Ms. Anna Michelle I. Lim5. For. Raphael Celestino Baskiñas6. Mr. Nehemiah Leo Carlo Salvador7. Ms. Mary Lou Retos8. For. Hazel Jasmine P. Donato9. Ms. Nim Hyde Eusebio10. For. Kelsie Miniano11. Ms. Zayrelle Ann U. Suello
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The meeting was called into order by the PTWG Chairperson, Dir. Cheryl Loise Leal of the Policy and Planning Service at 1:22 PM. The agenda on draft DAO Strengthening the Tamaraw Conservation Program and Providing the Implementation Mechanism Thereof were discussed while draft DAO re: Guidelines for the Commercial Propagation and Trade of *Aquilaria Species* and its By-Products and Derivatives, as well as the Other Matters regarding updates on the Enhanced Policy Development System were deferred.

- I. Draft DAO re: Strengthening the Tamaraw Conservation Program and Providing the Implementation Mechanism Thereof**
- An overview highlighting the timeline of activities and Matrix of Agreements was provided by Ms. Lim. It was then recalled that a pre-PTWG was conducted prior.
 - Mr. Tagtag discussed the draft DAO, whereas, the highlights of Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP) were conferred by the Ms. Karla Mangundayao of DENR-MIMAROPA.
 - Atty. Eneran clarified on what bill the draft DAO was aligned.

- Atty. Eneran further clarified if the policy will cover the establishment/designation of the critical habitats, BMB responded that the identified areas are high conservation areas and another policy will be drafted for the designation of the identified areas as critical habitats.
- Atty. Eneran reiterated the provisions of the IPRA law, wherein in the designation of the critical habitats, the IPs shall be consulted. The DENR has the mandate to identify environmental conservation areas and the NCIP has the right to manage these areas.
- Atty. Miranda (OUSCLA) clarified that the bills on Tamaraw Conservation Programs were pending the approval of the Committee of House of Appropriations last February 2024.
- During the discussion of the identified threats in the TCMAP, Ms. Mangundayao of DENR-MIMAROPA stated that the identified road construction in Mindoro Island allegedly commenced without an ECC.
- For. Siapno raised the management concern on the carrying capacity of the area, should the increase of the population of the Tamaraw be successful due to the interventions by BMB. BMB responded that there are projections in the action plan, and if the population will sustain itself over time, there is a section on the plan that will address these concerns. BMB also highlighted that the projected population is at 2250 heads/hectare.
- Dir. Leal inquired if it is possible to include the incorporation of critical habitat [management] in the proposed DAO. BMB responded that there are still areas that need to undergo further studies to address the matter.
- Dir. Leal raised a concern over the data, as some of the data shown were generated in 2018, and can be considered as obsolete, and also asked for the progress of the establishment of the critical areas.
- DENR MIMAROPA clarified that there is a need for a further study as to the Tamaraw's behavior and culture.

The summary of agreements are as follows:

SECTIONS	COMMENTS/ AGREEMENTS/ WAYS FORWARD
Title Strengthening the Tamaraw Conservation Program and Providing the Implementation Mechanism Thereof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No further comment. ● This Section is considered approved.
Prefatory Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inclusion of Executive Order no. 544 per recommendation of Atty. Eneran. ● What is the legal basis for the crafting of the management plan? ● Reframe the statement as follows: <i>"This guideline is hereby promulgated.."</i> ● The body concurred on the proposed changes.
Section 1. Basic Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revise the word <i>"strategy"</i> and replace with the word <i>"program"</i> ● The body concurred on the changes made.
Section 2. Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reframe the statement as follows <i>"This Order aims to:"</i> Then remove the <i>"To"</i> from the succeeding items.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change "<i>business sector</i>" to "<i>private sector</i>" ● Change the "<i>political support</i>" terminology to "<i>whole of government and whole of society</i>" ● For Line 34, revise the "<i>strategy</i>" on its plural form - "<i>strategies</i>" ● The body concurred on the changes made.
<p>Section 3. Approval and Adoption of the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan</p> <p>Sub-section 3.1.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarification on the terminologies if the word "<i>strategy</i>" is also used in the action plan. However, the comment was also withdrawn. ● Atty. Joseph Bautista has recommended to include a specific Section for the Scope and Coverage. ● Dir. Siapno emphasized that the last statement in Section 1: Basic Policy would suffice the requirement to include a Scope and Coverage. ● As a recommendation, harmonization with other plans such as ADSPP could be stated in the Scope and Coverage or in other applicable Sections. ● For sub-section 3.1, specify the plans and programs such as ADSPP, PAMP, FLUP which will be harmonized with the TCMAP with the plans and programs of stakeholders. ● Assistant Director Marquez of ERDB clarified if the Tamaraw Conservation Program is the same with the Tamaraw Conservation Management Plan. BMB responded that the Tamaraw Conservation Program is overarching and includes the TCMAP, while the TCMAP includes the strategies for implementation of the program. ● Reframe the statement as follows "<i>The BMB and DENR-MIMAROPA Region shall jointly monitor and evaluate...</i>" ● The body had considered and concurred on the changes made.
<p>Section 4. Creation of the Tamaraw Conservation Coordinating Council</p> <p>4.1 Composition of the TC3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify the roles and responsibilities of the Council. ● Emphasize that "<i>TC3 shall exercise and provide oversight functions and policy guidance...</i>" ● Clarification on the legal basis for the term "fund manager", if the function of the councils is oversight and policy making, recommendation to separate the governance. ● The recommendation for pre-determining the Vice Chair to be the PENRO of Occidental Mindoro, instead for an election of a Vice Chair for the TC3. ● Dir. Siapno asked why not streamline the functions to the PAMB while adding the Tamaraw Conservation as the priority instead of creating another office.

- Ms. Rongavilla of DENR-MIMAROPA stated that they recognized the need for a Council to zero-in the concern in the entirety of Mindoro Island since only 2 out of 5 areas are legislated PAs.
- Formulation of a Manual of Operations was suggested by Dir. Leal.
- Dir Leal then further clarified on what is the plan for the conservation strategies for the threatened species. BMB responded that there is an omnibus for all threatened species.
- Dir Leal also raised a concern with regards to the establishment of councils. If the policy aims to establish a council specifically for the Tamaraws, it may result in fragmentation.
- Mr. Tagtag of BMB responded that the purpose of the establishment of the councils is to facilitate the integration of the TCMAP, with the local plans. The Council will signify the interest of the Department in the conservation of the Tamaraws, and to formalize the participation of the NGOs and academe in the conservation of the Tamaraws.
- Ms. Rosario of IAS raised that the creation of the council should be in accordance with the degree of the necessity to create such council.
- Dir. Leal has then shared that there would be a localization of the PBSAP through developing operational plans. If the localization will push through, where will the wildlife fall under? The creation of the different layers of coordinating bodies, will again result in fragmentation of efforts on related areas of concern.
- Mr. Tagtag responded that the Tamaraw Bill, also envisions the creation of the council. He also clarified that the PBSAP is a general plan, while this plan is species-specific. Further, it is also stated in the TCMAP that the council shall also be created.
- Ms. Presbitero from OULA also clarified if the creation of the council will utilize the current employees, if we need to strengthen the implementation of the TCMAP on the ground, then the focus of the policy should be the adoption of the TCMAP per se, followed by the establishment of the council.
- Mr. Tagtag responded that the major elements of this draft DAO is the adoption of the TCMAP, and its institutional mechanisms.
- Mr. Tagtag reiterated that a platform for the "members" to meet concerning the Tamaraw Conservation is one of the purposes of TC3 creation.

<p>4.2 Duties and Responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Presbitero clarified even if the DAO will be approved, it still needs a funding approval from the DBM. ● Ms. Mangundayao has responded to the need for the legal basis for the establishment of the councils. ● Dir. Leal clarified if there are outside stakeholders in the creation and drafting of the Action Plan. BMB responded that there are outside stakeholders involved. ● Atty. Eneran recommended the current composition/inclusion of the proposed T3 Creation. ● Ms. Presbitero reiterated the need for the focus of detailed strategies on the implementation of the program. ● Ms. Mangundayao stated that there is a Regional Development Council (RDC) covering Mindoro Island which can be utilized as a platform for Tamaraw Conservation concerns. ● Ms. Mangundayao also added the possible inclusion of Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) in the DAO. ● It was concurred that further exploration of institutionalization/integration/streamlining of functions from other pre-established "Councils" ● Deletion of Section 4 was concurred in which provision in utilizing the CAAC under the Biodiversity (BD) Corridor Project. ● For 4.2, omit and transfer under TCPO. ● The body had considered and concurred on the proposed revisions.
<p>Section 5. Institutional Arrangements for the Implementation of the TCP and the TCMAP.</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.3.7</p> <p>5.3.8</p> <p>5.3.10</p> <p>5.4.2</p> <p>5.4.7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Atty. Eneran recommended the tapping of the CDD Chief, since it is also the function of the CDD. ● Atty. Eneran suggested to BMB the possible inclusion of the staffing pattern in the on-going House Bill. ● For 5.1, omit the <i>"implementing arm of the TC3"</i> ● For 5.3.7, revise the statement as follows <i>"Manage the TCRC in coordination..."</i> ● Omit the Secretariat functions of the TCPO for TC3. ● Omit item 5.3.10 as well. ● For item 5.4.2 under 5.2, Atty. Eneran recommended consulting the Personnel on the hiring of Plantilla positions. ● For 5.4.7, TC3 will be removed to the monitoring function. ● Further, status quo for the Salary 22 was affirmed. ● The body concurred on the changes made.

Section 6. Establishing the Tamaraw Conservation and Research Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Atty. Eneran clarified the staffing component of the TCRC. BMB responded that human resources/manpower is indicated in Section 5.2. ● Remove Section 6 and subsumed the TCRC functions to the TCPO. ● The body concurred on the proposed changes.
Section 7. Transitory Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Atty. Eneran clarified the inclusion of the turn-over process. ● Dir. Siapno suggested the inclusion of financial and human resource requirements for operationalization of the TCPO which was revised as follows "... <i>prepare the financial and human resources requirements for the operationalisation of the TCPO...</i>" ● Inclusion of provision on convening committee meetings was suggested. ● No further remarks were raised, changes were concurred upon.
Section 8. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change TCRC to TCPO.
Section 9. Separability Clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No further comment. Considered approved.
Section 10. Repealing Clause	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No further comment. Considered approved.
Section 11. Effectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No further comment. Considered approved.

The draft DAO on Tamaraw conservation will be re-circulated upon revision of the proponent. Revised DAO is expected to be submitted on 09 May 2024 to the Secretariat.

Proposed schedule for the succeeding PTWG deliberations were set every first and last Thursday of the month.

The meeting adjourned at 05:10PM.

Prepared by the Secretariat

Noted by:



CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL
 OIC Director, Policy and Planning Service