



**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, 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
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Head Executive Assistant/Office of the Undersecretary and Chief of Staff
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, and Legislative Affairs
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Undersecretary Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations (FO) - Luzon, Visayas and Environment
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Undersecretary for FO - Mindanao
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Legislative Affairs
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects
Chief of Staff/HEA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs
Chief of Staff/HEA, Legal Affairs Service
Chief of Staff/HEA, Climate Change Service
Chief of Staff/HEA, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Chief of Staff/HEA, Knowledge and Information Systems Service
Chief of Staff/HEA, Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service
Chief of Staff/HEA, Internal Audit Service
Chief of Staff/HEA, Geospatial Database Office

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

SUBJECT: **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND/OR CONCURRENCE ON THE REVISED DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER ON STRENGTHENING THE TAMARAW CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM THEREOF**

DATE: 31 MAY 2024

MEMO NO. 2024 - 496

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

We are furnishing herewith the latest version of the draft DAO entitled "*Strengthening the Tamaraw Conservation Program and Providing the Implementation Mechanism Thereof*" (Annex A) that undergone its concluding deliberation on 11 April 2024 with a way forward to revise accordingly and solicit consensus prior endorsement to the Secretary. You may refer to the Matrix of Agreements (Annex B) showing the compliance of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) for further perusal.

Please be guided that the draft DAO is a priority policy aiming to be implemented this 2024. Should you find the policy in order, kindly express your concurrence thru: psddivision@gmail.com or policy@denr.gov.ph not later than 03 June 2024, otherwise the Secretariat shall consider the draft DAO concurred upon.

For your consideration, please.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

PTWG 2024-02 MATRIX OF AGREEMENTS

11 April 2024

SECTIONS	COMMENTS/ AGREEMENTS/ WAYS FORWARD	REMARKS AS OF 28 MAY 2024
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> 	● Complied
Section 1. Basic Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Revise the word <i>"strategy"</i> and replace with the word <i>"program"</i> 	● Complied
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. ● 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> 	● Complied
<p data-bbox="259 727 598 847">Section 3. Approval and Adoption of the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan</p> <p data-bbox="259 1023 477 1046">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> 	● Complied

PTWG 2024-02 MATRIX OF AGREEMENTS

11 April 2024

<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 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complied <p>See Section 5. Coordinating Body for Tamaraw Conservation for the revision.</p>
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PTWG 2024-02 MATRIX OF AGREEMENTS

11 April 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. ● 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” 	
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PTWG 2024-02 MATRIX OF AGREEMENTS

11 April 2024

4.2 Duties and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complied
Section 5. Institutional Arrangements for the Implementation of the TCP and the TCMAP. 5.1 5.3.7 5.3.8 5.3.10 5.4.2 5.4.7	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complied
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complied
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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complied
Section 8. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Change TCRC to TCPO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complied



**DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2024 - _____**

SUBJECT : STRENGTHENING THE TAMARAW CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM THEREOF

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act), RA No. 7586 [National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act as amended by RA No. 11038 (Expanded NIPAS Act)], Presidential Proclamation No. 273 (Declaring October as the Tamaraw Month), Executive Order No. 544 (Creating a Presidential Committee for the Conservation of the Tamaraw, Defining its Powers and for Other Purposes), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2019-09 (Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and their Categories), DAO No. 2016-12 (Adopting the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan), DAO No. 2005-26 (Transferring the Tamaraw Conservation Program from the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau to DENR MIMAROPA Region through Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) Occidental Mindoro, this guideline is hereby promulgated to strengthen the program for the conservation and management of the critically endangered and endemic Tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*):

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. It is the policy of the State to conserve and protect the country's wildlife resources, especially threatened endemic species, for the benefit of the present and future generations. Towards this end, the DENR shall endeavor to implement a comprehensive conservation and management program to ensure the protection of the critically endangered and Mindoro Island endemic Tamaraw from the risk of possible extinction.

SECTION 2. Objectives. This Order aims to:

- 2.1 Provide a comprehensive conservation and management strategies for the Tamaraw that engages the support of stakeholders from the government sector, indigenous peoples (IP) groups, private sector, and civil society at large, towards the protection of existing Tamaraw habitats, establishment of Tamaraw corridors, and address the various threats to the survival of the Tamaraw;
- 2.2 Enhance the institutional coordination and support mechanisms towards the efficient administration of the DENR's Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP); and
- 2.3 Ensure adequate whole of government and whole of society support for the effective implementation of the projects and strategies under the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan.

SECTION 3. Approval and Adoption of the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan. To effectively address the conservation and management of the Tamaraw, the strategies and programs in the Tamaraw Conservation and Management Action Plan (TCMAP), attached as Annex A hereof, is hereby approved and adopted for the implementation and guidance of all concerned. The TCMAP provides for a ten (10) year action plan that includes the following strategies:

- 3.1 Provision of an effective coordination and support mechanism which includes the establishment of a Tamaraw coordinating body and the alignment and harmonization of the TCMAP with the plans and programs of stakeholders such as but not limited to Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan, Protected Area Management Plan, Forest Land Use Plan, etc.;
- 3.2 Intensification of Information, Education and Communication with consistent messages to IP groups; civil society organizations, and the general public to proactively support the program for the Tamaraw;
- 3.3 Strategic interventions for the existing populations in Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP), Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary (MCWS), Upper Amnay Watershed, and Aruyan-Malati Tamaraw Reservation with the vision to increase the current estimated Tamaraw population; and
- 3.4 Strategic actions to support the expansion of the Tamaraw population to suitable habitats.

The DENR MIMAROPA Region in coordination with the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), shall review and update if necessary, the TCMAP, every five (5) years. The BMB and DENR MIMAROPA Region shall jointly monitor and evaluate the implementation of the TCMAP, annually.

SECTION 4. Institutional Arrangements for the Implementation of the TCP and the TCMAP. To provide adequate administrative support in the implementation of the TCP and the TCMAP, the following shall provide the complementary and supportive roles of the following offices relative thereto:

- 4.1 **The Tamaraw Conservation Program Office.** The current unit implementing the TCP shall now be called as the Tamaraw Conservation Program Office (TCPO) and shall act as the implementing office on the conservation and management of the Tamaraw population in the whole Island of Mindoro, especially in the implementation of the TCP activities and TCMAP.
- 4.2 The TCPO shall have a manpower complement to be composed of the following:
 - 4.2.1 Program Leader (1)
 - 4.2.2 Wildlife Veterinarian (1)
 - 4.2.3 Biologist/Ecologist (2)
 - 4.2.4 GIS Specialist (1)

- 4.2.5 Population Management Specialist (1)
- 4.2.6 Planning Officer (1)
- 4.2.7 Community Development Staff (2)
- 4.2.8 Tamaraw Rangers (35)
- 4.2.9 Animal Caretaker (2)
- 4.2.10 Law Enforcement Specialist/Officer (5)
- 4.2.11 Administrative Assistant (2)
- 4.2.12 Liaison Officer (1)

4.3 The TCPO shall perform the following functions:

- 4.3.1 Prepare the Annual Work and Financial Plan (WFP) for the TCP based on the priority activities in the TCMAP for approval of the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Executive Director (RED) through PENRO Occidental Mindoro;
- 4.3.2 Take the lead in the implementation of the TCP WFP in coordination with stakeholders, e.g., LGUs, Protected Area Management Board(PAMB)/PASu concerned, ...etc.;
- 4.3.3 Assist in the mobilization of resources to augment government resources in financing the activities under the TCMAP;
- 4.3.4 Develop activity proposals and projects in pursuit of the strategies in the TCMAP;
- 4.3.5 Recommend management interventions including policies and guidelines needed to address and resolve pressing issues and facilitate implementation of activities under the TCMAP;
- 4.3.6 Initiate coordination mechanism and necessary arrangements with the PAMB, through its PASu, for collaborative conservation of Tamaraw populations within protected areas and facilitate integration and harmonization of TCMAP in the Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP) of concerned protected areas;
- 4.3.7 Manage the Tamaraw Conservation and Research Center (TCRC) in coordination with the Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) of MIBNP;
- 4.3.8 Prepare and submit quarterly and annual reports on the conservation of the Tamaraw to the RED of DENR MIMAROPA Region through the PENRO Occidental Mindoro; and
- 4.3.9 Manage the Tamaraw Conservation and Research Center. The TCRC shall:
 - 4.3.10.a Serve as a national conservation research center for the Tamaraw in the areas of Conservation Genetics, Reproductive Sciences, Disease Management, etc.;
 - 4.3.10.b Promote conservation and research of the Tamaraw; and,
 - 4.3.10.c Subsume the operation of the existing Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm located in Sitio Canturoy, Barangay Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, within MIBNP to pursue the envisioned plan for an enhanced Tamaraw population

management, conservation, and protection of other endemic species of the Island of Mindoro.

- 4.3.11 The TCPO shall coordinate with the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) in the conduct of research activities on the Tamaraw and in addressing the research needs for the species.
- 4.3.12 Perform other duties as may be assigned by the DENR-MIMAROPA Region and BMB.

4.4 The DENR-MIMAROPA Region. The DENR-MIMAROPA Region through PENRO-Occidental Mindoro shall exercise overall supervision and management of the TCPO pursuant to DAO No. 2005-26. As such, it shall:

- 4.4.1 Assign a permanent senior technical staff of at least Salary Grade 22 to serve as a full-time Program Leader who shall be directly responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of the TCPO. Where possible, assign permanent staff to support the manpower requirements for the operations of the TCPO;
- 4.4.2 Facilitate, in coordination with the DENR Human Resource Development Service, the preparation of proposed regular plantilla positions for the manpower complement of the TCPO;
- 4.4.3 Include in its annual budgetary proposal the financial requirements for the operations of TCPO;
- 4.4.4 Approve and/or endorse administrative and financial documents pertaining to the operation of the TCPO, including the hiring of contractual staff, following the existing DENR Manual of Authorities;
- 4.4.5 Coordinate with other agencies (LGUs, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation...etc.) to assist in the conduct of investigation, and population surveys;
- 4.4.6 Monitor and validate accomplishments of the TCPO and submit to the Secretary through the BMB, quarterly reports, and annual report on the conservation of the Tamaraw; and
- 5.4.7 Monitor, evaluate, and provide recommendations on the implementation of the activities in the TCMAP every five (5) years or as necessary in coordination with the DENR-BMB.

4.5 The Protected Area Management Offices. The PAMOs concerned shall ensure that adequate measures and interventions for the conservation and management of the Tamaraw as identified in the TCMAP are in accordance with set standards and guidelines (e.g. monitoring methods) and are integrated into the PAMP. Further, the PAMO shall ensure that the Tamaraw is considered as among the priority species for monitoring and as an indicator for effective protected area management. The PAMO shall maintain close collaboration with the TCPO in carrying out Tamaraw conservation and management activities.

The institutional arrangement diagram on the implementation of the TCP and the TCMAP is attached as Annex B.

SECTION 5. Coordinating Body for Tamaraw Conservation. The Mindoro Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) created under MIMAROPA Regional Development Council (RDC) Resolution No. 2023-082-1180¹ shall serve as the coordinating body for Tamaraw conservation. The DENR MIMAROPA Region, as Chair of the CAAC, shall facilitate the inclusion of Tamaraw concerns in the existing roles and functions of the Committee.

The CAAC shall provide guidance, feedback and recommendations on the issues and concerns on Tamaraw conservation, including the implementation of the TCMAP. It shall facilitate administrative and political support, especially of the agency or organization that members represent in the implementation of projects and interventions under the TCMAP or as identified by the TCPO.

To ensure science-based interventions and decisions on the conservation of the Tamaraw, the CAAC, through its Chair, shall seek advice from expert organizations such as the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB), Philippine Veterinary Medical Association, International Union for Conservation of Nature Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group, and other experts from the academe and wildlife conservation organizations.

SECTION 6. Transitory Provision. Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Order, the DENR MIMAROPA Regional Office, in coordination with the BMB, shall prepare the financial and human resources requirements for the operationalization of the TCPO, including plantilla positions for the TCPO for submission to the Department of Budget and Management, through the DENR.

SECTION 7. Funding. The DENR MIMAROPA Region shall include in their annual budget request the fund allocations for the effective implementation of the TCMAP, and the operation of the TCPO.

The DENR shall include in its priorities the funding for the operations of the TCPO, which may include budget for Personnel Services, Capital Outlay and Maintenance, and Other Operating Expenses.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. If any part of this Order is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. All Orders and other similar issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

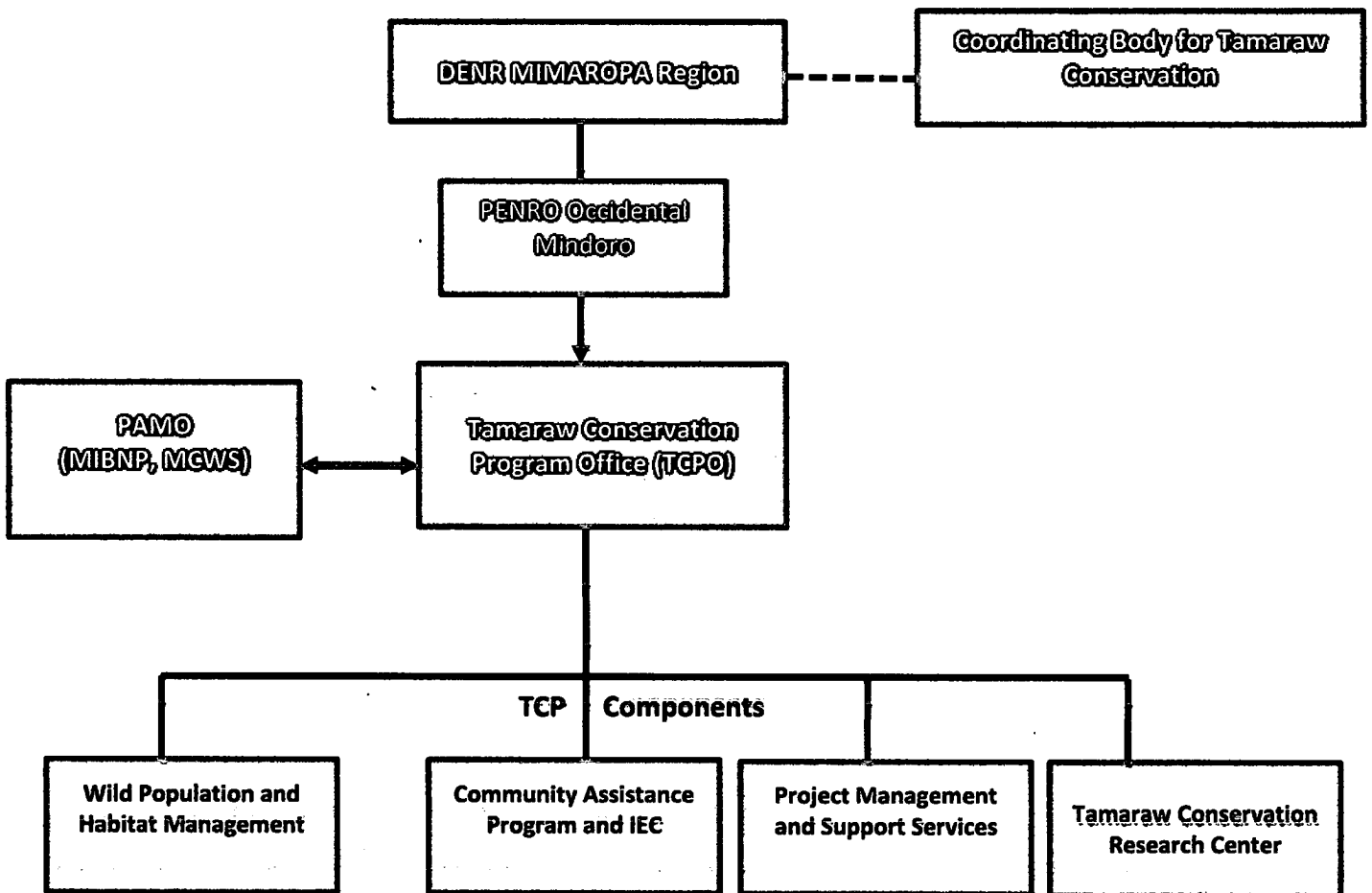
¹ Approving the Creation of the Corridor Alliance Advisory Committee (CAAC) for the Mindoro Biodiversity Corridor Project

SECTION 10. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA
Secretary

ANNEX "B"

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TAMARAW CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND THE TAMARAW CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT AND ACTION PLAN



Acronyms:

PAMO	Protected Area Management Office
MCWS	Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary
MIBNP	Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park
TCP	Tamaraw Conservation Program
TCPO	Tamaraw Conservation Program Office
TCRC	Tamaraw Conservation Research Center