



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **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
Climate Change Service

The Executive Director
River Basin Control Office

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

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

DATE : JUN 28 2024

This has reference to the letter dated 06 March 2024 from Deputy Executive Secretary Naella Bainto Aguinaldo, Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary for General Administration, Office of the President, regarding the Resolutions established during the 4th Philippine Environment Summit and the State of Nature Assessment (Green SONA) 2023 which were proposed by the Green Convergence.

The undersigned issued a memorandum dated 20 March 2024 requesting for feedback and updates on the aforementioned Resolutions. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Field Operations – Luzon and Visayas, Office of the OIC Assistant Secretary for Field Operations – Western Mindanao, and Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau have provided their respective inputs. The Policy and Planning Service has incorporated updates as part of the ongoing initiatives of the Department corresponding to the call to action.

In this regard, may we respectfully request your concurrence to the attached matrix of the consolidated inputs/updates. Should you find the inputs in order, please complete the attached confirmation slip and submit it to Policy Studies Division on or before **05 July 2024** at **psddivision@gmail.com**. Allow us to consider your concurrence on the attached draft inputs should we receive no further comment or feedback on the set deadline.

For your consideration, please.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES



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



**CONFIRMATION SLIP
(VETTING OF INPUTS/UPDATES FOR THE GREEN SONA)**

Date: _____

I _____, from
[Name]

_____, confirmed the inputs in the
[Office/Bureau/Attached Agency]

attached inputs/updates on the Resolutions established during the 4th Philippine Environment Summit and the State of Nature Assessment (Green SONA) 2023.

[Signature above Printed Name]

Please note:

** The vetted inputs and this confirmation slip must be submitted electronically to the Policy Studies Division-Policy and Planning Service via email at psddivision@gmail.com on or before 28 June 2024.*

** For inquiries, please contact: Policy and Planning Service (PPS) via psddivision@gmail.com*

1. February 21-23, 2023 4th Philippine Environment Summit “Caring for Earth: Scaling up Solutions to the Climate Emergency”

Call to Action	Inputs/Updates
<p>Include nature-based solutions and peatland management in the curriculum</p>	<p>Apart from the active participation of the Philippines to the ASEAN as a Member country, myriad international relations and country – wide initiatives on Nature – based Solutions (NbS) have been the focus of the DENR for the past years.</p> <p>These undertakings were transparently shared on the official accounts of the DENR, the Bureaus, partner agencies, and stakeholders for public information.</p> <p>To name a few of NbS initiatives of the Department, kindly refer to the NbS partnerships that transpired below:</p> <p>International</p> <p>a. March 2023 – Project on Accelerating Green and Climate Finance in the Philippines: Nature-based Solutions (AGCF) or Climate Finance involving the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and United Nations Development Programme – Philippines funded by the Government of Canada. Implementers of the project are the Department of Finance, CCC, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, and Public – Private Partnership Center with implementation period from 2022 – 2025.</p> <p>Country-wide</p> <p>a. May 2023 – Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DENR and Shell Pilipinas Corporation. The MoU focuses on integrated carbon and development opportunities in the country.</p> <p>b. July 2023 – Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between DENR and Energy Development Corporation (EDC). The MoA targets biodiversity protection, restoration, and conservation.</p> <p>c. Continuous streamlining/updating of existing Sectoral plans such as the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Philippine Master Plan for Climate Resilient Forestry Development, and the Nationally Determined Contributions measures of the DENR with regard to adopting NbS.</p>

	<p>With regard to peatland management, gaps on its protection and conservation were recognized around 2008 across the ASEAN Region. This has led for the Philippines to perform a series of trainings aiming to establish institutional capacity on peatland assessment at the national and local level.</p> <p>One of the immediate responses for peatland concerns that materialized was the partnership of the DENR with PLDT and SMART for the conservation of Caimpugan Peatland in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in 2020. Further, the issuance of Guidelines for Sustainable Development Planning and Management of Peatlands (DENR Administrative Order 2022-05) was also promulgated to ensure the proper execution of management measures which also includes the conduct of public awareness of the existence of peatlands in the country.</p> <p>Further, DENR – ERDB has already drafted the Procedural Manual on Peatland Ecosystem Assessment which is the combined output of the projects titled “Updating of Profile/Status of Peatlands in the Philippines” and “Ensuring Sustainable Benefits from Philippine Peatlands through Protection and Wise Use (ESBenePeat)” which were implemented by the Forest and Wetlands Research, Development and Extension Center (FWRDEC) and the Watershed and Water Resources Research, Development and Extension Center (WWRDEC), respectively. This manual aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide procedures in the conduct of rapid assessment in identifying probable peatlands; 2. Provide systematic guidelines for conducting a thorough assessment to confirm probable peatlands; and 3. Provide a comprehensive characterization of confirmed peatlands to include the determination of the extent, ecological profile and current conditions which are crucial for monitoring, effective management and informed decision making.
<p>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.</p>	<p>The DENR emphasizes the need for women's participation in the drafting of policies and implementation of programs, designed to address the challenges emerging from climate change. In fact, the DENR's plans and programs in the coastal areas, land, cities, forests, and mines are geared to protect and nurture the environment and natural resources, but also the well – being of communities, including men and women, from the climate crisis and future pandemics.</p> <p>The DENR Gender and Development Office, through the Climate Change Service, is also highlighting the stories of</p>

	<p>individuals, both women and men, and groups on the impacts of climate change in their communities, and how they are addressing them through relevant programs on environmental protection and conservation, climate-change and disaster risk-reduction.</p>
<p>Provide regular updates on the following: 1. Current Status of NDC 2. Regular Submission of GHG</p>	<p>Conduct of mainstreaming of the Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) into the DENR Plans and Programs in compliance with the Presidential Directive issued last 24 January 2024.</p> <p>Executive Order 174 series of 2014 on Institutionalizing the Philippine greenhouse gas inventory management and reporting system mandated the DENR to serve as lead agency for waste, industrial processes and the land – use and forestry sectors. To date, DENR has produced GHGIs for waste, industrial processes, and product use (IPPU), and forestry and other land uses (FOLU) for the years 2010, 2015, and 2020. In November 2023, E.O 174 agencies agreed to work on their respective 2022 sectoral GHGI expected to be submitted to the CCC by July 2024 for consolidation and inclusion to the first Biennial Transparency Report to be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by December 2024. The DENR is gearing towards annual reporting of sectoral emissions.</p>
<p>Support the issue of loss and damage in global discussions</p>	<p>Citing the CY 2023 COP28 agreement in Dubai, Secretary Loyzaga announced the designation of the Philippines as a Board member for the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund alongside other countries in the Asia Pacific Region.</p> <p>The Philippines' hosting of the Loss and Damage Fund will symbolize inclusivity as it will ensure that the needs of the country most affected by climate change will be addressed.</p>
<p>Organize and encourage participation in coral protection activities during Coral Triangle Day celebrated every June 9 of the year</p>	<p>Country-wide annual celebration of Coral Triangle Day has been a practice of the DENR, its Regional Offices, and Bureaus over the years. Public exhibits, knowledge sharing, and coastal clean – ups were held in collaboration with LGUs, stakeholders, and reputable environmental groups to promote the protection of the Philippines' thriving reefs.</p>
<p>Strengthen the implementation of the National Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008 to include climate change</p>	<p>The DENR, through the EMB, has developed a module focusing on the relationship of Solid Waste Management, Air and Water Quality Management, and Climate Change to the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program of the Department of Education.</p>

<p>education and action by building the capacity of teachers and trainers, and providing scholarships and research funds to students in environmental – related programs</p>	<p>Further, this office also focuses on integrating environmental education and building awareness through the conduct of training and educational programs.</p>
<p>Steadfast commitment to sustainable development, poverty eradication and inclusive growth towards a climate and disaster-resilient and low carbon economy</p>	<p>The resolution extensively underscores the current reality of the country’s vulnerability to climate change and correspondingly, offered resolution on mitigating strategies, particularly, reduction of carbon emissions. Thus, on the indicated need for steadfast commitment for sustainable development, poverty eradication, and inclusive growth towards a climate and disaster-resilient and low carbon economy, please be guided that these elements were likewise mirrored with the objectives of the ongoing Enhanced National Greening Program implementation as provided by Executive Order No. 193, series of 2015.</p>
<p>Scale up its actions in reducing the country’s vulnerability to climate change</p>	<p>One of the identified possible nature-based solutions is through the strengthening of the Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Approach. The Bureau is currently in the process of updating the National Forest and Landscape Restoration Action Plan to enable and mainstream the FLR approach in the national initiatives. Further, please be apprised that climate change mitigation strategies and vulnerability assessment and corresponding management interventions were also being considered in the formulation of forestry-related plans, such as Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP), Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). Likewise, the formation of Watershed Management Councils for the priority critical watershed in the country also target the implementation of programs indicated in the IWMP that include climate resiliency and vulnerability reduction.</p>
<p>Realize its nationally determined contribution, that is, the GHG emissions reduction and avoidance of 75%</p>	<p>The DENR – FMB is currently reviewing the possible inclusion of the Forestry Sector in the climate action plan since it was observed that the Forestry and Other Land Use Sector (FOLU) was not yet included in the current cycle of NDC.</p>

2. August 30-31, 2023 State of Nature Assessment “From Ridge to Reef”

Call to Action	Remarks
<p>Ensure and strengthen the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system and biodiversity impact assessment</p>	<p>The DENR, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), leads the Environmental Impact Monitoring and Evaluation/Audit to ensure project compliance with ECC conditions and effectiveness of environmental measures and continuously require the proponents to update and implement the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP).</p> <p>Further, this office is mandated to implement the following environmental laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Presidential Decree 1586 (Environmental Impact Statement System) b. Republic Act 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990) c. Republic Act 8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999) d. Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000) e. Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000); Republic Act No. 11898 (The Extended Producer Responsibility Act (EPR) Act of 2022); and f. Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000) <p>Rest assured that entities identified in the abovestated laws are being assessed, evaluated, monitored, and held accountable for every violation as part of the Bureau’s due diligence.</p>
<p>Impose the use of sewage treatment plants (STP)</p>	<p>The National Sewerage and Septage Management Program (NSSMP) is a framework plan formulated to address various national issues related to sanitation, treatment, and disposal of wastewater in the Philippines. The role of the DENR-EMB in the NSSMP are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide guidance and support to local government units (LGUs) belonging to first-class municipalities, cities and highly urbanized cities (HUCs). b. Assist in implementing the NSSMP, ensuring compliance with the Clean Water Act of 2004 (RA 9275) and its amended coverage. c. May involve in conducting feasibility studies for septage projects. These studies assess the technical and financial aspects of constructing and operationalizing septage, sewerage, or combined septage – sewerage treatment facilities.

<p>Promote and implement the Mt. Latian Local Conservation Action Plan (LCAP)</p>	<p>In 2002, DENR declared Mt. Latian as one of the significant biodiversity areas in the country which covers roughly 95,077 hectares encompassing several municipalities in Sarangani and Davao.</p> <p>With this, an initiative to conserve Mt. Latian through the Mt. Latian Complex Conservation Project was funded by GIZ and DENR – Protected Area Management Enhancement (PAME) in 2014 to sustain, maintain, and protect the current condition in the area.</p> <p>Citing the Booklet on Key Biodiversity Areas (2019) its stated that land conversion and forest fires are the major threats in Mt. Latian. While the conservation measures identified were 105 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and 151 Conservation Priority Areas (CPAs).</p> <p>Further, per the BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2021-05 or the Guide in the Formulation of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, localization of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) was strongly emphasized.</p> <p>The localization initiative ensures the proper mainstreaming and integration of national targets to the sectoral or cross-sectoral plans and policies of the concerned area.</p>
<p>Establish watersheds, Wetlands, and coastal ecosystems management</p>	<p>The DENR – FMB, through the Watershed Ecosystems Management Section, is the Office responsible for the management of our country’s watersheds in coordination with other government agencies, while the DENR-BMB through the Caves, Wetlands, and other Ecosystems Division (CAWED) and Coastal and Marine Division, is currently implementing programs related to wetlands and coastal ecosystems management.</p> <p>The DENR BMB – CAWED is developing standards and safeguards related to program implementation, establish or strengthen linkages, cooperation, networks, and partnerships with relevant institutions or organizations in the conservation and management, update and maintain data and information, and facilitate the implementation of Philippine commitments to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.</p> <p>The DENR BMB – CMD, on the other hand, is implementing the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP), pursuant to DAO 2016-26, for sustainable management of our country’s coastal ecosystems and resources, thereby increasing their ability to provide</p>

	<p>ecological goods and services to the nearby population. Integrated coastal management, partnership building, sustainable tourism, law enforcement, public awareness, and ecosystem services valuation are the approaches anchored in the Program that further aims to promote sustainability of ecosystem services, food security, and climate change resiliency.</p> <p>Further, the DENR, through its Field Offices, conducts the preparation of the Watershed Characterization Report cum Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) and Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) which will serve as the basis for the management and development of the watersheds. The DENR has also issued DAO 2021-42 or the “Guidelines in the Creation of Watershed Management Councils” which aims to strengthen collaboration between DENR, DILG, LGUs, POs, NGOs, and other critical stakeholders in the sustainable management of watersheds. The said DAO covers the institutionalization of existing and creation of new watershed management councils (WMCs) that will serve as an oversight and advisory body on watershed planning and program/project implementation.</p>
<p>Strengthen conservation efforts of Mt. Matutum Protected Area, Glan River Watershed, Lun Masla River Watershed, and Buayan River Basin in Sarangani</p>	<p>Relative to conservation measures in Protected Areas, the BMB, in partnership with UNDP, is currently updating the PBSAP to align with the Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) per the COP15 agreement.</p> <p>The KMGBF aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 with 23 action – oriented targets. PBSAP on the other hand, is a roadmap towards the integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity to the national development and sectoral planning charter/framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) members.</p>
<p>Support the creation of the Department of Water Resources to have a single agency that is accountable for the management of water resources</p>	<p>The DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga has expressed the Department’s support on the draft bills creating the Department of Water. As a matter of fact, the DENR has studied many of the House Bills filed, and also proposes to institute a Water Resources Management Office under the DENR as an interim apex body that will coordinate the plans and functions of all agencies with water – related functions.</p>
<p>Increase investments in Water Resources Management and utilize surface water resources</p>	<p>An Executive Order No. 22 was issued and signed last April 27, 2023 which created the Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) in DENR. The WRMO is implementing Integrated Water Resources Management in line with the</p>

	United Nations Development Goals and implementation of plans and programs identified in the Integrated Water Resources Master Plan (IWMP).
Establish the Mindanao River Basin Council to harmonize efforts and programs for the Mindanao River System	This can be lobbied to our Congressmen to draft a House Bill creating the River Basin Council.
On ecological solid waste management: Give incentives for waste avoidance and waste reduction; and Support banning of single-use plastics and promote alternatives	<p>The role of the DENR in the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act or RA 9003 is to provide technical assistance to the LGUs in the implementation of their 10 – year Solid Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>Further, Republic Act No. 11898 or the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022 requires producers, manufacturers and other companies to move away from single – use plastics and establish their own waste recovery schemes in partnership with communities, local governments, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Under the law, registered enterprises may apply for tax incentives and tax and duty exemptions for costs relating to initiatives to recycle, reduce, or reuse.</p> <p>Pursuant to National Solid Waste Commission Resolution No. 1363, series of 2020, this Office spearhead the banning of use of unnecessary single-use plastics such as plastic cups, plastic drinking straws, plastic stirrers, plastic utensils, and plastic labo or thin filmed plastics from catering and food purchases.</p>
Educate the public on the importance of circular economy, carbon neutrality, pollution reduction, environmental education, marine and terrestrial biodiversity	One of the components of the CMEMP is the Social Marketing and Mobilization, which is a well – designed communication framework, strategies and approaches for promoting public awareness, instill social and environmental consciousness, and effect behavior change with regards to the coastal and marine ecosystems. It includes establishment of linkages among stakeholders, and Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices Surveys and Communication, Education and Public Awareness campaigns on educating the public on the importance of protecting and conserving our coastal and marine biodiversity.
Protect Remaining forests and participate in	The DENR will intensify forest restoration areas for CY 2024 with the provision of P1.2 Billion budget for the protected

<p>forest restoration activities</p>	<p>area development and management. The funds will go to the enhancement of forest monitoring within protected areas as well as forest restoration activities. Guidelines are being developed for the conduct of such activities.</p> <p>Other activities under Forest Protection Program are the enforcement of forestry-related laws, policies, and regulations; monitoring and surveillance; and apprehension, confiscation, and conduct of administrative adjudication proceedings covering illegally logged/cut trees. Meanwhile, the Enhanced National Greening Program provides for the massive forest rehabilitation program of the government being implemented since 2011 and intended to develop or rehabilitate all remaining unproductive, denuded, and degraded forestlands.</p>
<p>Re – impose the ban or moratorium on open-pit mining</p>	<p>The ban on the open pit mining method of extraction of copper gold, silver and/or complex ores in the country was lifted through the DENR Administrative Order No. 2021-40 dated 23 Dec 2021, in order to revitalize the mining industry and usher significant economic benefits to the country amidst the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The legal basis for the lifting of the open pit ban is the Joint Memorandum of Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) for the President, recommending the lifting of the open pit mining ban based on the findings and recommendations of the MICC audit team on the environmental and safety measures.</p> <p>As a safeguard, the said DAO also imposes and provides enhanced parameters and criteria for the types of surface mining methods under the environmental and safety issues of surface mining methods. Basic implementing measures and consideration shall be strictly observed and complied with by all Mineral Agreements/ Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement prior to the approval of any surface mining method.</p> <p>The open pit mining method is not the cause of the spill incidents in the past such as Marcopper, Philex, Rapu-Rapu, Benguet, DCSMI. The cause of such incidents is the failure of the tailings storage facility regardless of the mining method.</p> <p>(DAO No. 2021-40)</p>
<p>Scale up installation of rain harvesting</p>	<p>DENR FMB is currently developing DENR Memorandum Circular entitled "Guidelines on the Establishment of</p>

<p>measures such as infiltration canal and wells</p>	<p>Rainwater Harvesting Systems” which aims to provide criteria in the selection of site suitability, standard designs and costing for the establishment of rainwater harvesting systems to support all ongoing reforestation and rehabilitation efforts of the DENR within forestland an public land.</p>
<p>Promote bamboo and bamboo industry</p>	<p>DENR has issued DAO 2021-26 or the “Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment, Harvesting and Transport of Bamboo” which encourages the establishment of bamboo plantations and to promote the sustainable use of bamboo as wood substitute in support of the development of bamboo-based industries in the Philippines. Specifically, the said DAO aims to increase the productivity, supply and access to bamboo resources in support to the development of the Philippine Bamboo Industry; provide a system for sustainable harvesting, transport and use of bamboo resources; accommodate other support activities such as research and development activities such as research and development, processing and marketing, and contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change and attaining environmental stability.</p>
<p>Push for inclusive, science-based, ecosystem-based policies</p>	<p>DENR implements DAO 2021-15 or the Enhanced DENR Policy Development System and advances science- and evidence-based policy formulation which requires policy proponents (i.e. Bureaus) to submit policy analysis papers to support their respective policy proposals. Moreover, please be informed that the DENR adheres to the Regulatory Impact Assessment requirements of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) in support of the implementation of the National Policy on Regulatory Management System (NPRMS).</p>



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*