



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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DENR Special Order
No. 2023 - 336

JUN 07 2023

SUBJECT : CREATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (NPSC), NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY PROJECT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (NIPTWG), AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT (PMU) FOR THE PROJECT ENTITLED "ENSURING SUSTAINABLE BENEFITS FROM PEATLAND THROUGH PROTECTION AND WISE USE (ESBENEPEAT)"

In the interest of the service and in order to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the EU-BMU-GIZ Project¹ entitled "*Ensuring Sustainable Benefits from Peatland through Protection and Wise Use*" (ESBenePeat) under the ASEAN Sustainable Use of Peatlands and Haze Mitigation Programme (SUPA), the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC), National Inter-Agency Project Technical Working Group (NIPTWG), and Project Management Unit (PMU) are hereby created with members and functions, as follows:

I. National Project Steering Committee

A. Composition

Chairperson: DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Co-chairperson: DENR Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects

Members of the NPSC shall be composed of at least Director-level or equivalent from the following offices:

1. DENR Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations - Luzon, Visayas and Environment
2. DENR Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations - Mindanao
3. DENR - Biodiversity Management Bureau
4. DENR - Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
5. DENR - Forest Management Bureau
6. DENR - Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
7. DA - Bureau of Soils and Water Management
8. DILG - Bureau of Fire Protection
9. DILG - Bureau of Local Government Development

B. Functions

1. Provide strategic directions, guidance and oversight for the effective implementation of the Project towards achievement of its outputs and outcomes;

¹ ESBenePeat Project is the Philippine country project under the ASEAN Regional Programme on "Sustainable use of Peatland and Haze Mitigation in ASEAN" (SUPA) Component 1. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is the implementing agency of SUPA Component 1, co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the Federal Republic of Germany.

2. Report to the ASEAN the progress of the Project through representation as ASEAN Member State during international meetings such as the ASEAN Task Force on Peatland (ATFP), ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) and Regional Project Steering Committee meetings, as necessary;
3. Approve annual work plans and operations manual of the Project;
4. Review progress of implementation by national and pilot site levels;
5. Oversee prudent and efficient use of project budgets and other resources;
6. Provide guidance on sustainability, and institutional and financial arrangements, while keeping in view the recommendations of external reviews; and
7. Undertake other relevant tasks as provided under the Project Document.

The National Project Steering Committee shall meet annually or as the Chairperson may deem necessary, to discuss and decide on Project issues and concerns. It may meet independently from, or just before the annual Meeting of the ASEAN Committee under the Conference to the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement to Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP COM), the annual Meeting of the ASEAN Task Force on Peatlands (ATFP) or the Regional Meeting of the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) for the SUPA Project.

The BMB, through the Project Management Unit, shall serve as Secretariat to the NPSC.

The Committee may engage resource persons from other offices/agencies, as necessary, to provide technical advice and support/assistance to the Project implementation.

II. National Inter-Agency Project Technical Working Group (NIPTWG)

A. Composition

Chair: Assistant Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau
Co-Chair: Assistant Director, Bureau of Fire Protection

Members of the NIPTWG shall be composed of technical representatives from the following offices:

1. DA-Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM)
2. DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
3. DENR-Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS)
4. DENR-Forest Management Bureau (FMB)
5. DENR-Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)
6. DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)
7. DENR-Land Management Bureau (LMB)
8. DENR-Climate Change Service (CCS)
9. DILG-Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)
10. National Water Resources Board (NWRB)
11. DENR Region 8
12. DENR Region 13

B. Functions

1. Assist the NPSC in its oversight responsibilities on scientific and technical matters;
2. Ensure that planned national level Project activities are consistent with the national results framework for the Project, and that the subsequent

- monitoring and reporting of project results is undertaken in a standardized and consistent manner;
3. Review work plans and budgets, and project reports for endorsement to NPSC;
 4. Review and recommend policies, administrative and institutional measures and issuances relative to sustainable peatland management;
 5. Provide valuable inputs and technical assistance in areas of strategic importance to the Project;
 6. Serve as venue for updating the Project of updates from respective sectors on policies and good practices that can enhance implementation;
 7. Identify additional members, as may be necessary, within or outside of the DENR, in the performance of its functions;
 8. Recommend appropriate and sustainable use strategies to effectively implement the National Action Plan on Philippine Peatlands and the ESBenePeat Project;

Other relevant agencies with critical roles for specific activities may be invited to call on the assistance of other relevant agencies to accomplish the task of NPSC. The TWG may meet *en banc* or by thematic clusters as determined by the TWG membership. The TWG will meet every quarter or as needed. The PMU will assist the TWG as the secretariat and through the provision of resource persons and facilitation of sessions.

Multi-sectoral site-level working groups/committees shall also be created to oversee pilot level management and coordinate local level activities including linking with relevant partners and supporters. Project Management Unit (PMU) staff based onsite shall serve as secretariat to these site-level committees.

III. Project Management Unit (PMU)

A Project Management Unit shall be created at the BMB in accordance with the Project Document. The Caves, Wetlands, and other Ecosystems Division shall act as the Project Management Unit headed by the Division Chief as the Project Manager.

The PMU, led by the Project Manager, shall be in-charge of the day-to-day operations of the Project. Specifically, the PMU shall perform the following roles and responsibilities:

1. Execute Project activities based on approved work and financial plan, and in accordance with the systems and standards as prescribed under the project grant agreement;
2. Ensure that the Project meets its budgetary and performance obligations, and that at all times the lines of communication between the executing agency, implementation team and beneficiaries are well maintained and accessible;
3. Consolidate and process reports from the field implementing units;
4. Perform periodic project monitoring and evaluation and submit reportorial requirements to concerned oversight agencies;
5. Prepare Project technical and financial reports required under the Grant Agreement;
6. Hire technical and support staff;
7. Attend and represent the Project in relevant meetings and workshops;
8. Act as secretariat of the NPSC and NIPTWG; and
9. Perform other tasks as may be assigned by the Chairperson of the NPSC and NIPTWG.

The DENR Regional Executive Directors of Regions 8 and 13 shall designate, through Special Orders, focal persons at the regional and provincial level of PENRO Leyte and Agusan del Sur, respectively. The Regional focal persons shall oversee the project implementation at the field level and supervise site-based PMU staff to be hired.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force for the duration of the Project or until revoked in writing.


MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA
Secretary

