

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland

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Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF)

Section B “Request for Funding” Form

Section B.1 Project Summary and Endorsement Form

- a. Country requesting support: Philippines
- b. Title of project proposal: *Establishing Knowledge on the International Importance of Sibugay Wetlands : A Means to Enhance Wise Use of the Proposed Ramsar Site*
- c. Category of assistance requested (please consult the Operational Guidelines and indicate one option only):

Contracting Parties:

- Implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024. Please indicate relevant Goals and Targets (s):

Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

Target 6: There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and Transboundary Sites.

Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands

Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.

Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation

Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.

Please fill in **either** section **d** or section **e** below:

- d. If the financial support sought from the NWF is requested to carry out part of a larger project, please indicate:
 - Title of the main project:
 - Duration of the main project:

- Total cost of the main project:
 - Amount requested from the NWF:

 - Have the main project and the other funds been approved: Yes No
 - If yes, please indicate the sources of these funds, showing whether the source is in-country or external:
- e. If the proposed project is a stand-alone activity, please indicate:
- Duration of the activities to be covered by NWF grant: 12 months
 - Amount requested from the Ramsar NWF: USD 18,000
 - Other financial contributions (including in-kind) – indicate whether these are from in-country or external sources: In-kind technical assistance from Department of Environment and Natural Resources, partner NGO – Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (PhilBio) and former Ramsar National Focal Point Mr. Carlo Custodio.
- f. Name, address (including phone/fax numbers and e-mail address) and website of the recipient agency, i.e. the institution responsible for the project, specifying the name and contact details of the person responsible for preparing and executing the project.

PENRO Zamboanga Sibugay

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100019245602263>

Contact Details of responsible person:

Name: Georgina L. Fernandez

Chief, Conservation and Development Section

Email address: penrozsris18@gmail.com

Phone: +639457696652

Fax No. +63623335479

- g. Summary (maximum 500 words)

Sibugay Wetlands is a coastal area located at southern portion of the peninsula. It has an area of about 187,003.30 hectares composed of 5,154.74 hectares of mangroves and 3,697.15 hectares of mudflats, as well as estuarine and coastal waters. It stretches along a 146 kilometer coastline covering nine municipalities and sixty-three barangays. It plays a substantial role in the natural functioning of a river basin or coastal system. The mangrove forest plays a major role in the productivity of the wetland, especially for fisheries as well as roosting site for the largest Flying Fox population in the country. Sibugay Wetlands serves as a staging, roosting, foraging and breeding grounds to various waterbirds including migratory species. During the 2018 AWC, 291 heads of the Endangered Far Eastern Curlew were recorded in the wetland. Banded/flagged birds were also documented in the wetland with banding sites from Nan Pu mudflat, Bohai Bay, China; Chongming Dao, Shanghai, China, Khairusova and Belogovaya Rivers estuary, Russia; Australia, and Japan. It also supports threatened species such as marine turtles, Whale Shark, Sea Cow and Saltwater Crocodile. The vast mudflat is home to a variety of oysters, scallops, and

other molluscs. The bay supports fishing and other marine related livelihood which serves as the main source of subsistence for most of the coastal barangays.

This project aims to enhance the knowledge-base on the biodiversity and ecosystem services of Sibugay Wetlands, empower the local communities dependent on the wetlands through the conduct of wetland assessment and monitoring, Communication, Education and Public Awareness, trainings and workshops and nominate Sibugay Wetlands for inclusion to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

h. Endorsement of this project application by the Ramsar Administrative Authority:
Please confirm the importance of this proposed project in relation to your national Ramsar Convention implementation priorities. **Please tick (✓) only one of the following statements:**

1. The project's outcomes will deliver significantly increased implementation capacity for a high national priority. OR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. The project's outcomes will deliver increased implementation capacity for a lower national priority. OR	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The project's outcomes will not directly lead to increased implementation capacity.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Institution/Agency:

Biodiversity Management Bureau - Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Name/Title:

Crisanta Marlene P. Rodriguez, Director

Date: **MAR 29 2019**

Signature:


Crisanta Marlene P. Rodriguez

Please return this form along with the Detailed Project Proposal to:
Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF), Ramsar Convention Secretariat,
28 Rue Mauverney, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland. Fax: +41 22 999 0169, E-mail: asia.oceania@ramsar.org

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Section B.2

Structure and contents of Detailed Project Proposal

Details of proposal

A. Background and justification

The Philippines has so far designated seven Wetlands of International Importance from 1994 to 2016. With the rich wetland biodiversity in the country more areas could be considered as potentials sites, one of which is Sibugay Wetlands covering Sibuguey Bay and encompassing nine municipalities and sixty-three coastal barangays (Annex 1). It is a coastal wetland characterized with mangrove stands, seagrass beds, mudflats and aquaculture which serves as breeding ground, foraging and roosting sites for a wide variety of species of flora and fauna, both endemic and migratory. The bay supports fishing and other marine related livelihood which serves as the main source of subsistence for most of the coastal barangays.

In 2018, more people became involved in wetland monitoring and with better equipment on hand, remarkable findings were generated such as the presence of 291 Far Eastern Curlew, a significant number for such species to occur in one wetland site. Banded/flagged birds from Nan Pu mudflat, Bohai Bay, China; Chongming Dao, Shanghai, China; Khairusova and Belogovaya Rivers estuary, Russia; Australia, and Japan have been documented in the wetland. The mudflat provides a wide array of food items for more than fifty species of waterbirds. Breeding species of *Himantopus leucocephalus*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Egretta alba*, *Egretta garzetta* and *Charadrius dubius* have also been recorded in the site. Five species of threatened marine turtles as well as *Rhinocodon typus*, *Dugong dugon* and *Crocodilus porosus* are known to occur in the area. The largest roosting population of Flying Foxes roost on the vast mangroves in the wetland.

These features indicate that Sibugay Wetlands meets the criteria for inclusion to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Enhancing the knowledge base through ecological assessment of the wetland is essential to further provide science-based justification for its designation and will pave the way for community engagements.

B. The problem(s) to be addressed

To date, there are only seven Ramsar Sites in the country. Potentials areas are available but data and information on the ecological characteristics of wetland sites are insufficient thereby hindering deeper community involvement in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The proposed project aims to generate the necessary data for Sibugay Wetlands to be included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance for the Philippines.

C. Objective(s)

General Objective(s):

To contribute to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024 through the inclusion of Sibugay Wetlands to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance ensuring the proper management and wise use of wetland resources and maintain the various ecosystems services that it provides in the area through stakeholders engagements.

Specific Objective(s):

1. To generate more detailed biological and physico-chemical data as well as information on ecosystem services of Sibugay Wetlands.
2. To strengthen the capacity of local communities and technical personnel on wetland conservation and wise use.
3. To complete the RIS with supporting maps.

D. Outputs

1. A Wetland Profile for Sibugay Wetlands
2. Resource maps of the wetland biodiversity
3. Pictorial guide on the local biodiversity
1. Well informed local communities and other stakeholders
2. Trained and empowered community members
3. Trained technical personnel
4. Community-based Wetland Conservation Action Plan
5. Community-led implementation of wetland action plan and monitoring of wetland status
6. RIS completed and submitted to the Ramsar National Administrative Authority

E. Activities

The following are the major activities of the project:

1. Conduct of wetland assessment
 - Creation of various teams to gather data on the wetland biodiversity.
 - Establish sampling stations for sample collection to generate the physico-chemical data necessary for the proper management of the wetland
 - Production of distribution maps of wetland resources
 - Population data generated
2. Conduct of Communication, Education and Public Awareness
 - Information campaigns will be conducted in the nine municipalities covering Sibugay wetlands
 - Radio guesting and plugging in different stations within Sibugay Province
 - Press releases
 - Uploading of information adds to the official social media account of the office
3. Conduct of trainings/workshops/writeshops

- 3 days Hands-on Training on wetland biodiversity and assessment for citizen science and technical personnel
 - o Participants from each municipality will be selected
 - o Technical personnel from CENRO Kabasalan and Imelda will be selected
 - o Several field exposures will be done during the training
 - 2 days Writeshop for the formulation of the community based Wetland Action Plan to be conducted in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay
 - o Pilot testing of Wetland Action Plan through organized citizen-science of Sibugay Wetlands
4. Compilation of the Ramsar Information Sheet
- 2 consultation workshops will be conducted to solicit inputs from different stakeholders
 - Final draft of the RIS will be presented to the stakeholders for concurrence
 - Completed RIS with supporting maps will be submitted to the Ramsar National Administrative Authority

F. Logical frame of the project

Problems	Objectives	Outputs	Activities
1. Insufficient data and information on the ecological characteristics and status of Sibugay Wetlands	1. To generate more detailed biological and physico-chemical data as well as information on ecosystem services of Sibugay Wetlands	1. Wetland Profile 2. Resource maps 3. Pictorial guide on the local biodiversity	a. Conduct wetland assessment ; b. Develop wetland database; c. Prepare distribution maps of wetland resources; d. Produce pictorial guide on the local biodiversity
2. Weak stakeholder engagement in wetland conservation	2a. To strengthen the capacity of local communities and technical personnel on wetland conservation and wise use	1. Well informed local communities and other stakeholders 2. Trained and empowered community members 3. Retooling of technical personnel 4. Community-based wetland conservation action plan produced 5. Community-led implementation of wetland action plan and monitoring of wetland status	a. Conduct CEPA b. Conduct trainings/ workshops on wetland biodiversity assessment and monitoring c. Conduct writeshops for the formulation of community-based wetland action plan d. Organize and operationalize citizen science for Sibugay Wetlands

	2b. To complete the RIS with supporting maps	1. RIS completed and submitted to the Ramsar National Administrative Authority	a. Conduct consultation-workshops to finalize the RIS with inputs from different stakeholders b. Submit the final RIS with maps to the Ramsar National Administrative Authority
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G. Project management arrangements and stakeholders

The main implementer of the project will be the Conservation and Development Section (CDS) of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of Zamboanga Sibugay which is part of the Department of Environment and Natural Resource under Region 9 – Zamboanga Peninsula. The Project Officer is a regular employee of the office and will lead the project implementation. She will be assisted by hired field researchers as well as regular technical personnel of the office. They will be supported by partners Non-Government organizations (NGOs) and former Ramsar National Focal Point.

The Local Government Units (LGUs) involved in this project will include the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources and Planning Office while from the municipal level, the following offices will be involved: Environment and Natural Resources, Planning, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Tourism and Committee chair on Natural Resources. As partner in the implementation of the said project, they will allow the indicated offices to participate and assist in the formulation of Community-based Wetland Action Plan as well as provide the necessary information necessary to complete the RIS. (Annex 2)

The local academe and media group involved in this undertaking will assist in the project’s information dissemination activities.

The People’s Organizations (POs) and other local leader will form part of the citizen science group who will be trained to carry out wetland assessment and monitoring in the project site and will later be the local stewards and advocates of wetland conservation and protection.

The Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and the DENR 9 Regional Office will provide Technical Assistance to the project.

H. Work Plan

Output & Key Activities	Months												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Output 1. Wetland Profile													
Activity 1.1. Conduct wetland assessment													
Activity 1.2. Develop wetland database													
Output 2. Resource maps													

ii) *Overall itemized budget*

Exchange rate applied: 1 US dollars (USD) = ₪ 52.00

Description of budget item (include unit costs where appropriate)	NWF (local currency)	Implementing organization and other sources of funding (local currency)	Total (local currency)	Total (US dollars)
1. SALARIES / WAGES /				
1.1 Supervisory Staff <i>3 regular government employees</i>		533,865.00	533,865.00	10,266.63
1.2 Experts <i>3 field experts</i>		108,000.00	108,000.00	2,076.92
1.3 Field Staff / Equipment operators <i>1 Senior field biologist for 12 months</i> <i>1 Field researchers for 10 months</i> <i>2 Field researchers</i>	132,000.00 198,000.00	293,076.00	132,000.00 198,000.00 293,076.00	3,807.69 2,538.46 5,636.08
1.4 Office Staff <i>2 regular office staff to assist in the project</i>		152,088.00	152,088.00	2,924.77
SUB-TOTAL:	330,000.00	1,087,029	1,417,029.00	27,250.55
2. TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION COSTS				
2.1 Air fares	60,000.00		60,000.00	1,153.85
2.2 Other travel costs	5,000.00		5,000.00	96.15
2.3 Accommodation		15,000.00	15,000.00	288.46
2.4 Meals	5,000.00		5,000.00	96.15
SUB-TOTAL:	70,000.00	15,000.00	85,000.00	1,634.61
3. OFFICE RUNNING COSTS				
3.1 Computer costs	6,000.00		6,000.00	115.38
3.2 Telephone & fax		10,000.00	10,000.00	192.31
3.3 Photocopies		3,000.00	3,000.00	57.69
3.4 Office supplies	20,000.00		20,000.00	384.62
3.5 Other: fuel for office vehicle	100,000.00		100,000.00	1,923.08
SUB-TOTAL:	126,000.00	13,000.00	139,000.00	2,673.08
Costs of planned activities:				
4. Output 1 For example COST OF PUBLICATIONS, VIDEOS/DVDs, CDs etc.				
4.1 Preparation		20,000.00	20,000.00	384.62
4.2 Printing / reproduction		30,000.00	30,000.00	576.92
4.3 Distribution (postage)	5,000.00		5,000.00	96.15
4.4 Other: video and camera batteries, SD cards, external hard drive	30,000.00		30,000.00	576.92
SUB-TOTAL:	35,000.00	50,000.00	85,000.00	1,634.61
5. COST OF WORKSHOP(S)/ TRAINING COURSE(S)/ FIELDWORK				
<i>6 workshops/ training with 50 participants per activity</i>				
5.1 Air fares of experts/resource persons	30,000.00		30,000.00	576.92
5.2 Transportation	3,000.00		3,000.00	57.69
5.3 Per diems	92,000.00		92,000.00	1,769.23

5.4 Rental of Facilities	5,000.00		5,000.00	96.15
SUB-TOTAL:	130,000.00		130,000.00	2,500.00
6. MISCELLANEOUS				
6.1 Meals for workshops/trainings	170,000.00		170,000.00	3,269.23
6.2 Snacks for awareness participants in 9 municipalities	75,000.00		75,000.00	1,442.31
SUB-TOTAL:	245,000.00		245,000.00	4,711.54
TOTAL:	936,000.00	1,165,029.00	2,101,029	40,404.40

J. Follow Up

After the project, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of Zamboanga Sibugay will incorporate in its regular budget the preparation of the Wetland Management Plan for Sibugay Wetlands. The Community-based Wetland Action Plan will serve as its working document to ensure continuous engagement on the proper management and wise use of the site through the organized citizen science group. Further, same office will work on other possible schemes to ensure the long-term conservation and protection of the wetland by declaring it as a local or national conservation area.

K. Bibliography

Canag, JF, Fernandez, G, Dapiton, KD, Dael, VJ, and dela Cruz, M. (2018). A survey on threatened migratory waterbirds at Siay-Kabasalan Wetland, Zamboanga Sibugay, Philippines and its association to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. 27th Philippine Biodiversity Symposium, Pampanga.

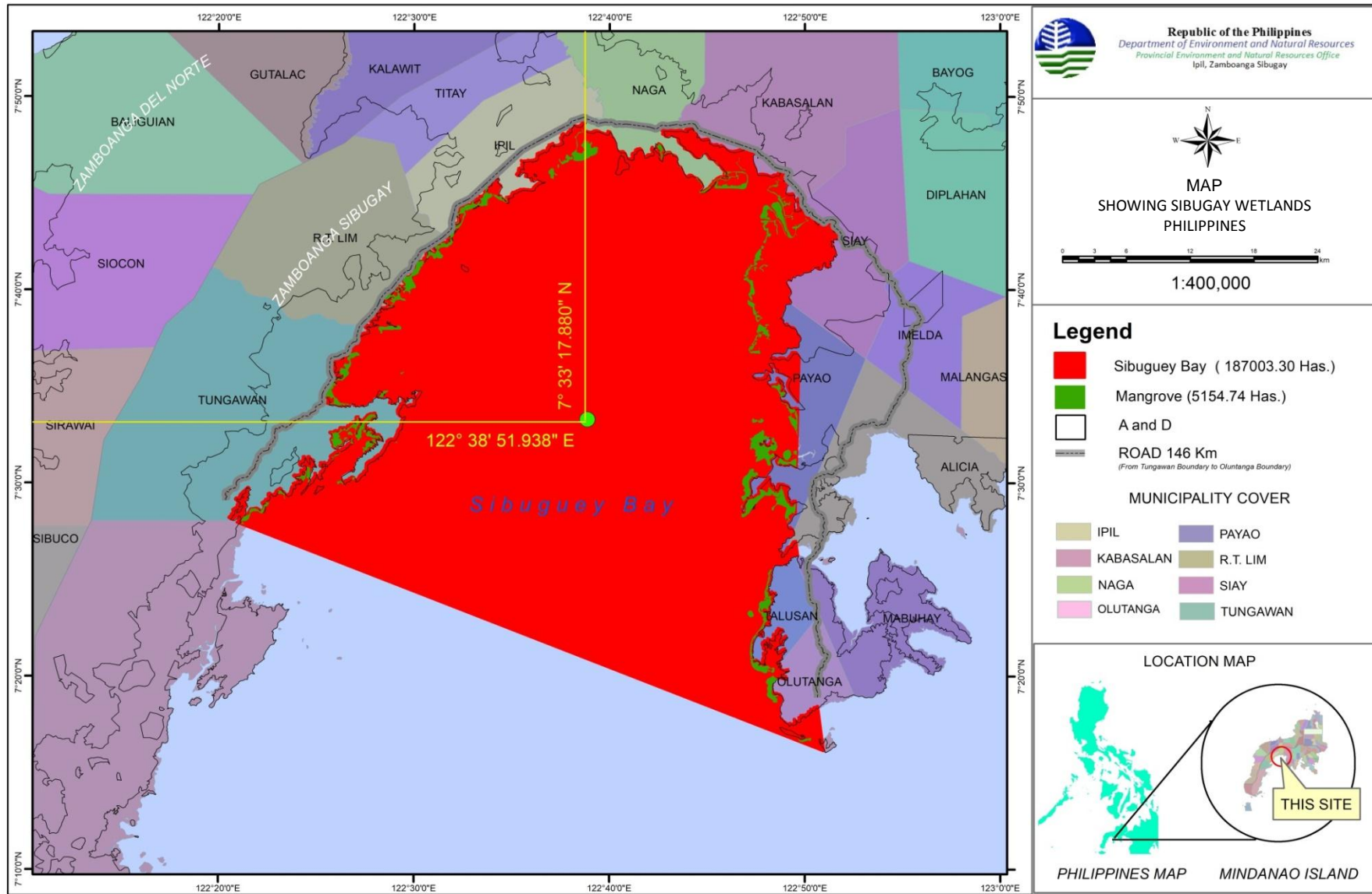
Department of Environment and Natural Resources – PENRO 2018 AWC Report

Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau, Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2028).

Ramsar website

<https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/sitelist.pdf>

Annex 1



Annex B

Project Management Arrangement

