



NOV 23 2021

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2021- 36

SUBJECT: DECLARING SASMUAN BANGKUNG MALAPAD COASTAL WETLAND SITUATED AT BANGKUNG MALAPAD BRGY. BATANG 2ND, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SASMUAN, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AS CRITICAL HABITAT AND ECOTOURISM AREA

Pursuant to Section 25 of Republic Act No. 9147, otherwise known as the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act”, RA 8550 or the “Philippine Fisheries Code,” as amended by RA 10654, RA 6969 or the “Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act”, Rules 25.1-25.5 of Joint DENR-DA-PCSD Administrative Order No. 01, Series of 2004; and DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2 Series of 2007 “Guidelines on the Establishment and Management of Critical Habitat”, and in order to protect the habitat and population of certain threatened waterbirds, Bangkung Malapad Coastal Wetland situated at Brgy. Batang 2nd in the Municipality of Sasmuan, Province of Pampanga is hereby declared as Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area and shall be known as “**SASMUAN BANGKUNG MALAPAD CRITICAL HABITAT AND ECOTOURISM AREA (SBMCHEA).**”

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. It is the policy of the State to conserve the country’s wildlife resources and their habitats for ecological and economic sustainability. As such, all habitats outside protected areas under Republic Act No. 7586 (National Integrated Protected Areas Systems Act), as amended, where threatened species are found shall be designated as critical habitat. It is also the policy of the state that all designated critical habitats shall be protected and managed in coordination with the Local Government Units and other concerned groups, from any form of exploitation or destruction which may be detrimental to the survival of the threatened species dependent therein.

SECTION 2. Objectives. The objectives of this Administrative Order are as follows:

- 2.1 To provide a legal framework for the protection of the four hundred five and fifty hundredths (405.50) hectares of mangrove forests and mudflats that support threatened waterbirds such as Philippine duck (*Anas luzonica*), Black-faced spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), Chinese egret (*Egretta eulophotes*), Far eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*), Malaysian plover (*Charadrius peronii*), and a large number of other waterbird species;
- 2.2 To establish a locally-driven ecosystem management approach in SBMCHEA that guarantees the dynamic and full participation of Local Government Units, communities, peoples’ organizations and other stakeholders integrating threatened species conservation as part of local development planning process and way of life of the people;
- 2.3 To sustainably manage the SBMCHEA as a viable habitat for endemic and threatened species; to maintain ecological services and other biodiversity and cultural values; and, potentially for ecotourism development, that would contribute to inclusive socio-economic growth; and,

- 2.4 To provide a legal framework for the protection of Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad Coastal Wetland in the Municipality of Sasmuan, Pampanga from destructive resource uses and other types of land use;

SECTION 3. Scope and Coverage. The proposed SBMCHEA covers about **FOUR HUNDRED FIVE AND FIFTY HUNDREDTHS (405.50) HECTARES** with geographical coordinates at 14°48'52.78" N, 120° 36' 56.38" E, located in Barangay Batang 2nd, Municipality of Sasmuan attached with label, "**Annex A**" which forms an integral part of this Order, subject to private rights if there be any, and to ground survey and delineation, which is particularly described as follows:

| Corner | Longitude | Latitude |
|--------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 120°36" 56.38" E | 14° 48' 18.19" N |
| 2 | 120°35" 53.85" E | 14° 48' 51.39" N |
| 3 | 120°35" 52.59" E | 14° 48' 6.15" N |
| 4 | 120°36" 15.68" E | 14° 47' 23.38" N |
| 5 | 120°36" 30.42" E | 14° 47' 10.11" N |
| 6 | 120°37" 4.19" E | 14° 47' 35.97" N |
| 7 | 120°36" 57.05" E | 14° 47' 52.94" N |

The National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), in coordination with DENR-Region 3 shall undertake ground verification of the above-said coordinates within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Order. Natural topographic features of the area, vegetative cover or permanent markers shall be used as boundary monuments/indicators. In case there are rectifications on the technical descriptions of the area, the final map as verified by the NAMRIA shall be endorsed by the Regional Executive Director and the BMB Director to the DENR Secretary for approval.

SECTION 4. Management of the Sasmuan Bangkung Malapad Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (SBMCHEA). The DENR-Region 3 shall co-manage the SBMCHEA with the Local Government of Sasmuan. The Regional Executive Director shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)/Partnership Agreement with the said LGU.

SECTION 5. Critical Habitat Management Plan (CHMP). The DENR-Region 3 and LGU-Sasmuan, in coordination and collaboration with other local stakeholders shall jointly prepare and cause the implementation of the SBMCHEA Management Plan within ninety (90) days upon effectivity of this Order. The CHMP shall be approved by the Regional Executive Director.

The CHMP shall address the following: a) management objectives; b) key issues; c) site management strategies and activities such as, but not limited to, habitat protection, rehabilitation, community organizing, promotion of environmental education and awareness, ecotourism, and other developmental activities towards the sustainable management of the area; d) administration; and, e) monitoring and evaluation.

For this purpose, the template of the CHMP (BMB Technical Bulletin No. 2017-15) is attached as "**Annex B.**" The DENR-Region 3 shall submit to BMB a copy of the approved CHMP for record and monitoring purposes.

In the event that the DENR Regional Executive Director opts to delegate the management of the critical habitat to LGU-Sasmuan, the regional office shall ensure provision of necessary technical assistance to said LGU and set schemes to monitor and evaluate implementation of the CHMP, in collaboration with other stakeholders.

SECTION 6. Monitoring and Evaluation. The BMB shall undertake monitoring and evaluation on the management of the SBMCHEA, as well as the implementation of its CHMP. The DENR-Region 3 shall submit an annual report to the BMB on the status of the SBMCHEA.

SECTION 7. Prohibited Acts. Prohibited acts and violations thereof inside the SBMCHEA pursuant to Section 27.c and sanctioned by penalties under Section 28 of Republic Act 9147, are as follows:

- a) dumping of waste products detrimental to wildlife;
- b) squatting or otherwise occupying any portion of the critical habitat;
- c) mineral exploration and/or extraction;
- d) burning;
- e) logging; and,
- f) quarrying.

Other prohibited acts in accordance with pertinent rules (i.e., RA 9003, RA 6969, and RA 8550, as amended by RA 10654) shall be strictly enforced in the SBMCHEA as follows:


- g) illegal fishing;
- h) illegal fishponds; and,
- i) dumping of hazardous wastes.

SECTION 8. Funding. The DENR-Region 3 shall allocate funds for the operation and implementation of the SBMCHEA Management Plan. As such, the DENR-Region 3 shall include funds for the purpose in their Annual Work and Financial Plan. The DENR-Region 3 shall also endeavor to engage LGUs and other partner/s to provide funds for the management of the SBMCHEA.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Order shall be held invalid, or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. All orders and other similar issuances inconsistent herewith, are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. This Order takes effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of the receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Registry (ONAR).


ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary



ANNEX B

OUTLINE OF CRITICAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN

TITLE PAGE (provide the full title of the Plan and target implementation period [e.g. "Rafflesia Critical Habitat Management Plan, 2018-2028"] as well as the DENR logo and that of collaborating offices/agencies/organizations; the design of the title page may include the photo of the Critical Habitat)

FOREWORD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACRONYM

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Legal and Policy Framework (local, national, international; existing land tenure/s, if any);
- 1.2. Background Information about the CH (to include location [sitio, barangay, municipality/city]; size based on the DAO; historical information on how it was established including the particular office/agency/organization that initiated its establishment as a CH, etc.);
- 1.3. Overview of the Critical Habitat Management Plan (this shall provide the general purpose of the Plan, its scope, how the plan was developed including steps taken to ensure community/stakeholder participation; brief description/summary of agreed management scheme or arrangements, etc.).

II. PROFILE OF THE CRITICAL HABITAT

- 2.1. Detailed description of the Critical Habitat (size based on actual ground truthing, specific location [UTM coordinates]; boundaries; administrative jurisdiction; accessibility; adjoining protected area/key biodiversity area/locally-managed area/indigenous community managed area, if any, map shall also be provided as a Figure)
- 2.2. Bio-physical Profile
 - 2.2.1 General topography and physiography (soil, water resources [sources, movement, distribution including tributaries, quality], and climate)
 - 2.2.2 Existing land-uses
 - 2.2.3 Ecosystems (types of ecosystem-habitats within the CH and estimated area in hectares; map of the identified ecosystems as a Figure; Briefly discuss conservation significance of these ecosystems within the local and national context, Dominant species per ecosystem)
 - 2.2.4 Flora and Fauna (provide a list of all species and the list of threatened species in the area as well as use/s of the area by threatened species)
- 2.3. Socio-cultural profile
 - 2.3.1 Archaeological Sites/data
 - 2.3.2 Indigenous Knowledge System and Practices (i.e. on resource management)
 - 2.3.3 Demography (within and around the CH; demographic map)
 - 2.3.4 Existing social infrastructures
- 2.4. Economic profile

2.4.1 Economic activities/livelihood (cite all programs/activities implemented/being implemented in the area aimed at uplifting the socio-economic condition of the people agency/entity/office) thereat & immediate vicinities, including implementing
 2.4.2 Economic infrastructures

III. PAST AND PRESENT INITIATIVES

Any past and present activities/projects/programs within the CH and their significance in the management of the CH, including protection and conservation of resources thereat

IV. KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND THREATS

V. VISION, GOALS, TARGETS

VI. MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND INTERVENTIONS

The strategies and interventions may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- a. Threatened Flora and Fauna Protection and Management
- b. Ecological Restoration / Habitat Rehabilitation
- c. Law Enforcement
- d. Research and Development
- e. Sustainable Ecotourism and Visitor Management
- f. Other Livelihood Opportunities and Development
- g. Capacity Building
- h. Communication Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)
- i. Gender and Development
- j. Implementation Scheme (including institutional arrangements and administration)
- k. Monitoring and Evaluation
- l. Financial Sustainability

Each proposed strategy and intervention should be discussed.

VII. ACTION PLAN

| Conservation Goals | Target | Indicator | Strategy | Specific Actions and Target Completion | | | Responsible Agencies | Budget |
|--------------------|--------|-----------|----------|--|-------------|-----------|----------------------|--------|
| | | | | Short Term | Medium Term | Long Term | | |
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*Short-term = within 3 years; Medium-term = within 7 years; and Long-term = within 10 years

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ANNEXES

A copy of the Administrative Order establishing the Critical Habitat as well as the Memorandum of Agreement on CH management arrangements and local ordinances, if any, can be attached as Annexes.