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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
MUNICIPALITY OF MATAG-OB

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

Item No.: 13
Date: 28.2025 OCT

October 9, 2025

HON. LEONARDO M. JAVIER JR.

Provincial Vice Governor
Province of Leyte
Leyte Provincial Capitol
Palo, Leyte

Probinsiyang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte
RECEIVED
Date: OCT 24 2025
By: dwene

Dear **Vice Governor Javier Jr.**,

Good day!

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region VIII (DENR R8), has recently undertaken a **second Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA)** for the **Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve (PWFR)**, which spans portions of the municipalities of Palompon, Matag-ob, and Villaba. The conduct of PASA is a necessary requirement for the possible declaration of a watershed as a protected area under the **Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS)**.

This second assessment was initiated upon the request of the Office of the Representative of the 4th Congressional District of Leyte, following the PWFR's initial non-qualification during the first PASA conducted in 2023. On October 3, 2025, the DENR Region VIII Technical Team presented the results of the re-conducted PASA during a stakeholders' consultation held in Palompon, Leyte. Notably, the findings remain substantially similar to those of the initial assessment.

In view of the foregoing and in the interest of transparency and inclusive policy-making, the **Local Government Unit of Matag-ob, Leyte** respectfully seeks the **kind intercession of your esteemed Office to invite and encourage the DENR Region VIII Technical**

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Team to formally present the results of the re-conducted PASA before the **Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte**.

A formal presentation before the provincial council will ensure that all concerned stakeholders—from the municipal down to the barangay level—are fully informed of the assessment's implications, particularly in relation to land use, livelihood, environmental management, and the possible protected area declaration of the Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve.

For your appropriate information and guidance, **a copy of the results of the first PASA conducted in 2023 is hereby attached.**

We deeply appreciate your continued support and partnership in promoting sound environmental governance and sustainable development across the province.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Respectfully,

BERNANDINO G. TACOY
Municipal Mayor

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CHAPTER V. PASA FORM NO. 3

PROTECTED AREA SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT (PASA)

SUMMARY SHEET

CRITERIA	PARAMETERS	WEIGHT (%)	ACTUAL RATING (%)	REMARKS
IRREPLACEABILITY: Presence of restricted range and congregatory species		30	0	There is no presence of restricted range and congregatory species within PWFR.
VULNERABILITY: Presence of globally threatened species	Indicate what are the globally threatened species	25	25	Flora species: Yakal (<i>Shorea astylosa</i>) is Endangered; Nato (<i>Palaquium luzoniense</i>), and Narra (<i>Pterocarpus indicus</i>) are categorized as Vulnerable according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List
SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Value of area in terms of recreational, educational, traditional use, heritage, and other sustainable uses.	Ecosystem services: 1. Ecotourism/ recreational value (4%) 2. Water (4%) 3. Carbon (4%) 4. Heritage/ Traditional (4%) 5. Hazard mitigation (4%)	20	4 4 0 0 2.5 <hr/> 10.5	There are significant Ecotourism/ Recreational Value within PWFR which include caves, waterfalls, the developed Palompon Liberty Eco-Terrestrial Adventure Park and Bondari Peak in Matag-ob. Water is the primary natural resource used by the local communities within PWFR. The remaining serves as hazard mitigation to some local communities e.g., rain-induced flooding, soil erosion)

NATURALNESS: Intact natural cover such as forest.	% of area coverage; condition	10	2.5	Of the total 5,123.54 hectares within PWFR area, approximately 75% equivalent to 3,843.926 hectares is already dominated with Alienable and Disposable (A&D) lands cultivated with coconut plantation, built-up areas and other agricultural activities, leaving only 25% or 1,279.611 hectares for forestlands.
UNIQUENESS: Presence of important cultural, geological, and aesthetic features that support biodiversity.		10	10	There are present geological features within PWFR i.e., caves, rivers, waterfalls and there are popular tourism destinations such as the Palompon Liberty Eco-Terrestrial Adventure Park and Bondari Peak in Matag-ob
ABUNDANCE: High concentration of species of flora and fauna in the site.		5	0	There is only a few fauna found within PWFR; exotic plant species found within Palompon Watershed Forest Reserve (PWFR)
Total			47.5	FAILED

Note:
 Irreplaceability: Full or 0
 Vulnerability: Full or 0
 Socio-Economic Importance: Percentage
 Uniqueness: Full or 0
 Abundance: Full or 0
PASSING: 80%