

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLAN
ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROJECT - RNS
1 MW TABAAN SUR SOLAR PLANT
BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (BENECO)**

1. Project Description

The European Union (EU) and the Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA), through the Access to Sustainable Energy Project (ASEP) which is World Bank-assisted Project, provided financial grant to the Philippines to increase access to electricity by putting up renewable energy project. ASEP has three components to include Photovoltaic Mainstreaming (PVM), Rural Network Solar (RNS) and Pre-Paid Metering (PPM) Pilot.

For the RNS project, Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO) is one of the seven (7) electric cooperatives in the country to receive a grant for the construction of at least seven (7) MW of renewable energy generation capacity. For every electric cooperative, the expected generation is at least 1MW.

With the grant, BENECO acquired 7.495 hectares of titled land for the proposed solar plant at Taba-an Sur, Tuba, Benguet which is within the franchise area of BENECO. The solar plant will be embedded in the existing 23 kV distribution system of BENECO. The existing lines are vee-phase which will be upgraded to three-phase to absorb the output generation of the solar plant.

The component of the plant are as follows:

Land area	about 1.5 hectares
Solar panels	about 3,850
Mounting structures	
Inverters	
Transformer	
String combiners	
Lightning protection	
Fence	
Control room	
Lighting	
Security system	

The actual generation cost, net of all expenses incurred, will be applied to all member-consumer-owners of BENECO. Since the solar plant is a grant, the effect would definitely be advantageous by lowering the blended generation cost of BENECO.

Since the plant is embedded at the farthest end of the existing distribution line, the system loss will likewise be reduced. In the same manner, the quality of power in the surrounding areas will be improved, which will definitely impact on the indigenous people residing in the area.

The Solar Electric Service Contract for this project was issued by the Department of Energy (DOE) in December 2019. It was likewise endorsed to Tuba LGU, the Province of Benguet and the various government entities such as the National Commission on Indigenous People-Cordillera Administrative Region (NCIP-CAR), the Department of Agrarian Reform-Cordillera Administrative Region (DAR-CAR), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-CAR), the Board of Investment.

After explaining the project to the Municipality of Tuba, the said LGU passed Resolution No. 234, series of 2020 "Giving Favorable Endorsement of the 1 MW Tabaan Sur Solar Project of BENECO located at Sitio Bato, Tabaan Sur, Tuba, Benguet" on August 11, 2020.

For the water requirements of the plant, it will be sourced from the existing tank that is constructed at the top most part of the BENECO property. This tank was from the National Irrigation Authority and is outside of the proposed are for the solar farm.

2. Indigenous People Profile¹

The Indigenous People residing at Taba-an Sur, Tuba are Ibaloi and Kankanaey. The host community, Sitio Bato, Taba-an Sur, is comprised of 13 households.

Barangay Taba-an Sur

Number of Households: 332
Number of Population: 1,462
Male: 687
Female: 775
As of January 2020

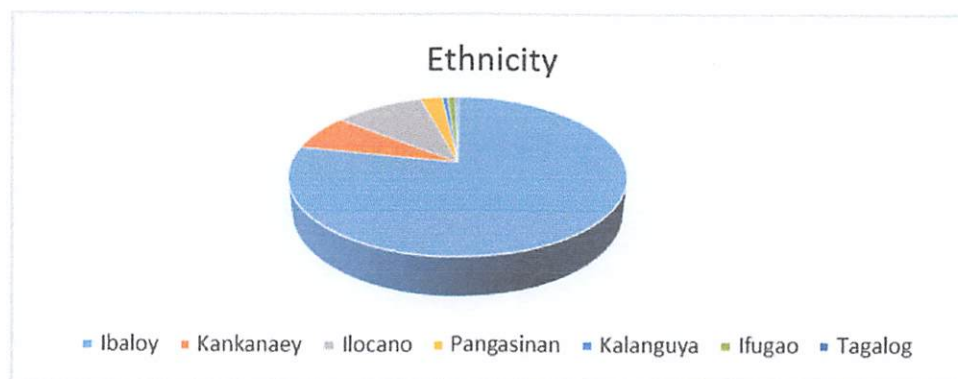
¹ **data gathered from the following sources through interview, question and answer:*

RUVELITA MENZI
MIDWIFE
Tabaan Sur

MELINDA AGATON
Barangay Nutrition Worker
Tabaan Sur

LEA LARUAN
IPMR
Tabaan Sur

	ETHNICITY
Ibaloy	260
Kankanaey	24
Ilocano	34
Pangasinan	8
Kalanguya	2
Ifugao	3
Tagalog	1
	332



Tribes: Ibaloi, Ilocano, Kankanaey

Sources of Livelihood:

The main source of livelihood for the residents at Tabaan Sur is farming. At present, citrus limon (lemon) is the number one crop, second only to rice, and other cash crops. Hog raising is common too as their source of livelihood.

Other sources of livelihood from the community but in a minimal scale is office / government employee, overseas Filipino Worker and small business enterprise.

Social, political, cultural characteristics of the tribal communities

Characteristically, the Ibalois are a reticent lot. This tribe is found in the southeastern part of Benguet in the municipalities of Bokod, Kabayan, Tuba, Atok, Tublay and La Trinidad. They are diligent and hardworking as many of the tribes in the cordilleras. The tribal communities are characterized as cliquy and cohesive both as a family and as a community. They value and respect leadership in all its nuance.

Most of the people still actively perform and participate in the different cultural practices of the tribe. It will be recalled that there are different rituals and beliefs that revolve around the human

cycle (birth to death). Some of these traditions have been influenced if not altered by many factors like belief, education and outside influence. Notably, they have mentioned rituals of SHILUS, KEDUT, SANGBO. Rituals usually involve butchering of pigs and animals, preparation of the tapuey or rice wine and widespread socialization.

What natural resources do they depend on:

Inhabitants and residents in Tabaan Sur depend on both biotic and abiotic natural resources found in the area. Land is used for farming and raising animals. Water basically is for household needs as well as farm needs. Soil, gravel and forest products are also useful for their purposes.

3. Information Disclosure, Consultation and Participation and Consent by Affected IP Communities

In securing the certificate required by NCIP, some processes and activities need to be undertaken to be able to get the opinions and views as well as consult the IPs on possible issues and concerns that they would want to be addressed.

Part of the activities is the composition of the Field-based Investigation (FBI) team – three (3) from NCIP and two (2) IP representatives, one of which is a female elder/leader. The activities are as follows:

Activity	Objective	Date / Duration
1. Pre-FBI Conference	Conference among the FBI team and BENEKO to discuss the project, prepare schedule of activities and prepare work orders and notification for the conduct of the FBI conference	August 24, 2020 1 day
2. Notification of Ancestral Domain Area Representative (ADAR) & Tribal Leaders and Elders / LGU	Notify the Ancestral Domain Area Representative (ADAR) & Tribal Leaders and Elders / LGU	September 22, 2020 1 day
3. Site visit / ocular inspection and visit to IP communities	Conduct ocular inspection at the site where the project will be constructed. To ascertain whether the area is within Ancestral Domain.	September 29, 2020 1 day
4. Consultation with Ancestral Domain representatives,	BENEKO presented the project – the background, some technical specifications, benefits of the community. The consultation	September 30, 2020 1 day

Activity	Objective	Date / Duration
<p>LGU and the community</p>	<p>was participated by male and female residents.</p> <p>NCIP gave insights on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) law including the rights of the IPs within the areas declared as Ancestral Domain.</p> <p>The following concerns were raised and addressed during the consultation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>1. CLOSING OF THE EXISTING ROAD WITHIN THE BENECO PROPERTY As discussed by BENECO, the existing roads will not be closed to the community. However, it was likewise raised that there is a plan to convert the existing barangay road into provincial road. In this case, BENECO said that this was part of the survey conducted and it has to be discussed by the management and the Board.</p> <li> <p>2. USE OF TANK / POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF EXISTING WATER PIPES The existing water tank will be used by BENECO and the community. Should there be a need to relocate the existing pipes during the development of the land, BENECO will do so at its own expense.</p> <p>It was likewise mentioned by BENECO that BENECO will help improve the existing water system that are within the BENECO property. The IP leader also suggested that BENECO could apply as a member of the Irrigators Association.</p> <li> <p>3. POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT TO ADJACENT LOTS DURING CONSTRUCTION BENECO will implement mitigating measures so as not to adversely affect</p> 	

Activity	Objective	Date / Duration
	<p>the adjacent lots. BENEKO will coordinate with adjacent lot owners.</p> <p>4. IMPACT OF EARTH-MOVING ACTIVITIES Most likely, there will be no excavation activities and if there will be, it will be minimal.</p> <p>5. WATER AS A COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT Water is not a component of the project because the water will be for domestic use of the plant tender. While the solar panels need to be washed to remove dirt that could affect the efficiency of the panels, it is not done frequently.</p> <p>6. RADIATION It was explained that there is no scientific claim that says the solar panels are emitting harmful radiation. Solar panels are actually installed on the roofs of homes, malls, churches, etc. Further, solar energy is being encouraged by the Department of Energy.</p> <p>7. UTILIZATION OF THE IDLE PART OF THE LAND Since BENEKO plans to use initially 1 hectare out of the 7.495 hectares for the 1MW project, would it be possible that the idle portion be used by the people in the area for their crops. BENEKO answered that we could grant the request if it will be used in a short period of time. BENEKO also informed that investors could submit their project proposals anytime and we might be needing the land. Hence, BENEKO is not amenable to this suggestion.</p>	

Activity	Objective	Date / Duration
	<p>8. LUMBERS OR WOOD FROM FELLED TREES The IPs suggested that the woods or lumber from the felled trees, if any, be given to the people in the community. BENEKO will to give to the community the trees that can be disposed.</p> <p>9. HEDCOR EXPERIENCE NCIP shared the experience of Hedcor wherein for every tree cut, 100 seedlings of lemon were provided to the community. This will be in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.</p> <p>10. REQUEST FOR LINE EXTENSION It was relayed by the barangay officials that they requested for the extension of lines at Sitio Shagtan to Sitio Kiwet. There was an inspection conducted initially. But as per our verification, these areas were not included in the P80M Sitio Electrification Program (SEP) for next year. This shall be considered in the future SEP projects.</p>	
<p>5. Preparation of FBI Report by NCIP</p>	<p>NCIP will evaluate the project to determine the proper requirement to be complied with by BENEKO. As per their initial evaluation, the requirement is a Certificate of Non-overlap considering that the property is a titled property.</p>	

The NCIP representatives submitted their FBI report and NCIP consequently issued the Certificate of Non-Overlap (CNO) on December 7, 2020. As indicated in the FBI report, the project has minimum effect or no irreversible effect to the environment of the ancestral domain.

The community likewise requested for a steel water tank (20 drums) for Tabaan Sur barangay hall. This was favorably granted and the water tank was delivered to the barangay hall.

4. Mitigating Measures to Address Possible Adverse Impact of the Project to the Indigenous People

The mitigating measures are covered in the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN. The costs of these measurements are included to the Mitigation Costs attached to the ESMP. For potential concerns, the mitigating measures are as follows:

Project Phase	Activity	Potential Harm / Consequence	Mitigating Measures	In-charge
Pre-construction / Construction / Operation	Project construction and operation	Closing of the barangay roads passing through the BENEKO land can affect access of the community to other areas	BENEKO will not definitely close the existing barangay road which serves as an access road for the community. BENEKO will coordinate with the barangay should there be concerns arising from this.	BENEKO
Pre-construction / Construction / Operation	Project construction and operation	Use of water tank / public water supply facilities located inside BENEKO property may be restricted	BENEKO will allow the community to continue using the existing water tank / water supply facilities. Further, BENEKO will provide its own tank to harvest water during the rainy season which will be used during dry season to ensure that water will not be depleted. Should there be a need to relocate the existing pipes, BENEKO shall do it at its own cost.	BENEKO
Pre-construction / Construction / Operation	Project construction and operation	Soil erosion during earthworks	BENEKO will implement mitigating measures, such as slope protection, so as not to adversely affect the adjacent lots. BENEKO will coordinate with adjacent lot owners.	BENEKO

Prior to the construction, an IEC will be conducted to present the IPP and ESMP to the community. The ESMP will be updated to consider any suggestions/recommendations from

the community. During project implementation, BENEKO will update the IP community leaders/elders about the project and inform them of any change/additional development that may be undertaken. Consultation with the community will be undertaken, as maybe considered necessary by the IP leaders/elders.

5. Grievance Redress Mechanism

BENEKO will adopt a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to ensure that the clamor and the concerns of the indigenous peoples arising from the project are addressed and mitigated, if not completely eliminated.

The chart on the next page shows the process of the GRM.

The issues or concerns of the IPs will be decided upon and addressed by BENEKO. BENEKO shall consult the IP/s or hold sessions with the complainants, if necessary. BENEKO shall likewise conduct information drive, from time to time, to ensure that the project will be protected and the adverse impact of the project, if any, is mitigated in an expeditious manner. The complaint, if any, shall be properly documented and shall be resolved by BENEKO within fifteen (15) days. If the issues cannot be resolved within the level of BENEKO, it shall be elevated to the NPC-PMO.

The IPs shall designate their representative/s who will directly communicate with BENEKO. This GRM will be communicated to the IP leaders and the community prior to project implementation and will be updated if there are suggestions from the IPs on how it can be made more effective in resolving their complaints/grievances.

BENEKO will conduct meeting quarterly with the IPs purposely to discuss and address the issues and concerns of the IPs with regards to the project implementation. In addition, mitigation measures in the IP plan will be undertaken.

ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROJECT
Rural Network Solar (RNS)
BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (BENECO)

Scope of Grievance Redress Mechanism

This GRM outlines the process for resolving grievance/problems pertaining to the BENECO's Rural Network Solar Project in a peaceful and timely manner. It covers issues/complaints that may be raised by affected persons, community members and other stakeholders regarding specific project activities, environmental and social performance, unanticipated social impacts resulting from the project activities, and other project related concerns. The GRM flow chart is shown below.

Persons who cannot represent themselves (for example, PWDs) may raise their issues/concerns through their chosen representative. Members of Indigenous Peoples group may seek the assistance of the barangay and/or municipal IP representatives or leaders in the filing of complaints and bringing their concerns to the attention of BENECO. Grievances of IPs shall be resolved in coordination with the IP leaders and in accordance with the IP group's process. Grievances shall be resolved within 15 days. Grievances that cannot be solved within BENECO's level will be elevated to the NPC Project Management Office. The complainant shall be notified about this action.

Channels for Raising Complaints/Concerns

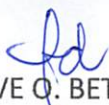
Affected individuals and community members may raise their concerns through the following:

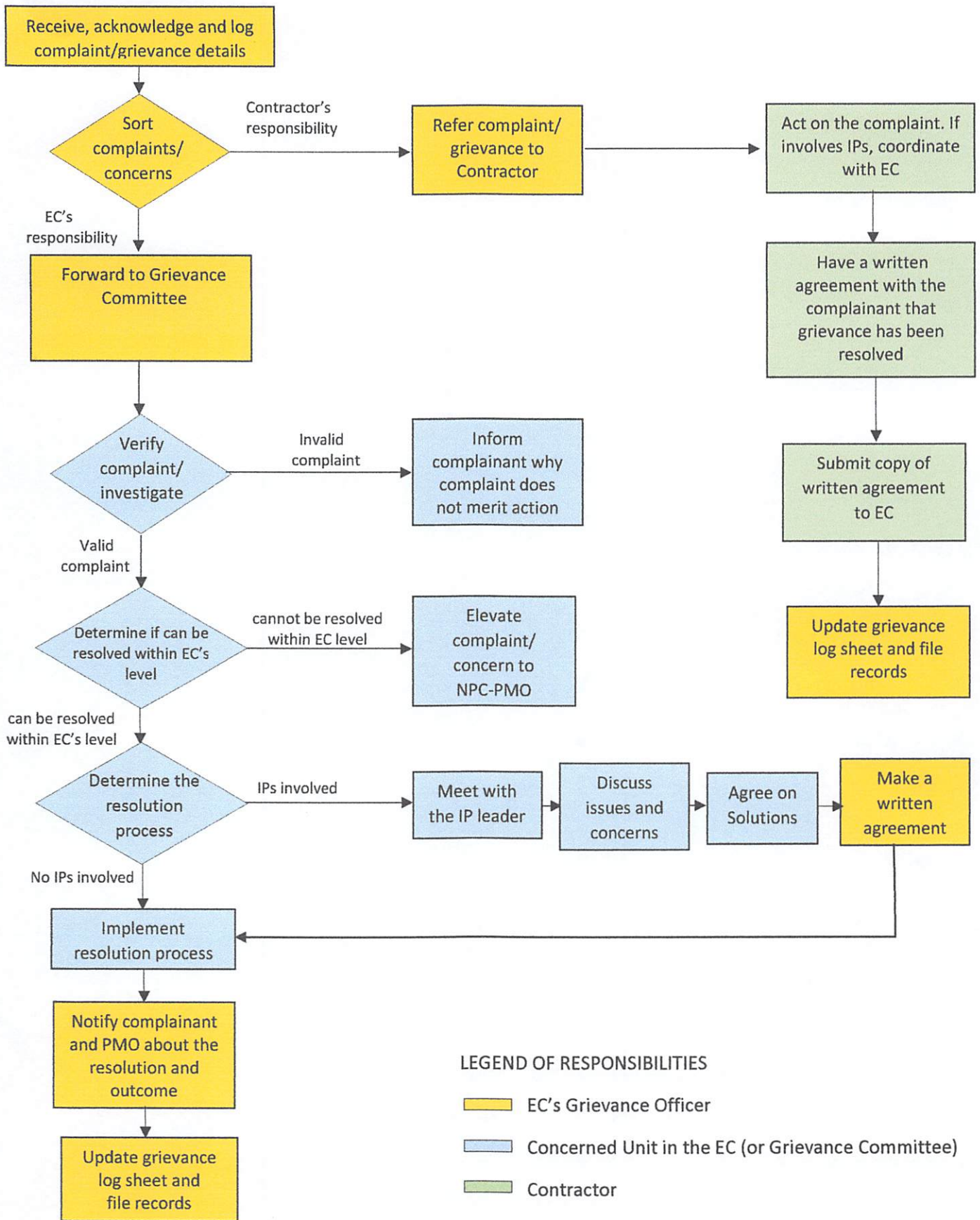
Telephone No	:	<u>(074)637-4400 / 09088657202</u>
Email address	:	<u>info@beneco.com.ph / ogm@beneco.com.ph</u>
FB messenger	:	<u>Beneco – Benguet Electric Cooperative</u>
File at BENECO Office	:	<u>04 South Drive, Baguio City</u>

Composition of the Grievance Committee

Melchor S. Licoben
Olive O. Bete
Delmar O. Carino
Edison P. De Guzman

Name and Designation of Focal Person for the Grievance Redress Mechanism


OLIVE O. BETE
ESRCO



Prepared by:

[Signature]
OLIVE O. BETE
 ESRCO

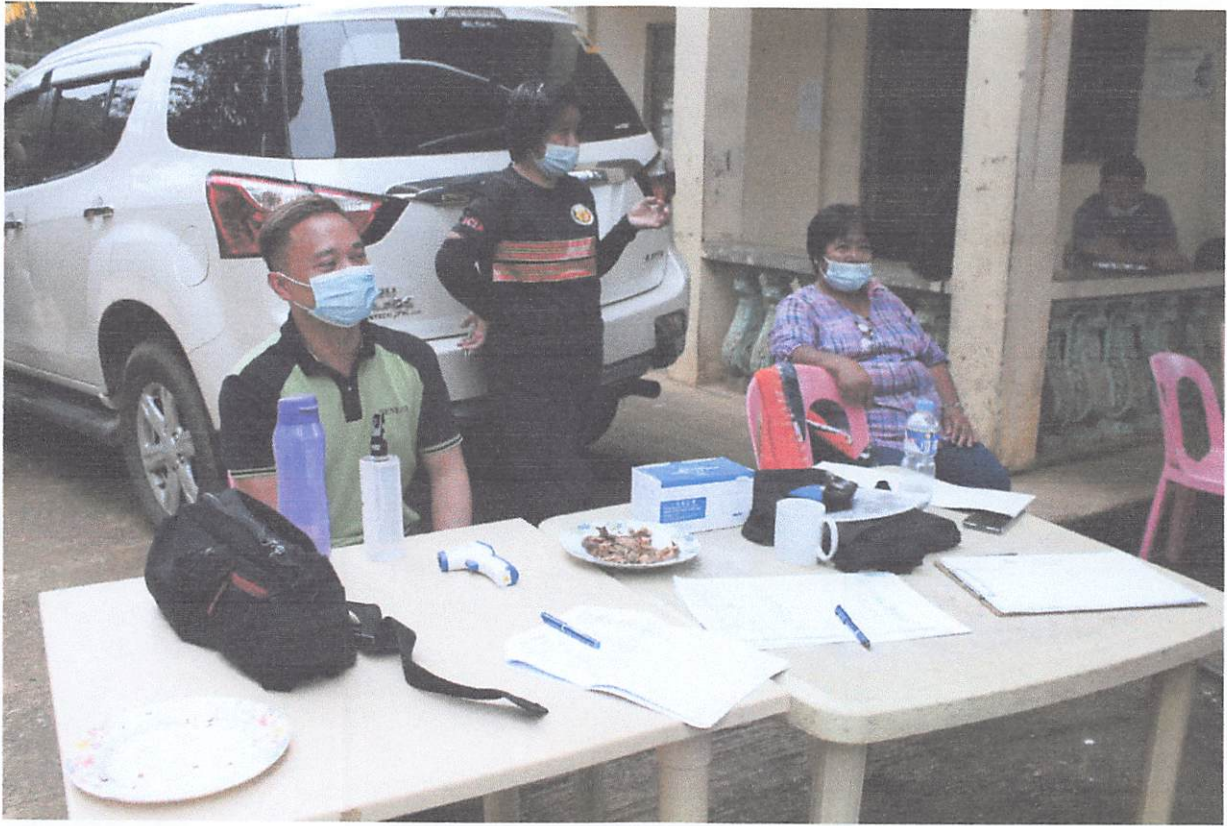
Approved by:

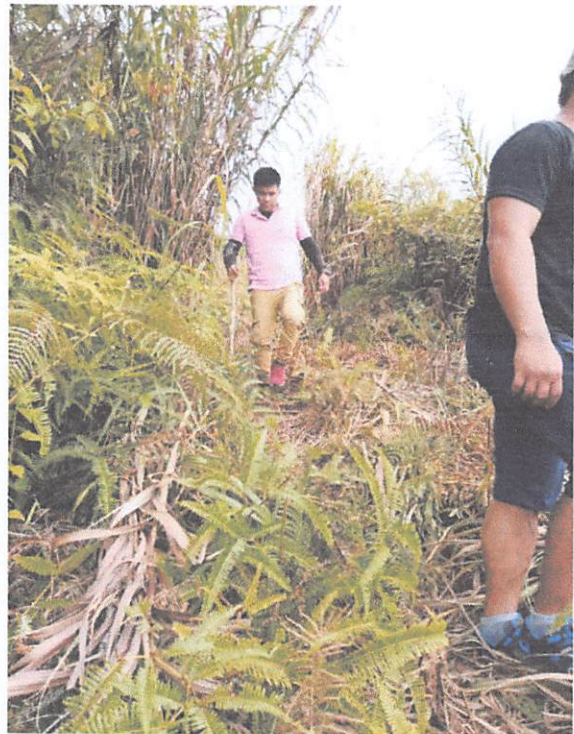
[Signature]
MELCHOR S. LICOBEN
 General Manager

Field-Based Investigation Pictures







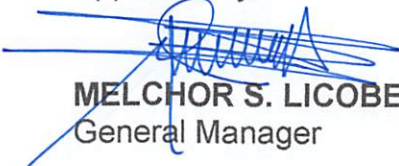


Attached is the attendance sheet for reference.

Prepared by:


OLIVE S. BETE
ESRCO

Approved by:


MELCHOR S. LICOBEN
General Manager