

MSU-Buug Strengthens Climate Adaptation Efforts Through Partnership with Conservation International

The Mindanao State University–Buug Campus (MSU-Buug) continues to advance its role in environmental stewardship and climate resilience through meaningful collaborations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In a formal letter dated May 20, 2024, Chancellor Sheila G. Magolama, Ph.D., granted permission for Dr. Bryan L. Bitantos, faculty member of the College of Forestry and Environmental Studies (CFES), to engage in a research and technical services agreement with Conservation International Philippines Foundation, Inc. (CI).

This partnership focuses on the project titled “Development of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Concept Notes for the Pasonanca Natural Protected Area Management Plan and Central Mangrove Management Plan.” By engaging with CI, Dr. Bitantos and MSU-Buug demonstrate how higher education institutions can actively support local and national climate change adaptation priorities.

Key Areas of Collaboration

1. **Enhancing Zoning Regimes for Conservation Areas**
 - Dr. Bitantos, working with CI, is tasked to facilitate technical working group (TWG) meetings and workshops to review and update zoning regulations in two major conservation areas.
 - The goal is to ensure that zoning regimes align with ecological characteristics, conservation priorities, and sustainable use objectives.
 - Outcomes will be documented and translated into NBS concept notes that guide future protected area management.

2. **Developing Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Concept Notes**
 - The project involves research and analysis to identify NBS options tailored to the zones and sub-zones of the protected areas.
 - These concept notes follow established standards and integrate key principles of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience.
 - Draft NBS concept notes will be presented to TWGs for review, ensuring a participatory and science-based approach.

This collaboration underscores the commitment of MSU-Buug to partner with NGOs in advancing science-based solutions to climate challenges. By working with Conservation International, MSU-Buug is helping to:

- Promote ecosystem-based adaptation strategies, such as mangrove conservation and watershed protection.
- Integrate academic expertise into policy and management planning for protected areas.
- Build local capacity for addressing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, communities, and livelihoods.

Chancellor Magolama’s letter affirms that MSU-Buug supports Dr. Bitantos’ engagement with CI, recognizing that such partnerships enrich both the university’s academic mission and its service to society. The arrangement also complies with

institutional and government regulations, ensuring accountability and transparency in external engagements.

Through this engagement, MSU-Buug exemplifies how universities can go beyond teaching and research by actively co-creating solutions with NGOs and local stakeholders. The collaboration with Conservation International contributes to national and global sustainability goals, particularly in the areas of climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction.

By aligning academic expertise with community-based initiatives, MSU-Buug reaffirms its role as a vital partner in building climate-resilient ecosystems and empowering local communities in Zamboanga Peninsula and beyond.





In Buug:
Zamboanga Sibugay
<http://www.msubuug.com>
Contact No. 0916-4283781

In Manila:
12th Floor Antonino Building
T.M. Kalaw Corner Jorge Bocobo St., Ermita, Metro Manila
Tel. (02) 526-4325 / 524-8222



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

May 20, 2024

Conservation International Philippines Foundation, Inc.

4th Floor, Units 401-A&D, Culmat Building,
1270-1330 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue,
Quezon City, Philippines
Attn: Jimmy Bendecio

Re: Permission Letter for CI's Engagement of Dr. BRYAN L. BITANTOS

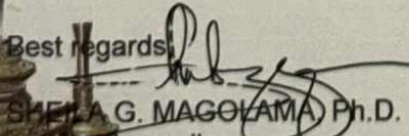
Dear sir Jimmy,

This letter is to confirm that Dr. BRYAN L. BITANTOS is an existing employee of Mindanao State University - Buug Campus (MSU-Buug) and that MSU-Buug is aware that Dr. BRYAN L. BITANTOS is entering into a Services Agreement with Conservation International Philippines Foundation, Inc. ("CI") to provide services for the Project entitled "Development of Nature Base Solutions (NBS) Concept Notes for the Pasonanca Natural Protected Area Management Plan and Central Mangrove Management Plan." The services include:

1. Facilitate the Process of Enhancing Zone and Sub-Zones:
 - ◆ Facilitate TWG workshops or meetings to review and update the zoning regime of two (2) conservation areas.
 - ◆ Ensure that the zoning regimes reflect the areas ecological characteristics, conservation priorities, and sustainable use objectives.
 - ◆ Document the outcomes of the zoning enhancement process through NBS identification and development of NBS concept notes for incorporation/annexing in the management plans of the 2 sites
2. Draft Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Concept Notes:
 - ◆ Conduct research and analysis to identify potential NBS for the zones and sub-zones of the 2 sites.
 - ◆ Develop NBS concept notes following the standard outline used for the NBS items in the NBS menu for Zamboanga City.
 - ◆ Ensure that the NBS concept notes integrate the principles of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience
 - ◆ Present draft NBS concept note to the TWGs for review and feedback.

MSU-Buug hereby confirms that: (a) it consents to Dr. BRYAN L. BITANTOS entering into a Services Agreement with CI and having Dr. BRYAN L. BITANTOS perform the Services and receive compensation for such Services; and (b) that by entering into a Services Agreement, Dr. BRYAN L. BITANTOS is not in breach of any existing contractual obligations with MSU-Buug or other rules or regulations applicable to Service Provider as a government employee/official.

Best regards,


SHEILA G. MAGOLAMA Ph.D.
Acting Chancellor