



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bohol
City of Tagbilaran

COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT PROFILE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Title: **INTEGRATED COMMUNITY-BASED ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

2. Project Type: Capital Forming and Technical Assistance

3. Project Components:

3.1 INCLUSION OF CORELLA, SEVILLA AND SIKATUNA IN THE ABATAN RIVER COMMUNITY LIFE TOUR

Expanding the geographical scope of the existing Abatan River Community Life Tour facility under the Abatan River Development Management Council Comprising the alliance of the Municipal Local Government Units (LGUs) of Antequera, Balilihan, Catigbian, Cortes and Maribojoc with the inclusion of the LGUs of Corella, Sevilla and Sikatuna for ecotourism asset complementation.



3.1.1 Project Component Brief

The integrated tourism project is conceptualized through the Bohol Integrated Area Development (BIAD) framework which adheres to the principle of inter-LGU clustering taking into consideration geographic proximity to each other, shared natural and agricultural resource base, local economy and industry, among others. The BIAD system or framework serves as the structural and operational umbrella from which priority high impact projects for the Bohol Province are identified.

The BIAD I Integrated Community-Based Ecotourism Development has also been conceptualized as a strategy to address high incidence of poverty among the communities in BIAD I. Such kind of development has also been considering the fact that the area is teeming with tourism potential. The initiative is consistent with the province's vision as ecotourism destination in the country.

3.1.2 Project Component Location

The integrated project is located within the Barangays of the respective Municipalities of Antequera, Balilihan, Cortes, Corella, Maribojoc, Sevilla and Sikatuna in the province of Bohol. The primary activity of the adventure tourism integrated project is the Abatan River tour wherein a village center in Cortes is the main reception and docking area. The Abatan River and its tributaries is one of the major rivers in the Philippine Archipelago located about nine (9) kilometers from the Tagbilaran seaport and approximately forty (45) kilometers from the Tubigon Seaport. It is only six (6) kilometers from the Tagbilaran Airport and eighteen (18) kilometers from the planned Panglao Island International Airport.

3.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF ECOPARK AT MAG-ASO FALLS AND INAMBACAN SPRING IN ANTEQUERA, BOHOL



3.2.1 Project Component Brief

The project has been conceptualized notwithstanding Antequera being zoned as priority area for ecotourism cluster under the Bohol Tourism Sketch Master Plan and the Bohol Ecotourism and Biodiversity Framework Plan, but also because of

the project location's nature trekking potentials, panoramic view and scenic vista.

The project will improve and stir a positive impact in the rural economy of the municipality and increase the per capita income of each household through the generation of employment opportunities to residents within the area that would improve their living conditions. It further provides general welfare as well as the environmental protection; provide economic activities for the people thereby reducing poverty in the Municipality.

Partial development has been done in the area through the initiative of the LGU. However, initial developments could not suffice the standards for ecotourism to make the place more competitive with other tourism destination in the province and in the country.

3.2.2 Project Component Location

Antequera is an interior town located 19 kilometers from Tagbilaran City and lying northeast of Maribojoc. The proposed ecotourism project is located in Barangays Mag-aso and Inambacan in the municipality of Antequera, Bohol.

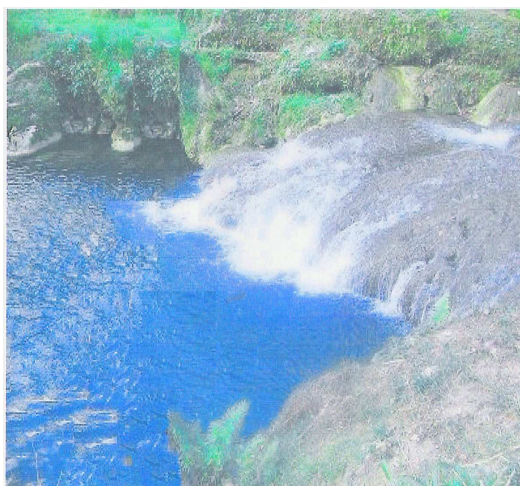
The Mag-aso Falls is one of Bohol's natural treasures. With a height of 25 feet, the twin falls is picturesque against a backdrop of tall trees, wild plants including giant ferns, and deep ravines. Meanwhile, the Inambacan Falls is another beautiful cascading waterfall also in a forest setting located only one (1) kilometer from the Poblacion of Antequera, the falls is a potential source of water supply for drinking and irrigation.

3.3 DEVELOPMENT OF MALINGIN FALLS AS AN ECO-TOURISM DESTINATION

3.3.1 Project Component Brief

In line with the Provincial Government's vision of making Bohol a prime eco-tourism destination, the municipality of Cortes is developing its natural sites for eco-tourism. One potential tourist attraction to be developed is the Malingin Falls in the upland barangay of Patrocinio. The area is proposed for group outings such as camping, family gathering and other related activities.

Although farming is the main source of



livelihood in the municipality, the income derived by most farmers are way below the income threshold due to low farm productivity. Family income from the agriculture can not cope with their daily needs nor send their children to school, hence the necessity to find other means of livelihood to augment their income. The proposal is for a community-based ecotourism project, that requires community participation.

The community-based ecotourism project has been identified as a priority project by the LGU of Cortes after consultations with all the barangay officials and constituents of the municipality. Furthermore, the LGU realized that the development of Malingin Falls is one of the alternative means of providing livelihood to its communities.

3.3.2 Project Component Location

The proposed ecotourism project is located in Barangay Patrocinio in the municipality of Cortes, Bohol. The Municipality of Cortes in the province of Bohol lies northeast of the City of Tagbilaran about 10 kilometers away; more or less about 15 minutes travel time. Its nearest neighbor along the national highway, opposite that of the Tagbilaran side, is the town of Maribojoc.

Located high up on a plateau, the town occupies a total land area of 4,377 hectares with a population of 14,586 people according to the 2007 census. It is at present considered as a 5th class municipality.

3.3 ENHANCEMENT OF THE CORELLA TARSIER SANCTUARY



3.3.1 Project Component Brief

The Tarsier, the world's smallest primate is the Philippines' leading tourism icon which symbolizes friendship and humility. It is only in the province of Bohol within which the only recognized tarsier sanctuary in the country is found – The Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary in Barangay Canapnapan, Corella town.

It was in the year 1995 that the Philippine Tarsier Foundation, Inc. (PTFI) established a sanctuary in the Municipality of Corella for the primary purpose of

conserving the Tarsier specie which was on the verge of extinction due to natural causes and indiscriminate hunting by unscrupulous individuals. Parallel with this undertaking, the PTFI launched an education campaign purposely for emphasizing the importance of these nocturnal creatures in the ecosystem.

However, as the years gone by, it came to a point wherein the foundation drained its resources for the operation and maintenance of the facility thereby jeopardizing its sustainability. It was during this occurrence that the LGU of Corella intervened if only to save the dwindling tarsier specie from total extinction and the advocacy of the PTFI in its noble mission. Accordingly, the LGU of Corella and the PTFI entered into a Memorandum of Agreement as regards to the co-management of the 7.4-hectare sanctuary to ensure its sustainability.

However, because of the increasing popularity of the Tarsier due to tourism media blitz, the influx of people visiting the tarsier has enormously increased. This scenario took its toll on the carrying capacity of the tarsier sanctuary as a tourist destination and as a facility itself. It is on this premise that the Tarsier Sanctuary Development Project is proposed to improve and enhance the facility which would entail the construction of a tourist receiving area and the upgrading of the existing Tarsier Hostel.

3.3.2 Project Component Location

The proposed component project is situated in the Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary in Barangay Canapnapan which is about three (3) kilometers from the Poblacion. Corella is a 6th class municipality in the province of Bohol. It is located ten (10) kilometers north of the provincial capital, Tagbilaran City.

3.4 RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE SPANISH BELFRY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

3.4.1 Project Component Brief

Atop the Mt. Carmel hill is a centuries-old Spanish belfry, a tower made from cut coral stone located on the said hill beside the church. Withstanding natural calamities and the test of time, the belfry now towers on top of the hill like a sentinel guarding the whole town. Concrete stairways lead to the top of the hill where the belfry stands. A small chapel has been built beside the tower. The hill on which the tower is built is a park, reforested with tropical hardwood.

Historically, the 1840 tower, which had a commanding view of both upstream and



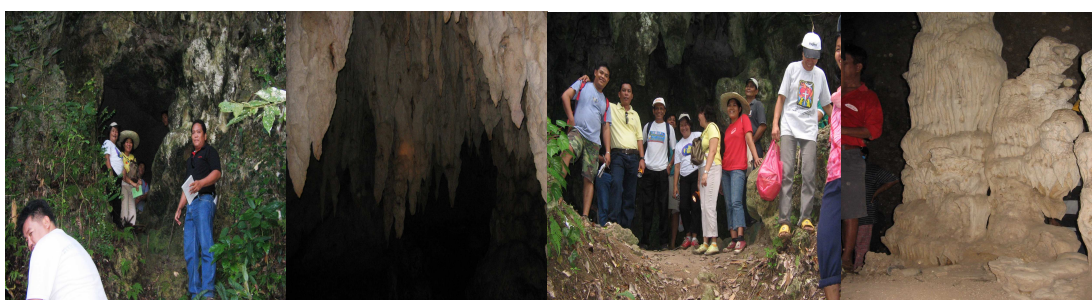
downstream, was built to guard against sea borne raiders and potential attacks from the hinterland from other Filipino compatriots who had not reintegrated with the colonial towns. Cut coral stone was brought from the municipality of Bacayon all the way to Balilihan to build this tower.

However, despite the Belfry's being known as Balilihan municipality's landmark, the tower is in poor condition. The wooden stairway to the top has deteriorated and some of the carved stones have fallen. The infusion of this historical spot as a component project for the integrated tourism project package of BIAD 1 is timely considering the tower's deterioration. Program of works for the component project includes the installation of a viewing deck in the bell tower; installation of a concrete bronze billboard indicating Balilihan and the Belfry's history; installation of lighting facilities within the surrounding area of the belfry; construction and installation of permanent concrete benches in strategic areas within the hill; renovation of drainage canals in the area (surrounding the hill); and the improvement of Tampero Spring which is a spring at the entrance of the hill.

3.4.2 Project Component Location

The Municipality of Balilihan is an interior town lying northeast of Tagbilaran City, about 22 kilometers away. Estimated travel time from Tagbilaran is 30 minutes via Cortes (thru CPG North Avenue) or Corella (thru JA Clarin St.). The town is blessed with a vista of rugged hills, mountains and verdant fields. The Mt. Carmel Hill can be found right in the heart of Balilihan Town, about 24 kilometers from Tagbilaran City.

3.5 DEVELOPMENT OF LAHUG CAVE IN SIKATUNA



3.5.1 Project Component Brief

This is a capital forming project involving the development of the Lahug Cave as an eco-tourism site. A level of technical assistance is also required for the conduct of feasibility study, organization of community and building local capabilities to manage and operate the tourism site. Technical assistance is also necessary for the agricultural development component of the project.

The project is still at the proposal stage. Project Profile is available, as prepared by its proponents. Initial site survey and studies have already been conducted on the area by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its natural features and assets. However, a feasibility study (FS) is still to be conducted, as part of the project, to ascertain the necessary development activities appropriate for the tourism site and to preserve the natural integrity and beauty of the cave. In addition to this tourism initiative, the project also involves the development of the agriculture potentials of the nearby contiguous areas. Badiang's soil is suitable for fruit crops, vegetables, corn and cut flowers. Agricultural farms, through land consolidation, can be developed to achieve appropriate levels of production. A honeybee farm can also be established as a sub-activity of the project and can be undertaken by the Women's Group as a way of strengthening women's role in society.

The proposed project also supports the agricultural development program of the Municipal Government. It enhances the on-going project on corn and vegetable seed distribution in the municipality, with the aim of increasing productivity and ensuring food sufficiency in the area.

3.5.2 Project Component Location

The Project is located in Barangay Badiang in the Municipality of Sikatuna situated inland in the southwestern part of Bohol about 16.5 kilometers from Tagbilaran City, the provincial capital. This 5th class municipality, in terms of income classification, is generally an agricultural area with rice, corn, vegetables and fruit crops as its major produce.

Barangay Badiang is endowed with unexploited natural wonders and underutilized agriculture lands. These assets, if developed, can provide significant opportunities for its residents in the area of tourism development and agriculture productivity enhancement.

3.6 ENHANCEMENT OF THE SEVILLA TWIN HANGING BRIDGE

3.6.1 Project Component Brief

The municipality of Sevilla has been frequented by both foreign and local tourists for its very own Twin Hanging Bridge. The two bridges positioned parallel from each other is a 100-meter footbridge made up of flexible and tough bamboo. It crosses over a certain part of the Loboc River's emerald waters. The bridge is utilized by the locals in crossing the river that separates two Barangays Ewon and Lobgob.



The component project includes the putting up of a botanical garden on the hilly portion with concrete stairway leading to it and the construction of a riprap for slope protection along the riverbank where the approaches of the twin hanging footbridges are located. Another part of the plan is incorporating a Tourists' Holding Room (airconditioned) where the local government can conduct briefings and activity orientation before letting them do the exciting activity of crossing the swaying bamboo bridge.

In order to maintain and sustain the unique features of the twin bridges, the government of Sevilla started collecting ten pesos as toll fee for tourists who want to cross the same. The collected fees is appropriated for the operation and maintenance of the tourist destination.

3.6.2 Project Component Location

The town of Sevilla is situated in the interior part of the province of Bohol which is about thirty (36) kilometers away from the province's lone and capital city, Tagbilaran City, through the Loay-Interior Road and about twenty-eight (28) kilometers away from the city through the Sevilla-Sikatuna PRIP Road. The proposed enhancement project for the Sipatan Twin Hanging Bridge is located in Barangays Ewon and Lobgob in Sevilla, Bohol. The twin hanging bridge traverses over the emerald waters of the Loboc River.

II. PROJECT STATUS

Although the Project is anchored in the Bohol Integrated Area Development (BIAD) Framework which calls for the clustering of identified municipalities to undertake and implement an identified priority project which is supposed to be conceptualized during the BIAD convergence, the Project is somewhat of an on-going status in the case of the four municipalities of Antequera, Balilihan, Cortes, Maribojoc which comprise the already existing Abatan River Community Life Tour (ARCLT) which was formally launched on June 23, 2010 at the Main Ecotourism Village Center in Barangay Salvador, Cortes, Bohol. Meanwhile, it is a proposed project for the three municipalities of Corella, Sevilla and Sikatuna in complementation to the ARCLT by virtue of the BIAD 1 clustering. The amalgamation of the ARCLT municipalities together with the three abovementioned municipalities form part - the BIAD 1 cluster which would embark on the Integrated Community-Based Ecotourism Development Project.

III. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. Project Background

The Integrated Community-Based Ecotourism Development Project has been conceptualized as a strategy to address high incidence of poverty among the communities in BIAD I. Furthermore, the project serves as a medium to further develop

the ecotourism assets of the Province through the BIAD 1 alliance. An amalgamation of four (4) municipalities of the ARCLT and three (3) complementing municipalities in terms of ecotourism assets – the Project is a concerted effort with the common goal of harnessing the ecotourism potential of half of the jurisdictional area of BIAD 1. The ARCLT which is a component of the proposed project is a banner program of the Abatan River Development Management Council (ARDMC) which is an alliance of five (5) Municipal LGUs composed of Cortes, Maribojoc, Antequera, Balilihan and Catigbian was launched on June 23, 2010 at the Main Ecotourism Village Center in Barangay Salvador, Cortes, Bohol. Before the realization of the ARLCT, the component LGUs with the incessant support of then Congressman Edgar Chatto (now Provincial Governor) grouped themselves in order to sustainably manage the abundance of Abatan River. The formal convergence took place when these five LGUs signed Memorandum of Understanding in 2005 reinforced thru an executive order issued by then Governor, Erico B. Aumentado. The Abatan River which traverses the mentioned municipalities is bestowed with natural environment and unique landscapes, a place where Bohol's significant history also took place. Hence, added attractions from the complementing municipalities of Corella, Sevilla and Sikatuna aside from the proximities of ARLCT form part in the cultural tourism activities such as visits to historical sites and monuments, attending performing arts, cultural events as well as ecotourism and biodiversity conservation. The initiative is consistent with the province's vision as ecotourism destination in the country.

2. Project Linkages

The project will complement the proposed five (5) Bohol tourism clusters as well as the Anda Peninsula Development cluster as encrypted in the Bohol tourism Master Plan and Pre-Feasibility Study. It likewise supports the overarching development framework strategies of the Provincial Government of Bohol in generating sustainable livelihoods and enterprises through tourism. Furthermore, said project is in conformity with the Ecotourism Plan of Bohol as embodied in Republic Act 9446 and the LGUs individual plans.

3. Project Objectives

- a. To make the Province of Bohol a prime eco-cultural tourism destination
- b. To establish a premier destination within the BIAD I cluster municipalities which will stimulate economic growth
- c. To advocate ecological balance through the preservation of both natural and cultural heritage assets
- d. To promote the protection and conservation of wildlife biodiversity
- e. To help in the poverty alleviation efforts of the Province of Bohol
- f. To generate income among communities thereby improving their quality of life
- g. To foster community participation and empowerment
- h. To establish an efficient ecotourism enterprise services that will be provided by the host communities and people's organizations.

4. Sectoral Objectives

- a. To build the local skills in the ecotourism product development, promotion and marketing strategies and community enterprise
- b. To strengthen the collaboration of People's Organization
- c. To educate the people on the preservation of natural and cultural assets at the same time accessing employment opportunities
- d. To promote environmental awareness for a safe, secure, clean and friendly environment
- e. To construct ecotourism and other recreational facilities
- f. To institutionalize capacity-building program to equip communities with the necessary skills and knowledge in the operations of ecotourism enterprises
- g. To identify the different tourism related support enterprises for development.

5. Compatibility to Physical Plan

The project is consistent with the most recent respective land use plans of the municipalities wherein said project is located considering the fact that each project components were formulated by each respective Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators with the imprimatur of respective local municipal chief executives.

6. Consistency with DAR/DENR Issuances and Other Relevant Laws

There have been no land use constraints of each project component locations considering the fact that as stated above, each project components were formulated by each respective Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators with the imprimatur of respective Local Municipal Chief Executives. Furthermore, it only proves to show that there have been no or eventual constraints that may arise considering the fact that one project component - Abatan River Community Life Tour has been existing and in operation in conformity with existing DAR/DENR laws that are in place.

IV. PROJECT FINANCING

1. Funding Requirements

PROJECT COMPONENTS	PROJECT COST
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Expanding the geographical scope of the existing Abatan River Community Life Tour Facility under the Abatan River Development Management Council Comprising the Alliance of the Municipal Local Government Units (LGUs) of Antequera, Balilihan,	

Catigbian, Cortes and Maribojoc with the inclusion of the LGUs of Corella, Sevilla and Sikatuna for ecotourism asset complementation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of Ecopark at Mag-aso Falls and Inambacan Spring (Antequera, Bohol) 	Php 2,400,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Malingin Falls as an Eco-Tourism Destination (Cortes, Bohol) 	Php 2,500,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement of the Corella Tarsier Sanctuary (Corella, Bohol) 	Php 2,000,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration and Enhancement of the Spanish Belfry and its Surroundings (Balilihan, Bohol) 	Php 3,000,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Lahug Cave in Sikatuna (Sikatuna, Bohol) 	Php 3,000,000.00
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement of the Sevilla Twin Hanging Bridge (Sevilla, Bohol) 	Php 1,000,000.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST	Php 11,900,000.00

Note: Detailed costs of subcomponents of each of the project components shall be furnished as soon as any foreign or local donor will signify formal commitment in terms of funding the package project.

2. Funding Scheme

Funding of the project will be made available by the prospective foreign or local donor provided that the respective LGUs who are proponents of the project components will share its counterpart of 10% to 20% in cash or in kind as well as the technical assistance required for the project.

3. Financial Viability

Summary of financial analysis shall be furnished as soon as the commitment from the funding donor shall have been sought and assured to the point of initial arrangements in the form of memorandum of understanding and/or agreements.

V. PROJECT BENEFITS AND COSTS

1. Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries are the host communities and people's organizations of BIAD I municipalities upon which the ecotourism sites, facilities and products are located. It is

expected that employment and income generation will spur within the barangays traversed by the project. The indirect beneficiaries of the project will be the respective Municipal Government Units comprising the cluster proponents in particular and the Provincial Government of Bohol in general. The income derived from the municipal and provincial coffers will be translated into an improved and enhanced delivery of basic services by the government to the constituents.

2. Social Benefits

Desirable effects of the project upon the lives of the constituents could be possible employment and the augmented income of respective barangays involved in the project which will be translated into the delivery of improved and enhanced basic social services which would in turn improve the health and sanitation condition of the target beneficiaries in the ecotourism sites.

3. Economic Benefits

The economic benefits that will be derived as a result of the eventual operationalization of the project shall be employment and income generation among the constituents that would eventually improved their quality of life. The year- round ecotourism enterprise is expected to greatly reduce social problems related to poverty within the communities engaged in these undertakings. Within the various ecotourism enterprises, it is anticipated that policies shall be developed at the management level to provide a mechanism for an equitable utilization of income from its operation with emphasis on conservation and protection of the environment.

4. Social Costs

The unwanted effects of the project could be prostitution which is a usual scenario when the presence of foreigners lures impoverished individuals. There could also be a minimal impact on the environmental proximities on the tourism sites as far as pollution is concerned.

5. Economic Costs

Since the ecotourism phenomenon is on its initial take-off for the Province of Bohol which would be a far cry to the flourishing mass tourism of different Philippine tourism destinations other than Bohol – the negative effects on the economy could not yet be felt.

6. Environmental Costs

Harmful effects on the environment as far as the operationalization of the project is concerned could be small-scale deforestation and pollution to air, surface water as well as ground water sources.

VI. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. Responsible Agencies

Since the seven (7) municipalities of Antequera, Balilihan, Cortes, Corella, Maribojoc, Sevilla and Sikatuna are the proponents of the project under the BIAD 1 cluster – they will be the ones responsible for its eventual implementation in coordination with its respective Municipal Ecotourism Councils and the overseeing Provincial Tourism Council. The Municipal Councils of respective municipalities mentioned shall facilitate legislative support in terms of tourist zone declarations.

The LGUs who are proponents of the project are will complement the project with technical support and the associated local labor force from the host communities and people's organizations. The project is closely monitored by the funding agency and the provincial government.

2. Implementation Schedule

The implementation schedule of the project follows after the release of the funds. The funding agency/donor and the monitoring agency will be furnished the schedule of implementation before the project starts.

3. Legal and Political Feasibility

A smooth implementation of the project is foreseen considering the fact that the components of the project are already incorporated in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of each respective proponent municipalities with the concurrence of their respective municipal councils. Thus, the proposed project is expected to be bereft of legal obstacle and political opposition since the host communities and people's organizations are the direct beneficiaries who are well-informed.

4. Environmental Clearance

Each Local Government Units (LGUs) of the municipalities involved in the project is ready to obtain the necessary documentary requirements and permits such as the Environmental Compliance Certificate along the duration course of the project implementation. Moreover, the respective LGUs are committed to comply with mitigating measures that may be institutionalized or put in place in response to some critical issues that may arise with respect to environmental protection.

5. Social Acceptability

Since the proponents of the project are the respective LGUs of the seven (7) municipalities under BIAD 1 themselves – it could well be said that the acceptability of the project is guaranteed. Acceptability of the project will eventually bring about possible employment and livelihood opportunities and among respective communities of to each of the municipalities involved in the project which will be translated into the delivery of improved and enhanced basic social services. Hence, opposition from the various sectors are never been expected.

VII. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The Logical Framework for the Integrated Community-Based Ecotourism Tourism Development Project shall be provided as soon as the commitment from a foreign or local donor shall have been sought and the necessary documentary issuances such as Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding/Reference between the project proponents and the prospective donor entities prepared. The presentation of the Logical Framework in this document is untenable and premature at this time considering the fact that the arrangement between donor and recipient is done in such a way that the prospective donor is given the preference as to which component project or phase of the whole tourism integrated development project shall be implemented phase.

VIII. PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The process of monitoring and evaluation of the integrated ecotourism development project shall be based on the project's Logical Framework (LogFrame). In line with this, a multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation team will be created to keep track of the progress along the course of the project's implementation.

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