



MAY 13, 2020

Sveinung Rotevatn

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SUBJECT: INPUTS ON THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE 5TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA5)

Dear Mr. Rotevatn,

Greetings from the Philippines' Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau.

This pertains to your letter soliciting inputs and ideas on the 2 key questions below for the ministerial declaration of the UNEA5, to wit:

1. What would you, as government/organization/stakeholder, welcome as the most important elements and/or key messages from the ministers in the declaration to address the theme in an impactful manner?
 - a) *Ensure maintenance of remaining ecosystems - forests, coastal and marine, wetlands, agroecosystems, and urban ecosystem, and keep them intact, or at least maintain their viability against human encroachment and developmental activities in addition to expanding their coverage through aggressive restoration / rehabilitation activities to prevent the spill-over of zoonotic diseases including their carriers, into human settlements, peri-urban areas and urban areas;*
 - b) *Establish centralized GIS mapping and other technologies for surveillance, monitoring, and researches of any diseases (airborne, waterborne, vector borne, and food borne) to monitor human-animal interface, to forecast epidemics and provide early warning for possible viral spill-over events, analyze risk, and provide integrated environment information systems;*
 - c) *Establish surveillance systems to monitor human-animal interface to provide early warning for possible viral spill-over events;*
 - d) *Strengthen public health cooperation measures to contain pandemic and protect the people by bolstering, local, national, regional and international epidemic/pandemic preparedness and response and supporting and enabling expert networks at the regional level on public health, wildlife conservation, including animal health to develop post-COVID-19 preparedness measures;*
 - e) *Conduct extensive collaborative research studies on emerging infectious diseases or zoonotic diseases i.e. detection and characterization of natural reservoir and pathways of disease transmission, including strengthening of laboratory and field capacity to conduct sustainable, multi-sectoral zoonotic disease surveillance;*
 - f) *Address research gaps such as the one identified by the WHO Coordinated Global Research Roadmap: 2019 Novel Coronavirus.*

g) While there is a lull in tourism, conduct rehabilitation of tourism and ecotourism areas including the conduct of carrying capacity studies, providing supplementary local employment

2. How can the Environment Assembly make a significant contribution to Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at a global scale?

a.) UNEA can fast-track discussion on funding activities to set up these various elements; perhaps set-up a similar pledging session among G20 in the COVID-19 Vaccine Development

b.) UNEA can also address these by fast-tracking the Global Pact for the Environment and setting up ONEHEALTH as a priority action area in the Global Pact.

Thank you and we hope for your favorable consideration of the above interventions.

Very truly yours,



RICARDO L. CALDERON, CESO III
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and Chair, Sub-Committee on Biodiversity

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