CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
Tel. +41-22-999-0170, Fax +41-22-999-0169
E-mail: asia.oceania@ramsar.org
Web site: www.ramsar.org

Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF)

Section B
"Request for Funding" Form

Note. Please complete and enclose both Section B.1 "Project Summary and Endorsement Form" and Section B.2 "Detailed Project Proposal", following the section structure and guidance provided below on what to include in each section of the proposal. Thank you.

Section B.1
Project Summary and Endorsement Form

Please fill in sections a, b, c, f, g, h and i, and either section d or section e.

a. Country requesting support: Philippines

b. Title of project proposal: Active, Clean and Bountiful Rivers: The Wetlands BioBlitz

c. Category of assistance requested (please consult the Operational Guidelines and indicate one option only):

Contracting Parties:
✓ Implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024. Please indicate relevant Goals and Targets (s):
Strategic Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation
Targets: 1, 2 and 4
Strategic Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands
Targets: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Operational Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation
Targets: 16 and 19

Please fill in **either** section **d** or section **e** below:

d. If the financial support sought from the NWF is requested to carry out part of a larger project, please indicate:

- Title of the main project:
- Duration of the main project:
- Total cost of the main project:

- Amount requested from the NWF:
- Have the main project and the other funds been approved: ❑ Yes ❑ No
- If yes, please indicate the sources of these funds, showing whether the source is in-country or external:

e. If the proposed project is a stand-alone activity, please indicate:

- Duration of the activities to be covered by NWF grant: August 2018 – July 2019
- Amount requested from the Ramsar NWF: USD18,000.00
- Other financial contributions (including in-kind) – indicate whether these are from in-country or external sources: USD11,347.00

f. Name, address (including phone/fax numbers and e-mail address) and website of the recipient agency, i.e. the institution responsible for the project, specifying the name and contact details of the person responsible for preparing and executing the project.

Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc.
Unit 208, Grand Emerald Tower
F. Ortigas Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City, Philippines 1600
Telefax: (632)6372409
Email address: post@wetlands.ph ; amy_lecciones@yahoo.com
Website: http://www.wetlands.ph
Contact Person: Amy M. Lecciones, Executive Director
Contact Details: (63) 917-544-4096; amy_lecciones@yahoo.com

g. Summary (maximum 500 words)

Describe background, justification, objectives and intended follow-up. Indicate if the project will be carried out in a Ramsar site(s) or how it otherwise contributes to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and the fulfillment of its objectives:

The project intends to operationalize a citizen-science-based activity in three pilot rivers in the Laguna de Bay Region and address the three-pronged objectives of (1) increasing awareness of local communities; (b) generating scientific information to inform rehabilitation and conservation efforts, and (3) increasing capacity of local communities to embark on wetland conservation activities. It will test and employ a set of methodologies for characterizing and assessing rivers based on the BioBlitz approach and the relevant guidelines from the Ramsar Convention, ie RAWES.

The Wetland BioBlitz is a 3-day activity that will be implemented in the pilot rivers spearheaded by the Youth participants with the guidance of scientists and other experts. The activities include: Learning Session about wetlands, its importance and the current efforts to conserve them; an orientation seminar on the methods to be used in the field activity; actual field work which ideally should be implemented for 24 hours; data consolidation and processing; Visioning and Action Planning; and presentation to

the Local Government Executives, school officials, and other partners. Agreements on how to proceed with the rehabilitation of the river will be discussed and included in the Action Plan. A website will be created to enable accessible data storage and uploading of data and information by stakeholders.

The Wetlands BioBlitz will be implemented in three pilot rivers (Pangil, Pagsanjan-Lumban and Mabitac) in Laguna de Bay. Laguna de Bay is the largest inland wetland in the country with a surface are of about 90,000 square kilometers. Approximately 100 rivers and streams drain into the lake, of which 22 are significant river systems. The Laguna de Bay Region covers Metro Manila and five neighboring provinces - Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, Cavite, and Quezon, with a total population of 16.2 Million of which approximately 5 Million are on the lakeshore areas. It is largely an urban lake but the East Bay area is still relatively rural. The lake is used for fisheries (aquaculture and artisanal), power generation, agriculture, floodwater reservoir, domestic water supply, and to a limited extent, recreation. Monitoring of river tributaries in 39 stations yielded results that these waters have mostly deteriorated from Class C (fit for fisheries) to Class D (fit for navigation. (Source: Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), (http://www.llda.gov.ph/dox/factsandfigures/qff.jpg) retrieved 26 March 2018).

The Active, Clean and Bountiful Rivers will be the flagship program of the SCPW and will be replicated in other wetlands in the country, particularly those with very little data and information at present. The guide to conducting a Wetlands BioBlitz will be shared with the River Basin Coordinating Office for possible roll-out to other river basins in the country. The Action Plans that will be crafted during the visioning and planning session will be turned-over to the Local Government Units and the River Basin Councils to be used as inputs in the rehabilitation of the pilot rivers. The Youth group will continue to monitor the rivers and upload the results in the website of the project. The SCPW will maintain the website and continue sharing the information to those who will need them.

h. Endorsement of this project application by the Ramsar Administrative Authority: Please confirm the importance of this proposed project in relation to your national Ramsar Convention implementation priorities. **Please tick (✓) only one of the following statements:**

1. The project's outcomes will deliver significantly increased implementation capacity for a high national priority.	✓
OR	
2. The project's outcomes will deliver increased implementation capacity for a lower national priority.	☐
OR	
3. The project's outcomes will not directly lead to increased implementation capacity.	☐

Institution/Agency:
Biodiversity Management Bureau – Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Name/Title: Theresa Mundita S. Lim, Director

Date: **March 28, 2018** Signature: **Theresa Mundita S. Lim**

Please return this form along with the Detailed Project Proposal to:
Nagao Wetland Fund (NWF), Ramsar Convention Secretariat,
28 Rue Mauverney, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland. Fax: +41 22 999 0169, E-mail: asia.oceania@ramsar.org

Section B.2
Structure and contents of Detailed Project Proposal

Details of proposal

A. Background and justification

Laguna de Bay is the largest inland wetland in the country with a surface are of about 90,000 square kilometers. Approximately 100 rivers and streams drain into the lake, of which 22 are significant river systems. There is only one outlet, Pasig River through the Napindan Channel that drains lake waters to Manila Bay. The Laguna de Bay Region covers Metro Manila and five other neighboring provinces - Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, Cavite, and Quezon. All cities and municipalities located in Laguna and Rizal are part of the watershed and 35 cities and municipalities are located on its shoreline. The Lake Region has a total population of 16.2 Million of which approximately 5 Million are on the lakeshore areas. It is largely an urban lake but the East Bay area is still relatively rural. The lake is used for fisheries (aquaculture and artisanal), power generation, agriculture, floodwater reservoir, domestic water supply, and to a limited extent, recreation. (Source: Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), (http://www.llda.gov.ph/dox/factsandfigures/qff.jpg) retrieved 26 March 2018). *Note: Please see map at the end of the document.*

Water quality in the lake is classified as Class C which is fit for fisheries. Transparency and net productivity in the lake has been on a decreasing trend. Fisheries has been affected by human, industrial and environmental factors resulting in a 64 percent declines in production levels from 1980 to 1996, and is believed to continue until the present. Species diversity has also declined, with only 5 out of the 9 indigenous species recently reported. All five migratory species have disappeared and catch at present are dominated by exotic aquaculture species. Major threats in the Laguna de Bay include: (a) pollution from wastewater discharges; (b) siltation/sedimentation; (c) watershed habitat alteration and urbanization; (d) proliferation of IAS such as janitor fish and knife fish; (e) conflicts between fishpens and cages and open water fisheries. Policy and program responses include the development of ZOMAP, formation of multi-sectoral river rehabilitation councils, and the development of a new Laguna de Bay Master Plan.

Water quality monitoring is conducted regularly by LLDA in the lake (9 stations) and in tributary rivers (27 stations) including two of the pilot rivers in this proposed project. Based on 2017 Water Mondrian results of the said monitoring, some of the sampling stations in the lake were able to pass the criteria for Class C waters stipulated in the DENR AO#34 (1990) as fit for fisheries. However, the tributary waters, except for Panguil River at certain months, were all classified as Class D meaning they are only fit for navigation. These important bodies of water, in general, are in various stages of degradation. Aside from these monitoring data on water quality, there is no known data on biodiversity in the tributary waters except for Molawin creek since it crosses the University of the Philippines campus. Moreover, most of the River Rehabilitation Councils are currently being re-activated and will need updated data for effective planning of rehabilitation strategies. Considering the ecosystem services derived by the local communities from the lake and its rivers, it is high time that citizens are mobilized for its conservation and wise use.

The project will harness the potential of the Youth in spearheading the main activity which is the Wetlands BioBlitz. It will also test a set of methodologies for characterizing wetlands based on Ramsar Guidelines and the BioBlitz which has been successfully implemented in the UK and in the USA. The proponent coordinates a 13-year old, 1000-strong Youth Network from 23 lakeshore towns that has been implementing lake conservation activities like Youth Ecological Camps, solid waste management in schools, plastic sachet recovery, school gardens, among others. It is envisioned that these Youth group will lead the activities in their own municipalities and enjoin their schools as well as their families to participate in this fun and worthy endeavour.

B. The problem(s) to be addressed

The National Inland Wetlands Conservation Program (2016-2022) developed by the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources identified the following as drivers of the continuing loss of wetlands in the country: (1) lack of awareness; (2) no comprehensive picture of the extent and condition of wetlands; (3) wetland values are not well known nor quantified; and, (4) lack of capacity to implement wetland conservation measure. These are largely true in the Laguna de Bay Region particularly in its river systems. The lack of data and information on the ecological status of rivers in the Laguna de Bay Region as well as the lack of capacity to implement wetland conservation measures are gaps that contribute to the continuing deterioration of these rivers and the lake itself. Even with the existence of the River Basin Rehabilitation Councils, the tributary rivers continue to deteriorate and the low awareness of their importance remain among the local communities. There is thus a dire need for scientific data on the river characteristics to guide conservation plans and an effective CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness) strategy to communicate these to local stakeholders so that they can take action for the wise use of these rivers. The proposed project is designed to respond to these issues with the Youth spearheading the activities.

C. Objective(s)

General Objective(s):

To characterize and assess priority rivers in the Laguna de Bay Region employing citizen-science and increase the awareness and capacity of local communities to take action for their wise use.

Specific Objective(s):

- To increase awareness of local communities on wetland benefits (particularly river ecosystems), and their capacity to manage and conserve them.
- To test and fine-tune a set of methodologies for characterizing and assessing wetlands that can be rolled out to other river systems in the country;
- To generate physico-chemical and biological data on selected pilot rivers in the Laguna de Bay region;
- To operationalize a citizen-science-based strategy, spearheaded by the Youth, in the rehabilitation of said rivers in the Laguna de Bay Region.

D. Outputs

- A curriculum/guide in conducting "Wetlands BioBlitz" which will include topics for learning sessions, methods for the wetlands BioBlitz and Action Planning.
- Conduct of three Wetland BioBlitz incorporating learning sessions, orientation on methodology and action planning in pilot rivers namely Pangil, Lumban-Pagsanjan, and Mabitac
- Wetland Profiles for the said pilot rivers
- Website for the project with facility to upload information from scientists and local communities
- A cadre of people from the academe, Local Government Units, Youth and the local communities that are trained, organized and committed to continuous monitoring of the selected pilot rivers
- Action Plan for the rehabilitation of pilot rivers.

E. Activities

The major activities of the project are the following:

1. Preparing for the conduct of the Wetland BioBlitz
   - Preparatory meetings/workshops:
     - Inception Meeting : Meeting with partners to set tasking, timetables and other matters.
     - Coordinating Meetings: Meetings with schools, Local Government Units, local organizations and to make arrangements for venue, meals, accommodation, local transportation, recruitment of volunteers, among others.
   - Designing the learning session curriculum and preparing a guide to Wetlands BioBlitz
     - Workshop with experts, Resource Persons and the SCPW Scientific Committee.

2. Conducting a Wetland BioBlitz: The Wetland BioBlitz is a 3-day activity that will be implemented in the pilot rivers spearheaded by the Youth participants with the guidance of the scientists and other experts. During the three days, the activity hopes to achieve the objectives of increasing awareness, generating scientific data on the pilot rivers, and increasing the capacity of stakeholders to implement measures for the wise use of wetlands. (see below)
   - The morning session of Day 1 will be a Learning Session about wetlands, its importance and the current efforts to conserve them. In the afternoon session, the experts and scientists will conduct an orientation seminar on the methods to be used in the field activity. In the mid-afternoon, field work will start with at least five teams namely: (1) Flora and fungi (2) Macrofauna including Avifauna (3) Invertebrates (4) Hydrology (5) Ecosystem Services. The field work is intended to continue for 24 hours, however, this will be on a case-to-case basis depending on the security situation of the area.
   - Field work will continue on Day 2 until mid-afternoon after which data consolidation and processing will start until the night.
   - Day 3 will be presentation of results followed by Visioning and Action Planning session until lunchtime. The draft Action Plan will be presented in the afternoon in the presence of the Local Government Executives, school officials, and other partners. Agreements on how to proceed with the rehabilitation of the river will be discussed and included in the Action Plan.
3. Creating a website for the project to enable accessible data storage and uploading of data and information by stakeholders.

F. Logical frame of the project

Problems	Objectives	Outputs	Activities
1. Lack of awareness of local communities on the importance of wetlands	1. To increase the awareness of local communities on the importance of wetlands (particularly river ecosystems), the benefits derived from them	1. Learning Sessions including curriculum as part of Wetlands BioBlitz conducted in the three pilot rivers	1. Conducting Community Learning Sessions on Day 1 of the Wetlands BioBlitz activity in three pilot rivers: - Preparing curriculum for the Learning Sessions - Inviting experts and Resource Persons - Coordinating with Local Government Units - Coordinating with schools and local organizations - Preparing logistics
2. Lack of data and information on the ecological status of rivers in the Laguna de Bay Region	2a. To test and fine-tune a set of methodologies for characterizing wetlands that can be rolled out to other river systems in the country;	2a. Three Wetlands BioBlitz activity conducted. 2b. A Guide to implementing a Wetlands BioBlitz activity	2. Conducting Wetlands BioBlitz activity in three pilot rivers: - Preparing Guide to Wetlands BioBlitz incorporating Wetland

	2b. To generate physico-chemical and biological data on selected rivers in the Laguna de Bay region;	2c. Wetland Profiles for the said pilot rivers. (Pangil, Lumban-Pagsanjan, and Mabitac)	Information Sheet, RAWES, and BioBlitz methods - Inviting experts and Resource Persons - Coordinating with Local Government Units, schools, local organizations -- Preparing logistics - Processing results, uploading to website and inputting to Action Plan -Presentation to the River Basin Coordinating office of the DENR for possible adoption in all river systems in the country
		2d. Website for the project with facility to upload information from scientists and local communities	Creating a website for the Wetlands BioBlitz: - securing a domain name - creating the website and uploading of initial information - training of Youth and continuous updating
3. Lack of capacity to implement wetland conservation measures	3a.To increase the capacity of local communities to implement wetland conservation measures,	3a. A cadre of people from the academe, Local Government Units, Youth and the local communities trained, organized are committed to continuous monitoring of the selected pilot rivers	3a.Conducting orientation-seminars for the Youth and the volunteers on the various methods in the Wetlands BioBlitz. (cross-reference with conduct of BioBlitz activity as experiential learning for Youth and local community)
	3b.To operationalize a citizen-science-based strategy in the rehabilitation of principal rivers in the Laguna de Bay Region.	3b. Action Plan for rehabilitation of pilot rivers, identifying activities, tasking, timetable and cost.	3b. Conducting a visioning and planning session for the rehabilitation of the pilot rivers. 3c. Presenting the Action Plan to the Local Government Unit

G. Project management arrangements and stakeholders

The core Project Management Team will be composed of a Project Coordinator, a Project Officer and a Project Assistant. The Project Coordinator and Project Assistant are organic to the SCPW and will be involved on a part-time basis. The Project Officer is a project-based employee and will be working on a full-time basis. The core Project Team will be supported by another Team of experts who will provide advice and lead the expert volunteers in wetland characterization and assessment. These experts are members of the Scientific Committee of the SCPW and will lend their services pro-bono.

The SCPW will be the direct project holder and thus will be managing the project. Other partners and their contribution are enumerated below: 1) Local Government Units (LGUs) of the four pilot municipalities: Main beneficiary and will provide assistance in coordinating activities and providing venue for events whenever possible; 2). Local High School: Allow students to participate in the Wetlands BioBlitz activities;

2) Department of Environment and Natural Resources: Technical Assistance 3) University of the Philippines, Los Banos, Institute of Biological Sciences: Technical Assistance 4) National Museum: Technical Assistance; 5) Laguna Lake Development Authority: Technical assistance and logistical support in the field; and Unilever Philippines: financial support to the Youth activities and in-kind tokens to the volunteers. Primary stakeholders are the LGUs, the River Basin Councils of Laguna de Bay and the local communities. Six experts/scientists will receive nominal honoraria from the project.

The Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc. (SCPW) is a non-stock, non-profit, non-governmental corporation registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission on 27 April 1998. Since its inception, the SCPW has implemented CEPA activities to promote the wise use of wetlands and has capacitated various stakeholders through training and experiential learning so that they can take action to conserve these important ecosystems. Please browse http://www.wetlands.ph for more information on our track record. The SCPW supports the formulation and implementation of plans and programs of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (National Authority) on Philippines wetlands and works closely with them in achieving the goals and targets of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

H. Work Plan

	Month											
Outputs & Key Activities	1 Aug	2 Sep	3 Oct	4 Nv	5 Dec	6 Jan	7 Feb	8 M	9 A	10 M	11 J	12 Jl
Output 1 Learning Sessions as part of Wetlands BioBlitz conducted in the four pilot rivers												
Activity 1: Preparing for the Learning Session												
Activity 2: conducting Community Learning Sessions												
Output 2 A Guide to implementing a Wetlands BioBlitz activity												
Activity 3: *Preparing the Guide to conducting a Wetlands BioBlitz*												
Output 3 Wetlands Bioblitz conducted in pilot rivers												
Activity 4: Preparing for Wetlands BioBlitz												
Activity 5: Conducting Wetlands BioBlitz activity in four selected pilot rivers:												
Output 4 Wetland Profiles for the said pilot rivers.												
Activity 6: Processing results, uploading to website and inputting to Action Plan												

Output 5 Website for the project with facility to upload information from scientists and local communities												
Activity 7: Creating a website for the Wetlands BioBlitz and updating continuously; training of Youth to use the website.												
Output 6 A cadre of people trained, organized and are committed to monitor pilot rivers												
*Activity 8: Conducting orientation-seminars for the Youth and the volunteers on the various methods in the Wetlands BioBlitz**												
Output 7 Action Plan for rehabilitation of pilot rivers, identifying activities, tasking, timetable and cost.												
Activity 9: Conducting a visioning and planning session for the rehabilitation of the pilot rivers.												
Activity 10 Presenting the Action Plan to the Local Government Unit												
Final Report preparation and project evaluation												

*Assumption: The Wetlands BioBlitz activity is a 3-day event incorporating the Learning Session, conduct of the field work, and visioning and planning session. Preparation activities are therefore coordinated and in most instances, will be done simultaneously.

I. Budget

i) ***Budget summary***

This proposal is a sample for your reference and budget information has been removed from this version of the proposal.

ii) *Overall itemized budget*

J. Follow Up

The Active, Clean and Bountiful Rivers will be the flagship program of the SCPW and will be replicated in other wetlands in the country, particularly those with very little data and information at present. The guide to conducting a Wetlands BioBlitz will be shared with the River Basin Coordinating Office for

possible roll-out to other river basins in the country. The Action Plans that will be crafted during the visioning and planning session will be turned-over to the Local Government Unit and the River Basin Councils to be used as inputs in the rehabilitation of the pilot rivers. The Youth group will continue to monitor the rivers and upload the results in the website of the project. The SCPW will maintain the website and continue sharing the information to those who will need them.

K. Bibliography

Department of Environment – Biodiversity Management Bureau, National Wetlands Action Plan for the Philippines (2009-2016).

Department of Environment – Biodiversity Management Bureau, National Inland Wetlands Conservation Program 2016-2021).

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http://llda.gov.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=537&Itemid=627
(retrieved 16 March 2018)

Robinson, L.D., Tweddle, J.C., Postles, M.C., West, S.E., & Sewell, J. (2013) Guide to running a BioBlitz. Natural History Museum, Bristol Natural History Consortium, Stockholm Environment Insitute York and Marine Biological Association.

The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan
file:///D:/SCPW/SCPW%202018/Funding%20Opportunities/hb2_5ed_strategic_plan_2016_24_e.pdf (retrieved 18 February 2018)

Appendix A: Map showing Laguna de Bay and the pilot rivers for the Wetlands BioBlitz (excluding Sta. Cruz/Pila River which is also shown in the figure).