



THE 'SARONG' GEOTAGGED REPORT

Evidences of massive forest clearing for oil palm expansion in the Municipality of Bataraza (Palawan)

A report by CALG (Coalition against Land Grabbing) supported by Rainforest Rescue and Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)

CALG is member of



A. INTRODUCTION

Between 23-24 May 2015, a mission led by the Coalition Against Land Grabbing (CALG) travelled to Bataraza Municipality (Palawan) to carry out a preliminary field and geotagging reconnaissance about the massive forest clearing on timberland, allegedly being carried out by Agumil Philippines, Inc. for the purpose of converting new areas into oil palm plantations. In a photographic context, *geotagging* is the process of associating photos with specific geographic locations using GPS coordinates.

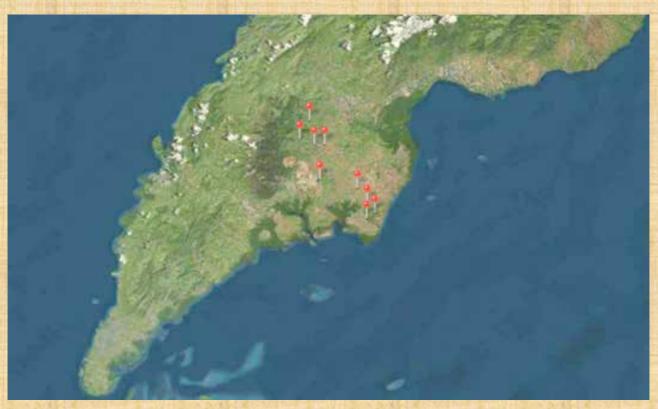
The mission was guided into the impacted area by members of the local indigenous Pala'wan communities whose ancestral domain has been largely affected by Agumil's illegal removal of forest cover. Local IPs have now lost most of the areas they once used for hunting, collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), medicinal plants, etc. The local indigenous inhabitants complain that, after their customary forest has been clear-felled, the area has become extremely hot and water sources have dried up. Some indigenous members also complain that oil palm companies have pushed their oil palm plantations also in areas planted by with fruit trees and managed by the local IPs for irrigated-rice (basakan).

The CALG mission has visited a large area being affected by oil palm expansion, although the photographic evidences provided in this report mainly refer to forest removal on indigenous ancestral domain and timberland. Our GPS data overlaid on Google Earth has clearly shown that the areas being cleared were covered by good standing forest until very recently. Thus oil palm companies (e.g. Agumil Philippines, Inc) must be yield responsible for the on going plundering of natural forest. The expansion of oil palm plantations by Agumil Philippines, Inc., and by other companies and enterprises, is taking place without the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of the local indigenous communities, and thus in violation of NCIP Administrative Order no.3 of series of 2012 and in contradictions with other key articles stated in the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (R.A. 8371) such as the: 1) Rights of Ownership (Chapter III, Sec. 7, item a); 2) Rights to Religious, Cultural Sites and Ceremonies (Chapter VI, Section 33); 3) Right to Develop Lands and Natural Resources. (Chapter III, Sec. 7, item b); 4) the Rights to Ancestral Lands (Chapter III, Sec. 8); 5) the Right to Determine and Decide Priorities for Development (Chap. IV, Sec. 17), etc;

Our findings indicate that forest clearing in Bgy. Sarong and Sandoval has bluntly violated DENR EO 23. It must be pointed out that, as a result of a past joint field appraisal by ALDAW (Ancestral Land Domain Watch) and CENRO, a field investigation was carried out on 23 January 2014 in Sandoval, and specifically in areas allegedly developed by Agumil Phil. Inc and San Andres. During that mission it was established that at least 28,39 ha of Alienable and Disposable land and 2.69 ha of Timberland had been cleared for oil palm plantations (see Annex 1). As result CENRO-Brooke's did file criminal charges against the above companies for gross violation of section 68 and section 69 of Presidential Decree (PD) 705 (see Annex 2). In spite of such charges, new timberlands continue to be cleared in both Bgy Sarong and Sandoval for oil palm expansion.

This draft report only includes a synthesis of the CALG mission's key findings and has been prepared mainly to request CENRO-Brooke's Point to take immediate actions and to closely monitor illegal expansion of oil palm plantations in the above-mentioned locations.

GEOTAGGING EVIDENCES OF FOREST CLEARING IN BGY. SARONG PROPER



The red spots indicate the itinerary carried out by CALG mission



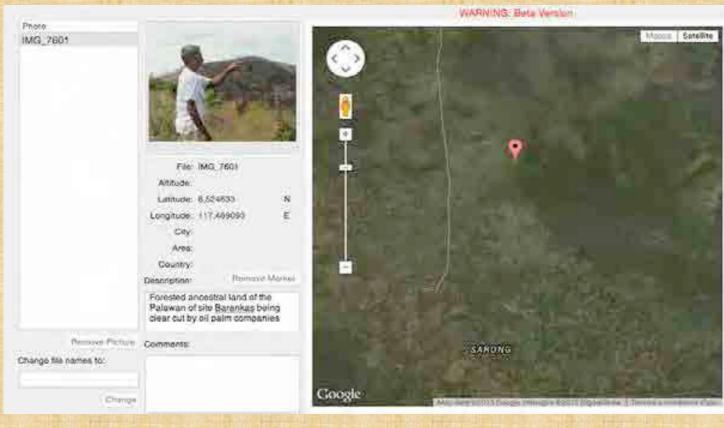
A close up of CALG mission itinerary on Google Earth with a focus on Bgy. Sandoval (bottom right corner) and Bgy. Sarong (left upper corner).



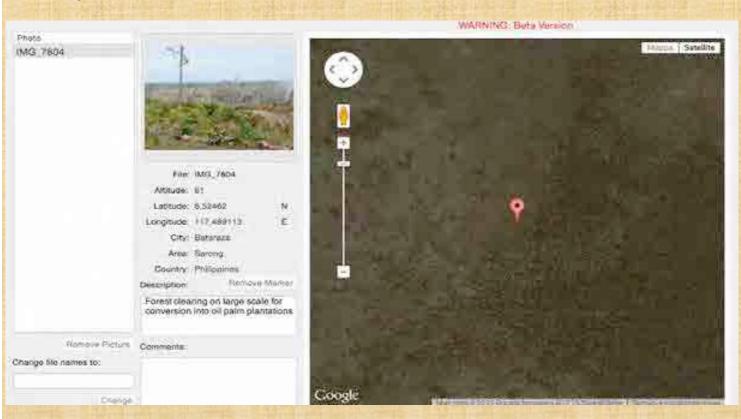
Satellite photo showing the clearing of a forest area, allegedly by oil palm companies, in Bgy. Sarong



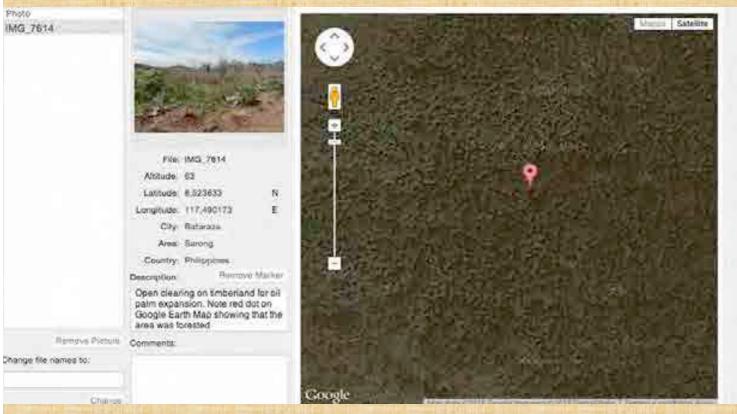
Satellite image showing forest clearing and road opening in Bg. Sarong proper



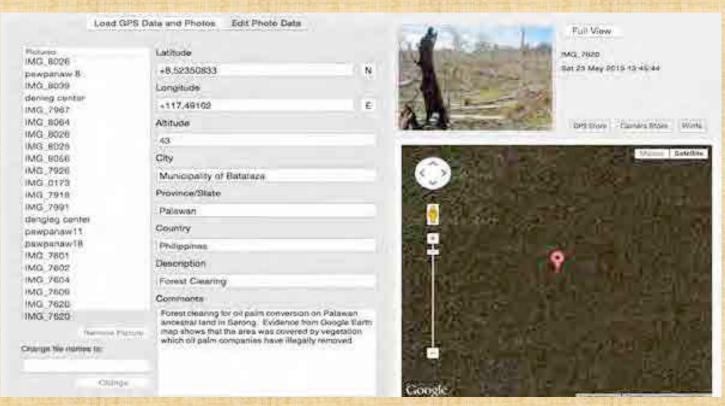
Forested ancestral land of the Pala'wan of sitio Barankas being clear-cut by oil palm companies



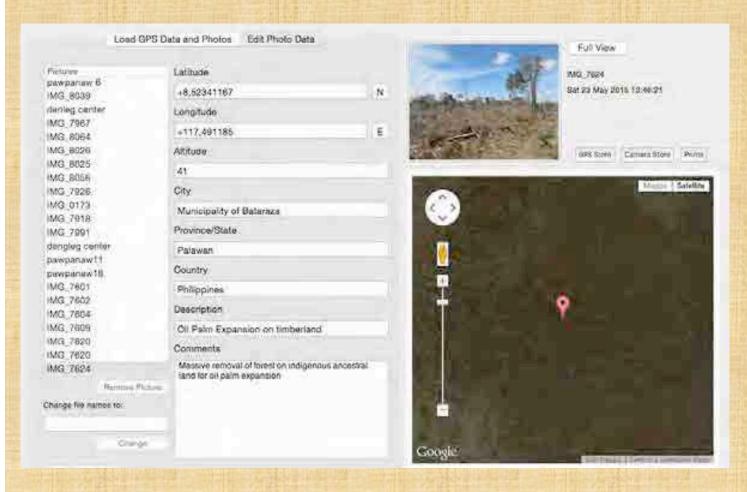
Large scale forest clearing for oil palm plantations in Bgy. Sarong



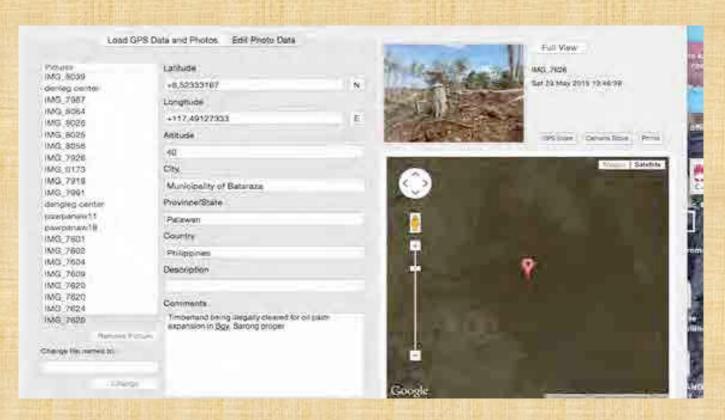
Open clearing on timberland for oil palm expansion. Note the red dot on Google Earth map showing that the area was previously forested



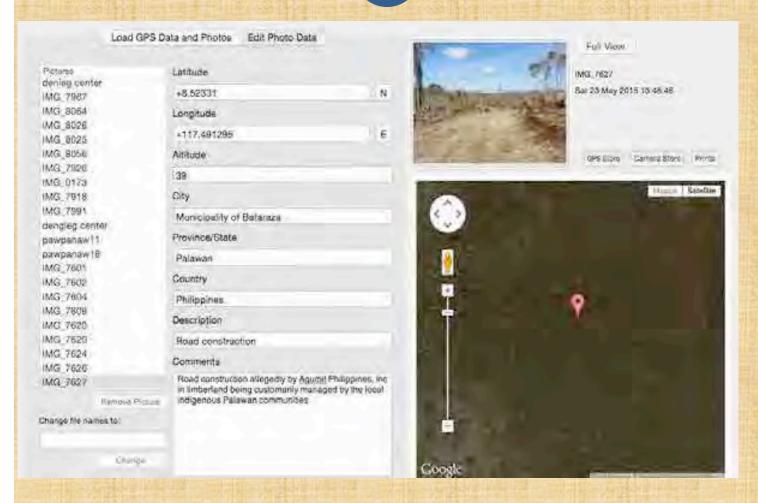
Forest clearing for oil palm conversion on Palawan ancestral land in Sarong. Evidence from Google Earth map shows that the area was covered by vegetation which oil palm companies have now illegally removed



Massive removal of forest on indigenous ancestral land for oil palm expansion



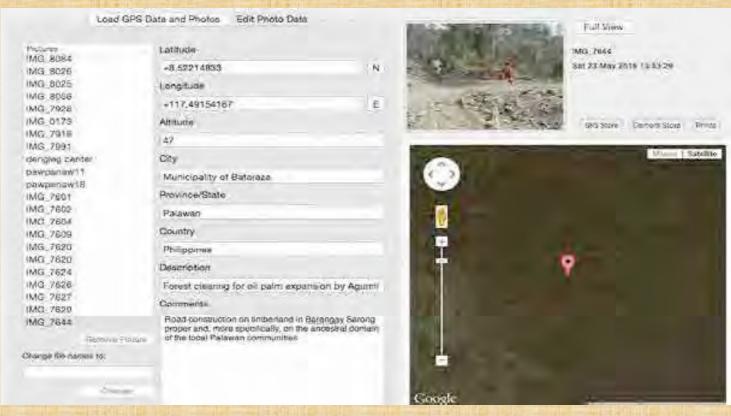
Timberland being illegally cleared for oil palm expansion in Bgy. Sarong proper



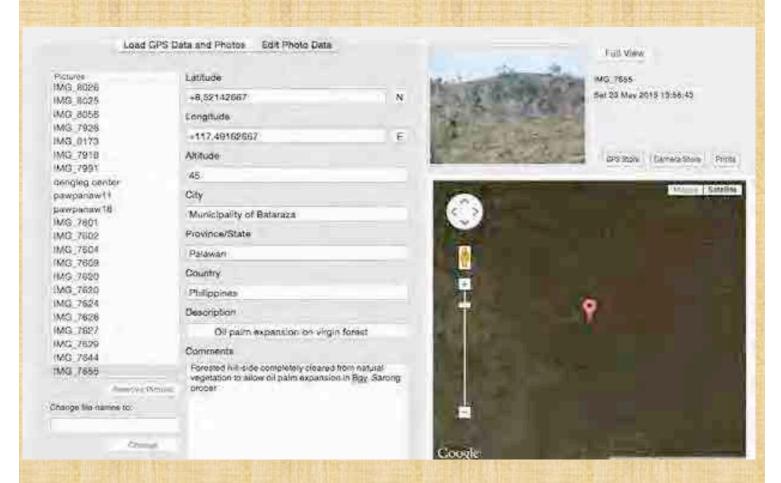
Road construction by Agumil Philippines, Inc. in timberland being customarily managed by the local indigenous Pala'wan communities



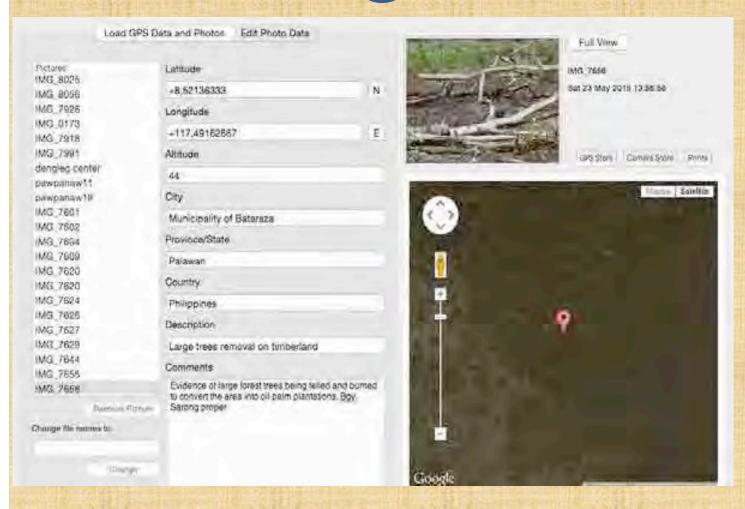
Evidences of large trees removal by Agumil in Bgy. Sarong



Road construction on timberland being built by oil palm companies in Bgy. Sarong



Forested hillside completely cleared from natural vegetation to allow oil palm expansion

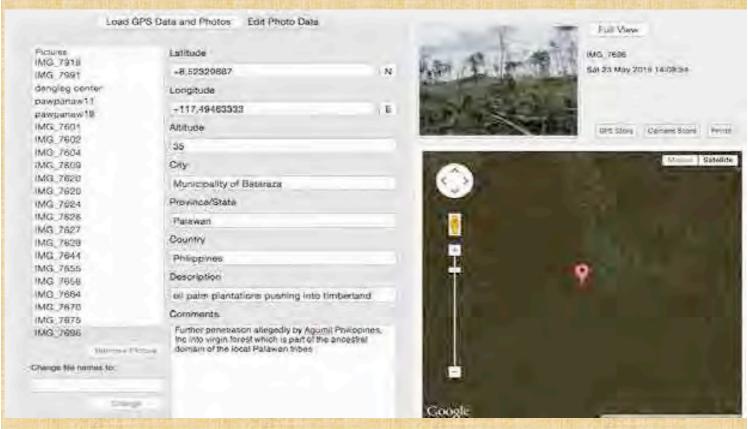


Evidence of large forest trees being felled and burned to convert the area into oil palm plantations



A vast area being cleared for oil palm expansion

Felling of virgin forest allegedly by Agumil Philippines, Inc. on Pala'wan ancestral Domain

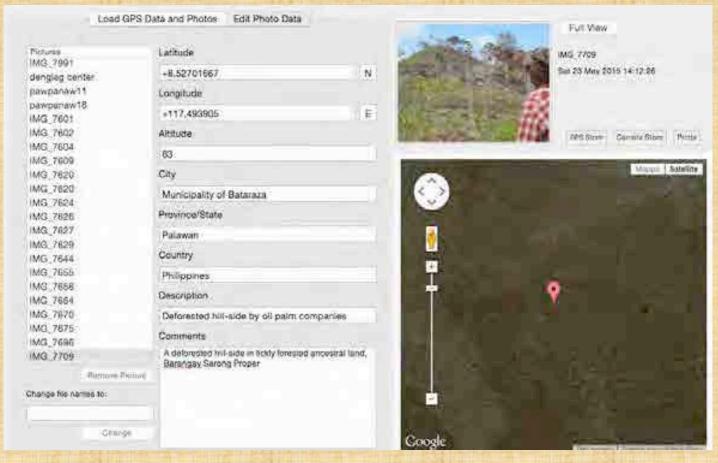


Forest clear-cut by oil palm companies in previously trees covered area







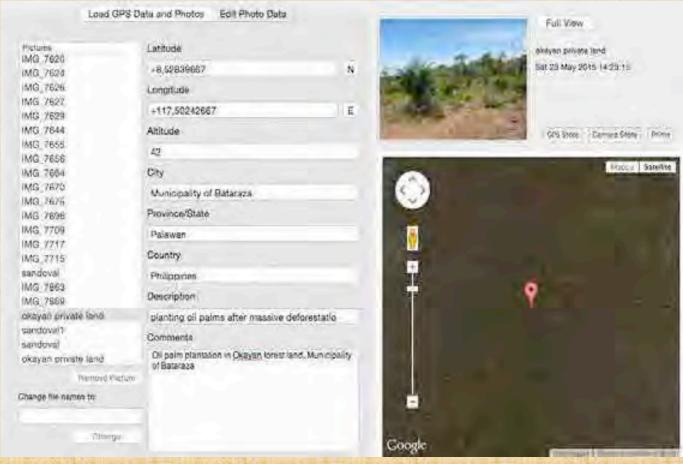


A deforested hillside by oil palm companies on indigenous ancestral land



Deforestation for oil palm expansion in Sarong

GEOTAGGING EVIDENCES OF FOREST CLEARING IN BGY. SANDOVAL PROPER



Oil Palm plantation in Okayan

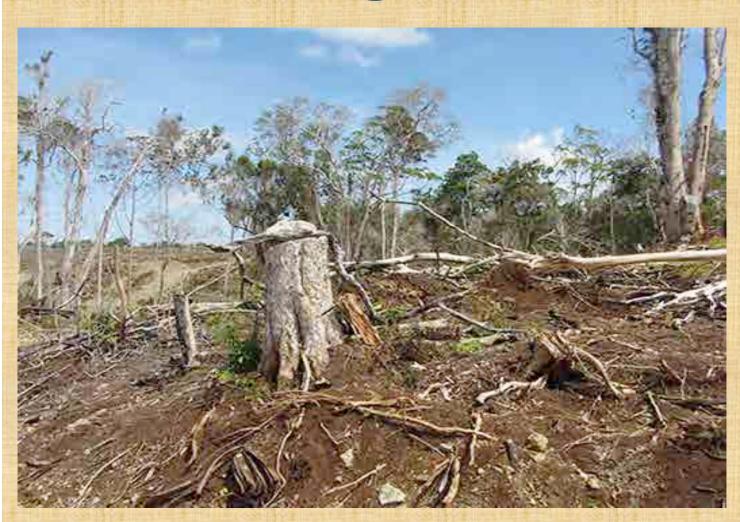


Forest tree removal for oil palm plantations in Bgy. Sandoval

SELECTED IMAGES FROM BGY SARONG



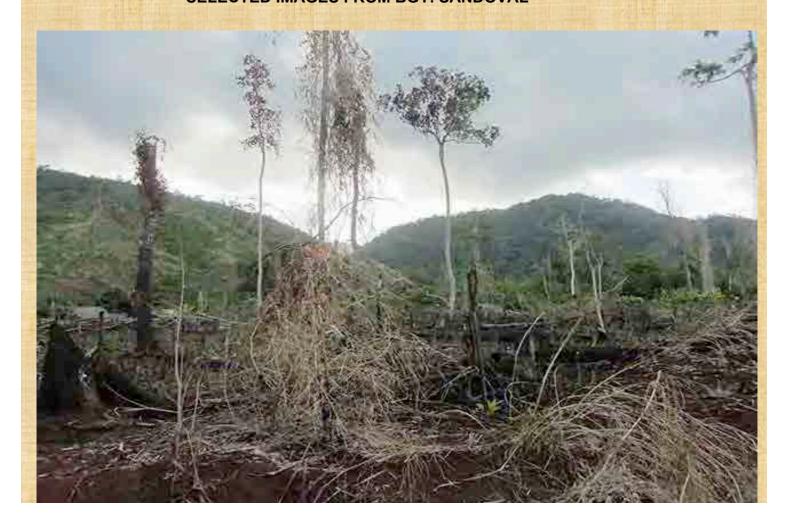


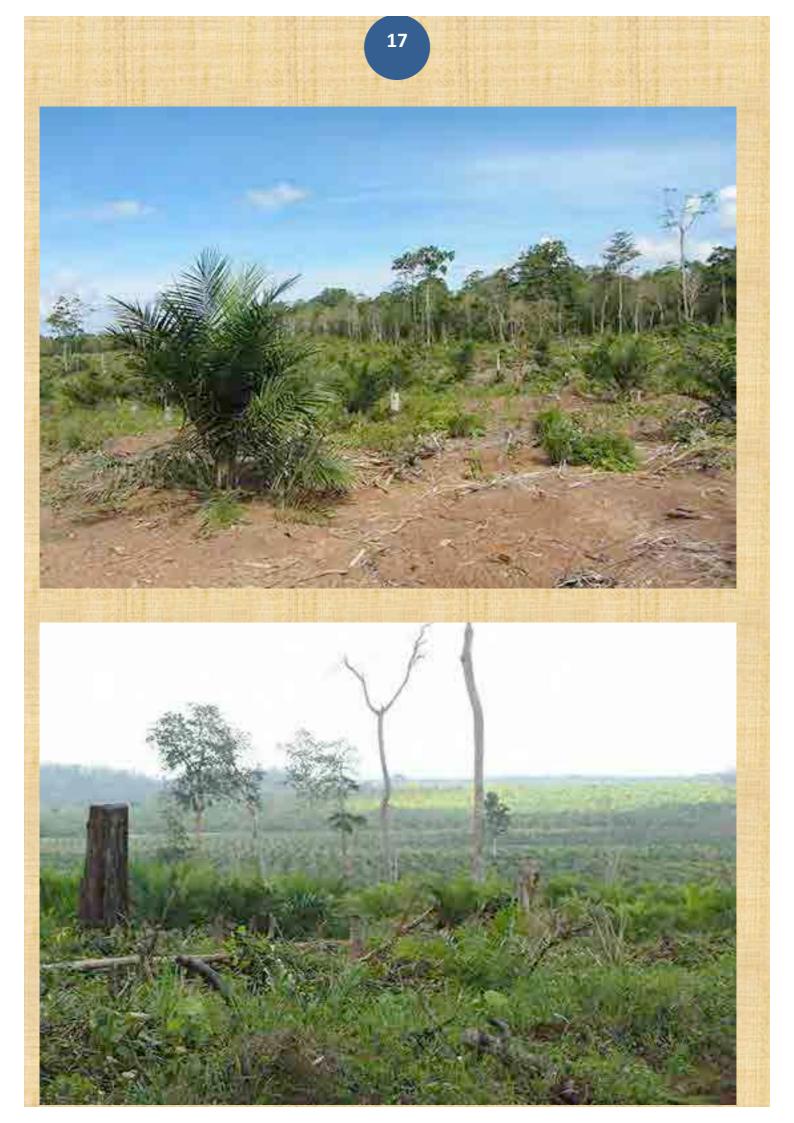






SELECTED IMAGES FROM BGY. SANDOVAL







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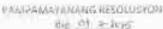


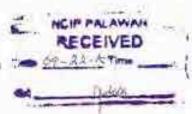
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COMMUNITY RESOLUTION AGAINST FOREST CONVERSION FOR OIL PALM DEVELOPMENT IN SARONG, SUBMITTED TO NCIP PALAWAN OFFICE





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- YAMANG, ang Seksyon Sying nanabing batas ay mag uutos na and mang proyesto, negotyo, o gowain maging ito ay so gobeyerno o pribado; uy kallangang dumaan o makamis ang Malaya Naona at Malanang na Pagsangayon ng mga may an na mga kabututong Pala wann
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- YAMANG, ang komunidad ng katutabung Páta'wan ny nagkasar na igint at ipaglaban ang aming tripa.

 Karapatan sa aming Lupawig Pimuro para sa antin et sesunad pana saling lahit.
- NGAYDN, SAMAKATUWID, sa pagsasa alang alang ng mga nabanggi na mga pangunang siling ay anang agaroba at dito ay aming inaprobahan na bigyan ng kapangyarhan at dito ay aming bindugyan ng kapangyarhan sina Chieftain Joseph Eling at Olieftain Mulangka Li Ella, upang siya nashing kinatawan sa pag girt at pag salong sa aming karapatan sa aming Lupaing Minung taban sa Afatawit, at Kurat kinatashingan ny makipag usay u mag sampa ng nivarapat na kato jaban sa pasabing kumpanya;

INAPBUBAHAN AT NILAGDAAN NAMING MGA TRADISYONAL LIDER AT CATOTUBONG PAMAYANAN NG PALL WAN SA PANGUNGUNA NG MGA TRADISYONAL LIDER NGAYONG MA - 15 NG AUGUST 2015

JOSEPH T. Eling Tribal leagured The Joseph T. Eling T. Chiestown 1975

COMMUNITY RESOLUTION AGAINST FOREST CONVERSION FOR OIL PALM DEVELOPMENT IN SARONG, SUBMITTED TO NCIP PALAWAN OFFICE

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL

Brooke's Point, Palawan

MEMORANDUM

FOR

: The Community Environment and

Natural Resources Officer

THRU

: The Chief, Forest Management Services

FROM

: Forester Franklin M. Aquino

Forest Ranger Bernami M. Manunggay Admin. Aide III Herman A. Paraiso

SUBJECT

REPORT ON THE ALLEGGED ILLEGAL

CUTTING / CLEARING OF TREES OF AGUMIL PHILS., INC. AND SAN ANDRESS AT BGYS SANDOVAL AND CULANDANUM,

BATARAZA, PALAWAN.

DATE

: January 27, 2014

This pertains to your Memorandum dated January 17, 2014 and received by the undersigned on January 20, 2014 regarding the above-cited subject. Please be informed that the undersigned Forest Officers conducted an actual investigation with the following information, facts and recommendations to wit:

- That the team, thru cellphone coordinated to the representative of Nagkakaisang Tribo
 ng Palawan (NATRIPAL) and to the Chairman of Ancestral Domain Watch
 (ALDAW) as to the schedule of joint investigation;
- That on January 23, 2014 together with the representatives of ALDAW Mr. Charlito M. Nilasa and Mr. Daniel Sinta informed/coordinated to the Barangay Sandoval and Agumil Phils., Inc Field office, Barangay Sandoval regarding our purpose;
- 3. That the team proceeded to the subject area together with the representatives of the above-mentioned Barangay for the above-mentioned purpose;
- 4. That the team observed in the area that allegedly the Palm Oil Planters in the area are continuously clearing/cutting all naturally grown trees/vegitation ranging from 30-80 centimeters diameter of Apitong Balau, Apitong Baboi and Misc. Species within their acquired lots, without necessary permit from DENR (Please see attached geo-tag pictures);

2KI

- 5. That the team initially surveyed the newly developed/cut/cleared area allegedly of Agumil Phils., Inc within Alienable and Disposable Land with an area of 19.21 hectares and 2.69 hectares within Timberland. And allegedly the San Andres Farmers Cooperative newly developed /cleared 9.18 hectares within Alienable and Disposable Land (Please see attached digitized Maps).
- 6. That the team recommends the survey of all their area cut/cleared/developed and 100% stump inventory of all the trees cut in order to determine the damages and prejudice to the government;
- 7. That the team recommends the filing of appropriate criminal charges against the above mentioned companies for gross violation of Section 68 and Section 69 of Presidential Decree (PD) 705 as further amended after the survey and inventory of all the area cut/cleared/developed;

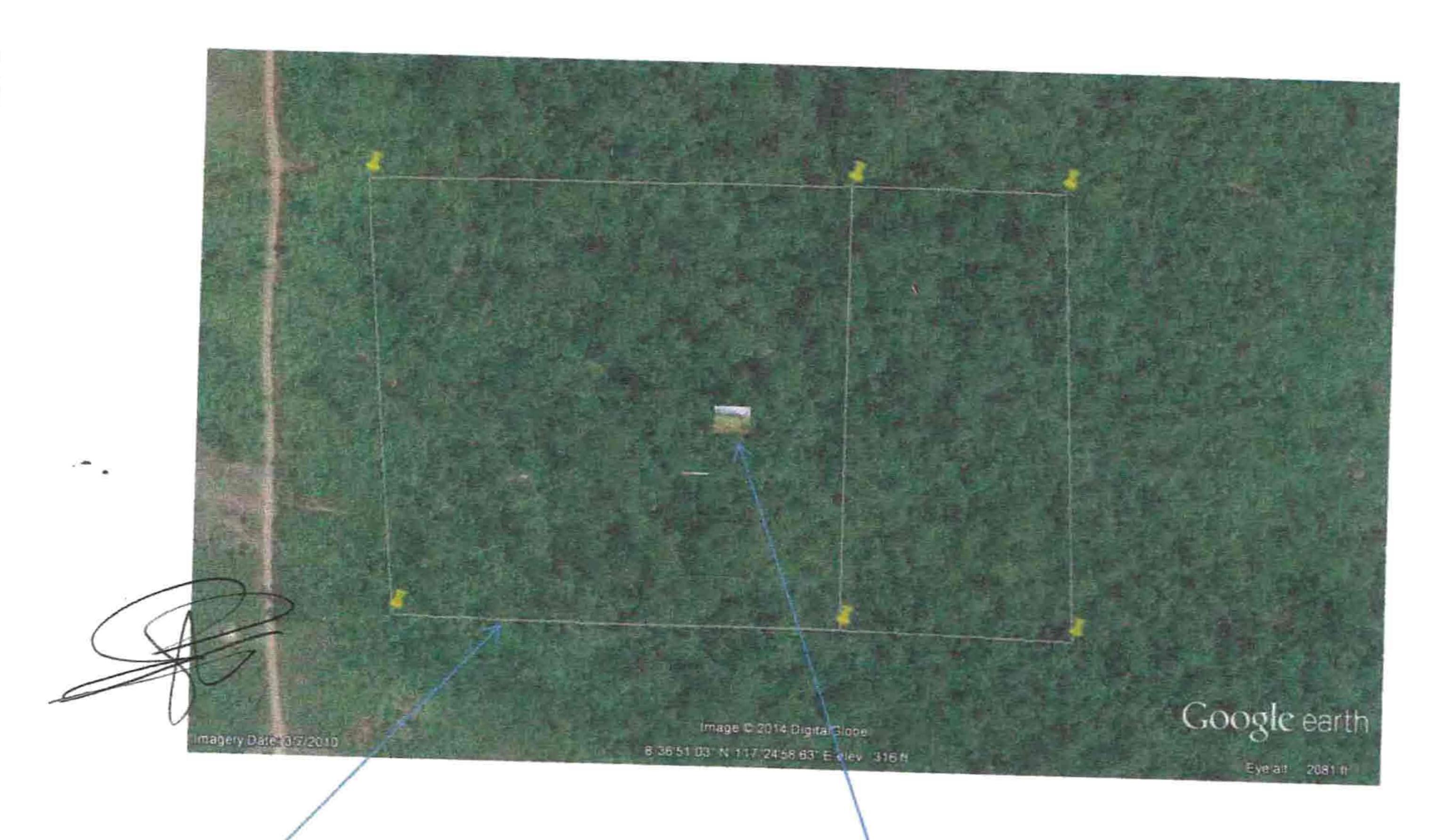
For his information and further appropriate instruction.

RNAMHM. MANDINGGAY

HERMAN A. PARAISO

FRANKLINM. AQUINO

Satellite / Google Earth Image taken last March 07, 2010 now cleared / developed into Palm Oil Plantation allegedly by Agumil Philippines, Inc. located at Sitio Pasi-Pasi, Barangay Culandanum, Bataraza, Palawan



Plantation Area

Latitude: 8° 36' 50.92"

Longitude: 117° 24' 57.59" (WGS 1984)

(Center of the Plantation)

HERMAN A. PARAISO

Admin. Aide III

ENNAMI W. MANUNGG

Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN M. AQUINO

Forester

Latitude: 8° 36′ 50.92″ Longitude: 117° 24′ 57.59″ (WGS 1984) (Center of the Plantation)



North



East



South



West

HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN M. AQDINO

Latitude: 8° 36′ 50.92″ Longitude: 117° 24′ 57.59″ (WGS 1984) (Center of the Plantation)



Panorama 180 North to South



Panorama 180 South to North



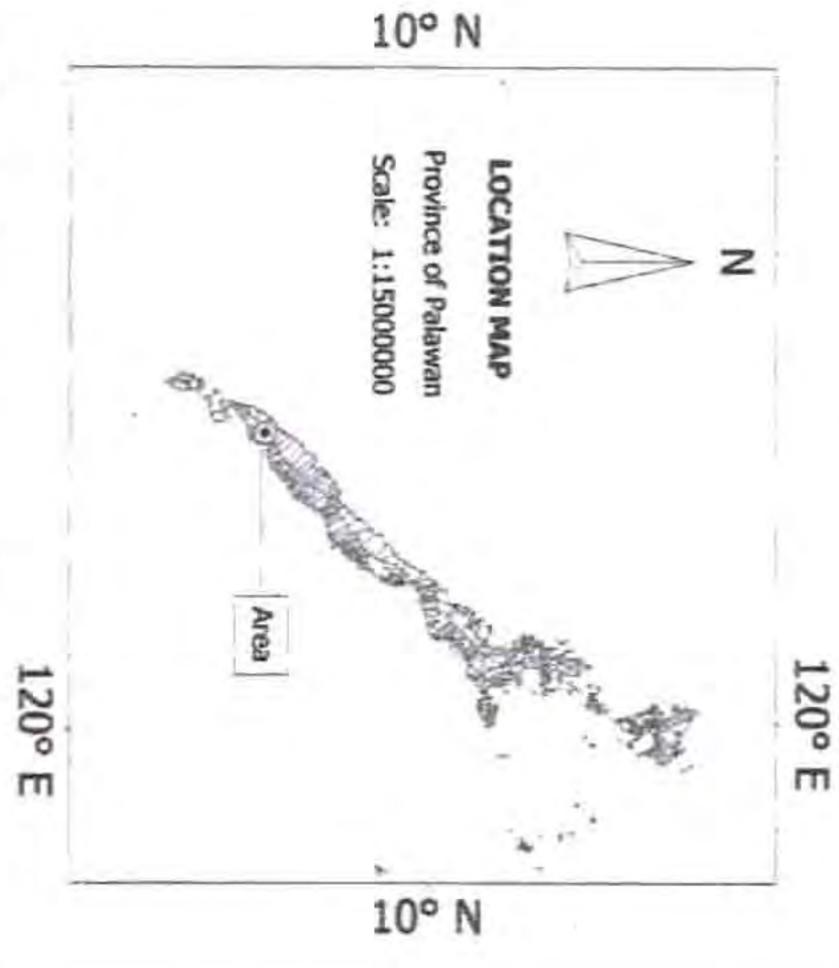
Panorama 360

HERMAN A. PARAISO

Admin. Aide III Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN WI. AQUINO

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Aide

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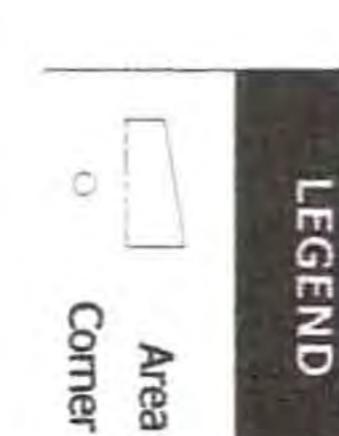
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THENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IV-B (MUMAROPA)

JACTY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

Point, Palawan



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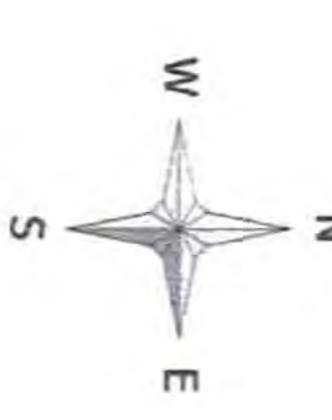
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Bataraza, Palawan

PHILIPPINES,

ea allegedly covered / cleared



POINT

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SECONDS 51.38

DEGREES

LATITUDE MINUTES

SECONDS 54.81

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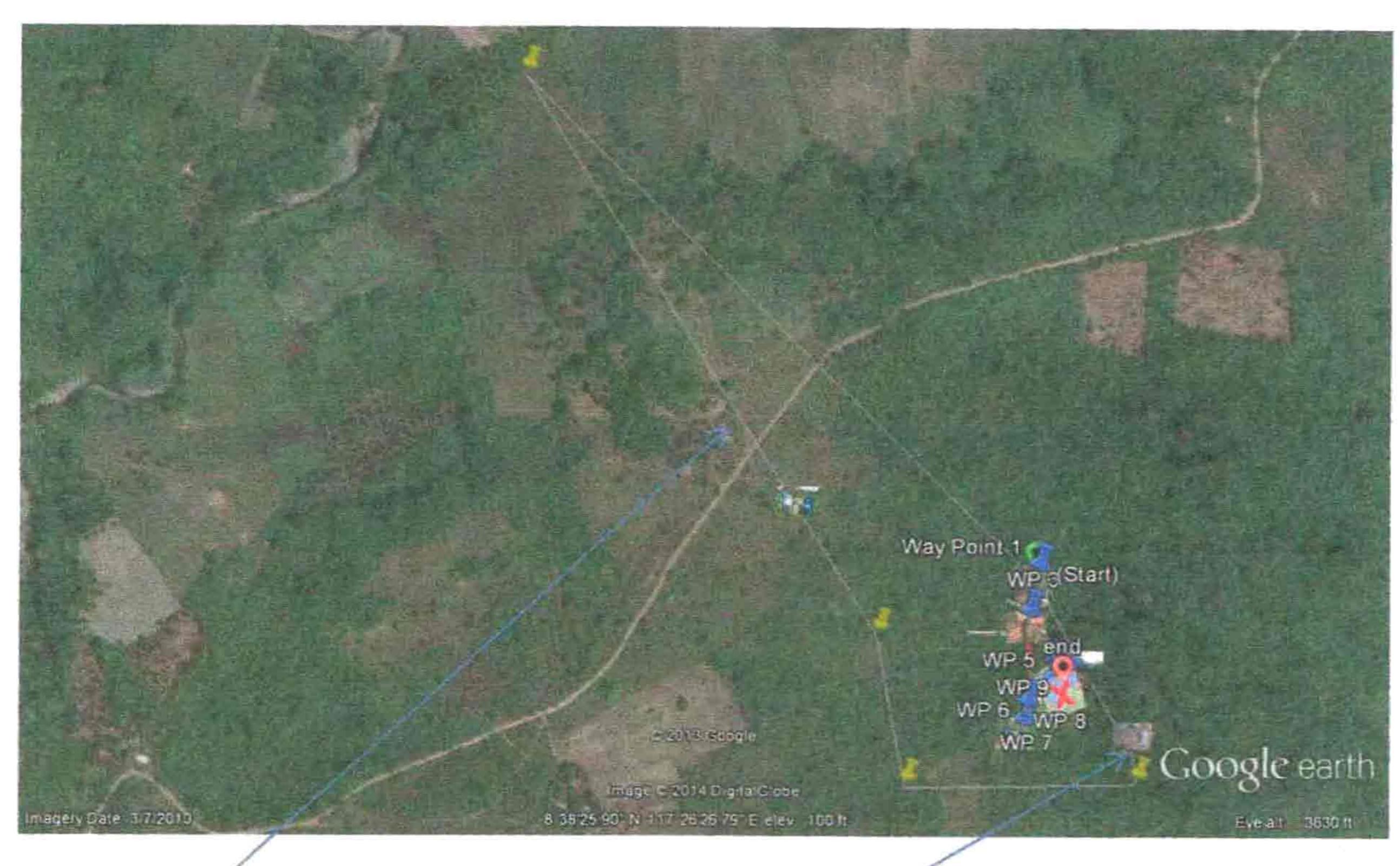
MINUTES

SECONDS

8

MAP

Satellite / Google Earth Image taken last March 07, 2010 now cleared / developed into Palm Oil Plantation allegedly by Agumil Philippines, Inc. located at Barangay Culandanum, Bataraza, Palawan



Plantation Area

Latitude: 8° 38' 16.4" Longitude: 117° 26' 39.4" (WGS 1984)

A. PARAISO

Admin. Aide III

BERNAMIM. MANUNG

Forest Ranger

FRANKLHOM. AQUINO

Way point 1



Way point 2



HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

Forest Ranger

Way point 3





North



East



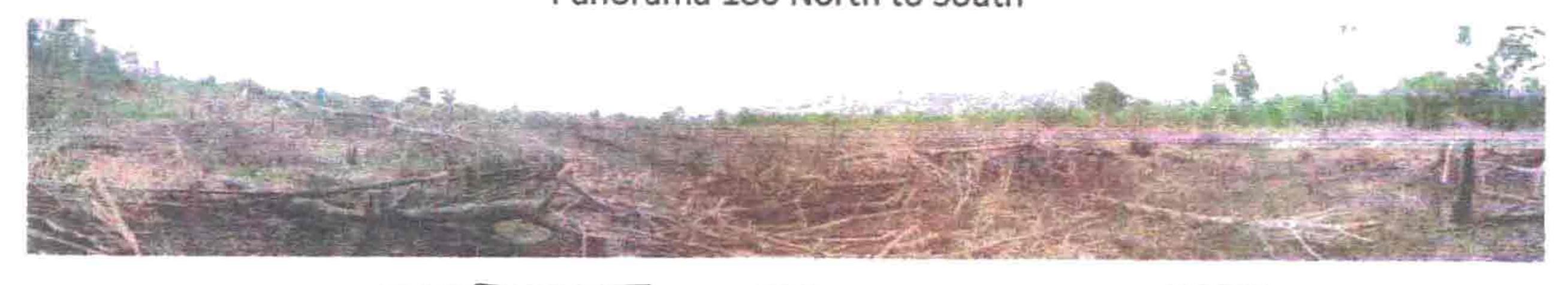
South



West



Panorama 180 North to South



HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

BERNAMI M. MANUNGGAY

Panorama 180 South to North

Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN M. AQUINO

Way Point 4



Way Point 5



HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

BERNAMI M. MANUNGSAY Forest Ranger

FRANKEN M. AQUINO Forester I

Way Point 6



Way Point 7



HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

BERNAMINA MANUNGGAY

Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN M. AQUINO

Way Point 8



HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

BERNAMINA MANUNGO Forest Ranger

RANKLIN NI AQUINO Forester I

Way point 9



North



East



South



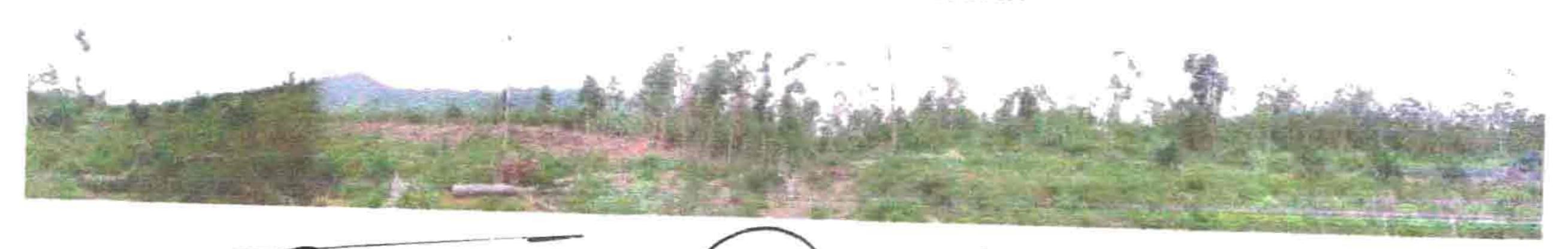
West



Panorama 180 North to South



Panorama 180 South to North



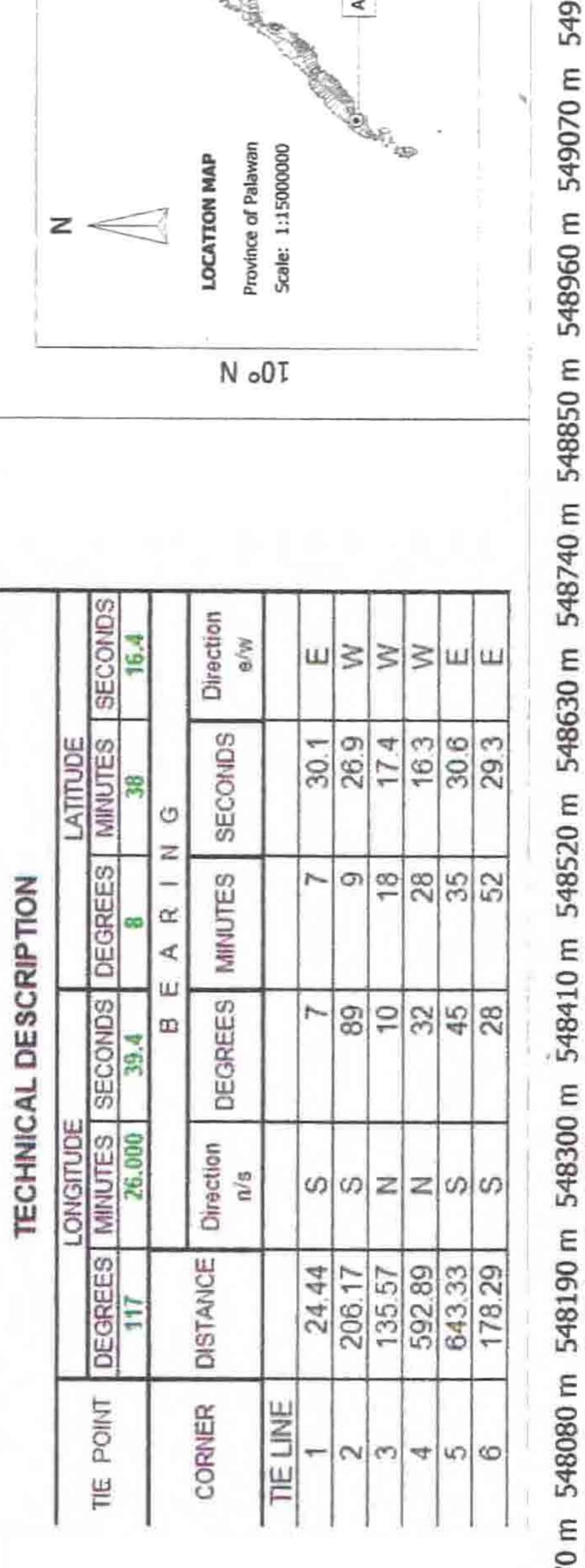
Panorama 360

HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

June

BERNAMI M. MANUNGGAY
Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN M. AQUINO Forester I



100 N 120° E

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PARAISO Aide III Admin. HERMAN

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Satellite / Google Earth Image taken last March 07, 2010 now cleared / developed into Palm Oil Plantation allegedly by San Andres Palm Oil Plantation located at Barangay Sandoval, Bataraza, Palawan



Plantation Area

Latitude: 8° 36′ 16.27" Longitude: 117° 25′ 19.18" (WGS 1984)

(Center of the Plantation)

HERMAN A. PARAISO

Admin. Aide III

BERNAMI M. MANUNGGAY

Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN M. AQUINO

Forester I

Latitude: 8° 36′ 16.27″ Longitude: 117° 25′ 19.18″ (WGS 1984)

(Center of the Plantation)



North



East



South



West

HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

Forest Ranger

FRANKLIM IVI) AQUINO Forester I

Latitude: 8° 36′ 16.27″ Longitude: 117° 25′ 19.18″ (WGS 1984) (Center of the Plantation)



Panorama 180 North to South



Panorama 180 South to North



Panorama 360

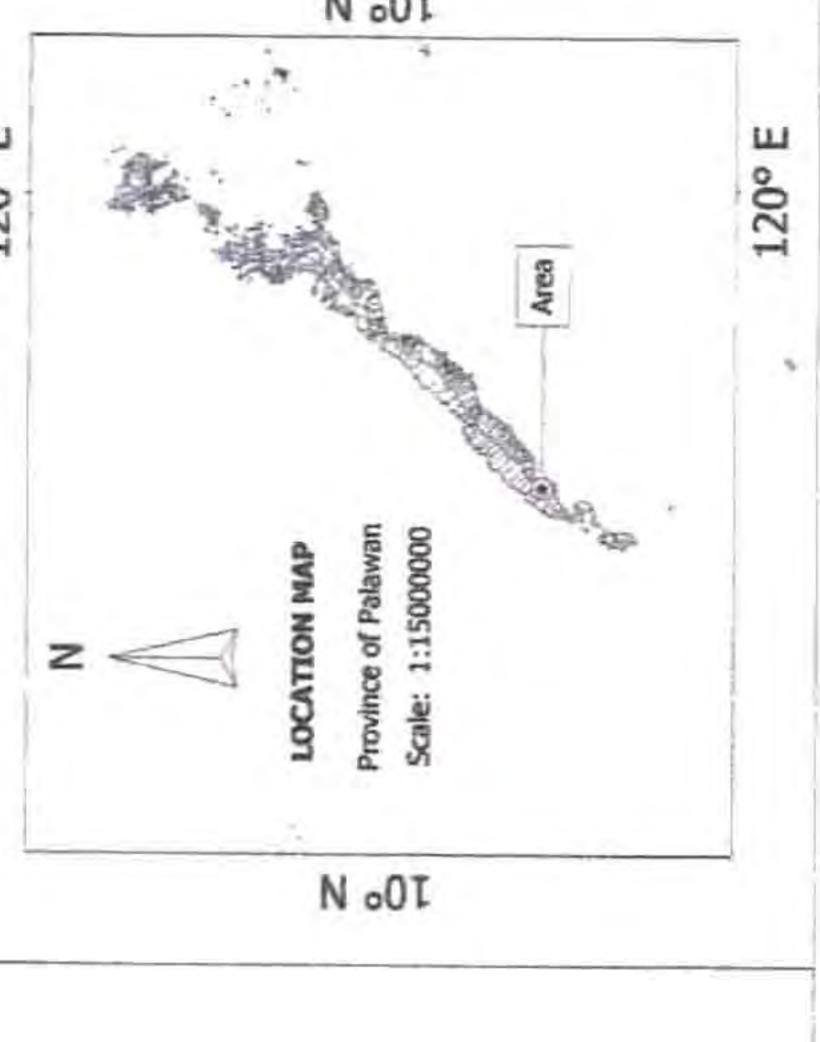
HERMAN A. PARAISO

Admin. Aide III

Forest Ranger

Forester I

Direction W W ≥ ≥ 32.6 31.8 SECONDS z 57 57 41 DESCRIPTION 88 89 GREE TECHNIC Direction SZZ DEGREES 473.25 197.07 467.23 193.62 DISTANCE 1 - 2 E 4



120° E

546108

N oOT

PALM OIL PLANTATION

SAN ANDRES

showing the area allegedly covered,

located at Barangay Sandoval,

AREA: 9.18 Hectares

1:4000

SCALE

W 40ETS6 W 0SZTS6 W E6TTS6 W 9ETTS6 W 640TS6 W ZZOTS6 W 5960S6

Corner

Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator Datum : World Geodetic 1984 (WGS84)

Datum

LEGEND

This is to certify that this is the true and correct map of the area Palm Oil Plantation as described hereon.

CERTIFICATION

AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE

Republic of the Philippings
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Region IV-8 (MIMAROPA)
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF

This map was prepared based on GPS survey, compilation and other references available in this Office. Surveyed by :

546735

546678 m

546621

546564

546507

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546450

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546393

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546279 m

PARAISO Alde Ą. Admin.

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W 40ETS6 W 0SZTS6 W E6TTS6 W 9ETTS6 W 640TS6 W ZZOTS6 W 5960S6

Satellite / Google Earth Image taken last March 07, 2010 now cleared / developed into Palm Oil Plantation allegedly by Agumil Philippines, Inc. located at Sitio Song-Song, Barangay Culandanum, Bataraza, Palawan



Plantation Area

Latitude: 8° 38′ 12.72″ Longitude: 117° 26′ 58.91″ (WGS 1984) (Center of the Plantation)

HERMAN A. PARAISO

Admin. Aide III

BERNAMI MAMUNGGAY

Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN M. AQUINO

Forester I

Latitude: 8° 38′ 12.72″ Longitude: 117° 26′ 58.91″ (WGS 1984) (Center of the Plantation)



North



East



South



West

HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN M. AQUINO Forester I

Latitude: 8° 38′ 12.72″ Longitude: 117° 26′ 58.91″ (WGS 1984) (Center of the Plantation)



Panorama 180 North to South



Panorama 180 South to North



Panorama 360

HERMAN A. PARAISO Admin. Aide III

Forest Ranger

FRANKLIN W. AQUINO

Forester I

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10° N 10° N

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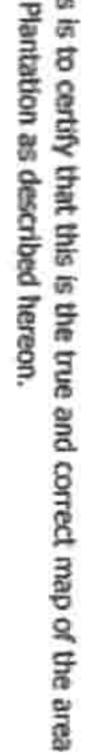


ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
AROPA)
ARONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE
Jawan

Corner

Area

IFICATION

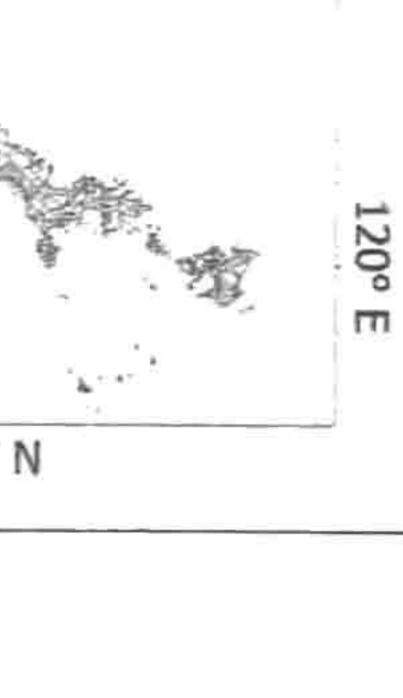


d on GPS survey, compilation map his Office.

549305

549362 m

Admin. Aide III



Ш

gedly covered / cleared

ILIPPINES, INC.

aza, Palawan

Song,

Barangay Culandanum,

5.56 Hectares

1:4000

sal Transverse Mercator - Zone 50 (N) Geodetic 1984 (WGS84)

LEGEND

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Justice
Office of the Provincial Prosecutor
Province of Palawan
Puerto Princesa City



PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

NPS DOCKETNAL CASE TO - INV-14E-0329

Complainant

Versus

VIOLATION OF SEC, 77 (Formerly Section 68 of PD 705 as amended by E.O 277 SERIES OF 1987 and R.A. 7161

MANUEL LUIS Y DOMINGUEZ General Manager Representing AGUMIL PHILIPPINES, INC Municipalities of Butaraza and Sofronio Española, Province of Palawan

DANTE CARBA Area Manager ACUMIL PHILIPPINES, INC. Bgy. Calasaguen, Brooke's Point, Palawan

Charlie Jacob,

Choly Basila,

Oloy Catague,

James Galicia

Respondents

COMPLAINT

The undersigned accuses the above-named person MANUEL LUIS Y. DOMINGUEZ representing AGUMIL PHILIPPINES, INC. as General manager. DANTE CARBA Area Manager AGUMIL PHILIPPINES, INC. Bgy. Calasaguer. Brooke's Point, Palawan. Charlie Jacob; Oloy Catague; James Galicia: Choly Basila; for VIOLATION OF SECTION 77 (Formerly Section 68 of PD 705 as amended by E.O 277 SERIES OF 1987 and R.A. 7161.

That on January 23, 2014, the CENRO Brooke's Point Forest Officers together with the representatives of ALDAW and Barangay Officials proceeded at Sitio Pasi-Pasi and Sitio Song-Song, Barangay Culandamum, Bataraza. Palawan and within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, the above-named accused without any authority under license or permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources did then and there willfully and criminally cut, cleared and transport One Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Seven (1,337) naturally grown trees of various species such as Apitong Babot. Apitong Balau, Agoho, etc... with a total volume of Five Hundred Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Four and 8/100 board feet (518,424.8 board feet) resulting to a total damages of One Hundred Seventeen Million, Eight Hundred Forty Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Six pesos (P 117, 840, 436.00) Philippine currency representing total market value, total Environmental damage, total Forest charges, total 3/30% surcharge, all to the prejudice and damage of the government.

This is an environmental Case

CONTRARA TO LAW

Brooke's Point, Palaway, Philipping

May 26, 2014

Program Director
Unntey Palervan Tesk Force

BERNARDO F CASTLLO
Forester III Chief Forest Management Services
DENK-CENKO Brooke's Point, Palawan

WITNESSES

1 CHARLITO M. NILASA- ALDAW Member

- 2 DANIEL SINTA- ALDAW Member
- 3 FANKLIN M. AQUINO- DENR-CENRO Brooke's Point, Palawan
- 4 BERNAMI M. MANUNGGAY DENR-C'ENRO Brooke's Point, Palawan
- 5. HERMAN A. PARAISO- DENR-CENRO Brooke's Point, Palawan
- 6 TOMAS A DELA TORRE-DENR-PENRO Office PENRO Reaction Force

EXHIBITS:

- 1. On-site report in the conduct of investigation
- 2. Tally sheet of inventoried cut trees
- 3 Statements of total damages of trees cut/felled.
- 4. Pictures of the original vegetation of the damaged area thru satellite. Google Earth Image
- 5 Pictures of frees cut tising Geo-tagging.
- Letter request/complaint dated 26 July 2013 and 22 August 2013 of MR. RODRRSO EMAG (NATRIPAL President)
- Sworn statement of Forester Franklin M. Aquino, FR Bernami M. Manunggay. Admin Aide Herman A. Paraiso in question form
- 8 Sworn Statement of Reynaldo R. Valdez Bantay Gubat (Volunteer).
- 9 Certification dated January 29, 2014 of OIC-CENRO Florencio C. Disc.
- 10 Nerox Copy of Homestead Application (10-A-10) 9264 covering Lot No. 1292, Pls-13.

CERTIFICATION.

I hereby certify that I have personally examined the affiants and I fully satisfied that the Affiants have read and understand the affiguien in the complaints and they have voluntarily executed the complaints.

Hay 2014, at Puerto Princesa City, Palawan

MESBA S. JAMION-BACUTENG ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL PROSECUTOR

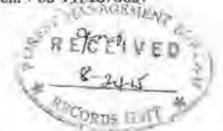


COALITION AGAINST LAND GRABBING

CALG c/o Awat Law Office
2nd Floor Basaya Bldg., Junction 1, Barangay San Miguel,
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines 5300
email: calgpalawan@gmail.com | cell: +63-9471878657

August 22, 2015

DR. RICARDO CALDERON Director Forest Management Bureau (FMB) DENR - Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City



OBJECT: URGENT INQUIRY ON WHETHER 'SPECIAL USE PERMITS' HAVE BEEN RELEASED BY DENR-FMB TO AGUMIL PHILIPPINES, INC

Dear Director Calderon,

Greetings of peace!

The Group Coalition Against Land Grabbing (CALG) is a Palawan-based organization composed of Indigenous people and farmers, which is legally registered with SEC (re. no. CN201502720). We are the people calling for a moratorium on oil palm expansion province-wide in Palawan and, on 29 September 2014, we submitted a petition signed by more than 4,200 members of oil palm impacted communities to the Provincial Government. Since then, our struggle to expose the environmental crimes and illegalities committed by oil palm companies in our province continues.

Between 23-24 May 2015, a mission led by our organization travelled to Bataraza Municipality to carry out a preliminary field and geotagging reconnaissance about the massive forest clearing on timberland, allegedly being carried out by Agumil Philippines, Inc. for the purpose of opening new areas for oil palm plantations. The expansion of oil palm plantations by Agumil Philippines, Inc. is taking place without the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of the local indigenous communities, and thus in violation of NCIP Administrative Order no.3 of series of 2012 and in contradictions with other key articles stated in the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (R.A.-8371).

We have undisputable photographic and GPS evidences showing massive forest clearing and tree felling allegedly by Agumil in Barangay Sarong (Municipality of Bataraza). Please, see attached geotagged report by CALG. The enclosed findings have been further corroborated by CENRO foresters during a recent field appraisal jointly carried out with CALG staff on 30 June 2015.

From what we have been able to establish, the forest area being cleared in Barangay Sarong does not fall within ECC R4B0901 024 3909 covering oil palm plantations in Bgys. Sandoval, Tarusan and Igang Igang (Municipality of Bataraza). Evidence shows

that Agumil Philippines, Inc. without any authority under license or permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has wilfully and criminally cut, cleared and transport hundreds of naturally grown trees of various species such as Apitong baboi, Apitong Balau, Agoho, etc. This is in blatant violation of Section 77 (formerly Section 68 of PD 705 as amended by E.O 277 Series of 1987 and R.A. 7161).

We are disconcerted and extremely preoccupied by the fact that conversion of one the last remaining lowland forest of the Philippines is being allowed in Palawan (a UNESCO Declared Man & Biosphere Reserve), also in violation of the national ban on the cutting of trees in timberlands and residual forest.

We would be very grateful, if the FMB could inform us on whether Agumil Philippines, Inc. has received 'special use permits' from your office. In case such special use permits have actually been released could you kindly provide us additional specifications (numbers, dates in which they were released, target locations, etc.)?

We look forwards to receiving your response within 5 to 10 working days from receipt of this letter, as established by R.A. no. 9485 ("Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007").

Very best wishes

Marivic Q. Bero Secretary General

Copy Furnished

His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines Leonard Caluya - PENRO – Palawan Juan dela Cruz, PENRO - Palawan Nelson P. Devanadera, Executive Director, Palawan Council for Sustainable Jose Chaves Alvarez – Governor of Palawan Mr. Ruben S. Bastero, Regional Director RIV (NCIP) Ronald Parangue Provincial Officer, NCIP Palawan



COALITION AGAINST LAND GRABBING

CALG c/o Awat Law Office 2nd Floor Basaya Bldg., Junction 1, Barangay San Miguel, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines 5300 email: calgpalawan@gmail.com | cell: + 63-9471878657

August 22, 2015

MR. JUAN MIGUEL CUNA
Director
Environment Management Bureau (EMB)
DENR - Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City



OBJECT: URGENT REQUEST TO VERIFY THE STATUS/EXISTENCE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE (ECC) COVERING BARANGAY SARONG (MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA) AND ALLEGENDLY ISSUED TO AGUMIL PHILIPPINES, INC.

Dear Director Cuna,

Greetings of peacel

The Group Coalition against Land Grabbing (CALG) is a Palawan-based organization composed of indigenous people and farmers, which is legally registered with SEC (Re. no. CN201502720). We are the people calling for a moratorium on oil palm expansion province-wide in Palawan and, on 29 September 2014, we submitted a petition signed by more than 4,200 members of oil palm impacted communities to the Provincial Government. Since then, our struggle to expose the environmental crimes and illegalities committed by oil palm companies in our province continues.

Between 23-24 May 2015, a mission led by our organization travelled to Bataraza Municipality to carry out a preliminary field and geotagging reconnaissance about the massive forest clearing on timberland, allegedly being carried out by Agumil Philippines, Inc. for the purpose of opening new areas for oil palm plantations. The expansion of oil palm plantations by Agumil Philippines, Inc. is taking place without the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of the local indigenous communities, and thus in violation of NCIP Administrative Order no.3 of series of 2012 and in contradictions with other key articles stated in the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (R.A. 8371).

We have undisputable photographic and GPS evidences showing massive forest clearing and tree felling allegedly by Agumil in Barangay Sarong (Municipality of Bataraza). Please, see attached geotagged report by CALG. The enclosed findings have been further corroborated by CENRO foresters during a recent field appraisal jointly carried out with CALG staff on 30 June 2015.

From what we have been able to establish, the forest area being cleared in Barangay Sarong does not fall within ECC R4B0901 024 3909 covering oil palm plantations in Bgys. Sandoval, Tarusan and Igang Igang (Municipality of Bataraza). Evidence shows that Agumil Philippines, Inc. without any authority under license or permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has wilfully and criminally cut, cleared and transport hundreds of naturally grown trees of various species such as Apitong baboi, Apitong Balau, Agoho, etc. This is in blatant violation of Section 77 (formerly Section 68 of PD 705 as amended by E.O 277 Series of 1987 and R.A. 7161).

We are disconcerted and extremely preoccupied by the fact that conversion of one the last remaining lowland forest of the Philippines is being allowed in Palawan (a UNESCO Declared Man & Biosphere Reserve), also in violation of the national ban on the cutting of trees in timberlands and residual forest.

We would be very grateful, if the FMB could inform us on whether Agumil Philippines, Inc. has received an ECC from your office, covering Barangay Sarong. In case such ECC has actually been released could you kindly provide us additional specifications (numbers, dates in which it was released, target locations, etc.)?

We further expect that your office will take all necessary legal remedies to enforce DENR laws against tree cutting and forest conversion by Agumil Philippines, Inc. and request the above mentioned enterprise to **Cease and Desist** from any activity causing damage to and depletion of forest resources. We further request that oil palms planted by Agumil in areas previously covered with forest be removed and endemic Palawan tree species be replanted in such areas.

We look forwards to receiving your response within 5 to 10 working days from receipt of this letter, as established by R.A. no. 9485 ("Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007").

Very best wishes,

Marivic Q. Bero Secretary General

Copy Furnished

His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines Leonard Caluya - PENRO – Palawan Juan dela Cruz, PENRO - Palawan Nelson P. Devanadera, Executive Director, Palawan Council for Sustainable Jose Chaves Alvarez – Governor of Palawan Mr. Ruben S. Bastero, Regional Director RIV (NCIP) Ronald Parangue Provincial Officer, NCIP Palawan



COALITION AGAINST LAND GRABBING

CALG c/o Awat Law Office 2nd Floor Basaya Bldg., Junction 1, Barangay San Miguel, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines 5300 email: calgpalawan@gmail.com | cell: + 63-9471878657

OBJECT: REQUESTING YOUR INTERVENTION TO STOP MASSIVE FOREST DESTRUCTION BY OIL PALM COMPANIES IN BGY. SARONG: MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA)

August 22, 2015

SEC, RAMON J.P. PAJE
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DENR - Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Dear Secretary Paje,

On May 23 to 24, 2015, upon the request of the members of the Palawan Tribe in Bgy. Sarong (Municipality of Bataraza) Palawan, the members of Coalition Against Land Grabbing (CALG) sent a field team to the impacted community to conduct preliminary field and geotagging reconnaissance with regards to massive forest destruction allegedly being carried out by Agumil Philippines, Inc. for the purpose of opening new areas for oil palm plantations.

Our findings during the field mission indicate that there exists massive forest destruction within the indigenous ancestral domain in Brgy. Sarong, which clearly violates DENR E.O. 23 and Sec. 59 of R.A. 8371 (please see attached geotagged report and people's resolution). Worse, the clearing activities continue unabated threatening the rich biodiversity of the area and its various ecosystem services which have already been lost thus compromising the sustainable livelihood of local communities in the area. Community leaders who are trying to defend their forest from large-scale oil palm plantations are now receiving threats from individuals who are supporting the illegal land clearing being allegedly pursued by Agumil Philippines, Inc.

In view of this, and on the behalf of the impacted communities, we request your Good Office, as well as FMB and EMB (see attached letters) to take urgent and decisive actions to stop the conversion of primary and secondary forest for development of oil palm plantations in Barangay Sarong, (Municipality of Bataraza) Palawan, and initiate concrete legal actions to halt forest destruction and apprehend the people/companies responsible for such crimes against nature and culture.

We look forwards to receiving your response within 5 to 10 working days from receipt of this letter, as established by R.A. no. 9485 ("Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007").

Sincerely yours,

189800

Marivic Quinto-Bero

Secretary General

Copy Furnished

His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines Ricardo Calderon, CESO III, Director Forest Management Bureau (FMB)
Juan Miguel Cuna, Director Environment Management Bureau (EMB)
Leonard Caluya - PENRO - Palawan
Juan dela Cruz, PENRO - Palawan
Nelson P. Devanadera, Executive Director, Palawan Council for Sustainable
Jose Chaves Alvarez - Governor of Palawan
Mr. Ruben S. Bastero, Regional Director RIV (NCIP)
Ronald Parangue Provincial Officer, NCIP Palawan



COALITION AGAINST LAND GRABBING

CALG c/o Awat Law Office 2nd Floor Basaya Bldg. Junction 1, Barangay 5an Miguel. Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines 5300 email: calgpalawan@gmail.com | cell: * 63-9471878657

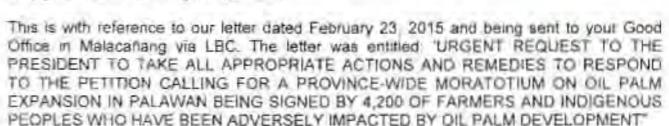
OBJECT: REQUESTING YOUR INTERVENTION TO STOP FOREST DESTRUCTION BY OIL PALM COMPANIES IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

August 22, 2015

HON, BENIGNO SIMEON C. AQUINO, III
President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacanang, Manila, Philippines

Dear Mr. President

May genuine PEACE reign in our land



We are wondering whether the staff of your good office has been able to assess the content of people's polition that was attached to such letter, and have therefore approached the concerned government authorities in Palawan to respond to this matter.

There have been various multi-sectorial meetings being conducted with regard to the said petition calling for an oil palm moratorium in Palawan and, since 2013, several inter-agency meetings on the violations committed by oil palm companies and on the adverse impact of oil palm development have also been held in Puerto Princesa City. Sadly, in spita of escalating opposition to oil palm expansion, the local government authorities have not taken concrete remedies to respond to farmers and indigenous peoples' requests highlighted in such petition. Presently, we feel that all local remedies to resolve this issue at the Provincial level have been exhausted and, therefore, we have decided to approach you again on this issue hoping that, through your intercession, the Provincial Government will finally address the legitimate concerns being raised by the oil palm impacted communities of southern Palawan.



Forest clearing activities by oil palm companies continue unabated especially in the Municipality of Bataraza (Barangay Sarong), threatening the rich biodiversity of the area and its various ecosystem services which have been largely lost, thus compromising the sustainable livelihood of local communities in the area (see copy of our most recent geotagged report and petition from the indigenous people of Bgy. Sarong, as well as copies of letters to DENR Secretary, to DENR EMB and FMB). Community leaders who are trying to defend their forest from the threats of large-scale palm oil plantations are now receiving threats from individuals who are supporting the illegal land clearing being allegedly pursued by Agumil Philippines, Inc.

The exponential decline of forest cover due to massive oil palm expansion is likely to lead to environmental collapse and social instability and this, we believe, runs against the principles of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development which are amongst the milestones of Your administration.

On the behalf of the farmers and Indigenous Peoples of Palawan, we appeal to your benevolent intervention to ensure that the sustainable future of our 'Last Frontier' will not be jeopardized by oil palm expansion.

We look forward to your favorable response on this matter within 5 to 10 working days from receipt of this letter, as established by R.A. no. 9485 ("Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007").

Very truly yours

Marivic Quinto-Bero Secretary General

189000

Copy furnished

Ramon Paje, Secretary Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ricardo Calderon, CESO III, Director Forest Management Bureau (FMB) Juan Miguel Cuna, Director Environment Management Bureau (EMB) Leonard Caluya - PENRO – Palawan Juan dela Cruz, PENRO - Palawan Nelson P. Devanadera, Executive Director, Palawan Council for Sustainable Jose Chaves Alvarez – Governor of Palawan Mr. Ruben S. Bastero, Regional Director RIV (NCIP) Ronald Parangue Provincial Officer, NCIP Palawan



Republic of the Philippines

Department of Economics and Natural Resources Vision Avenue, Dillinan, Queen, City Vision Nov. 025-0225 025-025-025-025-025-025-025-025-025 40-3518 425-0465 (CS-007) (CS-006" 425-0450 VOIP Turning (ESC) 999-400"

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27 Atigun 2015

MS. MARIVIC QUINTO-BERO Secretary General Contition Against Land Grathing. olo Awat Law Office 2nd Floor Basaya Building. Junction 1, Barningsy San Mignel, Foorto Princessi City, Palawan

Dear Ms. Quinto-Bero:

This pequality to your letter dated 22 August 2015 respecting for DENR's intervention of step the conversion of primary and secondary forest for development of oil natus plantations m Barungay Sarong, Bataraga, Palawan

Please be mitormed that we have referred the matter to the Office of the Regular Director in DENR, R-4B, Roxes Bindevard, Minula for their appropriate action. Said office will inform you of action taken on the same.

Thank you.

Very muly yours.

ATTY, ANALIZA REBUELTACTER

Undersecretary Chief of Staff

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Tel Schement Militation



Republic of the Philippines

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Visayas Avenue, Dilimun, Quezon City Tel Nos. •929.6626 •929.6628 •929.66.35 •929.4028 •929.4028 •929.3618 •426.0465 •426.0001 •426.0347 •426.0408 VOIP Trunkline (632) 988.3367

Website: http://www.denr.gov.ph * E-mail; web@denrgov.ph

MEMORANDUM

TO

The Regional Director

DENR, R-4B, Roxas Boulevard, Manils

FROM

The Chief of Staff

SUBJECT

REQUEST TO STOP MASSIVE FOREST

DESTRUCTION BY OIL PALM COMPANIES IN

BATARAZA, PALAWAN

DATE

27 August 2015

This pertains to the letter dated 22 August 2015 from Ms. Marivic Quinto-Bern, Secretary General, Coalition Against Land Grabbing, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. They are requesting for DENR's intervention to stop the conversion of primary and secondary forest for development of oil palm plantations in Barangay Surong, Bataraza, Palawan.

May we refer the matter to you for your appropriate action subject to existing laws, rules and regulations. Kindly inform Ms. Bens of action taken on the same copy furnish this office.

ATTY, ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH Undersecretary

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Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU

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UET #6 2015

Ms. Marivic Quinto-Bero
Secretary General
Coalition Against Land Grabbing (CALG)
2^{tot} Floor Basaya Bidg., Junction 1
Brgy. San Miguel, Puerto Princesa City
Palawan

Dear Ms. Bero:

This refers to your letter dated 22 August 2015 verifying the status of an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) covering Barangay Sarong Municipality of Bataraga which is allegedly issued to Agusta Philippines, Inc.

Based on our records, there is no issued ECC or pending application in Barangay Sarong, Municipality of Balaraga for an Oil Palm Plantation. We also forwarded your concern to EMB Region 4B for their appropriate action.

Thank you.

Sincerely

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA DENR Assistant Secretary and concurrent EMB Director

Copy formsheet EMB Region 48

Pepartners of Environment and Martine Resources Live Sylects, Minagenet (1981) (1991) at the Chiecon Letter

100 - 100

Office of the President PRESIDENTIAL ACTION CENTER Maiacañang, Manila

August 28, 2015.

Atty. ANALIZA R. TEH
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff
Office of the Secretary
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources
Visayes Ave., Dillman, Quezon City

Dear Madam:

We are transmitting the attached letter dated August 22, 2015 with enclosures, addressed to His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III from Coalition Against Land Grabbing represented by its Secretary General Ms. MARIVIC Q. BERO c/o Awat Law Office, 2F Basaya Bldg., Junction 1, Brgy. San Miguel, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Inasmuch as the subject matter contained therein may be best addressed by that Office, we leave the action to your sound discretion.

A reply directly to the party concerned, copy furnished this Office, citing Code Number GL CAM 8-26-2015-013 will be highly appreciated.

Yery truly yours,

Atty. MARIA ESTRELLITA R. REYES, CESO IV

ce Ms. HQ. Rem

GAMA Bldg., Minerva corner Jose P. Laurel Sts., Malacañang, Manila Telephone Number.: 784 4286 local 4568; Fax Number: 736 8621 Email Address: pace_op@malacaneng.gov.ph; pace_op@yahoo.com.ph



Republic of the Philippines OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PROPLET OF REGION IV

3" Fir. ARGO Bldg., 574 EDSA, Corner P. Tugger Blvd. 1" 1 Cubico, Quezan City

Memorandum Order No. 2014-12-615 Series of 2014

TO

ENGR. ROLDAN V. PARANGUE

Provincial Officer

FROM

THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

This Office

SUBJECT :

ANCESTRAL DOMAIN AREAS OVERLAPPED BY PALM

OIL PLANTATIONS

DATE

December 1, 2014

This pertains to the letter of Atty. Nesartio G. Awat of CALG Law Office concerning the ancestral domain of the Tagbanua and Pala wan ICCs being overlapped by palm oil plantations.

In view hereof, you are hereby requested to submit the list of barangays being covered by the plantation.

Attached herewith is a copy of the letter.

For your strict compliance.

RUBEN S. BASTERO, CESO III

Coelition Agamst Land Grebbing 2rd Fir. Basaya Bidg _Junction 1 6:gy, San Migual, P.P City

2. Office of the Executive Director

3. TMSD

4 Records