

Tamaraw Planning Workshops, Mindoro 2011



Convened and Co-hosted by



Organising committee

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Workshop aims: The workshop to be held in November 2011 in Manila aims to bring together stakeholders to communicate the issues surrounding the population decline of the Tamaraw and to begin the process of producing a Species Action Plan that will guide the implementation of management measures to ensure the continued survival of the Tamaraw in the wild.

Tamaraw Population: In 2006, three separate populations were known. Based on recent surveys, the minimum total population is estimated at around 300 individuals. An estimated continuing decline of 25% over the next 30 years is predicted.

Rationale: This National Action Planning workshop for Tamaraw in Mindoro in the Philippines is part of a Regional Conservation Planning Process for wild cattle and buffalos in South-east Asia, which was initiated two years ago using the new IUCN Species Conservation Planning Task Force's guidelines.

National action planning workshops are a vital part of the new IUCN Species Conservation Planning Task Force's recommended process since most conservation action is planned and implemented at the national or local level. This Philippine workshop will be the fourth in a series of national action planning workshops as it follows the first workshop, held in Vietnam immediately after the regional workshop in June 2008, and the second and the third which were held in Indonesia in 2009.

Attendees at the national workshop will include conservation practitioners, as well as provincial planning, and government department representatives. This range of stakeholders will allow discussion of the future requirements of both wildlife conservation and sustainable development for local communities. The process is designed to be flexible enough to allow it to meet the diverse needs identified by participants in the process.

Workshop Outputs: Mapping is an important step in the process. Maps of species distribution have already been developed at the regional workshop in 2008, and these will be refined at the national workshops if required. The mapping process includes known populations of the species, as well as areas that may sustain populations but where recent survey data are lacking, and areas where the species might be restored in future.

During the Regional workshop a structure for planning using a Vision, Goal, Objectives, and Actions framework was employed. As part of developing a region-wide conservation strategy, the regional workshop also prioritised the need to hold national action planning workshops to add the necessary national-level detail of who will do what, where, and how much it will cost over the next 5–10 years. The Philippine workshop described here has therefore been convened to meet that need and so all attendees can, we hope, agree on the most effective and feasible actions required to save the Tamaraw of Mindoro.

The national workshops will use the Regional Conservation Strategy as a template for developing the National Plans. This will allow us to rapidly develop relevant National Visions and Goals. Once these first steps have been completed, the participants will accept or adjust the Objectives and Actions (and their relevant targets) identified at the regional workshop for the tamaraw in Mindoro. The Actions part of the process will be the major focus of the national workshop, and participants will identify timelines and the organisations taking responsibility for implementation. The 10 year Action Plan will be published in the months following the workshop. It will be promoted amongst all stakeholders and it is hoped that they will jointly take on the responsibilities to achieve the successful implementation.