

Albay Coco Geonets Manufacturing Enterprise

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS ASPECT

Social Assessment

i. Subproject Beneficiaries

The beneficiary of the enterprise is the Tunay Tapat Lahing Pilipino Cooperative based at Sitio La Medalla, Bonbon, Libon, Albay. It has 53 male members and 42 female members who are mostly coconut farmers. Coconut farmers in the 19 barangays in Libon may also be considered indirect beneficiaries. Consultation-dialogues were conducted on March 8, 2014 and July 11, 2014 with cooperative officers and members who signified their support to the objectives of the proposed enterprise.

ii. Indigenous Cultural Community/Indigenous Peoples (ICC/IP)

The proposed road project is not within and will not traverse an ancestral domain or neither affects any Indigenous Peoples. The Provincial Government of Albay has already written a letter to NCIP to ensure that there are no IPs that will be affected within the project area. See attached letter to NCIP.

iii. Site and Right-of-Way acquisition

The enterprise site is at Sitio La Medalla, Libon, Albay, just along the national highway and is accessible to the other stakeholders of the enterprise. The lot was acquired by TTLPC through purchase of two parcels of agricultural lands with an aggregate area of 19,000 sqm. Although the land is declared or classified as agricultural lands, it is not adversely affected nor covered by the Land Reform and allied laws since it is untenanted and under cultivatorship of its original owner.

iv. Damage to Standing Crops, Houses and/or Properties

The Construction of the warehouse will affect the cutting of some lemon trees but were donated voluntarily by the TTLPC considering the economic benefit of the warehouse to the business venture of the cooperative and the livelihood opportunities and additional income that the members and would-be members will benefit from the operationalization of the manufacturing enterprise.

v. Physical Displacement of Persons

The proposed enterprise will not result in the relocation of houses and will not displace any persons.

vi. Economic Displacement of Persons

Likewise, there will be no economic displacement as this will not affect any economic activity of the members. This will rather provide additional income opportunities to its members.

Environmental Assessment

i. Natural Habitat

The enterprise site is not within an officially declared or proposed protected area of natural habitat. There are no identified important species present in the enterprise site.

ii. Physical Cultural Resources

There are no structures, monuments or physical cultural resources in the subproject site. The enterprise will not also change any or impact any landscape thereat.

iii. Terrain, Soil Types and Rainfall

The municipality has four types of terrain: plain, hilly, mountainous and coastal. Approximately 9,628 hectares or 42.39 percent are plain, 5,149 hectares or 22.67 percent are hilly, 7,272 hectares or 32.02 percent are mountainous and 664 hectares or 2.92 percent are coastal.

Libon mostly comprises agricultural or production land totalling 818,315 hectares or 80.63 percent of the total land area. The types of soil in the municipality include the Magsaysay soil series, the Agustin soil series and the Sevilla Soil series.

Libon has an average temperature of 26.60C. Its coldest and hottest months are January (25.20C) and June (28.0C), respectively. The monthly relative humidity mean ranges from 82 to 86 percent averaging to about 84 percent per year. The relative humidity is usually high during the warm months and low during the cold months.

The average annual rainfall in the area is 4,297.7 mm. The months of January to May have the lowest monthly rainfall with minimum values ranging from 55.0 to 140.5 mm. June to December are the wettest months with maximum rainfall means ranging from 394.2 to 563.4 mm.

iv. Hazard/Risk Assessment (Drainage Situations, Erosion and Flooding Potential)

The cooperative will adapt proper handling of wastes during production. In this enterprise, the principle of reducing, recycling and reusing waste materials comes into the picture. The enterprise is supportive of environmental protection and conservation. Maximizing resource use of the coconut husks maintains a balance between resource extraction and resource conservation. A significant prospect for coir is the growing global concern to address ecological problems through the use of natural materials for environmental protection.

An Environmental and Social Management/Mitigation Plan (ESMP) has been prepared which covers all potential environmental and social impacts of the subproject.

v. Status of Environmental Clearances

The Provincial Government of Albay has secured the necessary Certificate of Non-Coverage duly approved by DENR-EMB.