

December 12, 2023

Dr. Daniel Leslie S. Tan
OIC President
Visayas State University
Visca, Baybay City, Leyte

Through: **Dr. Anatolio B. Polinar**
Chairman
Tree Management and Conservation Committee

Dear **Dr. Tan**:

The Terrestrial Ecosystems Division of the Institute of Tropical Ecology and Environmental Management has been developing and establishing an *Aquilaria Ex-Situ* Conservation site at TED-ITEEM Rainforestation demonstration area. Presently, a total of 200 seedlings of *A. malaccensis* and *A. cumingiana* were planted. The *Aquilaria ex-situ* conservation is one of the deliverables of the ECo-SAP (Ecological Assessment and Conservation of *Aquilaria* to support Sustainable Agarwood Production in Leyte) project that is funded under the University's Internationalization Program.

The growth performance of the plants is monitored quarterly with proper silvicultural management to replicate its natural biophysical and climatic conditions. Unfortunately, the existing mahogany are overshadowing the study plants that has a negative effect on its morphological and physiological performance due to below and above ground competition. Furthermore, the mahogany trees are already fruiting and dispersing the seeds rapidly. This provided a window for the mahogany seedlings to spread like fire that will eventually have a potential negative impact on the *Aquilaria ex-situ* conservation area.

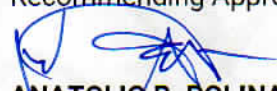
In this connection, I would like to request to cut the three mahoganies within the *ex-situ* conservation site. Furthermore, Prof. ROSA OPHELIA D. VELARDE, Director for Research Program, is providing us the workforce and logistics to cut and slice the trees into lumbers with the agreement that all the lumbers will be used to repair the NCRC nursery and shed house.

We are hoping for your favorable action on this request. Thank you very much for your continued support.

Very truly yours,


MARLITO M. BANDE
Director/Eco-SAP Project Leader

Recommending Approval:


ANATOLIO B. POLINAR
Chairman, TCMC

Approved:

DANIEL LESLIE S. TAN
OIC President