

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

KNOWN TO ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

The VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY (VSU), an institution of higher learning established under Pres. Decree No. 470 as amended by Pres. Decree No. 700, and converted into a university by virtue of RA. 9158 and 9417, with principal office at Baybay City, Leyte, duly represented by the University President and VICARP RRDCC Chairman, **Dr. Edgardo E. Tulin**, hereinafter referred to as VSUCARP;

-and-

The Municipality of Barili, a local government unit established and existing under the laws and regulations of the Republic of the Philippines, with office address at L. Abad Street, Poblacion. Barili, Cebu, represented by **Hon. Pablo John D. Garcia IV**, Municipal Mayor, as authorized by the Sangguniang Bayan through Municipal Resolution No. 196-AU09-2023, hereinafter referred to as LGU BARILI;

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the Local Government Code (RA 7160) specifically mandates Local Government Units to share with the national government the responsibility for the management and maintenance of ecological balance within their territorial jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources through Department Administrative Order No. 1992-30 has devolved certain functions of the DENR to the Local Government Units, among them is forest management, specifically the management of communal forests, small watershed areas, and community forestry projects;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Barili, Cebu is currently implementing the Municipal Integrated Watershed Management Project (MIWMP) under the Green and Wholesome Environment that Nourish (GWEN) Program of the Local Government Unit of the Province of Cebu;

WHEREAS, the Zonal Center for Biodiversity Conservation and Habitat Restoration (Biodiversity Center) and the Institute of Tropical Ecology and Environmental Management (ITEEM) of the Visayas State University supports and promotes community-based projects that are anchored with rational management and protection of our natural environment and resources including the promotion of native/indigenous forest tree species and Rainforestation technology for habitat, watershed restoration and biodiversity conservation;

WHEREAS, the Biodiversity Center has been promoting native/indigenous forest tree species for habitat and biodiversity conservation and the ITEEM, Visayas State University has been advocating Rainforestation technology as a national strategy for forest rehabilitation and watershed restoration under the University's regular extension project;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Unit of the Municipality of Barili had shown enthusiasm and interest to adopt the Rainforestation technology in their efforts to restore its watershed areas to increase water production, improve water quality, provide alternative livelihood to nearby residents, and conserve biodiversity in the area;

WHEREAS, the development and management of Rainforestation adopter's farm and establishment of native/indigenous forest tree nursery in Bay Mangalongon as component