



March 13, 2023

DR. EDGARDO E. TULIN

President

Visayas State University

Visca, Baybay City, Leyte

Dear **President Tulin**:

The project entitled **Ecological Assessment and Conservation of *Aquilaria malaccensis* through Sustainable Agarwood Production in Leyte and Biliran Islands, Philippines (ECo SAP)** was recently approved for implementation that is funded under the University's Internationalization Program. One of the major activities of the project is to assess the wild population and distribution of *Aquilaria* and its associated insects and fungi as well as the carbon sequestration potential of *Aquilaria*-based plantations in Leyte. Furthermore, the project is expected to provide knowledge-based information, technology and innovation to project beneficiaries as well as support and assist all sectors of the community that are engaged in *Aquilaria*-based production system and to direct their efforts towards creating sustainable agarwood-based livelihood opportunities.

On the other hand, the project was able to secure a renewed gratuitous permit for the collection of voucher specimens (i.e., *Aquilaria* and its associated trees), insects and soil samples. Attached is the GP document (DENR-GP No. RO8 2022-37) issued on October 4, 2022 for your record.

In this connection, I would like to ask permission to allow us (i.e., project/study leaders and project staff) to conduct a 6-day fieldwork in Brgy. Tinocolan, Abuyog, Leyte on March 28 to April 2, 2023. In addition, the team will visit the following places, namely: Mt. Anislagon and Mt. Tinogdaan. We will not be camping in the forest but instead we will be staying at the Barangay proper of Tinocolan. The team will bring two units of hand-held radio using the *Kabalikat* Civic Com frequency for communication in case of emergency.

Rest assured that the safety of the team will be utmost important in conducting the activity. I hope for a favorable action on this request. Thank you very much for your support for the implementation of our **ECo SAP** project as well as for the conservation and sustainable utilization of *Aquilaria*. Attached are the list of individuals that are involved in the fieldwork with their corresponding duties and responsibilities.

Very truly yours,


Marlito M. Bande, Dr. sc. agr.

Assoc. Professor and
Project Leader

Approved

DR. EDGARDO E. TULIN

President

Visayas State University