



Republic of the Philippines

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
CENTRAL OFFICE



31 May 2019

**MR. GENEROSO D.G. CALONGE**

Assistant Secretary  
Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

Dear **Assistant Secretary Calonge**:

This has reference to your request for comments on the High Level Action Plan for the ISA for the 2019-2023 period and Key Performance Indicators.

Upon review, the Department would like to provide the following comments:

- On Strategic Direction No. 3: Protect the Marine Environment, there was no mention for parallel studies that would look at the biological resources that can be impacted by deep sea mining. What was only included in the plan of action is the development of a regulatory framework for protection of the environment; and
- On Strategic Direction No. 4: Promote and Encourage Marine Scientific Research in the Area, the action plan promotes and encourages to conduct research related to the environmental effects, however, there was no indication on how to mitigate such environmental effects.

Thank you for soliciting our inputs.

Sincerely yours,

**LEAH J. BUENDIA, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation

Cc: DOST-OSEC  
Dr. Reynaldo V. Eborra, DOST-PCAARRD