

[DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 98-45, June 24, 1998]

**GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE ISSUANCE AND TRANSFER OF
CERTIFICATE OF STEWARDSHIP (CS) WITHIN CBFM AREAS**

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 263 otherwise known as the Community-Based Forest Management Strategy and DAO 96-29, its implementing rules and regulations, the following guidelines are hereby promulgated for the guidance of all concerned:

SECTION 1. BASIC POLICY. Consistent with the policy of promoting social justice and equitable access to forest lands and resources, the government shall recognize individual property rights within forest lands in order to encourage private investments in the development of marginal forest lands, promote socio-economic upliftment, and enhance active participation in CBFM activities. In line with this policy, a Certificate of Stewardship (CS) shall be awarded to an individual or family actually occupying, tilling, developing, managing or protecting portions of forest lands. The CS, which have a duration of 25 years and renewable for another 25 years, shall be issued within established CBFM areas, subject to the decision and recommendation of the People's Organization (PO). CS areas are integral part of the CBFMA area, and should be developed, managed and utilized in accordance with the Community Resource Management Framework formulated for the entire CBFMA area.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS OF CS RECIPIENTS. Individuals or families with the following qualifications may be awarded Certificate of Stewardship and enter into Stewardship Agreement with the government:

- 1) Must be Filipino citizens;
- 2) Must be of legal age;
- 3) Must be actual tillers or cultivators of the land to be allocated;
- 4) Must be a member of the People's Organization which was granted a CBFM area subject of the CS application;
- 5) Must be willing to develop the land as well as participate in community-based forest management activities;
- 6) Must not be a previous holder of CS that was cancelled for cause.

SECTION 3. PROCEDURE IN THE ISSUANCE OF CS. The following steps shall be followed in the delineation, processing and issuance of CS within established CBFMA areas.

- 1) Information dissemination. The CENRO through its CBFM Unit, PMOs, Information Officers, and in collaboration with the PO, LGU, and other assisting organization(s) shall include in their IEC activities, the procedure on the issuance of CS, including the rights and responsibilities of the recipients.