

**[ DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 22 s. 1993,  
April 26, 1993 ]**

**REVISED GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM**

Consistent with the policy of the state to ensure sustainable development of all public forest lands and in response to the lessons learned in the implementation of the Community Forestry Program (CFP), the guidelines for CFP are hereby revised as follows:

**General Provisions**

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall promote the protection management and sustainable development of natural resources within secondary/residual and old growth forests and the rehabilitation of open and degraded forest lands through proper management and sustainable development and at the same time improve the socio-economic condition of poor upland and coastal communities.

SECTION 2. Objectives. The Community Forestry Program shall:

- a. Initiate Community — based forest development management and utilization of natural resources within second growth upland forests and residual mangrove forest to promote social equity and prevent further degradation of natural resources;
- b. protect the remaining primary forests with the help of the community;
- c. enhance institutional capacity of the DENR, Local Government Units (LGUs), educational institutions and non-government organizations (NGOs) in catalyzing community-based forest management;

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Guidelines the terms enumerated below shall be defined as follows:

Assisting Organization or AO - refers to an organization contracted by DENR to assist in training and organizing local communities during the preparatory phase.

ANR - Assisted Natural Regeneration

ARC - Assistant Regional CFP Coordinator

CENRO - a Community Environment and Natural Resources Office/Officer of the DENR

CFP - AO - Services Contract - refers to the three-year contract awarded to an AO

during the preparatory phase

Community refers to persons/individuals residing within and/or adjacent to the CFP site

Community Forestry Program (CFP) - a forest management program launched by the DENR pursuant to this Order, which is geared towards developing organized communities that has the capability to sustainably manage natural resources.

Community Forestry Management Agreement of CFMA - an Agreement between the DENR and an organized community which grant to the latter natural resources utilization privileges and at the same time the responsibilities to protect, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources.

Community Participants - refers to members of the community who are directly involved in CFP activities.

CRMDP - Community Resources Management and Development Plan

CREF - Contract Reforestation

DENR - the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

HRDS - Human Resources and Development Service

ISFP - Integrated Social Forestry Program

MDC - Municipal Development Council

PENRO - a Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office/Office of the DENR

PMO - Project Management Officer

Project - refers to areas developed under the CFP

RC - Regional CFP Coordinator

Regional Executive Director of RED - a DENR Regional Executive Director

Residual forests/Secondary forests-logged-over areas

RTD - a Regional Technical Director for Forestry of DENR

Secretary or OSEC the Secretary of DENR

TSI - Timber Stand Improvement

Undersecretary or USEC - the DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations

SECTION 4. Principal Features of the Program. — Under this Program, organized community members residing within or adjacent to a second growth/residual forests, shall be awarded 25 years community forestry management agreement

(CFMA) renewable for another 25 years. The CFMA provides the necessary long term security for utilization of natural resources that would motivate participating communities to develop and manage the natural resources on a sustainable basis. The CFP shall be implemented in three (3) phases; pre-implementation phase, preparatory phase and the community management phase.

4.1 Pre-implementation Phase. Activities in this phase include information dissemination, site selection, census of forest occupants, selection of assisting organizations and orientation training. These shall be undertaken by DENR with active participation of LGUs and local communities.

4.2 Preparatory Phase. This phase shall be geared towards developing the capabilities of participating communities to take on their new responsibilities as natural resources managers. Assisting organizations (AO) and the DENR will provide assistance to participating communities in the following areas; (a) establishing community organizations; (b) issuance of CFMA; (c) on-the-job training in forest management planning and conservation (i.e. resource inventory, surveying, preparation of management and development plan); (d) developing alternative livelihood opportunities; (e) preparation of Community Resources and Management Plan and (f) organizational development.

4.3 Community Management Phase. At this stage, the AO phases-out and the management responsibilities and utilization privileges shall be handled by the organized community participants with DENR assistance. In this stage, the community organization shall manage natural resources and other livelihood projects.

#### Pre-Implementation Phase

SECTION 5. Information Dissemination. All CENROs shall conduct information dissemination about the CFP to all communities in potential CFP sites explaining the main features of the program, its objectives, benefits and responsibilities of participating communities and the DENR. For this purpose, the Regional Distillation Groups created under DENR Special Order No. 1161, Series of 1992 shall organized a CFP orientation workshop among CENROs and PENROs in their respective region. The regional offices may use existing regional fund allocations for the production of information materials on CFP.

SECTION 6. Coverage of the Program. CFP sites must offer sufficient livelihood opportunities to encourage and sustain community participation. These opportunities may include backyard industries, contract reforestation, agroforestry, timber stand improvement (TSI), fishing and mangrove rehabilitation and others. The community forestry program may be implemented on all upland and coastal lands of public domain areas except the following:

- a. Established critical watersheds covered by proclamations, legislation and specific administrative issuances;
- b. civil, military and other government reservations where forest products utilization is forbidden by law, decree, proclamation or administrative issuances; and
- c. areas covered by existing permits, leases and/or contracts except in cases

where the permittee/lessee/contractee shall execute an appropriate waiver.

SECTION 7. Site Identification. Concerned PENROs and CENROs shall identify all potential sites for CFP development.

7.1. All sites for CFP shall have the following mandatory criteria;

- a. not within a prohibited area per Section 6 (above);
- b. presence of communities inside or nearby the project area who are willing to implement CFP;
- c. there is a potential to develop sources of livelihood that are not necessarily dependent on forest products extraction (e.g. contract reforestation, food processing);
- d. the area is endorsed by the Municipal Development Council for CFP development.

7.2. In addition to the mandatory criteria set forth in Section 7.1, priority shall be given to sites with the following features (i.e. preferable/optional criteria):

- a. the site is located no further than five (5) kms. from an existing road that provides market access;
- b. there is an ISF project within or adjacent to the forest, provided that if such project is already devolved to the Local Government Units, a waiver should be issued by the LGU in favor of DENR for CFP development;
- c. the site is part of an expired, abandoned or cancelled timber license agreement (TLA);
- d. approximately fifty percent (50%) of the site is forested;
- e. community organization work has previously been carried out by government or an NGO;
- f. there is an AO already operating within or nearby the site;
- g. near protection forest or protected areas and wilderness, provided that such areas shall form part of the protection area of the CFP project;
- h. the local government is perceived to be receptive to the PROJECT and no serious problems of negative political intervention are anticipated; and
- i. areas adjacent to existing CFP projects and reforestation projects established under the ADB Program Loan.

SECTION 8. Area. The initial area covered by a PROJECT shall not exceed five thousand hectares (5,000 ha.). However, this area may be increased in the future if the community demonstrates adequate managerial capability.

SECTION 9. Site Selection. Site selection under the program shall be in collaboration

with the DENR Field Offices. Further, for sites considered for funding under the Project Loan of DENR from ADB, site selection and approval of sites shall be in accordance with DENR Administrative Order No. 16, Series of 1993.

9.1 Site Verification. Upon recommendation of the concerned CENROs and PENROs, the RED, in close coordination with the CFP National Secretariat/USEC, shall form team(s) to verify identified sites based on Sections 6 and 7 of this Order.

9.2 Prioritization of Verified Sites. The RED shall prioritize the verified sites and endorse the same to the USEC through the CFP National Secretariat.

9.3 Approval of Sites. The CFP National Secretariat shall process the documents for the approval of the USEC.

#### SECTION 10. Selection of Assisting Organization and award of CFP-AO Services Contract.

10.1. General Considerations. No project shall be approved for implementation unless (i) a competent and credible Assisting Organization (AO) has signified its commitment to assist in project implementation; and (ii) the recognized leaders of the community have signified their acceptance of the AO.

10.1.1. The CENRO in coordination with the PENRO and the RED, shall help recognized community leaders such as the barangay captain, parish priest or community elders verify the commitment of Assisting Organization. Preferably, the AO should be a local organization with its headquarters in the same region as the PROJECT.

10.1.2. The AO shall provide assistance in community organization, resources inventory, preparation of the management/development plan, training, marketing and consultation with the community. It shall provide from its staff, or hire under contract, one (1) or more foresters and agriculturists to assist in resource inventory, preparation of the management/development plan, reforestation, agroforestry and other technical features of the PROJECT.

10.1.3. The AO shall also take the lead in support activities beneficial to the community such as, but not limited to, sourcing of social service (e.g., medical services), initiating new livelihood opportunities (e.g., processing) and establishing credit and marketing linkages.

10.2. CFP-AO Services Contract. DENR shall contract the services of the AO approved by the community and pay for such services. However, the costs of the services of the AO shall be recovered pursuant to Section 23 of this Order. CFP AO services contracts shall also be signed by authorized representatives of the community.

10.2.1. The DENR signatory to contract with AO shall be the CENRO, PENRO, RTD, or RED, depending on the amount of the contract and the authorized ceilings for contract approval by the signatory. The duties and responsibilities of the AO and the community shall be clearly defined in the contract.