

**[PCSD ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 01, S. 99,
July 30, 1999]**

**REVISED GUIDELINES IN THE IDENTIFICATION,
ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNAL FORESTS IN
PALAWAN**

Pursuant to Section 17 (b) (2ii) of RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code, RA 7611 otherwise known as the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan and other pertinent rules and regulations, the following guidelines, for the identification, establishment and management of communal forests in Palawan are hereby issued for the guidance of all concerned.

**CHAPTER I
Title and Definition of Terms**

SECTION 1. Title. — This Order shall be known as the "Revised Guidelines for the Identification, Establishment and Management of Communal Forests in Palawan"

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. — As used in, and for the purpose of this Order, the following terms shall mean:

2.1 Agro-forestry — a sustainable land management system which increases overall production by combining agricultural crops and/or livestock with forest crops, simultaneously or sequentially through the application of management practices which are compatible with the cultural patterns or customary laws of the local population.

2.2. Annual Work Plan — a detailed work and financial plan that will be undertaken in a given year for the protection, development, management and utilization of the communal forest.

2.3 CENRO — the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office and/or Officer of the DENR.

2.4 Communal Forest (CF) — a tract of land of the public domain declared by the PCSD within the Communal Forest Zone for the municipality/city-government, under whose jurisdiction the area is located, to manage, protect, develop, utilize on a sustainable basis for the production of wood and other forest products for domestic use of its residents and for local government infrastructure.

2.5 Community — a group of people who share common interest, needs, visions, goals and beliefs, occupying a particular territory which extends from ecosystem, geographical, political/administrative and cultural boundaries and any resources that go with it. It also refers to sitios and/or barangays that are located in, near or adjacent to the

forestlands for their livelihood, cultural practices, and other economic and sociological activities.

2.6 Critical watershed — a drainage area of a river system supporting existing and proposed hydroelectric power, irrigation works and/or domestic water facilities needing immediate protection or rehabilitation.

2.7 DENR — Department of Environment and Natural Resources

2.8 ECAN — Environmentally Critical Areas Network as defined in RA 7611.

2.9 Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) — refers to the document issued by the DENR certifying that the project under consideration will not cause any significant negative environmental impact; that the proponent has complied with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system, and that the proponent is committed to implement its approved Environmental Management Plan in the Environmental Impact Study or the mitigation measures in the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE).

2.10 Environmental Impact Assessment — refers to the process of predicting the likely consequences of implementing a project, program or activities, and designing appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures.

2.11 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) — refers to the document(s) of studies on the environmental impacts of a project including the discussions on direct and indirect consequences of upon human welfare and ecological and environmental integrity.

2.12 Financing and Business Plan — a component of the Communal Forest Management Plan describing how the protection and management of the communal forest shall be financed.

2.13 Native forest — forest consisting of indigenous species which developed through natural succession.

2.14 PCSD — the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development created and established under RA 7611.

2.15 PENRO — the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office and or Officer of the DENR.

2.16 Primary forest or old growth forest — forest which had not been subjected to logging activities.

2.17 Professional Forest Management Team — a group of technical personnel headed by a professional forester organized by the LGU concerned to formulate and implement the Communal Forest Management Plan.

2.18 Protected Area — an area declared as such under local or national legislation, proclamation, order and similar instruments valid and existing

at the time of the identification and establishment of the communal forest concerned.

2.19 Provincial ENRO — the Environment and Natural Resources Office and/or Officer of the Province of Palawan

2.20 Resource Utilization Plan — a detailed plan on utilization/exploitation of any forest resource.

2.21 Secondary forest or residual forest — forest that had been subjected to logging activities of whatever form.

CHAPTER II

Basic Policy and Objectives

SECTION 3. Basic Policy. — It is the policy of the state to:

- a. protect and advance the right of the Filipino people to a healthy environment;
- b. promote and encourage the active participation of communities in the protection, biodiversity enhancement, management, rehabilitation, and utilization of forest resources; and
- c. promote equitable access to benefits that could be derived from the enhancement and utilization of communal forests while ensuring and promoting sustainability of Palawan's forest resources.

SECTION 4. Basic Principles . — In accordance with the above policies and the general policies on devolution of government functions as provided for in RA 7160, and on the sustainable development of Palawan as provided for in RA 7611, the following basic principles shall govern the establishment and management of communal forests in the Province of Palawan:

4.1 ECAN Framework — The establishment and management of communal forests shall be consistent with the ECAN Framework. Communal forests may be established only within the buffer zone or multiple/manipulative areas of the ECAN and shall be established as such to enhance the protection of the restricted and core zones and the larger watershed which these are part of.

4.2 Partnership and cooperation — The identification, establishment and management of communal forests shall promote partnership and cooperation between and among the local communities, Local Government Units, and the PCSD.

4.3 Devolution to and capabilities-building for LGUs — The management of communal forests shall be devolved to the local government unit concerned and said LGU shall endeavor to enhance its capacities to manage and utilize the forest resources therein on a sustainable basis.

4.4 Forest resource sustainability — The management of communal forest by LGUs shall lead to the sustainability of forest

resources, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, and socio-economic and environmental benefit to the local communities.

4.5 Multiple-use forest management — The multiple uses of communal forests shall be promoted to attain optimum benefits therefrom. In exploiting the opportunities of multiple-use forest management, the complementary of functions shall be considered to attain a balance between the objectives of production and maintenance of environmental quality.

4.6 Gender sensitivity — The management and utilization of communal forests shall provide equal opportunities for men and women to participate and share in the attendant benefits and responsibilities. It shall likewise provide an opportunity for the youth sector to get involved in forest resources and environmental management.

SECTION 5. Objectives. —

5.1 To identify appropriate areas for communal forest zone;

5.2 Ensure the sustainable management of communal forests in Palawan;

5.3 Protect and manage the existing native forest, preserve and enhance biodiversity, develop unproductive forestlands and enhance environmental quality in Palawan.

5.4 Provide sustainable sources of wood and other forest products for domestic, government infrastructure, and other needs in the city/municipality of Palawan where the communal forest is located;

5.5 Rehabilitate denuded and degraded forest lands and increase the forest resources base of the province of Palawan through agroforestry, forest plantations establishment and other forest development activities;

5.6 Generate additional employment and the livelihood opportunities for the people of the province; and

5.7 Strengthen the partnership and cooperation between and among the PCSDS, LGUs and local communities in forest management and conservation.

CHAPTER III

Identification and Declaration of Communal Forests Zones

SECTION 6. Identification and Establishment of New Communal Forest — An LGU interested to have a communal forest shall apply to the PCSDS through a resolution by its Sanggunian Bayan. Upon receipt of the resolution, the PCSDS, the CENRO and the concerned LGU shall organize a composite Communal Forest Selection Team (CFST) that will identify and select potential communal forest within the LGU's territorial jurisdiction. The CFST shall be composed of representatives of the PCSDS as Team Leader, concerned LGU, CENRO, and NGO member of ECAN Board and Indigenous People in the area.