

**[DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 17, S. 1995,
May 20, 1995]**

**INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE MULTI-SECTORAL FOREST
PROTECTION COMMITTEES WITHIN THE DENR SYSTEM**

Pursuant to the directive of President Fidel V. Ramos to the DENR Secretary dated July 13, 1994 on the need to strengthen the capability of, and to institutionalize the Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committees (MFPCs) nationwide, and considering the successes of the MFPCs under the ENR-SECAL Program as effective partners of the DENR in forest protection, this Administrative Order on MFPC Institutionalization is hereby issued.

SECTION 1. Objectives -

- a) To institutionalize the operations of MFPCs within the DENR system; and
- b) To provide funding and staff support for strengthened MFPC operations.

SECTION 2. The Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee (MFPC) - As the name implies, a Multi-Sectoral Forest Protection Committee is composed of representatives from various sectors of the community such as other government agencies (OGAs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and institutions who come and join together to be partners in the government's forest protection efforts. The MFPCs shall:

- a) Serve as a collection point for information on illegal forestry activities;
- b) Regularly receive and discuss reports from DENR specific to routine and special monitoring, apprehension and prosecutorial activities;
- c) Advise DENR and other relevant parties on these activities;
- d) Publicize the committee's discussions and findings, except where treated as confidential;
- e) Directly oversee the public awareness and other alternative livelihood programs; and
- f) Mobilize the members' network in support of forest protection activities.

SECTION 3. Selection of MFPC Members -

a) Who Can Become Members

Any government organization, non-government organization and individual committee to the cause of forest and environmental protection, forest law enforcement and monitoring that satisfy the membership selection criteria may become members of the MFPC.

b) Selection Criteria

Membership in any level of the MFPC shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Government organizations whose functions are directly related to forest protection and law enforcement, public information and upland livelihood development.

The head of office of the relevant agency or his representative shall represent the organization in the Committee.

2. Non-government organizations whose functions are directly related to forest protection, public information and upland livelihood development.

The head of office or his representative shall represent the NGO in the Committee.

3. Individuals who are of high standing in the community who are committed to support the DENR's forest protection, public information and livelihood development programs.

c) Number of Members

The MFPC membership shall be limited in number so that they remain manageable. ENR-SECAL experiences indicate that MFPC membership is effective at 15-25 members per committee.

SECTION 4. Creation of MFPCs in all Regions, Provinces, Cities and Municipalities - To institutionalize the MFPCs in the DENR system, DENR Regional Executive Directors shall establish at least a Regional MFPC in 1995. Thereafter, MFPCs may be established in towns and cities using the priority criteria set by the DENR Regional Management Committee.

To ensure that the MFPC process of consultation, selection, orientation, training and operationalization, as experienced in the ENR-SECAL Project Management Office (ENR-SECAL PMO), the Special Concerns Office (SCO), and the National Forestation Development Office (NFDO) shall conduct the necessary orientation and training in MFPC creations.

SECTION 5. Creation and Institutionalization of MFPC Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in the Regional and Provincial Levels - To provide backstaff support to the MFPCs that will be created, MFPC Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in the Regional and Provincial levels are hereby created.

a) Composition

RENRO MFPC TWG

Head: Chief, Forest Resources and Conservation Division

Members:

- Representative - Legal
- Representative - ISF Division
- Representative - Regional Public Affairs Office
- Representative - Planning Division

Head: Forestry Specialist

Members: ISF Officer
Information Unit
Forest Protection Unit Planning

Each TWG shall be supported by a full time Secretary and Computer Operator. The MFPC TWG shall coordinate MFPC meetings, prepare minutes, resolutions, store and process data and, in general, ensure that MFPC activities are attended to. TWGs may also be created for municipal, community and barangay MFPCs. To ensure and facilitate coordination between DENR and MFPC members, all REDs, PENROs, and CENROs after their MFPCs shall have been established are hereby instructed to provide MFPC desks in their respective offices. Said desks shall be manned by the MFPC TWG Secretary who shall assist the MFPC members whenever the latter are working in the DENR offices.

b) Functions

The Technical Working Group shall have the following functions:

- 1) Provide technical, legal and other required support services to MFPCs;
- 2) Coordinate and facilitate implementation of MFPC activities; and
- 3) Follow-up resolutions, requests, reports and perform other pertinent action so desired by the MFPCs.

c) Training

The ENR-SECAL PMO, the SCO and NFDO shall conduct the necessary orientation training/workshops to the MFPC TWGs.

SECTION 6. Levels Of MFPC - The different levels of MFPCs and their functions are:

a) National MFPC Federation (NMFPC Fed)

1. Participate in the review of forest and environmental laws and policies, recommend amendments/modifications to the same, and advise the DENR Secretary on matters pertaining to forest protection;
2. Participate in the periodic performance evaluation of DENR units involved in forest management;
3. Assist the field MFPCs in information and education campaigns on forest protection, enforcement of forestry laws and prosecution of violators thereof, and in the strengthening of field MFPCs;
4. Assist DENR in the generation of and in prioritization of alternative livelihood programs for people affected by forest protection campaigns;
5. Formulate general guidelines for the organization of MFPCs and accredit MFPCs that will be formed;

6. Harmonize the resolutions of the different MFPCs and ensure prompt action on them; and
7. In general, assist DENR in conducting a sustained national forest protection campaign towards sustainable development.

b) Regional MFPC (RMFPC)

1. Serve as the collection point for information on illegal forestry activities, tapping the independent networks to which its members belong;
2. Regularly receive and discuss reports from DENR in its routine and special monitoring, apprehension and prosecutorial activities;
3. Advise DENR and other relevant parties on the above activities;
4. Publicize the committee's discussions and findings, except where treated as confidential;
5. Directly oversee the public awareness and alternative livelihood programs;
6. Mobilize members' networks in support of forest protection activities; and
7. Assist in the work of the provincial MFPCs.

c) Provincial MFPC (PMFPC)

1. Serve as a collection point for information on illegal forestry activities, tapping the independent networks to which its members belong;
2. Regularly receive and discuss reports from DENR in its routine and special monitoring, apprehension and prosecutorial activities;
3. Advise DENR and other relevant parties on the above activities;
4. Publicize the committee's discussions and findings, except where treated as confidential;
5. Act as a special monitoring arm for the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office;
6. Except for the DENR representative, all other members shall act as deputy forest officers with powers to apprehend violators of forest laws and regulations and confiscate illegal forest products;
7. Serve as a link between the Regional and Community MFPCs;
8. Mobilize members' networks in support of forest protection activities;
9. Assist in the public awareness program of the PENRO; and
10. Serve as link between target communities and donors, in the development and implementation of livelihood activities in the uplands.

d) Community/Municipal/Barangay/MFPC

1. Serve as a collection point for information on illegal forestry activities, tapping the independent networks to which its members belong;