

GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT (CBFM) PROJECTS WITHIN MANGROVE AREAS

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Pursuant to PD 705, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, EO 263 entitled "Adopting CBFM as the National Strategy to Ensure the Sustainable Development of the Country's Forestland Resources and Providing Mechanisms for its implementation", and its Implementing Rules and Regulations embodied in DAO 96-29, the following guidelines are issued for the establishment and management of CBFM within mangrove areas, for the guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. OBJECTIVES. Community-Based Forest Management Projects shall be established in mangrove areas in order to promote equitable access to natural resources, help in socio-economic upliftment of local communities and at the same time encourage their participation in the conservation, rehabilitation, afforestation and management of mangrove forests.

SECTION 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF CBFM PROJECTS. The establishment and management of CBFM Projects in mangrove areas shall be in accordance with DAO 96-29 and other policies issued on CBFM. Provided, that in case the mangrove area is within a protected area, the management of the same shall be in accordance with the provisions of RA 7586 and its implementing rules and regulations. Provided further, that the participants to CBFM Projects shall be organized and issued Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) consistent with relevant provisions of DAO 96-29.

SECTION 3. CUTTING OR HARVESTING AND UTILIZATION WITHIN CBFM AREAS. Cutting or harvesting of mangrove species shall be allowed provided that these are planted by the CBFM holders themselves and that the harvesting operations are included in the affirmed Community Resource Management Framework, Ancestral Domain Management Plan or Protected Area Management Plan, as the case may be, and Annual Work Plan; provided, further that replanting of area harvested shall be undertaken within six months after harvesting operations, and provided, finally that the harvesting operations shall be closely monitored by the CENRO/PASU concerned.

SECTION 4. EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF FOREST CHARGES. All harvested planted mangrove forest products are exempted from payment of forest charges.

SECTION 5. PENALTIES. Unauthorized cutting of mangrove species, particularly naturally growing species or non-replanting of areas where harvesting had been conducted, shall be sufficient cause for the suspension, or cancellation of the CBFMA, without prejudice to penalties provided for in PD 705, as amended, RA 7586 and other forest policies, rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS. Relevant provisions of this order shall also apply to valid and existing holders of CSC and Mangrove Stewardship Agreements, who are hereby encouraged to associate themselves and avail of CBFMA to include areas outside their stewardship contract areas.

SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE. Provisions of other DENR Administrative Orders, Memorandum Circulars,

or other official issuances not consistent herewith are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Adopted: 04 Mar. 1998

(SGD.) VICTOR O. RAMOS

Secretary

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