

Administrative Order
No. 42
June 23, 1987

SUBJECT: Experimental Forest Regulations

Pursuant to Sec. 18 of P.D. No. 705 and Ministry Administrative Orders reserving and establishing experimental forests, the following regulations are hereby promulgated governing the protection, development, scientific use, utilization and disposition of forest resources within the experimental forests of the Forest Research Institute.

Section 1. Experimental Forest - refers to those forest lands set aside by the Secretary exclusively for scientific, educational and research purposes.

Coverage

Section 2. The Forest Research Institute shall exercise jurisdiction over all the areas established as experimental forest including the protection, development, scientific use, utilization and disposition of forest resources as well as wildlife.

Protection

Section 3. Protection of the Experimental Forest. The experimental forest shall be protected from all forms of trespass and encroachments. To ensure effective protection, forest guards and all research personnel of FORI are hereby deputized as forest officers.

- a) Any illegal act committed therein shall be dealt with in accordance with the applicable provisions of P.D. 705 and other existing applicable laws.
- b) Illegally cut or gathered forest products found therein or coming therefrom shall be seized and forfeited for research activities.
- c) The experimental forest shall remain a reserve area for scientific purposes. The rights of Cultural Minorities that are indigenous to the experimental forest shall be respected by FORI. FORI shall develop programs for them that will promote the environment as well as their living condition.
- d) The boundaries of experimental forests shall be surveyed and marked by concrete monuments by competent licensed surveyor and the identity of the perimeter line shall be protected at all times.

Development

Section 4. Development of the Experimental Forest - The development of experimental forest to make them more suitable for research activities shall be the sole responsibility of the Forest Research Institute.

- a) Roads, trails and bridges may be constructed inside the experimental forest in accordance with standard, geared towards environmental protection by the Institute or by any company or entity contracted by it for the purpose of facilitating research protection and other related activities. Checkpoints shall be established on strategic places and manned by FORI security/forest guards. However, existing roads, trails, bridges and similar structures previously constructed by the concessionaire shall continue to be used by him for lawful purposes free of charge. FORI shall regulate or in special situation prohibit the public from entry into the experimental area.
- b) Field research structures, such as offices, patrol quarters and nursery houses, bunkhouses, lookout tower, rest houses, etc., may be constructed inside the experimental forest by the Institute for the use of FORI personnel.
- c) Meteorology, hydrology and other scientific stations may be established on strategic sites for the purpose of gathering basic data on weather condition in the experimental forest for research and scientific purposes, or for national interests.
- d) The reforestation of open areas inside experimental forests shall be the responsibility of the Forest Research Institute to improve the environmental condition not only for research but also for the rehabilitation of the watersheds of streams, creeks and rivers emanating from the said experimental forests and for the production and conservation of soil and water and other beneficial uses. Erodible slopes on roadslides shall be established by vegetative means and/or by engineering structures.

Research

Section 5. Scientific Use of the Experimental Forests and their Resources. All research studies of the Forest Research Institute shall be mainly conducted in these areas to ensure the protection of study plots from destruction or disturbance. However, any interested research agency either public or private may be allowed in a cooperative basis to undertake research work therein. Students from any school may at any time be allowed to have educational field trips in the area; and scientists, members of scientific organizations and the like may likewise be allowed to

enter, study and observe therein; all subject to the approval of the Director or his authorized representative, provided, pollution and damage to the flora and fauna and the land shall be avoided.

- a) To hasten the complete attainment of the objectives of forest production, harvesting and conservation researches, studies on the environmental impact of selective logging and other timber harvesting methods and mining activities maybe allowed by the Board of Trustees on a virgin forest portion of the experimental forests to ascertain their effects on the natural forest regeneration, wildlife resources, rate of erosion and sedimentation, water yield (quality and quantity), nutrient leaching and recycling, microclimatic modification, recreation and wildlife and fish habitat requirement and other pertinent research variables. Similarly, plantation establishment of important plant species shall be developed inside the experimental forests to determine their nationwide adaptability and ensure their productivity for economic purposes.
- b) The disposition of any forest resources, including wildlife, harvested from the experimental forest shall be specially vested in the Board of Trustees of the Forest Research Institute.

Section 6. Issuance of Implementing Circulars and Instructions.

The Director of the Forest Research Institute is hereby authorized to issue such circular and instruction as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Order. Such circular and issuances shall be submitted to the Board within reasonable time.

Section 7. All Memorandum of Agreement or prior arrangement entered into between the Director of the Forest Research Institute and Director of the Bureau of Forest Development are hereby amended accordingly.

Section 8. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect upon approval.

Approved this 23rd day of June 1987.

Recommended by:

FULGENCIO S. FACTORAN, JR.
Secretary

CIRILO B. SERNA
Director, BFD

FILIBERTO S. POLLISCO
Director, FORI