

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 123

SUBJECT: Community Forestry Program.

SECTION 1. *OBJECTIVES*

The Constitution mandates (i) equitable access to natural resources and (ii) conservation of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Pursuant to these mandates, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) hereby launches the COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM. In collaboration with rural communities and non-government organizations (NGO's), this PROGRAM shall test, refine and develop solutions to the following problems:

- 1.1 The conventional practice of awarding forest products utilization permits/licenses to timber companies has denied legal access to these resources by rural communities. This is not consistent with the principles of social equity mandated by the Constitution.
- 1.2 Despite many decades of forest products extraction, poverty is still widespread in the uplands. This demonstrates that financial benefits from the forests have not been shared by the rural poor.
- 1.3 Forest conservation is an imperative pre-condition to sustainable development and it requires the active participation of rural communities. But denial of access has cancelled out a major incentive to practice forest conservation. For rural communities destructive slash-and-burn farming (kaingin) provides more attractive financial benefits than conservation. This is an irrational situation that must be corrected.
- 1.4 Forest products utilization privileges can be granted to rural communities, thus creating strong incentives to practice forest conservation. However, rural communities need training to manage this new opportunity and to cope with its varied responsibilities. Furthermore, government must install the appropriate procedures for community management of forest resources. These issues shall be addressed in the COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM as provided herein.

SECTION 2. *DEFINITIONS*

The words, phrases and acronyms listed hereunder, are defined as follows:

PROGRAM OR CFP — the Community Forestry Program.

SECTION 3. *PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM*

- 3.1 Community residents shall be awarded twenty-five (25) year COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS (CFMA's) renewable for another twenty-five (25) years. CFMA's shall grant forest products utilization privileges to the communities subject to (i) submission and approval of a management/development plan, (ii) compliance with DENR rules and regulations and (iii) adherence to the principles of sustained yield management.
- 3.2 To help CFMA awardees cope with their forest management responsibilities, the DENR will provide assistance to the awardees in the following areas: (i) establishing community organizations, (ii) on-the-job training in forest management planning and conservation, (iii) livelihood opportunities in forest resource rehabilitation, and (iv) developing other livelihood opportunities that do not necessarily depend on extraction and utilization of forest products.
- 3.3 The PROGRAM shall begin with the launching of twelve (12) PROJECTS in Calendar Year 1989 and shall be expanded on the basis of lessons learned in these projects.
- 3.4 Non-government organizations (NGO's) and the DENR shall assist rural communities in the various phases of training, organization and operations. These phases are described schematically in Figure 1 and further explained in the Manual of Operations (annex A).

SECTION 4. *MANUAL OF OPERATIONS*

- 4.1 The Manual of Operations attached hereto (Annex A) shall be the official guideline for implementation of COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECTS.
- 4.2 The UNDERSECRETARY FOR FIELD OPERATIONS shall from time to time, propose revisions to Annex A based on lessons learned during implementation. Proposed revisions shall be submitted to the Secretary and approval thereof, said revisions shall be applied in PROGRAM implementation.

SECTION 5. *COVERAGE AND SITE SELECTION*

- 5.1 *Criteria:* COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECTS may be implemented on all lands in the public domain including upland, lowland and mangrove areas, except the following:
 - a. established critical watersheds covered by proclamations, legislation and specific administrative issuances;
 - b. protected and wilderness areas;

- c. **civil, military and other government** reservations where forest products utilization is forbidden by law, decree, proclamation or administrative issuance; and
- d. areas covered by existing permits, leases and/or contracts except in cases where the permittee/lessee/contractee shall execute an appropriate waiver.

5.1.1 Sites selected for COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROJECTS shall have the following mandatory criteria:

- a. not within a prohibited area per paragraph 5.1 (above);
- b. participants must live within the site and shall agree to protect the forest;
- 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. if located within or including part of a dipterocarp residual forest, the PROJECT area shall have been logged at least five (5) years prior to PROJECT implementation.

5.1.2 In addition to mandatory criteria set forth in paragraph 5.1.1, priority shall be given to sites with the following features (i.e. preferable/optional criteria):

- a. at least one of the boundary lines of the site is located no further than five kilometers (5 kms) from an existing road that provides market access;
- b. there is an ISF project within or adjacent to the forest;
- 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 by government or an NGO;
- f. there is an NGO already operating within or nearby the site; and
- g. the local government is perceived to be receptive to the PROJECT and no serious problems of negative political intervention are anticipated.

5.2 *Area:* The initial area covered by a PROJECT shall not exceed one thousand hectares (1,000 ha). However, this area may be increased in the future if the community demonstrates adequate managerial capability.

SECTION 6. MANAGEMENT/DEVELOPMENT PLANS

- 6.1 Each PROJECT shall have a comprehensive management and development plan prepared jointly by the Community and an NGO with DENR assistance. This plan shall provide the following:

6.1.1 *Virgin Forest Areas*

- a. an operationally-feasible protection plan consistent with the principle that all logging in virgin forests should be banned.

6.1.2 *Residual Forest Areas:*

- a. complete stand and stock tables;
- b. an operation map dividing the area into working units;
- c. schedule and details of TSI, forest products extraction and enrichment planting that will be carried out (e.g., no. of hectares TSI per year; amount of timber and minor forest products to be extracted by working unit per year; tree species for enrichment planting);
- d. nursery locations and development/operations plans;
- e. road and trail alignments; and
- f. forest products collection stations.

6.1.3 *Mangrove Areas*

- a. schedule and details of sustained-yield selective cutting operations for fuelwood gathering or other forms of extraction allowed under DENR rules and regulations;
- b. revegetation, enrichment planting and other development activities allowed under DENR rules and regulations (e.g., nipa and bakawan establishment);
- c. other livelihood activity that will be implemented consistent with DENR policy, rules and regulations such as aqua-silviculture.

6.1.4 *Non-forested Areas*

- a. a map indicating number, location and areas of lands claimed, occupied and vacant;
- b. names of occupants/claimants and their status (e.g., CSC holder, tax declaration);

- c. **areas identified for reforestation to be implemented and financed by the CFMA awardee;**
- d. **areas identified for reforestation to repay start-up expenses advanced by DENR;**
- e. **areas identified for contract reforestation to provide immediate employment (i.e., livelihood opportunities);**

(Note: c, d and e should be broken down into areas to be developed as protection forests and production forests)
- f. **agroforestry development areas;**
- g. **nursery locations and development/operations plans;**
- h. **road and trail alignment;**
- i. **existing structures (e.g., houses, bridges); and**
- j. **structures to be installed (e.g., water impoundment dams).**

5.1.5 *General Information*

- a. **who will manage the various activities included in the plan and how these will be carried out;**
- b. **comprehensive vegetative cover map;**
- c. **census of occupants;**
- d. **marketing plan;**
- e. **financial management (i.e., how income will be administered and shared);**
- f. **processing plan;**
- g. **other relevant information.**

6.2 The Management/Development Plan shall be prepared collaboratively with the community and shall be carried out as an "on-the-job" training exercise for the residents. In addition to operating details for each forested block, all occupied lands should be covered by simple (but clear) sketch maps indicating the types of activities the occupant intends to implement (i.e., a farm development plan).

6.3 Management/Development plans shall provide detailed information for the first three (3) years of the PROJECT and indicative plans for the succeeding year.

- 6.4 Management/Development plans shall be updated at the end of the third year and every five (5) years thereafter. However, the DENR may require more frequent updating if schedules are upset by circumstances beyond control (e.g., typhoons) or if the CFMA grantee is unable to keep up with the original schedule provided in the plan.

SECTION 7. PROJECT OPERATIONS

CFMA operations shall be implemented pursuant to provisions of the Manual of Operations attached hereto as Annex "A" and any subsequent revisions thereof.

SECTION 8. PHASING

For 1989, twelve (12) projects shall be programmed and implemented to constitute the first phase of the COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM. The PROGRAM may be expanded thereafter, consistent with the development of Community, NGO and DENR capability to administer additional PROJECTS.

SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE

All DENR administrative orders, guidelines, memoranda and official issuances not consistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed, amended or revised accordingly.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY

This Order takes effect immediately.

FULGENCIO S. FACTORAN, JR.
Secretary

Signed on November 28, 1989

* (Figure No. 1, CFP Operational Sequence, Omitted)