

Memorandum Circular
No. 12
September 10, 1991

**SUBJECT: Policy on the Issuance of Licenses, Leases
and Permits Covering Islands with Areas
Less 50,000 Hectares**

In view of the numerous queries and applications for licenses, leases and permits covering islands less than 50,000 hectares in area as well as to support the various programs of the government, the following policy is hereby issued:

1. Licenses, leases and permits may be issued by the DENR Secretary or his duly authorized representative for small islands except Palawan which is covered by Proclamation No. 219 as amended by Proclamation No. 530-B.

Provided, however, that such islands are not classified as environmentally critical such as game refuge and bird sanctuaries, national parks, etc. and are not falling within the strictly restricted zones under the Integrated Protected Areas System (IPAS).

Provided, further, that logging, hunting of endangered wildlife species, collecting corals, and other environmentally-degrading activities shall be prohibited in these areas.

2. Applicants for licenses, permits, or leases for such islands must submit an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project proposal to the EMB for evaluation. The findings of the basic environmental assessments shall be considered in the evaluation of EIA studies.
3. The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) with the assistance of the concerned DENR Regional Office shall strive together with other concerned agencies, such as the Department of Tourism (DOT), to conduct an environmental assessment of environmentally critical small islands. They shall make available to interested parties results of such environmental assessment specially regarding activities which may be allowed in the island's ecosystem.
4. No application for licenses, permits and leases shall be further processed until such time that the applicant shall have secured an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) issued by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or his duly authorized representative, upon the

recommendation of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and the Regional Executive Director concerned.

FULGENCIO S. FACTORAN, JR.
Secretary