

**Administrative Order
No. 56
December 10, 1992**

**SUBJECT : Designation of Pagbilao Mangrove Swamp
Experimental Forest as Genetic Resource
Area and National Training Site for
Mangrove**

1. For information and guidance of all concerned, a portion of Tayabas Project No. 12 Block C, LC129 of the Palsabangon Forest Zone, covering an aggregate area of 145 hectares situated in barangay of Palsabangon, Quezon described in the attached map previously declared as Paġbilao Mangrove Swamp Experimental Forest shall now be designated as Genetic Resources Area and National Training Center for Mangroves.

With the various benefits we derived from this ecosystem, it is sad to note that our Mangrove forest is badly damaged and in need of immediate rehabilitation. Human activities and interventions within and near mangrove areas usually lead to the degradation of mangroves. Destruction of the coral reefs, pollution, siltation, sedimentation and fish pond development were also identified as among the critical factors which contribute to the gradual devastation of the coastal ecosystem.

This situation has posed a great danger on the probable loss of genetic diversity of the mangrove ecosystem. Hence, it is imperative to conserve, protect, rehabilitate and develop the remaining mangrove areas of the country so as to maintain its optimum productivity in terms of faunal and floral resources.

The main thrust of this Genetic Resources Area is to properly conserve the genetic resources of the mangrove forest and to maintain its biodiversity. Its specific objectives are to conserve genetic diversity of the mangrove ecosystem; demonstrate practical management for perpetuating mangrove species, establish seed sources of documented seed, seedlings for mangrove reforestation; provide livelihood and recreational amenities to communities and visitors and to serve as laboratory for students, scientists, environmentalists, researchers and other interested parties.

2. The administration and protection of the aforementioned experimental forest are hereby transferred from the Forest Research Institute (FORI) now Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) to the DENR Region IV.

3. As provided for in section 19, paragraph 2 of the Presidential Decree No. 389 dated February 5, 1974, no cutting or removal of mangrove species therein shall be permitted except when the same is done in connection with experiments and activities designed for purposes of which cutting or removal is explicitly required in accordance with the approved program of research and development, and provided further that it shall not be carried on a commercial scale and any revenue derived from such activities accrue to the DENR Region IV.
4. No portion of this experimental forest shall be further classified and released for alienation and disposition.
5. This order shall take effect immediately and shall supersede all other issuances inconsistent herewith.

ANGEL C. ALCALA
Secretary

Recommending Approval:

ANTONIO G. PRINCIPE
Regional Executive Director