

DENR Administrative Order
No. 18
May 29, 1995

SUBJECT : Guidelines on the Formulation of Policies for the Sustainable Development and Management of the Pine Forest Areas and Conservation of Biodiversity.

Pursuant to pertinent provisions of Executive Order No. 192 and the Master Plan for Forestry Development, the following guidelines are hereby promulgated:

Sec. 1. Statement of Policy and Objectives. It is the DENR's mandate to manage the country's pine forest areas on a sustainable basis. In view of this, these guidelines shall have the following objectives:

- (a) to formulate a long-term management policy for the pine forest;
- (b) to operationalize appropriate sections of the Philippine Master Plan for Forestry Development, as emphasized in the Regional Forestry Master Plans of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Region 1 and Region 2; and
- (c) to provide guidelines towards the conduct of research within the pine forest.

Sec. 2. Conduct of Research Within Natural Pine Forest. DENR Regions 1, 2 and CAR through their respective Ecosystems Research and Development Sector (ERDS) in coordination with the Forest Management Sector (FMS), are hereby authorized to enter into a joint undertaking through a Memorandum of Agreement with interested and qualified private sector proponents for the conduct of research aimed at developing a long term policy for the sustainable development and management of natural pine forests, conservation of biodiversity and the establishment of highland industrial forest plantations. Such undertaking may include timber extraction from the residual pine forests and applicable silvicultural treatments which shall be limited only to those production forest areas as identified in the respective Regional Forestry Master Plans. In recognition of the natural habitat of the Benguet Pine Forests, these shall be without regard to current restrictions on elevation and slope which are more applicable to dipterocarp forests.

In line with the research undertaking, the seed tree method and its modifications shall be the extraction scheme to be used in the study areas. However,

a resource inventory of the study area validated by satellite imagery, aerial photography or similar cost-effective methodology that can reliably show the present condition of the pine forest including the extent of agricultural development and forest occupancy, shall be undertaken by the private sector proponent and submitted to the ERDS for determination of forest cover prior to extraction activities and the feasibility of operations, as well as for future monitoring purposes. Where applicable, a written consent from the community which has a stake over the study area (e.g., ancestral domain claims) shall be obtained by the private sector proponent before any extraction or silvicultural treatment operation is undertaken.

Timber extraction shall be limited within the research area as specified in a Research Project Plan which shall be submitted by the proponent DENR Region to be reviewed by the Forest Management Bureau (FMB), Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDS) and the Policy Studies Division, Planning and Policy Studies Office (PSD-PPSO).

Research activities shall ensure maximum participation of affected communities through the employment of qualified members, and the transfer of developed technologies to pave the way for the possible implementation of community forestry programs and/or ancestral lands management programs in the study area as well as the development of fire management, resin tapping and related technology. Technology transfer shall be the responsibility of the ERDS.

Research shall be undertaken within a five-year period to be closely monitored by the FMB, ERDB and PSD-PPSO. Quarterly reports on the progress of research implementation shall be submitted to these offices.

Sec. 3. Formulation of Long-term Management Policies. The Forest Management Bureau and the Policy Studies Division shall jointly formulate appropriate policies for the long-term management of natural pine forests geared towards their sustainable development, the conservation of biodiversity and the establishment of highland industrial forest plantations, based on the results of the studies to be undertaken as authorized in Section 2 hereof.

Sec. 4. Forest Charges. Assessment of forest charges on timber extracted in connection with authorized operations herein shall be governed by appropriate laws and administrative issuance.

Sec. 5. Effectivity. This issuance shall take effect immediately.

ANGEL C. ALCALA
Secretary