

**DENR Administrative Order  
No. 98 - 62  
October 01, 1998**

**SUBJECT : Regulation and Guidelines  
Governing the Implementation of  
“Adopt-A-Mountain” Program.**

In the course of executing DENR mandate to conserve, develop, protect and utilize the natural resources of the Philippines toward economic upliftment and general well-being of the present and future generations, the following regulations and guidelines governing the implementation of “Adopt-A-Mountain” Program are hereby promulgated:

**Section 1 Title.** This Administrative Order shall be known as the “Adopt-A-Mountain” Program.

**Sec. 2 Statement of Policy/Strategy.** “Adopt-A-Mountain” shall be a Program under the purview of the CBFM Strategy per **EO 263**.

**2.1 Policy** - It is the mandate of the government to ensure the rehabilitation of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). One strategy toward this end is the restoration of denuded/degraded mountains through the involvement of local residents/communities in the development, maintenance and protection of “Adopt-A-Mountain” forest plantation.

**Sec. 3 Goal** - The “Adopt-A-Mountain” Program has two (2) pronged goals, namely:

3.1 Production forest establishment and maintenance; and

3.2 Protection forest establishment and maintenance.

**Sec. 4 Objectives.** The “Adopt-A-Mountain” program has the following objectives:

- 4.1 To accelerate the revegetation/regreening of the country’s denuded/degraded mountains and range lands so as to improve water yield capacity and timber production.
- 4.2 To promote effectively the protection of the remaining and/or available natural forest as source of potential endemic species for educational and scientific research purposes.
- 4.3 To promote voluntarism among our people in the rehabilitation and protection of our forest lands.
- 4.4 To promote the *Bayanihan* spirit and self-reliance among marginal sectors towards improvement of ecosystem.
- 4.5 To contribute to the *Lets Go Green* activities of the government.

**Sec. 5 Definition of Terms.** The following terms are to be understood or interpreted as they are hereunder indicated:

- 5.1 **“Adopt-A-Mountain” Program** - refers to the program established by the Secretary of DENR which aims to rehabilitate degraded/denuded forestlands in order to improve its cover, restore the eco-type and enhance biodiversity, and create possible sources of water and wood supply.
- 5.2 **Premium Species** - refer to tree species, the wood of which has special characteristics, such as strength, durability, beauty, scarcity, and rarity or is used for special purpose (see list of species in DAO 78, series of 1987).

5.3 **Fast Growing Species** - refer to tree species that grow relatively faster than common trees with mean annual increment of ten (10) cu.m./ha. under favorable site condition;

5.4 **Inadequately Stocked Area** - refer to a forest land with an existing stand containing an average stock of below 20 trees/ha. of natural tree species with a diameter of 20 cm. d.b.h.;

5.5 **Reforestation under this Program** - means the planting of an area in the mountain using perennial plant species, including the attendant preliminary activities, such as: seedling production; site preparation; construction (if necessary) of trails, access roads and bridges; as well as plantation maintenance. It may also include rehabilitation of headwater and such other approaches like timber stand improvement, assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and other similar activities that may result in the creation or improvement of forest lands.

5.6 **CBFM Strategy** - refers to the program following the concept that gives organized and empowered communities the right and responsibility to directly manage and benefit from forest land resources.

5.7 **Projects** - refers to the sites of “Adopt-A-Mountain” Program.

## **Sec. 6 Coverage of the Program**

6.1 Bare, open, denuded areas of mountains, inadequately-stocked areas that are not programmed for reforestation;

6.2 Portion and/or abandoned pasture areas and grazing lands needing immediate reforestation. **PROVIDED**, that such areas shall be excluded from the lease;

- 6.3 Inadequately stocked mountains with stand below 20 trees and/or areas with remaining endemic/premium species for the country's natural regeneration and recovery; and for scientific research purposes; and
- 6.4 Idle private lands situated in mountains that remain unproductive for at least 3 years and/or in areas with over 18% slope but no development was introduced.

**Sec. 7 Identification and Delimitation of Potential Mountain for the Program.**

The DENR shall identify with the aid of latest forest resources condition map, aerial photograph satellite imageries, and/or appropriate technical reference, lands of public domain, the physical features of which indicate the feasibility of establishing "Adopt-A-Mountain" project.

Areas so identified require validation from the CENRO's/PENRO's on the ground and thereafter demarcated/delineated on the map of convenient Scale (1:50,000 m. for operation, 1:250,000 for base and location) and shall henceforth, be classified either protection or production forest types of mountain.

**Sec. 8 Prioritization of Projects.**

8.1 Areas with high threat/risk of further degradation;

8.1.1 population is high

8.1.2 way of life is dependent on wood

8.1.3 water is scarce

8.2 With community support; and

8.3 With LGU support.

**Sec. 9 Granting of Incentives/Awards.** To encourage greater participation of various sectors, incentives and awards shall be granted by the government.

The DENR through the REDs and FMB shall package an incentive/award system for program participation, to include that for DENR personnel directly involved in the projects.

**Sec. 10 Roles of Offices under the Program**

- 10.1 The CENRO shall identify/select and allocate areas to be covered by the program
- 10.2 The CENRO shall provide technical assistance to program participants including private land owners.
- 10.3 The CENRO and PENRO shall be responsible for forging an agreement with local agencies involved such as: DECS, DILG, LGUs, DND, NGOs, and shall mobilize participants in the implementation of this program.
- 10.4 The RED through the PENROs and CENROs shall determine the needed requirements for the project and ensure the compliance therewith. Among such requirements are the following:
  - 10.4.1 Species required;
  - 10.4.2 Quantity needed;
  - 10.4.3 Location and planting site; and
  - 10.4.4 Map of the project.
- 10.5 The CENRO shall submit through the PENRO and RED status reports on Adopt-A-Mountain project sites within its jurisdiction.

- 10.6 The RED may authorize accredited NGOs who will spearhead the conduct of relevant services especially regarding social and technical training as well as monitoring reforestation mountain.
- 10.7 The RED shall ensure the attainment of the objectives set under this plan and the implementation of the operational guide prepared in the individual Indicative Plan for each project site which shall form part of this Order (See Annex “A”).
- 10.8 The DENR Regional Office shall, within (30) days after receipt of report from CENRO, prepare a summarized report to FMB which shall likewise submit a report to the Secretary through the Chairman of the Project/Program. FMB shall likewise prepare comments and recommendations and maintain a nationwide status chart of “**Adopt-A-Mountain**” Program.
- 10.9 The FMB, Regional Offices, PENROs and CENROs shall maintain identical sets of complete documents including maps of each operating agreement holders.
- 10.10 The Special Concerns Office and Office of Undersecretary for Field Operations shall provide over-all coordination with implementing agencies/offices/units. It shall likewise draft additional guidelines, if necessary, in order to effectively implement the activities.

**Sec. 11 Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect immediately.

**(Sgd.) ANTONIO H. CERILLES**  
Secretary