

Memorandum Circular
No. 98 - 17
October 30, 1998

SUBJECT : Guidelines for Ecological Destinations Development and Management in the Philippines.

In line with the Department's mandate to promote sustainable development and cognizant of the Philippine's abundance in terms of ecological destinations, guidelines for Ecological Destinations Development and Management in the Philippines are hereby established for the information and guidance of all concerned.

BASIC POLICY

1. It is the policy of the State to ensure sustainable use, development, management, protection and conservation of the country's environment and natural resources for the benefit of the present and future generations.
2. It is likewise the policy of the Government to develop and manage ecological destinations to allow learning through experience thereby improving the quality of life of our people while maintaining the integrity of the environment

OBJECTIVES

1. To promote environmental awareness through ecological study tours
2. To provide income generating activities to communities with identified ecological destinations
3. To provide more opportunities for productive people-nature interaction

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

This circular shall cover the development and management of ecological destinations in the Philippines not covered by eco-tourism program, NIPAS and all other protected areas-related programs.

CRITERIA IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL DESTINATIONS

Site Consideration

1. The area should have unique natural/cultural features which will provide enjoyment and education to ecology enthusiasts
2. The area should be accessible
3. The area has no peace and order problem
4. The community affected by the development of ecological destinations must approve such development through a resolution
5. The area must not be a natural disaster prone area

Activity/Development Considerations

Ecological Destinations' Study/Observation activities must be:

1. Environmentally sound and low impact development
2. With educational value
3. Accepted by the community
4. Of economic and social value to the community

Economic Considerations/Procedures

1. All ecological enthusiasts must pay the users' fee before access is allowed in identified ecological destinations
2. Income generated from collected users fee shall be primarily for the maintenance of such destinations and a modest

amount shall be returned to the community in the form of livelihood activity

3. Rate on uses' fee shall depend on the target market, the type of destination (aesthetic value, difficulty of access and others)

ACTIVITY		SCHEDULE	OFFICER IN CHARGE
1.	Identify ecological destinations, market others	November 98	CENRO thru the REDs
2.	Formulate the Users' Fee Rates	November 98 to December 98	Central Office (CO)
3.	Allocation of initial budget of Php 200,000 per site	October 98	CO
4.	Identify enhancement needed/ budget	November 98	CENRO-PENRO
5.	Source funds for enhancement	December 98	CO and REDs
6.	Social acceptance activities	December 98	CENRO-PENRO
7.	Enhancement activities	January 99 to May 99	CENRO-PENRO
8.	Regional launching	June 99	RED-PENRO-CENRO
9.	Open to public (operation)	July 99	RED-PENRO-CENRO

EFFECTIVITY

This Order takes effect immediately.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO H. CERILLES
Secretary