



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632)97-66-26 to 36; (632)97-70-41 to 43

SEP 19 2003

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 2003- 18


SUBJECT: **IDENTIFICATION OF FOREST AREAS FOR ESTABLISHMENT
OF AFRICAN OIL PALM (Elaeis guineensis Jacq)
PLANTATION**

There have been proposals from some quarters to consider African oil palm as an alternative reforestation species. However, in view of the technical and ecological requirements of the species, there is an urgent need to provide safeguards to the remaining forest lands. The following guidelines are therefore hereby issued for the guidance of all concerned:

1. African oil palm plantations may only be allowed in forest lands with 18% slope (approximately 10 degrees) and lower, which are not covered by any existing tenurial instrument or not part of areas identified for permanent production forest as well as protection forest including designated buffer zones;
2. The proposed area has to be certified by the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Coconut Authority (DA-PCA) as suitable for oil palm plantation development; and
3. In any case, the development of African oil palm plantation shall not entail the conversion of existing natural forests and tree plantations.

The DENR field offices, in coordination with the DA-PCA field offices concerned, are further instructed to identify and submit to this Office as soon as possible, the list of potential areas for the purpose with corresponding maps of appropriate scale, considering the above conditions and safeguards.

This Circular takes effect immediately.


ELISEA G. GOZUN
Secretary