

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 607, December 18, 1974]

CREATING THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the continuous management, development and utilization of the forest resources are indispensable to the economic development of the country and social well-being of the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, scientific forest management, rational development and vigilant protection are essential to the continuous productivity and economic utilization of these resources;

WHEREAS, Government efforts in the scientific treatment of these forests have been invariably inadequate and inappropriate to cope with the accelerating rate of utilization, resulting in the increasing hectarage of unproductive forests and eroded lands, decreasing areas of commercial forests and raising incidence of damaged watersheds, ravaged wildlife sanctuaries, and abused grazing lands;

WHEREAS, if this critical trend continues unabated and unless forest management, development, and protection methodologies are improved through intensified forest biological and economic research, it is inevitable that these valuable resources will no longer be able to meet the increasing demands of the growing population and the country's economic development needs;

WHEREAS, the root cause of this situation is the grave inadequacy of forest research which is the basis for forest management, development and protection practices;

WHEREAS, the current accelerated wood utilization research should be properly accompanied by an equally aggressive forest production and harvesting research in order to attain a balance necessary for the forest resource to contribute its maximum share to the economic development of the country;

WHEREAS, in order to initiate and maintain an effective research program attuned to the needs of forest management, production and protection, it is necessary to set up a semi-autonomous organization free from the administrative complexities of bureaucratic agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby decree and order:

SECTION 1. A Forest Research Institute, hereinafter referred to as FORI is hereby created in the Department of Natural Resources to integrate and to conduct forest production and harvesting researches all over the country in line with national forestry research program developed by the Philippine Council for Agricultural Research (PCAR); *Provided*, That policy-oriented economic research of the Bureau of Forest Development shall remain with the said Bureau.

SEC. 2. All forest research functions of the Bureau of Forest Development, including applicable appropriations, records, equipment, property and qualified personnel, except the economic and organization researches being conducted by it for the

purposes of planning, programming and policy formulation, are hereby transferred to the FORI. In order to avoid jurisdictional conflict in the conduct of field research the FORI and the Bureau of Forest Development shall draw up a memorandum of agreement regarding working arrangements and other conditions as may be necessary to ensure the smooth operation and implementation of forest research programs.

SEC. 3. There is hereby created a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as Board, which shall be the policy-making and governing body of the FORI, to be composed of:

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| a. Secretary of Natural Resources | Chairman |
| b. Director General, Philippine Council for Agricultural Research. | Member |
| c. Director, Bureau of Forest Development | Member |
| d. Dean, U.P. College of Forestry | Member |
| e. Commissioner, Forest Products Research and Industries Development Commission. | Member |
| f. President, Philippine Forest Research Society | Member |
| g. Director, Forestry Research Division, Philippine Council for Agricultural Research | Member |
| h. Two (2) representatives of the Forestry "Sector who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources, upon recommendation of the wood industry association | Member |

SEC. 4. The Board shall meet before the end of each fiscal year to deliberate and approve the ensuing year's research and budgetary programs. It may also meet anytime upon call by the Chairman to deliberate on urgent matters, including, but not limited to, the consideration of appointments of personnel, policy changes and matters requiring immediate attention.

SEC. 5. The Board is hereby authorized to formulate appropriate rules and regulations governing the operations of FORI, including the staffing and the remunerations or compensation of its officers and employees. It is likewise authorized to construct the necessary research and office buildings and facilities and to acquire or purchase the necessary site or equipment.

SEC. 6. The Board shall establish, for the efficient and effective implementation of the research programs of the FORI, at least five (5) Forest Experiment Stations or Regional Research Centers the location of which shall be representative of each climatic type.

SEC. 7. The FORI shall be headed by a Director, who shall be assisted by an Assistant Director. The Director of the PCAR Forestry Research Division shall be the ex-officio Director of the FORI.

The Assistant Director shall be appointed by the Board and must have the following qualifications:

- a. A natural-born citizens of the Philippines;
- b. A holder of at least a Master of Science in Forestry degree or its equivalent in experience as determined by the Board;