

**[DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 30 s. 1994,
September 02, 1994]**

**IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR NON-GOVERNMENT
ORGANIZATION ASSISTED COMMUNITY-BASED MANGROVE
FOREST MANAGEMENT (NGO-ASSISTED CBMFM) FOR THE DENR**

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 192 and the Coastal Environment Program and in order to promote environmental awareness, social equity, economic development and sustainable resources management in coastal communities, the following guidelines are hereby promulgated.

SECTION 1. Statement of Policy and Objectives. It is the policy of the State to conserve the country's biological diversity and endangered habitats by mobilizing stakeholders to serve as effective partners.

It is, therefore, in this regard that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources hereby adopts an NGO-Assisted Community-Based Mangrove Forest Management (NGO-Assisted CBMFM), the primary objective of which is to transfer all existing traditionally-dependended upon mangrove forests under an effective community-based management.

The specific objectives of this system shall be:

1. To identify, train and orient traditional mangrove users and other coastal resources dependents in effective community-based management;
2. To enlist the help of NGOs with exemplary track record in natural resources management, particularly mangrove forest management, as partners of the government in identifying, training and orienting the target clientele;
3. To rehabilitate traditionally depended upon/used mangrove forests thru an NGO-assisted CBMFM;
4. To expand and develop the existing mangrove forest to provide for the increasing demand for products derived therefrom and sustain the production of these products and services based on the Sustainable Yield (SY) of the resources.

The key elements of the CBMFM concept are as follows:

1. Provision of security of tenure for coastal residents/mangrove dependents;
2. Reorientation of values such as internalizing concern and commitment for the protection and conservation of mangroves;
3. Induce technical capability of coastal residents/traditional mangrove users;
4. Encourage community-based initiatives on hands-on-management, in consonance with people empowerment;

5. Identification of the direct stakeholders/mangrove dependents;
6. Initial emphasis on the sustainable management of existing mangrove resources and recognition of sustainable traditional resource utilization patterns and innovations to suit the current situations; and DENR's effort in realizing a community managed coastal environment.
7. Implementation of a total area management approach and zonation of areas to provide for a comprehensive Coastal Resources Management scheme; and
8. Active participation of technically capable NGO's engaged in Community Organizing (CO) activities and people empowerment.

On the other hand, the NGO-Assisted CBMFM arrangement should produce the following outputs:

1. Active, self-sustaining mangrove dependents/groups/organization, preferably a part of the existing Fishermen's Cooperatives/Associations (FCs/FAs);
2. Mangrove Stewardship Agreements (MSAs) between the DENR and the mangrove dependents;
3. A comprehensive socio-economic profile of coastal communities adjacent/bordering or within the mangrove forest;
4. A resource profile of the awarded MSA areas; and
5. Minimization of open access to the resources and the protection and management of coastal resources.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. For the purpose of this Order, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Stakeholder** — a person or an entity which relies mainly on the mangroves as their primary source of livelihood; or their main source of livelihood (i.e. fishing, sea farming, sea ranching, etc.) relies heavily on the productivity and survival of the mangroves.
- b. **Traditionally Depended Upon Mangrove Forest** — is any mangrove forest within a timberland which is being made the source of livelihood ever since, on a daily and periodic basis by the mangrove stakeholder.
- c. **Sustained Yield** — is the amount of harvestable material which can be remove from an ecosystem over a long period of time with no apparent deleterious effect on the ecosystem.
- d. **Non-Destructive Livelihood Alternatives** — are livelihood activities guided by the sustained yield principle. Non-destructive alternative livelihood requires optimum sustainable harvesting of material and minimum disturbance on the processes and homeostatic qualities of the ecosystem.
- e. **Integrated Area Management Approach** — a management approach which encompasses socio-economic, cultural and bio-physical components/attributes of a management area. Capitalizing on the interrelationship and interdependency of these components/attributes and maximizing the cumulative effect of these components/attributes to each other and to the whole management area.

f. **Integrated Coastal Resources Management Approach** — refers to the management of coastal resources, and the interlinking processes within and between the resources and their environment. This is an Integrated Area Management Approach for the coastal zone.

g. **Special Interest Groups** — refers to any group or entities bound by a certain and specified interest, issues and concerns.

h. **Steward** — someone entrusted with the resources of another for the purpose of exercising stewardship by providing care, protection and management to improve quality and productivity of those resources.

i. **Stewardship Contract/Agreement** — refers to a contract entered into by and between an individual mangrove user or mangrove user association or cooperative and the government which grants the former the right to the exclusive use of a specified mangrove area in return for managing that area according to a Stewardship Plan. It is hereinafter called the Agreement.

SECTION 3. Coverage. This Order shall cover all naturally grown mangrove forests except those set aside for the purpose of research and preservation and those covered by valid Ordinary Fishpond Permits (OFP) or Fishpond Lease Agreement (FLA). Established and terminated/turned-over mangrove plantation forests funded through the National Forestation Program and Fisheries Sector Program are also covered.

The beneficiaries of the MSA/CMSA are prioritized according to the following:

1. Traditional Claimants and Mangrove dependents/users (firewood cutter, charcoal maker, nipa shingle producer, etc.);
2. Fishermen's Associations/Cooperatives;
3. LGUs/Barangay/Municipality

SECTION 4. Operational Concept. The NGO-Assisted CBMFM system shall have three (3) phases:

- a) Resource Assessment and Social Preparation phase
- b) Development and Management phase
- c) Monitoring and Evaluation phase

Each of the phases shall have the following activities:

4.1 Resource Assessment and Social Preparation.

4.1.1 Assessment and survey of mangrove areas.

Targeted mangrove areas shall be surveyed. Resource assessment activities shall be conducted to come up with an updated resource profile of the targeted area. Based on the updated resource profile of the area proposed, a zonification plan shall be drafted to be presented to the community/participants for evaluation, discussion and approval.

4.1.2 Public Information Campaign (PIC) and Socio-Economic profiling of coastal communities within and adjacent to the mangrove areas.

Value awareness and perception of coastal communities towards the resource shall likewise be assessed and used as basis of the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign/Technical Training programs to be implemented.

4.1.3 Tapping of NGOs with technical expertise and actively participating in Community Organizing (CO) activities in target areas as Assisting Organizations (AOs).

In cases where this is not feasible, Local Government Units (LGUs) and DENR Field Offices (FOs) shall be made as venue of extension activities. The aim of this activity is to reorient the perception of the coastal communities on mangroves and to provide for the technical capability building of coastal residents/mangrove dependents.

4.2 Development and Monitoring

4.2.1 Awarding of Mangrove Stewardship Certificates (MSCs) to deserving individuals or groups within community.

Through the DENR Field Offices, technical assistance to the community shall be provided in drawing up a twenty five (25) years management plan and in the rehabilitation of the awarded areas. The management plan shall follow the outline provided in DENR Administrative Order No. 03, Series of 1991.

4.2.2 Assistance by DENR in the rehabilitation of awarded areas by providing planting materials and technical assistance.

All labor inputs in developing and rehabilitating the MSA areas shall be the counterpart provided by the steward free of charge. Where applicable, indigenous species shall be recommended for planting. Rehabilitation should be made within six months after the awarding of Mangrove Stewardship Agreement (MSA).

4.2.3 Introduction of Mangrove based non-destructive alternative livelihood projects (rock mound, crab traps, crab fattening etc.) by the DENR through technology transfer and assistance on credit support/sourcing.

4.2.4 Zonification of the CBMFM areas

This shall be encouraged to identify the production and protection areas. Zonification activities shall be conducted by stewards assisted and formalized by the DENR.

4.2.5 The biological diversity of the naturally grown mangrove forest covered by the agreement shall be preserved. In case of denuded areas covered by the agreement, the natural diversity of mangroves shall be considered by planting mixed species subject to species site matching requirements.

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

4.3.1 Monitoring and Evaluation of MSA site shall be made yearly during the first five years of implementation, and every fifth year thereafter.

During the first year after the awarding of the MSA, bi-monthly monitoring shall be made to insure the implementation of the six-month rehabilitation phase.

SECTION 5. Contract Processing. The procedures in the processing of contracts are as follows:

5.1 The target partner NGO/AO shall submit to the DENR an Indicative Development Plan including maps duly endorsed by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) concerned. The proposal must be accompanied by the following documents.

5.1.a Letter of Intent addressed to the Undersecretary for Field Operations (FOs)/Regional Executive Director (RED) concerned;

5.1.b Endorsement from the Community/Fishermen's Association/People's Organizations, Barangay Councils and LGU's;

5.1.c Certification of availability and feasibility of the site from the CENRO;

5.1.d Registration Certificate from the Securities and Exchange Commission or Cooperative Development Authority;

5.1.e Organizational structure (including biodata of officers)

5.1.f Track record on environment and natural resources management including community organizing;

5.1.g DENR Accreditation as an NGO;

5.1.h Proof of financial capability of the NGO.

The Indicative development plan should follow the format as described in Appendix C* of this order.

5.2 A National/Regional Evaluation Committee shall be created by the Undersecretary for Field Operations and the Regional Executive Director concerned, respectively with the following composition:

5.2.a National Evaluation Committee

Coastal Environment Program Coordinator	- Chairman
--	---------------

Program Manager/Project Leader of Mangrove Related Projects	- Member
---	----------