

[DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 31, June 24, 1991]

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR CONTRACT REFORESTATION

Pursuant to Sections 3, 5(c) and 7(c) of Executive Order No. 192 Series of 1987, otherwise known as the "Reorganization Act of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources," and in response to the recommendations of the Master Plan for Forestry Development, the lessons learned in the implementation of the National Forestation Program (NFP), as well as, the high costs of fuel, the guidelines for contract reforestation are hereby revised as follows:

Article I
Preliminary Provisions

SECTION 1. Statement of Policies — The implementation of reforestation under the DENR shall henceforth be governed by the following policies:

1.1 Reforestation activities shall be undertaken in close collaboration with the private sector through family, community and corporate contractors. Reforestation shall be implemented by administration only upon prior clearance from the Secretary or his duly designated representative;

1.2 To promote social equity and rural development, contracting with local upland families and organized bonafide communities shall be given priority;

1.3 Reforestation contracting shall, as a general rule, consist of three (3) sequential phases, namely: a) surveying, mapping and planning; b) comprehensive site development; and c) monitoring and evaluation. Activity — specific contracts for any of the site development activities, such as: seedling production, site preparation, planting/replanting, maintenance and protection, etc., shall no longer be allowed except upon prior clearance from the Secretary or his duly designated representative;

1.4 Prior to implementation of any reforestation contract, plantation establishment objectives must be clearly set and defined, whether for: a) production forests; b) limited production forests; or c) protection forest or a combination thereof, depending on physical and economic considerations. Species diversification shall be encouraged and reforestation by single species (i.e. monoculture) discouraged in areas where the original ecosystem was naturally diverse. This means that in areas (e.g. Cordilleras) where the original ecosystem was naturally dominated by single species (i.e. pines), monoculture may be allowed;

1.5 Intensive site preparation in reforestation projects shall be emphasized consistent with the recommendations of the Master Plan for Forestry Development. Cover crop planting, enrichment planting and intercropping shall likewise be

promoted and intensified;

1.6 Construction of access roads in contract reforestation projects using heavy mechanized equipment shall be strictly regulated and will only be allowed upon prior determination of a reduced risk of soil erosion and other environmental damage. Plantation roads shall not be allowed; instead, construction of graded trails and footpaths shall be fostered; and

1.7 Monitoring and evaluation of reforestation projects through independent groups or entities, such as non-government organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and registered professional foresters, shall be encouraged to ensure an objective view of their status and progress.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms — As used in this Guidelines, the terms enumerated below shall be defined as follows:

2.1 Access Road — A type of all-weather road linking a reforestation project site to national or provincial highways, used for the transport of personnel, supplies and materials, and constructed in accordance with the standards and specifications established in DENR's Technical Guide on Contract Reforestation.

2.2 Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) — The process of rehabilitating denuded forest lands by taking advantage of trees already growing in the area. This usually involves the following activities: locating and releasing indigenous trees, maintenance, augmentation planting and protection;

2.3 Community Contractor — Refers to an association, organization, foundation, cooperative, or such other popular groupings or formations, duly-registered with the appropriate government regulatory agency, consisting of 15 or more members who are residing within, or adjacent to, a reforestation project. It may also refer to a barangay consisting of the residents of the community where the reforestation project is located represented by the Barangay Council.

A community contractor may enter into contracts for surveying, mapping and planning; comprehensive site development of areas involving more than ten (10) hectares but not exceeding 100 hectares; and for monitoring and evaluation of reforestation projects, depending on its competency or qualifications and as may be authorized by law;

2.4 Comprehensive Site Development — Plantation establishment activities in reforestation which include, among others, construction of infrastructure; seedling production; site preparation; planting/replanting; maintenance and protection; and silvicultural treatments such as cover crop planting, income-enhancement planting, enrichment planting and intercropping;

2.5 Contract Reforestation — The implementation of reforestation activities through written agreements with the private sector such as families, communities and corporations and/or with the public sector such as local government units (LGUs) and other government agencies (OGAs). It shall include contracts for surveying, mapping and planning; comprehensive site development; and monitoring and evaluation;

2.6 Corporate Contractor — Refers to companies organized primarily for profit which may either consist of sole proprietorships, partnerships or corporations duly-registered with the Bureau of Domestic Trade and/or the Securities and Exchange Commission as the case may be. A corporate contractor may enter into contracts for surveying, mapping and planning; comprehensive site development of areas greater than one hundred (100) hectares; and for monitoring and evaluation of reforestation projects, depending on its competency or qualifications and as may be authorized by law;

2.7 Covercrop Planting — The process of conditioning denuded areas which are highly cogonal, rocky or erodible by planting creeping leguminous perennials such as kudzu, calopogonium, stylosanthes, desmodium, lablab bean, psophocarpus (winged bean), patani, or by planting suitable non-legumes such as morning glory vine, wild sunflower and kikuyu grass, in order to improve soil fertility, organic matter and water holding capacity prior to or concurrent with the planting of trees and other perennials in such areas;

2.8 Enrichment Planting — The process of interplanting fuelwood, timber and non-timber crops in inadequately-stocked reforestation projects previously implemented by administration for the purpose of increasing wood supply for the people and enhancing the income-generating potential of such projects;

2.9 Family Contractor — Refers to the spouses and children, if any, including household members related by affinity or consanguinity, living within or near the reforestation project. It shall be represented either by the husband or the wife, or in case of their death or incapacity, by the eldest child who is of legal age, or in case of the latter's refusal or inability, by any other child or relative who is likewise of legal age duly-designated by the rest of the family members. A family contractor shall be qualified to enter into contracts for comprehensive site development of areas not less than five (5) but not exceeding ten (10) hectares;

2.10 Forest Land Management Agreement (FLMA) — A contract issued by DENR to duly-organized, bona fide residents of the community where the FLMA area is located, among others, granting them the sole and exclusive privilege to develop said area, harvest and utilize its products for 25 years, renewable for another 25 years, with the obligation to pay production share to the government equivalent to the cost invested in reforesting such area, pursuant to DENR Administrative Order No. 71 Series of 1990;

2.11 Graded Trail — A path constructed along a carefully surveyed alignment on the ground generally wide enough (i.e. not less than 1.5 m) to permit the use of animal drawn-carts, with gradient or slope normally not exceeding 10%.

2.12 Income-Enhancement Planting — The process of interplanting fuelwood and food crops in areas previously planted with trees and perennials to produce income from these areas while waiting for the trees/perennials to mature;

2.13 Intercropping — The process of interplanting food crops, such as: camote, bananas, cassava, peanuts, etc., in portions of a reforestation project cultivated as part of site preparation;

2.14 Limited Production Forests — Areas with slopes greater than 50%

developed primarily to supply non-timber products such as bamboo, rattan, anahaw, pandan, medicinals, fruits, gums and resins, spices and other horticultural crops;

2.15 Minimum Survival Rate — The number of final crop and nurse species or other perennials growing at a reforestation project that is acceptable to DENR upon completion of a comprehensive site development contract, and which is fixed at 80% each for final crop and nurse species per hectare based on the prescribed planting density;

2.16 Monitoring and Evaluation — Inspection and assessment procedures employed in reforestation projects simultaneous with or upon completion of either the whole or part of the site development activities, for the main purpose of determining their status and progress;

2.17 Plantation Road — A type of all — weather road constructed within a reforestation project site linking the various plantation sections/blocks, and constructed in accordance with the prescribed standards referred to in Sec. 21 hereof;

2.18 Planting Density — The total number of final crop and nurse trees or other perennials prescribed per hectare for a particular reforestation project following the standards provided for in this Guidelines;

2.19 Production Forests — Areas with slopes from 0-50% developed to supply both timber and non-timber products such as bamboo, rattan, horticultural crops (e.g. fruits/nut trees), mangrove (e.g. bakawan/nipa), gums and resins, spices, or a combination thereof;

2.20 Protection Forests — Areas regardless of slope which are highly erodible or too rocky for establishment of either production forests or limited production forests, developed for the principal objective of establishing vegetative cover to prevent erosion, conserve water and nurture wildlife;

2.21 Project Development Plan — A concise write-up that presents in a systematic and organized manner the objectives, detailed activities, planting design/choice of species, schedule of activities, organization and manpower, estimated costs, and such other matters necessary for the full operation and establishment of a reforestation project;

2.22 Reforestation — The planting of denuded forestlands with trees and other perennials. It shall include all direct and indirect activities necessary to establish forest plantations, such as: identification of sites; surveying, mapping and planning; construction of infrastructure; seedling production; site preparation; planting/replanting; maintenance and protection; covercrop planting; enrichment planting and intercropping; monitoring and evaluation. It may also include watershed rehabilitation, assisted natural regeneration, and other silvicultural activities resulting in the establishment of forest stands;

2.23 Reforestation by Administration — The implementation of reforestation activities by DENR field offices through the traditional method of directly hiring laborers or workers instead of contracting such activities;

2.24 Sectioning and Blocking — Sectioning refers to the process of establishing Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid control points on the ground. A section consists of 100 ha with a dimension of 1 km x 1 km which is equivalent to 10 blocks. Blocking is the process of subdividing an area, usually a section, into blocks consisting of 10 ha each with a dimension of 200 m x 500 m, the short end oriented along the east-west direction while the long end is oriented along the north-south direction;

2.25 Surveying, Mapping and Planning — Pre-establishment activities in reforestation which include, among others, sectioning and blocking; monumenting and marking of corner posts; perimeter survey; contour mapping/slope classification; preparation of control and operations maps; gathering of benchmark data for planning; and preparation of recommended strategies for site development;

2.26 Universal Transverse Mercator Grid (UTM) — Refers to the imaginary lines (i.e., latitude and longitude) which subdivide the earth into sections.

Article II

Surveying, Mapping and Planning

SECTION 3. Mode of Implementation — Surveying, mapping and planning shall be undertaken through contract with duly — qualified community or corporate contractors preferably those that are based within or near the reforestation site. However, in cases where the local DENR field offices [e.g. Regional/Provincial/Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices] have the capability to implement these activities, surveying, mapping and planning may be undertaken using in-house manpower and resources. (Contract format for surveying, mapping and planning shall be provided for in the Manual of Operations for Contract Reforestation).

SECTION 4. Minimum Contract Area — The minimum contract area for surveying, mapping and planning shall consist of 100 hectares. The area shall, as much as possible, be contiguous or closely adjacent to each other in cases there are several parcels.

SECTION 5. Schedule of Contracting — Contracts for surveying, mapping and planning shall be awarded and completed before commencement of plantation establishment activities, subject to the Transitory Provisions (Sec. 63) herein. They shall be awarded preferably eighteen (18) months before the first month of the rainy season during which planting will commence at the project site, but in no case less than six (6) months prior thereto. Contractors shall begin the implementation not later than one month from receipt of the notice to proceed.

Sectioning and blocking shall be done, as much as possible, in tandem with perimeter survey and contour mapping. However, in case sectioning and blocking cannot be completed on schedule such that site development would be seriously delayed, perimeter, survey and contour mapping may be undertaken first so as to immediately delineate the various development/slope categories under Sec. 8 hereof.

SECTION 6. Sectioning and Blocking — Sectioning and blocking shall be carried-out following the procedures prescribed by the DENR Monitoring and Evaluation System