

**[ DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 15,  
February 01, 1990 ]**

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE UTILIZATION, DEVELOPMENT  
AND MANAGEMENT OF MANGROVE RESOURCES**

In accordance with the provisions of P.D. 705, as amended otherwise known as the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, the following rules and regulations governing the utilization, development and management of mangrove resources are hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned:

*SECTION 1. Policy and Objectives .* — Mangroves have multi-uses. As such, the utilization, development and management of mangrove resources shall involve as many uses as possible for the benefit of the greater number of users. To sustain optimum productivity, it shall be the policy of the government to conserve, protect, rehabilitate and develop the remaining mangrove, resources of the country; give preference to organizations, associations or cooperatives over individual users in the utilization and development of the mangrove resources; stop the wanton exploitation of the mangrove resources; and enhance the replenishment of the denuded areas through natural or artificial means.

*SECTION 2. Definition of Terms .* — For the purpose of this Order, the following terms are defined:

- a. Alienable or Disposable Lands refer to those lands of the public domain which have been the subject of the present system of classification and certified as not needed for forestry purposes.
- b. Communal Mangrove Forest refers to a tract of public forest set aside by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources upon the recommendation of the Director of the Forest Management Bureau for the exclusive use of the residents of the municipality from which said residents may cut, collect or remove mangrove forest products, such as firewood and mangrove timber for charcoal production for home consumption in accordance with existing laws and forest rules and regulations.
- c. Denuded areas refer to mangrove areas which have been devoid of mangrove trees, shrubs and/or nipa palms. Treeless areas covered with weeds and vines fall under this definition.
- d. Fishpond Lease Agreement is a privilege granted by the state to a person or group of persons to occupy and possess in consideration of specified rental any public lands for the raising of fish and other aquatic products.

- e. Forest Lands include the public forest, the permanent forest or forest reserves, and forest reservations.
- f. License is a privilege granted by the State to a person to utilize forest resources within any forest land, without any right of occupation and possession over the same, to the exclusion of others, or establish and operate a wood processing plant, or conduct any activity involving the utilization of any mangrove forest resources.
- g. Mangrove area refers to the area found along the seacoast and estuaries whether sparsely or thickly vegetated with true and/or associated mangrove species, or open swampy areas, including brackish fishponds, extending along stream where the water is brackish.
- h. Mangrove Buffer Zones are strips of land at least 50 meters in width fronting seas, oceans and other bodies of water and 20 meters on both sides of river channels/banks maintained and developed to enhance the protective capability of the mangroves against strong currents, winds and high waves in areas covered by Ministry Administrative Order No. 42, Series of 1986.
- i. Mangrove Forest refers to forest stand found in the mangrove areas and composed primarily of mangrove and associated species.
- j. Mangrove Plantation refers to a stand of mangrove trees and/or palms of true or associated species planted in the mangrove area.
- k. Mangrove Resources refer to all terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna in the mangroves including land and minerals which could bestow any form of services influences, and amenities to man and the environment.
- l. Mangrove Swamp Forest Reserves are mangrove areas of the public domain which are declared as such under Presidential Proclamation 2152 and are determined to be needed for conservation and protection purposes.
- m. Permit is a short term privilege or authority granted by the State to a person or group of persons to utilize any limited forest resources or undertake a limited activity within any forest land without any right of occupation and possession therein.
- n. Protected Areas refer to mangrove areas declared as such under the Integrated Protected Areas System to be instituted by the DENR.
- o. Timber refers to any piece of wood more than 1.5 meters long and having an average diameter of more than 15 centimeters.