

**[DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 29-00,
March 14, 2000]**

**GUIDELINES REGULATING THE HARVESTING AND UTILIZATION
OF FOREST PRODUCTS WITHIN COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST
MANAGEMENT AREAS**

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 263, and Department Administrative Order No. 96-29, and in order to rationalize the utilization of forest products within areas covered by Community-Based Forest Management Program (CBFM), the following guidelines are hereby promulgated:

Section 1. Basic Principle . — The CBFM aims to promote the socio-economic upliftment of forest communities and at the same time, achieving sustainable development/management of forest resources. It recognizes that responsible and efficient resource utilization by organized and empowered local communities based on sound ecological and economic principles can result to sustainable management of forest lands and resources. This recognition is manifested in the granting of resource-use rights to peoples' organizations under the CBFM program otherwise known as Resource Use Permit (RUP).

Section 2. Objectives . — The granting of resource-use permit to peoples' organization shall have the following objectives:

- a. To provide the basis for the community to access and benefit from forest resources in a sustainable manner.
- b. To help the community generate start-up capital needed to finance and establish livelihood and other development activities in the area.
- c. To empower peoples' organizations under the CBFM program as effective partners in the protection, conservation, development and rehabilitation alongside the concept of sustainable development.

Section 3. Scope and Coverage . — Utilization of naturally grown and/or planted forest resources shall be covered by Resource Use Permit (RUP). RUP may be issued to holders of tenurial instruments under the CBFM program of DENR who intend to harvest/utilize forest products for commercial use, provided that they have an affirmed Community Resources Management Framework (CRMF) and Annual Work Plan (AWP).

Section 4. Requirements for the Utilization of Forest Resources . — The requirements for forest resource utilization are the following:

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| a. | Affirmed CRMF | c. | ECC |
| b. | Affirmed AWP | d. | RUP |

In the case of timber resource extraction, the following additional conditions shall govern:

4.1 Area of natural forest. — Harvesting of timber within the natural forest should be confined only in areas identified as production forest in accordance with the CRMF. Extraction of forest products outside of the identified zone shall be strictly prohibited. Cutting will not be allowed along gullies, steep slopes, river channels and other identified critical areas.

4.2 Stand volume after harvesting. — Where cutting is allowed in the residual forest, the average stand volume after harvesting these areas should not be less than eighty (80) cubic meters per hectare.

Section 5. Procedures . —

a. The PO with the assistance of a registered professional forester and the PMO/site coordinator concerned shall prepare and submit the AWP to the CENRO at least three (3) months prior to the commencement of planned annual operations.

b. The CENRO shall cause the validation of the AWP, particularly the information on inventories of areas where harvesting of forest products shall be undertaken, following existing guidelines.

c. The CENRO shall affirm the AWP and issue the RUP within sixty (60) calendar days from the submission of the AWP.

d. In case where the CENRO functions are assumed by higher authorities, the authority concerned shall issue the RUP accordingly.

Section 6. Safeguards . — In order to ensure that the harvesting of forest products will be done in the most economical and ecological manner, the following safeguards shall be observed:

A. Responsibilities of DENR . A nationwide scheme establishing the Forest Stock Monitoring System (FSMS) in tandem with local Multi-sectoral Forest Protection Council (MFPC) shall be operationalized in coordination with the field offices to facilitate the monitoring of harvesting activities.

1. *Region.* The Regional office shall maintain an updated list of peoples' organization with RUPs within their jurisdiction. They shall, on a semi-annual basis, monitor, in coordination with the PENRO, CENRO, and/or LGUs and MFPCs, the progress of the activities by the community particularly the extraction of forest products, the marketing strategies, the intended use of the proceeds particularly in livelihood activities.

2. *PENRO.* The PENRO shall likewise maintain an updated records of all peoples' organization granted with RUP in its jurisdiction. They shall monitor on a regular basis and in coordination with the CENRO, the community, LGUs and other concerned groups the status of the implementation of the RUP and the intended activities as stipulated in the annual work plan.

3. *CENRO.* The CENRO shall maintain an updated records of all communities with affirmed RUP within its jurisdiction. Through a project management officer, whom the CENRO shall designate as the link between the DENR and the community, activities of the community pertaining to the implementation of the AWP and the RUP shall be closely monitored and supervised. The PMO shall, as much as possible immerse with the community and maintain a record of daily harvest and balances. He/She shall likewise monitor the establishment and development of the livelihood