

MINISTRY OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

11 July 1983

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 225
SERIES OF 1983

SUBJECT : General Procedures and Guidelines in the
Implementation of the Sub-classification
of Forestlands and other Public Lands
Pursuant to LOI 1262

Pursuant to the Presidential mandate under LOI 1262 to effectively implement the sub-classification of forestlands and other public lands, the following regulations and guidelines are hereby promulgated:

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. In order to meet the socio-economic requirements of the country as well as provide for the needs of the present and future generations in the utilization of our natural resources, it shall be the policy of the government to implement a system of land use classification that will promote optimum, equitable, and just utilization of our forestlands and other public lands. In line with this policy, the government shall undertake the sub-classification of forestlands and other public lands into their most suitable use such as agro-forestry, grazing, protection forest, production forest, parks/outdoor recreation areas, mineral lands, fishpond and fishfarms, and other land uses as provided for in Section-10, Article XIV of the New Constitution.

The general objectives of sub-classification are as follows:

- a) To determine the most suitable and rationale use and proper allocation of lands with due consideration to physiological, economic, socio-cultural and ecological factors;
- b) To provide a basic reference in planning developmental activities;
- c) To provide a more comprehensive data-base for land resource managers and users on the best use of forestlands and other public lands considering local, regional and national needs and priorities; and

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- d) To provide data on which to base decisions about the multiple or competing use of forestlands and other public lands thereby minimizing, if not altogether solving, land-use conflicts.

SECTION 2. Coverage of Sub-classification. The sub-classification of forestlands shall include the ^{unclassified forest lands and the Plan.} classified forestlands consisting of established forest reserves, timberlands, national parks, game refuges and bird sanctuaries, wilderness areas, and other unclassified forestlands; other public lands which include but is not limited to public agricultural lands; military, civil, mineral and other reservations which may be reverted back to the mass of public forests as a result of the implementation of LOI 1258.

~~The unsurveyed and unclassified lands shall still be classified into forest and alienable/disposable lands which shall be further sub-classified into more specific categories as indicated in Section 4.~~

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Order, the following terms shall be understood or interpreted as defined hereunder:

- a. Forestlands - include the public forest, the permanent forest or forest reserves, and forest reservations.
- b. Public forest - is the mass of lands of the public domain which has not been the subject of the present system of classification for the determination of which lands are needed for forest purposes and which are not.
- c. Permanent forest or forest reserves - refer to those lands of the public domain which have been the subject of the present system of classification and determined to be needed for forest purposes.
- d. Public lands - is uniformly used to describe so much of the national domain as has not been subjected to private rights devoted to public use. In some circles, public lands are habitually used in a limited sense to describe such lands as are subject to sale or other modes of acquisition or concession under general laws; although generally the same or synonymous to lands of the public domain.
- e. Agricultural lands - areas which are extensively used for production of agricultural crops. These lands are primarily intended for cultivation, livestock production and agro-forestry.
- f. Industrial lands - primarily devoted to the pursuit of an industrial enterprise, such as manufacturing and other related establishments.

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- g. Commercial - areas which are devoted to establishments where exchange of goods and services are made.
- h. Residential - refers to lands which are intended primarily for human habitation.
- i. National Parks - refers to a forestland reservation essentially of primitive or wilderness character which has been withdrawn from settlement or occupancy and set aside as such exclusively to preserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects and the wild animals or plants therein, and to provide enjoyment of these features in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future generations.
- j. Game Refuge and Bird Sanctuary - refers to a forestland designated for the protection of game animals, birds and fish and closed to hunting and fishing in order that the excess wildlife population may flow and restock surrounding areas.
- k. Wilderness Areas - land of the public domain which has been reserved as such by the President to preserve its natural conditions, maintain its hydrologic quality, and restrict public use in the interest of national welfare and security.
- l. Military reservations - refers to timberland which has been reserved by the President for military purposes.
- m. Resettlement - refers to areas within public forestlands reserved for occupancy by designated minority classes as well as for settlement of displaced and excess population from other urban areas. This also refers to lands of the public domain which have been proclaimed by the President for a specific purposes, such as townsites, resettlement areas and ancestral lands.
- n. Mineral lands - are those lands in which minerals exist in sufficient quantity and grade to justify the necessary expenditures in extracting and utilizing such minerals.
- o. Protection forest - forestland maintained essentially for their beneficial influence on soil and water in particular and the environment in general. Includes the critical watersheds, mossy forest, strips of specified width bordering rivers, streams, shoreline and reservoir, and steep, rocky areas and other naturally unproductive lands.
- p. Production forest - forest stands tended primarily for the production of timber. This includes natural and man-made forests.
- q. Parks/Outdoors Recreation Areas - refer to lands delineated for the protection of scenic areas in all forestlands which are potentially valuable for recreation and tourism.

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- r. Grazing lands - refers to the portion of the public domain which has been set aside, in view of the suitability of its topography and vegetation for the raising of livestock.
- s. Agro-forest Areas - areas allotted for the implementation of a sustainable management for land which increase overall production, combines agricultural crops, tree crops and forest plants and/or animals simultaneously or sequentially and applied management practices which are compatible with the cultural patterns of the local population.
- t. Fishfarm Area - a body of water (artificial or natural) where fish and other aquatic products are cultured, raised or cultivated under controlled conditions.
- u. Fishpond - a clean levelled area enclosed with dikes at least one foot higher than the highest flood water level in the locality and strong enough to resist water pressure at the highest flood tide, and consisting at least of a nursery pond, a transition pond, a rearing pond, or a combination of any or all of said classes of ponds and water control system.
- v. Growth Centers - small towns or large villages which have the potential of becoming nuclei for the future economic, social and political development of the surrounding areas.
- w. Integrated Area Development Project Areas - are areas identified, developed and managed by the National Council on Integrated Area Development aimed to promote countryside development.

SECTION 4. Sub-classification Categories. The land uses for which sub-classification shall be carried out shall include the following as defined by Section 10, Article XIV of the New Constitution, PD 704, PD 705, LOI 1262 and other applicable laws:

- a. Agricultural
- b. Industrial or commercial
- c. Residential
- d. Resettlement
- e. Mineral lands
- f. Grazing
- g. Protection forest
- h. Production forest
- i. Parks/Outdoor recreation areas
- j. Fishpond and fishfarms

SECTION 5. Establishment of Priority Areas. Sub-classification activities shall proceed in accordance with the following priorities:

- a. Integrated area development project areas
- b. Integrated social forestry program areas
- c. Other government developmental projects
- d. Growth centers
- e. National parks and other similar reservations

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SECTION 6. Program Management. The program shall be managed and implemented through a National Sub-classification Committee as created by LOI 1262 to be assisted by a National Secretariat, National and Regional Technical Evaluation Committees and Sub-classification Teams. (See Annex A)

- a) The National Sub-classification Committee (NSC). The National Sub-classification Committee shall be chaired by the Minister of Natural Resources (MNR). The Committee shall be composed of the heads of the Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS), Ministry of Agrarian Reform (MAR), Ministry of Agriculture (MA) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). The Committee shall oversee the implementation of sub-classification activities and approve the proposed zonification outputs through its Chairman.
- b) The National Secretariat (NS). The National Secretariat shall be composed of the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources as Chairman, the Director of the Bureau of Forest Development (BFD) as Vice-Chairman and representatives from the MA, MAR, MHS and the NEDA at the Assistant Secretary level or at least Bureau Director level, as members. It shall assist the NSC in overseeing the implementation of LOI 1262 specifically in the following areas:
 - 1.1 Formulation of sub-classification policies, rules and regulations;
 - 1.2 Provision of over-all direction and administration in project planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
 - 1.3 Establishment and maintenance of the necessary linkages with the institutions/ agencies involved to ensure coordinated and expeditious implementation of the program.
- c) The National Technical Evaluation Committee (NTEC). Chaired by the Director of BFD, its members shall be the Directors of Bureau of Lands (BL), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Bureau of Mines and Geo-Sciences (BMG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Bureau of Soils (BS), Bureau of Land Acquisition Development and Disposition (BLADD) and Human Settlements Regulatory Commission (HSRC). It shall have the following functions:
 - 2.1 Evaluate and endorse to the NSC, through the NS, all completed zonification plans according to the policies, objectives and guidelines established.

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- 2.2 Recommend policies and procedural guidelines for a more accelerated and effective sub-classification as may be discovered/identified in the process of implementation.

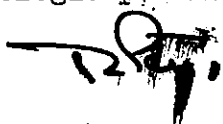
The NTEC shall be supported by a Sub-classification Staff/Secretariat attached to the Office of the Director of BFD and shall be composed of technical representatives from member agencies.

- d) The Regional Technical Evaluation Committee (RTEC). Composed of the Regional Director of BFD as Chairman and the Regional Directors of BL, BFAR, BMG, MA, MAR, MHS and NEDA as members, it shall be responsible for the following:

- 3.1 Prepare an annual regional sub-classification program indicating the area coverage and corresponding manpower, financial and other resource requirements;
- 3.2 Identify priority areas for sub-classification within its regional jurisdiction and program resource requirements in coordination with the BFD Regional Office;
- 3.3 Manage and oversee the actual survey, classification and mapping operations in its respective region;
- 3.4 Recommend to the NSC, through the NTEC the most suitable land uses in project areas within its regional jurisdiction.

A regional Sub-classification Staff/Secretariat shall likewise be created to assist the RTEC. It shall be attached to the Office of the BFD Regional Director.

SECTION 7. Survey/Zonification/Mapping Procedures. Once the categories of the sub-classification areas have been determined and decided, sub-classification survey and mapping shall then proceed according to the following procedures.

- a) Based on the priorities established in Section 5, subject areas shall be identified by the RTEC in coordination with the NTEC. Sub-classification survey and mapping shall then proceed by province for effective project monitoring.
 - b) Designation of categories and delineation of boundaries shall be done by interpretation of the most recent aerial photos of the subject area supplemented by data gathered from the field. These data shall include among others topography, slope, soil profile, types of vegetation, various hydrologic parameters and climate.
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- c) On the basis of the inherent physiographic and socio-economic characteristics of the project areas, the most suitable land use shall be determined.
- d) Land capability and land suitability maps shall be prepared for logged-over/open areas and those to be allocated as agro-forest areas. This is to determine the most suited crops/tree species which can be planted in the area. Laboratory and field activities in this regard shall be according to the standard operating procedures.
- e) Categories delineated from aerial photos shall be transferred to 1: 50,000 base maps in the absence of bigger scale maps for purposes of presentation. For documentation purposes, however, exact boundaries shall be laid out and monumented by ground survey. All photogrammetric, land surveying, and cartographic works shall conform to existing rules and regulations.
- f) Final output shall be a map of the project area not smaller than 1: 50,000 scale showing in color codes the various zonifications and a written report describing the methodology used, the exact location of boundaries and basis for the recommendation.

SECTION 8. Processing and Approval of Zonification Documents.

- a) The maps and reports of a zonified area shall be forwarded to the RTEC which shall evaluate the document and certify it according to its technical soundness and conformity with the regional development plans.
- b) Upon certification by the RTEC, the document shall be forwarded to the NS through the NTEC for review and documentation.
- c) The NS endorses zonification reports, maps and corresponding Administrative Orders/Proclamations to the Minister of MNR for approval.
- d) In cases of conflicts of opinions, the NSC shall be convened for final decision.

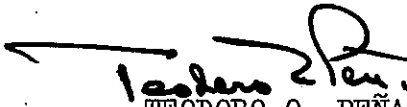
SECTION 9. Funding Requirement. Funds for the implementation of the sub-classification activities shall be taken from the existing or proposed budget of the member agencies for Land Classification/Sub-classification.

SECTION 10. Implementing Provision. The Minister of Natural Resources may issue additional instruction and circulars as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Order.



SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. This Order revokes provisions of Department Order No. 3, Series of 1975 and other succeeding LC Committee Special Orders inconsistent herewith.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. This Order takes effect immediately.


TEODORO Q. PEÑA
Minister

SUBCLASSIFICATION OF FORESTLANDS
AND OTHER PUBLIC LANDS (LOI 1262)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

OTHER
MINISTERS

ASST. SECRETARIES/
BUREAU DIRECTORS

BUREAU DIRECTORS

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

