



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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MEMORANDUM

TO : The Directors of FMB and PAWB, All Regional Executive Directors, RTDs for Forest Management Resources and Protected Areas and Wildlife Services

FROM : The Undersecretary for Field Operations

SUBJECT : **CLARIFICATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CBFM) WITHIN PROCLAIMED WATERSHEDS.**

DATE : **JUL 14 2003**

In the light of the current review and assessment of the implementation of the Community-Based Forest Management Program, a number of operational issues and concerns have been identified that have resulted to confusion and conflicts in field implementation. One of the major concerns is the continuous identification of Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) Areas and the subsequent issuance of the Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Agreement within watersheds.

In as much as the Department has come up appropriate policies on CBFM implementation for various types of forest lands, like watershed, protected areas, mangrove areas it is deemed appropriate to clarify and rationalize the implementation of the CBFM thereat for the guidance of all units and offices involved in CBFM implementation.

Under Sec. 5.a of Republic 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, mangroves and watersheds, among others, have been identified as part of the initial components of the protected area system and shall be governed by existing laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the Act. Further, Sec. 5.b requires the DENR to submit within one (1) year to the Senate and House of Representative a map and legal description or natural boundaries of each protected areas comprising the initial components of the system.

To rationalize and sustain our efforts in CBFM implementation, it is hereby clarified that for those initial sites mentioned above, DAO 96-29 shall be the basis for implementation instead of DAO 2002-02 which shall apply for those proclaimed as protected areas. However, the implementation of CBFM shall be such that deliberate efforts must be made to already harmonize the features and elements of the Community Based Program per DAO 2002-02 dated January 03, 2002. This is to insure that there will be minimal disturbance/confusion and assures a smooth transition once the watershed or mangrove area is eventually proclaimed as a protected area.

For more queries and information, please contact Director Panoy Tolentino of the CBFM Program Office, Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations.

For information and compliance.


RENATO A. DE RUEDA

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