



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

TO : All Regional Executive Directors

FROM : The Undersecretary
Field Operations and Environment

SUBJECT : **USE OF THE EXISTING LAND CLASSIFICATION MAP APPROVED ON AUGUST 1, 2018 OR EARLIER AS BASIS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF LAND CLASSIFICATION FOR PURPOSES OF LAND TITLING IN RELATION TO R.A. NO. 11038 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (E-NIPAS) ACT OF 2018**

DATE : **JUL 08 2021**

This is in relation to Section 22 of R.A. NO. 11038 otherwise known as The Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) Act of 2018 which states that:

“Sec. 22. Existing Rights. - All property and private rights within the protected area and its buffer zones already existing and/or vested upon the effectivity of this Act shall be protected and respected in accordance with existing laws: *Provided*, That the exercise of such property and private rights shall be harmonized, as far as practicable, with the provisions of this Act. Notwithstanding this Act, all existing rights, contracts, or agreements entered into by government for utilization of natural resources within protected areas shall continue to be recognized and governed by Philippine laws.

and Rule 22.2 of DAO No. 2019-05² which provides that:

“ Rule 22.2 All property rights and private rights, existing and/or vested upon the effectivity of the NIPAS Act, as amended shall be protected and respected in accordance with existing laws. A property or private right is deemed to be existing, or to have vested, when it has become fixed and established, and is no longer open to doubt or controversy.

Those rights over alienable and disposable land affected by the NIPAS Act as amended shall be deemed vested in favor of a party who has complied as of 1

² Dated May 30, 2019. Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, As Amended by Republic Act No. 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) Act of 2018.

August 2018, with all the applicable requirements, terms and conditions for the issuance of a title, under existing laws and regulations.

Any land claimant who has acquired vested rights over the alienable and disposable lands within a protected area shall file his/her application for titling to the appropriate agency within the period provided by law."

In this regard, and to ensure the proper implementation of Section 22 of the E-NIPAS Act and Rule 22.2 of DAO No. 2019-05, you are hereby reminded and directed to continue using the existing LC Map approved on August 1, 2018 or earlier, for determination of the appropriate land classification for purposes of land titling.

For your information and appropriate action.



ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, *CESO I*

Cc:

The Acting Director
Land Management Bureau

The Director
Biodiversity Management Bureau

The Director
Forest Management Bureau

The Administrator
National Mapping and Resource Information Authority