



## MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors,**  
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Forest Management Bureau  
Land Management Bureau  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **The OIC-Director**  
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE TO THE DRAFT DAO RE:  
GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF PEATLANDS**

DATE : **21 JAN 2021**

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This refers to the draft DENR Administrative Order (DAO) re: “*Guidelines for the Sustainable Development Planning and Management of Peatlands.*”

### BACKGROUND

1. Peatlands are a type of wetland ecosystem in which there is an accumulation of organic matter called “peat” derived from dead and decaying plant material under high water saturation conditions. Peatlands provide vital ecosystem services by storing carbon and regulating water flow. These areas are also susceptible to fire if they are drained and the peat dries up. Peatland fire is the main culprit of the Transboundary Haze experienced all throughout South East Asia seasonally. Moreover, peatland conversion releases huge amounts of carbon stored in its biomass.
2. With peatland management in its infancy, there are currently no laws or policies pertaining specifically to the management and conservation of peatlands. However, there are currently laws in place which may be cited for the protection and conservation of peatlands such as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 (RA 9147), the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, as amended, (RA 7586, as amended by RA 11038), Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines (PD 705), and the Water Code of the Philippines (PD 1067).

### SALIENT FEATURES

3. The draft DAO prescribes the guiding principles and the strategies that DENR and its field offices will follow in the sustainable development planning and management of peatlands. This includes undertaking research and development, rehabilitation of

degraded peatlands, preventing peatlands from being released as agricultural land, risk reduction from peatland fires, improvement of agricultural and agroforestry practices in peatlands converted into agricultural land, regulation of water use in peatlands, and protection of peatlands from clearing and conversion.

4. The draft DAO has incorporated recommendations made during Policy Technical Working Group (PTWG) Meeting No. 2020-06 on 28 September 2020.

#### **ACTION REQUESTED**

In view of the above, may we request **for your concurrence (or comments) to the said draft DAO, on or before 05 February 2021. Otherwise, we will take it to mean as concurrence on your part if we fail to receive feedback on the said date.**

For your information and appropriate action.

  
**MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO**

**DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
**No. 2020- \_\_\_\_**

**SUBJECT: GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF PEATLANDS**

Pursuant to Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution,<sup>1</sup> Executive Order (EO) No. 192 (1987),<sup>2</sup> and in relation to Climate Change Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 9729),<sup>3</sup> Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (Republic Act No. 10121), Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 (Republic Act No. 9147), National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 (Republic Act No. 7586) as amended by the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 (Republic Act No. 11038), and consistent with national commitments under the Convention on Wetlands or the Ramsar Convention, the following guidelines governing conservation and sustainable development of peatlands and peatland resources are hereby promulgated.

**Section 1. Statement of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to promote the conservation and sustainable development of peatland and peatland resources consistent with the principles of sustainable development, inclusive economic development, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction and management; while advancing the right to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the harmony and rhythm of nature.

**Section 2. Objectives.** This Order shall have the following objectives:

- a. To promote the conservation and sustainable development of the country's peatland and peatland resources through the effective implementation and enforcement of pertinent specific measures required under various laws;
- b. To ensure that plans, programs and activities in or around peatlands are consistent with the goals of the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (PBSAP) and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), particularly on the rehabilitation of wetlands as wildlife habitat and their management for food production, water conservation and disaster mitigation.
- c. To institutionalize proper sustainable development planning and management of peatlands and ensure the inclusion and consideration of peatland issues and concerns in the local planning and development processes of the concerned local government units (LGUs), particularly in the updating of their Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and formulation of their Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs);
- d. To guide activities on raising public awareness of the existence of peatlands in the Philippines and of the vital ecosystem services that they provide, including the threats that peatlands face and the consequences of peatland degradation and loss; and

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<sup>1</sup> The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

<sup>2</sup> "Reorganization Act of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources" (10 June 1987), specifically Sections 5(b), (c), (h) (5), (q).

<sup>3</sup> Climate Change Act of 2009, as amended, specifically Section 15(c).

- e. To provide relevant information and guidance on peatlands and peatland issues and concerns to LGUs, local communities, businesses, planners, developers and other stakeholders;

**Section 3. Scope and Coverage.** This Order shall apply to areas identified by the DENR as peatlands as well as other areas that may potentially contain peatlands. This Order shall guide sustainable development planning and management of peatlands in public as well as titled lands.

**Section 4. Definition of Terms.** For the purposes of this Order, the following terms shall be construed to mean as:

- a. *Land use planning*<sup>4</sup> refers to the rational and judicious approach of allocating available land resources to different land - using activities, (e.g. agricultural, residential, industrial) and for different functions consistent with the overall development vision/goal of a particular locality;
- b. *Peat* refers to dead and partially decomposed plant material that have accumulated under high water saturation or waterlogged conditions. Peat soil is defined using the definition of histosol (organic soil) which are soils with cumulative organic layer(s) comprising more than half of the upper 80cm of the soil surface containing 35% or more organic matter (35% or more loss on ignition) or 18% or more organic carbon;
- c. *Peat swamp forest* refers to a type of peatland that has forest cover and can be found in certain areas in the tropical regions of the world including the Philippines;
- d. *Peatlands* refers to wetland ecosystems characterized by the accumulation of peat at the surface. Major characteristics of peatland are the presence of peat and permanent water logging. Peatlands may have vegetation in the form of trees, shrubs, grasses and mosses;
- e. *Protected Area*<sup>5</sup> refers to identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation;
- f. *Riparian area or zone* refers to land that occurs along watercourses and water bodies and are composed of moist to saturated soils, water-loving plant species and their associated ecosystems. This may be found surrounding lakes, estuaries, streams and rivers.
- g. *Subsidence* refers to the lowering or collapse of the ground level that results from draining water from peatlands and or due to fire incidence;
- h. *Wetlands*<sup>6</sup> refer to a wide variety of inland habitats such as marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as saltmarshes, mangroves, intertidal mudflats and seagrass beds, and also coral reefs and other marine areas

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<sup>4</sup> HLURB CLUP Guidebook Volume I

<sup>5</sup> Republic Act No. 11038 (ENIPAS Act), specifically Section 4 (bb)

<sup>6</sup> Republic Act No. 11038 (ENIPAS Act), specifically Section 4 (mm)

no deeper than six (6) meters at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as dams, reservoir, rice paddies and wastewater treatment ponds and lagoons.

**Section 5. Guiding Principles.** The following are the guiding principles for the sustainable development planning and management of peatlands.

- a. Recognition of peatland as one of the most significant natural ecosystems in the world which have key values for biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, hydrology and water regulation, and support for human welfare.
- b. Wise use of wetlands which integrates protection and sustainable use, to maintain the ecosystem services provided by peatland, including the tangible and intangible benefits for humans, in a fair and equitable way.
- c. The precautionary principle: where it is anticipated that the effects of an intervention could be seriously damaging. Measures to prevent this damage should not be avoided because of lack of full scientific certainty.

**Section 6. Strategies for the sustainable development planning and management of peatlands and related specific actions.** The DENR, including its field offices, shall promote and practice the following strategies:

A. Planning for the protection of peatlands from clearing and conversion. Peatlands are very fragile ecosystem. Once degraded, it is very difficult or sometimes impossible to restore to original conditions since physical conditions may have changed dramatically. As such, peatland shall be left undisturbed and no development shall be done.

- 1) Identify and come up with a list of potential peatlands in their respective areas of concern/jurisdiction
- 2) Conduct assessment, mapping and delineation of peatlands as one of the bases for land use planning. The assessment shall include an inventory of peatlands within A&D and private lands, as well as the type of title issued, and peatlands susceptible to hazards such as fire and flooding. In case a public land has been assessed as peatland, this area should be tagged and prevented from being released as A&D.
- 3) Place identified peatlands under protection forests categorization in Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and other plans in consultation with concerned agencies. In case of NIPAS, designate peatlands as strict protection zones
- 4) Where necessary, prioritize peatland for protection under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), as amended by RA 11038, or declared as critical habitat under the Wildlife Act, or as a local conservation area or other effective area-based conservation measures through the ordinances of LGUs
- 5) In cases where the peatland is within a NIPAS site, include its management as a thematic area in the Protected Area Management Plan (PAMP)
- 6) Pursue international recognition of peatlands such as Ramsar Site, ASEAN Heritage Park, World Heritage Site, etc.

- 7) Strengthen implementation of forestry laws and other applicable laws against illegal forestry activities, drainage, conversion, peat extraction, deliberate setting of fire within peatland or adjacent areas that may affect the peatland
- 8) Raise awareness on peatlands and its services and values
- 9) As much as possible, limit necessary development to degraded peatlands
- 10) Continue identification and assessment of potential peatlands

**B. Regulation on the use of water in peatlands**

- 1) Require the presentation of appropriate permits from concerned national government agencies such as the DENR, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), prior to the construction of drainage canals in peatland
- 2) Adopt water management systems to protect against flooding and to ensure adequate water supply during dry season
- 3) Ensure that permitted construction of canals comply with the proper specifications as to width and depth
- 4) Install waterflow control structures on existing canals

**C. Improvement of agricultural and agroforestry practices in degraded peatland that has been converted to agriculture land**

- 1) Ensure adoption of best management practices by existing agricultural or agroforestry plantations in peatlands, including:
  - (a) Maintain high water table to prevent fires (50 to 75 cm below the surface)
  - (b) Find alternatives to burning for clearance
  - (c) Maintain buffer zones between plantations and outside peatlands
  - (d) Maintain natural vegetation, preferably leguminous cover crops, on bare soil to reduce risk of erosion.
  - (e) Practice compaction of peat soil before planting.
  - (f) Use renewable sources of energy.
  - (g) Plant at a higher density (160 palms per hectare)
- 2) Shift to agricultural products that are more suited to peatland conditions
- 3) Modify agricultural practices to adapt to peatland conditions

**D. Risk reduction from peatland fires**

- 1) Inform and educate local communities on the dangers of peatland fires and enlist their participation in fire prevention and control strategies
- 2) Adopt fire prevention and control measures for peatlands
- 3) Adopt zero burning policy
- 4) Promote composting of agricultural wastes

**E. Prevention of land use conversion of peatlands released as agricultural land**

1. Prohibit the sale or lease of peatlands covered by the certificate of land ownership award (CLOA)<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Republic Act No. 6657 "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law"

2. Inclusion of peatlands released as agricultural land into areas non-negotiable for conversion<sup>8</sup>
  3. Declare peatlands which has been classified as agricultural land, as protection area through local ordinance;
  4. Classify peatlands released as agricultural land under environmentally critical area (ECA)<sup>9</sup>
- F. Rehabilitation and improvement of the resilience of deforested or degraded peatlands
- 1) Prioritize degraded peatlands for reforestation, such as, under the National Greening Program (NGP)
  - 2) Report the existence of abandoned peatlands released for agricultural use and coordinate their reversion with concerned national government agencies
  - 3) Promote the refilling, blocking or plugging of abandoned drainage canals
  - 4) Reforest and rehabilitate riparian areas
  - 5) Require oil palm plantations to undertake rehabilitation of their abandoned peatlands
  - 6) Maximize the use of the Multipartite Monitoring Team (MMT) established pursuant to the conditions under the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), where applicable
- G. Undertake research and development (R&D) on peatlands such as but not limited to the following:
- 1) Peatland ecosystems and biodiversity;
  - 2) Hydrological processes to better understand peatland functioning;
  - 3) Carbon stock assessment and accounting verification;
  - 4) Vulnerability to climate change and disaster risk management;
  - 5) Applicable restoration and rehabilitation in peatland;
  - 6) Peat fire prevention and disaster risk reduction;
  - 7) Appropriate techniques and practices for peatland management;
  - 8) Support to community development and livelihood activities building on traditional knowledge and practices, among others.

**Section 7. Laws applicable to peatlands.** The DENR shall ensure that the safeguards, restrictions and standards prescribed by the said laws are observed and complied with in peatlands. Strategies in Section 6, shall be in accordance with the various provisions of law having relevance to the sustainable development planning and management of peatlands as listed in Annex "A" of this Order.

**Section 8. Monitoring and Evaluation.** The Biodiversity Management Bureau in collaboration with concerned DENR Field Offices shall conduct periodic monitoring of peatlands and peatland related activities.

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<sup>8</sup> Section 4 of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Administrative Order No. 01-02, which classifies swamp forests or marshlands "areas non-negotiable for conversion" into non-agricultural uses."

<sup>9</sup> as defined by the Presidential Proclamation 2146 and further clarified in Section 3.b of EMB Memorandum Circular 005 Series of 2014 "Technical Definition of ECA and Corresponding Operationalization Guide of the Revised Guidelines for Coverage and Screening and Standardized Requirements under the Philippines EIS System".

**Section 9. Raising awareness.** The DENR shall promote communication, education, participation and public awareness (CEPA) through preparation and dissemination of information materials and public awareness campaigns on the existence and importance of peatlands (Annex B) on the prevention or reduction of the threats to peatlands and on the consequences of peatland degradation and loss (Annex C).

**Section 10. Coordination with other government agencies.** The DENR shall coordinate with other agencies to support the implementation of this Order.

**Section 11. Separability Clause.** If any part of this Order is declared unconstitutional or otherwise defective on any ground, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

**Section 12. Repealing Clause.** All other orders, circulars, memoranda and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Section 13. Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

ROY A. CIMATU  
Secretary



## ANNEX "A"

### Legal provisions applicable to peatlands

While there is no Philippine law that specifically deals with peatlands, the conservation and sustainable use of peatland and peatland resources is apparent in the laws dealing with wetlands, forestry, agriculture, agrarian reform, water use and appropriation, protected areas, wildlife resources, and environmental impact assessment.

Several laws present a range of protection levels available to peatlands. Applying certain laws, peatlands may be reserved and set aside primarily for conservation use. Other laws allow certain forms of development or resource use but provide conditions or limitations based on ecological considerations. Some laws provide legal basis for the reforestation, rehabilitation and restoration of peatlands.

The pertinent provisions of various laws relating to conservation and sustainable are cited below:

- a. Presidential Decree (PD) No. 705 "**Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines**," Sections 16(8) and 33(h):

"The following lands, even if they are below eighteen percent (18%) in slope, are needed for forest purposes, and may not, therefore, be classified as alienable and disposable land xxx Strips of mangrove or swamplands at least twenty (20) meters wide, along shorelines facing oceans, lakes, and other bodies of water, and strips of land at least twenty (20) meters wide facing lakes;"

" Lands to be reforested and/or afforested are as follows: xxx swamps xxx."

- b. PD No. 1067 "Water Code of the Philippines," Section 74:

"Swamps and marshes which are owned by the State and which have a primary value for waterfowl propagation or other wildlife purposes may be reserved and protected from drainage operations and development."

- c. PD 1096 "National Building Code of the Philippines," Section 102 and 105:

" It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to safeguard life, health, property, and public welfare, consistent with the principles of sound environmental management and control."

"In the case of sites or buildings intended for use as human habitation or abode, the same shall be at a safe distance, as determined by competent authorities, from streams or bodies of water..."

- d. PD 1468 "Revised Coconut Industry Code," Section 2:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to promote the rapid integrated development and growth of the coconut and other palm oil industry in all its aspects and to ensure that the coconut farmers become direct participants in, and beneficiaries of, such development and growth."

- e. PD No. 1586 "**Establishing an Environmental Impact Statement System...**", Sections 1 and 4, in relation to Presidential Proclamation No. 2146 "Proclaiming Certain Areas and Types of Projects as Environmentally Critical and Within the Scope of the Environmental Impact Statement System established under Presidential Decree No. 1586":

"It is hereby declared the policy of the State to attain and maintain a rational and orderly balance between socio-economic growth and environmental protection."

"No person, partnership or corporation shall undertake or operate any such declared environmentally critical project or area without first securing an Environmental Compliance Certificate issued by the President or his duly authorized representatives."

"B. Environmentally Critical Areas

"1. All areas declared by law as national parks, watershed reserves, wildlife preserves and sanctuaries;

"2. Areas set aside as aesthetic potential tourist spots;

"3. Areas which constitute the habitat for any endangered or threatened species of indigenous Philippine Wildlife (flora and fauna); xxx"

- f. Republic Act (RA) No. 3601 "**An Act Granting the National Irrigation Administration,**" as amended, Section 2(c) which authorizing the NIA:

"To construct multiple-purpose water resources projects designed primarily for irrigation, and secondarily for hydraulic power development and/or other uses such as flood control, drainage, land reclamation, domestic water supply, roads and highway construction and reforestation, among others, provided, that the plans, designs and the construction thereof, shall be undertaken *in coordination with the agencies concerned.*"

- g. RA 7586 "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act," Section 2: as amended by RA 11038 "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018"

"It is hereby recognized that these areas, although distinct in features, possess common ecological values that may be incorporated into a holistic plan to conserve and protect our natural heritage; that *effective administration of these areas is possible only through cooperation among the national government, local governments and concerned nongovernment organizations, private organizations, and local communities*; that the *use and enjoyment of these protected areas must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development.*"

- h. RA 7607 "**Magna Carta of Small Farmers,**" Sections 9(8) and 19:

"The farmers shall xxx participate in the conservation, protection and development of the national patrimony"

"To enhance the compatibility of environmental protection with sustained agricultural productivity, *the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall adopt measures*

*to promote conservation practices* such as reforestation, watershed management, antipollution programs and other similar measures."

i. RA 8425 "Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act," Section 2(4)(g):

"The Social Reform Agenda shall promote ecological balance in the different ecosystems, in a way that gives the basic sectors a major stake in the use, management, conservation and protection of productive resources."

j. RA 9147 "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act," Section 2(a):

"It shall be the policy of the State to conserve the country's wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainability. In the pursuit of this policy, this Act shall have the following objectives: to conserve and *protect wildlife species and their habitats to promote ecological balance and enhance biological diversity*; xxx"

k. RA 9367 "Biofuels Act of 2006," Section 2(d):

"It is hereby declared the policy of the State to reduce dependence on imported fuels with due regard to the protection of public health, the environment, and natural ecosystems consistent with the country's sustainable economic growth that would expand opportunities for livelihood by mandating the use of biofuels as a measure to xxx ensure the availability of alternative and renewable clean energy without any detriment to the natural ecosystem, biodiversity and food reserves of the country."

l. Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Administrative Order No. 01-02, which classifies swamp forests or marshlands "areas non-negotiable for conversion" into non-agricultural uses."

m. DENR Memorandum Circular (DMC) No. 2004-12 "Revised Guidelines governing the Identification of Forest Areas for the Establishment of African Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.) Plantation," which prohibits the establishment of African palm oil plantations inside protected areas and buffer zones and limits them to "open areas/brushland areas" in forest lands.

**ANNEX "B"**  
**Importance of Peatlands**

Peatlands provide food, wood, non-timber forest products, medicine and other natural materials especially to immediate local communities. It also provides number of services and functions including water regulation, irrigation, ecotourism and recreation opportunities and aesthetic values, among others. It also has global benefits such as biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration and storage.

- a. Peatlands and water.** Peatlands generally consist of about 90% water and act as vast reservoirs. Water absorbed by peatlands during wet seasons is gradually released during the dry season and helps maintain constant supply to downstream communities and ecosystems for drinking, domestic, agricultural and other uses. Water from peatlands has a characteristic dark brown or tea-like color due to dissolved tannins from peat.
- b. Peatlands and biodiversity.** Peatlands are rare type of ecosystem and are globally important for biodiversity conservation at genetic, species and ecosystem levels. Peatlands are the habitat of unique animal and plant species. Animals and plants found in peatlands have evolved to adapt to the soft ground and waterlogged conditions. Species that are suited to harder mineral soils and drier conditions usually do not thrive or survive in peatlands.
- c. Peatlands and climate change.** Peatlands are important in the regulation of greenhouse gases and climate change. Peatlands store more carbon compared to other terrestrial ecosystems. While covering only about three percent (3%) of the world's land area, peatlands store about one third of the world's land carbon in their carbon-rich peat. In addition, the trees and biomass in peatlands also store and continue to sequester carbon from the atmosphere. The carbon stored in peatlands can be thousands of years old and estimated to be about 1.2 trillion tons. The Caimpugan peat swamp forest alone is estimated to store 22.9 million tons of carbon (Alibo & Lasco, 2012).<sup>10</sup>
- d. Peatland and disaster risk reduction.** Healthy and intact peatlands provide natural protection against floods due to the high-water absorbency of peat. Their existence is a positive contribution to flood management.
- e. Peatland and ecotourism.** Pristine peatlands are potential recreation and tourism sites that can provide additional or alternative sources of income for local communities from ecotourism and related industries.

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<sup>10</sup> Alibo, Van Leeah B., and Rodel D. Lasco. 2012. "Carbon Storage of Caimpugan Peatland in Agusan Marsh, Philippines and its Role in Greenhouse Gas Mitigation." *Journal of Environmental Science and Management* 15(2): 50-58.

## ANNEX "C"

1. **Threats to peatlands.** Direct threats to peatlands include clearing, drainage and land conversion for agricultural, industrial and residential purposes, excavation, burning, and overexploitation of peatland resources such as timber, non-timber forest products and wildlife. Indirect threats include water pollution, climate change, and conduct of incompatible activities in areas adjacent to peatlands.

2. **Consequences of peatland degradation and loss.** Drainage and conversion of peatlands reduces their capacity to store water and regulate its flow consequently affecting onsite and downstream water users and beneficiaries. Over-extraction of water lowers the water table and exposes the peat to air. This causes the organic matter in peat to decompose. This dehydration and oxidation results in the subsidence or physical collapse and compaction of the dried peat. Subsidence compromises the stability of trees, houses and other structures by exposing roots and foundations and increases the risk of injury or damage due to strong winds caused by typhoons and other weather disturbances.

## Draft DENR Administrative Order re: Guidelines for Sustainable Development Planning and Management of Peatlands

### PTWG Meeting No. 2020-06 Agreements

Agreements	Revised	Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider including strict provisions to prevent development of peatland areas in Strategy A and coordinate with LMB and MGB</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Section 6. Strategies for the sustainable development planning and management of peatlands and related specific actions.</b> The DENR, including its field offices, shall promote and practice the following strategies:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A. Planning for the protection of peatlands from clearing and conversion. Peatlands are very fragile ecosystem. Once degraded, it is very difficult or sometimes impossible to restore to original conditions since physical conditions may have changed dramatically. As such, peatland shall be left undisturbed and no development shall be done.</p>	<p><b>Considered.</b></p> <p><b>Updates may be requested from the proponent on actions with respect to their coordination with LMB and MGB.</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tap NCI-SRD for the inclusion of peatland in DAR AO 1-2 s 2002 to prevent their conversion into agricultural land.</li> </ul>		<p><b>This agreement is not specific to the Guidelines in question.</b></p> <p><b>Updates may be requested from the proponent.</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delete Strategy F (Adoption of Infrastructure and Construction Methods Suited to Peatlands)</li> </ul>	<p><del>F. Adoption of infrastructure and construction methods suited to peatlands (delete this provision):</del></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>1) Avoid heavy development in peatland areas (invoke related laws, LGU zoning (CLUP), DENR programs such as geohazard mapping to limit activities within these areas)</del></li> <li><del>2) Observe the easement zones in riverbanks and lakeshore as well as in swamps and marshes</del></li> <li><del>3) Promote use of wide track machinery</del></li> <li><del>4) Consider climate proof structures to account for flooding and subsidence</del></li> </ol>	<p><b>Considered</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider issuing a joint administrative order with DAR on the conversion of peatlands.</li> </ul>		<p><b>This agreement is not specific to the Guidelines in question. Updates may be requested from the proponent.</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include provision on conduct of research on peatland under Strategy A.</li> </ul>	<p>G. Undertake research and development (R&amp;D) on peatlands such as but not limited to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Peatland ecosystems and biodiversity;</li> <li>2) Hydrological processes to better understand peatland functioning;</li> <li>3) Carbon stock assessment and accounting verification;</li> <li>4) Vulnerability to climate change and disaster risk management;</li> <li>5) Applicable restoration and rehabilitation in peatland;</li> <li>6) Peat fire prevention and disaster risk reduction;</li> <li>7) Appropriate techniques and practices for peatland management;</li> <li>8) Support to community development and livelihood activities building on traditional knowledge and practices, among others.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Considered</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take note which peatlands are titled and what kind of title was issued during validation/assessment.</li> </ul>		<p><b>This agreement is not specific to the Guidelines in question.</b></p>

		<b>Updates may be requested from the proponent.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annotate definitions that are based on laws or existing policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Land use planning</i><sup>4</sup> refers to the rational and judicious approach of allocating available land resources to different land - using activities, (e.g. agricultural, residential, industrial) and for different functions consistent with the overall development vision/goal of a particular locality;</li> <li>e. <i>Protected Area</i><sup>5</sup> refers to identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation;</li> <li>h. <i>Wetlands</i><sup>6</sup> refer to a wide variety of inland habitats such as marshes, peatlands, floodplains, rivers and lakes, and coastal areas such as saltmarshes, mangroves, intertidal mudflats and seagrass beds, and also coral reefs and other marine areas</li> </ul> <p><sup>4</sup> HLURB CLUP Guidebook Volume I  <sup>5</sup> Republic Act No. 11038 (ENIPAS Act), specifically Section 4 (bb)  <sup>6</sup> Republic Act No. 11038 (ENIPAS Act), specifically Section 4 (mm)</p>	<b>Considered</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualify Section 6A2 such that peatland assessment is only one of the bases for land use planning.</li> </ul>	<p>2) Conduct assessment, mapping and delineation of peatlands as one of the bases for land use planning. The assessment shall include an inventory of peatlands within A&amp;D and private lands, as well as the type of title issued, and peatlands susceptible to hazards such as fire and flooding. In case a public land has been assessed as peatland, this area should be tagged and prevented from being released as A&amp;D.</p>	<b>Considered</b>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen implementation of forestry laws against illegal forestry activities in Section 6A7</li> </ul>	<p>7) Strengthen implementation of forestry laws and other applicable laws against illegal forestry activities, drainage, conversion, peat extraction, deliberate setting of fire within peatland or adjacent areas that may affect the peatland</p>	<p><b>Considered</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualify/identify activities under Section 6E.</li> </ul>	<p>E. Prevention of land use conversion of peatlands released as agricultural land</p> <p>1. Prohibit the sale or lease of peatlands covered by the certificate of land ownership award (CLOA)<sup>7</sup></p> <hr/> <p><sup>7</sup> Republic Act No. 6657 "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law"</p> <p>2. Inclusion of peatlands released as agricultural land into areas non-negotiable for conversion<sup>8</sup></p> <p>3. Declare peatlands which has been classified as agricultural land, as protection area through local ordinance;</p> <p>4. Classify peatlands released as agricultural land under environmentally critical area (ECA)<sup>9</sup></p>	<p><b>Considered</b></p>