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MEMORANDUM

TO : The Regional Executive Directors
All Regions except CAR and NCR

FROM : The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects and Chair, DENR AUUF National Technical Working Group

SUBJECT : **INSTRUCTIONS PERTAINING TO REVERSION OF ABANDONED, UNDEVELOPED AND UNDERUTILIZED FISHPONDS**

DATE : 27 OCT 2022

This refers to DENR Special Order (SO) No. 2021-274 entitled, "Creation of the DENR Technical Working Group for the Reversion of the Abandoned, Undeveloped and Underutilized (AUU) Fishponds and Other Related Mangrove Conservation and Rehabilitation Policies", which directs the creation of Regional Technical Working Groups (TWG) for the purpose and defines their roles and responsibilities.

An Orientation and Levelling-Off Workshop on AUU Fishponds (AUUFs) was held on 17-21 October 2022 in Iloilo City. This was participated in by representatives from the DENR Regional Offices concerned, National TWG member-agencies and USAID SIBOL Project. Central to the activity was the crafting of a draft DENR Administrative Order on the Reversion and Management of AUUFs.

Moreover, the workshop participants agreed among others, that the DENR Regional Offices may undertake the following while awaiting the approval/issuance of the guidelines:

1. Creation of TWG at the PENRO/CENRO level, as applicable;
2. Holding of initial discussions with counterparts in the DA-BFAR, DILG, and DAR, and LGUs concerned on AUUFs;
3. Validation of the location and status of DA-BFAR-reported reverted Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLAs) in coordination with counterparts in DA-BFAR; and
4. Desktop processing/mapping of FLAs based on mangrove zonification data and/or maps from FMB and NAMRIA.

Furthermore, submit to the undersigned copies of orders/directives on the creation of Regional TWG and other pertinent documents in compliance with SO 2021-274.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND FURTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION, PLEASE.


MARCIAL C. AMARO, JR., CESO II

Cc:

The Undersecretary for Field Operations – Luzon, Visayas and Environment
The Undersecretary for Field Operations – Mindanao
The Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs

MEMO NO. 2022 - 752



MAY 25 2021

SPECIAL ORDER
No. 2021- 274

SUBJECT: CREATION OF THE DENR TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE REVERSION OF THE ABANDONED, UNDEVELOPED AND UNDERUTILIZED (AUU) FISHPONDS AND OTHER RELATED MANGROVE CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION POLICIES

In the interest of the service and in support to the NCI-SRD Joint Resolution No. 06 Series of 2020, also known as the Creation of the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group (TWG) under Section 14 of the Joint DA-DENR-DILG Administrative Order (JAO) No. 01., Series of 2008 to address policy issues on the Abandoned, Undeveloped and Underutilized (AUU) Fishponds in relation to Fishpond Lease Agreement (FLA), the DENR National and Regional TWG, is hereby created to consist of the following:

A. National TWG

CHAIR : **The Assistant Secretary**
Policy, Planning and Foreign- Assisted Projects

ALTERNATE: **The Director**
Policy and Planning Service

MEMBERS :
Deputy Administrator, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
The Director, Legal Affairs Service
The Director, Forest Management Bureau
The Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau
The Director, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau

The Director, Land Management Bureau
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment

B. Regional TWG

CHAIR : The Regional Executive Director

ALTERNATE: The Assistant Regional Director, Technical Services

MEMBERS : Division Chief, Conservation and Development Division
Division Chief, Survey and Mapping Division
Division Chief, License, Patents and Deeds Division
The PENR Officer
The CENR Officer

C. National Secretariat

- CHAIR** : Chief, Policy Studies Division
Policy and Planning Service, DENR
- MEMBERS** : Division Chief, Forest Resource Conservation Division
Forest Management Bureau
- Division Chief, Coastal and Marine Division
Biodiversity Management Bureau
- Division Chief, Coastal Zone and Freshwater
Ecosystems Research Division
Ecosystems Research and Development Division
- Chief
Physiography and Coastal Resource Division
National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
- Division Chief, Land Management Division
Land Management Bureau

Roles and Responsibilities of the National TWG:

1. Prepare and consolidate DENR's position with regards to AUU fishponds based on existing policies;
2. Consolidate maps from old Land Classification Office and NAMRIA pertaining to forestlands turned over to DA-BFAR for purposes of fishpond development/Fishpond Lease Agreements (FLA);
3. Consolidate list of AUU FLAs for five (5) years from date of approval of the lease of contract from DA-BFAR officially turned over to DENR;
4. Create a common GIS database to serve as repository of all information pertaining to AUU and other mangrove areas, and upload the same in the DENR Geo-Portal for ease of access;
5. Provide guidance to the Regions in the validation/verification of cancelled AUU FLAs and other areas turned-over to BFAR for such purposes;
6. Intensify coordination efforts between DA-BFAR and DENR on fishponds with FLAs and NGP areas;
7. Prepare the action plan for the reversion process and the resolution of issues/concerns; and
8. Recommend appropriate policies.

Roles and responsibilities of the Regional TWG:

1. Provide existing data holdings of the DENR Region on AUU to the GIS database created by the National TWG;
2. Conduct validation/verification of cancelled and abandoned areas covered by FLAs based on guidance of the NTWG;
3. Recommend priority AUU areas for reversion to forestland;
4. Intensify coordination efforts between BFAR Regional and Provincial Fisheries Offices and DENR Regional and Field Offices on fishponds with FLAs and NGP areas; and
5. Perform other functions as may be required.

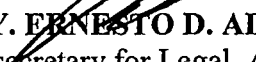
Roles and responsibilities of the National Secretariat:

1. Coordinate meetings, prepare correspondences and keep record of minutes of meetings and reports on the work of the TWG;
2. Perform secretariat functions during the TWG meetings;
3. Assist in the coordination with and between the IATWG and other partners for the timely accomplishment of the TWG targets;
4. Monitor the progress and accomplishments of the TWG as well as the implementation of the activities as agreed during the IATWG meetings;
5. Assist in the inclusion of the target activities and corresponding financial requirements to the Work and Financial Plan of the Department; and
6. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the TWG Chairperson and/or higher authorities.

Both the national and regional TWG may invite representative/s from the academe and/or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) during consultation meetings and validation activities. The same shall also represent DENR in the IATWG created under NCI-SRD Resolution No. 06 Series of 2020.

All expenses to be incurred in line with the implementation of this Order shall be charged against each respective office, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately.


ATTY. ERNESTO D. ADOBO, JR. CESO I
Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, Human
Resources, and Legislative Affairs

