



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
(Except National Capital Region)

FROM : THE UNDERSECRETARY
Field Operations and Environment

SUBJECT : REVISED GUIDELINES AND REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF
ENTRIES FOR THE 2022 SEARCH FOR THE R.I.V.E.RS FOR
LIFE AWARD

DATE : MAR 06 2023

Provided herewith are the revised Guidelines for the 2021 Search for the R.I.V.E. Rs for Life (Recognizing Individuals/Institutions towards Vibrant and Enhanced Rivers) Award and a copy of DENR Special Order 2023-52 amending the composition of the RIVERS for Life Award.

Entries to be submitted to the Rivers for Life Award must be:

- *Class C classified Rivers only;*
- *Endorsed by DENR Regional Executive Director; and*
- *Entries must be accompanied by video documentation and/or drone shot of the chosen river*

Relative thereto, you are hereby directed to submit your respective nominees to the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations and Environment not later than April 15, 2023. For those that have already initially submitted their entries may opt to resubmit or comply with the additional requirements based on the revised guidelines.

For strict compliance.


ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUNA, CESO I

MEMO NO. 2023 - 198

**Criteria for the 2022 Search for
Recognizing Individuals/Institutions towards Vibrant and Enhanced Rivers
(R.I.V.E.Rs) for Life Award**

Name of Class C River: _____
 Location (Municipality and Province): _____
 Length of River: _____
 Geographic Position of River (Coordinates): _____
 City/ies and Municipality/ies Covered: _____

Description of the River (Attach a NAMRIA map with 1:50,000 scale)

Development Partners (Private/Public/Individuals): _____
 Address: _____
 Contact Person/s: _____
 Contact Numbers/Email address: _____
 LGU Partner/s and other partners: _____
 Duration of Partnership: _____
 Name of River Management Council or Equivalent: _____
 (use separate sheet if necessary)

1. Water Quality Improvement and Aesthetics (35%)

a) Geotagged Photo of the River (10 %)

(High Resolution in jpeg format before and after photo indicating dates and taken at the same angle. If possible monthly photos to better appreciate progress in the interventions being implemented)

Pic with geotagged before and after	10 %
Pic without geotagged (with before and after)	7 %
Pic with before and after photo (not geotagged)	5 %
Pic only (not before and after and not geotagged)	2 %

b) Improvement/within water quality criteria (in terms of DISSOLVED OXYGEN, BIO-CHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND) (50 %)

WQ (above standards) DO > 5.1 and BOD < 6.9	50 %
WQ (within standards) DO = 5 and BOD = 7	40 %
WQ (slightly below standard) DO 3 ≤ 4.9 and BOD 7.1 ≥ 8	20 %
Below WQ Standard	10 %

c) Well-maintained river with flowing water. (If possible, determine discharge flow "Q") (15 %)

No visible floating debris and unsilted	15 %
With minimal floating debris and unsilted	10 %
Very visible floating debris and unsilted	5 %
Silted and or with floating debris	0

- d) **Presence of infrastructure/engineering interventions (e.g. greening, dredging, riprapping, linear parks, etc.). (Attach documentation of such including plan, map, photos, attendance, and reports, if any) (25%)**

Presence of Three (3) of Infra/Engineering Intervention with documentation – 25%
 Presence of Two (2) of Infra/Engineering Intervention with documentation -15 %
 Presence of One (1) of Infra/Engineering Intervention with documentation - 10 %

2. Solid Waste Management System (30%)

- a) **Absence of all kinds of litters in the rivers and its tributaries. (Attach photos of the river) (20%)**

Total Absence of all kinds of litter in the rivers and its tributaries. 20 %
 With the presence of some litter (biodegradable e.g. leaves) 15%
 With presence of litter 0%

- b) **Presence of an Approved 10-year SWM Plan of the area (Attach Resolution) (20 %)**

With approved 10 year plan - 20%
 Absence of plan 0%

- c) **Adoption of a city/municipal/barangay ordinance in the area on anti-dumping and littering. (Attach copy of the ordinance and submit record of violator's name vis-à-vis penalty-imposed if there is any) (10%)**

Adoption of 2 or more ordinance 10%
 Adoption of 1 ordinance 5%
 No ordinance 0%

- d) **Regular collections of waste in the communities. (Cite method of collection, volume collected, and names of concerned stakeholders) (10%)**

Presence of regular collection of wastes (daily) 10%
 With irregular collection of waste 5%
 No waste collection 0%

- e) **Link-up with a junkshop on the selling of recyclables. (Submit list of existing junk shop operators within the area and submit corresponding volume of recyclables collected per type/month) (10%)**

With Linkage to junkshop and record of actual sales 10%
 With linkage to junkshop but with no records 5%
 No linkage with junkshop 0%

- f) **Presence of a working Materials Recovery Facility or System. (Attach MRF project description including process flow, drawings, pictures, and volume of waste collected per type) (10%)**

With a working MRF and with records of waste collected 10%
 Without a working MRF 0%

g) Presence of a sanitary landfill or MOA with neighboring sanitary landfill (20%)

With a working Sanitary Landfill /or MOA with a working SLF 20%
Without a working SLF 0%

3. Program Sustainability (35%)

3.1 Partnership/Community Mobilization (15%)

a) Sustained partnership and community mobilization activities since the adoption of the river. (Attach MOA, partnership agreements, photo-documentations, reports, and attendance) (25%)

- Partnership is evidenced by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU) 10%
- Conduct of mobilization activities 5%
- Photo documentation and reports prepared 10%

b) Presence of livelihood programs in the community/ies. (Attach list of programs including names of stakeholders, women participation is evident) (25%)

- Presence of livelihood programs related to solid waste management, waste diversion and the like 25%
- Presence of livelihood programs not related to solid waste management, waste diversion and the like 15%
- No livelihood program introduced. 0%

c) Presence of an active River Management Council or similar organization. (Attach list of existing Management Council/organization including its members, responsibilities and documented projects/interventions and other innovative actions that would encourage sustainability) (25%)

- Pertinent documents related to the creation of the River Management Council or a similar organization 15%
- Report/documentation prepared showing the interventions and innovative actions introduced by the River Management Council or similar organization 10%

d) Presence of garden and open spaces using geo-tagged photos. (25%)

Presence of garden and open spaces 20%
Without garden and open spaces 0%

3.2 Leadership Commitment (15%)

a) Development of Innovative and Creative River Management Techniques since the start of the program – e.g., revegetation/ reforestation, other erosion minimization techniques, vetiver grass planting, use of Bokashi balls, among others) (Attach innovation conducted to sustain river management e.g. (50%)

With 2 or more innovative and creative techniques 50%
With 1 innovative and creative technique 25%
No innovative and creative technique 0%

b) Evidence of strong commitment and leadership of local chief executives in the area to help promote the preservation of the waterbody (Attach minutes of meeting and other policies instituted, organization structure and roles and responsibilities) (50%)

- Active organizational structure/ roles and responsibilities & meets quarterly 50%
- Active organizational structure/roles and responsibilities & meets twice a year 25%
- Active organizational structure/ roles and responsibilities & meets twice a year 15 %
- No documents presented 0%

3.3 Effective Communication (5%)

a) Establishment of an effective communication strategy (presence of a public address system for announcement; presence of signages and information materials on anti-littering and/or anti-dumping to increase awareness and heighten community engagement (Attach photo signages and IEC materials) (5%)

- With effective communication strategy (e.g. signages, online awareness) and intervention (e.g seminars, trainings) 5%
- No communication strategy introduced 0%



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FEB 21 2023

SPECIAL ORDER

No. 2023- 52

SUBJECT: AMENDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE SEARCH FOR RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUALS/INSTITUTIONS TOWARDS VIBRANT AND ENHANCED RIVERS FOR LIFE AWARD

In the interest of the service and to recognize individuals/institutions for their contribution in enhancing the state of Philippine rivers nationwide, the creation of the National Committee on the Search for Recognizing Individuals/Institutions towards Vibrant and Enhanced Rivers (R.I.V.E.R.s) for Life Award is hereby amended to be composed of the following:

Chairperson - Undersecretary for Field Operations Luzon,
Visayas and Environment

Co- Chairperson - Undersecretary Field Operations -Mindanao

Members:

1. OIC, Asst. Secretary for Field Operations for Luzon & Visayas and EMB Director, in concurrent capacity
2. OIC, Assistant Secretary for Field Operations -Western Mindanao and FMB Director, in concurrent capacity
3. Assistant Secretary for Field Operations – Eastern Mindanao
4. Director, Legal Affairs Service
5. Director, Human Resource Development Service
6. Executive Director, River Basin Coordinating Office

Tasks/Functions:

1. Determine the extent of compliance, thoroughness and quality of work demonstrated by the Supervising/Implementing PENROs and CENROs regarding the submission to the Search for the R.I.V.E.Rs for Life Award;
2. Review completeness of documents submitted;
3. Validate concrete actions taken with regards to maintaining or improving the water quality of a specific river within their area of jurisdiction;

4. Validate/verify compliance with the list of requirements/prerequisites using the Criteria on the Search for R.I.V.E.Rs for Life Award;
5. Validate on the ground if competing entries are engaged on an impasse to break the deadlock; and
6. Determine the winners through a Resolution.

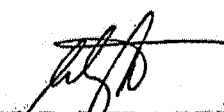
The aforesaid Committee shall coordinate with other Offices ~~f/r~~ any support and/or assistance to facilitate the implementation of their assigned tasks/functions. All officials of the DENR are enjoined to participate and support any related activities of the Search for R.I.V.E.Rs for Life Award activities.

To provide administrative and technical support to the National Committee, a Secretariat shall be created to be headed by the Asst. Secretary for Field Operations for Luzon & Visayas and EMB Director, in concurrent capacity with members coming from the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations Luzon, Visayas and Environment and Offices of the Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Luzon and Visayas.

Further, the Environmental Management Bureau shall allocate resources and provide funds for the program mobilization, including but not limited to prizes for the winners, plaques, travel expenses for field validation, food for the conduct of meetings and other related expenses.

All expenses to be incurred for this purpose shall be charged against CY 2023 DENR funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This order shall take effect immediately.


AUGUSTO D. DELA PEÑA
Undersecretary for Organizational
Transformation and Human Resources

