



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29 · (632) 929-62-52
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denrgov.ph

MEMORANDUM

FOR/TO: Director, Legal Affairs Service (Vice- Chairperson, PTWG)
Assistant Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau
Assistant Director, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Assistant Director, Environmental Management Bureau
Assistant Director, Forest Management Bureau
Assistant Director, Land Management Bureau
Assistant Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Representative, Office of the Head Executive Assistant
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary and Chief of Staff
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Legal, Administration, and
Legislative Affairs
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems
and Climate Change
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary Policy, Planning and International
Affairs
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations (FO) - Luzon,
Visayas and Environment
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for FO - Mindanao
Representative, Office of the Undersecretary for Organizational Transformation
and Human Resources
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste
Management and Local Government Units Concerns
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for FO - Luzon and Visayas
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for FO - Eastern Mindanao
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for FO - Western Mindanao
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Finance, Information
Systems and Mining Concerns
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic
Communication and Sectoral Initiatives
Representative, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and
Legislative Affairs
Representative, Legal Affairs Services
Representative, Climate Change Service
Representative, Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service
Representative, Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Representative, River Basin Control Office
Representative, Legislative Liaison Office

FROM : The Chairperson, and OIC Director Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **HIGHLIGHTS OF PTWG MEETING NO. 2023-01 HELD ON
JANUARY 19, 2023 | 9:00 AM**

DATE : 30 JAN 2023

We are furnishing herewith the highlights of the above-cited meeting regarding the Draft
DAO Re: Guidelines in the Conduct of Inventory, Assessment and Reconciliation of Records of
Graduated National Greening Program (NGP) Plantations

FOR INFORMATION.


MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29 · (632) 929-62-52
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denrgov.ph

DENR-POLICY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting No. 2023-01

January 19, 2023 9:00 AM

Via Zoom

I. Attendees

1. Dir. Melinda Capistrano - PPS
2. Dir. Norlito Eneran - LAS
3. For. Llarina S. Mojica - PSD
4. Asst. Dir. Amelita Ortiz - BMB
5. Asst. Dir. Mayumi Quintos - ERDB
6. Engr. Ted Sandoval - MGB
7. Ms. Lolita Presbitero - OULALA
8. Atty. Rosette Ferrer - LAS
9. For. Rachell Abenir - BMB
10. Mr. Janus Alpano - EMB
11. For. Percival Cardona - FMB
12. For. Lemuelle Celis - FMB
13. For. Claudett Endozo - FMB
14. For. Cris Angelo Vispo - FMB
15. For. Jin Yaneza - FMB
16. Mr. Eugene Paranaque - ERDB
17. Ms. Ma. Lourdes Reyes - ERDB
18. Mr. Paul Cuadra - ERDB
19. Ms. Juanita Timola, OASECFO -
Western Mindanao
20. Ms. Charisse Toledo - OUFISCC
21. Mr. Orllhee Mar Megarbio - OUFISCC
22. Ms. Maria Mangolia Danganan -
OUPPIA
23. Mr. Jeremy Rola - OUPPIA
24. Ms. Myla Carungi - OUFOLVE
25. For. Kryshlaine T. Raquel -
OASPPFASP
26. Mr. Joel S. Pardillo - OASFO EM
27. Mr. Dave Daguro - OASFO EM
28. For. Arnold Arbolado - OASFO LV
29. Ms. Juanita C. Timola - OASFO WM
30. Ms. Eva Jane Ligaya - OASLA
31. Engr. Reina Frances Requieron -
OASFISCMC
32. Mr. Dave Daguro - OASECSC
33. Ms. Maritess Romena - FASPS
34. Ms. Agatha Diane Zepeda - SCIS
35. Mr. Christian Libang - RBCO
36. Ms. Cyrenaica Flaviano - LLO

Secretariat (PPS-PSD)

37. Ms. Anna Michelle Lim
38. For. Amisol Talania
39. For. Hazel Jasmine Donato
40. Ms. Mary Lou Retos
41. Ms. Zayrelle Ann Suello
42. For. Emma Liwliwa Medina
43. Ms. Mary Lou Retos
44. Ms. Nim Hydee Eusebio

II. Highlights of the Meeting

The meeting commenced at 9:10 AM and was presided over by Director Norlito Eneran (LAS). The meeting was called into order and the agenda was adopted with no further changes.

Draft DENR Administrative Order re: Guidelines in the Conduct of Inventory, Assessment and Reconciliation of Records of Graduated National Greening Program (NGP)

1. Presentation and Discussions:

- For. Percival Cardona presented the draft guidelines. He presented the step by step process of drafting the guidelines. From the conduct of document review which include 1) physical review of the accomplishment and financial documents; 2) field

works which include physical inventory in sample plots, geotagging and drone flight; and 3) pre-tested the KII to assess the perception of the stakeholders and the FGD, the respondents included the PO Officials and Chairpersons, and a minimum of two members of the PO, including the female members as to gender sensitivity.

- Ms. Maritess Romena (FASPS) asked if the interview conducted included changes in income. For. Cardona responded that they did not include this as this is highly scientific and technical but that this was done in INREMP. Ms. Romena further clarified about the indicators and For. Cardona answered that the information gathered is more on the food security and more on perception similarly in terms of impact in biodiversity and of how NGP contributed to poverty alleviation so they used a Likert scale. They will attempt to marry the results of the ground survey and mapping. They are looking at the initial outcome of the implemented projects, preferably for those plantations established in 2011 and 2016, as well as the primary improvement on the forest cover.
- For. Llarina Mojica (PSD) asked that the subject covers the graduated sites, she asked the exact coverage of the guidelines, and particularly what period covers the proposed DAO. For. Cardona explained for this year the priority is the 2011 established graduated sites.
- For. Mojica asked why the other regions aside from the four (4) pilot regions were not consulted. For. Cardona responded that they lacked the staff and this was supposed to be accomplished in August. He opined that the four (4) regions would suffice although the experience may be different in other regions. He emphasized the usefulness of the data to be collected. In a consultation last Tuesday, we can contribute to NAMRIA in further assessing the land cover and the description on the ground.
- Mr. Arnold Arbolado of OASFOM asked, what are the four (4) regions where the proposed processes for graduated sites were pre-tested. He said that based on his readings, it is conducted at CAR, R2, R6, R13 (with distinction with harvesting on falcate). Mr. Arbolado said that the three (3) clusters are represented.
- Asst. Dir. Mayumi Quintos-Natividad (ERDB) suggested to level off on the rationale of the draft DAO and referred to the CoA AOMs. For Cardona explained that the policy started from the audit inquiry and observation on the current survival rate and to address the concerns on why projects are not properly classified in the book of accounts. Out of the report to be produced, they can discuss the next steps in addressing the CIP. He also noted that there was uneven reporting of damages. This would also help assess the performance of the NGP objectively.
- Dir. Norlito Eneran (LAS) also asked when the AOM was issued and if we responded or if there is a timeline for response to the AOM. For. Cris Vispo (FMB) responded that the AOM was issued last year and it was a series of communications because the audit focused on the policy. These were answered last year and he offered to provide the body with a copy of the AOM and their responses. One of the recommendations of the audit was to revisit policies and the draft DAO is a way to address their recommendations to avoid future AOMs on the NGP. The observations have not yet matured into a disallowance. However, we cannot say if our explanation was accepted by CoA as the exit conferenced only finished the first half. The second half has not yet been scheduled up to now so they have no idea if there are newly discovered issues. He affirmed that it is due to this situation that they thought of making a policy when it comes to assessing graduated sites.

- Ms. Lolit Presbitero (OULALA) suggested to include DAO No. 2019-03 in the introduction of the draft DAO, as this is the IRR of NGP. She also inquired if anything was done to comply with Section 17 of DAO No. 2019-03. For. Vispo said that Usec Adobo already issued a memorandum on CoA Circular No. 2015-007. The problem is that there are some documents that were not produced immediately or there are issues in the regions so they cannot successfully record the book of accounts from CIP to LI. They are looking for solutions to this problem through the issuance of policy amendments. Ms. Presbitero suggested to look and compare at the difference of GAM and CoA Rules. For. Vispo stated that what is in the Government Accounting Manual (GAM) and COA Book is not applicable on reforestation projects. Ms. Presbitero suggested checking whether these issues were addressed in the draft guidelines.
- For. Arbolado asked if there were comments from other regional offices aside from the four (4) pilot regions. For Cardona replied that they were supposed to plan a meeting with regions tomorrow for the DAO. He also highlighted that we have lots of manual used at the Regional Offices and maybe we can consider this situation. Also, he inquired if the draft DAO was subjected to consultation nationwide. He also recommended for the adoption of the manual.
- On the type of policy, For. Mojica suggested that this should be in the form of a DENR Memorandum Circular (DMC) and not a DAO. Ms. Presbitero agreed with the proposal, and added that this should be a circulation of section 17, it should be a procedure and not a guideline. Mr. Arbolado also agreed and suggested the adoption instead of the Manual and it should be written as “Adoption of the Manual of the Procedures”. For. Cardona stated that the Manual is still not final and the focus is the procedures. Ms. Presbitero opined that there may also be changes later on in the procedures, hence, should not be strictly indicated. For. Cardona suggested that this may be a manual on the conduct of inventory, assessment, and reconciliation of records of graduated NGP plantations.
- Assistant Dir. Amelita Ortiz of BMB clarified if the manual is for adoption and the PTWG will subject it for review. For. Cardona agreed to the point raised by AD Ortiz.
- Asst. Dir. Quintos-Natividad agreed with the recommendation to change this into an MC and adoption of manual but that the DMC should be simple similar to the ERDB’s Manual on Carrying Capacity. What should be discussed now is the manual to be adopted. For. Cardona said that the modules and annexes attached will form the content of the manual. It expounds the detailed procedures and Sections 5.1 and 5.2 details the manual. It is a cross-cutting review as it includes mapping, inventory and ground survey and reconciliation of records. There is financial information on what is the extent is a CIP and LI. They also came up with uniform reporting mechanism. She said that the draft DMC is simple as two (2) paragraph.
- Dir. Eneran inquired if the modules mentioned under Section 5 pertain to the Manual. For. Cardona replied that these are the contents of the Manual. Dir. Eneran asked if the modules are existing. For. Cardona replied in the affirmative.
- Engr. Reina Requieron (OASFISCMC) requested clarification whether the contents of the Manual are similar to what were provided in the draft policy. For. Cardona informed that these are the same.
- For. Mojica raised that when the BMB’s manual was deliberated, this was returned to the proponent as the manual should be as good as approved. She also raised her concern that if there are changes on details and is contained in a DMC, it would be hard to change.

- Dir. Eneran asked if the manual is readily available for review. For. Cardona said that the DMC is the enabling mechanism to adopt the manual and that the manual is ready and can be presented with the exception of some changes in the wording. He also recognized the contributions of ERDB but that the manual is not perfect as it is an innovation on the part of DENR.
- For. Arbolado said if we pass the guidelines, we are passing the manual. He shared his experience on the Wildlife Law Enforcement Manual which conducted a national consultation. He suggested that the manual might not yet be ripe for adoption, considering that other regions were not consulted.
- Mr. Joel S. Pardillo (OASECFO- East Mindanao), questioned that if it is proper to adopt the manual if it is not yet finalized. Engr. Requieron suggested that we can review and see the manual first prior to its adoption. Ms. Magnolia Danganan (OUPPIA) suggested that the PTWG can be provided a definite time to review the Manual.
- For. Mojica recommended that the proponent should conduct a national consultation for the manual prior to its deliberation by the PTWG.
- Ms. Romena suggested that there be a separate DMC for the procedures and another for the adoption of the manual, but first we should be given time to review the manual and to consult all the concerned regions. Atty. Rosette Ferrer (LAS) agreed with the earlier observations that the manual will still be refined, reviewed and presented. Asst. Dir Ortiz suggested that the proponent should conduct a workshop that is face to face and invite the regional representatives, including PTWG members. Dir Eneran agreed.
- Atty. Ferrer, agreed with earlier observations that the issuance/approval of a DMC adopting the manual, which has yet to be finalized, is premature.
- AD Ortiz, suggested that the FMB shall conduct workshop nationwide and likewise should invite the PTWG members.
- AD Natividad suggested that the group from Tagaytay (FMS, FMB, ERDB) should meet before the national consultation. She also recommended to fast-track the guidelines as the NGP usually takes the brunt of criticisms during budget hearings.
- For. Cardona said they can make the DMC more concise and the manual is almost finished but agreed there is need for consultation to get inputs. He assured that the manual is 98% finished except for contentious wordings.
- Ms. Presbitero requested that the DMC shall be crafted by the FMB.
- For. Cardona said they can make the DMC more concise and the manual is almost finished but agreed there is need for consultation to get inputs. He assured that the manual is 98% finished except for contentious wordings.
- Dir. Melinda Capistrano motioned for the deferral of the DMC until such time the Manual is finished. This was seconded by Dir. Eneran and AD Quintos-Natividad. Dir. Eneran clarified that finished means that proper consultation was done. He also said to inform PTWG if they will be incited to the consultation. They will just wait for announcement from the PTWG Secretariat.

Agreements:

- Revise the type of policy from DAO to DMC. The draft policy should be focused on the adoption of the Manual;
- Defer the review of the draft Manual until such time that it is completed;
- Change the subject and policy to adoption of manual;
- Include DAO No. 2019-03 in the introduction;
- The proponent shall also call preliminary meeting with ERDB and FMS in order to fine-tune the draft policy and to address the COA issues and to finalize the manual before the national consultation.
- The FMB to conduct a national consultation with all the regions, and include PTWG members in the invites;

There having no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10: 20 AM

Prepared by the PTWG Secretariat

Noted by:


MELINDA CAPISTRANO
OIC Director, Policy and Planning Service
