



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Natural Resources
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Diliman, Quezon City

December 13, 1976

SPECIAL ORDER
No. 309
Series of 1976

SUBJECT : CREATION OF A COMMITTEE TO
STUDY THE MANGROVES AND
PREPARE A NATIONAL MANGROVE
PROGRAM

One of the goals of the national government is to increase fish production and attain self-sufficiency. To this end the Fisheries Decree provides for accelerated development of the fish capture and culture industry. In recent years fish farming development as a major thrust has gained increasing importance in brackish and marine waters. In this connection a major aspect of the present fisheries activity efforts is directed toward maximum development and utilization of mangrove areas as fish-ponds and nearby waters as sea farms.

This approach, while theoretically sound and feasible, needs careful and analytical study in the light of what has already been amply documented by scientists abroad on the tremendous ecologic role the mangrove ecosystem plays in marine biological productivity. Of particular interest is the role of mangroves in food chains and life-cycle systems of numerous species in the terrestrial, estuarine, and marine environments. Our knowledge of the mangrove environment, particularly in the bioenergetics and productivity areas, is very minimal, and if the present approach is continued we might lose the essential benefits derivable from our mangroves.

There is, therefore, an urgent need for a national integrated research and action-oriented holistic approach to this problem. There is also a need for an ecosystem-concept based strategy that would provide a focal point for sound planning in accordance with

national development aspirations and within the conceptual framework of the present economic imperatives and perspectives.

To present a comprehensive and integrated program that would incrementally rationalize and environmentalize the planning procedures for mangrove ecosystem development and management, there is hereby created mangrove committee composed of the following:

Dr. Benjamin Cer. Gabriel	-	Chairman
Dr. Flor Lacanilao	-	Vice-Chairman
Dr. Prescillano Zamora	-	Member
Prof. Ricardo Umali	-	"
Mr. Ricardo Biña	-	"
Representative from BFD	-	"
Representative from BFAR	-	"
Representative from BL	-	"

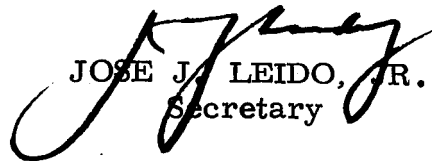
The Committee shall perform the following functions:

1. Make an inventory of the mangrove areas on a regional basis using modern technology (remote sensing and ground truth measurements.)
2. Identify and define mangrove areas of immediate environmental concern and assess the existing conditions therein.
3. Study the environmental, social, economic, and political aspects of the development and management program.
4. Blueprint a conceptual framework for cooperative and collaborative study efforts.
5. Draw up a viable, dynamic, interdisciplinary, and multi-level research program using the ecosystem-concept approach.

The committee is authorized to call upon various agencies of the DNR for such assistance as may be necessary to complete its functions. It may recommend the hiring of consultants and contract personnel for the performance of its task. Expenses

in connection with this task shall be chargeable against the Special Activities Fund of the Office of the Secretary. Travels that may be required by the Committee shall be on official time and authority is hereby given for the payment of travelling expenses and allowances under existing accounting and auditing regulations.

This order shall take effect immediately and until revoked in writing.


JOSE J. LEIDO, JR.
Secretary