



DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

MAR 28 1990

DENR SPECIAL ORDER
NO. 31-A
Series of 1990

SUBJECT : Addendum to DENR Special Order No. 31, series of 1990.


In the interest of the service and in order to effectively implement DENR Special Order No. 31, series of 1990 the following rules and guidelines are hereby promulgated:

1. The term "Ancestral Lands or Domains" shall be defined within the context of DENR sponsored bill on ancestral domains of Indigenous Cultural Communities as follows:
 - a. "Indigenous Cultural Communities" - refers to existing groups or tribes of indigenous Filipinos, who have continuously lived as communities on communally bounded and defined territories, since time immemorial, and have succeeded in preserving, maintaining, and sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions, and other distinctive cultural traits.
 - b. "Ancestral lands or Domains" - refers to all territories exclusively possessed, occupied or utilized by ICC in accordance with their customs and traditions, since time immemorial, by themselves or through their ancestors. This is irrespective of whether or not such lands were subsequently partitioned among the individual members of the indigenous cultural communities.
 - c. "Customary Laws" - refers to a body of rules, usages and practices traditionally observed, accepted and recognized by the ICC.
 - d. "Time Immemorial" - refers to a period of time where as far back as memory can go, a certain ICC is known to have occupied, possessed, and utilized a definite territory inherited from their ancestors in accordance with their customs and traditions.

2. In the performance of its functions the Chairman shall delineate the function of each member of the task force and attached personnel and shall approve their Travel Order and other pertinent documents provided that in case the Chairman needs to travel his Travel Order shall be approved by the Regional Executive Director or by the Chief, Indigenous Community Affairs Division.
3. Paragraph 6 of DENR Special Order No. 31, Series of 1990 is hereby amended to read as follows:

The Special Task Force after evaluating and delineating all ancestral land claims shall recommend the issuance of titles in accordance with existing laws; provided that in case of ancestral lands presently partitioned among the members of the indigenous cultural communities in accordance with their customary laws, titles shall be recommended to be issued in the name of the member(s) to whom the land pertains to; provided further, those not covered by existing laws shall be kept on record until such time that laws regarding ancestral lands shall have been enacted.

This Order shall take effect immediately and supersedes/amends all Orders/Memoranda inconsistent herewith.


GREGORIO L. MAGDARAOG
Assistant Secretary for Luzon Operations