

SPECIAL ORDER NO. **25**Series of 1993

**IJAN** 1 5 1993

SUBJECT:

CREATION OF SPECIAL TASK FORCES PROVINCIAL AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICES FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, DELINEATION AND RECOGNITION OF ANCESTRAL LAND AND DOMAIN CLAIMS NATIONWIDE

In the interest of the service and consistent with the Constitutional mandate for the recognition and protection of the rights of the indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands and domains to ensure their economic, social and cultural well-being, a Provincial Special Task Force on Ancestral Domains and a Community Special Task Force on Ancestral Lands are hereby created in every Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), respectively, where there is known to exist a concentration of said communities.

Initially, such Provincial and Community Special Task Forces shall be organized in each of the following provinces: Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga-Apayao, Mt. Province, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Viscaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Aurora, Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Quezon, Rizal, Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, Surigao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Lanao del Norte. Special Task Forces may likewise be organized in other provinces and areas which may later be established as having an indigenous cultural community population of at least five thousand.

Each Provincial Task Force on Ancestral Domains shall effect the identification, delineation and recognition of ancestral domain claims of indigenous cultural communities in its area of jurisdiction as well as the formulation and execution of strategies and plans for the sustainable development of the natural resources in these territories. Accordingly, it shall determine, undertake and/or coordinate all activities necessary for the proper discharge of this function; provided, that the actual survey of ancestral domain claims shall be planned and executed by the Office of the Regional Executive Director concerned.

Likewise, each Community Special Task Force shall, on the basis of applications filed by individual or indigenous corporate (families or clans) claimants, cause the identification, delineation and recognition of ancestral land claims in its area of responsibility. For this purpose, it shall undertake and/or coordinate all activities necessary for the proper discharge

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of this function, including the investigation and ocular inspection of such claims.

In the performance of its functions, each Special Task Force is authorized hereby to avail, through proper channels, of the services of any employee of the Department and/or any of its Bureaus and Offices including available funds, equipment and office supplies.

Each Provincial Special Task Force on Ancestral Domains shall be composed of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer, as Chairman, the Senior Land Management Officer, the Land Investigator, the Senior Forester, a representative each of the Provincial Cultural Community Office, Provincial Government and an appropriate Non-Government Organization (NGO) preferably based in the province and recommended by the ICC concerned, as members. Similarly, each Community Special Task Force on Ancestral Lands shall be composed of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer, as Chairman, the Land Management Officer III, the Senior Forester, a representative each of the local Cultural Community Office, the Municipal Government, and an appropriate, preferably community-based NGO recommended by the ICC concerned, as members.

The Chairman of each Special Task Force is hereby authorized to define the role of every member thereof, and to exercise general supervision over the same; provided, that the exercise of such powers is not contrary to other existing policies.

The Special Task Forces for the identification and delineation ancestral land claims in the Cordillera Administrative Region pursuant to DENR Special Order No. 31, S. 1990 as amended by Special Order No. 543, S. 1991 and in the province of Palawan under Special Order No. 1016, S. 1991 are hereby accordingly reconstituted.

Members of the Special Task Forces shall be entitled to travelling expenses, per diem and other incidental expenses chargeable against the Special Project Funds allotted for the project, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately and supersedes/amends all orders/memoranda inconsistent herewith.

Approved	JAN 1 5 1993	

ANGEL C. ALCALA Secretary