

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 15

Series of 1989

TO : ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS/PENROs/CENROs

SUBJECT : **Prioritizing the Implementation of  
Mangrove Reforestation**

**SECTION 1. BASIC POLICY**

The government, aware of the alarming rate of depletion of the existing mangrove resources and fully cognizant of the roles of these resources in the preservation of estuarine ecosystem including the protection of marine and shoreline habitat commits for the rehabilitation and development of Mangrove Forest immediately. In operationalizing this, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall apply the method that is feasible in any given situation which will accelerate the re-establishment of vegetative cover that (1) can provide immediate micro-forest products and, (b) can stabilize and protect the shorelines and coastal communities against the destructive forces and (c) can immediately provide ecological restitution and favorable climatic influences. Pursuant to these objectives, it shall be the policy of the DENR consistent with the National Forestation Program to prioritize the implementation of Mangrove Reforestation for the rehabilitation and development of Mangrove Forests.

**SECTION 2. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES**

a) Effective immediately, all DENR offices involved in the planning and implementation of Mangrove reforestation programs and projects are instructed to prioritize Mangrove reforestation by contract.

b) Mangrove reforestation shall be applied based on the criteria:

Priority 1. Inadequately stocked logged-over areas, idle and abandoned fishpond and saltbeds, denuded and open areas inside the Mangrove Swamps, wilderness areas and/or Mangrove Swamp Forest Reserves as per Presidential Proclamation No. 2151 and 2152, respectively;

Priority 2. Mangrove areas adjacent or nearby the red-tide affected coastal areas.

Priority 3. Mangrove areas in the typhoon belt or storm surge region such as in Bicol, Western Pangasinan, Samar and Leyte, Batanes, Bataan and Eastern Mindanao region.

Priority 4. Mangrove areas, including the adjacent mudflats and tidalflats with conservation potentials as habitat, foraging and resting sites of aquatic and terrestrial fauna including amphibians and wildlife.

Priority 5. Mangrove areas including mudflats and tidal flats outside the areas stated above.

### **SECTION 3. TECHNICAL FEATURES**

Mangrove Reforestation shall incorporate the following:

- 3.1 Survey and Mapping of the Area
- 3.2 Development Plan Preparation
- 3.3 Site Preparation
- 3.4 Propagules Collection
- 3.5 Establishment including Augmentation Planting
- 3.6 Protection, Care and Maintenance

### **SECTION 4. WORK AND FINANCIAL PLANS**

In the formulation of individual project work and financial plans by administration and/or in the assessment and modification of plans submitted by contractors, all DENR offices shall refer to the attached annexes A and B for guidance. However, the REDs, through their respective Mangrove Regional Desk Officers (Section 5) in coordination and cooperation with the PENROs and CENROs, should endeavor to formulate total and comprehensive development plans of the entire mangrove areas for their respective regions, giving emphasis on the immediate ecological restitution and availment of socio-economic benefits to mangrove, dependent and associated population.

In no case shall the cost per hectare in the first year of implementation exceeds P8,205.52 for totally denuded/open areas requiring 100% planting. For areas with some existing regenerations and where only augmentation planting is required, the cost per hectare will be based on the total number of propagules used in augmentation planting multiplied by the rated cost per propagule of P1.85 (P8,205.52/4445 propagules). Provided that the number of living and healthy trees/seedlings including those supplementally planted shall have a minimum of 3,556 trees/seedlings per hectare at turnover time. The maintenance, protection and administrative costs (combined) for the 2nd and 3rd years, shall be P1,860.48 per hectare each. The total for a 3-year comprehensive contract shall be P11,600.00 (rounded figures) per hectare.

## **SECTION 5. ORGANIZATION OF MANGROVE REGIONAL DESK OFFICER**

To immediately and effectively implement the project, Regional Executive Directors concerned are hereby instructed to create Desk Officer(s) in every Region preferably from the Research Sector whose sole function is to speed up the implementation and coordinate the establishment of Mangrove Reforestation at the CENRO level. A Forestry Specialist or Environmental Resource Specialist shall serve as Project Leader to oversee/implement the program at the field level.

## **SECTION 6. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF MANGROVE REFORESTATION DEVELOPMENT/WORK PLAN**

The CENRO in coordination with the Desk Officer whose jurisdiction the project be implemented either by contract or administration shall be responsible for the preparation of the Development Plan observing the priorities embodied under Section 2 and the technical features under Section 3 hereof. The Plan shall be approved by the REDs concerned copy furnished Assistant Director, Special Concerns Office. The document called for shall reach the SCO fifteen (15) days after receipt of this Circular. Subsequent 3-year development plan shall also be submitted on or before the end of October, 1989

The Regional Executive Director shall have the discretion herein to allocate areas for the purpose either by administration or by contract both of which are ADB-OECF funded.

All 3-year development plans emanating from the CENRO Offices will be consolidated and shall serve as the basis for Regional Offices to come up with the Mangrove Plan called for in Section 4 hereof, and shall have been submitted to the Special Concerns Office (SCO) on or before November 9, 1989.

## **SECTION 7. TARGET AREAS FOR MANGROVE REFORESTATION**

It is mandated that five months (5) after the receipt of this Circular each region shall have an established Mangrove Reforestation by contract or by administration or a combination hereof under the ADB-OECF funding allocation not less than 200 hectares contiguous or aggregate following the guidelines and technical features herein.

In regions where Mangrove Reforestation is not feasible or by assessment not of highest priority and thus, establishing mangrove reforestation is not necessary, the SCO must be informed immediately so that adjustment of targets will be remedied as planned.

**SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE**

Any provisions of Department Administrative Orders, Memorandum Circulars or other DENR documents inconsistent with this Circular are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

**SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY**

This Circular takes effect immediately.

**FULGENGIO S. FACTORAN, JR.**  
Secretary

**RECOMMENDING APPROVAL:**

**CIRILO B. SERNA**  
Director  
Forest Management Bureau

Signed on August 29, 1989

\* (Annexes A and B Omitted)