

**Memorandum Circular**  
**No. 14**  
**November 13, 1991**

**SUBJECT: Identification and Demarcation of  
Dipterocarp Old Growth Forests**

Pursuant to the policy directions enunciated in the National Master Plan for Forestry Development, DENR Administrative Order No. 24 and to complement DENR Memorandum Order No. 8, both series of 1991, the following guidelines on the identification and demarcation of old growth dipterocarp forests are hereby issued:

**I. Preliminary Activities**

**Section 1. Area Identification** - The Forest Management Bureau (FMB), with the direct support of the NAMRIA and other DENR agencies, shall identify the old growth dipterocarp forest areas utilizing among other things, such technical information and references sourced and/or gathered from:

- 1.1 Latest available maps and references derived from relevant satellite images, aerial photographs, etc., covering the areas under consideration;
- 1.2 Base information that may be supplied and/or available from the CENR, PENR, or RENR Offices concerned, relevant to and applicable for the purpose;
- 1.3 Such other data and information which may be deemed relevant for the purpose;
- 1.4 Data and other relevant information generated hereon shall be used in the proper planning and execution of field inspection/survey procedures consistent with established guidelines, procedures, and standards and shall be made consistent with the UTM grid system.

**Section 2. Aerial Reconnaissance** - Subject to budgetary limitations, aerial reconnaissance activities covering areas under consideration may be undertaken for purposes of:

- 3.1 Identifying target areas for ease of field verification and analysis;
- 3.2 Providing additional information and/or data for field inspection/validation, specially on the relative location and extent of old growth forest areas.

**Section 3. Field Forest Survey Teams** - There shall be organized field survey team (FSTs to be composed of FMB, NAMRIA and Land Classification Teams, after area identification and aerial reconnaissance, who shall undertake the forest survey related activities. Subject to DENR manpower availability and financial limitations, services of qualified NGO's may be availed of and contracted for the purposes, subject to prior accreditation by the Regional Executive Director concerned consistent with existing procedures.

Should the need arises for training and/or reorientation of the FST's, the same shall be undertaken; expenses shall be charged against DENR funds allocated for the purpose.

## **II. Area Demarcation**

**Section 4. Field Survey Team Deployment** - Immediately after the completion of the preliminary activities and the grant of survey contracts to appropriate NGO's and/or NAMRIA L.C. Teams, the Field Survey Teams (FSTs) shall be deployed in the field. Each FST shall be accompanied in the field by at least one DENR regional personnel knowledgeable in forest surveys, and who has sufficient level of responsibility to ensure the effective conduct of the surveys.

**Section 5. Levels of Priorities for Survey Demarcation** - The survey and demarcation of the old growth forest (O.G.) stands shall be prioritized according to the following schedule:

- A. Within Forestlands
  - 1. Old growth within existing, suspended and cancelled TLAs.
  - 2. Old growth outside above-said TLAs which are threatened due to existence of access road.
  - 3. Old growth outside above-said TLAs which are not as threatened as in #2 above.
- B. Within Proclaimed Reservations and Other Protected Areas
  - 1. Old growth within watershed forest reserves, military and civil reservations.
  - 2. Old growth within national parks, game refuge and bird sanctuary, wildlife areas and wilderness area.

3. Old growth within resettlement/settlement areas.
- C. Within A & D Lands
1. Old growth within public A & D lands
  2. Old growth within private lands

**Section 6. General Survey Guidelines** - The conduct of the actual ground demarcation of the old growth dipterocarp forests shall be guided by the established procedures in close traverse surveys and the following prescriptions:

- 6.1 As much as possible, two survey stations should be tied to established landmarks such as concrete monuments, churches, town halls or road junctions and these tie points shall be further tied to known Geodetic Control Points.
- 6.2 Whenever possible, there shall be established a buffer zone of about 100 meters of residual forest immediately surrounding the old growth forest stands. However, when the old growth forest stand is adjacent to natural ground features such as waterways (rivers, streams, creeks), gullies, or ridge tops these shall be used as boundaries.
- 6.3 Markers shall be established at the perimeter of the buffer zone at every fifty-meters (50 m) intervals in addition to conspicuous corners in the survey.
- 6.4 Permanent marking on boundaries - Survey stations for every 100 meters along the old growth shall be conspicuously marked by the following:
  - a. Concrete monuments measuring 20 x 20 x 50 cm., buried to a depth of 40 cm., and marked as described in Appendix I of this Circular which shall be complemented by either of the following:
    - a.1 Boundary marks chiselled on a tree serving as the station, and the marking of which shall be as described in Appendix I of this Circular;
    - a.2 Wooden post 30 x 30 x 200 cm., buried 50 cm into the ground, with chiselled markings as described in Appendix I of this Circular;

a.3 Placing of conspicuously painted metal billboards along roads and trails made of durable materials, marked as described in Appendix I of this Circular.

6.5 Description of markings, survey stations shall be in accordance with Land Classification marking system. In all of the above cases, boundary marks for each witness trees and/or reference points in the vicinities of such boundary marker shall be located, marked, and appropriately described in the field notes and subsequent maps, to serve as guide in future relocation of such boundary markers.

6.6 Preliminary boundary (compilation maps PBCMs). Under the supervision of the Regional Offices, Preliminary Boundary Compilation Maps (PBCMs) indicating the surveyed boundaries, description of boundary marks, witness trees/reference points, and other ground features, shall be prepared by the FSTs.

The Regional Executive Directors shall cause the review of all field notes and PBCMs, before these are submitted to the Forest Management Bureau, to insure the clarity and correctness of such field notes and PBCMs. In case of doubts, the REDs shall cause the field verification of such parts of the surveys that are doubtful or suspectedly erroneous.

6.7. Repository of Original Field Notes and PBCMs. All original field notes of surveys for tie lines, cut lines, traverse line, etc., and original plottings, original tracings of plots, and original PBCMs, shall be forwarded to the FMB, with adequate security measures undertaken to avoid loss, misplacement, or tampering of such.

The regional offices should retain certified photocopies and/or duplicates of such field notes, plots, and PBCMs for their record and reference. Similarly, adequate security measures should be undertaken to avoid loss misplacement, or tampering.

The FMB shall be the final repository of the original field notes, plots, tracings, PBCMs. Certified copies of such notes, plots, tracing and PBCMs or as required by NAMRIA shall be provided to the latter agency for their purposes of final maps of old growth forests.

6.8 The technical descriptions of every delineated old growth dipterocarp forest stand shall be approved by the Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources which shall form part of the permanent forest estate.

### **III. Preparation of Final Maps**

**Section 7. Responsibility for Preparation of Final Maps of Old Growth Forests** - NAMRIA, with the collaboration of the FMB, shall be responsible for the compilation, preparation and publication of final maps of all old growth forests and copies of maps shall be given to FMB and DENR Central Office and all field offices concerned.

**Section 8. Map Standards and Map Monitoring** - Final maps of old growth forest shall be prepared at a uniform scale of 1:50,000, using standard topographic maps as the base maps. Grids of 10 km x 10 km shall be inscribed on such maps, the grids strictly coinciding with the UTM grids used in the National Forestation Program sectioning and blocking work. Each 10 km x 10 km sections inscribed on the maps shall be given designations, using the UTM-based section designation prescribed under the National Forestation Program (see Appendix II). These sections shall be marked on the ground in the future, using prescribed section markings.

### **IV. Management and Supervision**

To insure the veracity of the demarcation of the old growth forests, the following administrative supervision schemes shall be undertaken (Fig. 2 Organizational Chart):

**Section 9.** Aside from the presence of DENR personnel in each of the FSTs deployed, there shall be established at the Regional Office a committee tasked to oversee the implementation of the actual survey and demarcation on the ground. Such committee shall report directly to the Regional Executive Director concerned.

**Section 10.** There shall also be created a coordination committee at the National level which shall see to it that the task is proceeding according to schedules and in consonance with the prescribed formats, procedures, and systems. The coordination committee shall be headed by the Director of the Forest Management Bureau, with representatives from NAMRIA, PAWB, PPSO, FOO and OSEC.

**Section 11.** Boundaries shall be respected by Local Government Units and the general public. Local government units (LGU's), non-government organizations (NGO's), schools, and the general public shall respect the boundaries of the old growth forest stands. All possible means of information dissemination shall be availed of by the DENR field office concerned to inform the public that the boundaries are considered permanent.

### **V. Other Provisions**

**Section 12. Penal Provision** - It shall be unlawful to destroy, deface, remove, or disfigure any marker, sign, poster, or notices set by the DENR to designate the boundaries of the old growth forests, and illegal occupancy, intrusion, forest products extraction by any individual, groups or entities shall be dealt with in accordance with Section 77 of P.D. 705, as amended.

**Section 13.** This Order takes effect immediately.

**FULGENCIO S. FACTORAN, JR.**  
Secretary

Recommending Approval:

**VICTOR O. RAMOS**  
Undersecretary for Field Operations

**ANTONIO S. TRIA**  
Undersecretary

**NOTE:** Appendices and Figures Omitted)