

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

**No. 08**

**June 05, 1992**

**SUBJECT : Guidelines in the Conversion of Inadequately Stocked Residual Forests into Industrial Forest Plantations.**

Pursuant to PD No. 705, as amended by Executive Order No. 725 dated September 9, 1981, and DENR Administrative Order No. 42, Series of 1991, the following guidelines relative to the conversion of inadequately-stocked residual forests into Industrial Forest Plantations are hereby issued:

**Sec. 1** Inadequately-stocked residual forests refer to logged-over areas with an existing stand of timber containing less than 20 trees of dipterocarp, premium and/or other presently commercial species with diameter above buttress (DAB) of more than 20 centimeters.

**Sec. 2** As matter of policy, clear cutting of residual natural forests is not allowed. However, conversion of inadequately-stocked forests into forest plantation thru clear-cutting by IFMA holders may be allowed upon prior authority from the Secretary and subject to the following conditions:

- 2.1 An environmental clearance (EC) shall be secured prior to clear-cutting activities;
- 2.2 An immediate, i.e., within the same year, programmed planting activity shall be undertaken in order to avoid or minimize site deterioration thru erosion;
- 2.3 Conversion of inadequately-stocked residual forests to plantation shall be done only after the open and/or brushlands have already been planted, unless these are small patches (less than 5 hectares each) interspersed in the brushland areas; and
- 2.4 A sufficient buffer zone or strip of the inadequately-stocked residual forest, the width of which shall not be less than 100 meters between plantation blocks, shall be retained. These strips of land should be subjected to enrichment planting or used for rattan plantation if possible.

**Sec. 3** Inadequately-stocked residual forests 50% and above in slope, areas 1000 meters and over in elevation, and strips 20 meters both sides of a stream for stream bank protection, shall not be allowed for conversion into plantations. Enrichment planting shall be conducted in such areas using dipterocarp, premium or other commercial species.

**Sec. 4** This Order shall take effect immediately.

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