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**SUBJECT : ALLOCATION CRITERIA FOR THE
DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE
INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA FUND – SPECIAL
ACCOUNT IN THE GENERAL FUND (IPAF-SAGF)**

Pursuant to Section 16 of RA 7586 otherwise known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, as amended by RA 10629, and its Implementing Guidelines, the Joint DENR-DBM Memorandum Circular No. 2014-01, and in order to provide standards in accessing the Integrated Protected Area Fund – Special Account in the General Fund (IPAF-SAGF-25%), the following guidelines governing the allocation for the disbursement of the IPAF-SAGF are hereby promulgated:

1. Qualifying Criteria

The following criteria must be complied with to qualify in accessing the IPAF-SAGF:

- 1.1 With active Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) as evidenced by minutes of meetings, resolutions passed, and accomplishment reports submitted;
- 1.2 With Management Plan updated within the last 3 years reckoned from the time the request is made;
- 1.3 Good track record in terms of timeliness and completeness of accomplishment reports, budget proposals and other required documents; and
- 1.4 Without or with limited funding assistance either from local or foreign institutions for the last 3 years.

2. Prioritization Criteria

If the protected area meets the qualifying criteria, the request/proposal shall be evaluated based on the following considerations:

- 2.1 Protected areas that are in need of immediate funding assistance for protection from further degradation (50%):
 - a. With existing and potential threats that will lead to biodiversity loss/degradation such as but not limited to slash and burn farming and timber/wildlife poaching, encroachment, forest fires, etc (20%);
 - b. Presence of critically endangered endemic wildlife in the area (15%); and

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- c. Nationally and/or internationally recognized important areas such as Important Bird Area, Important Plant Area, geological or archeological site, UNESCO World Heritage site, ASEAN Heritage Park, Ramsar site, among others (15%).

2.2 Protected areas that exhibit the following strengths (50%):

- a. The protected area has no income or only has minimal income that is not sufficient to support the PA operations but exhibits high ecotourism potential or other potential that could generate future income. This shall be determined based on relevant opportunities and strengths of the area as provided in the Protected Area Management Plan (20%);
- b. The Protected Area Office is capable of implementing projects. It must have adequate and trained staff to implement the proposed projects (15%); and
- c. The Management Board has strong linkage with the local government units, local communities, private sector, academe, and other stakeholders as manifested thru their active involvement in or support to protected area management activities as provided in reports, MOAs, PAMB Resolutions and other pertinent documents/instruments (15%).

The overall rating must not be lower than 70% to be eligible for funding from the IPAF-SAGF. Provided, that the higher the rating, the higher priority is given to the protected area.

3. General Considerations

- 3.1 A protected area shall only avail of the IPAF-SAGF once every five (5) years with a maximum amount of Two Million Pesos (Php 2,000,000.00).
- 3.2 Approval of request for funding assistance shall be subject to the availability of funds in the IPAF-SAGF.
- 3.3 Deadline for submission of budget proposal to be charged under the IPAF shall be October of the preceding year.
- 3.4 Capital Outlay needs of the respective protected areas shall be prioritized in the use of IPAF.

The Biodiversity Management Bureau may also access the IPAF-SAGF for projects of national scale that support the objectives of the NIPAS.

This Technical Bulletin shall be circulated for the information and guidance of all concerned.


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