

November 27, 1996

**DENR Memorandum Circular
No. 96-09**

SUBJECT : Clarification on Who Shall Take Lead in the Implementation of NIPAS Activities Within Protected Areas Under the Administrative Jurisdiction of Other Government Instrumentalities Including the Organization of Individual Protected Area Management Boards.

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act 7586 of 1992 and in order to identify the agencies that will undertake the required activities for the inclusion of protected areas under the jurisdiction of government instrumentalities other than the DENR into the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), the following guidelines are promulgated for the guidance of all concerned:

1. Section 15 of RA 7586, Series of 1992 specifically states that protected areas under the jurisdiction of other government agencies other than DENR (e.g. Sta. Cruz Island NP under the Department of Tourism, Hundred Island NP under the Philippine Tourism Authority and Angat Watershed under the National Power Corporation, etc.) shall remain in the said government instrumentalities provided that the preparation of the management plan for the protected area shall be coordinated with DENR.
2. Inasmuch as these protected areas are identified by the law as initial components of NIPAS, the required activities such as the conduct of Protected Area Suitability Assessment (PASA), Public Hearing, Census and Registration of Protected Area Plan and draft Proclamation and other activities required by the NIPAS Act shall be undertaken jointly by the DENR (as lead agency thru its Regional Offices) and the concerned government instrumentalities currently managing the protected areas to effect their inclusion to the System.
3. The concerned DENR Regional Offices shall provide necessary technical assistance and the concerned government instrumentalities shall provide other necessary assistance e.g. financial in the implementation of the activities mentioned above.

The required NIPAS Reports shall be prepared by the concerned Regional Office in coordination with the concerned government instrumentalities. The concerned Regional Office shall submit results of the activity undertaken to PAWB for evaluation to facilitate the proclamation of these areas under NIPAS.

4. Protected Areas Management Boards for each of these protected areas shall be organized in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the NIPAS Act and chapter V of DAO NO. 25, Series of 1992, its subsequent amendments and support policies. The head of the local office of the department or government instrumentalities who has the administrative jurisdiction over the protected area or a portion thereof shall serve as a member to the PAMB to be organized.

This circular shall take effect immediately.

(SGD.) VICTOR O. RAMOS
Secretary