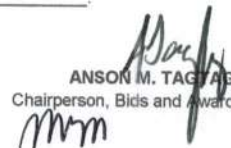


REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Company Name

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Please quote your lowest price on the item/s listed below, stating the shortest time of delivery and submit your quotation duly signed by your representative not later than _____.


ANSON M. TAGTAG
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

- NOTES: 1. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN OR PRINTED LEGIBLY.
2. DELIVERY PERIOD IS WITHIN **15** CALENDAR DAYS.
3. WARRANTY SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF **SIX (6) MONTHS** FOR SUPPLIES & MATERIALS/**ONE (1) YEAR** FOR EQUIPMENT, FROM DATE OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE PROCURING ENTITY.
4. PRICE VALIDITY SHALL BE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF **30** CALENDAR DAYS.
5. PHIL-GEPS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE SHALL BE ATTACHED UPON SUBMISSION OF THE QUOTATION.
6. BIDDERS SHALL SUBMIT ORIGINAL BROCHURES SHOWING CERTIFICATIONS OF THE PRODUCT BEING OFFERED.

Title of Procurement:
Publication of Joint Memorandum Circular between (DA-DENR-NCIP-NCCA) on the rules and regulations governing the recognition and confirmation of naturally important agricultural heritage systems.

Purpose:
For official use of BMB CAWED for publication of JMC between DA-DENR-NCIP-NCCA

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):
P97,785.00

ITEM NO.	ITEMS/DESCRIPTIONS	QTY./ UNIT	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
1	<p>Publication of JMC between DA-DENR-NCIP-NCCA</p> <p><i>Technical Specification:</i> Ad in a National Broadsheet Ad size: 9 columns x 53 centimeters Black and white; One full page Column guide: 29.75 cms x 53 cms</p> <p>Additional Requests from Procuring Entity: <input type="checkbox"/> Please provide sample upon request of end-user <input type="checkbox"/> Please see full specifications/attached sample design for reference. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other conditions to this request, please state: For more info, please contact the end-user at 8924-6031 loc. 227/229/230/231 Kindly address all proposals to the Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee</p> <p>Contract shall be awarded to the bidder per: <input type="checkbox"/> Item basis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lot basis</p> <p>Bidders must submit the following requirements upon submission of proposal. Non-submission of these requirements shall be grounds for disqualification from the bidding process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DT/SEC Registration Certificate Valid and Current Mayor's Permit PHILGEPS Certificate of Registration BIR Certificate of Registration Sign Omnibus Sworn Statement <p>Important Note: -For goods, conforme of the winning bidder must be done within seven (7) calendar days upon serving of the PO. -For services, conforme of the winning bidder must be done within fourteen (14) calendar days upon serving of the JO. -Nolarization of the OGS should be complied with after the award of the contract but before payment pursuant to item 6.3 of GPPB 09-2020</p>	1 page	P _____	P _____

Brand : _____
Delivery Period : _____
Warranty : _____
Price Validity : _____

After having carefully read and accepted your Request for Quotation, I/We quote you on the item at prices noted above.

Printed Name/Signature _____
Tel. No./Cellphone No.

Email Address _____
Date



March 10, 2023

DA-DENR-NCIP-NCCA Joint Memorandum Circular

No. 01

Series of 2023

SUBJECT: Rules and Regulations Governing the Recognition and Confirmation of Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (NIAHS) and Providing Appropriate Mechanisms for their Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources;

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that the State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions;

WHEREAS, the concept of Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (IAHS) is globally known and recognized as an initiative to identify, support and safeguard agricultural heritage systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems through catalyzing and establishing a long-term program to support such systems and enhance global, national and local benefits derived through their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability. IAHS refers to the system that a) supports local food security and livelihoods; b) hosts high biodiversity including agro-biodiversity; c) involves strong local knowledge; d) is part of a wider socio-cultural system that supports the agricultural practices; and e) lends to a remarkable landscape;

WHEREAS, the adaptation of the GIAHS concept at the national level is done by recognizing our Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System (NIAHS), which refers to certain remarkable agricultural land use systems and landscapes located in the Philippines that are rich in biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of the population with its environment for sustainable development;

WHEREAS, under the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (PBSAP) 2015-2028, the government commits that by 2028, there will be at least 10 recognized NIAHS. The identification, dynamic conservation, sustainable utilization and national recognition AHS require joint efforts among several agencies as provided under applicable laws;

WHEREAS, under Executive Order (Exec. Order) No. 292, s. 1987, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is the government agency responsible for the promotion of agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises. It is tasked to provide integrated services to farmers, fishermen and other food producers on production, utilization, conservation and disposition of agricultural and fishery resources; and,

responsible for the planning, formulation, execution, regulation and monitoring of programs and activities relating to agriculture, food production and supply;

WHEREAS, under Exec. Order No. 192, s. 1987, "the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the primary government agency responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, specifically forest and grazing lands, mineral resources, including those in reservation and watershed areas, and lands of the public domain, as well as the licensing and regulation of all natural resources as may be provided for by law in order to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits derived therefrom for the welfare of the present and future generations of Filipinos";

WHEREAS, under Exec. Order No. 192, s. 1987, the State shall ensure, for the benefit of the Filipino people, the judicious disposition, utilization, management, renewal and conservation of the country's forest, mineral, land, waters, fisheries, wildlife, off-shore areas and other natural resources, consistent with the necessity of maintaining a sound ecological balance, and protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment and the objective of making the exploration, development and utilization of such natural resources equitably accessible to the different segments of the present as well as future generations;

WHEREAS, among the rights provided for under Rep. Act No. 8371, also known as the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997, is that the Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) are entitled to the recognition of the full ownership and control and protection of their cultural and intellectual rights, as well as their right to special measures to control, develop and protect their sciences, technologies and cultural manifestations, including human and other genetic resources, seeds, including derivatives of these resources, traditional medicines and health practices, vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals, indigenous knowledge systems and practices, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literature, designs, and visual and performing arts.¹ The IPRA further provides for the State's recognition of the right of ICCs/IPs to a sustainable agro-technological development and for the formulation and implementation of programs of action for its effective implementation.² Thus, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) is created as the primary government agency responsible to promote and protect the rights and wellbeing of the ICCs/IPs and the recognition of their ancestral domains, as well as the rights thereto;³

WHEREAS, the IPRA further provides that the ICCs/IPs have the right to own, control, develop, protect and preserve their community intellectual rights especially on genetic resources and its derivatives. Furthermore, in line with Rep. Act No. 11038, also known as the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018, the concerned ICCs and IPs shall have the responsibility to govern, maintain, develop, protect and conserve biologically significant areas within their ancestral domains, in accordance with their indigenous knowledge, systems and practices and customary law, with full and effective assistance from the NCIP, DENR and other concerned government agencies;⁴

WHEREAS, Rep. Act No. 7160, also known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations mandate that local government unit(s) shall "share with the national government the responsibility in the management and maintenance of ecological balance within their territorial jurisdiction, and ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety and enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology" within their territorial jurisdiction; and,

¹ Section 34, Rep. Act No. 8371

² Section 36, Rep. Act No. 8371

³ Section 39, Rep. Act No. 8371

⁴ Section 12, Rep. Act No. 11038

WHEREAS, one of the objectives of Republic Act (Rep. Act) No. 10066, also known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, is to protect, preserve, conserve and promote the nation's cultural heritage, its property and histories, and the ethnicity of local communities. Further, it provides that the State shall administer the heritage resources in a spirit of stewardship for the inspiration and benefit of the present and future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts issue this Joint Memorandum Circular governing the recognition and confirmation of Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System (NIAHS) and providing appropriate mechanisms for their dynamic conservation and sustainable use.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. OBJECTIVES -

- 1.1 To recognize and register NIAHS, and provide the process for its recognition and confirmation in accordance with existing rules and regulations;
- 1.2 To promote and encourage the dynamic conservation and sustainable management of recognized NIAHS through appropriate policies, plans and programs of the government; and
- 1.3 To provide incentives and benefits to partner communities and LGUs of recognized NIAHS as may be allowed under existing laws.

SECTION 2. SCOPE AND COVERAGE - This Circular shall cover important agricultural heritage systems and their associated landscapes, agro-biodiversity and their knowledge systems that have been established, practiced and maintained by local families, clans and indigenous cultural communities as part of their cultural practices and traditions, and recognized and confirmed as NIAHS in accordance with this Circular.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS - For purposes of this Circular, the following terms shall mean:

- 3.1 *Agricultural heritage system* refers to remarkable land use systems and landscapes that are rich in biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of population with its environment for sustainable development, and created, shaped and maintained by generations of farmers and herders based on diverse natural resources, using locally adapted management;⁵
- 3.2 *Agro-biodiversity (ABD)* refers to all components of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture, which are necessary to sustain key functions of the agro-ecosystem, its structure and processes;⁶
- 3.3 *Agro-ecological practice* refers to a practice or integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems. It seeks to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system;⁷
- 3.4 *Confirmation* refers to the official declaration of the existence of a NIAHS recognized by the NIAHS ExeCom in accordance with this Circular;⁸
- 3.5 *Crop and crop-associated biodiversity* refers to the sum of crop and non-crop living organisms found in agro-ecosystems. This includes the range of organisms above and below ground that can harm or help agriculture such as pests, diseases and weeds; crop wild relatives; pollinators and biological control organisms; and the

⁵ As defined in the FAO/Project Document/Draft MOA DENR-DA-NCCA-NMP

⁶ As defined in the FAO/Project Document with modification made by the TWG

⁷ As defined in the FAO/Project Document/Draft MOA DENR-DA-NCCA-NMP

⁸ Definition proposed by the Project Team as requested by DA

- many organisms controlling nutrient cycling;⁹
- 3.6 *Cultural heritage* refers to the totality of cultural property preserved and developed through time and passed on to posterity;¹⁰
- 3.7 *Cultural property* refers to all products of human creativity by which a people and a nation reveal their identity, including churches, mosques and other places of religious worship, schools and natural history specimens and sites, whether public or privately-owned, movable or immovable, and tangible or intangible;¹¹
- 3.8 *Dynamic conservation* refers a balance among conservation, adaptation and socio-economic development with due regard to the beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions of indigenous peoples in the case of indigenous cultural communities. With this, the conservation of ABD is taken into holistic, integrated approach of sustainable management of the agricultural resources including looking into market incentives, branding and labeling of products and services, cultural promotion and tourism-related activities;¹²
- 3.9 *Food security* refers to the policy objective, plan and strategy of meeting the food requirements of the present and future generations of Filipinos in substantial quantity, ensuring the availability, accessibility, affordability and safety of food to all, either through local production, importation, or both based on the country's existing and potential resources endowment and related production advantages and consistent with the overall national development objectives and policies;¹³
- 3.10 *Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS)* refers to remarkable land use systems and landscapes around the world that are rich in biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of population with its environment for sustainable development. GIAHS also alternatively refers to a global initiative that seeks to dynamically conserve this system;¹⁴
- 3.11 *Indigenous agroforestry practice* refers to practices of indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) that involve sustainable management of land by properly combining agricultural crops with forest crops, raising of multiple plant species and varieties together with animals and trees and combined with soil and water conservation practices that are compatible with the local climate, topography and slope done simultaneously or sequentially over time;¹⁵
- 3.12 *Indigenous knowledge systems and practices (IKSPs)* refers to systems, institutions, mechanisms and technologies comprising a unique body of knowledge evolved through time that embody patterns of relationships between and among peoples and between peoples, their lands and resource environment, including such spheres of relationships, which may include social, political, cultural, economic and/or religious spheres, and which are the direct outcome of the indigenous peoples' responses to certain needs, consisting of adaptive mechanisms which have allowed indigenous peoples to survive and thrive within their given socio-cultural and biophysical conditions;¹⁶
- 3.13 *Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System (NIAHS)* refers to the Philippine adaptation of the GIAHS concept, which refers to certain remarkable agricultural land use systems and landscapes located in the Philippines that are rich in biological diversity evolving from the co-adaptation of the population with its environment for sustainable development;¹⁷
- 3.14 *NIAHS initiative* refers to an ongoing multi-sectoral initiative to identify, recognize and dynamically conserve certain agricultural land use systems and landscapes located in the Philippines that are rich in biological diversity evolving

⁹ As defined in the FAO/Project Document / Draft MOA DENR-DA-NCCA-NMP with modification made by the TWG

¹⁰ Section 3 (I), Rep. Act No. 10066

¹¹ Section 3 (e), Rep. Act No. 10066

¹² As defined in the FAO/Project Document/Draft MOA DENR-DA-NCCA-NMP

¹³ Section 4, RA 8435 with modification made by the TWG

¹⁴ Definition proposed by Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) from FAO, 2002

¹⁵ Forest Management Bureau (FMB) definition and enhanced by the TWG

¹⁶ Section 1, Rule II, NCI Administrative Order No. 1. s. 1998

¹⁷ Definition proposed by OSG based on the FAO definition of GIAHS

from the co-adaptation of population with its environment for sustainable development;¹⁸

- 3.15 *NIAHS site* refers to recognized NIAHS in specific locations in the Philippines;¹⁹
- 3.16 *Recognition* is the process whereby the NIAHS ExeCom acknowledges the existence of a nationally important agricultural heritage system after undertaking the procedure of recognition under this Circular;²⁰
- 3.17 *Registration* refers to the process by which the NIAHS ExeCom enters information about recognized & confirmed NIAHS in the official registry administered by the NIAHS Secretariat;²¹
- 3.18 *Safeguarding* refers to measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, and revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage;²² and
- 3.19 *Sustainable use* refers to the use of components of biological diversity in a way and a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, degradation of the environment, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.²³ In the case of the IPs, sustainable use includes the utilization of their ancestral domains as part of their intergenerational responsibility to ensure that decisions and actions taken today are heavily based on perceived outcomes for the succeeding generations.²⁴

II. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

SECTION 4. NIAHS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. There is hereby created an executive committee that shall be primarily responsible for the recognition and confirmation of NIAHS. The committee shall be composed of the representatives of the following agencies/institutions:

- 4.1 Secretary of the Department of Agriculture or his/her authorized permanent representative – Chairperson
- 4.2 Director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Department of Agriculture or his/her authorized permanent representative – Vice Chairperson
- 4.3 Chairperson of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) or his/her authorized permanent representative – Member
- 4.4 Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples or his/her authorized permanent representative – Member
- 4.5 Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Department of Environment and Natural Resources or his/her authorized permanent representative – Member

Provided, that the permanent representative holds a position that is not lower than director level.

¹⁸ Definition proposed by OSG

¹⁹ Definition proposed by OSG

²⁰ Definition proposed by the Project Team as requested by DA

²¹ Definition proposed by the Project Team as requested by DA

²² Definition proposed by the OSG from FAO, 2002

²³ Convention on Biological Diversity, Art. 2

²⁴ The second sentence was proposed by NCIP; discussed and endorsed by the TWG; and approved by the PSC

SECTION 5. FUNCTIONS OF THE NIAHS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – The NIAHS Executive Committee shall perform the following functions:

- 5.1 Recommend amendments or revisions to the rules of procedure in the recognition and confirmation of NIAHS under this Circular;
- 5.2 Recommend policy measures to the DA, DENR, NCIP, NCCA, and the concerned LGUs on NIAHS matters and related concerns, particularly on the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of NIAHS;
- 5.3 Create Joint Regional Technical Working Groups (RTWGs), as it may deem necessary, that shall have the following functions as set forth in Section 8 of this Circular;
- 5.4 Create Joint National Technical Working Group (NTWG), as it may deem necessary, to provide technical support to the NIAHS Executive Committee in the evaluation of the petition for Joint Recognition and Confirmation of NIAHS;
- 5.5 Evaluate the findings and recommendations of the Joint RTWG on the petition for Joint Recognition and Confirmation of NIAHS;
- 5.6 Approve or deny the petition for recognition and confirmation based on its evaluation of the findings and recommendation of the joint RTWG.
- 5.7 Develop a feedback mechanism for stakeholders' concerns relative to the implementation of this Circular;
- 5.8 Cause the conduct of an assessment after two years from the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) referred to in Section 13.13 hereof, and every five years thereafter, to determine compliance with the MOA and the status of the NIAHS;
- 5.9 Provide or cause to provide data sharing necessary for the identification, location and documentation of potential NIAHS;
- 5.10 Develop a range of sub-criteria and indicators for each element of NIAHS;
- 5.11 Undertake necessary actions for the nomination and declaration of recognized NIAHS as GIAHS sites;
- 5.12 Approve the Package of Projects/Interventions created and identified by Joint RTWG, specifically developed for the recognized NIAHS site in reference to Section 13.13 and Section 18 hereof, and ensure its implementation; and
- 5.13 Perform all other functions as may be required in the implementation of this Circular.

SECTION 6. NIAHS SECRETARIAT – A NIAHS Secretariat shall be created and attached to the DA. Provided, that, in the interim, the DA-BAR shall provide secretariat support to the NIAHS Executive Committee until such time that a permanent secretariat is set up by the DA. In regions where Joint RTWGs are created pursuant to Section 7 hereof, secretariat functions will be provided to the Joint RTWG by the concerned Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs). Also, the NIAHS Secretariat shall manage the Registry of declared NIAHS. Further, the NIAHS Secretariat shall craft the Rules of Procedure in the Conduct of Business of the Executive Committee within 30 days from the effectivity of this Circular for adoption by the NIAHS Executive Committee.

SECTION 7. JOINT REGIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP – Whenever necessary, the Joint RTWGs may be created which shall be composed of the following:

- 7.1 DA-RFO Director or his/her permanent authorized representative – Chairperson
- 7.2 DENR Regional Office Regional Executive Director or his/her permanent authorized representative – Vice Chairperson
- 7.3 NCIP-Regional Office Director or his/her permanent authorized Representative-Member
- 7.4 Regional Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative – Member
- 7.5 The applicant LGU Representative – Member

SECTION 8. FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT RTWG - The Joint RTWG shall have the following functions:

- 8.1 Conduct verification and validation activities relative to the verification of The petition for the recognition and confirmation of NIAHS;
- 8.2 Conduct a needs analysis and develop a Package of Projects/Interventions for The NIAHS site;
- 8.3 Invite representatives from People's Organizations or Non-Government Organizations based in the region whose principal purpose is to promote environmental protection or culture and tradition, from the private sector involved in agriculture to help in their verification and validation activities;
- 8.4 Invite resource persons from other national government agencies, whenever necessary;
- 8.5 Submit a report to the NIAHS Executive Committee within the required period set By the ExeCom its findings and recommendations relative to the petition for The recognition and confirmation of NIAHS within the required period set by The Executive Committee;
- 8.6 Take the lead in the formulation of a memorandum of agreement/protocol among the stakeholders on specific management, dynamic conservation and sustainable use measures for a particular recognized NIAHS; and
- 8.7 Monitor compliance by concerned LGUs to the NIAHS action plan.

SECTION 9. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGENCIES - The concerned agencies shall be responsible for the following:

- 9.1 Shared Responsibilities - The DA, DENR, NCIP and NCCA share the following responsibilities:
 - 9.1.1 Recognize sites that host agricultural system that may be NIAHS;
 - 9.1.2 Work together for the nomination of potential GIAHS sites;
 - 9.1.3 Provide data sharing necessary in identifying, locating and describing potential NIAHS sites as National Cultural Treasure (NCT), Important Cultural Property (ICP) or Heritage Zones, subject to the provisions of the Data Privacy Act;
 - 9.1.4 Provide technical support to local governments and the private sector to develop and implement effective local programs for the dynamic conservation of NIAHS, which shall include effective but ecologically sound agricultural practices, as well as marketing support; and
 - 9.1.5 Recommend to the NIAHS Executive Committee sub-criteria and indicators for each criterion of NIAHS.
- 9.2 DA. The DA shall:
 - 9.2.1 Lead in the recognition of potential NIAHS;
 - 9.2.2 Designate a focal office in the implementation of the DA's responsibilities under this Circular;
 - 9.2.3 Provide assistance in the ocular assessment and evaluation of potential NIAHS;
 - 9.2.4 Provide technical assistance to LGUs and/or IPs/ICCs in the documentation of IAHS, as well as in the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of recognized NIAHS and ABD;
 - 9.2.5 Where appropriate, incorporate the concept and practices supportive of NIAHS in relevant DA Programs including, but not limited to Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo (4Ks Program), Seed Industry Development Program, Organic Agriculture Program, and Crop Insurance Schemes;
 - 9.2.6 Through its attached bureaus and agencies, promote and assist the marketing of agricultural and fishery products developed from

recognized NIAHS; provide the necessary postharvest and processing facilities and equipment; provide *in situ* and *ex situ* support in the conservation of traditional varieties, their utilization, and other technical support as requested by the communities under NIAHS; and provide other relevant interventions;

- 9.2.7 Make available to farmers' organizations through appropriate arrangement/s under-utilized or non-operational postharvest and processing facilities of the DA in or near declared recognized NIAHS sites; and
- 9.2.8 Provide assistance to the ICCs/IPs in the integration of the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in NIAHS within ancestral domains/ancestral lands in the ICC/IPs' Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP).

9.3 DENR. The DENR through the Biodiversity Management Bureau shall:

- 9.3.1 Provide assistance in the assessment and evaluation of potential NIAHS;
- 9.3.2 Provide technical assistance to LGUs and/or IP/ICCs in the documentation of IAHS, as well as in the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of recognized NIAHS and ABD;
- 9.3.3 Where appropriate, incorporate the concept and practices supportive of NIAHS in relevant DENR Programs through the concerned DENR offices; and
- 9.3.4 Provide assistance to the ICC/IPs in the integration of the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in NIAHS within ancestral domains/ancestral lands in the ICC/IPs' ADSDPP.

9.4 NCIP. The NCIP shall:

- 9.4.1 Designate its focal office for the implementation of this Circular;
- 9.4.2 Provide assistance in the ocular assessment and evaluation of potential NIAHS;
- 9.4.3 Provide technical assistance to LGUs and/or IP/ICCs in the documentation of IAHS;
- 9.4.4 Facilitate the consultation processes in securing the free, prior and informed consent of the concerned ICCs/IPs pursuant to existing guidelines;
- 9.4.5 Provide assistance to the ICC/IPs in the integration of the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in NIAHS within ancestral domains/ancestral lands in the ICC/IPs' ADSDPP; and
- 9.4.6 Facilitate the integration of the concept of dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in NIAHS in the ICC/IPs' ADSDPP Framework.

9.5 NCCA. The NCCA shall:

- 9.5.1 Designate a focal office for the implementation of this Circular;
- 9.5.2 Formulate the criteria to determine that the proposed agriculture system is supported by a wider socio-cultural system and a strong local knowledge is involved, or part of a local/culture/value systems and social organization;
- 9.5.3 Work effectively and efficiently with the DENR in the identification and protection of natural properties of cultural significance or areas possessing outstanding ecosystem with flora and fauna of national scientific importance under the National Integrated Protected Areas System;
- 9.5.4 In coordination with NCIP, include cultural properties identified

- within the NIAHS and GIAHS sites under the Philippine Registry of Cultural Property (PRECUP) subject to the protection mechanisms of RA 10066 and RA 8371, and to the procedure of the NCCA;
- 9.5.5 Provide assistance in the ocular assessment and evaluation of potential NIAHS; and
 - 9.5.6 Provide expert advice in the conduct of the local government's cultural activities.

SECTION 10. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LGU OF THE RECOGNIZED NIAHS SITES. The concerned LGU applicant with jurisdiction over the duly recognized/declared NIAHS sites shall perform the following:

- 10.1 Develop Local Action Plan for integration into the LGU's Comprehensive Development Plan;
- 10.2 Submit periodic report on the status of NIAHS site to the Executive Committee Secretariat; and
- 10.3 Comply with the provisions of the site-specific Memorandum of Agreement/Protocol on specific management, dynamic conservation and sustainable use measures for a particular recognized NIAHS.

III. ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION AND CONFIRMATION

SECTION 11. CRITERIA FOR NIAHS – In the identification of NIAHS, the following criteria shall be considered:²⁵

- 11.1 The system supports local food security and livelihoods;
- 11.2 It hosts high biodiversity, including agro-biodiversity;
- 11.3 It involves indigenous agro-ecological knowledge systems and practices;
- 11.4 There is a wider socio-cultural system that supports the agro-ecological practices; and
- 11.5 It lends to a remarkable landscape.

SECTION 12. IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION OF IAHS – Any LGU or Indigenous Socio-Political Structure of an IP/ICC, with the assistance of concerned agencies, may identify site/s that host an agriculture system, and document locally IAHS (LIAHS) that evolved from the co-adaptation of their people with the environment for sustainable development, and created, shaped and maintained by generations of local farmers and herders based on diverse natural resources, using locally adapted management. All identified and documented LIAHS may be petitioned for Recognition and Confirmation as NIAHS in accordance with this Circular.

SECTION 13. PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION OF NIAHS

- 13.1 Any LGU or IP/ICC through their Indigenous Political Structure may file a verified petition with the concerned DA RFO for the recognition and confirmation of its IAHS/LIAHS.
- 13.2 The petition shall be accompanied by the following:
 - 13.2.1 Proof of its inclusion in the concerned LGU's Registry of Cultural Property (as an intangible cultural heritage) in accordance with Joint DILG-NCCA Memorandum Circular 2018-01;
 - 13.2.2 Ordinance or Resolution issued by the local legislative council recognizing the IAHS;
 - 13.2.3 Documentation Report detailing the components of the agriculture system that makes it eligible as NIAHS in accordance with Section 11 hereof; and
 - 13.2.4 Documentation Process undertaken for the preparation of the Documentation Report, including the stakeholders involved.

²⁵ FAO, 2016

In cases involving IPs, the documentation process shall be in accordance with their customary laws and consultation processes pursuant to RA 8371. Provided, finally, that the ICCs/IPs shall have the right to stop or suspend, in accordance with RA 8371, any project that has not satisfied the requirement of this consultation process.

- 13.3 Upon receipt of the petition and determination of completeness of documentary requirements, the DA-RFO shall refer the application to the concerned Joint Regional TWG for verification/validation or to the NIAHS National Executive Committee in case there is no existing Joint Regional TWG yet.
- 13.4 The Joint RTWG shall send Notice to Comment to the petitioner and relevant stakeholders. Stakeholders, which include, but are not limited to affected private entities, LGUs, local culture and arts council, local tourism councils, non-government conservation organizations and schools, may be allowed to file their support or opposition to the petition.
- 13.5 Thereafter, the concerned stakeholders shall file their Comment to the verified petition within 15 days from receipt and copy furnishing the petitioner. Extension may be allowed upon proper notice, but in no case shall exceed 15 days.
- 13.6 The petitioner may file its Reply to the Comment within 10 days upon receipt. Then, respondent stakeholders may file its answer to the Reply within 10 days from receipt.
- 13.7 When issues have been joined, the Joint RTWG or the NIAHS ExeCom shall send a Notice of Hearing to the Petitioner and the Respondent Stakeholders for purposes of clarificatory hearings and other matters for the speedy determination of the Petition.
- 13.8 The Joint RTWG or the NIAHS ExeCom may require the parties to file their position papers within 15 days upon Notice either orally or in writing. Thereafter, no submissions may be allowed.
- 13.9 The Joint RTWG shall submit its findings and recommendations within a maximum of 90 days from receipt of the parties' respective position papers to the NIAHS ExeCom for appropriate action.
- 13.10 The same procedure shall be applicable whether the Petition is forwarded to the NIAHS ExeCom or the JRTWG.
- 13.11 The NIAHS Executive Committee shall act on the petition within 30 days from receipt of the findings submitted by the Joint Regional TWG.
- 13.12 Approval or denial of the petition shall be through a resolution issued by the NIAHS ExeCom. Thereafter, a Certificate of Recognition and Confirmation shall be issued by the Chairperson of NIAHS ExeCom or its authorized representative.
- 13.13 The NIAHS ExeCom or the Joint RTWG or JRTWG shall formulate a Memorandum of Agreement on the specific management, dynamic conservation and sustainable use measures for a particular recognized NIAHS within fifteen (15) days from issuance of Certificate of Recognition and Confirmation which shall be signed by the stakeholders concerned.

SECTION 14. RECOGNITION AND CONFIRMATION. Important agricultural heritage systems that have been initially identified and documented by the LGUs, or indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples; formally recognized by the concerned LGU; and verified by the concerned Joint Regional Technical Working Group in accordance with Section 13 hereof shall be evaluated and acted upon by the NIAHS Executive Committee. Approval or denial of the petition for recognition and confirmation shall be through a resolution issued by the Executive Committee. Thereafter, a Certificate of Recognition and Confirmation shall be issued by the NIAHS Executive Committee Chairperson. The Certificate of Recognition and Confirmation shall be registered in the Registry of Declared

NIAHS, which is managed by the NIAHS Secretariat.

IV. PRIVILEGES, INCENTIVES & BENEFITS OF NIAHS

SECTION 15. COMMUNITY SEED BANKS. The community, farmers' organizations, ICC/IPs within recognized NIAHS sites are eligible to be part of the program components of the DA on community seed banking under DA Memorandum Order No. 20, s. 2011, entitled "Guidelines on the Implementation of Community-based Seed Banks" or subsequent issuances, taking into consideration the traditional varieties, procedure, and manner of seed banking practiced by the concerned community, subject to the provision of RA 8371 on community intellectual rights.

SECTION. 16. ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM. Crops and other agro-biodiversity resources in recognized NIAHS sites shall be eligible under the crop insurance coverage of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

SECTION 17. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION ASSISTANCE. Farmers in recognized NIAHS sites shall be automatically eligible for certification assistance in the form of technical and/or financial assistance under DA Department Circular No. 16, s. 2018, Revised Rules and Procedures on the Provision of Certification Assistance for Organic Agriculture Entities.

SECTION 18. PACKAGE OF PROJECTS. The Joint RTWG shall identify and create a specialized package of interventions and/or projects for the recognized NIAHS sites to ensure the dynamic conservation and sustainable use of the NIAHS. It will comprise of, among others, appropriate incentives, benefits and interventions of existing programs, projects, and strategies of national government agencies. The package of projects will be an integral part of the Memorandum of Agreement referred to in Section 13.13 hereof.

V. OTHER PROVISIONS

SECTION 19. FUNDING. The DA, DENR, NCIP and NCCA shall allocate the necessary funds for the implementation of this Circular from their respective agency budgets under the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 20. COMPLIANCE WITH DATA PRIVACY ACT. Gathered data and information shall be respected and protected during the duration of this Circular and even after its termination. Processing of data and information shall be compliant with the confidentiality and privacy requirement enshrined under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the "Data Privacy Act of 2012".

SECTION 21. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. All disputes, disagreements, controversies or claims arising out of or relating to the implementation of the plans and provision of this Circular shall first be mutually resolved through appropriate dialogue. Unresolved disputes or issues shall be resolved and settled administratively or adjudicated in the manner provided in Chapter 14, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292, s. 1987.

SECTION 22. GOVERNING PRINCIPLE. The principle of culture sensitivity, transparency and rights-based approach to development shall govern the relationship of the parties to this Circular.

SECTION 23. ISSUANCE OF IMPLEMENTING ORDERS. The concerned national government agency may issue subsequent implementing orders pursuant to their respective functions in this Circular.

SECTION 24. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any provision of this Circular is invalid or

unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 25. REPEALING CLAUSE. All orders, circulars, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provision of this Circular are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 26. EFFECTIVITY. This Circular shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,



24-CC-0585-142823098-0004

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