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DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2016 - 26

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SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CMEMP)

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 otherwise known as the “National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act” and its revised Implementing Rules and Regulations, and consistent with Executive Order No. 533 entitled, “Adopting the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Strategy to Ensure the Sustainable Development of the Country’s Coastal and Marine Environment and Resources and Establishing Supporting Mechanisms”, Executive Order No. 797 entitled, “Adopting the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) National Plan of Action (NPoA) as the Primary Framework for the Development and Implementation of all Related Plans and Programs on Marine and Coastal Resources Management in the Country” and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations, the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) is established and the following guidelines are hereby issued:

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect the nation’s coastal and marine wealth and exclusive economic zone and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively for Filipino citizens and promote the right to a healthful and balanced ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SECTION 2. Scope and Coverage. This Order shall apply to all coastal and marine areas of the Philippines covering all, but not limited to the NIPAS Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Locally-Managed Marine Protected Areas (LMMPAs), Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (MKBAs), and adjacent municipal waters.

SECTION 3. Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program. The Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program or CMEMP is a national program which aims to comprehensively manage, address and effectively reduce the drivers and threats of degradation of the coastal and marine ecosystems in order to achieve and promote sustainability of ecosystem services, food security and climate change resiliency for the benefit of the present and future generations. Under the CMEMP, protection and management shall be anchored on the following approaches:

- a. Integrated Coastal Management
- b. Partnership Building
- c. Ecotourism/Sustainable Tourism
- d. Protection, Management and Law Enforcement
- e. Communication, Education and Public Awareness
- f. Valuation of Ecosystems Services

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SECTION 4. Objectives. The general objective of CMEMP is to achieve the effective management of the country's coastal and marine ecosystems thereby increasing their ability to provide ecological goods and services to improve the quality of life of the coastal population particularly ensuring food security, climate change resiliency and disaster risk reduction.

Specifically, the program aims to:

1. Establish a well-connected network of MPAs to ensure the effective and sustainable management of coastal resources;
2. Implement sustainable management of coastal and marine resources to contribute to food security and improve human well-being of the coastal communities;
3. Effectively reduce threats and factors of degradation on coastal and marine ecosystems;
4. Enhance the formation of positive values among all stakeholders including the youth through shared responsibilities in sustainable management of coastal and marine resources and habitats; and
5. Develop and/or enhance the skills and expertise of DENR concerned staff as well as other stakeholders on coastal and marine management.

SECTION 5. Definition of Terms. For purposes of these guidelines, the following definition of terms shall be used:

- 5.1 ***Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)*** – a natural resource and environmental management framework which employs an integrative, holistic management approach and integrative planning process in addressing the complex management issues of the coastal area. The major goal is to attain sustainable coastal development including the maintenance of the functional integrity of ecosystems.
- 5.2 ***Locally Managed Marine Protected Area (LMMPA)*** – MPA managed locally by Local Government Units (LGUs) or People's Organizations.
- 5.3 ***Marine Protected Area (MPA)*** – a defined area of the sea established and set aside by law, administrative regulation, or any other effective means in order to conserve and protect a part of or the entire enclosed environment through the establishment of management guidelines. It is considered a generic term that includes all declared areas governed by specific rules or guidelines in order to protect and manage activities within the enclosed area.
- 5.4 ***Marine Protected Area Network (MPAN)*** – a group of adjacent individual MPAs under a common management system based on all or any of the following: physical, biological, governance and socio-economic connectivities.
- 5.5 ***Marine Key Biodiversity Area (MKBA)*** – a nationally identified marine site of global significance to biodiversity.

SECTION 6. Program Management and Supervision. The DENR Executive Committee shall exercise overall management and supervision of the CMEMP. The DENR Regional Offices shall take the lead in the implementation of the Program, with the technical assistance and guidance from the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB). They shall engage in collaborative partnership with other National Government Agencies, LGUs, Academic, Civil Society Organizations, and/or other stakeholders in the implementation of the Program.

SECTION 7. Program Components. The program shall consist of the following components:

- 7.1 **MPA Network Establishment and Strengthening** – this shall provide protection and restoration of degraded coastal and marine habitats essential to the ecological processes and survival of depleted, threatened, rare, or endangered species and population through the establishment of MPA networks. Networking of individual MPAs shall include:
 - 7.1.1 **Assessment, Mapping, and Site selection** – it shall include among others resource assessment, mapping, delineation, and marking of boundaries of coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove areas, mudflats or soft-bottom and associated communities including the identification, characterization and analysis of threats affecting them. This will complement the ongoing assessment efforts covering all NIPAS sites concerned to include areas adjacent to the Pacific and the Western Philippine Sea. Following the assessment is the selection of potential sites for establishing MPAs based on a set of criteria, including bio-geographical, ecological, spatial, social, socio-economic, and political considerations, among others. For MPA networking, ecological, institutional, and social components will be considered.
 - 7.1.2 **Management Plan Development** – this shall include crafting of a sound MPA management plan through full community involvement and multi-stakeholder participation in the development and implementation. This shall also include mainstreaming climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction, and business and financing mechanisms in each MPA/MPANs management plan.
 - 7.1.3 **Maintenance and Protection**– this includes the development schemes to promote cooperation, coordination and partnerships among different stakeholders including the enhancement of existing marine protected areas and MPA Networks to provide support in the protection of coastal and marine ecosystems. It shall also include the repair of damaged and disturbed coastal ecosystems by protecting and allowing ecosystems to recover naturally or use of technologies grounded on scientific basis and consistent with the overall management goals.
- 7.2 **Biodiversity-Friendly Social Enterprise Development** – this shall involve the conduct of economic activities and practices of micro, small and medium enterprises, LGUs and People’s Organizations that promote the sustainable use of coastal and marine biological resources; create wealth and value; and open opportunities for the equitable sharing of benefits among stakeholders. The provision of these livelihood options shall help sustain the community support on all coastal and marine management efforts.
- 7.3 **Capacity Building** – this shall be the training of DENR concerned staff at the national and regional/field offices to develop their skills and expertise on coastal and marine management.
- 7.4 **Technical Assistance** – the capacity building trainings received by the DENR personnel shall be cascaded to the LGUs, other stakeholders, and partners in the

field. The DENR may engage the services of a third party to provide assistance with regards to the sustainable financing or alternative livelihood for the concerned stakeholders.

- 7.5 **Knowledge Management** – a knowledge management platform shall be developed to serve as a repository of all data and information on the coastal and marine ecosystems including the results of the assessments. This shall be used to generate useful information for the management of coastal and marine biodiversity.
- 7.6 **Social Marketing and Mobilization** – a well-designed communication framework, strategies, and approaches shall be developed to promote public awareness, instill social and environmental consciousness and effect behavior change with regard to the coastal and marine ecosystems. This shall include establishment of linkages among all stakeholders, and Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) surveys, among others.
- 7.7 **Monitoring and Evaluation** – the DENR Policy and Planning Service in collaboration with the BMB shall conduct periodic monitoring and assessment of the CMEMP.

SECTION 8. Reporting. The Regional Offices shall prepare and submit periodic reports on the progress and status of Program implementation to the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, copy furnished the Director, BMB.

The DENR shall submit to the Office of the President the National State of the Coast Report every five years from the effectivity of this Order.

SECTION 9. Issuance of Clarificatory Guidelines. The BMB shall develop and issue clarificatory guidelines or technical bulletin to effectively carry out the different components of this Program.

SECTION 10. Funding and Budgetary Requirements. The DENR shall allocate funds to support the full implementation of the CMEMP.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. If any clause, sentence or provisions of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts which are not affected shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. This Order shall supersede DENR Administrative Order No. 2013-12 and other issuances that are inconsistent herewith.

SECTION 13. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) of UP Law Center.



Regina Paz L. Lopez
REGINA PAZ L. LOPEZ
Secretary
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