



OCT 03 2018

DENR Administrative Order
No. 2018 – 21

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE LAWIN FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION SYSTEM AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Pursuant to Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, Presidential Decree No. 705, as amended, Executive Order No. 192, series of 1987 which reorganized the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Republic Act (RA) No. 11038 or the “*Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 (ENIPAS)*”, RA No. 9072 which mandates the management and protection of caves and cave resources, and RA No. 9147 otherwise known as “*Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act*”, Lawin as a national strategy for forest and biodiversity protection in the Philippines is hereby adopted.

Section 1. Basic Policy and Determination. It is the policy of the State to protect, conserve, properly utilize and sustainably manage forest and biological resources to ensure environmental security, serve as an engine for economic growth and socio-cultural development, reduce disaster and climate risks, and improve ecosystem services for the welfare of and equitable benefits of the present and future generations.

Sec. 2. Scope and Coverage. This Order shall cover the implementation of Lawin at all levels within the Department and shall apply to all closed, open, inland terrestrial and mangrove forests in the country regardless of size, use, tenurial condition, and administrative jurisdictions.

Sec. 3. Objectives. This Order aims to adopt the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System as a National Strategy for Forest Biodiversity in the country which will strengthen forest and biodiversity protection through the application of a science-based and technology-aided forest protection system that is relevant to forest and biodiversity management. It also ensures transparency, accountability, and efficiency in forest and biodiversity protection and conservation activities.

Sec. 4. Components of the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System. Lawin has the following components:

4.1. Forest Conservation Area Planning. The Forest Conservation Area Planning is conducted at the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and shall have the following activities.

- a. Analysis of current forest cover;
- b. Identification of conservation objectives;
- c. Formulation of desired future forest condition;
- d. Formulation of measurable conservation targets; and
- e. Identification of strategies and activities to achieve targets.

The Forest Conservation Area Plan shall have a period of not less than five (5) years but not more than ten (10) years.

4.2. Patrol Planning and Implementation. The Patrol Planning and Implementation shall be conducted by the CENRO. The planning shall have the following activities:

- a. Definition of patrol sectors;
- b. Identification of effective and efficient patrol routes;
- c. Organizing patrol teams and assignment to patrol sectors; and
- d. Scheduling of patrols.

Patrol routes must cover strategic locations in the forest conservation area, such as hotspots, critical habitats, and known locations of indicator species.

The patrol plan shall be updated on a quarterly basis.

4.3. Data Management. Management of data shall be done at the field, provincial, regional and national levels of the Department. Data management shall have the following activities:

- a. Transferring of patrol data from the smartphone/tablet to the SMART Desktop;
- b. Syncing the data in SMART Desktop with SMART Connect to the Central Serve hosted by the DENR-KISS; and
- c. Analysis of patrol data together with statistical and spatial reports.

The personnel from the Enforcement and Legal Divisions shall also be involved in the analysis of patrol data in the field offices to aid them in their law enforcement activities. The analyzed patrol data shall be used as reference to update patrol plans, measure patrol performance, measure achievement of conservation targets, track responses to observed threats. It can also be used by the Department as a tool in the development of policies, plans, and programs for the management of forests and biodiversity.

4.4. Response to Threats. Responding to threats should commence with the CENRO, but it can extend to the Provincial, Regional and National Levels of the Department. A Response Protocol shall be developed jointly by the Forest Management Bureau and Biodiversity Management Bureau to guide the patrol teams in responding to threats during and after regular patrols.

Sec. 5. Development of Manuals. The Forest Management Bureau and Biodiversity Management Bureau shall develop manuals, guidebooks, handbooks, and the like in order to provide reference for the implementation of the different components of Lawin. As such, these Bureaus are hereby authorized to amend these manuals whenever necessary without the need of an issuance of a policy.

The manuals shall be distributed to all the field, provincial and regional offices of the Department ensuring that each member of the patrol team has a personal copy. Reprinting of the manuals due to the amendments introduced by the Bureau shall be charged against its regular funds.

Sec. 6. Institutional Arrangements. The responsibilities of the field, provincial, regional and national offices of the Department shall be in accordance with the succeeding provisions:

6.1 CENRO and Implementing PENRO. It is the responsibility of the CENRO or implementing PENRO to:

- a. Designate a Lawin Focal Person, a Patrol Organizer, and a Data Manager;
- b. Prepare and update Forest Conservation Area Plans;
- c. Develop and update Patrol Plans;
- d. Implement the Patrol Plans;
- e. Ensure that adequate personnel, financial and logistical resources are made available to the patrol teams for both regular patrolling and responding to threats;
- f. Appropriately respond to observed threats in coordination with the PENRO and the Regional Office in case of the CENRO, and with the Regional Office alone in case of the implementing PENRO; and
- g. Develop partnerships and networks with the local government units, peoples' organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to augment the coverage of patrolling and implementation of the Forest Area Conservation Plan.

6.2 PENRO and Regional Office. It is the responsibility of the PENRO who are not classified as implementing PENRO and the Regional Office to:

- a. Designate a Lawin Focal Person and a Data Manager;
- b. Regularly download and analyze patrol data from SMART Connect to measure progress in the implementation of the Forest Area Conservation Plan;
- c. Remind CENRO in case of lapses in submission of patrol data, accomplishments of patrol targets, and responses to observed threats;
- d. Ensure adequate financial and logistical resources are made available for the implementation of Lawin; and
- e. Provide support to the CENRO in responding to observed threats.

6.3 National Lawin Unit. The Department shall create a National Lawin Unit to be lodged in the Forest Management Bureau with BMB representative as a member which is responsible to:

- a. Maintain the SMART Connect platform and database;
- b. Perform patrol data quality assessment;
- c. Monitor implementation of Lawin in the regions;
- d. Prepare and update the manuals mentioned in Sec. 5;
- e. Provide technical support and capacity building to implementers of the system;

- f. Prepare monthly reports to be submitted to FMB, BMB and the Department on patrol performance, forest condition, threats observed, responses conducted, and trends in observations of indicator species;
- g. Recommend a set of incentives for outstanding performance in the implementation of Lawin by the field offices; and
- h. Provide FMB and BMB access to the data at the central server for recording, statistical and data analysis purposes.

Sec. 7. Funding. The Department shall allocate regular funds to support the implementation of the provisions of this Order.

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. In case any provision of this Order is declared unconstitutional the remaining provisions which are not declared as such shall remain valid and enforceable.

Sec. 9. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately after publication by the Office of the National Administrative Register of the UP Law Center.


ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary



PUBLICATION; Malaya
October 17, 2018
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT; UP Law Center
October 19, 2018