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**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR  
NO. 2008- 04**

SEP 09 2008

SUBJECT : **THE 2009 UPLAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
(REFORESTATION AND AGROFORESTRY)**

The resources of the DENR for CY 2009 in forest development and management have been substantially reconfigured in order to accelerate the restoration of the environmental service functions of vital watersheds and protected areas. This, in addition to simultaneously catalyzing the improvement of productivity of the uplands, creating incomes for upland poor, mitigating hunger among highly-vulnerable populations, engaging organized upland communities, civil society and local governments in sustainable upland and forest management, and providing the climate for gainful economic production for poor upland dwellers. Hence, the following guidelines are hereby issued for the guidance, information, and strict implementation of all concerned.

**Objectives**

The investments under the Program aim to attain the following objectives:

1. To create **immediate additional incomes** for upland households in support of the **Hunger Mitigation Program**, and supporting the development of sustainable livelihoods;
2. To develop and manage watersheds of irrigation and municipal water systems, headwaters of major river systems, mangrove, coastal zones, protected areas, and protection forestlands;
3. To pump-prime the local economy in the uplands where investments are made;
4. To demonstrate **measurable and verifiable positive effects** on the environmental services, including water, soil conservation, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**Investment Priority Setting and Project Area Selection Criteria**

All projects and development activities to be undertaken under this Program shall be in the following priority areas:

- a) Upland areas of the provinces identified as priority under the Hunger Mitigation Program
- b) Watersheds of irrigation systems and municipal water systems
- c) Headwaters of major river systems
- d) Highly vulnerable protected areas and protection forestlands

- e) Such other areas identified as priority by local communities and LGUs concerned

All things being equal, the final decision on the extent and magnitude of development activities in the areas identified above – and resources applied to – any intervention in any of these areas in a particular municipality, province, or region, shall depend on the level of **committed support and resources** of local stakeholders therein, primarily the LGU, Peoples' Organization(s), and the communities involved. This process of final prioritization should be done in a deliberate and transparent process, but without compromising the timetable and criteria listed below to achieve verifiable results and impacts within the year 2009.

All projects and development activities to be undertaken under this Program, both in terms of location and specific activities, shall be screened and should invariably pass the following criteria:

1. The area(s) where the project or activity(ies) is(are) to be implemented should be in the areas identified above;
2. Subsequent maintenance and expansion of activities after the initial capital investment should thereafter be the responsibility of the implementers on the ground. These projects and activities should not require additional substantial subsidies after 2009, and that project implementers on the ground should be able, and commit, to carry on these initiatives on their own. This is necessary so that public investments are not tied down to the same specific areas year-in and year-out, to the detriment of other areas needing the same public investments infusion. The DENR may, however, subject to post-audit of first-year planting, still allocate funds for the maintenance and protection of areas successfully planted.
3. For projects and activities to qualify for support under the Program, these should show, at the very beginning, that there is **firm and verifiable commitment** from the implementers (POs, LGUs, assisting NGOs) of supported projects and activities that they will carry these forward beyond the subsidy phase.

### **Modalities**

The development of projects and activities shall be pursued through the following modalities:

**Track 1:** Engaging Peoples' Organizations, with CBFMAs, PACBRMA or similar tenurial arrangements, actively involved in the various forms of the Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) Strategy;

**Track 2:** Engaging small-area farm holders, including private small landholders, within the identified priority areas for implementation of appropriate soil and water conservation activities in their landholdings;

**Track 3:** Direct implementation of rehabilitation activities by DENR with local government units, communities and civil society organizations.

### **Development Components**

The following shall be the priority components within the priority areas as listed in the attached Annex A:

1. CBFM project areas in priority provinces targeted under the *Hunger Mitigation Program*.

**Track 1:** *Within CBFMA or PACBRMA area of participating PO: project components eligible for financing under the Program:*

- 1.1 Establishment or improvement of PO nurseries;
- 1.2 Establishment of streambank protection vegetation strips;
- 1.3 Provision of seeds and fertilizers for food and cash crops to individual farmer-member of the CBFM PO;
- 1.4 Provision of seeds or seedlings for fruit and forest tree seedlings for individual farmlots of CBFM PO members, and for community forests and plantations;
- 1.5 Revegetation of other open lands within the CBFM area by direct seeding, seedlings, or assisted natural regeneration;
- 1.6 Expenses of local experts for provision of land and forest fire control training, assisted natural regeneration, and procurement of basic firefighting tools;
- 1.7 Expenses of local experts (e.g., Municipal or Provincial Agriculture Office staff, experts in local college or university, NGO staff) for the provision of extension services for nursery and tree plantations operations, agroforestry and training on agribusiness skills.

For items 1.3 and 1.4, there should be a deliberate effort to relate, as much as possible, the expected products from these components to the raw material requirements of the “**One-Town One-Product**” (OTOP) scheme as identified by the DTI and local government unit wherein the area is located. Field offices of the DENR should consult with their local DTI and LGU counterparts on this.

**Track 2:** *Small farm holdings, within the watershed, of marginal farmers not part of a CBFM project in the area: project components eligible for financing under the Program:*

- 2.1 Establishment of streambank protection vegetation strips;
- 2.2 Provision of seeds and fertilizers for food and cash crops to individual farmer;
- 2.3 Provision of seeds or seedlings of fruit and forest tree species for individual farmlots;

- 2.4 Revegetation of other open lands within the farmlot by direct seeding, seedlings, or assisted natural regeneration;
- 2.5 Encouraging these individual farmer to join CBFM PO.

**Track 3:** *For areas within the same watershed or protected area not eligible through Tracks 1 or 2; project components eligible for financing under the Program:*

- 3.1 Establishment of streambank protection vegetation strips
- 3.2 Revegetation of open lands by direct seeding, seedlings, or assisted natural regeneration
- 3.3 Other feasible rehabilitation activities as identified

Track 3 should, as a general rule, be implemented with the local government units concerned, preferably the Barangay Government, or PAMB in the case of protected areas.

2. Watersheds wherein *Watershed Rehabilitation and Management Plans* are **ready for implementation** (by end of 2008), or are already **in various stages of implementation and within which** there are POs with Community-Based Forest Management Agreements (CBFMAs), PACBRMA or similar tenurial arrangements;

**Track 1:** *Within CBFMA or PACBRMA area of participating PO: project components eligible for financing under the Program:*

- 1.1 Establishment or improvement of PO nurseries
- 1.2 Establishment of streambank protection vegetation strips
- 1.3 Provision of seeds and fertilizers for food and cash crops to individual farmer-member of the CBFM PO
- 1.4 Provision of seeds or seedlings for fruit and forest tree seedlings for individual farmlots of CBFM PO members, and for community forests and plantations
- 1.5 Revegetation of other open lands within the CBFM area by direct seeding, seedlings, or assisted natural regeneration
- 1.6 Expenses of local experts for provision of land and forest fire control training, assisted natural regeneration, and procurement of basic firefighting tools
- 1.7 Expenses of local experts (e.g., Municipal or Provincial Agriculture Office staff, experts in local college or university, NGO staff) for the provision of extension services for nursery and tree plantations operations, agroforestry and acquisition of agribusiness skills

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**Town One-Product”** (OTOP) scheme as identified by the DTI and local government unit wherein the area is located. Field offices of the DENR should consult with their local DTI and LGU counterparts on this.

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- 3.1 Establishment of streambank protection vegetation strips;
- 3.2 Revegetation of open lands by direct seeding, seedlings, or assisted natural regeneration;
- 3.3 Other feasible rehabilitation activities as identified.

Track 3 should, as a general rule, be implemented with the local government units concerned, preferably the Barangay Government, or PAMB in the case of protected areas.

3. PACBRMA or CBFM areas in protected areas and protection forestlands, including coastal and mangrove areas.  
Same as Tracks 1 to 3 above.
4. Watersheds currently in the process of assessment, characterization and watershed planning.  
Same as Tracks 1 to 3 above.

### **Program Management**

The following offices shall be responsible for the various Program elements as follows:

Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations	Implementation by field units on the ground
Office of the Undersecretary for Staff Bureaus	Technical guidance to implementers



Office of Undersecretary for Policy and Planning

Pre- and post-monitoring and performance audit

Office of the Undersecretary for Administrative, Finance and Legal

Financial management and audit

Office of the Undersecretary for Special Concerns and Social Mobilization

Networking with civil society, local governments and academe

**Urgent preparatory activities in 2008**

The DENR field offices, offices and Bureaus concerned shall undertake the following activities in the remaining four months of 2008 which are prerequisites to enable the whole Department and partner organizations to immediately commence implementing Program activities in early 2009:

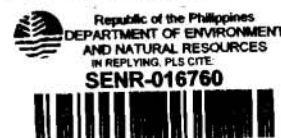
1. Detailed survey and preparation of GIS-generated map of watersheds, coastal, mangrove and protected areas, and the specific areas therein where projects and activities will be implemented in 2009;
2. Preparation and submission of indicative plans, by priority watershed, with corresponding maps, properly georeferenced with related thematic maps, of scale not smaller than 1:20,000, by the end of November 2008;
3. Preparation of 3-year detailed work and financial plans for specific project areas where implementation can immediately commence by first quarter of 2009;
4. Collaborative arrangements, including draft contracts, with CBFM POs and other implementers on the ground, supporting the work and financial plans in #3 above;
5. Rehabilitation and expansion of existing DENR nurseries in preparation for planting stock production for 2009 requirements and beyond;
6. Production of planting stocks in DENR nurseries for planting in 2009;
7. Identification of reliable suppliers of planting stocks (seeds and seedlings) where such stocks can be procured at reasonable prices, for agroforestry;
8. Conduct of information, education and communication.
9. Initiate discussions with Municipal and Provincial Agriculture Offices, and State Colleges and Universities, and other civil society organizations, for collaboration in the provision of technical assistance and extension services to implementing POS.

This Circular takes effect immediately.

  
**JOSE L. ATIENZA JR.**  
Secretary

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September 15, 2008

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September 15, 2008



ANNEX A

Priority Areas for Upland Development and Reforestation Program

Region	Watershed Areas	Protected Areas
CAR	Chico River Watershed Mallig River Watershed Abulog River Watershed Abra River Basin	Upper Agno River Basin Mt. Pulag National Park Mt. Data National Park
CAR and R01	Aringay River Watershed Bued River Watershed	
CAR, R01 & R02	Agno River Watershed Magat River Watershed	
CAR and R02	Zinundungan River Watershed	
R01	Bulu River Watershed Laoag River Vintar River Watershed Buaya River Watershed Amburayan River Watershed	Manleluag Spring PL
R02	Baua River Watershed Dummun River Watershed Casecnan River Watershed Pared River Watershed Pinacanauan de Tuguegarao River Watershed Pinacanauan de San Pablo Watershed Pinacanauan de Tumauni River Watershed	Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Penablanca PLS Casecnan PL
R03	Tarlac River Watershed Upper Pampanga River Watershed Porac-Gumain River Watershed Angat-Maasim River Watershed	Bataan NP Mt. Arayat NP Aurora Memorial NP
R04-A	Balanac River Watershed Mabacan River Watershed Sta. Cruz River Watershed Ylang-ylang River Watershed Palico River Watershed Lagnas River Watershed Dumacao River Watershed Agos River Watershed Calauag Watershed	Mts. Banahaw-San Cristobal PL Mts. Palay-Palay Mataas-Na-Gulod PL Maulawin Spring PL Marikina Watershed Reservation PP 1636 Quezon PL Taal Volcano PL
R04-B	Bansud River Watershed Catuiran-Bucayao River Watershed Baco-Bucayao River Watershed Pula River Watershed	Malampaya Sound PLS Marinduque WS

Region	Watershed Areas	Protected Areas
R04-B (continuation)	Mag-asawang Tubig-Mapalo Rivers Watershed Pagbahan River Watershed Amnay-Patrick River Mongpong River Watershed Cagaray River Watershed Lumintao River Watershed Malasgao River Watershed Mamburao River Watershed Calsanag Watershed Mogpong Watershed	
R05	Ponso Watershed Basay River Watershed Nasisi River Watershed Bublusan Watershed Buhi-Iriga River Watershed Nabua River Watershed Daet River Watershed Talisay River Watershed Sipocot-Pulantuna Watershed Pili River Watershed Tigman River Watershed Hinagyanan River Watershed Inainigan/Inarihan Sabang River Watershed Tubugan River Watershed	Mt. Isarog Bicol NP Mayon Volcano NP Bulusan Volcano NP Catanduanes WFR
R06	Tipuluan River Watershed Mambusao River Watershed Aganan River Watershed Tigum River Watershed Barotac Viejo River Watershed Jalaur River Watershed Jalaur-Suage River Watershed Sibalom River Watershed Bago River Watershed Pagiplan River Watershed Ibajay River Watershed Sibunag Watershed	Mt. Kanlaon Northwest Panay Peninsula NP
R07	Asturias Watershed Tayasan River Watershed Caruod River Watershed Matutinao River Watershed Can-asugan Watershed Senra Bandilaan Watershed	Central Cebu PL
R08	Magon-Bucan River Watershed Bao River Watershed Binahaan River Watershed	



Region	Watershed Areas	Protected Areas
R08 (continuation)	Bitu River Watershed Daguitan River Watershed Mainit River Watershed Salug River Watershed Lina-al River Watershed Jicontol River Watershed Panabog Watershed Catarman Watershed	
R09	Dipolo River Watershed Labangan-Pulusan-Lantian-Tiwagan Rivers Sibuguey-Dipili Rivers Pasonanca Watershed	Buug NBA Pasonanca NP Dumanquillas Bay PLS
R10	Manupali River Muleta-Kulaman River Watershed Roxas Kuya River Watershed Dipolo-Maranding River Watershed Lower Tagoloan Watershed Cugman Watershed Mambajao Watershed Catarman Watershed	Mt. Malindang NP Mt. Kalatungan Range NP Mt. Kitanglad NP Mimbilisan PL Timpoong Hibok-hibok NM
R11	Batutu Watershed Libuganon River Watershed Saug River Watershed Lasang River Watershed Matanao River Watershed Padada River Watershed Sumlog River Watershed Tagugpo Watershed Tuganay-Libuganon Watershed Tamugan-Panigan Watershed Tamugan-Panigan-Lais River Watershed	Mt. Hamiguitan Range WS Mt. Apo NP Mati PL
R12	Malasila River Watershed Allah River Watershed Marbel Watershed Klinal Watershed	Mt. Matutum PL Allah Valley
R13	Cabadbaran River Watershed Taguibo River Simulao River Watershed Caracan River Watershed Maasam Watershed Ihaoan River Watershed Calayagon Watershed Gibong Watershed Surigao Watershed	Cabadbaran-Santiago NP