



Republic of the Philippines
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

Bangsamoro Government Center, Governor Gutierrez Avenue, Rosary Heights VII, Cotabato City 9600

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 000 4₄
Series of 2022

**IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST RESTORATION AND
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (CBFRMP) AS A REGIONAL STRATEGY TO
ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTLAND RESOURCES
WITHIN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION AND PROVIDING
MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2(d) and (x) of Republic Act (RA) No. 11054 or the "*Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*", the Bangsamoro Government shall exercise its authority over the ancestral domain, natural resources, environment, parks, forest management, wildlife, and nature reserves conservation, without prejudice to the general supervision of the President of the Republic of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 3 of RA No. 11054 provides that in order to protect and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants, the development in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region shall be carefully planned taking into consideration the ecological balance and the natural resources that are available for its use and for the use of future generations. The Bangsamoro Government shall promote the effective use of economic resources and endeavor to attain economic development that facilitates growth and full employment, human development, and social justice;

WHEREAS, under Article XIII, Section 3 of RA No. 11054, the Bangsamoro Government shall develop a comprehensive framework for sustainable development through the proper conservation, utilization, and development of natural resources, which shall guide it in adopting program and policy mechanisms that focus on the environment dimensions of social and economic interventions. It shall include measures for environmental justice and governance, as well as for the reduction of the vulnerability of women and marginalized groups to climate change and variability;

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 8 of RA No. 11054 provides that subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bangsamoro Government shall have the power, authority, and right to explore, develop, and utilize the natural resources, including surface and subsurface rights, inland waters, coastal waters, and renewable and nonrenewable resources in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. The protection, conservation, rehabilitation, and development of forests, coastal, and marine resources, including the adoption

of programs and projects, to ensure the maintenance of ecological balance and biodiversity shall be given priority;

WHEREAS, under Book VI, Title III, Chapter 1, Section 1 (3) of the Bangsamoro Autonomy Act (BAA) No. 13 or the "*Bangsamoro Administrative Code*", it is a declared policy of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) to give priority to the protection, conservation, rehabilitation and development of forests, coastal and marine resources, including the adoption of programs and projects to ensure the maintenance of ecological balance and biodiversity;

WHEREAS, under the 1st Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP) 2020-2022, the overall goal of the Bangsamoro Government is to uplift the lives of the Bangsamoro people and the establishment of the foundations necessary to realize its commitment to moral governance;

WHEREAS, the 1st BDP goals identified development goals in contribution to the Global, National, and Mindanao Development Goals and Priorities. Among others, it supports Goal 8 which is to improve ecological integrity, and promote and enhance climate change adaptation, as well as disaster risk reduction to sustain resilience of communities in the region;

WHEREAS, the MENRE allocates funds for its greening activities with an objective to address ultimately the gap of rehabilitation and reforestation efforts and harmonize future greening initiatives;

NOW THEREFORE, I, AHOD B. EBRAHIM, Chief Minister of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the implementation of Community-Based Forest Restoration and Management Program (CBFRMP), thus:

Section 1. Basic Policy. This Executive Order is in pursuance of the 1st Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP) 2020-2022 with the overall goal of uplifting the lives of the Bangsamoro people and the establishment of the foundations necessary to realize the Bangsamoro Government's commitment to moral governance. Among the eight (8) development goals is the improvement of ecological integrity, promotion and enhancement of climate change adaptation, as well as disaster risk reduction to sustain resilience of communities in the region.

Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 8 and 12 of RA No. 11054, the right of Indigenous Peoples to a free, prior and informed consent in relation to development initiatives such as exploration, development, and utilization of the natural resources within the ancestral domains covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title shall be respected.

Section 2. Coverage. The CBFRRMP shall cover denuded and threatened to be deforested forests within the territorial jurisdiction of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region which shall be managed through reforestation and rehabilitation of suitable and acceptable reforestation species.

The CBFRRMP shall introduce acceptable planting materials in complementary with the existing residual forests.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. The following terms are hereby defined:

- a. **Community-Based Forest Restoration and Management Strategy (CBFRMS).** - It refers to the organized efforts of MENRE to work with communities in and near forestlands with the intent to protect, rehabilitate, manage, and conserve local forest resources.
- b. **Community-Based Forest Restoration and Management Program (CBFRMP).** - It refers to any forest development program which adopts the CBFRMS as its core concept.
- c. **Community-Based Forest Restoration and Management Agreement (CBFRMA).** - It refers to an agreement entered into by and between the MENRE and the local community, represented by the people's organization, as forest managers.
- d. **Forestlands** - It refers to lands of public domain which have been classified as such under the Land Classification Program of the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) or MENRE.
- e. **Indigenous Forest Tree Species** - It refers to tree species which have evolved in the same area, region, or biotope where the forest stand is growing and are adapted to the specific ecological conditions predominant at the time of the establishment of the stand.

Section 4. Strategies. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the CBFRRMP, the following shall be observed:

4.1 No cutting or harvesting of any indigenous forest trees. The CBFRRMP shall maintain the condition that no existing indigenous forest trees, nor any future planted indigenous forest trees, will ever be intentionally cut nor harvested.

Tree cutting associated with the cultural practices pursuant to the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA Law) or regional laws of similar import may be allowed, subject to strict compliance with existing guidelines or rules and regulations.

4.2. Establishment of Bamboo Plantations, as a Watershed Reforestation Species. The use of bamboo as a planting material within the denuded forest land shall be allowed. At maturity, only selected bamboo poles will be cut leaving behind the entire aggregate of clumps with their extensive network roots untouched so it can continue to secure the topsoil from erosion and support the growth of the succeeding crop, while allowing for the absorption of rainwater into the underground aquifer.

4.3. Agroforestry Development. The CBFRRMP shall provide opportunities for the sector of informal settlers who continue to persist in this marginalized environment, to relocate them in more suitable and productive areas under a stewardship arrangement and to improve their productivity through technical and material assistance and by encouraging them to adopt a sustainable agroforestry farming practices.

4.4. Formulation of Development Plans. To participate in the CBFRRMP, the CBFRRMA applicant shall prepare and submit three (3) plans, viz:

3.4.1. Marshall Plan (1 year)

3.4.2. Community Resource Development Plan (5 years)

3.4.3. The Community-Based Forest Restoration and Management Framework Plan (CBFRMFPP) (25 years)

4.5. Survey, Mapping, and Planning. A perimeter verification survey of the area shall be conducted by the MENRE through its Forest Management Services (FMS) and Provincial Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Office (PENREO)/ Community Environment and Natural Resources and Energy Office (CENREO) concerned prior to the implementation of development activities.

The perimeter survey shall be complemented with the conduct of three (3) comprehensive studies to be submitted by the approved applicant for the CBFRRMP, thus:

4.5.1. A Socio-Economic Baseline Assessment

4.5.2. A Biodiversity and Ecological Baseline Assessment

4.5.3. A Drone Mapping Survey

4.6. Existing Rights over the Exploration, Development and Utilization of Natural Resources. In accordance with Article XIII, Section 11 of RA No. 11054, existing rights over the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources shall be respected until the expiration of the corresponding leases, permits, franchises, or concessions, unless legally terminated.

Section 5. Management of CBFRRMP. The following general guidelines

shall be observed:

5.1. A CBFRRMP Committee comprising of representatives from different services shall be created.

5.2. The MENRE shall organize a Composite Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Team and provide timely reports. In addition to the composite M&E team, the concerned CENREO, PENREO, and FMS shall conduct quarterly monitoring and annual evaluation.

The reports of the Composite M&E Team and the concerned CENREO, PENREO, and FMS shall be submitted to the Minister of MENRE, copy furnished to the Office of the Chief Minister.

Section 6. Implementing Guidelines. The MENRE shall, within fifteen (15) days from the issuance of this Executive Order, issue the corresponding Implementing Rules and Regulations for the implementation hereof.

Section 7. Funding. The cost necessary for the implementation of this Order shall be charged against the available funds of MENRE, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

Section 8. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. All rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall be valid only until the end of 2022.

DONE in the **City of Cotabato**, this 25 day of March 2022.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Office of the Chief Minister
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR MINISTER
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Name: ABDUL AZIS LU'ALI
Date: MAR 28 2022 Time: 10:12 AM


AHOD B. EBRAHIM,
Chief Minister



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