

<b>Component/MFO1</b>	:	Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>Subcomponent 1.2</b>	:	Surveys and Mapping
		Forestland Boundary Delineation Assessment Project
<b>Responsibility Center</b>	:	Forest Management Bureau

## A. Background

The law that pertains to the classification of all lands of the public domain dates back to 1975 through Presidential Decree 705. Section 17 thereof provides that boundaries between permanent forests and alienable and disposable lands shall be clearly marked and maintained on the ground.

The demarcation on the ground of forestlands is also contained under Section 4, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. It states that the “Congress shall, as soon as possible, determine, by law, the specific limits of forestlands and national parks, marking clearly their boundaries on the ground. Thereafter, such forestlands and national parks shall be conserved and may not be increased nor diminished, except by law”.

The need to delineate forestland on the ground is likewise affirmed through the promulgation of Executive Order No. 318, which was issued on 09 June 2004. Section 2.1 thereof states that, “state forestlands shall be identified, classified and delineated/demarcated on the ground and shall constitute the permanent forest state unless otherwise stipulated by Congress.”

The absence of a defined and delineated forest line had been identified as one of the main reasons for the degradation of our forest through squatting, illegal occupancy, fake and illegal titling, land use conversion, and timber poaching, among others. Thus, DENR Administrative Order 24 has issued on December 8, 2008 which provides the comprehensive and clear guidelines in delineating the boundaries of forestlands, protected areas, and agricultural implementing mechanisms for the assessment and delineation of boundaries between forestlands, national parks and agricultural lands.

Salient features of the said DAO include, among others:

- Collection, compilation, integration and management of available reference maps (topographic maps, land classification (LC) maps, cadastral maps, projection maps, survey plans, etc.) and relevant tabular/textual data and policies, laws, rules and regulations;
- Preliminary forestland assessment making use of parameters for areas needed for forest purposes and field assessment along the existing LC lines (500 meters both sides); and
- Preparation of provincial Draft Bills for DENR Secretary's endorsement to concerned Representative/s of the province/s for sponsorship in Congress.

## **B. Status of Implementation**

All the seventy five (75) provinces (excluding 5 Provinces of ARMM) of about 76,000 kms of boundary lines had been completely assessed and delineated on the ground.

Seventy two (72) Provincial Draft Bills have been submitted by the NADC-TWG Chairperson to the Secretary for endorsement to concerned Congressman. The provinces of Palawan, Mindoro Occidental and Mindoro Oriental are still being reviewed by the NADC-TWG Technical Secretariat. The five (5) Provinces of ARMM are still being surveyed and assessed on the ground.

In 2012, an Omnibus Bill entitled "an act providing for the delineation of the specific limits of the public domain and for other purposes" has been filed to Congress.

The NADC-TWG Technical Secretariat has scheduled series of regional consultation workshops on the issues and concerns raised by concerned LGUs and concerned stakeholders on the results of the FLBD Project to be held in 6 regions (3, 4A, 4B, 10, 13 and CAR) from September to December 2013.

