



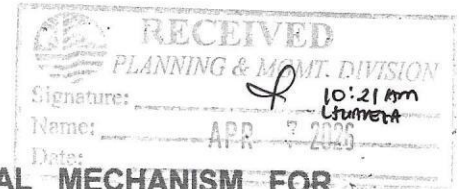
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



BAGONG PILIPINAS

JAN 15 2025

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2025 - 07



**SUBJECT : ESTABLISHING THE INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR
UNDERTAKING NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING IN THE
DENR**

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 11995 also known as the "Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act", Executive Order No. 406 s. 1997 or "Institutionalizing the Philippine Economic-Environmental and Natural Resources Accounting (PEENRA) System and Creating Units Within the Organizational Structure of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB)," Resolution No. 01 s. 2022 of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Statistics (IACENRS) adopting the "Roadmap to Institutionalize Natural Capital Accounting in the Philippines," and consistent with DAO 2023-01 or "Establishment of the National Environment and Natural Resources Geospatial Database under the Office of the Secretary", the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Framework and Plan 2020-2030, and the Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production, this Order on the institutionalization of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in the DENR is hereby issued for the guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology, in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. To this end, the state shall institutionalize Natural Capital Accounting to develop a comprehensive information system and accounting framework that will take into consideration the role and contribution of our natural capital and its impact to the country's economy.

SECTION 2. Objectives. This Order aims to:

- 2.1 Establish mechanisms to institutionalize and mainstream NCA in the DENR and improve coordination among its units;
- 2.2 Provide a system for the generation, collection and compilation of NCA data and development of site-specific accounts to inform policies, plans, programs, and decision-making of the DENR;
- 2.3 Specify the roles and responsibilities of concerned DENR Offices, bureaus and attached agencies in the implementation of NCA in coordination with the other implementing agencies of NCA.

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SECTION 3. Scope and Coverage. As the main producer of NCA data under the PENCAS Act, this Order shall provide guidance on the establishment, adoption, use and mainstreaming of NCA within the DENR and its bureaus and attached agencies using the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central and its subsystems, the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Framework, High Conservation Value Areas (HCVA) Framework or *Sukat ng Kalikasan* and other NCA frameworks and tools adopted by the Interagency Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Statistics (IACENRS) and the PSA Board.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. As used in this Order, the following terms shall be defined as:

- 4.1 Account Compiler – refers to the offices within DENR that shall develop site-specific and area-based ecosystem accounts, particularly in their priority ecosystem sites;
- 4.2 Compile – refers to the entire process of collecting the data inputs, organizing them into the accounts structure, and estimating the accounts;
- 4.3 Data Producers – refers to offices of the DENR and its attached agencies that produce relevant data to develop natural capital accounts and are expected to know the data requirements (i.e. types of information, frequency of collection, and data format and parameters) of the NCA to ensure that the generated information could feed into the national statistical system. Data producers continuously discuss standards and classifications of statistical information to facilitate timely compilation of accounts;
- 4.4 Ecosystem Accounts – describe the environment in terms of sets of mutually exclusive (i.e. non-overlapping) Ecosystem Assets. These assets can be classified by different Ecosystem Types (ET) such as forests, wetlands, cropland etc¹;
- 4.5 Ecosystems Accounting – refers to a coherent framework for integrating measures of ecosystems and flows of services from them with measures of economic and other human activity;
- 4.6 Ecosystem Services – benefits supplied by the functions of ecosystems and received by humanity and all elements of living systems which support life systems on the planet. Ecosystem services consist of provisioning services, regulating and maintenance services, and cultural services;
- 4.7 Natural Capital Accounting – refers to an accounting framework that provides a systematic way of measuring and reporting on stocks and flows of natural capital. NCA covers accounting for individual environmental assets or natural resources, both biotic and abiotic such as water, ores, minerals, energy, timber, and fish, as well as accounting for ecosystem assets, biodiversity, and ecosystem services;
- 4.8 NCA Data Management System - a data management system that is intended for the generation, management, and sharing of NCA data including geospatial data needed for asset and ecosystem account development and production;
- 4.9 NCA Roadmap – refers to the Roadmap to Institutionalize Natural Capital Accounting in the Philippines adopted by the Interagency Committee on

¹ <https://seea.un.org/Introduction-to-Ecosystem-Accounting>

Environment and Natural Resources Statistics (IACENRS) through Resolution No. 01 Series of 2022;

- 4.10 Regulatory Impact Assessment - is a process that helps government agencies evaluate the quality of existing and proposed government regulations or policy options. The assessment should consider all the benefits and costs of enacting regulations and ultimately identify the policy option that would deliver the greatest net benefit²;
- 4.11 System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) - refers to a framework that integrates both economic and environmental data to provide a more comprehensive and multipurpose view of the interrelationships between the economy, the environment and ecosystems, and the stocks and changes in stocks of natural assets, as they bring benefits to humanity;
- 4.12 Users of Accounts - these include almost all offices within the DENR, other government agencies, local government units, and other external stakeholder group that can utilize NCA particularly on using relevant information on the stocks and flows of natural capital, to identify strategies and needed reforms for a particular sector³; and
- 4.13 Valuation – refers to determining the value or worth, in both physical and economic terms, of natural capital and the services it provides at national and subnational levels.

SECTION 5. Applications of NCA. NCA can be used to support policies in a number of contexts. The list below provides a guide to policymakers and other decision makers on how the information generated from NCA such as but not limited to temporal and spatial data can be used within the DENR and its Attached Agencies:

- 5.1 Common platform for evidence-informed and scenario-based planning, investment programming, target-setting, monitoring and evaluation;
- 5.2 As an input to issuing permits or clearances for extractive activities;
- 5.3 As an input to DENR planning tools such as Integrated Watershed Management Plan, Forest Land Use Plans, Protected Area Management Plan, and evaluation tools such as Environmental Impact Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment, comparative analysis of alternative natural resource management options, greening the value chain and enhancing the circular economy;
- 5.4 As an input to Regulatory Impact Assessment;
- 5.5 As basis for Ecosystem Valuation (e.g. Lands, Water Resources, Timber Resources, Forests, Coastal areas, Marine, and Wildlife) and setting up innovative financing instruments such as payments for ecosystem services;
- 5.6 As basis for Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery;
- 5.7 As basis for Environmental Damages/Fines/Penalties, fees and charges of tenurial instruments, and all other economic instruments being formulated and managed by DENR;
- 5.8 Input to decision-making for establishment of Protected Areas, Environmentally Critical Areas, Buffer Zones, Critical Habitats, and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures;

² Regulatory Impact Assessment Manual, Anti-Red Tape Authority

³ Roadmap to Institutionalize Natural Capital Accounting in the Philippines 2022-2040

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- 5.9 As an input in the Climate Change Information Management System to support the development of strategies to address climate change and its impact to the environment and natural resources sector;
- 5.10 Basis of Quasi-Judicial Bodies in monitoring of permits and imposing penalties;
- 5.11 Loss and Damage Accounting and Reporting in the ENR Sector including identification of possible costs of responding to said losses and damages;
- 5.12 As input and insight for financial decisions such as reforming incentives, mobilizing public and private finance, and mainstreaming green investments and policies; and
- 5.13 Other uses to be identified.

SECTION 6. Reconstitution of the NCA Technical Working Group (TWG).
The membership and the functions of the NCA TWG, as created under Special Order (SO) No. 2021-315 or "Creation of a Technical Working Group for the Institutionalization of Natural Capital Accounting in the DENR," is hereby modified as follows:

- Chairperson:** Assistant Secretary Supervising Policy and Planning
- Co-Chairperson:** Director, Policy and Planning Service (PPS)
Director, Knowledge and Information Systems Service (KISS)
- Members:** Chief, PPS-Planning and Programming division
Chief, PPS-Policy Studies Division
Chief, PPS-Program Monitoring and Evaluation Division
Chief, KISS-Statistics and Data Resource Management Division
Chief, FASPS-Project Preparation Division
Chief, CCS-Climate Change Information and Technical Support Division
Chief, HRDS-Training and Development Division
Chief, BMB-National Parks Division
Chief, BMB-Biodiversity Policy and Knowledge Management Division
Chief, EMB-Policy, Planning and Program Development Division
Chief, ERDB-Planning and Information and Communications Technology Division
Chief, FMB-Forest Policy, Planning and Knowledge Management Division
Chief, FMB-Forest Resources Conservation Division
Chief, LMB-Land Policy and Planning Division
Chief, MGB-Mineral Economics Information and Publication Division
Chief, MGB – Mining Technology Division
Chief, PCSDS-ECAN Monitoring and Evaluation Division
Chief, NWRB-Policy and Program Division

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Chief, LLDA-Policy Planning and Information Management Division
Chief, NAMRIA-Resource Data Analysis Branch
Chief, SCIS – Development Communications Division
Representative, Office of the Asst. Sec. Supervising Policy and Planning
Representative, Office of the Asst. Sec. Supervising Information Systems
Representative, Geospatial Database Office (GDO)
Representative, Water Resources Management Office

The NCA TWG shall have the following functions:

- 6.1 Review and analyze outputs, recommendations and best practices from past initiatives and research on NCA;
- 6.2 Develop technical guidance notes on data generation, data collection, data handling, data sharing, security and privacy, data management protocols, methodologies, and process flow as directed by Section 10 of this Order;
- 6.3 Develop NCA Implementation Plan for the DENR with specific activities and indicators, budget and timeline consistent with the NCA Roadmap;
- 6.4 May create sub-TWGs to implement the specific activities in the NCA Work Program;
- 6.5 Develop appropriate policy issuances for NCA implementation;
- 6.6 Provide immediate support and technical guidance on NCA within the DENR and its attached agencies to achieve priority activities;
- 6.7 Conduct Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and disseminate Knowledge Products and other related outputs aligned with the NCA Communication Plan;
- 6.8 Coordinate closely with other agencies and provide inputs to the Technical Working Group on NCA established under the IACENRS;
- 6.9 Serve as a forum for discussion and resolution of issues and concerns in natural capital and ecosystem statistics and accounts;
- 6.10 Perform other functions as may be assigned by the NCA Steering Committee or the DENR Executive Committee (EXECOM), or the Secretary.

The Secretary may make any modifications to the membership of the NCA TWG.

SECTION 7. Roles of NCA Players in the DENR and its Attached Agencies

- 7.1 **Data Producers.** These shall be comprised of the following offices: Regional Offices, PENROs, CENROs, Bureaus, NAMRIA, NWRB, PCSDS, LLDA, Geospatial Data Office, and Protected Area Management Office (if within Protected Area). They shall:
 - 7.1.1 Collect and gather the necessary data for the production and development of priority site-specific ecosystem accounts. The collection of data may involve other relevant agencies, the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, indigenous peoples, and local communities;

- 7.1.2 Allocate funds and program activities for data collection activities, as needed; and
 - 7.1.3 Provide the natural capital and/or ecosystem account data requirements requested by Philippine Statistics Authority to KISS.
- 7.2 **Account Compilers.** These shall be comprised of the following offices: KISS, Geospatial Data Office, Bureaus, PCSDS, LLDA, and NWRB. They shall:
- 7.2.1 Develop and/or improve the methodologies used encompassing data generation/data collection to account compilation based on existing guidelines on NCA and ecosystem valuation, in coordination with the PSA;
 - 7.2.2 Harmonize concepts, definitions, and classification systems and ensure methodologies used are aligned with the SEEA Central and Ecosystem Accounting Frameworks, in coordination with the PSA;
 - 7.2.3 Distinguish the data requirements and its availability for the priority ecosystem services in the site-specific ecosystem accounting area;
 - 7.2.4 Process and analyze the NCA data to derive statistics and indicators;
 - 7.2.5 Compile the site-specific Ecosystem Account in coordination with the Philippine Statistics Authority to avoid duplication of works;
 - 7.2.6 Compile Ecosystem Accounts for their respective sectors;
 - 7.2.7 Provide access and disseminate the relevant data available to Users of Accounts; and
 - 7.2.8 Harmonize existing data collection tools and integration of various data from Data Producers, among others, for the development of Ecosystem Accounts;
- 7.3 **Users of Accounts.** NCA can be used by almost all offices within the DENR, other national government agencies, local government units, as well as other external stakeholder groups such as the Academe, private sector, and non-governmental organizations. Within the DENR Users of Accounts include but are not limited to the following offices: DENR Management, PPS, CCS, Bureaus, Attached Agencies Regional Offices, EIA practitioners and reviewers, and all other relevant Offices. They shall:
- 7.3.1 Conduct dissemination activities to create awareness on the ecosystem accounts;
 - 7.3.2 Identify the emerging policy issues relevant to NCA;
 - 7.3.3 Develop policy notes and policy briefs from the outputs of NCA to support policy development, address challenges and seize opportunities in the climate change and ENR sectors; and
 - 7.3.4 Decide regulatory issues such as, but not limited to, permits, licenses, and deeds.

SECTION 8. Creation of an NCA Unit in the PPS, KISS, GDO, Bureaus, PCSDS, LLDA, NWRB, NAMRIA, Regional Office, PENRO and CENRO. In order to fully institutionalize NCA in the DENR, NCA Units shall be created in the PPS, KISS, GDO, Bureaus, PCSDS, LLDA, NWRB, NAMRIA, Regional Office, PENRO, and CENRO. Staff from these units may include Planning Officers, Economists, Statisticians and Information Analysts (GIS Specialist), among others. Within three (3) months from the approval of this Order, the aforesaid offices shall submit to the PPS-

Planning and Programming Division their proposed staffing pattern to augment their human resources in preparation for the full implementation of NCA. The PPS and HRDS shall then review and endorse the same to the Secretary for approval, through the Undersecretaries supervising Policy and Planning, Information Systems, and Human Resources. The approved staffing pattern shall then be endorsed to the DBM by the Secretary.

While waiting for approval of plantilla positions for the NCA Unit the PPS, KISS, Bureaus, PCSDS, LLDA, NWRB, NAMRIA, Regional Office, PENRO, and CENRO may hire human resources for the NCA Unit under Contract of Service (COS).

In the Regional Office, the NCA Unit shall report to the Planning and Management Division. The NCA Unit of the PENRO shall be under the Planning Section. In the CENRO, it shall report directly to the CENR Officer.

SECTION 9. Regional NCA Structure.

9.1 Regional Data Producers. The approach to data production within the Region shall be in a composite team, which shall be composed of the following offices: Planning and Management Division, Enforcement Division, Licenses Patents, and Deeds Division, Survey and Mapping Division, Conservation and Development Division, PENROs and the CENROs, Protected Area Management Office (if within protected areas). The Research Centers of the ERDB, EMB Regional Offices, and MGB Regional Offices may also be tapped, as necessary. The composite team shall:

- 9.1.1 Gather the necessary data for the development of natural capital and/or ecosystem account in their respective region;
- 9.1.2 Provide data and inputs to the Central Office, GDO, and Bureaus for the natural capital and/or ecosystem account; and
- 9.1.3 Allocate funds and program activities for data collection.

9.2 Regional Account Compilers. The NCA Units in the Regional Office and the PENRO shall serve as the regional account compiler and shall:

- 9.2.1 Assist in the compilation of site-specific ecosystem accounts located in their respective regions;
- 9.2.2 Maintain the copy of the data gathered by the data producers and existing ecosystem accounts from DENR and other agencies in their respective regions;
- 9.2.3 Provide initial data analysis for regular update; and
- 9.2.4 Participate in harmonization of the existing data collection tools in collaboration with Central Office and Bureaus and integration of various environment and natural resources data for the development of Environmental Asset and Ecosystem Accounts.

9.3 Regional Users of Accounts. These shall comprise of the following offices: Regional Offices, PENROs, CENROs, Protected Area Management Board, other Management Bodies, and all other Offices to further the discharge of their respective mandate. They shall:

- 9.3.1 Conduct dissemination activities to create awareness on the ecosystem accounts; and
- 9.3.2 Decide regulatory issues such as, but not limited to, permits, licenses, and deeds.

SECTION 10. Development of DENR NCA Implementation Plan and Technical Guidance Notes. An NCA Implementation Plan (ImPlan) and Technical Guidance Notes shall be developed and prepared to guide the actual implementation, data generation, data collection, data management, tools and methods, data handling protocols including but not limited to data sharing, security and privacy. The NCA ImPlan and Technical Guidance Notes shall be aligned to various frameworks and tools related to NCA, such as the SEEA Ecosystems Accounting, High Conservation Value Areas (HCVA) Framework or *Sukat ng Kalikasan*, including the Natural Resources Geospatial Database maintained by the GDO.

The NCA TWG, in coordination with concerned offices, agencies and institutions, shall develop the Guidance Notes and support policies within two (2) years upon effectivity of this Order. The SCIS, in coordination with the DENR NCA TWG, shall ensure the wide availability of such technical guidance notes to relevant stakeholders, as well as other government agencies, partners, and stakeholders involved in natural capital accounting initiatives.

The NCA TWG shall also develop the DENR NCA ImPlan which will contain the specific short- and long-term activities with indicators, budget, and timeline for its implementation within one (1) year upon effectivity of this Order.

In the interim, while the technical guidance notes are being developed, the data generated in priority ecosystem sites may be utilized for policy, planning and decision-making, particularly at the local level. The data generated may also undergo data validation, if deemed necessary.

SECTION 11. NCA Data Management System. The KISS, in coordination with the Geospatial Data Office and other relevant offices and agencies, shall develop and administer the NCA Data Management System, building on the National Environment and Natural Resources Geospatial Database and other existing information systems within the DENR. The NCA Data Management System serve as the central repository of NCA data, including geospatial data needed for asset and ecosystem account development and production. The NCA Data Management System should take into consideration the interoperability with the systems of partners such as NEDA and PSA. Data sharing protocols with NEDA, PSA and other government agencies and/or guidelines for the submission of the accounts shall also be developed by the KISS, in coordination with relevant offices.

SECTION 12. DENR Research Agenda. The major components of the DENR Research Agenda shall be informed by the NCA. The Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau shall regularly conduct research to improve effective and efficient use of NCA tools, and in integrating existing data and data collection tools and systems developed by DENR bureaus and its Attached Agencies.

SECTION 13. Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism. Collaboration and close engagement with various stakeholders, including but not limited to government

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agencies, Academic Institutions, the scientific community, International Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, indigenous peoples, local communities, and the private sector on research is highly encouraged, for the establishment of the NCA Community of Practice which can serve as a learning platform that brings together professionals that are involved in or working on NCA. DENR may solicit input, as needed, from various stakeholders in any of the stages of NCA, including data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

All data, information, research papers, studies, reports, shall be made widely available to the public to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in decision-making processes related to natural capital accounting.

SECTION 14. Capacity Building. Comprehensive and programmatic capacity building programs shall be developed by DENR HRDS to capacitate the units, offices, attached agencies, and field offices concerned in the implementation of NCA. The DENR HRDS is hereby tasked to:

- 14.1 Conduct Training Needs Assessment;
- 14.2 Draft the Capacity Building Plan;
- 14.3 Develop and implement training modules/programs based on the Indicative Training Program on NCA in Appendix C of the NCA Roadmap and other topics, as needed;
- 14.4 Incorporate the training modules as a specialized course under the Environment and Natural Resources Academy; and
- 14.5 Collaborate and support DENR and its Field Units in engaging academic institutions, international organizations, and Civil Society Organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, among others, towards capacity building and development of the accounts as well as the use of natural capital and ecosystem accounts.

SECTION 15. Funding. The DENR shall allocate funds for the implementation of this Order. Offices concerned herein shall allocate and provide funds for their respective NCA activities. The Planning Guidelines shall incorporate the allocation of funds for the creation and operation of NCA Units under the Regional Offices, PENROs, and CENROs. This shall include but not limited to the hiring of personnel, applications software, and associated equipment (e.g. desktop, laptop, GPS/geotagging devices, etc.).

SECTION 16. Transitory Provision. Prior to the full implementation and mainstreaming of NCA in the DENR, the following provisions shall apply:

- 16.1 **Creation of the NCA Steering Committee.** There is hereby created an NCA Steering Committee, which shall be composed of the following members:

Chairperson: Supervising Undersecretary for Policy and Planning

Co-Chairpersons Supervising Undersecretary for Information Systems

Undersecretary for Integrated Environmental Science

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Members

- Supervising Undersecretary for Field Operations
- Administrator, National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
- General Manager, Laguna Lake Development Authority
- Executive Director, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff
- Executive Director, National Water Resources Board
- Supervising Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning
- Supervising Assistant Secretary for Information Systems
- Director, Policy and Planning Service
- Director, Knowledge and Information Systems Service
- Director, Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service
- Director, Climate Change Service
- Director, Human Resource Development Service
- Director, Strategic Communications and Initiatives Service
- Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau
- Director, Environmental Management Bureau
- Director, Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
- Director, Forest Management Bureau
- Director, Land Management Bureau
- Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau
- Executive Director, River Basin Control Office

The NCA Steering Committee shall:

- 16.1.1 Set priority Ecosystem Accounts to be developed including identification of Ecosystem Services for policy work and management decisions;
- 16.1.2 Provide guidance and recommend supporting policy issuances for the institutionalization and operationalization of NCA in the DENR;
- 16.1.3 Review and approve proposed NCA Projects and priority sites for development of accounts;
- 16.1.4 Oversee and be responsible for the implementation of the NCA Roadmap within the DENR; and
- 16.1.5 Supervise the drafting of the Technical Guidance Notes, and the development of the ImPlan on Natural Capital Accounting, as prescribed by Section 10 of this Order.

Upon the full implementation of this policy, the NCA Steering Committee shall be dissolved and its roles and responsibilities shall be transferred to the DENR EXECOM.

- 16.2 **NCA Steering Committee Secretariat.** The PPS, together with the KISS, and the Geospatial Database Office shall serve as the Secretariat of the NCA Steering Committee. The NCA Steering Committee Secretariat shall

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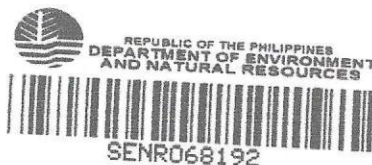
also serve as the NCA TWG Secretariat. They shall have the following roles and responsibilities:

- 16.2.1 Coordinate the implementation of NCA Activities of DENR and its Attached Agencies, Bureaus and Field Offices;
- 16.2.2 Collaborate with NEDA, PSA and other government agencies, and the TWG NCA of the IACENRS involved in the implementation of the NCA Roadmap;
- 16.2.3 Facilitate the improvement of data system on environmental statistics;
- 16.2.4 Coordinate meetings, prepare correspondences and keep record of minutes of meetings and reports on the work of the NCA Steering Committee and TWG;
- 16.2.5 Ensure timely dissemination of information regarding meeting reports, updates, and initiatives undertaken by the TWG NCA under the IACENRS to the DENR NCA TWG;
- 16.2.6 Monitor the progress and implementation of NCA Roadmap and the NCA ImPlan within DENR and submit annual progress reports to the Steering Committee;
- 16.2.7 Provide feedback on the updating of the NCA Roadmap; and
- 16.2.8 Perform other functions as may be assigned by the NCA Steering Committee and/or higher authorities.

SECTION 17. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions thereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 18. Repealing Clause. All other orders, circulars, memoranda and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 19. Effectivity Clause. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administration Registrar, University of the Philippines Law Center.



MARIA ANTONIA YULO LOYZAGA

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