

## **MANP PAMB RESOLUTION No. 2016-03**

### **RESOLUTION APPROVING MT. APO NATURAL PARK TRAIL and CAMP MANAGEMENT POLICY and MASTERPLAN**

**WHEREAS**, Mt. Apo Natural Park, the country’s highest peak is subject to the implementing rules and regulation of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Law and the Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP), which declares that, its use and enjoyment must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development;

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Units of Davao City, Sta. Cruz, Digos City, Bansalan, Makilala, Kidapawan City and Magpet including all Barangays and Tribal Communities within MANP are tasked to protect this natural wealth, through regulation of activities conducted therein such as mountaineering and implementing policies to all campsites in Mt. Apo Natural Park

**WHEREAS**, the MANP-PAMB recognizes roles each all stakeholders especially IP communities and women in managing and protecting the Mt. Apo Natural Park;

**WHEREFORE**, premises considered, be it enacted by the Mount Apo Natural Park Protected Area Management Board Trail and Camp Management Policy and Maspterplan for Mount Apo Natural Park:

- A. Official Camp Sites of Mt. Apo Natural Park.** The following are designated campsites along the trekking trails in the 6 LGUs in Mt. Apo Natural Park:
1. Sibulan Trail, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
    - a. Base Camps
      - i. Colan Base Camps
      - ii. Tinikaran 1 Base Camp
      - iii. Tinikaran 2 Base Camp
    - b. Emergency Camps
      - i. Basakan Camp
      - ii. Almasiga Camp
      - iii. Big Rock Camp
      - iv. Gabrok Camp
      - v. 87 Degrees Camp
  2. Kapatagan Trail, Digos City, Davao del Sur
    - a. Base Camps
      - i. Paradise Base Camp
      - ii. Goody Goody Base Camp

- b. Emergency Camps
    - i. Upper Baroring Camp
    - ii. White Sand Camp
- 3. Balutakay Trail, Bansalan, Davao del Sur
  - a. Base Camps
    - i. Obo Base Camp
    - ii. Reyes Base Camp
  - b. Emergency Camp
    - i. Bobo Camp
- 4. New Israel Trail, Makilala, North Cotabato
  - a. Base Camps
    - i. Makalangit Base Camp
  - b. Emergency Camps
    - i. Maag Camp
    - ii. Zion Camp
- 5. Mandarangan Trail, Kidapawan City
  - a. Base Camps
    - i. Koong Sub Camp
    - ii. Venado Base Camp
  - b. Emergency Camps
    - i. Matiao Camp
    - ii. Sinupa Camp
- 6. Bongolanon Trail, Magpet
  - a. Base Camps
    - i. Tausuvan Base Camp
    - ii. Linanggasan Base Camp
    - iii. Bobong Base Camp
  - b. Emergency Camps
    - i. Anos Camp
    - ii. Uwayanon Camp

**B. Alternate and/or additional campsites.** The respective LGU Tourism Office and the Barangay Council that covers each trail shall identify alternate and or additional campsites and shall be subject for PAMB approval. Changes in campsites shall be discussed with the Barangay Council concerned with proper consultation among stakeholders in the BLGU.

**C. Users of Camps.** The following are the expected users of the camps.

- 1. Eco tourists including trekkers, bird watchers, etc.;
- 2. Researchers;
- 3. Law enforcers, LAWIN and BMS patrollers;
- 4. Other users that will be allowed by the LGU, PAMB and DENR for other legal, technical and special purpose.

**D. Camp Management.** Base Camps and Emergency Camps currently in use along the established trails of the different LGUs may be managed by concerned Barangays covering the trail and/or LGUs under the Office of the Chief Executive depending on the agreement on implementing parties

**E. Responsibilities of organization in-charge in camp management.** Those assigned to manage camps shall be accountable, but not limited, to the following responsibilities:

1. Organize and lead Camp Management Team;
2. Designate, appoint and/or hire Camp Manager/s that will lead the Camp Management Team;
3. Regularly monitor the performance of the Camp Manager/s;
4. Include women groups and leaders in camp management (consultation, operations, specific camp rules and events within the camp, etc);
5. Ensure consultation with and involvement of Tribal Council in Camp management activities specifically but not limited to ELE, cultural activities promoting IP culture and religious rituals;
6. Organize a feedback mechanism among camp users and camp managers to enhance quality of camp management services;
7. Review and respond to recommendations of different stakeholders for the improvement of camp management services;
8. Recommend policies geared towards improving enforcement of camp management policy, the MANP common trekking policy and safety and comfort of camp users;
9. Allocate budget for costs that will be incurred in managing the camps within the Barangay including honoraria and/or professional services of the Camp Management Team;
10. Collect and account for Camp Management Fees in accordance to accounting rules set by Commission on Audit and Department of Interior and Local Government;
11. Issue Permit to Camp to camp users upon payment.

**F. Designation/Appointment of Camp Managers**

1. Camp Managers shall be appointed to do responsibilities as outlined in Section G.
2. Camp Managers must have at least the following qualifications:
  - a. Resident of the Barangay where the camp is located;
  - b. At least High School Graduate, regardless of gender;
  - c. Able to communicate with different stakeholders;
  - d. Strong familiarity of the trails from base camps to emergency camps;
  - e. Should be a Deputized Park Ranger or should under go deputation process with DENR.
  - f. Should be a trained Mt. Guide or undergo tourism training of the LGU;

**G. Responsibilities of Camp Managers.** Camp Managers will have, but not limited to, the following primary responsibilities:

1. Implement proper solid waste management in camp sites to ensure zero waste policy in each camp site;
2. Ensure availability of clean and safe water supply hence regulation of use of water from springs, brooks and streams;
3. Formulate house/camp rules within the camp and ensure implementation of the camp rules thereof;
4. Conduct camper's orientation upon arrival including IP culture relevance. The following should be included, but not limited to, the camper's orientation:
  - a. Overview of 7 principles of Leave No Trace
    - i. Plan Ahead and Prepare, Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces, Dispose of Waste Properly, Be Considerate of Other Visitors, Minimize Campfire Impacts, Respect Wildlife, Leave What You Find.
  - b. Enforce Curfew or Quiet hours: Recommended time periods shall be agreed by the local communities and camp managers.
  - c. Orientation on the IP culture of the tribe and respect for the IP culture;
  - d. Smoking Rules - Designated smoking areas or Strictly no smoking depending upon the discretion of the Barangay;

5. Monitor and implement camp rules;
6. Maintain peace and order through BPAT if necessary;
7. Report and provide feedback to the Tourism Office of the LGU and/or DENR on relevant issues arising during camping/trekking season for appropriate action;
8. Maintain sanitary conditions in comfort areas mindful of proper disposal of human waste;
9. Inspect ID and permit to climb issued by LGU;
10. Issue apprehension ticket to trekkers without Trek ID or Permit to Climb
11. Document (written reports, photos) cases of violation on Common Trekking Policy and MANP Camp Management Policy;
12. Report climbers without trek/camp permits to the LGU and DENR;
13. Ensure that no flora and fauna are destroyed within the vicinity of the of the camp;
14. Designate areas for tent pitching, comfort areas (with tents), water sources, among others;
15. Randomly check camper tents for items not allowed in the park (fireworks, knives longer than 3 inches, drugs, etc);
16. Confiscate items that are not allowed in the park;
17. Inspect Permit to Climb and Permit to Sell of vendors in the base camps where vending is allowed;
18. Identify where Barangay accredited vendors shall conduct their business within the camp sites;
19. Conduct inventory of goods of vendors;
20. Enforce rules regarding the trade of Barangay accredited vendors in accordance to the limit of vendors within each camp site allowed in this policy;
21. Other responsibilities that the BLGU may assign.

**H. Structures in Trail and Camps.** Government units managing the camps shall be allowed to install eco-friendly structures and amenities depending on the desired trail and camp class of each camp as stipulated in the Mt Apo Trail and Camp Management Standards and Masterplan (Annex 1).

**I. Booking of Campers.** Booking of campers shall be through the following offices and or agencies depending on the type of camp users;

1. Local Tourism Office - Eco tourists including trekkers, bird watchers, etc;
2. DENR/PASU – Researchers;
3. DENR/PASU and/or LGU - Cause Oriented Groups;
4. DENR/PASU and/or LGU - Law enforcers, BMS and LAWIN Patrollers;
5. DENR/PASU and/or LGU - Other users that will be allowed by the LGU, PAMB and DENR for other legal, technical and special purposes;

**J. Fees**

**1. Trekking Fee**

**a. Entry Fee.** Entry fee shall be collected to all trekkers . Amount shall vary depending on the trekking season:

- i.** Peak Season (Holy Week) – One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP1,500) per person
- ii.** Off Peak – One Thousand Pesos (PhP 1,000) per person

**b. Exit Fee.** Trekkers who opted to exit on another trail will be collected an Exit fee of P1500 per person during the peak season and P1,000 per person during off peak season

**2. Camping Fees.** Fees shall be collected to all users of camping facilities. Camping fee shall be **Five Hundred Pesos (PhP500.00)** per person per trail. If a trekker opts to

cross trail from one LGU trail to another LGU trail from the Peak, he/she shall indicate beforehand his intention to use the camps in the succeeding trail and pay the appropriate fees. Otherwise the trekking fee shall only apply.

- K. Adjustments in Trekking and Camping Fees.** LGUs has an option to increase fees depending on the development or facilities/structures installed in camps and trails. Fee adjustments must be approved by the PAMB and must be supported by a Local Ordinance within the City or Municipality.
- L. Exemption on Payment of Camping Fees.** Exemption of payment of fees shall be mutually agreed and approved by the PAMB, LGU Tourism Office, Barangay LGU and IP Tribal Council. Camp Fee Exemption Certificate shall be issued to requesting group with list of names of the camp users.
- M. Collection of Camping Fees.** Camping fees shall be collected by the LGU Treasurer.
- N. Issuance of Permit to Camp.** Permit to camp shall be issued to camp users upon payment of camp fees or presentation of Camp Fee Exemption Certificate. Permit to Camp will be issued by the LGU.
- O. Sharing System of Camp and Trekking Fees.** Gross collection of camp fees shall be shared with the following scheme:
1. DENR/IPAF – 25%
  2. IP Tribal Council – 15%
  3. LGU – 30% (Management of Camps and Trails within LGU)
    - a. Barangay – 20%
    - b. LGU – 10%
  4. LGU – 30% (Management of Lake Venado and Peak Camp)
- P. Common and Combined Trekking Fee.** A common combined trekking and camp fee will be assessed for each individual trekker who will camp within Mt. Apo National Park. This fee will be, in large part, based upon the long term maintenance and operating cost of managing the camps and trails. These costs will be determined by the camp and trail classification and the corresponding management standards agreed upon for each class.
- Q. Camp Fire Prevention Policies**
1. Cooking shall only be done using portable burners. Use of firewood is strictly prohibited (unless approved by the LGU for IP use only);
  2. Camp fires are strictly prohibited in all camp sites of Mt. Apo;
  3. No fireworks allowed;
  4. All trails and campsites may be closed during dry season and absence of rain for at least 2 months. Fire and open flame cook stoves may be banned for temporary periods during these periods. There will be 3 distinct stages of fire bans during the dry season.
    - a. **Stage 1 Fire Ban**= No campfires that require the use of wood. This is a strict fire ban on all campfires with no exceptions for IP's or administrative use (DENR, PASU, etc.). Stage 1 imposes relatively minor restrictions aimed at preventing the start of wildfires based on human activities that are known to be high risk, specifically smoking and campfires. The following acts are prohibited:
      - i. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire or campfire.
      - ii. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building

- b. **Stage 2 Fire Ban**= In addition to a ban on campfire with wood, Stage 2 prohibits the use of stoves with portable burners. In stage 2, guides, porters and all trekkers will have to provide only cold meals throughout entire trip. The decision to move to Stage 2 will involve a risk/benefit assessment, as well as consideration of economic and social impacts. The following are prohibited, in addition to prohibitions of Stage 1:
    - i. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire
    - ii. Use of any type of portable stove with a burner.
    - iii. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
  - c. **Stage 3 Fire Ban**= Stage 3 is an all-out ban on trekking and visitor use within the Mt. Apo Natural Park. This will constitute an indefinite temporary closure when fire conditions are extremely high and the ability to manage those risks using Stage 1 or Stage 2 restrictions are no longer viable. The social, economic, and political impacts of implementing a closure at this point are outweighed by the benefits associated with virtually eliminating the potential for human-caused fire starts. The area is closed to all entry other than as follows:
    - i. Persons with a written entry and activity contract/permit/agreement that specifically authorizes the otherwise prohibited act.
    - ii. Any government officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
    - iii. Resident owners and tenants of land within the closed area.
5. Forest guards/deputized park rangers shall be deployed by the respective BLGUs on the campsites, to enforce fire restrictions during a decided upon stage restriction.

#### **R. Other Camp Prohibitions**

- 1. Littering/Vandalism/Illegal cutting is strictly prohibited
- 2. Collecting/ destroying flora and fauna is strictly prohibited
- 3. Collecting of remnants of previous forest fires, i.e., fallen trunks of old trees is prohibited, as these forms part of the historical manifestations of the mountain;
- 4. Nobody is allowed to bring knives/bolos with blade that is more than 3 inches. Knives that have more than 3-inch blade shall be temporarily confiscated by Camp Managers and shall be returned to its owner after the trek. Trekkers who will exit at another trail shall be responsible to get the knife/bolo from its trail of entry
- 5. Indecent practices (e.g. nudity) is strictly prohibited in trails and campsites

#### **S. Vendors.** Vendors shall only be allowed to conduct selling activities with the following provisions:

- 1. Vending shall only be allowed on the following campsites
  - a. Tinikaran 1 Base Camp
  - b. Goody Goody Base Camp
  - c. Venado Base Camp (*Prohibited sale of Alcohol at Venado Camp*)
- 2. Maximum of 10 vendors at a time shall be allowed per campsite stated on P.1.
- 3. Vendors shall be allowed only during peak season (March to June) for a maximum of 30 days per vendor
- 4. Vendors shall be required to secure Permit to Sell from the Office of the Barangay Captain and shall pay necessary fees that the Barangay has established
- 5. Vendors shall be required to secure Permit to Climb from its Local Tourism Office.
- 6. Two persons per vending family shall be given Permit to Climb free of charge. In excess of two, vending family shall pay appropriate trekking fees per person.

7. Vendors shall present its Permit to Sell and Permit to Climb to the Camp Manager prior to selling any products or services.
8. Vendors shall subject their goods for inspection and inventory to the Camp Manager during entry and exit
9. Vendors shall be responsible to manage and collect solid wastes generated from goods sold
10. Vendors shall only be allowed to use tents to store and sell products. No permanent or temporary store structure shall be constructed or installed in the campsites.
11. Vendors shall strictly abide to the Camp rules set by the Camp Managers and PAMB in each camp site
12. Vending is strictly prohibited at the Peak or Summit
13. Selling of items stated but not limited to items below are strictly prohibited:
  - a. Firecrackers, fireworks or any form of pyrotechnics
  - b. Flora and fauna
  - c. Other items that are prohibited by Philippine Laws such as drugs
  - d. Alcohol at Lake Venado Camp

**T. Camp Management at the Peak.** Management of Mt. Apo Peak shall be a shared responsibility of LGU Sta. Cruz, LGU Digos City, LGU Bansalan and LGU Makilala. The management scheme shall be discussed and coordinated by the Eco-tourism Committee of the PAMB in close coordination with the respective Barangays involved.

**U. Fines and Penalties.** Offenders shall pay Two Thousand Pesos (P 2,000.00) fine for every penalty and shall be issued a ticket by the PASU and shall also be grounds for temporary or permanent bans from Mt. Apo Natural Park.

**V. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Eco-tourism Committee shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations of the Common Trekking Policy and the Camp Management Policy including, but not limited to the following:

1. Regulation and control on the number of trekkers trekking the different trails of the different LGUs shall be coordinated at the level of the Eco-tourism Committee with active participation of the PASU Office and staff and DENR PENRO of North Cotabato and Davao del Sur;
2. Regulation and control of the payment system for trekking fees and camp fees in close consultation with the Barangays and/or camp managers involved;
3. The Eco-tourism Committee may pursue options for the efficient regulation and control of the number of trekkers and collection of appropriate fees deemed necessary. The Eco-tourism Committee shall be allowed to utilize web-based applications for this purpose;
4. The Eco-tourism Committee may, from time to time, call for an expanded meeting which will include all Barangay Captains and/or Camp Managers, managing the different camps, PNP and others to discuss and coordinate activities, review policies, communication protocols, enforcement and propose new policies for PAMB en banc consideration;

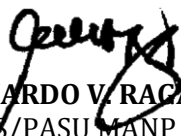
**W. Municipal/City and Barangay Ordinances.** This Camp and Trail Management Policy shall be implemented upon approval of the MANP Protected Area Management Board following the requirements of public consultation and publication guidelines. Implementation will be further strengthened with the issuance of Municipal/City and Barangay Ordinances adopting this policy.

**NOW THEREFORE**, on motion of Mr. Edgar Paalan duly seconded by Hon. Abito Comision be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved to approve the Mt. Apo Natural Park Trail and Camp Management and Master Plan;

**RESOLVED FINALLY**, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the Secretary of Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau; Regional Directors, DENR Region XI and XII; all concerned LGUs and members of the MANP PAMB. For their information and guidance.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

I HEREBY CERTIFY TO THE CORRECTNESS OF THIS RESOLUTION

  
**EDUARDO V. RAGOZA**  
POSS/PASU MANP  
Head-Secretariat

Approved by:

  
**ATTY. FELIX S. ALICER, CESE**  
Regional Director, DENR Region XI  
Chairman, MANP-PAMB