

Republic of the Philippines
MT. APO NATURAL PARK
PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT BOARD
DENR, Region XI & XII

Excerpts from the Minutes of the Mt. Apo Natural Park-Protected Area Management Board (MANP-PAMB)
En Banc Meeting held at the Crisbel Crown Center, Digos City on 26 February 2015

I. ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Name	Position/Designation	Organization/Agency
1. Edgar Paalan	MENRO	Kidapawan City
2. Hon. Emmylou Talino-Mendoza (represented by Board Member Noel Baynosa)	Provincial Governor	North Cotabato
3. Hon. Rodrigo R. Duterte (represented by Elisa P. Madrazo)	Mayor City ENRO	Davao City
4. Marcelino Escallada	CPDO	Davao City
5. (represented by Mary Anne Orilla)	Zoning Officer III	
6. Cynthia D. Ortega (represented by Zabide D. Andie)	PPDO	PPDO, North Cotabato
7. Helen A. Diana	PDO III	LGU Davao del Sur
8. Hon. Rudy Caoagdan (represented by Engr. Walter Ruizo)	Mayor MENRO	Makilala, North Cotabato
9. Hon. Joseph A. Penas (represented by Alexsius Garcia)	Mayor City ENRO	Digos City
10. Hon. Florenito Gonzaga (represented by Eduardo Linsag)	Mayor MENRO	Magpet, North Cotabato
11. Hon. Danilo A. Darvin, Sr. (represented by Brgy. Kgd. Sheila May Songco)	Barangay Captain	Baracatan, Toril District, Davao City
12. Hon. Danilo Camarillo	Barangay Captain	Tagurano, Toril District, Davao City
13. Hon. Lucita Apoluna (represented by Brgy. Kgd. Leo Antolihao)	Barangay Captain	Eden, Toril District, Davao City
14. Hon. Ruel Ayog (represented by Kgd. Marcelo Lupiba)	Brgy. Captain	Manuel Guianga, Tugbok District, D.C.
15. Hon. Lutgardo Fabroa (represented by Susana b. Amban)	Brgy. Captain	Binaton, Digos City
16. Hon. Santiago O. Morales, Jr. (represented by Kgd. Randy Adlawan)	Brgy. Captain	Kapatagan, Digos City
17. Hon. Rosita Abalayan (represented by Brgy. Kgd. Fermin Aguan)	Brgy. Captain	Sibulan, Toril Dist., Davao City
18. Hon. Generoso Bacalso	Brgy. Captain	Daliaon Plantation, Toril Dist., D.C.
19. Hon. Glaymapher Ayoc	Brgy. Captain	Bitaug, Bansalan, Davao Sur
20. Hon. Eddie Dicdican	Brgy. Captain	Sibayan, Bansalan, Davao Sur
21. Hon. Sixto Tapanan	Brgy. Captain	Managa, Bansalan, Davao Sur
22. Hon. Romeo Amante	Brgy. Captain	Tinongtongan, Bansalan, Davao Sur
23. Hon. Silvestre P. Ruiz	Brgy. Captain	Bongolanon, Magpet, North Cotabato
24. Hon. Roland Pelonio (represented by Brgy. Kgd. Reynaldo Calimpitan)	Brgy. Captain	Manobo, Magpet, North Cotabato
25. Hon. Eduardo Umpan	Brgy. Captain	Balabag, Kidapawan City
26. Hon. Jenn T. Policarpio	Brgy. Captain	Ilomavis, Kidapawan City
27. Hon. Allan Masibay	Brgy. Captain	Perez, Kidapawan City
28. Hon. Eduardo C. Delfin	Brgy. Captain	New Israel, Makilala, North Cotabato
29. Hon. Mercedita Rivera	Brgy. Captain	Sinoron, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
30. Datu Samuel Asicam	Executive Director	Mt. Apo Foundation, Inc.
31. Alma Monica de la Paz	Executive Director	KAPWA Upliftment Foundation, Inc.
32. Macapantao Manamba (represented by Atty. Darlene D. Torrena)	Provincial Officer	NCIP XII, Kidapawan City
33. Dennis I. Salvador (represented by Giovanni Tampos)	Executive Director Field Biologist	Phillipine Eagle Foundation (PEF)
34. Mr. James Villaroman (represented by Jonathan Abre)	Resident Manager	Energy Development Corporation (EDC)
35. Datu Rogelio Manapol	IP Representative-Bagobo	Davao Sur
36. Datu Jaime S. Odo, Sr.	IP Representative-Manobo	North Cotabato
37. Atty. Geroncio Aguio	Regional Director	NCIP XI
38. Atty Roque Agton	IP Representative	Davao City
39. Nelly Nita Dillera	Regional Director	DOT XII

(represented by Kervin Joseph Elijay)

40. Stella Gonzales

(represented by (Rosauro Daga)

Manager

Dept. Manager

MKWD, Kidapawan City

MKWD, Kidapawan City

MEMBERS ABSENT:

1. Hon. Claude Bautista	Provincial Governor	Davao del Sur
2. Roberto Alabado	Regional Director	DOT XI, Davao City
3. Hon. Jesus Mansilagan	Brgy. Captain	Catigan, Toril District, Davao City\
4. Hon. Artemio Ebar	Brgy. Captain	Balabag, Digos City
5. Hon. Danilo Abe	Brgy. Captain	Sibulan, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
6. Hon. Melvin Ballerda	Brgy. Captain	Melilia, Sta. Cruz, Davao Sur
7. Hon. Paulito Huerbana	Brgy. Captain	Zone II, Sta. Cruz, Davao Sur
8. Hon. Eldy Ambat	Brgy. Captain	Anonang, Bansalan, Davao Sur
9. Hon. Roel Enriquez	Brgy. Captain	Darapuaay, Bansalan, Davao Sur
10. Hon. Edwin Reyes	Mayor	Bansalan, Davao Sur
11. Hon. Orle Espina	Brgy. Captain	Linawan, Bansalan, Davao Sur
12. Hon. Silvestre Ruiz	Brgy. Captain	Bongolanon, Magpet, North Cotabato
13. Hon. Danilo Lacia	Brgy. Captain	Kinarum, Magpet, North Cotabato
14. Hon. Reynaldo Monreal	Brgy. Captain	Biangan, Makilala, North Cotabato
15. Hon. Quintin Tajantajan	Brgy. Captain	Buena vida, Makilala, North Cotabato
16. Hon. Madid Dalawan	Brgy. Captain	Buhay, Makilala, North Cotabato
17. Hon. Arnold Alquino	Brgy. Captain	Old Bulatukan, Makilala, North Cotabato
18. Hon. Eduardo Umpan	Brgy. Captain	Balabag, Kidapawan City
19. Hon. Damaso Bayawan	Brgy. Captain	Ilomavis, Kidapawan City
20. Hon. Henry Monon	Brgy. Captain	Tibolo, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
21. Hon. Proceso Gido	Brgy. Captain	Coronon, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
22. Peter Renon Sombilon	Brgy. Captain	Saliducon, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
23. Hon. Joel Ray Lopez	Mayor	Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
24. Hon. Alain Michael Almendras	Brgy. Captain	Astorga, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
25. Hon. Edwin Ote	Brgy. Captain	Jose Rizal, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur
26. Hon. Leo Prescillas	Brgy. Captain	Goma, Digos City
27. Hon. Renante Cagape	Brgy. Captain	Alegre, Bansalan, Davao del Sur
28. Hon. Quintin Tajantajan	Brgy. Captain	Buena vida, Makilala, North Cotabato

OTHERS PRESENT

1. Melchor G. Ozaraga	PENRO/PASu	DENR-PENRO Davao del Sur
2. Eduardo V. Ragaza	POSu	DENR XI, Davao city
3. Joey Recemilla	City Tourism Officer	Kidapawan City
4. Edgardo Ellera	City tourism Officer	Digos City
5. Samuel G. Gambong	PASu Staff	DENR-PENRO Davao del Sur
6. Jamel Tawan-tawan	Deputy PASu	North Cotabato Sub-PAMB
7. Fatima Magulama	EMS II	DENR PENRO Kidapawan City
8. Grace Gorosin	Admin & Finance Officer	B+WISER
10. Eleanor Lantican	FTA	B+WISER
11. Glen Reponte	PASu Staff	PENRO Davao del Sur
12. Analy Lanticse	PASu Staff	PENRO Davao del Sur

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-01

A RESOLUTION TO CARRY OUT COMMON TREKKING POLICIES AMONG ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN MT. APO NATURAL PARK

WHEREAS, the Mt. Apo Natural Park-Protected Area Management Board (MANP-PAMB) is the highest policy-making body in Mt. Apo;

WHEREAS, the MANP-PAMB is mandated by law to decide and approve matters relating to proposals, work and financial plans, guidelines, policies and other activities related to protected area management;

WHEREAS, Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak, is a natural park: however, it is subject to the implementing laws, rules and regulations of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), Mt. Apo Natural Park (MANP) and IPRA which declares that its use and enjoyment must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Units, Sta. Cruz, Digos City, Bansalan, Makilala, Kidapawan City and Magpet tasked to protect this natural wealth, through regulation of activities conducted therein such as mountaineering and trekking and implementing common policies to all trails in Mt. Apo Natural Park;

WHEREFORE, premises considered, be it enacted by the Mount Apo Natural Part Protected Area Management Board Common Trekking Policies for Mount Apo Natural Park:

1. Trekking and Other Fees

1.1. Trekking Fees

1.1.1. There will be two rates of trekking fees to be collected to trekkers depending on the season; payments made to LGU shall be non-refundable.

- a. Peak Season Rate - One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP1,500) per trekker
- b. Other season Rate – One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000) per trekker

Peak season refers to the Lenten Season (Holy Week, Monday to Sunday) of each year.

1.1.2. Exit fees shall be collected to all trekkers who will exit to different trail. Exit fee charges are as follows:

- a. Peak Season Rate - One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 1,500) per trekker;
- b. Other season Rate – One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000) per trekker;
- c. No exit fees shall be charged to trekkers who will exit on the same trail (back trail) ;
- d. The LGU where the trekker register shall inform the respective LGU where the trekker shall exit;
- e. In case climbers decide to exit to another trail only during the trek, tour guides shall ensure on the collection of exit fees from the trekkers and remittance of exit fees to concerned LGU.

1.1.3. The same trekking fee charges shall be collected on local and foreign tourists;

1.1.4. The same trekking fees shall be collected on students and children;

1.1.5. Senior Citizen Discount of 20% shall be given to Senior Citizens upon presentation of Senior Citizen's ID;

1.1.6. The trekking fees shall be implemented for the 1st five years and shall be reviewed on the 6th year.

1.1.7. Trekking fee is inclusive of Trekkers ID, Trekkers Orientation and Certificate of Climb.

1.1.8. Trekking fee is exclusive of entrance fees (if any) to other special feature sites along the trails, porter fees and tour guide fees.

1.2. Porter Fees

1.2.1. Porter fees shall be P500/day for a maximum 15 kg weight of baggage.

1.2.2. Additional P50.00 per kilo shall be charged for baggage in excess of 15 kgs. but maximum load of 20 kgs. per porter.

1.2.3. Porter fees are exclusive of food of the porters

1.2.4. In excess of 20 kgs, trekkers are required to get service of an additional porter.

- 1.2.5. Contract of Porter Services shall be signed by the porter and trekker, which form shall be provided by the respective LGUs.

1.3. Tour Guide Fees

- 1.3.1. Tour Guide Fee shall be PHP 1,000 per day exclusive of food
- 1.3.2. One tour guide per maximum of 5 tourists shall be strictly implemented
- 1.3.3. No trekker shall be allowed to climb MANP without a tour guide.

2. Sharing System of Trekkers Fees

- 2.1. IPAF and tribal communities shall have a mandatory share of 25% and 15%, respectively on all Trekker fees collected
- 2.2. LGUs shall decide on the sharing system of the remaining 60% (MGLU, PLGU, BLGU, Council, PO, etc.)

3. Scientific Research in MANP

- 3.1. Scientific research conducted in MANP shall get approval from PAMB.
- 3.2. Researchers shall coordinate with the specific LGU where the study is to be specifically conducted
- 3.3. Researchers are required to pay applicable trekking fees
- 3.4. Researchers should hire LGU accredited porters and guides and pay necessary fees

4. Other Cause-Oriented Activities¹

- 4.1. Military community relation activities, religious activities, non-government and government led activities shall get approval from PAMB or PASu;
- 4.2. All cause oriented trekkers are required to pay applicable trekking fees
- 4.3. Organizations shall coordinate with the specific LGU concern; No cause oriented activities shall be conducted during the peak season.

5. Booking of Trekkers

- 5.1. A "No Walk-in Trekkers" policy shall be strictly implemented.
- 5.2. All trekkers shall be pre-booked through LGU accredited tour operators, travel agency or through the LGU Tourism Office or any other LGU Department where mountaineering supervision is assigned by local ordinance or executive orders, if any;
- 5.3. LGU accredited porters, tour guides, tour operators and travel agency shall confirm to the LGU Tourism Office number of climbers and dates of climb for the issuance of climb permits.

6. Trek Orientation

- 6.1. Trek Orientation is mandatory to all trekkers. Respective LGUs shall ensure that trekkers will be given trek orientation before the climb
- 6.2. Orientation shall include but not limited to
 - 6.2.1. Entrance and Exit Fees
 - 6.2.2. Guiding and Porterage Policies
 - 6.2.3. Do's and Don'ts in Trekking
 - 6.2.4. Cultural sensitivities along the trails
 - 6.2.5. Solid waste management

7. Children Trekkers

- 7.1. Children shall pay entrance and exit fees accordingly.
- 7.2. No child, 15 years and below shall be allowed to climb without his/her parents/guardians.
- 7.3. Parent/Guardian shall sign waiver of liability in case something happened to their child during the climb
- 7.4. Parent/Guardian shall secure the DSWD certification of liability in case something happened to their child during the climb
- 7.5. LGU shall identify trails that will allow children to climb with their parents

8. Trekker's ID

- 8.1. All trekkers shall be provided with colour coded ID to be issued by the LGU to determine point of entry of trekkers.
- 8.2. Design may vary per LGU but dominant colour per LGU shall be:

¹ Tree planting activities, clean-up drive

Kidapawan City	-	Orange
Makilala	-	Green
Magpet	-	Blue
Digos City	-	Yellow
Sta. Cruz	-	Red
Bansalan	-	White
Davao City	-	N/A

9. Other IDs

- 9.1. Special ID Pass – for tour guides that may exit to other trails, which ID exempts them from the payment of exit fees, they shall pay a P500.00 annually for the Special ID Pass.

10. Qualifications of Porters

- 10.1. All porters should be accredited by the Local LGU. Porters should be resident of the respective LGU
- 10.2. At least 18-55 years old
- 10.3. Physically and mentally fit
- 10.4. With good moral character and without any criminal case
- 10.5. Porters must have undergone Basic Porter Guide Training (Basic Mountaineering Course, Roping Techniques, Basic Life Support, and Basic Jungle Survival) and pass the practical exam.
- 10.6. Porters should be familiar with the Mt. Apo trail, water resources, camp sites, solid waste management policies along the trek
- 10.7. Can communicate with the trekkers

11. Responsibilities of Porters

- 11.1. Assist climbers in carrying their load with a maximum weight of 20 kgs
- 11.2. Assist climbers in cooking, tent-pitching, and tent-guarding;
- 11.3. Report to LGU any accidents or emergency that may occur during the trek
- 11.4. Ensure that Trekking Rules are followed by the trekkers

12. Qualifications of Tour Guides

- 12.1. At least 18 years old
- 12.2. Physically and mentally fit
- 12.3. Must be at least High School Graduate.
- 12.4. Can communicate in English or Tagalog
- 12.5. Tour Guide must have undergone Mountain Guide Training
- 12.6. Tour guides are trail specific but is not limited to guide for other trails as long as he/she comply with the LGU requirements of the other trails.
- 12.7. Tour guides can exit to other trails as long as he/she attended the Trail Specific Training for tour guides conducted by the MANP Eco Tourism Committee.

13. Responsibilities of Tour Guides

- 13.1. Provide trekkers on basic information on MANP especially on biodiversity and forest situation
- 13.2. Shall ensure payment of exit fees of trekkers that will exit on different trails
- 13.3. Ensure proper timing of climbers to avoid overcrowding at the campsites and illegal camping along the trail.
- 13.4. Report to LGU any accidents or emergency that may occur during the trek.

14. Communication System

- 14.1. All LGUs of the MANP shall come up with an Inter LGU communication system to ensure safety of entry and exit of climbers.
- 14.2. LGUs shall invest on establishing a repeater-based common radio communication network during peak season (exclusive frequency) in close coordination with LGU DRRM Team.

15. Campsite Management

- 15.1. Camping at the summit shall be strictly for climbers from Sta. Cruz, Digos city and Bansalan, and Makilala, - trails which have no Lake Venado principal access, provided that the waste management will be the responsibility of the LGUs concerned.
- 15.2. LGUs may come up with alternative campsites near the summit

16. Solid Waste Management

- 16.1. Trekkers, porters and tour guides shall be responsible to bring down all solid wastes generated during the trek.
- 16.2. All trekking groups must have at least one digging tool, preferably a trowel, for use in the Proper burying of human wastes while trekking and/or camping;
- 16.3. Climbers are required to fill up "Zero Basura Form" for inventory of solid wastes
- 16.4. Penalty of P2,000 pesos for littering shall be charged to violators; the collection of fine shall be Official Receipt-based, and when not feasible on-site for lack of funds, violators shall be sent official demand letter at the risk of blacklisting and court litigation for non-Compliance;
- 16.5. Other than at their specific trails, each LGU shall be assigned a defined sector each at the Peak and Lake Venado where they are authorized to issue citation tickets and collect Penalties.
- 16.6. Regular clean –up drive shall be conducted by each LGU at least twice a year;
- 16.7. LGU shall allocate funds for clean-up drive activities;

17 Signage

- 17.1 Signages should be stable and immovable and should be strategically located along the trail
- 17.2 Materials to be used for signages are Plain GI sheet and steel frame
- 17.3 Size of signage shall be 3 x 4 feet
- 17.4 Basic information on the signage are the following; Message, LGU logo, DENR logo, CADT # (for AD areas)

18 Trail Management

- 18.1 Trail Management shall be the responsibility of each specific LGU;
- 18.2 Trail management shall include management and/or replacement of signage.
- 18.3 Coordination meeting among LGUs shall be conducted every after the peak season (Lenten season) to assess status of trails and campsites
- 18.4 Emergency trail rehabilitation or trail closure shall be the responsibility of the LGU.

19 Fire Prevention

- 19.1 Cooking shall only be done using portable burners. Use of firewood is strictly prohibited
- 19.2 Camp fires are strictly prohibited in all trails and camp sites of Mt. Apo
- 19.3 No fireworks allowed
- 19.4 Smoking is strictly prohibited
- 19.5 All trails shall be closed on the during dry season and absence of rain for at least 2 months
- 19.6 Forest guards shall be deployed by the respective LGUs on the trails, to enforce closure during dry months

20 Search and Rescue

- 20.1 Porter or tour guide shall report to the LGU on the accidents or other emergency cases that shall occur during the trek
- 20.2 If accidents happen along the trail, respective LGU shall respond to the emergency
- 20.3 Search and rescue protocols within the Mt. Apo trails shall be included in the Municipal/City Ordinances on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

21 Blacklisting of Climbers, Porters and Guides

- 21.1 Climbers, porters and guides shall be prohibited from ever again climbing Mt. Apo Natural Park on the grounds of duly-established previous violations, i.e.:
 - 21.1.1 Destruction and/or possession of flora and fauna without permit
 - 21.1.2 Dumping of waste products;
 - 21.1.3 Swimming in Lake Venado
 - 21.1.4 Direct Use of soap, detergents and shampoo in water source
 - 21.1.5 Creating trouble and loud noise
 - 21.1.6 Alteration and destruction of signage
 - 21.1.7 Climbing without permit
 - 21.1.8 Porters and guides without accreditation
- 21.2 Climbers shall be given first and final warning before blacklisting

21.3 Offenders shall pay P 2,000 fine for every penalty and shall be issued a ticket by the LGU
Which trail or specific assigned sector, the **violation will be apprehended.**

21.4 Every after peak season, all the LGUs shall meet and consolidate their list of apprehended violators for summing up and assessment of the identities of violators. A violation in one specific sector is Count # 1 compounded for all AORs.

22 Other Prohibitions

- 22.1 Littering/Vandalism/Illegal cutting is strictly prohibited
- 22.2 Collecting/ destroying flora and fauna is not allowed
- 22.3 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;
- 22.4 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 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 the entrance trek.
- 22.5 Indecent practices (e.g. nudity) is strictly prohibited during the trek.
- 22.6 Offenders shall pay P 2,000 fine for every penalty and shall be issued a ticket by the LGU
Which trail or specific assigned sector, the violator was apprehended and shall also be a ground for blacklisting.

23 Penalty Clause

The penalty providers for in the NIPAS Law shall be imposed to whoever violates the law and provided further that PAMB is empowered to exercise its power and functions over the natural park.

24 Effectivity

This policy shall take effect 10 Day after its approval and compliance of this mandatory public hearing, posting and publication requirements as provided for under NIPAS Act, MANP Act and Section 187 and 188 of republic Act 7160.

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of Datu Rogelio Manapol duly seconded by BM Noel Baynosa, it is hereby resolved to Carry Out Common Trekking Policies among all Local Government Units in Mt. Apo Natural Park;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the Honorable Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau; Regional Director, DENR, Region XI & 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.

Prepared by:

MELCHOR G. OZARAGA
Protected Area Superintendent/
Head Secretariat

Approved by:

JOSELIN MARCUS E. FRAGADA, CESO III
Presiding Officer/Chairman, MANP-PAMB

