



## *Abatan River Development Management Council (ARDMC)*

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### **THE ABATAN RIVER DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

The **Abatan River Development Management Council (ARDMC)** was created through Executive Order (EO) No. 19, Series of 2005 issued by the Provincial Governor on November 18, 2005.

#### **FUNCTIONS**

The ARDMC shall be the main policy-making body for the management and utilization of the resources of the Abatan River. Other functions of ARDMC are the following:

- (a) Formulate the development frameworks of the Abatan River;
- (b) Spearhead the formulation and implementation of an Abatan River Integrated Resource Management Plan in accordance with the six (6) Abatan River Developmental Frameworks, namely: (1) Development of Tourist Destinations/Attractions; (2) Development of Tourism Promotion Programs; (3) Development of Tourism Directed Enterprises; (4) Effective Enforcement of Environment Protection Laws; (5) Adequate Protection of Wildlife; and, (6) Formulation of policies and regulations protecting the Abatan River;
- (c) Serve as a multi-sectoral group that shall identify the resource management and biodiversity issues and problems within Abatan River, and provide venue for discussion and resolutions of such issues and problems together with the various key stakeholders;
- (d) Formulate policies for the conservation, protection, preservation, rehabilitation, utilization and management of the Abatan River and environs; and, whenever appropriate, recommend these to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) as well as the respective Sangguniang Bayan (SB) of the municipalities covered by the Abatan River for adoption;
- (e) Formulate policies and guidelines on the types and number of establishments that may be allowed to operate along the Abatan River, including facilities for the Abatan River Community Life Tour, in consideration of applicable environmental laws;
- (f) Coordinate the programs, projects and activities of government agencies, CSOs, private sector groups, international organizations, and other stakeholders for and within the Abatan River to synergize efforts, avoid duplication of work and role confusion, and ensure alignment and contribution to the Abatan River development framework and management plan, including the tapping of the expertise and resources of these stakeholders in the performance of its functions.
- (g) Set-up revolving fund mechanism and other strategies for the Council to source funds to enable it to implement, monitor and evaluate plans;

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- (h) Conduct periodic review on the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of this Ordinance; and,
- (i) Evaluate the effectiveness of the management schemes being implemented by the PMO that may be created for the purpose.

### **Composition of the ARDMC**

The Full Council of the ARDMC is composed of the following members:

- a) Provincial Governor
- b) Municipal Mayors of the municipalities along the Abatan River, initially those of Maribojoc, Cortes, Balilihan, Catigbian and Antequera;
- c) Municipal Vice Mayors of the municipalities along the Abatan River, initially those of Maribojoc, Cortes, Balilihan, Catigbian and Antequera;
- d) A representative from the Accredited NGOs/POs from each member municipalities to be chosen from among themselves;
- e) A representative from the Accredited Civil Society Organization (CSO) to be chosen among themselves;
- f) Two (2) representatives from the Provincial Government of Bohol, as designated by the incumbent Governor, preferably from BEMO and BTO;
- g) One (1) representative of the Congressman of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of Bohol, as designated by the incumbent Congressman;
- h) One (1) representative from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- i) One (1) representative each from the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Committee on Tourism, Committee on Arts and Cultural Heritage, and Committee on Environment;
- j) One (1) representative from the BACH Council preferably the Chair or his designated representative.

However, upon the concurrence of the majority of the members, the ARDMC can recommend a new member agency/ institution/ organization to be part of the Full Council other than those stated in Section 10 of the Abatan River Code Ordinance.

### **Officers of the ARDMC**

The ARDMC officers are composed of the following:

- (a) Chair, Governor of the province of Bohol
- (b) Co-Chair, Mayor, elected from among the Mayors of the member municipalities, who shall preside the Full Council meeting and serve as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the ARDMC;

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- (c) Vice-Chair, elected from among the other members of the ARDMC, who shall assist the Chair in the performance of its function;
- (d) Secretary, keeps all the records of the Council and take down minutes during the Council meeting.
- (e) Treasurer, keeps all the finances and financial records of the Council. Reports to the Council financial status during meetings.
- (f) Assistant Treasurer shall be responsible in the absence of the Treasurer.
- (g) Auditor, conducts internal audit of all the financial transactions of the Council.
- (h) Committee Chairs of each of the six (6) development frameworks

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Governor, 5 mayors, vice mayors and the six (6) committee chairpersons. It shall be Chaired by the Council chairperson.

### **Term of Office**

The term of office of the Officers of the Council shall be co-terminus with the term of the elected local government officials.

### **Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall be created by the Council to be headed by an Executive Director, which shall also oversee the Project Management Office (PMO). The PMO is tasked to implement the various programs and projects of the ARDMC.

### **Project Management Office**

- (a) The PMO shall be created by the Council through a Resolution. It shall operate as an implementing arm of the Council;
- (b) A manual of operations for the Project Management Office shall be formulated by the Technical Working Group created for the purpose and duly approved by the Council;
- (c) The PMO shall manage and coordinate the various eco-tourism development initiatives that are already on-going in the area as well as those that are planned to be developed;
- (d) The PMO shall ensure an inter-municipality and inter-sectoral collaboration in the formulation and implementation of the plan;
- (e) The PMO shall implement and enforce the policies, rules and regulations as provided in this Code most especially on the following provisions, to wit:
  1. Enforce rules and regulations relative to sanitation, safety of tourists, environment and natural resources;

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2. Coordinate with government agencies and non-government organizations to ensure sustainable management of environment and natural resources working within the Abatan Watershed;
  3. Be in the frontline in the delivery of necessary services, particularly those needed for the safety of the users or tourists / visitors during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;
  4. Keep the records of all establishments, government organizations or non-government organizations operating along the Abatan River;
  5. Facilitate in the processing of permits and licenses of prospective investors;
- (f) Coordinate activities with government agencies, NGOs and community organizations, development agencies and international organizations to promote sustainable development and management of the Abatan River and its environs;
  - (h) The PMO shall establish its office at the Abatan Main Village Center for accessibility and convenience of clients and tourists;
  - (i) The PMO shall formulate its annual operations plans based on the ARDMC Strategic Plan as basis for monitoring and evaluation of the Council including the Annual Celebration of Abatan River Festival every 20<sup>th</sup> of May;
  - (j) The PMO shall implement the plans and programs of ARDMC.

### **Technical Working Group**

The Council shall create a Technical Working Group (TWG) for the scientific and technical support needed. The Abatan TWG shall be composed of the following members, namely:

- (a) Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators
- (b) Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators (MPDCs) of the 13 municipalities;
- (c) Provincial Planning and Development Officer (PPDO)
- (d) Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO)
- (e) Chairmen of the Sangguniang Bayan Committee on Tourism or Committee on Environment of each respective municipality;
- (f) Chairman of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Committee on Tourism or Committee on Environment or Committee on Arts and Culture;
- (g) Representative from the Bohol Tourism Office (BTO) and Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO);
- (h) Representative from each of the National Government Agencies involved in the Bohol Convergence Support Initiative (BoCSI) Project (DTI, DOST, DSWD, DENR, DAR, DepED and PIA); and,
- (i) Executive Director of the PMO.

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## Committees

There are 6 Committees headed by a Chairperson duly elected by the Full Council for the six (6) development frameworks, namely:

1. Development of tourist destinations/attractions;
2. Development of tourism promotion programs;
3. Development of tourism-directed enterprises;
4. Effective enforcement of environment protection laws; and,
5. Adequate Protection of Wildlife
6. Formulation of policies and regulations protecting the Abatan River.

## Funding and Operation

- a) An initial operations fund was set up for the operation of the PMO. It shall come from the counterpart/support funds of its member LGUs, the provincial government and from the Office of the Congressman of the First District of Bohol. Other fund sources may come from donations and grants for the Abatan River Ecotourism Development Project. It may also come from other fund-raising activities initiated by the Council through the PMO.
- b) Income generated from the operation of the Abatan River Community Life Tour shall be the main source of income of the Council for the sustainability of its operation.
- c) Expenses of the Council are charged to the common fund raised either from contributions of the LGUs within the Abatan River, support funds from the Provincial Government of Bohol, from NGOs and other government agencies or from the funds that may be derived out of the initiatives undertaken by the Council, subject to the COA rules on accounting and auditing procedures.

## PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

The ARDMC forged a partnership and collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Bohol together with the 5 local government units (LGUs) and the local industries operating the province of Bohol particularly in the nearby Abatan River for the *Recognizing Individual/institution towards Vibrant and Enhance Rivers (R.I.V.E.Rs) for Life Program*. The primary aim of the program is for the protection and management of Abatan River.

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Prepared by:



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