

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
MANILA

RULES AND REGULATIONS TO GOVERN THE ACCREDITATION OF
ECOGUIDES, ECOTOURS, ECOLOGES AND ECOTOUR FACILITIES

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.120 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.111 SERIES OF 1999, THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS TO GOVERN THE ACCREDITATION OF ECOGUIDES, ECOTOURS, ECOLOGES, ECOTOUR FACILITIES ARE HEREBY PROMULGATED.

CHAPTER I
DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 1. **Definition of Terms** - When used in these Rules, the following terms shall, unless the context otherwise indicates, have the following meaning:

- a. **ECOTOURISM**- A form of sustainable tourism within a natural and /or cultural heritage area where community participation, protection and management of natural resources, culture and indigenous knowledge and practices, environmental education and ethics, as well as economic benefits are fostered and pursued for the enrichment of host community and satisfaction of visitors.
- b. **ECOGUIDE** - An individual who guides visitors and interprets the natural and cultural history of an ecotourism site or destination for a fee, commission or any other form of lawful remuneration.
- c. **ECOTOUR**- An activity in which one or more guides take an individual or group of people on an excursion to one or several places. Tours typically combine activities such as walking, driving or riding with viewing and interacting with the environment and culture of the area.
- d. **ECOTOUR FACILITY**- A facility within a natural area designed to protect the environment and enhance the quality of visitor experience.

- e. **ECOLOGES**- A facility where visitors may stay overnight during their visit to an ecotourism site. It includes infrastructure and services designed to provide visitors with convenience, safety and an enjoyable stay.
- f. **DOT**-Department of Tourism
- g. **DENR**- Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- h. **NECP**-National Ecotourism Certification Program
- i. **Accreditation** - A certification issued by the Department that the holder is recognized by the Department as having complied with its minimum standards in the operation of the establishment concerned which shall ensure the safety comfort and convenience of the tourists.
- j. **Core Accreditation** - A certification issued to a product which meets the minimum criteria for ecotourism operation
- k. **Advanced accreditation** - A certification issued to a product which meets the minimum and additional criteria for ecotourism operation.
- l. **Major Projects** - An integrated ecotourism project located in a clearly delineated area such as key ecotourism sites, tourist zones, tourism estates, protected areas or such other areas as may be proclaimed.
- m. **Minor Projects** - A specific ecotourism project located either within or outside the key ecotourism sites, tourists zones, tourism estates, protected areas or such other areas as proclaimed or designated.

CHAPTER II
STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR
ACCREDITATION OF AN ECOGUIDE

Section 1. **Requirements for Securing Core Accreditation** - The following are the minimum standard requirements to secure core accreditation as an ecoguide.

I. **Natural and/or Cultural Area Focus**

- A. Ecoguide allowed each visitor to spend more time with nature or culture.
- B. Visitors are accorded opportunity to directly experience nature and culture.

II. Community Participation

- A Consultation is undertaken to inform local communities on the activity to be conducted.

III. Protection and Management of Environment, Culture and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

A. Environmental sustainability

1. Visitors are informed on the appropriate behavior and activity to be undertaken in the site being visited.
2. Visitors are informed on how to identify and respond to all foreseeable environmental risks related to operation.

B. Cultural Sensitivity

1. Accurate information on indigenous knowledge, systems and practices is provided to the visitors.
2. Visitors are managed to respect and show sensitivity to indigenous cultures and heritage.
3. Impacts on local cultures are minimized.
4. The following issues are included in visitor briefing:
 - a. Clothing which should or should not be worn;
 - b. Subjects or language that should not be raised or used;
 - c. Areas that should not be entered in some or all situations;
 - d. Items that should not be touched, taken out, climbed on or sat on;
 - e. Places, items or people that should not be photographed in some or all situations;
 - f. Items that should not be brought into the area such as drugs and alcohol;
 - g. Aggressive souvenir hunting of valuable traditional artifacts;
 - h. Introduction of material or culture that is not indigenous to the area such as artifacts, plants and animals;

- i. Exploitation of children, women and cultural communities;
 - j. Introduction of illness or diseases;
 - k. Creation of visitor's needs not present before; and
 - l. Performances or events that require avoidance of certain behavior such as talking, laughing or dancing.
5. Information, guidelines and code of ethics is provided visitors.

IV. Education and Ethics

A. Access to Interpretation

1. Interpretation is provided through any of the following interpretive methods.

a. Personal method

- i. Informative interaction with visitors;
- ii. Talks and lectures by specialists;
- iii. Theater performance; and
- iv. Other interpretive activities.

b. Non-personal method

- i. Pre-tour materials such as briefing sheets and brochures;
- ii. Displays or interpretive signage;
- iii. Interpretive brochures;
- iv. Audio visuals;
- v. Reference materials; and
- vi. Self-guiding trails such as interpretive signage or brochures.

B. Accuracy of Information

1. Information provided is verified through any of the following sources:
 - a. Reference books or publications;

- b. Professionals like scientists, protected area managers, sociologists, anthropologists, etc;
- c. Museums or zoos;
- d. Documentaries;
- e. Recognized bodies or interest groups;
- f. Traditional custodians and elders in the community; and
- g. Recognized training courses.

C. Interpretive Planning

- 1. Interpretation is planned and designed for relevant and appropriate audiences.
- 2. Interpretation is organized in logical structure and sequence.
- 3. Interpretation communicated the recognized conservation significance of the area.

D. Awareness and Understanding

- 1. The following information is included in the interpretation:
 - a. Conservation values of the natural and cultural area;
 - b. Core principles of ecotourism and how they are achieved by the product; and
 - c. Appropriate tasks that they and visitors should take to minimize environmental and cultural impacts such as correct disposal of cigarette butts and waste, not feeding wildlife, not taking photos of sacred sites.
- 2. Accurate information of the site is provided.
- 3. Visitors are informed of measures to ensure environmental sustainability and cultural sensitivity.

V. Local Benefits

- A. Visitors are brought to communities that sell locally produced souvenirs and products.

VI. Visitor Satisfaction

- A. Informal feedback is maintained through any of the following for product enhancement

- 1. Visitors observation;
- 2. Discussion with visitors;
- 3. Visitor feedback forms;
- 4. Agents and wholesalers feedback;
- 5. Articles by visiting journalists; and
- 6. Phone calls and correspondences.

VII. Responsible Marketing

- A. The following information are given to visitors in marketing the product :
 - 1. Characteristics of the area;
 - 2. Recognized values of the area such as threatened or endangered species and World Heritage status;
 - 3. Activities by the visitors such as snorkeling and camping;
 - 4. Interpretive services and/ or facilities;
 - 5. Number of visitors;
 - 6. Travel ethics;
 - 7. Equipment, clothing, and personal supplies; and
 - 8. Special events, activities and natural phenomena;
- B. Ecotourism Identification Card is worn at all times during the course of the tour.

VIII. Contribution to Conservation/ Preservation

- A. The following assistance is given in the past year:
 - 1. Development of relevant planning and policy initiatives for managing natural or cultural areas;
 - 2. Monitoring environmental impacts; and
 - 3. Research on visitor impacts.
- B. Conservation and preservation awareness is conducted.

Section 2. Requirements for Securing Advance Accreditation- The following are the additional requirements to secure an advance accreditation as an ecoguide.

I. Natural and/or Cultural Area Focus

- A. Visitors are given scientific and practical information on the natural or cultural value of the site.

II. Community Participation

- A. Community group is educated to assist in the sustainable management of resources.

III. Protection and Management of Environment, Culture and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

A. Environmental sustainability

- 1. Trainings are attended that cover the following:

- a. Natural and cultural values of ecotourism sites;
- b. Environmental management issues;
- c. Principles of ecotourism and how they are being achieved through ecoguiding;
- d. Practices to be followed as part of duties and responsibilities of ecoguides; and
- e. Monitoring and reporting procedures.

B. Cultural Sensitivity

- 1. Traditional custodians or appropriate cultural group are consulted in the preparation of interpretive material about their heritage.

IV. Education and Ethics

A. Access to Interpretation

- 1. Interpretation is developed and delivered for visitors, local communities and special groups like:

- a. Children;
- b. Education groups; and
- c. Other specific target groups.

- 2. Interpretation is undertaken that allows visitors to learn about the site.

B. Interpretive Planning

- 1. Interpretation is monitored through visitor feedback.

V. Local Benefits

- A. Tangible support or partnership is extended to the local community.

- B. The following activities are undertaken in relation to a local community issue or initiative:

- 1. Attended a meeting, workshop, seminar or consultation;
- 2. Participated in local programs or events;
- 3. Joined local advocacy groups or civic organizations; and
- 4. Expressed support for community endeavors through letters or endorsements.

VI. Visitor Satisfaction

- A. Interpretation is improved based on visitor feedback.

VII. Responsible Marketing

- A. Visitors are informed of other NECP accredited products.

VIII. Contribution to Nature Conservation or Cultural Preservation

- A. The following are undertaken in the past year:

- 1. Membership or Partnership in a conservation or preservation group; and
- 2. Donation or sponsorship to a local conservation or preservation group.

Section 3. Supporting documents to be submitted with application - Unless otherwise indicated in the form, the application shall be accompanied by the following documents.

- a. Applicant's latest income tax return;
- b. Mayor's permit and / or municipal license;
- c. Proof of passing a seminar on tour and ecoguiding;
- d. Health certificate issued by a duly licensed physician;
- e. Valid National Bureau of Investigation clearance; and
- h. Other documents and additional information as may be required by the NESO or REC to support the application.

**CHAPTER III
STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR
ACCREDITATION OF AN ECOTOUR OPERATOR**

Section 1. Requirements for Securing Core Accreditation - The following are the minimum standard requirements to secure core accreditation as an ecotour operator.

I. Natural and/or Cultural Area Focus

- A. Majority of each visitor's activity and time are spent within the natural or cultural site.
- B. Activity helps the visitors to directly experience nature and cultures.
- C. Each transport-based tour has no more than 40 visitors per guide.
- D. Each non-vehicle based tour such as guided walking, snorkeling or trekking has no more than 10 visitors per guide.

II. Community Participation

- A. Consultation or regular meeting is undertaken to inform and elicit inputs from local residents on the development or operation of the activity. In the case of indigenous people, prior informed consent is secured.
- B. Community group is formed or organized to assist in the sustainable management of resources.

III. Protection and Management of Environment, Culture and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

A. Environmental sustainability or minimal impact is ensured through the following measures:

1. All litter and food scraps are carried out of site;
2. Activities are contained within the delineated areas;
3. Collecting of flora and fauna are prohibited;
4. Wildlife is not chased, cornered, harassed, touched or hurt;
5. Designated travel routes are used such as walking and under water trails, tracks and roads;
6. Code of ethics are observed;
7. Smoking is prohibited;
8. Necessary permits and clearances are secured from appropriate authorities;
9. Souveneing on historic wrecks or historically significant sites is prohibited; and
10. Group size is limited to a number recommended by the appropriate authority.

A.1 Land Based Activities

1. Walking and trekking

- a. Tour groups are kept on existing or identified tracks. Where there are no tracks, the following measures are followed:
 - i. Wet or soft grounds are avoided; and
 - ii. Guides ensure that visitors are spread out so that no two walkers follow the same footsteps.

2. Camping

- a. Designated campsites are used.
- b. Camps are set at least 30 meters away from the nearest water body.
- c. Fuel stoves are used for all cooking.

3. Animal Riding

a. All of the following measures are practiced:

- i. Animals are in excellent condition;
- ii. Animal hooves, coat and tails are cleaned before entering areas of high conservation significance;
- iii. Wherever possible, animals are kept on designated tracks and roads, keeping to the center to avoid widening the route; and
- iv. Where no tracks are available, the following are adhered to:
 - Fan out on grassy or soft areas;
 - Cross creeks at designated areas; and
 - Riders advise oncoming riders of sensitive or impacted road or track conditions.

4. Rock Climbing and Rappelling

a. The following measures are practiced:

- i. Indiscriminate or excessive use of chalk and fixed equipment is avoided;
- ii. Chipping of rock is avoided;
- iii. Wire brushing to remove mosses in cracks and gullies is avoided;
- vi. Vegetation, nesting birds or other wildlife are not disturbed; and
- v. Sites of geological, cultural or other scientific interests are avoided.

5. Wildlife Viewing

- a. Deliberate and regular intrusion into wildlife habitat that causes disturbance to natural wildlife behavior is minimized.
- b. Appropriate clearance is secured for interaction with wildlife.
- c. The following measures are undertaken:
 - i. Wildlife viewing does not threaten the survival of species;

- ii. Wildlife handling is carried out only by trained staff;
- iii. Feeding of animals is avoided; and
- iv. Flash photography is prohibited.

6. Spotlighting

a. The following measures are practiced:

- i. Low wattage lights (30 watts recommended) or small torches is used;
- ii. Maximum of two spotlights per group is used;
- iii. Spotlights are not be focused on animals; and
- iv. Tour routes for mammal spotlighting are regularly rotated to minimize change in animal behavior.

b. When observing turtle laying eggs, the following measures are practiced:

- i. Lights must not be more than three (3) volts; and
- ii. Turtles leaving the water or moving up the beach must not be approached until after the turtles begin to lay eggs.

A.2 Water Based Activities

1. Snorkeling and Scuba Diving

a. The following measures are practiced:

- i. Contact with the substrate or flora and fauna is avoided;
- ii. Standing on corals is avoided;
- iii. Free swimming animals are not chased, ridden or herded; and
- iv. Spear fishing is not allowed.

2. Marine Wildlife Viewing

a. The following measures are practiced :

- i. Interpretation of fauna and marine mammal conservation, biology and behavior are provided in the tour.
- ii. Vehicle must be kept behind the animals being viewed and animals are not chased or herded so as not restrict their movements;
- iii. Particular caution is exercise around any group of animals that includes mothers and young; and
- iv. Swimming with marine mammals is prohibited.

A.3. Subterranean Activities

1. Caving (Show Cave)

- a. The following measures are practiced:
 - i. Cave formation, speleotherms, bone and fossil remains, cave dwelling life forms, sediments or watercourses are not touched or removed; and
 - ii. Eating and smoking are prohibited.

2. Caving (Wild Caves)

- a. The following activities shall be observed :
 - i. No crossing of clean flow stone floors in shoes;
 - ii. No venturing within five meters of high value stalagmite clusters;
 - iii. No venturing within five meters of cave dwelling life forms; and
 - iv. No pointing of lights directly on cave biota.
- b. The following equipment are used:
 - i. Battery operated rather than fuel-based systems;
 - ii. Soft material between ropes and natural anchors;
 - iii. Small tackle bags and packs; and
 - iv. Cave-marking materials.

- c. The following measures are practiced:
 - i. Helmets are worn at all times; and
 - ii. Camping is prohibited.

B. Transportation Usage

1. Vehicle Use

- a. Vehicles are in good running condition.
- b. Vehicles appropriate to the nature of the track and environment are used.
- c. Only designated tracks or roads are used. Where tracks and roads are not available, travel routes are selected based on the following:
 - i. Preference or recommendation of protected area managers;
 - ii. Avoiding sensitive areas; and
 - iii. Keeping vehicles on the highest and driest ground.
- d. Rivers and creeks are crossed at designated areas.

2. Power Boat Use

- a. The following measures are practiced:
 - i. Boats are not anchored or grounded on sensitive areas;
 - ii. Mooring rather than anchoring is used for regular routes and stops;
 - iii. Low speed is maintained to enable the visitors to appreciate and enjoy nature;
 - iv. Boat wash must not erode river banks, shores of lakes or natural coastal processes;
 - v. If applicable, boats must be equipped with holding tanks to ensure control of sewage or sullage discharge; and
 - vi. Maintenance is conducted in appropriately designed and managed facilities and areas.

3. Non-Powered Boat Use

- a. Portaging of rafts and boats around whitewater or low water areas must be along designated routes to avoid damage to the bank and /or vegetation.
- b. Mooring of boats is undertaken with minimum impact on vegetation.
- c. All litter and food scraps are carried out of the site.

4. Energy Use and Minimization for Transport

- a. The following measures are practiced:
 - i. Tour and support vehicle routes and schedules are planned; and
 - ii. All vehicles are regularly serviced and maintained.

C. Cultural Sensitivity

- 1. Tour components are approved by traditional custodians or cultural groups.
- 2. Accurate information on indigenous knowledge, systems and practices is provided to visitors.
- 3. Guide and frontline staff are trained to respect and show sensitivity to indigenous cultures and heritage.
- 4. Guides and frontline staff are trained to minimize impacts on local cultures.
- 5. The following issues are included in visitor briefing:
 - a. Clothing which should or should not be worn;
 - b. Subjects or language that should not be raised and used;
 - c. Areas that should not be entered in some or all situations;
 - d. Items that should no be touched, taken out, climbed on or sat on;
 - e. Places, items or people that should not be photographed in some or all situations;
 - f. Items that should not be brought into the area such as drugs and alcohol;

- g. Aggressive souvenir hunting of valuable or traditional artifacts taking advantage of the ignorance of the market value of products or artifacts;
- h. Introduction of material and culture that is not indigenous to the rea such as artifacts, plants, animals;
- i. Exploitation of children, women and cultural communities;
- j. Introduction of illness or diseases;
- k. Creation of visitor needs not present before; and
- l. Performances or events that require avoidance of certain behavior such as talking, laughing or dancing.

- 6. Information, guidelines and code of ethics are provided to visitors.

IV. Education and Ethics

A. Access to Interpretation

- 1. Interpretation is provided through any of the following interpretive methods :
 - a. Personal method
 - i. Informative interaction with visitors;
 - ii. Talks and lectures by specialists;
 - iii. Theater performance; and
 - iv. Other interpretive activities such as games and puppet shows.
 - b. Non-personal method
 - i. Pre-tour materials such as briefing sheets or brochures;
 - ii. Displays or interpretive signage;
 - iii. Interpretive brochures;
 - iv. Audio visual;
 - v. Reference materials; and
 - vi. Self-guiding trails such as interpretive signage or brochures.

B. Accuracy of Information

1. Information provided is verified through the following sources:
 - a. Reference books or publication;
 - b. Professionals;
 - c. Museums or zoos;
 - d. Documentaries;
 - e. Recognized bodies or interest groups;
 - f. Traditional custodians or elders in the community; and
 - g. Recognized training courses.

C. Interpretive Planning

1. Interpretation is planned and designed for relevant and appropriate audiences.
2. Interpretive materials are defined in terms of educational messages, protection and management of resources.
3. Interpretive materials are organized in logical structure or sequence.
4. Interpretation is communicated on the recognized conservation significance of the area.
5. Interpretation is communicated on the recognized conservation significance of the area.

D. Awareness and Understanding

1. All operational staff have a basic understanding of the following:
 - a. Conservation values of the natural and cultural area;
 - b. Core principles of ecotourism and how they are achieved by the product;
 - c. Appropriate tasks that they and visitors should take to minimize environmental and cultural impacts such as but not limited to correct disposal of cigarette butts and waste, not feeding wildlife, not taking photos of sacred sites.

2. Guides and staff are competent in providing accurate information of the site.
3. Guides and staff providing interpretation are able to explain to visitors measures taken to ensure environmental sustainability and cultural sensitivity.
4. Guides and staff are competent in providing information on the measures taken to address conservation and preservation issues.

E. Staff Training

1. All staff are given orientation and provided materials or information on the following:
 - a. Natural and conservation values of the area; and
 - b. Core principles of ecotourism and how they can be achieved.
2. Guides and staff providing interpretation undertake professional development.
3. Lead ecoguides are provided formal training on interpretation and communication skills.

V. Local Benefits

- A. Local residents are employed in some aspect of the operation.
- B. Representative of the local community is formally asked on how the operation is affecting the community.
- C. Locally produced souvenirs and products shall be made available.

VI. Visitor Management

A. Reception

1. Registration
 - a. Systematic and compulsory registration is applied.
 - b. Registration forms provided show comprehensive record of visitors information.
 - c. Rates, registration fee and/or others fees to be collected posted in a conspicuous place.

2. Briefing and Orientation

- a. Participants, guides and staff are properly introduced.
- b. Organized grouping and head-counting prior to activity is done.
- c. Briefing is clear, concise and easy to understand such as mentioning the do's and don'ts of the activities to be undertaken.
- d. Skills assessment of visitors is conducted.
- e. Itinerary and time schedule are strictly followed.

B. Services, Amenities and Equipment

1. Staff

- a. Staff and personnel are courteous and helpful.
- b. Personnel wear uniforms and Identification cards for easy identification.

2. Food and beverage (if applicable)

- a. Native dishes are offered.
- b. Food served is described.

3. Equipment

- a. Available for rental, sale or use.
- b. Clean and well-maintained.

4. Transportation

- a. In good running condition.
- b. Clean and well-maintained.
- c. With comfortable seats.
- d. Outfitted with seats belts and handle bars.
- e. Provided with garbage bins.

C. Safety and Security

1. Safety tips and precautions are emphasized during orientation and tour proper.

2. Availability of the following:

- a. Safety equipment
 - i. Life vest;
 - ii. First aid kits; and
 - iii. Safety gadgets.
- b. Safety measure
 - i. rescue system such as back up in case of emergency;
 - ii. Safety check of equipment per activity;
 - iii. Demonstrations on the use of equipment and skills for the activity;
 - iv. Insurance coverage is provided for guests;
 - v. Appropriate safety warnings are posted wherever applicable; and
 - vi. Appropriate safety guides and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in case of emergencies.

D. Visitor Satisfaction

1. Informal feedback is maintained through any of the following for product enhancement:
 - a. Visitors observation;
 - b. Discussion with visitors;
 - c. Visitor feedback forms;
 - d. Agents and wholesalers feedback;
 - e. Articles by visiting journalists; and
 - f. Phone calls and correspondences.
2. Appropriate mechanisms are developed to determine referrals made by satisfied or repeat visitors.
3. Alternative activities are made ready in instances where the tour proper is not realized.

VII. Responsible Marketing

A. The following are reflected in marketing materials:

1. Characteristics of the area;

2. Recognized values of area such as threatened or endangered species and World Heritage status;
3. Activities by the visitors such as snorkeling and camping;
4. Interpretive services and/ or facilities;
5. Number of visitors;
6. Travel ethics;
7. Equipment, clothing, and personal supplies; and
8. Special events, activities and natural phenomena.

B. In preparing and disseminating marketing materials, the following are adhered to:

1. Services and experiences being offered are represented ;
2. Only images of places included in the product are featured;
3. Manipulated photos are not used;
4. Appropriate practices and behaviors are outlined;
5. Permission to use the logos of concerned organizations is secured; and
6. Images of nature and culture of the site are used.

VIII. Contribution to Conservation and Preservation

- A. Regular coordination with concerned management authorities is undertaken.
- B. The following are undertaken:
 1. Visitor litter or rubbish is removed;
 2. Physical, financial or in-kind assistance for the rehabilitation of areas subject to negative visitor impacts is provided;
 3. Physical, financial or in-kind assistance for the development and/or maintenance of facilities that reduce visitor impact is provided;
 4. Training program on conservation or preservation practices is conducted; and
 5. Donation of funds or equipment is given on any one of the above.

C. The following assistance is given in the past year:

1. Development of relevant planning and policy initiatives for managing natural and/or cultural areas;
2. Monitoring environmental impacts; and
3. Research on visitor impacts.

D. Information Education Campaign (IEC) on nature conservation and/or cultural preservation practices for local communities is conducted.

Section 2. Requirements for Securing Advance Accreditation - The following are the additional requirements to secure an advance accreditation as an ecotour operator.

I. Natural and/or Cultural Area Focus

- A. Visitor activity does not alter the natural or cultural feature of the site.
- B. Each transport-based tour has no more than 15 visitors per guide.
- C. Each non vehicle based tour has no more than 5 visitors per guide.

II. Community Participation

- A. Representative of the local community is informed of any changes to the activity.
- B. A host community member is involved in policy or decision making.

III. Protection and Management of Environment, Culture and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

A. Environmental Sustainability

1. Regular monitoring of the condition of designated travel routes is undertaken and feedback is provided to area managers and/or appropriate government agency.
2. Code of ethics are developed and disseminated to visitors.
3. Litter patrols are assigned to maintain cleanliness of the site.

A.1. Land Based Activities

1. Walking and trekking

- a. Tour group size is limited to the maximum number recommended by appropriate government agency or area managers.
- b. Regular monitoring of the condition of walking trails, pathways and tracks is carried out and feedback is provided to the area managers.

2. Camping

- a. Tour group size is limited to maximum number as recommended by appropriate government agency or protected area managers.
- b. Regular monitoring of the condition of campsites is carried out and feedback is provided to the area managers.

3. Animal Riding Tour

- a. Designated tie up facilities for animals are used or a portable fence is carried.

4. Wildlife Viewing

- a. Record of wildlife is maintained and provided to appropriate government agency.
- b. Wildlife research is undertaken and report is provided to appropriate government agency.

A.2. Water Based Activities

1. Marine Wildlife Viewing

- a. Monitoring of animal behavior while the activity is occurring is undertaken by at least one staff.

A.3. Subterranean Activities

1. Caving (Wild Caves)

- a. group size is limited to five (5).

2. Caving (Show Caves)

- a. Chamber is installed between cave entrances and the rest of the cave to minimize air temperature.
- b. Pathways or fill are constructed in areas that will not to block natural water course within the cave.
- c. All lighting is powered by electricity and is switched off when visitors are outside the cave.

B. Transportation Usage

1. Vehicle Use

- a. Regular monitoring of road and track conditions is carried out and feedback is provided to the appropriate government agency or the protected area managers.
- b. Tour routes are regularly rotated to minimize impact on site.
- c. Remedial work is facilitated to rehabilitate degraded tracks.

2. Power Boat Use

- a. Facilities for sewage treatment is provided.
- b. Moorings are cooperatively installed, maintained and shared.
- c. Waste is not discharged into open water but through appropriate disposal method.

3. Non-Powered Boat Use

- a. Regular monitoring of portage routes and/or regularly used mooring locations is carried out and feedback is provided to the appropriate government agency or the area managers.

4. Energy Use and Minimization for Transport

- a. Fuel efficient options are used.
- b. Non-motorized transports are used.

C. Cultural Sensitivity

1. Traditional custodians or appropriate cultural group are involved in the development of interpretive material about their heritage.
2. Traditional custodians are involved in strategic decision making.

IV. Education and Ethics

A. Acces to Interpretation

1. Interpretation is developed and delivered for visitors, local communities and special groups like:
 - a. Children;
 - b. Education groups; and
 - c. Other specific targets groups.
2. Information on the site is provided through newsletters, web page, telephone helpline, interpretive information, leaflets or brochures.

B. Interpretive Planning

1. Interpretation is monitored through visitor feedback.
2. Interpretation is improved based on visitor feedback.

C. Awareness and Understanding

1. Guides and staff are competent in providing information on the measures taken to address conservation and/or preservation issues

V. Local Benefits

- A. At least 50% of the staff is hired locally within five (5) years of operation.

- B. Local residents occupied key management positions in the operation.
- C. Regular monitoring is undertaken on the impacts of ecotourism on the host community.
- D. Tangible support or partnership is extended to the local community.
- E. Discounted access is offered to the community such as school or other special interest groups.
- F. The following is given to one or more local residents:

1. Access to free training for better employment;
2. Work experience for one or more local students; and
3. More opportunities for women and marginalized groups.

- G. The following activities are undertaken by a staff of the operation in relation to a local community issue or initiative:

1. Attended a meeting, workshop, seminar or consultation;
2. Participated in local programs or events;
3. Joined local advocacy groups or civic organizations; and
4. Expressed support for community endeavors through letters or endorsements.

- H. Local network of suppliers are developed.

- I. Demand for local products are stimulated.

- J. Local community enterprises are created or expanded.

VI. Visitor Management

A. Visitor Satisfaction

1. Performance standards for visitors satisfaction are developed and implemented.
2. Formal feedback is undertaken through any of the following and information gained is used for product enhancement:

- a. Structured interview with visitors;
- b. Focus group discussion with specific markets;
- c. Questionnaires; and
- d. Regular meeting with staff and relevant organizations such as tour operators and protected area managers.

VII. Responsible Marketing

A. The following are reflected in the most widely used marketing materials:

1. Names of destinations shown in images;
2. Nature of protected areas presented in images such as national parks or marine reserve;
3. Comments about activities and natural phenomena;
4. Means of accessing additional information about ecotourism;
5. Means of accessing information about ecotourism organizations; and
6. Voluntary contributions made towards the conservation and preservation of area or to local communities.

VIII. Contribution to Conservation and Preservation

A. The following are undertaken in the past year:

1. Membership in nature conservation or cultural preservation group;
2. Donation or sponsorship to a local nature conservation or cultural preservation group;
3. Inclusion of initiatives by a nature conservation and cultural preservation group in promotional materials;
4. Partnership with nature conservation and/or cultural preservation group;
5. Commissioning or sponsoring schools, students and other institutions to conduct studies on conservation and/or preservation of the resources;
6. Involvement in monitoring ecotourism impacts; and
7. Support in conservation and preservation of other resources.

B. At least one local area manager or local conservation group is invited to experience the product and provided feedback.

C. Donation or sponsorship to an international, national or local conservation group is provided.

Section 3. Supporting documents to be submitted with application- Unless otherwise indicated in the form, the application shall be accompanied by the following documents.

- a. In the case of corporation or partnership, a certified true copy of the Articles of Incorporation and its By-laws, or Articles of Partnership and amendments thereof, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and Business Name Certificate, if applicable. In case of cooperative, a Registration Certificate from the Cooperative Development Authority and Business Name Certificate if single proprietorship;
- b. Resolution of the Board of Directors of the corporation authorizing the filing of application and designating the person authorized to sign and act for and in its behalf and transact business with the Department. If single proprietorship or cooperative, a letter of authority from the owner or the cooperative;
- c. Mayor's permit and or municipal license;
- d. If located in protected area, copy of Memorandum Agreement with the Protected Area Management Bureau or Protected Area Wildlife Bureau;
- e. Comprehensive general liability insurance coverage amounting to Php. 50, 000.00;
- f. Certificate of attendance of the lead ecoguide to the training for the activity offered; and
- g. Such other documents and additional information as may be required to support the application.

CHAPTER IV STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCREDITATION OF AN ECOLOGDE

Section 1. Requirements for Securing Core Accreditation - the following are the minimum standard requirements to secure core accreditation as an ecolodge operator:

I. Natural and/or Cultural Area Focus

- A. Ecolodge allowed each visitor to spend more time with nature or culture.

- B. Visitors are accorded opportunity to directly experience nature and culture.
- C. Facilities are built to enhance natural environment and monitor visitor movement or activity.
- D. Ec lodge is built within or adjacent to a natural or cultural site in accordance with national and local laws.
- E. Design and materials used blend with the natural or cultural value of the site.

II. Community Participation

- A. Consultation or regular meeting is undertaken to inform and elicit inputs from local residents on the development or operation of the activity. In the case of indigenous people, prior informed consultation is conducted.
- B. Community group is formed organized to assist in the sustainable management of resources.

III. Protection and Management of Environment, Culture and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

A. Environmental sustainability

1. Location

- a. The following are considered in site selection:
 - i. Areas of high conservation value are avoided;
 - ii. Previously disturbed sites are used rather than undisturbed areas;
 - iii. Rehabilitation of natural process is undertaken;
 - iv. Culturally sensitive areas are avoided;
 - v. Adverse effects on local communities are minimized;and
 - vi. Unnecessary development or disturbance is avoided.
- b. Use of the site is identified in land use plans, strategic plans or zoning plans.
- c. The following are secured prior to development:
 - i. Necessary permit or clearances from appropriate government agencies; and
 - ii. Prior informed consent is secured from affected communities.

2. Environmental Planning and Impact Assessment

- a. The following are addressed in formal environmental impact assessment:
 - i. Ecological risk which include conservation significance, regional or local values, integrity, sensitivity, resilience, and rehabilitation of the resources, and
 - ii. Impacts of any development and mitigating measures.
- b. Environmental plan is approved by appropriate authority.
- c. The following are included in the environmental management system (EMS):
 - i. Nature and scale of physical intervention;
 - ii. Environmental characteristics and management issues;
 - iii. Appropriate responses to environmental harm caused by planned, accidental and emergency situations;
 - iv. Staff training requirement to implement the EMS;
 - v. Best practices; and
 - vi. Appropriate steps to correct and prevent non-compliance with system, standards and performance targets.
- d. The following are included in the training provided to staff:
 - i. Natural or cultural value of site;
 - ii. Environmental or cultural management issues;
 - iii. Principles of ecotourism and how they are achieved by the operation;
 - iv. Practices that must be followed or observed as part of their duties; and
 - v. Monitoring and reporting procedures.

3 . Site Disturbance

- a. The following are adhered to:
 - i. Extreme surface modifications are avoided;
 - ii. Minimal clearing of native vegetation is involved and disruption to wildlife movement and breeding patterns is avoided;
 - iii. Minimal disturbance to cultural heritage is undertaken;
 - iv. Landscaping is conducted in ways that reflect the character of the local or surrounding areas; and
 - v. No residual pesticides or herbicides are used.
- b. Rare species of flora and fauna are not threatened from clearing and site development.

4. Construction Methods and Materials

- a. The following measures are undertaken to minimize the environmental impact of construction or renovation of facilities:
 - i. Excavation and disturbance to groundcover is;
 - ii. Appropriate construction techniques are used;
 - iii. Locally produced, recycled, and sustainable materials are used;
 - iv. Timber treated with arsenic or copper and residual pesticides are not used; and
 - v. Soil and gravel are ensured to be free from weed and known diseases.
- b. Contractors and construction workers are briefed on the natural or cultural values of the area and the appropriate environmental protection measures to be observed.

5. Visual Impacts

- a. Layout and design of ecododge involved visual analysis.
- b. Design and materials used blend with the natural or cultural values of the site.
- c. Height and dimension of ecododge are below tree lines and screened by topographic features.
- d. Parking spaces are designed and landscaped to minimize visual impacts.

- e. Roads and tracks are screened by vegetation or topographic features.
- f. Color and reflectivity of surfaces are undertaken to blend with the landscape of the site.
- g. Native vegetation is retained or included in landscaping to screen facilities.

6. Light

- a. The following measures are undertaken to minimize illumination around the site:
 - i. Natural light is used as much as possible;
 - ii. External lighting is kept that is necessary for orientation, security and safety;
 - iii. Only illuminated signage is used for emergency exits
 - iv. Incandescent floodlights are not used outdoors;
 - v. Visitors are provided with portable lights to avoid fixed lighting outside;
 - vi. Pathways, corridors and external areas are lit by movement sensor switches; and
 - vii. Compact fluorescent bulbs are used, wherever possible.

7. Water Supply and Conservation

- a. Use of water from natural sources such as rivers and streams is maintained to a level that will not reduce the amount water for the following :
 - i. Local communities;
 - ii. Local vegetation and native animals;
 - iii. Downstream water flow; and
 - iv. Groundwater resources.
- b. Ecologically sustainable use of water supply is observed in any of the following:
 - i. Collected rain water;
 - ii. Extraction from surface water;
 - iii. Extraction from ground water; and
 - iv. Desalination of water.

c. The following measures are implemented:

- i. Small sinks (less than 5 liters) is provided;
- ii. Reuse of treated sewage effluent is undertaken;
- iii. Rain water is collected and used;
- iv. Showers are provided not baths;
- v. Automatic turn-off taps are provided;
- vi. Dual or low flush toilets are used;
- vii. Visitors are encouraged to reuse cloth towels before laundering; and
- viii. Written advice on minimize water use is provided to visitors.

8. Wastewater

a. All of the following are complied with:

- i. Water quality management and standards set by appropriate agencies; and
- ii. Proper handling, use, storage and disposal of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

b. Waste minimization practices are promoted.

9. Noise

a. The following measures are observed

- i. Noise is kept at a level not more than the background noise in nearby natural areas or communities;
- ii. Sound insulation is used to control noise from machineries and equipment; and
- iii. Motorized transport are turned off when not in use.

b. Visitors are provided opportunity to experience “natural quiet” while in natural areas.

10. Air Quality

a. Air quality standards and management set by appropriate agency is complied with.

b. The following measures is undertaken:

- i. LPG, natural gas or ethanol-based fuel is used;
- ii. Use of two-stroke engines for outbound motors and small motorized vehicles is avoided;
- iii. Smoking is prohibited in all vehicles and facilities;
- iv. No chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) emissions are released;
- v. Air conditioning, refrigeration and fire extinguisher systems are maintained in accordance with specific guidelines;
- vi. Release of solvents of solvents and hydrocarbon emission is minimized;
- vii. Heat and/or steam emissions are minimized;
- viii. Offensive odors associated with air emissions are avoided;
- ix. Hydrocarbon emissions from machinery is prohibited;
- x. Solvents are not in used and dry cleaning is not offered; and
- xi. Chlorofluorocarbons are not used in air conditioning and refrigeration systems.

11. Waste Management

a. Relevant policies and guidelines on waste management are adhered to or complied with.

b. The following measures are undertaken:

- i. Disposable items are not used;
- ii. Food and materials are purchased in bulk or in reusable containers;
- iii. Recycled or unbleached paper is used for printing and promotional materials;
- iv. Organic kitchen waste for animal food or compost is used;
- v. Staff and visitors participated in recycling programs;
- vi. Crafts from recycled materials is developed and promoted; and
- vii. Support to local material recovery facilities or any local recycling infrastructure is provided.

c. All litter and food scraps are disposed and segregated and kept in designated containers.

12. Energy Efficiency

- a. The following measures are observed:
 - i. Use of air conditioning units is minimized and natural ventilation is provided as alternative;
 - ii. Natural lighting is used during daytime;
 - iii. Insulated roofs with low heat absorption is used;
 - iv. Key tag switches and automatic controls are used;
 - v. Double-glazed windows, curtains and blinds are used;
 - vi. Appliances or equipment are selected based on energy efficiency;and
 - vii. Recovery and use of heat equipment is undertaken.
- b. Staff are give responsibility to minimize energy use and cost.

B. Cultural Sensitivity

1. Accurate information on indigenous knowledge, systems and practices is provided visitors.
2. Frontline staff are trained to respect and show sensitivity to indigenous cultures and heritage.
3. Frontline staff are trained to minimize impacts on local cultures.
4. The following issues are included in visitor briefing:
 - a. Clothing which should or should not be worn;
 - b. Subjects or language that should not be raised or used;
 - c. Areas that should not be entered in some or all situations;
 - d. Items that should no be touched, taken out, climbed on or sat on
 - e. Places, items or people that should not be photographed in some or all situations;
 - f. Items that should not be brought into the area such as drugs and alcohol;
 - g. Aggressive souvenir hunting of valuable and traditional artifacts taking advantage of the ignorance of its market value;
 - h. Introduction of material or culture that is not indigenous to the area such as artifacts, plants and animals;
 - i. Exploitation of children, women and cultural communities;

- j. Introduction of illness or diseases;
 - k. Creation of visitor needs not present before; and
 - l. Performances or events that require avoidance of certain behavior such as talking, laughing or dancing.
5. Information, guidelines and code of ethics is provided visitors.

IV. Education and Ethics

A. Access to Interpretation

1. Interpretation is provided through any of the following interpretive methods:
 - a. Personal method
 - i. Informative interaction with a staff;
 - ii. Talks and lectures by specialists;
 - iii. Theater performance; and
 - iv. Other interpretive activities.
 - b. Non-personal method
 - i. Pre-tour materials.

B. Accuracy of Information

1. Information provided is verified through any of the following sources:
 - a. Reference books or publications;
 - b. Professionals;
 - c. Museums or zoos;
 - d. Documentaries;
 - e. Recognized bodies or interest groups;
 - f. Traditional custodians or elders in the community; and
 - g. Training Courses.

C. Interpretive Planning

1. Interpretation is planned and designed for relevant and appropriate audiences.
2. Interpretive materials are defined in terms of educational messages, protection and management of resources.

3. Interpretive materials are organized in logical structure and sequence.
4. Interpretation communicates the recognized conservation significance of the area.

D. Awareness and Understanding

1. Staff have a basic understanding of the following:
 - a. Conservation values of the natural and cultural area;
 - b. Core principles of ecotourism and how they are achieved by the product; and
 - c. Appropriate task that they and visitors should take to minimize environmental or cultural impacts such as correct disposal of cigarette butts and waste, not feeding wildlife, not taking photos of sacred sites proper disposed of cleaning materials and minimizing water and energy consumption.
2. Staff are competent in providing accurate information of the site
3. Staff providing interpretation are able to explain to visitors measures taken to ensure environmental sustainability and cultural sensitivity

E. Staff Training

1. Staff is given orientation and provided materials or information on the following:
 - a. Natural and conservation values of the area; and
 - b. Core principles of ecotourism and how they can be achieved.
2. Staff providing interpretation undertake professional development.

V. Local Benefits

- A. Local residents are employed in some aspect of the operation.
- B. Representative of the local community is formally asked on how the operation is affecting the community.
- C. Locally produced souvenirs and products shall be made available.

VI. Visitor Management

A. Visitor Area

1. Reception and Lounge

a. The following are provided:

- i. Reception and Lounge that is commensurate to the size and theme of the ecolodge;
- ii. Adequate registration counter;
- iii. Brochures and information materials; and
- iv. Sundry shop.

2. Dining Shop

a. The following are provided:

- i. Clean and well-kept dining area with necessary conveniences;
- ii. Food and refreshments; and
- iii. Clean kitchen area with available kitchen facilities.

3. Rest rooms

a. Clean restrooms provided with toiletries.

4. Guest rooms

a. The following are provided in the guest rooms:

- i. Adequate numbers of beds;
 - ii. Sufficient supply of running water;
 - iii. Ample lighting system;
 - iv. Adequate ventilation;
 - v. Adequate supply of linen and towels;
 - vi. Soap and tissue paper; and
 - vii. Waste basket.
- b. For common toilet and bathroom, at least one toilet and bathroom is provided for every five (5) visitors.

B. Security and Safety

1. The following are provided:

- a. Adequate safety signage are posted in conspicuous places;
- b. Fire fighting facilities; and
- c. Medical facility manned by trained medical staff.

C. Visitor Satisfaction

1. Informal feedback is maintained through any of the following for product enhancement:
 - a. Visitors observation;
 - b. Discussion with visitors;
 - c. Visitor feedback forms;
 - d. Regular staff meetings and debriefings;
 - e. Agents and wholesalers feedback;
 - f. Articles by visiting journalists;and
 - g. Phone calls and correspondences.
2. Appropriate mechanism is developed to determine referrals made by satisfied and repeat visitors.

VII. Responsible Marketing

- A. The following are reflected in marketing materials:
 1. Characteristics of the area;
 2. Recognized values of area such as threatened or endangered species and World Heritage status;
 3. Activities by the visitors such as snorkeling and camping;
 4. Interpretive services and/ or facilities;
 5. Number of visitors;
 6. Travel ethics;
 8. Equipment, clothing, and personal supplies;and
 9. Special events, activities and natural phenomena.
- B. In preparing and disseminating marketing materials, the following are adhered to:
 1. Services being offered are represented;
 2. Only images of places included in the product are featured;
 3. Manipulated photos are not used;
 4. Appropriate photos are not use;
 5. Permission to use the logos of concerned organizations is secured; and
 6. Images of nature or culture of the site are used.

VIII. Contribution to Conservation and Preservation

- A. Regular coordination with concerned management authorities is undertaken.
- B. The following are undertaken:
 1. Visitor litter or garbage is removed;
 2. Physical, financial or in-kind assistance for the rehabilitation of areas subject to negative visitor impacts is provided;
 3. Physical, financial or in-kind assistance for the development of facilities that reduce visitor impact is provided;
 4. Training program on conservation and preservation practices is conducted; and
 5. Donation of funds or equipment is given on any one of the above.
- C. The following assistance is given in the past year:
 1. Development of relevant planning and plociy initiatives for managing natural and/or cultural areas;
 2. Monitoring environmental impacts;and
 3. Research on visitors impacts.
- D. Information Education Campaign (IEC) on conservation and preservation awareness is conducted.

Section 2. Requirements for Securing Advance Accreditation- The following are the requirements to secure an advance accreditation as an ecolodge operator.

I. Natural and/or Cultural Area Focus

- A. The following are provided for interpretation and visitor satisfaction:
 1. Resting and observation areas are designated;
 2. Trails, pathways and boardwalks are provided;and
 3. Outdoor food and beverage outlets are designated.

II. Community Participation

- A. Representative of the local community is informed of any changes to the product.
- B. A host community member is involved in policy or decision making.

III. Protection and Management of Environment, Culture and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

A. Environmental sustainability

1. Location

- a. A scientific and objective assessment of the site is undertaken to determine appropriate and alternative uses.
- b. Minimal development is undertaken, if located in protected areas.

2. Environmental Planning and Impact Assessment

- a. Environmental impact assessment is undertaken by recognized environmental professionals.
- b. Environmental impacts are documented and feedback is provided to appropriate government agency.
- c. Annual environmental performance report is prepared and disseminated.
- d. Manuals or supplementary resource materials are provided to each staff for their guidance.

3. Site Disturbance

- a. Program is implemented to protect vegetation.
- b. All disturbed areas are re-vegetated with naturally occurring native species reflecting the surrounding vegetation.

4. Construction Methods and Materials

- a. The following measures are observed:
 - i. Excavation and disturbance to groundcover is minimized;
 - ii. Appropriate construction techniques is used;
 - iii. Locally produced, recycled, and sustainable materials are used;
 - iv. Timber treated with arsenic or copper and residual pesticides is not used;

- v. Soil and gravel are ensured to be free from weed and known diseases;and
- vi. Renewable energy for power is used.

5. Visual Impacts

- a. Ecolodge is painted in color that minimize visual impacts.
- b. Transports are painted in colors that minimize visual impacts.

6. Water Supply and Conservation

- a. An impact assessment on use of natural water sources is undertaken.
- b. Systems are implemented to minimize water consumption.

7. Wastewater

- a. Wastewater and effluent treatment system is discharged to the natural environment.
- b. Treatment system is upgraded to provide for effluent reuse.
- c. All cleaning chemicals are selected to be compatible with wastewater and effluent treatment and disposal.
- d. Regular monitoring of the receiving water bodies of treated wastewater is undertaken.

8. Noise

- a. All equipment are selected on the basis of its low noise levels and or sound suppression equipment is used.
- b. Audit is undertaken by appropriate professional and feedback is provided to concerned authority.

9. Waste Management

- a. A waste minimization plan is implemented and feedback is provided to concerned authorities.
- b. Reuse and recycling program is implemented.
- c. Clean up days are organized.

10. Energy Efficiency

- a. Renewable energy is used through any of the following:
 - i. Solar panels for lighting;
 - ii. Solar hot water systems;
 - iii. Wind power;
 - iv. Solar powered refrigeration;and
 - v. Micro-hydro electricity,
- b. An energy audit is undertaken and feedback is provided to concerned authorities.

B. Cultural Sensitivity

1. Traditional custodians or appropriate cultural group are involved in the development of interpretive material about their heritage.
2. Traditional custodians are involved in strategic decision making.

V. Education and Ethics

A. Access to Interpretation

1. Interpretation is developed and delivered for visitors, local communities and special groups like:
 - a. Children;
 - b. Education groups;and
 - c. Other specific target groups.
2. Information on the site is provided through newsletter, web page, telephone helpline, interpretive information, leaflets or brochures.

B. Interpretative Planning

1. Interpretation is monitored through visitor feedback.
2. Interpretation is improved based on visitor feedback.

C. Awareness and Understanding

1. Staff are competent in providing information on the measures taken to address conservation or preservation issues.

V. Local Benefits

- A. At least 50% of the staff is hired locally within five (5) years of operation.
- B. Local residents occupied key management positions in the operation.
- C. Regular monitoring is undertaken on the impacts of ecotourism on the host community.
- D. Tangible support or partnership is extended to the local community.
- E. Discounted access is offered to the community such as school or other special interest groups.
- F. At least one of the following is given to one or more local residents:
 1. Access to free training for better employment;
 2. Work experience for one or more local students; and
 3. More opportunities for women and marginalized groups.
- G. The following activities has been undertaken by a staff of the operation in relation to local community issue or initiative:
 1. Attended a meeting, workshop, seminar or consultation;
 2. Participated in local programs or events;
 3. Joined local advocacy groups or civic organizations;and
 4. Expressed support for community endeavors through letters and endorsements.
- H. Local network of suppliers is developed.
- I. Demand for local products is stimulated.
- J. Local community enterprises is created or expanded.

VI. Visitor Management

A. Visitor Area

1. Reception or Lounge
 - a. Audio video equipment is available.
 - b. Safety deposit vault is available.
2. Dining Shop
 - a. Locally produced products are sold and used in food preparation.
3. Guest rooms
 - a. Clean and well maintained toilet and bathroom for each guest room.

B. Visitor Satisfaction

1. Performance standards for visitor satisfaction is developed and implemented.
2. Formal feedback is undertaken through the following and information gained is used for product enhancement:
 - a. Structured interview with visitors;
 - b. Focus group discussion with specific markets;
 - c. Questionnaires;and
 - d. Meetings with staff and relevant organizations such as tour operators and protected area managers.

VII. Responsible Marketing

- A. The following are reflected in the most widely used marketing materials:
1. Names of destinations shown in images;
 2. Nature of protected areas presented in images such as national parks or marine reserve;
 3. Comments about facilities;
 4. Means of accessing information about ecotourism;
 5. Means of accessing information about ecotourism organizations; and
 6. Voluntary contributions made towards the conservation and preservation of area or to local communities

VIII. Contribution to Conservation and Preservation

- A. The following are undertaken in the past year:
1. Membership in a conservation or preservation group;
 2. Donation or sponsorship to a local conservation or preservation group;
 3. Inclusion of initiatives by a conservation or preservation group in promotional materials;
 4. Partnership with conservation or preservation group;
 5. Commissioning or sponsoring schools, students and other institutions to conduct studies on conservation and preservation of the resources;
 6. Involvement in monitoring ecotourism impacts;and
 7. Support in conservation or preservation of other resources.
- B. At least one local area manager or local conservation group is invited to experience the product and provided feedback.
- C. Donation or sponsorship of an international, national or local conservation group is provided.

Section 3. Supporting documents to be submitted with Application -

Unless otherwise indicated in the form, the application shall be accompanied by the following documents.

- a. In the case of corporation or partnership, a certified true copy of the articles of Incorporation, its by-laws, or Articles of Partnership and amendments thereof, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Business Name Certificate. In case of single proprietorship, Business Name Certificate and amendments thereof, if any.
- b. Applicant's latest income tax return and audited financial statements for the preceding year of its operation (not applicable for newly established ecogde).
- c. List of the names of all officials and employees and their respective designations, nationalities and home addresses;
- d. For alien personnel, valid visa from the Bureau of Immigration and the appropriate permit from the Department of Labor and Employment.
- e. Mayor's permit and or municipal license.
- f. Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, association or other entities authorizing the filing of the application and designating the person authorized to sign and act for and in its behalf and transact business with the Department. If single proprietorship or partnership, a letter of authority from the owner or partner.
- g. Comprehensive General Liability Insurance to cover bodily injury and property losses of guest including those resulting from armed robbery or thru irresistible force which shall not be less than Php 50,000.00.
- h. If located in a protected area copy of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Protected Area Wildlife Bureau or Protected Area Management Bureau.
- i. Such other papers or documents as may be required from time to time by the Department.
- j. Such other papers or documents as may be required by the Department.

**CHAPTER V
STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR
ACCREDITATION OF AN ECOTOUR FACILITY**

Section 1. Requirements for Securing Core Accreditation -

The following are the minimum requirements for securing core accreditation as an ecotour facility:

I. Natural and/or Cultural Area Focus

- A. Ecotour facilities allowed each visitor to spend more time with nature or culture.
- B. Visitors are accorded opportunity to directly experience nature.
- C. Facilities are built to enhance natural environment and monitor visitor movement or activity.

II. Community Participation

- A. Consultation or regular meeting is undertaken to inform and elicit inputs from local residents on the development or operation of the activity. In the case of indigenous people, prior informed consultation is conducted.
- B. Community group is formed or organized to assist in the sustainable management of resources.

III. Protection and Management of Environment, Culture and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

A. Environmental sustainability

1. Location

- a. The following are considered in site selection:
 - i. Areas of high conservation value are avoided;
 - ii. Disturbed sites are used rather than undisturbed areas;
 - iii. Rehabilitation of natural process is undertaken;
 - iv. Culturally sensitive areas are avoided;
 - v. Adverse effects on local communities are minimized; and

- vi. Unnecessary development or disturbance is avoided.
- b. Use of the site is identified in land use plans, strategic plans and zoning plans
- c. The following are secured prior to development:
 - i. Necessary permit or clearance from appropriate government agencies; and
 - ii. Prior informed consent is undertaken, if there exist indigenous communities.

2. Environmental Planning and Impact Assessment

- a. The following are addressed in formal environmental impact assessment:
 - i. Ecological risks which include conservation significance, regional or local values, integrity, sensitivity, resilience, and rehabilitation of resources; and
 - ii. Impacts of any development and mitigating measures.
- b. Environmental plan is approved by appropriate authority.
- c. The following are included in the Environmental Management system (EMS) being implemented.
 - i. Nature and scale of physical intervention;
 - ii. Environmental characteristics and management issues;
 - iii. Appropriate responses to environmental harm caused by planned, accidental and emergency situations;
 - iv. Staff training requirements to implement the Environmental Management System (EMS);
 - v. Best practices; and
 - vi. Appropriate steps to correct and prevent non-compliance with systems, standards and performance targets.
- d. The following are included in the training provided to staff:
 - i. Natural or cultural value of site;
 - ii. Environmental or cultural management issues;

- iii. Principles of ecotourism and how they are achieved by the operation;
- iv. Practices that must be followed or observed as part of their duties;and
- v. Monitoring and reporting procedures.

3. Site Disturbance

- a. The following are adhered to:
 - i. Extreme surface modifications are avoided;
 - ii. Minimal clearing of native vegetation is involved and disruption to wildlife movement and breeding patterns is avoided;
 - iii. Minimal disturbance to cultural heritage is undertaken;
 - iv. Landscaping is conducted in ways that reflect the character of the local or surrounding; and
 - v. No residual pesticides or herbicides are used.
- b. Rare species of flora and fauna are not threatened from clearing and site development.

4. Construction Methods and Materials

- a. The following measures are undertaken to minimize the environmental impact of construction or renovation of facilities:
 - i. Excavation and disturbance to groundcover is minimized;
 - ii. Appropriate construction techniques are used;
 - iii. Locally produced, recycled, and sustainable materials are used;
 - iv. Timber treated with arsenic or copper and residual pesticides are not used;and
 - v. Soil and gravel are ensured to be free from weed and known diseases.
- b. Contractors and construction workers are briefed on the natural or cultural values of the area and the appropriate environmental protection measures to be observed.

5. Visual Impacts

- a. Layout and design of physical intervention involved visual analysis.
- b. Physical intervention is developed to blend with the natural or cultural environment.
- c. Height and dimension of physical intervention are screened by topographic features.
- d. Color and reflectivity of surfaces are undertaken to blend with the landscape of the site.
- e. Native vegetation is retained or included in landscaping to screen facilities.

6. Light

- a. The following measures are undertaken to minimize illumination around the site:
 - i. Natural light is used as much as possible;
 - ii. External lighting is kept to that necessary for orientation, security and safety;
 - iii. Illuminated signage is used or emergency exits;
 - iv. Incandescent floodlights are not used outdoor;
 - v. Visitors are provided with portable lights to avoid fixed lighting outside;and
 - vi. Compact fluorescent bulbs are used, wherever possible.

7. Water Supply and Conservation

- a. Use of water from natural sources such as rivers and streams is maintained to a level that will not reduce amount of water for the following:
 - i. Local communities;
 - ii. Local vegetation and native animals;
 - iii. Downstream water flow;and
 - iv. Groundwater resources.
- b. Ecologically sustainable use of water supply is observed in any of the following:
 - i. Collected rain water;
 - ii. Extraction from surface water;

- iii. Extraction from ground water; and
- iv. Desalination of water.
- c. The following measures are implemented:

- i. Small sinks (less than 5 liters) is provided;
- ii. Reuse of treated sewage effluent is undertaken;
- iii. Rainwater is collected and used;
- iv. Automatic turn-off taps are provided; and
- v. Dual or low flush toilets are used.

8. Wastewater

- a. waste minimization practices is promoted.

9. Noise

- a. Noise is kept at a level not more than the background noise in nearby natural areas or communities.
- b. Visitors are provided opportunity to experience “ natural quiet “ while in natural areas.

10. Air Quality

- a. Smoking is prohibited.

11. Waste Management

- a. Relevant policies and guidelines on waste management are adhered to complied with.
- b. All litter and food scraps are carried out of the site.

12. Energy Efficiency

- a. The following measures are observed:
 - i. Natural ventilation is used; and
 - ii. Natural lighting is used.
- b. Staff are given responsibility to minimize energy use and costs.

B. Cultural Sensitivity

1. Ecotour facilities are approved by traditional custodians or cultural groups.
2. Accurate information on indigenous knowledge , systemes and practices is provided visitors.
3. Guides and frontline staff are trained to respect and show sensitivity to indigenous cultures and heritage.
4. Guides and frontline staff are trained to minimize impacts on local cultures.
5. The following issues are included in visitor briefing:

- a. Clothing which should or should not be worn;
 - b. Subjects or language that should not be raised or used;
 - c. Areas that should not be entered in some or all situations;
 - d. Items that should no be touched, taken out, climbed on or sat on;
 - e. Places, items or people that should not be photographed in some or all situations;
 - f. Items that should not be brought into the area such as drugs and alcohol;
 - g. Aggressive souvenir hunting of valuable, traditional artifacts;
 - h. Introduction of material or culture that is not indigenous to the area such as artifacts, plants and animals
 - i. Exploitation of children, women and cultural communities;
 - j. Introduction of illness or diseases;
 - k. Creation of visitor needs not present before;and
 - l. Performance or events that require avoidance of certain behavior such as talking, laughing or dancing.
6. Information, guidelines and code of ethics is provided to visitors.

IV. Education and Ethics

A. Access to Interpretation

1. Interpretation is provided through any of the following interpretive methods:

a. Personal Method

- i. Informative interaction with a guide and including specialist, activities such as bird watching or snorkeling;
- ii. Talks and lectures by specialist; and
- iii. Other interpretive activities.

b. Non-personal method

- i. Pre-tour materials;
- ii. Displays or interpretive signages;
- iii. Interpretive brochures;
- iv. Audio visuals;
- v. Reference materials; and
- vi. Self-guiding trails such as interpretive signage or brochures.

B. Accuracy of Information

1. Information provided is verified through any of the following sources:
 - a. Reference books or publication;
 - b. Professionals;
 - c. Museums or zoos;
 - d. Documentaries;
 - e. Recognized bodies or interest groups;
 - f. Traditional custodians or elders in the community; and
 - g. Training courses.

C. Interpretive Planning

1. Interpretation is planned and designed for relevant and appropriate audiences.
2. Interpretive materials are defined in terms of educational messages, protection and management of resources.
3. Interpretive materials are organized in logical structure or sequence.
4. Interpretation communicated the recognized conservation significance of the area.

D. Awareness and Understanding

1. Staff have a basic understanding of the following:

- a. Conservation values of the natural and cultural area;
 - b. Core principles of ecotourism and how they are achieved by the product; and
 - c. Appropriate tasks that they and visitors should take to minimize environmental and cultural impacts such as correct disposal of cigarette butts and waste, not feeding wildlife, not taking photos of sacred sites,
2. Guides and staff are competent in providing accurate information of the site.
 3. Guides and staff providing interpretation are able to explain to visitors on measures taken to ensure environmental sustainability and cultural sensitivity.

E. Staff Training

1. Staff are given orientation and provided materials or information on the following:
 - a. Natural and conservation values of the area; and
 - b. Core principles of ecotourism and how they can be achieved.

V. Local Benefits

- A. Local residents are employed in some aspect of the operation
- B. Representative of the local community is formally asked on how the operation is affecting the community.
- C. Locally produced souvenirs and products shall be made available.

VI. Visitor Management

1. Rest areas

- a. Adequate rest stations or sites are provided.
- b. Public toilets are used wherever possible. Where there are no public toilet, human wastes are buried in a hole at least 15 cm deep and at least 100 meters away from water bodies or campsites.

- c. Comfort rooms are clean and provided with basic amenities such as soap, tissue paper, etc.

B. Visitor Satisfaction

- 1. Informal feedback is maintained through any of the following and used the information for product enhancement.
 - a. Visitors observation;
 - b. Discussion with visitors;
 - c. Visitor feedback forms;
 - d. Regular staff meetings/ debriefings;
 - e. Agents and wholesalers feedback;
 - f. Articles by visiting journalists; and
 - g. Phone calls and correspondences.

VII. Responsible Marketing

A. In preparing and disseminating marketing materials, all of the following are adhered to:

- 1. Services and experienced being offered are represented;
- 2. Only images of places included in the product are featured;
- 3. Manipulated photos are not used;
- 4. Appropriate practices and behavior are outlined;
- 5. Permission to use the logos of concerned organizations is secured; and
- 6. Images of nature or culture of the site are used.

VIII. Contribution to Conservation and Preservation

- A. Regular coordination with concerned management authorities is undertaken
- B. The following are undertaken:
 - 1. Visitor litter or rubbish is removed;
 - 2. Physical, financial or in-kind assistance for the rehabilitation of areas subject to negative visitor impacts is provided;

- 3. Physical, financial or in-kind assistance for the development and/or maintenance of facilities that reduced visitor impact is provided.

C. Any of the following assistance is given in the past year :

- 1. Monitoring environmental impacts; and
- 2. Research on visitor impacts.

Section 2. Requirements for Securing Advance Accreditation-The following are the requirements to secure an advance accreditation as an ecotour facility operator.

I. Natural and/or Cultural Area Focus

A. The following are provided for interpretation and visitor satisfaction:

- 1. Resting and observation areas are designated;
- 2. Trails, pathways or boardwalks are provided; and
- 3. Outdoor food and beverage outlets are designated.

B. Sites are zoned to prevent access to culturally and biologically sensitive areas.

II. Community Participation

- A. Representative of the local community is informed if any new ecotour facility is developed.
- B. A host community member is involved in policy or decision making.

III. Protection and Management of Environment, Culture and Indigenous Knowledge and Practices

A. Environmental Sustainability

1. Location

- a. A scientific and objective assessment of the site is undertaken to determine appropriate and alternative uses.

- b. Minimal development is undertaken, if located in protected areas.

2. Environmental Planning and Impact Assessment

- a. Environmental impact assessment is undertaken by recognized environmental professionals.
- b. Environmental impacts are documented and feedback is provided to appropriate government agency.
- c. Annual environmental performance report is prepared and disseminated.
- d. Manuals or supplementary resource materials are provided to each staff for their guidance.

3. Site Disturbance

- a. Program is implemented to protect vegetation.
- b. All disturbed areas is re-vegetated with naturally occurring native species reflecting the surrounding vegetation.

4. Visual Impacts

- a. Ecotour facilities are painted in color that minimize visual impacts.
- b. Roads and tracks are screened by vegetation or topographic features or are designed to minimize visual impacts.
- c. Parking are designed and landscaped to minimize visual impacts.

5. Water Supply and Conservation

- a. An impact assessment on use of natural water sources is undertaken.
- b. Systems are implemented to minimize water consumption.

6. Wastewater Management

- a. A waste minimization plan is implemented and feedback is provided to concerned authorities.

- b. Reuse and recycling program is implemented.
- c. Clean up days are organized.

7. Energy Efficiency

- a. Renewable energy is used through any of the following:
 - i. Solar panels for lighting
 - ii. Solar hot water systems
 - iii. Wind power
 - iv. Solar powered refrigeration
 - v. Micro-hydro electricity

B. Cultural Sensitivity

- 1. Traditional custodians or appropriate cultural group are involved in the development of interpretive material about their heritage.
- 2. Traditional custodians are involved in strategic decision making.

IV. Education and Ethics

A. Access to Interpretation

- 1. Interpretation is developed and delivered for visitors local communities and special groups like :
 - a. Children;
 - b. Educaion groups;and
 - c. Other specific target groups;

B. Interpretive Planning

- 1. Interpretation is monitored through visitor feedback.
- 2. Interpretation is improved based on visitor feedback.

C. Awareness and Understanding

- 1. Guides and staff are competent in providing information on the measures taken to address conservation or preservation issues.

V. Local Benefits

- A. At least 50% of the staff is hired locally within five (5) years of operation.
- B. Local residents occupied key management positions in the operation.
- C. Regular monitoring is undertaken on the impacts of ecotourism on the host community.
- D. Tangible support or partnership is extended to the local community.
- E. Discounted access is offered to the community such as school or other special interest groups.
- F. The following is given to one or more local residents:
 - 1. Access to free training for better employment;
 - 2. Work experience for one or more local students; and
 - 3. More opportunities for women and marginalized groups.
- G. The following activities has been undertaken by staff of the operation in relation to a local community issue or initiative:
 - 1. Attended a meeting, workshop, seminar and consultation;
 - 2. Participated in local programs or events; and
 - 3. Expressed support for community endeavors through letters and endorsement.
- H. Local network of suppliers are developed.
- I. Demand for local products are stimulated.
- J. Local community enterprises are created or expanded.

VI. Visitor Management

A. Facilities

1. Visitor Center

- a. Clean and well-kept refreshment area is provided.

B. Visitor Satisfaction

- 1. Performance standards for visitor satisfaction is developed and implemented.

- 2. Formal feedback is undertaken through the following and information gained is use for product enhancement:

- a. Structured interview with visitors;
- b. Focus group discussion with specific markets;
- c. Questionnaires; and
- d. Meeting with staff and relevant organizations such as tour operators and protected area managers.

VII. Responsible Marketing

- A. The following are reflected in the most widely used marketing materials:

- 1. Names of destinations shown in images;
- 2. Nature of protected areas presented in images such as national parks or marine reserve;
- 3. Comments about activities and natural phenomena;
- 4. Means of accessing additional information about ecotourism;
- 5. Means of accessing information about ecotourism organizations; and
- 6. Voluntary contributions made towards the conservation or preservation of area or to local communities

VIII. Contribution to Nature Conservation or Cultural Preservation

- A. Any the following are undertaken in the past year:

- 1. Membership in a nature conservation and/or cultural preservation group
- 2. Donation or sponsorship to a local nature conservation and/or cultural preservation group;
- 3. Inclusion of initiatives by a conservation and/or cultural preservation group;
- 4. Partnership with a nature conservation and/or cultural preservation group;
- 5. Commissioning or sponsoring schools, students and other institutions to conduct studies on conservation and preservation of the resources;
- 6. Involvement in monitoring ecotourism impacts; and
- 7. Support in conservation or preservation of other resources.

Section 3: Supporting documents to be submitted with application - Unless otherwise indicated in the form, the application shall be accompanied by the following documents.

- a. In the case of corporation or partnership, a certified true copy of the articles of Incorporation, its by-laws, or Articles of Partnership and amendments thereof, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Business Name Certificate and amendment thereof, if any;
- b. List of the names of all officials and employees and their respective designations, nationalities and home addresses;
- c. Mayor's permit and /or municipal license; and
- d. Such other papers or documents as may be required from by the Department.

**CHAPTER VI
APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION**

Section 1. Filing of Application. Any person, partnership, corporation or other entity desiring to secure an accreditation from the Department shall accomplish and file with the Department, the application together with the listed documentary requirements for such purpose.

Section 2. Selection of an Assessment Team. The Department shall assign an assessment team composed of at least two (2) members from the Department.

Section 3. Assessment of an Ecoguide or Ocular Inspection of Ecotourism Products. Upon receipt of its mission order, the assessors shall conduct an assessment of the ecoguide or ecotourism products for the purpose of determining whether it meets the standards set by the Department for accreditation. The team as the case may be, shall be accompanied by a representative of the establishment during assessment.

Section 4. Checklist to be Accomplished During Assessment. The assessors shall provide itself with a set of checklist of the requirements. All deficiencies found, as well as the requirements complied with shall be noted in the checklist.

Section 5. All Observations of the Assessors Shall be Entered in the Checklist. Any observation of the applicant or his duly authorized representative present at the time of the inspection on any adverse finding of the team shall be entered in the checklist. The applicant shall then be furnished with a copy of the accomplished checklist.

Section 6. Report of the Assessors. Within two (2) days from the date of assessment, the assessors shall render a report of its findings and/or recommendations

Section 7. Issuance of Certificate of Accreditation. If the applicant has satisfactorily complied with the prescribed core or advanced criteria, the Department shall then issue the Certificate of Accreditation in favor of the ecoguide or the ecotourism product or service operator.

Section 8. Validity of Certificate of Accreditation. The Certificate of Accreditation shall be valid for a period of two (2) years from the date of issue, unless sooner revoked by the Department.

Section 9. Accreditation Fees- The following schedule of accreditation fees shall be collected from the ecotourism proponent that have complied with the pertinent requirements for accreditation.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Ecoguide | |
| Accreditation Fee..... | Php 1500.00 |
| ID Fee..... | 50.00 |
| Ecolodge | |
| Accreditation Fee..... | Php 3000.00 |
| Decal | 600.00 |
| Sticker for Decal..... | 150.00 (For renewal application) |
| ID Fee..... | 50.00 (each) |
| Ecotour | |
| Accreditation Fee..... | Php 3000.00 |
| Decal | 600.00 |
| Sticker for Decal..... | 150.00 (For renewal application) |
| ID Fee..... | 200.00 (each for ecotour facilitator and Guides) |
| Ecotour Facility | |
| Accreditation Fee..... | Php 3000.00 |
| Decal | 600.00 |
| Sticker for Decal..... | 150.00 (For renewal application) |
| ID Fee..... | 50.00 |

Section 10. Renewal of Accreditation - The accreditation shall be renewed on or before its date of expiration.

CHAPTER VII GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION

Section 1. Grounds for Cancellation or Revocation of Accreditation. Any of the following acts, omissions or offenses shall be sufficient grounds for the cancellation of accreditation.

- a. Making any false declaration or statement or making use of any such declaration or statement or any document containing the same or omitting fraud or any act of misrepresentation for the purpose of obtaining the issuance of accreditation ;
- b. Failure to comply with or contravene any of the conditions set forth in the certificate of accreditation;
- c. Failure to meet the standards and requirement for the operation of the establishment;
- d. Allowing or permitting the establishment or its facilities to be used for illegal, immoral or illicit activities; and
- e. Violation of or non-compliance with any of the provisions of these Rules, promulgated orders, decisions and circulars issued by the Department of Tourism, the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and other concerned government agencies.

CHAPTER VIII MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

Section 1. Display of Certificate of Accreditation. The certificate shall be displayed in a conspicuous place of the establishment.

Section 2. Non - Transferability of Certificate of Accreditation. The rights over the accreditation shall be non-transferable.

Section 3. Periodic Assessment. When necessary or when public good dictates, the Department may send an assessment team to the ecotourism product or service for the purpose of finding out whether it is being kept and or managed in a manner conformable to the standards set by the Department. The assessment shall be conducted at a reasonable time of the day with due regard and respect accorded to the right to privacy of parties concerned.

Section 4. Defects and Deficiencies Found During the Assessment or Inspection. Where certain defects and deficiencies have been found in the course of inspection or assessment, the Department shall give direction to the keeper, manager or operator to rectify the defects or deficiencies within a reasonable period of time.

Section 5. Penalty for Failure to Remedy the Defects, etc. If the management fails to remedy the defects or deficiencies, the Department may revoke the Certificate of Accreditation of the ecotourism product or service.

Section 6. Gambling and Disorderly Conduct. Ecotourism products or services operators shall exert all efforts not to allow gambling of any form, drunkenness, or disorderly conduct of any kind by anyone in the establishment and its immediate premises.

Section 7. Prostitution and Other Immoral or Illegal Activities. Manager or operators of ecotourism product or service shall exert all possible efforts no to permit any person whom they know or have reason to believe to be either a prostitute, a pedophile or of questionable character to occupy a room or to enter the premises. To accomplish this end, they shall immediately report to the nearest police station the presence of any such in the premises.

Section 8. Liability of Keepers or Managers fo Acts or Omission of its Employees. Without prejudice to the provisions of existing laws, keepers or managers and their assistants shall be administratively liable for the acts or omissions of any staff committed against any member or guest. They may, however, be exempt from liability if they could establish that they have exercised the diligence of a good father of the family in the supervision of the erring employee.

CHAPTER IX MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. Confidential Character of Certain Data. Information and documents received or filed with the Department in pursuance of the requirements of these Rule shall be treated as confidential and shall not be divulged to any private party without the consent of the party concerned .

Section 2. Separability Clause. The provisions of these Rules are hereby declared separable, and in the event that anyone or more of such provisions are declared invalid, the validity of all other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3.Repealing Clause- All existing Rules and Regulations or Circulars issued by the Department of Tourism which are inconsistent with the provisions of these Rules are hereby repealed and / or modified accordingly.

Section 4.Effectivity. These Rules and Regulations shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED AND PROMULGATED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2008, MANILA, PHILIPPINES.

JOSEPH H. DURANO
Secretary

ATTESTED:

ATTY. OSCAR P. PALABYAB
Undersecretary
Tourism Services and Regional Offices