



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, 2600 Baguio City
Tel./Fax No. (074) 442-3232 *** email: nedacar@pltdsl.net; car@neda.gov.ph

26 February 2016

MS. MARIA ROSARIO R. LOPEZ

Executive Director
Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation Inc.
288 Lower East Kennon Road,
Camp 7, Baguio City

Dear Director Lopez:

Greeting from the Regional Development Council Cordillera!

The Regional Development Council Cordillera (RDC-CAR) approved during its meeting on February 16, 2016 in Tabuk City, Kalinga, the **RDC-CAR Resolution No. 1, s. 2016** entitled "*Recommending to the Honorable Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Ramon J. P. Paje the Designation of the Amburayan River as a Water Quality Management Area pursuant to Republic Act 9275, the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004.*" This is to protect and sustainably manage the Amburayan River which has a direct and long term impact on the socio-economic and ecological well-being of communities, households, industries, agriculture and other stakeholders.

In this regard, we are respectfully forwarding a copy of this resolution for your reference. We would appreciate receiving feedback on this through the attached acknowledgement receipt.

Thank you and warmest regards.

Very truly yours,

MILAGROS A. RIMANDO
Vice Chairperson, RDC-CAR
(Regional Director, NEDA-CAR)



The round metal gong of the Cordillera known locally as "gangsa" is a symbol of the upland people's culture that has been passed on from generations to another.

The profile of a person blowing a "tangguyob" represents a community being called for an important matter or action. The lines that shape the mountains, the rice terraces, clouds and rivers symbolize the connectivity and flow of human interaction in a geographic area such as the Cordillera.

All the symbols combined represent unity and harmony of the people with culture and environment in beating the gong for self-determination.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, 2600 Baguio City
Tel./Fax No. (074) 442-3232 *** email: nedacar@pltdsl.net; car@neda.gov.ph

RDC- CAR Resolution No. 01
Series of 2016

**RECOMMENDING TO THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES RAMON J.P. PAJE THE DESIGNATION OF THE AMBURAYAN
RIVER AS A WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT
9275, THE PHILIPPINE CLEAN WATER ACT OF 2004**

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9275, the Clean Water Act of 2004, provides that the state shall pursue a policy of economic growth consistent with the protection and revival of the quality of water resources within the framework of sustainable development;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state to formulate a holistic national program of water quality management that focuses on pollution prevention and recognizes that water resources management cannot be separated from concerns about water sources and ecological protection, water supply, public health and quality of life;

WHEREAS, as a matter of policy and strategy to protect and sustainably manage the country's surface water resources, Section 5 of the Clean Water Act provides for the designation by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), of certain areas such as watersheds, river basins or water resources regions that share common interests or face similar development programs and prospects as Water Quality Management Areas (WQMA);

WHEREAS, the Amburayan River System and its tributaries and watershed areas cover the Provinces of Benguet, La Union and Ilocos Sur, thus having a direct and long term impact on the socio-economic and ecological well-being of communities, households, industries, agriculture and other stakeholders across the River System;

WHEREAS, the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc. (JVOFI) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), in partnership with all Local government units within the Amburayan River System, national government agencies, industries, academe, non-government organizations and other stakeholders, have conducted a series of meetings, consultations and information dissemination activities to ensure understanding and generate support for the river's designation as a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA);

WHEREAS, the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc. (JVOFI) is implementing a USAID-funded project, "Protecting and Defending the Amburayan River Basin and Watersheds Through Good Governance and Active Peoples' Participation" and in this regard has forged a Project Partnership Agreement with the Provinces of Benguet, Ilocos Sur and La Union, the affected municipalities across the provinces, regional line agencies, academic institutions and the private sector to formulate an Amburayan Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, create an Amburayan River Council and designate the river as a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA);

WHEREAS, recognizing the importance of proper management and sustainable development of the Amburayan River System and its current and potential contributions to the social and economic development of its people and communities, the municipalities of Atok, Bakun, Buguias, Kapangan, Kibungan and Tublay in the Province of Benguet consistently and actively participated in the planning and policy discussion on the



The round metal gong of the Cordillera known locally as "gangsa" is a symbol of the upland people's culture that has been passed on from generations to another.

The profile of a person blowing a "tanggyob" represents a community being called for an important matter or action.

The lines that shape the mountains, the rice terraces, clouds and rivers symbolize the connectivity and flow of human interaction in a geographic area such as the Cordillera.

All the symbols combined represent unity and harmony of the people with culture and environment in beating the gong for self-determination.

Amburayan River System in preparation for its designation as a Water Quality Management Area (QWMA);

WHEREAS, the RDC CAR Sectoral Committee on Watershed and Environmental Management, in its meeting on 25 November 2015, endorsed for approval to the Regional Development Council-CAR the designation of the Amburayan River as a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA);

WHEREAS, the province of Benguet has passed Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution No. 15-433 endorsing to the Honorable Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Ramon J.P. Paje the designation of the Amburayan River System as a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) pursuant to Republic Act 9275, the Clean Water Act of 2004.

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion duly seconded, **BE IT:**

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Regional Development Council – Cordillera Administrative Region recommends to the Honorable Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Ramon J.P. Paje the designation of the Amburayan River as Water Quality Management Area (WQMA) pursuant to Republic Act 9275, the Clean Water Act of 2004;


RESOLVED FURTHER, that this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Ramon J.P. Paje, the Honorable Governor Nestor B. Fongwan of the Province of Benguet, the Environmental Management Bureau, the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc., Province of La Union, Province of Ilocos Sur and other stakeholders for their information, support and appropriate action.

APPROVED, this 16th day of February 2016 in Tabuk City, Kalinga, Philippines.


Certified true and correct:


JEDIDIA L. AQUINO
Secretary, RDC-CAR
(Assistant Regional Director, NEDA-CAR)

Attested:


MILAGROS A. RIMANDO
Vice Chairperson, RDC-CAR
(Regional Director, NEDA-CAR)

Approved:


HON. EUSTAQUIO P. BERSAMIN
Chairperson, RDC-CAR
(Governor, Province of Abra)