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**DENR Administrative Order**  
**No. 2019 - 15**

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**SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF THE BORACAY ISLAND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION AREA (WQMACA) AND CREATION OF ITS GOVERNING BOARD**

Pursuant to Section 5 of RA 9275, the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004; DENR Administrative Order No. 2005-10 (Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9275) and DENR Memorandum Circular 2009-15 which adopts the Procedural Manual for the Designation of Water Quality Management Areas, and considering that its environmental quality and sustainability is critically important to local, national and international tourism, Boracay Island is hereby designated as a Water Quality Management and Conservation Area (WQMACA). The Boracay Island WQMACA will also serve as a locally-based institutional mechanism aimed at protecting the Island from the adverse environmental impacts of human activities and economic growth, induced largely by large-scale tourism.

Concurrently, to highlight the environmental importance of the Island, Boracay is hereby designated as a Conservation Area to protect the terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats within the designated WQMA which are critical for the survival of threatened flora and fauna, and to achieve ecological integrity of the Island, consistent with the objectives of RA 9147 or the Philippine Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act and the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as adopted under DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-02.

**SECTION 1. Policy and Objectives.** It is the policy of the State to pursue economic, social, physical and other infrastructure growth in a manner consistent with the protection of the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environment and with due consideration for an area's environmental carrying capacity. To protect and continuously improve its water quality and be able to sustain livelihood opportunities, Boracay Island and its environs shall be managed consistent with, and pursuant to, the following water quality management and resource conservation objectives:

- a) To achieve and maintain an acceptable marine and inland water quality that will serve the best interest of its stakeholders and user-communities, including tourists, consistent with DENR Administrative Order No. 2016-08 (May 24, 2016);
- b) To preserve, protect and conserve the terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity of the Island for the present and future generations of tourism enthusiasts and for the residents and communities of Boracay Island;
- c) To provide appropriate processes and procedures for the prevention, control and abatement of pollution of the marine and inland water bodies and the Island's watershed through a comprehensive management program for water pollution control;
- d) To ensure that the Boracay marine environment continues to be a safe and clean resource for contact recreation; serve as principal sustaining resource to the biodiversity in the area; and support other environment-enhancing economic activities;