



JAN 28 2022

DENR MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 2022 - 01

SUBJECT : RECLASSIFICATION OF GANWAY, PALALE, SUNGWAN AND QUITINDAY CAVES LOCATED IN ABRA, QUEZON AND ALBAY

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9072 otherwise known as the “National Caves and Cave Management and Protection Act”, its Implementing Rules and Regulations as provided under DAO 2003-29, DENR Memorandum Circular (DMC) No. 2007-04 “Procedure in Cave Classification” and in accordance with Section 4 of DMC No. 2014-03 “Additional List of Classified Caves”, the classifications of Ganway, Palale, Sungwan and Quitinday caves, pursuant to DMC Nos. 2012-03, 2015-08, and 2016-05, respectively, are hereby updated for the information and guidance of all concerned.

SECTION 1. Objective. This Circular aims to revise the classification of Ganway, Palale, Sungwan and Quitinday caves, and to provide guidance to the DENR and other concerned agencies responsible for the management of these caves on their appropriate uses.

SECTION 2. Cave Classification. Caves are classified according to the following categories:

Class I. Caves with delicate and fragile geological formations, threatened species, archaeological and paleontological values and extremely hazardous conditions. Allowable activities are limited to mapping, photography, educational and scientific purposes and closed for ecotourism activities.

Class I caves are further classified into:

- Class 1^A Caves with delicate and fragile geological formations/archaeological values/paleontological values;
- Class 1^B Caves with threatened species;
- Class 1^C Caves with extremely hazardous conditions (e.g. bad air, unstable ceiling, presence of rock fall/breakdown...etc);
- Class 1^D Caves with A, B, and C;
- Class 1^E Caves with A and B;
- Class 1^F Caves with A and C; and
- Class 1^G Caves with B and C

Class II. Caves with areas or portions which have hazardous conditions and contain sensitive geological, archeological, cultural, historical and biological values or high quality ecosystems. It may be necessary to close sections of these caves seasonally or permanently. It is open to experienced cavers or guided educational tours/ visits.

Class III. Caves with no known threatened species and archeological, geological, natural history, cultural and historical values. It is safe to inexperienced visitors but should still be accompanied by cave guide/s. The caves may also be utilized, when appropriate, for other economic purposes such as guano extraction and edible birds nest collection.


SECTION 3. List of Reclassified Caves. Based on the results of re-assessment of caves pursuant to DMC 2007-04 and upon recommendation of their respective Regional Cave Committees, the classification of the following caves shall be changed as follows:

REGION/ PROVINCE	NAME OF CAVE	LOCATION	CURRENT CLASSIFI- CATION	RECLAS- SIFICATION	REASON FOR RECLASSIFI- CATION
CAR					
Abra	Ganway Cave	Brgy. Malamsit, Penarrubia	Class I (per DMC 2016-05)	Class II	Some portions are relatively safe (with enough supply of oxygen throughout the cave); cave can be potential site for ecotourism
REGION 4A					
Quezon	Palale Cave	Brgy Ibaba, Palale, Tayabas	Class II (per DMC 2012-03)	Class I	High endemism, and presence of threats and hazards
	Sung Wan Cave	Brgy. Lawigue, Tayabas	Class I (per DMC 2015-08)	Class II	Some portions are relatively safe and can be potential site for ecotourism
REGION V					
Albay	Quitinday Cave (Jovellar Under- ground River)	Brgy. Quitinday, Jovellar	Class I (per DMC 2016-05)	Class II	Hazardous condition was not found upon reassessment

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Circular shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. All Circulars and other similar issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause. This Circular shall take effect immediately.


ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary

