

Boracay wetlands being threatened

Published February 23, 2017, 10:01 PM | Manila Bulletin

By Tara Yap

Iloilo City — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) wants to preserve the wetlands in the country's premier beach destination, Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan.

DENR Director for Western Visayas Jim Sampulna said the wetlands behind the shopping area D'Mall have been damaged.

Sampulna said he has discussed with the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), an attached agency of DENR, the proposed preservation project.

“But we lack funds,” he noted.

DENR is pitching its proposal to the DENR Central Office in Metro Manila as well as the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), an attached agency of the Department of Tourism (DOT).

Sampulna said the water in the wetlands is contaminated by waste from hotels, restaurants and other business establishments.

Environmental groups have earlier been alarmed by reclamation of the wetlands.

Some attributed the flooding in Boracay's narrow roads to reclamation.

Merlene Aborka, chief technical services section of DENR in Aklan, said there are pending cases against several business establishments for reclaiming the wetlands. (With a report from Jun N. Aguirre)

(Article retrieved from: <http://news.mb.com.ph/2017/02/23/boracay-wetlands-being-threatened/>)