

**Proclamation  
No. 1037  
July 01, 1997**

**SUBJECT : Establishing the One Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six (1,776) Hills, More or Less, Popularly Known as the “Chocolate Hills” and the Areas Within, Around, and Surrounding Them Located in the Municipalities of Carmen, Batuan and Sagbayan, Bilar, Valencia and Sierra Bullones, Province of Bohol as a Natural Monument to Protect and Maintain its Natural Beauty to Provide Restraining Mechanisms for Inappropriate Exploitation.**

Upon recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and pursuant to the powers vested in me by law, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, do hereby set aside and reserve as Chocolate Hills Natural Monument, the one thousand, seven hundred seventy six chocolate hills, more or less and the areas within, around, and surrounding them located in the municipalities of Carmen, Batuan, Valencia and Sierra Bullones, Province of Bohol, to protect and maintain its natural beauty and to provide restraining mechanisms for inappropriate exploitation, subject to private rights, if there be any, and to the operation of previous proclamation reserving any portion thereof for specific purposes and for implementation of tourism-related programs consistent with the objective of the proclamation as may be determined by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, which area is more particularly described as follows:

(technical description omitted)

beginning containing an area of Fourteen Thousand One Hundred Forty Five (14,145) hectares more or less.

The areas and the technical description covered by the Proclamation are subject to confirmation as a result of the actual survey and delineation on the ground for which additional funds shall be requested from the Department of Budget and Management.

Regardless of the existence of prior private rights, no activity of any kind including quarrying, which will alter, mutilate, deface, or destroy the hills shall be conducted.

All public and private lands within, around and surrounding the hills shall not be converted to other purposes which is inconsistent with objectives of this proclamation.

The proclaimed area shall be under the administrative jurisdiction, supervision and control of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which shall coordinate with the other government agencies and the local government units with the objective of maintaining and protecting the chocolate hills natural features for tourism, scientific, educational and recreational purposes.

All proclamations and other existing issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

**(Sgd.) FIDEL V. RAMOS**  
President

By the President:

**(Sgd.) LUIS C. LIWANAG II**  
Acting Executive Secretary