

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 984



Introduced by Hon. J. R Nereus O. Acosta

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Coastal environments encompass different ecosystems including shorelands, mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs, and are among the most productive and biologically diverse landscapes known to man. In an archipelagic country like the Philippines, where over 80% of the major settlements are located within ten to twenty kilometers from shorelines, coastal environments are critical and often dominant ecological presuppositions of economic, social and cultural life. Thus, the protection and proper management of coastal environments are important concerns of the State and are explicitly mandated by the Constitution.

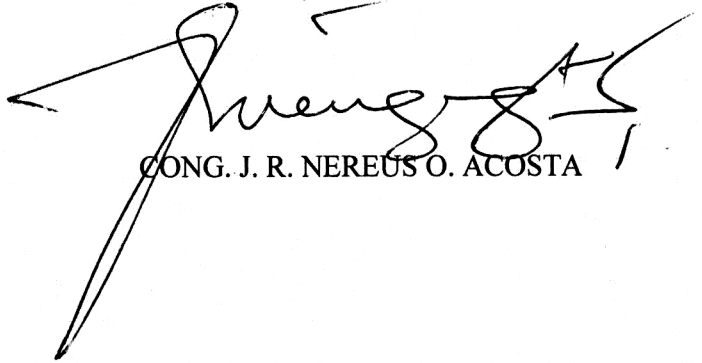
The adoption of a Coastal Environment Program (CEP) is within the objectives, provisions, scoping and principles of the Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development (PSSD), the Philippine Medium-Term Development Plan (PMTDP) and of the actions and agreements adopted by the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD) related to the pursuit of the objectives of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (UNCED) and of such other protocols and treaties to which the Philippines has committed to abide.

The objectives of the CEP are:

1. To coordinate, minimize overlaps and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of government programs on resource and environmental management or coastal ecosystems;
2. To integrate the strategic, thrusts and directions of DENR activities in coastal environments by way of:
 0. using community organizing as primary means of intervention to protect and improve the level of sustainable use of coastal resources;
 0. involving communities and immediate stakeholders of coastal resources as principal partners of the DENR to protect and manage coastal ecosystems;
 0. mobilizing as many of the other coastal activities of the DENR and their associated financial and administrative resources, to support program thrusts in different locales in the country; and
 0. utilizing the total systems approach to identify resource issues, institutional problems and local opportunities for human welfare, in each coastal activity of the DENR;

3. Attain higher levels of productivity, biodiversity, sustainability, stability and ecological integrity of coastal resource systems through promotion of environment-friendly technologies;
4. Improve cultural, socio-economic and generational equity in access to and use of coastal resources, mainly by expanding livelihood opportunities and by democratizing control of ecological support systems in coastal environments;
5. Expand sectoral participation in managing coastal environments;
6. Upgrade the capability of department personnel in both field and support offices, to undertake community-based protection and management of coastal environments and resource systems; and
7. Develop and implement policies to augment community participation and control of access to and use of coastal resource systems and to promote and improve the productivity, biodiversity, sustainability and equity of human benefits and utilization of coastal ecosystems.

In view of the above-stated importance of establishing a Coastal Environment Programs, early approval of this Act is enjoined.



CONG. J. R. NEREUS O. ACOSTA

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.-** This Act shall be known as the Coastal Environment
2 Program (CEP) Act of 2004.

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.-** The State shall promote partnerships among all
4 sectors of Philippine society to protect, conserve, and manage, on a sustainable basis, coastal
5 environments throughout the territorial jurisdiction of the country.

6 The integrity of coastal ecosystems and their productivity and biodiversity shall be
7 maximized subject to some areas being designated for protection (exclusion of human
8 exploitation) and others for sustainable use.

9 Equitability of access to and utilization of resources and substantive involvement of
10 local communities and stake-holders shall be basic concerns of the Program.

11 **SEC. 3. Lead Agency.-** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources
12 (DENR) shall be the lead agency in the implementation of this Act. It shall consult and
13 coordinate with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of
14 Agriculture, other concerned agencies such as the Philippine Council for Agriculture,
15 Forestry and Natural Resources (PCARRD), International Center for Living Aquatic
16 Resources Management (ICLARM), University of the Philippines Marine Institute, and
17 others, and the local governments, whenever applicable: *Provided, That in the Province of*

Palawan, the Palawan Council for sustainable Development shall implement the provisions of this Act pursuant to Republic Act No. 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.- For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

1) Coastal environments - those areas where, at any given time, socioeconomic interactions among and between humans, land-based and sea-based natural resources occur, extending no more than one (1) linear kilometer from the highest tide point landward and to one hundred (100) fathom isobath or fifteen (15) linear kilometers (whichever is farther) seaward.

2) Coastal Resources - all objects and processes of nature which are of value to humans, grouped primarily as follows:

a. Shorelands - strips of land extending one (1) linear kilometer from the highest tide point of the nearest body of water; include the mineral, nutrients and life forms found under, on or above the land.

b. Coastal Forests - mangroves and other beach vegetation whose structures and forms are consistent with the definition of forests under P.D. 705 and the Forestry Master Plan of the Philippines.

c. Fishery and wildlife resources - vertebrates, invertebrates and floral formations in aquatic ecosystems, inhabiting or deriving sustenance from coastal environments.

d. Minerals - solids and gases (free or dissolved) and other liquids found on or under the seabed.

SEC. 5. Program Organization.- The CEP shall be organized into the following components:

1) Coastal habitats and biodiversity. This component shall deal mainly with the conservation and management of coastal areas, enhancing the biodiversity of floral and faunal populations. This component shall include the implementation of Republic Act No.

1 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992 relative to protected
2 areas in coastal environments. It shall also include the rehabilitation of mangroves,
3 seagrasses and coral reefs in designated areas.

4 2) Endangered species. This component shall focus on the conservation, protection
5 and propagation of endangered species and on the protection and management of their
6 habitats. Existing projects of the DENR on marine turtles, crocodiles, sea snakes, shore
7 birds, whales, sea cows, porpoises and others shall be included in this component.

8 3) Coastal industries and pollution. This component shall focus on the regulation of
9 industrial activities and water pollution in coastal areas. It shall study the impact of
10 industrial activities and draw down pollution on coastal environments, to identify and
11 recommend development and regulatory options to mitigate negative effects.

12 4) Resource inventory and assessment. This component shall include activities to
13 identify and estimate existing and future stocks of ecologically and economically important
14 coastal species.

15 5) Research and special projects. This component shall include activities related to
16 the development, testing and application of methodologies to understand coastal
17 environments and their associated resource systems. Special projects shall include those
18 which, because of their unique scoping or funding specifications, may not be associated to
19 the other four components of the CEP.

20 Future activities of the DENR relating to coastal environments shall be assigned to
21 either of the five components above.

22 **SEC. 6. CEP Implementation.** - All activities included in the CEP shall involve
23 three general phases, as follows:

24 1) Information, education and communication (IEC) campaign coupled with
25 community organizing, to achieve higher levels of participation of local communities in the
26 activities;

- 1 2) Introduction of intended interventions of package of developmental activities for
2 eventual adoption by partner communities and sectors;
- 3 3) Monitoring and evaluation of the activity to seek options and opportunities for
4 follow-up and institutionalization.

5 Each phase may overlap, to the extent deemed needed by the implementors to ensure
6 success of the activity.

7 **SEC. 7. Local Government and Community Participation.-** CEP activities
8 shall, to all extent possible, involve local communities and sectoral organizations, (POs,
9 NGOs and LGUs), in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the activity.
10 Leadership in the CEP activities shall be reposed on, or at least shared by the DENR with, the
11 local leaders and community members.

12 **SEC. 8. Trainings.-** The DENR shall give priority to the training of Department
13 personnel and community leaders in the technical aspects of resource inventory and
14 assessment as well as proper monitoring and evaluation of activities, to develop local
15 expertise and to establish a reliable and uniform data base.

16 **SEC. 9. Program Management.-** Overall direction and management of the CEP
17 shall be reposed on the DENR secretary. However, said direction and management affecting
18 the province of Palawan shall be exercised by the Palawan Council for Sustainable
19 Development pursuant to Republic Act No. 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan for
20 Palawan. There is hereby created a committee to be known as the National Coastal
21 Environment Program Steering Committee (NCSC) which shall assist the DENR Secretary in
22 formulating the policies and implementing guidelines of the CEP. The NCSC shall be
23 composed of the following:

24 Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources	Chairman
25 Secretary of Agriculture	Member
26 Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and	
27 Aquatic Resources	Member

1	Secretary of Science and Technology	Member
2	Secretary of Interior and Local Government	Member
3	Director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau	Member
4	Two (2) representatives from non-government	
5	organizations (NGOs) concerned with coastal	
6	environment protection and conservation	
7	to and two (2) representatives of national	
8	organizations or federations of fisherfolk	
9	organizations be appointed by the President	
10	for a term of three (3) years	Members

11 The Secretary shall designate a National Coastal Environment Program Coordinator
12 who shall assist in the implementation of the Program nationwide. The NCC shall direct an
13 administrative and technical staff as may be formed by the Secretary, which shall serve as the
14 coordinating body for all CEP activities.

15 Regional Executive Directors may designate any officer or either Regional Technical
16 Director (RTD), Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) or
17 equivalent level to be the Regional CEP Coordinator (RCC), subject to the approval by the
18 Secretary.

19 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.-** The sum necessary to effectively carry out the
20 provisions of this Act during the first year of implementation shall be sourced from the
21 appropriations for the Coastal Environment Program of the DENR under the current General
22 Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued
23 implementation which should not be less than the amount of prior years appropriations, shall
24 be submitted by the DENR to be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

25 The DENR may receive grants, subsidies, donations or contributions, bequests or
26 gifts, in cash or in kind from corporations, trusts, foundations, associations and other sources
27 from any private or government office, agency or corporations in the Philippines or abroad.

1 The cash receipts and sale of donated commodities shall be deemed automatically
2 appropriated for purposes specified by the donor.

3 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.-** All laws and regulations inconsistent with this Act
4 are hereby repealed.

5 **SEC. 12. Effectivity.-** This Act shall take effect upon approval.

6 Approved,