

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**



**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 1054

Introduced by
Hon. Solomon R. Chungalao

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recognizing that tourism is the most potent industry at present, there is a necessity of creating eco-tourism destinations in the Philippines. Pursuant thereto, we have to develop, counter, and address the issues on marketing, accessibility, infrastructure, product development and transportation, which contribute to the success of tourism industry of a country.

Apart from being the home of the Rice Terraces which is the 8th Wonder of the World and a world heritage, Ifugao is the source of ninety [90%] percent of the water that flows to the Magat Dam, which is still the biggest dam in Asia. A substantial portion of Mount Amuyao, which is the second highest mountain in the Philippines, is located in the Municipality of Banaue and Mayoyao, Ifugao Province. Likewise, part of Mount Pulag, which is a favorite tourist destination in the neighboring province of Benguet, is located in the Municipality of Tinoc, Ifugao Province. The environmental attributes of Ifugao apart from being the home of the World Known Rice Terraces is potentially an eco-tourism destination of the country.

There is an urgent need to preserve Ifugao as an eco-tourism destination and Province otherwise the destruction of its forests and natural beauty may not be avoided with the rapid influx of immigrants at the moment.

Since tourism is a major economic activity in the Province, the hotel business in Ifugao is growing. The infusion of capital and manpower in the Province will certainly catalyze the economic growth of Ifugao and the Philippines.

Ifugao is the location of exotic vacations of many local and foreign tourists. It is the home of a priceless treasure of the Philippines. Simultaneous with the preservation of the Province's wonders for the future generations, Ifugao can definitely be of more help to our nation's economy when it becomes an Eco-Tourism destination in the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this bill is earnestly requested.



SOLOMON R. CHUNGALAO

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**AN ACT
DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO AS AN ECO-TOURISM
DESTINATION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Stae Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote sustainable tourism industry.

Towards that end, the country shall rationalize all efforts pertaining to environmental protection and making the industry a major source of livelihood and an avenue for the generation of employment. Henceforth, aggressive measure seeking to restore the country's share in the Asian tourist market shall be consistent with the preservation of the existing ecosystem and natural environment.

Section 2. Pursuant to the public policy, the Province of Ifugao is hereby declared an eco-tourism destination of the Philippines.

Section 3. Creation of Eco-Tourism Task Force. - Within a year from the approval of this Act, there shall be created an Eco Tourism Task Force whose governing board shall be co-chaired by the Congressman and the Governor of Ifugao. The membership of the board shall be composed of representatives from the Department of Environments and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department

of Tourism (DOT), the Department of Health (DOH), the Private Sector, the Non-Governmental Organizations, and the local government units.

Section 4. The DENR and DOT shall prepare an eco-tourism master plan and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to be approved by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the board.

Section 5. Appropriation. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the appropriation in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Section 6. Any provision of this Act or part thereof that may be declared unconstitutional shall not affect the effectivity of the other provisions.

Section 7. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuance contrary to or inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 8. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.