



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Sixteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6261**

Introduced by Honorable Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected Landscape and Seascape as component of the National Integrated Protected Areas System under the category of protected landscape and seascape.

Bacolod is one of the twenty-two municipalities in the Province of Lanao del Norte which is bounded between the neighboring municipalities of Kauswagan and Maigo in the northern part of Mindanao. Bacolod is more or less 32 kilometers away from Tubod, Lanao del Norte, which is the capital town of the Province westward, and 30 kilometers from Iligan City, the hub of Mindanao in the eastern side. It has sixteen barangays, seven of which are coastal and its shoreline is in Iligan Bay which connects the Panguil Bay.

Bacolod is also endowed with rich natural resources. It has three waterfalls, one of which is the Pagayawan Waterfalls which is known for its potential to generate electricity that can cater not only to the Province of Lanao del Norte, but also with its neighboring provinces. It has three other water falls that are suitable as tourist attractions not only in the municipality, but also in the whole province of Lanao del Norte. Many foreign investors have already visited and manifested their desire to harness the place.

Kauswagan, on the other hand, is the second coastal municipality of the Province of Lanao del Norte located near the southern boundary. It lies on the mid-central portion of the Northwestern Mindanao coastline and is located 20 kilometers away from Iligan City. The Larapan River and the Rufagan River serve as the common boundary of Kauswagan and the municipalities of Linamon and Bacolod on the eastside and westside, respectively.

Kauswagan is one of the fish and other aqua-marine products suppliers of the Province of Lanao del Norte and Iligan City. The water is very rich in nutrients and its primary productivity is sufficient to support high fishery production.

The Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected Landscape and Seascape was established to protect and conserve the biological diversity and unique scenic features of the area for public enjoyment and sustainable development. However, the Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected Landscape and Seascape has been completely neglected over the years and is facing serious threats to its biodiversity. There is also the alarming depletion of marine resources, the escalating decrease in fish haul and the destruction of corals over the years. Thus, there is an immediate need to arrest this indiscriminate use of natural resources in the area.

This bill therefore seeks to declare the Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected Landscape and Seascape as components of the National Integrated Protected Areas System under the category of protected landscape and seascape. This will provide a comprehensive and sustained conservation system that will accelerate the implementation of programs relative to the protection of the watershed and the conservation and restoration of biodiversity of the area for the benefit of our children and their future.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



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1 therein, as well as conserve, protect and preserve its scenic, educational,
 2 cultural, historical and recreational features, through its establishment as a
 3 protected area in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7586,
 4 otherwise known as the “*National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of*
 5 *1992,*” under the category of protected landscape and seascape.

6 SEC. 3. *Scope.* – The boundaries of the Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected
 7 Landscape and Seascape are as follows:

BACOLOD-KAUSWAGAN PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION								
<i>Tie Line: from BLLM No. 6 Cad 695 to Corner "1" S 88-44-52, 4635.006 m.</i>								
<i>Area = 2,524.611 ha.</i>								
LINE		BEARING					DISTANCE	
1	2	N	4	31	16	W	227.424	m
2	3	N	37	48	0	W	189.60	m
3	4	N	62	42	0	W	540.67	m
4	5	N	75	9	0	W	194.98	m
5	6	S	88	32	0	W	119.73	m
6	7	N	66	31	0	W	211.14	m
7	8	S	86	25	0	W	964.23	m
8	9	N	77	43	0	W	1,356.71	m
9	10	S	65	12	0	W	673.80	m
10	11	N	50	52	0	W	250.56	m
11	12	N	79	51	0	W	387.17	m
12	13	S	79	3	0	W	244.55	m
13	14	S	71	54	0	W	248.78	m
14	15	S	33	45	0	W	107.24	m
15	16	S	33	15	0	W	543.18	m
16	17	S	48	55	0	W	735.95	m
17	18	S	80	10	0	W	289.82	m
18	19	S	44	33	15	W	453.574	m
19	20	S	20	21	6	W	153.940	m
20	21	S	73	25	11	W	284.976	m
21	22	N	48	33	42	W	162.295	m
22	23	N	78	8	19	W	523.24	m
23	24	S	71	54	0	W	248.78	m
24	25	S	33	45	0	W	107.24	m

25	26	S	60	40	13	W	211.487	m
26	27	S	13	8	15	W	126.976	m
27	28	S	56	3	44	W	316.838	m
28	29	N	78	18	56	W	178.924	m
29	30	N	74	31	41	W	62.530	m
30	31	S	55	17	21	W	117.933	m
31	32	N	0	0	0	E	1,500.00	m
32	33	N	14	13	0	E	354.42	m
33	34	N	74	47	0	E	371.24	m
34	35	N	75	13	0	E	1,413.44	m
35	36	N	44	36	0	E	898.74	m
36	37	N	52	23	0	E	715.34	m
37	38	N	77	13	0	E	1,079.67	m
38	39	N	87	17	0	E	1,188.45	m
39	40	S	84	18	0	E	2,299.39	m
40	41	S	76	15	0	E	1,018.42	m
41	42	N	89	6	40	E	1,569.464	m
42	43	N	89	31	0	E	2,138.43	m
43	44	N	90	0	0	E	240.00	m
44	45	S	75	12	0	E	1,112.84	m
45	46	S	51	59	0	E	583.00	m
46	47	N	85	51	0	E	460.83	m
47	48	N	90	0	0	E	352.42	m
48	49	S	76	35	0	E	293.15	m
49	50	S	0	0	0	W	1,500.00	m
50	51	N	75	2	0	W	295.16	m
51	52	S	88	40	0	W	352.51	m
52	53	S	78	21	0	W	345.12	m
53	54	N	85	44	0	W	475.88	m
54	55	N	28	45	0	W	40.43	m
55	56	N	3	18	0	W	12.65	m
56	57	S	85	54	0	W	190.01	m
57	58	N	58	1	0	W	320.79	m
58	59	N	43	49	0	W	443.22	m
59	60	N	65	51	0	W	203.44	m
60	61	N	79	55	0	W	211.18	m
61	62	S	90	0	0	W	240.00	m
62	63	S	81	19	0	W	174.88	m
63	64	S	70	27	0	W	92.17	m
64	65	S	64	47	0	W	175.19	m
65	66	N	79	32	0	W	314.63	m
66	67	N	87	55	0	W	411.54	m
67	68	N	75	32	0	W	104.94	m
68	69	S	58	32	0	W	96.17	m
69	70	S	2	34	0	W	63.73	m
70	71	S	12	3	0	E	48.30	m

71	72	S	13	59	0	W	236.20	m
72	73	S	55	11	596	W	39.92	m
73	74	N	50	39	58	W	16.16	m
74	75	S	81	13	0	W	50.50	m
75	76	N	28	14	1	W	18.90	m
76	77	N	10	1	0	W	121.60	m
77	78	N	3	23	0	E	47.05	m
78	79	S	85	43	0	W	48.92	m
79	80	N	70	30	0	W	451.73	m
80	81	N	60	41	0	W	193.70	m
81	82	S	88	29	0	W	95.64	m
82	83	S	64	15	0	W	366.41	m
83	84	N	70	56	0	W	26.06	m
84	85	N	2	11	0	W	37.14	m
85	86	N	85	4	0	W	20.71	m
86	87	S	79	28	0	W	20.79	m
87	88	S	52	21	0	W	253.86	m
88	89	S	25	9	0	W	153.94	m
89	90	S	55	24	0	W	124.56	m
90	91	S	48	3	0	W	28.57	m
91	92	S	14	30	0	W	64.97	m
92	93	S	8	42	0	E	81.10	m
93	94	S	73	10	0	W	69.33	m
94	95	S	49	54	0	W	58.40	m
95	96	N	11	30	0	W	54.29	m
96	97	N	19	53	0	W	96.86	m
97	1	N	86	56	0	W	401.07	m

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2 The total land area of the Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected Landscape and
3 Seascape is Two thousand five hundred twenty four (2,524) hectares, more or
4 less, situated in the municipalities of Bacolod and Kauswagan, Province of
5 Lanao del Norte.

6 SEC. 4. **Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

7 a) *Biological diversity* or *biodiversity* refers to the wealth of life
8 forms found on earth, the millions of different plants, animals and
9 microorganisms, the genes they contain and the intricate ecosystem they form;

- 1 b) *Buffer zones* refer to identified areas outside the boundaries of and
2 immediately adjacent to designated protected areas that need special
3 development control in order to avoid or minimize harm to the protected area;
- 4 c) *General management plan* refers to the basic long-term framework
5 plan for the management of the protected area and serves as guide in the
6 preparation of the annual operations plan and budget;
- 7 d) *General Management Planning Strategy* refers to a guide in the
8 formulation of site specific management plans, including buffer zones;
- 9 e) *Indigenous peoples* refer to people sharing common bonds of
10 language, customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits and who have
11 since time immemorial occupied, possessed and utilized a territory;
- 12 f) *Integrated Protected Areas Fund* refers to a trust fund established
13 for purposes of financing projects within a protected area;
- 14 g) *Management manual* refers to the individual management plan
15 containing basic background information, field inventory of the resources,
16 assessment of assets and limitations, regional interrelationships, particular
17 objectives for managing the area, appropriate division into management zones,
18 review of the boundaries and design of the management programs of the area;
- 19 h) *National Integrated Protected Areas System* refers to the
20 classification and administration of all designated protected areas established
21 pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the "*National*
22 *Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992,*" to maintain essential

1 ecological processes and life-support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, to
2 ensure sustainable use of resources and to maintain the natural conditions to the
3 greatest extent possible;

4 i) *Protected area* refers to identified portions of land and water set
5 aside by reasons of their unique physical and biological significance, managed
6 to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human
7 exploitation;

8 j) *Protected Area Management Board* refers to the site-based
9 decision-making body responsible for the planning, resource protection and
10 general administration of the area in accordance with the approved management
11 plan;

12 k) *Protected landscape and seascape* refer to areas of national
13 significance which are characterized by the harmonious interaction of man and
14 land while providing opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and
15 tourism within the normal lifestyle and economic activity of the areas;

16 l) *Protected Area Superintendent* refers to the chief operating officer
17 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the
18 Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected Landscape and Seascape;

19 m) *Secretary* refers to the Secretary of the DENR; and

20 n) *Tenured migrants* refer to persons who have actually and
21 continuously occupied an area for five years prior to the designation of the same

1 as a protected area in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7586
2 and are solely dependent therein for subsistence.

3 **SEC. 5. *Management of the Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected Landscape***
4 ***and Seascape.*** – The management of the Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected
5 Landscape and Seascape is vested in the Protected Area Management Board
6 (PAMB) as herein provided, which serves as the highest policy-making body
7 for the protected area. Through the PAMB, the management structure for the
8 protected area shall promote partnership, participation, cooperation and
9 coordination with local communities and civil society organizations.

10 **SEC. 6. *Protected Area Management Board.*** – The PAMB for the
11 Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected Landscape and Seascape is composed of:

12 a) The Regional Executive Director of the DENR – Region X, as
13 chairperson;

14 b) The mayors of the municipalities of Bacolod and Kauswagan,
15 Province of Lanao del Norte or their authorized representatives;

16 c) The barangay captains within the territory and adjacent to the
17 protected area or their authorized representatives;

18 d) The Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture (DA) –
19 Region X or an authorized representative;

20 e) The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer of
21 Lanao del Norte;

1 f) The Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers of
2 the municipalities of Bacolod and Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte;

3 g) Two non-government organization or people's organization
4 representatives concerned with protected area management, chosen from the
5 two municipalities with territories inside the protected areas and duly accredited
6 with the municipalities being represented; and

7 h) The Provincial Planning and Development Officer of Lanao del
8 Norte, sitting as *ex-officio* member, to be endorsed by the provincial governor.

9 Each member of the PAMB shall serve for a term of five (5) years and
10 shall carry the vote of the represented sector in all matters. The members who
11 represent government officials or agencies shall serve according to the term of
12 office of their principals, unless sooner terminated by such officials.

13 SEC. 7. ***Powers and Functions of the PAMB.*** – The PAMB for the
14 Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected Landscape and Seascape shall exercise the
15 following powers and functions:

16 a) Issue rules and regulations to implement the provisions and
17 promote the policy declaration set forth in this Act;

18 b) Establish criteria and set fees for the issuance of permits for the
19 activities regulated by this Act or the approved management plan;

20 c) Identify the buffer zones for the protected area;

21 d) Adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of business, including the
22 creation of committees to whom its powers may be delegated;

1 e) Approve the management plan and oversee the office of the
2 Protected Area Superintendent;

3 f) Deputize interested individuals for the enforcement of the laws,
4 rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this Act;

5 g) Accept donations, approve proposals for funding and budget
6 allocation and exercise accountability over all funds that may accrue to the
7 protected area;

8 h) Coordinate with appropriate agencies for the regulation of flight
9 patterns of aircraft going over the area to set acceptable latitudinal limits and
10 emissions; and

11 i) Retain a legal counsel, either on a permanent or temporary basis, to
12 provide legal assistance to the PAMB and the Protected Area Superintendent
13 staff whenever they are sued in connection with the performance of their duties
14 under this Act.

15 The Secretary shall exercise authority over the PAMB to ensure that it
16 exercises its authority within the scope of its powers and functions. In case of
17 conflict between administrative orders of national application issued by the
18 DENR pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 and the rules and regulations issued
19 by the PAMB, the PAMB shall notify the Secretary who shall resolve such
20 conflict.

21 The local government units of Bacolod and Kauswagan shall participate
22 in the management of the protected area through representation in the PAMB as

1 provided under Section 6 of this Act. The local government units shall retain
2 the power to adopt ordinances over the territory covered under this Act, giving
3 due consideration, however, to protected area management objectives. If any
4 conflict between these local government units and protected area management
5 objectives remains unresolved within the PAMB, the Secretary shall resolve
6 such issue with the concerned local government unit.

7 SEC. 8. ***Protected Area Superintendent.*** – There is hereby established
8 an Office of the Protected Area Superintendent in charge of the management,
9 protection and administration of the protected area. The Protected Area
10 Superintendent shall be supported by the existing personnel of the DENR and
11 shall be the chief operating officer of the Bacolod-Kauswagan Protected
12 Landscape and Seascape. The Protected Area Superintendent shall be
13 accountable to the Regional Executive Director of the DENR – Region X and
14 the PAMB.

15 The Protected Area Superintendent shall exercise the following powers
16 and functions:

- 17 a) Prepare the management and successor plans as herein provided;
- 18 b) Provide a secretariat for the PAMB to supply the latter with all
19 information necessary to make appropriate decisions;
- 20 c) Hire and supervise the necessary personnel to support operations
21 as the budget made available by the PAMB may allow;

1 d) Establish a productive partnership with the local communities,
2 including groups interested in the achievement of the goals and objectives of
3 the protected area and in the planning, protection and management thereof;

4 e) Develop and implement a park information, education and visitor
5 program;

6 f) Enforce the laws, rules and regulations relevant to the protected
7 area and assist in the prosecution of offenses thereof;

8 g) Monitor all activities within the protected area for conformity with
9 the management plan; and

10 h) Perform such other functions as the PAMB may assign.

11 The Protected Area Superintendent shall prepare a management plan in
12 coordination with the appropriate offices of the DENR, the local government
13 units, the local communities and experts on tribal communities who have
14 experience in the particular cultures in the area. The management plan shall be
15 reviewed, approved and adopted by the PAMB and certified by the Secretary so
16 that it conforms to all laws, rules and regulations of national application. In no
17 case shall the management plan be revised or modified without prior
18 consultation with the PAMB.

19 Within one year from the effectivity of this Act, the management plan
20 shall be put into effect in accordance with Republic Act No. 7586 and the
21 procedure herein set forth. It contains, among others, the following:

22 a) Period of applicability of the plan;

- b) Key management issues;
- c) Goals and objectives of management;
- d) Site management strategy;
- e) Major management activities including the enforcement of laws, habitat and wildlife management, sustainable use management, infrastructure development and maintenance, fire and pest control;
- f) Zoning; and
- g) Visitor management programs.

The Protected Area Superintendent shall prepare all successor plans two (2) years before the expiration of the existing plans and shall cause the publication of notices for comments and suggestions on the next successor plans in a newspaper of local circulation and the posting of such notices in the provincial, municipal and barangay halls and in three other areas frequented by the public. Public consultations may be conducted on the successor plans upon the written request of any interested party. The proposed plans shall be made available to the public during the period for comment and the final version shall be made available for public perusal at the office of the Protected Area Superintendent.

The zoning of the protected area gives primary consideration to cultural, economic and social practices consistent with sustainable management principles by tenured migrants and nearby communities for an appreciable length of time unless such uses are deemed detrimental to biodiversity

1 conservation and the protection of the natural characteristics of the protected
2 area.

3 The management plan shall be prepared in a language understandable in
4 the area, plainly written and available for perusal anytime to the general public
5 at the Office of Protected Area Superintendent.

6 SEC. 9. *Existing Facilities Within the Protected Area.* – Existing
7 facilities allowed to remain within the protected area may be charged a
8 reasonable fee by the PAMB, which is embodied in a memorandum of
9 agreement to be entered into with the owner of the facility. All incomes derived
10 from such fees accrue to the Integrated Protected Areas Fund.

11 In setting the user fees on man-made facilities managed by private
12 entities, the rates shall be determined by the private entity but shall be
13 comparable to the fees charged for similar facilities in a protected area. For all
14 other facilities, the user fees therein shall be determined in consultation with the
15 PAMB.

16 SEC. 10. *Utilization of Non-renewable Resources.* – Any exploration
17 for and exploitation or utilization of non-renewable resources within the
18 protected area shall not be allowed. Energy projects, renewable or otherwise,
19 shall be permitted only through an act of Congress. The exploitation of
20 renewable energy up to three (3) megawatts capacity shall be exempt from such
21 requirement.

1 SEC. 11. *Prohibited Acts.* – a) The penalties prescribed for theft under
2 Articles 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code shall be imposed upon any
3 person found guilty of:

4 1) Hunting, destroying, trapping, disturbing or possessing anywhere
5 within the protected area of any wild plant, animal or product derived
6 therefrom without a permit from the PAMB. A permit is given only for
7 scientific purposes necessary to promote protected area management;

8 2) Cutting, gathering, collecting or removing timber or forest
9 products without a permit. A permit is given only for scientific purposes
10 necessary for protected area management;

11 3) Possessing outside the protected area any wild plant, animal or
12 product derived therefrom;

13 4) Mineral exploration, extraction, drilling or prospecting for
14 minerals within the protected area;

15 5) Constructing and maintaining any kind of road, structure, fence or
16 enclosure without permit from the PAMB. Structures within ancestral
17 domains used by indigenous cultural communities do not need a permit
18 from the PAMB;

19 6) Altering, mutilating, excavating, removing, destroying or defacing
20 boundaries, marks, signs, natural formation, burial grounds, religious
21 sites, artifacts, and objects belonging to indigenous cultural communities
22 and other objects of natural and scenic value;

1 7) Destroying the natural habitat of marine life, converting mangrove
2 forests into fishponds and disposing poisonous chemicals therein; and

3 8) Unabating illegal and destructive fishing activities such as the use
4 of filter nets and dynamite fishing which threaten and endanger the future
5 population and the sustainability of fishing resources.

6 b) A fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)
7 but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), or imprisonment
8 of not less than one year but not more than five years, or both, shall be imposed
9 upon:

10 1) Any person found guilty of raising poultry and grazing of livestock
11 within the protected area without a permit from the PAMB; and

12 2) Any public officer who, in dereliction of the duties of office, shall
13 maliciously refrain from instituting acts necessary to prosecute the
14 violators of this Act or shall tolerate the commission of offenses herein
15 provided. Conviction for this offense also carries the penalty of perpetual
16 disqualification from public office.

17 c) A fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (100,000.00)
18 but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), or imprisonment
19 of not less than one (1) year but not more than five (5) years, or both, and the
20 restoration and rehabilitation of the damage shall be imposed upon any person
21 who commits the following acts:

1 1) Violating any rules and regulations in the management plan by the
2 PAMB or agreements reached with the PAMB in the exercise of its
3 adjudicative functions;

4 2) Dumping, burning and disposing of any poisonous chemicals and
5 waste products, vegetation and materials within the protected area to the
6 detriment of the inhabitants, plants and animals therein;

7 3) Engaging in illegal and destructive fishing practices, such as the
8 use of filter nets and at times, dynamite fishing that caused fishery
9 resources to plunge in terms of catch rates and volume;

10 4) Use of motorized equipment without a permit except motorized
11 vehicles within the national highway, provincial road or other public
12 thoroughfare traversing the park: *Provided*, That such thoroughfares
13 were legally constructed;

14 5) Occupying any portion of land inside the protected area without a
15 permit from the PAMB: *Provided*, That such occupation shall be of such
16 nature as to last more than ten (10) days in the particular portion of the
17 protected area; and

18 6) Entering the protected area without a permit from the PAMB.

19 Any person who induces or conspires with another person to commit any
20 of the acts prohibited in this section or cause workers to commit any of such
21 acts shall be liable in the same manner as the one actually performing the act.

1 The valuation of the damage resulting from any of the acts prohibited
2 herein shall take into account biodiversity and conservation considerations as
3 well as aesthetic and scenic values. Conviction for any of these acts shall
4 likewise carry the penalty of eviction from the protected area and forfeiture in
5 favor of the government of transportation facilities, structures, building
6 materials, equipment, devices and weapons used in the commission of the
7 offense.

8 The local government unit responsible for the arrest of a violator and the
9 confiscation of materials used in the commission of the offense is entitled to
10 have a fifty percent (50%) share from the proceeds in the disposition of
11 confiscated materials. The other fifty percent (50%) accrues to the Integrated
12 Protected Areas Fund.

13 The above prohibitions exclude activities identified in the management
14 plans and such other measures as are necessary for protection, preservation and
15 protected area management, which are undertaken by the Protected Area
16 Superintendent or other persons deputized by the PAMB. The certified customs
17 and traditional practices of indigenous cultural communities are also allowable
18 activities over which the above prohibitions shall not apply.

19 SEC. 12. *Special Prosecutor.* – Within thirty (30) days from the
20 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Justice (DOJ) shall designate a special
21 prosecutor to whom all cases of violation of laws, rules and regulations in the
22 protected area are assigned. Such special prosecutor shall coordinate with the

1 PAMB and the Protected Area Superintendent in the performance of duties and
2 assist in the training of wardens and rangers in arresting and prosecuting
3 violators of this Act. The PAMB may appoint a special private prosecutor on a
4 case-to-case basis to assist the public prosecutor.

5 SEC. 13. *Integrated Protected Areas Fund.* – All income generated
6 from the operation of the protected area or the management of wild flora and
7 fauna in the protected area shall accrue to the Integrated Protected Areas Fund.
8 These income are derived from visitors or tourists fees, fees from permitted sale
9 and export of flora and fauna and other resources from the protected area,
10 proceeds from registration and lease of multiple-use areas, including tourism
11 concessions, contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting from
12 the protected area, and such other fees and income derived from the operation
13 of the protected area.

14 The trust fund may be augmented by grants, donations, or endowment
15 from various sources, whether domestic or foreign, for purposes related to their
16 functions. The trust fund shall be deposited as a special account in the National
17 Treasury and disbursements therefrom shall be made solely for the protection,
18 maintenance, administration and management of the system, and duly approved
19 projects endorsed by the PAMB in accordance with existing accounting and
20 budgeting rules and regulations. The trust fund shall not be used to cover
21 personnel services expenditures.

1 The local government units shall continue to impose and collect all other
2 fees not enumerated herein which they have traditionally collected, such as
3 business permits, property tax and rentals of local government units' facilities.
4 Furthermore, the local government units may charge add-ons to fees imposed by
5 the PAMB. Such add-ons are determined based on the contribution of the local
6 government units in the maintenance and protection of the protected area.

7 SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary shall immediately include in
8 the program of the DENR the implementation of this Act, the funding of which
9 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

10 SEC. 15. *Construction.* – The provisions of this Act shall be construed
11 liberally in favor of the protection and rehabilitation of the Bacolod-Kauswagan
12 Protected Landscape and Seascape and the conservation and restoration of
13 biological diversity, taking into account the needs and interests of qualified
14 tenured migrants, for present and future Filipino generations. Republic Act No.
15 7586 shall have suppletory effect in the implementation of this Act.

16 SEC. 16. *Transitory Provision.* – In order to ensure the sustainability
17 and integrity of the watershed areas and water resources, the recovery and
18 restoration of biological diversity and to develop sustainable livelihood
19 opportunities for tenured migrants, the DENR shall henceforth cease to issue
20 concessions, licenses, permits, clearances, compliance documents or any other
21 instruments that allow exploitation and utilization of resources within the
22 protected area until the management plan shall have been put into effect.

1 SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not
3 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

4 SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential
5 decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with
6 any provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7 SEC. 19. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
8 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9 Approved,