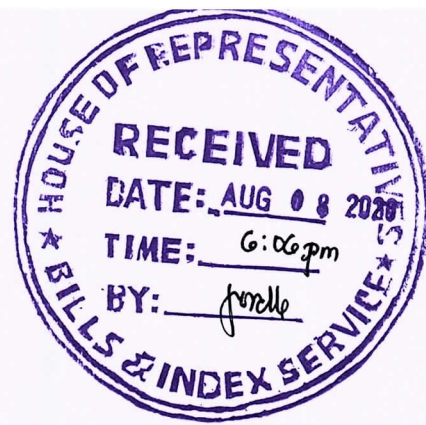


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7329



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**  
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Climate change is a reality that the world faces at this time. The nations are confronted with a challenging task to hopefully make policy changes that are significant enough to reduce its effects before it's too late.

From this issue comes the importance of introducing necessary adjustments to our policy approaches, especially in tourism. Industries involved in tourism often consume one of the largest number of gigawatt hours of electricity, petroleum, and other fuel products. In addition, with the peculiar nature of the industry being mainly focused on exploring scenery, drastic degeneration of the same may result if proper regulation does not take place.

The Philippines, which is an archipelagic state, has been boasted as having one of the best beaches and natural resources not only in the continent, but in the world. However, it is also a reality that there have been instances where our natural resources were exploited in the name of tourism. Recently, Boracay Island has been rehabilitated to bring it back to its former beauty. If action is not done, it is possible that we will soon face a myriad of problems in our tourist spots that would take much more resources to repair than when it is taken care of in the first place.

Hence, it is of utmost necessity that a law institutionalizing sustainable approaches to tourism be passed. Through this legislation, our government agencies will be mandated and empowered to take policy measures that align with the concept of sustainable tourism and development which takes a holistic and futuristic view at tourism. Not only will this benefit us economically by preventing us from spending more for repairs; but it is also our duty to the next generations to protect our archipelago so they can still witness its beauty during their time. It is for these reasons that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS**  
*Representative, Ang Probinsyano Partylist*

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM BY PROVIDING**  
**STRENGTHENING MEASURES THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Sustainable Tourism Act of 2020.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. In addition, the State shall protect the nations marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and protect, develop, and conserve these natural resources.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a) “Sustainable Tourism” refers to an approach to tourism that reconciles tourism with environmental sustainability.

SECTION 4. *Scope.* – This Act shall apply to all coastal and marine areas, addressing the inter-linkages among associated watersheds, estuaries, wetlands, and coastal areas by all relevant national and local agencies.

SECTION 5. *Roles and Responsibilities.* – All concerned national agencies shall support the implementation of this Act and promote best practices that fall within their respective mandates. The following shall identify, prepare, and provide policy guidance and technical resource assistance to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Local Government Units in the implementation of this Act on a national and local scale:

- 1 a) The Department of Tourism shall provide technical and financial  
2 assistance in marketing, promoting, and developing sustainable  
3 coastal tourism projects.  
4  
5 b) The Department of Interior and Local Government shall take the lead  
6 in partnering with Local Government Units in raising awareness and  
7 promulgating policy measures in consonance with the sustainable  
8 tourism approach.  
9  
10 c) The Department of Public Works and Highways shall ensure that all  
11 infrastructure, whether public or private, be constructed and  
12 maintained in an environmentally sustainable manner.  
13

14 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall regularly  
15 provide technical and financial assistance in monitoring the status of our natural  
16 resources and shall provide measure to prevent degeneration of such.  
17

18 The Local Government Units shall likewise, provide for measures to  
19 strengthen sustainable tourism in their respective jurisdictions. They shall  
20 formulate and effectively implement their respective sustainable tourism plans  
21 to ensure the quality of the natural resources within their territory. These plans  
22 shall be regularly updated to address the changes in the natural resources  
23 thereof.  
24

25 SECTION 6. *Private Sector.* – This Act shall also empower the private sector  
26 in engaging and partnering with the government in acts that further improve the  
27 sustainable tourism approach. Non-governmental organizations, civic  
28 organizations, the academe, people's organizations, and the like shall be tapped  
29 by the government in providing assistance in the planning and execution of  
30 sustainable tourism plans.  
31

32 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of  
33 Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Tourism, Department of  
34 Interior and Local Government, and the Department Public Works and Highways  
35 shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within  
36 ninety (90) days from its effectivity.  
37

38 SECTION 8. *Reasonable Goals.* – The national agencies concerned shall be  
39 tasked to provide standards of measure by which the effect of the implementation  
40 of sustainable tourism may be concretized. This shall include, but will not be  
41 limited to:  
42

- 43 a) Lower levels of chromophoric dissolved organic matter (CDOM) and  
44 fluorescent dissolved organic matter (FDOM) in bodies of water  
45

- b) Lack of excessive algal growth in ponds and lakes as measured using algae toximeters
- c) Low health risks based on Air Quality Health Index
- d) Restoration into the wild of flora, fauna, and animals which are on the verge of extinction

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,