



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7501



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ

AN ACT
DECLARING THE PANTARON MOUNTAIN RANGE AS A
PROTECTED AREA CATEGORIZED AS A NATIONAL PARK AND
WATERSHED, AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND
ADMINISTRATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

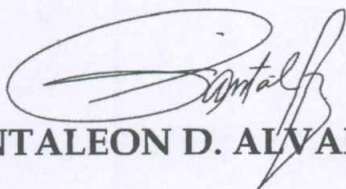
The Pantaron Mountain Range is home to one of the few remaining “old growth” primary forest areas not only in Mindanao but in the entire country. Major rivers and primary water sources in Mindanao have their headwaters in the mountain range, contributing to the consistent stream of fresh water in the Mindanao region

Further, it serves as habitat to a vast range of flora and fauna including some rare and endemic species such as the critically endangered Philippine Eagle, the Philippine Brown Deer, the Philippine Flying Lemur, and the Mindanao-endemic Gymnure.

The rich biodiversity and abundant water supply of the Pantaron Mountain Range gives us compelling reason to ensure its protection and preservation as a National Park and Watershed Reservation. No less than the Philippine Constitution mandates the protection of nature and ecology through Article II, Section 16 expressly stating that: *The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.*

Through this measure, the entire area encompassing Pantaron Mountain Range will be protected from threats of abuse and destruction and at the same time provide for sustainable development in the area for generations to come.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ



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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as and cited as “Pantaron Mountain Range National Park Act”

SEC. 2. Land Categorization Under the 1987 Constitution. – All lands comprising the Pantaron Mountain Range shall fall under the category of National Park and Watershed Reservation under Article 12 Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution, to be known as the Pantaron Range National Park and Watershed.

SEC. 3. Land Categorization Under Republic Act No. 11038 otherwise known as the “Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018”. – All lands comprising the Pantaron Mountain Range shall fall under the category of Natural Park and Protected Area under Section 3 of RA 11038.

SEC. 4. Scope and Coverage. – The entire Pantaron Mountain Range is hereby declared as National Park and Watershed Reservation.

The technical boundaries and area description of the Pantaron Mountain Range shall be subjected to actual ground survey and verification to be conducted by the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (DENR) within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act. Any modification of the coverage of this Act due to such factors as changing ecological situations, new scientific or archaeological findings, or discovery of traditional boundaries not previously taken into account shall be made through an act of Congress, after consultation with the affected public and concerned government agencies.

SEC. 5. *Management of National Park and Watershed Reservations.* – The Pantaron Range National Park and Watershed shall be under the joint administrative jurisdiction, supervision, and control of the DENR and the provincial government of all covered areas and shall be managed in accordance with the 1987 Constitution and RA 11038.

SEC. 6. *Ancestral Lands and Domain.* – The rights of indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) to their ancestral domains shall be fully recognized subject to Section 56 of the Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the “Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA)”. Traditional property regimes exercised by indigenous cultural communities in accordance with their customary laws shall govern the relationships of all individuals within their communities with respect to all lands and resources found within ancestral lands.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include in the Department’s program the implementation of this Act and funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the sections or provision of this Act is held invalid, all other provision not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, resolutions, instructions, and rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.