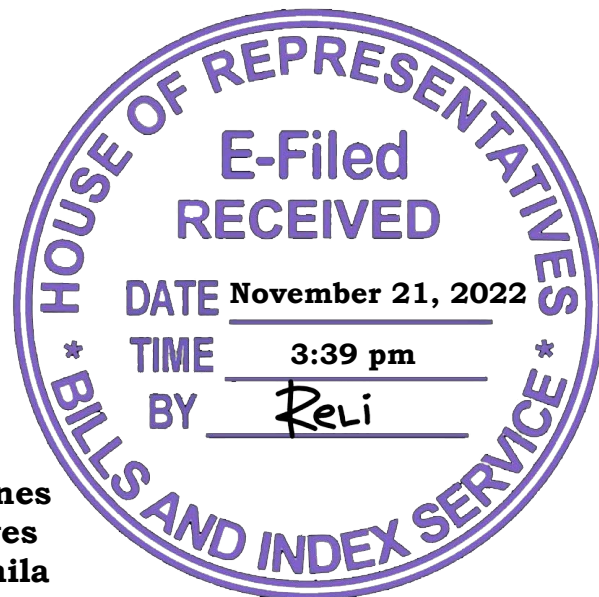




**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 6240



Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is a need to acknowledge the significant contribution of Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) to the country's efforts in the protection of the environment. Similarly, this is consistent with the State's recognition of the existing customary and traditional governance by ICCs or IPs of their ancestral domains and lands as an effective measure of conserving biodiversity areas.

To this end, this measure provides the following salient features, among others:

The ICCs and IPs shall have the right to designate conserved areas within their ancestral domains and lands following their indigenous political structures, cultures, and traditions. The Indigenous Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs), their respective locations, names in the indigenous language, and components therein shall be respected, used, and promoted in all official documents.

Finally, this measure establishes the National ICCA Registry, which shall contain all pertinent records on the ICCAs that the ICCs and IPs voluntarily submit as ICCA registrants. The Registry shall consider information and data submitted as part of the community's intellectual property rights.

Therefore, this representation seeks the urgent passage of this measure.


RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I



**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 6240

Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

**AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY CONSERVED TERRITORIES AND AREAS
OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURAL COMMUNITIES,
ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS REGISTRY, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "*Indigenous
Community Conserved Territories and Areas Act*".

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy. In accordance with the provisions of the
Constitution, Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the "Indigenous
Peoples Rights Act of 1997" (IPRA), and the United Nations Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), it is the policy of the State to recognize,
promote, and protect the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous
Peoples (ICCs/IPs), particularly to their ancestral domains.

The State also recognizes the existing customary and traditional
governance by ICCs/IPs of their ancestral domains and lands as an effective
measure of conserving key biodiversity areas. By this recognition, the State
acknowledges the significant contribution of ICCs/IPs to the country's efforts in
the protection of the environment, the conservation of biodiversity, and in the
promotion the community resilience.

Towards this end, the State shall adopt measures to recognize and respect
the designation and declaration by ICCs/IPs of the conserved areas within their
ancestral domains and to promote their rights to manage, maintain, and
sustainably develop the natural resources by applying their indigenous

1 knowledge systems and practices within these areas under their indigenous
2 political structures and traditional governance systems.

3 For this purpose, a national registry for all ICCs/IPs conserved territories
4 and areas shall be established to be the repository of information on these
5 conserved territories and areas.

6 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act:

- 7 a) *Environmentally critical areas (ECAs)* refer to areas identified under
8 Presidential Proclamation No. 2146, Series of 1981 and herein further
9 classified as Strict Protection Zones (SPZ);
10 b) *Indigenous Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA)* refer to
11 areas within ancestral domains and lands, and parts thereof, that are
12 identified, protected, conserved, and sustainably used by ICCs/IPs
13 pursuant to their indigenous knowledge, systems, and practices, and in
14 accordance with customary laws and other effective means since time
15 immemorial continuously to the present, subject to the limitations
16 imposed by the Constitution.

17 These are characterized by natural or modified ecosystems,
18 containing significant biodiversity, beneficial ecological qualities and is of
19 great cultural and spiritual value to the community.

- 20 c) *Key biodiversity areas* refer to the sites of global significance for
21 biodiversity conservation that are identified using globally standard
22 criteria and thresholds, based on the scale of the need for safeguards.
23 These criteria are based on the framework of vulnerability and
24 irreplaceability used in systematic conservation planning;
25 d) *National ICCA Registry* refers to the national information management
26 system that contains records of the pertinent information on ICCAs;
27 e) *Sustainable Traditional Resource Rights (STRR)* refer to the rights of
28 ICCs/IPs to sustainably use, manage, protect and conserve 1) land, air,
29 water, and minerals; 2) plants, animals and other organisms; 3) collecting,
30 fishing and hunting grounds; 4) sacred sites; and, 5) other areas of
31 economic, ceremonial and aesthetic value in accordance with their
32 indigenous knowledge, belief systems, and practices.

33 **SEC. 4. Scope and Coverage.** - This Act shall apply to all ancestral
34 domains and lands publicly known to have been held under a claim of
35 ownership, possession and occupation based on native title since time
36 immemorial continuously and up to the present, or formally recognized under a
37 Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) or Certificate of Ancestral Land Title
38 (CALT) issued pursuant to Republic Act No. 8371.

39 **CHAPTER II**
40 **INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**
41 **CONSERVED TERRITORIES AND AREAS**

42 **SEC. 5. Guiding Principles.** - The following guidelines shall be observed
43 in recognizing the indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples
44 conserved territories and areas (ICCAs):

- 45 a) The rights to land and self-determination include the full recognition of
46 the traditional resources, rights and practices of ICCs/IPs, as well as

- 1 their right to access, maintain, protect, conserve, regulate ICCAs and
2 exclude unauthorized intrusion into these areas;
- 3 b) The customary laws and indigenous knowledge systems and practices
4 (IKSPs) in the governance and management of ICCAs shall be
5 recognized and respected provided that they are within the framework
6 of national unity and development as envisioned under the
7 Constitution;
- 8 c) The ICCs/IPs shall govern their conserved territories and areas and
9 ensure the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of ecological
10 balance and biodiversity therein in consonance with existing
11 environmental policies and with the assistance of government agencies;
- 12 d) The identification and declaration of ICCAs shall consider duly
13 formulated national, regional, provincial and municipal policies, plans
14 and programs;
- 15 e) The ICCs/IPs shall receive a fair and equitable share in the benefits
16 derived from the ecosystem services provided by ICCAs and other
17 activities as authorized by the ICCs/IPs themselves in accordance with
18 existing environmental policies, rules and regulations; and
- 19 f) In case of conflict between ICC/IPs' customary laws and indigenous
20 knowledge systems and practices on the one hand, and existing
21 environmental laws, rules and regulations, on the other, earnest efforts
22 shall be exerted to adopt an interpretation that will give effect to both.
23 Only when it is clear that the two are truly irreconcilable will
24 environmental laws, rules and regulations prevail, but such
25 construction shall always be supported by evidence attesting to the fact
26 that the customary laws and IKSPs have no sound scientific basis and
27 shall be guided by the pertinent provisions of the Constitution.

28 **SEC. 6. Recognition of ICCAs.** The ICCs/IPs shall define and declare the
29 conserved areas within their ancestral domains and lands in accordance with
30 their indigenous political structures, cultures and traditions provided that the
31 identified area is not earlier proclaimed or declared as a protected area under
32 Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected
33 Areas System Act of 1992" as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise
34 known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of
35 2018" and other presidential proclamations.

36 The declaration of ICCAs shall be respected as an exercise of the self-
37 governance, self-determination and sustainable traditional resource rights of the
38 ICCs/IPs. It shall be recognized by all national agencies and local government
39 units (LGUs) as another category of protected areas that are owned, controlled,
40 governed and managed by ICCs/IPs themselves. The ICCAs, their respective
41 locations, names in indigenous language, and components therein, shall be
42 respected used, and promoted in all official documents.

43 No provision in this Act granting or recognizing the rights and privileges of
44 ICCs/IPs in the ICCAs shall be construed to diminish their rights and privileges
45 in non-ICCA areas of the ancestral domains or lands.

46 **SEC. 7. Protection of ICCAs.** Subject to the provisions of the
47 Constitution, Republic Act No. 8371, and Republic Act No. 7586, as amended,
48 the ICCAs shall be reserved for the exclusive use of ICCs/IPs exercising their
49 sustainable traditional resource rights. It shall be the duty of the ICC/IPs to

1 govern, conserve, manage and protect ICCAs with the assistance of government
2 agencies.

3 **SEC. 8. *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) System.*** For the
4 purposes of this Act, all ICCAs shall be considered as environmentally critical
5 areas.

6 All projects outside the ICCA that have potential adverse impacts on the
7 conserved territories and areas are subject to EIA.

8 The participation of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
9 (NCIP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is
10 required in the conduct of the EIA outside the ICCAs but within the ICC/IPs
11 ancestral domain.

12 The customary laws, the IKSPs of the ICCs/IPs and the social acceptability
13 of the project shall be considered in the assessment of such projects.

14 In the interest of transparency and full disclosure, the EIA should be
15 concluded and reported for consideration during the Free and Prior Informed
16 Consent (FPIC) process, as provided for under Section 3 (g) of Republic Act No.
17 8371.

18 **SEC. 9. *ICCAs in Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).*** Subject to the
19 Constitution, the ICCs/IPs shall govern, maintain, restore and sustainably
20 develop the ICCAs' key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in accordance with their
21 customary laws, IKSP, and in a manner consistent with the sustainable use and
22 conservation of biodiversity found therein and in accordance with existing
23 environmental policies, rules and regulations.

24 **CHAPTER III**

25 **NATIONAL INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS** 26 **PEOPLES CONSERVED TERRITORIES AND AREAS REGISTRY**

27 **SEC. 10. *The National ICCA Registry.*** To ensure the availability of
28 official information on ICCAs, a National ICCA Registry, hereinafter referred to
29 as the "*Registry*," is hereby established. The Registry shall be the official
30 information management system that shall contain all pertinent records on the
31 ICCAs that are voluntarily submitted by the ICCs/IPs as the ICCA registrant.
32 The Registry shall contain the following information:

- 33 a) Name of the ICCs/IPs;
- 34 b) A map generated from the delineation of the ICCAs with the corresponding
35 technical description by the DENR;
- 36 c) Brief description of governance structure;
- 37 d) Policies on resource conservation and sustainable use;
- 38 e) CADT and CALT, if applicable;
- 39 f) Relevant portions of the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and
40 Protection Plan (ADSDPP) containing information on the ICCAs; and
- 41 g) Contact persons.

42 **SEC. 11. *Operational Structures of the Registry.*** The DENR, through
43 the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), shall be the main repository and
44 administrator of the Registry. It shall organize, store, and update all information
45 that may be contained in the Registry, and shall be responsible for the
46 documentation, administration and maintenance of the Registry.

1 All information and data in the Registry shall be obtained from the
2 ICCs/IPs who registered and provided such information. The information and
3 data submitted shall be considered as part of the community's intellectual
4 property rights.

5 The intellectual property rights of the ICCs/IPs shall be protected and
6 respected.

7 **SEC. 12. Creation of a Steering Committee.** A Steering Committee is
8 created to define policy, provide directions and perform oversight functions in
9 the administration and maintenance of the Registry.

10 It shall be chaired by a representative from the NCIP.

11 The Steering Committee shall be composed of the following:

- 12 a) A representative from the DENR;
- 13 b) A representative from the NCIP;
- 14 c) A representative from the Department of the Interior and Local
15 Government (DILG);
- 16 d) A representative from the Department of Human Settlements and
17 Urban Development (DHSUD);
- 18 e) A representative from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA);
- 19 f) A representative from recognized civil society organizations (CSOs); and
- 20 g) Three (3) representatives of the ICCs/IPs who are themselves members
21 of the indigenous cultural community; and
- 22 h) A representative from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
23 (ULAP).

24 **SEC. 13. ICCA Registration.** The ICCs/IPs shall initiate the
25 documentation and registration of their ICCAs in the Registry with appropriate
26 financial and technical support from the NCIP, the DENR, or other assisting
27 organizations.

28 If the ICCs/IPs seek the assistance of the NCIP and the DENR in the
29 registration of the ICCAs, the following steps shall be undertaken:

- 30 a) The NCIP shall assist the community in documenting the ICCAs and,
31 with the support of the DENR, delineate the metes and bounds of the
32 said ICCA;
- 33 b) The NCIP shall facilitate the formulation of a Community Conservation
34 Plan in collaboration with the DENR and the municipal and provincial
35 local government units; and
- 36 c) The NCIP shall submit the documentation of the ICCAs and other
37 pertinent documents to the DENR for inclusion in the Registry.

38 In case the ICCs/IPs decide to undertake the documentation by
39 themselves with the support of assisting organizations, the NCIP, DENR and the
40 municipal and provincial local government units concerned, shall verify and
41 affirm the documentation and pertinent documents submitted before the ICCAs
42 may be included in the Registry.

43 The map, the technical description of the specific ICCA, and a brief
44 description of the natural features and landmarks of the ICCA sought to be
45 registered and included in the Registry shall be posted at the local, provincial,
46 and regional office of the NCIP, and shall be published in a newspaper of general
47 circulation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks to allow concerned parties
48 to formally submit their written opposition within fifteen (15) days.

1 **SEC. 14. Procedure for Delisting from the Registry.** If the ICCs/IPs
2 determine that the ICCA no longer serves the purpose for which it was defined
3 and declared, the ICCs/IPs may cause the delisting of the same through a
4 procedure to be provided in the rules and regulations to be issued by the NCIP
5 and the DENR to implement this Act.

6 **SEC. 15. Inclusion of ICCAs in the LGUs Plan.** The LGUs shall include
7 in their Regional Physical Framework Plans, Provincial Physical Framework
8 Plans, Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plans, Community Development
9 Plans, Forest Land Use Plans, Barangay Development Plans, the Ancestral
10 Domains Sustainable Development and Protection Plan, and other relevant
11 harmonized plans on the ICCAs that have been declared and recorded in the
12 Registry by the ICCs/IPs.

13 **SEC. 16. ICCA Governance.** The ICCAs shall be governed by the ICCs/IPs
14 in accordance with their customary laws, indigenous knowledge systems and
15 practices, structures and mechanisms: *Provided*, That any co-management with,
16 or relinquishment of management by the ICCs/IPs, shall be temporary in nature
17 and subject to regular renewal by the ICCs/IPs in accordance with Section 58 of
18 Republic Act No. 8371, and Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended.

19 The application of customary laws, indigenous knowledge systems and
20 practices, structures, and mechanisms by the ICCs/IPs within and outside their
21 ICCAs shall enjoy the presumption of being indigenous and a sustainable
22 traditional resource right, and shall not require prior approval or validation
23 provided that such customary laws, indigenous knowledge systems and
24 practices and sustainable traditional resource right has been earlier
25 acknowledged and recognized by the NCIP. Towards this end, the NCIP shall
26 endeavor to codify these customary laws, indigenous knowledge systems and
27 practices and sustainable traditional resource right in accordance with Section
28 46 (b) of Republic Act No. 8371 and NCIP Administrative Order No. 1, Series of
29 2012.

30 Any conflict on matters of governance that may arise within the ICCAs
31 shall be primarily resolved through customary laws and traditional conflict
32 resolution mechanisms.

33 **CHAPTER IV** 34 **INCENTIVES**

35 **SEC. 17. Incentive Scheme.** The ICCAs listed in the Registry shall be
36 prioritized for biodiversity conservation, preservation of forest cover, protection
37 of ancestral waters, and as reforestation project sites. Where appropriate and
38 available, government financial institutions and other government agencies shall
39 provide financial and technical assistance to ICCs/IPs for the protection and
40 promotion of their registered conserved territories and areas, particularly in the
41 establishment and implementation of payment schemes for ecosystem services
42 provided by the ICCAs.

43 In all cases, the rights, interests and well-being of the ICCs/IPs shall be of
44 paramount concern.

45 **CHAPTER V** 46 **ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

1 **SEC. 18. Role of the NCIP.** The NCIP shall be the primary government
2 agency responsible for the full implementation of this Act. It shall protect and
3 promote the interest and well-being of the ICCs/IPs in the context of biodiversity
4 conservation and community resilience.

5 The NCIP shall create the Ancestral Domain Protection and Sustainable
6 Development Office, and shall coordinate with the DENR on all activities related
7 to the documentation, community conservation, planning, and registration of
8 ICCAs. It shall provide full and effective financial and technical assistance on the
9 following:

- 10 a) Capacity building and enhancement in the identification,
11 documentation, and recognition of ICCAs;
- 12 b) Preparation of Community Conservation Plans (CCP), and
13 integrating them in the ADSDPP; and
- 14 c) Interfacing of the ADSDPP into other relevant planning frameworks.

15 The NCIP shall also be responsible for the verification and affirmation of
16 information submitted by the ICCs/IPs who undertake the documentation by
17 themselves, for inclusion in the Registry of ICCAs.

18 The NCIP shall take into account the issues and concerns on ICCAs in all
19 management planning and decision-making processes of the ICCs/IPs.

20 The NCIP shall also be represented in the Protected Area Management
21 Board (PAMB)–created for each protected area pursuant to Republic Act No.
22 7586, as amended.

23 The NCIP, through its provincial offices, shall have original and exclusive
24 jurisdiction over all claims and disputes involving ICCAs: *Provided*, however,
25 That no such dispute shall be brought to the NCIP unless the parties have
26 exhausted all remedies provided under their customary laws: *Provided further*,
27 That the indigenous conflict resolution should not apply if one of the parties is a
28 non-member of an ICC/IP, and such dispute may be filed directly with the NCIP.

29 The decision of the provincial office can be appealed to the regional office
30 and the Commission proper.

31 **SEC. 19. Role of the DENR.** - The DENR shall, upon the formal request
32 of the ICCs/IPs, provide financial and technical support for delineation and
33 mapping, and biodiversity assessment of ICCA and in the listing or registration
34 of ICCA with the Registry and similar global platforms or networks.

35 Enforcement of the preventive mechanisms and penal provisions of this
36 Act shall also be vested in the DENR.

37 The agency shall also take into account the issues and concerns on ICCAs
38 in all management planning and decision-making processes of the ICCs/IPs.

39 The government shall provide funds for the publication of the list of verified
40 ICCAs.

41 **SEC. 20. Role of Other Government Agencies and LGUs.** - Consistent
42 with their respective mandates and upon formal request by ICCs/IPs, national
43 government agencies and LGUs shall provide financial and technical assistance
44 in building and strengthening the capacity of the requesting ICCs/IPs to manage
45 their ICCA.

46 The NCIP and the DENR, in partnership with the DILG, shall device an
47 incentive scheme for LGUs that will adopt and include ICCAs in the harmonized
48 Regional and Provincial Physical Framework Plans, Comprehensive Land and

1 Water Use Plans, Community Development Plan, Forest Land Use Plan and other
2 relevant plans and programs.

3 The NCIP and the DENR shall, in partnership with the Department of
4 Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Philippine
5 Statistics Authority (PSA), create or improve on existing data gathering methods
6 for a complete and centralized ICCA registry.

7 The NCIP shall, in coordination with the DENR, the National Economic
8 and Development Authority (NEDA), the DILG, the Housing and Land Use
9 Regulatory Board (HLURB), and the Department of Budget and Management
10 (DBM), formulate guidelines for the prioritization of programs and projects that
11 support ICCAs.

12 **SEC. 21. Engagement with the Private Sector and Civil Society to**
13 **Recognize ICCAs.** - The ICCs/IPs, the NCIP and the DENR shall actively engage
14 and collaborate with the private sector and civil society in raising public
15 awareness and recognition of ICCAs, and in obtaining specialized assistance and
16 services, subject to FPIC requirements of the concerned ICCs/IPs. Public
17 participation in the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of ICCAs in
18 accordance with the ICCs/IPs customary law and IKSP, especially at the local
19 level, shall be encouraged to maximize conservation and community benefits.

20 **SEC. 22. Sustainable Livelihoods.** - Subject to the provisions of the
21 Constitution, the NCIP, the DENR, and other relevant government agencies shall
22 support sustainable livelihood opportunities, including biodiversity-friendly
23 livelihoods that are identified and defined by ICCs/IPs consistent with traditional
24 practices and resource use in accordance with ICCs/IPs customary law and IKSP
25 that contribute to the sustainable use and proper management of the ICCAs.

26 **CHAPTER VI** 27 **PENAL PROVISIONS**

28 **SEC. 23. Prohibited Acts.** Any act inconsistent with the policies of
29 conservation and protection, and prohibited in Republic Act No. 8371 and
30 Republic Act No. 7586, as amended, is prohibited.

31 **SEC. 24. Penalties.** Any individual, corporation, partnership, association
32 or juridical entity who commits any acts in violation of Section 23 of this Act
33 shall upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment of not less than six months
34 but not more than six (6) years or a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos
35 (P50,000.00) but not more than Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00), or both, at
36 the discretion of the court.

37 After finding of a probable cause, the proper court where the information
38 is filed shall immediately conduct a summary hearing to determine the propriety
39 of issuing a Temporary Environmental Protection Order (TEPO) and shall
40 simultaneously hear the criminal case to determine the urgency of issuing of a
41 writ of *kalikasan*. This is without prejudice to the other provisional remedies
42 provided under Rule 127 of the Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure.

43 The offender, upon conviction, shall also provide restitution
44 commensurate to the cost of the destroyed ecosystem and the cost of
45 rehabilitation of the same as agreed upon with the ICCs/IPs.

1 If the offender is a government official or employee, the offender shall, in
2 addition to imprisonment and fine, be perpetually disqualified to hold public
3 office.

4 Any object and instrumentality used in committing any of the prohibited
5 acts under Section 23 of this Act shall be confiscated and forfeited in favor of the
6 government.

7 If the offender is a juridical entity, the penalty of imprisonment and fine
8 shall be imposed upon its manager, director, representative or employee
9 responsible for the violation without prejudice to the cancellation or revocation
10 of the license or accreditation of the offender, issued by any licensing or
11 accredited body of the government.

12 If the offender is an alien, the offender shall be deported immediately after
13 service of the sentence.

14 The prosecution of offenses under Section 23 of this Act shall be without
15 prejudice to any liability for violation of Republic Act No. 8371 or other criminal
16 and civil liabilities under existing laws.

17 **CHAPTER VII** 18 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

19 **SEC. 25. *Annual Report.*** The Chairperson of the NCIP shall submit to
20 the President of the Philippines and to the Congress an annual progress report
21 on the implementation of this Act. The report shall be posted in the website of
22 the NCIP.

23 **SEC. 26. *Construction.*** The provisions of this Act shall be construed
24 liberally in favor of ICCs/IPs and the protection and conservation of biodiversity.
25 In no way shall it be interpreted as an instrument to exploit ICC/IPs or
26 undermine the intent of this Act to conserve and protect ICCAs.

27 This Act shall not in any manner adversely affect the rights and benefits
28 of the ICCs/IPs under Republic Act No. 8371, international conventions,
29 recommendations, international treaties, national laws, awards, customs and
30 agreements.

31 **SEC. 27. *Appropriations.*** The amount necessary to cover the initial
32 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's
33 appropriations of the concerned departments or agencies. Thereafter, such sums
34 as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the
35 annual General Appropriations Act.

36 **SEC. 28. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** Within ninety (90) days
37 from the approval of this Act, the Chairperson of the NCIP and the Secretary of
38 the DENR shall, in consultation with appropriate government agencies and with
39 the full participation of ICCs/IPs, issue the necessary rules and regulations for
40 the effective implementation of this Act.

41 **SEC. 29. *Separability Clause.*** If any part or provision of this Act is
42 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
43 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

44 **SEC. 30. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
45 regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with
46 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 31. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
3 *Approved,*