

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19th Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **8679**



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE OLGA "Ara" T. KHO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Bañadero River to be classified as a Protected Watershed Area pursuant to Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Executive Order No. 192.

The Bañadero River is a stream in Masbate, geographically situated nearby to the town of Mobo and the locality of Tabong and Loyong Catongan, it is also known as Ambo Creek or Ambog River.

It is home to various threatened wildlife and various flora and fauna that are threatened or vulnerable to endangerment or extinction and rare species.

Declaring it as a protected watershed area will ensure that the flora and fauna found in the area will continue to be preserved and that the area will receive the appropriate management so that its existing biodiversity is not disturbed

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


REP. OLGA "Ara" T. KHO

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

19th Congress
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House Bill No. 8679

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE OLGA "Ara" T. KHO**

AN ACT
DECLARING THE BAÑADERO RIVER TO BE CLASSIFIED AS A PROTECTED
WATERSHED AREA PURSUANT TO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 192.

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* — This Act shall be known and cited as the "Bañadero River Protected Watershed Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to ensure the sustainable use, development, management, renewal and conservation of the country's forest, mineral land, off-shore areas and other natural resources, including the protection and enhancement of the quality of environment and equitable access of the different segments of the population to the development and use of the country's natural resources, not only for the present generation but for the future use. Thus, the State shall recognize and apply a true value system including social and environmental cost implications relative to their utilization, development and conservation of our natural resources.

SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage* - The Bañadero River is a stream in Masbate, geographically situated nearby to the town of Mobo and the locality of Tabong and Loyong Catongan, it is also known as Ambo Creek or Ambog River.

SEC. 4. *Management of the Bañadero River.* — The management of the Bañadero River shall be vested under the administration, supervision and control of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through its Forest Management Bureau, in coordination with other agencies in the government with the objective of maintaining its usefulness as a source of water for domestic use and other forestry purposes.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* — The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Interpretation.* — The provisions of this Act shall be construed liberally in favor of the protection and rehabilitation of the Bañadero River and the conservation and restoration of biological diversity.

SEC. 7. *Transitory Provision.* - In order to ensure the sustainability and integrity of the watershed and water resources, the recovery and restoration of biological diversity, the DENR is prohibited to issue any concessions, licenses, permits, clearances, compliance documents or any instrument that allows exploitation and utilization of resources within the protected area.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* — If any part or section of this Act is declared by the courts as unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the other parts or sections hereof.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *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,