

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9444



Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, the highest law of the land, enshrines 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. (Article II, Section 16)

The Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Forest Reserve (PCWFR) was proclaimed on May 21, 1969, by virtue of Proclamation No. 561, issued by former President Ferdinand Marcos. In 2018, it was placed under the protection of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act 11038, as an initial component. The watershed reservation covers a total area of 102,030.53 hectares (96,476.51 hectares of land and 5,554.02 hectares of water).¹ The watershed forest reserve lies between 15°44' to 16°88' north latitude and 120°36' to 122°00' east longitude bounded on the north, northwest and northeast by the Caraballo Mountain Ranges and on the south, southeast and southwest by the Sierra Madre Ranges. The watershed is approximately 176 km away from Manila.²

The PCWFR is a critical conservation area found in the upper reaches of the Upper Pampanga Rivier Basin. The watershed area is home to grasses like Cogon, Talahib, Hagonoy, and Samon-samon, which co-exist with Alibangbang and Yemane. There are also fruit-bearing trees in the area like mango, cashew and guyabano, as well as other citrus species.³ While the PCWFR is already an incredible hotspot of a myriad of flora and fauna, there is much more to discover and protect.

Likewise, the area is considered a “critical watershed” since it supports a multipurpose dam for irrigation and hydroelectric generation.⁴ The watershed also

¹ N.a. “Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Forest Reserve”. *Biodiversity Management Bureau*. N.d. Web. Accessed on 15 December 2022. < <https://pais.bmb.gov.ph/pas/home/info/DENRRE30011>>

² Lasco RD, Cruz RVO, Pulhin JM, Pulhin FB (2010). “Assessing climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability: The case of the Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed”. *World Agroforestry Centre and College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines Los Baños*. 95p. < <http://apps.worldagroforestry.org/downloads/Publications/PDFS/B16559.pdf>>

³ N.a. “Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed”. *National Power Corporation*. 14 September 2017. Web. Accessed on 15 December 2022. <<https://www.napocor.gov.ph/index.php/services/watershed-management/watershed-areas/26-watershed/118-pantabangan-carranglan-watershed>>

⁴ *Supra*, note 1.

provides water for both domestic or household and industrial uses. It also used to control flood waters which for years damaged the farm crops in Central Luzon.⁵

The reservation supplies water to the Pantabangan Dam – a key infrastructure for irrigation to agricultural lands in Central Luzon⁶, where 40% of the region's area consists of agricultural plains and produces most of the country's rice supply; thus, earning the nickname "Rice Granary of the Philippines."⁷ In fact, Central Luzon remained the country's top food basket in the second quarter of 2022, ranking first in the production of rice, chicken, duck, duck eggs, tilapia, tiger prawn, catfish, milkfish and mud crab.⁸ The PCWFR supplies the irrigation requirements of 24 local government units in the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, and Pampanga. It has a total service area of 102,532.21 hectares which is divided into four districts. A total of 369 irrigators' associations (IAs) consisting of 62,039 farmers depend on the PCWFR for their farm irrigation needs.⁹ For this reason, without the proper administration, protection, and management of the watershed reservation, the agriculture sector will severely suffer.

In terms of energy, the Pantabangan and Masiway Dams were commissioned in 1977 and 1981 to provide renewable energy, thus contributing to 132 megawatts to the Luzon grid.¹⁰ In 2021, the Pantabangan-Masiway Hydro Power complex was estimated to add another 120 MW.

Furthermore, more than half of the productive population of Pantabangan and Carranglan are in the labor force. Hence, many residents depend on the goods and services provided by the watershed for their livelihood. Commonly practiced in these areas are kaingin and charcoal-making.¹¹

Undoubtedly, the watershed reservation impacts the entire Region III and even the country as a whole. Central Luzon is home to 12,422,172 persons based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH) of the Philippine Statistics Authority. This accounts for about 11.39 percent of the Philippine population in 2020. Particularly, the population of Nueva Ecija is at 2,310,134, with 1.51% growth rate from 2015 to 2020.¹² This watershed reserve provides water for consumption to millions of residents. Without the water supply from the PCWFR, people do not have access to clean water.

However, despite the benefits and opportunities that the watershed reservation has provided the Filipino people, it is threatened by human activities. The PCWFR

⁵ *Supra*, note 1.

⁶ N.a. "Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed". *National Power Corporation*. 14 September 2017. Web. Accessed on 15 December 2022. <<https://www.napocor.gov.ph/index.php/services/watershed-management/watershed-areas/26-watershed/118-pantabangan-carranglan-watershed>>

⁷ N.a. "Region III Profile". *National Nutrition Council*. 17 August 2020. Web. Accessed on 15 December 2022. <<https://www.nnc.gov.ph/2-uncategorised/204-region-iii-profile>>

⁸ Hernandez, Jerry M. "Region 3 economy stable – NEDA". *The Manila Times*. 4 November 2022. Web. Accessed on 15 December 2022. <<https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/11/04/news/regions/region-3-economy-stable-neda/1864884>>

⁹ *Supra*, note 1.

¹⁰ Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Forest Reserve Protected Area Management Plan, December 2020.

¹¹ *Supra*, note 1.

¹² N.a. "Highlights of the Region III (Central Luzon) Population 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH)". *Philippine Statistics Authority*. 23 August 2021. Web. Accessed on 15 December 2022. <<https://psa.gov.ph/content/highlights-region-iii-central-luzon-population-2020-census-population-and-housing-2020-cph>>

houses an estimated 68,000 occupants as per 2022 latest data. As the population grows, the environment is affected.¹³ According to a study, human activities such as “illegal treasure hunting/mining, illegal cutting of trees, dumping of garbage, squatting, illegal hunting of wildlife, burning, and destruction of natural features” pose a threat to the environs of the watershed reservation.¹⁴ While “unregulated use of water, and illegal cattle grazing” also contribute to the degradation of the area.¹⁵

Lastly, the operation of the PCWFR is primarily governed by a management board composed of ex-officio members. More technical and field personnel are required, as all staff positions are by designation and only temporary in nature.¹⁶ There is also a need to sustainably finance its operations.

This proposed measure, therefore, seeks to categorize the Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Forest Reserve in the Province of Nueva Ecija as a Protected Area under the category of Protected Landscape pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise known as the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018. This is to secure for the present and future generations of Filipinos the perpetual existence of all flora and fauna within the watershed reserve by the proper administration, management, and development of the area. Its legislation from a forest reserve to a protected landscape is crucial for climate resiliency and the preservation of its rich biodiversity. More importantly, the conservation of the area shall redound to the benefit of the people.

The Pantabangan-Carranglan Protected Landscape (PCPL) shall be under the management of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), which shall be established to serve as the highest policy-making body for the protected area and shall promote partnership, participation, cooperation and coordination with local communities and civil society organizations. The PAMB shall exercise powers and functions pursuant to the declared policy set forth in the proposed measure. Other key provisions include the establishment of the Protected Management Office (PAMO) to be headed by the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu). Finally, a trust fund to be known as the Pantabangan-Carranglan Protected Landscape Integrated Protected Area Fund shall be established to be used to finance the projects for the benefit of the area and its abundant natural resources, and the people.

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


JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO

¹³ Supra, note 10.

¹⁴ Manuel, Apollo I & Velasco, Marjorie S (2021). “Reforestation Program in Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Forest Reserve: An Assessment”. *British Journal of Environmental Studies*. DOI: 10.32996/bjes.2021.1.1.1

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Supra, note 10.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9444

Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PANTABANGAN-CARRANGLAN WATERSHED
FOREST RESERVE SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
PANTABANGAN AND CARRANGLAN, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AS
A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED
LANDSCAPE PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586 AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11038, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED
NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM ACT OF 2018,
PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Pantabangan-Carranglan Protected Landscape Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Cognizant of the profound impact of human activities on all components of the natural environment, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations, the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the declaration of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) within the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution.

In recognition of the richness of the biological resources, both flora and fauna, that are native and distinct to the Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Forest Reserve, as well as their aesthetic and ecological importance, a parcel of land located in the Municipalities of Pantabangan and Carranglan, and Bongabon in the Province of Nueva

Ecija; Municipalities of Alfonso Castañeda and Aritao in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya; and Municipality of Maria Aurora in the Province of Aurora, is hereby declared a protected area with the category of Protected Landscape, and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Pantabangan-Carranglan Protected Landscape (PCPL). As such, the State shall ensure the conservation, protection, management and rehabilitation of the area. It is likewise recognized that effective administration of this area is possible only through cooperation among national government, local government units (LGUs), concerned nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), private entities and local communities. The use and enjoyment of this area must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development.

Towards this end, the State shall ensure the full implementation of this Act, the mobilization of resources for the institutional mechanisms herein established, and the full scientific and technical support needed for the conservation of biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems, culture and indigenous practices.

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

- a. *Buffer zones* refer to identified areas outside the boundaries of and immediately adjacent to designated protected areas that need special development control in order to avoid or minimize harm to the protected area;
- b. *Conservation* refers to any act or acts of preservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife or maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats;
- c. *Indigenous cultural communities (ICCs)/Indigenous peoples (IPs)* refer to groups of people sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions, and other distinctive cultural traits, and who have, since time immemorial occupied, possessed and utilized a territory;
- d. *National park* refers to land of the public domain classified as such in the Constitution which include all areas under the NIPAS, primarily designated for the conservation of native plants and animals, their associated habitats and cultural diversity;
- e. *Natural biotic area* refers to an area set aside to allow the way of life of societies living in harmony with the environment to adapt to modern technology at their pace;

- f. *Protected area* refers to an identified portion of land and water set aside by reason of its unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation; and
- g. *Tenured migrants* refer to protected area occupants who have been actually, continuously and presently occupying a portion of the protected area for five (5) years before the proclamation or law establishing the same as a protected area, and are solely dependent therein for subsistence.

SEC. 4. Classification as a National Park. – The PCPL is comprised of a parcel of land of the public domain located in the Municipalities of Pantabangan, Carranglan, and Bongabon in the Province of Nueva Ecija; Municipalities of Alfonso Castañeda and Aritao in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya; and Municipality of Maria Aurora in the Province of Aurora. All lands of the public domain within the coverage and scope of the PCPL shall fall under the classification of national park as provided for in Article XII, Section 3 of the Constitution.

SEC. 5. Scope and Coverage. – Beginning at a point marked "1" on the map being S 00°36'16" E 3,347.85 meters from NEJ - 3301 (Latitude 15°48'50.06985"N, Longitude 121°05'36.00489"E) located at Brgy. Fatima, Municipality of Pantabangan, Province of Nueva Ecija.

LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
1-2	N 82°51'49" W	1706.35 M.
2-3	N 45°24'01" W	899.85 M.
3-4	N 28°37'38" W	1164.13 M.
4-5	N 00°35'48" E	2413.4 M.
5-6	N 11°14'04" W	1988.89 M.
6-7	N 13°35'56" E	2374.4 M.
7-8	N 30°18'05" W	1638.74 M.
8-9	N 62°40'00" W	1623.81 M.
9-10	N 44°18'34" W	3084.69 M.
10-11	N 07°37'58" W	2742.29 M.
11-12	N 26°48'22" E	3422.57 M.
12-13	N 40°32'49" W	1392.58 M.
13-14	N 37°05'47" W	2375.33 M.
14-15	N 28°52'01" W	3232.69 M.
15-16	N 00°02'55" E	2074.34 M.
16-17	N 39°55'13" E	1521.4 M.
17-18	N 24°23'06" W	2391.75 M.

18-19	N 01°22'02" W	2158.56 M.
19-20	N 18°57'03" E	5016.07 M.
20-21	N 45°22'37" W	642.87 M.
21-22	N 15°33'41" E	867.9 M.
22-23	N 70°49'01" E	2472.64 M.
23-24	S 67°02'53" E	1306.78 M.
24-25	S 42°26'28" E	1005.67 M.
25-26	N 61°08'49" E	1496.83 M.
26-27	N 77°43'44" E	2041.61 M.
27-28	S 75°42'35" E	2046.5 M.
28-29	S 38°27'26" E	1290.97 M.
29-30	S 00°40'19" W	2255.73 M.
30-31	S 70°12'04" E	1581.79 M.
31-32	S 42°48'30" E	825.6 M.
32-33	N 85°38'35" E	2228.95 M.
33-34	S 45°58'59" E	4511.26 M.
34-35	S 15°35'25" W	1094.73 M.
35-36	S 46°02'30" E	617.5 M.
36-37	S 25°15'47" W	1562.3 M.
37-38	S 38°44'11" E	926.01 M.
38-39	S 05°02'33" E	1083.7 M.
39-40	S 39°11'54" E	1054.97 M.
40-41	S 28°06'58" W	1835.9 M.
41-42	S 40°55'09" E	810.39 M.
42-43	S 80°48'10" E	2111.96 M.
43-44	S 54°13'15" E	2335.11 M.
44-45	S 29°50'45" E	1488.61 M.
45-46	S 01°29'55" W	1356.97 M.
46-47	S 03°20'56" E	1158.96 M.
47-48	S 66°52'31" E	1559.79 M.
48-49	S 58°23'33" E	1009.67 M.
49-50	S 23°33'17" E	1031.79 M.
50-51	S 48°50'23" E	2310.37 M.
51-52	S 73°07'43" E	1011.93 M.
52-53	S 30°36'23" E	654.78 M.
53-54	S 54°17'36" E	938.41 M.
54-55	S 29°50'45" E	558.23 M.
55-56	S 06°56'28" E	919.55 M.
56-57	S 51°17'53" E	1688.38 M.
57-58	S 42°19'05" E	1608.72 M.
58-59	N 49°39'30" E	1035.29 M.
59-60	S 68°36'47" E	1441.81 M.
60-61	N 80°47'32" E	1140.6 M.

61-62	N 28°54'45" E	634.55 M.
62-63	N 82°35'29" E	1355.53 M.
63-64	N 63°14'45" E	1075.58 M.
64-65	S 66°19'04" E	494.04 M.
65-66	S 21°17'11" E	1311.88 M.
66-67	S 07°50'21" E	1105.71 M.
67-68	S 26°31'13" E	896.1 M.
68-69	S 38°13'54" W	1337.26 M.
69-70	S 06°58'44" E	1100.72 M.
70-71	S 30°40'01" W	2133.46 M.
71-72	S 03°26'12" E	1489.64 M.
72-73	S 71°19'27" W	2474.58 M.
73-74	S 23°42'49" W	1236.85 M.
74-75	N 71°00'02" W	2482.44 M.
75-76	S 65°29'10" W	2214.04 M.
76-77	S 07°07'09" E	1913.67 M.
77-78	S 28°33'47" W	1272.77 M.
78-79	S 67°19'28" W	2093.27 M.
79-80	S 42°44'44" E	1188.94 M.
80-81	S 24°05'43" W	2608.54 M.
81-82	N 67°53'26" W	1370.8 M.
82-83	S 27°28'28" W	931.93 M.
83-84	S 57°06'39" W	1745.57 M.
84-85	N 27°09'54" W	678.04 M.
85-86	S 84°54'37" W	1968.33 M.
86-87	N 45°25'17" W	1526.69 M.
87-88	N 05°18'12" W	1889.28 M.
88-89	N 45°00'00" W	1448.07 M.
89-90	N 12°29'17" W	1211.35 M.
90-91	N 57°33'48" W	1006.31 M.
91-92	N 19°32'47" E	1423.47 M.
92-93	N 31°19'17" W	2228.48 M.
93-94	N 85°40'18" W	3102.27 M.
94-95	S 78°48'00" W	1037.53 M.
95-96	N 66°50'28" W	1746.35 M.
96-97	S 51°41'13" W	2272.94 M.
97-98	N 71°04'31" W	1713.18 M.
98-1	S 60°25'33" W	1266.05 M.

SEC. 6. *Establishment of Buffer Zones.* – The DENR Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) created under Section 7 of this Act, may designate areas surrounding the PCPL as buffer zones for the

purpose of providing an extra layer of protection where restrictions may be applied: *Provided, That*, in cases where the designated buffer zone would cover private lands, the owners thereof shall be required to design their development with due consideration to the protected area management plan.

ARTICLE II

MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS

SEC. 7. *Protected Area Management Board (PAMB)* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) shall be created to oversee the management of the PCPL. The PAMB shall be composed of the following:

- a. DENR Regional Executive Director for Region III, as Chairperson;
- b. The three (3) Provincial Governors representing Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, and Aurora, as members;
- c. Senators of the Republic of the Philippines who are duly registered residents of the Province of Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, and Aurora, or their duly designated representatives, unless the Senators decline the membership in the PAMB;
- d. District Representatives of the Congressional Districts where the PCPL is located, or their duly designated representatives, unless the District Representatives decline the membership in the PAMB;
- e. Mayors of the Municipalities of Pantabangan, Carranglan, and Bongabon in the Province of Nueva Ecija; Municipalities of Alfonso Castañeda and Aritao in the Province of Nueva Vizcaya; and Municipality of Maria Aurora in the Province of Aurora, or their duly authorized representatives;
- f. Chairpersons of the all the *barangays* with territorial jurisdiction over the PCPL;
- g. Regional Directors of the following government agencies, namely: Department of Agriculture (DA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Department of National Defense (DND);

- h. Three (3) representatives from either NGOs, or people's organizations (POs) based in the Province of Nueva Ecija, duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial government. The NGOs or POs represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years and must have a record of accomplishments in the field of protected area management;
- i. At least one (1) but not more than three (3) representatives from all the ICCs/IPs present in the area and recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- j. One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a university or college in the Province of Nueva Ecija, with proven track record in or related to protected area management; and
- k. One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province of Nueva Ecija, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to the protected area management.

The terms of office of members of the PAMB, as well as the grounds for their removal shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992", as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018".

SEC. 8. *Functions of the PAMB.* – The PAMB shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Oversee the management of the protected area;
- b. Approve policies, plans and programs, proposals, agreements, and other related documents for the management of the protected areas;
- c. Approve the management plan of the protected area and ensure its harmonization with and integration into the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan, land use plan and other development plans, public or private, and their implementation;
- d. Adopt a manual of operations to include rules of procedures in the conduct of business, and the creation of committees and their respective terms of reference;
- e. Recommend the deputation of appropriate agencies and individuals for the

enforcement of the laws, rules and regulations governing the management of the protected area;

- f. Allocate financial resources for the implementation of the management plan and manage the Protected Area Retention Income Account and other funds in accordance with government accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations;
- g. Set fees and charges in accordance with existing guidelines;
- h. Issue rules and regulations for the resolution of conflicts through appropriate and effective means;
- i. Recommend appropriate policy changes to the DENR and other government authorities with respect to the management of the PCPL;
- j. Monitor and assess the performance of the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) and other protected area personnel and compliance of partners with the terms and conditions of any undertaking, contract or agreement relative to any project or activity within the PCPL;
- k. Recommend from among a shortlist of qualified candidates, the designation or appointment of the PASu; and
- l. Assess the effectiveness of the management of the protected area: *Provided*, That the members of the PAMB representing the LGUs and national agencies shall inform their respective constituents, offices or sectors, of PAMB-approved or other relevant policies, rules, regulations, programs, and projects and shall ensure that the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations issued to implement it are complied with and used as reference and framework in their respective plans, policies, programs, and projects. Failure to comply with the foregoing shall be the basis for disciplinary action against such member according to administrative rules and regulations and such penalties as the PAMB may provide: *Provided, further*, That the DENR, through the Regional Director, shall ensure that the PAMB acts within the scope of its powers and functions. In case of conflict between the resolutions issued by the PAMB and the existing administrative orders of national application, the latter shall prevail.

SEC. 9. The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO). — There is hereby

established a Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) to be headed by a Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) who shall supervise the day to day management, protection, and administration of the PCPL. The PASu shall hold a permanent plantilla position and shall be appointed by the DENR Secretary. A sufficient number of support staff with permanent plantilla positions shall likewise be appointed by the DENR Secretary to assist the PASu in the management of the protected area.

The PASu shall be primarily accountable to the PAMB and the DENR for the management and operations of the PCPL. Pursuant thereto, the PASu shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Prepare the management plan, in consultation with the stakeholders, including the annual work and financial plan and ensure its implementation;
- b. Ensure the integration of the protected area management plans, programs, projects, and policies with relevant national and LGUs' plans and programs;
- c. Provide secretariat services to the PAMB and its committees and ensure the availability of relevant and timely information for decision-making;
- d. Formulate and recommend to the PAMB proposed policies, rules, regulations, and programs;
- e. Establish, operate, and maintain a database management system which shall be an important basis for decision-making;
- f. Enforce the laws, rules and regulations relevant to the protected area, commence and institute administrative and legal actions in collaboration with other government agencies or organizations, and assist in the prosecution of offenses committed in violation of the provisions this Act;
- g. Monitor, evaluate, and report the implementation of management activities of the protected area;
- h. Request for and receive any technical assistance, support or advice from any agency or instrumentality of the government as well as academic institutions, NGOs, and the private sector, as may be necessary for the effective management, protection and administration of the protected area;
- i. Issue permits and clearances for activities that implement the management plan and other permitted activities in accordance with terms, conditions, and criteria

established by the PAMB: *Provided*, That all permits for extraction of natural resources, including collection of wildlife, and its by-products or derivatives for research purposes, shall continue to be issued by relevant authorities, subject to prior clearance from the PAMB, through the PASu, in accordance with the specific acts to be covered;

- j. Collect and receive pertinent fees, charges, donations, and other income for the protected area: *Provided*, That such fees, charges, donations, and other income collected and received shall be reported regularly to the PAMB and the DENR in accordance with existing guidelines;
- k. Prepare and recommend to the PAMB, approval of the annual work and financial plans of the protected area based on the management plan; and
- l. Perform such other functions as the PAMB and the DENR may assign.

The PAMO may be augmented by the deputized local environment and natural resources officers upon the recommendation of the PAMB and approval of the DENR.

ARTICLE III

PROCEEDS AND FEES

SEC. 10. *The Pantabangan-Carranglan Protected Landscape Integrated Protected Area Fund.* – There is hereby established a trust fund to be known as the Pantabangan-Carranglan Protected Landscape Integrated Protected Area Fund (PCPL-IPAF) for purposes of financing projects of the PCPL and the NIPAS. All income generated from the operation of the system or the management of wild flora and fauna in the PCPL shall accrue to the fund. The income shall be derived from fees from permitted sale and export of flora and fauna and other resources from the TNBA proceeds from lease of multiple-use areas, contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting from the PCPL, and such other fees and income derived from the operation of the PCPL.

The PAMB shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) of all revenues raised through the above means, which shall be deposited in the Protected Area-Retained Income Account (PA-RIA) in any authorized government depository bank within the locality: *Provided*, That disbursements out of such deposits shall be used solely for the

protection, maintenance, administration, and management of the protected area and implementation of duly approved projects of the PAMB. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of revenues shall be deposited as a special account in the general fund in the National Treasury for purposes of financing the projects of the NIPAS.

The fund may be augmented by grants, donations, endowment from various sources, domestic or foreign: *Provided*, That the fund shall be deposited in full as a special account in the National Treasury and disbursements therefrom shall be made solely for the protection, maintenance, administration and management of the NIPAS and duly approved projects endorsed by the PAMB in accordance with existing accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations: *Provided, further*, That the fund shall not be used to cover personal services expenditures.

The LGUs shall continue to impose and collect all other fees not enumerated herein which they have traditionally collected, such as business permits, property tax and rentals of LGUs' facilities.

ARTICLE IV

TRANSITORY AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 11. *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. 12. *Supplementary Application of the NIPAS Law.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, shall have supplementary application to this Act.

SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall, in consultation with the local governments located within the area of the PCPL, and concerned national government agencies, issue the corresponding rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions with the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive

orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation

Approved,