



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



House Bill No. 10871

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to safeguard and promote the people's right to a balanced and healthful ecology in harmony with nature. This constitutional directive is reinforced by Republic Act No. 9729, known as the “Climate Change Act of 2009.” This Act establishes the Climate Change Commission (CCC), which collaborates with local government units (LGUs) and private entities to address the susceptibility of various regions, provinces, cities, and municipalities to climate change effects.

Coastal communities are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, facing significant environmental risks and natural hazards such as storm surges and flooding. These communities often depend on mangrove ecosystems for protection, ensuring the safety of their lives and property. According to a 2017 study by the World Bank's Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), Philippine mangroves mitigate flooding for 613,000 people annually. Without these vital ecosystems, the incidence and severity of flooding and associated damages would rise by approximately 25% each year.

Despite their crucial role in safeguarding coastal areas, mangrove forests in the Philippines are limited in extent. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) estimates the country's mangrove forest cover at around 311,400 hectares, representing only 4.3% of the nation's total forest cover of 7.23 million hectares. Therefore,

the restoration and expansion of coastal and mangrove areas are imperative. This priority is highlighted in the Enhanced National Greening Program of the DENR, which includes initiatives aimed at mitigating the negative impacts of climate change.

This proposed legislation aims to strengthen existing efforts by mandating the DENR to develop an integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP) in collaboration with the CCC and relevant agencies responsible for foreshore management, mangrove and beach forest protection, among others. The NCGMAP will outline criteria for identifying priority coastal greenbelt areas, detailed plans for their rehabilitation, and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

Additionally, LGUs are required to formulate and implement their Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plans (LCGMAPs). These local plans will support the NCGMAP by providing localized data and facilitating the execution of national operational plans. Incentives will be offered to LGUs that submit comprehensive LCGMAPs or demonstrate effective management of coastal greenbelt areas.

The bill also delineates the roles and responsibilities of key implementing agencies to ensure coordinated and effective development of coastal greenbelt areas across the country.

In light of the critical need for enhanced coastal protection and environmental resilience, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA
Representative, CIBAC Partylist



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10871

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT
MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "National
2 Coastal Greenbelt Act."

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State recognizes the
5 constitutional right of the people to a healthful and balanced ecology. The
6 State also acknowledges that as an archipelagic country, the Philippines
7 and its local communities are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate
8 change and global warming. It shall, therefore, be the policy of the State
9 to protect the lives and property of communities in the coastal areas from
10 the impacts of typhoons, tsunamis, and similar natural events.

11
12 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the
13 following terms shall have the following meanings:

- 14
15 a) **Coastal Greenbelt Zone** refers to strips of natural or planted
16 coastal vegetation, stretching at least one hundred (100)
17 meters in width from the sea towards land, primarily of
18 mangrove and beach forest species, which are designed to

1 prevent coastal erosion, and mitigate the adverse impacts of
2 natural coastal hazards on human lives and property;
3

4 b) **Coastal Zone** refers to a band of dry land and adjacent ocean
5 space (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial
6 processes and uses directly affect oceanic processes and
7 uses, and vice versa. Its geographic extent may include areas
8 within a landmark limit of one (1) kilometer from the shoreline
9 at high tide to include mangrove swamps, brackish water
10 ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine rivers, sandy beaches and
11 other areas within a seaward limit of 200 meters isobath to
12 include coral reefs, algal flats, seagrass beds and other soft-
13 bottom areas;
14

15 c) **Designated areas** refer to site-specific stretches of vegetation
16 in the coastal zone, defined in relation to risk factors and
17 vulnerability to coastal hazards, and reserved for protection and
18 maintenance under the National Coastal Greenbelt
19 Management Action Plan. The area may undergo rehabilitation,
20 reforestation, or afforestation with locally appropriate native
21 species. Designated areas with abandoned fishponds require
22 the reversion of these fishponds to mangroves through natural
23 regeneration or replanting with locally and ecologically
24 appropriate species. Designated areas with illegal structures,
25 such as breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial
26 structures, and the like require removal of such Structures;
27

28 d) **Fisherfolk Settlement Areas** refer to certain areas of the
29 public domain, specifically near the fishing grounds, granted to
30 or reserved for the settlement of municipal fisherfolks; and
31

32 e) **Mangroves** refer to a community of intertidal plants in the
33 tropics and subtropics, including all species of trees, shrubs,
34 vines, and herbs growing along tidal mudflats and shallow
35 water coastal areas extending inland along rivers, streams, and
36 their tributaries where the water is generally brackish.
37

38 **SEC. 4. Creation of the National Coastal Greenbelt**
39 **Management Action Plan (NCGMAP).** - Within six (6) months from the
40 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Environment and Natural
41 Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Climate Change Commission
42 (CCC), shall identify and convene all national agencies responsible for
43 foreshore management, mangrove and beach forest protection and

1 utilization, coastal land and sea-use planning, coastal tourism
2 development, and social welfare of coastal communities for the
3 preparation of an integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Management
4 Action Plan (NCGMAP).

5
6 The NCGMAP shall, at the minimum, contain the following:

- 7
- 8 (a) Spatial representation, or if feasible, an inventory of the status
9 of coastlines and foreshores, including the status of
10 mangroves, beach forests, settlements, structures, and
11 fishponds within one hundred (100) meters of coastlines,
12 foreshores, mangroves or beaches;
13
 - 14 (b) The criteria for the designation of priority areas as coastal
15 greenbelt areas in each coastal province, city, and
16 municipality. The designation shall be shall be based on the
17 area's vulnerability to storm surges, waves, tsunamis and
18 other similar natural disasters; Provided, That the assessment
19 of priority areas shall be accomplished within one (1) year
20 from the completion of the NCGMAP; Provided, further, That
21 (0) areas declared as protected areas in accordance with
22 Republic Act No. 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated
23 Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) Act, (ii) fish refuge or
24 sanctuaries as determined in accordance with Republic Act
25 No. 8550, as amended by Republic Act No. 10654, or the
26 Philippine Fisheries Code, and (ii) local marine protected
27 areas as provided under municipal or city ordinances shall be
28 automatically designated as priority areas;
29
 - 30 (c) Operational plan for the rehabilitation, reforestation, or
31 afforestation of designated priority coastal greenbelts with
32 ecologically appropriate mangrove and beach forest species,
33 not less than one hundred (100) meters in width; Provided,
34 That existing forests or plantations greater than the minimum
35 width shall not be reduced; Provided, further, That the
36 program for rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation shall
37 be community-based, long-term, and implemented through
38 the local government concerned; Provided, further, That the
39 program shall aim to cover at least twenty percent (20%) of
40 the designated priority areas in the first five (5) years, while
41 the remaining priority areas shall be completed within ten (10)
42 years from their designation as such;
43

- 1 (d) Operational plan for the reversion of all abandoned fishponds
2 to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with
3 locally appropriate species; Provided, That the identification
4 and recovery of possession from delinquent fishpond lease
5 agreement holders shall be completed within twelve (12)
6 months from the adoption of the NCGMAP;
7
- 8 (e) Operational plan for the removal of illegal structures in the
9 identified priority coastal greenbelts; Provided, That such
10 removal shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the
11 start of rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of the
12 areas;
13
- 14 (f) Monitoring and evaluation plan, with quantitative and
15 qualitative targets for the implementation of the operational
16 plans identified in subparagraphs (c), (d), and (e) of this
17 Section, appropriate indicators, and reasonable means of
18 verification; and
19
- 20 (g) The national incentive program, as provided under Section 6
21 of this Act, to encourage broader participation of local
22 government units (LGUs) in the implementation of this Act.
23

24 The DENR and CCC shall lead the preparation of the NCGMAP not
25 later than twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act.
26

27 **SEC. 5. Creation of the Local Coastal Greenbelt Management**
28 **Action Plan (LCGMAP).** - Each coastal province, city and municipality in
29 the identified priority coastal greenbelt areas in the NCGMAP shall
30 prepare a Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LCGMAP)
31 to facilitate the implementation of the operational plans identified in the
32 NCGMAP.
33

34 For this purpose, each province, city, and municipality shall:
35

- 36 (a) Provide local data and other supporting measures to the agencies
37 involved in the implementation of this Act;
38
- 39 (b) Implement complementary programs to assist affected local
40 communities and local businesses, including providing appropriate
41 relocation sites with basic services, such as livelihood and
42 transportation programs, and zoning or re-zoning of priority coastal
43 greenbelt areas, as appropriate;

- 1
- 2 (c) Provide an actual inventory of affected families in designated areas
- 3 to ensure that a legal, just, fair, and humane process of relocation
- 4 is carried out;
- 5
- 6 (d) Lead the rehabilitation, reforestation, and afforestation of coastal
- 7 communities;
- 8
- 9 (e) Integrate the identified coastal greenbelt zones in its
- 10 comprehensive land use plan; and
- 11
- 12 (f) Provide relevant data and qualitative feedback to the Key
- 13 Implementing Agencies identified in Section 8 of this Act.
- 14

15 The LCGMAP shall be consistent with and/or integrated into the local

16 development plan, comprehensive land use plan, local climate change

17 action plan, and other relevant plans.

18

19 The relevant agencies of the National Government, in coordination with

20 the provincial government, shall provide the necessary technical and

21 budgetary support to component coastal cities and municipalities and

22 ensure consistency across contiguous LGUs sharing common priority

23 coastal greenbelt areas. Highly urbanized cities shall likewise provide

24 support to component barangays under their jurisdiction.

25

26 The LCGMAP shall be submitted to the Department of the Interior and

27 Local Government (DILG), the DENR and the CCC to ensure

28 convergence with the NCGMAP.

29

30 **SEC. 6. Incentives.** - LGUs that have i) submitted their LCGMAPs

31 to the DILG, DENR, and CCC, or (ii) been recognized by the DILG, DENR

32 and/or CCC for their effective establishment and/or management of

33 coastal greenbelt areas, may be entitled to receive grants and incentives

34 to build technical capacities in implementing the LCGMAP and supporting

35 programs which are in line with the objectives of this Act.

36

37 **SEC. 7. National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC).** - The

38 DENR, in coordination with the CCC, shall convene a National Technical

39 Advisory Committee (NTAC) composed of:

40

- 41 (a) A representative from the DENR;
- 42
- 43 (b) A representative from the CCC;

(c) A representative from the Department of Agriculture (DA) - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);

(d) A representative from the DILG;

(e) Two experts in mangrove and beach forest ecosystems, oceanography, or other related disciplines; and

(f) A representative from a non-government organization or a people's organization that demonstrates capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership and structure and has been actively involved in mangrove research.

Provided, That the representatives of government agencies shall not have a rank lower than an Assistant Secretary.

The NTAC shall provide guidance in the design, implementation, and evaluation of actions under the NCGMAP. The experts shall serve the NTAC without compensation but may be reimbursed for basic expenses to attend meetings and prepare technical reports.

SEC. 8. Role of Key Implementing Agencies. - The following agencies shall take the lead in implementing components of the NCGMAP that are relevant to their mandates:

(a) The DENR, through the Biodiversity Management Bureau and the Forest Management Bureau, among others, shall be the primary agency responsible for the implementation of the NCGMAP and shall provide other implementing agencies with all the relevant information to aid in the monitoring and evaluation of the NCGMAP. It shall also lead the identification of designated areas that must be expropriated;

(b) The CCC shall be responsible for convening the relevant government agencies, monitoring the implementation of the NCGMAP, facilitating public participation in crafting the NCGMAP, ensuring the integration of the NCGMAP into the LCGMAP, and preparing the annual report to Congress provided under Section 11 of this Act;

(c) The DA, through the BFAR, shall coordinate with the DENR for the reversion of all abandoned fishponds to mangroves through natural

1 regeneration, replanting with locally appropriate species, and
2 implementation of fisherfolk settlement program in line with existing
3 laws and programs. It shall also provide the CCC with all relevant
4 information to aid in the monitoring and evaluation of the NCGMAP;
5

6 (d) The DILG, in coordination with the DENR, CCC and DA-BFAR,
7 shall provide technical guidance to, and supervision over,
8 provinces, cities, and municipalities in establishing their local
9 coastal greenbelt zones and in developing appropriate LCGMAP,
10 including designing and implementing community-based and
11 ecologically appropriate rehabilitation, reforestation, and
12 afforestation programs, and monitoring and evaluating the
13 implementation of the LGUs' programs and action plans; and
14

15 (e) The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
16 (DHSUD), in coordination with the concerned LGU, shall provide
17 for the relocation of the families or individuals who will be affected
18 by the implementation of this Act.
19

20 **SEC. 9. Penalties.** - In addition to the penalties provided under existing
21 laws, the following acts shall be penalized:
22

23 (a) Obstructing or preventing the removal of illegal structures or the
24 reversion of abandoned fishponds: An administrative fine of Fifty
25 Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) per day that the agency is
26 prevented from performing its function;
27

28 (b) Construction of structures within the coastal greenbelt zones
29 without the appropriate permit: An administrative fine of Fifty
30 Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) per day from the time that the
31 structure was built until its removal.
32

33 Proceeds from the imposition of administrative fines under this Section
34 shall be retained by the agency imposing such fines and shall be used
35 exclusively for the implementation of its mandate under this Act.
36

37 Legal actions filed in the exercise of rights and enforcement of obligations
38 under this Act shall also be covered under the Philippine Fisheries Code,
39 as amended, and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.
40

41 **SEC. 10. Annual Report to Congress.** - The CCC shall consolidate
42 and prepare the reports of all Key Implementing Agencies regarding the

1 accomplishment of the quantitative and qualitative targets under the
2 NCGMAP.

3
4 The report shall be submitted to the President and the Congress of the
5 Philippines not later than June 30 of each year.

6
7 **SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60)
8 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR, CCC and all concerned
9 agencies, upon prior consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue
10 the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
11 this Act.

12
13 **SEC. 12. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the
14 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
15 Appropriations Act.

16
17 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and
18 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed
19 or modified accordingly.

20
21 **SEC. 14. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is held
22 invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and
23 effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

24
25 **SEC. 15. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15)
26 days from its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general
27 circulation.

28
29 Approved,