

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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2815

Introduced by Rep. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS
1st District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 7586, known as the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992, subsequently amended by RA 11038, titled the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018, empowers the government to designate certain areas as protected areas, regulate human activities within these areas, and implement conservation and management programs in recognition of the substantial impact of human activities on various environmental facets. This is in pursuit of the constitutional mandate to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Factors such as population growth, resource utilization, and industrial development highlight the imperative to protect and preserve natural ecosystems, particularly in regions with unique biophysical characteristics crucial to the well-being and progress of human, plant, and animal life. The goal is to ensure the preservation of unique ecosystems, species, and landscapes for the benefit of current and future generations.

Hence, this bill.

This proposed measure seeks to include the Metropolitan Ilocos Norte Watershed Forest Reserve (MINWFR) in the province of Ilocos Norte, under the NIPAS.

Established through Presidential Proclamation No. 731, s. 1934, the 2,482-hectare MINWFR is a distinctive landscape characterized by stunted century-old trees, predominantly

of *Podocarpus* species. The area also encompasses various cave systems, ultramafic forests, and forests over limestone. Moreover, it serves as the primary water source for the municipality and supports a diverse range of biological resources, including endangered and threatened species.

These underscore the ecological significance of MINWFR, emphasizing the importance of putting MINWFR under NIPAS. This bill will establish a policy framework for the institutionalized conservation and protection of the landscape, ensuring its ecological significance is upheld through proficient and effective management in accordance with RA 7586 as amended by RA 11038.

In view hereof, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



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AN ACT
DECLARING AND DESIGNATING METROPOLITAN ILOCOS NORTE
WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE, SITUATED WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
PASUQUIN IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE AS A PROTECTED AREA
UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE PURSUANT TO THE
NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM (NIPAS), TO BE
REFERRED TO AS THE PASUQUIN PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, PROVIDING FOR
ITS MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** —This Act shall be known as the “Pasuquin Protected
2 Landscape (PPL) Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.**—Recognizing the profound impact of human activities
5 on various components of the natural environment, especially the consequences arising from
6 population growth, resource exploitation, and industrial advancement, and acknowledging the
7 critical importance of safeguarding and preserving the natural, biological, and physical
8 diversities of the environment, particularly in areas characterized by unique features essential
9 for sustaining human life and development, as well as the well-being of plant and animal life,
10 it is hereby declared as the policy of the State to ensure, for the benefit of the Filipino people,
11 both present and future generations, the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals
12 through the establishment of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas
13 System (NIPAS).
14

15 In recognition of the richness of the biological resources, encompassing both flora and
16 fauna, native and distinct to the area, as well as their ecological importance, a parcel of land in
17 the municipality of Pasuquin in the Province of Ilocos Norte, covering Metropolitan Ilocos
18 Norte Watershed Forest Reserve (MINWFR), is hereby declared a protected area with the
19 designation of a protected landscape, and henceforth shall be referred to as the Pasuquin
20 Protected Landscape (PPL). As such, the State assumes the responsibility for ensuring the
21 conservation, protection, and management of the said area. Furthermore, it is acknowledged

1 that effective administration of this area is achievable only through collaborative efforts
2 involving the national government, local government units (LGUs), concerned non-
3 governmental organizations (NGOs), private entities, and local communities. The utilization
4 and enjoyment of this area must be in conformity with the principles of biological diversity and
5 sustainable development.

6
7 Towards this end, the State shall ensure the comprehensive implementation of this Act,
8 the mobilization of resources to support the institutional mechanisms herein established, and
9 the provision of complete scientific and technical support necessary for the conservation of
10 biodiversity and the preservation of the integrity of ecosystems, culture, and indigenous
11 practices.

12
13 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** —As used in this Act:
14

- 15 (a) *Biological diversity or biodiversity* refers to the variability among living organisms
16 from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic
17 ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes
18 diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems;
19
20 (b) *Buffer zones* refers to identified areas outside the boundaries of and immediately
21 adjacent to protected areas that need special development control in order to avoid
22 or minimize harm to the protected area;
23
24 (c) *Conservation* refers to any act or acts of preservation and sustainable utilization of
25 wildlife or maintenance, restoration and enhancement of habitats;
26
27 (d) *Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC)/Indigenous People (IP)* refers to a group of
28 people sharing common bonds of language, customs traditions, and other distinctive
29 cultural traits, and who have, since time immemorial occupied, possessed and
30 utilized a territory;
31
32 (e) *National park* refers to land of the public domain classified as such in the
33 Constitution which includes all areas under the NIPAS, primarily designated for the
34 conservation of native plants and animals, their associated habitats and cultural
35 diversity;
36
37 (f) *Protected area* refers to identified portions of land and/or water set aside by reason
38 of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance biological
39 diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation;
40
41 (g) *Protected landscapes* refer to areas of national significance which are characterized
42 by the harmonious interaction of man and land and water while providing
43 opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation, tourism, and other economic
44 activities;
45
46 (h) *Tenured migrants* refer to protected area occupants who have been actually,
47 continuously and presently occupying a portion of the protected area for five (5)
48 years before the proclamation or law establishing the same as a protected area, and
49 are solely dependent therein for subsistence.
50

SEC. 4. Classification as a National Park. —All lands of the public domain within the coverage and scope of PPL shall fall under the classification of national park as provided for in Article XII, Section 3 of the Constitution. Further, alienable and disposable lands covered by the protected area shall retain its original classification, subject to the provisions of Section 22 of RA 11038.

SEC. 5. Scope and Coverage. —The boundaries of PPL is more particularly described as the area beginning at a point marked “1” on the Map, being N 59°14’57”E, 402.65 meters from PRS92 Control Monument “ILN-3315” with geographic coordinates 18° 21’ 7.10333” Latitude, 120° 37’ 55.22481” Longitude located at Barangay Sulbec, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte,

thence	N 53-14-46 W	42.903	meters to corner	2;
thence	N 57-55-34 W	610.578	meters to corner	3;
thence	N 4-22-49 W	488.85	meters to corner	4;
thence	N 68-12-0 W	576.384	meters to corner	5;
thence	N 37-22-51 W	679.923	meters to corner	6;
thence	N 44-45-0 W	506.847	meters to corner	7;
thence	N 43-51-19 W	36.494	meters to corner	8;
thence	N 47-13-34 W	592.416	meters to corner	9;
thence	N 63-52-7 E	682.44	meters to corner	10;
thence	N 7-22-45 E	616.954	meters to corner	11;
thence	N 7-45-16 W	238.138	meters to corner	12;
thence	N 89-31-31 E	135.333	meters to corner	13;
thence	N 89-29-28 E	527.834	meters to corner	14;
thence	N 0-30-41 W	1082.709	meters to corner	15;
thence	S 54-12-40 E	195.368	meters to corner	16;
thence	S 62-19-45 E	73.794	meters to corner	17;
thence	N 79-38-33 E	106.488	meters to corner	18;
thence	N 87-30-3 E	5791.818	meters to corner	19;
thence	N 89-15-24 E	509.427	meters to corner	20;
thence	S 7-19-16 E	219.087	meters to corner	21;
thence	S 5-51-12 W	222.687	meters to corner	22;
thence	S 6-17-43 E	253.143	meters to corner	23;
thence	N 73-6-36 E	74.972	meters to corner	24;
thence	S 17-10-48 W	637.315	meters to corner	25;
thence	N 79-28-47 W	491.089	meters to corner	26;
thence	S 41-25-27 W	385.03	meters to corner	27;
thence	S 82-38-37 E	561.233	meters to corner	28;
thence	S 44-58-15 W	68.716	meters to corner	29;
thence	S 28-1-6 W	813.719	meters to corner	30;
thence	S 51-9-35 W	791.023	meters to corner	31;
thence	S 57-58-18 W	596.481	meters to corner	32;
thence	S 20-19-37 W	332.778	meters to corner	33;
thence	S 60-5-4 W	1743.635	meters to corner	34;
thence	N 61-57-6 W	520.814	meters to corner	35;
thence	N 61-8-31 W	273.109	meters to corner	36;
thence	N 89-38-10 W	94.192	meters to corner	37;

thence	N 1-36-19 W	114.855	meters to corner	38;
thence	S 68-50-19 W	284.999	meters to corner	39;
thence	S 42-27-36 W	297.041	meters to corner	40;
thence	S 41-33-51 W	230.693	meters to corner	41;
thence	S 6-58-8 E	153.88	meters to corner	42;
thence	S 37-50-8 W	502.994	meters to corner	43;
thence	N 75-8-38 W	449.018	meters to corner	1,

the point of beginning containing an area of two thousand four hundred eighty-two (2,482) hectares, more or less. Bearings and distance of lines were derived using PRS92, Philippine Zone III coordinate system, subject to actual ground demarcation.

SEC. 6. Establishment of Buffer Zones.—The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), upon the recommendation of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) created under Section 7 of this Act, may designate areas surrounding the PPL 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 PPL. The PAMB shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The DENR Regional Executive Director for Region 1, as Chairperson;
- (b) The Governor of the Province of Ilocos Norte, or his/her duly designated representative;
- (c) Senators of the Republic of the Philippines who are duly registered residents of Ilocos Norte, or their duly designated representatives, unless the Senators decline the membership in the PAMB;
- (d) The Representative of the Congressional District of Ilocos Norte where PPL is located, or his/her duly designated representative, unless the District Representative declines the membership in the PAMB;
- (e) The Mayor of the municipality of Pasuquin, or his/her duly designated representative;
- (f) The Punong Barangay of each barangay with territorial jurisdiction over PPL;
- (g) The Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Executive Director for Region 1, or his/her designated official representative;
- (h) The Regional Director, or a designated official representative, of the following government agencies for Region 1, namely: the Department of National Defense - Office of Civil Defense (DND-OCD), the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- (i) Three (3) representatives from either non-government organizations (NGO) or People's Organizations (PO), duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial government. The NGO or PO represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years and with track record in or related to protected area management;

- 1 (j) At least one (1) but not more than three (3) representatives from all the ICCs/IPs
2 present in the area and recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous
3 Peoples (NCIP);
4 (k) One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a university or
5 college in the Province of Ilocos Norte, with a record of accomplishment in or
6 related to protected area management and biodiversity conservation; and
7 (l) One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of Ilocos Norte,
8 who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to PPL management.

9 The terms of office of members of the PAMB, as well as the grounds for their removal
10 shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No 7586, otherwise known as the
11 "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992", as amended by Republic Act No.
12 11038, otherwise known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of
13 2018".
14

15 **SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the PAMB.**—The PPL PAMB shall have the
16 following powers and functions:
17

- 18 (a) Oversee the management of the PPL;
19 (b) Approve policies, plans and programs, proposals, agreements, and other related
20 documents for the management of the PPL;
21 (c) Approve the management plan of PPL and ensure its harmonization and integration
22 with the Ancestral Domains Sustainable Development and Protection Plan
23 (ADSDPP), land use plan and other development plans, public or private, and its
24 implementation;
25 (d) Adopt a manual of operations to include rules of procedures in the conduct of
26 business, and the creation of committees and their respective terms of reference;
27 (e) Recommend the deputation of appropriate agencies and individuals for the
28 enforcement of the laws, rules and regulations governing the management of PPL;
29 (f) Allocate financial resources for the implementation of the management plan, and
30 manage PPL Protected Area Retention Income Account (PARIA) and other funds
31 in accordance with the accounting and budgeting rules and regulations;
32 (g) Set fees and charges in accordance with existing guidelines;
33 (h) Issue rules and regulations for the resolution of conflicts through appropriate and
34 effective means;
35 (i) Recommend appropriate policy changes to the DENR and other government
36 authorities;
37 (j) Monitor and assess the performance of the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu)
38 and other PPL personnel and compliance of partners with the terms and conditions
39 of any undertaking, contract or agreement;
40 (k) Recommend from among a shortlist of qualified candidates, the designation or
41 appointment of the PASu; and
42 (l) Assess the effectiveness of the management of PPL: *Provided*, That the members
43 of the management board representing the LGUs and national agencies in the
44 PAMB shall inform their respective constituents, offices or sectors, of PAMB
45 approved or other relevant policies, rules, regulations, programs, and projects and
46 shall ensure that the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and
47 regulations are complied with, and used as reference and framework in their
48 respective plans, policies, programs, and projects. Failure to comply with the
49 foregoing shall be the basis for disciplinary action against such member according
50 to administrative rules and regulations and such penalties as the PAMB may

1 provide; *Provided, further*, That the DENR, through the Regional Executive
2 Director, shall ensure that the PAMB acts within the scope of its powers and
3 functions. In case of conflict between the resolutions issued by the PAMB and the
4 existing administrative orders or national application, the latter shall prevail.
5

6 **SEC. 9. The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO).**—There is hereby
7 established a PAMO to be headed by a Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) with a
8 permanent plantilla position who shall supervise the day to day management, protection and
9 administration of PPL. A sufficient number of support staff with permanent plantilla positions
10 shall likewise be appointed by the DENR to assist the PASu in the management of the protected
11 area.
12

13 The PASu shall be primarily accountable to the PAMB and the DENR for the
14 management and operations of the PPL. Pursuant thereto, the PASu shall have the following
15 duties and responsibilities:
16

- 17 (a) Prepare the management plan, in consultation with the stakeholders, including the
18 annual work and financial plan and ensure its implementation;
- 19 (b) Ensure the integration of the protected area management plans, programs, projects,
20 and policies with relevant national and LGUs' plans and programs;
- 21 (c) Provide secretariat services to the PAMB and its committees and ensure the
22 availability of relevant and timely information for decision-making;
- 23 (d) Formulate and recommend to the PAMB proposed policies, rules, regulations, and
24 programs;
- 25 (e) Establish, operate, and maintain a database management system which shall be an
26 important basis for decision-making;
- 27 (f) Enforce the laws, rules and regulations relevant to the protected area, commence
28 and institute administrative and legal actions in collaboration with other
29 government agencies or organizations, and assist in the prosecution of offenses
30 committed in violation of the provisions of this Act;
- 31 (g) Monitor, evaluate, and report the implementation of management activities of PPL;
- 32 (h) Request for and receive any technical assistance, support or advice from any
33 agency or instrumentality of the government as well as academic institutions,
34 NGOs, and the private sector, as may be necessary for the effective management,
35 protection and administration of PPL;
- 36 (i) Issue permits and clearances for activities that implement the management plan and
37 other permitted activities in accordance with the terms, conditions, and criteria
38 established by the PAMB: *Provided*, That all permits for extraction of natural
39 resources, including collection of wildlife, and its by-products or derivatives for
40 research purposes, shall continue to be issued by relevant authorities, subject to
41 prior clearance from the PAMB, through the PASu, in accordance with the specific
42 acts to be covered;
- 43 (j) Collect and receive pertinent fees, charges, donations, and other income for the
44 protected area: *Provided*, That such fees, charges, donations, and other income
45 collected and received shall be reported regularly to the PAMB and the DENR in
46 accordance with existing guidelines;
- 47 (k) Prepare and recommend to the PAMB, approval of the annual work and financial
48 plans of PPL based on the management plan; and,
- 49 (l) Perform such other functions as the PAMB and the DENR may assign.
50

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

3
4 **ARTICLE III**
5 **PROCEEDS AND FEES**
6

7 **SEC. 10. *The Pasuquin Protected Landscape Integrated Protected Area Fund.*** —

8 There is hereby established a trust fund to be known as the Pasuquin Protected Landscape
9 Integrated Protected Area Fund (PPL-IPAF) for purposes of financing projects of the PPL and
10 the NIPAS. All income generated from the operation of the system or management of wild
11 flora and fauna in the PPL shall accrue to PPL-IPAF. The income shall be derived from fees
12 from visitors/tourists, permitted sale and export of flora and fauna and other allowable use of
13 resources from the protected area, proceeds from Special Use in Protected Area (SAPA) in
14 multiple-use zone for tourism concessions, communication and transmission facilities, power
15 generation projects, large scale agriculture and aquaculture enterprise and other contributions
16 from industries and facilities directly benefiting from the protected area, and other fees and
17 income derived from the operation of PPL.

18
19 The PAMB shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) of all revenues raised through the
20 above means, which shall be deposited in the Protected Area Retained Income Account (PA-
21 RIA) in any authorized government depository bank within the locality: *Provided*, That
22 disbursements out of such deposits shall be used solely for the protection, maintenance,
23 administration, and management of PPL and implementation of duly approved projects of the
24 PAMB. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of revenues shall be deposited as a special
25 account in the general fund in the National Treasury for purposes of financing the programs
26 and projects of the NIPAS.

27
28 The fund may be augmented by grants, donations, endowment from various sources,
29 domestic or foreign for purposes related to their functions. *Provided*, That the fund shall be
30 deposited as a special account in the national treasury and disbursements therefrom shall be
31 made solely for the protection, maintenance, administration and management of the PPL, and
32 duly approved projects endorsed by the PAMB in accordance with existing accounting and
33 budgeting rules and regulations: *Provided, further*, That no amount shall be disbursed for the
34 operating expenses of the Department and other concerned agencies.

35
36 The LGUs shall continue to impose and collect all other fees not enumerated herein
37 which they have traditionally collected, such as business permits, property tax and rentals of
38 LGUs' facilities.

39
40 **ARTICLE IV**
41 **TRANSITORY AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**
42

43 **SEC. 11. *Appropriations.***—The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include in
44 the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
45 included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

46
47 **SEC. 12. *Suppletory Application of the NIPAS Law.*** —The provisions of Republic Act
48 No. 7586, as amended by the Republic Act No. 11038, shall have suppletory application to this
49 Act.
50

1 **SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** —Within ninety (90) days from the
2 effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall, in consultation with the local
3 government of the municipality of Pasuquin, the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, and
4 concerned national government agencies, issue the corresponding rules and regulations for the
5 effective implementation of this Act.
6

7 **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** —If any section or provision of this Act is held
8 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions not affected thereby shall
9 continue to be in full force and effect.
10

11 **SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.*** —All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive
12 orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are
13 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
14

15 **SEC. 16. *Effectivity.*** —This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
16 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
17

18
19 Approved,