

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. **3347**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was approved by the House of Representatives during the 19th Congress.

This bill seeks to establish a community forest in Barangay Cugman in the 2nd District of Cagayan de Oro City.

A community forest is a tract of forest land set aside by the Secretary of the DENR for the use of the residents of a municipality/barangay from which said residents may plant, re-plant, collect, and remove forest products for their personal use in accordance with existing laws and regulations. Th utilization of resources should also be in accordance with sustainable development.

Under DENR AO 92-30, the implementation of community forestry projects has been devolved to the concerned local government unit. This includes the management and control of community forests with an area not exceeding 5,000 hectares, provided that the concerned LGUs shall endeavor to convert said areas into community forestry projects

Generally, community forestry is beneficial to a LGU because it can generate income from the planting and re-planting of trees and plants and the harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products while at the same time promoting sustainability and regulating the ecosystem. It has been considered one of the most promising options of combining forest conservation with rural development and community empowerment and poverty reduction objectives.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY FOREST IN BARANGAY CUGMAN IN THE 2ND DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), a community forest in Barangay Cugman in the Second District of Cagayan de Oro City, Province of Misamis Oriental.

The DENR shall determine the size and specific forest limits of the community forest to be established within each of the barangay concerned.

Each established community forest shall be identified in accordance with a Forest Land Use Plan, consistent with the city's land use plan, and all existing and related plans, programs and projects of the city and national government.

SEC. 2. The DENR shall, within two (2) years after the determination and establishment of the community forests, transfer the management of the same to the local government unit (LGU) concerned, under the direct supervision of the City and Local Environment and Natural Resources Office, through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management, utilization and conservation of the community forests.

The DENR shall, in coordination with the concerned LGU, undertake a forest resource inventory in each of the barangays, determine the sustainable level of forest resource utilization and provide the LGU technical assistance in all facets of forest management planning. To ensure the sustainability of the community forests, the management plan shall include provision for replanting by the communities and the LGUs.

SEC. 3. The DENR Secretary shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The LGU concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the management, utilization, and conservation of the community forests.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR Secretary shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,