

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3608



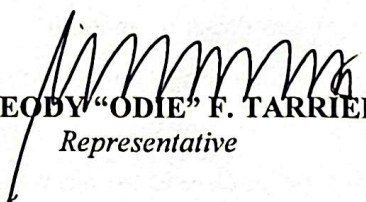
Introduced by Representative
LEODY "ODIE" F. TARRIELA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the State's policy to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.¹ In this regard, the protection and conservation of country's wildlife resources and its habitants should be given paramount consideration.

This bill aims to promote *Tamaraw* (*Bubalus mindorensis*) conservation, protection and sustainability by creating the Tamaraw Conservation Coordinating Council which shall govern and provide policy direction on *Tamaraw* conservation, oversee the implementation of the Tamaraw Conservation Management and Action Plan (TCMAP) and the Tamaraw Protection Program (TCP), and integrate these in local development plans. The bill further mandates the Council to create a Tamaraw Conservation Technical Advisory Group to ensure science-based intervention and decisions on the conservation of *Tamaraws*; as well as Tamaraw Conservation and Research Center (TCRC) to serve as the national conservation research center for *Tamaraws* on the areas of conservation, genetics, reproductive sciences and disease management.

This version of the bill has already been approved by the House in its third reading during the 18th Congress. In this respect, the immediate consideration and passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


HON. LEODY "ODIE" F. TARRIELA
Representative

¹ Art. II, Sec. 16, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE
LEODY “ODIE” F. TARRIELA

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE TAMARAW CONSERVATION
PROGRAM, CREATING ITS ADMINISTRATIVE AND
IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*The Tamaraw Conservation and Protection Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. It is also the policy of the State to conserve and protect the country's wildlife resources and its habitats, enhance biodiversity, and ensure provision of ecosystem services.

Towards this end, the State shall institute measures with due regard to local and national interest, Philippine commitments to international conventions, treaties and agreements for the protection and conservation of biodiversity, and wildlife resources.

SEC. 3. *Creation of the Tamaraw Conservation Coordinating Council.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Tamaraw Conservation Coordinating Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, shall be created to

formulate policies and manage programs pertaining to the conservation of the Tamaraw (*Bubalus Mindorensis*) and its current population in the country.

The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall serve as the Chairperson of the Council. The DENR Regional Executive Director for Region IV-B may be designated as the permanent representative of the Secretary. The Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services shall serve as the Vice-Chairperson of the Council.

The Chairperson shall designate the following as members of the Council: the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers (PENROs) of the Provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro; the DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) of the Municipalities of Sablayan and San Jose in the Province of Occidental Mindoro; the CENRO of the Municipalities of Roxas and Socorro in the Province of Oriental Mindoro; and the Protected Area Superintendents (PASus) of Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park and Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Chairperson shall invite representatives from the following to serve as members of the Council:

- a. Governors of the Provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro or their duly authorized representatives;
- b. Senators of the Republic of the Philippines who are duly registered residents of the Provinces of Occidental Mindoro or Oriental Mindoro, or their duly designated representatives;
- c. District Representatives of the Congressional Districts of the Provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro, or their duly designated representatives;
- d. Mayors of all the municipalities in the Provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro or their duly authorized representatives;
- e. One (1) representative from each National Commission on Indigenous Peoples Office in Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro;
- f. One (1) representatives from each of the following indigenous cultural communities/ indigenous peoples' groups: Buhid, Tau-Buid, Iraya, Bangon, and Alangan;
- g. One (1) representative from an academic institution from a university or college in the Provinces of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro;

- h. Three (3) representatives from either NGOs, or people's organizations (POs) based in the Province of Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro, duly accredited both by the DENR and the concerned provincial governments.
- i. One (1) representative from the local Chamber of Commerce.

SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions of the Council.* – The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Oversee the implementation of the Tamaraw Conservation Management and Action Plan (TCMAP) and the Tamaraw Conservation Program (TCP);
- b. Integrate and harmonize TCMAP objectives and activities in local development plans, management plans, and the annual work and financial plans of the offices and agencies represented in the Council;
- c. Monitor and review the implementation of TCMAP;
- d. Provide administrative support to the implementation of projects and interventions under the TCMAP;
- e. Create thematic or site-based groups, as needed;
- f. Coordinate with the concerned local government units (LGUs) for issued affecting their areas of jurisdiction;
- g. Coordinate with other government agencies and instrumentalities, the private sector, and civic organizations for cooperation and assistance in performance of its functions;
- h. Arrange, negotiate for, accept donations, grants, gifts, loans, and other funding from domestic and foreign sources to carry out the activities and objectives of the TCP; and
- i. Perform such other functions as may be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Tamaraw Conservation Technical Advisory Group.* – To ensure science-based interventions and decisions on the conservation of Tamaraws, the Council, through the Chairperson, shall create a Tamaraw Conservation Technical Advisory Group to be composed of representatives from the following:

- a. Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB);
- b. Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau;

- c. Philippine Veterinary Medical Association;
- d. International Union for Conservation of Nature Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group; and
- e. Other experts from the academe and conservation organizations.

SEC. 6. *The Tamaraw Conservation Program Office.* – The Tamaraw Conservation Program Office (TCPO) is hereby created. It shall act as the implementing arm of the Council and shall perform the following functions:

- a. Lead the formulation and implementation of TCMAP;
- b. Prepare the Annual Work and Financial Plan for the TCP based on the priority activities in the TCMAP;
- c. Assist in the mobilization of resources to augment financing of the TCMAP;
- d. Develop project proposals and activities in pursuit of the strategies of TCMAP;
- e. Create a Quick Response Team, in coordination with the Protected Area Management Office, the concerned LGUs, and the Philippine National Police for the conduct of law enforcement, investigation, and population surveys;
- f. Recommend management interventions including policies and guidelines to address or resolve pressing issues and problems;
- g. Serve as secretariat of the Council;
- h. Initiate coordination mechanism and necessary arrangements with the Protected Area Management Board through its PASu, for collaborative conservation of Tamaraw population within the protected area and facilitate integration and harmonization of TCMAP with the management plan of the concerned protected area;
- i. Manage the Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm located in Sitio Canturoy, *Barangay* Manoot, Municipality of Rizal, in the Province of Occidental Mindoro, in coordination with the Protected Area Management Office of Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park;
- j. Lead in the implementation of the TCP's Work and Financial Plan in coordination with stakeholders, such as local governments, the Protected Area Management Board and Protected Area Superintendents concerned;

- k. Prepare and submit quarterly and annual reports on Tamaraw conservation to be submitted to the Secretary of DENR through the Regional Executive Director and the BMB; and
- l. Perform other duties as may be assigned to the Council.

SEC. 7. *Organizational Structure of the Tamaraw Conservation and Research Center.* – The TCPO shall be under the supervision of the DENR Region IV-B Office and shall be headed by the PENRO of Occidental Mindoro. Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR Regional Executive Director for Region IV-B, in coordination with the BMB, shall prepare the manpower requirements, including plantilla positions for the TCPO to be submitted to the Department of Budget and Management.

SEC. 8. *Establishment of the Tamaraw Conservation and Research Center.* – The Tamaraw Conservation and Research Center (TCRC) is hereby established to ensure that all conservation policies and activities undertaken by the TCPA are based on empirical data findings from scientific studies and research. The TCRC shall:

- a. Serve as the national conservation research center for the Tamaraw in the areas of conservation genetics, reproductive sciences, and diseases management;
- b. Promote conservation and research for the endemic species of Mindoro Island; and
- c. Take over the operation of the existing Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm within Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park to pursue the envisioned plan to strengthen and expand Tamaraw meta-population management in the entire Mindoro Island.

The management and operation of the TCRC facility shall be lodged with the TCPO. All research activities shall be coordinated with the ERB and BMB.

SEC. 9. *Tamaraw Conservation in Protected Areas.* – The concerned Protected Area Management Board shall monitor and manage the Tamaraw population within the protected areas, ensuring the introduction of adequate measures and interventions for its conservation. The PAMB, through PASu, shall collaborate closely with the TCPO in carrying out Tamaraw Conservation Programs and activities within the protected areas.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include in the Department's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within three (3) months following the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall, after consultation with concerned government agencies and other institutions, promulgate rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,