

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4303



Introduced by
Rep. Gil "Kabarangay Jr" A. Acosta, Rep. Jose C. Alvarez
and Rep. Franz Vincent F. Legazpi

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR
PALAWAN, REVISING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7611, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (SEP) FOR PALAWAN ACT," AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the passing of R.A. 7611, otherwise known as the "Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act" in 1992, sustainable development for Palawan has evolved significantly over the years, transitioning from a primary focus on environmental concerns to encompass broader socio-economic and peace and security considerations. Initially, efforts were primarily aimed at addressing environmental challenges such as deforestation, habitat destruction, and marine degradation, which threatened Palawan's rich biodiversity and natural resources, through the implementation of the main strategy Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN). However, as the region's development progressed, it became evident that sustainable development was not just about protecting the environment but also about ensuring the well-being of its people and promoting peace and security. This shift in focus was driven by the recognition that environmental degradation and resource depletion were not only endangering Palawan's ecosystems but also undermining the socio-economic stability of its communities.

As a result, sustainable development initiatives in Palawan began to integrate socio-economic development strategies to uplift the quality of life of its residents. Additionally, recognizing the interlinkages between environmental degradation, socio-economic disparities, and security challenges, efforts were made to integrate peace and security considerations into the sustainable development agenda. This holistic approach to sustainable development in Palawan reflects a deeper understanding of the complex challenges facing the island and underscores the importance of addressing environmental, socio-economic, and peace and security concerns in an integrated and sustainable manner. It has become evident that sustainable development for

Palawan, considering the nature of these challenges and the strategic importance of the island, has become a national security concern that requires a strengthened governance mechanism.

This Bill, which seeks to revise R.A. 7611, is a crucial move designed to address the above-mentioned pressing environmental, socio-economic, security, and peace challenges facing Palawan. This aims to establish a comprehensive framework that integrates sustainable development principles into Palawan's governance and development agenda, ensuring the protection of its environment, the enhancement of its socio-economic fabric, and the preservation of its peace and security, all of which are essential components of the Country's national security.

This proposed Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP) Act is a comprehensive plan aimed at enhancing the quality of life for present and future generations in Palawan. It identifies environmental, socio-economic, and security threats to Palawan's sustainable development and proposes the SDP framework as a strategic approach to address these challenges. Key components of the SDP include socio-economic growth, ecological integrity, and peace and security, which will form the basis for the Sustainable Development for Palawan Plan (SDPP). This aims to align this plan with other regional and local development initiatives.

The attached Bill, as a revision to R.A. 7611, include, among others, the following salient features to implement the SDP Framework:

1. Retention and improvement of the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan, focusing on environmental conservation, land use management, water resource management, and sustainable tourism development. It emphasizes the integration of the SEP with other zoning strategies and environmental laws;
2. Formulation of the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) to sustainably utilize natural, human, and capital resources for economic growth and employment generation. It encourages local government units to align their development plans with the SEDP and offers tax incentives to businesses contributing to its objectives;
3. Formulation of Peace and Security Plan (PSP) to address security challenges unique to Palawan, including terrorism, smuggling, and territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea. It emphasizes community engagement, capacity-building, and intelligence gathering to ensure a peaceful and secure environment;
4. Establishment of the Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP) Clearance System as the regulatory mechanism for approving programs,

projects, and activities that affect Palawan's sustainable development growth as defined in the Bill;

5. Inclusion of Penal provisions, which were not originally provided under R.A. 7611, to deter non-compliance with environmental, socio-economic, and security regulations in Palawan. These include criminal charges, imprisonment, fines, and administrative penalties;

6. Reorganization of Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) into Palawan Sustainable Development Authority (PSDA) and strengthening the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (Council), including the creation of Puerto Princesa Council for Sustainable Development (PPCSD), outlining their jurisdiction and regulatory framework;

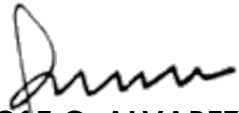
7. Establishment of Palawan Sustainable Development (PSD) Boards in cities and municipalities in Palawan and the PSDA Adjudication Board (PAB), and providing for their functions and responsibilities; and,

8. Establishment of the Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP) Trust Fund to support various activities, such as enforcement, research, education, and livelihood projects. Fees and fines collected under this proposed legislation will contribute to the SDP Trust Fund, which can also be supplemented by donations and grants can also supplement.

In light of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is fervently sought.



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

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “Sustainable Development for Palawan Act.”

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the improvement in the quality of life of the present and future generations of Filipinos, including those of Palawenos. Towards this end, it shall promote the conservation and sustainable management of Palawan’s natural resources, support socio-economic development activities in Palawan, including both public and private investments in infrastructures and services, that contribute in securing sufficiency of food, nutrition, income, energy, among others, and guarantee a peaceful and secure environment that will enable the achievement of sustainable development ends.

Sec. 3. *Scope of Application.* — This Act shall cover Palawan territory as defined under Section 5 of this Act, regardless of the political subdivisions established or that may be further established therein. It shall cover activities related to the environmental, socio-economic, and peace and security development of Palawan.

Sec. 4. *Jurisdiction.* — The regulatory and enforcement provisions of this revised Act shall be implemented by the Palawan Sustainable Development Authority (PSDA), formerly known as the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS). Policy directions, including the approval of plans and programs, are vested to the Palawan Council for Sustainable

1 Development, the Puerto Princesa Council for Sustainable Development, and
2 such other councils that may be created pursuant to this Act within their
3 respective administrative jurisdictions. The jurisdiction herein conferred shall be
4 interpreted not to divest other national government agencies operating in
5 Palawan and local government units of their existing mandates but as a
6 complementation under the "whole of government approach" framework.

7 Sec. 5. *Definition of Terms.* — For the purposes of this Act, the following
8 terms are defined as follows:

9 (a) *Palawan* – for purposes of this Act, Palawan shall consist of the
10 mainland, islands and islets traditionally delineated to form the province,
11 including the Municipalities of Balabac, Cagayancillo, Busuanga, Coron,
12 Agutaya, Magsaysay, Cuyo, Araceli, Linapacan, Dumaran, and extending
13 west to the Kalayaan Island Group, as declared by PD No. 1596. It shall also
14 include the respective 15-kilometer municipal waters as defined under RA No.
15 8550, and the waters extending 200 nautical miles from the archipelagic
16 baselines of Palawan provided under RA No. 9522. The waters around,
17 between and connecting the islands or islets of Palawan, regardless of breadth
18 and dimension shall be covered. Philippine internal waters beginning from the
19 municipal waters of Palawan excluding the 15-kilometer municipal waters of
20 adjacent provinces or municipalities shall likewise be included. It shall also
21 include cities declared or may hereinafter be declared as highly urbanized
22 cities for purposes of applying the provisions of this Act;

23 (b) *PCSD* – refers to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
24 originally created under R.A. 7611 and reorganized under Sections 46 to 49 of
25 this Act;

26 (c) *Council* – for purposes of this Act unless expressly stated to the
27 contrary, this refers to the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development
28 (PCSD), Puerto Princesa Council for Sustainable Development (PPCSD) herein
29 created and those councils that may be created for other highly urbanized
30 cities or province in Palawan that may be established after the effectivity of
31 this Act;

32 (d) *PCSDS/Staff* – refers to the Palawan Council for Sustainable
33 Development Staff originally created under R.A. 7611 and reorganized under
34 Sections 57 to 59 of this Act as the Palawan Sustainable Development Authority
35 (PSDA);

36 (e) *PSDA* – refers to the Palawan Sustainable Development Authority,
37 which is a reorganized PCSDS under Sections 57 to 59 of this Act;

38 (f) *PSDA Adjudication Board (PAB)* – refers to the board created under
39 Sections 54 to 56 that shall adjudicate complaints for violation of the rules and
40 regulations issued in implementing the provisions of this Act;

41 (g) *PSD Board* – refers to a multi-sectoral board in every municipality or
42 city in Palawan created pursuant to Sections 50 to 53 of this Act to ensure the
43 attainment of the sustainable development ends as contemplated hereunder;

1 (h) *Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP)* - improvement in the
2 quality of life of the present and future generations of Palaweños
3 characterized by reinforced socio-economic growth, improved environmental
4 quality and strengthened peace and security accelerated by increased
5 technological advancement and achieved through a multi-sectoral and
6 multi-level governance;

7 (i) *Socio-Economic Growth* – improvement in the social and economic
8 well-being of Palaweños while preserving Palawan's unique cultural and
9 environmental heritage, which involves increase in income, reduction of
10 poverty, improvement of access to education, development of skills,
11 enhancement of infrastructure and creation of employment opportunities for
12 Palaweños in order for them to exercise fully their rights and privileges as
13 members of the community and contribute in the development of Palawan;

14 (j) *Ecological Integrity* – improvement and maintenance in the quality of
15 the physical environment of Palawan by ensuring the balance between
16 development and conservation through the use of, among others, a graded
17 system of protection and development control over the whole of Palawan;
18 and,

19 (k) *Peace and Security* – improvement in the peaceful and secure state
20 of Palawan's environment against threats of internal and external
21 interventions, where Palaweños can fully develop their potentials and role in
22 sustainable development without fear from deprivation of their ways of life,
23 values, welfare and well-being.

24 CHAPTER II

25 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR PALAWAN

26 Sec. 6. *Threats to Palawan's Sustainable Development.* —Considering
27 the intertwined nature of Palawan's natural resources, the economic status of
28 its constituents, and the peace and security situation therein, the following are
29 hereby recognized as threats to the sustainable development of Palawan:

30 (a) Environmental threats that lead to environmental deterioration,
31 habitat destruction, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, increased vulnerability to
32 natural disasters, deforestation, water pollution from mine tailings, disruption of
33 ecosystems, coral bleaching, extinction of species, rising sea levels, increased
34 frequency of extreme weather events (such as typhoons), ocean acidification,
35 and temperature changes including, but not limited to, unsustainable
36 agricultural practices (i.e. slash and burn farming), unregulated mining, climate
37 change, rapid urbanization, illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, illegal,
38 unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, poaching, illegal possession and use
39 of chainsaw units, uncontrolled tourism, pollution from coastal development or
40 improper waste management/disposal practices, and other environmental
41 crimes;

42 (b) Socio-economic threats that can exacerbate socio-economic
43 disparities, impede community development, disrupt economic activities, and
44 impact the well-being of Palaweños or threaten the socio-cultural well-being

1 of Palawan's indigenous peoples including, but not limited to, hunger and
2 malnourishment, income inequality, inadequate infrastructures for energy and
3 other basic services, unsustainable agriculture, limited access to basic
4 amenities and resources (i.e. clean water, healthcare, education,
5 employment opportunities and infrastructure development), vulnerability to
6 natural disasters, imbalance between economic development and
7 preservation of cultural identities of indigenous communities with rich traditions,
8 customs, and heritage, and such other threats that cause insecurities to
9 Palawan's socio-economic development; and,

10 (c) Security threats that endanger Palawan's internal security,
11 external security, peace and order and maritime security, including, but not
12 limited to insurgency, terrorism, piracy, armed robbery, illegal migration, illegal
13 entrants, West Philippine Sea-related threats, and transnational crimes such as
14 drug trafficking, human trafficking, wildlife trafficking, goods and firearms
15 smuggling, and other peace and order or security threats.

16 This Act shall endeavor to strategically address these threats under the
17 Sustainable Development for Palawan framework established in the
18 succeeding sections.

19 *Sec. 7. Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP) Framework.* — The
20 Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP) operates on the framework that
21 a sustained socio-economic growth, ensured ecological integrity and
22 strengthened peace and security, accelerated by science, technology and
23 innovation, are the necessary foundations that will improve the quality of life
24 of every Palaweño. The attainment of the desired states of this framework's
25 foundations are ensured by a multi-sectoral and multi-level whole-of-
26 government approach.

27 *Sec. 8. Components of Sustainable Development for Palawan.* —
28 Pursuant to the framework enshrined in the immediately preceding section, the
29 Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP) shall have the following major
30 components: Socio-economic growth; Ecological Integrity; and, Peace and
31 Security. These components shall become the basis in formulating the
32 sustainable development agenda for Palawan.

33 *Sec. 9. Integration into the Municipal, City, Provincial, Regional and*
34 *other National Plans/Strategies.* — The sustainable development agenda for
35 Palawan shall be contained in the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP),
36 Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) and Peace and Security Plan (PSP) that will
37 hereinafter be formulated by the Council. The consolidation of these plans shall
38 become the Sustainable Development for Palawan Plan (SDPP).

39 These agenda, as contained in the said plans, shall be integrated in the
40 Regional Development Plan (RDP) and priorities of the concerned Regional
41 Peace and Order Council (RPOC). For this purpose, the Executive Director of
42 the PSDA, shall become a regular member of the concerned Regional
43 Development Council (RDC) and Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC)
44 under which Palawan belongs.

These agenda shall also guide the concerned government agencies and local government units in the preparation, formulation and implementation of their plans and programs related to the environment, socio-economic security and peace and security programs affecting the island. This shall be ensured by the Council and SDP Boards in every municipality and city in Palawan.

CHAPTER III

ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Sec. 10. *Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan.* — There shall be a Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan to compose as one of the major components of the Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP) with the aim of protecting and enhancing the natural resources and endangered environment of the island.

Sec. 11. *Formulation of the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan.* — The Council shall act as the environmental planning body in Palawan and shall formulate and approve the SEP for Palawan. It shall contain a comprehensive framework for the sustainable development and conservation of Palawan's natural resources and environment, such as, but not limited to, the following components:

(a) Environmental conservation and protection measures that outline specific strategies and actions to conserve Palawan's biodiversity, protect its ecosystems (such as forests, coral reefs, and mangroves), and safeguard endangered species;

(b) Land use management that addresses land use planning to ensure sustainable and responsible use of land resources, including provisions for zoning, regulations for development in ecologically sensitive areas, and measures to prevent deforestation and soil erosion;

(c) Sustainable water resource management including measures to protect water quality, ensure adequate supply for human and ecological needs, and address issues such as pollution and over-extraction;

(d) Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures to adapt to changing climate conditions and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, which could involve initiatives such as promoting renewable energy, implementing climate-resilient infrastructure, and developing early warning systems for natural disasters;

(e) Sustainable tourism development to avoid negative impacts on the environment, which should include guidelines for sustainable tourism practices, ecotourism initiatives, and measures to minimize the environmental footprint of tourism activities;

(f) Community participation in decision-making processes related to environmental management and recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral lands and natural resources; and,

(g) Monitoring and evaluation mechanism for monitoring the implementation of environmental policies and programs, as well as evaluating their effectiveness in achieving the goals of sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Sec.12. *Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN) Strategy*. — The SEP shall continue to establish a graded system of protection and development control over the whole of Palawan, including its tribal lands, forests, mines, agricultural areas, settlement areas, small islands mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds and the surrounding seas. This shall remain to be known as the Environmentally Critical Areas Network (ECAN).

Sec. 13. *ECAN Components and Zonation*. — Subject to the issuance by the Council of a detailed guidelines, the ECAN strategy shall have the following components and their corresponding zonation:

(a) Terrestrial Component – the terrestrial component shall consist of the mountainous as well as ecologically important low hills and lowland areas of Palawan. This component shall be divided into the following zones:

(1) *Area of maximum protection or core zone* – this zone shall be fully and strictly protected and maintained free of human disruption, except in some cases as provided in this Act.

(2) *Buffer zone* - This area permits regulated use and may be further subdivided into three (3) sub-zones;

(i) *Restricted use area*. Generally surrounds the core zone and provides a protective barrier. Limited and non-consumptive activities may be allowed in this area.

(ii) *Controlled use area*. Encircles and provides the outer barrier to the core and restricted use area. Controlled forest extraction, like the collection of minor forest products, and strictly controlled logging and mining may be allowed.

(iii) *Traditional use area*. Edges of intact forests where traditional land use is already stabilized or is being stabilized.

(3) *Multiple/manipulative use area* - This is the area where the landscape has been modified for different forms of land use such as intensive timber extraction, grazing and pastures, agriculture and infrastructures development.

(b) Coastal/Marine Component - this area includes the whole coastline up to the open sea. This is characterized by active fisheries and tourism activities. A different and simplified scheme of management zonation shall be applied to this component due to its geographical characteristics, critical nature, and patterns of resource use. Equitable access to the resource and management responsibility by the local community shall be the underlying management philosophy of this component.

(1) *Core zone*. - This area shall be designated free from any human activity, except in some cases as provided in this Act. This includes sanctuaries

1 for rare and endangered species, selected coral reefs, seagrass and
2 mangrove ecosystem reserves.

3 (2) *Multiple use zone* - Aside from being development area, this zone
4 also serves as the buffer zone where fishery, mariculture, recreation,
5 rehabilitation of small islands and mangrove ecosystem education and
6 research are allowed.

7 (c) Tribal Ancestral Lands Component - These areas, traditionally
8 occupied by cultural minorities, comprise both land and sea areas. These shall
9 be treated in the same graded system of control and protection as in the
10 others abovementioned except for strong emphasis in cultural considerations.
11 For this purpose, all those with issued CADT/CALT shall be declared as Tribal
12 Ancestral Zones (TAZ) as part of the ECAN Mapping in Palawan. Within the TAZ,
13 the determination of the zones, whether Core, Buffer or Multiple, shall be based
14 on the approved Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection
15 Plan (ADSDPP) or any of its equivalent in case such instrument is replaced or
16 abolished in the future. In such determination, fulfilling the material and cultural
17 needs of the tribes using consultative processes and cultural mapping of the
18 ancestral lands shall be considered. Provided, however, that no further
19 CADT/CALT or its equivalent covering areas in Palawan shall be issued by the
20 NCIP without the concurrence or approval of the Council as may be
21 recommended by the PSDA.

22 Sec. 14. *Determination of Zones.* — In determining the appropriate zones
23 in Palawan, the Council shall be guided by and balance the following
24 considerations: 1) forest conservation and protection through the imposition of
25 a total commercial logging ban in all areas of maximum protection and in such
26 other restricted use zones; 2) protection of watersheds; 3) preservation of
27 biological diversity; 4) maintenance of maximum sustainable yield; 5)
28 protection of the rare and endangered species and their habitat; 6) provision
29 of areas for environmental and ecological research, education and training;
30 7) provision of areas for tourist and recreation; 8) protection of tribal people
31 thru the preservation of their ancestral lands; and, 9) provision of areas for
32 infrastructure needs related to basic services and national security.

33 Sec. 15. *Exemption to Prohibited Activities in Core and Other Zones.* —
34 As exceptions to the prohibited activities in the different zones established
35 above, however, the following may be allowed regardless of the zonation of
36 the area applied for, subject to the condition that other government permits
37 or clearances required under other laws will be secured: 1) traditional uses of
38 tribal communities for minimal and soft impact gathering of forest species for
39 ceremonial and medicinal purposes as contained in the approved Ancestral
40 Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP); 2) soft
41 impact and non-consumptive tourism activities as determined and endorsed
42 by the PSD Board, 3) telecommunications facilities (i.e towers), 4) government
43 projects affecting national security or of national significance as determined
44 and certified by NEDA MIMAROPA, and 5) government projects related to

1 food security and delivery of basic services such as water and energy supply
2 and road constructions as determined and certified by NEDA MIMAROPA.

3 Sec. 16. *ECAN Mapping.* — The Council and the PSD Board shall ensure
4 that the zonation of Palawan pursuant to the preceding sections shall continue
5 to be reflected in the ECAN Map of every city, municipality and of other areas
6 outside municipal jurisdiction, which shall be regularly updated as the need
7 arises and based on criteria or parameters for amendment that the Council
8 may provide.

9 Sec. 17. *Integration of ECAN Zones into Local Land and Water Use Plans.*
10 — The PSDA and the PSD Board shall ensure that the ECAN Maps for every city
11 and municipality in Palawan shall be incorporated in the Comprehensive Land
12 and Water Use Plan or other similar instruments.

13 Sec. 18. *Harmonization with other Zoning Strategies.* — Similar strategies
14 on zonation provided under other laws, such as NIPAS Act or e-NIPAS Act, shall
15 be harmonized with the above zonation in each component. Towards this end,
16 the Executive Director of PSDA, or his representative, shall become a
17 mandated member of all Protected Area Management Boards (PAMBs)
18 established and those that may be established in Palawan.

19 The jurisdiction of the Council, PSD Board and PSDA in implementing the
20 provisions of this Act and the zonation herein established shall not be impaired
21 by the establishment of protected areas under the NIPAS Act or e-NIPAS Act
22 or other similar mechanisms under other laws. The Council and PSDA may call
23 on the PAMBs and its Offices (PAMOs) or any other similar bodies created in
24 protected areas or any part of Palawan in ensuring the alignment of policies
25 and strategies and harmonizing the implementation of this Act and the NIPAS
26 Act or e-NIPAS Act or any other similar laws.

27 Sec. 19. *Other Functions under Related Environmental Laws.* — The
28 Council and the PSDA shall continue to perform their policy, supervisory,
29 regulatory and enforcement functions provided under existing environmental
30 laws, such as, but not limited to, R.A. 9147 (Wildlife Act), R.A. 9175 (Chainsaw
31 Act), R.A. 9072 (Caves Act), R.A. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management
32 Act of 2000), R.A. 10654 (Revised Philippine Fisheries Code), R.A. 10067 (TRNP
33 Act), and other related environmental laws, subject to the following
34 delineation of functions:

35 (a) Within its administrative territory and in order to implement the
36 provisions of the above-enumerated laws, the Council is vested with the power
37 and responsibility to 1) formulate, analyze and evaluate policies, and 2)
38 create, formulate and amend regulations including the implementing rules
39 and regulations of the said laws. All functions related to policies and
40 formulation of regulations, including the approval of plans for solid waste
41 management, as separately provided under the said laws shall remain to be
42 performed by the Council. All existing policies and regulations already issued
43 by the PCSD prior to the effectivity of this Act shall continue to have force and
44 effect until or unless amended or revised by the Council; and,

(b) All over Palawan and in relation to the implementation of the provisions of the above-enumerated laws, the PSDA is vested with the power and responsibility to 1) implement the policies and regulations formulated by the Council and ensure compliance thereof, 2) perform the licensing and permitting functions as provided under said laws, 3) conduct enforcement activities in relation to the prohibited or illegal acts enumerated therein, and 4) perform all other mandates provided under said laws which are not related or absorbed in the formulation of policies and regulations. All functions related to implementation, regulatory compliance, licensing and permitting, enforcement, partnership engagement, deputation, membership in management boards, etc. shall now be performed by the PSDA.

Such mandates shall be considered in the formulation of the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) as provided under Section 11 of this Act.

Sec. 20. *Detailed Guidelines.* — The Council shall issue a detailed guidelines to implement the provisions of this Chapter, including the criteria/parameters in the determination of appropriate zones consistent with Section 14 of this Act, the activities that may be allowed within these zones, and the process and requirements of ECAN Map approval and amendment.

In addition, the Council is also vested with the power to formulate guidelines and regulations for natural capital accounting, payment for ecosystems services, carbon credits trading system and such other mechanism that may be necessary in attaining the ends of ecological integrity as a component of sustainable development. In administering the carbon credits trading, the PSDA shall have proprietary rights over the issuance and allocation of carbon credits.

CHAPTER IV

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 21. *Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for Palawan.* — Consistent with the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) under the immediately preceding Chapter, there shall be a Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for Palawan, which will aim to sustain the increase in the individual and collective values of goods and services produced in Palawan through the innovative and sustainable use of natural, human and capital resources. The SEDP shall ultimately aim to contribute in the creation of employment opportunities and in the enrichment of the quality of Palaweños' living conditions through access to natural, social and economic resources. It shall include plans for development in the field of agriculture, forestry, fishery and tourism, among others, within the carrying capacity of Palawan. It shall also prioritize communications and social infrastructures that can provide improved mobility of passengers and cargoes within, to and from Palawan, reliable and affordable power and water supply, irrigations, and enhanced communication network.

Sec. 22. *Formulation of Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for Palawan.* — The Council shall act as the socio-economic development

1 planning and policy coordinating body in Palawan for the purpose of
2 formulating and consolidating inclusive, comprehensive and adaptable socio-
3 economic policies, plans and programs to reinforce the socio-economic
4 conditions of Palaweños. This plan shall be regularly revisited for the purpose of
5 recalibrating the socio-economic goals for Palawan while keeping them
6 aligned with the national thrusts and priorities for social and economic
7 development. The SEDP indicators or targets shall be harmonized with those set
8 forth in the related plans of other agencies, such as the concerned Regional
9 Development Council, local government units in Palawan and other related
10 agencies. The SEDP shall include, but not limited to, the following strategies:

11 (a) Conservation and sustainable resource management consistent
12 with the Chapter on Ecological Integrity: Implementation of effective
13 conservation measures to protect Palawan's natural resources, such as forests,
14 marine ecosystems, and wildlife, including the management of protected
15 areas, promotion of sustainable fishing practices, enforcement of regulations
16 against illegal logging and poaching, and the development of responsible
17 tourism;

18 (b) Diversification of economic activities to reduce reliance on a single
19 sector and enhance resilience: Encouraging sectors such as agriculture, eco-
20 tourism, renewable energy, and sustainable industries to contribute to
21 sustainable development and create employment opportunities;

22 (c) Innovation and technology to help optimize the use of resources and
23 improve productivity: Promotion of sustainable farming practices, use of
24 renewable energy sources, implementation of efficient waste management
25 systems, and utilization of digital solutions for monitoring and managing
26 resources;

27 (d) Strengthening human capital (education, skills development, and
28 entrepreneurship) to maximize the potential of the local workforce:
29 Empowerment of individuals with relevant knowledge and skills to foster
30 innovation, attract investment, and create a competitive workforce capable
31 of contributing to sustainable economic growth;

32 (e) Collaboration and partnerships to promote sustainable resource
33 management: Establishment of partnerships between local government units,
34 private sector, non-profit organizations, and communities to develop
35 innovative solutions, foster sharing of best practices, and mobilize resources for
36 sustainable development initiatives; and,

37 (f) Responsible tourism to preserve Palawan's natural and cultural
38 heritage: Implementation of regulations for infrastructure development and
39 tourism activities, promotion of community-based tourism, and education of
40 visitors about environmental conservation and responsible behavior.

41 *Sec. 23. Integration into the Provincial and Municipal Development and*
42 *Investment Plans and Programs.* — The socio-economic policies, plans,
43 programs and other priorities identified in the Socio-Economic Development
44 Plan shall be integrated in the provincial and municipal development and

1 investment plans or programs covering Palawan and any of its territory as
2 defined under Section 5 of this Act. Towards this end, the Executive Director of
3 the PSDA shall ensure representation and assistance in the formulation of said
4 plans or programs at the provincial and municipal level and no Annual
5 Investment Program shall be approved by the local legislative council without
6 the endorsement of the PSD Board in the case of municipality or city other than
7 highly urbanized city and of the Council in the case of the province and highly
8 urbanized city.

9 *Sec. 24. Implementation of Socio-Economic Development Plans and*
10 *Programs under SEDP.* — As the policy, planning and coordinating body for
11 socio-economic development in Palawan, the Council, through the
12 representation of NEDA therein, and the PSDA shall act in behalf of and in close
13 coordination with the concerned Regional Development Council in
14 coordinating and facilitating the implementation of socio-economic
15 development plans and programs in Palawan. The role of the Council and
16 PSDA under this Section shall not replace the existing functions of the
17 concerned Regional Development Council, but is only for purposes of
18 coordination, facilitation and endorsement in order to ensure a coordinated
19 and holistic development for Palawan.

20 *Sec. 25. Regulation of Non-government Socio-Economic Development*
21 *Activities in Palawan.* — In order to ensure a coordinated and holistic social
22 and economic development for Palawan and to avoid wastage of resources,
23 no socio-economic development activities shall be undertaken by non-
24 government organizations in Palawan without first securing concurrence or
25 clearance from the PSDA.

26 *Sec. 26. Direct Engagement into Socio-Economic Development*
27 *Activities and Programs.* — The PSDA may directly engage in the conduct of
28 socio-economic development activities and programs either as part of its
29 approved annual work plan or through special projects funded by other
30 agencies or other local or foreign funding institutions.

31 *Sec. 27. Tax Incentives for Businesses.* — The local government units in
32 Palawan shall enact the necessary ordinance providing for tax incentives (i.e.
33 exemptions, deductions, discounts on business taxes, real property taxes and
34 other local levies) to businesses that generate a considerable local
35 employment opportunities to the community and/or contribute considerably
36 to the priorities and strategies provided in the Socio-Economic Development
37 Plan mentioned under Sections 21 and 22 of this Act, such as contributing to
38 the development of tourism, agriculture and renewable energy.

39 The Council shall provide for the minimum conditions and criteria for the
40 said tax incentives, which include the nature of the business, the level of
41 investment, the creation of local employment opportunities, the level of
42 contribution to the Socio-Economic Development Plan and compliance with
43 local regulations, for adoption by the local government units but without
44 prejudice to existing tax incentives already granted to businesses under existing
45 conditions and criteria.

1 The Council, PSD Board and the PSDA shall ensure and monitor the
2 implementation of this provision. Local government units shall submit to the
3 Council annual compliance report and the latter shall conduct an annual
4 review and evaluation of the effectiveness of the tax incentives and their
5 impact on the socio-economic development of Palawan.

6 Sec. 28. *Private Contribution to Access and Subsidy to Education and*
7 *Skills Development of the Underprivileged and Marginalized Groups.* —
8 Depending on the level of investments as may be determined by the Council,
9 businesses which are covered by the regulatory provisions of this Act shall
10 apportion an amount from their corporate social responsibility budget to
11 subsidize education and skills development of, or any other support services
12 for, the underprivileged or marginalized groups, including persons with
13 disabilities, ethnic minorities, children or women, in the barangay/s where the
14 business activities are undertaken in order to contribute in enhancing the
15 employability of the local workforce. This may include vocational training
16 programs, apprenticeships or partnership with employers to provide on-the-job
17 training, providing isolated community members access to education through
18 transportation, roads or bridges, etc.

19 Sec. 29. *Detailed Guidelines.* — The Council shall issue a detailed
20 guidelines to implement the provisions of this Chapter.

21 CHAPTER V

22 PEACE AND SECURITY

23 Sec. 30. *Peace and Security Plan (PSP) for Palawan.* — As a major
24 component of the Sustainable Development under this Act that will
25 complement the SEP and SEDP, there shall also be a Peace and Security Plan
26 (PSP) for Palawan that will pursue a peaceful and secure environment for
27 Palaweños to live, work and conduct business. It shall consider the porous
28 characteristics of Palawan's borders that make it vulnerable to terrorist
29 activities and an open opportunity for smuggling and trafficking of humans,
30 drugs, firearms and wildlife, and the strategic geographical location of
31 Palawan in relation to the West Philippine Sea (WPS) dispute, which is both a
32 territorial and a resource concern.

33 The PSP shall identify priority programs and strategies for the peace and
34 security of Palawan, which shall include, among others, programs for
35 addressing internal armed conflict in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable
36 communities, integration programs for rebel returnees, support programs to
37 AFP and PNP security plans and ISO campaigns, support programs to law
38 enforcement against organized crime groups, programs to intensify
39 intelligence gathering/monitoring against all kinds of threats in Palawan, and
40 establishment of security facilities and forensic laboratories. These programs
41 and strategies shall address risks and challenges such as, but not limited to, the
42 following:

1 (a) Territorial disputes since Palawan is located in a strategic maritime
2 area, which has led to territorial disputes with neighboring countries over
3 islands and maritime boundaries in the South China Sea;

4 (b) Environmental concerns considering Palawan's rich biodiversity and
5 natural resources, which make it a target for illegal activities such as poaching,
6 illegal logging, and mining that pose threats to the environment and local
7 communities;

8 (c) Insurgency since Palawan, while not a major center for insurgency,
9 has its share of social, economic and political challenges that can contribute
10 to issues that lead to insurgent activities;

11 (d) Maritime security because due to Palawan's extensive coastline and
12 maritime borders, it is vulnerable to maritime security threats such as piracy,
13 smuggling, and illegal fishing, which can impact both the economy and
14 security of the island; and,

15 (e) Disaster vulnerability since Palawan is susceptible to natural disasters,
16 which can cause widespread destruction and disrupt normalcy in the island.

17 As such, the PSP shall ensure the regular conduct of a thorough assessment
18 of the security risks and challenges specific to Palawan, the engagement of
19 relevant stakeholders including local communities, indigenous groups,
20 government agencies and civil society organizations, the capacity building of
21 law enforcement agencies in Palawan, the promotion of community policing,
22 the development of conflict prevention and resolution, the integration of
23 environmental protection measures into the PSP, the inclusion of measures for
24 disaster preparedness and response, the alignment of the PSP into national
25 security strategies and initiatives, and the establishment of a framework for
26 monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the PSP.

27 Sec. 31. *Integration into the Peace and Order Program of Local*
28 *Governments.* — All local government units in Palawan, provincial and
29 municipal, shall include in their Peace and Order and Public Safety (POPS) Plan
30 or other similar programs the strategies and priorities identified in the PSP and
31 shall allocate the necessary budget for their implementation. In the pursuit
32 thereof, the PSDA Executive Director shall ensure representation, by himself or
33 through a representative, in the provincial and municipal peace and order
34 councils or other similar bodies. And no Annual Investment Program, which
35 integrates the POPS plan, shall be approved by the local legislative council
36 without the endorsement of the PSD Board in the case of municipality or city
37 other than highly urbanized city and of the Council in the case of the province
38 and highly urbanized city.

39 Sec. 32. *Coordinating Function for Peace and Security Programs in*
40 *Palawan.* — The PSDA shall also act as the coordinating body that will ensure
41 a coordinated and holistic efforts for peace and security in Palawan. As such,
42 it is vested with authority to organize all government security and enforcement
43 agencies operating therein into committees or task forces/groups for purposes
44 of peace and security planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
45 It shall ensure a coordinated implementation of the different security
46 plans/campaigns of agencies in Palawan.

1 Sec. 33. *Augmentation to Peace and Security Agencies in Palawan.* — In
2 addition to their enforcement functions under existing environmental laws and
3 within the jurisdiction of Palawan as defined in this Act, the concerned
4 enforcement personnel of the PSDA, by themselves or as augmentation to
5 other peace and security forces of the government, are hereby authorized to
6 conduct enforcement operations and intelligence gathering activities related
7 to the priorities set forth in the PSP, such as, but not limited to, violations of
8 customs laws, immigration laws, human trafficking law, firearms law and other
9 laws affecting national security.

10 In order to perform this function, the PSDA is hereby authorized to procure
11 firearms subject to existing laws on firearms. Its enforcement personnel and
12 other staff as may be designated by the Executive Director are authorized to
13 carry firearms, be issued with corresponding badges, and perform
14 enforcement and intelligence activities, subject to prior training for the
15 purpose.

16 Sec. 34. *Detailed Guidelines.* — The Council shall issue a detailed guidelines
17 to implement the provisions of this Chapter.

18 **CHAPTER VI**

19 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR PALAWAN CLEARANCE SYSTEM**

20 Sec. 35. *Regulatory and Supervisory Power of the Council and PSDA.* —
21 In order to ensure the attainment of the ends of Sustainable Development for
22 Palawan (SDP) as envisioned in this Act and through the standards set forth by
23 the Council under the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP), Socio-Economic
24 Development Plan (SEDP) and Peace and Security Plan (PSP), the Council and
25 the PSDA are hereby vested with regulatory authority over any privately-
26 initiated or sponsored program, project or activity, whether for profit or not, to
27 be undertaken in Palawan, which has impact on the environment, socio-
28 economic development and peace and security.

29 For similar programs, projects and activities undertaken by the
30 government in Palawan, the Council shall have supervisory authority for the
31 purpose of aligning them with the SEP, SEDP and PSP. The various exercise of
32 such supervisory authority are outlined in the corresponding Chapters above
33 for Ecological Integrity, Socio-Economic Development and Peace and
34 Security.

35 Sec. 36. *SDP Clearance and ECAN Zoning Clearance.* — All proponents
36 of programs, projects or activities that have environmental, socio-economic
37 and security implications, except the government, shall be required to secure
38 Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP) Clearance prior to the conduct
39 of such programs, projects or activities.

40 For government projects, including those provided under Section 15 of
41 this Act, only an ECAN Zoning Clearance shall be required in order to ensure
42 that even government undertakings are conducted in allowable zones or are
43 covered by the exceptions. This does not include privately owned or initiated
44 projects that are conducted in partnership with the government, in which case

SDP Clearance shall be required. Whenever applicable, the ECAN Zoning Clearance shall be secured prior to the inclusion of the proposed government project to the Appropriations Act or Ordinance.

Non-compliance with this Section shall subject the responsible persons/proponents to criminal liability under Section 44 and/or administrative fine, suspension of operations, or cancellation of clearance under Section 45 of this Act.

Sec. 37. Covered Programs, Projects and Activities. — In general, the SDP Clearance System shall cover the following:

(a) Programs, projects and activities that have implications in the environment and covered by the standards set forth under the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan;

(b) Programs, projects and activities that have socio-economic implications and covered by the priorities set forth in the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for Palawan; and,

(c) Programs, projects and activities that have security implications and covered by the priorities and strategies set forth in the Peace and Security Plan (PSP) for Palawan.

In order to ensure the unreasonable inclusion of all programs, projects and activities in Palawan to the detriment of sustainable development and ease of doing business, the Council shall issue a list of covered programs, projects and activities and covered entities. Said list shall be revisited regularly and may be amended or revised by the Council from time to time if the circumstances warrant. Based on this list, it shall be the responsibility of the PSDA Executive Director to issue the necessary SDP Clearance and ECAN Zoning Clearance, as the case may be.

Further, the PSDA Executive Director shall also have the authority to review and cause the revocation of licenses, permits and other tenurial instruments issued by other government agencies whenever there is substantial proof that the activities or projects covered by said instruments are contrary to the sustainable development for Palawan, without prejudice to those instruments already issued prior to the effectivity of this Act. Causing the revocation of such licenses, permits and other tenurial instruments shall be made before the issuing agency in accordance with the latter's administrative procedure.

Sec. 38. Parameters for Evaluation of Covered Programs, Projects and Activities. — All covered programs, projects and activities as included in the list issued by the Council mentioned in the preceding section shall be evaluated according to the following parameters, among others:

(a) Consistency with the standards set forth under SEP, including the ECAN Zonation, and ecological viability;

(b) Consistency with the priorities set forth under the SEDP; and,

1 (c) Consistency with the priorities and strategies set forth under PSP,
2 including compliance with the peace and security protocols and clearances,
3 if necessary.

4 In order to ensure social acceptability of the covered programs, projects
5 and activities, no SDP Clearance shall be issued without the PSD Board
6 endorsement. The same shall not be required for ECAN Zoning Certification.
7 The Council may include other parameters for evaluation as it may deem fit,
8 for as long as they are necessary in the attainment of the sustainable
9 development goals provided under this Act.

10 Sec. 39. *Conditions and Compliance Monitoring.* — In the issuance of
11 SDP Clearance and ECAN Zoning Clearance based on the evaluation of
12 parameters provided in the guidelines issued by the Council, the PSDA
13 Executive Director may include terms and conditions that will ensure the
14 attainment of the purposes of this Act and shall establish a mechanism by
15 which all covered projects are monitored on their compliance.

16 Sec. 40. *Integration into National and Local Licensing/Permitting.* — The
17 DENR shall not issue an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC),
18 Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC), license, permit and similar instruments or
19 tenurial instruments without first requiring the proponents to secure SDP
20 Clearance or ECAN Zoning Clearance, as the case may be, as required under
21 this Chapter. In the same manner, other permitting agencies operating in
22 Palawan and local government units shall not issue permits/licenses for
23 covered programs, projects and activities with potential environmental, socio-
24 economic and security implications without the said clearances. All
25 government agencies/units concerned, national and local, are hereby
26 enjoined to abide by the provisions of this Act.

27 Sec. 41. *Detailed Guidelines.* — The Council shall issue a detailed
28 regulation to implement the intent of this Chapter, which may include
29 categorization of covered activities, providing details for evaluation criteria
30 and processes that may vary on the scale or extent of the program, project or
31 activity applied for, documentary requirements that will enable the PSDA to
32 evaluate according to the parameters as provided above, amount of
33 regulatory fees and charges to be collected and other necessary details.

34 Sec. 42. *Inventory, Conversion and Amnesty.* — Within six (6) months from
35 the issuance of the list of covered projects by the Council, the PSDA shall
36 conduct an inventory of all covered projects, programs and activities in
37 Palawan. All existing SEP Clearances shall be converted to SDP Clearance or
38 ECAN Zoning Clearance, as the case may be, where additional socio-
39 economic conditions and conditions related to peace and security as may be
40 aligned with the SEDP and PSP may be included. Within one (1) year from the
41 issuance of the said list, all those without SEP Clearance may apply for an
42 amnesty for issuance of SDP Clearance or ECAN Zoning Clearance. The
43 Council shall issue the necessary guidelines for amnesty as contemplated in
44 this Section.

1 **CHAPTER VII**

2 **PENAL PROVISIONS**

3 Sec. 43. *Illegal Acts.* — It shall be unlawful for any person to undertake,
4 or to induce, solicit or employ another person to undertake, the following
5 prohibited acts:

6 (a) Construction of any structure or conduct of any activity, whether
7 or not included in the list of covered programs, projects and/or activities, in
8 Core Zone except when such structure or activity falls within the exceptions
9 provided under Section 15 of this Act issued with the corresponding SDP
10 Clearance or ECAN Zoning Clearance, as the case may be;

11 (b) Construction of any structure or conduct of any activity, whether
12 or not included in the list of covered programs, projects and/or activities, in the
13 zone other than the Core Zone, which is prohibited therein as provided in the
14 guidelines issued by the Council, except when such structure or activity falls
15 within the exceptions provided under Section 15 of this Act issued with the
16 corresponding SDP Clearance or ECAN Zoning Clearance, as the case may
17 be;

18 (c) Construction of any structure or conduct of any activity, which is
19 in the list of covered programs, projects and/or activities, in the zone other than
20 the Core Zone, which may otherwise be allowed therein as provided in the
21 guidelines issued by the Council but was constructed or conducted without
22 SDP Clearance or ECAN Zoning Clearance, as the case may be;

23 (d) Conduct of any activity, which is in the list of covered programs,
24 projects and/or activities, other than those contemplated in Sections 43(1),
25 43(2) and 43(3) without SDP Clearance or ECAN Zoning Clearance, as the case
26 may be. This illegal act pertains to covered activities where the rules on ECAN
27 zonation are not applicable;

28 (e) Non-compliance of any of the terms and conditions of the SDP
29 Clearance and ECAN Zoning Clearance;

30 (f) Misrepresentations in the application for SDP Clearance or ECAN
31 Zoning Clearance, including those that may be required by the Council or
32 PSDA to be submitted as documentary requirements for evaluation;

33 (g) Issuance by any government employee or officer of license,
34 permit or other instrument to any covered program, project or activity included
35 in the list issued by the Council without first requiring the submission of SDP
36 Clearance or ECAN Zoning Clearance as required under this Act;

37 (h) Obstructing the conduct by the Council or PSDA or any of their
38 authorized representative/agent of any act arising from the performance of
39 their supervisory, regulatory, enforcement and monitoring functions under this
40 Act; and,
41

1 (i) Non-compliance with any final order, decision and other
2 resolutions issued by the PSDA Adjudication Board on matters pertaining to
3 complaints for violation of the provisions of this Act.

4 Criminal charges for any of the above-enumerated prohibited acts may
5 be filed by the PCSDS Executive Director or his/her designated
6 representative/s. And Sections 43(1), 43(2), 43(3) and 43(4) shall be considered
7 as predicate offenses under the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

8 Sec. 44. *Criminal Penalties.* — The following penalties shall be imposed
9 to any person found to have committed any of the above-enumerated illegal
10 acts:

11 (a) imprisonment of prison mayor (from 6 years and 1 day to 12 years)
12 for commission of any of the prohibited acts under Sections 43(1) and 43(9) of
13 this Act;

14 (b) imprisonment of prison correccional in its medium and maximum
15 period (from 2 years, 4 months and 1 day to 6 years) for commission of any of
16 the prohibited acts under Sections 43(2), 43(7) and 43(8) of this Act; and,

17 (c) imprisonment of prison correccional in its minimum period (from 6
18 months and 1 day to 2 years and 4 months) for commission of any of the
19 prohibited acts under Sections 43(3), 43(4), 43(5) and 43(6) of this Act.

20 If the violation is committed by a corporation, cooperative, association
21 or any other juridical persons, the penalty shall be imposed upon the persons
22 who committed the act as well the president, directors, managers, managing
23 partner or other officials responsible for such violation.

24 Any government official or employee who is found liable, for any offense
25 with an imposable penalty of at least six years of imprisonment under this Act,
26 shall, in addition to the penalty which may be imposed upon him as principal,
27 be perpetually disqualified from holding any public office.

28 Sec. 45. *Administrative Penalties.* — Subject to administrative
29 adjudication by the PSD Adjudication Board as provided in this Act, the
30 following penalties may also be imposed whenever applicable:

31 (a) Payment of fines as may be provided in the implementing rules of
32 this Act;

33 (b) Payment of fines as provided in the implementing rules of R.A.
34 9175, R.A. 9147, R.A. 9072 and of other laws already in effect as implemented
35 by the former PCSD and PCSDS prior to the effectivity of this Act;

36 (c) Payment of the resource economic value lost or suffered resulting
37 from the commission of the act/s subject of the administrative proceedings as
38 scientifically determined by the PSDA;

39 (d) Payment of reasonable cost, if any, incurred by the State resulting
40 from the commission of the act/s subject of the administrative proceedings;

41 (e) Suspension, cancellation or revocation of SDP Clearance and
42 ECAN Zoning Clearance;

1 (f) Perpetually disqualify any person, natural or juridical, from further
2 engaging in activities regulated under this Act;

3 (g) Closure or cessation of any project, program or activity
4 administratively found to be in violation of this Act and any other laws enforced
5 by the Council or PSDA as mentioned under Section 19 of this Act;

6 (h) Demolition of any structure constructed in violation of Sections
7 43(1), 43(2) and 43(3) and forfeiture of the materials dismantled from such
8 structure; and,

9 (i) Forfeiture of tools, conveyance, equipment and other instruments
10 used in the commission of Sections 43(1), 43(2), 43(3) and 43(4) of this Act;

11 Non-compliance with any order or decision of the PSDA Adjudication
12 Board containing any of the above administrative penalties shall be
13 considered as falling within the contemplation of Section 43(9) of this Act on
14 prohibitions.

15 CHAPTER VIII

16 ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY

17
18 Sec. 46. *Reorganization of PCSD.* — The Palawan Council for Sustainable
19 Development (PCSD), created under R.A. 7611 (SEP Law), shall remain to be
20 the Council mandated to perform functions as enumerated under Section 48
21 of this Act. There shall be one (1) Council with jurisdiction for the municipalities
22 under the Provincial Government of Palawan.

23 A separate Council is, however, created for the highly urbanized city of
24 Puerto Princesa and separate councils will be created by the PCSD without
25 need of legislation for other local governments that may hereinafter be
26 reclassified as high urbanized cities. These councils shall have the same powers
27 and functions as the PCSD. As such, all referral to the PCSD or Council under
28 this Act shall also pertain to councils in highly urbanized cities in relation to their
29 respective jurisdictions. This provision also applies in case Palawan is divided
30 into different provinces. Once created by the PCSD, these councils of highly
31 urbanized cities and/or other provincial governments in Palawan shall act with
32 independence in the performance of their functions as enumerated under
33 Section 48 of this Act.

34 Sec. 47. *Council Membership.* — The PCSD or Council shall be composed
35 of the following regular members:

36 To cover the municipalities under the provincial government/s:

37 (a) Local Chief Executive of the provincial government in Palawan;

38 (b) President of the Mayor's League of Municipalities of Palawan;

39 (c) President of the Liga ng mga Barangay;

40 (d) Deputy Director General of the National Economic and
41 Development Authority or his permanent alternative;

1 (e) An Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural
2 Resources or his permanent alternative;

3 (f) An Undersecretary of Department of Agriculture or his permanent
4 alternative;

5 (g) An Undersecretary of the Department of National Defense or his
6 permanent alternative;

7 (h) An Undersecretary of Department of Interior and Local
8 Government or his permanent alternative;

9 (i) Commander of Western Command;

10 (j) Provincial Director of Provincial Police Office;

11 (k) Executive Director of PSDA; and,

12 (l) Such other members from the public and private sectors as the
13 majority of the Council may deem necessary.

14 To cover highly urbanized cities:

15 (a) Local Chief Executive of the highly urbanized city;

16 (b) President of the Liga ng mga Barangay;

17 (c) Deputy Director General of the National Economic and
18 Development Authority or his permanent alternative;

19 (d) An Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural
20 Resources or his permanent alternative;

21 (e) An Undersecretary of Department of Agriculture or his permanent
22 alternative;

23 (f) An Undersecretary of the Department of National Defense or his
24 permanent alternative;

25 (g) An Undersecretary of Department of Interior and Local
26 Government or his permanent alternative;

27 (h) Commander of Western Command;

28 (i) Director of City Police Office;

29 (j) Executive Director of PSDA; and,

30 (k) Such other members from the public and private sectors as the
31 majority of the Council may deem necessary.

32 Except when there is an urgency, the Council shall hold its regular
33 meeting once every quarter of each year. They shall elect, from among its
34 members, a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. A majority of the members of the
35 Council shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. The attendance
36 of the permanent alternative shall be considered in the counting of quorum
37 and votes, which shall legally bind the agency he/she represents. The PSDA
38 Executive Director shall act as the Secretary of the Council. For purposes of
39 aligning policies, taking into consideration the integrated geographical

1 features of Palawan as an island, all councils shall meet jointly at least once
2 every semester.

3 The members of the Council shall be entitled to per diems, in
4 accordance with existing laws and regulations, for every meeting attended
5 but not to exceed the equivalent amount of per diems for four (4) meetings in
6 a month. They shall also be entitled to additional allowances of not more than
7 Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) for every meeting attended subject to the
8 determination and approval of the Council and availability of funds.

9 Sec. 48. *Council Powers and Functions.* — In order to successfully
10 implement the provisions of this Act, the Council is hereby vested with the
11 following powers and function:

12 (a) Formulate policies, plans and strategies as may be necessary to
13 attain the sustainable development goals for Palawan as provided in this Act;

14 (b) Approve the SEDP, SEP and PSP that reflect these policies, plans
15 and strategies to guide the national and local governments and other
16 stakeholders in Palawan;

17 (c) Together with the PSD Board, ensure that the sustainable
18 development agenda as contained in the SEP, SEDP and PSP shall guide the
19 national government agencies operating in Palawan and local government
20 units in the preparation, formulation and implementation of their plans and
21 programs related to the environment, socio-economic security and peace
22 and security programs affecting the island;

23 (d) Call on any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality
24 of the Government, and on private entities and organizations for coordination,
25 cooperation and assistance in the performance of its functions and that of the
26 PSDA, especially to ensure the coordinated and holistic implementation of SEP,
27 SEDP and PSP;

28 (e) Issue a detailed guidelines to implement the provisions of Chapter
29 III on Ecological Integrity, including the criteria/parameters in the
30 determination of appropriate zones consistent with Section 14 of this Act, the
31 activities that may be allowed within these zones, and the process and
32 requirements of ECAN Map approval and amendment;

33 (f) Together with the PSD Board, ensure that the ECAN zonation of
34 Palawan shall continue to be reflected in the ECAN Map of every city,
35 municipality and of other areas outside municipal jurisdiction;

36 (g) Call on the PAMBs and its Offices (PAMOs) or any other similar
37 bodies created in protected areas or any part of Palawan in ensuring the
38 alignment of policies and strategies and harmonizing the implementation of
39 this Act and the NIPAS Act or e-NIPAS Act or any other similar laws;

40 (h) Perform policy and regulatory powers, duties and responsibilities
41 under other environmental laws, except those already given to PSDA, as
42 mentioned under Section 19 of this Act;

43 (i) Formulate guidelines and regulations for natural capital
44 accounting, payment for ecosystems services, carbon credits system and such
45 other mechanism that may be necessary in attaining the ends of ecological
46 integrity as a component of sustainable development;

1 (j) Act as the socio-economic development planning and policy
2 coordinating body in Palawan for the purpose of formulating and
3 consolidating inclusive, comprehensive and adaptable socio-economic
4 policies, plans and programs to reinforce the socio-economic conditions of
5 Palawenos;

6 (k) Act in behalf of and in close coordination with the concerned
7 Regional Development Council in coordinating and facilitating the
8 implementation of socio-economic development plans and programs in
9 Palawan;

10 (l) Ensure and monitor the implementation of the provision on tax
11 incentives under Section 27 of this Act and conduct an annual review and
12 evaluation of the effectiveness of the tax incentives and their impact on the
13 socio-economic development of Palawan based on the submitted annual
14 compliance report of local government units;

15 (m) Provide for the minimum conditions and criteria for the application
16 of tax incentives as provided under Section 27 of this Act for adoption by the
17 local government units;

18 (n) Issue detailed guidelines to implement Section 28 of this Act
19 requiring private contribution to access and subsidy to education and skills
20 development of the underprivileged and marginalized groups, which
21 guidelines may be integrated in the SDP Clearance and ECAN Zoning
22 Clearance terms and conditions;

23 (o) Endorse the proposed Annual Investment Program to the
24 Sangguniang Panlalawigan (for province) or Sangguniang Panglungsod (for
25 highly urbanized cities) after ensuring that the priorities and strategies in the
26 SEP, SEDP and PSP are addressed therein;

27 (p) Recommend to the Congress of the Philippines such matters that
28 may require legislation in support of the objectives of the SDP;

29 (q) Delegate any of its powers and functions to its committees and/or
30 to the PSDA, as hereinafter provided, whenever necessary in order to ensure
31 the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Act;

32 (r) Supervise and regulate any privately-initiated or sponsored
33 program, project or activity, whether for profit or not, to be undertaken in
34 Palawan, which has impact on the environment, socio-economic
35 development and peace and security;

36 (s) Supervise similar programs, projects and activities undertaken by
37 the government in Palawan for the purpose of aligning them with the SEP, SEDP
38 and PSP;

39 (t) Issue a detailed regulation or guidelines to implement the intent
40 of Chapter_ on clearance system, which include the list of covered programs,
41 projects and activities and covered entities, categorization of covered
42 activities, providing details for evaluation criteria and processes that may vary
43 on the scale or extent of the program, project or activity applied for,
44 documentary requirements that will enable the PSDA to evaluate according
45 to the parameters as provided above, amount of regulatory fees and charges
46 to be collected and other necessary details;

1 (u) Issue the necessary guidelines for amnesty as contemplated in this
2 Section 42 of this Act;

3 (v) Establish the Personnel Selection Board (PSB) with representation
4 from all Councils for the position of Executive Director;

5 (w) Approve the Work and Financial Plan of PSDA with respect to the
6 utilization of SDP Trust Fund; and,

7 (x) Perform such other powers and functions related to the
8 formulation, adoption, amendment and revocation of policies and regulations
9 as may be necessary in carrying out its functions, powers, and the provisions of
10 this Act.

11 Sec. 49. *Council Committees.* — To aid in the performance of its
12 functions under this Act, the Council shall create the PCSD Committee on
13 Socio-Economic Development, PCSD Committee on Environment, and the
14 PCSD Committee on Peace and Security and such other committees that the
15 Council may deem necessary. The committees may include members from
16 other agencies but shall be chaired by a member of the Council. The PAB
17 created under Section 54 of this Act shall also act as the Council's Legal Affairs
18 Committee on matters requiring legal expertise.

19 The members of the Committees and PAB may be given per diems, in
20 accordance with existing laws and regulations, for every meeting attended
21 but not to exceed the equivalent amount of per diems for four (4) meetings in
22 a month. They shall also be entitled to additional allowances of not more than
23 Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) for every meeting attended subject to the
24 determination and approval of the Council and availability of funds.

25 Sec. 50. *PSD Boards.* — There shall be created a Palawan Sustainable
26 Development (PSD) Board in every municipality and city in Palawan, a multi-
27 sectoral board that will ensure the attainment of the sustainable development
28 ends as contemplated under this Act.

29 Sec. 51. *Membership of PSD Board.* — The PSD Board shall be composed
30 of the following:

- 31 (a) Local Chief Executive of the municipality or city;
32 (b) Duly designated representative of the Sangguniang Bayan or
33 Panglungsod;
34 (c) President of the Liga ng mga Barangay;
35 (d) Municipal/City Planning and Development Officer;
36 (e) Municipal/City Environment and Natural Resources Officer;
37 (f) Municipal/City Peace and Order Program Officer/Director (or its
38 equivalent);
39 (g) Chief of Municipal/City Police Station;
40 (h) Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) in municipalities within a
41 protected area or a portion of the municipal territory is included therein. In case
42 the protected area covers more than one municipality, the PASu shall be a
43 member of all the PSD Boards of the concerned municipalities;
44 (i) DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer
45 (CENRO);

1 (j) PSDA District Manager having administrative jurisdiction over the
2 municipality/city;

3 (k) Representative of Indigenous Peoples in the municipality or city
4 selected based on the existing guidelines on Indigenous Peoples Mandatory
5 Representation (IPMR);

6 (l) Representative from a duly organized and recognized non-
7 government organization or peoples' organization operating in the
8 municipality; and,

9 (m) Representative from Academic institution operating within the
10 municipality or city selected by the Board from nominees endorsed by CHED
11 with administrative jurisdiction over Palawan.

12 In highly urbanized city with its own Council, the PSD Board members
13 enumerated above who are already members of the Council may designate
14 their permanent alternate who shall have the same authority as the other
15 members. The Mayor may designate the Vice Mayor as his or her permanent
16 alternate.

17 The members of the PSD Board shall serve for as long as they hold the
18 position of the office they represent, except for representatives from
19 Indigenous Peoples, NGOs or POs, and academic institution who shall serve for
20 a term of three (3) years, renewable upon the consent of the Board members
21 and endorsement of the organization they represent.

22 Sec. 52. *PSD Board Powers and Functions.* — The PSD Board shall have
23 the following powers and functions:

24 (a) Provide technical support to local government units in ensuring
25 that the sustainable development agenda as contained in the SEP, SEDP and
26 PSP are considered in the preparation, formulation and implementation of their
27 plans and programs related to the environment, socio-economic security and
28 peace and security programs affecting the island;

29 (b) Provide technical support to local government units in ensuring
30 that the ECAN zonation of Palawan shall continue to be reflected in their ECAN
31 Map and in ensuring that this map shall be incorporated in the Comprehensive
32 Land and Water Use Plan or other similar instruments;;

33 (c) Determine and endorse soft impact and non-consumptive
34 tourism activities for purposes of the exceptions provided under Section 15 of
35 this Act;

36 (d) Ensure and monitor the implementation of the provision on tax
37 incentives under Section 27 of this Act;

38 (e) Endorse the proposed Annual Investment Program to the
39 Sangguniang Bayan (for municipalities) or Sangguniang Panglungsod (for
40 cities other than highly urbanized cities) after ensuring that the priorities and
41 strategies in the SEP, SEDP and PSP are addressed therein;

1 (f) Issue endorsement as part of the requirements for issuance of SDP
2 Clearance for covered programs, projects and activities within its
3 administrative jurisdiction;

4 (g) Facilitate the local implementation of policies issued by the
5 Council in the implementation of this Act;

6 (h) Formulate its own operational procedures or guidelines to perform
7 its mandates under this Act consistent with those provided by the Council for
8 all PSD Boards;

9 (i) Ensure budget allocation for its operation in the budget ordinance
10 of its municipality or city;

11 (j) Set up a special trust fund, as a depository of all collections of
12 monies that may accrue in the performance of its functions such as donations,
13 grants and gifts as well as fees and charges that may later be imposed by the
14 Board, and the management and disbursement thereof in accordance with
15 the relevant provisions of RA 7160 and existing budget and accounting rules;
16 and,

17 (k) Within its local administrative jurisdiction, assist the Council and the
18 PSDA in the performance of their mandates under this Act.

19 Sec. 53. *Budget for PSD Board Operations.* — The budget for the
20 meetings, per diems, allowances and performance of functions of the PSD
21 Board shall be provided by the municipality/city concerned, which shall be
22 included in the latter's yearly budget plan and appropriation. The members of
23 the PSD Boards may be given per diems, in accordance with existing laws and
24 regulations, for every meeting attended but not to exceed the equivalent
25 amount of per diems for four (4) meetings in a month. They shall also be entitled
26 to additional allowances of not more than Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00)
27 for every meeting attended.

28 Sec. 54. *PSDA Adjudication Board (PAB).* — There shall be an
29 adjudication board, to be known as the PSDA Adjudication Board (PAB), that
30 shall adjudicate complaints for violation of the rules and regulations issued in
31 implementing the provisions of this Act. It shall be composed of the following
32 members:

33 (a) A senior prosecutor of the Department of Justice assigned in
34 Palawan, who shall act as the Chair of the Board. Said member should be
35 designated by the DOJ Secretary;

36 (b) Three (3) members of the bar in good standing duly endorsed by
37 IBP-Palawan and accepted by the Chair of Board. These three (3) members
38 should, respectively, represent the interests of the environment, socio-
39 economic development and peace and security of Palawan as may be
40 determined by IBP-Palawan. In case there are several chapters in Palawan,
41 the members to be chosen should be with concurrence from other chapter/s;
42 and,

43 (c) The Executive Director of PSDA.

44 Except for the Executive Director of PSDA, the term of the above-
45 enumerated members shall be, without prejudice to the renewal of the

1 designation or endorsement, as follows: Three (3) years for the Chair and two
2 (2) years for the other members. The PSDA shall provide for the secretariat of
3 the PAB and shall ensure its organization and continuity of operation.

4 Aside from violation of rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Act,
5 the PAB shall also have jurisdiction for administrative violations arising from the
6 administrative rules issued by the PCSD or PSDA to implement the provisions of
7 R.A. 9147 (Wildlife Act), R.A. 9175 (Chainsaw Act), R.A. 9072 (Caves Act) and
8 other related laws. These also include existing regulations issued by the PCSD
9 prior to this Act.

10 The PAB shall meet on a regular basis as it may determine and shall
11 promulgate its own procedural rules and regulations in the adjudication of
12 cases before it. And appeals to its decisions shall be governed by the
13 applicable provisions of the Rules of Court.

14 *Sec. 55. Powers of the PSDA Adjudication Board.* — Subject to
15 administrative due process and notwithstanding the pendency of any criminal
16 proceedings, the board herein created shall have the authority to:

17 (a) Hear and decide complaints filed by the PSDA or any person for
18 violation of this Act and of other environmental laws implemented by the
19 Council and PSDA as mentioned under Section 19 of this Act;

20 (b) Impose administrative penalties as provided under Section 45 of
21 this Act;

22 (c) Issue cease and desist order pending the adjudication of any
23 case before it, whenever the circumstances warrant;

24 (d) Promulgate its own procedural rules and regulations in the
25 adjudication of cases before it;

26 (e) Act as the legal committee of the Council whenever the latter
27 requires advice on matters requiring legal expertise;

28 (f) Attach the property, real or personal, of persons found
29 administratively liable for fines in order to satisfy the same without need of a
30 court order;

31 (g) Garnish the wages, bank accounts and other financial assets of
32 persons found administratively liable for fines in order to satisfy the same
33 without need of a court order; and,

34 (h) Perform such other powers which are necessary in the
35 performance of its duties or in attaining the ends of this Act.

36 *Sec. 56. Enforcement of Decisions.* — Decisions, orders and resolutions of
37 the PAB requiring performance from the losing party shall be enforced either
38 through the enforcement division/unit of the PSDA with assistance from the
39 Philippine National Police or through the existing mechanisms for enforcement
40 of court decisions.

41 *Sec. 57. Reorganization of PCSD Staff to PSDA.* — The existing Palawan
42 Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) created under R.A. 7611
43 shall be renamed to Palawan Sustainable Development Authority (PSDA) and
44 shall continue to be a regular agency under the Office of the President that

1 has regulatory and enforcement functions as provided under this Act and
2 under other laws aside from providing technical support to the Council.

3 Sec. 58. *PSDA Powers and Functions*. — The PSDA shall have the following
4 powers and functions:

5 (a) Directly conduct programs, activities and projects covered by
6 SEP, SEDP and PSP, whether through its regular funding or funding from other
7 local or foreign sources;

8 (b) Participate, through the Executive Director or his designated
9 representative, as regular member of the concerned Regional Development
10 Council (RDC) and Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) under which
11 Palawan belongs and ensure the integration of SEDP, SEP and PSP in the
12 respective Regional Development Plan and Peace and Order priorities;

13 (c) Approve and regularly update, if necessary, the ECAN Maps for
14 every city, municipality and other areas outside municipal jurisdiction but within
15 the definition of Palawan under this Act, in accordance with the guidelines
16 issued by the Council for the purpose;

17 (d) Ensure that the ECAN Maps for every city and municipality in
18 Palawan shall be incorporated in the Comprehensive Land and Water Use
19 Plan or other similar instruments;

20 (e) Call on the PAMBs and its Offices (PAMOs) or any other similar
21 bodies created in protected areas or any part of Palawan in ensuring the
22 alignment of policies and strategies and harmonizing the implementation of
23 this Act and the NIPAS Act or e-NIPAS Act or any other similar laws;

24 (f) Participate, through the Executive Director or through his
25 designated representative, as a mandated member of all Protected Area
26 Management Boards (PAMBs) established and those that may be established
27 in Palawan;

28 (g) Perform powers, duties and responsibilities under other
29 environmental laws, except policy and regulatory functions given to the
30 Council, as mentioned under Section 19 of this Act;

31 (h) Act in behalf of and in close coordination with the concerned
32 Regional Development Council in coordinating and facilitating the
33 implementation of socio-economic development plans and programs in
34 Palawan;

35 (i) Ensure representation in local development councils and
36 assistance in the formulation of provincial and municipal or city development
37 and investment plans or programs covering Palawan for the purpose of
38 integrating the socio-economic policies, plans, programs and other priorities
39 identified in the SEDP;

40 (j) Engage in the conduct of socio-economic development activities
41 and programs either as part of its approved annual work plan or through
42 special projects funded by other agencies or other local or foreign funding
43 institutions;

44 (k) Ensure and monitor the implementation of the provision on tax
45 incentives under Section 27 of this Act;

1 (l) Ensure representation in the provincial and municipal peace and
2 order councils or other similar bodies for the purpose of including in the Peace
3 and Order and Public Safety (POPS) Plan or other similar programs the
4 strategies and priorities identified in the PSP;

5 (m) Act as the coordinating body that will ensure a coordinated and
6 holistic efforts for peace and security in Palawan;

7 (n) Organize all government security and enforcement agencies
8 operating therein into committees or task forces/groups for purposes of peace
9 and security planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation;

10 (o) Ensure a coordinated implementation of the different security
11 plans/campaigns of agencies in Palawan;

12 (p) Conduct enforcement operations and intelligence gathering
13 activities related to the priorities set forth in the PSP, such as, but not limited to,
14 violations of customs laws, immigration laws, human trafficking law, firearms
15 law and other laws affecting national security;

16 (q) Procure firearms subject to existing laws on firearms;

17 (r) Subject to designation of the Executive Director, carry firearms in
18 uniform or in plain clothes while in the performance of duties and be issued
19 with corresponding badges;

20 (s) In relation to ensuring the attainment of Sustainable Development
21 ends under this Act and as augmentation to the Department of Agriculture
22 (DA), establish and operate quarantine checkpoints at strategic locations in
23 Palawan to prevent the introduction and spread of pests, diseases and
24 invasive species that may harm agriculture, the environment and public
25 health;

26 (t) Supervise and regulate any privately-initiated or sponsored
27 program, project or activity, whether for profit or not, to be undertaken in
28 Palawan, which has impact on the environment, socio-economic
29 development and peace and security;

30 (u) Conduct an inventory of all covered projects, programs and
31 activities in Palawan within six (6) months from the issuance of the list covered
32 projects by the Council;

33 (v) Issue the necessary SDP Clearance and ECAN Zoning Clearance
34 for covered programs, projects and activities as may be required under this
35 Act, evaluate the parameters as provided in the guidelines issued by the
36 Council and include terms and conditions that will ensure the attainment of
37 the purposes of this Act;

38 (w) Review and cause the revocation of licenses, permits and other
39 tenurial instruments issued by other government agencies when contrary to the
40 sustainable development for Palawan as provided under Section 37 of this Act;

41 (x) Convert all existing SEP Clearances to SDP Clearance or ECAN
42 Zoning Clearance, as the case may be, and include additional socio-
43 economic conditions and conditions related to peace and security as may be
44 aligned with the SEDP and PSP, in accordance with the specific guidelines that
45 will be issued by the Council;

(y) Establish a mechanism by which all covered programs, projects and activities are monitored on their compliance with the terms and conditions of the issued SDP Clearance or ECAN Zoning Clearance;

(z) Establish the Personnel Selection Board (PSB) for the position of directors and below;

(aa) Serve as the technical staff of the Council, PSDA Adjudication Board and PSD Board in all matters flowing from the latter's performance of mandates under this Act;

(bb) Arrange, negotiate for, accept donations, grants, gifts, loans, and other funding from domestic and foreign sources to carry out the activities and purposes of the SDP. Such grants, donations, loans and/or gifts shall be exempt from taxes and import duties as the case may be;

(cc) Establish SDP Trust Fund as provided under Section 61 of this Act; and,

(dd) Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary in carrying out its functions, powers, and the provisions of this Act;

Sec. 59. *PSDA Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern.* — The PCSDS is hereby reorganized into PSDA with the following organizational structure:

Office of the Executive Director

Secretariat and Records Division

Secretariat Section

Records Management Section

Data Protection Section

Internal Audit Division

Operations Audit Section

Management Audit Section

Admin and Finance Division

General Services and Procurement Section

Human Resource Section

Budget, Finance and Accounting Section

Information Technology Section

Operations Services

Enforcement, Investigation and Intelligence Division

Enforcement and Investigation Section (distributed into four districts)

Intelligence Section (distributed into four districts)

Regulation and Permitting Division

Permitting Section (distributed into four districts)

Compliance Monitoring Section (distributed into four districts)

Legal and Prosecution Division

Legal Services Section

Prosecution Section

Education and Extension Division

Media and Public Relations Section

Public Awareness, Information and Education Section

Production and Circulation Section

Extension Section

Research and Environmental Monitoring Division

Knowledge Management and Research Section

Ecosystem Assessment and Monitoring Section

Environmental and Forensics Laboratory Section

Planning Services

Environmental Planning Division

Socio-Economic Development Planning Division

Peace and Security Planning Division

Further, the following plantilla items shall constitute the PSDA's staffing pattern:

JOB TITLE/DESIGNATION	GOVERNMENT PLANTILLA ITEM	SALARY GRADE	NUMBER OF ITEMS
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR			
Executive Director	Executive Director V	SG 30	1
Deputy Executive Director	Deputy Executive Director IV	SG 28	1
Government Relations Officer	Political Affairs Officer V	SG 21	1
Executive Assistant	Executive Assistant II	SG 17	1
Executive Assistant	Executive Assistant I	SG 14	2
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	2
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
Secretariat and Records Division			
Division Chief	Board Secretary V	SG 24	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1

Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
Secretariat Section			
Chief of Secretariat	Board Secretary IV	SG 22	1
Records Officer	Records Officer II	SG 14	1
Stenographer	Stenographer III	SG 9	2
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Process Server	Process Server	SG5	2
Records Management Section			
Records Officer	Records Officer IV	SG 22	1
Asst. Records Officer	Records Officer III	SG 18	2
Asst. Records Officer	Records Officer I	SG 10	2
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Data Privacy Section			
Data Protection Officer	Administrative Officer IV	SG 22	1
Compliance Officer for Privacy	Data Controller IV	SG 13	3
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Internal Audit Division			
Division Chief	Internal Auditor V	SG 24	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
Operations Audit Section			
Operations Internal Auditor	Internal Auditor IV	SG 22	1
Asst. Operations Internal Auditor	Internal Auditor III	SG 18	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Management Audit Section			
Management Internal Auditor	Internal Auditor IV	SG 22	1

Asst. Management Internal Auditor	Internal Auditor III	SG 18	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Administrative and Finance Division			
Division Chief	Chief Administrative Officer	SG 24	1
Assistant Administrative Officer	Administrative Officer IV	SG 22	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant VI	SG 12	2
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
<i>Property and Supply Management Section</i>			
Property and Supply Officer	Supervising Administrative Officer	SG 22	1
Supply Officer	Supply Officer III	SG18	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Property Custodian	Property Custodian	SG8	1
<i>General Services and Procurement Section</i>			
General Services Officer	Supervising Administrative Officer	SG22	1
Procurement Officer	Administrative Officer III	SG18	1
Asst. Procurement Officer	Administrative Officer II	SG15	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Driver	Driver II	SG4	6
<i>Human Resource Development Section</i>			
HRM Officer	Human Resource Management Officer IV	SG22	1
Asst. HRM Officer	Human Resource Management Officer III	SG18	1
HRM Assistant	Human Resource Management Assistant	SG8	1
<i>Accounting and Budget Section</i>			
Accountant	Accountant IV	SG22	1
Cashier	Cashier III	SG 18	1

Budget Officer	Budget Officer III	SG18	1
Bookkeeper	Bookkeeper	SG 8	1
Accounting Clerk	Accounting Clerk III	SG 8	2
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Information Technology Section			
Information Technology Officer	Information Technology Officer II	SG22	1
Information Technology Officer	Information Technology Officer I	SG19	1
Computer Programmer	Computer Programmer III	SG 18	1
Computer Programmer	Computer Programmer II	SG 15	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
OPERATIONS SERVICES			
Director for Operations	Director II	SG 26	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant VI	SG 12	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	2
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
District Manager*	Project Development Officer V	SG 24	4
Senior District Officer*	Project Development Officer IV	SG 22	4
District Officer*	Project Development Officer III	SG 18	4
District Officer*	Project Development Officer II	SG 15	4
Administrative Assistant*	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	4
Driver*	Driver II	SG 4	4
Enforcement, Investigation and Intelligence Division			
Division Chief	Investigation Agent V	SG 24	1
Senior Enforcement Evaluation Officer	Law Enforcement Evaluation Officer II	SG 15	1
Enforcement Evaluation Officer	Law Enforcement Evaluation Officer I	SG 11	1
Senior Data Analyst	Computer Programmer III	SG 18	2

Data Analyst	Information Systems Analyst II	SG 12	2
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	2
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
<i>Enforcement and Investigation Section</i>			
District Chief Investigator*	Investigation Agent III	SG 22	4
District Senior Investigator*	Investigation Agent II	SG 20	4
District Investigator*	Investigation Agent I	SG 18	4
District Senior Enforcement Officer*	Law Enforcement Evaluation Officer II	SG 15	4
District Enforcement Officer*	Law Enforcement Evaluation Officer I	SG 11	4
<i>Intelligence and Counter-intelligence Section</i>			
District Senior Intelligence Officer*	Intelligence Officer III	SG 18	4
District Intelligence Officer*	Intelligence Officer II	SG 15	4
Regulation and Permitting Division			
Division Chief	Project Evaluation Officer V	SG 24	1
Supervising Project Evaluation Officer	Project Evaluation Officer IV	SG 22	1
Senior Data Controller	Data Controller IV	SG 13	1
Data Controller	Data Controller III	SG 11	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	2
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
<i>Permitting Section</i>			
District Chief Project Evaluation Officer*	Project Evaluation Officer IV	SG 22	4
Project Evaluation Officer*	Project Evaluation Officer III	SG 18	4
Project Evaluation Assistant*	Project Evaluation Assistant	SG 8	4
<i>Compliance Monitoring Section</i>			
Senior Project Compliance Officer*	Project Evaluation Officer IV	SG 22	4

Project Compliance Officer*	Project Evaluation Officer III	SG 18	4
Project Compliance Assistant*	Project Evaluation Assistant	SG 8	4
Legal and Prosecution Division			
Chief Legal Officer	Attorney V	SG 25	1
Assistant Chief Legal Officer	Legal Officer V	SG 24SDP	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	2
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
<i>Legal Services Section</i>			
Legal Officer	Attorney IV	SG 23	1
Legal Assistant	Legal Assistant II	SG 12	2
Legal Assistant	Legal Assistant I	SG 10	2
Legal Aide	Legal Aide	SG 5	1
<i>Prosecution Section</i>			
Prosecution Officer	Attorney IV	SG 23	1
Legal Assistant	Legal Assistant II	SG 12	2
Legal Assistant	Legal Assistant I	SG 10	2
Legal Aide	Legal Aide	SG 5	1
Education and Extension Division			
Division Chief	Chief Education Program Specialist	SG 24	1
Supervising Education and Extension Program Specialist	Supervising Education Program Specialist	SG 22	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	2
Community Affairs Assistant	Community Affairs Assistant II	SG 8	2
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
<i>Media and Public Relations Section</i>			
Senior Communications Development Officer	Senior Communications Development Officer	SG 18	1
Public Relations Officer	Public Relations Officer II	SG 15	2

<i>Public Awareness, Information and Education Section</i>			
Senior Communications Development Officer	Senior Communications Development Officer	SG 18	1
Public Relations Officer	Public Relations Officer II	SG 15	2
<i>Production and Circulation Section</i>			
Senior Media Production Specialist	Media Production Specialist III	SG 18	1
Media Production Specialist	Media Production Specialist II	SG 15	2
<i>Extension Section</i>			
Senior Community Development Officer	Community Development Officer III	SG 18	1
Community Development Officer	Community Development Officer II	SG 15	2
<i>Research and Environmental Monitoring Division</i>			
Division Chief	Chief Environmental Management Specialist	SG 24	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	2
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
<i>Knowledge Management and Research Section</i>			
Supervising Environmental Management Specialist	Supervising Environmental Management Specialist	SG 22	1
Ecosystems Management Specialist	Ecosystems Management Specialist II	SG 15	2
Researcher	Environmental Management Researcher	SG 9	2
<i>Ecosystem Assessment and Monitoring Section</i>			
Supervising Ecosystems Management Specialist	Supervising Ecosystems Management Specialist	SG 22	1
Ecosystems Management Specialist	Ecosystems Management Specialist II	SG 15	2
Ecosystems Management Specialist	Ecosystems Management Specialist I	SG 11	2

<i>Environmental and Forensics Laboratory Section</i>			
Chemist	Chemist IV	SG 22	2
Laboratory Technician	Laboratory Technician III	SG 10	3
PLANNING SERVICES			
Director for Planning	Director II	SG 26	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant VI	SG 12	1
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	2
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
Environmental Planning Division			
Division Chief	Chief Environmental Management Specialist	SG 24	1
Supervising Environmental Management Specialist	Supervising Environmental Management Specialist	SG 22	1
Environmental Management Specialist	Environmental Management Specialist II	SG 15	2
District Environmental Management Specialist*	Environmental Management Specialist II	SG 15	4
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
Socio-Economic Development Planning Division			
Division Chief	Chief Economic Development Specialist	SG 24	1
Supervising Economic Development Specialist	Supervising Economic Development Specialist	SG 22	1
Economic Development Specialist	Economic Development Specialist II	SG 16	2
District Economic Development Specialist*	Economic Development Specialist II	SG 16	4
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1
Peace and Security Planning Division			

Division Chief	National Security Specialist V	SG 24	1
Supervising Peace and Security Specialist	National Security Specialist IV	SG 22	1
Peace and Security Specialist	National Security Specialist III	SG 19	2
District Peace and Security Specialist*	National Security Specialist III	SG 19	4
Administrative Assistant	Administrative Assistant III	SG 9	1
Driver	Driver II	SG 4	1

*Holders of these items shall be distributed to the different districts of Palawan and City of Puerto Princesa

In order to ensure continuity and efficient transition, the current Executive Director of PCSDS shall assume the Office of the Executive Director of PSDA with the corresponding adjustment in salary and benefits until his/her retirement or separation from the service. Thereafter, the Executive Director shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Council, which has the largest administrative jurisdiction over Palawan in terms of number of municipalities, from among the qualified applicants, after screening, submitted by the Personnel Selection Board (PSB) created from the members of the Council. All other directors, division chiefs and below shall be appointed by the Executive Director, also from qualified applicants, after screening, submitted by the PSB created within the PSDA. All such appointments and requirements shall be subject to the existing civil service rules and regulations.

Existing plantilla items in the PCSDS shall be converted to the above plantilla items based on their equivalent salary grades. Other plantilla items above that will not be covered under the "scrap and build" policy shall be requested to the DBM for creation. The existing holders of plantilla positions in the PCSDS shall automatically assume their equivalent positions or shall be prioritized in promotional appointments based on the above staffing according to the nature of their existing functions and salary grade subject to approval by the Executive Director in accordance with civil service rules and regulations. In the event that an existing holder of plantilla item does not qualify for any position under the new plantilla items or is not appointed thereto, he or she shall retain his or her existing plantilla item until his resignation, retirement or appointment to another plantilla item. The PSDA and the DBM shall come up with a transition plan in order to fully implement this provision.

Sec. 60. Agency Relationship. — For administrative and operational purposes, the PSDA shall be under the Office of the President. For purposes of policies, plans and programs mandated to the Council, the PSDA shall defer to the latter and shall act as the implementor of said policies, plans and programs.

1 The Council shall conduct its mandates under this Act independent of
2 other departments and agencies. Its members shall, however, ensure the
3 alignment of policies formulated under this Act with those at their respective
4 departments or agencies and consistent with the overall direction of the
5 government. Through their representation in the Council, the DENR, DA, NEDA,
6 DILG and DND shall have oversight functions in the formulation and
7 implementation of SEP, SEDP and PSP, respectively. For this purpose, the PSDA
8 Executive Director shall directly report to the heads of the above-mentioned
9 departments or agencies on matters related to their respective mandate.

10 CHAPTER IX

11 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

12 Sec. 61. Establishment of SDP Trust Funds. — The PSDA is hereby
13 authorized to create and maintain in any government authorized bank a trust
14 fund to be known as the Sustainable Development for Palawan (SDP) Trust
15 Fund, which shall be managed by the PSDA without need of depositing the
16 same to the national treasury. Subject to the approval by the Council of the
17 yearly Work and Financial Plan, the PSDA may use this fund to augment its
18 regular budget in implementing the provisions of this Act including, but not
19 limited to, the conduct of enforcement, intelligence activities, researches,
20 monitoring, education and extension activities, livelihood for marginalized
21 groups, operations of the PSDA, Council, PAB and PSD Boards, and other
22 sustainable development programs and projects.

23 Without prejudice to the existing mechanism for Wildlife Management
24 Fund under R.A. 9147, or the Wildlife Act, all fees, charges and fines imposed
25 or collected pursuant to the regulatory and adjudicatory power under this Act
26 shall accrue to the SDP Trust Fund. The Fund may also be augmented by
27 income from payment of ecosystems services and carbon credits trading,
28 donations, grants or endowments from other sources, domestic or foreign,
29 which shall be exempted from donor's taxes and other government fees or
30 charges. Donations from private entities under this provision may be allowed
31 as tax credits or deductions subject to existing rules and regulations on the
32 matter.

33 Sec. 62. Confidential and Intelligence Funds. — Subject to the existing
34 guidelines issued by DBM, the PSDA is hereby authorized to include in its budget
35 a fund for confidential and intelligence activities necessary in implementing
36 the enforcement provisions of this Act and other laws as mentioned under
37 Section 19 of this Act. Such confidential and intelligence fund shall be sourced
38 from the annual regular budget, SDP Trust Fund, Wildlife Management Fund
39 under R.A. 9147 and other funds that may hereinafter be managed by the
40 Council or PSDA.

41 CHAPTER X

42 APPROPRIATION AND FINAL PROVISIONS

43 Sec. 63. *Appropriations.* — A minimum amount of Five hundred million
44 pesos (PhP500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated annually for the

1 implementation of this Act. This is without prejudice to augmentation coming
2 from other sources such as the SDP Trust Fund, Wildlife Management Fund,
3 grants, donations, and other similar sources.

4 *Sec. 64. Ownership and Administration of existing assets.* — Subject to
5 the issuance of a law specific to the disposition of real property, all records,
6 equipment, real properties, funds, and other assets of the PCSDS, including but
7 not limited to the lot in Barangay Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa where the main
8 building is located and the 500 hectare lot in Barangay Irawan, Puerto Princesa
9 City covered by Presidential Proclamation No. 2174 which was transferred to
10 PCSDS from PIADPO, shall continue to be owned and administered by the
11 PSDA (former PCSDS) to be utilized for purposes consistent with the provisions
12 of this Act. Provided, however, and subject to a written consent of the PSDA
13 Executive Director on the extent or area coverage as surveyed by the
14 appropriate office of the DENR in Palawan, areas already utilized or already
15 subject of an agreement to be utilized by other government agencies or local
16 government units in the performance of public functions shall be donated by
17 the PSDA to such agencies or LGUs.

18 *Sec. 65. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The implementing rules
19 and regulations of this Revised Act shall be promulgated and/or approved by
20 both the PCSD and PPCSD in joint meeting within six (6) months from its
21 effectivity.

22 *Sec. 66. Construction.* — The provisions of this Revised Act shall be
23 liberally construed in favor of achieving the ends of sustainable development
24 for Palawan but not to divest any person of any right granted under any
25 contract with or franchise from the government or other legal instruments
26 issued prior to the effectivity of this Act.

27 *Sec. 67. Separability Clause.* — If any part or section of this Act is declared
28 unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the constitutionality or
29 legality of other parts or sections.

30 *Sec. 68. Repealing Clause.* — All laws, executive orders, presidential
31 decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed
32 repealed or modified accordingly.

33 *Sec. 69. Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect immediately after
34 its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

35 *Approved,*