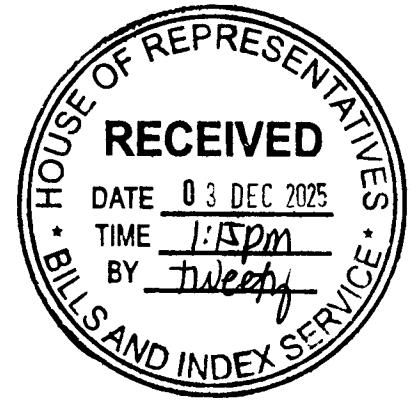




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6573**



Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Manito Mangrove Eco Park in the Municipality of Manito, Province of Albay an ecotourism site, provide for its development, and appropriate funds therefor.

Mangrove ecosystems are among the most productive and ecologically significant coastal resources in the Philippines. They protect communities from storm surges, reduce coastal erosion, serve as nurseries for marine life, and function as vital carbon sinks that help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Beyond their environmental benefits, mangrove areas also present opportunities for sustainable livelihood and community-based ecotourism.

The Manito Mangrove Eco Park in the Municipality of Manito, Province of Albay, exemplifies the success of environmental restoration through strong multi-sectoral collaboration. Once a degraded mangrove reserve in the 1990s, the area has undergone significant rehabilitation through the joint efforts of the Alliance of Bacman Farmers Association, Inc. (ALBAFAI), the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) through its BINHI program, the Forest Foundation Philippines, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-Bicol), and the Local Government Unit of Manito, Albay.

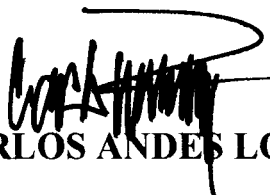
Through grants and technical support, these partners revitalized the forest into what is now a thriving ecosystem with 12 unique mangrove species, at least 36 species of birds, and 16 marine species, providing a restored habitat rich in

biodiversity. The development of the Manito Mangrove Eco Park further promotes sustainable management, environmental protection, and community participation.

With its restored ecological integrity and increasing recognition as a natural asset, the Manito Mangrove Eco Park holds high potential as a responsible ecotourism destination. Properly supported by national agencies through infrastructure development, conservation measures, and promotional initiatives, the Eco Park can serve as a model for regenerative tourism—balancing environmental preservation with community development and livelihood enhancement.

This proposed measure aims to formally declare the Manito Mangrove Eco Park as an ecotourism site and mandate the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with relevant government agencies and local stakeholders, to prepare and implement a comprehensive tourism development plan. This will ensure the sustainable use, protection, and promotion of the mangrove ecosystem while providing economic opportunities to the communities that helped revive it.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



CARLOS ANDES LORIA



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6573

Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

AN ACT

**DECLARING MANITO MANGROVE ECO PARK IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF MANITO, PROVINCE OF ALBAY AN
ECOTOURISM SITE, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. The Manito Mangrove Eco Park located in the Municipality
of Manito, Province of Albay, is declared an ecotourism site. Its development
shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and
regulations governing the development of tourist destinations

SEC. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT shall,
in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH),
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Municipal
Government of Manito and Provincial Government of Albay, prepare a tourism
development plan that includes the construction, installation, and maintenance of

1 appropriate infrastructure and facilities to enhance tourism in the area and ensure
2 its accessibility and security of tourists: *Provided*, That the development plan
3 shall also ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural beauty,
4 geological features, and resources of Manito Mangrove Eco Park.

5 SEC. 3. The DOT, DPWH, DENR, and other concerned agencies shall take
6 immediate steps to implement the tourism development plan with due
7 consideration to the natural characteristics of Manito Mangrove Eco Park and
8 incorporate the same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar
9 year. It shall also include the Manito Mangrove Eco Park in its international,
10 national, regional and local promotion program.

11 SEC. 4. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act
12 shall be charged against the annual appropriations of DOT in the General
13 Appropriations Act and its internally generated funds. The Municipal
14 Government of Manito and Provincial Government of Albay may appropriate
15 funds for the development of Manito Mangrove Eco Park in their annual budget,
16 subject to the approval of their respective *Sanggunian*.

17 SEC. 5. All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or
18 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended,
19 or revised accordingly.

20 SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
21 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

22 Approved,