



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6943



Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare Sumlang Lake in the Municipality of Camalig, Province of Albay an ecotourism site, provide for its development, and appropriate funds therefor.

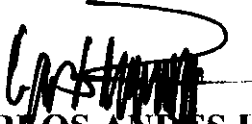
Sumlang Lake, a seven-hectare freshwater lake located in the Municipality of Camalig, Province of Albay, has transformed from a once-murky fishing area into one of the most vibrant ecotourism destinations in the Bicol Region. Surrounded by lush greenery and offering an unobstructed view of the majestic Mayon Volcano, the lake now attracts both local and foreign visitors seeking nature-based recreation and cultural experiences.

The site features community-developed attractions such as bamboo rafts, kayaking and boating activities, picnic areas, and culinary demonstrations that highlight local Bicolano craftsmanship and cuisine. Its strategic location near well-known landmarks, including Mt. Mayon, Daraga Church, and the Cagsawa Ruins, further enhances its tourism potential. The sustainable development of Sumlang Lake has also provided meaningful livelihood opportunities for residents through ecotourism enterprises and visitor services.

Given its ecological value and the need to preserve its natural environment, there is a compelling necessity to institutionalize support for its conservation and responsible development. Declaring Sumlang Lake as an ecotourism site will ensure the formulation of a comprehensive tourism development plan that

balances environmental protection with improved accessibility, safety, and visitor facilities. Such designation will further strengthen community-based tourism initiatives and contribute to inclusive economic growth in Camalig and the Province of Albay.

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



CARLOS ANDES LORIA



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AN ACT

**DECLARING SUMLANG LAKE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CAMALIG, 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 Sumlang Lake located in the Municipality of Camalig,
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 Camalig 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 Sumlang Lake.

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 Sumlang Lake and incorporate the
8 same in its tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year. It shall
9 also include the Sumlang Lake in its international, national, regional and local
10 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 Camalig and Provincial Government of Albay may appropriate
15 funds for the development of Sumlang Lake in their annual budget, subject to the
16 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,