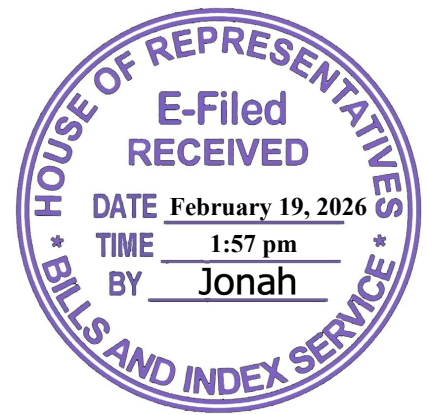


**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City**

**Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 7902



**Introduced by Honorable Representatives
DADAH KIRAM ISMULA (Akbayan Partylist)
JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO (Akbayan Partylist)
PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA (Akbayan Partylist)
KAKA BAG-AO (Dinagat Islands)
ANNA VICTORIA VELOSO-TUAZON (Leyte, 3rd District)**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT PROGRAM,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, being an archipelagic nation with one of the longest coastlines in the world, is among the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change.¹ It affects the day-to-day lives and poses a significant risk to the livelihood of every Filipino, wherever they are. Our coastal zones, which host a significant portion of the population and economic activity, are increasingly exposed to intensifying natural hazards, including more frequent and severe typhoons, rising sea levels, and catastrophic storm surges.

Despite their critical importance, our coastal ecosystems are in a state of rapid decline due to the widespread conversion of mangrove forests into fishponds and the proliferation of illegal structures that have stripped our coastlines of their natural defenses.² Furthermore, without natural vegetation, shorelines continuously erode and degrade, which costs Filipinos their livelihoods, property, and integral infrastructure that serve the public. Evidently, the lack of a coherent national strategy for coastal management and protection enabled the above-mentioned problems to persist.

The proposed measure seeks to address this gap and institutionalize the National Coastal Greenbelt Program aspect of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) as a

¹ Eckstein, D., Künzel, V., & Schäfer, L. (2021). Global Climate Risk Index 2021: Who suffers most from extreme weather events? Weather-related loss events in 2019 and 2000-2019. Germanwatch. https://www.germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202021_2.pdf

² Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau. (2019). *The 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Tracking Progress in Implementing the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2028*. <https://asean.chm-cbd.net/documents/sixth-national-report-philippines>

national framework to build climate resilience and institutional preparedness. Through the National Coastal Greenbelt Program, the State proactively and urgently harmonizes among coastal communities the ridge-to-reef approach to risk reduction, streamlining all efforts and actions and ensuring the flow of sustainable finance from the national to the local level, particularly to restore and rehabilitate coastal greenbelt ecosystems and help measure the ecosystem services these provide.

Furthermore, this bill also emphasizes the importance of mangroves as an ecosystem-based adaptation practice in our coastal communities. Scientifically recognized as one of the most effective natural barriers against storm surges and tsunamis, mangroves are to be protected and reforested through the establishment of coastal greenbelt zones³. This bill mandates urgent mangrove protection and reforestation to be a priority natural measure that the State shall take in pursuing adaptation as an anchor strategy and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The enactment of the National Coastal Greenbelt Act is a critical requirement for national climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. By institutionalizing this measure, the State establishes a sustainable, nature-based defense system capable of mitigating the impact of climate change. Given the accelerating rate of climate-related hazards and the ongoing degradation of natural coastal barriers, providing a comprehensive legal framework for coastal resilience is an urgent necessity.

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



DADAH KIRAM ISMULA
Akbayan Representative



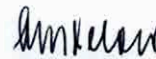
JOSE MANUEL TADEO
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Akbayan Representative



PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA
Akbayan Representative



KAKA BAG-AO
Dinagat Islands Representative



ANNA VICTORIA VELOSO-TUAZON
Leyte, 3rd District Representative

³ Losada, I. J., Menéndez, P., Guannel, G., Beck, M. W., & Graham, S. (2018). Valuing protective services of mangroves in the Philippines: Technical report. World Bank. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/278971501667825477/pdf/117830-WP-MangrovesProtectionServiceTechRep-PUBLIC.pdf>

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT PROGRAM,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "National Coastal
2 Greenbelt Act".

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby the declared policy of the State:

- 5
6 (a) To uphold and safeguard the right of the people to a balanced and healthful
7 ecology;
- 8 (b) To promote the active participation of the national government, local
9 governments, businesses, non-government organizations, local
10 communities and the public to prevent and reduce the adverse impacts of
11 climate change and disaster risks consistent with Republic Act (RA) No. 9729
12 (Climate Change Act of 2009), as amended by RA No. 10174 and RA No.
13 10121 (Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act);
- 14 (c) To recognize the intrinsic link between climate change and disaster risk
15 reduction and management, and to strengthen disaster risk reduction as a
16 means of enhancing adaptive capacity to climate change;
- 17 (d) To integrate gender-sensitive, pro-children, and pro-poor perspectives in all
18 plans to mitigate climate-induced impacts;
- 19 (e) To adopt appropriate measures that protect lives, property, and livelihoods
20 in coastal areas from the impacts of typhoons, storm surges, and other

- 1 climate-related hazards, while conserving and improving environmental
2 conditions;
- 3 (f) To formulate, develop and effectively implement a coherent, comprehensive
4 and integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan that
5 reduces vulnerability to climate change and disaster risks, enhances
6 adaptive capacity and builds resilience to climate change-related hazards;
7 and
- 8 (g) To adopt the Precautionary Principle in the planning, conservation,
9 rehabilitation and management of coastal greenbelt zones.

10
11 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:
12

- 13 (a) **Abandoned, Undeveloped or Underutilized (AUU) Fishponds** refer to
14 fishponds that have been leased to qualified persons and fisherfolk
15 organizations/cooperatives that are not fully producing within five (5) years
16 from the date of approval of the lease contract that shall be automatically
17 reverted to the public domain for reforestation, in accordance with RA No. 8550,
18 as amended by RA No. 10654, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries
19 Code;
20
- 21 (b) **Climate Change** refers to a change of climate which is attributed directly or
22 indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of global atmosphere,
23 and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable
24 time periods;
25
- 26 (c) **Coastal Greenbelts** refer to at least 100-meter-wide strip of natural or
27 planted coastal vegetation, primarily of mangrove and beach forest species,
28 extending from the seaward edge of mangroves (middle intertidal zone)
29 towards land, or extending from the seaward edge of beach forest (high tide
30 line) towards land, in cases where mangroves are absent. Its function is to
31 absorb wave energy from the sea towards land, prevent coastal erosion, and
32 mitigate the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and
33 property;
34
- 35 (d) **Coastal Zone** is a band of dry land and adjacent ocean space (water and
36 submerged land in which terrestrial processes and uses directly affect oceanic
37 processes and uses, and vice versa; its geographic extent may include areas
38 within a landmark limit of one kilometer from the shoreline at high tide to
39 include mangrove swamps, brackish water ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine
40 rivers, sandy beaches and other areas within a seaward limit of 200 meters
41 isobath to include coral reefs, algal flats, seagrass beds and other soft-bottom
42 areas;

- 1
- 2 (e) **Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)** refers to the document formulated
- 3 by the cities and municipalities, in consultation with its stakeholders, that
- 4 defines or provides guidelines on the allocation, utilization, development, and
- 5 management of all lands within a given territory or jurisdiction according to the
- 6 inherent qualities of the land itself and supportive economic, demographic,
- 7 socio-cultural and environmental objectives as defined in RA No. 11201 or the
- 8 Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act;
- 9
- 10 (f) **Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP)** refers to a six-year multi-
- 11 sectoral plan formulated at the city or municipal level embodying the vision,
- 12 sectoral goals, objectives, development strategies, and policies within the terms
- 13 of the officials of the LGU, and the medium-term. It contains an ecological
- 14 profile, sectoral development plan, and implementation instruments;
- 15
- 16 (g) **Designated area** refers to site-specific stretches of vegetation in the coastal
- 17 zone, defined in relation to risk factors and vulnerability to coastal hazards, and
- 18 reserved for protection and maintenance under the National Coastal Greenbelt
- 19 Management Action Plan. The area may undergo rehabilitation, reforestation,
- 20 or afforestation with locally appropriate mangrove and beach forest species.
- 21 Designated areas with abandoned fishponds require the reversion of these
- 22 fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally
- 23 appropriate species. Designated areas with illegal structures, such as
- 24 breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial structures, and the like,
- 25 require removal of such structures;
- 26
- 27 (h) **Fisherfolk Settlement Areas** refer to certain areas, particularly close to or
- 28 near fishing grounds, that have been granted to or reserved for the settlement
- 29 of municipal fisherfolk;
- 30
- 31 (i) **Integrated Coastal Management** refers to a holistic and integrative
- 32 management that incorporates the following components: (1) connectivity of
- 33 various ecosystems – environment and resources; (2) various sectors and
- 34 stakeholders; (3) institutional arrangements that are relevant; and (4)
- 35 assessment of drivers of coastal ecosystem degradation, management planning
- 36 and implementation, including research and education, to address coastal
- 37 degradation and biodiversity losses, and to improve the well-being of
- 38 communities in coastal and interconnected areas;
- 39
- 40 (j) **Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP)** refers to the action plan
- 41 formulated by LGUs to address climate change concerns. It focuses on both
- 42 climate change and adaptation and mitigation and describes how LGUs plan to

1 respond to impacts of climate change and mainstream them into mandated
2 local plans, i.e., land use plan, sectoral development plan, investment program,
3 pursuant to Section 14 of R.A. No. 9729, or the Climate Change Act of 2009,
4 as amended;

5
6 (k) **Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LCGMAP)** refers to
7 the local action plan adopted by local government units which shall be based
8 on the NCGMAP. It shall contain specific goals and targets for the
9 implementation of the program set in the NCGMAP.

10
11 (l) **Mangroves** refer to a community of intertidal plants in the tropics and
12 subtropics including all species of trees, shrubs, vines and herbs growing along
13 tidal mudflats and shallow water coastal areas extending inland along rivers,
14 streams and their tributaries where the water is generally brackish;

15
16 (m) **Mangrove Forest** refers to the forested wetland growing along tidal mudflats
17 and along shallow water coastal areas extending inland along rivers, streams,
18 and their tributaries where the water is generally brackish and composed of low
19 elevation species, such as *Avicennia marina*, *A. alba*, and *Sonneratia alba*. The
20 mid zone is dominated by *Rhizophora* species, *Sonneratia caseolaris*,
21 *Xylocarpus granatum* and *Nypa fruticans* while the landward zone or areas with
22 higher elevation are inhabited by *Avicennia rumphiana*, *A. officinalis*, and
23 *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*;

24
25 **SEC. 4. National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan.** - The DENR,
26 through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), shall, within six (6) months,
27 identify and convene the National Coordinating Council, consisting of all national
28 agencies responsible for foreshore management, mangrove and beach forest
29 protection and utilization, coastal land and sea-use planning, coastal tourism
30 development, social welfare of coastal communities, and other relevant mandates, to
31 prepare an integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP),
32 which shall serve as the guide for the LCGMAP. The DENR shall be responsible for
33 consolidating the NCGMAP not later than twelve (12) months from the effectivity of
34 this Act.

35
36 The NCGMAP shall, at the minimum, contain the following:

- 37
38 a. Spatial representation, and a periodic quick/rapid inventory of the status of
39 coastlines and foreshores, including the status of mangroves, beach forests,
40 settlements, structures and fishponds within one hundred (100) meters therein,
41 ensuring that temporal and spatial national capital accounting data for coastal
42 greenbelts and the corollary ecosystem services supplied is readily available;

- 1
- 2 b. Assessment of priority areas to be designated as Coastal Greenbelt Zones, for
- 3 each coastal province, city and municipality, based on their vulnerability to
- 4 storm surges, waves, tsunamis and the like. This shall be completed within
- 5 twelve (12) months from the adoption of the NCGMAP;
- 6
- 7 c. Designation of priority areas as Coastal Greenbelt Zones that are already
- 8 included as either a protected area under the Expanded National Integrated
- 9 Protected Areas System (RA No. 11038), or as a fish refuge or sanctuary under
- 10 the Amended Fisheries Code (RA No. 8550 as amended by RA No. 10654), or
- 11 as a local marine protected area as may be declared by municipalities and cities
- 12 through local ordinances. The designation shall be completed within six (6)
- 13 months from the completion of the assessment. Designation shall also be done
- 14 through a proposal to the appropriate agency, municipality or city as may be
- 15 deemed necessary. In the event an area is designated as a priority area as
- 16 Coastal Greenbelt Zone, no structure shall be allowed in said area. Designation
- 17 as a priority area, however, shall not affect structures found in fisherfolk
- 18 settlement areas reserved for the settlement of municipal fisherfolk and shall
- 19 not impair existing foreshore leases and other similar agreement: Provided, that
- 20 existing grantees shall be tasked to implement the plans and conditions laid
- 21 down under the NCGMAP and LCGMAP, as the case may be;
- 22
- 23 d. Operational Plan I for the rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of
- 24 designated priority coastal greenbelts with ecologically appropriate mangrove
- 25 and beach forest species, not less than one hundred (100) meters in width.
- 26 Existing forests or plantations greater than the minimum width shall not be
- 27 reduced. The program for rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation shall be
- 28 community-based, long-term, and implemented through the municipality or city
- 29 government. The Operational Plan shall indicate that the program for
- 30 rehabilitation, reforestation and afforestation must cover a minimum target
- 31 area of twenty percent (20%) of the designated priority areas in the first five
- 32 (5) years for maximum protection of the most vulnerable communities in the
- 33 city or municipality. The remaining priority areas must be completed within ten
- 34 (10) years from the designation of the priority areas;
- 35
- 36 e. Operational Plan II for the reversion of all abandoned, undeveloped or
- 37 underutilized (AUU) fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or
- 38 replanting with locally appropriate species. All fishponds that are declared by
- 39 the DENR and DA-BFAR through a joint assessment as AUU fishponds shall be
- 40 turned over to the DENR within one (1) year after the assessment. The DENR
- 41 will then revert the AUU fishponds to their original mangrove state through
- 42 natural or artificial reforestation in accordance with Section 49 of RA No. 8550,

as amended by RA No. 10654, otherwise known as the Amended Fisheries Code. All AUU fishponds turned over to the DENR shall be declared as part of a Coastal Greenbelt Zone. The minimum target for the first year of implementation of the NCGMAP will include all AUU fishpond areas turned over to the DENR for reversion to their original mangrove state. The NCGMAP shall indicate that the identification and recovery of possession from delinquent fishpond lease agreement holders shall be completed within one (1) year from the adoption thereof;

f. Operational Plan III for the removal of illegal structures (such as breakwaters, permanent residential/commercial structures, and the like), in the identified priority Coastal Greenbelt Zones, subject to existing laws on fisherfolk settlement areas. The NCGMAP shall indicate that the declaration of and notice to persons responsible for removal of illegal structures shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the issuance of Notice to Vacate. The removal of illegal structures in and start of rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of these areas shall form part of the minimum target for the first year of implementation of the NCGMAP; and

g. Monitoring and evaluation plan, with quantitative and qualitative targets consistent with (c), (d), (e) and (f) above, appropriate indicators and reasonable means of verification. The plan shall become an integrated part of the NCGMAP, NCGMAP-aligned LCGMAP and the Annual Report of the DENR to Congress.

The NCGMAP and all its relevant components shall be incorporated into the mandated local plans of the LGUs, such as, but not limited to, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Comprehensive Development Plan, Local Climate Change Adaption Plan, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan, and other applicable local development plans, as well as included in local budget and implementing tools, such as, but not limited to, Local Development Investment Program, Annual Investment Program, Annual Plan and Budget, and other applicable budget and implementing tools.

SEC. 5. Designated Areas for Coastal Greenbelt Zones. - Areas designated for Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall cover natural, rural, and urban areas with mangrove or mangrove areas, AUU fishponds turned over to the DENR, site specific stretches of vegetation in areas requiring the reversion to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species and beach forests, subject to prior vested rights. All applicable biophysical, socioeconomic, and geological assessments shall be conducted prior to the designation of coastal greenbelts. Upon determination by the DENR of a particular area as a designated area for coastal greenbelt under Sec. 4(c) of this Act, CLUPs and zoning ordinances shall be updated accordingly. AUU fishponds

1 turned over to the DENR shall be prioritized in the designation of coastal greenbelts
2 and its corresponding reversion to category of public lands as mangrove reforestation
3 sites shall be completed within the year of identification as such following the
4 guidelines endorsed by the National Technical Working Group pursuant to Section 10
5 of this Act.

6
7 **SEC. 6. Integrated Coastal Management.** - The Integrated Coastal Management
8 (ICM) shall be the national framework that seeks to promote the conservation,
9 preservation and protection of as well as address the human impacts on coastal
10 greenbelts comprising of mangrove and beach forest ecosystems. The National ICM
11 Framework shall be developed and implemented by the DENR to provide direction,
12 support, and guidance to relevant LGUs, support agencies, and other stakeholders.

13
14 **SEC. 7. National Coordinating Council.** - There is hereby established a National
15 Coordinating Council to coordinate the review and implementation of the NCGMAP.
16 The NCC shall be composed of the following members:

- 17
18 (a) Secretary of the DENR who shall act as Chairperson;
19 (b) Vice-Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) as Vice-
20 Chairperson;
21 (c) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
22 (d) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
23 (e) Secretary of the Department of Economy, Development and Planning
24 (DEPDev);
25 (f) Chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
26 (NDRRMC);
27 (g) Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP)
28 (h) Representative from the academe;
29 (i) Representative from non-government organizations;
30 (j) Representative from the private sector;
31 (k) Representative from artisanal fisherfolk basic sector of the National Anti-
32 Poverty Commission.

33
34 The ex-officio members of the NCC may designate their respective permanent
35 representatives to the NCC: Provided, That, a permanent representative may
36 designate a duly authorized representative whose rank shall in no case be lower than
37 an undersecretary and whose acts shall be considered as that of the permanent
38 representative: Provided, further, that the process for designation of a permanent
39 representative shall be detailed in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act;
40 Provided, finally, that the authorized representative shall have no voting right unless
41 duly authorized by the permanent representative in writing.

1 The representatives from the academe, civil society, and other sectors shall possess
2 relevant work experience and training in disciplines related to climate change, disaster
3 risk reduction, natural resource management, or coastal management, and shall be
4 appointed by the NCC from a list of nominees proposed by its member agencies. Each
5 representative shall serve as a member of the NCC for a period of six (6) years, subject
6 to renewal to be decided by the majority of the members of the NCC and shall perform
7 the duties appurtenant thereto unless they resign, or their representation is withdrawn
8 by the sector that they represent. Appointment to any vacancy shall only be for the
9 unexpired term of the predecessor.

10
11 The NCC shall meet once every quarter, or as often as may be deemed necessary.
12 The DENR shall serve as the secretariat to the NCC, manned by the organic personnel
13 of the BMB and may be augmented by the employees from member-agencies of the
14 NCC, through detail or secondment.

15
16 **SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the National Coordinating Council (NCC). -**

17 The NCC shall have the following powers and functions:

- 18
19 (a) To prepare and implement the National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action
20 Plan (NCGMAP) for the preservation, rehabilitation, reforestation, afforestation,
21 and sustainable management of coastal greenbelt composed primarily of
22 mangroves and beach forests;
23 (b) To review and adopt relevant policies and procedures for the identification and
24 designation of Coastal Greenbelt Zones;
25 (c) To monitor and supervise the development and implementation of the Local
26 Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plans (LCGMAPs);
27 (d) To provide technical support and guidance to LGUs to enhance capacity and
28 competence for coastal greenbelt protection and management; and
29 (e) To promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions
30 of this Act.

31
32 **SEC. 9. Implementation of the NCGMAP. -** The NCC shall take the lead in
33 coordinating and implementing the component plans and programs of the NCGMAP.
34 The DHSUD, through its attached agencies, shall provide appropriation for the
35 relocation of the families or individuals who will be affected by the designated areas
36 to appropriate fisherfolk settlement areas. Other agencies that participated in the
37 preparation of the NCGMAP shall implement their commitments thereto. The actions
38 required of the NCC are immediately executable based on the agreed NCGMAP-
39 responsive LCCMAP, and on all NCC members existing mandates, programs or budgets
40 that are aligned with the action plan, without need for the formulation of the
41 implementing guidelines, rules and regulations for this Act.

1 All existing laws, rules, and regulations providing protection to coastlines, foreshores,
2 and priority areas shall remain in full force and effect and shall supplement the
3 provisions of this Act unless otherwise terminated, modified or amended.
4

5 **SEC. 10. National Technical Working Group.** - A National Technical Working
6 Group shall be created for the coordination of national scientific and technical matters,
7 and to support the NCC in the implementation of its powers and functions under
8 Section 8 of this Act.
9

10 The NCC shall convene a National Technical Working Group composed of:

- 11
- 12 (a) A technical representative from the Department of Environment and Natural
13 Resources, as lead;
- 14 (b) A technical representative from the Climate Change Commission (CCC);
- 15 (c) A technical representative from Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau
16 of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
- 17 (d) A technical representative from the NCIP;
- 18 (e) A representative from the Indigenous Cultural Communities directly benefiting
19 from mangrove and beach forest ecosystems, who shall ensure the integration
20 of traditional ecological knowledge, cultural practices, and community priorities
21 in mangrove management and conservation;
- 22 (f) Two (2) recognized experts in mangrove and beach forest ecosystems,
23 oceanography or other related disciplines; and
- 24 (g) A representative from a non-government organization or a people organization.
25

26 The National Technical Working Group shall provide technical and scientific guidance
27 for the design, implementation, and evaluation of actions under the NCGMAP. The
28 experts shall serve on the Committee without compensation but may be reimbursed
29 for basic expenses to attend meetings and prepare technical reports.
30

31 **SEC. 11. Role of Local Government Units.** - All coastal LGUs shall act as the
32 frontline agencies in the formulation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of
33 their Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plans (LCGMAP) and related
34 programs and activities within their respective territorial jurisdiction. A Local Technical
35 Advisory Committee (LTAC) on Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall be established in each
36 coastal city and municipality identified as priority Coastal Greenbelt Zone in the
37 NCGMAP.
38

39 The LTAC shall have the following powers and functions:

- 40
- 41 (a) Conduct a comprehensive and participatory assessment of the coastal zone to
42 be identified for the establishment of Coastal Greenbelt Zones;
- 43 (b) Prepare and implement a Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan
44 (LCGMAP) that shall ensure the implementation of the management strategies
45 and actions as mandated and aligned with the NCGMAP, including the

- operational plans and guidelines for the rehabilitation, reforestation or afforestation of designated Coastal Greenbelt Zones, protection of existing mangrove forests in designated coastal greenbelt zones and removal of encroachments and illegal structures;
- (c) Regularly update and integrate their NCGMAP-responsive LCGMAP into local development and sectoral plans, such as, but not limited to, LCCAPs, CLUPs, and CDPs, to reflect emerging local needs and changing socio-economic, technological, and environmental conditions;
 - (d) Ensure that their LGU's annual work and investment plans are aligned based on their NCGMAP-responsive LCGMAP;
 - (e) Mobilize and allocate the necessary personnel, resources, and logistics to effectively implement their respective LCGMAP.
 - (f) Prioritize the establishment of Coastal Greenbelt Zones through the adoption of appropriate local ordinances and policies to support the proper implementation of the LCGMAP;
 - (g) Ensure community participation by enjoining all directly involved barangays and local organizations to actively participate in implementing the LCGMAP.
 - (h) Secure the support of the provincial government which shall provide technical and budgetary support to all LTACs in their component coastal cities and municipalities;
 - (i) Ensure consistency and/or enter into inter-LGU collaboration and cooperation across contiguous cities and municipalities sharing a common priority Coastal Greenbelt Zone in accordance with the Local Government Code and the NCGMAP;
 - (j) Collaborate with DENR, DA and other experts for technical guidance on the implementation of the LCGMAP;
 - (k) Lead in the actual implementation of programs aimed at rehabilitation, reforestation and afforestation of Coastal Greenbelt Zones, including engaging in capacity building efforts for managing mangrove nurseries, proper planting procedures, and conducting maintenance activities, among others;
 - (l) Develop and maintain a proper database containing information on all local Coastal Greenbelt Zones within their territorial jurisdiction; and
 - (m) Implement corrective actions against illegal encroachments and violations within Coastal Greenbelt Zones and/or easement areas in accordance with Section 51, Water Code of the Philippines.

SEC. 12. Local Coastal Greenbelt Action Management Plan. – Each coastal municipality and city in the identified priority Coastal Greenbelt Zones in the NCGMAP shall prepare a Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LCGMAP) to facilitate and ensure the implementation of mandated actions in the NCGMAP within their territorial jurisdiction. The City/Municipal Development Council established pursuant to Section 107(b) of RA No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code,

1 shall ensure that the LCGMAP elements and strategies are incorporated into the
2 mainstreaming process within their respective Comprehensive Development Plans,
3 Comprehensive Land Use Plans, and other local development and sectoral plans,
4 whether at the highly urbanized city (HUC), independent component city (ICC),
5 component city or municipal, levels, including the implementation and coordination
6 necessary therefor. A detailed step-by-step process of mainstreaming the LCGMAP
7 into the relevant local plans of LGUs shall be provided for by the NCC in accordance
8 with Section 8 of this Act.
9

10 **SEC. 13. Incentives.** – LCGMAPs that have been submitted to the NCC by Local
11 Government Units (LGUs) or those LGUs that have been recognized by the Department
12 of the Interior and Local Government and/or the Department of Environment and
13 Natural Resources consistent with appropriate implementing regulations, may be
14 entitled to receive grants and incentives to support their LCGMAPs, programs, and
15 activities which are in line with the objectives of this Act.
16

17 **SEC. 14. Prohibited Acts.** - The following shall constitute prohibited acts punishable
18 under this Act, without prejudice to accrued liability for acts and omissions punishable
19 under existing laws:
20

21 (a) Any person who unjustly obstructs the LGU, DENR, or DA through BFAR and
22 PCSD in the Province of Palawan in the removal of illegal structures in the
23 process of reversion of AUU fishponds, shall be liable to the agency for an
24 administrative fine of fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) per day that the
25 agency is prevented from performing its function.

26 (b) No structures shall be built within the identified coastal greenbelts without a
27 permit from DENR, or DA through the BFAR, or PCSD in the Province of
28 Palawan, consistent with their mandates. Any person who violates this
29 prohibition shall be liable to the agency for an administrative fine of fifty
30 thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) per day from the time the structure was built
31 until its removal.
32

33 A crime or offense committed within designated Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall subject
34 the offender to a fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00)
35 and not more than five million pesos (Php 5,000,000.00), depending on the gravity of
36 the offense.
37

38 Any violation of the provisions of this Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations
39 duly promulgated and published, shall be subject to an administrative fine of fifty
40 thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) upon any person or entity found guilty thereof.
41

42 Proceeds from the administrative fines imposed under this Section shall be remitted
43 to the Bureau of the Treasury.
44

1 Legal actions filed in the exercise of rights and enforcement of obligations under the
2 Act shall also be covered by the Amended Fisheries Code (RA No. 10654) and the
3 2010 Supreme Court Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases.
4

5 **SEC. 15. Annual Report to Congress.** - The NCC shall report to Congress and the
6 Office of the President on its compliance with its functions under this Act, their
7 progress in meeting the quantitative and qualitative targets under the NCGMAP for
8 each fiscal year. The reports shall be presented to the appropriate Committee in
9 Congress at a meeting called for the purpose.
10

11 **SEC. 16. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.** - There is hereby created a
12 Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) to monitor the implementation of
13 this Act and to review the Implementing Rules and Regulations promulgated by the
14 NCC for a period not exceeding five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. The
15 Committee shall be composed of five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives to be
16 appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
17 respectively. The Oversight Committee shall be co-chaired by the Chairpersons of the
18 Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change and the
19 House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change. The secretariat of the JCOC
20 shall be drawn from existing personnel of the Senate Committee on Environment,
21 Natural Resources and Climate Change, and House of Representatives Committee on
22 Climate Change.
23

24 **SEC. 17. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days from the
25 effectivity of this Act, the DENR in consultation with other national agencies shall
26 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
27 this Act.
28

29 **SEC. 18. Appropriations and Other Source of Funds.** - This Act will be
30 implemented initially within the framework of the budget of the departments and/or
31 agencies for the year it is enacted into law. Thereafter, the amounts as may be
32 necessary for the continuing implementation of this Act shall be sourced from and
33 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
34

35 The LGUs concerned may provide the necessary funds for the purpose, in their
36 respective annual budgets.
37

38 The NCC, the LGUs and their LTACs, and the national government agencies may
39 source local and international grants, bequests, donations, and other sustainable
40 financing mechanisms in support of implementation. LGUs to be prioritized in the
41 allocation of these funds shall include sixth- up to third-class municipalities and LGUs
42 with existing LCGMAP, programs and activities.
43

44 The Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the
45 People's Credit and Finance Corporation, and other relevant government financial

1 institutions shall formulate and identify loan and financing mechanisms that shall be
2 made available to support local coastal greenbelt management programs, including
3 alternative livelihood projects for small-scale fisherfolks and cooperatives.
4

5 **SEC. 19. Tax Exemption.** - All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and
6 contributions made to the NCC, the local development councils, the LGUs, the DA, the
7 DENR, and the PCSD to be used actually, directly, and exclusively for the
8 implementation of their mandates under this Act shall be exempt from donor's tax and
9 the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes
10 of computing the taxable Income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of
11 the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.
12

13 **SEC. 20. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act
14 is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected will
15 continue in full force and effect.
16

17 **SEC. 21. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations,
18 rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the
19 provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
20

21 **SEC. 22. Effectivity.** - This Act takes effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
22 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,