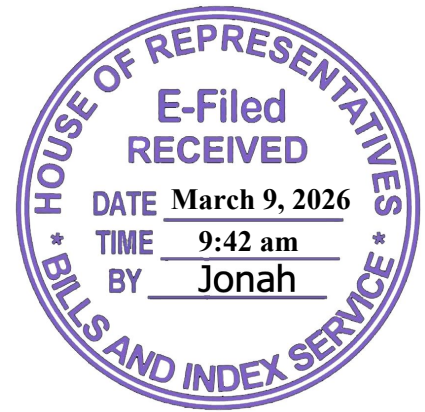


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8353**



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, “[t]he State shall protect the nation’s marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone, and reserve its use and enjoyment exclusively to Filipino citizens.”

The Philippines is an archipelago composed of 7,641 islands, based on the latest data of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA), with a coastline of over 36,000 kilometers, ranking among the top countries for coastline length. Many coastal communities are dependent on fisheries and other aquatic resources for their food and livelihood. However, the country’s resources are in dire condition due to anthropogenic activities that adversely impact coastal habitats, notably mangroves.

Over 50% of the Philippines’ mangroves have been lost to fishpond conversion, improper mangrove planting practices, weak enforcement, pollution, and aggressive coastal development projects. At present, there exist statutory provisions prohibiting the cutting or conversion of mangroves, and several orders and circulars issued by relevant agencies seeking to manage, reforest, and revert abandoned fishponds to its original mangrove state.

However, due to the fragmented framework across various government agencies, many mandates and requirements are either scientifically unsound, lacking realistic basis, or unimplementable because of the institutional limitations of the government agencies involved. The lack of a national policy on mangroves and the

absence of a comprehensive framework pose a great challenge and have caused existing mangrove protection and rehabilitation efforts to remain ineffective and unsuccessful.

This proposed National Coastal Greenbelt Bill seeks to provide a legal framework for the designation, restoration, and sustainable management of local communities of coastal greenbelt zones nationwide. Specifically, the bill defines the policy goals and objectives for the management of mangrove resources in the country, thus enabling agencies to address intersecting issues and work towards a common goal. Primarily, the bill seeks to require the establishment of coastal greenbelt zones, which are mangroves and beach forests stretching at least 100 meters in width, designed to prevent coastal erosion and mitigate the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property.

In the 20th Congress, similar bills were filed by Senators Bam Aquino, Jinggoy Estrada, Risa Hontiveros, and Loren Legarda, and Representatives Jose Manuel Alba, Rufus Rodriguez, Maximo Rodriguez, Stephen Tan, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Bryan Revilla, Ramon Jolo Revilla, Aniela Tolentino, Raymond Mendoza, Christopherson Yap, Tsuyoshi Horibata, Miguel Luis Villafuerte, Vincenzo Villafuerte, and Terry Ridon. This bill adopts several provisions from the aforementioned bills and was developed in consultation with OCEANA Philippines.

To shield coastal communities, protect habitats, and set the stage towards rebuilding our fisheries, early approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


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Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 declared the policy of the State:

- 5
6 a. To advance and ensure the protection of the rights of the people to a
7 balanced and healthful ecology;
- 8 b. To encourage the full and active participation of the national government,
9 local governments, businesses, non-government organizations, local
10 communities and the public to prevent and reduce the adverse impacts
11 of climate change and disaster risks consistent with Republic Act No.
12 9729, otherwise known as the “Climate Change Act of 2009,” as
13 amended by Republic Act No. 10174, and Republic Act No. 10121,
14 otherwise known as the “Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act”;
- 15 c. To recognize that climate change and disaster risk reduction and
16 management are closely interrelated, and that effective disaster risk
17 reduction and management are vital in enhancing capacity for climate
18 change adaptation;
- 19 d. To incorporate gender-sensitive, pro-children, and pro-poor
20 perspectives in all plans to mitigate climate-induced impacts. These
21 principles shall be further integrated into climate change programs and
22 initiatives;

- e. To take into account the effects of climate change and the need to conserve and develop the conditions of our environment, to take appropriate measures to protect the lives and property of the people from the impacts in coastal areas of typhoons, storm surges and similar natural events;
- f. To develop and effectively implement a coherent, comprehensive, integrated National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan that aims to reduce vulnerability to climate change and disaster risks, enhance adaptive capacity and build resilience to climate change-related hazards; and
- g. To adopt the Precautionary Principle in the planning, conservation, rehabilitation, and management of coastal greenbelt zones.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. *Abandoned, Undeveloped or Underutilized (AUU) Fishponds* refer to fishponds that have been leased to qualified persons and fisherfolk organizations/cooperatives that are not fully producing within five (5) years from the date of approval of the lease contract that shall be automatically reverted to the public domain for reforestation, in accordance with Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998,” as amended by Republic Act No. 10654;
- b. *Climate Change* refers to a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods;
- c. *Coastal Greenbelt Zone* refers to at least a 100-meter-wide strip of natural or planted coastal vegetation, primarily of mangrove and beach forest species, extending from the seaward edge of mangroves (middle intertidal zone) towards land, or extending from the seaward edge of beach forest (high tide line) towards land, in cases where mangroves are absent. Its function is to absorb wave energy from the sea towards land, prevent coastal erosion, and mitigate the adverse impacts of natural coastal hazards on human lives and property;
- d. *Coastal Zone* refers to a band of dry land and adjacent ocean space (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial processes and uses directly affect oceanic processes and uses, and vice versa. Its geographic extent may include areas within a landmark limit of one (1) kilometer from the shoreline at high tide to include mangrove swamps,

1 brackish water ponds, nipa swamps, estuarine rivers, sandy beaches,
2 and other areas within a seaward limit of 200 meters isobath to include
3 coral reefs, algal flats, seagrass beds, and other soft-bottom areas;
4

5 e. *Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)* refers to the document
6 formulated by the cities and municipalities, in consultation with its
7 stakeholders, that defines or provides guidelines on the allocation,
8 utilization, development, and management of all lands within a given
9 territory or jurisdiction according to the inherent qualities of the land itself
10 and supportive economic, demographic, socio-cultural and
11 environmental objectives as defined in Republic Act No. 11201,
12 otherwise known as the “Department of Human Settlements and Urban
13 Development Act”;
14

15 f. *Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP)* refers to a six-year multi-
16 sectoral plan formulated at the city or municipal level embodying the
17 vision, sectoral goals, objectives, development strategies, and policies
18 within the terms of the officials of the LGU, and the medium-term. It
19 contains an ecological profile, sectoral development plan, and
20 implementation instruments;
21

22 g. *Designated areas* refer to site-specific stretches of vegetation in the
23 coastal zone, defined in relation to risk factors and vulnerability to coastal
24 hazards, and reserved for protection and maintenance under the
25 National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan. The area may
26 undergo rehabilitation, reforestation, or afforestation with locally
27 appropriate mangrove and beach forest species. Designated areas with
28 abandoned fishponds require the reversion of these fishponds to
29 mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally and
30 ecologically appropriate species. Designated areas with illegal
31 structures require permanent removal of such structures;
32

33 h. *Fisherfolk Settlement Areas* refer to certain areas, particularly close to
34 or near fishing grounds, that have been granted to or reserved for the
35 settlement of municipal fisherfolk;
36

37 i. *Illegal Structures* refer to physical structures, constructed, erected, or
38 maintained within identified coastal greenbelt zones whose existence in
39 the area does not align with the National Coastal Greenbelt Management
40 Action Plan (NCGMAP), including but not limited to breakwaters,
41 permanent residential structures, and permanent commercial structures.
42

43 *Provided, That the classification and removal of residential*
44 *structures shall be subject to the requirements of Republic Act No. 7279,*

otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992 (UDHA), and other applicable laws, including prior notice, consultation, and the provision of adequate relocation where required by law.

- j. *Integrated Coastal Zone Management* refers to a holistic and integrative management that incorporates the following components: (1) connectivity of various ecosystems, environment, and resources; (2) various sectors and stakeholders; (3) institutional arrangements that are relevant; and (4) assessment of drivers of coastal ecosystem degradation, management planning and implementation, including research and education, to address coastal degradation and biodiversity losses, and to improve the well-being of communities in coastal and interconnected areas;
- k. *Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP)* refers to the action plan formulated by LGUs to address climate change concerns. It focuses on both climate change adaptation and mitigation and describes how LGUs plan to respond to impacts of climate change and mainstream them into mandated local plans, i.e., land use plan, sectoral development plan, investment program, pursuant to Section 14 of Republic Act No. 9729, or the “Climate Change Act of 2009,” as amended;
- l. *Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LGCMAF)* refers to the local action plan of the coastal local governments that shall be based on the NCGMAP. It shall contain the specific goals and targets for the implementation of the program set in the NCGMAP;
- m. *Mangroves* refer to a group of clustered intertidal plants in the tropics and subtropics, including all species of trees, shrubs, vines, and herbs growing along tidal mudflats and shallow water coastal areas extending inland along rivers, streams, and their tributaries where the water is generally brackish;
- n. *Mangrove Forest* refers to the forested wetland growing along tidal mudflats and along shallow water coastal areas extending inland along rivers, streams, and their tributaries where the water is generally brackish and composed of low elevation species, such as *Avicennia marina*, *A. alba*, and *Sonneratia alba*. The mid zone is dominated by *Rhizophora* species, *Sonneratia caseolaris*, *Xylocarpus granatum* and *Nypa fruticans* while the landward zone or areas with higher elevation are inhabited by *Avicennia rumphiana*, *A. officinalis*, and *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*;

- 1 o. *National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP)* refers
2 to the operational plan that shall serve as the guide for the Local Coastal
3 Greenbelt Management Action Plan (LCGMAP). It shall contain the
4 implementing guidelines on how to go about Section 4 of this Act; and
5

6 SEC. 4. *National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP)*. –
7 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the
8 Biodiversity Management Bureau, shall, within six (6) months, identify and convene
9 the National Coordinating Council, consisting of all national agencies responsible for
10 foreshore management, mangrove and beach forest protection and utilization, coastal
11 land and sea-use planning, coastal tourism development, social welfare of coastal
12 communities, and other relevant mandates, to prepare an integrated National Coastal
13 Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP). The Department shall be responsible
14 for consolidating and finalizing the NCGMAP not later than twelve (12) months from
15 the date this Act takes effect.
16

17 The NCGMAP shall, at the minimum, contain the following:
18

- 19 a. Spatial representation, or if feasible, quick/rapid inventory of the status
20 of coastlines and foreshores, including the status of mangroves, beach
21 forests, settlements, structures, and fishponds within one hundred (100)
22 meters therein;
23
24 b. Assessment of priority areas to be designated as Coastal Greenbelt
25 Zones, for each coastal province, city, and municipality, based on their
26 vulnerability to storm surges, waves, tsunamis, and the like. This shall
27 be completed within twelve (12) months from the adoption of the
28 NCGMAP;
29
30 c. Designation of priority areas as Coastal Greenbelt Zones that are
31 already included as either a protected area under the Expanded National
32 Integrated Protected Areas System (Republic Act No. 11038), or as a
33 fish refuge or sanctuary under the Amended Fisheries Code (Republic
34 Act No. 8550, as amended by Republic Act No. 10654), or as a local
35 marine protected area as may be declared by municipalities and cities
36 through local ordinances. The designation shall be completed within six
37 (6) months from the completion of the assessment. Designation shall
38 also be done through a proposal to the appropriate agency, municipality,
39 or city as may be deemed necessary. In the event an area is designated
40 as a priority area as Coastal Greenbelt Zone, no structure shall be
41 allowed in said area. Designation as a priority area, however, shall not
42 affect structures found in fisherfolk settlement areas reserved for the
43 settlement of municipal fisherfolk and shall not impair existing foreshore
44 leases and other similar agreement: *Provided*, that existing grantees

shall be tasked to implement the plans and conditions laid down under the NCGMAP and LCGMAP, as the case may be ;

- d. Operational Plan I for the rehabilitation, reforestation, or afforestation of designated priority coastal greenbelts with ecologically appropriate mangrove and beach forest species, not less than one hundred (100) meters in width: *Provided*, That existing forests or plantations greater than the minimum width shall not be reduced. The program for rehabilitation, reforestation, or afforestation shall be community-based, long-term, and implemented through the municipality or city government. The Operation Plan shall indicate that the program for rehabilitation, reforestation, and afforestation must cover a minimum target area of twenty percent (20%) of the designated priority areas in the first five (5) years for maximum protection of the most vulnerable communities in the city or municipality. The remaining priority areas must be completed within ten (10) years from the designation as priority area;
- e. Operational Plan II for the reversion of all abandoned, undeveloped, or underutilized (AUU) fishponds to mangroves through natural regeneration or replanting with locally appropriate species. All fishponds that are declared by the DENR and DA-BFAR through a joint assessment as AUU fishponds shall be turned over to the DENR within one (1) year after the assessment. The DENR will then revert the AUU fishponds to their original mangrove state through natural or artificial reforestation in accordance with Section 49 of Republic Act No. 8550, as amended by Republic Act No. 10654. 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, as defined in this Act, in the identified priority Coastal Greenbelt Zones, subject to Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the "Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992," and existing laws on fisherfolk settlement areas. The NCGMAP shall indicate that the declaration and notice to persons responsible for removal of illegal structures shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the start of rehabilitation, reforestation, or afforestation of these areas. This shall form part of the minimum target for the first year of implementation of the Action Plan; and

1 g. Monitoring and evaluation plan, with quantitative and qualitative targets
2 consistent with (c), (d), (e) and (f) above, appropriate indicators, and
3 reasonable means of verification. The plan shall become an integrated
4 part of the NCGMAP, NCGMAP-aligned LCGMAP, and the Annual
5 Report of the DENR to Congress.
6

7 The NCGMAP and all its relevant components shall be incorporated into the
8 mandated local plans of the LGUs, such as, but not limited to, Comprehensive Land
9 Use Plan, Comprehensive Development Plan, Local Climate Change Adaption Plan,
10 Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan, and other applicable local
11 development plans, as well as included in local budget and implementing tools, such
12 as, but not limited to, Local Development Investment Program, Annual Investment
13 Program, Annual Plan and Budget, and other applicable budget and implementing
14 tools.
15

16 *SEC. 5. Designated Areas for Coastal Greenbelt Zone.* – Areas designated for
17 Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall cover natural, rural, and urban areas with mangrove or
18 mangrove areas, AUU fishponds turned over to the DENR, site-specific stretches of
19 vegetation in areas requiring the reversion to mangroves through natural regeneration
20 or replanting with locally appropriate species, and beach forests, subject to prior
21 vested rights. All applicable biophysical, socioeconomic, and geological assessments
22 shall be conducted prior to the designation of coastal greenbelts. Upon determination
23 by the DENR of a particular area as a designated area for coastal greenbelt under
24 Sec. 4(c) of this Act, CLUPs and zoning ordinances shall be updated accordingly. AUU
25 fishponds turned over to the DENR shall be prioritized in the designation of coastal
26 greenbelts, and their corresponding reversion to the category of public lands as
27 mangrove reforestation sites shall be completed within the year of identification as
28 such, following the guidelines endorsed by the National Technical Working Group
29 pursuant to Section 9 below.
30

31 *SEC. 6. Integrated Coastal Management.* – The Integrated Coastal
32 Management (ICM) shall be the national framework that seeks to promote the
33 conservation, preservation, and protection of, as well as address the human impacts
34 on, coastal greenbelts comprising of mangrove and beach forest ecosystems. The
35 National ICM Framework shall be developed and implemented by the Department of
36 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to provide direction, support, and
37 guidance to relevant LGUs, support agencies, and other stakeholders.
38

39 *SEC. 7. National Coordinating Council.* – There is hereby established a
40 National Coordinating Council to coordinate the review and implementation of the
41 NCGMAP. The NCC shall be composed of the following members:

42 a) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
43 (DENR) who shall act as Chairperson;

- b) Vice-Chairperson of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) as Vice-Chairperson;
- c) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA);
- d) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- e) Secretary of the Department of Economy, Development and Planning (DEPDev);
- f) Chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC);
- g) Representative from the academe;
- h) Representative from non-government organizations;
- i) Representative from the private sector; and
- j) Representative from artisanal fisherfolk basic sector of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

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

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

The NCC shall meet once every quarter, or as often as may be deemed necessary. The Department shall serve as the secretariat to the NCC, manned by the organic personnel of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) and may be augmented by the employees from member-agencies of the NCC, through detail or secondment.

SEC. 8. Powers and Functions of the National Coordinating Council (NCC). – The NCC shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) To prepare and implement the National Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plan (NCGMAP) for the preservation, rehabilitation, reforestation,

1 afforestation, and sustainable management of coastal greenbelt
2 composed primarily of mangroves and beach forests;

- 3 b) To review and adopt relevant policies and procedures for the
4 identification and designation of Coastal Greenbelt Zones;
- 5 c) To monitor and supervise the development and implementation of the
6 Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plans (LCGMAPs);
- 7 d) To provide technical support and guidance to LGUs to enhance capacity
8 and competence for coastal greenbelt protection and management; and
- 9 e) To promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the
10 provisions of this Act.

11
12 SEC. 9. *Implementation of the NCGMAP.* – The NCC shall take the lead in
13 coordinating and implementing the component plans and programs of the NCGMAP.
14 The DHSUD, through its attached agencies, shall provide appropriation for the
15 relocation of the families or individuals who will be affected by the designated areas to
16 appropriate fisherfolk settlement areas. Other agencies that participated in the
17 preparation of the NCGMAP shall implement their commitments thereto. The actions
18 required of the NCC are immediately executable based on the agreed NCGMAP-
19 responsive LCGMAP, and on all NCC members' existing mandates, programs, or
20 budgets that are aligned with the action plan, without the need for the formulation of
21 the implementing guidelines, rules, and regulations for this Act.

22
23 All existing laws, rules, and regulations protecting coastlines, foreshores, and
24 priority areas shall remain in full force and effect and shall supplement the provisions
25 of this Act unless otherwise terminated, modified, or amended.

26
27 SEC. 10. *National Technical Working Group.* – A National Technical Working
28 Group shall be created for the coordination of national scientific and technical matters,
29 and to support the NCC in the implementation of its powers and functions under
30 Section 8 of this Act.

31
32 The NCC shall convene a National Technical Working Group composed of:

- 33 a) A technical representative from the Department of Environment and
34 Natural Resources, as lead;
- 35 b) A technical representative from the Climate Change Commission (CCC);
- 36 c) A technical representative from Department of Agriculture, through the
37 Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR);
- 38 d) Two (2) recognized experts in mangrove and beach forest ecosystems,
- 39 e) oceanography or other related disciplines; and
- 40 f) A representative from a non-government organization or a people's
41 organization.

42
43 SEC. 11. *Role of Local Government Units.* – All coastal LGUs shall act as the
44 frontline agencies in the formulation, planning, implementation, and monitoring of their

1 Local Coastal Greenbelt Management Action Plans (LCGMAP) and related programs
2 and activities within their respective territorial jurisdiction. A Local Technical Advisory
3 Committee (LTAC) on Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall be established in each coastal
4 city and municipality identified as priority Coastal Greenbelt Zone in the NCGMAP.

5
6 The LTAC shall have the following powers and functions:

- 7 a) To conduct a comprehensive and participatory assessment of the
8 coastal zone to be identified for the establishment of Coastal Greenbelt
9 Zones;
- 10 b) To prepare and implement a Local Coastal Greenbelt Management
11 Action Plan (LCGMAP) that shall ensure the implementation of the
12 management strategies and actions as mandated and aligned with the
13 NCGMAP, including the operational plans and guidelines for the
14 rehabilitation, reforestation, or afforestation of designated Coastal
15 Greenbelt Zones, protection of existing mangrove forests in designated
16 coastal greenbelt zones, and removal of encroachments and illegal
17 structures;
- 18 c) To regularly update and integrate their NCGMAP-responsive LCGMAP
19 into local development and sectoral plans, such as, but not limited to,
20 LCCAPs, CLUPs, and CDPs, to reflect emerging local needs and
21 changing socio-economic, technological, and environmental conditions;
- 22 d) To ensure that their LGUs ' annual work and investment plans are
23 aligned based on their NCGMAP-responsive LCGMAP;
- 24 e) To mobilize and allocate the necessary personnel, resources, and
25 logistics to effectively implement their respective LCGMAP;
- 26 f) To prioritize the establishment of Coastal Greenbelt Zones through the
27 adoption of appropriate local ordinances and policies to support the
28 proper implementation of the LCGMAP;
- 29 g) To ensure community participation by enjoining all directly involved
30 barangays and local organizations to actively participate in implementing
31 the LCGMAP;
- 32 h) To secure the support of the provincial government which shall provide
33 technical and budgetary support to all LTACs in their component coastal
34 cities and municipalities;
- 35 i) To ensure consistency and/or enter into inter-LGU collaboration and
36 cooperation across contiguous cities and municipalities sharing a
37 common priority Coastal Greenbelt Zone in accordance with the Local
38 Government Code and the NCGMAP;
- 39 j) To collaborate with DENR, DA and other experts for technical guidance
40 on the implementation of the LCGMAP;
- 41 k) To lead in the actual implementation of programs aimed at rehabilitation,
42 reforestation and afforestation of Coastal Greenbelt Zones, including
43 engaging in capacity building efforts for managing mangrove nurseries,

proper planting procedures, and conducting maintenance activities, among others;

- l) To develop and maintain a proper database containing information on all local Coastal Greenbelt Zones within their territorial jurisdiction; and
- m) To 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 Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991,” shall ensure that the LCGMAP elements and strategies are incorporated into the mainstreaming process within their respective Comprehensive Development Plans, Comprehensive Land Use Plans, and other local development and sectoral plans, whether at the highly urbanized city (HUC), independent component city (ICC), component city, or municipality, including the implementation and coordination necessary therefor. A detailed step-by-step process of mainstreaming the LCGMAP into the relevant local plans of LGUs shall be provided for by the NCC in accordance with Section 8 of this Act.

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

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

- a) Any person who unjustly obstructs the LGU, DENR, or DA through BFAR, or PCSD in the Province of Palawan, in the removal of illegal structures in the process of reversion of AUU fishponds, shall be liable to the agency for an administrative fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) per day that the agency is prevented from performing its function: *Provided*, that UDHA, when applicable, shall be adhered to and shall take precedence over this Act in the removal of illegal structures: *Provided, further*, that the acts to obstruct the removal of illegal structures in accordance with UDHA shall be exempt from liability.

1 b) No structures shall be built within the identified coastal greenbelts
2 without a permit from DENR, or DA through the BFAR, or PCSD in the
3 Province of Palawan, consistent with their mandates. Any person who
4 violates this prohibition shall be liable to the agency for an administrative
5 fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) per day from the time the
6 structure was built until its removal.
7

8 A crime or offense committed within designated Coastal Greenbelt Zones shall
9 subject the offender to a fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos
10 (P100,000.00) and not more than five million pesos (P5,000,000.00), depending on
11 the gravity of the offense.
12

13 Any violation of the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and
14 regulations duly promulgated and published shall be subject to an administrative fine
15 of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) upon any person or entity found guilty thereof.
16

17 Proceeds from the administrative fines imposed under this Section shall be
18 remitted to the Bureau of the Treasury.
19

20 Legal actions filed in the exercise of rights and enforcement of obligations under
21 the Act shall also be covered by the UDHA, the Amended Fisheries Code (Republic
22 Act Nos. 8550, as amended by Republic Act No. 10654), and the 2010 Supreme Court
23 Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases (A.M. No. 09-6-8-SC).
24

25 SEC. 15. *Annual Report to Congress.* - The NCC shall report to both Houses
26 of Congress and the Office of the President on its compliance with its functions under
27 this Act, and its progress in meeting the quantitative and qualitative targets under the
28 NCGMAP for each fiscal year. The reports shall be presented to the appropriate
29 Committees in both Houses of Congress at meetings called for the purpose.
30

31 SEC. 16. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.* – There is hereby created
32 a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) to monitor the implementation of
33 this Act and to review the implementing rules and regulations promulgated by the NCC
34 for a period not exceeding five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act. The Committee
35 shall be composed of five (5) Senators and five (5) Representatives, with at least one
36 (1) member of the Minority from both Houses, to be appointed by the Senate President
37 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively. The Oversight
38 Committee shall be co-chaired by the Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on
39 Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change and the House of
40 Representatives Committee on Climate Change. The secretariat of the JCOC shall be
41 drawn from existing personnel of the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural
42 Resources, and Climate Change, and the House of Representatives Committee on
43 Climate Change.
44

1 SEC. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
2 the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
3 (DENR), in consultation with other relevant national agencies, shall promulgate the
4 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

5
6 SEC. 18. *Appropriations and Other Fund Sources.* – The amount necessary for
7 the initial implementation of the Act shall be charged against the current year's
8 appropriations of the departments or agencies concerned. Thereafter, such sums as
9 may be necessary for the continuing implementation of this Act shall be sourced from
10 and included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

11
12 The LGUs concerned may provide the necessary funds for the purpose, in their
13 respective annual budgets.

14
15 The NCC, the LGUs and their LTACs, and the national government agencies
16 may source local and international grants, bequests, donations, and other sustainable
17 financing mechanisms in support of the implementation of this Act. LGUs to be
18 prioritized in the allocation of these funds shall include sixth- up to third-class
19 municipalities and LGUs with existing LCGMAPs and programs and activities in
20 accordance with this Act.

21
22 The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), the Development Bank of the
23 Philippines (DBP), the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC), and other
24 relevant government financial institutions shall formulate and identify loan and
25 financing mechanisms that shall be made available to support local coastal greenbelt
26 management programs, including alternative livelihood projects for small-scale
27 fisherfolk and cooperatives.

28
29 SEC. 19. *Tax Exemption.* – All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and
30 contributions made to the NCC, the local development councils, the LGUs, the DA, the
31 DENR, and the PCSD to be used actually, directly, and exclusively for the
32 implementation of their mandates under this Act shall be exempt from donor's tax, and
33 the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from gross income for purposes
34 of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the
35 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

36
37 SEC. 20. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid
38 or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
39 and effect.

40
41 SEC. 21. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
42 presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
43 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
44 accordingly.

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SEC. 22. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,