



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 11398

Introduced by Representative DE CARLO "OYO" L. UY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Pantaron Mountain Range (PMR), straddling the Provinces of Davao del Norte in Region XI and Bukidnon in Region X, harbors one of the last remaining old-growth and residual forest stands in the region. In Davao del Norte alone, the proposed protected landscape covers approximately 32,212 hectares, spanning the municipality of Talaingod and the municipality of Kapalong. These forests serve as the headwater source of the Tagum-Libuganon River, which provides vital ecosystem services supplying water for agricultural, commercial, and domestic use to downstream communities.

Beyond its hydrological importance, the PMR is a natural forest of exceptional biodiversity, characterized by mixed dipterocarp stands and a rich assemblage of endemic and other terrestrial flora and fauna. The area is likewise the ancestral domain of the Ata-Manobo Tribe, whose Indigenous Knowledge, Skills, and Practices (IKSP) have long been intertwined with the sustainable stewardship of these forests.

This measure seeks to conserve, preserve, and protect the PMR's biodiversity corridor, recognizing its critical role in maintaining ecological balance and connectivity between the two regions. Declaring the area as a protected landscape under the category of a Natural Park will provide the legal framework necessary to safeguard this remaining forest ecosystem from unregulated development, logging, and other destructive activities that threaten its integrity.

Specifically, this bill aims to protect the remaining species of flora and fauna of conservation importance; safeguard the area's biological and genetic resources from destructive exploitation; and empower indigenous peoples to take an active role in the conservation and management of their ancestral domain's natural resources. It further seeks to preserve the IKSP of the Ata-Manobo Tribe as an integral component of the area's conservation strategy, and to regulate and manage the entry of development interventions and projects to mitigate their potential adverse impacts on the ecosystem.

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



DE CARLO "OYO" L. UY

Representative
First District, Davao del Norte



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11398

Introduced by Representative DE CARLO “OYO” L. UY

AN ACT
DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF
KAPALONG AND TALAINGOD, IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE, A
PROTECTED AREA WITH THE CATEGORY OF NATURAL PARK UNDER THE
NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM, TO BE REFERRED TO AS
THE PANTARON MOUNTAIN RANGE CORRIDOR, PROVIDING FOR ITS
MANAGEMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Pantaron Mountain Range (PMR) Protection Act of 2026*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Cognizant of the profound impact of human activities on all components of the natural environment, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to secure for the Filipino people of present and future generations, the perpetual existence of all native plants and animals through the declaration of protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) within the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution.

In recognition of the richness of the biological resources, both flora and fauna, that are native and distinct to the Pantaron Mountain Range, as well as their aesthetic and ecological importance, a parcel of land located in the Municipalities of Kapalong and Talaingod, in the Province of Davao del Norte, is hereby declared a protected area with the category of Natural Park, and shall hereinafter be referred to as the Pantaron Mountain Range Corridor. As such, the State shall ensure the conservation, protection, management and rehabilitation of the area. It is likewise recognized that effective administration of this area is possible only through cooperation among national government, local

government units (LGUs), concerned nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), private entities and local communities. The use and enjoyment of this area must be consistent with the principles of biological diversity and sustainable development.

Towards this end, the State shall ensure the full implementation of this Act, the mobilization of resources for the institutional mechanisms herein established, and the full scientific and technical support needed for the conservation of biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems, culture and indigenous practices.

SEC. 3. Classification as a National Park. – The Pantaron Mountain Range is comprised of a parcel of land of the public domain located in the Municipalities of Kapalong and Talaingod, in the Province of Davao del Norte, the metes and bounds of which are described in Section 4 of this Act. All lands of the public domain within the coverage and scope of the Pantaron Mountain Range shall fall under the classification of national park as provided for in Article XII, Section 3 of the Constitution.

SEC. 4. Scope and Coverage. – The boundaries of the Pantaron Mountain Range, located in *Barangay Gupitan*, Municipality of Kapalong, and *Barangays Palma Gil, Dagohoy, and Sto. Niño*, Municipality of Talaingod, Province of Davao del Norte is more particularly described through the following technical description:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION				
CORNER NO.	X COORDINATES	Y COORDINATES	BEARING TO NEXT CORNER	DISTANCE (METERS) TO NEXT CORNER
1	774504.1171	845951.6642	S 22-21-36 W	2622.182
2	773506.5726	843526.6394	S 35-35-50 W	1735.49
3	772496.3726	842115.4624	N 56-50-24 W	2154.853
4	770692.4426	843294.117	N 28-32-18 W	2080.956
5	769698.2762	845122.2337	N 33-11-44 W	3104.483
6	767998.5726	847720.0837	N 19-23-31 W	2728.592
7	767092.5981	850293.8793	N 34-51-19 W	2511.141
8	765657.4711	852354.5196	N 3-27-31 W	1461.948
9	765569.2784	853813.8053	N 15-20-23 W	2818.534
10	764823.653	856531.9257	N 12-30-18 E	4369.257
11	765769.7121	860797.5296	N 88-43-37 E	360.875
12	766130.498	860805.5475	N 48-52-35 E	1341.045
13	767140.6981	861687.5329	N 75-4-3 E	497.861
14	767621.7459	861815.8215	N 5-46-47 E	5653.329
15	768191.062	867440.411	N 21-2-47 W	3170.098
16	767052.5976	870399.0293	N 17-43-13 E	315.778
17	767148.7118	870699.8243	N 15-1-3 W	680.729
18	766972.3273	871357.3047	N 0-52-53 E	521.235
19	766980.3445	871878.4781	N 27-5-38 W	387.276
20	766803.9602	872223.2544	N 22-26-28 E	798.1

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION				
CORNER NO.	X COORDINATES	Y COORDINATES	BEARING TO NEXT CORNER	DISTANCE (METERS) TO NEXT CORNER
21	767108.6235	872960.9151	N 16-36-21 W	476.92
22	766972.3264	873417.9442	N 3-14-22 E	425.637
23	766996.3786	873842.9009	N 23-1-26 W	348.482
24	766860.0816	874163.6231	N 15-49-6 W	500.018
25	766723.7845	874644.7063	N 30-22-38 E	269.526
26	766860.0813	874877.2298	N 10-23-17 W	489.1
27	766771.889	875358.313	N 5-56-48 W	386.949
28	766731.8015	875743.1795	N 28-56-57 W	861.32
29	766314.893	876496.8766	N 47-2-36 W	635.377
30	765849.8799	876929.8516	N 28-36-31 W	401.857
31	765657.4606	877282.646	N 76-36-24 W	692.296
32	764983.9936	877443.0074	N 42-27-11 W	510.753
33	764639.2424	877819.856	N 15-56-39 W	350.232
34	764543.0327	878156.6142	N 26-33-48 E	466.145
35	764751.4866	878573.5529	N 32-51-14 E	458.143
36	765000.0278	878958.4193	N 1-18-6 E	352.885
37	765008.0452	879311.2136	N 9-57-0 W	464.008
38	764927.8703	879768.2426	N 31-44-26 W	456.957
39	764687.4765	880156.856	N 14-26-35 E	546.454
40	764823.7711	880686.0396	N 5-11-38 E	354.244
41	764855.8404	881038.8287	N 18-58-9 W	813.923
42	764591.2676	881808.5505	N 27-18-50 W	821.19
43	764214.4521	882538.1826	N 64-32-6 W	186.481
44	764046.0878	882618.362	N 31-13-0 W	309.387
45	763885.7407	882882.9539	N 43-55-1 W	300.528
46	763677.2897	883099.4382	N 68-37-40 W	198.016
47	763492.8907	883171.5997	S 58-48-47 W	356.125
48	763188.2316	882987.1873	N 54-43-32 W	402.638
49	762859.5203	883219.7076	N 31-43-18 W	518.435
50	762586.9304	883660.694	N 55-18-10 W	507.074
51	762170.0283	883949.3398	N 2-9-40 W	854.849
52	762137.7907	884803.5806	N 23-37-41 W	140.028
53	762081.6684	884931.8694	N 89-48-31 E	4802.488
54	766884.1294	884947.9035	S 28-16-13 E	1083.369
55	767397.2475	883993.755	N 79-50-1 E	1181.077
56	768559.7797	884202.2239	S 51-11-47 E	3721.864
57	770957.0034	879696.0775	S 0-45-32 E	2949.43
58	770411.8163	878749.9476	S 80-42-59 W	2058.175
59	769497.8254	878501.3883	S 82-52-30 W	1928.588
60	770179.3105	877058.1386	S 49-35-33 E	1459.724
61	771290.8243	876111.9187	S 16-39-29 E	1464.533
62	771710.6472	874708.8486	S 19-51-14 E	2455.128
63	772544.4645	872399.6491	S 31-29-18 W	1795.899

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION				
CORNER NO.	X COORDINATES	Y COORDINATES	BEARING TO NEXT CORNER	DISTANCE (METERS) TO NEXT CORNER
64	771606.4218	870868.2015	S 5-39-15 E	1627.565
65	771766.7718	869248.5547	S 43-25-58 E	1037.892
66	772480.3265	868494.8575	S 63-53-20 E	1803.6
67	774099.8546	867701.0696	S 12-18-51 E	3496.126
68	774845.4803	864285.3787	S 32-16-6 E	3679.232
69	776809.7604	861174.3733	S 3-3-10 E	4215.46
70	777034.2512	856964.8954	S 15-9-29 E	3771.409
71	778020.4009	853324.6988	S 6-46-23 W	2107.419
72	777771.8604	851231.987	S 3-19-10 E	3461.589
73	777972.2985	847776.2059	S 62-15-7 W to Corner 1	3918.831

and comprises thirty-two thousand two hundred twelve (32, 212) hectares, more or less.

SEC. 5. Establishment of Buffer Zones. – The DENR Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Protected Area Management Board (PMR-PAMB) created under Section 6 of this Act, may designate areas surrounding the PMR as buffer zones for the purpose of providing an extra layer of protection where restrictions may be applied: *Provided, That*, in cases where the designated buffer zone would cover private lands, the owners thereof shall be required to design their development with due consideration to the protected area management plan.

ARTICLE II MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS

SEC. 6. Pantaron Mountain Range - Protected Area Management Board (PMR-PAMB) – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the PMR-PAMB shall be created to oversee the management of the PMR. The PMR-PAMB shall be composed of the following:

- a. DENR Regional Executive Director for Region XI, as Chairperson;
- b. Governor of the Province of Davao del Norte or a duly authorized representative;
- c. Senators of the Republic of the Philippines who are duly registered residents of the Province of Davao del Norte and/or Bukidnon, or their duly designated representatives, unless the Senators decline the membership in the PMR-PAMB;
- d. District Representatives of the Congressional Districts where the PMR is located, or their duly designated representatives, unless the District Representatives decline the membership in the PMR-PAMB;
- e. Mayors of the Municipalities of Kapalong and Talaingod, in the Province of Davao del Norte, or their duly authorized representatives;

- f. Chairpersons of the all the *barangays* with territorial jurisdiction over the PMR;
- g. Regional Directors of the following government agencies, namely: Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine National Police (PNP), and Department of National Defense (DND);
- h. Three (3) representatives from either NGOs, or people's organizations (POs) based in the Province of Davao del Norte, duly accredited both by the DENR and the provincial government. The NGOs or POs represented should have been in existence for at least five (5) years and must have a record of accomplishments in the field of protected area management;
- i. At least one (1) but not more than three (3) representatives from all the ICCs/IPs present in the area and recognized by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP);
- j. One (1) representative from an academic institution, preferably from a university or college in the Province of Davao del Norte, with proven track record in or related to protected area management; and
- k. One (1) representative from the private sector, preferably a resident of the Province of Davao del Norte, who is distinguished in a profession or field of interest relevant to the protected area management.

The terms of office of members of the PMR-PAMB, as well as the grounds for their removal shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 1992", as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, otherwise known as the "Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018".

SEC. 7. Functions of the PMR-PAMB. – The PMR-PAMB shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Oversee the management of the protected area;
- b. Approve policies, plans and programs, proposals, agreements, and other related documents for the management of the protected areas;
- c. Approve the management plan of the protected area and ensure its harmonization with and integration into the Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan, land use plan and other development plans, public or private, and their implementation;
- d. Adopt a manual of operations to include rules of procedures in the conduct of business, and the creation of committees and their respective terms of reference;
- e. Recommend the deputation of appropriate agencies and individuals for the enforcement of the laws, rules and regulations governing the management of the protected area;
- f. Allocate financial resources for the implementation of the management plan and manage the

- Protected Area Retention Income Account and other funds in accordance with government accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations;
- g. Set fees and charges in accordance with existing guidelines;
 - h. Issue rules and regulations for the resolution of conflicts through appropriate and effective means;
 - i. Recommend appropriate policy changes to the DENR and other government authorities with respect to the management of the PMR;
 - j. Monitor and assess the performance of the Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) and other protected area personnel and compliance of partners with the terms and conditions of any undertaking, contract or agreement relative to any project or activity within the PMR;
 - k. Recommend from among a shortlist of qualified candidates, the designation or appointment of the PASu; and
 - l. Assess the effectiveness of the management of the protected area: *Provided*, That the members of the PMR-PAMB representing the LGUs and national agencies shall inform their respective constituents, offices or sectors, of PMR-PAMB-approved or other relevant policies, rules, regulations, programs, and projects and shall ensure that the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations issued to implement it are complied with and used as reference and framework in their respective plans, policies, programs, and projects. Failure to comply with the foregoing shall be the basis for disciplinary action against such member according to administrative rules and regulations and such penalties as the PMR-PAMB may provide: *Provided, further*, That the DENR, through the Regional Director, shall ensure that the PMR-PAMB acts within the scope of its powers and functions. In case of conflict between the resolutions issued by the PMR-PAMB and the existing administrative orders of national application, the latter shall prevail.

SEC. 8. The Protected Area Management Office (PAMO). — There is hereby established a Protected Area Management Office (PAMO) to be headed by a Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) who shall supervise the day to day management, protection, and administration of the PMR. The PASu shall hold a permanent plantilla position and shall be appointed by the DENR Secretary. A sufficient number of support staff with permanent plantilla positions shall likewise be appointed by the DENR Secretary to assist the PASu in the management of the protected area.

The PASu shall be primarily accountable to the PMR-PAMB and the DENR for the management and operations of the PMR. Pursuant thereto, the PASu shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Prepare the management plan, in consultation with the stakeholders, including the annual work and financial plan and ensure its implementation;

- 136 b. Ensure the integration of the protected area management plans, programs, projects, and policies
137 with relevant national and LGUs' plans and programs;
138 c. Provide secretariat services to the PMR-PAMB and its committees and ensure the availability
139 of relevant and timely information for decision-making;
140 d. Formulate and recommend to the PMR-PAMB proposed policies, rules, regulations, and
141 programs;
142 e. Establish, operate, and maintain a database management system which shall be an important
143 basis for decision-making;
144 f. Enforce the laws, rules and regulations relevant to the protected area, commence and institute
145 administrative and legal actions in collaboration with other government agencies or
146 organizations, and assist in the prosecution of offenses committed in violation of the provisions
147 this Act;
148 g. Monitor, evaluate, and report the implementation of management activities of the protected area;
149 h. Request for and receive any technical assistance, support or advice from any agency or
150 instrumentality of the government as well as academic institutions, NGOs, and the private
151 sector, as may be necessary for the effective management, protection and administration of the
152 protected area;
153 i. Issue permits and clearances for activities that implement the management plan and other
154 permitted activities in accordance with terms, conditions, and criteria established by the PMR-
155 PAMB: *Provided*, That all permits for extraction of natural resources, including collection of
156 wildlife, and its by-products or derivatives for research purposes, shall continue to be issued by
157 relevant authorities, subject to prior clearance from the PMR-PAMB, through the PASu, in
158 accordance with the specific acts to be covered:
159 j. Collect and receive pertinent fees, charges, donations, and other income for the protected area:
160 *Provided*, That such fees, charges, donations, and other income collected and received shall be
161 reported regularly to the PMR-PAMB and the DENR in accordance with existing guidelines;
162 k. Prepare and recommend to the PMR-PAMB, approval of the annual work and financial plans
163 of the protected area based on the management plan; and
164 l. Perform such other functions as the PMR-PAMB and the DENR may assign.

165 The PAMO may be augmented by the deputized local environment and natural resources
166 officers upon the recommendation of the PMR-PAMB and approval of the DENR.
167

168 ARTICLE III 169 PROCEEDS AND FEES 170

171 SEC. 9. *The Pantaron Mountain Range Fund.* – There is hereby established a trust fund to
172 be known as the PMR Fund for purposes of financing projects of the PMR and the NIPAS. All income

generated from the operation and management of the PMR shall accrue to the PMR fund. The income shall be derived from fees and charges from the use of resources and facilities of the PMR, contributions from industries and facilities directly benefiting from the PMR, and such other fees and income derived from the operation of the PMR.

The PMR-PAMB shall retain seventy-five percent (75%) of all revenues raised through the above means, which shall be deposited in the Protected Area-Retained Income Account (PA-RIA) in any authorized government depository bank within the locality: *Provided*, That disbursements out of such deposits shall be used solely for the protection, maintenance, administration, and management of the protected area and implementation of duly approved projects of the PMR-PAMB. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%) of revenues shall be deposited as a special account in the general fund in the National Treasury for purposes of financing the projects of the NIPAS.

The fund may be augmented by grants, donations, endowment from various sources, domestic or foreign: *Provided*, That the fund shall be deposited in full as a special account in the National Treasury and disbursements therefrom shall be made solely for the protection, maintenance, administration and management of the NIPAS and duly approved projects endorsed by the PMR-PAMB in accordance with existing accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations: *Provided*, *further*, That the fund shall not be used to cover personal services expenditures.

The LGUs shall continue to impose and collect all other fees not enumerated herein which they have traditionally collected, such as business permits, property tax and rentals of LGUs' facilities.

ARTICLE IV PENAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 10. *Prohibited Acts and Penalties.* – The prohibited acts and their corresponding penalties under Sections 20 and 21 of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, shall form part of this Act.

ARTICLE V TRANSITORY AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the DENR shall immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. *Suppletory Application of the NIPAS Law.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, shall have suppletory application to this Act.

SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DENR shall, in consultation with the local governments of the

Municipalities of Kapalong and Talaingod, the provincial government of Davao del Norte, and concerned national government agencies, issue the corresponding rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions with the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation

Approved,