

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'13 JUL -8 A8 :33

S E N A T E

S.B. No. 533

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the Mount Isarog Natural Park in the province of Camarines Sur a special ecological tourism zone to promote and develop the area as a tourist destination for domestic and international tourists while protecting its natural resources and diverse flora and fauna species.

Mount Isarog is a potentially active stratovolcano with a 1.97 kilometer elevation and 32.5 kilometer base diameter. In July 20, 1938, President Manuel L. Quezon signed Act 293 establishing Mount Isarog as a national park, which has a land area of 10,112 hectare and area. The Park covers 23 barangays under the geographical jurisdiction of the municipalities of Tinambac, Calabanga, Pili, Ocampo, Tigaon and Goa and the city of Naga. It is one of the eight protected areas supported by the National Integrated Protected Areas Programme, which receives special funding from the European Commission.

The national park houses 143 different species of birds and other animals such as monkeys, bats and wild cats. The waterfalls nestled in the park and the scenic hike to the peak makes it an idyllic tourist destination. Because of its rich environment, it is a prime educational and recreational area for locals and foreigners. Because of the increase in tourist traffic and impending developments, the Park is experiencing changes that may not be environmentally suitable.

This bill addresses the need to promote, develop and protect the national park through the creation of the Ecological tourism office that will oversee the development of the area as an environment friendly tourist destination. Any

developments made in the area shall be monitored to ensure that the natural resources in the zone will be not harmed and the protection of the surroundings will not hinder the improvement of the municipalities and city the zone covers.

Furthermore, to guarantee the proper implementation and supervision of the zone, the governing board of the eco-tourism office shall consist of the governor of the province and the legislative representatives of Camarines Sur. Other members of the board shall be representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Tourism (DOT), the private sector, the non-governmental organization, and the local government units encompassing the area of the national park.

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



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator



13 JUL -8 A8:33

SENATE

S.B. No. **533**

RECEIVED BY: *Jan*

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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AN ACT  
DECLARING MOUNT ISAROG NATURAL PARK IN THE PROVINCE OF  
CAMARINES SUR A SPECIAL ECOLOGICAL TOURISM ZONE, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

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

1           **SECTION 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as "**An Act Declaring Mount**  
2 **Isarog Natural Park in the Province of Camarines Sur as a Special Ecological**  
3 **Tourism Zone.**"

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5           **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
6 promote a sustainable tourism industry while ensuring the environmental  
7 protection and preservation of the area. Towards this end, the country shall  
8 rationalize all efforts pertaining to ecological tourism and making it a major source  
9 of livelihood and an avenue for the generation of employment while guaranteeing  
10 the richness of the natural resources of the area. Henceforth, aggressive measures  
11 seeking to secure the country's share in the world tourism market shall be consistent  
12 with the preservation of the existing ecological system and natural environment.

13  
14           **Sec. 3. Declaration of Mount Isarog as an Ecological Tourism Zone.** Pursuant  
15 to the public policy, Mount Isarog Natural Park in the Province of Camarines Sur is  
16 hereby declared an ecological tourism zone.

17  
18           **Sec. 4. Creation of an Eco-Tourism Office.** Within a year from the approval of  
19 this Act, there shall be created an Eco-Tourism Office whose governing board shall  
20 be co-chaired by Representatives of the legislative districts of the province and the  
21 Governor of Camarines Sur. The membership of the board shall be composed of

1 representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
2 (DENR), the Department of Tourism (DOT), the private sector, the non-  
3 governmental organization, and the local government units included in the  
4 geographical jurisdiction of the Mount Isarog National Park.

5  
6 **Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The DENR and DOT shall  
7 prepare an eco-tourism master plan and promulgate the necessary rules and  
8 regulations to be approved by the President of the Philippines upon  
9 recommendation of the Board after the latter has subjected the same to public  
10 consultations.

11  
12 **Sec. 6. *Appropriation.*** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of  
13 this Act shall be taken from the current appropriation of the Department of Tourism  
14 and shall be included in the department's General Appropriations Act of the year  
15 following its enactment into law and thereafter.

16  
17 **Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.*** If any provisions of this Act shall be held  
18 unconstitutional, the remaining portions not otherwise affected shall remain in full  
19 force and effect.

20  
21 **Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, or  
22 parts thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby amended,  
23 repealed or modified accordingly.

24  
25 **Sec. 9. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at  
26 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

27  
28 Approved,