

'13 NOV -4 P4:45

SENATE

S.B. No. 1901

RECEIVED BY. 

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is one of seventeen (17) megadiverse countries which together host 70-80% of the world's life forms and is believed to harbor more diversity of life than any other country on earth on a per hectare basis. Unfortunately, the country's the losing its biodiversity at an unprecedented scale.

Article XII, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution states that "[t]he Congress shall, as soon as possible, determine, by law, the specific limits of forest lands and national parks, marking clearly their boundaries on the ground."

To this end, Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the "National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992" or the NIPAS Act, was passed establishing a system of protected areas within the classification of national park as provided for in the Constitution. The system consists of all areas or islands in the Philippines proclaimed, designated or set aside, pursuant to a law, presidential decree, presidential proclamation or executive order as national park, game refuge, bird and wildlife sanctuary, wilderness area, strict nature reserve, watershed, mangrove reserve, fish sanctuary, natural and historical landmark, protected and managed landscape/seascape as well as identified virgin forests before the effectivity of the NIPAS Act.

The NIPAS Act also provides for integration of additional areas into the System through a lengthy and careful inclusion procedure. This includes the conduct of suitability assessments, publication and public hearings, which then leads to the issuance of a Presidential proclamation and culminates in the final declaration and classification of the land by Congress as a national park.

Since 1992, 113 have been declared through Presidential proclamations as protected areas under the NIPAS. However, only thirteen (13) protected areas have finally proceeded to be legislated as such in the more than twenty (20) years since the NIPAS Act was enacted. It is imperative that proclaimed protected areas after the effectivity of the Act are finally declared as such through Congressional fiat as required by the NIPAS Act and pursuant to the directive of the Constitution.

The President has sent to the Senate and the House of Representatives his recommendations on the addition of these areas into the NIPAS under the land classification of national park.

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



LOREN LEGARDA

13 NOV -4 P4:46

SENATE

S.B. No. 1901

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

**AN ACT DECLARING AS PROTECTED AREAS AND BUFFER ZONES
THE PARCELS OF LAND DESIGNATED AS SUCH BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS
SYSTEM (NIPAS) ACT, PROVIDING FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "*Protected Areas Declaration*
2 *Act of 2013*".

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy** - Protection and conservation of areas identified as
4 *important for biological diversity* is through their designation as a protected area under
5 the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) within the classification of
6 National Park as provided for in the Constitution. There is an urgent need to designate
7 areas of national interest for human security, ecological integrity, climate change
8 mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction and inclusive growth.

9 It is therefore declared the policy of the State to ensure the immediate protection and
10 conservation of areas designated by the President after the effectivity of the Act as
11 forming part of the NIPAS pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586, otherwise known as the
12 NIPAS Act of 1992.

13 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
14 have the corresponding meanings:

15 (a) "Buffer zones" are identified areas outside the boundaries of and immediately
16 adjacent to designated protected areas that need special development control in
17 order to avoid or minimize harm to the protected area;

18 (b) "Biological Diversity" or "Biodiversity" refers to the variety and variability
19 among all living organisms and the ecological complex in which they occur;

20 (c) "Delineation" refers to the actual ground survey of the boundaries of protected
21 areas and/or their buffer zones and management zones using Global Positioning

1 System (GPS) or other applicable surveying instruments and technologies with

Regions	Name of PA	Location	Proclamation		Areas(has)	
			No.	Date	PA	BZ

2 the intention to come up with a map of the area;

3 (d) "Demarcation" refers to the establishment of the boundaries of protected areas
4 and/or their buffer zones and management zones using visible
5 markers/monuments, buoys in case of marine areas, and known natural
6 features/landmarks, among others, as a result of the actual ground delineation;

7 (e) National Integrated Protected Areas Systems" or "NIPAS" is the classification
8 and administration of all designated protected areas to maintain essential
9 ecological processes and life-support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, to
10 ensure sustainable use of resources found therein, and to maintain their natural
11 conditions to the greatest extent possible;

12 (f) "National Park" refers to the land of the public domain classified as such in the
13 1987 Constitution which includes all areas under the National Integrated
14 Protected Areas System (NIPAS) pursuant to Republic Act No. 7586 primarily

15 (g) designated for the conservation of native plants and animals, their associated
16 habitats and cultural diversity;

17 (h) "Protected Areas" refers to identified portions of land and water set aside by
18 reason of their unique physical and biological significance, managed to enhance
19 biological diversity and protected against destructive human exploitation and
20 included as a component of the National Integrated Protected Area System
21 (NIPAS);

22 (i) "PAMB" refers to the Protected Area Management Board as provided in Section
23 11 of the NIPAS Act;

24 (j) "Protected Area Superintendent" refers to the public officer who is the full-time
25 manager of the protected area responsible for the on-site management,
26 protection and administration, accountable to the Protected Area Management
27 Board and to the Regional Executive Directors of the DENR regional office
28 having jurisdiction over the protected area;

29 (k) "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of the Department of Environment and
30 Natural Resources (DENR).

31 **SEC. 4. Scope and Coverage.** - Pursuant to and in accordance with the NIPAS Act, the
32 following parcels of land subject of Presidential proclamations issued after the
33 effectivity of the Act are hereby declared and established as protected areas within the
34 land classification of National Park. The location and boundaries of each protected area
35 as described in the respective Presidential proclamation are hereby adopted, subject to
36 actual ground survey and verification to be conducted by the DENR. The DENR, with
37 the assistance of other government agencies if necessary, shall cause the delineation and
38 demarcation of the protected areas. Upon the effectivity of this Act, no modification of
39 the boundaries of the foregoing protected areas shall take effect except pursuant to an
40 act of Congress.

CAR	1. Upper Agno River Basin Resource Reserve	Atok, Buguias, Itogon, Kabayan, Tublay, Kibungan, La Trinidad, Benguet ; Hungduan and Kiangan, Ifugao; Kayapa, Nueva Vizcaya	Proc. 268	23-Apr-00	77,561	
	SUB-TOTAL				77,561	
R-1	1. Lidlidda Protected Landscape	Lidlidda and Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur	Proc. 266	23-Apr-00	1,157.44	
	2. Agoon-Damortis Protected Landscape and Seascape	Agoon, Sto. Tomas and Rosario, La Union	Proc. 277	23-Apr-00	10,513.3	135.64
	3. Libunao Protected Landscape	Sinait, Ilocos Sur	Proc. 280	23-Apr-00	46.7	
	4. Bigbiga Protected Landscape	Narvacan, Ilocos Sur	Proc. 290	23-Apr-00	135.714	
	5. Santa Lucia Protected Landscape	Salcedo, Ilocos Sur	Proc. 296	23-Apr-00	174.1604	
	6. Bessang Pass Natural Monument/Landmark	Cervantes, Ilocos Sur	Proc. 284	23-Apr-00	693.3166	427.7917
	7. Manleluag Spring Protected Landscape	Mangatarem, Pangasinan	Proc. 576	10-Mar-04	1,935.174	965.086
	8. Kalbario-Patapat Natural Park	Pagudpud and Adams, Ilocos Norte	Proc. 1275	20-Apr-07	3,800	1,937
	SUB-TOTAL				18,455.81	3,465.52
R-2	1. Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape	Peñablanca, Cagayan	Proc. 484	6-Oct-03	118,781.582	
	2. Magapit Protected Landscape	Gattaran and Lallo, Cagayan	Proc. 285	23-Apr-00	3,403.62	
	3. Casecnan Protected Landscape	Dupax del Norte and Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya; Madella, Quirino and Dipaculao, Aurora	Proc. 289	23-Apr-00	88,846.8	
	4. Salinas Natural Monument	Bambang, Kayapa and Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya	Proc. 275	23-Apr-00	6,675.56	
	5. Palau Island Marine Reserve	Sta. Ana, Cagayan	Proc. 447	28-Aug-04	7,415.48	

	6. Quirino Protected Landscape	Diffun, Cabarroguis, Aglipay, Madella and Nagtipunan, Quirino	Proc. 779 Proc. 548	3-Feb-05 9-Feb-04	164,364.460 6	
	7. Tumauni Watershed Forest Reserve	Mun. of San Pablo, Cabagan, Tumauni, Bayombong, Isabela	Proc. 355	4-Apr-94	17,670	
	SUB-TOTAL				407,157.5	
R-3	1. Roosevelt Protected Landscape	Dinalupihan and Hermosa, Bataan	Proc. 273	23-Apr-00	786.04	
	2. Masinloc and Oyon Bays Marine Reserve	Masinloc and Oyon Bay, Zambales	Proc. 231	18-Aug-93	7,568	
	3. Simbahan-Talagas Protected Landscape	Dinalungan, Aurora	Proc. 267	23-Apr-00	2,266.47	
	4. Amro River Protected Landscape	Casiguran and Dilasag, Aurora	Proc. 274	23-Apr-00	6,471.08	
	5. Dinadiawan River Protected Landscape	Dipaculao, Aurora	Proc. 278	23-Apr-00	3,371.332	
	6. Talaytay Protected Landscape	Dinalungan, Aurora	Proc. 283	23-Apr-00	3,526.29	
	SUB-TOTAL				23,989.21	
NCR	1. Ninoy Aquino Parks & Wildlife Center	Quezon City	Proc. 723	25-Oct-04	22.7	
	SUB-TOTAL				22.7	
R-4A	1. Taal Volcano Protected Landscape	Talisay, Malvar, Tanauan City, Laurel, Agoncillo, Santa Teresita, Cuenca, Alitagtag, Mataas na Kahoy, Lipa City, Balele and San Nicolas, Batangas; Tagaytay City, Cavite	Proc. 923	19-Nov-96	62,292.1369	
	2. Buenavista Protected Landscape	Mulanay, Quezon	Proc. 294	23-Apr-00	284.27	
	3. Maulawin Spring Protected Landscape	Guinayangan, Quezon	Proc. 295	23-Apr-00	149.01	
	4. Pamitinan Protected Landscape	Rodriguez, Rizal	Proc. 901	10-Oct-96	600	
	5. Quezon	Atimonan, Pagbilao	Proc.	2-Jun-	983	

	Protected Landscape	and Padre Burgos, Quezon	394	07		
	6. Hinulugan Taktak Protected Landscape	Antipolo, Rizal	Proc. 412	17-Nov-00	3.2	
	7. Mts. Palay Palay Mataas Na-Gulod Protected Landscape	Ternate and Maragondon, Cavite and Nasugbu, Batangas	Proc. 1315	27-Jun-07	3,973.13	
	8. Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape	Antipolo City; Baras, Rodriguez, San Mateo and Tanay, Rizal	Proc. 296	24-Nov-11	26,125.64	
	SUB-TOTAL				94,410.39	
R-4B	1. Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park	Puerto Princesa City, Palawan	Proc. 212	12-Nov-99	22,202	
	2. Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park	Cajidiocan, Magdiwang and San Fernando, Sibuyan Island, Romblon	Proc. 746	20-Feb-96	15,265.48	
	3. Apo Reef Natural Park	Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro	Proc. 868	6-Sep-96	15,792	11,677
	4. El Nido Managed Resource Protected Area	El Nido, Palawan	Proc. 32	8-Oct-98	89,134.76	
	5. Mt. Calavite Wildlife Sanctuary	Paluan, Occidental Mindoro	Proc. 292	23-Apr-00	18,016.19	
	6. Malampaya Sound Protected Landscape and Seascape	Taytay and San Vicente, Palawan	Proc. 342	12-Jul-00	200,115	
	7. Marinduque Wildlife Sanctuary	Boac, Gasan, Buenavista Torrijos and Sta. Cruz, Marinduque	Proc. 696	17-Aug-04	8,827.96	
	8. Rasa Island Wildlife Sanctuary	Narra, Palawan	Proc. 1000	15-Feb-06	1,983	
	9. Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape	Bataraza, Brooke's Point, Sofronio Española, Quezon and Rizal, Palawan	Proc. 1815	23-Jun-09	120,457	
	SUB-TOTAL				491,793.39	11,677
R-5	1. Chico Island Wildlife Sanctuary	Cawayan, Masbate	Proc. 272	23-Apr-00	7.77	

	2. Naro Island Wildlife Sanctuary	Cawayan, Masbate	Proc. 317	31-May-00	109.98	
	3. Malabungot Protected Landscape and Seascape	Garchitorena, Camarines Sur	Proc. 288	23-Apr-00	120.62	
	4. Lagonoy Natural Biotic Area	Lagonoy, Camarines Sur	Proc. 297	24-Apr-00	444.6	
	5. Abasig-Matogdon Mananap Natural Biotic Area	San Vicente, San Lorenzo Ruiz, and Labo, Camarines Norte	Proc. 318	31-May-00	5,420.12	
	6. Mt. Isarog Natural Park	Naga, Calabanaga, Tinambac, Goa, Tigaon and Pili, Camarines Sur	Proc. 214	20-Jun-02	10,112.35	
	7. Bongsalay Natural Park	Batuan, Masbate	Proc. 319	31-May-00	244.721	
	8. Bicol Natural Park	Basud and Daet, Camarines Norte; Sipocot and Lupi, Camarines Sur	Proc. 43	29-Dec-00	5,201	
	9. Mayon Volcano Natural Park	Ligao, Guinobatan, Camalig, Damaga, Legazpi City, Sto. Domingo, Malilipot and Tobaco, Albay	Proc. 413	21-Nov-00	5,775.7	
	10. Bulusan Volcano Natural Park	Casiguran, Barcelona, Irosin and Juban, Sorsogon	Proc. 421	27-Nov-00	3,672	
	SUB-TOTAL				31,108.86	
R-6	1. Sibalom Natural Park	Sibalom, Antique	Proc. 282	23-Apr-00	5,511.47	
	2. Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park	Nabas, Malay and Buruanga, Aklan; Libertad and Pandan, Antique	Proc. 186	18-Apr-02	12,009.29	
	3. Northern	Talisay City, Silay	Proc.	15-Aug-	80,454.5	

	Negros Natural Park	City, Victoria City, Cadiz City, Sagay City, San Carlos City, Magalona, Murcia, Toboso, Calatrava and Don Salvador Benedict, Negros Occidental	895	05		
	SUB-TOTAL				97,975.26	
R-7	1. Talibon Group of Islands Protected Landscape/Seascape	Talibon, Bohol	Proc. 131	5-Jul-99	6,456.87	
	2. Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape	Carmen, Sierra Bullones, Garcia Hernandez, Valencia, Dimiao, Bilar & Batuan, Bohol	Proc. 287	23-Apr-00	10,452.6	
	3. Alburquerque-Loay-Loboc Protected Landscape/Seascape	Alburquerque, Loay and Loboc, Bohol	Proc. 293	23-Apr-00	1,164.16	
	4. Apo Island Protected Landscape/Seascape	Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental	Proc. 438	9-Aug-94	691.45	
	5. Tañon Strait Protected Seascape	Manjuyod, Bindoy, Ayungon, Tayasan, Jimalalud, La Libertad, Guihulngan and Vallehermoso, Negros Oriental; Alegria, Damanjug, Moalboal, Ronda, Malabuyoc, Medellin, Ginatilan, Daanbantayan & San Remegio, Cebu; Escalante, San Carlos City,	Proc. 1234	27-May-98	450	

		Sipaway and Toboso, Negros Occidental				
	6. Chocolate Hills Natural Monument	Carmen, Batuan, Sagbayan, Bilar, Valencia and Sierra Bullones, Bohol	Proc. 1037	1-Jul-97	14,145	
	7. Balinsasayao Twin Lakes Natural Park	Valencia, Sibulan and San Jose, Negros Oriental	Proc. 414	21-Nov-00	8,016.05	
	8. Panglao Island Protected Seascape	Dauis and Panglao, Bohol	Proc. 426	22-Jul-03	385.6659	
	SUB-TOTAL				41,761.80	
R-8	1. Jicontol Natural Park	Maslog, Dolores and Can-Avid Eastern Samar	Proc. 1156	3-Feb-98	(6483) within SINP	
	2. Mahagnao Volcano Natural Park	Burauen and La Paz, Leyte	Proc. 1157	3-Feb-98	635	
	3. Lake Danao Natural Park	Ormoc City, Leyte	Proc. 1155	3-Feb-98	2,193	
	4. Taft Forest Wildlife (Philippine Eagle) Sanctuary	Taft, Eastern Samar	Proc. 155	31-Jul-99	(3,728.98) within SINP	
	5. Calbayog-Pan-As Hayiban Protected Landscape	Calbayog, Samar	Proc. 1158	3-Feb-98	7,832	
	6. Biri Larosa Protected Landscape/Seascape	Lavezares, Rosario, San Jose, Biri, Bani Is., San Juan Is., Cabungon Is. and Grande Is., Northern Samar	Proc. 291	23-Apr-00	33,492	
	7. Guiuan Protected Landscape/Seascape	Guiuan, Eastern Samar	Proc. 469	26-Sep-94	60,448	

	8. Calbiga Caves Protected Landscape	Calbiga, Wright and Hinabangan, Samar	Proc. 1126	4-Nov-97	(2968) within SINP	
	9. Cuatro Islas Protected Landscape/Seascape	Inopacan, Hindang, Digyo Is., Apid Is., Mahaba Is., and Himukilan Is., Leyte	Proc. 270	23-Apr-00	12,500	
	10. Samar Island Natural Park	Basey, Calbiga, Catbalogan, Gandara, Hinubangan, Jiabong, Marabut, Matuguinao, Motiong, Paranas, San Jorge, San Jose de Buan, Pinabacdao and Calbayog, Samar; Arteche, Balangiga, Balangkayan, Borongan, Can-Avid, Dolores, Gen. MacArthur, Hernani, Gipoloros, Jipapad, Lawaan, Oras, Llorente, Maslog, Maydolong, Quinapodan, San Julian, Sulat and Taft, Eastern Samar; Catubig, Las Navas, Lope de Vega, Mondragon and Silvino Lubos, Northern Samar	Proc. 442	13-Aug-03	333,300	125,400
	SUB-TOTAL				437,220	125,400
R-9	1. Buug Natural Biotic Park	Buug, Zamboanga del Sur	Proc. 63	22-Dec-98	1,095	470
	2. Basilan Natural Biotic Area	Lamitan, Sumisip, Tipo-Tipo and Isabela, Basilan	Proc. 321	31-May-00	4,497	2,019
	3. Siocon	Siocon, Zamboanga	Proc.	24-Feb-	793.741	186.66

	Resource Reserve	del Norte	84	99		
	4. Pasonanca Natural Park	Zamboanga City Zamboanga del Sur	Proc. 132	5-Jul-99	12,107	5,307
	5. Aliguay Island Protected Landscape and Seascape	Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte	Proc. 106	6-May-99	1,187.5099	1,191.89
	6. Dumanquilas Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape	Malangas, Buug, Kumalarang, Lapuyan, Margosatubig and Vencenso Sagun, Zamboanga del Sur	Proc. 158	10-Aug-99	25,948	3,714.98
	7. Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary	Southwestern Sulu Sea, Tawi-Tawi	Proc. 171	26-Aug-99	24,2967 (318-terrestrial, 242,649-marine)	
	8. Jose Rizal Memorial Protected Landscape	Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte	Proc. 279	23-Apr-00	439	15
	9. Great and Little Sta. Cruz Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape	Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur	Proc. 271	23-Apr-00	1,877	1,548
	10. Selinog Island Protected Landscape and Seascape	Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte	Proc. 276	23-Apr-00	960.265	1,294.35
	11. Murcielagos Island Protected Landscape and Seascape	Labason, Zamboanga del Norte	Proc. 281	23-Apr-00	100	151
	12. Mount Timolan Protected Landscape	San Miguel, Guipos and Tigbao, Zamboanga del Sur	Proc. 354	14-Aug-00	1,994.796	695.393

	SUB-TOTAL				293,966.3	16,593.3
R-10	1. Mt. Kalatungan Range Natural Park	Talakag, Valencia, Maramag and Pangantucan, Bukidnon	Proc. 305	5-May-00	21,247.73	13,891.5
	2. Baliangao Protected Landscape and Seascape	Baliangao, Misamis Occidental	Proc. 418	22-Nov-00	294.998	
	3. Initao-Libertad Protected Landscape and Seascape	Initao and Libertad, Misamis Oriental	Proc. 260	16-Sep-02	1,300.78	800.45
	4. Mt. Timpoong and Hibok-Hibok Natural Monument	Mambajao, Mahinog, Sagay and Catarman, Camiguin	Proc. 570	9-Mar-04	2,227.619	182.903
	5. Mt. Balatukan Range Natural Park	Claveria, Balingasag, Medina and Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental	Proc. 1249	6-May-07	8,423	1,222
	6. Mt. Inayawan Range Natural Park	Nunungan, Lanao del Norte	Proc. 1344	30-Jul-07	3,632.74	889.04
	SUB-TOTAL				37,126.87	16,985.9
R-11	1. Baganga Protected Landscape	Baganga, Davao Oriental	Proc. 269	23-Apr-00	114.878	
	2. Mabini Protected Landscape & Seascape	Mabini, Compostela Valley	Proc. 316	31-May-00	6,106	
	3. Mainit Hotspring Protected Landscape	Nabunturan, Compostela Valley	Proc. 320	31-May-00	1,374	401
	4. Pujada Bay Protected Landscape/Seascape	Mati, Davao Oriental	Proc. 431	31-Jul-94	21,200	

	5. Mati Protected Landscape	Mati, Davao Oriental	Proc. 912	6-Sep-05	914.26	135.76
	6. Aliwagwag Protected Landscape	Boston and Cateel, Davao Oriental	Proc. 139	5-Apr-11	10,491.33	420.6
	SUB-TOTAL				40,200.47	957.36
R-12	1. Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape	Maitum, Kiamba and Maasim, Sarangani	Proc. 756	5-Mar-96	215,950	
	2. Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape	Tupi, Tampakan and Palomolok, South Cotabato; Malungon, Sarangani	Proc. 552	20-Mar-95	15,600	
R-13	1. Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary	San Francisco, Bunawan Veruela, Loreto and Lapaz Agusan del Sur	Proc. 913	31-Oct-96	14,835.989	4,360.569
	2. Siargao Islands Protected Landscape and Seascape	Siargao, Surigao del Norte	Proc. 902	10-Oct-96	278,914.131	
	3. Alamio, Buyaan, Caracan, Panikian Rivers and Sipangpang Falls Watershed Forest Reserves, Note: Only a portion of Mt. Hilong-hilong	Carrascal, Cantilan and Madrid, Surigao del Sur; Jabonga, Santiago, and Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte	Proc. 1747	23-Mar-09	43,601	
	SUB-TOTAL				337,351.1	4,360.57ⁿ
	GRAND TOTAL				2,661,650.7	179,439.6

1 SEC. 5. *Establishment of Buffer Zones.* - Buffer zones of the protected areas are hereby
2 established through this Act pursuant to Section 8 of the NIPAS Act to serve as
3 additional peripheral layer of protection to the protected area by providing regulated

1 benefits and livelihood opportunities to local communities to build a strong social fence
2 to the protected area.

3 The location and boundaries of the buffer zones as described in the respective
4 Presidential proclamation are hereby adopted subject to actual ground survey and
5 verification to be conducted by the DENR. The DENR, with the assistance of other
6 government agencies if necessary, shall cause the delineation and demarcation of the
7 buffer zones.

8 **SEC. 6. *The Protected Area Management Board.*** -- The management and administration of
9 each protected area and buffer zone covered by this Act shall be vested in the respective
10 Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) created in accordance with Section 11 of
11 the NIPAS Act.

12 **SEC. 7. *Protected Area Office.*** -- There shall be a Protected Area Office for each of the
13 established protected area to be headed by a full-time PA-Superintendent (PASu) with
14 sufficient permanent staff consisting of various disciplines such as natural sciences,
15 sociology, communications, economics, information technology, including PA rangers
16 and administrative support staff. The PASu and staff shall report directly to Regional
17 Executive Director of the DENR Regional Office concerned. The PASu shall serve as the
18 chief operating officer of the protected area. The PASu shall have full responsibility for
19 the protection of resources within the protected area. As such, he/she shall have the
20 following duties and responsibilities in addition to those provided under existing laws
21 and regulations:

- 22 a) Facilitate the participatory formulation of the management plan and its
23 successor plans;
- 24 b) Serve as secretariat to the PAMB with the duty to provide the PAMB with all
25 the information necessary to make appropriate decisions for the
26 implementation of this Act;
- 27 c) Supervise the protected area personnel in the performance of their duties and
28 functions;
- 29 d) Coordinate and implement with national and local agencies, local
30 government units, local communities, the academe, nongovernmental
31 organizations, and such other institutions to ensure the conservation and
32 management of the protected area;
- 33 e) Develop and implement park information, interpretation, education and
34 other visitor programs;
- 35 f) Enforce the laws, rules and regulations and the PAMB resolutions relevant to
36 the protected area, file complaints and assist in the prosecution of offenses;
- 37 g) Monitor all activities within the protected area in conformity with the
38 management plan;
- 39 h) Ensure that consultative and participatory mechanisms are maximized in
40 decision-making; and

1 i) Perform such other functions as the PAMB may assign.

2 **SEC. 8. *Ancestral Lands and Domain.*** – The rights of indigenous cultural
3 communities/indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) to their ancestral domains shall be fully
4 recognized subject to Section 56 of the Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the
5 "Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997" or "IPRA". Traditional property regimes
6 exercised by indigenous cultural communities in accordance with their customary laws
7 shall govern the relationships of all individuals within their communities with respect
8 to all lands and resources found within ancestral lands.

9 **SEC. 9. *Tenured Migrants.*** – Tenured migrants shall be eligible to become stewards of
10 portions of lands within the designated buffer and multiple-use zones. The respective
11 Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of the protected area shall identify, verify
12 and review all tenure instruments, land claims, and issuance of permits for resource use
13 within the protected area and recommend the issuance of the appropriate tenure
14 instrument consistent with the land classification, proper and allowed use of resources
15 found therein, and zoning provided in the management or successor plans.

16 Nothing herein shall be construed to mean any diminution of accrued rights earned by
17 tenured migrants. If areas occupied by tenured migrants are designated as zones in
18 which no occupation or other activities are allowed, they shall be transferred to
19 multiple-use zones or buffer zones to be accomplished through just and humane means.

20 In the event of termination of a tenure instrument for cause or by voluntary surrender
21 of rights, the concerned Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) shall take immediate
22 steps to rehabilitate the area in order to return it to its natural state and include the
23 same in strict protection zone..

24 **SEC. 10. *Existing Rights.*** – All prior and property and private rights within the
25 protected area and its buffer zones already existing and/or vested upon the effectivity
26 of this Act shall be protected and respected in accordance with existing laws.

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

30 **SEC. 12. *Construction.*** – The provisions of this Act shall be construed liberally in favor
31 of sustainable development and the conservation and protection of biodiversity and
32 with due consideration for Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples
33 (ICCs/IPs) and tenured migrants.

34 **SEC. 13. *Suppletory Application of the NIPAS Act.*** - Provisions of Republic Act No. 7586
35 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations not inconsistent hereto shall supplement
36 the implementation of this Act.

37 **SEC. 14. *PAMB Manual of Operations.*** - Within one year after the effectivity of this Act,
38 the PAMB concerned shall prepare the manual of operations for each protected area, in
39 consultation with and subject to the review of the DENR.

40 **SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or
41 parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby
42 repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC 16. Separability Clause.** - If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional
2 or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue to
3 remain in full force and effect.

4 **SEC. 17. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following completion of
5 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,